

Wallaby Creek

Designated Water Supply Catchment Area

Kinglake National Park

August 1998



Management Plan



This Management Plan for the Wallaby Creek Designated Water Supply Catchment Area (Kinglake National Park) is approved for implementation. Its purpose is to direct management of the Area until the Plan is reviewed. The Plan was jointly prepared by Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water Corporation (as the agency responsible for protection and maintenance of water supply and catchment values) and contains information on the resources of Wallaby Creek, a review of past and present uses, management aims and management strategies. The Designated Water Supply Catchment Area is managed under the Government's Closed Catchment Policy (see glossary).

A Draft Management Plan was published in February 1998. Five submissions were received.

For further information on this Plan, please contact:

Mr Rocky Barca
Chief Ranger, Central Highlands District
Parks Victoria
(03) 5772 0200

OR

Mr Frank Lawless
Manager, Catchments and Transfer
Melbourne Water
(03) 9565 1960

Copies of the Plan can be obtained from:

Parks Victoria
378 Cotham Road
KEW VIC 3101

Parks Victoria Information Centre
35 Whitehorse Rd
DEEPDENE VIC 3103
☎ 13 1963

NRE Information Centre
8 Nicholson Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

**WALLABY CREEK DESIGNATED WATER SUPPLY
CATCHMENT AREA**

KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN



AUGUST 1998

Published in August 1998 by Parks Victoria
378 Cotham Road, Kew, Victoria 3101.

National Library of Australia
Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

Parks Victoria.
Wallaby Creek designated water supply catchment area
Kinglake National Park

Bibliography
ISBN 0 7311 3191 6 .

1. National parks and reserves - Victoria - Management.
2. Kinglake National Park (Vic.) - Management. 3. Wallaby
Creek Watershed (Vic.). I. Title.

333.783099453

Cover: Wallaby Creek Catchment (Photo: S Robertson).

Printed on recycled paper to help save our natural environment

FOREWORD

The Wallaby Creek Designated Water Supply Catchment Area, which covers 9965 hectares, was added to Kinglake National Park in 1995. The area is co-operatively managed by Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water Corporation by agreement under the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.).

Wallaby Creek is a special place. It contains ecologically mature, relatively undisturbed examples of Cool Temperate Rainforest, Wet Forest, Damp Forest, Shrubby Foothill Forest and Riparian Forest of State botanical significance. The older aged forests are a significant habitat for a range of animal species, 17 of which have been identified as threatened across the State.

This Approved Plan establishes long-term management directions for the area. Protecting water resources is the paramount consideration in park management, and this involves maintaining the vegetation in an essentially undisturbed condition, research and monitoring to manage the ecology of the catchment, and undertaking pest plant and animal control to protect its unique conservation values.

Limited and controlled visitor access will be permitted outside the Catchment Area, including walking opportunities interlinked with adjoining State Forest. Information and interpretation which communicate the rich historical and conservation values of Wallaby Creek will also be provided.

As a result of the Plan's implementation, I am confident that the area's special features will be protected.

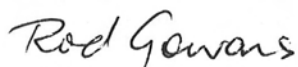
I look forward to the community's support for the management of Wallaby Creek, a significant part of Kinglake National Park, Victoria's parks system and Melbourne's natural and cultural heritage.



Marie Tehan MP
Minister for Conservation
and Land Management

APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Approved Management Plan has been prepared under section 17 of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic.) and is approved for implementation.



Rod Gowans
A/Director
National Parks

The Plan provides the basis for future management of Wallaby Creek Designated Water Supply Catchment Area, Kinglake National Park. It was finalised following consideration of the five submissions received on the Draft Plan.



Mark Stone
Chief Executive
Parks Victoria

SUMMARY

As well as being of major conservation importance, Kinglake National Park contains many areas where day visitors from Melbourne can enjoy a range of recreational activities. In contrast, the Wallaby Creek Designated Water Supply Catchment Area (Wallaby Creek) component of the Park (9965 ha) is principally managed to maintain water catchment values and supply water to Melbourne for domestic and industrial purposes. Access is therefore limited to protect water quality in the catchment, which includes three Reference Areas. Visitor access will be controlled and limited to the buffer area east and north of the catchment area, where people will be able to experience the unique Wallaby Creek setting.

As a result of the protective forms of catchment management in the past, the Wallaby Creek addition to Kinglake National Park retains high biological integrity and is an important scientific and educational resource.

The area's unique stands of ecologically mature and regrowth forest make a major contribution to Victoria's park system.

Wallaby Creek will be managed as a world-class protected area for conservation and water resources.

Protecting and maintaining Wallaby Creek's largely undisturbed environments will be an important management goal.

Major management directions for Wallaby Creek are described below.

- Protection of the Designated Water Supply Catchment Area and its water resources will be the paramount consideration in park management.
- Areas of significance for conservation and water supply will be maintained in an essentially undisturbed condition.
- An ongoing program of research and monitoring to assess biodiversity and ecosystem health will be established to provide a sound basis for future management.
- Pest plants, animals and diseases will be controlled in co-operation with adjoining land managers.
- Water catchment and water supply values will continue to be protected from potentially damaging processes.
- Wallaby Creek will offer quality visitor experiences outside the Catchment Area, including walking opportunities interlinked with the adjoining State Forest.
- Information and interpretation which communicates the rich historical and conservation values of Wallaby Creek will be provided.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD		iii
SUMMARY		v
1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Location and planning area	1
1.2	Regional context	1
1.3	Significance of Wallaby Creek	1
1.4	Creation of Wallaby Creek	2
1.5	Legislation and guidelines	2
1.6	Park management aims	3
2	STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	4
2.1	Wallaby Creek vision	4
2.2	Management directions	4
2.3	Zoning	4
3	RESOURCE CONSERVATION	7
3.1	Geological and landform features	7
3.2	Catchment and water resources	7
3.3	Vegetation	8
3.4	Fauna	9
3.5	Landscape	10
3.6	Cultural heritage	10
4	PARK PROTECTION	12
4.1	Fire management	12
4.2	Pest plants and animals, and diseases	12
4.3	Soil conservation	13
4.4	Management access	14
5	THE PARK VISIT	17
5.1	The Park visitor	17
5.2	Visitor information and interpretation	17
5.3	Commercial tourism operations	18
5.4	Public safety	18
6	COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT	19
6.1	Friends and volunteers	19
6.2	Community awareness and Park neighbours	19

7	OTHER ISSUES	20
7.1	Authorised uses	20
7.2	Boundaries and adjacent uses	20
8	IMPLEMENTATION	22
	REFERENCES	23
	GLOSSARY	24
	TABLES	
1	Management zones and overlays	6
2	Management of vehicle roads and tracks	15
3	Priority management strategies	22
	APPENDICES	
I	General responsibilities for management activities in the Designated Water Supply Catchment Area	25
II	Rare or threatened flora	26
III	Threatened fauna	27
	FIGURES	
1	Locality and adjoining land	End of Plan
2	Management zones	"
3	Access management	"

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 LOCATION AND PLANNING AREA

The Wallaby Creek Designated Water Supply Catchment Area was added to Kinglake National Park (figure 1) on 15 December 1995. It covers 9965 hectares of eucalypt forest on the slopes of the Great Dividing Range, 40 km north-east of the city centre, and is reached via Whittlesea or Kinglake.

The Wallaby Creek Designated Water Supply Catchment Area is co-operatively managed by Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water Corporation (MWC) by agreement under the National Parks Act (section 1.5 and appendix I). Other areas of Kinglake National Park are geographically separate from the Wallaby Creek addition and are managed under the Kinglake National Park Management Plan (NPS 1996).

This Management Plan covers the Wallaby Creek Designated Water Supply Catchment Area (referred to in this Plan as Wallaby Creek) as shown in figure 2. This includes the following:

- the Catchment Area (7865 ha), which is the land draining into the diversion weirs, the aqueduct and ultimately the Toorourrong Reservoir, and includes three Reference Areas: Stony Creek (415 ha), Disappointment (1195 ha) and Joey Creek (230 ha), each of which has a Management Plan;
- the Buffer Area (2100 ha), which is land adjoining the Catchment Area to the east and north that does not drain into the diversion weirs, aqueduct and Toorourrong Reservoir. It is managed as a protection zone for the water resource.

1.2 Regional context

Wallaby Creek is the westernmost block of Kinglake National Park, which forms a forested upland backdrop to the north-eastern suburbs of Melbourne. The townships of Kinglake West and Whittlesea are located respectively to the east and south of Wallaby Creek.

Mt Disappointment State Forest adjoins Wallaby Creek to the west, north and north-east. In the south near Toorourrong Reservoir, and east adjacent to the Whittlesea-Yea Road, Wallaby Creek adjoins private property. A Water Supply Reserve along the Whittlesea-Yea Road and King Parrot Creek, and MWC vested land along the aqueduct, abut the Catchment Area to protect further the water supply values of Wallaby Creek.

1.3 Significance of Wallaby Creek

Wallaby Creek makes a valuable contribution to Victoria's parks system, which aims to protect viable representative samples of the State's natural environments occurring on public land. Parks in general also provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate natural and cultural values, and many make important contributions to tourism, but access to Wallaby Creek is strictly controlled because of the area's water supply function.

Wallaby Creek is an essential component of Melbourne's water supply system, providing high quality water to the Melbourne metropolitan area. Access restrictions are in force to protect water quality.

The Kinglake National Park is assigned the IUCN Category II (National Parks) of the United Nations' List of National Parks and Protected Areas. Category II areas are managed primarily for ecosystem conservation and appropriate recreation. The Stony Creek, Disappointment and Joey Creek Reference Areas are assigned the IUCN Category Ia (Strict Nature Reserve) and are managed mainly for scientific purposes.

Significant features of Wallaby Creek are listed below.

Natural values

- A high diversity of native plants and animals, including seven rare or threatened flora species and over 165 native bird species, 30 native mammal

species, 22 native reptile species and 10 native frog species.

- Seventeen rare and threatened fauna species, including five species which are listed as threatened under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic.).
- Botanically significant representation of undisturbed, ‘old-growth’ or ecologically mature Mountain Ash forest and Cool Temperate Rainforest.
- Land systems not otherwise represented in the Park system.

Water supply

- An important source of domestic water for Melbourne from the Designated Water Supply Catchment Area in Wallaby Creek.
- High quality water requiring minimal treatment before distribution to customers.

Cultural values

- Individual tall trees of historical importance.
- Isolated artefacts of Aboriginal land use.
- Historic water supply structures of State historical significance.

Tourism and recreational values

- Some limited opportunities outside the Catchment Area to experience a mountain environment within an hour’s drive of Melbourne.

1.4 Creation of Wallaby Creek

The Plenty River East Branch, incorporating Wallaby Creek and Silver Creek catchments, was permanently reserved for water supply purposes in 1872, and in 1891, together with surrounding buffer areas, it was vested in the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

On 15 December 1995 a substantial part (9965 ha) of the Wallaby Creek Water Supply Catchment Area was added to the existing Kinglake National Park as a result of the *National Parks (Yarra Ranges and Other*

Amendments) Act 1995 (Vic.) following the Melbourne Area District 2 Review (LCC 1994).

1.5 Legislation and guidelines

Kinglake National Park is reserved and managed under the provisions of the National Parks Act. The Act requires the Director to preserve and protect the natural environment of the Park and its natural and other features, and, subject to this, to provide for the use of the Park by the public for enjoyment, recreation and education. The Act also provides for appropriate research.

The Act identifies Wallaby Creek as a ‘Designated Water Supply Catchment Area’ within Kinglake National Park, and requires the Director to protect the area and its water resource and maintain water quality as the paramount consideration.

In accordance with the Act, a Catchment Management Agreement empowers MWC to continue management of water supply functions and activities that impact upon water values within the Designated Water Supply Catchment Area. It also details the respective responsibilities of MWC and the Director of National Parks (Parks Victoria) for management of activities in this Area (appendix I). Under the Act, MWC determines human access and activity policy for Wallaby Creek.

The *Park (Catchment Protection) Regulations 1997* (Vic.) strictly control human access to Wallaby Creek to protect water resources and infrastructure.

The three Reference Areas—Stony Creek, Disappointment and Joey Creek—are proclaimed under the *Reference Areas Act 1978* (Vic.) and managed in accordance with Ministerial directives, the relevant guideline and management plan. Within these areas, which form a reference for comparative study purposes, natural processes are to be allowed to continue undisturbed.

Recommendations by the former Land Conservation Council (LCC 1994), as approved by the Government, specify that harvesting of forest products (other than non-

native species in designated areas by Melbourne Water), grazing by domestic stock, apiculture, and hunting and the use of firearms, are not permitted, and that no new public vehicular access may be provided within the water supply catchment.

Wallaby Creek is managed in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines for the management of parks, the LCC recommendations, and with other plans and guidelines, including:

- Alexandra Region Draft Fire Protection Plan (CNR 1995a);
- Proposed Forest Management Plan for the Central Highlands (NRE 1996);
- Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land (CNR 1995b).

1.6 Park management aims

Sections 4 (Objects) and 17 of the National Parks Act provide the main basis for management of Wallaby Creek. The following management aims are derived from those sections and as such broadly govern all aspects of park management.

Section 32H of the Act states that the paramount consideration for management of a Designated Water Supply Catchment Area is protection of the area and its water resources, including maintenance of water quality.

Resource conservation

- Preserve and protect the natural environment.
- Allow natural environmental processes to continue with minimal interference.
- Maintain biodiversity.
- Conserve features of archaeological, historical and cultural significance.

- Provide for, and encourage, scientific research, surveys and monitoring that will contribute to a better understanding and management of Wallaby Creek.

Catchment area and water resources

- Protect the Designated Water Supply Catchment Area.
- Maintain water quality and protect the water resources of the catchment.
- Provide for the restriction of human activity to protect the water supply catchment area and water resources.

Park protection

- Protect human life, Wallaby Creek and adjacent lands from injury by fire.
- Eradicate, or otherwise control, introduced plants, animals and diseases.

The Park visit

- Provide opportunities for appropriate recreation and tourism.
- Encourage appropriate Park use and visitor behaviour, and foster a conservation ethic in visitors and an understanding of minimal impact behaviour.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of visitors.

Partnerships

- Co-operate with local, State and interstate government authorities, the community and other interested organisations to assist as appropriate in the management of Wallaby Creek.

2 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

2.1 Wallaby Creek vision

A future visitor to Wallaby Creek finds an area renowned for its high biological integrity resulting from the highest standard of protection. Sound management is supported by ecological research and monitoring programs linked to higher education and research institutions.

The partnership approach to management of Wallaby Creek attracts interest as an effective administrative model which delivers water of the highest quality for domestic consumption and protects and enhances ecological values within the catchment.

The conservation value of Wallaby Creek is further enhanced by the absence of significant infestations of pest species, and reduced impacts through the rationalisation of vehicle tracks and controlled access.

Sensitive management is assisted by a supportive local community.

2.2 Management directions

Major management directions for Wallaby Creek are outlined below.

Resource conservation

- Areas of conservation, cultural and water supply significance, notably sites of botanical and faunal significance including threatened species and their critical habitat, will be maintained in an essentially undisturbed condition.
- An ongoing program of inventory, research and monitoring will be established, in partnership with higher education and research institutions, to provide a sound basis for future management.

Catchment area and water resources

- Protection of the Designated Water Supply Catchment Area and its water resources, and the maintenance of water quality, will be the paramount consideration in park management.

Park protection

- Park values will continue to be protected from potentially damaging processes including wildfire, pathogens and soil erosion.
- Pest plants, animals and diseases will be eradicated or controlled in co-operation with adjoining land managers.

The Park visit

- Public access will continue to be restricted in accordance with the Government's Closed Catchment Policy (see glossary).
- Wallaby Creek will provide for limited and strictly controlled quality visitor experiences in the Buffer Area.

Community awareness and involvement

- Co-operation with local Government and other public authorities, community groups and land owners, in conserving native vegetation and habitat linking major blocks of the Park and adjoining forest, will be fostered.

2.3 Zoning

A park management zoning scheme has been developed to:

- provide a geographic framework in which to manage Wallaby Creek;
- indicate which management directions have priority in different parts of Wallaby Creek;
- indicate the types and levels of use appropriate throughout Wallaby Creek;
- assist in minimising existing and potential conflicts between uses and activities, or between these and the protection of park values;
- provide a basis for assessing the suitability of future activities and development proposals.

Two management zones apply to Wallaby Creek: Reference Area, and Conservation and Water Supply. The Catchment Area and Buffer Area overlays are used to summarise requirements additional to those of the underlying primary management zones.

Table 1 specifies the management zone and overlay characteristics, and figure 2 shows their location.

TABLE 1 MANAGEMENT ZONES AND OVERLAYS

	ZONES		OVERLAYS	
	REFERENCE AREA	CONSERVATION & WATER SUPPLY	CATCHMENT AREA	BUFFER AREA
AREA/LOCATION	1840 ha, 18.5% Stony Creek, (415 ha), Disappointment (1195 ha) and Joey Creek (230 ha).	8125 ha, 81.5% Comprises the designated water supply catchment area of Wallaby Creek, other than the three Reference Areas.	7865 ha, 79.0% Land draining into the diversion weirs, aqueduct and Toorourrong Reservoir.	2100 ha, 21.0% Land adjoining the Catchment Area which does not drain into the diversion weirs, aqueduct and reservoir.
VALUES	High quality water supply. Relatively undisturbed representative land types and associated vegetation including old growth forest of high conservation and scientific value.	High quality water supply. Important and sensitive natural values including areas of national botanical and faunal significance.	Water resource values including water quality and available yield.	Important as a buffer to protect the Catchment Area and its water resources.
GENERAL MANAGEMENT AIM	Protect the area and its water resources and maintain water quality as the paramount use. Protect viable samples of one or more land types that are relatively undisturbed for comparative study with similar land types elsewhere, by keeping all human interference to the minimum essential and ensuring as far as practicable that the only long-term change results from natural processes.	Protect the area and its water resources and maintain water quality as the paramount use and to protect sensitive natural environments. Provide for minimum impact recreation activities in defined areas in the buffer area consistent with the protection of the water resource, while ensuring minimal interference to natural processes.	In addition to paramount consideration, restrict access as required by Melbourne Water.	In addition to paramount consideration, provide some limited recreational access as agreed with Melbourne Water.

3 RESOURCE CONSERVATION

3.1 Geological and landform features

Elevation within Wallaby Creek ranges from 250 m to 800 m. The area contains a portion of the Mt Disappointment range.

The Divide and the headwaters of Wallaby Creek and Silver Creek are part of the Hume Plateau, characterised by a gently undulating surface with elevations of between 600 and 800 m. The southern and eastern slopes of the plateau have been steeply dissected, leaving narrow ridges and steep-sided valleys.

Much of the soil is of granitic origin. Slopes are flat to moderate. Forming part of the dissected East Victorian Uplands geomorphic unit, the two main land systems are not otherwise represented in nature conservation reserves (LCC 1994). A further land system comprises the steeply sloping land on sedimentary rocks at the junction with the granite.

Aim

- Protect geological and geomorphological features.

Management strategies

- *Identify and monitor sites of geological and geomorphological significance.*
- *Allow research by accredited scientific and research groups.*

3.2 Catchment and water resources

Wallaby Creek Designated Water Supply Catchment Area includes the catchments of Wallaby, Silver, Jacks and Joey Creeks, and the Plenty River, which contribute water to the Wallaby Creek water supply system. The upper catchment of the Plenty River contributes to the high nature conservation and scientific values of the forests of the region.

Water resources are managed to meet the guidelines for drinking water quality specified by the World Health Organisation (1993 and

1996) and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (1987).

Catchment management aims to prevent activities which could degrade the quality and quantity of the water.

The water source needs to be protected from contamination by human and animal waste which can contain a variety of bacterial, viral and protozoan pathogens and parasites. This is done primarily through the long-standing Restricted Access Policy, which prohibits general public access into the Catchment Area (section 5.1 and glossary).

Some limited recreational opportunities are possible in the Buffer Area, north and east of the aqueduct (2100 ha). This adjoins, and helps protect, the water supply catchment area, but does not actually collect water. These opportunities will be investigated as part of a walking track plan for Wallaby Creek (section 5.1).

The damaging effects of wildfire present a significant threat to water resources.

Immediate effects following a wildfire can include a lowering of water quality arising from ash and debris washing into the system, and soil erosion contributing to turbidity of water supplies and siltation of reservoirs.

A longer-term effect from a severe fire can be a substantial loss of water yield. The yield of water from old-growth ash forests is about double that of a regrowth forest, and a bushfire that converted the old-growth Mountain Ash into regrowth would dramatically decrease water yield, with possible implications for water supply in Melbourne.

Soil erosion from access tracks and other sources also has the potential to affect water resources adversely (section 4.3).

The bulk water entitlements for Wallaby Creek and Silver Creek diversion weirs include an obligation by MWC to maintain minimum environmental flows to provide for environmental purposes and downstream diverter requirements. Recommendations for the Bulk Entitlement Conversion process were

negotiated between the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), MWC and Goulburn-Murray Water.

Aims

- Protect the water supply catchment area and its water resources, and maintain water quality.
- Manage catchments and water quality to meet the guidelines for drinking water quality specified by the World Health Organisation (1993 and 1996) and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (1987).

Management strategies

- *Maintain the Restricted Access Policy for the Catchment Area to protect water resources from potential sources of contamination.*
- *Continue to prohibit domestic animals and control feral animals in the catchments to protect water resources from potential sources of contamination.*
- *Protect water catchment values when planning or undertaking fire protection or suppression (section 4.1).*
- *Protect the catchments from soil erosion and pest plants and animals in accordance with sections 4.2 and 4.3.*
- *Ensure that environmental flows are maintained by MWC in accordance with the provisions of the bulk water entitlement order.*

3.3 Vegetation

Wallaby Creek contains the main area of old-growth Wet Forest and Cool Temperate Rainforest in the Central Highlands outside Yarra Ranges National Park. There are also areas of old-growth Heathy Dry Forest.

Ecologically mature and relatively undisturbed examples of Cool Temperate Rainforest, Wet Forest, Damp Forest, Shrubby Foothill Forest and Riparian Forest are of State botanical

significance. Wallaby Creek represents the western distribution of the main stands of Mountain Ash and Myrtle Beech, and Cool Temperate Rainforest is listed as a threatened community under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

About 46% of the Catchment Area consists of ash-type eucalypts; some 75% of this is covered by Mountain Ash forests of various ages. These include old-growth stands originating from around 1730, and older relics; mature stands (largely from the 1851 fires); and other regrowth stands originating from major fires in 1898, 1926, 1939 and 1982. Much of the northern portion also contains mature damp forest of Messmate. The stands of tall Old Mountain Ash trees are of State historical significance and are examples of the forests that preceded European settlement.

Representative species lists have been prepared for the Plenty River headwaters of Wallaby Creek south of the divide (Beardsell 1997) and the three Reference Areas (MMBW 1987, MWC 1995a and MWC 1995b). All the vegetation communities in Wallaby Creek are represented in these Reference Areas.

Seven rare or threatened species have been recorded in Wallaby Creek, three of which are listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (appendix II). A list of species significant to the Greater Melbourne and Port Phillip Catchment has been compiled for Wallaby Creek (Beardsell 1997).

Plantations of Monterey Pine, Redwood and Douglas Fir were planted as a trial by the then Board of Works in the 1920s and 1930s. Plantations of Mountain Ash, Alpine Ash, Manna Gum and Shining Gum were established between 1941 and 1963 to rehabilitate areas logged in the 1860s. The plantations are an important aspect of the history of the catchment; further research is required to document their history and extent prior to any removal.

Monterey Pines have the potential to spread into indigenous remnant vegetation by seed dispersal. Plantations of Monterey Pine west of the aqueduct have been harvested by MWC in accordance with the Catchment Management Agreement and the area will be

regenerated with indigenous vegetation. Some rows of Monterey Pine still remain to be harvested.

During the 1982 wildfires, large tracts of Wallaby Creek were burnt and significant stands of Mountain Ash were killed or damaged. These tracts were salvage-logged under prescriptions designed to protect water values.

Aims

- Conserve native plant communities in their natural condition and maintain and enhance habitat diversity while allowing natural environmental processes to continue.
- Improve knowledge of flora in Wallaby Creek and its associated management requirements.
- Provide special protection for significant plant species and communities.

Management strategies

- *Manage Flora and Fauna Guarantee listed communities and species (appendix II) according to approved action statements.*
- *Map and monitor the distribution of rare or threatened species and ensure that this information is recorded on all relevant NRE and Parks Victoria scientific databases.*
- *Monitor the effect of fire on vegetation communities.*
- *Facilitate flora surveys and encourage research, particularly by tertiary institutions, to improve conservation management.*
- *Investigate the Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) for Wallaby Creek, and implement management regimes based on knowledge of the ecological processes associated with each EVC.*
- *Design and co-ordinate a vegetation monitoring program, including sites of rare or threatened species and communities, non-vascular plants and representative*

habitats within Wallaby Creek, where appropriate.

- *Identify and protect exotic vegetation of cultural significance where this does not threaten indigenous species or communities.*

3.4 Fauna

Over 165 species of native birds, 30 species of native mammals, 22 species of reptiles, 10 species of native frogs and at least two species of native fish are known to occur in Wallaby Creek. Of these species, 17 are considered to be threatened, including five species listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (appendix III).

The older-aged forests provide optimum foraging and nesting habitat for an extensive range of animals, particularly for birds, arboreal marsupials and hollow-dependent species (MWC 1993). The mature Mountain Ash trees are a prolific source of nectar for nectar-consuming animals.

The old-growth forests have been identified as an important habitat for the Powerful Owl and Brush-tailed Phascogale and as being critical for the conservation of the Sooty Owl (MWC 1993). These three species are listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

The Brush-tailed Phascogale is considered to be vulnerable to predation by introduced predators such as the Red Fox and Feral Cat.

Although Sambar are an introduced species of deer, they are considered to be wildlife under the *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic.). Sambar are present in Wallaby Creek in reasonably high numbers and there is evidence of substantial wallows and grazing in places. The population needs to be monitored.

Aims

- Protect native fauna communities and maintain genetic diversity.
- Provide special protection for significant fauna.
- Increase knowledge of the distribution and management of significant fauna species.

Management strategies

- *Manage and protect Flora and Fauna Guarantee listed species according to approved action statements.*
- *Facilitate surveys of fauna and faunal habitats in Wallaby Creek, giving priority to threatened species.*
- *Map the location of significant or threatened populations and provide suitable protection for them.*
- *Develop suitable procedures and monitor change in fauna populations, particularly significant taxa, on a regular basis.*
- *Investigate any necessary measures to conserve native fish populations.*
- *Monitor Sambar populations, and if impacts on water quality, erosion or vegetation are evident, investigate and undertake control measures.*

3.5 Landscape

Wallaby Creek lies within the Foothills Landscape Character Type (Leonard & Hammond 1984).

The Great Dividing Range and the headwaters of Wallaby Creek and Silver Creek are part of the Hume Plateau, characterised by a gently undulating surface with elevations between 600 and 800 m. The southern and eastern slopes of the plateau have been steeply dissected, leaving narrow ridges and steep-sided valleys.

Aims

- Protect natural landscapes, particularly those of high scenic quality.
- Minimise visual impacts on the natural landscape, especially views from major access routes and viewing points.

Management strategies

- *Monitor and manage the visual resources of Wallaby Creek in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines.*

- *Ensure that any new proposals for public utilities in Wallaby Creek, or on its boundaries, are assessed for their landscape impacts (section 7.1).*
- *Revegetate the boundaries of existing or future developments, including water supply works, as necessary, to conserve or enhance landscape values, in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines (section 5.1).*

3.6 Cultural heritage

No survey of Aboriginal archaeological sites for Wallaby Creek has been undertaken to date. Living mostly in the open wooded plains, the Wurundjeri to the south and the Taunerong to the north would probably have intermingled in the Wallaby Creek area.

It is expected that significant sites exist within Wallaby Creek, as the surrounding region is known to be archaeologically sensitive and its Aboriginal occupation has been documented. A number of Aboriginal historic sites and places have been recorded by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria for areas adjacent to Wallaby Creek.

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria recommended that an archaeological survey should be conducted for Wallaby Creek to provide the basis for site management decision making.

The appropriate Aboriginal community organisation for cultural heritage in the Park is the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Ltd. All Aboriginal sites are protected under the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* (Vic.) and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cwlth).

The Wallaby Creek and Silver Creek water supply schemes were built from local stone and crafted to a high standard to supplement the Yan Yean system between 1883 and 1887. The various elements of this scheme are of State historical significance and include the Cascades (built in 1883), the Jacks Creek channel (1886), Toorourrong Reservoir (1885), the weir, aqueduct, a 600 m tunnel

associated with the Silver Creek diversion and the Nimmo Falls quarry which supplied granite facings for the project.

Aims

- Protect all Aboriginal archaeological sites and other sites of cultural heritage significance.
- Improve knowledge of archaeological and historical sites by encouraging further survey and research.

Management strategies

- *Identify, protect, interpret and manage Aboriginal sites and places within Wallaby Creek in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines and in consultation with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the Wurundjeri and Taunerong communities.*
- *Encourage surveys to identify sites of Aboriginal significance and areas of archaeological sensitivity.*
- *Manage archaeological and historic sites in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines and prepare action strategy for the management of significant sites.*
- *Consult with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the Wurundjeri and Taunerong communities to determine the locations of Aboriginal sites prior to any proposed development works.*
- *Liaise with local historical societies, former management agencies and individuals to improve knowledge of the cultural heritage of Wallaby Creek and to identify opportunities for co-operative projects.*
- *Encourage further field and literature research into the cultural heritage of Wallaby Creek.*
- *Document significant historic places and prepare a strategy for the management and monitoring of these places.*
- *Develop an archive of information about Wallaby Creek and the Catchment's history to be used for environmental management and for the management and interpretation of historic values.*
- *Ensure that conservation work is supervised and undertaken by properly qualified heritage conservation practitioners.*
- *Ensure that any development at historic places is compatible with, and enhances the significance of, those places.*
- *Include information about Wallaby Creek and the Catchment's significant historic values in interpretation material.*

4 PARK PROTECTION

4.1 Fire management

The National Parks Act requires the Director of National Parks to ensure that appropriate and sufficient measures are taken to protect parks from injury by fire. Current fire protection measures are in accordance with the Alexandra Region Draft Fire Protection Plan (CNR 1995a).

Arising from the addition of Wallaby Creek to Kinglake National Park, NRE is now responsible for fire protection within the Designated Water Supply Catchment Area. The Alexandra Region Draft Fire Protection Plan is currently being revised to include Wallaby Creek. Under the agreement, MWC assists with fire protection works and activities in the catchments, and contributes to the cost to the extent that is required to protect water resource values.

Fire protection measures for the area include slashed breaks, access roads and a fire tower which are to be incorporated into the Alexandra Region Draft Fire Protection Plan.

Prescribed burning is undertaken in the Buffer Area and adjoining State Forest to protect the Catchment Area. MWC has a policy of no fuel reduction burning in the Catchment Area, to protect water quality.

The policy of no fuel reduction burning is compatible with protecting the water supply values of Wallaby Creek. However, the ecological effects of vegetation management without the use of fire requires further research.

Wallaby Creek is susceptible to periodic and severe wildfires. Sections of Wallaby Creek were burnt late last century and in 1926 and 1939. In 1982 several thousand hectares were burnt in the northern section of Wallaby Creek. Regular fuel reduction burning has occurred in the buffer areas outside the Catchment.

Aims

- Protect human life, property and park values from injury by fire.
- Minimise the adverse effects of fires and fire suppression methods on the conservation and water supply values of Wallaby Creek.
- Maintain fire regimes appropriate to the conservation of native flora and fauna.

Management strategies

- *Provide input in the review of the Alexandra Region Draft Fire Protection Plan to include Wallaby Creek.*
- *Undertake annual fire prevention measures in accordance with the Fire Protection Plan.*
- *Publicise and enforce fire regulations and restrictions on the use of fire within Wallaby Creek.*
- *Rehabilitate any areas which may be disturbed by control lines and other suppression activities following fire suppression operations.*
- *Encourage research on the ecological effects of fire management in Wallaby Creek, and incorporate research results into the Fire Protection Plan as necessary.*
- *Liaise with the Country Fire Authority and MWC in relation to fire management issues in and adjacent to Wallaby Creek and co-operative wildfire control.*

4.2 Pest plants and animals, and diseases

A number of introduced plants, both exotic and native, have been recorded in Wallaby Creek. Although some of these are not invasive, many have the potential to spread through Wallaby Creek, threatening the integrity of indigenous flora and fauna

communities and the survival of particular species.

Holly occurs mainly in an area of some 50 ha in the south-east section of Wallaby Creek, including the Joey Creek Reference Area. Monterey Pine seedlings are invading the native forest from plantations in the Park (section 3.2) and in the vicinity of Toorourrong Reservoir.

Blackberry occurs to a small extent in the vicinity of the Wallaby Creek farm area and also in the Toorourrong area.

Introduced predators, particularly Red Foxes and wild or roaming domestic Dogs and Feral Cats, are known to be present in Wallaby Creek. Predation of native wildlife by the Red Fox is listed as a potentially threatening process under Schedule 3 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

Cinnamon Fungus is an introduced microscopic pathogenic fungus which attacks the roots of susceptible plants. The Fungus spreads either by zoospores migrating through soil moisture or by transport of infected soil or gravel from one site to another. The disease has not been found in Wallaby Creek, but occurs in other parts of Kinglake National Park.

The disease poses a threat to susceptible rare or threatened plant species in Wallaby Creek. Indirect effects include the reduction of food or shelter for wildlife, and potential impacts to water quality.

Use of fungus-infested gravel in construction of roads, bridges and reservoirs is listed as a potentially threatening process under Schedule 3 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

The most appropriate method of control is preventing the introduction of the disease in infested soil or gravel. The spread of the disease can also be minimised by restricting human and vehicular access, and disinfecting vehicles and machinery before entering Wallaby Creek.

Aims

- Monitor, control, and where possible eradicate, pest plants and animals in Wallaby Creek.
- Minimise the impact of control programs on native flora and fauna.
- Restore native vegetation to areas where weeds have been eradicated.
- Minimise the risk of introduction and spread of Cinnamon Fungus.

Management strategies

- *Survey the incidence of pest plants and animals in Wallaby Creek.*
- *Prepare a pest plant and animal control strategy for Wallaby Creek which details species and areas to be treated and methods of control, and incorporates a program of research and monitoring. Give priority to preventing new infestations, managing weeds with a high potential for invasion and broad ecological tolerances, and managing areas of high conservation significance.*
- *Co-ordinate pest plant and animal control efforts in Wallaby Creek with those on adjacent land (section 6.2).*
- *Where weeds have been eradicated, restore native vegetation to prevent the recurrence of weed invasion.*
- *Minimise the risk of spread of Cinnamon Fungus by practising hygiene strategies in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines.*

4.3 Soil conservation

High rainfalls, steep slopes and deep soils make large parts of Wallaby Creek naturally susceptible to soil erosion. Average annual rainfall varies from about 800 mm at Toorourrong in the south (elevation 220 m) and about 950 mm at Strath Tower in the north-west (elevation 680 m) to around 1200-1250 mm at Wallaby Creek Works Depot (elevation 490 m) and on the higher elevation plateau (elevation 700 m).

The movement of soil affects water quality, particularly colour and turbidity, and causes siltation downstream in the catchment. Increase in sediment input into Victorian rivers and streams resulting from human activities is listed as a potentially threatening process under Schedule 3 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

Roads and tracks within Wallaby Creek are the major potential vector for soil loss and require regular maintenance. Careful planning, design and maintenance of Park and water supply infrastructure will minimise impacts on soils.

Aims

- Prevent and control soil erosion from visitor and management activities.
- Revegetate disturbed areas with indigenous species.
- Protect water quality by maintaining the integrity of the catchments within Wallaby Creek.

Management strategies

- *Regularly maintain all roads and tracks to minimise erosion in accordance with MWC guidelines to prevent sediment input into rivers and streams.*
- *Rehabilitate and revegetate disturbed areas with indigenous species in accordance with Parks Victoria guidelines.*

4.4 Management access

An adequate network of tracks is required for access to maintain and operate water supply facilities, and for fire protection. Tracks in Wallaby Creek are maintained and managed by MWC.

The current high number of tracks is costly to maintain and has the potential to impact on water quality through increased sediment input into rivers and streams. There are a number of tracks that are no longer required for management purposes, particularly in the Buffer Area.

Tracks through Reference Areas should be rationalised and minimised in terms of frequency of use in order to maintain the integrity of these areas as far as practicable.

Aims

- Provide for management access to Wallaby Creek by a well planned and managed road and track network.
- Minimise environmental impacts by maintaining the road and track network in good condition.
- Minimise the impact of vehicle use on Wallaby Creek's natural and cultural values, and protect the integrity of the Reference Areas.

Management strategies

- *Restrict public use of roads and tracks in Wallaby Creek in accordance with the Restricted Access Policy.*
- *Manage and permit the use of vehicle-only roads and tracks in Wallaby Creek for management purposes only, in accordance with table 2 and figure 3.*
- *To protect water quality, close and revegetate all tracks no longer required for management purposes.*
- *Upgrade and standardise track signposting throughout Wallaby Creek.*
- *Liaise with adjoining land managers to ensure a co-operative approach to road maintenance of access roads to Wallaby Creek.*
- *Limit management activities on tracks through Reference Areas to fire protection only.*

TABLE 2 MANAGEMENT OF VEHICLE ROADS AND TRACKS

TRACK	CLASS		STATUS		FUTURE MANAGEMENT/COMMENT
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	
1	A	A	MVO	MVO	The B class section between Tracks 2 and 4 is outside the DWSCA and is open to public vehicles.
2	C	C	MVO	MVO	
3	A	B	MVO	MVO	Track through Reference Area should be maintained as B class and accessed during summer for fire protection only.
4	A	A	MVO	MVO	Track required for water supply purposes, security and fire protection.
5	C	C	MVO	MVO	
6	C	-	MVO	C	
7	B	B	MVO	MVO	
8	B	B	MVO	MVO	
9	C	-	MVO	C	
new 9	C	C	MVO	MVO	Track to Nimmo Falls now called 9.
10	A	A	MVO	MVO	Track required for water supply purposes including truck access.
11	A	A	MVO	MVO	Track required for water supply purposes including truck access.
12	C	C	MVO	MVO	
13	C	C	MVO	MVO	
14	C	C	MVO	MVO	Track through Reference Area to be accessed during Summer for fire protection only.
15	C	C	MVO	MVO	
16	A	A/C	MVO	MVO	A class section outside the Park and C class section within the Park between Track 17 and Whittlesea Rd.
17	C	C	MVO	MVO	
18	B	B	MVO	MVO	
19	C	C	MVO	MVO	
20	B	C	MVO	MVO	Maintain as B class for access to Track 18 if Cascades Farm is sold.
21	B	-	MVO	C	Track outside Wallaby Creek. Closure proposed by MWC. Liaise with MWC to implement closure.
22	A	A	MVO	MVO	Track required for water supply purposes including truck access.
23	C	C	MVO	MVO	
24	C	C	MVO	MVO	
25	C	-	MVO	C	Track outside Wallaby Creek. Closure proposed by MWC. Liaise with MWC to implement closure.
26	B/C	B	MVO	MVO	Upgrade as access to Track 27.
27	C	B	MVO	MVO	Upgrade due to removal of Track 28.
28	C	-	MVO	C	
29	C	C	MVO	MVO	
30	C	C	MVO	MVO	Retain for fire protection purposes.

Table 2 (cont.)

TRACK	CLASS		STATUS		FUTURE MANAGEMENT/COMMENT
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	
31	C	-	MVO	C	
32	C	-	MVO	C	
33	C	C	MVO	MVO	
34	C	-	MVO	C	
35	C	-	MVO	C	
36	B	B	MVO	MVO	
37	C	-	MVO	C	Northern tip of Track 7 now Track 37.
38	B	B	MVO	MVO/C	Section to Mast from Track 4 to stay as Class B.
39	B	B	MVO	MVO	For water supply purposes.
40	A	A	MVO	MVO	Main access to the Lodge.
41	C	-	MVO	C	Track outside Wallaby Creek. Closure proposed by MWC. Liaise with MWC to implement closure.
42	C	C	MVO	MVO	
43	C	-	MVO	C	
44	C	-	MVO	C	
45	A	A	MVO	MVO	Road within Cascades Farm.
46	C	C	MVO	MVO	
47	C	C	MVO	MVO	Close to public access.
48	B	C	MVO	MVO	Through Reference Area.
49	B	C	MVO	MVO	
50	C	C	MVO	MVO	
51	C	C	MVO	MVO	
52	B	B	MVO	MVO	
53	C	C	MVO	MVO	
54	C	C	MVO	MVO	
55	C	-	MVO	C	
56	C	C	MVO	MVO	Required for water supply purposes.
57	A	A	MVO	MVO	

CLASS

A All vehicle - all weather
 B 4WD - all weather
 C 4WD - dry weather only

STATUS

MVO Management vehicles only
 C Closed to all vehicles and walkers

5 THE PARK VISIT

5.1 The Park visitor

Wallaby Creek is primarily managed to protect catchment values and water resources, and the Restricted Access Policy limits the opportunities available for recreation.

Other areas of Kinglake National Park, adjoining State Forest and Crown land and the nearby Toorourrong Reservoir Park provide greater opportunities for recreational activities such as camping, bicycle riding, horse riding, orienteering and fishing. Wallaby Creek will, however, complement the recreational values of these areas by controlled access being allowed into the semi-remote environment of the Buffer Area. Limited vehicle access for educational purposes and walking will be permitted within the Buffer Area subject to a permit system, including specific conditions determined by MWC. It is expected that visitor use will be very low, but the area's increased profile as a national park is likely to attract visitors.

Consistent with the Restricted Access Policy, visitor access within the Catchment Area (figure 2) is confined to scientific research and management operations, subject to compliance with stringent conditions determined by MWC. Scientific research within the Reference Areas also requires approval from the Reference Areas Advisory Committee.

There is currently little visitor information available about Wallaby Creek.

Providing for the visitor

Sightseeing and walking opportunities will be provided by rationalising the vehicle track network and developing short and medium distance day walks in the Buffer Area to link in with adjoining State Forest and Crown land.

In the interests of protecting water resources, no future development which has the potential to increase visitation will be undertaken within Wallaby Creek.

Aim

- Provide for visitors in accordance with the Restricted Access Policy.

Management strategies

- *Permit vehicle access for educational purposes and walking within the Buffer Area subject to compliance with specific conditions determined by Parks Victoria and MWC.*
- *Establish a program to determine appropriate levels of recreational activity consistent with protecting visitor experiences and park and water supply values.*
- *Prepare a walking track plan for Wallaby Creek to allow for controlled access for bushwalking within the Buffer Area.*
- *Provide short walk opportunities within the Buffer Area, and investigate providing for car parking on adjacent land in conjunction with adjoining land managers.*
- *Install appropriate signposting with direction, time and distance information on all walking tracks.*
- *Encourage all visitors to adopt minimal impact techniques and to adhere to codes of conduct appropriate to their activity.*
- *Provide appropriate information about Wallaby Creek in conjunction with the visitor information for other areas of Kinglake National Park.*
- *Liaise with the managers of adjoining land to ensure that visitor experiences interlink with Wallaby Creek.*

5.2 Visitor information and interpretation

The provision of information and interpretation will help orientate visitors, ensure that water supply values are protected,

reduce management problems and contribute to a broader community understanding and appreciation of Wallaby Creek's natural and cultural values and management objectives.

Aim

- Enhance visitors' understanding of Wallaby Creek's natural and cultural values and management policies.

Management strategy

- *Incorporate interpretation of the values and management of Wallaby Creek into information at key visitor nodes and publications for Kinglake National Park (section 3.6).*

5.3 Commercial tourism operations

Wallaby Creek's diverse natural and cultural values present opportunities for nature-based tourism. There is potential for limited commercial tours within the Buffer Area of Wallaby Creek in accordance with the Restricted Access Policy. A co-ordinated effort between tour operators and Park management would result in the provision of high quality services while ensuring that park values are protected.

Aim

- Provide opportunities for commercial tourism services consistent with management objectives.

Management strategy

- *Provide opportunities for commercial operators to conduct nature-based tours within the Buffer Area, consistent with protecting park values.*

5.4 Public safety

The climate, topography and densely vegetated landscape of Wallaby Creek present inherent dangers and risks to visitors.

Wildfire is a potential hazard during the summer period.

Victoria Police is responsible for search and rescue operations within Wallaby Creek. Such operations would usually involve Parks Victoria, the State Emergency Service and other groups under police supervision.

Aim

- Promote and encourage safe practices among staff and visitors to Wallaby Creek.

Management strategies

- *Ensure that Park staff are sufficiently trained for, and have the ability to assist in, emergency situations, and co-operate with emergency service organisations.*
- *Contribute to emergency management planning for search and rescue within Wallaby Creek.*
- *Develop an emergency response plan for Wallaby Creek.*

6 COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

6.1 Friends and volunteers

Friends and volunteers are very important assets, as they foster community support for parks. Interested groups such as the Friends of Kinglake National Park, the Friends of the Lyrebird, field naturalists, local bird observers and conservation groups make valuable contributions to management projects in other parts of Kinglake National Park and their assistance is encouraged. There may be some limited opportunities for involvement in Wallaby Creek.

Aim

- Provide for volunteer involvement in managing Wallaby Creek.

Management strategy

- *Ensure that any involvement of Friends and volunteers is co-ordinated in accordance with the Restricted Access Policy and the Management Plan for Kinglake National Park.*

6.2 Community awareness and Park neighbours

Areas of significant bushland adjacent to Wallaby Creek contain high conservation values or important corridors linking the national park and State Forest.

Land owners adjacent to Wallaby Creek should be encouraged to preserve native vegetation and fauna via the implementation of a range of protection mechanisms and incentives, and to understand the implications of their land management practices, especially in relation to weed control and domestic animal ownership.

Appropriate community involvement should be encouraged in accordance with the Management Plan for Kinglake National Park and through the Good Neighbour, Landcare and Land for Wildlife programs on adjacent private land.

Aims

- Encourage conservation and sound land management practices on private land adjoining Wallaby Creek. In particular, minimise change to relatively undisturbed native vegetation adjacent to Wallaby Creek.
- Promote a positive image of Wallaby Creek which enhances appreciation of its contribution to the community.

Management strategies

- *Encourage adjacent private property owners to protect existing native vegetation through such mechanisms as covenants on titles, section 173 agreements (Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic.)) and the Land for Wildlife Scheme.*
- *Apply, and encourage the application of, the Good Neighbour Policy to management issues on or near the boundary of Wallaby Creek (section 4.2).*

7 OTHER ISSUES

7.1 Authorised uses

Two authorities maintain facilities or activities within Wallaby Creek. In particular, certain uses previously authorised by MWC in Wallaby Creek have been permitted to continue.

Section 32K of the National Parks Act allows MWC to manage and control water supply structures and installations in Wallaby Creek. The structures and installations include reservoirs, weirs, tunnels, buildings, fences, gates, roads and tracks. MWC will also continue to maintain a fire lookout tower within Wallaby Creek in co-operation with NRE and Parks Victoria.

Victoria Police have a licence to undertake training activities within the Buffer Area of Wallaby Creek.

Aims

- Minimise the impact of public utilities and occupations on Wallaby Creek.
- Ensure appropriate use and licensing of occupations and authorised uses.

Management strategies

- *Ensure that all public utilities are authorised by a section 27 consent unless covered by an alternative licence or agreement under the National Parks Act.*
- *Encourage proposed public utility structures to be located outside Wallaby Creek.*
- *Review the licence currently held by Victoria Police in accordance with the Restricted Access Policy.*
- *Liaise with MWC to minimise the impact of structures and uses on park values.*

7.2 Boundaries and adjacent uses

Mt Disappointment State Forest abuts more than half of Wallaby Creek (figure 1) and timber harvesting will be an ongoing operation

with possible conservation, landscape, access and recreational use implications for Wallaby Creek. Some areas of the State Forest have a high recreational use. A Forest Management Plan is being prepared for the State Forest.

Private land used predominantly for grazing and rural residential development is adjacent to Wallaby Creek in the vicinity of the Toorourrong Reservoir and Whittlesea-Yea Road. Tourist related developments and activities on adjacent private land are likely to be proposed as the region's tourist potential develops. Local government planning schemes recognise and seek to preserve the area's natural values from inappropriate development.

It was recommended (LCC 1994) that the Crown land adjoining Wallaby Creek, currently vested in MWC, continue to be managed by MWC as a buffer to the catchment (figure 1). This area includes a small plantation of Californian Redwoods established in the early 1930s and considered of historical significance. Wallaby Creek Lodge and farms in the buffer have been excluded and are classified as uncategorised public land to meet future public purpose requirements.

MWC is considering a process for divesting Crown land which includes the Wallaby Creek Lodge and the Cascades Farm, but would prefer areas containing remnant vegetation to be incorporated into the Park. It is also desirable that management access and an appropriate buffer adjoining the aqueduct be maintained.

The area shown as Crown land along King Parrot Creek (figure 1) is Water Supply Reserve, but not vested in MWC. The former LCC recommended that this be managed as State Forest.

The linear area shown as Crown land to the south of Wallaby Creek is Water Supply Reserve, but not vested in MWC, and is not included in the LCC recommendations. MWC has no requirement for this land. The land is considered to be a necessary buffer to Wallaby

Creek to protect the conservation values of the catchment, but is not considered to be significant enough for addition to the Park.

Aim

- Minimise the adverse impacts of surrounding land use on park values.

Management strategies

- *Liaise with land owners and local authorities to protect both private property and public land from hazards such as fire and pest plants and animals.*
- *Liaise with the Forests Service regarding a co-ordinated approach to managing State Forest adjoining Wallaby Creek, including the LCC proposed additions, to minimise impacts on park values.*
- *Liaise with local landholders and authorities to jointly address issues affecting Wallaby Creek or adjoining land.*
- *Seek to protect Wallaby Creek against inappropriate adjacent land uses by involvement in local government planning schemes.*
- *Investigate the feasibility of incorporating the natural remnant and historically significant vegetation (including appropriate access) currently vested in MWC, into Wallaby Creek, in consultation with MWC.*
- *Seek to ensure, in consultation with NRE and MWC, that the future management of the Wallaby Creek Lodge and farms has minimal impact on Wallaby Creek and water supply values.*
- *Liaise with NRE regarding the future management of the linear Water Supply Reserve.*

8 IMPLEMENTATION

A three-year rolling implementation program will be prepared for Wallaby Creek to ensure efficient implementation of this Plan. Priorities for management are identified in table 3 as an initial step in this process.

TABLE 3 PRIORITY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	SECTION IN PLAN
Resource conservation	
Implement a vegetation monitoring program, and determine management regimes for Ecological Vegetation Classes.	3.3
Map and monitor the distribution of rare or threatened flora species.	3.3
Map and protect significant or threatened fauna.	3.4
Monitor deer populations.	3.4
Investigate conservation measures for native fish populations.	3.4
Minimise visual impacts.	3.5
Identify sites of archaeological significance.	3.6
Park protection	
Maintain the Restricted Access Policy to protect water supply values.	3.2, 4.4, 5.1
Provide input in the review of the Draft Alexandra Region Fire Protection Plan.	4.1
Survey the incidence of pest plants and animals in Wallaby Creek.	4.2
Develop and implement a pest control strategy.	4.2
Co-ordinate pest plant and animal control measures with those of adjoining landholders.	4.2, 6.2
Manage the road network.	4.4
The Park visit	
Upgrade and standardise track signposting.	4.4, 5.1
Interpret Wallaby Creek values and management at key visitor nodes and in publications for Kinglake NP.	3.6, 5.2
Provide walking opportunities in the Buffer Area.	5.1
Promote community involvement.	6.1, 6.2, 7.2

REFERENCES

- Beardsell, C. 1997, Flora of Plenty River Headwaters, (unpub).
- CNR 1995a, *Alexandra Draft Fire Protection Plan*, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Victoria.
- CNR 1995b, *Code of Practices for Fire Management of Public Land*, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Victoria.
- LCC 1994, *Melbourne Area, District 2 Review, Final Recommendations*, Land Conservation Council, Melbourne.
- Leonard, M. & Hammond, R.J. 1984, *Landscape Character Type of Victoria*, Forests Commission, Victoria.
- MMBW 1987, Stony Creek Reference Area. Victoria Reference Area Management Plan, 1st Revision, Forestry and Land Management Section, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, Victoria.
- MWC 1993, Description of Resources and Principles of Management, Catchment and Land Management, Melbourne Water, Victoria.
- MWC 1995a, Disappointment Reference Area, Victoria Reference Area Management Plan, 2nd Revision, Melbourne Water, Victoria.
- MWC 1995b, Joey Creek Reference Area. Victoria Reference Area Management Plan, 2nd Revision, Melbourne Water, Victoria.
- National Health and Medical Research Council 1987, *Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality in Australia*, Canberra.
- NPS 1995, *National Parks and Conservation Reserves Guidelines and Procedures manual*, National Parks Service, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Victoria.
- NPS 1996, *Kinglake National Park Management Plan*, National Parks Service, Victoria.
- NRE 1996, *Proposed Forest Management Plan for the Central Highlands*, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Victoria.
- NRE 1998, *Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria - 1998*, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Melbourne.
- NRE (database) 1998a, Atlas of Victorian Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Melbourne.
- NRE (database) 1998b, Flora Information System, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Melbourne.
- World Health Organisation 1993, *Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality, 2nd Ed, Recommendations Vol. 1*.
- World Health Organisation 1996, *Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality, 2nd Ed, Health Criteria and Other Supporting Information Vol. 2*.

GLOSSARY

Designated Water Supply Catchment Area	The Wallaby Creek section of the Kinglake National Park as specified in the National Parks Act and comprising the Catchment Area and Buffer Area. An Agreement (appendix I) allows MWC to manage water supply functions within the areas and to determine the necessary restrictions on human access and activity.
Catchment Area	All that land which drains into a water supply reservoir or diversion weir and which forms a component of the DWSCA.
Buffer Area	Land adjoining a Catchment Area but not draining into the water supply reservoir or diversion weir and managed as a protection zone for the Catchment Area, reservoir or weir. It forms a component of the DWSCA.
Closed Catchment Policy	This term is used to refer to the management policy as endorsed by the State Government for the DWSCA. The policy restricts human access and activity in the DWSCA in order to reduce the potential for contamination of water supplies.
Restricted Access Policy	This policy is part of the Closed Catchment Policy and is determined by MWC for the DWSCA in accordance with Section 32I of the National Parks Act. It provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no public access into the Catchment Area; - access within the Buffer Areas comprised of a limited number of walking tracks in locations and under conditions approved by MWC; and - vehicle access for educational purposes and walking access elsewhere in the Buffer Areas under a permit system and conditions as determined by MWC.

ABBREVIATIONS

CNR	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (now NRE)
DWSCA	Designated Water Supply Catchment Area
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LCC	Land Conservation Council
MWC	Melbourne Water Corporation
NPS	National Parks Service
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment

APPENDIX I GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE DESIGNATED WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT AREA

In accordance with the Catchment Management Agreement for the DWSCA of the Kinglake National Park, each party is generally responsible for the management activities as allocated in the following table. Regular liaison occurs between the parties on most issues.

MELBOURNE WATER ACTIVITIES:

- 1 Establishing policies for human access
- 2 Controlling and managing security for closed catchment areas (fences, gates, locks)
- 3 Maintaining existing roads
- 4 Controlling, managing, operating and maintaining water supply structures and installations
- 5 Constructing any new water supply structures and installations or augmenting any existing water supply structures and installations
- 6 Continuing existing hydrological research
- 7 Executing, commissioning or approving other research on water resource values.
- 8 Harvesting non-native timber.

PARKS VICTORIA ACTIVITIES:

- 1 Conserving and managing native flora and fauna
- 2 Controlling and managing visitors
- 3 Controlling and managing security for National Park facilities
- 4 Controlling and managing noxious and environmental weeds, except in or on reservoirs
- 5 Controlling and managing pest animals
- 6 Controlling and managing cultural and heritage values
- 7 Granting and managing leases, licences and other agreements
- 8 Constructing and maintaining walking tracks
- 9 Carrying out catchment rehabilitation
- 10 Executing, commissioning or approving research on national park values.

JOINT ACTIVITIES:

- 1 Preparing public information, brochures and signs
- 2 Patrolling catchment areas
- 3 Fire protection and suppression. Fire protection is the statutory responsibility of NRE. Melbourne Water assists with fire protection works, detection and first attack.

APPENDIX II RARE OR THREATENED FLORA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS	HABITAT
<i>Botrychium australe</i>	Austral Moonwort	v	HRFF
<i>Carex alsophila</i>	Forest Sedge	r	CTRF
<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>	Slender Tree-fern	r, L	CTRF
<i>Grevillea repens</i>	Creeping Grevillea	r, L	HDF/HW/BSW
<i>Persoonia arborea</i>	Tree Geebung	r	CTRF
<i>Pteris comans</i>	Netted Brake	r	CTRF
<i>Thismia rodwayi</i>	Fairy Lanterns	r, L	WF

SOURCE: NRE (database) 1998b

STATUS:

Conservation status in Victoria (NRE database 1998b).

- r Rare in Victoria, but not considered otherwise threatened.
- v Vulnerable in Victoria; rare, not presently endangered but likely to become so soon as a result of continued depletion.
- L Listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

HABITAT:

Nomenclature conforms to communities listed in the sites of faunal and habitat significance of North-East Melbourne (Beardsell 1997).

- BSW - Box – Stringybark Woodland
- CTRF - Cool Temperate Rainforest
- HDF - Heathy Dry Forest
- HRFF - Herb-rich Foothill Forest
- HW - Heathy Woodland
- WF - Wet Forest

APPENDIX III THREATENED FAUNA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS
Mammals		
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	Common Bent-wing Bat	V, L
<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Large-footed Myotis	LR
<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	Brush-tailed Phascogale	V, L
<i>Sminthopsis murina</i>	Common Dunnart	DD
Birds		
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Goshawk	LR
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	E, L
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	E, N
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	E, N
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	E, N
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	E, L
<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Nankeen Night Heron	V
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	V, N
<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Pied Cormorant	LR
<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Baillon's Crake	V, N
<i>Rallus pectoralis</i>	Lewin's Rail	E, N
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl	V, L
Fish		
<i>Galaxias olidus</i>	Mountain Galaxias	DD

SOURCE: NRE (database) 1998a

STATUS: NRE (1998)

E Endangered

V Vulnerable

LR Lower Risk - near threatened

DD Data deficient

L Listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act

N Nominated for listing under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act

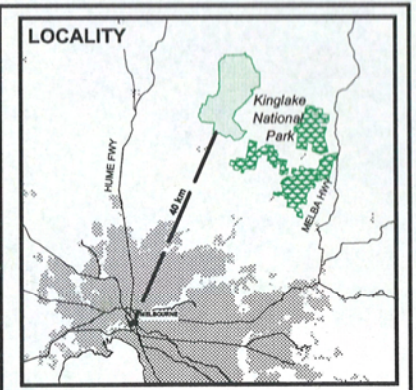
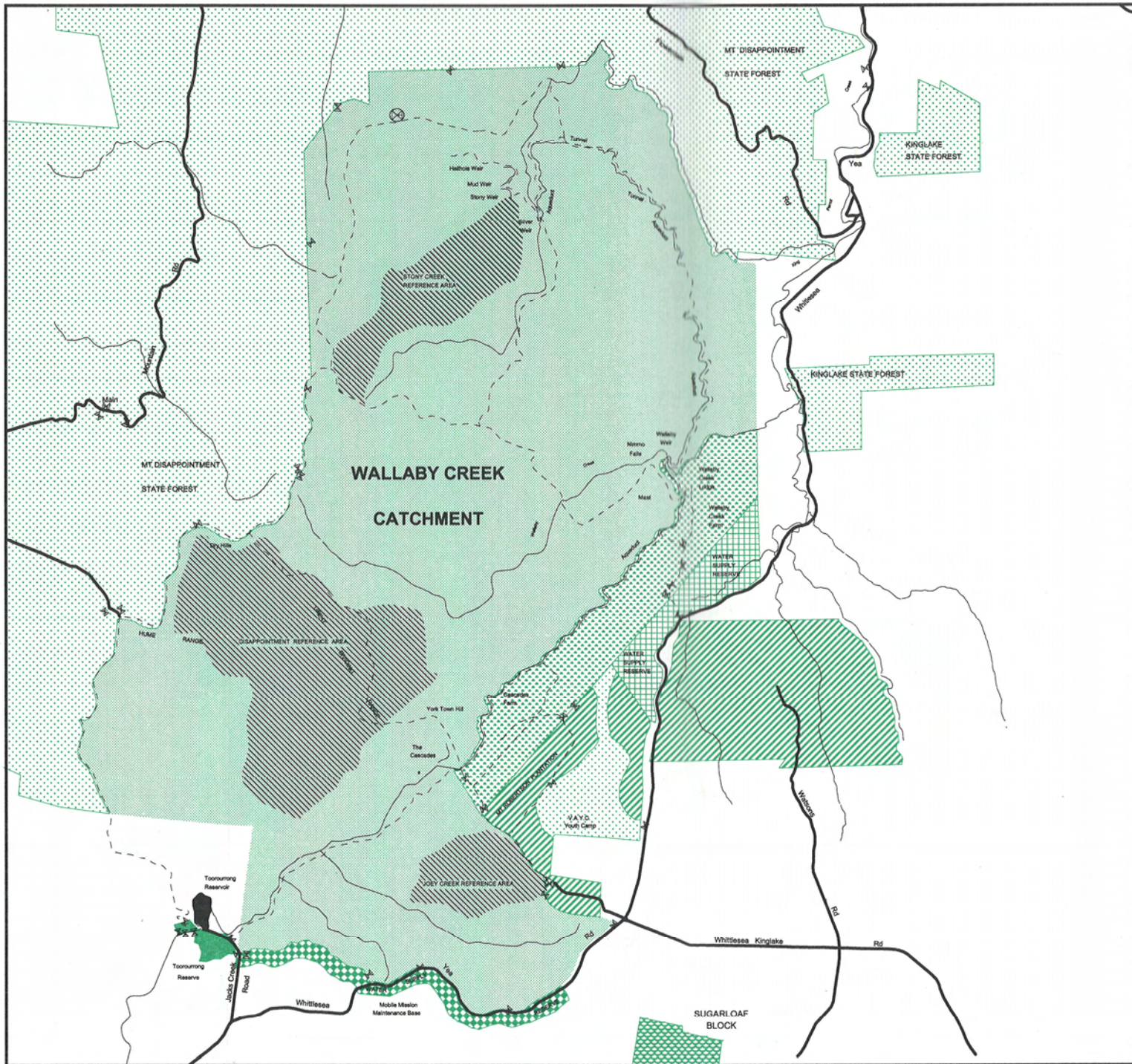


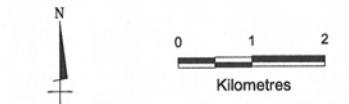
Figure 1

**WALLABY CREEK CATCHMENT
KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK**

Locality and Adjoining Land

- Wallaby Creek Catchment
- Toourrong Reservoir Park
- Melbourne Water vested land
- State forest
- Ten Chain Water Supply Reserve
- Victorian Plantation Corporation
- Crown Land Proposed as State Forest
- Part of Kinglake National Park not covered by plan

- Fire Tower
- Gate
- Reference Areas
- Major Road
- Class A Track



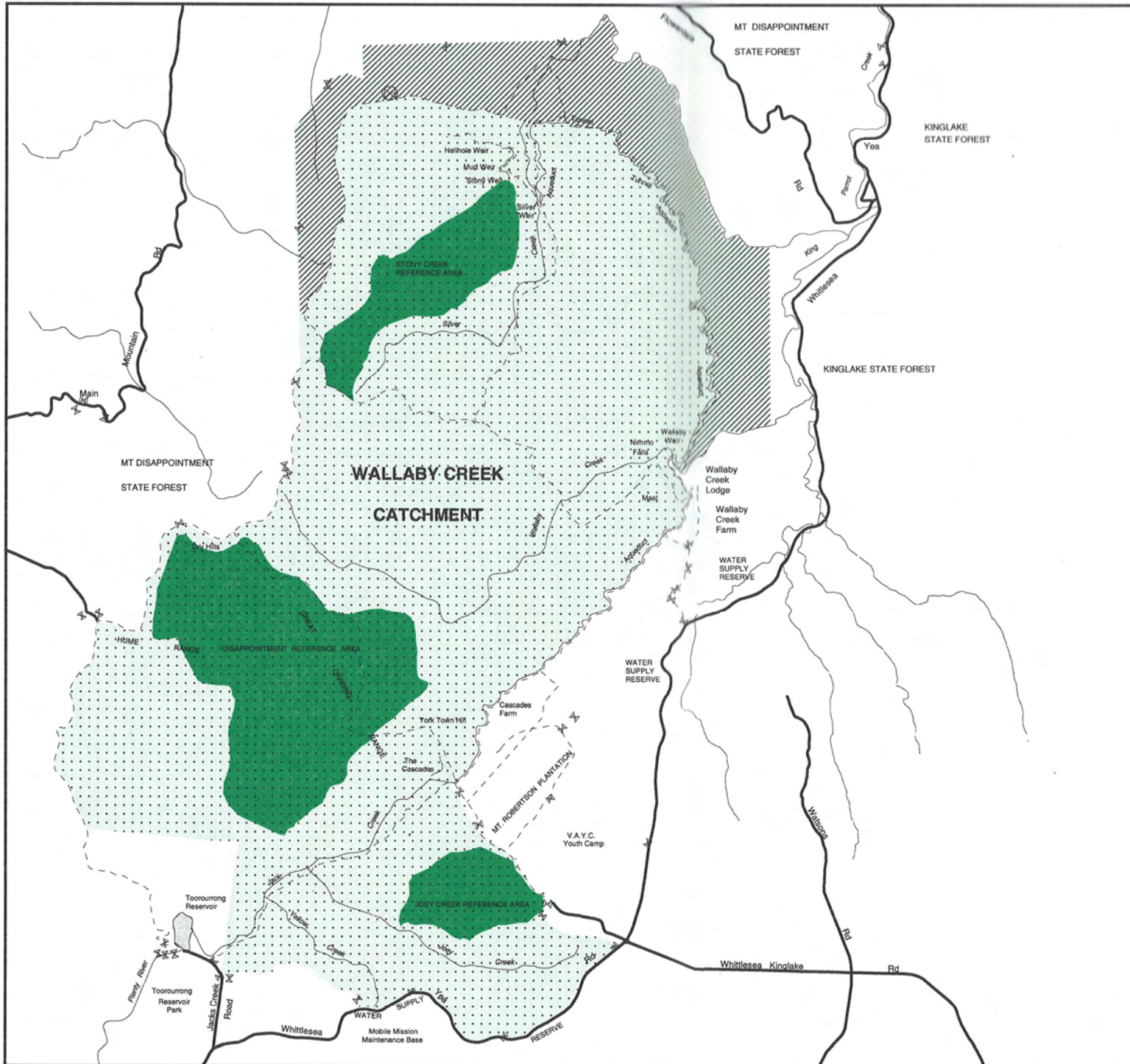


Figure 2

**WALLABY CREEK CATCHMENT
KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK**

Management Zones


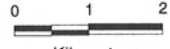
ZONES


- Reference Area
- Conservation and Water Supply Zone

OVERLAYS

- Buffer Area
- Catchment Area

- ⊗ Fire Tower
- ⊗ Gate
- Major Road
- Class A Track



 0 1 2
 Kilometres


Parks
 VICTORIA

AUSTRALIAN MAP GRID ZONE 55
 CONTOURS ARE TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM
 STATE DIGITAL MAPPING USED WITH
 PERMISSION OF GEOGRAPHIC DATA VICTORIA
 PRODUCED BY MAPPING & DATA SERVICES
 This Map Supersedes All Previous Editions

J:\MAPPING\970646\97064602.wor

25 August 1997

Figure 3

WALLABY CREEK CATCHMENT KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK

Access Management

Public Road

MANAGEMENT TRACKS

Class A Track

Class B Track

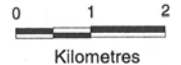
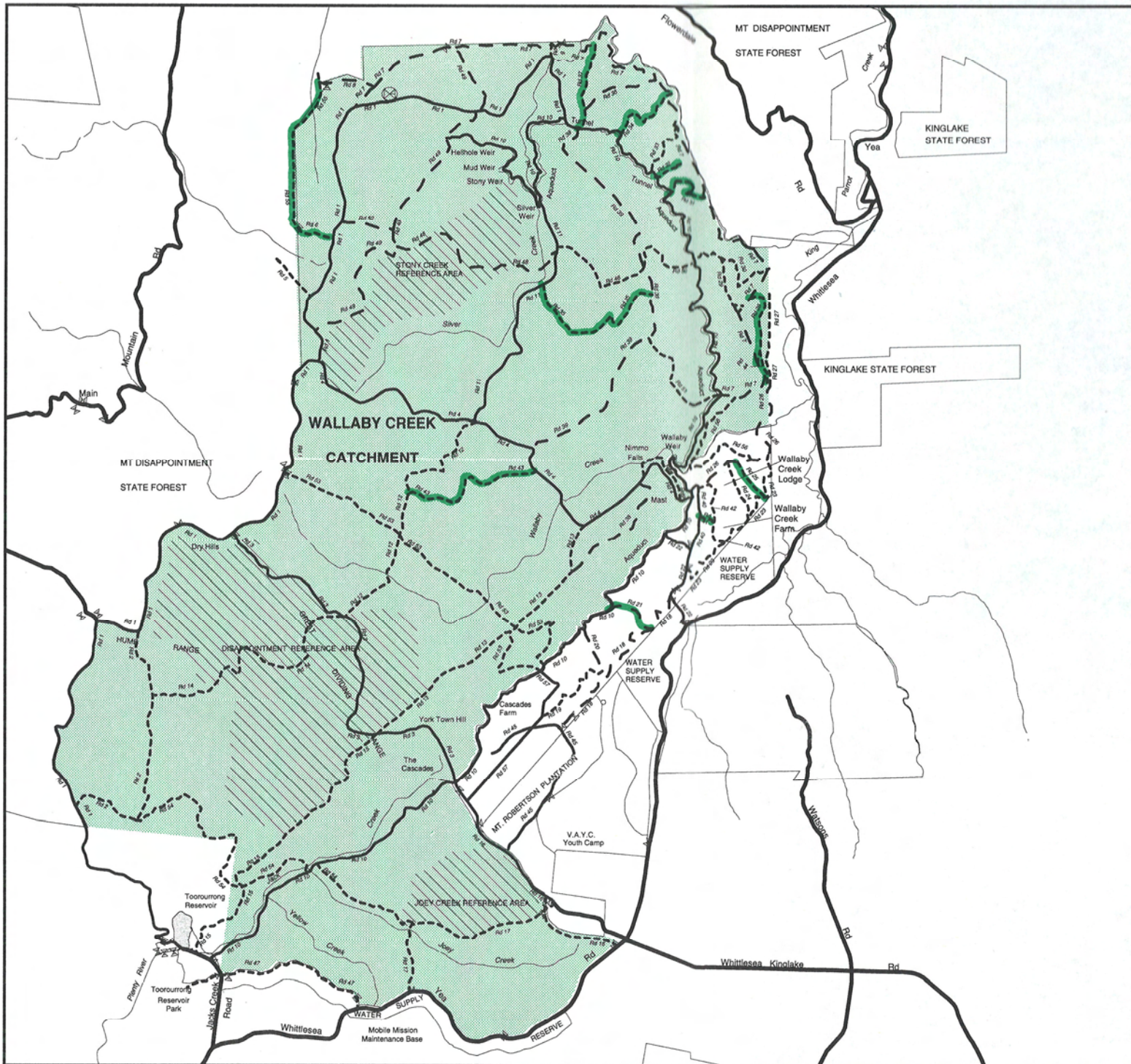
Class C Track

Proposed Closure

Fire Tower

Gate

Reference Area



AUSTRALIAN MAP GRID ZONE 55
CONTOURS ARE TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM
STATE DIGITAL MAPPING USED WITH
PERMISSION OF GEOGRAPHIC DATA VICTORIA
PRODUCED BY MAPPING & DATA SERVICES
The Map Geoprepare All Previous Editions

