

Final Report

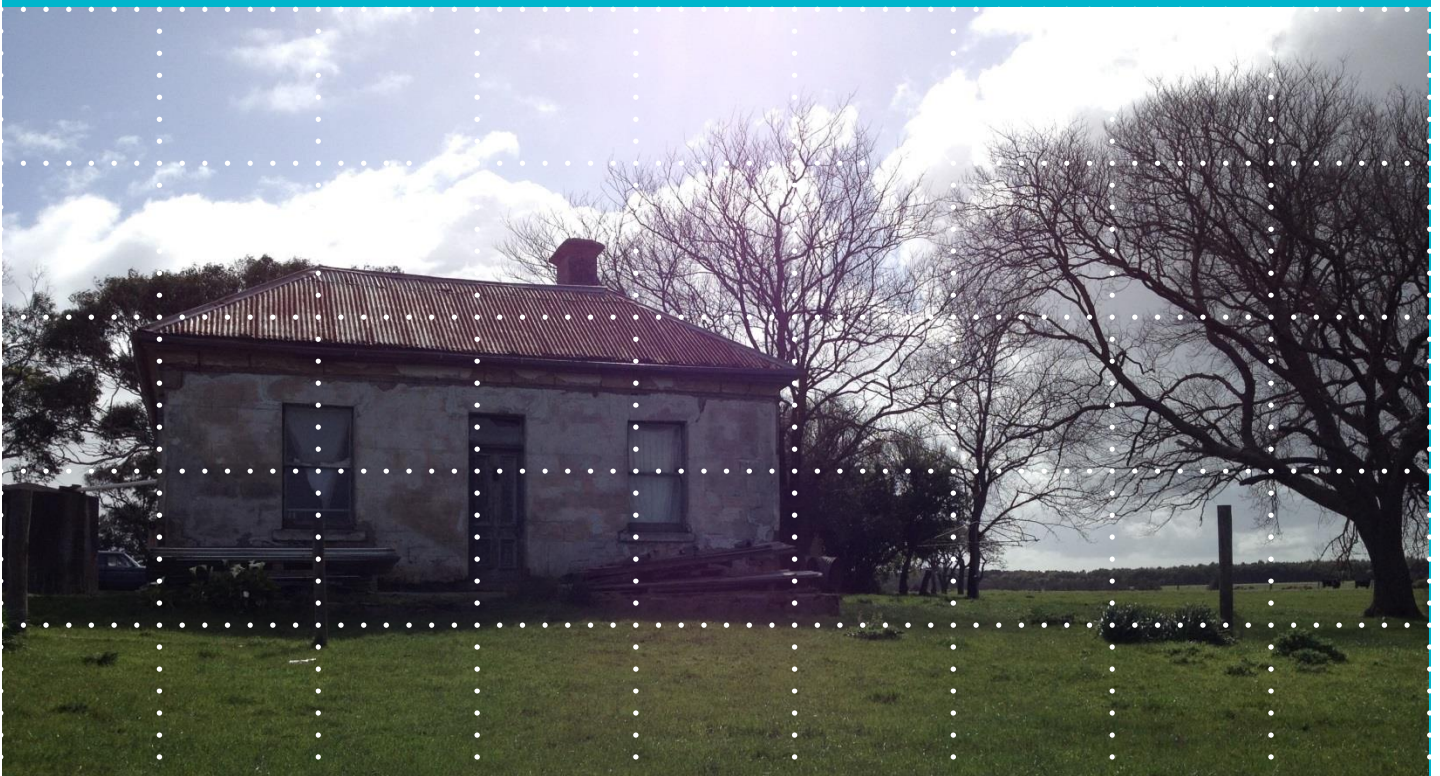
Proposed East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan, Warrnambool, Victoria: Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment

HV Number: 4865

Client

Warrnambool City Council

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Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd

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Cover Photo: 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool, sandstone residence, facing north-east.

(Photo by Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd)

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ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Description
Act, the	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i>
AHHA	Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment
CHL	Commonwealth Heritage List
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
CHP	Cultural Heritage Permit
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth)
DEECA	Department of Energy, the Environment and Climate Action (Victoria)
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Victoria)
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EMAC	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class
FP – SR	First Peoples – State Relations
GMTOAC	Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
HA	Heritage Advisor
HHA	Historical Heritage Assessment
HO	Heritage Overlay
HV	Heritage Victoria
LDAD	Low Density Artefact Distribution
NES	National Environmental Significance
NHL	National Heritage List
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
PMST	Protected Matters Search Tool
PSP	Precinct Structure Plan
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
RNE	Register of the National Estate
Regulations, the	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007</i>
SGD	Significant Ground Disturbance
SLV	State Library of Victoria
T/O	Traditional Owner/s
VAHC	Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council

Acronym	Description
VAHR	Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register
VHI	Victorian Heritage Inventory
VHR	Victorian Heritage Register
VWHI	Victorian War Heritage Inventory
WHL	World Heritage List

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd was commissioned by Warrnambool City Council (Sponsor) to prepare a desktop Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment (AHHA) for the proposed East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) in Warrnambool, Victoria (Warrnambool City Council) (Map 1).

The initial scope of works commenced in June 2017, and completed in March 2018, with the finalised AHHA report provided to Warrnambool City Council.

Ecology and Heritage Partners was re-engaged in May 2024 as the study area for the original AHHA had altered to include the properties at 53 and 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool. The project name was changed to 'East of Aberline PSP' at this time. The Sponsor of the revised AHHA is now the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA).

This report represents an updated version of the 2018 report, with the inclusion of 53 and 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool into the study area.

The Activity

The East of Aberline PSP area encompasses approximately 408 ha of land located approximately 4 km north-east of the Warrnambool Central Business District (CBD). The project will aim to deliver a residential plan that also incorporates other non-residential land uses such as education, retail, and local parks to service a new community. The project is driven by the need to unlock more residential zoned land in the region, to keep up with Warrnambool's consistent and projected population growth.

The subject site is bisected by an identified area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, being the land within 200 m of Russells Creek (under the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*). Should future developments be regarded as high impact activity by the *Regulations*, such as multi-lot subdivision and residential development, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) will be required in particular areas of the subject site. Additionally, Warrnambool City Council has identified the presence of potential historical heritage places within the subject area. Prior to development commencing, an assessment of the nature, extent and significance of potential historical heritage places and consultation with Heritage Victoria is required.

The Study Area

The study area is approximately 408 ha in size and is bound to the north by Wangoom Road, the property boundary of 75 Rodgers Road to the east, Dales Road to the south, and Aberline Road to the west (Map 2). The northern, southern and eastern borders are bounded by rural properties, whilst the south-western and western borders are bounded by residential housing estates. The study area comprises of rural properties, Tozer Memorial Reserve in the mid-northern portion and Wannon Water storage ponds in the southern portion of the study area.

Methods

The assessments undertaken as part of this AHHA were a desktop assessment and a field survey. The desktop assessment consisted of reviews of relevant heritage registers and databases, previous archaeological publications and unpublished reports, and a review of the environmental context of the study area, culminating in a predictive statement regarding the likelihood of Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage occurring in the study area.

The field survey consisted of a ground surface survey of the study area by qualified archaeologists, in conjunction with representatives of the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP), to discover any Aboriginal and/or historical cultural heritage visible on the ground surface and to identify any areas of Aboriginal and/or historical cultural heritage likelihood (areas that have landforms that are considered likely to contain subsurface Aboriginal or historical archaeological deposits).

Subsurface testing did not form part of the scope of works for this assessment.

Results

Desktop Assessment

The Aboriginal Heritage desktop assessment identified 25 previously registered Aboriginal places within 3 km of the study area (Map 8). The desktop assessment also indicated that there have been 16 historical heritage places previously recorded within 2 km of the study area (Map 9). No previously registered Aboriginal sites and no previously registered historical places were located in the study area. The desktop assessment concluded that shell middens and artefact scatters were the types of Aboriginal Places and built domestic (built heritage) sites were the types of historical heritage places most likely to occur within the study area.

Field Survey

The field survey was undertaken on 19-20 September 2017 by Austen Graham (Archaeologist) and Joshua Flynn (Archaeologist/ Heritage Advisor), with Caleb Clarke representing the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) and Keicha Day representing the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC). A secondary field survey was undertaken on 20 September 2024, due to the increase in size of the study area, by Tom Lally and Leyton Mahon (Archaeologists / Heritage Advisors), with Hayden Harradine and Jyran Chatfield representing the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.

The area surveyed was 58.635 ha, the ground surface visibility was approximately 15%, with the resulting total effective coverage estimated at 14.37%.

The survey identified four primary landforms; slopes, undulating plains, creek terrace and a crest. Ten areas were identified as having previous ground disturbance, meeting the definition of significant ground disturbance (SGD) as per the *Regulations* (r.4) (Map 10). Four of these areas of SGD are found within an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity and high archaeological likelihood.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Areas of archaeological likelihood were identified and classified as having high, moderate or low likelihood (Map 11). Two areas of high Aboriginal cultural heritage likelihood were identified; along Russells Creek and

the northern portion of Tozer Memorial Reserve. Two areas of moderate Aboriginal cultural heritage likelihood were identified; on the crest landform, and along the drainage channel that flows into Russells Creek from the north, through the Tozer Memorial Reserve. The remainder of the study area was determined to be of low likelihood.

No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified in the study area.

Historical Heritage

Two sites within the study area had potential to be historical heritage places; 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool (sandstone residence and associated sandstone building) and 78 Boiling Down Road Warrnambool. Site cards for each of these places were submitted to Heritage Victoria (HV). HV responded that these sites would not be listed the Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI) as they did not meet the threshold for registration as archaeological sites. Since the initial identification of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool as a potential historical place, the site has been demolished due to a structural collapse of the buildings in a severe weather event in 2023.

An additional historical heritage places was flagged during the desktop assessment, with an existing dwelling at 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool visible in historical aerial photography from 1947. The site was not accessible during the secondary field survey in September 2024 but was permitted to be photographed in detail by a Warrnambool City Council representative in December 2024. Following the preparation of a Statement of Significance to the Warrnambool City Council, it was determined that 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool does not warrant application of a Heritage Overlay at this time.

The below table shows the location and site type of the above places:

Table ES.1: Location and Site Type of Historical Heritage Non-registrations

Site Name	Site Type	Location	Site Identified During:	Site card submitted to HV?	Included in VHI?
174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool	Built: Domestic	174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool	Field Survey	Yes	No
78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool	Built: Agricultural	78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool	Field Survey	Yes	No
75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool	Built: Domestic	75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool	Desktop Assessment	No	No

Summary of Management Recommendations

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Recommendation 1: Early Engagement

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) strongly recommends transparent communication and collaboration regarding project alterations or new plans. This is crucial for identifying potential constraints and enabling inclusive engagement, informed consent, and culturally sensitive management practices.

EMAC highly encourages the implementation of the 'Ask First' policy as a prerequisite for any project changes or new projects. This policy ensures that any deviations from the original project plan are communicated to EMAC well in advance of their implementation. This proactive approach not only demonstrates respect but also enables collaboration and mutual comprehension among all project stakeholders.

Recommendation 2: Environmental Impacts

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) holds a comprehensive and interconnected view of Cultural Heritage. There is a separation between cultural heritage and environmental legislation in the realm of regulations. However, from the Eastern Maar's unique perspective, environmental values are perceived as deeply intertwined with and integral to their broader cultural heritage.

In this holistic viewpoint, the natural environment is not merely a separate entity from cultural heritage but a vital and inseparable part of it. The landscapes, ecosystems, and the various elements of the environment hold profound cultural significance for the Eastern Maar people. These connections between the land, its features, and its cultural identity are deeply rooted and valued. This holistic understanding underscores the importance of considering the environment in all project planning and management aspects. It also encourages a more comprehensive and respectful approach to cultural heritage preservation, where both tangible and intangible elements are safeguarded in harmony. EMAC's stance reflects the commitment to the country and the cultural obligation to preserve cultural heritage in a manner that respects the intrinsic nature of the environment and culture.

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation expects that the VPA and Warrnambool City Council will not only acknowledge but actively embrace this holistic view, engaging Eastern Maar in meaningful consultations regarding environmental impacts to ensure the preservation of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Recommendation 3: Avoidance of Harm to Cultural Heritage

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) strongly advocates for the prevention of harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage whenever it is feasible. This harm minimisation approach extends to encompass the safeguarding of environmental elements as well. EMAC recommends that the VPA and Warrnambool City Council actively involves EMAC in comprehensive discussions regarding all values that stand to be impacted by a project, encompassing both tangible and intangible aspects of cultural heritage. Furthermore, EMAC emphasises the existence of certain non-negotiable principles concerning cultural heritage. EMAC unequivocally opposes any activities that could lead to harm to culturally modified trees, rock art sites, stone arrangements, or burial places. Moreover, EMAC takes a firm stance against potential harm to Aboriginal places within parks or conservation reserves. It is essential to acknowledge that parks and reserves are established primarily for the preservation of their intrinsic values, with the enjoyment of the public being a secondary benefit. Hence, EMAC prioritises the conservation of cultural values in any decision-making process.

Recommendation 4: Mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plans

In properties where areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity (as identified by *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*) are present (Map 2 and Table 15) and a high impact activity will take place, a mandatory

CHMP must be undertaken. The CHMP will include an archaeological survey (standard assessment) and subsurface testing program (complex assessment) to establish the nature, extent and significance of all Aboriginal cultural heritage in the study area (in accordance with r.60 and r.61 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*). This must include consultation with the relevant Traditional Owner communities, Sponsor and HA to agree on an appropriate sampling methodology suitable to the subsurface testing of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the study area.

The complex assessment will focus within the areas of cultural heritage sensitivity and *high and moderate* Aboriginal archaeological likelihood (Map 11) and the primary aims will be to:

- Establish the presence of any subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits;
- Define the nature, extent and significance of any subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits;
- Determine the extent of the pre-existing surface site identified as part of this assessment; and
- Determine the nature and condition of the stratigraphy.

The methodology to be used to sample the area of sensitivity will be to excavate a series of representative test pits (e.g. 1 m x 1 m test pits and 50 cm x 50 cm shovel test holes) removing sediments with horizontal control in excavation units (spits) of 100 mm (or following the natural stratigraphy where present) by using accepted stratigraphic methods and standard hand-held tools.

It should also be noted that EMAC may request controlled excavation using mechanical equipment (e.g. mechanical excavator and mechanical sieve). If machinery is used for the purposes of uncovering Aboriginal cultural heritage, the disturbance or excavation shall be conducted on a detailed stratigraphic basis. In addition, if the use of machinery results in the finding of occupation deposits or features, the deposits or features shall be uncovered and assessed by controlled non-mechanical excavation.

Any future Aboriginal archaeological subsurface testing involving both hand and mechanical excavation methods will require consultation between the Traditional Owner communities, proponent and a HA in order to determine an appropriate sampling methodology.

Pursuant to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*, the HA will discuss the results of the complex assessment with the relevant Aboriginal stakeholders, FP - SR and Sponsor and determine recommendations for additional Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations that may be undertaken for the purpose of preparing a CHMP.

Recommendation 5: On-Country Operations

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) strongly recommends not just consultation but active engagement when it comes to actions that may impact environmental values. This entails a collaborative approach where EMAC representatives are actively involved in on-site projects such as reforestation efforts, water quality testing, and even fire management initiatives. This active partnership goes beyond merely seeking input; it involves EMAC taking an integral role in the practical aspects of environmental stewardship. This approach not only ensures that cultural and environmental considerations are fully integrated into these projects but also fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of the land and its significance.

Recommendation 6: Language, Signs and Naming Opportunities

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation recognizes the profound importance of active engagement in language use, artwork, signage design, and place naming initiatives. These are important tools to enable cultural heritage protection. Through the continued use of language, EMAC ensures the transmission of ancestral knowledge and oral traditions.

The use of traditional place names often encapsulates intricate narratives about the lands and cultural significance. By actively participating in the naming of places, EMAC not only preserves these narratives but also shares them with others.

EMAC's active involvement in language, art, and place naming empowers the assertion of cultural identity and traditional narratives, challenging colonial legacies and reaffirming EMAC sovereignty. Ultimately, these initiatives are instrumental in celebrating and preserving EMAC's heritage.

Historical Heritage

Recommendation 7: No Requirement for Further Archaeological Investigation

As there are no known historical archaeological sites or areas considered to have historical heritage likelihood there is no requirement for any further historical archaeological investigations.

Recommendation 8: Contingency for Historical Heritage

There are no other known historical heritage issues in regard to the proposed development. If any historical heritage issues are encountered during the course of construction, then works should cease within 10 m of the area of concern and a qualified archaeologist (or Heritage Victoria) should be contacted to investigate.

Table ES.2: Summary of Management Recommendations

Property Identifier Number (PIN)	Property ID (Parcel SPI)	Aboriginal Heritage		Historical Heritage
		CHMP Required	Site Inspection and Risk Assessment Recommended	Further Consultation with Council Required
1	1\PS922576		✓ (Low)	
2	RES1\PS908707		✓ (Low)	
3	3\PS311792	✓		
4	1\PS311792		✓ (Low)	
5	2\PS311792		✓ (Low)	
6	1\TP398817	✓		
7	2\PS710426	✓		
8	1\PS710426		✓ (Low)	
9	1\TP244571		✓ (Low)	
10	2\TP244571		✓ (Low)	
11	1\PS510707		✓ (Low)	

Property Identifier Number (PIN)	Property ID (Parcel SPI)	Aboriginal Heritage		Historical Heritage
		CHMP Required	Site Inspection and Risk Assessment Recommended	
12	2\PS510707		✓ (Moderate)	
13	2\PS922576	✓		✓
14	1\TP808681	✓	✓ (Moderate)	
15	1\PS406386		✓ (Moderate)	
16	2011\PP3729		✓ (Low)	
17	1\PS917052		✓ (Low)	
18	2\PS917052	✓		
19	1\PS443644	✓		
20	1\TP16326		✓ (Low)	
21	1\PS724360	✓		
22	2017\PP3729		✓ (Low)	
23	2018\PP3729		✓ (Low)	
24	2\LP116579	✓		
25	1\LP116579		✓ (Low)	
26	6~E\PP3729	✓		
27	5~E\PP3729	✓		
28	R1\PS724373		✓ (Low)	
29	1\PS902658		✓ (Low)	
30	2\PS902658		✓ (Low)	
31	R2\PS724373		✓ (Low)	
32	R1\PS718999		✓ (Low)	
33	1\PS841928		✓ (Low)	
34	2\PS841928		✓ (Low)	
35	3\PS433295		✓ (Low)	
36	4\PS433295		✓ (Low)	
37	1\PS842678		✓ (Low)	
38	2\PS842678		✓ (Low)	
39	2\TP21740		✓ (Low)	
40	1\PS431510		✓ (Low)	
41	2\PS431510		✓ (Low)	
42	1\TP16129		✓ (Low)	
43	1\TP883382		✓ (Low)	

Property Identifier Number (PIN)	Property ID (Parcel SPI)	Aboriginal Heritage		Historical Heritage
		CHMP Required	Site Inspection and Risk Assessment Recommended	Further Consultation with Council Required
44	R2P\S719899		✓ (Low)	

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Scope of Works

Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd was commissioned by Warrnambool City Council to prepare an Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment (AHHA) for the proposed East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) in Warrnambool, Victoria (Warrnambool City Council) (Map 1).

The project brief agreed upon by Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd and Warrnambool City Council is as follows:

- Review the relevant heritage databases (e.g. Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR), Local Government Heritage Overlays, the Victorian Heritage Register and Inventory at Heritage Victoria (HV), the National Trust Register and Commonwealth heritage databases);
- Review relevant available literature (e.g. previous archaeological reports and Local Government heritage studies);
- Provide a brief review of land use for the study area;
- Conduct a site assessment by a qualified Heritage Advisor to identify any Aboriginal and/or historical heritage within the study area;
- Identify and provide a series of maps showing any Aboriginal and historical archaeological heritage or areas likely to contain Aboriginal or historical heritage;
- Provide information in relation to any implications of Commonwealth and State environmental legislation and Government policy associated with the proposed development;
- Discuss any opportunities and constraints associated with the study area;
- Liaise with the key stakeholders, the Registered Aboriginal Party(s) (RAP), the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, local government, FP - SR and HV; and
- Production of an AHHA report.

The initial scope of works commenced in June 2017, and completed in March 2018, with the finalised AHHA report provided to Warrnambool City Council.

Ecology and Heritage Partners was re-engaged in May 2024 as the study area for the original AHHA had altered to include the properties at 53 and 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool. The project name was changed to 'East of Aberline PSP' at this time. The Sponsor of the revised AHHA is now the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA).

This report represents an updated version of the 2018 report, with the inclusion of 53 and 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool into the study area.

1.2 Location and Extent of Study Area

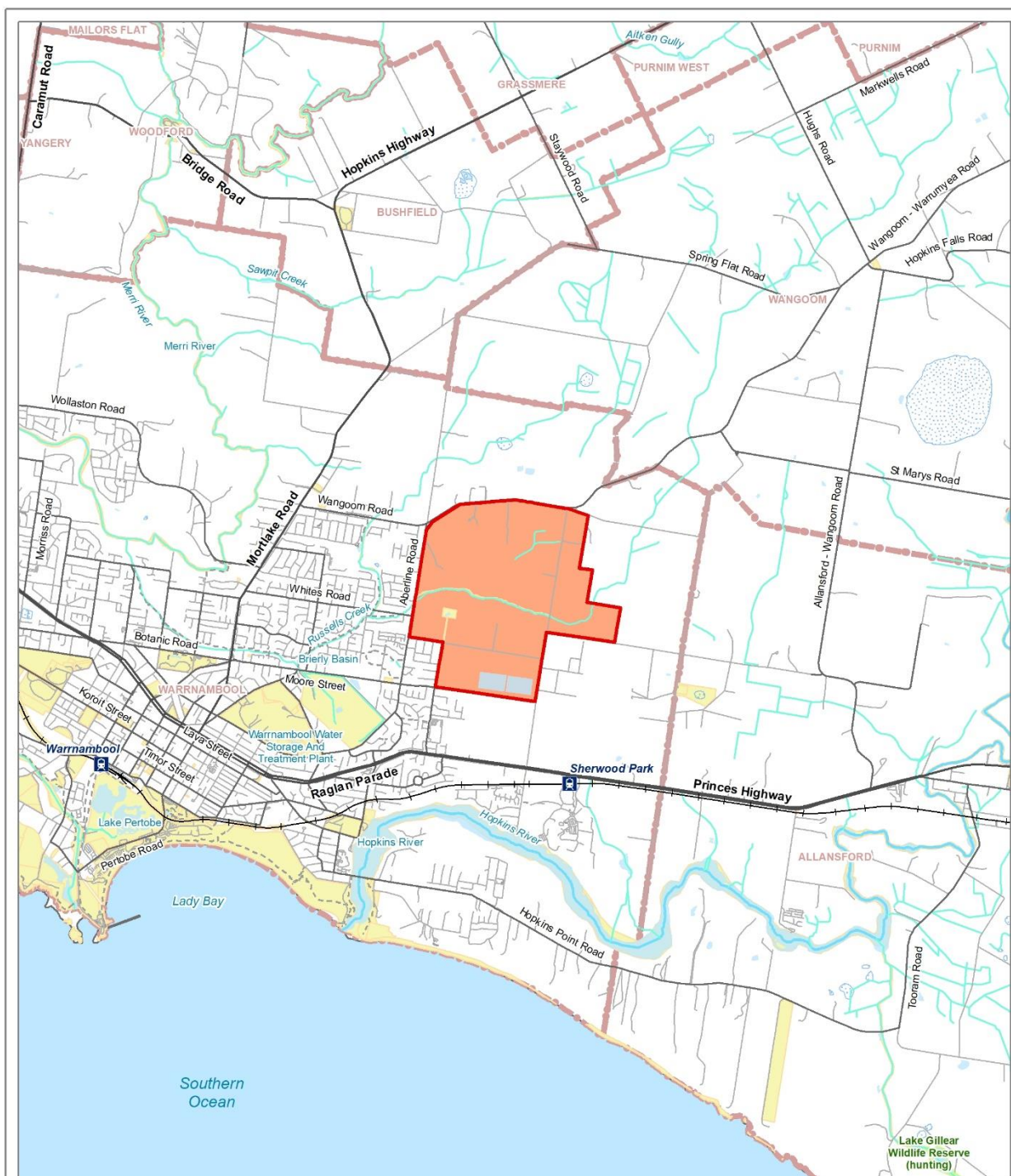
The study area consists of 47 parcels, is approximately 408 ha in size and is bound north by Wangoom Road, the property boundary of 75 Rodgers Road to the east, Dales Road to the south, and Aberline Road to the west (Map 2). The northern, southern and eastern borders are bounded by rural properties, whilst the south-western and western borders are bounded by residential housing estates. The study area comprises of rural properties, Tozer Memorial Reserve in the mid-northern section and Wannon Water storage ponds in the southern portion of the study area. The study area is located in the Parish of Wangoom in the County of Villiers. The cadastral details of the study area are shown in Table 1.

For ease of reference, the VPA has allocated Property Identifier Numbers (PINs) to all land parcels in the study area. These numbers will be used for the remainder of this report when referring to specific properties. The PINs are shown in Table 1, and Map 3.

Table 1: Cadastral Details of the Study Area

Property Identifier Number (PIN)	Lot	Title Plan	Address
1	1	PS922576	200 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool
2	RES1	PS908707	208 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool
3	3	PS311792	250 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool
4	1	PS311792	220 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool
5	2	PS311792	222 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool
6	1	TP398817	256 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool
7	2	PS710426	270-288 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool
8	1	PS710426	286 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool
9	1	TP244571	270-288 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool
10	2	TP244571	270-288 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool
11	1	PS510707	310 Horne Road, Warrnambool
12	2	PS510707	246 Horne Road, Warrnambool
13	2	PS922576	174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool
14	1	TP808681	235 Horne Road, Warrnambool
15	1	PS406386	210 / 214 Horne Road, Warrnambool
16	2011	PP3729	Horne Road, Warrnambool (Russells Creek)
17	1	PS917052	180 Horne Road, Warrnambool
18	2	PS917052	150 Horne Road, Warrnambool
19	1	PS443644	53 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool
20	1	TP16326	75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool
21	1	PS724360	80 Aberline Road, Warrnambool
22	2017	PP3729	43 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool

Property Identifier Number (PIN)	Lot	Title Plan	Address
23	2018	PP3729	43 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
24	2	LP116579	75 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
25	1	LP116579	79 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
26	6~E	PP3729	105 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
27	5~E	PP3729	135 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
28	R1	PS724373	n/a (NE corner of Aberline Road-Boiling Down Road intersection)
29	1	PS902658	15 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
30	2	PS902658	31 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
31	R2	PS724373	n/a (NW corner of Boiling Down Road-Gateway Road intersection)
32	R1	PS718999	n/a (SE corner of Boiling Down Road-Gateway Road intersection)
33	1	PS841928	48 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
34	2	PS841928	60 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
35	3	PS433295	70 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
36	4	PS433295	76-78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
37	1	PS842678	94 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
38	2	PS842678	102 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
39	2	TP21740	110 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
40	1	PS431510	124 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
41	2	PS431510	140 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool
42	1	TP16129	83-119 Dales Road, Warrnambool
43	1	TP883382	81 Horne Road, Warrnambool
44	R2	PS719899	n/a (NE corner of Dales Road-Gateway Road intersection)



Map 1
Location of Study Area
*Aboriginal and Historical
Heritage Assessment:
Aberline to Home Growth
Corridor*

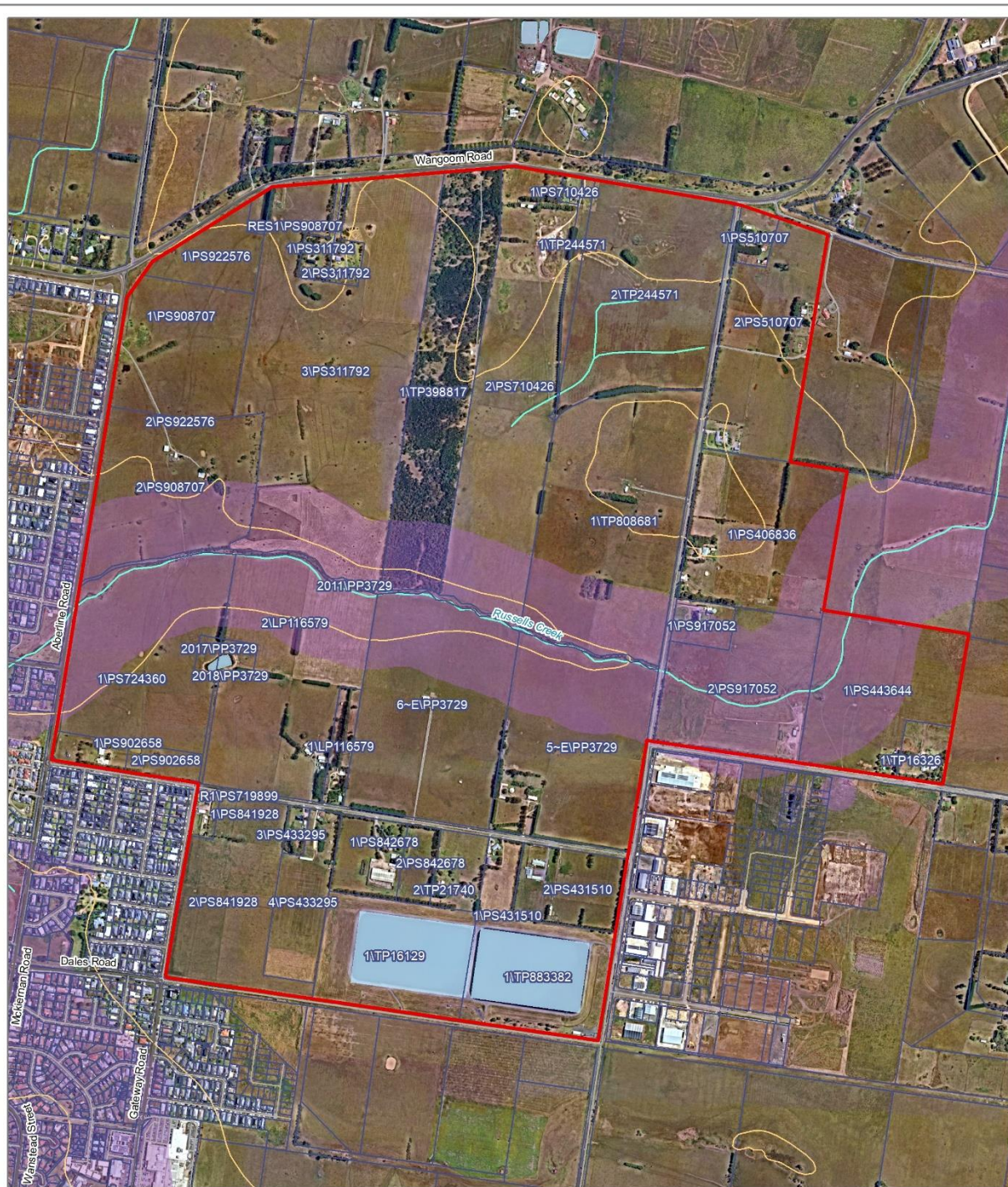
Legend

- | | |
|---|---|
| Study Area | Minor Watercourse |
| <div style="width: 0; height: 0; border-left: 5px solid transparent; border-right: 5px solid transparent; border-bottom: 8px solid black;"></div> Railway | Major Watercourse |
| Major Road | Permanent Waterbody |
| Collector Road | Land Subject To Inundation |
| Minor Road | Parks and Reserves |
| Proposed Road | Crown Land |
| | Localities |



Local Government: City of Warrnambool
25k Mapsheet: Bushfield 7421-3-4
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 54 (GDA94)
Map Scale: 1:60,000

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.



Map 2
Extent of Study Area and
Area of Sensitivity
Aboriginal and Historical
Heritage Assessment:
Aberline to Horne Growth
Corridor

Legend

- Study Area
- Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
- Contour (10m)
- Minor Watercourse
- Permanent Waterbody
- Property boundaries



Local Government: City of Warrnambool
25k Mapsheet: Bushfield 7421-3-4
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 55 (GDA94)
Map Scale: 1:14,000

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.



1.3 Activity Description

Warrnambool City Council (Council) is preparing a Precinct Structure Plan for the East of Aberline Growth Corridor. The future growth area encompasses approximately 408 ha of land located approximately 4 km north-east of the Warrnambool CBD. Council has identified the site as a significant growth area with the potential to support population growth and provide increased diversity of housing stock.

The subject site is bisected by an identified area of cultural heritage sensitivity, being the land within 200 m of Russells Creek (under the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*). Should future developments be regarded as high impact activity by the *Regulations*, such as multi-lot subdivision and residential development, a CHMP will be required in particular areas of the subject site. Additionally, Warrnambool City Council has identified the presence of a potential post-Contact and European historical heritage sites within the subject area, which is to be listed on the Warrnambool Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay.

1.4 Name of Client

This report was commissioned by Victorian Planning Authority (ABN: 58 651 383 439).

1.5 Name of Heritage Advisors

This report was prepared by Rick Bullers (Senior Heritage Advisor / Archaeologist), Austen Graham (Archaeologist) and Tom Lally (Associate Heritage Advisor / Archaeologist). The quality assurance review was undertaken by Annie Ayres (Senior Heritage Advisor / Archaeologist) and Meredith Filihia (Associate Heritage Advisor / Technical Lead). The field work was undertaken by Austen Graham (Archaeologist) and Joshua Flynn, Tom Lally and Leyton Mahon (Archaeologists / Heritage Advisors). Mapping was provided by Monique Elsley (GIS Coordinator) and Masoume Rashidi (GIS Officer).

Rick Bullers

Rick has more than 22 years of natural and cultural resource management experience. Rick has specialised in archaeology and built heritage since 2004, and has worked as a heritage consultant since 2007. He has managed numerous Aboriginal and historic heritage projects for a variety of Agents and developments within Victoria, NSW and SA. Projects include heritage assessments and/or excavations for linear construction projects such as pipelines, sewerage lines and transmission lines, large area heritage assessments for Greenfield developments (e.g. residential subdivision and mining operations), as well as cultural heritage assessments and heritage management plans for large Department of Defence sites. To date Rick has authored more than 50 CHMPs.

Rick has experience in a variety of tasks, including project management, peer reviews, background research and due diligence assessments, archaeological survey, subsurface testing and salvage excavation, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal site identification, recording and photography, site significance assessment, development of recommendations to mitigate the impact of development upon Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal historical heritage, flaked stone artefact and historical artefact recording and interpretation, communication and consultation with regulatory bodies (AV and HV), Agents, landowners, RAPs and community representatives, preparation of conservation management plans, Historical Heritage

Assessments and desktop, standard and complex Aboriginal CHMPs. Rick has published widely in refereed scientific journals including *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, *Bulletin of the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology* and *Papers and Proceedings of the Tasmanian Historical Society*. His formal qualifications include:

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Conservation and Park Management), University of South Australia (1994);
- Graduate Diploma of Maritime Archaeology, Flinders University (2005);
- Master of Maritime Archaeology, Flinders University (2006);
- Full Member: Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. (AACAI);
- Member; Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association (VPELA);
- Member: Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (Treasurer 2014-2015, Committee Member 2013-2014); and
- Member, Anthropological Society of South Australia.

Austen Graham

Austen is a technical officer at Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd with over two years' experience in Australian archaeology. Austen completed her archaeology degree at La Trobe University in 2015, and is currently completing her Master of Professional Archaeology. Her thesis focuses on Aboriginal archaeology, in particular heritage management procedures for canoe scarred trees in north-western Victoria. Austen was trained in artefact analysis and pottery analysis during her undergraduate and post-graduate studies at La Trobe University.

Austen has been involved in historical and Aboriginal excavations since 2010. Austen as a field archaeologist has participated in the investigation of large and complex archaeological sites, also contributing to the research of Ancestral Puebloan sites with the University of Nevada Las Vegas. She has also been involved in large scale Aboriginal salvage operations, and has assisted with numerous tasks including the identification of Aboriginal cultural heritage material. As a consultant, Austen has helped work on Cultural Heritage Management Plans. Her formal qualifications include:

- Bachelor of Archaeology, La Trobe University (2015), completing Master of Professional Archaeology in 2018.
- Associate Member: Australian Anthropological Society (AAS).

Tom Lally

Tom is a qualified archaeologist and Heritage Advisor at Ecology and Heritage Partners. He has been working in the Australian cultural heritage industry for eight years in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australian and Victoria, with an additional four years of experience in the UK and Canada prior to that (2013 – 2017). Tom completed his Bachelor of Archaeology in 2011 and his Graduate Diploma in Archaeology in 2013, both of which were undertaken at Flinders University, South Australia. All studies were completed with a focus on Australian archaeology.

Tom has extensive field experience, having worked as a Project Officer and Field Supervisor on historic and cultural heritage research excavations both nationally and internationally, and has also conducted artefact analysis whilst in these positions. Since moving into consultancy, Tom has gained experience in providing preliminary cultural and historical heritage advice to stakeholders, writing Cultural Heritage Management Plans, including both desktop, standard and complex assessments, salvage reports, technical survey reports, and cultural heritage assessments, cultural and historical excavation methodologies, artefact analysis, Traditional Owner liaison and reporting.

Tom's formal qualifications include:

- Bachelor of Archaeology (2011), Flinders University.
- Graduate Diploma in Archaeology (2013), Flinders University.

1.6 Name of Owner and Occupiers of the Study Area

The study area is owned and occupied by various private landholders. Road reserves are generally owned/managed by Warrnambool City Council.

1.7 Consultation with Aboriginal Parties

Registered Aboriginal Parties or Traditional Owner Groups

At the commencement of the project in 2017, there was no RAP for the study area; however, there were two Aboriginal stakeholder groups who have previously applied to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC) for RAP status. These groups are the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) and the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC). These two organisations were invited to take part in the initial archaeological survey of the study area and provide any information they wished to share on the cultural significance of the study area. A draft of the report was provided to each group with a request to comment. A summary of the consultation is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Consultation in Relation to the Assessment

Date	Participants			Details and Outcomes of Consultation
	Ecology & Heritage Partners	T/O Groups	Client	
23.06.2017	Rick Bullers		Julie Glass (Warrnambool City Council)	Telephone/E-mail Project commencement conversation held discussing scope of project.
27.07.2017	Austen Graham	John Clarke (EMAC) Bill Bell (GMTOAC)		E-mail Request for representatives to attend survey.
04.08.2017	Rick Bullers		Julie Glass	Meeting Project inception meeting held discussing scope of project.

Date	Participants			Details and Outcomes of Consultation
	Ecology & Heritage Partners	T/O Groups	Client	
19.09.2017- 20.09.2017	Austen Graham Joshua Flynn	Caleb Clarke (EMAC) Keicha Day (GMTOAC)		Survey A pedestrian survey of the study area was undertaken by Austen Graham (archaeologist), Joshua Flynn (archaeologist/heritage advisor), Caleb Clarke (EMAC) and Keicha Day (GMTOAC). No Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were found, yet two historical sites were located, and areas of cultural heritage likelihood were identified.
09.10.2017	Austen Graham	John Clarke (EMAC) Bill Bell (GMTOAC)	Julie Glass	E-mail Request for invoicing details to be forwarded to each Aboriginal stakeholder group.

1.7.1 Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation

Following a request to vary the RAP boundary area in February 2020, the EMAC were approved as the sole RAP of the extent area. This area extends along the coast from east of Port Fairy to west of Anglesea and extends inland to include the Great Otway National Park, and the townships of Warrnambool, Terang, Mortlake, Camperdown, Colac, Apollo Bay, Lorne and Cressy, and 100 m out to sea from low tide.

The Eastern Maar community is composed of six primary Maar/Mara language groups: *Gulidjan*, *Gadubanud*, *Kirrae Whurrong*, *Djargurd Wurrung*, *Dhauwurd Wurrung* (encompasses the study area), and *Djab Wurrung*. The term "Eastern Maar" is used self-referentially in the context described above, with "Maar/Mara" translating to "People".

Meerreeng, *Parreeyt pa Moornong* (Land, Water, and Sky) represent integral and interconnected components within the broader Maar biocultural landscape. Rooted in Maar law and lore, Eastern Maar maintain a reciprocal relationship with these elements, which fundamentally define both their identity and their duty to protect their Ancestral Territory from the ongoing threat of colonization (DELWP 2022).

To foster meaningful, sincere, thoughtful, and forward-looking dialogues, it is essential to acknowledge the constitutional parity between the Eastern Maar and the Crown. This constitutional equality safeguards Eastern Maar sovereignty and their rights over *parreeyt* (land and resources) (DELWP 2020).

In the context of Maar Ancestral Territory, it is crucial to note that *Parreeyt* remains uncaded within any legal framework, including those established by the Crown of England, its governing structures, and the authorities it delegated to what is now recognized as Australia and the State of Victoria. The Eastern Maar community has never provided consent, surrendered their rights, or granted access to the Crown in any capacity (DELWP 2022).

The Biocultural Landscapes spanning the Eastern Maar Nation have been known, cultivated, and nurtured by the Ancestors for countless millennia. Of these landscapes, the dry forests, Sea Country and Framlingham are of importance to the present study area. The dry forests that line the coastline, perched upon the rugged cliffs, are exceptionally fertile and have sustained Eastern Maar people with abundant food, water, and essential resources. These forests are home to a thriving population of koalas and serve as pivotal access

points to the Sea Country, where Maar citizens have resided and traversed for millennia. Framlingham, nestled within the bush just outside of Warrnambool, holds profound social, linguistic, cultural, and economic significance for our community (Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) 2015).

Citizens have always connected closely with the sea and its resources, which were central to the culture, economy, and survival. The ocean nourished the Maar's Ancestors, and the reliance on it for survival persists. Abundant middens along the coastline tell a rich story of the past. The coastline is home to sites that are important for the Dreaming. The connection with Sea Country extends well beyond the current shoreline to the edge of the continental shelf. While this area is under the sea today, it was occupied for thousands of years, and rising sea levels have not washed away the history, physical evidence, or the connection (EMAC 2015).

The natural features that encompass Eastern Maar Nation are understood based on a holistic approach, with each part of the Country stated as a living being and not merely a resource. A Cultural Heritage Place ought to be understood not as a pinpointed spot but as part of an intricate mosaic that compounds the whole Eastern Maar Nation, in a kaleidoscopic view of the *Meerreeng, Parreeyt pa Moornong* (Land, Water and Sky).

As such, only the EMAC were invited to take part in the archaeological survey of the revised study area and provide any information they wished to share on the cultural significance of the revised study area. A draft of the revised report was provided to them with a request to comment. A summary of the consultation is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Consultation in relation to the revised assessment

Date	Participants			Details and Outcomes of Consultation
	Ecology & Heritage Partners	EMAC	VPA	
06.09.2024	Tom Lally	Nathalia Guimaraes Emily Corris	Sarah Ancell Suzanne Barker Hamed Mozhdehjoubari	Meeting Project inception meeting held discussing scope of project.
12.09.2024	Tom Lally	Dave Williams		E-mail Request for EMAC Guardians to attend survey.
20.09.2024	Tom Lally Leyton Mahon	Hayden Harradine Jyran Chatfield	Sarah Salem Hamed Mozhdehjoubari	Survey A pedestrian survey of the study area was undertaken by participants listed. Additional area of the proposed PSP was surveyed for both cultural and historical heritage. No Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were found, and no additional historical sites were located. Two areas of cultural heritage likelihood were identified; Russells Creek and Tozer Reserve northern portion.

1.8 Native Title

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) is the professional organisation that represents the Eastern Maar people of south-west Victoria and manages their Native Title rights and Interests. EMAC has a Traditional Owners board of directors and is a registered organisation under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.

EMAC has also been a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) since 2013. In February 2020, a request regarding a variation of the RAP boundary area was approved. The Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* recognises Traditional Owners as the primary guardians, keepers, and knowledge holders of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. At a local level, Registered Aboriginal Parties are the voice of Aboriginal people in the management and protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Victoria.

In July 2011 the Eastern Maar and Gunditjmara peoples were recognised as the native title holders for an area of their Traditional Country in south-west Victoria between the Shaw and Eumeralla Rivers and from Yambuk in the south to beyond Lake Linlithgow in the north. In March 2023, Eastern Maar citizens recently had their Native Title rights recognised for an additional area (VID21/2019), although the study area of this report was not included in the decision. The area includes much of the coastline of the Great Ocean Road and part of the Great Otway National Park. The determination area covers most of Eastern Maar's native title claim area. Some areas remain in mediation before the Federal Court.

In addition, the study area contains road reserves. The date on which a road reservation was created affects the Native Title determination (VicRoads 2007). Native Title will generally be extinguished in relation to all road reservations created before 31 October 1975, regardless of having a road constructed within them. For roads reservations created between 31 October 1975 and 23 December 1996, Native Title determination is dependent on whether the reservation is vacant or constructed (has a road built within it). If vacant, Native Title is not extinguished. If constructed, and the reservation area is or was necessary for or incidental to the construction, establishment or operation of the road, Native Title will be extinguished. Native title will generally not be extinguished in relation to road reservations created after 23 December 1996.

A review of the history of the road reserves shows that they were first subdivided and gazetted in the original 1850 subdivision (see Figure 2 in Section 3.1.1); therefore Native Title has been extinguished in the road reserves (see Appendix 2 for a summary of the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*).

1.9 Notice of Intention to Survey to Heritage Victoria

A Notice of Intention to Conduct an Archaeological Survey (NOI) was submitted to Heritage Victoria (HV) on 01 August 2017. A copy of this NOI is attached in Appendix 1. HV sent a written response to this NOI to Ecology and Heritage Partners on 25 August 2017. A copy of this response is attached in Appendix 1. The HV reference number for this project is 4865. Note that the survey was undertaken as per the requirements of the *Heritage Act 2005*; however, this legislation was superseded on 01 November 2017 by the *Heritage Act 2017*. Recommendations made as a result of the findings of this report (including the survey) are made as per the requirements of the *Heritage Act 2017*.

In accordance with s.63A of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007*, a Notice of Intention to Carry Out a Survey for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage was submitted to Aboriginal Victoria on 01 September 2017. A copy of this NOI is attached in Appendix 1. Aboriginal Victoria (now First Peoples – State Relations (FP – SR)) sent a written response to this NOI to Ecology and Heritage Partners on 04 September 2017. A copy of this response is attached in Appendix 1. This legislation was superseded on 23 May 2018 by the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*, which no longer required submission of an NOI to Carry Out a Survey for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. As such, this process was not undertaken for the survey of the revised study area.

1.10 Report Review and Distribution

Copies of this report will be shared with the following organisations:

- Warrnambool City Council;
- Victorian Planning Authority;
- Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation;
- First Peoples – State Relations; and
- Heritage Victoria.

1.11 Heritage Legislation

An overview of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993*, the *Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Heritage Act 2017* and the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* is included in Appendix 2. This legislation is subordinate to the *Victorian Coroners Act 2008* in relation to the discovery of human remains.

2 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

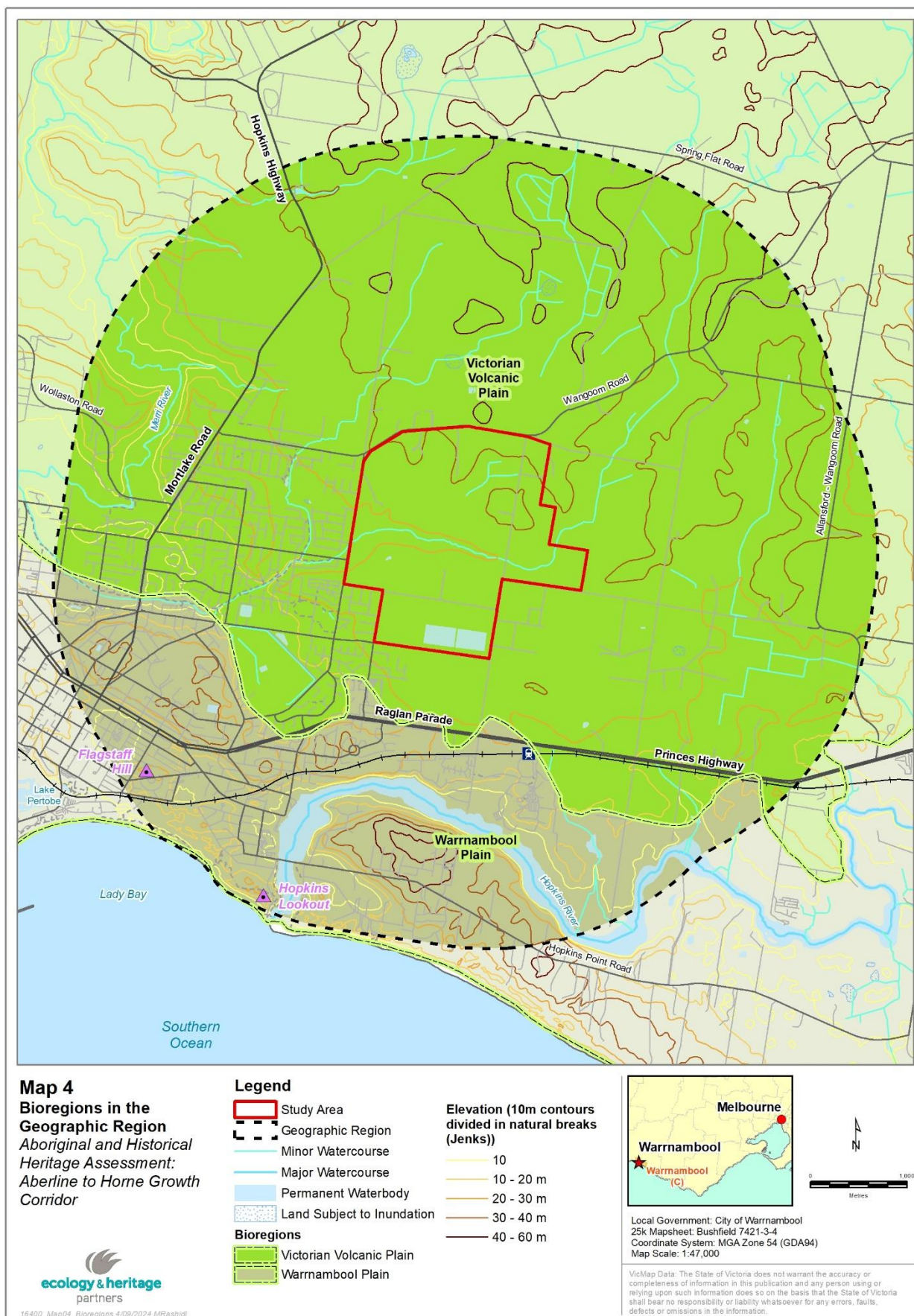
The desktop assessment includes research into information relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage in or associated with the study area.

2.1 Environmental Context

Environmental factors influence how land may have been used in the past. This section reviews the environmental context of the study area to gain an understanding of environmental factors relevant to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

2.2 Geographic Region

The geographic region for assessing Aboriginal cultural heritage in this AHHA is defined on a 5 km buffer of the study area extending Mortlake Road to the Hopkins River (Map 3). The region includes plains with poorly developed drainage and shallow regolith, plains with well-developed drainage and deep regolith, terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits and plains with ridges. The geographic region forms part of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP) and Warrnambool Plain (WaP) bioregions (DEECA 2024a). The study area itself lies solely within the Victorian Volcanic Plain, which is dominated by Cainozoic volcanic deposits. These deposits formed an extensive flat to undulating basaltic plain with stony rises, old lava flows, numerous volcanic cones and old eruption points and is dotted with shallow lakes both salt and freshwater (DEECA 2024a). This geographic region shows broadly similar environmental characteristics that may have influenced Aboriginal occupation. Therefore, it is relevant to any Aboriginal cultural heritage that may be present within the study area.



2.2.1 Geology, Geomorphology and Soils

Geology

The study area forms part of the Victorian Volcanic Plains Bioregion (Map 4). The Volcanic Plains are described as “plains mainly on basalt lavas with many volcanic landforms and lakes; partly on weak sedimentary rock” (Duncan 1982:3). They are made up of subdued topography which has been filled and covered by a relatively thin ‘blanket’ of lava flow (Birch 2003:367). Within the study area, the geology is comprised of Neo (Newer Volcanic Group – basalt flows).

The lava of the Western Volcanic Plains represents the youngest phase of volcanic activity in Victoria, termed the Newer Volcanics, active from 4.6 million years ago to within (geologically) recent times (Late Pleistocene – Early Holocene). Although the flows have been grouped into ‘Older’ and ‘Newer’ Volcanic groups, there were not two separate volcanic events. Rather, “volcanism has continued intermittently over 190 million years and the Newer and Older Volcanics represent volumetric peaks at around 42-57 million years ago and 0-5 million years ago” (Birch 2003:361; Price et al. 1988:439-451).

Geomorphology and Soils

The geomorphology of the study area comprises of one distinct geomorphological unit, *GMU 6.1.3 - Plains with poorly developed drainage and shallow regolith (Wingeel)* (Map 5). The plains developed on the older Newer Volcanic lavas that formed in the Late Pliocene and during the Pleistocene, from about two million years ago and up to one million years ago, are generally characterised by thin regolith development and poorly developed drainage. In these landscapes, flow boundaries are obvious, and corestones (‘floaters’) are often seen at the surface. Shallow drainage lines have developed, often along the boundaries of lava flows. Discontinuous drainage lines may end in ephemeral wetlands and swamps (DJSR 2024a).

The soils are generally shallow overlying basalt rock across sloping land. Typical profiles include shallow clay-loams and light clays, overlying medium to heavy clay of variable thickness over basalt. These soils are gradational or uniform soils (DJSR 2024a).

2.2.2 Landforms and Hydrology

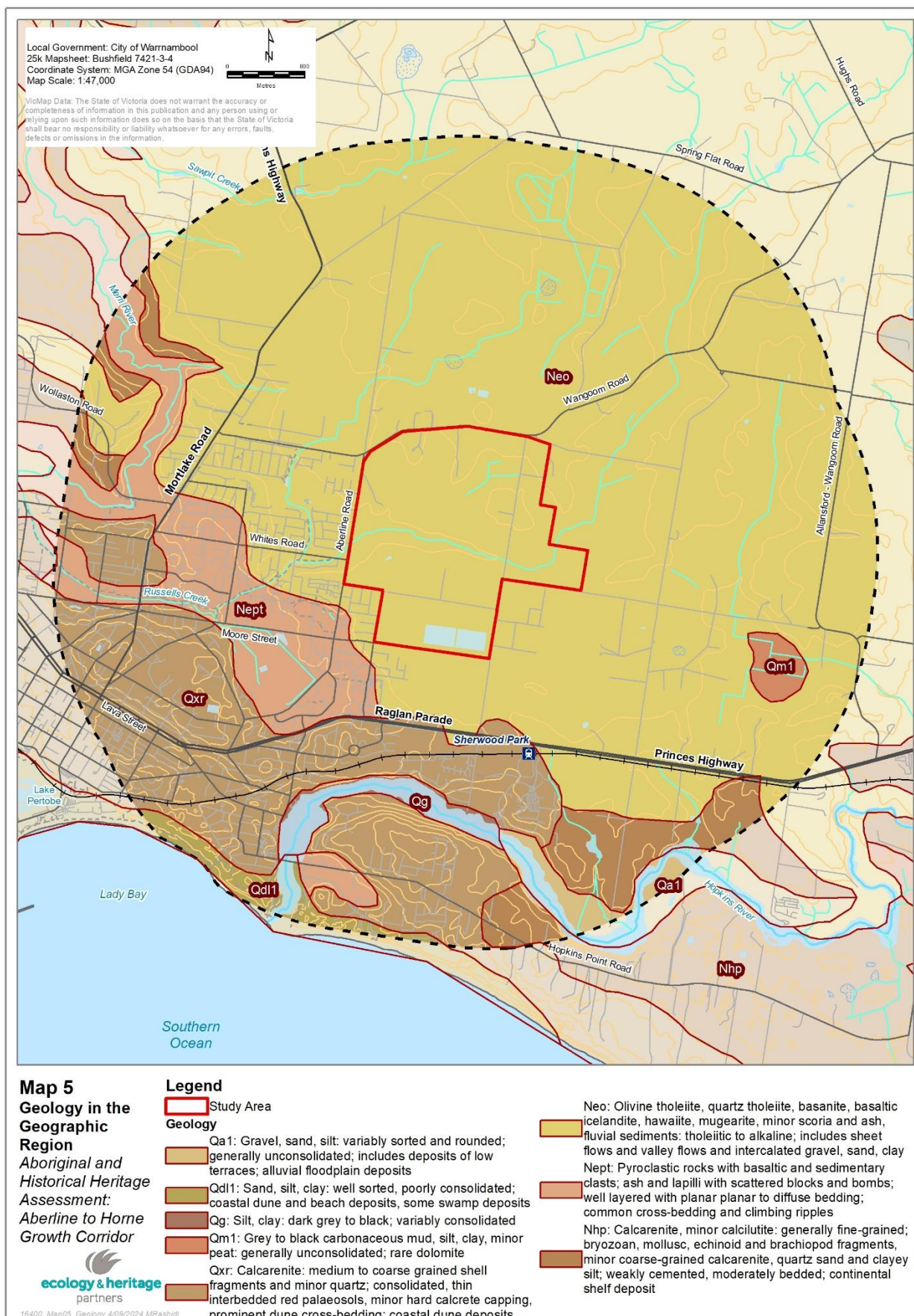
The region is dominated by flat volcanic plains, characteristic of what is known as the Western Districts (DJSR 2024b). These plains comprise the southern two-thirds of the region. The lower sandy plains with ridges, are of fairly recent origin and are linked to the retreat of a higher sea from the Murray River Basin, between 2 and 6 million years ago. There are a number of occurrences of coastal plains to the east and west of Warrnambool. Major streams, such as the Hopkins River and Mt Emu Creek, cut through the basalt rocks creating U-shaped valleys. A range of geological material is exposed such as Cretaceous sandstones, granites of various ages and acid volcanics (rhyolite).

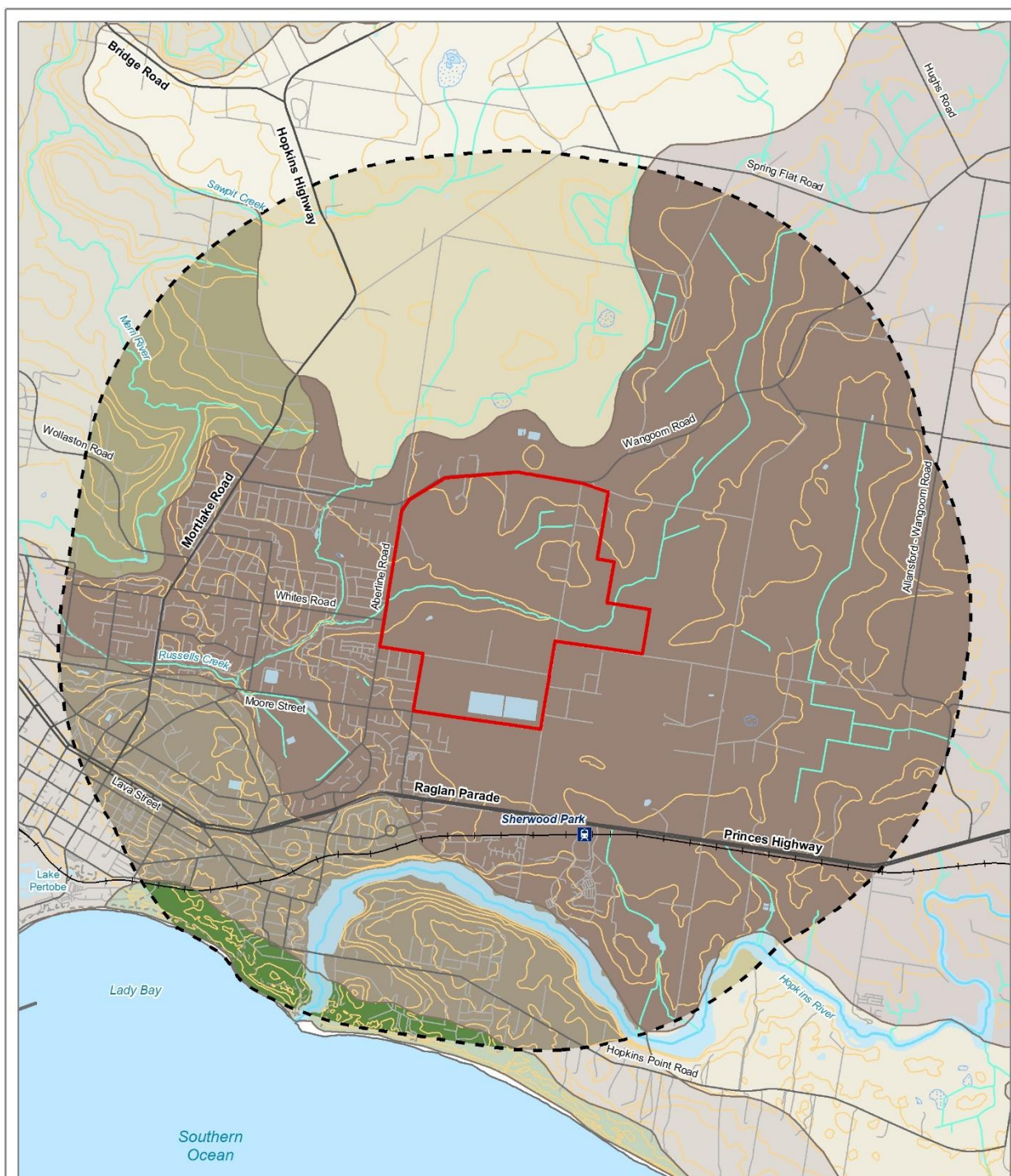
The study area is located 4.5 m west of the Hopkins River, a major waterway in the region. In addition, Russells Creek, a minor waterway within the geographic region, flows through the centre of the study area, from east to west, and empties into Merri Creek further to the west.

Consequently, there are likely to be four primary landforms in the study area:

- Creek terrace (with associated narrow floodplain);

- Slopes;
- Undulating plains; and
- Crest.





Map 6
Geomorphology in the Geographic Region
Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment: Aberline to Home Growth Corridor



16400_Map06_Geomorph 5/09/2024 MRashid

Legend

Study Area

Geomorphological Units

Western Plains

- 6.1.3 Plains with poorly developed drainage and shallow regolith (Wingee)
- 6.1.4 Plains with well developed drainage and deep regolith (Cressy)
- 6.1.5 Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits (Lough Calvert, Lower Woody Yallock, Chain of Ponds, Condah Swamp, Lake Murdeduke & lunette)
- 6.2.1 Plains with ridges (Follett)
- 6.2.3 Karst plains with depressions (Warrnambool)

Coast

- 8.4 Coastal barriers (Ninety Mile Beach)



Local Government: City of Warrnambool
25k Mapsheet: Bushfield 7421-3-4
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 54 (GDA94)
Map Scale: 1:47,000

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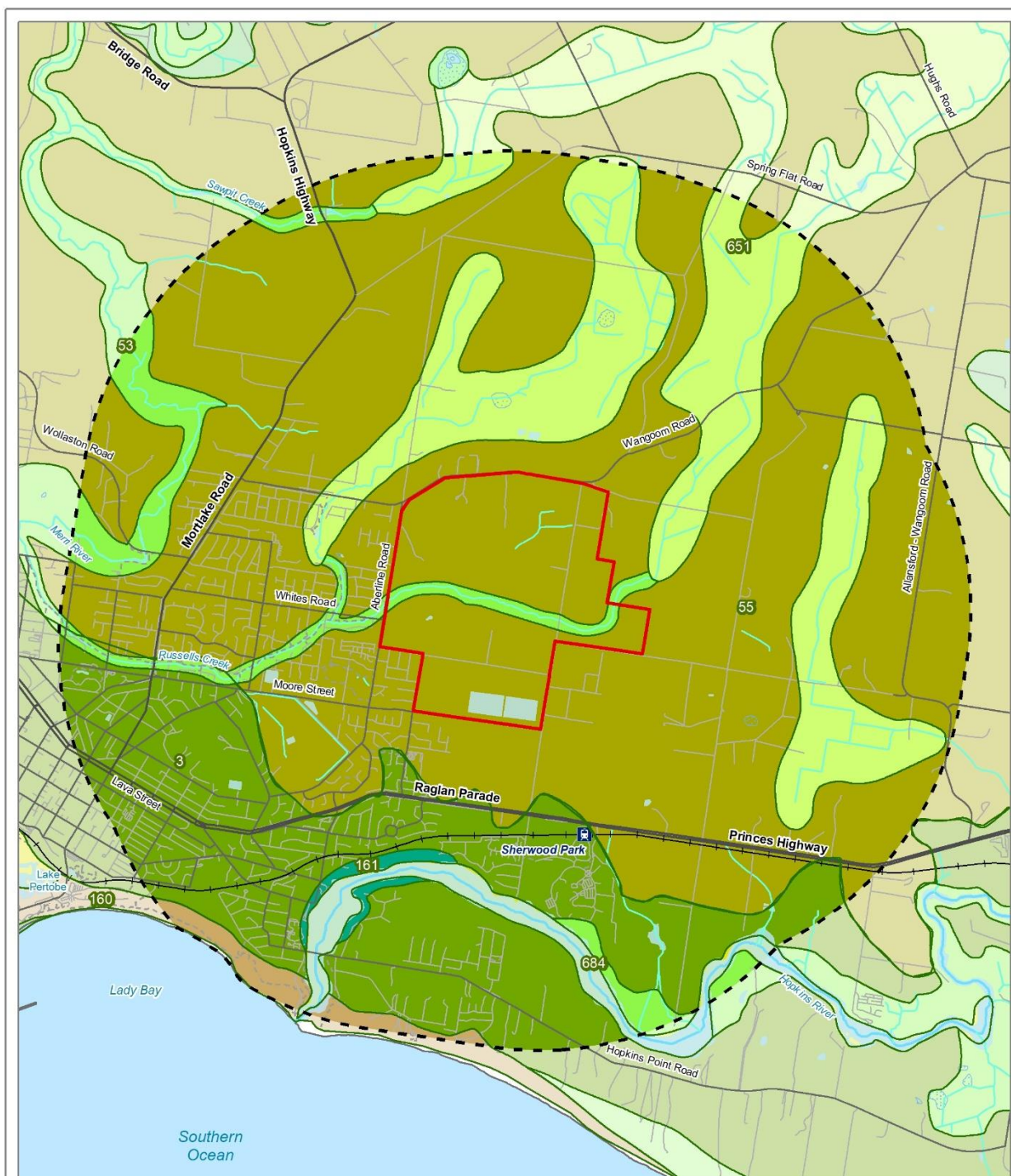
2.2.3 Vegetation

According to the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action's (DEECA) mapping of vegetation prior to European colonisation (Pre-1750 EVCs; Map 6), the study area would have historically supported vegetation classified as Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) and Swamp Scrub (EVC 53).

Plains Grassy Woodland comprises an open, eucalypt woodland to 15 m tall. It occupies poorly drained, fertile soils on flat or gently undulating plains at low elevations. The understorey consists of a few sparse shrubs over a species-rich grassy and herbaceous ground layer. Within the Plains Grassy Woodland ecosystem, larger trees were sparse comprising less than 10% cover. These were predominantly River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). Beneath the canopy, a medium shrub layer consisted of Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) and Hedge Wattle (*A. paradoxa*). The predominant vegetation in these areas comprised largely tufted graminoid (grass) and herb species, representing some 60% cover. Common species included Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), Bristly Wallaby-grass (*Austrodanthonia setacea*) and Common Rice-flower (*Pimelea humilis*) (DEECA 2024b).

The margins of Russells Creek would have supported vegetation classified as Swamp Scrub (EVC 53) (Map 6). This community comprises closed scrub to 8 m tall at low elevations on alluvial deposits along streams or on poorly drained sites with high nutrient and water availability. Soils vary from organic loams to fine silts and peats which are inundated during the wetter months of the year. It is dominated by either Woolly Tea-tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) and/or Paperbarks (*Melaleuca* spp.) or Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) which often form a dense impenetrable thicket, out-competing other species to 50% cover. Emergent trees (e.g. Swamp Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*)) may sometimes be present. Where light penetrates to ground level, a moss/lichen/liverwort herbaceous ground cover is often present. The ground story is often dominated by various reed and sedge species (DEECA 2024b).

Many of these types of vegetation would have been utilised by Aboriginal people in the area for food and the creation of weapons and vessels, and would have supported a range of game that could be hunted for food. In particular, the leaves of some eucalypt species were crushed and soaked in water for medicinal purposes. Bowls and dishes were made from the heavy bark. Those gnarled round growths on the trunk were used as well. The Kulin people in southern Victoria made bowls called 'tarnuks' from the gnarls on gum trees to carry water. Hard eucalypt wood was also used to make spear-throwers, boomerangs and shields (Nash 2004). Kangaroo Grass seeds ripen in summer and can be ground into a flour for the preparation of damper. Rice-flower bark could be made into string and nets (Nash 2004). Some *Acacia* species were used for making spear-throwers and shields, and according to Gott and Conran (1991: 50) the bark was heated and infused in water to bathe rheumatic joints. Other plants and fungi were also valuable food and medicine however, the ethnobotanical records of their use are limited. Eucalypt and tea tree leaves were crushed and soaked in water to prepare medicinal ointments. Bowls and dishes were made from the bark and gnarled growths, for food and water transportation. Canoes were also made from the bark of gum trees. The removal of bark characteristically results in visible modification of the trees that make them identifiable as scarred or culturally modified trees (Nash 2004).



Map 7
Pre-1750 Ecological Vegetation Classes in the Geographic Region
Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment: Aberline to Home Growth Corridor

Legend

- Study Area
- Geographic Region
- Minor Watercourse
- Major Watercourse
- Permanent Waterbody
- Land Subject to Inundation

Ecological Vegetation Classes (pre 1750)

- EVC 160 Coastal Dune Scrub
- EVC 161 Coastal Headland Scrub
- EVC 3 Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland
- EVC 53 Swamp Scrub
- EVC 55 Plains Grassy Woodland
- EVC 651 Plains Swampy Woodland
- EVC 684 Permanent Saline



Local Government: City of Warrnambool
25k Mapsheet: Bushfield 7421-3-4
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 54 (GDA94)
Map Scale: 1:47,000

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16400_Map07_Pre1750EVCs 4/09/2024 MRashidi

2.2.4 Climate

The modern climate of Warrnambool is characterised by cool summers and wet winters; temperatures range between an average maximum of 22.3°C and minimum of 13.3°C in February to an average maximum 13.3°C and minimum 6.2°C in July. Rainfall varies between a maximum of 88.3 mm in July and 32.9 mm in January, with annual average rainfall of 743 mm (BOM 2024). The climate was conducive to Aboriginal people living in the region in the past throughout the year.

2.3 Aboriginal Context

The following section reviews the Aboriginal context of the study area and includes; an examination of historical and ethnohistorical sources, previously recorded Aboriginal archaeological site types and locations in the geographic region of the study area and, archaeological studies undertaken in the area. Together, these sources of information can be used to formulate a predictive site model concerning what types of sites are most likely to occur in the study area, and where these are most likely to occur.

2.3.1 Archaeological Research

Archaeological evidence suggests that Aboriginal Peoples had occupied all of Australia's environmental zones by 40,000 years BP. Pleistocene archaeology of the Port Phillip Bay and Hinterland area documents human occupation dating back at least 40,000 years (Coutts et al. 1976:68). Until recently, the oldest dated archaeological site in Victoria occurs at Keilor in Melbourne. Charcoal from a hearth excavated in 1973 has been dated to 31,000 years BP (Flood 1995:286). More recently research at the Bend Road site in Melbourne's southeast has dates extending back to 30–35,000 BP (Hewitt and Allen 2010). However, the majority of the site is associated with the late-Holocene backed artefact period—the site has now yielded hundreds of asymmetric points and geometric microlith forms. The site points to more common resource orientation patterns relevant to many greater Melbourne Aboriginal Places. Notably, the site is located on an undulating sand promontory jutting out into the northern end of Carrum Swamp. Such land was likely subject to irregular inundation and periodic drying, Hewitt and Allen (2010:3) state:

“Aboriginal use of this resource was also likely to have been seasonal. Ethnographic accounts suggest that birds, eggs, fish, yabbies, shellfish, eels and edible swamp plants, together with the focus the swamp provided for foraging terrestrial marsupials, would have made the area an important resource for Aborigines, especially in spring”.

The archaeological record of the Southwest Victoria area includes a rich record of artefact scatters, scarred trees and shell middens that documents Aboriginal life dating from the Pleistocene through to the immediate pre-European past. Most of these sites point to important relationships between sites and landscapes and resources within the immediate area. This is evident in the Warrnambool region, with many Aboriginal sites located along the coast and around waterways and swampy wetlands (see Section 2.3.4 below).

2.3.2 EMAC Perspectives on the Environment / Country

2.3.2.1 Traditional Resources

Dhawurd wurrung (Eastern Maar) are deeply connected with their ecological knowledge, which allows them to read and interact with Country and its plants and animals (EMAC 2015). Prior to European colonisation, the natural creek, lake and coastal environs near the study area provides a vital habitat to the rich and reliable year round food source for Aboriginal people. Many amphibians, reptiles, migratory and native waterbirds species have been recorded in the Warrnambool region, while the waterways and coastal waters are home to eels, many species of fish (perch and blackfish) and edible shellfish (yabbies, abalone, cockles, crayfish). In addition, the native vegetation around the waterways, particularly Manna, Swamp and Red Gums, would have provided an important timber resource as well as a potential eel habitat. Traditional resources of economic value to Aboriginal people in the area would have included game such as kangaroo and duck, and edible plants such as the Daisy Yam and Pigface (EMAC 2015).

Traditional resources, particularly in the highly fertile hinterland forests that dominated the coastline around Warrnambool prior to European colonisation, would have been utilised by Aboriginal people for food, water and materials (EMAC 2015). Timber in these forests would have been used for creation of weapons and vessels, including bowls and dishes that were often made from heavy bark and gnarled round growths on the trunks. The leaves of some eucalypt species within these forests may also have been crushed and soaked in water for medicinal purposes.

The rich habitat and vegetation of the natural waterways and near coastal waters would also have provided bountiful food and tool resources, and with such a reliable food source, enabled Aboriginal people in the Warrnambool region to construct both permanent and semi-permanent settlements (EMAC 2015). This allowed Aboriginal people to undertake traditional land management practices, such as farming, and sustain themselves on local resources, making the area an attractive location for Aboriginal communities to reside.

2.3.2.2 Coastal and Sea Country:

The Maar Nation has always had a profound connection with the sea, which has been integral to their culture, economy, and survival. The ocean has historically provided sustenance for their Ancestors, a significance that endures today. The coastline, marked by middens, serves as a testament to this rich history of connection and stewardship. In the Dreaming, sites such as Three Sisters Rocks and Deen Maar hold great significance, being places where Ancestors transitioned from this world (EMAC 2015). The connection to Sea Country extends far beyond the present shoreline, reaching the very edge of the continental shelf. These submerged waters were inhabited for millennia, and rising sea levels have not erased the history, tangible evidence, or profound connection.

Sea Country holds a deep cultural and spiritual bond with the *Koontapool* or Southern Right Whales. Every year, along the eastern stretches of the Hopkins River in Warrnambool, the *Koontapool* whales undertake a remarkable journey. They return from the colder waters of the Southern and Antarctic Oceans to their birthing places, a sight that is both awe-inspiring and a testament to the enduring connection between Sea Country and its inhabitants.

The mother Southern Right Whales rest and feed at these *Koontapool Woorkngan Yakeen* or Whale Birthing Dreaming Sites, in certain bays east of the Hopkins River and further along the coast. These areas are safe havens for mothers and infants. Various species across *Dhawurd Wurrung* country come to this area to give birth, contributing to the Gunditjmara's matrilineal society. The *Dhawurd Wurrung* women, whose creation

dreaming, lore obligations, and kinship to totem pertain to this particular section of the Country, use these safe bays as vital sources of food and tools.

2.3.2.3 Waterways

Eastern Maar's relationship with *Parreeyt* ("Water") is deeply intertwined with our understanding of life, death, and the journey of the Spirit once the body is no longer needed. It is a core belief of the Maar that our Spirit originates from *Meerreeng* and returns to *Meerreeng*. Together, *Meerreeng*, *Parreeyt*, *Moornong*, *Allam Meen*, and *Bunjil pa Maar* (Land, Water, Sky, Ancestors, Creator, and People) constitute the Dreaming. The Spirit of our ancestors resides in the *Meerreeng* we walk upon, and *Parreeyt* serves as the medium through which we traverse *Meerreeng*. This profound knowledge of *Parreeyt* underscores its immense significance and solidifies its sacred status, which is rarely paralleled by other natural elements.

In our relationship with *Parreeyt*, we treat it with the same respect and care as we would a family member, much like our interactions with an Elder or a newborn infant. This relationship is characterized by concern, caution, reverence, and calm optimism. Thus, *Parreeyt* is Sacred. With this sacredness comes an obligation to act as its advocate, guardian, community, and family (DELWP 2022).

2.3.3 History and Ethnohistory

Coastal *Dhauwurd wurrung* clans first encountered European people from 1810 when sealers and whalers first began to work in the Portland Bay area; however, these visits were seasonal (Clark 1990a:33). While these sealers and whalers were also known to have landed in Warrnambool Bay during these visits in the 1830s, no permanent or temporary settlement was ever established (Warrnambool Heritage Works n.d.). During these times *Dhauwurd wurrung* (*Gundidjmarra*) territory, encompassed the area around Portland and Lake Condah (Clark 1990a:26), extending north to just south of Hamilton, east as far as Warrnambool and west as far as the (now) South Australian border. The area was named Portland by Lieutenant James Grant who mapped the coastline in 1802. While Grant's mapping was approximate and the name Portland was initially applied to the entire coast between Cape Nelson and Cape Otway, the name persisted after more detailed mapping expeditions were completed (Hubbard and Neylon 2006).

According to Clark (1990a:54-55), the clan occupying the Warrnambool area at the time of first contact with Europeans in the mid-1830s, would have been the *Yarrer gundidj* (or *Peek Whurrong*) clan, meaning 'belonging to Yarrer' from *Yarrowet* or Allan's place (Clark 1990a:88); *Allandale* being a pastoral run along the Hopkins River at this time (Hubbard and Neylon 2005). Off the back of the Henty brothers arriving in Portland and establishing a permanent settlement there in 1834, the following years saw an increase in colonisers to western Victoria and the creation of more and more pastoral runs.

Throughout the 1840s the *Dhauwurd wurrung* fought a sustained guerrilla war against the European colonisers in the face of being denied access to their traditional lands. They fought for their lands in a series of clashes known as the Eumerella Wars, in which both parties experienced violent deaths (Boldrewood 1896; Critchett 1990). Due to the ongoing battles, the *Dhauwurd wurrung* became well known as "The fighting Gunditjmarra" (Weir 2009:8–9).

The *Dhauwurd wurrung* resistance to incursions into their territory took many forms including: attacking livestock; harassing and robbing supply drays; retaliating against the kidnapping of *Dhauwurd wurrung*

women and other acts of violence; and intimidating colonising settlers through demands for food and clothing (Madden 1997). Conflict ensued with deaths on both sides; however, it is likely that far more Aboriginal people than Europeans were killed. In 1842 at Tarrone Station, 300 Aboriginal people reportedly launched an attack on Dr Kilgour's workers. Kilgour and his men retaliated, chasing and shooting two or three *Yowen gundidj* as they fled. The station confiscated all the land from the Aboriginal people and there were no further incidents for some time, however in 1844 it was discovered that the overseer of the station, Robertson, was supplying the *Yowen gundidj* with arsenic laced flour (Clark 1990a:90).

The *Dhauwurd wurrung* resistance became overwhelmed by the colonisers who brought in the Native Police (Critchett 1990:165–174). In 1865 the Church of England set up the first mission in the western district, at Framlingham, 22 km north-east of Warrnambool. While living on Aboriginal missions, many people experienced forced confinement, the imposition of strict religious observance, separation from and removal of their children, the breakdown of traditional values and the banning of their languages and cultural practices. Despite such hardship, Aboriginal people formed and maintained strong communities and used their confinement as the impetus for political campaigns, human rights movements and the fight for the return of their land (Koorie Heritage Trust 2022).

In the early days of the Framlingham Mission control moved between the Central Board and the missionaries, and the Board attempted to shut the mission down several times. However, the Aboriginal people at Framlingham eventually won ownership of the mission in 1970 and many Aboriginal people continue to live there today (Critchett 1980). The Lake Condah Mission was closed in 1919 although many people continued to live there until the 1950s when the land was subdivided for returned soldiers (Budj Bim 2022).

In 1970, the Victorian Government introduced the *Aboriginal Land Act* (1970) which granted land reserved for Aboriginal people at Framlingham and Lake Tyers be vested in the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust and the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust respectively. The Gunditjmara (*Dhauwurd wurrung*) acquired the Lake Condah Mission and cemetery as part of an out of court settlement after the 1984 High Court judgement (Weir 2009:10–11). Today the descendants of the eastern Gunditjmara (*Dhauwurd wurrung*) people, which includes Warrnambool, are represented by the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.

2.3.4 Oral History

Although Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation identifies heritage values within the study area described in this AHHA, EMAC chose not to disclose details about its significance with the Heritage Advisor and Sponsor based on the Registered Aboriginal Party intellectual property management policy.

2.3.5 Database Searches

The following section reviews the Aboriginal context of the activity area and includes; an examination of previously recorded Aboriginal archaeological Place types and locations in the geographic region of the activity area and, archaeological studies undertaken in the area. Together, these sources of information can be used to formulate a predictive Place model concerning what types of Places are most likely to occur in the activity area, and where these are most likely to occur.

The following database searches were conducted:

2.3.5.1 Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

A search of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) was conducted on 04 September 2024 for Places within a 3 km radius of the study area. Searching an area with this extent ensured that a relevant and representative sample of information was obtained.

The search identified a total of 25 registered Aboriginal places within the search area. These Places consist of a total of 145 Place components comprising four site component types (Table 4). Table 4 shows that stone artefact sites, either isolated artefacts or artefact scatters, account for half of the site component types in the search area and are by far the most prevalent site type in the region ($n = 91.71\%$). It should also be noted that due to changing conventions for the recording of archaeological sites over time, some of the sites listed as ‘artefact scatters’ may in fact represent ‘isolated artefacts’, as early recording forms made no distinction between the two site types. Furthermore, isolated artefacts are today recorded as a form of LDADs.

The difference between the number of sites and number of site components is because several sites contain two or more site component types.

None of these sites are located within the study area (Map 8).

There are two Aboriginal Places located within 300 m of the activity area:

- **VAHR 7421-0226 (Rodgers Road LDAD).** This Place is approximately 64 m south of the study area and was recorded during a complex CHMP for proposed industrial subdivision at 80 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool (Burch 2015; CHMP #13473). The Place is a Low Density Artefact Distribution (LDAD), comprising three isolated basalt flakes on a small rise; and
- **VAHR 7421-0256 (Aberline Road LDAD).** This Place is approximately 300 m southwest of the study area and was recorded during a complex CHMP for the proposed childcare centre at 28 Aberline Road, Warrnambool (Scarff and Somerville 2024; CHMP #19332). The Place is a LDAD comprising of a basalt proximal flake and a rhyolite distal flake within a residential property.

A summary of the Aboriginal archaeological site component types appears in Table 4 and a list of all sites in the search area is shown in Table 5.

Table 4: Summary of Previously Identified Aboriginal Site Component Types within 5 km of the Study Area

Site Type	Quantity	Percentage (%)
Aboriginal Ancestral Remains (Burial)	1	0.69
Artefact Scatter	5	3.44
Low Density Artefact Distribution	128	88.27
Shell Midden	11	7.60
Total	145	100

Table 5: List of Previously Identified Sites within 3 km of the Study Area

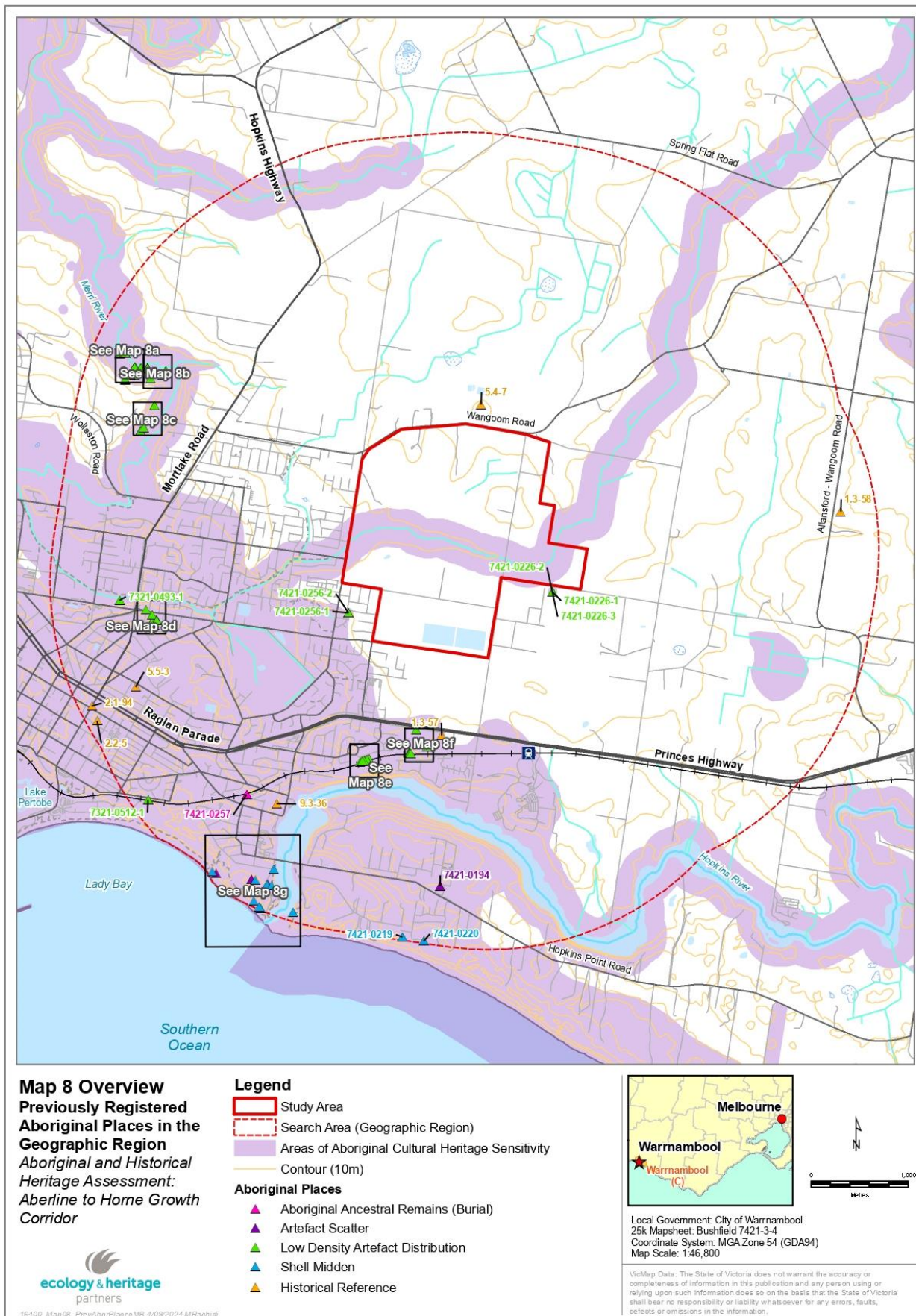
VAHR Site Number	Site Name	Component Number	Component Type	Within Study Area?
7321-0493	Botanic Road LDAD	7321-0493-1	LDAD	No
7321-0512	Warrnambool Rail Warrnambool LDAD 1	7321-0512-1	LDAD	No
7321-0522	158 Wollaston LDAD	7321-0522-2-47	LDAD	No
7321-0544	Moore Street LDAD	7321-0544-1-16	LDAD	No
7321-0554	236 More LDAD	7321-0554-1	LDAD	No
7321-0558	10 Walls Rd LDAD 1	7321-0558-1-26	LDAD	No
7321-0561	Moore Street Artefact Scatter	7321-0561-1	Artefact Scatter	No
7421-0009	Hopkins Mouth 4	7421-0009-1	Shell Midden	No
7421-0010	Hopkins Mouth 5	7421-0010-1	Shell Midden	No
7421-0011	Hopkins Mouth 6	7421-0011-1	Shell Midden	No
7421-0194	Hopkins Point 1	7421-0194-1	Artefact Scatter	No
7421-0212	Hopkins Rd Path Shell Midden 1	7421-0212-1	Shell Midden	No
		7421-0212-2	Artefact Scatter	No
7421-0213	Point Ritchie Road Shell Midden 1	7421-0213-1	Shell Midden	No
		7421-0213-2	Artefact Scatter	No
7421-0214	Granny's Grave Shell Deposit	7421-0214-1	Shell Midden	No
		7421-0214-2	Artefact Scatter	No
7421-0215	Hopkins River Path Shell Midden 1	7421-0215-1	Shell Midden	No
7421-0216	Hopkins River Path Shell Midden 2	7421-0216-1	Shell Midden	No
7421-0217	Hopkins River East Bank Shell Midden 1	7421-0217-1	Shell Midden	No
7421-0219	Logans Beach Road Midden 1	7421-0219-1	Shell Midden	No
7421-0220	Logans Beach Road Midden 2	7421-0220-1	Shell Midden	No
		7421-0220-2	Shell Midden	No
		7421-0220-3	Shell Midden	No
		7421-0220-4	Shell Midden	No
7421-0226	Rodgers Road LDAD	7421-0226-1-3	LDAD	No
7421-0243	Raglan Parade 1	7421-0243-1-9	LDAD	No
7421-0244	Warrnambool Rail Warrnambool LDAD 2	7421-0244-1-19	LDAD	No
7421-0249	Warrnambool Rail LDAD 1	7421-0249-1-10	LDAD	No
7421-0256	Aberline Road LDAD	7421-0256-1-2	LDAD	No
7421-0257	Gladstone Street Burial	7421-0257-1	Aboriginal Ancestral Remains (Burial)	No

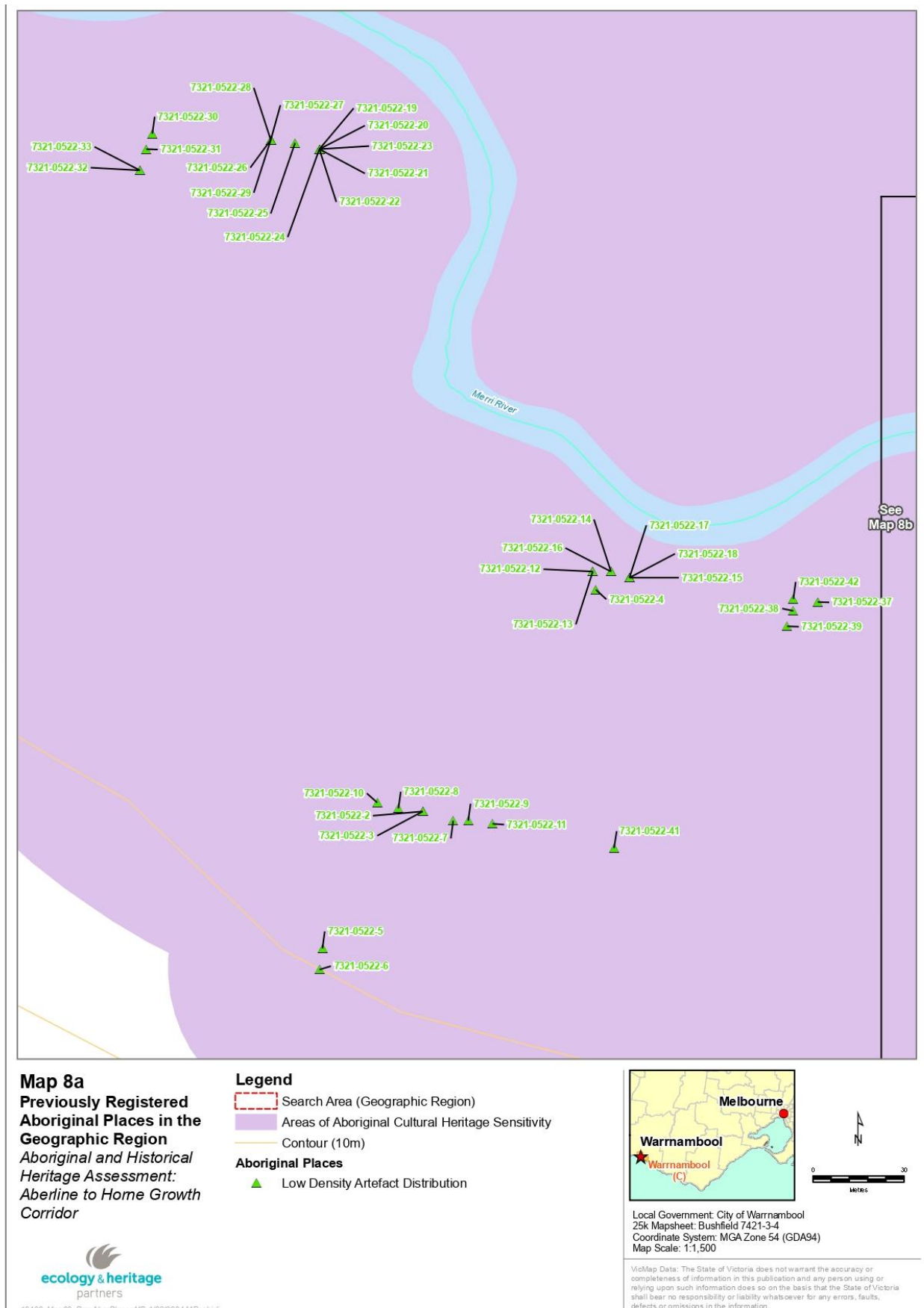
2.3.5.2 *Aboriginal Historical References*

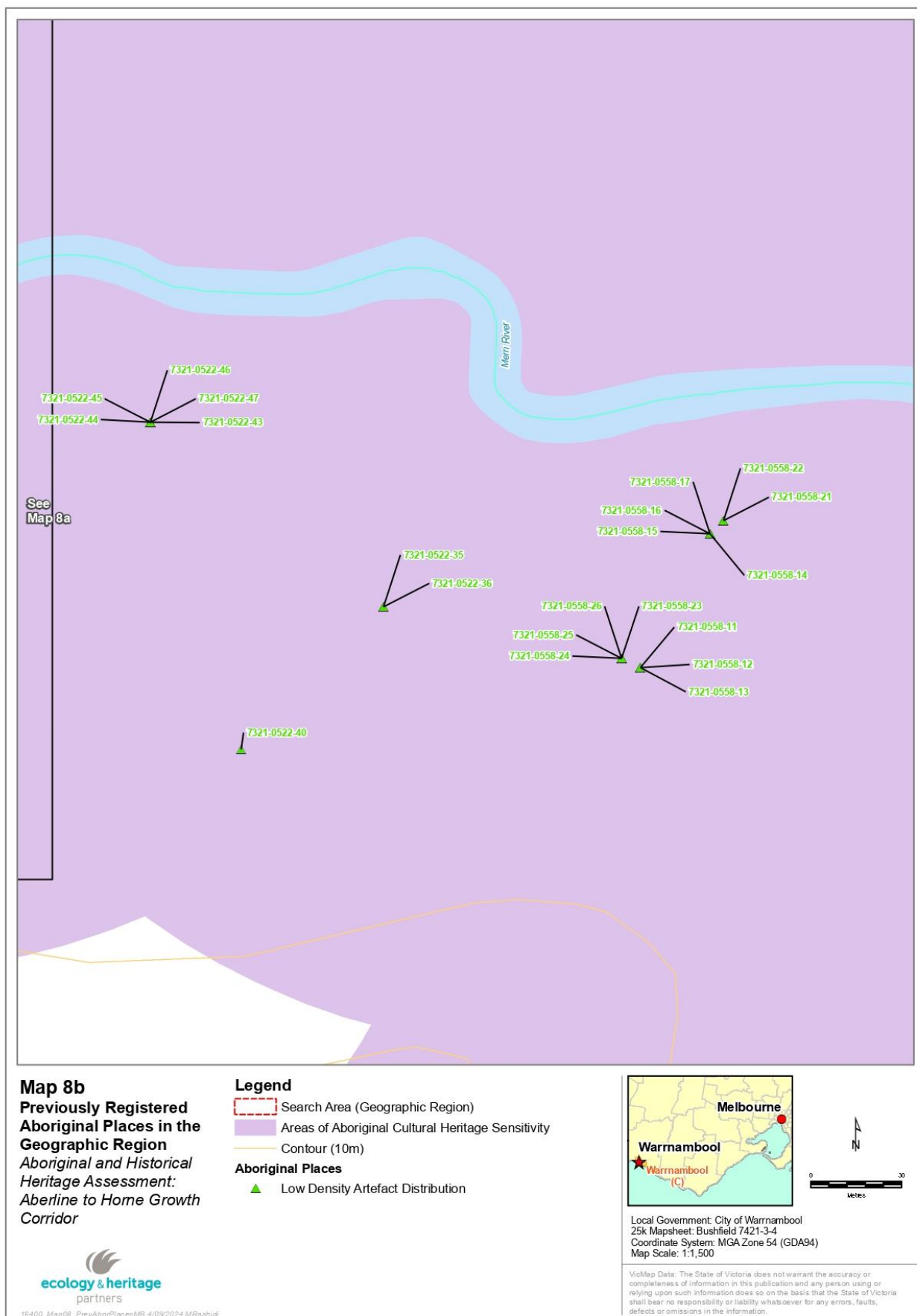
Two Aboriginal Historical References were identified within a 3 km radius of the study area. None of these Places are located within the study area (Table 6; Map 8):

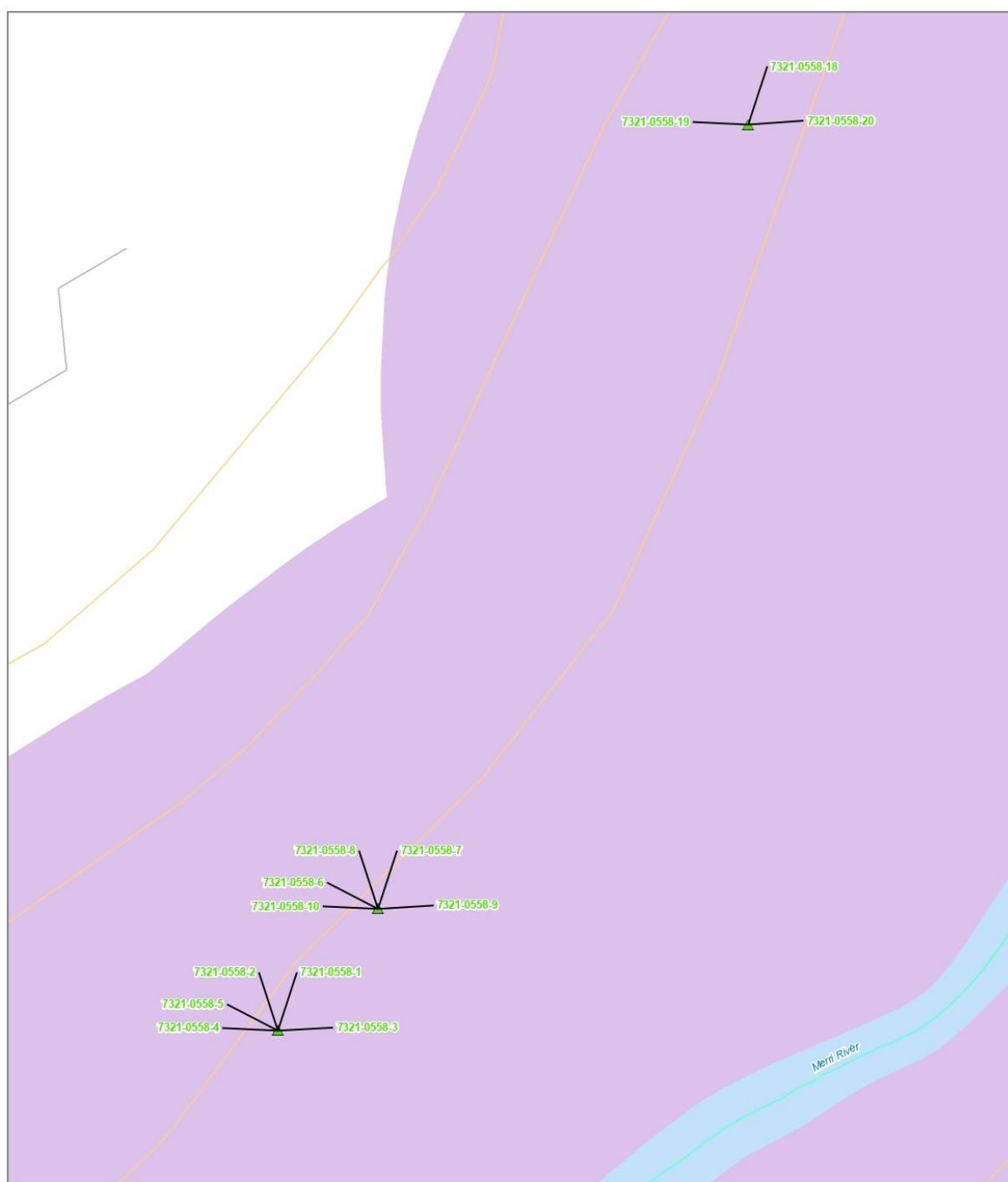
Table 6: List of Previously Identified Aboriginal Historical References within 3 km of the Study Area

Historical Reference ID	Place Name	Place Type	Within Activity Area?
1.3-57	Wilmot Abraham's Camp, Huntingfield	1.3 Properties where people are known to have lived/camped	No
1.3-58	Summer Hill	1.3 Properties where people are known to have lived/camped	No
2.1-94	Wilmot Abraham's Hut, Waikato	2.1 Places where people camped/lived around towns	No
2.2-5	Warrnambool Meeting Place	2.2 Places where people congregated around towns (stores, pubs, etc.)	No
5.4-7	Wangoon (Wangoom) Station, Honorary Correspondent Depot	5.4 Properties/locations of Honorary Correspondents to the Board for the Protection of Aborigines	No
5.5-3	Warrnambool Depot	5.5 Locations of 'Board for the Protection of Aborigines' depots	No
9.3-36	Elizabeth and Henry McCrae's Grave, Warrnambool Cemetery	9.3 Location of burials within cemeteries	No









Map 8c
Previously Registered
Aboriginal Places in the
Geographic Region
Aboriginal and Historical
Heritage Assessment:
Aberline to Home Growth
Corridor

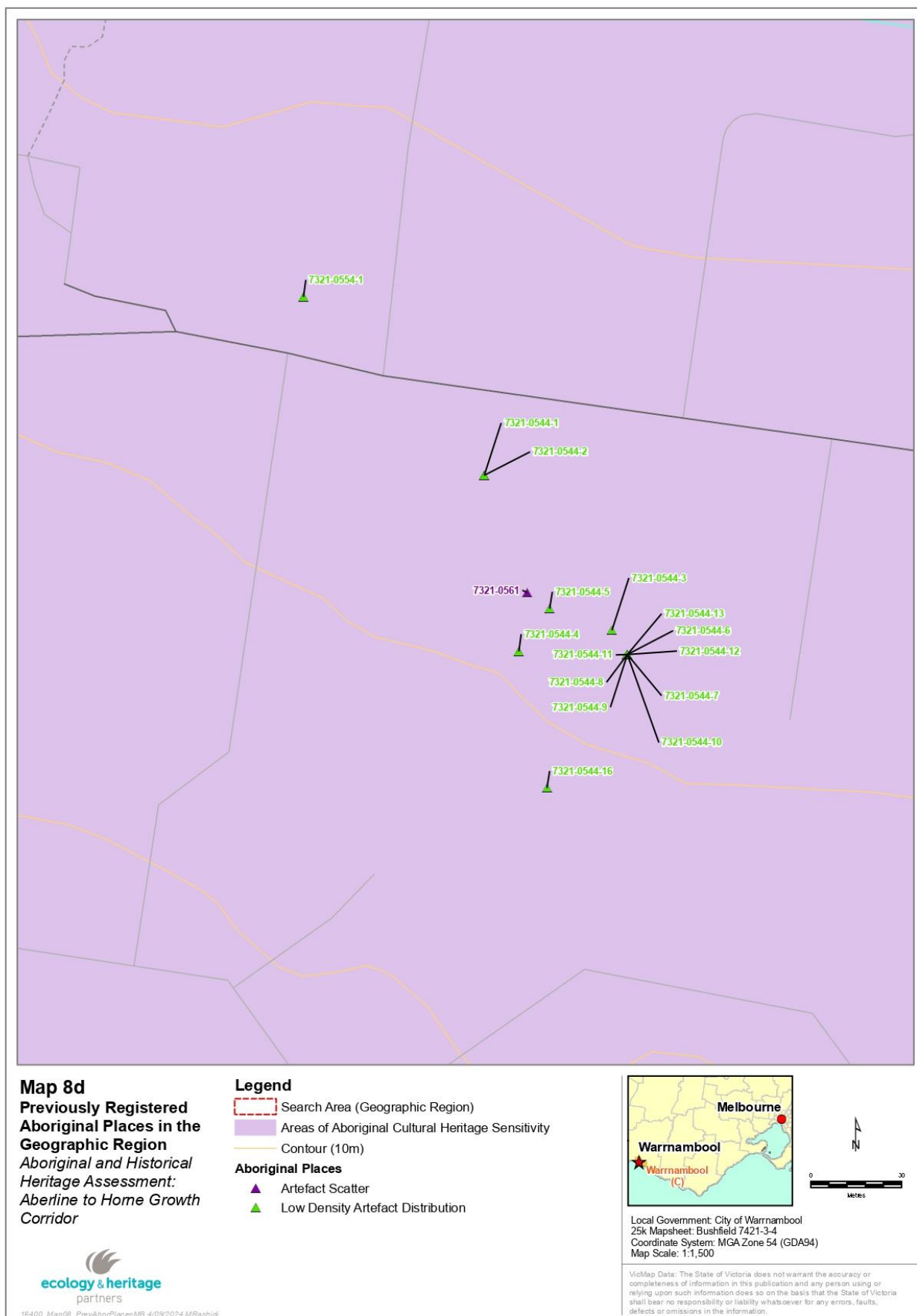
Legend

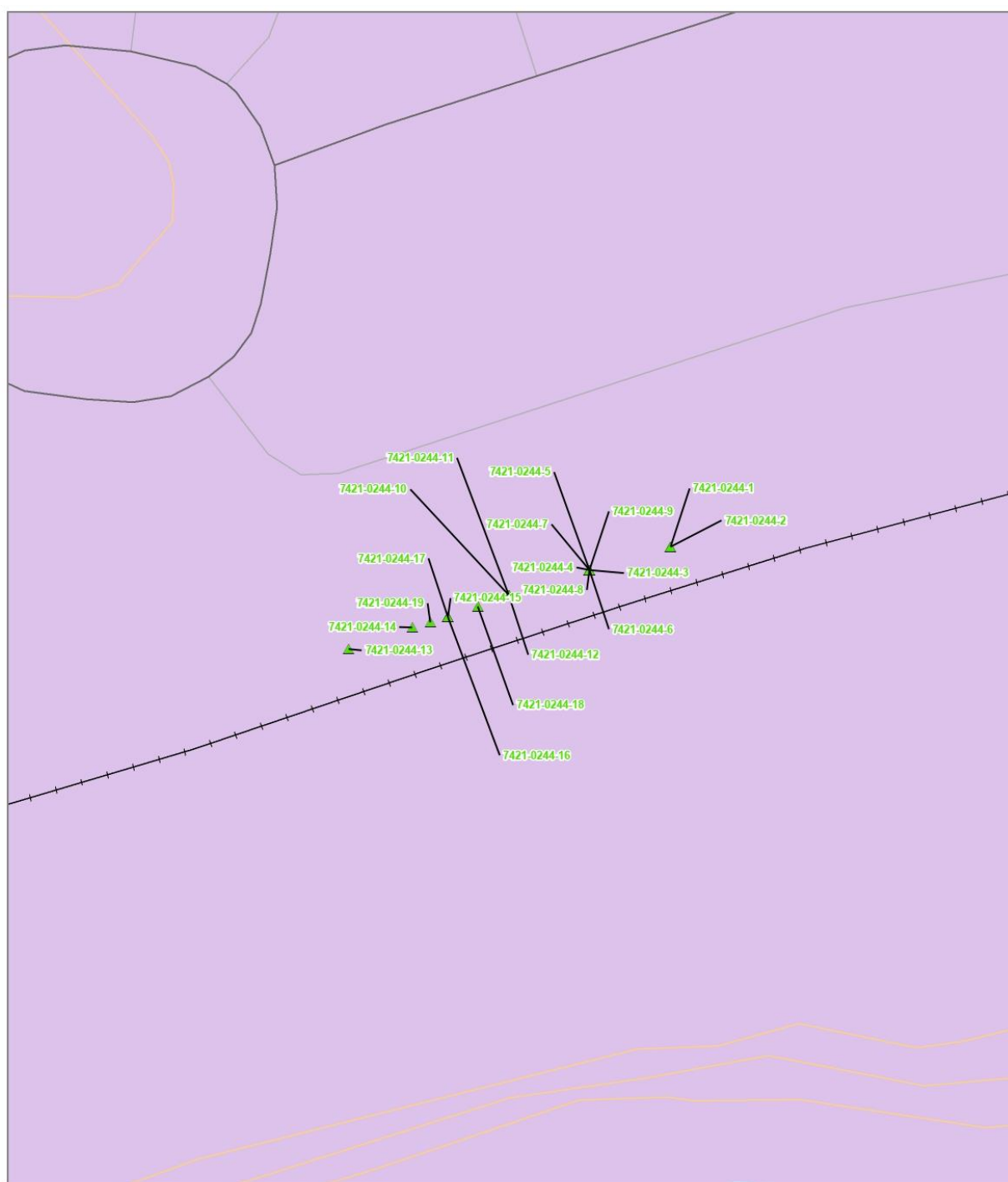
- Search Area (Geographic Region)
- Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
- Contour (10m)
- Aboriginal Places**
- ▲ Low Density Artefact Distribution



Local Government: City of Warrnambool
25k Mapsheet: Bushfield 7421-3-4
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 54 (GDA94)
Map Scale: 1:1,500

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Map 8e
Previously Registered
Aboriginal Places in the
Geographic Region
Aboriginal and Historical
Heritage Assessment:
Aberline to Home Growth
Corridor

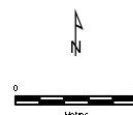
Legend

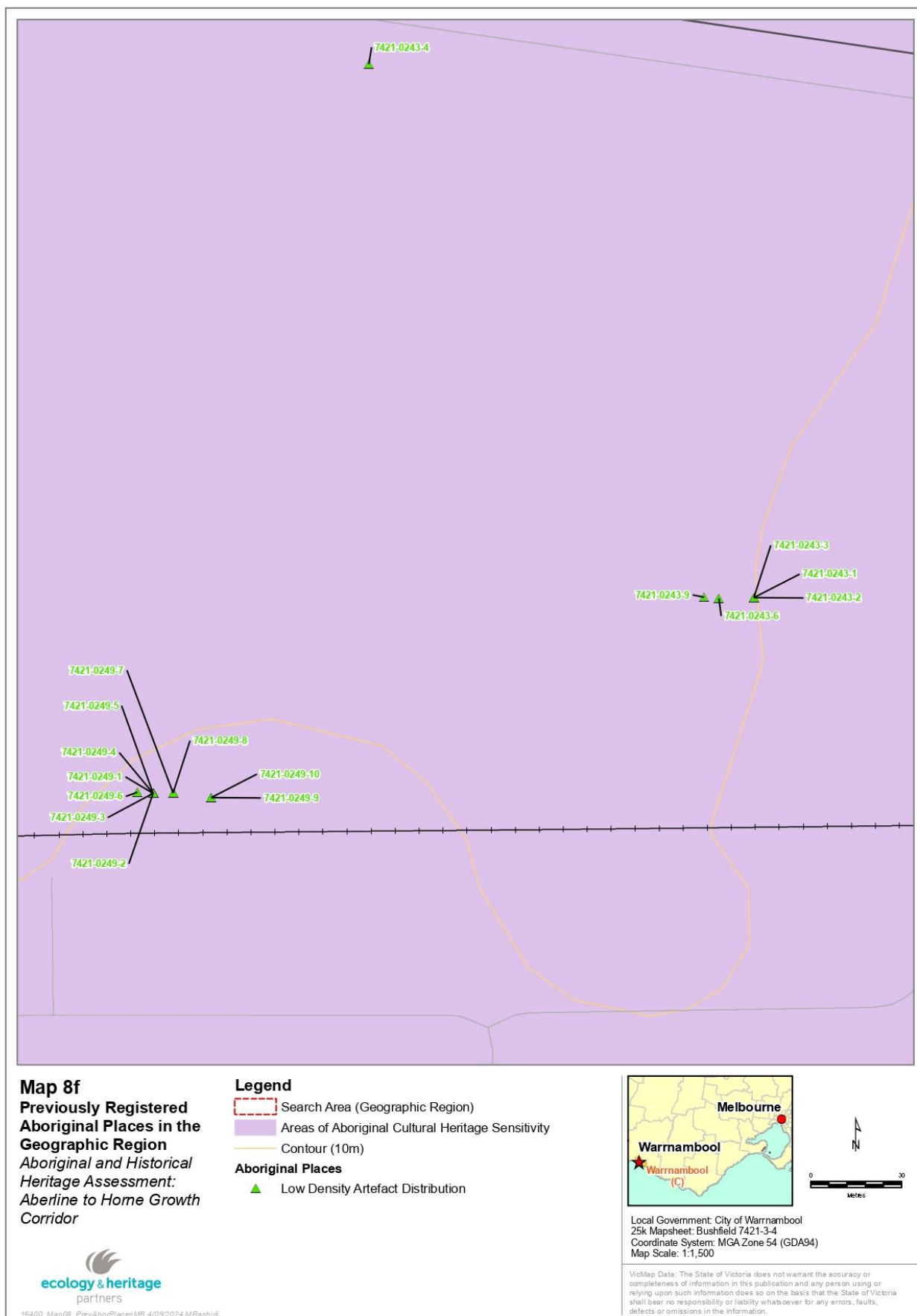
- Search Area (Geographic Region)
- Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
- Contour (10m)
- Aboriginal Places**
 - ▲ Low Density Artefact Distribution

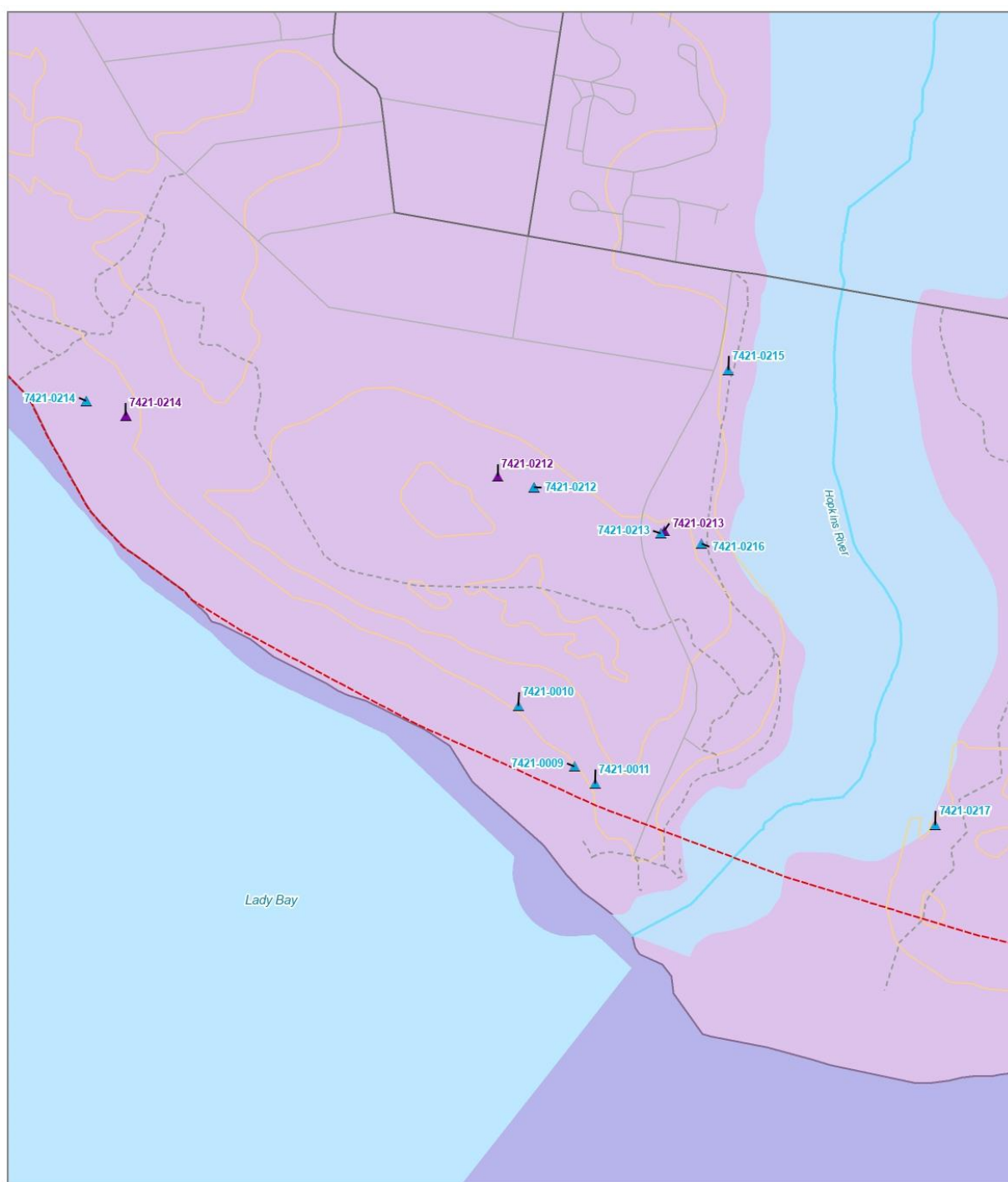


Local Government: City of Warrnambool
25k Mapsheet: Bushfield 7421-3-4
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 54 (GDA94)
Map Scale: 1:1,500

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Map 8g
Previously Registered
Aboriginal Places in the
Geographic Region
Aboriginal and Historical
Heritage Assessment:
Aberline to Home Growth
Corridor

Legend

- Search Area (Geographic Region)
- Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
- Contour (10m)
- Aboriginal Places**
 - ▲ Artefact Scatter
 - ▲ Shell Midden



Local Government: City of Warrnambool
25k Mapsheet: Bushfield 7421-3-4
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 54 (GDA94)
Map Scale: 1:5,000

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2.3.5.3 Local Council

The study area is located within, and is governed by, the Warrnambool Planning Scheme. Planning schemes set out policies and provisions for the use, development and protection of land.

The Heritage Overlay of the Warrnambool Planning Scheme was examined (DTP 2024). No Aboriginal heritage places listed on the Heritage Overlay are present within the study area.

2.3.6 Previous Aboriginal Archaeological Investigations

Localised and regional archaeological investigations have established the general character of Aboriginal sites located within the same geographic region as the study area. This information, together with an environmental context, histories of land use and, historical and ethnohistorical sources, can be used to form the basis for a site prediction statement.

Below are summaries of selected archaeological investigations which are relevant to the study area;

Schell (2007) assessment consisted of a desktop assessment and field survey to determine if any Aboriginal Places or areas of cultural heritage sensitivity were to be impacted by the proposed works, which included an extension to the existing Wangoom Road Sewer (FP – SR Report #4003; located 500 m west of the study area). While the desktop assessment suggested Places in the form of stone artefact scatters may be present due to the proximity to Russells Creek, the field survey demonstrated that the area had been heavily disturbed by extensive earthmoving works and historical agricultural practices. As a result, no further assessment of the activity area was undertaken.

Matic (2008) completed a complex investigation (CHMP 10495) of an activity area measuring approximately 2.1 km in length. The proposed activity involved the construction of a pipeline that follows the Russells Creek alignment to the existing Brierly Basin in Warrnambool, approximately 500 m west of the study area. The desktop assessment examined an area of five kilometres around the activity area and noted several prior Aboriginal investigations had been carried out, with 21 Aboriginal Places and nine Aboriginal Historical Places identified near the activity area. The majority of the Aboriginal Places had been identified along the banks of the Hopkins and Merri Rivers, or within their respective floodplains. A standard assessment was then carried out, with no new Aboriginal Places recorded, however, three areas of low archaeological potential were identified in areas that did not exhibit clear disturbance compared to the majority of the rest of the activity area. As such, a targeted complex assessment was carried out to investigate these areas of potential.

Three 50 m transects of shovel test pits placed 5 m apart, were excavated in the identified areas of potential within the activity area. In total, 28 shovel test pits were excavated; 11 in Transect 1 and 3, while only six were dug in Transect 2 due to a high level of disturbance at one end. These test pits confirmed that the activity area had been highly disturbed by development works in the past and had likely also experienced erosion, which Matic (2008) suggested was the reason that no Aboriginal cultural material was found within the activity area. As a result, it was considered that the activity area was unlikely to contain previously unrecorded Aboriginal Places.

Luebbers (2010) conducted a complex CHMP (#11029) to test potential cultural significance of a proposed residential development between Whites Road and Aberline Road, Warrnambool, located within 20 m west of the study area. A complex assessment was undertaken first with hand excavation in a single 1.0 x 1.0 m

test square near Russell Creek. No artefacts were recovered. Utilizing sedimentary profiles obtained from the hand excavated test pit, the riverbanks, and from the geotechnical study, 17 test pits were mechanically excavated. The pits were strategically located across the development property to sample all possible topographic and sedimentary features. No Aboriginal heritage materials were located in these test pits. This archaeological investigation was conducted along the south-west border of the current study area.

A complex CHMP was undertaken by **O'Reilly and McAlister (2011)** to test potential cultural significance for residential development along Wangoom Road and Aberline Road, Warrnambool (#11591; immediately west of the present study area). Sub-surface testing was conducted in the activity area in areas of potential sensitivity that are to be impacted by the proposed activity and where poor ground surface visibility inhibited a comprehensive assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity during the standard assessment. The results of the sub-surface testing indicate that the activity area has not been subject to major sub-surface disturbance. No Aboriginal cultural heritage materials, features or potentially sensitive deposits were identified in any of the excavations within the activity area. This archaeological investigation was conducted along the northern and western borders of the current study area.

Burch (2014) completed a complex CHMP (#13296) for industrial subdivision at 80 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool, located immediately southeast of the present study area. A complex assessment (archaeological sub surface testing) of the activity area was undertaken. No Aboriginal cultural heritage or areas of Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity are located within the activity area; therefore, no specific cultural heritage management recommendations are required.

Burch (2015) completed a complex CHMP (#13473) for the remainder of the proposed industrial subdivision at 80 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool, located immediately southeast of the present study area. A complex assessment (archaeological sub surface testing) of the activity area was undertaken to determine cultural significance. One Aboriginal archaeological site was discovered during the complex assessment; VAHR 7421-0226 (Rodgers Road LDAD). This Place comprises a low density artefact distribution on a rise in the northern central portion of the activity area. No ground disturbing works are to take place within the Place extent of, or within 10 m of VAHR 7421-0226 (Rodgers Road LDAD).

Fitzgerald (2019) completed a complex investigation (CHMP 16543) of an activity area measuring approximately 1.38 ha in size. The proposed activity involved the completion of sewer upgrade works along a portion of Russells Creek, 1.2 km south-west of the study area, and the removal of redundant infrastructure within the new alignment. The desktop assessment examined the geomorphology and waterways of the activity area and its surrounds, focussing on the trajectories of the Merri River, Russells Creek and Hopkins River as they flow into Warrnambool from the north. In this geographic region, Fitzgerald (2019) identified 19 Aboriginal Places, the majority of which were artefact scatters (n=14), and were most commonly located on the terraces and floodplains of Merri River and the plains around Hopkins River. The standard assessment found the activity area to be largely disturbed by prior developments, including the construction of the Russells Creek walking trail, existing underground services and historical redirection of the waterway. Fitzgerald (2019) concluded that the activity area did not contain any Aboriginal cultural material or areas of archaeological potential during this assessment. However, due to the poor effective survey coverage resulting from dense grass coverage, the assessment still proceeded to a complex assessment. It was

determined that the activity area still held a low likelihood of Aboriginal cultural heritage in subsurface deposits because of previous archaeological investigations located subsurface cultural material.

The complex assessment was quite limited, with a single 1 x 1 m test pit (TP) and three 500 x 500 mm shovel test pits (STPs) being excavated within the proposed pipeline alignment. The results of the subsurface testing concluded that the activity area had at one stage been a low-lying swampland but had been heavily disturbed over time by various developments. Although the excavations reached a maximum depth between 600 and 1100 mm, no Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified.

Scarff and Somerville (2024) prepared a complex CHMP (#19332) for the proposed childcare centre at 28 Aberline Road, Warrnambool, Victoria, 270 m south of the present study area. The desktop assessment found that the activity area for CHMP 19332 is situated on GMU 6.1.3 (Plains with poorly developed drainage and shallow regolith) which forms part of the wider Western Plains region. A total of 274 Aboriginal Places were identified within the geographic region, which primarily consist of Low Density Artefact Distributions, artefact scatters, and shell middens. The standard assessment confirmed that the activity area comprised a south-facing slope landform, recorded extensive disturbance the residential dwellings across the western extent of the activity area and did not identify any new Aboriginal cultural heritage. The complex assessment resulted in the identification of one new Aboriginal cultural heritage Place, VAHR 7421-0256 (Aberline Road LDAD), which consists of one basalt proximal flake and one rhyolite distal flake, found a depth between 200-300 mm in a dark brown loamy silt soil context. Management conditions included general conditions and a No-Go Zone around the extent of VAHR 7421-0256 (Aberline Road LDAD) prior to the commencement of the activity.

A summary of archaeological reports relevant to the geographical region of the study area appears below (Table 7).

Table 7: Archaeological Reports Relevant to the Study Area

Author, Date, Report #	Description and Location	Results
Coutts et al. 1977a #165	A literature study and survey of mounds known as earthen heaps or ovens in Western Victoria covering an area of 247,000ha.	Location of mounds are suggested to be related to environment as most were located within a woodland or grassland, complemented by potentially important food resource habitats; swamps, lakes, creeks and areas subject to inundation. 207 mounds located during the survey. Excavation results from several sites found the presence of burials, stone tools, faunal remains, bone tools, stone structures and suggested food preparation.
Coutts et al. 1977b #265	Fourteen archaeological sites were excavated over three years as part of a research paper on the effects of European colonization in the Western district.	The study concluded that the arrival of Europeans prompted a shift in settlement patterns which can be seen in the archaeological record such as a move away from mound dwelling other occupation sites such as rock shelters. Although information was sparse, there appeared to be traditional practices which remained into the contact period such as burial styles, production of stone tools and the use of ochre (although in decreased frequency). The research was unable to make conclusions on population density changed based on the archaeological record.

Author, Date, Report #	Description and Location	Results
Presland, G. 1980 #552	Journals of G. A. Robinson, detailing his engagement with the Aboriginal peoples during his tour from Portland to Melbourne in August 1841.	The journal was written during his time as Chief Protector of the Victorian Aborigines. Every detail of his interaction with the various Aboriginal tribes was recorded, as well as drawings he sketched whilst in their company. Robinson's journal includes details of his journey to Melbourne via the Grampians and Pyrenees Ranges.
Presland, G. 1977 #652	Journals of G. A. Robinson, detailing his engagement with the Aboriginal peoples during his tour from Melbourne to Portland in March-May 1841.	The journal was written during his time as Chief Protector of the Victorian Aborigines. Every detail of his interaction with the various Aboriginal tribes was recorded, as well as drawings he sketched whilst in their company. This journal details his 6 month journey to the Western District, during which time he visited many stations on his way to Portland.
Schell, P. 1995 #698	An archaeological survey was undertaken at Hopkins River by environmental science students from Monash university. The survey aimed to document and establish past and present threats to eel traps and other sites.	An archaeological survey was undertaken at Hopkins River by environmental science students from Monash university. The survey aimed to document and establish past and present threats to eel traps and other sites. Ethnohistorical, previous archaeological records and oral histories were used to gain a better understanding of the potential for harm of eel traps and other sites.
Gunn, R.G. and Harradine, G. 1999 #1579	An archaeological survey was conducted to test the archaeological significance of a paddock to be developed.	A single paddock was surveyed at Hopkins Point near Warrnambool, locating a single isolated artefact (site 7421-194). The single artefact was a chert flake which was accompanied by a burnt clay ball.
McConnell et al 2002 #2705	A predictive sensitivity zoning model for the West Victoria Region.	Archaeological sites are stated to be virtually everywhere in the study area with the challenge of the report to identify patterns of differing density. The predictive model defined 3 zones of sensitivity. 1) Southern periphery, 2) Northern periphery and 3) Interior. Factors affecting site location in decreasing importance are; proximity to an ecotone, proximity to fresh water, elevation below 200 m and flatness of ground. Distance from coast, location of water and elevation were all relative factors in the number of sites. The highest density of sites was located at 0-5km from the water, coastal basins at river mouths and damp sclerophyll forest and wet heathland appear to contain high densities.
Long, A. 2007 #4070	An Aboriginal archaeological survey at North Dennington and Dales Road for two Wannon Region Water projects (immediately west of study area).	Both sites are located in between calcarenite dune ridges. No Aboriginal sites were identified during the survey.

Author, Date, Report #	Description and Location	Results
McAlister, R. 2018 #15446	Complex CHMP for the proposed residential subdivision at 159 Mortlake Road, Warrnambool (1.7 km west of the study area).	A complex CHMP (15446) for the proposed residential subdivision at 159 Mortlake Road, Warrnambool. The desktop assessment found that the activity area for CHMP 15446 is located adjacent to Merri River, on an undulating plain landform. A total of 20 previously registered Places were identified within the geographic region, which consists of low-density artefact distribution, earth features and object collections, which were largely associated with the flood plains, alluvial terraces and elevated ridgelines along Merri River, Russel Creek and Hopkins River. The standard assessment identified that the archaeological potential of the area was low due to the steepness of the slope encompassed by the activity area and did not record any new Aboriginal cultural heritage Places. The complex assessment did not record any new Aboriginal cultural heritage Places and recorded varying levels of disturbance associated with past ploughing and modern occupation of the activity area.
James, R. 2020 #16539	Complex CHMP for the installation of a high-level tower on Wangoom Road (adjacent to the western boundary of the study area)	A complex CHMP (#16539) for the proposed installation of a high-level tower on Wangoom Road, a DN300 feeder main within the road reserve along McGregor's, McKiernan and Aberline Roads and a new water pump station sited at the existing East Warrnambool Pump Station facility at the corner of Tozer and McGregor's Roads. This activity area is adjacent to the western boundary of the present study area. The desktop assessment found that no Aboriginal cultural heritage Places had previously been recorded in the activity area of CHMP 16539, and the closet previously recorded Place was located approximately 2 km to the east and comprised a surface low density artefact distribution. The standard and complex assessments found no new Aboriginal cultural heritage Places within the activity area.
East, E. 2021 #18043	Complex CHMP for the construction of a childcare centre, 15 residential dwellings and associated subsurface services at 15 Dales Road, Warrnambool (450 m south of the study area)	The desktop assessment found that CHMP 18043's activity area comprised of the of Tower Hill Tuff (Nept) volcanic geologic deposit and did not contain any previously registered Aboriginal cultural heritage Places. A low number of previously registered Places was located within the wider geographic region that were strongly associated to locations within 500 m of permanent water sources, primarily the Hopkins River and the coastline. The standard and complex assessments did not identify any new Aboriginal cultural heritage Places.
Hardy, J. 2022 #18126 Amended by Corbett, M. 2022	Complex CHMP for the construction of a Community Care Facility at 145 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool (adjacent to north-western corner of the study area)	The desktop assessment that activity area for CHMP 18126 contained a low archaeological potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage. The standard assessment confirmed that the activity area comprised of a flat plain landform which had been subject to varying degrees of prior ground disturbance and did not locate any new Aboriginal cultural heritage Places. An amendment to the CHMP was prepared in July 2022, to change the activity scope and activity area, no further field assessment was required by the RAP (EMAC).

2.3.7 Aboriginal Archaeological Site Prediction Statement

The following site prediction statement¹ has been formulated from the review of previous assessments. The statement presented is based on a site type approach. (For further information on site types see FP – SR 2024).

The review of the previously recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites and previous archaeological investigations indicates that the most likely² site types in the study area are shell middens and artefact scatters (Table 4). Other likely site types to occur are low density artefacts distributions and isolated artefacts. Site types considered unlikely to occur in the study area are scarred trees, mounds, quarries, stone arrangements and Aboriginal burials due to post-contact land management practices (ground disturbance and tree clearance) or unsuitable geology or geomorphology.

Stone Artefact Scatters are considered likely to occur in the study area. With an understanding of surrounding registered sites, stone artefact scatters are a comparatively common site type within a 3 km radius of the study area. The study area includes land within 200 m of Russells Creek, which is an established area of cultural heritage sensitivity. Stone artefact scatters are more likely to occur within 200 m of a culturally sensitive water body than beyond this parameter. The combination of stone artefact scatters as a common site type and the cultural sensitivity attributed Russells Creek indicates that there is a likely chance they will occur within the study area.

Stone tools were made by hitting one piece of stone, called a core, with another called a ‘hammerstone’, often a pebble. This would remove a sharp fragment of stone called a flake. Both cores and flakes could be used as tools. New flakes were very sharp, but quickly became blunt during use and had to be sharpened again by further flaking, a process called ‘retouch’. A tool that was retouched has a row of small flake scars along one or more edges. Retouch was also used to shape a tool.

Not all types of stone could be used for making tools. The best types of stone are rich in silica, hard and brittle. These include quartzite, chert, flint, silcrete and quartz. Aboriginal people quarried such stone from outcrops of bedrock, or collected it as pebbles from stream beds and beaches. Many flaked stone artefacts found on Aboriginal Places are made from stone types that do not occur naturally in the area. This means they must have been carried over long distances.

Stone tools are the most common evidence of past Aboriginal activities in Australia. They occur in many places and are often found with other remains from Aboriginal occupation, such as shell middens and cooking hearths. They are most common near rivers and creeks. It is easier to find them where there is limited vegetation or where the ground surface has been disturbed, for example by erosion.

Artefact scatters are the material remains of past Aboriginal people’s activities. Scatter sites usually contain stone artefacts, but other material such as charcoal, animal bone, shell and ochre may also be present. No two scatters are exactly the same.

¹ The term ‘site prediction statement’ is sometimes referred to as ‘site prediction model’. Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd prefers the term ‘statement’ as it is more accurate; ‘statistical modelling’ is a rigorous and comprehensive process using empirical data.

² **Likely** is an assessment of site types with a 50% or more likelihood of occurring; **Unlikely** is an assessment of site types with less than 50% likelihood of occurring.

Artefact scatters can be found wherever Aboriginal occupation has occurred in the past. Aboriginal campsites were most frequently located near a reliable source of fresh water, so surface scatters are often found near rivers or streams where erosion or disturbance has exposed an older land surface.

Low Density Artefact Distributions are considered likely to occur in the study area. With an understanding of surrounding registered sites, LDADs are a comparatively common site type within a 3 km radius of the study area ($n = 88.27\%$). The study area includes land within 200 m of Russells Creek, which is an established area of cultural heritage sensitivity. LDADs are more likely to occur within 200 m of a culturally sensitive water body than beyond this parameter. The combination of LDADs as a common site type and the culturally sensitivity attributed Russells Creek indicates that there is a likely chance they will occur within the study area.

Low density artefact distributions are stone artefact Places that comprise 10 or less artefacts in a 10 x 10 m area and where artefact clusters are all contained within a single 1:100,000 scale mapsheet. LDADs can occur singly and may occur anywhere in the landscape. Surface artefacts may be indicative of further subsurface archaeological deposits. This Place type can be found anywhere within the landscape; however, they are more likely to occur within contexts with the same favourable characteristics for stone artefact scatter Places.

Scarred / Culturally Modified Trees are considered unlikely to occur in the study area. The vegetation structure in the study area prior to European contact suggests that larger canopy trees are sparse in this landscape. A review of aerial images of the study area indicates that few examples of native trees occur in the study area. There are also no registered scarred trees within a 3 km radius of the study area, suggesting the unlikely possibility of any scarred trees being within the study area.

Aboriginal people caused scars on trees by removing bark for various purposes.

The scars, which vary in size, expose the sapwood on the trunk or branch of a tree. Scarred trees are found all over Victoria, wherever there are mature native trees, especially box and red gum. They often occur along major rivers, around lakes and on flood plains.

Shell Middens are considered possible to occur in the study area. Although there are no registered shell middens along Russells Creek, there are 11 shell middens within a 3 km radius of the study area to the south along Hopkins River. Shell middens comprise a comparatively high percentage of site types within a 3 km radius of the study area ($n = 7.6\%$). As the study area is within 3 km of the Warrnambool coastline, it is possible that the study area could contain shell middens.

Shell middens may occur in both freshwater and coastal contexts. Shell middens are accumulations of shell produced by Aboriginal people collecting, cooking and eating shellfish. Shell middens often contain evidence of cooking such as charcoal, ash, fire-stones, burnt earth or burnt clay. Sometimes they also contain animal bones, fish bones, stone tools and Aboriginal burials.

Freshwater shell middens are found along riverbanks and flood plains, near swamps and lakes, and in sand dunes. They are sometimes found in dry areas, where fresh water was once present. Freshwater shell middens usually occur as fairly thin layers or small patches of shell. The shells usually come from both the freshwater mussel (*Velesunio ambiguus*) and river mussel (*Alathyria jacksoni*). The shells may be the remains of just one meal or hundreds of meals eaten over thousands of years.

Freshwater mussel shells may also be found in Aboriginal oven mounds, but usually only in small quantities. Middens may be visible as scatters of broken mussel shell, exposed along vehicle tracks. If you look closely, you may find mussel shells buried in the surrounding soil. Middens are also commonly visible as scatters of mussel shell eroding down the slopes of dunes. Again, the scatters can usually be traced up the dune to the buried shell layer. Shell fragments in the upcast from rabbit burrows in dunes may also indicate a midden.

Shell middens are also found in many areas along the Victorian coast. They can be located in sheltered positions in the dunes, coastal scrub and woodlands, within rockshelters, or on exposed cliff tops with good vantage points. They can occur near rocky or sandy shores and also close to coastal wetlands, inlets, estuaries, bays and river mouths. Coastal shell middens are found as layers of shell exposed in the sides of dunes, banks or cliff tops, or as scatters of shell exposed on eroded surfaces. They range in size from a few metres across to many hundreds of metres and can consist of a thin, single layer, or multiple layers forming a thick deposit.

Earth Features are considered unlikely to occur in the study area due to the historical agricultural and pastoral use of the study area.

Earth Features include mounds, hearths, soil deposits, ovens, clay ball concentrations and ochre deposits. Aboriginal mounds are Places where Aboriginal people lived over long periods of time. Mounds often contain charcoal, burnt clay or stone heat retainers from cooking ovens, animal bones, shells, stone tools and, sometimes, Aboriginal burials.

Mounds usually occur near rivers, lakes or swamps but occasionally some distance from water. They are also found on dunes and sometimes among rock outcrops on higher ground.

Quarries are considered unlikely to occur in the study area because the geological structure suggests that raw material suitable for stone tool manufacture does not occur.

Aboriginal quarries are the Places where Aboriginal people took stone from rocky outcrops to make chipped or ground stone tools for many different purposes. Not all types of stone were suitable for making tools, so an outcrop of good stone that could be easily quarried was a valuable resource. Aboriginal people quarried different types of stone, each with its own special value and use. Stone tools were made from greenstone, silcrete, quartz, quartzite, basalt and chert. Pigments were made from quarried ochre, and grinding tools were made from sandstone.

Some quarries are small, consisting of just a single protruding boulder. Other quarries incorporate many outcrops and areas of broken stone that can cover thousands of square metres.

Stone Arrangements are considered unlikely to occur in the study area due to the historical agricultural and pastoral use of the study area.

Aboriginal stone arrangements are places where Aboriginal people have positioned stones deliberately to form shapes or patterns. The purpose of these arrangements is unknown because their traditional use ceased when European settlement disrupted Aboriginal society. They were probably related to ceremonial activities.

Stone arrangements occur where there are plenty of boulders, such as volcanic areas, and where the land could support large bands of people. Surviving stone arrangements are rare in Victoria, and most are in the western part of the State.

Stony Rises as a specific landform are considered unlikely to occur in the study area. This is due to the topography of the landscape within the study area.

Stony Rises are a geological formation that emerges from the smooth lava fields of the western plains of Victoria, a fertile region that for tens of thousands of years supported the lives of its indigenous Aboriginal people. Stony Rises occur in a number of forms but generically comprise loosely consolidated rocks and boulders elevated above the surrounding plain. Ephemeral lakes occur at low points often adjacent to the Stony Rises, and are often interspersed with low-lying, poorly-drained plains (Joyce 2003). Stony rises provided vantage points to local Aboriginal tribes across the tribal territory.

Stony Rises are considered an area of Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity as they are likely to contain stone artefact Places. Stony Rises are known to be the Place of Aboriginal stone huts and stone circle arrangements and can also contain hearth Places. Previous studies have shown a tendency for stone artefacts located in surface and/or subsurface contexts on stony rises. Artefact distribution patterns commonly comprise isolated stone artefacts and diffuse low density artefact scatters occurring across the volcanic plains, with moderate to higher densities of stone artefacts occurring on stony rises and that only occasional isolated stone artefacts may occur away from stony rises. The most significant Places are located on the stony Places near watercourses. Scarred trees may occur where mature native vegetation is located in proximity to former swamps.

Aboriginal Burials are considered unlikely to occur in the study area. Aboriginal Burials tend to be identified near significant waterways or in contexts of sandy soils. As the activity area is not directly adjacent to a significant waterway or sandy soils it is unlikely for an Aboriginal burial to be located within the activity area.

Aboriginal burials are normally found as clusters of human bones eroding from the ground or exposed during ground disturbance. Aboriginal customs for honouring and disposing of the dead varied greatly across Victoria, but burial was common. Aboriginal burial Places normally contain the remains of one or two people, although cemeteries that contain the remains of hundreds of people buried over thousands of years have been found. Sometimes the dead person was buried with personal ornaments and artefacts. Charcoal and ochre are also often found in burial Places.

Although Aboriginal burials are quite rare in Victoria, they have been found in almost every kind of landscape, from coastal dunes to mountain valleys. They tend to be near water courses or in dunes surrounding old lake beds. Many burials have been found on high points, such as dune ridges, within surrounding flat plains. They are often near or within Aboriginal occupation Places such as oven mounds, shell middens or artefact scatters.

Aboriginal mortuary trees are considered unlikely to occur in the activity area. No other mortuary trees have been identified within the geographic region, and no mature native trees appear to be present within the activity area.

Accounts of Aboriginal mortuary trees are contained in newspaper reports (Mount Ararat Advertiser 1858), ethnohistorical accounts (Bride 1983[1898]:322), oral history (Ron Howlett, pers. comm. 2003), and

unpublished diaries (Johns 1877). These accounts describe the following treatment of Aboriginal human remains: the corpse was allowed to decompose. Later, the remains were recovered and sometimes the bones of limbs were distributed among relatives to be kept as relics. Then, postcranial remains were bundled and placed in a hollow tree, sometimes with the skull. On other occasions, the skull was deposited in a hollow tree while postcranial remains were given to a relative for placement at a later date, possibly also in a hollow tree (article: 70).

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson, recorded several different forms of treatment of the dead by the northern Djab Wurrung clans in his 1841 journal (Clark 1987:15, 1998:335, 368), including placement in trees. The ethnographic record for southwestern Victoria also indicates that while low-ranking individuals were usually placed in simple burials, higher-ranking individuals were subject to more complex rituals that included placement in trees (Dawson 1881:62–66; Howitt 1996 [1904]:455–457; article:63).

The study of the Moyston Mortuary Tree and references to additional mortuary trees within the region demonstrate a local pattern of mortuary practices in southwestern Victoria. While burials in lunettes, earth mounds, and sand dunes are more common in the region, more complex practices also existed in southwestern Victoria in the late pre-contact to early post-contact periods (Sprague 2005:70; article:69–71).

2.3.8 Aboriginal Heritage Desktop Assessment – Summary of the Results and Conclusions

The Aboriginal heritage desktop assessment identified 25 previously registered Aboriginal Places within 3 km of the study area. No previously registered Aboriginal Places were located within the study area, however, two Places are located within 300 m. The most likely Aboriginal site types to occur within the study area are LDADs, shell middens and artefact scatters. This prediction is based on the landforms within the study area and the most common site types and site component types within a 3 km radius of the study area. Based on the literature sourced through this desktop assessment, survey needs to be conducted to gain a greater understanding of potential Aboriginal cultural heritage within the study area, particularly given that an established area of cultural heritage sensitivity, Russells Creek, traverses through the study area.

3 HISTORICAL HERITAGE DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

The desktop assessment includes research into information relating to historical heritage in or associated with the study area.

3.1 Historical Context

This section reviews the historical context of the study area and includes an examination of primary historical sources, relevant heritage databases, previously recorded historical built-heritage or archaeological site types and locations in the geographic region of the study area, and previous heritage and archaeological studies undertaken in the area. Together, these sources of information can be used to formulate a predictive site model concerning what types of sites are most likely to occur in the study area, and where these are most likely to occur.

3.1.1 History of the Study Area

3.1.1.1 *Regional History*

Exploration

The first Europeans to land at Warrnambool were sealers and whalers, who established temporary beach huts in the bay by the mid-1830s. The Henty's, established at Portland in the 1830s, set up a number of successful pastoral properties inland (Sayers and Yule 1987). The rich pastoral lands of Western Victoria were explored by New South Wales Surveyor General, Major Thomas Mitchell on his expedition in 1836. Major Mitchell's exploration was aimed at gaining access to new pastoral lands. His highly favourable reports of 'Australia Felix' caused a rush of settlers into the Western District from New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. The occupation of the Western District occurred at a rapid pace (Doyle and Context Pty Ltd 2006).

Early Settlement

The first pastoralists to establish their home station within what is now the City of Warrnambool were the brothers James, William and John Allan, who arrived late in 1839 and established a temporary camp at the mouth of the Hopkins River on the east bank. This later became the pastoral run 'Tooram' (Billis and Kenyon 1974). Thomas Augustus Strong and Henry Foster took up land between the Merri and Hopkins River in 1841, naming the selection Saint Mary's. This run was located on what would become the centre of Warrnambool (Sayers and Yule 1987; Doyle et al 2001:21).

European settlement was resisted by local Aboriginal populations, beginning with the arrival of the Henty family and others between 1834 and 1838. In 1842, squatters between Warrnambool and Lake Condah appealed to Governor La Trobe for protection against the *Gunditjmarra*, stating that 'their numbers, their ferocity, and their cunning, render them peculiarly formidable'. This sustained fighting became known as the 'Eumeralla War' (Clark 1990b; Critchett 1990:2).

Superintendent Charles La Trobe selected the site for the Warrnambool Township in 1845 on one of his several visits to the area. The government surveyor William Pickering laid out the town, and the first Warrnambool land sales were held in Melbourne in 1847 (Bonwick 1970).

Land Selection Acts and Closer Settlement

From as early as 1856 the colonial government began to implement a series of closer settlement policies aimed at placing farmers on small holdings with a community focus. These schemes were not successful at first. The policies rewarded the squatters and wealthier landowners, who were successfully able to secure their land holdings through the Land Selection Acts (Powell 1970). Small-scale farmers took up more modest parcels of land in the area, particularly near the Merri River, as early as 1850. These farmers typically cleared, cultivated and sowed their farms to pasture. The families also often operated a small business, such as a general store or public house (Neylon and Hubbard 2005: 22).

The 1862 Closer Settlement Land Act, however, began to change the circumstances in favour of the selectors. By the late nineteenth century, the Government had the authority to re-acquire large areas by purchase and subdivide it into smaller farm allotments. Under the Act, several large properties in the Warrnambool area were divided. By 1906, fourteen estates had been purchased and broken up into 497 small farms, containing over 2,500 people. This form of closer settlement changed the look of the landscape. It became more heavily concentrated with farmhouses, windmills, dairies and their farm buildings (Neylon and Hubbard 2005: 22).

Industries

The land around Warrnambool contained a range of rich natural resources (timbers and a variety of types of stone), which allowed for a number of early industrial endeavours. Bluestone, limestone and tufa found in and around Warrnambool were used extensively in public and private buildings. Extraction of this stone became an important industry between the late 1840s until the 1920s. Scoria and stone was extracted from a variety of pits on the edges of the township (O'Callaghan n.d.; see Figure 3).

Wheat was an important early industry; a flourmill was constructed in Woodford as early as 1847. This mill, known as the Struth Flour Mill, was built on the Merri River, and was the first water powered mill in the area. The growing wheat industry led to the construction of the three substantial flour mills which were operating in Warrnambool by 1854 (Sayers and Yule 1987). Sheep and cattle were grazed for their meat; however, cattle became increasingly important for milk production. Technological improvements in dairying allowed for the industrialisation of milk production and saw the development of factories such as Nestlé, in Dennington (Neylon and Hubbard 2005: 10).

3.1.1.2 Land Use History

From the 1800s to the 1830s, sealers and whalers established huts around the Warrnambool area, but did not choose to settle in the inland areas (Sayers and Yule 1987). However, by the 1840s, squatters had begun to move into the area, and the first runs in the Warrnambool area were taken along the Merri and the Hopkins rivers (Sayers and Yule 1987). The location that would become the township of Warrnambool was likely decided by Charles LaTrobe, and the area was extensively surveyed by Charles Pickering up to 1847

(Sayers and Yule 1987). Warrnambool has a long-standing dairy industry and has more recently branched into tourism associated with its coastline and the presence of whales during June to September each year.

The area surrounding the subject site was used to run cattle and sheep. This necessitated the clearing of land for pasture and farm housing. In addition to the clearing and removal of trees and bushland from the area, pastoralist practise would have also resulted in some disturbance of the ground for the construction of fence lines and dams, stockyard pens, bores and wells.

Figure 1 and Figure 2 shows the original 1850s subdivision of the study area within the Warrnambool region, Parish of Wangoom. Figure 3 illustrates key topographic features within the study area as recorded in the early 1940s; dwellings, windmills, waterholes/dams, quarries, Russells Creek, and a smaller (Tozer) reserve.

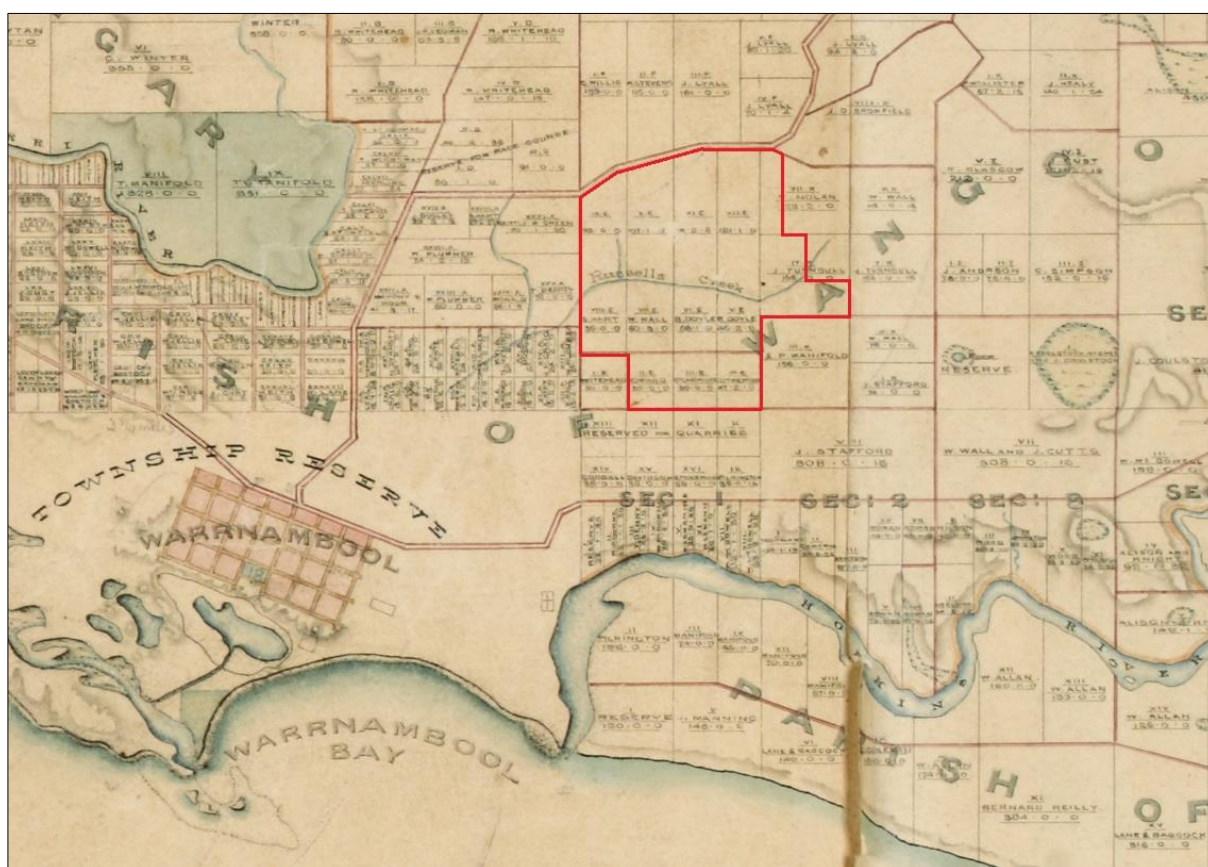


Figure 1: Map of Warrnambool, surrounding region and study area (red), dated 1858, illustrating the original 1850s subdivision (Source: State Library of Victoria (SLV) 2024).

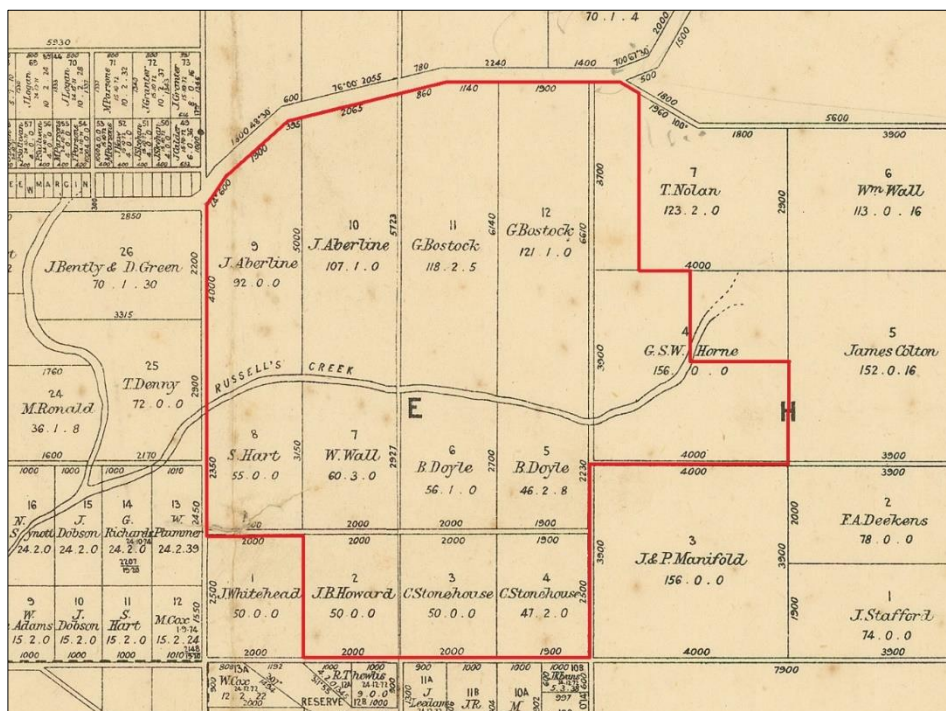


Figure 2: Parish of Wangoom plan, dated 1891, with location of study area (red) (Source: SLV 2024b).

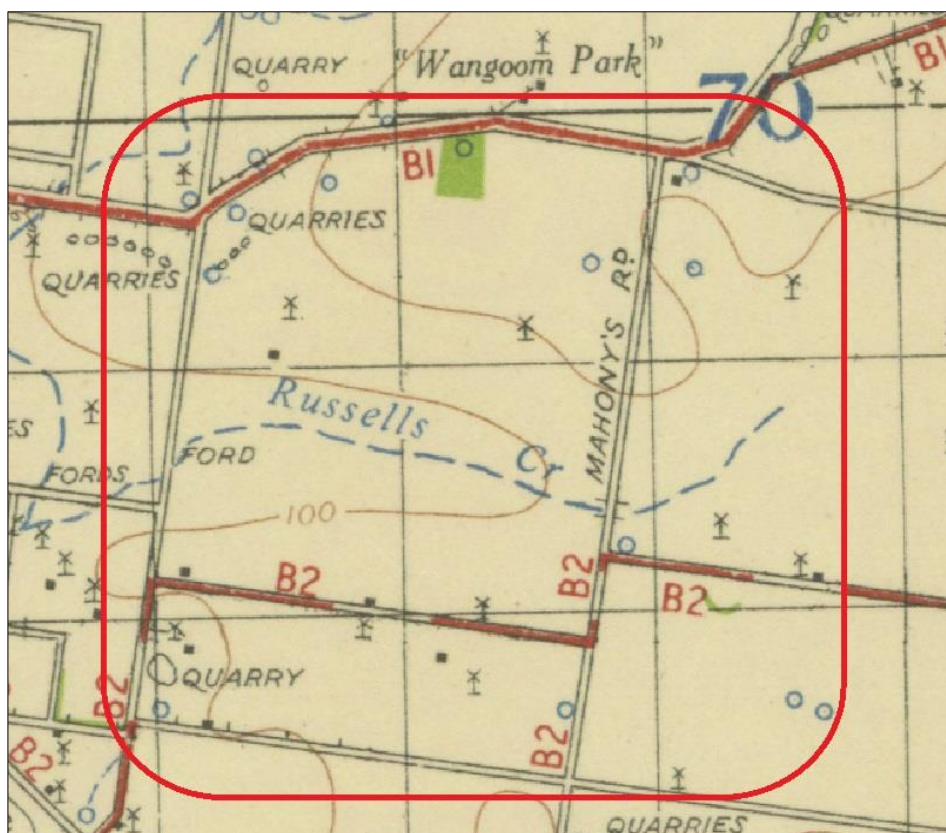


Figure 3: Topographic map of the approximate location of the study area (red), dated 1942 (Source: SLV 2024c).

3.1.2 Aerial and Satellite Imagery Interpretation

As Figure 3 above suggests, there are several dwellings present within the study area, which are confirmed by aerial photography captured in 1942 (Figure 4). The study area remained largely unaltered throughout the 1970s (Figure 5), the 1990s (Figure 6), and into the present day (Figure 7). Other than the addition of several dwellings, tree plantings along fence lines, and the construction of the Wannon Water Storage Facility in the southern portion of the study area, the major difference across the study area since the early 1940s, is the increase in size of the Tozer Memorial Reserve. The reserve was donated to local schools in 1926 by the former landowner, which has since seen a regeneration in native flora after pines were cleared in the 1990s (Hargreaves and Wright 2019). In Figure 3 above and 4 below, the reserve is only a small area adjacent to Wangoom Road. Over the coming decades, the reserve gradually extended further south, where it now joins up to Russells Creek, approximately 1.6 km south of Wangoom Road. While the latest satellite imagery indicates the thinning of vegetation in the northern portion of the reserve, due to the ongoing protection of this area over a long period of time, there is a high chance of deeper, undisturbed contexts that may contain artefact-bearing soils.



Figure 4: Historical photograph of the study area (red), dated 1947 (Source: LANDATA 2024).



Figure 5: Historical aerial photograph of the study area (red), dated 1970 (Source: LANDATA 2024).



Figure 6: Historical aerial photograph of the study area (red), dated 1991 (Source: LANDATA 2024).



Figure 7: Satellite imagery of the study area (red), dated 2024 (Source: NearMap 2024).

3.1.3 Database Searches

A review of the various relevant databases was conducted and, as a result, no registered historical places were identified within the study area. The database review is discussed below in relation to the study area and surrounding region.

3.1.3.1 *Victorian Heritage Register*

The Victorian Heritage Register (VHR), established by the Victorian *Heritage Act 1995* (now 2017), provides the highest level of statutory protection for historical sites in Victoria. Only the State's most significant historical places are registered in the VHR.

The VHR also lists historic shipwrecks in Victorian State waters. Under the Victorian *Heritage Act 2017*, all shipwrecks in Victorian State waters that wrecked 75 years³ or more ago (including any parts that were originally from that shipwreck) are protected. Certain shipwrecks that are less than 75 years old may also be declared historic shipwrecks.

A search of the VHR was conducted on 04 September 2024 for a 2 km radius area centred on the study area. The search identified a total of one registered historical heritage places in the search area (Table 8; Map 9):

Table 8: Victorian Heritage Register Places within 3 km of the Study Area

File Number	Name	Location	Category
H0620	Proudfoot's Boathouse	2 Simpson Street, Warrnambool	Residential buildings (private) Transport - Water

This place is not located within the study area.

3.1.3.2 Victorian Heritage Inventory

The Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI), established by the Victorian *Heritage Act 1995* (now 2017), provides the statutory protection for all historical archaeological sites, areas or artefacts, and private collections of artefacts, in Victoria. Places listed on the VHI are not of State significance but are usually of regional or local significance.

A search of the VHI was conducted on 04 September 2024 for a 2 km radius area centred on the study area. The search identified a total of five historical archaeological places included in the search area (Table 8; Map 9):

Table 9: Victorian Heritage Inventory Places within 2 km of the Study Area

File Number	Name	Location	Category
H7421-0013	Former Warrnambool Toll House	South-western corner of Princes Highway and 1 Impala Avenue, and 4-10 Owen Street, Warrnambool	Transport - Road
H7421-0016	Sherwood Homestead Complex	10635 Princes Highway, Warrnambool	Residential buildings (private)

None of these places are located within the study area.

3.1.3.3 Victorian War Heritage Inventory

The Victorian War Heritage Inventory (VWHI) was established in 2011 as a means to catalogue Victoria's war history such as war memorials, avenues of honour, memorial buildings, former defence sites and places of commemoration. Places listed on the VWHI do not currently have discrete statutory protection, however many are concurrently listed on the VHR, VHI, or local planning schemes.

³ Note that that this is a blanket, 75-year, rolling provision. This means that more shipwrecks become protected each year as the 75th anniversary of their loss is reached

A search of the VWHI was conducted on 04 September 2024 for a 2 km radius area centred on the study area. The search did not identify any registered historical heritage places in the search area.

3.1.3.4 Local Council

The study area is located within the Warrnambool City Council and is governed by the Warrnambool Planning Scheme (DTP 2024). Planning schemes set out policies and provisions for the use, development and protection of land.

The Heritage Overlay (HO) of the Warrnambool Planning Scheme was examined on 04 September 2024 for a 3 km radius area centred on the study area. The search identified a total of 14 registered historical heritage places in the search area (Table 10; Map 9):

Table 10: Warrnambool Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay Places within 3 km of the Study Area

Heritage Overlay #	Name
HO25	Former Farm House
HO42	Weeripnong
HO140	Dwelling, 356 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool
HO145	Former Napthine Residence
HO151	Proudfoot's Boathouse
HO158	Waveney
HO205	Former Half-way Hotel
HO226	Street Tree Precinct
HO326	Verdon Street Precinct
HO335	Milestone
HO343	Waikato
HO350	236 Moore Street, Warrnambool
HO360	60 Jukes Street, Warrnambool
HO377	Warrnambool Cemetery, Sexton's Cottage, Stone Wall and Rotunda

None of these sites are located within the study area.

3.1.3.5 National Trust Register

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that classifies a number of heritage places. Listing on the National Trust Register (NTR) does not impose any statutory protection, however often National Trust listings are supported by the local council Planning Scheme.

A search of the NTR was conducted on 04 September 2024 for a 2 km radius area centred on the study area. The search identified a total of two registered historical heritage places in the search area (Table 11):

Table 11: National Trust Register Places within 3 km of the Study Area

File Number	Name	Location	Category / Group	Level of Significance
B1625	Weeripnong	2 Ferguson Street, Warrnambool	Residential buildings (private) House	Local
B5525	Proudfoot's Boathouse	2 Simpson Street, Warrnambool	Transport – Water Boat shed	State

None of these sites are located within the study area.

3.1.3.6 Commonwealth and International Heritage Lists

The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) maintains the National Heritage List (NHL), a register of exceptional natural, Aboriginal and historical heritage places which contribute to Australia's national identity. DCCEEW also maintains the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL), a register of natural, Aboriginal or historical heritage places located on Commonwealth land which have Commonwealth heritage values.

A place can be listed on one or both lists, and placement on either list gives the place statutory protection under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The World Heritage List (WHL) lists cultural and natural heritage places which are considered by the World Heritage Council to have outstanding universal value.

DCCEEW also maintains the Register of the National Estate (RNE) which is a list of natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places throughout Australia. Following amendments to the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*, the RNE was frozen on 19 February 2007, and no new places have been added or removed since then. The RNE ceased as a statutory register in February 2012, although items listed on the RNE may continue to be considered during approvals processes. Many items on the RNE have been listed on the NHL or CHL. They may also be registered on State or local heritage registers. In these cases, those items are protected under the relevant Commonwealth or State heritage legislation. However, items that are only listed on the RNE no longer have statutory heritage protection.

Listings on the NHL, CHL, WHL and RNE are accessed via the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) and Australian Heritage Database (AHD), managed by DCCEEW.

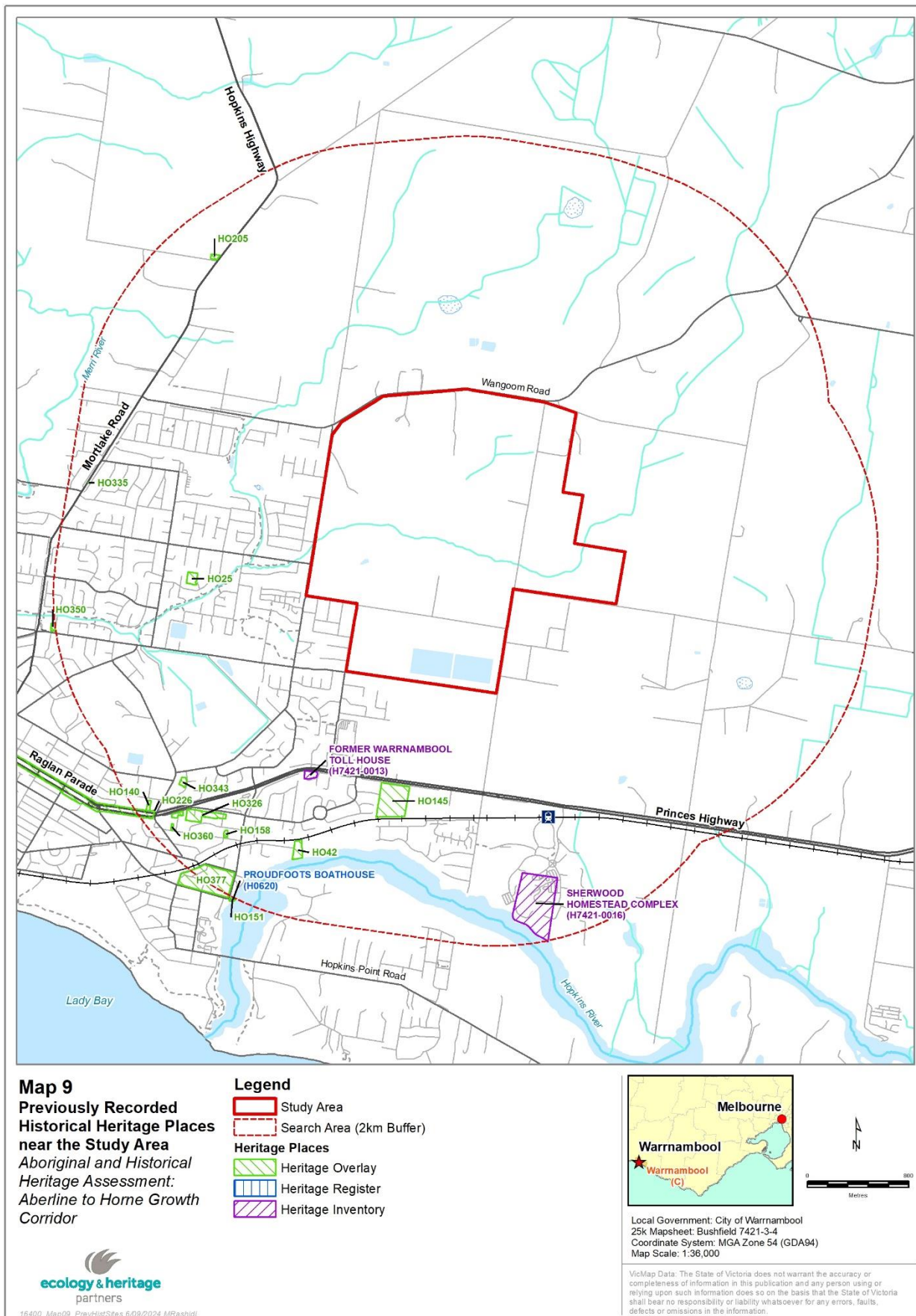
A search of the AHD (DCCEEW 2024a, b) was conducted on 04 September 2024 for a 2 km radius area centred on the study area. The search did not identify any registered historical heritage places in the search area.

3.1.3.7 Summary

A summary of the relevant historical heritage sites appears in Table 12:

Table 12: Summary of Previously Identified Historical Heritage Sites within 2 km of the Study Area

Register & Site Number	Site Name	Site Type	Within Study Area?
H0620 H0151 B5525	Proudfoot's Boathouse	Built Heritage: Community	No
H7421-0013	Former Warrnambool Toll House	Built Heritage: Community	No
H7421-0016	Sherwood Homestead Complex	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO25	Former Farm House	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO42 B1625	Weeripnong	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO140	Dwelling, 356 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO145	Former Napthine Residence	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO158	Waveney	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO205	Former Half-way Hotel	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO226	Street Tree Precinct	Tree Planting	No
HO326	Verdon Street Precinct	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO335	Milestone	Built Heritage: Community	No
HO343	Waikato	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO350	236 Moore Street, Warrnambool	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO360	60 Jukes Street, Warrnambool	Built Heritage: Community - Domestic	No
HO377	Warrnambool Cemetery, Sexton's Cottage, Stone Wall and Rotunda	Built Heritage: Community	No



3.1.4 Previous Historical Archaeological Investigations

Regional and localised archaeological investigations have established the general character of historical archaeological sites located within the same geographic region as the study area and, a heritage study has been conducted for the Warrnambool Local Government Area (LGA). These studies often define the historical character of the LGA or for a specific township, predominantly for built heritage but also for archaeological heritage. This information, together with the information gathered in Section 3.1.3 can be used to form the basis for a site prediction statement (Section 3.1.5)

An archaeological assessment conducted by **MacManus and Nicolson (2010)** was undertaken immediately south of the study area (HV Report #3726). The assessment was undertaken for a proposed re-zoning of the property at the corner of Horne Road and Rodgers Road, Warrnambool. Background research indicated that there have been no Aboriginal archaeological sites previously recorded within a 2 km radius of the activity area, and that there have been no historical archaeological sites previously recorded within a 2 km radius of the activity area. No Aboriginal or historical archaeological sites were identified during the survey.

A summary of archaeological reports relevant to the geographical region of the study area appears below (Table 13).

Table 13: Historical Archaeological Reports Relevant to the Study Area

Author, Date & HV Report #	Description and Location	Results
Smith, J. 1998 #663	Archaeological excavations in the Warrnambool Botanical Gardens (approximately 2.5 km south-west of the study area).	Excavations were carried out to clarify aspects of the gardens' previous design and layout. Excavations uncovered features from the garden's historic period. A development plan to re-establish a large eastern garden bed and reconstruction of a pathway is proposed.
Van der Linde, S., and A. Barker. 2013 #4275	A historical archaeological assessment of Sherwood Homestead (Sherwood Park Homestead Complex (H7421-0016)) (approximately 1.4 km south of the study area).	An archaeological excavation was carried out over three days on 17-19 May 2012 in order to: uncover any further archaeological remains within the vicinity of the proposed activity impact zone and determine the nature, extent and significance of any archaeological remains uncovered, including potential archaeological occupation deposits associated with Sherwood Homestead Complex (H7421-0016).

3.1.5 Historical Archaeological Site Prediction Statement

The following site prediction statement has been formulated from the review of previous assessments. The statement presented is based on a site type approach. The review of the previously recorded historical archaeological sites and previous archaeological investigations indicates that the most likely⁴ site type in the study area is domestic sites (built heritage – community). Other likely site types to occur are other built heritage sites including tree plantings. There is also a likelihood of farming sites and pastoral sites to occur within the study area due to land use history.

⁴ **Likely** is an assessment of site types with a 50% or more likelihood of occurring; **Unlikely** is an assessment of site types with 50% or less chance of occurring).

Domestic Sites are likely to occur in the study area as they are the most common site type within a 2 km buffer of the study area (n = 68.75%). Evidence of domestic occupation may include structural remains or ruins of homesteads and/or outbuildings, domestic rubbish dumps or bottle dumps, wells or underground storage tanks.

Dry Stone Walls are unlikely to occur in the study area because there are no dry stone walls within a 2 km radius of the study area. Although dry stone walls are unlikely to occur within the study area, remnants of dry stone walls have been found to line internal property divisions or external property boundaries.

Tree Plantings are likely to occur in the study area as there is a known tree plantings site (HO226 – Street Tree Precinct) within a 2 km radius of the study area. The landforms present (undulating plains, slopes and creek terrace) are suitable to this site type. Historical tree plantings may be evidenced by large introduced trees planted along original driveways, paddock boundaries or close to homestead sites.

Farming Sites are likely to occur in the study area because of the known land use history within and surrounding the study area. Evidence of farming may include fence lines, dams, water channels, plantings or terracing.

Pastoral Sites are likely to occur in the study area because of the known land use history within and surrounding the study area. Breeding of livestock and dairying may be evidenced by the remains of stockyards, stables, barns and holding pens.

Road and Rail Infrastructure Sites are unlikely to occur in the study area because there are no known sites within a 2 km radius. There is no known evidence of this site type from the land use history of the study area and surrounds. Old road or railway routes may be evidenced by bridges, railway tracks or road or railway embankments.

Gold Mining Sites are unlikely to occur in the study area because there are no known historical gold mining sites within a 2 km radius of the study area. Evidence of gold mining may include deep mine shafts, adits and spoil heaps, mining equipment and machinery such as puddling machines, batteries and engines, and water races.

Shipwreck Sites are unlikely to occur in the study area because there are no known shipwreck sites within 2 km of the study area. Shipwreck sites are also not likely to occur as the study area is 4.6 km from the closest coastline. Evidence of shipwrecks may include pieces of worked timber (particularly if evidence of steam-bending is present), ballast, coal, pieces of iron, fired bricks and machinery such as engines, drive-gear (shafts and propellers), winches, and stoves.

War Heritage Sites are unlikely to occur in the study area because there are no known War Heritage Sites within a 2 km radius of the study area. War heritage sites may include standing monuments and marked locations, but may also include avenues of honour, grave sites, ex-military sites and local memorial sites.

3.2 Historical Heritage Desktop Assessment – Summary of the Results and Conclusions

The historical heritage desktop assessment identified 16 previously registered historical places within 2 km of the study area. No previously registered historical heritage places were located within the study area. The

most likely⁵ site type in the study area is domestic sites (built heritage – community). Other likely site types to occur are other built heritage sites and tree plantings. There is also a likelihood of farming sites and pastoral sites to occur within the study area due land use history and prior historical archaeological investigations.

⁵ **Likely** is an assessment of site types with a 50% or more likelihood of occurring; **Unlikely** is an assessment of site types with 50% or less chance of occurring).

4 FIELD ASSESSMENT AND RESULTS

A ground survey of the study area was conducted to detect the presence of Aboriginal and/or historical cultural heritage, or areas of archaeological likelihood, in or associated with the study area.

4.1 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the survey was to:

- To identify and record any surface indications of Aboriginal and historical heritage sites and/or areas of Aboriginal and historical archaeological likelihood in areas that will be impacted by the proposed development; and
- To verify the results of the background review and site predictive statement; and
- To assess the cultural heritage significance of any historical sites identified in the survey.

4.2 Methodology of the Survey

The study area was surveyed on 19-20 September 2017 by Austen Graham (Archaeologist) and Joshua Flynn (Archaeologist / Heritage Advisor), with Caleb Clarke representing the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Keicha Day representing the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

The study area was surveyed again on 20 September 2024, due to the increase in the study area, by Tom Lally and Leyton Mahon (Archaeologists / Heritage Advisors), with Hayden Harradine and Jyrán Chatfield representing the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.

The survey took the form of a pedestrian survey in which four participants walked in a stratified random sampling strategy whereby an average of 9.9% of each landform in the study area was sampled. The study area was assessed for the presence of any mature native trees that may have cultural scarring. The geomorphological character of the study area was surveyed for evidence of caves, cave entrances and/or rock shelters. The primary landforms were identified (Map 10) and areas of Aboriginal archaeological likelihood were determined (Map 11).

A summary of the archaeological survey attributes appears in Appendix 3.

4.3 Visibility, Exposure and Coverage

Ground surface visibility (GSV) varied throughout the study area, while also varying throughout each identified landform.

The GSV within the slope landform varied across the study area. Most of this landform was agricultural land with long, thick pastoral crops (Plate 4 to Plate 5). This resulted in poor GSV across the majority of the slope landform. The slope landform is dissected from the centre of the study area heading south by Tozer Memorial Reserve (Plate 6). The GSV in Tozer Memorial Reserve is poor due to dense vegetation and

undergrowth. Some areas within the reserve had good GSV and these areas were targeted for intensive ground surface survey.

The slope landform is also dissected west to east by Russells Creek, which comprises the creek terrace landform (Plate 7). The creek terrace landform has poor GSV due to long, thick pastoral grasses reaching right up to the creek bed itself. Stratigraphic exposure was identified along Russells creek, providing important insight into stratigraphic horizons within the creek terrace landform (Plate 11).

The GSV within the undulating plains landform varied across the study area. Most of this landform was agricultural land with long, thick pastoral crops (Plate 1 to Plate 2). This resulted in poor GSV across the majority of the undulating plains landform. The south-eastern section of the study area within the undulating plains landform is currently used as the Warrnambool Water Storage by Wannon Water. The areas surrounding the water storage dams (Plate 3) has poor GSV due to thick grass coverage. The water storages dams are classified as having Significant Ground Disturbance (SGD).

Effective survey coverage calculations are based on the percentage of ground surface exposure and provide a measure for the 'detectability' of artefacts and the level of survey sampling effort within each landform in the study area. The calculation assesses the level of average GSV across the study area in each landform, the extent of isolated exposures with higher or lower GSV than the average and, a calculation of the area within each landform surveyed.

An overview of the effective survey coverage in each landform within the study area is provided in Table 14.

Table 14: Effective Survey Cover Calculations within the Study Area

Landform	Total Approximate Area (ha)	Average Landform GSV (%)	Area of Study area Surveyed (ha)	Percentage of Study area Surveyed (%)	Effective Survey Coverage (%)
Slope	215.17	0-10	21.517	10	10
Undulating Plains	153.90	10-20	30.78	20	20
Creek Terrace	24.45	10-20	4.89	20	20
Crest	14.48	0-10	1.448	10	10
Total	408.00	15	58.635	14.37	14.37

4.3.1 Limitations of the Survey

Parts of the study area were difficult to survey due to dense vegetation, primarily within Tozer Memorial Reserve. Ground surface visibility was poor across all landforms due to long, thick pastoral grasses. Poor GSV resulted in difficulties during identification of cultural heritage sites. With this limitation presented, areas of fair-excellent GSV were targeted and intensely surveyed.

4.4 Results of the Survey

4.4.1 Landforms

The survey confirmed the landforms identified during the desktop assessment (Table 8) with four main landforms present (Map 10).

Slope

The primary landform found within the study area is the slope landform (Map 10). This area is defined as the slope landform due to the change in gradient between the undulating plains landform and the creek terrace landform. The slope landform primarily comprises agricultural pastures used for grazing and crop production (Plate 4). Dissecting the slope landform from west to east is Russells Creek, comprising the creek terrace landform (Plate 7). The southern area of the slope landform south of the creek terrace is predominantly pastoral paddocks with the exception of Horne Road and reserves to the east. North of the creek terrace landform, the slope landform consists of pastoral paddocks, various rural homesteads and residences, Tozer Memorial Reserve (Plate 6) and man-made irrigation channels (Plate 9). Horne Road and reserves are again found within this landform in the eastern portion of the study area. Small sections across the landform have mature pines and dense vegetation, primarily used as wind-rows or paddock division (Plate 4). Various vehicle tracks between paddocks and private residential roadways are found within the study area. Private fences are found throughout the slope landform. Tozer Memorial Reserve comprises mainly of native revegetation and graded driveways and walkways.

Undulating Plains

The undulating plains landform is the secondary predominant landform within the study area (Map 10). This landform is found within the northern and southern sections of the study area. The southern section of the undulating plains landform is dissected by Boiling Down Road. Various residential properties stem from Boiling Down Road. The south-eastern corner of the landform comprises the Warrnambool Water Storage facility of Wannon Water. The water storage facility occupies a large portion of the undulating plains landform and constitutes Significant Ground Disturbance (SGD) (Plate 3 and Map 10). One dam is located in the western quarter of this southern section of the landform, which also constitutes SGD. The southern section of the undulating plains landform is predominantly agricultural pastoral land used for grazing and crop production (Plate 2). Various vehicle tracks between paddocks and private residential roadways are found within the study area. Private fences are found throughout the undulating plains landform.

Creek Terrace

The creek terrace landform dissects the southern section of study area west to east (Map 10). The creek terrace landform comprises Russells Creek and associated floodplain (Plate 7). Edges of Russells Creek have been subject to erosion due to impacts from cattle grazing. The most southern section of Tozer Memorial Reserve is found in the centre of the creek terrace landform. Due to natural erosion of the creek walls along Russells Creek, a stratigraphic profile of the soil is exposed. This suggests that the soil profile within this landform has an A horizon of approximately 300 mm deep, with the B horizon (clay) extending to unknown depths below 300 mm.

Crest

The crest landform is situated in the north-eastern section of the study area (Map 10). This landform is distinguished by a circular elevated crest within the slope landform. This landform comprises mainly of pastoral paddocks, including associated residential rural buildings (Plate 8).



Plate 1: Study area facing west showing poor GSV of undulating plains landform.



Plate 2: Study area facing east from Tozer Memorial Reserve showing poor GSV of undulating plains.



Plate 3: Study area facing west showing poor GSV of undulating plains landform at Wannon Water storage facility and SGD.



Plate 4: Study area facing north-west showing poor GSV of slope landform and tree windrows.



Plate 5: Study area facing south-east showing poor GSV of slope landform, sloping downward toward creek terrace landform.



Plate 6: Study area facing south showing eastern border of Tozer Memorial Reserve and poor GSV of slope landform.



Plate 7: Study area facing south-west showing poor GSV of creek terrace landform.



Plate 8: Study area facing east showing crest landform.



Plate 9: Study area facing north-east showing irrigation channel/ drainage line.



Plate 10: Example of SGD in north-western section of study area (ruins).



Plate 11: Study area facing south showing stratigraphic horizons, exposed at Russells Creek.

4.4.2 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Likelihood

Three main areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity are located within the study area (Map 11). One of these areas of sensitivity includes the creek terrace landform, comprising of Russells Creek and associated floodplains, and the slope landform immediately surrounding the creek terrace landform. Complex assessment (subsurface testing) is required in this established area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity (r.26 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*) because it is not possible to determine presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the study area without complex assessment.

The second area of Aboriginal cultural heritage likelihood is in the northern portion of Tozer Memorial Reserve, which has been protected as a reserve since 1926, and therefore, is more likely to contain undisturbed soils than portions of the reserve to the south. It is recommended that no development occurs within this portion of the reserve.

The third area of Aboriginal (intangible) cultural heritage likelihood, is the entire Tozer Memorial Reserve. Since the removal of the pine plantation in the mid-1990s, the reserve has become a unique and special educational resource on the environmental and cultural aspects of the region prior to European colonisation. Many of the flora and fauna species now found within the reserve are of biocultural heritage value to the Eastern Maar community.

All mature native trees were examined and no cultural scarring was located.

There are no caves, cave entrances or rock shelters present within the study area.

No Aboriginal sites/artefacts were identified during the survey (Map 10).

Areas of Aboriginal Likelihood

Areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage likelihood have been divided into three categories; high, moderate and low likelihood.

Three areas of *high* Aboriginal likelihood were identified during the survey (Map 11):

- Russells Creek (and associated slope landform); Russells Creek has been identified as an area of high Aboriginal cultural heritage likelihood as it is included within the mapped area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity (Map 11). This area of high likelihood includes Russells Creek and the associated slope landform, 200 m north and south of Russells Creek itself. The southern-most section of Tozer Memorial Reserve is included within this area of high Aboriginal likelihood.
- Tozer Memorial Reserve northern portion (tangible heritage); has been identified as an area of high Aboriginal cultural heritage likelihood as it has remained relatively undeveloped since at least 1926 when it was designated as a reserve by the former landowner. Although some historical stone extraction pits / quarries, and granitic sand paths were noted within this portion of the reserve, it remains otherwise undisturbed. A fence line, believed to be the original southern delineation of the reserve, was identified during the survey in September 2024, approximately 320 m south of Wangoom Road. The area of Aboriginal cultural heritage likelihood extends from Wangoom Road to this former fence line.
- Tozer Memorial Reserve in its entirety (intangible heritage); has been identified as an area of high Aboriginal (intangible) cultural heritage likelihood. The reserve was originally established as a pine plantation which local school students helped plant. Following removal of the last of the pines in the mid-1990s, it was discovered that the regionally endangered Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) was regenerating at the site. This vegetation community, which once covered 300,000 ha of the region, has since been reduced to less than 1% of its original spread due to land use changes and European colonisation. The reserve is now home to over 100 native plant species, including native orchids, grasses, lilies, wattles and pea flowers (Hargreaves and Wright 2019). As *Meerreeeng* (land) represents an integral and interconnected component within the broader Maar biocultural landscape, Tozer Memorial Reserve represents a likely place of intangible heritage to the EMAC.

One area of *moderate* Aboriginal likelihood was identified during the survey (Map 11):

- Crest landform; this area of moderate Aboriginal likelihood is defined by the boundary of the crest landform. This area currently consists of agricultural properties including pastoral paddocks and associated agricultural building and residences. This area is of moderate likelihood as the landform is seen a vantage point within the landscape, overlooking Russells Creek and southern undulating plains and slopes.

One area of *low* Aboriginal likelihood was identified during the survey (Map 11):

- Slope and undulating plains landforms; this area of low Aboriginal likelihood comprises the majority of the study area. This area currently consists of agricultural properties including pastoral paddocks and associated agricultural building and residences. This area also includes the land subject to SGD in the south-eastern section of the study area, Wannon Water storage facility.

4.4.3 Historical Heritage Sites and Areas of Historical Archaeological Likelihood

Three potential historical heritage sites were identified during the survey; 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool, 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool, and 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool (Map 10).

As potential historical heritage sites identified in September 2017, site cards were submitted to HV for 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool and 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool to determine whether the sites represent a level of significance high enough to be registered as historical sites.

Please note: these sites were not registered as historical heritage sites as they did not meet the threshold for registration.

The potential historical heritage site identified at 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool in September 2024 was not able to be assessed during the survey due to access restrictions, but was subjected to a photographic survey in December 2024. Historical aerial photography and topographical mapping also indicated that the dwelling has been in this location since at least the 1940s.

Potential Sites

- 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool: The site consists of the primary sandstone house structure (and associated modern extensions), horse cart/buggy and sandstone structure/kitchen. The site extent comprises these structures and the artefact, spanning approximately 1040 m². The site is bounded to the north-east, east and south-east by unknown mature introduced trees, yet is not bounded by vegetation to the north and south and is unfenced and open to pastoral paddocks. The site is bound to the west by a large modern corrugated tin shed.
- 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool: The site consists of four primary historical structures/buildings including; 1) large wooden and corrugated tin barn, 2) sandstone barn and associated wooden and corrugated tin extension with sandstone footing, 3) wooden and corrugated tin shed with sandstone footing and 4) medium wooden and corrugated tin barn. The site also consists of 5) bluestone paving in the south-western section of the site boundaries, approximately 4 x 15 m. Various modern structural additions/extensions are found within the site. The entire site spans approximately 2775 m².
Note: this site has since been demolished due to structural collapses after a severe weather event in 2023.
- 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool: The site consists of the primary weatherboard house structure (and associated modern extensions). The site extent is confined to the weatherboard house, with no other historical features or outbuildings noted.

Potential Areas of Historical Archaeological Likelihood

The site extents of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool, 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool and 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool were identified as potential areas of historical archaeological likelihood. The site extent of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool is shown in Section 0, Figure 8. The site extent of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool is shown in Section 0, Figure 9. The site extent of 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool is shown in Section 5.2.3, Figure 10.

No additional areas of historical archaeological likelihood were identified during the survey.

4.4.4 Previous (Significant) Ground Disturbance

The term Significant Ground Disturbance (SGD) is defined under r.4 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018* (see Glossary). The assessment of SGD is used to determine whether a CHMP is triggered for an activity. Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, a CHMP is required where a study area (or parts thereof) is located within an identified area of cultural heritage sensitivity and the activity is a high impact activity. The portions of an area of cultural heritage sensitivity that have been subject to SGD are no longer considered to be areas of cultural heritage sensitivity. This may have a direct bearing on whether a mandatory CHMP is required or not.

Ten areas of previous (significant) ground disturbance were identified during the survey (Table 15; Map 10):

Table 15: Areas of previous (significant) ground disturbance within study area

Area of previous SGD	Council Property Identifier	Lot	Title Plan	Address	Within area of cultural heritage sensitivity?
Wannon Water storage facility	42	1	TP16129	83-119 Dales Road, Warrnambool	No
	43	1	TP883382		
Dam	21	1	PS724360	80 Aberline Road, Warrnambool	Yes
Dam	30	1	PS902658	31 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool	No
Dam	22	2017	PP3729	43 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool	No
	23	2018	PP3729		
Dam	13	2	PS922576	174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool	No
Ruins	13	2	PS922576	174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool	No
Ruins	18	2	PS917052	150 Horne Road, Warrnambool	Yes
Large soil stockpile	18	2	PS917052	150 Horne Road, Warrnambool	Yes
Large soil stockpile	18	2	PS917052	150 Horne Road, Warrnambool	Yes
Extraction pits / quarry (n = 6)	6	1	TP398817	256 Wangoom Road, Warrnambool (Tozer Memorial Reserve)	No

Various other forms of previous ground disturbance, *not* meeting the definition of SGD are found through the study area including fences, roads, power-lines, rural housing structures, rural farming structures and livestock soil impact/erosion.

Non-human previous ground disturbance was identified along Russells Creek (Plate 12). This ground disturbance is caused by erosion from the water flow of Russells Creek, creating an exposed stratigraphical profile either side of the creek.

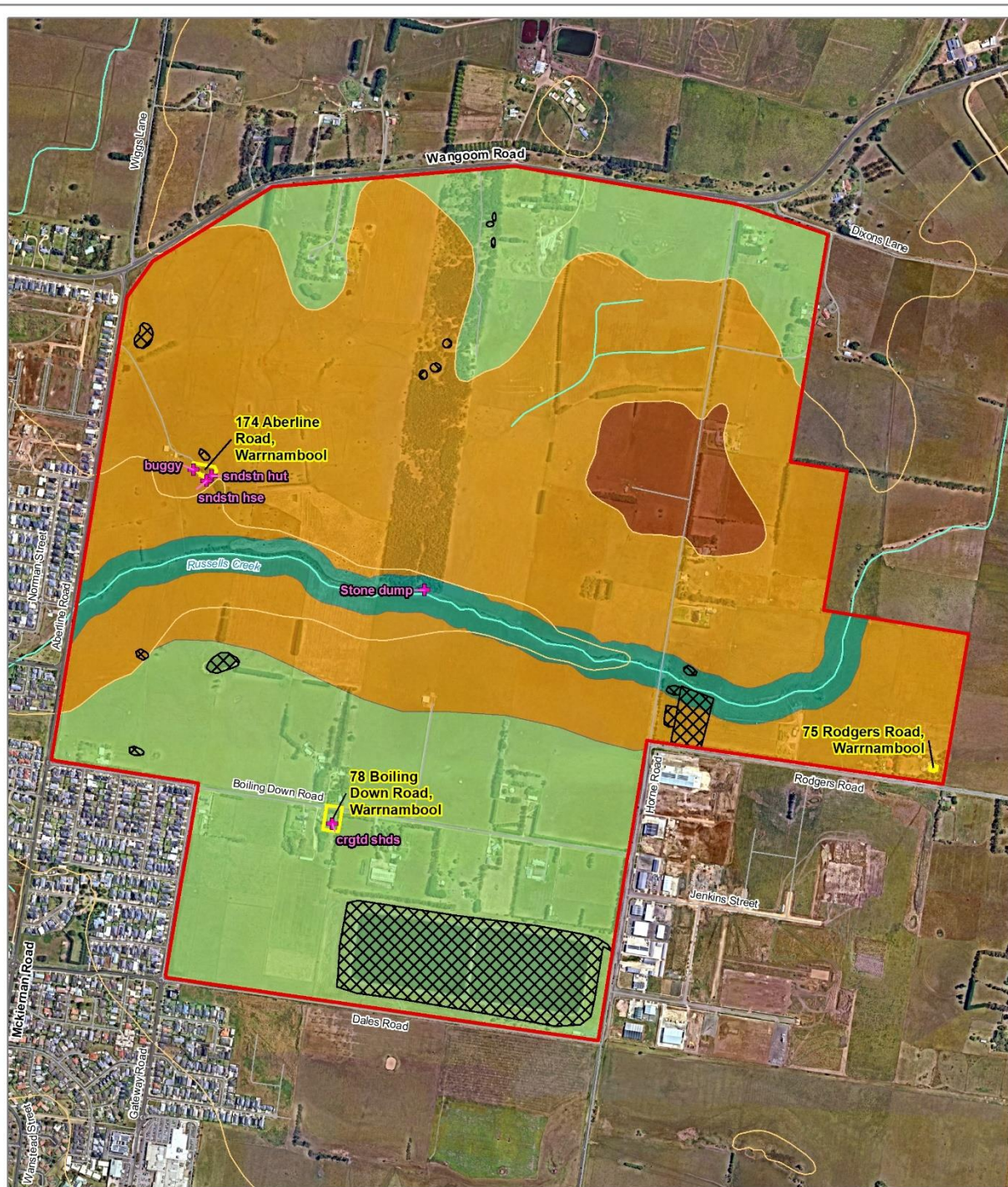
4.4.5 Survey – Summary of Results and Conclusions

The standard assessment identified four primary landforms; slopes, undulating plains, creek terrace and a crest (Map 10). No Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified during the standard assessment. Areas of archaeological likelihood were identified and classified as having high, moderate or low likelihood (Map 11). Three areas of high Aboriginal cultural heritage likelihood were identified; along Russells Creek; the northern portion of Tozer Memorial Reserve, and the Tozer Memorial Reserve in its entirety. The remainder of the study area was determined to be of low likelihood, with the exception of the crest landform identified as having moderate likelihood.

Ten areas were identified as having previous ground disturbance, meeting the definition of SGD (Map 10). Four of these areas of SGD are found within an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity and high archaeological likelihood. Three potential historical heritage sites were identified; 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool, 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool, and 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool. However, 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool and 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool were not registered as historical heritage sites as they did not meet the threshold for registration. The site at 78 Boiling Down Road has since been demolished due to a severe weather event which caused structural collapse in 2023.

Following the preparation of a Statement of Significance to Warrnambool City Council, it was determined that a Heritage Overlay application was not appropriate for 75 Rodgers Road at this time.

The presence of known areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity and high archaeological likelihood means that complex assessment is mandatory in these areas.



Map 10
Standard Assessment
Results
Aboriginal and Historical
Heritage Assessment:
Aberline to Home Growth
Corridor

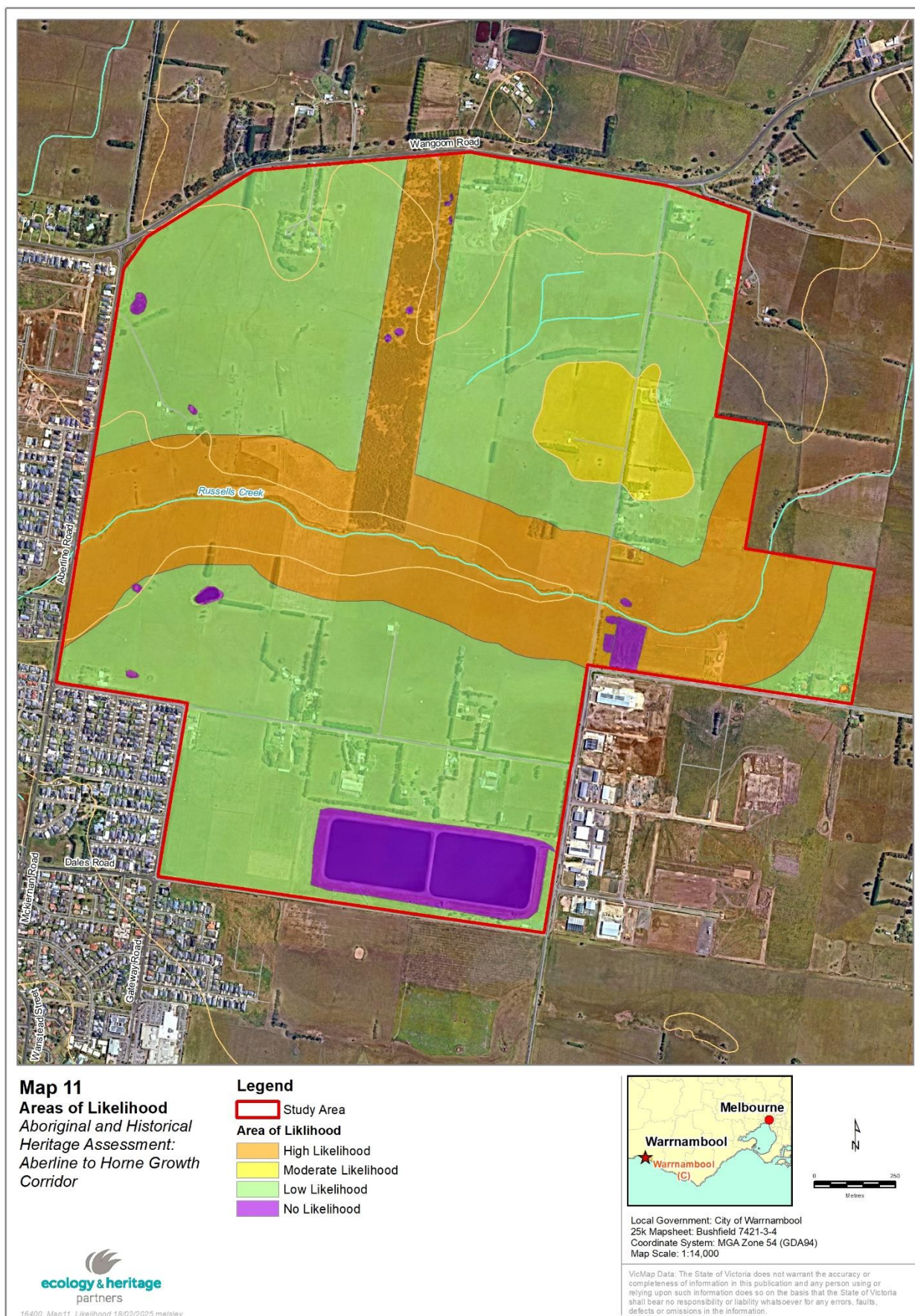
Legend

- Study Area
- Potential Historical Site Extents
- + Historical Site
- Area of Significant Ground Disturbance
- Landform**
- Creek Terrace
- Crest
- Slopes
- Undulating Plains



Local Government: City of Warrnambool
25k Mapsheet: Bushfield 7421-3-4
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 54 (GDA94)
Map Scale: 1:14,000

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.



5 DETAILS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE STUDY AREA

5.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the Study Area

No tangible Aboriginal Places were located within the study area (Map 10); however, the EMAC view the Tozer Memorial Reserve as a place with high intangible cultural heritage value.

5.2 Historical Heritage in the Study Area

Three potential historical archaeological sites were located within the study area (Map 10):

- 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool;
- 78 Boiling Down, Warrnambool; and
- 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool

Site cards for 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool and 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool were submitted to HV in 2018 to determine whether each site has a level significance high enough for registration as historical sites. Following review of these site cards by HV, the sites were not registered as historical heritage sites as they did not meet the threshold for registration on the Victorian Heritage Inventory. However, a Statement of Significance was prepared for each of these sites for registration on the Warrnambool Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay (see Appendix 5).

75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool was also identified as a potential historical heritage site following a photographic survey of the dwelling in December 2024. Although it did not warrant the preparation of a Site card for potential inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory, a Statement of Significance was prepared for registration on the Warrnambool Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay (Appendix 5).

Following review of these Statements of Significance by Warrnambool City Council in April 2025, it was determined that the application of a Heritage Overlay was only deemed appropriate for the property at 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool at this time.

6 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

This section provides a summary of the recommendations made in relation to the Aboriginal and historical heritage values of the study area. For Aboriginal cultural heritage the following recommendations explain whether a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* will or will not be required. In areas where it is considered that a CHMP is not required, this will be because that area was considered to have no Aboriginal cultural heritage likelihood (archaeological sensitivity) and/or because the study area has been subject to previous significant ground disturbance. Note that planning requirements may require a CHMP to be prepared for all of the study area.

The results of the initial survey and subsequent field inspection show that there is potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage to be present within the study area. The recommendations below are relevant for the current condition of the study area and may be subject to change with future additions to areas of cultural heritage sensitivity. The areas requiring a complex CHMP (i.e. archaeological subsurface investigation) are therefore discussed below.

A summary of the Recommendations is provided at the end of this section (Table 16).

6.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Recommendation 1: Early Engagement

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation strongly recommends transparent communication and collaboration regarding project alterations or new plans. This is crucial for identifying potential constraints and enabling inclusive engagement, informed consent, and culturally sensitive management practices.

EMAC highly encourages the implementation of the 'Ask First' policy as a prerequisite for any project changes or new projects. This policy ensures that any deviations from the original project plan are communicated to EMAC well in advance of their implementation. This proactive approach not only demonstrates respect but also enables collaboration and mutual comprehension among all project stakeholders.

Recommendation 2: Environmental Impacts

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) holds a comprehensive and interconnected view of Cultural Heritage. There is a separation between cultural heritage and environmental legislation in the realm of regulations. However, from the Eastern Maar's unique perspective, environmental values are perceived as deeply intertwined with and integral to their broader cultural heritage.

In this holistic viewpoint, the natural environment is not merely a separate entity from cultural heritage but a vital and inseparable part of it. The landscapes, ecosystems, and the various elements of the environment hold profound cultural significance for the Eastern Maar people. These connections between the land, its features, and its cultural identity are deeply rooted and valued. This holistic understanding underscores the importance of considering the environment in all project planning and management aspects. It also encourages a more comprehensive and respectful approach to cultural heritage preservation, where both

tangible and intangible elements are safeguarded in harmony. EMAC's stance reflects the commitment to the country and the cultural obligation to preserve cultural heritage in a manner that respects the intrinsic nature of the environment and culture.

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation expects that the VPA and Warrnambool City Council will not only acknowledge but actively embrace this holistic view, engaging Eastern Maar in meaningful consultations regarding environmental impacts to ensure the preservation of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Recommendation 3: Avoidance of Harm to Cultural Heritage

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) strongly advocates for the prevention of harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage whenever it is feasible. This harm minimisation approach extends to encompass the safeguarding of environmental elements as well. EMAC recommends that the VPA and Warrnambool City Council actively involves Eastern Maar in comprehensive discussions regarding all values that stand to be impacted by a project, encompassing both tangible and intangible aspects of cultural heritage. Furthermore, EMAC emphasises the existence of certain non-negotiable principles concerning cultural heritage. EMAC unequivocally opposes any activities that could lead to harm to culturally modified trees, rock art sites, stone arrangements, or burial places. Moreover, EMAC takes a firm stance against potential harm to Aboriginal places within parks or conservation reserves. It is essential to acknowledge that parks and reserves are established primarily for the preservation of their intrinsic values, with the enjoyment of the public being a secondary benefit. Hence, EMAC prioritises the conservation of cultural values in any decision-making process.

Recommendation 4: Mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plans

In properties where areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity (as identified by *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*) are present (Map 2 and Table 15) and a high impact activity will take place, a mandatory CHMP must be undertaken. The CHMP will include an archaeological survey (standard assessment) and subsurface testing program (complex assessment) to establish the nature, extent and significance of all Aboriginal cultural heritage in the study area (in accordance with r.60 and r.61 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*). This must include consultation with the relevant Traditional Owner communities, Sponsor and HA to agree on an appropriate sampling methodology suitable to the subsurface testing of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the study area.

The complex assessment will focus within the areas of cultural heritage sensitivity and *high and moderate* Aboriginal archaeological likelihood (Map 11) and the primary aims will be to:

- Establish the presence of any subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits;
- Define the nature, extent and significance of any subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits;
- Determine the extent of the pre-existing surface site identified as part of this assessment; and
- Determine the nature and condition of the stratigraphy.

The methodology to be used to sample the area of sensitivity will be to excavate a series of representative test pits (e.g. 1 m x 1 m test pits and 50 cm x 50 cm shovel test holes) removing sediments with horizontal

control in excavation units (spits) of 100 mm (or following the natural stratigraphy where present) by using accepted stratigraphic methods and standard hand-held tools.

It should also be noted that EMAC may request controlled excavation using mechanical equipment (e.g. mechanical excavator and mechanical sieve). If machinery is used for the purposes of uncovering Aboriginal cultural heritage, the disturbance or excavation shall be conducted on a detailed stratigraphic basis. In addition, if the use of machinery results in the finding of occupation deposits or features, the deposits or features shall be uncovered and assessed by controlled non-mechanical excavation.

Any future Aboriginal archaeological subsurface testing involving both hand and mechanical excavation methods will require consultation between the Traditional Owner communities, proponent and a HA in order to determine an appropriate sampling methodology.

Pursuant to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*, the HA will discuss the results of the complex assessment with the relevant Aboriginal stakeholders, FP - SR and Sponsor and determine recommendations for additional Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations that may be undertaken for the purpose of preparing a CHMP.

Recommendation 5: On-Country Operations

Eastern Maar strongly recommends not just consultation but active engagement when it comes to actions that may impact environmental values. This entails a collaborative approach where EMAC representatives are actively involved in on-site projects such as reforestation efforts, water quality testing, and even fire management initiatives. This active partnership goes beyond merely seeking input; it involves EMAC taking an integral role in the practical aspects of environmental stewardship. This approach not only ensures that cultural and environmental considerations are fully integrated into these projects but also fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of the land and its significance.

Recommendation 6: Language, Signs and Naming Opportunities

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation recognizes the profound importance of active engagement in language use, artwork, signage design, and place naming initiatives. These are important tools to enable cultural heritage protection. Through the continued use of language, Eastern Maar ensures the transmission of ancestral knowledge and oral traditions.

The use of traditional place names often encapsulates intricate narratives about the lands and cultural significance. By actively participating in the naming of places, Eastern Maar not only preserves these narratives but also shares them with others.

Eastern Maar's active involvement in language, art, and place naming empowers the assertion of cultural identity and traditional narratives, challenging colonial legacies and reaffirming Eastern Maar sovereignty. Ultimately, these initiatives are instrumental in celebrating and preserving Eastern Maar's heritage.

6.2 Historical Heritage

Recommendation 7: No Requirement for Further Archaeological Investigation

As there are no known historical archaeological sites or areas considered to have historical heritage likelihood there is no requirement for any further historical archaeological investigations.

Recommendation 8: Contingency for Historical Heritage

There are no other known historical heritage issues in regard to the proposed development. If any historical heritage issues are encountered during the course of construction, then works should cease within 10 m of the area of concern and a qualified archaeologist (or Heritage Victoria) should be contacted to investigate.

Table 16: Summary of Management Recommendations

Property Identifier Number (PIN)	Property ID (Parcel SPI)	Aboriginal Heritage		Historical Heritage
		CHMP Required	Site Inspection and Risk Assessment Recommended	Further Consultation with Council Required
1	1\PS922576		✓ (Low)	
2	RES1\PS908707		✓ (Low)	
3	3\PS311792	✓		
4	1\PS311792		✓ (Low)	
5	2\PS311792		✓ (Low)	
6	1\TP398817	✓		
7	2\PS710426	✓		
8	1\PS710426		✓ (Low)	
9	1\TP244571		✓ (Low)	
10	2\TP244571		✓ (Low)	
11	1\PS510707		✓ (Low)	
12	2\PS510707		✓ (Moderate)	
13	2\PS922576	✓		✓
14	1\TP808681	✓	✓ (Moderate)	
15	1\PS406386		✓ (Moderate)	
16	2011\PP3729		✓ (Low)	
17	1\PS917052		✓ (Low)	
18	2\PS917052	✓		
19	1\PS443644	✓		
20	1\TP16326		✓ (Low)	
21	1\PS724360	✓		
22	2017\PP3729		✓ (Low)	
23	2018\PP3729		✓ (Low)	
24	2\LP116579	✓		
25	1\LP116579		✓ (Low)	

Property Identifier Number (PIN)	Property ID (Parcel SPI)	Aboriginal Heritage		Historical Heritage
		CHMP Required	Site Inspection and Risk Assessment Recommended	Further Consultation with Council Required
26	6~E\PP3729	✓		
27	5~E\PP3729	✓		
28	R1\PS724373		✓ (Low)	
29	1\PS902658		✓ (Low)	
30	2\PS902658		✓ (Low)	
31	R2\PS724373		✓ (Low)	
32	R1\PS718999		✓ (Low)	
33	1\PS841928		✓ (Low)	
34	2\PS841928		✓ (Low)	
35	3\PS433295		✓ (Low)	
36	4\PS433295		✓ (Low)	
37	1\PS842678		✓ (Low)	
38	2\PS842678		✓ (Low)	
39	2\TP21740		✓ (Low)	
40	1\PS431510		✓ (Low)	
41	2\PS431510		✓ (Low)	
42	1\TP16129		✓ (Low)	
43	1\TP883382		✓ (Low)	
44	R2P\S719899		✓ (Low)	

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Maps and Images

- Figure 1: State Library of Victoria (SLV). 2024a. *Plan of district near Belfast & Warrnambool* [cartographic material], 1858, image no. ma000712.
- Figure 2: SLV. 2024b. *Wangoom, County of Villiers* [cartographic material] / drawn and reproduced at the Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne by T. F. McGauran, 1891, image no. dq007101.
- Figure 3: SLV. 2024c. *Victoria, Port Fairy* [cartographic material], 1942, image ID 1861946.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Notice of Intention to Conduct an Archaeological Survey

HERITAGE
VICTORIA
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VICTORIA

Archaeological Survey Notification

Pursuant to Section 131(1) of the *Heritage Act* 1995, this form must be completed in full and submitted to Heritage Victoria prior to conducting an archaeological survey. Please note that approval to access the survey area must be arranged by the applicant.

1. Applicant details

Name: Rick Bullers
 Email address: rbullers@ehpartners.com.au
 Company: Ecology & Heritage Partners
 Postal address: 230 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong West Postcode: 3218
 Telephone (business hours): (03) 9377 0100 Mobile: 0400 990 887
 Commissioning agent: Warrnambool City Council
 Reason for survey: Aboriginal & Historical Heritage Assessment

2. Survey location

A map clearly identifying the survey area must be attached to this form. For larger, or linear, surveys more than one map may be required. If surveying the seabed, attach a chart clearly identifying the survey area and location.

Location name: Aberline to Horne Growth Corridor
 Address: Aberline Rd to Horne Rd, Warrnambool, 3280
 Mapsheet number (1:100,000): 7421 - 34
 Mapsheet name (1:100,000): B.M.S.H.F.I.E.L.D

3. Survey dates

It is intended that the survey will be conducted between the following dates:

From: 04/09/2017 To: 08/09/2017
 Applicant's signature: [Signature] Date: 01/08/2017

This form must be lodged with Heritage Victoria's Archaeology Team at:

Archaeology.admin@delwp.vic.gov.au

Heritage Victoria

PO Box 500

East Melbourne Vic 8002

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic) and applicable laws. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to the Privacy Officer, Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, VIC 8002.

Notwithstanding the above, please note that information provided to enable the administration of the Heritage Act 1995 may be disclosed to persons with an interest in the heritage place or object particularly, and information provided as part of a permit application may be made available on-line where the application has been publicly advertised under section 68 of the Heritage Act 1995.

Rick Bullers

From: Brandi.Bugh@delwp.vic.gov.au on behalf of Archaeology.Admin@delwp.vic.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 1 September 2017 10:01 AM
To: Rick Bullers
Subject: Re: 9600 - Follow up on HV NOI

Hi Rick

Maddi is away for the next 3 weeks, so I am keeping an eye on this email for urgent matters.

It looks like Maddi assigned report number 4864 for the works.

The number for Aberline to Horne Growth Corridor is 4865.

Cheers

Brandi Bugh | Archaeologist | Heritage Victoria
Planning | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Level 7 / 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne Victoria 3002
T: 03 9938 6864 | E: brandi.bugh@delwp.vic.gov.au



This office is located on the land of the Kulin Nations.

From: Rick Bullers <rbullers@ehpartners.com.au>
To: "Archaeology.Admin@delwp.vic.gov.au" <Archaeology.Admin@delwp.vic.gov.au>,
Date: 28/08/2017 02:58 PM
Subject: 9600 - Follow up on HV NOI

Hi Maddi

Just following up on an NOI sent by Austen Graham on 1 August (attached) – do you have a report number available for that survey yet? The report is pretty well finished and needs that to complete it.

Many thanks

Kind regards
Rick Bullers MAACA | Geelong Resource Manager / Senior Heritage Advisor
Ecology and Heritage Partners
230 Latrobe Tce, Geelong West, VIC 3218
P (03) 5221 8122 | M 0400 990 887 | E rbullers@ehpartners.com.au
Melbourne | Adelaide | Brisbane | Canberra | Geelong | Sydney
www.ehpartners.com.au | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#)



This email, including any attachments, is intended for the addressee named. It is confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient you must not

Notice of Intent to carry out a survey for Aboriginal cultural heritage for the purposes of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*

This form has been prepared for use by a person intending to carry out a survey for Aboriginal cultural heritage ('Survey') to complete the notification provisions pursuant to s.34A of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (the 'Act').

For clarification on any of the following please contact Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) enquiries on 1800-762-003.

SECTION 1 – Person intending to carry out survey (applicant)

Applicant (*natural person or body corporate seeking to carry out survey*): Warrnambool City Council

ABN/ACN: 44 594 246 321

Contact name: Julie Glass

Postal Address: PO Box 198, Warrnambool Vic 3280

Telephone Number: 5559 4800

Fax number:

Mobile: 0408 208 342

Email Address: jglass@warrnambool.vic.gov.au

SECTION 2 – Survey supervisor

Name: Rick Bullers

Provide a description of the supervisor's qualifications and experience relevant to surveys for Aboriginal cultural heritage:

Supervisor has more than 10 years experience as an archaeologist, primarily working in the field of Aboriginal cultural heritage. He has prepared numerous reports on Aboriginal cultural heritage, including CHMPs, cultural heritage assessments, due diligence assessments, salvage excavations, etc. He has a Masters degree in archaeology.

SECTION 3 – Description of proposed activity and Survey location

Project Name: Aberline to Horne Growth Corridor

List the relevant municipal district/s (ie, Local Council or Shire): Warrnambool City Council

Clearly identify the proposed **activity** for which the survey relates (ie, cultural heritage or due diligence assessment, preliminary Aboriginal heritage test, research):

The survey is for a high level strategic plan (Precinct Structure Plan) to determine potential cultural heritage values to inform the PSP.

There is currently no high impact activity associated with the activity.

Clearly identify the **location** (such as listing cadastral information, attaching a copy of a title search, or indicating the street address):

The activity area includes multiple land parcels, bounded to the west by Aberline Road, to the north by Wangoom Road and to the east and south by private rural land, but roughly around Horne Road and Boiling Down Road (see attached map)

Attach a map (to scale, with a north arrow and indicating the municipal district - if any) that clearly identifies the survey area.

- Please ensure the map refers to existing roads and features, rather than proposed roads and features, and includes their names.
- Please ensure the map has the survey area outlined on it.
- The map should have a legend; at least three readily identifiable geographical locations (such as road intersections, parcel boundaries, or road/river crossings) and should state the map's projection.

SECTION 4 – Expected start and finish date for the survey

Start date 4 / 8 / 2017 Finish date 24 / 8 / 2017

SECTION 5 – List any relevant registered Aboriginal party (if any)

This section is to be completed only where there is a registered Aboriginal party in relation to the survey area

SECTION 6 – Signature of applicant

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information supplied is correct and complete.

Signed:



Date: 1 / 9 / 2017

[applicant]

SECTION 7 – Notification checklist

☐ Ensure appropriate attachment/s are completed and attached to this notification (see section 3 of this form).

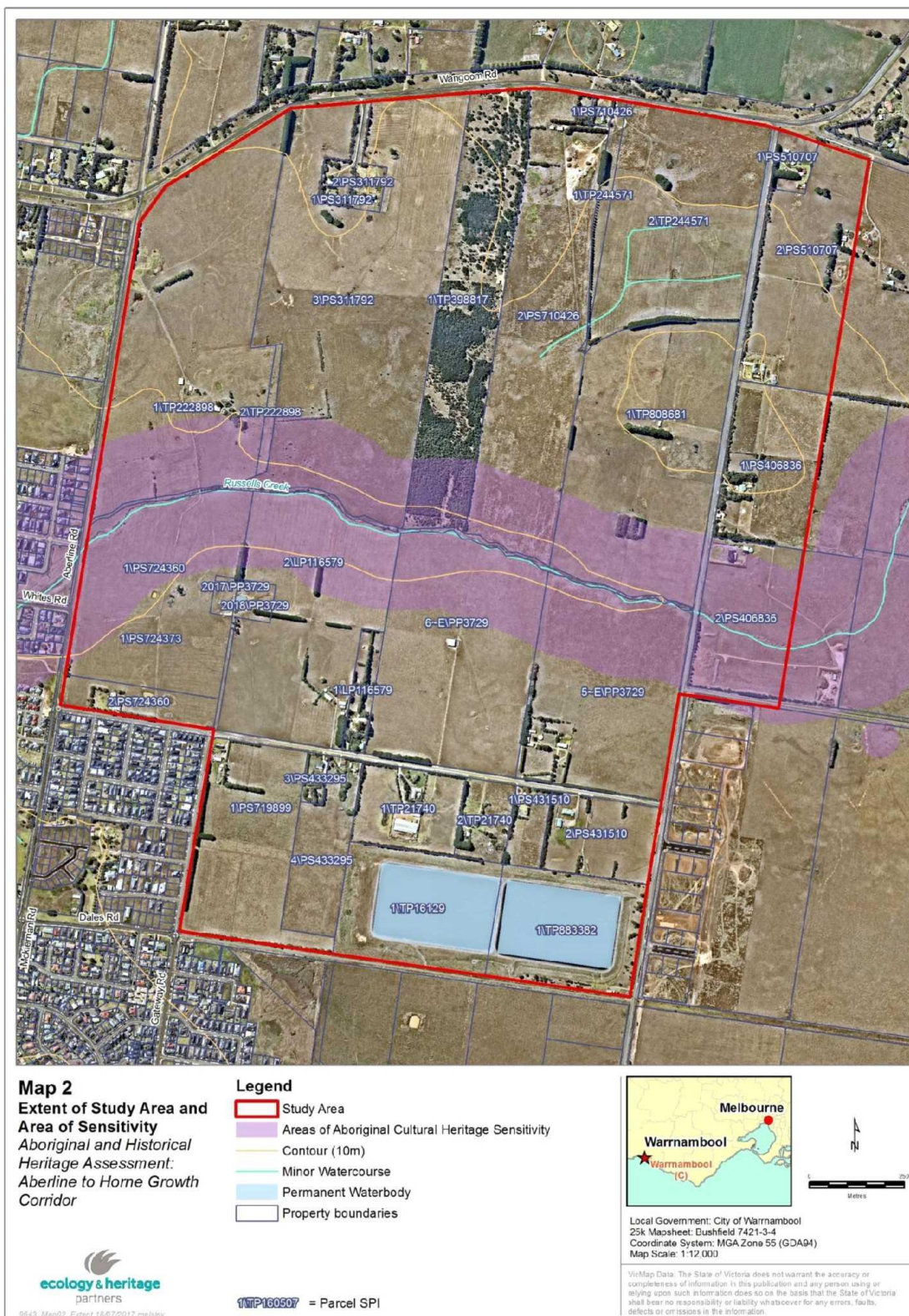
Please ensure this notice and all attached items are sent to the:

Director Heritage Services
Aboriginal Victoria
Department of Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 2392
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

OR Email: vahr@dpc.vic.gov.au

Notes:

- Ensure that any relevant registered Aboriginal party is also notified. A copy of this notice may be used for this purpose. (A registered Aboriginal party is allowed up to 14 days to provide a written response to a notification specifying whether or not it intends to participate in the survey).
- In addition to notifying the Director Heritage Services and any relevant registered Aboriginal party, a Sponsor must also notify any owner and/or occupier of any land within the survey area. A copy of this notice may be used for this purpose.
- A copy of any documentation relevant to the survey must be given to the Secretary for recording on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register within 30 days of producing the final report relating to the survey, or within 12 months of submitting this application, whichever is earlier.
- Relevant documentation means any site records, photographs, maps and plans relating to the survey and a copy of any final report.
- The applicant must notify the Secretary if the survey did not occur within 12 months of submitting this application.



Aerial source: Nearmap 2017

Appendix 2: Heritage Legislation

A2.1 *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* protects Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria. A key part of the legislation is that Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) are required to be prepared by Sponsors (the developer) and qualified Heritage Advisors in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and the accompanying *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*. A CHMP is the assessment of an area (known as an 'activity area') for Aboriginal cultural heritage values, the results of which form a report (the CHMP) which details the methodology of the assessment and sets out management conditions and contingency measures to be undertaken before, during and after an activity (development) to manage and protect any Aboriginal cultural heritage present within the area examined.

The preparation of a CHMP is mandatory under the following circumstances:

- If the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018* require a CHMP to be prepared (s. 47);
- If the Minister of First Peoples - State Relations requires a CHMP to be prepared (s. 48); or
- If an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required by the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (s. 49).

The *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018* require a CHMP to be prepared:

- If all or part of the proposed activity is a 'high impact activity'; and
- If all or part of the activity area is an area of 'cultural heritage sensitivity'; and
- If all or part of the activity area has not been subject to 'significant ground disturbance'.

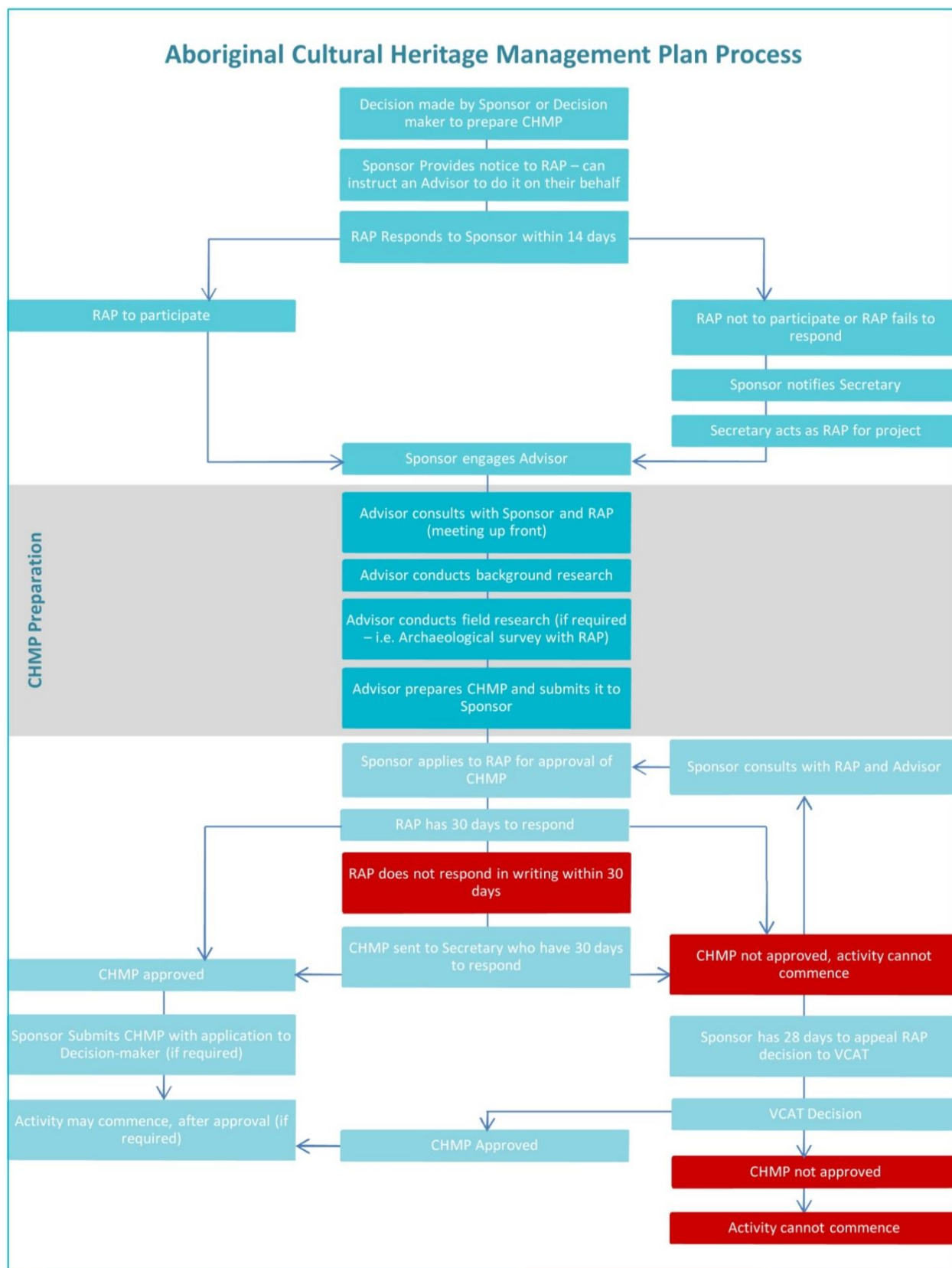
The preparation of a CHMP can also be undertaken voluntarily. Having an approved CHMP in place can reduce risk for a project during the construction phase by ensuring there are no substantial delays if sites happen to be found. Monitoring construction works is also rarely required if an approved CHMP is in place.

Approval of a CHMP is the responsibility of the Registered Aboriginal Party who evaluates the CHMP and then it is lodged with the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet to take effect or, if there is no RAP in place for the activity area, it is evaluated by the Secretary of the DPC (FP - SR). They will be examining the CHMPs in detail with key points including:

- Addressing whether harm to heritage can be avoided or minimised;
- All assessments (including test excavations) must be completed before management decisions are formulated; and
- Survey and excavation must be in accordance with proper archaeological practice and supervised by a person appropriately qualified in archaeology.

There are three types of CHMPs that may be prepared (*The Guide to preparing a CHMP 2010*). These are:

- Desktop; Standard; and Complex.



A desktop CHMP is a literature review. If the results of the desktop show it is reasonably possible that Aboriginal cultural heritage could be present in the activity area, a standard assessment will be required.

A standard assessment involves a literature review and a ground survey of the activity area. Where the results of ground survey undertaken during a standard assessment have identified Aboriginal cultural heritage within the activity area, soil and sediment testing, using an auger no larger than 12 cm in diameter, may be used to assist in defining the nature and extent of the identified Aboriginal cultural heritage (Regulation 59[4]).

Where the results of ground survey undertaken during a standard assessment have identified Aboriginal cultural heritage within the activity area or areas which have the potential to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage subsurface, a complex assessment will be required. A complex assessment involves a literature review, a ground survey, and subsurface testing. Subsurface testing is the disturbance of all or part of the activity area or excavation of all or part of the activity area to uncover or discover evidence of Aboriginal cultural heritage (Regulation 62[1]).

It is strongly advised that for further information relating to heritage management (e.g. audits, stop orders, inspectors, forms, evaluation fees, status of RAPs and penalties for breaching the Act) Sponsors should access the FP - SR website (<https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/>).

The flow chart above also assists in explaining the process relating to CHMPs.

A2.2 Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993

Native Title describes the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and waters, according to their traditional laws and customs. In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights and interests in land were recognised in 1992 when the High Court delivered its historic judgment in the case of *Mabo v the State of Queensland*. This decision overturned the legal fiction that Australia upon colonisation was *terra nullius* (land belonging to no-one). It recognised for the first time that Indigenous Australians may continue to hold native title.

Native Title rights may include the possession, use and occupation of traditional country. In some areas, native title may be a right of access to the area. It can also be the right for native title holders to participate in decisions about how others use their traditional land and waters. Although the content of native title is to be determined according to the traditional laws and customs of the title holders, there are some common characteristics. It may be possessed by a community, group, or individual depending on the content of the traditional laws and customs. It is inalienable (that is, it cannot be sold or transferred) other than by surrender to the Crown or pursuant to traditional laws and customs. Native Title is a legal right that can be protected, where appropriate, by legal action.

Native Title may exist in areas where it has not been extinguished (removed) by an act of government. It will apply to Crown land but not to freehold land. It may exist in areas such as:

- Vacant (or unallocated) Crown land;
- Forests and beaches;
- National parks and public reserves;

- Some types of pastoral leases;
- Land held by government agencies;
- Land held for Aboriginal communities;
- Any other public or Crown lands; and/or
- Oceans, seas, reefs, lakes, rivers, creeks, swamps and other waters that are not privately owned.

Native Title cannot take away anyone else's valid rights, including owning a home, holding a pastoral lease or having a mining lease. Where native title rights and the rights of another person conflict the rights of the other person always prevail. When the public has the right to access places such as parks, recreation reserves and beaches, this right cannot be taken away by Native Title. Native Title does not give Indigenous Australians the right to veto any project. It does mean, however, that everyone's rights and interests in land and waters have to be taken into account.

Indigenous people can apply to have their native title rights recognised by Australian law by filing a native title application (native title claim) with the Federal Court. Applications are required to pass a test to gain certain rights over the area covered in the application. The Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) was established to administer application processes. Once applications are registered, the NNTT will notify other people about the application and will invite them to become involved so all parties can try to reach an agreement that respects everyone's rights and interests. If the parties cannot agree, the NNTT refers the application to the Federal Court and the parties argue their cases before the Court.

As a common law right, native title may exist over areas of Crown land or waters, irrespective of whether there are any native title claims or determinations in the area. Native Title will therefore be a necessary consideration when Government is proposing or permitting any activity on or relating to Crown land that may affect native title⁶.

A2.3 Victorian *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

All municipalities in Victoria are covered by land use planning controls which are prepared and administered by State and local government authorities. The legislation governing such controls is the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Places of significance to a locality can be listed on a local planning scheme and protected by a Heritage Overlay (or other overlay where appropriate). Places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance are not often included on local government planning schemes.

A2.4 Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides a national framework for the protection of heritage and the environment and the conservation of biodiversity. The EPBC Act is administered by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). The Australian Heritage Council assesses whether or not a nominated place is appropriate for listing on either the National or Commonwealth Heritage Lists and makes a

⁶ The information in this section was taken from the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Fact Sheet on Native Title, 2008

recommendation to the Minister on that basis. The Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts makes the final decision on listing. DoE also administers the Register of the National Estate.

The objectives of the EPBC Act are:

- To provide for the protection of the environment, especially those aspects of the environment that are matters of national environmental significance;
- To promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources;
- To promote the conservation of biodiversity;
- To provide for the protection and conservation of heritage;
- To promote a cooperative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments, the community, land-holders and indigenous peoples;
- To assist in the cooperative implementation of Australia's international environmental responsibilities;
- To recognise the role of indigenous people in the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity; and
- To promote the use of indigenous peoples' knowledge of biodiversity with the involvement of, and in cooperation with, the owners of the knowledge.

A2.5 Victorian Coroners Act 2008

The Victorian *Coroners Act 2008* requires the reporting of certain deaths and the investigation of certain deaths and fires in Victoria by coroners to contribute to the reduction of preventable deaths. Of most relevance to heritage is the requirement for any “reportable death” to be reported to the police (s. 12[1]). The *Coroners Act 2008* requires that the discovery of human remains in Victoria (s. 4[1]) of a person whose identity is unknown (s. 4[g]) must be reported to the police.

A2.6 Victorian Heritage Act 2017

The *Heritage Act 2017* protects all heritage places on the VHR and all non-Aboriginal archaeological sites older than 50 years. If a site is of State Significance it is listed on the VHR and a Permit from Heritage Victoria (HV) is required to disturb it. If an archaeological site is not of State significance it is usually listed on the VHI and Consent from Heritage Victoria would be required to disturb it.

Appendix 3: Archaeological Survey Attributes

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EXCAVATION ATTRIBUTES FORM

Project Name: Proposed East of Aberline Precinct Structure Plan

Author/Consultant: Rick Bullers, Austen Graham and Tom Lally

Cultural Heritage Permit #: 4865

Survey Attributes

Survey Date: 19.09.2017-20.09.2017 and 20.09.2024

Ground Surface Visibility: 15%

Actual Survey Coverage (ha): 58.635 ha

Effective Survey Coverage (ha): 14.37%

Survey Spacing (m): RANDOM Transect Width (m): RANDOM Number in Crew: 4

Landform: Undulating Plains, Slope, Crest and Creek Terrace

Vegetation: Pastoral paddocks across; Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) and Swamp Scrub (EVC 53).

Disturbance: Agricultural disturbance and various locations with SGD

Survey Method	Survey Design	Sample	Survey Type
☒ Pedestrian	☐ Opportunistic	☒ Area	☒ Surface
☐ Remote sensing (specify)	☒ Random	☐ Transect	
	☐ Systematic	☐ Locality	
	☐ Stratified	☐ Haphazard	
	☐ Other	☐ Other	

Appendix 4: Significance Assessment

A4.1 The ICOMOS Burra Charter

The standard for determining significance of places is derived from an international formula developed by ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites). In Australia, the Burra Charter has been developed by ICOMOS which is a Charter for the Conservation of Cultural Significance (Australia ICOMOS 1999).

The Burra Charter defines cultural significance as “aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations” (Australia ICOMOS 1999: Section 1.2). Cultural significance is a concept which helps in estimating the value of places. The Burra Charter Cultural Significance Guidelines definitions of the values implicit in assessing cultural significance are as follows (Australia ICOMOS 1999):

Aesthetic value: Aesthetic value includes aspects of sensory perception for which criteria can and should be stated. Such criteria may include consideration of the form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric; the smells and sounds associated with its place and use.

Historic value: historic value encompasses the history of aesthetics, science and society, and therefore to a large extent underlies all the terms set out in this section.

A place may have historic value because it has influenced, or has been influenced by, an historic figure, event, phase or activity. It may also have historic value as the site of an important event. For any given place the significance will be greater where evidence of the association or event survives in situ, or where the settings are substantially intact, than where it has been changed or evidence does not survive. However, some events or associations may be so important that the place retains significance regardless of subsequent treatment.

Scientific value: The scientific or research value of a place will depend upon the importance of the data involved, on its rarity, quality or representativeness, and on the degree to which the place may contribute further substantial information.

Social value: Social value embraces the qualities for which a place has become a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment to a majority or minority group.

National Historic Themes

It is noted that when assessing historic values that the use of historic themes is of benefit. Historic themes are used by heritage professionals to assist in understanding the meanings and connections that historic places may have in addition to the physical fabric of a place. Themes can help explain how particular elements of a place are significant because of their ability to illustrate important aspects of its history (Australian Heritage Commission 2001). The nine theme groups that are most commonly used nationally are:

Theme 1	Tracing the evolution of the Australian environment
Theme 2	Peopling Australia
Theme 3	Developing Local, Regional and National economies
Theme 4	Building settlements, towns and cities
Theme 5	Working

Theme 6	Educating
Theme 7	Governing
Theme 8	Developing Australia's cultural life
Theme 9	Marking the phases of life

These theme groups are further expanded into more focussed sub-themes which will not be expanded on here. The themes are intended to be non-hierarchical and a historic place may have a number of themes, which reflects how we look at the past, allowing for an integrated, diverse and complex human experience (Australian Heritage Commission 2001).

A4.2. The *Heritage Act 2017* Criteria

The *Heritage Act 2017* defines eight criteria against which cultural heritage significance can be assessed. These criteria are used to assist in determining whether places of potential State significance should be included in the Heritage Register. They are as follows:

Criterion A	Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history;
Criterion B	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history;
Criterion C	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history;
Criterion D	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects;
Criterion E	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics;
Criterion F	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
Criterion G	Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons; and
Criterion H	Special association with the life or works of a person, a group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

In addition, it is appropriate when assessing the significance of a site in Victoria to consider whether it is of Local, Regional or State (or potentially National) significance.

A4.3. Scientific Significance

Scientific significance of a heritage place (particularly archaeological sites) is also assessed in Victoria using a commonly accepted formula developed by Bowdler (1981) and Sullivan and Bowdler (1984). These are relative estimates of significance based on the current knowledge available about sites or places in a region. The assessment uses three criteria; site contents, site condition and representativeness.

Site Contents Rating

- 1 No cultural materials remaining.
- 2 Site contains a small number (e.g. 0-10 artefacts) or limited range of cultural materials with no evident stratification.

- 3 Site contains:
 - a. A larger number, but limited range of cultural materials; and/or
 - b. Some intact stratified deposit.
- 4 Site contains:
 - a. A large number and diverse range of cultural materials: and/or
 - b. Largely intact stratified deposit; and/or
 - c. Surface spatial patterning of cultural materials that still reflect the way in which the cultural materials were laid down.

Site Condition Rating

- 0 Site destroyed.
- 1 Site in a deteriorated condition with a high degree of disturbance but with some cultural materials remaining.
- 2 Site in a fair to good condition, but with some disturbance.
- 3 Site in an excellent condition with little or no disturbance. For surface artefact scatters this may mean that the spatial patterning of cultural material still reflects the way in which the cultural materials were laid.

Representativeness

Representativeness refers to the regional distribution of a site type. It is assessed on whether the site type is common, occasional or rare within a given region. Current knowledge on the number of and distribution of archaeological sites in a region can change according depending on the extent of previous archaeological investigation.

The assessment of representativeness also takes into account the contents and condition of a particular site. An example is that in any region, there may be a limited number of sites of a particular type, which have been subject to minimal disturbance. These sorts of undisturbed sites (containing in situ deposits) would therefore be given a high significance rating for representativeness.

The **representativeness ratings** used for archaeological sites are:

- 1 Common occurrence
- 2 Occasional occurrence
- 3 Rare occurrence

Overall Scientific Significance Rating

An overall scientific significance rating is assigned to the site based on a cumulative score from the assessment. This results in one of the following ratings being assigned for scientific significance:

- 1-3 Low
- 4-6 Moderate
- 7-9 High

Appendix 5: Statements of Significance

174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool

Location of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool

Primary Grid Coordinate: AGD66 Zone 54, E 632919.1, N 5752704.1.

Cadastral details are:

- Lot: 1, Title Plan: TP222898, Parish: Wangoom and County: Villiers.

Extent of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool

The extent of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool is based around three features; 1) Primary sandstone residence; the primary sandstone residence consists of an original sandstone structure (10 x 9 m with 4 x 4 m kitchen attachment) (Plate 12) and additional modern asbestos extension (4 x 2.5 m) (Plate 15). There is a large bluestone slab at the foot of the entranceway, indicative of early-mid 19th century architecture; 2) Secondary sandstone structure; the secondary sandstone structure/kitchen is located approximately 10 m east of the primary sandstone residence. This structure is approximately 4 x 3 m and comprises a corrugated tin roof (Plate 13). This structure also has a large bluestone slab at the foot of the entranceway, indicative of early-mid 19th century architecture; and 3) Wooden horse cart/buggy; this artefact is located approximately 60-80 m west of the primary sandstone residence. It is currently situated in an open paddock (Plate 14). The extent of the site has been defined on the above features and a thorough inspection for any further potential archaeological deposits.

Nature of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool

The primary function of the site as a whole would have been an agricultural residence. Residential activities would have occurred within the primary sandstone residence. Activities such as stock feeding, stock holding and agricultural storage would have occurred in the secondary sandstone structure. It is evident through thorough inspection of the site that development of structures within the site has occurred at various points in history. The wooden cart/buggy is in good condition and was believed to be used for agricultural purpose on the property it is located.

Significance of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool

For information regarding the methodology for assessing historical heritage significance, please refer to Appendix 4.

What is Significant?

174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool in Warrnambool contains the archaeological remains of a primary sandstone house structure (and associated modern extensions), horse cart/buggy and sandstone structure/kitchen.

Archaeological features include primary sandstone house structure (and associated modern extensions), horse cart/buggy and sandstone structure/kitchen. There is potential for further archaeological evidence, yet poor GSV due to thick grass has covered any evidence of this.

The site has the potential to provide information about post-contact agricultural activities in relation to the geographic region. The site also has potential to provide information about early-mid 19th century architectural construction processes and designs.

How is it Significant?

The site is of historical, scientific, aesthetic and social significance to the Warrnambool City Council, at a local level.

Why is it Significant?

The site is significant to the Warrnambool City Council for the following reasons:

174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool is of historical significance because of the representativeness of features within the site boundary. The intact sandstone structures within the site boundaries are representative of early-mid 19th century residential and agricultural structures. The primary sandstone house would have been used for residential purposes, and activities such as stock feeding, stock holding and agricultural storage would have occurred in the secondary sandstone structure. The site possesses moderate historical significance (Criterion A). The site is of moderate historical significance because of the intact structural remains yet lacks written histories surrounding the site itself.

174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool is of scientific significance because there is archaeological potential for the site. There is potential for archaeological materials to be present within the site boundary. Such potential materials could be previous pavements within the site boundary, prior landscaping, subsurface cellars and artefactual materials. The presence of intact, in situ structural remains means the site has good archaeological potential (Criterion C). The archaeological significance of the site is based solely on the intact structural content of the site. As there are no known written histories specific to the site itself, archaeological significance is based on structural and archaeological integrity of the site. Therefore, the scientific significance of the site is moderate as archaeological material remains are unknown.

174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool is of aesthetic significance because of the architectural styles of the primary residential sandstone structure and the secondary sandstone structure. The primary and secondary sandstone structures possess low-moderate aesthetic significance (Criterion E). Aesthetic significance is based on the 19th century architecture of both structures. These two structures are a good representation of architecture of the time. The architecture of both structures is predominantly intact and is at low risk of rapid deterioration and loss of structural integrity.

174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool is of social significance because the site has potential to possess significance to the local community of Warrnambool on a social level (Criterion G). Because of the estimated age of the site, there is potential for social significance and/or association with the site.

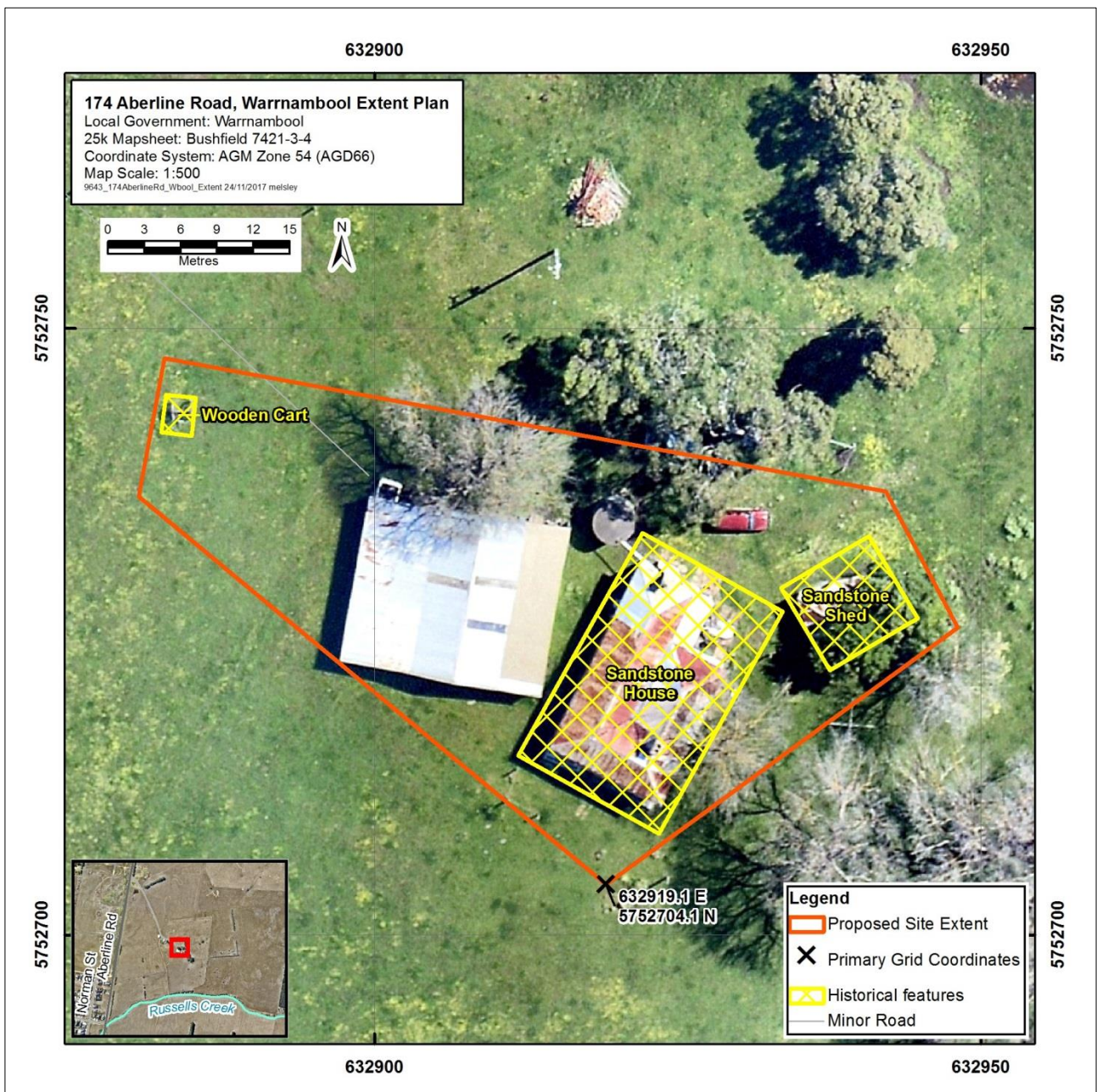


Figure 8: Extent of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool



Plate 12: View of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool facing north – primary sandstone structure.



Plate 13: View of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool facing south-east – secondary sandstone structure.



Plate 14: View of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool facing south-east – wooden horse cart.



Plate 15: View of 174 Aberline Road, Warrnambool facing south-west - primary sandstone structure with extension.

78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool

Location of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool

Primary Grid Coordinate: AGD66 Zone 54, E 633292.8, N 5751799.5.

Cadastral details are:

- Lot: 4, Title Plan: PS433295, Parish: Wangoom and County: Villiers.

Extent of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool

The extent of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool is based on five primary features;

- 1) Large wooden & corrugated tin barn; this primary footprint of this structure (8 x 4 m) is believed to have remained the same, with modern inclusions of wood and corrugated tin for structure maintenance (Plate 16).
- 2) Sandstone barn and associated wooden & corrugated tin extension with sandstone footing; this structure is south-east of the large wooden & corrugated tin barn. The sandstone barn (5 x 3 m) is believed to have been constructed prior to the associated wooden & corrugated tin extension (Plate 17). The wooden and corrugated tin extension (3.5 x 2 m) is believed to post-date the sandstone barn, yet is still believed to have been built during early-mid 19th century. The wooden & corrugated tin extension is set upon a sandstone footing..
- 3) Wooden & corrugated tin shed with sandstone footing; this structure is east of above sandstone barn. The wooden & corrugated tin shed with sandstone footing (2.5 x 2 m) is situated in the centre of the structure complex and is believed to have been used for agricultural storage (Plate 17). To the south of this structure is a modern addition, not believed to be part of the original historical complex.
- 4) Medium wooden & corrugated tin barn; this structure is situated east of all above structures (Plate 18). This structure does not have a sandstone footing, yet includes a large bluestone slab at the foot of the entranceway. The primary purpose of this barn is believed to have been for stock holding and feeding. There have been various modern additions to this structure, including metal fencing to the east and corrugated fencing to the south (Plate 20).
- 5) Bluestone paving; the bluestone runs north to south, east of the above medium wooden & corrugated tin barn. The footprint of this bluestone paving is approximately 4 x 15 m. Modern fencing has been placed at the northern and eastern boundaries of the paving (Plate 19). This bluestone paving is believed to define an entranceway into the historical structure complex from the southern and eastern pastoral paddocks.

NOTE: corrugated tin for all structures are believed to be installed post-original construction of structures 1), 2), 3) and 4) (Plate 16 to Plate 20).

Nature of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool

The primary function of the site as a whole would have been agricultural. No section of the site was used for residential purposes. Activities such as stock feeding, stock holding and agricultural storage would have

occurred in these structures. It is evident through thorough inspection of the site that development of structures within the site has occurred at various points in history.

Significance of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool

For information regarding the methodology for assessing historical heritage significance, please refer to Appendix 4.

Although it has been determined that 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool does not warrant application of a Heritage Overlay at this time, presented below is the Statement of Significance provided to Warrnambool City Council in April 2025:

What is Significant?

The archaeological site at 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool contains the structural remains of agricultural structures, believed to be constructed during early-mid 19th century.

The site is approximately 2775 m² and includes multiple features. These features include; 1) large wooden & corrugated tin barn, 2) sandstone barn and associated wooden & corrugated tin extension with sandstone footing, 3) wooden & corrugated tin shed with sandstone footing, 4) medium wooden & corrugated tin barn and 5) bluestone paving. There are no known written historical accounts for the site and the sites significance is largely based on the archaeological integrity of the site. The site is situated amongst agricultural and pastoral land which has been used for agricultural purposes since European contact and occupation

No archaeological excavations of the site have occurred to date.

The site has the potential to provide information about post-contact agricultural activities in relation to the geographic region. The site also has potential to provide information about early-mid 19th century architectural construction processes and designs.

How is it Significant?

The site is of historical, scientific and social significance to the Warrnambool City Council, at a local level.

Why is it Significant?

The site is significant to the Warrnambool City Council for the following reasons:

78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool is of historical significance as an example of an agricultural structural complex built during the early-mid 19th century. They demonstrate original design qualities for 19th century farm structures including the sandstone brickwork, sandstone footings, weatherboard and horizontal timber paling construction, and the timber doors. The site possesses moderate historical significance. The site is of moderate historical significance because of the intact structural remains, yet lacks written histories surrounding the site itself.

The site is of scientific significance because there is archaeological potential for the site. Such potential archaeological materials could be previous pavements within the site boundary, prior landscaping, subsurface cellars and artefactual materials. The presence of intact, in situ structural remains means the site has good archaeological potential. The archaeological significance of the site is based solely on the intact structural content of the site. As there are no known written histories specific to the site itself,

archaeological significance is based on structural and archaeological integrity of the site. Therefore, the scientific significance of the site is moderate.

The site is of social significance because the site has potential to possess significance to the local community of Warrnambool on a social level. Because of the estimated age of the site (early-mid 19th century), there is potential for social significance and/or association with the site

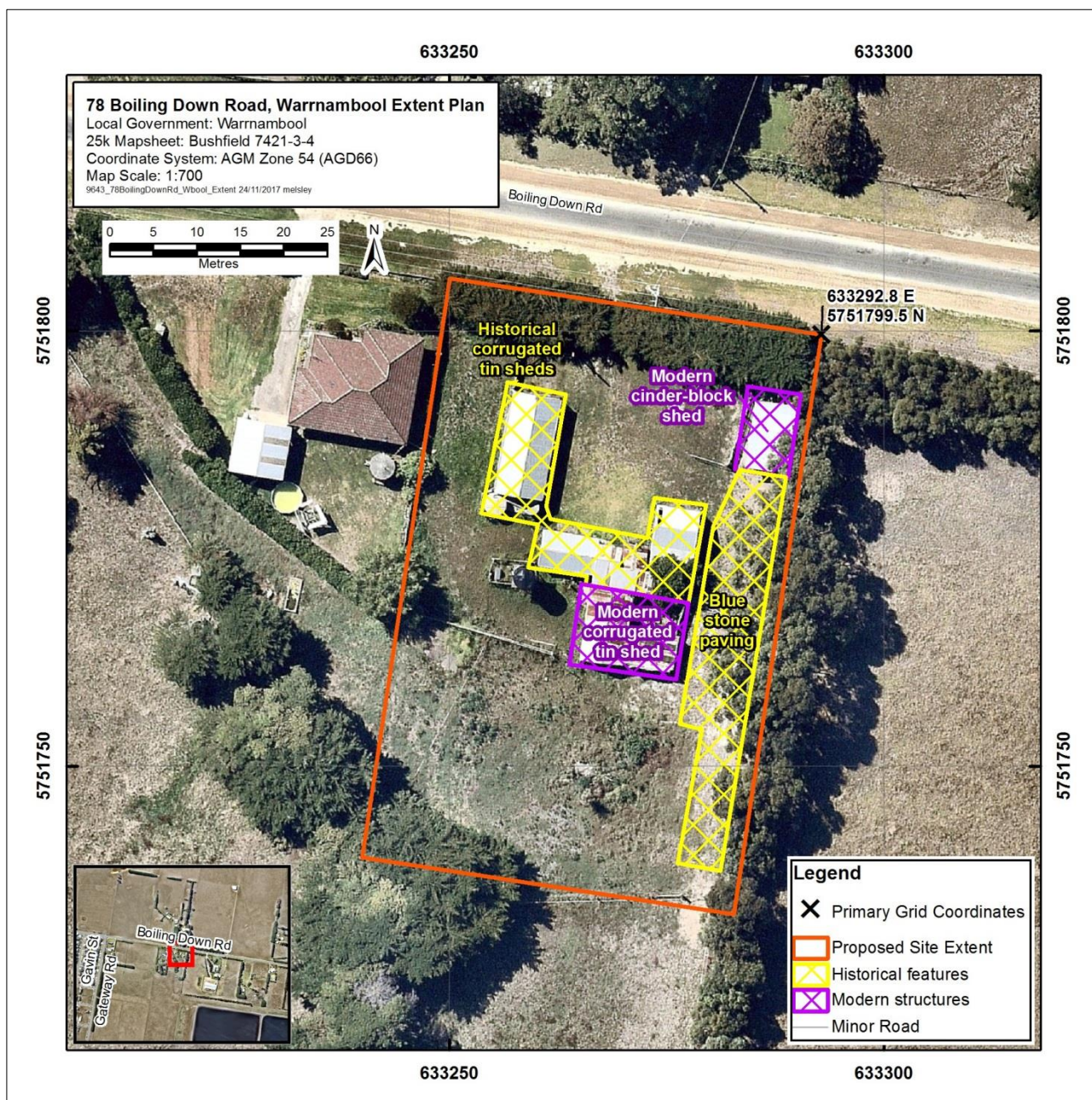


Figure 9: Extent of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool



Plate 16: View of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool facing south-east – large wooden and corrugated tin barn.



Plate 17: View of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool facing south - sandstone barn and associated wooden & corrugated tin extension.



Plate 18: View of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool facing south-east – medium wooden and corrugated tin shed.



Plate 19: View of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool facing south – bluestone pavement.



Plate 20: View of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool facing north-west – modern tin extension within site boundary.



Plate 21: View of 78 Boiling Down Road, Warrnambool facing north-east – modern cinderblock structure within site boundary.

75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool

Location of 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool

Primary Grid Coordinate: GDA94 Zone 54, E 634909.1, N 5751917.

Cadastral details are:

- Lot: 1, Title Plan: TP16326, Parish: Wangoom and County: Villiers.

Extent of 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool

The extent of 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool is a 1 m buffer on the weatherboard house facing Rodgers Road (Plates 22 – 25). Historical aerial photography and mapping indicates a dwelling in this location since at least 1942.

Nature of 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool

75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool would have been the primary residence for the early landowners of the surrounding farm land, prior to the subdivision of the lot into smaller farms. Historical aerial photography indicates that no other dwellings were present on the original lot (Section H, Lot 4), until the 1970s.

Significance of 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool

For information regarding the methodology for assessing historical heritage significance, please refer to Appendix 4.

Although it has been determined that 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool does not warrant application of a Heritage Overlay at this time, presented below is the Statement of Significance provided to Warrnambool City Council in April 2025:

What is Significant?

The weatherboard house is significant.

How is it Significant?

The site is of architectural significance to the City of Warrnambool.

Why is it Significant?

The site is significant to the City of Warrnambool for the following reasons:

The weatherboard house is of architectural significance because it is a rare, surviving example, within the area, of weatherboard house construction from the 1940s (Criterion B).

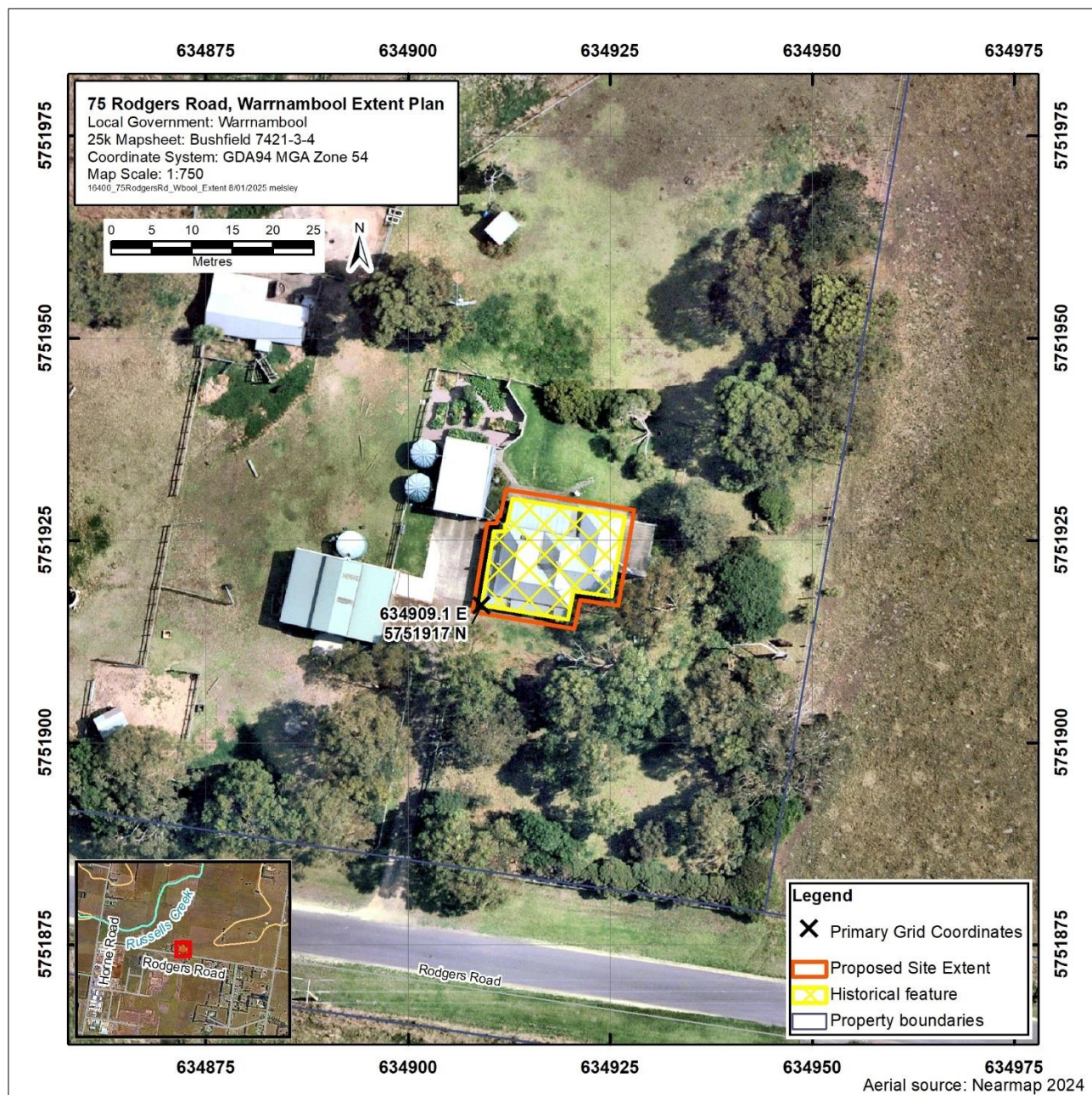


Figure 10: Extent of 75 Rodgers Road, Warrnambool



Plate 22: South elevation (front) of dwelling at 75 Rodgers Road (Photograph provided by M. Mirgholami 10.12.2024).



Plate 23: West elevation (side) of dwelling at 75 Rodgers Road (Photograph provided by M. Mirgholami 10.12.2024).



Plate 24: North elevation (rear) of dwelling at 75 Rodgers Road (Photograph provided by M. Mirgholami 10.12.2024).



Plate 25: East elevation (side) of dwelling at 75 Rodgers Road (Photograph provided by M. Mirgholami 10.12.2024).

Appendix 6: Glossary

Items highlighted in ***bold italics*** in the definition are defined elsewhere in the glossary.

Acronym	Description
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Likelihood	An area assessed by a Heritage Advisor as having potential for containing either surface or subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits. This term is used in this report to differentiate between <i>legislated areas of cultural heritage sensitivity</i> and areas considered by an archaeologist to be sensitive.
Aboriginal Place	An area in Victoria or the coastal waters of Victoria that is of cultural heritage significance to the Aboriginal people of Victoria (the Act). For the purposes of this CHMP, an Aboriginal place is an <i>Aboriginal site</i> that has been registered on the <i>VAHR</i> .
Aboriginal Site	A location containing Aboriginal cultural heritage, e.g. <i>Artefact scatter, isolated artefact, scarred tree, shell midden</i> , whether or not the site is registered in the <i>VAHR</i> , cf. <i>Aboriginal Place</i> .
Angular Fragment	An artefact which has technologically diagnostic features but has no discernible ventral or dorsal surface and hence is unidentifiable as either a flake or a core
Area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity	An area specified as an area of cultural heritage sensitivity in Division 3 or Division 4 of Part 2 of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> .
Artefact Scatter	Stone artefact scatters consist of more than one stone artefact. Activities associated with this Place type include stone tool production, hunting and gathering or domestic Places associated with campsites. Stone artefacts may be flakes of stone, cores (flakes are removed from the stone cores) or tools. Some scatters may also contain other material such as charcoal, bone, shell and ochre.
Assemblage	The name given to encompass the entire collection of artefacts recovered by archaeologists, invariably classified into diagnostic items used to describe the material culture.
Backed	When one margin of a flake is retouched at a steep angle, and that margin is opposite a sharp edge. The steep margin is formed by bi-polar or hammer and anvil knapping. Also used to describe artefacts with backing, e.g. Backed artefact.
Backed Artefact	A class of artefact employed by archaeologists to describe artefacts which are backed. Sometimes divided into Elouera, Bondi point, microlith and geometric.
Bipolar	A flaking technique where the object to be reduced is rested on an anvil and struck. This process is identified by flakes with platform angles close to 90 degrees as well as apparent initiation from both ends. Some crushing may also be visible.
Burials	Aboriginal communities strongly associate burial Places with a connection to country and are opposed to disturbance of burials or their associated Places. General considerations for the presence of burial Places are the suitability of Subsurface deposits for digging purposes; with soft soil and sand being the most likely. They are more likely near water courses or in dunes near old lake beds or near the coast. Burials are often located near other Places such as oven mounds, <i>shell middens</i> or <i>artefact scatters</i> .
Chert	A cryptocrystalline siliceous sedimentary stone.
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan . A plan prepared under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> .
Core	An artefact which has technologically diagnostic features. Generally, this class of artefact has only negative scars from flake removal, and thus no ventral surface, however, for the purposes of this research core has been employed to encompass those artefacts which were technically flakes but served the function of a core (i.e., The provider of flakes).
Cortex	The weathered outer portion of a stone, often somewhat discoloured and coarser compared with the unweathered raw material.

Acronym	Description
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water , formerly the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The Commonwealth Government department responsible for management of heritage Places on the World, National or Commonwealth Heritage lists.
Decortications	The process of removing cortex from a stone (generally by flaking).
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action . The Victorian State Government department responsible for management of natural and historical heritage in Victoria. HV , responsible for management of historical heritage in Victoria, is a part of DEECA.
Deep Ripping	The ploughing of soil using a ripper or subsoil cultivation tool to a depth of 60 cm or more (see <i>significant ground disturbance</i>).
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet . The Victorian State Government department, of which FP - SR is a part, responsible for management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria.
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)
Fabric (Heritage)	Any physical element, feature, material or finish that is associated with the heritage values in all or part of a structure, place, object, feature or site. The original heritage fabric is any such physical element that was an integral part of the original heritage site.
Feature (Archaeological)	A collection of one or more contexts representing some human non-portable activity that generally has a vertical characteristic to it in relation to site stratigraphy.
Flake	An artefact which has technologically diagnostic features and a ventral surface.
FP-SR	First Peoples - State Relations . Formerly the Office of Aboriginal Victoria, a division of DPC responsible for management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria.
High Impact Activity	An activity specified as a high impact activity in Division 5 of Part 2 of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> .
Heritage Place	A <i>registered</i> historical site listed on a heritage planning instrument that affords statutory protection to the site.
Heritage Values	The values of a heritage site that relate to its historical, social, cultural, spiritual, architectural, archaeological or technological significance.
Historical Heritage Likelihood	An area assessed by a Heritage Advisor as having potential for containing either surface or subsurface historical archaeological deposits or fabric.
Historical Site	An historical site, whether or not recorded in the VHR , VHI or other historical site database (cf. Heritage Place).
HHA	Historical Heritage Assessment . An assessment of the historical heritage values of a defined study area by a qualified heritage consultant.
HO	Heritage Overlay . A list of Heritage Places of local significance with statutory protection under a local government planning scheme.
HV	Heritage Victoria . An agency of DTP responsible for management of historical heritage in Victoria.
Isolated Finds or Artefacts	Isolated finds refer to a single artefact. These artefacts may have been dropped or discarded by its owner once it was of no use. This Place type can also be indicative of further subsurface archaeological deposits. These Place types can be found anywhere within the landscape; however, they are more likely to occur within contexts with the same favourable characteristics for stone artefact scatter Places. Isolated finds are no longer registered on the VAHR as a Place type; they now form part of an LDAD .

Acronym	Description
LDAD	Low Density Artefact Distribution. A category of <i>Aboriginal Place</i> type in the <i>VAHR</i> comprising single stone artefacts and/or distributions of multiple stone artefacts at concentrations of 10 or less artefacts in a 10 x 10 m area.
Manuport	An object which has been carried by humans to the Place.
NHL	National Heritage List. A register of heritage places, under the EPBC Act, of heritage places of national significance.
Oriented Length	Dimension measured according to the following criteria: The length of the flake from the platform, at 90° to force indicators such as ring-crack, bulb of percussion, force ripples and striations, to the opposing end. Where there were an insufficient number of features present to take this measurement, such as when the flake was broken, this variable was not recorded (sometimes referred to as percussion length).
Oriented Thickness	Dimension measured at 90° and bisecting the oriented width dimension. This was done from the ventral surface to the dorsal surface (sometimes referred to as percussion thickness).
Oriented Width	Dimension measured at 90° and bisecting the oriented length dimension. This was done from one margin to the other. As this measurement and oriented thickness, both rely on oriented length, these were not recorded where the oriented length was not recorded (sometimes referred to as percussion width).
Potential Archaeological Deposit	An area of land that was not formally assessed but is considered likely to contain surface or subsurface archaeological deposits.
Procurement	The process of obtaining raw material for reduction.
PSP	Precinct Structure Plan. A master plan to guide development in a specified section of one of Melbourne's growth areas (cf. <i>MPA</i>).
Quarries	Stone quarries were used to procure the raw material for making stone tools. Quarries are rocky outcrops that usually have evidence of scars from flaking, crushing and battering the rock. There may be identifiable artefacts near or within the Place such as unfinished tools, hammer stones, anvils and grinding stones.
Quartz	A crystalline form of silica.
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party. An Aboriginal organisation with responsibilities relating to the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage for a specified area of Victoria under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> .
Raw Material	The kind of stone the artefacts were manufactured from.
Reduction	The process of removing stone flakes from another pieces of stone. Generally, this is performed by striking (hard hammer percussion) one rock with another to remove a flake.
Registered Cultural Heritage Place	Retouch is when a <i>flake</i> is removed after the manufacture of the original flake. This sequence can be observed when a flake scar is present and encroaches over the ventral surface and thus must have been made after the initial flake removal. Recorded whether retouch was absent or present on the artefact.
Retouch	Stone quarries were used to procure the raw material for making stone tools. Quarries are rocky outcrops that usually have evidence of scars from flaking, crushing and battering the rock. There may be identifiable artefacts near or within the Place such as unfinished tools, hammer stones, anvils and grinding stones.
RNE	Register of the National Estate. A commonwealth-managed register of heritage assets; as of 2012 the RNE no longer provides statutory protection to heritage places.
Rock Shelter	A concave area in a cliff where the cliff overhangs; or a concave area in a tor where the tor overhangs; or a shallow cave, where the height of the concave area is generally greater than its depth.

Acronym	Description
Scarred Trees	It is known that the wood and bark of trees have been used for a variety of purposes, such as carrying implements, shield or canoes. The removal of this raw material from a tree produces a 'scar'. The identification of a scar associated with aboriginal custom as opposed to natural scarring can be difficult. The scar should be of a certain size and shape to be identifiable with its product; the tree should also be mature in age, from a time that aboriginal people were still active in the area.
Significant Ground Disturbance	Disturbance of topsoil or surface rock layer of the ground or a waterway by machinery in the course of grading, excavating, digging, dredging or deep ripping , but does not include ploughing other than deep ripping .
Silcrete	A silicified sedimentary stone, often with fine inclusions or grains in a cryptocrystalline matrix. Because of the nature of the grains in silcrete (a hindrance in knapping/flaking predictability) the stone is sometimes heat treated. This exposure to heat can be identified by the presence of pot-lidding as well as a 'lustre' to the stone which is otherwise absent in the stones' natural state. Exposure to sufficient heat homogenises the stone matrix and improves the knapping (flake path) predictive potential (Crabtree and Butler 1964; Mandeville and Flenniken 1974; Purdy 1974; Domanski and Webb 1992; Hiscock 1993; Domanski et al. 1994). Similar to indurated mudstone, it has also been demonstrated that silcrete from the hunter valley often turns a red colour after being exposed to heat (Rowney 1992; Mercieca 2000).
Stone Arrangements	Stone arrangements are places where Aboriginal people have deliberately positioned stones to form shapes or patterns. They are often known to have ceremonial significance. They can be found where there are many boulders, such as volcanic areas and are often large in size, measuring over five metres in width.
Taphonomy	The study of the processes (both natural and cultural) which affect the deposition and preservation of both the artefacts and the Place itself.
Technology	A form of artefact analysis which is based upon the knapping/ manufacturing process, commonly used to subsequently infer behaviour patterns, cultural-selection and responses to raw material or the environment.
Thumbnail scraper	A conceptual class of artefact employed to describe small rounded retouched flakes with steep margins (based on the classification by Mulvaney and Kamminga 1999).
VAHR	Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register. A register of Aboriginal Places maintained by FP - SR.
VHI	Victorian Heritage Inventory. A register maintained by HV that lists all known historical archaeological sites in the state of Victoria, Australia. The Victorian Heritage Inventory includes places and objects that are of potential archaeological significance but are not necessarily protected under the VHR . It serves as a planning and management tool to help identify and assess cultural heritage during development or land-use changes. Inclusion in the VHI can trigger requirements for archaeological assessments or permits under the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> .
VHR	Victorian Heritage Register. An official list maintained by HV that includes places, objects, and historic shipwrecks of State-level cultural heritage significance in Victoria. The VHR provides legal protection under the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> , and any works, changes, or developments affecting items on the register typically require a permit or approval. The register aims to ensure the conservation and responsible management of the state's most important heritage assets, including buildings, gardens, archaeological sites, and industrial heritage.
WHL	World Heritage List. A register of heritage places, under the EPBC Act, of heritage places of international significance.