

Recreation framework for Box - Ironbark Public Land

October 2003



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Foreword

The Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands of north-central Victoria form a special part of the State's natural and cultural heritage and attract many visitors. The forests play an important part in the everyday lives of local communities, who enjoy them for recreation and at least partly depend on them for their livelihood.

Prospecting, bushwalking, touring, horse riding, cultural heritage and bird watching, wildflower appreciation, car rallying, orienteering, walking the family dog or just enjoying the bushland, are all popular recreation pursuits on Box-Ironbark public lands.

The Recreation Framework for Box-Ironbark Public land aims to show where and how each popular recreation activity can be enjoyed. It provides direction and certainty for both recreational users and public land managers. It will also be used to guide the preparation of detailed management plans for public land areas, including parks and State forest, in consultation with the local community.

The Framework has been developed in close consultation with a 13 member Advisory Group consisting of a cross-section of local representatives and peak user groups.

The Recreation Framework applies to some 400,000 hectares of public land that lies adjacent to cities and towns such as Stawell, Bendigo, St Arnaud, Castlemaine, Heathcote and Wangaratta. The public land includes extensive areas of State forest, 11 new or enlarged National Parks, State Parks, National Heritage Park, and a range of new conservation reserves.

The new parks are, in addition to their primary conservation role, places for visitors to enjoy and appreciate the diversity of the Box-Ironbark country. They cater for a wide range of recreational opportunities. Importantly, they provide an added stimulus to the region's tourism appeal that can provide a boost to local economies.

With the creation of the new parks and reserves, Victoria's Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands have been afforded a greater degree of environmental and cultural protection. However, locals and visitors alike will continue to be able to enjoy a wide range of recreational activities across the network of new parks and State forests, as outlined in this Framework.

I wish to extend my thanks to the Box-Ironbark Recreation Advisory Group for their magnificent efforts in advising on the preparation of this important document.



John Thwaites MP

Minister for Environment

Acknowledgments

This Recreation Framework has been prepared in consultation with the Box-Ironbark Recreation Advisory Group. This group comprises 13 community and interest group representatives covering a broad cross section of recreation, cultural heritage, tourism, environmental and community interests.

All members of the Recreation Advisory Group gave generously of their time to help ensure that recreational management in Box-Ironbark public lands reflects community interests, and that it recognises the inherent values of these significant forests and woodlands.

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Laraine Blume	Guildford Saddle Club
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1 Introduction

1.1 Recreation Framework Objectives

This Recreation Framework aims to show where and how each of the major popular recreational activities can be enjoyed on public land in the Box-Ironbark region. It provides direction and certainty for both recreational users and public land managers. The Framework has been developed in close consultation with a 13 member Box-Ironbark Recreation Advisory Group, and is endorsed by the Group.

The Framework applies to public lands within the Environment Conservation Council (ECC)¹ Box-Ironbark Study Area in north-central Victoria, which encompasses major cities and towns such as Stawell, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Heathcote and Wangaratta.

1.2 Public land and Land Manager

The Box-Ironbark public land (of some 400,000 hectares) includes State forest, 11 new National, State, and National Heritage Parks, and a range of other land-use categories such as conservation reserves, natural features reserves and reference areas (refer to the tables and maps section for locations of these areas). Legislation creating the 11 new parks was passed in October 2002.

The Parks are - Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park, St Arnaud Range National Park, Terrick Terrick National Park, Greater Bendigo National Park, Heathcote-Graytown National Park, Kooyoorra State Park, Broken-Boosey State Park, Warby Range State Park, Reef Hills State Park, Paddy Ranges State Park and Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.

The term 'land manager' has been used through this Framework. In this context it means:

- for State forest areas - The Department of Sustainability and Environment. The DSE Customer Service Centre can be contacted on 136 186.
- for parks and conservation reserves - Parks Victoria. The PV Customer Service Centre can be contacted on 131 963.

Both Departments are located in the Bendigo regional office, Cnr Midlands Hwy and Taylor St, Epsom, VIC 3551.

1.3 Box-Ironbark Forests and Woodlands

At the time of European settlement some 13% of Victoria was covered with extensive forests of box and ironbark trees with distinctive understorey vegetation.

Aboriginal people had lived in the forests for many thousands of years. The forests provided a distinctive system of habitats for a highly diverse population of birds and other animals.

In the century and a half since European settlement we have cleared the forests for urban development, agriculture and mining, continued to use them for mining and grazing, and to harvest them for firewood, posts, sleepers and sawlogs. As a result only about 17% of the original extent of Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands within the study area remains, generally highly modified from its original structure, mostly on public lands and highly fragmented. Only about 2% of the northern plains grey box woodlands remain.

Today, these highly accessible forests and woodlands still have approximately 1,500 species of higher plants and over 250 vertebrate species recorded, many of which are largely restricted to the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands. However at least 10 plant and animal species have disappeared from the forests since the 1840s and 297 plant and 53 animal species are now classified as extinct, threatened or near threatened. It is also known that many species populations, particularly birds, are still declining.

Aboriginal people live in the Box-Ironbark region and still use the forests for traditional cultural practices and the manufacture of some products. There are many sites within the area that are of spiritual and cultural significance to the traditional owners.

The public lands of the region are rich visually and archaeologically in post-settlement cultural heritage values from the gold rush era, forestry and early agricultural activities, Great Depression employment programs, and prisoner of war and post-war migration relics.

The forests are highly accessible. The fragmented nature of the forests and selective pattern of utilisation led to the creation of a complex network of all-weather roads and vehicular tracks. These networks are some of the most intensive to be found across all public lands in the State. The forest networks are readily reached from highways and rural roads.

Despite their ready accessibility, the use of the Box-Ironbark forests for recreation is relatively low in comparison to many other public lands. This may be because the public is only recently gaining some awareness of the cultural heritage values of the region and has yet to appreciate, or be shown, the subtle and complex nature of the flora and fauna communities.

¹ Environment Conservation Council,
"Box-Ironbark Forests & Woodlands Investigation-Final Report",
June 2001

1.4 Preparation of the Framework

The Framework has been prepared by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and guided by the Recreation Advisory Group.

For each listed recreation activity, the Advisory Group considered:

- the relevant recommendations of the ECC for each identified land category and the Government's responses;
- their implications for the activity;
- identified issues for recreational users, other stakeholders and land managers; and
- agreed on a set of management guidelines.

1.5 How to use the Framework

Recreational users and public land managers can refer to the two parts of the Framework covering an activity of interest in either:

- Part 3: descriptive information, ECC recommendations and Government responses, management guidelines for the activity;
- Appended Maps: section maps identifying public land categories (parks, forests, other reserves) where various recreation activities may be carried out - with hatching to identify specific exception provisions for individual activities; maps should be read in conjunction with -
- Appended Tables: one for each map, providing more detailed information about recreational access for each activity on the public lands covered by the map and indicating exceptions to normal practices.

People involved in recreational activities that require permits or other authorities are required to comply with the conditions attached to the permit, and should obtain more detailed advice from local or regional land management offices if necessary.

Commercial tour operators require a license to operate a trade or a business activity within public lands.

For many of the recreational activities there are codes of practice or guidelines that have been developed in conjunction with, or by, their representative organisations. Participants should make themselves familiar with them and encourage compliance. Most codes and guidelines can be found readily by a simple internet web search.

1.6 Management Plans

Over the next few years management plans will be prepared for a number of parks, forests and reserves. Management plan preparation will involve community members and organisations in the decision-making process, including decisions relating to refinement and definition of provisions for a wide variety of recreational activities.

The Recreation Framework and the more detailed material prepared for and by the Advisory Group will be used to guide the preparation of these detailed management plans. The detail shown in the maps in this document will be refined as part of the management planning process.

In the interim, and for public land categories that may not have specific plans prepared in the foreseeable future, the Framework bridges the gap between Government policy/accepted ECC recommendations and the yet to be prepared management plans, by setting broad but meaningful directions for recreational activities on public lands.

1.7 Grievance Process

The Government accepted an ECC recommendation that a grievance process be established for recreational users to seek review of a land manager's decision arising from the exercise of discretionary powers in the Box-Ironbark area. The grievance process is currently being established and information is available from land management regional offices. The process is not applicable for decisions based on clear legislative, policy or approved management plan prescriptions.

1.8 Relevant Legislation

Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972

Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987

Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

Fisheries Act 1995

Forests Act 1958

Heritage Act 1995

Heritage Rivers Act 1992

Land Act 1958

Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act 1972

Mineral Resources Development Act 1990

National Parks Act 1975

Reference Areas Act 1978

Water Act 1989

Wildlife Act 1975

In addition there are a number of Regulations prepared pursuant to the above Acts.

2 Policy principles

Recreation and tourism use of public lands provides considerable economic, social and environmental benefits to Victorians and visitors. Such use can however, have significant impacts on the natural and cultural values of the land that often attract the visitors in the first place.

Stewardship, careful planning and sound management practices are required to ensure that the use of Victoria's public lands is ecologically sustainable.

The Victorian Government has adopted a series of policy statements to guide the management of social, economic and ecological resources. The following policy principles, drawn from those statements, form the basis of this Framework and subsequent management plans.

2.1 Recreation and Tourism

Recreation and tourism on public land is appropriate if it:

- accords with the legislative objectives, management plans and policies for the reserved land;
- is consistent with the National Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) objectives and principles including the Precautionary Principle;
- meets a demonstrated need and is dependent on the natural environment or cultural values of the area, and enhances the community's appreciation of those values;
- involves levels of risk consistent with the skills and experience of the likely users and does not require impractical levels of risk mitigation for the setting;
- does not unreasonably restrict other community users from access; and
- creates a net public benefit in the short and long term.

ESD requires that the natural and cultural values of public land must be conserved to ensure that the benefits of outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism areas remain available in the long term.

An underlying principle of sustainable recreation and tourism is the enhancement of individual and community wellbeing and welfare through the provision of adequate opportunities, experiences and settings for recreation and tourism activities.

Policies to ensure protection of areas used for recreation and tourism while enabling appropriate use and benefits are:

- Provide equitable access to public land for a diverse range of appropriate recreation and tourism opportunities;
- Plan, manage and monitor recreation and tourism use of public land to minimise impacts on natural and cultural values;
- Provide and maintain appropriate recreation and tourism services and facilities on public land to foster visitor enjoyment, education and to ensure visitor safety; and
- Encourage, facilitate and promote opportunities for appropriate recreation and tourism use on public land through research, communication and stakeholder consultation.

Policy outcomes should include the protection of natural and cultural values of public land for future generations and the enablement of appropriate use of public land that will benefit all Victorians.²

2.2 Biodiversity

Biodiversity conservation is recognised as an essential component of responsible environment and natural resource management. Conserving biodiversity is also fundamental to both quality of life and economic well being, both now and in the future.

Internationally, the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was ratified by Australia in 1993, requires all member nations to establish a system of protected areas (national parks and similar areas). The Convention recognises that protected areas are not the only mechanism for conserving biodiversity but they are an important element of the overall approach.

In 1996 the Victorian Government signed the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity, in which biodiversity is defined as:

'The variety of all life forms - the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part.'

Establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) system of parks and reserves is accepted by international, national and State governments as being the cornerstone strategy for the protection of biodiversity – these views are reflected in national and international conventions.

² "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land", Government of Victoria (2002), Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Melbourne

The CAR system means:

- **Comprehensive:** requires that a full range of natural communities and species is conserved;
- **Adequate:** the maintenance of ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities; and
- **Representative:** the full biotic diversity, including genetic diversity, is included.

Across the forest estate, in areas not included in the CAR Reserve System, the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management should apply to ensure that these areas contribute to biodiversity.

- protecting and maintaining biodiversity;
- maintaining ecological integrity; and
- invoking the 'precautionary principle'.

Key policy principles being adopted to conserve biodiversity include:

- Across the entire landscape, reverse the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a net gain;
- Maintain and, where necessary, restore the ecological processes and the biodiversity dependent on terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments;
- Across each bioregion maintain or improve the present diversity of species and ecological communities and their viability;
- Avoid further preventable decline in the viability of any rare species or of any rare ecological community; and
- Achieve an increase in the viability of threatened species and in the extent and quality of any threatened ecological communities.³

2.3 Cultural Heritage

The Victorian Heritage Strategy identifies four strategic directions for cultural heritage in Victoria: knowing, communicating, protecting and managing.

- Increase knowledge of Victoria's heritage places and objects.
- Enhance community understanding and appreciation of heritage.
- Provide mechanisms for the strategic and practical protection of heritage places and objects.
- Support proactive management and sustainable use of heritage assets.⁴

³ "Victoria's Biodiversity :Directions in Management": Government of Victoria (1997), Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Melbourne

⁴ "Victorian Heritage Strategy (2000 - 2005)": Government of Victoria 2000. Heritage Victoria, Melbourne.

2.4 Indigenous Community Involvement

The Government's Indigenous Partnership Strategy builds on the State Government's Indigenous Affairs Policy "Reconciliation and Respect". It establishes a framework for involvement of Victoria's Indigenous communities in public land management, recognising them as the traditional custodians of the State's land and waters.

Key directions of the strategy relevant to this Recreation Framework are:

- Development of a culturally relevant process to improve relationships between DSE and Victoria's Indigenous communities and a mechanism that encourages the positive participation of Indigenous people at the decision-making levels of DSE;
- Work with Indigenous organisations to develop their capacity and capability to manage DSE programs and services, and to promote an understanding by DSE of Indigenous community aspirations and potential skills for involvement in land and resource management;
- Promotion by DSE of awareness and consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage as an integral component of land and resource management, in partnership with Victorian Indigenous communities;
- Increase employment opportunities for Indigenous people within DSE; and
- Communication strategies to deliver positive promotion of Indigenous projects and activities.⁵

⁵ "Indigenous Partnership Strategy": Government of Victoria 2001, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Melbourne

3 Recreation management guidelines

Recreation activities and opportunities on public lands in the Box-Ironbark region are diverse. Prospecting for gold and gemstones, conventional car and four-wheel drive touring; trail bike, mountain bike and horse riding; car rallying; bird watching; orienteering and rogaining; hunting; bushwalking and camping; short walks for cultural heritage site visiting, wildflower appreciation, or walking the family dog and involvement in a variety of associated events and festivals are popular activities for local residents and visitors alike.

The following sections describe each of the major recreational activities associated with the Box-Ironbark public lands.

They include a summary of relevant Environment Conservation Council (ECC) Recommendations⁶, the Government's Response to the Recommendations, and management guidelines that are to be applied by land managers for those activities.

ECC Recommendations for Recreation

The ECC made many recommendations relating to recreation activities, however there is one recommendation that applies generally to recreation in the Box-Ironbark area:

Box-Ironbark public lands be available for a range of recreation activities for community enjoyment and appreciation and appropriate to the land use category. (R42)

Government response extract:

The characteristic features of Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands make them highly attractive and suitable to a wide range of visitors. The Government will continue to ensure that the Box-Ironbark public lands are available for a variety of recreational uses, appropriate to each land use category.

The accompanying maps and tables show where each activity may occur. Note that in some cases there are additional constraints on an activity that are not shown in this Recreation Framework (for example, seasonal constraints on duck hunting). For further information on any recreation activity, please contact Customer Service on 131 963 (Parks Victoria) or 131 186 (Department of Sustainability and Environment).

3.1 BUSHWALKING

'Bushwalking' covers both casual short walk visitation and longer distance walking / hiking. Short walks usually originate from visitor nodes such as picnic areas and carparks and involve clearly defined nature trails or walks to scenic lookouts or special features (cultural sites, natural attractions such as waterfalls or large trees, etc). Longer walks may involve overnight camping, navigational and other self-reliant skills, and can be on or off track.

For bushwalkers, the Box-Ironbark attractions can be subtle, requiring an appreciation of natural values (eg wildflowers, bird life) and/or cultural values (particularly evidence of post-settlement heritage). Ridgeline walks and high viewpoints are usually also accessible by vehicle-based visitors.

The extensive two-wheel drive track networks in the fragmented forest blocks offer access to a variety of short and day walk opportunities, but constrain the availability of overnight and long-distance walks on routes that do not contact vehicular tracks. Many of the tracks are only lightly trafficked.

The flat to undulating landforms and relatively open forest floors allow off-track short walks and cross-country walking for those with navigation skills, however care needs to be taken to avoid old mine workings.

The Great Dividing Trail (which may be retitled The Great Goldfields Trail) is to link Ballarat to Bendigo via Creswick and Castlemaine. The trail, which is maintained and developed by the Great Dividing Trail Association in conjunction with land management agencies, passes through the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park. Sections of the track can be used for short walks. The most popular use at the present stage of track development is between Castlemaine and Daylesford.

Rail trails tend to be seen as cycling routes but they are also used for walking. The O'Keefe Rail Trail (Bendigo) and the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail (Wangaratta to Beechworth section) pass through Box-Ironbark forests.

Short walks are also concentrated around population centres such as Beechworth, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Heathcote and Maryborough.

⁶ Victorian Government Response to Environment Conservation Council, "Box-Ironbark Forests & Woodlands Investigation-Final Report", February 2002

ECC Recommendations for Bushwalking

The ECC has made recommendations on bushwalking access and associated dispersed camping for overnight hiking, for several land tenure categories. In summary they are:

- Bushwalking generally be permitted in National, State, National Heritage and Regional parks and State forests;
- Bushwalking (as a passive recreation) be provided for in Nature Conservation Reserves (NCRs) with dispersed camping in larger reserves;
- Natural Features Reserves (NFRs) may provide opportunities for 'bushwalking' (usually short walks due to the small areas involved in most reserves) depending on the primary objectives for the reserve and management requirements; and
- Bushwalking not be permitted in Reference Areas.

Other relevant recommendations are:

J3 Recreation Trails (refers to rail trails)

The recreation trails continue to be used in accordance with the general recommendations for community use areas, and that suitable new trails for recreation and tourist use be encouraged.

Government Response extracts:

The Government recognises the value of promoting scenic trails for the enjoyment of locals and visitors to areas of natural, cultural or historic interest. To that end, Land Victoria has been instrumental in developing a program of preserving old railway corridors and reserving them as rail trails under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978. These include the O'Keefe Rail Trail at Bendigo and the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail, which have been identified in the report. In addition, there are the driving trails which have been noted in the report. The Government supports the ongoing use of these areas for recreation purposes. As new trails are identified and as budget priorities permit, the Government will consider the creation of new recreation trails.

Management Guidelines for Bushwalking

1. Bushwalking is generally permitted across all public land categories, except Reference Areas.
2. Offer a range of short, medium and long walk options across the Box-Ironbark forests and
 - categorise walking tracks according to Australian Standard AS 2156.1-2001 Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage;
 - provide facilities (eg. toilets, signposting, interpretive material, vehicle access and parking) applicable to visitation levels, track category, primary management objectives for the area and, where developed, consistent to a 'levels of service' model; and
 - ensure that the public has access to information that provides guidance as to what to expect when they use each track.
3. Work with tourism organisations, user groups and local groups and shires to:
 - support the establishment of major theme trails such as the proposed Great Dividing Trail / Great Goldfields Trail and rail trails, where there is a demonstrable need and benefit, while ensuring protection of natural and cultural values adjacent to or on trail routes; and
 - investigate options and work with the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (FWVC) and regional walking clubs to identify routes for and to provide long walking trails, with campsites in some popular locations that will not be vehicle accessible (management vehicles excepted where necessary). Where required feed information from these evaluations into the road and vehicular track rationalisation process.
4. Promote the FWVC 'Tread Softly' minimal impact bushwalking ethics (brochure available).
5. Accept that some off-track walking will occur for day and overnight trips but monitor the development of ad hoc tracks and camping sites particularly where cultural or environmental values may be affected.
6. In conjunction with strategic approaches to the provision of tourism facilities and to interpretation of Box-Ironbark values, identify key locations for short walks to service tourism and local community needs. At locations where visitation / short walks will be concentrated and promoted:
 - maintain clearly delineated tracks that concentrate foot traffic on those routes thereby reducing off-track impacts and multiple track development (braiding);
 - where appropriate, provide quality interpretation that will enhance visitor appreciation and enjoyment of Box-Ironbark forest values.

3.2 CAMPING

Camping as a recreational activity is a relatively low-key activity in the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands. There are several popular visitor nodes for camping including Vaughan Springs, Melville Caves, Shadbolt and Notley picnic areas, Mt Terrick Terrick and Teddington Reservoir. Dispersed camping occurs across many of the forest areas, usually in locations that have a special feature and/or water. Group camping associated with particular activities or events can occur in diverse locations that have no specific attraction other than that they can accommodate the group, may not have others camping there and they may suit the activity the group is interested in.

The lack of water constrains the use and popularity of the forests for camping.

The fragmented nature of the forests and selective pattern of utilisation has led to the creation of an intensive network of all-weather roads and vehicular tracks throughout the forests, readily accessible from highways and rural roads. The extensive two-wheel drive track networks in the fragmented forest blocks offer access to a variety of short and day walk opportunities, but they also constrain the availability of overnight and long-distance walks on routes that are not on, or continually crossing, vehicle tracks. This has possibly reduced the attractiveness of the forests for overnight hiking / camping.

The Great Dividing Trail (which may be retitled The Great Goldfields Trail) is to link Ballarat to Bendigo via Creswick and Castlemaine. It is maintained and developed, in conjunction with land management agencies, by the Great Dividing Trail Association. Already approximately 300 people per week use sections of it. The most intense use is between Castlemaine and Daylesford. To be modelled on the 963 km Bibbulmun Track in Western Australia, the long distance trail will have a high level of community involvement in servicing walkers and developing and maintaining sections of the trail and associated facilities. There may be increasing demands for camping along or adjacent to the route, although local community campgrounds may also cater for walkers on some sectors.

Camping is not usually permitted in Nature Conservation Reserves (NCR). The ECC recommended that camping be permitted in the larger Box-Ironbark NCRs 'where this will not adversely affect the biodiversity values of the reserve'. The Recreation Framework maps show NCRs that may be available for recreational camping subject to protection of biodiversity values.

ECC Recommendations for Camping

The ECC has made recommendations on camping access and dispersed camping for overnight hiking, for several land tenure categories.

In summary they are:

- Camping generally be permitted in National, State, National Heritage and Regional parks and State forests;
- Natural Features Reserves such as public land water frontages, streamside areas, bushland areas and natural and scenic features areas may provide opportunities for camping where specified;
- Designated site or dispersed camping be permitted in appropriate locations in the larger Nature Conservation Reserves (NCRs), where this will not adversely affect the biodiversity values of the reserve;
- Camping not be permitted in Reference Areas.

Management Guidelines for Camping

1. Offer a range of environmentally sustainable camping options across the Box-Ironbark forests
 - 'range' is based on access, extent of facilities provided, levels of use and management controls applied;
 - provide facilities consistent to a 'levels of service' model, where developed;
 - ensure that the public has access to information that provides guidance as to what to expect at each designated campsite.
2. When developing a 'levels of service' model, utilise projected demand figures that take into account the increasing awareness of Box-Ironbark forests and national parks.
3. Provide facilities in accordance with the ECC recommendations. Note that only one type, or a selection of types of camping might be utilised for a particular area of land (forest block, park or reserve, etc).
4. Allow camping in up to 21 NCRs that have areas greater than 1000 hectares, subject to protection of biodiversity values. Assessment of each reserve will be undertaken on case by case risk assessment basis to determine whether dispersed camping continues or designated campsites are established. Demand for camping access at most NCRs may be too low to warrant attention in the short to medium term.

5. Promote the FWWC 'Tread Softly' minimal impact bushwalking ethics (brochure available) as it relates to camping including waste management, distances from watercourses for washing, toilets, etc. and the DSE website (see www.dse.vic.gov.au/boxironbark).
6. Accept that some off-track walking and camping will occur for overnight trips but monitor the development of ad hoc camping sites particularly where cultural or environmental values may be affected.
7. Investigate options to provide designated campsites in some popular locations that will not be vehicle accessible (management vehicles excepted where necessary).
8. Investigate the need for water supply points on some walker only trails and/or camping locations and feasibility of supporting this type of service (eg along the Great Divide / Great Goldfields Walking Trail). Work with the FWWC if such an installation is deemed appropriate.
9. Where feasible promote the use of private or local government campgrounds near the parks and State forests, in preference to camping on public lands, to spread the economic benefit to local communities. Develop the concept of provision of infrastructure facilities outside park and reserve boundaries with local government and tourism organisations.
10. In the planning, development and management of long walking, cycling and horse riding routes (eg rail trails, the Great Goldfields Trail) work with all involved organisations to determine the best options for camping facilities provision, in preference to having ad hoc campsites created.
11. Camping areas or sites may be closed seasonally or periodically to protect flora, fauna and soil and drainage systems or to enable rehabilitation works to be undertaken.
12. Camping activities are to be sustainable and appropriate to the setting, therefore associated items such as collecting firewood, use of fire, times of year for use, rubbish disposal, presence of pets and other activities may be regulated, prohibited or controlled.

3.3 CAR RALLYING

Car rallies are organised events that test-driving and/or navigation skills, with scoring based on time taken, speed and/or checkpoints located according to the nature of the event. Competitive events on recognised motoring event calendars are run under the auspices of the Confederation of Australian Motor Sports (CAMS). Permits are required for events on public lands.

Rallies are generally run in forests on unsealed roads and range from novice 'non special stage trials' through club and State level events right up to Australian and World Rally Championship events. Rallies can also be 'navigational' events, often held at night, where the emphasis is placed on map reading and the speeds are not necessarily high.

CAMS rallies require temporary road closures or access control (control over movement of traffic for short periods).

Car rally enthusiasts favour dense two-wheel drive track networks with gently undulating terrain and a relatively low level of public use. Box-Ironbark forests provide many opportunities for the conduct of these events.

With the decline in mineral extraction, the regrowth and remnant Box-Ironbark forests were utilised for timber products. The fragmented nature of the forests and selective pattern of utilisation led to the creation of an intensive network of all-weather roads and vehicular tracks, ideal in some areas for car rallying. The forest networks are readily accessible from highways and rural roads.

Most car rally events in the Box-Ironbark forests are conducted at night. Events range from local competitions to national events. They involve extensive consultation with relevant management authorities and event organisation is subject to strict guidelines (set by CAMS and the land managers). Standard conditions have been prepared by land managers for rally events, with provision for additional special conditions to address individual situations. This assists event organisers by providing a consistent basis for the approval of events.

ECC Recommendations for Car Rallying

Car rallies be permitted on open tracks formed for the passage of vehicles and at the land manager's discretion in State forests, and subject to specific conditions as to frequency, timing, locations and repair of damage, in west Mt Pilot Range (Chiltern-Pilot National Park) and the Killawarra addition to Warby Range State Park. (R48)

In Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, organised car rallies be generally permitted subject to permit and park management zoning (NHP (k)).

In addition, the ECC recommendation for the Rushworth-Heathcote State Forest encompasses the boundary roads between the State forest and the Heathcote-Graytown National Park. This means that the popular rally routes along Pavey Rd and Cherry Tree Track will continue to be available.

Government Response extracts:

The Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands are popular with car rally enthusiasts who generally avoid areas frequently used by other user groups, and most events are held at night and in State forest. Car rallies will be permitted on open tracks formed for the passage of vehicles at the land manager's discretion, and subject to specific conditions as to frequency, timing, locations, and repair of damage, in State forests, west Pilot Range and the Killawarra addition to the Warby State Park. The Government will implement a grievance process to resolve disputes, that may arise in the exercise of land managers' discretion.

Management Guidelines for Car Rallying

These management guidelines apply to CAMS approved car rallies, however the principles involved may be applicable to requests for approval of social non-competitive events if they are to have a large number of participating vehicles. Social, non-competitive vehicle rallies are a legitimate use of open public roads. Providing the scale of event is acceptable, road traffic regulations are adhered to and the roads are open to public use by vehicles, there is little or no need to regulate this activity and permits are not required.

1 CAMS approved car rallies with time and/or speed competitive components:

- may be permitted in State forests, the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park west of the Chiltern - Beechworth Road, the Killawarra Block addition to the Warby Range State Park and Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park;
- are not permitted in parks and reserves other than as above;

- Transport components of rallies with no time / speed competitive elements may use national, State and regional parks and land managers may consider applications for transport through other reserves (except reference areas and wildlife reserves).

2. CAMS approved car rallies without any time and/or speed components (eg navigational rallies) may be permitted in national, State and regional parks

3. Temporary road closures will be permitted in State forests each year for peak CAMS events subject to point 6 below. For additional events in State forests and for rally events on other land categories, road closures will not be permitted. Access control can apply for short periods of time provided Ministry of Transport approval is obtained.

4. Gazetted roads that pass through but are not included in the surrounding parks/reserves are also available to rally organisers.

5. Land managers will endeavour to assist CAMS accredited rally organisers in providing a variety of venues and/or routes on open public roads, to enable a diversity of courses to be offered.

6. Issue of permits is at the land manager's discretion and subject to specific conditions relating but not limited to:

- appropriate approval for access control;
- compliance with relevant regulations;
- environmental protection;
- frequency of events, timing (seasonal, day / night, etc) and location;
- safety;
- withdrawal of approval at any time (for fire, public safety, weather effects or road condition reasons);
- repair of damage;
- community notification.

7. Whilst onus to consult rests primarily with event organisers, land managers and CAMS (and other recreational event organisers) should work together establish a method(s) for advising the wider community of event programs and locations to reduce user conflicts, eg calendar of events websites.

8. The land manager may consider submissions from the public in respect of specific events before granting approvals. The land manager may approach individuals or organisations specifically affected by a proposed event prior to the granting of approvals should it be deemed necessary.

9. A grievance process will be available to applicants to seek review of decisions arising from the exercise of the land manager's discretion.

3.4 CAR TOURING, FOUR-WHEEL DRIVING AND TRAIL BIKING

Following the decline in mineral extraction from the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands, the regrowth and remnant forests were utilised for timber products. The fragmented nature of the forests and selective pattern of utilisation led to the creation of an intensive network of all-weather roads and vehicular tracks. The forest networks are readily accessible from highways and rural roads.

This extensive two-wheel drive track network with gently undulating terrain and a relatively low level of public use is used by visitors in -

- conventional vehicles for sightseeing, picnicking, transit through the forests and access for other recreational pursuits;
- four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles for the above activities and for the challenge of driving in steeper, more remote areas (primarily in the western forests);
- trail bike riders for forest track riding throughout the study area.

Box-Ironbark forests provide opportunities for organised events as well as general recreational travel (car rallying is discussed in a separate section).

The road and vehicular track network is a mix of

- essential routes - for private property access, extractive industry use, fire protection, emergency response, travel between population centres;
- touring / recreation routes - for publicised and recreational car touring and access to popular sites and walking tracks; and
- an extensive ad hoc network of tracks that may have once served a specific purpose and which have remained open at varying standards.

ECC Recommendations for Car Touring, Four-Wheel Driving & Trail Biking

The ECC has made recommendations on motorised vehicle access for several land tenure categories. In summary they are:

- Car touring: permitted on formed roads and two-wheel drive tracks open to the public on all public lands;
- Four-wheel drive access: as above, and on other vehicular tracks when open (some tracks may be permanently or seasonally closed to public vehicular access because of surface conditions or for environmental reasons);
- Trail bike riding: as for four-wheel drive vehicles.

Specific recommendations are:

Land managers endeavour to provide some dedicated areas for off-road trail bike riding where significant demand exists. (R49)

Trail bike riding be restricted otherwise to open tracks formed for the passage of vehicles as per current practice. (R50)

Government Response extracts:

The Government acknowledges that in some areas, significant demand for off-road trail bike riding may exist. The Government will consider proposals to establish such areas where concerns relating to public liability, environmental impact and safety can be addressed, and the activity can be contained to designated areas. The Government will implement a grievance process to resolve disputes, which arise in the exercise of land managers' discretion. The Government supports existing arrangements for trail bike riding continuing to occur.

Management Guidelines for Car Touring, Four-Wheel Driving and Trail Biking

1. Cars, four wheel drives and trail bikes are permitted on open public roads and vehicular tracks throughout the Box-Ironbark forests. Unless an area is specifically set aside for off-track driving all vehicles must remain on the formed roads and vehicular tracks.
2. Working with tourism, extractive industry, local government, Country Fire Authority and motorised vehicle organisations identify roads and vehicular tracks throughout the Box-Ironbark forests that are considered important to all or some groups for vehicle movement.
3. Apply a strategic process to road and track management decision making, eg:
 - When determining management direction, consider appropriateness of the road and vehicular track network for the range of functional needs (eg forest produce extraction, fire protection, asset maintenance and recreation and tourism - including creation of walker, mountain bike and/or horse riding only trails); rate relative importance and identify any service gaps (differences between existing and required standard) (Management Direction = Service gap x Rated importance);
 - When assessing management priority to direct resources for each management direction, consider importance, including economic benefits (local, regional) and management of risk factors such as environmental and cultural values impacts, public liability and risk mitigation (Priority = Rated importance x Risk);

- When determining management action, decide which roading elements are to be addressed (eg safety, road structure, serviceability / comfort, infrastructure elements such as bridges and culverts) (Management Action = specific actions to address highest priority road elements).
- 4. Within the above, or similar system and with public consultation through the management planning process, provide and maintain a sustainable network of roads and vehicular tracks of various standards to enable car, 4WD and trail bike access.
- 5. Using the above or similar system as the basis for bids, apply for 4WD Program funds where applicable.
- 6. If roads or vehicular tracks are to be closed consider techniques carefully, to support native species restoration and avoid weed species establishment.
- 7. To assist in maintaining tracks and to protect environmental and cultural values some tracks may be subject to temporary or seasonal closure. Provide reliable and readily available information on access restrictions to users via tourism information outlets, web-based information and direct communication with relevant organisations and stakeholders (eg Four Wheel Drive Victoria).
- 8. To assist visitor access and orientation, provide and maintain road network directional signage adequate for the type of use.
- 9. Land managers are likely to only consider areas to be set aside for off-track riding or driving on application, and where it can be demonstrated that there are no suitable sites on private land. If an organisation applies, land manager(s) will assess the application. Factors to consider will include, but not be limited to,
 - suitable location(s)
 - land category and what is legally able to be considered
 - potential impacts on environmental and cultural values, neighbours, other users
 - private property and/or local government land alternatives
 - tenure required (eg lease, license)
 - legal liability issues and Crown indemnity
 - safety
 - ability to contain the off-track activity to the site on a long term basis
- 10. Vehicle based events (eg trail bike enduros, 4WD club tours) will be considered according to the scale and nature of the event. If necessary, a similar approach may be taken to that established for car rallying. Permits may not be required for social events that are within normal road rules and

land management regulations and the impact on other users will be minimal.

11. A grievance process will be available to applicants who disagree with decisions arising from the exercise of the land manager's discretion.

3.5 CULTURAL HERITAGE APPRECIATION

Victoria's Box-Ironbark forest and woodlands region has had people living in it for many thousands of years. Evidence of this long period of habitation exists unobtrusively in the landscape. Some of it has been lost due to the intensive use and disturbance of the land and the forests over the last two centuries. The more readily observed sites date back to the original gold rush period of the 1850s. They are authentic sites and relics of the period, not tourism oriented re-creations.

Many local Aboriginal community members are descendants of the original inhabitants. The cultural associations and concerns of Aboriginal peoples for the land and its resources remain strong. Many of them want to ensure the protection of culturally important places. Commonwealth and State legislation requires the protection of Aboriginal cultural artifacts, objects, sites and places and provides for increased Aboriginal community involvement in decision-making related to such matters.

Since the 1830s the Box-Ironbark forests have been used for agriculture, gold mining and forestry. The presence of major underground ore bodies helped establish and maintain permanent towns throughout the region. Other hamlets and townships grew and declined as the alluvial and underground ore production became uneconomic or faded out.

Today the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands region contains some of the most significant historic gold mining landscapes and features on public land in Victoria, including areas of national cultural heritage significance.

Recent studies identified over 5,000 historic mining sites, as well as thousands of relics of settlement sites, forestry activities and the forestry related presence of internees, prisoners of war, unemployment crews and migrant employment programs.

Projects such as the Great Goldfields Trail and the Castlemaine Diggings project offer opportunities to link cultural heritage appreciation and awareness, land management principles and tourism values in a positive and sustainable way.

Exotic trees and shrubs planted in the early days of settlement or established in the early to mid-1900s may have cultural heritage significance, demonstrating past habitation sites and/or illustrating cultural backgrounds and attitudes by the species selected for planting.

ECC Recommendations: Aboriginal Interests

Planning and management relating to traditional interests and uses be based on recognition and respect for the traditional and contemporary relationship of Aboriginal peoples with the land. (R15)

Prior to implementation of ECC recommendations for parks and reserves, and changes in public land management, Government consult with traditional owners and Aboriginal groups regarding their native title rights and interests. (R16)

Government, in consultation with traditional owners and aboriginal groups, establish mechanisms to improve indigenous participation in land and water management including:

- development of principles and protocols to improve the policy and planning processes of public land and water management agencies and the representation and participation of aboriginal peoples in these processes;
- investigation of joint management structures and arrangements between Government and aboriginal communities with regard to public land, water and resources in the Box-Ironbark area;
- preparation of a strategy to improve the participation of aboriginal peoples in land, water and resource use decision-making and day-to-day management;
- provision of information to assist the facilitation of land and water use agreements between agencies and local aboriginal communities;
- facilitation of surveys and site visits necessary for planning and development purposes; and
- development of cross-cultural awareness programs for land, water and natural resources agency staff to improve knowledge and understanding of, and communication with, Aboriginal communities. (R17)

Non-Indigenous Cultural heritage

When heritage sites are located on public land, they be assessed, and significant features be protected by public land managers, consistent with relevant State legislation, the Victorian Heritage Strategy 2000–2005, and NRE'S cultural heritage guidelines. (R21)

The guidelines for the management of cultural heritage values, developed by NRE and the Commonwealth for East Gippsland, be revised and applied statewide by land managers. (R22)

The historic site management strategy being developed for NRE, by Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE, addressing the issues of weeds, fire risk, public safety, rubbish dumping, trail bike damage and vandalism, be completed and applied around Bendigo and to other locations where similar problems exist. (R23)

Fossicking for historical objects and relics be discouraged by NRE, other public land managers, and Heritage Victoria. (R24)

Government Response extracts: Aboriginal Interests

The Government recognises the unique relationship of Victoria's Aboriginal peoples with the State's land and water, and is committed to collaborate with Aboriginal communities as partners to ensure that their interests in land and natural resource management are recognised and respected.

NRE, as the Government agency with primary responsibility for land and resource management will ensure that planning and management in Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands areas will be conducted in a manner that:

- Recognises Victoria's unique Aboriginal culture, society and history;
- Empowers Aboriginal communities to collaborate as partners in resource management;
- Recognises the impact of past policies on the role of Aboriginal people as custodians of the land and waters; and Requires priorities and strategies for Aboriginal involvement in land and resource management to be developed and implemented primarily at the local level and agreed with the relevant Aboriginal community organisations.

The Government is committed to genuine ongoing consultation and negotiation with Aboriginal communities, including native title claimants, regarding their interests in Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands areas. The Government will ensure that the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwth) are implemented and will identify and establish effective processes for continued consultation regarding their native title rights and interests.

The Government will work with Victoria's Aboriginal communities to review legislation and policies that may restrict or inhibit traditional cultural use of land and waters with a view to removing unnecessary restrictions. The Government is committed to protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria.

Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage

The history of the Box-Ironbark area has left a rich legacy of historic places on public land. The Government is committed to identifying and conserving these places for present and future generations. NRE will continue to ensure protection of historic places through conservation management plans for specific places, through strategies set out in forest and park management plans and through initiatives such as the Cultural Sites Network.

NRE will continue to encourage tertiary institutions to investigate the management issues relevant to cultural heritage places as part of their curricula.

Provisions relating to disturbance of historic sites and relics are actively enforced by NRE, other public land managers and Heritage Victoria. Relics and artifacts that are associated with historic features or archaeological deposits should not be dislodged or removed. These are protected under the Heritage Act 1995. Prospecting for minerals in areas where there are historical relics and artifacts will be consistent with guidelines for prospecting on public land to be further developed in consultation with the PMAV and other stakeholders.

The Government has also given its support for the listing of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park to the Victorian Heritage register.

Management Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Appreciation

Tourism

1. Land managers will:
 - support cultural heritage tourism, working in cooperation with tourism operators and organisations and local government;
 - develop strategic and thematic approaches at a regional level to provide for cultural heritage tourism so that it complements other tourism activity;
 - develop stimulating and innovative approaches at a site level to the presentation of the area's cultural heritage.
2. Tourism based on cultural values must be sustainable in the long term. Australia ICOMOS guidelines have been prepared to assist in provision of sustainable tourism.
3. Land managers will work with local Aboriginal community members to:
 - identify opportunities / locations for acceptable interpretation and education about Aboriginal culture for recreational and tourism visitors and secondly for tourism related employment and/or business establishment;
 - promote Aboriginal cultural awareness amongst recreational user groups particularly where there is potential for adverse impact on cultural values arising from an activity;
 - endeavour to identify localities where significant values require protection and ensure that this is taken into account in tourism development.
4. Identify and catalogue sites with non-indigenous cultural heritage values and assess those that can be sustainably utilised and promoted for recreational, educational and tourism purpose. Some sites may require protective measures before being publicly identified and promoted.
5. Where appropriate utilise sites with exotic species plantings as visitor nodes or points of interest for recreational and tourism trails, subject to measures to protect the planted species from damage or impacts that could shorten their lifespan (eg soil compaction).

Protection

6. Departmental guidelines for protection of Aboriginal and non-indigenous cultural heritage values on public lands and for consultation with Aboriginal communities will be complied with. Specifically:
 - departmental works programs that may affect cultural values will be assessed during the planning process and discussed with relevant communities;
 - build appropriate protection measures into management plans, permits and other management tools;
 - events and non-government activities on public lands will be assessed for potential impacts: If proceeding, proponents will work with relevant land managers and community members to address and resolve issues;
 - Adherence to the guidelines of the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS.
7. Activities, tourism-oriented business proposals and projects that may damage or disturb known cultural values will only be permitted subject to conditions and monitoring.
8. Minimise illegal digging for relics and inadvertent damage by recreational prospecting activity by:
 - working with relevant organisations;
 - the provision of information highlighting the importance of the archaeological record, the necessity for cultural artifacts to be left in situ and undisturbed, the regulations applicable to such activities and the obligations of the community not to deface or interfere with archaeological relics;
 - developing programs to implement ECC recommendations through reservation and preparation of regulations under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1975;
 - authorising land managers to use relevant powers under the Heritage Act 1995;
9. Evaluate exotic tree and shrub plantings related to early settlement and the early development of recreational facilities in a strategic and consistent manner to assess cultural and botanical significance and ecological threat. Retain plantings unless there is clear evidence of a species spreading into the surrounding forests and the ongoing cost of containment is not manageable.

Interpretation and awareness

10. Foster and stimulate an appreciation of historic places and relics through quality education and creative interpretation.
11. Support and promote the development of an achievable interpretation strategy across the whole of the Box-Ironbark lands, incorporating private and public land assets, in conjunction with the tourism industry and local government.

3.6 DOG WALKING

Dog owners take their pets into the Box-Ironbark forests for a variety of reasons. Examples include exercise for the dogs and owners, as company while involved in another activity (eg prospecting, cycling), duck hunting, and for events such as dogsledding and scent trailing.

ECC Recommendations for Dog Walking

The ECC did not make specific recommendations regarding dogs but recognised this activity in its recommendations by, wherever possible,

- endeavouring to provide buffer zones between population centres and reserves with a high conservation status;
- providing for diverse recreational activities in close proximity to major centres by categorising nearby land as Regional Park and State Forest;
- identifying within specific recommendations the requirement to provide for dog walking;
- suggesting that areas could be set aside in some parks and reserves where dogs may be permitted; and
- stating that "in some {nature conservation} reserves zones for walking dogs may be identified by land managers".

Management Guidelines for Dog Walking

1. Allow dogs in State forests, Regional Parks*, Historic and Cultural Features Reserves and Natural Features Reserves where not in conflict with the primary purpose for the reserve (and excluding any reference areas) provided:
 - the dogs are not left unsupervised;
 - the presence of dogs does not unduly conflict with other recreational uses or users or with other permitted land uses such as grazing;
 - specific fauna and/or flora values are not being placed at risk by the presence of dogs;
 - where there are significant fauna and/or flora values, the dogs are kept to vehicular roads and tracks and walking tracks;
 - exclusion zones are identified for the protection of significant values (eg cultural sites or localised habitat for specific fauna and remnant vegetation communities);
 - in natural features reserves where and when hunting is permitted the type of dog is appropriate to the hunting activity (eg for duck hunting accept pointers, setters and retrievers).

2. In the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park allow dogs on leash along similar principles to those outlined above however
 - greater emphasis is to be given to the protection of cultural and environmental values; and
 - exclusion zones should apply to localities where there are recognised flora and/or fauna values.
 - Dogs in Beechworth Historic Park must be on leash
3. For National Parks, State Parks and Nature Conservation Reserves in the Box-Ironbark area, dogs are not permitted except on leash in designated areas as follows:
 - the One Tree Hill section in the Greater Bendigo National Park;
 - the Heathcote-Graytown National Park section to the east of and immediately adjacent to Heathcote;
 - Broken-Boosey State Park;
 - Reef Hills State Park (excl reference area);
 - Melville Caves Picnic Area and Melville Caves Road in Kooyoora State Park.

The precise location and conditions applying to these and any other park and nature conservation reserve areas will be determined in planning and processes involving further public consultation.

4. In determining whether areas be set aside for dogs, factors such as proximity to population centres or subdivisions, history of prior use, integration with regional walking trail networks, availability of alternative trails or routes and impacts on environmental values or other visitors should be taken into account. Other conditions may apply within park areas, for example:
 - restrictions on hours so that nocturnal fauna are not affected, or to allow other users to have 'dog-free' access available (eg for bird-watching, fauna study);
 - seasonal constraints related to native species breeding times.
5. Where a park or reserve has been extended or changed in reservation status to the extent that its management plan is to be reviewed, existing zoning related to dogs will be maintained until the management plan is reviewed.
6. Dogs are permitted on through roads that are not part of a park or reserve. Shires and VicRoads usually manage these routes.

7. Dogs may be permitted in vehicles passing through a Park where dogs are not generally allowed. In these circumstances the dogs must not be left in stationary vehicles or allowed out of vehicles while within the Park boundary.
8. Bona fide guide dogs accompanying visually or hearing impaired visitors are permitted in all parks and reserves except Reference Areas.
9. Dogs used for specific activities (eg search and rescue, working dogs actively involved in a permitted use such as grazing stock management) are permitted: for example, special provision has been made for the use of dogs for stock transit in the Graytown area.
10. Dog sledding events held in the Box-Ironbark forests should continue to be provided for in future. In considering applications for events and assessing locations, attention should be given to the type of terrain required to ensure that the dogs have suitable ground surfaces to run on and to general conditions applying to the presence of dogs in areas of suitable public lands.
11. Scent trailing events involving off track activity or dogs off leash will not be permitted in parks and reserves. These events, if permitted in State forest, should be held in locations away from population centres in areas where their impact on other recreational users will be minimised.
12. Park information brochures, regulatory signage at park entry points and at the boundaries of dog access areas should clearly identify dog access limitations.
13. Dog owners must recognise their responsibility to keep their dogs under control at all times.

3.7 HORSE RIDING

Horse riding is a relatively low level but popular activity across the State within parks and forests. It is not a major recreational activity in the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands however it is important around townships and regional centres in close proximity to the forests and for some specific locations favoured by groups and for tours. Horse and pony riding clubs are recognised as important recreational providers in a number of the Box-Ironbark residential communities. Clubs and associations from across the State utilise the forests for events and trail rides.

The extensive vehicular track networks of the Box-Ironbark forests with undulating terrain and a relatively low level of public use are attractive to horse riders. There are different types of horse riding and harness activities with different requirements and impacts, eg. small party informal rides, overnight safaris and trail rides, day tours, commercial tour operations, hunt and pony clubs trips, competition navigational events (increasingly popular) for riders and harnessed / horse drawn vehicles. Riding for the Disabled uses the Whipstick section of the Greater Bendigo National Park for a fundraising ride each year (horse and harness).

ECC Recommendations for Horse Riding

The ECC has made comments and recommendations specifically providing for horse riding access. In summary they are:

- Horse riding generally be permitted in National, State and Regional parks on formed roads and vehicular tracks open to the public: it may be precluded from areas identified during the management planning process;
- Horse riding is permitted in State forest unless specifically precluded by the land manager.

Management Guidelines for Horse Riding

1. Horse riding is permitted on formed roads and vehicular tracks open to the public throughout the Box-Ironbark forests:
 - in State forest;
 - in National, National Heritage, State and Regional parks unless precluded during the management planning process;
 - in Historic and Cultural Features Reserves and Natural Features Reserves where this does not adversely affect biodiversity or cultural values.

The land manager may specify the zones or areas in which riding is permitted, times (season, days, hours) for riding and propose limitations on the number of horses in any party for some land categories. Such constraints may be determined during the management planning process, which includes public consultation and reference to a community based advisory group. Constraints might be recommended to protect biodiversity values, to reduce conflicts with other user groups, etc.

2. Horse drawn carriages can only be used on formed roads and vehicular tracks that are open to public car travel.
3. The land manager may permit horse riding on some formed roads and vehicular tracks that are not open to cars eg some 'management vehicle only' (MVO) tracks (this would be addressed in the management planning process for parks).

4. Horse riding is permitted on through roads that are open to the public but not part of a park or reserve. Shires and VicRoads usually manage these routes.

5. Horse riding not be permitted in:

- Reference Areas;
- Nature Conservation Reserves except in some NCRs or parts thereof needed to facilitate through travel; and/or to allow riders to be segregated from vehicle or walking traffic; and/or to allow public land access where there are few alternative locations provided that biodiversity values of the reserve are not adversely affected. These include Landsborough, Landsborough Hill, Timor and Havelock (north of Maryborough), Deep Lead (Stawell), Waanyarra (around Tarnagulla) and Talbot NCRs;
- Areas where conflict with other visitors is most likely to occur (eg. nature trails, designated walker only tracks, camping grounds (other than on roads) and picnic areas).

6. When reviewing road and track requirements include input from horse riding groups to identify roads and tracks within the Box-Ironbark forests that are considered important by all or some organisations. This process will involve input from a wide range of interested parties including tourism, extractive industry, local government and other user group organisations. Recognise the need for circuit routes that enable riders to return to their starting point with a minimum of duplication of track use. Build this knowledge into road and vehicular track decision-making (see Car touring / 4WD / Trail Bike section).

7. For promoted long ride routes (including rail trails), work with regular users and riding organisations to identify preferred and sustainable camping locations, preferably utilising nearby private or local government facilities.

8. Horse based camping will not be permitted in (the seven listed above) Nature Conservation Reserves without approval of the land manager. Applications will be treated on a case by case basis.

9. In parks and reserves where horses are permitted, horse riding parties will be permitted to camp at approved campsites where yards or tethering rails (permanent or temporary) are available or provided by the user. The use of hobbles is also permitted. Horses can be watered and obtain forage in a park provided cultural values, streams, indigenous plant or animal communities, or water supplies for park visitors are not adversely affected. Any feed brought into the park is to be free of weeds.

10. Promote the Horse Riding Code to users (see www.dse.vic.gov.au/boxironbark) to address issues such as camping locations and practices, water resource protection, weed introduction and other environmental protection matters.

11. To assist visitor access and orientation:

- provide visitor information about horse riding access to public lands;
- provide regulatory and directional signage adequate for the risk and type of use, without promoting excessive signage;
- Provide reliable and readily available information on access restrictions such as seasonal closures to users via tourism information outlets, web-based information and direct communication with relevant organisations and stakeholders.

12. Consider horse riding event permit applications according to the scale and nature of the event. Permits would be required for events included on regional, State and national calendars of events. Permits may not be required for social events that are within normal use parameters and land management regulations and when the impact on other users will be minimal.

3.8 HUNTING

The Box-Ironbark forests, woodlands and waterways are popular hunting venues. The region's wetlands and waterways have been historically important for waterfowl hunters, particularly the Broken Creek - Boosey Creek catchment complex. Waterfowl hunting is permitted in season on larger water bodies such as Lake Mokoan, Waranga Basin, Lake Eppalock and Cairn Curran Reservoir. It is generally not permitted in small domestic water supply storages and offtakes. The designated wildlife reserves and some public land water frontages are also available for hunting. Other hunting activity across Victoria's Box-Ironbark forests is generally targeted to feral animals.

Local landholders in the Broken-Boosey area see fox predation as an important issue. However, whilst hunting is a legitimate recreational activity in its own right, it needs to be separated from the issue of fox control for stock and wildlife damage mitigation. Fox predation of lambs is an issue in the dryland agricultural areas east of Katamatite whereas wildlife predation of vulnerable native species such as the bush stone-curlew and brolga assumes a greater significance in the wider, more densely vegetated waterways in the irrigation country to the west of Katamatite.

ECC Recommendations for Hunting

The ECC has made comments and recommendations on recreational hunting access for several land tenure categories. In summary they are:

- Hunting is permitted in State forests;
- Hunting may be permitted in some Natural Features Reserves specifically Wildlife (State Game) Reserves in the declared hunting season and public land water frontages where appropriate, and consistent with the protection of natural and cultural values.

The ECC also noted that 'organised shooting drives for pest control {in parks and reserves at the request of park management} may continue at the request, and control of, the land manager'. Government Response extracts:

Broken-Boosey State Park (B2) - Government will, through the park planning process, work with landholders, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, and the Victorian Farmers' Federation to resolve issues relating to the extent and location of low intensity grazing, the use of working dogs, access to property, water points and stock movement, and pest plant and animal control. Land managers will investigate opportunities to work with the Field and Game Australia Inc with respect to pest plant and animal control.

The Government has also determined that:

- the recommended Broken, Boosey and Nine-Mile Creek Nature Conservation Reserves will be managed as a chain of Natural Features Reserves rather than a chain of NCRs;
- Black Dog Creek Crown frontage has been proclaimed as a Natural Features Reserve rather than being part of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park.

The Broken, Boosey and Nine-Mile Creek Natural Features Reserves will be managed as Public Land Water Frontage or, in the case of Tungamah Swamp and Rowan Swamp, as Wildlife (State Game) Reserves. They will be available for hunting in accordance with ECC general recommendations for these categories and will be managed by Parks Victoria with the expectation that biodiversity values identified by the ECC in the Broken and Boosey NCRs will be protected in the relevant NFRs.

Management Guidelines for Hunting

1. In the Box-Ironbark forests:

- Hunting is permitted in State forests;
- Hunting is permitted in the following Natural Features Reserves:
- Wildlife (State Game) Reserves in the declared hunting season;
- public land water frontages where appropriate and consistent with the protection of natural and cultural values (where a water frontage is licensed, hunting can only occur with the permission of the licensee);
- Hunting is not permitted in other public land categories unless it is carried out as part of an approved pest animal control program. Specific attention will be given to the establishment of cooperative management arrangements with landowners adjoining the Broken - Boosey State Park for pest animal control.

2. The land manager may develop pest animal control programs that involve participation by licensed hunters in conjunction with appropriate organisations such as Field and Game Australia Inc provided that:

- control programs are prepared in accordance with Departmental guidelines;
- appropriate licenses and permits are in place;
- issues of public liability and indemnity are adequately addressed;
- the activities are appropriate to the primary purposes and management objectives for the reserve(s) concerned;
- all control measures will be designed, developed and/or implemented with due consideration of animal welfare and visitor safety (if deemed necessary the reserve or sections of it may be closed to the public during control programs).

3. Hunters are to adhere to relevant codes of practice or ethics and all relevant legislation.

4. Hunters should be encouraged to familiarise themselves with the content of the publication 'Game Hunting in Victoria', also available on the Game Hunting web pages of the Department of Sustainability and Environment Internet site.

5. In reserves where recreational hunting is permitted, efforts must be made to inform hunters and other visitors of the conditions under which the hunting can take place.

6. If dogs are used for hunting activities the breed(s) of dog must be appropriate to the type of hunting.

7. Dog owners must recognise their responsibility to keep their dogs under control at all times.

3.9 MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDING

While this section concentrates on mountain bike riding, the guideline provisions may be applied to all forms of bike riding.

Cycling is a popular activity across the State, and an extensive network of bike paths and routes has been (and continues to be) developed. In many areas the paths lead to park or forest areas. Bicycle touring in rural areas is popular and bicycles are often the preferred means of transport to and within parks and forests. Mountain bikes have become popular for cycle touring as they offer flexibility, allowing riders to venture off main routes onto forest tracks.

Recreational mountain bike use on public land has increased significantly over the past decade. An increasing number of people are using mountain bikes to explore and enjoy natural areas, particularly parks and forests. These public land areas provide the preferred setting for most mountain bike riders.

Following the decline in mineral extraction from the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands, the regrowth and remnant forests were utilised for timber products. The fragmented nature of the forests and selective pattern of utilisation led to the creation of an intensive network of all-weather and seasonally accessible roads and vehicular tracks.

The extensive track networks with undulating terrain and relatively low levels of public use are attractive to mountain-bike riders. So much so that some of these areas, particularly those adjacent to Castlemaine, have become recognised as providing some of the State's best recreational mountain biking opportunities.

Cyclists ride individually, in small groups or may participate in commercial tours and competitive events. Box-Ironbark forests provide opportunities for organised mountain events as well as general recreational riding. BMX motocross events are not permitted because of off-track erosion and vegetation damage, however mountain bike orienteering events utilising the track networks are proving popular (the second world championships will be held in Victoria in 2004).

Rail trails cycling routes have become increasingly popular cycling / tourism routes. The O'Keefe Rail Trail (Bendigo) and the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail (Wangaratta to Beechworth section) pass through Box-Ironbark forests.

ECC Recommendations for Mountain Bike Riding

The ECC has made comments and recommendations specifically providing for mountain bike access on formed roads and tracks open to the public for vehicle traffic on all public lands. Road cyclists are regarded as having access wherever privately owned vehicles can travel and track surfaces are acceptable.

Management guidelines for Mountain Bike Riding

1. Bicycles to be permitted on all open roads and vehicular tracks throughout the Box-Ironbark forests. Unless an area is specifically set aside for off-track riding, all bicycles must remain on formed roads, vehicular tracks or designated shared walking tracks.
2. The land manager may permit bicycle traffic on some tracks that are not open to cars (eg some Management Vehicle Only (MVO) tracks) and designated shared walking and cycling tracks. Access to these tracks is to be determined in the management planning process.

3. Cycling not be permitted in:

- areas where conflict with other visitors may occur eg. nature trails, walker only tracks, picnic areas and camping grounds (other than on roads);
 - Reference Areas.
4. Working with tourism, extractive industry, local government, other user groups and bike riding organisations, identify roads and tracks throughout the Box-Ironbark forests that are considered important to all or some groups. Identify roads and tracks (including potential for shared walking/cycling tracks) that offer riders the opportunity for circuit routes, avoiding the need for returning on the same route that was used for the outward ride. Build this knowledge into road and track decision-making (see Car touring / 4WD / Trail Bike section).
 5. Promote the Mountain Bike Code to users (see www.dse.vic.gov.au/boxironbark) and consider introducing the 'Leave No Trace' campaign concept.
 6. To assist visitor access and orientation:
 - Provide and maintain road and track network directional signage adequate for the risk and type of use;
 - Provide reliable and readily available information on access restrictions (eg seasonal closures) to users via tourism information outlets, web-based information and direct communication with relevant organisations and stakeholders.
 7. Cycling events will be considered according to the scale and nature of the event. Permits may not be required for social events that are within normal road rules and land management regulations and the impact on other users will be minimal.
 8. Downhill mountain bike and BMX motocross events will not be permitted because of off track erosion and vegetation damage. However cross-country mountain bike events and mountain bike orienteering events utilising the existing vehicle and walking track network may be permitted.
 9. Support tourism and local government initiatives aimed at developing sustainable and manageable (for track condition) cycle tours that will offer riders an insight into and appreciation of Box-Ironbark into and appreciation of Box-Ironbark values.

3.10 ORIENTEERING AND ROGAINING

Orienteering is a competitive sport in which participants move through the countryside on foot to reach a set number of control points in a given sequence in the shortest possible time. Courses vary in length from about 3 km to 12 km. The sport has grown in popularity and hundreds of events are conducted each year. The activity is also used to introduce school children to the use of map and compass in the bush. In Victoria, orienteering clubs are affiliated through the Victorian Orienteering Association.

Rogaining may be described as long distance cross-country navigation. Events are generally of 12 or 24 hours duration. Rogaining involves both route planning and navigation between checkpoints using a variety of map types. Rogaines are generally day and night events in which teams of two to five members travel entirely on foot, navigating by map and compass.

Participants may visit the control points on a course in any order, the aim being to accumulate the highest number of points possible. Each control has a value according to its ease of location and access. Adherents of rogaining are affiliated through the Victorian Rogaining Association. Rogaining involves less running and greater use of roads and tracks than orienteering.

Orienteering and rogaining (O&R) require event organisers to produce specialised maps at a larger scale and showing more information than maps available from official or other sources. This is a very time-consuming task requiring long lead times prior to events.

In 2002, there were seven State level events programmed for Box-Ironbark lands (averaging 180 competitors), six events as part of the national championship carnival (approximately 500 competitors), and at least 35 club events (20 to 35 competitors).

Standard conditions have been developed for this type of event, with provision for additional special conditions to address individual situations. This assists event organisers by providing a consistent basis for the approval of events.

The fragmented nature of the Box-Ironbark forests and selective pattern of utilisation following the gold industry decline led to the creation of an intensive network of all-weather and seasonally accessible roads and vehicular tracks. The dense track networks, open forests, undulating terrain, complexity of features due to past mining and natural outcrops, proximity to Melbourne and a relatively low level of public use are attractive for orienteering and rogaining event organisers.

ECC Recommendations for Orienteering and Rogaining

Orienteering and rogaining be permitted at the land manager's discretion in all land use categories except reference areas, domestic water storage areas and nature conservation or other reserves where sensitive natural features are vulnerable to disturbance. (R47)

Government Response extracts:

The Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands are popular for orienteering and this activity will continue to be allowed, except in reference areas, domestic water storages, nature conservation reserves, areas where sensitive natural features are vulnerable to disturbance and other areas at the land managers discretion. The Government will work with key stakeholders in implementing this recommendation. The Government will implement a grievance process to resolve disputes which arise in the exercise of land managers' discretion.

Management guidelines for Orienteering and Rogaining

1. Allow orienteering and rogaining events in all land use categories, including Nature Conservation Reserves and other reserves, except:
 - reference areas;
 - domestic water storage areas;
 - those parts of nature conservation or other reserves and State forests where sensitive natural features are vulnerable to disturbance (this could be the whole of a reserve in some cases);
 - sites of scientific significance; and
 - development areas or zones, camping areas or other heavily used areas.
2. Land managers will, wherever possible, work with event organisers / representative organisations to:
 - identify and protect sensitive values or features in proposed event areas (this could, for example, include overlay of environmental management system data with detailed O&R maps during production to identify 'out of bounds' zones);
 - endeavour to assist event organisers in providing a variety of venues to enable a diversity of courses to be offered over time;
 - maintain a set of standard conditions for events, with provision for additional special conditions to address individual situations;
 - maintain a pro forma process for event application and approval, including timelines.

This will assist event organisers and land managers by providing a consistent basis for the approval of events.

3. The issue of permits is at the land manager's discretion and subject to specific conditions relating but not limited to intensity and frequency of use of the area, scale of the event, event base / control point requirements and availability of suitable locations, camping requirements (preferably outside the reserve), parking requirements and locations, other environmental and cultural values protection issues, emergency procedures, insurance and indemnification and impacts on other users.
4. A grievance process will be available to applicants seeking a review of decisions arising from the exercise of the land manager's discretion.
5. Applications for small events should be provided at least three months in advance to enable the proposed location to be assessed and for variations to be negotiated. Application to hold a major event on public lands with a long lead-time needs to be made as soon as the event is approved by the coordinating organisation.
6. Draft copies of maps of areas for orienteering and rogaining must be submitted to the land manager for checking before publication. Areas excluded from orienteering and rogaining (reference areas etc.) should be clearly marked as 'out-of-bounds'.
7. Land managers and other recreational event organisers should work together to establish a method for advising the wider community of event programs and locations to reduce user conflicts.

3.11 PROSPECTING

Prospecting is defined as 'the search for gold, gemstones and other minerals under a Miners Right or Tourist Fossicking Authority (TFA), using non-mechanical hand tools.' It is primarily controlled under the provisions of the Mineral Resources Development Act 1990.

Prospectors generally use a metal detector, shovel, mattock or similar implement, or a pan. Activity under a Miner's Right or TFA is conditional on the protection of vegetation, the backfilling of any holes and the repair of any damage.

Prospecting should not be confused with 'treasure hunting', the search for archaeological relics (coins, bottles, etc). The disturbance of archaeological relics without approval is an offence under the Heritage Act 1995.

ECC Recommendations for Prospecting

The ECC recognised the popularity of prospecting and associated issues in its recommendations by recommending

- land categories for public lands in close proximity to larger population centres that enable a wide range of uses, including prospecting;
- that prospecting be allowed in many of the new parks and nature conservation reserves, including the identification of some zoning options within reserve categories that do not normally cater for prospecting;
- placing a number areas of higher prospectivity in reserve categories that will allow prospecting;
- development of guidelines for prospecting.

Government Response extracts:

The Government adopted the ECC recommendations to allow prospecting to occur in many of the new parks and reserves. Coupled with this, the Government undertook to work with the Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria (PMAV) and other stakeholders to develop a set of 'prospecting guidelines' to help all parties to be aware of the obligations and responsibilities that prospectors have to ensure that Crown land is protected.

The Government also undertook to implement a grievance process to resolve disputes that may arise from the exercise of the land manager's discretion.

During the passage of the Box-Ironbark park legislation, the Government introduced an amendment to permit prospecting in zones within St Arnaud Range, Heathcote-Graytown and Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Parks (in addition to Greater Bendigo National Park as recommended by ECC).

Management Guidelines for Prospecting

1. In Greater Bendigo, Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Heathcote-Graytown and St Arnaud Range National Parks (outside Reference Areas), prospecting is permitted in designated areas located away from areas of significant nature conservation values and other park values. Available areas are to be reviewed in park management plans. Prospecting is not permitted in the Terrick Terrick National Park.

2. Prospecting is permitted in Kooyoora, Paddys Ranges and Reef Hills State Parks outside Reference Areas and designated areas that will protect significant nature conservation values and other park values as defined or reviewed in park management plans. In the Broken-Boosey State Park, prospecting is not permitted. In Warby Range State Park, search for gemstones is permitted at one specific site.
3. In the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, prospecting is permitted in designated areas to be defined or reviewed in a park management plan.
4. Prospecting will be permitted in Nature Conservation Reserves (NCR), except for reserves where prospecting is specifically excluded by ECC (see below) and except in areas where it may disturb protected archaeological relics or adversely affect significant natural or cultural values. In the Wychitella NCR prospecting is permitted in the additions but is not be permitted in the area formerly known as the Wychitella Flora and Fauna Reserve. In the Deep Lead NCR, prospecting is not permitted.
5. Prospecting is permitted in Regional Parks, State forest and other reserves except in areas where it may disturb protected archaeological relics or adversely affect significant natural or cultural values. Prospecting is not permitted in certain community use areas (recreation areas, race tracks, rifle ranges, etc) and water reserves.
6. Prospecting boundaries in parks are defined in the Government Gazette and published in park management plans. The Gazette also lists conditions regarding protection of the park (see www.dse.vic.gov.au/boxironbark).
7. Levels of access for prospecting that existed prior to creation of the parks will continue in the parks in which this activity is to be permitted until prospecting and protection zones are refined through the management planning process involving consultation with community and stakeholder groups.
8. Areas in parks available for prospecting were gazetted as such when the parks were created and will be re-gazetted to take account of any changes as a result of the management planning process.
9. Clear identification is required for areas of high conservation value to be excluded from prospecting in Kooyoora, Paddys Ranges and Reef Hills State Parks. Proposals for exclusion are to be worked through with relevant stakeholder representatives. The principal mechanism for establishing exclusion areas will be the management plan process.
10. For any new Nature Conservation Reserves, exclusion of prospecting will be determined on a case by case risk management basis, in consultation with user groups.
11. Land managers are to monitor parks, reserves and State forests to assess the impacts of prospecting activity. If existing or potential adverse environmental or cultural effects are identified, consultation is to take place with the PMAV and other relevant stakeholder representatives to develop solutions to the problem (eg. exclusion, seasonal controls, education and signage). Alternatively the issue can be addressed through the management planning process if that is imminent.
12. Promote the Prospecting Guide that was jointly prepared by land managers, PMAV and Victorian Gem Clubs Association (see www.dse.vic.gov.au/boxironbark) Work with these associations to improve code compliance, awareness of conditions associated with access to parks, provision of educational resources and information penetration to reinforce the need for responsible operations.
13. Where local Aboriginal communities have concerns about protection of cultural heritage sites and places:
 - they should be encouraged to provide sufficient information to allow protection, without necessarily specifically identifying a site or place;
 - some communities may wish to offer cultural awareness training for prospectors;
 - additional appropriate educational information should be provided to try to prevent inadvertent damage (refer also to section 3.5).
14. Signage at park entry points should identify prospecting status to avoid inadvertent breaches of exclusion areas, and to support enforcement against deliberate breaches.
15. Camping options for prospectors and organised prospecting group trips should be maintained wherever possible. Land managers should work with organised groups to ensure acceptable environmentally sensitive practices apply. The ECC recommended that 'designated site or dispersed camping be permitted in appropriate locations in the larger conservation reserves, where this will not adversely affect the biodiversity values of the reserve'. (refer section 3.2)
16. DSE / Parks Victoria endeavour to resolve the issue of identification of reserves that have historically prohibited prospecting.
17. Work with tourism organisations and local government to promote prospecting as an activity in the Goldfields region of Victoria.

3.12 TOURISM

Victoria's Box-Ironbark forests and surrounding areas combine authentic cultural heritage resources, natural landscapes, wine regions and a variety of recreational pursuits with a lifestyle image that produces attractive destinations for short and long holidays. The Goldfields Tourism Region is reported to be Victoria's strongest product region for cultural tourism and art.

The region has good tourism infrastructure. Population centres such as Bendigo, Beechworth and Castlemaine are recognised tourism destinations in their own right at the State level. The Box-Ironbark forests tend to provide an attractive backdrop to the towns and villages rather than being a major drawcard. The creation and expansion of National Parks across the Box-Ironbark region will provide opportunities to attract a new significant niche market segment to the region.

Visitors who are assisted to access, see and interpret the landscape and its contents discover a remarkable visual record of connection with and occupation of the land by the Aboriginal people and subsequently by non-indigenous / post-settlement arrivals. The more readily observed and understood sites date back to the original gold rush period of the 1850s. The Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands region contains some of the most significant historic gold mining landscapes and features on public lands in Victoria, including areas of National cultural heritage significance. They are authentic sites and relics of the period, not tourism oriented re-creations.

The cultural associations and concerns of Aboriginal peoples for the land and its resources remain strong, even in areas where they have been historically dispossessed. They want to ensure the protection of culturally important places and sites, while achieving benefits to their communities in showing and interpreting parts of their histories and traditions to tourists.

The Box-Ironbark forests therefore have strong cultural attractions that can offer an added diversity to the Victorian tourism product mix, while the primary tourism uses of the forests are recreation activity based (prospecting, visiting historic sites, nature-based tourism, hunting and fishing, events, camping, walking, water-based recreation on accessible storages).

ECC Recommendations for Tourism

The ECC has made several recommendations related to tourism.

Government support and resource measures to increase awareness, appreciation, community education, interpretation and promotion of Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands. (R10)

Tourism Victoria, NRE, Parks Victoria, regional tourism boards and local government develop coordinated programs to increase public land tourism in Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands (R51 also see note below).

Land managers explore opportunities to work with tourism agencies and associations, to assist tourism promotion in the recommended new parks and reserves, and in State forests. (R52)

Recreation Trails (J3 refers to rail trails etc)

The recreation trails continue to be used in accordance with the general recommendations for community use areas on page 252, and that suitable new trails for recreation and tourist use be encouraged.

Government Response extracts:

The Government will continue to provide support and resource measures for educational and marketing programs aimed at increasing community awareness, understanding and appreciation of the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands, and clear information about the new parks and reserves and where activities can occur (e.g. bushwalking, four-wheel driving).

The characteristic features of Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands make them highly attractive and suitable to a wide range of visitors. The Government will continue to ensure that the Box-Ironbark public lands are available for a variety of recreational uses, appropriate to each land use category.

The Government recognises the importance of tourism to the health and economic well being of regional Victoria and the key strengths of natural attractions in the Box-Ironbark study area are for its flora and fauna, gold, and cultural heritage. The Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands provide:

- a scenic backdrop to the surrounding towns and other attractions;
- recreation opportunities for the local communities, regional visitors and niche markets with a particular interest (e.g. prospecting)
- another suite of attractions for tourists to visit in regional Victoria.

The Government, through the joint efforts of NRE, Parks Victoria, Tourism Victoria and local government, will ensure the tourism strengths of the region are suitably promoted, including the development of targeted programs to appropriately increase tourism visitation in Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands in the future. The Government will also work to promote tourism development being undertaken through consultation and participation with relevant Aboriginal communities.

Management guidelines for Tourism

1. Tourism involvement will have to be managed in a cohesive program that recognises that the Box-Ironbark public lands may be utilised in several ways, for example:
 - as a recreational resource (active and passive forms of recreation);
 - as a venue for events;
 - as a source of places or items of interest to be promoted for visitation;
 - as a backdrop or supplementary resource to events or promotions principally focussed outside the public lands.
2. All tourism involvement must take into account and give priority to the primary management objectives for the land tenures involved.
3. Land managers will work with Tourism Victoria, national, regional and local tourism organisations / operators and relevant leading academic organisations to:
 - increase land managers' awareness and understanding of tourism needs and practices, and involvement with the tourism industry;
 - increase tourism industry awareness and understanding of the values of the Box-Ironbark public lands and the issues associated with their management and utilisation from a sustainable tourism perspective;
 - promote the concept of long term sustainability of the resource;
- support the development of a cohesive, sustainable and broadly based approach to tourism development and marketing with respect to the public lands as a component of the wider region;
- achieve active and systematic communication between all key parties so that there is a broadly based information transfer about what all parties are doing with respect to marketing, events and activities that may impact on public lands and public land users;
- develop strategic and thematic approaches at a regional and local level to the provision and maintenance of infrastructure supporting the tourism industry (levels of service model);
- develop creative and innovative interpretation and educational services that assist in developing and enhancing broad community awareness and appreciation of the natural and cultural values and of the history of the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands.
4. As an extension and support to the preceding item, work with tourism and recreational organisations to develop and circulate (or make available via the Web) a calendar / database of all known activities and events being proposed or approved for the Box-Ironbark public lands. This will assist tourism organisations and be a means of informing other users of activities that may impact on their own enjoyment of the areas involved.
5. Develop and maintain close liaison with the Aboriginal communities across the Box-Ironbark area to:
 - involve them in decision-making related to their traditional and/or community land;
 - ensure protection of sites and places of cultural significance;
 - provide opportunities for the achievement of greater cross cultural awareness with the land management and tourism
 - organisations, regular recreational users and the general public;
 - assist them in gaining opportunities for employment and business development.
6. Review the diverse range and usage of recreational tourism activities that can occur on Box-Ironbark public lands and their demands on resources: set priorities for where resources (particularly time) are allocated. Factors that will be important in setting priorities include existing visitor usage, future demand, potential recreational impact on natural and cultural values (eg. type and scale of impacts, management practices or actions of sustainability), appropriateness of land status and potential economic benefits (local, regional, State).

7. Recognise the importance to the region and to small communities of the land manager's involvement and of access to the forests for event tourism:
 - For events on public lands, assist event proponents wherever possible to find suitable venues, within the framework of primary management objectives for the land tenures involved;
 - For events based outside the public lands but utilising the forests as a subsidiary asset (eg. the Chiltern Box -Ironbark Festival, Spring in the Bendigo Bush), maintain a close liaison with the promoters and endeavour to support the event in sustainable ways;
8. Wherever possible locate higher impact activities in robust areas with lower natural and cultural values or where values can be well protected.
9. Work closely with organisations developing key projects that are supported by the tourism industry and that involve the use of public lands, such as the Great Goldfields Trail (Ballarat to Bendigo) and the Gold Heritage Trail (Rushworth).

4. GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

CAMS	Confederation of Australian Motor Sport Ltd
DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment
ECC	Environmental Conservation Council
FWWC	Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
MVO	Management Motor Vehicles Only
NRE	(former) Department of Natural Resources and Environment
NFR	Natural Features Reserves
NCR	Nature Conservation Reserves
PMAV	Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria
PV	Parks Victoria

Table 1**Public land recreation access****BENDIGO section**

To be read in conjunction with the Bendigo recreation access mapsheet and legend. For each public land category, the table indicates standard access provisions and where there are exceptions to standard conditions.

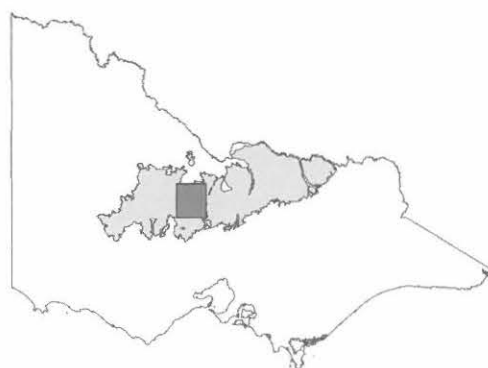
Column G = general standard for a particular recreational activity for that land category in Box-Ironbark area

Column E = some level of exception has been made to the general standard, where marked and shaded in the table. The location(s) where the (✓ or ✗) exception applies are shown on the map.

✓ = Yes (activity permitted)

✗ = No (activity not permitted)

Shading = Exceptions apply (refer to map)



Public Land Category	Greater Bendigo National Park	Bendigo Regional Park	Nature Conservation Reserves	Historic and Cultural Features Reserves	State Forest	Reference Areas	Natural Features Reserves	Commonwealth Land
ECC Code	A4	C1	D	E	F4	G	H	P
Standard	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E
Bushwalking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Camping ¹	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Car rallying	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Car/4WD/Trail bike**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Dog walking ²	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Horse riding**	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Hunting ³	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Mountain-bike riding**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Orienteering/Rogaining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Prospecting ⁴	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗

Note: The land manager can constrain or not permit an activity that is generally allowed, in circumstances where it would have impacts contrary to the purpose for which the land is reserved or for reasons of public health and safety.

¹ In land categories where camping is generally permitted, locations may be specified by the land manager; seek advice from the local office.

² Dog walking (on leash) is permitted in One Tree Hill block of Greater Bendigo National Park.

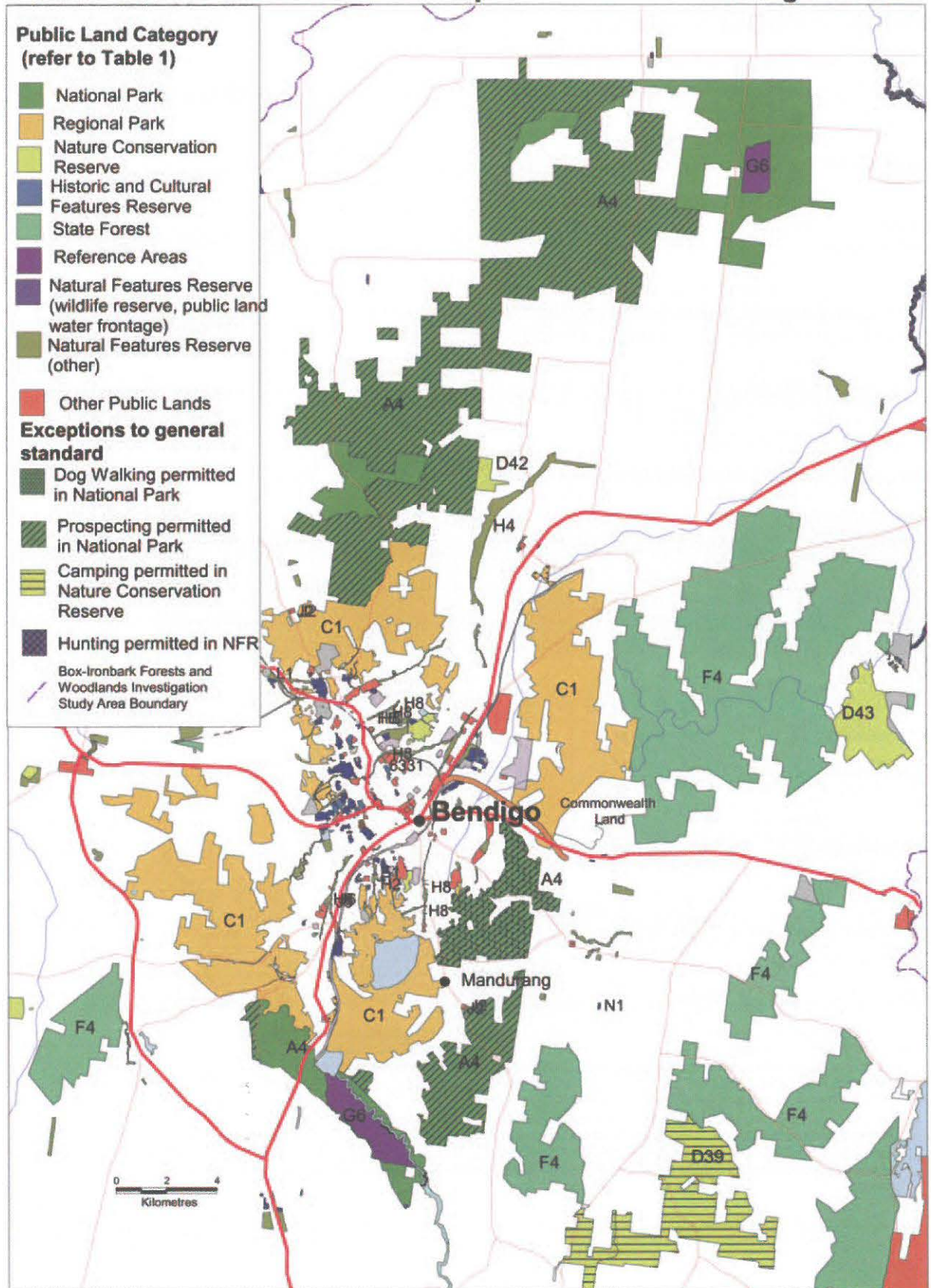
³ Hunting is permitted in State Forest. Seasonal duck hunting is permitted in the following Natural Features Reserves: (H1) wildlife areas and (H2) Public Land Water Frontages where appropriate.

⁴ Areas available for prospecting in Greater Bendigo National Park may be reviewed in the management planning process. Prospecting is generally not permitted in national parks in a statewide context.

** On formed roads and vehicular tracks (access to MVOs and walking tracks to be considered in the management planning process) – check locations/restrictions with land manager.

Public Land Recreation Access: Map 1

Bendigo Section



Box-Ironbark Recreation Framework

Table 2

Public land recreation access

BROKEN-BOOSEY section

To be read in conjunction with the Broken-Boosey recreation access mapsheet and legend. For each public land category, the table indicates standard access provisions and where there are exceptions to standard conditions.

Column G = general standard for a particular recreational activity for that land category in Box-Ironbark area

Column E = some level of exception has been made to the general standard, where marked and shaded in the table. The location(s) where the (✓ or ✗) exception applies are shown on the map.

✓ = Yes (activity permitted)

✗ = No (activity not permitted)

Shading = Exceptions apply (refer to map)



Public Land Category	Broken Boosey State Park	Natural Features Reserves
ECC Code	B2	H
	G E	G E
Bushwalking	✓	✓
Camping ¹	✓	✓
Car rallying	✗	✗
Car/4WD/Trail bike**	✓	✓
Dog walking ²	✓	✓
Horse riding**	✓	✓
Hunting ³	✗	✗
Mountain-bike riding**	✓	✓
Orienteering/Rogaining	✓	✓
Prospecting ⁴	✗	✓

Note: The land manager can constrain or not permit an activity that is generally allowed in circumstances where it would have impacts contrary to the purpose for which the land is reserved or for reasons of public health and safety

¹ In land categories where camping is generally permitted, locations may be specified by the land manager; seek advice from the local office.

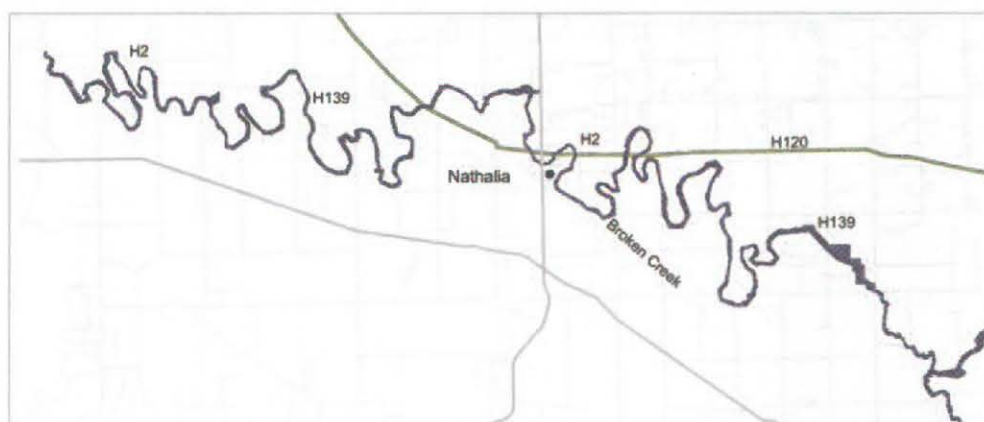
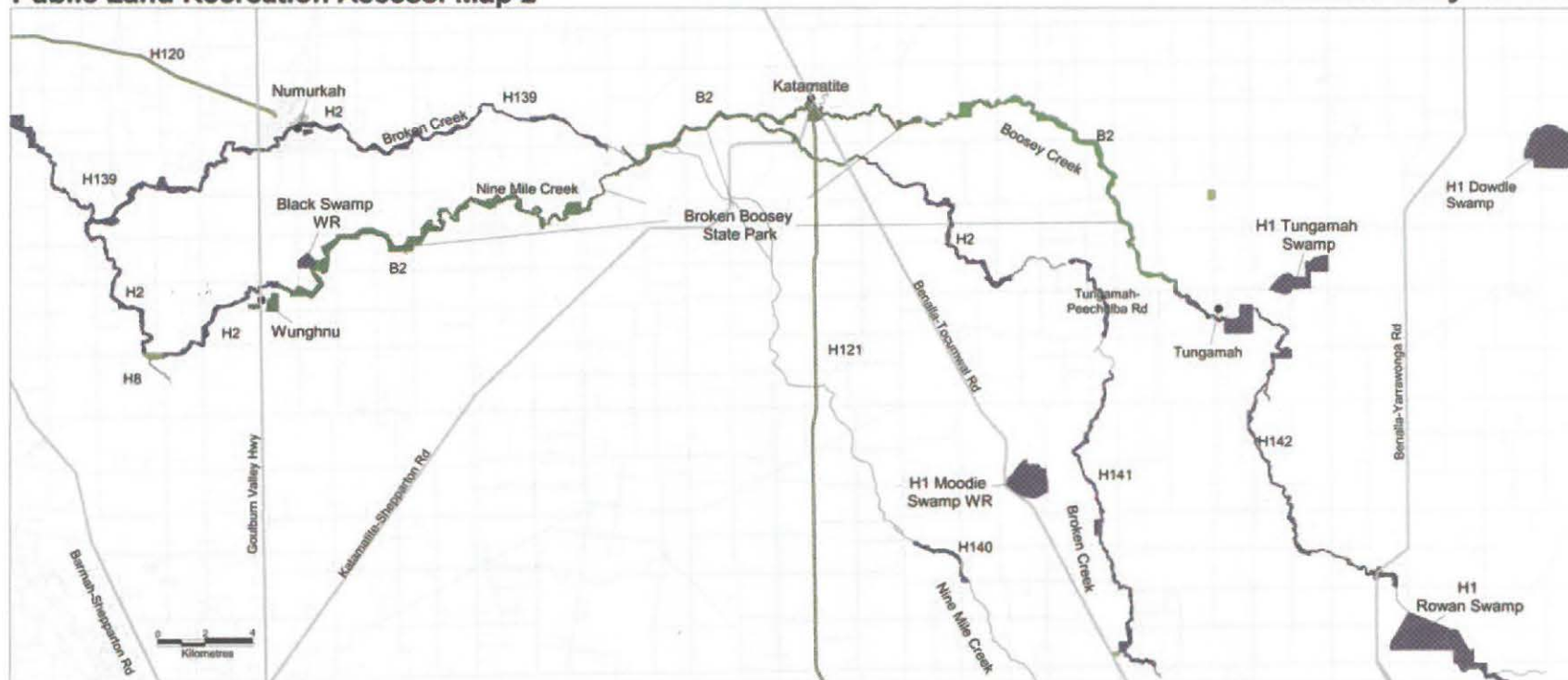
² Dog walking (on leash) is permitted in Broken Boosey State Park.

³ Seasonal duck hunting is permitted in the following Natural Features Reserves: (H1) wildlife areas and (H2) Public Land Water Frontages where appropriate. Stubble Quail hunting is also permitted in open season in Rowan Swamp Wildlife (State Game) Reserve.

** On formed roads and vehicular tracks (access to MVOs and walking tracks to be considered in the management planning process) – check locations/restrictions with land manager.

Public Land Recreation Access: Map 2

Broken Boosey Section



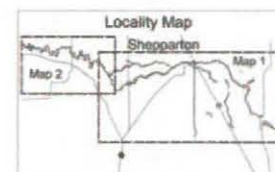
Box-Ironbark Recreation Framework

Public Land Category (refer to Table 2)

- State Park
- Natural Features Reserve (wildlife reserve, public land water frontage)
- Natural Features Reserve (other)

Exceptions to general standard

- Dog walking permitted in State Park
- Hunting permitted in NFR



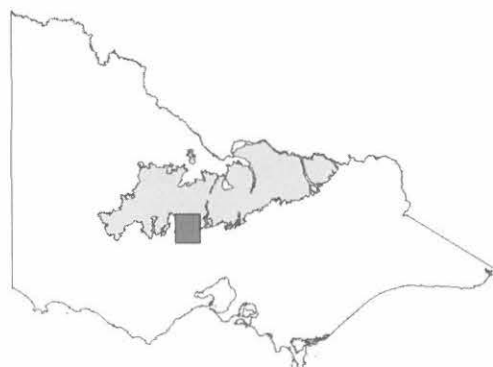
Following the passage of the Box-Ironbark and other Parks Bill 2002, areas shown as H139 - H142 were made legislated NFRs.

Table 3**Public land recreation access****CASTLEMAINE section**

To be read in conjunction with the Castlemaine recreation access mapsheet and legend. For each public land category, the table indicates standard access provisions and where there are exceptions to standard conditions.

Column G = general standard for a particular recreational activity for that land category in Box-Ironbark area

Column E = some level of exception has been made to the general standard, where marked with the (✓ or ✗) exception applies are shown on the map.



✓ = Yes (activity permitted)

✗ = No (activity not permitted)

Shading = Exceptions apply (refer to map)

Public Land Category	Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park	Mt Alexander Regional Park	Hepburn Regional Park	Nature Conservation Reserves	Historic and Cultural Features Reserves	State Forest	Reference Areas	Natural Features Reserves
ECC Code	NHP1	C5	C6	D	E	F1,F6	G1	H
	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E
Bushwalking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Camping ¹	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Car rallying ²	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Car/4WD/Trail bike ^{**}	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Dog walking ³	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Horse riding ^{**}	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Hunting ⁴	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Mountain-bike riding ^{**}	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Orienteering/Rogaining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Prospecting ⁵	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓

Note The land manager can constrain or not permit an activity that is generally allowed in circumstances where it would have impacts contrary to the purpose for which the land is reserved or for reasons of public health and safety

1 In land categories where camping is generally permitted, locations may be specified by the land manager; seek advice from the local office.

2 Car rallies (CAMS approved) may be permitted in State Forest and Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.

3 Dog walking (on leash) is permitted in Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.

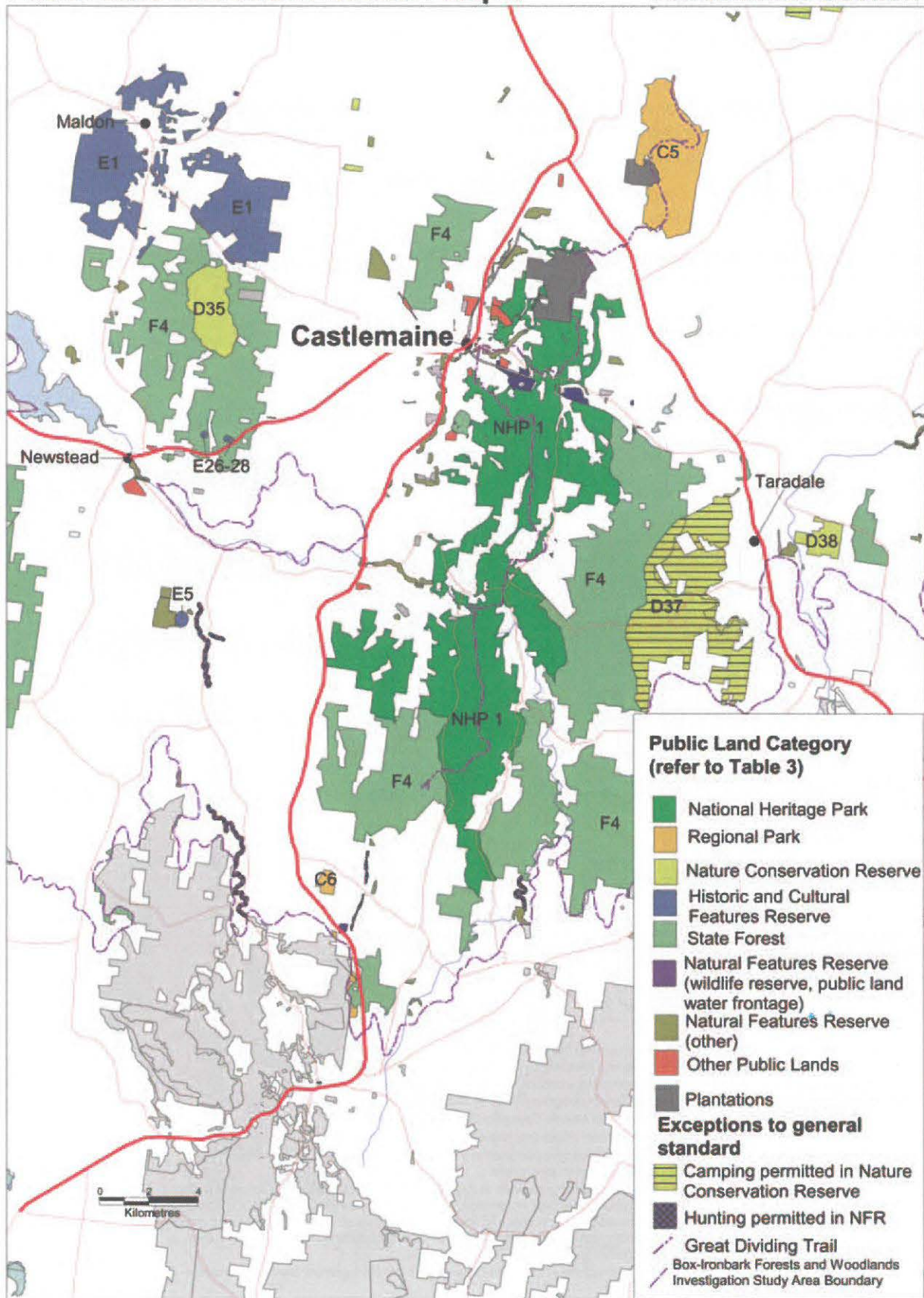
4 Hunting is permitted in State Forest. Seasonal duck hunting is permitted in the following Natural Features Reserves: (H1) wildlife areas and (H2) Public Land Water Frontages where appropriate.

5 Areas available for prospecting in Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park may be reviewed in the management planning process.

** On formed roads and vehicular tracks (access to MVOs and walking tracks to be considered in the management planning process) – check locations/restrictions with land manager.

Public Land Recreation Access : Map 3

Castlemaine Section



Box-Ironbark Recreation Framework

Table 4**Public land recreation access****DUNOLLY section**

To be read in conjunction with the Dunolly recreation access mapsheet and legend. For each public land category, the table indicates standard access provisions and where there are exceptions to standard conditions.

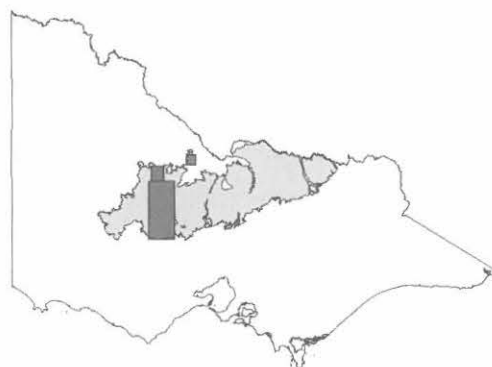
Column G = general standard for a particular recreational activity for that land category in Box-Ironbark area

Column E = some level of exception has been made to the general standard, where marked and shaded in the table. The location(s) where the (✓ or ✗) exception applies are shown on the map.

✓ = Yes (activity permitted)

✗ = No (activity not permitted)

Shading = Exceptions apply (refer to map)



Public Land Category	Terrick Terrick National Park		Kooyooora State Park		Paddys Ranges State Park		Maryborough Regional Park		Nature Conservation Reserves		Historic and Cultural Features Reserves		State Forest		Reference Areas		Natural Features Reserves	
ECC Code	A3	B1	B5	C4	D	E	F2, F3	G2-G4	H									
	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E
Bushwalking	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Camping ¹	✓	✗	✓		✓		✓		✗	✓	✓		✓		✗		✓	
Car Rallying	✗		✗		✗		✗		✗		✗		✓		✗		✗	
Car/4WD/Trail Bike**	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Dog Walking ²	✗		✗	✓	✗		✓		✗		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Horse riding** ³	✗		✓		✓		✗	✓	✗	✓	✓		✓		✗		✓	
Hunting ⁴	✗		✗		✗		✗		✗		✗		✓		✗		✗	✓
Mountain-bike Riding**	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Orienteering/Rogaining	✗		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Prospecting ⁵	✗		✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓		✓		✗		✓	

Note: The land manager can constrain or not permit an activity that is generally allowed, in circumstances where it would have impacts contrary to the purpose for which the land is reserved or for reasons of public health and safety.

1 In land categories where camping is generally permitted, locations may be specified by the land manager.

Camping is permitted in Terrick Terrick National Park in designated sites at the base of Mt Terrick Terrick.

2 Dog walking (on leash) is permitted in Kooyooora SP at Melville Caves Rd and Picnic area.

3 Horse riding is permitted in Talbot, Timor, Havelock and Waanyarra Nature Conservation Reserves.

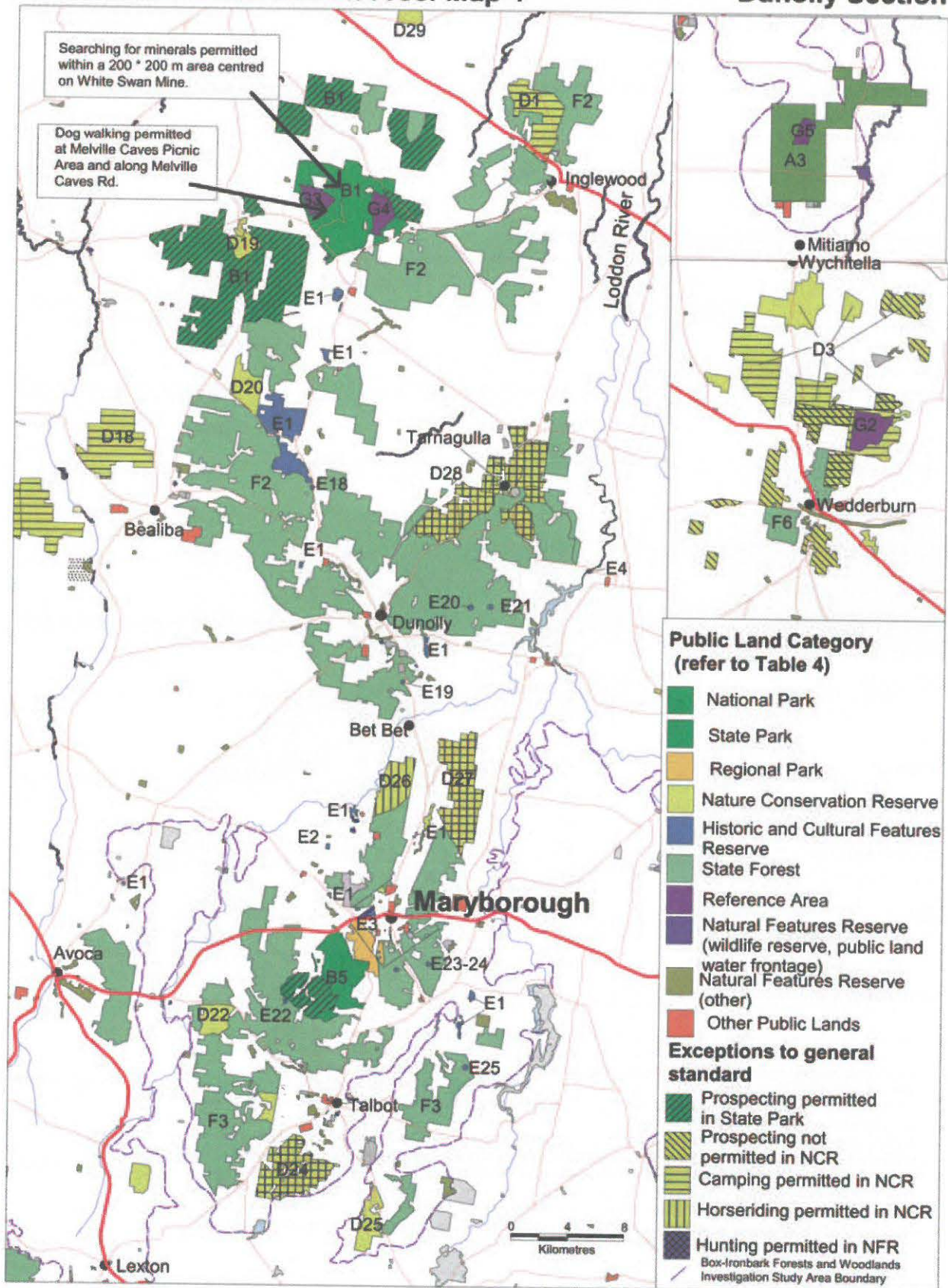
4 Hunting is permitted in State Forest. Seasonal duck hunting is permitted in the following Natural Features Reserves: (H1) wildlife areas and (H2) Public Land Water Frontages where appropriate.

5 Areas available may be reviewed in the management planning process. In three Box Ironbark State Parks in which prospecting is permitted, new park areas are available for prospecting except in identified zones of high conservation value. This is a reversal of the previous approach where the park was unavailable for prospecting unless otherwise zoned to allow it. State Parks where this new approach will apply are Kooyooora, Paddys Ranges and Reef Hills State Parks. Prospecting is not permitted in the former Wychitella Flora and Fauna Reserve section of the Wychitella NCR.

** On formed roads and tracks (access to MVOs and walking tracks to be considered in the management planning process) – check locations/restrictions with land manager.

Public Land Recreation Access: Map 4

Dunolly Section



Box-Ironbark Recreation Framework

Table 5

Public land recreation access

HEATHCOTE section

To be read in conjunction with the Heathcote recreation access mapsheet and legend. For each public land category, the table indicates standard access provisions and where there are exceptions to standard conditions.

Column G = general standard for a particular recreational activity for that land category in Box-Ironbark area

Column E = some level of exception has been made to the general standard, where marked and shaded in the table.

✓ = Yes (activity permitted)

✗ = No (activity not permitted)

Shading = Exceptions apply (refer to map)

The location(s) where the (✓ or ✗) exception applies are shown on the map.



Public Land Category	Heathcote-Graytown National Park	Nature Conservation Reserves	Historic and Cultural Features Reserves	State Forest	Reference Areas	Natural Features Reserves	Puckapunyal Commonwealth Land
ECC Code	A5	D	E	F4	G	H	P
	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E
Bushwalking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Camping ¹	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Car rallying ²	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Car/4WD/Trail bike ^{**}	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Dog walking ³	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Horse riding ^{**}	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Hunting ⁴	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Mountain-bike riding ^{**}	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Orienteering/Rogaining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Prospecting ⁵	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗

Note The land manager can constrain or not permit an activity that is generally allowed, in circumstances where it would have impacts contrary to the purpose for which the land is reserved or for reasons of public health and safety.

¹ In land categories where camping is generally permitted, locations may be specified by the land manager: seek advice from the local office.

² Car rallies (CAMS approved) may be permitted in State Forest only. Popular rally routes on boundary of Heathcote-Graytown National Park (eg Pavey Rd and Cherry Tree Tl) are outside the park.

³ Dogs on leash are permitted in McIvor Range east of Heathcote township in Heathcote-Graytown National Park.

⁴ Hunting is permitted in State Forest. Seasonal duck hunting is permitted in the following Natural Features Reserves: (H1) wildlife areas and (H2) Public Land Water Frontages where appropriate.

⁵ Areas available for prospecting in Heathcote-Graytown National Park may be reviewed in the management planning process. Prospecting is generally not permitted in national parks in a statewide context.

^{**} On formed roads and vehicular tracks (access to MVOs and walking tracks to be considered in the management planning process) – check locations/restrictions with land manager.

Public Land Recreation Access : Map 5

Heathcote Section

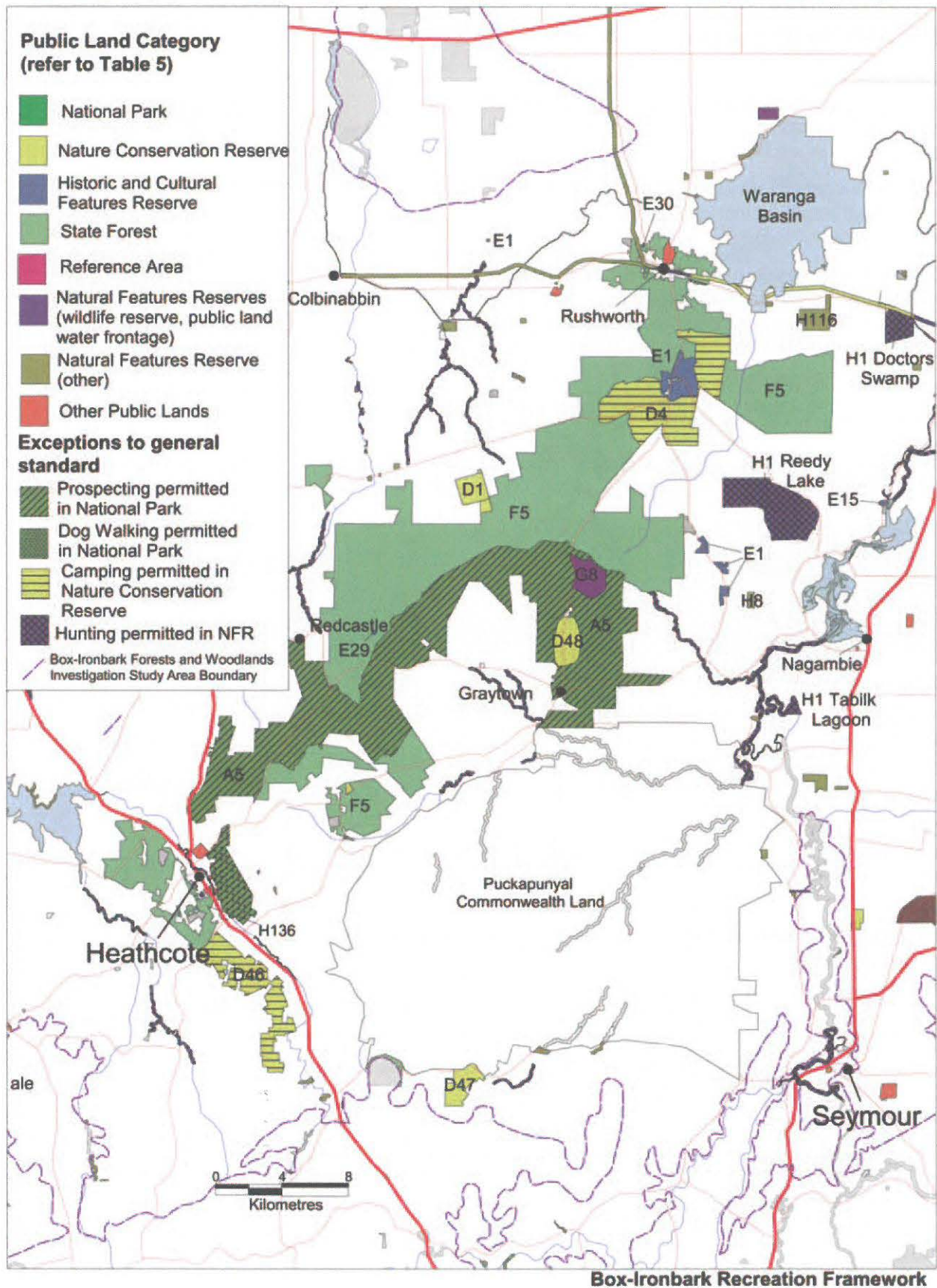


Table 6**Public land recreation access****ST ARNAUD section**

To be read in conjunction with the St Arnaud recreation access mapsheet and legend. For each public land category, the table indicates standard access provisions and where there are exceptions to standard conditions.

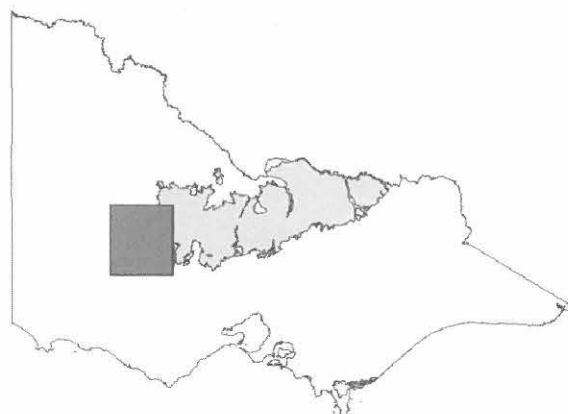
Column G = general standard for a particular recreational activity for that land category in Box-Ironbark area

Column E = some level of exception has been made to the general standard, where marked and shaded in the table. The location(s) where the (✓ or ✗) exception applies are shown on the map.

✓ = Yes (activity permitted)

✗ = No (activity not permitted)

Shading = Exceptions apply (refer to map)



Public Land Category	St Arnaud Range National Park	Ararat Regional Park	St Arnaud Regional Park	Nature Conservation Reserves	Historic and Cultural Features Reserves	State Forest	Reference Areas	Natural Features Reserves
ECC Code	A2	C2	C3	D	E	F1,F6	G1	H
	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E	G E
Bushwalking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Camping ¹	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Car rallying	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Car/4WD/Trail bike**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Dog walking	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Horse riding** ²	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Hunting ³	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Mountain-bike riding**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Orienteering/Rogaining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Prospecting ⁴	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓

Note The land manager can constrain or not permit an activity that is generally allowed in circumstances where it would have impacts contrary to the purpose for which the land is reserved or for reasons of public health and safety

¹ In land categories where camping is generally permitted, locations may be specified by the land manager: seek advice from the local office.

² Horse riding is permitted in Deep Lead (D2), Landsborough Hill (D12) and Landsborough (D13) Nature Conservation Reserves.

³ Hunting is permitted in State Forest. Seasonal duck hunting is permitted in the following Natural Features Reserves: (H1) wildlife areas and (H2) Public Land Water Frontages where appropriate.

⁴ Areas available for prospecting in St Arnaud Range National Park may be reviewed in the management planning process. Prospecting is generally not permitted in national parks in a statewide context. Prospecting is not permitted in Deep Lead Nature Conservation Reserve.

** On formed roads and vehicular tracks (access to MVOs and walking tracks to be considered in the management planning process) – check locations/restrictions with land manager.

Table 7**Public land recreation access****WANGARATTA section**

To be read in conjunction with the Wangaratta recreation access mapsheet and legend. For each public land category, the table indicates standard access provisions and where there are exceptions to standard conditions.

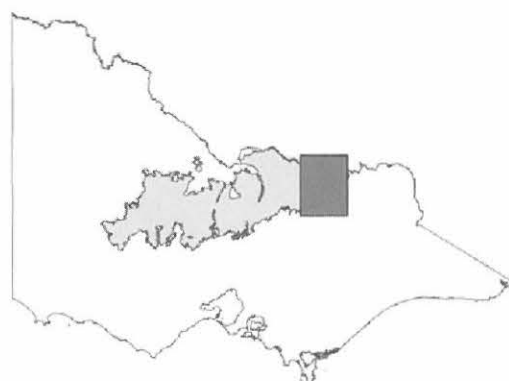
Column G = general standard for a particular recreational activity for that land category in Box-Ironbark area

Column E = some level of exception has been made to the general standard, where marked and shaded in the table. The location(s) where the (✓ or ✗) exception applies are shown on the map.

✓ = Yes (activity permitted)

✗ = No (activity not permitted)

Shading = Exceptions apply (refer to map)



Public Land Category	Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park		Warby Range State Park		Reef Hills State Park		Beechworth Historic (Regional) Park		Nature Conservation Reserves		Historic and Cultural Features Reserves		State Forest		Reference Areas		Natural Features Reserves	
ECC Code	A1		B3		B4		C7		D		E		F		G9-G13		H	
	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E	G	E
Bushwalking	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Camping ¹	✓		✓		✓		✓		✗	✓	✓		✓		✗		✓	
Car rallying ²	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗		✗		✗		✗		✓		✗		✗	
Car/4WD/Trail bike**	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Dog walking ³	✗		✗			✓	✓		✗		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Horse riding**	✓		✓		✓		✓		✗		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Hunting ⁴	✗		✗		✗		✗		✗		✗		✓		✗		✗	✓
Mountain-bike riding**	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Orienteering/Rogaining	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✗		✓	
Prospecting ⁵	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✗		✓	

Note: The land manager can constrain or not permit an activity that is generally allowed, in circumstances where it would have impacts contrary to the purpose for which the land is reserved or for reasons of public health and safety.

¹ In land categories where camping is generally permitted, locations may be specified by the land manager; seek advice from the local office.

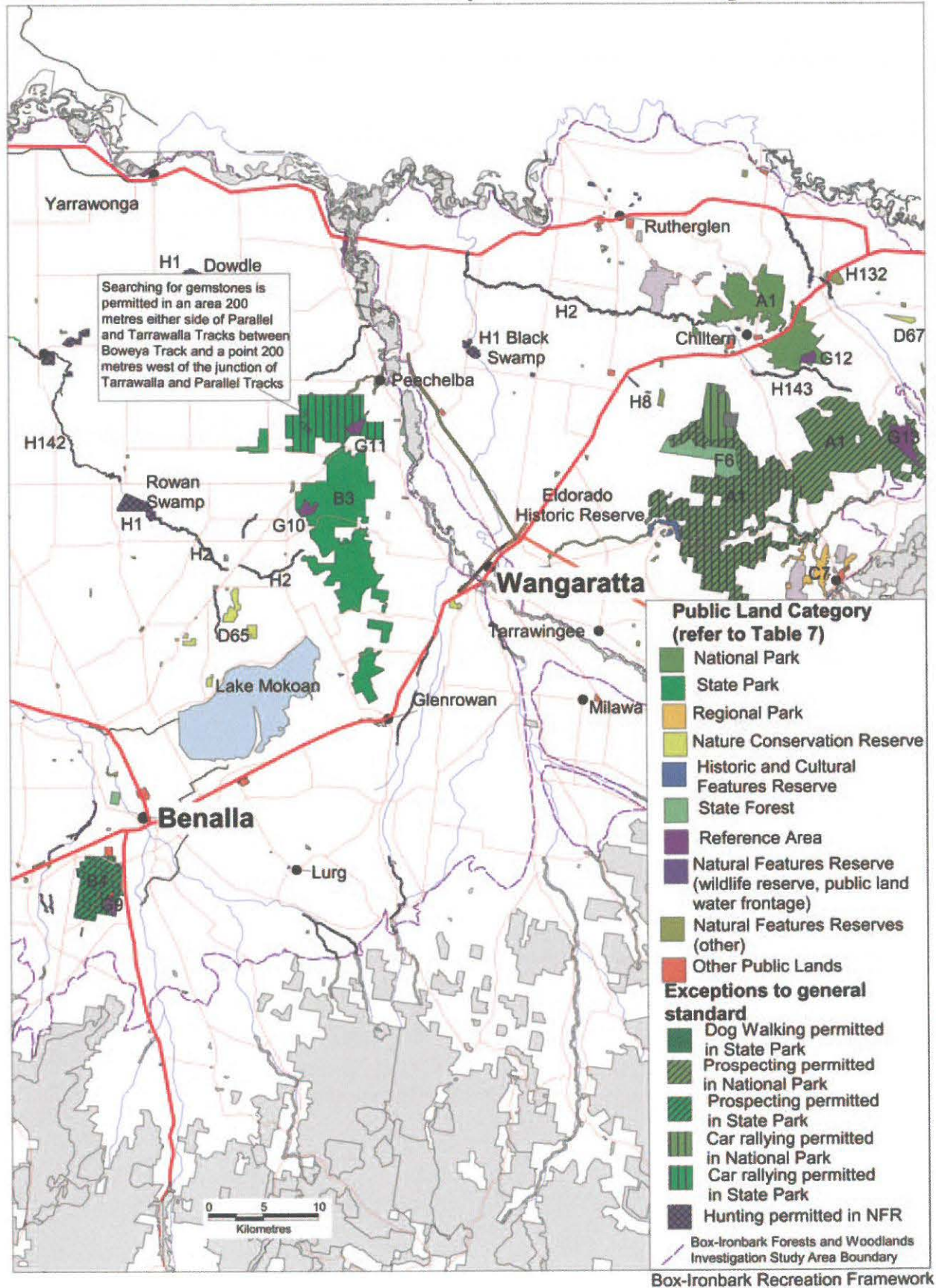
² Car rallies (CAMS approved) may be permitted in State Forest and in the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park west of the Chiltern-Beechworth Rd and in the Killawarra section of the Warby Range State Park.

³ Dog walking (on leash) is permitted in Reef Hills State Park and Beechworth Historic Park.

⁴ Hunting is permitted in State Forest. Seasonal duck hunting is permitted in the following Natural Features Reserves: (H1) wildlife reserves and (H2) Public Land Water Frontages where appropriate. Stubble Quail hunting is also permitted in open season in Rowan Swamp Wildlife (State Game) Reserve.

⁵ Areas available for prospecting may be reviewed in the management planning process. In Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park prospecting is permitted, but only in the new or additional park areas where it was permitted prior to the creation of the park. In Reef Hills State Park prospecting is permitted except in the reference area. In Warby Range State Park, prospecting is not permitted except searching for gemstones is permitted in an area 200 metres either side of Parallel and Tarrawalla Tks, between Boweya Tk and a point 200 metres west of the junction of Parallel and Tarrawalla Tks. In Beechworth Regional Park, prospecting is not permitted in some areas.

** On formed roads and vehicular tracks (access to MVOs and walking tracks to be considered in the management planning process) – check locations/restrictions with land manager.



Box-Ironbark Recreation Framework

Notes

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