

Gunbower Forest

2021 Wetland and Floodplain Watering

North Central CMA acknowledges the Barapa Barapa and Yorta Yorta Traditional Owners of Gunbower Forest, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country, and their contributions to and interests in land, water and natural resource management.



For more than 10 years, the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has been listening to locals, they love the forest too, and working together to protect and enhance its health.

Delivering water for the environment during spring brings the forest to life and provides plenty of reasons for locals and tourists to explore.

Can I access the forest during watering?

Yes, but with a level of caution as access to some parts of the forest will be impacted. We are planning to water about 10% of the forest meaning there will be plenty of places where access won't be an issue.

Please take a look at the map overleaf so you can safely plan your trip and to avoid damp tracks - driving on them can cause significant damage and some may be closed.

Forest users from Cohuna will still be able to access the Murray River via Nursery Track, and users from Koondrook can access the forest from River Track via Condidorio's Bridge. Access will be restored to the majority of the forest before peak visitation periods in late spring and summer.

For detailed information regarding forest access, domestic firewood collection and camping:

Follow DELWP/Loddon Mallee on Facebook
www.facebook.com/DELWPLoddonMallee

Parks Victoria on 131 963 or www.parksvic.gov.au

Where to visit?

Our pick is Reedy Lagoon. It's a great spot for waterbird watching, photography and has beautiful old red gums and lots of wetland plants. Yarran Creek and Little Gunbower Creek are also great options for kayaking. The forest will be at its best in late spring as water plants start to flower, birds and frogs are breeding making it the perfect place to explore when the weather finally warms-up.



Reedy Lagoon will be a haven for nature lovers (credit: North Central CMA)



Kayaking along Gunbower Creek (credit: Murray River Adventures, Cohuna)

Why are the wetlands and floodplain being watered?

In an unaltered landscape we wouldn't need to provide water for the environment, the forest had survived for thousands of years, but things have changed.

River regulation, including the increasing demands on water by all users, the construction of dams, weirs and irrigation infrastructure means the forest doesn't naturally flood like it once did.

This spring we are targeting the high-priority permanent and semi-permanent wetlands like Reedy Lagoon, the Little Reedy Wetland Complex and the Little Gunbower Wetland complex (including Black Swamp) and surrounding river red gum floodplain.

When will watering start?

Water will begin flowing into the wetlands in mid-August 2021 and taper-off in November 2021.

Regulators on the Gunbower Creek will be used to deliver water to the wetlands, filling them and then gradually pushing the water out to the surrounding floodplain. Small, targeted deliveries may continue over summer to specific wetlands at lower flows to support growth of aquatic vegetation or to support a waterbird breeding even.

For detailed information visit www.nccma.vic.gov.au – **projects - current water for the environment flows** or follow us on social media.



The actual area that can be watered is dependent on the available capacity in Gunbower Creek after irrigation demand is met. A range of scenarios have been planned for, and operations may also be adapted if natural inflows into the forest occur to take advantage of them.

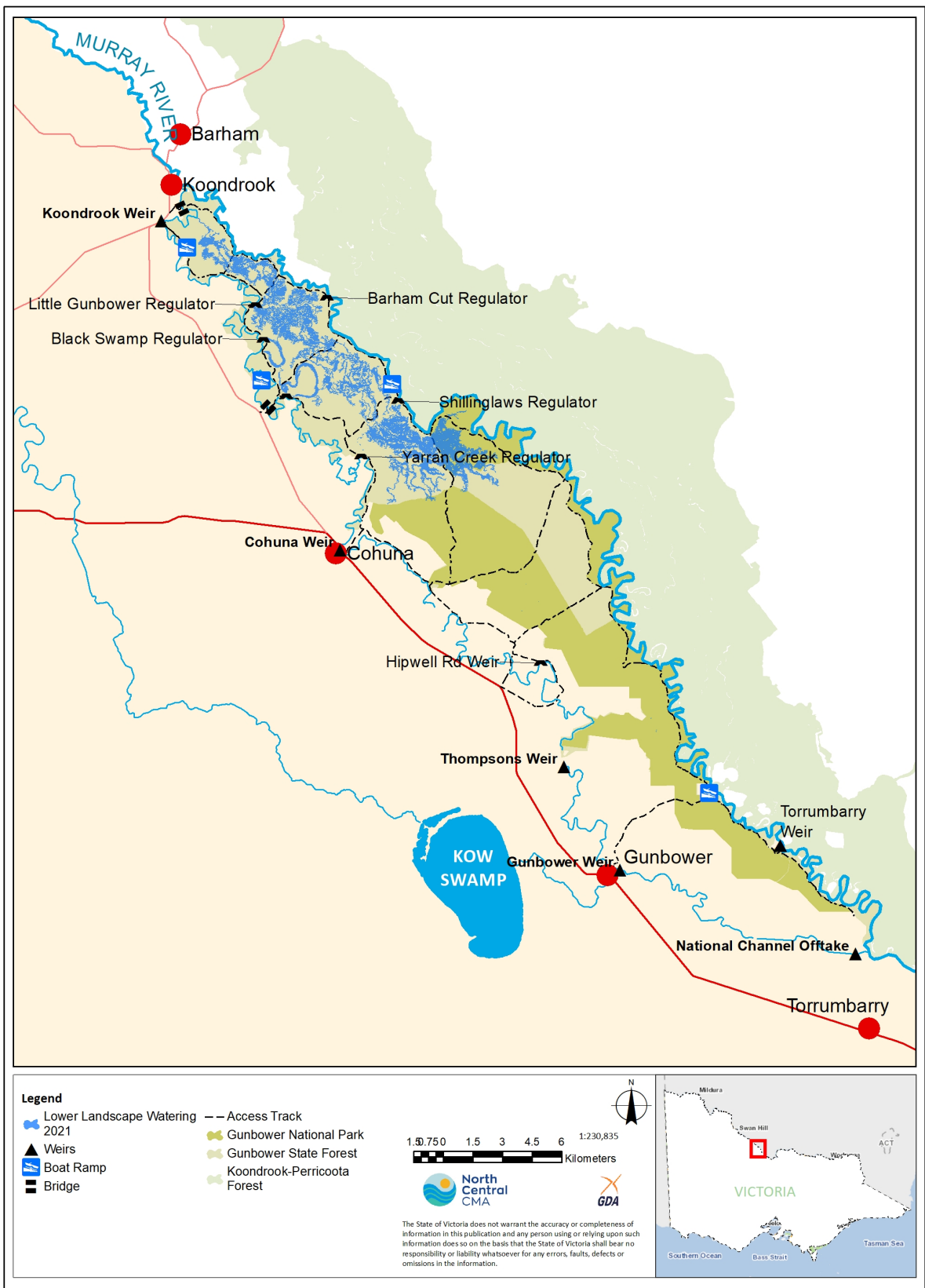


Figure 1. Map of expected inundation extent from deliveries of water for the environment in spring 2021. Actual extent may vary.

The flows are authorised by VEWH in line with its Seasonal Watering Plan 2020-21, which is available for download from www.vevh.vic.gov.au, with regular watering updates posted on the North Central CMA website www.nccma.vic.gov.au.

For more information

Telephone 03 5448 7124 or visit www.nccma.vic.gov.au

