

Character Area 1.10

Partially Wooded Agricultural

1.10 PARTIALLY WOODED AGRICULTURAL

This Character Area sits adjacent to the Vegetated Rises Character Type and acts as an interface between the rolling wooded hills and flat, heavily cleared Western Volcanic Plain.

It features an undulating volcanic topography which is blanketed by a patchwork of cropping, cleared pastoral land and plantations. The thickly vegetated volcanic rises of Mount Napier and Mount Eccles are prominent features of this landscape.

Key Features

- Undulating topography
- Plantations
- Some cropping
- Mount Napier State Park
- Mount Eccles National Park

Settlements

- Hamilton
- Macarthur
- Bransholme



Cleared undulating paddocks with nestled built form against a wooded backdrop



The densely vegetated Mount Napier features prominently in this landscape

Figure 1 Partially Wooded Agricultural Overview

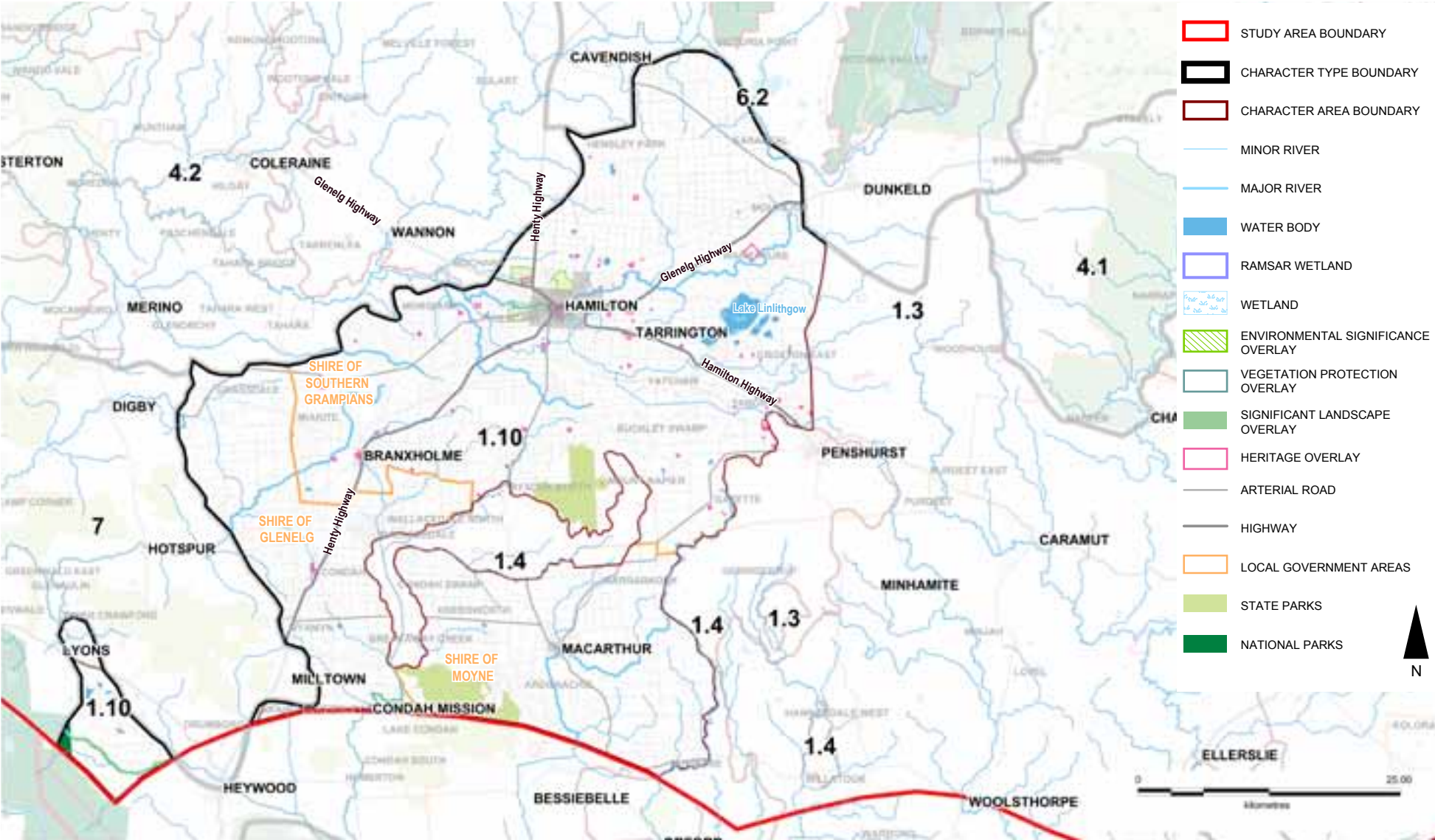


Figure 2 Partially Wooded Agricultural Landform

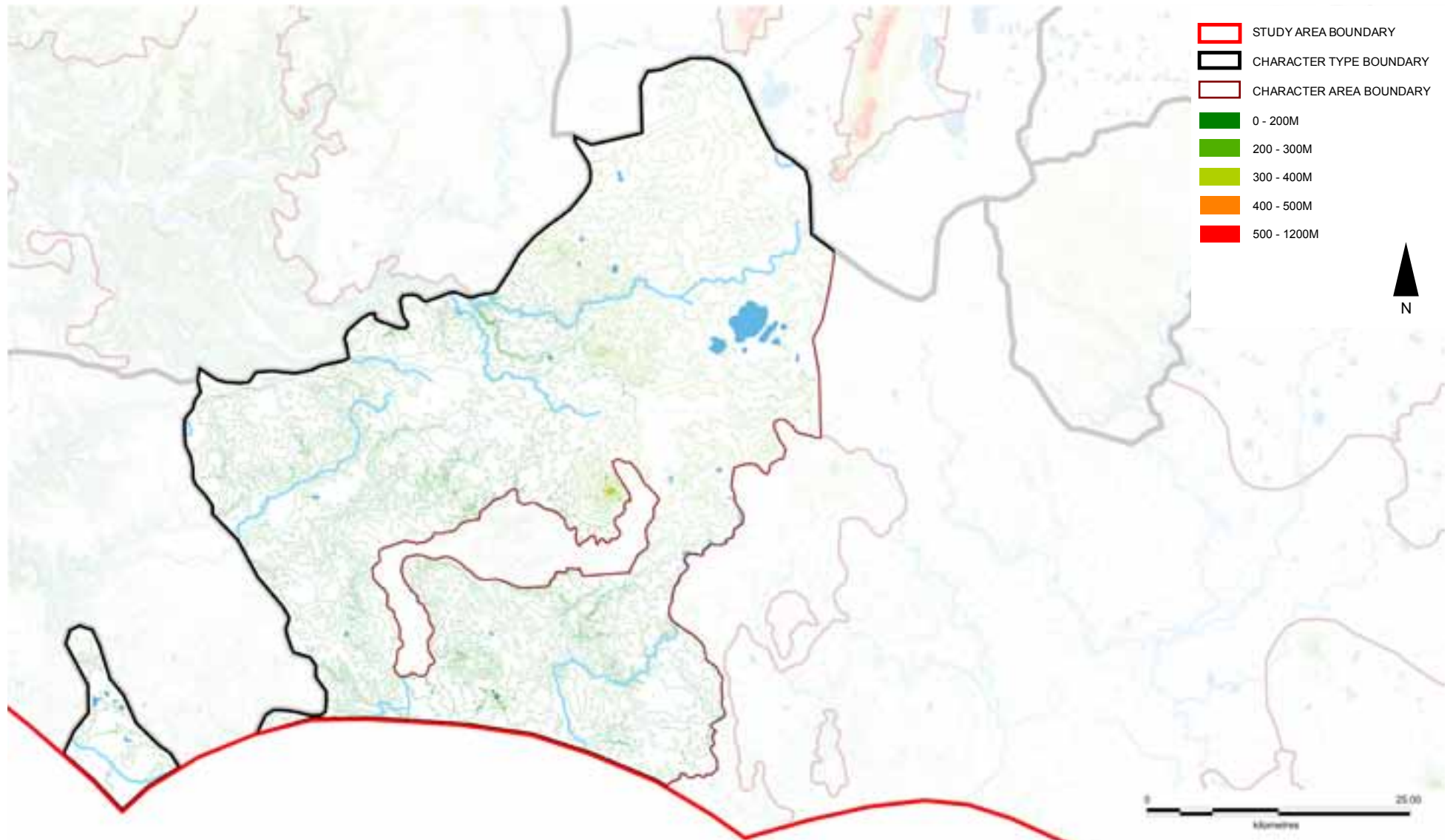
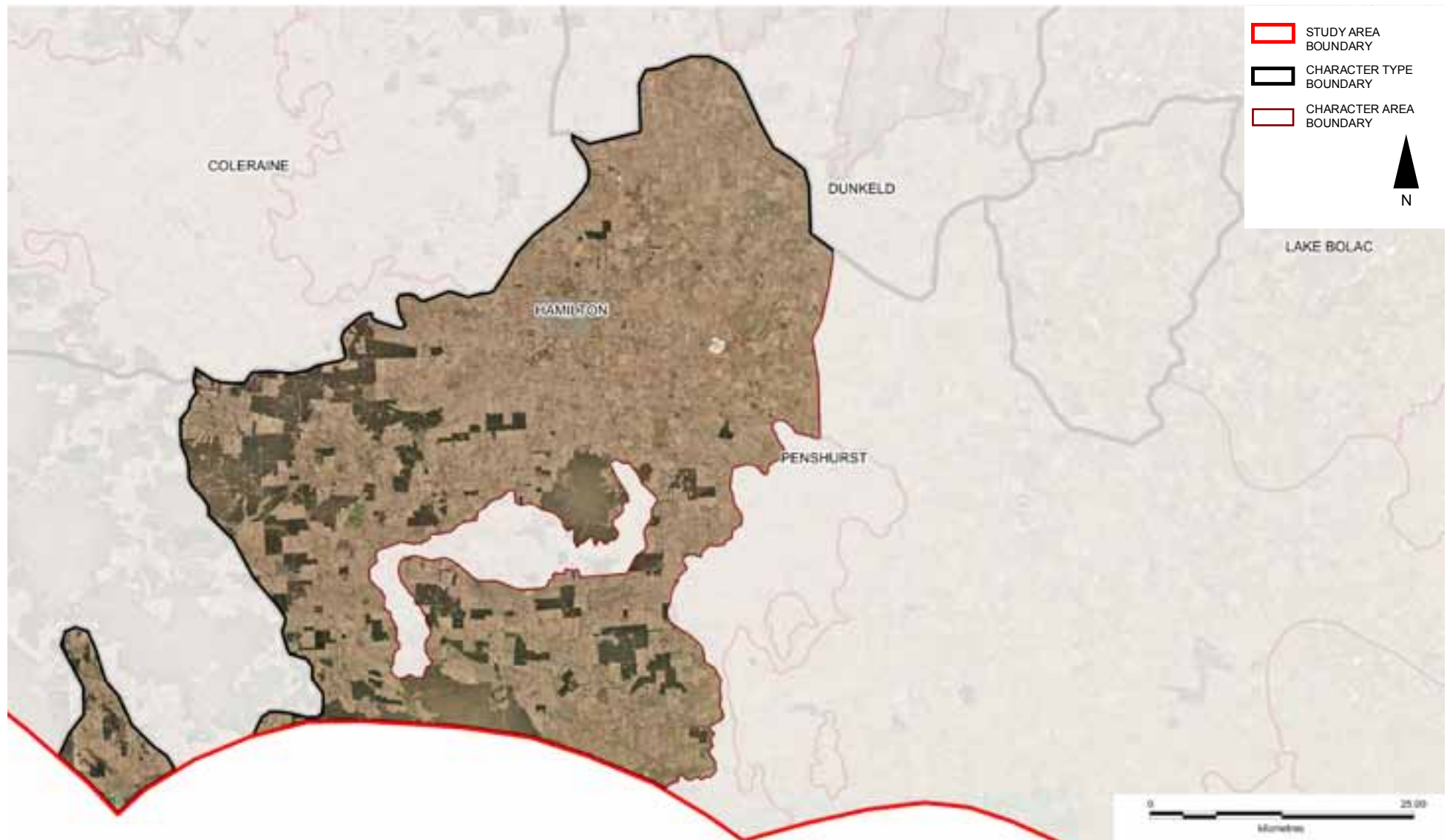


Figure 3 Partially Wooded Agricultural Aerial



PATTERN OF VIEWING

Views across this Character Area are generally medium to long range, most often terminating in wooded backdrops. Plantations occasionally screen views and create a tunnelled perspective that then opens up to reveal sweeping views as the plantation is passed.

The main viewing corridors are:

- The Henty Highway
- The Port Fairy - Hamilton Road
- Mount Napier Road

Within the National and State Park views are narrow, contained by thick vegetation.

This Character Area can be viewed in full from the summit of Mount Napier which offers panoramic views as far north as the Grampians and south towards the coastline.



View from Mount Eccles: Looking east from the approach to Mount Eccles, windfarms to the west of Hawkesdale are visible on the horizon



Views east towards Mount Napier from the Henty Highway near Condah



Mount Napier Viewpoint: Panoramic views over the Character Area and adjacent Areas and Types are available from the top of Mount Napier which can only be reached by foot.



Plantations create narrow viewing corridors



The dense vegetation within Mount Napier State Park and Mount Eccles National Park creates narrow views

LANDSCAPE VALUES

Historic

- Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape - Mount Eccles Lake Condah Area listed on the National Heritage List as a Heritage Landscape
 - one of earliest and largest aquacultural systems, with remains of eel and fish traps, weirs & channels
 - Gunditjmara (sometimes referred to as *Gunditj Mara*) used the area as a base for launching attacks on European settlers during frontier conflicts
 - Gunditjmara witnessed Budj Bim's (Mount Eccles') eruption more than 30,000 years ago, which they recognise as an ancestral creation-being that revealed himself in the landscape
 - rare example at Lake Condah mission where the Commonwealth used its constitutional powers to provide benefits for a specific community
 - remains of circular stone huts clustered into villages where the Gunditjmara settled
 - Mount Eccles National Park is named after the roughly conical shaped peak, Mount Eccles, which is a major feature of the park
- Lake Condah, on file with the National Trust
- Mount Napier & Harmans Valley, indicative place on Register of the National Estate because of its unique volcanics & Byaduk caves where bent wing bats live
- Other evidence of Aboriginal use at Kinghorn site with stone houses, Wallacedale

Environmental/Scientific

- Mount Eccles National Park
 - protected area on the IUCN list, Category II (National Park)
 - protected by National Parks Act 1975, Schedule 2
- Lake Condah
 - zoned Special Use to protect & conserve natural environment & natural processes for their historic & indigenous cultural values & the scientific, landscape & habitat values
 - nationally important wetland
- Volcanic crater & lava landscapes in Mount Eccles National Park
- Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Mainland), endangered on EPBC Act list, found around Hamilton, habitats protected by Southern Grampians ESO1
- Cobboboonee National Park
 - protected area on the IUCN list Category II (National Park)
 - protected by National Parks Act 1975, Schedule 2
- Mount Napier National Park
 - protected area on the IUCN list, Category II (National Park)
 - protected by National Parks Act 1975, Schedule 2B
- Protected areas on the IUCN list
 - Krause Swamp Wildlife Reserve, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve)
 - Greenhills Bushland Reserve, Category IV (Habitat/Species Management Area)
 - Lake Kennedy & Tabor (Buckleys) Swamp Wildlife Reserves (Hunting), Category VI (Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources)
- Nationally significant Lake Linlithgow Wetlands
- Locally significant wetlands & waterways, protected by ESO2
- Glenelg Ark, DSE project protecting native fauna, particularly Long-nosed Potoroos & Southern Brown Bandicoots, from fox predation on public land

LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

This Character Area is subject to the Glenelg, Moyne and Southern Grampians Planning Schemes.

Key Zones

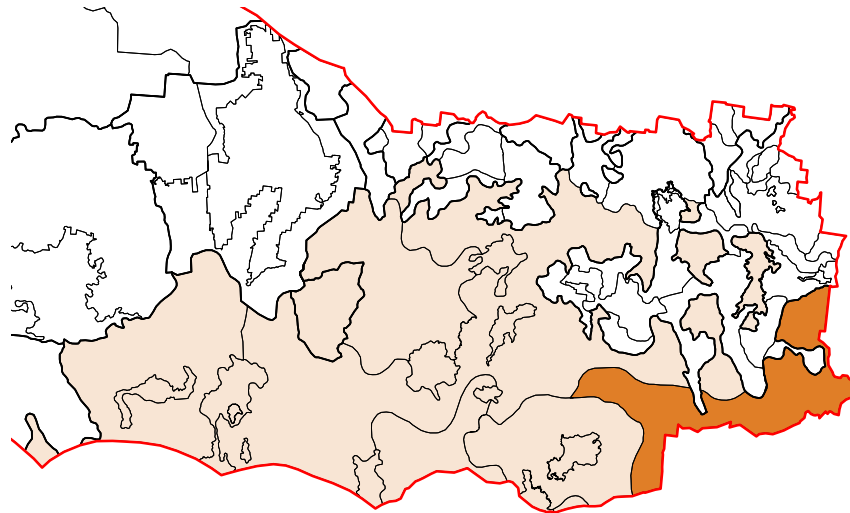
- FZ
- PCRZ
- RLZ at Macarthur
- PPRZ (Southern Grampians only)
- Glenelg SUZ6 & Moyne SUZ2: Lake Condah

Key Overlays

- Glenelg ESO2: Significant Wetlands & Waterways
- Southern Grampians ESO1: Eastern Barred Bandicoot Area
- Southern Grampians HO
- Southern Grampians DPO5: Hamilton Racecourse Related Industries Development Area
- Glenelg & Moyne WMO / BMO
- Southern Grampians LSIO
- Southern Grampians AEO

Proposed Overlays

- Glenelg HO



Character Area 1.11

Winchelsea & Geelong Western Plains

1.11 WINCHELSEA & GEELONG WESTERN PLAINS

Character Area 1.11 is characterised by generally flat topography with occasional low, volcanic rises and stoney rises. The large, open paddocks are sometimes divided by shelter belts and low, transparent post and wire style fencing, which is occasionally supported by dry stone walls. Closer to Geelong, the southern ends of the gorges that incise the northern landscape create a number of deep drops in the topography.

Stands of remnant vegetation are located throughout the Area, often adjacent to the road corridors and in proximity to waterways. Shelterbelt planting along property frontages and paddock edges is common on the windswept plains. Farm houses and outbuildings are scattered throughout, with a smaller subdivision pattern occurring on the perimeter of the townships. Rocks are often grouped into piles in paddocks in an attempt to clear the land and make it more arable for farming.

Power infrastructure becomes a prominent feature on the landscape near Geelong.

Key Features

- A sense of vastness and openness
- Long distance views to a low horizon
- Shelter belts as a feature between large paddocks
- Indigenous vegetation emphasising landscape features
- The character of farming structures

Settlements

- Inverleigh
- Teesdale
- Bannockburn
- Batesford
- Lara



Infrastructure makes a visible impact on this open expansive landscape



Flat cleared landscape, 'big skies', long range views, rock piles and dry stone walls

Figure 1 Winchelsea & Geelong Western Plains Overview

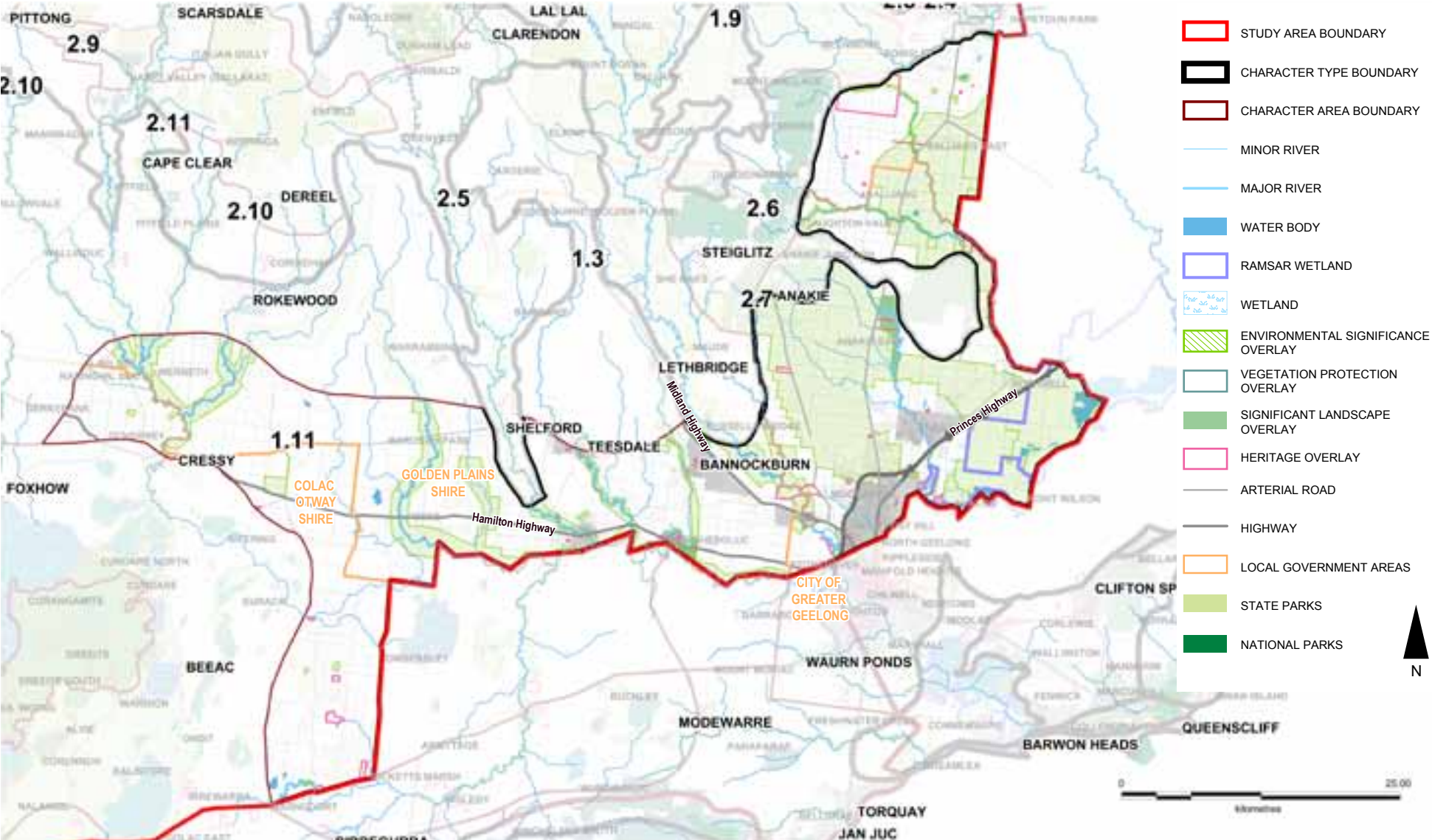


Figure 2 Winchelsea & Geelong Western Plains Landform

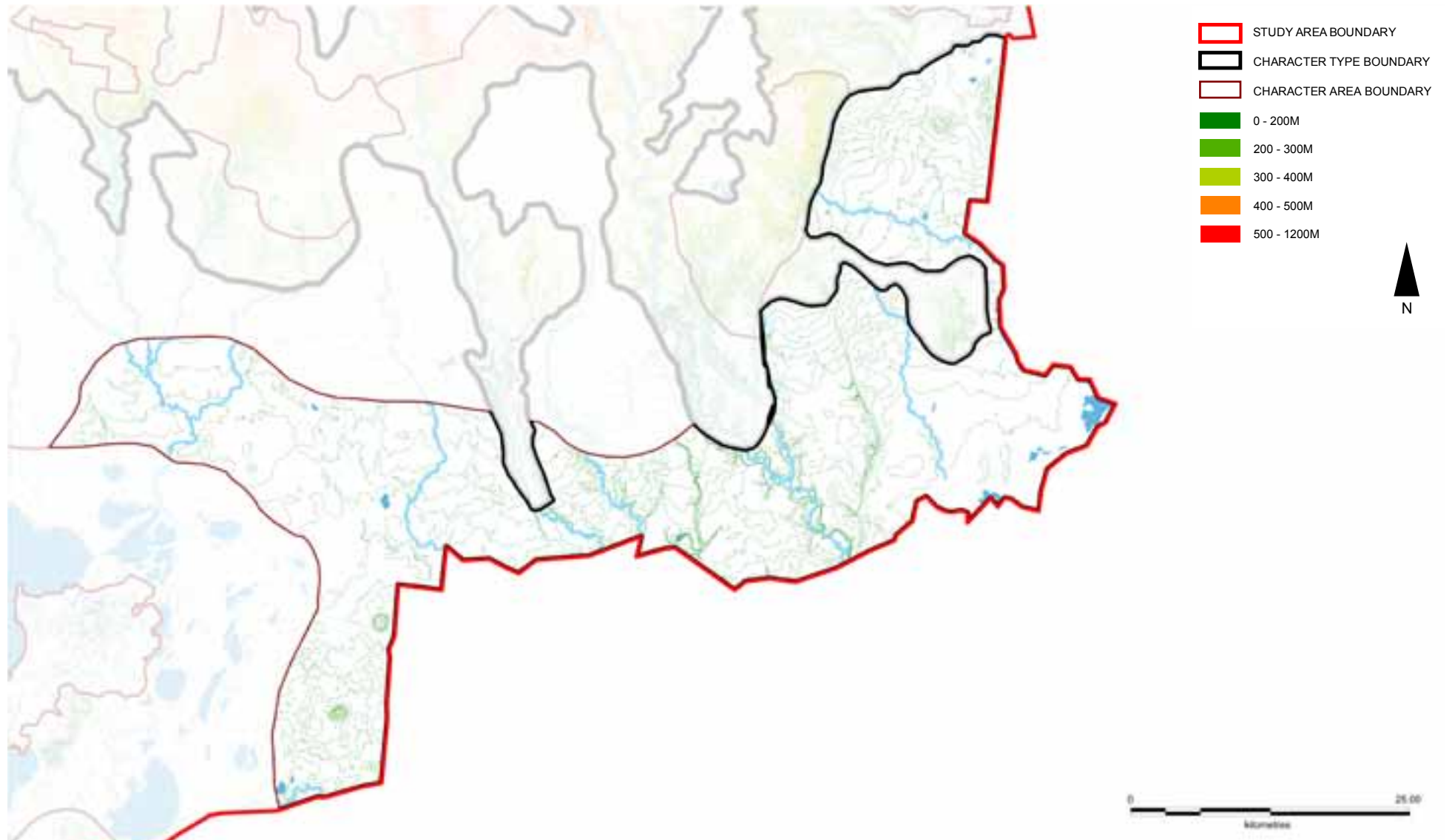
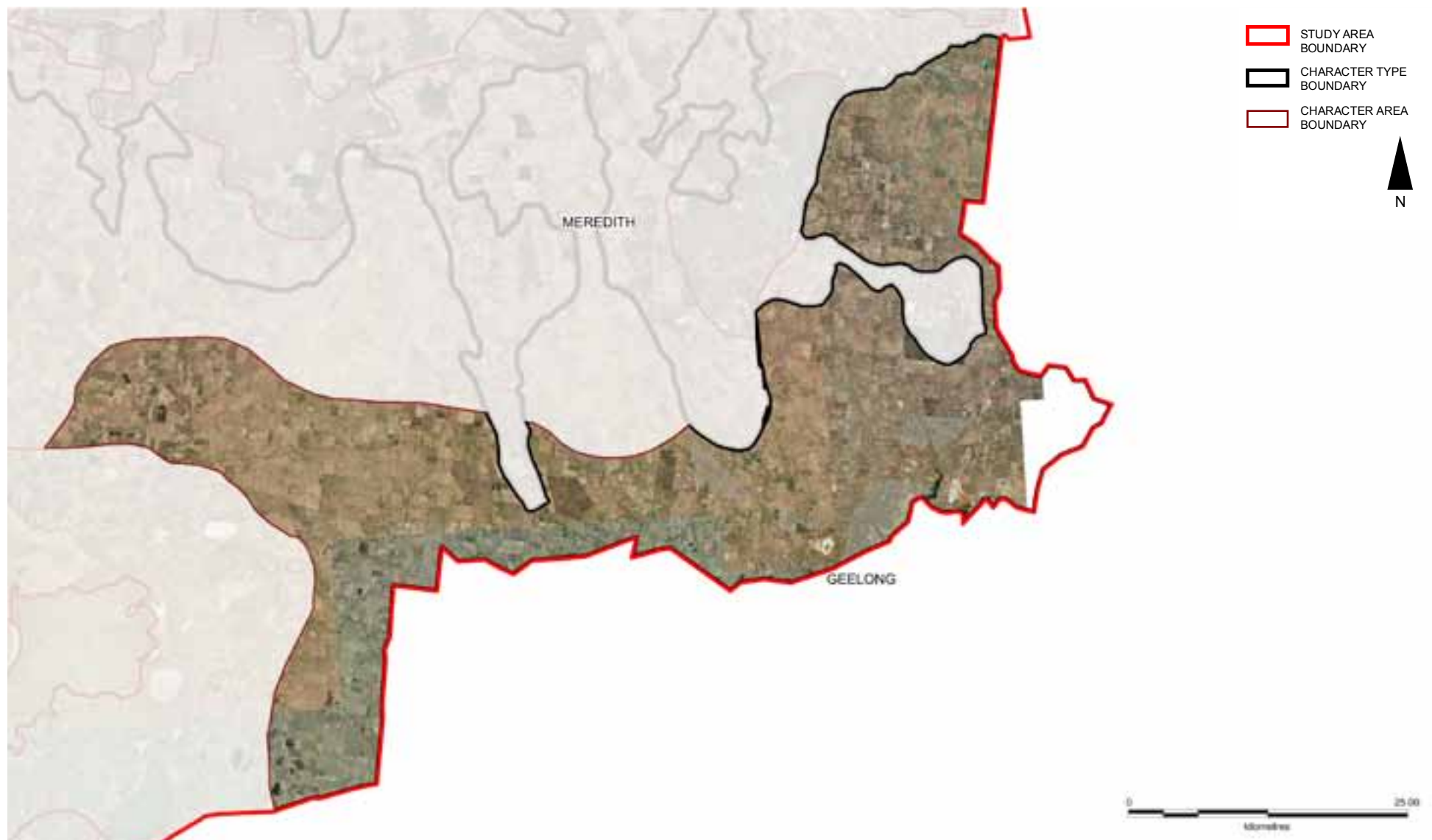


Figure 3 Winchelsea & Geelong Western Plains Aerial



PATTERN OF VIEWING

The main viewing corridors in this Character Area are:

- The Hamilton Highway
- The Shelford-Bannockburn Road

Views across cleared paddocks to the low horizon are open and long ranging. Stands of vegetation are occasionally visible against the horizon. The area west of Geelong has a more diverse topography as the deeply incised inland gorges peter out across the Volcanic Plain.

In some locations roadside vegetation filters views.

While located just outside the area of this study, Mount Moriac and the surrounding Barrabool Hills are a distinctive landscape feature visible on the horizon south of the Hamilton Highway. The flat, cleared landscape allows direct and open views to this rolling topography that provides a contrast to the surrounding flat plains.



Long ranging mostly featureless views from the Shelford - Bannockburn Road



Views south from the Hamilton Highway towards Barrabool Hills over the flat agricultural plains



Roadside vegetation intermittently screens views



Occasional stony rises create texture and variation in the landscape



LANDSCAPE VALUES

Historic

- Point Wilson Defence Natural Area, listed on the National Heritage List
 - productive & diverse wetland & saltmarsh habitat supporting many shorebirds
 - important part of the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) & Bellarine Peninsula wetland
- Regionally significant Barrabool Hills, adjacent to the Character Area, a highly scenic landscape with a distinctive upland ridge, listed by the National Trust

Environmental/Scientific

- Hilltops & ridge lines encircling the township of Bacchus Marsh, protected by Moorabool SLO1
- Western Grasslands Reserves which contain the largest consolidated area of Natural Temperate Grassland remaining on the Victorian Volcanic Plain, & provide potential habitat for a range of threatened species on the EPBC Act list
 - Supported species: Golden Sun Moth (critically endangered), Striped Legless lizard (vulnerable), Spiny Rice-flower (critically endangered), Large-headed Fireweed (vulnerable), Clover Glycine (vulnerable)
 - Potential habitat for: Plains Wanderer (vulnerable), other specialist grassland species e.g. Button Wrinklewort (endangered), Grassland Earless-dragon (endangered)
- Grassland within the Werribee Plains Hinterland in the Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregion, native vegetation in this bioregion is one of the most depleted in the State including some threatened species on the EPBC list mentioned above and the Sunshine Duiris (endangered), Orange-bellied Parrot (critically endangered), Striped Legless Lizard (vulnerable), Swift Parrot (endangered)
- Internationally significant Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) & Bellarine Peninsula wetland, a Ramsar site
 - important habitat for migratory birds, waterfowl and endangered species (including
 - habitat for species listed under international agreement for the conservation of plants or animals
 - used intensively for recreation
- Nationally significant Werribee-Avalon Area wetlands (mostly the Ramsar site)
- Protected areas on the IUCN list
 - Inverleigh Flora Reserve, Limeburners Lagoon (Hovells Creek) Flora & Fauna Reserve & The Spit Wildlife Reserve, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve)
 - Bannockburn Bushland Reserve, Category IV (Habitat/Species Management Area)

LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

This Character Area is subject to the Colac Otway, Corangamite, Golden Plains and Greater Geelong Planning Schemes.

Key Zones

- FZ
- PCRZ (except Corangamite)
- RLZ at Geelong & Lara
- RCZ (Greater Geelong only)
- RAZ2 (Golden Plains only)
- SUZ (Greater Geelong only) including:
 - SUZ1 Environmental Wetlands, Salt Production & Land-based Aquaculture Activities
 - SU7 Earth & Energy Resources Industry

Key Overlays

SLO

- Golden Plains SLO2: Russell's Bridge
- Golden Plains SLO3: Murgheboluc Landscape
- Greater Geelong SLO1: Foothills of the You Yangs
- Moorabool SLO1: Scenic Hilltops & Ridge Line Areas

ESO

- Colac Otway ESO2: Lakes, Wetlands & Watercourses
- Colac Otway ESO4: Habitat Protection
- Corangamite ESO2: Habitat Protection Overlay
- Golden Plains ESO3: Mount Misery Creek, Surface Hill – Smythesdale, Klein & Swanston Road Area, Dereel, Swamp Road – Dereel, Yarrowee Creek, Teesdale Reserve, Moorabool Valley, Sutherland Creek, Meredith, Steiglitz

- Greater Geelong ESO1: Areas of Flora & Fauna Habitat & of Geological & Natural Interest
- Greater Geelong ESO2: High Value Wetlands & Associated Habitat Protection
- Greater Geelong ESO3 & Moorabool ESO6: Western Grassland Reserves
- Greater Geelong ESO4 & Moorabool ESO7: Grassland within the Werribee Plains Hinterland
- Moorabool ESO2: Waterway Protection
- Moorabool ESO4: Wetland Areas
- Moorabool ESO6: Western Grassland Reserves
- Moorabool ESO7: Grasslands within the Werribee Plains Hinterland

HO

- Colac Otway HO95, HO96, HO216, HO217, HO218, HO239
- Golden Plains HO5
- Moorabool HO1, HO128, HO130, HO132

VPO

- Colac Otway VPO2: Roadside Vegetation
- Greater Geelong VPO1: Significant Roadsides & Linear Reserves

FO / LSIO

- Greater Geelong FO & LSIO
- Colac Otway LSIO

Other overlays

- Moorabool DDO2: Visual Amenity & Building Design
- Golden Plains SMO
- Moorabool PAO5: Western Grassland Reserves

