



CONSERVATION VALUES OF THE MIRBOO NORTH STATE FOREST IMMEDIATE PROTECTION AREA

ATTACHMENTS

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CHAPTER 2 ATTACHMENTS



ATTACHMENT 2.1 TIMELINE OF THE PRESERVE OUR FORESTS MIRBOO NORTH AND DISTRICT CAMPAIGN



SUMMARY OF THE CAMPAIGN FROM SEPTEMBER 2017 TO FEBRUARY 2020

- Some 55 volunteers directly involved in the Preserve our Forests (PoF) campaign with many other community members assisting.
- Campaign led by a Community-based Steering Committee formed by unanimous resolution on 19 September 2017.
- Three Working Groups: Biodiversity, Socio-economic and Amenity, and Strategy and Media formed conducted citizen scientific studies in and about Mirboo North's native forests.
- Over 1000 letters sent to the Premier, Ministers and members of Parliament.
- Five Community Bulletins, maps and hundreds of information fliers were published for distribution with plaques, posters and stickers for residents and visitors to display.
- PoF had regular information stall at the Mirboo North Markets and attended the Meeniyah Garlic Festival, Mirboo North Arts and Crafts Parades and the Christmas in the 'Boo Market.
- PoF's Steering Committee lodged five wide ranging submissions to VicForests, State and Federal Government inquiries and reviews.
- PoF held 3 Public Meetings which made resolutions to guide the campaign; and 3 open Community information events 'Forest Talk', Ed McNabb and Dr Chris Taylor; 'Saving Mirboo North's Greater Gliders', Greening Australia; and convened a 'State Election - Forum on Forests'.
- Meeting with Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio providing a briefing of all key PoF findings.
- Meeting with politicians: Danny O'Brien MP, Samantha Dunn MP and Senator Janet Rice (Australian Senate).
- Meeting with Kurnai elders talking of cultural values, plants, and food, and findings from PoF surveys of the Mirboo North forests.
- Actions at Parliament: Threatened Species Parliament, Nature for Life.
- On-going meetings with the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) officials.

- PoF created over 30 media releases and various articles which were published in local papers; and generated a number of television, radio and print media interviews. Strong social media interaction enabled speedy dissemination of information and increased support for the campaign.
- November 7th, 2019 – State Government announces the phase-out of logging by 2030 and declared an Immediate Protection Areas including Mirboo North’s native forests. The Age interviews PoFSC members who support the announcements.
- PoF met with DELWP officials about signage and illegal timber removal from the IPA and presented the community’s vision for a Nature Conservation Reserve over the IPA.
- PoF commenced compilation of its fieldwork, research, and survey findings into a ‘Conservation Values of the Mirboo North State Forest Report.’

TIMELINE OF THE POF CAMPAIGN

2017

September 15th, 2017 Public Meeting Mirboo North

- Over 350 people attend the meeting with VicForests organised by South Gippsland Shire Councillor Maxine Kiel, Gayle Margaret, Marg Thomas, and Viki Sinclair in conjunction with Mirboo Community Development Inc (MCDI) at the Mirboo North Shire Hall. Those in attendance were from all walks of life: farmers, community organisations, business leaders and workers from all sectors. They voted unanimously for a Motion to establish the Preserve our Forests Steering Committee with the remit to lobby the relevant Ministers **to prevent the logging of the 3 Mirboo North logging coupes Oscine, Doug and Samson.**
- Attendee Harriet Shing MP promised to take the Mirboo North concerns to Parliament. At Parliament she commended Mirboo North on the meeting but did not ask government to prevent the proposed logging.

October 30th, 2017: 2nd meeting with PoFSC & VicForests with the following key points

- Four representatives of the Preserve our Forests Steering Committee (PoFSC) held a meeting with VicForests (VF) on the 30th of October 2017, to pursue the Mirboo North and District community’s public meeting resolution to preserve our forests and ensure that logging does not proceed.
- The committee posed a number of questions, one of which was - What are VF’s intentions regarding the community’s resolution set out in a

unanimously carried motion to stop native forest logging in the Mirboo North coupes? VF responded by saying that they have no power or authority to stop the logging to preserve our forests and in fact they are not the 'land managers' but are beholden to the State Government's Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP). VF explained that it is DELWP's responsibility to identify General Management Zones (GMZ), Special Protection Zones (SPZ) and approve the Timber Release Plan (TRP) drawn up by VicForests.

- The TRP that specifies the three Mirboo North Coupes for harvesting in 2018 and the longer-term logging of more coupes was prepared in 2014 with almost no community consultation. It is believed the TRP of 2014 was only advertised in the Latrobe Valley Express and so can't be considered satisfactory community consultation. VF have failed the required community consultation processes in preparing the TRP and in effect the TRP should be redrawn.
- Of great concern to the Committee reps. on viewing a map VF provided of the logging coupes and GMZ's, was that in addition to Doug's coupe, there are two large GMZ's available to be logged that abut Samson coupe and Oscine coupe (Lyrebird Walk). VF confirmed that these areas are not part of a current logging plan but are available to them for future logging.
- VF clarified that the five coupes mentioned at the public meeting include two GMZ 'coupes' located very near the town (bordered by the Grand Ridge Rail Trail and Slaughteryard Rd.), are also available for logging. The GMZ covers areas that are highly valued by the town, not only in terms of tourist dollars, but also as precious public amenity providing peaceful recreation and relaxation.
- VF were aware that the Committee is taking steps to conduct biodiversity surveys. When questioned concerning VF's obligations to protect non-listed species such as the Strzelecki Koala (which has unique genes that are critical for the survival of the species), and the Superb Lyrebird, they stated that they have no 'prescribed' obligations to protect these species in this forest management area; however, they may be able to 'voluntarily' manage these animals with optional buffers. VF believes that existing reserves would provide adequate refuge for animals to move to.
- It was determined by PoF that VF's assertion that logging should go ahead because it is enough for mobile species to move to other areas of habitat without risk of being hit by vehicles, predated upon by feral animals and for

there to be adequate/suitable habitat for such species to persist is untenable. This ‘theory’ applies even less to mobile or immobile species such as vegetation, reptiles, and small mammals.

- A proposal by VF of an extra hundred metre buffer zone for wildlife protection and to maintain views, was rejected by the PoFSC.

October 25th, 2017 Samantha Dunn MP visits Mirboo North forests with PoFSC

December 17th, 2017 DELWP meeting

- Dialogue opened between DELWP and PoFSC on logging issues and how to move forward on preventing logging.

2018

January 18th, 2018 Submissions for Timber Release Plan amendments close – Mirboo North logging coupes appear on this.

- PoFSC and many residents send submissions making it clear logging operations are not welcome in the district.

February 6th 2018 Samantha Dunn raises adjournment debate matter in Parliament regarding VF’s logging plans for Mirboo North

Extract from Hansard:

“My adjournment matter tonight is for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. VicForests has plans to log coupes near the town of Mirboo North. In response the community has come together and formed a campaign called Preserve Our Forests. The steering committee of the campaign has written to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change detailing inadequacies in the consultation process implemented by VicForests, the failure to consider the impact on the economic development of the town, results of a comprehensive survey of vulnerable fauna species which shows the presence of greater gliders and powerful owls, and a high risk of failing to comply with the timber code of conduct, including during regeneration. The action I seek is for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change to heed the requests of the Preserve Our Forests campaign to stop native forest logging in Mirboo North.”

February 2018 Meeting with Danny O’Brien MP (our representative in Parliament), at Lyrebird Walk

- Phil Piper and Marg Thomas ask Danny O’Brien (DO) to take to Parliament the Mirboo North community’s insistence that the Mirboo North forests not be logged – he refuses and says (without any evidence), that the public meeting on which the community’s position is predicated, was stacked.

- Community members are at Lyrebird walk and protest DO's position that logging supports a large industry and Mirboo North must be logged because so much is locked up in National Parks and "it will grow back".
- DO loses his temper with protesters and sends an apology to PoFSC Chair, Marg Thomas the next day.
- PoF media release objects to Danny O'Brien's refusing to take Mirboo North concerns to Parliament. Danny O'Brien refutes PoF assertions that he is not listening.

February 2018 meeting with DELWP

- Report on PoFSC flora and fauna surveys.
- Greater Glider found after 1st survey.
- The likely impact of logging on the district's economy regarding tourism.

March 4th, 2018 Community Meeting

- Update the community on the campaign.
- Encourage the community to suggest ideas on how they would like to participate in the campaign.
- Results of the Biodiversity Surveys released.
- Dr Faye Wedrowicz' research on the genetically unique Strzelecki Koala presented.
- Inform the public on the Timber Release Plan and Regional Forest Agreements.

March 28th, 2018: South Gippsland Shire Council votes 1 against and 7 for with one abstention, to support the PoF campaign to stop logging of Mirboo North forests and resolved to strongly lobby government to this end:

- The support of SGSC against VF's logging of Mirboo North forests was based on a number of presentations to Council by three leading Mirboo North business owners and four PoFSC representatives, all identify that logging would be severely detrimental to the area:
 - Tourism is a major driver of the economy and Mirboo North's native forests serve the well-being and amenity of district and attract visitors.
 - Logging threats to biodiversity – habitat destruction for vulnerable and threatened species (Greater Glider, Powerful Owl, burrowing crayfish) and the iconic species (Strzelecki Koala and the Lace Monitor. Threatened/vulnerable forest classes would be severely

impacted including an array of vegetation – Ecological surveys revealed.

- Mirboo North business owners demonstrated their dependence on native forests remaining intact – a quality water supply for production of award-winning beer with logging potentially polluting the water catchment. A major attraction for visitors to the area bringing valuable business to eateries and other retail businesses.

May 18th 2018 PoFSC meeting with VicForests

- VF arrive with a group of 6 foresters.
- VF are very interested in promoting various silvicultural methods that they insist will be the best outcome for Mirboo North forests – thinning, replanting to improve forest growth.
- PoFSC is adamant in rejecting VF plans.
- VF request a joint communique with PoFSC – PoFSC later refused to go ahead with this as it would be perceived that the committee was working in accord with VF.
- PoFSC reiterated the community's' wishes that logging not take place because of the unanimous vote taken at the 2017 public meeting.
- PoFSC say the VF plans are speculative and provide no solid or meaningful commitment.

July 2018 pre-station to Mirboo North Senior Citizens

- A brief overview of the campaign so far with an emphasis on the fauna in the Mirboo North forests.
- Request to sign letters to Minister.

July 12th, 2018 Environmental Justice Australia (Danya Jacobs) visits PoFSC

- Informing PoFSC on legal aspects of logging (not legal advice).

August 14th, 2018 PoFSC Submission to VF FSC Audit

August 15th, 2018 'Forest Talk Dr Chris Taylor and Ed McNabb

- Forest scientist Chris Taylor and fauna ecologist Ed McNabb.
- Information on effect of logging on our remaining native forests.
- Effects of fire intensity on native forests.
- Inter-relationship between contractual obligations and the loss of ecologically stable remnant native forests.

- Video on the incredible avian sounds of the night-time forest.

September 9th, 2018 POF attended Threatened Species Day Rally at Parliament Reserve.

September 19th, 2018 Community Meeting release of research & findings Socio-Eco Surveys

- Economic findings reveal the district’s tourism industry to be greatly reliant on the local forests staying intact.
- Over 40 businesses participated in an anonymous survey asking to what degree they would be affected should logging occur.
- Survey targeted direct and indirect effect of logging on local economy.
- It found that a conservative estimate indicated that the district could be hit with a 15% loss of revenue equating to a \$1.8m decline per annum in the Mirboo North economy with a possible loss of 9 jobs.
- Social Impact survey found that of the 560 locals and visitors who participated of the 393 local respondents, 385 believed there would be a high to severe impact on recreation, visual amenity, and well-being.
- Surveys guided and analysed by the SGS Economic Development and Tourism Dept – REMPLAN modelling used.
- New Motion unanimously supported: – that the forest blocks earmarked for logging be rezoned to a Nature Conservation Reserve, that PoFSC continues to lobby the State Government, and that talks with VF be halted (VF have resisted Mirboo North community’s position and failed to take serious measures to abandon its logging intentions). See **Attachment 2.3** for full details of the resolution as passed unanimously.

November 11th, 2018 ‘State Election: Forum on Forests Mirboo North’

From the promotion for the event:

“Hear what the candidates in our electorate (Gippsland South & Eastern Victoria Region), have to say about the proposed logging of native forests in Mirboo North... Be informed and join the conversation.

Meet the candidates:

Danny O'Brien MP (Nationals, sitting member Gippsland South)

Ian Onley (The Greens for Gippsland South)

Geoff Pain (Health Australia Party for Eastern Victoria Region)

Reade Smith (Sustainable Australia for Eastern Victoria Region)

Rhonda Crooks (Derryn Hinch Justice Party for Eastern Victoria Region)

Michael Fozard (Independent).”

All candidates except for Danny O'Brien were against the logging and understood that the forests were of enormous benefit to Mirboo North and were surprised that such scenic, valuable native forests were earmarked for logging.

2019

February 7th, 2019 PoFSC meeting with the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

- Three representatives of PoFSC meet with the Minister to give an overview of the issues surrounding the proposed logging in Mirboo North biodiversity and socio-eco findings, and questions surrounding logging in the water catchment.

March 2019 DELWP stakeholder engagement Future of our Forests Phase1

- PoFSC meet with federal and state representatives from DELWP concerning the review of the RFAs.
- PoF outlines serious concerns re RFAs and a possible way forward.
- The meeting is independently facilitated.
- The other stakeholder at the meeting is the Four-Wheel Drive Club

March 31st, 2019 PoFSC submission lodged Review Regional Forest Agreements 'Future of our Forests'

April 24th, 2019 Senator Janet Rice visits Mirboo North forests

- Senator Janet Rice is accompanied by Australian Greens candidates Deb Foskey and Willian Hornstra in the upcoming 2019 Federal Election.
- TV and press interview PoFSC, the candidates and Senator Rice.

April 25th, 2019 Mirboo North logging coupes removed from the recently released Timber Release Plan 2019/2020

- "The revelation was welcomed by the community, in particular the Preserve Our Forests group which had been actively campaigning for almost two years to prevent the logging from occurring". LV Express
- VF's Alex Messina warns that although the coupes have been removed, they could be placed back on in the next TRP.

April 26th, 2019 Biodiversity & Socio-Eco research findings presented to Mirboo North District Community Foundation (MNCDF) for the Vital Signs Project

- The Vital Signs Stories project is about highlighting the lived experience in our communities.
- PoF story is “Saving the Forests with Science”.

June 30th, 2019 PoFSC lodges submission to next phase RFA review

- PoFSC submission – ‘Our Forests at the Crossroads’.

October 10th, 2019 ‘Saving Mirboo North’s Greater Glider’

From promo of the event from the Event promotion flyer:

*“Public Presentation by Drew Liepa, Environmental Project Manager with Greening Australia and Brad Blake from PROCON Wildlife Management
Preserve our Forests Mirboo North invites you to join Drew and Brad for an interesting and informative evening showcasing Australia’s largest gliding mammal – the Greater Glider. A healthy population of these enchanting, velvety furred marsupials exists within the Mirboo North forests. One of the biggest threats they face is habitat destruction. Drew and Brad, with many years’ experience, are working to increase and connect Greater Glider habitat within the Strzelecki Ranges to aid in the conservation of these vulnerable animals.*

- *Learn all about this threatened nocturnal species that most of us have never seen.*
- *Let Drew and Brad immerse you in the night-time world of the Mirboo North forests.*
- *Hear about our vision for the future protection of our local forests and all they contain...”*
- A new Motion was passed unanimously at the meeting.
 - That the community reaffirms its opposition to logging of any kind whether clear felling or thinning alternatives in the Mirboo North State Forest.
 - Endorses PoFSC to continue lobbying State Government to rezone the entire Mirboo North State Forest into a permanent Nature Conservation Reserve.
 - Recognises and respects the traditional custodians of the land.
 - Preserves, protects and enhances its biodiversity.
 - Protects the water catchment.
 - Values and ensures the amenity it provides to the local community and township.
 - Provides safe and sustainable enjoyment, recreation, and educational experiences for visitors.
 - Potentially connects to other flora and fauna reserves and forested habitats. See **Attachment 2.2** for the full resolution as unanimously passed.

November 7th, 2019 Minister D’Ambrosio announces native forest logging to be phased out by 2030 and Immediate Protection Areas implemented effectively preventing logging in these areas including Mirboo North

- Minister later states that further consultation will occur in early 2020 to determine the future of the IPA.

November 28th, 2019:

- PoF members and campaign supporters attended the Nature for Life Rally on the steps of Parliament.

2020

February 7th, 2020 PoF forest celebration

- So many people to thank! An Extract from the Media Release:

” On Friday night the 7th of February, a large crowd celebrated a major event – the protection of Mirboo North native forest blocks from logging. Guests came from as far afield as Orbost, Central Highlands, Mallacoota and the Latrobe Valley to celebrate with the Mirboo North community. Over 70 people gathered at the Mirboo North Hotel for this special event.

The night was all about celebration, with a’ Capella singers ‘Acoustic Kitchen’ and environmental singer, song writer, Bill Blomeley entertaining the appreciative and enthusiastic crowd. Preserve our Forests Steering Committee (PoFSC), hosts of the evening, were pleased to have this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who were instrumental in this excellent outcome for the Mirboo North forests.

Mister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D’Ambrosio granted Mirboo North forests immediate protection from logging in November 2019 after 2 years of strong lobbying by PoFSC and the community.

Highlighted during the evening was the importance of the support of local and surrounding communities to the campaign. Guests were given an insight into the inner workings of the campaign, and the large number of people and organisations involved. Volunteers were thanked with certificates of appreciation; amazingly over 55 people were directly involved. Many in the community wrote submissions and letters, signed petitions, attended a number of PoFSC information sessions and were generous financial donors.

PoFSC acknowledged and thanked businesses for their support including Mirboo North Newsagency, Healing Leaves Café, Grandridge Brewery, Mirboo North Hotel, Greening Australia, ProCon Wildlife Management and Ninex Pursuits.

Community organisations receiving thanks were Landcare Network groups, CWA – Mirboo North Night Owls, Coal and Gasfield Free Mirboo North, Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists, Latrobe Valley Sustainability Network, Mirboo North and District Foundation, Mirboo North and District Community Bank Branch, MCDI Market Committee and Mirboo North Primary School.

Forest groups who have been supportive and shared their invaluable knowledge to PoFSC include Friends of the Earth Forest Campaign, Wildlife of the Central Highlands, Flora and Fauna Research Collective, Goongerah Environment Centre and ECOShout.

PoFSC also thanked the South Gippsland ALP, Greater Gippsland Greens, Senator Janet Rice, former MP Samantha Dunn, Minister D’Ambrosio and her advisers, Harriet Shing MP, former South Gippsland Shire Councillors – Maxine Keil, Don Hill, Andrew McEwen and Alyson Skinner.

Without the media on-board the campaign would not have been able to gain as much traction as it did; PoFSC thanked the Mirboo North Times, The Star,

Marg Thomas, PoFSC Chair thanked the Steering Committee members for their tireless work; Anne Garth, Susan Koci, Stephen Koci, Viki Sinclair, Rosemary Cousin, Ian Cornthwaite, Ian Starkey, Richard Lester, Gary Price, and former members Grant O’Neil, John Nicholls, Lisa Vincent, Anna Hall, Phil Piper and Eric Walters.

The Working Group Coordinators, Susan Koci – Biodiversity Surveys, Viki Sinclair – Socio-Economic Research and Marg Thomas – Strategy and Media, described the functions of their working groups and thanked all who participated, which included all the PoFSC members. Other participants were Grace Adamo, Peter Gannon, Bill Blomeley, Dr Faye Wedrowicz, David Stickney, Phil Rayment, Bronwyn Teasdale, Dallas Wyatt, Brad Blake, Drew Liepa, Kerin Fogarty, Gayle McHarg, Jenny Edney, Marg Smith, Thomasin Bales, Harry Anton, Carmel Quirk, Suzanne Wightman, Libby Anthony Ken Fraser, and Chris Rankin.

Special mentions went to Ed McNabb, Dr. Chris Taylor, Annette Thompson, Graeme Wilson, Jake McKenzie, Jordan Crook, Andrew Lincoln, Danya Jacobs and Environmental Justice Australia, David McAlpine, and Robert Drummond.

PoFSC is grateful for the dedication and passion of the many people who have worked to protect the native forests of Mirboo North from logging. The work now goes on to ensure the protections are ‘rock solid’ into the future.

Preserve our Forests Mirboo North and District “

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ATTACHMENT 2.2 PoF PUBLIC MEETING 4 MARCH 2018



PHOTO GALLERY



Susan Koci BWG Coordinator Participants completing surveys Marg Thomas – PoFSC Convener



Participants signing letters



The public meeting begins



Participants were very attentive and appreciative of the speakers from Preserve our Forests



The speakers reported on their findings and actions taken over the past 5 months since September 2017

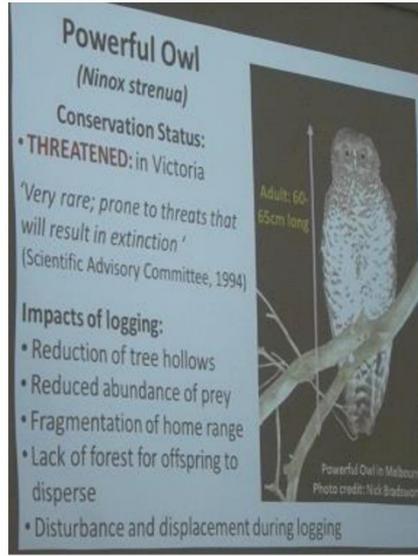




Ian Cornthwaite – BWG



Wiki Sinclair –SAWG



Powerful Owl –power(ful) point



Dr. Faye Wedrowicz
Strezelecki Koala Research



Rosie Cousin
Legislation



The Q&A session begins



More of the Q&A session with members of the Preserve our Forests Steering Committee



Participants made their own personal pledges to support the community campaign



Some pressings of native fauna by Ian Starkey



Points to include in your letters & phone calls



Intense discussions re campaign strategies



Discussions continue over cuppas



Still talking.....the meeting didn't close til 4pm Photos taken by Gayle Margaret

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ATTACHMENT 2.3 FURTHER UNANIMOUS COMMUNITY RESOLUTIONS GUIDING THE POF CAMPAIGN



Text Box 2.4 Motion the PoF Campaign PoF Public Meeting 19 September 2018

MOTION 19TH SEPTEMBER 2018: That the Mirboo North community:

1. Reaffirms its opposition to logging of any kind in the three forest blocks: Oscine, Doug and Samson; and requests the Preserve our Forests Steering Committee to continue to represent the community to achieve this end.
2. Asks the Preserve our Forests Steering Committee to:
 - a) Conclude its discussions with VicForests;
 - b) Focus attention on opening dialogue with the relevant Ministers (particularly the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Environment); and
 - c) Urge the State Government to commit to urgent meetings with representatives of PoFSC in order to prevent logging of any kind in these forest blocks.
3. Endorses the Preserve our Forests Steering Committee to request the State Government to rezone the three forest blocks: Oscine, Doug and Samson in a Special Protection Zone and, together with the Powerful Owl Special Protection Zone and the Lyrebird Forest Walk, designate these areas appropriately as a Conservation Park or Nature Conservation Reserve.

Moved: Anne Garth

Seconded: Eric Walters

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Text Box 2.5 Community Resolution confirming community support for a permanent Nature Conservation Reserve for Mirboo North's State Forests passed unanimously 10 October 2019

That the Mirboo North community:

1. Reaffirms its opposition to logging of any kind, whether clear-felling or thinning alternatives, in the Mirboo North State Forest. This State Forest includes the 3 forest blocks - Oscine, Doug and Samson designated for logging by the Victorian State Government, plus the Special Protection Zone which has tenuous protection from such logging.

2. Endorses Preserve our Forests Steering Committee to continue lobbying the State Government to rezone the entire Mirboo North State Forest into a **permanent Nature Conservation Reserve** which:

- Recognizes and respects the Gunaikurnai people as the traditional custodians of the land.
- Preserves, protects, and enhances its biodiversity.
- Protects the local water catchment.
- Values and ensures the amenity it provides to the local community and township.
- Ensures the health and wellbeing of the community and township.
- Provides safe and sustainable enjoyment, recreation, and educational experiences for visitors; and
- Potentially connects to other local flora and fauna reserves and forested habitats.

MOVED: Ian Cornthwaite

SECONDED: Charles Wade

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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CHAPTER 3 ATTACHMENTS



ATTACHMENT 3.1 PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED IN THE MIRBOO NORTH STATE FOREST, 27 DECEMBER 2017



FIELD STUDY CONTRIBUTORS:

1970 – 80s

E. Lyndon OAM, Botanist.

A.C. Beaglehole OAM, Botanist, Author (1984) *The Distribution and Conservation of Vascular Plants in the South Gippsland Area [Zone B]*. South Gippsland Conservation Society, LCC committee, 1984; and “Brief Description of Land Suitable for Reservation.”

Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists (LVFN).

2017/19:

Susan Koci BEnvSc (WildlifeConsBio) **PoF Biodiversity Working Group Coordinator** - Mirboo North.

Ian Cornthwaite A/D AppSci (Horticulture Amenity), Cert Plant Tissue Culture – Allambee Community Landcare/environmental horticulturist.

Ian Starkey – Leongatha North, Landcare/environmental horticulturist.

Dick Lester – Leongatha, Landcare/environmental horticulturist.

Dr. Faye Wedrowicz BSc (Hons) – Moe, Federation University researcher, photographs, and mapping.

Grace Adamo – Mirboo North, orchid enthusiast, photographs, GPS mapping.

Bill Blomley – Mirboo North, local expertise.

Grant O'Neill – Mirboo North, former forester, local enthusiast.

Bronwyn Teesdale – Inverloch, Landcare horticulturist/rehabilitation consultant.

Margaret Rowe – Leongatha, botanist, Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists.

Terri Allen – Wonthaggi, botanist.

Ken Harris – botanical author, Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists.

Phil Rayment – member Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists.

Gay Cornthwaite - Allambee Community Landcare/environmental horticulturist.

SUMMARY OF PLANTS IDENTIFIED IN MIRBOO STATE FOREST IMMEDIATE PROTECTION AREA (IPA) AND ADJACENT FORESTS BY THE POF BWG

KEY TO TABLE:

Species Botanical name/Common Name/Current site ID:

-IPA (Immediate Protection Area), Oscine, Doug, Samson, Doug's Track, Jodi's Track

-GPS location: [] or ()

-Significance: *Rs = Regionally, *Ls = Locally.

SPECIES NAME/COMMON NAME/LOCATION:

(Includes recent and historic records.)

- Acacia dealbata* – Silver Wattle – IPA
Acacia melanoxylon – Blackwood – IPA
Acacia mucronata – Narrow-leaf Wattle - IPA (30) *Ls
Acacia myrtifolia – Myrtle Wattle – IPA (71) *Ls
Acacia verticillata – Prickly Moses – IPA
Acaena novae zelandiae – Bidgee Widgee Burr – IPA
Acrotriche prostrata – Trailing Ground-berry – IPA [GPS 3] [GPS 39]
Acrotriche serrulata – Honeypots - IPA
Ajuga australis – Austral Bugle
Allocasuarina paludosa – Scrub Sheoke – IPA *Ls
Amperea xiphoclada – Broom Spurge – IPA
Amyema pendula – Drooping Mistletoe – IPA [61]
Asperula conferta – Common Woodruff
Australina pusilla ssp muelleri – Shade Nettle – IPA [16]
Austrocynoglossum latifolium – Forest Hounds Tongue – IPA [16]
Austrostipa sp
Banksia marginata – Silver Banksia – IPA [64] *Ls
Banksia spinulosa – Hairpin Banksia IPA *LS (Historic record).
Bauera rubioides – Dog Rose/Common Bauera – IPA
Baumea tetragona – Square Twig Rush
Bedfordia arborescens – Blanket-leaf – IPA [43] *Ls
Billardiera longifolia – Purple Apple-berry – IPA [10][28] *Ls
Billardiera mutabilis– Apple-berry – IPA
Burchardia umbellata – Milkmaids – IPA [31]
Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria)
Carex appressa – Tall Sedge - IPA
Cassinia aculeata – Common Dogwood – IPA
Cassinia trinerva – Three-nerved Dogwood - IPA *Ls
Cassytha pubescens – Downy Dodder Laurel – IPA [55]
Centella cordifolia – Swamp Pennywort – IPA
Clematis aristata – Supple Jack – IPA
Clematis affin. glycinoides – Forest Clematis - IPA
Comesperma ericinum – Heath Milkwort – IPA *Rs (Paget)
Comesperma volubile – Love Creeper – IPA *RSs (Paget)
Coprosma quadrifida – Prickly Currant Bush – IPA
Coronidium scorpiodes – Curling Everlasting/Button Daisy - IPA
Cotula australis – Common Cotula
Cotula coronopifolia – Water Buttons

Cyperus lucidus – Leafy Flat Sedge - Lyrebird Walk
Danthonia eriantha – Hill Wallaby Grass
Danthonia penicillata – Slender Wallaby Grass
Danthonia setacea – Bristly Wallaby Grass
Daucus glochidiatus – Austral Carrot – Oscine
Daviesia latifolia – Hop Bitter Pea
Daviesia ulicifolia – Gorse Bitter Pea *Ls
Deyeuxia quadriseta – Reed Bent Grass
Dianella caerulea – Paroo Flax lily – IPA [54]
Dianella revoluta – Black- anther Lily – IPA [9] [31]
Dianella tasmanica – Tasman Flax Lily – IPA
Dichondra repens – Kidney Weed – IPA
Dillwynia glaberimma – Smooth Parrot Pea – IPA [32] [63]
Dillwynia sericea – Showy Parrot Pea
Diplarrena moraea – Butterfly Iris – IPA
Drosera peltata ssp auriculata – Tall Sundew – IPA
Drymophila cyanocarpa – Torquoise Berry – IPA [10][12][24] *Ls
Echinopogon ovatus – Hedgehog Grass
Epilobium cinereum – Variable Willow Herb
Epilobium hirtigerum – Hairy Willow Herb
Epacris impressa – Common Heath – IPA
Eucalyptus affin. consideniana – Yertchuk – IPA [66]
Eucalyptus cypellocarpa – Mountain Grey Gum – IPA [46] (Old Growth)
Eucalyptus affin. dives – Broad-leaved Peppermint – IPA *Ls
Eucalyptus globoidea – White Stringybark *Ls
Eucalyptus obliqua – Messmate – IPA
Eucalyptus radiata – Narrow-leaf Peppermint, IPA
Eucalyptus viminalis – Manna Gum IPA
Euchiton involucratus – Star Cudweed – IPA [15]
Gahnia radula – Horse-tail Sedge
Gahnia sieberiana – Red Fruited Sedge – IPA
Galium australe – Tangled Bedstraw – IPA [24]
Galium affin. gaudichaudiana – Bedstraw - IPA
Geranium solanderi – Austral Cranesbill
Geranium potentiloides – Twin-flower Cranesbill – IPA
Glycine clandestina – Twining Glycine – IPA [20] [1]
Gonocarpus tetragynus – Common Raspwort - IPA
Gonocarpus teucrioides – Germander Raspwort
Goodenia geniculata – Bent Goodenia
Goodenia lanata – Trailing Goodenia – IPA

Goodenia ovata – Hop Goodenia – IPA
Gratiola peruviana – Austral Brooklime. IPA
Gynatrix pulchella – Hemp Bush – IPA [16]
Hakea decurrens ssp physocarpa – Needlewood – IPA [66]
Hakea ulicina – Furze Hakea – IPA (16) *LS
Hedycarya angustifolia – Austral Mulberry – IPA [13][31] [43]
Hibbertia empetrifolia – Trailing Hibbertia – IPA (8)
Hibbertia procumbens – IPA (14)
Hovea heterophylla – Common Hovea *Ls
Hydrocotyle hirta – Hairy Pennywort IPA
Hydrocotyl laxifolia – Loose-flowered Pennywort
Hypericum gramineum – Small St John's Wort – IPA [61]
Hypericum japonicum – Matted St.Johns Wort - IPA
Hypolaena fastiagata – Tassel Rope Rush
Indigofera australis – Indigo *Ls
Isolepis inundata – Swamp Club Rush
Isopogon ceratophyllus – Horny Conebush
Juncus pauciflorus – Loose-flowered Rush – IPA
Juncus pallidus – Pale Rush
Juncus planifolius – Broad-leafed Rush – IPA [7]
Juncus procerus – Tall Rush
Juncus subsecundus ssp flaccida – Tall Rush
Kunzea ericoides – Burgan – IPA [21]
Lagenifera stipitata – Bottle Daisy – IPA [2]
Leionema bilobum – Notched Leionema *Rs (Paget)
Lepidosperma affin. filiforme – Rapier Sedge – IPA [13]
Lepidosperma concavum – Sandhill Sword Sedge
Lepidosperma elatius – Tall Sword Grass – IPA
Lepidosperma laterale – Variable Sword Grass
Leptospermum juniperinum – Prickly Tea tree – IPA
Leptospermum myrsinoides – Silky Tea tree – IPA [15] *Ls
Leucopogon australis – Spike Beard-heath
Linum marginale – Wild Flax
Lobelia alata – Angled Lobelia - IPA
Lobelia gibbosa – Tall Lobelia – IPA [4] *Ls
Lomandra filiformis – Wattle Mat-rush – IPA (40) *Rs (Paget)
Lomandra filiformis ssp coriacea – IPA [34] *Rs
Lomandra longifolia – Spiny Mat-rush – IPA
Lomandra affin. micrantha – Small-flowered Mat-rush – IPA (34)
Lomatia fraseri – Tree Lomatia – IPA [25]

Lomatia illicifolia – Holly-leaf Lomatia – IPA
Luzula meridionalis – Common Wood-rush – IPA
Lythrum hyssopifolia – Small Loosestrife – [Lyndon]
Marianthus procumbens – White Marianth – [Lyndon]
Melaleuca ericifolia – Swamp Paperbark – [Lyndon]
Melaleuca squarrosa – Scented Paperbark – IPA [11][26]
Mentha affin. laxiflora – (Forest Mint) IPA *Ls
Microlaena stipoides – Weeping Grass – IPA
Notelea ligustrina – Mock Olive - IPA *Rs
Olearia argophylla – Musk Daisy Bush – IPA [9]
Olearia lirata – Snowy Daisy Bush – IPA
Olearia phlogopappa – Dusty Daisy Bush – IPA
Olearia ramulosa – Twiggy Daisy Bush
Olearia rugosa affin. ssp allenderae–(Promontory) Wrinkled Daisy Bush
– IPA [6] *Rs
Opercularia varia – Variable Stinkweed
Oxalis sp. – IPA
Ozothamnus ferrugineus – Tree Everlasting – IPA [16] [5]
Pandorea pandorana – Wonga Vine – IPA
Parsonia brownii – Twining Silk-pod – IPA [17][28][29][32] *Ls
Persoonia juniperina – Prickly Geebung
Pimelia axiflora – Bootlace Bush – IPA [15]
Pittosporum bicolor – Banyalla – IPA [15]
Pittosporum undulatum – Mock Orange – IPA [36]
Pittosporum undulatum x bicolor – IPA [15][16][20]
Plantago debilis – Shade Plantain – IPA [15] S [24] [55]
Platyacae sp.
Platylobium montanum (formosum) – Handsome Flat-pea – IPA [4][22]
[38] [12]
Platylobium obtangulosum – Angled Flat-pea – IPA [23]
Poa labillardieri – Common Tussock Grass
Poa morrissi – Velvet Tussock Grass
Poa affin sieberiana – Wiry Tussock Grass - IPA
Poa sp
Poa tenera – Slender Tussock-grass - IPA [Jody's Track] [65]
Polyscias sambucifolius – Variable Elderberry – IPA
Pomaderris aspera – Hazel Pomaderris – Common
Pomaderris elachophylla – Small-leafed Pomaderris *Rs
Poranthera microphylla – Small-leaf Euphorbia – IPA [55]
Prostanthera lasianthos – Victorian Christmas Bush – IPA [15] [Jody's

Track] [52]

Prunella vulgaris – Selfheal IPA

Pultenaea gunnii – Golden Bush-pea – IPA [1] [10]

Pultenaea juniperina – Prickly Bush Pea – IPA [60]

Pultenaea scabra – Rough Bush Pea - IPA (9) [Samson's Rd]

Ranunculus amphitrichus – Small River Buttercup

Rapanea howittiana – Muttonwood – IPA [Stream-side] *Ls

Restio tetraphyllus – Tassel Cord Rush *LS

Rubus parvifolius – Native Raspberry – IPA [19] (21) [Jody's Track]

Sambucus gaudichaudiana – Native Elderberry – IPA [16]

Schoenus apogon – Common Bog Rush

Schoenus maschalinus – Creeping Bog Rush

Senecio glomeratus – Annual Groundsel

Senecio hispidulus – Rough Fireweed – IPA

Senecio linearifolius – Fireweed – IPA [16]

Senecio minimus – Shrubby – IPA [16]

Senecio pinnatifolius – Variable Fireweed

Senecio tenuiflorus – Slender Fireweed – IPA

Solanum aviculare – Kangaroo Apple – IPA [37]

Solanum prinophyllum – Toothed Nightshade – IPA [16] *Ls

Stackhousia monogyna – IPA [3]

Stellaria flaccida – Forest Starwort – IPA [20] [Jody's Track]

Stypa rudis - (Tall Spear Grass) IPA

Stypandra caespitosa – Tufted Blue Lily – IPA *Ls

Stylidium graminifolium – Grass trigger Plant – IPA (31)

Tasmannia lanceolata – Mountain Pepper *Ls

Tetrarrhena juncea – Forest Wire-grass – IPA

Tetradthea ciliata – Black-eyed Susan –IPA

Tetradthea pilosa – Hairy Pink Bells

Thysanotus tuberosum – Fringe Lily – IPA [54][68](66) *Rs (Paget)

Veronica calycina – Hairy Speedwell - IPA

Veronica plebeia – Eastern Speedwell

Xanthorrhoea australis – Tall Grasstree

Xanthorrhoea minor – Small Grassree - IPA

Xerochrysum leucopsidium – Satin Everlasting - *Rs (Paget)

FERNS & MOSSES:

Adiantum aethiopicum – Maiden-hair Fern – IPA [15] *Ls

Asplenium flabellifolium – Necklace Fern - IPA

Blechnum nudum – Fishbone Fern – IPA [Gully]

Calcitra dubia – Common Ground Fern – IPA

Dicksonia antartica – Soft Treefern – IPA [Streams]
Doodia media – Rasp Fern IPA
Gleichenia dicarpa – Pouched Coral Fern
Gleichenia microphylla – Scrambling Coral Fern - IPA [13](11)
Histiopteris incisa – Bats wing Fern – IPA [31]
Huperzia appalachiana – Fir Clubmoss IPA
Hypolepsis punctata – Downy Ground Fern *Rs (Paget)
Microsorium diversifolium – Kangaroo Fern *Ls
Pellaea falcata – Sickle Fern
Polystichum proliferum – Mother Shield Fern – IPA [Gullies]
Pteridium esculentum – Bracken Fern – IPA
Pteris tremula – Tender Brake Fern
Rumohra adiantiformis – Leather Shield Fern
Seliginella sp
Sphagnum sp
Todea barbara – King Fern – IPA [Stream] *Rs (Paget)

ORCHIDS:

Acianthus sp -
Caladenia carnea – Pink Fingers – IPA [Samson's Rd]
Caladenia transitoria – Eastern Bronze
Caleana major – Large Duck – IPA [28] [67]
Calochilus paludosus – Red Beard – IPA [65]
Chilloglottis cornuta – Green Bird
Chilloglottis valida – Common Bird – IPA [7]
Cryptostylis leptochila – Small Tongue – IPA [20][22] [Samson's Rd] [57]
 *Rs (Paget)
Dipodium roseum – Hyacinth
Gastrodia sesamoides – Cinnamon Bells – IPA [13, 51]
Microtis unifolia – Common Onion
Paraclaena minor – Small Duck
Pterostylis chlorogramma – Green Striped Greenhood
Pterostylis melagramma – Tall Greenhood - IPA
Pterostylis nutans – Nodding Greenhood
Pterostylis parvifolia – Tiny Greenhood - IPA
Pterostylis pendunculata – Maroonhood
Thelymitra brevifolia – Peppertop Sun
Thelymitra ixioides – Spotted Sun
Thelymitra media - Tall Sun - SIPA [(29) (Jody's Track), [(37) (Samson's Rd, Doug's Track)]
Thelymitra pauciflora – Slender Sun

WEEDS:

Blackberry – *Rubus spp. aggregate* – common IPA
Bluebell (English) *Hiacinthoides non-scripta*– Doug's Tk
Blue Periwinkle – *Vinca major* – Doug's Track
Gladiolus – *Gladiolus undulatus* – Doug's Track
Pampass Grass – *Cortaderia selloana* – Samson's Road
Pink Centuary – *Centurium pulchellum* – commoc - IPA
Ragwort – *Senecio jacobea* – common IPA
Thistle – *Cirsium vulgare* – common IPA

CONCLUSION

Subject to further subspecies identification, some of the above species may be included in the DEPI/DELWP 2014 *Advisory Lists of rare or threatened plants in Victoria* and their locations registered with the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.

Possible inclusions are:

Amyema pendula ssp longifolia – Drooping mistletoe (Rare)

Billardiera scandens – Velvet apple-berry (Rare)

Lomandra micrantha ssp tuberculata – Small-flower Mat-rush – (Rare)

Olearia rugosa ssp allenderae – (Promontory) Wrinkled Daisy Bush
(Vulnerable)

Platylobium montanum ssp prostratum – Mountain Flat-pea – (Poorly known)

Pultenaea gunnii ssp tuberculata – Golden Bush Pea – (Rare)

Pultenaea juniperina ssp – Prickly Beauty – (Rare)

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ATTACHMENT 3.2 A SELECTION OF FLOWERING PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED IN THE MIROO NORTH STATE FOREST



Written by Ian Starkey (member PoF Biodiversity Working Group)

The sound of the Eastern Whipbird and the distant sound of a Lyrebird are a common greeting when you enter the Mirboo North State Forests - a sign of a healthy forest valuable habitat area in South Gippsland. Majestic trees of Mountain Grey Gum, Messmate, Silver-top Ash and Mountain Ash are the foundation of our forest but under them a kaleidoscope of different plants mosses and fungi thrive.

Being part of the plant survey study group was a privilege and a joy, a group of people who recognises the importance, beauty and diversity of our unique Mirboo North Forest, the plant diversity that was so apparent when we surveyed the Oscine, Sampson, and Doug Blocks (now called the Immediate Protection Area or IPA).

Finding old tree stumps as large as small rooms, often burnt out, gave us a glimpse of the size these trees were when the first nations people walked through these forests, and how young our forest is now in comparison, as well as how small this remnant area is relative to the vast forest there was originally.

The diversity of plant types was very apparent, Wet Forest, Damp Forest, Foothill Forest, merging regularly, an amazing array of understory and ground story plants are to be found and identified. Over two hundred plant types have so far been recorded in the Oscine, Sampson, and Doug's Blocks. So many wonderful plant types, we will have to write a book to describe them all. But I will describe a few stand-out plants that will hopefully give you a snapshot of the diversity of plants to be found in our magical Mirboo North Forest.

***Drymophila cyanocarpa*: Turquoise Berry. Doug's Block**

This beautiful delicate looking plant we found in Doug's Block, was growing in shady moist sites, usually in the company of ferns. Low growing but upright in habit, no more than 0.5m high, with glossy lanceolate leaves, and in November-January, dainty white flowers form that hang from under the stems and leaves. By January the flowers transform into green berries then turn to the purple-turquoise colour from where the plant gets its name. Turquoise Berry also grows in mountain forests in NSW and Victoria and as far south as Maatsuyker Island in Southern Tasmania. To propagate this plant, seed can be collected from the berries that contain between eight to twenty seeds in each fruit. But the seeds can take one or more years to germinate. Turquoise Berry can also be propagated by division.



***Notelaea ligustrina*: Mock Olive. Sampson's Block and SPZ**

Isolated examples of this plant were discovered by local Horticulturalist Ian Cornthwaite in Sampson's block and the SPZ area. Not commonly found in the Strzelecki Ranges, and usually confined to areas high in the range such as Foster North and Mount Worth State Park, it was quite remarkable finding it growing in our Mirboo North State Forest.

Mock Olive is a small tree 6-12m high and is a relative of the European olive. It has narrow lanceolate leaves, dull green above lighter green underneath. Flowering is from September till October in racemes of small creamy-yellow four-petalled flowers, followed by fruits that resemble olives that mature in Autumn, changing as they mature from yellow or pink to dark purple. These edible fruits can be eaten but are bland and are also foraged on by birds. Mock Olive can be grown from seed or cuttings. Germination from seed or cuttings is slow, taking from 5-12 months. The plants are slow growing and need time to establish on shaded sheltered sites.



***Billardiera macrantha syn longiflora*: Purple Apple-Berry.**

Doug's block

We found this light climbing plant growing under Mountain Ash trees in a sheltered gully. Usually spreads 1-3m but can vary in size depending on where it is growing as it can grow a lot larger in ideal conditions. This beautiful climber has dark green oblong leaves 3-5 cm long x 3-8mm wide. Flowering is October-January with spectacular pendent tubular flowers 2.5-4cm long, bright greenish yellow to cream coloured, indigo inside, followed by glossy purple edible berries which are most striking usually forming in late Summer - Autumn.

Purple Apple-Berry also grows in cool mountain forests in Southern NSW, Victoria, and Tasmania, found always in cool moist sheltered sites. Can be propagated from seed and cuttings. From seed, collect the purple fruits - they contain small black seeds which are surrounded by a white pulp within the purple fruits and are easily extracted.



***Billardiera mutabilis syn scandens*: Common Apple-Berry.**

Throughout the IPA

A lot more wide-spread than its Purple Apple-berry cousin. Found in most vegetation types in the Mirboo North State Forest, this soft light climber will climb up its host plant so it can achieve a sunnier prominent position in which it can then thrive. It has dull-green foliage, lighter underneath, narrowly ovate in shape 2-6cm long x 5-10mm wide. New, new growth is lighter green in colour. Bird attractive greenish-yellow bell-shaped flowers 10-20mm long that are pendent occur mainly in spring, followed by green berries that turn colourless when mature. The fruits are edible at this mature stage. When they drop on the ground, they provide food for birds, bush rats and Antechinus. Can be propagated from seed extracted from the mature fruits.



***Lomatia ilicifolia*: Holly-leaf Lomatia. Throughout the IPA**

This low growing small shrub 0.5-1.5m has striking foliage totally different to other plants growing around it. Often mistaken for the European Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), having a similar leaf shape. But the Lomatia leaves are not glossy like the European Holly and has dark green leathery crinkly ovate leaves 15-30cm long x 4-6cm wide. Holly-leaved Lomatia is a member of the Proteaceae Family (Banksias and Grevilleas). Flowering time is sporadic during summer, only flowers profusely after a fire. Terminal racemes 15-30cm long of cream spider flowers. Seeds can be hard to collect. Will regenerate from lignotubers (dormant buds) at the base of the plant. If burnt, attractive reddish-bronze new growth will appear. It is found usually in Damp Forest and Foot Hill Forest environments, growing on well drained soils, sunny or semi shade position. There is one other Lomatia type growing in our forest. *Lomatia fraseri* has similar foliage and flowers but grows a lot taller and is usually found in gullies in Damp Forest and Wet Forest environments.



***Olearia rugosa*: Wrinkled Daisy-bush. Oscine block.**

There are three other “Daisy-bush” species growing in our forest, but this was the first time we had spotted *Olearia rugosa* growing in our part of the world in South Gippsland. Wrinkled Daisy Bush is a small shrub growing to 1-2m, with deeply wrinkled narrow-ovate leaves to 70mm long (from where it gets its name). *Olearia rugosa* was found growing with tall bracken ferns in a Lowland Forest environment of the heathy type. It flowers October-November, white daisy flowers held erect on stiff stalks are attractive to many insects such as hover flies, which in turn attract birds such as wrens. The flowers turn to fluffy seed heads in December –January. Wrinkled Daisy Bush grows in moist well drained soils in a sunny or semi shaded position. It can be grown from cuttings, which strike easily or from seed.



***Comesperma volubile*: Love Creeper. Throughout the IPA.**

Until it flowers this beautiful plant is hard to notice in our bush. This light climber is almost leafless with a few narrow leaves to 10mm long spread infrequently along the same-coloured stems, which are almost unnoticeable and blend into the surrounding foliage. Bursting in flower in September-October with blue pea like flowers in loose racemes 3-12cm long, the climber spreading 1-2m will climb up its host plant so it can achieve a sunnier prominent position to thrive and flower. The flowers are replaced by green purse-like seed capsules 10-14mm long, maturing to light brown when ripe, which contain a seed with tufts of hair. Love Creeper can be grown from seed or cuttings but quite difficult to cultivate. In our Mirboo North State Forest there is another *Comesperma* species, *Comesperma ericinum* (Heath Milkwort) that is found growing in Oscine. It differs in being a low growing shrub with pink flowers.



***Hibbertia empetrifolia*: Trailing Guinea Flower. Throughout IPA.**

This scrambling low-growing shrub to approx 0.5-1m high by 2-3m wide, is very noticeable during the spring to summer months. It has large bright yellow five petal flowers up to 20mm wide from September-February. It has dark green elliptic shaped leaves that are rough to touch 5-12mm long 4-6mm wide. Trailing Guinea flower likes well-drained but moist soils and will grow in a sunny or semi-shade position. It is regularly found scrambling with other plants where it can dominate. It is found in Damp Forest and Lowland Forest environments. Another Hibbertia species. *Hibbertia procumbens* is found in the Oscine block. It grows prostrate along the ground and has finer foliage than *Hibbertia empetrifolia*, *Hibbertia* can be propagated from cuttings, though we have found *Hibbertia empetrifolia* difficult to propagate.



***Tetradlea ciliata*: Black-eyed Susan. Throughout the IPA.**

This beautiful small-growing understory plant is a real stand out when it flowers. Usually growing to 0.5m but will sometimes branch-out larger in shaded crowded situations. It is frequently encounter in our Damp Forest and Lowland Forest environments. The leaves are oval shaped to 12mm in whorls of three some-times four along its stems. It has a long flowering period, August to December, mauve-pink four petal bell-shaped flowers 10mm, spreading as they age. Dark in the centre, the flowers hang profusely from hairy stalks 10mm long. Usually found growing in well-drained semi-shaded positions. Black-eyed Susan can be propagated from cuttings that can strike readily. *Tetradlea* grows in many other areas of the Strzelecki Ranges but in no other area in the Ranges do we find growing as prolific as in our Mirboo North Forest.



***Platylobium montanum syn formosum*: Mountain Flat Pea. Throughout the IPA.**

Mountain Flat Pea is a low growing scrambling plant, spreading 1-2m. It has attractive dark green leathery heart shaped leaves to 6cm long, opposite in pairs. Flowering September to December, a beautiful display of large yellow and red pea shaped flowers on hairy stalks 5-15mm long, followed by stalked pods to 4cm, broad, flat and hairy, containing black hard pea seeds. Mountain Flat Pea prefers to grow in sheltered semi-shade sites with good drainage, normally in Damp Forest and Lowland Forest environments. They are attractive to butterflies when flowering. Propagation is best from seed which need heat treatment. There is another *Platylobium* type growing in our forest. *Platylobium obtangulosum*, Angled Flat Pea, grows in Doug's Block. It can be distinguished from *Platylobium montanum* having smaller sharp pointed leaves and the flowers are held closer to the foliage.



***Todea Barbara*: King Fern. Doug's Block.**

This an uncommon fern, we found growing in a wet gully along a small stream in Doug's Block near a stand of Mountain Ash trees. King Fern has long upright to arching bipinnate fronds, dark green glossy and leathery that can grow to 2.5m long. The fronds grow from a stout barrel-shaped thick fibrous trunk that are rarely more than a metre high and 80cm wide, but in maturity can spread up to 1.5m wide, bearing multiple tufts of fronds. Usually found in Damp Forest and Wet Forest environments in shaded moist sites along gullies and water courses. King Ferns are slow growing and, if allowed, are very long-lived. They propagate by forming sporangia on the back of their fronds that open when mature, shedding spores like a powdery dust. King Fern occurs in other parts of the State but always in moist shaded situations in cool Mountain Forests, also in Tasmania, NSW and Queensland. They can also be seen growing in Baths Road Reserve in Mirboo North.



19 October 2020

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ATTACHMENT 3.3 NATIVE BIRDS OBSERVED IN ONE SURVEY TRANSECT OF THE MIRBOO NORTH STATE FORESTS (NOVEMBER 2017)



Native birds observed (seen or heard) along a transect in Doug and Samsons forest blocks by Observer: Dallas Wyatt in November 2017.

Australian King Parrot
Australian Magpie
Australian Raven
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Blue-winged Parrot
Brown Gerygone
Brown Thornbill
Brown-headed Honeyeater
Crimson Rosella
Dusky Woodswallow
Eastern Spinebill
Eastern Whipbird
Eastern Yellow Robin
Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Gang-gang Cockatoo
Golden Whistler
Grey Currawong
Grey Fantail
Grey Shrike-Thrush
Laughing Kookaburra
Lewins Honeyeater
Mistletoe bird
Olive Whistler
Red-browed Finch
Rufous Fantail Rufous
Whistler Satin Flycatcher
Scarlet Honeyeater
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
Silvereye
Spotted Pardalote
Striated Thornbill Superb Fairy-wren
Superb Lyrebird
White -browed Scrubwren
White-throated Treecreeper
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

Note: While the Powerful Owl wasn't observed by Dallas Wyatt, other PoF observers in April 2018 observed a breeding pair.

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ATTACHMENT 3.4 FUNGI SPECIES FOUND IN MIRBOO NORTH STATE FOREST, LYREBIRD FOREST WALK AND GRAND RIDGE RAIL TRAIL, MAY 2019



Photographed by Marg Thomas (PoFSC Convener) in the Mirboo North State Forests, Lyrebird Forest Walk and Grand Ridge Rail Trail May 2019.

“Mycology is the study of fungi.... Fungi are one of the kingdoms of the natural world. Fungi include macro fungi such as mushrooms, corals, brackets, puffballs and disc fungi and numerous micro fungi such as rust fungi, mildews and moulds...Fungi are particularly important in ecosystem due to their interactions with other organisms. ...Fungi play pivotal roles in ecosystems as decomposers, parasites and partners in mutualisms such as ectomycorrhizas and lichens and provide food for mammals and invertebrates.” (Royal Botanic Gardens (2021) ‘Mycology’ Science and Collections Projects)

Some of the fungi shown below require further identification and classification. It is often difficult or impossible to ID fungi without more data - even things like spore prints can be valuable. (Matt Campbell Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists, 6 April 2021).



Ramaria botrytoides (Coral like mushrooms)



Cortinarius austrovenetus (Green Skinhead)



Clitocybe sp. ? (a genus of gilled mushroom)



Tremella fuciformis (Snow Fungus)



Not yet identified



Entoloma rodwayi (Green Stemmed Pinkgill)



Mycena subgalericulata ?



Gymnopilus sp. (Laughing Gym, Laughing Cap, Laughing Jim, or the Spectacular Rustgill)



Lichenomphalia chromacea



Hypholoma fasciculare (Sulphur Tuft)



Clavulinopsis sulcata (Coral Fungus in the family *Clavariaceae*)



Crepidotus eucalyptorum ?



Mycena sp.



Macrolepiota sp. ?



Entemola ap.



Trametes coccinea



Not yet identified



Not yet identified



Not yet identified



Galerina hypnorum



Not yet identified



Not yet identified



Not yet identified

Many thanks to Matt Campbell LVFN for assistance in identification.

6 April 2021

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CHAPTER 5 ATTACHMENTS



ATTACHMENT 5.1 DECLARATIONS RELATING TO MIRBOO NORTH'S WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT (1965, 1966) AND LAND USE DETERMINATION (1974)



5.1.1 Declaration of Mirboo North's Water Supply Catchment (WSC) 1965 Victoria Gazette No 14, 3 March 1965

Victoria Gazette

455

No. 14.—March 3, 1965

Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958.
MIRBOO NORTH WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT.

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, &c., &c., &c.

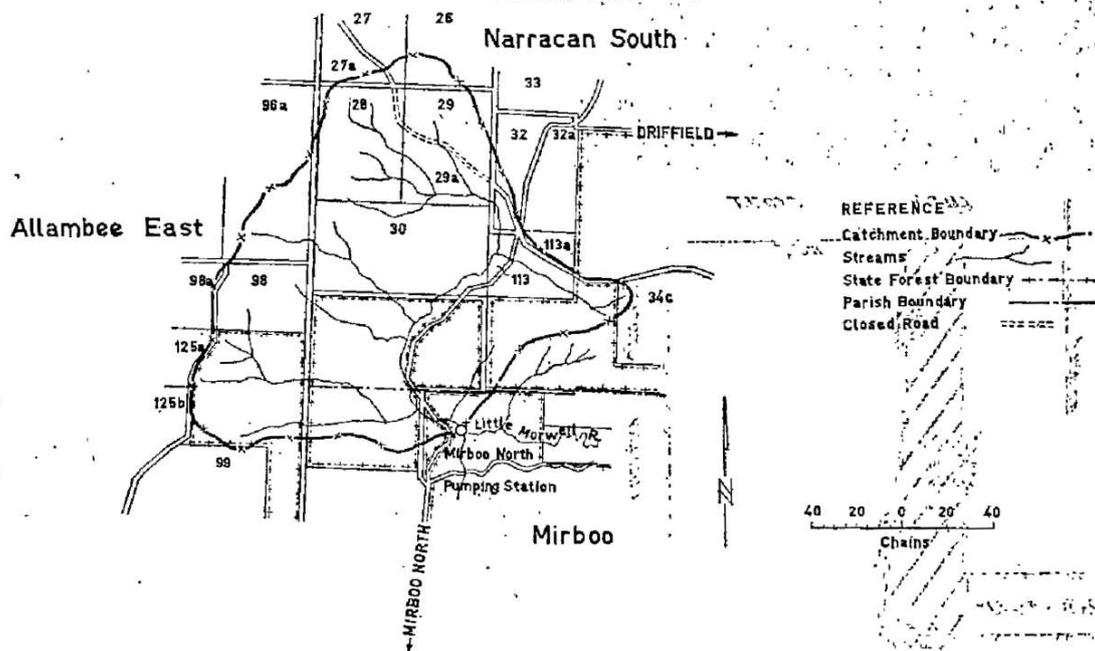
I, THE Governor of the State of Victoria in the Commonwealth of Australia, by and with the advice of the Executive Council of the said State and in pursuance of the provisions contained in section 22 of the *Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958* (No. 6372), do by this Proclamation define the water supply catchment area to be known as Mirboo North Water Supply Catchment.

The area to be proclaimed is the catchment to the Mirboo North Waterworks Trust pipe offtake weir and pumping station on the northern arm of the Little Morwell River, situated in Reserved Forest, formerly designated as Crown allotment 122 in the Parish of Mirboo, and includes an area within a radius of 5 chains downstream of the pipe offtake weir.

The use of land within this catchment is subject to determination by the Soil Conservation Authority, acting under the provisions of section 23 (1) (a) of the *Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958* (No. 6372).

The area described is indicated on plan No. 1542 hereunder, the original of which is lodged at the head office of the Soil Conservation Authority, 378 Cotham-road, Kew, E.4

PLAN No. 1542.



Given under my Hand and the Seal of the State of Victoria aforesaid, at Melbourne, this twenty-fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and sixty-five, and in the fourteenth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

(L.S.)

ROHAN DELACOMBE.

By His Excellency's Command,

JIM BALFOUR,

Minister for Conservation.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

5.1.2 Extensions to Mirboo North Water Trust District

Victoria Government Gazette No 13, February 23 1966 page 675

<p style="text-align: center;">J. COLQUHOUN, Clerk of the Executive Council.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">MIRBOO NORTH WATERWORKS TRUST.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>At the Executive Council Chamber, Melbourne, the twenty-second day of February, 1966.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENT:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">His Excellency the Governor of Victoria. Mr. Dickie Mr. Manson.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EXTENT OF DISTRICTS INCREASED.</p> <p>UNDER the powers conferred by the Water Act and all other powers enabling him in that behalf, His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria, by</p>	<p>and with the advice of the Executive Council of the said State, doth hereby declare, order and direct as follows:—</p> <p>That the extent of the Waterworks and Urban Districts of the Mirboo North Waterworks Trust be increased by adding to the same the land comprised within the boundaries described in the Schedule hereto, and as on and from the date hereof, the extent of such Districts shall be deemed to be increased accordingly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SCHEDULE.</p> <p>Commencing at the south-eastern angle of allotment 8, section IX., Township of Mirboo North, Parish of Mirboo, County of Buln Buln, being a point on the northern boundary of the existing Waterworks and Urban Districts; thence northerly along the eastern boundary of the said allotment 8 and along the eastern boundary of allotment 9 to its north-eastern angle; thence north-easterly across a road by a line being the continuation of the eastern boundary of allotment 11; thence north-easterly along the southern boundary of the said allotment 11 to its south-eastern angle and by a line being the continuation thereof across a pipe track to the southernmost angle of allotment 13; thence south-easterly by a line across a road to the north-western angle of allotment 3 and along the western boundary of the said allotment 3 and of allotment 2 to a point on the northern boundary of the existing Waterworks and Urban Districts; thence westerly along the boundary of the existing Waterworks and Urban Districts to the point of commencement.</p> <p>All of which boundaries are shown on a plan approved by the Governor in Council and deposited in the office of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Melbourne.—(Corres. 59/2739/119.)</p> <p>And the Honorable Thomas Anthony Darcy, Her Majesty's Minister of Water Supply for the State of Victoria, shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">J. COLQUHOUN, Clerk of the Executive Council.</p>
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5.1.3 Mirboo North Water Supply Catchment LAND USE DETERMINATION

Victoria Gazette No 117 December, 4 1974 pp4162-4163

4162

Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958.

MIRBOO NORTH WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF LAND USE.

Proclaimed 24th February 1965, *Victoria Government Gazette*, No. 14, dated 3rd March, 1965, pursuant to section 22 (1) of the *Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958*.

In pursuance of the provisions of section 23, sub-section (1) of the *Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958*, the Soil Conservation Authority, after consultation with the Land Conservation Council, has determined the land use for all that land in the Parishes of Allambee East, Mirboo and Narracan South within the boundaries of the Mirboo North Water Supply Catchment delineated and marked on Plan No. 1542, the original of which is lodged at the Head Office of the Soil Conservation Authority. All land within this area shall be used in accordance with the particular category of land use to which the area has been assigned. The boundaries of land use categories shown on Plan No. S-101 are intended as a guide to persons and departments involved in the area, who should consult with the Soil Conservation Authority before making any changes in land use.

Continued overleaf

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

The general provisions of individual land use categories are set out below and should be read in conjunction with the specific requirements and the Determination plan.

Category 1.

Land to be used primarily for the protection of streams, watercourses and spring areas where—

1. No further clearing, cultivation, earthworks, buildings or stream crossings will be permitted without the prior approval of the Soil Conservation Authority.
2. Improvements in the location and design of existing stream crossings may be required by the Soil Conservation Authority.

This category includes land within 100 metres of the offtake weir, within 20 metres or 40 metres or such other distance the Authority may require of the banks of streams, watercourses and spring areas. Most of these streams and watercourses are shown on Plan No. S-101 but the category also includes other streams, watercourses and spring areas in the catchment.

Category 2.

Land to be retained as permanent forest.

Category 3.

Land suited to forest purposes. Parts of the land in this category may be suitable for pastures or agriculture, but development of such land for these purposes requires the prior approval of the Soil Conservation Authority.

Category 4.

Land which may be used for grazing. Parts of this land may be used for cropping subject to the prior approval of the Soil Conservation Authority.

Category 5.

Land which may be used for grazing or cropping. Parts of this land may be used for more intensive purposes, subject to the prior approval of the Soil Conservation Authority.

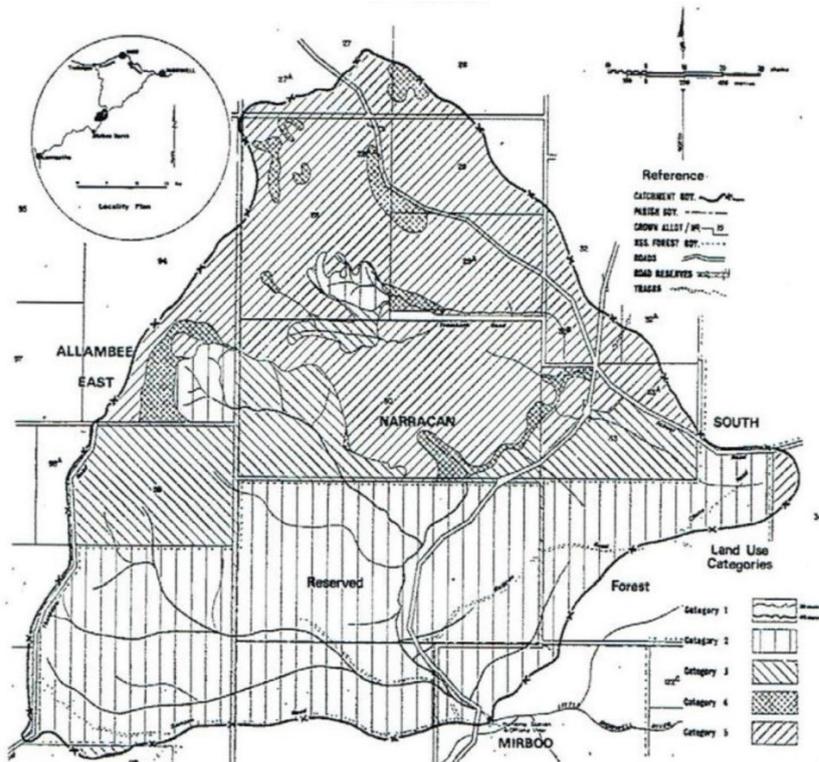
SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.

While the categories described above are given as a guide to the most suitable uses of catchment land, the Authority may have specific requirements in relation to any land use.

In particular:—

1. All forest operations are to be carried out in accordance with management prescriptions drawn up or approved by the Soil Conservation Authority.
2. Prior approval is required before roadworks or any earthworks associated with dam, drain building construction or any other purpose are carried out in the catchment.
3. Prior approval is required before any land in the catchment is subdivided.

PLAN NO. S-101.



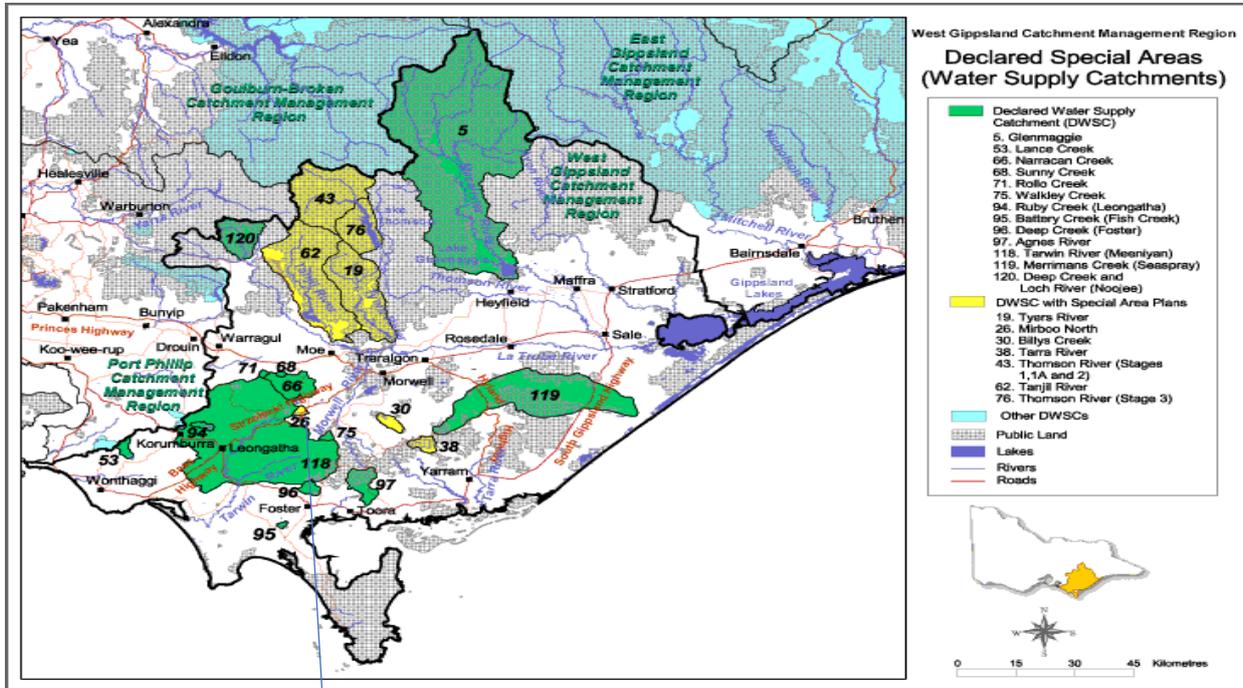
R. A. FITT, Secretary.
Soil Conservation Authority.



ATTACHMENT 5.2 MIRBOO NORTH'S DECLARED SPECIAL AREA WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT WITH SPECIAL AREA PLAN (FORMER SCA LUD)



Map 5.1 West Gippsland Special Water Supply Catchments



5. Glenmaggie	53. Lance Creek	66. Narracan Creek	68. Sunny Creek
71. Rollo Creek	75. Walkley Creek	94. Ruby Creek (Leongatha)	94. Battery Creek (Fish Creek)
96 Deep Creek (Foster)	97 Agnes River	118 Tarwin River (Meeniyen)	119 Merrimans Creek (Seaspray)
120 Deep Creek and Loch River (Noojee)			
Declared Water Supply Catchments with Special Area Plans			
19 Tyers River	26 Mirboo North	30 Billys Creek	38 Tara River
43 Thomson River (Stages 1, 1a and 2)	62 Tanjil River	76 Thomson River (Stage 3)	

(Source: Agriculture Victoria (2018a) 'West Gippsland Special Water Supply Catchments' online 23.9.2018)

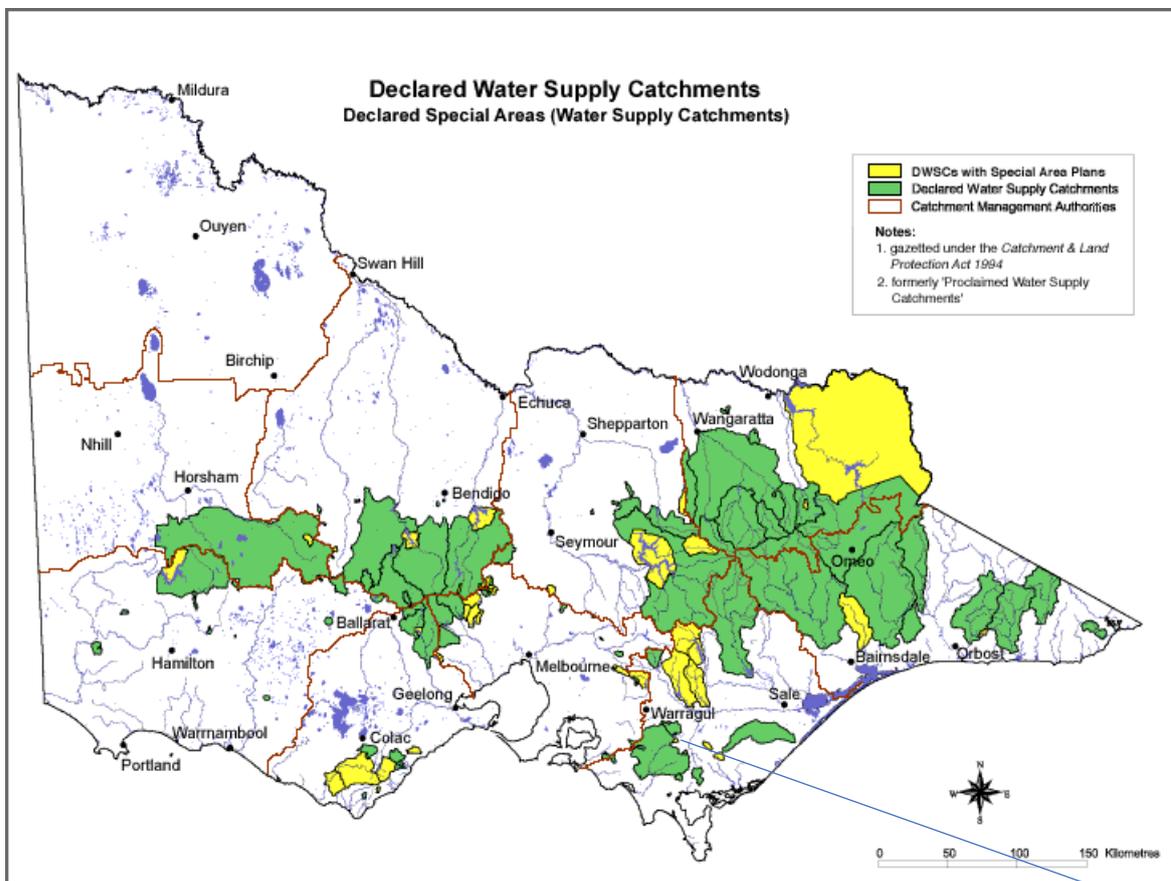
Table 5.2 Technical Details of the Mirboo North SAP

West Gippsland Catchment Management Region						
River Basin	PWSC No.	Catchment Name	Status ¹	Area (ha)	Date	Gazetted
Latrobe	26	Mirboo North	SAP	895	4/12/74	Y

(Source: Agriculture Victoria (2018b) 'West Gippsland special Water Supply Catchments with Special Area Plans' Viewed online 23.9.2018)

Map 5.2 Declared Water Supply Catchments with Special Area Plans in Victoria

The small yellow dot, south east of Warragul is **Mirboo North DWSC with SAP No. 26**



Source: Agriculture Victoria (1996-2020) 'Declared Water Supply Catchments - Special Area Plans: Victoria' Victoria Resources Online, State of Victoria accessed 28/12/20 at URL = http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/vic_spec_plans_new

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CHAPTER 6 ATTACHMENTS



ATTACHMENT 6.1 FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE CAR RESERVE SYSTEM IN THE STRZELECKI RANGES BIOREGION



Text Box 6.2 Further CAR Reserve System (JANIS 1997) Criteria Further (Qualitative) criteria for the CAR Reserve System

[Refer **Text Box 6.1** for quantitative criteria 1 to3]

4. Reserved areas should be replicated across the geographic range of the forest ecosystem to decrease the likelihood that chance events such as wildfire or disease will cause the forest ecosystem to decline.
5. The reserve system should seek to maximize the area of high quality habitat for all known elements of biodiversity wherever practicable, but with particular reference to: - the special needs of rare, vulnerable or endangered species; - special groups of organisms, for example species with complex habitat requirements, or migratory or mobile species; - areas of high species diversity, natural refugia for flora and fauna, and centres of endemism; and - those species whose distributions and habitat requirements are not well correlated with any particular forest ecosystem.
6. Reserves should be large enough to sustain the viability, quality and integrity of populations.
7. To ensure representativeness, the reserve system should, as far as possible, sample the full range of biological variation within each forest ecosystem.
8. In fragmented landscapes, remnants that contribute to sampling the full range of biodiversity are vital parts of a forest reserve system. The areas should be protected as part of the development of integrated regional conservation strategies.¹

Land Categories in the CAR Reserve System

At the heart of the management of biodiversity, old growth and wilderness through the CAR reserve system is **dedicated reserves** on public land. Where dedicated reserves are not practical or possible it includes **informal reserves** on public land. These should: (i) be set aside for conservation purposes; (ii) have approved management plans, (iii) be accurately defined on maps, (iv) provide for public comment on proposed changes to boundaries; and (v) be sufficient to maintain the values they seek to protect. Where either a dedicated or informal reserve is not practical, such as long thin strips of vegetation along waterways, the reserve system provides for **protection by prescription** via specific standards set in Codes of Practice or Management Plans. It also allows for biodiversity protection on **private land** forest areas to meet the special needs for rare, vulnerable, or endangered species or ecosystems on private land. (JANIS 1997: pp7-8)

¹ *Gippsland Comprehensive Regional Assessment* p150 citing JANIS (1997) Biodiversity Criteria

CAR Conservation criteria

The CAR Reserve system sets out national criteria for the conservation of forest biodiversity, old-growth forests and wilderness. Standards for meeting the CAR reserve system are incorporated into each Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) signed between the Commonwealth and Victorian Government.

BIODIVERSITY STANDARDS

Priority attention should be given to rare, vulnerable and endangered ecosystems and species...

Reserves should be designed so that, to the extent practicable, all elements of biodiversity have the opportunity for expression but with particular emphasis on those components of biodiversity that are dependent on reservation for protection...

The priority for reservation of a forest ecosystem is related to how much remains relative to its initial distribution and its vulnerability to threatening processes....

Reservation to conserve biodiversity needs to focus on the continued viability of species and ecosystems rather than the attainment of aerial targets.²

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² JANIS (1997) 6.1 Biodiversity Criteria

ATTACHMENT 6.2 KNOWLEDGE GAPS IDENTIFIED IN THE GIPPSLAND COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT AND NATIONAL ESTATE IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT



Text Box 6.3 Knowledge Gaps in the Gippsland National Estate Identification and Assessment Report

Data and knowledge gaps for many of the criteria used to assess natural values and indigenous values in the Gippsland Comprehensive Regional Assessment were identified in the National Estate Report.³ Some of the critical knowledge gaps were:

Non-vascular flora: Despite the biogeographic importance of non-vascular flora (eg mosses, ferns, lichens) the assessment focused...on flora communities and [only] selected vascular plant species. This pointed to the need for more species-based studies of non-vascular flora.

Terrestrial invertebrate fauna: The wide range of habitat types in Gippsland is likely to support a very diverse and biogeographically interesting terrestrial invertebrate fauna. However, as for this and many regions of Australia, terrestrial invertebrate fauna are inadequately known.

Habitat modelling: Species-specific habitat models are available for only a very few taxa (such as some owls) in Victoria, therefore restricting the use of [models] to identify, for example, key fauna habitat for particular threatened species. This pointed to the need for more threatened-species specific habitat data and modelling.

Remnant vegetation: Of the 103 EVCs identified as still occurring in the Gippsland Region, 23 were found to have been depleted to below 30% of their pre-1750 coverage....**There is little information about the relative quality of these remnants. Further research is warranted to clearly identify those areas whose quality, and security from external threatening processes...justify continued recognition of their national estate value.** (Section 3.3.9 p48).

Key remnant habitats: This value was not systematically assessed across the whole Region. Known areas of remnant habitat were largely identified by expert opinion and literature review including review of relevant LCC reports). (p59).

Fauna Species Richness: In the absence of an accepted methodology, no assessment of fauna species richness was done for the Gippsland region (p60). The development and validation of a method for identifying areas of high fauna species richness is a priority for further research. (p74).

Indigenous values: Several issues relating to the conventional place assessment of indigenous values surfaced... (including) *Aboriginal people are concerned about losing

³ Joint Commonwealth and Victorian Regional Forest Agreement Steering Committee (1999) *National Estate Identification and Assessment in the Gippsland Region of Victoria* Chapter 3 Natural Values pp31-66 and Chapter 4 National Estate Outcomes 4.4 Future Research: Natural Values p73

control of the information about places by allowing them to be identified and listed in a national register. *Aboriginal people are also concerned about other forest issues such as their participation and involvement in forest planning and management.... As a result of these issues, conventional assessments have not been pursued ... As part of the Gippsland RFA, it is proposed to give greater recognition to Indigenous concepts of cultural heritage and other interests which needed to be addressed ... to develop effective consultation and conservation processes that reflect Indigenous concerns. (2.2 Aboriginal Heritage Values p 14).

Despite these data and knowledge limitations: Recommended actions for natural values under these and other National Estate criteria were listed in the Gippsland RFA Attachment 3; and Clause 1 of Attachment 3 both Parties endorsed the findings of the (the National Estate Assessment) and agreed that national estate values exist as documented in the report. Also in Attachment 3, both Parties:

- Agreed that many of the national estate values are well reserved in the CAR Reserve System and that the Gippsland Forest Management Plan and other mechanisms as described in Table 1 will provide for the conservation of many other national estate values within the region.
- Noted that the identification and assessment of national estate values for the CRA has been completed with the only exception being Indigenous heritage;⁴ and
- Agreed that all national estate values in Gippsland will be conserved through the application of the principles for managing national estate values as will be detailed in the *Gippsland Forest Management Plan*.

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⁴ Guidelines for the Management of Cultural Heritage Values in Forests, Parks and Reserves in East Gippsland was published in October 1997.

ATTACHMENT 6.3 GIPPSLAND RFA 2000 AND RELATED DATA RELEVANT TO EVCs FOUND IN THE MIRBOO NORTH STATE FOREST IPA



Table 6.2a Gippsland RFA 2000 CAR reserve status relevant to EVCs found in the Mirboo North State Forest IPA

Gippsland RFA 2000 Ecological Vegetation Classes in the Gippsland Region based on pre1750 vegetation mapping
Data extracts for Mirboo North State Forest EVC biodiversity indicators

EVC No	Ecological Vegetation Class	Area (ha)		1750 remaining area %	Conservation Status	EVC representation and area in each land category												
		Pre 1750	Current			CAR reserve system						SMZ (ha)	GMZ (ha)	Code P'script (ha)	Other parks & reserve (ha)	C'with Land (ha)	Other Public Land (ha)	Private Land (ha)
						CAR Reserves (including additions)			Formal Reserve (ha)	Informal Reserve (SPZ) (ha)								
						ha	% pre 1750	% current										
EVC 16	Lowland Forest	258999	116680	45.1%	Not recorded	39932	15	not recorded	17247	22685	476	32271	1834	2952	0	1277	37925	
EVC 29	Damp Forest	183397	106062	57.8%	Not recorded	37169	20	not recorded	13717	23452	404	40551	16292	581	-	429	10636	
EVC 30	Wet Forests	111093	68453	61.6%	Not recorded	13102	12	not recorded	8664	4437	61	13028	4731	89	-	937	36505	
EVC 32	Warm Temperate	6078	2513	41.3%	E,R,V	2,280	not recorded	91	1,330	949	-	-	-	2	-	20	203	
EVC 83	Swampy Riparian	15630	97	0.6%	E,R,V	65	not recorded	67	42	23	-	-	-	-	-	16	16	

Source: Gippsland RFA 2000 Attachment 1 Table 2: Ecological Vegetation Classes in the Gippsland Region based on pre1750 vegetation mapping
E=Endangered, R=Rare, V=Vulnerable

Table 6.2b Gippsland RFA Region CAR data relevant to EVCs found in the Mirboo North State Forest IPA compared to Gippsland Comprehensive Regional Assessment 1999 data

Pre 1750 % EVC extent included in conservation reserves: Data Comparison
Gippsland RFA 2000 compared to the Gippsland CRA 1999 for selected EVCs

EVC No	Ecological Vegetation Class	Area (ha)		1750 remaining area %	Conservation Status	GRFA 2000:	GRCA 1999:
		Pre 1750 extent	Current extent			Reserve system (including additions)	Conservation Reserves
						% pre 1750	% pre 1750
EVC 16	Lowland Forest	258999	116680	45.1%	Not recorded	15	5.40
EVC 29	Damp Forest	183397	106062	57.8%	Not recorded	20	6.50
EVC 30	Wet Forests	111093	68453	61.6%	Not recorded	12	7.20
EVC 32	Warm Temperate Rainforests	6078	2513	41.3%	E,R,V	not recorded	21.80
EVC 83	Swampy Riparian Woodlands	15630	97	0.6%	E,R,V	not recorded	0.10

Source: Gippsland CRA 1999, Gippsland RFA 2000

Table 6.2 identifies that some changes were made from the *Gippsland CRA* to that included in the signed Gippsland RFA Attachment 1 for several of Mirboo North's biodiversity indicators. These changes raised estimates of the extent of several

EVCs within conservation reserves in the Gippsland RFA region, notably: Damp Forest (**raised from 6.5% to 20%**), Lowland Forest (**raised from 5.4% to 15%**), and Wet Forest (**raised from 7.2% to 12% - but still well below the 15% CAR threshold**). The extent within conservation reserves of both Warm Temperate Rainforest and Swampy Riparian were not recorded in the Gippsland RFA. No publicly available detail explains the additions to the CAR reserve system that were made in the period between the completion of the Gippsland CRA in September 1999 and the signing of the Gippsland RFA in March 2000. The Parties on signing the RFA agreed that the Gippsland RFA CAR Reserves System met the CAR Reserve System Criteria.⁵

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⁵ Gippsland RFA 2000 clause 63

ATTACHMENT 6.4 VEAC'S STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS FINDING RELATIVE TO THE CAR RESERVE CRITERIA SHORTFALLS IN THE STRZELECKI RANGES BIOREGION RELEVANT TO THE MIRBOO NORTH STATE FOREST



Table 6.3 shows three of the EVCs modelled in the Mirboo North State Forest: Damp Forest, Wet Forest and Lowland Forest are amongst the top 40 Victorian bioregional EVCs that VEAC found required the greatest additional areas to meet the target of 17% reservation in the protected area system.

Table 6.3 Victorian bioregional EVCs that require the greatest additional areas to meet the target of 17 per cent reservation in the protected area system in relation to the Strzelecki Ranges

Bioregion	EVC 1.	BCS*	1750 extent	Current dedicated reserve	Current other public land	Private land	Overall 'shortfall'	Shortfall potentially met on public land
								hectares
Strzelecki Ranges	Damp Forest	E	136,143	425 (3.12%)	6,799	21,263	-28,062	24.2
Strzelecki Ranges	Wet Forest	D	121,737	2,950 (2.42%)	30,408	25,084	-15,311	100.0
Gippsland Plain 2.	Lowland Forest	V	119,673	6,036 (5.04%)	13,451	21,665	-15,506	86.8

Extract Table 5.5 *Statewide Assessment of Public Lands Discussion Paper* VEAC (2016, p70-71)

Note 1: E= Endangered, D = depleted, V= Vulnerable

Note 2: While it is modelled to be found in the Mirboo North State Forest, no reference is made in VEAC's Table 5.5 to Strzelecki Ranges Lowland Forest. However, Lowland Forest EVC is referenced in relation to the adjoining Gippsland Plains Bioregion.

Considering the shortfall of EVCs in the CAR Reserve System for all bioregions, VEAC concluded the Strzelecki Ranges Bioregion had the highest level of shortfall on public lands as a percentage of total area. **Table 6.4a** shows the Strzelecki Bioregion in comparison to the total reserve system.

Table 6.4a: Total area of 'shortfall' in under-represented EVCs as a percentage of total area for each bioregion

Bioregion ²	Total of 'shortfall' on all land (hectares)	Total of 'shortfall' on public land (hectares) ¹	Bioregion total area (hectares)	Public land shortfall as percentage of total area
Strzelecki Ranges	-63,012	-29,730	342,179	8.69
All Victoria	-2,149,037	-695,106	22,698,623	3.06
Comments	Include in Strzelecki-Gippsland Plain cluster			

Source: Extracts from Table 4.1: p23, VEAC (2017) *Supplement to the Discussion Paper on the Statewide Assessment of Public Lands, May 2017*

1 The 'shortfall' on public land for each under-represented EVC is the area of public land required to be added to the protected area system to meet the JANIS targets. If the target is greater than the total area of public land with that EVC outside current protected areas, this figure is 100 per cent. The figures in this column are the total of the shortfalls for all under-represented EVCs in each bioregion.

2 See p. 72 of the *Statewide Assessment of Public Lands Discussion Paper* for descriptions of the clusters identified in this column.

VEAC identified the EVCs with the greatest pre 1750 extent across all bioregions. In the Strzelecki Ranges Bioregion, four EVCs are amongst the 22 most extensive EVCs: Damp Forest, Lowland Forest, Wet Forest and Herb Rich Foothill Forests. Of the EVCs also found in Mirboo North, Warm Temperate Rainforest and Swampy Riparian Forest were not included in VEAC's list of most extensive EVCs. Simply put, these two EVCs are historically scarcer across all Victorian EVCs and have a higher significance in the Strzelecki Ranges Bioregion.

Table 6.4b: Statewide extent (both public and private land) of the 22 most extensive EVCs pre-1750 - relative to the Strzelecki Ranges Bioregion

EVC name	Pre-1750 extent (h/a)	Current extent (h/a)	% pre-1750 extent remaining
Damp Forests	728,773	591,786	81.2
Lowland Forest	767,349	543,490	70.8
Wet Forest	423,331	350,186	82.7
Herb Rich Foothill Forests	1,102,175	808,829	73.4

Extract Table 5.4 VEAC 2016 *Statewide Assessment of Public Lands Discussion Paper*: P67

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ATTACHMENT 6.5 VEAC'S 2016 RECOMMENDATION 20 AND THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE



Text Box 6.3 VEAC's (2016) Recommendation 20 related to the assessment of endangered EVCs in the Strzelecki Ranges Bioregion protected area system; and Government response (2017)

The delivery of several of these recommendations aligns with Priority 18 in Victoria's Biodiversity Plan, *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037* to: "maintain and enhance a world class system of protected areas".

R20. Assess regions with clusters of endangered EVCs.

Public land use in the following Victorian regions with clusters of endangered EVCs be assessed for their potential to improve the representativeness of the protected area system:

- a. South west region (includes Glenelg Plain, Dundas Tablelands, Wimmera (south), Warrnambool Plain and Victorian Volcanic Plain (west) bioregions)
- b. Strzelecki Ranges and Gippsland Plains bioregions
- c. Central Victorian Uplands and adjoining bioregions.

The government accepts this recommendation.

This government notes that this recommendation aligns with Victoria's Biodiversity Plan. There is a commitment to "review the extent, representativeness and adequacy of the reserve system to identify key gaps and additional complementary measures required to improve the reserve system on public land" (Priority 18).

The government accepts Recommendation R20(a).

The government accepts Recommendation R20(b). Implementation of Recommendation R20(b) will be scheduled in the future to support decisions on the future classification of the 8 000 hectares of land known as the 'Cores and Links' in the Strzelecki Ranges. The government notes that land under long term lease or perpetual licence to HVP Plantations will be excluded from this investigation.

The government accepts Recommendation R20(c), recognising that part of the Central Victorian Uplands are being investigated through VEAC's Central West Investigation, which is currently underway.

VEAC will be requested to undertake these investigations, noting that, when developing recommendations, VEAC is required to consider the full range of land uses and perspectives, including socio-economic impacts.

The information made available through the investigations will be incorporated into broader processes such as the Regional Forest Agreements and forest management planning. The Regional Forest Agreements currently outline that any changes to the area of State forest will not lead to a net deterioration in the timber production capacity of those areas available for harvesting.

Implementation

DELWP will be responsible for implementing this recommendation, in consultation with other relevant government departments.

Source: DELWP (2017) *Victorian Government Response to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Statewide Assessment of Public Land Final Report*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2016: p18

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ATTACHMENT 6.6 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM RFA RELATED REPORTS DISCUSSED IN CHAPTER 6 RELEVANT TO MIRBOO NORTH STATE FOREST EVCs



Table 6.5 Summary of findings in all Official Reports relevant to Mirboo North State Forest EVCs

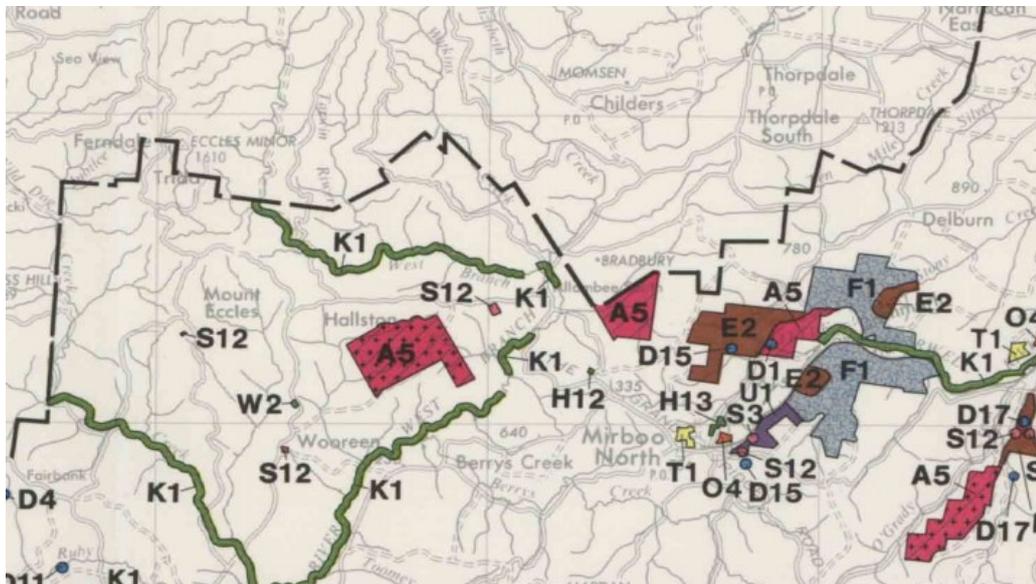
Summary of findings from all Official Reports 1999 to 2016 for Mirboo North State Forest and IPA EVC biodiversity indicators					
MNSF /IPA EVC Biodiversity Indicators	Gippsland National Estate Report 1999 attributing National Estate Values	Gippsland CRA 1999	Gippsland RFA 2000	RFA data Strzelecki Ranges Bioregion (SBR) 2009	VEAC findings 2016
<u>Lowland Forest</u>	Not referenced.	45.1% decline from pre-1750, total 1999 116,680ha; 5.4% protected; did not meet JANIS Criteria	CS= not recorded . 15% of pre-1750 extent in CAR Reserve System protection	BCS= V ; 7% of current extent protected; 3% of pre-1750 extent in reserve protection	BCS= V ; No reference for Strzelecki Ranges, but is in Gippsland Plains where 5.04% pre 1750 extent protected.
<u>Damp Forest</u>	Provides refuges for species in long- and short-term climate change, drought and fire	58% decline from pre-1750, total 1999 106,062ha; 6.5% protected; did not meet JANIS Criteria	CS= not recorded . 20% of pre-1750 extent in CAR Reserve System protection	BCS= E ; 5% of current extent protected; 1% of pre-1750 extent in reserve protection	BCS= E ; 3.12% pre 1750 protected; In top 40 Vic EVCs requiring greatest addition to meet 17% CAR target in SBR
<u>Wet Forest</u>	Contains relictual flora; Provides refuges for species in long- and short-term climate change, drought and fire	61% decline from pre-1750, total 1999 68,453ha; 7.2% protected; did not meet JANIS Criteria	CS= not recorded . 12% of pre-1750 extent in CAR Reserve System protection	BCS= D ; 7% of current extent protected, 3% of pre-1750 extent in reserve protection.	BCS= D ; 2.4% pre 1750 protected; In top 40 Vic EVCs requiring greatest addition to meet 17% CAR target.
<u>Warm Temperate Rainforest</u>	Contains relictual flora; Provides refuges for species in long- and short-term climate change, drought and fire	CS= amongst E, V, R EVCs ; 41.3% decline from pre-1750, total 1999 2,513ha; 21.8% reserve protection	CS= E,R,V ; % of pre-1750 extent protected in CAR reserve system not recorded	BCS= E ; 9% of current extent protected and 3% of pre-1750 extent in reserve protection.	Not referenced in top 40 EVCs requiring greatest addition to meet 17% CAR target.
<u>Swampy Riparian Woodland</u>	Provides refuges for species in long- and short-term climate change, drought and fire	CS= amongst E, V, R EVCs ; 99.4% decline from pre-1750, total 1999 97ha; 0.1% reserve protection	CS= E,R,V ; % of pre-1750 extent protected in CAR reserve system not recorded	BCS= E ; 0% of both its current and pre-1750 extent in CAR reserve system protection.	Not referenced in top 40 EVCs requiring greatest addition to meet 17% CAR target.

CS = Conservation Status across the Gippsland Bioregion; BCS = Bioregional Conservation Status across the Strzelecki Ranges Bioregion; R=Rare, E = Endangered, V=Vulnerable, D=Depleted

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ATTACHMENT 6.7 MIRBOO NORTH-RELATED LCC 1982 RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT



Extract: LCC (1982) Map of South Gippsland Area District 2 Final Recommendations

Text Box 6.4 explains recommendations marked A5. These recommendations relate to the formation of the Mirboo Regional Park - two sections of which lie in and immediately adjacent to Mirboo North's special water supply catchment area.

In addition to A5, other recommended changes of land use that affect Mirboo North's special water supply catchment area are those areas marked D1 and D15, E2, and F1 **Text Box 6.5** is excerpts from the LCC's 1982 final recommendations report relating to areas marked D1, D15, E2 and F1.

Each of the LCCs 1982 land use recommendations were adopted by the Victorian Government by Order in Council on 26 June 1984.

Text Box 6.4 Mirboo Regional Park Recommendations of the LCC 1982

A. PARKS AND MARINE RESERVES

In Parks, Regional Parks the LCC stated the intended purpose of the Mirboo Regional Park:

"This park, located at the western end of the Strzelecki Ranges, is close to major population centres in western and southern Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley. **The four blocks of public land comprising it are among the few areas in the western Strzeleckis that remain under native forest.** Isolated pockets of mountain ash occur in the Hallston Bush area, but the major vegetation type represented is an open forest of messmate with associated species such as mountain grey gum, silvertop, and narrow-leaf peppermint, which has developed on Cretaceous sediments, Tertiary basalts, and alluvial gravels.



Features of the park include the Dickies Hill scenic reserve-a fine stand of gully vegetation on a tributary of the Tarwin River-and the Lyrebird forest walk, with its established picnic facilities adjoining the Morwell-Mirboo North Road and walking tracks along the Little Morwell River. These and other areas throughout the park provide opportunities for picnicking, walking, nature study, and pleasure driving. Due to the shortage of hardwood forests in this locality, Council considers that sections of the park could continue to provide fencing timbers and firewood for the local community.”

REGIONAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

A5 Mirboo Regional Park

That the areas totalling 1210 ha shown on the map be used to:

(a) provide opportunities for informal recreation for large numbers of people, (b) conserve and protect ecosystems to the extent that this is consistent with (a) above;

that

(c) limited extraction of timber for fence posts and firewood be permitted from those areas indicated on the map;

(d) honey production be permitted;

and that it be permanently reserved under section 4 of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, and managed by the Forests Commission.

Note: The land-owner currently licensed to water stock at the western corner of the Dickies Hill scenic reserve should retain access to this watering point.

Text Box 6.4 LCC 1982 South Gippsland District 2 Final Recommendations relevant to Mirboo North's Water Catchment and Land Use Determination



In the LCC's 1982 *South Gippsland District 2 Final Recommendations Report*, the LCC recognised that “...[T]he prime water-producing areas of the State coincide with the principal mountain and forested areas.” The following references and recommendations specifically relate to Mirboo North's water supply catchment area:

In Section D. WATER PRODUCTION

Current water catchments with land use determinations (LUD) and catchment areas requiring further investigation were identified:

“Detailed land use determinations exist only for Billy Creek, Little Morwell River [Mirboo North's LUD], and Tarra River. Other catchments proposed for proclamation are the Agnes River, Battery Creek, Deep Creek, O'Grady Creek, and Ruby Creek.”

Land Uses in Catchments were discussed:

“[The LCC] believes that in most situations it is not necessary for a water supply authority to control and manage all the public land in its water catchment.”

The LCC highlighted the ongoing importance of LUDs:

“Changes in land use, which could detrimentally affect the quality, quantity, or distribution of water supplied from a catchment, should only be made following full consideration of the benefits and disadvantages associated with the various land use options.”

A particular focus was placed on Buffer Zones for maintaining water quality:

“The water supply authority should control and manage a buffer zone (defined in the land use determination) around storages and diversion works. This buffer zone is separate from the protective strips along watercourses, which, although important for water supply protection, would not by themselves form a manageable unit. In addition, the water supply authority should control and manage the storages and the areas on which capital works are situated, together with any other areas that may be needed for efficient management.” (Section B. Buffer Zone)

The significance of catchments for maintaining water quality and yield was acknowledged:

“It is also vital to safeguard the quantity and timing of yield. Catchments must be protected from loss of infiltration capacity, damage to other hydrologic properties, soil erosion, and contamination from chemical or biological sources. Proper management of land uses within catchments is extremely important and recognition must be given to the need for high levels of protection, particularly in the ecologically sensitive areas. **Values such as water yield, quality, and flow regime must be of major concern when implementing recommendations for public land within catchments.** The Council recognises the need for research to provide additional information that can be used in formulating management guidelines.” (Section B. Buffer Zone: Water Quality, Yield and Regulation).

WATER PRODUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS

D1—D3 That in the case of the locations listed below and shown on the map (all these locations being **within catchments that have been proclaimed and for which land use determinations have been made**), the following areas: (i) the storage areas, (ii) diversion works, (iii) associated facilities, (iv) the buffer zones around diversion works and storages, as defined in the land use determination and (v) any other allotments considered necessary **be used for (a) water supply purposes’ and (b) other activities permitted by the water supply authority after consultation with the Soil Conservation Authority and the Environmental Protection Authority and that these areas be permanently reserved under section 4 of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 for water supply purposes, and be managed by the water supply authority named.**

Notes: 1. The primary object of management of the buffer zone must be to protect water quality. Subject to this principle, the water supply authority may permit secondary uses in the buffer zone.

Further Notes and Map Reference:

D1 Offtake on Little Morwell River, Mirboo North Waterworks Trust; 100 m buffer; **AND D15** Mountain Hut Road treatment plant, Mirboo North service basin; Mirboo North Waterworks Trust.

In Section E. TIMBER PRODUCTION

Hardwood Production discussion contains a reference to important Environmental Considerations:

“The Council realises that the recommended hardwood-production area contains a mosaic of forests of varying productivity, including some parts that are unsuitable for timber production. These are, nevertheless, included for ease of management. **The hardwood-production area also includes some areas of productive forests with significant water-production, landscape, or conservation values. Constraints are therefore imposed in some cases, and the Council has defined areas where particular non-timber values must be**

protected. Council endorses the Forests Commission practice of preparing detailed management plans for land under its control.

HARDWOOD PRODUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS

E1—E10 That the areas listed below and shown on the map be used:

(a) primarily to provide hardwood timber in a manner having due regard for landscape values as seen from the main roads outside the forest

that

(b) major secondary uses be to:

(i) provide opportunities for open-space recreation and education

(ii) conserve native plants and animals, and provide opportunities for the development of wildlife conservation techniques

(iii) produce honey, forage, gravel, sand, and other forest produce as defined in the *Forests Act 1958*

(c) water production values be recognised and protected

(d) the special values located in portions of some of the hardwood areas listed below be protected (these values should be protected by the creation of reserves under section 50 of the *Forests Act 1958* or by management prescriptions; where faunal values are of importance, the Fisheries and Wildlife Division should be consulted) and that the areas remain or become reserved forest under the provisions of the *Forests Act 1958* and be managed by the Forests Commission.

Note: When water supply catchments are included in hardwood production areas, management should conform to the policies outlined in Chapter D, Water Production.

Further Details and Map References:

E2 Boolarra—Darlimurla (665 ha) Notes: 1. Excludes cemetery reserve and Boolarra Waterworks Trust storage site. **2. This area contains part of the Mirboo North Proclaimed Water Supply Catchment.**

In Section F. SOFTWOOD PRODUCTION

SOFTWOOD PRODUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

F1 That the present plantations of 9920 ha net, shown on the map, continue to be used for the production of softwoods, and the provision of other goods and services compatible with the primary use, as well as providing opportunities for recreation and other uses and that they remain or become reserved forest under the provisions of the *Forests Act 1958* and, with the exception of those areas leased to A.P.M. Forests Pty Ltd, be managed by the Forests Commission.

Notes: 1. Includes 1250 ha net of softwoods established by A.P.M. Forests Pty Ltd on public land leased to the company; a further 100 ha, net, of leased land is yet to be planted to softwoods. **2. This area contains parts of the Mirboo North, Billys Creek, and Tarra River Proclaimed Water Supply Catchments.**

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**Greater Glider in the Mirboo North State Forest
Preserve our Forests Biodiversity Working Group Surveys September 2017- February 2020**



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**Preserve our Forests Mirboo North and District Steering Committee
September 2021**