

# EXTENT

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THE ASIA PACIFIC



## Gisborne Structure Plan Heritage Assessment

Prepared for Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Version 6—October 2019

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## Executive Summary

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is in the process of developing a structure plan for the rapidly growing township of Gisborne. Extent Heritage was engaged to provide Aboriginal and post-contact heritage advice and inputs to the structure planning process, with a view to identify, protect and improve the management of areas of Aboriginal and post-contact heritage. This report details the results and analysis of desktop surveys and limited consultation, including consultation with the Wurundjeri in relation to cultural values, and provides strategic advice and recommendations about the relevant constraints, risks and opportunities for management and conservation of heritage within the structure plan study area.

## Findings

Based on a preliminary heritage assessment of the study area and its immediate geographical context, we have identified the areas of known and potential heritage sensitivity set out at Figure 1. While only a moderate number of registered heritage places and items have been identified within the study area, beyond it, its immediate geographical context includes a substantial number of Aboriginal cultural heritage items that inform an assessment of likely potential within the study area, particularly in area 3 (north of railway). These correspond with a cluster of identified post-settlement heritage items, suggesting that this area, and in particular the part north of Hamilton Road, may require further investigation prior to inclusion in growth area boundaries.

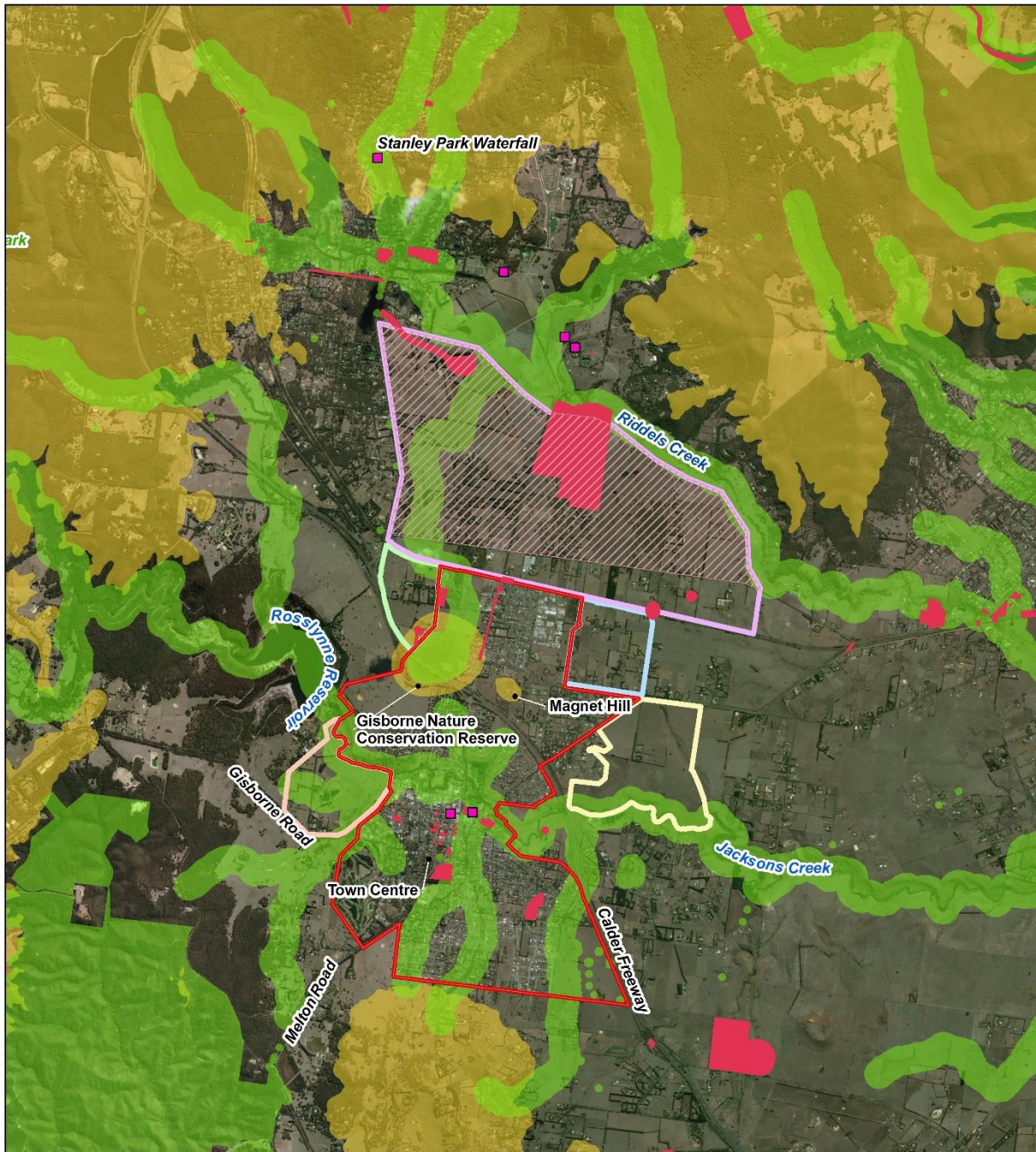
The Jacksons Creek corridor is also identified as having likely Aboriginal cultural significance, and any proposed infrastructure or crossing in the vicinity of the watercourse should incorporate the views of Aboriginal people in regards to location and design. Other geographic features within the study area that may warrant further investigation and caution include the wetlands in the Gisborne Nature Conservation Reserve, and significant views that should be considered include to Camel's Hump, Mount Macedon, Mount Robertson and in the direction of the Sunbury Earth Rings, and from Mount Gisborne and Magnet Hill. Gisborne railway station, a site of state significance, is expected to experience future development in its vicinity, and it is suggested that this development recognise the significant values not only of the railway station itself but also its curtilage and setting, particularly given its important role as an entry 'gateway' to the growing township.

Using the following area designations taken from the Gisborne Context Plan Enquiry by Design workshop (as extended in November 2018 to enlarge the North of Railway (3) area: see Figure 1 below) we provide the following further guidance in relation to each area.

Table 1. Guidance regarding each investigation area

Investigation area	Guidance
<p> 1 Current Investigation Area</p>	<p>Due to likely Aboriginal heritage sensitivity, a further setback of 200 m should be placed around the perimeter of the swamp in the Gisborne Nature Conservation Reserve to the south to recognise the potential presence of items with Aboriginal heritage significance, including flora and fauna. Views between the swamp, Mount Gisborne and Magnet Hill should be preserved. The presence of old stony rises further elevates the potential for items with Aboriginal heritage significance. Any development in southern end of this area would need to be preceded by an investigation. A small farm, 'Cathlaw', included in the Heritage Overlay lies in the southern part of the area, and development impacting on this place would likely require a planning approval.</p>
<p> 2 Current Investigation Area</p>	<p>The presence of old stony rises elevates the potential for items with Aboriginal heritage significance, and development in the vicinity of such rises should be preceded by an archaeological survey. Other than constraints relating to the bluestone railway overpass on the north-east boundary of this area, which is included in the Council Heritage Overlay (Mitchell's Bridge, H0302), no particular constraints have been identified.</p>
<p> 3 North of Railway</p>	<p>Noting the presence of a rise associated with a small eruption point, development north of Hamilton Road should be subject to cultural values assessment with Wurundjeri and a broader cultural landscape evaluation of the rural landscape. Large, old River Red Gums should be retained, and further regeneration of the species should be encouraged. Development impacting on places registered on the Victorian Heritage Register, Victorian Heritage Inventory and/or the Heritage Overlay would likely require development consents. Development in the vicinity of the Gisborne Railway Station would be likely to require development consents, and consideration should be given to expanding the existing Heritage Overlay and Victorian Heritage Register entry to include the former hotel and stationmaster's house.</p>
<p> 4 Kilmore Road (Eastern Area)</p>	<p>The southern boundary of this area coincides with an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity following the northern bank of Jacksons Creek, and most development would likely require further investigation and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, which would establish conditions under which development may</p>

Investigation area	Guidance
	<p>proceed. The presence of river terraces elevates the potential for items with Aboriginal heritage significance, and a control specifying a minimum distance from the watercourse for housing and development could be considered. In addition, designs for any crossings of Jacksons Creek should be sensitive to the Aboriginal significance of the corridor.</p>
<p> 5 Bypass (Western Area)</p>	<p>The north-western boundary of this area coincides with an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity following the southern bank of Jacksons Creek, and most development would like require further investigation and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, which would establish conditions under which development may proceed. A control specifying a minimum distance from the watercourse for housing and development could be considered. In addition, the location and design for any crossings of Jacksons Creek should be sensitive to the Aboriginal significance of the corridor, avoid sections that retain unmodified natural outcrops and remnant native vegetation, and be subject to a cultural values assessment in conjunction with the Wurundjeri.</p>
<p> Gisborne Settlement Boundary</p>	<p>Development in the vicinity of the Gisborne Railway Station would be likely to require development consents, and consideration should be given to expanding the existing Heritage Overlay to include the former hotel and stationmaster’s house. Urban consolidation or residential and commercial infill development in the vicinity of places with existing heritage controls may require permits and/or consents. The recent discovery of a significant amount of Aboriginal cultural material in the south-east corner of the settlement boundary illustrates the need to maintain care during development of undisturbed pockets, particularly in the vicinity of watercourses.</p>



**EXTENT**

- Gisborne Township Boundary
- 1 Current Investigation Area
- 2 Current Investigation Area
- 3 North of Railway
- 4 Kilmore Road (Eastern Area)
- 5 Bypass (Western Area)
- Areas of Likely Heritage Sensitivity (both Aboriginal and post-contact)
- Likely sites of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity
- Places included in Victorian Heritage Database and/or Heritage Overlay
- Areas of predicted cultural heritage sensitivity
- Areas of Aboriginal Heritage Sensitivity

Drawn by: Alexander Murphy, Tom Sapienza  
 Checked by: Luke James  
 Date: 23 October 2018  
 Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55  
 Data sources: Extent, ESRI, ACHRIS



Figure 1. Heritage impact sensitivity map, Gisborne Structure Plan investigation areas

## Constraints, risks and opportunities

### Aboriginal cultural heritage

The study area forms part of a larger Indigenous landscape surrounding Jacksons Creek, which was utilised traditionally and historically for resources, transport and wayfinding. This broader landscape includes Hanging Rock, Camel's Hump, Mount Macedon and Mount Robertson to the north, and the Sunbury Earth Rings and Mount Gisborne to the south.

#### *Recommendations*

- Any water crossing design should be kept flexible, using minimal impact design, and consider the values of the watercourse as a continuous transit corridor.
- Jacksons Creek corridor, in particular, has cultural heritage value to Wurundjeri, and the location and design of any crossing should be careful to maintain continuity of creek line along this transit and resource corridor, avoid sections that retain unmodified natural outcrops and remnant native vegetation, and be subject to a further detailed cultural values assessment in conjunction with the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council (Wurundjeri). Any construction will likely trigger a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, which the Wurundjeri would evaluate as the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the area.
- Consider 100–200 m setbacks on wetlands (including Wooling Swamp and Gisborne Nature Conservation Area) due to archaeological sensitivity.
- Historical references from existing reports and studies should be registered on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) and/or Council's planning scheme.
- Any proposed changes to controls to permit development north of Hamilton Road should be preceded by further detailed cultural values mapping in consultation with the Wurundjeri.
- Use of Woiwurrung language for place names and interpretation, for example at the Bush Inn Hotel, which must be done in consultation with, and with approval from, Wurundjeri.
- In addition to constraints, there are opportunities to incorporate Aboriginal cultural knowledge into assets for the township. A notable example might be the use of a lookout on Magnet Hill to interpret the Aboriginal values of the landscape, particularly the natural amphitheatre formed by the mountains to the north, which are known to have been intensively used by the Wurundjeri.
- Views from and to particular sites have been identified as having likely heritage significance to the Wurundjeri people. This should be taken into account in addition to broader consideration of their significance in any visual and landscape assessment during the Gisborne structure plan process. In particular, all views to Mount Macedon, and views from Mount Gisborne to the south to Werribee River ('Wada-wurrung') and east have been identified as significant to the Wurundjeri. It is further noted that views from Magnet Hill to Mount Macedon, Camels Hump and Mount Robertson to the north, and to the Sunbury earth rings to the south (see Figure 3), are likely to hold significance for the Wurundjeri.

## Post-contact cultural heritage

### *Recommendations*

- Consider the curtilage and setting of Gisborne Station in any development around the station, and also consider heritage assessment of the former Hurst Family Hotel and stationmaster's house for possible inclusion of the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) entry and Heritage Overlay, as important elements of the station complex.
- Both design and planning for future development should consider how the character of the town was shaped by its role as a waypoint during the gold rush, and respect elements that tell this story.
- Important residences including Elderslie and Bolbek in the North of Railway area are of state significance and any proposed development in their vicinity should only be permitted if compatible with their heritage values.



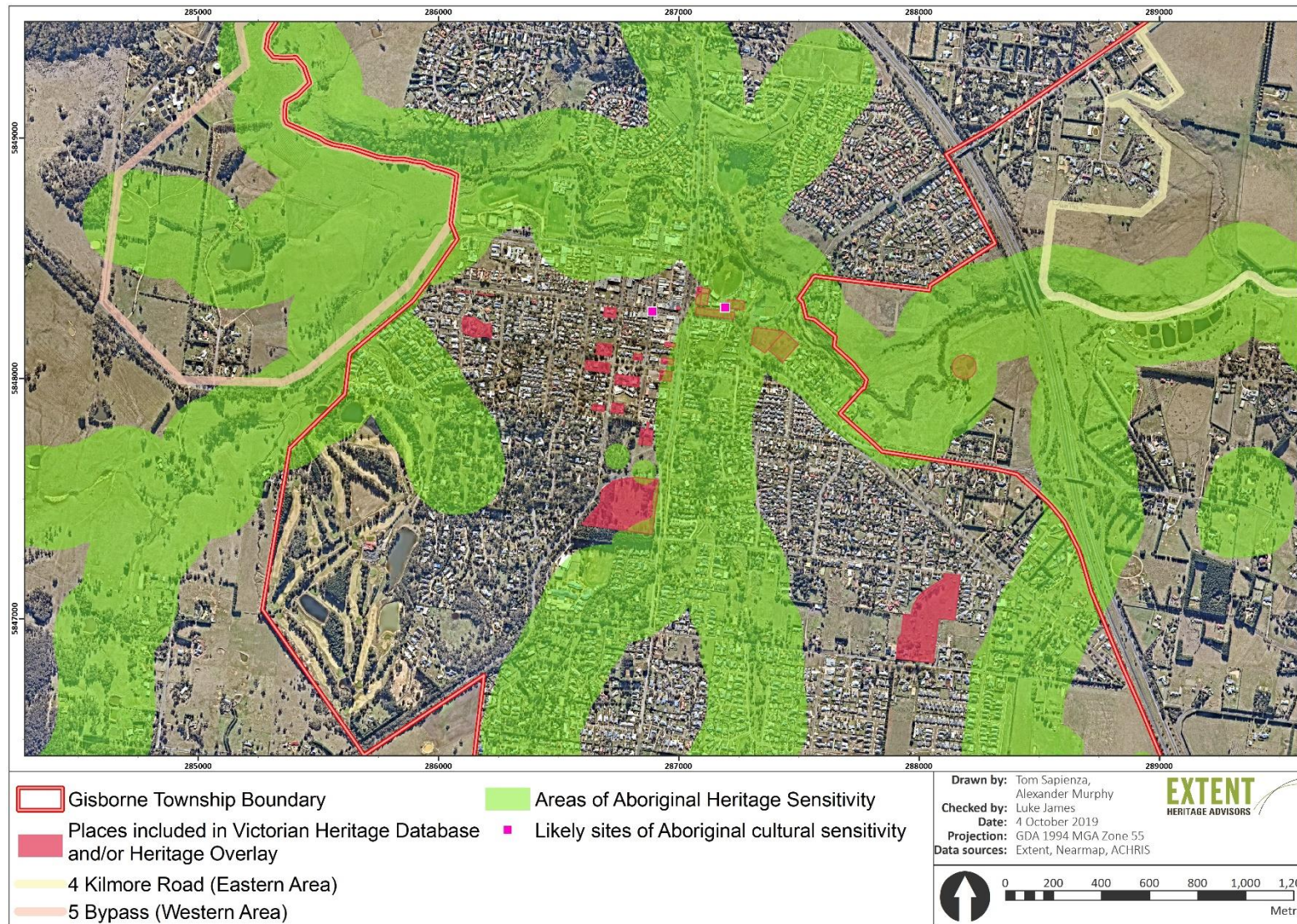


Figure 2. Heritage impact sensitivity map, town centre detail

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## Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AHC	Australian Heritage Council
AV	Aboriginal Victoria
BP	Before Present (when referring to radiocarbon dating)
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Communities
HV	Heritage Victoria
LGA	Local Government Authority
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
SGD	Significant Ground Disturbance
SLV	State Library Victoria
VAHR	Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register
VHI	Victorian Heritage Inventory
VHR	Victorian Heritage Register

# 1. Introduction

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is in the process of developing a structure plan for the rapidly growing township of Gisborne. The structure plan will support the sustainable development of the township in a way that defines its unique character, facilitates orderly growth, enlivens the town centre, strengthens the local economy, protects the unique environmental qualities of the area and builds community resilience.

Extent Heritage was engaged to provide Aboriginal and post-contact heritage advice and inputs to the structure planning process, with a view to identify, protect and improve the management of areas of Aboriginal and post-contact heritage.

To this end, Extent Heritage has been asked to

- identify and review any known Aboriginal places and Aboriginal heritage studies within the Gisborne study area;
- assess the potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage and develop sensitivity mapping to reflect this;
- consult with Registered Aboriginal Party and local historical society to identify key heritage values and issues;
- identify and review any known post contact heritage places and heritage studies within the Gisborne study area;
- develop mapping showing all post-contact heritage places (built heritage items, landscape heritage areas, heritage precincts and historical archaeological sites) to help guide decision making about future uses;
- assess the heritage significance of Aboriginal places and areas of archaeological potential in partnership with the local Aboriginal community;
- engage with the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri, to incorporate a survey of their cultural values; and
- develop appropriate strategic advice about constraints, risks and opportunities for management and conservation of heritage places and values and provide clear recommendations about future management and planning approval requirements required to meet legislative obligations.

This report sets out our findings and strategic advice to enable the incorporation of heritage considerations—both constraints and opportunities—into the strategic plan.

## 1.1 Report Methodology

This report contains the following parts, each representing a step in its methodology:

- definition of extent of study area (Part 0);
- consultation (Part 3);
- desktop studies of the following aspects of the study area:
  - historical background, including Aboriginal ethnohistory and post-contact history (Part 4);
  - Aboriginal cultural heritage (Part 5); and
  - post-contact heritage (Part 6); and
- report conclusions (Part 7).

## 1.2 Authorship

This report was written by Jim Wheeler (BA Hons, MAACAI M.ICOMOS), Sarah Janson (BA Hons, GDipMuseumSt) and Luke James (BA, LLB (Hons), MCultHeritage, M.ICOMOS). It was reviewed by Ian Travers (BSc Hons. MA M.ICOMOS).

## 1.3 Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the assistance provided by Macedon Ranges Shire Council, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, and Ethos Urban.

## 2. Extent of Study Area

The study area for this assessment is taken to be the Gisborne Structure Plan area (see Figure 3). This encompasses and extends beyond the current Gisborne township boundary, within the Macedon Ranges Shire Council LGA. Gisborne is approximately 50 km north-west of the Melbourne CBD and 8 km south of Mount Macedon. The Calder Freeway runs north west to south east through the centre of the region.

# EXTENT

- Earth Rings
- ▲ Prominent landforms

Drawn by: Alexander Murphy  
Checked by: Sarah Janson  
Date: 17 December 2018  
Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55  
Data sources: Extent, ESRI

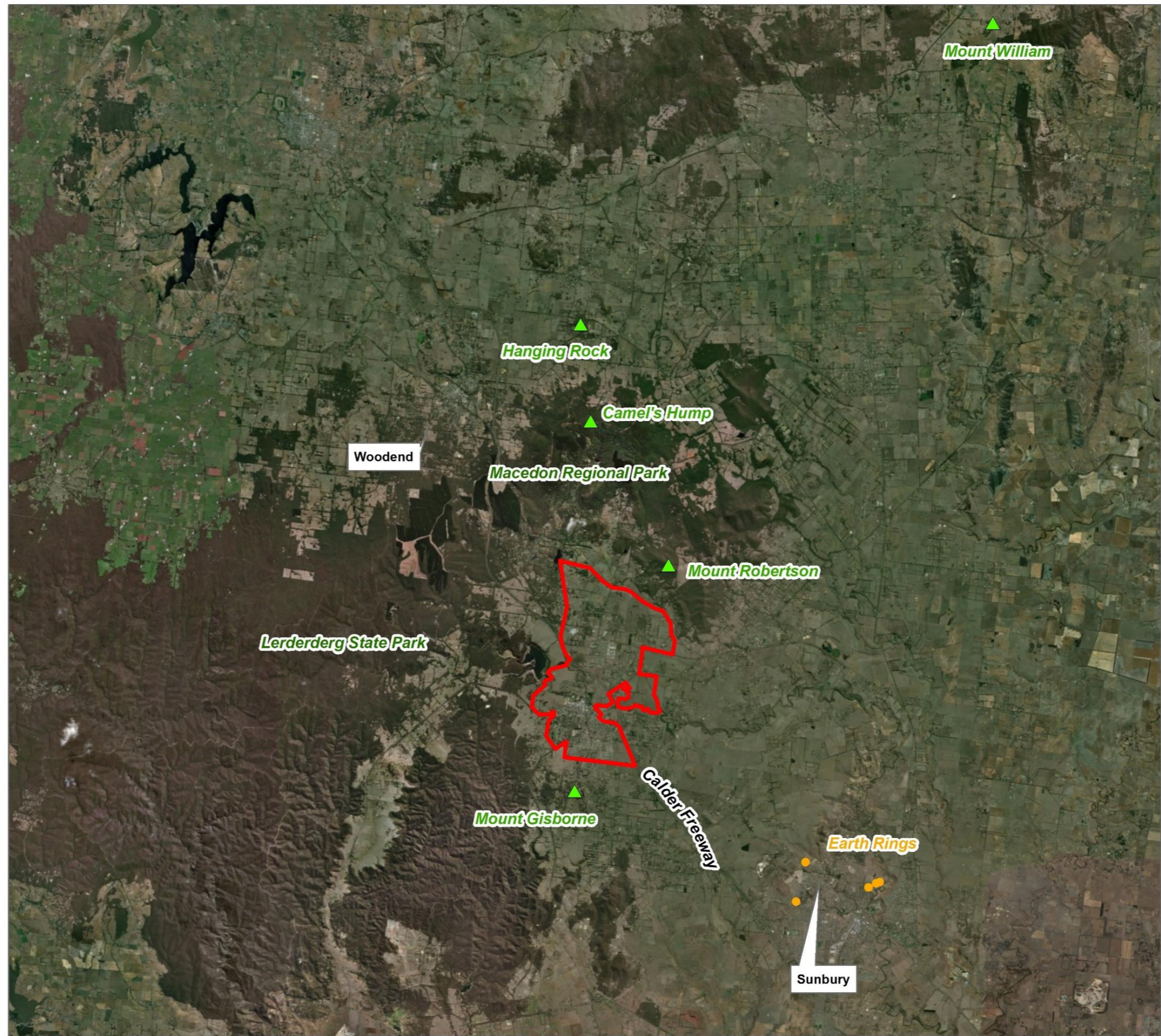
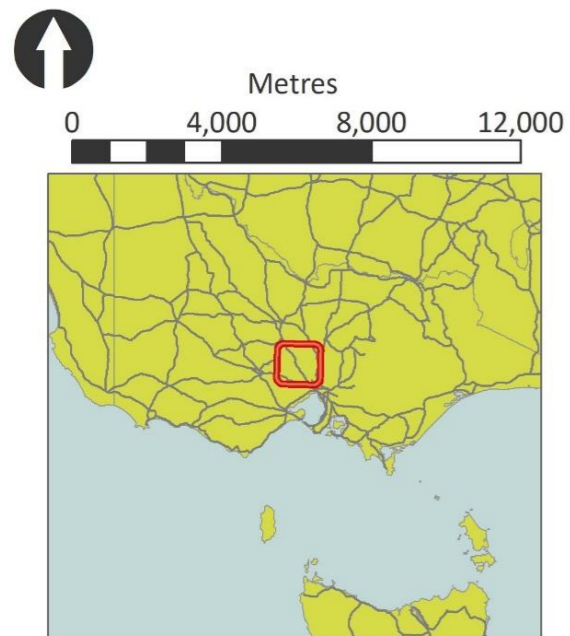


Figure 3. Location of Gisborne Structure Plan study area



# EXTENT



 Boundary of Study Area

**Drawn by:** Alexander Murphy  
**Checked by:** Sarah Janson  
**Date:** 4 December 2018  
**Projection:** GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55  
**Data sources:** Extent, NearMap

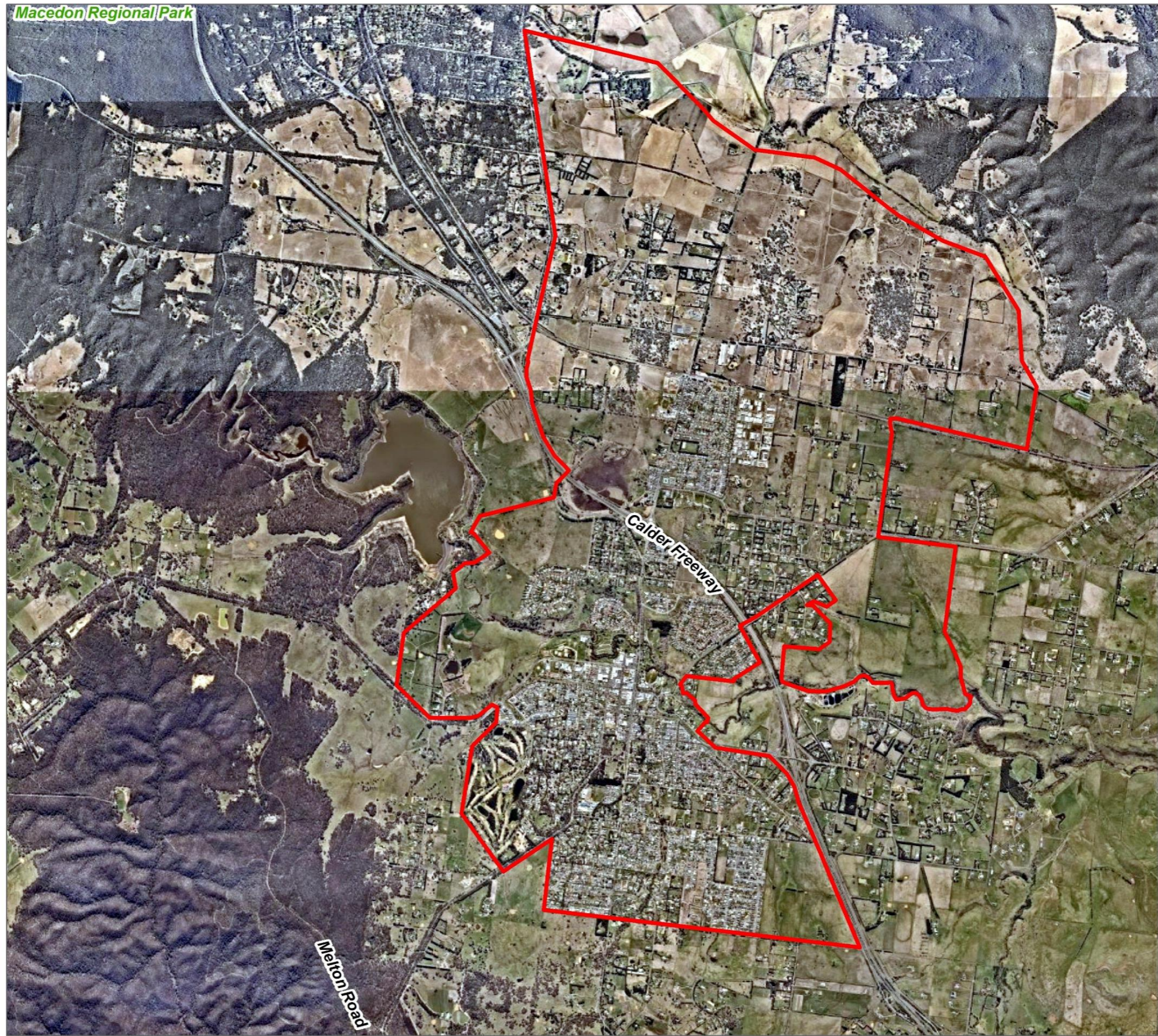
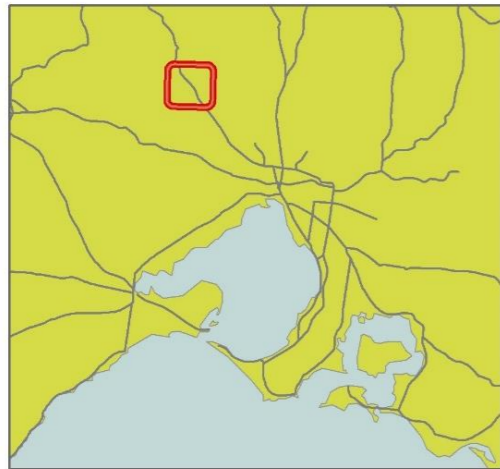
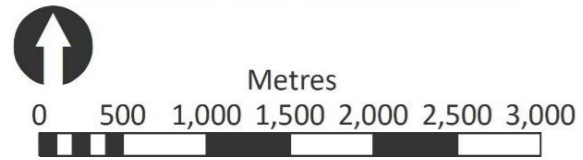


Figure 4. Gisborne Structure Plan Study Area

### 3. Consultation

Up to the date of this report, Extent Heritage has consulted with Macedon Ranges Shire Council, the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation (see further below under 5.3), and Ethos Urban. We understand that prior to the report's finalisation, Council will engage in general community consultation regarding options for the Gisborne Structure Plan.

## 4. Historical Background<sup>1</sup>

### 4.1 Aboriginal Ethnohistory

The lives of Aboriginal people in geographic region were severely disrupted by the establishment and expansion of European settlement. As a result, little information is available regarding their pre-contact lifestyle, and much of the available information is drawn from the accounts of European commentators<sup>2</sup>. These accounts are often problematic due to their explicit colonial perspectives. If they are read critically, however, these sources can assist in a reconstruction of the lives of Indigenous people in this geographic region.

#### 4.1.1 The Woiwurrung Language Group

According to Clark, at the time of contact the study area lay within the boundaries of the Woiwurrung language group (Clark 1990, 379). The boundaries of the Woiwurrung clans are believed to have included the Yarra and Maribyrnong River basins, extending west as far as the Werribee River and north to the Dividing Range, from Mount Baw Baw to Mount William (Clark 1990, 379). Howitt, an early European observer, described the boundaries as:

From the junction of the Saltwater (Maribyrnong) and Yarra Rivers, along the course of the former to Mount Macedon, thence to Mount Baw-Baw, along the Dividing Range, round the sources of the Plenty and Yarra to the Dandenong Mountains, thence to Gardiner's Creek and the Yarra to the starting point. (Howitt [1904] 1996, 71)

The 'basic unit' of Kulin society was a patrilineal descent group whose members had an 'historical, religious and genealogical identify' (Barwick 1984, 106). Clan names were denoted by the suffixes -balluk ('people') or -willam ('dwelling-place') (Barwick 1984, 106).

The Woiwurrung language group was made up of four primary clans, the Gunung-willam balug, Kurung-jangbalug, Marin balug and Wurundjeri balug. The Gunung-willam balug contained a sub-group (most likely a patriline) known as Talling willam, and the Wurundjeri balug held two such sub-groups, the Wurundjeri willam, and Bulug willam. Wurundjeri willam was further divided into three smaller groups or 'tracts', each of which were identified as occupying specific areas of land (Barwick 1984).

The Woiwurrung occupied the land around parts of the Macedon Ranges including the current study area. Clark cited ethnohistorical evidence that the Wurundjeri willam sub-group, Gunung willam balug, occupied the land associated with the Gisborne area (Clark 1990, 381–2).

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<sup>1</sup> This section presents a history of Aboriginal occupation and possible uses of the activity area based on documentary evidence and early ethnographic records. This information provides a context to archaeological investigations and assists in interpreting the results of any archaeological test excavations. It can also aid assessments of the cultural heritage values of the area.

<sup>2</sup> Chief among these are the diaries of William Thomas, who served as Assistant Protector of Melbourne, Westernport and Gippsland until 1849 (Eidelson 2014, xix). On the writing and reworking of colonial accounts of the Kulin nation, see Standfield (2015). For a critical perspective on William Thomas' reputation as an indigenous ally, see Reed (2004).

The Woiwurrung clans formed part of 'the larger East Kulin speakers whose identity was premised on a shared language and connection to country' (Goulding and Manis 2007, 27). These groups shared practices relating to initiation, burial, kinship, marriage and religion Howitt [1904] 1996, 336–8), but they also maintained significant social differences (Broome 2002). The languages of the Bunwurrung and Daung wurrung speaking people were the most linguistically similar to the Woiwurrung, with whom they held a significant (approximately 75 per cent) shared vocabulary.

#### 4.1.2 Food Resources

Although traditional food gathering practices and access to resources were restricted by European occupation of the region at the time, ethnohistorical sources record Aboriginal exploitation of a range of plant and animal foods during the contact period. Food resources in the region would have been comparatively plentiful across the region in the pre-contact period. Plant foods comprised an important part of the diet of the local Woiwurrung peoples, having the advantage over animal resources in that they provided a resource that was 'more regular and reliable than that derived from hunting or fishing' (Presland 1983, 35).

Of the wide variety of plant foods commonly exploited by local Indigenous peoples, the tuber of the Yam Daisy, or Murnong, was commented upon by European observers as providing a staple food resource. Thomas records the Murnong eaten both raw (from younger plants), and after being cooked in the ashes of a fire when more mature and fibrous (Goulding 1988). Robert Smyth, in an anthropological work based largely on the diaries of William Thomas, emphasises the importance of the Murnong to local indigenous people:

Murr-nong or Mirr-n'yong, a kind of yam...was usually very plentiful and easily found in the spring and early summer, and was dug out of the earth by the women and children. It may be seen growing on the banks of the Moonee Ponds, near Melbourne. The root is small, in taste rather sweet, not unpleasant, and perhaps more like a radish than a potato. (Smyth 1878, 209)

Tubers such as that of the Yam Daisy provided a valuable source of carbohydrate for Indigenous populations of the region in spring and early summer, supported by other common plant foods such as the fern tree (bracken) pulp, banksia glowers, wild cherries and 'some parts of a thistle' (Presland 1983, 35, Tanner 2001, 17). Local birdlife, reptiles and mammals also provided potential food resources for the Woiwurrung, with kangaroo and possum being popular staples (Presland 1983, 34).

Thomas noted the plentiful supply of eels in the district during the summer, describing 'sufficient numbers to support the Yarra Tribe for one month each year', which were easily caught with the aid of a spear (Thomas 1841 in Presland 1983). Chief Protectorate of Aborigines, George Robinson also described wildlife encountered on his travels in the Macedon region:

A fine series of water holes and deep from which they supply themselves with fish—black fish and eels. The latter 2 feet long and fish large weighing. Eagles are abundant—saw eight hovering over the station (of Mt Parker). Plenty of wild pigeons and birds around Parker's place. (Robinson [1840] 1977 in Clark 1998, 123)

Fish were obtained through the use of nets and weirs, and an early (1803) account, prior to European settlement of the area, records the presence of a weir along the Maribyrnong River in the vicinity of Keilor (Presland 1983, 33). Middens present both along the coastline and lining inland rivers and streams attest to the exploitation of shellfish as an additional food resource.

Tanner (2001, 17) details that the Bogong Moth was a particular local delicacy of the Gunung willam balug. The migration of the moth (*Agrons mfusa*) to the mountain ranges in the summer months to escape the heat made it an easy food source to gather when they become active at dusk and dawn. Moths were gathered by either being either scraped off the rock or cave wall or smoked out and caught in a net. They were prepared by grilling on a hot stone plate and the abdomen eaten, which tasted similar to roasted chestnuts.

### 4.1.3 Other Natural Resources

Woiwurrung Country contained a range of natural resources for sustaining Indigenous traditional life and cultural processes. Plant resources were used in a wide variety of ways. Wood was employed in the manufacture of tools such as boomerangs, spears and digging sticks, bark and reeds in the manufacture of string for bags and nets, and species of rushes in the manufacture of baskets (Smyth 1878, 343–4; Presland 1983, 35–7). The bark of larger trees such as the Red Gum was used to make canoes and shields. Gum found in acacias such as Black Wattles (*Acacia marnsii*) was a 'rare sweet foodstuff' but also an important bonding agent and adhesive material (Presland 2010, 54).

Stone resources were employed in the manufacture of stone tools and are the form of Aboriginal material culture that is most likely to survive in the archaeological record today. Presland notes that the Woiwurrung group used a range of what he calls "maintenance tools", usually of stone, which included hatchets, knives and scrapers (Presland 1983, 37). These tools were often employed in the production of other elements of material culture, including clothing and ornaments made from animal skin and bone (Presland 1983, 37).

Wil-im-ee Moor-ring (Mount William) is a significant quarry site to the north of the study area. Its name means 'axe place' and was a source of greenstone. This material was highly valued and formed part of a trading network that extended 700 km up into New South Wales and also into South Australia (Eidelson 2014, 84).

### 4.1.4 Land Management Practices

It is likely that Woiwurrung country was subject to a range of Indigenous land management practices prior to colonial settlement. In his work *The Greatest Estate on Earth*, Bill Gammage contends that Indigenous groups managed the land of Australia prior to contact like a 'single and universal' estate (Gammage 2011, 1). The chief mechanism of this land management practice was fire. The hypothesis that Indigenous groups carried out land management practices is supported by several colonial accounts. In 1770, during his voyage on the HMS Endeavour, the then Lt. James Cook expressed surprise about the sparse distribution of the flora of the east coast of Australia. He observed:

The woods are free from underwood of every kind and the trees are at such a distance from one another that the whole country...might be cultivated without being obliged to cut down a single tree. (Cook 1770 in Gammage 2011, 5)

Cook's observations may reflect the Indigenous land management practice of frequent burning. Later, colonial observers such as Edward Curr emphasised the land management practices of Indigenous people. As Curr observed, "it may perhaps be doubted whether any section of the human race has exercised a greater influence on the physical condition of any large portion of the globe ..." (Curr 1883, 189–90 in Gammage 2011, 1).

Several early colonial accounts may suggest that Woiwurrung groups employed these land management practices. William Crook described the landscape as "nearly covered with ... trees ... with grass between, and no underwood scarcely, so that some parts look like a park, others orchards ..." (Crook 1803 in Gammage 2011, 258). These descriptions made the area attractive to pastoralists, but also indicate that local Indigenous groups would indeed have regularly burned the landscape.

#### 4.1.5 Moiety Organisation

Woiwurrung clans moved around the landscape and interacted with broad networks within the Kulin nation. Whilst identity was shaped by affiliation with a single clan or language group, it was also influenced by interactions with other groups. Marital and political ties were shaped by the overarching structure of patrilineal moiety organisation (Barwick 1984, 101). The groups of the Kulin identified with one of two 'moieties', waa (crow) or bunjil (eaglehawk) (Eidelson 2014, xv). The Wurundjeri willam belonged to the Waa moiety (Clark 1990, 385). Moiety affiliation was fixed at birth and patrilineal (Clark 1990, 385). Marriage partners were obtained from the opposite moiety. As Thomas noted:

Marriages are not contracted in their own tribe: for instance, a Yarra black must get a wife not out of his own tribe, but either of the other tribes. (Thomas 1854 in Francis [1898] 1983, 54)

Moiety organisation extended Woiwurrung networks beyond a single geographic region, and "travel and trade with more remote areas were encouraged by the resulting web of kinship ties uniting all Kulin clans in a far-flung confederacy" (Barwick 1984, 105).

#### 4.1.6 Movements and Camps

The Woiwurrung had a complex network of interactions with other language groups in the area. Occasionally, these interactions were hostile: William Buckley states that he participated in a number of violent clashes between the Wathaurung and the Woiwurrung (Buckley 1837. SLV MS13483). The Woiwurrung people would have also met peacefully with surrounding groups, often in big numbers. Several sources attest that several areas in the Mount Macedon region, as a border zone between Woi wurring, Taungurong and Dja Dja Wurring people, was a focal point for these meetings. According to Thomas, part of the affiliation with other groups was through corroborees held at new and full moon, and intertribal meetings, which were held every few months (Thomas 1854 in Francis [1898] 1983, 97). Clans would have gathered during specific times of the year for resource gathering to enact social rituals, such as coming-of-age. These meetings were important congregations that fulfilled a myriad of social functions,

including arranging marriages, discussing politics and resolving disputes. These meetings also served as a forum for the exchanging of goods between the different groups (Broome 2002). Thomas' account emphasises the importance of the Melbourne region for these inter-tribal gatherings:

What I can learn, long ere the settlement was formed the spot where Melbourne now stands...was the regular rendezvous for the tribes known as the Waworongs, Boonurongs, Barrabools, Niluguons, Goulbourns twice a year or as often as circumstances and emergencies required to settle their grievances, revenge, deaths etc.' (See Frankel and Major (2014, 5–21)

Robert Smyth, an early colonial observer, recounts a meeting of clans on land outside Melbourne, which included groups from Woiwurrung language group:

The groups were arranged indeed as if they had been set by compass. At a great encampment formed on a hill about three miles north-east of Melbourne there were assembled, more than thirty years ago, eight tribes—in all about eight hundred blacks... each man has to supply his wants from the forest, where all is common property, there is seldom a dispute, and rarely is an angry word used. (See Frankel and Major 2014, 5–21)

Historian Jean Milbourne suggests the name of the nearby Wooling Swamp, to the north of the Gisborne area, derives from the Indigenous name 'Woolong', meaning 'much water' or 'all come together', 'may also have meant the coming together of all the tribes.' (Milbourne 1978, 15–16). She elaborates with reference to other sites in the region:

'Wybejong' was the native name of the hill on the east after passing the Wooling homestead and the Barringo Creek. This hill, now known as Mt Robertson, was the meeting place of many tribes who came from distant places at certain periods and at the full moon. Between five and six hundred would assemble and stay several days and nights. Much bartering and feasting took place and, at night, some weird and wonderful ceremonies were enacted. As a rule, everything was conducted in a friendly way, although there was a great noise and demonstrations of war-like appearance took place. Descendants of the Robertson family, the Perrys, have in their possession some relics of the handicrafts of these natives, showing them as adept weavers of baskets made from rushes and reeds. There is also evidence that the natives did camp near Barringo, as isolated artifacts have been found and some old trees around the area known as Irishtown have scarred trunks where the bark has been removed for the aborigines' make-shift canoes. (Milbourne 1978, 16)

In a 1990 archaeological survey, University of Melbourne archaeologist Tony Davis identified the wider ceremonial use of the area, including a Wooling Hill Aboriginal Ceremonial Site and an axe grinding rock at the base of Mount Macedon:

It seems likely that a strong association can be drawn between the Wooling Hill Aboriginal Ceremonial Site, the grinding grooves and the abundant food available to the Aboriginal people in the former wetlands. These Aboriginal ceremonial occasions would attract five to six hundred people for several days at a time on the property, until a few years ago, was a scarred tree in the shape of a shield, a possible canoe tree and stone artefacts. Here one of the last large tribal gatherings in the region took place. (Davis 1990, 3–10, in Tanner 2001, 16)

Similarly, camps formed a major part of traditional life. Thomas describes the activities associated with constructing and inhabiting a camp:

All are employed; the children in getting gum, knocking down birds etc; the women in digging roots, killing bandicoots, getting grubs etc; the men in hunting kangaroos, etc, scaling trees for opossums etc...in warm weather, while on tramp, they seldom make a miam—they use merely a few boughs to keep off the wind, in wet weather a few sheets of bark make a comfortable house. In one half hour I have seen a neat village begun and finished. (Thomas, n.d., in Gaughwin and Sullivan 1984, 93–4).

Camps were generally established for a few days at a time. Campsites were mostly located on areas of higher ground, and often ‘on the banks of rivers and creeks’ (Hovell 1826–7, 46).

Huts, or miams, are recorded in the region by several colonial observers. They are variously described as ‘well-constructed’ (Robinson 1841 in Frankel and Major 2014, 140). or alternately ‘frail but answers well their purpose’ (Thomas (n.d.) in Frankel and Major 2014, 141). Thomas also commented that a ‘village of good waterproof huts could be constructed in less than an hour’ (Thomas (n.d.) in Frankel and Major 2014, 141). Thomas describes the construction of native huts as follows:

A few slats of bark cut in a few minutes...these slats of bark are about 6’ long oblique raised to the angle of about 20 degrees windward, every alternate sheet is reversed so no rain can enter the sides are filled up with short pieces of bark and brush and a sheet of bark at the top. (Thomas, n.d., in Frankel and Major 2014, 141).

In his work *Dark Emu*, Bruce Pascoe synthesises these accounts and concludes that such a ‘welter of evidence’ suggests that ‘housing was a feature of the pre-contact Aboriginal economy’ that is often neglected by modern commentators (Pascoe 2014, 73). Thomas’ accounts confirm that Aboriginal groups in Victoria followed this pattern and constructed buildings that were ‘not just functional occupation centres but places of solace and comfort’ (Pascoe 2014, 73).

#### 4.1.7 Material Culture

The Aboriginal people of the region manufactured and employed a wide range of material culture, sourced from animal, plant and earth resources available locally, in addition to resources and implements acquired through trade with neighbouring clans.

Plant resources were used in a wide variety of ways, with wood employed in the manufacture of tools such as boomerangs, spears and digging sticks, bark and reeds in the manufacture of string for bags and nets, and species of rushes in the manufacture of baskets (Presland 1983, 35–7). The bark of larger trees such as the Red Gum was used to make canoes and shields.

Stone resources were employed in the manufacture of stone tools, which are the form of Aboriginal material culture most likely to survive in the archaeological record today. Presland notes that the Woiwurrung used a range of what he calls ‘maintenance tools’, usually of stone, which included hatchets, knives and scrapers’ (Presland 1983, 37). These tools were often employed in the production of other elements of material culture, including clothing and ornaments made from animal skin and bone (Presland 1983).



#### 4.1.8 Exploration and European Contact

Contact between the Woiwurrung people and European settlers began in the early nineteenth century. The first Europeans to enter Port Phillip Bay were Lt John Murray and the crew of the Lady Nelson in 1802 (Eidelson 2014, xv). Port Phillip Bay and the Melbourne region were later surveyed by Charles Grimes, the Surveyor General, and Lt Robbins in January and February 1803 (Clark 1990, 277). In October of that year, a penal colony was abandoned at Sorrento because of the hostility of the Boon wurrung and an inadequate water supply (Eidelson 2014, xv). Another abortive settlement was later attempted in 1826, on the present site of Corinella (State Library of Victoria 2017).<sup>3</sup> Whilst there was no official settlement in the Port Phillip region, it is likely that contact occurred between Indigenous people and sealers and whalers operating off the coast (Coutts, Witter and Parsons 1977, 20).

In 1835, permanent European settlement began in the Port Phillip region. On 6 June 1835, John Batman arranged the signing of a 'treaty' with spokespersons from Woiwurrung and adjacent clans, in order to purchase the land now occupied by Melbourne. It is unclear whether the Aboriginal people involved understood the nature of the contract: it is likely that the Woiwurrung and Boon wurrung considered the transaction of goods to constitute a *tanderrum* ritual, which granted 'permission for temporary access' to the area (Barwick 1984, 107). The treaty was declared invalid by the New South Wales colonial government only a few months later (Eidelson 2014, xvi).

These initial encounters were the beginning of a process of dispossession and settlement that caused devastating changes to the lives of Aboriginal groups throughout the region. During these initial colonial incursions, Aboriginal lands were 'taken from them at the mere will of the British Government and sold or let to strangers without any reference' to their needs (Dredge 1845, 29 in Broome 2005, 74). This dispossession was motivated by a fundamental sense of entitlement to the land on the part of colonial settlers, and colonial assumptions of cultural superiority over Indigenous people.

##### 4.1.8.1 The Protectorate

Throughout the nineteenth century and later, the lives of Aboriginal people in the greater Melbourne region were greatly impacted by various government policies of Aboriginal 'protection' and 'management'. The first of these was the Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate, which sought to lessen the impact of European settlement on the Aboriginal people of the Port Phillip District (now Victoria). The Protectorate consisted of Chief Protector George Robinson and four Assistant Protectors. Their task was to physically protect Aboriginal and also to 'civilize them, to teach them agriculture, house-building and other white employments, to educate them to a settled European life style and to convert them to Christianity' (Robinson (n.d.) in Eidelson 2014, xvii–xviii). A letter from Sir George Grey appointing the four Assistant Port Phillip Protectors in 1838 provides an insight into the aims of the Protectorate:

It will be your duty generally to watch over the rights and interests of the natives and to endeavour to gain their respect and confidence. You will, as far as you are able by your

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<sup>3</sup> The colonists were surprised by a lack of natural resources in this area, before they realised that they had confused Western Port and Port Phillip Bay, the intended site of the settlement.

personal exertions and influence, protect them from any encroachments on their property and from acts of cruelty, oppression, or injustice. (Sir George Grey to Assistant Protectors, 6 February 1838)

The Chief and Assistant Protectors travelled widely during their tenure, and their diaries provide some of the most detailed information about early Aboriginal life in the region. They also, however, convey the devastating effects of colonial settlement on the Indigenous groups in Victoria, including the Woiwurrung.

#### *4.1.8.2 The Impact of Early Settlement*

Aboriginal dispossession in Victorian region was facilitated by the occupation of the land by squatters and pastoral settlers. The site of Melbourne was initially selected for its potential pastoral use (Lewis 1983, 7). Pastoral settlements were necessarily situated on fertile ground near watercourses: these were also the areas occupied by Aboriginal people (Karskens 2013, 106). Pastoralists took land cleared by Indigenous burning practices, but also significantly cleared modified land themselves (see Gammage 2011, 2). As Gammage writes, 'by shaping land so carefully for grazing animals, people paved the way for pastoral occupation' (Gammage 2011, 95).

Whilst some pastoralists maintained friendly relationships with Indigenous groups, pastoral expansion often led to violent conflicts. Robinson's diaries from his journeys around Victoria detail a number of robberies and more violent conflicts between Indigenous people and colonial settlers.<sup>4</sup> The frequency and violence of these incidents in Robinson's accounts suggests that the breakdown of relations between Aboriginal people and settlers occurred soon after the 'sudden ingress of pastoralists' (Ford and Roberts 2013, 138) in the area. Pastoral 'squatters' who claimed unoccupied land further intensified these conflicts and accelerated the process of Aboriginal dispossession. These squatters came to occupy so much land that Robinson suggested that the protectorate should establish additional reserves 'to afford an asylum to which the aboriginal natives may...take refuge from the wide-spreading encroachments and cupidity of the squatters' (Robinson to La Trobe, 12 December 1839).

The most devastating aspect of pastoral settlement for Indigenous groups was arguably its impact on the land. The arrival of pastoral settlers and their livestock permanently altered the landscape of the geographic region and dispossessed Indigenous people of their traditional lands. Later, urban development transformed the land beyond recognition.<sup>5</sup> Modifications to the landscape in turn caused structural changes within Aboriginal societies, affecting traditional lifestyles, living arrangements and social practices (Standfield 2015, 52). As Robert Smyth observed:

The ancient land marks were obliterated, the ancient boundaries had ceased to have any meaning, and the people, confused and half-stupefied by the new and extraordinary character of the circumstances so suddenly forced upon them, almost forgot the duties and their tribal

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<sup>4</sup> See in particular his entry on 9 February 1840 (Robinson [1840] 1977, 43–5) which details incidents of both robbery and knife attacks on settlers by Wathaurung men.

<sup>5</sup> See Presland (2005), which provides a comprehensive reconstruction of the natural landscape of Melbourne prior to colonial settlement.

laws imposed upon them when they were brought face to face with strange blacks. (Smyth 1878, xviii–xix)

Smyth's account reflects the extent to which dispossession and displacement deprived Indigenous people not only of their knowledge of the land, but their ability to make sense of their surrounding networks. Indigenous ways of knowing prior to contact were fundamentally shaped by 'place and environment' (Horne and Sherington 2013, 367). As Gammage writes, these Songlines or ways of knowing are understood through land and 'show the Dreaming's grounding in the land and its creatures.' (Gammage 2011, 135). They are 'also a map, compass and calendar' (Gammage 2011, 135). Removal from this land not only limited access to 'sites of social, legal and cultural importance' (Banivanua Mar and Edmons 2013, 359) but also severed them from these ways of knowing.

Pastoral occupation also led to the severe depletion of traditional food resources. By 1837, there were 300,000 sheep in the Port Phillip region (Shaw 1996, 69; 73; 85). Assistant Protector Dredge observed that whilst Murnong tubers could formerly be 'obtained in great abundance...they diminish and soon disappear when sheep and cattle are depastured.' (Dredge n.d., in Reed 2004, 97). Thomas records an Indigenous perspective on this depletion of resources:

No Murnong, no yam all Port Phillip, No much byone white man Bullock and sheep, all gone Murnong. (Thomas, n.d., in Reed 2004, 97)

This depletion of food resources led to malnutrition within the local Aboriginal communities by the late 1830s, (Presland 1983, 13) and would have severely disrupted the traditional lifestyles of the Woiwurrung people. Settlement also introduced a range of diseases to the area, to which the traditional owners would have had little immunity or defence. In 1839, Assistant Protector Dredge commented 'many of the poor creatures are suffering dreadfully from destructive diseases' in the Melbourne region (Dredge 1839 in Macfarlane 1983, 428).

These conditions created a feeling of fatalism amongst Woiwurrung groups. This in turn led to a large reduction in the birth rate. Between 1838 and 1848, only five births were recorded amongst the Yarra and Westernport Indigenous groups (Presland 1985, 105). As Billibellary, a clan-head of the Wurundjeri-willam explained, 'The Black lubras say now no good children, Blackfellow say no country now for them, very good we kill and no more come up Pickaninny.' (Billibellary in Presland 2010, 91). Having been deprived of their land, the Woiwurrung clearly felt that there was no point in having children.

#### *4.1.8.3 The Abolition of the Protectorate*

The Victorian gold rush was closely preceded by the abolition of the Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate. The Protectorate had received widespread criticism for its expenditure and ineffectiveness throughout the 1840s. The widespread impression that the Protectorate had 'done more harm than good' culminated in an official enquiry in 1849 by a Select Committee (NSW Legislative Council 1845, 15). Respondents to a questionnaire on the effectiveness of the scheme stated that the Protectorate was 'a complete failure, a lavish waste of public money' (NSW Legislative Council 1849, 23; 28). It was concluded that the Protectorate had not achieved its stated aims, and in 1849 the Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate was dismantled (Christie 1979, 137).

The abolition of the Protectorate was followed by a decade of ‘almost complete government neglect’ of the Aboriginal people of Victoria (Christie 1979, 136). In 1852 the colony spent only £1,658 on Aboriginal affairs, compared with £7,967 in 1842 (Christie 1979, 207).<sup>6</sup> In the place of planned policies, the Select Committee on Aborigines and the Protectorate decided that public money could be better spent promoting ‘the interests of religion and education among the white population in the interior’ (NSW Legislative Council 1849). These recommendations reflect a widespread disenchantment with state assistance to Aboriginal people and an overwhelmingly ad hoc approach to Aboriginal policy.

#### 4.1.8.4 The Central Board

Despite official disinterest in Aboriginal issues, a number of groups continued to propose reform during the 1850s. Following a public discussion on annual expenditure for Aboriginals in the Victorian Parliament, an editorial in the *Argus* charged that ‘this country has been shamelessly stolen from the blacks...an act of as mean and cowardly tyranny...as the world ever saw.’ (*Argus*, 16 March 1856, 4). This plea for Indigenous welfare was framed in strictly financial terms: considering that traditional lands in Victoria had been sold for £4,455,386 since 1851, an annual expenditure of £1,750 on Indigenous welfare was inadequate (*Argus*, 16 March 1856, 4).<sup>7</sup> The *Argus* proposed that the Victorian government should ‘feed and clothe every one of them’ and establish ‘great centres for their concentration’ (*Argus*, 16 March 1856, 5). This approach was echoed by a number of religious groups advocating the establishment of Indigenous missions or central training schools (Christie 1979, 151).

This public debate led to the creation of a new government body for the control of Aboriginal people in Victoria. In 1858 a Select Committee was appointed ‘to inquire into the present condition of the Aborigines of this colony, and the best means of alleviating their absolute wants’ (*Argus*, 28 October 1858). This committee advocated for the isolation of Indigenous populations, the establishment of schools, and if necessary, the removal of children from their parents (Christie 1979, 155). In 1860, the Victorian Government introduced The Central Board for Aborigines to carry out a ‘co-ordinated Aboriginal programme’ (Christie 1979, 155). The Central Board, on its establishment, stated that it aimed ‘to supply them with food and shelter; to protect them as far as possible from contact with the debased among our own people; and to provide instruction for the children, black and halfcaste’ (Central Board for Aborigines 1862).

The Board carried out these aims with the establishment of reserves and missions throughout Victoria. In 1863, the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station was established in the area of present-day Healesville on the land of the Wurundjeri willam. The original occupants of the station were Woiwurrung and Daung wurrung speaking people, although later groups such as the Wathaurung settled at the station (Barwick 1988, 8).

In the decades following the establishment of these reserves and missions, the Victorian Government established additional control over its Indigenous population using legislation. The Aboriginal Protection Act 1869 allowed the Victorian government to control over where

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<sup>6</sup> These figures exclude approximately £6000 spent on native police in the goldfields regions.

<sup>7</sup> This figure is presented in addition to profits from gold and other industries, totalling in excess of £35,000,000.

Indigenous people could live and work and regulated who they could marry or associate with (Museum of Australian Democracy 2001). Perhaps the most concerted attempt to regulate Indigenous Culture was the 1886 'Half-Caste' Act. This Act ordered the removal and assimilation of 'half-caste' Aboriginals from reserves and missions into white society. This law, according to Christie, 'aimed at removing the Aboriginals as a distinct and observable group, with its own culture and way of life.' (Christie 1979, 205). This act has left reverberations to the present day (Christie 1979, 205).

## 4.2 Post-Contact European history

The first European settlement in the area was by pastoralists, including John Aitken in 1837, who brought sheep from Tasmania and grazed them about 8 km south of Gisborne on a pastoral lease at Mount Aitken and Henry Howey who established a pastoral station on the future site of Gisborne, on Jacksons Creek. Henry Fyshe Gisborne, the town's namesake, was Victorian Crown Lands Commissioner, originally from Derbyshire, England. He took up a station in the area in 1840.

A hotel was constructed in the area in 1850 (now Macedon House). From 1851, the town quickly grew as a result of the Goldrushes at Castlemaine and Bendigo and Gisborne became an overnight stop. Over one ton of gold was conveyed through Macedon and Gisborne on route to Melbourne during the gold rush years (Tout Smith 2003).

In this boom period, a school was opened in 1853, a court house in 1858 and a mechanics' institute in 1860. Anglican and Presbyterian churches were opened in 1855 and 1858. Catholic services were held in the mid-1850s and a substantial church building was constructed in 1875 (Victorian Places, n.d.). Other industries and amenities in the town included a brewery, two wine saloons, eight hotels, grocery, grain and hay stores, harness makers, blacksmiths, butchers' shops and many cottages and tents. Most substantial houses begun to be built including, 'Elderslie,' built for Thomas Ferrier Hamilton in the early 1850s and Gisborne Mains, built in the mid to late 1850s. In 1858 a two-storey rendered courthouse and police station with a whipped slate roof and flanking lower wings was built. Brick stables and bluestone lock-up built were added in 1861 (Tout Smith 2003).

In 1860, Gisborne was declared a district and in 1861, it was connected to Melbourne by railway. Thomas Watson and Agnes Cunningham purchased Gisborne Mains Farm, who imported stud stock from New Zealand and became a notable race horse breeder. The farm 'achieved a level of affluence uncommon to farmers in the Gisborne district at the time' (Tout Smith 2003).

Gisborne was declared a shire on 24 February 1871. On 19 January 1995 the Shires of Gisborne, Romsey and Newham and Woodend, part of the Shire of Kyneton united to form the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

## 5. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

### 5.1 Preamble

We have conducted a desktop assessment of known Aboriginal cultural heritage and areas of identified Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, and identified sites and areas in the study area and its immediate geographic context that are recommended for further investigation as having the potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage. In line with the legislation and the content of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR, see below at Part 5.2) there is a strong archaeological focus to these investigations. However, in contributing to a strategic process such as the Gisborne Structure Plan it is important to recognise that Aboriginal cultural heritage also encompasses intangible aspects such as cultural landscape associations, including important views (both to and from places of significance) and associations with particular landforms and natural features, such as waterways and their corridors. Taking this approach from the outset will best enable a prospective rather than merely reactive management on the part of Council, and reduce the likelihood of regulatory obstacles and community discord later in the growth process of the township. In this regard, Wurundjeri Elders contributed to a cultural values survey, both augmenting known existing cultural values, and identifying further cultural values (see further below under 5.3).

The information obtained during an Aboriginal cultural heritage desktop assessment assists in determining the archaeological potential and sensitivities of a region. It considers the types of natural resources that may have been available within the study area, or in the local region, provides an indication of why people may have been present in the area, and of the potential physical traces of such a presence (e.g. the types of stone used for artefact making, whether trees having bark suitable for the manufacture of certain items existed/exist in the area, or whether there exists a known resource—plant animal or otherwise—that may have drawn people to the area).

Information about previously recorded archaeological sites in the region can provide an indication of the types and distribution of archaeological deposits and material that may be present, or may once have been present, in the study area. It also provides comparative information that is essential for the assessment of the archaeological significance of any previously unrecorded archaeological material or deposits.

Environmental and historical information (particularly regarding past and present land use) may indicate the potential for post-depositional processes to have altered or disturbed any archaeological deposits or materials that may have once, or may still, exist within the current study area.

In short, knowledge of the environmental, cultural and historical contexts of the study area is crucial for understanding the archaeological potential and broader Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of that area.

## 5.2 Legislation

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* is the primary instrument for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria. It established the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, Registered Aboriginal Parties, the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Resister (VAHR) and the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) process to manage activities that may impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage. The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 give effect to the Act.

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required in circumstances where the Regulations require a plan (s.47). The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 require the preparation of a CHMP if the activity is a 'high impact activity' and is located within an area of 'cultural heritage sensitivity' (r.7). The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 define which activities are high impact activities and define areas of cultural heritage sensitivity.

The Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 also requires a CHMP in circumstances where an activity requires an Environmental Effects Statement (s.49) or an Impact Management Plan or a Comprehensive Impact Statement (s.49A). It is also required when directed by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (s.48) and in circumstances where the Secretary has certified a Preliminary Aboriginal Heritage Test that concludes a CHMP is required for the activity s.46(1)(e).

While this assessment does not constitute a CHMP, its results could form the basis for such a document and used to inform a subsequent Standard Assessment component, and recommendations regarding the completion of a CHMP are included in this report.

## 5.3 Consultation

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (Wurundjeri) is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Gisborne region. The RAP area comprises land from the Yarra Rangers, across the north and west of Melbourne to the Macedon Ranges and Werribee River. The Wurundjeri were consulted following a recommendation in an earlier version of this report, and they produced a report entitled 'Wurundjeri Cultural Values of Gisborne' (McConachie 2019). For consistency, the high-level findings and recommendations from the Wurundjeri cultural values report were subsequently incorporated into this version of the report.

## 5.4 Review of Aboriginal places in the Geographic Region

A search of the VAHR was undertaken by Extent Heritage on 4 December 2018 and updated on 8 October 2019. This identified twelve registered Aboriginal places, comprising sixty-three components,<sup>8</sup> within the Gisborne Structure Plan study area. Four of these are low density artefact distributions (LDADs) (n= 56 components), seven are artefact scatters and one is an object collection

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<sup>8</sup> Registered Aboriginal Places may contain more than one component; therefore, the total components may be greater than the total number of Aboriginal Places.

There are several more registered places in the immediate vicinity of the structure plan area. Within a 2 km buffer of the study area, there are thirty-one registered places comprising fifty-five components. This number is composed of twenty-five artefact scatters and five LDADs.



## 5.5 Regional Archaeological Context

For the purposes of determining settlement and site location patterns, archaeologists examine regional and local trends in the distribution of known sites in relation to environment and topography. This provides evidence about economic and social systems in the past and also assists archaeologists in predicting likely site types, site locations and the nature of the archaeological resource in any given area.

This section reviews previous research and investigations into Aboriginal cultural heritage in the geographic region and examines their potential to inform an assessment of the study area.

### 5.5.1 Early Occupation

Physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation revealed during archaeological excavations within the region indicates the majority of sites are likely to date from the Holocene period, in particular during the last six thousand years. This is essentially the period after inundation of Port Philip Bay and Western Port Bay. The sea-level changes that created Port Philip and Western Port Bays are also likely to have inundated Aboriginal sites that would have existed on the Pleistocene coastline.

Archaeological investigations carried out at Hanging Rock, to the north of the study area, have discovered stone tool deposits stretching back ten thousand years in time; showing the place was occupied and used by Aboriginal people for a long period of time extending back to the end of the last Ice Age (Anderson and Minos 2014).

Early occupation of the wider Port Phillip region has been subject to debate over decades (see Burke 1990, Gallus 1976, Munroe 1998, Tunn 2006). Analysis by Munroe places Aboriginal occupation of the Keilor area, to the south east of the study area, at 40,000 BP, based on a re-analysis of an artefact assemblage excavated there in the late 1970s (Munroe 1998, 33). Mulvaney and Kamminga (1999, 137) note the presence of artefact remains in the region that are dated to 'at least 30,000 years'. Other archaeological sites in the region such as a hearth re-dated by Tunn (2006), show Aboriginal occupation of the Maribyrnong River Valley approximately 15,800 BP. Similarly, Canning et al dated charcoal from a hearth feature within the Keilor Terrace to within 13,500–15,000 BP (Canning et al 2010, 25–35).

These dates, along with a predominance of artefact scatters that contain microliths characteristic of stone tool technologies of the mid to late Holocene, indicate that the wider region has likely been occupied by Aboriginal people from between thirty and forty thousand years ago, up until the recent past.

### 5.5.2 Intensification During the Holocene Period

The vast majority of dated sites in south-eastern Australia are less than five thousand years old. It has been argued that this is a result of increased populations and 'intensification' of cultural activity during this period. The prevalence of sites dating to the last five thousand years may also be a result of the last significant rise in sea level, approximately six thousand years ago.

The sea level rise would have submerged many of the older sites along the coastal fringe and forced Aboriginal groups westward to the current coastline.

### 5.5.3 Stone Artefacts and Raw Materials

Aboriginal stone artefacts are an important source of archaeological information because stone is preserved for long periods of time whereas organic materials such as bone, shell, wood and plant fibres decay. Stone artefacts provide valuable information about technology, economy, cultural change through time and settlement patterning. Stone has also been used for 'relative' dating of sites where direct methods such as carbon dating cannot be applied.

There is considerable ongoing debate about the timing and nature of technological change in stone tool technologies in south-eastern Australia (Hiscock and Attenbrow 2002, Hiscock and Attenbrow 1998, Hiscock 2001). In general, however, there is evidence of a shift from large core tools, horse hoof cores and scrapers during the Pleistocene and early Holocene towards the use of ground edged implements and small tools during the mid to late Holocene. In particular, small points, blades and scrapers characterised by a distinctive form of re-touch known as 'backing'<sup>9</sup> dominate many mid Holocene assemblages. There is some evidence of a shift in the last fifteen hundred years towards bipolar reduction technology, increased use of ground-edged artefacts and an increase in the use of bone and shell for making tools. Particular forms such as Eloueras, have been cited as characteristic of this recent period.

Dominant raw material types in the region include silcrete, quartz, quartzite and chert, with other materials such as basalt, greenstone and hornfels also present. A number of silcrete quarries have been recorded in the region, indicating possible source locations for some of the raw material employed in the manufacture of artefacts (Webb 1995).

### 5.5.4 General Patterns

The VAHR site distribution patterns discussed in Part 4.4 indicate that the dominant site types within the study area and in its vicinity are artefact scatters and low density artefact distributions.

The distribution, density and size of known Aboriginal archaeological sites is largely dependent on environmental context, post-contact land use and erosion or site formation processes. There is likely to be a correlation between fresh water sources and Aboriginal archaeological deposits. Numerous studies have indicated a higher density and frequency of deposits exist in close proximity to water sources and the level of density and frequency increases with higher stream orders. There is likely to be a higher density and frequency of archaeological deposits in close proximity to former wetlands.

Other factors that may affect archaeological potential include slope gradient, aspect, landform, vegetation and soil landscape type. Past disturbance is also likely to have affected the potential for and integrity of archaeological deposits in any given area.

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<sup>9</sup> This is known as Bondaian technology and includes formal types such as Bondi Points and Backed Blades.

## 5.6 Regional and Local Studies

Several broader regional archaeological studies have been undertaken that provide an indication of site types and likely site patterning in this geographic region. These studies can be used in conjunction with smaller site-specific or development impact assessment investigations to identify patterns of Aboriginal occupation and use across landscapes. A review of key relevant regional studies is included below.

At the time of writing, there have been seven CHMPs undertaken within the study area or intersecting with it , and a number of regional studies.

Additionally, in a 2 km radius around the Gisborne structure plan area, a further eight CHMPs have been undertaken.

These studies are of relevance to the study area because of their geographic proximity and may indicate similar patterns of site use and disturbance. These assessments comprised desktop studies, archaeological surveys and sub-surface investigations undertaken prior to infrastructure and residential developments, road realignments and water pipelines. Generally speaking, the CHMPs identify a pattern of Aboriginal places located within 200 m of waterways and on rises within the landscape, overlooking waterways.

[Detail of site-specific studies withheld from public version of report due to sensitive nature of information about sites]

### 5.6.1 Du Cros 1996 (Report 1988)

Du Cros (1996) prepared a pre-contact pilot study for the Macedon Ranges. The first stage of the study included a search of previously recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, of which the majority were artefact scatters, isolated finds and scarred trees. Du Cros also included potential areas of human movement routes throughout the landscape in addition to sites of cultural heritage for a more holistic settlement pattern model. It identified the existence of ceremonial or specific social significance within the human movement routes.

The second stage was a more in-depth study into the reconstruction of post-European contact. The second stage aimed to assess levels of disturbance, cultural values or human movement routes, site distributions, cultural landscapes and contact history.

For specific areas in the region, ethnohistorical information was collated. In Gisborne, it is noted that the last time Aboriginal people were observed camping in the study was c.1870 near where Brantome/Hamilton Street corner now is. A known travel route from Jacksons Creek from Koroit and Toolern Creeks was noted. A surface artefact scatter recorded in the late 1970s near Standley Park is also noted.

### 5.6.2 Luebbers 1997; 1998 (Report 1049, 1361)

Luebbers undertook an archaeological survey of two sewer outfall options which extended across the valley slopes and base of Jacksons Creek. One Aboriginal site (VAHR 7823 0040),

comprising a single chert core, was identified during the field survey. The artefact was identified on the upper alluvial unit of the valley floor.

Following the initial survey, subsurface testing of the Jacksons Creek floodplain was undertaken to determine the archaeological sensitivity of this landform. The testing identified a total of more than 176 stone artefacts including 5 backed microliths and 5 scrapers made from silcrete, chert, fine-grained basalt and nineteenth century bottle glass which were recorded as VAHR 7823-0074. The stone artefacts were located within light yellow alluvium 450–600 mm beneath the ground surface, with more recent alluvium overlying the place (1998, 5, 7).

The presence of a fragment of flaked bottle glass in the assemblage indicates that the small stone tool tradition was being continued into the nineteenth century.

### 5.6.3 McConachie 2019, Wurundjeri Cultural Values of Gisborne

In 2019 the Wurundjeri prepared a cultural values survey on the basis of a visit to the study area by a group of Elders, which made the following recommendations:

- Protection of Jacksons Creek, offset greater than 200m and revegetate the area.
- Survey for cultural material and the edge of the swamp around Investigation Area 1.
- Increase the buffer around the swamp for Investigation Area 1.
- There are old and disturbed stony rises through Investigation Areas 1 and 2 which may contain cultural material.
- Investigation Areas 2 and Area 3 contain remnant large River Red Gums (*E. cameldulensis*), these should be retained and increased in number through revegetation.
- Prior to any subdivision of Area 4 it is recommended to conduct a cultural heritage survey, identifying the locations of cultural material along the ridge and terraces.
- Improve habitat protection for migrating species
- Maintain and improve water quality as it flows into Jacksons Creek.
- Examine the potential to recognise culturally valued species in the area
- Investigate options to amend the local planning scheme regarding cultural views, species, and other values.
- Regionally Gisborne has significant value and the ethnographic record for the area is substantial. Culturally appropriate mapping of these values would be a suitable project.
- On-going involvement in landscape management in urban design, naming, as part of the effort to appropriately emphasise the Wurundjeri cultural footprint.

- Education opportunities for local community engagement and information sharing.
- Encourage flexible design to allow for unidentified cultural sites, and encourage the avoidance of cultural sites as new places are identified.
- Have a policy around the choice and appropriate use of Woi-wurrung language names
- Continuing commitment to this work with an ongoing budgeting for appropriate engagement with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation.
- Plan for Climate Change impacts such as water usage, increased heavy rainfall events, extended dry periods, etc.

These findings and observations have been included in the conclusions and recommendations of this updated version of the report where appropriate.

## 5.7 Newly Identified Sites

### *Woiwurung Cottage (111 Saunders Road, New Gisborne)*

The National Trust Heritage Register includes this place (as file B7192). No further information was available within the scope of this desktop survey; however, the name of the property alone suggests a potential association with the local Woiwurrung clans and the potential for an Aboriginal heritage significance. Further research with the National Trust in the first instance and consultation with the Wurundjeri is recommended to further investigate.

## 5.8 Land Use and Disturbance History

In addition to the historical background set out above (see Part 4), we include a brief land use and disturbance history, which is relevant to understanding the archaeological potential within the study area.

### 5.8.1 Land Use History

The Gisborne region was visited by settler John Aitken in 1834 and surveyed by Major Thomas Mitchell in 1836. The area was reported as suitable for sheep grazing, and settlers soon took up large tracts of land in the area. The 1850s Gold Rush further brought people to the area, and Gisborne township developed as a major waypoint on the route through to the central Victorian goldfields (Gisborne and Mount Macedon Districts Historical Society Inc. 2015; see Figure 5).

A timber industry also flourished in the area, utilising and clearing the surrounding forests of the Mount Macedon region. A railway was constructed in 1861, bringing more people to the region. The population of the town then ebbed and flowed, until post World War II. The Tullamarine Freeway was opened in 1970 and in 1974 the Rosslynne Reservoir was constructed. The Calder Highway was duplicated in around 1986 by the Calder Freeway. Population growth and development has since virtually joined Gisborne and New Gisborne to its north (Victorian Places 2015)

The area still retains a mix of land use. In what was previously 'Gisborne Shire', sixteen percent of the shire was farmland in 1994, carrying 2450 meat cattle and 6000 sheep and lambs.

### 5.8.2 Disturbance History

The Gisborne Structure Plan area has developed and urbanised over the past century. This inevitably entails land disturbing activities which include:

- vegetation clearance and timber production;
- farming and grazing;
- residential, commercial and industrial construction including cut and fill construction methods;
- installation of services;
- mechanical grading and construction of the road surfaces;
- highway construction and duplication.

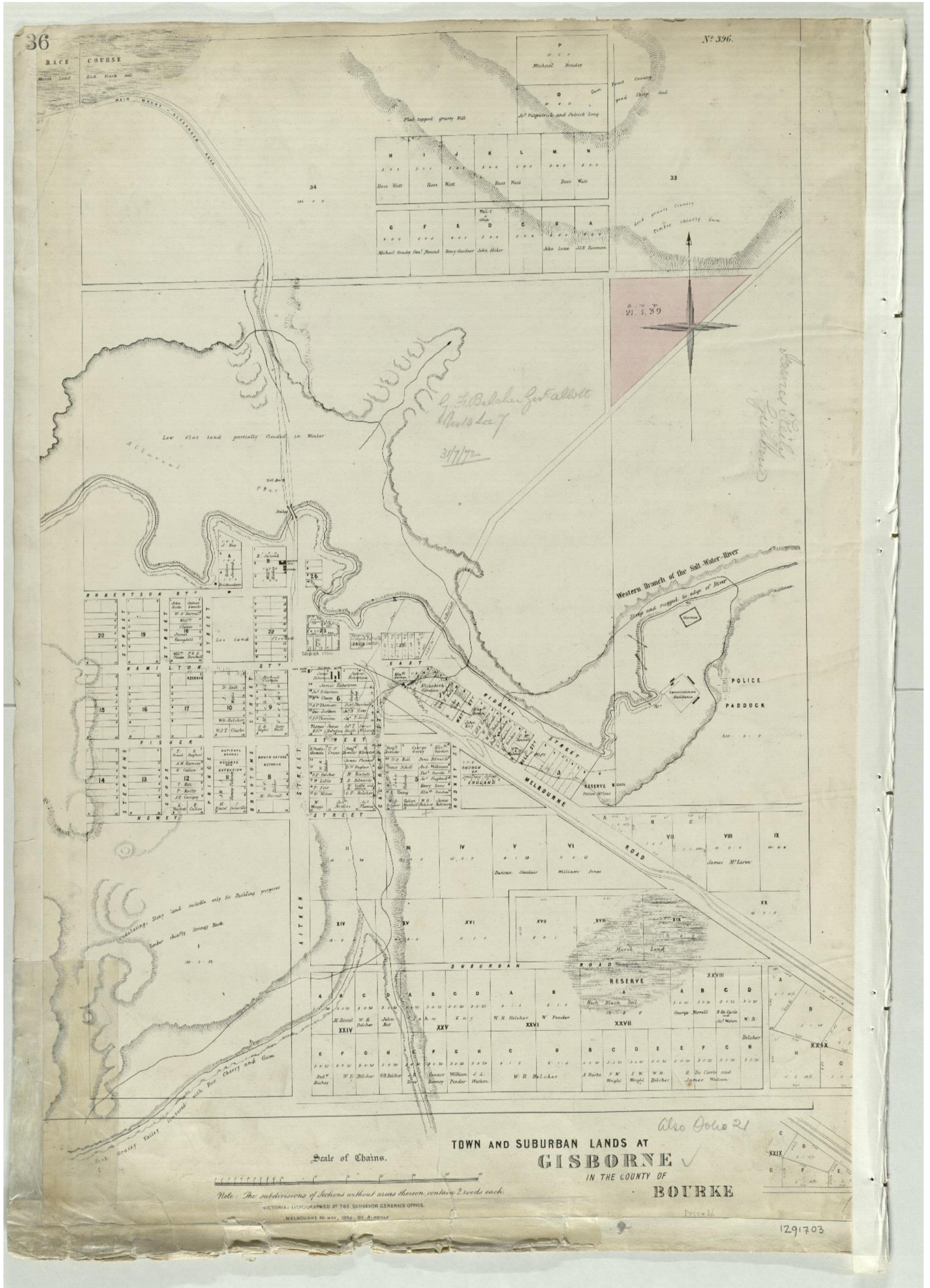


Figure 5. Town and Suburban lands at Gisborne (Anon 1856)

## 5.9 Conclusion

The Gisborne study area is part of an increasingly urbanised landscape. A desktop review has identified that twelve registered Aboriginal Places are located within the study area, and are further thirty-one places are known within a 2 km region around the study area. The patterning of these sites is however not considered to be an accurate representation of the nature and extent of Aboriginal occupation and use, but more a reflection on the occurrence of previous investigations and the nature of development in the wider area.

The archaeological record of the region consists of low-medium density stone artefact scatters located within surface and subsurface contexts, with silcrete being the predominant raw material. Sites tend to aggregate towards waterways and elevated areas surrounding them.

Particular areas that hold archaeological potential include undisturbed river alluvial terraces, rock exposures, areas of remnant native vegetation, and edges of swamp and former swamp.

A review of available ethnohistorical records and secondary sources has also identified several key culturally significant and sensitive portions of the landscape including:

- the Jacksons Creek corridor, particularly alluvial terraces, high points and flat-topped escarpments around them;
- Magnet Hill, as a lookout point toward areas of known and likely Aboriginal cultural heritage significance, particularly to the north;
- the former Bush Inn Hotel (Gisborne Telegraph Hotel)—where Nangollilobel (alias Jon Bull, Captain Turnbull), the brother of the paternal grandmother of Barak, lived; and
- Wooling Swamp and swamp deposits as resource zones.



## 6. Post-Contact Heritage

### 6.1 Preamble

The information obtained during a historical heritage desktop assessment assists in determining the sensitivities of a region. It considers the history of the region, places registered under legislative regimes and places protected under planning controls due to heritage values. It can also provide an indication of the types and distribution of archaeological deposits and material that may be present, or may once have been present, in the study area. It also provides comparative information that is essential for the assessment of the significance of any previously unrecorded places or items.

### 6.2 Legislation

#### 6.2.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (Comm.)

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) establishes the Commonwealth environment regime and provides for the assessment of proposed actions that are likely to impact on matters of national environmental significance, including National and World Heritage values. The EPBC Act introduced the National Heritage List, which was designed to recognise and protect places of outstanding heritage to the nation, and the Commonwealth Heritage List, which includes Commonwealth owned or leased places of significant heritage value.

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) was originally established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975, however on 1 January 2004, the new national heritage system was established under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act). This introduced the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List, creating significant level of overlap between the Register of the National Estate, and heritage lists at the national, state and territory, and local government levels. In early 2007, changes were made to the EPBC Act, to address this situation. The RNE was closed in 2007 and is no longer a statutory list, although it is maintained on a non-statutory basis as a publicly available archive and educational resource.

#### 6.2.2 The Heritage Act 2017 (Vic)

The *Heritage Act 2017* (Vic) provides the primary legislative framework for heritage protection in Victoria, replacing both the Historic Buildings Act 1981 and the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981. The Act also considers non-Aboriginal archaeological sites, previously covered under the Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1971. The Act establishes the Heritage Council Victoria as the State's main decision-making body on heritage issues. The Executive Director, acts on the technical advice of Heritage Victoria and is responsible for the administration of the Act. The Executive Director can recommend registration of a heritage place or object by Heritage Council Victoria and can issue permits for a registered place or object to be altered, removed or demolished, despoiled or damaged, developed or excavated. The Act provides protection for a wide range of cultural heritage places and objects, including:

- historic archaeological sites and artefacts;
- historic buildings, structures and precincts;
- gardens, trees and cemeteries;
- cultural landscapes; and
- shipwrecks.

All non-Aboriginal archaeological sites in Victoria older than fifty years are protected under the Act, whether or not they are recorded by Heritage Victoria. For example, if a site is uncovered in the course of a building project, it is an offence to knowingly disturb, damage or excavate it without obtaining the appropriate permission from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.

#### *6.2.2.1 Victorian Heritage Register*

The Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) was established under section 23 of the Heritage Act and it lists and provides legal protection for heritage places and objects that have been assessed as being of significance to the State of Victoria. It is the purpose of the VHR to protect, preserve and conserve as much of the fabric of the place and the objects/artefacts as possible. Pursuant to section 93 of the Act, a permit is required to carry out works or activities to a place or object on the VHR.

#### *6.2.2.2 Victorian Heritage Inventory*

All known historical (non-Indigenous) archaeological sites in Victoria are listed in the Heritage Inventory. Heritage Inventory listing enables Heritage Victoria to record and monitor sites that are not considered to be of State significance or where the significance is unknown. Recording, excavation and monitoring are the usual methods of assessing and managing the heritage values of a site listed in the Heritage Inventory. Pursuant to section 124 of the Heritage Act 2017, a Consent is required to carry out works or activities to a place or object on the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

The Planning Environment Act 1987 Under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, municipal and shire councils can protect post-contact heritage places that are considered important to local communities, by including these sites in their local planning scheme. Councils are empowered to commission reports and to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural values. The *Planning and Environment (Planning Schemes) Act 1996* amended the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The 1996 Act provided for the Minister for Planning to prepare a set of standard provisions for planning schemes called the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP).

The VPP is a comprehensive set of standard planning provisions and provides a standard format for all Victorian planning schemes. The planning authority (usually the municipal council) must provide the local planning policy content and select the appropriate zones and overlays from the VPP for inclusion in their planning scheme.

### *6.2.2.3 Macedon Ranges Shire Council Heritage Overlay*

The Local Government Planning Schemes includes the adoption of a Heritage Overlay of historic sites and places within the Macedon Ranges Shire Council LGA. These places are typically of Local significance, rather than State or National significance.

Places of local or State heritage significance can be protected by inclusion in the Heritage Overlay (HO) of local government planning schemes. The purpose of the HO is:

- to implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies;
- to conserve and enhance heritage places of natural or cultural significance;
- to conserve and enhance those elements which contribute to the significance of heritage places;
- to ensure that development does not adversely affect the significance of heritage places; and
- to conserve specifically identified heritage places by allowing a use that would otherwise be prohibited if this will demonstrably assist with the conservation of the significance of the heritage place.




## 6.3 Registered Historical Sites

### 6.3.1 Australian Heritage Database and the Register of the National Estate

A search of the Australian Heritage Database was conducted on 7 November 2018. No places on the World Heritage List, National Heritage List or Commonwealth Heritage List were identified within the study area.

Nine entries on the non-statutory Register of the National Estate were identified in relation to the study area. These are detailed below.

Table 2. Places within the Gisborne area listed on the non-statutory Register of the National Estate

Place	Locality	Description/Statement of Significance	Image
Corner Store (former) Aitkin St	Gisborne, VIC, Australia	The former Corner Store, Corner Hamilton and Aitken Streets, Gisborne, is a prominent building on the Calder Highway and in the townscape of Gisborne. The building is an early surviving example of a substantial country store and is of architectural interest for its form and detailing. Stylistically, the building is transitional in nature, with an essentially Colonial form and Italianate details, notably the triple window motif	
Elderslie Barringo Rd	New Gisborne, VIC, Australia	Elderslie, Barringo Road, New Gisborne, is an early surviving and substantial house which is also important architecturally and for its intactness. The Colonial style building is exemplary of its era, yet is unusual for and is distinguished by its rows of gables and their detailing. The degree of intactness of this building is unusual.	
Fersfield Willowbank Rd	Gisborne, VIC, Australia	Fersfield, Willowbank Road, Gisborne, is an important example of a substantial house of the early 1870s, complete with its tree and hedge lined drive and garden, all very largely intact. Fersfield also has a notable role in the historic landscape of the area and has	

Place	Locality	Description/Statement of Significance	Image
		historical associations with the Thompsons, its builders. In an Italianate style, the house is of architectural interest for its composition	
Fersfield Garden Willowbank Rd	Gisborne, VIC, Australia	The garden provides an appropriate setting for an important house. The driveway and large trees are a major feature on the southern approach to Gisborne. The garden is a small and compact garden of good design.	
Gisborne Courthouse (former) 2 Hamilton St	Gisborne, VIC, Australia	The Courthouse (formerly including the police station) at 2 Hamilton Street, Gisborne, is a landmark in the town and is an important part of its townscape. The structure is one of a small group of Courthouses in this form and is designed in an essential Italianate Classical Revival style. The Gisborne Courthouse is a comparatively early structure and has historical associations with the settlement of the area.	
Macedon House Melbourne Rd	Gisborne, VIC, Australia	Macedon House, Calder Highway, Gisborne, is apparently an early surviving building in the area, has historical associations and forms part of the historic townscape of Gisborne. The entrance gates and the distant building in its grounds are a landmark on the Calder Highway. In architectural terms, the structure is now Italianate in style, most probably the result of later remodelling.	
Riddells Creek Rail Bridge	Riddells Creek, VIC, Australia	The Riddell's Creek bridge was erected in 1859 by the Melbourne and River Murray Railways. The designer was W E Bryson and the contractors were Cornish and Bruce. It is constructed of rusticated stone blocks with dressed stone voussoirs. The single semi-circular arch is flanked on both sides by	

Place	Locality	Description/Statement of Significance	Image
		stylised Doric pilasters. It was built during the most prolific period of Victoria's railway history and is part of the great Melbourne–Bendigo–Echuca railway.	
Riddells Creek Rail Bridge over Sunbury Road Riddell Sunbury Rd	Riddells Creek, VIC, Australia	The bridge is constructed of bluestone and is single span. It is simple, robust and pleasing.	[No image available]
The Mount Alexander–Murray Valley Railway Line	Echuca, VIC, Australia	In June of 1852, the Melbourne, Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Company was promulgated to build a main line of railway from Melbourne to Mount Alexander and the River Murray, at Echuca and a branch line to Williamstown. The historic importance of the Echuca railway hinges on the number of extant structures dating from the opening of the line. Relevant features to along the railway line include: bridge over creek on upside of Riddells Creek; Riddells Creek Station; Riddells Creek bridge; Gisborne Station	[No image available]

### 6.3.2 Victorian Heritage Inventory

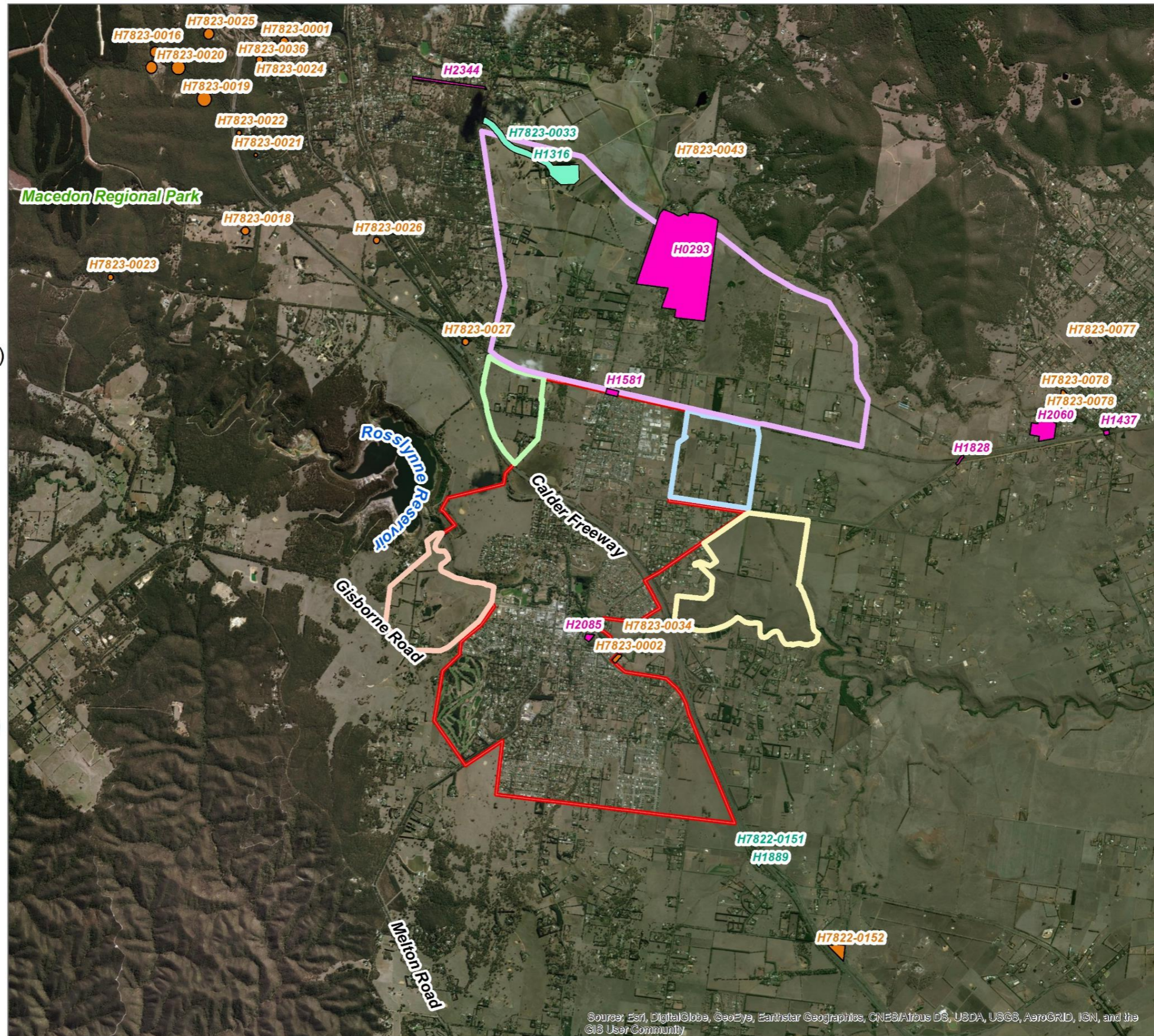
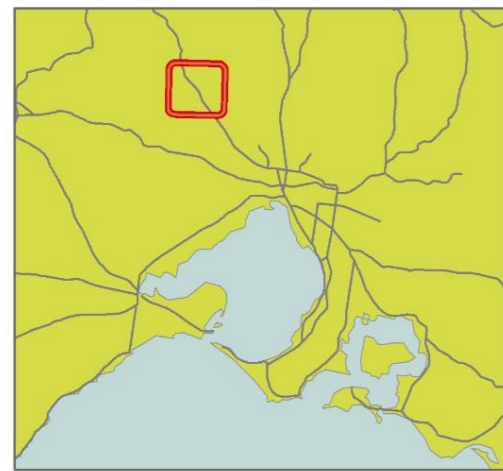
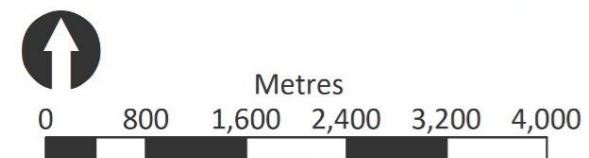
Heritage Victoria's HERMES database was accessed on 21 September and 4 December 2018. The findings of this investigation are below, and the spatial relationship to the study area is depicted in Figure 6, also below.

# EXTENT

## VHI and VHR Places

- Gisborne Settlement Boundary
- 1 Current Investigation Area
- 2 Current Investigation Area
- 3 North of Railway
- 4 Kilmore Road (Eastern Area)
- 5 Bypass (Western Area)
- VHI Places
- VHR Places
- VHI and VHR Places

Drawn by: Alexander Murphy  
 Checked by: Sarah Janson  
 Date: 4 December 2018  
 Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55  
 Data sources: Extent, ESRI



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 6. VHI and VHR places within and surrounding study area

Within Gisborne study area, three VHI sites were identified. These are detailed in Table 3.

Table 3. VHI sites within Gisborne structure plan area

VHI No.	Name	Summary of significance
H7823-0002	Gisborne Shelter Shed	Approximate location of Caroline Chisolm shelter shed. The land is currently occupied by a private residence. See Figure 7.
H7823-0040	Billy Goat Furnace Site	Deposit of ash, handmade brick fragments, charcoal and burned/fired clay on banks of Jacksons Creek. Deposit is only feature known. Recorded 1998.
H7823-0033	Bolobek	The property known as Bolobek occupies parts of two former pastoral runs, Turitable and Wooling which were settled from 1839.



Figure 7. Gisborne Shelter Shed, c.1992 (Heritage Victoria)

Additionally, within a 2 km buffer zone around the study area, a further six VHI sites were identified (see Table 4).



Table 4. VHI sites within a 2 km buffer of the study area.

VH1 No.	Name	Summary of significance
H7822-0151	Gisborne Mains	<p>The Gisborne Mains Homestead Site is located near the junction of Brooking Road and the Calder Freeway. The original nine-roomed residence, wash house, underground cistern and garden appears to have been built in the period 1857–64 by Charles Hutton, a Gisborne businessman. The property was purchased in 1864 by Thomas and Agnes Watson and under their management became a prosperous stud farm. The Gisborne Mains Farm produced champion draught horses and sheep, and various farm products that won prestigious awards at the Royal Melbourne Show. Under the management of the next generation of the Watson family, the role of raising stud stock and selling draught horses declined in favour of sheep farming, cattle and the production of fruits and dairy items. The residence remained virtually unaltered during the hundred years it belonged to the Watson family, except for renovations to first create and then upgrade a new kitchen. The existing garden with its hedge rows, exotic trees (including pines and palms) and orchard dates from the turn-of-the-century.</p> <p>Gisborne Mains Homestead Site is historically significant as an archaeological relic of Victoria's late nineteenth century farming industry. From 1864, its owners, Thomas and Agnes Watson operated it as a prosperous stud farm making widely recognised contributions to development of agricultural and animal husbandry practices.</p> <p>Gisborne Mains Homestead Site is of considerable archaeological significance due to the integrity and intactness of relics associated with the operation of the place as a stud farm under the management of Thomas and Agnes Watson. Of crucial significance is the known physical evidence of the residence, laundry, underground cistern and the potential for the area to contain undisturbed refuse tips containing artefact assemblages associated with late nineteenth century domestic and farming activities of Thomas and Agnes Watson. Contributing to the significance of the place are early twentieth century garden and orchard features which are tangible evidence in the shift in agricultural and animal husbandry practices by the second generation of the Watson family.</p>
H7823-0027	M19—Allison's Coffee Shop	Commercial category. [No further information included in VHI.]
H7823-0034	Wyabun Park Refuse Tip	Law enforcement category. [No further information included in VHI.]
H7823-0043	Wooling Hill Cemetery/Robertson	Before the cemetery in Gisborne was established in 1858, Wooling Hill had its own burial place, consisting of a roughly

VH1 No.	Name	Summary of significance
	Family Pioneer Cemetery	square enclosure, at the foot of Mount Robertson. Despite the establishment of the cemetery in Gisborne the Robertson family continued to use their family cemetery for burials until 1891. Family records suggest that up to twenty people were buried here, including both Robertson and his wife.
H7823-0026	M18 Guest House Site	Transient Accommodation category. [No further information included in VHI.]
H7823-0032	Wiltshire Road 1	Transport—Road category. [No further information included in VHI.]

### 6.3.3 Victorian Heritage Register

A search of the Victorian Heritage Register was conducted on 26 September and 4 December 2018. This identified four places within the study area and a further three places in a 2 km buffer around the study area (see Table 5 and Table 6).

Table 5. VHR sites identified within the study area

VHR No.	Name	Summary of significance
H2085	Macedon House	Macedon House is believed to have been built for Elizabeth and Thomas Gordon in 1847 as the Mount Macedon Hotel. From 1887 it became a boarding and guest house for many years. During the twentieth century it has been used as a private house, restaurant, reception centre, bowling clubhouse and school. Macedon House is a single storey, rendered, bluestone building with a hardwood-framed roof covered by original shingles beneath a later corrugated iron roof.  Macedon House is of historical, architectural and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria.
H1581	Gisborne Railway Station Complex	Gisborne station retains some outstanding elements in an easily interpreted railway complex. The platforms with bluestone walls are original as is the gable roofed corrugated iron-clad goods shed. The goods shed, representative of others that would once have been on the line, has an internal road and platform. The original iron gutters are also in place. The present station building was erected in 1921, to plans of the architect James Fawcett.
H0293	Elderslie	Elderslie, Barringo Road, New Gisborne, is a substantial brick house believed to have been built for Thomas Ferrier Hamilton in the early 1850's. Additions were made circa 1900. The dwelling is single storeyed and is characterised by its encircling timber verandah and the row of parapet gables to the sides of the house, with their capping courses and round vents. French doors are features.

VHR No.	Name	Summary of significance
		It is also important architecturally and for its intactness. The colonial style building is exemplary of its era, yet is unusual for and is distinguished by its rows of gables and their detailing. The degree of intactness of this building is unusual.
H1316	Bolobek	The property known as Bolobek occupies parts of two former pastoral runs, Turitable and Wooling which were settled from 1839. In 1911, the property and adjoining land was purchased by Oswald Syme, son of the David Syme owner and editor of the Age newspaper. He renamed the property Bolobek and on a new site built a three-storey mansion and established a magnificent garden of 5 acres including half an acre of orchard. There was a nine-hole golf course, croquet lawn, tennis court and swimming pool. The trout hatchery site was flooded to form Syme's lake. Bolobek is of aesthetic, architectural, historic and horticultural importance to the State of Victoria

Table 6. VHR sites within a 2 km buffer of the study area

VHR No.	Name	Summary of significance
H1889	Gisborne Mains	<p>The Gisborne Mains Homestead site is located on the Calder Freeway at the South Gisborne Rest Area. The original nine-room residence, wash house, underground bluestone water tank, and garden and orchard was built between 1857 and 1964 by Charles Hutton, a local Gisborne business identity.</p> <p>Gisborne Mains Homestead site is of historical, social and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria.</p>
H1828	Road over Rail Bridge Riddells Creek	<p>The Road over Rail Bridge at Riddells Creek is part of the Melbourne to Echuca Railway. Opened in five stages from February 1859 to September 1864, this was the larger of the Colony's first two main trunk lines. The Road over Rail Bridge at Riddells Creek was constructed as part of the Sunbury to Woodend section of the line, which was opened in July 1862.</p>
H2344	Avenue of Honour	<p>The Avenue of Honour, Macedon which comprises Honour Avenue and 154 oak trees, predominantly Pin Oak. The Avenue of Honour, Macedon is historically and aesthetically significant for exemplifying rural Victoria's reaction to World War I. It is significant as a fine example of this important form of memorial planting in Victoria which commemorated individual sacrifice during World War I.</p>

### 6.3.4 Heritage Overlay

A search of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Heritage Overlay demonstrates a number of HO places within the Gisborne study area. The 2017 Heritage Study includes citations for a number of these places. Relevant HO places are detailed in Table 7 and at Figure 8 (below), with details of specific constraints reproduced from the planning scheme at Appendix 1.

Table 7. HO listings in Gisborne and New Gisborne (Macedon Ranges Shire Council 2018). Note: asterisks (\*) denotes interim control, expiring 26 April 2019.

HO	Heritage Place	
	GISBORNE	
HO291	Lyell House*	35 Aitken Street, Gisborne
HO85	Gisborne Corner Store	40 Aitken Street, Gisborne
HO293	Foresters Hall*	52 Aitken Street, Gisborne
HO290	Masonic Hall*	60 Aitken Street, Gisborne
HO282	St Brigid's Catholic Church*	64 Aitken Street, Gisborne
HO1	Gisborne Cemetery	110 Aitken Street, Gisborne

HO	Heritage Place	
HO280	Gisborne Park*	2 Cabbage Tree Lane, Gisborne
HO259	Gisborne Mains Homestead Site	Calder Freeway Gisborne
HO63	Rock Glen Farm	25 Dalrymple Road, Gisborne
HO283	St Paul's Anglican Church*	32 Fisher Street, Gisborne
HO292	Gisborne State School No 262*	35 Fisher Street, Gisborne
HO284	Residence, St Andrew's Presbyterian Manse (former)*	42 Fisher Street, Gisborne
HO294	St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and hall*	43–49 Fisher Street, Gisborne
HO289	Memorial Precinct (Howey Reserve)*	Hamilton Street, Gisborne
HO86	Court House and Police Quarters (former)	2 and 6 Hamilton Street, Gisborne
HO288	Mechanics Institute*	18 Hamilton Street, Gisborne
HO297	Shop—CBA Bank (former)*	20 Hamilton Street, Gisborne
HO287	Residence (Dixon's Office)*	41 Hamilton Street, Gisborne
HO257	Mulguthrie	85 Hamilton Street, Gisborne
HO286	Residence (Annandale)*	46 Howey Street, Gisborne
HO281	Residence (Eblana)* Adjacent heritage garden—part of UL Daly Reserve	59 Howey Street, Gisborne 63 Howey Street, Gisborne
HO117	Macedon House	1 Kilmore Road, Gisborne
HO264	Balance of Macedon House	1 Kilmore Road, Gisborne
HO285	Wyabun Park*	29 Melbourne Road, Gisborne
HO298	Residence*	60 Prince Street, Gisborne
HO76	Fersfield House*	74 Willowbank Road, Gisborne
	NEW GISBORNE	
HO6	Elderslie	212 Barringo Road, New Gisborne
HO296	Wooling Private Cemetery (Robertson Family Pioneer Cemetery)	372 Barringo Road, New Gisborne
HO269	Cathlaw	11 Ferrier Road, New Gisborne
HO270	Westport	72–74 Ferrier Road, New Gisborne
HO295	Homestead (Hay Hill)	426 Hamilton Road, New Gisborne

HO	Heritage Place	
HO302	Railway Overpass (Mitchell's Bridge)	Pierce Road, New Gisborne
HO304	New Gisborne Avenue of Honour	Station Road, New Gisborne (between Saunders Road and Early Street)
HO250	Gisborne Railway Station Complex	175 Station Road, New Gisborne
HO300	Residence	251A Station Road, New Gisborne
HO299	Ross-Watt Children's Hall	252 Station Road, New Gisborne
HO301	Residence	268 Station Road, New Gisborne
HO303	Residence (former Post Office)	274 Station Road, New Gisborne

# EXTENT



- Gisborne Township Boundary
- 1 Current Investigation Area
- 2 Current Investigation Area
- 3 North of Railway
- 4 Kilmore Road (Eastern Area)
- 5 Bypass (Western Area)
- Heritage Overlay
- References from Previous Studies

**Drawn by:** Alexander Murphy  
**Checked by:** Luke James  
**Date:** 17 December 2018  
**Projection:** GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55  
**Data sources:** Extent, DELWP, ESRI

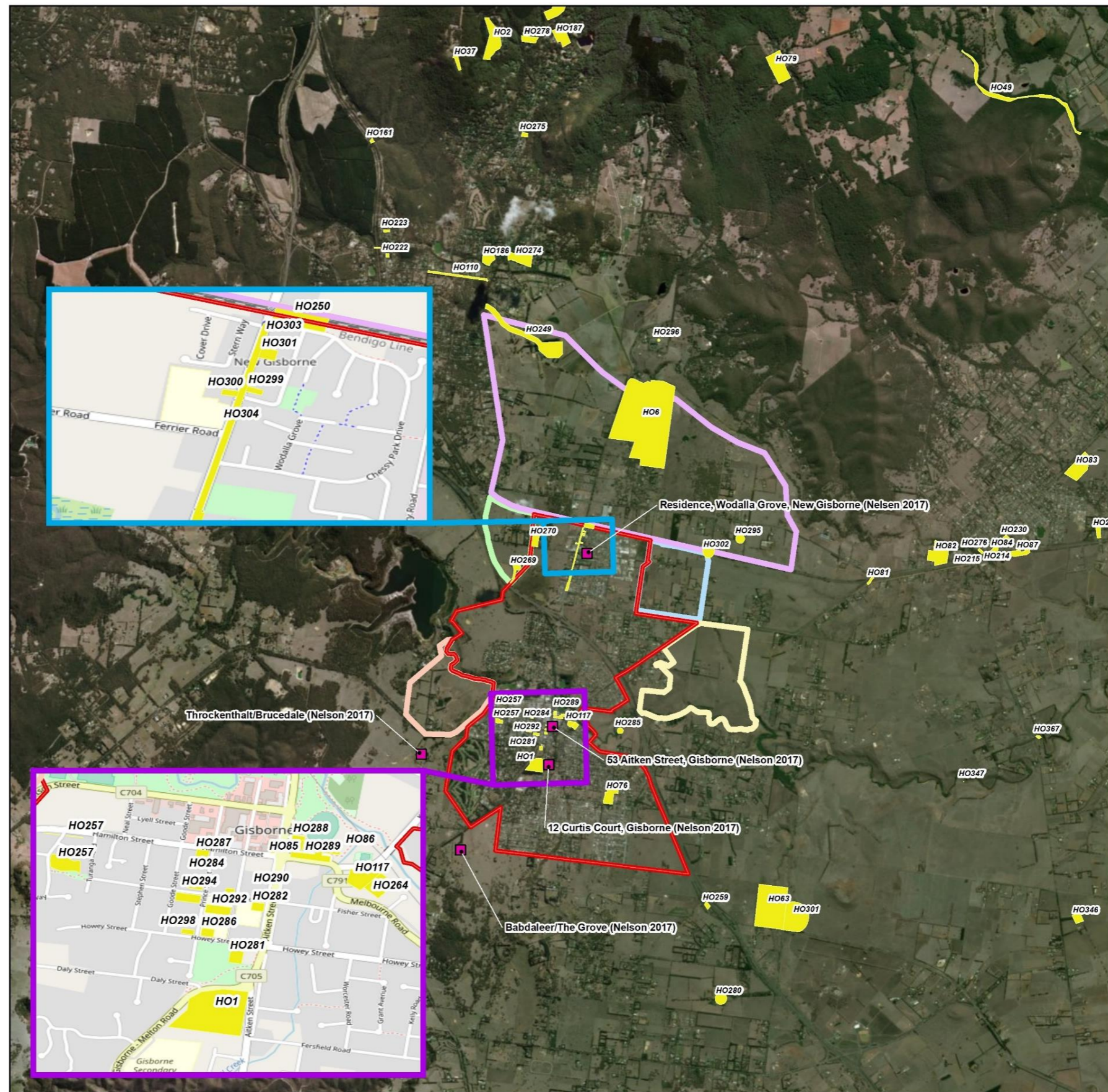
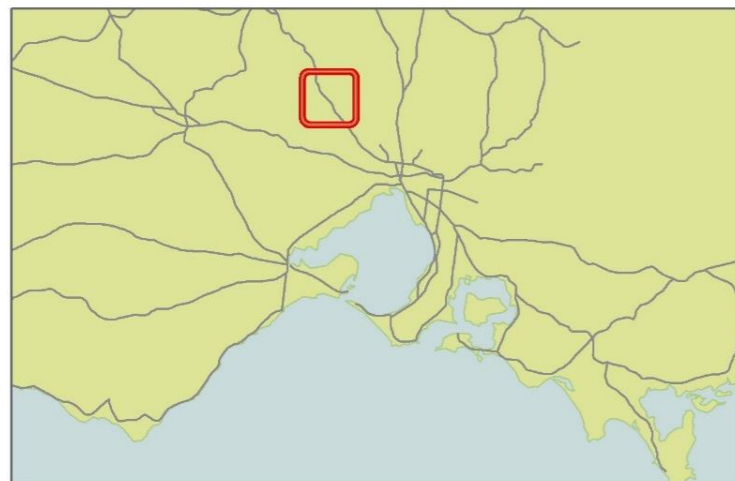
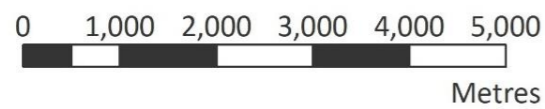


Figure 8. Gisborne Heritage Overlay and historic references

## 6.4 National Trust (Victoria)

The National Trust Heritage Register is a non-statutory register maintained by the National Trust. Different classification levels are accorded to places or objects. 'File Only' places refer to a place or object where the Trust retains a file on the place, but it is not officially classified. It may be classified in future, or it may remain as a record only.

A search of sites in Gisborne returned 13 places. These are detailed in Table 8.

Table 8. National Trust Heritage Register sites in the Gisborne region

Image	Name	Detail	File No.	Level
	Mount Gisborne GISBORNE, Macedon Ranges Shire	-	L10135	File only
[No image available]	Former Wooling Hill Estate 65 Barringo Road, NEW GISBORNE, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	-	B6303	File only
	Former Corner Store Cnr Aitken & Hamilton Streets, GISBORNE, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	A substantial two storey brick building of c.1860 on bluestone foundations with a cellar. The shop is on the ground floor and the residence is on the first floor.	B3576	Local
	House 57 Aitken Street, GISBORNE, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	-	B4383	File only
	Elderslie Barringo Road, NEW GISBORNE, Macedon Ranges Shire	A house believed to have been built by Thomas Ferrier Hamilton in 1852. An interesting example of a colonial homestead which is substantially intact apart from the addition of a window in the 1930s. The cells, formerly occupied by ex-convict labourers, are still in good condition.	B1652	Local









Image	Name	Detail	File No.	Level
	Gisborne Park Cnr Calder Highway & Couangalt Road, GISBORNE, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	-	B6043	File only
	Fersfield House & Garden 15–29 Fersfield Road, GISBORNE, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	Fersfield is a brick house erected, it is believed, in 1872 for W. K. Thompson. The substantial, single storey structure is symmetrical, with two projecting wings about the recessed cast iron verandah with its central gabled porch. Roofs are clad in slate and are hipped in form. The chimneys are features, as is the round-headed front door and the triple window motif to the projecting wings.	B2598	Regional
	Dromkeen Homestead 1012 Gisborne-Kilmore Road, RIDDELLS CREEK, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	Designed by the architects Hyndman & Bates in 1889 for Judge Arthur Chomley, this timber house was sold to Jack Manton in 1956. Jack Manton was a leading art entrepreneur and he added a large picture gallery in 1979 to hang his collection, which included 68 paintings from the Heidelberg School.	B5677	Local
	Former Court House & Police Station 2 Hamilton Street, GISBORNE, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	Two storey rendered courthouse of 1858 with whipped slate roof and flanking lower wings originally incorporating the police station. Group includes brick stables and bluestone lock-up built at rear in 1861.	B2086	Local

Image	Name	Detail	File No.	Level
	Macedon House 1 Kilmore Road, GISBORNE, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	A single storey cement rendered bluestone house of elegant symmetrical proportions. Built as a hotel before 1850 with later timber additions at the rear, unusual buttresses supporting the external north wall and a simple timber verandah with cast-iron detail. The siting of the house, at the foot of a hill winding out of Gisborne, is noteworthy.	B3471	Local
[No image available]	Woiworung Cottage 111 Saunders Road, NEW GISBORNE, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	-	B7192	File only
[No image available]	Hesperocyparis lusitanica Cupressus, Mexican Cypress Calder Highway, near Dalrymple Road intersection GISBORNE, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	Horticultural value; Curious growth form. A small tree growing on the edge of the Calder Highway. This tree exhibits an unusual growth form -it displays a very weeping habit; the species is usually much more upright. Branch removed by Vic Roads in 1989. Measurements: 07/1986; spread (m): 9; girth (m): 1.4; height (m): 5.7; estimated age (yrs): 60	T11623	State
	Pinus contorta var. latifolia Lodgepole Pine Calder Highway, GISBORNE, Macedon Ranges Shire	Rare or Localised An attractive tree with a narrow crown. This species is uncommon in cultivation in Victoria. Other known examples occur at Marysville and State plantation at Narbethong. The tree has attractive scaly bark, grey in colour. The many elm suckers nearby should be removed and a Fraxinus ornus is growing west of the tree.	T11625	Regional

## 6.5 Previous Studies

This section sets out background information on the previously identified heritage sites and features of the area, including details of previous heritage investigations undertaken within and around the study area.

### 6.5.1 Nelsen 2017

The Gisborne and Kyneton Heritage Study was completed and adopted by council in December 2017. This report consists of a review of forty-four sites identified as having heritage significance from previous heritage assessments and the preparation of statements of significance.

Of these sites that were in Gisborne or New Gisborne, eighteen were subsequently added to the Heritage Overlay as an interim control expiring on 26 April 2019. These sites would be expected to either be accepted or rejected for permanent inclusion in the Heritage Overlay before the expiry date, following a normal Council-led public exhibition process. In the meantime, the interim controls operate in the same way as permanent controls would.

Nelsen further recommended that the following placed in Gisborne should be considered in the future for possible addition to the Heritage Overlay.

- 53 Aitken Street, Gisborne
- 12 Curtis Court, Gisborne
- ‘Throckenthalt/Brucedale’, 171 Bacchus Marsh Road, Gisborne
- ‘Bundaleer/The Grove’, 201 Gisborne Melton Road, Gisborne
- Residence, Wodalla Drive (sic), New Gisborne<sup>10</sup>

### 6.5.2 Clark et al 2003 (HV Report 1646)

Vincent Clark and Associates conducted a study for VicRoads to provide information on cultural heritage values associated with a section of the Gisborne-Kilmore main road, near Riddells Creek. A pedestrian survey was conducted over the approximately 8 km region. No new historic cultural heritage sites were identified during field investigations. The only identified heritage site in the region was the Road over Tail Bridge that crosses the Melbourne to Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Line on the Gisborne-Kilmore Main Road. It is part of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Heritage Overlay but is not on the VHR or VHI. The site has high local significance. The recommendations of the report specify that damage to the site should be avoided if any works are to occur in the vicinity.

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<sup>10</sup> This is likely to refer to Wodalla Grove, as there is no known Wodalla Drive in Gisborne. No street number was provided for this property.

### 6.5.3 Cekalovic and Debney 1999 (HV Report 0878)

This report prepared by Biosis presents the results of an archaeological survey of a proposed freeway service centre adjacent to the Calder Freeway, south of Gisborne. The archaeological survey investigated both Aboriginal and post-contact heritage to ascertain if there would be any cultural heritage issues. The survey did not identify any Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal archaeology within the study area.

### 6.5.4 Luebbers 1995a (HV Report 0284)

Historical investigation of Gisborne Mains homestead and farm in the area of two proposed service roads on land located adjacent to the historic precinct. Limited artefactual material was found in addition to three stone pavements or floor which would be impacted by the development. It was determined that disturbance to this feature would not impact the overall heritage value of the place.

### 6.5.5 Luebbers 1995b (HV Report 0248)

This report details excavation at the Gisborne Mains, Coffee Shop and Stone Bridge in advance of construction of a dual carriageway on the Calder Highway. Archaeological features of note included stone foundations, a cistern and artefact deposits at the Gisborne Mains precinct. The archaeological assessment recommended further investigation assess archaeological evidence.

### 6.5.6 Luebbers 1997 and 1998 (HV Report 0496)

Luebbers surveyed an area of a proposed sewerage outfall system in Jacksons Creek at Gisborne. Two sites were identified. The Billy Goat Furnace site is a deposit of ash, charcoal and baked clay lumps. Waybun Park site consists of a refuse dump probably used between the 1860s and 1930s and a tree plantation.

### 6.5.7 Luebbers 1998

Detailed archaeological examination of the proposed sewerage outfall system at Gisborne. Subsurface testing of historical site H7823-040 revealed an industrial furnaced site, with the majority of the fill, such as glass, electrical wire and other refuse dated from the 1960s to the present.

## 6.6 Newly Identified Sites

During the preparation of this report, the following two sites with strong potential for heritage significance were identified in the station precinct.

### *Former Hurst Family Hotel (283 Station Road, New Gisborne)*

Understood to have been constructed around the same time as the original Gisborne Station, this hotel is considered worthy of further investigation and assessment as part of the broader station complex for its potential relevance to interpreting the station's role. It may be considered for inclusion in the existing VHR citation and/or included on the Heritage Overlay in its own right.



Figure 9. Former Hurst Family Hotel (now known as Barringo Food & Wine Co.)



Figure 10. Photograph of former Hurst Family Hotel, c. nineteenth century (Holly's Blog of Learning, n.d.)

### *Possible former stationmaster's house (4 Barringo Road, New Gisborne)*

While it has been reported that the former railway gatekeeper's house was demolished in 1984, the weatherboard house adjoining the driveway to the northern section of the station car park may have been the stationmaster's residence. A recent real estate sale board visible from Google Street View represented that the property was the 'Station master's house Circa 1910'. While this has not been independently verified, it is suggested that this claim is worthy of further investigation. If the statement is proved correct the property may also be considered for inclusion in the existing VHR citation and/or included on the Heritage Overlay in its own right.



Figure 11. Possible former stationmaster's house

## Conclusions

The historic sites in the region are mainly homesteads/houses or civic buildings, and they are often linked with the township's role as a waypoint to Gold Fields. Gisborne Station and its curtilage/setting are of particular significance, and there are previously unidentified elements that should be assessed for possible heritage controls.

## 7. Report Conclusions

Based on a preliminary heritage assessment of the study area and its immediate geographical context, we have identified the areas of known and potential heritage sensitivity set out above at Figure 1. While only a moderate number of registered heritage places and items have been identified within the study area, beyond it, its immediate geographical context includes a substantial number of Aboriginal cultural heritage items that inform an assessment of likely potential within the study area, particularly in area 3 (North of railway). These correspond with a cluster of identified post-settlement heritage items, suggesting that this area, and in particular

the part north of Hamilton Road, may require further investigation prior to inclusion in growth area boundaries.

The Jacksons Creek corridor is also identified as having likely Aboriginal cultural significance, and any proposed infrastructure or crossing in the vicinity of the watercourse should incorporate the views of Aboriginal people in regards to location and design. Other geographic features within the study area that may warrant further investigation and caution include the wetlands in the Gisborne Nature Conservation Reserve, and significant views that should be considered include to Camel's Hump, Mount Macedon and Mount Robertson to the north, and in the direction of the Sunbury Earth Rings to the south (see Figure 3, above), and from Magnet Hill and Mount Gisborne. Gisborne railway station, a site of state significance, is expected to experience future development in its vicinity, and it is suggested that this development recognise the significant values not only of the railway station itself but also its curtilage and setting, particularly given its important role as an entry 'gateway' to the growing township.

Using the following area designations taken from the Gisborne Context Plan Enquiry by Design workshop (as extended in November 2018 to enlarge the North of Railway (3) area: see Figure 1 above) we provide the following further guidance in relation to each area.

#### *Current Investigation Area (1)*

Due to likely Aboriginal heritage sensitivity, a further setback of 200 m should be placed around the perimeter of the swamp in the Gisborne Nature Conservation Reserve to the south to recognise the potential presence of items with Aboriginal heritage significance, including flora and fauna. Views between the swamp, Mount Gisborne and Magnet Hill should be preserved. The presence of old stony rises further elevates the potential for items with Aboriginal heritage significance. Any development in the southern end of this area would need to be preceded by an investigation. A small farm, 'Cathlaw', included in the Heritage Overlay, lies in the southern part of the area, and development impacting on this place would likely require a planning approval.

#### *Current Investigation Area (2)*

The presence of old stony rises elevates the potential for items with Aboriginal heritage significance, and development in the vicinity of such rises should be preceded by an archaeological survey. Other than those constraints relating to the bluestone railway overpass on the north-east boundary of this area, which is included in the Council Heritage Overlay (Mitchell's Bridge, H0302), no particular constraints have been identified.

#### *North of Railway (3)*

Noting the presence of a rise associated with a small eruption point, development north of Hamilton Road should be subject to cultural values assessment with Wurundjeri and a broader cultural landscape evaluation of the rural landscape. Large, old River Red Gums should be retained, and further regeneration of the species should be encouraged. Development impacting on places registered on the Victorian Heritage Register, Victorian Heritage Inventory and/or the Heritage Overlay would likely require development consents. Development in the vicinity of the Gisborne Railway Station would be likely to require development consents, and consideration should be given to expanding the existing Heritage Overlay and Victorian Heritage Register entry to include the former hotel and stationmaster's house.

#### *Kilmore Road (Eastern Area) (4)*

The southern boundary of this area coincides with an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity following the northern bank of Jacksons Creek, and most development would likely require further investigation and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, which would establish conditions under which development may proceed. The presence of river terraces elevates the potential for items with Aboriginal heritage significance, and a control specifying a minimum distance from the watercourse for housing and development could be considered. In addition, designs for any crossings of Jacksons Creek should be sensitive to the Aboriginal significance of the corridor.

#### *Bypass (Western Area) (5)*

The north-western boundary of this area coincides with an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity following the southern bank of Jacksons Creek, and most development would like require further investigation and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, which would establish conditions under which development may proceed. A control specifying a minimum distance from the watercourse for housing and development could be considered. In addition, the location and design for any crossings of Jacksons Creek should be sensitive to the Aboriginal significance of the corridor, avoid sections that retain unmodified natural outcrops and remnant native vegetation, and be subject to a cultural values assessment in conjunction with the Wurundjeri.

#### *Gisborne Settlement Boundary*

Development in the vicinity of the Gisborne Railway Station would be likely to require development consents, and consideration should be given to expanding the existing Heritage Overlay to include the former hotel and stationmaster's house. Urban consolidation or residential and commercial infill development in the vicinity of places with existing heritage controls may require permits and/or consents. The recent discovery of a significant amount of Aboriginal cultural material in the south-east corner of the settlement boundary illustrates the need to maintain care during development of undisturbed pockets, particularly in the vicinity of watercourses.



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