

# The Gippsland Natural Resources Report Card is now bigger and better!

With the help of GINRF member organisations, a review of the Report Card content and preparation process was undertaken during 2009. The outcomes of that review are reflected in this year's report. Some of the major changes include:

### New Assets

- Two new assets have been added, namely,
  - The Redgum Plains
  - Bunurong Marine National Park.

### New Asset Names

Some asset names have been revised to provide a more accurate description of what that asset is reporting.

- Brown Coal Based Energy Industry - Brown Coal Reserves and Extraction
- Coastal Living - Coastal Settlement
- Coastal Parks of Far East Gippsland - Croajingolong National Park
- Non-Irrigated Dairy Farming of West and South Gippsland - Red Soils Agriculture

### Refined focus

The scope of several assets has been clarified such that:
 

- Bataluk Cultural Trail reports on the physical condition of this example of what cultural heritage contributes to the natural environment.

- Brown Coal Reserves and Extraction no longer includes the impact of coal use on the environment.
- Coastal Settlement refers to the condition of and impact on coastal ecosystems surrounding Bass Coast and South Gippsland coastal settlements.
- Forests of East Gippsland and Strzelecki Ranges report on the commercial, social and biodiversity values.
- The Thomson, Snowy, Mitchell and Latrobe River assets report on the named, main tributary, not the river basin.

### Stewardship components

The evaluation of stewardship now incorporates indigenous engagement in addition to the existing components of planning, implementation, evaluation, improvement and partnerships.

### Standardisation

In order to achieve consistency in ratings from one asset to another, ratings from 2006 onwards have been standardised. Standardisation means that some ratings have changed without there being a physical or actual change in condition or stewardship. This has also occurred where the definition of the asset has altered. Although all changes are highlighted, only assets whose ratings have changed as a result of actual change are assigned an indicator arrow on the Report Card.

### New Publication Date

The GINRF Report Card will be published in Spring each year.

As in previous years, the Report Card is supported by the Companion Document. It provides the rationale and background to the ratings. It is available by request or online at the GINRF website.

I hope that you find these changes positive and helpful in making the Report Card useful and relevant to our community. We encourage you to provide feedback. You can contact GINRF via our website [www.ginrf.org.au](http://www.ginrf.org.au) or complete our online survey at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=IQDw8AsjR3ozdh1eEzB2Yg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=IQDw8AsjR3ozdh1eEzB2Yg_3d_3d)

I would like to wholeheartedly thank the people who contributed to the review process and to the preparation of this year's Report Card. Your efforts both in managing our assets and in producing the Report Card are gratefully appreciated.



Keith Hamilton  
Chair - Gippsland Integrated Natural Resources Forum

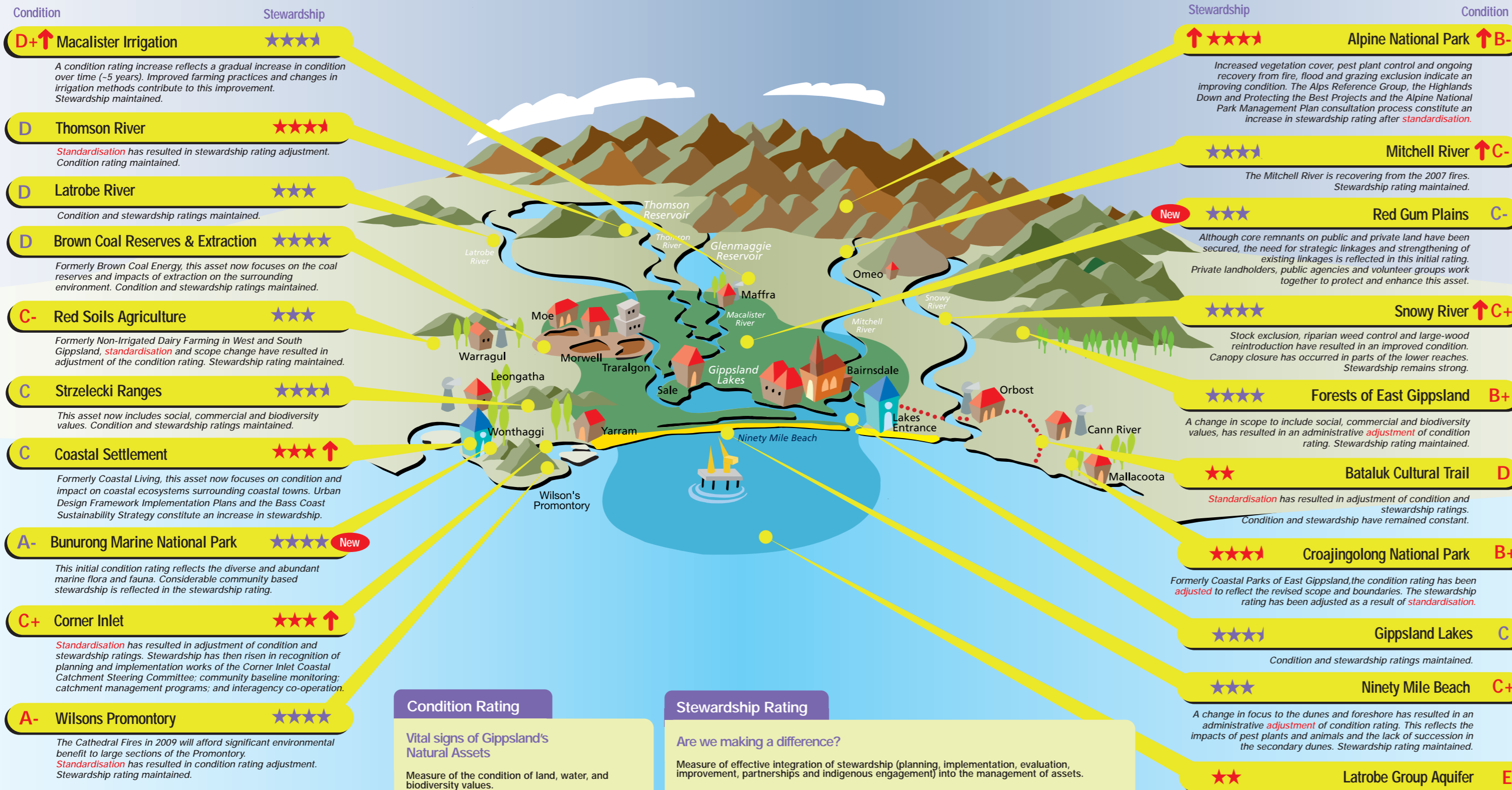
## Trends of asset condition and stewardship 2003 - 2009



# Natural Resources Report Card 2009

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- Condition** **D+↑** **Macalister Irrigation** **Stewardship** ★★★★★
- D** **Thomson River** ★★★★★
- D** **Latrobe River** ★★★
- D** **Brown Coal Reserves & Extraction** ★★★★★
- C-** **Red Soils Agriculture** ★★★
- C** **Strzelecki Ranges** ★★★★★
- C** **Coastal Settlement** ★★★★★↑
- A-** **Bunurong Marine National Park** ★★★★★ **New**
- C+** **Corner Inlet** ★★★★★↑
- A-** **Wilson's Promontory** ★★★★★

- Stewardship** **★★★★★** **Alpine National Park** **Condition** **↑B-**
- ★★★★★** **Mitchell River** **↑C-**
- New** **★★★★** **Red Gum Plains** **C-**
- ★★★★** **Snowy River** **↑C+**
- ★★★★** **Forests of East Gippsland** **B+**
- ★★** **Bataluk Cultural Trail** **D**
- ★★★★★** **Croajingolong National Park** **B+**
- ★★★★** **Gippsland Lakes** **C**
- ★★★★** **Ninety Mile Beach** **C+**
- ★★** **Latrobe Group Aquifer** **E**

**RED** ★★★★★ **Altered rating of assets**  
 ↑ ↓ **Direction of altered rating**  
 Explanation of ratings and methodology provided in the Report Card Companion Document

**Condition Rating**

**Vital signs of Gippsland's Natural Assets**

Measure of the condition of land, water, and biodiversity values.

A <b>Excellent</b>	Values good to excellent.
B <b>Good</b>	Most values are good.
C <b>Reasonable</b>	Some values are poor, but recoverable.
D <b>Poor</b>	Many values poor, needs improvement.
E <b>Degraded</b>	Values are in a degraded state.

**Stewardship Rating**

**Are we making a difference?**

Measure of effective integration of stewardship (planning, implementation, evaluation, improvement, partnerships and indigenous engagement) into the management of assets.

★★★★★ <b>Excellent</b>	Stewardship components fully integrated; strong, positive impact on asset condition.
★★★★ <b>Good</b>	Stewardship components occur; positive impact on asset condition.
★★★ <b>Reasonable</b>	Most stewardship components occur; some impact on asset condition.
★★ <b>Poor</b>	Some stewardship components occur; limited impact on asset condition.
* <b>Lacking</b>	Stewardship components scarcely or not evident.

## Gippsland's natural assets

- Alpine National Park**  
The Alpine National Park asset reports on extensive areas of highly diverse, often pristine, alpine and sub alpine ecosystems.
- Bataluk Cultural Trail**  
The Bataluk Cultural Trail asset reports on the physical condition of this example of what cultural heritage contributes to the natural environment.
- Brown Coal Reserves and Extraction**  
The Brown Coal Reserves and Extraction asset reports on the physical condition of the reserves and the impacts extraction has on the surrounding environment.
- Bunurong Marine National Park**  
The Bunurong Marine National Park asset reports on the highly diverse marine life of the Bunurong Marine National Park.
- Coastal Settlements**  
The Coastal Settlements asset reports on the condition of and impact on coastal ecosystems within and surrounding set in Bass Coast & South Gippsland.
- Corner Inlet**  
The Corner Inlet asset reports on the significant marine bay and tidal mudflat system that supports within the Corner Inlet Marine National Park, the Corner Inlet Marine and Coastal Park and Coastal Park and Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park.
- Croajingolong National Park**  
The Croajingolong National Park asset reports on the high concentration of near pristine estuarine areas and the lowland forest, heath and coastal ecosystems.
- Forests of East Gippsland**  
The Forests of East Gippsland asset reports on the commercial, social and biodiversity values of the forests within the East Gippsland Forest Management Area.
- Gippsland Lakes**  
The Gippsland Lakes asset reports on the water quality, estuarine and lake health with reference to maintaining recreational, commercial and tourism values and biodiversity.
- Latrobe Group Aquifer**  
The Latrobe Group Aquifer asset reports on long term availability and quality of water in the aquifer; and the impacts of extraction.
- Latrobe River**  
The Latrobe River asset reports on river health – water quality and quantity, riparian vegetation, species composition, connectivity and habitat diversity – of the Latrobe River.
- Macalister Irrigation District**  
The MID asset reports on the physical condition of the farming land irrigated by the Macalister River and the impacts irrigation has on the surrounding environment.
- Mitchell River**  
The Mitchell River asset reports on river health – water quality and quantity, riparian vegetation, species composition, connectivity and habitat diversity – of the Mitchell River.
- Ninety Mile Beach**  
The Ninety Mile Beach asset reports on the integrity of the coastal dune system and beach sands of Ninety Mile Beach.
- Redgum Plains**  
The Redgum Plains asset reports on the recovery of the Gippsland Plains bioregion.
- Red Soil Agriculture**  
The Red Soil Agriculture asset reports on the physical condition of the soil and the environmental sustainability of the industries it supports.
- Snowy River**  
The Snowy River asset reports on river health – water quality and quantity, riparian vegetation, species composition, connectivity and habitat diversity – of the Snowy River.
- Strzelecki Ranges**  
The Strzelecki Ranges asset reports on the commercial, social and biodiversity values of the Strzelecki Ranges.
- Thomson River**  
The Thomson River asset reports on river health – water quality and quantity, riparian vegetation, species composition, connectivity and habitat diversity – of the Thomson River.
- Wilson's Promontory**  
The Wilson's Promontory asset reports on the diverse, largely undisturbed ecosystems of Wilson's Promontory National Park.

### Objective and Limitations

The primary function of the GINRF Natural Resources Report Card is a communication and engagement tool. The subjectivity inherent in the evaluation of the available data is considered relevant and valid in the context of its purpose. The Report Card and Companion Document do not aim to be a definitive assessment reflecting comprehensive scientific data but an independent and informed, subjective evaluation of available information.

The identifiable natural assets, the regular publication and recognisable format of the Report Card help cultivate a strong regional identity and foster strategic integration of natural resource management throughout Gippsland.

### Feedback

We value your feedback.

- Do you have an opinion on the Report Card?
- Do you like the changes?
- Have your say by logging on to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=IQDw8AsjR3ozdh1eEzB2Yg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=IQDw8AsjR3ozdh1eEzB2Yg_3d_3d) and completing our survey.