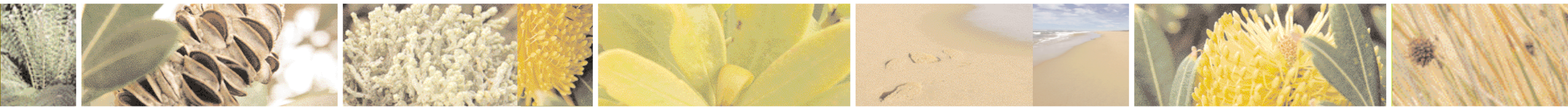


The Gippsland Integrated Natural Resources Forum presents 15 natural assets that symbolise the richness and diversity of Gippsland.

Government agencies, local councils, industry, researchers and communities are working together to improve Gippsland's catchment health.



Since the 2003 Report Card was published, effects of the Alpine fires have become more apparent, while the on-going drought has brought environmental benefits in the form of reduced nutrient input to the Gippsland Lakes. Most of the other condition ratings have remained unchanged, indicating reasonable to good environmental condition on average.

Integrated management effort is recognised for the Snowy River and Gippsland Lakes by raising the stewardship rating. We are confident that stewardship ratings across all assets will continue to improve as Regional Catchment Strategies, Municipal Strategic Statements and other plans are finalised and begin to be implemented.

Natural resource managers in Gippsland will face some major challenges during 2004/2005. Rapid urban development, particularly in coastal areas, requires a major co-ordinated management effort to avoid a decline in the condition of these precious assets. The Victorian Government will release the White Paper on "Securing our Water Future" in June 2004, potentially having major implications for future condition and stewardship of our natural assets.

The Forum will soon commence an exciting process to develop scenarios for Gippsland's future. I look forward to your active involvement in deciding what the community wants Gippsland to be in the year 2030. I also welcome feedback on the usefulness and content of this Report Card.

Professor Barry T. Hart
Chair - Gippsland Integrated Natural Resources Forum



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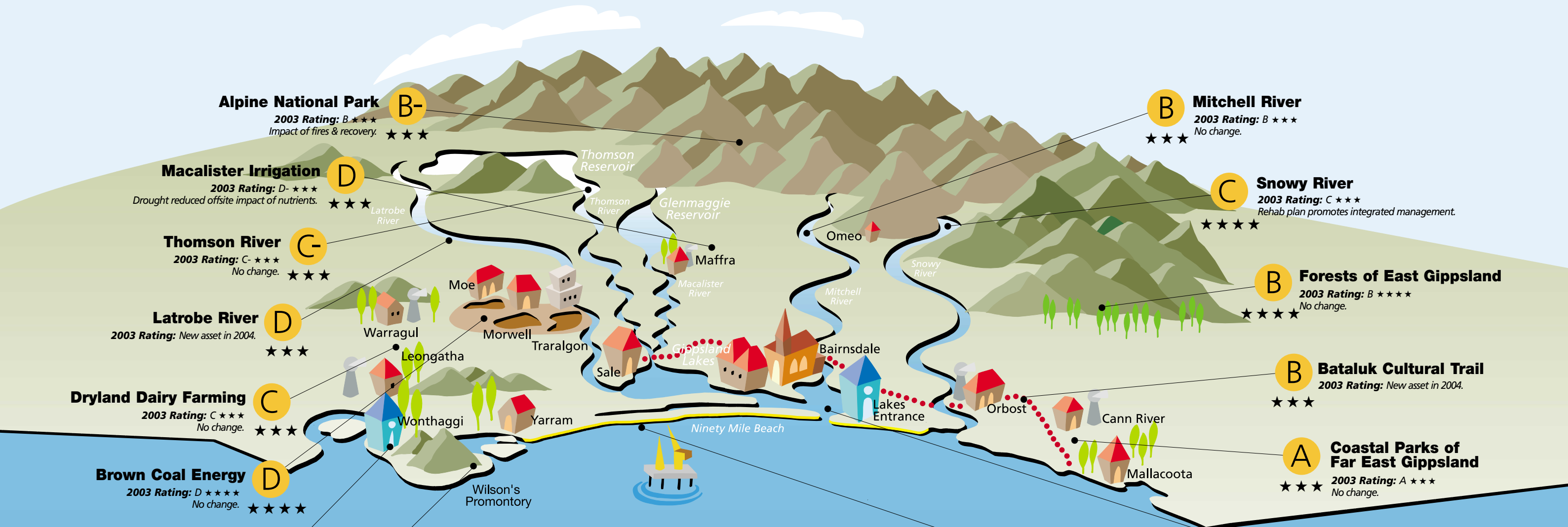
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Natural Resources
Report Card 2004



Gippsland integrated
natural resources
forum

Catchment health, Gippsland's wealth



Condition Rating		
Measure of land, water, biodiversity and air values of the natural asset and offsite impacts.		
RATING	DESCRIPTION	DEFINITION
A	Excellent	Environmental values are in good to excellent condition. No adverse offsite impacts.
B	Good	Most environmental values are good. Minimal offsite impacts.
C	Reasonable	Some environmental values are indicated as poor, but are recoverable. Some offsite impacts.
D	Poor	Many environmental values are poor. Improvement of assets needs addressing. Several adverse offsite impacts.
F	Degraded	Natural values degraded. Extensive adverse offsite impacts.

Stewardship Rating		
Measure of care and management of the natural asset by the entrusted agencies, industry and the community.		
RATING	DESCRIPTION	DEFINITION
★★★★★	Fully integrated	Complete with high quality stewardship process, significantly impacting the asset condition. High level of government, community & industry engagement.
★★★★	Mostly integrated	Complete with average/good quality of most parts of the stewardship process, having potential to improve the asset condition. Some evidence of partnership arrangements.
★★★	Some integration	Most parts of the stewardship process complete with average/poor quality, having unclear impacts on the condition. Government, community and industry engagement may be fragmented. Weak partnerships.
★★	Little integration	Gap in one or more of the processes, and low quality is hampering stewardship. There is danger of decline to the asset condition.
★	No integration	Significant gaps in the stewardship process. Contributing to decline in the asset condition.

Please note:
For comprehensive details of the above ratings, please refer to the GINRF Companion Document - Natural Resources Report Card 2004.