

# Planned Burns for

Department of  
Sustainability and  
Environment

## Wilson's Promontory National Park

### Fuel reduction burning 2011-2013

**Most Victorians are familiar with the controlled use of fire, called planned burning, during periods of lower fire risk. Planned burning (fuel reduction or ecological) aims to maintain the health of native ecosystems and reduce future bushfire intensity. Burns are planned for Wilsons Promontory ('the Prom'), over a 3 year period from autumn 2011 to spring 2013. To minimise disruption to visitors, these burns will be conducted outside key visitor periods whenever possible.**

#### **Why use fire to restore parts of the Prom?**

Planned burns help sustain the health and diversity of fire-adapted plant communities in Wilsons Promontory National Park. Without fire, plant communities such as coastal heathland and grasslands will continue to disappear.

Planned burns ignited at the right time of year when fuel and weather conditions allow, result in a mosaic pattern of burnt vegetation across the landscape. This creates a variety of ages of habitat for plants and animal and assists in the control of larger bushfires.

Although there are inherent risks associated with planned burning, there are greater environmental costs when fire is excluded from fire-adapted plant communities.

Planned burning also reduces fuel loads. This reduction in fuel can lessen the intensity of wildfire allowing for better protection of life and property.

Using fire to maintain the environment at Wilsons Promontory is a complex task and we are continually improving the way we plan and implement our burns. Planned burns are carried out by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) in cooperation with Parks Victoria.

#### **How were these locations chosen?**

Planned burn locations are selected using research into the Prom's fire history combined with scientific knowledge of plant communities and species' fire requirements.

#### **Where are the planned burns occurring?**

The attached map shows the locations of burns planned for Wilsons Promontory National Park over the next three years.

Four ecological burns are proposed on the Yanakie Isthmus during this period. These burns will help restore coastal grassy woodland and create a natural vegetation mosaic across the landscape.

Coastal tea-tree burning trials will also be undertaken on the Yanakie Isthmus in an effort to re-establish nationally threatened coastal grassy woodlands.

In addition, three ecological burns are planned for 2012 and 2013 in the southern section of the Park.

#### **How will that affect me?**

Car parks and walking tracks near the planned burn sites may be closed on days of planned burns and on days following a burn. All other walking tracks will remain open.

The Prom Road will remain open while planned burns are underway. However, staff may need to close one lane during the burns which may cause traffic delays.

Depending on where you are in the Prom or local area, you may experience some smoke drift during, and just after, the planned burns.

#### **When will planned burns occur?**

Planned burning is usually conducted in spring or autumn. Suitable weather conditions and forecasts will determine the exact dates.

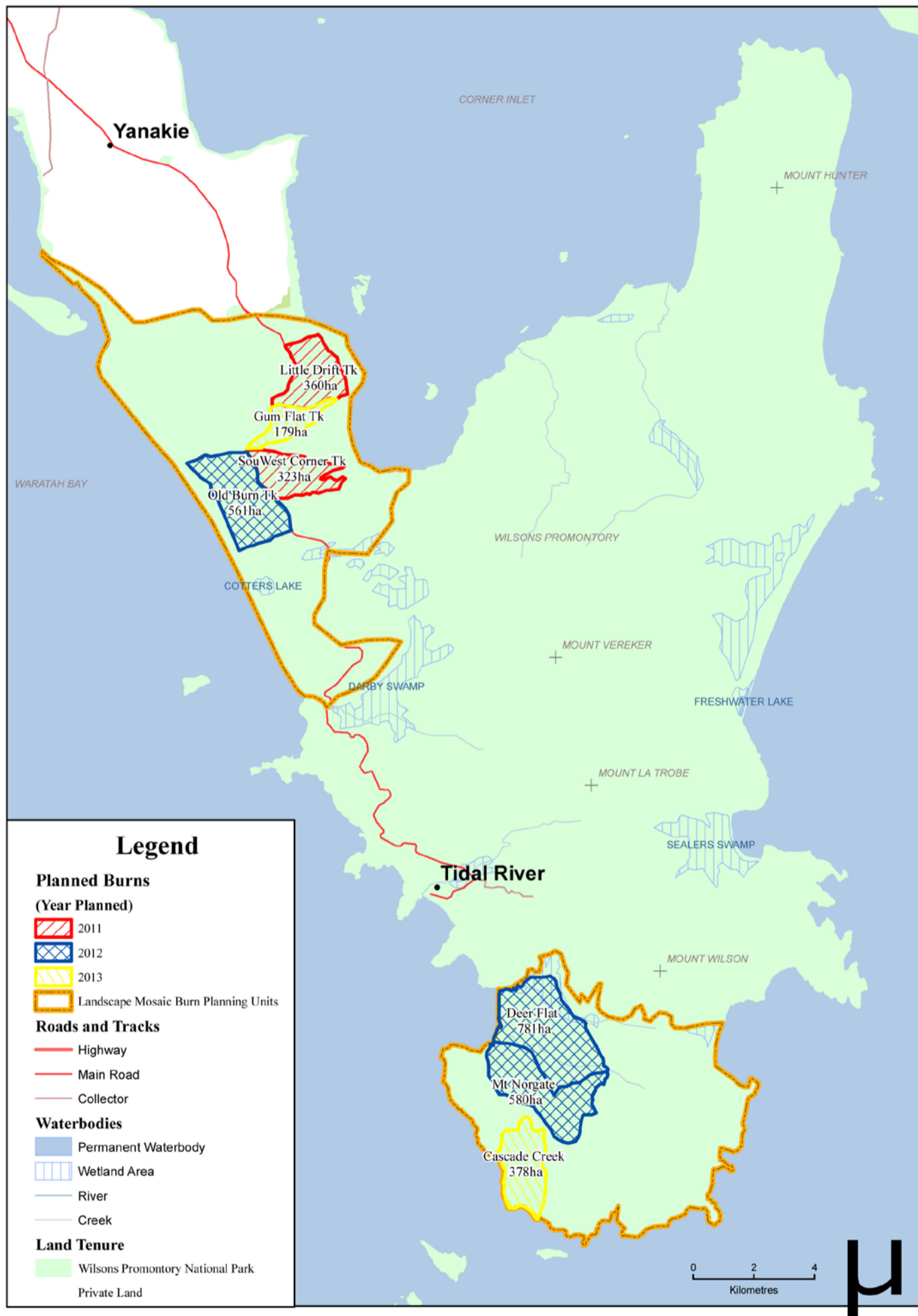
# Planned Burns for

Department of  
Sustainability and  
Environment

# Wilson's Promontory National Park

## Fuel reduction burning 2011-2013

### Wilson's Promontory National Park Planned Burning Program 2011 - 2013



Disclaimer: Base layer information on this map has been sourced from Firemap 100k topographic map series. This material may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for error, loss or damage which may arise from reliance upon it.

(c) Parks Victoria 2010

## More information

Information on planned burning operations being conducted on any given day is available from:

- Tidal River Visitor Centre
- DSE website [www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires) – for fire planning and operations information
- Victorian Bushfire Information Line **1800 240 667 (FREE CALL)**
- ABC Radio, local radio and local newspapers

This map is not to scale.