

2.1 LERDERDERG GORGE & STATE PARK

Significant Landscape

Character Type 2 The Uplands

Character Areas 2.1 Forested Hill

Lerderderg Gorge and State Park lie to the north of Bacchus Marsh. The Gorge has been created over thousands of years by the Lerderderg River, which rises on the Great Dividing Range and runs centrally through the park. This significance area also covers the Pyrete Range block of the State Park.

Significant viewing locations within this landscape include:

- Mount Blackwood (State Significance, refer to paper)

Major viewing corridors:

- Greendale - Trentham Road
- Mount Blackwood Road
- Bacchus Marsh - Gisborne Road

Overall Significance Rating: State

A detailed significance assessment is provided over the following pages.



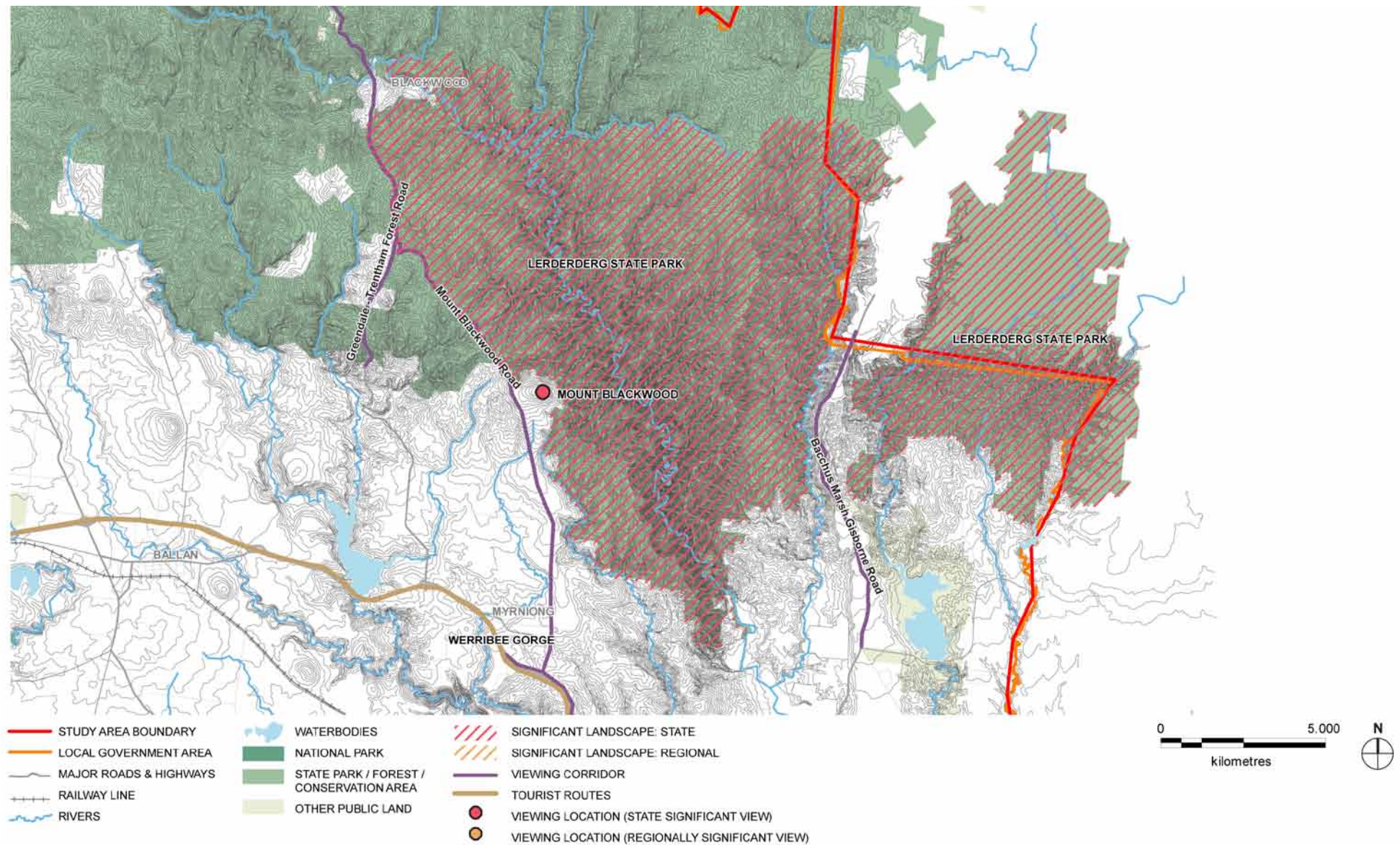
View over the Lerderderg State Park from Mount Blackwood



Lerderderg Gorge



Landscape Significance Map



Aesthetic Values

AESTHETIC VALUES				
	Source	Description	Aesthetic Values Rating Considerations (i.e. exemplary, iconic, scarce)	Level of Significance
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Survey	<p>A landscape of forested hills through which the Lerderderg River has cut through sandstone and slate to create a deep gorge with walls rising to 400m and exposed rocky cliffs. This gorge stretches south to the flat volcanic plains near Bacchus Marsh. The Lerderderg River weaves through this landscape past rocky boulders and sandy beaches.</p> <p>Within the park the folding, hilly topography surrounding the Lerderderg Gorge is blanketed in thick vegetation with some exposed rocky outcrops. The landscape is wild and rugged, most of it accessible only by foot.</p> <p>The Goodmans Creek Valley runs along the eastern edge of the State Park, dividing the park from the surrounding agricultural and rural residential land, and the cleared Pentland Hills skirt the southern edge.</p>	This landscape is iconic as a wild and rugged place within the context of the broader regional landscape, in close proximity to Melbourne.	Exceptional (State)
EDGES OR CONTRASTS	Survey	<p>The edges of the State Park to the north are undefined, merging with the surrounding Wombat State Forest to become part of a wider forested landscape. The eastern edge of the park is by the cleared landscape of the Goodmans Creek Valley, and to the south it is edged by the outskirts of Bacchus Marsh and the cleared hills and valleys of Pentland Hills.</p> <p>The edges of the Lerderderg Gorge are clearly defined through changes in topography and the dramatic shift in colour and texture. Dark green, heavily vegetated areas give way to steep sided rocky cliffs which plummet towards the valley floor.</p>	The distinctive rock formations and contrast in vegetation patterns of the gorge is iconic and scarce within the local context.	High (Regional)
COMPOSITION	Survey	<p>Within the Park, views of the landscape are mainly constrained by vegetation, creating a visual tunnel of tall trees framing roads and pathways.</p> <p>The hills and ridges of the Lerderderg State Park are visible on the horizon from many areas in the east, including the outskirts of Melbourne's urban area. It provides a framing backdrop for the town of Bacchus Marsh.</p> <p>The Bacchus Marsh - Gisbourne Road runs along the ridgeline that comprises the eastern edge of the Goodmans Creek Valley. The steep sides of the valley drop down and then rise to the folding hills of the Lerderderg State Park beyond, creating a highly scenic viewing opportunity. From Mount Blackwood, panoramic views over the Lerderderg State Park and Wombat State Forest are available. The foreground is composed of a sweeping panorama of folding dark green hills, blanketed in vegetation. These hills can be seen to disappear in the distance as Uplands give way to the flat volcanic plain.</p>	<p>The composition of views and landscape elements within the Park are iconic in the context of the immediate location.</p> <p>Panoramic views of the broader landscape from Mount Blackwood are exceptional.</p>	Exceptional (State)
OVERALL AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE RATING				State

Other Cultural Landscape Values

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
Desktop Research Parks Victoria National Trust	Aboriginal artefact scatters, earth mounds and scarred trees occur throughout the area and the Park includes registered Aboriginal archaeological sites. The Wurundjeri and Wathaurung tribes are likely to have visited this area to camp, hunt and fish.
Parks Victoria National Trust	European settlers used the land surrounding the Gorge for pastoral activity from the 1830s and the Park includes relics of early gold mining.
Land Conservation Council Park Victoria	The Lerderderg River is listed as a Heritage River under the Heritage Rivers Act 1992, and is listed as a Representative River due to geological features.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional - State

ENVIRONMENTAL / SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
IUCN	Lerderderg State Park is listed as a protected area, Category II (National Parks).
National Trust	The Park includes high geological significance (Ordovician rocks and overlying Permian glacial deposits and Tertiary basalt) and a wide variety and diversity of vegetation and fauna.
Parks Victoria IUCN	Geological features at Lerderderg State Park, including Lower Ordovician sediments are of State significance, and evidence of Permian glacial episodes are of national and international significance. Ah Kows Gully Reference Area, Ruths Gully Reference Area and Pyrete Range Reference Area are protected by the Reference Areas Act 1978 and listed in IUCN's List of Protected Areas, Category 1A (Strict Nature Conservation Reserves).

Moorabool Planning Scheme	The Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO2) is applied to the Lerderderg River and land 100m either side of the River to protect waterways that supply catchments for urban and rural development.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	State

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	This area is the traditional country of the Wurundjeri and Wathaurung and people to whom it holds social, cultural and spiritual significance. The waterbodies, distinctive natural features and places of ecological value within this area are likely to have high Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.
National Trust Parks Victoria	The Park is listed as State significant by the National Trust due to the high scenic value of its riverine and gorge landscape. The Park Notes describe a wide range of recreational activity including bushwalking, camping and 4WD.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional - State

2.2 WOMBAT STATE FOREST & HEPBURN REGIONAL PARK

Significant Landscape

Character Type	2	The Uplands
	3	The Goldfields
Character Areas	2.1	Forested Hills
	2.2	Residential Forest Edges
	2.3	Cleared Pastures
	3.2	Granitic Forests

The Wombat State Forest and Hepburn Regional Parks are rich with mineral springs and other water features that have been drawing tourists to the area since the 1800s. These have played a large role in supporting the economic development of the townships of Daylesford and Hepburn Springs.

Major viewing locations:

Scenic lookout points are often available over features such as streams and waterfalls within the forest.

Major viewing corridors:

- Greendale - Trentham Forest Road
- Mount Blackwood Road

Overall Significance Rating: Regional

A detailed significance assessment is provided over the following pages.

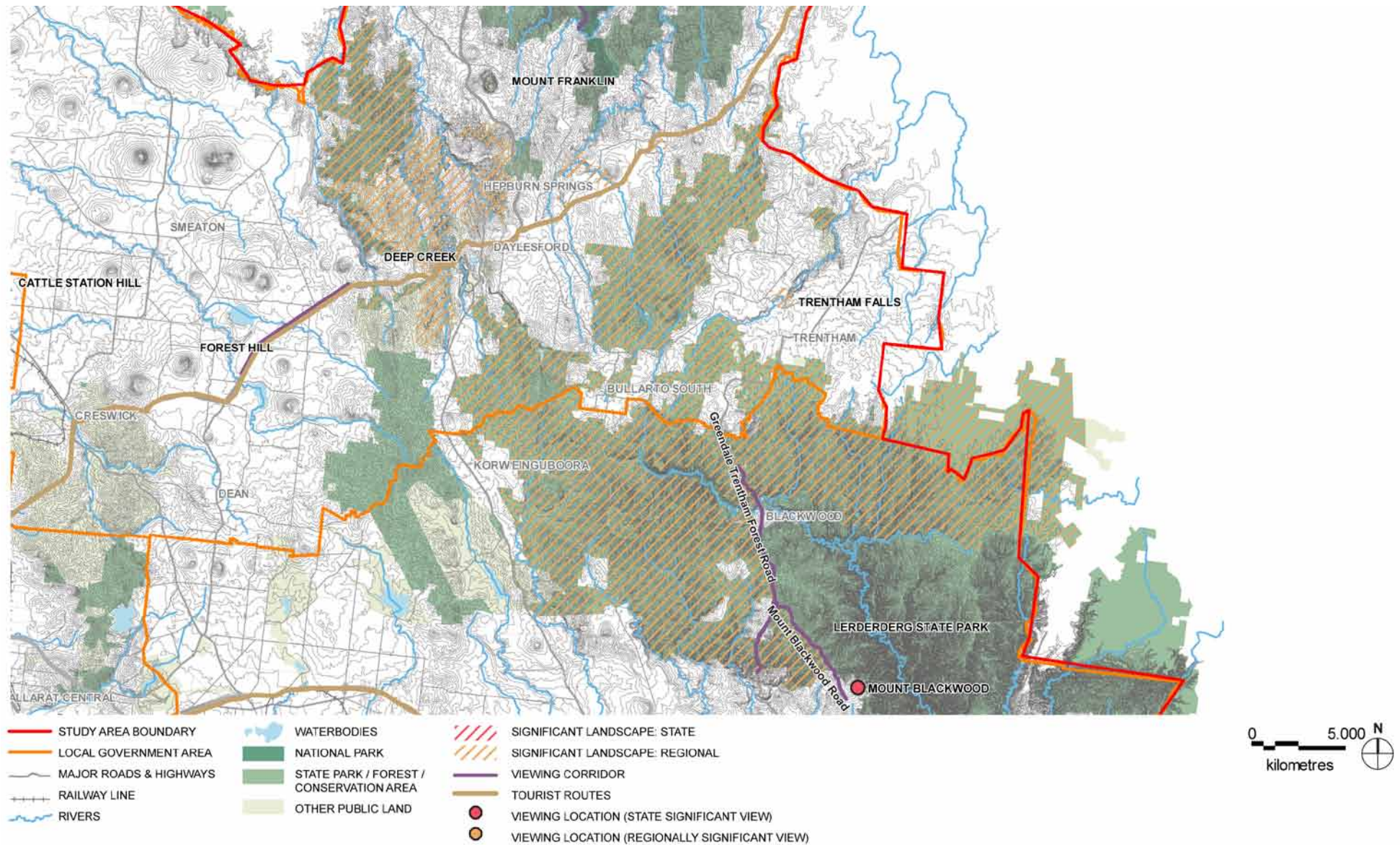


Deep Spring Reserve



Trentham Falls

Landscape Significance Map



Aesthetic Values

AESTHETIC VALUES				
	Source	Description	Aesthetic Values Rating Considerations (i.e. exemplary, iconic, scarce)	Level of Significance
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Survey	This landscape is defined by areas within the Wombat State Forest and Hepburn Regional Parks around the towns of Daylesford and Hepburn Springs. It contains a number of features including Trentham Falls, Deep Creek, Loddon Falls and numerous mineral springs.	The variety of features and sensory experiences create a scarce landscape in the regional context.	High (Regional)
EDGES OR CONTRASTS	Survey	<p>The Trentham Falls are the largest single drop falls in Victoria and create a dramatic contrast in texture and sound with the surrounding forest. Basalt columns and rushing water contrast with the vegetated bush setting to create a sensory experience.</p> <p>The smaller springs and falls also create a strong visual contrast within their forested context, with exposed bedrock, rushing water and defined edges.</p>	The strong contrast between falls and springs and surrounding forest are exemplary within the region.	High (Regional)
COMPOSITION	Survey	<p>A variety of interesting viewing opportunities are available throughout this landscape.</p> <p>The springs and falls are set within a forested backdrop and often feature dramatic rock formations and exposed bedrock which has been worn into sculptural shapes. Exposed quartz and granite features in worn river beds and pathways while damp moss and ferns give the vegetation a lush and earthy feel. Falls and springs can be viewed from above with a foreground of bushland and the rushing water featuring in the middle ground, or from below at close range, where the rushing water dominates the foreground with the bush setting creating the background to views.</p> <p>The falls and springs of this area feature in numerous artworks and photographs.</p>	The variety of viewing experiences are exemplary within the region.	High (Regional)
OVERALL AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE RATING				Regional

Other Cultural Landscape Values

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Source	Description
Desktop Research	Aboriginal artefact scatters, earth mounds and scarred trees occur throughout the area.
Desktop Research	Wombat State Forest was almost completely deforested during the gold rush era until a management plan was established in 1871.
Parks Victoria	The Hepburn Regional Park is rich with mineral springs and relics from the gold mining era.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

ENVIRONMENTAL / SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Source	Description
Hepburn Planning Scheme	The mineral springs and groundwater areas are protected under the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO2). Areas of significant roadside vegetation are protected by the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO1).
Moorabool Planning Scheme	The Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO2) is applied to the Lerderderg River and land 100m either side of the River to protect waterways that supply catchments for urban and rural development.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Source	Description
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	This area is the traditional country of the Dja Dja Wurrung and people to whom it holds social, cultural and spiritual significance. The waterbodies, distinctive natural features and places of ecological value within this area are likely to have high Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.
Desktop Research	The mineral springs and groundwater of the area are a significant natural, cultural and economic asset for the region, attracting thousands of visitors annually.
Desktop Research	An Australian first trial into co-operatively managed forest programs between the local community and government was initiated for the Wombat State Forest in 2002. The trial finished in 2006.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

OTHER SIGNIFICANCE

Source	Description
Tourist Information	The tourist visitation drawn by the natural features of the area contribute to the local and regional economy.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

2.3 WERRIBEE GORGE

Significant Landscape

Character Type	2	The Uplands
Character Areas	2.5	Plateaus and Gorges

Werribee Gorge is a 200m gorge along the Werribee River between Ballan and Bacchus Marsh. It is included within the Werribee Gorge State Park.

Major viewing corridors:

- Western Freeway
- Ironbark Road

Overall Significance Rating: State

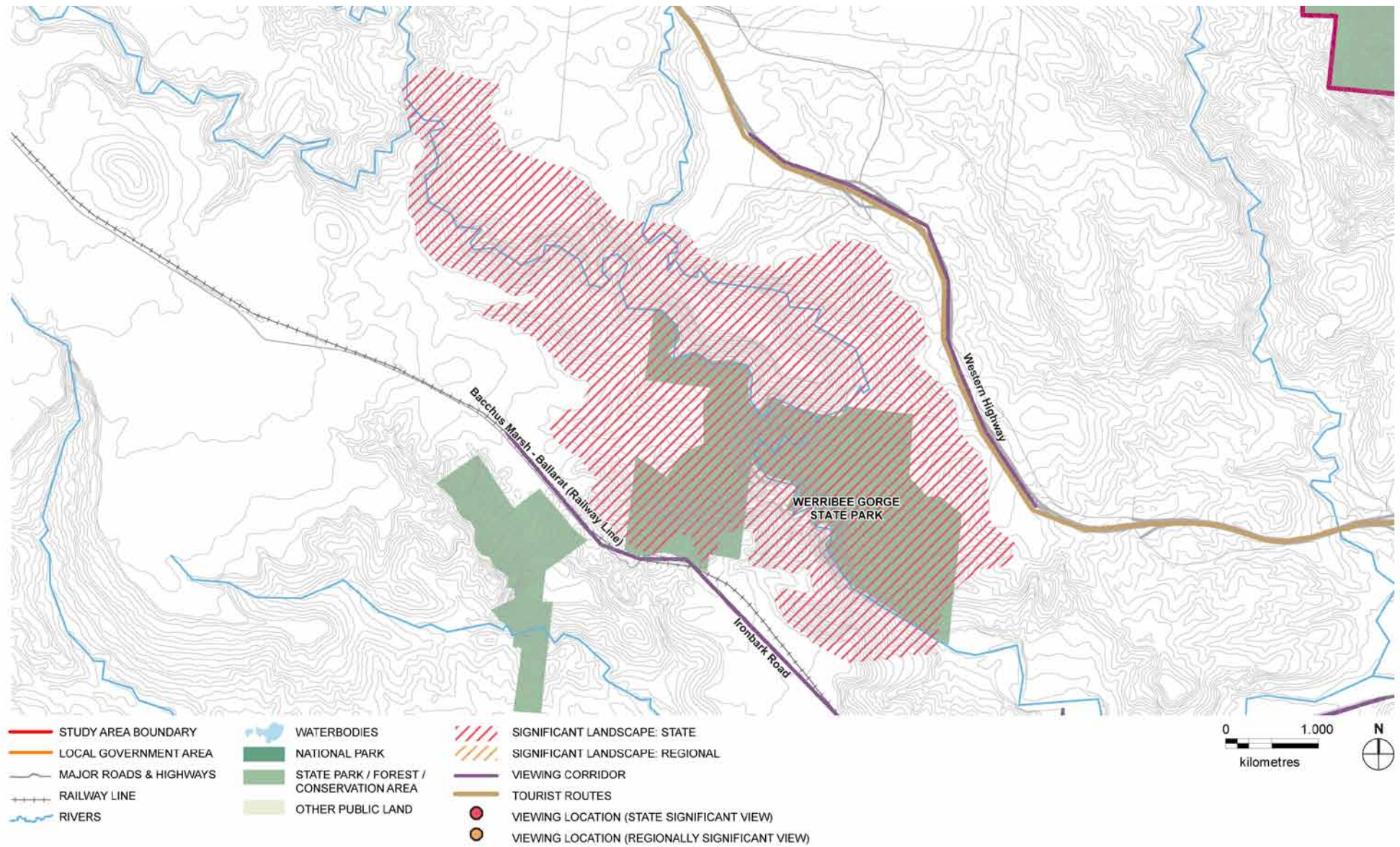
A detailed significance assessment is provided over the following pages.



The steep sided valley of the Werribee Gorge, as viewed from Ironbark Road



Landscape Significance Map



Aesthetic Values

AESTHETIC VALUES				
	Source	Description	Aesthetic Values Rating Considerations (i.e. exemplary, iconic, scarce)	Level of Significance
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Survey	The formation of the Werribee Gorge slices through the surrounding cleared plateau, to the west of Bacchus Marsh. The gorge retains a rugged aesthetic of exposed craggy rock faces, native bushland, the Werribee river and steep sided valley walls.	The Werribee Gorge is an exemplary landscape within a State context for its wealth of visual features.	Exceptional (State)
EDGES OR CONTRASTS	Survey	<p>Edges of this landscape are defined by topography and vegetation. Cleared plains give way suddenly to steep vegetated valley walls and exposed rock faces. Colours and textures deepen and become more exaggerated towards the base of the gorge.</p> <p>Red and orange exposed rock faces contrast with the light and dark green vegetation which clings to the rock in some locations. The Werribee River winds along the base of the gorge rushing between rocks and boulders and creating another layer of texture and colour within the landscape.</p>	Colour and textural contrasts along with strong edge definition create visually dynamic landscape intersections which are scarce and iconic within the State context.	Exceptional (State)
COMPOSITION	Survey	<p>Views across the gorge from the adjacent plateau are dramatic and expansive, sweeping and panoramic. The are generally composed of a foreground of flat to undulating agricultural plains with occasional scrub which give way to a middle ground of the cavernous, deep gorge, peppered with vegetation. In the far distance views terminate at the opposing flat plateau.</p> <p>Within the gorge views are contained by steep valley walls and vegetation.</p>	Views are expansive, often surprising, and contain a variety of contrasting elements that provide interest for the viewer. The composition of unique landscape features is exemplary within Victoria.	Exceptional (State)
OVERALL AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE RATING				State

Other Cultural Landscape Values

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
Parks Victoria Desktop Research	Aboriginal artefact scatters, earth mounds, scarred trees and grinding grooves occur throughout the area. The name Werribee (originally spelt 'Wearibi') is thought to derive from Wathaurung people meaning either 'swimming place' or 'backbone' - the latter which may refer to the Werribee River's meandering course.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	State

ENVIRONMENTAL / SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	
Parks Victoria	The geological significance of the Gorge has long been appreciated, with the area reserved in 1907 and named a State Park in 1975. The Park is a significant flora and fauna habitat and has remained in a relatively natural state.
National Trust Register of the National Estate	Werribee Gorge is listed as having State significance for its geological importance, educational value for the study of earth sciences and the native state of vegetation.
Moorabool Planning Scheme	Werribee Gorge is significant for its extensive outcrops of Permian sediments and exposed sub-glacial topography, and at almost 200m being one of deepest gorges in Victoria with unique long cliff-walled sectors. It is protected under the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO3).
IUCN	Werribee Gorge State Park is a protected area on the IUCN list Category III (Natural Monument or Feature) and protected by National Parks Act 1975, Schedule 2B.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	State

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Source
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	Werribee Gorge is the traditional country of the Wathaurung people to whom it holds social, cultural and spiritual significance. The waterbodies, distinctive natural features and places of ecological value within this area are likely to have high Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.
Desktop Research	Fred Williams, one of the most prominent landscape painters of the twentieth century, produced a series of paintings of Werribee Gorge.
Desktop Research Parks Victoria	The Werribee Gorge State Park offers a range of activities including nature appreciation, bush walking, picnicking, rock climbing and stunning photographic opportunities.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	State

2.5 PARWAN VALLEY

Significant Landscape

Character Type	2	The Uplands
Character Areas	2.5	Plateaus and Gorges

The Parwan Valley is a breathtaking landscape that extends west from the Rowsley Scarp near Bacchus Marsh.

Major viewing corridors:

- Ironbark Road
- Glenmore Road

Overall Significance Rating: State

A detailed significance assessment is provided over the following pages.



Views across the Parwan Valley from Glenmore Road



Steep drop down on Glenmore Road

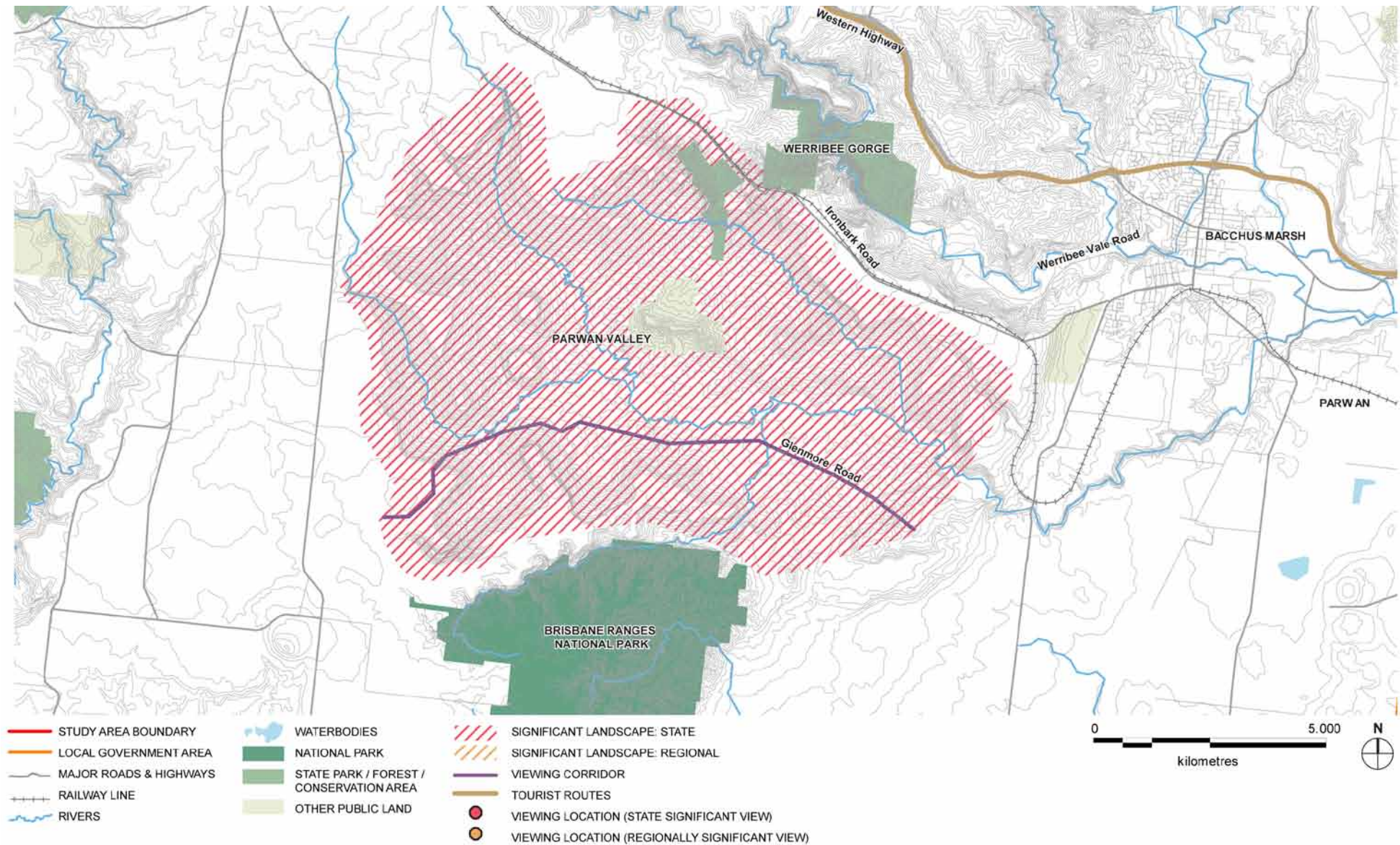


Looking up from within the valley



Fingers of plateau enroach into the deeply incised valley on the western edge

Landscape Significance Map



Aesthetic Values

AESTHETIC VALUES				
	Source	Description	Aesthetic Values Rating Considerations (i.e. exemplary, iconic, scarce)	Level of Significance
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Survey	<p>The Parwan Valley dissects the plateaus beyond the Rowsley Fault line, to the north of the Brisbane Ranges and to the southwest of Bacchus Marsh. It is a deeply incised valley with a basalt rock escarpment and edges that drops off sharply. The Parwan Creek meanders along the valley floor, fed by the Yaloak and Spring Creeks. "The Bluff" is a prominent volcanic ridge to the south of Glenmore Road, rising 150m from the valley floor.</p> <p>The Bluff ridge is bound by a basalt escarpment with extensive scree accumulations on the middle and lower slopes. The retreat of the basalt escarpment, and the loading of large basalt screes, has triggered numerous landslips/landslides on the western facing slopes</p>	The scale and breadth of the Parwan Valley makes it unique and scarce in the Victorian context. It is the most visually dramatic of the incised gorges and valleys that cut across the plateau region.	Exceptional (State)
EDGES OR CONTRASTS	Survey	<p>There is a sharp and dramatic contrast that occurs as the steep walls of the Parwan Valley drop away from the flat and relatively featureless plateau. Parts of the valley are heavily cloaked in vegetation, while others are completely devoid of vegetation which accentuates the formation of the hills and ridges contained within.</p> <p>Rising from within the valley are numerous smaller ridges and hills that give it a detailed texture. In many places, the valley walls are weathered away, revealing sculptural features and sharp, contrasting angles such as seen on The Bluff. Scarring from numerous landslips can also be seen on the slopes of this feature.</p>	The Parwan Valley is an exemplary expression of the gorges that cut across the plateaus to the west of the Rowsley Scarp.	Exceptional (State)
COMPOSITION	Survey	<p>The Parwan Valley is an expansive and exciting landscape best experienced up high from the edges of the windswept plateaus. From here breathtaking views sweep across the valley to the edge of the Rowsley Scarp, and down in dizzying drops to the valley floor 200 metres below.</p> <p>The Glenmore Road that winds down from the escarpment provides a series of views that alternate as the road twists and turns down to the floor. From within the valley, the steep walls tower up either side creating a strong sense of enclosure. On bare hill slopes, there is visible scarring from erosion, though this is intertwined with patchy vegetation including some plantations and natural regrowth.</p>	While there are numerous valleys and gorges across this region of Victoria, the sweeping views and broad panoramas available from the edges of the Parwan Valley are some of the most spectacular. This is an iconic landscape within a broader, State-wide context.	Exceptional (State)
OVERALL AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE RATING				State

Other Cultural Landscape Values

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

	Description
Desktop Research	Aboriginal artefact scatters, earth mounds and scarred trees occur throughout the area.
National Trust	The western edge of the Valley is notable for being one of the first pastoral areas to be settled outside Melbourne.
Victorian Heritage Register	Lady Northcote Recreation Camp, Glenmore, listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (HO54), was built in 1937 to provide a rural home for British child migrants.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

ENVIRONMENTAL / SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

	Description
National Trust	Spectacular geomorphological landforms within the Parwan Valley are of State significance. This includes the basalt-topped mesas (isolated flat hills) which are unique in Victoria and the central White Elephant Ridge.
National Trust Department of Primary Industries	The Parwan Valley contains some of the most severe sites of water erosion in Victoria due to the effects of ill-suited European farming practices. Since the 1940s, the area has been the focus of soil remediation efforts and research, as well as control of rabbit populations.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	State

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

	Description
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	The Parwan Valley is the traditional country of the Wathaurung people to whom it holds social, cultural and spiritual significance. The waterbodies, distinctive natural features and places of ecological value within this area are likely to have high Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.
National Trust Landcare	The area is regularly used for educational purposes due to its geology, geography and natural resource management. The remediation activity within the Parwan Valley has seen it become an important demonstration area for Landcare activity.
YMCA	Lady Northcote Camp continues to provide rural recreation opportunities for children.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

OTHER SIGNIFICANCE

Desktop Research	Agriculture within the Parwan Valley and the range of recreational and educational activities it offers are important contributors to the local economy.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Local

2.4 BACCHUS MARSH AGRICULTURAL VALLEY

Significant Landscape

Character Type	2	The Uplands
Character Areas	2.4	Fertile Valleys
	2.5	Plateaus & Gorges

The Bacchus Marsh Agricultural Valley encompasses parts of the landscape surrounding Bacchus Marsh, including the fertile valley floor of the eastern edge of the Werribee Gorge and the surrounding valley walls.

Major viewing corridors:

- Werribee Vale Rd
- McCormack Road
- The Avenue of Honour

Overall Significance Rating: Regional

A detailed significance assessment is provided over the following pages.



A patchwork of productive agriculture in the foreground

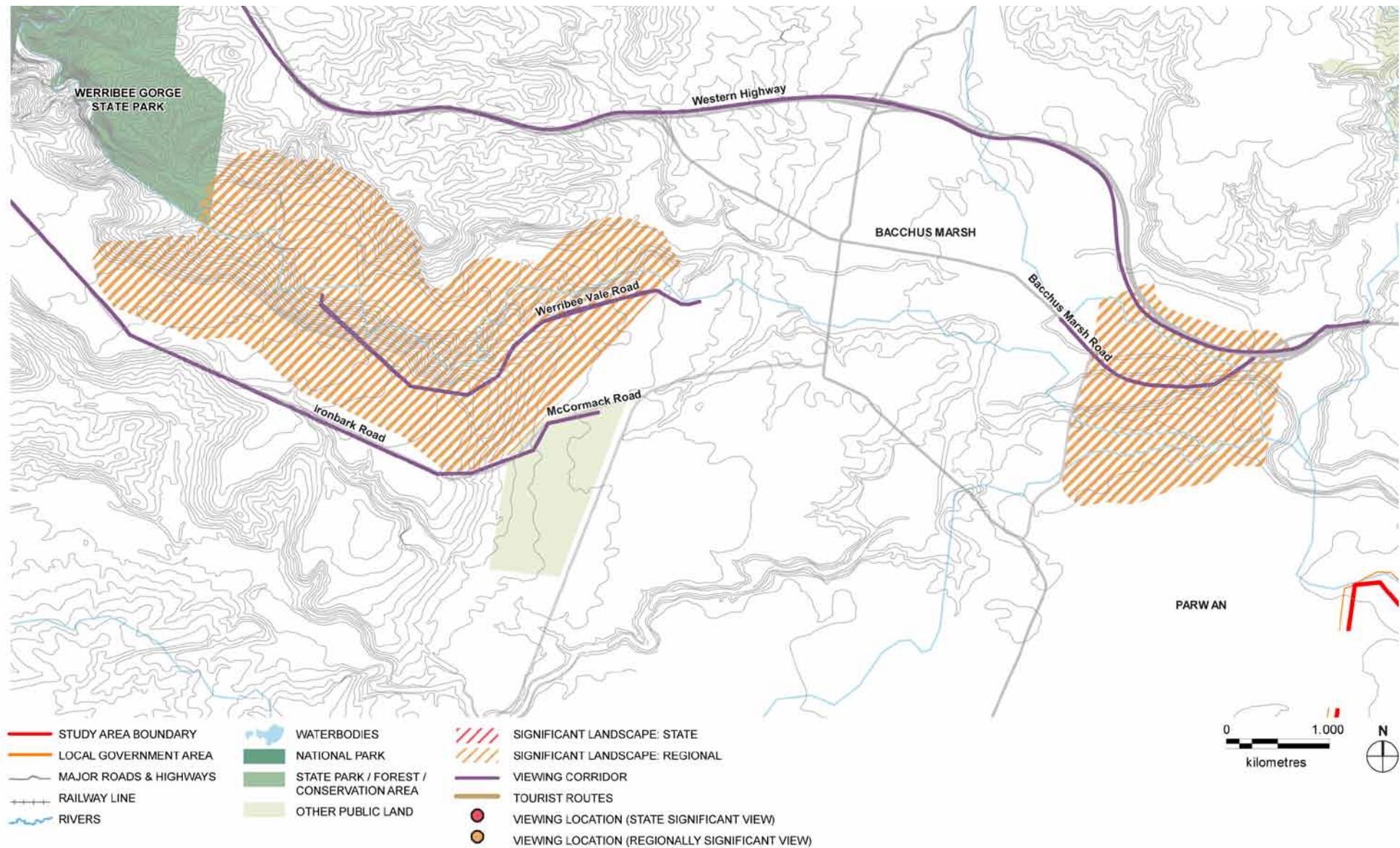


Hills rise abruptly from the valley floor, Werribee Vale Road



Agricultural patchwork on the valley floor as seen from McCormacks Road, Bacchus Marsh

Landscape Significance Map



Aesthetic Values

AESTHETIC VALUES				
	Source	Description	Aesthetic Values Rating Considerations (i.e. exemplary, iconic, scarce)	Level of Significance
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Survey	<p>This landscape comprises the lush and colourful market gardens on the valley floors near Bacchus Marsh, in parts that are edged by steep valley walls of the surrounding gorges.</p> <p>Views of it are filtered through the impressive Avenue of Honour that forms the main entrance to Bacchus Marsh from the Western Freeway, and along the Werribee Vale Road.</p>	The colourful market gardens and steep rises are an iconic landscape, connected to the identity of Bacchus Marsh.	Moderate (Local)
EDGES OR CONTRASTS	Survey	<p>The man made regularity of the market gardens form a patchwork of colour and texture across the valley floor. Occasional vertical agricultural elements enhance the repetitive and ordered visual appearance of this landscape.</p> <p>The valley walls have a more natural and organic character, in terms of their landform and vegetation, and create a defined edge and immediate visual contrast to the vibrant and regular patterns of the valley floor.</p> <p>Vegetation along the base of the valley walls adds another layer of colour and texture to the landscape.</p>	The contrast between the ordered market gardens which spread across the valley floor and the hills and ridges which contain them create a memorable viewing experience. This forms a distinctive and scarce landscape within the regional context.	High (Regional)
COMPOSITION	Survey	<p>A variety of viewing angles from major viewing corridors provide repeated visual experiences of this landscape.</p> <p>The ordered, productive landscape of the flat valley floor features in the foreground, with dark green textured vegetation in the middle ground and steep valley walls to either side that this landscape unique qualities.</p>	This landscape provides a composition with a strong foreground and defined mid- and background which contrast to create an interesting visual feature. It is an iconic landscape along the Western Freeway, within a local context.	Moderate (Local)
OVERALL AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE RATING				Regional

Other Cultural Landscape Values

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
Desktop Research	Aboriginal artefact scatters, earth mounds and scarred trees occur throughout the area. The Bacchus Marsh valley was an important meeting place for Aboriginal people before and after European settlement.
Desktop Research	The Bacchus Marsh valley is significant as a site of continued pastoral activity since European settlement in the 1830s.
Moorabool Planning Scheme	The Western Freeway, which is the main route through the valley, has strong associations with gold discovery as the highway route to Ballarat.
Moorabool Planning Scheme, Victorian Heritage Register	The Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour, along Bacchus Marsh Road, is an iconic entry point to the township and forms a distinctive edge to the agricultural valley. The exceptional significance of this avenue is recognised through its protection under the Heritage Overlay of the Moorabool Planning Scheme (HO47) and inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register (H2238).
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

ENVIRONMENTAL / SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Source	Description
Moorabool Planning Scheme	River Red Gums, the oldest living natural heritage of Bacchus Marsh, are a striking feature of the Bacchus Marsh Valley and valuable source of wildlife food and habitats. The trees are protected under the Environmental Significance Overlay of the Moorabool Planning Scheme (ESO8).
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Local

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	The Bacchus Marsh valley is the traditional country of the Wathaurung people to whom it holds social, cultural and spiritual significance. The waterbodies, distinctive natural features and places of ecological value within this area are likely to have high Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.
Moorabool Planning Scheme	The area is highly valued for its scenic amenity. The significance of this landscape, and views to and from its escarpments and ridgelines, is recognised in the Planning Scheme.
Bacchus Marsh Tourism Association	Local festivals and events celebrate the harvest and produce of the Bacchus Marsh valley.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

OTHER SIGNIFICANCE

Source	Description
Moorabool Planning Scheme	The highly productive irrigated horticultural areas adjoining Bacchus Marsh are a major asset for the Shire in terms of their regional food production and economic value.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional