



Character Area 1.1
Paddocks & Cones

1.1 PADDOCKS & CONES

Character Area 1.1 is characterised by a high concentration of volcanic features – cones, craters and lakes.

The cones and craters form topographically prominent landmarks that are visible from long distances, each with a different size and shape, and mostly uncloaked by trees. The larger and more distinctive cones are valued by the community as local landmarks, and are prominent features in an otherwise relatively featureless grassland landscape. Key volcanic cones include Mount Elephant, Mount Shadwell (providing a backdrop to the township of Mortlake), Mount Noorat, Mount Wiridgill, Mount Koang and Cloven Hills.

Surrounding many of the volcanos are rocky paddocks with low stony rises and dry stone walls.

Key Features

- High concentration of volcanic cones and rises as landmarks
- Numerous well preserved dry stone walls
- Cleared agricultural land

Settlements

- Camperdown
- Derrinallum
- Mortlake
- Noorat
- Terang



Flat agricultural paddocks and volcanic rises typify this Character Area



Well preserved dry stone walls in the foreground of Mount Noorat

Figure 1 Paddocks & Cones Overview

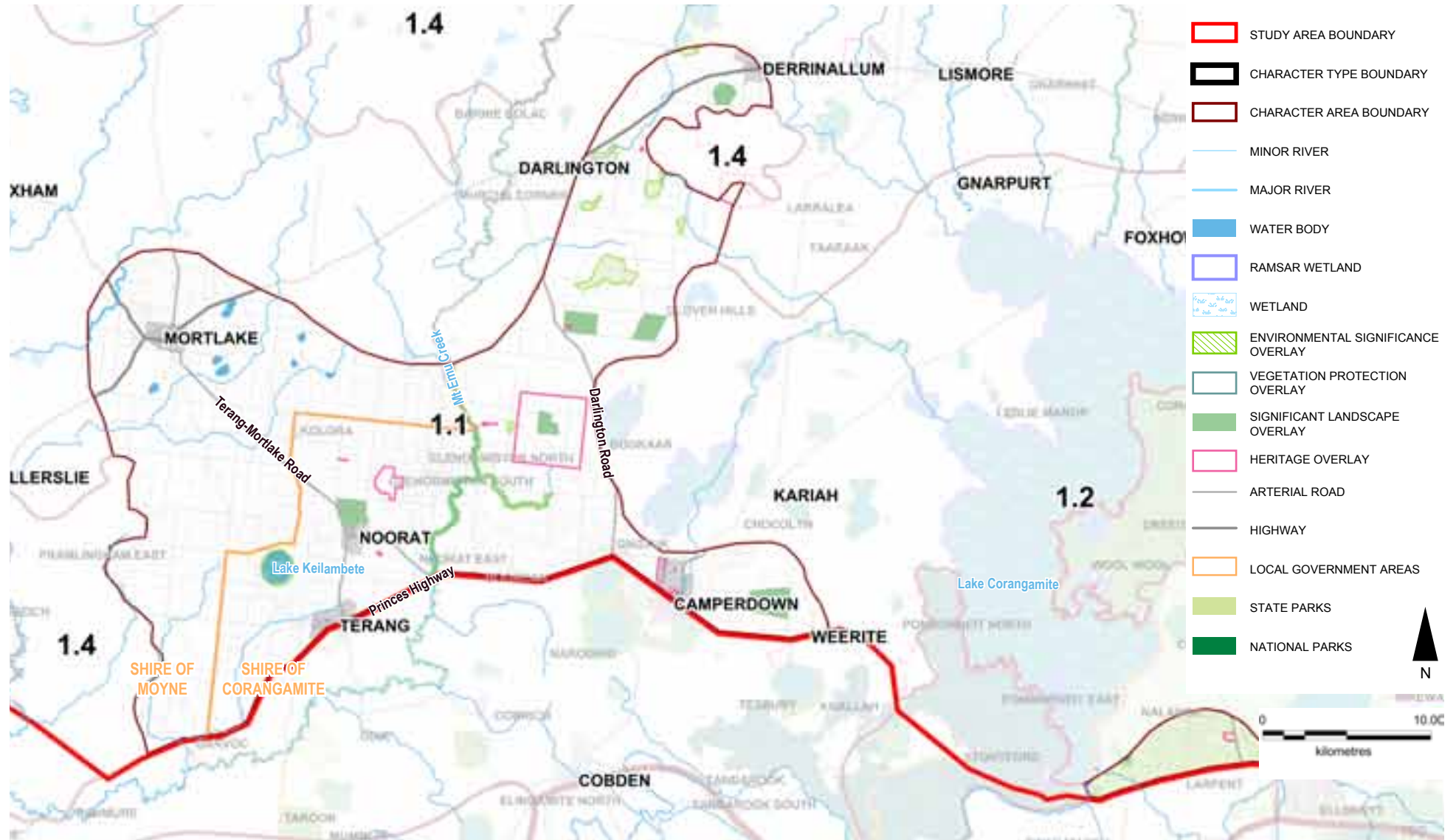


Figure 2 Paddocks & Cones Landform

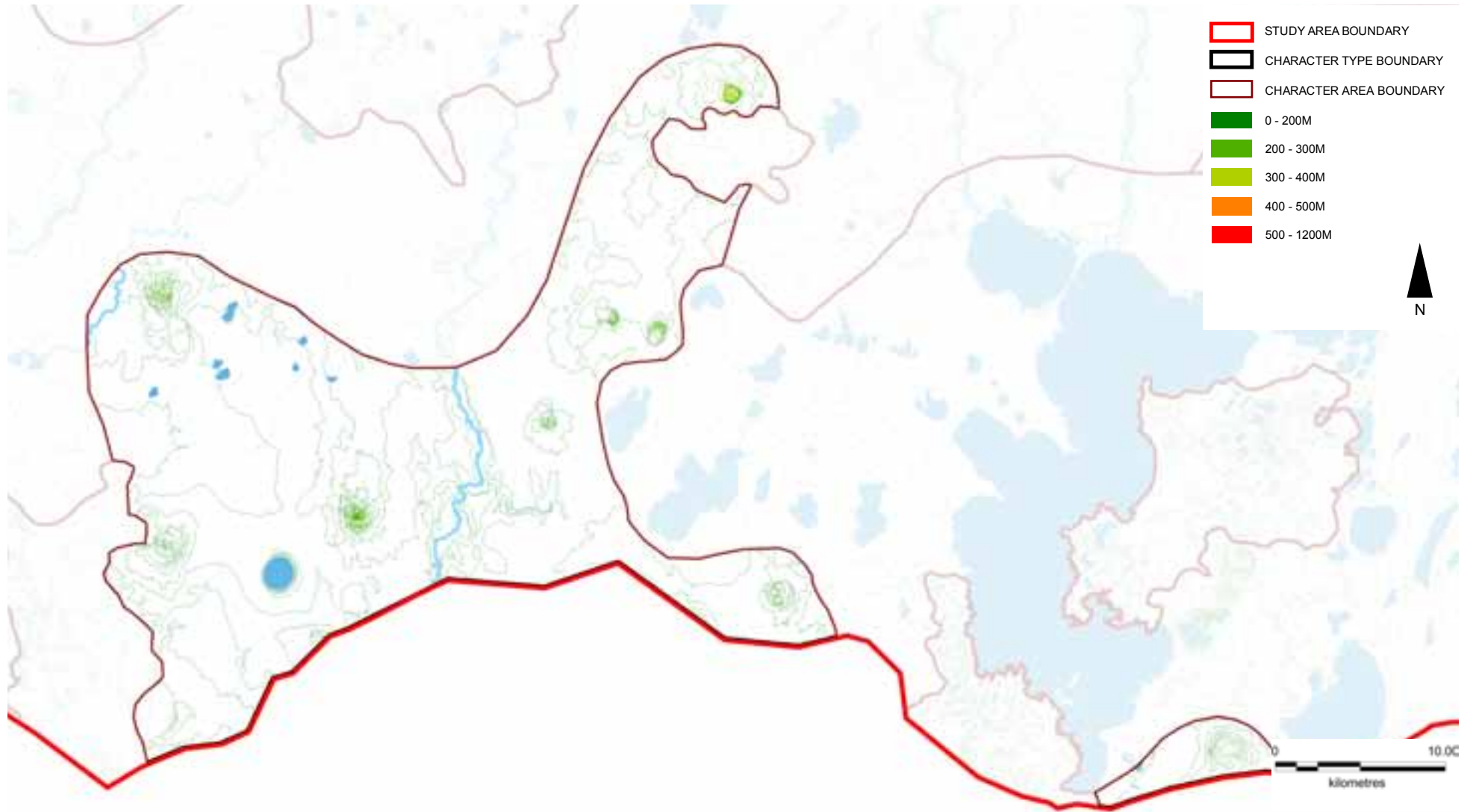
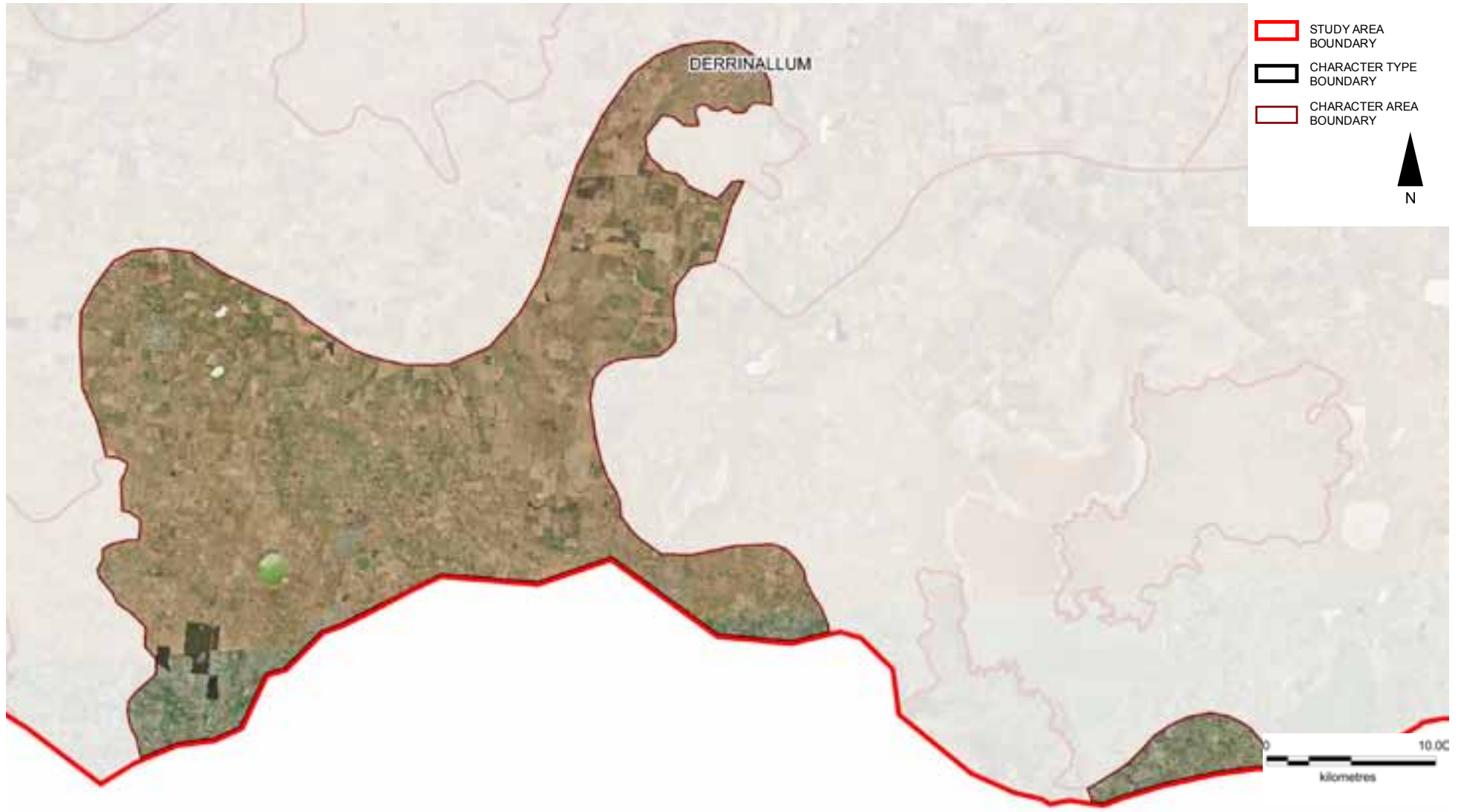


Figure 3 Paddocks & Cones Aerial



PATTERN OF VIEWING

Due to the flat topography and heavily cleared nature of the landscape this character area offers long ranging open views from the roads which dissect the landscape. These views are often panoramic with big skies and volcanic features dotting the horizon in all directions.

Shelterbelt planting and infrastructure disrupt views towards volcanic features in some locations.

There are a number of high points from the volcanic features offering long range views over the wider volcanic plain. Summit walks to public lookout points can be found on Mount Noorat, Mount Leura and Mount Elephant. From these points panoramic views across the flat agricultural landscape are available.

Excellent views are available between breaks in the vegetation along Sadlers Road which runs along the ridge between Lake Gnotuk and Lake Bullen-Merri, just west of Camperdown.

Red rocks lookout near Alvie, while not located within this Character Area, offers long distance views to the west over this Character Area and adjacent Areas.



Mount Elephant is a landmark on the horizon visible from long distances in the surrounding area



Kurweeton Road travels between Mount Koang and Cloven Hills



Long views over flat agricultural plains towards volcanic rises



Shelter belt planting and infrastructure can disrupt views towards the volcanic features



From Mount Elephant it is possible to view this Character Area looking south, views are also available over the wider Character Type



The distinctive exotic shelterbelts as viewed from Mount Leura



Views across Lake Gnotuk from Sadlers Road, west of Camperdown



Lake Keilambete, an almost perfect circular maar crater lake with views towards Mount Noorat to the North East.

LANDSCAPE VALUES

Historic

- Evidence of Aboriginal occupation
 - inland middens near Mortlake
- Dry stone walls, protected through Corangamite HO
- Corangamite Dry Stone Walls Heritage Trail, also a tourist attraction
- Mount Leura Complex, visible from but not in the area, listed by the National Trust as:
 - state significant landscape
 - nationally significant geological feature
- Mount Elephant
 - state significant landscape listed by National Trust
 - listed on the register of the National Estate
 - one of the highest scoria cones in one of the largest homogenous volcanic plains on earth
 - iconic volcano, visible on horizon for many kilometres
 - proposed for protection in the Corangamite Shire Tourism Opportunities Study
- Bluestone Precinct in Mortlake nationally significant for bluestone architecture
- Mount Noorat, a traditional meeting & bartering place Aboriginal people
- Nationally significant Lake Bullen Merri & Lake Gnotuk, just outside the Character Area, broad volcanic craters, listed by the National Trust

Environmental/Scientific

- Volcanic landscapes & features, protected by Corangamite SLO1
 - internationally significant feature for scientific research & its geological form
 - includes Lake Gnotuk & Lake Bullen Merri (just outside the Character Area) & their surrounds, recognised for their scientific, environmental & landscape significance
- Lake Keilambete, a near perfectly circular lake of national significance where the water is reputed to have therapeutic value
- Volcanic crater & lava landscape at Mount Shadwell
- Mount Noorat, Australia's largest dry volcanic crater
- Mortlake Common Flora Reserve, a protected area on the IUCN list, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve)
- Nationally significant Cobden-Terang Volcanic Craters wetlands
- Warrion groundwater area, protected by Colac Otway ESO1
- Locally significant waterbodies, wetlands & watercourses, protected by Colac Otway ESO2 & Corangamite ESO1
- Locally significant areas of vegetation, including pre-European vegetation, which provide habitats, protected by Corangamite ESO2

Social

- Alan Marshall Precinct & Discovery Trail, commemorating this local artist & his book *I Can Jump Puddles*, influenced by the landscapes of the area
- Princes Highway, a key tourist route
- Mortlake Buskers Festival, a tourist attraction



Hamilton Highway dry stone wall on the Corangamite Dry Stone Walls Heritage Trail

LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

This Character Area is subject to the Colac Otway, Corangamite and Moyne Planning Schemes.

Key Zones

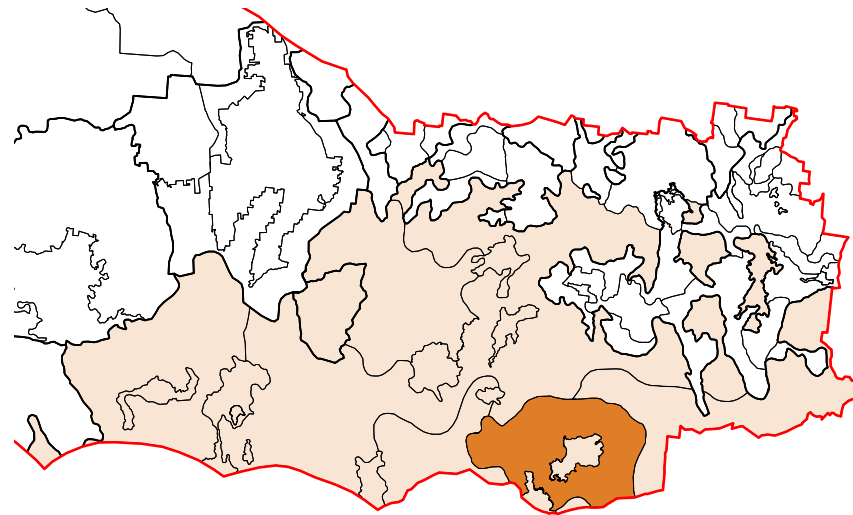
- FZ
- PCRZ
- RLZ at Mortlake, Terang & Camperdown

Key Overlays

- Corangamite SLO1: Volcanic Landscape Area
- Colac Otway ESO1: Warrion Groundwater Area
- Colac Otway ESO2: Lakes, Wetlands & Watercourses
- Corangamite ESO1: Watercourses, Water Body & Wetland Protection Overlay
- Corangamite ESO2: Habitat Protection Overlay
- Colac Otway HO211: Tree, HO223: Church
- Corangamite HO
 - HO31 & HO32: Dry stone walls
 - HO22, HO25, HO41, HO59, HO73, HO80, HO93, HO128 & HO134: Homesteads
 - HO72: Lake Timboon Settlement Historic Site
 - HO18 & HO86: Other places
- Corangamite VPO2: Roadside Vegetation Protection Area
- Corangamite RO1: Ballarat-Camperdown Road, Camperdown
- Colac Otway LSIO

Proposed Zones & Overlays

- Corangamite SUZ6: Tourism Opportunity Sites in Farming Areas
 - Mount Elephant
- Corangamite DDO5: Tourism Opportunity Sites
 - Glenormiston College
 - Mount Elephant



Character Area 1.2

Large Shallow & Deep Crater Lakes

2 LARGE SHALLOW & DEEP CRATER LAKES

This Character Area is typified by extensive waterbodies which cover the majority of the landscape. These lakes were often formed by volcanic activity when basalt lava flows blocked streams, diverting them to depressions that had also formed as a result of volcanic activity.

The lakes, which lie in a grassland with minimal development, reflect the changing colours of the vast sky. These colours are intensified by the high salt and mineral content within some of the lakes giving an otherworldly feel to the landscape. Together these waterbodies form part of the Western District Lakes which have been recognized as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

The lakes in the area often display lunettes to the eastern shores which are formed by wind borne settlements blown from the lakes during dry periods.

The spectacular Red Rocks Reserve features prominently in the centre of this Character Area, its dramatic volcanic cones and craters contrasting with the surrounding expanses of lakes, stony rises and agricultural land of the volcanic plain.

Key Features

- Numerous expansive volcanic lakes
- Largely underdeveloped character
- The cones and craters of Red Rocks Reserve

Settlements

- Beeac
- Colac
- Cororooke



Lake Gnarpurt



The ever-present Mount Elephant looms over Lake Gnarpurt



The saline waters of Lake Corangamite

Figure 1 Large Shallow & Deep Crater Lakes Overview

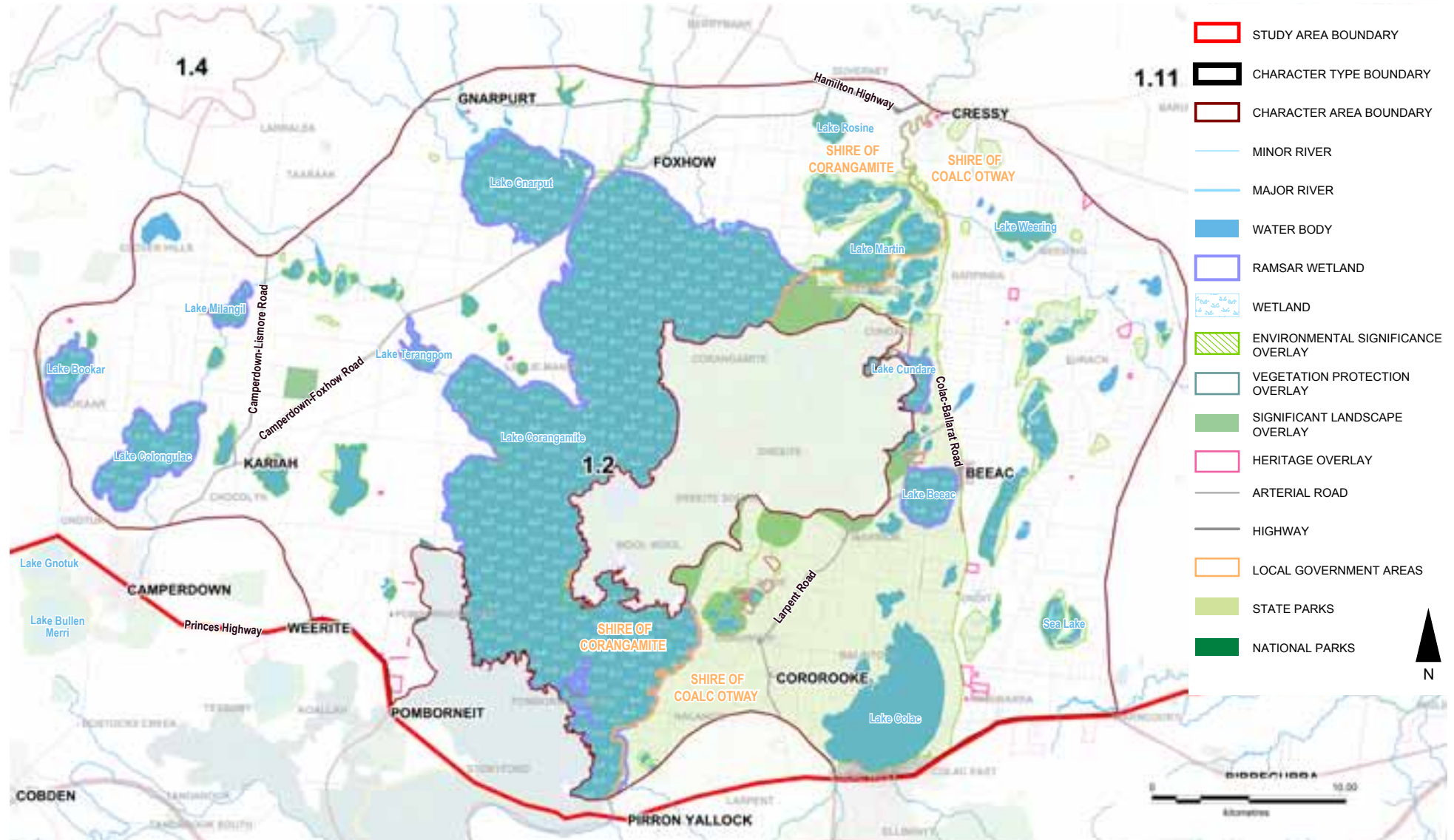


Figure 2 Large Shallow & Deep Crater Lakes Landform

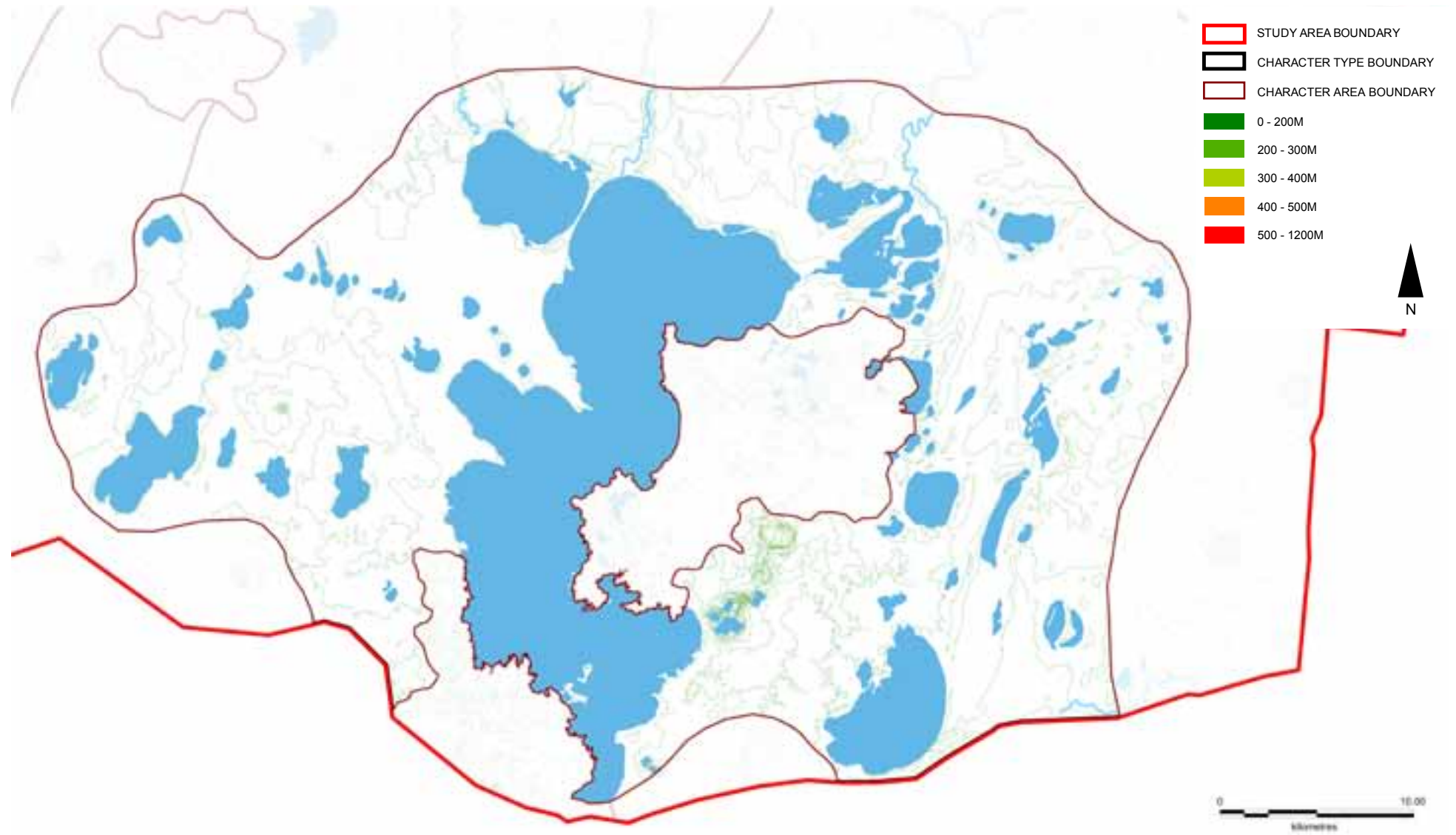


Figure 3 Large Shallow & Deep Crater Lakes Aerial



PATTERN OF VIEWING

This landscape is partially seasonal with the smaller lakes and marshy areas often becoming dry in the summer months or during years of drought. At these times the landscape displays open views over featureless grasslands and tussocked, grassy swampy depressions with volcanic features punctuating the horizon. While views across many of these lakes are available from the roadsides, to truly appreciate their scale they are best viewed from a height. Lookout points at Mount Leura and Red Rocks both provide excellent opportunities for this.

It is possible to view Lake Corangamite and Lake Gnarpurt from Foxhow Road, which cuts in between these waterbodies and offers expansive views over both, however there are no lookout points or pull in bays designed to appreciate the view.

The smaller lakes within this Character Area are sometimes not immediately apparent when viewing the landscape as they often lie within shallow craters below the level of the surrounding agricultural plains. The eye catches them shimmering in the middle-ground, reflecting the vast sky. Often lakes are in private tenure and can be screened by development and planting.

Views over the expanses of the larger lakes are available from high points on volcanic features, where public viewing is available.



A typical view of one of the many lakes within this character area. Lake Rosine, viewed from the Camperdown-Lismore Road, lies in a crater and is not immediately apparent within the field of view.



Roadside planting, shown above along the Pomorneit-Foxhow Road, often screens views towards the volcanic lakes



Lake Gnarpurt viewed from Foxhow Road



Red Rocks Lookout: Red Rocks volcanic reserve is situated around 10km north of Colac and provides splendid panoramic views over the lakes that define this character area. The vastness of Lake Corangamite can be appreciated from this elevation. The Paddocks and Cones Character Area 1.1 is visible on the horizon beyond the lake.



Mount Leura Lookout situated to the south of this Character Area provides views north over Lake Corangamite and the Paddocks and Cones Character Area in the distance. The flat agricultural volcanic plains and shelter belts can also be seen from this lookout point.

LANDSCAPE VALUES

Historic

- Nationally significant Lake Bullen Merri & Lake Gnotuk & state significant Lake Purrumbete, outside the Character Area, broad volcanic craters, listed by the National Trust
- Dry stone walls, protected by Corangamite HO
- Red Rocks Reserve, protected by Colac Otway HO3

Environmental/Scientific

- Valleys, hills or plains of geological significance & landscape character, protected by Colac Otway SLO1
- Volcanic landscapes & features, protected by Corangamite SLO1
- Internationally significant Western District Lakes listed as a Ramsar site
 - good example of natural / near-natural wetland, characteristic of the appropriate biogeographical region
 - regularly supports over 20,000 waterfowl
 - consists of Lakes Beeac, Bookar, Colongulac, Corangamite, Cundare, Gnarpur, Milangil & Terangpom
 - used for recreational purposes, fishing & duck hunting
- Warrion groundwater area, protected by Colac Otway ESO1
- Locally significant lakes, wetlands & watercourses, protected by Colac Otway ESO2 & Corangamite ESO1
- Protected areas on the IUCN list
 - Kooraweera Lakes, Lake Beeac, Lake Cundare, Lake Rosine, Lake Terangpom, Lake Thurrumbon, Milangil Lake & Round Lake Wildlife Reserves, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve)
 - Lake Bookar & Lake Struan Wildlife Reserves, Category VI (protected area with sustainable use of natural resources)
- Locally significant sites of biodiversity, protected by Colac Otway ESO4 & Corangamite ESO2

Social

- Colac Water reclamation plant, protected by Colac Otway ESO6, provides effective treatment of the wastewater generated by Colac

LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

This Character Area is subject to the Colac Otway and Corangamite Planning Schemes.

Key Zones

- FZ
- PCRZ
- RAZ (Colac Otway only)
- PUZ

Key Overlays

- Colac Otway SLO1: Valleys, Hills & Plains Landscape Precinct
- Corangamite SLO1: Volcanic Landscape Area
- Colac Otway ESO1: Warrion Groundwater Area
- Colac Otway ESO2: Lakes, Wetlands & Watercourses
- Colac Otway ESO4: Habitat Protection
- Colac Otway ESO6: Colac Water Reclamation Plant Buffer
- Corangamite ESO1: Watercourses, Water Body & Wetland Protection Overlay
- Corangamite ESO2: Habitat Protection Overlay
- Colac Otway HO including:
 - HO3: Red Rocks Reserve Alvie
 - HO51, HO176, HO189, HO190, HO191, HO202, HO203, HO204, HO205, HO219, HO238, HO239 & HO310: Residential Buildings (including Homesteads)
- Corangamite HO including:
 - HO34-39: Dry stone walls
 - HO26, HO61, HO71 & HO75: Homesteads
 - HO2: Aircraft Remains, Lake Corangamite
 - HO135: World War Two Practice Range, Lake Corangamite
- Colac Otway VPO2: Roadside Vegetation
- Corangamite VPO1: Significant & Remnant Vegetation
- Corangamite VPO2: Roadside Vegetation Protection Area
- WMO / BMO
- Colac Otway FO & LSIO

