Macedon Ranges Landscape Assessment

Landscape Values & Significance
Acknowledgements

The Macedon Ranges Shire has an ancient and proud Aboriginal history. Complex ownership and land stewardship systems stretch back many thousands of years. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land described in this report, and offer our respect to the past and present Elders, and through them to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

The methodology and definitions used in this report are based on those that were developed by the author and her colleagues at Planisphere Pty Ltd and the DELWP (formerly DSE and DPCD), between 2004 and 2013. This landscape assessment method (or derivatives of it) has been used in numerous award-winning studies, and has been tested in multiple panel hearings.

Thank you to Isobel Maginn (BAppSci Planning BDes Landscape Architecture) for her assistance with fieldwork and GIS mapping.
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**Introduction**

The landscapes of the Macedon Ranges Shire reveal a multi-layered and diverse narrative – reflective of the area's unique geological morphology, land use, ecology and cultural history. They include the statuesque Macedon Ranges - the defining landscape feature of the Shire; the iconic Hanging Rock with its arresting vertical pinnacles; the majestic forests of the Wombat, Lepderderg and Cobaw Ranges; the McHarg aureole and stunning granite uplands, and Mt William, with its rich Wurundjeri history.

Landscapes are significant to different people for different reasons. These reasons may include their scenic beauty, cultural heritage value, environmental qualities, or less tangible values associated with the place, such as memories or associations.

The visual values of landscape often provoke an emotional response, and this 'sense of the beautiful' that exists in the subjective territory of human perception is what makes the assessment of landscape significance so challenging and often contentious.

For the purposes of this study, landscape significance is defined as follows:

**Landscape significance is the designation of a particular landscape as special or important arising from its cultural landscape values, including visual, cultural heritage, environmental, scientific, social and other values.**

In this study, three sources of information have been used to provide a holistic understanding of the values and significance of the landscapes of the Macedon Ranges Shire:

1. Detailed field surveys (undertaken in April and May) focussing on the visual values of the landscapes of the study area.
2. Community consultation, undertaken in order to understand the number of different ways that the community appreciates and values their landscapes.
3. A review of secondary sources (existing information as opposed to new research), including cultural heritage, environmental, scientific, social and other data and documentation.

**Project Stages**

The assessment and determination of significance represents Stage 4 of the project, as highlighted below. This report is the key output from Stage 4 and forms part of a suite of reports that comprise the overall Macedon Ranges Landscape Assessment.

**Stage 1: Inception**

**Stage 2: Landscape Character Assessment**

**Output:** Landscape Character Types and Areas report

**Stage 3: Identification of Community Values**

**Output:** Community Values report (appended to Stage 4 report)

**Stage 4: Landscape Significance Assessment**

**Output:** Landscape Values & Significance report

**Stage 5: Implementation Recommendations**

**Output:** Implementation Recommendations report

**Part 1: Existing Significant Landscape Overlays** includes a description and analysis of the landscapes that are currently covered by the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme. It is understood that these overlay areas have been in place since the old planning scheme was translated into the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) format, approximately 20 years ago. Recommendations relating to each SLO area have been made.

**Part 2: Landscapes of Significance** outlines the methodology for determining landscape significance, and levels of significance. A set of definitions and criteria are provided and explained. A detailed assessment and rating of the landscapes of significance follows.

**Part 3: Views of Significance** outlines the methodology for determining the significance of views, and the level of significance for those views. A list of selection considerations is provided for deciding on viewing locations, together with a set of definitions and assessment criteria. A detailed assessment and rating of views of significance follows. Notable views (that are available from viewing locations that did not meet the selection considerations) are also listed and briefly described.

**Part 4: Community Values Report** documents work undertaken during Stage 3 of the project is also appended.
Part 1: Existing Significant Landscape Overlays
Existing Significant Landscape Overlays

The Significant Landscape Overlay is currently in place in 16 locations across the Macedon Ranges Shire. There are two Schedules - SLO1 Mountain Ranges and Features and SLO2 Ridges and Escarpments - applying to the significant landscape areas.

The landscapes and landscape features currently covered by the overlay are significant (to varying degrees) and the SLO should be retained. In all cases:

- The SLO boundaries require review and justification. The locations of the current SLO areas are based on roads, cadastral boundaries and zoning rather than on the extents of the significant landscape or the landscape feature itself. In relation to determining suitable boundaries for the SLO, recent Panel findings have concluded that the overlay curtilage should be informed by features of landscape significance and visibility, rather than a cadastral base.

- A full assessment of landscape values and significance is required for all existing SLO areas (refer to the following section of this report). In order to prepare comprehensive and instructive schedules for the SLO areas, a significance assessment using best practice methodology is required to be undertaken for each landscape, or landscape feature. This will confirm what is significant, how it is significant and will attribute, and provide justification for, a level of significance for each landscape area.

- New and additional schedules to the SLO are required. The current two schedules attempt to cover a broad range of landscape types, of varying levels of significance. Many landscapes that are covered by the SLO are not referenced or described in the corresponding schedule, and in one case a landscape is noted and described in detail (Mt Bullengarook) but not covered by the overlay. The content of the schedules requires a complete re-draft, which is possible only after a full assessment of significance and detailed fieldwork.

The two current SLO schedules and the landscapes they cover are described and illustrated on the following pages.
1. SLO1 Mountain Ranges and Features

Schedule 1 to the Significant Landscape Overlay covers seven separate landscape areas across the Shire, and describes the Macedon Ranges as a “significant natural landmark feature of Victoria.” The ranges are also described as providing for forestry, recreation and tourism, and as containing a large collection of culturally important gardens. Other landscape features that are listed and described in the schedule are Mt Macedon itself, the Cobaw Ranges, Mt Bullengarook (which is not actually covered by the SLO) and Hanging Rock.

Two landscape objectives are included:

- “To preserve and enhance significant landscape features.
- “To promote the siting and design of buildings and works including the choice of building materials, that are responsive to the landscape character of the site.”

Four application requirements are included in the schedule, including reference to the Macedon Ranges Cultural Heritage and Landscape Study (1994) and the Statement of Planning Policy No. 8, Macedon Ranges and Surrounds (1975), and the requirement to provide a design response statement and landscape plan.

A series of decision guidelines are also outlined, relating to issues such as tree clearing, soil erosion and mitigating the visual impact of any proposed development, including road works.

The seven landscape areas that are currently mapped and covered by SLO1 are described on the following pages. The corresponding maps show the existing SLO in red and the Landscape Character Areas in blue.

1.1 Wombat Forest and Interface

**Landscape Area 1.1 Wombat and Lerderderg Forests**

This overlay area is located at the western edge of the municipality, in the vicinity of Blackwood North and Ashbourne. It covers part of the State Forest, and the low density / hobby farm interface (Rural Conservation Zone) with the forest. The boundaries of the SLO are cadastral based i.e. along property boundaries and roads, as opposed to reflecting the extent of native vegetation cover and/or landform. This overlay area is not described or referenced in the schedule.

**Recommendation:** The boundaries of this SLO area should reflect the landscape feature itself and its significance i.e. topography and native vegetation cover, and the extent of the State Forest. A separate schedule should be prepared for the protection and management of this landscape area and it should be combined with the Lerderderg State Park significance area.
12 Lerderderg State Park

Landscape Area 1.1 Wombat and Lerderderg Forests

This overlay area covers part of the Lerderderg State Park located between the Bullengarook plateau and Gisborne South. It does not in fact cover Mt Bullengarook or Little Bullengarook, despite their specific mention and description in the overlay schedule.

Recommendation: The boundaries of the SLO are cadastral based but should reflect the full extent of the significant and heavily forested Lerderderg State Park. An assessment of Mt Bullengarook and Little Bullengarook is also required, and a separate SLO should be applied to these landscape features. The Lerderderg State Park landscape area should be covered by the same schedule as for the Wombat Forest and interface.
1.3 Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock

Landscape Areas 1.4 Macedon Ranges and 1.5 Newham Rises

The overlay covering the Macedon Ranges is extensive, and as well as Mt Macedon, encompasses Mt Charlie, Mt Towrong, Mt Eliza, Mt Kerrie, Mt Teneriffe, Mt Robertson, the Black Range, Brock Monument and Hanging Rock. Again, the overlay boundaries follow zones, roads and property boundaries, rather than the elements that define the significant landscape i.e. topography, break of slope and vegetation cover. Mt Macedon and Hanging Rock are specifically mentioned and described in the schedule, but the other features are not referenced. Brock Monument has been described as a ‘landscape feature’ (together with Mt Macedon, Hanging Rock and Camels Hump) in the Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement Consultation Draft (December 2017).

Recommendation: Again, the boundaries of this SLO area should be based on the extent of the significant landscape features themselves, rather than being dictated by a cadastral base, or arbitrary lines on a map. A new schedule should be prepared for this highly significant landscape, and due to the relationship between the Macedon Ranges (and surrounding features) and Hanging Rock, and the views of/from the features to each other (and therefore the importance of the landscape in between), they should remain in one SLO area.
1.4 Cobaw Ranges

_Landscape Area 1.6 Cobaw Ranges_

This overlay area applies to the majority of the heavily vegetated Cobaw Ranges, covering public land and the adjacent Rural Conservation zoned areas. While the steepest parts of the ranges are covered, its full extent and foothills are not. As with other SLO areas in the Shire, the overlay boundaries follow roads and property boundaries, rather than taking in the full extent of the significant landscape.

**Recommendation:** The overlay area should be reviewed and extended to encompass the entire significant landscape area, and the full extent of the mountain range to the north, east and west. The location of native vegetation cover should also inform the overlay boundaries. A separate schedule should be prepared for this significant mountain range.
1.5 Black Hill Reserve and surrounds

Landscape Area 1.7 Granitic Uplands

Black Hill Reserve (also known as Langley Bushland Reserve) is located to the north east of Kyneton and is included in this SLO area, together with surrounding parcels of farmland. This hill and reserve is significant as part of the metamorphic aureole of the McHarg Ranges and includes sculptural granitic boulders, formed by erosion. This unique landscape is not referenced in the schedule, and the SLO area is again based on cadastral lines.

Recommendation: Black Hill forms part of the broader McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands landscape, known for its unique geology and clusters of spherical weathered granite. It should therefore form part of a new, larger significant landscape area based on the geographical and topographical extents of the McHarg Ranges. A new schedule is required for this overlay area, which should also encompass the cluster of hills adjacent to Baynton Road, to the south (described next).

1.6 Baynton Road hills

Landscape Area 1.7 Granitic Uplands

This SLO area covers a collection of hills either side Baynton Road, to the east of Kyneton. The hills form the southernmost part of the McHarg aureole and the landscape is characteristic of the broader granitic uplands area. Once again the overlay area is rectangular and based on roads and property boundaries as opposed to the features of the landscape, and the collection of hills is not referenced in the SLO schedule.

Recommendation: These hills form part of the wider granitic uplands landscape, and should therefore be encompassed in the aforementioned new McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands SLO area.
1.7 Golf Course Hill, Woodend

Landscape Area 2.2 Campaspe Plains

SLO1 on adjacent maps.

This small SLO area covers part of the volcanic cone known as Golf Course Hill at the northern entrance to the township of Woodend. The overlay location is based on zone and property boundaries, and includes part of the Woodend Golf Club and Rural Conservation and Rural zoned land immediately to the north. The north-east and south-west extremities of the volcanic cone itself are not covered by the existing SLO. The overlay area does not include the Avenue of Honour, which is protected by the Heritage Overlay (and is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register). Golf Course Hill is not referenced or described in the SLO1 schedule.

Recommendation: This SLO area should include the full extent of the landscape feature i.e. Golf Course Hill and its setting. A new schedule is required to cover this and other significant volcanic cones and rises throughout the Shire.
2. SLO2 Ridges and Escarpments

Schedule 2 to the Significant Landscape Overlay covers nine separate landscape areas or features across the Macedon Ranges Shire. It describes ridgelines and escarpments as “significant and environmental features” of the Shire. It describes these landscapes as including moderate to steep hills “which form a transitional region between the true highlands and flatter plains.” Features listed and described in the overlay schedule include the Jim Jim and Mt Gisborne (neither of which are best described as ridges or escarpments). In fact, all of the landscape features that are covered by this SLO are volcanic cones or eruption points, most of which are not noted or described in the schedule.

The landscape objectives outlined in the schedule are:

- “To ensure that the siting and design of buildings and works in rural areas (including the choice of building materials) is responsive to the landscape character…"

- “To maintain vegetation on escarpments and ridgelines for its landscape value.”

- “To control the location and visual impact of buildings by requiring adequate setbacks from cliff tops, ridgelines and other prominent areas.”

Six application requirements are included in the schedule, including the requirement to provide justification for any clearing of vegetation and details for re-vegetation. The application requirements also stipulate that a building must not be constructed within 10 metres of a ridgeline, unless no alternative is available.

A number of decision guidelines are included, covering the effect of the proposed development on the landscape, skyline profile and scenic views, and consideration of "visual sequences along access routes."

The nine landscape areas that are mapped and covered by the SLO2 are:

2.1 The Jim Jim

**Landscape Area 1.5 Newham Rises**

The Jim Jim is located between the Macedon Ranges and the Cobaw Ranges, to the north of Hanging Rock. It is a notable volcanic eruption point in Victoria, its steep sides and hummocky dome forming a distinctive landmark in the area. While one section of this overlay area aligns with a property boundary, the remainder is not cadastral based and covers the majority of the steeper parts of the landscape feature. The Jim Jim and overlay area is entirely within private Rural Conservation zoned land.

Recommendation: For clarity and to ensure that the entire landscape feature is covered by the overlay, the SLO boundaries should follow the topography (preferably a specific contour), with consideration of vegetation and views. A new schedule is required for this distinctive landscape feature, together with the other significant cones and rises throughout the Shire.
2.2 Mt Gisborne

Landscape Area 2.1 Rural Living

Mt Gisborne is described in the SLO2 schedule as an ancient volcano, and regional landmark. It is noted that vegetation clearing has accentuated its form, but that buildings and exotic trees on the higher slopes are detracting from its significance. This is not aided by the fact the SLO is located only on the very top of the hill, encircled by Mt Gisborne Road and Woodland Drive, taking in Mt Gisborne Reserve and adjacent rural living properties.

Recommendation: The SLO boundaries of this regional landmark should encompass the entire volcanic feature, based on topography with consideration of break of slope, visibility and views. A full assessment of the values and significance of Mt Gisborne should inform the contents of a new SLO schedule.
2.3 Mt Aitken

Landscape Area 2.1 Rural Living

Mt Aitken is a small but prominent volcanic cone located in Gisborne South, and is visible from the Calder Freeway. It is located in a public reserve, and the overlay boundaries follow the Public Park and Recreation Zone boundaries. Despite its significance as one of the best examples of an eroded volcano in the region, Mt Aitken is not referenced in the SLO schedule.

Recommendation: The boundaries of the SLO that cover this prominent cone should be revised to follow the feature itself as opposed to the PPRZ parcel only. The SLO schedule for Mt Aitken should include information gathered from a full significance assessment of the feature, and should include other cones and rises of similar characteristics and significance level.
2.4 Rochford Road cone, Lancefield

*Landscape Area 1.5 Newham Rises*

The Rochford Road cone is a volcanic rise located south of the Lancefield Number Two Reservoir. It is visible when travelling out of Lancefield, as it rises out of relatively flat agricultural land. The current SLO boundaries do not appear to be based on cadastral lines or the location of the feature, and only partially cover the volcanic cone.

Recommendation: A full assessment should be undertaken to determine the significance (and significance level) of this volcanic rise, and the SLO boundaries should cover the extent of the cone, based on topography/break of slope. This cone should be included in the new ‘cones and rises’ SLO schedule.

2.5 Melbourne Hill, Lancefield

*Landscape Area 2.3 Lancefield and Romsey Plains*

Melbourne Hill is located south of Lancefield, next to the Melbourne-Lancefield Road. As a result, it is highly visible to passing traffic and is a local landmark. It is largely cleared of vegetation, which exaggerates its dome like form. The current SLO is based on cadastral boundaries and covers only the western half of the volcanic rise.

Recommendation: The SLO boundaries should be revised to cover the full extent of the landscape feature, and a significance assessment is required. It is logical that Melbourne Hill be included in the new SLO schedule for similar significant volcanic features.
2.6 Joyces Road cone, Romsey

Landscape Area 2.3 Lancefield and Romsey Plains

The Joyces Road cone is a relatively tall volcanic rise, located immediately south of the Springfield Hills at the edge of the volcanic plain. The current SLO has been partially determined by cadastral boundaries, and does not cover the entire feature, currently missing the south facing slope.

Recommendation: A full assessment is required of this volcanic cone in order to determine the level of significance, and to better inform the SLO schedule. Again, this volcanic rise should be grouped with similar landscape features in the same schedule, and the new SLO boundaries should reflect the extent of the significant landscape feature.
2.7 Woodend North cone

Landscape Area 2.2 Campaspe Plains

Refer to maps on p. 13 (SLO2).

The Woodend North cone is located west of the Calder Freeway, just north of Russells Road. It rises out of paddocks in the volcanic plains landscape, and is highly visible to passing traffic. The current SLO boundaries partially follow a cadastral base, but almost completely miss the feature itself.

Recommendation: The SLO boundaries need review and should reflect the extent of the significant volcanic rise, based on topography/break of slope and visibility. A full significance assessment should inform the contents of the new ‘cones and rises’ schedule, in which this volcanic feature should be included.

2.8 Anzac Road (south), Mt Towrong

Landscape Area 1.4 Macedon Ranges

Refer to maps on p. 10 (SLO2).

This SLO area appears to be cadastral based, taking in a parcel of Rural Conservation zoned land on the western face of Mt Towrong, adjacent to Willimigongon Creek, and abutting the Macedon Regional Park. It is a heavily forested area, and it is completed surrounded by SLO1.

Recommendation: This SLO should be removed, and the parcel should be included within the broader Macedon Ranges significant landscape area.

2.9 Magnet Hill, Gisborne North

Landscape Area 2.1 Rural Living

Magnet Hill is located on the north-eastern side of the Gisborne / Calder Freeway intersection. It is a small volcanic hill that has been largely covered with low-density residential development, with the exception of its south-western face.

Recommendation: The SLO boundaries of this overlay, while they are cadastral (zone) based, cover the extent of the landscape feature from the break of slope. A significance assessment should inform the contents of the new ‘cones and rises’ schedule, into which this feature should be incorporated.
Part 2:
Landscapes of Significance
Determining Landscape Significance

Five cultural landscape values are included in the definition of landscape significance and an assessment of these values has been used to determine the significance of the landscapes throughout the study area.

1. Visual values

The visual or aesthetic values of landscape relate to an appreciation of their scenic beauty, and should include the consideration of all human senses and responses. An indicator of visual or aesthetic value may also include depiction of the landscape in poetry or artwork, such as painting or photography.

In order to determine the overall visual value of landscapes, three landscape components have been assessed:

Landscape features

A landscape feature is a topographic element or prominent landmark such as a headland, mountain range or volcanic cone that is visually dramatic and provides the landscape with its ‘wow factor’. The prevalence or concentration of a particular landscape attribute or vegetation type e.g. weathered granitic boulders, a stand of River Red Gums, a proliferation of dry stone walls etc. may also be classified as a landscape feature.

In order to assess landscape features within a landscape, the following criterion has been developed, which informs the determination and level of significance:

The landscape is distinctive or inspirational for its landscape feature or features that attract the viewer and may provoke an emotional response.

Edges or contrasts

Edges or contrasts include the point of intersection between two landscape elements e.g. the coastline (the point at which water meets land); the edge of a forest or a lake; the boundary between vegetation types or different landscape types; the intersection between a mountain range and a plain; an incised valley etc. The existence of edges or contrasts in the landscape provides visual diversity, a quality associated with scenic value.

In order to assess edges and features within a landscape, the following criterion has been developed:

The landscape is aesthetically compelling for its edges or contrasts that provide visual variety and interest for the viewer.

Composition

The composition of a landscape is its make-up or configuration, including arrangements or patterns of colour, textures, features etc. and the form, scale and unity of these and other elements.

In order to assess composition, the following criterion has been developed:

The landscape has outstanding compositional qualities, the combination of which achieve a unified whole, and provide the setting or subject of notable views.

While consideration of all cultural landscape values is important, visual values are weighted most highly, and are the basis for determining the significance of landscapes in a study such as this.

This is because the end-point of a landscape assessment study is the protection and management of a significant landscape – it is about the visual impact of development on a significant landscape, and what is appropriate to be seen based on the landscape’s visual qualities. In short, the purpose of a landscape assessment study is to manage the visual impact of development on a visually significant landscape.

Also, in most landscape assessment studies including this one, primary research into historic, environmental, scientific, social or other values is not undertaken, therefore the designation of a landscape as significant on these bases alone should not be attempted.

Primary fieldwork and the exercising of professional judgment are undertaken in relation to visual values only. It has been well-established in previous landscape assessments that for a landscape to be classified as significant, it must have aesthetic or visual value.

With this in mind, it is also important to note that while the determination of visual significance is the primary consideration in landscape assessments, landscape significance is not only visual. The special qualities of a landscape may also be linked to many other responses including memories, personal experiences, knowledge and associations – it is a challenging and often contentious exercise as the human emotional response to aesthetic beauty is a subjective matter, rather than a precise science.
Determining Landscape Significance

2. Cultural heritage values

Cultural heritage value encompasses the history of the landscape both pre and post contact, and often underpins other landscape values. It may be that the landscape is associated with an important historical event, figure or theme, and visual evidence may or may not be evident.

For the purposes of this study, no primary research into cultural heritage values was undertaken. Rather, it was concluded from existing documentation or secondary sources such as the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register, the Victorian Heritage Register, the National Heritage List, the application of the Heritage Overlay in the planning scheme, and other material such as historic photos, maps etc.

3. Environmental & scientific values

Environmental and/or scientific value relates to the biological conditions or natural attributes of the landscape, including flora and fauna habitats, archaeological, geological attributes etc.

Secondary sources used to determine environmental and/or scientific value included the Ramsar Convention, the use of the Environmental Significance Overlay in the planning scheme, and the existence of National, State or regional parks.

4. Social Values

Social value relates to a landscape being associated with a community of cultural group, and may traverse cultural heritage value. A landscape may have social value as an important local landmark, or because it relates to the identity of a community, or it may have spiritual meaning to a particular group. Determination of social value also includes consideration of the landscape as a tourism destination.

Secondary sources used to determine social value include Tourism Victoria and Tourism Australia information, and various other publications.

5. Other values

The final category encompasses any other value that is relevant to the significance of the landscape and may include economic value, for example.
Levels of significance

1. Visual values

In order to determine a level of significance for each landscape, the following rating considerations have been applied to the aforementioned landscape components (landscape features, edges or contrasts and composition):

Exemplary

How representative or illustrative is the landscape (and its features, edges or contrasts, and composition)? Is it the ‘best’ of its type? Is it exemplary within the local, regional or state context?

Iconic

Is the landscape (and its features, edges or contrasts, and composition) instantly recognizable? Is it symbolic for its visual qualities? Has the landscape been represented in art, photography, literature etc.? Is it iconic within the local, regional or state context?

Scarce

How uncommon, rare or endangered is the landscape (and its features, edges or contrasts, and composition)? Is it scarce within the local, regional or state context?

Significance levels

Levels of significance have been attributed to each landscape component, and an overall significance level in relation to visual value has been determined. The significance levels are:

- Moderate = local significance
- High = regional significance
- Exceptional = state significance or higher

The final determination of the visual significance level does not rely on the number of ‘moderate’ or ‘high’ ratings. Rather, for example, if a landscape is rated ‘high’ in one or more of the landscape components, that level is the overall significance rating attributed to the visual values of that landscape. (Just as the usual standard for listing a place on a heritage register, for instance, is that the place meets one or more of the set criteria.)

For the purposes of this study, an emphasis has been placed on the most significant landscapes of the Shire. That is, detailed significance assessments have been undertaken for those landscape areas that were likely to be of high (regional) significance or greater. An exception to this is some of the volcanic cones and rises that required a full assessment of significance due to their existing SLO status. Further, those landscape features have been considered slightly differently to other landscape areas, as they form a collection or ‘complex’ of cones and rises, that together, are considered to be of high (regional) significance.

2. Other landscape values

Levels of significance were attributed to other landscape values i.e. cultural heritage, environmental and scientific, social and other values, based on the stated level of the significance in the secondary source, or based on the source itself e.g. a landscape that forms part of the Victorian Heritage Register logically has cultural heritage values of state significance.

For the purposes of this study, which prioritises visual values, a landscape cannot be classified as significant for its cultural heritage, environmental, scientific, social or other values alone.

In order for a landscape to be classified as significant, it must have visual value.

A map depicting the significant landscapes that are fully assessed in this report is included on the following page.

A summary list of significant landscapes (and their determined significance levels) is provided at the conclusion of this section of the report.
Landscape significance areas for assessment

Legend
- Municipal Boundary
- Township Areas
- Existing BLO
- Significant Landscape Areas

Macedon Ranges Landscape Assessment
Landscape Significance Areas
Landscapes of significance

1. Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock

- Landscape Areas 1.4 Macedon Ranges and 1.5 Newham Rises
- Existing SLO? Yes, SLO1 Mountain Ranges and Features
1. Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock

Visual significance assessment

Landscape features

The Macedon Ranges rise abruptly from the surrounding landscape, their ancient and heavily vegetated form dominating near and distant views. They are the defining landscape feature of the Shire and are exemplary within the state context. From its highest elevation at Camels Hump, views to the north feature Hanging Rock (Angeyonol), one of the most prominent and well-known volcanic landform features in Victoria, if not Australia. Its arresting vertical pinnacles and circumjacent woodland contrast dramatically with the surrounding rural landscape, and provide an aesthetically stunning scene. Spectacular views are available over this farmland, and back to Mt Macedon (Gebur or Geburrh), this reciprocal visual relationship elevating the significance of both features.

While Mt Macedon itself with its war memorial cross is perhaps the most recognisable peak in the ranges, there are many other iconic mountains and landscape features that form the wider massif, including Mt Towrong, Mt Charlie, Mt Eliza, and others. Also part of the range is Brock Monument, a volcanic eruption that formed along with Camels Hump and Hanging Rock during the New Volcanics period. Further, the whole range forms the southern tip of the Great Dividing Range, the most expansive and iconic mountain range in Victoria.

The striking mamelon of Hanging Rock creates a distinctive and iconic silhouette. Traditional Owners have lived around Hanging Rock for more than 26,000 years, and it was an important inter-tribal meeting place and significant landmark on the boundary of three different Aboriginal tribes – the Wurundjeri, Taungurung and Dja Dja Wurrung. Both the Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock have been extensively represented in art, literature and music from as early as the 1850s, adding further to their symbolism and inspirational status within the state and national context.

Exemplary? The Macedon Ranges are an exemplary landscape feature within the state context, and are the defining landscape asset of the Shire. Hanging Rock is one of the most prominent landforms of its type in the state.

Iconic? The Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock are both distinctive and inspirational landscape features that evoke a strong emotional response. They are iconic within the state context.

Scarce? A geological eruption of the type that created the majestic form of the Macedon Ranges, and the subsequent weathering and new volcanic activity that resulted in the pinnacle formation of the Camels Hump and Hanging Rock is uncommon and rare in the state context.

Landscape features significance rating: Exceptional

Edges or contrasts

The thickly vegetated landform of the Macedon Ranges contrasts sharply with the adjacent agricultural landscape, as do the spectacular vertical pinnacles and woodland of Hanging Rock. These aesthetically compelling landscape features are diverse and complex, and both include visual evidence of volcanic activity. In the case of Hanging Rock, cooling of the geological formation produced numerous vertical features, which have subsequently weathered to form a remarkable visual collection of obelisks, craggy overhangs, small caverns and boulders on the slopes of the rock. Within the ranges, further edges and contrasts exist in the form of numerous valleys, creeks and waterways that dissect the mountainous landscape.

The vegetation of the Macedon Ranges provides further visual complexity, with a widely diverse range of plant species occurring in a very condensed zone. These native forested areas contrast further still with the historic gardens and street trees of Mt Macedon, featuring mature exotics that provide striking autumnal displays, a reminder of the European influence on the landscape.

Exemplary? There are many visual edges and contrasts that occur throughout the Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock landscape that are compelling and are considered exemplary within the state context.

Iconic? The distinct edges of the Macedon Ranges rising up from the surrounding volcanic plain contributes to the stature and gravitas of the landscape feature. Similarly, it is the dramatic vertical pinnacles emerging from the adjacent farmland, and the contrast between these edges, that make Hanging Rock instantly recognisable. Both are iconic within the state context.

Scarce? The edges and visual contrasts described are unique to the Macedon ranges and Hanging Rock landscape and are considered scarce within the state context.

Landscape edges significance rating: Exceptional

Composition

The visual composition of the Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock, both as individual landscape features, and together, constitutes an outstanding natural landscape that provides the setting and subject of many notable views. Of particular note are the views available from a number of high points on Mt Macedon, including the spectacular panoramic outlook from Camels Hump across the hills and rises of the agricultural middleground, and featuring Hanging Rock and the Jim Jim, before terminating at the thickly forested Cobaw Ranges. The elevated areas of Hanging Rock also provide stunning panoramas, across the adjacent eucalypt woodland and patchwork of paddocks towards the Jim Jim, with the Cobaw Ranges on the horizon.
The Macedon Ranges, and particularly Mt Macedon itself, are visible from across the Shire from vast distances, and in all directions. The imposing mountainous form is the subject of, and backdrop to, numerous views and vistas. Both landscape features have distinctive and recognisable silhouettes, with Hanging Rock creating an iconic outline on the horizon when viewed from a distance, particularly at sunrise or sunset.

Exemplary? The composition of the landscape and the views it affords is considered exemplary within the state context.

Iconic? It is the views of the Macedon Ranges that contribute a strong sense of place for locals and visitors alike. Similarly, views of Hanging Rock are captivating and unmistakable. Further, the panoramic views from both landscape features, and between them, are considered iconic within the state context.

Scarce? The subject matter and make-up of the landscape features, their visual and physical relationship, and the views available within, from and to the landscape are considered scarce within the state context.

Landscape composition significance rating: Exceptional

Visual significance rating: Exceptional
Other landscape values

Cultural heritage values

- Aboriginal people from the Gunung willam balug (Clark 1990: 354-5) camped on the high ground of the ranges, and used these vantage points to protect their territory and monitor weather and hunting conditions. *Source: Aboriginal Victoria, and Parks Victoria, via the Central Victoria Landscape Assessment Study (2015)*

- The ‘Macedon Cross’ is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (H1027) but refers to the original Cameron Memorial Cross, which was dedicated in 1935, and has since been replaced. The Macedon Avenue of Honour, comprising 154 Pin Oak trees and associated memorial cairns, is also listed (H2344) and is considered of historical and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria. *Source: Victorian Heritage Register (VHR)*

- A number of historic houses and gardens of Mt Macedon are of state significance and are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. These include ‘Alton’ (H0872), ‘Bolobek’ (H11316), ‘Karori’ (H2281), ‘Duneira’ (H2204) and ‘Fountainbleau’ (H1980) the former residence of Frederick McCubbin who painted the iconic ‘The Pioneer’ (1904) in the bush near the house. *Source: VHR*

- Mt Macedon has significance as a directional landmark, including to Major Thomas Mitchell, the first European to climb the peak in 1836. After sighting Port Phillip Bay from the southern aspect of the peak, Mitchell named it Mount Macedon as reference to Philip II of ancient Macedonia. *Source: Parks Victoria*

- Mt Macedon is also home to an eight-metre-high survey cairn, which was built in the 1860s as a location point for land surveys. It is one of only three mortared stone Geodetic Triangulation Cairns in Victoria. *Source: Parks Victoria*

- Hanging Rock is located at the intersection of the tribal lands of the three Aboriginal groups that are the Traditional Owners of the Macedon Ranges Shire landscapes – the Wurundjeri, Taungurung and Dja Dja Wurrung, and the cultural and spiritual associations with the land remain essential to the identity of the First Peoples. *Source: Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) area maps*

- Hanging Rock has always been a sacred place for its Traditional Owners. When Europeans settled the region, vast numbers of the local Aboriginal population died or were forcibly removed from their land. In 1863, any remaining Aboriginal people were relocated to the Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve (Healesville). *Source: ‘What Really Happened at Hanging Rock’ by Amy Spiers*  

- Hanging Rock and the surrounding reserve is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (H2339) and is of historical, aesthetic and social significance to the State of Victoria. This includes the significance of the place to its Indigenous people as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions. *Source: VHR*

- The distinctive geological formation of Hanging Rock has attracted visitors since the 1860s for picnics, entertainment and recreation, and has a long association with horse racing in Victoria since that time. *Source: VHR*

- The Macedon Ranges, including Hanging Rock, are also listed on the National Trust Heritage Register (L10133). *Source: National Trust*

Environmental and scientific values

- Hanging Rock is an unusual volcanic eruption point for Victoria both in terms of its form and rock composition. The site is an important teaching and reference site to illustrate the influence of lava type on volcano form and is the best example of its type in Victoria. *Source: Geological Society of Australia, Victorian Division*

- The Macedon massif is significant as an ancient mountain range formed during the Devonian Period, and for its complex geology, which includes evidence of folding, uplifting, erosion and further volcanic activity, including the extrusion of Camels Hump in the late Tertiary Period. *Source: Various geology publications (refer bibliography)*

- The Macedon Ranges contain condensed zones of diverse vegetation, only found extensively in the eastern Victorian highlands, and normally at much higher altitudes. These include a woodland of Snow Gum (E.pauciflora) at Mt Macedon and Camels Hump, of considerable botanical interest. *Source: Parks Victoria and macedonrangeflora.wordpress.com*

- A number of flora and fauna reserves are located within the Macedon Ranges, including the Mt Charlie Flora Reserve (including Mt Teneriffe), Conglomerate Gully Flora Reserve, T-Hill Flora Reserve, Barringo Reserve and Stanley Park, which contain a wide diversity of plant communities, made possible by the different aspects, altitudes and soils. *Source: Parks Victoria and macedonrangeflora.wordpress.com*

- The heavily forested ridgeline of the Macedon Ranges is protected as Macedon Regional Park under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.*
The heritage, environmental and vegetation significance of the Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock are recognised in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme through the application of the Heritage Overlay, Environmental Significance Overlay and Vegetation Protection Overlay throughout the landscapes. Source: Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme

Social values

Hanging Rock’s mysterious associations reached international audiences through the classic 1967 Joan Lindsay novel and Peter Weir’s film ‘Picnic at Hanging Rock’.

The Victorian State Government in partnership with Traditional Owners and the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, has prepared a draft Localised Planning Statement to ensure that the “state significant landscapes and the environmental and cultural values of the Macedon Ranges are protected…”

The Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock are key Victorian tourism destinations for artisan food and wine, the Mt Macedon heritage gardens, hiking and sightseeing. Visit Victoria promote Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges together as a tourism region, and for the 2017 calendar year the region received 945,000 domestic visitors and 104,700 international visitors, contributing a total of approximately $345 million to the local economy. Source: Daylesford and Macedon Ranges Regional Tourism Board

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1 Victoria State Government (DELWP), Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement Consultation Draft, December 2017, p. 5
Landscapes of significance

2. Wombat and Lerderderg Forests

- **Landscape Area 1.1 Wombat and Lerderderg Forests**
- **Existing SLO?** Yes, SLO1 Mountain Ranges and Features (Only part of the landscape.)
2. Wombat and Lerderderg Forests

Visual significance assessment

Landscape features

The Wombat and Lerderderg Forests area is characterised by a landscape of diverse and hilly topography, blanketed in thick native vegetation. These forest areas form part of the Great Dividing Range, and present as a heavily vegetated green backdrop to numerous views in the southern part of the Shire. The topography of the landscape contrasts dramatically with the adjacent volcanic plains to the north and east, and contains features such as textured ridges, steep gorges and a variety of indigenous vegetation. The diversity of fauna species reflects the change in rainfall across the landscape, and spans damp fern gullies to dry open woodland.

Exemplary? Apart from its diverse topography, including the Pyrete Range of the Lerderderg, the key feature in this significant landscape area is the vegetation cover. The landscape is part of one of the largest forested areas in Central Victoria and provides a link between the foothill forest of the Great Divide and the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands further north. The Wombat forest area is considered the ‘best’ of its type within the regional context and the Lerderderg State Park area is considered exemplary within the state context.

Iconic? These heavily forested landscapes are well known, primarily within the regional context, and are considered symbolic for their visual features at the regional (Wombat) to state (Lerderderg) level.

Scarce? The history of forest clearing and the impacts of urban encroachment render this largely intact area of native forest scarce and endangered at the regional to state level.

Landscape features significance rating: High to exceptional

Edges or contrasts

The edges or contrasts throughout the Wombat and Lerderderg landscapes are found in the vast variety of plant species and the diverse landforms, providing visual variegation throughout. This is most notable in the Lerderderg forest area, with the dramatic topography of the Pyrete Range. The landscape in both areas also forms a heavily forested edge to the cleared and semi-cleared areas that encircle it.

Exemplary? Together with the topographical edges, including ridges and deep gorges, the visual contrasts within these forested landscapes are found in the 176 or more fauna species, which result in exceptional aesthetic diversity throughout. This scenic value, of regional (Wombat) to state (Lerderderg) significance, is heightened during late winter and spring with stunning wildflower displays.

Iconic? The forests of the Wombat and Lerderderg area form a heavily vegetated edge to the semi cleared rural living areas around Ashbourne and the volcanic plateau of Bullengarook. This characteristic backdrop is considered iconic in a regional context.

Scarce? The history of forest clearing and the impacts of urban encroachment render this largely intact area of native forest scarce and endangered at the regional to state level.

Landscape edges significance rating: High to exceptional

Composition

The Wombat and Lerderderg Forests landscape is composed of diverse topography, incised by numerous waterways and swampy flats, and an incredible range of native vegetation communities, reflecting the differing climatic conditions from north to south. The thick forest cover provides a stunning backdrop to many views in the southern areas of the Shire, including the vista from Mt Gisborne, across the volcanic plain to the edge of the Lerderderg in the west. The entire forested edge provides a scenic backdrop to the rural living and farming landscape adjacent.

Exemplary? The Wombat and Lerderderg Forests area has outstanding compositional qualities, both from a broader landscape point of view and in relation to the collection of textures and colours in the diverse geomorphology and vegetation. It is considered exemplary at a regional (Wombat) to state (Lerderderg) level.

Iconic? The visual qualities and composition of these forest areas are iconic at a regional level.

Scarce? The diverse and intact composition of native plant species combined with the dramatic topography, particularly of the Lerderderg State Park area, make this landscape scarce at a regional (Wombat) to state (Lerderderg) level.

Landscape composition significance rating: High to exceptional

Visual significance rating: High (Wombat) to exceptional (Lerderderg)
Cultural values

Cultural heritage values

• The Wombat State Forest in the western section of this significant landscape is part of the Dja Dju Wurrung tribal land, and the eastern part of this landscape, including the Lerderderg State Park, is Wurundjeri tribal land. Aboriginal occupation of this area has occurred over thousands of years, and the landscape and its cultural and spiritual associations remain essential to the identity of its Traditional Owners.

Environmental and scientific values

• The significance of the Wombat and Lerderderg landscapes are recognised at a state level by their classifications as a State Forest and State Park respectively.

• The geology of the Lerderderg State Park is of state significance for its Ordovician rocks and the overlaying Permian glacial deposits and Tertiary basalt. Source: VRO, Agriculture Victoria

• The wider Lerderderg State Park is significant for containing the headwaters of the Lerderderg, Campaspe and Loddon Rivers. Source: Conservation Values of the Wombat Forest and Macedon Region (Conservation Values report, refer bibliography)

• A notable feature in the Lerderderg is the extent of mineral springs caused by volcanic activity in the region, which account for approximately 80% of Australia’s mineral springs.

• A number of swampy sediment flats that occur in the Wombat Forest are considered an endangered landscape feature. Source: Conservation Values report

• The Vegetation Protection and Environmental Significance Overlays (VPO and ESO) are in place throughout this landscape, recognising the significance of the water catchments, roadside vegetation, wildlife corridors, Yarra Gums and living forest areas. Source: Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme

• The Lerderderg-Wombat area was recognised by the Land Conservation Council in 1985 as being “…the largest and most varied of a number of forests scattered through north-central Victoria, all of which are now isolated from each other by cleared land” and considered the area to have a “…high capability for nature conservation”. Source: Land Conservation Council, Victoria 1985

• As most of the landscape is public land, the Lerderderg and Wombat Forests both contain a high level of native vegetation cover, including upwards of 176 fauna species. There are at least 13 threatened EVCs within the Wombat Forest alone.

• The forests are a haven for birds and other wildlife, including koalas, Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies and echidnas. The endangered Wedge-tailed Eagle also nests in the tall trees in the gullies.

Social and other values

• The parks attract visitors for picnicking, bush walking, camping, car touring and bird watching. Source: Parks Victoria

• The biodiversity of the region attracts both residents and visitors, and underpins a local economy based largely on tourism and agriculture. Source: Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Overall significance level

The Lerderderg Forests landscape is of state significance.
The Wombat Forests landscape is of regional significance.
Landsca"es of significance

3. Cobaw Ranges

- Landscape Area 1.6 Cobaw Ranges
- Existing SLO? Yes, SLO1 Mountain Ranges and Features
3. Cobaw Ranges

Visual significance assessment

Landscape features

The heavily forested granitic range of the Cobaw is a well-known landscape feature of the region. It comprises diverse topography including rolling hills and long, steep projections of elevations up to around 700 metres. It was formed by volcanic activity approximately 350 million years ago. The thick forest of the range is highly visible from long distances and forms a native green backdrop to many significant views.

Exemplary? As a landscape feature, the topographic formation of the Cobaw Range, with its dense vegetation and scattered granitic boulders is exemplary within the regional context.

Iconic? While a relatively low mountain range, its contrast with the surrounding cleared farmland, together with its dense vegetation cover, makes the Cobaw Ranges highly visible and an iconic feature in the landscape within the regional context. Its association with Burke and Wills adds to its symbolic qualities.

Scarce? The granitic formation of the Cobaw batholith is considered uncommon in the regional context – together with the Macedon Ranges, it is a very ancient volcanic formation. The scatterings of granitic boulders throughout the open woodland provide unique points of difference from the better-known Macedon Ranges.

Exemplary? There are many visual edges or contrasts that occur across the Cobaw Ranges landscape that are aesthetically compelling and are considered exemplary within the regional context. These include, but are not limited to, the break of slope itself and the native vegetation cover.

Iconic? The highly visible and recognisable forested edge of the Cobaw, and its location between two distinctly different landscapes i.e. the granitic uplands and the volcanic rises around Newham, is considered iconic within the local to regional context.

Scarce? The native woodland cover of the ranges includes some species that are classified as depleted or vulnerable. Together with the unique granitic scatterings, these textural elements are considered rare within the local to regional context.

Landscape features significance rating: High

Edges or contrasts

The irregular topography of the Cobaw Ranges provides a visually interesting contrast to the flat to gently undulating surrounding landscape. The thick forest cover also provides a stark visual contrast with the largely cleared agricultural farmland adjacent.

Exemplary? The landscape features and edges of the Cobaw Ranges combine to achieve a visually interesting whole, which provides a backdrop to many notable views. The composition of the landscape is considered exemplary within the regional context.

Iconic? Of particular significance are the views to the Cobaw Ranges from the south and south eastern high points of Mt Macedon and the Mt William ridge, across the rolling agricultural landscape to the wall of dense forest. Also of note are the views from and within the Cobaw ranges themselves, including the experience of travelling through the tall timbers of the woodland on the Burke and Wills Track, and the scenic vistas from the local wineries. The role of the Cobaw Ranges in these views and their contribution to their composition is iconic within the local to regional context.

Scarce? The composition of this landscape and the types of views it affords are not uncommon regionally, particularly when compared to the Macedon ranges themselves, but are considered to be locally significant.

Landscape composition significance rating: Moderate to high

Visual significance rating: High

Composition

The composition of the Cobaw Ranges has elements that set it apart from other mountain ranges in the region. These include its location between landscapes of very different character, and the existence of granitic outcrops and weathered boulders, together with the colours and textures of the native woodland. Its thick forest makes the ranges a highly visible backdrop or feature of views from across the Shire.

Exemplary? The landscape features and edges of the Cobaw Ranges combine to achieve a visually interesting whole, which provides a backdrop to many notable views. The composition of the landscape is considered exemplary within the regional context.
Other landscape values

Cultural heritage values

- The Cobaw Ranges are located on the tribal lands of two of the Aboriginal groups that are the Traditional Owners of the Macedon Ranges Shire landscapes – the Wurundjeri and the Taungurung. The occupation of the area by Aboriginal people extends over thousands of years, and its associations extend to spiritual attachments.

- On 23 August 1860, the Burke and Wills expedition reached Lancefield, and then travelled through the Cobaw Ranges on the same route that is now named after the famed explorers. Source: Sydney Morning Herald

Environmental and scientific values

- During a geological period known as the Late Devonian Period, granitic complexes intruded into the Ordovician sediments in the northern part of the Shire forming the granitic outcrop known as the Cobaw batholith, which is visible as the Cobaw Range. Source: VRO, Agriculture Victoria

- The Cobaw Ranges are significant for their heavy coverage of open forest woodland, with common crown cover including Messmate, Manna Gum, Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Yellow Gum and to a lesser extent, Mountain Ash. The understorey is dominated by Silver Wattle, Blackwood and Black Wattle with a ground cover of Bracken Fern and native grasses such as Kangaroo grass. The Langley Bushland Reserve, managed by Parks Victoria, exists in the Ranges. Source: VRO, Agriculture Victoria

- While the Cobaw State Forest was historically used for timber production, forestry has now ceased and the majority of the area is publicly owned and protected as an important environmental resource. Source: State Govt

- The ecological significance of the Cobaw Ranges is recognised in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme through the application of the Environmental Significance and Vegetation Protection Overlays (ESO & VPO). Source: MRS Planning Scheme

- The Cobaw Ranges is a habitat for threatened fauna such as the Powerful Owl and Tuan. Source: MRRA and MRSC

Social and other values

- The Cobaw State Forest is a popular location for trail and mountain bike riding, and other recreational pursuits such as hiking. There is also a rifle range on private property within the area. Source: MRRRA

- The Cobaw Ranges area is well known for its viticulture, and is a popular destination for food and wine enthusiasts. It was the first area in Australia to commercially produce wine from the Lagrein grape variety. Source: MRSC

Overall significance level

The Cobaw Ranges landscape is of regional significance.
Lands of significance

4. McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands

- **Landscape Area 1.7 Granitic Hills**
- **Existing SLO?** Yes, SLO1 Mountain Ranges and Features (Only over Black Hill and granitic hills either side of Baynton Road, east of Kyneton.)
4. McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands

Visual significance assessment

Landscape features

The McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands area consists of many stunning landscape features, including the rolling hills of the range itself – a volcanic aureole that encircles the Cobaw and has withstood erosion over millions of years. Also a product of geomorphological processes, are the scatterings of granitic boulders throughout the landscape – visually arresting sculptural formations, eroded by spheroidal weathering, that together with the cleared hills and relative isolation, give the landscape an ‘other worldly’

dollar character.

Exemplary

The landscape feature of the McHarg Ranges is very distinctive for its amphitheatre form, related to its geology and erosion, and for the prevalence or concentration of sculptural granitic rocks throughout the wider landscape. It is considered an exemplar within the regional context.

Iconic

While lesser known than the iconic Macedon Ranges or Hanging Rock, the undulating hills, stands of remnant Eucalypts, and sculptural boulders of the granitic uplands are a unique collection of landscape features and are considered iconic regionally. The Monolith at Black Hill, one of the largest spherical weathered boulders in the state, is a visually striking and particularly iconic landscape feature.

Scarce

While similar granitic uplands landscapes exist elsewhere in the state and region (this landscape extends eastwards into the Mitchell Shire), the size and prevalence of the weathered boulders and their relationship with the McHarg aureole makes this landscape scarce within the regional context.

Landscape features significance rating: High

Exemplary

The topographical and textural differences across the McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands landscape result in a visually variegated and highly unique locality that is exemplary within the regional context.

Iconic

The forms and colours of the landscape, and particularly the weathered granitic boulders, have been represented in many artworks, and are considered symbolic within the regional context.

Scarce

As described, the McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands landscape extends eastwards, and is not considered uncommon or endangered at a state level. However, the granitic ranges and scattered granitic boulders are the only example of such a landscape in the Shire, and their association with the McHarg Ranges elevates them to being regionally scarce.

Landscape edges significance rating: High

Composition

The McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands is composed of a disparate collection of vastly different forms, textures and geological features. This landscape diversity results in an unusual but highly scenic locality that is the setting and subject of extraordinary views and vistas.

Exemplary

The McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands area has outstanding compositional qualities, both as a broader landscape and in relation to the collection of colours and textures in the cleared paddocks and hills, rocky outcrops and vegetation. The composition of the landscape is considered a regional exemplar.

Iconic

The visual composition of the landscape is considered iconic within the local to regional context, and is the subject of numerous scenic vistas, predominantly from within the landscape to other hills and peaks of the McHarg, and close views of captivating granitic formations. The heavily forested Cobaw Ranges provides a contrasting backdrop to many of the vistas available from within the landscape.

Scarce

The unusual composition of landscape features within the granitic uplands is certainly scarce at a local level, and the existence of the unique McHarg aureole elevates the scarcity of the composition to regionally significant.

Landscape composition significance rating: High

Visual significance rating: High
Other landscape values

Cultural heritage values

• Aboriginal people occupied the landscape many thousands of years ago and have a spiritual connection to the landscape and landscape features. The McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands are located on the tribal lands of one of the Aboriginal groups that are the Traditional Owners of the Macedon Ranges Shire landscapes – the Taungurung.

• The landscape and its granitic formations have long been recognised as unique, as evidenced in this description in the McIvor Times in 1912: “Situated about 7 miles from Heathcote in a south-easterly direction, is a spot, the scenic beauties of which, at this time of the year stand above all other in a class of their own. Here nature has decked in floods of pink and white, in wonderful yet orderly confusion, the family hills of Tooborac. She has contrasted the product of her mightiest powers – those rugged and stupendous eminences of the Tooborac Range – with her most delicately fashioned artistic handiwork.”

Environmental and scientific values

• The environmental and remnant vegetation significance of the landscape is recognised in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme through the application of the Environmental Significance and Vegetation Protection Overlays (ESO and VPO). Source: Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme

• The landscape is significant for its unique geology, including the metamorphic aureole of the McHarg Ranges, and the Baynton Granodiorite terrain. Source: VRO, Agriculture Victoria

• The geologically significant sculptural boulders of granite that are evident across the landscape are a product of millions of years of erosion, known as spheroidal weathering. Source: VRO, Agriculture Victoria

• Black Hill reserve contains possibly the largest weathered granitic boulder in Victoria, known as ‘The Monolith’. Source: Various locally produced papers and essays (refer bibliography)

• The McHarg Ranges are known to be a migratory path for bird species including the Swift Parrot (en route to the Box-ironbark Forests and Woodlands further north), and home to the endangered Wedge-tailed Eagle (four eyries are said to exist in the ranges). Source: Submission on windfarms by local resident (and sculptor) David Maughan

Social and other values

• Many artists are drawn to the McHarg Ranges and surrounds for inspiration, and many artists’ studios are located within this landscape. Artists who have depicted the landscape in painting or sculpture include Drew Gregory, Ted May, Peter Russell-Clarke, Deborah Wright, Max Meldrum, Les Kossatz and David Maughan.

Overall significance level

The McHarg Ranges and Granitic Uplands landscape is of regional significance.
Landscapes of significance

5. Mt William (Wil-im-e Moor-ring) Ridge and Deep Creek

- Landscape Area 1.8 Mt William Ridge and Deep Creek
- Existing SLO? No
5. Mt William (Wil-im-ee Moor-ring) Ridge and Deep Creek

Visual significance assessment

Landscape features

This landscape of significance at the eastern edge of the Shire comprises the iconic Mt William ridge and the foothills of the range extending south and west, where they meet the dramatically incised Deep Creek gully. The terrain is very steep in areas, particularly where it drops off at its western edge at Deep Creek, and this combination of a high ridge, rolling hills and a steep descent into a flowing creek makes this a visually captivating landscape. The cultural heritage significance of the Mt William ridge and its connection to ancient tribal processes of the Wurundjeri adds a powerful dimension to the significance of the place.

Exemplary? The landscape features of Mt William Ridge and Deep Creek gully, together with the rolling foothills of the range are exemplary within the region. The Mt William Range is visual evidence of a unique geomorphological process, which produced its unique ‘greenstone’ geology, and the existence of remnant woodland vegetation on many of the hilltops adds further to its visual significance.

Iconic? The long crested ridgeline of Mt William is an uncommon geomorphological landscape feature, which is iconic at a regional level. It is distinctive for its form and height (approximately 700 metres), and is visible from across the Shire, providing a terminating backdrop to many long range views. The demarcation of the edge of the volcanic plain by Deep Creek gully is considered equally iconic.

Scarce? A geological formation such as the Mt William ridge and the adjacent foothills and deep, steep gully is considered uncommon and rare in the regional context.

Landscape features significance rating: High

Edges or contrasts

The Mt William ridge and deep creek landscape area occurs at an ‘edge’ or transition point between landscape character types - the volcanic plain terminates dramatically at Deep Creek and the landscape beyond could not be more contrasting. Other visual contrasts or edges that occur in the landscape include the numerous additional incised watercourses and gullies, lined with remnant native trees, and the contrast between the cleared rolling hills in parts, and the heavily forested hilltops in others.

Exemplary? The many and varied visual edges that occur throughout this landscape make it aesthetically compelling at a regional level. These elements in the landscape – the ridge, hills, gullies and native vegetation, and particularly the majestic River Red Gums – provide visual variety and interest and add to the overall scenic beauty of the landscape.

Iconic? The Mt William Ridge and Deep Creek landscape forms an iconic edge between the Lancefield and Romsey Plain and the hilly uplands to the east, and is considered iconic within the regional context.

Scarce? Some of the visual contrasts and edges described occur throughout the region, however, the distinctive formation of the Mt William ridge and the close proximity and visual relationship between the contrasting landscape features makes this type of landscape uncommon overall, at the regional level.

Landscape edges significance rating: High

Composition

The unique arrangement of landscape features and its existence at the edge of the volcanic plain, makes for numerous stunning views, both from and to the Mt William ridge and Deep Creek area. These include from the Lancefield and Romsey Plains eastwards to the range and rolling hills, and from the high points of the Mt William ridge westwards, over classic agricultural landscape.

Exemplary? The unique features and concentration of edges within this significant landscape combine to achieve a visually interesting whole, which provides the setting and subject of notable views. The composition of the landscape is considered exemplary within the regional context.

Iconic? Of particular note are the views from the townships of Lancefield and Romsey, and the adjacent plains towards the east, where the rolling hills climb to the pinnacle of Mt William ridge. When mist hangs over the valley, these views are described as even more atmospheric and are cherished by the local community. Also of significance are the outviews from the high points of the Mt William Range, over the agricultural land and volcanic cones in the west, and as far as other iconic landscapes including the Cobaw Range and Mt Macedon. These views are considered iconic at a regional level.

Scarce? The composition of the landscape and the types of views that it affords are considered uncommon at a regional level.

Landscape composition significance rating: High

Visual significance rating: High
Other landscape values

Cultural heritage values

- The Mt William Ranges are located on the tribal lands of one of the Aboriginal groups that are the Traditional Owners of the Macedon Ranges Shire landscapes – the Wurundjeri.

- The Mt William stone hatchet quarry is on the National Heritage List (Place ID 105936). It is noted as exceptional in the course of Australia’s cultural history. Source: Australian Heritage Database (AHD)

- The greenstone hatchet heads from Wil-im-ee Moor-ring were highly sought after and Aboriginal people travelled great distances for them, bringing items to trade. As a result Mt William became one of the most intensively worked quarries in south eastern Australia. Source: AHD

- Detailed ethnographic records exist outlining custodial control of the quarry by Billi-billeri of the Wurundjeri. Such a record is uncommon in Australia and makes this a place of outstanding significance. Source: AHD

- In 2012 the Macedon Ranges Shire Council formally transferred the land title, ownership and management of Mt William back to its Traditional Owners. The Wurundjeri Tribe Land Cultural Heritage Council now own these lands permanently to ensure their preservation. Source: MRSC

- At the quarry area itself, there are 268 pits and shafts, some several metres deep. There are also 34 discrete production areas where the stone was shaped into hatchet heads. Source: AHD

Environmental and scientific values

- The geology and geomorphology of the Mt William range is considered extremely complex – too complex to map in detail. In summary, it is composed of Cambrian rock, with the ridge being of Cambrian metabasalt ‘greenstone’. On the western side of the landscape, there are hills of chert and black shale with colluvial fans from both the Quaternary and Tertiary age. Source: VRO, Agriculture Victoria

- The dominant vegetation species found on the crest of the Mt William ridge include Narrow-leafed Peppermint, Broad-leafed Peppermint, Manna Gum, Messmate and Long-leafed Box. These species, along with Swamp Gum and Candlebark occur on the side slopes. On the drainage depressions, Manna Gum, Swamp Gum, Candlebark and River Red Gum occur in woodland formation. Source: VRO

- The Environmental Significance and Vegetation Protection Overlays (ESO and VPO) are in place throughout the landscape, indicating the significance of the environment, roadside vegetation and wildlife corridors. Source: Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme

Social and other values

- In 2012 the Wurundjeri Council collected stone from the quarry to make axes with which to build a Koorong (canoe) from a River Red Gum at Plenty Gorge to continue practising their traditional culture. Access to the quarry requires the permission of the Wurundjeri Council. Annual public excursions to the site are usually arranged, associated with the Lancefield Megafauna Festival. Source: aboriginalhistoryofyarra.com.au

Overall significance level

The Mt William ridge and Deep Creek landscape is of regional significance.

“For the Wurundjeri community the natural world is also a cultural world; therefore the Wurundjeri people have a special interest in preserving not just their cultural objects, but the natural landscapes of cultural importance. The acknowledgement of broader attributes of the landscape as cultural values that require protection (encompassing, among other things, a variety of landforms, ecological niches and habitats as well as continuing cultural practices and archaeological material) is essential to the identity and wellbeing of the Wurundjeri people.”

Source: Wurundjeri Tribal Council website
6. Volcanic Cones and Rises

This ‘landscape of significance’ is better described as a collection of landscape features comprising individual volcanic cones and rises that occur throughout the study area, primarily within the Central Volcanic Plains Landscape Character Type.

Much of the Macedon Ranges Shire landscape has been shaped by volcanic activity and this is evidenced by the existence of some of the most iconic volcanic cones and rises to be found in the region. These volcanic features emerge dramatically, mostly from the open and slightly undulating volcanic plains. Many of them are visible on the horizon from long distances, and are compelling and fascinating reminders of ancient volcanic activity.

The cones and rises included in this volcanic complex are:

- The Jim Jim
- Mt Bullengarook and Little Bullengarook
- Mt Gisborne
- Mt Aitken
- Golf Course Hill and surrounds, Woodend
- Melbourne Hill, Lancefield
- Rochford Road cone, Lancefield
- Joyces Road cone, Romsey
- Woodend North cone
- Magnet Hill

Depicted on this map: Melbourne Hill, the Rochford Road cone and the Joyces Road cone
Landscapes of significance

6. Volcanic Cones and Rises

Depicted on this map: Mt Bullengarook, Little Bullengarook, Mt Gisborne, Mt Aitken and Magnet Hill (in New Gisborne)
Landscapes of significance

6. Volcanic Cones and Rises

Depicted on this map: Golf Course Hill, the Jim Jim and the Woodend North cone
6. Volcanic Cones and Rises

Visual significance assessment

Landscape features, edges or contrasts and composition

2.1 The Jim Jim

- **Landscape Area**: 1.5 Newham Rises
- **Existing SLO?** Yes, SLO2 Ridges and Escarpments
- **Height**: 740m above sea level and 170m from break of slope

The Jim Jim, which is located between Hanging Rock and the Cobaw Ranges, is the largest trachyte dome in the region. It is steeply sided and hummocky, and partially blanketed in Eucalypt woodland. The adjacent landscape has been cleared for farming and hobby farms are scattered around its perimeter. Its protrusion out of the contrasting agricultural landscape, together with its partial coverage in remnant vegetation, results in it being a visually interesting and distinctive landmark within the study area.

The Jim Jim is visible from key viewing locations such as Camels Hump and Hanging Rock, and forms an important part of the composition of those significant vistas. Due to its height and contrast with the surrounding landscape, it can also be seen from greater distances, including the main road corridors of the Calder Freeway and Melbourne-Lancefield Road.

**Iconic?** While perhaps not immediately recognisable outside the local area, the visually complex Jim Jim, at a height of approximately 170m, is a well known and unique volcanic landmark within the Shire, and is iconic within the local context.

**Scarcely?** While a number of other volcanic features exist throughout the Shire and region, the Jim Jim is uncommon for its size, irregular circumference and hillocky form. It is scarce within the regional context.

**Visual significance rating: Moderate to high**
2.2 Mt Bullengarook and Little Bullengarook

- **Landscape Area 2.5 Bullengarook Plateau**
- **Existing SLO?** No, though specifically mentioned in SLO2 schedule
- **Height:** 670m ASL and 140m BOS (Mt Bullengarook) and 600m ASL and 80m BOS (Little Bullengarook)

The rounded volcanic cones of Mt Bullengarook and Little Bullengarook are located at the edge of the eastern most part of the Lerderderg State Park. The lava flow from Mt Bullengarook caused an elevated plateau (Bacchus Marsh Road runs centrally atop this), which extends southwards to Bacchus Marsh. Post-eruption incision at the edges of the flow has formed deep twin lateral streams, being Goodmans Creek and Pyrites Creek. Little Bullengarook is almost entirely cleared, and Mt Bullengarook is partially cleared, with some scattered remnant woodland vegetation atop and around its periphery.

**Exemplary?** Mt Bullengarook is the highest volcanic cone of this type in the local area, and the eruption point is a prominent rounded landscape feature that contrasts with the linear ridges of the surrounding Lerderderg Ranges. These qualities make it significant in the regional context. Little Bullengarook is considered significant within the local context.

**Iconic?** The form of Mt Bullengarook and Little Bullengarook are not dissimilar to the other volcanic cones in this complex and across the region. They are recognisable and considered iconic within the local context.

**Scarce?** While scoria accumulations of this size are a rare geological phenomenon, volcanic cones of this type are not uncommon in the region. It is important however, that large cones such as Mt Bullengarook are recognisable as ancient volcanic features, and remain largely undeveloped. As such, Mt Bullengarook and Little Bullengarook are considered endangered (or rare) in the local context.

*Mt Bullengarook visual significance rating: Moderate to high
Little Bullengarook visual significance rating: Moderate*
2.3 Mt Gisborne

- **Landscape Area 2.1 Rural Living**

- **Existing SLO?** Yes, SLO2 Ridges and Escarpments

- **Height:** 630m ASL and 130m BOS

The ancient volcano vent of Mt Gisborne sits approximately four km south of the township of Gisborne. It is a prominent landscape feature and local landmark due to its elevation above the relatively flat volcanic plain, and includes an endangered Scoria Cone Woodland (Mount Gisborne Reserve) at the crest of the hill. Remnant native vegetation is scattered elsewhere, together with large basalt boulders, rocky crevices and two distinctive vents. Low density residential development has encroached on the upper slopes, together with associated exotic vegetation.

Many spectacular outlooks are available from the upper slopes of Mt Gisborne, including iconic views of the Melbourne city skyline to the south, and distant views across Gisborne to the Macedon Ranges northwards. Panoramas across the patchwork of volcanic farmland are available to the east, and towards the heavily vegetated Lerderderg State Park in the west.

Glimpses of the northern slopes of the volcanic cone are available from the higher points within Gisborne, but a sense of its presence and containment of the township is strong. Mt Gisborne is also visible from the Calder Freeway, and together with Mt Aitken, marks the transition from urban to rural.

**Exemplary?** Due to its height and prominence, and the existence of visually interesting textures and edges across its surface i.e. evidence of volcanic activity and remnant vegetation, Mt Gisborne is considered an exemplar within the regional context.

**Scarce?** An endangered woodland exists on Mt Gisborne, including a flora species of national importance. The form and 'naturalness' of the volcanic hill is also under threat from low density residential development. As such, Mt Gisborne is considered endangered and scarce within the regional context.

**Iconic?** The volcanic cone of Mt Gisborne is readily identifiable, and closely associated with the landscape character of the township of Gisborne. Spectacular panoramas are also available from its upper reaches, including views of other iconic landscape features e.g. Mount Macedon and the Melbourne city skyline. It is an iconic landscape feature within the regional context.

**Visual significance rating:** High
2.4 Mt Aitken

- **Landscape Area 2.1 Rural Living**
- **Existing SLO?** Yes, SLO2 Ridges and Escarpments
- **Height:** 500m ASL and 50m BOS

At less than half the height of Mt Gisborne, Mt Aitken is a small but prominent volcanic hill, highly visible from the Calder Freeway and set within a rural living landscape. It is asymmetrical in form, with a steep southern face and visually prominent parallel lava ridges. It has a flattened summit, caused by erosion, with evidence of a lava flow sloping to the north and west, and down to the level of the surrounding plain. Mt Aitken is largely cleared, which exacerbates its volcanic cone form, and part of the feature is public land.

Spectacular distant views are available from Mt Aitken to the Melbourne CBD southwards, and panoramas over farmland to the east.

**Exemplary?** The prominent form, contrasting surface textures and visual evidence of unusual volcanic processes contribute to Mt Aitken being exemplary within the local to regional context.

**Iconic?** While Mt Aitken is relatively small, it is visually prominent due to its location adjacent to the Calder Freeway, and the fact that it is largely cleared of vegetation. It is more widely known due to its associations with historical figure John Aitken, and the VHR listed homestead and ruins nearby. It has also been depicted in artwork, and the public land at its apex makes it accessible and a viewing location for a number of notable views. Mt Aitken is iconic within the local to regional context.

**Scarce?** Geologically, Mt Aitken is uncommon for demonstrating a stage in volcanic landform development that is not widely represented. This translates to it being a rare landscape feature, and therefore scarce within a regional context.

**Visual significance rating:** Moderate to high
2.5 Golf Course Hill

- **Landscape Area 2.2 Campaspe and Loddon Plains**
- **Existing SLO?** Yes, SLO1 Mountain Ranges and Features
- **Height:** 620 ASL and 40m BOS

Golf Course Hill is a prominent volcanic rise at the northern entrance to Woodend. Together with the Avenue of Honour, it is an important part of the gateway experience to the township from the north. It is also important as the point of transition between two Landscape Character Types – the Central Volcanic Plain, which characterises the landscape to the north of the settlement, and the Uplands which occurs from this point, southwards.

The volcanic cone itself is grassy and largely cleared of native vegetation. There is evidence of volcanic activity on the surface of the hill, with rocky depressions and ledges high up on its eastern face. The Woodend Golf Course occupies the majority of the higher slopes of the volcanic cone, with manicured fairways and exotic vegetation. The heavily forested southern side of the hill, which is overrun with ivy and other invasive species, forms part of the forested backdrop to Woodend, when viewed from the south.

The lower northern slopes of the hill are partially cleared paddocks with important stands of remnant Eucalypt woodland. This northern foreground setting to Golf Course Hill is equally significant in providing open views to the hill from the north, and as a key element in the transition from the open rural landscape, north of the settlement to the more built up township.

Spectacular vistas are available from Golf Course Hill, over the vegetation and rooftops of the township towards the Macedon Ranges in the south east, and Hanging Rock and the Jim Jim to the north east. Long range outviews are also available to the north and across the volcanic landscape to the heavily vegetated Cobaw Ranges.

**Exemplary?** The association of Golf Course Hill with the Avenue of Honour and the gateway experience into Woodend, together with its undeveloped northern setting, which includes remnant woodland vegetation, makes it an exemplar within the regional context.

**Iconic?** Due to its prominent location, surrounding landscape and proximity to the Woodend township, Golf Course Hill is instantly recognizable locally and considered iconic within the local to regional context. This rating is further reinforced by its accessibility and the spectacular panoramas available from its high points to landscape features of state and regional significance.

**Scarce?** Golf Course Hill and its surrounding landscape and associations are unique and uncommon when compared to other volcanic features within this complex. It is considered scarce within the regional context.

**Visual significance rating:** Moderate to high
2.6 Melbourne Hill

**Landscape Area 2.3 Lancefield and Romsey Plains**

**Existing SLO?** Yes, SLO2 Ridges and Escarpments

**Height:** 570m ASL and 70m BOS

Melbourne Hill is located to the south of Lancefield, adjacent to the Melbourne-Lancefield Road. It has a relatively broad, oval footprint and is smooth and rounded at its apex. It is largely cleared of vegetation, which exaggerates its dome-like form. Melbourne Hill is a local landscape feature and is highly visible due to its proximity to one of the key north-south routes through the Shire. It is set among farmland used for grazing, and exotic shelter belts decussate its perimeter.

**Exemplary?** Melbourne Hill is a relatively undeveloped, picturesque and highly visible cone, and is exemplary within the local context.

**Iconic?** Being highly visible from the main road in and out of Lancefield, Melbourne Hill is a well known local landmark. It is considered iconic within the local context.

**Scarce?** As one of a collection of volcanic cones in the Shire, Melbourne Hill is not uncommon. However, its undeveloped and ‘natural’ state makes it vulnerable and scarce within the local context.

**Visual significance rating:** Moderate
2.7 Rochford Road cone

- **Landscape Area**: 2.3 Lancefield and Romsey Plains
- **Existing SLO?**: Yes, SLO2 Ridges and Escarpments
- **Height**: 630m ASL and 50m BOS

The Rochford Road cone is a prominent volcanic rise, just south of the Lancefield Number Two Reservoir. It is visible on the horizon from a long distance when travelling out of Lancefield, as it rises out of relatively flat agricultural land. It is grassy and largely cleared, with the exception of a remnant stand of Eucalypts near its apex and shelter belts on its lower reaches. Due to its contrast with the surrounding farmland, it creates visual interest in the landscape, along with the other volcanic rises in this complex.

**Exemplary?** The Rochford Road cone contrasts dramatically with the surrounding landscape and marks a transition point to the Volcanic Plains Character Type. It is considered exemplary within the local context.

**Iconic?** The Rochford Road rise is a classic rounded volcano in form and is recognisable as a volcanic hill. It is considered symbolic and typical of a volcanic rise within the local context.

**Scarce?** A volcanic rise of this type is not uncommon, however its classic form and relative naturalness is considered scarce in the local context.

**Visual significance rating**: Moderate

2.8 Joyces Road cone

- **Landscape Area**: 2.3 Lancefield and Romsey Plains
- **Existing SLO?**: Yes, SLO2 Ridges and Escarpments
- **Height**: 540m ASL and 90m BOS

The Joyces Road cone is the fourth highest feature in this grouping of volcanic cones and rises. It is located to the south of the Springfield Hills at the edge of the volcanic plain, before it dips into the dramatically incised Deep Creek valley. It is a stark and isolated feature in this otherwise flat landscape, and glimpses of it are visible from long distances e.g. from Romsey Road, through the remnant roadside vegetation. The volcanic cone is largely cleared, with Eucalypts scattered across it in parts, and denser native vegetation and shelter belts on its lower slopes. A small number of dwellings associated with adjacent farms have been developed close to its base.

**Exemplary?** The Joyces Road cone is a large and therefore highly visible cone, its visibility exaggerated by its location at the edge of a plain, close to a dramatically incised creek valley. It is exemplary as a landscape feature and for the contrast it creates with the surrounding landscape, within the local context.

**Iconic?** Views towards the Joyces Road cone are available from long distances, across unmistakable volcanic plains country, and often through indigenous roadside vegetation. The form of the cone and its visual isolation are considered iconic in the local context.

**Scarce?** While fairly typical of the volcanic cones that occur across the district, the Joyces Road cone is unique for its siting and wider landscape context. It is scarce within the local context.

**Visual significance rating**: Moderate
2.9 Woodend North cone

- **Landscape Area 2.2 Campaspe and Loddon Plains**
- **Existing SLO?** Yes, SLO2 Ridges and Escarpments
- **Height:** 590m ASL and 40m BOS

The Woodend North cone is located to the west of the Calder Freeway, just north of Russells Road, and can be accessed via Cheveley Road. Rising starkly out of paddocks in the volcanic plains landscape, and being largely cleared of vegetation, it is highly visible and provides an interesting aesthetic contrast to the prevailing topography. The Woodend North cone can be viewed from the Calder Freeway, and from long distances. It is also an easily recognisable landscape feature in the northern panoramic views that are available from Golf Course Hill.

**Exemplary?** The Woodend North cone is exemplary within the local context as a stark and rounded volcanic hill that provides an interesting aesthetic contrast to its agricultural setting.

**Iconic?** As a typical and highly visible example of a rounded volcanic rise, the Woodend North cone is considered iconic within the local context.

**Scarce?** As one of a collection of volcanic rises in the Shire, the Woodend North cone as an individual landscape feature is not considered scarce. However, the whole complex is considered unique and uncommon, within the local context.

**Visual significance rating:** Moderate

2.10 Magnet Hill

- **Landscape Area 2.1 Rural Living**
- **Existing SLO?** Yes, SLO2 Ridges and Escarpments
- **Height:** 510m ASL and 40m BOS

Magnet Hill is located on the north eastern side of the Gisborne / Calder Freeway intersection. It is one of the smallest volcanic hills in the complex, and has been largely developed with low density residential estates. The south west quarter of the landscape feature is the only part that remains undeveloped, though it has been largely cleared, and this part of the cone is visible from the Gisborne Marshland Reserve. Small groupings and scatterings of remnant vegetation are also visible on this south western side of the cone, together with evidence of volcanic activity such as rocky outcrops and depressions.

**Exemplary?** Magnet Hill has been largely developed with low density residential estates and is surrounded by major roads and the residential area of New Gisborne. It is not exemplary within the state, regional or local context.

**Iconic?** Magnet Hill is an interesting visual feature at the ‘gateway’ to New Gisborne. It is noted in the New Gisborne Outline Development Plan (ODP) as a significant landform feature, and is therefore considered iconic within the local context.

**Scarce?** The volcanic hill in Gisborne North is one of a collection of similar rises, and is not considered scarce within the state, region or locally.

**Visual significance rating:** Moderate
Other landscape values

Cultural heritage values

• The volcanic cones and rises are located on the tribal lands of the three Aboriginal groups that are the Traditional Owners of the Macedon Ranges Shire landscapes – the Wurundjeri, Taungurung and Dja Dja Wurrung.

• Mt Aitken is named after John Aitken, one of the first European pastoralists in the area. Source: Victorian Heritage Database

• Mt Aitken features in a painting by George Alexander Gilbert (c. 1848) ‘View from Mt Aitken looking towards the Dandenong Ranges.’ Source: State Library of Victoria

Environmental and scientific values

• The Jim Jim is a notable eruption point and the largest trachyte dome in the region. It formed as a result of an eruption of viscous anorthoclase trachyte lava, which cooled and is an excellent example of the New Volcanics period.

• Mount Gisborne Reserve is a 12.7 hectare Scoria Cone Woodland, which is listed as an endangered EVC within the Victorian Volcanic Plains Bioregion (DSE 2012). The vegetation community is rare and localised, being restricted to the Mt Gisborne area (Oates and Taranto 2001). Source: Environmental Management Plan – Mount Gisborne Reserve, Gisborne (2013)

• One flora species of national significance has been recorded at the Mount Gisborne Reserve – the Matted Flax-lily *Dianella amoena*, which is listed as endangered under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999), and threatened under the State Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

• Mount Aitken is one of the best examples of this type of eroded volcano. It shows a stage in volcanic landform development that is not widely represented with erosion of a summit lava flow from a scoria cone. Source: Victorian Resources Online, Agriculture Victoria

• The Mt Gisborne volcano has a longer and more complex lava eruption sequence than any other Newer Volcanics eruption point. Three lava types are recognised at the eruption point and none of these occur together at any other eruption point in the state. It is an important site for petrological studies of eruption sequences. Source: Victorian Resources Online, Agriculture Victoria

• Mt Bullengarook is regionally significant for its geology and geomorphological processes, being a clear example of erupted materials overlying bedrock. Source: Victorian Resources Online, Agriculture Victoria

Overall significance level

A number of the Macedon volcanic cones and rises are of regional significance as individual landscape features. These are:

• The Jim Jim
• Mt Bullengarook
• Mt Gisborne
• Mt Aitken
• Golf Course Hill

The remaining Macedon volcanic cones and rises are of local significance.

As a group or complex of volcanic cones and rises, the collection is of regional significance.
Conclusion: Landscapes of significance

State significant landscapes

1. Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock
2. Lerderderg Forest

Regionally significant landscapes

1. Wombat Forest
2. Cobaw Ranges
3. McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands
4. Mt William Ridge and Deep Creek gully
5. Volcanic cones and rises (when considered as a complex, or grouping), including the following individual features:
   - The Jim Jim
   - Mt Bullengarook
   - Mt Gisborne
   - Mt Aitken
   - Golf Course Hill

Locally significant landscapes

1. The following cones and rises (when considered as individual features):
   - Little Bullengarook
   - Melbourne Hill, Lancefield
   - Rochford Road cone, Lancefield
Part 3: Views of Significance
Defining significant views

Views occur over distance and through view planes, and generally comprise a foreground, middle ground and background. The qualities and components of these view planes help to define what is significant about a view, and changes within them may alter the qualities and characteristics of a view. Views are sensitive to changes within the landscape and a viewer's experience of a view is also affected by weather variations that contribute to the changing moods of landscapes and skylines.

Viewing distance is important in determining how change is perceived within a landscape. However, defining view planes in terms of distances is difficult, as they are also experienced differently, according to the character of the viewed landscape i.e. the foreground of a view may terminate at a particular landform, as opposed to being defined by a distance in metres. Generally speaking however, the following view plane distances have been applied to this study and are reflected in the viewshed mapping. These distances are based on those that were defined (with reference to other sources) in the South West Victoria Landscape Assessment Study.

Immediate foreground

This zone takes in the immediate environment of the viewer, and extends to approximately 800 metres.

Foreground

This zone begins at the viewer (and includes the immediate foreground), and extends to approximately 1.6km of the observer. Generally, the detail of the landscape is more pronounced within this view plane.

Middle ground

The middle ground of a view occurs within 1.6km to 6km, and alterations within this zone are less distinctive.

Background

This view plane extends from 6km to infinity. Shape may remain evident beyond 16km, but beyond that distance alterations in the landscape become obscure.

The viewsheds maps have been prepared using Mapinfo Engage software. The maps depict the actual extents of a 360 degree view as experienced from a particular viewing location. In some instances, the view may appear to be infinite, while others may terminate at a large landscape feature on the horizon. Viewsheds have been determined purely on topographical data. They do not take into account any built form or vegetation that may obscure the view.

Viewing locations

There are many locations within the Macedon Ranges Shire from which spectacular views are available, including well-known, elevated lookout points at Hanging Rock and Camels Hump. Viewing locations throughout the study area have various levels of accessibility, promotion and visitation. For the purposes of this study, viewing locations have been chosen because they feature a view of a regionally or state significant landscape, and they meet a minimum of three of the following selection considerations:

- The viewing location is a designated lookout point, with or without interpretive information.
- The viewing location is easily accessible, preferably by vehicle.
- The viewing location is well known (locally, regionally and/or at a state level).

The views available from locations that satisfy the above selection considerations have been assessed against the criteria explained in the following section, in order to determine and justify their level of significance.
Views significance criteria

Composition: structure

In relation to compositional structure, views have been assessed against the following criterion in order to determine a level of significance:

The view has outstanding compositional qualities, whether a classic vista, or a sweeping panorama. The view is balanced, both horizontally and vertically; a picture postcard view. The focal point of the view may be centred, and elements in the foreground, middle ground and background, equally weighted. The view may be framed by landscape elements to the viewer’s left and right.

Composition: qualities

In relation to compositional qualities, views have been assessed against the following criterion:

The view is compelling or inspiring for its aesthetic qualities, including a landscape feature (that may be the focal point of the view), or a collection of landscape features; edges or contrasts; and other compositional elements such as colour and texture.

Other cultural values

Consideration of other cultural values, that may contribute or support the overall significance of a view, has also been undertaken.

Social values

The following criterion was used to determine social value:

The view is widely promoted, well known and popular with tourists. It is a view of note that is available from a publicly accessible location.

Cultural heritage, environmental/scientific, & other values

Other cultural values have been taken into account where relevant:

The view or viewing location is important for its other cultural values, including heritage, environmental, scientific or other values.
Levels of significance

In order to determine a level of significance for each view component and value, and ultimately each view, the following rating considerations have been applied:

Exemplary

How representative or illustrative is this view? Is it the 'best' of its type? Is it exemplary within the local, regional or state context?

Iconic

Is the view instantly recognizable? Is it symbolic for its visual qualities? Has it been represented in art, photography or literature etc.? Is it iconic within the local, regional or state context?

Scarce

How uncommon or rare is the view? Is the view a 'one off' that is not available nearby or elsewhere in the study area? Is it scarce within the local, regional or state context?

Significance levels

Levels of significance were attributed to each view component and value, and an overall significance level for the view was determined. The significance levels are the same as those attributed to landscapes:

- Moderate = local significance
- High = regional significance
- Exceptional = state significance or higher

As with the determination of landscape significance, if a view rated 'high' (for example) in one or more of the view components, that level was the overall significance rating attributed to the view.

Levels of significance were attributed to the other cultural values of the view, based on the stated level of significance in the secondary source, or based on the source itself.

Again, as with landscape significance, a view has not been classified as significant for its cultural heritage, environmental, scientific, social or other values alone. In order for a view to be deemed significant, it must substantially meet the visual composition (structure and qualities) criteria.

A map depicting the significant views that are fully assessed in this report is included on the following page.

A summary list of significant views (and their determined significance levels) is provided at the conclusion of this section of the report.
Views of significance
Views of significance

1. Camels Hump

Landscape Area 1.4 Macedon Ranges

Camels Hump viewing location is situated at the highest point in the Macedon Ranges, atop Mt Macedon at 1,011 metres. A 20 minute return walk takes you to the summit where panoramic views are available to the north, north-west and north-east.

✓ The viewing location is a designated lookout point, with or without interpretive information.
× The viewing location is easily accessible, preferably by vehicle.
✓ The viewing location is well known.
✓ The viewing location is promoted through tourism information.
✓ The viewing location is situated on public land.

Left photo: Expansive panorama from Camels Hump northwards, with Hanging Rock featuring in the middle-ground.

Right photo: View in a north-westerly direction, including the unique immediate foreground Snow Gum community.
1. Camels Hump

Visual significance assessment

Composition (structure and qualities)

This well-known panorama, available from the highest point in the Macedon Ranges, has outstanding compositional structure and qualities. The viewing location itself is visually interesting, comprising evidence of the ancient volcanic eruption that formed Camels Hump, and being strewn with textured, lichen covered rocks.

The immediate foreground features Eucalypt forest, with individual trees close enough to discern differing leaf shapes and colours, and bark surfaces. Beyond, the forest canopy of the lower reaches of the ranges is visible, before it spills into the patchwork of paddocks and agricultural land around Newham.

The focus of the middle-ground is the iconic Hanging Rock, easily discernible for its elevation and remnant woodland. In the distance further still, is the Jim Jim, again recognizable due to its height above the circumjacent farmland, and remnant vegetation coverage. The view terminates at the heavily forested Cobaw Ranges, and the McHarg aureole beyond that, on the horizon.

Another feature of this ‘picture postcard’ view is the skyscape, which changes depending on the weather. The panorama is also framed to the viewer’s left and right by another significant and rare feature of this high point, majestic Snow Gums (Eucalyptus pauciflora), which have adapted to the harsh climatic conditions at this altitude.

Exemplary? The view from Camels Hump is both inspiring and compelling for its visual qualities. It is an outstanding panorama, which includes a stunning collection of landscape features, and a variety of textures, edges and colours. It is significant within the state context.

Iconic? The panorama from Camels Hump is instantly recognisable and contains, as its focus, one of the most iconic landscape features in the country – Hanging Rock. Overall, the view is considered iconic within the state context, and this is heightened by the fact that the viewing location is situated atop Mt Macedon, itself an iconic landscape feature.

Scarce? This significant panorama is considered scarce within the state context, as a view like it is not available elsewhere.

Visual significance rating: Exceptional

Other cultural values

• The view from Camels Hump is widely promoted in tourism material, and is popular with visitors to the Macedon Ranges. It is not accessible to people of all abilities, however, as it involves a steep walk on an unmade pathway.

• The viewing location is important to its Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri, who camped on the high ground of the ranges, and used vantage points such as Camels Hump to protect their territory, and monitor weather and hunting conditions.

• The complex geology of the Macedon Ranges is significant and includes evidence of folding, uplifting, erosion and further volcanic activity, including the extrusion of Camels Hump in the late Tertiary Period. Source: Various geology publications (refer bibliography)

• The Macedon Ranges contains vegetation only found extensively in the eastern Victorian highlands, and normally at much higher altitudes. These include a woodland of Snow Gum (E.pauciflora) at Camels Hump, of considerable botanical interest. Source: Parks Victoria and macedonrangesflora.wordpress.com

Overall significance level

The view from Camels Hump is of state significance.
Views of significance

2. Major Mitchell Lookout

Landscape Area 1.4 Macedon Ranges

The Major Mitchell Lookout is located on the eastern side of the pedestrian pathway to the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross, and long range out-views are available to the west. The area is accessible by vehicle, and the lookout point is a five minute walk from the car park.

- The viewing location is a designated lookout point, with or without interpretive information.
- The viewing location is easily accessible, preferably by vehicle.
- The viewing location is well known.
- The viewing location is promoted through tourism information.
- The viewing location is situated on public land.

Left photo: Panoramic out-view to the west with contrasts in vegetation types, and the Macedon plantation, evident from this elevation

Right photo: The panoramic out-views stretch to the north west from the Major Mitchell Lookout
2. Major Mitchell Lookout

**Visual significance assessment**

**Composition (structure and qualities)**

The panoramic out-views from this well known lookout point are open and expansive. The immediate foreground is grassy and strewn with volcanic rocks, before a view of intact Eucalypt woodland forest.

Beyond the native vegetation is a sweeping view of gently undulating hills, appearing as a medley of colour and textures, and including swathes of plantation in various stages of development, from mature and dark green, to felled.

The background of the view is the heavily vegetated northern reaches of the Wombat Forest, before it terminates at the horizon under big skies.

**Exemplary?** The panoramic view from the Major Mitchell lookout is compelling for the vast distances it spans, and for the visually interesting mix of scenery across a predominantly working landscape. It is considered an exemplar within the regional context.

**Iconic?** The view is iconic within the regional context, and this rating is reinforced by the association of the viewing location with Major Thomas Mitchell, the first European to climb Mt Macedon.

**Scarce?** Similar views are available from the Top of the Range Tearooms nearby, however the Major Mitchell Lookout is uniquely located at a high elevation of around 1,000 metres, affording elevated views of the surrounding landscape. As such it is considered scarce within the regional context.

**Visual significance rating: High**

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**Other cultural values**

- The Major Mitchell Lookout point is widely known and promoted. It is popular with tourists to the area and is very accessible, involving a very short, paved pathway to the lookout location.

- The high points of Mt Macedon and the entire mountainous landscape is significant to its Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri, who camped on the high ground of the ranges. *Source: Parks Victoria, via the Central Victoria Landscape Assessment Study (2015)*

- The lookout point is named after Major Thomas Mitchell, the first European to climb the mountain in 1836. Mitchell used Mt Macedon as a directional landmark and named the peak as reference to Philip II of ancient Macedonia. *Source: Parks Victoria*

- This viewing location was highlighted by the community during consultation for its panoramic views.

**Overall significance level**

The view from the Major Mitchell Lookout is of regional significance.

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*Macedon Ranges Landscape Values & Significance*
Views of significance

3. Mt Macedon Memorial Cross

Landscape Area 1.4 Macedon Ranges

The Mt Macedon Memorial Cross is located facing the southern reaches of the mountain range, to the south of the Memorial Cross Loop Road. The Memorial Cross area is accessible via a short walk on a sealed pathway from the public car park. While not a designated lookout point, out-views are available from near the cross (between vegetation) in a southerly direction.

✓ The viewing location is a designated lookout point, with or without interpretive information.
✓ The viewing location is easily accessible, preferably by vehicle.
✓ The viewing location is well known.
✓ The viewing location is promoted through tourism information.
✓ The viewing location is situated on public land.
3. Mt Macedon Memorial Cross

Visual significance assessment

Composition (structure and qualities)

The viewing experience at this location begins with ascending the pedestrian path towards Memorial Cross. After rounding a bend in the pathway, the golden monolithic cross appears in view, framed by exotic vegetation to the viewer’s left and right. The cross grows in stature on approach and its formal curtilage of trimmed conifers and other exotic species becomes evident.

Beyond the fenced setting of the Memorial Cross are the heavily forested slopes of the southern side of the range, which partially block out views, but provide a textural and dense foreground view. Between gaps in the vegetation, a long-range vista southwards can be glimpsed, over the agricultural plains north of Gisborne to the township itself. On a clear day, Mt Gisborne is visible on the horizon where the vista terminates.

Exemplary? This vista, which is glimpsed between a dense foreground of forest, is exemplary for its composition and expanse, within the regional context.

Iconic? This vista across the volcanic plains towards Gisborne is considered iconic within the regional context, and this is elevated by the location of the viewing point at the culturally and socially significant Memorial Cross.

Scarce? The viewing experience from near the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross is considered uncommon and rare within the regional context.

Visual significance rating: High

Other cultural values

- While not promoted as a lookout point, the existence of the Memorial Cross makes this a popular destination, and by virtue of its elevation, a popular viewing location. It is also relatively accessible, requiring viewers to navigate a short, paved pathway.

- The ‘Macedon Cross’ is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (H1027) but refers to the original Cameron Memorial Cross, which was dedicated in 1935, and has since been replaced. Source: Victorian Heritage Register (VHR)

- The original Memorial Cross was a gift to the people of Victoria from William Cameron, of Cameron Lodge, Mt Macedon, to commemorate the Australian veterans of the First World War. The original Memorial Cross weathered and deteriorated structurally, and was replaced by the current pre-case concrete cross 1995. Source: memorial plaque on site

- This viewing location was highlighted by the community during consultation for its views and social significance.

Overall significance level

The view from the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross is of regional significance.
Views of significance

4. Mt Towrong

Landscape Area 1.4 Macedon Ranges

The summit of Mt Towrong is quite remote and a good level of fitness is required. It is part of the Macedon Ranges Walking Trail loop, but can be accessed via a steep ascent from Anzac Road or from the walking trail branching off Hemphill’s Track. While not a designated lookout point, it is well known to walkers for its views over the Mount Macedon township and south-west across the valley towards Gisborne and the Rosslyn Reservoir. The Memorial Cross can also be seen from this vantage point.

- The viewing location is a designated lookout point, with or without interpretive information.
- The viewing location is easily accessible, preferably by vehicle.
- The viewing location is well known.
- The viewing location is promoted through tourism material.
- The viewing location is situated on public land.

Left photo: Tall timbers envelop the viewer on the walking track to the Mt Towrong summit

Right photo: Once elevated on the south western side of the mountain, the view takes in Mt Macedon itself and stretches all the way to the Wombat and Lerderderg forest areas
4. Mt Towrong

Visual significance assessment

Composition (structure and qualities)

The views available from the south-western side of Mt Towrong are expansive and varied, and are experienced by the viewer throughout the climb to the summit, and on descent, particularly to and from Anzac Road.

Once elevated, views to the west and south-west are across a foreground of indigenous bushland, to the iconic Mt Macedon (with the cross visible on the mountain crest), and beyond that across the plain and plantation areas, to the Lerderderg and Wombat forests. The middle ground of these views takes in the township of Mount Macedon, and a variety of colours and textures in the form of historic homesteads and exotic gardens, dotted throughout the landscape and on the lower reaches of Mt Macedon itself. In a more southerly direction, the volcanic rises of Mt Gisborne and Mt Aitken are clear on the horizon, and the Rosslyn Reservoir is a focus of the middle ground.

It is a visually captivating view due to its expansiveness, and the variety of landscape features, providing compelling points of interest.

Exemplary?

The sweeping panorama becomes more far reaching, the higher the viewing location, and varies according to elevation. It is considered exemplary within the regional context for its expansiveness and variety of landscape features.

Iconic?

The view takes in a number of state and regionally important landscape features, including Mt Macedon and the Memorial Cross, Mt Gisborne, Mt Aitken and, in the distance, the Wombat and Lerderderg forest areas. It is therefore considered iconic within the regional context.

Scarce?

The panorama is uncommon within the regional context as it provides a rare and ‘closer’ view of Mt Macedon and the Memorial Cross from the east. The view is improved further by the visually interesting colours and textures of the Mount Macedon estates and gardens.

Visual significance rating: High

Other cultural values

• The view from Mt Towrong is promoted in tourism material as being well suited to people seeking a quieter, more remote place. It is part of the Macedon Ranges Walking Trail loop. Source: Parks Victoria

• The summit of Mt Towrong is important to its Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri, who camped on the high ground of the ranges, which provided excellent vantage points.

• This viewing location was highlighted by the community during consultation (for this study and the CVLAS) for its significant out-views.

Overall significance level

The view from the summit of Mt Towrong is of regional significance.
Views of significance

5. Summit, Hanging Rock

Landscape Area 1.5 Newham Rises

The summit of Hanging Rock is accessed via a walking track, which weaves up to the pinnacle, from which panoramic out-views are available. A base walking track that circumnavigates the rock also provides up-close views of the landscape feature, its geology and vegetation.

✓ The viewing location is a designated lookout point, with or without interpretive information.

✗ The viewing location is easily accessible, preferably by vehicle.

✓ The viewing location is well known.

✓ The viewing location is promoted in tourism information.

✓ The viewing location is situated on public land.

Left photo: View from Hanging Rock summit towards the north-west, with the Jim Jim visible in the distant middle-ground

Right photo: North-westerly panorama from Hanging Rock, taking in the dynamic skyscape
5. Summit, Hanging Rock

Visual significance assessment

Composition (structure and qualities)

The ascent to the Hanging Rock summit is a fascinating walk that allows the viewer to experience the geology of the rock, and formations such as the Black Hole of Calcutta, the Eagle, the Chapel and Lover’s Leap, from close proximity.

The high points of Hanging Rock provide stunning panoramic views – northerly towards the Jim Jim and the Cobaw Ranges, easterly over farmland towards the distant Mt William Ranges, and to the majestic Macedon Ranges in the south.

The immediate foreground comprises craggy volcanic rocks and lichen covered pinnacles, before a view over the adjacent woodland canopy. The middle-ground, in all directions, is made up of gently undulating farmland, including cleared paddocks in a colour spectrum of greens and golds (depending on the season), rows of shelterbelts, and remnant stands of Eucalypts. The volcanic rise of the Jim Jim features in the distant middle-view to the north-west.

The spectacular and expansive panoramas terminate at heavily forested mountain ranges, including the Cobaw to the north and the Macedon Ranges, at a closer distance, southwards. The less heavily treed Mt William ridge and its foothills are visible at the termination of the view to the east.

Again, due to the relatively flat middle and foreground, big skies dominate the upper half of these panoramas. Due to the lower elevation of the viewing location, these views differ from Camels Hump in that the detail of the agricultural middle-ground is more discernable.

Exemplary? The outviews from this iconic location have outstanding composition qualities, and are best described as sweeping panoramas. They are structurally balanced, sometimes with volcanic pinnacles framing the immediate foreground, and include a diverse collection of landscape features, colours and textures. All of these qualities combine into making these views exemplary within the state context.

Iconic? The panoramas available from the Hanging Rock summit are also iconic within the state context. The views and the landscape features within the views are instantly recognizable, and have been depicted in art and literature, largely due to their association with Hanging Rock, a national icon.

Scarce? The sweeping panoramas from Hanging Rock are not available elsewhere in the state, and are considered uncommon and rare within Victoria.

Visual significance rating: Exceptional

Other cultural values

• The summit walk and view from Hanging Rock is widely promoted in tourism information, is well known across the state and nation, and is very popular with tourists, both local and international. It is not, however, accessible to people of all abilities.

• Hanging Rock is located at the intersection of the tribal lands of the Wurundjeri, Taungurung and Dja Dja Wurrung, and has always been a sacred place for its Traditional Owners. Source: Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) area maps

• Hanging Rock's mysterious associations reached international audiences through the classic 1967 Joan Lindsay novel and Peter Weir's film 'Picnic at Hanging Rock'.

Overall significance level

The views from the Hanging Rock summit are of state significance.
Views of significance

6. Gisborne Marshland Reserve

Landscape Area 2.1 Rural Living

The Gisborne Marshland Reserve is one of the few surviving wetland environments in the Shire, and is a popular walking and bird watching location, primarily for locals. The reserve is accessible by vehicle, and the edge of the wetland is immediately accessible from there, via a gate.

- The viewing location is a designated lookout point, with or without interpretive information.
- The viewing location is easily accessible, preferably by vehicle.
- The viewing location is well known (locally).
- The viewing location is promoted in tourism information.
- The viewing location is situated on public land.

Left photo: View northwards from the Marshland Reserve, with Mt Macedon terminating the view

Right photo: Views westwards from the edge of the waterbody within the reserve
6. Gisborne Marshland Reserve

Visual significance assessment

Composition (structure and qualities)

This locally cherished wetland and viewing location provides an open view towards the majestic, vegetated outline of the Macedon Ranges, which varies depending on the viewer’s location within the reserve.

In all locations, the immediate foreground is of grasslands at the edge of the wetland lake. The element of water, also in the foreground of most views, adds to the scenic beauty of the location.

The middle-ground of the view northwards is dominated by low grassland vegetation. Remnant woodland is visible at the far edge of the grasslands landscape, and the view terminates at the dark and distant form of the Macedon Ranges.

Exemplary? The view of the Macedon Ranges silhouette from the Gisborne Marshland Reserve is considered exemplary within the local context. The openness and existence of water distinguishes it from other views available in the Shire, however, the uniformity of the foreground and middle-ground, and the unframed composition, prevent it from being elevated to an exemplar within the region.

Iconic? The termination of the view at the iconic form of the Macedon Ranges, and the foreground of the wetland lake, makes this view symbolic within the local context.

Scarce? This view is uncommon and rare within the local context. A view of Mt Macedon from a wetlands location is not available elsewhere in the Shire, however more compelling views (made so by the existence of a collection of landscape features and heightened visual variety) are available regionally.

Visual significance rating: Moderate

Other cultural values

- While not a designated lookout point, the reserve is a popular destination for locals and is promoted on the MRSC website. It is also relatively accessible compared to other viewing locations that require steep walks or climbs on un-made surfaces.

- The Gisborne Marshland is one of the few remaining wetland environments in the Shire on public land. This reserve supports a range of wetland fauna including a variety of frogs, snakes, snakes and water birds.

Overall significance level

The view from the Gisborne Marshland Reserve is of local significance.
Views of significance

7. Mt Gisborne

Landscape Area 2.1 Rural Living

The high slopes of Mt Gisborne are accessible by vehicle via Mt Gisborne Road, and Mt Gisborne Reserve is accessible by foot from Woodland Drive. An informal walking track ascends the reserve to the summit of the mount, which features views of the Macedon Ranges, the Lerderderg State Park and Melbourne’s city skyline.

- The viewing location is a designated lookout point, with or without interpretive information.
- The viewing location is easily accessible, preferably by vehicle.
- The viewing location is well known (locally).
- The viewing location is promoted in tourism information.
- The viewing location is situated on public land (and adjacent streets i.e. Woodland Drive and Mt Gisborne Road).

Left photo: View from Mt Gisborne looking north, with the Macedon Ranges terminating the vista

Right photo: The iconic Melbourne city skyline can be seen from Mt Gisborne looking south, on a clear day (zoom lens used in this photo)
7. Mt Gisborne

Visual significance assessment

Composition (structure and qualities)

The out-views available from the summit of Mt Gisborne, and the road encircling the summit are varied, visually interesting, and in the case of the distant views of Melbourne’s CBD, iconic.

In most instances, the viewing location is set within the open woodland reserve. Northwards, the fairly contained vista is over rural living properties interspersed with stands of native vegetation, and the township of Gisborne. The mix of rooftops, exotic and native tree canopies makes for a textured and colourful fore and middle-ground. This view terminates at the imposing and heavily vegetated Macedon Ranges.

Towards the south, the panoramic view is over the flat to gently undulating farmland and remnant Eucalypts of the volcanic plain, towards the distant ‘Manhattan-esque’ Melbourne city skyline. The form of the CBD buildings is hazy on the horizon, appearing as an illusion in shades of blue.

Westwards from Mt Gisborne the panorama is over the partially cleared agricultural plains towards the Pyrete Ranges, which form part of the Lerderderg State Park. The range is heavily forested and stands out as a dark curvilinear form at the termination of the expansive view.

Exemplary? There are a variety of vistas and panoramas available from Mt Gisborne in all directions, and they are compositionally balanced and interesting. All of the views feature, or terminate, at a significant point of interest. The views are considered exemplary within the regional context.

Iconic? The views from this volcanic rise, with a foreground of the volcanic plain landscape, are considered symbolic at the

Visual significance rating: High

Other cultural values

- While not a designated lookout point, the views available from the summit of Mt Gisborne (and from the road encircling the summit) are well known locally and are promoted on the MRSC website.

- The viewing location of Mount Gisborne Reserve is significant for its 12.7 hectare Scoria Cone Woodland, which is listed as an endangered EVC within the Victorian Volcanic Plains Bioregion (DSE 2012).

- The Mt Gisborne viewing location is unique as a volcano that has a longer and more complex lava eruption sequence than any other Newer Volcanics eruption point. It is an important site for petrological studies of eruption sequences. Source: Victorian Resources Online, Agriculture Victoria

Overall significance level

The views from Mt Gisborne are of regional significance.
Views of significance

8. Golf Course Hill

Landscape Area 2.2 Campaspe and Loddon Plains

Golf Course Hill is located at the northern edge of the Woodend township. The summit of the hill (and Woodend Golf Course) is accessible via Davy Street but the most unencumbered out-views are available from the eastern side of the summit, outside the fenced golf course, which is accessible via a stile.

- The viewing location is a designated lookout point, with or without interpretive information.
- The viewing location is easily accessible, preferably by vehicle.
- The viewing location is well known (locally).
- The viewing location is promoted in tourism information.
- The viewing location is situated on public land.

Left photo: North easterly view, with Hanging Rock in the distant foreground and the Jim Jim behind

Right photo: View northwards, with rain on the horizon
8. Golf Course Hill

Visual significance assessment

Composition (structure and qualities)

The sweeping panoramas available from the summit of Golf Course Hill are outstanding for their compositional qualities, including a textured and visually interesting foreground to middle-ground, and numerous significant landscape features that draw the viewer's attention in the middle-ground / background planes.

To the north and north-east, the panorama takes in the roof and canopy tops of Woodend. The trees are a mix of colourful exotics (in Autumn especially) with stands of remnant vegetation occurring beyond the edge of the township, and into the agricultural landscape. Within this view cone are the iconic volcanic features of Hanging Rock and the Jim Jim, their unique geology and vegetation cover making them highly visible and attracting the viewer. This panorama terminates at the heavily forested Cobaw Ranges.

To the south-east, the panorama takes in the closer landscape feature of the majestic and thickly vegetated Macedon Ranges. The fore and middle-grounds to this iconic view focus, is the textured upper-storey of the township of Woodend, where the trees and rooftops create a colourful visual tapestry.

The outview to the north is the beginning and extension of the Campaspe and Loddon Plains, as the landscape transitions from uplands to volcanic. The foreground to this extensive panorama is the northern, undeveloped setting to Golf Course Hill, which is characterised by gently undulating paddocks with significant stands of native Eucalypts. Beyond, the volcanic hill of the Woodend North cone is clearly visible, as it rises from the landscape. This 'big skies' panorama terminates at the horizon.

Exemplary? The panoramic out-views that are available from the summit of Golf Course Hill are outstanding for their composition, both in relation to structure and qualities. The sweeping panoramas have multiple focal points - significant landscape features, which are clearly recognisable and visually compelling. The views are considered exemplary within the regional context.

Iconic? The panoramas, taking in numerous iconic landscape features, together with the classic rooftops and exotics of Woodend, are considered iconic in the regional context.

Scarce? While views of Hanging Rock and the Jim Jim are available from Camels Hump, the panoramas from Golf Course Hill are unique for their Woodend foreground, and extensive expanse, including across the volcanic plains northwards. They are considered rare and uncommon within the regional context.

Visual significance rating: High

Other cultural values

- While not a formal lookout point, the views available from Golf Course Hill are well known to the local community. It is possible to access the eastern side of the summit by foot from the Woodend Avenue of Honour, or via the golf course.
- Golf Course Hill is located on the tribal lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung, one of three Aboriginal groups who are the Traditional Owners of landscapes within the Shire.
- The historic Woodend Golf Club was established in 1908 and occupies the majority of the publicly owned volcanic hill.

Overall significance level

The views from Golf Course Hill are of regional significance.
Views of significance

9. Mt Aitken

*Landscape Area 2.1 Rural Living*

Mt Aitken is accessible by vehicle via Berri Road, with the public reserve, which stretches to the summit, able to be accessed on foot. Views are available from this high point in all directions, including to the Melbourne CBD to the south.

- The viewing location is a designated lookout point, with or without interpretive information.
- The viewing location is easily accessible, preferably by vehicle.
- The viewing location is well known (locally).
- The viewing location is promoted in tourism information.
- The viewing location is situated on public land.

*Left photo: View east from Mt Aitken, across the agricultural landscape of the volcanic plains

*Right photo: Distant view of Melbourne city skyline on the horizon, looking south-east*
9. Mt Aitken

Visual significance assessment

Composition (structure and qualities)

The largely cleared volcanic rise of Mt Aitken provides expansive out-views from its summit. The viewing location / immediate foreground to all views is the textured cone itself, which displays evidence of volcanic activity on its surface.

The far-reaching middle ground of the panoramic out-views in all directions is across the relatively flat volcanic plains landscape, with other volcanic cones and rises punctuating the surface periodically. The largely agricultural landscape comprises a collection of paddocks, exotic shelterbelts, farm fencing and stands of remnant vegetation.

The distant background of all views features iconic landscapes on the horizon, including the Melbourne cityscape to the south, the Macedon Ranges to the north and the Lerderderg Forest to the west.

Exemplary? The panoramic out-views from Mt Aitken are open, expansive and unencumbered. They include an interesting middle-ground of agricultural farmland and terminate at very distant landscape features on the horizon. Compared to the panoramic views that are available from Mt Gisborne and Golf Course Hill, they are less visually interesting in the foreground and middle-ground, and are not framed either side of the viewer. The views are considered exemplary within the local context.

Iconic? The expansive panoramas available from Mt Aitken are considered iconic within the local context. While they have been represented in a well known painting by George Alexander Gilbert, this is unrelated to their current visual qualities and does not elevate its symbolic status.

Scarce? Similar panoramic out-views are available from the substantially higher Mt Gisborne nearby. The panoramic out-views are therefore considered scarce within the local context.

Visual significance rating: Moderate

Other cultural values

- While not a widely known nor promoted viewing location, the views from the summit of Mt Aitken, and from Berrie Road adjacent, are well known to locals.
- Mt Aitken is named after John Aitken, one of the first European pastoralists in the area. Source: Victorian Heritage Database
- Mt Aitken features in a painting by George Alexander Gilbert (c. 1848) ‘View from Mt Aitken looking towards the Dandenong Ranges.’ Source: State Library of Victoria
- Mt Aitken is significant for its geology and is one of the best examples of this type of eroded volcano in Victoria. Source: Victorian Resources Online, Agriculture Victoria

Overall significance level

The views from Mt Aitken are of local significance.
Conclusion: Views of significance

State significant views

1. View from Camels Hump
2. View from Hanging Rock

Regionally significant views

1. View from the Major Mitchell Lookout
2. View from the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross
3. View from Mt Towrong
4. View from Mt Gisborne
5. View from Golf Course Hill

Locally significant views

1. View from Mt Aitken
2. View from Gisborne Marshland Reserve
Other notable views

There are numerous other spectacular and notable views available from across the Shire. These have not been assessed in detail, or rated, as they do not meet three or more of the viewing location ‘selection considerations’. However, this does not detract from their scenic beauty or importance to individuals or the local community. It may simply mean that they are not designated lookout points that are easily accessible, or located on public land. Many of the most cherished views, for instance, are experienced from a car or a bike, travelling through the landscape. These and other notable views are described briefly below.

- View from Cloud 9 Farm situated at the northern edge of the Cobaw Ranges, looking across the vineyard and towards the Sidonia Hills.
- Iconic view of Hanging Rock across the paddocks from Straws Lane.
- View northwards of the entire reach of the Macedon Ranges, driving along Hamilton and/or Kilmore Roads to Riddells Creek.
- Iconic view to Hanging Rock from the Calder Freeway, travelling south.
- Entire viewing experience driving along the Burke and Wills Track through the Cobaw Ranges - both of tall forest timbers, and of scattered boulders in the north.
- Views over the farmland landscape from the Calder Freeway near Malmsbury, travelling south.
- Views of historic, exotic trees and majestic forest from Mt Macedon Road, as it winds up into the mountains. Also, views from Alton Road in Mt Macedon.
- Views northwards of the heavily forested Cobaw Ranges from Three Chain Road.
- The gateway experience, and transition from plains to uplands, driving into Woodend, along the Avenue of Honour.
- The northern descent into Gisborne on Station Road, where Mt Gisborne is visible from the high point near Cherry Lane, and a sense of the township being contained in a valley increases as the road dips down to Jacksons Creek.
- Views from the high points of Mt Eliza Road, west towards Mt Charlie and the ranges, and east off the edge of the uplands landscape and down over the volcanic plains.
- View of the iconic Mt Macedon framed by street trees, from the lower reaches of Mt Macedon Road.
- The view of Mt Macedon from just out of Tylden looking east, on Tylden-Woodend Road.
- First view of the Melbourne CBD skyline travelling south on Melbourne-Lancefield Road and/or the Calder Freeway.
- Panoramic views from just north of Malmsbury, northwards to Mt Alexander and Green Hill.
- Views down over the rolling hills to the reservoirs from the high points along Shepherds Hill Road, and Springhill Road, and views across and to the reservoirs from Kyneton-Springhill Road, Keegan Road and Lauriston Reservoir Road.
- Views across farmland and to Mt William travelling east along Lancefield-Kilmore Road.
- Views from hair-pin bend in Red Gap Road, descending from Mt William travelling westerly – panoramic views over the volcanic plain and stands of remnant vegetation to the Cobaw Ranges.
- Views of the McHarg aureole and the granitic landscape travelling along Mission Hill Road.
- Travelling along Romsey Road between Romsey and Woodend – undulating farmland, punctuated by volcanic cones and rises, and magnificent stands of mature roadside vegetation.
- Travelling east out of Romsey along Romsey Road, as the terrain drops off dramatically into Deep Creek and then winds, dips and turns through the scenic Springfield and Chintin Hills.
- Views of the Malmsbury Viaduct from the river’s edge.
- The entire viewing experience, travelling through the Shire by train, including - views of the Macedon Ranges as the train travels along their southern edge; being surrounded by forest/timber plantation as the train journeys along the western edge of the Macedon Regional Park and into Woodend; the change to relatively flat agricultural plains north of Woodend; and into Malmsbury with views of the historic viaduct.
The sequence of views along main roads such as the Calder Highway and Melbourne-Lancefield Road (and their collective significance), as they mark the transition between city, country and town, and have community as well as tourism value.
Macedon Ranges Landscape Assessment

Community Values
Introduction

Landscapes hold different values for different people. Some people may enjoy the scenic qualities and settings of landscapes. Others may appreciate the habitats they provide for wildlife, or their potential for productivity and economic return.

Community consultation was one of three sources of information used to provide a holistic appreciation of the significance of the landscapes of the Macedon Ranges Shire. Varying methods of engagement were used during Stage 3 of the project in order to understand the number of different ways that the community members value their landscapes. These consultation methods included:

- community drop-in sessions and mapping exercise;
- an interactive online mapping survey;
- a community newsletter, including questionnaire; and,
- the invitation to email submissions and/or photos.

The additional key source of community values was the consultation findings outlined in the Central Victoria Landscape Assessment Study, undertaken in 2014/15.

Community drop-in sessions

Three drop-in sessions were held in February 2018 in the townships of Gisborne, Kyneton and Lancefield, and were attended by approximately 30 people. The drop-in sessions were also available to residents who wished to discuss Council’s Biodiversity Strategy, a project running concurrently with this study.

Hard copy maps were available for attendees to locate and describe significant landscapes and beautiful or scenic views. Eleven views and six landscapes were identified by the community. These are outlined below, including the location and any documented comments regarding the landscape or view.

- The landscape of Mount Gisborne and surrounds. Significant as a unique geological (volcanic) feature, together with “pristine” Gisborne Reserve.
- Mount Macedon and Hanging Rock. Highly valued and recognised by most Victorians as significant landscapes.
- The landscape of the reservoirs (Malsbury, Lauriston and Upper Coliban), including the undulating topography providing views from low and high points.
- The landscape of Stanley Park (Salisbury Road, Mount Macedon). “Amazing landscape and waterway” including flora and fauna habitats.
- The landscapes of the Malsbury Common and Coliban River. A large natural site, with links to the river.
- The landscapes around Newham, including the indigenous vegetation adjacent to Three Chain Road, other woodland vegetation, endangered species and wildflower displays.
- View from the high point of Mount Macedon Road (north of Mount Macedon) looking northwards. Important that this expansive farmland vista, across a patchwork of paddocks and towards the Cobaw Ranges, retains a visual balance between farmland and vegetation.
- View from the main intersection in Lancefield, looking east and west. Appreciated as a view from a low point on the plain, towards the high points of the uplands landscape east and west. Even more atmospheric when “mist hangs in the valley.”
- View from Mount Macedon Road, north of Anzac Road, looking south down the valley and into the township of Mount Macedon and to Mount Towrong.
- View from the top of Rochford Hill looking north-east over Lancefield and towards Mount William.
- Looking south from the Melbourne-Lancefield Road, the first glimpse of Melbourne.
- Travelling on the Calder Freeway, just south of Anderson Road, the view eastwards of Hanging Rock.
- Panoramic view from near the Malsbury Youth Justice Centre, northwards towards Mount Alexander and Green Hill.
- First view of Mount Gisborne travelling north along the Calder Freeway. Noted as the first country mountain after visiting the city. Particularly notable as the Sunbury Hills are becoming “enveloped in housing.”
- Out-views from the high points of Hanging Rock and Camels Hump in all directions. Particularly notable as “amazing in all weather conditions.”
• Views westwards from the Woodend Avenue of Honour, across open farmland, under the Oak trees.

• Views from Forde’s Lane, Kyneton, looking north-east across to the hills around Sidonia.

Photos opposite: Discussions from community drop-in sessions held in Gisborne, Lancefield and Kyneton

Source: MRSC
Online mapping survey

In conjunction with consultation regarding Council’s Biodiversity Strategy, an online interactive mapping tool was set up that allowed participants to pinpoint locations on a map, describe that location, and document what is special about that site as well as why it is important to them. Approximately 70 locations or landscape features were pinpointed, and over 120 entries/comments were received regarding those landscapes.

A map of the pinpointed locations was prepared by Council Officers and is included on the following page, together with the full table of entries/comments received at Appendix A. A summary of the pinpointed locations, and why that site was noted as special or important, follows.

- Malmsbury, Malmsbury-Daylesford Road, Malmsbury Reservoir and surrounds. Noted for the “spectacular” and panoramic views available towards Mt Alexander, Green Hill, surrounding farmland and the Wombat Forest. The Coliban River was also noted for its scenery and native bushland, together with the railway viaduct, which was described as an “historic site and fabulous engineering structure.” One submitter noted that the drive towards Malmsbury and corresponding view “makes you love the country you are in.”

- Old Lancefield Road. Pinpointed for its easterly views, over farmland towards Hanging Rock.

- Southern entry to Kyneton. Noted as a farming landscape with long rural views, which has not been developed with a residential estate. “Agricultural landscapes should provide buffers to (our) towns.”

- North of Woodend. Noted by a number of participants for the views that are available to the Macedon Ranges.

- Macedon Ranges, Mt Macedon, and surrounds. Pinpointed multiple times as a “special and stunning” landscape feature, including the iconic views from Camels Hump towards Hanging Rock, and beyond. This heavily vegetated mountain range is central to the landscape character and significance of the Shire, and is visible from many locations across the municipality. Mt Towrong was also noted for its “impressive” views of the Mt Macedon valley and township and beyond to the south east – “a location of peace and calm.” Tuckets Road and Macedon Lodge were also pinpointed for the views available towards Mt Towrong and Mt Macedon.

- Ashbourne Road, near Woodend. Pinpointed for its “stunning view of Mt Macedon through the trees.”

- Tylden-Woodend Road. Travelling east, noted as “one of the best landscapes in the Shire” because of its views of Mt Macedon.

- Woodend Avenue of Honour and Lava Hill (also known as Davies Hill and Golf Course Hill). Noted by numerous submitters as an “iconic” landscape area and a very special entrance to the township, with natural, agricultural views, particularly to the west. The volcanic rise itself was noted as an important geological feature of the landscape, and the atmosphere provided by the avenue of trees, and its changing character throughout the seasons, was also referred to. “This is an area that should never succumb to housing development.”

- Boundary Road at Five Mile Creek. Highlighted as a key location between Woodend and Hanging Rock with “views across classic pastoral country” and notable roadside vegetation.

- Pastoria East, Baynton Road and Baynton and surrounds. Noted as a special landscape characterised by open farmland and native vegetation, and for its “stunning scenery” including rolling hills and large, old trees.

- Kilmore Road, Riddells Creek. Noted by a number of participants for its “uninterrupted and amazing” views of Mt Macedon.

The township of Carlruhe was also pinpointed in this vicinity for its historic structures and surrounding hills and farmland.

Macedon Ranges, Landscape Values & Significance
Online mapping survey

Landscapes and views were pinpointed via the online mapping tool. Source: Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Online mapping survey

- Mt Gisborne, Mt Gisborne Reserve and Mt Aitken. Views from Mt Gisborne were noted by a number of participants, together with the flora and fauna, particularly remnant vegetation. Both Mt Gisborne and Mt Aitken were pinpointed as important volcanic features and notable for their geology. Jacksons Creek and a number of local reserves within the township were also noted as highly valued green spaces.

- The Jim Jim and Dons Road. Pinpointed as a special landscape feature and prominent landform between Hanging Rock and the Cobaw Ranges, and noted as an important element of the vista from Mt Macedon and Hanging Rock.

- Cobaw Ranges, Cobaw Ridge Winery. The heavily vegetated ranges were highlighted as a special geological and landscape feature, and as providing a green backdrop to farmland and numerous long-range views. The views of the ranges available from the Cobaw Ridge Winery were particularly noted. The granite outcrops that characterise this area, and the landscape to the north, were also highlighted.

- Mt William Range. Noted as significant for its rich indigenous history, geology and beautiful flora and fauna. Described as “culturally significant and a visual reference point in the landscape” and able to be seen from a great distance.

- Landscape around Romsey and Rochford. Described as a locality of “essential rural landscapes” and rural views. The road between Romsey and Lancefield was particularly noted for its “intensely rural views” with ranges as a backdrop, both east and west, together with the road between Darraweit and Romsey.
Community questionnaire

A newsletter was prepared to advertise the community consultation process, and to outline the various methods by which people could provide information and feedback. A questionnaire was included in the newsletter, with the following questions:

1. Which natural landscape(s) are most significant within the Shire? Why are they significant?
2. Which views are most scenic or important, and why?
3. Special landscapes can be protected and managed through the Planning Scheme with the Significant Landscape Overlay. Are you supportive of this approach?
4. The Significant Landscape Overlay still allows development to occur, but requires a planning permit so that it can be carefully considered. Are there any types of development that you believe should be exempted from this requirement?
5. If the Significant Landscape Overlay was implemented, which areas should be the priority? Are there any landscapes that you believe are at risk of losing their scenic values or significance?

Eight respondents completed the questionnaire (hard copy or online), and a summary of the responses is provided below.

1. Significant landscapes
   - The whole Shire
   - Mt Macedon, Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock
   - Waterway corridors; Deep Creek
   - Broad expanses of landscape with a balance between farming and native vegetation
   - Winding back-roads with views through roadside vegetation
   - Grasslands
   - Farmland to the west of Honour Avenue, Woodend (to the north of Golf Course Hill)
   - Sidonia Hills and the Cobaw Ranges

2. Scenic or important views
   - View from Camels Hump, north
   - To and from the Macedon Ranges in all directions
   - Treed boulevards into townships – the views and the driving experience
   - Long views of skies and clouds
   - Close-up details of birds, trees, shrubs and grasses
   - Views of the Sidonia Hills from Fordes Lane, especially with a full moon rising over the Cobaws
   - View of Hanging Rock – however, some structures within the reserve should be removed and rebuilt more sensitively

3. Significant Landscape Overlay support
   - Yes (unanimous), provided they are robust
   - Utilise the SLO to strengthen wildlife corridors e.g. completion of the corridor from Black Hill Reserve to the Cobaws
   - Nil (unanimous)
   - No – all built structures should require a permit to guide colours and materials

4. Significant Landscape Overlay exemptions
   - Grasslands on private property
   - Area to the immediate north west of the Woodend township boundary (Golf Course Hill and surrounds) – view under the Avenue of Honour across farmland to the west is “ever-changing and always impressive.”
   - Views from Fordes Lane across the Sidonia Hills should be protected as a “magnificent ‘Australian’ view.”
   - Whole Shire requires a more considered and sympathetic approach to infrastructure development
   - Not only iconic landscapes, but smaller hills and ranges
   - The rolling hills and rural landscapes; the spaces between the features
   - Area between Mt Macedon and the Cobaw Ranges
   - Edges of townships require containment

5. Priority or at risk landscapes
   - Grasslands on private property
   - Area to the immediate north west of the Woodend township boundary (Golf Course Hill and surrounds) – view under the Avenue of Honour across farmland to the west is “ever-changing and always impressive.”
   - Views from Fordes Lane across the Sidonia Hills should be protected as a “magnificent ‘Australian’ view.”
   - Whole Shire requires a more considered and sympathetic approach to infrastructure development
   - Not only iconic landscapes, but smaller hills and ranges
   - The rolling hills and rural landscapes; the spaces between the features
   - Area between Mt Macedon and the Cobaw Ranges
   - Edges of townships require containment
Additional submissions

Nine detailed submissions were received during the community engagement phase of the project. The key points from the correspondence, of relevance to this study, are outlined below:

- Stanley Park is valued as “one of the most significant natural features of the Shire.”
- The Shire is under enormous pressure to retain its natural values.
- Focus of protection should be on natural values, sense of rural landscape, pasture, grazing, bushland, views of mountain peaks.
- Subdivision is leading to severe degradation of the “rural feel” of the area.
- The study should identify and protect the lesser-known mountain ranges, including Mt William, Mt Gisborne, Mt Bullengarook, Mt Charlie, Mt Robinson, Mt Towrong and Mt Aitken.
- Landscapes should be considered as a ‘whole’ rather than as siloed sites – keep in mind the ‘big picture’.
- Rolling hills and rural aspects of South Gisborne are important as the southern gateway to the Shire – views of Mt Aitken important here.
- “Fringes and boundaries” contribute to landscape vistas.
- Rural boundary north of Kyneton is important as a buffer for Turpins Falls.
- Mt Gisborne internationally important for its Scoria Cone woodlands.
- A list of additional reference documents was also provided by one submitter, and have all since been reviewed as part of this study.
- Concern that the landscapes of the eastern part of the Shire are overlooked.
- “Trees, plant life and green landscapes enhance our mood, health and wellbeing.”
- Concern about open landscapes being developed for houses “with not much space between them.”
- The mountain range is a defining feature of the Shire – views change, and it changes colour with the time of day and seasons.
- Concern that housing estates will link up and the area will resemble suburbs of Melbourne.
- The benefits of tourism are over-stated; it is damaging to the environment.
- Erosion, degradation etc. have occurred across the rural living landscape between Mt Bullengarook, Mt Gisborne and Mt Macedon – good planning is required to reverse these impacts.
- A full critique of the Central Victoria Landscape Assessment Study (2015) was also provided, and issues raised have been included and/or addressed by this study.

Many additional viewing locations were noted as scenic or beautiful, including:

- Intersection of Crooked Road & Boundary Road, looking north.
- Crooked Road, 1km from Ochiltrees Road (at the top of the hill), looking south.
- Darraweit-Bolina Road, 1km from Melbourne-Lancefield Road, looking west.
- Intersection of Springfield Road & Buckleys Lane, Springfield, west view.
- Buckleys Lane, Romsey.
- Mumfords Road, Hesket.
- 1km east of corner of Tantarbaroo and Mt William Roads.
- East of Lancefield Road, just north of Romsey.
- Romsey-Woodend Road, looking west from Straws Lane to Lavender Farm Road.
- Kerrie-Mt Eliza Road, looking south.
- Grahams Track, Lancefield.
- Ochiltrees Road at harvest time.
- Romsey-Wallan Road, past Toomeys Lane.
- Romsey-Woodend Road, between Glenfern Road and Waterworks Road – rich soils, forest, valleys stretching either side, grasslands, dams and stock, and mature roadside vegetation, all with a background of the Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock.
- The landscape between Romsey-Woodend Road, Newham, Rochford and Monument Road – mix of mature vegetation, open plains and farmland.
• The Lancefield “bowl”, being the landscape generally between Rochford, Mt William/Springfield Hills, north of Romsey and the Cobaw Ranges – vegetation, forest, land slopes and rich soils

• Deep Creek and surrounding hills and Tantaraboo, near Chintin – landscape and rolling hills, differences between this area and the plains

• Macedon/Romsey rolling hills, eastern edge where land drops off

• Romsey-Wallan Road, where it crosses Deep Creek – farmland views and views to the Macedon Ranges

• No. 3 Creek Road (around Springfield) – landforms, vegetation and farms
Extensive consultation was undertaken in association with the preparation of the Central Victoria Landscape Assessment Study (CVLAS) in 2014/15, and many submissions to the study were received from Macedon Ranges Shire community members.

Engagement methods included community newsletters, an online photo exercise, and the opportunity to comment on draft landscape character and significance material.

Feedback relating to the landscapes of the Macedon Ranges Shire included:

Key characteristics

- The views of the Macedon Ranges and villages in farming land near Riddells Creek
- Rural farming character around the Macedon Ranges
- Camels Hump, Mount Macedon shows a mix of strong natural features and vegetation along the western part of the Colawh biolink

Significant landscapes, views and features

- View from Mount Towrong towards Mount Macedon
- View from Straws Lane looking north, north-west
- Views towards Hanging Rock, particularly from Colwells Road.

Features and aspects that were identified because of their social, environmental, historical or other value included:

- Social and historical values – Rail bridge, Malmsbury
- Cultural heritage – Hanging Rock.

Threats to places and features that were identified included:

- Residential subdivisions / developments changing or blocking the views towards Macedon Ranges
- Residential subdivisions / development changing the rural farming character and bush character of the area
- The environmental impact of events at Hanging Rock.

Photos of the following landscapes or features, and threats to landscapes, were provided as part of the online photo exercise:

- Distant view of Macedon Ranges
- Avenue of Honour, Woodend (x 2)
- Macedon Ranges from Lancefield-Kilmore Road
- Mt Gisborne from Lancefield-Kilmore Road
- Gisborne Marshlands Reserve, with distant view of Mt Macedon
- Established, exotic trees in Gisborne (x 3)
- Trees in the Macedon Ranges (x 2)
- View of Macedon Ranges from Camels Hump
- Dry fern and waterfall gully in Stanley Park, and a contrasting photo with the waterfall running
- Malmsbury Botanical Gardens, train station, railway viaduct, Coliban River and church
- Rural landscape surrounding Malmsbury
- Mt Macedon from Straws Lane
- Hanging Rock with frost in the surrounding paddocks
- Hanging Rock pinnacle
- View from Mt Towrong
- Hanging Rock at sunset
- Landscape surrounding Riddells Creek
- Wildflowers in Stanley Park Nature Reserve
- Blocking of views of Macedon Ranges by exotic vegetation associated with rural living properties
- Mt Gisborne obscured by hedging (x 2)
- Pollution/vandalism impacts on Jacksons Creek and Stanley Park
- Gisborne southern entry to township – established street trees threatened by road widening (x 2)
- House on a ridge to the east of Hanging Rock
- Scattered buildings in the landscape detracting from foreground and middle ground views of the Macedon Ranges
- Rural views around Woodend – under threat from subdivisions
- Mt Macedon street trees under threat from vehicular traffic/parking
- Structures in hanging Rock Reserve detracting from its setting and from views of the feature

Source: Central Victoria Landscape Assessment Study Consultation and Community Values – Appendix C