

HAMILTON PARK

COMMON LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

REVIEW 2020

To be read in conjunction with:

Hamilton Park Common Land Management Zones MAPS

- **Overview - page 46 this document**

Enlargements:

- **South(insert website link)**
- **North.....(insert website link)**

July 2021

PURPOSE:

To provide the basis for sound land management of all land owned by the Hamilton Park Co-operative Ltd, known as the Common Land.

AIMS:

1. To manage the Common Land as a **community amenity** for Hamilton Park residents and their visitors
2. To manage the Common Land to **minimise the ignition and escape of fire**
3. To **enhance the quality of the natural environment** and manage any threats

Approved by the Board of Management, June 2020

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**NB voluntary contributions*

PHOTOGRAPHS:

All photographs in this document were taken by Jan Osmotherly or Glen Scholfield, Osfield Consultants within Hamilton Park.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Hamilton Park Co-operative Inc acknowledges the Bpangerang people as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we live. We acknowledge and respect Elders past and present and welcome all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to our community.

FOREWORD

The common lands of Hamilton Park contain some unique wooded areas and grasslands and a diversity of flora and fauna which contribute to making this a great place to live. As the custodians an updated plan has been prepared for the management of these areas.

This plan sets out the objectives and guidelines which will be used to protect and conserve the parks unique natural environment. It recognises the value and importance of involving the community to ensure that the area is protected for all to enjoy well into the future.

Many people have contributed to the development of this plan and we would like to acknowledge their interest, their skills, but most of all we would like to acknowledge their passion for the environment and the enormous amount of unpaid time given to this task.

Much consultation has been undertaken with our community who directly border these areas, where fire is a constant concern but this also tempered by a love for the environment in which we live. The inclusion of clear details on management of these border areas and the way we can interact to mitigate the risk is a welcome inclusion in this release of the plan.

As a result of consultation with government and semi government departments we have been able to secure a grant to perform an ecological thinning of these areas to remove excess fuel load and open up the woodlands which will encourage birdlife to thrive. Also as part of the plan a “cultural burn” (cool burn) will be conducted to further reduce the fuel load and enhance condition of the land while preserving native wildlife.

The board of Hamilton Park Co-Operative is pleased to formally adopt this plan and we encourage you to read and value the efforts made to ensure that this area is preserved for all into the future.

Hamilton Park Co-Operative Board
July 2021



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ACRONYMNS

CaLP Act = Catchment and Land Protection Act, Victoria, 1994.
CFA = Country Fire Authority, Victoria
DELWP = Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
EVC = Ecological Vegetation Class
RCOW = Rural City of Wangaratta

INTRODUCTION

Hamilton Park (HP) is a co-operative residential community developed in the mid 1970s.

The community now consists of over 100 houses with 15 hectares of Common Land. This consists of remnant bushland (50%), native grasslands (35%) and grassy parkland (15%).

The Common Land is owned by Hamilton Park Co-operative Ltd and managed by the Board on behalf of all residents. General conditions of use are consistent with Rural City of Wangaratta (RCOW) local laws for public parks and bushland reserves.

Hamilton Park is located at the foot of the Warby Ranges. It comes under a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) which is a statewide local government guide for the development of land, design and construction of dwellings and the implementation of bushfire protection measures. Fire Authorities have assessed HP and surrounding areas as having VERY HIGH bushfire risk.

The Common Land bushland is a valuable natural asset classified as ENDANGERED on both Federal and State lists. Hamilton Park Co-operative Ltd has a legal responsibility to protect and maintain its high conservation value.

The first Common Land Management Plan was adopted by the Board in 2014. It was designed specifically for the HP Common Land following site assessments by CFA and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in 2010 -12. Follow-up site assessments have been carried out in 2020 for this current review.

The Plan outlines 'agreed standards' established to guide management actions designed to minimise fire risk yet also avoid negative impacts on native vegetation and wildlife. It is also important that the Common Land, as a community amenity, is managed with attention to the area's unique aesthetic values and accessibility for a wide cross section of ages, interests and physical abilities.

A major outcome of the assessment process was the discovery that most management actions designed to reduce fire fuel hazard also assist in maintaining healthy native vegetation. Where differences lie, workable compromises have been reached.

This Plan provides a sound basis for management activities.

The Plan should be reviewed at least every 5 years as it is dealing with living, dynamic systems in a changing climate.

**MANAGEMENT
ACTIONS DESIGNED
TO REDUCE FIRE FUEL
HAZARD ALSO ASSIST
IN MAINTAINING
HEALTHY NATIVE
VEGETATION**

1. LAND MANAGEMENT

1.1 LAND TYPES

The Common Land of Hamilton Park consists of five different land management types. Each land type is divided into different zones reflecting individual management requirements. Management requirements may change over time for some zones.

BUSHLAND

Description

Dark green on map

- Area of approx. 7 hectares
- 6 separate patches of bushland, divided into 14 different management zones
- Described as '**remnant**' bushland because it has not been planted
- Consists of indigenous species remaining from original vegetation present at settlement

Management

- **Organise regular weeding** of garden escapee shrubs and introduced invasive grasses
- **Protect from soil disturbance** eg. bike tracks/jumps, digging, soil removal, wheel ruts
- **Protect from dumping** of dirt, rubble or garden waste
- **Enhance** with supervised eco-thinning, cool burns and the reintroduction of depleted shrub species eg. Spiny Bitter-pea
- **Monitor** in late spring for leafy fallen branches **& organise removal** of any 'fine' fire fuel

NATIVE GRASSLANDS

Outstanding diversity and variety in native ground flora species can be found in Zones: 40 & 41. These are some of the best examples in NE Victoria of the diversity of species that can be found in native grasslands.

Yellow on map

Description

- Area of approx. 4 hectares, 16 different zones
- Relatively **free of weedy** grasses & small broadleaf plants
- **16 different native grass** species have been identified ...so far
- Some Native Grassland zones have up to 50% of fragile ground cover - **mosses, lichens** etc. These areas are **low in fire fuel** and provide spaces for native lilies and orchids to grow inbetween the sparse tufts of native grasses.

Management

- **Enhance species diversity** with cool burns and reintroduce depleted species eg. Kangaroo grass
- Aim to **maintain weed free** by minimising disturbance to the ground. Special challenges are likely to be: Paspalum, Pigeon grass, Kikuyu and Capeweed.
- Control invasive weeds as soon as noticed with species specific **herbicide spot-spray**
- **Continual mowing will weaken** native plants and favour establishment of weedy species
- **Can be mowed once a year** early summer just before Fire Danger Period is declared

Specific Native Grasslands

- i. **Scattered woodland trees: Zones 32, 33, 37, 38, & 42** have very sparse native grass.
 - **Mowing is not essential**, leave if possible. Seasonal variations will occur
 - Annual weedy grasses may grow immediately under some trees, **whipper- snip** when seed stalks have run up, but before seed set (Sept – early Oct) if possible
 - **Aim to conserve native grasses and control weedy grasses**

- ii. **No mowing** is required on the zones noted below as it would de-grade the native vegetation:
 - **The Orchid Patch: Zone 28** north of the Sports Hub - an open area with a relatively bare surface. Delicate species include: native lilies, orchids, mosses, sundews, pea shrubs and thin native grasses.
 - **Dam banks: Zones 29, 35 & 36**, steep banks where local native species have re-established since the dams were built in the 1970s.
Check **walking tracks around the top** of these dam banks – mowing may be required in high growth years - in early summer.
Whipper-snipping may be required once a year (Oct-Nov) on **Zone 36** and the south bank of **Zone 29** in high growth years, targeting weedy grasses eg Wild Oats.

- iii. **Swale drains: Zones 30 and 31** feature wetland grasses.
 - **Cut only in more abundant seasons** - in most seasons it is not required
 - If required, do so **once a year** in early summer just before Fire Danger Period is declared, after seed set
 - Mow or whipper-snip no lower than 100mm/4 inches

GRASSY PARKLAND

Description

Light green on map

- Area of approx. 2.5 hectares
- 11 different zones, identified because they are mainly introduced grasses (compared to the native grasslands), lie under powerlines or provide open recreational space
- Composed of many **non-native grasses and plants** e.g. Winter grass, Silver grass, Rye grass, Paspalum, Capeweed, Plantain, Sorrel, Corkscrew, Kikuyu
- Some zones have a bit of native grass and other ground layer native plants remaining
- Rehabilitation to restore native species may be possible in some of these zones

Management

- **Mow** as required to minimize fire fuel, suppress weeds and maintain a neat parkland appearance
- Aim to provide a safe, accessible open space for recreational activities
- Manage to rehabilitate native species where possible
- **Discourage vehicle access** to prevent tracks forming or tyre ruts when wet

DISTURBED

There are 3 areas which reflect significant disturbances over the years.

Light pink on map

- **Zone 44 is a large heap of subsoil from the construction of the 2 nearby dams.**
 - Some native grasses are establishing, some trees have been planted
 - **Check** for troublesome weeds
 - An opportunity for ‘adventure play’ such as dirt bike riding tracks
 - A potential dumping site for clean fill from works carried out in HP
 - Temporary depot for storage of materials for Common Land works eg, culvert pipes, salvaged wood etc.

- **Zone 45 is the strip between the heap (Zone 44) and the bottom dam.**
 - Revegetated to stabilize potential erosion into the dam
 - Revegetated with native species not indigenous to this area
 - Local species have also established themselves over the years
 - Does provide good habitat for native wildlife
 - Nice walking track, adventure play area
 - Provides effective screen to hide the big heap of dirt – Zone 44
 - **Kikuyu weed threat** – check & control twice a year till eliminated

- **Zone 17 adjoins the mowed strip under powerlines (Zone 16) and lies between residences and bushland (Zone 6). It reflects a variety of disturbances in past years:**
 - Large open area – **can be mowed on a regular basis** – neat look and fire break
 - Mowed open area - **can become very wet** due to nearby spring-soak. This should always be considered when works are planned here.
 - 4 different planting projects:
 - Sugar gums (now mature) were planted for firewood potential
 - Warby Swamp gums 10 -12 seedlings – approx 2010
 - Bush revegetation adjoining bushland Zone 6, indigenous shrub & eucalypt species - approx 2012-14
 - Rock garden – large granite rocks brought in, indigenous Drooping She-oak and shrub species planted in mulched garden style - approx 2005-6
 - Earthworks to lay a large submerged pipe west to east in mid section - 2010
 - Results of disturbance: Fog grass threatens to move into nearby bushland. Treat individual plants with herbicide in autumn or winter before seed heads emerge.
Paspalum is also present - control individual plants with herbicide in summer or early autumn before seed falls.
 - **Potential** for future ‘development’, projects etc

DRAINS

Blue on map

Description

There are seven main drains numbered on the map. These major drains collect runoff water for the 2 lower dams. Five are **open drains**.

Many **local native aquatic plants** can be found naturally occurring within these drains including: several small native rushes, raspworts, joyweed and native wetland grasses.

These native species bend allowing water to flow while **protecting the surface soil** from washing away, during heavy flows. They can also act as a filter helping to prevent chemicals or other pollutants reaching dams.

Crushed rock (5cm) has been used to fill Drains 4 and 5. There is no soil capping.

Threats

- **Excessive weed** growth in response to seasonal conditions
Species include: Curled Dock, Drain sedge, Kikuyu and Paspalum
- **Erosion** causing deep washaways in drains, at worst - silt deposits in dams
- **Blockages** caused by weeds and/or erosion leading to localised flooding and reduced inflow to dams

Management

- **Check for weeds** in drains twice a year – before winter and during spring
 - Treat with a weed wiper (or careful spot spray) any invasive non-native species likely to block water flow. Use ‘frog friendly’ glyphosate herbicide.
- **Whipper-snipping** may be required on **rock-filled drains** and some table drains – check May and October
- **Maintain native vegetation cover** – -AVOID spraying out all vegetation growing within the drain. An informed operator will be required if herbicide is used on weeds.
- **Check for erosion** in drains and repair with appropriate stabilization
- Try to **ensure wastewater** (from houses) is not seeping into table drains and eventually (potentially) into dams

1.2 ANNUAL ACTION

MOWING ZONES

NO MOWING

- AIM:** To avoid soil and native vegetation disturbance in **low growth areas**
- ZONES:** **The Orchid Patch: 28** - lilies, orchids, native grass & mosses – very sparse
Dam banks: 29, 35, 36 – steep, difficult, sparse growth & generally weed free
Swale Drains 30 & 31 – wetland grass species
- WHIPPER-SNIPPING:** In high growth seasons, some areas may require **one cut**, in late spring when seeds have fallen or come off easily in hand, not below 100mm.
Swale Drains: Zones 30 & 31, **South: Zone 27** (mid section – too rough to mow)
Dam banks: 36, & south bank only of **Zone 29**

NATIVE GRASSLANDS

- AIM:** To **retain and enhance** Native Grasslands by NOT OVER-MOWING
- ACTION:** Mow or whipper-snip **ONCE a year** no lower than **100mm/4 inches**
 Clean machinery to remove weed seeds before start
 Ensure no soil disturbance. Be selective, mow in mosaic manner if seed is not ripe.
- WHEN:** Late Oct - early Dec (when seeds have fallen or come off easily in hand)
 Just prior to start of Fire Danger Period – varies each year
- ZONES:** **Central: 32, 33, 34, 37**
South of Henley Rd: 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43
- NOTES:** Mow **walking tracks** if necessary (especially late spring or late autumn) through **Native Grasslands and on top of dam banks**
Under trees - may not need mowing every year– **parts of Zones 32, 37 & 38**

GRASSY PARKLAND

- AIM:** To maintain tidy open space for recreational activities
 To maintain a **low fuel load** & clear access lines for emergency vehicles.
- ACTION:** Mow to maintain a **neat parkland** appearance
 Avoid mowing too low (no lower than **25mm/1 inch**)
- WHEN:** Seasonally depending on amount of growth
- ZONES:** **North west: 15, 16, 17, Community Hub**
Central: 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
South of Henley Rd: 25, 26, 27
- NOTES:** Areas with thick **Capeweed** may need more attention in autumn and early spring eg. Zone 15
Caution with wet/soak sections in wet years – attention to timing eg. parts of Zones 16, 17, 21, 22

CALENDAR OF WEED AND RABBIT CONTROL

MONTH	TARGET SPECIES	TECHNIQUE	MATERIALS
Feb – mid April	Rabbits	Collapse warrens, following all burrows to the absolute end	Crowbar, shovel
March, April, May	Paspalum, Kikuyu, Pigeon grasses	Spot spray with knapsack works best for bigger infestations: before seed set ideally	Herbicide: glyphosate & wetter
	African lovegrass	Spot spray with knapsack, really saturate each plant	Herbicide: flupropanate
	Asparagus	Hand dig to remove crown	Fork
	Capeweed and Erodium/Corkscrew	Spray dense patches (if necessary) when seedlings are small (< saucer size)	Selective broad leaf herbicide
	Cleavers/ Sticky weed	Spot spray Knapsack or smaller atomiser for seedlings <20cm height	Herbicide: Garlon/triclopyr (1/3 strength)
	Annual weedy grasses	Smother/mulch with leafy wattle or eucalypt prunings – when available	Loppers, secateurs
March August	Garden escapee shrubs, weedy wattles	Hand pull when damp enough OR cut & dab stem w/in 10 seconds	Gloves glyphosate- straight
	Wonga vine	Cut & dab stem within 10 seconds	glyphosate- straight
July August	Bridal creeper	Careful hand removal to find all nodules, place in bag for disposal to landfill	Weeding tool, bag
		Spot spray if too numerous	Herbicide: Brushoff/metsulfuron & wetter
	Purple wood Sorrel/oxalis	Spot spray when flowering	Herbicide: glyphosate & wetter
	Freesias, Jonquils	Dab or brush wipe just before flowering	glyphosate- straight
August September October	Soursob/oxalis	Spot spray Knapsack or smaller atomiser – when flowering	Herbicide: glyphosate & wetter
	Phalaris, Cocksfoot Fog grass	Spot spray individual tussocks with knapsack for larger infestations	Herbicide: glyphosate & wetter
		Twist tussock and dab for scattered individual plants	Dabber w glyphosate- straight
November December	Drain sedge	Hand remove	Weeding tool
	St John's Wort	Careful hand removal - remove complete root system – works best in damp soil	Weeding tool
		Spot spray while flowering	Herbicide: Garlon/triclopyr
November April	Bindii (Caltrop/Three-cornered Jack)	Hand remove small infestations OR Spot spray - knapsack or small atomiser before burrs form. Hand remove burrs if present Treat new outbreak w/in 2 weeks of rain	Weeding tool Herbicide: dicamba

***Disclaimer: This information is not professional advice.
It is a report of what actions have worked on the Common Land.***

CALENDAR OF ANNUAL VEGETATION MAINTENANCE

AIM: To reduce fire hazard while protecting native vegetation

MONTH	WHERE	MANAGEMENT ACTION	WHO
When necessary	Property protection strips	1st 10 m from fence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mow to maintain clear access, no lower than 25mm/1 inch 	Adjoining resident
Nov/Dec – Mar/Ap Fire Danger Period		2 nd 10m - if required (to orange topped posts): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whipper-snip or ride –on mower <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No lower than 100mm/4 inches – After native grasses have seeded & small lilies have flowered – Avoid mowing large evergreen lilies: eg. Stypantra and Dianella 	Monitored by Fire management (FM) assessor NOTE: FM = Fire Management positions (p. 33)
Mar- May		Remove Silver wattle & eucalypt seedlings as they emerge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand pull OR cut at ground level • Paint stem immediately with neat Roundup 	
Oct - Nov	Common Land Bushland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for fallen small twigs with leaves • Remove this fine fire fuel NB: This does not include larger fallen branches & logs – leave for conservation value – not significant as fire fuel	FM assessor FM coordinator Working bee or weeding group
Mar - May		Eco-thinning in preparation for a cool burn (See p. 30)	FM assessor FM coordinator Working bee or contractor
May – August	All large open drains 1, 2, 3, 6, 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed information - page 10 • Check function of drains • Spot spray OR wick wipe non-native grasses & weeds (Glyphosate green) • Retain native species for erosion Control 	Person who can identify native species
May and October	Drains 4 & 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whipper-snip surface if required (unable to mow due to rock fill) 	Roster

ONE-OFF JOBS TO DO & RECORD OF ACTION

Zone	Location description	Action	Priority	Who	Done ✓
31 42 34	Swale drain & Drain 7 Drain 2 (start)	Replace decaying wooden boardwalks/bridges asap - safety hazard to people and pets. Reinstate crossing over outlet drain	HIGH		
29	NE corner Dick Hamilton (top) dam	Rebuild wooden steps down to walking track Rebuild wooden steps down to Seat	MED	Working bee?	
Drain 1	Between zones 21 & 22/34	Remove large old (weedy) Mt Morgan wattles and Giant Honey-myrtles as they break down (1970s plantings)	MED	Working bee	
	Several locations throughout Common Land	Provide seats at strategic locations for good views, rest for challenged walkers. Consult residents re locations	HIGH	-Volunteers -Purchase by Board	

1.3 GUIDELINES FOR WORKS

Land degradation can be minimised by adhering to some basic principles during land management works. It need not be more costly or more time consuming. In fact, additional work and expense may be avoided in the future.

The **two most basic principles** to minimise weed invasion, the loss of native vegetation and to prevent erosion, are:

- Minimise disturbance of the top-soil
- Ensure all vehicles and machinery entering a work site are clean of weed seed or particles

Guiding principles mentioned below could be used as a checklist for works

EARTHWORKS

- **Discuss the plan** in detail at a site inspection before works begin
- **Top-soil:** set aside before works begin, replace after the job
- **Avoid dumping** top-soil from weedy sites on non-weedy or native grass sites
eg. around shelter shed on Warby Range Rd
- **Vehicle hygiene** –to prevent weeds - ensure that machinery entering the site is free of any soil, mud or vegetable matter
 - Vehicle hygiene is now understood by all reputable contractors
 - The employer has every right to enquire and expect that machinery entering a site is free of any soil, mud or vegetable matter
- Avoid carrying out works if soil is **wet and boggy**
- Identify location of suitable **dump sites** required during works eg ‘disturbed’ land type
- Obtain any **additional soil or gravel** if required from weed free sites

MOWING -GENERAL

- Avoid mowing on **TOTAL FIRE BAN** or **EXTREME fire risk** days
- **Clean down mowers** after use - hearth brush for dry chaff, flat spade for underneath
See locally filmed DVD: ‘What’s Up Wily Weed?’ about vehicle hygiene – RCOW website
- Ensure **safety & hygiene equipment** for volunteer mower operators is available: earmuffs, small hearth brush and flat scraper – the latter 2 ideally attached to each mower
- Do not mow in **wet/boggy conditions** – wheel ruts & soil disturbance can lead to weeds
- Check mower height to **avoid scalping** the ground- can lead to weeds and dust
- Mark with secure tall wooden stakes any low stumps, holes or low growing native species to alert mowers to avoid hazard
- If overgrown, walk area first to **check for hazards**

MOWING GRASSY PARKLAND

- **Mow no lower than 25mm/1 inch**
 - If continually mowed too short, **grasses will die out**. This encourages broadleaf weeds eg. Capeweed, Erodium or results in bare dusty ground.
 - **Kikuyu** grass is an exception. It can survive low mowing and will be encouraged to take over. It can then become very difficult to mow, ‘choking’ the mower.

Light green on map

- **Timing:**
 - During periods of high growth (especially mid spring, sometimes autumn and late winter) mow to contain weedy species and for a neat appearance
 - Early summer – mow to reduce fire fuel hazard and maintain safe track access points

MOWING NATIVE GRASSLAND

- **Avoid bringing in weeds** - make sure mower is free of old grassy residue that may contain weed seed or particles
 - Brush loose chaff off surfaces and scrape build-up of mowing residue from underneath the mower
- **Mow no lower than 100mm/4 inches**
 - Native grasses become exhausted and die out if mowed too low, too frequently
 - Avoid killing native grasses as Flat weed, Capeweed and other broadleaf weeds are likely to take over
 - Avoid scalping the soil with machinery - to maintain mosses and keep weeds out
- **Marker pegs** will delineate dividing line between Grassy Parkland and Native Grasslands where an obvious boundary is unclear
- **Slash or whipper-snip** areas not accessible to mowers, to retard growth of weedy annual grasses and enhance growth of native species
- **Timing is important**
 - **Mow once a year** after seed set (seed will come off easily in your hand)
 - This will usually coincide with the declared Fire Danger Period (November – December)
 - Aim to mow a week before fire restrictions begin
 - This will produce a neat appearance going into the summer/Christmas period
 - Mowing too early - in late winter/early spring - will eventually kill native grasses
 - Frequent mowing can result in soil compaction impacting lilies, mosses and other delicate small plants e.g. Sundews

Yellow on map

**OVER-MOWING IS
THE NO 1 CAUSE
OF LOSS
OF NATIVE
GRASSLANDS**



Mow **walking tracks** through the grassland **IF** required to avoid grass-seed discomfort and provide good visibility for snakes etc.

Vary the route each season so a permanent track (bare ground) doesn't establish

FALLEN TREES

- **Retain** naturally fallen trees or branches (dead or alive) where they fall in the Bushland, Native Grasslands or dams for conservation purposes
- **Cut and remove** trees or branches that fall on Grassy Parkland or on tracks, sheds or other infrastructure
- Retain any timber containing **hollows**. Locate in nearby Bushland or Native Grasslands for wildlife habitat. Hollows are useful on the ground or secured to standing trees as for nest boxes.
- Placement of larger trees or branches that fall into **dams** will create useful habitat

VEGETATION REMOVAL

- **Remove** weedy garden escapee shrubs or seedling eucalypts and wattles (only after professional advice on eco-thinning) using the cut and paint (C&P) method
- **Scatter** the cut or fallen vegetation in nearby Bushland to create a natural mulch for conservation purposes.
- Distribute - **do not make a heap** - a dense pile will kill the underlying native ground species
- **Excess vegetation** residue from the Common Land can be taken to the burning pile **only** by arrangement with the Board
- Debris from removal can be mechanically mulched and used in resident's gardens
- Debris from removal can be used to **smother weedy annual grasses** (light green colour) - if done early in the season (autumn/winter) when grasses are young and debris can decay before summer

C&P method = Cut as near to ground level as possible.
Paint/dab clean cut surface with undiluted glyphosate
- within 10 seconds of cutting.



Cut Lightwood saplings scattered to successfully control weedy Annual Veldtgrass - June

REVEGETATION

- Encourage **natural regeneration** wherever possible
- **Bushland** - always plant species consistent with the relevant Ecological Vegetation Community EVC for each location (p. 37)
 - Seek advice from an ecologist
 - Ideally use plants from **locally collected seed or tip cuttings** (p.22)
- **Native Grasslands** - avoid planting trees or shrubs in these grasslands
- **Grassy Parkland & Disturbed** land types– suitable for planting trees or shrubs
- Grasses and some lilies – **division method** - carefully loosen existing mature plant, divide off half the plant and separate into segments for replanting elsewhere

VEHICLES

- Vehicles (including motor bikes) are **not allowed** on Common Land
- Vehicles for **management purposes** are allowed **only** with the approval of the Board
- **Variation** of conditions on a short-term basis, for example - trades people, may be possible by arrangement with the Board

TRACKS

- **Walking tracks**
 - Bicycles must give way to walkers
 - **Motor bikes** and **horses** not allowed
 - Avoid creation of any new tracks
 - Occasional whipper-snipping/mowing may be required - primarily on the narrow tracks
 - Occasional pruning of overgrown vegetation may be necessary
- **Vehicular tracks**
 - Fire truck access and management purposes only
 - Tracks are **not intended for rear access** to private property from the Common Land
 - Variation on a one-off basis for works may be possible with approval from the Board

WEED AND PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

Hamilton Park Co-operative Ltd, as the private landowner, is legally required to control **declared noxious plants and pest animals** on the Common Land (CaLP Act 1994).

This means 'to prevent the spread of - and as far as possible **eradicate - established pest animals**' and 'to **prevent the growth and spread of listed noxious weeds**' (row 3, table below).

These are the management aims for the Board.

WEEDS

Many invasive **garden escapee** plants are termed environmental weeds. **Weedy grasses** and **other weeds** also threaten the conservation values of the Bushland and Native Grasslands.

WEED SPECIES FOUND AND CONTROLLED ON COMMON LAND 2010 – 2020	
Garden escapees - mainly in Bushland	Agapanthus, Agave, Angled onion/Three cornered garlic, Arum lily, Ash, Asparagus, Blue-bell creeper/Sollya, Broad-leaf Privet, Cotoneaster, English ivy, Fig, Freesia, Galenia, Gazania, Japanese Honeysuckle, Jonquil, Lucerne Tree, Olive, Orange Fire-thorn, Prunus/Wild cherry, Swan River daisy, Sweet Pittosporum, Watsonia, Wonga vine, Wood sorrel/purple oxalis, weedy wattles (5 species)
Other weeds	Capeweed, Cleavers/Sticky weed, Curly dock, Dandelion, Deadly Nightshade, Drain sedge, Flat weed, Fleabane, Kickxia creeper, Milk Thistles, Prickly Lettuce, Twiggy mullein
Listed noxious weeds in NE Victoria and/or Weeds of National Significance WONS*	African Lovegrass, Blackberry*, Bindii/Caltrop/Three-cornered Jack, Briar rose, Bridal creeper*, Gorse*, Hawthorn, Horehound, Paterson's Curse, Prickly pear* & other cactus species, St John's Wort, Soursob/oxalis, Tree of Heaven
**Weedy grasses:	Annual Veldtgrass, Barley grass, Cocksfoot, Fog grass, Kikuyu, Paspalum, Phalaris, Ryegrass, Slender Pigeon grass, Wild oats

*WONS: 32 weeds have been identified and listed as the worst weeds in Australia

**Definition of a weed: 'an unwanted species, usually with a vigorous growth habit'.

The term '**weedy grasses**' is used throughout the Plan. Some 'weedy grasses' are valuable pasture grasses, others are introduced (by accident or design) from overseas (also known as exotic) and some are native Australian but from other regions.

ALL, for the purposes of the sustainable management of the Bushland and Native Grasslands of the Common Land, are invasive 'weedy grasses'.

- **Control of weeds** – general
 - Control with **minimal disturbance** to soil or surrounding vegetation
 - Give **priority** weed control to highest conservation value areas
 - Remove **before seeding** ideally or bag if already seeding to prevent spread
 - Hand removal – **pull weeds** if soil is damp enough
 - Hand removal – **prise with weeding tool** eg. St John’s Wort, seedlings from dry ground or fork for larger weeds eg. mature asparagus crowns. Carefully replace any disturbed soil.

See Calendar of Weed Control for specific individual species information on page 12.

- **C&P method** (described p. 17) achieves weed control with minimal soil disturbance
 - Useful for larger plant
- **Herbicide eradication** – grasses - ideally when first noticed before rapid spread
 - Use the **appropriate** herbicide for the plant species
 - Treat in autumn or spring when plant is **actively growing**
 - Careful **spot spray** or dab with brush wiper or dabber tool
 - Use only glyphosate 360 ‘frog friendly’ eg. brand names: Round-up Biactive or Glyphosate Green
- **Prevention**
 - Consider promoting a list of the known garden escapee species enabling residents to make an informed decision about what NOT to plant
 - Vehicle hygiene awareness to stop weeds being brought in
 - Avoid soil disturbance

PEST ANIMALS

Rabbits and foxes are **declared pest animals**. HP Co-operative Ltd as the land manager has a legal responsibility for their control.

- **Rabbits** – Rabbit numbers are lowest at the end of summer. Autumn green pick triggers burrowing and breeding. The **most effective control** work is to totally destroy burrows and thus prevent breeding **before the end of April**.

Wild rabbits only live for about 2 years so the cycle is easily broken with timely effort. If not, rabbits can rear 6-8 young per month for approx 10 months of the year. Females reproduce at 4-5 months of age.

See local Landcare brochure: Peri-Urban Rabbit Control in NE Victoria – Hamilton Park website

- Check Common Land after first autumn rains for new scratchings
- If scratchings are found, locate nearby burrows or source of incoming rabbits
- Dig back along any burrows until all of the warren is collapsed. A crowbar causes least soil disturbance and is easier to use than a shovel or mattock. Tramp it down.
- Check every 6 weeks, at least after 4 months (Aug/Sept) for re-openings

- **Fox** control action is not appropriate on the Common Land so close to a residential community. Do not use poison baits or shoot foxes on the Common Land. Support Parks Vic in their fox control activities in the Warby Owens National Parks.

- **Mosquitoes** are food for many birds, reptiles and small other animals.

Mosquitoes can carry viruses and infect people and animals eg. Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus.

A healthy native environment in the Common Land will support a variety of native wildlife predators.

Tips to help residents eliminate potential breeding sites:

Mosquitoes breed in still water.

- Ensure water tanks are mosquito proof
- Change the water in outdoor containers at least once a week (pet & bird baths, drip trays of pot plants, wading pools, disused tubs etc)
- Add sand to pot plant trays. The sand will hold water but eliminate open, still water.

CONFLICT, COMPLAINTS OR REQUESTS

1. Where these guidelines on management of the Common Land are ignored or flouted:
 - A brief written request outlining the issue should be made **to the resident from the Board** Secretary on behalf of the Board representing the community eg. “this is a friendly reminder from the HP Board that.....please contact if you wish to discuss”
 - This may be followed up by a face to face discussion or mediation if required
 - **Typical issues:** cutting down trees, inappropriate mowing, inappropriate use of vehicles, dumping waste etc. on the Common Land
2. Conversely, if there are requests, complaints or queries **from a resident to the Board:**
 - Phone any current Board member
 - If further action is required, a brief written outline can be addressed to the Secretary of the Board for consideration at the next Board meeting

Email: secretary@hamiltonpark.org.au

 - **Typical issues:** vegetation, mowing, fire fuel minimisation, vehicle access
 - In an **emergency contact** the current Chairman of the Board

Ensure residents are aware of these lines of communication between themselves as shareholders and their Board of Management.

2. COMMUNITY

The Board is responsible for regulating uses and activities on HP Co-Operative Ltd property.

These conditions are generally consistent with RCOW rules for public parks and bushland reserves and include:

- **Safety** and convenience for other users
- **Respect** for the communal land, infrastructure and amenities
- **Consideration** for others - residents and their visitors

ACCEPTABLE ACTIVITIES:

- **Walking**
- **Dogs** – to be under effective control at all times
- **Cycling** with care, giving right of way to walkers
- **Fishing in dams** with hand-held rods
- **Yabbying** with legal yabby nets
- **Seed collecting** from native plants for the home garden
- **Tip cuttings** for propagation of native species –not more than 5% from any one plant

UNACCEPTABLE ACTIVITIES:

- **Land degradation:**
 - **Burn piles**
 - **Dumping** – of rubbish, e.g. garden waste
 - **Soil disturbance** such as: ruts from vehicles on wet ground, scalping by mowers, bike jumps, cave cubbies, bike/bush tracks, digging for Bardi grubs
 - **Vehicles (including motor-bikes) being driven on access tracks or across the Common Land** – management vehicles only
 - **Extension of back yard** for storage eg. building/garden materials or equipment
 - **Mowing** without approval
 - **Weedicide Spraying** without approval
 - **Removal** of plants – dead or alive
 - **Cutting down** vegetation
 - **Firewood collection**
 - **Off-road biking** in bushland and Native Grasslands
 - **Horse riding**
- **Nuisance activities**
 - **Dogs - wandering** - safety concern for people on foot, cycle or vehicles.
 - **aggressive** -towards people, native wildlife, other dogs
 - **barking** – excessive or continual – anxiety provoking and unneighbourly!
 - **Cats – wandering** - cats must be kept on their owner's premises at all times
Free cat traps are available to all residents - from the Board and/or RCOW
 - **Littering – please pick up litter including dog poo**
- **Swimming** in dams is prohibited

BOARD APPROVAL REQUIRED:

- Variation of conditions on a short-term basis as required, e.g. working bees, trades people
 - Private use/social gatherings at Community Hub - see Social Club on website for bookings
-

COMPLIANCE

- Council by-laws (Domestic Animals Act 1994) apply for animal infringement behaviour such as unregistered, wandering or dangerous animals
 - As the Common Land is private property, civil law applies for violations such as trespass, theft, wilful damage, vandalism, etc.
 - Private landholders are legally required to 'prevent the growth and spread of' **declared noxious plants and pest animals** on or from their property (CaLP Act 1994). The weed of greatest concern is African Lovegrass found in Zones 43 and 27W at the end of Avoca La.
See the list of weeds found on Common Land, p. 19
 - Residents may need to be reminded of these obligations to protect the Common Land
-

COMMUNAL WATER

- The water in dams is stored for resident's use and for firefighting
 - Inform residents that it is their responsibility to keep **drains** in the vicinity of their residence clear of debris
-

MANAGEMENT FOR AMENITY

Walking tracks, seats and other features the Common Land should be safe, comfortable and pleasant for all users.

- Walking tracks should be **mowed infrequently through Native Grasslands**, when necessary for ease of walking, to avoid grass-seed discomfort and ensure snake visibility
 - Vary the temporary mowed track each season so a permanent track (bare ground) doesn't establish
 - Maintain walking tracks **free of trip hazards** or other obstacles eg. fallen branches
 - **Trim vegetation** along walking tracks if/when required for ease of use
 - Maintain board walks, seats, the landing at top dam in **good repair for safety** of users
-

INSECTICIDES

- Residents need to be cautious as **insecticides can drift** onto Common Land and cause secondary poisoning to unsuspecting spiders, birds, bats, reptiles and frogs that may eat dead insects, beetles and grubs
- These small native animals play a vital part in a healthy environment eg. mosquito control, many birds depend on spider web for nest building
- **Rodenticides** (rat and mouse bait) can also cause secondary poisoning eg. unsuspecting birds and lizards might eat dead rats or mice – for this reason baiting is not recommended

VOLUNTEERS

Stewardship and maintenance of Common Land assets (natural and built environment) depends on volunteers.

- The Welcome Pack distributed to new residents informs them of their rights and responsibilities in relation to the Common Land and the volunteer opportunities available
- Communication is required so that all residents understand the vital role of volunteers

ACTIVITIES RELYING ON VOLUNTEERS

- Maintain a register of resident's skills and interests to allow the Board's appointed 'Land Manager' to organise on-going jobs and respond to extra maintenance needs as they occur
- Maintain an updated contact list for individual volunteers or group representatives
- The Land Manager/s will be responsible for adequate **training of volunteers** for their protection (OH&S) and a briefing about the specific requirements of each job

VOLUNTEERS: INDIVIDUALS OR GROUP	VOLUNTEER'S ROLES AND ACTIVITIES
Mowing roster	Mowing as specified by the Land Manager
	Removal of specific fallen trees, or other debris
	Whipper-snipping and directed clean up prior to summer
	Maintenance of equipment kept in the Bob Bracken shed
	Small maintenance jobs
Communal water supply	Maintenance of communal water supply Water Distribution Manager
Community Hub	Maintenance and cleanliness of the built infrastructure
Garden Club	Maintain the median strip in Henley Rd and the native garden at the Community Hub.
Native vegetation management	Hand weeding e.g. invasive seedlings, Bridal creeper, asparagus Small-scale targeted seasonal herbicide brush or dab Control of listed noxious weeds – in season Trim vegetation along walking tracks if required Collect & scatter seeds of existing desired native plants Divide and transplant native grasses. Possible propagation of plants
Cool burn group	Monitor bushland and assess need for a cool burn Organise implementation of a cool burn
Fuel moisture monitoring	CFA training in the use of equipment and data reporting Weekly during the Fire Danger Period Roster system?

3. BUSHFIRE

The CFA has identified Glenrowan and Hamilton Park as **VERY HIGH** bushfire risk.

Local residents and visitors should be prepared for fire and have a plan for when the Fire Danger Rating is SEVERE, EXTREME or CODE RED.

This Management Plan has been developed to minimise fire fuel hazards on the Common Land but also to protect its natural environmental assets.

3.1 BUSHLAND

Canopy or crown fires are the most dangerous. Well managed Grassy Woodlands have reasonably open areas in between large old trees. With fewer well-spaced trees, the canopies are not touching. This is the goal.

Thinning the short, dense regrowth trees will reduce the amount of denser connected canopy and reduce ladder fuel which takes the fire up to the canopy.

'Coarse' fuels such as fallen timber, larger logs or dead standing trees and stumps do not add fuel to fire front although they do tend to remain burning after the front has passed.

Fine fuels contribute to fire intensity and rate of spread. Fine fuels are defined as less than 6mm in diameter (smaller than your little finger). 'Fines' are made up of leaves, twigs, bark and other ground litter.

In the Common Land bushland, surface fine fuel is generally moderate to low, typical of Grassy Woodland vegetation communities.

A pre summer check and removal of clumps of fine twigs and dry leafy material that has not rotted down is recommended.

In the Common Land bushland, native grasses predominate and generally have a low, sparse growth habit. A build-up of dead material can be controlled by a cool burn. Cool burns are also good for 'cleaning up' fine fuels such as excessive ground litter.

Bark on standing trees can be a 'fine fuel' and produce embers. Most Common Land trees are Blakely's Red Gums which have smooth bark – these are of least concern.

The Stringybark eucalypts pose the greatest fine fuel threat with their coarse fibrous bark. 'Candling' of the small number in strategic locations was deemed unnecessary (2010, 2020) due to their small size and relatively fine bark - to be monitored in the future.

3.2 GRASSLANDS

Grassfires can spread rapidly on unmanaged grasslands. Non-native/introduced grasses are thicker in growth habit and produce much more intense fires than native grasses.

Regular mowing of the **'Grassy Parkland'** zones with their higher fire fuel, non-native grasses will ensure fuel minimisation.

The **'Native Grasslands'** are rich in native grasses and other ground layer species such as lilies, ferns and mosses which have very little biomass over summer.

- Native grasses have approximately 25% of the fuel load of non-native grasses
- Many native grasses are also summer active, responding quickly to summer rain and sometimes remaining green during the drier months

General grassfire facts:

- Produce far fewer embers than forest fires
- Fire burns through it faster than through forest
- Less intense than a forest fire
- Tall, dry grass will burn more intensely than shorter grass
- Short grass has a lower flame height, easier to control
- Grassfires can start earlier in the day than forest fires as grass dries out more quickly
- Grassfires can be started accidentally when using machinery such as chainsaws, lawnmowers, tractors and welders over summer

3.3 ACTIONS TO MINIMISE FIRE RISK

This section outlines the preparation activities, to minimise the risk to HP residential properties, in the event of a bushfire within or near the community.

MONITORING

Seasonal assessment is required twice a year to determine management actions required.

- Mid spring – develop list of jobs for **pre summer clean-up**
- Autumn – identify area for **eco thinning**
 - identify area for **annual cool burn**

Community fuel moisture monitoring:

- Establish a **group** at Hamilton Park to contribute to a CFA regional network of data collection
- This would require **weekly input** after initial training
- Establish a **roster of volunteers** annually to share the task during the declared Fire Danger Period
- **Publish measurements** via Facebook and/or website to inform community about fire risk

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VEHICLES

Tracks and entrances/exit for trucks have been identified for the main bushland area of the Common Land

- The track must be kept free of obstacles to a width of 4m and height of 4m
- Young regenerating wattles and eucalypts should be removed to 3m either side of the track
 - Scatter (do not pile) offcuts in the adjoining bushland
- Zone 5 - a potential **turnaround point** - mid way along access track, central bushland

MOW GRASSY PARKLAND ZONES

- During periods of high growth (especially mid spring, sometimes autumn and late winter) mowing is required to contain weedy species and for a neat appearance
- Early summer – mow to reduce fire fuel hazard and maintain safe track access points
- No lower than 25mm/1 inch to avoid creating bare ground

Light green on map

MOW NATIVE GRASSLAND ZONES

- **Once a year** after seed fall, late spring/early summer. This will usually coincide with the declared Fire Danger Period (Nov – Dec).
- Aim to mow a week before restrictions begin
- No lower than 100mm/4 inches

Yellow on map

PROPERTY PROTECTION STRIPS (PPS)

A PPS is a firebreak between the resident's boundary and the Common Land.

The need for maintaining a PPS has been identified in zones where defensible space is required between private properties and adjoining **bushland zones 2, 3, 7, 8, 13 and 14.**

These **strips** are to be maintained by each adjoining landholder according to the **'agreed standards'** identified during joint site inspections by CFA Fire and Native vegetation Officers. Strips can be **up to 20m wide.**

It is recommended that each adjoining landholder receive a written summary of 'agreed standards' for the maintenance of these buffer strips.

- **First 10m wide strip – mow** seasonally as required to maintain clear access. Mow no lower than 25mm/1 inch to avoid bare dusty ground and loss of grasses.
- An **additional 10m wide strip** (marked by orange topped posts in some places) **can be whipper-snipped** or slashed into the bushland, **during the declared Fire Danger Period:**
 - After native species have seeds have fallen or come off easily in hand and lilies have flowered (November/December)
 - No lower than 100mm/4 inches
 - Hand pull or cut & paint regenerating wattles and eucalypt seedlings
 - Avoid cutting large evergreen lilies, small shrubs e.g. Stypantra and Dianella
 - It is OK to look a bit patchy
 - These 2nd strips can be maintained until the Fire Danger Period ends (March/April)

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions-during-the-fire-danger-period>

NOTE: Zone 16 is maintained as Grassy Parkland to provide clear access under powerlines. This also acts as the first 10m section of PPS between Zone 8 and the adjoining properties.

COOL BURNS - INFORMATION

Relatively frequent, **low intensity fires** maintain woodland health while reducing the fine fuels present. These are known as **cool burns**, also referred to as **cultural burns** as this is a long-established indigenous practice and often involves current descendants.

- **AIMS**
 - To encourage a more open bushland, reduce fire fuel hazard in bushland and grasslands
 - **Bushland** - Management of grasses to stimulate a greater variety of ground layer plants eg. lilies, orchids etc. A cool burn can also refresh and encourage small shrubs.
 - **Native grasslands** - To encourage a greater diversity of species and discourage dominant native grasses. It can also break the cycle of weedy annual grasses.
- **ADVANTAGES**
 - Fire less likely to ‘get away’
 - Conservation values protected; canopy damage minimal
 - Small patch mosaic burns - one small section at a time
 - Small native animals and birds can escape during burn to nearby safe places
- **TIMING**
 - Late autumn, winter, or early September depending on seasonal conditions
 - Burns are always done outside the declared Fire Danger Period
- **FREQUENCY**
 - Cool burns should be carried out on a **regular basis**
 - A patch may be re-burnt every 5-10 years, depending on the location, type of vegetation and seasonal conditions
 - Expect a cool burn to be carried out most years
- **SUPERVISION & TRAINING**
 - **Initial cool burn operations** will be led by Independent ecologist Ian Davidson (Regeneration Solutions) or other qualified person as a **training exercise** for all who wish to be involved
 - **Volunteers will learn** to identify the need, timing and location of burns as well as the implementation (how to do it) process
- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**
 - Descendants of the **Bpangerang** nation (original custodians of this land) have expressed interest in assisting with cool burns. Mr Davidson will initially coordinate this involvement.
 - The aim is to transition to a future where local indigenous and HP Co-operative **volunteers will be empowered to carry out cool burns** with support from local authorities
- **SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS**
 - The local CFA Glenrowan & South Wangaratta Brigades have offered on-ground support
 - DELWP (Forest, Fire & Regions) may also wish to be involved
- **ADVICE**
 - **Site assessments** were carried out May-June 2020 by Ian Davidson of Regeneration Solutions, Sally Mann (botanist), Phil Browne CFA Vegetation Management Officer and Dan Pendavingh of DELWP
 - All have **recommended cool burns** as appropriate management for the Common Land, both bushland and native grasslands

- **GOAL FOR 10 YEAR'S TIME**

- A woodland with larger but fewer well-spaced trees, **canopies not touching**, i.e. should be able to see through the woodland
- Reasonably open areas in between trees, dotted with clumps of Dianella lily
- Grass-trees, Kurrajongs, She-oaks & Cherry Ballarts retained
- More knee-high shrubs should emerge eg. Guinea Flowers, pea species
- Greater variety & numbers of native grasses and small ground layer plants including native lilies, ferns, orchids, raspwort etc.



Goal: An open woodland.

Note: healthy organic ground litter- foreground.

Clump of Dianella mid ground.

Location: north west of the Community Hub. 2020

Typical bushland patch requiring thinning before cool burning

Location: Central bushland, west of Mistletoe Lane 2020



HOW TO CARRY OUT COOL BURNS

ECO-THINNING The first step	Identify a small patch of dense regenerated vegetation (eg. 100m x 60m or equivalent size)
	Remove (C&P) the majority of small live stems (<20cm diameter at chest height)
	Leave dead standing stumps & trees for Turquoise parrot nesting
	Aim to break up the connected canopy
	Leave seedling Kurrajongs, Cherry Ballarts and She-oaks
	<p>*Leave dead seedling wattle stems because they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ contain little fire fuel ➤ have some habitat value ➤ will eventually fall contributing to the organic layer ➤ it is less work to do
<p>*Exception – Remove dead small stems if leaning against another tree – these do have more risk of catching and carrying fire ie. ladder-like</p>	
ASSESSMENT When is the right time to burn?	Bushland – When ground cover grasses will burn outside Fire Declared Periods i.e. contain roughly 30-50% visibly dry vegetation
	Grasslands – Wait till after a couple of frosts late April, May to dry off summer growing grasses (Kangaroo, Red, Windmill & Cane wire-grass) These are the predominant grasses in the Native Grasslands south of Henley Rd (Zones 40 & 41), also in the central bushland (Zones 1,2,3,4,5)
	Burn invasive pale green annual non-native grasses in autumn after they have germinated but before too high and thick A gas gun may be required if too green unless amongst sufficient dead dry grass
PREPARATION 1 In order to burn	Apply for Permit to burn from Council. Schedule 13 form on website. Possible \$ charge. Talk to Municipal Fire Prevention Officer at Council.
	Register with Emergency Services Telecommunication Authority (ESTA) on 1800 668 511
	Notify neighbours Contact local CFA
	Liaise with volunteer Bpangerang. Organise volunteer residents.

PREPARATION 2 Immediately before burn	Identify any 'at risk' species and mark with flagging tape: eg. small seedlings of species like Drooping She-oaks and Guinea flower
	Identify heavy bark around base of big trees - rake back from trunk to prevent ignition of tree trunk
	To prevent ignition to fallen dead logs , rake 'fines' away
	Identify and safeguard any older trees or stumps with breaches or crevices at the base -Ensure that no fire fuel is touching the tree -These may harbour fire and smoulder for days - if they catch fire
	No soil disturbance – whipper-snip containment lines if necessary
DURING	Conduct on-site OH&S induction and job outline for all participants
	Don't burn Grass-trees, Cherry Ballarts, She-oaks
	Don't burn patches of Dianella - these provide excellent refuges for lizards etc during the burn
	Don't burn the open, bare looking areas – probably won't burn anyway
	Don't burn all of a Common Fringe-myrtle patch
	Burn any dead leafy heads of fallen trees but don't burn fallen trees - leave them where they fall
	Don't burn standing dead trees and stumps
	Don't burn any trees with a hollow
	Keep fire away from larger dead wood at ground level
	Position CFA tanker with water – no mineral breaks
	On completion – conduct an on-site assessment of the effectiveness of the burn, ability of animals to escape, protection of marked plants etc.
	On completion - arrange for monitoring of the site for 8-10 days or more, depending on weather conditions
AFTER	Remove flagging tape from marked 'at risk' plants
	Review effectiveness: too hot/too wet? protection of identified species?
	Manage weeds – check several times in the following year especially approx. 2 weeks after rain

ZONES IDENTIFIED FOR COOL BURNS

These are the zones that the **Fire Management Assessor** (voluntary position appointed by the Board) would check – several times during autumn - winter each year. Cool burns would be carried out on a roughly rotational/ as needs basis and be dependent on the season each year. The burn would be organised by the **Fire Management Coordinator** (voluntary position appointed by the Board).

Zone 1: SE section of the central bushland

- The purpose of a cool burn would be to ensure safe access for fire crews, in the protection of houses adjoining the bushland, in the event of a fire

Zone 2: Bushland at rear of residences - numbers 16, 20, 26 Mistletoe Lane

- Thinning the regrowth wattle and eucalypt seedlings would be the first step
- A cool burn would manage the probable increase in grass growth following thinning

Zone 3: Bushland at the rear of residences – numbers 33, 37, 41 Wirrinnya Ave

- Pale green annual non-native grasses adjoining the Property Protection Strip
- Cool burn in autumn after weeds have germinated but before too high and thick
- Annual weedy grasses increase the soil richness when they die, favouring their future germination & growth
- Cool burns can help break the cycle

Zone 4: North of Community Hub

- A cool burn focusing on 20m either side of the central track would reduce fuel load, estimated at moderate to high in June 2020

Zone 8: Southern section of the bushland above the top dam

- This area has a ground layer of mainly Weeping Grass which may be difficult to ignite
- If a cool burn was carried out, use the narrow EW intersecting track as the northern line
- Carefully whipper-snip the north side of the track and wet down

Zone 13: Small patch of bushland in the south east corner of the Common Land

- Time cool burn to knock out annual weedy grasses
- To enhance the native grasses (Kangaroo & Weeping grass)

Zone 14: Spring-soak woodland near end Omar Close

- The southern parts (nearer drain) would probably carry a cool burn
- Wait till after the clearing of regenerated vegetation under the powerline
- The central part of the bushland does not have enough vegetation continuity at ground level to carry a cool burn

Zone 40 & 41: Large & small native grasslands – south of Henley Rd

- Cool burns are recommended for the Native Grasslands
- Carry out in small sections at a time not the whole lot at once

Zone 36: Lower dam bank - front section next to Warby Range Rd

- Time cool burn to knock out annual weedy grasses
- To enhance the native grasses (Wallaby) and other ground layer plants (eg. raspwort, lilies & Spiny Bitter-pea)

3.4. CALENDAR OF FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

Two community roles are recommended to carry out **Fire Management (FM)** responsibilities.

1. **FM assessor** - Annual monitoring, assessment of conditions, species ID etc.
2. **FM coordinator** - Organise actions and community communication when required

Activities will vary from year to year according to the season.

Approximate timing	Management Action	Who
Late Oct	Walk through assessment : fire fuel in fire and fire truck track access	FM assessor
November	Fuel moisture monitoring (see p.20) Organise roster of volunteer residents for the coming season	FM coordinator
Late Oct – early December	Identify & organise removal from bushland 'fine fuel' less than 6mm in thickness eg. fallen twigs, leafy branches	FM coordinator Working bee - if necessary
Late Oct- early Dec (just b/f Fire Danger Period)	Native Grasslands (low fire fuel) - mow once a year after seed fall	Volunteers - roster
As required, seasonally	Grassy Parkland (higher fire fuel) - regular mowing (no lower than 25mm/1 inch)	Volunteers - roster
As required, seasonally	Property Protection Strips - adjoining bushland 1st 10m - mow (no lower than 25mm/1 inch)	Adjoining residents
November	2nd 10m – if required - whipper-snip into bushland (no lower than 100mm/4 inches)	
Early autumn	Assess need for thinning , nominate site, prepare job plan. Ian Davidson will assist initially.	FM assessor
Autumn	Thinning of regenerating wattle and eucalypt saplings	FM coordinator Working bee
Autumn (Mar- Apr)	Assess for cool burn . Identify site/extent	FM assessor, Bpangerang reps An ecologist/advisor will be required for training at first
Autumn (Apr – May)	Approve cool burn	HP Board
	Organise permit, external help & local volunteers	FM coordinator for Board
Immediately prior to burn	Mark plants to protect, section to burn	FM assessor, FM coordinator, ecologist/advisor and HP Co-op volunteer trainees
Late autumn – early spring (May-Aug)	Conduct cool burn when suitable cool, dry conditions prevail	Bpangerang reps, ecologist/advisor FM assessor & FM coordinator HP Co-op volunteer trainees

4. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Hamilton Park Co-operative Ltd is the custodian of a rich diversity of native plants and animals most of which, being uniquely Australian, are found nowhere else in the world.

The Common Land provides essential food, shelter and breeding places for many small native **wildlife** species.

It contains over 80 original **native plants** and around 50 introduced species (vegetation audit, 2010). It is rare in the 21st century to find so many native species remaining.

4.1 NATIVE VEGETATION

The Common Land bushland is not just a random patch of bush - it is special. This native vegetation has national and state significance.

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The **Box-Gum Grassy Woodland vegetation community** forms the largest area of remnant bushland found within the Common Land.

This vegetation community is listed as **critically endangered** nationally.

Box-Gum Grassy Woodland is found in a broad arc (inland) from the Queensland border in the north, to the South Australian border in the south, through inland NSW and NE, Central and SW Victoria.

Now less than 5 per cent remains in good condition. Most occurs in small isolated patches like Hamilton Park. It is typically an open eucalypt woodland, with a ground layer of native grasses and a variety of small wildflowers and a few small shrubs. The majority has been extensively cleared and modified over the years being particularly attractive for livestock grazing and agriculture.

**THIS BUSHLAND
IS NOT
JUST A
RANDOM
PATCH OF BUSH.**

STATE SIGNIFICANCE AND EVCS

Regional variations do occur as the Box-Gum Grassy Woodland vegetation type covers such an extensive area in eastern Australia.

Hamilton Park is in the '**Victorian Northern Inland Slopes**' Bioregion.

The Common Land features 3 different vegetation communities referred to as **Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs)**.

All 3 EVCs are classified **endangered** in Victoria.

i. **Grassy Woodland EVC 175 – 62/63**

The open bushland north of the Community Hub is Grassy Woodland. It is a mosaic of 2 subclasses: *Rainshadow Grassy Woodland* and *Shrubby Granitic-outwash Grassy Woodland*. It is characterized by open eucalypt woodland over a diverse ground layer of native grasses and other small plants with a scattering of shrubs.

This vegetation community, fringing the Warby Ranges, is now largely cleared with only 1% of the original area remaining (9 ha out of an estimated 886 ha before settlement). Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 13 (south of Henley Rd).

ii. **Valley Grassy Forest EVC 47**

The bushland above the top dam is Valley Grassy Forest. The eucalypts grow taller here and there is a dense ground layer of native Weeping Grass. Zones 7, 8, 9.

iii. **Spring soak Woodland EVC 80**

The bushland at the end of Omar Close is **the largest Spring-soak** patch in the Common Land: Zone 14.

There are three other small Spring-soak Woodlands: Zones 10, 11 and 12.

Spring soaks have some unique characteristics:

- Very small patches measured in square metres rather than hectares
- Seasonal wetland communities dependent on the continual availability of a reliable water supply
- Found only in areas adjoining nearby granite ranges such as the Warbys

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

The remnant bushland, native grassland and permanent water provides many aesthetic and conservation benefits.

FEATURE	IMPORTANCE FOR NATIVE PLANTS, BIRDS, SMALL MAMMALS AND RESIDENTS
Amenity value	Residents can enjoy a walk in the bush or native grasslands within a few minutes of home Access to nature-rich spaces that support the physical and mental well-being of residents
Close to the Warby Ranges	Extends the range of food and shelter for local Warby's wildlife especially birds
	A connecting vegetation link for wildlife - from the Warby Ranges to roadside & railway linear reserves
Diverse range of trees, hollows, fallen timber, shrubs, ground cover plants & native grasses	The variety of potential homes and food sources (habitat) provides safe areas for roosting, nesting and rearing of young
	Ability to sustain a diverse range of resident native wildlife
Gardens of residents	Provides extra food (nectar, insects) and habitat opportunities Extends the range for both resident, Warby Ranges and migratory birds
Dams (3)	A source of permanent water in the drying Warby's climate Good quality water supports a variety of waterborne food for waterbirds and other wildlife
Instream reeds, overhanging trees & dam edge vegetation	Provides waterbirds with a variety of safe habitats for breeding and roosting Food and shelter for frogs and various reptiles
Native grasslands	Provides valuable food for many native birds especially ground (seed and invertebrate) feeders
	Extremely low in fire fuel load due to thin growth habit Contributes very little to fire spread or intensity
	16 different native grass species identified so far
Mosses and lichens - ground cover	Low or no fire fuel to burn as they die right back over summer, resembling bare dirt
	Survive in-between tufts of sparse native grasses, saving the space for many seasonal lilies and orchids
	Form a protective skin called Biological Soil Covering (BSC) over the soil helping to minimise erosion from water and wind, prevent weeds establishing and minimise evaporation in summer

TYPICAL NATIVE SPECIES

NATIONAL VEG CLASS	BOX-GUM GRASSY WOODLAND		
VICTORIAN EVC	GRASSY WOODLAND	VALLEY GRASSY FOREST	SPRING SOAK WOODLAND
<i>Common Land location</i>	<i>Central bushland: Zones 1 - 6 + Zone 13 (SW boundary)</i>	<i>Above top dam Zones 7, 8, 9</i>	<i>End of Omar Close: Zone 14 + Zones 10, 11, 12</i>
Trees tall	Blakely's Red Gum, Yellow Box, Grey Box, Red Box, Apple Box, Long-leaf Box, Red Stringybark	Blakely's Red Gum, Grey Box, Long-leaf Box	Blakely's Red Gum
Trees medium	Kurrajong, Lightwood	Kurrajong, Lightwood	
Trees small	Silver wattles, Cherry Ballart, Buloke, Drooping She-oak, Grey Grass tree	Cherry Ballart, Silver wattles	Silver wattles
Shrubs - tall	Common Fringe-Myrtle, Prickly Tea-tree	Kangaroo apple, Prickly Tea-tree	Prickly Tea-tree, Golden Spray
Shrubs low scattered	Spiny Bitter-pea, Grey Parrot-Pea, Nodding Blue-lily, Grey & Silky Guinea Flowers, Daphne Heath, Blue Finger-flower, Purple Coral-pea	Grey & Silky Guinea Flowers, Nodding Blue-lily	
Ground layer	Milkmaids, Chocolate, Fringe & Pale-vanilla lilies. Rock-fern, Native geranium, Sticky Everlasting, Black-anther & Late-flower Flax-lilies (Dianella), Raspworts, Sundews, Twining glycine, Orchids	Bulbine lily, Yellow Rush-lily Narrow Goodenia Many-flowered Mat-rush Black-anther & Late-flower Flax-lilies	Yellow Star, Fairies Aprons, Swamp Isotome, Sundews, Narrow Goodenia, Chocolate Lily, Varied Raspwort, Common Bog-sedge
Native grasses	Kangaroo grass, several Wallaby grasses, Red grass, Cane Wire grass, Brush Wire grass, Dense Spear grass, Rough Spear grass, Common Wheat grass, Windmill Grass, Tussock grass	Weeping grass, Wallaby grass, Tussock grass, various sedges	Weeping Grass, several Wallaby grasses, various sedges

These lists are also useful as a planting guide for each EVC.

MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE NATIVE VEGETATION

THREAT	MANAGEMENT ACTION	WHY - REASON FOR ACTION
Ground disturbance - bare ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid scalping with machinery eg. mower Avoid driving on Common Land, especially when wet Discourage off-road bike- tracks, jumps etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native species can't handle regular impact and will die Tyre ruts make it hard to mow and can lead to scalping Tyre ruts can lead to lines of weeds Delicate mosses and lichens form a protective 'skin' on the soil - they are easily dislodged and killed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If digging is necessary, retain & replace topsoil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise establishment of weeds To ensure against loss of native species
Mowing too low (comparable to overgrazing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grassy Parkland Mow no lower than 25mm/1 inch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial grasses – introduced or native - will die out if mowed too low Annuals like capeweed, winter grass, erodium will thrive Annuals die off over summer leaving bare, dusty ground Grasses with runners like Kikuyu are an exception - these will survive and thrive but make mowing harder
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property Protection Strips First 10m - Mow no lower than 25mm/1 inch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent or low mowing can soon exhaust native grasses, lilies and ferns Native species will die leaving gaps that weeds can soon fill and can be very dusty in summer and autumn
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property Protection Strips - second 10m If required - into bushland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Slash or whipper-snip no lower than 100mm/4 inch – Avoid taller lilies, small shrubs – messy is OK – Try to retain natural 'mulch' layer of ground litter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To retain native grasses, lilies, orchids, ferns, small shrubs To protect natural ground litter which shields against weed invasion and helps insulate the soil Lilies & orchids grow up through the protective mulch

THREAT	MANAGEMENT ACTION	WHY
Loss of dead fallen & standing timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave dead trees standing 	Loss of homes and food sources ie. hollows, crevices, bark for small native wildlife (birds, mammals, reptiles)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave fallen trees, logs, branches and sticks where they lie - unless across a track or structure 	As above, plus debris will discourage weeds
		To avoid rapid loss of diversity of animal species
Loss of ground litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to prevent ground layer disturbance 	Bacteria & fungi are required for soil health
Weed invasion*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid soil disturbance -bushland and grasslands • Don't mow too low • Remove weedy perennial weed species when first noticed - by hand removal, cut & paint or targeted, minimal use of herbicide spray • Clean down mowers before mowing Native Grasslands • Remove garden escapee shrubs, bulbs, asparagus • Annual timely control of listed Noxious Weeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weeds love bare ground • Native species will die out, perennial grasses will suffer, weeds will be encouraged • Native grasses are choked out by non-natives like: Paspalum, Phalaris, Kikuyu • Risk of spreading weed seed while mowing • To protect Bushland • Land manager's legal responsibility under the CaLP Act
Rabbits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove any burrows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No burrows -> no breeding-> no established population • Rabbits will devastate native vegetation leading to complete loss of some species e.g. native pea shrubs

*See page 19 for a list of Weeds Found on Common Land

4.2 NATIVE WILDLIFE

There are many species of native wildlife that live in or visit the bushland, native grasslands and resident's gardens within the Hamilton Park community. Many of these animals are insect eaters and help maintain a healthy balance for HP residents.

More detailed information about HP native wildlife can be found on the Hamilton Park website.

BIRDS

HP has a rich variety of birds – **over 120 species** have been listed. Over 30 wetland birds species visit or live around the dams. Over 80% of Australian birds are insect eaters.

Rare birds found in HP include the **Diamond Firetail** and the **Turquoise Parrot**. The community was involved in the installation of nesting boxes to provide more nesting hollows for the Turquoise Parrot in 2017.

HP is on the flight path of the critically endangered **Swift Parrot** which breeds in Tasmania in summer and migrates to winter blossom feeding grounds in SE Australia. Nearby feeding localities include the Killawarra & Chiltern forests.

A pair of the endangered **Regent Honeyeaters** nested in bushland next to HP in 2013. They were seen frequently feeding in a HP resident's garden. The bands on their legs indicated they had been released in Chiltern as part of the captive breeding program.

REPTILES AND FROGS

A variety of reptiles live in the Common Land. **Lizards** include several species of skinks, geckoes, legless lizards, dragons and goannas.

A rare Woodland Blind Snake, conservation status *vulnerable (Vic)* was found in 2010.

The Red-bellied Black and Common Brown are the most common **snakes** seen. They provide good food for Kookaburras.

Long-necked **Turtles** are around the dams and can be seen crossing Warby Range road sometimes after rain.

At least five species of **frog** have been identified in the Common Land.

A healthy frog population is good insurance for mosquito control.

INSECTS

Insects form the majority diet for a vast range of small native wildlife including: birds, small reptiles, frogs and small mammals.

They also play a vital role in the pollination of native plants.

Ants are important in nutrient cycling as they help get organic matter back into the generally low fertility Australian soils.

MAMMALS

Visitors from the nearby Warby Ranges include **Kangaroos and Wallabies** (on the western fringe).

Koalas used to visit once or twice a year but have not been seen for 8-10 years.

Resident mammals include **Sugar Gliders, Squirrel Gliders, Ringtail and Brushtail Possums**. **Echidnas** have trouble getting about because of fences but are sometimes seen. **Wombats** from the Warby Ranges are rarely seen except in very long, hot summers when they are looking for water if they can get around various fences.

There are nine species of insect eating **bats** listed for the Warby Ranges. Bats are often overlooked as they are small, silent and sleep during the day, feeding by night. Bats can eat up to half their body weight in insects every night. Some bat species are likely to be providing insect control throughout Hamilton Park.

Caution: Do not try to catch or hold a bat as it could be carrying a deadly virus.

MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE WILDLIFE

The management actions outlined will help maintain and promote the unique fit of various creatures within the different habitat features.

HABITAT FEATURES	MANAGEMENT ACTION	WILDLIFE SUPPORTED
<i>'Real Estate & Supermarkets'</i>		
Complex organic ground layer of fallen logs, branches, sticks, bark, leaves in bushland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect ground litter Avoid 'cleaning up' No bike tracks, jumps <p><i>Check out local booklet: 'The Ground Storey'</i></p>	Insects, worms, spiders, bugs, beetles, worms, soil micro-organisms
		Ground feeding birds- robins, shrike-thrush, magpies, thornbills, babblers
		Lizards, geckoes, frogs
Tree hollows, cracks and crevices in standing trees - alive or dead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave dead trees standing 	Birds: Kookaburras, Owls, Tree-creepers, Striated pardalotes, Parrots, Kingfishers, Wood swallows & more Bats, Possums, Gliders Goannas

HABITAT FEATURES <i>'Real Estate & Supermarkets'</i>	MANAGEMENT ACTION	WILDLIFE SUPPORTED
Silver wattles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure survival & recruitment of some wattles 	Gliders & some birds – depend on gum for food in winter months
Uncontaminated fresh water Reeds, some trees or shrubs at water's edge Mixed ground debris close to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid totally barren dam banks, encourage ground cover • Do not mow swale drains (Zones 30 & 31) • Protect Spring-soaks (Zones 10, 11, 12 & 14) as they are important breeding grounds in wetter years 	Frogs, the Long-necked Turtle, tadpoles, small fish and crustaceans, waterbirds
Native grasslands, small shrubs, lilies, orchids, ferns and other ground layer plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect delicate native plants from ground disturbance • Use cool burns to control grasses and encourage a wide variety of ground layer vegetation. 	Small reptiles & birds, mammals, native butterflies, moths & other pollinators
Safe habitat – free of non-native predators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats - protect Common Land wildlife from feral or wandering cats – Encourage residents to keep their cats within their property – Free cat traps are available from the Board and RCOW 	Birds- nesting and fledglings Small mammals – Gliders, antechinus, possums
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs - on lead if likely to chase or be aggressive to wildlife 	Water birds, gliders, possums, snakes, lizards Long-necked turtles -eggs laid in a shallow hole near water
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foxes - support Parks Vic baiting programs within Warby Ovens National Park 	
Termite mounds Ant's nests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid disturbance if works scheduled nearby 	Sand Goannas lay their eggs in termite mounds Ants are food for many birds, lizards and other creatures

4.3 RARE OR THREATENED SPECIES (ROTS)

All the bushland, three plant species and eighteen native wildlife species have been listed for HP. These national and state conservation status classifications may be useful for grant applications. This information may also be useful for decision making about usage and management actions on the Common Land.

National EPBC: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Victorian FFG: Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

Categories: The first 4 are the same for both the national EPBC and state FFG listings.

The state FFG has some additional listings.

EX = Extinct

CR = Critically endangered

EN = Endangered

VU = Vulnerable

NT = FFG Near threatened (fauna only)

L = FFG listed as threatened

INDIVIDUAL FLORA SPECIES

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	EPBC	FFG
Buloke	<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>		L
Grey Grass-tree	<i>Xanthorrhoea glauca subsp. angustifolia</i>		L
Narrow Goodenia	<i>Goodenia macbarronii</i>	VU	VU
Late-flower Flax-lily	<i>Dianella tarda</i>		VU

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

NAME	EPBC	FFG
Box-Gum Grassy Woodland - vegetation community	CR	
Spring-soak Woodland – Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC)	EN	EN
Grassy Woodland EVC		EN
Valley Grassy Forest EVC		EN

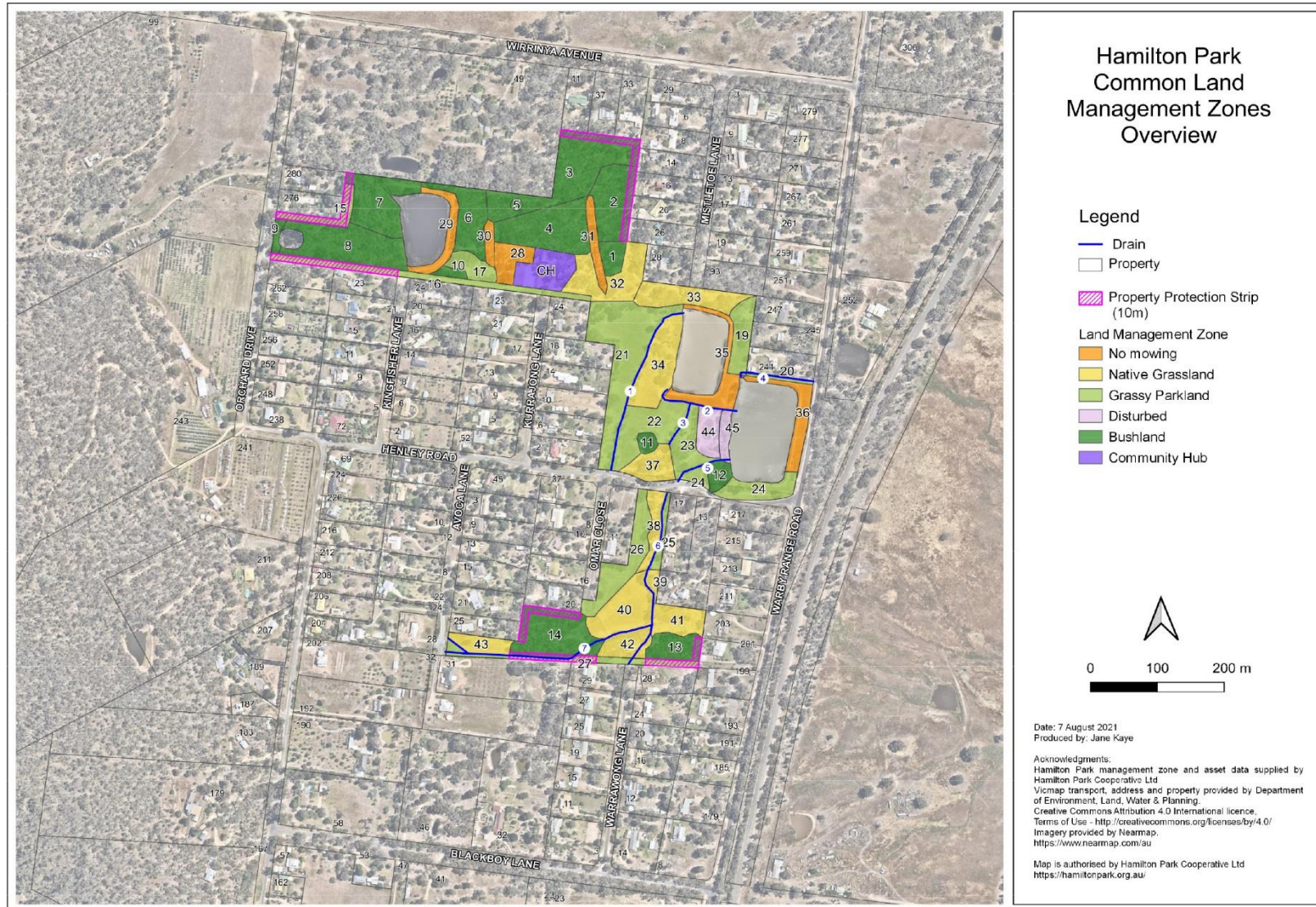
INDIVIDUAL FAUNA SPECIES

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NATIONAL EPBC	STATE FFG	OFFICIAL RECORDED SIGHTINGS FOR HP	SEEN IN THE LAST 10 YEARS BY RESIDENTS
Regent Honeyeater	<i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>	CR	CR	2	Y
Carpet Python	<i>Morelia spilota</i>		EN	1	
Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	CR	EN	1	Y
Hooded Robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>		NT	1	
Turquoise Parrot	<i>Neophema pulchella</i>		NT	58	Y
Diamond Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>		NT	29	Y
Lewin's Rail	<i>Rallus pectoralis</i>		VU	1	Y
Black Falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>		VU	1	
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hiundapus caudacutus</i>	VU	VU	1	
Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	VU	VU	2	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>		VU	1	
Speckled Warbler	<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>		VU	16	Y
Eastern Great Egret	<i>Ardea modesta</i>		VU	13	Y
Lace Monitor	<i>Varanus varius</i>		EN	1	Y
Brown Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>		NT	16	Y
Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>		NT	2	Y
Nankeen Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>		NT	1	Y
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo azurea</i>		NT	1	Y

5.1 SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO PLAN: 2014 - 2020

SECTION	CHANGE	REASON
Purpose	Modify wording	Clarity & Accuracy
Aims	Minor changes to wording	Emphasis since 2020 site assessments - management to enhance Common Land natural environment - not just minimise threats
Introduction	Remove explanation of why and how first Management Plan (2014) was developed	Considered irrelevant to future management of Common Land
Whole document	Change of audience from all residents to Board of Management primarily	Purpose clarified as management policy document for Board rather than awareness raising & management tool for all
Reorganise document	Move Land Management section to start	Implementation activities identified as key importance of Plan
	Less words & photos, larger font, more tables & dot points	Improve clarity and access to basics.
Land Management	Remove some explanations about Land Types	Excess information, not a management tool
	Add detailed Guidelines for Works	How to implement management activities
	Reformat annual action tables	Greater clarity. Calendar of what activity & when to do it
	Re-design tables of mowing regimes	Greater clarity of requirements for different zones. Can be given to volunteers to assist their understanding
	Add No Mow areas	To protect and enhance native vegetation
Bushfire	Remove excess information about fire fuel	Information deemed unnecessary for management purposes
	Present management responsibilities in table	Calendar format to assist Board in planning activities
	Reformat & update Cool Burn information	Cool burns strongly recommended by experts during 2020 site assessments – both bushland and native grasslands
Community	Added as a new section	To summarise implications for residents' use of Common Land
	Add Volunteer's Roles & Activities	Spread the implementation of activities across various interest groups. Reduce the need for large working bees
Native Vegetation & Native Wildlife	Remove explanatory detail, examples & photos	Website deemed more suitable for information & photos
	Present descriptive information in tables	For quick, easy reference.
	Add table of Rare & Threatened Species	Quick reference, useful information in applying for grants
	Present management actions & rationale in a table	More accessible
Map	Minor Zone changes	Reflect changes in vegetation classification
	Add Property Protection Strips	Previously not indicated. Important management implications.

5.2 MAP – HAMILTON PARK COMMON LAND MANAGEMENT ZONES – OVERVIEW



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