

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 24 March 2026
6:00 pm

City Hall
57 Little Malop Street, Geelong 3220

TO BE LIVE STREAMED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE:
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/meetings

COUNCIL:

Cr S Kontelj (Kardinia Ward) - Mayor
Cr E Kontelj (Hamlyn Heights Ward) - Deputy Mayor
Cr R Nelson (Barrabool Hills Ward)
Cr E Sinclair (Charlemont Ward)
Cr M Cadwell (Cheetham Ward)
Cr E Wilkinson (Connewarre Ward)
Cr A Aitken (Corio Ward)
Cr A Katos (Deakin Ward)
Cr T Sullivan (Leopold Ward)
Cr R Story (Murradoc Ward)
Cr C Burson (You Yangs Ward)

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1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

1.2. Apologies

1.3. Leaves of Absence

That Leave of Absence be granted to Cr A Aitken from 4 April 2026 to 12 April 2026, inclusive.

1.4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

1.5. Confirmation of Minutes

That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 3 March 2026 be confirmed.

1.6. Public Question and Submission Time

1.7. Petitions

1. Retain the Swim, Sport and Leisure Creche Service
2. Ibbotson Street Dust Issues

2. REPORTS

2.1. Youth Council First Report 2026

Source: City Life
Executive Director: Anthony Basford

Purpose

1. To note the first report from the 2026 Youth Council Advisory Committee.

Background

2. At the end of 2025, 11 local young people were elected by their peers to the City of Greater Geelong Youth Council Advisory Committee (Youth Council) to represent the region's youth voice throughout 2026.
3. The members, aged between 13 and 17 at the time of nomination, come from a range of local towns and suburbs, and represent the Greater Geelong area as outlined in the Youth Council Terms of Reference.
4. Youth Council provides valuable advice and updates to Council, formulated through monthly meetings, collaboration with Councillors via the Councillor Connect Mentoring Program (CCMP), and engagement with the boarder youth community.

Key Matters

5. The Youth Council is presenting its first report for 2026, introducing the new members, outlining the outcomes of the induction sessions and first meeting, and highlighting the group's priority areas and team agreement.

Recommendation

That Council notes the first report provided by the Youth Council Advisory Committee 2026 as at Attachment 1.

Financial Sustainability

6. Funding for the Youth Council program and its activities is allocated in Council's annual budget. Financial implications are one factor the City must take into consideration when assessing whether any action can or will be taken in response to the advice provided by Youth Council.

Community Engagement

7. Youth Council members engage with young people and the broader community to gather essential information, feedback and input, through their monthly meetings and scheduled activities, as outlined in the Youth Council Reports presented throughout the year.

Social Equity and Sustainability

8. The Youth Council offers young people a platform to contribute to and participate in civic life, promoting inclusivity and equity. The program recognises that not all young people have equal access to civic opportunities and provides practical support to reduce participation barriers.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

9. A Gender+ Impact Assessment was not required for this report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

10. The Youth Council's activities are conducted in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

11. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Governance and Integrity
Healthy and Caring Community
12. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

13. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

14. Council aims to positively engage with the community by fostering an inclusive and safe environment that recognises the diverse needs and expectations of individuals and groups. In this context, Council has adopted a balanced risk appetite.
15. This report supports equitable and inclusive community outcomes by amplifying the voices of young people across the municipality and identifying opportunities to enhance service experiences and strengthen inclusion and belonging.

Environmental Sustainability

16. There is no environmental sustainability implications identified for the subject of this report.

Attachments

1. First Youth Council Report 2026 [2.1.1 - 7 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

YOUTH COUNCIL FIRST REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 March 2026

JUNIOR MAYOR – VIGNESH RAM

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Junior Mayor's Message

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Youth Council, acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, learn, work, and dream. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to all emerging leaders. We walk alongside the Wadawurrung and all First Nations Peoples to build an inclusive and respectful Geelong and to care for Country so it can thrive. We honour their deep spiritual connection to Country, where the soil beneath our feet, the water in our streams and the sun rising in the sky carry stories passed down through the generations.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this first report is to introduce the participants of the 2026 Youth Council Advisory Committee to Council and the broader community. The report provides an overview of the Youth Council induction sessions and the first Youth Council meeting, including the agreed priority areas and Group Agreement (formerly referred to as the Group Charter). These key foundations will guide the work of the 2026 Youth Council Advisory Committee throughout their term.

INTRODUCING THE 2026 YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vignesh Ram

Junior Mayor

At 15, Vignesh (Viggy) steps into the role of Junior Mayor with a strong commitment to youth health and wellbeing. He is particularly focused on vaping prevention, mental health awareness, and creating inclusive community spaces. He identifies anxiety, stress, substance use pressures, and cost-of-living barriers as major challenges for young people. Viggy brings strong communication and collaboration skills, supported by his experience in student leadership roles. As Junior Mayor, he is committed to amplifying youth voice, supporting collective leadership, and working collaboratively to create positive change for young people across Greater Geelong.

Bailey Roberts

Junior Deputy Mayor

Driven by a desire to create safer and healthier environments for young people, Bailey who is 14 years of age, is passionate about improving road safety around school zones and enhancing outdoor recreational spaces. He identifies social media pressure, anxiety, and unhealthy eating habits as key issues affecting youth wellbeing. Bailey identifies as a highly empathetic individual and brings strong teamwork skills developed through his involvement in Scouts. As Deputy Junior Mayor, he is committed to supporting his peers, contributing thoughtfully to discussions, and representing young people with integrity and care.

Anthony Huynh

With a strong interest in civic engagement from a young age, Anthony, 13 years-old, cares about creating safe, affordable social spaces and strengthening youth connections with the City. He identifies a lack of safe youth spaces, poor transport and walkability, and limited awareness of Council-run youth programs as major challenges. Anthony brings knowledge of local government and strong communication skills, supported by his involvement in youth civic programs and school captain roles.

Ethan Pearce

At 16 years of age, Ethan, has a strong interest in addressing youth crime by understanding its root causes and promoting positive engagement alternatives for young people. He identifies mental health pressures, exam and school stress, and future financial uncertainty as major issues affecting young people. Ethan brings problem-solving and organisational skills, supported by his participation in the School for Student Leadership program. He is thoughtful in his approach, does not hesitate to initiate, and is committed to creating preventative, strengths-based responses to youth challenges. During his term he is keen to learn how local government systems work.

Kieley Delbridge

Kieley, 15 years-old, is passionate about improving Geelong's public transport system to reduce youth isolation and support mental health. She identifies unreliable public transport, long waiting times for mental health support, and rising cost-of-living pressures as significant challenges for young people. Kieley brings strong communication skills developed through school and work, as well as lived experience navigating transport and mental health barriers. She is collaborative, open-minded, and motivated to represent diverse youth voices and advocate for practical, youth-centred solutions.

Matilda Singleton

Grounded in a strong sense of social justice, Matilda, 13, cares about addressing homophobia and strengthening education around LGBTQIA+ inclusion. She identifies racism, homophobia, and environmental issues as key concerns impacting young people today. Matilda brings a clear commitment to creating safer, more inclusive communities and is motivated to challenge discrimination while amplifying voices that are often unheard.

Mustafa Hussaini

At an age of 17, Mustafa, is deeply passionate about environmental protection, reducing pollution, and improving community education around sustainability. He identifies vaping among students, pollution, and waste in public spaces as key issues affecting youth health and community wellbeing. He is a strong advocate for environmental responsibility and is particularly interested in preventative education and behaviour change. Mustafa brings a willingness to take action, a thoughtful approach to community wellbeing, and a strong commitment to improving outcomes for both people and the environment.

Nevaeh Huynh

Advocating from a human rights perspective, Nevaeh, 15 years of age, is interested in addressing homelessness and financial insecurity while prioritising the physical and mental wellbeing of young people. She identifies mental health challenges, financial instability, study pressures, and family stress as significant issues facing youth. Nevaeh brings empathy, lived experience, and confident communication skills, supported by leadership roles and public speaking experience. She is committed to championing equity, dignity, and access to support for vulnerable young people.

JJ Naijan

Through a compassion-led lens, JJ, 15 years, is passionate about reducing homelessness by addressing the financial and mental health factors that contribute to housing insecurity. She identifies academic stress, bullying, and peer pressure as key challenges facing young people. JJ brings strong critical thinking and adaptability, supported by her involvement in sustainability advocacy and international exchange programs. She values diverse perspectives and is committed to inclusive, thoughtful decision-making.

Muhammad Farzan Samar

Farzan, 16 years-old, is focused on increasing youth engagement and supporting mental wellbeing through inclusive community events and opportunities. He identifies low youth involvement in decision-making, reduced confidence linked to social media and device dependence, and a lack of youth-focused events as key challenges. Farzan brings extensive leadership experience as a former Head Boy, and practical skills organising multiple school events. He is adaptable, innovative, and motivated to ensure young people feel valued, recognised, and included in their communities.

Zara Leith

Committed to fostering belonging and safety, Zara, who is 13 years-old, is passionate about creating inclusive spaces for LGBTQIA+ young people and those experiencing bullying or social exclusion. She identifies bullying, lack of inclusive environments, and feeling unheard as major challenges. Zara brings strong communication skills, active listening, and a deep commitment to youth wellbeing. She is driven to ensure young people feel respected, supported, and able to thrive within their communities.

INDUCTION

The 2026 Youth Council members participated in a three-day induction facilitated by the City's Youth Development Unit (YDU) in partnership with Youth Leadership Academy Australia (YLAA) during the January school holidays. This was the first opportunity for participants to meet staff, familiarise themselves with key elements of the program, learn about local government and connect with fellow Youth Council members.

Delivered by Youth Development staff, day one focused on building foundational knowledge and relationships. Youth Council members took part in icebreaker activities to build rapport with each other, followed by an overview of the Youth Council program objectives, structure and responsibilities. Members were introduced to governance, decision-making processes and meeting structures, and gained a deeper understanding on the role of advisory committees within councils. The group enjoyed insightful presentations on youth data and Council strategy, including findings from the 2025 Geelong Youth Survey, Council Plan priorities and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. They also established the foundations for an effective team agreement and explored potential priority areas for their term.

Days two and three of the three-day induction was led by YLAA facilitators. On day two, Youth Council members identified their personal strengths and growth areas and participated in workshops on emotional intelligence and self-leadership. Members also explored conflict resolution strategies and team dynamics. Building on day one discussions, members reviewed and finalised their vision statement and decided on priority areas for their term. The final day focused on translating these priorities into action, with members participating in breakout sessions to brainstorm and plan how their vision could be implemented through actions and outcomes across the year.

The formal induction took place on 21 January 2026, marking the Youth Council's official welcome. This session took place at City Hall with family, friends and guests in attendance. The event included the Junior Mayor election. Nine Youth Council members delivered passionate speeches detailing why they were the most suitable candidate for the role. Each member was given one vote to cast for their preferred candidate. Vignesh Ram was elected Junior Mayor and Bailey Roberts was elected Deputy Junior Mayor. Both Youth Council members excitedly accepted their positions, thanking their family and friends for their support. Youth Council would like

to thank all Councillors and guests for attending this special event which marked their first formal event as the 2026 Youth Council Advisory Committee.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting was the first official Youth Council meeting of 2026. During the meeting, participants endorsed their 2026 Youth Council Group Agreement and the 2026 Youth Council Priority Areas. These key pieces of work will guide the focus for the remainder of the year and set a solid foundation for how members collaborate with each other to shape the advice they will ultimately provide to Council in December.

The Youth Council heard from speakers from the City's Strategy and Performance department who engaged in an interactive session that explored the strategic landscape of the City, unpacked the Council Plan 2025–29 and Organisation Strategy 2024–29, and discussed how strategies and plans could shape the City's future direction.

They also received a presentation about Acknowledgement of Country, which explained its purpose and significance, offered tips on how to make this meaningful, and unpacked some of the language used. The group then reviewed the 2025 version of the Acknowledgement of Country and brainstormed potential amendments to ensure it reflects their own collective voice. The Youth Council will revisit this at their March meeting, with the opportunity to endorse their 2026 Youth Council Acknowledgement of Country.

THE NEST YOUTH HUB OPEN DAY

Youth Council members participated alongside attendees, supporting engagement, observing how young people interacted with the space, and contributing to a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. This event also marked one year since the hub opened, making it a valuable moment to reflect on how the space has evolved. Members reflected positively on the opportunity to connect with other young people, further strengthen relationships within the Youth Council, and observe the importance of The Nest as a safe and inclusive youth space, particularly as it enters the second and final year of the pilot.

YOUTH COUNCIL GROUP AGREEMENT

The Youth Council Group Agreement was endorsed by members at the February Youth Council meeting. Members developed a team agreement during the three-day induction to guide how they will act and work together as a team to reach their collective objectives and goals. Below are the eight agreed upon principles and values that will guide Youth Council's collaborative and professional relationships moving forward.

Youth Council members will:

- Treat everyone equally, value diverse perspectives and create a space where everyone feels heard.
- Ensure everyone gets to contribute and speak, while sharing one's own views respectfully without dominating others.
- Be honest, kind and constructive; aiming to do what benefits the group and community.
- Represent Youth Council respectfully in public and uphold physical, emotional, and online safety.
- Be reliable, show up, follow through on responsibilities, and contribute their fair share.
- Be adaptable, listen to different points of view, and remain open to learning and change.
- Work as a team and support each other: Collaborate respectfully and be approachable.

YOUTH COUNCIL PRIORITY AREAS

Youth Council members have identified four priority areas for 2026. In developing their priority areas, Youth Council considered a range of perspectives and evidence to inform their choices. This included aligning with areas where local government can have a direct role, reflecting the lived experiences of young people through their personal, school, and peer networks, and reviewing data from the 2025 Geelong Youth Survey and the Mission Australia Youth Survey. This process was further informed by an overview of the Council Plan 2025–29 and the Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The following priority areas will shape the Youth Council’s strategic focus and guide their work for 2026:

1. Youth health and wellbeing
2. Protecting native land, skies and waterways
3. Inclusivity and safety within the community
4. Economic equality and opportunity

CONCLUSION

As the 2026 Youth Council progresses through the year, members are excited to contribute to meaningful projects and advocate for the needs of young people across Greater Geelong. Through collaboration with their peers, Councillors and the broader community, they will work to advance initiatives that promote youth wellbeing, sustainability and inclusivity.

United by a shared commitment to positive change, the Youth Council is determined to amplify the voices of young people, drive action on critical issues, and help shape a more inclusive and vibrant future for Geelong.

2.2. New Heritage Overlays Greater Geelong Outer Areas Study

Source: Growth & Place
Interim Executive Director: Jacquie Randles

Purpose

1. To seek Council's adoption of the Outer Areas Heritage Assessment Study – Part 2 (**Attachment 1**), and
2. Support for the preparation and exhibition of a planning scheme amendment to apply Heritage Overlays to nine places and update one existing citation, and to request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to proceed with the Amendment.

Background

3. In September 2025, Council adopted the *Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study (2025)* and authorised preparation of a planning scheme amendment to apply Heritage Overlays to additional places identified through the study. At that time, several places were deferred to allow further consultation with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, community stakeholders and property owners, or to enable additional assessment work.
4. This report represents the final stage of that process and addresses the remaining places not resolved in the September 2025 report.
5. Since completion of the earlier heritage study (1998–2000), national assessment standards have become more rigorous, resulting in a higher threshold for determining local heritage significance.
6. The places considered in this final stage have been assessed against the eight recognised heritage criteria to determine whether they meet the threshold for Heritage Overlay application.
7. Following assessment, consultation and comparative analysis, nine places are recommended for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay and one existing citation is recommended for update. Two additional places require further consultation with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners before any overlay is considered.
8. Further details of the individual properties and assessments are provided in the attached Outer Areas Heritage Assessment Study - Part 2 (**Attachment 1**) and the Draft Heritage Assessment (**Attachment 2**).

Key Matters

9. This report forms Part 2 and finalises Council's consideration of places arising from the *Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study (2025)* that were separated from the September 2025 report.
10. The places proposed for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay have been assessed against the eight recognised heritage criteria - historical, rarity, research potential,

representativeness, aesthetic, technical, social and associative, and are considered to meet the accepted threshold for local heritage significance.

11. Between August 2025 and January 2026 further contact was made with affected owners, who were then provided with draft assessments for informal review and comment. Four submissions expressed support and no responses were received from six owners. All feedback received has been acknowledged and responded to in writing.
12. Nine places are recommended for application of a Heritage Overlay, comprising five previously assessed places and four additional priority sites located in Bell Park, Belmont, Hamlyn Heights and Portarlington.
13. One existing Heritage Overlay place (*Craigton*, Moorabool) is recommended for a citation update to include outbuilding controls.
14. One place (Sutherlands Creek Cemetery, Moorabool) is recommended for referral to Heritage Victoria for consideration for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory, and a separate place at the same location contains significant dry-stone walls already protected under Clause 52.33 of the Planning Scheme.
15. Two places (Armstrong Creek and Highton) have identified Wadawurrung cultural landscape values and require further consultation with Traditional Owners before any overlay is considered.
16. Should Council support the proposed overlays, formal notice will be issued to affected owners as part of the planning scheme amendment exhibition process, during which further submissions may be made and refinements considered.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Adopts Outer Areas Heritage Assessment Study - Part 2 (Attachment 1);**
2. **Supports the preparation and exhibition of an Amendment to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme to apply Heritage Overlays to nine places and update one existing citation, as informed by the Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study – Part 2 (2025) (Attachment 1) and Heritage Assessments (Attachment 2); and**
3. **Requests the Minister for Planning to authorise the preparation and exhibition of the Amendment.**

Financial Sustainability

17. The planning scheme amendment is Council initiated. Costs to prepare the planning scheme amendment will be met through existing recurrent planning scheme amendment budget.

Community Engagement

18. The community engagement process over the past 6 months included the following:
 - 18.1. Letter to property owners outlining the background of the Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study 2025 including the draft heritage assessment and Q&A;
 - 18.2. Consultation with the City's Heritage Advisory Committee to seek feedback on the draft Heritage Assessments;
 - 18.3. Site meetings with property owners;
 - 18.4. Consultation with property owners by letter outlining the proposed planning scheme amendment process subject to Council endorsement; and
 - 18.5. Further formal consultation will be undertaken with property owners as part of the planning scheme amendment process.

Social Equity and Sustainability

19. The amendment will have positive social effects through the protection of places of cultural heritage significance for the benefit of current and future generations. The protection of these places in the Planning Scheme will benefit the community by:
 - 19.1. Adding to the understanding of Geelong's rich cultural history;
 - 19.2. Recognising and realising the positive contribution that culturally significant places make to the City of Greater Geelong;
 - 19.3. Fostering a sense of personal, local, and national identity – a feeling that this place is different from other places;
 - 19.4. Protecting the built environment of Geelong; and
 - 19.5. Enabling the enhancement of the heritage places to be a considered process.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

20. The creation and management of heritage overlays within the City is required by Council to satisfy its obligations in:
 - 20.1. Adopting Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay, Department of Transport, a guide to the heritage overlay, including recognised heritage criteria;
 - 20.2. Meeting the objectives of planning in Victoria as defined by the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*, including section 4 (d) to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or

historical significance, otherwise of special cultural value and complying with Planning Practice Note PN01: Applying the Heritage Overlay; and

- 20.3. Implementing the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, including clauses 02.03-5 Strategic Directions, 15.03 Built Environment and Heritage and 43.01 Heritage Overlay.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

21. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority: Heritage and Culture
22. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
A destination that attracts local and international visitors.
People feel safe wherever they are.
Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

23. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest

Risk Assessment

24. The risk to Council of not proceeding with applying heritage overlays through the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme is that places will not have statutory protection and part of the community’s heritage will be lost through demolition, development or other changes.

Environmental Sustainability

25. The amendment will not have any adverse effects on the environment. Protection for heritage places will retain existing infrastructure and resources. The conservation of heritage places promotes sustainable development through conserving valuable resources and economising on materials and balancing this against the demands for development.

Attachments

1. Outer Areas Heritage Assessment Study - Part 2 [2.2.1 - 14 pages]
2. Draft Heritage Assessments [2.2.2 - 102 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

ATTACHMENT 1

OUTER AREAS HERITAGE ASSESSMENT STUDY 2025

Executive summary

A total of 34 places across Greater Geelong were identified as priorities in a review of the Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study 1998-2000.

In September 2025 Council adopted the *Outer Areas Heritage Study, 2025* and authorized the preparation of a planning scheme amendment to include an additional 20 places in the Heritage Overlay within the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

As part of the adoption of the *Outer Areas Heritage Study, 2025* by Council, 10 places were deferred to allow additional time for consultation with Wadawurrung, community stakeholders and property owners. Additionally, there were several sites that required further information before an assessment could be completed.

They have since been re-assessed and are detailed below in this final stage of the *Outer Areas Heritage Assessment Study, 2025*.

Five of the assessed heritage places are being recommended for Heritage Overlay:

- Ripley Streamside Reserve, 2505-2515 Geelong-Bacchus Road, Balliang
- St Nicolas Serbian Orthodox Church, 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights
- St Paul's Lutheran Church, 303-307 Torquay Road, Grovedale
- 'Glen Moidant', 525-615 Robbs Road, Moorabool (cottage)
- Geelong Boundary Marker, intersection of Ballarat Road and Thompsons Road, North Geelong

One place is on the Heritage Overlay and has an updated citation to include scheduled outbuilding controls:

- 'Craigton', 283-373 Ballan Road, Moorabool

One place is recommended for referral to Heritage Victoria for Victorian Heritage Inventory decision:

- Sutherlands Creek cemetery (also known as Yowang), 525-615 Robbs Road, Moorabool

One place has significant dry stone walls protected through provision 52.33 in Greater Geelong Planning Scheme:

- Sutherlands Creek, 525-615 Robbs Road, Moorabool

Four additional places have been assessed for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay. They are located in Bell Park, Belmont, Hamlyn Heights and Portarlington.

Four places are being recommended for Heritage Overlay.

- Corio Bowls Skate Park, 258 Anakie Road, Bell Park
- 'Round House', 15 Albert Street, Belmont
- 'Pan Pacific', 4 Kirriemuir Street, Hamlyn Heights
- Oakrest, 31 The Esplanade, Portarlington

Thematically, the 9 places recommended for inclusion on the heritage overlay represent the themes of Geelong's nineteenth century development, building community life, and post war development including mid-century modern.

Two places have Wadawurrung cultural landscape values and require additional time to consult with Traditional Owners:

- Dooliebeal Reserve, Warralily Boulevard, Armstrong Creek
- Yollinko Park, 178 Montpellier Drive, Highton

REPORT CONTENT

Attachment 1 incorporates:

INTRODUCTION

- Background and methodology to the heritage assessments, in accordance with Planning Practice Note PN01, the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter and industry best practice.

SUMMARY SCOPE OF REVIEW

- Location maps and a tabulated summary of the 10 places assessed for their significance, and incorporation of any owner feedback on draft citations for those places recommended for a heritage overlay

Attachment 2 incorporates:

HERITAGE ASSESSMENTS

- Detailed individual heritage citations for the 10 places recommended for inclusion on the heritage overlay of the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Introduction

1. BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study (GGOAHS), 1998-2000 was prepared for the City of Greater Geelong by Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd. This study identified 33 suburbs and 1,303 places of heritage significance that might warrant inclusion on the heritage overlay.

The strategy adopted by Council was to progress detailed assessments and heritage overlay inclusions for those GGOAHS study areas facing greatest development pressures. Consequently, the order of 570 places within Anakie, Avalon, Barwon Heads, Batesford, Belmont, Ceres, Fyansford, Lara, Lara Lake, Pt Lillias, Pt Wilson were added to heritage overlays c2000-2010.

In 2021, Council officers commenced scoping a review of the remaining places identified in the GGOAHS, the priority being identified by the Heritage Advisory Committee as properties in the suburbs of Charlemont, Marshall and Waurn Ponds, as these areas were now facing pressure from development. A key resource that was drawn upon in this review was *About Corayo. A Thematic History of Greater Geelong*, prepared for the City of Greater Geelong in 2021 by Dr David Rowe.

Since the GGOAHS recommendations were made in 2000 and the City review occurred in 2022-23, assessment standards have become more rigorous nationally and the perceived quantum of significance or threshold level for inclusion of a place on a local heritage overlay has increased.

The strategy for prioritising future heritage assessments and considering the outstanding recommendations of the GGOAHS have been prioritised toward individual places across the municipality perceived to be of greatest heritage significance and places within development pressure areas.

In September 2025 Council adopted the *Outer Areas Heritage Study, 2025* and authorized the preparation of a planning scheme amendment to include an additional 20 places in the Heritage Overlay within the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

As part of the adoption of the Outer Areas Heritage Study, 2025 by Council, 10 places were deferred to allow additional time for consultation with Wadawurrung, community stakeholders and property owners. Additionally, there were several sites that required further information before an assessment could be completed.

Council officers identified four other priority places that are in the Outer Areas study area for inclusion on the Heritage Overlay.

The outcomes are detailed below:

- 9 places are recommended for inclusion on the Heritage Overlay
- 1 place is on the Heritage Overlay and has an updated citation to include scheduled outbuilding controls
- 1 place recommended for referral to Heritage Victoria for Victorian Heritage Inventory decision
- 1 place (dry stone) walls have protection through provision 52.33 in Greater Geelong Planning Scheme
- 2 places do not meet significance thresholds
- 2 places require extension for consultation with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners

2. METHODOLOGY

The ***Outer Areas Heritage Assessment Study 2025*** involved a detailed review of the initial work undertaken by Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd in 1998-2000, augmenting those original recommendations with a fieldwork plan, historical archival research, and thorough comparative analysis, all of which was collated and informed the writing of the Heritage Assessments included at Attachment 2.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork was undertaken to confirm the status of places identified in the Outer Areas Heritage Study.

Site photographs were taken from the public realm wherever possible with some places not visible from the public realm. The draft Heritage Assessments were prepared based on this visual inspection.

Research

Research on places was undertaken according to typology using resources including other City of Greater Geelong heritage studies, and physical and digital resources including TROVE and Public Record Office Victoria. Sources are referenced in the draft heritage assessments for each place.

Comparative Analysis

Comparative analyses were carried out for all the heritage places where citations were prepared, using an architectural and/or historical context, and with regard to Practice Note PN01: Applying the Heritage Overlay.

In line with the Practice Note comparative analysis drew on other similar places within the study area wherever possible including those previously included in a heritage register or overlay.

Peer Review

The initial heritage assessments were reviewed by internal staff having extensive professional experience in assessments including the Heritage Project Officer, Built Heritage Coordinator and Heritage Advisor Mim Butcher (Heritage Conservancy).

Consultation

The community engagement process adopted the following steps:

- Letter to property owners outlining the background of the Outer Areas Heritage Study and to seek access to places not visible from the public domain.
- Meetings with the City’s Heritage Advisory Committee to seek feedback on draft Heritage Assessments.
- Copy of draft heritage assessment provided to each property owner of a place proposed for inclusion in a heritage overlay, for review and comment with letter outlining the proposed planning scheme amendment process subject to Council endorsement along with a Heritage Overlay Q&A.
- Phone conversations and meetings were held with several owners who provided additional information and to discuss the proposed heritage overlay.

2. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following heritage criteria listed in Planning Practice Note 1 were adopted as part of the assessment of heritage places in this study:

Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance)

Criterion B

Possession of uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

Criterion C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history (research potential).

Criterion D:

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Criterion E

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

Criterion F

Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

Criterion G

Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

Criterion H

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

Significance Thresholds

In addition to the recognition of the heritage values of the Burra Charter and the assessment criteria outlined in the Practice Note, cultural heritage significance, condition, and integrity thresholds were also prepared to determine the level of significance for each heritage place and whether they warranted a heritage overlay.

State and Local significance thresholds have been applied to this study using the following thresholds:

State Threshold

Places which are considered significant to the State of Victoria and are worthy for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register. These places are the most outstanding examples either aesthetically, architecturally, historically, scientifically, or socially. The place meets this threshold if it has outstanding and/or unique aesthetic and technical value/s, is highly intact and has been compared to similar places on the Victorian Heritage Register, and/or has unique historical associations with events or persons in the history of the community and Shire, the importance of which are considered to stretch beyond local municipal boundaries.

Local Threshold

Places which are considered individually significant to a local area. These heritage places are considered to have had a significant impact in shaping the cultural, architectural, historical and/or social identity of the local community and where applicable, have been compared to other places of State or Local significance (or potential significance). They are considered to have sufficient significance to warrant a heritage overlay in the Geelong Planning Scheme.

Victorian Heritage Inventory referrals

Places which are not considered to meet the thresholds for State or Local significance but comprise substantial historical archaeological remains and research potential, will be referred to Heritage Victoria for consideration of their addition to the Victorian Heritage Inventory of archaeological places.

First Nations’ Cultural Value Threshold

Places of potential Aboriginal Cultural Value will be referred to Wadawurrung traditional owners for confirmation of value and direction as to whether it is appropriate to include them on the heritage overlay and/or refer them for possible inclusion on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register.

What is Significant? - the Physical Place

This part of the significance statement relates to the physical fabric and physical attributes of a place. It can encompass:

- **Fabric & Physical Attributes of Any Building, Structure or Group thereof** – including the overall form & layout, street presence or address, construction materials, design style/character and detailing, visual features (e.g. verandahs, joinery, chimneys, window lead lighting, panel doors, etc.) finishes and colours.
- **Composition & Features of the Setting** – layout of built structures and open spaces, level changes, hard and soft landscape features including trees, outbuildings, front fencing, visibility or otherwise of vehicle accommodation, signage.
- **Vistas and views into, within or away** from the key features of the place.

Condition Thresholds

Condition is the physical state of the fabric relating to its physical appearance, structural quality and working order. The thresholds for the condition of the fabric are:

Condition	Description
Good	Minor deterioration of fabric noticeable
Fair	Deterioration of the fabric noticeable
Poor	Deterioration of fabric very noticeable, with possible structural deterioration as well

Integrity Thresholds

Integrity is the extent to which the building or structure retains its form, design and completeness of physical fabric, historic associations, social attachments and/or use which support the heritage significance of the heritage place.

Places can have more than one historical layer of development that is considered significant.

The thresholds applied for the integrity of the fabric are:

Threshold	Integrity
High	Either completely intact or a small number of minor modifications noticeable
Moderate	Original and/or early fabric clearly discernible, but a number of minor modifications noticeable
Low	Original and/or early fabric only partly discernible given multiple changes

Places with substantial additions or alterations may continue to possess significance if there is sufficient retained significant fabric to still satisfy the relevant significance threshold/s, and:

- the additions/alterations form a contributory historical layer to the significance of the building or place, and/or
- the visual character of the additions/alterations complements the visual character of the significant physical fabric, and/or
- the visual character of the additions/alterations is recessive, minor in nature; or readily reversible.

Where a place cannot be confirmed as extant

Several places identified in the original study could not be confirmed as still existing, typically from being neither visible from the public domain nor discernible in aerial photography. In such situations, those places are annotated

“On the basis of the currently available information, this place does not meet threshold for local Heritage Overlay. This does not preclude future reassessment of the place for an overlay if substantial new information becomes available, but precludes it being considered as heritage until such time.”

Summary Scope of Review




1. STUDY AREA




The map below shows the locations of the properties assessed in the Outer Areas Heritage Assessment Study 2025. Each of the 9 places that are recommended for inclusion on the City of Greater Geelong Heritage Overlay has been plotted onto the map below, with the relevant Council Ward boundary named and marked. The place on the Heritage Overlay requiring an updated citation is located at number 2.




As indicated in the map below, the 10 heritage places are evenly distributed across the municipality, with higher typological concentrations in Hamlyn Heights and North Geelong. Places historically aligned with agriculture are in regional communities such as Lovely Banks and Sutherlands Creek, with one residence located in Portarlington.



2. PLACES ASSESSED FOR HERITAGE OVERLAY – PROCEEDING



#	Name/Address:	Action:	
1.	2505-2515 Geelong - Bacchus Marsh Road, Balliang	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:	YES YES
	Ripley Streamside Reserve		
2.	258 Anakie Road, Bell Park	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:	YES YES
	Corio Bowls Skate Park		
3.	15 Albert Street, Belmont	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:	YES YES
	Round House, Mid-Century Modern		

<p>4. 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights</p>	<p>Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:</p>	<p>YES YES</p>
<p>St Nicolas Serbian Orthodox Church</p>		
<p>5. 4 Kirriemuir Street, Hamlyn Heights</p>	<p>Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:</p>	<p>YES YES</p>
<p>Pan Pacific, Mid-Century Modern</p>		
<p>6. 303-307 Torquay Road, Grovedale</p>	<p>Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:</p>	<p>YES YES</p>
<p>St Paul's Lutheran Church</p>		


7. 525-615 Robbs Road, Moorabool	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:	YES YES
<p>'Glen Moidart'</p> <p>Victorian cottage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended for Heritage Overlay <p>Sutherlands Creek cemetery (also known as Yowang)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended for Victorian Heritage Inventory referral <p>Dry stone walls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected through provision 52.33 in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme 		
8. Intersection of Ballarat Road and Thompsons Road, North Geelong	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:	YES YES
<p>Geelong Boundary Marker</p>		
9. 31 The Esplanade, Portarlington	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:	YES YES
<p>'Oakrest', late Victorian residence</p>		

1. 285-365 Geelong-Ballan Road, Lovely Banks	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for Citation Update:	YES YES
<p>'Craigton', Victorian residence HO310</p> <p>Recommended for citation update to include scheduled outbuilding controls.</p>		

PLACES ASSESSED FOR HERITAGE OVERLAY – NOT PROCEEDING

#	Name/Address:	Action:	
1.	163 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:	YES NO
	<p>‘Athlone’, bungalow</p> <p>A rigorous process of comparative analysis was undertaken, Athlone’ was found not meet the standard for inclusion of the Heritage Overlay. Though the property exhibits key features of an interwar bungalow, designed by Laird & Buchan, it is part of a broader collection of interwar bungalows which are already included on the heritage overlay and as such offer no further contribution to the City’s understanding of their typology. No immediate historical or social significance could be identified.</p>		
2.	32 Bay Street, Ripplside	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:	YES NO
	<p>‘Thewa’, bungalow</p> <p>A rigorous process of comparative analysis was undertaken, Athlone’ was found not meet the standard for inclusion of the Heritage Overlay. Though the property exhibits key features of an interwar bungalow, designed by Laird & Buchan, it is part of a broader collection of interwar bungalows which are already included on the heritage overlay and as such offer no further contribution to the City’s understanding of their typology.</p>		

3. WADAWURRUNG CONSULTATION

#	Name/Address:	Action:	
1.	Warralilly Boulevard, Armstrong Creek	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:	NO Wadawurrung Consultation
	<p>Dooliebeal Reserve (formerly Stewarts Reserve)</p> <p>This place has shared cultural values. Consultation with Wadawurrung required before a decision can be made.</p>		
2.	178 Montpellier Drive, Highton	Heritage Citation Prepared: Recommended for HO:	NO Wadawurrung Consultation
	<p>Yollinko Park</p> <p>This place has shared cultural values. Consultation with Wadawurrung required before a decision can be made.</p>		

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

ATTACHMENT 2

Draft Heritage Assessments

OUTER AREAS ASSESSMENT STUDY
2025

LOCATION DETAILS & HERITAGE OVERLAY

Heritage Place:	Ripley Weir	UPI:
Address:	Ripley Streamside Reserve, 2505-2515 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Balliang VIC 3440	
Traditional Owners:	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	
Significant date range:	1884	
Architectural style:	N/A	
Typology:	Weir	
Historical Themes:	Theme 4: Transforming and Managing Land and Natural Resources; Sub-theme 4.8: Water Supply & Sewerage	
Assessed by:	Benjamin Petkov	
Peer reviewed by:	Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy	



Figure 1. Aerial image of the Ripley Streamside Reserve, showing the three trees with red arrows, and the weir with the yellow arrow. The property boundary proposed for inclusion on the Heritage Overlay is the blue line. Source: Nearmap, July 2023.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The Ripley Weir at Ripley Streamside Reserve, Balliang, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Significant elements onsite are:

- The 1884 bluestone weir and steel boundary posts.
- The three substantial and mature River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and broader Little River environs.

Elements that are not significant to the site are:

- The 1928 bridge.
- The carpark infrastructure.
- The gazebo.
- Juvenile plantings.
- The 1930s concrete.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Ripley Weir is of historical significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Ripley Weir is of historical significance to the City of Greater Geelong as an intact and early example of a nineteenth century bluestone weir in the municipality. The Weir was constructed in 1884 at the instruction of the Corio Shire Council and is an early example of a Shire-led water infrastructure project in the northern pastoral regions of the municipality. Further, the weir offered a safe crossing place over the Little River, linking the northern townships of Geelong with Bacchus Marsh and Exford. The age of the weir is further contextualised by the two substantial River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), located between the weir and the Ripley Streamside Reserve carpark, which have the strong potential to date to the late nineteenth century. (Criterion A)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FOR THIS PLACE?

The place is located on traditional land of the Wadawurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for this land is Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC).

SCHEDULED CONTROLS

The following scheduled controls are recommended for the ongoing conservation and use of the place. They include:

Recommended Scheduled Controls							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Solar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbuildings/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	VHR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prohib use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal Place

HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Ripley Weir (1884)

The Ripley Weir consists of a rough-face bluestone weir approximately 20 metres long and 10 metres wide. Constructed utilising substantial rough-cut bluestone blocks, the courses are uniform and would have also included a bluestone cobbled deck originally. The deck was likely cement rendered with a coarse granitic cement in the 1930s following the damage done during the 1933 flood. Today, the weir is in good condition.

The deck of the weir has a slight depression or spoon drain in the centre of the deck, providing an overflow point for the River during flooding. At both the approach and departure of the crossing are remnant flagstones partially covered in earth, illustrating the remnant original deck. On both the downstream and upstream edges of the weir are the original steel boundary posts which historically would have had a steel cable or rope connecting them. This tie has since been lost; however, the posts are still present.

On the downstream (eastern) side of the weir is a stone pool or gully where the overflow would pour during flooding. Remnant bluestone blocks which have historically come loose are situated amongst basalt floaters and substantial eucalyptus trees which have self-seeded.

Setting

The broader setting of the caravan park and nature reserve is greatly informed by the Little River and its plantings. When inspected, the River was low and dry, though seasonally it is known to hold water. Substantial and mature River Red Gum trees (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) flank both banks of the river, though the broader caravan park is populated with smaller juvenile saplings. However there are two substantial and mature River Red Gum plantings just south of the carpark which greatly inform the setting.

The 1928 bridge is a concrete bridge that has been substantially altered by means deck widening.



Figure 2. Direct view of the Ripley Weir looking north from the southern embankment. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.

PLACE HISTORY

Contextual History

As noted by Rowe in the City of Greater Geelong Thematic Environmental History, About Corayo (2021):

'The rural locality, Balliang, is situated in the Parishes of Balliang and Lara. The locality and Parish may have been named after the Wadawurrung word, 'Bal: Liang' meaning bulrushes, suggesting tall reeds were part of the local landscape. Balliang takes in the northern-most portion of the City of Greater Geelong and is nearby Staughton Vale and Anakie. Much of the land was first taken up by George Synnot as the 'Mowyang' Run in 1840 and Simon Staughton as the Brisbane Ranges Run in 1842, being north of the Anakie Youang. It was broken up and sold as smaller allotments in 1855. A village known as Ripley straddled both sides of the river by 1860. A township was laid out on the south side of the river in 1863 and was punctuated by the Bacchus Marsh Road... It never developed. In 1908, 780 acres of the Staughton Vale Estate on the south side of the Little River was acquired by the Government under the Closer Settlement Act of 1904 and subdivided into smaller farm lots. A small Balliang Township... was reserved on the north side of the Little River at this time, making provision for State School, Public Hall and Recreation Reserves, as well as land for the Church of England and private dwellings.' (Rowe, 2021, 753).

Thematic Place History

Following the onset of the Gold Rush in 1852 and the mass-migration of people flocking to Australia in search of wealth, by 1860 a prospective new town had been subdivided straddling Little River and dissected by Bacchus Marsh Road. Reviewing early subdivision plans, close to all allotments were purchased by the squatter family, the Chirnsides. On this basis, the town never developed as the allotments were used exclusively for grazing.

On the 10 January 1884, the Geelong Advertiser published:

'A BRIDGE OR WEIR AT RIPLEY. Notice was given by Cr. Spalding of his intention to move at the next meeting that a bridge or weir be constructed across the Little river at Ripley. Cr. Spalding thought that a weir would be preferable, if it could be made available for general traffic...' (Geelong Advertiser, 10 January 1884, 4).

Following Cr. Spalding's notice of intent that a weir be constructed at Ripley, one Mr. Lutz of the Water Supply Department 'fixed upon a spot...as the site for the proposed weir' in March of the same year (Geelong Advertiser, 13 March 1884, 2). By July, a reserve had been established for the new road alignment and the weir (Geelong Advertiser, 30 July 1884, 4), and by October it was complete:

'The weir constructed across the Little River at Ripley has been completed, according to the plans, and under the supervision of Mr. R.S. Tuffs, the engineer to the Corio shire council, at a total cost of £401, and the president of the Council (Mr. D. McHarry) has decided to formally celebrate its completion on the 10th prox. In the usual festive manner. He has accordingly invited the members and officers of the council and several residents to meet him at the shire hall, Lara, on the date named, at 9 a.m., and accompany him to the weir, a distance of some 15 miles.' (Geelong Advertiser, 29th October 1884, 3).

The construction of the Ripley Weir was well-received by the general public, who had safe access across Little River on the route to Bacchus Marsh via Lara. One such excitable, and hopeful, resident expressed that the construction of the weir was representative of a broader trend of land improvement in the district, and '...the fertility of the large pastures in the district will be doubled – quadrupled in many cases – that bathing as well as drinking places for man and beast will be common...' (Geelong Advertiser, 5 November 1884, 4).

The weir was a major piece of infrastructure for the pastoral communities north of Geelong, offering safe road access between Lara and Bacchus Marsh. With the advent of the motorcar however, and the larger number of individual pastoral properties which were established after the dissolution of the large squatter runs associated with the Staughtons of Exford and the Chirnsides of Werribee, the weir was no longer equipped to deal with the heightened road traffic.



Figure 3. C.1914 Direct view of the Ripley Weir looking south from the northern embankment. Source: Public Records Office Victoria.



Figure 4. C. 1930s. Side view of the Ripley Weir looking southwest from the road verge. Source: Public Records Office Victoria.

In 1927, one Mr. Darwin of the Country Roads Board inspected a site beside the weir for the construction of a new road bridge (Geelong Advertiser, 29 April 1927, 7). The following year in February, the Board advertised for tenders for the bridge's construction:

'Country Roads Board – Titles Office, Melbourne. Tenders, addressed to the Secretary of the Board, and endorsed "Tender for Contract 38D/68," will be received at this Office until 2.15 p.m. on Monday, 27th

February, for the construction of a reinforced concrete bridge 86 feet long over the Little River at Ripley, on the Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, together with 1622 lineal feet of approaches. Plans and specifications may be seen at this Office and at the Shire Office, Lara. Preliminary deposit, 2 ½ per cent. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.' (Geelong Advertiser, 20 February 1928, 2).

The bridge was opened to traffic the same year. In December 1933, however, the site would be devastated by a flood:

'The rain which fell in this district during last weekend and the beginning of this, was the heaviest ever experienced by the residents. Most of us remember the phenomenal fall in September 1916, when 10 inches were recorded over a period of eight days, but the majority of this occasion practically fell in less than 24 hours. The whole of the district suffered more or less, and considering that harvesting operations were in full swing, the position is extremely bad. "A good rain falling at a bad time" is the general feeling... The concrete bridge over the river at the junction of the Bacchus Marsh and Corio Shires stood the strain well and suffered no material damage in spite of the water being almost to the top of the guard rail. The Ripley bridge, however, was left high and dry in the middle of the stream, both approaches being washed away. The old ford also was torn up considerably, big blue-stone pitchers that have stood the strain for 50 or 60 years being scattered about like matchwood. In spite of the warning lights and barricades on venturesome motorist on Monday last is supposed to have driven around these obstructions and attempted to cross. Fortunately, the breakaway on that side was not very wide and the car was caught on the edge of the bridge otherwise there would have been a different tale to tell...' (The Bacchus Marsh Express, 9 December 1933, 2).



Figure 5. 1979 aerial image of the Ripley Streamside Reserve showing the weir (red), bridge (blue) and three *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (yellow). Source: Landata.

After the damage to the weir was amended, the Ripley water reserve on the northern bank of the Little River was extensively planted in 1952 with Ash trees by members of the RACV Caravan Club. The following year, the Bacchus Marsh Express published:

‘A pleasant little ceremony took place at Ripley Reserve last Sunday when the tablet to commemorate the planting of the trees was put in position and later unveiled and dedicated. Over 100 people were present at 3 o’clock when the President of the RACV Caravan Club opened the proceedings by extending a welcome to all and then explaining the object of the gathering. The assistant marshal was then called upon to perform the main part of the ceremony. The Corio Shire was represented by Councillors Bissell and Beggs, the latter replying on behalf of the Council. Of great interest to the city visitors, especially the young folk, was the flock of six pet lambs belonging to Mrs. Phalp.’ (The Express, Bacchus Marsh, 25 April 1953, 2).



The site has been used continually since its opening as a recreation space in 1953. A 1979 aerial image shows the site, including the three mature *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*. The bridge’s deck has been widened, though it retains its original 1928 abutments and piers. The 1884 weir is also still in situ, following its repairs in 1933.


INTEGRITY

The 1884 weir is still in situ following its repairs in 1933. The 1928 bridge is also still in situ, though the deck has been widened.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Water infrastructure in the City of Greater Geelong is well represented, whether in the form of paper mills, sluice channels, weirs, dams or bridges. Yet, while stone weirs are featured across the municipality, there are few examples of protections afforded to early 20th century reinforced cement bridges. As such, comparable examples include:

Comparative Analysis	Image
<p>Bridge, over Moorabool River, Hamilton Highway Fyansford (H088, VHR No. H1108). The Bridge in Fyansford, crossing the Moorabool River, was constructed in 1899 by the Melbourne engineers, Monash and Anderson to service the Shires of Corio and Bannockburn. It is of architectural, historical and scientific significance to the State of Victoria as the second oldest example of a reinforced concrete bridge in the State, after the Morell Bridge over the Yarra River in Melbourne. In comparison to the reinforced cement bridge at Ripley, the Fyansford Bridge is significantly larger, of greater architectural significance due to its three arches and ornamentation, and is of greater technical importance due to it being the second oldest example of a concrete bridge in the State. As such, the Fyansford Bridge is of greater significance than the Ripley Bridge.</p>	 <p>Figure 6. Bridge, over Moorabool River, Hamilton Highway Fyansford. Source: Victorian Heritage Database</p>
<p>Cowies Creek Rail Bridge No. 1, Geelong Gheringhap Railway, Bell Post Hill and Lovely Banks (HO1970 and VHR No. H2240). The 1860 Cowies Creek Rail Bridge on the Geelong-Gheringhap Railway line includes water infrastructure designed to divert and control water in Cowies Creek. Though the two weir walls are included within the curtilage of the site as significant features of the listing, they are not the primary focus of the site. Further, the weirs are ways to manage the flow of water as opposed to providing a safe crossing, like at Ripley. Both sites are intact examples of bluestone water infrastructure, however the Cowies Creek example is of greater scale, technical significance due to the presence of substantial training walls, and for its important connection to the Rail Bridge and the development of the Geelong Gheringhap Railway. On this basis, both examples are important examples of nineteenth century water</p>	 <p>Figure 7. Cowies Creek Rail Bridge No. 1, Geelong Gheringhap Railway, Bell Post Hill and Lovely Banks. Source: Victorian Heritage Database</p>

Comparative Analysis	Image
<p>infrastructure, however the Cowies Creek example is of greater importance and significance.</p>	
<p>Barwon Paper Mill Complex, 42-52 and 100 Lower Paper Mills Road, Fyansford (HO208, VHR No. H0743). The Barwon Paper Mill Complex in Fyansford is of great historical and technical significance not only to the City of Greater Geelong but to the State of Victoria as a highly intact nineteenth century paper manufactory first established in the 1870s. Though the place includes a vast collection of outbuildings and infrastructure associated with the manufacture of paper, of key interest in this comparative analysis is the original water race and weir used to divert the water to power the complex. The water race is approximately 390 metres long, constructed out of bluestone blocks, extending from a weir approximately 65 metres long, spanning the width of the Barwon River. These features are comparable with the Ripley Weir as examples of nineteenth century water infrastructure in the municipality. However, the examples at the Barwon Paper Mill Complex are significantly more important due to their connection to the broader complex, but also as a result of their greater scale and technical significance.</p>	 <p>Figure 8. Barwon Paper Mill Complex, 42-52 and 100 Lower Paper Mills Road, Fyansford. Source: Collins, J. T. (1979). Fyansford Barwon River showing Diversion of Water to Paper Mills [picture].</p>

The above comparative analysis addresses examples of two nineteenth century bluestone weirs in the municipality as well as an early example of Monier reinforced concrete bridge. While all examples listed are protected at the State level, this does not reduce their comparable importance with a potentially locally important place. Both the Cowies Creek example as well as the Barwon Paper Mill race and weir are substantially larger and more technically important, whereas the Ripley weir is smaller, later and a standalone component with no broader connection to industry or infrastructure. However, it is still an 1884 bluestone weir and as such is significant at the local level for the City of Greater Geelong. However, the 1928 reinforced concrete bridge has been altered through the widening of the deck, has no evident technical importance, and it is significantly later than other examples. On the basis of this analysis, the 1884 weir is recognised as being important to the City of Greater Geelong, however the reinforced cement bridge is not significant.

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- TOWN TALK. (1884, October 29). *Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1929)*, p. 3.

IMAGES



Direct view of the Ripley Weir looking north from the southern embankment. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.



Oblique view of the Ripley Weir looking southeast from the northwestern embankment. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.



Detail view of the 1930s concrete deck on the weir. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.



Oblique view of the eastern elevation of the Weir. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.



Direct view of the Ripley Weir looking south from the northern embankment. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.



Oblique view of two of the steel boundary posts. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.



One of the three mature River Red Gum plantings on the northern bank of Little River. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.



Second of the three mature River Red Gum plantings on the northern bank of Little River. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.



Oblique view of the western elevation of the Weir. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.



Non-contributory 1928 bridge. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025

DRAFT

LOCATION DETAILS & HERITAGE OVERLAY

Heritage Place:	Corio Bowls	UPI:
Address:	258 Anakie Road, Bell Park VIC 3214	
Traditional Owners:	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	
Significant date range:	1980	
Architectural style:	N/A	
Typology:	Skate Park	
Historical Themes:	Theme 9: Shaping Cultural and Creative Life. Sub-theme 9.2: Sport	
Assessed by:	Benjamin Petkov	
Peer reviewed by:	Janine Barrand, Acting Built Heritage Coordinator	



Figure 1. Aerial image showing the Corio Bowls. Source: Nearmap, April 2019

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The Corio Bowls skatepark at 258 Anakie Road, Bell Park, is significant to the City of Greater Geelong. The significant elements onsite include:

- The three reinforced cement skateboarding bowls.
- The concrete path connecting each bowl.

Non-significant elements include:

- The boundary fence around the Corio Bowls.
- Plantings neighbouring the bowls.

Though not in itself significant fabric, the graffiti on the Corio Bowls is considered an ongoing and authentic interpretation of the place's use.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Corio Bowls are of historical, representative and social significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Corio Bowls was constructed in 1980 at a time when skateboarding boomed in interest following the invention of urethane wheels, which in turn resulted in the construction of purpose-built skateparks across the world. In Australia the Albany Snake Run Skatepark located in Western Australia was constructed in 1976 and in Victoria the Berwick Skatepark was built in 1979. The Corio Bowls in Geelong is one of the earliest examples of a skatepark in Australia. Internationally, Kona Skatepark in Jacksonville, Florida that opened in 1977 places Corio Bowls as one of oldest surviving skateparks in the world. (Criterion A)

The Corio Bowls are of representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of community skatepark constructed from 1979 and opened in 1980. The Corio Bowls comprises three distinct bowls, each of varying difficulty and shape, constructed of reinforced concrete to challenge community skateboarders. The design of the Bowls is consistent with elaborate linear or interconnected designs represented in the United States and at the Albany Snake Run. (Criterion D)

The Corio Bowls are of social significance to the City of Greater Geelong. The Bowls came to be following the formation of the Corio Skateboard Club, consisting of school children ages 12 to 16, who with the help of their parents formed a partnership with the Corio Shire and Corio Rotary Club in 1979 to construct a local skatepark. Today, original members of the Corio Skateboard Club still use the Bowls, holding anniversary events at the park. (Criterion G)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FOR THIS PLACE?

The place is located on traditional land of the Wadawurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for this land is Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC).

SCHEDULED CONTROLS

No scheduled controls are recommended for the Corio Bowls. Scheduled controls included in the planning scheme are the following:

Recommended Scheduled Controls

<input type="checkbox"/>	Paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Solar
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbuildings/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	VHR	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prohib use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal Place
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DRAFT

HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Corio Bowls at 258 Anakie Road, Bell Park, comprises a 1980 reinforced cement skatepark set in a park context. The Bowls consist of three differently shaped skate bowls of varying sizes and dimensions all poured without coping. The smallest of the three bowls is described as a 'paint tray' and is of a scalloped design with a tapering depth. This is neighboured by an open-sided trapezoid, which is joined to a hemispherical bowl. Each bowl is designed to provide varying degrees of difficulty, and each bowl is connected via a concrete path.

The site has also become widely used by local graffiti artists, with much of the concrete used for street art.



Figure 2. Oblique overview of the third, hemispherical, bowl. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025.

PLACE HISTORY

Contextual History

The development of skateboarding is intrinsically linked to surfing communities in Hawaii and California in the 1950s. Surfers took to the public streets between tides on homemade skateboards, and by 1959 the first commercially produced skateboard had been released. The catalysing affect of this release meant that skateboarding boomed as a public interest in the 1960s, especially in seaside communities on the east and west coasts, with clothing manufacturers also emerging to service the skateboarding community – most notably Vans in 1966. However, in 1972, Frank Nasworthy invented the urethan skateboard wheel which revolutionised the sport, causing a spike in interest. This booming interest resulted in the emergence of artificially built skateparks. While the first purpose-built skatepark was constructed in 1965 in Tucson Arizona (Surf City Skatepark), the second oldest was constructed in 1976 at Albany, Western Australia followed by the Munich Neuperlach in Germany the same year. In Victoria, the Berwick skatepark was opened in 1979 and the Corio Bowls in 1980.

Thematic Place History

In 1979, the Corio Shire, Corio Rotary Club and the newly formed Corio Skateboard Club formed a partnership to design, fund and construct a community skate park to accommodate skaters of all skill levels. The Corio Skateboard Club was formed by local skateboarding enthusiasts ages 12 to 16, as well as their parents. Through their efforts, the Corio Bowls were constructed the following year in 1980, providing skaters and BMX enthusiasts a venue to congregate and practice their hobbies.

Seven years later, it was published in the Buninyong and District Community News that:

‘Seventeen Buninyong youths were taken by Lions to Corio Skateboard Complex at Geelong, to let them experience this leisure time activity, with a view to establishing a skateboard facility in Buninyong by the Lions. The reaction of all who went was favourable to the project proceeding.’ (Buninyong and District Community News, September 1987, 6).

Ten years later, following the completion and popularity of the Corio Bowls, a skatepark was completed in the township of Buninyong.



Figure 3. 1980 image showing the construction of the bowls. Source: Geelong Regional Libraries.



Figure 4. Image of the ‘beginner bowl’, 1980. Source: Geelong Regional Libraries.



Figure 5. Excavation of the 'expert bowl', January 1980. Source: Geelong Regional Libraries.

Today, Corio Bowls are used by members of the local community but also from the interstate skateboarding community, as people recognise the site's contribution to the sport. In 2017, several members of the original Corio Skateboard Club met at an anniversary gathering marking the opening of the Bowls in 1980.

INTEGRITY

The Corio Bowls skate park is highly intact, retaining all original fabric. Though there is extensive graffiti over most of the fabric, this is considered an authentic contribution to the significance of the place.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Within the State of Victoria, no skateparks are included on, or protected by, a municipal heritage overlay. Nationally, the closest comparable example is situated in Albany, Western Australia. The Albany Snake Run, as it is named, is the oldest skatepark in Australia, and the second oldest in the world. The Snake Run was constructed in 1976, only four years before the completion of the Corio Bowls in 1980 and shares a similar theme of youth advocacy where students from the local high school lobbied the local Council to construct the skatepark. In Victoria, the Corio Bowls is contextualised by the construction of the Berwick skatepark the year prior in 1979. However, the Berwick skatepark does not have the same elaborate design, largely comprising of a flat paved area with several ramps.

Physically, the Albany Skate Run is of a comparable size with the Corio Bowls, though it appears to be of a more complex design utilising a long and linear design rather than separate individual bowls. Both sites are of comparable material however, constructed of reinforced cement. Of the two, the Albany Snake Run is considered to be of greater significance as the earliest skatepark in Australia and the second oldest in the world. However, both skateparks are considered highly comparable as early Australian examples of skateparks constructed in suburbs, fuelled by the energy, enthusiasm and lobbying of school children.

The Albany Snake Run is the only skatepark afforded heritage protection in Australia.

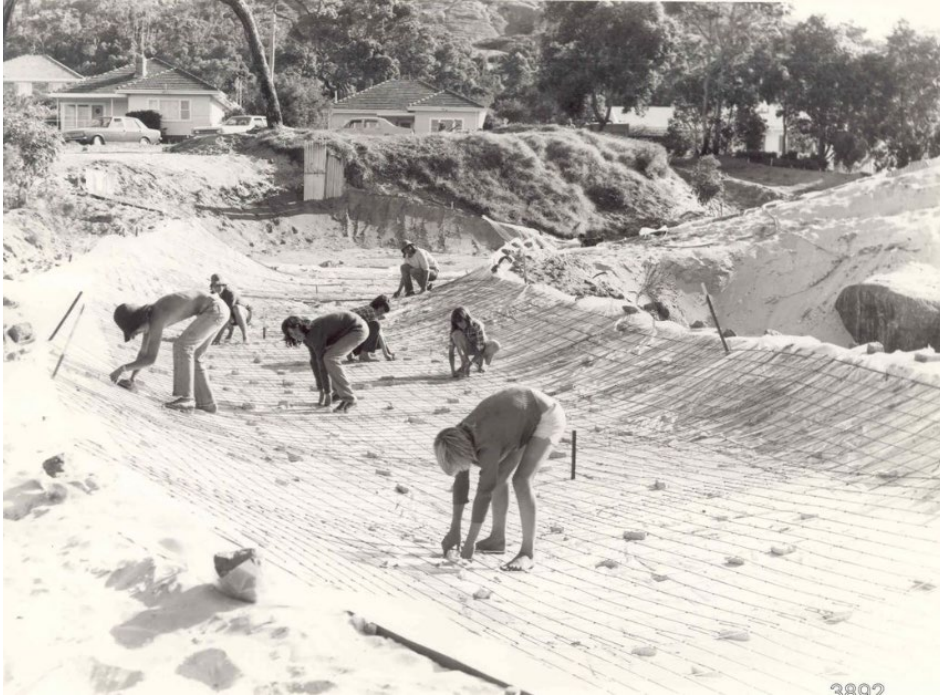


Figure 6. Construction of the Albany Snake Run. Source: Albany History Collection.



Figure 7. Contemporary view of the Albany Snake Run. Source: Government of Western Australia, Heritage Council.

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Borden, I. and Quinn, P. (2023) Seven original 1970s skateparks that show why these urban treasures should be protected, *The Conversation*.

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Buninyong & District Community Association, issuing body. (Edition 223, September 1997). Buninyong and district community news

Geelong Regional Libraries.

skatermaps (2018) Corio Bowls, Geelong Vic | Skatepark Directory - Skater Maps, Skater Maps - Skatepark Directory

IMAGES



Overview of the first, shallow, 'paint tray' bowl at Corio Bowls. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025



Oblique view of the middle bowl. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025



Detail view of the third, and most challenging, hemispherical bowl. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025



Oblique overview of the third bowl. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025



Oblique overview of the general setting, showing the connecting path between the bowls. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025



Detail view of the coarse aggregate reinforced cement. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025

DRAFT

LOCATION DETAILS & HERITAGE OVERLAY

Heritage Place:	Round House	UPI:
Address:	15 Albert Terrace, Belmont VIC 3216	
Traditional Owners:	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	
Significant date range:	1963	
Architectural style:	Mid-Century Modern	
Typology:	Residential	
Historical Themes:	Theme 6: Building the Shire; Sub-theme 6.8: Other Suburbs & Settlements	
Assessed by:	Benjamin Petkov	
Peer reviewed by:	Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy	



Figure 1. Aerial of the Round House, 2019, showing the property in red. Source: Nearmap, 2019.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The Round House at 15 Albert Terrace, Belmont, is significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Elements of significance are:

- The residence.
- The setback from the street.

Elements that are not significant are:

- The garden and landscaping.
- The rooftop solar panels and railing.
- The boundary fences.
- The side garage.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Round House is of aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Geelong, as well as being a rare example of its typology.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Round House is significant to the City of Greater Geelong as a rare example of a circular mid-century modern residence, being the only example of a modernist round house present in the municipality. (Criterion B)

The Round House is of aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly elaborate, intact and unorthodox example of a mid-century modern geometric residence. The circular double storey residence is terraced into the incline of the property, and is a major landmark overlooking the Barwon River. Features which contribute to the building’s aesthetic importance include: its round shape, double-storey scale and massing; reinforced concrete pilasters with orange brick masonry brick courses in stack bond, paired with concrete besser bricks; a projecting porch matching the curvature of the building, though of staggered height; multi-pane fenestration; and a flat roof with a projecting lantern. (Criterion E)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FOR THIS PLACE?

The place is located on traditional land of the Wadawurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for this land is Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC).

SCHEDULED CONTROLS

The following scheduled controls are recommended for the ongoing conservation and use of the place. They include:

Recommended Scheduled Controls							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Solar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbuildings/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	VHR	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prohib use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal Place

HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Round House

The Round House at 15 Albert Terrace, Belmont, is a double-storey cylindrical residence located on the southern elevation of Albert Terrace overlooking the Barwon River valley. The residence is in good condition, and is primarily constructed featuring brick masonry set in bays defined by projecting concrete framework, or pilasters. Constructed in both an orthodox orange clay brick and as well as a contrasting roughcast concrete brick, the masonry materials contrast again with the stark natural finish of the concrete. A projecting eave of varying depth constructed of reinforced cement overhangs the external walls, with two separate verandahs and a balcony again of varying heights and depths.

The main balcony on the northern elevation is supported by two cylindrical concrete pillars with a main concrete beam underpinning the underside of the balcony, which extends beyond said beam. The balcony is also constructed of reinforced concrete, with the edge of the clad in orange bricks matching the main form of the building. Fenestration is located between concrete pilasters, comprising rectangular timber frame windows with multiple panes.

The building has a flat roof and is accessible by an internal staircase. Steel railing is located around the circumference of the roof. In the centre of the roof is a raised cupola lantern with a slightly conical roof. The lantern lights the internal central stairwell.

The broader setting of the Round House features an established and non-contributory garden with plain concrete paving and a driveway.



Figure 2. Oblique view of the façade and garden of the Round House, looking north. Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025.

PLACE HISTORY

Contextual History

As noted by David Rowe in 'About Corayo':

'The considerable residential expansion of Belmont from the 1920s is physically manifested in the large number of surviving interwar and postwar dwellings. Modest in scale, they especially characterised several streetscapes in Belmont and include the Bungalow in Scott Street (built c.1923) ... Others survive in an altered state, such as the late interwar Bungalow at 8 Corio Street (built 1927) A particularly intact streetscape of late interwar and postwar brick dwellings is Culbin Avenue, where the houses were built between 1936 and 1950. In the 1950s additional land to the south of the original Belmont township was opened up to meet further housing demand throughout the second half of the 20th century...' (Rowe, 2021, 748).

Thematic Place History

The broader development of Belmont and the suburban areas south of the Barwon River is inextricably linked to post-contact pastoralism and agricultural pursuits. Market gardens and farms were established on the southern banks of the Barwon, many of which were owned by Chinese migrants, in the 19th century (Rowe, 2021, 114). However, by the late nineteenth century, Chinese-owned market gardens were diminishing in number and unfavourable, and bigoted, opinions published in local medias opined that the market gardens were responsible for the pollution and reduction of fish numbers in the Barwon – while also noting that the 'objectionable smells' were more pronounced closer to the tanneries which would dispose of their waste in the river (Rowe, 2021, 115).

In 1851, the land on which 15 Albert Terrace would later be constructed on was part of a broadscale subdivision. Lots 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 were all purchased by one William Robert Howe Weekes. Weekes was appointed the Acting Town Surveyor of the Melbourne Town Corporation in 1844 before being made the first Town Surveyor for the Geelong Corporation the following year. He was elected one of the eight auditors for the Geelong Corporation while also working as an architect with his wife Jane Orr. 15 Albert Terrace, Belmont, is located on Weeke's property, lot 17, which comprised approximately 26 acres.

From the nineteenth century till the immediate post-war period, the land and context around 15 Albert Terrace was subject to continual pastoral use. The future property is shown cultivated in a photograph dated 1927, occupied by the remnant farmhouse at 18 Victoria Terrace on the southern boundary of 15 Albert Terrace. In 1958 the land was subdivided, and 5 years later in 1963, an aerial photo of the area shows the property mid-construction marking commencement of the first building on Albert Terrace. In 1965 the building was connected to town sewerage, the owner recorded as Mr. Zanis Rudolfs Balodis. Balodis, who also spelt his Christian name as 'Janis', was married to Aina Balodis. Zanis passed away in 1980 and four years later in 1984 the property was sold. The property would sell again in 1997, 2006 and most recently in 2023. Aina Balodis passed away in 2015.



Figure 3. Cropped oblique view of the property in 1927 prior to the subdivision in 1958. Source: State Library Victoria, Pratt, C. D., & Airspy. (1927). [Geelong R. S. & S. Woollen & Worsted Co-op Manufacturing Co. looking south west towards Princes Bridge in distance] [picture].



Figure 4. Aerial photo of Belmont showing the Round House mid-construction in March 1963. Source, Landata.

Round Houses in Victoria

The emergence of circular, or round, houses in the 20th century contrasted starkly with contemporaneous sensibilities of the early to mid-twentieth century. As H. Dalton Clifford noted in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1950:

“...We may come to regret the passing of individuality in our homes, but we will soon get over it. We’ll be proud to tell our friends that we have bought a 1965 “Rolls Royce,” or “Holden” home, the latest three-bed model which revolves when you press a button so that you can turn it to face the sun, or move the bedrooms round to the quiet side at night...” (Sydney Morning Herald, 17 September 1950, 5).

The concept of a round house was akin to flying saucers, a space-age phenomenon that was cutting edge and directly linked to a new way of living. Edith Ingpen, the first woman to graduate with a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Melbourne in 1933, designed a thirteen-sided round-like residence in Gippsland which she constructed from 1933 to 1937:

‘Ingpen planned the house on the basic principle that a circle has the smallest perimeter for the largest area: therefore, this house has the smallest amount of outside walling for the largest floor area. But it is not a pure circle, as it has 13 straight sides...’ (The Sydney Morning Herald, 14 May 1936, 18).

This heralded the emergence of unorthodox geometric forms in residential design in Victoria in the 20th century. Not soon after, architect Hugh Peck designed a semi-circular residence for Mrs. G. Nopenaire on Yarradale Road, Toorak, in brick masonry (demolished). Later in 1953, three years after Clifford published the above article, Roy Grounds designed the Henty House at 581 Nepean Highway Frankston South. This time, the form of the residence was perfectly circular with a cut out for a balcony. In April 1964, the Sydney Morning Herald published, in reference to a plan drawn by Robyn Boyd for the Small Homes Service, ‘Be ‘different’ in a round house’. Later still, following sale of the land in 1972, architect Harold David Shafer designed his personal residence as a double-storey circular residence at 1-2 Dalriada Street, Toorak. Circular houses were being constructed in Victoria, and each time they

were considered alien and otherworldly. However, what once pushed the envelope became iterative, and the practical coordinating of internal furnishings was always a concern. As such, their popularity waned.

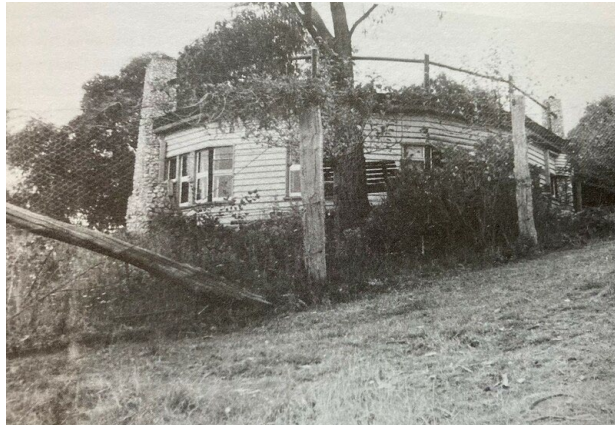


Figure 5. Ingpen Round House in Baw Baw Shire. Source: Victorian Heritage Database, place ID 208370.



Figure 6. Yarradale Road 1948. Source: *The Australian home beautiful: a journal for the home builder Melbourne: United Press, 1925.*

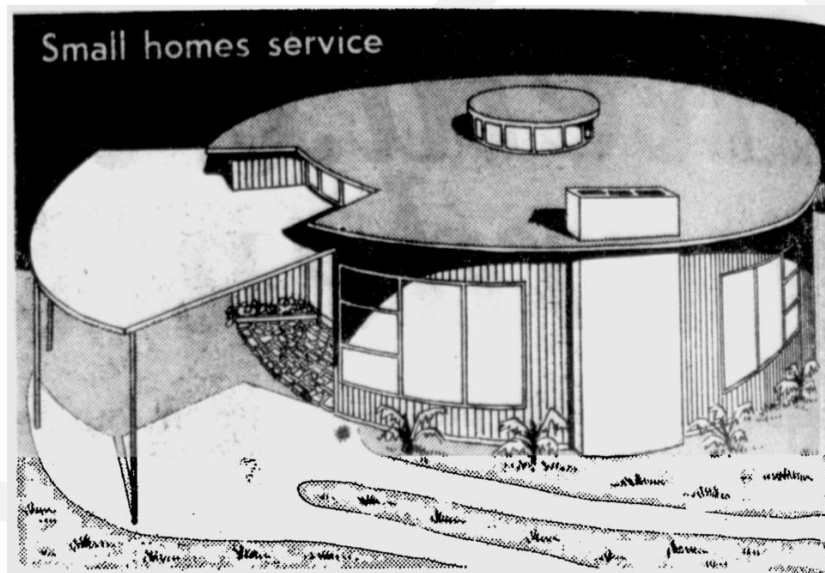


Figure 7. Plan No. S/T499 from the Small Homes Service, Sydney Morning Herald 19 April 1964.



Figure 8. Roy Grounds' Henty House in Frankston, 1952. Source: Wille, P., & Grounds, R. (1952). "Round House Nepean Highway, Frankston, Melb. Roy Grounds. 1952."



Figure 9. Shafer's Round House in 1-2 Dalriada Street, Toorak. Source: Google Streetview, January 2019.

INTEGRITY

The Round House at 15 Albert Terrace, Belmont, is of high integrity. Though solar panels have been installed, they are not visible from the public domain.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

As noted above, round houses were constructed in Victoria, and Australia more broadly, predominantly from the late interwar period to the late twentieth century. However, there are no other identified round residences located in the City of Greater Geelong. On this basis, the following comparative analysis will address other mid-century modern designs in the City which were constructed contemporaneously with the Round House in Belmont. Further, the Round House will be compared with other examples of round designs located outside the municipality to address its importance typologically. Comparable examples include:

Comparative Analysis	Image
<p>Residence, 5 Barrabool Road, Belmont (HO1755). Constructed in 1953 to designs prepared by Max Naylor, the residence on Barrabool Road Belmont is comparable to the Round House only as another example of mid-century modern residential development. Neither structure shares comparable built features or materiality, but are representative of post-war modernist residential development in Belmont.</p>	
<p>Residence, 121 Mount Pleasant Road, Belmont (HO1841). Constructed in 1964 a year after the Round House to designs prepared by the owner Ian Melhuish, the residence on Mount Pleasant Road Belmont is comparable to the Round House only as another example of mid-century modern residential development. Neither structure shares comparable built features or materiality, but are representative of post-war modernist residential development in Belmont.</p>	
<p>Residence, 209 Roslyn Road, Belmont (HO1882). Constructed in 1961, two years before the Round House, the residence on Roslyn Road Belmont is comparable to the Round House only as another example of mid-century modern residential development. Neither structure shares comparable built features or materiality, but are representative of post-war modernist residential development in Belmont. However, the Round House is of a higher integrity than the example on Roslyn Road, which has been unsympathetically rendered with important decorative features removed and concealed.</p>	

Comparable examples located outside the City of Greater Geelong include:

Comparative Analysis

Image

Round House, 581 Nepean Highway, Frankston South (VHR No. H0966).

The Statement of Significance for the Round House in Frankston South states that it is of State significance being one of the best known examples of the 1950s interest in simple geometries in form and plan. Constructed in 1953 to designs prepared by the significant modernist architect Roy Grounds, the house is comparable with the Round House in Albert Terrace as two examples of mid-century modern circular residential designs. As no architect has been identified however for the example in Belmont, and as the Frankston South example is ten years older, Grounds' design is considered of greater historical and associative significance. However, as two examples of circular modernist design, both buildings are considered highly comparable.



Figure 13. Round House, 581 Nepean Highway, Frankston South Source: Victorian Heritage Database

Snelleman House, 40 Keam Street, Ivanhoe East (VHR No. H2282). The Snelleman House, designed in the mid-1950s by architect Peter McIntyre, is a state-significant modernist residence located in Ivanhoe East. Locally referred to as the 'Coil House', the house is not a perfect circle like the Round Houses in Belmont and Frankston, but still exhibits the modernist interest in curving geometric forms. However, like the example in Frankston South, as an example constructed several years earlier than the example in Belmont, and as it is a highly intact and unorthodox design from the architect Peter McIntyre, the Snelleman House is considered to be of greater significance than the Belmont Round House.



Figure 14. Snelleman House, 40 Keam Street, Ivanhoe East. Source: Victorian Heritage Database

As noted above, there are several examples of highly intact mid-century modern residential developments in the City of Greater Geelong – and more locally within the suburb of Belmont. However, there are no other identified examples of circular residences in the municipality. As such, though it does not have the same associative importance as Grounds' design in Frankston South or the Snelleman House in Ivanhoe East, it is still a highly intact, unorthodox and rare example of a modernist geometric residential design in the City of Greater Geelong.

REFERENCES

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CIRCULAR WEEK-END HOUSE (1936, May 14). The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 18.

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The Australian home beautiful : a journal for the home builder Melbourne: United Press, Vol. 27 No. 2 February 1948.

Would You Like To Live In A Round House? (1950, September 17). The Sunday Herald (Sydney, NSW : 1949 - 1953), p. 5

IMAGES



View of the building's façade. Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025.



Oblique view of the façade. Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025.



Detail view of the balcony. Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025.



View of the non-contributory garage. Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025.



Oblique view of the house looking West. Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025.



Detail view of the roof showing the railing. Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025.

LOCATION DETAILS & HERITAGE OVERLAY

Heritage Place:	St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church	UPI:
Address:	124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights, VIC 3215	
Traditional Owners:	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	
Significant date range:	1964	
Architectural style:	Post-war Linear Basilica	
Typology:	Serbian Orthodox Church	
Historical Themes:	Theme 2: Peopling Greater Geelong; Sub-theme 2.12: Postwar (post 1945) Immigration – Theme 8: Building Community Life; Sub-theme 8.2: Spiritual Life	
Assessed by:	Benjamin Petkov	
Peer reviewed by:	Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy	



Figure 1. Aerial view of the St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church at Hamlyn Heights. The property boundary is marked in blue, location of the church marked by the red arrow. Source: Nearmap, 2019.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The property at 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights, otherwise known as St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Elements of significance are:

- The 1964 church.
- The open space around the footprint of the church.

Elements that are not significant are:

- The contemporary boundary fence on all elevations of the site.
- All plantings.
- The rear tearoom.
- The extraction fan vents on the roof of the church.
- The community hall at 122 Ballarat Road.
- The residence at 120 Ballarat Road.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church is of historical, representative and social significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong as a historical representation of the immediate postwar emigration of Serbian Orthodox Christians into the municipality. The Church further historically represents the formation of Hamlyn Heights and Geelong's northern suburbs more broadly, informed greatly by the huge intake of post-war migrants seeking employment in Geelong. The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, as the only denominational church within the City of Greater Geelong to be constructed in the post-war period, also represents a historical spiritual expansion from the almost exclusive Church of England and Catholic communities which had up until the end of the War been the primary faith-systems within the municipality. (Criterion A)

The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church is of representative architectural significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of a restrained Orthodox Basilica planned Serbian Orthodox Church. This specific design of Serbian Orthodox Church is predominately informed by Byzantine influences, and utilises a rectilinear gabled form with a square tower, onion-domed cupolas, curved apse and chancel and the use of rounded-arch windows. The Church at 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights, features all of the above key design traits representative of that style of Serbian Orthodox Church design. (Criterion D)

The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church is of social significance to the local Serbian Orthodox community, as a place of spiritual and social gathering. Since its construction, led and funded exclusively by members of the congregation, the St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church has been the cornerstone of the local Serbian Orthodox community in the City of Greater Geelong. (Criterion G)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FOR THIS PLACE?

The place is located on traditional land of the Wadawurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for this land is Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC).

SCHEDULED CONTROLS

The following scheduled controls are recommended for the ongoing conservation and use of the place. They include:

Recommended Scheduled Controls

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Solar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbuildings/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	VHR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prohib use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal Place

HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Church

The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church at 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights, comprises a substantial cream brick masonry church in good condition, constructed in a traditional, though restrained, baroque-informed design based on an Orthodox Basilica plan with a central gabled rectangular nave and sanctuary, with a curved apse and chancel at one end. The church façade is greatly informed by the substantial square-based tower surmounted by a large onion-domed cupola and crucifix. The main gabled roof of the church is clad in brown-glazed terracotta roofing tiles, with two later non-significant roof vents present on the eastern façade elevation which service the internal rangehoods. The interior of the Church is greatly informed by the primary iconostasis on the far eastern wall of the church. The iconostasis was purpose-built in Serbia and was transported to Australia before being installed in the Church.

Abiding by traditional designs, fenestration on all sides of the church is consistent and symmetrical. The Church façade features a central double-door entrance with an arched fanlight with a mosaic ikon situate above the fanlight. On both sides of the entrance are two narrow rounded arch windows with coloured glass and aluminium frames and mullions. On both the northern and southern elevations of the church, decoration is achieved through the use of pilasters and recessed rounded arched bays, with a stepped brick course marking a concealed box gutter and a tall and unadorned parapet. Centred in each of the four bays is an arched window of the same design represented on the façade. On the eastern elevation of the church, fronting Ballarat Road, is the curved apse. The apse features a shallow-pointed copper roof, with the eave concealed behind a short parapet. Curved windows are present on the apse, and directly above the roof of the apse, affixed to the roof of the sanctuary, is the second and smaller of the two towers fitted with a rounded dome and smaller onion-domed cupola. A second crucifix is present at the apex of this cupola.

Church Hall

The 1958-designed Church Hall was constructed prior to the neighbouring church. The hall is constructed in the same cream brick masonry and observes a similar gabled roof form. A substantial double-storey rectilinear structure, the hall fronts Ballarat Road with limited decoration. Between 2015 and 2022, the hall's façade was rendered white, resulting in the loss of the material association of the hall with the church. Both side elevations and rear elevation however show the original cream brick finish, with the northern and southern elevations showing staggered pilasters. All windows on the structures have aluminium frames.

Setting

The setting of the church is restrained, with all ground surfaces concreted save a small portion around the apse of the church. Tall and mature Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) are planted on the eastern and northern elevations of the church. Two flagpoles are present at the façade of the Hall, flying the Australian and Serbian flags. The boundary of the site is a cream brick fence with metal rail and spear panels. North of the Hall is a children's playground and a small open-sided tearoom for community events, constructed onsite between 2010 and 2015.



Figure 2. Oblique view of the St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church at 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.

PLACE HISTORY

Contextual History

The twentieth century history of the Serbian Orthodox Church is one of political hardship. In 1917, the Corfu Declaration was signed by the Yugoslav Committee and Nicola Pašić, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Serbia, establishing an agreement to form the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes – the original name for Yugoslavia. The new unified nation was officially formed in December 1918 in Belgrade, with the autocephalous Serbian Orthodox Church formed in 1920, with the nation later renamed to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1928. However, as noted by Mrdjenovic, within the newly unified nation, ‘bitter divisions and political struggles emerged as soon as the country was formed’ (Mrdjenovic, 2020, 146). These divisions and struggles resulted in a small Croatian uprising in 1920 and the attempted assassination of King Alexander 1 in 1921, with tensions further exacerbated by a Parliamentary shooting in 1928 where five Croatian members of parliament were assassinated. The constitution was ultimately suspended and King Alexander 1 established a dictatorship, coinciding with the renaming of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. In 1934, King Alexander was assassinated by Vlado Chernozemski, a Bulgarian fascist, in cooperation with the Croatian Utasha terrorist cell in Marseille, France. Nine months after the assassination of King Alexander, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia signed a concordant with the Vatican establishing Catholicism as the primary national religion of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, unseating the Serbian Orthodox Church as the primary State religion for its royalist ties. Public unrest was immense:

‘In July 1937 the crisis reached its peak. The Serbian Orthodox Church planned a procession through the streets of Belgrade for the 19th of July but the police banned the gathering. As soon as the procession

started, the police brutally attacked it; Bishops were beaten up together with the rest of the clergy and the faithful, and the event became known as the *Bloody Procession* ('krvava litija'). In the evening of 23 of July 1937, the Concordant was ratified by the Parliament and only a couple of hours later, the Serbian Patriarch Varnava Rosic passed away. A few days later, the Holy Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church officially confirmed the rumours that the Patriarch was indeed poisoned' (Mrdjenovic, 2020, 147).

When Germany attacked the USSR in 1941, the Communists commenced a guerilla movement in Serbia named the Partisans. Chetnik units around Serbia were under attack, resulting in a Communist revolution within the country ultimately resulting in a full civil war between the Royalist and Communist movements. The Serbian Orthodox Church sided with the Royalist movement. However, following the end of the Second World War and the broader success of the USSR, the advancement of the Russian Red Army through Eastern Europe towards Germany displaced many Orthodox communities – including the Serbian Orthodox Church. This expansion of the Moscow Patriarchate and the subsequent absolving of Orthodox communities continued through the twentieth century and continues today.

Thematic Place History

Following the mass displacement of Serbian Royalists and the Serbian Orthodox Church from Yugoslavia in 1945, many of those who managed to escape found refuge at the Eboli refugee camp in Italy. It was from Eboli that many would emigrate to Australia. On the 6th September 1948, Father Svetozar Sekulic arrived in Sydney, the first Serbian Orthodox priest in Australia (Mrdjenovic, 2020, 152). In 1950, Teodor Demjanjuk emigrated to Melbourne as the first Serbian Orthodox priest in the state, conducting services in an Anglican church at Yallourn.

'They came not as missionaries but as refugees and displaced persons, sharing the troubles of their flock. There was no diocesan structure and in the beginning they were under the spiritual care of Bishop Dionisije who was in America. In 1952 the Patriarchate from Belgrade placed the Australian and similar ecclesial communities overseas under the direct supervision of the Serbian Patriarch, who was geographically equally distance, and to complicate things further, also under the oppressive Communist regime in Yugoslavia.' (Mrdjenovic, 2020, 153).

In 1960, plans were drawn for the construction of a new Serbian Orthodox Church community hall and Sunday School on Ballarat Road, North Geelong. The hall was completed in 1961, and in September the same year the foundation stone for the neighbouring St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church was placed onsite. President of St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church wrote to the State Health Department:

'Dear Sir, The Church Hall has been completed and the foundation for the Church was laid in September 1961. We are now commencing the construction, and the steel structure is awaiting erection, but we have come across a major obstacle. When the foundation was laid a mistake was made in measurement both in length and width. In length an extra 4' 4 ½", and in width 4' 1 ¾" has been added. We have consulted the Shire of Corio Building Inspector and the Consulting Engineer, Mr. Hamilton [?], and we have already obtained specifications for enlarging the steel framework. The Consulting Engineer has okayed he works on condition that it is in agreement with the Health Department. As we are eager to begin work immediately, we would appreciate it if you could give us the "go-ahead" as soon as possible. Thanking you ... MS Mandic – President, 136 Autumn Street, West Geelong.' (PROV, VPRS 7882/P0001, 12398)

The amendments were approved by the Health Department in 1961 and construction of the Church continued to designs prepared by the Cologne-trained architect W.A. Kuellmar.

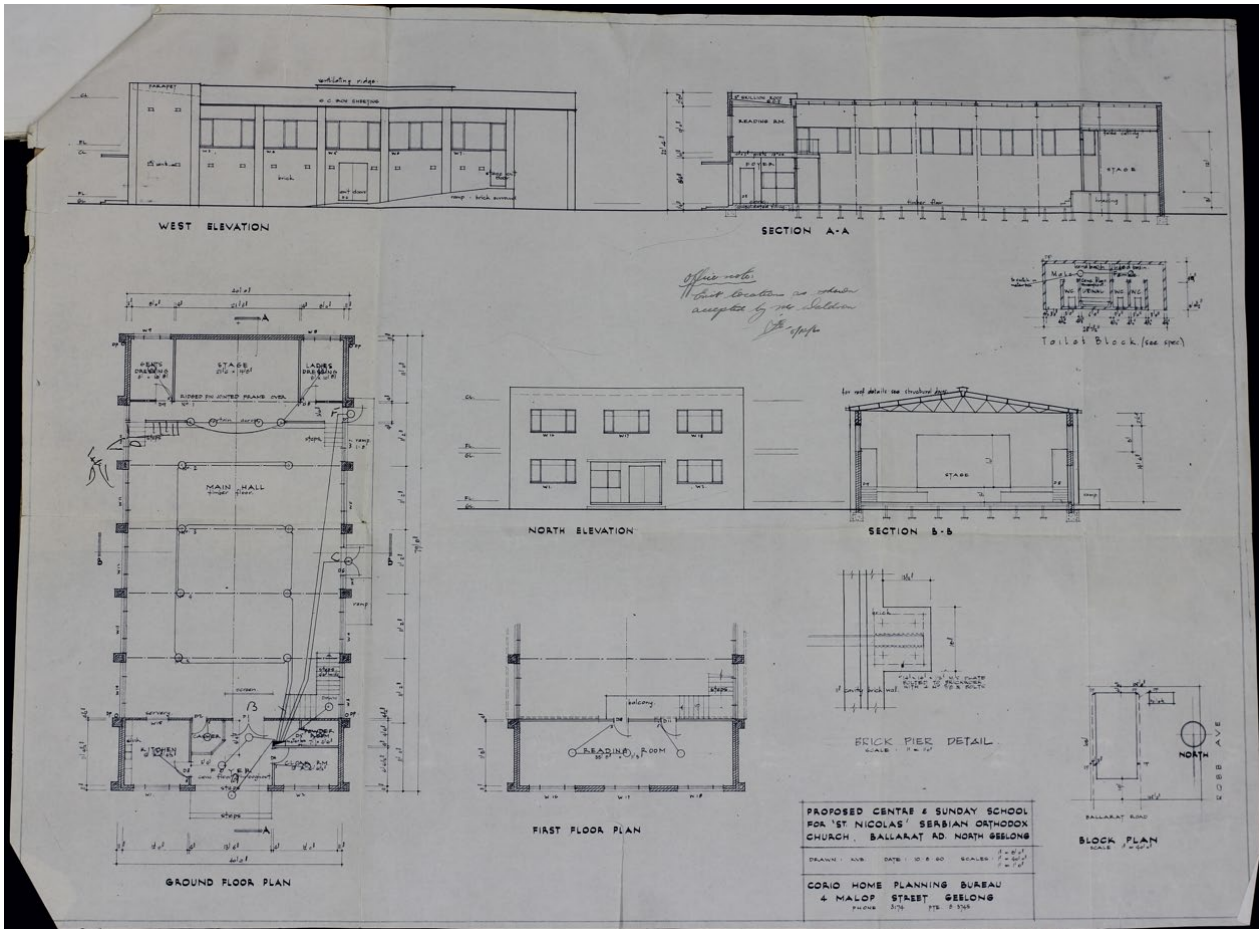


Figure 3. Architectural drawings for the Church Hall and Sunday School, 1960. Source: Public Records Office of Victoria, St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church Ballarat Street NORTH; Geelong Churches Church Halls Sunday Schools, VPRS 7882/P0001, 12398

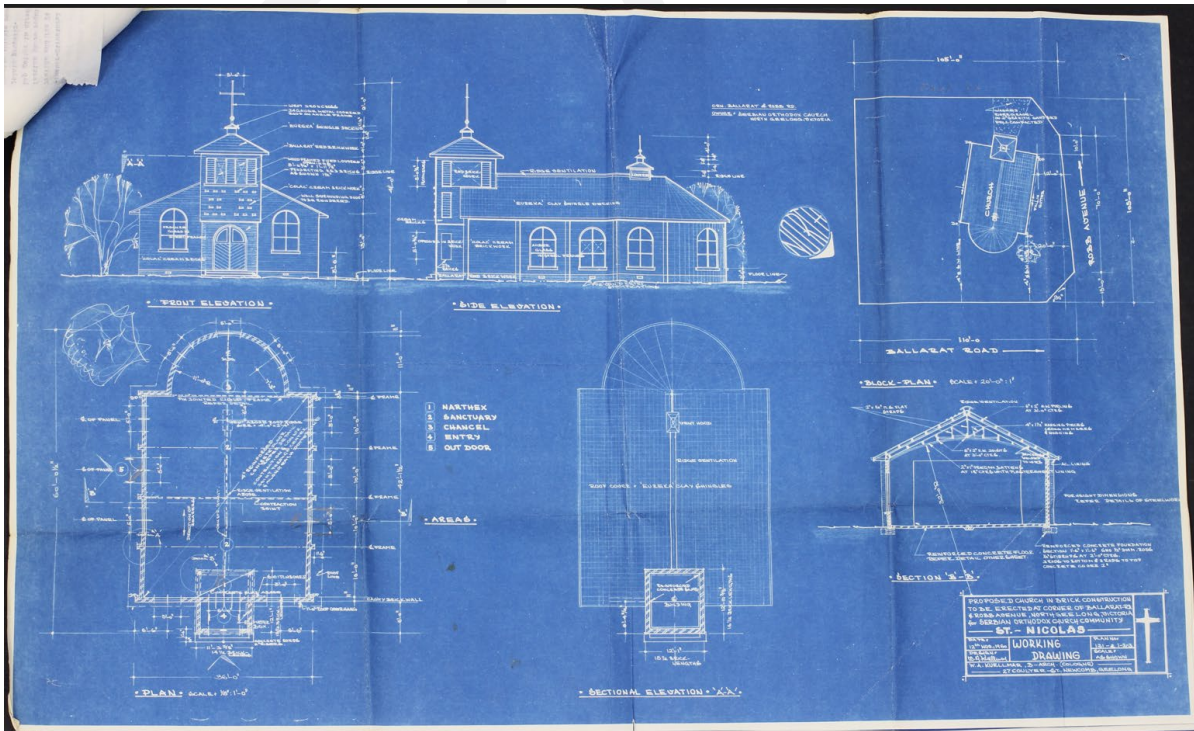


Figure 4. Architectural drawings for the Church, 1960. Source: Public Records Office of Victoria, St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church Ballarat Street NORTH; Geelong Churches Church Halls Sunday Schools, VPRS 7882/P0001, 12398



Figure 6. Aerial view of the Church and Hall, 1975. Source: Geoscience Australia, Film No. CAS897, Frame 220.

Due to the above design complications detailed between MS Mandic and the Health Department, the Church structure that was ultimately completed onsite at 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights, is not exactly to the designs prepared by W.A. Kuellmar. While the footprint is correct to the drawings, the tower and façade design was executed differently to the drawings. Further, the additions of two domed cupola is not in line with the original drawings.

Today, the Church has a very active community, partaking and performing at the annual City of Greater Geelong Pako Festa.

INTEGRITY

The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church at 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights, is a highly intact example of a post-war Serbian Orthodox church complex.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church at 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights, is one of six Orthodox Christian churches located within the City of Greater Geelong, yet it is the only example of a Serbian Orthodox Christian church in the municipality. Further, in the state of Victoria there are only nine operating Serbian Orthodox Christian churches represented which includes the example on Ballarat Road. On this basis, there are no examples of this typology represented on the local Heritage Overlay within the City of Greater Geelong, with limited examples of the typology represented in other municipal Heritage Overlays in the state. Other examples include:

Site and Analysis

Site Image

St George Serbian Orthodox Church, 6 Kate Street, St Albans (HO101, Brimbank City Council). St George's Serbian Orthodox Church at 6 Kate Street, St Albans, is one of two Serbian Orthodox Churches afforded heritage protections in the State of Victoria. The other example is the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Cathedral at 42A Nicholson Street, Brunswick East, which is not purpose-built but is a conversion of an earlier Louis Williams-designed Anglican church. St George's Serbian Orthodox Church in St Albans was initially constructed in 1954, with later extensions completed in 1964 with funding and labour from the surrounding local community. Historically, the example in St Albans is earlier than St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in North Geelong. Yet, both churches are still constructed in the same post-war period and reflect the growing presence of eastern European émigré communities in Victoria's western townships and suburbs. Physically, both churches abide by a strong rectilinear form and are both constructed of cream brick masonry. However, the example at St Albans has a higher degree of expressive detailing with Byzantium influences in the form of projecting rounded arch bays, masonry drip moulds and projecting courses, contrasting brown brick masonry and two octagonal towers. Further, the community hall adjoining the church is of greater architectural significance than that present in North Geelong, with floor to ceiling glazing and aluminium mullions designed to produce an arch, complimenting the design of the church. However, though aesthetically superior, both churches are still comparable as two highly intact post-war examples of Serbian Orthodox churches in west Victoria.



Figure 7. St George Serbian Orthodox Church, 6 Kate Street, St Albans. Source: Google Streetview, April 2023

As addressed above, the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Cathedral at 42A Nicholson Street, Brunswick East, is protected by the Merri-bek Heritage Overlay (HO561) for its aesthetic, social and associative significance. The rationale behind its ascribed significance is largely attributed to it being an interwar church designed by the pre-eminent church architect Louis R. Williams. However, the church is also of significance under Criterion G (social significance) for its associations with the broader Serbian Orthodox community. In this, the Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral has no comparable architectural features with St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in North Geelong, however its conversion from an Anglican church to a Serbian Orthodox church in the post-war period is reflective of changing demographics in Victoria and the emergence of religious denominations hitherto unrepresented in the State.

The above comparative analysis also highlights the complete omission of this typology on the City of Greater Geelong Heritage Overlay with only two other examples represented on other Victorian municipal Heritage outside of the municipality. Sites of comparable value represented in the State, though unprotected, include:

- St Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, 212 Diamon Creek Road, Greensborough (City of Banyule).
- St Steven of Dechani Serbian Orthodox Parish, 672-682 Frankston-Dandenong Road, Carrum Downs (Frankston City Council).

On the basis of the above analysis, it is understood that while the St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church at 124 Ballarat Road, Geelong North, might not have the same degree of ornamentation as other typological examples in other Victorian municipalities, it is still a highly intact example of a post-war Serbian Orthodox Church in the City of Greater Geelong. The church is also the only example of its denomination in the City of Greater Geelong, and the only example of a Serbian Orthodox Church on the western half of the state.

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IMAGES



Oblique view of the Church looking east. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.



Direct view of the Church tower. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.



Mosaic image of St Nicholas the patron saint of the Church. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.



Oblique view of the Church looking east. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.



Oblique view of the southern elevation of the church. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.



View of the eastern cupola, looking east. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.



Oblique view of the rear sanctuary, looking northwest. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.



Oblique view of the northern elevation of the Church. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.



Internal view of the iconostasis. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.



Oblique view of internal induction hoods and the primary entrance, with the original consecrated iconostasis. Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024.

LOCATION DETAILS & HERITAGE OVERLAY

Heritage Place:	Pan Pacific	UPI:
Address:	4 Kirriemuir Street, Hamlyn Heights VIC 3215	
Traditional Owners:	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	
Significant date range:	1963	
Architectural style:	Mid-Century Modern	
Typology:	Residence	
Historical Themes:	Theme 6: Building the Shire; Sub-theme 6.7: Suburban Communities	
Assessed by:	Benjamin Petkov	
Peer reviewed by:	Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy	



Figure 1. Aerial of Pan Pacific, 2019, showing the curtilage of the significant place. Source: Nearmap, 2019.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

Pan Pacific at 4 Kirriemuir Street, Hamlyn Heights, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Significant elements include:

- The 1963 mid-century modern residence.

Non-significant elements include:

- The later juvenile plantings.
- The letterbox.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Pan Pacific is of historical, representative and associative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Pan Pacific, at 4 Kirriemuir Street Hamlyn Heights is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong and the suburb of Hamlyn Heights as an intact dwelling constructed in 1963 following the subdivision of the Glenpanyall estate in the post-war period. The 1950s and 1960s in the City of Greater Geelong were a period of extensive suburbanisation, with post-war industrial success and the baby-boom demanding new housing for an expanding population. Pan Pacific is historically representative of that post-war residential expansion not only as one of the first modernist examples to be constructed in Hamlyn Heights in the early 1960s, but also as a key prefabricated residential design prepared by Nino Sydney for Lend Lease Homes in 1962. Pan Pacific is directly attributable to the Carlingford Homes Fair of 1962 which sought to advertise new, cheap, small prefab homes to Australia's booming population. (Criterion A)

Pan Pacific is of representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of a mid-century modern residential building. Key elements featured on Pan Pacific which are directly attributable to the design idiom include its substantial and off-centre shallow gable roof which covers the entire width of the dwelling, providing shelter to the main residential portion of the dwelling as well as offering a covered carport, the mixed use of perforated brick screening with cream brick and 'crazy paving' stone cladding, deep eaves with projecting timber roof trusses, floor-to-ceiling glazing and a deep setback. These elements are all integral features original to the building, making it a highly intact example, and as such contributing to Pan Pacific's representative significance for the City of Greater Geelong. (Criterion D)

Pan Pacific is of associative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact residential design prepared by Croatian-born architect Nino Sydney, or Hrvoj Oskar Ninoslav Pleminiti Somogji, for Lend Lease Homes and the 1962 Carlingford Homes Fair. (Criterion H)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FOR THIS PLACE?

The place is located on traditional land of the Wadawurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for this land is Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC).

SCHEDULED CONTROLS

The following scheduled controls are recommended for the ongoing conservation and use of the place. They include:

Recommended Scheduled Controls

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Solar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbuildings/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	VHR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prohib use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal Place

HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Pan Pacific (1963)

Pan Pacific, at 4 Kirriemuir Street Hamlyn Heights, is a highly intact mid-century modern residence constructed in 1963 to designs prepared by Nino Sydney – architect for Lend Lease Homes. Pan Pacific is a single-storey cream brick masonry building with a single-span shallow gable roof running the whole length of the dwelling. The gabled roof has an off-centre ridgeline and contains the main form of the residence while also providing cover for a carport, accommodating two vehicles. The carport portion of the residence is supported by a three-quarter high perforated brick screening wall paired with decorative hairpin posts. The residence is in good structural condition.

The primary façade of the dwelling has a full height ‘crazy-paver’ stone feature wall, designed to contrast and act as a foil to the floor-to-ceiling glazing on either side of it. The entrance is set on a brick and cement porch with a green unadorned door set in floor-to-ceiling glazing. Roof trusses project through the glazing and support the deep eaves of the residence.

The yard is delineated from both neighbouring properties to the east and west by a stepped brick wall the same colour as the main form of the house. There is no boundary fence, and no mature plantings.



Figure 2. Oblique view of the building's façade, looking northwest. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.

PLACE HISTORY

Contextual History

In 1849, the results of the Government land sales in North Geelong were published in *The Argus*. Lot No. 94, comprising 81 acres, 3 roods and 24 perches in the parish of Moorpanyal was purchased by one D. Coghill for £409 and 10 shillings (*The Argus*, 28 June 1849, 2). An undated plan likely dating to the mid-19th century reflects the outcomes of the land sales and shows Coghill's holdings south of Ballarat Road (Figure 3).

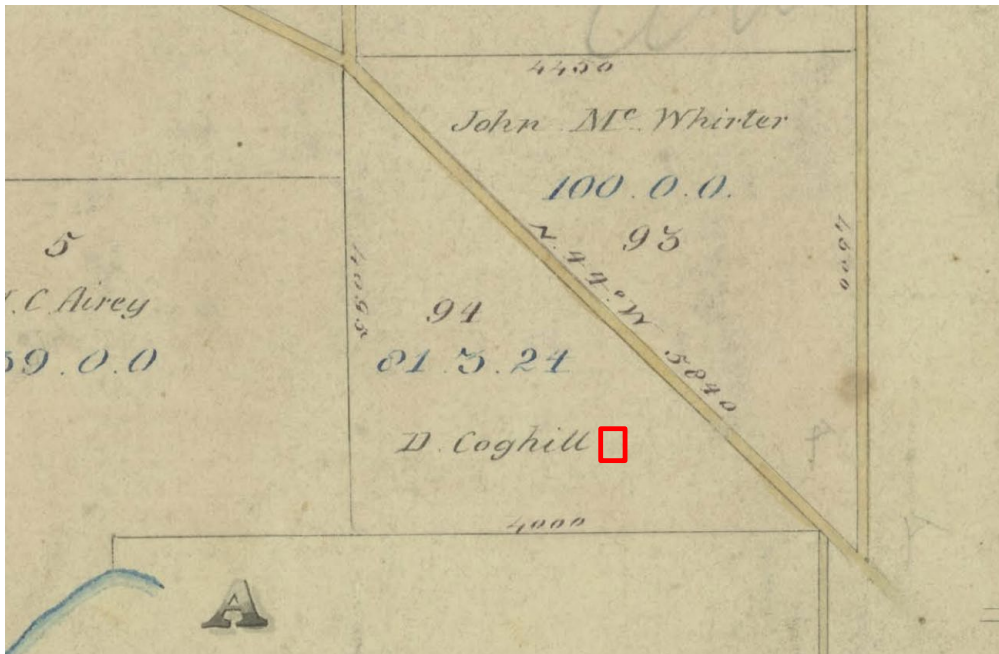


Figure 3. c.1850s plan showing Coghill's parcels and the approximate location of Pan Pacific. Source: Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 8168/P0002, FEATR457; GEELONG; RIVERS PT GALENA CEMETERY.

David Coghill and John Manifold were both appointed District Councillors by the Colonial Secretary's Office in 1848. As noted by Rowe in 2021:

'David Coghill owned a substantial portion of land. In 1859, he engaged the Geelong architect, J.L. Shaw, to design a substantial Picturesque Gothic styled brick villa. Known as 'Glenpanyall', it is situated at 22 Glengate Road' (Rowe, 2021, 738).

Glenpanyall in the early 20th century was owned by the Jane and John Robb. John passed away in 1915, and Jane in 1920. Following the passing of their parents, the Robb brothers continued to farm the 400-acre property as well as other properties.

Thematic Place History

Following the passing of both John and Jane Robb, the Geelong Water and Sewerage Trust commenced the construction of a new service basin in 1925 on land associated with the Glenpanyall farm (*The Age*, 25 June 1925, 7). An aerial photograph from 1926 shows the service basin as well as the land which would later become Kirriemuir Street (Figure 4).



Figure 4. 1926 aerial of Hamlyn Heights and the approximate location of 4 Kirriemuir Street. Source: Pratt, C. D., & Airspy. (1926). [Hamlyn Heights, looking over water storage to Geelong] [picture].



Figure 5. Aerial photo of Hamlyn Heights in c1952 with the approximate location of 4 Kirriemuir Street in red. Source: Landata

In 1926 the property was still farmland and remained so through the 1950s till the residence was constructed in 1963. Further north in Sydney, the Croatian born architect Hrvoj Oskar Ninoslav Pleminiti Somogji – more commonly known as Nino Sydney, an anglicised version he would adopt following his emigration to Australia in 1955 – was designing prefabricated residential properties for Lend Lease Homes. In 1961, Sydney designed the ‘Pan Pacific’ model for Lend Lease, which was released the following year in 1962 at the Carlingford Homes Fair. The Pac Pacific model was represented with two examples built at 162 Bettington Road and another at 103 Felton Road, Carlingford. the latter example has since been demolished, however 162 Bettington Road is still extant and is a direct representation of the building constructed 4 Kirriemuir Street, Hamlyn Heights.

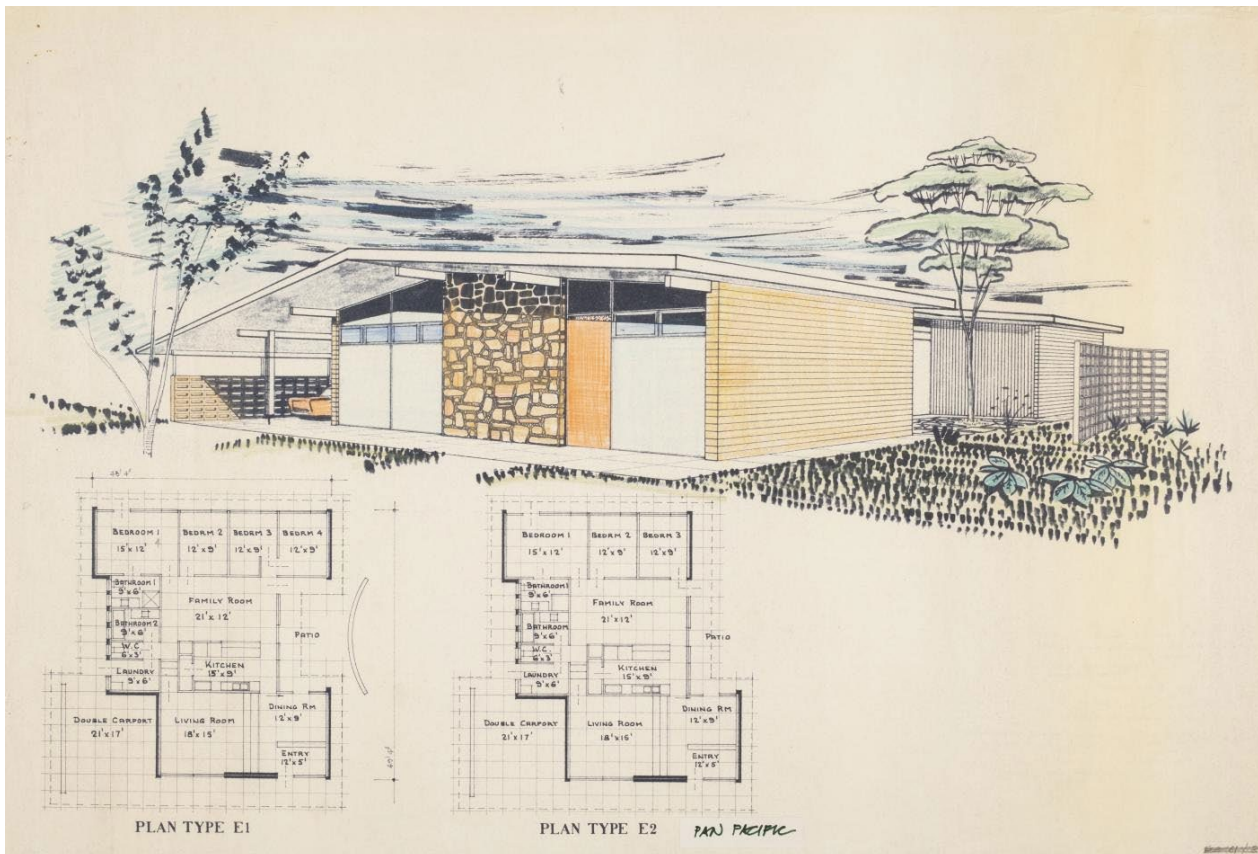


Figure 6. Architectural drawings of Pan Pacific prepared by Nino Sydney, showing two floorplan variations. Source: State Library New South Wales, Record ID: nZN2EL7n

When opened in June, the Homes Fair drew great attention with large numbers gathering in the northwestern suburb of Sydney to view cutting edge residential designs. As noted by Stephen Batey in 2013:

'The Carlingford Homes Fair, on the Kingsdene Estate in north-west Sydney, was a joint venture between the then fledgling Lend Lease Corporation and the former Australian Consolidated Press (ACP) publication *The Australian Women's Weekly*. Lend Lease sought to promote their Kingsdene land subdivision and their newly established Lend Lease Homes division, while the magazine wanted to stage a display of homes to promote their new Home Plan Service. It was a match made in heaven: ACP magazines promoted the homes and the homes fascinated the magazine readers. The event and marketing campaign were so successful in drawing interest from the public that an estimated 200,000 people came to visit the Fair in the six weeks it was open. In 1962, that amounted to just over 9 per cent of Sydney's population; though fairgoers came from as far afield as Wollongong, Canberra and Newcastle. There were twenty-four architect-designed homes on display. Harry Seidler, Neville Gruzman, John P. Ley, and Garry Rippon... each designed three homes in their own particular styles. Ken Woolley and Michael Dysart in collaboration designed three homes, two of which were developed into the much-lauded Pettit + Sevitt Lowline and Split-Level models. The firm of Ross A. Lightfoot and Stanton, and Don Gazzard... each contributed two homes. Clarke, Gazzard and Yeomans also planned out the Kingsdene subdivision, which was masterpiece of efficiency and innovation as well as being spacious and beautiful. Last, but certainly not least, Lend Lease Homes, whose chief architect was Nino Sydney, contributed five homes that were representative of their standard range of designs...' (Batey, 2013)

As noted, Sydney produced five designs that were exhibited by Lend Lease. Of those five designs, the Pan Pacific model was chosen by one E. E. Johnston to be constructed at 4 Kirriemuir Street, Hamlyn Heights. The example in Hamlyn Heights was constructed in 1963 for Johnston by local the builders Bell and Fulton. The Johnstons lived in Pan Pacific at 4 Kirriemuir Street till 2002, when it was sold. Ten years later, it was sold again, this time to local

architect Peter Woolard, director of Studio 101 Modernist Architects and Interiors. Woolard completed a sensitive restoration of Pan Pacific before selling the residence in 2023. The property is still in use as a private residence and has been the basis of much public attention, also acting as the venue for a show by architectural enthusiast and comedian Tim Ross and musician Kit Warhurst.



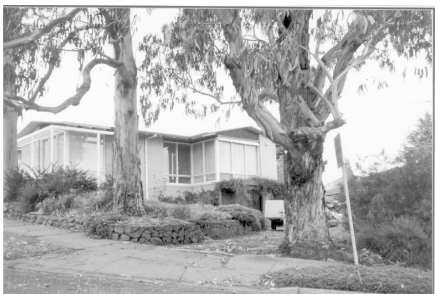
Figure 7. Aerial photo of Hamlyn Heights in 1968 showing Pan Pacific in red. Source: Landata.


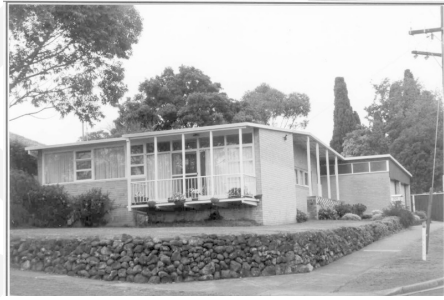
INTEGRITY

The Pan Pacific is of high integrity, retaining all original features.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Pan Pacific, at 4 Kirriemuir Street Hamlyn Heights, is a highly intact and expressive example of mid-century modern residential design. As such, though not extensively represented in the City of Greater Geelong, comparable examples include:

Comparative Analysis	Image
<p>Residence, 5 Barrabool Road, Belmont (HO1755). The residence at 5 Barrabool Road, Belmont, is comparable with Pan Pacific as two examples of highly intact mid-century modern residential designs in the City of Greater Geelong. The Barrabool Road residence was constructed in 1953 to designs prepared by local Geelong architect Max Naylor, and includes features which are comparable with Pan Pacific. Those features include floor-to-ceiling glazing, a shallow-pitch gabled roof with deep eaves and exposed roof trusses, brick masonry construction and timber pergolas. Key differences include the use of stone cladding on Pan Pacific and its elaborate perforated brick screen adjoining the carport. Naylor’s design is significantly more restrained than Sydney’s, observing less ostentation than that on Pan Pacific. Of the two buildings, Naylor’s design is important as a residence built by and for a local Geelong architect. However, the integrity and degree of ornamentation at 4 Kirriemuir Street means Pan</p>	 <p>Figure 8. Residence, 5 Barrabool Road, Belmont Source: Victorian Heritage Database</p>

Comparative Analysis	Image
<p>Pacific is of equal importance and significance to the City of Greater Geelong.</p>	
<p>Residence, 121 Mount Pleasant Road, Belmont (HO1841). The house at 121 Mount Pleasant Road, Belmont, is significant to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact mid-century modern residence constructed in 1964 to the designs of the architect and owner Ian Melhuish. The residence is comparable with Pan Pacific as two examples of post-war modernist residential developments in the City of Greater Geelong. Key differences between both buildings include their materiality and form, where the Belmont residence is timber and constructed with a skillion roof, and Pan Pacific is brick with a gabled roof. Both buildings share similar elements however, attributable to their shared school of design – including deep exposed eaves, floor-to-ceiling glazing, recessed carports and rectilinear form, as well as decorative screening. Both buildings are considered of equal significance.</p>	 <p>Figure 9. Residence, 121 Mount Pleasant Road, Belmont. Source: Victorian Heritage Database</p>
<p>Residence, 209 Roslyn Road, Belmont (HO1882). The residence at 209 Roslyn Road, Belmont, is an individually significant post-war mid-century modern dwelling constructed in 1961 for one John Thomas Meehan. The residence is substantial and observes similar design features comparable with Pan Pacific – namely the rectilinear form with projecting eaves, masonry feature walls, floor-to-ceiling glazing and shallow gabled roof. Key differences however relate to integrity, with the important and contributing stone feature wall and unpainted cement brick form compromised. The stone feature wall has been removed, and the building has been extensively and unsympathetically altered through the use of grey render. On this basis, Pan Pacific is considered of greater significance due to its higher integrity.</p>	 <p>Figure 10. Residence, 209 Roslyn Road, Belmont. Source: Victorian Heritage Database</p>

As noted above, three examples of comparable significance are located in the City of Greater Geelong. All buildings share with Pan Pacific a similar design intent, with a strong emphasis on rectilinear form, flat or shallow roofing, deep exposed eaves, floor-to-ceiling glazing and masonry or timber feature walls. Key differences however relate primarily to integrity. Where Pan Pacific’s integrity is higher than that represented at 209 Roslyn Road, Belmont, it is equal to those at Mount Pleasant Road and Barrabool Road. On this basis, Pan Pacific is considered to be of high integrity and significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

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IMAGES



Oblique view of the building's façade, looking northwest. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.



View of entrance, looking north. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.



View of porch and entrance looking north. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.



Oblique view of the façade and carport, looking northeast. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.



Direct view of the carport. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.



Direct view of the residence looking north. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT - DRAFT

Heritage Place:	St Paul's Lutheran Church	UPI:
Address:	303-307 Torquay Road, Grovedale, Victoria 3216	
Traditional Owners:	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	
Significant date range:	1871	
Architectural style:	Gothic Revival	
Typology:	Lutheran Church	
Historical Themes:	Theme 8: Building Community Life; Sub-theme 8.2: Spiritual Life	
Assessed by:	Benjamin Petkov	
Peer reviewed by:	Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy	



Figure 1. Aerial view of St Paul's Lutheran Church at Grovedale, the property boundary marked blue with the proposed Heritage Overlay boundary marked red. All that property outside the red curtilage is considered non-significant. Source: Nearmap, 2025.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

St Paul’s Lutheran Church at 303-307 Torquay Road, Grovedale is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. The significant elements are:

- The original Gothic Revival, brick church building.
- The vista of it from Torquay Road is significant.
- The garden setting of the church to the north and south (included within the redline boundary).

The non-significant elements are:

- The later structures and landscaping comprising the rear extension, neighbouring Sunday school and kindergarten, plantings, fence and carpark do not contribute to the significance of the site.
- The rear extension adjoining the western elevation of the original 1871 church is non-significant fabric. On this basis, its future replacement is considered acceptable on the condition that the design of the replacement structure be sensitive to the character of the original church.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

St Paul’s Lutheran Church is of historical and representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

St Paul’s Lutheran Church at 303-307 Torquay Road, Grovedale, is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong as an intact 1871 brick masonry church representing the migration and settlement in Grovedale of a German community in the mid-19th century and the historical expansion of the Lutheran denomination in Geelong and Victoria in the 1850s and 1860s. (Criterion A)

St Paul’s Lutheran Church is of representative significance as an intact mid-19th century Gothic Revival church. The Church abides by all key design elements expected of a Gothic Revival church, including rectilinear form with gabled roof, rectilinear form, buttresses, pointed arch lancet windows with leadlight panes, a slate shingle roof and a belfry tower. (Criterion D)

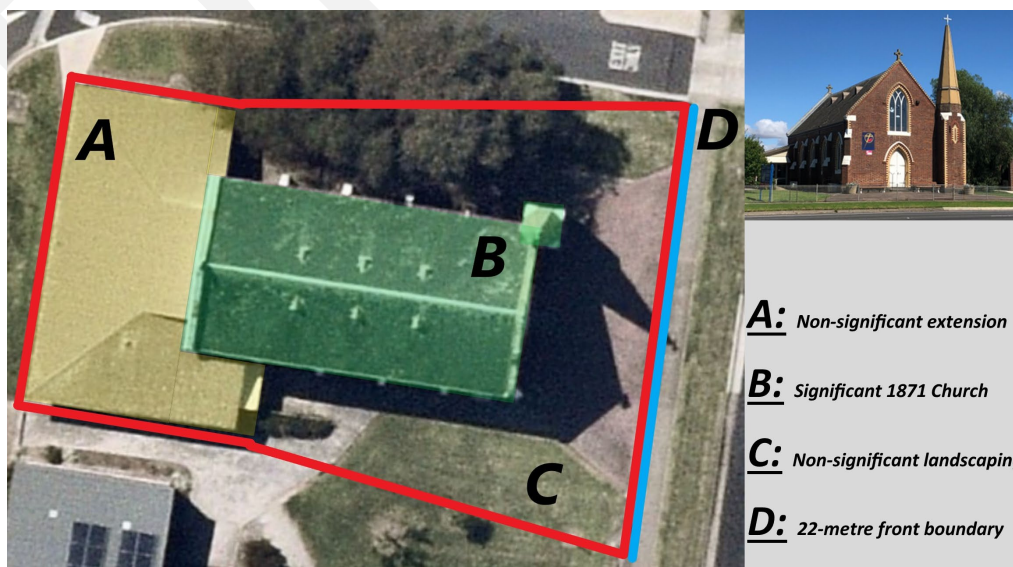


Figure 2. Significance grading plan of St Paul’s Lutheran Church at Grovedale. Source: Nearmap, 2025

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FOR THIS PLACE?

The place is located on traditional land of the Wadawurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for this land is Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC).

SCHEDULED CONTROLS

The following scheduled controls are recommended for the ongoing conservation and use of the place, being that section of the property within the red outline of Figure 1, with a frontage to Torquay Road of 22 metres. The scheduled controls include:

Recommended Scheduled Controls

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Solar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbuildings/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	VHR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prohib use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal Place

HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Church (1871)

St Paul's Lutheran Church at 303-307 Torquay Road Grovedale is a mid-sized Gothic Revival polychrome brick masonry church in good condition, constructed in 1871. The main form of the church is the central rectilinear gabled nave with a square-based hexagonal belfry tower on its northwestern corner. The original tower was altered in 1953 with its shortening and the addition of metal cladding. This cladding was replaced again on the 18th December 1975. The church is decorated with pointed arch lancet windows set with leadlight stained glass, the primary façade dominated by a substantial leadlight window installed in the late 1990s replacing the original. Both the northern and southern elevation feature buttresses, in keeping with Gothic Revival design, and the roof is clad in slate shingles, which replaced the original slate roof in 1998. Dormer roof vents are present on both planes of the gabled roof and the eastern and western ends of the gable are concealed by a raised parapet.

A substantial rear extension was made in the late twentieth century which is not considered significant to the site.

Setting

The setting of St Paul's is highly altered, with original plantings removed in the 1950s, the original school removed in 2011, and the manse removed between 2008 and 2010. A chain-link wire fence marks the western property boundary, and a new kindergarten is present at the former location of the school. The environmental context is greatly informed by Torquay Road as a major thoroughfare, and the surrounding postwar and contemporary residential development.

To the rear of the church is a substantial asphalt carpark.



Figure 3. St Paul's Lutheran Church at Grovedale. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.

PLACE HISTORY

Contextual History

As addressed in the 2021 About Corayo: A Thematic History of Greater Geelong:

'The arrival of German immigrants on the Emmy in 1849 (having been sponsored by the German Immigration Committee led locally by Dr Alexander Thomson) (see Theme 2) was impetus for the development of the Lutheran Church at Grovedale, first known as Germantown since European colonisation. Services were first held in homes until a school was built in 1854 on the site of the existing Grovedale Cemetery...' (Rowe, 2021, 998)

Thematic Place History

As noted above, the suburb of Grovedale was broadly established following the arrival of German immigrants in Geelong in 1849. Initially named Germantown due to the heightened presence of German migrants, the first Lutheran Church in Geelong was established in a school built in 1854 with a new stone church replacing it in 1858. Due to ongoing internal conflicts and the resignation of Pastoral Haussmann, a schism in the congregation formed in 1861 with some members splitting off to form St Paul's Lutheran Church at 301 Torquay Road.

On the 4th November 1870, the Geelong Advertiser published:

'TO BUILDERS. – TENDERS Will be received until Friday, November 18th, for the several works required in the erection of a Church at Germantown for the Lutheran congregation. Drawings and specifications at the Town-Surveyor's Office, Belmont. Tenders to be addressed to the Rev. H. Heyer, Germantown. – R.S. TUFFS, Architect, &c.' (Geelong Advertiser, 4 Nov 1870, 4).

The following year the church was complete, and the Geelong Advertiser published:

'A most interesting ceremony was performed at Germantown on Sunday Inst. For some time past services have been held by the Rev. Mr Herlitz in the old schoolroom, and the accommodation thereby provided has been found totally inadequate to the requirements of the congregation, who determined to have a new Lutheran Church built. Accordingly plans were prepared by Mr. Tuffs, and the result has been the erection of as neat and commodious a sacred edifice as could be desired. This was formally opened on Sunday last, but previous to doing so the Rev. Messrs Herlitz, Heier, and Hiller, the choir, school children, and congregation, numbering about one hundred and fifty, took a formal leave of the old school building, and from thence marched in procession to the church. Here the Rev. Mr. Herlitz delivered a prayer and short but suitable addresses were delivered by the three clergymen, the choir which is a very effective one, singing at intervals. On Monday evening the opening of the church was further celebrated by a tea meeting in the parsonage, where, after five or six relays, at least 500 persons were regaled. At a public meeting afterwards held in the church, addresses were again delivered, and choice selections of sacred music rendered by the choir. Altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent, and the amount of the collections made on Sunday and Monday was said to be about £15.' (Geelong Advertiser, 30 March 1871, 2).

The name of Reverend Heier is at times anglicised and misspelled, as noted in the 1870 notice where the name is spelled Heyer. The intersecting road with Torquay Road, on the southern boundary of the Church site, is named after Reverend Heier, though spelled Heyers. The congregation continued to use St Paul's Church well into the twentieth century with no immediate changes to the site, bar the addition of a new manse in the interwar period directly neighbouring the church. By that time, the site comprised an original timber school hall, the 1871 church and the interwar manse. As communicated by members of the Church Committee during stakeholder engagement for this assessment, the western sanctuary wall, being the western gable, is constructed of infill masonry with soft render, contrasting to the permanent solid construction of the building's primary eastern gable end. This conveys an idea that the western gable end was designed as an impermanent element, and there may have been some original intent to construct an intersecting nave which would have converted the simple gable church into a larger

cruciform layout church. The reason these works were not undertaken has not been identified, the main evidence supporting this theory being the seemingly impermanent construction of the western gable end.

In the 1950s, renovations were undertaken to the Church as published in *The Age*:

'Lutheran Pioneers of Geelong District – the centenary celebration of St Paul's Lutheran church, Grovedale, this week end is a reminder of the arrival of the first eight Lutheran families in Victoria. They landed by Ship in Geelong in December 1849, and bought land on which to settle at Grovedale, about four miles south of the port. After first meeting for religious services in their pioneer homes, they built a school in 1854. From June of that year Rev. Matthias Goethe, of Melbourne, organiser and founder of the Lutheran church in Victoria, conducted services in the school which was from thenceforth also used as a church. A solid brick church, still in sound condition, was built in 1870 [1871] at a cost of £900. With its prominent hexagon bell tower, the church is a landmark to all tourists travelling by the Ocean Road to Torquay. St Paul's congregation, under the guidance of its pastor, Rev. J. M. Larsen, a prominent theologian and authority in liturgies, extensively renovated the church building last year at an approximate cost of £500. The majority of parishioners still follow the occupation of their forefathers – market gardening...' (*The Age*, 1 May 1954, 9).



Figure 4. View of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1937 with the original tower and a parishioner in the foreground. Source: State Library of Victoria, Fox, C. (1937). [Lutheran Church, Grovedale] [picture].



Figure 5. View of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1969 with the original school in the background. Source: National Trust Database, File Number B2265, online resource.



Figure 6. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1976. Source: State Library of Victoria, Collins, J. T. (1976). St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Torquay Road, Grovedale.



Figure 7. St Paul's Lutheran Church in 2013. Source: Australian Christian Church Histories, online resource.



Figure 8. Interior view of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in October 2025. Note: no internal controls are proposed, as such no furnishing or material finishes are proposed for protection. Source: City of Greater Geelong, October 2025.

During these renovations in 1953, the tower was clad in metal sheeting to prevent against water ingress. This cladding was replaced in December 1975, followed by the construction of a rear extension. In 1998 the entire slate roof was replaced with new slate. It was in this period that the original leadlight window on the façade of the church was also replaced.

INTEGRITY

The integrity of St Paul’s Lutheran Church in Grovedale is medium-to-high. Though the tower has been altered through its shortening and the addition of metal cladding, these alterations do not diminish the building’s capacity for public interpretation. The overwhelming majority of the church retains its original form and materiality. The setting of the church has been greatly altered through the introduction of a chainlink wire fence and the removal of the original plantings, as well as the removal of the school hall and the interwar manse.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

St Paul’s Lutheran Church at 303-307 Torquay Road, Grovedale, is representative of a broader period of vernacular brick masonry church development in the City of Greater Geelong and Victoria more broadly. On this basis, typologically, it is a design of church well represented on the City of Greater Geelong’s Heritage Overlay. However there are no comparable Lutheran denomination churches included on the City of Greater Geelong Heritage Overlay. Comparable Judeo-Christian churches include:

Site and Analysis

Site Image

St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 1022-1030 Portarlington Road, Leopold (HO1587 City of Greater Geelong). The former St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Leopold is individually significant to the City of Greater Geelong as a Catholic Church constructed in 1873 to service the needs of the local community. The former St Francis Xavier Catholic Church compares favourably with St Paul’s Lutheran Church as two early 1870s Judeo-Christian Churches constructed in regional communities in the Geelong. Both Churches are constructed in brick masonry and based on an orthodox Gothic Revival rectilinear gabled nave with a steep roof pitch, slate shingles, buttresses and leadlight windows, with hexagonal belfry towers. Key differences however include the render at Leopold and its conversion into a private residence. The example in Grovedale retains its original form and layout, though with an altered tower, and was constructed two years prior to St Francis Xavier. However, the example in Leopold retains signs of original landscaping, with its conifer plantings intact and healthy. Yet, due to the extent of similarities, it is highly likely that the example in Leopold was also designed by R. S. Tuffs. On this basis, both buildings are considered of equal significance.



Direct view of the church at 1022-1030 Portarlington Road, Leopold. Source: Google Streetview, June 2023

St James Anglican Church, 45 Collins Street, Drysdale (HO81 City of Greater Geelong). St James Anglican Church in Drysdale is significant to the City of Greater Geelong as a substantial Church of England brick masonry Gothic Revival church constructed in 1872. The highly intact church was opened by Bishop Perry in 1872, abiding by all key design elements consistent with the Gothic Revival style. Those elements include a steeply pitched gabled roof form, clad with slate shingles, the use of polychrome brickwork, buttresses, pointed arch lancet windows and a stepped square-formed tower and belfry, complete with pointed finials and castellations. Comparable features shared by both St James and St Paul’s include the emphasis on a rectilinear gabled nave and the use of a share-based tower, pointed arch lancet windows, buttresses and a slate roof. A key shared



Oblique view of St James Anglican Church, 45 Collins Street, Drysdale. Source: Google Streetview, October 2023

Site and Analysis

Site Image

element is the mutual use of polychrome brickwork. Key differences include the tower designs and general integrity of both structures and their settings. The tower at St Paul's is greatly altered, and the surrounding site context has been disturbed, where St James' context retains an early timber hall and intact gardens. Of the two churches, St James' is considered to be of greater significance though both churches are still significant.

St John's Anglican Church, 269 Roslyn Road, Highton (HO225 City of Greater Geelong). St John's Anglican Church at 269 Roslyn Road Highton is an individually significant church constructed in 1866 to designs prepared by Joseph Lowe Shaw. Both St John's and St Paul's compare favourably as two churches designed in the mid-nineteenth century, with common features including a strong rectilinear form with a gabled nave, pointed arch lancet windows on the main façade, slate roofing with a steeply pitched gable, buttresses, a raised parapet, projecting transepts and towers. Key differences include the post-1926 tower at St John's which is squatter than the tower at St Paul's and more reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts movement, with a substantial rear extension behind St John's impacting the original churches' integrity. However, of the two, St John's is of greater significance due to it being an older example of church the presence of a decorative tower and its slightly larger scale. However, both buildings still compare favourably.



Direct view of the church at 269 Roslyn Road, Highton.
Source: Google Streetview, October 2023

Based on the above comparative analysis, St Paul's Lutheran Church in Grovedale is recognised as an intact example of a Judeo-Christian church constructed during a period of great spiritual expansion in the State with many churches constructed in the 1860s and 1870s. Further, the complete lack of comparable Lutheran examples further highlights a low representation of the denomination in the municipalities' Heritage Overlay. St Paul's still compares favourably as an intact example of a substantial Gothic Revival church with similar significant features to those already protected on the HO.

REFERENCES

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Advertising (1871, February 11). Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1929), p. 1.

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Rowe, David & Greater Geelong (Vic.). Council, issuing body. (2021). About Corayo : A Thematic History of Greater Geelong

The Beginnings Of The Lutheran Church In Victoria (1935, March 1). Pinnaroo and Border Times (SA : 1911 - 1954), p. 3.

TOWN TALK. (1871, March 30). Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1929), p. 2.

IMAGES



Oblique view of St Paul's Lutheran Church looking northwest. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Oblique view of St Paul's Lutheran Church looking northwest. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Detail view of entrance. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Overview of the leadlight window. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Oblique overview of the altered tower, looking southwest. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Detail view of filled in archers slit. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Overview of the northern side elevation. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Overview of the southern side elevation. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Detail view of repointing work and steel-ties. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Overview of the dormer roof vents, crucifix and introduced cladding to the rear parapet. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Overview of the facade. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.



Overview of the setting and frontage. Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024.

LOCATION DETAILS & HERITAGE OVERLAY

Heritage Place:	Glen Moidart	UPI:
Address:	525-615 Robbs Road, Moorabool VIC 3213	
Traditional Owners:	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	
Significant date range:	c.1855	
Architectural style:	Victorian	
Typology:	Residential	
Historical Themes	Theme 6: Building the City, Suburbs & Outlying Towns; Sub-theme 6.8: Other Suburbs & Settlements	
Assessed by:	Benjamin Petkov	
Peer reviewed by:	Janine Barrand	



Figure 1. 2019 Aerial image of 525-615 Robbs Road, Moorabool, showing the property boundary in blue. The extent of proposed heritage controls is shown in Figure 2. Source: Nearmap 2019

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

Glen Moidart at 525-615 Robbs Road, Moorabool, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Significant elements include:

- The 1855 weatherboard cottage.
- All drystone walls across the property.
- Sightlines from the cottage to Sutherlands Creek.

Non-significant elements include:

- The new Harkaway Homes residence.
- All outbuildings.
- All plantings.
- All other farm infrastructure.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Glen Moidart is of historical and representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Glen Moidart is of historical significance as a highly intact 1855 weatherboard cottage, constructed by Angus and Mary McDonald following their assisted migration to Geelong from Scotland by the Highland and Island Emigration Society during the Highland Potato Famine of 1846-1856. Angus and Mary were among a large number of McDonalds who emigrated from Moidart in Scotland and established new lives at Sutherlands Creek, named after migrants from Sutherlandshire in Scotland. Glen Moidart is of historical significance as it represents one of the earliest waves of Scottish migration to the City in the mid-19th century, while also being a highly intact and rare example of a mid-Victorian Gold Rush era weatherboard cottage. (Criterion A)

Glen Moidart is of representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of a vernacular 1855 mid-Victorian weatherboard cottage. Key features include its rectilinear form and main gabled roof, oriented running north-south with a façade facing West overlooking Sutherlands Creek. The house retains two original chimneys constructed of early soft bricks, the primary also accommodating space for an oven. External to the cottage, Glen Moidart is contextualised by a vast complex of highly intact and technically advanced drystone walls which cross the entirety of the property, demarcating early paddocks and yarding. The combination of these early drystone walls and the weatherboard cottage make for a highly intact representation of early Scottish pastoral practice in the municipality. (Criterion D)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FOR THIS PLACE?

The place is located on traditional land of the Wadawurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for this land is Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC).



Figure 2. 2019 Aerial image of 525-615 Robbs Road, Sutherlands Creek, showing the significant elements. The drystone walls marked in red, the 1855 cottage marked in yellow. Source: Nearmap 2019

SCHEDULED CONTROLS

The following scheduled controls are recommended for the ongoing conservation and use of the place. They include:

Recommended Scheduled Controls

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Solar
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Outbuildings/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	VHR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prohib use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal Place

DRAFT

HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Glen Moidart (Cottage) (c.1855)

Glen Moidart at 525-615 Robbs Road, Moorabool, is a highly intact c.1855 weatherboard cottage. The cottage has a footprint of approximately 73m² and is oriented facing west overlooking the escarpment and eastern flats of Sutherlands Creek. The cottage is rectilinear with a gabled roof, oriented running north-south. The façade comprises two sash windows and a central door. The façade has been altered from its original design through conservation works. The original windows are in the same location, however have been replaced with simple sash windows as opposed to the original multi-paned windows which had 12 individual panes of glass set in separate mullions.

The cottage has two brick chimneys on the northern elevation of the building. The chimney breast for the main chimney is taller than the rear, indicating it may have accommodated both an open fire and an oven. The rear chimney is shorter and has a chimney hat. As part of conservation works, the original skillion verandah was removed.

Setting

The broader setting of Glen Moidart reflects both the agricultural and migration narrative of the McDonald family. Located on the upper ridgeline of Sutherlands Creek, overlooking the flats on the eastern bank of the creek, the property is intricately subdivided into separate paddocks by means of highly intact and technically proficient drystone walls constructed as full single layer walls. These walls are still present across the entirety of the property, in varying states of condition, with some stretches highly intact and running in contiguous lengths. There are sections that have been broken through for vehicle access and areas which have been broken to convert smaller paddocks into larger ones for cultivation.

The construction of the walls including their technical significance is evidenced by their construction on inclines running along Robbs Road down to the west towards Sutherlands Creek. This is also evidenced deeper in the property where walls descend from the houseblock on the ridgeline down south towards the creek. Walls have been constructed across the property not only to segregate paddocks but also for livestock yarding, with some examples of pens. Given the technical significance of these walls, it is believed that they date to the initial land clearing following the purchase of the property by Angus and Mary McDonald in 1855.

PLACE HISTORY

Contextual History

As addressed by Rowe in the 2021 thematic environmental history for the City of Greater Geelong, 'About Corayo':

'In 1842-43, Joseph and Robert Sutherland were the first European squatters to occupy land adjacent to the creek north of Batesford which fed off the Moorabool River. It was from these brothers where the Sutherlands Creek named derived. The Sutherlands Creek Pre-emptive Right was taken up by Dr Robert Culbertson Hope with his brothers, Robert and James. The Hope brothers, and particularly Dr Hope, were some of the first viticulturists in the Western District (see Theme 4). Hope's bluestone homestead (built in 1856), along with a wine-making house, are extant and known today as 'Darriwill'.' (Rowe, 2021, 773).

Thematic Place History

In October 1854, the Parish of Yowang was extensively subdivided and sold at Government auctions for farming properties – or 'Country Lots'. Portions 39 and 40 were auctioned amounting to a total of 218 acres (Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer, 2 October 1854, 7). Both portions were purchased by the land speculator Thomas Fulton before being subject to further subdivisions the following year in 1855. Within portions 39 and 40, Angus and Mary McDonald purchased approximately 36 acres which straddled portions 39 and 40.

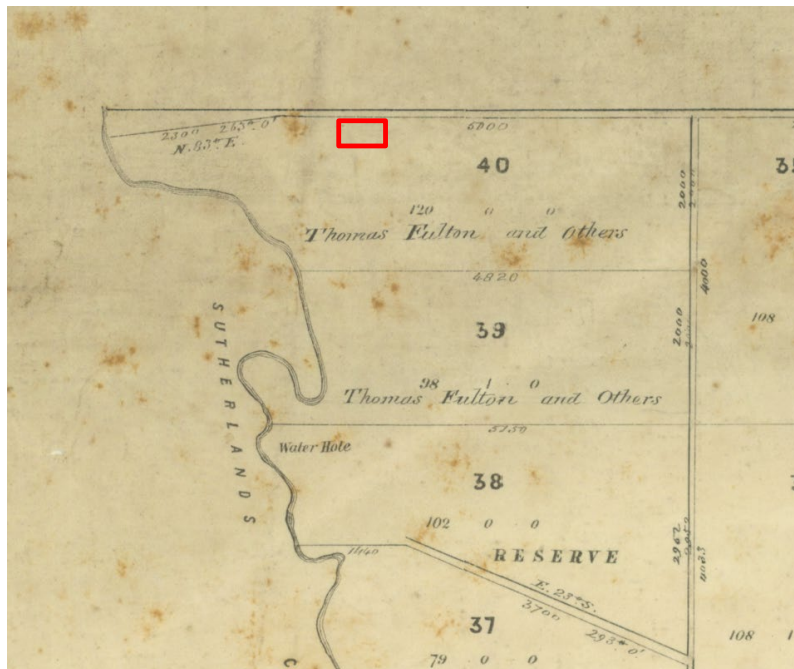


Figure 3. 1854 survey plan of the Parish of Yowang, showing portions 39 and 40. The approximate location of the houseblock marked in red Source: Nearmap 2019

The McDonalds arrived in Geelong in 1852 aboard the ship the *Allison* from Liverpool (The Argus, 29 December 1852, 8). On the *Allison*, those migrating included Angus and Mary McDonald, as well as Alexander McDonald, Donald McDonald, another two men named Alexander McDonald, John McDonald and Norman McDonald. The McDonalds were among many Scottish refugees assisted by the Highland and Island Emigration Society fleeing the Highland Potato Famine of 1846-1856. Those emigrating from Scotland in this period had previously occupied tenancies on broader estates, and the British owners of those estates were known to eagerly pay the Society to remove tenants from their steadings seeking to divest themselves of small tenants who were no longer profitable. The *Allison* was among the first ships to leave Liverpool as part of the assisted migration scheme, preceded and followed by the *Mangerton*, *Georgiana*, *Ticonderago*, *Blanche*, *Mangerton*, *Borneuf* and *Araminta*. The majority of those emigrating to Geelong were from the Scottish Highlands and Sutherlandshire, with a large majority arriving from the Moidart region, near Kinlochmoidart and Ardmolich. Sutherlandshire informed the future naming of Sutherlands Creek.

Angus passed away in 1872, and his will and probate describes his assets as comprising:

'All that piece of land being parts of Crown portions thirty-nine and forty containing thirty six acres one rood and twenty perches sold to Flora McDonald - £200. 0. 0.' (Public Records Office Victoria, 28/P0000, 44/044).

The property described in Angus' will is understood to be the property at 525-615 Robbs Road, Sutherlands Creek, named Glen Moidart after the ancestral home of the McDonalds.

Flora was married to Donald McDonald, who emigrated from Scotland in 1852 as part of the first wave of migrants leaving Moidart, arriving on either the *Allison*, *Georgiana*, *Borneuf* or *Araminta*. Donald passed in 1908, and when he died his obituary stated that he was 76 years old and a former resident of Sutherlands Creek for over 40 years (Geelong Advertiser, 31 December 1908, 1). Eight years later, the neighbouring property being a secondary subdivision of portions 39 and 40 was advertised for sale, and described as 'adjoining the property of Mrs. Flora McDonald' (Geelong Advertiser, 12 December 1916, 6). The property went to her nephew Donald after her passing.

Today, the property is still in use for agricultural purposes however the original weatherboard house is in a partially ruinous state. Works have been conducted to the original weatherboard residence with the replacement of the building's western elevation weatherboards, and the removal of the original verandah. A fusebox has also been installed, indicating that the wiring installed in the early 20th century has been replaced. Many of the original dry-

stone walls are still in situ and in use across the whole of the property. In the late 1990s to early 2000s a Harkaway home was constructed south of Glen Moidart.



Figure 4. 1947 aerial view of Glen Moidart. The approximate location of the houseblock marked in red Source: Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

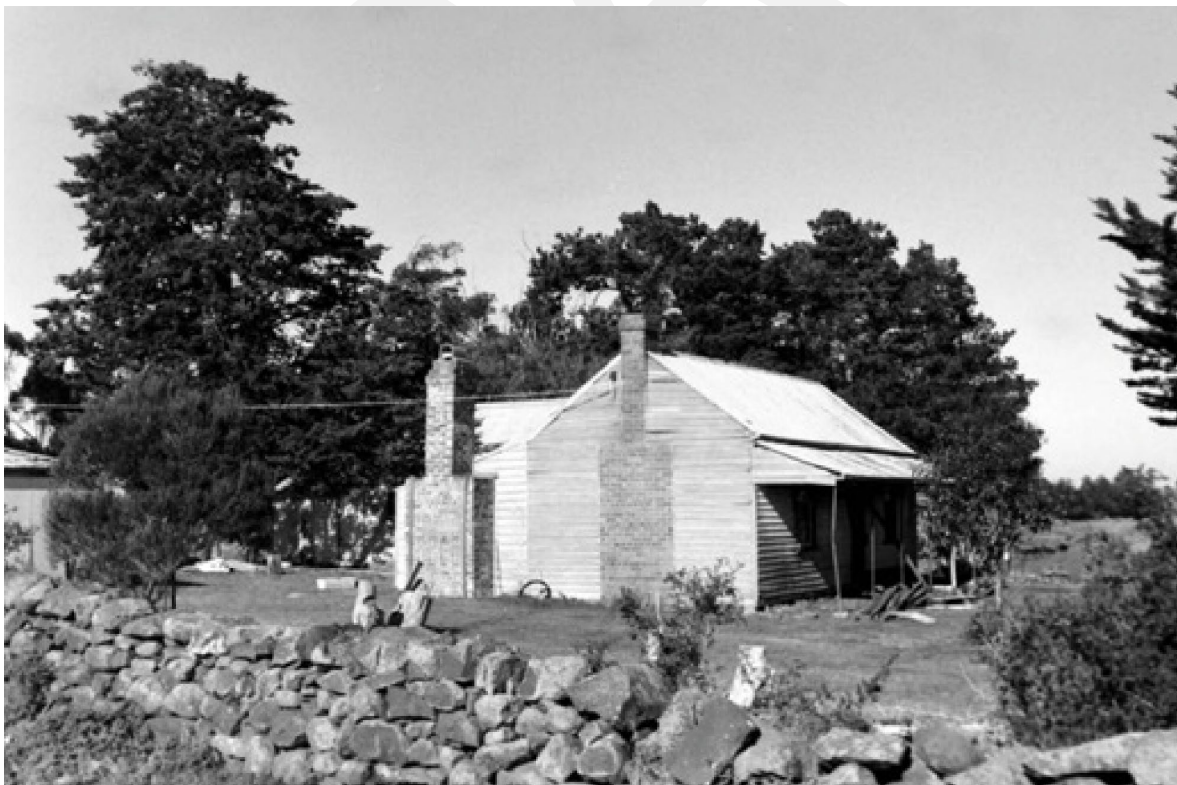


Figure 5. Oblique view of Glen Moidart in 1998, photographed by David Rowe. Source: Rowe, 2021, 773



Figure 6. Oblique view of Glen Moidart in 2016, photographed as part of the property's advertising listing. Source: Realestate.com



Figure 7. Oblique aerial view of Glen Moidart in 2016, photographed as part of the property's advertising listing. Note the intact dry-stone walls across the northern portion of the property. Source: Realestate.com

INTEGRITY

Since its sale in 2016, Glen Moidart has had some renovation works done to the cottage likely to make sound the structure which was in a ruinous state. These works comprise the replacement of the entrance door, the two façade windows and new weatherboards on the primary façade. However, these works are considered consistent with basic maintenance of the cottage and as such pose a minimal impact to the cottage’s integrity. Furthermore the whole of the property still retains many of its original drystone walls which include stretches of high integrity.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Glen Moidart at 525-615 Robbs Road, Moorabool, is a single storey weatherboard cottage set on a large agricultural property populated with a vast complex of full height Galloway drystone walls – a typology that is not well represented in the City of Greater Geelong. Though this would have historically been a common feature across the municipality, especially in regional farming communities, largely these properties have not survived. This makes Glen Moidart and especially rare example of an 1855 farming property. Further, the majority of farming properties present across the municipality dating from this period that are of a smaller vernacular design, if still present, are constructed of stone. On this basis, the following comparative analysis has drawn on examples contemporaneous to Glen Moidart, both in ruinous states as well as in good condition. Comparable examples include:




Comparative Analysis	Image
<p>German Cottage, 222-224 Torquay Road, Grovedale (HO98 and VHR No. H0714). German Cottage in Grovedale is of significance to the City of Greater Geelong, and State of Victoria more broadly, as an especially early example of a timber weatherboard cottage in the municipality. Constructed in 1857, three years after Glen Moidart, the residence abides by the same design principles of a rectilinear cottage with a gabled roof and a façade based on Victorian symmetrical design with two windows and a central entrance. Key differences include the pitch and height of the roof at German Cottage, and its internal attic space. Another shared element for both places’ are their direct relationship with European migration, where German Cottage is directly connected to early German and Lutheran migration in the Geelong in the mid nineteenth century, and Glen Moidart is directly connected to the early Scottish migration of the 1850s. Both properties historically would have had pastoral contexts, however German Cottage has lost its agricultural environment through broader subdivisions and surrounding development. Glen Moidart and German Cottage are directly comparable, however German Cottage is of greater integrity and condition.</p>	
<p>"Glenomra", 27 O'Connell Street, Geelong West (Significant in HO1962 Waterloo Heritage Area). Glenomra at 27 O'Connell Street, Geelong West, comprises a single-storey two room weatherboard cottage constructed in 1856 a year after Glen Moidart. Glenomra is likely named after the Irish territory 'Gleann Omra', located partly in County Clare and County Tipperary. There is the potential that the original owners of the property were migrants to Geelong from Ireland, fleeing the Great Famine which lasted from 1845 to 1852, coinciding with the Highland Potato Famine in Scotland which lasted from 1846 to 1856. In this period, vast numbers of people fled both Scotland and Ireland with many arriving in Australia via Geelong. Glenomra is contemporaneous to Glen Moidart, shares a similar theme and is the same design. Key differences include the condition of both</p>	

Figure 8. German Cottage, 222-224 Torquay Road, Grovedale. Source: Victorian Heritage Database

Figure 9. "Glenomra", 27 O'Connell Street, Geelong West. Source: Victorian Heritage Database

Comparative Analysis	Image
<p>buildings, with Glen Moidart being partially ruinous and Glenomra being a fully renovated residence. Another difference is the integrity of Glenomra, which is missing its original chimneys. Of the two, Glen Moidart is considered to be of greater significance on account of its pastoral context and the presence of drystone walls, as well as the general integrity of the cottage.</p>	
<p>Cottage, 85 Curletts Road, Lara (HO1995). The Cottage at 85 Curletts Road, Lara, is a rare example of a surviving vernacular farm cottage in Lara. Key similarities between the Curletts Road Cottage and Glen Moidart are their pastoral histories and development, as well as their vernacular Victorian design. Both buildings are simple rectangular buildings with a gabled roof clad in corrugated iron sheeting, with unornamented brick chimneys. Key differences relate to the date of construction, with Glen Moidart constructed in 1855 and the Curletts Road cottage constructed in 1874; and the materiality of both buildings, with Curletts Road constructed of limestone and Glen Moidart constructed on timber weatherboards. Of the two, Glen Moidart is considered to be of greater historical importance on account of its earlier construction date as well as for its connection with assisted Scottish emigration in the 1850s.</p>	 <p>Figure 10. Cottage, 85 Curletts Road, Lara. Source: Victorian Heritage Database</p>

As illustrated above, Glen Moidart is part of a very rare typology in the City of Greater Geelong, being Gold Rush era timber weatherboard cottages. There are very few examples remaining in the municipality, and even fewer in their original pastoral contexts. Further, Glen Moidart's drystone walls are amongst the most significant walls in the municipality, with very few other examples of comparable technical significance. On this basis, Glen Moidart (being the cottage and drystone walls) is considered be of heritage significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

REFERENCES

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- Advertising (1916, December 12). *Geelong Advertiser* (Vic. : 1859 - 1929), p. 6.
- Family Notices (1908, December 31). *Geelong Advertiser* (Vic. : 1859 - 1929), p. 1.
- Public Records Office Victoria, 28/P0000, 44/044 Angus McDonald: Grant of administration.
- Rowe, David & Greater Geelong (Vic.). Council, (issuing body.) (2021). *About Corayo : A Thematic History of Greater Geelong*. City of Greater Geelong, [Geelong, Victoria]

LOCATION DETAILS & HERITAGE OVERLAY

Heritage Place:	Geelong Boundary Marker	UPI:
Address:	104 metres southeast of the intersection of Ballarat Road and Thompsons Road, North Geelong VIC 3215	
Traditional Owners:	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	
Significant date range:	1860	
Architectural style:	Victorian	
Typology:	Boundary marker	
Historical Themes	Theme 7: Governing in Greater Geelong; Sub-theme 7.3: Evolution of European Local Government in Greater Geelong.	
Assessed by:	Benjamin Petkov	
Peer reviewed by:	Janine Barrand	



Figure 1. 2025 Aerial image of the Boundary Marker, on the northern road verge of Ballarat Road. Source: Nearmap 2025

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The Boundary Marker at Ballarat Road, North Geelong, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Significant elements include:

- The 1860 timber post.

Elements that are not significant:

- The bluestone bus stop.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Boundary Marker is of historical, rarity and social significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Boundary Post on Ballarat Road, North Geelong, is of historical significance to the City of Greater Geelong as the last tangible historical boundary marker of the original Geelong council boundary. The marker was first installed on this site in 1860 after the passing of the Geelong Boundaries Act in 1858. It marked the northwestern boundary of Geelong, at the original intersection of Thompsons Road and Ballarat Road. It is of historical importance to the City as a representation of the initial colonial development and expansion of the City in the mid-nineteenth century. (Criterion A)

The Boundary Marker is rare as the only known example remaining of the original Geelong boundary markers first installed in 1860 after the passing of the Geelong Boundaries Act in 1858. (Criterion B)

The Boundary Marker is of social significance to the City of Greater Geelong for its connection to the Council tradition of 'Beating the Bounds'. Council were legally required every 3 years following the election of the new Mayor, Councilmen and Aldermen, to inspect the council boundary markers. In Geelong, this became 'Bumping the Bounds', where Councillors took it in turns to knock each other's heads into the boundary markers. This was a tradition only exercised in Geelong. (Criterion G)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FOR THIS PLACE?

The place is located on traditional land of the Wadawurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for this land is Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC).

SCHEDULED CONTROLS

The following scheduled controls are recommended for the ongoing conservation and use of the place. They include:

Recommended Scheduled Controls

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Solar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbuildings/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	VHR	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prohib use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal Place

HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Boundary Post (c.1860)

The boundary post located 104 metres southeast of the intersection of Ballarat Road and Thompsons Road in North Geelong comprises a single log roughly hewn into a four-sided post with a domed top. The post is approximately 1 ½ metres tall, painted white, and initialled in black lettering with C – CB. The C – CB denote the boundary of the Geelong and Corio Road Board. The post is at the original intersection of Ballarat Road and Thompsons Road. It is currently located directly behind a bus stop and is largely concealed from the passing public.



Figure 2. Oblique view of the boundary marker, looking west. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.



Figure 3. Direct view of the boundary marker, looking south. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.

PLACE HISTORY

Contextual History

As addressed by Rowe in the 2021 thematic environmental history for the City of Greater Geelong, 'About Corayo':

'On 23 April 1849, a public meeting was held in the long room of Elmes' Royal Hotel, Malop Street, 'for the purpose of "adopting such measures as might be considered most desirable for the future local government of the town."' The meeting was chaired by Captain Foster Fyans. A second public meeting was held, with Dr John Dickson presiding and afterwards the system of Government that was recommended was for a Corporation 'composed of a Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors, to be elected by and from the resident ratepayers.' Those involved in these early beginnings of self-government for Geelong had ruled out a system with a directly-elected Mayor.' (Rowe, 2021, 860)

Thematic Place History

Following the initial establishment of the Corporation of Geelong in 1849, Geelong's boundaries were defined as:

'Bounded by a line drawn from a point on the Eastern shores of Corio Bay near Point Henry, at a distance of two miles from the North-East corner of the township of Geelong, as a centre bearing Southerly to a point bearing East from the said corner; thence by a line South crossing a small portion of Corio Bay, parallel with and at a distance of two miles from the Eastern boundary of the said township to a point bearing East from the South-East corner of the said township of Geelong; thence by a line drawn Westerly at a distance of two miles from the Southern boundary of the said township, crossing the Barwon river and Waurin Chain of Ponds to a point two miles West of the South-West corner of the said township; thence by a line bearing North parallel with and at a distance of two miles from the Western boundary of the said township of Geelong to a point bearing West, from the North-West corner of the said township; thence by a line drawn at a distance of two miles from the North-West corner of the said township as a centre to the Western shore of Corio Bay, near Cowie's Creek.' (New South WALES Government Gazette, 6 July 1849 [Issue No. 98], 1008)

Nine years later on the 4 June 1858, the *Geelong Boundaries Act* was passed. The result of Boundaries Act being passed was the combined ratification of the existing four wards of the City, those being Villamanta, Kardinia, Barwon and Bellarine, it also made permanent the local government boundaries of Geelong. Schedule A of the *Geelong Boundaries Act* describes:

'SCHEDULE A. Commencing at a point on Corio Bay bearing north fifty links from the northeast angle of allotment fifty-nine parish of Moorpanyal **thence by the centre of a Government road [Victoria Street] bearing west to the centre of another Government road [Thompson Road] forming the western boundary to allotments seventy-nine and eighty-one thence by the centre of the said Government road bearing south to its intersection with the north-east side of Batesford road [Ballarat Road] bearing southeasterly to the south-east angle of allotment eighty-one thence by a line bearing south fifty links thence by the centre of a Government road known as Church street bearing west to its intersection with the centre of another Government road [Shannon Avenue] forming the western boundary to section eight thence by the centre of the said road bearing south to its intersection with the centre of Aberdeen street** thence by the centre of Aberdeen street bearing east to the centre of LaTrobe terrace by the centre of LaTrobe Terrace bearing south to the north bank of the River Barwon thence by a line bearing south to the centre of the river thence by a line down the centre of the River Barwon bearing southerly and easterly to a point intersected by the extension of the west side of the Government road forming the western boundary to the parish of Moolap thence bearing north by the west side of the said road to its intersection with Corio Bay thence by Corio Bay bearing westerly and northerly at ordinary low water mark to the point of commencement.' (Geelong Boundaries Act, 1858, 3)

Two years later following the passing of the Geelong Boundaries Act, the Geelong Advertiser published on the 9th February 1860 the orders of the day for the Town Council of Geelong. The second order of the day stated:

'...2 – To consider and order on report from the Public Works' Committee, No. 13, recommending that the following works be performed, viz:-

- 1.- That the Channell Crossing from the west side of Moorabool-st. to Little Malop-st. be repaired and made a level crossing.
- 2.- That Boundary Posts be erected to define the present limits of the Corporation, under the provisions of the Act 21st, Vic. No. 54.' (Geelong Advertiser, 9 February 1860, 3)

As part of this broadscale erection of boundary posts by the Corporation, a post was erected at the original intersection of Thompsons Road and Ballarat Road (then known as Batesford Road). The Corio District Road Board published a tender for public works in 1864, calling for tenders to:

'...repair pitched crossing and culvert, make up the footpath, fill in the gully, and construct one hundred and fifty-six (156) feet of pitched channel, near the town boundary post Batesford Road' (Geelong Advertiser, 17 May 1864, 1).

This post is still in situ, on the northern road verge of Ballarat Road.

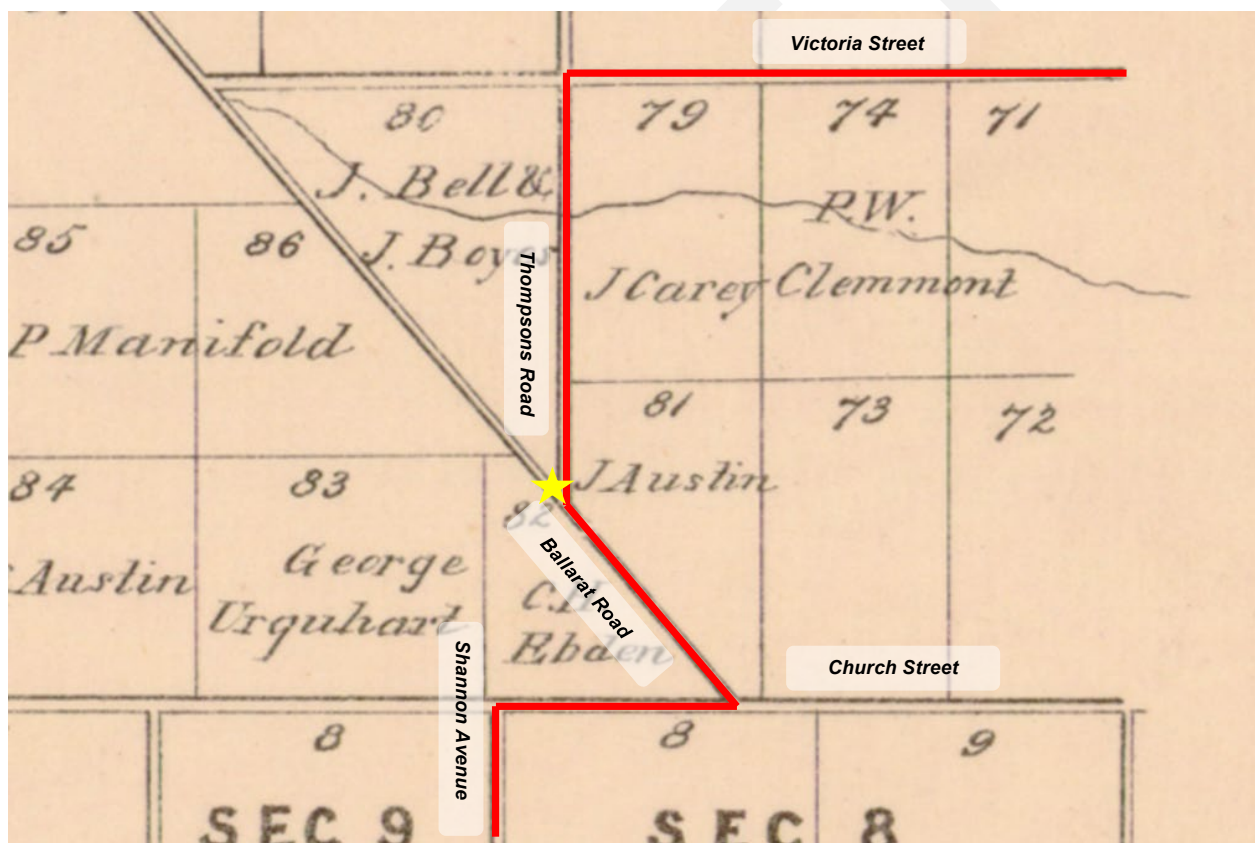


Figure 4. 1866 Moorpanyal Parish Plan, marked up to show the boundary referenced above in Schedule A of the Geelong Boundaries Act. The gold star notes the location of the boundary marker, extant today. Source: State Library of Victoria, Parish of Moorpanyal [cartographic material] / exd. by H. R. (1866). Melbourne: Dept. of Lands and Survey].

Several decades after the erection of the boundary posts, with multiple additional posts erected with the expansion of the City, the Geelong Advertiser published in January 1919:

'GEELONG'S BOUNDARY POSTS. When the ceremony of beating the city's bounds takes place there are about 30 points to be visited. Some of the principal are at the following places: North end of Moorabool-street; Eastern Beach, near Limeburner's Point; intersection, Portarlington and Boundary-roads; intersection, Queenscliff and Boundary road; Barwon River at end of Boundary-road; Breakwater; Barwon Bridge (iron plate; Latrobe-terrace, near Albion Mills; intersection, Latrobe-terrace, Ryrie Street, and

Aberdeen-streets (iron plate); Griffin's Gully; Church-street and Batesford-road (several posts); Ballarat and Batesford-roads (several posts); North Shore (several posts); Victoria-street, bay end; intersection, Melbourne-road and Victoria-street; Fishermen's Gully.' (Geelong Advertiser, 16 January 1919, 2).

'Beating the Bounds' was also described 'Bumping the Bounds' with:

'GEELONG'S ANCIENT FUNCTION TO BE REVIVED THIS YEAR. It may not be generally known that this city's boundaries are clearly defined by posts, except in Latrobe-terrace, where an iron plate takes the place of the post. By law it is required that once in every three and a half years the Mayor and Town Clerk shall inspect these boundary marks, and see that they are in order. The last inspection took place on March 9th, 1916, during Ald. Holden's mayoralty, so that another round must be made this year before September 9th. In the old days the ceremony of "beating the bounds" was made an important function. It was customary for the youngest councillor to be unceremoniously bumped against each post. Ex-Ald. W. P. Carr says he has vivid recollections of many such scenes... There were no hosiers with willows to do the beating, but a substitute was improvised such as would probably fix the exact position of the post in the minds of the councillors and other visitors in a most painfully vivid manner. This consisted in an operation known as "bumping," and we can safely predict that it caused as much, if not more, fun than the old-fashioned "beating." The process at each post was to catch an alderman or a councillor, as the case might be. Three or four of the most stalwart persons present would then lift him bodily from the ground and make a sort of battering ram of his body, which was three or four times brought in violent contact with the post. The sensations produced may be better imagined than described. None were allowed to escape, with the exception of one councillor, who fought very shy, and he had to make use of his legs pretty briskly. Another councillor, who objected to his comfortable looking physical development being used as a battering ram, fought very hard, but was conquered after damage had been done to his coat and a slight injury inflicted to his hand... His Worship [the Mayor] then explained the mode of keeping up the custom adopted there, and expressed himself as desirous of making the occasion a more general holiday for the school children. The party then proceeded to the last post they had to visit, and there a venerable ex-Alderman was considerably delt with, but a councillor who had only just put in an appearance declined the honour, and in spite of all persuasion refused to leave the vehicle he was in, clutching to it with the tenacity of despair... Eventually it had to be given up as a bad job, and the councillor took the first occasion to slip away from his tormentors...' (Geelong Advertiser, 15 January 1919, 4).

It appears that 'beating' or 'bumping' the bounds stopped in 1933 with the passing of the Melbourne and Geelong Corporations Act, removing the legal obligation to inspect the boundary posts and in turn, the bumping. The boundary post at Ballarat Road is the last of the original 1860 boundary markers.

INTEGRITY

The boundary marker at Ballarat Road is intact and in situ, at the original intersection of Thompsons Road and Ballarat Road. No information has been identified to establish whether it has been replaced, and as such, it is understood as the original 1860 boundary marker.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

There are no boundary markers protected on the City of Greater Geelong Heritage Overlay. As such, the boundary post on Ballarat Road is understood as the one and only example of the typology in the City.

REFERENCES

Advertising (1864, May 17). *Geelong Advertiser* (Vic. : 1859 - 1929), p. 1.

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Geelong Boundaries Act (1858). Online resource, from Australasian Legal Information Institute. https://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/hist_act/aatrtbottogatmfpfdwt1041.pdf

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OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS WITHIN THE SETTLED DISTRICTS. (1849, July 6). *New South Wales Government Gazette* (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900), p. 1008.

Rowe, David & Greater Geelong (Vic.). Council, (issuing body.) (2021). *About Corayo : A Thematic History of Greater Geelong*. City of Greater Geelong, [Geelong, Victoria]

TOWN COUNCIL OF GEELONG. (1860, February 9). *Geelong Advertiser* (Vic. : 1859 - 1929), p. 3.

IMAGES



Oblique view of the boundary marker, looking west. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.



Direct view of the boundary marker, looking south. Source: City of Greater Geelong, 2025.

LOCATION DETAILS & HERITAGE OVERLAY

Heritage Place:	Oakrest	UPI:
Address:	31 The Esplanade, Portarlinton 3223	
Traditional Owners:	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	
Significant date range:	1888	
Architectural style:	Late Victorian	
Typology:	Residential	
Historical Themes:	Theme 6: Building the City, Suburbs & Outlying Towns; Sub-theme 6.7: Suburban Communities	
Assessed by:	Benjamin Petkov	
Peer reviewed by:	Janine Barrand	



Figure 1. Aerial view of Oakrest at 31 The Esplanade, Portarlinton, the extent of the proposed Heritage Overlay marked in red. Property boundary marked in blue. Source: Nearmap, August 2025.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The property at 31 The Esplanade, Portarlinton, otherwise known as Oakrest, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Significant elements comprise:

- The 1888 weatherboard residence.
- The façade, fenestration, verandah and lacework, roof form, chimneys and bay window.
- Sightlines to and from The Esplanade and the foreshore.

Non-significant elements comprise:

- The boundary fence.
- Plantings.
- The rear yard, lean-to extension and decking.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Oakrest is of historical, representative and associative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Oakrest is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong, and more locally the township of Portarlinton, as a highly intact 1888 waterfront Italianate boom-era villa representing the historical resort expansion of Portarlinton in the late nineteenth century. Oakrest was constructed by Montague and Maria Druce Oakes in 1888 and is one of several examples in Portarlinton representing this period of luxury nineteenth century expansion in the township. (Criterion A)

Oakrest is of representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of a Late Victorian Italianate villa constructed in 1888 in the middle of Victoria’s post-Gold Rush boom-era. As such, key features which establish Oakrest’s representativeness include its off-centre façade with projecting bay and bay window, hipped roof, twin brick chimneys with rendered drip moulds, sash windows, centred entrance with fanlight and sidelights, convex verandah with wrought and cast iron lacework, and timber bracketry in the eaves. All of these features combine to create a highly intact example of the typology, establishing Oakrest’s representative significance. (Criterion D)

Oakrest is of associative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact seaside villa designed by the local Geelong-based architect Joseph Watts. (Criterion H)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FOR THIS PLACE?

The place is located on traditional land of the Wadawurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for this land is Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC).

SCHEDULED CONTROLS

The following scheduled controls are recommended for the ongoing conservation and use of the place. They include:

Recommended Scheduled Controls							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Solar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbuildings/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	VHR	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prohib use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal Place

HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Oakrest, at 31 The Esplanade, Portarlinton, is a rectilinear weatherboard villa residence with a footprint covering approximately 215m². The building was constructed in 1888 to designs prepared by the Geelong-based architect, Joseph Watts, responsible for numerous late nineteenth century Victorian villas across the municipality. Oakrest is constructed featuring Italianate design cues typically found on Late Victorian Boom Era residences between 1875 and 1891. These include the projecting bay on the façade and three-sided bay window, covered by its own independent hipped roof. Additional features typical of this typology include the off-centred convex verandah with cast iron lacework and posts, the central entrance with fanlight and sidelights, the sash windows, turned timber brackets under the eaves and the two tall brick chimneys with rendered drip moulds.

The setting of the property is informed by a row of mature pittosporum, or Victorian Box, trees planted on the northern property boundary. Only one of the trees is in the boundary of 31 The Esplanade, the remaining plantings in the windrow located in the neighbouring block at No. 32. An external element informing the broader context and setting of Oakrest is the Portarlinton foreshore, with Oakrest situated less than 100 metres from the waterfront. The rear of the property behind the house, comprising approximately 900m², is vacant save for a small and contemporary outbuilding.

PLACE HISTORY

Contextual History

As addressed in the City of Greater Geelong Thematic History prepared by David Rowe, *About Corayo* describes Portarlinton as:

‘Originally called Drayton, the township of Portarlinton was first laid out following a grid plan on the southern shores of Port Phillip Bay in 1850, the location of William Harding’s former sheep station. Harding’s Beach on the foreshore at the north end of Simson Street marks the location of Harding’s former station. In 1851, the name of the township was changed to Portarlinton, possibly in recognition the Earl of Portarlinton (given that Marcus Hill was also named after British aristocracy at this time). Streets were originally named after the early European squatters: Batman, Newcomb, Drysdale, Fairfax, Fenwick, Harding, Langdon, Simson, Mercer, Fisher and Gellibrand. Situated on the northern-most point of the Bellarine Peninsula, Portarlinton developed as a seaside resort and a port town (as a supplier for the rural farming hinterland). A flour mill was built near the foreshore to the north-west of the town in 1857 to service the surrounding wheat farms. A public jetty was also built in 1859 for the conveyance of other farm produce including potatoes and onions. The early growth of the fledgling township led to further land sales and subdivisions from the late 1850s to the late 1880s. In 1870, T.D. Widdicombe began a brickworks factory, manufacturing red and white bricks, patent bond bricks, floor tiles, drainpipes and garden edging tiles. This further enhanced the local economy. However, it was the picturesque marine setting that gave impetus for Portarlinton to become a marine resort for holiday makers. In 1882-83, it was described as a ‘healthy watering place’ and ‘being situated on a slope facing Port Phillip Bay, within view of the surrounding shores, unfolds scenery of remarkable beauty.’ Much of the early development centred on Newcombe Street, with residences behind on the elevated land to the south. Hotels and other accommodation houses were soon built.’ (Rowe, 2021, 819)

Thematic Place History

On the 24 April 1888, the *Geelong Advertiser* published an article seeking tenders:

‘TO BUILDERS. – TENDERS are invited until 12 noon Wednesday, May 2nd, for erecting a Villa Residence (wood) at Portarlinton, for M.C. Oaks, Esq., of Queenscliff. Specifications and plans may be seen at my office, Ryrie-street. Joseph Watts, Architect. Geelong, April 23rd, 1888.’ (*Geelong Advertiser*, 24 April 1888, 4).

Oakes had previously operated from Maitland in New South Wales in the 1860s but had emigrated to Victoria to reside at his 664 acre property named Wooyenong, located 13 miles from Port Fairy (*The Australasian*, 6 November 1886, 45). Two years later, he commissioned the Geelong-based architect Joseph Watts to design a residence for he and his wife in Portarlinton. This development coincides with broader historical trends of people establishing recreational residences in Portarlinton in

the 1870s and 1880s, as noted by Rowe in the excerpt above. Joseph Watts was a prolific and very active architect operating in the region, producing both commercial and residential designs.

Joseph Watts was responsible for a great number of designs and developments across the municipality in the late nineteenth century, varying in scale and ornament. Some of his key works include the gatehouse for Eastern Cemetery in East Geelong, Austin Hall and the neighbouring terrace residences on Yarra Street Geelong, and the manager's house and worker's cottages at the Barwon Paper Mill complex at Fyansford.

However, only seven years later after Oaks commissioned Watts, *The Argus* published:

'Fatal Riding Accident. – PORTARLINGTON, Tuesday. A fatal accident occurred here yesterday to Mr. Montague Oakes. When returning from the post-office to his home the pony he was riding bolted with him and collided with a cow in the street. Mr. Oakes was thrown, and sustained concussion of the brain. He never regained consciousness and died this afternoon.' (*The Argus*, 14 November 1895, 1).

Following the passing of Montague Oakes, his wife Maria Druce Oakes moved to 72 Mathoura Road, Toorak (since demolished) and advertised Oakrest for rent as:

'PORTARLINGTON – Furnished Cottage, garden, fruit, best situation, beach. Apply Oakrest, Portarlington, or 72 Mathoura-rd., Toorak.' (*The Argus*, 21 December 1896, 8).

It was again advertised for rent in 1903 before being advertised for sale in 1915 (*The Argus*, 26 November 1903, 10):

'FRIDAY, MARCH 12, AT THE GRAND HOTEL, PORTARLINGTON. At Four O'Clock. "OAKREST," on the ESPLANADE. - A substantially-built W.B. VILLA, of 9 rooms, with stabling, large barn, a summer house, in splendid condition, situated on an acre of land and surrounded by garden. Containing choicest of fruit trees, shrubs, and flowers. Facing the Esplanade, quite close to baths, and a few minute's walk from pier. Also 3 acres of land adjoining, which will be offered with "Oakrest" as one lot or separately, to suit buyers. To those in search of a seaside residence, week-enders, Run-down city business men, or those who wish to send their families to the seaside in a climate and locality always bracing and invigorating, this nicely-appointed home, where "the Only Disturbance is the singing of the birds, and the only disorder the litter of rose leaves," may be commended... E. J. DIXON AND SONS, 179 Greville street, Prahran, are instructed by Mrs. Oakes, to sell by auction, as above.' (*The Argus*, 6 March, 1915).

In addition to above, only two years before this auction, it is noted in the will and testament of Maria Oakes that after she had left 72 Mathoura Road in Toorak, she moved to the cul-de-sac, Vivian Grove, in Hawthorn where she resided in a house she named Oakrest, in keeping with her former residence in Portarlington. Oakrest was purchased by a Melbourne-based merchant named Thomas Heron Steel who leased the property, comprising six and a half acres, to Clarence and George Hardwick (*The Age*, 21 December 1920, 7). Ten years later, in the midst of the Great Depression, Steel filed for bankruptcy and Oakrest was assigned to the creditors (Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, 5 June 1930, 1156). During this period, Oakrest is seen in a broader overview of Portarlington perched on the escarpment overlooking the foreshore (Figure 2). The property is still in situ at 31 The Esplanade and is in use as a private residence.

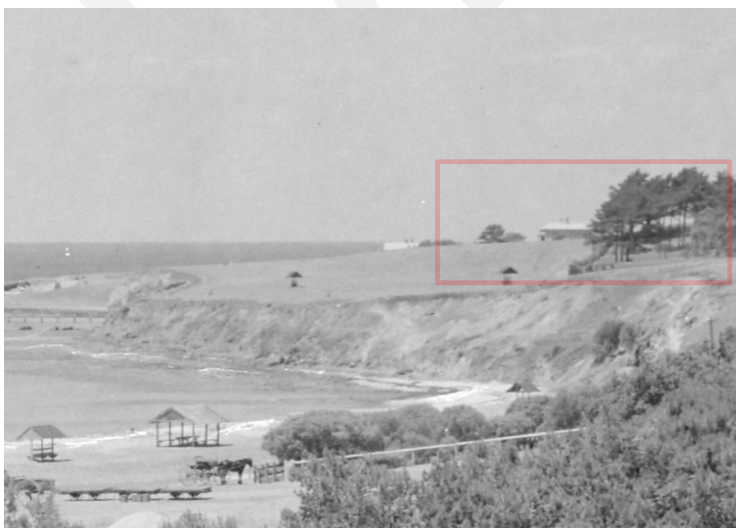


Figure 2. Overview of Portarlington foreshore, showing Oakrest in the distance. Source: State Library Victoria, View At Portarlington, Victoria. (1920).

INTEGRITY

Oakrest at 31 The Esplanade, Portarlington, is of high integrity.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Oakrest, as a late nineteenth century boom-era weatherboard villa designed by Joseph Watts is an example of a typology well represented across the municipality and along the Bellarine Peninsula. As such, comparable examples include:

Comparative Analysis	Image
<p>Fmr. Mansell Lodge, 6 Drysdale Street Portarlington (HO1557). The residence formally known as Mansell Lodge at 6 Drysdale Street, Portarlington, was constructed in 1889, a year after Oakrest. It is comparable to Oakrest as another example of a Late Victorian double-fronted weatherboard villa, with a hipped roof clad in corrugated iron sheeting. Both structures are built with a verandah, supported with cast iron pillars and decorated with wrought iron lacework. Both buildings have sash windows, intact chimneys, fanlights and sidelights around their entrances and decorative timber brackets in their eaves. Both buildings are highly comparable, and architect designed where Mansell Lodge was designed by the Geelong-based architect Albert Derrick. However, due to Oakrest’s position directly opposite the waterfront and its front-facing polygonal bay window, as well as being a year older, it is considered to be of greater significance.</p>	 <p>Figure 3. Fmr. Mansell Lodge, 6 Drysdale Street Portarlington. Source: Google Streetview, March 2023</p>
<p>Residence "Claremont", 17 Drysdale Street, Portarlington (HO1558). Claremont, at 17 Drysdale Street Portarlington, was constructed in 1875-1876 and comprises a substantial and elaborate combination of structures contributing to an intact and eclectic residential complex. The original façade of the building is oriented to face north, towards the waterfront. However, historical subdivisions and post-war development have obstructed the original sightlines to the residence from The Esplanade. Both buildings share similar design features, including weatherboard construction, verandahs supported by cast iron posts and lacework. Both facades also show an emphasis on a projecting bay and bay window. Claremont however is considered to be of greater significance than Oakrest, due to its complex nature, scale and earlier date of construction. However, both properties are still considered comparable as examples of Late Victorian residential development in the suburb in the late nineteenth century as part of Portarlington’s ‘resort town’ expansion.</p>	 <p>Figure 4. Residence "Claremont", 17 Drysdale Street, Portarlington. Source: Victorian Heritage Database</p>
<p>Carrick, 30 The Esplanade, Portarlington (HO1603). Carrick was constructed in c.1854, 34 years before Oakrest. However, it neighbours Oakrest to the west. Both buildings are comparable for their shared location on The Esplanade, fronting the waterfront and constructed in weatherboards in the Victorian style. Architecturally, Carrick is significantly more restrained than Oakrest, consisting of a simple rectangular weatherboard residence with a substantial gabled roof running east-west, covering the entrance with a deep verandah which is supported by chamfered timber posts. The façade of Carrick has two bay windows flanking the central entrance, and little other ornament beyond fenestration. The gable ends are decorated with Gothic Revival inspired bargeboards. The setting is significantly larger than that at Oakrest, with Carrick serviced by a large carriage drive and a highly intact garden informed most importantly by a substantial and mature Moreton Bay Figtree. Due to the age of Carrick, its restrained ornamentation and intact setting, it is considered to be of greater significance than Oakrest. However, as two nineteenth century residences fronting The Esplanade and foreshore, both buildings are considered</p>	 <p>Figure 5. Carrick, 30 The Esplanade, Portarlington. Source: Google Streetview, October 2023</p>

Comparative Analysis	Image
to be highly significant Victorian residences illustrating the early development and expansion of Portarlington.	

As noted in the history, Oakrest was designed by the local Geelong-based architect Joseph Watts. Examples of Watts' work in the municipality is largely contained to residential designs of varying materiality. Examples of his work that are afforded heritage properties are predominately protected at the State level, and include:

- Eastern Cemetery Gatehouse, 141 Ormond Road East Geelong (HO193 and VHR No. H1170);
- Austin Hall and Terrace Complex, 217A Yarra Street Geelong (HO101 and VHR No. H0841); and
- Barwon Paper Mill Complex, 42-52 and 100 Lower Paper Mills Road Fyansford (HO208 and VHR No. H0743).

The properties are all protected on the Victorian Heritage Register for their significant contribution to the historical development of the State. They include residential designs of varying ostentation, with the workers cottages at the Barwon Paper Mill being the most rudimentary and the Gatehouse at the Eastern Cemetery being a highly ornamented Gothic Revival structure. Suburban structures associated with Watts include 240 and 242 Malop Street, Geelong, comprising two early Edwardian sandstone villas constructed in 1890-1891 out of recycled sandstone from the old Geelong post office. Of all the structures attributed to Watts, Oakrest is the only identified example of a timber building, and the only identified example of Watts' work on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Based on the above comparative analysis, it is understood that Oakrest is not the largest or most elaborate example of a boom-era Late Victorian villa in the township of Portarlington, or the most elaborate example of Joseph Watts' work. However, it is still highly intact and compares favourably with already protected examples in the town, illustrating the late nineteenth century resort-expansion of the township. As such, Oakrest is considered to be of significance to the township of Portarlington and more broadly the City of Greater Geelong and should be included on the Heritage Overlay.

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- Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 7591/P0002, 218/297 Maria D Oakes: Will; Grant of probate.

IMAGES



Oblique view of Oakrest. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2026.



Direct view of Oakrest from the boundary fence. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2026.



Direct view of Oakrest. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2026.



Oblique view of Oakrest showing the rear yard. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2026.



View of the waterfront from Oakrest. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2026.



Direct view of the Oakrest in the context of The Esplanade. Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2026.

LOCATION DETAILS & HERITAGE OVERLAY

Heritage Place:	Craigton	UPI:
Address:	283-373 Ballan Road, Moorabool VIC 3221	
Traditional Owners:	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	
Significant date range:	1859	
Architectural style:	Victorian	
Typology:	Residential	
Historical Themes	Theme 3: Transport and Communications; Sub-theme 3.4: Railway Network in Greater Geelong - Theme 4: Transforming and Managing Land and Natural Resource; Sub-theme 4.2: Farming & Agriculture	
Assessed by:	Benjamin Petkov	
Peer reviewed by:	Janine Barrand	



Figure 1. 2019 Aerial image of 283-373 Ballan Road, Moorabool, showing the current extent of HO310 in the red outline, with two smaller HO boundaries marking HO312 and HO36 – respectively the former Moorabool Train Station and the Moorabool Viaduct. In blue is in the new consolidated boundary proposed, covering the houseblock comprising the residence and lockup. Source: Nearmap 2019

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

Craigton at 283-373 Ballan Road, Moorabool, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Significant elements include:

- The 1859 bluestone house.
- The 1859 bluestone lockup.
- Sightlines from the residence to the Moorabool Viaduct.

Non-significant elements include:

- The new rear extensions.
- The tennis court.
- All plantings.
- All other outbuildings and farm infrastructure, including windrows.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Craigton is of historical and representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Craigton is of historical significance as a highly intact 1859 bluestone residence, constructed as the primary residence for the Victorian Railways superintendent, Edmund Duxbury, overseeing the construction of the Moorabool Viaduct directly south of the house. Craigton is important as it represents the historical temporary township of approximately 1,500 to 2,000 people who lived at the Viaduct's construction site in temporary accommodation. The township comprised of a schoolhouse, temperance hall, library and other buildings. Included in that collection of buildings and public structures is the original bluestone watchhouse or lockup, located in the rear yard of Craigton. Both the residence and lockup are historically important for their direct connection to the construction of the Viaduct as well as being historical remnants of the former temporary township. (Criterion A)

Craigton is of representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact Italianate Victorian residence constructed in bluestone. The house is a long, rectilinear structure with a hipped roof partially clad in slate shingles, with four original rendered chimneys and two bays on its façade with ashlar render. Raised render quoining around the windows and corners of the residence apply a degree of ornament, which is further highlighted by the wrought iron and lacework verandah on the building's façade and rear elevation. Furthermore, the property is of representative significance, as it includes a remnant outbuilding being the original lockup for the Moorabool Viaduct temporary township, which was later repurposed as a dairy when the site transitioned from use by Victoria Railways and became a farmhouse. (Criterion D)

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FOR THIS PLACE?

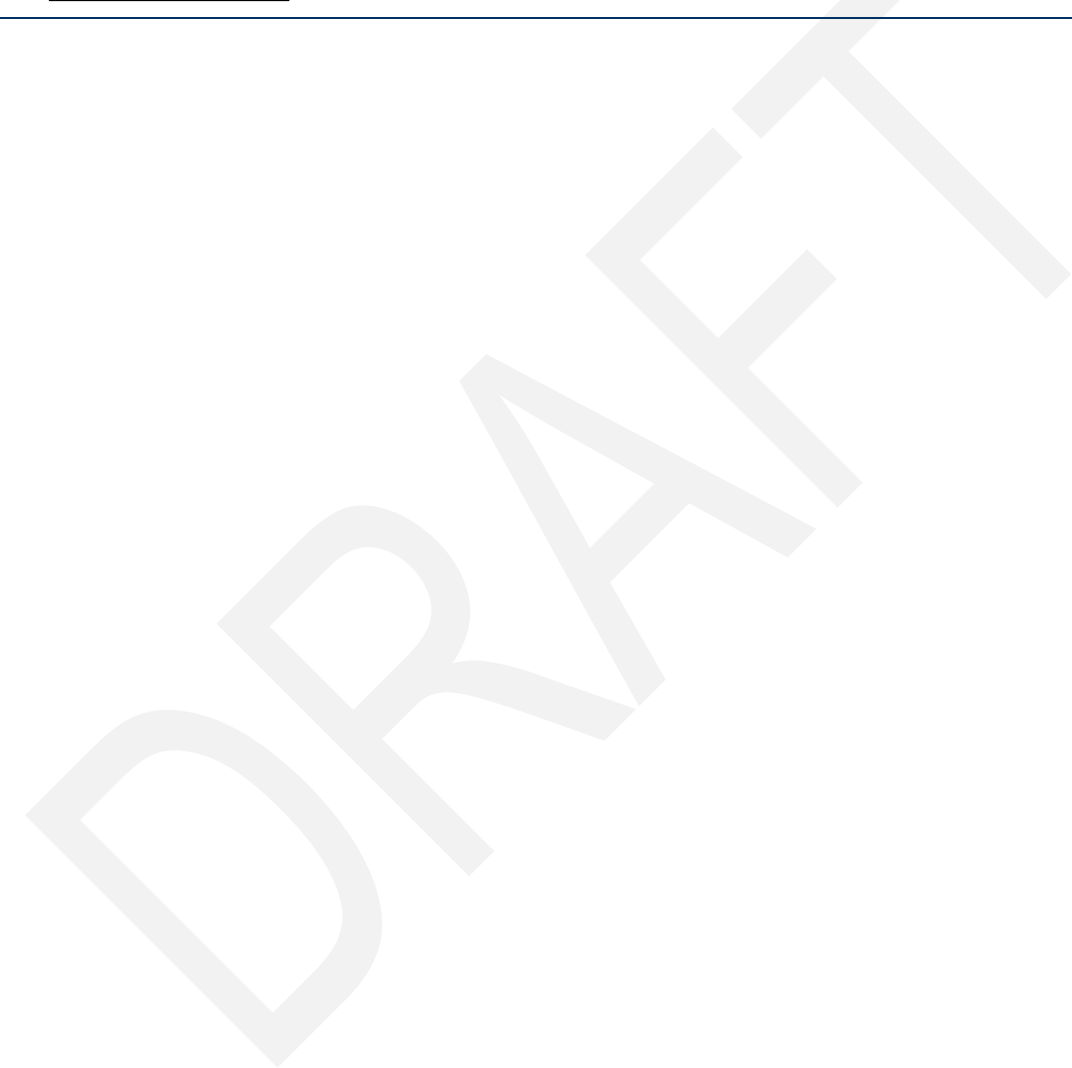
The place is located on traditional land of the Wadawurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 for this land is Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC).

SCHEDULED CONTROLS

The following scheduled controls are recommended for the ongoing conservation and use of the place. They include:

Recommended Scheduled Controls

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Solar
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Outbuildings/Fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	VHR	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prohib use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal Place



HERITAGE PLACE ASSESSMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Craigton (c.1859)

Craigton is a single-storey bluestone residence, constructed in 1859 as the superintendent's residence overseeing the construction of the Moorabool Aqueduct approximately 730m south of the house. The main form of the house comprises a rectangular structure constructed in bluestone and equipped with a hipped roof. The hipped roof has slate shingles on the southern and eastern inclines, with corrugated metal sheeting on the northern and western inclines. The primary façade on the southern elevation, facing the aqueduct, is symmetrical with a wrought iron verandah and cast-iron lacework supporting a concave verandah. The façade under the verandah, approximately 11m of the 24m long façade, is natural finish roughcut bluestone. The bays either side of the verandah are ashlar render, a remnant Georgian influence. Rendered raised quoining is present on each of the windows and on the corners of the building. The northern elevation historically would have serviced the rear courtyard and is also covered by a wrought iron verandah. The stonework on this side of the residence is more rubble-course than the formally laid stonework on the façade. There are four intact rendered brick chimneys.

Behind the original house are two new residential extensions comprising large gabled wings running north-south and east-west.

Setting

The broader setting of Craigton informs the historical development not only of the house but also the construction of the Moorabool Viaduct. Surrounding the residence are large and mature plantings of varying genus. Large conifer plantings are present beside native eucalypts, surrounding a carriage drive directly in front of the residence's façade.

However, of primary interest is the rear lockup comprising a small gabled bluestone outbuilding sharing a wall with a stable and buggy house. The lockup features small slit windows on its southern elevation, comparable with other examples of lockups across the State, designed for security and defence.

PLACE HISTORY

Contextual History

As addressed by Rowe in the 2021 thematic environmental history for the City of Greater Geelong, 'About Corayo':

'The railway workers' camp for the Geelong end of the line construction was situated at Moorabool, at the location of the construction of a viaduct to traverse the substantial Moorabool River valley. A community of 1,400-2,000 was employed on the construction of the viaduct and this section of the railway line. Hotels, a post office, a literary institute, a Protestant church, a National school, a temperance hall, and a hospital were all established at the fledgling, temporary settlement. Of more permanent bluestone construction was the residence of Mr Duxbury, superintendent of works and a nearby lockup (see Theme 7). Work began on the construction of the viaduct in 1858 under the direction of Darbyshire. Nine monolithic bluestone piers and two bluestone abutments supported ten deck type warren iron trusses, the whole structure being 396m long. Bluestone was procured from the Moorabool valley hillside, the Geelong Advertiser reporting in 1859 that 'the whole of the ground on the hill appears to be one vast quarry'. This was supplemented by stone from Lethbridge. The immense scale of the construction was outlined in the Geelong Advertiser in 1860:

Unquestionably the greatest of our colonial engineering works which have as yet been taken in hand is the construction of the Moorabool Viaduct. Everybody who has inspected this work must have been struck with admiration at the massive and finished manner in which the piers are being erected, every stone being perfectly dressed on the bed. There will be in all nine of these magnificent pieces of masonry, ascending 85 feet from the base course, each being at a distance of 130 feet from centre to centre, making with the abutments a length of 1300 feet across the valley of the Moorabool. These piers, three of which are in a forward state of progress, are constructed upon a foundation of piles, filled in with concrete. The stonework rests on a platform on the top of the piles and is thence carried up to the level of the surface of the ground. The majority of these stones are at least 6 ft. long, 3 ft. wide by 2 ft. deep. Arriving at about 4 feet from the surface, the top course of stones is wreathed off and axed in the most workmanlike manner to form a base course. The dimensions of the plinth are 14 feet 3 inches by 32 feet 3 inches by 32 feet 3 inches diminished to 10 feet by 28 feet. The height of the stonework from plinth to plinth in piers No. 1 and No. 2, is 15 feet; Nos, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, the height is 20 feet; and in No. 8, 18 feet, 3 inches. The stone is supplied from the Lethbridge quarries, at the rate of 40 cubic yards per day, and there are already 1000 cubic yards of stone on the ground and ready to be set.

Completed by July 1862, it was regarded as the greatest engineering feat in Australasia as the largest metal truss bridge in the Colonies.' (Rowe, 2021, 256-257).

Thematic Place History

The residence and lockup at 283-373 Ballan Road, Moorabool, were constructed in 1859 as the primary residence and watchhouse for the superintendent overseeing the construction and erection of the Moorabool Viaduct. The superintendent, Edmund Duxbury, is noted as the superintendent in an article detailing the works:

'... it is immediately observable that if there be small protection against the weather in the hospital, there is plenty of it in the watchhouse, a solid bluestone structure, twelve by twelve, securely roofed. The neat residence of Mr. Duxbury, the superintendent of the works, may be classed also as among the "public buildings". From its threshold a good view is obtained of the "diggings"'. (Geelong Advertiser, 3 March 1859, 2).

Following the completion of the Moorabool Viaduct in 1862, the superintendent's residence was sold and purchased by a local farmer named John Thompson. Thompson renamed the property to 'Craigton' and resided at the property till passing in 1908. While living at Craigton, he was a member of the local Shire of Corio council and would

occasionally pen open letters to the Geelong Advertiser. When he passed away in 1908, his will and probate described Craigton as:

'Firstly – ALL THAT piece of freehold land being part of Crown Section Twelve and Allotments B, C, parts of D, and E, Section thirteen Parish of Moorpanyal County of Grant all known as 'Craigton' containing 293 acres and 13 perches upon which are the following improvements: Dwelling house built of bluestone containing 10 rooms, detached men's room, washhouse, stone dairy, weatherboard and iron stable, machinery shed, chaff house, two buggy sheds, two implement sheds, cow and sheep sheds, workshop, blacksmith's shop etc, small dams, fences of post and wires and stone surround and subdivide property into eleven paddocks. Valued at £15 per acre - £4396: 4: 4.' (Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 28/P0002, 109/709).

Beyond the descriptions of the residence, the will also shows that the former lockup was in use as a stone dairy. Following John's passing in 1908, the property went to his son Alexander Thompson, who married Elizabeth Madden of Holbrook in North Shore. Alexander and Elizabeth are attributed to the property well into the late interwar period, before the farm is occupied by John Forsyth (The Argus, 28th October 1947, 15). After this, in 1953, the property is advertised for lease:

'TO LEASE BY TENDER – 451 ACRES 451 – Choice Moorabool property known as 'CRAIGTON' – Situated 6 miles from Geelong, adjoining Moorabool Railway Station, with frontage to Geelong-Anakie bitumen road and Moorabool River. Ideal grazing, fattening and cultivation country with rich river flats, town water supply, etc. Good bluestone homestead and outbuildings. May be tendered as a whole, or the homestead portion of 255 acres and or 196 acres on eastern portion of the property. Term 3 years, commencing on 15th December 1953...' (Weekly Times, 25 November 1953, 71).

To Lease By Tender
451 ACRES 451

Choice Moorabool property known as
"CRAIGTON"

Situat^d six miles from Geelong, adjoining Moorabool Railway Station, with frontage to Geelong-Anakie bitumen road and Moorabool River.

Ideal grazing, fattening and cultivation country, with rich river flats, town water supply, etc. Good bluestone homestead and outbuildings.

May be tendered for as a whole, or the homestead portion of 255 acres and or 196 acres on eastern portion of property.

Term 3 years, commencing on 15th December, 1953

INSPECTION MUST BE ARRANGED WITH

STRACHAN & Co. Limited,
MOORABOOL STREET, GEELONG

with whom tenders close 10 a.m., December 5, 1953

Figure 2. Lease advertisement for Craigton, 1953. Source: Weekly Times, 25 November 1953, 71

The property continues to operate as a sheep station well into the post-war period and is photographed extensively in September 1977.

The farm was subsequently afforded local heritage protections in 1986 by Allan Willingham in the *Greater Geelong - Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study*. It continued to be used as a residence and sheep property, before being advertised for sale in 2019. By this point, the property was severely deteriorated. It was purchased by the current owners, who removed the rear weatherboard outbuildings and constructed a large gabled extension, undertaking immense amounts of conservation work including the complete like for like replacement of the original roof.



Figure 3. Oblique view of the façade and eastern side elevation. Source: State Library Victoria, Collins, J. T. (1977). Moorabool Craigton.



Figure 4. Oblique view of the façade. Source: State Library Victoria, Collins, J. T. (1977). Moorabool Craigton.

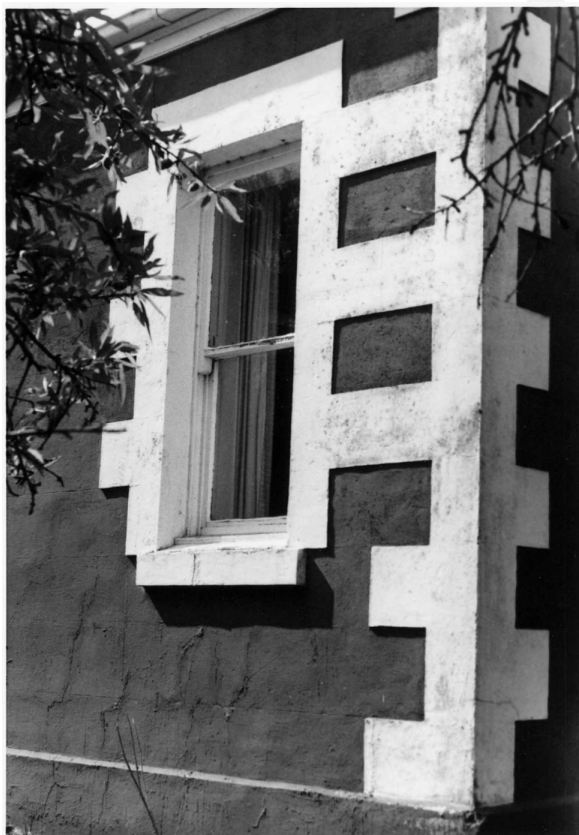


Figure 5. Detail view of the rendered quoining. Source: State Library Victoria, Collins, J. T. (1977). Moorabool Craigton.

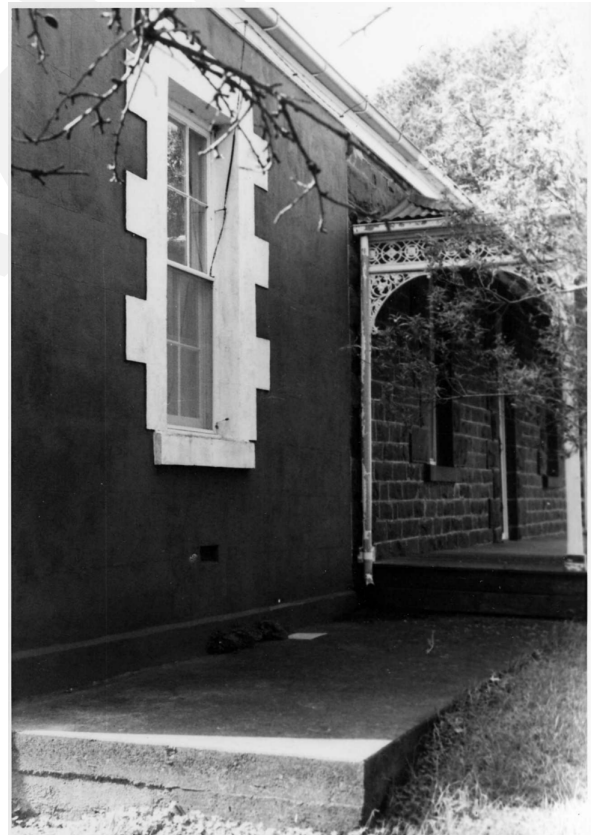


Figure 6. Oblique view of the façade. Source: State Library Victoria, Collins, J. T. (1977). Moorabool Craigton.



Figure 7. Oblique view of the rear of the property. Source: State Library Victoria, Collins, J. T. (1977). Moorabool Craigton.



Figure 8. Oblique view of the rear of the property and since-removed sheds. Source: State Library Victoria, Collins, J. T. (1977). Moorabool Craigton.



Figure 9. Oblique view of the façade of the house in 1998. Source: Rowe, About Corayo, 2021.



Figure 10. Direct view of the façade of Craigton in 2019. Source: HomeHound, online resource.



Figure 11. Aerial view of Craigton looking northwest. Source: HomeHound, online resource.




Figure 12. View of the rear of the dwelling, looking south. Source: HomeHound, online resource.

INTEGRITY

Since its sale in 2019, Craigton has been partially renovated. These works comprise the removal of a rear skillion shed, replacing it with two large gabled extensions to the rear of the residence. The exterior finish of the residence has been altered, with the rendered portions of the walls painted white. The residence has been completely re-roofed, with all degraded slate and corrugated metal sheeting replaced. The rear stables adjoining the lockup have also been rebuilt. All of these works, save for the residential extension, appear to have been done largely like-for-like and as such, have conserved the 1859 residence very faithfully. On this basis, Craigton is considered to be of high integrity.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Craigton at 283-373 Ballan Road, Moorabool, is a single storey bluestone Victorian residence – a typology that is well represented across the City of Greater Geelong and readily noted on the local Heritage Overlay. Though thematically the property is unique to the City as the former superintendent’s residence for the contribution of the Moorabool Viaduct, its later pastoral history is comparable with early farming properties in the municipality. Comparable examples include:

Comparative Analysis	Image
<p>Former Travellers Rest Inn, 750 Midland Highway Batesford (HO44 City of Greater Geelong, Victorian Heritage Register H0846). The Former Travellers Rest Inn in Batesford was erected in 1849, ten years before the construction of Craigton in Moorabool. Both structures are highly comparable as two early examples of vernacular Victorian residential structures in the municipality, representing some of the earliest structures in the City of Greater Geelong. Key shared features relate to roof forms, with both structures constructed with a hipped roof, and their stone construction. Key differences relate to the style of stone, with the Travellers Rest Inn built in sandstone as opposed to bluestone, and the roofing material with Craigton featuring a slate and corrugated metal</p>	 <p>Figure 13. Former Travellers Rest Inn, 750 Midland Highway Batesford. Source: Victorian Heritage Database.</p>

Comparative Analysis	Image
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roof. Of the two, the Travellers Rest Inn is considered a more significant structure due to its earlier construction date and significant plantings, however both buildings are still considered highly intact examples of mid-19th century residential buildings in the municipality and Craigton is of individual importance not only as an early bluestone residence but also for its connection with the Moorabool Viaduct.

"Lynnburn" Homestead and outbuildings, 600 Ballarat Road, Batesford (HO42). Lynnburn, at 600 Ballarat Road, Batesford, comprises a single storey, bluestone, Victorian farmhouse constructed in 1857. Completed approximately two years before Craigton, Lynnburn is a highly expressive structure with two unorthodox bay windows on one elevation. Craigton's orientation and small portico illustrate remnant Georigan influences, similar to Craigton's remnant ashlar render on two bays. Comparable elements include the rectilinear design, bluestone construction, hipped slate roofing and several intact chimneys. Lynnburn, though described above as single storey, does have a portion to the rear of the building which has a second storey annex. Both Lynnburn and Craigton are set in original garden settings with some evidence of original landscaping. As such, both buildings are considered contemporaries of each other and highly comparable, and as such equal in significance.



Figure 14. "Lynnburn" Homestead and outbuildings, 600 Ballarat Road, Batesford. Source: Victorian Heritage Database

Frogmore, 425-465 Hamilton Highway, Fyansford (HO89 and VHR No. H0696). Frogmore, at 425-465 Hamilton Highway Fyansford, is a large Victorian property constructed in 1857 as part of a larger vineyard and nursery on the Barwon River. The property is of significance to the State as an early Victorian residence in the municipality, and as one of the first nurseries established in the State. The property is comparable with Craigton as two examples of 1850s bluestone Victorian residences constructed in the municipality, featuring hipped slate roofing and decorative ashlar render. Of the two, Frogmore is considered to be of greater ornamentation on account of its projecting gable and bay window, as well as its rendered quoining and window surrounds. However, historically, both buildings are considered to be of highly comparable significance as large single storey early examples of residential developments in the municipality. Further, they also both have early outbuildings, with Craigton being equipped with the original lockup and Frogmore including pastoral outbuildings.



Figure 15. Frogmore, 425-465 Hamilton Highway, Fyansford. Source: Victorian Heritage Database

As illustrated above, Craigton is part of a broader collection of bluestone Victorian residences present across the municipality. It compares favourably with buildings protected at the local level, as well as at the State level. It is of great historical and aesthetic significance, on account of its connection with the construction of the Moorabool Aqueduct as well as being an 1859 bluestone residence.

REFERENCES

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THE RAILWAY WORKS AT THE MOORABOOL (1859, March 3). *Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1929)*, p. 2.

DRAFT

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2.3. Draft Plan for Nature 2026-36

Source: City Infrastructure
Executive Director: James Stirton

Purpose

1. To seek Council endorsement for the Draft Plan for Nature 2026-36 (Attachment 1) to commence a period of four weeks community consultation.

Background

2. The City has prepared a Draft Plan for Nature (the Plan) to set the future direction for biodiversity programs in Greater Geelong and is seeking Council endorsement prior to a community consultation process (Attachment 2).
3. The Plan is aligned to Council's commitment to nature as outlined in:
 - 3.1. *The 30-year community vision of the Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future for the Greater Geelong region* - recognises the uniqueness and significance of our natural environments.
 - 3.2. *Our Council Plan 2025-29 - Environment and Circular Economy* - commits to protect and enhance our unique natural environment and surrounds.
 - 3.3. *Environment Strategy 2020-30* - contains multiple actions to meet the goal of protecting, enhancing, and restoring the regions biodiversity by 2030.
4. The Plan was developed collaboratively with various stakeholders through extensive engagement from 2021 to 2025.
5. The Plan will undergo four weeks of community consultation and is scheduled to go back to Council for adoption in June 2026.

Key Matters

6. The City is experiencing significant population growth, while climate change is also leading to drier conditions and a warmer future. This combined with an analysis of information about the City's state of nature collated through the planning process, determines why a more coordinated response to protecting and managing nature is required. We estimate that:
 - 6.1. Only 18% of the municipality's original remnant vegetation and wetlands are still preserved.
 - 6.2. Only 9.7% of the City's land is within a conservation estate, which is well below the national goal of protecting 30%.
 - 6.3. At least 24 of the 41 species and ecological communities listed as threatened by the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) have habitat on land managed by the City.

- 6.4. More than 90% of the Cities ecological vegetation classes (EVC's) are rare, vulnerable, or endangered.
7. The Plan provides Council with a mechanism to meet an important outcome in *Our Council Plan 2025-29*; that natural habitat and areas of important biodiversity are identified, protected, connected and restored.
8. The Plan outlines five Goals: Wadawurrung Country and Values, Protections, Connections and Restoration, Community and Partnerships, and Climate Change and Supporting Nature. Each Goal includes 10-year Strategic Objectives and Targets, plus Actions set for 2–3 years.
9. The Plan was developed through extensive collaboration with various stakeholders, including Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, the Corangamite CMA, community environment groups, local conservationists, the public, agency partners, City staff, and Councillors. For more details, see The Plan for Nature Community Engagement Summary Report 2025 (Attachment 2).
10. Improvements made to the Plan as a result of the community engagement are as follows:
 - 10.1. Establish wildlife corridors across the landscape linking existing habitat.
 - 10.2. Greater use of land use planning controls and other regulatory tools to protect existing natural areas and biodiversity.
 - 10.3. Support for community groups and landholders to undertake nature restoration works and engage in nature projects.
 - 10.4. Managing impacts of people to parks and reserves where there are high natural values.
 - 10.5. Collaborative projects between agencies and the community for on ground nature works.
 - 10.6. Long term stewardship and protection programs aimed at land conservation, such as covenants and acquisition.
 - 10.7. Connection to Country of the Wadawurrung people.
11. The Plan uses the six landscapes defined by Corangamite CMA and Melbourne Water for targeted biodiversity planning and management. Native vegetation and habitats have been mapped in detail, with each landscape's current biodiversity status, threats, and opportunities identified.
12. The Plan used vegetation and habitat mapping, along with community input from consultations and workshops, to create a Biolinks Plan that prioritises key natural areas in each landscape.
13. The Plan will strengthen partnerships across our Caring for Environment Groups and key partners who are already actively supporting the delivery of nature-based programs across the municipality.
14. The Plan incorporates a monitoring and evaluation framework designed to formalise the systematic collection of lessons learned during implementation. This approach

facilitates continuous improvement, ensuring that insights gained will guide future actions.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the Draft Plan for Nature (Attachment 1) to be released for a four-week period of community consultation; and**
- 2. Notes a further report will be presented to council following community consultation.**

Financial Sustainability

15. The financial budget implications are highlighted against each action within the Action Plan.
16. Over 80% of the recommended actions will be funded through existing business-as-usual (BAU) arrangements.
17. Applications for grants will be pursued to fund operational initiatives, expand Capital Projects, and introduce new programs. Over the past 18 months, the City's Environment Team has secured several grants amounting to more than \$1,000,000, which are designated to support the implementation of actions outlined in the draft Plan.
18. Additional resources may be needed for certain actions in the Action Table, and business cases will be prepared as needed.

Community Engagement

19. The Plan was developed through extensive collaboration with stakeholders, including Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, environmental groups, agency representatives, City staff, Councillors, and the public between 2021-2025.
20. *The Plan for Nature Community Engagement Summary Report 2025* provides further information (Attachment 2).

Social Equity and Sustainability

21. Within Goal 4: Community and Partnerships of the draft Plan, there are clearly defined strategic objectives, targets, and actions aimed at engaging a broader and more diverse demographic in environmental education and conservation initiatives. These measures include specific targets for increasing participation among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and younger individuals.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

22. A Gender Impact Assessment was not required for this report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

23. The draft Plan is guided by conventions, legislation, strategies, and policies at the international, national, state, and local levels. A detailed listing is available in Table 2: Planning Hierarchy on page 18 of the draft Plan.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

24. This report aligns with the *Council Plan 2025-29* strategic priority: Environment and Circular Economy.
25. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "*Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future*" community aspiration: *sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.*

Conflict of Interest

26. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

27. The Plan for Nature aligns with the objectives to sustain the natural environment while managing growth. It provides innovative solutions to limit its impact on the environment from its growth and activities, meeting a balanced appetite for risks. Those initiatives are individually costed, with funding existing through business-as-usual activities with the exploration of grants funding to expand operational initiatives and capital projects, meeting the cautious appetite for financial risks.
28. Enterprise Risk Assessment (158) - Strategic Risk: Natural Environment: The City may contribute to or fail to prevent the degradation or loss of Geelong's natural environment. The risk consequences are documented below.
 - 28.1. Damage to our natural environment or wildlife
 - 28.2. Loss of internationally significant habitats
 - 28.3. Disruption to migration corridors for species
 - 28.4. Species extinction events
 - 28.5. Impact to community enjoyment of environment
 - 28.6. Unforeseen remediation and/or offset costs
 - 28.7. Fines
 - 28.8. Unsustainable remediation/management costs for land handed to the City following development
 - 28.9. Exacerbation of climate change impacts (e.g. Habitats opportunities become more vulnerable).
29. The Plan for Nature serves as an essential instrument enabling the Council to address and reduce this strategic risk.

Environmental Sustainability

30. The Plan for Nature sets the future direction for biodiversity programs in Greater Geelong.

Attachments

1. Draft The Plan for Nature V1 09022026 [2.3.1 - 78 pages]
2. Plan For Nature Community Engagement Summary Report - November 2025 [2.3.2 - 13 pages]



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

DRAFT PLAN FOR NATURE

2026-2036

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners for their insights shared during the development of this Plan for Nature. The City of Greater Geelong is committed to supporting the Wadawurrung people care for and heal Country, and to play an increasing role in managing the natural environments of the City.

Executive Summary

The City of Greater Geelong draft Plan for Nature 2026–2036 sets out how we will identify, protect, restore and enhance our region’s biodiversity in the context of rapid population growth and climate change. It responds to the ongoing loss of native plants, animals and ecosystems, and recognises that a healthy natural environment is essential to our region’s future health, liveability and resilience.

The Plan is grounded in partnership. It acknowledges the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners as original custodians of Country and recognises the deep connection between nature, culture and wellbeing. It has been shaped through extensive engagement with Wadawurrung, the community, environmental groups, government agencies and City staff.

The Plan is guided by five strategic goals in key areas:

1. Wadawurrung Country and Values
2. Protections
3. Connections and Restoration
4. Community and Partnerships
5. Climate Change and Supporting Nature.

A place-based approach underpins the Plan. Six landscapes guide local action across urban, rural, coastal and waterway environments. The plan’s targets focus on achieving outcomes across both public and private land, recognising that we need action at all scales. A rolling two-year Action Plan ensures we can adapt, measure and respond as we implement.

By working collaboratively with the community, Traditional Owners, landholders and partner agencies, the Plan for Nature provides a clear pathway to halt biodiversity decline, build resilience and ensure nature continues to support people and place, now and into the future.

ACRONYMS

CMA – Catchment Management Authority

City – City of Greater Geelong

CVA – Cultural Value Assessment

DEECA – Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

EPBC Act – *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

FFG Act – *Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*

PV – Parks Victoria

TfN – Trust for Nature

WTOAC – Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation.

GLOSSARY

Biodiversity – the variety of all life on earth (animals, plants, fungi, microbes), their interactions and the natural patterns they form. This includes the variety (or diversity) of species, the variety within species (genetic diversity) and the variety of ecosystems.

Biolink/area – geographical area that is a priority for protection and restoration of biodiversity combining corridors, zones and nodes.

Biolink/corridor (C) – geographical area that provides suitable conditions for animal and plant movement through the landscape.

Biolink/habitat node (HN) - geographical area of habitat >10 hectares comprising either remnant vegetation or wetlands

Biolink/restoration node (RN) - geographical area mostly >100 hectares owned by one entity where habitat can be restored

Biolink/priority corridor (PC) – geographical area such as a major river, coastal zone or wetland that is highly significant for animal and plant movement through the landscape.

Biolink Zones (Z) - geographical area > 100 hectares comprising multiple habitats nodes highly significant for biodiversity.

CALD Communities – Culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Ecosystem – a unique community of living and non-living organisms interacting as a system.

Ecosystem services – the benefits provided to humans through the transformation of natural resources (including land, water, vegetation and atmosphere) into essential goods and services, such as clean air, water and food.

Flora – plant species.

Fauna – animal species.

Habitat – an area for a species which has the right structure and composition of native vegetation to provide food and shelter and opportunities for breeding.

Habitat connectivity – the connections available in the landscape for flora and fauna to access resources and to retain natural patterns of movement and dispersal.

Nature Kit – a statewide online mapping and data exploration tool for biodiversity data integration and decision support.

No net loss – under Victoria's native vegetation removal regulations, the 'no net loss' objective ensures that biodiversity value is not reduced when native vegetation is approved for removal. This is achieved through an avoid, minimise, and offset hierarchy.

Stewardship – in a catchment context involves both individual and collective efforts in managing natural systems to generate intergenerational benefits for the environment, people and place.

Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This Plan for Nature is an investment in protecting, enhancing and restoring biodiversity in the City of Greater Geelong. Now, more than ever, it is critical that we take stock and do what we can to reverse the trend of loss of our critical and unique ecosystems and our native plants and animals. To do this, we will need to work closely with the community, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and regional stakeholders.

The purpose of this Plan for Nature aligns with the Victorian Government's broader commitment to biodiversity. The Government recognises that **biodiversity has an intrinsic right to exist, thrive and flourish regardless of whether it provides tangible benefits to humans, and all Victorians have a duty to protect biodiversity**¹. The City supports this commitment by ensuring that **natural habitat and areas of important biodiversity are identified, protected, connected and restored**².

VISION

The Plan for Nature vision has been designed to align with the City's Environmental Strategy Goal of:

Protect, enhance, and restore our region's biodiversity

OUR REGION

The City of Greater Geelong (City) is in south-western Victoria, approximately 75km south-west of Melbourne centred around Corio Bay. Covering 1,247 square kilometres, it includes a large part of the Bellarine Peninsula. Our region is made up of the city of Geelong, surrounding suburbs, rural and coastal townships and rural, agricultural and coastal landscapes, including the lower Barwon River. With a population of nearly 290,000³, Geelong is Victoria's largest regional city and the leading commercial centre for south-western Victoria.

Our region hosts a diverse mix of urban, rural and coastal environments. Many areas, particularly along waterways and the coast, are set aside as public nature reserves⁴ that support remnant indigenous vegetation and a diverse range of plants and animals. These include many protected species of international, national or state significance.

Our waterways include the Barwon and Moorabool rivers, lakes, small creeks and estuaries, which provide habitat for a range of freshwater and riparian species. Alongside these waterbodies the region hosts extensive coastline areas, including Corio and Port Phillip bays, that include intertidal mudflats, rocky reefs, sandy beaches and escarpments that provide important habitat for marine and bird life.

Our region hosts 11,639 hectares of wetlands, including significant areas within the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site. Designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, this site includes Swan Bay, the Lake Connewarre complex, Limeburners Bay and the wetlands around Avalon and Point Wilson. Together, these areas provide critical habitat and refuge for many threatened and migratory bird species of both local and international significance.

Wadawurrung values

The Wathaurong (Wadawurrung) people are the Traditional Owners of this region and are today represented by the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC). For thousands of generations, Wadawurrung people have cared for Country. In Wadawurrung knowledge, the coast, wetlands, grassy and volcanic plains of the Dja (Country) were formed by Bundjil the Eagle, the Ancestor Creator. The name "Geelong" comes from the Wadawurrung word for the region "Djilang" which means "tongue of land"⁵.

¹ Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2017) Biodiversity 2037. Victorian State Government, Melbourne.

² City of Greater Geelong (2025) Our Council Plan 2025-29. City of Greater Geelong, Victoria.

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2024) Region Summary: Greater Geelong. URL: <https://dbr.abs.gov.au/region.html?lyr=lga&rgn=22750> (Accessed 7 Feb 2026)

⁴ City of Greater Geelong (2020) Environment Strategy 2020-30. City of Greater Geelong, Victoria.

⁵ City of Greater Geelong (2025) Reconciliation Action Plan - Wadawurrung Aboriginal history. URL: (<https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/>) (Accessed 18 December 2025).

Wadawurrung culture and livelihoods are deeply connected to the region's biodiversity, with dja (land) and warre (sea) Country seen as one. The inland plains, waterways, coast and warre Country provided abundant food, shelter, medicine and clothing to sustain thousands of generations of Wadawurrung people.

Many animals once common on Wadawurrung Country, like the Fat-tailed Dunnart are now rare. **Kwenda** (Bandicoot), **Yoorn** (Spotted-tail Quoll) and the Eastern Barred Bandicoot are now extinct or rarely seen in this landscape.

Together, these animals, plants and people make Country healthy.

The now threatened Victorian Volcanic Grasslands (most recent estimates suggest between 1 to 5% remain^{6,7,8}) were once full of food grasses, snakes, lizards, frogs, moths, birds and animals, providing enough food resources for the Wadawurrung people to live there permanently and year-round. The coastal dunes are layered with living places and hearths from the many generations of Wadawurrung ancestors living, harvesting, sharing meals, trading and practising ceremony. The sandy beaches, rock pools, rocky platforms and reefs continue to be places of abundance for harvesting food and resources like crustaceans, shellfish and kelp.

"Most of the large animals, including Go-yin (wallabies), Goim (kangaroos), Walert (possums), ducks and swans were hunted and processed by men using boomerangs and spears. Buniya (eels) were caught in eel traps and water birds were caught in nets that our women wove and made from plant fibres, a practice we continue today. The sea provides bountiful sources of crayfish, abalone, mussels, oysters, pipis and fish"

~ Wadawurrung Traditional Owners⁹

The region's waterways were rich in eels, fish and waterbirds. The name 'Barwon' comes from parwan, meaning "magpie" or "great wide", and the Wadawurrung refer to yulluk (great river) that runs from the barre (mountains) to the warre (ocean). Coastal waters have long provided abundance with kelp forests supporting diverse marine life and the Wadawurrung harvesting rock lobster and abalone for food, and kelp to use as water carriers. Australia's largest stretch of registered cultural sites in Australia occurs along the coastline of the Wadawurrung (*Paleert Tjaara Dja*).



Figure 1. Wadawurrung Country and Connection, Billy-Jay O'Toole (2019)¹⁰

⁶ State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams (SWIFFT) URL: https://www.swiff.net.au/cb_pages/team_linear_reserves_project.php (Accessed 20 March 2025)

⁷ Grassy Plains Network URL: <https://grassyplains.net.au/grasslands/> (Accessed 20 March 2025)

⁸ Corangamite CMA URL: <https://cma.vic.gov.au/projects/victorian-volcanic-plains/> (Accessed 20 March 2025)

⁹ Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) (2020) *Paleert Tjaara Dja – Healthy Country Plan 2020-30*. WTOAC, Victoria.

¹⁰ Image source: <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/rap/article/item/8d86f96f7bf8a7c.aspx> (Accessed 6 Feb 2026)

Post-colonisation landscape

European settlement dates from 1836, with land largely used for farming, grazing and vineyards. Major development occurred in the post-war years, particularly during the 1960s and 1970s, driven by industrial growth, public housing and migration. Population growth shifted to the Bellarine Peninsula in the 1980s, then in the 1990s to the fringe urban areas of Grovedale, Highton, St Albans Park, Wandana Heights and Waurm Ponds, and outlying areas of Lara, Leopold and Ocean Grove. More recently growth has centred in Armstrong Creek, Mount Duneed and Curlewis as well as to Geelong’s north and west.

Close proximity to Melbourne, an affordable and diverse housing market, good transport links and lifestyle opportunities continue to drive strong population growth. An additional 152,000 people are expected to live here by 2036 – an average annual growth rate of 2.5 per cent¹¹.

Long-term land clearing and urban expansion have left little remnant native vegetation, much of it small and fragmented. Larger remaining areas include the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Wurdi Youang (You Yangs) Regional Park, Barwon River, Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve, Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary and Swan Bay.

Table 1. City of Greater Geelong at a glance

The region at a glance	
Total Land Area	1,247km ²
Population	289,565 ¹²
River Basins ¹³	Barwon and Moorabool Basins
Major Waterways	Barwon, Moorabool and Little River
Traditional Custodians	Wadawurrung
Wetlands of National Importance	Lake Connewarre State Wildlife Reserve, Avalon, Point Wilson/Limeburners Bay and Swan Bay ¹⁴ , all part of Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Wetlands Ramsar site
Bioregions	Victorian Volcanic Plains, Otway Plains and Central Uplands bioregions
Land Use	Primary production is the major land use, followed by residential land ¹⁵
Largest Contributors to the Regional Economy	Manufacturing, extractive industries and tourism, especially the Bellarine Peninsula and the coast. Agricultural production is modest, but important and valued in the municipality’s north. Recent drivers of Geelong’s economic growth include health care, education, construction and retail ¹⁶



Figure 2. City of Greater Geelong¹⁷

¹¹ City of Greater Geelong (2026) Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. URL: https://planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Greater%20Geelong/ordinance/02_03 (Accessed 6 Feb 2026)

¹² Australian Bureau of Statistics (2024) Region Summary: Greater Geelong. URL: <https://dbr.abs.gov.au/region.html?lgr=lg&rgn=22750> (Accessed 6 Feb 2026)

¹³ DEECA. (2025). Australian Water Resource Council Major River Basins of Victoria [Dataset]. <https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/awrc-major-river-basins-of-victoria>.

¹⁴ Australian Government (2019) Directory of Important Wetlands. URL: <https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/wetlands/search.pl?smode=DOIW> (Accessed 6 Feb 2026)

¹⁵ idcommunity (2021) City of Greater Geelong: community profile. URL: <https://profile.id.com.au/geelong/about> (Accessed 6 Feb 2026)

¹⁶ G21 (2013) G21 Regional Growth Plan. G21, Geelong, Victoria.

¹⁷ Image source: URL: <https://www.vic.gov.au/know-your-council> (Accessed 6 Feb 2026)

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The Plan for Nature has been informed by international, national, state and local conventions, legislation, strategies and policies.

The State of Victoria has over 25 pieces of legislation and over 30 strategies that relate to environmental management. Those relevant to this Plan for Nature are listed below in Table 2.

Table 2. Planning Hierarchy

Level	Strategy/Agreement
City of Greater Geelong	Our 30-year vision Our Council Plan 2025–29 Environment Strategy 2020-2030.
International conventions, agreements, legislation, and policy	Kyoto Protocol 1997 The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Bilateral migratory bird agreements ¹⁸
Commonwealth context	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.</i>
Victorian context	<i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i> <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> <i>Climate Change Act 2017</i> <i>Water Act 1989</i> Rivers of the Barwon (Barre Warre Yulluk) Action Plan 2021 Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030 Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 2013 Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037.
Regional context	Paleert Tjaara Dja Let's make Country good together: Wadawurrung Country Plan: 2020-2030 Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy 2021 - 2027 Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy 2021 -2027 Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018-2028: Port Phillip and Westernport, Victoria Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014 - 2022 Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut masterplan 2023.

¹⁸ Migratory Bird Agreements: JAMBA (Japan-Australia, 1974), CAMBA (China-Australia, 1986), and ROKAMBA (Republic of Korea-Australia, 2006)

How we engaged

This Plan has been shaped through extensive engagement with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, community-based environment and Landcare groups, local naturalists, the wider community, agency stakeholders and City staff.

Find further information about the consultation process and engagement methods used in the *Plan for Nature Community Engagement Summary Report 2025*.

Table 3. How we engaged with community and stakeholders in developing the Plan for Nature

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners	Community-based environment groups	The wider community	Agency stakeholders	Geelong City Council staff
<p><i>Regular meetings with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation over the period 2021 – 2024.</i></p> <p><i>One walk on Country with Traditional Owners.</i></p>	<p><i>Presentations to the Nature Stewards and Community Nature Group Celebration during the engagement campaign during Oct 2023 – Jan 2024.</i></p> <p><i>Community group mail out to key volunteer environment groups during the 2022/23 engagement campaign.</i></p> <p><i>Two meetings with a community technical advisory group, which included representatives from community-based environment groups in the City and local conservationists.</i></p>	<p><i>A wide community engagement campaign was held during Oct 2022 – Jan 2023 which included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• a tailored project website, which hosted three survey formats and invited photo submissions</i> <i>• information stalls at regional events</i> <i>• promotional material distributed to community centres</i> <i>• open house sessions at the City's office</i> <i>• social media posts</i> <i>• presentations to the Youth Council.</i> 	<p><i>Two meetings with an agency stakeholder technical advisory group.</i></p> <p><i>Input via the 2022/23 engagement campaign.</i></p> <p><i>Two biolink workshops in March 2023 and January 2024.</i></p>	<p><i>Two meetings with a Council staff technical advisory group.</i></p> <p><i>Meetings with the City's Sustainable Advisory Committee and Councillors from the Environment portfolio.</i></p> <p><i>One staff workshop to identify key actions, held in June 2024.</i></p> <p><i>Councillor workshop in November 2025.</i></p>

WHAT WE HEARD

What people value about nature in the City

Survey respondents identified the following values:

Native flora and fauna, especially the contribution they make to people's wellbeing in urban areas

Opportunities for **recreation** provided by natural reserves

Enjoyment of waterways and beaches

Remnant intact habitat such as large old trees

Benefits nature provides to psychological, physical and emotional wellbeing

Accessibility and diversity of natural areas around the City.

The natural places people enjoy most

Barwon and Moorabool River corridors are one of the community's favourite natural places in the City.

You Yangs Regional Park and the **coastal reserves** are also enjoyed by many people.

Some people also identified natural parklands, wetlands, grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains and woodland reserves as favourite places by some people.

Many respondents also nominated natural areas not listed in the survey, most commonly the Bellarine Peninsula, Serendip Sanctuary, Edwards Point, Ocean Grove Nature Reserve, St Leonards and Breamlea – Thompson's Creek estuary and wetlands.

Many of the sites valued by people are not managed directly by the City. Some are managed by Parks Victoria, such as the You Yangs Regional Park and Serendip Sanctuary. Others occur across public and private land tenures, like the grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains. Breamlea estuary and wetlands exist on the border with Surf Coast Shire. We need partnerships and cooperation between the City, other public land managers and private landholders.

Perceived threats to nature

Extensive habitat loss or fragmentation, subdivision and development pressures, and barriers to wildlife movement were identified as the most urgent threats. It is likely that these threats are perceived to be interlinked, as many respondents expressed concern about the effect of urban development on remnant habitat and wildlife movement.

Climate change impacts, pest animals (rabbits, foxes, feral cats), loss of hollow-bearing trees, weed invasion, herbicides, pesticides and other air pollutants, and urban stormwater runoff were all listed as other significant threats to nature in the City.

Additional threats include littering, rubbish dumping and plastic pollution in waterways, disturbance by domestic dogs and cats, duck shooting and the associated pollution of wetlands with shooting debris, and the invasive Indian myna.

Opportunities for enhancement

Survey respondents identified the following opportunities to enhance nature, in order of perceived importance:

Establish wildlife corridors across the landscape linking existing habitat

Greater use of land use planning controls and other regulatory tools to protect existing natural areas and biodiversity

Support for community groups and landholders to undertake nature restoration works

More opportunities for the community to become engaged in nature projects

Managing people's impact to parks and reserves where there are high natural values

Collaborative projects between agencies and the community for on ground nature works

Long term stewardship and protection programs aimed at land conservation, such as covenants and acquisition

Connection to Country of the Wadawurrung people.

There was an overwhelming common concern about the **impact of increasing population growth and land use change on nature**, particularly remnant habitat and wildlife movement. Many people want to see more restrictions placed on housing development to preserve and restore native habitat within urban areas, as well as establishing corridors to support wildlife movement across an otherwise fragmented landscape.



Figure 3. Community drop-in session at the Geelong Waterfront Market, Plan for Nature Postcards and City workshop

Drivers of change

THE CITY IS UNDERGOING SUBSTANTIAL POPULATION GROWTH. TOGETHER WITH BENDIGO AND BALLARAT, GREATER GEELONG IS EXPECTED TO ABSORB HALF OF ALL GROWTH OUTSIDE METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE BY 2036.¹⁹

At the same time, climate change is driving a drier, warmer future. Together, these pressures will intensify impacts on our natural environment²⁰.

We need a more coordinated response to protecting and managing nature to ensure the City can continue to support and enhance the liveability of our region.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Barwon region has already become drier and warmer, a trend expected to continue²¹. Changes include rising temperatures, more variable rainfall, sea level rise and stronger winds²². By the 2050s, some predictions suggest Geelong’s climate will resemble Shepparton’s climate today²³. Extreme weather events such as droughts, bushfires, heavy rain and heatwaves are also expected to become more frequent (see Figure 4).

TEMPERATURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum and minimum daily temperatures will continue to increase • By the 2030s, increases in daily maximum temperature of 0.8 to 1.5°C are expected
RAINFALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainfall will be variable but continue to decline in winter, spring and autumn • Extreme rainfall events are expected to become more intense and variable
SEA LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea levels are expected to continue rising by 4mm per year
FIRE DANGER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High fire danger days are projected to increase to 9 days per year

Figure 4. Climate projections for the Barwon Region²⁴

Biodiversity in Victoria, including in the City, has declined significantly since European settlement due to land clearing, fire, pest plants and animals, land development, altered hydrological regimes and water pollution. Climate change is likely to amplify these threatening processes, reducing the ability of native plants and animals to adapt and increasing the risk of loss or extinction of local populations and species.

Below are some of the changes that may shape the City’s natural environment.

Native vegetation and waterways

Extended dry periods and drought with reduced rainfall and higher temperatures will impact availability of soil moisture and water for surface and groundwater systems. This will change the composition of vegetation communities, with some species replaced by those better suited to warmer, drier conditions. Grassland species may also change in response to elevated carbon dioxide and shifting soil moisture levels.

Old remnant trees are particularly vulnerable to altered wetting and drying cycles, extreme heat and bushfire. These trees’ hollows, expansive canopies and complex branch structures provide irreplaceable habitat for a range of native mammals, birds, insects and reptiles. They also play a vital role in nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration and water regulation. The death of these trees reduces habitat and releases stored carbon back into the atmosphere.

¹⁹ *Victoria in Future 2019*, p 9.

²⁰ *City of Greater Geelong (2021) Climate Change Response Plan*. City of Greater Geelong, Victoria.

²¹ *Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2015) Climate-ready Victoria: Barwon South West*. Victorian Government, Melbourne.

²² *City of Greater Geelong (2021) Climate Change Response Plan*. City of Greater Geelong, Victoria.

²³ *Clarke, JM., Grose, M., Thatcher, M., Round, V. & Heady, C. (2019) Barwon Climate Projections 2019*. CSIRO, Melbourne.

²⁴ *ibid.*

Bushfires are expected to become more frequent and intense, favouring fast-growing, fire-tolerant species and increasing soil erosion, nutrient loss and sedimentation of waterways and impacts on wildlife.

Along the coast, sea level rise and stronger storms threaten vulnerable Bellarine and Corio Bay ecosystems. Over time, the natural inward migration of coastal vegetation communities, such as saltmarsh and mangrove, forced to migrate inland, may be lost as they hit sea walls, road infrastructure and other impediments.

More frequent and intense rainfall is increasing stormwater run-off that could affect aquatic ecosystems such as wetlands, streams and estuaries. We already have examples where the combination of increased urban development (and impervious surfaces) coupled with rainfall changes is impacting the natural hydrology of the Sparrowvale Wetlands Reserve - *Ngubiti joorree* and the coastal wetlands between Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale.

Native fauna

Our most threatened ecological communities like Coastal Saltmarsh and threatened species like Orange-bellied Parrot and Hooded Plover are most vulnerable to climate change.

Changes in temperature, rainfall and sea level are altering habitats, reducing food and shelter and shifting where species can survive. More frequent and intense bushfires are shrinking unburnt habitat, while rising seas are likely to reduce coastal vegetation and impact the wildlife populations that depend on these environments.

Higher temperatures change the timing of life cycle events and distribution for animals and plants. Those with highly specific habitat requirements, limited dispersal ability or fragmented habitats may be most affected, leading to more local extinctions.

Drying wetlands and waterways will affect aquatic species by reducing water availability and quality, while increasing water temperatures, dissolved oxygen levels and risk of toxic algal blooms.

Climate change is likely to favour more-tolerant, faster-breeding invasive species, adding more pressure to native species through competition for dwindling food sources, increased predation and habitat loss.



Figure 5. The endangered Hooded Plover²⁵

The Hooded Plover (which is nationally listed as vulnerable) will experience the compounding impacts of climate change. Coastal erosion and sea level rise will threaten their habitat, while growing beach use (including dogs) will further disturb. Habitat loss through the incursion of sea wheat grass and ongoing predation by foxes and native birds add further pressure, reducing the Hooded Plover's ability to survive.

²⁵ Image source: <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/hoodedplover/article/item/8cf5b098da0360a.aspx> (Accessed 29 Dec 2024)

Cultural impact

Climate change has significant and distinct impacts for Indigenous people, affecting culture, knowledge and spiritual connection to Country. Declining biodiversity, changing ecosystems and increasing species loss reduce access to resources central to cultural practices. Wadawurrung people are already seeing the loss of kelp forests, dramatic changes in sea life, rising sea levels and risk to cultural sites²⁶.

Climate change is also disrupting Indigenous seasons, with environmental triggers occurring at different times. The long absence of cultural burning for centuries has altered ecosystems across Country and limited opportunities to heal and regenerate Country. Wadawurrung knowledge recognises fire as intrinsic for managing Dja (Country), particularly in the context of harsher weather patterns and longer fire seasons²⁷.

Indigenous knowledge, shaped by thousands of generations living with Country, is vital for guiding climate adaptation and supporting healthy landscapes into the future.

POPULATION GROWTH

The City's recent strong population growth is likely to continue. The population is expected to grow to 441,984 by 2046²⁸, an increase of more than 44% on the current estimated resident population. The main factors contributing to this phenomenon are:

Geelong feeds off broader population increases in Australia, Victoria and Melbourne.

According to 2021 census data²⁹, Geelong gains population via migration from overseas, interstate and within Victoria particularly south-west Victoria, which is likely to continue.

House prices are lower than Melbourne and there is less traffic congestion. New transport upgrades provide good access to Melbourne's job market and services and local employment opportunities are growing.

This population growth has led to rapid urban expansion, particularly in Armstrong Creek and on the Bellarine at Leopold, Ocean Grove and Drysdale/Clifton Springs. Future growth will continue to be focus on Armstrong Creek and the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas, the largest regional urban expansion in Victoria, comprising over 5,300ha³⁰. Growth on the Bellarine may be more limited due to support for maintaining its character through planning controls guiding land use, management and development for the next 50 years.

Without adequate planning, the significant population growth and urban expansion will continue to put pressure on biodiversity and the remaining natural areas in the City. Only a careful, collaborative response can prevent further loss and fragmentation of remnant vegetation and protect and restore ecological communities that are already threatened or endangered, such as the grassland communities to the City's north.

LAND USE CHANGE

Since European settlement, widespread vegetation clearing for agriculture, horticulture, industry and townships has significantly reduce native vegetation across the City. Most remaining native vegetation is now found in public reserves and parks, protecting important habitat remnants that have been largely cleared elsewhere. Around 12,094ha (approximately 9.7%) of City land is permanently protected, including Parks Victoria managed land, City nature reserves and private land protected under Trust for Nature covenants. Outside these areas, native vegetation is mostly threatened and largely fragmented, occurring in small patches along roadsides, waterways and the coast, or scattered across private property.

The consequences of native vegetation loss are well-known and include reduced biodiversity, increased salinity, soil erosion, and deteriorating water quality in our rivers, creeks and wetlands³¹.

Without appropriate planning and management, several land use changes may continue to contribute to the loss, fragmentation and degradation of native vegetation in the City. These are:

²⁶ Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (2020) *Paleert Tjaara Dja – Wadawurrung Country Plan*. WTOAC, Victoria.

²⁷ *ibid*

²⁸ City of Greater Geelong population forecast <https://forecast.id.com.au/geelong> (Accessed 6 Feb 2026).

²⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2021) *Census of Population and Housing, Usual Residence Data*.

³⁰ <https://www.dceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/approvals/strategic-assessments/geelong-growth-areas> (Accessed 6 Feb 2026)

³¹ Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (2024) *Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy*. Corangamite CMA, Colac.

Widespread urban development and expansion into previously agricultural or natural areas, leading to potential removal or fragmentation of remaining patches of vegetation. This includes removal or fragmentation of old habitat trees, woodland habitats and grasslands

Increased built infrastructure, including utilities and roads, which has expanded to service a fast-growing population

Subdivision of larger farms to meet increased demand for lifestyle properties – a trend particularly evident across the Bellarine. Subdivision can lead to further removal of native vegetation to make way for housing and services and can increase the threat to wildlife from domestic pets and introduction of garden weeds.

Offsets required under Victoria's *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the state's Native Vegetation Removal Guidelines to mitigate the net loss of biodiversity from a planning development are commonly purchased outside the City. This leads to further biodiversity loss within the City, contributing to the ongoing fragmentation of threatened ecosystems.

In recent years, the City's nature reserves nearly doubled from around 700ha to 1,358ha, largely through land transferred as development offsets. While the total area has grown, many new reserves are small and fragmented, raising concerns about their long-term ecological quality and resilience.

PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Pest plants and animals are a major problem in the City. They compete with native species for resources, prey on native fauna, damage habitats and disrupt ecosystems. Established pest animals in the region include rabbits, foxes, feral cats and deer, with several invasive species well-established despite their declaration under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

Pest plants also threaten biodiversity and agriculture by invading native vegetation, providing shelter for pest animals, increasing fire fuel loads and, in some cases, reducing land values.



Strategic Direction

The Plan for Nature forms a key part of the City's broader environmental program. It provides detailed direction on how we can achieve our goal of protecting, enhancing, and restoring biodiversity in line with the Environment Strategy 2020-2030 and, more broadly, our community vision. Achieving these goals requires sustained investment in biodiversity. Without it, we cannot achieve this goal or contribute to the community aspiration of:

By 2047, Greater Geelong will be internationally recognised as a clever and creative city-region that is forward looking, enterprising and adaptive, and cares for its people and environment.

Specifically, the Environment Strategy 2020-2030 and Plan for Nature will focus on delivering the following components of the community vision:

Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment

Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.

The Plan for Nature specifies five goals, each with defined outcomes, targets and actions, which align with and support the guiding principles of Goal 4 in the Environment Strategy.

Figure 6 outlines the strategic foundation of the Plan for Nature.

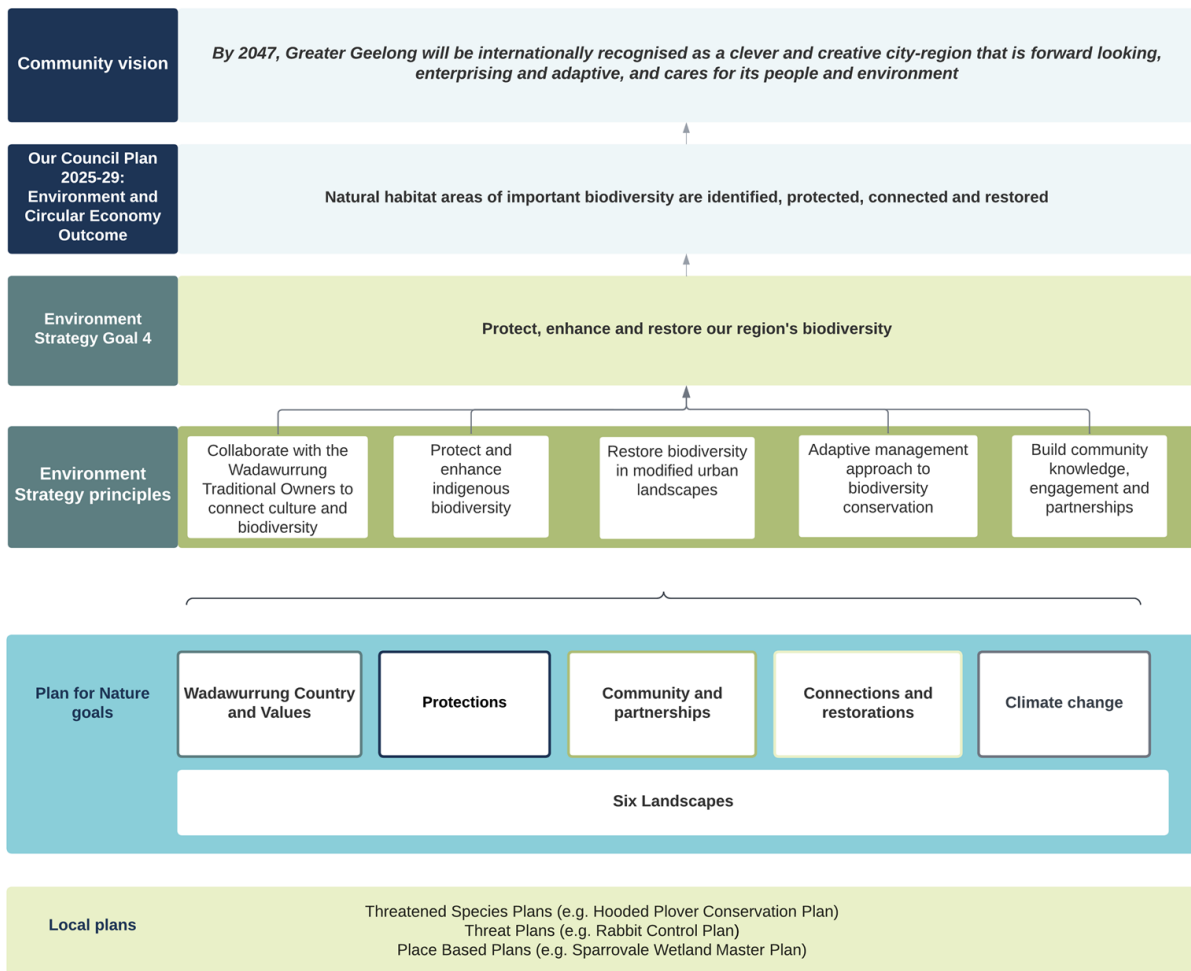


Figure 6. Strategic foundation of the Plan for Nature

STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN FOR NATURE

The Plan for Nature sets long-term (10 year) strategic objectives and targets for each of the five goals. These higher-level objectives will be implemented over the life of the Plan. Underpinning this is a shorter-term Action Plan, comprising a series of actions that will be implemented over two years. Many of the short-term actions are place-based and will apply to one of six landscapes (refer next section), while some actions will apply to the whole of the City. The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated every two years on a rolling basis.

State of Nature reports have been prepared for each of the six landscapes and describe the current state of biodiversity, threats and opportunities. Key species have also been identified for each landscape and are documented in this Plan.

Figure 7 provides an overview of the elements of the Plan for Nature, which are described in detail in the following sections.

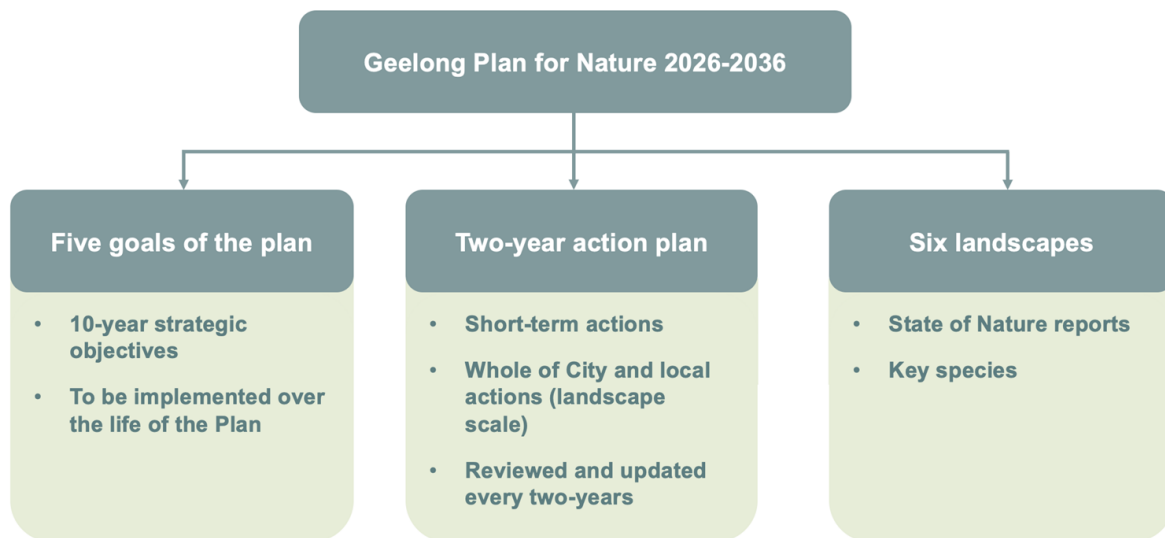


Figure 7. The elements of the Geelong Plan for Nature 2026-2036



Landscapes: Values, Threats and Opportunities

OVERVIEW

The Plan for Nature has also adopted six landscapes. These areas align with the landscapes (or local areas) described by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and Melbourne Water in the Corangamite and the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategies (refer to Figure 8).

These are areas with common features based on demographics, land use, vegetation, geology, geomorphology, soil, topography, hydrology, climate, bioregions and connectivity³². The six landscapes described in this Plan allow for more detailed, place-based planning and more locally focused management of biodiversity values.

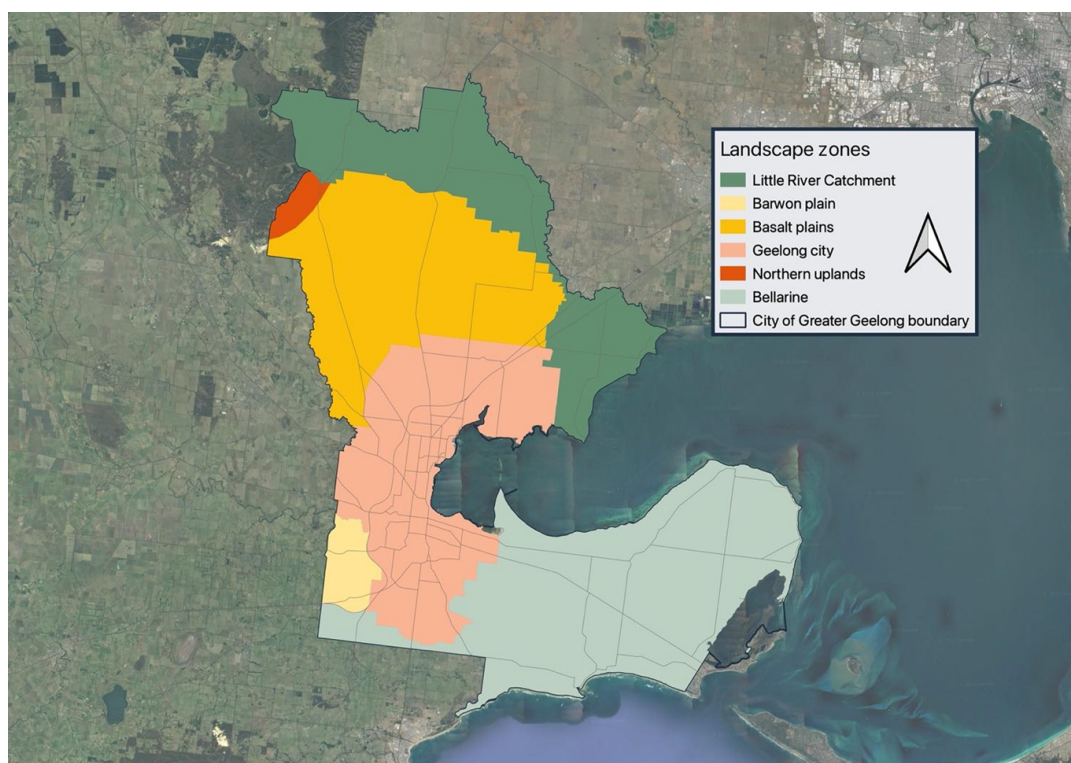


Figure 8. Landscapes or local areas that occur in the City of Greater Geelong (as based on the Corangamite and Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategies)

This section describes each of these landscapes, its current condition, as well as the key threats and opportunities for its biodiversity. Localised, short-term (two-year) actions have been identified for each landscape (as well as some actions that apply across the whole City), which build on longer-term strategic objectives. The first section provides a snapshot for the entire municipality.

More details about the state of nature have been developed for each landscape as part of the development of this Plan. This information provides a more in-depth account of the state of biodiversity, trends, threats and opportunities pertaining to each landscape. This information is available by contacting the City.

³² Corangamite CMA (2021) Summary of Local Areas. URL: <https://corangamite.rcs.vic.gov.au/local-areas/summary-of-local-areas/> (Accessed 26 August 2024)

Across Djilang

The Wadawurrung connection to Geelong, known as “Djilang”, is a powerful lens for understanding the region’s landscapes and biodiversity. Djilang, the “place of the sea bird over the white cliffs”, spans warre (sea), coastal wetlands, estuaries, saltmarshes, inland waterways including the Parwan (Barwon River), grassy plains, hills and woodlands. Once, the rich habitats were connected and uninterrupted, reflecting Wadawurrung belief that warre and dja (land) are inseparable.

The diverse landscape supports a rich array of flora and fauna, including migratory and resident birds, native mammals such as the Go-yin (wallabies) and Walert (possums), fish, amphibians and reptiles.

While Djilang is still a place of significant biodiversity, the landscape has been profoundly changed by urban growth, agriculture, industry, introduced species and climate change. It’s now fragmented, with remaining patches of remnant vegetation scattered across the City. Though limited, what remains is critically important, supporting species that were once widespread and are now threatened.

We must act now and work together with Wadawurrung and our growing community to protect and restore biodiversity across Djilang.

CURRENT CONDITION

Highly fragmented landscape, with patches of remnant vegetation remaining that are mostly threatened, with very significant biodiversity values

Stands of scattered and isolated old trees exist across the landscape, particularly in the north

Areas of very high biodiversity value exist across the Ramsar wetlands, including expansive and diverse areas of saltmarsh vegetation

Table 4 provides a snapshot of some nature indicators for the municipality.

THREATS

The threatening processes impacting biodiversity across the City are discussed in detail in this Plan (refer to the Drivers of Change section). The main threats are:

Climate change

Population growth

Land use change

Pest plants and animals.

OPPORTUNITIES

Creating landscape scale biolinks to increase habitat connectivity

Supporting Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to have a more prominent role in Caring for Country

Increasing the diversity in community participation and engagement in biodiversity conservation across the City

Stronger planning protections for biodiversity across the City

Partnerships with Corangamite CMA, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and other key stakeholders.

Barwon Plain

The Wadawurrung know the Barrabool Hills as *barro aabil*, meaning “place of rounded hills”. Prior to European colonisation, the landscape was mostly open woodlands of drooping sheoak, acacias and banksias, with a diverse ground layer of herbs and grasses. Pure grasslands covered the elevated areas and stands of river red gums and swamp gums lined the Barwon River.

Farmers cleared most of the area, harvesting sheoak for firewood and replacing native perennial grasses with exotic pastures and crops. Key natural values of the Barwon Plain landscape are the Barrabool Hills, the Barwon River and Waurn Ponds Creek.

CURRENT CONDITION

Very few examples of intact remnant vegetation remain

No City managed nature reserves (other than roadsides) or any other public land for nature conservation

The best remaining remnant vegetation exists along the Barwon River corridor.

Map 1 shows the mapped extent of existing remnant vegetation, its biodiversity conservation significance and old trees³³

Map 7 shows protection measures

Table 4 provides a snapshot of some nature indicators for the Barwon Plains.

THREATS

Climate change

Pest plants and animals

Population growth and urban development in surrounding areas

Loss of old ‘habitat’ trees.

OPPORTUNITIES

Waterways (Barwon River and Waurn Ponds Creek) as biolink corridors

Private land restoration

Partnerships with Deakin University to restore Waurn Ponds Creek.

KEY SPECIES

Bundjil (Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*)

Australia’s largest bird of prey, the Wedge-tailed eagle has a wingspan up to 2.3 m and a distinctive wedge-shaped tail. On the Barwon Plains, they favour the open country and large old trees for locating prey and building their nests. They can be seen perched on trees or soaring high overhead³⁴.

According to the Wadawurrung, Bundjil, often depicted as a Wedge-tailed Eagle, is an ancestral spirit who created the land, water, sky and people of the wider landscape.

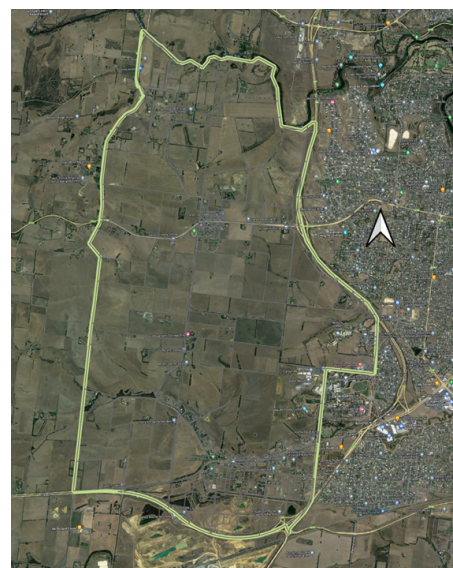


Figure 9. Map of the Barwon Plain landscape

Protecting old habitat trees and reinstating Bundjil habitat in this landscape is very important.



Figure 10. Bundjil (Wedge-tailed Eagle)¹

³³ Native Vegetation – City of Greater Geelong Biodiversity Mapping 2013 - 2025

³⁴ Birdlife Australia (2024) Wedge-tailed Eagle. URL: <https://birdlife.org.au/bird-profiles/wedge-tailed-eagle/> (Accessed 25 August 2024).

Bellarine

The Bellarine's name comes from the Wadawurrung word Bellawiyn, meaning "resting by the fire". Before European settlement, the Bellarine Peninsula was dominated by extensive open eucalypt woodlands. Very little remnant vegetation remains today, the largest being the Lake Connewarre Complex including extensive saltmarsh and mangroves. Lake Connewarre and Swan Bay form part of the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site, including important saltmarsh habitat, seagrass habitat, wetlands and an estuarine environment where Barwon River meets the sea. The area also supports marine parks and habitat for threatened species such as Orange Bellied Parrot, Swift Parrot and Hooded Plover.

The Bellarine landscape has evolved over thousands of years and supports high biodiversity. For the Wadawurrung people, the connected chain of ponds from the Barwon River to Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamps, Lake Connewarre and Estuary Bay are linked through Connewarre (Black Swan) Dreaming.

CURRENT CONDITION

Highly fragmented landscape, with patches of remnant vegetation along the thin shoreline strip and within wetlands

Remaining patches of remnant vegetation are mostly threatened with significant biodiversity values

Grassy woodlands have been significantly reduced

Large trees have been extensively cleared

Highly engaged community

Small coastal tributaries on the bayside are largely degraded.

Map 2 shows the mapped environmental values³⁵.

Map 8 shows protection measures.

Table 4 provides a snapshot of some nature indicators for the Bellarine.

THREATS

Climate change

Population growth and urban development

Continued fragmentation and loss of habitat

Loss of old 'habitat' trees

Pest plants and animals.



Figure 11. Map of the Bellarine landscape

OPPORTUNITIES

Blue carbon opportunities, for example, south-east Bellarine, at the Point

Protection of old habitat trees and woodlands

Increased habitat connectivity, especially along coastal creeks of the Bellarine

Working with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners at priority sites

Strengthened and diversified volunteering opportunities

Reviewed and amended planning controls.

³⁵ Native Vegetation – City of Greater Geelong Biodiversity Mapping 2013 - 2025

KEY SPECIES

Superb Fairy-wren (*Malurus cyaneus*)

Found in the open eucalypt woodlands of the Bellarine, where it inhabits dense understorey, the Superb Fairy-wren is usually seen in pairs or small groups. They have also adapted to urban parks and gardens across the Peninsula. The male's breeding plumage is unmistakable, with a light blue cap, ear tufts and cheeks, a black eye-strip, dark blue-black throat, brown wings and a white breast and belly. The adult female is mostly brown, with white throat, breast and belly. They forage mostly on the ground, eating insects, small seeds and fruits.



Figure 12: A breeding male Superb Fairy-wren

Basalt Plains

The Basalt Plains landscape area is part of a larger landscape system extending west from Greater Geelong. It's home to known rare and threatened species and significant and endangered vegetation communities like native grasslands. Threatened species include the Grassland Earless Dragon, Growling Grass Frog, Striped Legless Lizard, Golden Sun Moth and Spiny Rice-flower.

Other significant natural features include highly biodiverse Wurdi Youang (You Yangs or "big hill") and part of Anakie Youang (Mt Anakie or "little hill"). Hovells Creek is a key waterway connecting the Basalt Plains to Limeburners and Corio Bays.

CURRENT CONDITION

Native grasslands lack diversity and are fragmented

Extensive stands of old trees remain on Hovells and Sutherlands creeks and in the higher country

Some of the best examples of remnant grasslands occur on City managed roadsides, for example, Old Melbourne Road.

Map 3 shows the mapped extent of existing remnant vegetation, its biodiversity conservation significance and old trees³⁶.

Map 9 shows protection measures.

Table 4 provides a snapshot of some nature indicators for the Basalt Plains.

THREATS

Continued loss, degradation and fragmentation of grassland habitat on private land

Climate change

Pest plants and animals

Loss of old 'habitat' trees.

OPPORTUNITIES

Private land conservation focused on grasslands, grassy woodlands and old habitat trees

Protection and enhancement of biolink corridors along Hovells and Sutherlands creeks

Supporting Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to undertake cultural burning

Protection of high value roadsides

KEY SPECIES

Pobblebonk Frog or Eastern Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*)

The common, burrowing frog is found in waterways and farm dams across the Basalt Plains. It is easily identified by its distinctive loud "bond" or "plonk" call likened to a banjo string being plucked, making it great for surveys, even if it can't be seen. Adults grow up to 7.5 cm long, with a brown to green colouring and distinctive warty back, orange or yellow mottling on the sides, and a pale back yellow stripe from under eye to shoulder³⁷.

Restoring habitat along Hovells and Sutherlands creeks will help support local populations.

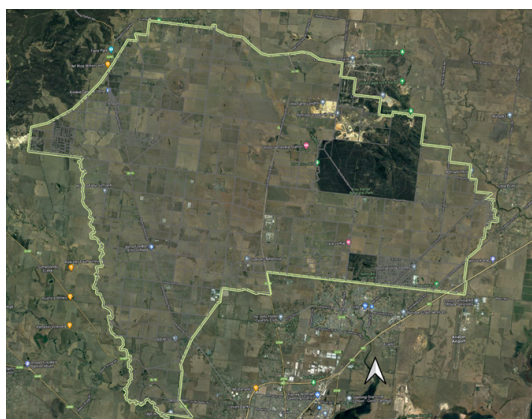


Figure 13. Map of the Basalt Plains landscape



Figure 14. Pobblebonk Frog

³⁶ Native Vegetation – City of Greater Geelong Biodiversity Mapping 2013 - 2025

³⁷ Australian Museum (2021) URL: <https://australian.museum/learn/animals/frogs/eastern-pobblebonk-frog/> (Accessed 18 Dec 2025)

Geelong City Landscape

Geelong’s name comes from the Wadawurrung word Djilang, meaning “tongue of land”. Spanning more than 28,000 hectares, the city landscape encompasses the urban centres of both Geelong and Lara. Despite its population density, important natural values remain. These include habitat within public reserves, coastal wetlands and saltmarshes, along waterways including the Barwon River, Waurn Ponds Creek and local creeks, areas of remnant native grasslands in open spaces and roadsides, and the nationally significant Grey Headed Flying Fox Camp at Eastern Park.

The Barwon River (Parwan) flows through the city centre. Wadawurrung consider the Barwon and its connected waterways and wetlands as a living entity. Stands of river red gum, woolly tea tree and silver wattle line the river and over 100 bird species live here, along with the water rat (Rakali), platypus and swamp wallaby.

Warre (sea) country strongly shapes Geelong’s identity. The coastline from Limeburners Bay through Avalon to Point Wilson is part of the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site, supporting saltmarshes, seagrasses and estuarine habitats.

CURRENT CONDITION

Highly urbanised environment

Most remnant vegetation exists in public land reserves, especially linear reserves along waterways and the coastline, and in nature reserves and open space areas

Higher proportion of environmental volunteer groups than other landscapes (except the Bellarine).

Map 4 mapped environmental values ³⁸.

Map 10 shows protection measures.

Table 4 provides a snapshot of some nature indicators for the Geelong City.

THREATS

Climate change

Expansion of urban areas into natural habitats

Greater pressure (disturbance and pollution) on waterways, wetlands, and remnant vegetation.



Figure 15. Map of the Geelong City landscape

OPPORTUNITIES

Supporting community restoration of habitat corridors along urban waterways

Working with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners on public land reserves

Blue carbon opportunities in coastal saltmarsh areas

Community engagement activities (Gardens for Wildlife, Nature Strip Plantings, Geelong Nature Forum).

KEY SPECIES

Perridak (*Platypus Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)

The Platypus is a unique egg-laying mammal, known as a monotreme, found in the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers and other waterways across Geelong. It is semi-aquatic and difficult to see, spending much of its time feeding in streambeds or sheltering in burrows along riverbanks, beneath vegetation roots, or among rocks and debris. Ideal Platypus habitat includes waterways with earth banks, shady native vegetation, logs and gravel substrates that support microinvertebrate (a main food source). Protecting and restoring Geelong’s in-stream and riparian habitats is essential to survival of Platypus in the Geelong City Landscape.

Records of Platypus in the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers around Geelong are increasing, but the last recorded sighting in the Waurn Ponds Creek was in 2003.

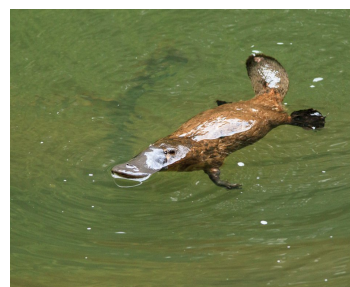


Figure 16. Perridak (Platypus)

³⁸ Native Vegetation – City of Greater Geelong Biodiversity Mapping 2013 - 2025

Little River

The Little River, *Worrin-yaloke*, flows from the Brisbane Ranges to Port Phillip Bay, forming large coastal wetlands. Lake Borrie, Spit Nature Conservation Reserve and the Western Treatment Plant are all part of the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site. Together they support important habitat including kelp and seagrass beds, marine meadows, intertidal salt and freshwater marshes, sandy shorelines and mudflats.

Before the landscape beyond the Brisbane Ranges was largely cleared, River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) were the dominate tree species, scattered sparsely across the plains and along Litte River and other waterways. Bandicoots (*Kwenda*) and spotted tail quolls (*Yoom*) were abundant on the grasslands, where they played crucial roles in maintaining soil and ecosystem health.

The Wadawurrung have a long connection with this landscape and were practicing sedentary agriculture long ago.

CURRENT CONDITION

- High biodiversity values contained in public land reserves
- High value roadsides surrounding the Brisbane Ranges
- Most native grasslands have been destroyed or degraded.
- Map 5 mapped environmental values ³⁹.
- Map 11 shows protection measures.
- Table 4 provides a snapshot of some nature indicators for the Little River.

THREATS

- Climate change
- Pest plants and animals
- Loss and degradation of high value roadside vegetation
- Continued loss and degradation of grassland habitat on private land.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Blue carbon opportunities in intertidal areas
- Reviewed and amended planning controls
- Protection of high value roadsides
- Private land conservation focused on grasslands and grassy woodlands
- Working with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners
- Habitat connectivity and restoration along Little River
- Partnerships with Melbourne Water.

KEY SPECIES

Fat-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*)

This small native marsupial lives in grasslands and open woodlands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains, where cracking clay soils provide shelter and foraging habitat⁴⁰. It has yellow-brown fur, large ears and a pointed nose, and stores fat in its tail to survive low food periods. The Fat-tailed Dunnart is listed as threatened under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1988) with threats including habitat loss, competition from pest animals, predation by feral cats and foxes, and accidental harm through vermin control.

In the 1980s survey work around the Western Treatment



Figure 17: Fat-tailed Dunnart © Trevor Pescott

Plant recorded several sites containing Fat-tailed Dunnarts some with multiple individuals. Very few have been recorded since.

Figure 18. Map of the Little River landscape



URL: [t.php](#) (Accesed 18

³⁹ Native Vegetation – City of Greater Geelong Biodiversity Mapping 2013 - 2025

Northern Uplands

The City includes a small section of the Northern Uplands landscape encompassing private land to the southwest of the Brisbane Ranges. This small section includes large areas of intact remnant vegetation remaining on private land, and the presence of old trees.

For the Wadawurrung people, this landscape including the nearby Brisbane Ranges, holds great cultural, social and spiritual significance.

CURRENT CONDITION

High biodiversity values on private land, including large, old trees and standing dead trees

High value roadsides.

Map 6 mapped environmental values⁴¹

Map 12 shows protection measures

Table 4 provides a snapshot of some nature indicators for the Northern Uplands.

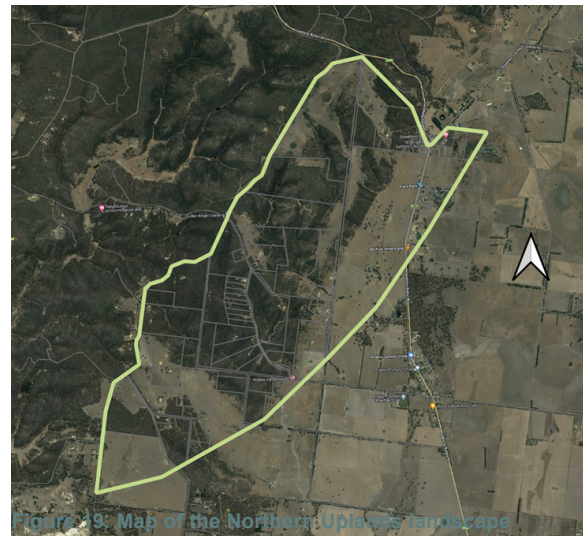


Figure 19: Map of the Northern Uplands landscape

THREATS

Climate change – drier, hotter, more extreme events, longer fire season, migration/loss of native species and old trees

Pest plants and animals

Loss and degradation of high value roadside vegetation.

OPPORTUNITIES

Protection of high value roadsides

Private land conservation

Protection of old habitat trees

Supporting Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to undertake cultural burning

Wildlife road crossings

Koala habitat protection and restoration

Partnership with Koala Clancey Foundation.

KEY SPECIES

Ngaambulmum (Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*)

Koalas rely on eucalyptus forests for both food and shelter. Across the Geelong region, threats include habitat loss, urban development, disease, vehicle strikes, dog attacks and climate change.

Regular monitoring of Koalas in the Geelong region by Koala Clancey indicate Koala numbers are in decline.

The Northern Uplands biolink retains quality habitat and old eucalypts on private land that support Koalas while extending habitat connections from the Brisbane Ranges National Park towards the You Yangs and Moorabool River.



Figure 20. Ngaambulmum (Koala)

⁴¹ Native Vegetation – City of Greater Geelong Biodiversity Mapping 2013 - 2025

Table 4 provides a snapshot of some indicators across the municipality (Djilang) and the six landscapes.

Theme	Djilang	Barwon Plain	Bellarine	Basalt Plains	Geelong City	Little River	Northern Uplands
Remaining remnant vegetation and wetlands (estimated)	18%	1%	15%	21%	8%	31%	65%
Hectares managed by the City for nature conservation	1,358 (ha)	1.3 (ha)	845 (ha)	19 (ha)	465 (ha)	8.5 (ha)	19 (ha)
% of the total area in the municipality protected in the conservation estate	9.7%		13.7%	7.7%	3.4%	14%	5.9%
Number of Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) mapped (including mosaics)	69	7	31	29	34	35	16
% of rare, vulnerable, and endangered EVCs mapped		86%	94%	90%	100%	80%	63%
Number of threatened species and ecological communities	191						
Number of Threatened species and ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act	41	6	23	21	30	27	1
Number of species listed under the EPBC Act with habitat on City managed land	24	6	21	12	19	18	1
Number of caring for environment, citizen science, and network groups	73	1	34	5	29	3	1
Number of caring for environment, citizen science, and network groups involved in managing City nature reserves.	36		18		17	1	

Refer Appendix 1, 2 and 3 for a list of threatened species and ecological communities, and a list of volunteer environmental groups and networks.



Goal 1: Wadawurrung Country and Values

We will support Traditional Owners to care for and heal Country. As the original custodians of this landscape, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners hold deep knowledge of caring for Country built over thousands of generations. We have much to learn from the Wadawurrung in how we protect nature.

CONTEXT

Colonisation dispossessed Wadawurrung and other First Nations peoples of their Country. Protecting biodiversity in the Geelong region will also protect and restore connection to Wadawurrung cultural practices by preserving important totem species, bush foods and medicines.

This plan provides opportunities for Wadawurrung to apply their knowledge and skills in managing and conserving the City's natural environment, while enabling others to learn from their stewardship of Country⁴².

Through ongoing collaboration, we will work with Wadawurrung to understand cultural values across the landscape, manage nature reserves of high cultural and/or ecological value, and support the use of Wadawurrung language, stories and cultural practices in the City's natural areas.

This Plan supports a stronger, ongoing role for Wadawurrung in Caring for Country, and aligns with the principles and goals of *Paleet Tjaara Dja, the Wadawurrung Country Plan*.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Wadawurrung have an increasing role in the management of the City's nature reserves

Wadawurrung are leading identification, protection and management of cultural values

More Wadawurrung language, stories and cultural practice are embedded within the City's nature reserves.

TARGETS

Five (5) nature reserves feature active collaborative relationships between Wadawurrung and the City

- Two (2) completed Cultural Values Assessments (CVAs) of cultural landscape areas
- Wadawurrung language, stories or cultural practice adopted for
 - new nature reserves
 - five (5) existing nature reserves.

-
- 74% of the area of City land managed as nature reserve falls within areas of cultural heritage sensitivity⁴³
-

⁴² Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2017) Biodiversity 2037. Victorian State Government, Melbourne.

⁴³ Nature reserves layer in the City's Public Open Space spatial data (Accessed Dec 2025).

Goal 2: Protections

The City's remaining native vegetation and habitat are limited and increasingly vulnerable. To maintain biodiversity, we must prioritise protection and restoration of what remains and avoid further loss. This requires a strong focus on planning, protection mechanisms, and collaborative action to safeguard what we have and support recovery over time.

CONTEXT

Only small, highly fragmented areas of remnant vegetation and habitat remain across the City on both public and private land. While limited, these remnants are vital for biodiversity, providing critical habitat for threatened flora and fauna species that have adapted over thousands of years to exist in these vegetation communities. These patches also offer complexity in vegetation age and structure that can take years to replicate, supply seeds for collection and conservation, and serve as important benchmarks to guide future revegetation efforts.

The City's internationally significant wetlands are vital biodiversity strongholds. They support tens of thousands of waterbirds and other wildlife, including rare and threatened species. These wetlands provide crucial breeding and feeding grounds and help reduce the impacts of climate change through providing natural flood mitigation, shoreline stabilisation and storm protection.

Habitat is also found throughout the City in places such as our gardens and backyards, parks and green spaces, waterways, street trees, rooftop gardens and coastal areas. Together these areas provide important refuges for wildlife.

With so little habitat remaining in the City, preventing further loss and protecting and enhancing what remains is critical.

Biolink areas have been identified throughout the City to guide where protection, connection and restoration actions will be prioritised. Further details are provided in Goal 3. Refer also to Map 13 and Appendix 4 for further detail.

Protecting biodiversity through land use planning and other mechanisms

The City's conservation estate covers just 9.7% of the municipality and includes land protected by Parks Victoria, Corangamite CMA, Barwon Water, Coastal Committees of Management and the City, and a small portion of private land under Trust for Nature covenants. By protecting and conserving this conservation estate, and seeking opportunities to expand it, we will contribute to the Australian Government's commitment to a national '30 by 30' target to conserve 30% of landmass and marine areas by 2030.

Several wetlands in the City are listed under the Ramsar Convention as part of the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsular Ramsar site. This includes much of the Lake Connewarre wetland system, Swan Bay, Point Wilson / Limeburner's Bay and the Avalon coastal area. These wetlands are recognised internationally for their significant biodiversity and habitat values.

Beyond the conservation estate, small patches and linear strips of remnant vegetation persist along waterways, coastal areas, and roadsides and on private land. The Greater Geelong Planning Scheme provides regulatory mechanisms to protect and enhance vegetation and habitat values over the long-term, including the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO), Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) and Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO). The Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) guides subdivision and planning requirements for development and works that are compatible with conservation values, while the Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) outlines permitted and prohibited activities that support the conservation purposes of the zone. Refer Map 7 to 12.

Protection of native vegetation is also regulated under Clause 51.17 of all Victorian Planning Schemes, with the most recent approvals associated with new urban development. Despite the City's planning permit and compliance processes, illegal vegetation removal continues to occur.

We need greater emphasis on securing biodiversity offsets within the City, rather than outside it. Securing offsets locally will help protect remaining vegetation and strengthen long-term biodiversity outcomes for the City.

Protecting biodiversity on private land

Significant remnant vegetation and biodiversity also exist on private land, but only a small proportion is permanently protected, such as through conservation covenants. Working with private landholders is essential to protecting, enhancing and preventing any further loss. The City can support this through education, incentives and collaboration with organisations such as Landcare and Trust for Nature. Conservation covenants, such as those administered by Trust for Nature, offer a permanent means to safeguard native vegetation on private land. The City can help encourage their uptake through incentives and support for sustainable land management practices.

Building internal capacity to protect and enhance nature

Building the skills, knowledge and collaboration of City staff and contractors is key to embedding biodiversity protection across all areas of our work. Improving ecological understanding helps ensure biodiversity is considered in planning, infrastructure delivery, community programs and day-to-day decisions.

Providing practical training, tools and guidance will build confidence to act for nature, while stronger collaboration across City departments will support shared outcomes such as improved liveability, wellbeing and community health. Integrating biodiversity into corporate policies and processes enables the City can lead by example and deliver best-practice environmental outcomes.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

More high-quality remnant vegetation in biolink areas on private land is protected through appropriate zones or overlays that recognise environmental values

More areas of remnant vegetation are permanently protected across both public and private land

Threatened species and their habitats are better protected in City's nature reserves, open spaces and roadsides

A greater proportion of vegetation offsets are secured within the City

Fewer instances of vegetation removal occur without a permit

Nature considerations are embedded into the City's policies, strategies and operational procedures across all key departments.

TARGETS

A higher level of protection is applied to remnant vegetation in biolink areas

Conservation protection established for all remnant biodiversity patches larger than 10 hectares within biolink areas

The total area of remnant vegetation within the City's conservation estate or other public protected areas is increased

The total area of biodiversity permanently protected on private land increases (e.g., via Trust for Nature covenants or other protection mechanisms)

Five (5) City owned Nature Reserves are permanently protected through Trust for Nature Covenants or Section 69 Agreements⁴⁴

Conservation action plans are in place to better protect threatened species and their habitat in City managed nature reserves, open space and roadsides

A greater proportion of biodiversity offsets are secured within the City rather than elsewhere

The annual rate of vegetation clearing without a permit, including the loss of old trees, declines

More formal processes that protect nature are integrated into the City's policies, strategies and operational procedures.

⁴⁴ Section 69 of the Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987

Goal 3: Connections and Restoration

Healthy, biodiverse-rich ecosystems depend on being well-connected and resilient. To do this we must link remnant vegetation, restore degraded areas and create new habitat so native plants and animals can move, adapt and survive. Building this resilience is key, especially as our climate changes.

CONTEXT

The City has a responsibility to restore and expand native vegetation and habitat, so biodiversity is protected, strengthened and does not continue to decline. This commitment aligns with Victorian Government targets for achieving a **net gain in the extent of habitats by 2037⁴⁵** and **recognises the importance of nature for** community health and wellbeing, and for future generations.

In a changing climate, restoring, connecting and expanding habitat is essential to help species survive and adapt. This includes supporting natural regeneration, undertaking revegetation programs, reconnecting fragmented habitats, restoring degraded waterways and wetlands, increasing habitat across urban areas and reducing threats such as pest plants and animals. Climate change is likely to amplify existing threats and reduce resilience of flora and fauna species to adapt. Species in highly fragmented landscapes are more vulnerable, as their ability to easily migrate in response to pressures is reduced. Well-connected, healthy habitats give our remaining species the best chance to persist and adapt to current and future pressures.

Public reserve management

The City manages a network of nature reserves providing important habitat for native plants and animals, including many threatened species. The reserves range from small 1 hectare urban parks to large reserves over 100 hectares with high biodiversity value. Even smaller reserves can be important for protecting remnant vegetation and supporting wildlife.

While some reserves have conservation or master plans, many are outdated or incomplete, and some reserves have no plan in place. This makes it difficult to guide investment and prioritise action. Reviewing and updating management plans, particularly for reserves supporting threatened species, is a key priority.

Pest plants and animals are a major pressure across the City. They compete with native species for resources, prey on native fauna, cause erosion and other physical disturbances, and can affect ecosystem functioning. Established pest animals in the region include rabbits, foxes, feral cats and deer. Invasive animals declared under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, such as rabbits and foxes, are well established in the municipality. Pest plants are a risk to regional biodiversity, they invade native vegetation, provide habitat for pest animals and increase fire fuel loads.

We need to review regulations at City reserves of high wildlife value, such as coastal reserves, that provide critical habitat for threatened species like the Hooded Plover. Current practices such as dogs on beaches pose a key threat to native wildlife. Hooded Plovers rely on the narrow strip of coastal land between the sea and dunes, which is already under pressure from climate impacts. Alleviating avoidable pressures, such as dogs in key habitat areas, will help build species' resilience.

Domestic and feral cats also threaten native wildlife. Cats prey on a wide range of native animals including reptiles, birds, mammals, frogs and invertebrates. Research suggests that on average, each pet cat allowed to roam (even for only part of the day or night) kills 186 reptiles, birds and mammals per year in Australia, including 110 native animals. That averages out to more than two native animals per cat per week⁴⁶. The City has a key role in the managing domestic cats and may consider measures such as a cat curfew to reduce impacts on wildlife, particularly at night.

Feral cats will continue to be targeted in broader pest management programs and in conjunction with surrounding land managers, such as Barwon Coast Committee of Management and Parks Victoria.

⁴⁵ Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) (2017) *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*. Victorian State Government, Melbourne.

⁴⁶ *Threatened Species Recovery Hub (date n/a). The impact of cats on Australian wildlife*. URL: https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/dehnttbf/7-4-the-impact-of-pet-cat-impacts_f.pdf (Accessed 6 March 2025)

Linear reserves

The City manages rural roadsides, which can support high quality native vegetation and provide important wildlife corridors. Some of the most intact and diverse remnant vegetation occurs in the roadside reserves, with around 300 kilometres (540 hectares) of significant roadsides mapped across rural areas. In Western Victoria about 30 percent of known native grasslands occur on roadsides and within the City, the Old Melbourne Road between Lara and Little River is Geelong's largest roadside grassland reserve.

Urban nature strips also provide opportunities for restoring biodiversity, while delivering other community benefits. When planted with native vegetation, they can provide nesting and feeding sites for native animals, increase insect diversity, connect green spaces, help manage stormwater, help cool neighbourhoods and improve air quality. The City supports residents to plant their nature strips through our Nature Strip Guidelines and Specifications (2024).

Waterways and rail reserves form additional linear nature corridors, such as along the Bellarine Rail trail Reserve, offering valuable connectivity across the landscape. Even degraded creeks and small tributaries can be restored to improve habitat links.

Many community groups already have strong connections to their local waterways, and people tend to connect most with places close to home, regardless of their condition⁴⁷. This presents a real opportunity to engage the community in restoring biodiversity and improving connectivity across the City's waterways.

Biolinks Areas

Biodiversity corridors (or biolinks) are connected areas of habitat across the landscape. They allow plants and animals to move between habitats to find food, water and shelter. By improving connectivity, biolinks help species adapt to climate change, provide refuge and support the natural movement of wildlife. They also help to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions by storing carbon within native vegetation.⁴⁸

Map13 highlights the key biodiversity areas and connections within the City. These include riparian vegetation corridors along waterways such as the Barwon River, and along roadsides and the coastal fringe, as well as biodiversity zones (including Avalon, Brisbane Ranges and Lake Connewarre), along with key habitat and restoration nodes. The City has also identified and mapped biolink opportunities in each of the six landscapes as detailed in the Landscapes section above.

The Biolink areas set the priority for where we will target protection, connection and restoration actions. Refer Map 13 and Appendix 4 for further detail.

Supporting Wildlife

Built-up areas also play an important role in supporting wildlife. Urban parks, private gardens, street trees, waterways and built infrastructure can provide shelter, food and movement pathways for many native species. Wildlife in urban areas is more exposed to risks such as vehicle strikes, attacks by pets, entanglement and ongoing habitat loss, which can result in injury or displacement. The City recognises the important role of wildlife carers and community responders who support injured and orphaned animals. It will continue to work with partners to improve awareness, reduce risks to wildlife and support effective responses to wildlife injury and care across the municipality.

Private land conservation

Achieving real biodiversity outcomes requires restoration action across both public and private land. Alongside permanently protecting remnant vegetation through planning controls and conservation covenants, the City will work with and support private landholders to restore and expand biodiversity on their properties. This includes encouraging natural regeneration, revegetation and threat management, and participation in building biolinks and connectivity across the landscape, especially for woodlands, grasslands and old trees. Stewardship incentives such as small grants or rate-based mechanisms may be used support these actions.

Urban residents also have an important role to play. Programs such as Gardens for Wildlife support community members to create more biodiverse, wildlife-friendly gardens. Residents can also contribute to the City's goal of achieving 30% urban canopy cover by planting trees in backyards and on nature strips.

⁴⁷ Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2022). *My Victorian Waterway: Social research to understand the community's connection to Victorian waterways*. Full report prepared by Quantum Market Research for the Victorian State Government, Melbourne.

⁴⁸ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/conservation/wildlife-corridors> ((Accessed 29 December 2024).

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

More biolinks are established across the City landscape

Biodiversity restoration on private land continues to increase

Habitat on City managed land expands and improves in quality

Wildlife in areas with high community interaction areas such as roads and new development sites are actively protected

Populations of the City's six (6) key wildlife species are increasing

Residents in "nature-poor" suburbs gain access to more natural open space and more opportunities to connect with nature.

TARGETS

150,000 indigenous plants established, and 50 hectares of habitat restored within City managed biolink areas

10 hectares of vegetation added to nature reserves through natural regeneration

1,000 hectares of biodiversity restoration works completed on private land within biolink area through City supported incentive programs

High threat weeds effectively controlled across City-managed nature reserves and roadsides

Pest animal numbers reduced within City managed nature reserves and roadsides

Dogs managed in high value wildlife areas, including City-managed coastal reserves

A cat curfew introduced in the City's urban areas

Biodiversity restoration increased across open space reserves within biolink areas.

Goal 4: Community and partnerships

Lasting protection and restoration of the City's biodiversity and natural assets can only be achieved through strong partnerships and an engaged community. By working together to share knowledge, pool resources, and strengthen stewardship, we can create real change that endures for future generations.

CONTEXT

Research shows that connecting people with nature enriches lives, improves health and wellbeing, and fosters positive environmental attitudes and values that can promote a lifelong relationship with nature⁴⁹. Connecting people with nature can also be the catalyst that drives environmental stewardship. We are committed to supporting, improving, and expanding the environmental volunteer sector in the City. This aligns with the Victorian Government's target of five million Victorians acting to protect the natural environment by 2037⁵⁰ and the City's own *Environment Strategy 2020-30* target to engage 100,000 people in nature education and conservation by 2030.

Environmental volunteering

The City benefits from a strong network of individuals and community groups who actively restore habitat, protect threatened species and waterways, and help to deliver sustainability programs. Around 90 environmental volunteer groups operate across the City, most focused on caring for nature, including 36 groups that work on City managed land. Refer Appendix 3 for further details.

Engagement is also growing across schools and other public and private organisations. Many primary schools participate in environmental programs, reflected in high levels of involvement in the Geelong Nature Festival. Corporate interest is also increasing, with organisations keen to engage their staff in local conservation activities. For example, the City has partnered with the Geelong Football Club to offer Geelong AFLW members a *Green Cats* membership option. Geelong AFLW players have joined the City to plant trees along the Moorabool River at Fyansford over two consecutive years since 2023.

Community preference is shifting toward practical, outdoor and short-term volunteering, such as planting and clean-up events. These activities are consistently popular and align with volunteer data from across Victoria, where increasingly people are seeking meaningful, one-off event-based volunteering opportunities as opposed to long-term commitments⁵¹.

Volunteering across the City is uneven, with most groups based on the Bellarine (46%) and in the Geelong City area (41%). Across the city, around 81% of volunteer environment groups focus on caring for nature, citizen science or network activities.

Research highlights several challenges facing the environmental volunteering sector. While people continue to sign up to volunteering, they are committing fewer hours than in the past. Increasing time pressures within the community make it more difficult to attract new volunteers and sustain a reliable volunteer workforce. Environmental volunteers also tend to be older than the wider volunteering sector, and the sector lacks diversity, with fewer volunteers from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, who are more likely to engage in informal rather than structured volunteering.

A 2018 volunteer survey⁵² explored what would encourage and support people to participate in environmental volunteering. The findings show that volunteers are looking for:

Greater flexibility in how and when they volunteer, so they can balance their contribution with family, work, study and caring responsibilities.

More event-based volunteering that allows for short-term meaningful commitments. They also want these opportunities easier to find, as they are not always accessible or readily available.

⁴⁹ Department Of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2017) *Biodiversity 2037*. Victorian State Government, Melbourne.

⁵⁰ *ibid.*

⁵¹ Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2018) *Victorians Volunteering for Nature: Environmental Volunteering Plan*. Victorian State Government, Melbourne.

⁵² *ibid.*

Meaningful volunteer roles and recognition for their efforts. Many volunteers want to feel valued by the organisations they work with, while some are seeking to volunteer through their workplace or are looking for pathways to employment and skills development.

Simplified administration and legal requirements to make it easier for both volunteer groups and individual volunteers to participate.

Private land stewardship

Although the City has many active environmental volunteer groups, many are working on public land reserves or on private land via an existing landholder connection. To strengthen biodiversity outcomes, we also need to work directly with individual landholders (especially those not already involved with a volunteer group such as Landcare) to protect and enhance habitat on their property and its long-term stewardship. The City can help by providing incentives to encourage landholders to apply for conservation covenants or adopt other sustainable land management practices.

Agency partnerships

Caring for nature in the City also requires strong collaboration with our agency partners (particularly the Corangamite CMA, Barwon Water, Melbourne Water and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), as well as other public land managers (e.g. Parks Victoria and coastal committees), policy makers, private businesses and industry. Nature isn't bound by management boundaries, so it is essential that we coordinate our efforts with other agencies and neighbouring municipalities. The private sector can also play an important role in the protection and enhancement of nature in Geelong.

Connecting people with nature in "nature poor" areas

Across the City there are areas where nature, and access to natural areas, is scarce. We refer to these areas as being "nature poor" and examples include our northern suburbs. All residents should be able to experience and benefit from access to nature, regardless of where they live. In nature poor areas, we need to retrofit existing open space areas to include more natural landscapes that offer residents opportunities for nature connection. In addition, new developments should be required to meet strengthened standards that broaden the traditional open space contributions to include passive recreation and direct access to natural environments.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

A wider and more diverse cross-section of the community is contributing to nature conservation across the City

Biodiversity knowledge and awareness continue to increase across the City and the wider community

Stronger partnerships are supporting and enhancing biodiversity outcomes across the City.

TARGETS

An increased number of Geelong residents are connected and engaged with nature

Participation in the Geelong Nature Festival and other community-based nature activities increases

Twenty (20) activities are delivered to target CALD community participation in environmental education and nature related activities

Twenty (20) activities are delivered to target participation of younger people in environmental education and nature related activities

There is an increase in the number of Geelong residents volunteering for nature-related activities

Participation in citizen science programs continues to increase

Baseline levels of community awareness and participation are established through surveys.

Goal 5: Climate change and supporting nature

Evidence shows that ecological change in response to climate change is unavoidable, widespread and substantial. Our ability to manage biodiversity through these changes depends on **understanding how ecosystems might change and identifying places where biodiversity has the greatest potential to persist into the future**⁵³.

CONTEXT

The City's natural assets will be impacted by climate change. These impacts are well documented and have already been discussed in this Plan (refer to Drivers of Change above).

Our focus must shift to building the resilience of natural systems to adapt and persist under a changing climate. The City's natural assets are adaptive as they have persisted through climate change in the past, however, their capacity to continue to adapt has been compromised by changes such as fragmentation, competition for water use and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.

The best way we can help nature adapt to climate change will be largely reflected in how we manage our catchments and landscapes into the future. However, the potential scale, timing and severity of a changing climate may mean our traditional approaches may not be enough. We may have to change or even transform how we manage these systems, because the natural assets themselves may change dramatically⁵⁴.

Our adaptation approach includes three levels of response:

Resilience – where the magnitude of change is small and predictable. Adaptation can occur in the form of incremental changes to current management of natural assets, for example, fencing waterways to exclude stock allowing these areas to recover and strengthen their natural resilience, or removing dogs from sensitive wildlife areas to alleviate their compounding impact on vulnerable species.

Transition – where the magnitude of change is greater and less predictable. This requires more substantial change to current management of natural assets and the introduction of new measures. For example, changing water regimes at wetlands, such as the Sparrovale Wetland Reserve *Nubij-yoorree*, to allow vulnerable species to adapt to projected reductions in stream flows.

Transformation – where change is extensive, and the level of uncertainty is high, requiring fundamental changes to the management of natural assets. Examples include the relocation of fish populations from small climate vulnerable creeks to larger permanent waterways to ensure populations persist, or the creation of artificial reef to mitigate coastal climate change impacts and create new habitat for vulnerable marine species.

Supporting climate adaptation also creates opportunities for the City, such as the creation of new habitats and green spaces that will benefit the community. Public open spaces across the City can contribute to habitat restoration and ecological connectivity, and the City has committed to restoring biodiversity within modified urban landscapes through the City's Environment Strategy. Urban open spaces, which include parks, gardens, recreational reserves, drainage reserves and streetscapes, will become increasingly important refuges for native wildlife and the community, as the climate warms. These spaces can also help reduce the heat island affect in the City. Urban greenspaces may also play an important role in allowing movement of species across the landscape in response to changes in climate and other pressures.

The protection of blue and teal carbon ecosystems presents another important opportunity for the City to achieve greater biodiversity outcomes, build the resilience of natural systems to respond to climate change, limit the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere and contribute to carbon emission offsets. Blue carbon is the carbon stored in

⁵³ *Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (2024) Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy. Corangamite CMA, Colac.*

⁵⁴ *ibid.*

coastal and marine ecosystems. Teal carbon is the carbon stored in inland freshwater wetlands. Protection of these ecosystems provides protection from coastal storm surges and inland flooding and helps to mitigate erosion.

These ecosystems provide habitat for a range of estuarine and freshwater species including migratory bird and commercially important fish species (supporting both mature and juvenile life stages). They also contribute towards improved water quality and nutrient cycling⁵⁵. Across the City, there are significant opportunities to protect and restore blue and teal carbon ecosystems.

The City of Greater Geelong has already taken an innovative approach to combat coastal erosion and inundation on the Bellarine Peninsula, while creating new habitat. Projects such as the Ramblers Reef Foreshore Project in Portarlington and the Eco Reef in Clifton Springs are prime examples. Since the installation of the Ramblers Reef in 2018, the project has expanded beach and foreshore habitat and reduced coastal inundation events. Seagrass is also thriving again the shallow waters, further enhancing ecological health.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The impacts of climate change on natural areas are understood, and adaptation and mitigation measures are embedded in decision making

A greater number of blue and teal carbon ecosystems in the City are protected and restored

City open space reserves provide improved outcomes for nature as the climate changes

Stormwater is managed to avoid negative impacts on the natural environment.

TARGETS

Considerations of climate change impacts on nature are embedded into all relevant decision making

An increased number of nature and eco-system-based solutions are implemented to minimise the negative impact of climate change on natural systems

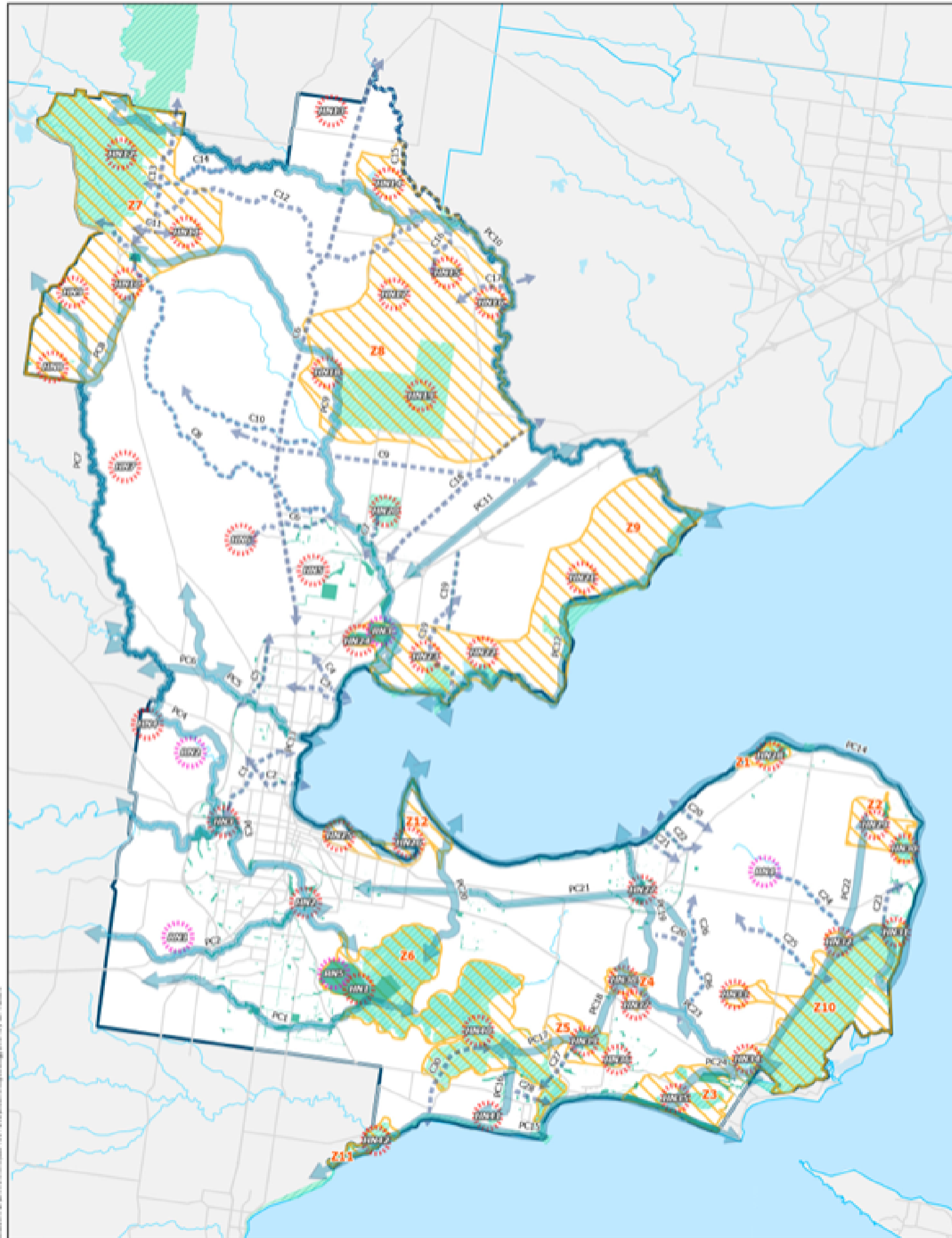
The extent of blue and/or teal carbon ecosystems protected and restored increases

Integrated water management solutions are applied in growth areas to reduce impacts of stormwater on receiving environments and nature.

⁵⁵ Vic Catchments (2024) Blue and teal carbon investment opportunities in Victoria. URL: https://viccatchments.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Blue-and-Teal-Carbon_FINAL-WEB-1.pdf (Accessed 25 August 2024)

Biolink Areas

MAP 13: Biolinks Areas



Legend

- Corridor – (C)
- Priority Corridor – (PC)
- Zone (Z)
- Habitat Node (HN)
- Restoration Nodes (RN)
- Public Open Space
- CoGG LGA Boundary
- Park Victoria Manged land



Prepared by City of Greater Geelong - February 2020
 Although all due care has been taken to ensure that this document is correct, no warranty is expressed or implied by City of Greater Geelong in its use. Further on-ground assessment is needed to inform decision-making about planning permit applications at the property level.





Action Plan

This section of the Plan presents the actions that the City will deliver to help achieve the ten-year strategic objectives and targets for each of the five Goals. The actions are short-term, intending to be delivered over the next one to two years, after which the action plan will be reviewed and updated. These short-term actions are outlined in Table 4 below. While some actions apply to a specific landscape, others will be implemented City wide.

Note **supplementary actions to be implemented if time and resources allow.

The landscapes are described as:

- Djilang** – Geelong wide (whole of municipality)
- BaP** – Basalt Plains
- Bell** – Bellarine
- BwP** – Barwon Plains
- GC** – Geelong City
- LR** – Little River
- NU** – Northern Uplands

Table 5. Plan for Nature actions to be delivered over the next three years

Goal	Strategic objectives (10 years)	Targets (10 years)	Actions (2 years)	Landscape							Resourcing				
				Djiang	BaP	Bell	BwP	GC	LR	NU					
Wadawurrung Country & Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wadawurrung have an increasing role in management of the City's nature reserves Wadawurrung are leading identification, protection and management of cultural values More Wadawurrung language, stories and cultural practice are embedded within the City's nature reserves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five (5) nature reserves feature active collaborative relationships between Wadawurrung and the City Two (2) completed Cultural Values Assessments (CVAs) of cultural landscape areas Wadawurrung language, stories or cultural practice adopted for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new nature reserves five (5) existing nature reserves. 	1) Meet with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) three (3) times each year to support collaborative actions that strengthen connections between culture and nature.	✓							BAU				
			2) Identify City nature reserves where WTOAC can lead or partner in conservation management, and undertake <u>two</u> (2) traditional ecological practices, for example, cultural burning.						✓		BAU				
			3) **a) Identify and prioritise landscapes suitable for Cultural Values Assessment by WTOAC b) Commence <u>one</u> (1) Cultural Values Assessment.	✓							Resource Required				
			4) a) Incorporate Wadawurrung language and stories at <u>two</u> (2) existing City nature reserves, through naming, interpretative displays and/or other activities b) Prioritise new nature reserves for similar treatment, aligning with the City's <i>Place Naming Policy 2025</i> .						✓		✓	BAU			
Protections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More high-quality remnant vegetation in biolink areas on private land is protected through appropriate zones or overlays that recognise environmental values More areas of remnant vegetation are permanently protected across both public and private land Threatened species and their habitats are better protected in City's nature reserves, open spaces and roadsides A greater proportion of vegetation offsets are secured within the City Fewer instances of vegetation removal occur without a permit Nature considerations are embedded into the City's policies, strategies and operational procedures across all key departments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A higher level of protection is applied to remnant vegetation in biolink areas Conservation protection established for all remnant biodiversity patches larger than 10 hectares within biolink areas The total area of remnant vegetation within the City's conservation estate or other public protected areas is increased The total area of biodiversity permanently protected on private land increases (e.g., via Trust for Nature covenants or other protection mechanisms) Five (5) City owned Nature Reserves are permanently protected through Trust for Nature Covenants or Section 69 Agreements Conservation action plans are in place to better protect threatened species and their habitat in City managed nature reserves, open space and roadsides A greater proportion of biodiversity offsets are secured within the City rather than elsewhere 	5) a) Review the planning scheme, including the environmental zones and overlays, and develop management standards to ensure stronger recognition and protections for areas of environmental significance within biolink areas. Priority target areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high quality remnant vegetation listed under the <i>EPBC Act</i> and/or an endangered, vulnerable, depleted or rare EVC (Ecological Vegetation Class) habitat areas larger than 10 hectares remnant vegetation patches that combine to form large, connected areas large old remnant trees. b) The City planning team to prepare a staged program to update environmental zones and overlays c) Complete <u>two</u> (2) planning scheme amendments that improve protections for areas of environmental significance.					✓	✓		✓	Resource Required			
			6) a). Secure permanent protection for <u>two</u> (2) City owned Nature Reserves through Trust for Nature Covenants or Section 69 Agreements. b) Actively promote and support private landholders to establish Trust For Nature covenants through the City's incentives program.								✓			✓	BAU/Grant
			7) **Prepare a conservation action plan to provide a protection and management framework for threatened species and their habitats located on City managed land.	✓											Resource Required

Goal	Strategic objectives (10 years)	Targets (10 years)	Actions (2 years)	Landscape						Resourcing	
				Djiang	BaP	Bell	BwP	GC	LR		NU
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual rate of vegetation clearing without a permit, including the loss of old trees, declines More formal processes that protect nature are integrated into the City's policies, strategies and operational procedures. 	8) Prepare <u>two</u> (2) conservation plans for EPBC listed species located on City managed land: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grey Headed Flying Fox Growing Grass Frog. 			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	BAU
			9) **a) Develop guidelines to promote retention of important habitat not protected under native vegetation regulations; for example, planted areas of vegetation, and large old, planted trees, as well as for wildlife without threatened species protection b) Develop a process to better support wildlife (e.g. kangaroos) in areas of high community interaction like roads and new development areas c) Promote the Hollows Hunt App, ensuring the information is readily accessible for decision making.	✓							Resource Required
			10) **a) Investigate funding opportunities to acquire more land for nature reserves, prioritising high-quality vegetation and habitat not commonly represented in reserves **b) Advocate for Open Space Development Contributions to support the expansion of nature reserves.				✓	✓		✓	Resource Required
			11) **a) Identify priority sites within the City suitable for retaining future vegetation offsets. **b) Assess the costs and benefits of purchasing land with high quality remnant vegetation for offset purposes. **c) Actively promote benefits of participating in the vegetation offset market to private landowners.	✓							Resource Required
			12) a) Improve access to high quality biodiversity information to support better decision making for the protection and management of nature b) Review the City's biodiversity mapping program, identify gaps, determine future directions, and undertake updated mapping c) Use technology to improve biodiversity mapping and provide better community access and input d) Develop a process to consolidate all City-wide biodiversity mapping into a central system, starting with reserve handovers e) Use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to develop an index that tracks the City's response to nature to inform decision making.	✓							BAU/Grant
			13) Develop a methodology to enable natural assets to be accounted for in the City's corporate asset accounting systems.	✓							BAU/Partnership
			14) a) Develop a City-wide Environmental Incident Reporting System b) Educate landowners about native vegetation regulations and their responsibilities, targeting identified compliance hotspots c) Actively promote and enforce relevant local laws relevant to the protection and management of nature.	✓							BAU
			15) a) Introduce mandatory Green Card Accreditation requirements for relevant City staff and contractors b) Deliver two (2) Green Card Training opportunities for City staff and contractors.	✓							BAU

Goal	Strategic objectives (10 years)	Targets (10 years)	Actions (2 years)	Landscape						Resourcing		
				Djiang	BaP	Bell	BwP	GC	LR		NU	
Connections & Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More biolinks are established across the City landscape Biodiversity restoration on private land continues to increase Habitat on City managed land expands and improves in quality Wildlife in areas with high community interaction such as roads and new development sites are actively protected Populations of the City's six (6) key wildlife species are increasing Residents in "nature-poor" suburbs gain access to more natural open space and more opportunities to connect with nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150,000 indigenous plants established, and 50 hectares of habitat restored within City managed biolink areas 10 hectares of vegetation added to nature reserves through natural regeneration 1,000 hectares of biodiversity restoration works completed on private land within biolink areas through City supported incentive programs High threat weeds effectively controlled across City-managed nature reserves and roadsides Pest animal numbers reduced within City managed nature reserves and roadsides Dogs managed in high value wildlife areas, including City-managed coastal reserves A cat curfew introduced in the City's urban areas. Biodiversity restoration increased across open space reserves within biolink areas. 	16) a) Reestablish priority corridors across the City and develop a staged implementation plan. b) Prioritise greening programs within City managed corridors c) Establish <u>30,000</u> indigenous plants across City-managed priority corridors, and through natural regeneration, create <u>10</u> hectares of new habitat.			✓		✓			BAU	
			17) a) Expand the landowner incentives programs to include rural properties within biolink areas b) Complete 300 hectares of biodiversity restoration works on private land within biolink areas.			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	BAU
			18) Facilitate adoption of the City Biolinks Plan through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Landcare networks and environment groups.	✓								BAU
			19) a) Prepare a conservation action plan for nature reserves to guide restoration and management b) Increase the extent of vegetation in nature reserves by <u>three</u> (3) hectares through natural regeneration c) Establish a monitoring program to map biodiversity quality improvements at <u>ten</u> (10) nature reserves.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	BAU
			20) **Develop a method to capture and report on the contribution of natural regeneration to increasing indigenous habitat	✓								BAU
			21) Prepare an indigenous planting procedure, including standards around local provenance, indigenous street trees and plant selection within biolink areas, and a review of the <i>Indigenous Plants of the Geelong Region</i> .	✓								BAU
			22) Select suitable indigenous street trees and plants for nature strips within approximately 200 metres either side of a priority corridor.			✓		✓				BAU
			23) Prepare guidelines and standards for nature reserves in new development areas.	✓		✓				✓	✓	BAU
			24) Identify and prioritise opportunities to increase urban biodiversity and nature connection in "nature-poor" suburbs					✓				Partnerships
			25) a) Investigate opportunities to provide artificial habitat infrastructure to support wildlife (for example, sprinklers for the Grey Headed Flying Fox Camp, wildlife road crossings, floating pontoons for water birds, old piles) b) Deliver two (2) habitat enhancement infrastructure projects.			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Capital Projects
			26) **Identify high priority roadsides for nature conservation and increase management programs in these areas.	✓								BAU
			27) Review and expand the <i>Rabbit Action Plan</i> to include other pest animals such as foxes, deer and feral cats.	✓								BAU
			28) **Prepare a proposal to implement a cat curfew in the City's urban areas, drawing on the best available research and examples from other municipalities,	✓		✓						BAU
			29) In high value wildlife areas managed by the City, continue to identify dogs-on-leash or dog exclusion zones through the Domestic Animal Plan and Dogs in Public Places Policy.			✓		✓				BAU

Community & Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wider and more diverse cross-section of the community is contributing to nature conservation across the City Biodiversity knowledge and awareness continue to increase across the City and the wider community Stronger partnerships are supporting and enhancing biodiversity outcomes across the City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increased number of Geelong residents are connected and engaged with nature Participation in the Geelong Nature Festival and other community-based nature activities increases Twenty (20) activities are delivered to target CALD community participation in environmental education and nature related activities Twenty (20) activities are delivered to target participation of younger people in environmental education and nature related activities There is an increase in the number of Geelong residents volunteering for nature-related activities Participation in citizen science programs continues to increase Baseline levels of community awareness and participation are established through surveys. 	30) ** a) Prepare a community engagement, participation and awareness plan that provides a framework for connecting people to nature **b) Increase understanding of the barriers experienced by minority groups (ability, age, ethnicity) to engage in nature conservation, and identify opportunities to support their participation	✓							BAU/Grant		
			31) Continue to deliver the Geelong Nature Festival every <u>two</u> (2) years and nature week/month activities every alternate year.	✓									BAU
			32) Partner with <u>two</u> (2) City festivals and events to promote nature to a larger, more diverse community (for example Youth Festivals, Design Week).	✓									BAU
			33) Build community involvement in citizen science and monitoring programs to support the City's (6) key wildlife species.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			Partnerships
			34) a) Continue to support and build capacity of the City's Caring for Nature volunteer groups and hold an <u>annual</u> event/activity b) Facilitate formation of two (2) new Caring For Nature Volunteer groups c) Increase the opportunities for people to volunteer for nature without needing to join a formal community group.	✓									BAU/Partnerships
			35) Engage urban residents in nature conservation through the Gardens for Wildlife program and Nature Strip Plantings initiative, with priority given to properties within 200-metres of a priority corridor or zone.			✓			✓				BAU/Partnerships
			36) **Establish a 'schools for wildlife' program and engage six (6) schools.	✓									BAU/Partnerships
			37) Continue to deliver the Nature Stewards course annually.	✓									BAU
			38) **Develop a procedure to support corporate groups to fund and participate in nature-based volunteering.	✓									BAU
			Climate Change and Supporting Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impacts of climate change on natural areas are understood, and adaptation and mitigation measures are embedded in decision making A greater number of blue and teal carbon ecosystems in the City are protected and restored City open space reserves provide improved outcomes for nature as the climate changes Stormwater is managed to avoid negative impacts on the natural environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considerations of climate change impacts on nature are embedded into all relevant decision making An increased number of nature and eco-system-based solutions are implemented to minimise the negative impact of climate change on natural systems The extent of blue and/or teal carbon ecosystems protected and restored increases Integrated water management solutions are applied in growth areas to reduce impacts of stormwater on receiving environments and nature. 	39) Develop guidelines to embed climate change considerations in strategic planning for natural areas, including recommendations for vegetation community migration zones.	✓						
40) a) Identify opportunities to protect and restore blue and teal carbon ecosystems within both City managed and private land b) Develop a proposal to access the blue carbon market, creating further incentives for protecting and restoring coastal environments through the <i>Tidal restoration of blue carbon ecosystems method</i> c) Deliver one (1) blue carbon restoration project.						✓		✓		✓			BAU/ Capital Project/Grant /Partnership
41) a) Identify suitable locations to restore intertidal and marine environments using nature-based solutions such as living seawalls, reefs and piles, and seagrass and mangrove restoration b) Deliver two (2) marine restoration projects.						✓			✓		✓		Capital Project/Grant
42) Implement integrated water management solutions to reduce stormwater impact on natural saline ecosystems, including Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve - <i>Ngubiti yoorree</i> , Moonahwarri, Limeburners Bay and Avalon.						✓				✓			Partnership/ Grants/BAU



Implementation and renewal

Successful governance and implementation of the Plan rely on a combination of long-term and annual monitoring, along with regular evaluation, to ensure actions can be adapted and improved or better targeted over time.

This section outlines the process renewing the implementation of the Plan.

The shorter-term Action Plan will be reviewed and updated every two years on a rolling basis, while the broader Plan will undergo a major update every 10 years. The higher-level 10-year strategic objectives will be evaluated at the end of the Plan's life in 2036.

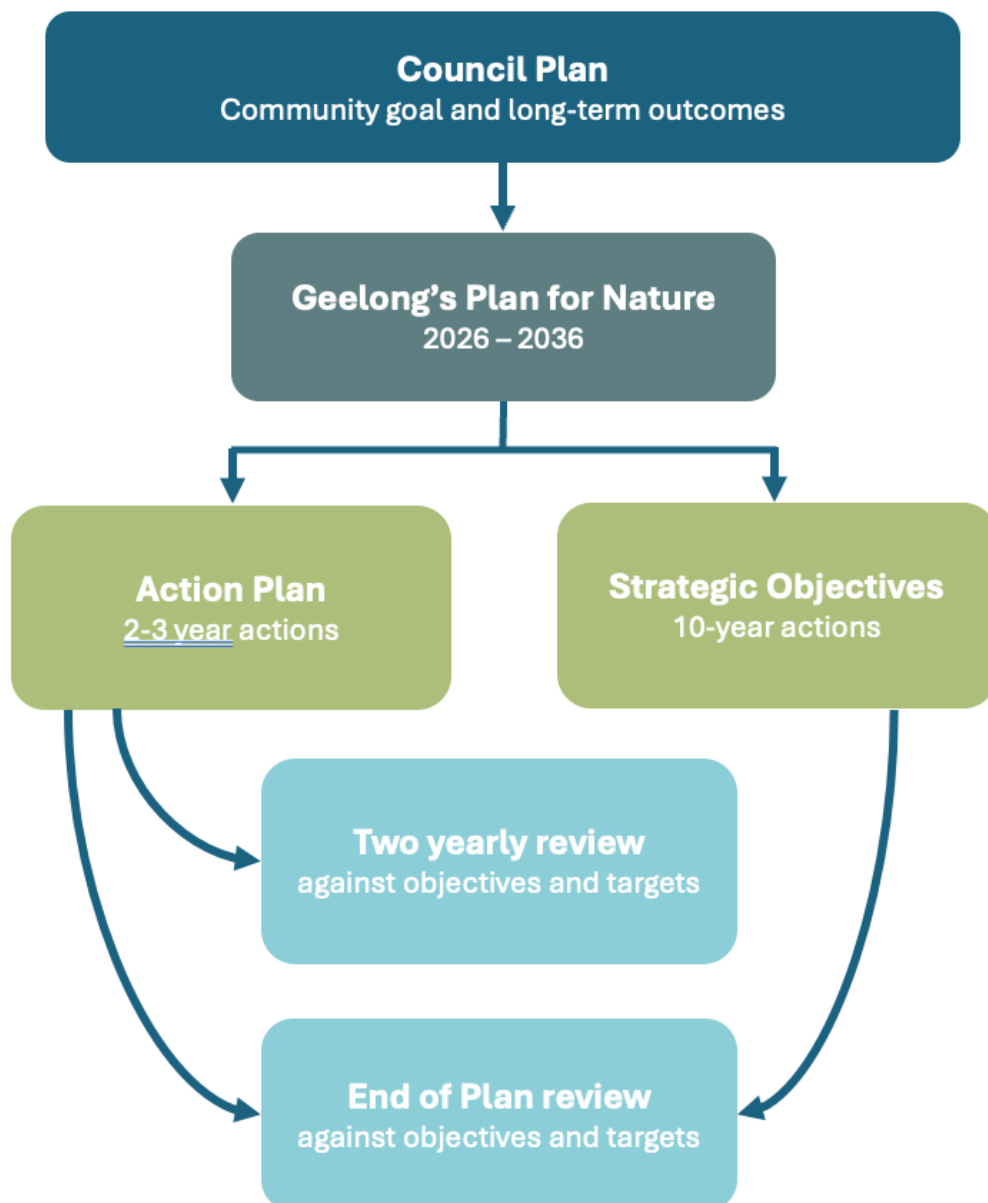


Figure 21. Plan and timing for implementation and review

Monitoring and evaluation

The City is committed to ongoing monitoring and evaluation, as these processes formalise the collection of insights gained through implementing the Plan. They also support continuous improvement by ensuring that lessons are used to inform future actions.

A key focus for evaluating the Plan's success will be tracking progress against the targets set under each of the five goals.

Table 6. Monitoring requirements

WHAT NEEDS MONITORING	BASELINE EXISTS	WHEN?
The extent and variety of protected natural habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Reserves – 1358 hectares Conservation Estate - 9.7% City Biodiversity Mapping 2024 Protection Measures (as per mapping 2026). 	Annual
Habitat quality and condition of nature reserves.	Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve - <i>Ngubiti yoorree</i> , Old Melbourne Road Grassland Buckley Park Foreshore reserve.	Five yearly
Status of conservation management plans for threatened species.	Hooded Plover Conservation Action Plan Latham's Snipe Plan	Five yearly
Connectiveness of priority corridors.	TBD.	
Extent of blue and/or teal carbon habitat that is protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southeast Bellarine Biolink Blue carbon mapping Swan Bay Incentive Program The Point Blue Carbon Mapping Shell Foreshore Mapping City Biodiversity Mapping 2024 Corangamite CMA Mapping. 	Five yearly
Geelong residents' engagement with nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 73 Caring for Nature Groups Attendance at Geelong Nature Festival (no.) Attendance at other nature events (no.) Nature Stewards Alumni (no.) 	Biennial
No. of nature reserves where language, stories or cultural practice is established.	Number of nature reserves where language, stories and cultural practice exist.	Five yearly

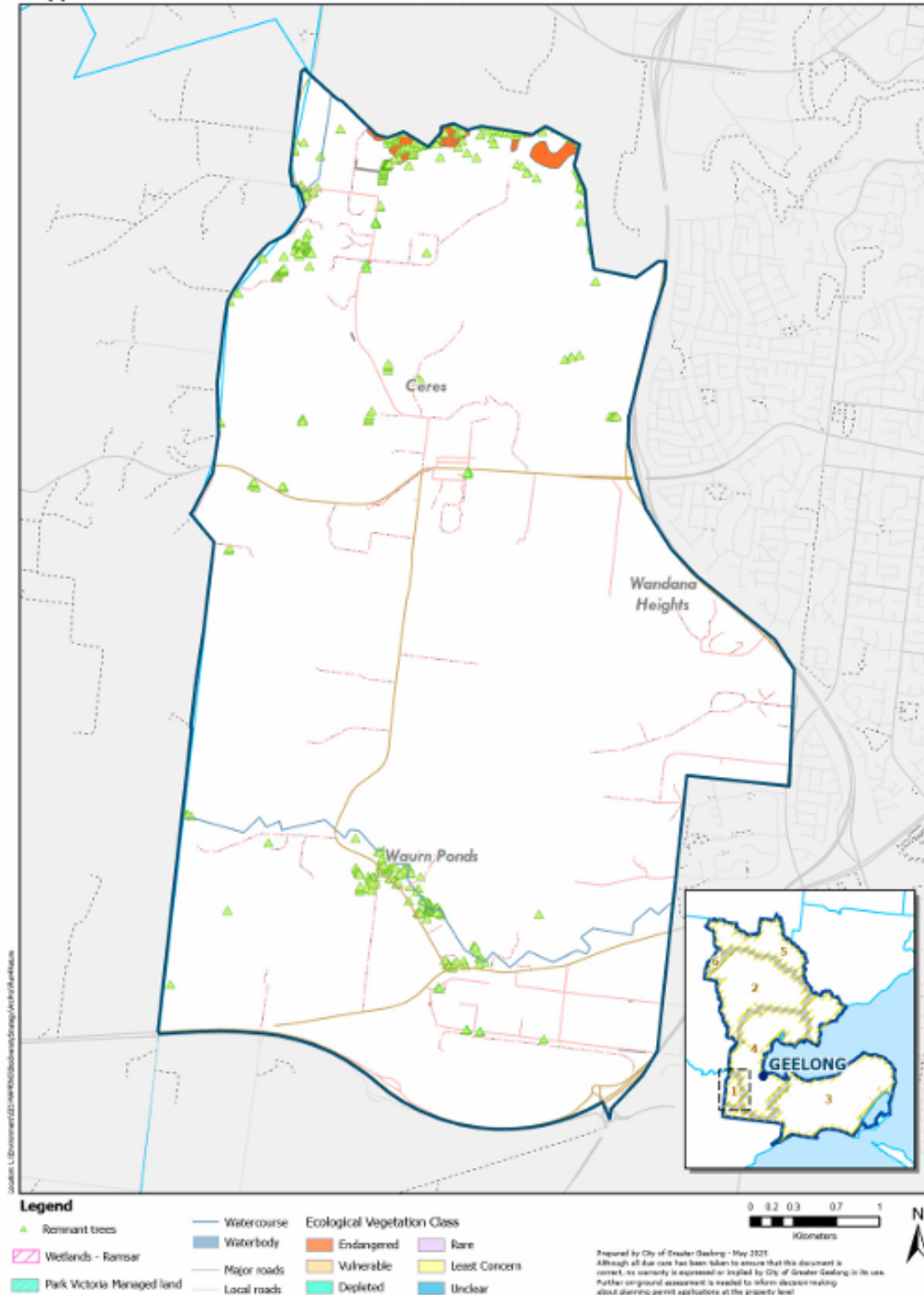
The evaluation of the success of this Plan will also be guided by the following themes and key evaluation questions (KEQs).

Table 7. Themes and Key Evaluation Questions

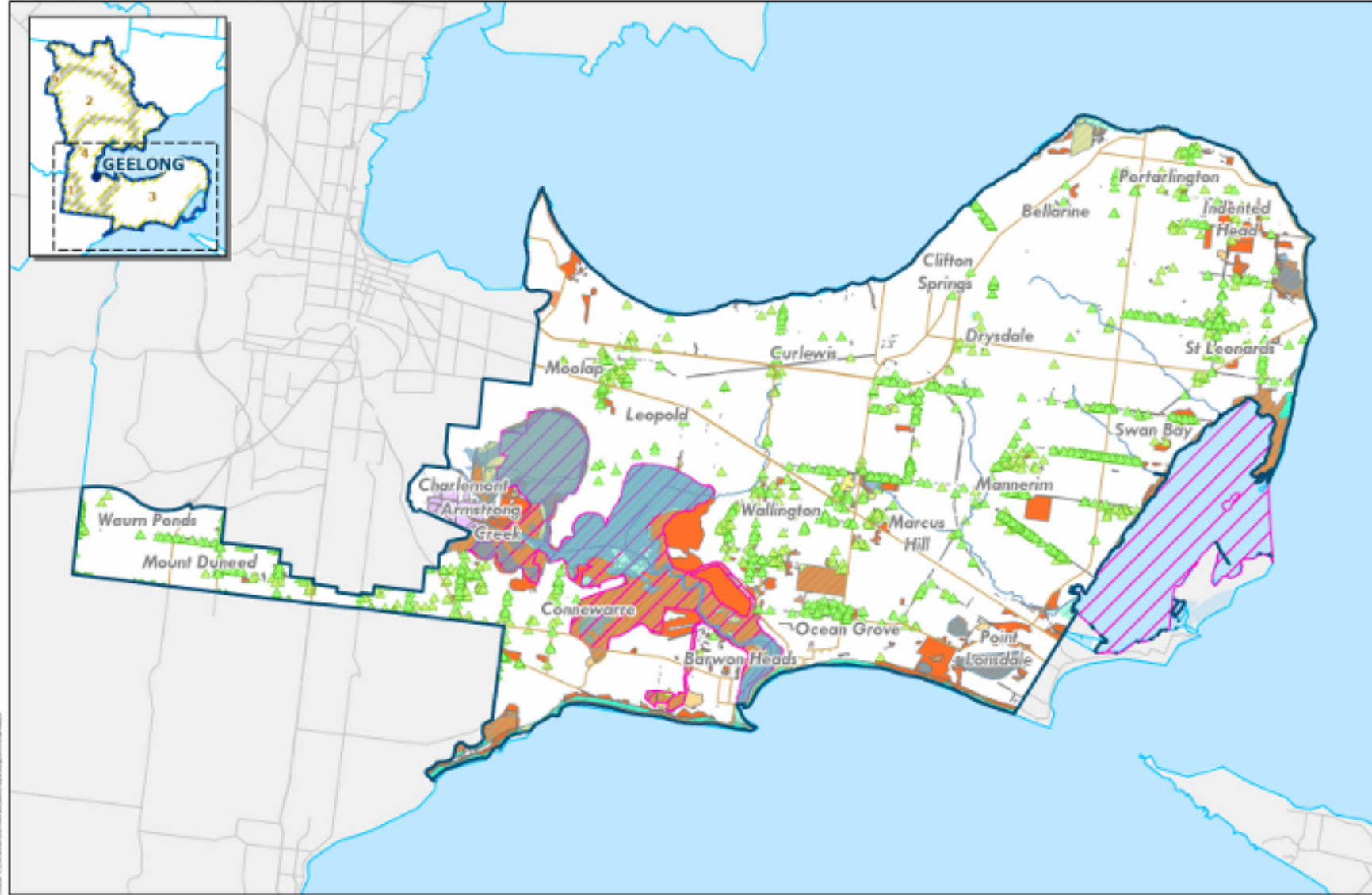
THEMES	KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS (KEQs)
<p>Plan design</p> <p>Focuses on whether the governance and actions were appropriately designed to deliver the intended targets (and goals)</p>	<p>Was the design of the Plan appropriate to deliver the intended outcomes?</p>
<p>Plan implementation</p> <p>Focuses on whether the actions of the Plan were delivered as planned and seeks to identify how these approaches have ensured efficient and cost-effective delivery.</p>	<p>To what extent have the Plan actions been delivered as planned?</p> <p>To what extent was the delivery good value for money?</p>
<p>Plan impact</p> <p>Focuses on what the Plan has achieved to date against the intended targets (and goals).</p> <p>At the end of the Plan term, the focus is also on the legacy of the program and to what extent the impact of the actions will extend beyond the life of the Plan (long-term outcomes).</p>	<p>To what extent did the actions lead to the achievement of the targets?</p> <p>What impact will the actions have beyond the life of the Plan?</p>

MAPS 1-6: Environment Values

Map 1
Mapped Environment Values - Barwon Plains



Map 2
Environmental Values Map - Bellarine



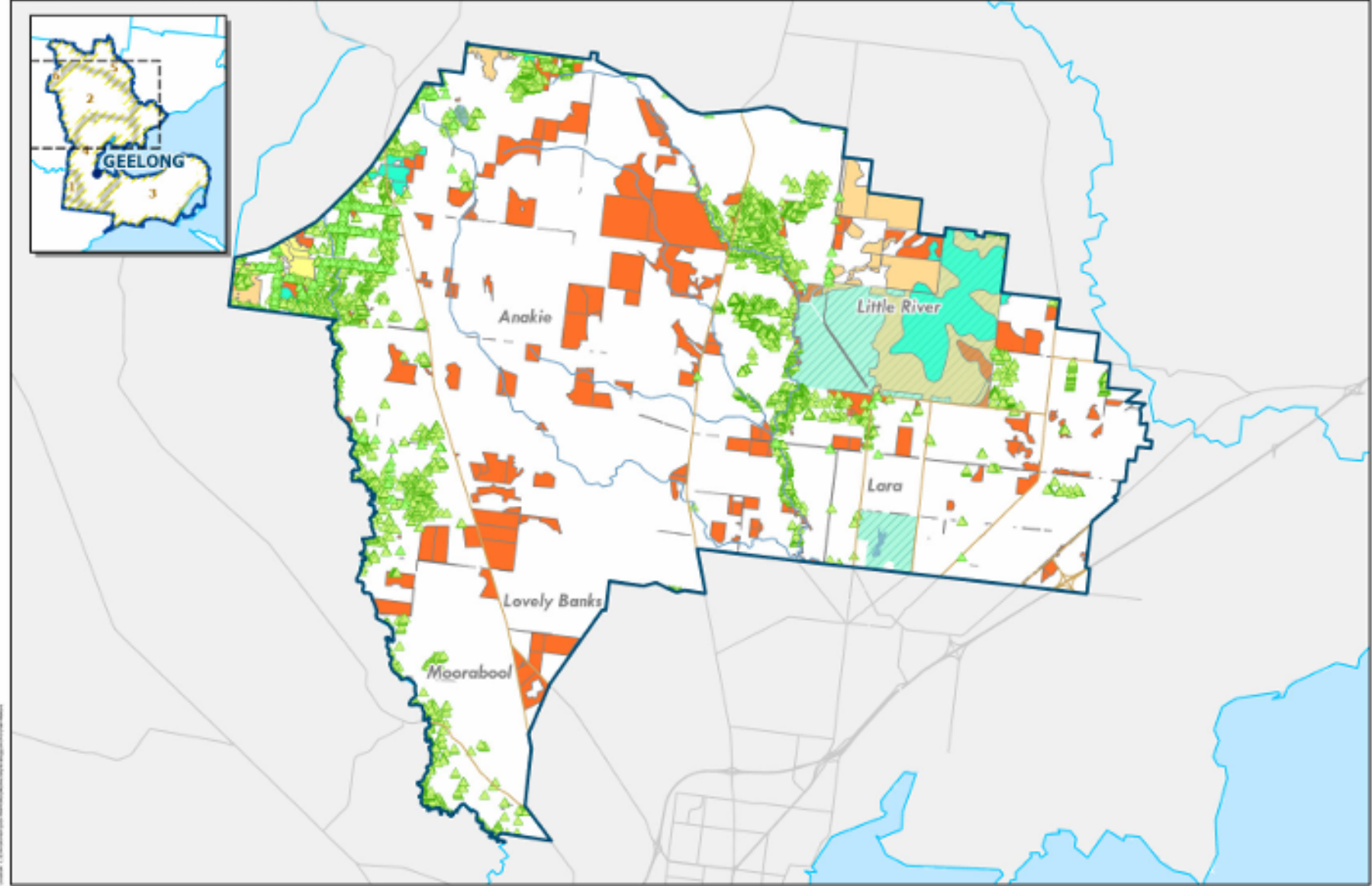
Legend

- | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Remnant trees | Watercourse | Major roads | Park Victoria Managed land | Endangered | Depleted | Least Concern |
| Wetlands - Ramsar | Waterbody | Local roads | Vulnerable | Rare | Unclear | |

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Further on-ground assessment is needed to inform decision-making about planning permit applications at the property level.



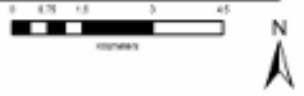
Map 3
Environmental Values Map - Basalt Plains



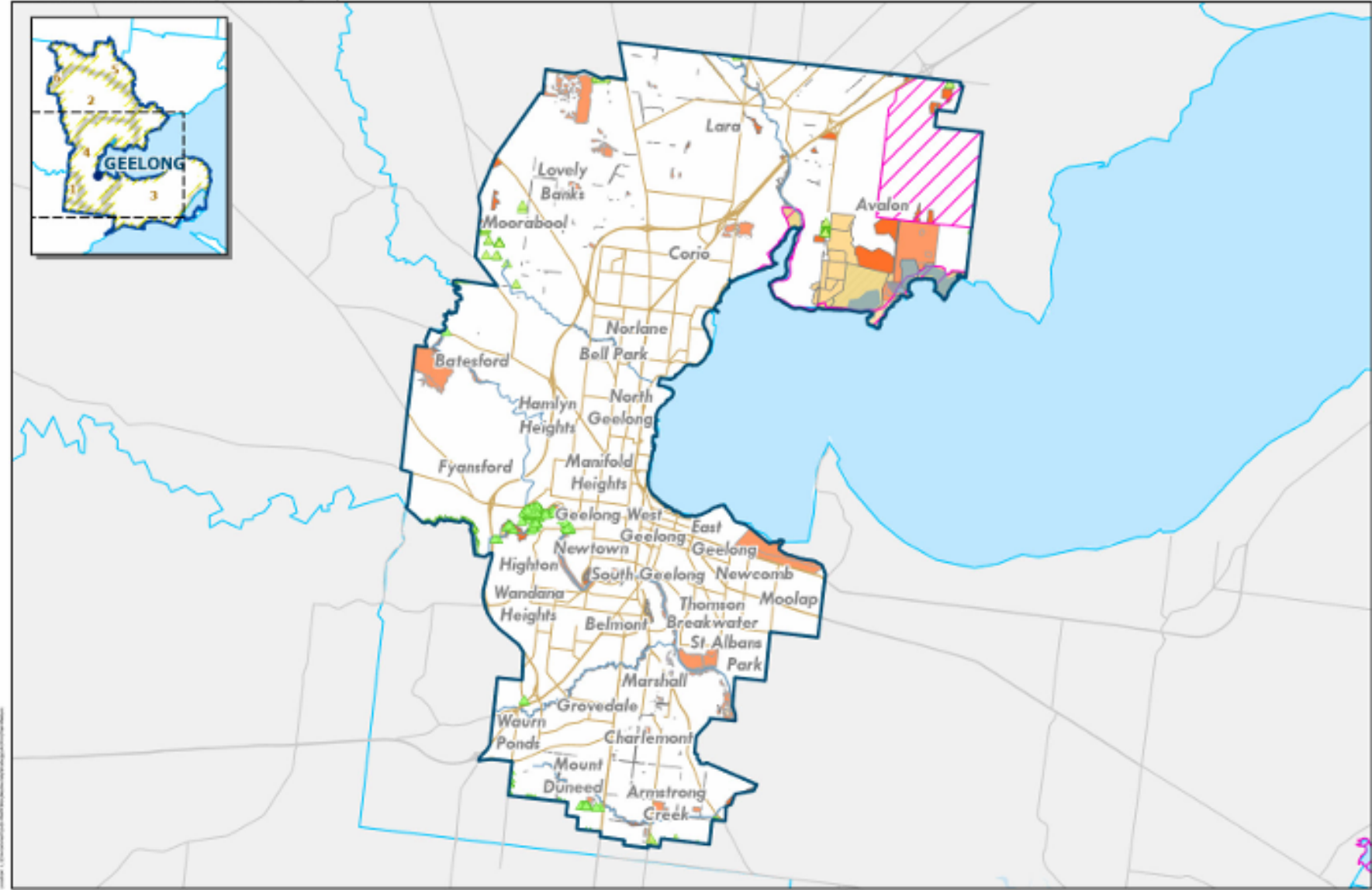
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- | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Remnant trees | Watercourse | Major roads | Park Victoria Managed land | Endangered | Depleted | Least Concern |
| Wetlands - Ramsar | Waterbody | Local roads | | Vulnerable | Rare | Unclear |

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Map 4
Environmental Values Map - Geelong City



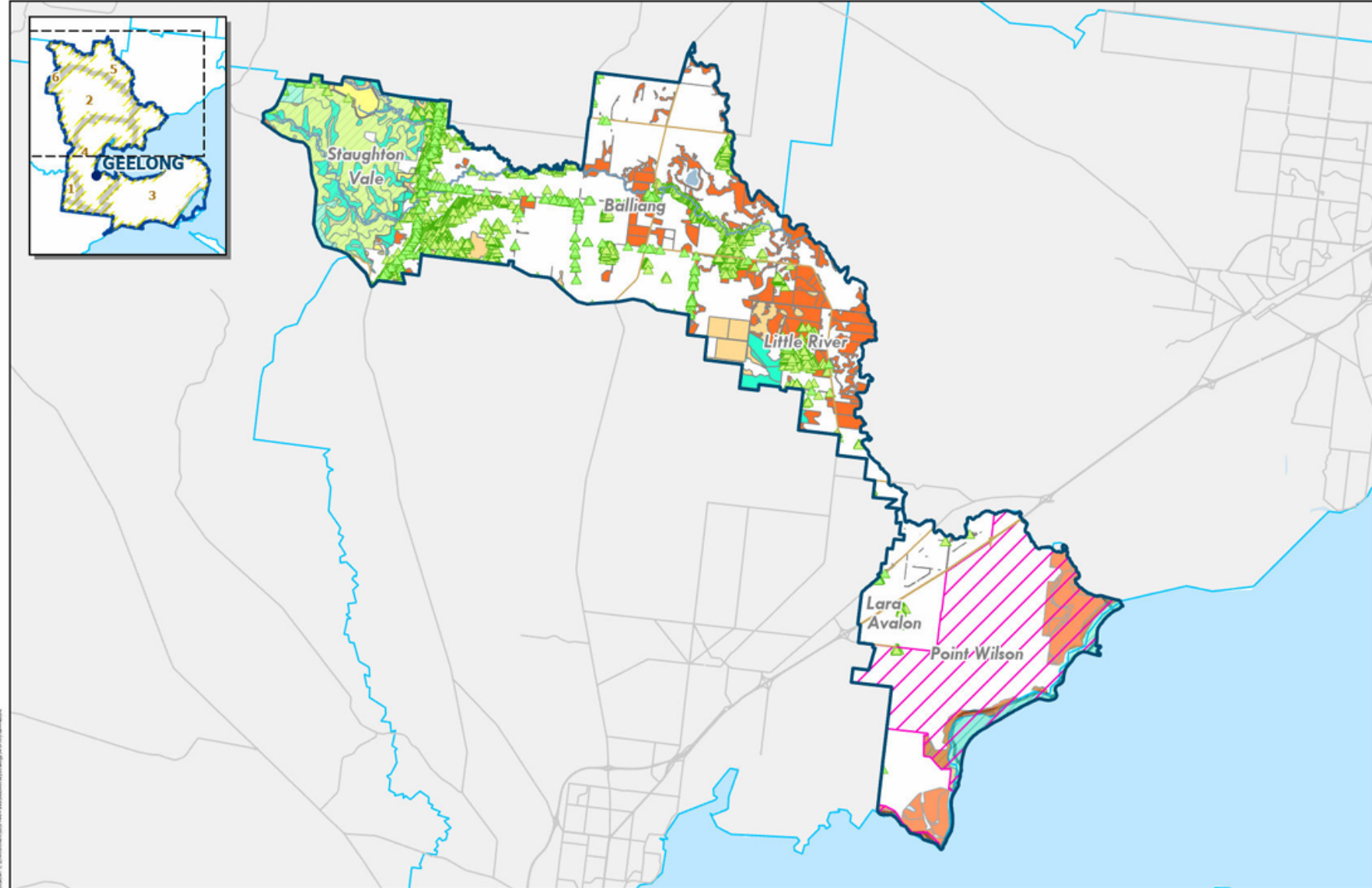
Legend

- Remnant trees
- Watercourse
- Major roads
- Park Victoria Managed land
- Endangered
- Depleted
- Least Concern
- Wetlands - Ramsar
- Waterbody
- Local roads
- Winnable
- Rare
- Unclear

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Map 5
Environmental Values Map - Little River



Legend

- | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Remnant trees | Watercourse | Major roads | Park Victoria Managed land | Endangered | Depleted | Least Concern |
| Wetlands - Ramsar | Waterbody | Local roads | | Vulnerable | Rare | Unclear |

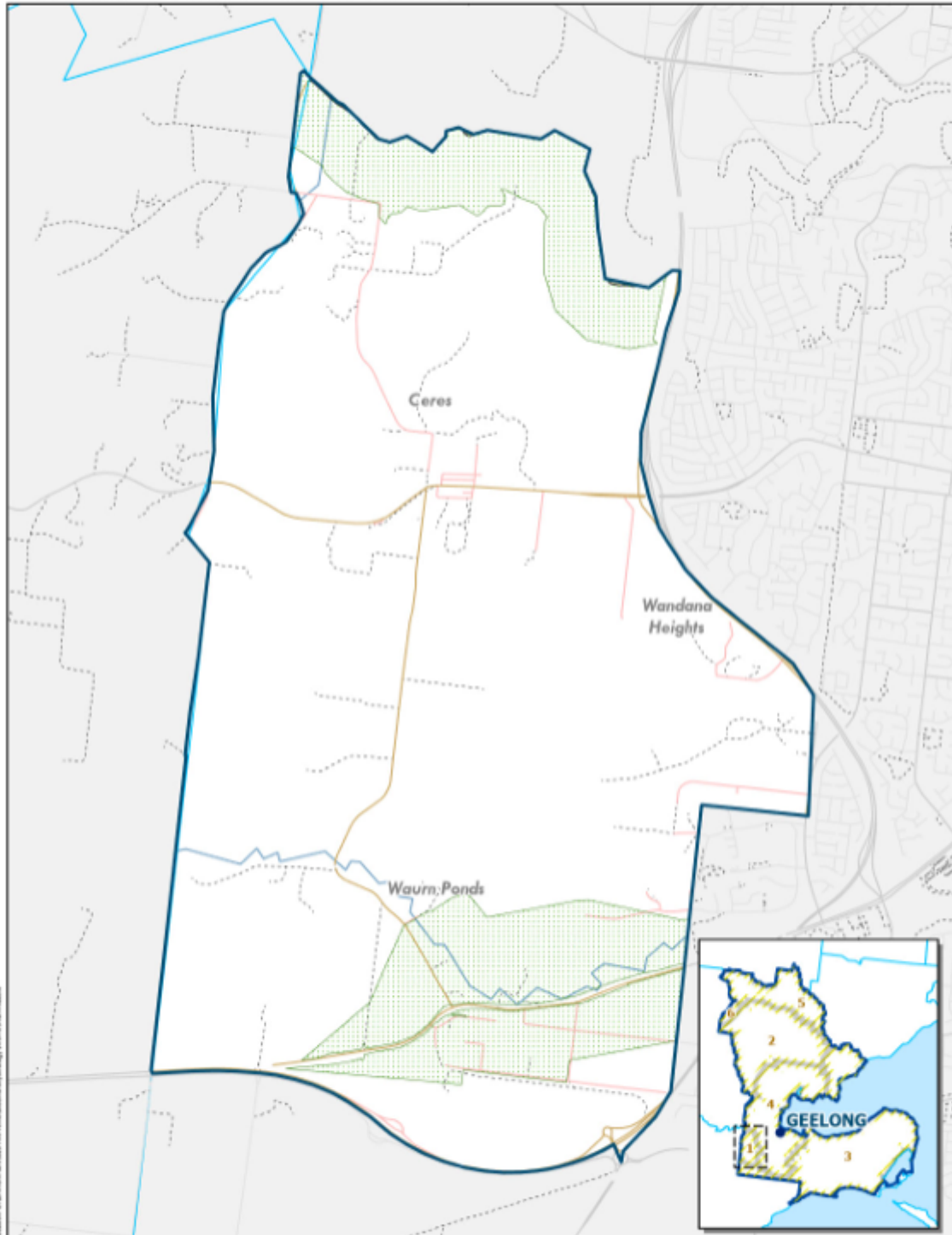
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MAPS 7-12: Protection Measures

Map 7

TITLE: Protection Measures - Barwon Plains



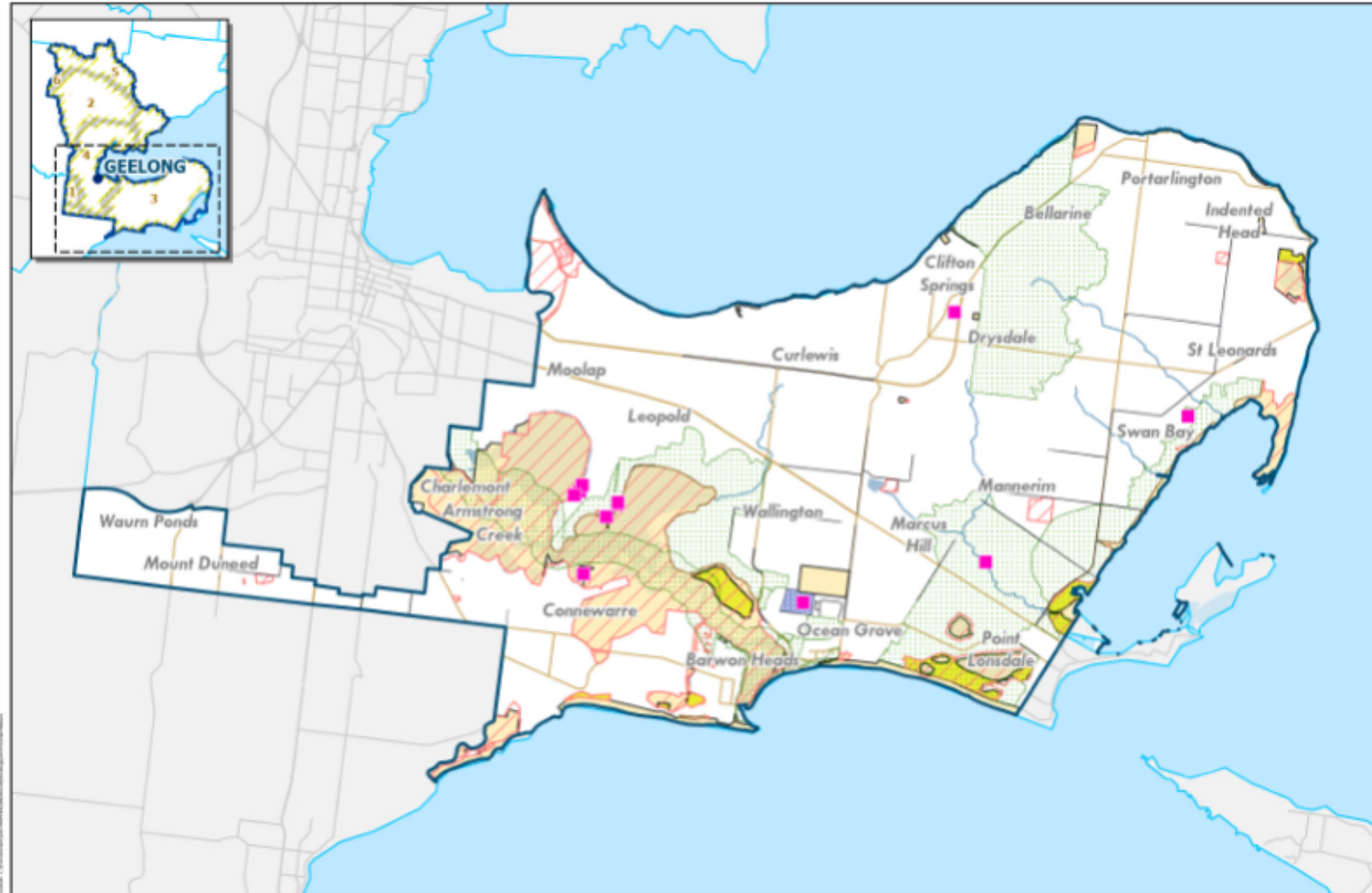
Legend

Trust for Nature Covenants	SLO Overlay	PCRZ Zone	Watercourse
VPO Overlay	ESO Overlay	Major roads	Waterbody
RCZ	Local roads		



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Map 8
TITLE: Protection Measures - Bellarine



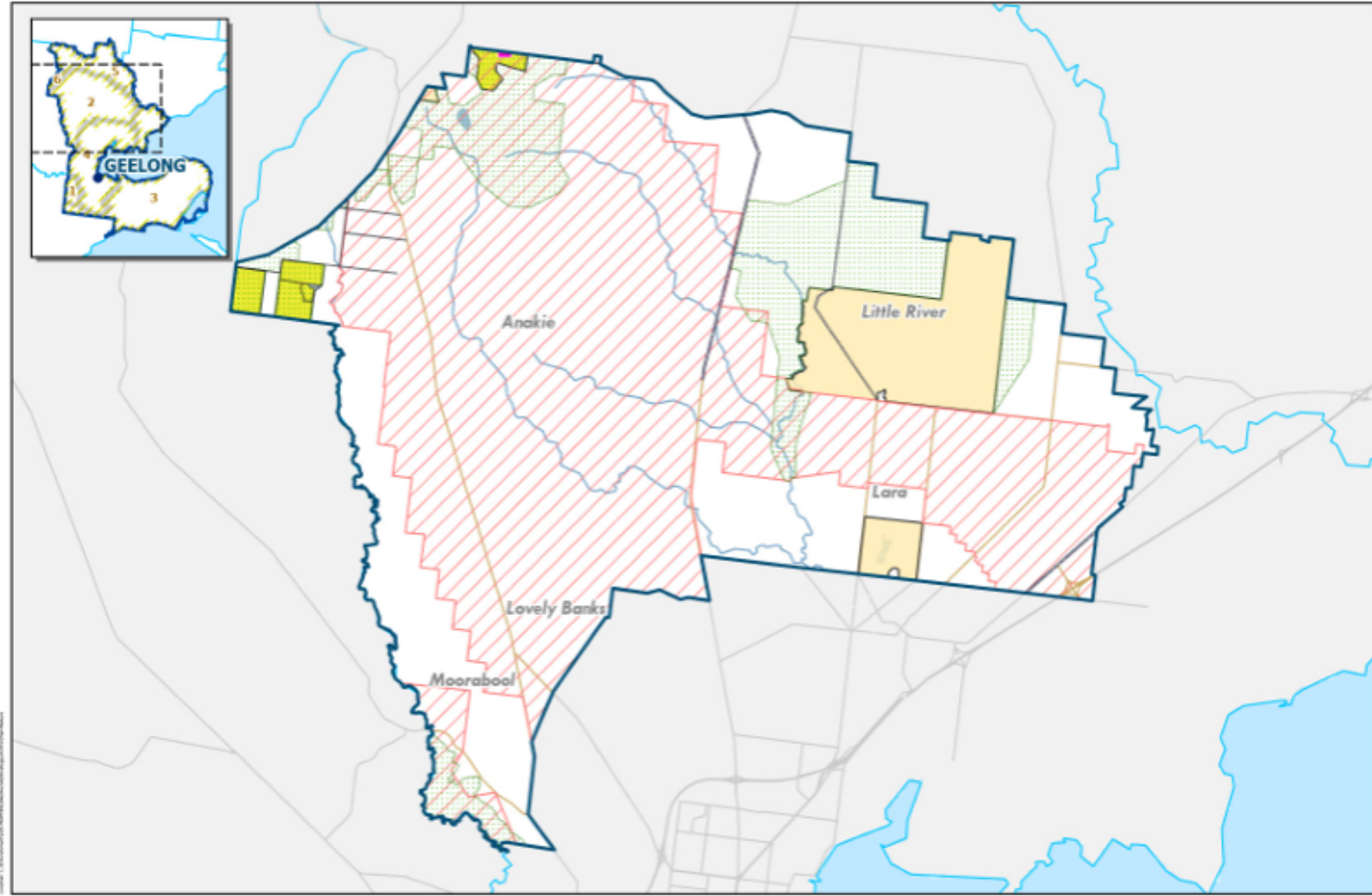
Legend

- Trust for Nature Covenants
- WPO Overlay
- ESD Overlay
- PCJZ Zone
- Watercourse
- SLD Overlay
- RCZ
- Major roads
- Waterbody

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Map 9
TITLE: Protection Measures - Basalt Plains



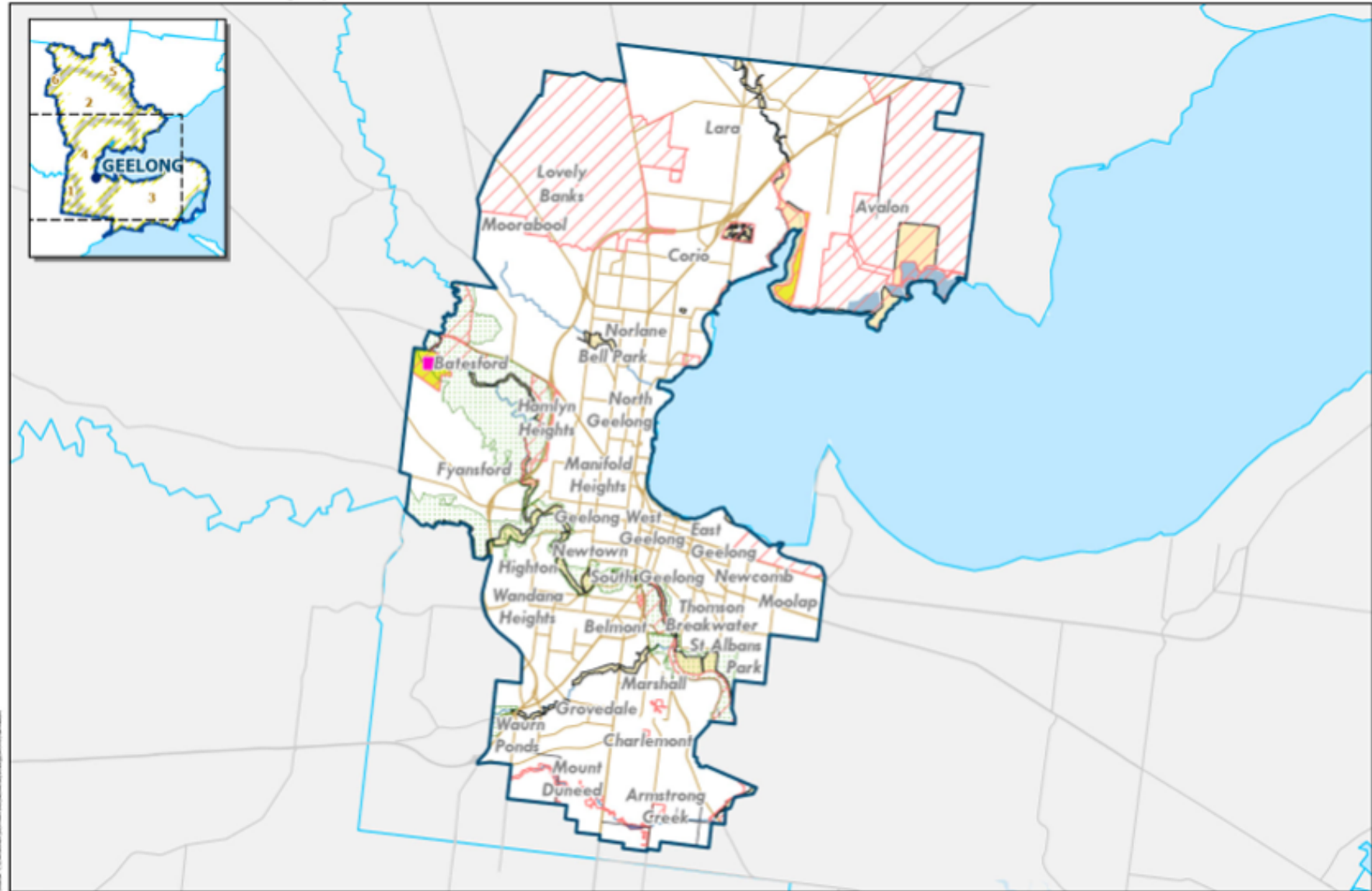
- Legend**
- Trust for Nature Covenants
 - VFO Overlay
 - ESD Overlay
 - RCZ
 - SLD Overlay
 - PCRZ Zone
 - Watercourse
 - Waterbody
 - Major roads

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0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5
 Kilometres



Map 10
TITLE: Protection Measures - Geelong City



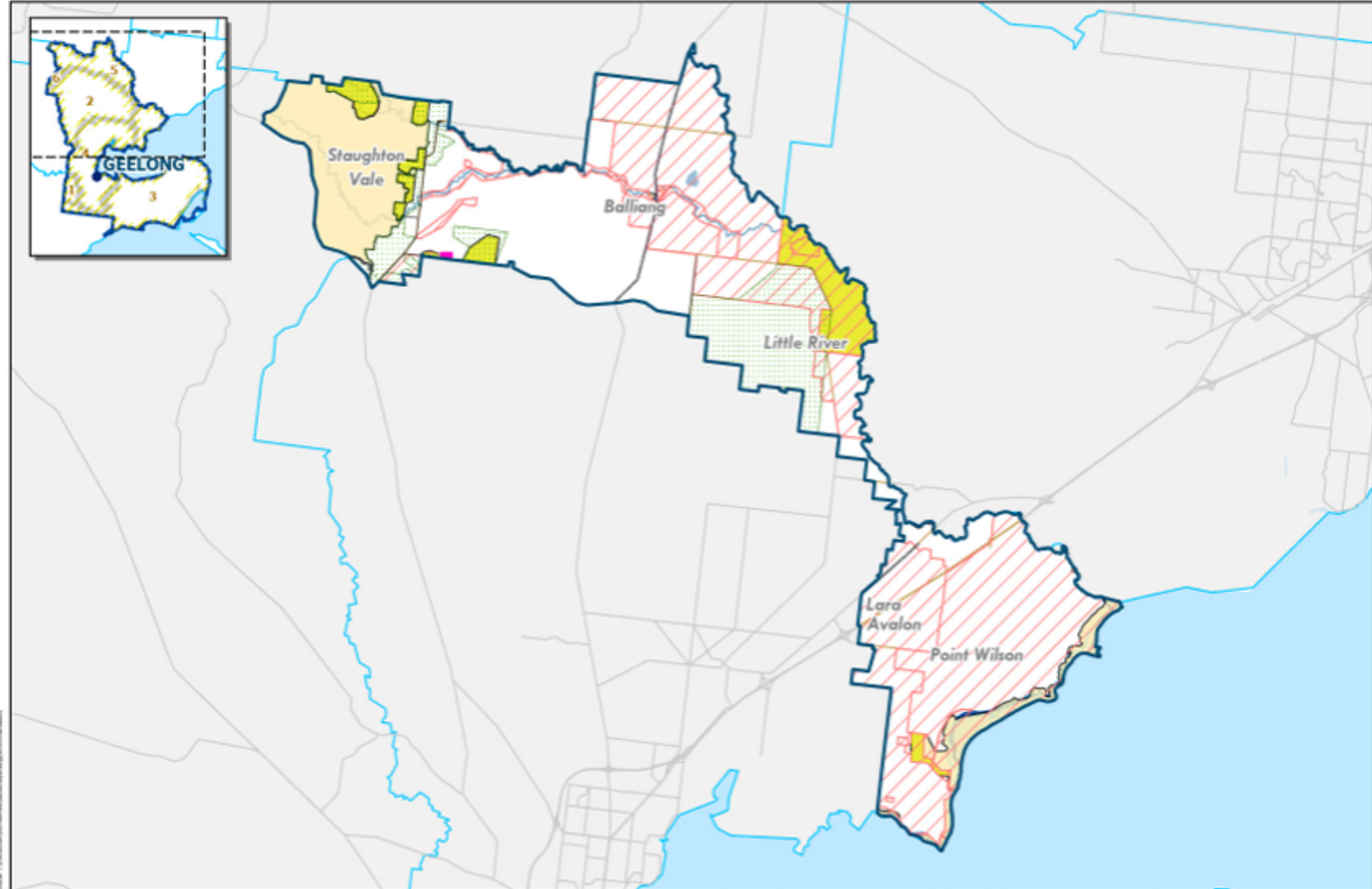
- Legend**
- Trust for Nature Covenants
 - VPO Overlay
 - SLO Overlay
 - RZ
 - PCR2 Zone
 - Major roads
 - Watercourse
 - Waterbody
 - ESD Overlay

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Map 11

TITLE: Protection Measures - Little River



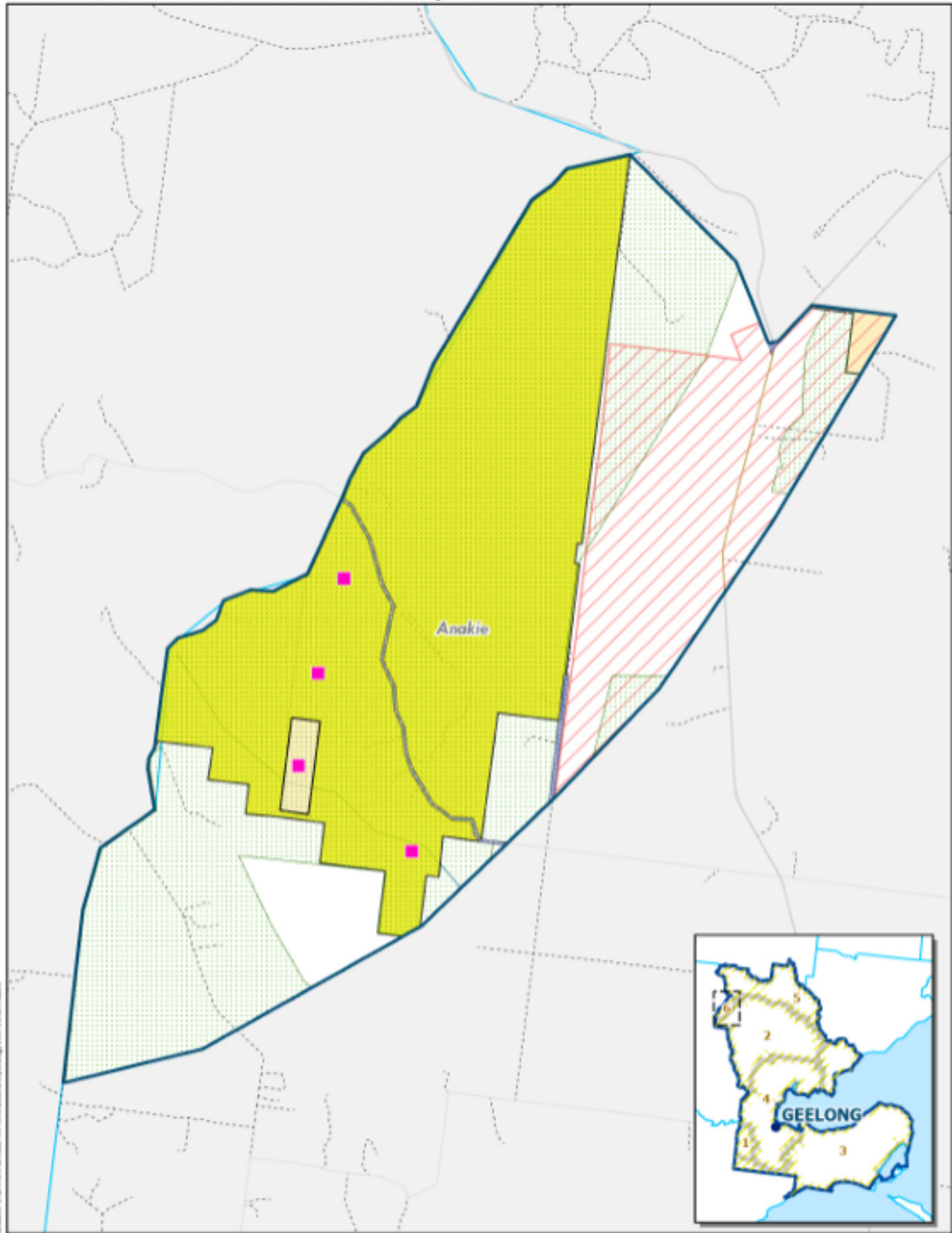
Legend

- Trust for Nature Covenants
- VPO Overlay
- ESO Overlay
- PCRZ Zone
- Watercourse
- SLO Overlay
- RCZ
- Major roads
- Waterbody

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Map 12
TITLE: Protection Measures - Northern Uplands



Legend

Trust for Nature Covenants	SLO Overlay	PCRZ Zone	Watercourse
VPO Overlay	ESO Overlay	Major roads	Waterbody
RCZ	Local roads		



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Appendix 1: Threatened Species and Ecological Communities Summary

TAXONOMIC GROUP	THREATENED TOTAL	EPBC LISTED	EPBC SPECIES AND CATEGORY OF THREAT	CR EN	CE SPECIES
Mammals	9	2	Grey Headed Flying Fox (V) Southern Brown Bandicoot (E)	0	
Birds	62	14	Australian Bittern (E) Gang-gang Cockatoo (E) Hooded Plover (V) Latham's Snipe (V) Lesser Sand Plover (E) Painted Honeyeater (V) Red Knot (V) Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (V) Shy Albatross (E)	5	Eastern Curlew Great Knot Orange-bellied Parrot Plains Wanderer Swift Parrot
Reptiles	4	2	Stripped Legless Lizard (V)	1	Grassland Earless Dragon
Amphibians	2	1	Growling Grass Frog (V)	0	
Fish	5	2	Australian Grayling (E) Yarra Pygmy Perch (V)	0	
Invertebrates	9	1	Golden Sun Moth (V)	0	
Plants	91	14	Clover Glycine (V) Spiny Peppergrass (V) Swamp Everlasting (V) Small Golden Moths (E) Fragrant Leek-orchid (E) Dense Leek-orchid (V) Ornate Pink-fingers (V) Matted Flax Lily (E) White Sunray (E) Button Wrinkle Wort (E) Large-headed Fireweed (V) Adamson's Blown-grass (E) Purple Eyebright (E)	1	Spiny Rice-flower
Ecological Communities	9	5	Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh (V) Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia (E)	3	Natural Temperate Grasslands of the VVP Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the VVP Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland of the Temperate Lowland Plains
Total	191	41		10	

Appendix 2: Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	EPBC - Category of Threat	FFG - Category of Threat	Habitat on City Managed Land	Barwon Plain	Basalt Plains	Cities Geelong	Bellarine	Northern Uplands	Little River
mammal	Brush-tailed Phascogale	<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>		V						yes	yes
mammal	Burrnan Dolphin	<i>Tursiops australis</i>		CE				yes	yes	yes	yes
mammal	Common Bent-wing Bat	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>		CE							
mammal	Common Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis murina</i>		V							
mammal	Fat-tailed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis crassicaudata</i>		V			yes				yes
mammal	Grey-headed Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	V	V	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes
mammal	Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>		V				yes			
mammal	Southern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isodon obesulus obesulus</i>	E	E			yes	yes	yes		yes
mammal	Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>		E					yes		
bird	<u>Australasian Bittern</u>	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	E	CE	yes		yes	yes	yes		yes
bird	Australian Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus dubius</i>		E					yes		
bird	Australian Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>		CE					yes		
bird	Australasian Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchotis</i>		V					yes		
bird	<u>Barking Owl</u>	<i>Ninox connivens</i>		CE						yes	yes
bird	<u>Black Falcon</u>	<i>Falco subniger</i>		CE			yes	yes	yes		yes
bird	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		E					yes		
bird	<u>Blue-billed Duck</u>	<i>Oxyura australis</i>		V					yes		
bird	<u>Brolga</u>	<i>Antigone rubicunda</i>		E				yes	yes		yes
bird	<u>Bush Stone-curlew</u>	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>		CE				yes			
bird	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		V				yes	yes		
bird	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	<i>Calamanthus pyrrhopygius</i>		V							yes
bird	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		V					yes		yes
bird	Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>		V							
bird	<u>Diamond Firetail</u>	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>		V			yes				yes
bird	Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	CE	CE	yes			yes	yes		yes
bird	Eastern Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>		V				yes	yes		
bird	Elegant Parrot	<i>Neophema elegans</i>		V							
bird	Fairy Tern	<i>Sterna nereis</i>		CE					yes		
bird	Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>		E					yes		
bird	Gang-gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	E	E	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes
bird	<u>Great Knot</u>	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	CE	CE	yes			yes	yes		yes
bird	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>		V							
bird	<u>Grey Goshawk</u>	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>		E				yes	yes		
bird	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		V							
bird	Grey-crowned Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>		V							
bird	Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>		E							
bird	Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>		CE							
bird	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelocheilidon nilotica macrotarsa</i>		E					yes		yes
bird	<u>Hooded Plover</u>	<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>	V	V	yes				yes		
bird	<u>Hooded Robin</u>	<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>		V							
bird	<u>Latham's Snipe</u>	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	V	V	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes
bird	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	E	E	yes			yes	yes		yes
bird	<u>Lewin's Rail</u>	<i>Lewinia pectoralis</i>		V					yes		yes
bird	Little Eagle	<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>		V			yes				yes
bird	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta nigripes</i>		E					yes		
bird	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		CE					yes		yes
bird	Maggie Goose	<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>		V			yes				

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	EPBC - Category of Threat	FFG - Category of Threat	Habitat on City Managed Land	Barwon Plain	Basalt Plains	Cities Geelong	Bellarine	Northern Uplands	Little River
bird	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua leadbeateri</i>		CE							
bird	Masked Owl	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>		CE							
bird	Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>		V					yes		
bird	Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>		E					yes		
bird	Orange-bellied Parrot	<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	CE	CE	yes			yes	yes		yes
bird	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fuva</i>		V					yes		yes
bird	Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	V	V			yes				yes
bird	Plains-wanderer	<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	CE	CE			yes	yes			yes
bird	Plumed Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia plumifera</i>		CE							
bird	Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>		V						yes	yes
bird	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	V	E				yes	yes		yes
bird	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arebaria interpres</i>		V							
bird	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	V	V	yes			yes	yes		yes
bird	Shy Albatross	<i>Diomedea cauta</i>	E	E	yes				yes		
bird	Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>		E					yes		
bird	Speckled Warbler	<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>		E							yes
bird	Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	CE	CE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
bird	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>		V					yes		
bird	Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		CE							
bird	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		E					yes		
bird	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>		E					yes		yes
bird	White-faced Storm-Petrel	<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>		E					yes		
bird	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		E					yes		
bird	White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>		V				yes			
reptiles	Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon	<i>Tympanocryptis pinguicolla</i>	CE	CE			yes	yes			yes
reptiles	Striped Legless Lizard	<i>Delma impar</i>	V	E	yes		yes	yes			yes
reptiles	Glossy Grass Skink	<i>Pseudemoia rawlinsoni</i>		E							
reptiles	Tussock Skink	<i>Pseudemoia pagenstecheri</i>		E							
amphibians	Brown Toadlet	<i>Pseudophryne bibronii</i>		E							
amphibians	Growing Grass Frog	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	V	V	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes
fishes	Agassiz's Glassfish	<i>Ambassis agassizii</i>		E							
fishes	Australian Grayling	<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	E	V	yes			yes	yes		
fishes	Australian Mudfish	<i>Neochanna cleaveri</i>		E							
fishes	Macquarie Perch	<i>Macquaria australasica</i>		E							
fishes	Yarra Pigmy Perch	<i>Nannoperca obscura</i>	V	E	yes	yes		yes	yes		
crustaceans	Hairy Burrowing Crayfish	<i>Engaeus sericatus</i>		V							
crustaceans	Otway Burrowing Crayfish	<i>Engaeus fultoni</i>		V							
crustaceans	Ghost Shrimp	<i>Pseudocalliax tooradin</i>		E							
insects	Fiery Jewel Butterfly	<i>Hypochrysops ignitus ignitus</i>		E							
insects	Large Ant Blue Butterfly	<i>Acrodipsas brisbanensis</i>		E							
insects	Large River Damselfly	<i>Caliaegion billinghursti</i>		V							
insects	Small Ant Blue Butterfly	<i>Acrodipsas myrmecophila</i>		E							
insects	Golden Sun Moth	<i>Synemon plana</i>	V	V			yes	yes			yes
insects	Yellow Sedge-skipper Butterfly	<i>Hesperilla flavescens</i>		E				yes	yes		
echinoderms	Sea-cucumber species	<i>Thyone nigra</i>		E							
Brassicaceae	Hairy Shepherd's Purse	<i>Microlepidium pilosulum</i>		CE							
Brassicaceae	Forest Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine papillata</i>		E							
Brassicaceae	Spiny Peppercress	<i>Lepidium aschersonii</i>	V	E	yes			yes	yes		
Brassicaceae	Western Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine lineariloba</i>		E							
Thymelaeaceae	Spiny Rice-flower	<i>Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens</i>	CE	CE	yes		yes	yes			yes
Malvaceae	Salt Lawrenzia	<i>Lawrenzia spicata</i>		E							
Malvaceae	Coast Hollyhock	<i>Malva preissiana s.s. (white-flowered coastal form)</i>		E							
Orchidaceae	Mauve-tuft Sun-orchid	<i>Thelymitra malvina</i>		CE							

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	EPBC - Category of Threat	FFG - Category of Threat	Habitat on City Managed Land	Barwon Plain	Basalt Plains	Cities Geelong	Bellarine	Northern Uplands	Little River
Orchidaceae	Crimson Sun-orchid	<i>Thelymitra X macmillanii</i>		V							
Orchidaceae	Small Golden Moths	<i>Diuris basaltica</i>	E	CE				yes			
Orchidaceae	Brittle Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis truncata</i>		CE							
Orchidaceae	Sharp Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis X ingens</i>		V							
Orchidaceae	Fragrant Leek-orchid	<i>Prasophyllum suaveolens</i>	E	CE				yes			
Orchidaceae	Naked Beard-orchid	<i>Calochilus imberbis</i>		CE							
Orchidaceae	Large White Spider-orchid	<i>Caladenia venusta</i>		E							
Orchidaceae	Winter Sun-orchid	<i>Thelymitra hiemalis</i>		CE							
Orchidaceae	Slender Pink-fingers	<i>Caladenia vulgaris</i>		V							
Orchidaceae	Naked Sun-orchid	<i>Thelymitra circumsepta</i>		E							
Orchidaceae	Dense Leek-orchid	<i>Prasophyllum spicatum</i>	V	CE				yes			
Orchidaceae	Swamp Diuris	<i>Diuris palustris</i>		E							
Orchidaceae	Mentone Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis X toveyana</i>		E							
Orchidaceae	Green Leek-orchid	<i>Prasophyllum lindleyanum</i>		E							
Orchidaceae	Ornate Pink-fingers	<i>Caladenia ornata</i>	V	E							yes
Orchidaceae	Matted Flax-lily	<i>Dianella amoena</i>	E	CE	yes		yes				yes
Orchidaceae	Arching Flax-lily	<i>Dianella sp. aff. Longifolia</i>		CE							
Casuarinaceae	Buloke	<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>		CE							
Poaceae	Coast Fescue	<i>Poa billardierei</i>		E							
Poaceae	Dune Poa	<i>Poa poliformis var. ramifer</i>		E							
Mimosaceae	Cup Wattle	<i>Acacia cupularis</i>		CE							
Mimosaceae	Rough Wattle	<i>Acacia aspera subsp. parviceps</i>		E							
Mimosaceae	Coast Wirilda	<i>Acacia uncifolia</i>		E							
Mimosaceae	Snowy River Wattle	<i>Acacia boormanii</i>		E	?						
Fabaceae	Clover Glycine	<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	V	V				yes			
Fabaceae	Southern Swainson-pea	<i>Swainsona behriana</i>		E							
Fabaceae	Small Scurf-pea	<i>Cullen parvum</i>		E							
Fabaceae	Scented Bush-pea	<i>Pultenaea graveolens</i>		E							
Fabaceae	Golden Bush-pea	<i>Pultenaea gunnii subsp. tuberculata</i>		V							
Fabaceae	Wiry Bossiaea	<i>Bossiaea cordigera</i>		E							
Fabaceae	Tough Scurf-pea	<i>Cullen tenax</i>		E							
Fabaceae	Swamp Bush-pea	<i>Pultenaea weindorferi</i>		E							
Fabaceae	Hoary Bush-pea	<i>Pultenaea daltonii</i>		V							
Polygalaceae	Small Milkwort	<i>Comesperma polygaloides</i>		CE							
Asteraceae	Swamp Everlasting	<i>Xerochrysum palustre</i>	V	CE					yes		
Asteraceae	Velvet Daisy-bush	<i>Olearia pannosa subsp. cardiophylla</i>		E							
Asteraceae	White Sunray	<i>Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor</i>	E	E			yes				
Asteraceae	Lanky Buttons	<i>Leptorhynchos elongatus</i>		E							
Asteraceae	Branching Groundsel	<i>Senecio cunninghamii var. cunninghamii</i>		E							
Asteraceae	Satin Daisy-bush	<i>Olearia minor</i>		E							
Asteraceae	Button Wrinklewort	<i>Rutidosis leptorhynchoides</i>	E	E	yes		yes	yes	yes		yes
Asteraceae	Pale Swamp Everlasting	<i>Coronidium gunnianum</i>		CE							
Asteraceae	Large-headed Fireweed	<i>Senecio macrocarpus</i>	V	CE			yes	yes			yes
Asteraceae	Basalt Podolepis	<i>Podolepis linearifolia</i>		E							
Asteraceae	Cut-leaf Burr-daisy	<i>Calotis anthemoides</i>		CE							
Proteaceae	Small-flower Grevillea	<i>Grevillea micrantha</i>		CE							
Proteaceae	Smooth Grevillea	<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia subsp. glabella</i>		E							
Proteaceae	Golden Grevillea	<i>Grevillea chrysophaea</i>		V							
Proteaceae	Brisbane Range Grevillea	<i>Grevillea steigitziana</i>		E							
Amaranthaceae	Hairy Tails	<i>Ptilotus erubescens</i>		CE	yes				yes		
Plumbaginaceae	Yellow Sea-lavender	<i>Limonium australe</i>		E							
Chenopodiaceae	Marsh Saltbush	<i>Atriplex paludosa subsp. paludosa</i>		E							
Chenopodiaceae	Coast Saltwort	<i>Salsola tragus subsp. pontica</i>		E							

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	EPBC - Category of Threat	FFG - Category of Threat	Habitat on City Managed Land	Barwon Plain	Basalt Plains	Cities Geelong	Bellarine	Northern Uplands	Little River
Chenopodiaceae	Fragrant Saltbush	<i>Rhagodia parabolica</i>		V							
Myrtaceae	Yarra Gum	<i>Eucalyptus yarraensis</i>		CE							
Myrtaceae	Melbourne Yellow-gum	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. connata</i>		E							
Myrtaceae	Bellarine Yellow-gum	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. bellarinensis</i>		CE							
Myrtaceae	Gum-barked Bundy	<i>Eucalyptus goniocalyx subsp. laxa</i>		V							
Euphorbiaceae	Coast Bitter-bush	<i>Adriana quadripartita</i>		E							
Poaceae	Small-flower Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma monticola</i>		E							
Poaceae	Purple Blown-grass	<i>Lachnagrostis punicea subsp. semibarbata</i>		E							
Poaceae	Adamson's Blown-grass	<i>Lachnagrostis adamsonii</i>	E	E				yes	yes		
Poaceae	Straw Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma richardsonii</i>		E							
Poaceae	Rye Beetle-grass	<i>Tripogonella loliiiformis</i>		E							
Poaceae	Salt Blown-grass	<i>Lachnagrostis robusta</i>		E							
Juncaceae	Creeping Rush	<i>Juncus revolutus</i>		E							
Cyperaceae	Hoary Rapier-sedge	<i>Lepidosperma canescens</i>		E							
Solanaceae	Austral Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana suaveolens</i>		E							
Lamiaceae	Snowy Mint-bush	<i>Prostanthera nivea var. nivea</i>		R #							
Verbenaceae	Grey Mangrove	<i>Avicennia marina subsp. australasica</i>		E							
Plantaginaceae	Winged Water-starwort	<i>Callitriche umbonata</i>		E							
Orobanchaceae	Rough Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia scabra</i>		E							
Orobanchaceae	Purple Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia collina subsp. muelleri</i>	E	E			yes				
Orobanchaceae	Buloke Mistletoe	<i>Amyema linophylla subsp. Orientalis</i>		CE							
Loranthaceae	Drooping Mistletoe	<i>Amyema pendula subsp. longifolia</i>		CE							
Zosteraceae	Tasman Grass-wrack	<i>Heterozostera tasmanica</i>		E							
Zosteraceae	Australian Grass-wrack	<i>Heterozostera nigricaulis</i>		E							
Juncaginaceae	Tiny Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin minutissima</i>		E							
Juncaginaceae	Prickly Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin mucronata</i>		E							
Zygophyllaceae	Coast Twin-leaf	<i>Roepera billardierei</i>		E							
Geraniaceae	Pale-flower Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium sp. 3</i>		E							
Geraniaceae	Austral Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium solanderi var. solanderi s.s.</i>		E							
community	Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains		CE	CE	yes		yes	yes			yes
community	Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains		CE	CE	yes		yes				yes
community	Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland of the Temperate Lowland Plains		CE	CE	yes		yes		yes		yes
community	Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh		V	V	yes			yes	yes		yes
community	Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia		E		yes						
community	Coastal Moonah (<i>Melaleuca lanceolata subsp. lanceolata</i>) Woodland Community			Th	Yes				yes		
community	Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland community			Th			yes		yes		yes
community	Western Basalt Plains (River Redgum) Grassy Woodland Floristic Community 5504			Th							
community	Grey Box - Buloke Grassy Woodland Community			Th							

References:

Atlas of Living Australia - <https://www.ala.org.au/>

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Threatened List, September 2025

Threatened species under the EPBC Act - DCCEEW

SWIFFT - State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams - Threatened Species - <https://www.swiff.net.au/>

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas

Appendix 3: Environment Volunteer Groups and Networks

GROUP	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Barwon Plain		
Barrabool Hills Landcare Group	Barrabool Hills	Caring for Landscapes
Basalt Plain		
Anakie Community Garden	Anakie	Sustainable Living
Laracare	Lara	Caring for Landscapes
Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group	Bacchus Marsh	Caring for Landscapes
Moorabool Environment Group	Bacchus Marsh	Caring for Landscapes
Mt Rothwell Friends	Mt Rothwell	Caring for Landscapes
Bellarine and Surfcoast		
100% Clean Bellarine	Barwon Heads	Sustainable Living
Barwon Estuary Project	Barwon Heads	Caring for Landscapes
Barwon Heads Community Arts Garden	Barwon Heads	Sustainable Living
Barwon Heads Landcare Group	Barwon Heads	Caring for Landscapes
Barwon Region Alliance for Community Energy (BRACE)	Barwon Heads	Sustainable Living
*Beach Patrol - Bellarine	Ocean Grove	Caring for Landscapes
Bellarine Catchment Network	Queenscliff	Networks / Other
*Bellarine Landcare Group	Bellarine Peninsula	Caring for Landscapes
Bellarine Landcare Nursery	Drysdale	Caring for Landscapes
Bellarine Landcare Rabbit Action Group	Mannerim	Caring for Landscapes
*Bellarine Peninsula Orange-bellied Parrot Regional Group	Bellarine Peninsula	Citizen Science
*Birdlife Australia - Bellarine Peninsula	Bellarine Peninsula	Citizen Science
Boomerang Bags – Leopold	Leopold	Sustainable Living
Born Wild Community	Bellarine Peninsula	Caring for Landscapes
Breamlea Coast Action	Breamlea	Caring for Landscapes
*Breamlea Community Association	Breamlea	Caring for Landscapes
*Clifton Springs Curlewis Coastcare	Clifton Springs	Caring for Landscapes
Connewarre Landcare Group	Connewarre	Caring for Landscapes
*Drysdale Clifton Springs Curlewis Association	Drysdale	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Begola Wetlands	Ocean Grove	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Buckley Park Foreshore	Ocean Grove	Caring for Landscapes
Friends of Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve	St Leonards	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Indented Head Woodland	Indented Head	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Moonah Park	Barwon Heads	Caring for Landscapes
Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve	Ocean Grove	Caring for Landscapes
Friends of Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve	Portarlington	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Ramblers Road Foreshore	Portarlington	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of the Basin Reserve	Drysdale	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail	Leopold	Caring for Landscapes
Friends of the Bluff	Barwon Heads	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of the Hooded Plover - Bellarine	Ocean Grove	Caring for Landscapes
Friends of The Lobster Pot	Barwon Heads	Caring for Landscapes
Ocean Grove Coastcare	Ocean Grove	Caring for Landscapes
*Ocean Grove Community Association	Ocean Grove	Caring for Landscapes
Ocean Grove Park Inc	Ocean Grove	Caring for Landscapes
Ocean Grove Rotary	Ocean Grove	Sustainable Living
Queenscliff Indigenous Nursery	Queenscliff	Caring for Landscapes

GROUP	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
*Repair Café Bellarine	Ocean Grove	Sustainable Living
Swan Bay Environment Association	Swan Bay	Caring for Landscapes
Transition Network/Towns - Barwon Heads	Barwon Heads	Sustainable Living
*Weekday Weeders	Ocean Grove	Caring for Landscapes
Australian Parents 4 Climate Action - Geelong and Bellarine	Bellarine Peninsula	Sustainable Living
Geelong Cities		
Australian Conservation Foundation	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
Avalon Landcare Group	Lara	Caring for Landscapes
*Batesford - Fyansford - Stonehaven Landcare Group	Batesford	Caring for Landscapes
*Bats of Geelong	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
*Beach Patrol - Geelong	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
Boomerang Bags - Armstrong Creek	Armstrong Creek	Sustainable Living
Boomerang Bags - Norlane	Norlane	Sustainable Living
*Coiro Bay Angling Club	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
*Conservation Volunteers Australia	Statewide	Networks / Other
Corio Landcare	Corio	Caring for Landscapes
Dog Rocks Flora and Fauna Sanctuary	Batesford	Caring for Landscapes
*Field Naturalists - Geelong	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
Fishcare Victoria Inc -Geelong and Bellarine	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Buckley Falls	Highton	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Cowies Creek	Cowies Creek	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Jerrigot Wetlands	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Kevin Kirby Reserve	Herne Hill	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Rippleside Park & Environs Inc [FORPE]	Drumcondra	Caring for Landscapes
*Friends of Waurn Ponds Creek	Waurn Ponds	Caring for Landscapes
*Gardens for Wildlife - Geelong	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
Gardens for Wildlife - Point Lonsdale	Point Lonsdale	Caring for Landscapes
*Geelong Environment Council Inc	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
Geelong Intrepid Landcare	Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
Geelong Landcare Network	Geelong	Networks / Other
Geelong Repair Café	Highton	Sustainable Living
Geelong Sustainability Group	Geelong	Sustainable Living
*Greening Australia	Corio	Networks / Other
Highton Rotary	Geelong	Sustainable Living
Serendip Sanctuary Volunteers	Lara	Caring for Landscapes
*Sparrovale Wetlands Waterwatch	Charlemont	Citizen Science
St Luke's Uniting Church Environment Action Group	Highton	Caring for Landscapes
Transition Network/Towns - East Geelong	East Geelong	Sustainable Living
Transition Network/Towns - Geelong (Transition Streets)	Norlane	Sustainable Living
Urban Upcycle	Grovedale	Sustainable Living
Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party	Geelong	Networks / Other
Wathaurong Community	North Geelong	Caring for Landscapes
Little River		
*Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group	Anakie	Caring for Landscapes
Friends of the Brisbane Ranges	Anakie	Caring for Landscapes
Little River Community Landcare	Little River	Caring for Landscapes
Northern Uplands		
Koala Clancy Foundation	Staughton Vale	Networks / Other

*Groups that work on City managed land

Appendix 4: Biolink Areas

BIOLINK AREAS

Corridors (C): geographical area that provides suitable conditions for animal and plant movement through the landscape

Priority Corridor (PC): geographical area such as major rivers, waterways, coast and wetlands that are highly significant for animal and plant movement through the landscape

Zone (Z): geographical area > 100 hectares comprising multiple habitat features and highly significant for biodiversity

Habitat Node (HN): geographical area of habitat >10 hectares comprising either remnant vegetation or wetlands

Restoration Node (RN): geographical area mostly >100 hectares owned by one entity where habitat can be restored through revegetation/direct seeding

BIOLINK NAME	BIOLINK NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	VALUES
Fyansford Unused Rail Reserve	C1	Extends from the old cement works to the Geelong Railway	Provides a restoration link between the Moorabool River and Cowies Creek
Rippleside	C2	Links Fyansford Unused Rail link to the Bay via Geelong Golf Course, Saleyard and Council managed crown land	opportunities to connect corridors and restore habitat in urban landscape
Cuthbertson Creek	C3	Princess Highway to the Bay at Geelong Port	opportunity to restore a habitat corridor in urban landscape
Shell Creek	C4	Through Viva to the Bay	opportunity to restore a habitat corridor in urban landscape
Easement South of Geelong Ring Road to Cowies Creek	C5	Easement South of Geelong Ring Road to Cowies Creek	opportunities to connect corridors and restore habitat in urban landscape
Hovells Creek Tributary (1)	C6	Northern Conservation Reserve to Hovells Creek	EPBC: Natural Temperate Grassland, Golden Sun Moth, Stripped Legless Lizard
Bacchus Marsh Roadside	C6	Bacchus Marsh Roadside - from Geelong city to	EPBC: Golden Sun Moth
Hovells Creek Tributary (2)	C7	Hovells Creek to Serendip Sanctuary	EPBC: Grassland Earless Dragon Serendip Sanctuary
Hovells Creek Tributary (3)	C8	Mt Anakie to Barwon Prison through to Hovells Creek	corridor restoration opportunity, Fat-tailed Dunnart
Peak School Road	C9	Peak School Road from Old Melbourne Road to the unused section on the west of Bacchus Marsh Road. Includes Blairs Road.	EPBC: Natural Temperate Grassland, Spiny Rice-flower
Hovells Creek Tributary (4)	C10	North of Peak School Road to Hovells Creek	corridor restoration opportunity
Granite Roadside	C11	Granite Roadside from Staughton Vale Road to Hovells Creek	Grassy Woodland Hills Herb-rich Woodland roadside that links other corridors, large old remnant trees
Sandy Creek	C12	Along Sandy Creek through proposed solar farm joining Stony Creek west of Mt Rothwell	corridor restoration opportunity, Fat-tailed Dunnart
Staughton Vale Roadside	C13	Staughton Vale Roadside from Ballan Road to Murphy's Road	Melbourne Yellow Gums, Grassy Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland, large old remnant trees, one of the largest old redgums known in the City in the triangle reserve, Brisbane Ranges National Park (adjoins), crosses Stony Creek, Little River
Stony Creek	C14	Stony Creek - connects the Brisbane Ranges to Little River	Grassy Woodland, large old remnant trees, koalas, corridor restoration opportunity
Balliang Creek	C15	Sharkey Property - part of link that flows into the Little River	Buloke Woodland, Large old remnant trees

BIOLINK NAME	BIOLINK NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	VALUES
Mt Rothwell to Little River	C16	Revegetation out the front of Mt Rothwell, Smith property to Worthy.	EPBC: Natural Temperate Grassland, Matted Flax Lily koalas, koala Clancey Project Area (partnership with Melbourne Water), habitat restoration works, old remnant trees, Fat-tailed Dunnart, raptors
Western Grassland Reserve	C17	Little River tributary	Future Western Grassland Reserve, Fat-tailed Dunnart, raptors
Melbourne - Geelong Railway	C18	Lara to Little River	EPBC: Natural Temperate Grassland
Avalon	C19	Gillet's Road to Avalon Coast - stops at the Princes Highway - almost makes it to the Old Melbourne Road Biolink. Includes the Cheetham Saltworks	Ramsar site -migratory birds EPBC: Natural Temperate Grassland, Coastal Saltmarsh, Spring Rice-Flower
Scarborough Creek	C20	Western creek that flows into the bay at Clifton Springs	opportunity to restore a habitat corridor in urban landscape
Clifton Springs Golf Course Creek West	C21	Creek flows from beyond Portarlinton Road to the Bay	corridor restoration opportunity
Clifton Springs Golf Course Creek East	C22	Creek flows from near Portarlinton Road to the Bay	Close to a patch of Old Sheoak, Podolepis sp, Ptilotus macrocephalus, corridor restoration opportunity
Ibbotson's	C23	North South Link between Indented Head and St Leonards	Diverse patch of Grassy Woodland at McCarthys Reserve with over 60 different species many rare on the Bellarine Supports connection between Edwards Point, Salt Lagoon & The Bay
Masons Creek	C24	Masons Creek and tributaries flowing to Swan Bay - Port Phillip Marine National Park - from Drysdale Landfill	Ramsar site - migratory birds Swan Bay - Port Phillip Marine National Park, corridor restoration opportunity, remnant vegetation
McDonald Creek	C25	Small creek on private land flowing into Swan Bay - Port Phillip Marine National Park	Ramsar site - migratory birds Swan Bay - Port Phillip Marine National Park, corridor restoration opportunity, remnant vegetation
Yarram Creek North	C26	Yarram Creek and tributaries connecting to the Drysdale and Wallington corridors	corridor restoration opportunity
Ocean Grove	C27	Ocean Grove Nature Reserve to Lake Connewarre	EPBC: Swift Parrot, Latham's Snipe, Black Falcon, Royal Spoonbill, Grey Goshawk, Bellarine Yellow Gum, Hoary Rapier-sedge
Barwon Heads	C28	Includes Barwon Heads Village Park and the Warrenbeen ESO Area	Coastal Moonah Woodland, Royal Spoonbill, Bellarine Yellow Gum, Moonahs, large old remnant trees, Leafy Greenhood, Coast Twin-leaf, Coast Wirilda
Bluestone School	C30	North south link across private land linking Lake Connewarre with Thirteenth Beach	Brolga, Coast Fescue, Coast Bitter-bush
Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve - <i>Ngubitj yoorree</i>	HN1	Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve - <i>Ngubitj yoorree</i>	EPBC: Growling Grass Frog, Yarra Pygmy Perch, Orange Bellied Parrot, Spiny Peppergrass Nationally significant number of Sharp-tailed sandpipers (6000+) observed 2021 Yellow Sedge-skipper Butterfly, migratory birds, adjoins Ramsar sites, 4km of Barwon River frontage
Belmont Wetlands	HN2	Belmont Common, Jerringot, Barwon Golf Course, Breakwater wetlands, Aquaduct Park	EPBC: Latham's Snipe migratory birds, brolgas, high quality wetlands adjoin the Barwon River
Barwon - Moorabool River Confluence	HN3	Barwon - Moorabool River Confluence	cultural values, platypus, large old remnant trees, confluence of the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers
Dog Rocks and Honeys Woodland	HN4	Dog Rocks and Honeys Woodland	koalas, platypus, large old remnant trees, Moorabool River Frontage
Lara Golf Course	HN5	Lara Golf Club in Lara	Potential restoration opportunity
Northern Conservation Reserve	HN6	Northern Growth Area - Conservation Reserve - Staceys Road	EPBC: Natural Temperate Grassland, Stripped Legless Lizard, Golden Sun Month
Sutherland Creek Woodlands	HN7	Sutherland Creek Woodlands	large old remnant trees- River Red Gums, Grey Box, close to priority corridor, Plains Grassy Woodland
Lynch Road Grassy Woodlands	HN8	Lynches Road Grassy Woodland	koalas, Manna Gum Woodland

BIOLINK NAME	BIOLINK NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	VALUES
Northern Uplands Dry Forests	HN9	Northern Upland dry Forests	large old remnant trees - box iron bark forest, Melbourne Yellow Gums, Redbox, Red Stringy bark, koalas, Jolly's Reserve
Anakie Woodlands	HN10	Anakie Woodland	koalas, remnant vegetation, large old remnant trees, Scoria Cone Woodland
Granitic Hills Woodland	HN11	Granitic Hills Woodland	remnant vegetation, large old remnant trees - Melbourne Yellow Gum, Manna Gum, Red Stringbark
Brisbane Ranges	HN12	PV managed Brisbane Ranges National Park and adjoining private land	Brisbane Ranges National Park, koalas, large old remnant trees, high quality remnants
Swamp Road Swamp and Woodland	HN13	Swamp Road Swamp and Woodland	high quality lignum swamp,
Sharkey's Swamp and Buloke Woodlands	HN14	Sharkeys Swamp and Buloke Woodland	EPBC: potential Grey Box - Buloke Grassy Woodland Community large old remnant trees - bulokes
Mt Rothwell	HN15	Mt Rothwell Little River - private wildlife sanctuary	473 hectares of predator free safe haven for native wildlife, native grasslands and grassy Woodlands, koalas, adjoins future Western Grassland Reserve
Little River - Ripley Road Grasslands	HN16	Little River Ripley Road/ Kirk Bridge Road Grasslands and Shrublands	EPBC: Natural Temperate Grassland, Stripped Legless Lizard high quality remnant vegetation, Fat-tailed Dunnart, Cunningham Skink
Ford Proving Ground	HN17	Ford Proving Grounds and associated private land to the north of the You Yangs	EPBC: potential Grey Box - Buloke Grassy Woodland Community high quality remnant, large old remnant trees - Yellow Box
Woolloomanata Station	HN18	Woolloomanata Station	large old remnant trees - redgums, Plains Grassy Woodland, Creekline Grassy Woodland
You Yangs	HN19	PV Managed You Yangs	You Yangs
Serendip	HN20	PV Managed Serendip	Serendip
Western Treatment Plant	HN21	Western Treatment Plant	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot Fat-tailed Dunnart
Avalon Airport South	HN22	Avalon Airport - south	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot Fat-tailed Dunnart
Cheatham Saltworks - including Avalon Coast	HN23	Cheatham Saltworks - including Avalon Coast	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot Fat-tailed Dunnart
Corio Grassland	HN24	Corio Grassland, Shell Parade	EPBC: Natural Temperate Grassland partly City owned partly private
Eastern Park, GBG and Golf Course	HN25	Eastern Park, GBG and East Geelong Golf Course	EPBC: Grey Headed Flying Fox Nationally significant GHFF Camp, native grasslands
Moolap Saltworks and Point Henry	HN26	Moolap Saltworks and Point Henry	Proposed Ramsar site EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot
Drysdale Wetlands - Lake Lorne and McLeods Waterholes	HN27	Drysdale Reserves including the Basin, Belchers, Lake Lorne, McLeods Waterhole and associated remnants on private land	EPBC: Latham's Snipe City nature reserves - The Basin, Belchers, Lake Lorne, McLeods Waterhole, high quality remnants on private. Healthy Woodland, large old remnant trees and grass trees, migratory birds, water birds
Portarlington Reserve and Point Richards Flora Reserve	HN28	Portarlington Reserves and adjoining private land	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot, Red-capped plover breeding site
Indented Head woodlands	HN29	Indented Head Woodland Nature Reserve, Barwon Water and Private Land	EPBC: Latham's Snipe Large Old Trees - Redgums
Salt Lagoon and Sheoak Woodland	HN30	PV Salt Lagoon, adjoining City nature reserve and private land remnants	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh migratory birds

BIOLINK NAME	BIOLINK NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	VALUES
Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve	HN31	PV managed Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve, migratory birds
Anderson Roadside woodlands and saltmarsh	HN32	Grassy Woodland remnants on private land and roadsides - Grassy Point Road and Anderson Road	Grassy Woodland remnants on private land and roadsides - Grassy Point Road and Anderson Road, Sheoak Woodland
Swan Bay Road Sheoak woodland	HN33	Swan Bay Road remnant sheoak woodland	Approximately 60 hectares Sheoak Woodland likely the largest remaining on the Bellarine Peninsula
Swan Bay south and Yarram Creek	HN34	Swan Bay south and Yarram Creek	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot Grassy Woodland, high quality remnants
South-east Bellarine wetlands Moonahwarri and Moonah Woodland	HN35	PV managed Lake Victoria and smaller lakes (Moonahwarri), Coastal Moonah Woodland	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Hooded Plover Large patch of Coastal Moonah Woodland, migratory Birds, adjoins Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve, State Significant Landscape, Flows into nearby Swan Bay Marine Park and Ramar Wetland
Kingston Park and surrounding remnants	HN36	Kingston Park Nature Reserve and surrounding Remnants	EPBC: Swift Parrot Grassy Woodland, large old remnant trees, Bellarine Yellow Gums, wildflowers and native grasses
Maddens Woodlands	HN37	Mannerim Woodland Marcus Hill	adjoins Murk Ngubiti Yarram Yaluk and Yarram Creek, high quality remnant vegetation, Grassy Woodland and Healthy Woodland
The Grubb Road woodlands Wallington	HN38	Grubb Road Woodlands, Wallington	EPBC: Swift Parrot, near Murk Ngubiti Yarram Yaluk and Yarram Creek, high quality remnant vegetation, large old remnant trees, Grassy woodland and Healthy Woodland
Ocean Grove Nature Reserve and surrounds	HN39	Ocean Grove Nature Reserve, Yellow Gum Nature Reserve and associated Grassy Woodland remnants on private land	EPBC: Swift Parrot Ocean Grove Nature Reserve, Yellow Gum Nature Reserve, Grassy Woodland, Bellarine Yellow Gum Woodland, large old remnant trees - Bellarine Yellow Gums and Manna Gums, kookaburra, echidna
Lake Connewarre	HN40	Lake Connewarre Barwon River Corridor	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot
Murtneghurt Wetland and 13th Beach Golf Course	HN41	Murtneghurt Wetland, 13th Beach Golf Course and Barwon Heads Golf Course	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Murtneghurt wetland, migratory birds, Coast Fescue, good quality remnant vegetation
Breamlea Flora and Fauna Reserve	HN42	PV Managed Breamlea Flora and Fauna Reserve and Karaf Wetland	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Hooded Plover migratory birds
Armstrong Creek Corridor	PC1	Armstrong Creek Headwaters to Sparrovale Wetland Reserve	large old remnant trees, Dooliebeal Reserve, remnants, cultural values, riparian restoration
Waurm Ponds Creek	PC2	Waurm Ponds Creek from City boundary to Breakwater Wetlands	EPBC: Yarra Pygmy Perch, Latham's Snipe platypus, cultural values, riparian restoration
Barwon River	PC3	Barwon River connecting the coast to the City boundary	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC, Gang-gang cockatoo, Latham's Snipe, Australian Grayling, Yarra Pygmy Perch, major wildlife corridor from the coast eventually through to the Otways, cultural values, platypus, large old remnant trees, riparian restoration
Moorabool River	PC4	From Redgum Island to Sutherlands Creek	major wildlife corridor from the confluence of the Barwon River eventually through to the Wombat Forest and Brisbane Ranges hinterland, cultural values, platypus, koalas, large old remnant trees, riparian restoration
Cowies Creek	PC5	Cowies Creek	EPBC: Growling Grass Frog cultural values, riparian restoration
Ballarat Rail Reserve	PC6	Extends from Evans Road to the Moorabool River linking Cowies Creek to the Moorabool River	opportunities to connect corridors and restore habitat in urban landscape
Sutherland Creek	PC7	Starts up at the Brisbane Ranges in the north of the City joins the Moorabool River north of Batesford	Large old remnant trees, koalas, Jolly's reserve

BIOLINK NAME	BIOLINK NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	VALUES
Anakie Creek	PC8	Sutherlands Creek to Hovells Creek	corridor restoration opportunity, remnant vegetation
Hovells Creek	PC9	Extends from the northern uplands through the basalt plains joining Corio Bay at the Ramsar site	Ramsar site - migratory birds Large old remnant trees, koala habitat
Little River	PC10	From the Bay to Brisbane Ranges	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Natural Temperate Grasslands, Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot Western Treatment Plant, Fat-tailed Dunnart, raptors
Old Melbourne Roadside	PC11	From Lara to Little River	EPBC: Natural Temperate Grassland, Spiny Rice-flower Native grassland with diversity of species including wildflowers, three chain road reserve
Limeburner's Bay to Little River Coast	PC12	Little River to Limeburner's Bay	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot Burrnan Dolphin, Western Treatment Plant, Hovells Creek, Little River
Corio Bay	PC13	Limeburner's Bay to Point Henry on the coast	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Grey Headed Flying Fox Plains Grassland, Shell Foreshore, Hovells Creek, Burrnan Dolphin, Rakali, Fiddler Rays
Bellarine Bay Coast	PC14	Point Henry to Point Lonsdale	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve, Swan Bay - Port Phillip Marine National Park
South Bellarine Ocean Coast	PC15	Ocean coast between Breamlea and Point Lonsdale	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Hooded Plover migratory birds, Breamlea Flora and Fauna Reserve, Murnnaghurt wetland, Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary, Moonahwarri Wetlands (adjoins), Coastal Moonah Woodland, large old remnant trees, spinifex grassland, Barwon Heads and Thirteen Beach Golf Clubs, State Significant landscape (DAL), Double-banded Plover, Red-capped Plover
Murnnaghurt	PC16	North south link including existing crown land connecting Lake Connewarre via Murnnaghurt to the coast	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Murnnaghurt wetland, migratory birds, Coast Fescue
Yellow Gums	PC17	Ocean Grove Nature Reserve to Lake Connewarre	Grassy Woodland, Bellarine Yellow Gum, large old remnant trees
Wallington	PC18	Ocean Grove Nature Reserve to Wallington, Murk Ngubiti Yarram Yaluk and Swan Bay Road	Grassy Woodland, Sheoaks, Leafy Greenhood
Drysdale	PC19	Murk Ngubiti Yarram Yaluk, Griggs Creek to the Bay at Clifton Springs	EPBC: Latham's Snipe migratory birds, Murk Ngubiti Yarram Yaluk (Barwon Waters new Nature Reserve), Belchers Reserves, Basin Reserve, Lake Lorne, McLeod's Waterhole, Griggs Creek, large old remnant trees, Heathy Woodland, Grassy Woodland, wedge-tailed eagles
Leopold	PC20	Green Wedge between Geelong and Leopold linking Lake Connewarre to the Bay	Ramsar site - migratory birds large old remnant tree, corridor restoration opportunity
Bellarine Rail Trail	PC21	Rail Reserve extending from Geelong to Queenscliff	Ramsar site - migratory birds Major link between Geelong and Swan Bay, Swan Bay - Port Phillip Marine National Park, corridor restoration opportunity, remnant vegetation. Could link all the way to the Barwon River through the Show Grounds and roadsides
Grassy Point Road	PC22	Roadsides - Anderson, Manifold, Grassy Point Road	Grassy Woodland, wildflowers and native grasslands
Yarram Creek South	PC23	Murk Ngubiti Yarram Yaluk along Yarram Creek to Swan Bay Swan Bay - Port Phillip Marine National Park	Ramsar site - migratory birds Murk Ngubiti Yarram Yaluk (new Barwon Water Nature Reserve), Yarram Creek headwaters, Swan Bay Swan Bay - Port Phillip Marine National Park, wedge-tailed eagles, corridor restoration opportunity

BIOLINK NAME	BIOLINK NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	VALUES
Moonahwarri to Swan Bay	PC24	Lake Victoria to Swan Bay - Port Phillip Marine National Park	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Hooded Plover Swan Bay - Port Phillip Marine National Park, Coastal Moonah Woodland
Deakin Biodiversity Restoration	RN1	Deakin Waurn Ponds Campus	habitat restoration across the Deakin Waurn Ponds Campus aligned to their Biodiversity Strategy
Batesford Quarry	RN2	Batesford Quarry	Restoration of the Batesford Quarry as part of the NWGGA
Corio Landfill	RN3	Old Landfill site adjoining Limeburner's Bay and Hovell's Creek with	restoration opportunities for wildlife
Drysdale Landfill	RN4	Extensive habitat restoration opportunity when landfill closes - aligned to a Master Plan	Extensive habitat restoration opportunity when landfill closes - aligned to a Master Plan
Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve - <i>Ngubiti yoorree</i>	RN5	Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve - <i>Ngubiti yoorree</i>	Extensive habitat restoration opportunity at Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve - <i>Ngubiti yoorree</i> aligned to the Master Plan
Brisbane Ranges and Hinterland	Z1	Brisbane Ranges National Park, Adjoining private land, Northern Upland dry Forests, Lynches Road Grassy Woodland	Mt Anakie, Scoria Cone Woodland, large old remnant trees,
Wurdi Youang	Z2	You Yangs, Woolloomanata Station, Ford Proving Grounds and associated private land to the north of the You Yang, Mt Rothwell, Little River Ripley Road/ Kirk Bridge Road Grasslands and Shrublands, Sharkeys Swamp and Bullock Woodland	You Yangs, Woolloomanata Station, Ford Proving Grounds and associated private land to the north of the You Yang, Mt Rothwell, Little River Ripley Road/ Kirk Bridge Road Grasslands and Shrublands, Sharkeys Swamp and Bullock Woodland
Avalon	Z3	Western Treatment Plant, Corio Grassland, Cheatam Saltworks - including Avalon Coast, Avalon Airport - south, Corio Landfill	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot
Moolapio	Z4	Botanic Gardens, Eastern Park and East Geelong Golf Course Moolap Saltworks and Point Henry	future Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Grey Headed Flying Fox Native Grasslands
Point Richards	Z5	Portarlington Reserves and adjoining private land	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot, Red-capped plover breeding site
Indented Head Woodland and Coast	Z6	Indented Head Woodland Nature Reserve, PV managed Salt Lagoon, adjoining City nature reserve and private land remnants	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Latham's Snipe, large old remnant trees, Grassy Woodland
Swan Bay and surrounds	Z7	Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve Grassy Woodland remnants on private land and roadsides - Grassy Point Road and Anderson Road	Ramsar site - migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange-bellied Parrot Grassy Woodlands - Sheoak Woodlands
Moonahwarri	Z8	South East Bellarine Coast and Wetlands	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Hooded Plover State Significant Landscape, Migratory Birds, Coastal Moonah Woodland
Wallington Woodland	Z9	Grubb Road Woodlands, Mannerim Woodland Marcus Hill	EPBC: Swift Parrot
Ocean Grove Woodland	Z10	Ocean Grove Nature Reserve, Yellow Gum Reserve and associated Grassy Woodland remnants on private land Kingston Park and Surrounding Remnants	EPBC: Swift Parrot Grassy Woodland, large old remnant trees, wildflowers
Lake Connewarre Wetland System	Z11	Lake Connewarre Wetland System to Barwon River Estuary & Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve - <i>Ngubiti yoorree</i>	Ramsar site, migratory birds EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Orange Bellied Parrot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Growling Grass Frog, Yarra Pygmy Perch, Spiny Peppercress Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve - <i>Ngubiti yoorree</i> , nationally significant number of Sharp-tailed sandpipers (6000+) observed 2021, Brolgas
Breamlea	Z12	Breamlea Flora and Fauna Reserve, Karaf Wetland, Thompsons Creek Estuary,	EPBC: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Hooded Plover migratory birds

BIOLINK AREA INFORMATION

Corridors

Biolinks for the Greater Geelong area were identified in collaboration with community and industry experts via a series of workshops between 2020 and 2024. These workshops included:

1. Three workshops to develop the Bellarine biolinks map on 21 February 2020, 31 July 2020 and 25 August 2020.
2. Two further workshops to develop biolinks for the rest of Greater Geelong on 16 March 2023 and 30 January 2024.

These biolinks are called 'Corridors' in the Plan for Nature.

Priority Corridors

During the consultation process, we have identified several key biolinks that will be a focus of the City's conservation programs going forward. These key biolinks are called 'Priority Corridors'.

Nodes

During community workshops, large patches of native vegetation and habitat were identified and recorded. If these were over 10 hectares in size they were initially identified as being a 'Biodiversity feature'. (Biodiversity features were included in the Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Statement of Planning Policy 2023). These habitat areas have been recorded across the whole municipality and have been called 'nodes' in the Plan for Nature. Most Corridors will connect to at least one Node.

Zones

There are several areas across Greater Geelong that support regionally significant biodiversity and are often much larger than 10 ha in size. These are the City's biodiversity hotspots, and are called 'zones' in the Plan for Nature. Zones often incorporate multiple Nodes and are linked by Priority Corridors.

References

Practical Ecology - Native Veg Mapping Private Land (Moderate to Very High Confidence only) - 2024

Sundew Ecological - Native Veg Mapping Private Land -2024 - 2025

Crown Land - Native Veg Aerial Photo Analysis

City of Greater Geelong - Native Vegetation - Reserves & Roadsides 2013 -2019

Native Veg Aerial Photo Analysis

Remnant vegetation mapping community/stakeholder workshops 2019

Biolink community/key stakeholder workshops March 2023 and January 2024

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THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

PLAN FOR NATURE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

—
NOVEMBER 2025

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

We're creating the City of Greater Geelong's first Plan for Nature.

The Plan will guide how we look after our natural areas and wildlife through to 2035.

This report presents a summary of the community engagement we undertook to help us make sure the new plan reflects our community's vision for the future of our natural environments.

Project background

Geelong has many unique natural habitats and areas of important biodiversity. We want to make sure they are identified, protected, connected and restored for the future.

The Plan for Nature aligns to three key documents:

- *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future for the Greater Geelong region*
- the Environment and Circular Economy section of *Our Council Plan 2025-29*
- our *Environment Strategy 2020 – 2030*

The Plan is also informed by a review of the state of our nature, which gives us a picture of how our environment is doing today. It includes report cards for six key areas: Barwon Plain, Basalt Plains, Bellarine, Geelong City, Little River Catchment, the Northern Uplands and a summary for all of Geelong.

We asked our community and partners to help us shape the Plan. This included working with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation, technical advisory groups, the wider community, and our staff and Councillors through a tailored engagement phase.

Our aim

The aim of this engagement was simple: to hear what people value about nature, what challenges they see and how they think we can improve and protect our natural areas. We also wanted to know how people are already involved, or would like to get involved, in caring for nature. The ideas and feedback we received will help us build a plan that reflects local priorities and strengthens our connection with the natural world. Together, we can shape a Plan for Nature that will help keep Geelong's natural environment healthy and resilient for future generations.

HOW WE ENGAGED

WHAT DID WE DO?

Between 2021 and 2025, we carried out an extensive engagement process, using many different tools and communication methods to reach as many stakeholders, community groups and individuals as we could.

We drew on social media, traditional media, existing partnerships/collaborations, group mail-outs, promotional posters/postcards plus online and face-to-face communications to extend our reach far and wide. We used a mix of closed and open-ended question formats. Using multiple methods meant we could target familiar stakeholders and community groups while also reaching beyond to invite fresh ideas and input from people we might not normally hear from. Inviting and welcoming input from the general public meant anyone could self-select to respond and 'have their say'.

SOCIAL MEDIA



54,349

Reach/impressions

1,183

Actions (clicks, reactions, shares, comments)



1,435

Promotional posters and postcards delivered



>12

Presentations to relevant groups



859

Community group mail-outs to key contacts



Key regional events



Tailored 'Have Your Say' website



Multiple surveys in different formats



Meetings with community and stakeholders



4

Information pop-ups



2

Biolinks Planning Workshops



2

Technical Advisory Group Workshops



Open house sessions



Media articles



Our backyard is a treasure trove of habitats, that supports a wonderfully wide range of native plants, animals and fungi within a short distance of the city centre.

We invite you to contribute to our new plan for nature, a 10 year plan to help us protect and enhance these habitats for our wild species. Tell us your great ideas for nature and the wild places you enjoy.



	<p>To join the conversation, scan the QR code or visit yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/xxxx</p> <p>You can also learn more about the plan at one of our information sessions, visit our website to find locations and times.</p> <p>Feedback closes on Monday 16 January 2023.</p>	<p>These natural habitats are on the lands of the Wadawurrung and we pay our respects to the Wadawurrung People and all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.</p>
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Figure 1: Sample of 'Have Your Say' postcard designs mailed out.

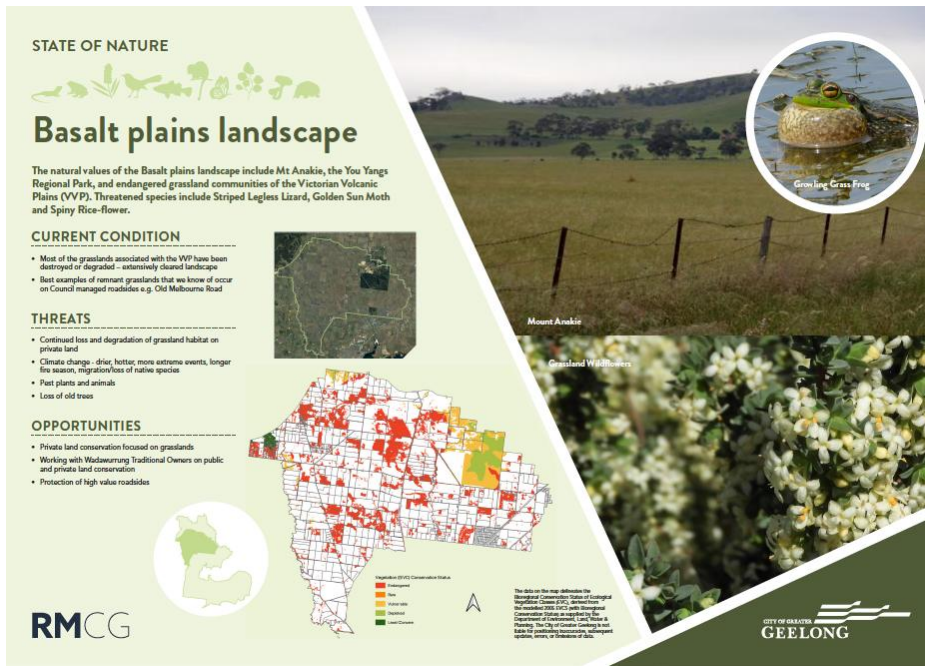


Figure 2: Sample one of six A3-sized 'State of Nature' posters distributed.

WHO WE ENGAGED WITH

WADAWURRUNG TRADITIONAL OWNERS	<p>Regular meetings with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation from 2021 to 2025.</p> <p>One walk on Country with Traditional Owners.</p>
COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENT GROUPS	<p>Presentations to the Nature Stewards and Community Nature Group Celebration during the engagement campaign from Oct 2023 to Jan 2024.</p> <p>Community group mail out to key volunteer environment groups during the 2022/23 engagement campaign.</p> <p>Two meetings with a community technical advisory group, which included representatives from community-based environment groups in the City and local conservationists.</p>
THE WIDER COMMUNITY	<p>A wide community engagement campaign was held during Oct 2022 – Jan 2023 which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a tailored project website on the City's Have Your Say page, which hosted three survey formats and invited photo submissions • pop-up information stalls at Wurriki Nyal, Portarlinton and regional events including Lara and Waterfront markets • promotional material distributed to community centres • open house sessions at the City's office • social media posts • presentations to the Youth Council.
AGENCY STAKEHOLDERS	<p>Two meetings with an agency stakeholder technical advisory group.</p> <p>Input via the 2022/23 engagement campaign.</p> <p>Two Biolinks Planning Workshops, held March 2023 and January 2024, including a mix of technical experts, government agencies and community environment groups.</p>
GEELONG CITY COUNCIL STAFF	<p>Two meetings with a staff technical advisory group.</p> <p>Meetings with the Sustainable Advisory Committee and staff from the Environment portfolio.</p> <p>One staff workshop to identify key actions, held in June 2024.</p>

PARTICIPATION

An estimated 282 people attended events, 859 contacts were reached via direct community mail-out and four written submissions were received.

A summary of survey formats and respondent numbers follows:

SURVEY FORMAT	WHAT WE ASKED	# RESPONSES
QUESTION-BASED	Answer ten questions about perceived threats to and opportunities for nature in Geelong, community involvement and demographic details.	209
SINGLE RESPONSE	Submit your 'one great idea' for nature in Greater Geelong.	120
MAP-BASED	Locate (on a map) your three favourite places to enjoy nature in the Bellarine, Greater Geelong and Northern Geelong areas.	40

SURVEY FORMAT	WHAT WE ASKED	# RESPONSES
PHOTO SUBMISSION	Submit photos of nature captured in the Greater Geelong Area.	15

We asked survey respondents to share some demographic details with us. This following is a snapshot:

Age

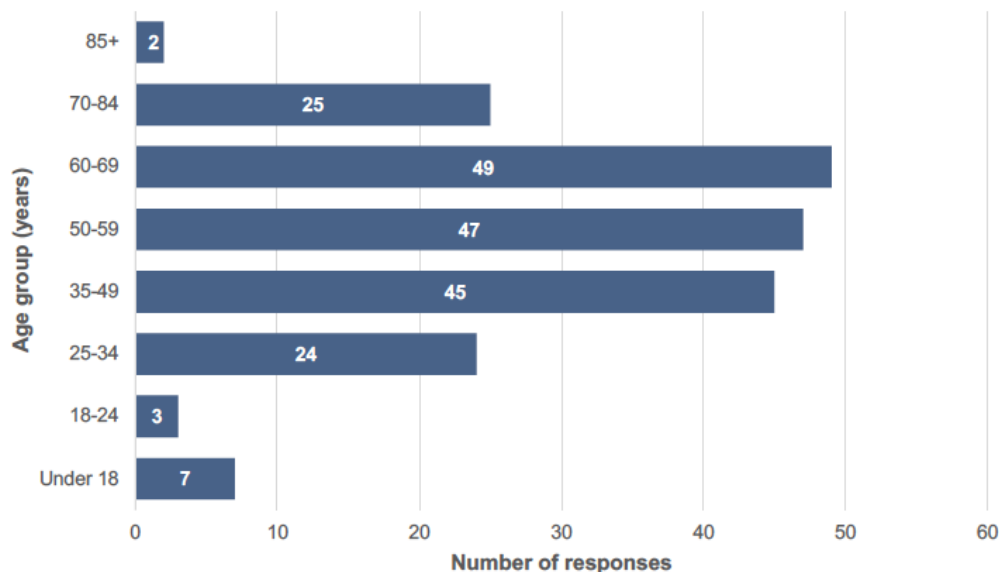


Figure 3 Age group distribution of survey respondents

Location (residential suburb)

Geelong city and Bellarine landscape areas were well-represented. Little River, Northern Uplands and Barwon Plain had no respondents.

WHAT WE HEARD – A SNAPSHOT

OVERALL RESPONSE

Survey responses were thoughtful and detailed, with people sharing ideas, concerns and feedback on nature’s threats, opportunities, enjoyment and care. Most respondents added detailed comments.

THE FEEDBACK

Find more detailed and statistical information about results in the full Geelong’s Plan for Nature Community Engagement Report. The following is a snapshot of results:

ENJOYMENT AND VALUE OF NATURAL AREAS

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

We received 15 photo submissions of nature images depicting native vegetation, native birdlife and the St Leonards salt lake.

♥ 1 Likes 💬 0 Comments




Barwarre rd Roadside vegetation

Posted by Phil | 3 months ago

Barwarre Rd Roadside vegetation

♥ 1 Likes 💬 0 Comments



Eucalyptus camaldulensis


Posted by Phil | 3 months ago

River Red Gum, Armstrong Creek

♥ 1 Likes 💬 0 Comments



A carpet of Rice Flowers



Resting between flights

Posted by Cara | 3 months ago

The black-shouldered kite landed on the fence post near me and proceeded to preen. It had been visible for a while high above as it hunted for prey. I did not see any capture however enjoyed that beauty of the bird.

♥ 4 Likes 💬 0 Comments

Figure 5 Selection of photos from survey participants who shared nature images as social media posts.



Figure 7: Word cloud of additional responses to opportunities for nature enhancement.

**TOP 'ONE GREAT IDEA' THEMES
(QUESTION-BASED FORMAT)**

- Restoration of existing reserves and establishment of new reserves
- Invasive species control, especially Indian myna and feral cats
- Improve recreational infrastructure and access to reserves

'One GREAT Idea' examples:

“ Restore native wetland biodiversity throughout Whittington, including corridors for amphibious wildlife, E.g. along rail trail and link. ”

“ Community support and traps for Indian Myna control. ”

“ World class walking/riding and natural habitat foreshore trail from St Leonards to Geelong. With intersecting trails across the peninsula. ”

INVOLVEMENT IN PRESERVING AND ENHANCING NATURAL AREAS

TOP WAYS WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN – OR ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN

- Through a local community Group (Landcare, Coastcare, Friends of group)
- Through nature-based events organised by Council or other groups

TOP CATEGORIES BEST DESCRIBING CURRENT INVOLVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in, enjoy or visit the natural areas of Greater Geelong • Active member or volunteer for a community-based group
TOP TYPES OF GROUPS INVOLVED IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of groups or other nature-based volunteer group • Citizen science based group (Waterwatch, Field Naturalists)
TOP WAYS OF HAVING INTEREST IN, ENJOYING OR VISITING NATURAL AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passive recreation • Participation in nature-based activities (bird-watching, nature photography)

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS OF RESPONDENTS

Some 58% people answered the final question inviting thoughts on additional considerations for the Plan for Nature. Two main themes emerged:

- Concern about urban development
- Highlighting the importance of high-quality habitat and large old trees.

FROM THE INTERNAL WORKSHOP (OUR STAFF)

Participants shared more than a hundred ideas, comments and suggestions for exploration.

Of those, the most frequently endorsed by the group included:

- Growth area developer contribution/levy
- Biolink overlay/vision/plan
- Cat curfew 24/7
- Target young people to enable connection to nature
- Targeted education to farmers and landholders
- Incentives to landowners (protection)
- Animal crossings
- Priority biolinks
- Respect EVC (Ecological Vegetation Classes)
- Expansion of farm rating

OVERALL KEY FINDINGS

Responses to the different survey formats were consistently of a quality sufficient for informing development of the Plan for Nature.

Common themes, concerns and ideas emerged. The following is an overview of these.

Overwhelmingly, the major theme was concern about the impact of urban development on remnant habitat and wildlife corridors throughout Greater Geelong, with people wanting to see more restrictions placed on housing development. This theme dominated throughout survey comments (and written submissions). Respondents see this concern as the most urgent. Many people were concerned over removal of large old trees in developments. Climate change was also seen as a top threat in the Greater Geelong City landscapes.

Many additional sites nominated as 'nature favourites' are not managed by the City. This highlights the need for partnerships and co-operation with other responsible bodies.

A majority (61%) of respondents were aged over 50 years. Only 17% were aged 34 years or under with only 3 people in the 18-24 age bracket. Engagement with young people in our future nature planning and activities is crucial. Respondents suggested increasing nature education, stewardship programs in schools, and quality of green spaces in urban areas – these may be key to engaging people in nature protection in the future.

The Bellarine Peninsula had (by far) the highest number of respondents, and the highest number of pinned 'favourite nature places' amongst respondents.

NEXT STEPS

We're continuing to review the engagement results and using them to help us prepare the new Plan for Nature.

Our planned timeline for next steps is:

- February 2026 – Council endorsement of the draft Plan
- March 2026 – Community consultation
- May 2026 – Council endorsement of the final Plan

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to respond to our survey, attend a workshop/meeting /event, submit a photo/comment or interact through our 'Have Your Say' website. We're making sure your input helps shape how our natural areas and wildlife are identified, protected, connected and restored for the future.

2.4. Draft Place Naming Policy

Source: City Life
Executive Director: Anthony Basford

Purpose

1. To endorse the Draft Place Naming Policy (the Policy) for release for a four-week period of community consultation.

Background

2. The City of Greater Geelong has drafted a Place Naming Policy to guide the naming and renaming of public places. The policy aims to establish a process to ensure decisions are consistent, inclusive, and culturally informed, provide a clear framework that responds to legislation and community expectations. It acknowledges the symbolic power of place names and promotes fairness, transparency, and respect.
3. The Policy complies legislative requirements that Council must follow and responds to the best practice frameworks:
 - 3.1. Geographic Place Names Act 1998.
 - 3.2. Naming Rules for Places in Victoria (2022).
 - 3.3. Gender Equality Strategy (2023–2027).
 - 3.4. City of Greater Geelong’s Community Engagement Policy.
4. The Policy aims to shape a shared identity that reflects the City’s values as a clever, creative, and caring community. It supports diversity and cultural recognition through place naming, while mitigating risks such as politicised proposals, cultural insensitivity, and legal disputes.

Key Matters

5. To address historical imbalances and better represent the City’s diverse population, the Policy seeks to increase the visibility of women, First Nations people and underrepresented cultural groups through commemorative naming.
6. Broad internal engagement that included staff, stakeholder and Councillor consultation, was undertaken. Strong feedback requested that the Policy support naming decisions through a prioritisation process.
7. Councillor feedback requested clarity regarding the process of prioritisation, and the naming of spaces within a facility, which has been addressed in the Policy.
8. A Gender Impact Assessment has been completed and was used to inform the Policy.
9. In line with best practice and to comply with legislative requirements, the Policy commits to involving Traditional Owners in naming processes, as required under the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria (2022), reinforcing cultural integrity and local knowledge.

10. Victoria's path to Treaty further strengthens the expectation that Traditional Owners hold a distinct, non-competitive role in decisions affecting Country - including place naming.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Endorses the draft Place Naming Policy to be released for a four-week period of community consultation; and**
2. **Notes a further report will be presented to Council following community consultation to formally adopt the final Policy.**

Financial Sustainability

11. Financial and budget implications for place naming will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and budget managed at departmental level.

Community Engagement

12. Significant cross departmental engagement has been undertaken in the development of the Policy.

Social Equity and Sustainability

13. The Social Equity Framework was used as guidance in the development of the Policy.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

14. A Gender Impact Assessment was completed and used in the development of the Policy.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

15. The Policy has been developed to comply with legislative requirements as previously stated that Council must follow.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

16. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Healthy and Caring Community
17. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

18. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

19. The Policy’s development and subsequent endorsement will be a risk mitigator by providing strong guidance and rules around naming places in the City.

Environmental Sustainability

20. No risk to Environmental Sustainability.

Attachments

1. DRAFT Place Naming Policy 11Mar2026 (1) [2.4.1 - 15 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

PLACE NAMING POLICY

VERSION: One

TYPE OF POLICY: Council

APPROVAL DATE: TBC

REVIEW DATE: TBC

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Manager Urban Design & Place

AUTHORISING OFFICER: *Executive Director,
Placemaking*

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Introduction

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a clear and consistent approach for the naming and renaming of places, ie roads, facilities, council assets, features, open spaces and localities within the municipality.

It provides direction to the City in complying with its responsibilities under the Geographic Place Names Act 1998 (the Act), ensuring that all naming decisions reflect community values, comply with legal obligations, and adhere to the Naming Rules.

The Policy promotes inclusive practices by prioritising Aboriginal heritage, gender equity, cultural recognition, local history, and meaningful community engagement throughout the naming process.

SCOPE

The Policy:

- Applies to all place naming and renaming of existing places that are owned and operated by and/or the responsibility of the City.
- Provides a structured framework for local government officers, stakeholders, developers, proponents, and community members involved in naming proposals.
- Accommodates naming proposals that may be council-led, community-led, or developer/proponent-led.
- Does not apply to the naming of assets, roads, freeways, features, parks, or places of geographical significance that are the responsibility of other naming authorities.

BACKGROUND

The City, as the responsible authority, names places to recognise and reflect the culture, heritage and landscape of our region and add value to our identity as a region.

Place names must be easily and uniquely recognisable to ensure identification by emergency services, for the delivery of goods and services, and to ensure community recognition.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The place naming process responds to the following legislative and regulatory requirements:

- *Geographical Names Act 1998* (Victoria).
- *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria* (2007) and subsequent amendments.
- *Australian/New Zealand Address Standards* (AS 4819:2011).
- *Our equal state: Victoria's gender equality strategy and action plan 2023-2027*.
- City of Greater Geelong Community Engagement Policy.

All proposed names must comply with these regulations.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to this Policy:

TERM	DEFINITION
The City	The City of Greater Geelong organisation, led by the CEO.
Council	The City of Greater Geelong Council comprising elected councillors and led by the Mayor.
City Officer	Includes employees, volunteers and contractors.
Cultural heritage	<p>Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical and intangible attributes, natural resources, and values that a community inherits from past generations, maintains in the present, and transmits to future generations for their benefit.</p> <p>First Nations cultural heritage encompasses the living knowledge, spiritual beliefs, cultural practices, and physical elements that are significant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p>
Executive Director	Is a senior leader who manages one of the four directorates, forming the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) under the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
ELT	Executive Leadership Team
Place	<p>Road - any public or private land-based thoroughfare or path navigable by vehicle or foot registered under the Victorian Road Management Act 2004. Examples of roads include streets, lanes, fire tracks, bike paths and walking tracks.</p> <p>Feature - A unique geographical place or attribute that is easily distinguished within the landscape, such as a park, nature reserve, sportsground, or pavilion.</p> <p>Locality - A geographical area that has identifiable community and/or landscape characteristics.</p> <p>Asset – a structure, building, community centre, recreational facility or other significant infrastructure (Note, when referring to the Naming Rules, our assets are referred to as a feature).</p>
Minor Place	A minor place is a feature, locality, or asset that may be informally named for asset management or temporary identification, such as internal rooms, small structures, lesser open spaces, or licensed reserves renamed by leaseholders.
Authority	Government authorities such as Vic Roads, Parks Victoria, Department of Education which are naming authorities for Places that they own or maintain.
GNV	Geographic Names Victoria.

TERM	DEFINITION
Registrar	State Government's Registrar of Geographic Names.
Naming Rules	Mandatory statutory requirements of GNV for naming roads, features, localities and assets.
Naming Principles	Principles that must be used in conjunction with the Naming Rules related to roads, features, localities and assets. All naming principles are of equal importance.
WTOAC	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Immediate Community	The community directly affected by the naming proposal, includes residents, ratepayers, businesses, community groups.
Broader Community	The community indirectly affected by the naming proposal, includes residents, ratepayers, businesses, community groups.

Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The City is committed to ensuring that all place naming and renaming decisions are made in a consistent, transparent, and inclusive manner. In line with community values, and compliant with legal requirements and the Naming Rules, the City will prioritise the recognition of Aboriginal heritage, gender equity, local heritage and active community involvement throughout the naming process.

The City acknowledges the diversity of our community and is committed to respecting and reflecting this diversity by prioritising the naming of places that address the current underrepresentation of First Nations Peoples and names of women and gender diverse people, and culturally diverse populations, until a more balanced and inclusive representation is achieved.

This Policy provides a framework and direction for making naming decisions, whether initiated by the City, the community, or proponents to ensure that place names respectfully reflect the diversity and heritage of the municipality.

Roles and responsibilities in place naming table included at Attachment 2.

NAMING PRINCIPLES

When considering and proposing a name, as the responsible naming authority the City must comply with and adhere to the following Naming Principles as outlined in the Naming Rules:

Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2022 – Naming Principles	
Principle A) Ensuring public safety	Principle H) Dual names
Principle B) Recognising the public interest	Principle I) Using commemorative names
Principle C) Linking the name to place	Principle J) Using commercial and business names
Principle D) Ensuring names are not duplicated	Principle K) Language
Principle E) Recognition and use of Traditional Owners languages	Principle L) Directional names to be avoided
Principle F) Names must not discriminate or be offensive	Principle M) Assigning extent to a road, feature or locality
Principle G) Gender equality	

All Naming Principles are of equal importance.

1. PRIORITISATION

The City acknowledges that the current commemorative landscape does not reflect our community's diversity. Historically, public place names have disproportionately honoured males. To address this imbalance, and meet legislative requirements, the City is committed to improving recognition of Aboriginal cultural heritage, promoting gender equality, and embracing broader cultural diversity.

Victoria's path to Treaty further strengthens the expectation that Traditional Owners hold a distinct, non-competitive role in decisions affecting Country - including place naming. In line with this direction, the City respects Wadawurrung Traditional Owners cultural authority and ensures Aboriginal naming is considered through a dedicated process.

A prioritisation approach to naming decisions is to ensure a transparent, fair process that reflects community values. This approach creates a commemorative landscape that honours our full history and ensures everyone can see themselves represented in public spaces.

At the City the following prioritisation rules apply:

Name priority and decision making (listed in order of priority)

1. Aboriginal names.

The City will use a rotation model for the following commemorative categories:

2. Female or gender-diverse person (eg advocate, leader, educator, notable community member).
3. Multicultural figure (eg, migrant, refugee, leader, changemaker)
4. Local hero (eg veteran, role-model, volunteer, champion, humanitarian)
5. A significant name based on community relevance, historical importance, landmark, environment or location as per the Naming Rules.

Aboriginal cultural heritage is a priority in naming places. The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Corporation (WTOAC) may choose up to six opportunities per annum to name Places to ensure that names are culturally appropriate and meaningful. This occurs alongside, and does not replace, the consideration of Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs), which identify areas of cultural significance and must also inform naming priorities.

Naming opportunities will cycle between categories 2, 3, 4 and 5 to support equitable representation over time.

Naming proposals that commemorate the histories, contributions or presence of women, gender diverse people, multicultural, migrant or refugee communities should be considered. This includes:

- 1.1.1 Recognising the stories and names of early or significant women, gender diverse people, migrants, refugees or migrant communities.
- 1.1.2 Enabling naming in community languages where consistent with Naming Rules.
- 1.1.3 Include inclusive engagement processes when such names are proposed.
- 1.2 Evaluation of such proposals will be delivered as per the Naming Rules, be assessed on cultural appropriateness, local relevance, and community support and include consultation with relevant cultural organisations or community representatives and have family approval (1.7).
- 1.3 the City aims to achieve gender equity in place naming. A minimum of 70% per annum of new or renamed places identified *for naming after individuals* shall be named after significant women or gender-diverse people, aligning with *Our Equal State: Victoria's Gender Equality Strategy and Action 2023–2027*.
- 1.4 Where at least 70% of new or renamed places to be named after individuals have been named after significant women and gender-diverse people, subsequent naming proposals may include individuals of any gender.

The Policy additionally requires that:

- 1.5 naming proposals are consistent with the City of Greater Geelong's Clever and Creative vision.
- 1.6 naming of regional (municipal-wide) sporting facilities should be named based on reference to place to highlight regional significance, examples: Geelong Baseball Centre, Geelong Hockey Centre.
- 1.7 all proposed naming of places in honour of people, must have family approval before submission to the Registrar.

2. USING COMMEMORATIVE NAMES

Naming often commemorates an event, person, or place: If named after a person, that person should have been one held in high regard by the community.

When deciding on the assignment of a commemorative name, Council must:

- 2.1 consider the person's achievements
- 2.2 consider relevant history and association to the area
- 2.3 identify the significance of the family/person to the area or land, for example, a family that has been associated with an area for at least 25 years
- 2.4 consult with and gain support from the family of the person to be acknowledged
- 2.5 consult with WTOAC for truth-telling history on the name to ensure that it hasn't negatively impacted Aboriginal people.

The names of people who are alive are to be avoided as per the Naming Rules because community attitudes and opinions can change over time. Names of people who are alive can only be proposed if exemption has first been sought and gained from the Registrar.

Commemorative names of a deceased person can only be proposed or applied no less than two years posthumously as per the Naming Rules.

3. OTHER NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

On occasion, and at Council's discretion, parts or elements of a place may be named for asset management and identification purposes, having regard to community interest or the nature of the facility. This may include rooms within a facility, minor structures (such as shelters or toilet blocks), or less significant open spaces (such as drainage or walkway reserves, or stormwater assets).

- 3.1 Naming of places for asset management and identification purposes will be determined by Open Space Planning and Corporate Asset Management teams or other City teams as relevant to the asset and are not subject to community consultation.
- 3.2 Temporary naming of sports grounds, pavilions and relevant sporting infrastructure held by seasonal or annual leaseholders to be determined by the City's Sponsorship & Advertising Signage Policy (currently draft) or tenancy arrangements.
- 3.3 separate names for different parts of the same place are to be avoided wherever possible to minimise site name confusion and maintain clarity in place identification.
- 3.4 Where a name has been suggested by Council or community for a part of a place, and there is a clearly defined boundary between one space and another, or a distinct feature on a building that warrants a separate name (e.g. a gym within an aquatics facility or an auditorium within a community hub) these can be considered utilising the same prioritisation and process outlined in this policy.

4. TYPES OF NAMING PROPOSALS

Naming proposals may be council-led, community-led or developer/proponent-led.

- 4.1 Initiated by the City, often driven by strategic planning, historical importance, or public need.
- 4.2 Submitted by community members, local organisations, residents, by petition, or recommended following community consultation.
- 4.3 Proposed by developers or project proponents as part of new residential or commercial property developments, in line with Naming Rules and following community consultation.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In line with the City's Community Engagement Policy, the Place Naming process is to involve active community consultation with the immediate and broader community, unless it is for a minor asset (refer to Section 3).

- 5.1 Once the need for a naming proposal has been identified the engagement process is to be undertaken as per the Community Engagement Policy and the Naming Rules, this includes seeking feedback or submissions regarding the proposal/s.
- 5.2 Community engagement is to be conducted early in the process. This helps ensure that proposed names are relevant, supported, and reflective of local identity. Engagement must occur before any formal submission is made to Council, the Executive Director, or the Registrar.

6. NAME BANK

A Name Bank is maintained by the City to support future naming opportunities such as roads, public spaces and facilities.

- 6.1 The Name Bank is not a public document but is shared with naming authorities, developers or proponents as required.
- 6.2 Names included in the Name Bank will reflect the City's commitment to Aboriginal culture, gender equity, cultural recognition and community representation.
- 6.3 The Name Bank includes a list of approved Wadawurrung language words supplied by the WTOAC. To use these words the WTOAC must be contacted for their final approval and endorsement.
- 6.4 Names will be added to the Name Bank through structured processes including community engagement, internal review and collaboration with stakeholders such as historical societies, libraries, Community Advisory Committees etc.

7. NAMING ROADS IN NEW RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL SUBDIVISIONS

Developers and proponents are required to consult with the City when selecting names for roads and open spaces in new subdivisions; this is part of the subdivision certification process.

- 7.1 The City's Property & Valuations, Open Space Planning and Corporate Asset Management teams will work collaboratively with any Place Naming Working Group, Surveyor and Developer to develop road names that are compliant with the Naming Rules and this Policy.
- 7.2 Developers may submit suggested names as per this Policy or select names from the City's Name Bank.

8. FEES

At times there will be fees associated with proposing names of places.

- 8.1 All applicable fees including for Traditional Owner engagement, consultation fees and other out of pocket costs, must be paid by the naming proponent unless otherwise agreed with the City of Greater Geelong.
- 8.2 In instances where a development requires new road names to function, and the name is taken from the City's Name Bank, the naming proponent must cover any/all fees.
- 8.3 Where the City is the proponent, the fees must be paid by the relevant Directorate branch.

9. NAMING DECISION-MAKING TYPES

The decision-making types are as follows:

- 9.1 *Council Decision*: proposed naming decisions required to be resolved by Council at a Council Meeting for submission to GNV Registrar, following recommendations from a Place Naming Working Group and based on the outcomes of community consultation (refer Section 4).
- 9.2 *City Decision*: proposed naming decisions to be approved by ELT or delegated officers at the City as per the Naming Rules and the Roads Management Act. This applies for naming proposals regarding:
 - 9.2.1 new names on plans of subdivisions
 - 9.2.2 renaming of roads
 - 9.2.3 naming of existing open spaces, and
 - 9.2.4 decisions on preferred names for consultation
- 9.3 All proposed names, either determined by Council or relevant Executive Director, must be submitted to GNV Registrar for formal registration to ensure consistency with Victoria's Naming Rules.
- 9.4 In the instance of any inconsistencies between this Policy and the Naming Rules, the Naming Rules will apply, and any proposed names put forward that are inconsistent with this Policy and/or the Naming Rules will be determined by the Registrar.

10. RENAMING OF PLACES

- 10.1 Renaming of Places may be requested or proposed by community or the City:
 - 10.1.1 to return rightful language to Country, or
 - 10.1.2 to re-dress gender imbalance
 or when a place name
 - 10.1.3 causes confusion in locating a place,
 - 10.1.4 is outdated, culturally inappropriate, offensive, racist or derogatory
 - 10.1.5 no longer reflects community values.
 - 10.1.6 When requested by emergency services
- 10.2 The re-naming process follows all the same steps as naming new places in this Policy and is to adhere to the same regulations, naming rules and principles.

Implementation of this Policy

11. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Be provided on an as required basis to ELT and Councillors.

12. ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

The Responsible Officer for this Policy manages the provision of advice to the organisation regarding this Policy.

A person who is uncertain how to comply with this Policy should seek advice from this person or from their Manager.

13. RECORDS

The City must retain records associated with this Policy and its implementation in accordance with its Records Information Management Policy.

The City will maintain a publicly accessible, up-to-date Place Naming Register that records all named and renamed places, as defined in this Policy, across the municipality. This register will enable ongoing analysis of naming trends and support transparent reporting on progress toward addressing historical inequities, including gender and cultural representation in place naming.

Responsibility for annual reporting, and maintenance of the Name Bank and Place Naming Register sits with Manager Urban Design & Place. All reports must be retained in accordance with the City's Records Information Management Policy.

14. REVIEW

The City should review and, if necessary, amend this Policy within four years of the Approval Date, or when the current Naming Rules are updated.

References

Legislation

Local Government Act 2020 (Victoria)

Roads Management Act 2004

Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

Geographic Place Names Act 1998

Other Documents

Naming Rules for Places in Victoria (2007) and subsequent amendments

Australian /New Zealand Address Standards (AS 4819:2011)

Our equal state: Victoria's gender equality strategy and action plan 2023-2027

Policies

City of Greater Geelong:

Community Engagement Policy

Records Information Management Policy

Plaques and Memorials Policy

Public Art Strategy 2025-28

Geelong Brand Guidelines 2017

Sponsorship & Advertising Signage Policy (draft)

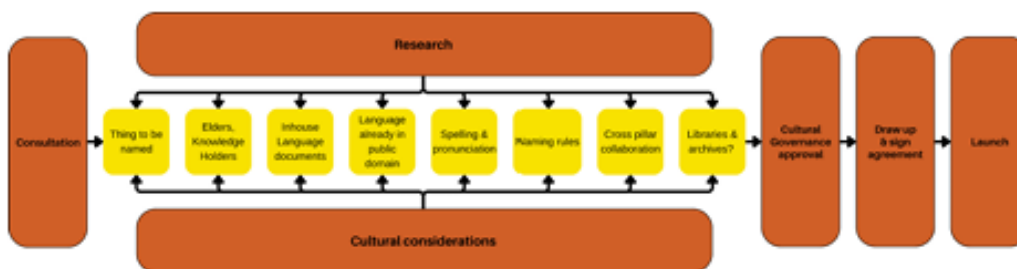
Attachment one



Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) Wurru (Language) Processes

1 Process

- 1.1 Sharing Language is a complex and resource intensive exercise, taking a minimum of four to six months. Cultural protocols must be followed.
- 1.2 The process begins with a consultation. Where appropriate, this may take place on Country, at the site to be named.
- 1.3 Subsequent steps are represented in the below flowchart:



2 Limitations

- 2.1 WTOAC doesn't name businesses; only Traditional Owners can name their businesses in Language (with the exception of some First Nations Support Businesses operating on Wadawurrung Country).
- 2.2 WTOAC doesn't support naming prisons in Language.
- 2.3 WTOAC will not provide naming services to companies that exploit or harm Country and Cultural Heritage, e.g. mining, wind turbines, adventure sports etc.
- 2.4 WTOAC does not give out the Wadawurrung word for Welcome. This is linked to cultural ceremony and is to be reserved for Traditional Owners' oral sharing.
- 2.5 WTOAC does not name anything with the names belonging to Wadawurrung Creation Beings or Ancestors.
- 2.6 Names of waterways belong to the water and cannot be placed elsewhere, e.g. WTOAC wouldn't support naming an estate "Moorabool Estate". Moorabool belongs to the river.
- 2.7 Placenames belong to the place and cannot be used elsewhere.

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Attachment two

Summary of Roles and Responsibilities in Place Naming

Role	Responsibilities	Applicable Stages
City of Greater Geelong – Corporate Asset Management	Provide input on naming proposals for infrastructure Collaborate with other City teams and stakeholders	Evaluation of naming proposals Implementation of the policy
City of Greater Geelong – Executive Leadership Team (ELT) or Delegated Officers	Approve naming decisions not requiring Council resolution Endorse preferred names for consultation	Decision-making for road names, open spaces, and preferred names
City of Greater Geelong – Open Space Planning	Provide input on naming proposals for public open space Work with proponents and other City teams	Evaluation and support for naming of open spaces
City of Greater Geelong – Property & Valuations	Coordinate naming processes- Ensure compliance with Naming Rules Liaise with the Registrar Maintain and manage the Name Bank	Throughout naming and renaming process Submission to GNV Registrar
Council (City of Greater Geelong)	Resolve naming decisions that require formal Council approval Consider recommendations and community feedback	Formal Council decision-making (Section 9.2)
Developers / Naming Proponents	Consult with the City early in the process Propose names or use the Name Bank- Undertake community engagement (excluding Wadawurrung names) Cover relevant fees and costs unless otherwise agreed	New subdivisions and place naming Engagement and name submission
Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) Registrar	Assess and register proposed names Ensure consistency with Victoria’s Naming Rules Resolve inconsistencies	Final registration and compliance assurance
Place Naming Working Group (when convened)	Assess naming proposals Recommend names to Council or ELT	Review and recommendation stage

Role	Responsibilities	Applicable Stages
	Ensure alignment with principles and policy	
Surveyors	Collaborate with developers and City staff Ensure naming proposals meet regulatory requirements- Submit formal plans	During preparation of subdivision or development plans
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Corporation	Identify and provide Wadawurrung names where opportunities arise Approve cultural name use- Consult as needed on naming requests	Cultural naming initiation Direct naming decisions (Section 9.1)

2.5. Councillor Expenses Policy

Source: Corporate Services
Executive Director: Troy Edwards

Purpose

1. To provide Council with the updated Councillor Expenses Policy (**Attachment 1**) for consideration and adoption.

Background

2. In accordance with section 41 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), all councils are required to adopt and maintain an expenses policy.
3. Council previously adopted the Councillor Expenses Policy at its meeting on 1 September 2020.

Key Matters

4. To facilitate good governance for the municipal community by the Council, the Model Code of Conduct requires that Councillors adhere to and comply with an expenses policy.
5. The Councillor Expenses Policy (**Attachment 1**) has been reviewed and benchmarked across Victorian councils. Changes have been proposed to ensure that the policy represents best practice governance, promoting transparency and responsible use of resources, whilst also ensuring that councillors are equipped with the training and resources required to perform their roles effectively.
6. The proposed changes also provide greater clarity for City officers responsible for applying and meeting requirements of the policy.
7. A summary of key changes are detailed for councillors below:
8. Inclusion of reference to Councillor Allowances as set by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal.
 - 8.1. Approval for councillors to undertake interstate or overseas travel (with the exception of interstate travel by the Mayor), must be subject to Council resolution. Some exceptions apply as described in the policy.
 - 8.2. The 4-star or below hotel rating requirement for booking accommodation has been removed in favour of selecting the best, fit-for-purpose option, with consideration of reasonable costs and location. Air travel will also be booked with regard to the most suitable, best value fare.
 - 8.3. The allowance for attendance at conferences, workshops and training programs has increased from \$3000 to \$3500 and applies only to the actual cost of attending the meeting, training, conference or similar event (i.e. tickets/registration). It does not include associated expenses such as travel and accommodation. This does not reflect a change in process.

- 8.4. Under 'Provision of Hospitality', the information has been updated to provide further guidelines on providing reasonable hospitality to key stakeholders. This includes clear references to alcohol not being provided and reimbursements not available to councillors for the cost of any alcohol.
- 8.5. Reimbursement claims for all expenses are to be completed on a quarterly basis, or where that quarter is at the end of the Financial Year, within seven days. This is in line with public quarterly expenses reporting.
- 8.6. Expansion of detail in areas relating to travel, car mileage, child/dependent care and resources and facilities.
- 8.7. Included new section on Community Conversations, how they may be arranged, support provided and restrictions leading up to Local Government, State and Federal elections.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Councillor Expenses Policy (Attachment 1).

Financial Sustainability

9. The updates to the Councillor Expenses Policy continues to provide for the provision of equipment, training and support required by a Councillor to carry out their civic duties in line with the current budget. The policy as presented also ensures that appropriate scrutiny is applied to the applicable expenditure, ensuring good governance and transparency and demonstrating sound financial management.

Community Engagement

10. There is no requirement for public consultation in relation to adopting the updated Councillor Expenses Policy.

Social Equity and Sustainability

11. The implementation of the Councillor Expenses Policy provides for a broad range of reimbursable expenses designed to remove barriers to carrying out Council duties, such as childcare and carer expenses. The ability to remove barriers which might otherwise prevent or hinder participation in civic life is an important way to encourage participation by any member of the community that has an interest in becoming a Councillor or Delegated Committee Member. This assists councillors and delegates of all genders and backgrounds to undertake their roles more equitably and flexibly.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

12. Under the Gender Equality Act 2020 a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) is required to be completed by defined entities (including local government) for all new and up for review policies, programs and services that have a direct and significant impact on the public. As the Councillor Expense Policy is an operational policy it does not meet this definition and therefore a GIA was not required to be completed. The primary purpose of the Councillor Expenses Policy is to outline processes for reimbursement, financial accountability, and governance obligations for elected representatives. It does not regulate public-facing services nor alter the way community members access or experience services.
13. Section 8 of the Policy actively promotes gender equality by providing dedicated support for Child Care and Dependent Care for all councillors, thereby proactively meeting the intended purpose of a GIA even though a formal GIA was not required.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

14. This policy has been developed in accordance with section 41 of the Local Government Act 2020.
15. The Model Councillor Code of Conduct also requires that Councillors adhere to and comply with the Councillor Expenses Policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

16. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-2029 strategic priority:
Commit to the highest levels of integrity, financial stewardship and meaningful community engagement.

17. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

18. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

19. The policy has been considered in line with Council’s adopted risk appetite and is assessed as being within appetite.
20. Specifically, the policy establishes appropriate financial controls to manage Councillor expenses, thereby reducing the risk of excessive claims and potential budget overspend. Clearer policy guidelines ensure that expenses claimed are directly aligned with Councillor duties, and regular review of the policy supports ongoing compliance with section 41 of the *Act*.
21. Given the presence of these controls and oversight mechanisms, no additional mitigation strategies are required at this time, and the risk level is considered consistent with Council’s cautious risk appetite in relation to financial governance and compliance.

Environmental Sustainability

22. The policy has been updated to reflect environmental considerations, including consideration for printed material.

Attachments

1. Draft Councillor Expenses Policy Corporate Policy 2025 V2 31 12 2025 [2.5.1 - 20 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COUNCILLOR EXPENSES POLICY

VERSION: 2

TYPE OF POLICY: COUNCIL

APPROVER: COUNCIL

APPROVAL DATE:

REVIEW DATE: FEBRUARY 2028

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF GOVERNANCE &
RISK OFFICER

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Introduction

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the City of Greater Geelong Council, individual Councillors and Delegated Committee Members, with clarity and guidance as to:

- the financial entitlements of Councillors and Delegated Committee Members;
- the appropriate process for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by a Councillor in the performance of their role or by a Delegated Committee Member; and
- the resources and facilities available to Councillors and Delegated Committee Members; to support them in performing their duties in accordance with section 40(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

This policy provides Councillors and, where relevant, delegated committee members guidance on:

- the out-of-pocket expenses that can be subject to funding or reimbursement by the City;
- the out-of-pocket expenses the City will not meet;
- the process to follow when applying for reimbursement and in reimbursing out-of-pocket expenses as required under section 41 of the Act; and
- the resources and facilities the City will make available to the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to effectively perform their role as required under section 42 of the Act.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Councillors at the City of Greater Geelong and Delegated Committee Members.

Definitions

Term	Definition
ACT	Local Government Act 2020
CARER	S41(2)(d) of the Act – a Councillor or delegated committee member who is a carer in a care relationship within the meaning of section 4 of the Carers Recognition Act 2012
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CITY	The City of Greater Geelong organisation, led by the CEO.
COUNCIL	The City of Greater Geelong Council comprised of elected councillors and led by the Mayor.
COUNCILLOR	A person who holds the office of member of Council; for the purposes of this policy, it includes the Mayor, unless indicated to the contrary
COUNCILLOR PORTAL	The City's internal intranet facility for Councillors
COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE SERVICES	Support unit at the City for the Mayor and Councillors
DELEGATED COMMITTEE MEMBER	A member of a delegated committee established by Council under section 63 of the Act.
OFFICER	An employee of the City

Policy

1. MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

- 1.1 In accordance with section 39 of the Act, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duties as elected officials.

2. CALCULATION OF ALLOWANCES

- 2.1 Allowances are set by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal as per section 39(4) of the Act. A Council cannot pay an allowance that exceeds the amount specified in the relevant determination of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal.
- 2.2 As Councillors are not employees, they are not entitled to the minimum superannuation guarantee. The Independent Remuneration Tribunal has considered this when setting Councillor allowances, and this is factored into the determination. Councillors may elect to have a portion of their allowance paid into their superannuation fund.
- 2.3 Allowances are taxable income and are paid in arrears monthly. Payment will be made by electronic funds transfer, into an account authorised in writing by the Councillor.
- 2.4 Payment to a Councillor ceasing to hold office or pending an election will be calculated based on the date on which the Councillor will cease to hold office. If monies have been paid in advance to a Councillor who is ceasing to hold office, any monies paid in advance of the date of cessation are to be refunded to the City by the Councillor.

3. OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES MET BY THE CITY

The City will either:

- 3.1 fund by paying a third-party provider; or
- 3.2 reimburse a Councillor or Delegated Committee Member the out-of-pocket expenses to the extent and limits outlined in Appendix 1, provided the City is satisfied that the out-of-pocket expenses:
- 3.2.1 are legitimate
 - 3.2.2 are declared in writing by the Councillor or delegated committee member as being:
 - 3.2.2.1 reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of Councillor or Delegated Committee Member; and
 - 3.2.2.2 reasonably necessary for the Councillor or Delegated Committee Member to perform that role; and
 - 3.2.2.3 are charged to the financial year in which they occurred (expenses cannot be carried forward into the next financial year).
- 3.3 The following out-of-pocket expenses remain the sole responsibility of Councillors or Delegated Committee Members and are ineligible for reimbursement:
- 3.3.1 The cost of any road, traffic, parking or public transport infringements or penalties incurred by Councillors or Delegated Committee Members, whether or not in the course of performing their role.
 - 3.3.2 Any private travel, even if combined with approved interstate or overseas travel while performing their role.

- 3.3.3 Other than by specific Council resolution, in accordance with a Council policy or at State Government direction, any legal expenses incurred by a Councillor or Delegated Committee Member.
- 3.3.4 Expenses or other support for an attendance at political party events; or
- 3.3.5 Any other expenses that are not eligible expenses outlined in Appendix 1.

4. PROCESS FOR COUNCILLORS TO CLAIM AN EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

- 4.1 All claims must be made online using the approved expense reimbursement form available on the Councillor Portal.
- 4.2 A Councillor must submit a properly completed form and declare the claim is in accordance with section 40 of the Act and this policy.
- 4.3 Original tax invoice receipts must be obtained and provided to the Council and Executive Services team or attached electronically to the online claim for all relevant claims – credit card receipts will not be accepted.
- 4.4 Claims for expenses incurred in the financial year must be submitted to the City quarterly or where that quarter is at the end of the Financial Year, within seven days. Claims lodged outside these timeframes will not be reimbursed. Councillors are encouraged to submit claims monthly.
- 4.5 The Council and Executive Services team will assess each claim for compliance against this Policy.
- 4.6 If the claim is approved, reimbursement will be made to the Councillor's nominated bank account by electronic funds transfer.
- 4.7 If the claim is denied, the Manager Council and Executive Services will advise the Councillor in writing of the reasons.

5. PROCESS FOR DELEGATED COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO CLAIM AN EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

- 5.1 All expense claims for Delegated Committee Members must be requested through the relevant committee secretariat.
- 5.2 Committee secretariats must follow the City's internal process for reimbursement.
- 5.3 A Delegated Committee Member must submit a properly completed form authorised for such use by the City, and declare the claim is in accordance with section 40 of the Act and this policy.
- 5.4 Original tax invoice receipts must be obtained and provided to the relevant committee secretariat or attached electronically to the online claim form for all relevant claims – credit card receipts will not be accepted.
- 5.5 Claims incurred in a financial year must be submitted to the City quarterly or where that quarter is at the end of the Financial Year, within seven days. Claims lodged outside these timeframes will not be reimbursed. Delegated Committee Members are encouraged to submit claims monthly.
- 5.6 The claim will be assessed against this Policy by the committee secretariat.
- 5.7 If the claim is approved, reimbursement will be made to the Delegated Committee Member's nominated bank account by electronic funds transfer.
- 5.8 If the claim is denied, the committee secretariat will advise the Delegated Committee Member in writing of the reasons.

6. RESOURCES AND FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO COUNCILLORS

- 6.1 The resources and facilities available to the Mayor and the Councillors which are reasonably necessary to enable them to effectively perform their role are listed in Appendix 2.
- 6.2 If Councillors choose to purchase the equivalent of any resources or facilities made available to them as outlined in Appendix 2, Councillors will not be entitled to claim reimbursement for their own purchase of those same resources and facilities.

Implementation of this Policy

7. TRANSPARENCY MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 7.1 The City will report details of all reimbursement to the Audit and Risk Committee in compliance with its obligations under section 40(2) at least quarterly.
- 7.2 The report will include:
 - 7.2.1 expenses incurred by Councillors and Delegated Committee Members for the relevant quarter; and
 - 7.2.2 reimbursement claims submitted by Councillors and Delegated Committee Members approved by the City for the relevant quarter.
- 7.3 Councillors and Delegated Committee Members expenses will be published by the City in its Annual Report in accordance with section 98(2)(f).
- 7.4 The cost to Council of all payments, charges and reimbursements made under this policy will be publicly reported on a quarterly basis on the Council's website. The quarterly report will be published within one month of the end of the quarter.
- 7.5 Councillors will be provided with a copy of their quarterly expense report.
- 7.6 Reports will identify costs for each Councillor including:
 - 7.6.1 Councillor allowances, includes statutory allowances for the Mayor and Councillors, inclusive of any amount sacrificed into a complying superannuation fund.
 - 7.6.2 Communication costs, includes monthly fees and usage costs associated with Councillor smart phone and computer equipment. They do not include any charges reimbursed by Councillors.
 - 7.6.3 Travel expenses, includes taxi fares, public transport costs, reimbursement to Councillors for kilometres travelled in their private vehicles, airfares, accommodation and ancillary costs associated with travel for Council business.
 - 7.6.4 Community representation, includes cost of attendance at events while representing Council in an official capacity, such as community events, dinners, fundraisers, media events, and network meetings.
 - 7.6.5 Professional development, includes registration fees, travel and accommodation costs associated with attendance or participation in conferences or professional development programs and professional membership fees; and
 - 7.6.6 Other costs, includes carer expenses, other incidental expenditure incurred by Councillors in performing their Councillor role.
- 7.7 Following attendance at any conference approved by Council resolution under the terms of this policy, Councillors should present a report to Council providing an overview of the conference program and its relevance to the City. Councillors should present this report to Council within two months of their return.

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

The Chief Governance & Risk Officer manages the provision of advice to the organisation regarding this policy.

RECORDS

The City must retain records associated with this Policy and its implementation in accordance with its Records Information Management Policy.

REVIEW

The City should review and, if necessary, amend this Policy within six months of a General Council Election.

References

Legislation

Carers Recognition Act 2012

Local Government Act 2020

Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013

Other Documents

Records Information Management Policy

Model Councillor Code of Conduct

Councillor Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy

Child Safe Standards Management Policy

Appendix 1: Eligible out of pocket expenses

The following out-of-pocket expenses are eligible for reimbursement pursuant to the requirements of section 40(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act.

1. CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND TRAINING

Councillors will be regularly provided with details of recognised peak body and/or industry approved conferences, seminars and training for their reference and attention.

Council will meet the cost of registration fees, accommodation, travel expenses, meals and other incidentals associated with authorised attendance at conferences, seminars and training.

The aggregate expenditure per councillor to attend such conferences and seminars does not exceed \$3,500 per annum.

The \$3,500 limit only applies to the actual cost of the meeting, conference or training program and does not include the cost of meals, accommodation and travel. All additional expenses form part of the Councillors \$3000 allowance to attend events and functions and support the performance of the role of Councillor.

A Councillor's attendance at a particular conference or seminar will be assessed against the following criteria by the responsible officer:

- course topic, content, location, date and duration.
- relevance of conference to Council business and the Councillor's personal development requirements.
- analysis of the costs including the course, course material, travel and accommodation for the Councillor; and
- benefits expected to result from attendance.

With the CEO's approval, a Councillor may elect to use the full-term allowance in a single payment for a significant course or qualification.

1.1 GOVERNMENT AND PEAK BODY ATTENDANCES

Councillors may attend conferences, seminars, meetings or training arranged by:

- Local Government peak bodies in which the Council holds current membership or association (e.g. MAV, ALGA, ALGWA);
- State, Federal or Local Government authorities; or
- The Chief Executive Officer or Mayor.

Attendance at such programs:

- Is not subject to the \$3,500 annual limit referenced elsewhere in this policy; and
- Must be approved by the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer upon written request from the Councillor.

There is no prescribed individual expenditure limit for these attendances; however, approval will be subject to available budget.

All associated costs will be recorded and published in quarterly expense reporting.

1.2 MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (MAV) REPRESENTATION

Out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the appointed Councillor delegate (or sub-delegate) to attend Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meetings and Annual General Meetings will be reimbursed by Council and are not subject to the \$3,500 annual limit referenced elsewhere in this policy.

2. COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY

Out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors' attendance at meetings, events or functions where they are representing their community, or the Council will be reimbursed by the City:

The aggregate expenditure to attend such meetings, events or functions does not exceed \$3000 per annum; and provided that the primary purpose of attendance by a Councillor at the meeting, event or function must be:

- to officially represent the Council or to perform their role as Councillor; and in compliance with sections 40(1)(b) and (c) of the Act; and
- where hospitality is incidental to the attendance, event or function and not the primary purpose for the attendance.

Council recognises that the role of Mayor carries the expectation that the incumbent will represent Council at events. Therefore, the \$3000 limit set out above does not apply to attendances at any activities specific to the role of the Mayor, or any Councillor attending an event on behalf of the Mayor.

3. FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The City will meet the out-of-pocket expenses of the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor) to attend charity fundraising events. The costs of attending by other Councillor's other than the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor) will be borne by the Councillor's themselves, unless that Councillor has also been invited in addition to the Mayor, or attendance is delegated by the Mayor.

4. ACCOMPANYING PERSON (COUNCILLORS ONLY)

The City will meet reasonable expenses incurred for an accompanying person when formally invited to accompany a Councillor in the performance of the role of Councillor where the attendance is within Victoria. This includes the accompanying person of a Councillor who is invited to an event or function by the Mayor and/or CEO. The cost will be reimbursed as part of the Councillor's \$3,000 annual limit to attend events and functions.

A councillor must not seek, solicit, or use their position with Council to obtain an invitation for an accompanying person.

Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in paragraph 1 are limited to the cost of entry or participation in the event. Costs associated with grooming, special clothing and transportation are not included.

Councillors will act in accordance with the Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy when accepting invitations and disclosing offers.

5. INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS TRAVEL

As part of their duties, Councillors are at times required to undertake interstate and international travel on behalf of Council. Representation of Council at national and international levels is an important part of developing, communicating and implementing Council policy. It may include travel to investigate issues, projects or activities of relevance to actions contained in the Council Plan and other policies, strategies and programs including those relating to committee and portfolio responsibilities. This section applies to all travel not otherwise provided for under clause 1.1.

5.1 INTERSTATE TRAVEL – COUNCILLORS (excluding the Mayor)

All interstate travel by Councillors (excluding the Mayor) requires prior approval of Council.

Requests must:

- Be submitted in accordance with the Governance Rules;
- Use the approved report template;
- Demonstrate strategic alignment and anticipated benefits; and
- Outline estimated costs.

A post-travel report is not required to be presented to Council; however, Councillors must provide a written report to fellow Councillors outlining outcomes, benefits and costs.

All costs will be recorded against the individual Councillor's expenses and published quarterly.

5.2 INTERSTATE TRAVEL BY THE MAYOR

Where the Mayor (or delegate) is attending as Council's official representative, prior Council approval is not required.

Approval must be obtained from the Chief Executive Officer.

Due to the nature of Mayoral commitments, proposals may be submitted directly to the CEO.

All costs will be recorded and published in quarterly expense reporting.

5.3 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BY THE MAYOR

All international travel by the Mayor and Councillors requires prior approval of Council, except in urgent circumstances.

Requests must:

- Be submitted in accordance with the Governance Rules;
- Use the approved report template;
- Demonstrate alignment with Council strategies and partnerships;
- Clearly outline anticipated costs, funding sources and expected benefits.

5.4 POST TRAVEL REPORTING – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

A post travel report is mandatory for all Council-approved international travel.

The report must:

- Detail outcomes and benefits achieved;
- Disclose total costs incurred;
- Be prepared within 60 days of return; and
- Be submitted to the next available Council meeting.

If the report cannot be prepared within 60 days, the reason for delay must be documented.

All costs will be recorded against the individual Councillor's expenses and published quarterly.

5.5 URGENT TRAVEL APPROVAL

Where travel approval is required prior to a scheduled Council meeting:

- Deputy Mayor and Councillors must seek approval from the Mayor in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.
- Approval for urgent international travel by the Mayor must be obtained from the Chief Executive Officer and receive financial approval from the Director of Corporate Services.

Urgent circumstances are those where a travel requirement arises unexpectedly and a Council meeting is not scheduled prior to departure.

5.6 POST TRAVEL REPORT

A post travel report is required for all Council approved international travel undertaken by the Mayor and Councillors. The report should outline the outcomes and benefits of the travel, costs incurred and should be prepared within 60 days of return from travel and submitted for agenda listing at the next available meeting of Council. If a period of greater than 60 days is required for the preparation of a report, an explanation for the delay should be included in the report once prepared.

A post travel report for interstate travel is not required to be presented at a Council meeting. Councillors, excluding the Mayor, should prepare a report for sharing with their fellow Councillors.

To ensure transparency all costs for Travel interstate and internationally will be recorded against each Councillors expenses, which are published on a quarterly basis.

6. TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Eligible out-of-pocket travel expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of Councillor or Delegated Committee Member, includes public transport (train, bus, taxi, ride share), air travel and airport transfers, car parking fees, tolls, etc.

Where overnight accommodation is necessary and reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of Councillor or Delegated Committee Member, the accommodation will be chosen as fit for purpose considering reasonable cost and location.

No reimbursement will be made without receipts and for the purpose of this clause, reasonable meal expenses will be in accordance with the Australian Taxation Office's Taxation Determination.

Costs for mini bar use and in-house movies will not be paid for by the Council and are therefore the responsibility of the Councillor.

Bookings for air travel will be made by Council officers through Council's approved travel agent. In selecting the appropriate fare, officers will seek to book the best value fare, having regard to cost, timing, quality and any fare conditions such as cancellation fees and additional charges.

Councillors are unable to accrue loyalty points for any travel, accommodation or additional expenses paid by the City.

7. PERSONAL TRAVEL

Councillors may request that their itinerary be extended for personal reasons. If an extension results in a higher fare, Councillors must reimburse Council for the difference. If an extension in dates results in a lower fare, no payment to the Councillor will be made.

Any additional costs arising from a partner, spouse or companion accompanying a Councillor on a business trip must be borne by the Councillor or accompanying person, unless there is a pre-approved business purpose to support their presence. Where Councillors wish to 'upgrade' their travel, such as by flying in business class, staying in a higher standard of accommodation or hiring a prestige car or similar, they can do so at the Councillors own expense.

8. CHILD CARE AND DEPENDENT CARE

In accordance with sections 41(2)(c) and (d) of the Act, the City will reimburse costs to a Councillor or delegated committee member where the provision of childcare is reasonably required; or the provision of care for a dependent is reasonably required for the Councillor to perform their role.

The care must be provided by a recognised care provider as defined in the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*. Evidence to support the claim for reimbursement of this out-of-pocket expense must be provided detailing the date and time care was provided and the reason care was needed, for each occasion. Care expenses that may be claimed include but is not limited to:

- childcare centre fees,
- home care,
- hourly fees,
- agency booking fees,
- reasonable travel expenses relating to the care of the dependant.

Care related expenses will not be paid by the City or reimbursed to a Councillor or Delegated Committee Member where the care provider:

- resides either permanently or temporarily with the Councillor or Delegated Committee Member; or
- has any financial or pecuniary interest with the Councillor or Delegated Committee Member; or
- has a familial or like relationship with the Councillor or Delegated Committee Member or their partner.

9. COUNCILLOR WELFARE SUPPORT

The CEO can approve any Councillor out-of-pocket expenses relating to any guidance or coaching that may be required to enhance that person's performance as a Councillor.

A Councillor experiencing difficulties with performing their role, or personal difficulties that may impact on their ability to perform their role, may access free and confidential counselling services through the City's Employee Assistance Program.

10. CAR POOL USAGE

Councillors are eligible to use City owned pool cars to perform Councillor duties. Booking of pool cars can be requested via the Council and Executive Services team. In using City fleet, Councillors agree to abide by the City's policies.

11. CAR MILEAGE

Councillors and Delegated Committee Members are eligible to claim car mileage expenses when using their private vehicles to attend to Council Business.

Travel is measured to and from their main City of Greater Geelong residence (or City of Greater Geelong rateable property) and is recommended to be undertaken as efficiently as possible.

Councillors and Delegated Committee Members will be entitled to a rebate for kms travelled while using their own vehicles in accordance with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) rate upon receipt of a duly completed car mileage claim form on the Councillor Portal.

Mileage claimed in relation to eligible council business must be documented in Councillors' and Delegated Committee Members' diaries prior to the event date. Diary entries must contain sufficient detail to be able to be independently substantiated for audit purposes.

Councillors and Delegated Committee Members must maintain a vehicle logbook, or some appropriate form of written or digital record in relation to the use of their private vehicle while conducting eligible council business, including recording total distance travelled, relevant locations of the travel; the date of travel; and the purpose of the travel. The record must be made available for inspection on request for audit purposes.

Car mileage expense claims are to be completed on a quarterly basis, or where that quarter is at the end of the financial year, within seven days. Claims lodged outside these timeframes will not be reimbursed.

12. WORKPLACE SCREENING CHECKS

The City will reimburse the cost of any required screening checks for Councillors and Delegated Committee Members. This includes the Working With Children Check, which will be reimbursed upon presentation of a valid receipt, as well as other mandatory checks such as a National Police Check, where these are necessary for a Councillor to perform their role.

13. INSURANCE

When performing their roles, Councillors and Delegated Committee Members are covered by Personal Accident Insurance, Public Liability Insurance, Professional Indemnity Insurance, Councillors and Officers Liability Insurance and Travel Insurance.

The City will meet the insurance policy excess in respect of any claim made against a Councillor or Delegated Committee Member arising from performing their role where any claim is accepted by the City's Insurers, whether defended or not. Insurance is not a reportable expense.

14. LEGAL EXPENSES

Other than by a specific Council resolution, or in accordance with a Council policy, any legal expenses incurred by a councillor initiating an action are the responsibility of the Councillor.

Where the Councillor is the defendant or respondent in an action brought against them in their role as Councillor by a third party, the Council's appropriate insurance policy will respond (subject to terms and conditions) and cover such costs. The Council will cover any insurance excess (known as a deductible) in these circumstances.

15. WORKCOVER (COUNCILLORS ONLY)

When performing their roles, Councillors are covered by the City's WorkCover insurance policy in accordance with section 46(2)(f) of the Act. The City will meet the insurance policy excess in respect of any claim made by a Councillor arising from performing their role. WorkCover is not a reportable expense.

Appendix 2: Resources and facilities

1. OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

As the leader of the Council, the Mayor has additional responsibilities over and above other Councillors.

The City will provide dedicated administrative support to the Mayor that is reasonably required to enable the Mayor to perform their role.

The City will pay for reasonable expenses incurred in discharging Mayoral responsibilities, in accordance with this Policy. The level of support will be determined by the CEO in consultation with the Mayor and budgeted positions. A city owned Mayoral vehicle and a dedicated office at Wurriki Nyal including communications equipment and meeting facilities will be provided.

2. MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

The City will provide administrative support to assist the Mayor and Councillors reasonably required to perform their role, including support to:

- Manage invitations to attend events and functions where speaking on behalf of Council
- Use the Councillor Portal
- Respond to requests for information, in accordance with the relevant organisational standards, protocols and processes
- Arrange travel and accommodation reservations in accordance with this Policy
- Access training and development opportunities in accordance with this Policy; and
- Process claims for expense reimbursement in accordance with this Policy.

3. COUNCILLOR PORTAL

Access to information and administrative support will be streamlined by the provision of a dedicated Councillor Portal.

The Councillor Portal will provide information, services and support that will assist Councillors to perform their role. Councillor requests for service or information must be made through the Councillor Portal.

The Council and Executive Services team will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Councillor Portal and will support, inform and educate Councillors on using the Councillor Portal.

To support Council's commitment to environmental sustainability and our Clever and Creative Vision, Councillors will be provided with IT devices to support mobility and accessibility, and to reduce the use of paper.

4. COUNCILLOR WORKSPACE AND MEETING ROOMS

Wurriki Nyal includes a dedicated Councillors' Lounge reserved for exclusive use by the Councillors. This room is suitable for office work, reading, research and small meetings. Other meeting rooms on the ground floor at Wurriki Nyal can be booked by the Council and Executive Services team for use by Councillors to conduct meetings during and outside office hours.

Meeting equipment can be made available for meetings upon request. Other venues owned and controlled by Council can be used (subject to availability) by Councillors for activities, meetings, interviews and other functions associated with the performance of their role as Councillors. Council and Executive Services can assist in the booking of these meeting rooms and venues. Meeting equipment can be made available for meetings upon request.

5. BUILDING ACCESS AND PARKING

Each Councillor will be issued a swipe card to access areas designated for Councillors at Wurriki Nyal. Access to administration areas will remain subject to the Staff Interaction Protocols. Complimentary parking is available to Councillors at Wurriki Nyal and City Hall. Building and parking access should only be used when carrying out official Councillor duties.

6. MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS – COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillors will be requested to inform Council and Executive Services of any dietary requirements or preferences at the commencement of their term of office, and to advise of any alterations to those requirements or preferences during their term.

If a Councillor is not attending a Council meeting, briefing or other catered meeting in person, they must notify Council and Executive Services as soon as possible to ensure that catering orders are adjusted accordingly.

Where Council meetings or briefings are held at times which are expected to extend by more than two hours through normal mealtimes, Councillors will be provided with suitable meals. Councillors will be notified of the meal arrangements for such meetings.

Councillors will have access to non-alcoholic refreshments at City Hall and Wurriki Nyal.

7. PROVISION OF HOSPITALITY

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, can provide reasonable hospitality to groups or individuals who are regarded as key stakeholders with whom the Council seeks to develop closer or more effective working relationships or to further Council's interests and objectives.

There may be occasions when it is necessary and appropriate for Council hospitality to be provided to a particular group or individual by a Councillor, other than the Mayor. Such proposals are to be discussed and approved by the Mayor and CEO prior to the occasion. Alcohol shall not be provided.

All Councillors are expected at such functions to display a high standard of civic leadership regarding the responsible provision and usage of alcohol.

Councillors will not be reimbursed for any hospitality provided without prior approval by the Mayor and CEO. Council will not reimburse any Councillor the cost of any alcohol.

8. DEVICES, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT

Councillors will be provided with the following devices, equipment and support, consistent with the City's standards and policies, for Council Business:

- A laptop computer, or equivalent
- A mobile phone
- Mobile internet access and supporting telecommunications to support continuous connectivity
- Support and consumables for City supplied devices
- Reasonable stationery
- Business cards, issued in the current corporate branding of the City; and
- Name badge, issued in the current corporate branding of the City, for use while undertaking Council Business.

The following provisions apply:

- All accounts for City supplied devices will be established and remain on the City's corporate accounts

- All equipment remains the property of the City and must be returned once a Councillor's term ends
- Use of City supplied devices and equipment for non-Council Business is not permitted
- City supplied devices and equipment may only be used by Councillors and Officers
- ICT devices and equipment not provided by the City will not be supported by the City. Councillors will be responsible for the purchase costs, consumables and support required for such devices
- The City will not pay any ongoing service charges for any devices once a Councillor's term ends. The cost of removing any equipment installed at a Councillor's home will be borne by the City, unless otherwise agreed
- Councillors will be provided with a copy of their telephone and data charges on a regular basis and:
 - within 14 days of receiving this information, must identify and inform the Council and Executive Services of any costs incurred which do not relate to Council Business; and
 - repay to the City any costs identified as unrelated to Council Business within a further 14 days.

9. MOBILE PHONE USAGE REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

Mobile phone usage is restricted to domestic calls. International calls are not to be made unless first authorised by the CEO and must directly relate to the performance of duties associated with achieving the objectives of Council and comply with the mobile phone management procedure.

Where the mobile phone plan allows for unlimited local calls and texts at no extra cost, Councillors will be advised of this and may choose to use the phone for private local telephone call and text usage.

Councillors should note that use of Council's information and communication technology and corporate network, including the internet, must be in accordance with applicable information security policies. All internet usage and telephone and text log data may be monitored by Council to ensure compliance.

All mobile phone and internet usage connected with Council property must be in accordance with Council policies including the Election Period Policy, and with the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

International Roaming may only be approved for Councillors travelling overseas for official Council Business. Councillors who are taking a 'leave of absence' to go overseas will not be eligible to request International Roaming.

Council and Executive Services will maintain a register of all equipment provided to Councillors for Council Business. Such equipment must be returned to Council on completion of tenure of each Councillor and must be in good condition, subject to fair wear and tear.

Facilities and equipment, including consumables and replacements, provided by the City in accordance with this Policy are reportable expenses in accordance with the Act.

10. COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Councillors may wish to host meetings with members of the community as part of their role as community representatives.

The Community Conversation program is intended for Councillors to connect with their ward residents, to be held from February to November, across a variety of locations in the City of Greater Geelong.

These ward-based meetings will be Council funded subject to the conditions outlined below and will be supported by Council officers and subject matter experts where applicable.

This section does not limit a Councillor's right to organise and engage in community meetings/forums that they wish to undertake independently.

Officer support may be provided in an advisory capacity as determined by the CEO. Senior officer attendance at the ward meeting will also be determined by the CEO.

The City will cover the expenses for any venue hire fees and collateral to support the meeting. Additional resources such as an A-Frame and ward pull up banner is available on request.

A suitable Council venue may be determined by the ward Councillor after consultation with officers. When determining an appropriate venue, cost, accessibility and venue size should be taken into consideration to ensure attendees can be accommodated for.

Community Conversations cannot be called when it will clash with Council meetings, Planning Committee meetings, Councillors workshops or Advisory Committee meetings.

Community conversations must not be held within six months before a Local Government Election, and within three months before a State Election or Federal Election.

11. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In addition to the above resources available to each Councillor, the CEO may approve the provision of additional resources to support a Councillor in their duties, either temporarily or for the term of office. Such resources may include corporate or safety apparel; sun smart items such as a hat; and any other necessary resources not anticipated in the development of this policy.

2.6. Aged Care Advisory Committee

Source: City Life
Executive Director: Anthony Basford

Purpose

1. To advise Council on new statutory obligations under the Aged Care Act 2024 relating to Responsible Persons, and to recommend the establishment of an Aged Care Advisory Committee (the Committee) to provide independent advice, transparency, oversight and assurance to Council regarding the effectiveness of legislative and regulatory compliance, governance and continuous improvement arrangements.

Background

2. The commencement of the Aged Care Act 2024 introduces significant new governance and compliance obligations for all approved Aged Care providers, including the City of Greater Geelong. The Act requires providers to formally identify Responsible Persons, being those individuals who have authority, responsibility for, or significant influence over the delivery and governance of aged care services, and to ensure these persons meet enhanced statutory duties relating to oversight, accountability, and due diligence.
3. In May 2025, Council resolved to remain a provider of Aged Care services. As part of that decision making process, Councillors were advised that the new legislation would result in greater obligations and involvement for Councillors in the governance of Council's Aged Care services, including responsibilities associated with the Responsible Person framework.
4. Recent legal and sector guidance (from the Commonwealth Government and Municipal Association of Victoria) emphasises that, to meet these obligations, providers must establish robust and transparent governance arrangements, including clear oversight mechanisms, suitability and probity checks, appropriate record keeping, and ongoing training for Responsible Persons. Failure to comply with these requirements may expose Council to regulatory action, financial penalties, loss of funding eligibility, and reputational risk.
5. The establishment of an Aged Care Advisory Committee provides a structured mechanism to support Council and Responsible Persons to discharge these obligations, support Council and Responsible Persons to meet their obligations under the Aged Care Act 2024 through structured oversight and assurance.

Key Matters

6. The *Aged Care Act 2024 (Cth)* establishes Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and senior managers as Responsible Persons, imposing specific statutory duties and potential liabilities on those individuals. These duties are non-delegable and cannot be transferred to Officers.
7. Failure to comply with the Act may result in significant consequences, including termination of Commonwealth funding, civil penalties, and personal liability for Responsible Persons.

8. In response to these obligations, the preferred governance model is the establishment of an Aged Care Advisory Committee reporting directly to Council. The Committee's role would be to provide independent advice, transparency and assurance in relation to compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements. This governance arrangement is intended to support Responsible Persons in meeting their obligations under the Act, while maintaining appropriate separation between operational delivery and statutory accountability.
9. Officers therefore recommend the establishment of an Aged Care Advisory Committee, with Terms of Reference (Attachment 1) aligned to the requirements of the *Aged Care Act 2024 (Cth)* and contemporary best-practice governance principles.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves the establishment of an Aged Care Advisory Committee to provide advisory oversight and assurance to Council in relation to compliance with the Aged Care Act 2024 for the delivery of in-home care services known as Support at Home and Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP);
2. Adopts the Aged Care Advisory Committee Terms of Reference as at Attachment 1. as the governance framework for the Committee;
3. Appoints Councillors Rowan Story, Elise Wilkinson, Emma Sinclair and Chris Burson as the Councillor representatives to the Aged Care Advisory Committee;
4. Appoints Councillor Rowan Story as the Chair of the Aged Care Advisory Committee; and
5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve minor operational administrative changes to the terms of reference as required from time to time.

Financial Sustainability

10. The establishment of the Committee will require resourcing for skills-based members, training, and administrative support. The Terms of Reference (Attachment 1) provides for the CEO to set remuneration and administrative arrangements for independent members.
11. Costs associated with the Committee will be managed within existing budgets.

Community Engagement

12. Community engagement is not required to set up the Committee as service providers must implement appropriate governance structures to meet the requirements of the Aged Care Act 2024 (Cth).
13. Stakeholder engagement will include consultation with Councillors, Executive Management, and external advisors as part of the Committee membership and ongoing governance.

Social Equity and Sustainability

14. The Committee will provide oversight and advice to support aged care governance that promotes equitable access continuous improvement, and compliance with the Statement of Rights under the Aged Care Act 2024 (Cth).

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

15. The Committee will be constituted to promote inclusive and balanced representation, including a balance of genders, where practicable.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

16. Aged Care Act 2024 (Cth)
17. Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)
18. Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
19. Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)
20. Council Expenses Policy

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

21. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Healthy and Caring Community
22. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

23. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

24. Council has a cautious appetite for risks that result in material non-compliance with legislation or regulatory requirements, or for actions that compromise the integrity and good governance of Council's decision
25. It is recommended that Council is supported by the Aged Care Advisory Committee, to provide independent oversight, inquiry and assurance to assist Council to identify, understand and manage compliance, governance and quality risks. The Committee's role is advisory and does not diminish Council's accountability or statutory responsibilities.

Environmental Sustainability

26. Not applicable for this report.

Attachments

1. Aged Care Advisory Committee Draft Terms of Reference [2.6.1 - 10 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

AGED CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

VERSION: 1

Approval Date	Draft
Approved by	Council
Review Date	31 May 2027
Responsible Officer	Manager Community Care
Authorising Officer	Executive Director City Life

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Introduction

The Aged Care Advisory Committee (the Committee) provides advice, transparency, oversight and assurance to Council in relation to legislative and regulatory compliance, governance, risk management and continuous improvement.

PURPOSE

To provide advice to Council on the governance, oversight and assurance of Council's aged care services in accordance with the Aged Care Act 2024 (Cth), including quality and safety of care, risk management, compliance monitoring, consumer outcomes, workforce capability and continuous improvement.

As an established Advisory Committee, it supports Council and Responsible Persons to discharge their statutory duties and to maintain transparency, accountability and confidence in Council's aged care governance arrangements.

AUTHORITY

The committee:

- does not have delegated authority.
- may appoint working groups and approve their terms of reference on an as-needed basis. The Committee will receive reports from, and oversee the activities of, any working groups against their approved terms of reference.

The Committee does not have decision-making authority to commit Council to expenditure or policy changes; its role is to provide advice and recommendations to Council and the Audit and Risk Committee.

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

The Committee will provide advice to Council on the governance of Council's aged care services in accordance with the *Aged Care Act 2024*, including matters relating to:

- quality and safety of care
- risk management and assurance
- compliance monitoring
- consumer outcomes
- workforce capability and culture
- continuous improvement

The Committee supports Council and Responsible Persons to discharge their statutory duties and to maintain transparency, accountability and confidence in Council's aged care governance arrangements.

Provide advice and recommendations to Council and the Audit and Risk Committee, including at least an annual report of activities and effectiveness.

Definitions

Act

The *Local Government Act 2020*.

CEO

The Chief Executive Officer of the City appointed by Council.

City

The administration of the Greater Geelong City Council, led by the Chief Executive Officer.

Council

The Greater Geelong City Council.

Councillor

Elected officials representing the City of Greater Geelong, including the Mayor.

Council officer

All staff of the City, including all contractors and volunteers engaged by the City, and the Executive Leadership Team.

Conflict of interest

Has the same meaning as defined in the *Local Government Act 2000*.

Election Period

The period that starts at the time nominations close on nominations day and ends at 6.00 p.m. on election day.

Commonly referred to as Caretaker Period.

ELT

Executive Leadership Team consisting of the Executive Directors of the City who all report to the Chief Executive Officer.

Terms of Reference

COMMITTEE TERM

Term starts

1. The Committee's term starts no earlier than 30 May 2026.

Term ends

2. The Committee is operational for the term of the current Council.

MEMBERSHIP

Make-up of the committee

3. The composition of the Committee will be both internal and external members.
4. The Committee will consist of up to four Councillors and up to three external members qualified in in Aged Care service provision, clinical governance, enterprise risk or finance.
5. This Committee will be constituted to promote inclusive and balanced representation, including a balance of genders, where practicable.

Features of effective members

6. The features of an effective member include:
 - 6.1. Good judgement and balanced consideration of issues.
 - 6.2. Understanding of the Committee's role and expectations.
 - 6.3. Awareness of changes affecting objectives, functions and risks.
 - 6.4. Relevant knowledge and expertise to inform deliberations.
 - 6.5. Constructive engagement and effective communication.
 - 6.6. Commitment of sufficient time and preparation for meetings.
 - 6.7. Independence of mind and willingness to test assumptions.
 - 6.8. Ability to meet, and ongoing commitment to comply with, the requirements of a Responsible Person under the Aged Care Act 2024, including completing all suitability checks, declarations, training and any related obligations.

Role and responsibilities of members

7. The role of an Advisory Committee is to provide appropriate advice on matters relevant to its Terms of Reference to support decision making by the Council in relation to the discharge of its responsibilities.
8. Members are expected to:
 - 8.1. Maintain knowledge of aged care governance and service delivery matters relevant to the Committee's objectives.
 - 8.2. Engage with stakeholders as appropriate and maintain two-way communication, while respecting confidentiality.
 - 8.3. Review papers in advance and attend meetings regularly.
 - 8.4. Declare and manage conflicts of interest.

Nomination of members

9. Councillor members are nominated and appointed by Council resolution.
10. External members are appointed following an expression of interest process approved by the CEO.

Length of appointment of members

11. Councillor Members:

Councillors appointed to the Committee will serve for the duration of the current Council term unless changed via a Council resolution.

12. External Members:

External member tenure will be structured as follows:

12.1. Initial Term (Establishment Term):

As the Committee is being established approximately 18 months into the current Council term, all external members appointed in the first intake will serve an initial term of three (3) years.

12.2. Subsequent Terms:

After the initial establishment term, all future external member appointments will be for four (4) year terms, aligned with the Council election cycle to ensure synchronisation of governance oversight.

12.3. Maximum Tenure:

No external member may serve more than two consecutive terms on the Committee (i.e., a maximum of 7 years for those appointed in the first cycle, or 8 years in subsequent cycles).

13. Appointment Process:

Independent members will be appointed to the committee by the CEO through a process of seeking expressions of interest. Selection will be made by a working group who will oversee the recruitment process of members.

14. Remuneration:

Remuneration will be paid to independent members. Fees will be based on a fee per meeting, set by the Chief Executive Officer, which will be indexed by 2% each 1 July.

15. Members must continue to meet membership requirements to maintain their membership. Members must notify the CEO immediately where they are no longer qualified.
16. If a member no longer meets membership requirements, their membership will be revoked.
17. Where a member does not attend three consecutive meetings without adequate cause, that person's membership may be revoked.

Filling casual vacancies

18. Casual vacancies will be filled for the remainder of the term following the relevant nomination and appointment processes.

CHAIRPERSON

Appointment of the chairperson

19. A meeting of a Committee established by a Council must be chaired by a Councillor appointed by the Council or the Mayor to chair meetings of the advisory committee; or if the Councillor appointed by the Council or the Mayor to chair meetings of the advisory committee is not present at the meeting, a Councillor who is present at the meeting and is appointed by the members of the advisory committee who are present at the meeting.

20. The Chairperson is expected to perform the following roles:
- 20.1. Ensure Committee functions are carried out in accordance with the Terms of Reference.
 - 20.2. Approve the agenda.
 - 20.3. Conduct meetings with appropriate formality and facilitate effective discussion.
 - 20.4. Approve draft minutes after each meeting.

MEETING VISITORS

21. Persons may be invited to attend meetings to provide information relevant to the Committee's business. Visitors must comply with confidentiality and conflict of interest requirements.

MEETINGS

Frequency of meetings

22. Meetings will be held every four months, with the Chair able to call additional meetings as required.
23. Future meeting dates, times and broad tasks may be decided by the committee.

Minimum meeting attendees

24. A quorum is at least one more than half of appointed members and must include at least one Councillor member.
25. If after 30 minutes from the scheduled starting time of any meeting, the minimum number of attendees cannot be obtained:
- 25.1. Those members present;
 - 25.2. Or if there are no members present, an authorised officer, must adjourn the meeting for a period within four weeks from the date of the meeting.
26. The minimum number of meeting attendees must always include at least one representative of Council.

Conflicts of interest

27. Conflicts of interest must be declared at the start of each meeting; members with a conflict must abstain from discussion and/or leave the room while the item is considered.
28. For avoidance of doubt, the City's Conflict of Interest Policy applies to the Advisory Committee Members.
29. Upon declaration of a conflict of interest, members must complete the relevant conflict of interest form with a copy being provided to Governance.

Misuse of information

30. All information received by members in the course of their work as members is confidential and must not be shared with any party outside Council.

Election Period (Caretaker)

31. External members will remain on the Advisory Committee until the end of the Council term, but the Advisory Committee operations will cease during the election Caretaker Period as per the Election Period Policy.

REPORTING

32. Accurate minutes will be kept of each meeting and provided to members no later than one week following the meeting.
33. Committee meeting notes will be made available to Councillors via the Councillor portal within 10 business days.
34. The Committee will report to Council and the Audit and Risk Committee at least annually, providing advice and assurance to Council on the effectiveness of governance and compliance arrangements under the Aged Care Act 2024, including Responsible Persons arrangements (suitability, training and record-keeping), and a summary of risks, incidents, complaints and improvement actions.

SECRETARIAT

35. Community Care will convene meetings and ensure a quorum. The Community Care Department will prepare agendas and papers, provide administrative support, record minutes and implement agreed actions, including an annual report to Council and public communication as appropriate.

REVIEW

36. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed as required during the current Council term.
37. The Committee's effectiveness will be assessed annually as part of the report to Council, and the Terms of Reference will be updated to reflect legislative or organisational changes.

SUNSET

38. The membership of Councillor members on the Committee will conclude at the end of the current Council term (unless otherwise resolved by Council).

Records

Records shall be retained for at least the periods shown below.

Table 1: Record retention and disposal schedule

Record	Retention / Disposal Authority	Retention Period	Location
Records relating to arranging and facilitating committee meetings.	PROS 09/05 VAR 1 Retention and Disposal Authority for Records of Local Government Functions	Temporary	Destroy after administrative use has concluded.
Records of general administrative nature relating to management of committee meetings, including the preparation and circulation of minutes, use of premises where the meetings take place and travel arrangements for attendees.			

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CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

Wurriki Nyal
Wadawurrung Country
137-149 Mercer Street
Geelong VIC 3220
8:00am – 5:00pm

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2.7. Proposed sale of land - 21-25 Oakden Road, Drysdale

Source: Office of the Chief Executive
Chief Executive Officer: Ali Wastie

Purpose

1. To respond to the Council resolution by assessing the feasibility of alternative future uses for 21-25 Oakden Road Drysdale, including consideration to open space, parking, and alternative housing, to inform Council's consideration of the proposed sale of the land.

Background

2. The vacant land 21-25 Oakden Road, Drysdale measures 2,962m² and is within the General Residential 1 Zone with an Aboriginal Heritage Overlay.
3. The land had previously been used by the Cemetery Trust to provide informal carparking. It is no longer suitable or required for this purpose and carparking is accommodated within the cemetery property.
4. The land was identified as surplus to the City's needs and the City undertook community engagement and convened a Submission Review Panel on the proposed sale of the land.

Key Matters

5. At the Council meeting of 28 October 2025, the Council received a report including the outcomes of the community engagement and recommending that the land be sold.
6. The resolution at the meeting was that Council:
 - 6.1. *Notes the outcomes of community engagement for the proposed sale and the attached minutes from the Submission Review Panel held on 27 August 2025 (Attachment 2);*
 - 6.2. *Requests the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a report to Council, by March 2026 outlining the feasibility of alternative future uses for 21-25 Oakden Road Drysdale, being certificate of title volume 10256 folio628 and Lot 1 PS344285L, including consideration to open space, parking, and alternative housing, to inform Council's consideration of the proposed sale of the land.*
 - 6.3. *Resolves that Attachment 3 to this report remains confidential pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it contains personal information. Disclosure of this information would be unreasonable because it includes the full names and addresses of submitters obtained through the community engagement process.*

7. Open Space

- 7.1. The assessment concludes that the land is not required for open space.

- 7.2. Residents within the local surrounding area to the property have access within 400m to functional open spaces.
- 7.3. Given the size of the land (which would be classified as Pocket Park) and that it does not provide any open space functions, Pocket Parks are generally not supported as new open space (unless in a civic setting or infill development where space is limited).
- 7.4. The land is long and narrow, with no active frontage on three sides, and no safe access. This reduces its effectiveness in supporting open space functions, efficient management, passive surveillance, and safety.
- 7.5. The assessment against the Strategy's criteria for public open space land determined the following:
 - 7.5.1. The land did not have an appropriate interface
 - 7.5.2. The size and shape are not adequate
 - 7.5.3. The land has a usable landform and characteristic
 - 7.5.4. The land has solar access and orientation
 - 7.5.5. It does not allow connection to the network
 - 7.5.6. It does not meet requirements of sustainable planning and management

8. Parking

- 8.1. The City's Transport team has completed an investigation, including a site inspection, to assess the parking requirements at this location.
- 8.2. The assessment confirms that the car park is not required to support cemetery operations. As outlined in the Geelong Cemeteries Trust's letter to the City dated 20 August 2025, the access and parking upgrades that are currently being constructed will adequately meet the cemetery's parking needs.
- 8.3. Additionally, the City does not require a public car park at this location, as there are no public facilities in the area that would require dedicated parking provision.

9. Social Housing (alternate housing)

- 9.1. In response to the resolution, the land was assessed for alternate housing based on the established criteria within the Council's Social Housing Plan 2020 – 2041.
- 9.2. From this assessment, 21-25 Oakden Road, Drysdale performs poorly against several planning, access, and yield considerations.
- 9.3. The lot dimensions and configuration, along with the existence of mature vegetation do not readily support higher-density outcomes. A limited development yield will reduce attractiveness to a Registered Housing Association.

- 9.4. Poor access to frequent public transport and rail services weakens access to jobs, supports, services, and reduces regional connectivity for residents without cars.
- 9.5. Sub-optimal access to everyday services and social infrastructure limits community participation for residents.
- 9.6. Collectively, these factors reduce both deliverability and long-term liveability outcomes for Social Housing residents, making Oakden Road a low-priority site.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Notes the assessment outcomes for the feasibility of alternative uses including consideration to open space, parking, and alternative housing outlined in the Council resolution of 28 October 2025;**
- 2. Approves the sale of 21-25 Oakden Road Drysdale, being certificate of title volume 10256 folio 628 and Lot 1 PS344285L; and**
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to sign documents to complete the sale of the land.**

Financial Sustainability

10. The sale of the property supports financial sustainability by disposing of a surplus property and contributing to the budgeted \$17m capital income for Property Sales.
11. A current market valuation will be obtained prior to the sale to comply with section 114, *Local Government Act 2020* and inform a sale price.
12. If Council resolves to sell the property, the costs associated with marketing and the sale will be offset by the sales income.

Community Engagement

13. Community engagement was undertaken from 23 June until 20 July 2025 and a Submission Review Panel was convened in August 2025. The Council received copies of the submissions and minutes of the Submission Review Panel.
14. The Council noted the outcomes of this at the 28 October 2025 Council Meeting.

Social Equity and Sustainability

15. The City is committed to contributing social housing and has adopted the Social Housing Plan 2020-2041.
16. The City has allocated land in other locations for the development of social housing and is seeking a Registered Housing Provider to deliver this.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

17. An assessment was not completed on the proposed sale of the land as it does not relate to the criteria of when an assessment is required, being an existing or developing service, program or policy.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

18. The Council will comply with *Local Government Act 2020*, section 114 for the sale of the land.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

19. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
Governance and Integrity
20. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

21. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

There are no identified risks in the proposed sale of the land. If the land is sold for residential subdivision, a planning permit will assess risks associated with the proposed development.

Environmental Sustainability

22. There are a few trees on the land, however they are close to the boundary, and it would be possible to develop the land without impacting them. If the land is sold, all trees within its boundary will become the responsibility of the new landowner. Any works on the site must comply with the relevant zoning and overlay requirements, as with any other development.
23. Trees located on the nature strip will remain under Council ownership and management. If a new development is likely to impact the Council trees, they must be protected throughout the works. As part of the Planning Permit process, Parks Planning will set conditions to ensure appropriate tree protection.

Attachments

1. Site Plan - 21-25 Oakden Road, Drysdale [2.7.1 - 1 page]

SITE PLAN: 21-25 OAKDEN ROAD, DRYSDALE



2.8. Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) - Motion

Source: Corporate Services
Executive Director: Troy Edwards

Purpose

1. To seek Council approval to support the development of a motion to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) requesting that the MAV advocate to the Victorian State Government for legislative reform that mandates compulsory leave arrangements for councillors who nominate as candidates for State or Federal Parliament.
2. The proposed motion seeks to promote integrity, continuity of governance and public confidence in local government decision-making by ensuring appropriate leave, suspension of allowances and quorum adjustments apply when councillors' campaign for higher office.

Background

3. Councillors who nominate for State or Federal Parliament may continue to hold office and receive allowances during election campaigns unless they voluntarily take leave. This can create perceived or actual conflicts of interest, governance disruption and uncertainty for councils in maintaining effective quorum and decision-making.
4. The MAV is the peak body representing Victorian local government and is best placed to advocate on behalf of councils for consistent and state-wide legislative reform.
5. Introducing legislated, mandatory leave provisions would support transparency, fairness and consistency across all councils, while ensuring that councillors seeking election to other tiers of government do so without compromising council operations or public confidence.

Key Matters

6. The proposed MAV advocacy would call on the Victorian Government to introduce legislation that:
 - 6.1. Requires councillors who formally nominate as candidates for State or Federal Parliament to take compulsory leave from council duties for the duration of the election period from the date of the issuing of writs for an election;
 - 6.2. Provides for the suspension of councillor allowances during the compulsory leave period; and
 - 6.3. Enables appropriate quorum adjustments to ensure councils can continue to operate effectively during the leave period.
7. The motion is intended to apply consistently across the local government sector with an appropriate legislative and regulatory basis, avoiding ad-hoc or discretionary arrangements that vary between councils.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the following motion from Council to be submitted to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV):**
 - 1.1. The MAV calls on the State Government to ensure that the legislation includes:**
 - 1.1.1. A mandatory leave of absence for councillors intending to be candidates from the issuing of the writs until the declaration of the election result;**
 - 1.1.2. Suspension of councillor allowances and reimbursements for the duration of the compulsory leave period;**
 - 1.1.3. Temporary adjustment of quorum requirements for council and delegated committee meetings to ensure continuity of governance during the compulsory leave period; and**
 - 1.1.4. Develop a model policy to guide activities during a leave of absence, including but not limited to the use of Council resources, attendance at Council functions or activities, and use of Council social media, to protect the integrity of Council decision-making, manage actual or perceived conflicts of interest, and ensure equity between candidates.**
- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the proposed motion, if required by the MAV, to facilitate its consideration and advocacy.**

Financial Sustainability

8. There are no financial implications from this report.

Community Engagement

9. There are no community engagement considerations arising from this report.

Social Equity and Sustainability

10. There are no social equity and sustainability considerations arising from this report.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

11. There are no gender equality considerations arising from this report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

12. Local government governance is regulated under the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic). Any legislative reform relating to councillor leave, allowances or quorum requirements would require amendment to relevant state legislation.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

13. This report aligns with the Council Plan strategic priority of Governance and Integrity by promoting transparent, ethical and effective decision-making
14. It also supports the Community Vision aspiration for strong, accountable leadership that maintains public trust.

Conflict of Interest

15. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

16. The absence of mandated leave arrangements presents an ongoing governance risk for councils, including decision-making disruption, reputational risk and reduced public confidence.
17. Advocacy for clear, legislated arrangements aligns with Council's cautious risk appetite for unmanaged governance risk and supports proactive risk mitigation.

Environmental Sustainability

18. There are no environmental sustainability considerations arising from this report.

Attachments

Nil

2.9. Council Plan Bi-Annual Report – Half 1 2025-26

Source: Corporate Services
Executive Director: Troy Edwards

Purpose

1. To present the Council Plan Bi-Annual Report – Half 1 2025-26 for consideration and noting.

Background

2. The Council Plan 2025–29 is Council’s key strategic document which identifies the outcomes and objectives Council will focus its efforts on over the four years, to ensure the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of our region.
3. The Council Plan 2025–29 is supported by an annual budget and major initiatives which detail work that is critical to deliver on the Council’s objectives and outcomes.
4. This bi-annual report provides progress updates against the major initiatives for the period 1 July 2025 – 31 December 2025. This is the first bi-annual report for the Council Plan 2025–29 – Bi-Annual Report 2025–26.

Key Matters

5. There are 31 major initiatives reported upon in the Council Plan 2025–29 – Bi-Annual Report 2025–26.
6. At the end of December 2025, one initiative is ‘at risk of delay’ and 30 initiatives are ‘on track’.

Recommendation

That Council notes the Council Plan Bi-Annual Report – Half 1 2025-26 (Attachment 1).

Financial Sustainability

7. There are no financial implications arising from the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

8. The Council Plan 2025–29 bi-annual reports are prepared in consultation with Managers, Coordinators and Officers from across the organisation. The report will be made available to the community online through the City website after the Council Meeting, with the year end results appearing in the City’s annual report.

Social Equity and Sustainability

9. Our Community Plan 2025–29 recognises the importance of social equity, access and inclusion as a key priority area contributing to the long-term sustainability of the community. The quarterly reports document the work the City is undertaking to improve equity, access, and inclusion for all.

Gender Equality – Gender+ Impact Assessment

10. No Gender+ Impact Assessment was undertaken as this report is administrative in nature, providing updates on existing initiatives. No further assessment is required for the adoption of this progress report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

11. The City’s activities are guided by the Council Plan 2025–29 which was adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and implementation monitored via the quarterly and annual reports.

Alignment to Council Plan and Vision

12. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-29 strategic priority:
 - Core and Critical Infrastructure
 - Economic Development
 - Environment and Circular Economy
 - Governance and Integrity
 - Healthy and Caring Community
 - Heritage and Culture
13. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
 - A destination that attracts local and international visitors.
 - A fast, reliable and connected transport network.
 - A leader in developing and adopting technology.
 - A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities.
 - An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
 - Creative and diverse culture.
 - Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.
 - People feel safe wherever they are.
 - Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

14. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment and Risk Appetite Statement

15. There are no identified risks arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

16. As the organisation and region face considerable environmental challenges, the Council Plan 2025–29 outlines the City's priorities in addressing the issues including climate change and waste, increasing population growth and threats to local biodiversity.

Attachments

1. Council Plan Bi- Annual Report – Half 1 2025-26 [**2.9.1** - 17 pages]

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

COUNCIL PLAN

2025-29

BI-ANNUAL REPORT
DECEMBER 2025



INTRODUCTION

This report provides a bi-annual update on Council’s progress against the major initiatives and adopted indicators as part of our Council Plan 2025-29.

The **Council Plan 2025-2029** sets our strategic direction for the next four years and outlines how we will deliver meaningful outcomes for the City of Greater Geelong.

The plan is guided by the community’s 30-year vision, *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future*, and reflects Council’s commitment to inclusive, sustainable and innovative local governance. It provides a clear framework to guide decision-making, prioritise resources and maximise the impact of Council’s services, infrastructure and advocacy.

The six guiding strategic objectives are:

1	CORE AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE - Plan, deliver, manage and optimise infrastructure across the region
2	HEALTHY AND CARING COMMUNITY - Identify, promote, advocate for, and deliver equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for our diverse communities
3	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Lead efforts to strengthen the economy and workforce to enhance prosperity across the community
4	HERITAGE AND CULTURE - Champion Greater Geelong’s unique heritage and cultural identity
5	ENVIRONMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY - Protect and enhance the natural environment and surrounds
6	GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY - Commit to the highest levels of leadership, integrity, financial stewardship and meaningful community engagement

The document fits into a broader cascading framework that includes:



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & OVERVIEW

Reporting Process

Progress against **The City’s 31 Council Plan Major Initiatives** have been assessed and categorised into five stages:

- COMPLETED** – Fully Delivered
- ON TRACK** – Progressing as planned and expected to meet delivery target
- DELAYED** – Behind schedule; still expected to be delivered within Council Plan
- AT RISK** – Behind schedule; unlikely to be delivered within Council Plan term
- WITHDRAWN** – No longer progressing

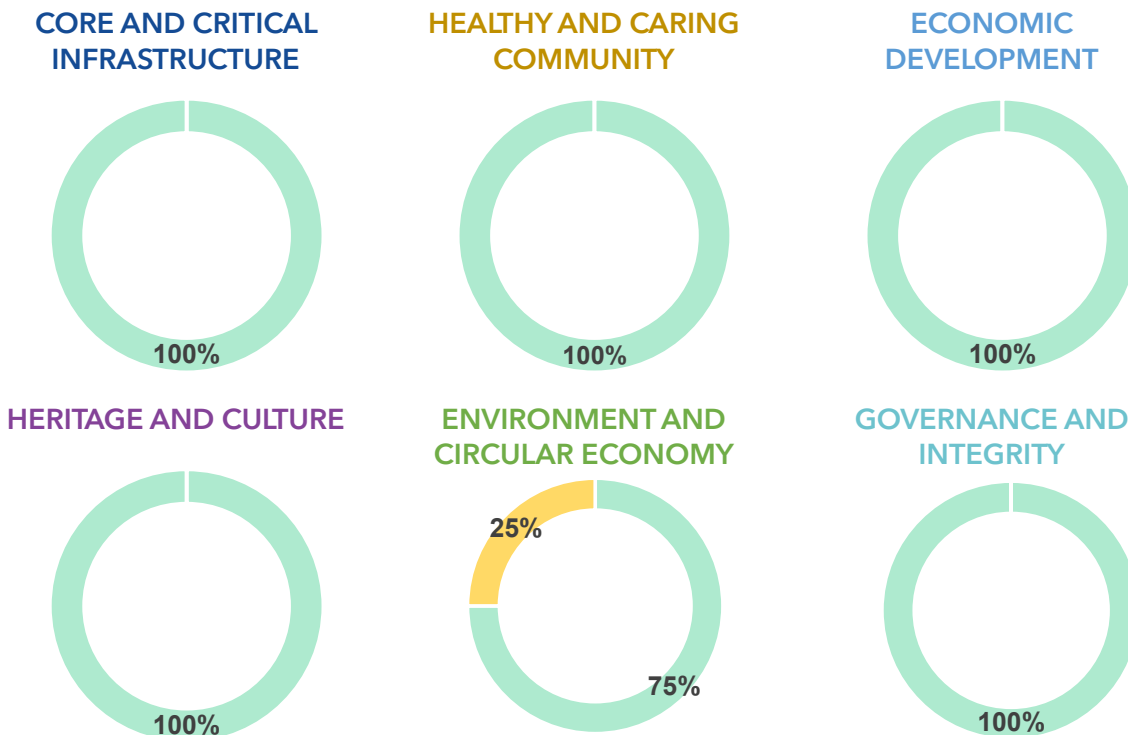
These major initiatives are aligned with the six strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan and represent the key actions Council is undertaking to achieve these objectives. Progress against the major initiatives is reviewed on a bi-annual basis to support transparent and accountable reporting on Council Plan delivery.

The adopted indicators, which define how we measure success, have also been reviewed. However, many indicators are reported on an annual basis and therefore do not have data available for this bi-annual reporting period.

Results

Based on results from the first half of the 2025-2026 financial year (H1), the City is tracking well against the major initiatives and supporting actions committed to in the Council Plan. Overall, 97% of initiatives (30 initiatives) are on track, with 3% (1 initiative) identified as at risk of delay.

Results for each Strategic Objective are summarised below:



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Core and Critical Infrastructure: Plan, deliver, manage and optimise core and critical infrastructure across the region

Outcomes

- Responsible and sustainable growth and development.
- Community facilities and public spaces are accessible and fit for purpose.
- Multi-modal transport networks are well-connected and accessible.

Major Initiatives

No.	Major Initiative	Progress comment	Status
1.1	Accelerate planning for housing, employment land and major infrastructure development in response to the Plan for Victoria	<i>Progress continues across key precincts including Elcho Road West and Heales Road West, with consultancy support in place and planning activities advancing. Some dependencies remain around Department of Transport and Planning input and third-party funding agreements, however overall timelines are tracking with staged agency engagement and exhibition milestones underway.</i>	On Track
1.2	Develop and implement the Public Realm Strategy to guide the landscape character, transport and economic outcomes of key streets	<i>The Public Realm Strategy draft is nearing completion and is scheduled for Council consideration to commence community engagement. Work on public realm standards and implementation planning is expected to commence following endorsement.</i>	On Track
1.3	Develop and commence implementation of a new Integrated Transport Strategy.	<i>Development of the Integrated Transport Strategy is progressing, with internal workshops completed and a working draft circulated for review. External dependencies remain with the Department of Transport and Planning Bus Network Review and State-led initiatives, with the strategy expected to progress toward public consultation following internal governance processes.</i>	On Track
1.4	Upgrade and develop community, sports, and active recreation infrastructure to enhance access and participation in local sports and activities	<i>Delivery is progressing well across major projects including North Bellarine Aquatic Centre Stage 2. Construction has commenced, with operational planning, budget development and workforce planning underway ahead of future activation milestones.</i>	On Track
1.5	Improve and expand regional sporting facilities as part of the Regional Sports Infrastructure Program	<i>Major projects under the Regional Sports Infrastructure Program are progressing as planned, with construction underway and operational planning advancing for multiple facilities. Remaining milestones relate to data finalisation, workforce structures and preparation for facility activation.</i>	On Track
1.6	Invest in flood management and mitigation initiatives across Greater Geelong	<i>Flood mitigation projects are progressing through modelling, procurement and early delivery stages, including work supported by Cumulus and Water Technology. Community engagement and</i>	On Track

No.	Major Initiative	Progress comment	Status
		<i>construction activities are scheduled, with on-ground works expected to commence in early 2026.</i>	

Indicators

Indicator	Calculation	Target	Baseline	Actual	Status
Increase the kilometres of transport infrastructure.	<i>The length of pedestrian footpaths and bicycle paths per head of population.</i>	Increase	New indicator – no baseline	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually
Asset renewal and upgrade expense compared to depreciation above 85%.	<i>Asset renewal and upgrade expense compared to depreciation assesses whether council spending on assets is focused on purchasing new assets or renewing and upgrading existing ones.</i>	>85%	58.47% (FY2024-25)	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually
Increase the provision of open space.	<i>Hectares of open public space (civic, community parks, sports reserves and heritage open space).</i>	Increase	1,048.8 hectares – 503 sites (June 2025)	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually
Increase the proportion of housing construction within existing urban areas	<i>Percentage of housing construction within existing urban areas.</i>	Increase	15% (2025)	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually

Supporting Services



Asset and Infrastructure Maintenance



Civil Infrastructure Management



Land Use Planning and Building



Capital Delivery




Strategic Asset Management




Strategic Planning and Design


Links to Community’s Aspirations




Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment



Development and implementation of sustainable solutions



A fast, reliable and connected transport network



People feel safe wherever they are

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Healthy and Caring Community: Identify, promote, advocate for, and deliver equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for our diverse communities

Outcomes

- A community that is fair, compassionate and inclusive.
- Services and facilities that enhance health and wellbeing are accessible to all.
- A community with the resources and capacity to control their health and wellbeing.

Major Initiatives

No.	Major Initiative	Progress comment	Status
2.1	Transition the delivery of Aged Care services to a Support at Home model in response to the Commonwealth's Aged Care reforms.	<i>Transition to the Support at Home model is ongoing, with care plan reviews and service agreements progressing. Some delays remain outside Council's control due to Services Australia documentation and client contribution processes.</i>	On Track
2.2	Develop and implement the <i>Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29</i> .	<i>The Domestic Animal Management Plan was endorsed by Council in November 2025 and implementation activities are underway and planned to progress over the duration of the plan.</i>	On Track
2.3	Implement the <i>Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-29</i> .	<i>Implementation of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025–29 is progressing through annual action planning, partnerships and grant activity. Delivery of initiatives including the 16 Days of Activism campaign and establishment of a regional food systems partnership are key highlights from this quarter.</i>	On Track
2.4	Ensure equitable access to open space, community sport and recreation facilities and assets across Greater Geelong.	<i>Strategic planning is progressing through the Open Space Strategy and supporting policy work, with Council endorsement achieved for key components and community engagement underway. Funding advocacy initiatives such as Pick My Park, alongside asset renewal planning, continue in parallel.</i>	On Track
2.5	Support participation of women, girls and diverse groups in community sport and recreation.	<i>Gender+ Impact Assessments (GIA+) have been completed to understand how policy, programs or services might impact different people in different ways, supporting improved participation outcomes across community sport and recreation settings.</i>	On Track

Indicators

Indicator	Calculation	Target	Baseline	Actual	Status
Maintain participation rates in City-operated community services.	<i>Participation in MCH services</i> <i>Participation in youth development activities</i>	Maintain	New indicator – no baseline	MCH services – Annual Youth participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Hubs: 1,754 School Holiday Programs: 415 Youth Events: 1,098 L2P Program: 37 School & Community Programs: 420 	Baseline Data Only
Increase utilisation of the City's swim, sport and leisure facilities.	<i>The number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population.</i>	Increase	7.72 (FY2024-25) 3.95 (H1 2024-25)	3.92	Positive Trend Against Target
Increase the number of Gender+ Impact Assessments completed.	<i>Number of projects with Gender+ Impact Assessments completed.</i>	Increase	For 2024/25: 10 (24 GIAs that have commenced for FY2025-26)	17 GIAs completed for H1	Positive Trend Against Target

Supporting Services

Links to Community's Aspirations

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Economic Development: Lead efforts to strengthen our diverse economy and workforce to enhance prosperity across our community

Outcomes

- New businesses, events and investment are attracted to the region.
- Local businesses and industries are supported to thrive.
- Greater Geelong attracts, retains and develops workforce capacity and capability.
- Sufficient land supply to enable sustainable growth, business expansion and attraction.

Major Initiatives

No.	Major Initiative	Progress comment	Status
3.1	Activate Central Geelong	<i>Progress continues across key components of the Central Geelong Action Plan, including stakeholder collaboration, place activation initiatives and strategic planning. Work is advancing on place activation projects such as Labuan Square place planning and the broader Place Strategy, with delivery of actions ongoing.</i>	On Track
3.2	Champion First Nations products and services	<i>The City's Social Procurement Policy has been drafted, with internal stakeholder workshops scheduled to refine the framework. Plans for endorsement will be communicated as part of the annual update. Further to this, the City is supporting the growth of First Nations artists and businesses by embedding creative and commercial opportunities across its cultural venues. Recent progress includes the delivery of First Nations-led exhibitions and professional masterclasses, the growth of permanent collections through new commissions, and the sustained presence of First Nations representation within retail environments.</i>	On Track
3.3	Increase visitation to Greater Geelong and The Bellarine	<i>Visitation initiatives are tracking to plan, supported by delivery of the Business Events website, preparation for Australian Tourism Exchange, and industry training with Visit Victoria. A new multi-year destination marketing campaign remains on track to launch in early 2026.</i>	On Track
3.4	Attract, support and deliver major events across the region	<i>Advocacy and delivery efforts continue across major events including the PayPal Melbourne Fashion Festival and Mapei Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race. Work is underway with partners on future opportunities, including a proposed Geelong Gallery major exhibition in 2026, pending funding certainty.</i>	On Track

No.	Major Initiative	Progress comment	Status
3.5	Support the growth of Greater Geelong businesses	<i>The Geelong Small Business Festival has been successfully delivered, with evaluation and reporting completed. Work continues to align future initiatives with the overarching goal of supporting Greater Geelong businesses.</i>	On Track
3.6	Grow Geelong's cruise tourism sector	<i>Engagement with major industry partners continues, with new regional berthing opportunities identified as highly viable options starting from the 2027–28 season. Advocacy efforts remain focused on rebuilding sector confidence following cancellations in the 2025–26 cruise season.</i>	On Track
3.7	Increase capacity and capability of Greater Geelong's workforce	<i>Workforce planning and service delivery activities are progressing, including educator recruitment and allocation planning to support early years and education services.</i>	On Track
3.8	Ensure appropriate supply of industrial land across Greater Geelong	<i>The initiative is scheduled to progress through Council decision-making processes in the next reporting period.</i>	On Track

Indicators

Indicator	Calculation	Target	Baseline	Actual	Status
Increase the economic benefit of major events funded by the City	<i>Estimated return on investment (ROI) for major events funded by the City.</i>	Increase Anchor events 40:1 Priority events 30:1 Developing events 20:1	56:1 ROI (FY2024-25)	1 x developing event delivered with ROI 30:1	Positive Trend Against Target
Maintain the supply of employment land.	<i>Estimated years of zoned industrial land available</i>	Maintain	13 years (June 2024) *based on zoned supply only and not future identified precincts as part of the South West Geelong Employment Land Review in 2022.	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually
Increase the number of businesses supported through the City's Business Concierge service.	<i>Number of businesses supported through the City's Business Concierge service.</i>	Increase	461 (FY2024-25)	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually

Supporting Services



Business Services

Economic Development and Performance

Tourism

Links to Community's Aspirations



Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment

A leader in developing and adopting technology

A destination that attracts local and international visitors

A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Heritage and Culture: Champion our unique heritage and culture

Outcomes

- Increased engagement in arts, culture and heritage experiences across Greater Geelong. We are acknowledged and recognised as a leading council and organisation
- Increased investment in our creative, cultural and sporting activity hubs.
- Greater Geelong's diverse culture is shared and celebrated.

Major Initiatives

No.	Major Initiative	Progress comment	Status
4.1	Strengthen Geelong's artists, arts and cultural organisations and creative enterprises	<i>Progress continues on the Design and Creative Hub, with Council endorsement of a new City Hall location and construction works underway following approval of a State Government grant variation.</i>	On Track
4.2	Celebrate Geelong's unique culture of art and design	<i>The successful delivery of ROAM Geelong demonstrated strong cultural and economic outcomes for the region. Development of the Arts and Culture Strategy has experienced some delays due to capacity constraints, with Council consideration now anticipated later in 2026.</i>	On Track
4.3	Protect the cultural heritage of Greater Geelong through review of the <i>Geelong Heritage Strategy</i>	<i>Planning scheme and implementation work is progressing, with consultation extended to support property owner engagement.</i>	On Track

Indicators

Indicator	Calculation	Target	Baseline	Actual	Status
Increase visitation to our arts and culture facilities/venues in person and online.	<p><i>Number of visitors to the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National Wool Museum onsite visitation</i> • <i>Potato Shed</i> • <i>The Carousel</i> • <i>National Wool Museum Digital and online programs and activities</i> 	Increase	<p>FY2024-25: 1,718,670</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Wool Museum: (onsite) 113,844 • Potato Shed: 78,000 • The Carousel: 162,629 • Combined NWM Digital online programs and activities: 1,364,197 	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually
Maintain the number of artists, groups and organisations supported by the City (Community	<p><i>Number of grants provided via the following grants streams:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Artists and Creatives Professional Development</i> 	Maintain	<p>FY2024-25: 38</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artists and Creatives Professional Development (10 projects funded) 	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually

Grants Program).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Arts Projects</i> • <i>Clever and Creative Seed</i> • <i>Creative Commissions Program</i> • <i>Geelong Heritage</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Projects (13 projects funded) • Clever and Creative Seed (9 projects funded) • Creative Commissions Program (4 projects funded) • Geelong Heritage (4) 			
Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural projects and participation.	TBC	Increase	New indicator - no baseline	TBC	Indicator Reported Annually

Supporting Services




Arts, Culture and Heritage




Events

Links to Community’s Aspirations



Creativity drives culture



A destination that attracts local and international visitors

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

Environment and Circular Economy: Protect and enhance our unique natural environment and surrounds

Outcomes

- Natural habitat and areas of important biodiversity are identified, protected, connected and restored.
- Significant reductions in emissions and increased community resilience to climate change impacts.
- Minimise waste and manage effective recovery of resources.

Major Initiatives

No.	Major Initiative	Progress comment	Status
5.1	Develop and implement the Geelong Growth Areas Strategic Assessment	<i>Exhibition and submission processes have been completed, with assessment and next steps now underway.</i>	On Track
5.2	Implementation of the Environment Strategy Action Plan 2024-26	<i>Delivery of priority actions is tracking well, including successful planting programs, grant outcomes and preparation of key strategy documents for Council consideration.</i>	On Track
5.3	Upgrade existing resource recovery facilities to prepare for new Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) and glass kerbside collection services	<i>Detailed design for the FOGO facility upgrade is progressing. The construction tender is scheduled for release in the fourth quarter of the 2026 financial year, with construction of the upgraded facility expected to commence in late 2026 or early 2027.</i> <i>In December 2025, Council resolved to oppose the rollout of a separate kerbside glass bin service. The City continues to advocate to the State Government for the consideration of more cost effective and sustainable glass recycling alternatives.</i>	Delayed
5.4	Design, deliver, and renew resource recovery and waste recycling infrastructure for the region	<i>Consultants have been engaged and design work is underway, progressing the next phase of infrastructure planning.</i>	On Track

Indicators

Indicator	Calculation	Target	Baseline	Actual	Status
Decrease the volume of greenhouse gas emissions from City-managed operations.	<i>Tonnes CO2-emissions from City-managed operations</i>	Decrease	24,301 tonnes (2023–24)	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually
Increase the amount of hectares of natural habitat on City-managed land.	<i>Hectares of protected natural habitat on City-managed land</i>	Increase	1,493.02 ha (June 2025)	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually
Decrease the amount of (kerbside) waste produced each year per household.	<i>Tonnage of waste divided by the number of residential households</i>	Decrease	58,652/129,914 = 0.45 tonnes/household =451.47kg/household (FY2024-25)	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually

Supporting Services




Parks and Natural Assets




Waste Management

Links to Community's Aspirations



Creativity drives culture



A destination that attracts local and international visitors



Development and implementation of sustainable solutions

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6

Governance and Integrity: Commit to the highest levels of leadership, integrity, financial stewardship, and meaningful community engagement

Outcomes

- Public funds and assets are used equitably and efficiently.
- Decision making is evidence-based, transparent and strategically aligned.
- Community engagement, strong partnerships and effective advocacy delivers value and impact

Major Initiatives

No.	Major Initiative	Progress comment	Status
6.1	Enhance customer service experience	<i>The Customer Relationship and Experience System (CRES) program has been realigned, with the Project Control Group reformed and an updated delivery schedule endorsed. Procurement for probity and assurance partners and preparation of the Asset and Field Workforce stream tender are progressing, alongside targeted recruitment to support delivery.</i>	On Track
6.2	Strengthen the Council's long term financial sustainability	<i>Work continues on the Long Term Financial Plan refresh and FY27 Budget development, supported by Council workshops and actions to reduce debt through approved surplus property sales.</i>	On Track
6.3	Deliver the Service Review Program	<i>70% of service plans are now complete or in progress. These plans ensure ongoing operational alignment with our new Council Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan. Concurrently, the broader service review program is being delivered in accordance with the prioritised roadmap, incorporating quality assurance improvements to ensure service consistency and community value.</i>	On Track
6.4	Drive good governance and a strong safety culture	<i>Progress on governance improvements remains on track following a formal update to the Minister in late 2025. The City remains positioned to adopt the new Model Governance Rules once finalised and released by Local Government Victoria. Simultaneously, the Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Strategy is achieving key outcomes through a new Psychological Health and Safety Framework and targeted initiatives to address Occupational Violence and Aggression (OVA).</i>	On Track
6.5	Increase opportunities for community engagement and contribution in Council decision-making	<i>Community Engagement Policy development and engagement activities are progressing, with community and staff feedback currently underway following Council endorsement.</i>	On Track

Indicators

Indicator	Calculation	Target	Baseline	Actual	Status
Delivery of capital project program.	<i>% allocated budget delivered</i>	Deliver	FY2024-25: 67% Budgeted - \$207.7 million Actual - \$139.3 million	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually
Increase the number of grants secured that support strategic initiatives.	<i>Value of incoming grants awarded that support strategic initiatives (aligned to strategic directions)</i>	Increase	FY2024-25 52 awarded \$27,936,255.48 (co-contribution \$10,182.932.49)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 grants awarded for total of \$3,372,652.00 (co-contribution 2,314,455.68) 27 Grant applications submitted with an ask of \$47,631,461.58 (Co-contribution \$2,563,747.00) 	Positive Trend Against Target
Increase community engagement and participation opportunities.	<i>Number of projects available for community feedback on Have Your Say platform</i>	Increase	58 projects (FY2024-25)	N/A	Indicator Reported Annually

Supporting Services



Links to Community's Aspirations



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3. RECORD OF INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

Source: Corporate Services
Executive Director: Troy Edwards

Summary

1. The Governance Rules of the City of Greater Geelong require the tabling of records of informal meetings of Councillors at the next convenient Council meeting and that their record be included in the minutes of that Council meeting.
2. A summary of the informal meetings of Councillors is attached.

Recommendation

That Council receive the summary of the informal meetings of Councillors for the period to 24 March 2026.

**INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS
(Council Meeting 24 March 2026)**

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Additional Briefing 20 January 2026	Cr S Kontelj Cr R Nelson	A Wastie (CEO) A Basford (EXEC DIR) A Higgs (MGR) R Clarke (CO ORD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for a Regional Tennis Facility in Armstrong Creek. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
Additional Briefing 13 February 2026	Cr M Cadwell Cr R Story Cr E Wilkinson <i>Apology:</i> <i>Cr A Aitken</i>	A Basford (EXEC DIR) F Bolitho (MGR) S Alexander (T LEAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Additional Briefing 23 February 2026	Cr A Aitken Cr E Kontelj	A Basford (EXEC DIR) A Higgs (MGR) External Representatives: <i>Inside Edge</i> <i>Football Victoria</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Soccer Location Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
Health Portfolio Briefing 3 March 2026	Cr S Kontelj Cr M Cadwell Cr R Story	F Bolitho (MGR) M Jewell (CO ORD) K Riley (SNR OFFICER) Apology: <i>A Basford (EXEC DIR)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geelong Preventative Health Survey (GPHS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
Additional Briefing 23 February 2026	Cr M Cadwell	F Bolitho (MGR) M Jewell (CO ORD) J McCusker (T LEAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women in Community Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
<p>Strategic Session</p> <p>3 March 2026</p>	<p>Cr S Kontelj Cr E Kontelj Cr T Sullivan Cr M Cadwell Cr A Aitken Cr R Nelson Cr E Wilkinson Cr E Sinclair Cr C Burson Cr R Story (<i>departed 6.30pm</i>) Cr A Katos</p>	<p>A Wastie (CEO) T Edwards (EXEC DIR) J Stirton (EXEC DIR) F Bolitho (MGR) A Brittain (MGR) A Radhakrishnan (SNR OFFICER) J Prescott (SNR OFFICER) L Ainsworth (SNR OFFICER) B Eaton (OFFICER) B Sanders (MGR) A Martin (CHIEF) J Douglas (MGR) E Ryan (SNR OFFICER) D Pangrazio (OFFICER)</p>	<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Update • Disability Access & Inclusion Plan - Yr 1 update • Future of the Floating Christmas Tree • Avalon Airshow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
<p>Councillor Briefing</p> <p>10 March 2026</p>	<p>Cr S Kontelj Cr E Kontelj Cr T Sullivan Cr M Cadwell Cr A Aitken Cr R Nelson Cr E Wilkinson Cr E Sinclair Cr C Burson Cr R Story Cr A Katos</p>	<p>A Wastie (CEO) T Edwards (EXEC DIR) A Basford (EXEC DIR) A Locke (EXEC DIR) J Stirton (EXEC DIR) A Martin (CHIEF) C Norton (MGR) M McKay (MGR) F Bolitho (MGR) P Newton (MGR) J Douglas (MGR) E Ryan (SNR OFFICER)</p>	<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Heritage Overlays: Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study • Councillor Expenses Policy <p>Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Council First Report 2026 • New Heritage Overlays: Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study • Draft Plan for Nature 2026-36 • Draft Place Naming Policy • Councillor Expenses Policy • Aged Care Advisory Committee • Proposed sale of land – 21-25 Oakden Road, Drysdale • Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) - Motion • Council Plan Half-Yearly Report – Half 1 2025-26 • 2025-26 Community Infrastructure Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
			Recommendations – Additional (Confidential)	

4. CONFIDENTIAL

Council will close the meeting to the public in accordance with the provision of section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to consider the following list of items.

4.1. 2025-26 Community Infrastructure Funding Recommendations - Additional (Confidential)

CONFIDENTIAL

Recommendation

That Council consider this report at the conclusion of the meeting as it is designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, the information contained in this report is confidential because it contains Council business information being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations. This section is applicable because the agenda item contains a level of detail which if released would diminish the organisation's capacity to compete in a commercial environment.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING