



Character Type 8  
**Glenelg Plains**

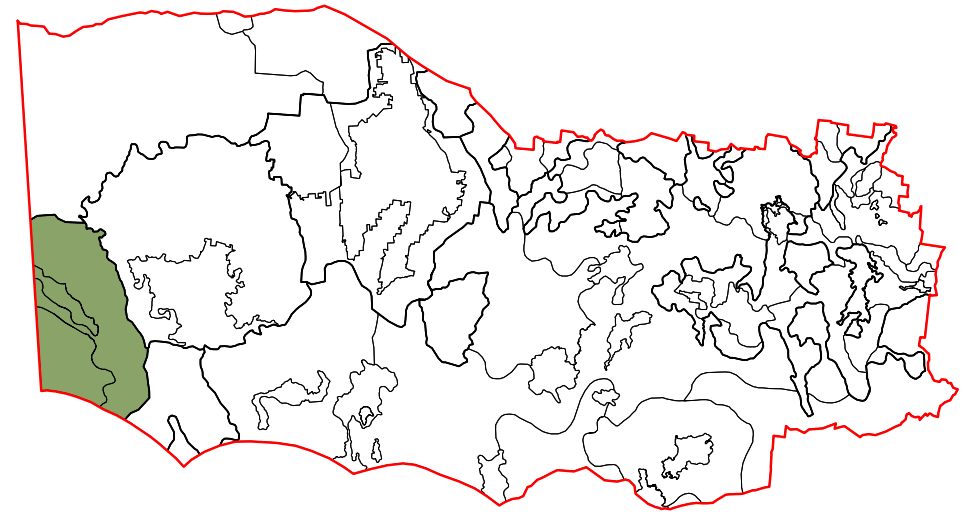
## 8 GLENELG PLAINS

This Character Type encompasses the far western portion of the Study Area and is bounded by the Victorian and South Australian border, and the edges of the tablelands defined by the valley of the Glenelg River. The landscape sits within the “Green Triangle” plantation region that spans across the border, and contains a large number of plantations interspersed with forests. Aerial imagery reveals a highly dense patchwork of both.

On the ground, sandy dirt roads criss-cross a flat to undulating topography, with outward views mostly blocked by tall plantations and scrubby forests. In the south, forested areas give way to more open pastoral land. It is primarily this alternation that has delineated the two Character Areas found in this Type.

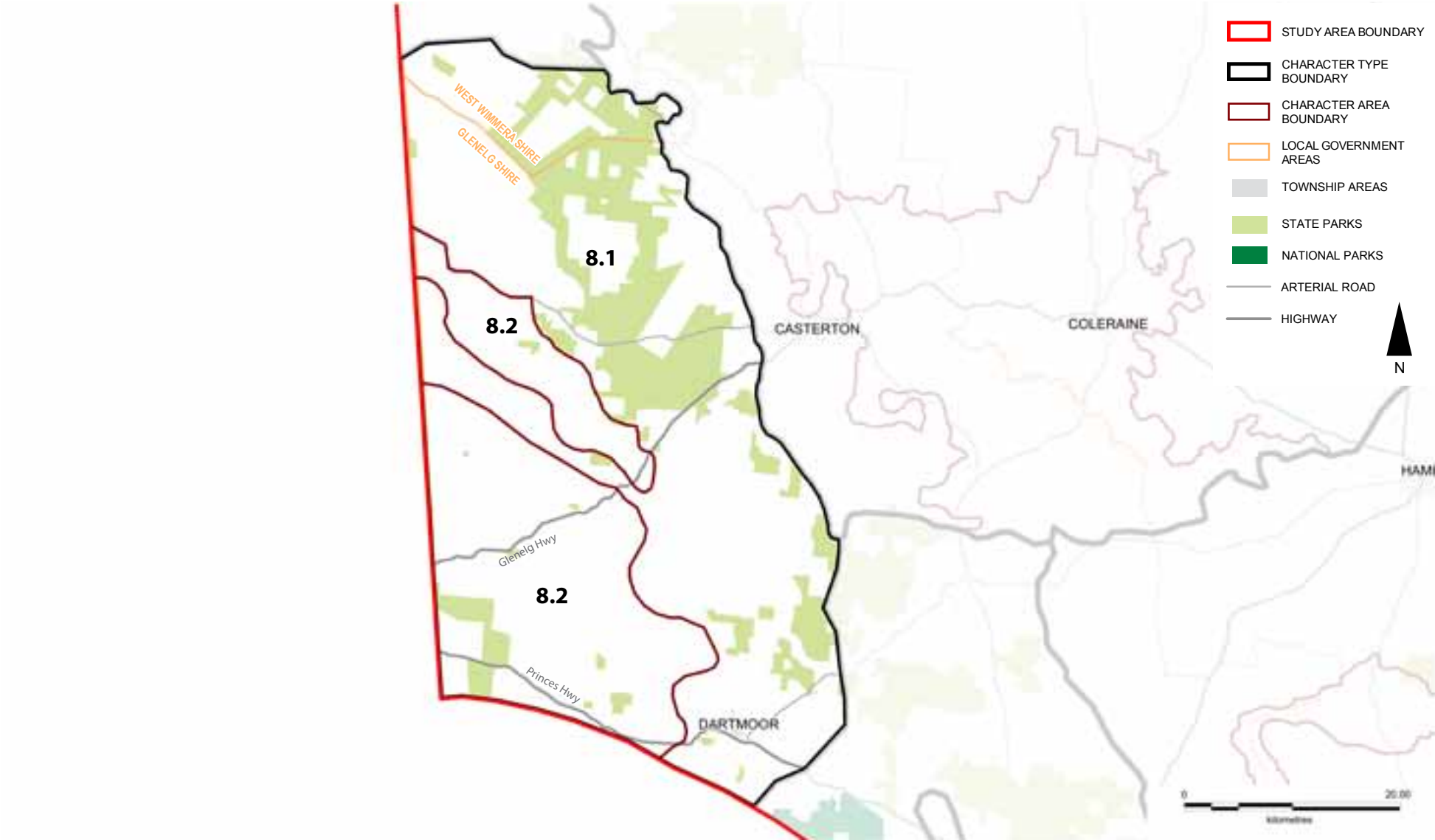
8.1 Plantations & Reserves

8.2 Pastoral Plain



*Pastoral land interspersed with forestry plantations, near Mumbannar*

Figure 1 Glenelg Plains Location



## Key Features

- Flat to undulating plain
- Timber plantations (Pine and Blue Gum)
- Sandy soils
- Swamps and wetlands
- Conservation and reference areas

## Landscape Characteristics

### Landform

A generally flat to slightly undulating terrain with occasional rises created by long, low and wide ridges that extend across with a north-south orientation. Elevations range from around 50 to 130 metres above sea level.

### Waterform

Poor drainage in the low-lying landscape has allowed numerous swamps and wetlands to form between the broad ridges. Some of these have been grouped and classified into larger complexes such as the Mundi-Selkirk Wetlands and the Lindsay Werrikoo Wetlands. These wetlands aren't visually obvious on the ground, and are often obscured by dense forests or plantations that surround them. Aerial photography reveals how plantations have been designed to accommodate the wetlands, though many have been drained and planted over.

Lake Mundi is one of the larger waterbodies in this region.

The Glenelg River runs directly through this Character Type and is fed by a number of large tributaries including Scott and Limestone Creeks from the west and Stokes and Crawford Rivers from the east.

A chain of wetlands and floodplains stretch over a distance of some 50km from the North West in South Australia into the Character Type and towards the Glenelg River.

### Vegetation

Vegetation communities endemic to this Character Type include heath lands that prosper in soils prone to waterlogging, open woodlands to the north, and Plains Grassy Woodland communities dominated by River Red Gums to the south. A large proportion of these have been cleared to make way for plantation forestry and pastures, though there are still large areas remaining in state parks and conservation reserves. Endemic species are also retained within the roadsides, connecting parks and reserves through the vast monocultural plantations.

Within the plantations, the repetitive nature of the planting creates a sense of isolation and disorientation. Very few other plant species grow, and as a result there is a noticeable lack of diversity in the fauna, such as birds.

Adjacent to and interspersed with these are large areas of state forest and conservation reserves including the Roseneath Reference Area and the Tooloy-Lake Mundi State Nature Reserve. These have a tree canopy of around 10-15 metres, with a scrubby understory of bracken and dense shrubs, and occasionally large numbers of grass trees. Birds can spread Pine seeds into the conservation reserves, this is particularly noticeable in areas which have been scarred by bushfires.

To the south numerous remnant River Red Gums remain scattered throughout pastoral areas, though many of these are senescing or dead, with little evidence of new growth or juvenile trees regenerating.

### Land Use & Built Form

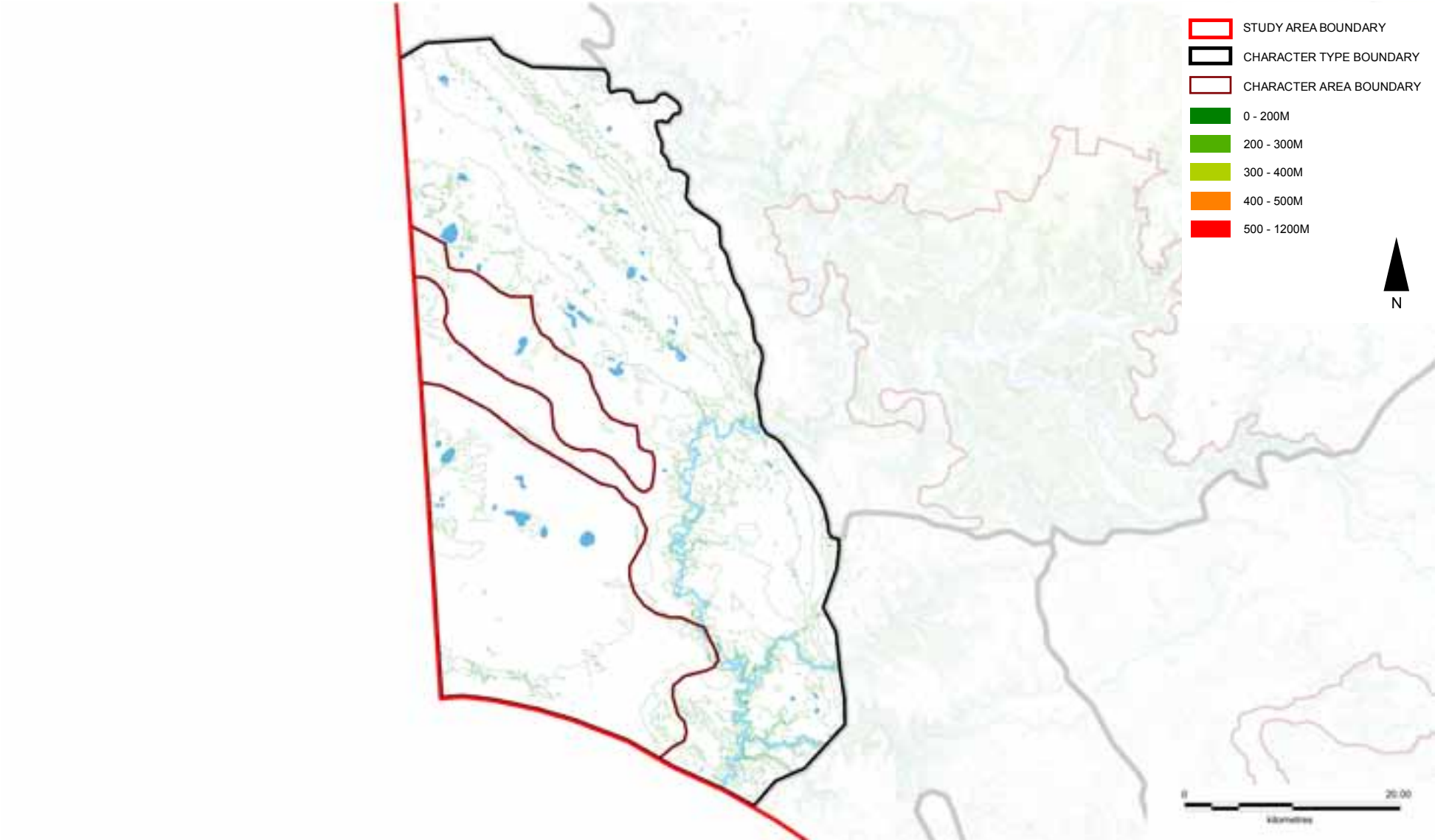
This Character Type is sparsely settled, with large areas of land given over to plantations and forests. The Green Triangle Plantation Region is the largest wood fibre producing region in Australia.

Occasionally there are cleared paddocks used for sheep and cattle grazing or cropping interspersed with these.

Where development does exist it is often in the form of modest farm houses and associated sheds and buildings, set back from the roadside and generally not visually intrusive. There is much evidence of run down and abandoned buildings which is reflective of changing settlement and economic patterns.



Figure 2 Glenelg Plains Contours & Waterform



## PATTERN OF VIEWING

Roads that traverse through plantations have a ‘tunnel vision’ effect, with tall trees growing up to block views out to either side leaving only sky visible above and ahead. These can open out suddenly in areas that have been recently cleared, or planted with young trees. The uniformity and geometric spacing of plantation trees creates a flickering, optical illusion when travelling through them at speed. Areas at different stages of growth often have sharp edges and contrast strongly with their surroundings.

Forests enclose views in a similar way, often with more of an overarching canopy overhead. Visually, they are softer, with a greater level of transparency through the pattern of trunks and undergrowth.

The flat plains to the south feature broad, open views that often terminate in plantations or forests, or groups of remnant paddock trees on the horizon. Views may also be filtered through dense patches of roadside vegetation or blocked partially by shelterbelt planting.



*‘Tunnel vision’ and hard edges in Pine plantations*



*Forests and conservation reserves have a soft transparency*



*Uniformity and repetition in plantations*



*Flat pastoral land scattered with remnant Red Gums, plantations visible in the background*

# LANDSCAPE VALUES

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Landscape values include aesthetic (visual and non-visual), historic, environmental, scientific, social and other values. It is acknowledged that many of the values overlap (i.e. a place or item may have historic and social value), but they are generally only listed once. A range of sources have been used to identify the landscape values of the Glenelg Plains, such as the field survey, existing studies and documentation, and community consultation.

## Historic

- Evidence of Aboriginal land use including scarred trees

## Environmental/Scientific

- Glenelg River, a Heritage River south of Dartmoor to its mouth at Nelson
- Roseneath Reference Area
- Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, found in the north of the Character Type, an endangered species
- Nationally significant wetlands
  - Boiler Swamp System
  - Mundi-Selkirk
  - Lindsay-Werikoo
- Locally significant wetlands & waterways
- Many reserves which are protected areas on the IUCN list
- Glenelg Ark, DSE project protecting native fauna, from fox predation on public land

## Social

- Green Triangle Plantation Region, largest soft & hard wood production area in Australia
- Agriculture, also valued for economic reasons

# CHANGE IN THE LANDSCAPE

## Landscape Morphology

The underlying geology of the Glenelg Plain has its roots in the ancient sea bed that once covered large parts of south eastern Australia. Sands were deposited as the sea levels dropped, forming beach ridge lines and dunes across the landscape on a roughly north-south axis, while heavier clays settled to the bottoms of the broad swales. Poor drainage led to the development of numerous chains of wetlands and lakes in the swales.

The Glenelg region was one of the first parts of Victoria to be settled by Europeans, with the Henty family establishing in the area around Portland in the 1830s. Squatters followed taking up larger runs in the region and a more fine grained pattern of subdivision was introduced with Closer Settlement and Soldier Settlement strategies after the gold rush and World Wars respectively.

Heavy clearing of land is evident and took place to practice agriculture and create plantations. Large scale plantations of Radiata Pine were established in the sandy soils close to the South Australian border during the early 1900s, which introduced a new form of farming that dramatically altered the appearance of the landscape. This production was scaled up after the Second World War. Blue Gum crops were introduced in around 1997.

Broad-scale drainage of wetlands was also systematically introduced to open up land for plantations and pasture. Many wetlands are fed by groundwater and are at risk from bore extraction lowering the water table.

## Sensitivity to Change

This landscape alternates between being highly sensitive to change, to not sensitive at all, depending on which Character Area is being described.

Views are so extensively blocked out within plantations that change could happen at close quarters and very little evidence of it would be obvious. When viewed from a distance they have the ability to scar the landscape dramatically, though this is an effect not likely to be sustained in the long term as coupes are replanted or regenerated.

The open pastoral landscape is much more sensitive to change, with long range views and minimal vegetation in many parts reducing its ability to absorb new development.



*Expansion of plantation forestry will reduce the number of open views*

## Anticipated Landscape Change

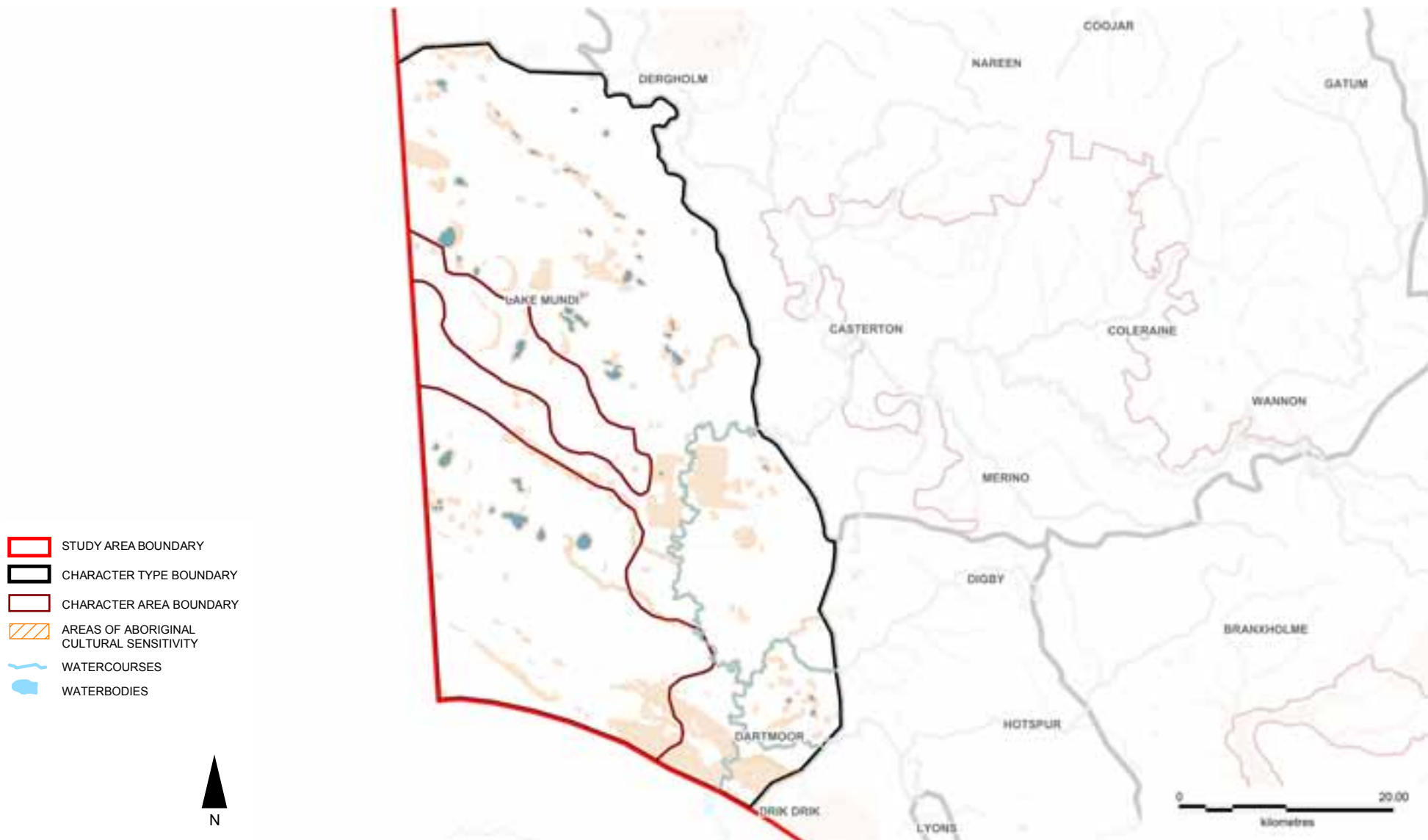
- Clearing, felling and replanting of land used for plantation forestry
- Expansion of plantation forestry
- Gradual loss of remnant River Red Gums and other paddock trees, with very little opportunity for regeneration
- Increasing dry land salinity, pest plant and pest animal invasion, soil erosion, stream erosion, coastal dune erosion, induced waterlogging, water quality deterioration and loss of flora and fauna diversity
- Possible extension of conservation areas as part of the Habitat 141 Initiative
- Altered characteristics of roadside vegetation through controlled burning
- The State Governments planning zones review may lead to an increase in tourism, retail and accommodation uses in rural areas, a potential increase in rural living density and a potential increase in smaller lots and dwellings in the farming zone.



*Many paddock trees are showing signs of degeneration*



Figure 3 Glenelg Plains Cultural Heritage Sensitivity



## FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DIRECTIONS

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The Glenelg Plain will continue to thrive economically through large scale plantations, however these will be planned to ensure that habitat and biodiversity corridors are developed and maintained simultaneously. A balance will be achieved between controlled burning of roadside vegetation and corridor enhancement. Isolated pockets of remnant vegetation will be identified and linked into this network.

The varied viewing experience available within the landscape, including the channelled or framed views available down heavily vegetated road corridors, contrasting with the open views across the pastoral plains, will be retained and enhanced.

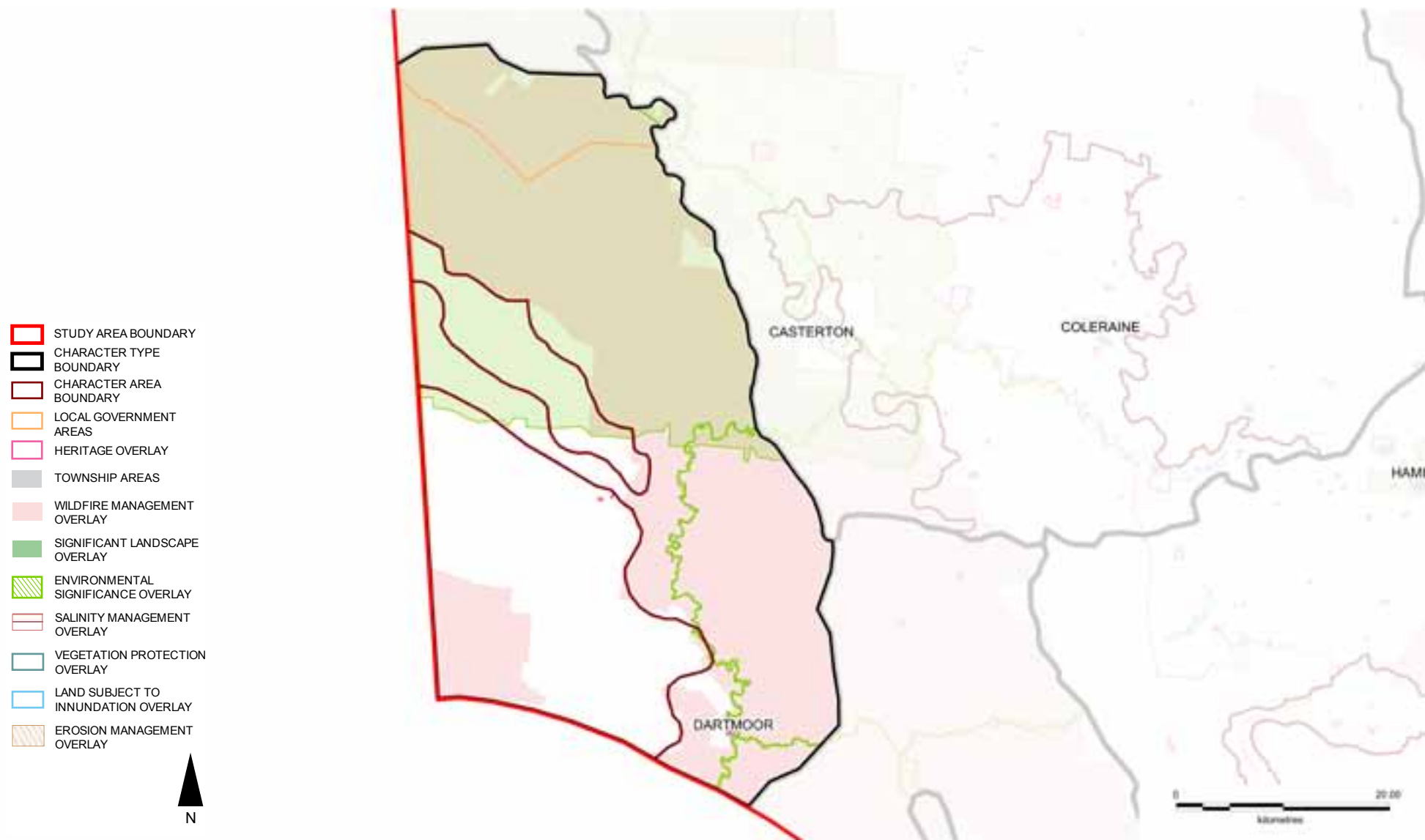
### Opportunities

- Ongoing timber production
- Preservation of endangered flora and fauna species in state parks, reserves and reference areas
- Linkage into the Habitat 141 initiative

### Threats

- Drainage, water regulation and grazing on wetlands
- Vehicles from plantation companies degrading roads and wetland areas
- Spread of exotic plantation species into adjacent forested areas and roadsides
- Degradation of river and catchment health
- Loss of mature paddock trees, and little opportunity for regeneration
- Pockets of vegetation and fauna species being isolated by mono-cultural plantations
- Extraction of groundwater leading to depletion of wetlands that rely on shallow groundwater systems
- Spread of Pine seeds by birds into conservation reserves and State forests
- Controlled burning of roadside vegetation limits ability to enhance biodiversity corridors
- Channel modification (reference to rivers, estuaries and floodplains)
- Degradation of riparian vegetation
- Drainage of wetlands
- Uncontrolled stock access
- Sedimentation
- Habitat fragmentation/reduced connectivity
- Significant disturbance events (fire, flood, storms)

Figure 4 Glenelg Plains Overlays



# LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

## Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

Glenelg Hills and Plains are subject to the Glenelg and West Wimmera Planning Schemes.

### Key Zones

- Farming Zone (FZ)
- Public Conservation & Recreation Zone (PCRZ)
- Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)

### Key Overlays

- Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO)
- Heritage Overlay (HO)
- Wildfire / Bushfire Management Overlay (WMO / BMO)
- Rural Floodway Overlay (RFO)

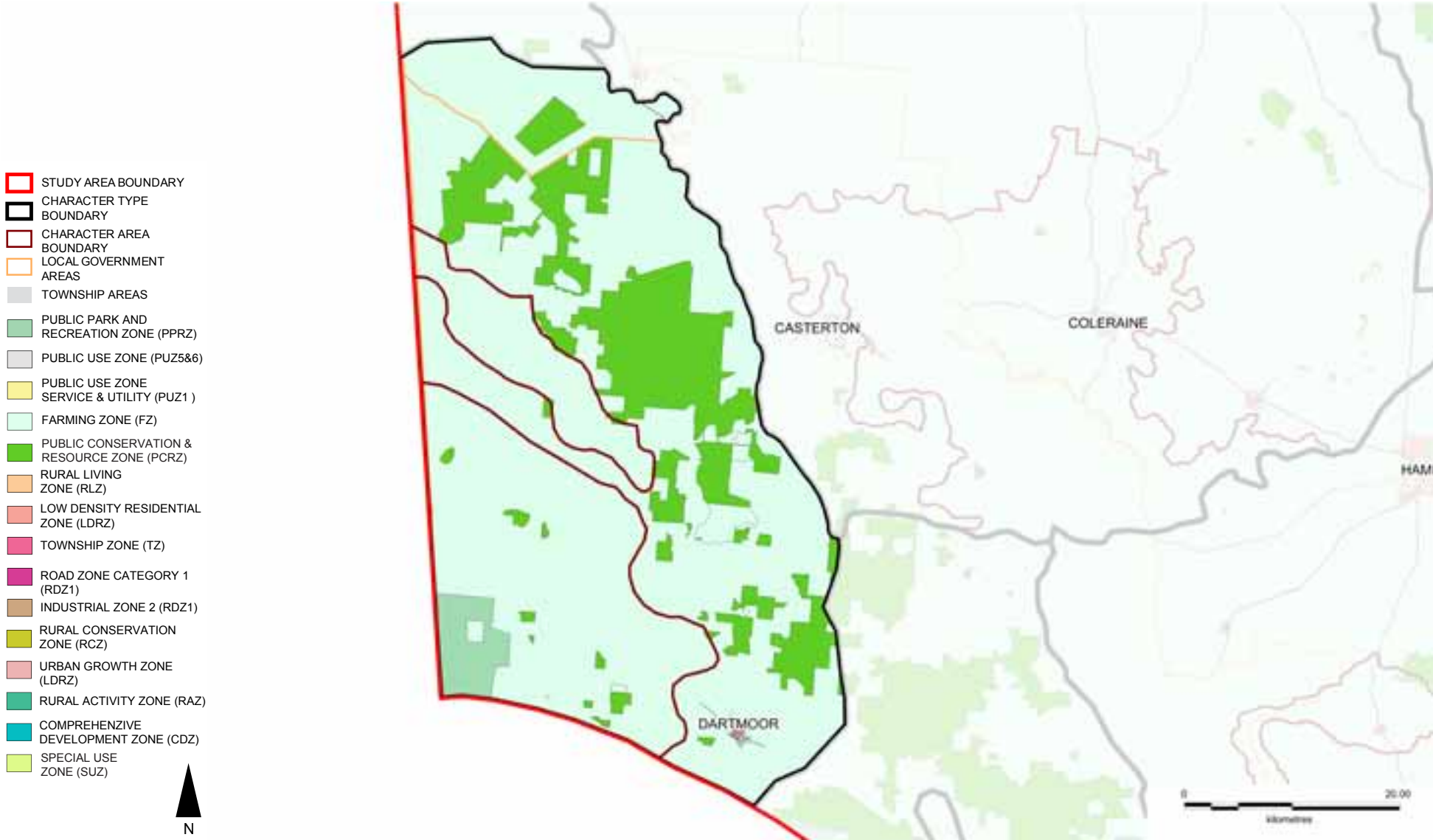
## Landscape Management Objectives

To achieve the future landscape character directions for the Glenelg Plain, the following landscape management objectives are recommended:

- To maintain the positive contribution that productive agricultural land makes to the character of the Glenelg Plains area.
  - To retain existing indigenous vegetation, including River Red Gums, and encourage natural regeneration where possible.
  - To increase indigenous planting in the heavily cleared areas of the landscape and to further emphasise natural features such as creeks, rivers and wetland areas.
  - To establish biodiversity corridors between areas of native forest, along road corridors and through private property where possible.
  - To encourage the appropriate siting and design of commercial timber plantations.
  - To improve outviews from main road corridors and significant viewing locations by minimizing the visibility of plantations.
  - To maintain the varied viewing experience within the Glenelg Plains landscape, including the channelled or framed views available down heavily vegetated road corridors, contrasting with the open views across the pastoral plains.
  - To minimize the visibility of buildings and structures on the Glenelg Plains landscape
  - To ensure that buildings and structures demonstrate a high standard of design and respond to the character of the surrounding environment.
- To incorporate best practice environmental sustainability principles in building siting and design.
  - To minimise the visual impact of signage and infrastructure throughout the Glenelg Plains landscape.
  - To protect and respect the cultural heritage values of the Glenelg Plains landscape.



Figure 5 Glenelg Plains Zones







Landscape Management Guidelines

## Glenelg Plain

## Landscape Management Guidelines

Landscape Element	Objective	Design Response	Avoid
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT	To maintain the positive contribution that productive agricultural land makes to the character of the Glenelg Plains area.	Encourage the contribution of sustainable land management practices and productive agricultural activities that have a positive impact on the landscape.	<p>Unkempt and poorly managed agricultural lands.</p> <p>Uses, development and management practices that reduce the productivity of agricultural lands.</p> <p>Uses and development that interfere with the ongoing management of agricultural lands.</p>
INDIGENOUS VEGETATION	<p>To retain existing indigenous vegetation, including River Red Gums, and encourage natural regeneration where possible.</p> <p>To increase indigenous planting in the heavily cleared areas of the landscape and to further emphasise natural features such as creeks, rivers and wetland areas.</p> <p>To establish biodiversity corridors between areas of native forest, along road corridors and through private property where possible.</p>	<p>Where practical, protect and rehabilitate significant stands of remnant indigenous vegetation, particularly at roadsides, throughout paddocks, and along river and creek corridors, subject to considerations such as farming requirements, fire protection and safety.</p> <p>Encourage farmers to protect and manage original stands of indigenous vegetation by fencing around old trees, trimming diseased or shattered branches, leaving dead trees standing for wildlife habitat (where practical), and planting new trees, particularly in bare paddocks.</p> <p>Minimise indigenous vegetation removal in new development.</p> <p>Where vegetation loss cannot be avoided, balance the loss of vegetation with rehabilitation on the site or nearby areas, and replace any native or indigenous trees lost with indigenous trees that will grow to a similar size.</p> <p>Screen buildings, structures and large areas of hard surfaces with appropriately scaled indigenous vegetation that is appropriate to the landscape character of the area.</p> <p>Encourage the removal of environmental weeds and their replacement with local indigenous species.</p>	<p>Loss of significant stands of indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>Loss of roadside vegetation corridors.</p> <p>Ad hoc clearing and removal of vegetation.</p> <p>Development which requires permanent clearing of vegetation.</p> <p>Lack of landscaping and substantial vegetation in new development.</p> <p>Landscaping that provides little connection to the surrounding natural environment and existing landscape character.</p> <p>Hard surfaces and hard edges in landscaping.</p> <p>Continuous spreading / planting of environmental weeds.</p> <p>Degradation of significant flora.</p>



Landscape Element	Objective	Design Response	Avoid
PLANTATION FORESTRY	<p>To encourage the appropriate siting and design of commercial timber plantations.</p> <p>To improve outviews from main road corridors and significant viewing locations by minimizing the visibility of plantations.</p>	<p>Encourage agro forestry (integration of forestry trees with grazing stock or other crops) as an alternative to tree plantations in areas of identified landscape significance.</p> <p>Strongly discourage plantations in the foreground of identified significant views to the Brisbane, Lerderberg and Pyrenees mountain ranges and volcanic landscape features, and adjacent to identified significant viewing corridors.</p> <p>Soften the boundaries of plantations using sympathetic boundary lines (i.e. not incongruous to the surrounding landscape), gradual changes in density or age class, or with use of a species of different form, colour and texture.</p> <p>Where possible, ensure that plantation design follows existing landscape lines such as gullies, spurs, ridges, other contour lines, tree lines, creek lines etc., and avoids lines that are incongruous to the surrounding landscape e.g. property or fence lines that are geometric in nature rather than free flowing.</p> <p>Minimise the visual impact of plantations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creating small, curvilinear coupes that blend with the landscape.</li> <li>▪ Avoiding geometrically shaped harvest areas that contrast with the natural forms and lines of the landscape.</li> <li>▪ Sequencing operations over time.</li> <li>▪ Avoiding harvest areas that breach the skyline in middle or background views.</li> <li>▪ Maintaining visual permeability through an open or clumped planting density, or non-uniform thinning technique.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure that proposed timber plantations are accurately depicted and executed through a 'Timber Management Plan' as required within the Code of Practice for Timber Production.</p>	<p>Plantation forestry that is solid at the roadside and blocks outviews, particularly those from identified significant viewing corridors.</p> <p>Plantations in prominent locations that will create visual scars with periodic harvesting.</p> <p>Loss of scenic outviews from roads and lookouts.</p> <p>Plantation design that is incongruous to the surrounding landscape.</p>

Landscape Element	Objective	Design Response	Avoid
VIEWS & VISTAS	To maintain the varied viewing experience within the Glenelg Plains landscape, including the channelled or framed views available down heavily vegetated road corridors, contrasting with the open views across the pastoral plains.	<p>Built form and other development should be set back from identified viewing corridors, and designed and sited to minimise visual intrusion (e.g. low building heights, minimal building footprints, appropriate colours and materials to the setting, and integration with vegetation).</p> <p>Consider the cumulative impact of developments visible from identified significant viewing corridors, other roads and key viewing locations, on the character and views of the surrounding landscapes.</p>	<p>Unsympathetic / intrusive buildings and structures that obscure prominent views.</p> <p>Conspicuous or incongruous (out of place) buildings, structures or infrastructure visible in the foreground of views to notable landscape features.</p>
BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES: SITING	To minimize the visibility of buildings and structures on the Glenelg Plains landscape	<p>Ensure that buildings, structures and other infrastructure are sited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Within existing clusters of buildings where possible.</li> <li>▪ Away from visually prominent locations such as ridge lines and hill faces.</li> <li>▪ Away from landscape features such as gorges, river and creek corridors.</li> <li>▪ Among established vegetation and/or screened with substantial landscaping of locally appropriate species.</li> <li>▪ To follow the contours and/or natural form of the landscape.</li> <li>▪ To minimise visibility from identified significant viewing corridors and other main roads.</li> </ul> <p>Prevent ribbon development along identified significant viewing corridors and other main roads, including the outskirts of settlements.</p> <p>Minimise the number and floor area of storage areas, outbuildings and ancillary structures, wherever possible.</p>	<p>Buildings and structures that are visually dominant or located in prominent locations.</p> <p>Development of residences and other buildings not traditionally sited adjacent to the road, located at the roadside.</p> <p>Buildings and structures that impact on the character and environmental quality of watercourses.</p> <p>Buildings and structures that do not have sufficient vegetative screening.</p> <p>Numerous storage areas / outbuildings on a site.</p> <p>Scattering of buildings and structures across a site.</p> <p>Visual clutter.</p> <p>Buildings and structures that protrude above the dominant tree height of the vegetated (or proposed vegetated) backdrop.</p>

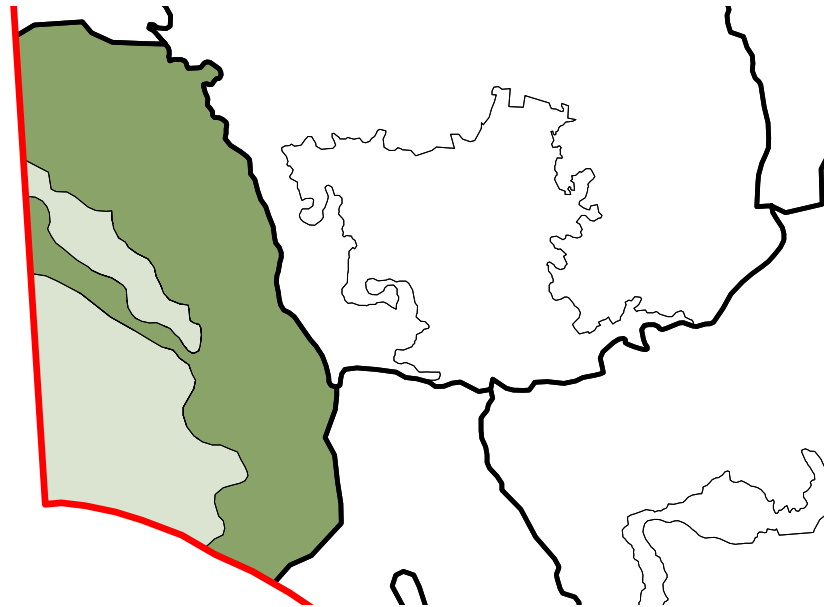
Landscape Element	Objective	Design Response	Avoid
BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES: DESIGN	<p>To ensure that buildings and structures demonstrate a high standard of design and respond to the character of the surrounding environment.</p> <p>To incorporate best practice environmental sustainability principles in building siting and design.</p>	<p>Ensure that the design and external appearance of buildings and structures complement the surrounding landscape by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilising colours and finishes that best immerse the building within the landscape and minimise contrast with the surrounds (such as muted colours and matte finishes, or corrugated iron or timber that will weather over time).</li> <li>Making use of building materials with minimal environmental impact and encouraging the use of recycled materials where possible.</li> <li>Utilising materials and finishes that reduce distant visibility (e.g. darker colours on hill slopes, and lighter colours on sky lines.)</li> </ul> <p>Ensure that development does not visually overwhelm the landscape setting by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designing building and structures of a scale that does not dominate the surroundings, tucked in to the landscape wherever possible.</li> <li>Achieving a minimal building footprint, and ensuring that adequate space is available on the site for the retention of existing vegetation and/or new landscaping.</li> <li>Using building forms and heights that sit beneath the existing or future tree canopy height.</li> </ul> <p>Utilise open style fencing that is not visually obtrusive and is traditionally used in rural areas, such as post and wire or post and rail fencing.</p> <p>Use permeable surfacing for unbuilt areas to minimize surface run-off and to support vegetation.</p> <p>Incorporate best practice environmental sustainability principles into the design and construction of all new buildings.</p>	<p>Buildings or structures that do not harmonise with the character of the surrounding natural / rural environment.</p> <p>Ad hoc or large scale urban development outside of settlements.</p> <p>Large, bulky building masses / footprints that are conspicuous elements within the spacious landscape setting.</p> <p>Sheer, visually dominant elevations.</p> <p>Mock historical style buildings with excessive use of 'reproduction' or decorative detailing.</p> <p>Highly colourful materials and finishes.</p> <p>Building design that has little or no regard to environmentally sustainable design practices, such as residential buildings with excessive western or southern orientation.</p> <p>High, solid or non-permeable fencing.</p>

Landscape Element	Objective	Design Response	Avoid
SIGNAGE & INFRASTRUCTURE	To minimise the visual impact of signage and infrastructure throughout the Glenelg Plains landscape.	<p>Roads and driveways should be built to conform to topography, avoiding steep, visually prominent hillsides wherever possible.</p> <p>Group signage, including tourism signage, at particular locations to minimise visual impact, avoid signage clutter, and to maintain scenic outlooks.</p> <p>Infrastructure should be sited to avoid highly scenic locations, particularly identified significant views, and in the case of powerlines and other utility services, be underground wherever possible.</p> <p>Locate powerlines, access tracks and other infrastructure in areas of low visibility, preferably in previously cleared locations.</p> <p>Use materials and colours that minimise contrast with the surrounding landscape and distant visibility, and use vegetation to screen infrastructure from identified significant viewing corridors, viewing locations and other main roads.</p> <p>All new infrastructure development should be accompanied by a landscape plan utilising appropriate indigenous plant species and demonstrating how the affected area will be screened and remediated after development.</p>	<p>Signage clutter in the landscape.</p> <p>Visually obtrusive and/or colourful signage in natural landscape settings.</p> <p>Highly visible infrastructure.</p> <p>Infrastructure that dominates views, particularly from identified significant viewing corridors or locations.</p> <p>Landscape scarring as a result of vegetation removal.</p> <p>No consideration of siting, design, vegetation or remediation in association with the development of infrastructure.</p>
CULTURAL HERITAGE	To protect and respect the cultural heritage values of the Glenelg Plains landscape.	<p>Relate landscape character to the relevant heritage values of significant places by setting back, avoiding or carefully designing buildings, structures and other landscape alterations.</p> <p>Identify and preserve landscape conditions and settings of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage value.</p> <p>Respect the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of significant places by setting back, avoiding or carefully designing buildings, structures and other landscape alterations to avoid impacts on places, objects or landscapes that have Aboriginal heritage value.</p>	<p>Loss of cultural heritage values associated with the landscape.</p> <p>No regard for the cultural heritage values of the landscape in new development.</p>









Character Area 8.1

## Plantations & Reserves

## 8.1 PLANTATIONS & RESERVES

This Character Area features a flat to undulating landscape that is heavily wooded with a combination of plantations and forest reserves that restrict outward views. This area is sparsely settled and there is very little built form. Occasionally old farm houses appear within the plantations, where they have been completely enclosed.

### Key Features

- Plantation forestry
- Scrubby forests
- Flat to undulating topography
- Sandy soils
- Lakes and wetlands

### Settlements

Dartmoor is the only major settlement within this Character Area. It contains a number of rural localities including Lake Mundi, Dorodong and Kaladbro.



*Farm houses now enclosed by plantations*



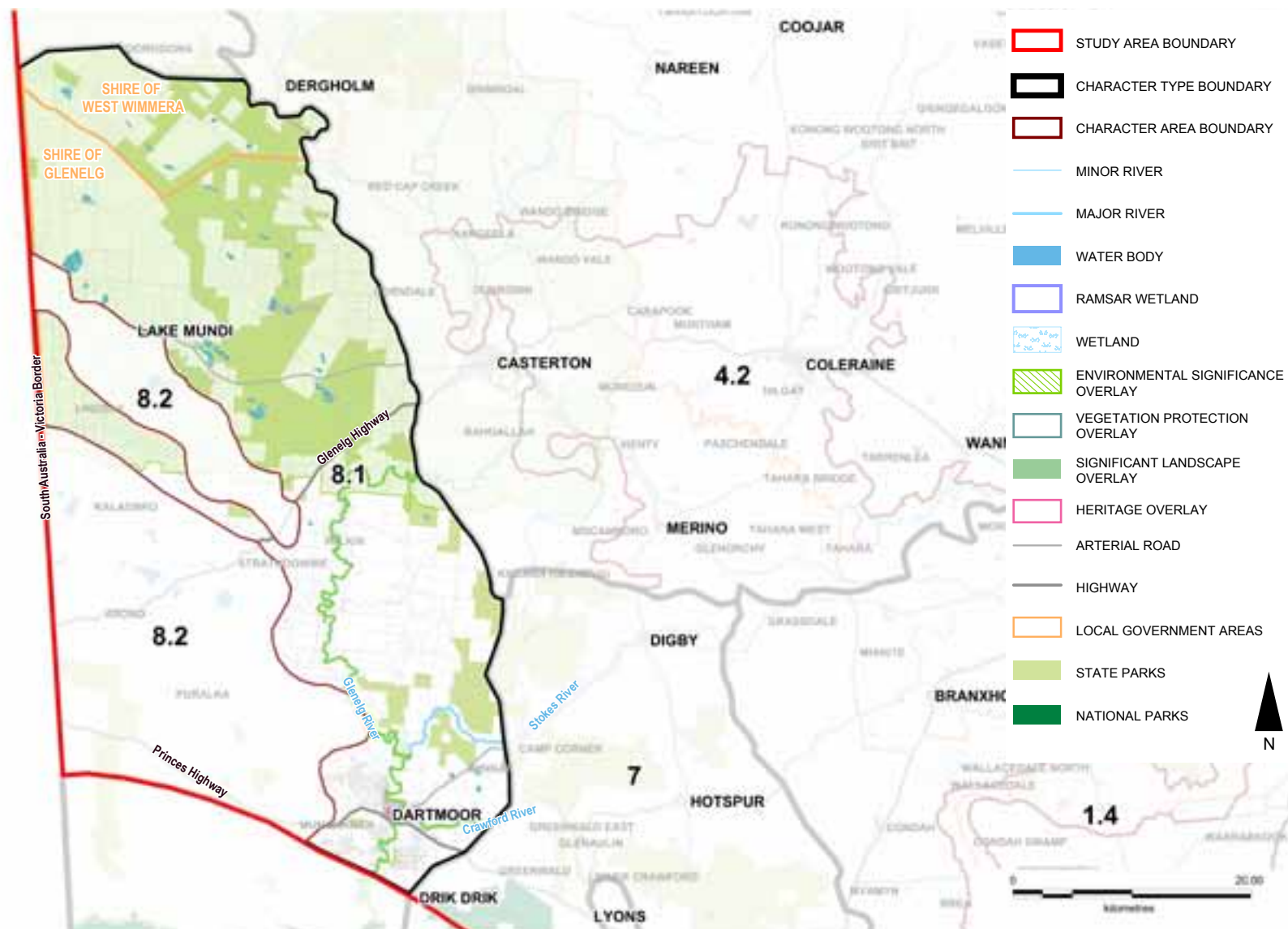
*Endemic vegetation buffers plantations from the roadsides*



*Radiata Pine (softwood) plantations in the sandy soil*



Figure 1 Plantations & Reserves Overview



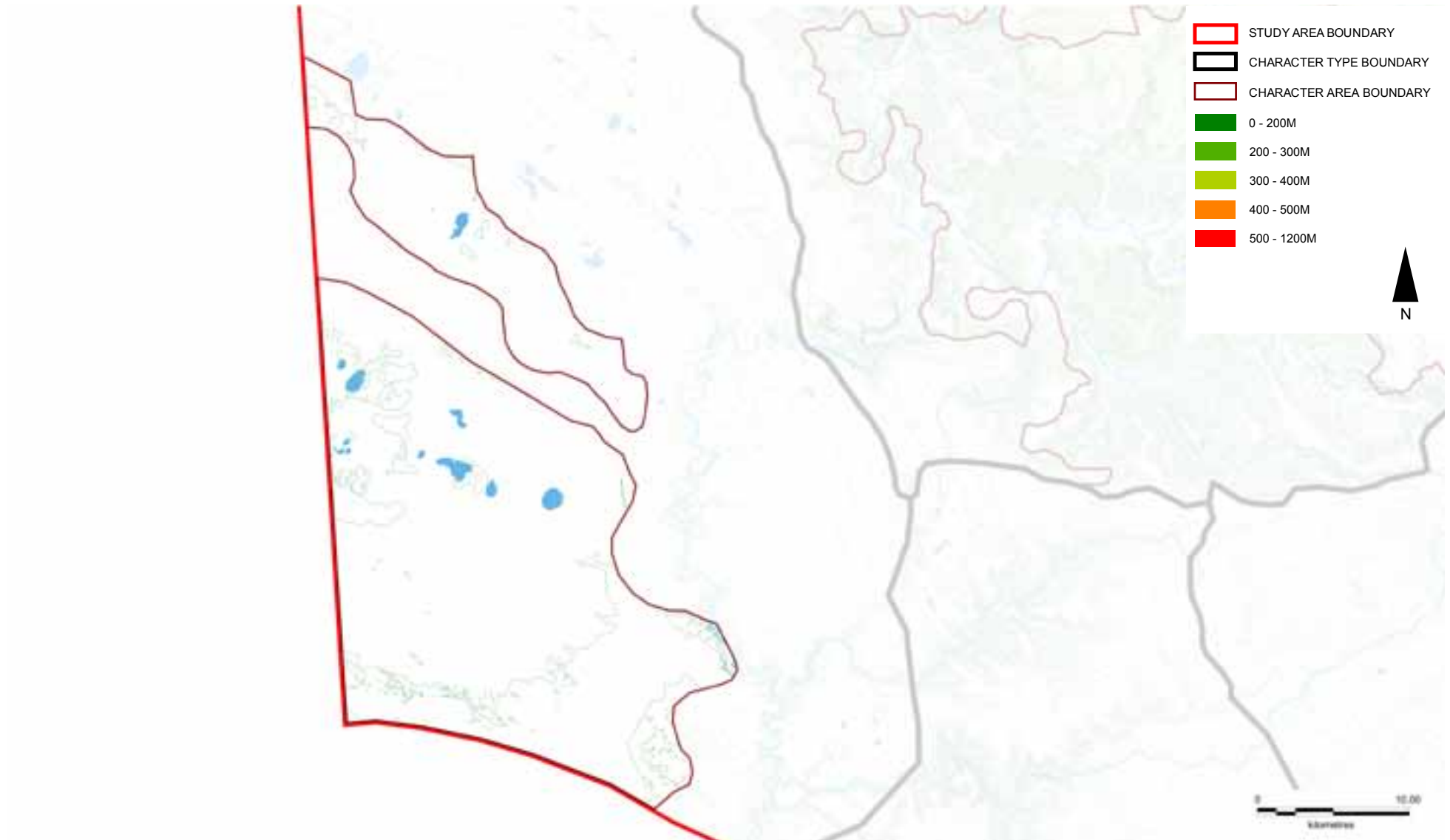
**Figure 2 Plantations & Reserves Landform**

Figure 3    Plantations & Reserves Aerial



## PATTERN OF VIEWING

The main viewing corridors for this character area connect Casterton with larger townships of Penola and Mount Gambier in South Australia.

- The Glenelg Highway
- Casterton-Penola Road
- Dorodong/ Dergholm-Penola Road

Views along the Glenelg Highway are mostly contained within the low, dense vegetation of the roadside reserves, with occasional glimpses into the plantations beyond. Areas of bushland have a greater transparency than the plantations, though the density of the bush contains views predominantly to the road corridor ahead rather than to the surrounding landscape.

The Casterton-Penola, Dorodong and Dergholm-Penola Roads also traverses through a flat alternation of plantations and forests, which occasionally open up to cleared areas that open up to big skies, with views terminating at distant tree lines.

There are few through-roads within the forests and plantations, and where these exist they are often poorly-mapped basic access roads. The viewing experience in these areas can be extremely disorientating, particularly when traversing uniform plantations.



*'Tunnel vision' from within mature plantations*



*Views to the sky open up next to young plantations*



*Native forests have a softer visual pattern than the plantations*



*Dense vegetation & grass trees through forested along the Glenelg Highway*





*Views across the open paddocks, with plantations in the background along the Glenelg Highway*

# LANDSCAPE VALUES

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## Historic

- Evidence of Aboriginal land use in the West Wimmera Shire including scarred trees, stone arrangements, mounds, rock shelters, stone engraving sites, middens, rock paintings, surface scatters, fish traps, burial places, stone house sites, quarries and axe grinding places
- Lake Mundi, identified in the Glenelg Heritage Study Stage 1

## Environmental/Scientific

- Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, found in the north of the Character Area, endangered species on EPBC Act list, habitats protected by Glenelg ESO3 & West Wimmera ESO2
- Roseneath Reference Area
  - protected by Reference Areas Act 1978
  - listed in IUCN's List of Protected Areas, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve)
- Glenelg River south of Dartmoor to its mouth at Nelson
  - Heritage River protected by Heritage Rivers Act 1992
  - listed in IUCN's List of Protected Areas, Category II (National Park)
  - listed as a nationally important wetland
- Protected areas on the IUCN list
  - Wilkin Nature Conservation Reserve & Burgess Swamp Wildlife Reserve, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve)
  - Barrys Swamp Bushland Reserve, Drik Drik H9 Bushland Reserve & Tooloy-Lake Mundi Wildlife Reserve, Category IV (Habitat/Species Management Area)
  - Kaladbro H3 Bushland Reserve, Pieracle Swamp Wildlife Reserve & Red Hill Swamp Wildlife Reserve (Hunting), Category VI (Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources)
  - Glenelg River & Stokes River Streamside Reserves, Category III (Natural Monument or Feature)

- Nationally significant wetlands
  - Boiler Swamp System
  - Mundi-Selkirk
  - Lindsay-Werikoo
- Locally significant wetlands & waterways, protected by Glenelg ESO2



# LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

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## Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

This Character Area is subject to the Glenelg and West Wimmera Planning Schemes.

### Key Zones

- FZ
- PCRZ

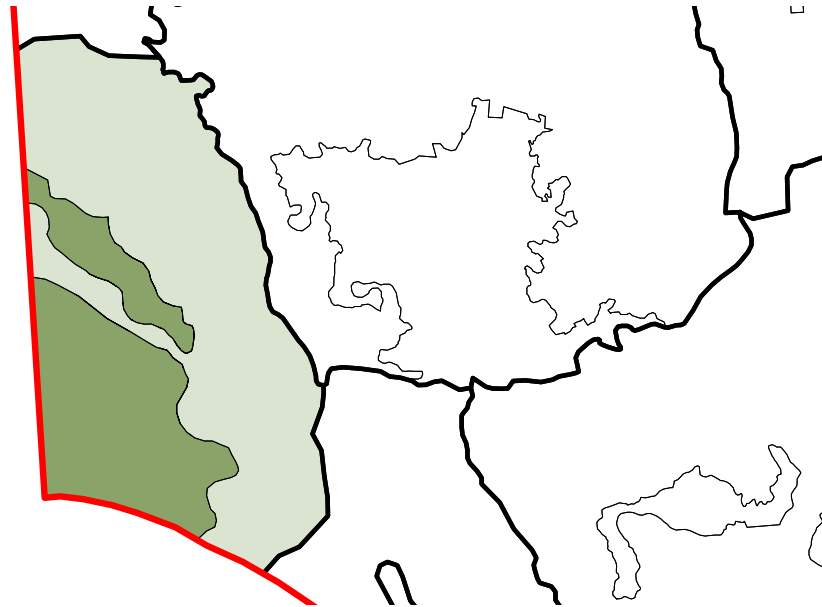
### Key Overlays

- Glenelg ESO2: Significant Wetlands & Waterways
- Glenelg ESO3: Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Habitat Areas
- West Wimmera ESO2: Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Habitat Areas
- WMO / BMO
- Glenelg RFO

### Proposed Overlays

- Glenelg HO247: Park Hill & Walnut Tree





Character Area 8.2  
**Pastoral Plain**

## 8.2 PASTORAL PLAIN

The landscape of the Pastoral Plain features open, cleared paddocks used primarily for crop production and sheep and cattle grazing. It is located within the Green Triangle Plantation Region, and while it contains a number of plantations, these often form a backdrop rather than a dominant feature. Roadside vegetation is common and often tall and dense with a grassy understory. This extends into paddocks in some places, where grazing has occurred beneath leaving a canopy with a transparent, cleared understory. Some parts have been almost wholly cleared, including within the roadsides. Shallow wetlands and swamps have formed in some low-lying areas and are occasionally visible from the roadside. Built form is often modest farm houses and associated sheds and outbuildings, set back from the roadside and surrounded by sheltering vegetation.

### Key Features

- Open, cleared pastoral land
- Scattered remnant paddock trees
- Backdrop of plantations and forests
- Shelterbelt planting
- Exotic vegetation around homesteads
- Swamps and wetlands in low lying areas

### Settlements

There are no settlements or townships within this Character Area, it contains a number of rural localities including:

- Strathdownie
- Mumbannar
- Ardno



*Paddock trees senescing in the heavily cleared landscape*

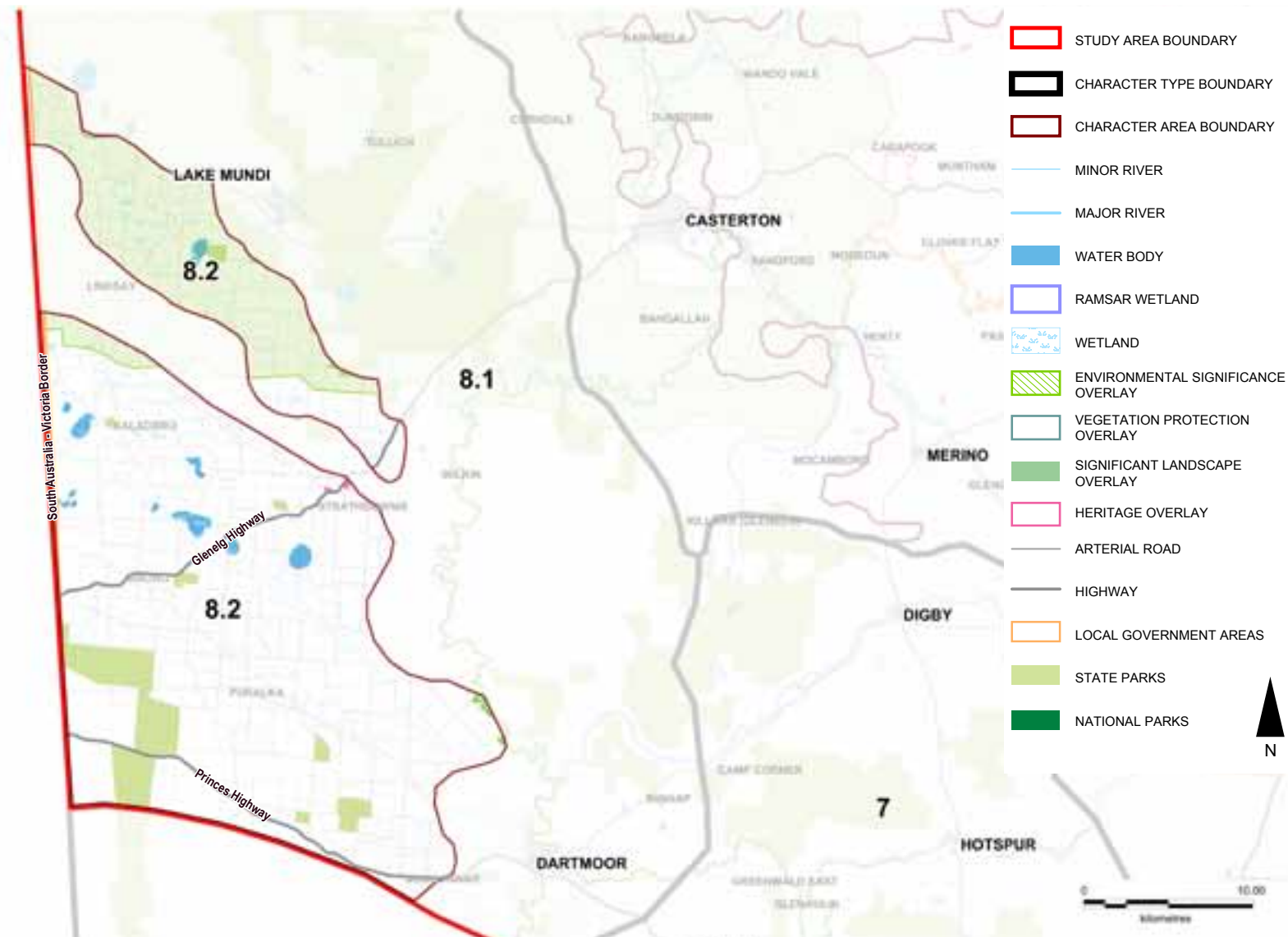


*Energy infrastructure stands out on the flat plain*



*Pastoral land with a backdrop of forestry plantations, near Mumbannar*

Figure 1 Pastoral Plain Overview



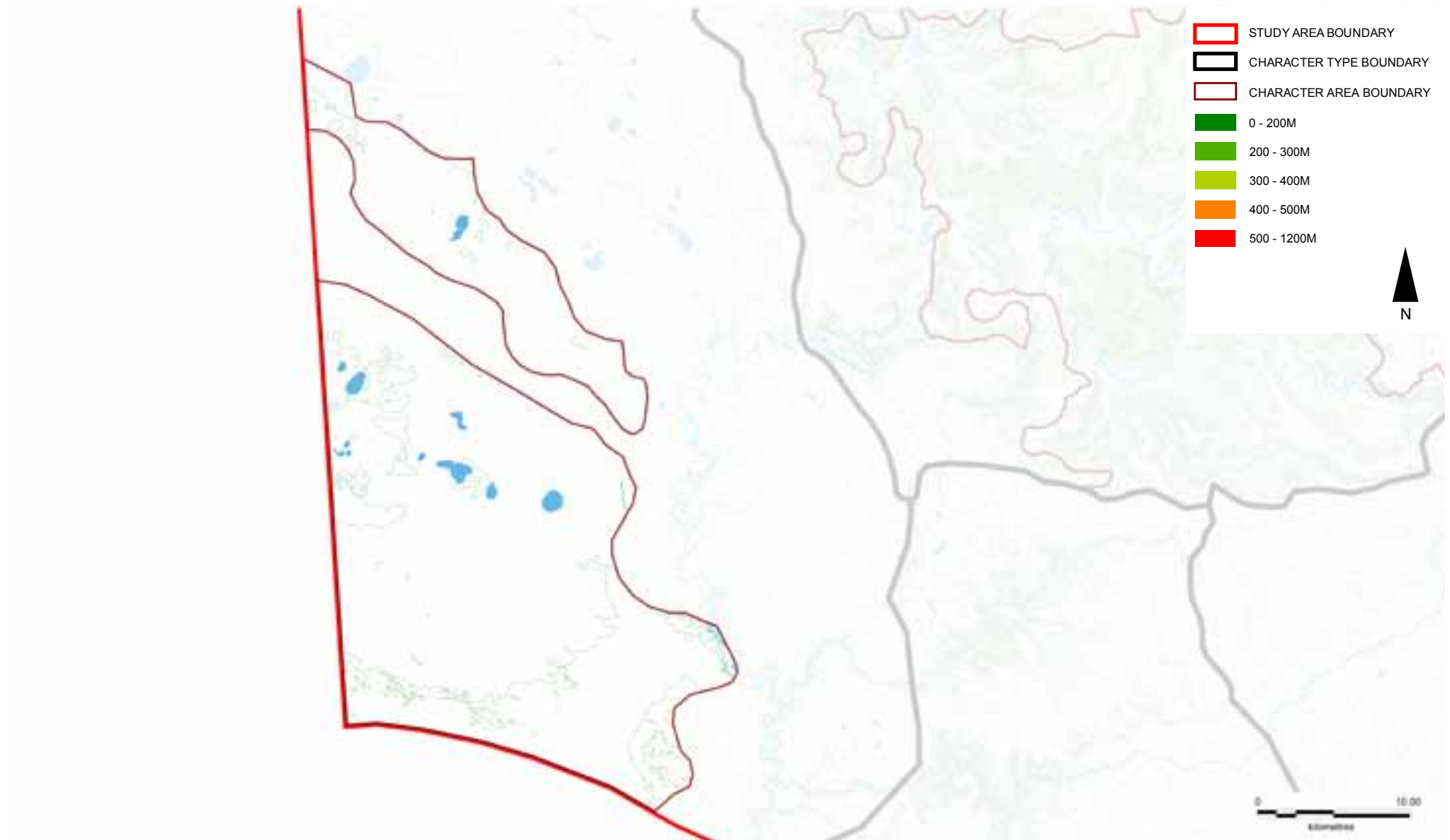
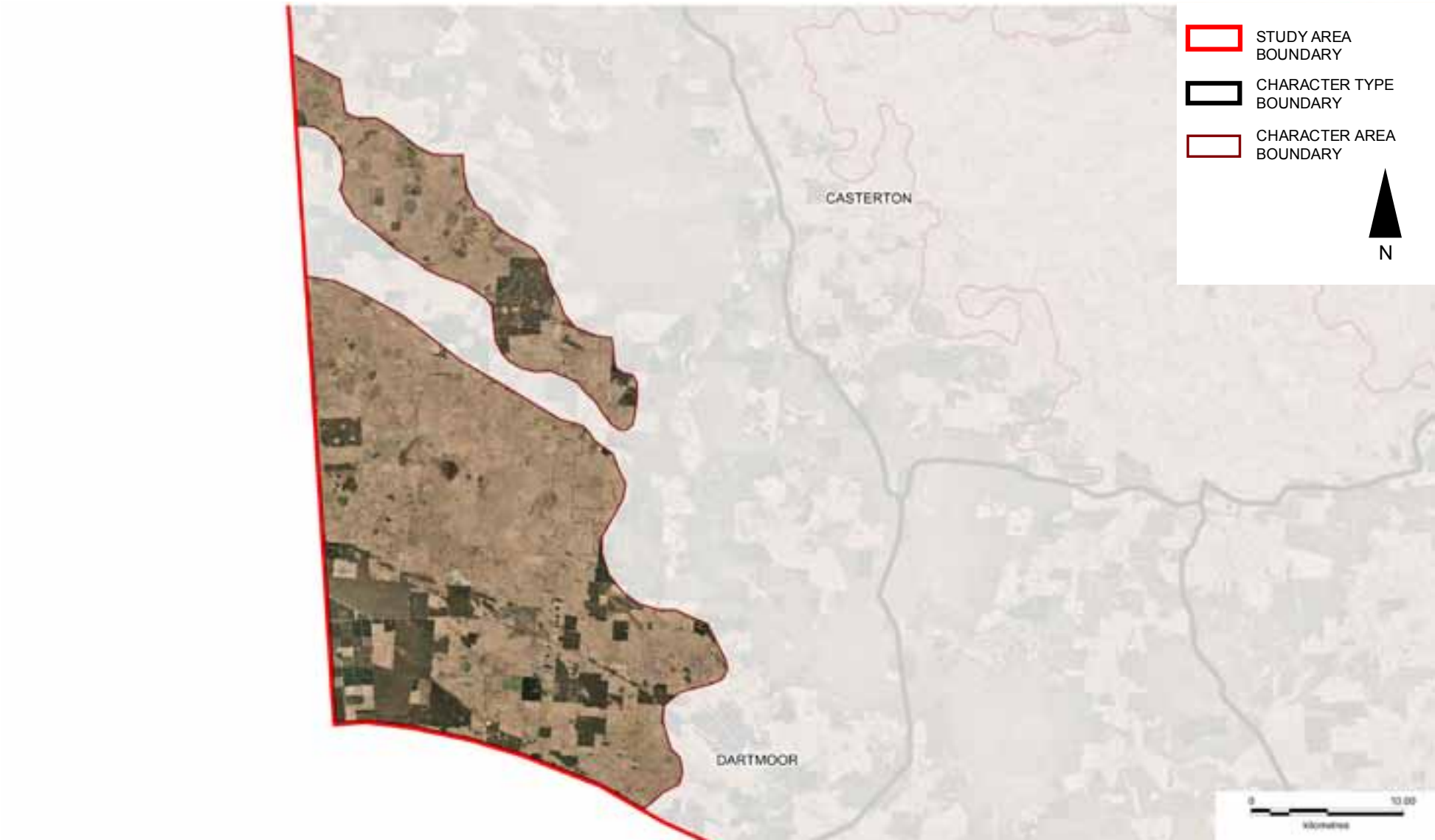
**Figure 2 Pastoral Plain Landform**



Figure 3 Pastoral Plain Aerial



## PATTERN OF VIEWING

The main viewing corridors for this Character Area are:

- Glenelg Highway
- Princes Highway

The Glenelg Highway between the South Australian - Victorian border and Strathdownie features big, open views across the flat plains that are occasionally broken by roadside vegetation, shelterbelt planting and stands of remnant trees in paddocks.

The Princess Highway is an eventual extension of the Great Ocean Road to the south east, and a major tourist route through the area. Views are similar to the Glenelg Highway, though there is a higher number of plantations therefore more prone to an alternating open and closed viewing experience.



*Tall remnant trees in the roadside reservation filter views across the flat, open landscape (Glenelg Highway)*



*Open, expansive views in areas that have been almost wholly cleared*



*Occasional plantations enclose views*



*Thick roadside vegetation on Westgarths Road*



*Remnant trees and shelterbelt planting*



*Low-lying wetlands occasionally visible in paddocks*

# LANDSCAPE VALUES

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## Historic

- Pigeon Ponds Creek, Mumbannar, identified in Glenelg Shire Heritage Study Stage 1

## Environmental/Scientific

- Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, found in the north of the Character Area, endangered species on EPBC Act list, habitats protected by Glenelg ESO3
- Protected areas on the IUCN list
  - Kaladbro Wildlife Reserve, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve)
  - Ardno Bushland Reserve, Malanagnee H7 & H24 Bushland Reserve & Mumbannar Bushland Reserve, Category IV (Habitat/Species Management Area)
  - Church Swamp & Kerr Swamp Wildlife Reserves, Category VI (Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources)
- Nationally significant wetlands
  - Mundi-Selkirk
  - Linday-Werikoo
- Locally significant wetlands & waterways, protected by Glenelg ESO2
- Glenelg Ark, DSE project protecting native fauna, particularly Long-nosed Potoroos & Southern Brown Bandicoots, from fox predation on public land

# LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

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## Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

Only the Glenelg Planning Scheme applies to this Character Area.

### Key Zones

- FZ
- PCRZ
- PPRZ

### Key Overlays

- ESO2: Significant Wetlands & Waterways
- ESO3: Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Habitat Areas
- WMO / BMO

### Proposed Overlays

- HO245: Strathdownie East Cemetery
- HO246: Strathdownie Homestead Complex

