

The Glasshouse Campground

Site analysis



Current use

The landscape is mostly flat and exposed. On arrival to the campsite, visitors reach a grassy mound that has spectacular long views to the surrounding saltmarsh and lake. The Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust houses can be seen from this site.



It is a popular camping area (recent survey numbers were at around 250 visitors at Easter 2018) with lake access and proximity to beach.

There are no designated camp sites, and during busy periods all the open ground is covered with tents, cars and vans. There are no toilets, with areas between campers littered with waste and toilet paper.

Existing amenities

None.

Existing access

Unsealed road. Some grading and drainage issues close to the entry of the site. The road can be flooded at times, making the site inaccessible. Low areas are also prone to flooding.

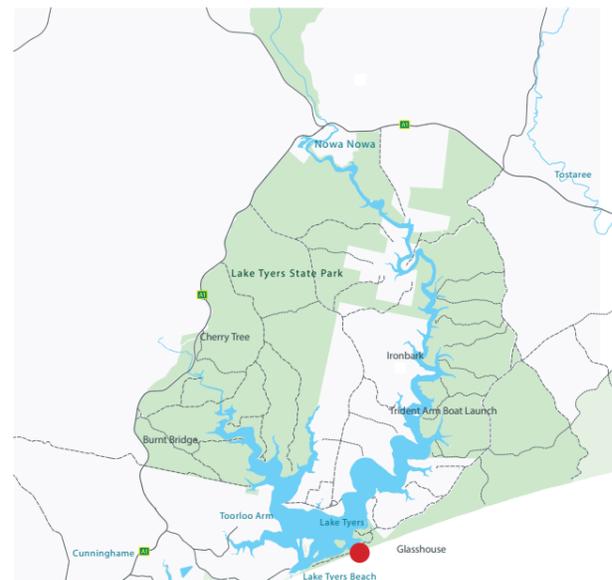
Key issues

Off-road driving on the shoreline and saltmarsh extending around the lake and beach is causing compaction.

Damage to significant environmental and cultural values from overcrowded camping, illegal camp fires and informal toilets.

EVC

Limestone Box Forest, Coastal Saltmarsh, Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic.



Shoreline driving impact on saltmarsh



Shoreline driving compaction and erosion



Driving and camping encroaching into vegetation



Camping encroaching into dunes



Gibbs Beach



Camping area with view to the Trust

The Glasshouse Campground

Site Analysis
1:2000 @A3

KEY

- Camping encroaching into vegetation
- Camping area
- Views
- Formal walking track
- Informal walking track
- Formal road unsealed
- Vehicle Track maintenance
- Informal road or unauthorised vehicle access
- Existing Barrier
- Existing picnic table
- Existing fire scar
- Existing fire pit



Deep water

Old jetty site.

Steps

Heritage glass chimney. Machinery throughout area

Track undefined at edge of vegetation

High point. Views to Trust housing

Large exposed, undefined camping area.

No compaction on or around noonflowers.

Small sheltered space for one camp site, close to road.

Undefined and dusty camping area with exposed cypress tree roots.

Informal vehicle access below cypresses. Existing trees risk to visitor safety

Existing cypress tree risk to visitor safety

Large exposed, undefined camping area.

Vehicles driving on salt marsh.

Area used as bush toilet.

Restricted area. No camping. Bollards and rocks on surrounding tracks.

Compacted and damaged vegetation, several informal walking tracks

The Glasshouse Campground

Key changes



Future use

The Glasshouse will continue to offer the same visitor experiences, with improved amenity but with limited access and fewer numbers to protect the environmental and cultural values.



- Investigate site closure of up to six weeks per year for GLaWAC members.
- A new day visitor area with amenities and an interpretive shelter will be provided on the grass mound at the entry to the site.



Future amenities

Toilets, interpretation shelter, picnic tables, fishing platform/jetty, fire pits, walking track and boardwalk to beach.

Future access

Improve unsealed track grade close to the Glasshouse site.

Restricted access to illegal tracks through saltmarsh.

Signage, education and enforcement required.

Key issues addressed

Off-road driving on the shoreline and saltmarsh, extending around the lake to beach.

Damage to significant environmental and cultural values from overcrowded camping, illegal fires and informal toilets.

Staging and priorities

High priority.

- Install barriers and toilets and regulatory signage. Education delivered by rangers and enforcement against illegal behavior.

High priority.

- Install day visitor amenities and jetty or boat launch.

Zoning

Conservation and Recreation Zone, Ramsar Wetland

Establish setasides to enable for visitor camping.

Can be reviewed at any time.

Permits

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan may be required for all the proposed site works.

The removal of cypress pines is in the interest of visitor safety and may

help to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The pine trees are not within a protection overlay, however may have historical significance. Heritage Victoria and GLaWAC as well as the local community should be consulted prior to planning their removal.

Interpretation and education

The Glasshouse has been a gathering place for Gunaikurnai and local Aboriginal people for thousands of years. Its European history as a telegraph pole glass insulator manufacturing site and its proximity to Lake Tyers House and the Trust mean that this site also has a complex contemporary history.

Aboriginal residents at the Trust, in its former days as the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Mission, required a permit to leave, so often instead of applying for a permit they would swim or boat over to the Glasshouse site or Lake Tyers House area. This was a place where they could meet with family who had come to visit and to practise culture, because it was not permitted to practise culture or use language around the Mission. Some people camped or settled in the park around the Glasshouse.

Many people from the Trust have memories and stories relating to the Glasshouse however, many have not visited the site in recent times. Elders from the Trust have expressed a desire to come camping here again. Most are happy to share the space with visitors and in fact they see this as an important part of reconciliation and in keeping with the shared history at Lake Tyers. Bung Yarnda was a neutral meeting place for several clans or tribes, and in contemporary history the Trust meant that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people were living together. Elders have expressed that they would be happy to have the opportunity to share their stories with visitors and help them to understand how to care for Country and for their kids to play together. It has been suggested that Gunaikurnai rangers, GKTOLMB members or elders could provide a cultural education session at the beginning of busy camping periods.

Most Aboriginal people consulted in preparation of this plan have expressed concerned about the high visitor impact at this site and would like to see visitor numbers managed for the longevity of the park. For Gunaikurnai and Aboriginal people it is important to protect and respect the intangible heritage (both recent, past and deep past) as much as the tangible heritage at this place. Some Elders have requested the opportunity to reserve the site for Aboriginal people only at specific times.

Glasshouse is also a significant landscape in terms of its proximity to the estuary opening and its large areas of saltmarsh.

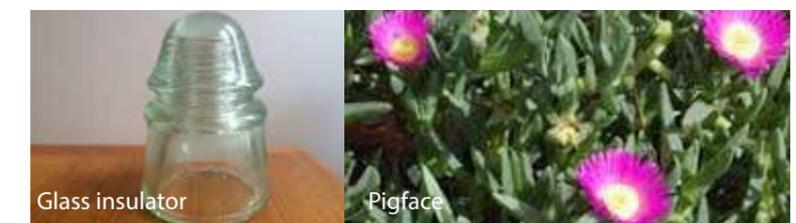
A new jetty at the site would provide enable boats to be moored the Camp and it would also re-establish a water-based connection from the Trust so that residents could travel by boat to the Camp.

Many symbols or prompts that may be used in the interpretation strategy for this site. Noonflowers are abundant here and were a

traditional food source. The glass insulators may be identified as an icon to be used in interpretation.

The areas surrounding the Glasshouse have been used in the past and contemporary times by Aboriginal people for cultural practises and gatherings.

As a key visitor site, it may be relevant to share some facts about the negative colonial impact on Aboriginal people in the area, including the mass murder of many in the region and the disruption to cultural practises that occurred, which makes places like this important for the continuation of culture. Some of the shared history and complexity of the relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people may also be relevant here.



Glass insulator

Pigface

The Glasshouse Campground

Proposed plan
1:2000 @A3

KEY

- New vegetation
- A Group camping and vans
- B Small group camping. No vans
- C Single camping
- Formal walking track
- Informal walking track
- Formal road unsealed
- Vehicle track maintenance
- Close and revegetate track
- Existing barrier
- New vehicle barrier
- New path
- New road unsealed
- New toilet
- Car parking
- New furniture
- Fishing platform/kayak launch
- New fire pit
- i New sign

