



Character Type 1

The Western Volcanic Plain

THE WESTERN VOLCANIC PLAIN

Volcanic activity has shaped much of south west Victoria's landscape. This extensive Character Type is formed by a flat to undulating basaltic plain scattered with volcanic features including stony rises, old lava flows, numerous volcanic cones and old eruption points which together create a unique visual landscape.

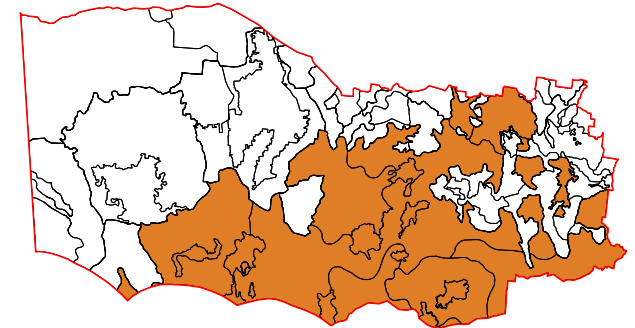
This is a place of big skies, long views with volcanic rises that punctuate the horizon. When the first European settlers arrived they found the land primed for agriculture as it contained very few trees. Shelterbelts of cypress and pine were planted to protect crops and livestock from the winds that sweep the plain and are now a defining characteristic of the Type.

The area is dotted with many beautiful lakes and wetlands that are generally broad and shallow and may contain either saline, brackish or fresh water. Some of the wetlands are RAMSAR listed and of international importance.

Many paddocks and roadsides are edged with beautifully formed dry stone walls that were created when early pastoralists cleared the land of rocks for agricultural purposes, to contain stock and to control vermin.

Within Character Type 1, 11 distinctive Character Areas have been determined and will be discussed in more detail within the Character Area Papers.

- 1.1 Paddocks and Cones
- 1.2 Large Shallow & Deep Crater Lakes
- 1.3 Volcanic Agricultural
- 1.4 Stony Rises & Lava Flows
- 1.5 Lakeside Stony Rises
- 1.6 Volcanic Lakes & Swamps
- 1.7 Cones & Mines
- 1.8 Volcanic Ranges
- 1.9 Vegetated Volcanic Plains
- 1.10 Partially Wooded Agricultural
- 1.11 Winchelsea & Geelong Western Plains



Long views punctuated by volcanic features

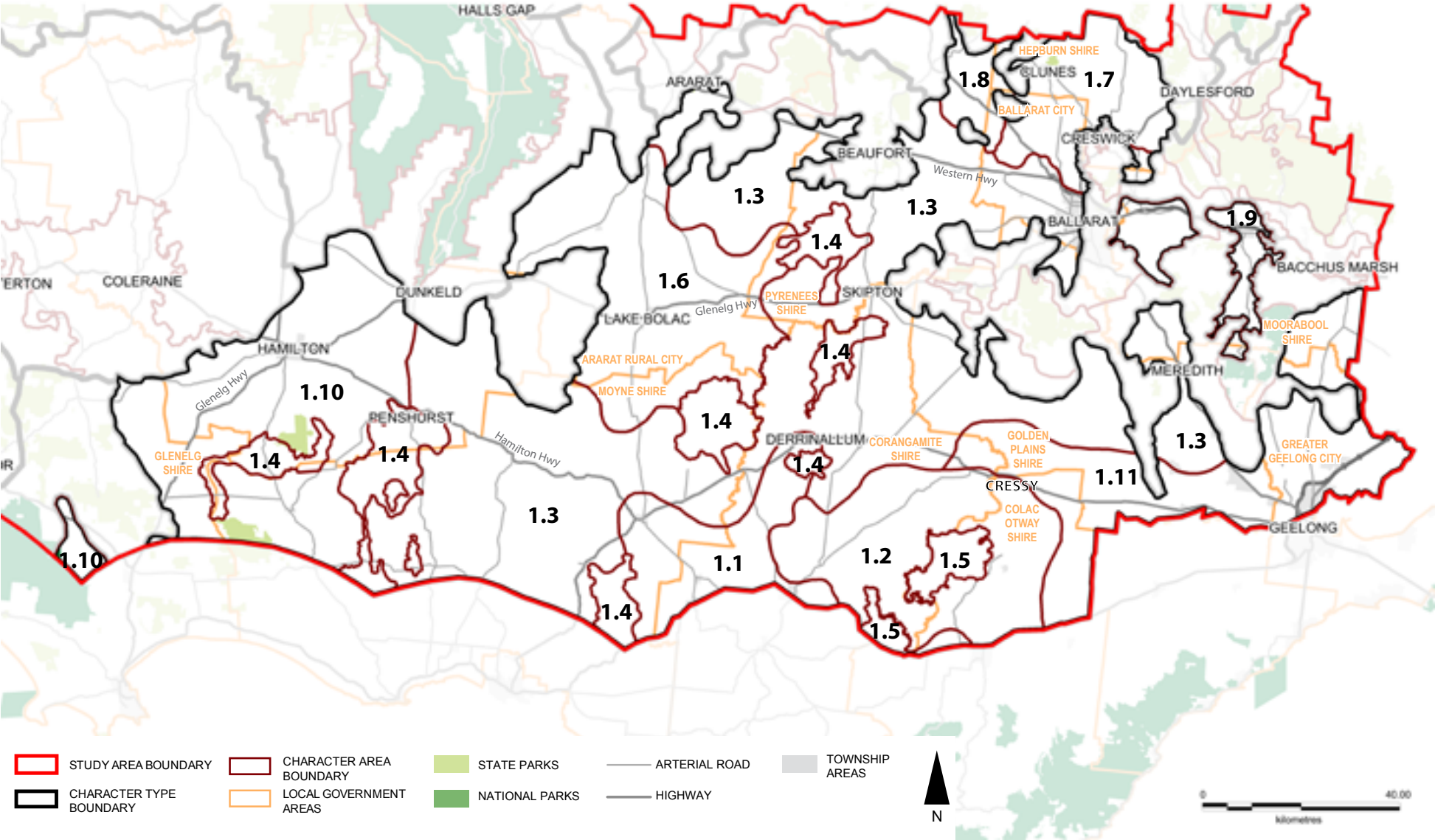


Rich, red volcanic soils



Harmans Valley lava flow with the distant peak of Mount Napier visible on the horizon

Figure 1 The Western Volcanic Plain Location



Key Features

- Windswept, flat to undulating agricultural plains
- Volcanic features punctuating the landscape
- Dry stone walls
- Heavily modified landscape
- Sparse settlements
- Numerous lakes
- Exotic and native shelterbelts along property boundaries and paddock lines
- Rich, red volcanic soils

Landscape Characteristics

Landform

The landform of the Western Volcanic Plain is flat to gently undulating rising only up to 20 metres. This flat plain is dramatically relieved by volcanic features the highest of which is Mount Elephant at nearly 200 metres.

Approximately 100 extinct volcanoes can be found in this Character Type, and other associated geological features are abundant. Volcanic cones rise from the flat pastoral land and take on a variety of shapes, from low rounded rises to steep sloped hills with dramatic peaks and angles. Undulating, rocky landscapes of stoney rises have originated from ancient lava flows, and marr volcanos take on the form of circular crater lakes.

Waterform

Numerous lakes and swamplands are dotted across the Western Volcanic Plain and range dramatically in scale. Some of these are formed by low lying depressions in the relatively flat landscape, other larger ones are the result of ancient volcanic flows blocking creeks and river valleys, effectively halting the drainage of water. The largest inland lake in Victoria, Lake Corangamite, was formed by this process. Water within the lakes varies from fresh to brackish and saline, and volcanic maars often have high mineral concentrations that give them outstanding blue or greenish colouring.

Major rivers in this Character Area include the Hopkins, Glenelg and Barwon. There are marshy areas at low points and creeks with local erosion. Many of these are seasonal.

Vegetation

The Western Volcanic Plains is largely an open, agricultural landscape mostly devoid of trees. Original grassland communities have been replaced by exotic pasture species and monocultural crops, leaving only remnants within roadsides. Weed species such as thistles and Pattersons Curse are prolific in fallow paddocks. Windbreaks commonly line property boundaries, paddock edges and dwellings. Many of these are old Pine and Cypress species that are starting to deteriorate with age, however younger shelterbelts of native species are also common.

The volcanic cones are often bare of substantial vegetation but can feature a blanket of patchwork cropping, grazing and some shrub like vegetation. Bracken and grass species grow between the rocky outcrops of the stony rises where agricultural development is unsuitable, and lakes and wetlands support a diversity of aquatic species.

Land Use & Built Form

The fertile soil is generally used for agricultural purposes, including sheep grazing with some areas of cropping. The sparse landscape has been systematically divided into a patchwork of individual properties, lined with wind breaks and separated with post and wire fencing and dry stone walls. Paddocks often feature piles of rocks and boulders that have been cleared out of the soil to increase productivity.

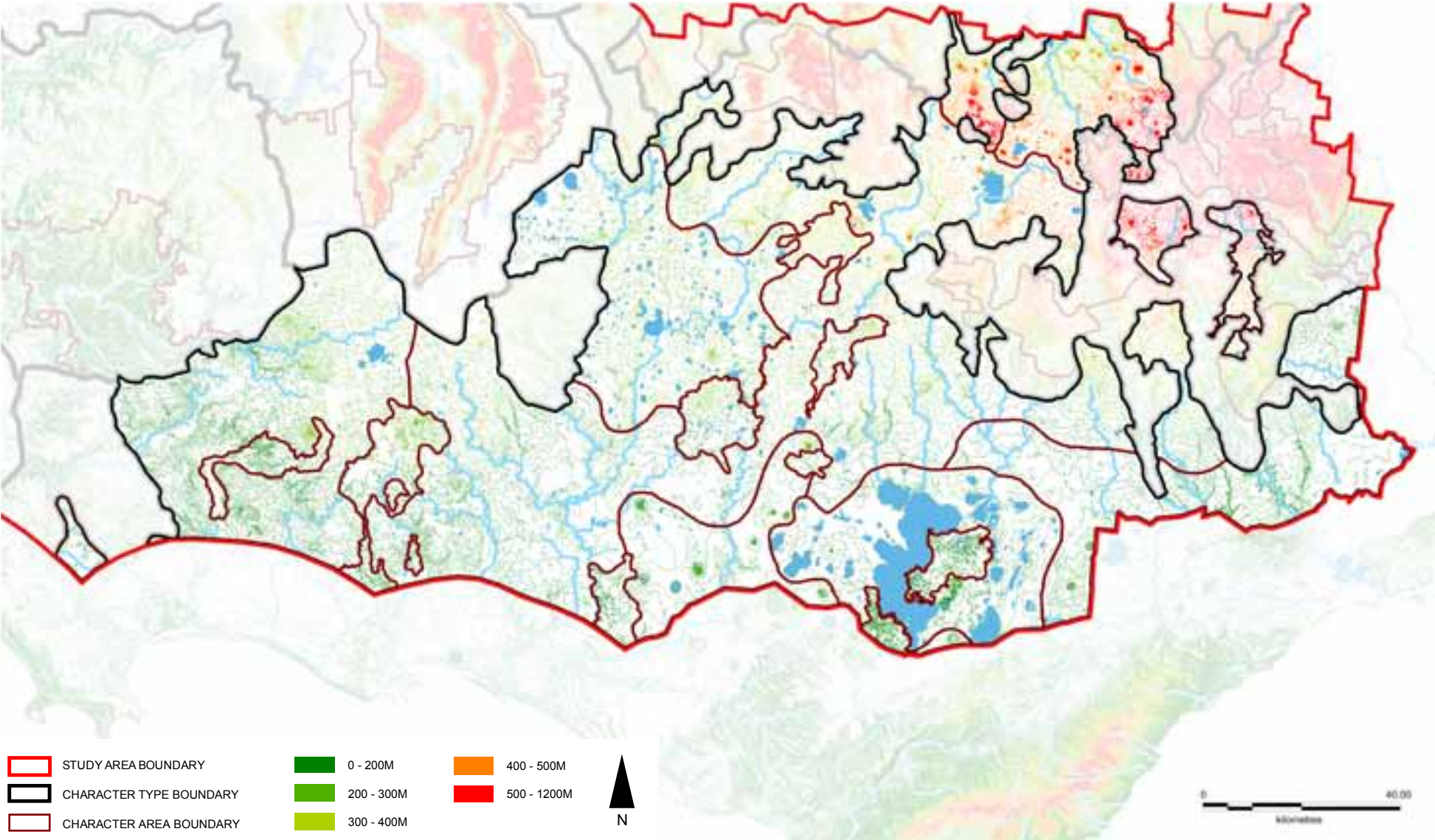
Modest farmhouses and associated buildings are set back from the roadsides and often screened by exotic tree planting. Buildings range in age, with older dwellings from around the first half of the 20th century or earlier located closer to the roadside, and more recent development set back with long driveways and exotic or native avenues. It is not uncommon to see older buildings and sheds left to deteriorate.

Small settlements are dotted across the landscape, development within these is generally concentrated within town boundaries, though some of the larger towns such as Camperdown or Colac have a greater dispersal of rural residential development on their outskirts.

Remnants of historic mining operations are occasionally visible on the landscape in the form of mine heads, mullock heaps and pump house remains, particularly in the area north of Ballarat.

In recent years the volcanic plains have seen the installation of a number of wind farms. The visual effect of these varies from long range views with clusters of turbines punctuating the horizon, to monolithic towers rising above the roadside. Energy transfer stations and access roads associated with these are also prominent features.

Figure 2 The Western Volcanic Plain Contours & Waterform



PATTERN OF VIEWING

The majority of views are over flat to undulating plains with volcanic features occasionally visible on the horizon. Shelterbelts and roadside vegetation constantly filter views.

There are a number of high points available from volcanic features which allow panoramic views across this landscape. These often contain volcanic rises and wide lakes that break the surface of the flat agricultural land. The adjacent Uplands Area towards the north is sometime visible rising majestically from the volcanic plain.

Close up views of the volcanic features are available from small rural roads. There are a number of key viewing corridors which traverse this landscape Character Type:

B140 Geelong to Hamilton

B160 Ballarat to Hamilton

A1 (Princes) Highway along the southern edge of the Character Type



Looking east on the Darlington-Nerrin Road dry stone walls and rock strewn lava paddocks stretch out into the distance.



Aerial view of Mount Noorat shows the distinct formation with an almost perfect crater rising from the flat plain. There is an access track to the crater rim where views can be accessed across the plain

LANDSCAPE VALUES

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 Western Volcanic Plain, such as the field survey, existing studies and documentation, and community consultation.

Historic

- Budge Bim National Heritage Landscape- Mount Eccles Lake Condah Area, listed on the National Heritage List as a Heritage Landscape
- Point Wilson Defence Natural Area, listed on the National Heritage List
- Mount Leura Complex, visible from but not in the area, listed by the National Trust as a state significant landscape & nationally significant geological feature
- Mount Elephant, a state significant landscape listed by National Trust, one of the most iconic volcanoes of the Character Type, visible on the horizon for many kilometres
- Evidence of Aboriginal land use throughout the Type, more substantial than those in most areas of Australia, including scarred trees & mounds
- Dry stone walls constructed by early settlers from the basalt rock have functional, aesthetic & heritage values
- Gold mining remains, a legacy of Victoria's gold mining heritage
- George Augustus Robinson, the Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Port Phillip district from 1839-1849,

journeyed through the western district crossing this Character Type

- Bluestone sourced from basalt rock quarries, an iconic building material that is attached to the identity of Melbourne which lines the city streets & clads many historic buildings
- Massacres & killings of Aborigines occurred in the Type, mostly between Hamilton, Horsham & Ballarat in the early-mid 1800s

Environmental/Scientific

- Cobboboonee & Mount Napier National Parks, protected areas on the IUCN list, Category II (National Park) & protected by National Parks Act 1975
- Many reserves which are protected areas on the IUCN list
- 2 wetlands of international significance (RAMSAR sites), 9 wetlands of national importance & hundreds of wetlands of regional significance
- Kanawinka Global Geopark, Australia's first UNESCO Geopark, which aims to preserve the volcanic features, promote awareness & encourage tourism
 - 6 sites of international geological significance & 14 of national significance
- Locally significant water bodies, wetlands & watercourses
- Significant flora & fauna, with many threatened species on the EPBC Act list
- Lake Bullen Merri, Lake Gnotuk & Lake Purrumbete, broad volcanic craters outside the Character Type

Social

- Rich soils due to weathering of the basaltic soils, highly suitable for agricultural production

- Geological tourism due to stony rises, volcanic cones and lakes
- Major Mitchell Touring Route through the Type, follows the footsteps of the expedition that opened up Victoria to pastoral settlement
- Goldfields Touring Route between Ballarat, Creswick & Ararat
- Agriculture, also valued for economic reasons

CHANGE IN THE LANDSCAPE

Landscape Morphology

This landscape has evolved from centuries of volcanic action creating one of the world's largest basaltic plains which is dotted with extinct volcanoes and stony rises. It is thought that the youngest eruptions occurred between thousands and tens of thousands of years ago and that they may have been witnessed by Aboriginal people.

The volcanic plain has some of the most fertile soils and consistent rainfall within Victoria. Pre settlement vegetation in this area would have consisted of damp sclerophyll forests, woodlands and grasslands, this is now mostly long cleared.

It is believed that over 30,000 years ago Aboriginals modified the landscape through hunting and their extensive use of fire. This controlled use of fire changed the appearance of the native bushland, with large areas of forest being replaced by open grasslands.

These open grassy plains created the park like expanses which so suited the sheep of the first British settlers. Major Mitchell, one of the first Europeans to explore this area, noted that what the settlers found here was not a pristine or natural landscape, but one that had been heavily modified by Aboriginal people over several thousands of years. He declared it as ready for the "immediate reception of civilised man".

The fertility and cleared nature of the Western Volcanic Plains were ideal for grazing. The region became very wealthy and was dominated by large pastoral properties. These large properties often had extensive exotic gardens as the new settlers aimed to recreate their familiar British landscapes.

As time passed the larger properties were compulsorily purchased, subdivided and redistributed amongst small

farmers and soldiers to grow food as well as wool, once again changing the face of the volcanic plain.

As the land was settled and cleared for agriculture, stones from the lava flow were dug from paddocks and built into the dry stone walls that are prolific across the Victorian landscape. The Corangamite area has numerous excellent examples of these. Aboriginal people also made use of the stones from the lava flow to construct channels linking the wetlands, weirs, fish-traps, wind breaks and stone huts.

The creation of agricultural land by the first European settlers changed not only the landscape, but also the watercourses as the draining, diversion and damming of waterbodies has altered the water table and encouraged rising salinity levels.

Deforestation and revegetation continue to shape the aesthetics of the volcanic plain. Volcanic cones, like Mount Leura and Mount Elephant, iconic features of the area, have been deforested and re-vegetated with non-indigenous species which gives a distinctive visual character to the landscape. These cones are now being re-vegetated with indigenous species, reflecting the changing perceptions and priorities of local communities and land care organizations.

Volcanic rises have been mined for the scoria gravel contained within and many of them bear the scars from this past and ongoing practice.

The landscape that we see today represents a hybrid of generally undisturbed underlying topography with patchwork remnants of the natural landscape which are protected by national and state parks. Intertwined with this lies the heavily modified landscape of exotic shelterbelts, dry stone walls, farming, infrastructure, rural development and wind farms.

Sensitivity to Change

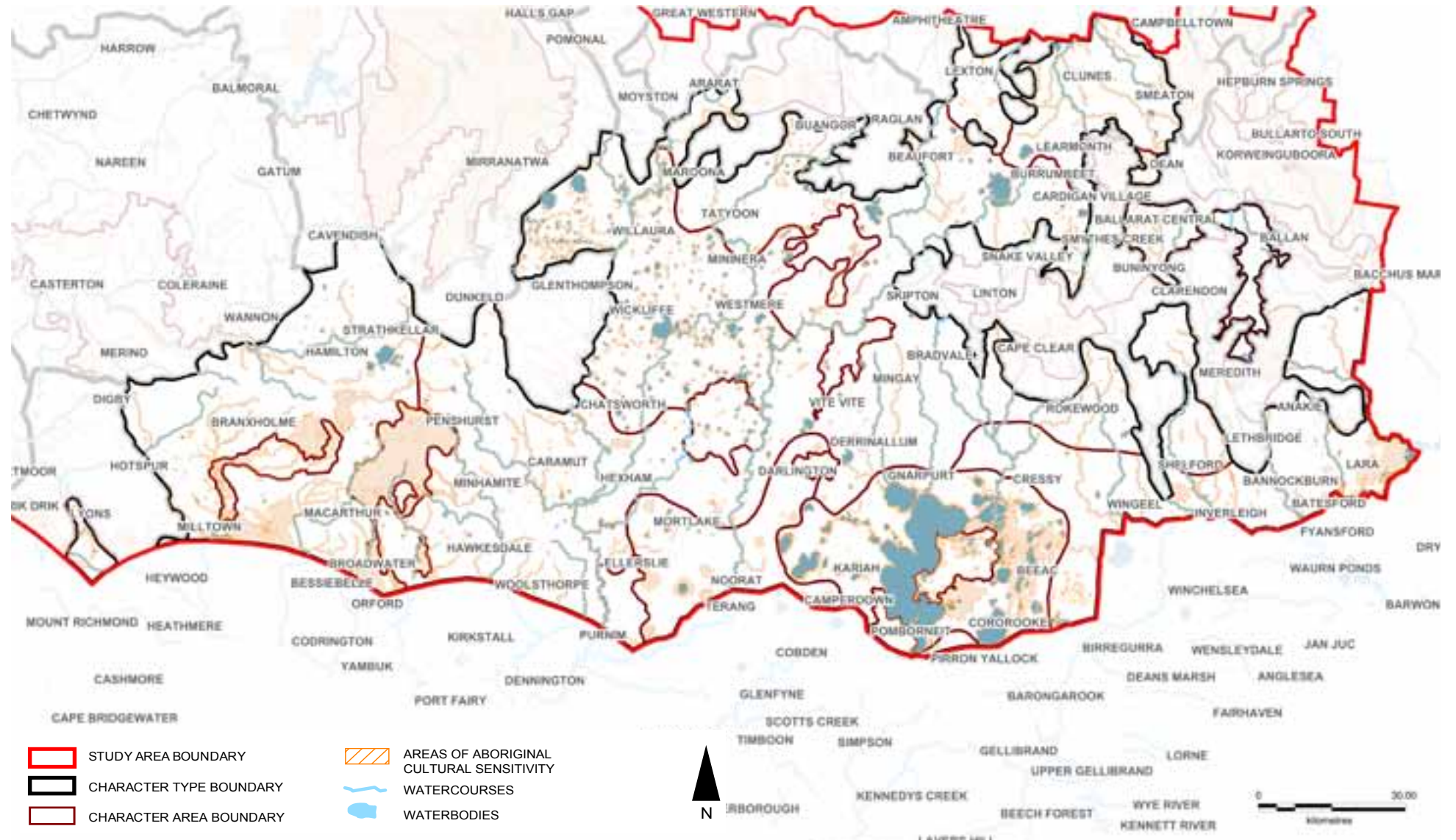
The volcanic plain is highly sensitive to change, the flat nature of the plain offers long range views and thus creates a landscape on which there is 'nowhere to hide'. There is limited capacity for this character type to absorb development without it becoming prominent in the viewed landscape.

However, balanced against this is the degree to which this landscape has been modified, shaped by man over generations.

Anticipated Landscape Change

- The Volcanic Plain forms Australia's First UNESCO Global Geopark and as such it is anticipated that there will be an increase in tourism within this character type
- There is an increasing awareness from farmers as to the value of biodiversity, setting aside existing vegetation or native revegetation to create linked habitat corridors may change the aesthetics of this vast cleared plain.
- This area is subject to a number of wind farm developments and proposals
- 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.

Figure 3 The Western Volcanic Plain Cultural Heritage Sensitivity



FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DIRECTIONS

The Western Volcanic Plain, including its distinctive geological and man-made features, will remain as one of the most important landscape areas in Victoria. Conservation efforts will see the geological and landscape features managed and protected from inappropriate development, and views to and from important features, such as Mount Elephant and other extinct volcanos, will be retained.

Indigenous vegetation will be protected, and regeneration encouraged. Landscape character will be further expressed in built form through the use of local materials and colours that occur naturally in the landscape.

Opportunities

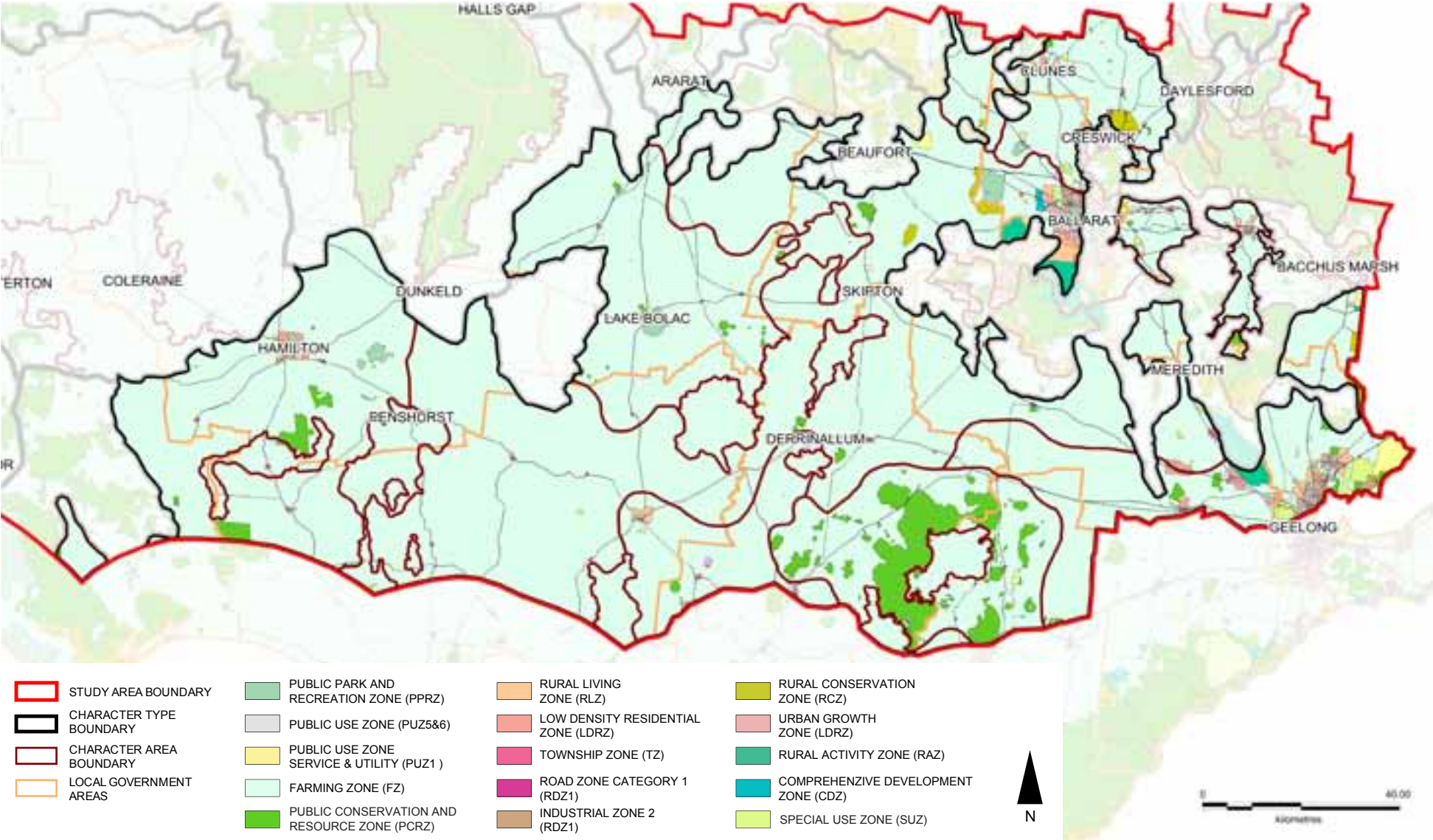
- Protection and enhancement of geological features
- Lava flows are of national and international importance
- Protection and restoration of dry stone walls
- Creation of a strategic revegetation programme to create green infrastructure corridors
- Tourism opportunities
- UNESCO geo park
- Local land care groups are active
- Land tenure, e.g. active community groups willing to purchase and manage features (Mount Elephant)

Threats

- Reaching a balance between protecting the landscape and productive use of the most fertile land in Victoria
- Economy vs environment, competing landuses; mining/plantations/biodiversity/windfarms/agriculture/revegetation
- Natural deterioration
- Inappropriate subdivisions
- Lack of resources
- Privately owned land restricting access to geological features or the ability to protect landscapes e.g. planting exotics/maintaining dry stone walls/revegetation corridors
- Scoria mining on volcanic features
- Feral animals
- Fire
- Invasive species
- Deforestation of adjacent upland areas affecting water run off and catchment on the plains
- Drainage schemes designed to increase the area of available farmland
- Little access to geological features – lack of interpretation, lack of public transport
- Agricultural land use – inappropriate location of farm buildings/changes in farm management/intensive agriculture
- Urbanisation – loss of valuable farming land/growth pressures
- Rising salinity
- Lack of awareness of landscape values
- Uncontrolled stock access
- Sedimentation
- Degredation of rivers
- Degredation of riparian vegetation
- Channel modification (reference to rivers, estuaries and floodplains)
- Habitat fragmentation/reduced connectivity
- Significant disturbance events (fire, flood, storms)



Figure 4 The Western Volcanic Plain Zones



LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

The following Planning Schemes apply to the Western Volcanic Plain:

- Ararat
- Ballarat
- Colac Otway
- Corangamite
- Glenelg
- Greater Geelong
- Hepburn
- Moorabool
- Moyne
- Pyrenees
- Southern Grampians

Key Zones

- Farming Zone (FZ)
- Public Conservation & Recreation Zone (PCRZ)
- Rural Living Zone (RLZ)
- Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ)
- Rural Activity Zone (RAZ)
- Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
- Special Use Zone (SUZ)

Key Overlays

- Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO)
- Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO)
- Heritage Overlay (HO)
- Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO)
- Development Plan Overlay (DPO)
- Wildfire / Bushfire Management Overlay (WMO / BMO)
- Floodway Overlay (FO)
- Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)
- Rural Floodway Overlay (RFO)
- Erosion Management Overlay (EMO)

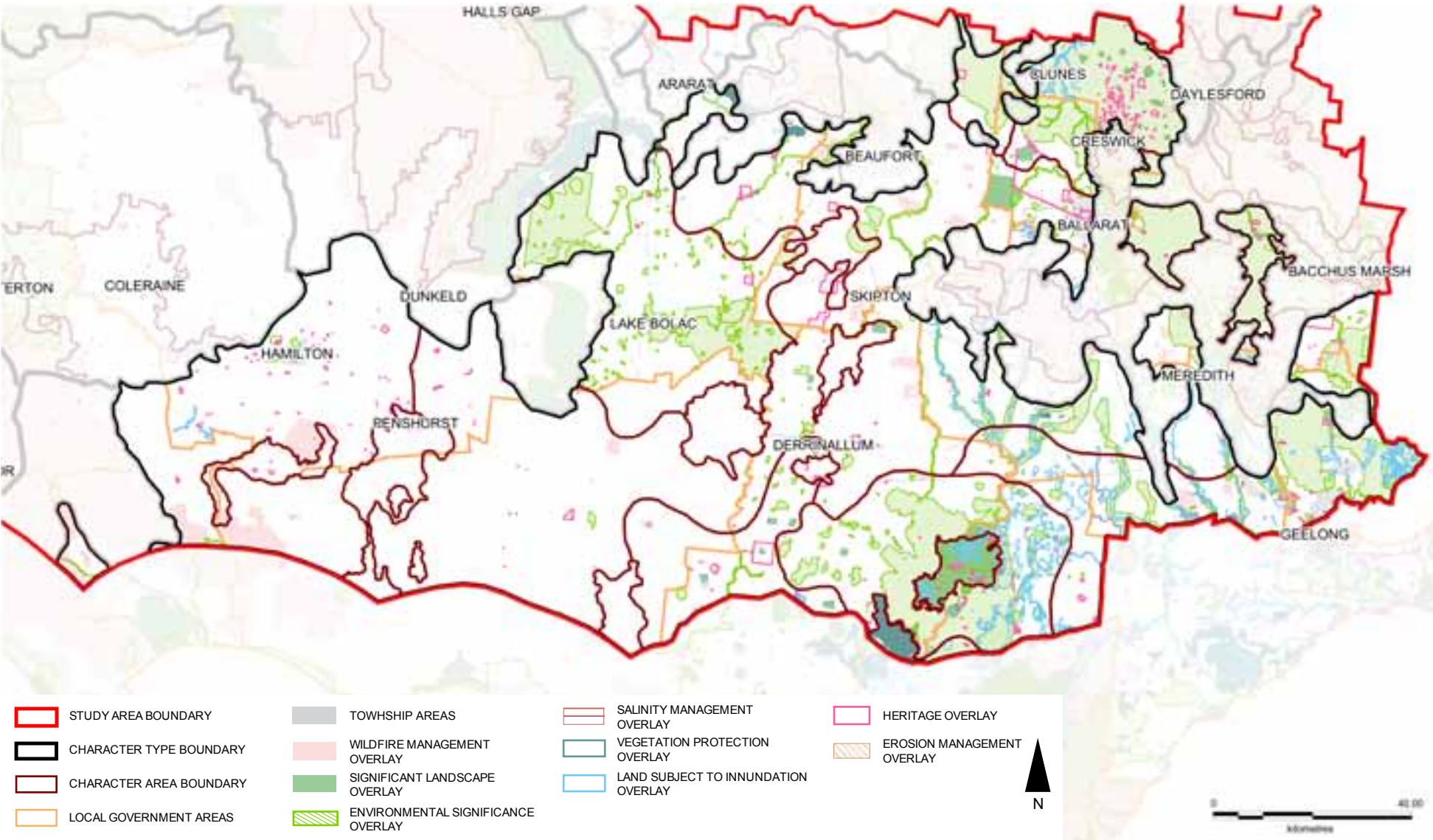
- Salinity Management Overlay (SMO)
- Design & Development Overlay (DDO)
- Restructure Overlay (RO)
- Airport Environs Overlay (AEO)
- Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO)
- Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO)

Landscape Management Objectives

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

- To conserve and enhance the geological features present in this landscape area.
- To preserve and enhance the dry stone walls.
- To protect the volcanic cones, craters and lakes, lava flows and rocky outcrops from destructive or dominating development or practices.
- To increase indigenous planting in the volcanic plain landscape and to further emphasise natural features such as creeks and rivers.
- To create linked corridors of indigenous vegetation.
- To ensure that shelter belt planting remains a feature of the area.
- To avoid shelterbelt planting and timber plantations that block viewlines to important volcanic features.
- To retain views to geological features such as Mount Elephant and Mount Napier, particularly from identified significant viewing locations and road corridors.
- To minimise the visual impact of buildings and structures on large areas of the landscape.
- To ensure that built form is sited and designed in a way that the geological features of the precinct are revealed, wherever possible.
- To ensure that buildings and structures demonstrate a high standard of design and respond to the character of the surrounding environment.
- To retain an overall sense of spaciousness within the landscape.
- To incorporate best practice environmental sustainability principles in building siting and design.
- To minimise the visual impact of signage and infrastructure, particularly when visible from identified significant viewing corridors and viewing locations.
- To protect and respect the cultural heritage values of the Western Volcanic Plains landscape.
- To encourage landscape change that is consistent with the cultural heritage values of the Western Volcanic Plains landscape.

Figure 5 The Western Volcanic Plain Overlays





Landscape Management Guidelines

The Western Volcanic Plain

Landscape Management Guidelines

Landscape Element	Objective	Design Response	Avoid
GEOLOGICAL FEATURES	<p>To conserve and enhance the geological features present in this landscape area.</p> <p>To protect the volcanic cones, craters and lakes, lava flows and rocky outcrops from destructive or dominating development or practices.</p>	<p>Site buildings and structures away from geological features such as volcanic cones, craters and lakes, wherever possible.</p> <p>Protect geological features such as rocky outcrops and sink holes in any new development.</p>	<p>Loss of geological features and formations.</p> <p>Development on or immediately adjacent to geological features.</p> <p>Quarrying or excavation on geological features.</p>
DRYSTONE WALLS	To preserve and enhance the dry stone walls.	<p>Retain existing dry stone walls.</p> <p>(Seek specific guidelines from Dry Stone Wall Association.)</p>	Loss of dry stone walls.
INDIGENOUS VEGETATION	<p>To increase indigenous planting in the volcanic plain landscape and to further emphasise natural features such as creeks and rivers.</p> <p>To create linked corridors of indigenous vegetation.</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>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>Consider the existing landscape character of the area as a guide to the selection of vegetation and the layout of private gardens.</p> <p>Reinforce vegetative linkages to natural features such as existing river and creek environs.</p> <p>Encourage the removal of environmental weeds and their replacement with local indigenous species</p>	<p>Loss of significant stands of vegetation.</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
SHELTER BELTS	<p>To ensure that shelter belt planting remains a feature of the area.</p> <p>To avoid shelterbelt planting that blocks viewlines to important volcanic features.</p>	<p>Retain existing shelter belts wherever possible.</p> <p>Replace lost shelter belt trees with the same species or an alternative indigenous species, suitable to the local area.</p> <p>Encourage the planting of indigenous shelterbelts, as opposed to exotic, adjacent to identified significant viewing corridors.</p>	<p>New exotic shelterbelts adjacent to identified viewing corridors.</p>
VIEWS & VISTAS	<p>To retain views to geological features such as Mount Elephant, particularly from identified significant viewing locations and road corridors.</p> <p>To ensure that built form is sited and designed in a way that the geological features of the precinct are revealed, wherever possible.</p>	<p>Development should be avoided in the foreground (up to 500 metres from the viewing location) of views of geological features, particularly identified significant views, or designed and sited to retain the character and scenic qualities of the views from that location.</p> <p>Buildings, structures 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 geological features.</p>

Landscape Element	Objective	Design Response	Avoid
BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES: SITING	<p>To minimise the visual impact of buildings and structures on large areas of the landscape.</p> <p>To retain an overall sense of spaciousness within the landscape.</p>	<p>Ensure that buildings, structures and other infrastructure are sited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within existing clusters of buildings where possible. ▪ Away from landscape features such as volcanic cones, craters and lakes, lava flows and rocky outcrops. ▪ To minimise visibility from identified significant viewing corridors and other main roads. <p>In open rural areas, ensure that buildings and structures are set back sufficient distances from roads to ensure minimal visual intrusion.</p> <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>Loss of sense of openness.</p> <p>Buildings and structures that are visually dominant or located in prominent locations.</p> <p>Development of residences and other buildings and structures at the roadside.</p> <p>Numerous storage areas / outbuildings on a site.</p> <p>Scattering of buildings and structures across a site.</p> <p>Visual clutter.</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"> Using simple, pared-back building forms and design detailing, with consideration of the Australian rural architectural vernacular. 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). Using a mix of contemporary and traditional rural materials, textures and finishes including timber, stone, brick and corrugated iron. Making use of building materials with minimal environmental impact and encouraging the use of recycled materials where possible. Ensure that development does not visually overwhelm the landscape setting by: Designing building and structures of a scale that does not dominate the surroundings. 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. <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>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, particularly when visible from identified significant viewing corridors and viewing locations.	<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>

Landscape Element	Objective	Design Response	Avoid
CULTURAL HERITAGE	<p>To protect and respect the cultural heritage values of the Western Volcanic Plains landscape.</p> <p>To encourage landscape change that is consistent with the cultural heritage values of the Western Volcanic Plains landscape.</p>	<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>
SETTLEMENT EDGES	<p>To contain existing settlements and prevent their unchecked expansion into the surrounding landscape.</p>	<p>Ensure that settlements maintain their individual character and physical distance from each other.</p> <p>Ensure settlements have a definite visual edge, delineating the boundary between urban development and the natural / rural landscape beyond.</p> <p>Carefully site buildings and structures at settlement edges to integrate with existing topography and vegetation.</p>	<p>Development 'clutter' at the edges to settlements.</p> <p>The expansion of rural living development into the landscape.</p> <p>Ribbon development between settlements.</p> <p>Suburban style residential development, with large areas of hard paving, in the rural environment.</p>

