

1.11 MOUNT BUNINYONG AND MOUNT WARRENHEIP

Significant Landscape

Character Type	1	The Western Volcanic Plain
	2	The Uplands
Character Area	1.9	Vegetated Volcanic Plain
	2.9	Rural Living

Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip are located to the east of Ballarat and create landmark features in this region.

Major viewing corridors:

- Western Highway
- Mahers Road
- Old Melbourne Road
- Forbes Road
- Midland Highway
- Yendon No1 Road
- Yendon No2 Road
- Mount Buninyong Road

Overall Landscape Significance Rating: Regional

A detailed significance assessment is provided over the following pages.

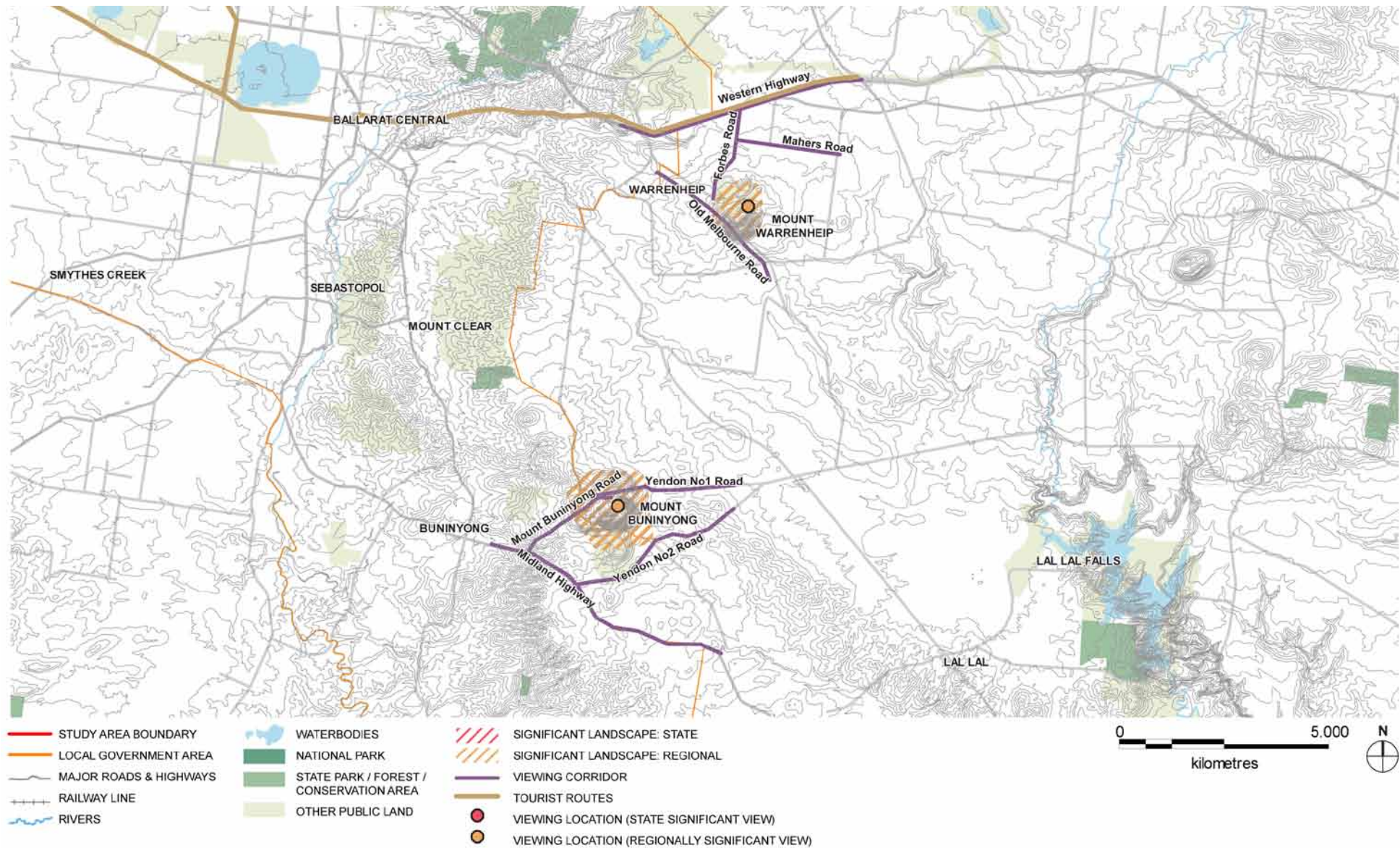


Mount Warrenheip



Mount Buninyong on the horizon

Landscape Significance Map



Aesthetic Values

AESTHETIC VALUES				
	Source	Description	Aesthetic Values Rating Considerations (i.e. exemplary, iconic, scarce)	Level of Significance
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Survey / desktop research	Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip are both distinctive steep sided volcanic features and examples of breached scoria cones. Neither feature has been quarried which is a rarity in Victoria. Both of these volcanic features have an elevation of over 700m above sea level and are two of the few scoria eruption points to retain a natural woodland cover.	The landscape features create iconic gateways to Ballarat and are a distinctive part of the landscape of the region.	High (Regional)
EDGES OR CONTRASTS	Survey	The dark wooded cover of Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip contrasts with the cleared surrounding plains creating a defined edge between volcanic feature and pastoral land.	The contrasting elements of the steep volcanic rises and the surrounding pastoral land are a distinctive part of the area's landscape.	Moderate (Local)
COMPOSITION	Survey	<p>Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip are recognisable landmarks, their dark green rises visible from the Grampians, the Otways and the sea-cliffs at Barwon Heads. The volcanic cones punctuate the horizon creating interest for the viewer in an otherwise flat landscape.</p> <p>Panoramic views are available from the summits of Mount Bunninyong and Mount Warrenheip. The foreground and midground of these views are dominated by the landscape of agriculture of the volcanic plains, with cleared paddocks separated by shelterbelts with some areas of remnant vegetation, particularly along creek lines.</p> <p>The forested rises of Mount Buninyong and Warrenheip have been captured by artists including Eugene Von Guerard's <i>Ballarat In The Early Times; As It Appeared In The Summer Of 1853-54</i>, which depicts a view towards Mount Warrenheip with a gold mine in the foreground. Numerous modern day artists continue to capture Mount Buninyong and Warrenheip.</p>	The recognisable landscape features provide an iconic viewing experience.	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.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

ENVIRONMENTAL / SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	
Department of Primary Industries	Mount Buninyong is one of the most distinctive volcanic features of the region, the most obvious example in Victoria of a breached and the only major scoria cone that has not been mined. Mount Warrenheip is also an important example of a breached scoria cone.
Register of the National Estate	Mount Buninyong is listed on the Register due to its high geological and geomorphological significance.
Ballarat Planning Scheme	The importance of Mount Buninyong to the local landscape is recognised in the Planning Scheme and its native vegetation is protected under the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO1).
IUCN	Mount Warrenheip Flora Reserve is a protected area on the IUCN list, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve). Mount Buninyong Scenic Reserve is listed as Category III (Natural Monument or Feature).
Desktop Research	The forested areas of Mount Warrenheip support a koala population, however clearing around the area has created a 'habitat island' with no vegetated linkages to other areas.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	<p>Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip are within 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.</p> <p>Mount Buninyong is the traditional country of the Keyeet balug clan. Its traditional name is Bunnin Yowang which means "big hill like knee". Mount Buninyong is part of the same Dreaming as Mount Elephant.</p> <p>Mount Warrenheip is the traditional country of the Tooloora balug clan. Its traditional name is Warrenggeep, meaning "emu feathers", so called because the ferns on the side of the mountain looked like feathers.</p>
Desktop Research	Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip are significant landmarks of the district.
Tourist Information	Mount Buninyong is part of the Great Dividing Trail. Walks through the crater of Mount Buninyong and up to the lookout tower are popular with locals and visitors.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

1.12 MOUNT EMU

Significant Landscape

Character Type **1** Western Volcanic Plain

Character Area **1.3** Volcanic Agricultural

Mount Emu is an isolated rise in the volcanic plain north east of Skipton, to the west of Ballarat. Emu Creek runs near its base.

Major viewing corridors:

- Streatham - Cargnham Road

Overall Landscape Significance Rating: Regional

A detailed significance assessment is provided over the following pages.



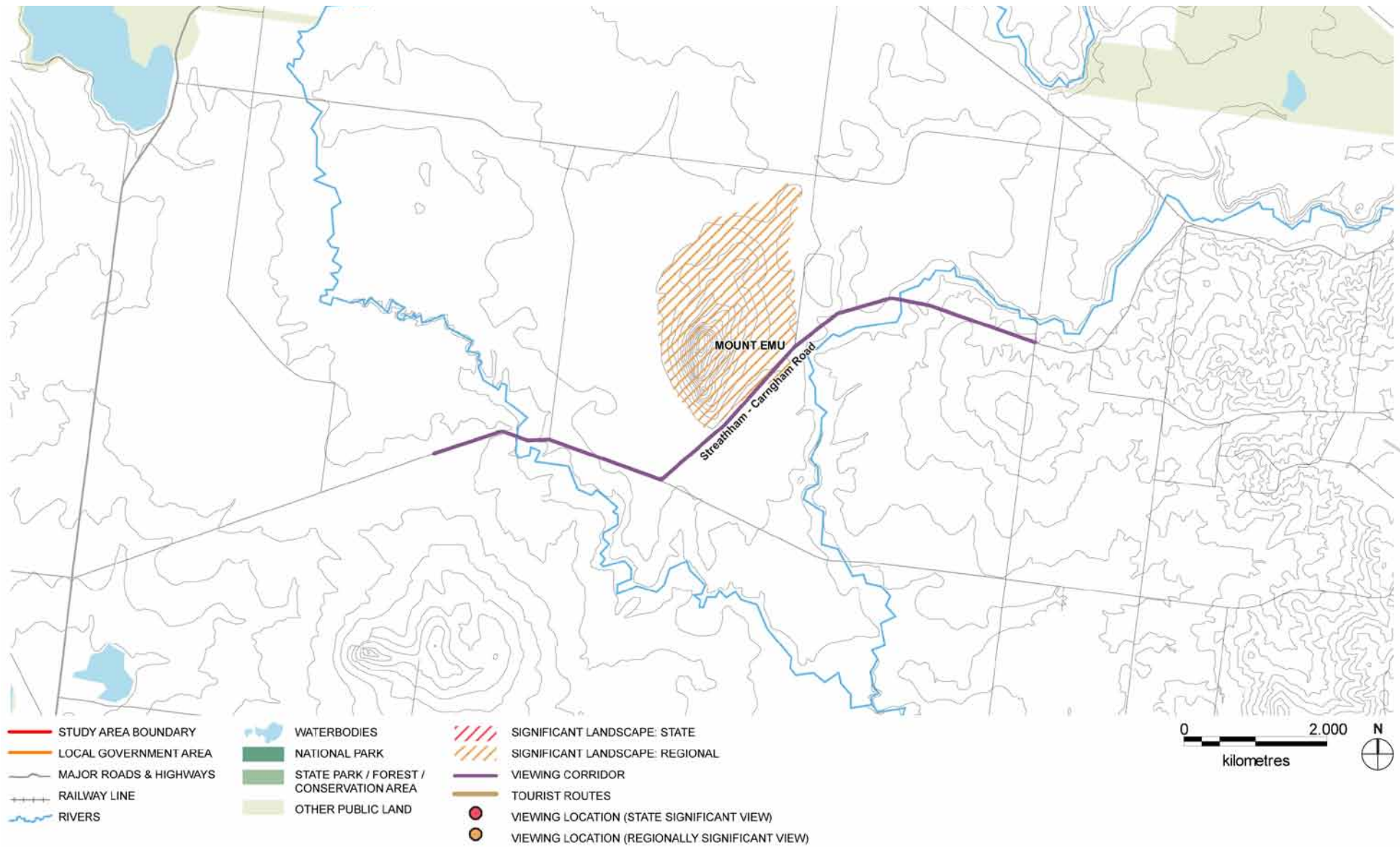
Bulging, granite outcrops of Mount Emu



Mount Emu, visible from Snake Valley area west of Ballarat



Landscape Significance Map



Aesthetic Values

AESTHETIC VALUES				
	Source	Description	Aesthetic Values Rating Considerations (i.e. exemplary, iconic, scarce)	Level of Significance
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Survey	Mount Emu is a prominent granitic hill that rises 160 metres from the flat volcanic plain. It is highly visible from a number of angles across the surrounding landscape.	The rise of Mount Emu from the surrounding flat landscape makes it an iconic and unique feature in the local area.	Moderate (Local)
EDGES OR CONTRASTS	Survey	The rise of Mount Emu is a noticeable feature from a distance. At closer range, large and bulbous granite outcrops that stud the surface of the rise create intense textural variation. These contrast with the surrounding pastoral land and provide a high level of visual interest.	The granitic protrusions on Mount Emu are exemplary geological features within the context of the Western Volcanic Plains.	High (Regional)
COMPOSITION	Survey	The land surrounding Mount Emu is cleared pastoral land dotted with trees and occasional clumps of vegetation. The long, low formation of the hill is easily distinguished from long distances away. The granite chunks that protrude on the mid to upper slopes have a smooth, weathered appearance that marks their age as considerably older than the volcanic rises found on the plain. It is located in an open, windswept and sparsely populated area.	There are other spectacular granitic outcrops within the study area, and Victoria generally, though it is Mount Emu's isolation from these that makes it visually unique in the local context.	Moderate (Local)
OVERALL AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE RATING				Regional

Other Cultural Landscape Values

HISTORIC

Source	Description
Desktop Research	Aboriginal artefact scatters, earth mounds and scarred trees occur throughout the area.
Desktop Research	Emu Creek, alongside Mount Emu, was the scene of a well documented massacre of Aboriginal people.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

ENVIRONMENTAL / SCIENTIFIC

Source	Description
Desktop Research	Mount Emu is part of the phenomenon of the western Victorian volcanic plains.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

SOCIAL

Source	Description
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	Mount Emu 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. Mount Emu Creek is an important north-south travelling route.
Survey	The distinctive feature of Mount Emu forms a prominent local landmark. Aside from its impressive natural, geological formation, it also serves the wider community as a location for communications towers.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Local

1.13 BARRABOOL HILLS

Significant Landscape

Character Type	1	Western Volcanic Plain
Character Area	1.11	Winchelsea Western Plains

The Barrabool Hills are a ridgeline of gently rolling rises bordered by the steep valley of the Barwon River to the west of Geelong. They contains the low-relief volcanic cone, Mt. Moriac. This landscape sits just to the south of the Study Area.

The Barrabool Hills were described in detail in the Surf Coast Shire Landscape Assessment (2007) and designated as a National Trust Landscape (2009). The Hamilton Highway is a major viewing corridor within the study area that provides views towards the hills. This assessment includes the area of land between the Hamilton Highway and the Surf Coast Shire boundary that is designated as part of this landscape, though was not included in the previous assessment.

Overall View Significance Rating: Regional

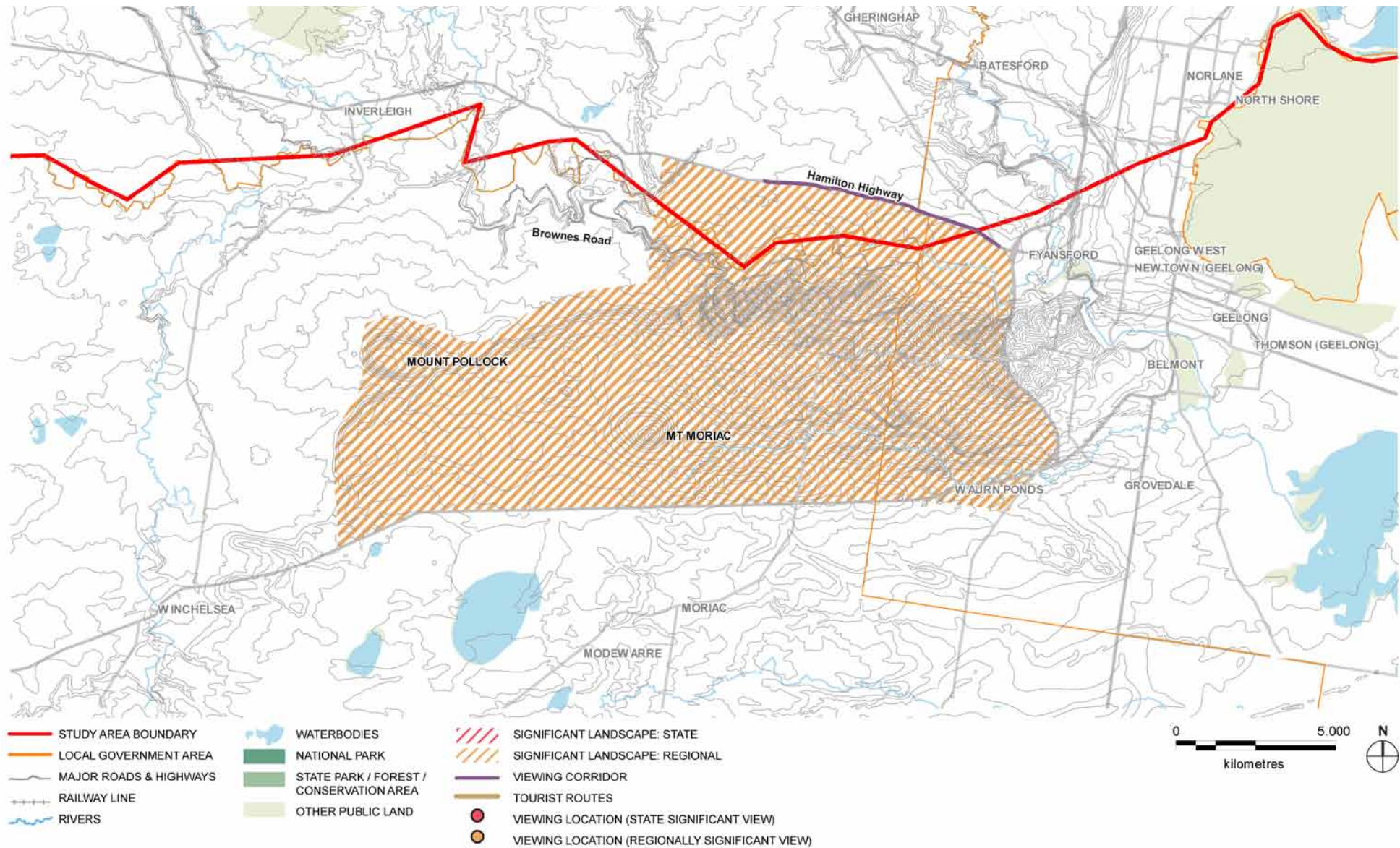
A detailed significance assessment is provided over the following pages.



Views toward the Barrabool Hills from Hamilton Highway



2.9 Barrabool Hills Map



Aesthetic Values

AESTHETIC VALUES				
	Source	Description	Aesthetic Values Rating Considerations (i.e. exemplary, iconic, scarce)	Level of Significance
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Survey	The hills display a varied topography that gently rises from the surrounding flat volcanic plains. The steeply incised Barwon River Valley is visible as a drop in the landscape that is lined with vegetation.	The Barrabool Hills are a distinctive landscape that forms part of the gateway experience of the western outskirts of Geelong.	High (Regional)
EDGES OR CONTRASTS	Survey	The rise of the hills contrasts with the flat western plains. Areas of vegetation and some of the shelter belts help to define the formation of the hills, and frame views towards them.	The contrast between the surrounding flat areas and the rolling hills defines the edge of the Western Volcanic Plain. It creates an additional level of visual interest.	Moderate (Local)
COMPOSITION	Survey	A flat, grassy foreground and middle-ground is often punctuated with piles of rocks dug from paddocks and edged with low dry stone walls, which reveals the history of land use on the volcanic plain. Clear views are available across these paddocks towards the hills from the Hamilton Highway. While the Barwon River valley is not a dominant feature in the view, there is a distinctive drop in the landscape before it rises up to join the smooth, rolling Barabool Hills. The hills area is a highly scenic aspect of the view, creating an undulating and interesting horizon line.	The rise of the hills is balanced by foreground features such as the piles of volcanic rock. Their presence makes it an exemplary landscape in the local context.	Moderate (Local)
OVERALL AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE RATING				Regional

Other Cultural Landscape Values

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

	Description
Surf Coast Planning Scheme	Aboriginal Affairs Victoria has listed numerous sites in the Barrabool Hills. It is also recorded as having historical importance at a local level, with twelve sites covered by the Heritage Overlay
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

ENVIRONMENTAL / SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

	Description
Surf Coast Planning Scheme National Trust	The Barrabool Hills are classified by the National Trust of Australia, and protected through local policy in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme as significant landscape at a regional level for aesthetic qualities, geological and geomorphological properties and association with indigenous peoples.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

	Description
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	The Barrabool Hills 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.
Survey Surf Coast Planning Scheme	The Barrabool Hills form a distinctive gateway for the western arrival into Geelong. The Hills offer extensive views of the surrounding pastoral landscape and have been depicted in many well known paintings of early Victorian landscapes.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Local

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