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# Great Otway National Park

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## Location

VIC - Property No L10177

## Municipality

CORANGAMITE SHIRE

## Level of significance

State

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

File note 31/05/2012; This file now includes L10174 (Melba Gully State Park), L10175 (Aire River Basin), and L10178 (Marengo-Cape Otway Coastal Area)

This is an area of outstanding scientific interest, with important botanical and geological coastal landscapes, rural landscapes and waterfalls. The numerous archaeological and shipwreck sites along the coast are of great historical interest.

### L10174 Melba Gully State Park

A small park with remnants of significant flora and fauna habitats in an area of considerable scientific and cultural importance. This is an unusual landscape with high scenic qualities. This area has particular significance because of the remnant plant communities, faunal habitats and visual landscape types which it contains. Myrtle Beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) closed-forests represent the Antarctic element in Australian vegetation, and are confined to moist, sheltered localities in Tasmania and in southern and eastern Victoria. Few very old trees of Messmate Stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) remain today, so the trees in Melba Gully have particular importance.

Classified 21/10/1982

### L10174 Aire River Basin

An uncommon infilled estuary with residual wetlands and lakes. The area has rural landscapes with features of historic, scientific, archaeological, geological and geomorphological importance. It uniquely combines geological features with built elements.

#### L10178 Marengo-Cape Otway Coastal Area

This area is significant as a representative coastal heathland, woodland and rural landscape. It contains areas of historic, scientific and visual importance including the Cape Otway Lighthouse, the Great Ocean Road and many shipwrecks along the coast. The classification includes three areas of particular importance:

- (1) Freehold land and coastal reserve stretching from Marengo to the border of the Otway national park containing significant shrubland, heathland and areas of geological importance;
- (2) Coastal areas of the Otway National Park, including the Stony Creek Reference Area, Shelly Beach, Blanket Bay and the lower reaches of the Parker River, of historic and scientific interest, including areas of botanical importance;
- (3) The Cape Otway lighthouse and associated buildings of historic importance at the National level. It includes the oldest remaining light (continuously operated since 1848) and the second to be established on the Australian mainland; the complex highlighting elements of Victoria's history of navigation, commerce and immigration. Also of historic interest are the many shipwrecks along the coast, making the area a part of the "Shipwreck Coast".

The Great Ocean Road also contributes significantly to coastal and rural landscape views in the classified area. It is of social and historic significance - as the gateway to one of the most popular tourism and recreational destinations in Victoria; and as a major engineering project spanning over 200km. Commenced in 1919 and officially opened in 1932, the road was built as a memorial to those who served in World War 1.

Hermes Number 192083

Property Number

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*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*