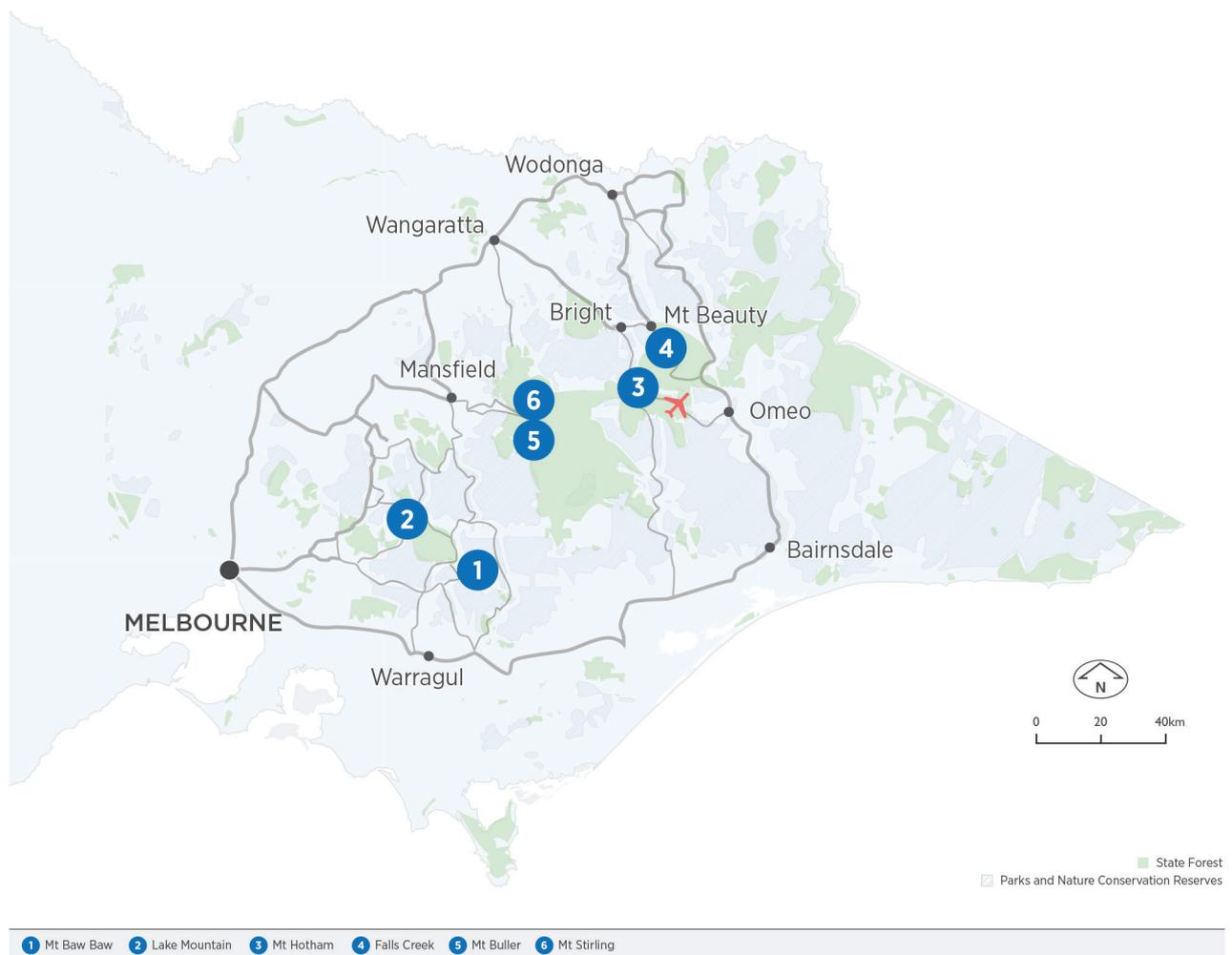


Victoria's alpine resorts strategy development

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that alpine resorts maximise the economic and social benefits to surrounding regions and Victorians generally. The broader legislative and policy settings in which the alpine resorts operate underpin the development of the Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan. This document outlines the key pieces of legislation and policy with which the strategic plan must align.

Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997

The *Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997* (the Act) provides the management framework for all six Victorian alpine resorts. It established the Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council (ARCC) and four alpine resort management boards. The Act stipulates that a strategic plan must be developed and reviewed every five years.



Victoria's alpine resorts

Review of the 2012 strategic plan (2017)

The 2017 review of the 2012 Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan found examples of positive outcomes for Victoria's alpine sector, such as an increase since 2012 in winter visitor numbers by 5.3% per annum and a 2.8% increase in winter visitor days. The gross state product attributable to Victoria's alpine resorts in winter increased by 4.8% per annum between 2011 and 2016.

The 2017 review noted some challenges associated with collaboration between alpine resorts and some dissatisfaction with sector-wide marketing. The review acknowledged a renewed focus on climate change by the Victorian Government.

Selected recommendations from the 2017 review include:

- The next iteration of the strategic plan should include fewer operational-level actions, and instead focus on providing high-level strategic priorities and guidance
- Any future strategic plan should demonstrate alignment to existing joint management plans, Aboriginal Corporations' strategic plans
- The representation of Traditional Owners in alpine resorts governance should be strengthened
- There should be a focus on re-establishing buy-in from key stakeholders, using the development of the new strategic plan as a process for engaging alpine resort management boards and key stakeholders (particularly Traditional Owners and ski lift companies).

Climate change legislation and policy

The *Climate Change Act 2017* lays the foundations for Victoria to achieve net zero emissions, and enable a climate resilient community and economy. The Act includes a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and, in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, requires five-yearly interim targets and strategies to set the path to 2050.

Victoria's Climate Change Framework sets out the Government's vision for Victoria in 2050 and the approach to achieving it, the steps the Government is taking to start the transition, how the Act will drive action to 2050, and the transition required across the economy – and some of the challenges to be addressed – to 2050.

Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017–2020 is helping the state, including the alpine resorts, prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Biodiversity legislation and policy

Biodiversity 2037 is Victoria's plan to stop the decline of our native plants and animals and improve our natural environment, so it is healthy, valued and actively cared for. Biodiversity 2037 is underpinned by the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations and together these instruments ensure that Victoria has a modern and effective approach to protecting and managing our biodiversity.

Traditional Owner legislation and policy

The State of Victoria has entered into recognition and settlement agreements with several of Victoria's Traditional Owner groups, including the Gunaikurnai and Taungurung people. The Gunaikurnai (Mt Baw Baw and part of Mt Hotham) and the Taungurung (Mt Buller, Mt Stirling, part of Lake Mountain and part of Mount Hotham) people are the recognised Traditional Owners of a majority of Victoria's alpine resorts land. The Taungurung Agreement will come into full effect only once it is registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.

The Recognition and Settlement Agreements, executed under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*, afford Traditional Owners certain rights relating to the use of public land within their Agreement area, including alpine resorts land. The Victorian Government also has commitments to Aboriginal people more broadly through DELWP's Aboriginal Inclusion Plan "*Munganin Gadhaba*" and the *Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023*

2019 strategic plan

Preparation of an Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement under the Act. The five-year plan will inform decision making and act as a climate change adaption plan for the alpine resorts sector and will also inform land management and land use planning.

The study examining potential impact of climate change on Victorian alpine resorts and the Alpine resort futures vulnerability assessment will underpin the strategic plan.

The strategic plan must set out the:

- strategic priorities that are to be achieved in relation to alpine resorts
- main directions and principles that are to be followed to achieve the objectives
- strategic actions that may be taken to implement the plan.

The strategic plan must be consistent with, and seek to achieve, the object of the Act; and be consistent with the purposes for which any land in each alpine resort reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* is so reserved.

The priorities listed in the 2019 strategic plan will be linked to intended outcomes and to high level indicators for success. The plan will then guide the development and direction of the Resorts corporate plans and subsequent actions.

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