Proposed amendments management zones and overlays

Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park

Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park’s management zones are being updated to reflect changes to visitor use of the parks, infrastructure, bushfire management practises and environmental and cultural values. Community feedback is invited to help identify how these zones will help improve the management of Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park.

Establishing Zones

Park zoning is a planning tool used to summarise the intent of areas of parks and reserves. Management plans include a reference to zones to provide an outline of what can and can’t occur in areas of a park in terms of visitor use, access, facilities and natural and cultural management.

To establish zones, areas in national parks are evaluated using a variety of factors including their values and opportunities, their existing patterns of use and visitor and community demands.

In accordance with the National Parks Act 1975, zoning an area for Conservation and Recreation does not mean the protection of natural and cultural values of that area are compromised. All national parks are areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity and must be managed accordingly.

In Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park, there are two management zones; Conservation and Recreation Zone and Recreation Development Zone and two overlays: Special Protection Area and Special Management Area. These zones outline where the development of visitor opportunities may be appropriate.

The need to amend and update zones

Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park’s management zones are being updated to reflect changes to visitor use of the parks, infrastructure, bushfire management practises and environmental and cultural values.

Environmental and cultural values

Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park are managed under the National Parks Act 1975 which direct the preservation and protection of natural and other features, and where appropriate to provide for the use of the parks by the public.

Under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, all of Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park are areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.

To protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, Parks Victoria requires on-ground archaeological and sociological assessment before approving any soil and/or rock disturbance.

Environmental values and sensitivities are assessed by considering a range of inputs including significant vegetation communities, soil erodibility, significant fauna and flora, ecologically viable populations of native flora and fauna and the potential exacerbation of threatening processes such as soil pathogens, increasing urbanisation, climate change and internal fragmentation.

Where can recreation activities take place in Lysterfield Park?

Recreation activities will continue to be supported in the areas they are currently approved. This includes existing activities within Special Protection Areas. Facilities and trails that support recreation may be updated subject to an assessment of their potential impact on Aboriginal cultural values and environmental values.

Opportunities to expand activities can be considered within the following areas of the park (refer to Map 2):

- Recreation Development Zone, and
- Conservation and Recreation Zone outside of Special Protection Areas subject to assessment of their potential impact on Aboriginal cultural values and environmental values.

This equates to 46% of the two parks and 56% of Lysterfield Park.
Special Protection Areas

To protect important values, recreational activities are not permitted to expand within Special Protection Areas.

Aboriginal Heritage Values

The Boonwurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri-Woiwurrung people have lived in this area now known as Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park for many thousands of years. During this time they maintained complex societies with languages, kinship systems, laws and spiritualities. Land forms the basis of Aboriginal existence and identity which, along with water and natural resources were sustainably managed according to traditional laws and customs. Movement within their traditional lands was seasonal and greatly influenced by weather conditions and the seasonal availability of resources. Contemporary Boonwurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri-Woiwurrung people are proud of their ancestry and maintain a very strong spiritual connection with their ancestral lands. In addition to their inherent rights, they have cultural obligations to ensure that these ancestral lands and culture are managed appropriately.

Fire Management Zones

To reduce the risk of bushfire on public land, Forest Fire Management Victoria (including Parks Victoria) undertake fuel management by planned burning, slashing and mulching. Fuels are managed differently across different areas. In areas close to towns, burns are more frequent to protect people and the things they value. Four Fire Management Zones are used in Victoria to outline a local area’s fuel management program.

The area of Lysterfield Park north of Wellington Road is zoned as an Asset Protection Zone. This zone aims to reduce fuel through planned burning or other methods every five to seven years.

Because of the impact this fire management regime has on visitors and infrastructure including the impact resulting from planned burning, further recreational development in this area is not supported in the ammended Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park management zones.

Infrastructure Zones

There are several significant utility services located in Churchill National Park including high voltage power lines and underground cables in a corridor across the park. Powerlines and underground cables require ongoing maintenance using plant and equipment, vegetation clearing and vehicle access by staff.

Because of this, further recreational development in Churchill National Park is not supported in the ammended Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park management zones.

How does it all come together into a proposed management zones and overlays map?

The proposed amendments to Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park’s management zones and overlays integrate Aboriginal cultural values, environmental values, fire and emergency obligations, state-wide infrastructure commitments, existing patterns of use and future demands.

Have our say on the amended zones for Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park

Parks Victoria is interested in your thoughts. You can contribute by:

- Completing a survey at www.engage.vic.gov.au
- Attending a drop-in session at Lysterfield Park Picnic Area on Sunday 8 December 2019, 08:00am - 12:00pm

For more information go to www.engage.vic.gov.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Zones and Overlays</th>
<th>Existing the Management Plan</th>
<th>Proposed Version of the Management Plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation and Recreation Zone</td>
<td><strong>Area/ location:</strong> 1646 hectares; 98.7% of the planning area. Most of the parks. <strong>General management aim:</strong> Protect natural environments and provide for sustainable dispersed recreation activities and small-scale recreation facilities without significant impact on natural processes. <strong>Values:</strong> Native vegetation (relatively weed-free to weed-infested), non-indigenous eucalypts, pasture and most of the Lake.</td>
<td><strong>Area/ location:</strong> 1693.1 hectares; 99.2% of the planning area. Most of the parks. <strong>General management aim:</strong> Areas where the management emphasis is on protection of environmental and cultural values while allowing for recreation. Dispersed recreation and tourism activities are encouraged. The level of activities and small-scale recreation facilities are provided without significant impact on natural processes. Further recreation development in the Conservation and Recreation Zone without overlays would only be considered after the on-ground assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage and environmental values. <strong>Values:</strong> Registered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites and an area of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity. Range of environmental values including native vegetation (relatively weed-free to weed-infested), native fauna populations, non-indigenous eucalypts, pasture and the Lake.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Development Zone</td>
<td>Area/ location: 22ha; 1.3% of the planning area. Main visitor areas.</td>
<td>Area/ location: 13.3ha; 0.8% of the planning area. Main visitor areas.</td>
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<td>General management aim:</td>
<td>Provide primarily for high use visitor nodes with a concentration of recreation and/ or interpretation facilities.</td>
<td>General management aim: Small areas with a high level of facility development catering for high numbers of visitors. Identifying Recreation Development Zones includes reviewing pre-existing Recreation development zones.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Values:</td>
<td>Provides primarily for high use visitor nodes with a concentration of recreation and/ or interpretation facilities.</td>
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<td>Special Protection Area Overlay</td>
<td><strong>Area/ location:</strong> 39.7ha; 2.4% of the planning area. Northern reaches of Lysterfield Lake.</td>
<td><strong>Area/ location:</strong> 926.6, 54.3% of the Conservation and Recreation Zone within the planning area.</td>
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<td><strong>General management aim:</strong> Protect specific natural or cultural values in specific areas and sites where a special management focus is required.</td>
<td><strong>General management aim:</strong> Protect specific natural or cultural values in specific areas and sites where a special management focus is required. Further recreation development in the Special Protection Area is not supported due to significant environmental values.</td>
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|                                               | **Values:** Wetland areas, breeding habitat for water birds.                                 | **Values:** Registered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites and overall an area of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity.  
Very high value of the remaining wetland, riparian and swamp habitat and resident flora and fauna species in Lysterfield Park includes endangered and depleted Ecological Vegetation Classes including habitat for the Powerful Owl and Swamp Skink. A colony of breeding wombats exists. There is a high degree of soil erodibility and subject to a range of threatening processes including *Phytophthora* infection, internal fragmentation and the effects of climate change.  
There are also significant state-wide infrastructure commitments for example, in Churchill National Park and planned burning scheduled for the area north of Wellington Rd in Lysterfield Park. |
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<td>Special Management Area Overlay</td>
<td><strong>Area/ location:</strong> 618ha; 37% of the planning area. Areas surrounding Lysterfield Lake dominated by plantations.</td>
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<td><strong>General management aim:</strong> Highlight areas or sites where special management provisions are needed to provide for a non-standard use or activity.</td>
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<td><strong>Values:</strong> Exotic eucalypt plantations providing opportunity for passive recreation. A small section is occupied by the Park Depot and Lake wall. Areas occupied by major transmission lines.</td>
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<td><strong>Area/ location:</strong> 766.5ha; 44.9% of the Conservation and Recreation Zone within the planning area.</td>
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<td><strong>General management aim:</strong> Highlight areas or sites where special management provisions are needed to provide for a non-standard use or activity. Recreation development in the Special Management Area may be considered based on:</td>
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<td>• the outcome of the assessment of Aboriginal heritage and environmental values including an on-ground survey and the detailed identification of Aboriginal heritage and environmental values, and</td>
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<td>• measures to mitigate any impact of recreation development on those identified values.</td>
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<td><strong>Values:</strong> Registered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites and overall an area of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity. The Special Management Area includes vulnerable Ecological Vegetation Classes with a high degree of soil erodibility and subject to a range of threatening processes including Phytophthora infection, internal fragmentation and the effects of climate change.</td>
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Map 1 - Existing Management Zones and Overlays

CHURCHILL NATIONAL PARK & LYSTERFIELD PARK

FIGURE 3 MANAGEMENT ZONES
Map 2: Proposed Management Zones and Overlays

Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park - Proposed Management Zones and Overlays

Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information. Data source acknowledgments: State Digital Mapbase, The State of Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

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