



Macedon Ranges

Statement of Planning Policy

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Foreword

The Macedon Ranges with its iconic scenery, wildlife and rich cultural heritage is one of the most beautiful and environmentally sensitive areas in Victoria.

And the Victorian Government is honoured to be making history by granting this area protection – so its living history can be preserved for future generations.

This is the first area to be afforded the maximum protection possible under the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes provisions of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

Other areas will follow. But it is only fitting that Macedon Ranges with its native forests, iconic Hanging Rock, and craggy mountains is the first to receive protection under this landmark legislation.

The new rules will lock down the treasured natural landscapes that should never be encroached on – and put in place a framework to guide future land use and prevent over-development.

We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners who nurtured the ranges for thousands of years.

We are building on this care with this Statement of Planning Policy, which will ensure the unique beauty and character of the Macedon Ranges will remain unspoiled for all time.

The significance of the area is extensive: it provides drinking water for not only locals but regional and metropolitan Melbourne and has flourishing arts, wine and food industries.

The Victorian Government would like to thank all those who shared our vision and worked alongside us to deliver on our promise to the people of Victoria.

Thank you to the Traditional Owners, local authorities and communities.

We were all driven by one purpose – to preserve this treasured natural landscape. And I am proud and honoured to say we have collectively achieved this.



The Hon. Richard Wynne MP

Minister for Planning



Macedon Ranges has long been recognised as having a number of distinctive attributes and dominant features in our landscape.

This statement provides a framework to ensure the outstanding and valuable landscapes, layers of settlement history, impressive landforms, diverse natural environment, catchments and biodiversity of the Macedon Ranges are protected, conserved and enhanced and continue to be of special significance to the people of Victoria.

It reaffirms and builds on the legacy of the Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 (Macedon Ranges and Surrounds) introduced in 1975. Importantly, it also defines our settlement boundaries.

This statement sets a long term vision for the iconic Macedon Ranges and has been prepared with input from the Victorian Government, Council, Traditional Owners (Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri) and the local community.

We will now work to integrate the objectives and strategies into our future decision making, reflecting the intentions of this statement. Council is looking forward to working with all levels of government, responsible public entities and the community to ensure future decision making embraces the statement and reflects the community's desire to protect and conserve this special place in Victoria.

Cr Janet Pearce

Mayor Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Foreword

‘Country’ as Djandak is central to Aboriginal People’s sense of identity and culture. Heritage is more than objects and buildings: it is also intangible and intrinsic values, places, associations and experiences. Heritage is at the heart of community identity. It is part of how individuals and groups define themselves and their place in the world.

The Macedon Ranges region is a rich and varied cultural landscape that has particular significance for Traditional Owner communities. The cultural and historical significance are two separate but closely linked aspects of the landscape: one is the traditional and spiritual association with places while the other is the result of the everyday use and occupation.

The dramatic changes in the landscape brought about by European settlement have disturbed much of the fragile evidence of Aboriginal occupation of Victoria. Nonetheless, the Macedon Ranges area contains a wealth of evidence of Aboriginal land use and occupation. Its unique landscape and geological features provided resources which played a significant role in the everyday lives of Aboriginal People, and a continuing role in their Songlines and Dreaming.

For the Dja Dja Wurrung People, Djandak is a central part of their culture. It encompasses the significant places and landscapes, their stories, language, customs and practices and their responsibilities for caring for the land. In their Country Plan, Delkunya Dja, the Dja Dja Wurrung note that their Country is ‘host to some of the most profoundly altered landscapes in Victoria’ and that a ‘long history of agricultural development, urban settlement and mining has left fragmented ecosystems and led to the loss of many species of plants and animals’. However, the physical evidence left behind by Dja Dja Wurrung’s Ancestors are still prevalent within

the remains of alteration and destruction of their Country today.

The archaeological sites in the Macedon Ranges Shire are physical evidence of past Aboriginal occupation of the region. They include stone artefacts, scarred trees, rock shelters, burial structures, shell middens, ethnographic items, mounds, hearths, quarries and grinding patches. Although it only represents a comparatively small part of Dja Dja Wurrung Country (which extends much further into north-western Victoria), the Macedon Ranges Shire is known to have immense value including evidence of semi-permanent occupation.

The waterways and wetlands of the Macedon Ranges Shire provided a ready supply of water, fish, flora and other fauna for the Aboriginal inhabitants of the region. The high concentration of archaeological places in these areas confirms that the waterways provided food and medicine, and places to camp, hunt, fish and swim and hold ceremonies. The Campaspe and Coliban rivers were particularly important for the Dja Dja Wurrung and fed into the broader waterway system that nourished Country.

Hanging Rock is Ngnneyelong in the traditional language of the Dja Dja Wurrung and is recognised as an important inter-tribal ceremonial meeting place, and as a significant landmark for the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Peoples. Oral traditions indicate that it was the location of large inter-group gatherings for trade and ceremonies, and was an important spiritual place.

As new comers arrived many of Hanging Rock’s Aboriginal population were forcibly removed from their land and in 1841 some frequented the Loddon Protectorate Station and by 1863, some were

relocated to the Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve in Healesville.

Today, the Dja Dja Wurrung have an important role as managers of Traditional Land over six parks and reserves as part of an agreement with the Victorian Government under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act.

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation

We, the people of the Taungurung First Nation, have long described ourselves as the First People of the Rivers and the Mountains. Our traditional lands encompass a large area of central and north-central Victoria and we share boundaries with the Dja Dja Wurrung people to our west and the Wurundjeri people to our south. There are some areas of shared country where our rights and interests overlap with those of our neighbours and this is the case in relation to specific locations within the Macedon Ranges region. We are a Nation of 15 clans and the structure of our society was such that all Taungurung people were members of one of two moieties, named for Bundjil and Waang – respectively, the eagle and crow ancestral creation heroes. We are collectively responsible for the care and custodianship of the entirety of our traditional lands. We've never forfeited the intimate knowledge of our lands and the sense of connection inherited from our ancestors. Our priorities are identical to those of our neighbours – the protection of our cultural heritage, the restoration of damaged country and a rightful share of the benefits derived from it.

Taungurung Land and Waters Council

Foreword

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people have been caring for Country since the beginning of time. Our message is that Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people have a deep understanding and knowledge of Country and that this connection should be respected and valued.

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung have an unbroken relationship with Country, caring for this land, its waterways, its plants and animals. A core purpose of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation is the protection, preservation and revitalisation of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture and cultural practices.

There is a deep cultural obligation and birthright to look after Country and keep it healthy. Country to us includes the land, water, plants, animals and spirits of the traditional lands. Country is known through the Songlines of the Ancestors who lived here for thousands of years.

Today our Country is shared with Victorians from many different backgrounds. In addition, people from all across Australia and even internationally visit our Country. We believe that Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people must take a leading role in working with all communities on matters of Country.

As Traditional Owners we seek to build solid, working relationships and partnerships across our Traditional Country to protect, manage and restore the land and water today and for the future generations.

We have the right and the obligation to speak for Country.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation as one of three traditional owner corporations whose RAPs falls within the modern boundary of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC) welcomes the opportunity to form a working relationship with Macedon Ranges Shire Council, DEWLP and other relevant agencies and stakeholders across

the region. The development process used in the Localised Planning Statement indicated a mutual desire to build a strong, ongoing, partnerships with Traditional Owners. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation is the representative body of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. This response to the Statement of Planning Policy presents how Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people want to be involved with decision making, planning and land management across Country.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation is keen to work with Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning (DELWP) and Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC), establishing at the local level an appropriate response and partnership process for the Macedon Ranges as a declared area under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and this, the first associated Statement of Planning Policy. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people have strong historic and modern connections with the Country that now lies within the Shire of Macedon Ranges as Traditional Owners, residents, landowners, tourists, workers. The goal is to work as partners in the local landscape and resource management and planning.

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Corporation

Introduction





MACEDO

◀ MCGRE

◀ CAME

◀ MEMO

WALKING TRK

Introduction

The peri-urban areas surrounding metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria's major regional cities and towns comprise distinctive areas and landscapes of outstanding natural beauty and environmental, economic and cultural heritage significance.

These highly valued areas contain native vegetation that provides habitat for endangered and threatened species. They have a diversity of major land resources and infrastructure vital to the functioning of urban areas, such as providing clean air, drinking water, food and resources. Peri-urban areas offer connections to nature and to our rich biodiversity and are central to the lifestyle, tourism and recreational opportunities that we enjoy. All these values contribute to people's high quality of life.

Managing Victoria's growth while conserving and enhancing significant landscapes is a challenge we face. We must balance the growth of metropolitan Melbourne and regional towns and centres with the need to conserve and enhance distinctive areas and landscapes.

A sustainable approach to planning peri-urban areas recognises the unique values of Victoria's natural and cultural landscapes and ensures that development responds appropriately to the values that attract people to these areas.

The need to conserve and enhance significant landscape features, biodiversity and ecological values must be prioritised with other factors that make the area prosperous and sustainable: well-planned settlement growth, 'working' rural landscapes, local job creation, sustainable tourism, transport and essential services infrastructure, and climate change resilience.

Purpose of the statement

The Statement of Planning Policy provides a framework to ensure the outstanding landscapes, layers of settlement history, impressive landforms, and diverse natural environment of the Macedon Ranges are protected and conserved and continue to be of special significance to the people of Victoria. It celebrates the inexorable links between Country and Aboriginal Victorians.

In this statement, the *declared area* is the municipal district of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

The statement aims to support efforts to:

- recognise the connection and stewardship of Traditional Owners in relation to land in the declared area
- identify and protect significant landscapes and environmental and cultural heritage features within the declared area
- enhance conservation of the area's unique habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity
- provide greater certainty about the landscape values and rural land to be conserved for current and future generations
- guide the sustainable use of natural resources in keeping with the declared area's significant landscapes, environmental and cultural values



- reinforce the role and function of settlements in guiding future land use change and development to accommodate housing, employment and services to meet community needs and promote jobs, investment and infrastructure delivery
- ensure consideration of the area's significant landscapes in the management of land and the planning and provision of public infrastructure
- reinforce the importance of building community resilience to environmental risks associated with climate change, including the potential increased impact of natural hazards (such as bushfire and flooding).

Distinctive area and landscape declaration and policy approval

The Macedon Ranges were declared a distinctive area and landscape under Part 3AAB – Distinctive areas and landscapes, Section 46AO of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by order of the Governor-in-Council published in the Government Gazette 16 August, 2018 and coming into effect 16 August, 2018.

The Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy has been endorsed by responsible public entities and approved under Section 46AY of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by the Governor-in-Council on (insert date).

Using the statement

This statement supports the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme and helps implement legislation — primarily the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* — creating a framework for future use and

development of land that protects and conserves the distinctive attributes of the Macedon Ranges.

Other relevant legislation is the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth), *Forests Act 1958* (Vic), *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic), *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic), *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Vic), *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Vic), *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* (Vic), *Water Act 1989* (Vic), *Heritage Rivers Act 1992* (Vic), *Heritage Act 2017* (Vic), *Parks Victoria Act 1998* (Vic), *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic), *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic), *Transport Integration Act 2010* (Vic) and the *Victorian Planning Authority Act 2017*.

To ensure land use planning and development decisions are consistent with the Statement of Planning Policy, this statement will become an incorporated document to the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme and embedded in the State Planning Policy Framework with existing state and local planning policies, zones, overlays and particular provisions continuing to apply to land within the declared area.

In accordance with s 46AV(1)(c) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, it is stated that the:

- Objectives in this statement are binding on RPEs
- Strategies in this statement are in the nature of recommendations to which RPEs must have regard.

Responsible public entities should endeavour to integrate the Objectives and Strategies relevant to the issues to be determined and balance conflicting considerations in favour of an outcome that best promotes the intent of this statement for the benefit of present and future generations.



Responsible public entities

In accordance with section 46AZL of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, if a responsible public entity develops or implements policies or programs or makes decisions in relation to the declared area, the responsible public entity should:

- consult with all levels of government and government agencies that are relevant to the decision
- use best practice measures to protect and conserve the unique features and special characteristics of the declared area
- undertake continuous improvement to enhance the conservation of the environment in the declared area.

Responsible public entities must have regard to this Statement of Planning Policy when developing or implementing policies or programs or making decisions in relation to the Macedon Ranges declared area. Doing so will:

- better coordinate decision-making for land use and development across the declared area to achieve integrated management, environmental, infrastructure and development outcomes
- ensure any proposals for land use change and development are consistent with protection of the declared area's significant landscapes and state and nationally significant environmental, economic and cultural heritage values
- guide the sustainable use of natural resources in keeping with the declared area's significant landscapes, environmental and cultural values
- reinforce the importance of building community resilience to environmental risks and climate change, including the potential effects of natural hazards (such as bushfires and flooding)
- provide greater certainty for current and future residents and businesses.

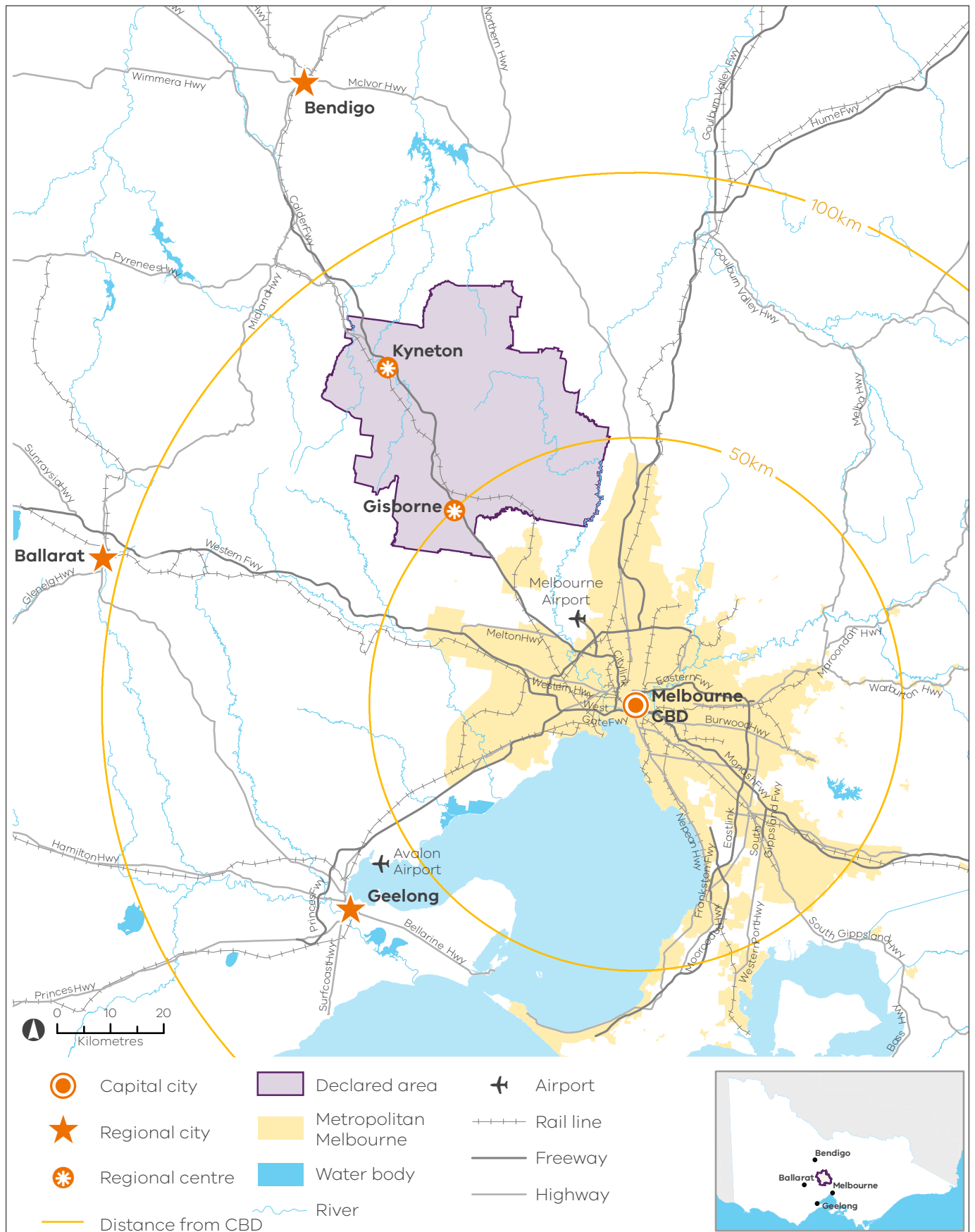
How the statement was prepared

The Minister for Planning prepared this Statement of Planning Policy in partnership with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the Traditional Owner groups of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Woiwurrung.

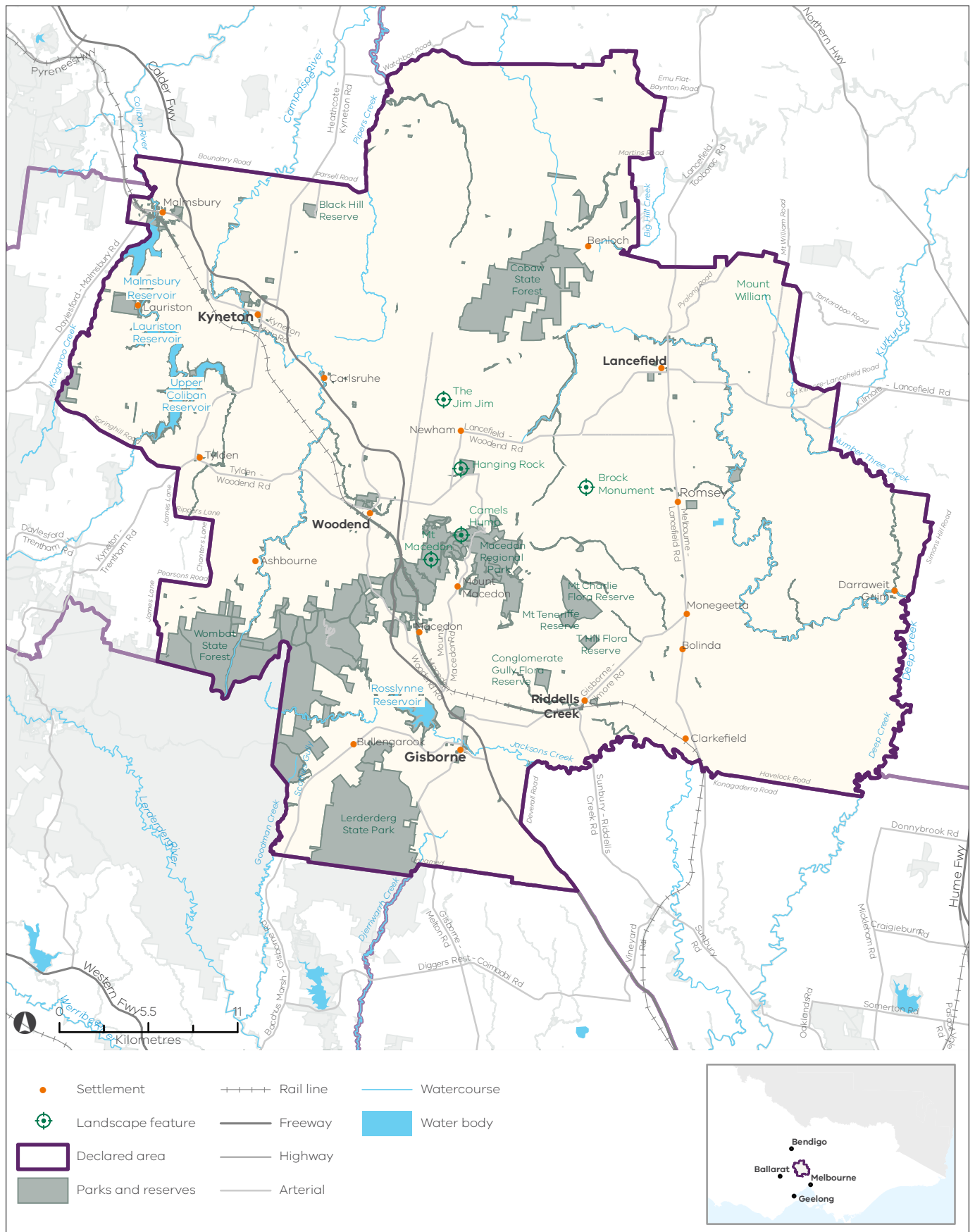
The statement acknowledges the feedback that local communities and other key stakeholders provided on the Macedon Ranges Localised Planning Statement Consultation Draft (December 2017) that was exhibited by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning from December 2017 to March 2018. The Consultation Draft followed on from the Minister for Planning's acceptance of the recommendations of the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee in early 2017.

The statement builds on the legacy of *Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 (Macedon Ranges and Surrounds)*, first introduced under the *Town and Country Planning Act 1961* in 1975. In many ways, Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 has been superseded by subsequent changes in Victoria's planning system. The *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the Victoria Planning Provisions and new-format planning schemes introduced in 1997 embed many of the statement's original policies. The intent of Statement of Planning Policy No. 8 can be strengthened, particularly by including further objectives and strategies addressing climate change.

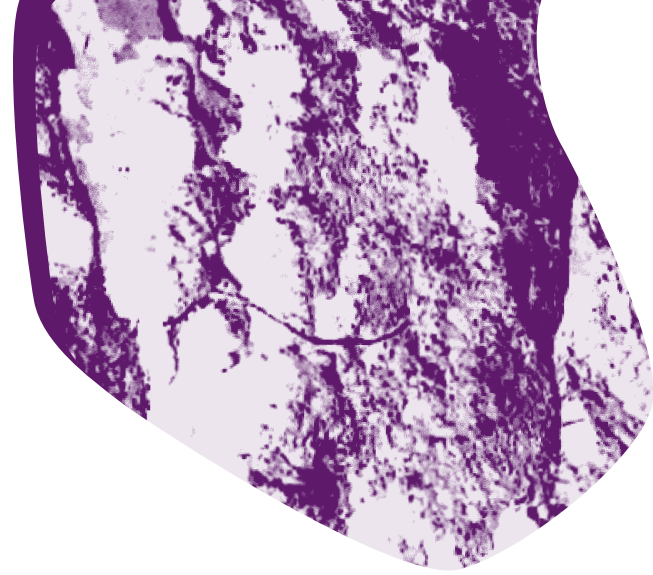
Map 1: The declared area location



Map 2: The declared area



Our vision



This statement sets a long-term vision for the iconic Macedon Ranges declared area that governments and communities can work together to achieve.

The vision for the Macedon Ranges policy area for the next 50 years to 2068 is:

Macedon Ranges is an iconic region of Victoria that is well-understood, appreciated and celebrated for its importance to our First Peoples and valued for its outstanding natural beauty, ecological significance, rural landscape setting and cultural heritage values.

Its diverse natural environment and impressive landforms, combined with the unique rural character of townships comprising heritage architecture and long-established public and private gardens, underscore its special significance to the people of Victoria, making it a popular place to live, work and visit.

Hanging Rock, Mt Macedon, Camels Hump, the Jim Jim and Brock Monument are rocky outcrops of special scientific and educational value, all of which help us understand Victoria's geological history. The Macedon Regional Park, Wombat State Forest, Lerderderg State Park and Cobaw State Forest contain rare concentrations of biodiversity including endangered plant and animal species. Native plants and animals flourish throughout the area with biolinks connecting valued habitats.

Strategic water resources flow from the many mountainous and forested areas of the declared area. These form impressive riparian landscapes and biodiversity corridors, and they also provide drinking water for local people, regional and metropolitan Melbourne use.

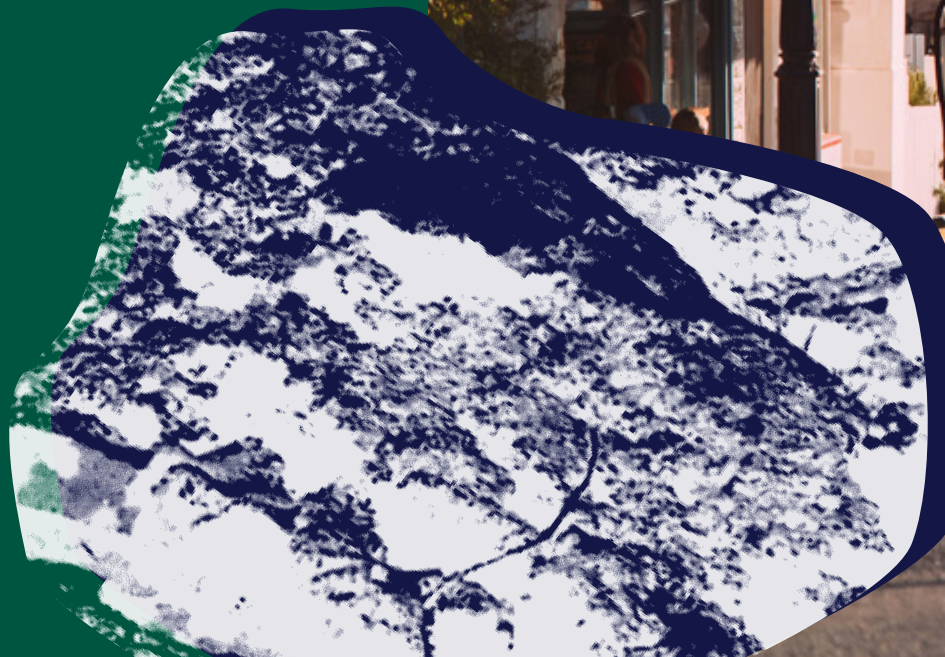
Agriculture contributes to the declared area's economic vitality, helping to sustain its valued rural character and highly productive landscapes.

The area's Aboriginal cultural heritage is well-understood and celebrated, and the continuing contribution and connection of Traditional Owners and custodians in caring for Country is acknowledged and supported.

Macedon Ranges has a flourishing and environmentally sustainable visitor economy that respects the area's environmental and cultural values, providing locals and visitors with a variety of high-quality natural attractions and experiences. Its parks and reserves are well managed, giving active and passive recreation experiences for all to enjoy and improve their health and wellbeing.

Settlements within the declared area are well-connected to local jobs and services, resilient to natural hazards and the effects of climate change and fit in with the most prized rural character and environmental and cultural attributes of the area making Macedon Ranges one of the most liveable and sustainable places to be in Victoria.

Framework Plan





ANTIQUES
& GIFTS

BAKERY

MALMSBURY
HOTEL
HOTEL MOTEL

CUSTOMER
PARKING

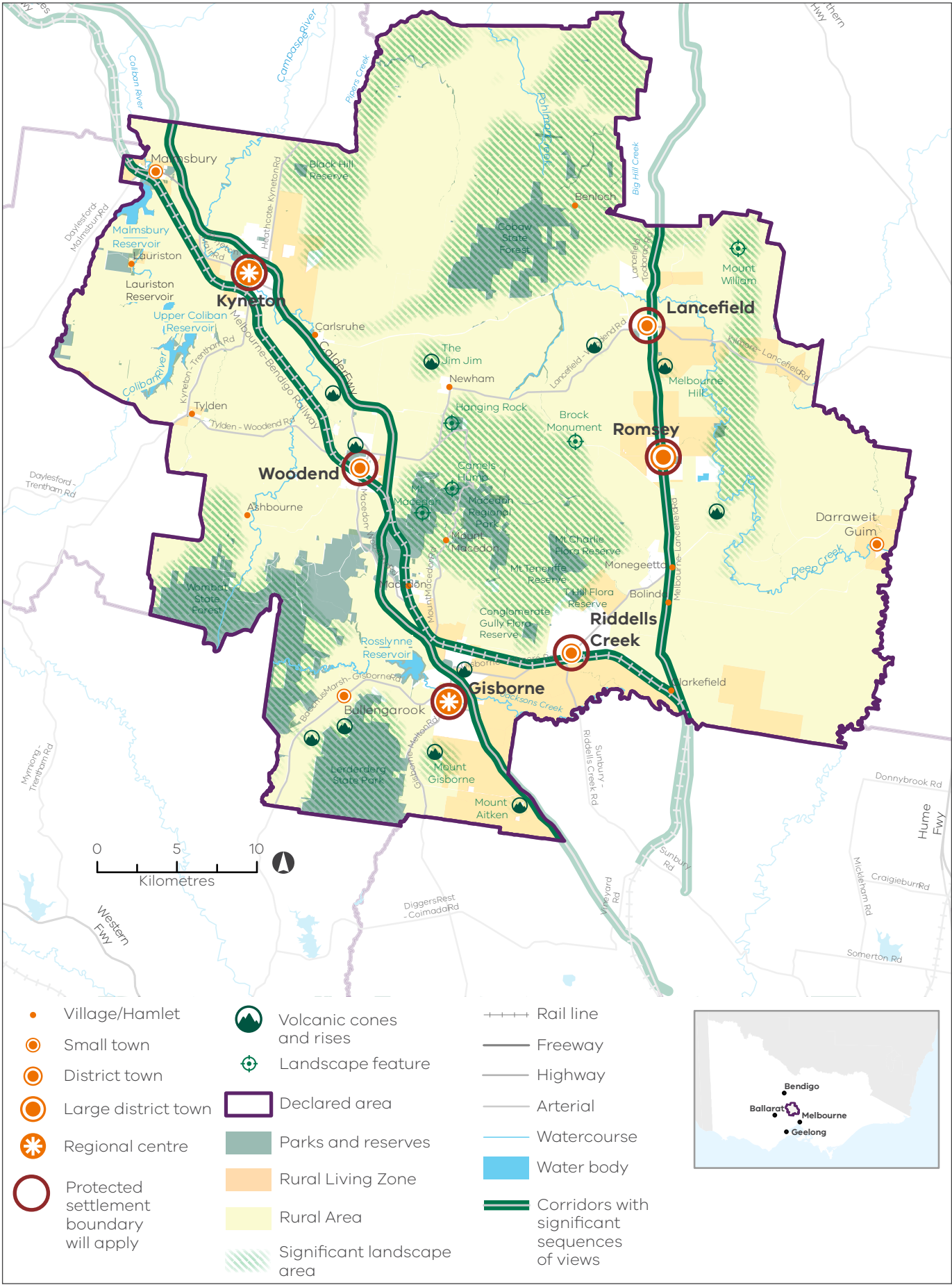
CHILDREN
CROSSING



Framework plan

Map 3 shows the framework plan to implement the vision set out in this statement. It reflects the objectives and strategies in this statement to guide sustainable growth in the declared area while protecting the values that make it a place of state significance. Protected settlement boundary maps 6, 7, 8 and 9 on pages 28-31 also form part of the framework plan.

Map 3: Framework plan*





Policy domains

This section sets the rationale for each of the 10 policy domains and identifies objectives and strategies to protect and conserve the declared area's distinctive attributes. The domains reflect the objects of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* in relation to distinctive areas and landscapes, and recognise that the area's landscapes are formed by a complex interaction of the area's unique geology, ecology, history, and land uses.

In decision making the highest priority is given to the significant landscapes that define the declared area as represented in the *Landscape* domain, the *Biodiversity and environment domain*, and the *Water catchments and supply* domain.

Landscape

The landscapes of the Macedon Ranges Shire reveal layers of history, reflecting how the land was formed, how people have cared for the land over thousands of years, and how the area's unique natural and cultural landscapes have evolved. The landscape comprises the natural and built environments that make up the declared area; it is the holistic integration of both of these environments across the region that this Statement of Planning Policy seeks to protect and enhance.

The declared area has contrasting landscapes formed by volcanic activity and shaped by wind and water erosion and human activities. The south-east of the declared area is flat-to-undulating basaltic plain scattered with volcanic features – stony rises, evidence of lava flows, volcanic cones and eruption points – which together form a unique visual landscape. The remainder is characterised by granitic intrusions that form steeply sloping peaks and ridges, some of which are carpeted in vegetation at higher elevations.

In parts of the declared area, the moderate-to-steep sloping hills of the highlands transition to flatter plains where rocky outcrops, ridges and escarpments (often associated with significant watercourses) create distinctive visual elements. The contrasting topography accommodates lush forests, rolling agricultural fields, picturesque vineyards and scenic residential enclaves, and it is a large part of why tourists are attracted to the region.



Map 3 shows the significant landscapes in the declared area. The Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock are the defining landscape features of the Shire and are exemplary and significant in a state context. At just over 1000 metres in elevation, Mt Macedon (and Camels Hump immediately to its north-east) are visible from far away, and they are among the highest points in Victoria west of Melbourne.

The unique geological formation of Hanging Rock is of particular significance — scientific, aesthetic, cultural, social and spiritual. It is a rare and dramatic example of a volcanic mamelon, which formed six million years ago when high-viscosity lava squeezed through a narrow vent in the Earth's crust. Camels Hump and Brock Monument formed in the same way. Weathering and erosion have contributed to the shape of these striking and unusual rock formations. Brock Monument — between Hesket and Romsey — is also of geological and landscape significance, as is the Jim Jim, a volcanic eruption point north of Hanging Rock.

Another significant landscape is the Lerderderg State Forest. The forest is characterised by its diverse and hilly topography, blanketed in thick native vegetation. It forms part of the Great Dividing Range and presents as a heavily vegetated backdrop to numerous views in the southern parts of the shire. Other significant landscapes include the Wombat State Forest, the Cobaw Ranges, McHarg Ranges and granitic uplands, Mt William Ridge and Deep Creek Gully, and the area's complex of volcanic cones and rises.

Mt William, in the north-east of the declared area, is the northernmost feature of a ridge of hills to the east of Lancefield. It is of national heritage significance for the greenstone the Wurundjeri people quarried there, which was used for stone hatchets and traded to other areas.

Other landscape areas provide important contrasts to these significant landscapes. The conservation areas of the declared area, including Cobaw State Forest, Wombat State Forest, Macedon Regional Park and Lerderderg State Park, offer superb views of the nearby ranges and rural landscapes.

Objective 1:

To ensure the declared area's natural and cultural landscapes are conserved and enhanced.

Strategies

Responsible public entities must consider, where relevant, the following strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

- Manage land use, development and infrastructure to ensure that significant

landscapes, views, and vantage points are conserved and enhanced.

- Encourage retention of native vegetation and revegetation that contributes to significant landscapes, particularly on escarpments and ridgelines and along riparian areas.
- Manage development around significant landscapes of visual, scientific or education value, including along ridgelines and at vantage points.
- Manage development and infrastructure provision to ensure sequences of views from key road and rail corridors are maintained for current and future users.



Biodiversity and environmental values

Victoria's natural environment is diverse, unique and precious. The declared area retains rich native biodiversity, and it has extensive areas of remnant native vegetation on public and private land that support native plants and animals, including many threatened species.

There are marked changes of vegetation throughout the declared area, resulting from variations in its geology, landforms, soils and climate: dry forests and woodland merge into damp forests across very short distances. Remnant native and non-native exotic tree cover is a feature of the landscape, and it supports the area's biodiversity.

Vegetation includes wet and dry forests, grassy woodlands and endangered grasslands. The many waterways and reservoirs in the declared area provide habitat, food and water for a diversity of plants and animals.

The main refuges for terrestrial biodiversity under state management are Macedon Regional Park, Wombat State Forest, Cobaw State Forest and Lerderderg State Park, as well as the Conglomerate Gully Flora Reserve, Mt Charlie Flora Reserve, T Hill Reserve and Mt Teneriffe Reserve. Map 4 shows strategic biodiversity values in the declared area.

The declared area is home to several rare, threatened or endangered species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). They include Black Gum (*Eucalyptus aggregata*), Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella Amoena*), Clover Glycine (*Glycine Latrobeana*), the Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale Tapoatafa*), Powerful Owl (*Ninox Strenua*), Greater Glider (*Petauroides Volans*) and Brown Toadlet (*Pseudophryne Bibronii*).

Objective 2:

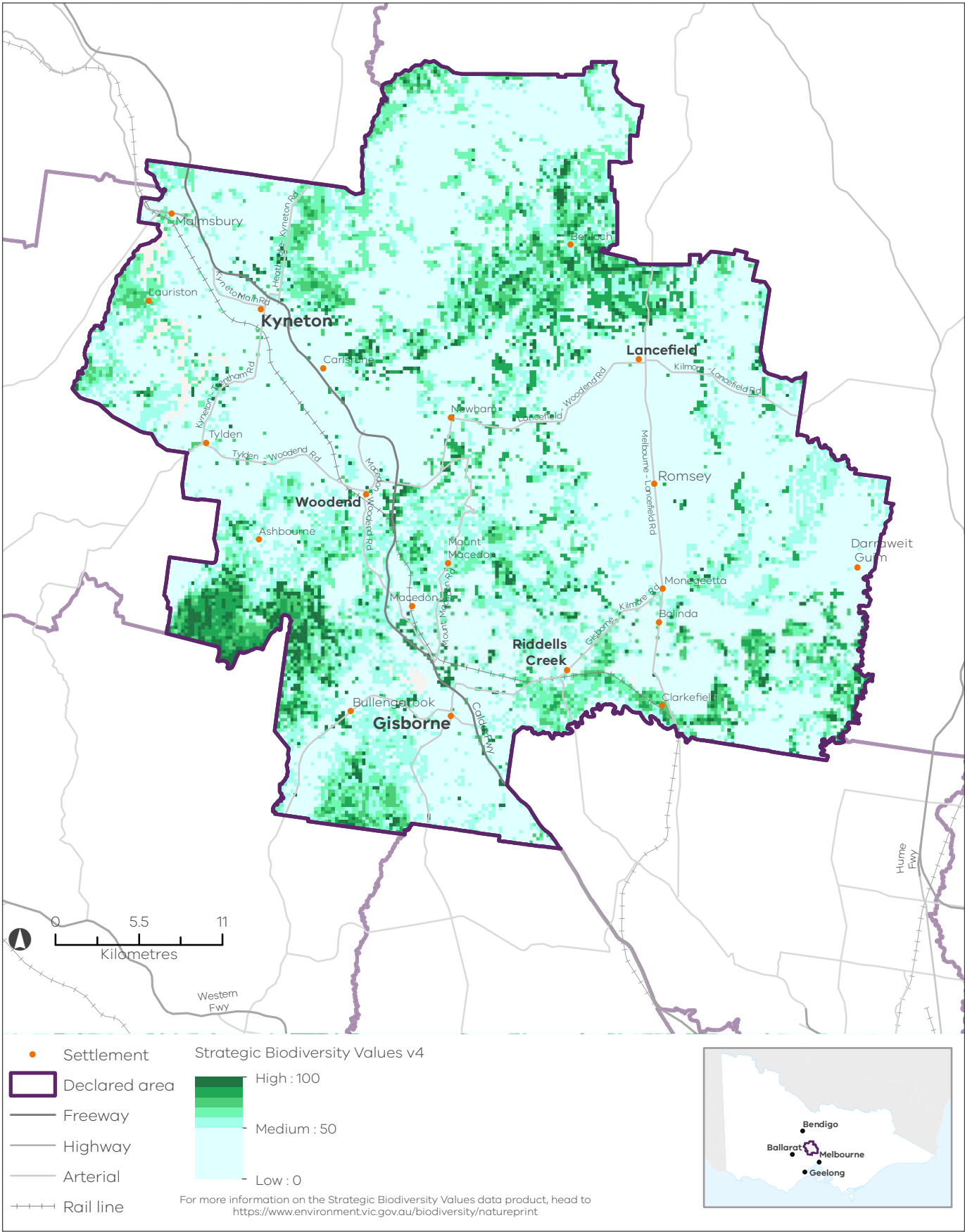
To ensure the significant biodiversity, ecological and environmental values of the declared area are conserved and enhanced.

Strategies

Responsible public entities must consider, where relevant, the following strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

- Conserve and enhance high-value native vegetation and biodiversity and their ecological integrity by undertaking responsible environmental management, planning, procedures and practices.
- Utilise appropriate historical ecological knowledge and practices from Traditional Custodians of the land in the management of biodiversity and ecological and environmental values.
- Encourage ecological restoration works in areas of identified state, regional and locally significant biodiversity value.
- Establish and improve biolinks to connect high-value ecological areas, including areas along waterways and areas within and between towns.
- Minimise the effects of weeds and pest animals on biodiversity values by establishing and implementing best practice land management plans.

Map 4: Strategic biodiversity values*



* Strategic biodiversity values shown in Map 4 are based on state-wide modelling. On-ground assessment is needed to inform decision making at the property level.

Water catchments and supply

The declared area's natural environment and location between Melbourne, Bendigo and Ballarat makes it an essential component of Victoria's water supply system, which is vital to the health and wellbeing of Victorians. The headwaters of many of Victoria's main waterways, which supply water for urban use and irrigation, are in the area.

Consequently, much of the declared area lies in Declared Water Supply Catchments under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and is protected. The 25 declared open potable water supply catchments in the area are essential water supply assets for the area, the region and ultimately the state.

To the south and east of the Macedon Ranges are Deep Creek, Emu Creek, Gisborne Creek, Riddells Creek and Jacksons Creek, which form the headwaters of the Maribyrnong River. The Maribyrnong meets the Yarra River at the Port of Melbourne. A small area in the south of the declared area drains to the Werribee River, which flows into Port Phillip Bay. In the north-east of the declared area, several creeks flow to the Goulburn River. North and west of the Macedon Ranges, the

Campaspe River (also fed by Pipers Creek and Five Mile Creek) and the Coliban River flow into the Murray–Darling system via Lake Eppalock.

Map 5 shows the key waterways and Declared Water Supply Catchments of the declared area.

Major water catchment storages in the western part of the declared area include the Upper Coliban, Lauriston and Malmsbury reservoirs on the Coliban River. The Rosslynne Reservoir on the Maribyrnong River system at Gisborne is a major water catchment in the southern part of the declared area.

Careful management of water catchments, groundwater and water use will ensure communities within and beyond the declared area continue to have a secure water supply. Use of fit-for-purpose water sources including recycled water and storm water will have environmental benefits and make communities more sustainable.

The riparian land alongside the waterways supports biodiversity and provides habitat connectivity for animals and amenity for communities. The environs of many waterways also have significant Aboriginal cultural heritage value.

Objective 3:

To prioritise the conservation and use of the declared area's water catchments to ensure a sustainable local, regional and state water supply, and healthy environment.

Strategies

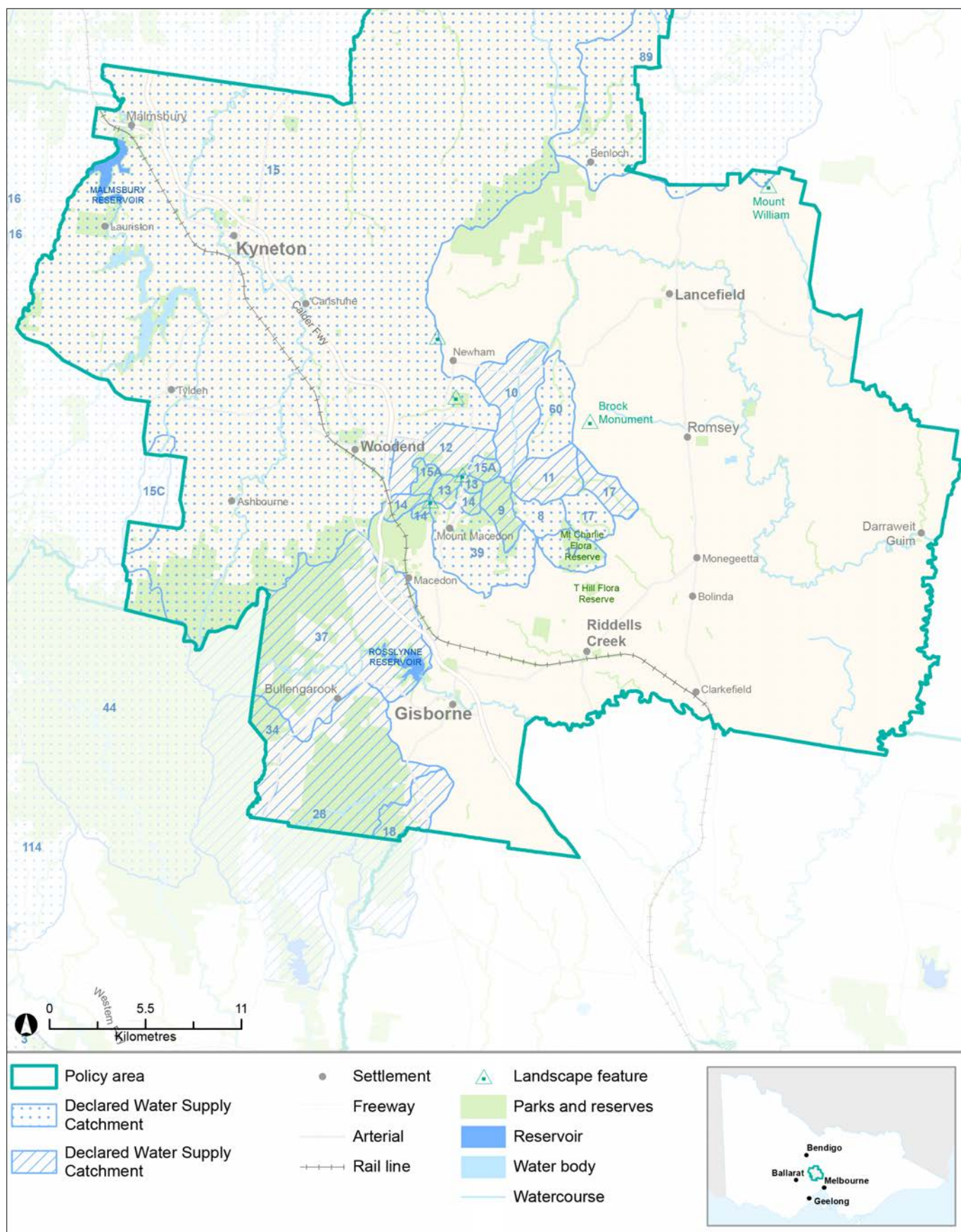
Responsible public entities must consider, where relevant, the following strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

- Protect water quality and natural systems by discouraging development that contributes to the degradation of water quality and quantity.
- Manage land use and development, including dams, in Declared Water Supply Catchments to retain and improve water quality and

improve yield to support regional water needs and to increase system-wide capacity to respond to demand.

- Reinforce the role of waterways as biodiversity linkages and as corridors for native plants and animals.
- Ensure water supply and land use planning policies are integrated, to realise efficiencies in regional catchment management and best-practice, water-sensitive urban design.
- Address the expected impacts of climate change, including changes in the duration and frequency of rainfall events and changes in the intensity and frequency of bushfire events.
- Review and improve regulation and monitoring of groundwater licences and surface water diversions.

Map 5: Declared water supply catchments and significant water features



Aboriginal culture, heritage and caring for Country

Macedon Ranges Shire is rich in Aboriginal spiritual and cultural heritage. The area is significant for Aboriginal people and their connection to Country. The Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri are the Traditional Custodians and Registered Aboriginal Parties for the area. They have spiritual, material and economic relationships with the land, waters and other resources that are connected with traditional laws and customs.

The Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Woiwurrung communities have lived in the declared area for at least 26,000 years and tangible and intangible expressions of culture strongly connect these communities with Country. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation is shown in scarred trees, stone tools, shell middens, quarries, grinding stones, ceremonial grounds and ochre pits. These features are often not easily seen.

Colonial settlement disrupted traditional Aboriginal land uses, practices and culture, but it did not sever the ties Traditional Owners and their descendants maintain with Country. Intangible cultural heritage is part of this connection and includes oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festivals, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe (UNESCO). Traditional Owners remain a key source of information and knowledge about managing land and water resources, and Traditional Owner communities do essential work to care for Country.

Macedon Ranges Shire's waterways and wetlands provide a ready supply of water, fish and other animals. As known areas of Aboriginal occupation tended to be close to water, archaeological evidence is concentrated in riparian areas.

Hanging Rock is a sacred and highly significant place and an important intertribal ceremonial meeting place. Oral traditions indicate it was the location of large intergroup gatherings for trade and ceremonies. Stone in stone tools found there comes from considerable distances, indicating the place was part of a much larger social and economic network. There is an important natural spring that was a source of water and is an important cultural and spiritual site. Hanging Rock is near the boundary of the three Aboriginal communities.

Mt William (Willam-i-murring) is one of the most significant Aboriginal quarrying sites in Australia, and it evidences a history of trade and interaction

between peoples. Across the landscape, a wealth of archaeological findings combine with intangible expressions of culture to indicate the importance of the area across generations of Aboriginal use and occupation.

Dja Dja Wurrung

Although the declared area is only a small part of Dja Dja Wurrung Country — it extends much further into north-west Victoria — the area has immense value and there is evidence of semi-permanent occupation.

Concentrations of archaeological artefacts, particularly around waterways, confirm that the area was a source of food and medicine, and it had many places to camp, hunt, fish, swim and conduct ceremonies. The Campaspe and Coliban rivers were particularly important for the Dja Dja Wurrung, and they feed into the broader waterway system that nourished Country.

Today, the Dja Dja Wurrung are joint managers of six Aboriginal Title parks and reserves under the 2013 Settlement Agreement and *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*. The Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan Dhelkunga Dja 2014-34 outlines strategic goals for managing land and water and consultation principles for state and third parties that should be considered in planning for Dja Dja Wurrung country in Macedon Ranges Shire.

Taungurung

Taungurung Country extends from the Campaspe River in the west across central Victoria to the Ovens River. A small part of Taungurung Country is located in the declared area.

The Campaspe River and its tributaries provided food and other resources for Taungurung people. The waterways flowing north from the Cobaw Ranges, including Pipers Creek, Jews Harp Creek and Pohlman Creek, are also significant.

Mt William was an important meeting area and a place for initiation ceremonies for the Taungurung and other peoples.

Woiwurrung

In 2012, Macedon Ranges Shire Council transferred the land title, ownership and management of Mt William, which is in the north of Wurundjeri Country, to the Woiwurrung people.

Mt William, close to Lancefield was a particularly important technological site in the greenstone belts of Victoria during pre-contact and early colonial times. The Mt William stone axe quarry is one of the best-preserved examples of Aboriginal quarrying and ground-edge axe head manufacturing technologies to have survived intact into the 19th century in south-east Australia. Greenstone from the quarry was traded over a wide area of south-east Australia. The full range of stone-working processes and implements can still be found at the site. Mt William greenstone axe heads were also widely traded throughout south-eastern Australia before and in the early days after colonial contact. Mt William's National Heritage Significance is recognised by its listing on the National Heritage List.

The Mt William stone axe quarry provides many contemporary Aboriginal communities throughout south-eastern Australia with a strong social, cultural and spiritual connection to an ancient Aboriginal tradition: it is symbolically a direct, unbroken link to ancestors whose reputations provide a constant source of pride and prestige.

Mt Macedon — *Geboor* in the Woi-wurrung language of the Woiwurrung people — is, at higher than 1000 metres, a dominant feature of Wurundjeri Country. At the base of Mt Macedon is an axe-grinding site important for the *Gunung-Willam-Balluk* tribe of the Woiwurrung people.

Objective 4:

To recognise, protect, conserve and enhance the declared area's Aboriginal cultural and spiritual heritage values and work in partnership with Traditional Owners in caring for Country.

Strategies

Responsible public entities must consider, where relevant, the following strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

- With Traditional Owners, identify, protect, conserve and enhance sites, landscapes and views of Aboriginal cultural significance, consistent with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Cultural Heritage Management Plans*.
- With Traditional Owners, acknowledge, protect, promote and interpret tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural values, heritage and knowledge when planning and managing land use and development, water and other environmental resources.



Post-contact cultural heritage

Macedon Ranges Shire is close to Melbourne and its location between the capital and the goldfields around Mount Alexander and Bendigo has left a rich colonial — post-contact — cultural heritage of historic townships and pastoral landscapes. There are reminders at every turn of Victoria's transformation as the early rail and road corridors snaked away from Melbourne to connect small-but-distinctive settlements and establish new industries. The declared area has many listings on the *Victorian Heritage Register* and a larger collection of distinctive heritage places protected through the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

Pastoralists in the 1830s were quick to recognise the declared area's agricultural potential and made it one of Victoria's earliest areas of colonial settlement. The area retains rural landscapes valued for heritage and cultural associations. The area became an early source of agricultural and timber products for Melbourne.

The Victorian gold rush in the 1850s resulted in the establishment of many towns along the transport corridors linking Melbourne to central and northern Victoria. The Bendigo railway line features Victoria's grandest gold rush era rail architecture and infrastructure, with many heritage listed bridges and stations along the scenic and historic rail journey.

The declared area's mysterious landscapes also drew explorers and naturalists, for whom Hanging Rock was an early curiosity. Hanging Rock is a nationally, if not internationally, recognised destination included on the Victorian Heritage Register. The Hanging Rock Reserve is now a state-significant tourism asset that provides bushwalking

and picnicking opportunities and hosts a calendar of horse racing, festivals and other events.

The Macedon Ranges and the towns of Macedon and Mount Macedon were an early summer retreat for colonial settlers attracted by their topography and cooler climate. The area's popularity led to a wealth of exotic plantings in public parks and private gardens that are now of national significance, evidencing a long history of ornamental garden creation and experimental planting.

The area's striking natural landscapes have been admired in art and literature, particularly by artists Eugene Von Guerard and Frederick McCubbin (who lived at Mount Macedon), and later by author Joan Lindsay.

The heritage character of townships and rural landscapes is highly valued by residents and visitors. Significant streetscapes are enhanced by avenues of honour in many townships. A strong legacy of 19th and early 20th century architecture is particularly evident in the towns of Kyneton, Malmsbury, Mount Macedon, Gisborne and Woodend. Historical botanical gardens are located in Kyneton and Malmsbury. Malmsbury also has a significant industrial heritage associated with the early harnessing of the Coliban River as a water supply.

The declared area's historic residences, commercial and industrial buildings, public institutions, bridges, aqueducts and places of worship all contribute to its unique post-contact cultural heritage values. Sympathetic urban design, siting and infrastructure design are important for new developments to protect heritage places and enhance their character.

Objective 5:

To recognise, conserve and enhance the declared area's significant post-contact cultural heritage values.

Strategies

Responsible public entities must consider, where relevant, the following strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

- Conserve and enhance the character of state and/or nationally significant post-contact cultural heritage values (including aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and spiritual values) in the declared area's heritage places, precincts and landscapes, including sequences of views along main road and rail routes.
- Acknowledge, promote and interpret significant post-contact cultural heritage values in the planning, design, development and management of land uses, including infrastructure.

Agriculture and natural resources

The declared area's picturesque rural landscapes are a window into the history of colonial settlement in Victoria. The eastern part of the declared area at Lancefield is strongly associated with Victoria's early pastoral activities. Shelterbelts of cypress and pine trees planted to protect crops and livestock from winds sweeping the Western Basalt Plain are now a defining feature of the area.

Agriculture and associated agribusinesses are important economic activities in the declared area, with high-quality soils between Lancefield, Hesket and Romsey; around Clarkefield; between Macedon and Riddells Creek; north-east of Gisborne; east and west of Kyneton; and in the valleys around Baynton and Sidonia. While traditional farming is widespread, more diverse or intensive farming activity and horticulture is increasing. The area's proximity to Melbourne brings opportunities for food and wine-based tourism and opportunities to reduce 'food miles'.

Farming landscapes provide a rural break between townships and settlements within the declared area and metropolitan Melbourne. The combination of these working rural landscapes with the backdrop of mountain ranges, forested areas and waterways contribute to a highly valued agricultural landscape.

Forestry was important historically for the development of the declared area's communities. Monoculture forestry remains in areas around Macedon and Mount Macedon. The equine industry has become more important in the past two decades, partly because of the declared area's proximity to Melbourne. Viticultural production has also increased, and it adds an attractive diversity to the agricultural landscape.

Extractive industry is vital to the development of housing, transport and other infrastructure across Victoria. High-quality extractive resources are finite and only exist in areas of favourable geology. Macedon Ranges has areas identified as important to Victoria's future supply of extractive materials.

Objective 6:

To support and encourage agricultural land uses that strengthen the declared area's economy and contribute to the rural landscape.

Strategies

Responsible public entities must consider, where relevant, the following strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

- Encourage the use of rural-zoned land for agricultural purposes and encourage the use of high-quality soils for soil-based agriculture.
- Encourage and support innovations in agricultural practices (such as sustainable farming, water reuse, technologies to enable farming to adapt and respond to emerging and niche markets).

- Support agricultural practices that improve soil health and respond to and encourage adaptation to climate change.
- Encourage measures to ensure agricultural practices protect and enhance soil quality, water quality, biodiversity and native plants and animals.
- Manage the effects of rural land use and development on important environmental and cultural values.
- Restrict the supply of rural-living-zoned land to conserve and protect agricultural practices.
- Protect strategic extractive resource areas and existing quarry operations from encroachment from inappropriate development.
- Proposals to establish an extractive industry must adhere to best practice measures to avoid and minimise impacts on significant environments and landscapes.

Tourism and recreation

The declared area is part of the Daylesford and Macedon Ranges tourism region and is important to Victoria's tourism and recreation industries. The area is close to Melbourne and Bendigo, making it practical for a large number of people to visit. It is increasingly popular with domestic and international visitors, who are attracted by its natural beauty, rural landscapes, cultural heritage, festivals and other events.

The declared area attracts significant numbers of local, national and international visitors each year, which generates a significant proportion of the shire's employment, economic activity and regional output.

The recreation and tourism industry was established in the mid-19th century with the development of the Macedon Ranges as a holiday and health resort. Hanging Rock and Macedon Regional Park, together with Wombat State Forest, Cobaw State Forest and Lerderderg State Park, have unique natural beauty and offer visitors a connection with nature. Visitor facilities in these areas provide active and passive recreation and tourism opportunities. There are magnificent views of Melbourne and its hinterland

from the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross and Camels Hump viewing areas.

Day trip and overnight visitors are attracted to the declared area for nature-based recreational pursuits such as bush walking, cycling, horse riding, fishing and bird watching. People also come for sightseeing, pleasure driving, picnicking, arts and culture events, gourmet food trails, wellness tourism, festivals and markets. In essence, the declared area offers Victorians and visitors with a vast array of recreational pursuits that enable people to be better connected to the natural environment.

Cultural heritage and the character of townships, with their historic streetscapes and properties and formal parks and gardens (including the private gardens of Mount Macedon), draw visitors year-round. Visitor numbers are projected to continue to grow into the future.

Opportunities to expand and diversify tourism and recreational offerings in the declared area need to be carefully managed, including through land use planning, to conserve and enhance the declared area's significant landscapes, assets and heritage features that these industries and activities depend on.

Objective 7:

To provide for a diverse and sustainable visitor economy compatible with the natural and cultural values of the area.

Strategies

Responsible public entities must consider, where relevant, the following strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

- Support and facilitate sustainable and responsible tourism and recreation-related land uses and developments (such as agri-

tourism) in keeping with the declared area's significant landscapes, environmental and cultural values.

- Facilitate tourism-related land use and development that encourages people to recognise and understand Aboriginal and post-contact cultural heritage.
- Ensure the conservation and enhancement of Declared Water Supply Catchment Areas of regional or state significance in the planning of tourism and recreational land uses.
- Protect the unique rural character of towns in the declared area.

Settlements

Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme identifies a hierarchy of settlements (by their current and proposed role and function) and sets as an objective to deliver a settlement hierarchy vision by 2036. This will see some settlements growing and changing their role and function over time.

Table 1 reflects this hierarchy and the identification of Gisborne and Kyneton as regional centres in state and regional planning policies.

Table 1: Projected hierarchy of settlements

Hierarchy designation	Settlement
Regional centre	Gisborne, Kyneton
Large district town	Romsey
District town	Riddells Creek, Lancefield, Woodend
Small town	Bullengarook, Darraweit Guim, Malmsbury
Village	Benloch, Carlsruhe, Lauriston, Macedon, Mount Macedon, Newham, Tylden
Locality/hamlet	Ashbourne, Clarkefield*, Monegetta-Bolinda

*Note: The current status of Clarkefield has been included in the settlement hierarchy to 2036 until such time as the long-term role of Clarkefield is determined. The Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme seeks to ensure that allowable development does not compromise the long-term potential for a positive urban outcome, and a strategy that urban expansion in Clarkefield be considered in the future. Such decision-making would need to be carefully considered in terms of the role of Clarkefield within the settlement hierarchy, including the provision of suitable infrastructure, services and land capability.

Different townships have different growth capabilities and, consequently, a shire-wide approach is adopted to managing growth rather than a town-by-town approach.

The *Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan and Plan Melbourne 2017–2050* identify the largest settlements — Gisborne and Kyneton — as becoming regional centres providing for population growth, employment and infrastructure.

The *Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan* refers to growth in regional centres as being “growth consistent with structure plans, comprising infill and some targeted expansion”. Plan Melbourne Policy 7.1.2 is to support planning for growing towns in peri-urban areas and includes the policy statement that: “Most importantly, development in peri-urban areas must also be in keeping with local character, attractiveness and amenity. Growth boundaries should be established for each town to avoid urban sprawl and protect agricultural land and environmental assets”.

The planning scheme anticipates that Romsey (at present a district town) will grow to the lower end of the large district town population range. The planning scheme anticipates that the role of Woodend (which is a district town) will remain a district town. Lancefield and Riddells Creek (which are small towns) are anticipated to grow to become district towns. There will be no change to the role and position in the hierarchy of the present small towns, villages and localities except that Tylden, which is a locality, is anticipated to become a village.

All townships in the declared area have township boundaries. Townships that are forecast to have minimal change will be managed within the township boundary.

Protected settlement boundaries apply or will be applied to towns identified for future growth. These comprise the townships of Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey, Riddells Creek, Lancefield and Woodend.

Gisborne

A protected settlement boundary will be determined for Gisborne as part of the review of the Gisborne/New Gisborne Outline Development Plan. A structure plan will be used to determine the settlement boundary.



Kyneton

Areas identified for growth are located within the protected settlement boundary. These areas are shown on the Kyneton Strategic Framework Plan in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme as areas for medium-term growth and investigation for long-term growth located south of the township.

Woodend

The Woodend Strategic Framework Map in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme identifies three possible urban investigation areas. These areas comprise:

- land to the east of the town
- land to the north-east of town boundary
- land to the north-west of the town boundary.

These urban investigation areas have not been included within the protected settlement boundary as it remains undetermined as to whether all, some or none of these areas will be appropriate for future growth. These areas should be subject to the preparation of a Township Review Plan to determine the suitability of growth in any of these locations.

Romsey

A protected settlement boundary will be determined for Romsey as part of the review of the Romsey Outline Development Plan. A structure plan will be used to determine the settlement boundary.

Riddells Creek

An urban investigation area south of the rail line shown in the Riddells Creek Strategic Framework Map is included within the protected settlement boundary. Further work is required in relation to infrastructure requirements in this location.

Lancefield

The Lancefield Township Framework Plan identifies that further land is unlikely to be required out to 2036. The protected settlement boundary reflects the current town boundary.

Settlement planning processes

Settlement planning to be guided by structure plans

The townships of Gisborne and Romsey will require structure plans to establish a protected settlement boundary. Rezoning beyond a town boundary for township growth should not be considered until a protected settlement boundary has been finalised.

Investigation areas identified in structure plans but located outside a protected settlement boundary

In Woodend, investigation areas are to remain outside the protected settlement boundary pending preparation of a detailed assessment of these areas by a Township Review Plan to determine a preferred growth option.

Any decision about further growth beyond the protected settlement boundary in these locations will require an in-principle decision as to whether to allocate resources to undertake extensive investigation and analysis to determine whether the settlement boundary should be moved. This will be determined through the preparation of a Township Review Plan.

A growth option plan must comprise a detailed, evidence-based consideration of the strategic merit of the growth option. It must address aspects such as environment, biological, cultural heritage, economic and community needs assessment, demographic, transport, township character and other key strategic planning considerations.

A growth option plan will identify whether an investigation area is able to accommodate township growth. It is not anticipated that all land contained within the investigation areas will be suitable for urban development given potential site and servicing constraints.

A Township Review Plan will guide the preparation of an amendment to update the relevant settlement strategic framework plan. The settlement boundary will be determined through this process.

Any amendment to the settlement boundary requires parliamentary ratification of a planning scheme amendment approved by the Minister for Planning.

Growth areas located outside town boundaries but within the protected settlement boundary

In Kyneton, land between the town boundary and settlement boundary is within a non-urban zone but has been identified for medium to long-term growth. A precinct structure plan or similar and an infrastructure contribution plan or similar must be prepared to guide growth in this area prior to any rezoning of the land.

A planning authority will not consider rezoning an area identified for growth located within the settlement boundary until a comprehensive level of planning and infrastructure assessment has been undertaken. A housing supply and demand assessment must be undertaken to demonstrate the need for the growth. This planning and infrastructure assessment will determine how these areas can be planned and staged for housing, community facilities, transport, environment conservation, drainage and passive and active open space.

Objective 8:

To plan and manage growth of settlements in the declared area consistent with protection of the area's significant landscapes, protection of catchments, biodiversity, ecological and environmental values, and consistent with the unique character, role and function of each settlement.

Strategies

Responsible public entities must consider, where relevant, the following strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

- Direct urban development to a hierarchy of settlements identified for growth, through clearly defining long-term settlement boundaries.
- Direct rural residential development to rural-living-zoned land as provided for in the Macedon Ranges Council's rural living strategy, *In the Rural Living Zone – Strategic Direction* (2015).
- Encourage infill development that respects the townships' character.
- Limit the expansion of settlements in high-risk locations, actively reducing the risks associated with natural hazards.
- Encourage a range of housing types within settlement boundaries to support a diverse range of housing needs.
- Encourage provision of an adequate supply of well-serviced employment land within settlement boundaries to support local and regional jobs and services.
- Encourage the use of voluntary Cultural Heritage Management Plans.

Transport and infrastructure

The social, economic and environmental resilience of peri-urban communities depends on the provision, maintenance and upgrading of transport, essential services and community infrastructure. All levels of government face the ongoing challenge of responding to existing and emerging community needs and infrastructure requirements. Timely provision of infrastructure must occur in sequence with development to meet community needs. It also needs to be resilient to the potential effects of natural hazards that may increase due to climate change.

In particular, existing and future communities need an integrated and sustainable transport network and modes of transport that connect. People need reliable and efficient modes of transport to get from their home to places of employment, services and other destinations within and beyond the declared area. Sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport need to be encouraged to support liveability and to adapt to changing community needs. Reduction in the use of fossil fuels is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to global efforts to tackle climate change.

The Calder Freeway and the Melbourne–Bendigo rail line, which continues to Echuca and Swan Hill, form part of a state-significant transport corridor servicing the western side of the declared area and link it to Melbourne and north-west Victoria. The Melbourne–Lancefield Road forms the eastern spine of the declared area and links it directly to

greater Melbourne and Melbourne Airport. These routes provide access and connectivity and allow for frequent commuter rail services, contributing to the declared area's popularity.

The declared area's transport corridors also have important environmental values, as they have much remnant native vegetation. They are gateways to the declared area and offer views of state-significant landscape features including Hanging Rock, the Macedon Ranges and Cobaw Ranges.

The declared area's settlements need essential services infrastructure — water, electricity, energy, telecommunications and waste management — for their survival and growth. Renewable energy infrastructure will also be increasingly important for the area's energy security.

Community facilities and services help individuals, families and groups meet their social needs, maximise their potential and build community cohesion and wellbeing. Planning and delivery of community infrastructure (such as schools, sporting facilities, community facilities and town centres) needs to be integrated; this maximises infrastructure investment outcomes and gives the community better access to services.

Over time, climate change may reduce the effectiveness of infrastructure and its ability to withstand the impact of natural hazards. Land use planning can mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce the susceptibility of infrastructure and essential services to the effects of natural hazards.

Objective 9:

To manage the provision of infrastructure consistent with protection of the area's significant landscapes and protection of environmental values to support the social and economic needs of communities and increase resilience to climate change effects.

Strategies

Responsible public entities must consider, where relevant, the following strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

- Provide timely infrastructure and services to meet community needs in sequence with development.
- Maintain and enhance transport connections that provide links between and within regional

communities and to major cities.

- Reduce use of fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by prioritising active transport and public transport modes.
- Maintain view lines of state-significant landscape features from the main road and rail transport corridors.
- Ensure the future operation and development of major transport linkages and rail corridors and upgrading and improved management of freight routes are considered when managing the growth of settlements.
- Ensure equitable access to community infrastructure.
- Encourage the use of active and public transport by planning infrastructure and facilities in accessible locations, and improve walking and cycling routes.

Risks and resilience

The declared area is a beautiful, liveable and productive area but faces challenges from climate change and dependence on fossil fuels, as well as bushfire, drought and flooding. Continued dependence on fossil fuels and climate change are increasing other risks that affect people, buildings, infrastructure, biodiversity, economies, agriculture and tourism. Careful planning and prepared communities can help to anticipate and manage risks, reduce the impact for future generations, and make communities more resilient.

Climate change

Climate change is one of most critical issues facing Victoria. It is important for all communities to take action on climate change and reduce emissions, while at the same time preparing for the impact of climate change. The declared area is expected to become warmer and drier and this will bring changes to land uses, production areas, water availability and habitats.

Likely key impacts include:

- more frequent extreme events such as droughts, storms and bushfires
- decreased water security
- threats to species viability, including habitat alteration or destruction
- challenges to primary production with altered crop planting, harvesting and flowering times
- threats to important infrastructure such as energy, water, transport and communications
- effects on community health and wellbeing.

Victoria's Climate Change Framework sets out a vision for Victoria, approaches to achieving that vision, and steps for a transition to net zero emissions and a climate-resilient economy. To accelerate the transition to net zero emissions and a climate-resilient Victoria it is proposed to:

- increase energy efficiency and productivity
- move to a clean electricity supply and switch to clean fuels
- reduce non-energy emissions and increase carbon storage
- build resilience to climate change.

Climate change will alter the spread and density of flora and fauna, with some species set to decline or alter while others will spread. The change in the climate may also pose new opportunities for invasive weeds and animals to establish in the region.

Communities will need to understand the changes that may occur and harness opportunities to reduce emissions and become more climate-resilient. Resolving potential conflicts will require a clear understanding of how landscape, biodiversity, water, settlement and other land use issues are integrated.

Bushfire

Much of the declared area is at risk from bushfire and has a history of severe bushfires. Risks have been identified for the community, the area's economy and the environment. Bushfire has been the cause of significant loss of life and damage to property in the past, with major bushfire tragedies on Ash Wednesday 1983 and Black Friday 1939.

The large bushfire catchment and the location of settlements near large areas of forest make communities in the area particularly vulnerable. A number of areas are characterised by steep terrain with tall eucalypt forests and bark fuels. This results in high-intensity fires that are difficult to suppress, with high levels of embers and convection generating spot fires significant distances from fire fronts.

The risk of bushfire makes it essential that all possible steps are taken to reduce risks for people in the area, and to increase communities' resilience to bushfire events.

Bushfires also present a significant risk to the area's biodiversity and ecological processes. Climate change is expected to make bushfires more frequent and more intense. This poses further risk to the area's plants and animals and is expected to affect the distribution of species (including pests).

Bushfire threats go beyond the direct impact of fire. Regional water catchments and reservoirs are at risk of contamination from ash and run-off. In some years smoke taint has been an issue for vineyards, affecting the quality of crops.

Flood

Although climate change is expected to result in less water available, the frequency and magnitude of flood events are expected to increase. This will have an impact on the rainfall run-off process and will affect wetlands and riparian vegetation. Rivers, riparian areas and wetlands will be affected by the quality and quantity of water received. Some parts of the declared area are subject to periodic flooding, particularly areas along Five Mile Creek and Slaty Creek in Woodend, Jacksons Creek in Gisborne, and Riddells Creek.

Drought

The declared area and Victoria as a whole have a history of severe drought. The Millennium Drought (1997-2009) produced conditions well outside those that water supply systems and water sharing rules had been designed for. This event highlighted the uncertainty around future climate conditions and reinforced the need for planning to consider a range of future climate scenarios.

Objective 10:

Respond to the challenges and threats of climate change and natural hazards with careful planning and mitigation strategies.

Strategies

Responsible public entities

Responsible public entities must consider, where relevant, the strategies in relation to this objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

- Support community and government planning for disaster preparedness and climate resilience.

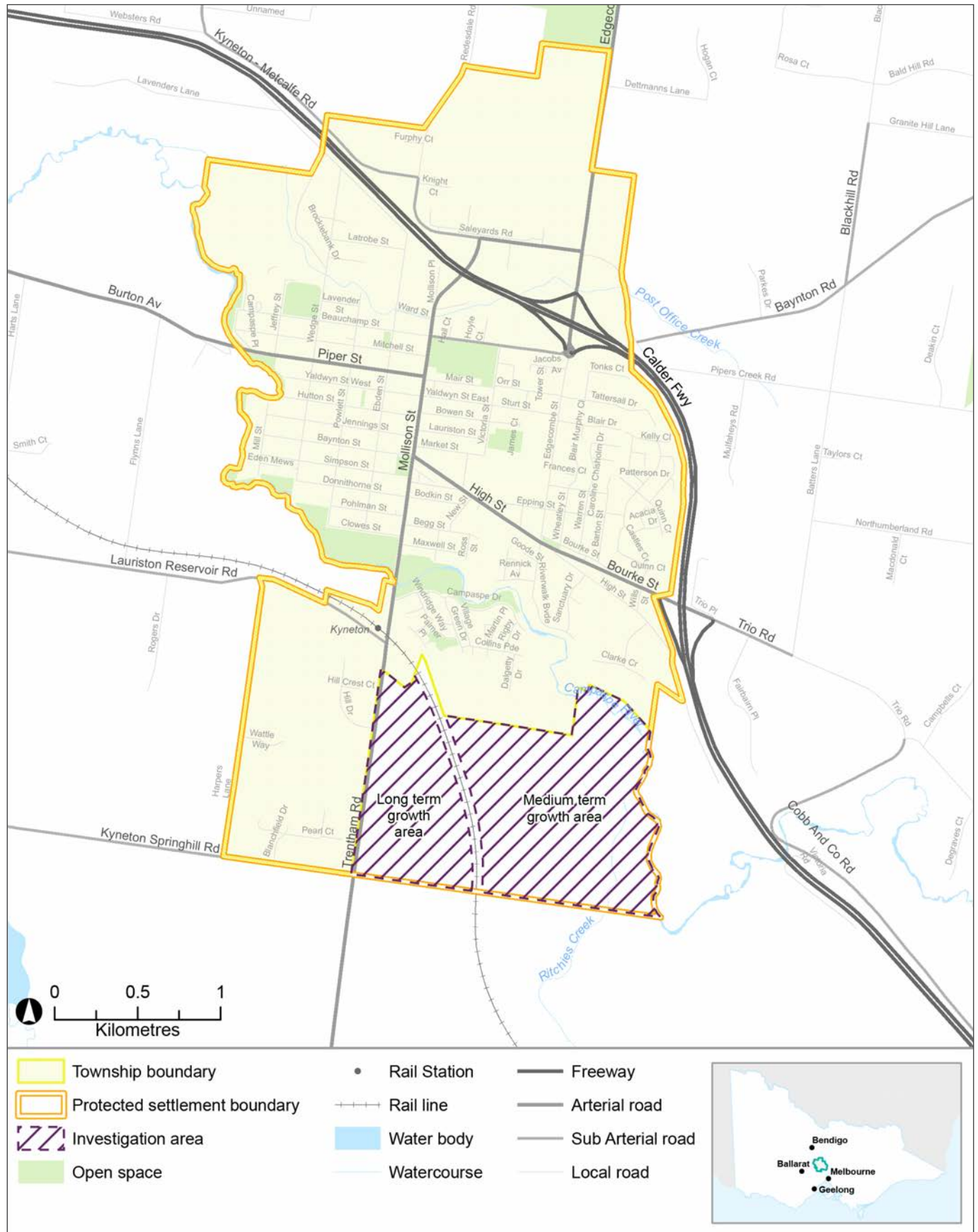
- Manage bushfire risks while also retaining valued biodiversity and landscape character.
- Plan for more renewable energy generation and distribution.
- Ensure proposals to establish renewable energy facilities adhere to best practice measures to avoid and minimise impacts on significant environments and landscapes.
- Ensure planning for future use and development of land prone to flooding minimises the consequences of inundation.



Settlement boundary maps

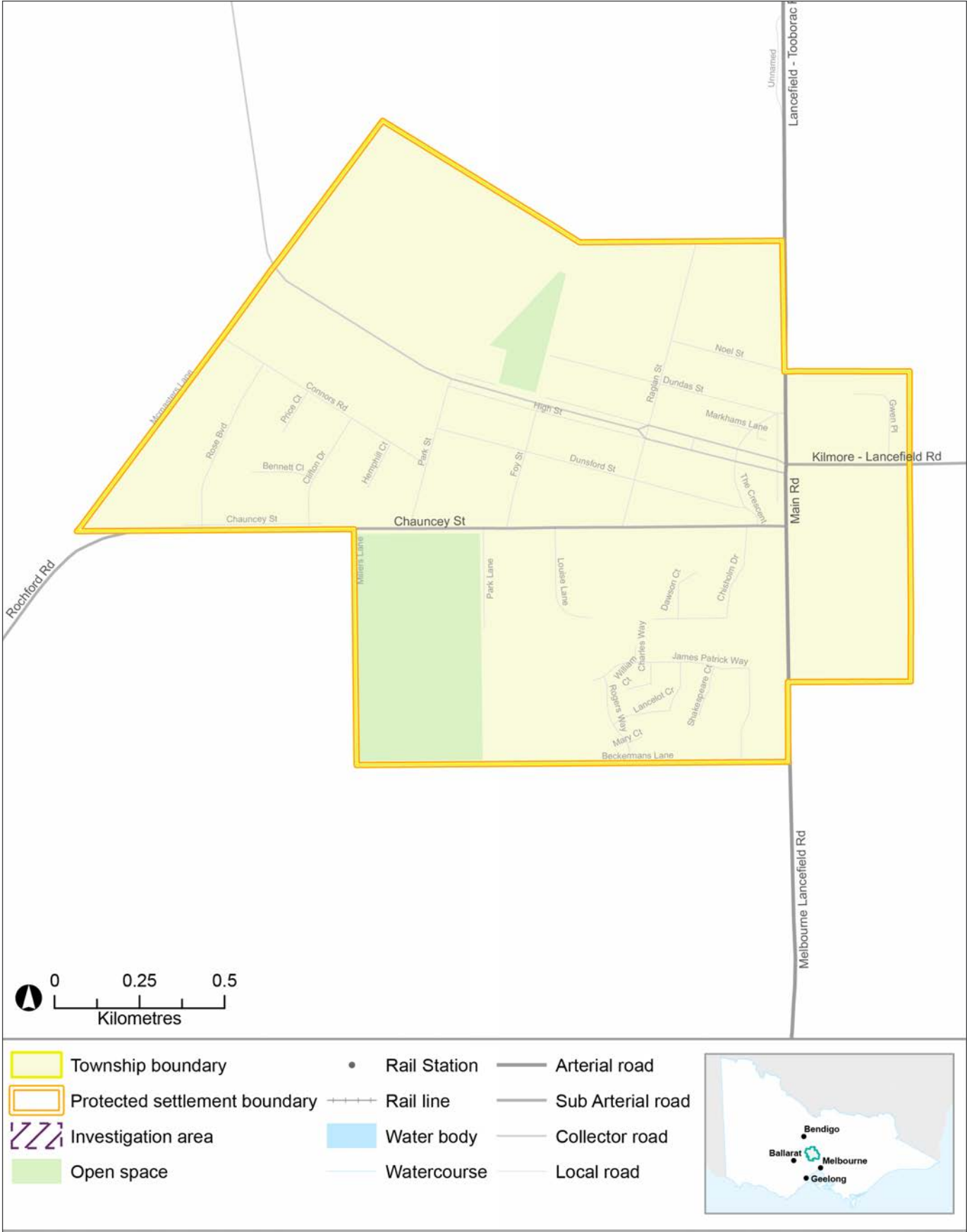
Kyneton

Map 6: Protected settlement boundary – Kyneton



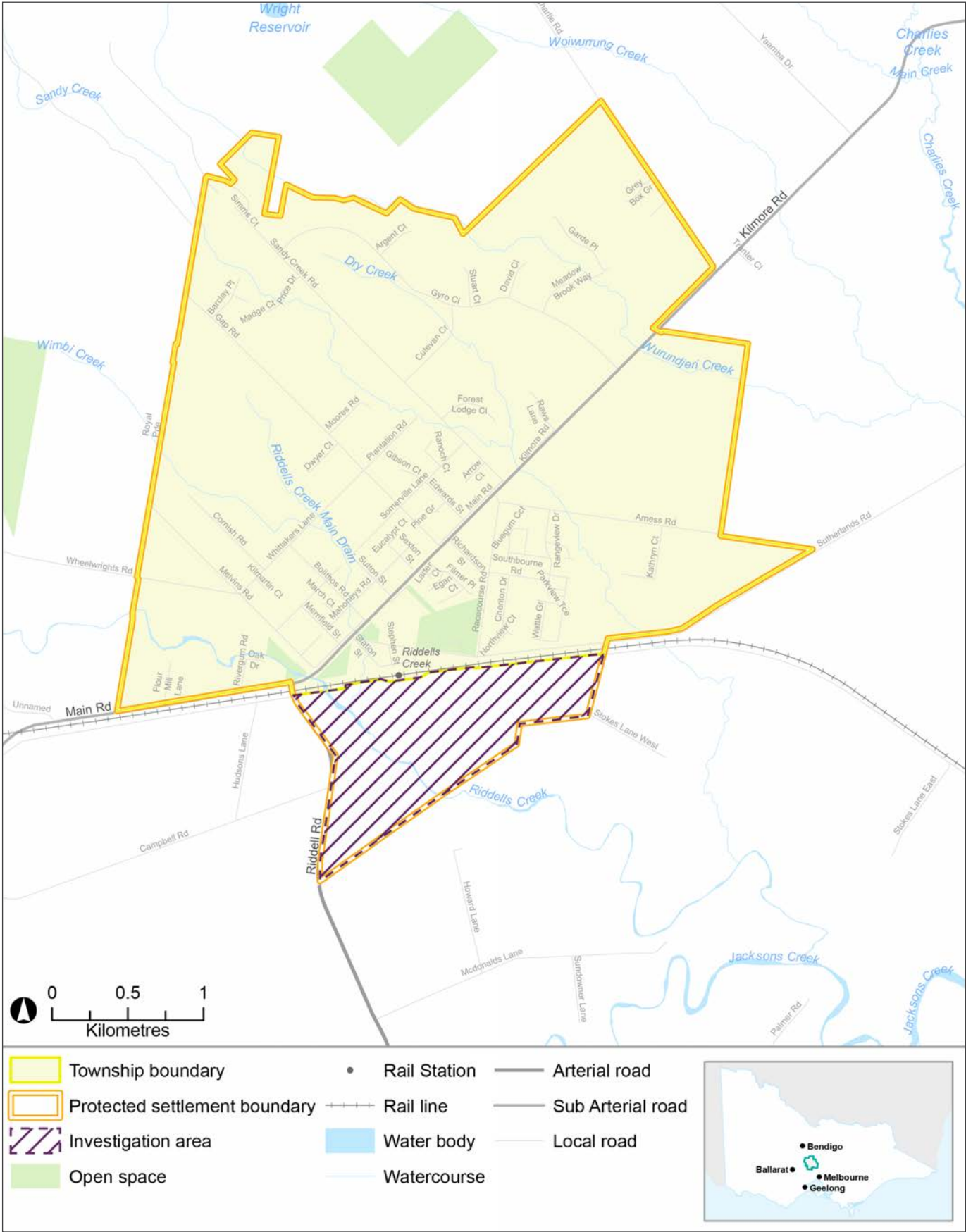
Lancefield

Map 7: Protected settlement boundary – Lancefield



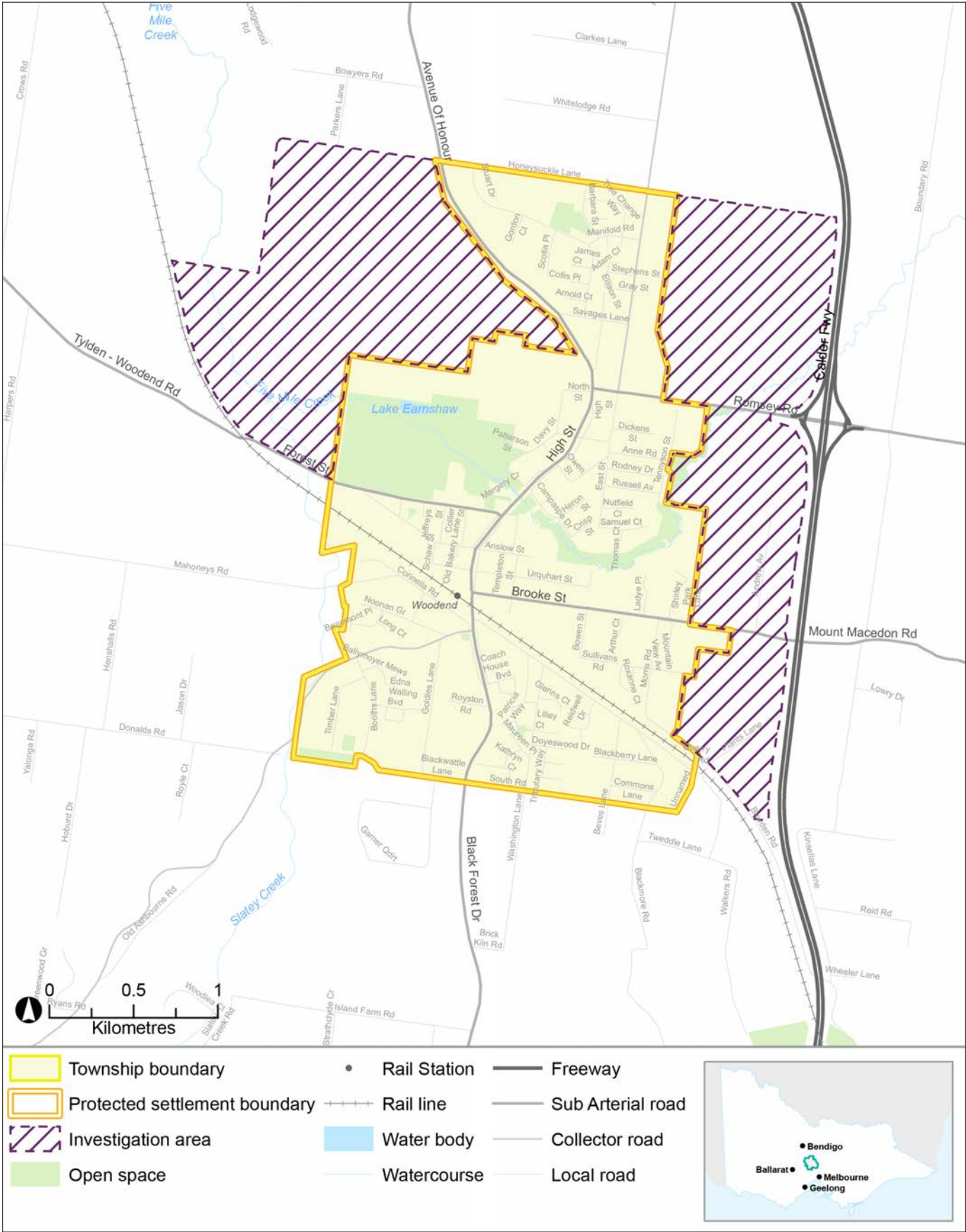
Riddells Creek

Map 8: Protected settlement boundary – Riddells Creek



Woodend

Map 9: Protected settlement boundary – Woodend





Gisborne and Romsey

Long-term settlement boundaries will be determined for Gisborne and Romsey as part of the review of the Gisborne/New Gisborne Framework Plan and Romsey Structure Plan that form part of clause 21.13 – Local Areas and Small Settlements of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme. In the interim, the current plans will provide sufficient direction to guide strategic planning until these reviews are completed and settlement boundaries are determined in the next 12 months.

Implementation

Government agencies must consider this policy statement when making relevant decisions and carrying out activities in the declared area. This includes, for the purposes of the planning scheme, responsible public entities and planning authorities.

This statement intends to integrate policy development and decision making for the declared area. In accordance with section 46AZK of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, responsible public entities must not act inconsistently with the objectives outlined in the statement. If a responsible public entity develops or implements policies or programs or makes decisions in relation to the declared area, the responsible public entity should:

- (a) consult with all levels of government and government agencies that are relevant to the decision;
- (b) use best practice measures to protect and conserve the unique features and special characteristics of the declared area;
- (c) undertake continuous improvement to enhance the conservation of the environment in the declared area.

To ensure land use planning and development decisions are consistent with the statement of planning policy, this statement will become an incorporated document to the Macedon Ranges

Planning Scheme and embedded in the State Planning Policy Framework with existing state and local planning policies, zones, overlays and particular provisions continuing to apply to land within the declared area. The State Government will work with Macedon Ranges Shire Council to facilitate the required planning scheme amendment process.

This statement has been developed based on a number of technical reports and inputs, principally the Macedon Ranges Protection Advisory Committee Report 2017.

This policy statement provides a basis for a whole of government plan of action for the short, medium and long term.

Monitoring and review

To provide long-term certainty for the declared area, the statement will be reviewed at least every 10 years. The review will be carried out by the Minister for Planning in partnership with Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Traditional Owners and in consultation with the Victorian community. Earlier review may be undertaken. However, this will only be considered where further strategic work that can inform development of the policy has been completed, e.g., landscape assessments, assessment of biodiversity, and reviews of township framework or structure plans.

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Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Biolink	A connection across the landscape that links up areas of habitat. A biolink supports natural processes that occur in a healthy environment, including the movement of species to find resources such as food and water.
Declared area	<p>Declared area means an area to which an order under section 46AO of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> applies.</p> <p>The declared area that is the subject of this document is the municipal district of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. It includes landscapes, biodiversity and environmental values, water catchments and supply, Aboriginal cultural heritage, European cultural heritage, settlements, agriculture and rural land, tourism and recreation, transport, infrastructure and climate change within the shire.</p>
Declared area framework plan	Declared area framework plan means a plan described in section 46AV(2) of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> .
Declared area planning scheme	Declared area planning scheme means a planning scheme applying to land that is wholly or partially within a declared area.
District town	A town with a moderate population (2,000–6,000) with connections to all essential services. District towns tend to have a dominant town centre with a variety of retail services, a post office, schools, a police station and some basic medical facilities. Employment is generally in higher-order centres.
Hamlet/locality	A cluster of houses on smaller-than-average, rural-sized allotments in a non-urban zone (with a population less than 100). Reticulated water and/or sewer connections are generally not available.
Investigation area	An investigation area is land that has been identified in an approved structure plan for potential future growth of a township and requires further assessment against constraints and opportunities to determine its potential and suitability to accommodate growth.
Growth Options Plan	A growth options plan is the output from assessing investigation areas to determine the preferred locations for potential future growth.

Term	Definition
Large district town	A town with a substantial and diverse population base (6,000–10,000) and a dominant business district with a moderate employment base. All essential services are provided. Access to services (such as police stations, medical/hospital facilities and a range of education facilities) is generally high. A variety of accommodation types and sizes is available.
Peri-urban	Melbourne's peri-urban area lies beyond the green wedges and is made up of local government areas with a predominantly rural character, located all or partially within a 100-kilometre radius of Melbourne. It includes state-significant land assets (such as resources, infrastructure, environmental and cultural heritage assets). Green wedges are defined under Part 3AA of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> as "land that is described in a metropolitan fringe planning scheme as being outside an urban growth boundary".
Declared area	The declared area is the municipal district of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. It includes landscapes, biodiversity and environmental values, water catchments and supply, Aboriginal cultural heritage, European culture heritage, settlements, agriculture and rural land, tourism and recreation and transport, infrastructure and climate change within the shire.
Protected settlement boundary	A protected settlement boundary is a settlement boundary in a declared area that is protected under a Statement of Planning Policy. It is a long-term boundary designed to contain township growth. Settlement boundaries apply to towns identified for future growth. This includes the townships of Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey, Riddells Creek, Lancefield and Woodend.
Protected settlement boundary amendment	An amendment that alters a protected settlement boundary in a planning scheme.
Regional centre	A centre with a large, diverse population (10,000 plus), employment and housing base. All essential services are connected and higher-order goods and services are provided. All levels of education are offered and access to large hospitals and numerous medical facilities is generally provided. Regional centres have strong relationships with surrounding settlements of all types.

Term	Definition
Responsible public entity	<p>In relation to declared areas, responsible public entity means any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Secretary (within the meaning of the <i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i>); (ii) the water corporation responsible for the area in which the declared area is located; (iii) a municipal council whose municipal district contains land in the declared area; (iv) Parks Victoria established under Part 2 of the <i>Parks Victoria Act 1998</i>; (v) the Victorian Planning Authority established under Part 2 of the <i>Victorian Planning Authority Act 2017</i>; (vi) a Catchment Management Authority established under Part 2 of the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> for a catchment and land protection region that contains land in the declared area; (vii) the Roads Corporation continued under section 80 of the <i>Transport Integration Act 2010</i>; (viii) Victorian Rail Track continued under section 116 of the <i>Transport Integration Act 2010</i>; (ix) any committee of management or trustees under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> in relation to land in the declared area; (x) any Traditional Owner Land Management Board established under Part 8A of the <i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i> in relation to land in the declared area; (xi) any other public entity prescribed to be a responsible public entity in relation to the declared area.
Settlement boundary	A settlement boundary, in relation to a plan of an area, means the boundary marking the limit of urban development in that area
Small town	Town population levels (500–2,000) vary with general service provision and there are strong employment relationships with larger towns. All are connected to reticulated water and electricity, and in most cases have sewer connections available.
State significance	‘State significance’ is a term used to describe environmental, economic and cultural heritage that is important to the State of Victoria.
Statement of Planning Policy	Statement of Planning Policy means a Statement of Planning Policy approved under Part 3AAB of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> in relation to a declared area, as amended from time to time.
Township boundary	A township boundary identifies existing township areas referenced in clause 21.13 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.
Township review plans	Township Review Plans are the output from determining the urban capacity of an existing township and the need for growth.
Traditional Owners	Traditional Owners are Australian Aboriginal groups with Country in the Macedon Ranges Shire. They are the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri groups.
Village	A settlement with a low population (less than 500).

