

# Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd

## *..the Murray River Area Strategic Plan 2010 to 2022 ...*

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*Enhancing the river environment*

*Improving community access*

*Connecting Indigenous communities to country through co-management*

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Date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Updated: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2010



# **PARKLANDS ALBURY WODONGA ...*the Murray River area***

## **STRATEGIC PLAN 2010 TO 2022**

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## SUMMARY

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Parklands Albury Wodonga has developed a bush parks framework and philosophy based on the protection and restoration of the unused and degraded public lands in the Albury Wodonga region for conservation, recreation and heritage outcomes for the benefit of our community.

**1998 to 2010:** Our focus has been the Albury Wodonga hills and key riparian corridors, including;

- Large scale bush restoration across 1,900 hectares of degraded hill country
- 130km of environmental corridors fenced, revegetated and maintained.
- 92km of tracks, trails and basic park infrastructure established and maintained.

**2010 to 2022:** Our focus will shift to the Murray River and tributaries. Proposed actions include;

- 71km of Murray River frontages and environmental corridors to be fenced, revegetated and maintained;
- 99km of tracks and trails to provide reasonable bicycle, pedestrian, vehicle and boat access in accordance with the recreational and conservation characteristics of the locale;
- Manage visitor behaviour through community guardianship; and
- Co-management with Indigenous community.

Whilst we propose to shift our focus from the hills to the riparian landscape, there are important processes that will continue:

- **Our commitment to a “partnership culture”**, where partnerships are integral to how work gets accomplished and community connections are made. The community development “process” is as important as the “ends”.
- **Longer term bush restoration processes.** A shift in focus does not mean a withdrawal of all resources. We will continue to maintain the hill country through the philosophy of consistency over time, doing a little regularly throughout the years ensures longer term quality outcomes.
- **Adaptive management.** It is vital that we continue to monitor, review and improve, and expand the partnerships with whom we undertake this and share these learnings.
- **Community and stakeholder involvement in planning stage.** We have learnt that longer term community stewardship evolves when the regional community is involved in projects from the planning stage. This Strategic Plan identifies potential future projects and partners. In addition to implementing Stage Two riparian works, we also plan to work with the regional community, landowners and stakeholders to build new partnerships for the joint implementation of Stage Three – connecting the rivers to the hills through existing and new bio-links.

As a Slopes to Summit partner in the Great Eastern Ranges continental scale connectivity conservation project, this strategic plan identifies public land in this region where connectivity conservation will enable the expansion of the concepts of biodiversity and biological corridors to the landscape scale. The benefits include:

- **Sustainability:** Large scale landscape restoration involving a large number of people and partners, demonstrates what can be achieved when the community works together.
- **Resilience to Climate Change:** connected landscapes enable native flora and fauna to adapt.
- **Restoration of most significant waterway in inland Australia:** 37% of water in the Murray Darling Basin flows along this section of the Murray River.
- **Recreation and Tourism** are significant contributors to the economy, with around 8 million visitor days and \$970 million being spent each year along the Murray River region.
- **Healthy and Connected Communities:** Parks are a community asset that sustain our physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social health.

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# 1 PARKLANDS ALBURY WODONGA

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## 1.1 Introduction

Parklands Albury Wodonga Limited is a cross-border, not-for-profit, community managed, non-government organisation, that specialises in involving the broader community in environmental management of public bush parks. (Figure 1-1).

The development of Parklands Albury Wodonga was based on a vision to establish a series of bush parks featuring the unique, bio-diverse nature of the region. An overview of Parklands' origin is presented in Annex 3.7.

Parklands in its early years was the appointed land manager for agricultural land owned by the Albury Wodonga Corporation<sup>1</sup>. Progressively these Corporation-owned lands were developed into bush parks and have been transferred to the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, the NSW Land and Property Management Authority, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Local Councils. Through separate administration Parklands has land manager - Committee of Management - function for the riparian Crown land owned by the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment stretching from the foreshore of Lake Hume westward to a point on the Murray aligned with Barnawartha plus the Lower Kiewa River.

From the outset in 1996 it soon became evident that there was a need for a more coordinated, strategic approach for setting directions for the restoration of degraded bush parks. It was also recognised that planning would require significant input from not only the landowners, but also interested individuals from the general community, various service and special interest groups and commerce and industry.

As a consequence, a "Framework Plan" was prepared in September 1996. Over the years the Framework Plan progressively evolved into a Regional Landscape Strategy provided a long-term planning horizon for Parklands Albury Wodonga. The Landscape Strategy seeks to restore and maintain landscapes and open spaces for the region to fulfil Parklands Albury Wodonga's vision of "the most magnificent bush parks in Australia".

Stage one of the Plan focused upon the 'hills' surrounding Albury and Wodonga. This document details the second stage of the Regional Landscape Strategy - the Riverine Landscape Strategy Plan, 2010 to 2022 - with stage three bringing about a linked landscape, i.e. the hills with the riverine and its Indigenous culture. Figure 1-2 presents a perspective view of the location of these three stages with the 'Hills' being Stage one; 'Riverine' Stage two; and 'Linkages', Stage three. Figure 1-3 views these landscape units from the perspective of the landowners.

Parklands obtains essential funding for projects through government grants, corporate sponsorships and grazing licenses (Committee of Management lands). Generally, volunteers participate in the planning and management of most projects, with Parklands working alongside various groups, as well as providing policy,

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<sup>1</sup> The Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation is an Australian Government Statutory Authority established by the *Albury-Wodonga Development Act 1973*(Commonwealth). The Corporation operates with the business name "Albury-Wodonga Corporation" to reflect since 2005 it has withdrawn from land development activities.

administrative support and guidance through a network of professionals, community experts and hands-on assistance as required from Rangers. Tertiary institutions, schools, community service organisations and other specialist providers also establish partnerships with parklands and “foster” specific projects.

## 1.2 The Parklands Way

This Strategic Plan identifies both the activities, outcomes and the process of attaining those outcomes. There is nothing more powerful than expanding ownership of a vision of change or an elevated way to attain a public good. This is what gives meaning and excitement to people. This is the opportunity we have each and every day. There is wonderful genius in every community – people wanting to help bring new energy and thinking to how we might become even better stewards of resources and how we can enhance how people experience our special places. However, we have to be prepared to want to connect and provide such opportunities, and be prepared to re-align our organisations to facilitate ways for this to happen.

Parklands Albury Wodonga seeks to provide leadership and continue to make a real difference through a “partnership culture”, where partnerships are integral to how work gets accomplished and community connections are made.

**Figure 1-1: Albury Wodonga Region**

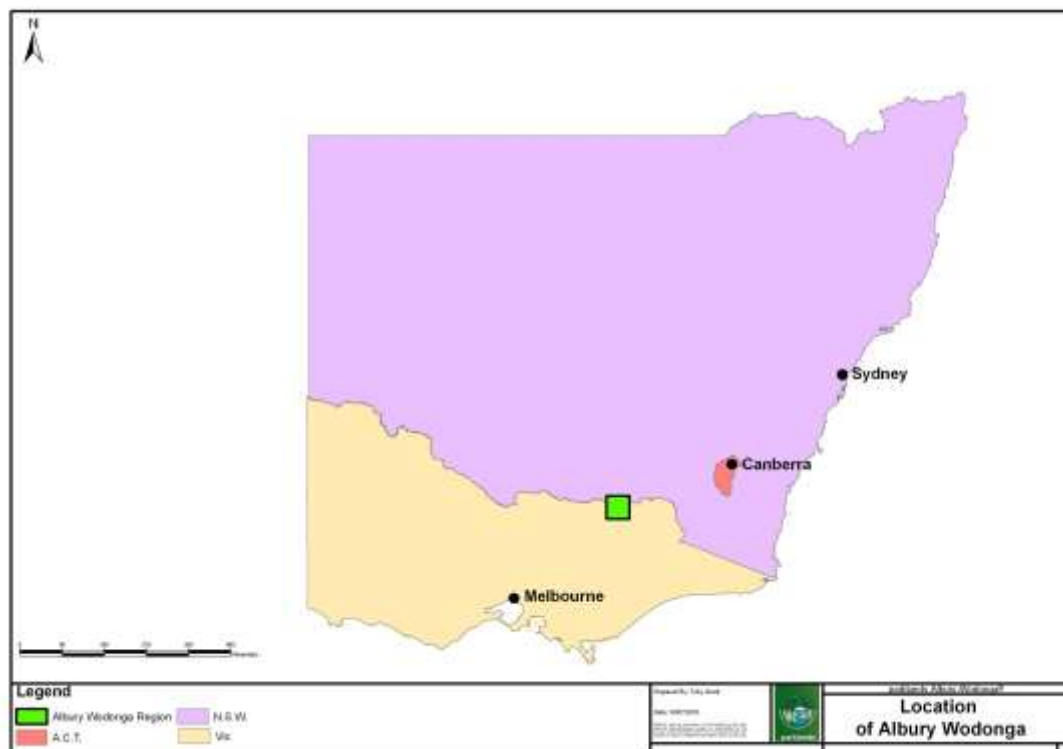


Figure 1-2: Regional Landscape Units, Albury-Wodonga Region

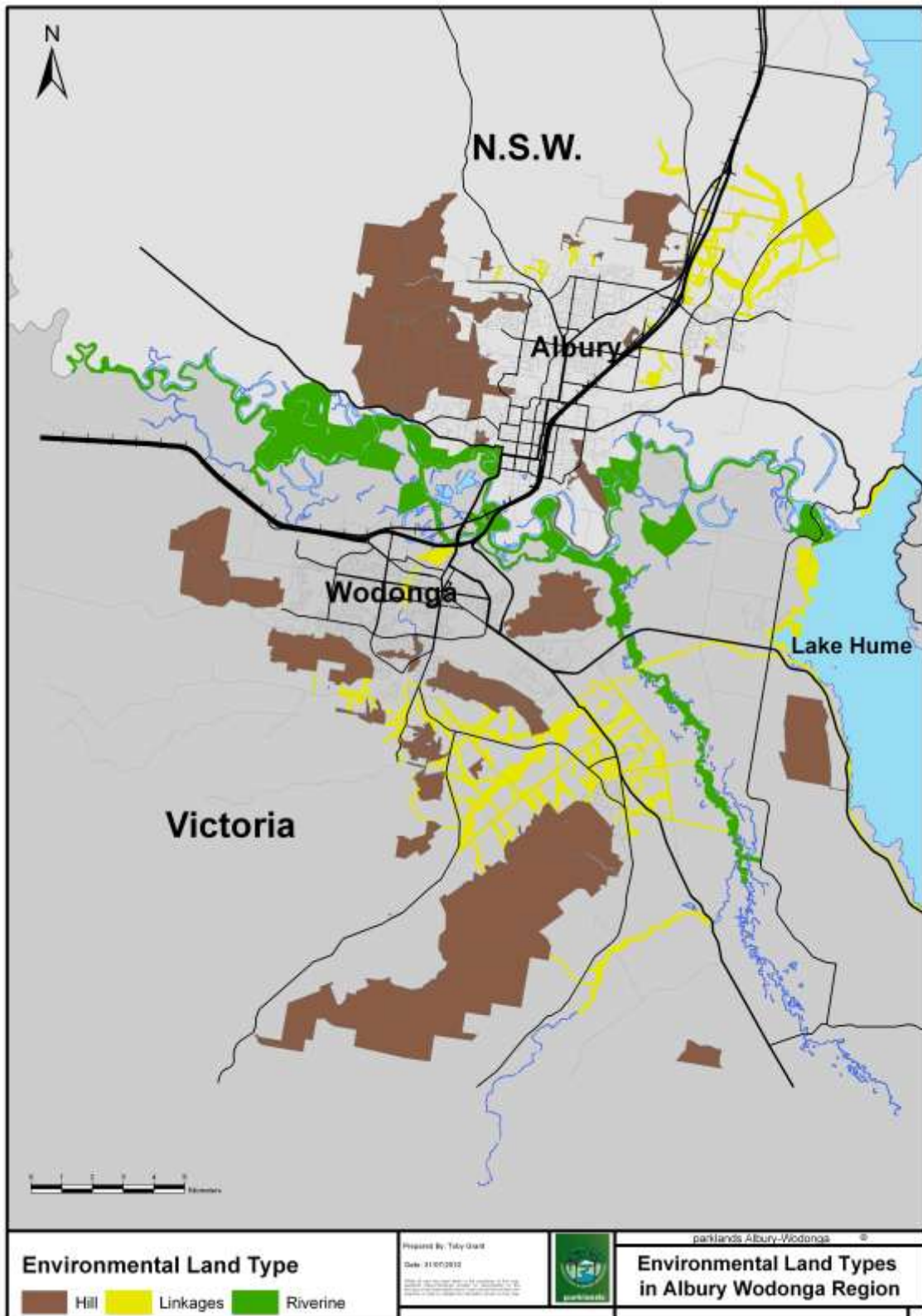
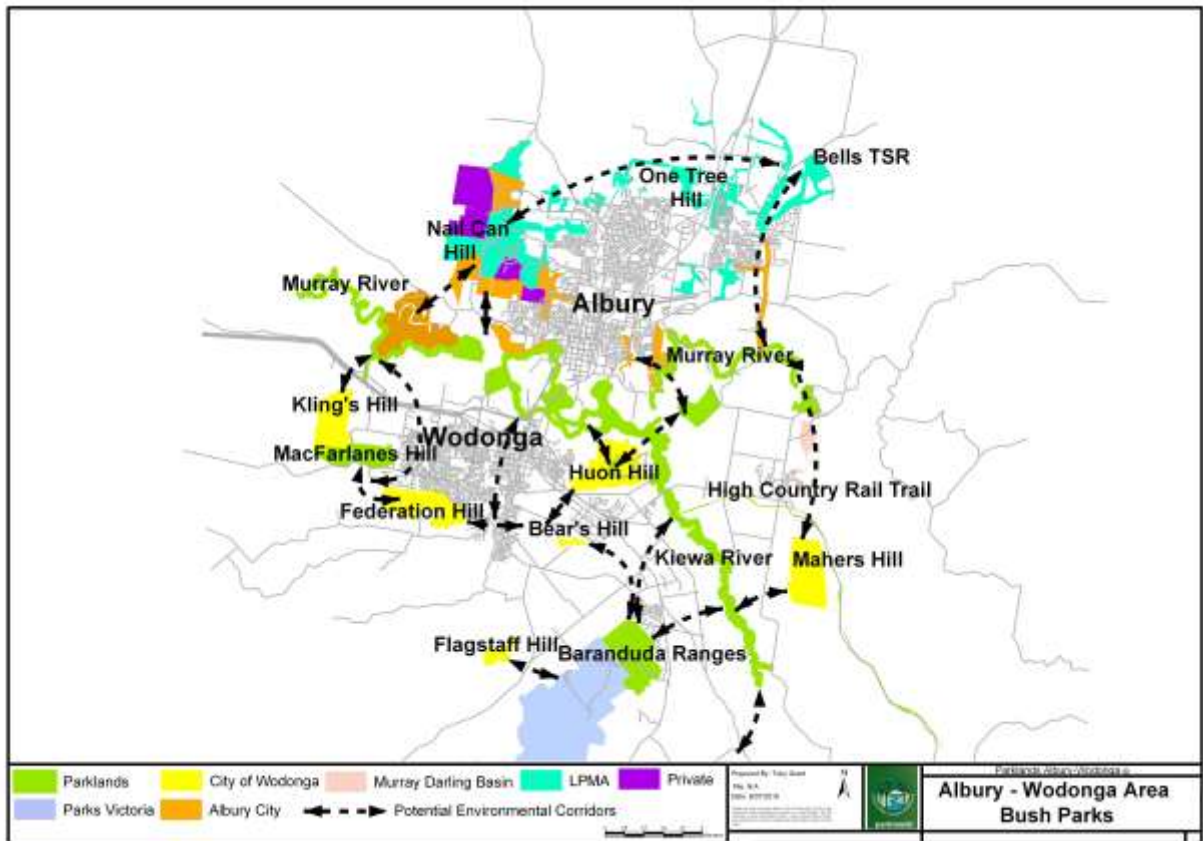


Figure 1-3: Regional Landscape units - Landowners, Albury-Wodonga Region



## 1.3 Parklands Vision, Mission, Values and Objects

### 1.3.1 Vision

Restored and diverse bush parks, supporting the spiritual and physical wellbeing of current and future generations, achieved in partnership with the Albury Wodonga regional community.

### 1.3.2 Mission

Parklands Albury Wodonga “*modus operandi*” is:

To engage the regional community in the planned and cost effective development of the bush parks with a recreational and conservation perspective.

To assist in the creation of the linkage of major parks, trails and facilities throughout all bush parks to enhance the lifestyle for everyone.

Provide services to clients as a cohesive team that are respectful, practical and apply the best available environmental, community development and cultural practices.

Outcome statements:

- Our restored bush parks are adjusting successfully to new circumstances.
- Parklands services are valued by governments, their agencies and the wider community of the Albury-Wodonga Region.
- Our diverse bush parks supporting the spiritual and physical wellbeing of current and future generations,

### 1.3.3 Values

Six core values have been identified that underpin the future planning and activities of Parklands Albury Wodonga.

These values guide the development of Parklands’ Constitution, its planning and its policies as it undertakes its journey towards achievement of its vision: ‘To establish the most magnificent bush parks in Australia’.

**Sustainability.** The principles of sustainable development ensure Parklands’ decisions are for the long term.

**Regionality and uniqueness.** The bush parks surrounding and within the urban areas of Albury-Wodonga promoted as a regional asset. These bush parks have a special significance: their open space is part of the regional structure providing diversity of recreational pursuits.

**Accessibility and availability.** Visitors seek to access the bush parks along its tracks, roads and along the waterways. These lands need to project a welcoming and user friendly face.

**Quality and enjoyment.** Parklands aims to provide quality facilities in terms of project design, quality of landscape and quality of openness to enhance the naturalness whilst providing peace and quietness experiences for visitors.



**Innovation and creativity.** Parklands will be innovative in applying techniques to protect and enhance the ecological resources of the bush parks.

**Effective use of resources.** The acceptance of 'quality' as a core value extends to the provision of value for money in what Parklands does within the bush parks.

### 1.3.4 Objects

The values held by Parklands Albury Wodonga Limited are interpreted in its constitution as eight objects:

**Object 1:** Optimising the biodiversity of the reserved land surrounding the cities of Albury-Wodonga.

**Object 2:** Educating the regional community about environmental issues and the wise use of resources such as soil, water and vegetation.

**Object 3:** Providing opportunities for volunteers and members of the general community to engage with and learn about the natural environment through the implementation of conservation works plans and programs, and the development of passive recreational opportunities in the reserves.

**Object 4:** Establishing and maintaining a public fund to be called the "Parklands Public Fund" for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objectives of parklands.

**Object 5:** Providing international best practice environment and passive recreation management guidance to the community through the setting of policies, goals and priorities, by developing appropriate plans and by monitoring on ground outcomes.

**Object 6:** Involving the community through regularly seeking their views, advice and participation.

**Object 7:** Achieving financial independence through rigorous pursuit of government funding, corporate sponsorship and commercial practices which are compatible with environmental and heritage values; and

**Object 8:** Parklands shall be organised and operated exclusively for the attainment of, and holds its assets and income on trust exclusively for those objects.

## 1.4 Riverine Landscape Goals and Strategic Overview

### 1.4.1 Context

Landscapes are the central resource of the Region offering recreation, cultural and nature conservation experiences. There are two principal landscapes within the Albury-Wodonga Region: the Hills and the Riverine.

The Riverine Landscape Plan informs and provides guidance to landowners, government agencies and the regional community on interpreting the vision for the regional parklands according to current national and state policies for the environment and current leisure trends. There are two sections to the Plan:

1. **Strategic policy framework.** The framework represents Parklands plans for improving the environmental quality and recreational pursuits within the Crown land corridor adjacent to the Murray and Kiewa Rivers. It is this area

which is referred to as the Riverine Landscapes<sup>2</sup>. These lands are connected to the low hills surrounding Albury Wodonga where the primary use was for agricultural purposes but now extends to a mixture of urban and recreational uses.

2. **Action plan.** Comprises site-specific proposals within the Riverine Landscapes that are presented in a separate document.

This plan considers land in both NSW and Victoria NSW between Lake Hume and Corowa (Refer 1.6).

The management responsibility of Parklands Albury Wodonga can only relate to those lands described within its Committee of Management (Victoria). Nevertheless in practice, the management objectives and strategies cannot be considered in isolation from any parts of adjacent land. This land could be council land or private land and contain facilities or provide visual amenity for the park user. Management strategies need to recognise the inter-relationships between adjoining land and likely land users plus service authorities to ensure a regional benefit from this resource.

The management of the parklands is also affected by other activities in the various catchments. There is no direct influence on these external activities save through community opinion and the mechanisms through local government planning schemes and local environmental plans.

## 1.4.2 Strategic themes

The case for the development of the Riverine Landscape Strategic Plan is built upon Parkland's vision, mission and objects (Section 1.3) that can be expressed within four strategic themes. These themes when translated into an **action plan** are intended to guide the stakeholders and community of the Albury-Wodonga Region over the coming years.

The four strategic themes in overview are:

The strategic theme of **ecologically sustainable landscapes** focuses on activities of repairing, protecting and maintaining the Riverine Landscape's ecology and its range of species, habitats and landscape features including the protection of the high quality of the water resource.

The strategic theme of **a positive identity** focuses on developing the Riverine Landscape's character as having a distinctive, recognisable and coherent appearance for providing visitors with memorable, pleasant and enjoyable experiences.

The strategic theme of **regional relationships and alliances** focuses on the activities that develop relationships with other people, agencies and organisations for the purposes of achieving Parkland's strategic vision for the Riverine Landscape of Albury-Wodonga.

The rivers and foreshores are extensively used for recreation during the summer months. The Riverine Landscape was home to Indigenous people. The strategic theme of **culture and heritage** for the Riverine Landscape focuses on the activities that provide sustainable forms of water-based recreation and land-based cultural and heritage interpretative experiences. (Figure 1-4).

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<sup>2</sup> Definitions provided in Glossary, Annex 3.14.

**Figure 1-4: Strategic framework for the development of Albury-Wodonga's Riverine Landscape**

<p align="center"><b>Parklands Albury Wodonga's Goals for Developing Riverine Landscape</b></p> <p>Natural environments of the Murray and Kiewa River riverine areas restored and managed in sustainable ways.</p> <p>Riverine areas providing areas for community health and wellbeing.</p> <p>'We want the riverine areas to be developed as Albury-Wodonga's' 'front garden' offering places for activity; Where people connect with water-based nature; Where there are places for reflection; and where Aboriginal culture is preserved for future generations.</p> <p>These visionary goals are realised through the mission statement of Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd.</p>			
<p>To engage the regional community in the planned and cost effective development of the regional bush parklands with a recreational and conservation perspective.</p> <p>To assist in the creation of the linkage of major parks, trails and facilities throughout all bush parks to enhance the lifestyle for everyone.</p> <p>To work as a cohesive team providing services to clients that are respectful, practical and apply the best available environmental, community development and cultural practices.</p>			
<p align="center">The visionary goals are achieved through the following four strategic themes</p>			
<p><b>2: Sustainable landscapes</b></p> <p>To enhance the biodiversity of the Riverine Landscape through community involvement.</p>	<p><b>1: A positive identity</b></p> <p>To develop a positive identity for the Riverine Landscape where visitors experience its character and importance.</p>	<p><b>3: Regional Relationships and Alliances</b></p> <p>To undertake activities that develop relationships and alliances with other agencies and organisations that serve the interests of our regional community.</p>	<p><b>4: Culture and Heritage</b></p> <p>To undertake activities supporting the harmonious use of the Riverine Landscape by our regional community.</p>
<p align="center">The four strategic goals are achieved through the undertaking of the following initiatives</p>			
<p align="center"><b>Major Initiatives</b></p>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance, enhancement and creation of habitats.</li> <li>Restoration and management of land adjacent to water courses.</li> <li>Production of management plans for all areas of high conservation.</li> <li>Implement good design and management practices.</li> <li>Engagement of community in management and conservation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult comprehensively with community and involve community in producing plans that bring to the fore the intrinsic naturalness of the Landscape.</li> <li>Adopt a distinctive coherent signage program.</li> <li>Improve visitor parking, amenities and entrances.</li> <li>Address the interface issues between the landscapes, i.e. create visually attractive edges.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop cooperative programs with adjoining landowners / managers.</li> <li>Seek out opportunities for Parklands to be the appointed land manager.</li> <li>Facilitate formation of complementary cross-border programs with State and Local agencies.</li> <li>Facilitate formation of a cross-border land and water recreation entity.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Indigenous cultural experiences for visitors in partnership with Aboriginal bodies.</li> <li>Facilitate development of appropriate outdoor cultural and heritage experiences where visitors are immersed in the values of the Landscape.</li> <li>Develop plans for the uses and activities especially water that contribute to the Landscapes image and purposes.</li> </ol>
<p align="center"><b>Key Outcomes</b></p>			
<p>A community proud of its ecologically improved and integrated Riverine Landscape linked to the features of the Albury-Wodonga Region.</p>	<p>Positive word-of-mouth experiences encouraging visitors throughout the seasons.</p>	<p>Increasing number of relationships and alliances that lead to ecological and visitor benefits.</p>	<p>Community partakes of culture and heritage interpretations and supportive of water and land uses that are physically suitable.</p>

### **1.4.3 Parklands Performance Indicators**

The Regional Landscape Strategy - Strategic Plan: 2010 to 2022 - based on Parkland Albury Wodonga's knowledge and experience will add considerable new opportunities for the enhancement of the region. Given the degraded condition of these water frontages, it will also take time and resources to restore these corridors and establish recreational facilities.

By 2022, it is anticipated that the sum of all community assets will include:

- 90% of the water frontage land will have been fenced and revegetated.
- 199km of environmental fences and associated environmental restoration works will have been completed across 2 300 hectares of land.
- 191km of recreational tracks established, maintained and marketed through partnerships with regional stakeholders, user groups and the tourism industry.

## **1.5 Benefits of a Strategic Plan**

### **1.5.1 Basin Benefits**

Achieving the revegetation and restoration of the ecological integrity of the River Murray corridor is a long term aim that accords with National and Murray-Darling Basin environmental policies. What is special about this Strategic Plan is its community-lead initiatives are at a landscape level within the most densely populated locality of the Murray Valley. The actions seek to achieve:

- Improved water quality;
- wetland recovery;
- floodplain stability;
- enhancement of nationally threatened landscapes; and
- a stable environment with capacity to adjust to climate change thereby providing refuge and adaptability options for wildlife.

### **1.5.2 Regional Benefits**

Planning for the riverine landscape was seen as an important element in the planning of Albury-Wodonga Growth Centre. The Murray River flood plain which separates the two urban centres 'has the potential to provide a central recreational and aesthetic area for the urban complex'. (Albury Wodonga Development Corporation Report) Regionally, the actions seek to provide benefits that are a mix of social, cultural and environmental:

- Greater and improved access to recreation areas;
- greater access to riparian and wildlife corridors;
- improved tourism opportunities through an enhanced regional landscape;
- increased recognition and value of Indigenous cultural heritage through appropriate interpretation and trail development; and
- a more stable river environment.

### 1.5.3 Continental scale connectivity conservation (Great Eastern Ranges)

In addition to the riparian landscape, this strategic plan also identifies longer term environmental restoration programs incorporating both NSW and Victorian public land, together with the resources and partners with whom to implement this plan.

Through the joint planning and allocation of resources, the longer term benefits are endless;

- Support community led projects, which continue to be maintained as a consequence of active involvement, community use and appreciation.
- Implement longer term, large scale environmental restoration works as a partner in the Slopes to Summit, Great Eastern Ranges conservation corridor.

## 1.6 Action Plan

In this Strategic Plan, we have identified opportunities to apply the principles of this plan holistically across jurisdictions and catchments. It is for this reason that this Strategic Plan has been broken into three Sections:

**Section One** – Victorian land where Parklands Albury Wodonga has management responsibilities (Precincts A to D);

**Section Two** – NSW land where Parklands Albury Wodonga has no responsibility but has been working in partnership with stakeholders on some of the Precincts E to I land parcels;

**Section Three** – Victorian land where Parklands Albury Wodonga has no responsibility but has been working in partnership with stakeholders on some of the Precincts J to O land parcels.

**Table 1-1: Action Plan Overview**

Precinct	Description	Landowner	Size (ha)	River Frontage
A to D	Victorian Murray River frontages & tributaries, bio-links & Wodonga Hills	Crown (DSE)	2300	120km
E to G	NSW Murray River frontages & sections of Lake Hume foreshore	NSW Crown & Council	1,600	
H to I	NSW Regional Bio-links (Nail Can Hill, Black Range, Threatened Species Corridors, Travelling Stock Reserves, Albury creeks and Hume & Hovell corridor)	NSW Crown & Council	2,600	
J to L	Victorian Murray River frontages (Barnawartha to Corowa) & sections of foreshore of Lake Hume	Victorian Crown		140km
M - O	Victorian Regional Bio-links (Wodonga Hills, WRENS, Creeks, Kiewa River & Yackandandah Creek)	Victorian Crown & Council		60km

An overview of the specific actions is presented below.

## 1.7 Section One –Victorian Crown Land

This is crown land where Parklands Albury Wodonga is the appointed Committee of Management. Detailed descriptions and maps of specific land parcels, proposed works and budgets for ongoing management are included in the Appendices.

### 1.7.1 Precinct A – Victorian Murray River frontages

Community Involvement	Expand network of partners. Currently sections of the river adopted by Bidja Bila Landcare Group, Hume Building Society, Apex Tools (Cooper Hand Tools), Department of Justice, SmartAir and North Albury Rotary.
Recreational facilities	Establish basic walking track from Lake Hume to Barnawartha 3 footbridges over creeks required. Option in longer term of another 7 low level crossings or footbridges
Biodiversity measures	Maintain and enhance revegetated corridors. Focus for initial years will be on broadleaf (winter and summer blackberry) and fence repairs. Crash grazing to be closely monitored.
Fire Prevention	Biannual spray and slash of access track along corridor. Crash graze by Year 4

### 1.7.2 Precinct B – Kiewa River frontages

Community Involvement	Establish Tangambalanga Friends Group through involvement with recreational fishing track project
Recreational facilities	Maintain recreational fishing track Potential for footbridge linking crown land area Negotiate access through Defence and North East Water owned land (license or easement arrangement) for gap from Killara to Boyes Rd
Biodiversity measures	Stage riparian fencing and revegetation of Upper Kiewa with interest from Friends Group, given the high maintenance required for the initial years.
Fire Prevention	Biannual spray and slash of access track along corridor. Crash graze each spring

### 1.7.3 Precinct C – Wodonga Hills

Community Involvement	Support Baranduda Landcare Group. Build relationship with Felltimber Creek Landcare Group Build relationship with Albury Wodonga Mountain Bike Club for management of mountain bike precinct
Recreational facilities	Maintain existing walking track network. Community to lead development of future tracks. Support Albury Wodonga Mountain Bike Club in development of mountain bike park

Biodiversity measures	Maintain and enhance reserves with focus on pest plant and animal control
Fire Prevention	Biannual spray and slash of walking tracks and fire trails. Slash urban fringe where possible in late spring. Environmental burn every five years, depending on resources.

#### **1.7.4 Precinct D – Regional Bio-Links**

Community Involvement	Support Bonegilla Rail Trail Advisory Group, Tallangatta Rail Trail Advisory Group and Koetong Shelley Development Association. In medium term, build relationship with Cudgewa community.
Recreational facilities	Maintain existing 55km rail trail corridor. Upgrade 3 trestle bridges & install 1 low level footbridge in short term. Low level crossings at 12 other timber trestle bridges in medium term. Restore one or two timber trestle bridges in longer term.
Biodiversity measures	Maintain and enhance corridor with focus on pest plant and animal control. In medium term 15km of fencing and revegetation (Darbyshire). In longer term another 20km of fences and revegetation (Cudgewa).
Fire Prevention	Biannual spray and slash of track. Slash five metre strips at occupational crossings to establish breaks along linear corridor. Environmental burn every 3 years (important for native grasses)

## 1.8 Section Two – NSW Partnerships

The partnerships proposed in Precinct E are for land that is either owned by Albury City Council or where Albury City Council is the appointed Trustee for NSW Crown land. We also identify opportunities to work in partnership with Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) and Goulburn Murray Water (GMW). Through these potential partnerships, Parklands Albury Wodonga can assist Albury City Council to achieve its 2030 Vision for the Murray River Experience Trail.

The partnerships proposed in Precinct F are for land that is either owned by Albury City Council or LPMA. The proposed partnerships build on and expanding the existing service agreement arrangements with Albury City Council, Albury Wodonga Corporation and proposed service agreement arrangement with the Land and Property Management Authority.

### 1.8.1 Precinct E, F & G – NSW Murray River frontages

Community and Stakeholder Involvement	Albury City Council, Greater Hume Shire and Corowa Shire Land and Property Management Authority Goulburn Murray Water Involve Landcare Groups (Thurgoona, Table Top, Splitters Creek, Bungowannah and Corowa), Service Clubs, Workplaces, Schools, etc
Recreational facilities	Establish basic walking track and amenities Work with Albury City Council to implement Murray River Experience Work with Murray Darling Association to implement Murray River Trail (utilizing existing tracks, trails and local road network)
Biodiversity measures	Maintain and enhance revegetated corridors. Lake Hume foreshore restoration focused on sites which link in with Albury City Council's Murray River Experience Trail Focus for initial years will be on broadleaf (winter and summer blackberry), pest animal control and fence repairs. Monitor crash grazing
Fire Prevention	Support relevant landowners and Rural Fire Brigade Service as required

### 1.8.2 Precinct H & I – NSW Regional Bio-links/Slopes to Summit

Community and Stakeholder Involvement	Land and Property Management Authority Albury City Council and Greater Hume Shire Support Bungambrawartha Creek Care, Splitters Creek Landcare and Thurgoona / Woolshed Creek Landcare Groups Involve Landcare Groups, Service Clubs, Workplaces, Schools and others
Recreational facilities	Upgrade distance and directional signage along fire trails and tracks Develop recreation maps in partnership with user groups Ongoing relationship with Albury Wodonga Mountain Bike Club
Biodiversity measures	Stage woody weed control, fencing and revegetation with interest from Friends Group and community, given the high maintenance required for the initial years.
Fire Prevention	Support relevant landowners and Rural Fire Brigade Service as required



## 1.9 Section Three –Victorian Partnerships

The partnerships proposed in Precinct J to O are for land that is either owned by City of Wodonga, North East Water or the Victorian Government (Department of Sustainability and Environment). The proposed partnerships either build on and expand existing service agreement arrangements or identify future potential joint projects.

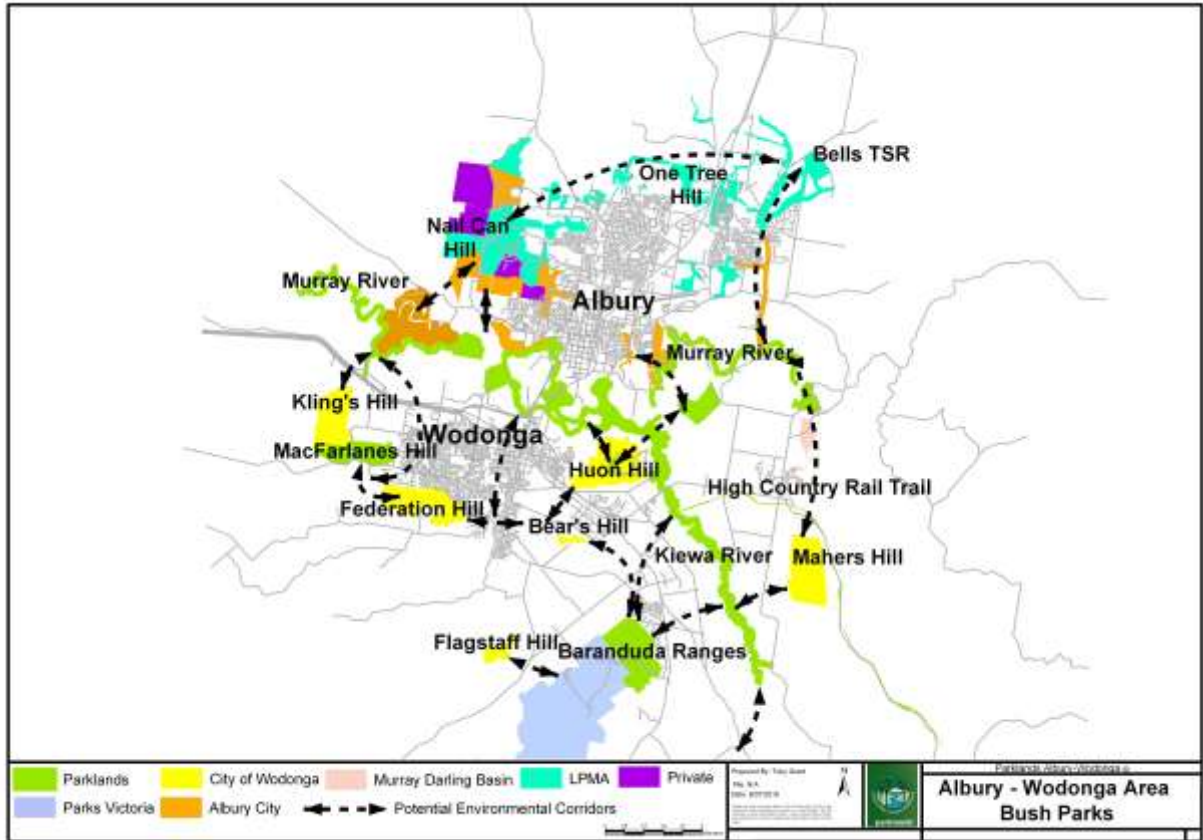
### 1.9.1 Precinct J to L – Victorian Murray River frontages

Community and Stakeholder Involvement	Department of Sustainability and Environment Goulburn Murray Water City of Wodonga
Recreational facilities	Extend existing walking track network. Community to lead development of future tracks. Work with Border Bushwalking Club & others to develop track booklet(s)
Biodiversity measures	Maintain and enhance reserves with focus on pest plant and animal control
Fire Prevention	Support relevant landowners and Country Fire Authority as required.

### 1.9.2 5.3.2 Precinct M to O – Victorian Regional Bio-Links

Community and Stakeholder Involvement	Department of Sustainability and Environment City of Wodonga Indigo and Towong Shire Council Fisheries Victoria North East Catchment Management Authority North East Water
Recreational facilities	Maintain and extend existing walking track network. Community to lead development of future tracks. Support Albury Wodonga Mountain Bike Club track development Work with Border Bushwalking Club & others to develop track booklet(s)
Biodiversity measures	Maintain and enhance corridors with focus on pest plant and animal control. In medium term, further restoration, fencing and revegetation.
Fire Prevention	Support relevant landowners and Country Fire Authority as required

The map below illustrates the longer term strategy.



## 2 PUBLIC LAND IN ALBURY-WODONGA REGION

The Albury Wodonga region is situated on the border between Victoria and New South Wales. (Figure 1-1). Subsequently it has a large number of local and state government land management agencies as well as three Federal Government bodies, the Albury Wodonga Corporation, Department of Defence and Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

There is currently over 10 000 hectares of public land in the local government areas of Albury-Wodonga. (Figure 2-1). Table 2-1 records the landowners and managers of these lands as at October 2010, within a 20km radius of Albury Post Office.

**Table 2-1: Environmental Public Lands - Area and Manager**

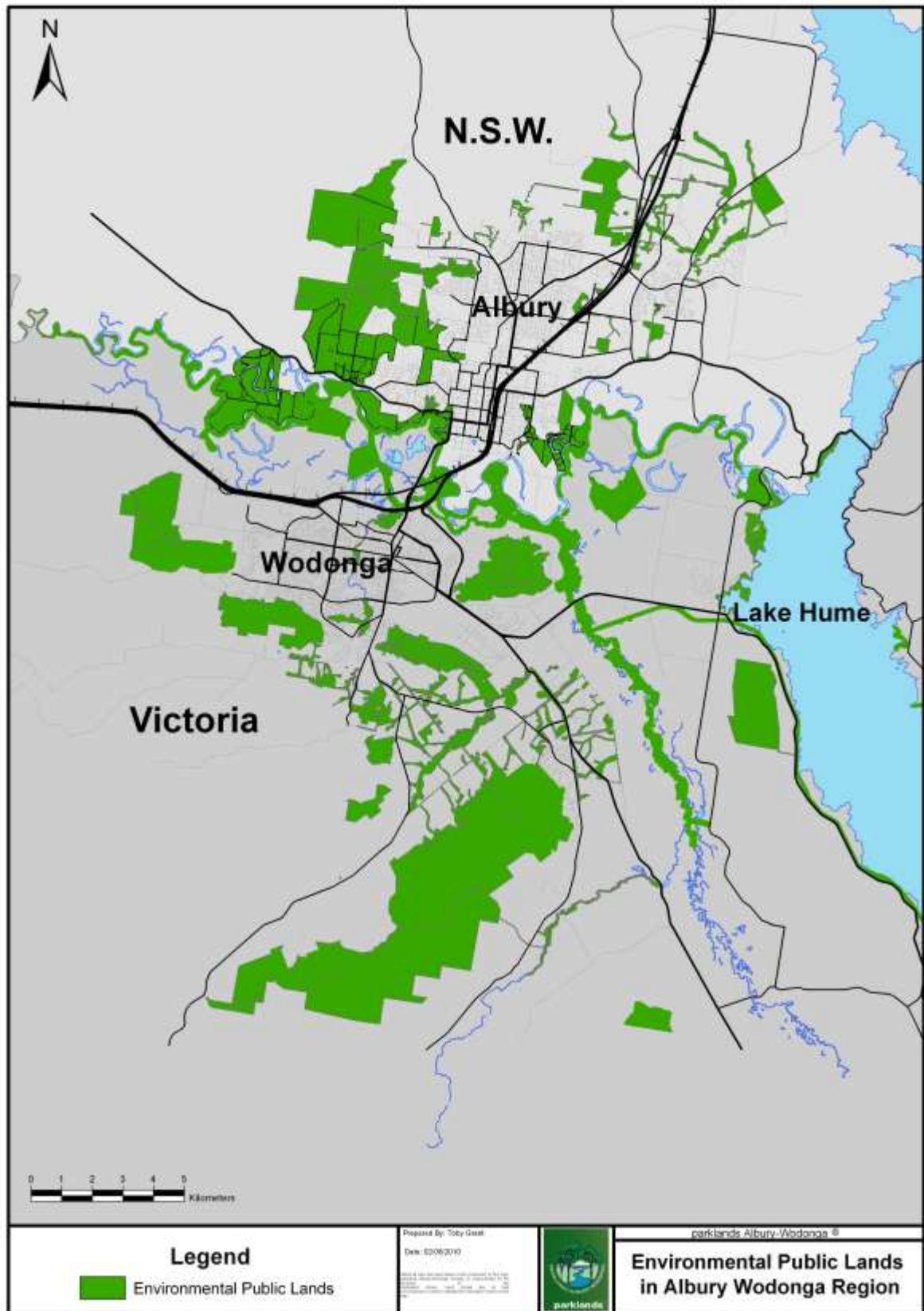
<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Hectares</b>	<b>Landowner</b>	<b>Land Manager</b>
Murray River & tributaries	1 338	DSE	Parklands Albury Wodonga
Wodonga Hills	662	DSE	Parklands Albury Wodonga
Threatened Species Corridors	687	LPMA	Parklands Albury Wodonga projects
Wodonga Hills (WRENS)	100	DSE	Parklands Albury Wodonga negotiating
Wodonga Hills	1 200	City of Wodonga	City of Wodonga Parklands Albury Wodonga projects
Wodonga Hills (WRENS)	300	City of Wodonga	City of Wodonga
Wodonga Hills (Baranduda)	2 000	DSE	Parks Victoria
Murray, Bush & Roadside Reserves	300	Albury City	Albury City Parklands Albury Wodonga projects
Murray River Reserves	200	LPMA	Albury City Parklands Albury Wodonga projects
Nail Can Hill	400	LPMA	Albury City Parklands Albury Wodonga projects
Murray River Reserves	1 400	LPMA	Travelling Stock Reserves
Nail Can Hill	1 600	LPMA	LPMA
Nail Can Hill	200	Private	Bush Heritage
<b>Total Hectares</b>	<b>10 387</b>		

### Abbreviations

DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment (Victoria)
LPMA	Land and Property Management Authority (NSW)
WRENS	Wodonga Retained Environmental Network Conservation Strategy <sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> See Annex 3.7 for background to this Strategy.

Figure 2-1: Environmental Public Lands, Albury-Wodonga Region



## 2.1 Achievements

Parklands Albury Wodonga has developed a regional parks framework and philosophy based on the protection, restoration and development of public bush reserved lands in the Albury Wodonga region for conservation, recreation and heritage outcomes. Parklands guiding principles are outlined in Annex 3.1, Annex 3.2 and Annex 3.6.

Over the past 14 years, i.e. 1996 to 2009, the strategic open space plan has been implemented in response to opportunistic funding and in response to community led projects. Activities over these years were guided by a September 1996 Framework Plan developed by Parklands Albury Wodonga. The majority of the restoration and park infrastructure activities have been focussed on the hills that encompass Albury-Wodonga. Ownership and on-going management for most of these lands has, or is being transferred to local and state governments. Other sites have been restored to a stage where ongoing maintenance will require fewer resources.

Major landscape achievements during the Framework Plan years include:

- Large scale bush restoration across 1 900 hectares of degraded hill country;
- 130km of riparian and environmental corridors fenced, revegetated and maintained; and
- 92km of tracks, trails and park infrastructure, established and maintained.

Over the past 14 years Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd has implemented a strategic open space plan based on the inner hills and valleys in the Albury Wodonga region. This included;

- Bush restoration of the main hills surrounding Albury-Wodonga (McFarlanes, Federation, Huon, Baranduda and Nail Can Range area). The scale of works included in excess of 124km's stock exclusion fences; 513,000 seedlings planted; 100's of hectares of woody weeds hand removed and considerable winter and summer broadleaf weed control (chemical, biological and mechanical);
- Created 35km's of pathways, lookouts, facilities, information shelters and maps;
- River frontage restoration and pathways along the lower Kiewa River, portions of the River Murray in the Gateway Island and Padman Park areas, and important tributaries including Six, Seven, Eight and Nine Mile Creeks;
- Developed the High Country Rail Trail (revegetation, construction of 3 new footbridges and upgrades to 4 existing footbridges; track surface upgrades, signage, barriers and railway platform restoration works);
- Heritage building restoration and conservation works to the 18 heritage buildings at the Bonegilla Migrant Experience Heritage Park; developed visitor services; produced information booklets, website and promotional information; organised Back to Bonegilla community events and secured National Heritage listing for the site.

This work has been implemented in partnership with Community, Councils, Agencies, Businesses and Governments with \$11.1 million worth of volunteer hours contributed by the regional community during this time.

## 2.2 Community Development in Action

Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd has worked in partnership with the regional community to develop and manage nine key bushland parks. This role has been very much a community-led, hands-on, in-the-field partnership;

**Baranduda Parklands (406ha)** Threatened Box Gum Grassy Woodland ecological vegetation community. Managed in partnership with Baranduda Landcare Group.

**Bonegilla Migrant Experience Heritage Park (20ha)** listed on the National Heritage Register in December 2007. Managed in partnership with the Bonegilla Migrant Experience Steering Committee, Albury Library-Museum and City of Wodonga.

**Eight Mile Parklands (650ha)** Transformed from degraded farmland into the higher conservation value Thurgoona Threatened Species Conservation Network. Managed in partnership with Riverina Institute of TAFE and Regional Skills Inc.

**High Country Rail Trail (250ha)** 57km of 112km accessible to public. Projected to become one of the six top rail trails in Australia. Managed in partnership with the Bonegilla Rail Trail Advisory Group, Tallangatta Rail Trail Advisory Group & Koetong Shelley Development Association.

**Huon Hill Parklands (380ha)** Threatened Box Gum Grassy Woodland ecological vegetation community. Developed by Wodonga Rotary Clubs, Indigenous community, Border Bushwalking Club, Corrections Victoria and many other groups. Managed in partnership with Wodonga City Council.

**Kiewa River Parklands (200ha)** 8kms of restored floodplains said to be “of state-wide significance due to its floristic diversity”.

**Kiewa River Upper (125ha)** 25kms of riparian land currently licensed for grazing. To be restored incrementally as and when funding secured. Stock-proof pedestrian gates installed to facilitate 21kms public access for recreational fishing.

**McFarlanes Hill Parklands (256ha)** One of only two remaining habitats for the threatened Swansonia Pea in North East Victoria. Developed in partnership with local Indigenous community and Wodonga TAFE.

**Murray River frontages (25km)** Developed in partnership with Bidja Bila Landcare Group, Rotary Club of North Albury, Hume Building Society, Corrections Victoria, Cooper Hand Tools, Smart Air and others. Working to establish Groups to adopt sections of river frontage and drive future restoration and recreational infrastructure development.

**Padman Park (15ha)** Degraded woody weed and pest infested riverine reserve that has involved over 20,000 volunteer hours over the past five years in natural area restoration works. Managed in partnership with Friends of Padman-Mates Park.

**Nail Can Hill, Eastern Hill and Mungabareena Reserve (400ha)** Bush restoration and walking track maintenance. Managed in partnership with Albury City Council and regular volunteers.

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## **ANNEX 3.1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES – LAND MANAGEMENT**

Environmental restoration involves using targeted management techniques to facilitate the restoration of degraded landscapes for biodiversity. Management should involve identifying and removing degrading processes that are impacting on a site. Once these have been addressed, management techniques should be designed in such a way as to aid and enhance the natural regeneration of indigenous vegetation and reduce, over time, the level of input required by the land manager.

### **Annex 3.1.1 Stock Grazing**

Stock grazing has had a negative impact on the biodiversity of the Albury Wodonga region. Throughout European colonization most of the lower lying lands and a significant area of the hills have been cleared. However it has been continual grazing (particularly by domestic stock, and to some degree by rabbits, kangaroos and wallabies) that has limited the natural regeneration of the native flora. This in turn has an impact on the fauna.

Although stock grazing generally has a negative impact on biodiversity levels, this impact is different across the landscape and at different grazing pressures. Grazing in the hills tends to have a greater impact than grazing on the river flats. This is primarily due the productivity levels at these different sites.

High productivity levels on the floodplain and a greater intensity of management, have promoted introduced perennial grasses such as *Phalaris (Phalaris aquatica)* and *Paspalum (Paspalum dilatatum)*. Low level grazing in areas where tree and shrub cover already exists can produce some environmental benefit as it opens up the area allowing for easier spraying of weeds such as blackberries. Incidental observed evidence also suggests that stock preferentially graze on the introduced grasses over the indigenous perennial grass tussocks. This may give the indigenous species the ability to increase in number, particularly if this includes the removal of competition, via herbicide, of immediately surrounding exotics.

Low productivity on the hill country results in shrubs that are generally lower in height and often within the browse line of domestic stock. Furthermore the lower productivity increases the recovery period for the vegetation and can favour the growth of fast growing annuals (often weedy grasses or broadleaves) at the expense of native perennial species.

Strategic grazing along the river flats and higher productivity lands can be of a beneficial nature for biodiversity and should be used where appropriate, however grazing on the hills should be limited.

### **Annex 3.1.2 Fire**

Although fire is an intrinsic risk living in southern Australia, it does not mean that it is necessary to manage native bushland for the singular purpose of reducing this risk. Strategic and carefully controlled grazing, slashing and controlled burns can significantly reduce the risk posed to assets in close proximity to the reserve lands while not having an overly detrimental affect on biodiversity.

Management techniques can therefore involve the slashing or burning across sections of 'corridor' parcels to create a fire break. Burning in this manner will have the additional benefit of creating a patchwork landscape of burnt, regenerating and unburnt parcels, mimicking pre-European fire conditions.



Controlled burning of naturally timbered land creates opportunities for orchids and native grasses to regenerate. Burns also create areas of disturbed bare ground where weeds such as Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*) will re-establish thickly. After burns have occurred in a location, selective spraying of weed species will most likely be required.

Detailed fire management for the various precincts is documented in Parklands Albury Wodonga's Fire Management Plan (refer appendices).

### **Annex 3.1.3 Pest Plant and Animal Control**

A weed is a plant occurring in an undesirable location. From a bush restoration perspective, weeds are species that are not indigenous to the area. To be able to remove all weeds from environmental lands is, in the majority of cases, impossible. Therefore a system is necessary to allocate scarce resources to get the most efficient and effective outcomes.

Governments legislation (Federal, State and Local) make prioritising weed control actions compulsory. Weeds of National Significance that can be found in the Albury Wodonga region include Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) and Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*).

State and local government legislation classify weed control actions based on their known impacts. Refer the Parklands Albury Wodonga Weed Control Policy for specific details on current classifications and control measures.

Some weeds which are of concern to agriculture are not necessarily a problem in the environmental lands. This is particularly the case of many broad leaf species, for example Patterson's Curse, which needs bare ground to be able to germinate and grow rapidly. With removal of domestic stock and an initial treatment with herbicides, Patterson's Curse will become a low impact weed in environmental lands, being reduced to very low levels (though never entirely removed). Other weeds such as Blackberry need continual treatment to stop their spread. Consistent control every years is the best option.

Feral animals are known to have impacts on native fauna and flora, in particular introduced carnivorous species such as foxes and cats have a significant impact on many native faunal species. Therefore their reduction in numbers is of paramount important. This also includes the numbers of domestic cats.

### **Annex 3.1.4 Visitor Management**

Visitor management is important in any reserve system, as human interaction is the key to whether a reserve system is successful or not. Visitors who gain a satisfactory experience will pass the message on. Visitors who receive an unsatisfactory experience will pass it onto even more people than those who have received the satisfactory experience. A key part to this is making sure people are aware of the facilities available at any reserve and what they're likely to see at various places.

Visitor management also includes the management of unwanted behaviour. This can include such things as motorbike riding, four wheel driving or horse riding. The first two may be unacceptable in any form, whilst the third may be acceptable in designated locations. Even something as simple as bushwalking may be an unwanted behaviour in certain areas (such as ecologically sensitive, or indigenous heritage locations). In these instances visitor behaviour can be modified by a variety of techniques, such as creating walking tracks that avoid sensitive areas as the majority of people who visit reserves never go off track.

Similarly firewood collection, four wheel driving and motorbike riding can be reduced by eliminating or reducing access points. This can be achieved by having robust fences and gates, particularly at access points. At times there may also be dual management goals. For instance, no public vehicle access and no grazing access. In such a case it might be the case that grazing access can be limited by not completing an enclosure of fences/gates, yet barring access to sedans/4WDs by the installation of bollards. Whilst this would allow motorbike access, it may be seen as better overall than blocking all access yet allowing grazing (via fence cutting).

The management of Crown land by the Committee of Management (Victoria) and Trustee (NSW) model allows for the local generation and reinvestment of revenue to offset the ongoing requirements of reserve management. Management issues are resolved at the local level with local knowledge and community involvement.

### **Annex 3.1.5 Indigenous Cultural Heritage**

All the waterways are culturally sensitive areas. It is recommended that a voluntary Cultural Heritage Management Plan be developed to identify future management strategies and involve the Indigenous community in co-management and the protection of significant sites.

Raised level landforms in association with old or current watercourses have an extremely high potential to contain Indigenous archaeological material, although Indigenous archaeological material may also occur in other areas of the landscape.

It is advised that no soil disturbance take place in any of the parcels. Soil disturbance can include but is not limited to:

- Erosion control methods
- Tree planting
- Access of machinery to any site which may disturb soil and
- The creation of new fences or infrastructure in archaeologically sensitive areas.

### **Annex 3.1.6 European Cultural Heritage**

There are a number of lenses through which to view the landscape. Through an Indigenous perspective, the land and waterways provide resources. To a pioneer, the resource values are different. The waterways are particularly full of European history. Parklands plans to develop interpretive signage in partnership with Charles Sturt University students and local historical societies to increase community awareness and appreciation of the diverse values of our regional reserves.

## **ANNEX 3.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Public land management is complex. Competing and sometimes conflicting priorities make the allocation of resources challenging. The principles outlined below will assist in taking a more strategic approach.

The “process” of community involvement is as important as the “ends” of well managed and utilised parks. There are invaluable returns from allocating resources to support the establishment, growth and evolution of friends groups and others to plan, develop community organizing skills, implement and promote their park projects.

Parklands Albury Wodonga’s success has hinged on supporting friends groups as they evolve. Community facilitation is about keeping groups focused on achievable short term outcomes whilst working towards a longer term vision. Without that support in the background in the initial years, much of the potential longer term benefits are lost. Disillusioned groups disband and the opportunity is lost to garner longer term active involvement.

The successful implementation of Stage One has been through a “*Cycle of Friend Raising*” that underlies how we approach our community work. It starts with exposure of a company, organisation, group of people or individual to an idea, a project or an initiative. It then moves systematically to building an awareness, then to creating understanding, then to stimulating a sense of caring about doing something, then a desire to protect, and finally with a willingness to advocate. Community building is about networking and relationship building. The goal is to connect people at an emotional level with park values that translate to their sense of ownership of an idea, a place, a thing or other value important to the park. It is about creating a sense of stakeholdership (*O’Neill B 2002*).

***Community stewardship means sustainability in four key areas;***

### **Annex 3.2.1 Environmental Sustainability**

Bush restoration techniques are predominantly labour intensive. Without volunteer involvement, many of the larger scale bush restoration projects that Parklands Albury Wodonga has coordinated would not have been tackled.

Bush restoration is a longer term process that takes decades. By sustaining a vibrant community of park stewards in the restoration and long-term maintenance of priority parklands, whether it is protecting an endangered species, restoring a historic feature, or improving a trail, community support is the key to ensuring the long term protection and integrity of these unique reserves.

Community involvement also means recreational developments, such as mountain bike tracks and walking tracks are ideally developed without adversely impacting on rare flora species.

### **Annex 3.2.2 Community Resilience**

Volunteers develop new skills, networks and these skills (planning, lobbying, fund-raising, organising and mentoring) are transferable to other projects in and beyond the region. Involvement builds community leadership skills and reduces social isolation. In rural, remote and regional Australia, community resilience is crucial in a time of significant climate change and economic vulnerability.

Other Plans developed for this region, including the NSW and Victorian River Red Gum Reports and the Plan of Management for the Hume Shire and Albury City Waterside Reserves identify an important role for the regional community in managing these public reserves.

### **Annex 3.2.3 Community Education**

Active engagement in the care of parklands leads to a deeper appreciation of their value. The *Park Stewardship Program* also works to educate the community, especially youth, about the importance of public lands using the parklands as hands-on experiential classrooms.

### **Annex 3.2.4 Financial Sustainability**

Volunteers implement projects which the community values. Our regional parks continue to be managed and maintained with or without external funding sources and projects implemented are those the community identifies as important.

Investing resources in the community and community capacity building has been demonstrated to provide some of the highest returns on capital. For instance, a financial investment of \$1 in materials for a project provides a return of up to \$5 in terms of volunteer in kind time to implement. Parklands Albury Wodonga has secured in excess of \$8 million in grants, service agreements and environmental contracts over the past 14 years. The regional community has invested \$11 million worth of time in the planning, implementation and ongoing management of these projects.

### **Annex 3.2.5 Evolution – Working in Partnership**

No park will have a truly great park system without a strong network of park “friends” groups – private organisations that are both supporters and watchdogs.

Ideally, a city should have one or two organisations with a city-wide orientation, assuring that the system as a whole is well run and successful, and also scores of groups who focus on an individual park and its surrounding neighbourhood – concentrating on everything from cleanliness, safety and quality to program, signage and special fundraising.

In order for Parklands Albury Wodonga to further develop and evolve its community development model, it will require additional levels of community engagement being developed to diversify the range of volunteers and skills. It is proposed that three levels of community engagement be built upon to ensure sustainable long term community ownership and stewardship.

#### **National Group**

Recruit a “Wentworth Group of Scientists” type group to give national focus to region. Group to meet once or twice annually to review policies and outcomes for open space, urban planning and sustainable conservation space, with a focus on the Albury Wodonga region.

#### **Regional Partnerships**

Facilitate stronger partnerships for the joint implementation of landscape scale restoration and recreation projects. Work to support each other’s aims and collectively achieve, rather than compete for scarce resources. Existing partnerships which could be built upon include;

*Indigenous Representation and co-management opportunities:* Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation, Woomera Aboriginal Corporation, Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Corporation, Wodonga Local Indigenous Network, Albury Land Council, Bidja Bila Landcare Group and others.

*Environmental Organisations:* Greening Australia, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Albury Conservation Company, Bush Heritage, Albury Wodonga Field Naturalists, Murray-Darling Association, National Parks Association, Nature Conservation Trust and Trust for Nature.

*Educational Institutions and Research Bodies:* Charles Sturt University, La Trobe University, Murray Freshwater Research Centre, Riverina TAFE (National Environment Centre), Wodonga TAFE, Continuing Education Centre, Rotary Murray Freshwater Research School and schools within the region.

*Local Government Land Managers:* Albury, Greater Hume, Corowa, Wodonga, Indigo and Towong.

*State Government Land Managers:* North East Water, Parks Victoria, North East Catchment Management Authority, Murray Catchment Management Authority, Goulburn-Murray Water, Land and Property Management Authority, Livestock Health and Pests Authority, Department of Primary Industry, Department of Sustainability & Environment, NSW Office of Water, Department of Environment and Climate Change and NSW Forests.

*Commonwealth Government Land Managers:* Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Albury Wodonga Corporation and Department of Defence.

*Fire Agencies:* Country Fire Authority, Department of Sustainability & Environment, NSW Rural Fire Service.

*Floodplain Management:* Local councils, North East Catchment Management Authority, Murray Catchment Management Authority, NSW Wetland Working Group

*Workplaces:* Maintain workplace staff involvement with Hume Building Society, Cooper Hand Tools, Workways, Jacob Toyota, RACV, Wodonga TAFE, Australian Taxation Office, Fosters and Department of Justice. Involve a further three workplaces in parklands activities each year, with the aim of an actively engaged regional community.

In addition to building on existing partnerships, there are a number of partnership opportunities yet to be explored (Toohey, 2009).

### **Local Friends Groups**

Support existing and emerging Landcare, Creekguard and Friends Groups and local community groups. Community development processes hinge on “bottom up” strategies. Local Groups must “own” their projects. Parklands Albury Wodonga support must be in response to local groups and support for these groups in ways identified by the Groups. That is, local groups “do their own thing” and Parklands Albury Wodonga support and resources are by request from the Group, as and when Parklands Albury Wodonga is able to provide this support.

Parklands Albury Wodonga currently works with and supports:

- Baranduda Landcare Group
- Bonegilla Migrant Experience Steering Committee
- Bonegilla Rail Trail Group
- Tallangatta Rail Trail Group
- Koetong Shelley Development Association
- Friends of Padman-Mates Park
- Bungambrawartha Creek Care Group.

Other potential groups with whom Parklands Albury Wodonga has had limited involvement with to date include:

- Feltrimber Landcare Group
- Friends of Willow Park
- Friends of Belvoir Park
- Splitters Creek Landcare Group
- Kiewa Catchment Landcare Network
- Thurgoona – Woolshed Creek Landcare Group.

## **ANNEX 3.3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES – RESOURCES FOR RECREATION**

### **Annex 3.3.1 Recreation Infrastructure – Levels of Service**

The Levels of Service categories are based on Parks Victoria's risk management model (Parks Victoria n.d). The categories identify the types of risks and the level of service required to mitigate against these risks. That is, for basic reserves where there is no infrastructure, the level of service in terms of Ranger time is set at a monthly visit. In contrast, a regional park with high visitor numbers and more infrastructures, such as toilets, BBQ's and playgrounds, requires a higher level of service, with Ranger time at least twice weekly.

The application of this "level of service" strategy guides the level of maintenance and resources to higher visitor sites. This provides justification for lower levels of service at other sites and focuses risk management strategies to key sites.

The management of waterside reserves also requires a system for managing visitor behaviour during the peak summer season. The recommended level of service for Albury Wodonga area would be weekly patrols of popular reserves to collect rubbish, remove any rope swings sighted during these weekly inspections and monitor for campfires and unauthorised camping. Over a long weekend with any major events in town, an additional weekend patrol would be recommended.

### **Annex 3.3.2 Recreation Infrastructure – Type of Infrastructure**

The majority of the land proposed for regional parklands is comprised waterways, floodplains and riparian corridors which are impacted regularly by flooding. It is recommended that investment be rationalised to ensure any track construction, footbridges and other structures are located and of materials that are not adversely impacted by these natural events.

The materials utilised for the construction of tracks and infrastructure in the hill country needs to take into account future land management strategies, such as opportunities for fuel reduction burns, and the prevalence of termites. Steel and earthen structures are preferred to timber.

**Annex Table 1: Levels of Service Categories, Parks Victoria**

LOS CATEGORY	VERY BASIC	BASIC	MID	HIGH	VERY HIGH
<b>TYPICAL SITE</b>					
<b>TYPICAL VISITORS</b>	Self sufficient highly experienced in their preferred activity. Active recreationists	Independent, experienced park visitors. Prepared to sacrifice comfort in order to avoid high use areas.	Active and passive recreationists seeking some facilities in a predominantly natural or cultural setting.	Tourists and park visitors seeking quality facilities in a predominantly natural or cultural setting.	Tourists and park visitors seeking comfort and convenience in a popular/icon park.
<b>ACCESS</b>					
<b>Vehicle access</b>	Generally walk-in or limited vehicle access	Generally 24 hour vehicle or walk-in access.	Generally 24 hour vehicle or walk-in access.	Generally 24 hour vehicle access. All weather 2wd.	Generally daylight-hours only vehicle access. Sealed road.
<b>Tracks &amp; paths</b>	Generally no track marking. Rough track / unmarked route.	Generally 24 hour pedestrian access to site. Formed tracks.	24 hour pedestrian access. Good access route or routes to site facilities and features.	24 hour pedestrian access. Highly accessible walking / shared tracks.	Generally daylight only pedestrian and cycling access.
<b>Disabled access</b>	No facilities built or installed.	Generally limited accessibility. Some special facilities if cost effective.	Accessibility subject to site constraints. Facilities for people with disabilities if cost effective.	Barrier-free access provided to site and attractions where practical.	Barrier-free access provided to all features where feasible.
<b>Car parking</b>	No defined car parking.	Defined car parking nearby except at walk-in and boat access sites.	Generally no on-site car parking except at walk-in and boat access sites.	On-site car parking with defined spaces.	generally day use and overnight car parks.
<b>Bus parking</b>	Generally no bus access.	Generally no bus parking.	Bus parking possible.	Bus parking possible.	Designated bus parking.
<b>II&amp;E</b>					
<b>Pre-visit information</b>	No site specific information provided.	No site specific information provided.	General site information in publications or website.	Detailed site information in publications or on web site.	Detailed site information in publications or on web site.
<b>Directional signs</b>	No directional signs to site.	No directional signs to site.	Directional signs on park / local roads & tracks only.	Directional signs on local & regional park / roads.	Directional signs on arterial roads.
<b>Orientation, Site ID &amp; Information</b>	No orientation, identification or information signs.	Site identification signs only.	Site identification and limited orientation signs or information shelter.	Comprehensive site orientation and information.	Comprehensive site interpretation and information.
<b>Interpretation &amp; Education</b>	No on-site interpretation facilities.	No on-site interpretation unless required for resource protection. Possible use by licensed tour operators.	Possible interpretation for visitor enjoyment & resource protection. Signs or brochures. Possible use by licensed tour operators.	Interpretation / education facilities or services where necessary for resource protection and visitor enjoyment.	Visitor with comprehensive range of interpretation and education geared to visitor needs and usage patterns.
<b>VISITOR FACILITIES</b>					
<b>Seats &amp; tables</b>	None	Limited or no seats or tables.	Seating and / or tables.	Seating and / or tables.	Seating and / or tables.
<b>Shelter</b>	None	No shelter	Limited or no shelter	Shelter	Shelter
<b>Potable water</b>	Natural water sources only.	Natural water sources only.	Some water provision possible, but quality and supply not guaranteed.	Reticulated potable water or treated to meet required standards.	Reticulated potable water or treated to meet required standards. Year round supply.
<b>Toilets</b>	No toilets.	Generally no toilets.	Composting, sealed vault or septic toilets (unless provided nearby). Generally no hand washing facilities.	Septic/sewered/sealed vault toilets (unless provided nearby). Wash basins provided.	Sewered toilets (unless provided nearby) wash basins, hand dryers, baby change facilities.
<b>BBQs &amp; fireplaces</b>	None	Fireplace	Fireplaces or wood fired BBQ's provided.	Gas or electric BBQ's provided if appropriate.	Gas or electric BBQ's provided where appropriate.
<b>Telephones</b>	None	None	None	None	Telephone
<b>Lighting (Parks)</b>	No site lighting	No site lighting	No site lighting	No site lighting	Site lighting
<b>Food services</b>	No food services	No food services	No food services	No food services or seasonal services only	Kiosk/Café/Restaurant
<b>Playgrounds</b>	None	None	Minor playground in regional park	Minor or major playground in regional park if appropriate	Minor or major playground in regional park where practical
<b>Camping</b>	Possible unserviced/dispersed camping	Possible unserviced camping	Partial serviced camping	Fully serviced camping where appropriate	Fully serviced camping where appropriate
<b>MANAGEMENT SERVICES</b>					
<b>Visitor safety &amp; Risk Mitigation</b>	Significant natural hazards and visitor preparation / experience required, communicated at strategic access points. Visitors expected to be self-reliant and experienced	Major hazards and hidden threats to life or risks of personal injury communicated at site access points and/or on site. Risk mitigation to reduce exposure to hazard	Major hazards and hidden threats to life or risks of personal injury communicated in pre-visit information and on site. Risk mitigation to minimise exposure to hazard	Significant hazards and hidden threats communicated at strategic locations, on site and in pre-visit information. Risk mitigation and activity regulation to minimise exposure to hazard	Significant hazards and hidden threats communicated at strategic locations, on site and in pre-visit information. Risk mitigation and activity regulation to minimise exposure to hazard
<b>Ranger staff presence</b>	Less than once a month	Less than once a week	Once or twice a week	Frequent staff patrol on weekends (>1-2 times)	Staff on-site full time
<b>Litter management</b>	Take rubbish home policy. No rubbish bins or collection provided.	Take rubbish home policy. No rubbish bins or collection provided.	Generally take rubbish home policy. Rubbish bins if appropriate.	Generally take rubbish home policy. Rubbish and recycling bins provided if appropriate.	Rubbish bins and recycling provided.
<b>Open space mgt (Grass &amp; management &amp; horticulture)</b>	None	No mowing / slashing for visitors except for fire safety. No horticulture.	Mowing / slashing for fire safety and basic visitor access if necessary. No horticulture.	Mowing for visitor access, open space and aesthetic appeal. Horticulture works.	Mowing for visitor access, open space and aesthetic appeal. Major horticulture works where appropriate.

Source: Parks Victoria n.d.



## **ANNEX 3.4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES – RESOURCES FOR BIODIVERSITY**

### **Annex 3.4.1 Conservation Status of Lands**

The biodiversity classification system, where parklands are zoned into areas of high, medium or low conservation value gives land managers a geographical framework that relates directly to the quality of a land parcel. This gives managers the ability to best direct funding, staff allocations and on ground works into those areas that need it the most and prioritise works for higher conservation value areas. Other reasons for a zoning or classification scheme are to:

- Provide a geographical framework in order to define boundaries, infrastructure and other 'on-ground' facilities to aid in the management of the reserves,
- Indicate the differences in management direction and priorities in different areas of the reserve,
- Indicate the types and levels of use appropriate throughout,
- Assist in minimizing the existing and possible conflicts between use and protection of park values,
- Provide a basis for assessing the suitability of future activities and development,
- Prioritize the allocation of financial resources and maximize environmental outcomes.

By establishing an initial measure of the quality of a land parcel, changes over time become measurable and able to be reviewed.

Annex Table 2 outlines the biodiversity classifications within Parklands Albury Wodonga.

**Annex Table 2: Biodiversity Classifications, Parklands Albury Wodonga**

Conservation Status System

Zone	Definition	Goals	Key Objectives	Strategies
<i>High Conservation</i>	High Conservation lands require preservation because they contain a high degree of indigenous vegetation, low levels of weeds and the potential to provide high quality habitat for indigenous fauna. Preservation is the key consideration. General access is restricted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance, protect and preserve the mixed box woodland flora and fauna and to allow only a low or restricted level of recreational access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest priority for works.</li> <li>Minimum amount of work (and therefore cost) required to maintain and preserve.</li> <li>Protect and preserve Indigenous vegetation.</li> <li>Allow natural restoration to occur</li> <li>To maintain conservation status rating.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exclude all grazing.</li> <li>Remove remaining weeds if any (pasture grasses, broadleaf and woody weeds).</li> <li>Prevent egress of weeds into zone.</li> <li>Maintain fencing where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<i>Medium-High Conservation</i>	Medium-High conservation zones are generally in good condition and have large areas of native vegetation but have some sort of a problem. They are lands that are better quality than Medium but not quite good enough to become High Conservation ratings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To become High Conservation zones over time.</li> <li>To enhance, protect and preserve to the mixed box woodland flora and fauna and to allow only a low or restricted level of recreational access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second highest priority for works.</li> <li>Minimum amount of work required to become High Conservation areas.</li> <li>Protect and preserve Indigenous vegetation.</li> <li>Allow natural restoration to occur.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Either exclude or dramatically reduce grazing.</li> <li>Remove remaining weeds (pasture grasses, broadleaf and woody weeds).</li> <li>Prevent egress of weeds into zone.</li> <li>Maintain fencing where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<i>Medium Conservation</i>	Lands with this status contain extensive areas that are good representations of a natural region that require some restoration to return them to a High Conservation status. Some larger areas of weeds present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To revegetate and restore the mixed box woodland flora and fauna and to allow only a moderate level of recreational access.</li> <li>Short term goal is to increase conservation status to Medium-High.</li> <li>Over time, goal is to increase conservation status to High.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate priority for works.</li> <li>Moderate amount of work and financial investment required to increase/restore native vegetation and preserve any areas of indigenous vegetation that remain.</li> <li>Allow natural restoration to occur where possible.</li> <li>Assist natural restoration by planting an appropriate mix of plant species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Either exclude or dramatically reduce grazing.</li> <li>If grazing is deemed appropriate ensure it is strategically managed to achieve long term goals.</li> <li>Control weed removal over a number of years.</li> <li>Install and maintain fencing where appropriate.</li> </ul>

## Conservation Status System

Zone	Definition	Goals	Key Objectives	Strategies
<i>Low-Medium Conservation</i>	Low-Medium conservation areas are those that do not potentially fit within either Low or Medium Conservation zones. For example, some areas may have large outbreaks of broadleaf weeds and be grazed but also have large hollow bearing remnant trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide low key passive recreation opportunities compatible with partial restoration areas as these progress.</li> <li>To increase conservation status to Moderate in the short term and High in the longer term.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low priority for works.</li> <li>Large amount of weed control and cost required.</li> <li>Large amount of tree planting required over long term.</li> <li>Natural restoration may not be possible due to lack of seed bank and planting may be required.</li> <li>Assist natural restoration if any by planting appropriate mix of plants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate schedule of strategic grazing in parcels where required.</li> <li>Large scale weed control over extended period.</li> <li>Revegetate after appropriate weed management.</li> <li>Installation and maintenance of fences where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<i>Low Conservation</i>	Low Conservation lands include areas where large scale land use has shifted and indigenous vegetation has been severely altered, removed or restricted from pre-European levels. Land with this conservation rating has generally lost the ability to restore itself and will require major weed control and some plantings to restore this land to a Higher Conservation status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide low key passive recreation opportunities compatible with partial restoration areas as these progress.</li> <li>To increase conservation status to Low-Medium in the short term and High in the very long term.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low priority for works.</li> <li>Large amount of weed control and cost required.</li> <li>Large amount of tree planting required over long term.</li> <li>Natural restoration may not be possible due to lack of seed bank and planting may be required.</li> <li>Assist natural restoration if any by planting appropriate mix /species.</li> <li>Control weeds first and plant after weeds have come under control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate schedule of strategic grazing in parcels where required.</li> <li>Large scale weed control over extended period.</li> <li>Revegetate after appropriate weed management.</li> <li>Installation and maintenance of fences where appropriate.</li> <li>Install horse trails where appropriate.</li> </ul>

## **ANNEX 3.5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES – RESOURCES FOR FIRE**

### **Annex 3.5.1 Bushfire Hazard Management Zones**

Public land managers are under increasing pressure to manage fuel loads. The Victoria Royal Commission into the 2009 Bushfires has raised both community and local fire authority awareness and expectations. In order to manage these expectations it is important to allocate resources strategically.

The classification of all land managed by Parklands Albury Wodonga into five management zones provides a guide to how resources are allocated.

Zones 1 and 2 have two sub sections;

- **ZONE 1** Asset protection.
  - **ZONE 1A** Fire radiation (Inner Protection)
  - **ZONE 1B** Fire protection (Outer protection)
- **ZONE 2** Strategic fire management.
  - **ZONE 2A** Bush fire advantage
  - **ZONE 2B** Bushfire utility management
- **ZONE 3** Broad area fuel reduced mosaic.
- **ZONE 4** Specific flora and fauna management.
- **ZONE 5** Heritage area fire management.

These zones have been derived from a combination of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Draft Fire Management Plan, Alexandra/ Bradford Fire Protection Plan (DNRE) and the Albury Hume Bushfire Management Committee Draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan.

Annex Table 3 summaries the Fire Management Zones across Parklands Albury Wodonga.

**Annex Table 3: Summary Table of Fire Management Zones**

<b>Fire Management Zone</b>	<b>Parklands Area</b>	<b>Area in Zone (ha)</b>	<b>% of Park in Zone</b>	<b>% treated annually</b>
<b>1A</b>  Asset Protection (Fire Radiation- Inner Protection)	<b>All Parklands</b>	<b>38.54</b>		
	Gateway Island	18.42	33.17	100
	Baranduda Range	19.49	4.77	100
	Huon Hill	0.63	2.07	100
<b>1B</b>  Asset Protection ( Fire protection – Outer Protection)	<b>All Parklands</b>	<b>2.35</b>		
	Huon Hill	2.35	8	100
<b>2A</b>  Strategic Fire Management	<b>All Parklands</b>	<b>9.6</b>		
	Huon Hill	9.6		
<b>3</b>  Broad Area Fuel Reduced Mosaic	<b>All Parklands</b>	<b>2230.27</b>		
	Baranduda Range	388.80	95.22	100
	Gateway Island	24.3	43.76	100
	Hume Weir Frontage	32.03	100	100
	Huon Hill	26.31	86.6	60
	Kiewa River	329.4	100	90
	McFarlanes Hill	215.2	90.15	52.6
	Murray River Frontage	823.75	100	100
	High Country Rail Trail	178.59	94.41	20
<b>4</b>  Specific Flora and Fauna Management	<b>All Parklands</b>	<b>34.42</b>		
	Gateway Island	10.9	19.63	25
	McFarlanes Hill	23.52	9.85	10
	High Country Rail Trail	10	5.9	10
<b>5</b>  Heritage Area Fire Management	<b>All Parklands</b>	<b>0.3</b>		
	Gateway Island Parklands	0.3	0.54	0

## ANNEX 3.6 MONITOR, EVALUATE, REVIEW AND IMPROVE

Monitoring and Evaluating are important processes in any park management program. The two combined together are used to give an indication on whether certain programs are working. Monitoring involves repeated observations from an area using a repeatable method that allows for comparison over time. This can take the form of photo points, flora surveys, bird surveys, mammal spotlighting, reptile trapping, water sampling etc.

Evaluation involves the review of this data in regards to the success or failure of a program to work.

### Annex 3.6.1 Biodiversity

Parklands envisages using several of these methods as outlined in Annex Table 4.

**Annex Table 4: Biodiversity monitoring methods**

Monitoring Type	Repetition	Conducted Externally or Internally	Forms Basis of Conservation Value
Photo Points	Twice a year	Internal	No
Floristic Surveys	Once every four years	External	Yes
Bird Surveys	Once every four years	External	Yes
Mammal/Reptile Surveys	Once every four years	External	Yes
Tree Planting success (transects)	One year after planting	Internal	Yes

It is important to investigate, develop and incorporate new developments and approaches to assessing ecological connectivity into future planning for remnant native vegetation. Victorian Government modelling tools such as *Circuitscape* and *NaturePrint* are recent examples.

### Annex 3.6.2 User Satisfaction

High user ship of a park is the ultimate validation that it is attractive and that it meets peoples needs. High attendance also increases safety because of more “eyes on the park”.

Knowing the level of park use requires measuring it, not only for an estimate of a gross total but also to know users by location, by time of day, by activity and by demographics. To find out satisfaction levels requires asking questions, not only of users but of non-users as well. To spot trends, these efforts must be carried out on a recurring, scientific basis.

A less labour-intensive strategy may be through attending club committee meetings once a year to seek informal feedback. (Annex Table 5) Stakeholders include, but are not limited to the Albury Wodonga Mountain Bike Club, Border Bushwalking Club, Albury Wodonga Orienteering Club and Albury Wodonga Field Naturalists.

**Annex Table 5: User satisfaction monitoring methods**

<b>Monitoring Type</b>	<b>Repetition</b>	<b>Conducted Externally or Internally</b>	<b>Forms Basis of Park User Satisfaction</b>
Photo Points	Twice a year	Internal	No
Track Counters		External	Yes
Park User Surveys	Once a year	External or Focus Group	Yes
Park User Forum	Once a year (at annual Forum)	Internal	Yes

### **Annex 3.6.3 Fire Management**

More detailed information can be found in Parklands Albury Wodonga Fire Management Plan. (Annex 3.7).

Some key monitoring and review activities include;

#### **Monitoring Fuel**

Fuel levels need to be monitored in early autumn each year to assess areas with high fuel load that may be classified as a hazard. This allows time over the winter and spring to conduct fuel reduction works, including burning, slashing, and crash grazing before the fire danger period in the next year.

#### **Prescribed Burning**

Prescribed burning will be undertaken from autumn to winter in appropriate Parkland areas. It may be necessary to burn some areas in late spring, especially areas with a high growth of annual grasses prior to the bushfire season. All prescribed burns will be conducted in consultation and accordance with the local fire authority.

#### **Monitoring Fire Regimes and Changes to Biodiversity**

Mapping and surveying of reserves will assist with developing appropriate fire management regimes. Post fire surveying will be conducted to allow for comparisons in biodiversity between areas.

#### **Fire Management Research**

Participation in Municipal and Regional Fire Management Committees is a key strategy in endeavouring to keep up to date on research relating to fire management techniques and burning regimes recommended by other agencies conducting research on fire management.

## **ANNEX 3.7 ALBURY-WODONGA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

In 1974, a tripartite Agreement between the Australian Government and the states of New South Wales and Victoria resulted in the creation of the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation.

The Development Corporation's initial role was to plan and develop Albury-Wodonga into a major inland city by the turn of the century. To assist in achieving the Corporation's objectives, large tracts of land were purchased in the Albury-Wodonga region with funds mainly provided by the Australian Government.

Over the years the Corporation, at the direction of the Albury-Wodonga Ministerial Council, acquired some 24 079 hectares: 8 842ha in and around Albury and 15 237ha in and around Wodonga.

Since 1989 the partner Governments have progressively changed the emphasis and direction of the Albury-Wodonga Project where in 2004 the States withdrew from the joint government scheme leaving the renamed Albury Wodonga Corporation with responsibilities of ongoing management, development and disposal of the lands.

### **Annex 3.7.1 Environmental Land**

In seeking to minimise the impact of future development on land currently or formerly owned by it, the Corporation sought to complete extensive environmental studies on this land and to develop detailed strategies for future protection of key environmental assets.

Three major studies were undertaken: Thurgoona Threatened Species Conservation Strategy in 2004-2005, an Albury Ranges Threatened Species Conservation Strategy in 2005-2006 and in Victoria, a Wodonga Retained Environmental Network Conservation Strategy (WRENS) was completed in 2006-2007.

The strategies provided a framework for future land development and identified areas in need of protection. They also emphasised the importance of long term management and the need for effective management structures and management plans for identified areas.

These strategies and associated activities identified more than 2 100ha of environmentally sensitive land owned by the Corporation. Having regard to the Australian Government's requirement that the Corporation dispose of its land assets, the Corporation agreed to transfer those lands identified in the threatened species conservation strategies to State and local governments with an agreed level of funding for future management totalling approximately \$12 million.

### **Annex 3.7.2 Parklands Project**

Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd (PAW) emerged in 1996 from the Albury-Wodonga parklands project, initiated by the Corporation.

To kick-start this project the Corporation transferred 1 720ha, valued at more than \$4.4 million, into public ownership in-perpetuity: 1 379ha to the Victorian Government and some 341ha of hilltop land to Wodonga City Council.

Parklands Albury Wodonga set about the progressive development of these lands into a major system of regional parklands that included a network of walking trails in beautiful hillside and floodplain terrain, part of the Hume and Hovell Walking Trail, and a Koori interpretive walk

In 2007 the Corporation announced that a further 1 190ha (650ha in NSW and 540ha in Victoria) will be retained in public ownership by transferring it to the NSW Department of



Lands<sup>4</sup>, Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment and Wodonga City Council (AWC 2009). These lands had been identified in the Albury Ranges and Thurgoona Threatened Species Conservation Strategies and the Wodonga Retained Environmental Network Conservation Strategy with the recipient organisations required to manage the land in accordance with the objectives of those strategies.

The Corporation has made an annual funding allocation to PAW to help resource the management and development of the environmental lands into parklands however with the transfer of land ownership, as outlined above, this arrangement concludes on 30 June 2011.

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<sup>4</sup> Land and Property Management Authority.

## ANNEX 3.8 PARKLANDS ALBURY WODONGA'S REGIONAL STRATEGY

A three-stage Regional Landscape Strategy

The public bush parks of Parklands Albury Wodonga Region extend north of the Murray River to Jindera Gap, west to Splitters Creek and east to Lake Hume, while on the southern side of the Murray they extend south to the Baranduda Range, east to Lake Hume and Shelley (along the railway corridor) and west to Kling's Hill and Barnawartha.

### **Annex 3.8.1 Stage 1. The Hills Landscape**

Over the past 14 years (to 2010) Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd has implemented a strategic open space plan based on the inner hills and valleys in the Albury Wodonga region. The location of the 'hills' on both sides of the Murray River is presented as brown areas Figure 1.2

The plan has been implemented in partnership with community, councils, agencies, businesses and Governments with \$11.1 million worth of volunteer hours contributed by the regional community during this time.

Starting in September 1996 with a "Framework Plan" a diverse range of activities have been initiated and / or facilitated by PAW with the major ones being:

- Bush regeneration. Undertook major bush restoration of the main hills surrounding Albury-Wodonga: McFarlanes (256ha); Federation (348ha); Huon (380ha); Baranduda (406ha) and Nail Can Range (117ha). The scale of works includes in excess of 124kms stock exclusion fences; 513 000 seedlings planted; 100's of hectares of woody weeds hand removed and considerable winter and summer broadleaf weed control (chemical, biological and mechanical).
- Building park infrastructure. Created 35km's of pathways, lookouts, facilities, information shelters and maps.
- Restoration of riverine lands. Undertook major river frontage restoration and pathways along the lower Kiewa River Parklands (200ha involving 29km river frontage), portions of the River Murray in the Gateway Island (117ha) and Padman Park (15ha) areas, and important tributaries including Six, Seven, Eight and Nine Mile Creeks (667ha).
- Building rail trail. Developed the High Country Rail Trail - 225ha: revegetation, construction of 3 new footbridges and upgrades to 4 existing footbridges; track surface upgrades, signage, barriers and railway platform restoration works.
- Restoring heritage building. Undertook major heritage building restoration and conservation works to the 18 heritage buildings at the Bonegilla Migrant Experience Heritage Park; developed visitor services; produced information booklets, website and promotional information; organised Back to Bonegilla community events and secured National Heritage listing for the site.

PAWs work on 'the hills' surrounding Wodonga has shifted from the restoration phase to the maintenance phase with on-going management of two thirds of this land now transferred to Wodonga City Council. Whilst some preliminary contractual work has been undertaken on the Albury 'hill' lands for the NSW crown landowner, Land and Property Management Authority, PAWs possible broader role has yet to evolve.

PAWs strategic directions are to continue its activities with a shift of focus away from the 'hills' through Stage 2 - Riverine Landscape.

### **Annex 3.8.2      Stage 2 - Riverine Landscape**

Building upon the experiences and successes of work in the lower Kiewa River Parklands, PAW strategies are to extend into the Murray River corridor: Hume Dam in the east and in the west to the extremity of its Committee of Management responsibilities with DSE.

The strategies for implementing Stage 2 are detailed throughout this document. For indicative location of the Riverine Landscape view the green shaded areas in Figure 1.2.

### **Annex 3.8.3      Stage 3 - A 'linked' Landscape**

In this third stage the environmental corridor gaps that naturally link the hills to the riverine lands will be fully explored and developed. Further opportunities for Indigenous trails and sites will also be assessed and developed in partnership with Indigenous input. For indicative location of Stage 3 works see the areas of yellow in Figure 1.2.

### ANNEX 3.9 GEOGRAPHY AND BIOPHYSICAL CONTEXT

Albury-Wodonga is situated on the Murray River in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range. Low Hills punctuate the immediate area with higher ranges extending to the South and East.

**Geology:** The hills surrounding Albury Wodonga are mostly metamorphosed (Schist) and Granite whilst the Floodplains consist of deep unconsolidated Quaternary silts and clays.

**Flora:** The pre-European flora was thought to consist of River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) forests along the rivers and major creeks, while Grassy Woodlands were on higher flat ground and the hills consisted of Grassy Woodlands with a higher density and diversity of shrubs.

**Fauna:** Consists of a range of animals, from Eastern Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) to native Eastern Quolls (*Dasyurus viverrinus*), snakes, lizards and an abundance of birds. Several threatened species occur in the area including Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa tapoatafa*), Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*), Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) and the Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*), sighted in Wodonga and Thurgoona.

**Average Annual Rainfall:** 735 mm

**Daily Mean Temperature:** 12-18 degrees Celsius.

**Indigenous Heritage:** Indigenous people lived in the Bungambrawartha (Albury-Wodonga) region for thousands of years and the area supported one of the highest densities of people in the country. There were several groups that were thought to have lived in this area around the time of European Colonisation of Australia. These people supported themselves via hunting and gathering and would have used seasonally available foods, the abundance of fish and water birds helped support the high densities of people.

**European Heritage:** Europeans first contact with the region was when Hume and Hovell walked from Goulburn to Western Port in Victoria in 1824. Squatters arrived in the following decade. The first of these squatters set up a run named Mungabareena in 1836, followed closely by Paul Huon who selected land near Wodonga Creek. Robert Brown erected the first building in Albury itself near the Hovell Tree in 1838. The town of Albury was proclaimed in 1839 and Wodonga (Belvoir) in 1852.

**Topography:** The broader topography of Albury-Wodonga area is associated with the commencement of the Murray River flood plain that is approximately 20 kilometres wide north-south at Albury-Wodonga. The flood plain includes low lying flood prone lands and riparian zones associated with the river proper. It also includes high level terracing on the valley margins and is bounded to the north and south by undulating to steeply sloping dissected hill country. The Murray River flood plain expands substantially west of Albury-Wodonga, and to the east rapidly contracts to be confined to narrow river valleys contained by steep dissected foothills rising to the Great Dividing Range.

**Land Use History:** The area has been subject to substantial agricultural and partial residential and industrial development. The fertile valleys were utilised extensively for dairying and cereal cropping. Natural flooding regimes have been severely altered with storm water drains channelling large volumes of water into creek systems after rain events; and releases from Lake Hume channelling large volumes of water down the main Murray River during peak irrigation seasons.

## **ANNEX 3.10 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – VICTORIAN CROWN LAND**

**Section Two** - Victorian Committee of Management lands - Schedule of Works 2010 to 2022

Victorian Committee of Management lands - Budget 2010 to 2022

Victorian Committee of Management lands – Fire Management Plan

## **ANNEX 3.11 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – NSW PARTNERSHIPS**

**Section Two** - NSW Partnerships - Schedule of Works 2010 to 2022

## **ANNEX 3.12 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – VICTORIAN PARTNERSHIPS**

**Section Three** – Victorian Partnerships - Schedule of Works 2010 to 2022

## **ANNEX 3.13 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - ORGANISATIONAL**

**Frequently Asked Questions** – Parklands Albury Wodonga

**Annual Reports** – Parklands Albury Wodonga

## **ANNEX 3.14 GLOSSARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Annex 3.14.1 Glossary**

**High conservation value** having significant natural values that warrant special care. It includes: threatened species, populations and ecological communities habitat; migratory bird habitat; declining species habitat; edge-of-range species habitat; species rich habitats; wildlife corridors between core habitat areas; wildlife movement pathways; koala habitats; areas which have significant cultural values; and areas subject to conservation agreements and grant funding.

**Landscape** an area of land and/or sea with its component landforms, geology, aquatic features, atmosphere and associated biodiversity, effected by continuing natural processes and often modified by human activities.

**Riparian** any land that adjoins, directly influences or is influenced by a body of water. However there is no rule of nature which defines the ‘width’ of riparian land: the width of interest of concern is largely determined by the management objectives.

**Riparian land (zone)** is any land that adjoins or directly influences a body of water. It includes:

- The land immediately alongside small creeks and rivers, including the river bank itself.
- Gullies and dips that sometimes run with water.
- Areas surrounding lakes.
- Wetlands and river floodplains which interact with the river in time of flood. (Land & Water Australia 2004).

**Riparian vegetation** any vegetation on land which adjoins, directly influences or is influenced by a body of water.

**Wetlands** areas that are permanently, periodically or occasionally covered by fresh, brackish or saline water to a shallow depth. In some situations wetlands represent the transition zone between deep water and terrestrial environments. They support a unique range of flora and fauna and human activities.

### **Annex 3.14.2 Bibliography**

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