

Management of the RiverConnect area.

Recently there have been significant changes following the

VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COUNCIL'S RIVER RED GUM FORESTS INVESTIGATION

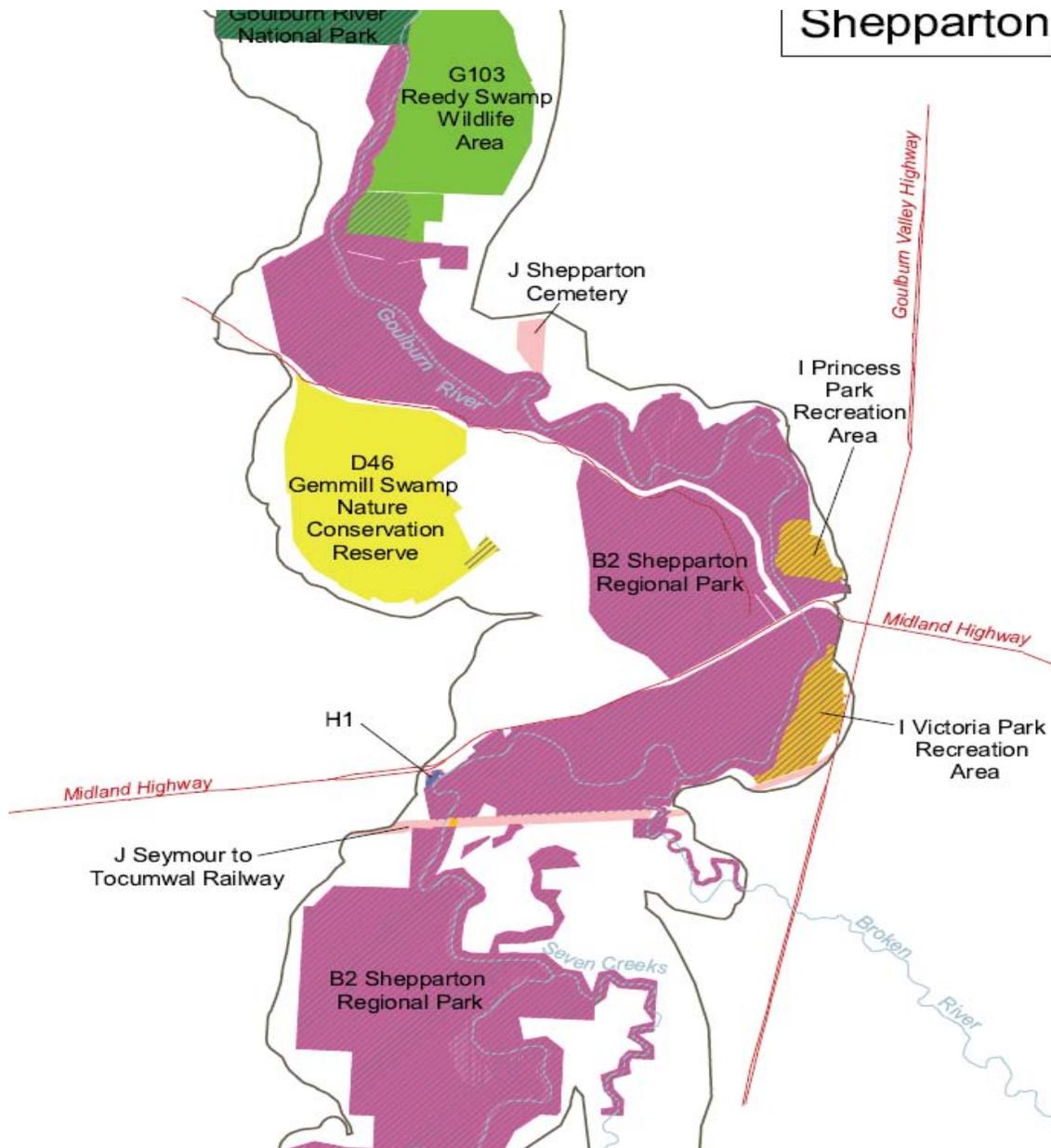
The Victorian Government asked the [Victorian Environment Assessment Council](#) (VEAC) to undertake an investigation into the River Red Gum Forests of the River Murray and its Victorian tributaries in 2005. The purpose of the investigation was to formulate recommendations regarding the conservation, protection and sustainable use of the red gum forests and wetlands. The final report was tabled in Parliament in September 2008.

The Minister established a Community Engagement Panel in 2008 to consider VEAC's recommendations, specifically to look at the recommendations within the context of continuing community and economic activities that are consistent with the ecological health of the region.

On the basis of VEAC's recommendations and the advice of the Community Engagement Panel the Victorian Government has made several important decisions to ensure the long-term protection of the red gum region and continued sustainable social and economic activities.

See the map below for the Management of the RiverConnect area, as a result of the government decision. Note the only change to map below is that Reedy Swamp is now incorporated into Lower Goulburn National Park (It was to remain as Wildlife Area available for hunting).

VEAC final recommendations map



Victorian Government Response to Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's River Red Gum Forests Investigation

Note the only change to map above is that Reedy Swamp is now incorporated into Lower Goulburn National Park (It was to remain as Wildlife Area available for hunting).

For details of the Lower Goulburn National Park

http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1park_display.cfm?park=298

A6 Lower Goulburn National Park established 29/06/2010.

A whole range of activities will continue to be enjoyed in the national park. Camping, fishing, watersports, horseriding, four wheel driving, trail bike riding and the use of campfires will all continue to be permitted.

Campers will still be able to choose where they camp in the new national park. And in the most popular areas, waste disposal facilities will be improved to enhance the camping experience and protect the environment.

Campers and day-visitors will be allowed to light campfires throughout the year except on total fire ban days, subject to any future legislation or government policy about fire.

Horse riding will still be permitted on roads and tracks within new national park and camping overnight with horses will also generally be allowed.

Trail bike riding and four wheel driving will continue to be permitted on existing roads.

Cattle grazing will not be permitted.

B2 Shepparton Regional Park

The Shepparton Regional Park (2786 hectares) is centred on the River Red Gum forests of the Goulburn River between Shepparton and Mooroopna. It incorporates part of the Lower Goulburn State Forest, the Shepparton Flora and Fauna Reserve, Mooroopna Recreation Reserve and public land water frontage. This area continues upstream from the recommended Lower Goulburn River National Park to the north and offers a number of recreational activities including walking, fishing, canoeing, bikeriding, horseriding, trailbike riding and nature observation.

Shepparton Regional Park provides increased opportunities for recreation activities that would not be available in the recommended Lower Goulburn River National Park, such as dogwalking, camping with dogs and (in designated zones) domestic firewood collection.

The natural values of this park are similar to those of the adjoining recommended Lower Goulburn River National Park, with Sedgy Riverine Forest, Riverine Grassy Woodland and Riverine Swamp Forest EVCs which provide habitat for significant species such as the endangered Squirrel Glider.

Shepparton Regional Park is to be used to:

- (i) provide for informal recreation associated with enjoyment of natural surroundings by large numbers of people
- (ii) conserve and protect natural landscapes and scenic values
- (iii) conserve and protect biodiversity to the extent that is consistent with (i) above, and
- (iv) protect significant cultural and historic sites and places, including Aboriginal cultural sites and places;

The following activities generally will be permitted:

- (i) bushwalking, nature observation, heritage appreciation, picnicking, recreational fishing
- (ii) camping including dispersed camping
- (iii) dogwalking and camping with dogs
- (iv) car touring, including four wheel driving, on formed roads and tracks
- (v) mountain bike and trailbike riding on formed roads and tracks
- (vi) horseriding on formed roads and tracks and overnight camping with horses
- (vii) apiculture
- (x) campfires be permitted year round (except on days of total fire ban)

The following activities will **not** be permitted:

- (i) harvesting of forest products, except where domestic firewood collection zones are specifically identified
- (ii) grazing by domestic stock and
- (iii) hunting and use of firearms.

Notes:

1. Dogs must be on a leash in some areas as zoned in management plans.
2. Collection of firewood for campfires is permitted
3. Ecological thinning may be permitted where required for ecological management purposes.
5. Hunting and use of firearms may be allowed as part of a pest animal control program.

D46 Gemmill Swamp Nature Conservation reserve.

Established 30/09/1986.

Is to be used to:

- (i) conserve and protect species, communities or habitats of indigenous animals and plants
- (ii) provide for educational and scientific study if consistent with (i) above
- (iii) provide for recreation by small numbers of people, if consistent with (i) above;

The following activities will generally be permitted:

- (i) bushwalking, nature observation, heritage appreciation, picnicking
- (ii) car touring, including four wheel driving, on formed roads and tracks
- (iii) Dog walking on lead

The following activities will not be permitted:

- (i) grazing of domestic stock
- (ii) harvesting of forest products
- (iii) hunting and use of firearms
- (iv) solid fuel fires at any time of year
- (v) horseriding;