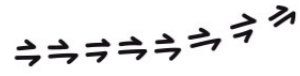




KITJARRA-DJA-BUL ⇒⇒⇒  
BULLARTO LANGI-UT



# MASTERPLAN

OCTOBER 2023





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**Acknowledgement of Country**

We proudly acknowledge and respect the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners as the custodians of land and waters within the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project area, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom have ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices. We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations for the Barwon (*Parwan*) and Moorabool (*Murrabul*) rivers.

Revisions	Date	
Draft V4	18.10.2023	Final
Draft V3	27.06.2023	For consultation
Draft V2	28.04.2023	SAC comment
Draft V1	09.12.2022	PWG comment



**What is Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut?**

Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut is the Wadawurrung name for the project previously known as the Barwon River Parklands and translates to “places of many stories”.

Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut is an initiative to connect communities to the lower Moorabool and Parwan / Barwon River corridors by sensitively integrating public access and recreation in a way that respects, interprets and improves the study area’s unique cultural, environmental and landscape values. The project area encompasses an extensive corridor of Yulluk riverine tract on Wadawurrung Country, including the internationally recognised Kuuwarra / Lake Connemara wetlands and the Parwan / Barwon River estuary.

The vision for Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut is for a well-connected, diverse and healthy waterway landscape, that:

- balances recreation, conservation, and respect of place and culture; and
- provides for everyday enjoyment of nature, community, liveability and wellbeing.

**Where is Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut?**

The project area extends from the Moorabool River near Meredith, through to the Parwan / Barwon River in Djilang / Geelong and onto Koornoo / Barwon Heads (as shown in red). The study area links Barre the mountains of the Brisbane Ranges National Park to Warre the sea at Koornoo / Barwon Heads and includes the largest area of native vegetation in the region and largest population and growth area outside of Melbourne. It has been divided into three zones to reflect the different values, opportunities and challenges associated with each area.

The Moorabool River north of Batesford (Zone 1) flows through predominantly rural land and includes areas of steep gorges within the Moorabool Valley with limited public access to the river.

The Barwon and Moorabool River through Central Geelong (Zone 2) links the new growth areas in western Geelong and Armstrong Creek with the established open space network through the heart of the city.

The Barwon River Wetland and Estuary (Zone 3) includes the Ramsar listed Kuuwarra / Connemara wetland complex of international significance, which separates Djilang / Geelong from Koornoo / Barwon Heads - Ocean Grove and the Bella Wiyn / Bellarine Peninsula.





## A Masterplan – a critical step in the protection and enhancement of the river corridors

Green open spaces are vital to community wellbeing, and with a rapidly growing population in the *Djilang / Geelong* region, the demand for access to open space is increasing. The original Barwon River Parklands project was established in 2005 and has been active in delivering a range of capital works aimed at improving visitor and user experience from trail upgrades and water access improvements to environmental and landscape protection and enhancement works.

The *Djilang / Geelong* and *Bella Wiyn / Bellarine* region is one of the state's most popular tourist destinations and masterplan implementation will ensure that the *Parwan / Barwon* and *Moorabool* corridors will be a world-class visitor attraction. The plan promotes community wellbeing and residents and visitors keeping active and healthy by supporting access, use and enjoyment of the rivers and open space.

This masterplan also supports the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners in protecting and managing the cultural and environmental values of the area through implementation of the *Paleert Tjaara Dja* Healthy Country Plan.

### Who is involved?

The development of this masterplan builds on the actions of the 2011 Barwon River Parklands Strategy; is a priority for the G21 Region Alliance; an action of the Rivers of the Barwon (*Barre Warre Yulluk*) Action Plan; and is supported through the Geelong City Deal, Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Tourism Development Plan; and City of Greater Geelong's Shared Trails Masterplan.

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is the lead agency for *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* on behalf of a broader group of partners including Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Barwon Coast, Barwon Water, City of Greater Geelong, Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Department of Jobs Skills Industry and Regions, G21 Region Alliance, Golden Plains Shire, Parks Victoria, Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine and Department of Families Fairness and Housing.

## What are the priority projects?

The projects proposed in this masterplan have been prioritised based on their expected benefits, feasibility, community/agency support, risks and costs. The priority projects are listed below and will be implemented first.

### Wadawurrung Country

- Work with public and private landholders to improve awareness and appreciation of Wadawurrung values through implementation of the *Paleert Tjaara Dja* Healthy Country Plan, use of Wadawurrung language and place names and development of a cultural trail.
- Support the Wadawurrung – Barwon Water management partnership at *Porronggitj Karrong* and investigate opportunities for other Wadawurrung land management partnerships at Batesford, Red Gum Island, Goat Island, *Boot-boot-a* and within *Kunuwarra / Lake Connewarre*.

### Healthy waterway environment

- Ensure all works are consistent with and contributing to the Corangamite Waterway Strategy, the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (2022), the Rivers of the Barwon (*Barre Warre Yulluk*) Action Plan (2022) and the Port Phillip (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site Management Plan (2018).
- Support expansion of the Deakin University revegetation project along Waurm Ponds Creek to enhance community access and use through improved stormwater management, weed control, indigenous revegetation and increased canopy cover.
- Promote awareness and appreciation of the *Kunuwarra / Lake Connewarre* complex and *Parwan / Barwon* River estuary as a Ramsar wetland system of international significance. This includes improved community access at existing locations and where consistent with the environmental and cultural values of the area.



### Resilience to a changing climate

- Update the Barwon through Geelong Management Plan and support sustainable renewal of existing aging recreational and visitor infrastructure including bridges, platforms, public toilets and paths, which are likely to experience increased risk of flooding through central *Djilang / Geelong*.
- Support ongoing implementation of strategies that strengthen the biodiversity values and increase the waterways resilience to climate change.
- Implement existing masterplans and projects for renewal of infrastructure and biodiversity protection at the *Bukareeyoo / Ocean Grove Spit* and *Sheepwash Road* at risk from the impacts of sea level rise.

### Tourism and Economic Development

- Promote Moorabool River visitation through local food and wine tourism.
- Promote eco-tourism of the *Kunuwarra / Lake Connewarre – Parwan / Barwon* River estuary as a Ramsar wetland system of international significance.
- Develop a Barwon/Moorabool River Heritage Trail including interpretive signage and online platforms connecting historic sites and places associated with the early development of the region.

### Recreation, community health, wellbeing and access

- Establish a continuous off-road trail between Batesford and *Ngubitj yoorree / Sparrovale Wetlands* as a series of connected local loop trails. Priorities include:
  - Initially develop a walking trail at Batesford to connect the new Moorabool River Reserve managed by Golden Plains Shire Council to the existing Moorabool River Reserve managed by the City of Greater Geelong (contingent on negotiating access or ownership of private land). In the longer term, plan for extending the walking trail southwards to Fyansford.
  - Barwon River Loop Trail including a new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the *Parwan / Barwon* River east of the M1 Ring Road and new works as needed to complete the loop trail from Queens Park, Wandana and Fyansford and close the missing link in the Ted Wilson (Ring Road) shared path.
  - Connection of the Waurm Ponds Creek Trail to the Barwon River Trail at South Barwon Reserve.
  - Staged extension of the Barwon River Trail from Belmont Common to *Ngubitj yoorree / Sparrovale Wetlands* including a new bridge across Waurm Ponds Creek and improving sustainable transport links to the river and City from Armstrong Creek.



- Implement priority actions within existing masterplans for the Moorabool River Reserve Batesford (Golden Plains Shire Council), Mt Brandon Reserve Wandana (City of Greater Geelong), *Ngubitj yoorree / Sparrovale Wetlands* (City of Greater Geelong), *Porronggitj Karrong* (Barwon Water) and *Bukareeyoo / Ocean Grove Spit* (Barwon Coast) providing improved community access to the river corridors while protecting, strengthening and interpreting environmental and cultural values.
- Sensitively provide greater community access where appropriate to the Lower Barwon wetlands and estuary through extension of boardwalks in the *Sheepwash* area at *Kooroo / Barwon Heads*, a walking trail from Hospital Swamp to Taits Points and up-graded facilities at McCorkell Reserve on the north side of *Kunuwarra / Lake Connewarre*.
- Provide greater boat access to the Lower Barwon River south of *Djilang / Geelong* to the estuary by developing new boating rules taking advantage of the imminent removal of the Sewer Aqueduct at *Porronggitj Karrong* which currently restricts access.

### Growth area planning and infrastructure

- Secure a continuous open space corridor and buffers along the *Parwan / Barwon* and *Moorabool* Rivers linking Batesford and the Western Geelong Growth Area with Armstrong Creek to allow for protection of cultural and environmental values, enhancement of riparian vegetation and sustainable provision of recreational facilities for new residential communities.

### How will this masterplan be funded and implemented?

- Most of the proposed projects in this masterplan are currently un-funded and will require the sourcing of new capital investment to implement. The project partners are committed to working with the community to attract the funds necessary to implement the vision established in this masterplan with a particular focus on the identified high priority projects.



## Vision

### Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut

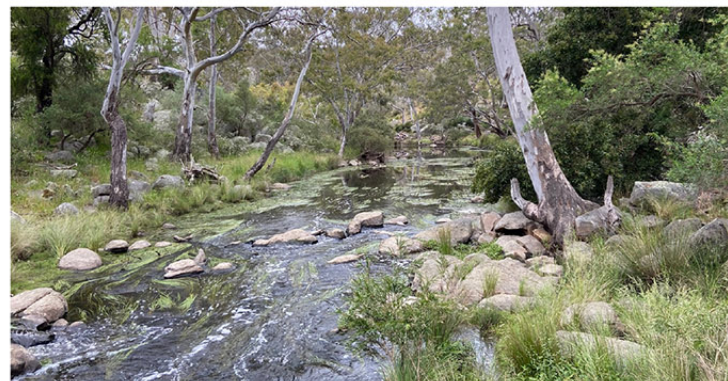
is a well-connected, diverse and healthy waterway landscape, that balances conservation, recreation, respect of place and culture, while providing for everyday enjoyment of nature, community, liveability and wellbeing.<sup>1</sup>

## Strategic Directions

The *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project's strategic basis aligns with current Victorian Government policy direction. It also responds to the recognised values and distinctive area attributes of the project area, which result from complex interactions between landscape character, biodiversity and other natural values, existing and future settlement patterns, infrastructure, Wadawurrung living cultural heritage values and historic heritage.

Key focus areas of strategic alignment include:

- Wadawurrung Country
- Growth area planning and infrastructure.
- Climate resilience
- Healthy waterway environment (including biodiversity conservation)
- Landscape character
- Historic heritage and places
- Recreation, community health, wellbeing and access
- Tourism and economic development
- Victorian Government Policy directions including Water for Victoria.



<sup>1</sup> Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut Strategic Statement

## Wadawurrung Country

The *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project falls within Country of the Wadawurrung People, who have inhabited and cared for this area for millennia. It is rich in their spiritual and living cultural heritage, and all aspects of the landscape — lands, mountains, seas, skies, waters tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites and places — are connected and significant. In Wadawurrung language, *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* means "place of many stories".

Key strategic directions are to:

- Support Wadawurrung rights to self-determination so that their aspirations for their lands, waters and culture are realised through the transfer of relevant decision-making powers.
- Support Wadawurrung to identify manage, conserve and enhance living cultural heritage and their values: places, landscapes, waterways (including unnamed waterways), natural resources and significant views.
- Use shared Wadawurrung knowledge and practices to inform planning, land and water-management decisions and help to protect the environment and biodiversity within the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project area.
- Improve awareness, understanding and appreciation of tangible and intangible Wadawurrung living cultural heritage knowledge within the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project area, including language, oral traditions and pre-colonial cultural practices.
- Support initiatives and policies that enable the healing of this significant riverine corridor.
- Support use of Wadawurrung Language and place names within the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project area.

## Growth area planning and infrastructure

The footprint of *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* is within Australia's fastest growing region with a range of rural, residential and industrial growth areas and major infrastructure. The future Western Geelong Growth Area is expected to include approximately 22,000 new homes and over 60,000 residents. Planning for the new open space areas will create over 20km of public river frontage and riparian conservation reserves along the Moorabool and Barwon Rivers and will ensure protection of the significant cultural and environmental values while sensitively opening up the river frontage to public access where appropriate. This will create opportunities to improve open space links back to Fyansford and Geelong and provide additional open space for provision of passive and active recreational facilities currently not available at Batesford and further upstream.

The continued development of the Armstrong Creek Growth Area is expected to ultimately provide approximately 20,000 new homes and over 50,000 residents, however, this community currently has no direct access to the Barwon River. Future new open space will provide greater access to the river for a growing community.

Major transport infrastructure including the railway line upgrades at Marshall and future Bellarine Link (a new bridge linking the Geelong Ring Road to the Bellarine Peninsula) will also provide another shared pedestrian/cycle bridge crossing on the Barwon River and links to the Bellarine Rail Trail.

Key strategic directions are to:

- When planning growth areas, ensure that river corridors are preserved for public open space and protect and strengthen riparian vegetation and biodiversity corridors especially in the undevelopable areas below the 1 in 100 year flood level.
- Strengthen planning policy and controls for the Moorabool and Barwon Rivers.
- The *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project partnership will work in collaboration with Local Government Growth Area Planning process to explore options for accessing the new public open space proposed in this masterplan.
- Identify levels of access for appropriate usage that minimises impacts on natural values.
- Design infrastructure within the project footprint that protects and strengthens the landscape character, natural environment and biodiversity values while improving active and passive recreation on water or land, maintaining view lines from existing and new transport corridors, retaining remnant vegetation and providing appropriate indigenous revegetation.
- Promote best-practice and adaptive integrated water management and water-sensitive urban design for new development, to minimise the negative cumulative impacts on the in-situ and downstream environments of the Moorabool and Barwon Rivers.
- Ensure the provision, maintenance and upgrading of infrastructure that protects, conserves and enhances places of Wadawurrung living cultural heritage significance.
- Support the timely delivery of planned project infrastructure and services to meet community needs in sequence with and aligned to planned development that do not compromise biodiversity or habitat values.
- Coordinate active and sustainable transport planning encouraging cycling/walking over car use to maximise environmental and liveability benefits.

## Climate resilience

Planning for the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project will support both climate change mitigation principles as well as broader adaptation and improved resilience to the impacts of climate change including warmer temperatures, less rainfall and infrequent rain incidents, increased bushfire risk, higher sea levels and increased coastal erosion.

Key strategic directions are to:

- Promote opportunities for zero emission use along the river. Encourage local communities and visitors to the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project area to embrace active transport (i.e. walking and cycling) via an expanded and accessible off-road path network.
- Design new and replacement carbon neutral community infrastructure within the river corridor.
- Support ongoing implementation of strategies that strengthen biodiversity values and increase the waterways resilience to climate change.

- Engage Wadawurrung on country to apply biocultural knowledge and practices to better manage bushfire risk and restoration of the natural environment.
- Implement best-practice, environmentally sustainable design practices including waste management and the use of renewable energy technology.
- Identify, protect and strengthen ecological communities and biodiversity values most at risk from sea level rise.
- Maintain and increase indigenous (and appropriate climate adaptive) vegetation and tree canopy cover within the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project area to aid carbon sequestration and to reduce heat island effects in urban areas and strengthen biodiversity values.
- Maintain the natural course (hydraulic conveyance and storage capacity) of the floodplain where possible to maximise its flood resilience and adaptative capacity to climate change.

## Healthy waterway environment (including biodiversity conservation)



The *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project provides an opportunity to promote collaboration and partnership programs that identify, protect and restore biodiversity and habitat values along the Moorabool and Barwon Rivers, as well as improved community connection to and appreciation of these values.

Key strategic directions are to:

- Promote collaboration with other environmental and waterway strategies and partnership programs that enhance community connection and education in regards to the Moorabool and Barwon Rivers and their biodiversity and habitat values.
- Promote projects that are consistent with and support other waterway and environmental strategies and partnership programs.
- Protect and enhance riparian vegetation and adjacent floodplains as natural biodiversity corridors and biolinks for native fauna.
- Work with public and private landholders to improve protection and awareness of the river corridor's environmental values.
- Build broader knowledge, engagement and partnerships that strengthens community education, connection to and appreciation of the river corridor's environmental values.



## Landscape character

The footprint of *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* is one of Victoria's most visually and environmentally complex areas incorporating the Moorabool River gorge country and forest areas of the Brisbane Ranges and Central Victorian Uplands, cutting through the scenic rural landscapes and grasslands of Barrabool Hills and Victorian Volcanic Plains, linking the historic Barwon River landscape of central Geelong before entering the Ramsar listed Lake Connewarre wetlands and the Barwon River estuary landscape.

These varied landscapes provide numerous opportunities to enjoy expansive views, connect with nature and feel a distinct sense of place. These areas also support the region's biodiversity, provide an important link to Wadawurrung living cultural heritage and are highly valued by the residents of Geelong and surrounding communities and visitors to the region.

Key strategic directions are to:

- Protect and heal the distinctive landscapes and cultural flows of the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project area in bushland, rural, floodplain, wetland and coastal settings by containing urban growth to existing and already proposed growth areas.
- Protect and conserve culturally and visually sensitive escarpments maintaining green breaks and connection to the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers for conservation, enabling both culture-based and nature-based tourism activities that prioritise the protection and enhancement of the project area's significant landscapes and landscape characteristics.
- Promote and ensure consistency with the objectives of Significant Landscape Overlays (SLOs), ensuring any development allowed in green breaks responds to the surrounding landscape character and maintains the visual dominance of the natural landscape.
- Encourage appropriate open space or natural buffers where appropriate to minimise the impact adjoining land use on landscape character.



## Improve community awareness and appreciation of the area's rich history<sup>2</sup>

The region began the pastoral expansion across the Western District and Geelong, which with direct access to the port at Corio Bay, was commonly known as the wool centre of the world. Access to the port then drove further expansion of Geelong during the gold rush where the Moorabool River and later railway lines provided direct links to the goldfields at Ballarat.

The region is known for an amazing array of bridge architecture, industrial buildings, homesteads and continuous open space and water sports use since the early 1860s.

Key strategic directions are to:

- Improve community awareness and appreciation of these many stories.
- Conserve and sustainably manage heritage values, ensuring access and enjoyment for future generations.
- Ensure any future access infrastructure complements the corridor's historic heritage values.



## Community health, wellbeing, access and use

The Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2019 – 2023 explains the importance of open space to increasing active living, tackling climate change and improving mental and physical health and mental wellbeing. The plan prioritises providing universal design principles for access to parks, open spaces and public spaces that support active living; increasing active transport; and increasing participation in sport and active recreation activities to help achieve these priorities.

Many uses of open space improve physical health and mental wellbeing. Activity improves fitness which improves immune function, blood pressure and respiratory health, and it reduces the risk of serious and chronic health conditions. This is supported by



Active Victoria 2022-2026, which seeks to increase equitable participation in sport and active recreation and deliver quality infrastructure that is accessible, respectful and inclusive.

The lower Barwon River corridor runs through the centre of Geelong and is a significant asset to the city. The river corridor provides open green space valued by residents and visitors alike. The lower Barwon and Moorabool Rivers and their adjacent parklands are a focus for a wide range of passive recreational activities. Events, including sporting and recreational events and other social events, are also held along the Barwon River corridor through Geelong.

The Barwon River through Geelong supports a large number of major events including the Head of the School Girls Regatta, which attracts upwards of 10,000 visitors and participants. Smaller organised recreational and sporting events and other private functions are also held on its waters and along its riverbank. Other events, such as Geelong River Runs and water-skiing days regularly attract significant crowds.

Further upstream the Moorabool River also supports less formalised recreational activities along or beside the river include swimming, fishing, bird watching, bushwalking and horse riding.

With the expected new development along the footprint of the project area (i.e. Western Geelong Growth Area) and proposed new access to areas of river frontage to the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers, *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* provides a key opportunity as green corridor for active transport. This includes additional and extended recreational river side use, and on river use through paddle sport activities.

Key strategic directions are to:

- Ensure the growing population has access to the river corridor for active and passive recreation, commerce, the arts and cultural education.
- Ensure that recreational activities do not adversely impact the environmental values of the river corridor by reserving the area immediately adjacent to the river for single lane walking trails only with sealed shared trails and active recreation located above and away from the riparian zone.
- Encourage sustainable, low-impact and ecologically sensitive visitation infrastructure.
- Increase the quantity and quality of green corridors along, to and from the river corridors to meet future population growth, manage conflicting uses and enhance community wellbeing.
- Ensure equity of access and minimise risk to public safety.

## Tourism and economic development

The *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project area draws visitors from around Victoria, Australia and the world with a focus on nature-based tourism, major events and its offerings in local food produce and wineries. Tourism attractions, events and experiences include food, wine, art, cultural events, and natural landscape activities such as bird watching, bushwalking, cycling and water sports. Tourism will continue to be a fundamental part of the local economy.

This is supported by the Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Tourism Development Plan 2019 – 2022, which has identified priorities around the activation of Lake Connewarre as a key nature-based tourism experience, linking Geelong to the Bellarine and the Living Moorabool Trail as an important connection between Golden Plains South and urban Geelong to promote visitor dispersal throughout the region.

Key strategic directions are to:

- Increase the diversity and quality of tourism, arts and culture, recreation and educational experiences within the river corridor that celebrate the region's Wadawurrung living cultural heritage and historic heritage.
- Collaborate in the promotion of identified tourism opportunities for the project area (i.e. nature based tourism, fresh local produce and wineries and recreational opportunities) in line with the Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Tourism Development Plan 2019 – 2022.
- Encourage sustainable, low-impact and ecologically sensitive land use and development for visitation infrastructure on public and private land within or adjoining the river corridor where appropriate that minimises impacts on landscape, environmental and cultural values.
- Explore opportunities to capitalise on Geelong's status as the UNESCO City of Design to attract visitors from the city to the river corridor.
- Where sympathetic and compatible with the corridor's riverine amenity, explore the opportunity to allow for commercial ventures to support beside and on water river recreation such as cafes, restaurants, bike hire and boat hire.
- Encourage appropriately located and scaled major event and recreational infrastructure such that cultural, environmental and landscape values are not compromised.
- Support Wadawurrung to facilitate culturally responsive tourism and related economic development that encourages people to recognise, understand and celebrate Wadawurrung living cultural heritage, rights and authority.
- Ensure tourism use and development responds to bushfire and natural hazard risks including flooding by locating away from high-risk areas and by adopting emergency management planning practices.
- Support tourism and economic development (i.e. agricultural and natural resource industries) within the river corridor that protect and respond to the landscape's significance, environment and Wadawurrung living cultural heritage and historic heritage values.

<sup>2</sup> Historic heritage places relate particularly to the occupation and use of the continent since the arrival of European and other migrants, including pre-1788 Asian and European exploration, contact and settlement sites





# KITJARRA-DJA-BUL BULLARTO LANGI-UT

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party for this region. The Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan, *Paleert Tjaara Dja* outlines their vision and direction for the future and will guide the development of the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* (places of many stories) Project which they have named.

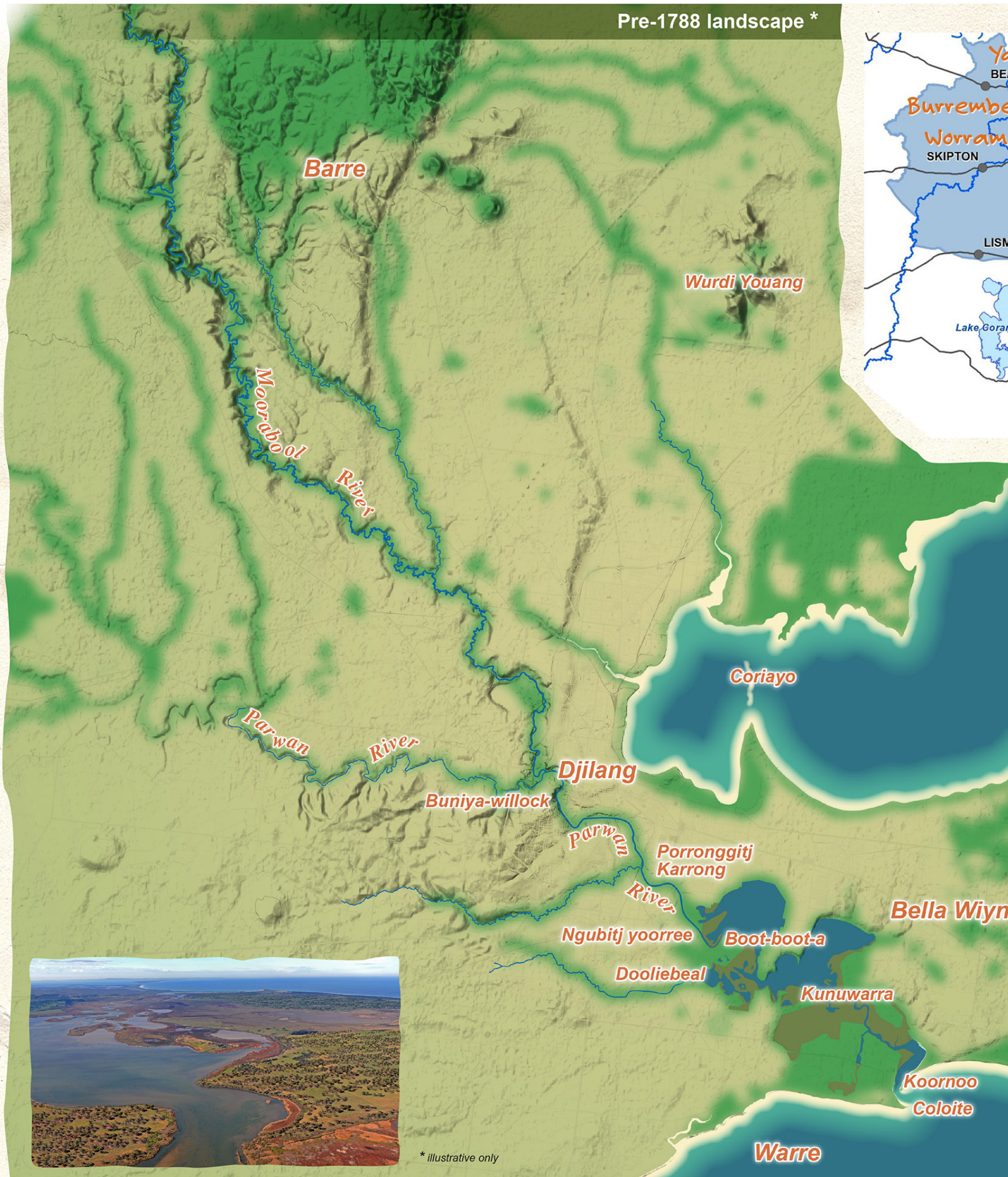
The Barwon and Moorabool *Yulluk* (rivers) run from the *barre* (mountains) to the *warre* (ocean), and stories tell of these connections. The name Barwon is derived from *Parwan* meaning 'magpie' or 'great wide'. Fyansford is a significant cultural place where the Barwon and Moorabool meet.



The chain of ponds from the Barwon River to Reedy Lake, Hospital Lake, Lake Connewarre and estuary is connected through water and *Kunuwarra* (Black Swan) Dreaming. The waterways were like highways, they were how Wadawurrung people moved around Country.

Wadawurrung people used canoes or in calmer waters, *murriyans* bark floats, or punts pushed by long poles to gather the abundance of food. On the natural rises along the waterways they camped and caught eels, other fish and waterbirds to eat. Important decisions were made on the banks of these waterways by Ancestors and they are important living and meeting places just as they are today.

There are the imprints of our ancestors across this interconnected cultural landscape from places of ceremony linked to our seasonal calendar to the remains of our living spaces: our homes in the basalt stone hut, ovens and hearths. Across our Country are stone tool making sites, scar trees and ceremony places. Our people modified the basalt rocks to construct channel, weirs and dams as a system of water management to trap, store and harvest fish and eels. A mass of stone tools are found throughout our Country today which form part of our cultural heritage.



# WADAWURRUNG VALUES

*Wadawurrung Country* encompasses an area from the Great Dividing Range of Ballarat, the coast from the Werribee River to *Mangowak* (Airey's Inlet), including *Djilang* (Geelong), *Ballaarat* (Ballarat), Torquay, *Jan Jook*, the Bellarine Peninsula and surf Coast. Wadawurrung Country as currently defined covers over 10,000 square kilometres or 1 million hectares.

Many of the place names are derived from *Wadawurrung* language. Geelong comes from *Djilang*, which means tongue of land or peninsula. Moorabool from *Murrabul* meaning mussel, Connewarre from *Kunuwarra* meaning black swan and You Yangs from *Wurdi Youang* meaning big hill. Bellarine Peninsula is known as *Bella Wiyn*, which means 'recline on the elbow by the fire' or 'resting place'.

The *Paleert Tjaara Dja* Healthy Country Plan states "We are the protectors and carers of this Country and this Country protects and cares for us. We belong to and are spiritually connected to this Country and this Country is part of us."





*Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto-langi-ut* is an opportunity to place Wadawurrung values at the forefront of planning and management of the river corridor. The project provides the opportunity to achieve key goals identified in the Wadawurrung *Paleert Tjaara Dja* Healthy Country Plan including:

**(Us supporting Us – Cultural Strengthening)**

- Culture and Language Strengthening Program
- Keeping Place – A safe place for our cultural resources, for Wadawurrung to come together on Country and practice culture
- Cultural Centre; For Sharing, Education and Enterprise
- Wadawurrung cultural education and language

**(Strengthening Wadawurrung)**

- Employment and mentoring
- Enterprise development and support
- Recognition and Respect for Wadawurrung People, Treaty
- Engagement with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) Members
- Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

**(Taking Care of Country and Waters)**

- Caring for Country Team
- Cultural Values Management and - Country and Water Acquisition & Management
- Co-management
- Cultural Burning
- Representation on Planning Committees
- Cultural Heritage Management (Physical artefacts)

*Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* provides opportunities to:



- Support Wadawurrung rights to self-determination so that their aspirations for their lands, waters and culture are realised through the transfer of relevant decision-making powers.
- Support Wadawurrung to identify, manage, conserve and enhance living cultural heritage and their values: places, landscapes, waterways (including unnamed waterways), natural resources and significant views.
- Use Wadawurrung knowledge and practices to inform planning, land and water management decisions and help to protect the environment and biodiversity.
- Improve awareness, understanding and appreciation of tangible and intangible Wadawurrung living cultural heritage knowledge including language, oral traditions and pre-colonial cultural practices.
- Support use of Wadawurrung language and place names.



Key priorities include:

- W1** Support Wadawurrung to identify, protect and maintain areas of cultural sensitivity and investigate opportunities to improve appreciation and awareness of Wadawurrung values through development of area specific values plans for the study area.
- W2** Support improved water quality and restoration of cultural flows to the Moorabool River including removal of barriers to fish/eel passage and monitoring impacts of extractive industry and intensive agriculture.
- W3** Work with public and private landowners to improve awareness and protection of Wadawurrung values and cultural sites between Meredith and Batesford
- W4** Investigate opportunity for Wadawurrung management partnerships of land on the steep undevelopable escarpment to restore physical connection between Bunjils Lookout and the Moorabool River at Maude.
- W5** Support Wadawurrung to directly manage areas of cultural sensitivity and build on traditional knowledge and management practices as part of site rehabilitation. Key priority sites include:
  - W5.1** Moorabool anabranch island at Batesford part of the new reserve in Golden Plains Shire.
  - W5.2** Red Gum Island at the confluence of the Moorabool and Parwan / Barwon River at Fyansford.
  - W5.3** Goat Island following removal of the Aqueduct spans opposite Porrongitj Karrong.
  - W5.4** Boot-boot-a Island on the Kunuwarra / Lake Connewarre site of the Ngubiti yoorree / Sparrowvale Wetlands levee and Hospital Swamp channel.
  - W5.5** Other privately owned land (subject to Landowner Agreement).
- W6** Priority sites for Wadawurrung co-naming may include:
  - W6.1** Moorabool River Reserves at Batesford
  - W6.2** Barwon River Reserves downstream of the Geelong Ring Road
  - W6.3** Buckley Falls Reserve at Wandana
- W7** Investigate funding mechanism for direct Wadawurrung management of country and other support including:
  - Staff traineeships
  - Research grants
  - Net Gain Offsets
  - Trust for Nature
- W8** Investigate Wadawurrung allocation of depot/storage/ staff facility space at Ngubiti yoorree / Sparrowvale to assist direct management of country.
- W9** Support ongoing Wadawurrung research in restoration and management of country using application of traditional knowledge and practices.
- W10** Continue ongoing support for Wadawurrung management of Porrongitj Karrong in partnership with Barwon Water.
- W11** Support Wadawurrung culture in longer term planning for the Ngubiti yoorree / Sparrowvale – Kunuwarra / Lake Connewarre wetland interpretation and visitor centre.

**DRAWING KEY**

-  KITJARRA-DJA-BUL BULLARTO LANGI-UT AREAS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY
-  OTHER AREAS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY

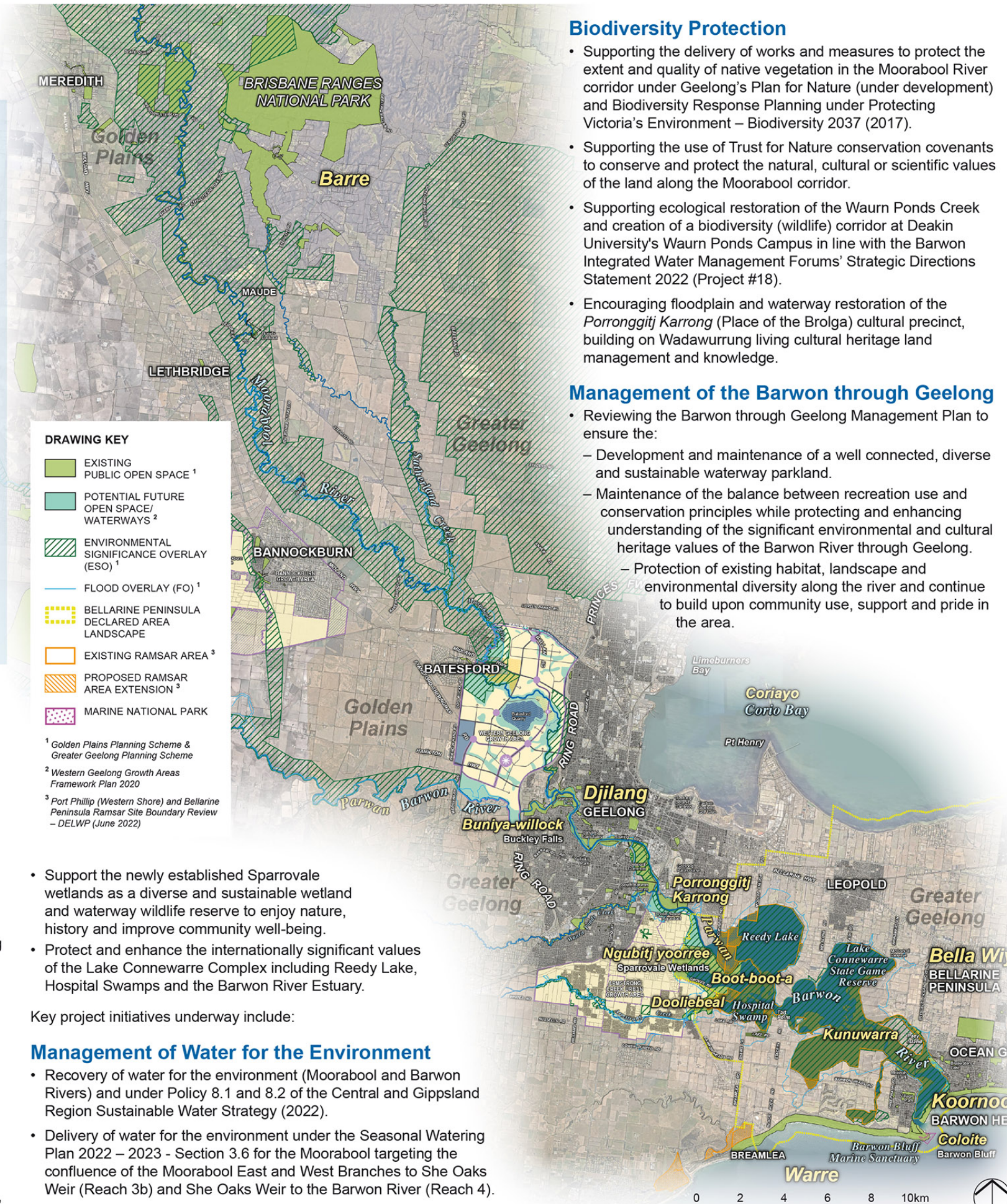
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Key priorities for *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* are:

- Protect and restore remnant vegetation communities along the rivers as part of integrated, holistic and sustainable management of the waterway corridors.
- Protect and restore habitat for species of national, state and regional significance.
- Develop partnerships with private landholders to remove gaps and barriers to a continuous riparian and floodplain habitat corridor and bio-link.
- Manage the impacts of urbanisation on stormwater run off to protect water quality and natural waterway function.
- Recognise and maintain the hydraulic function and capacity of the Barwon and Moorabool River floodplains.
- Continue staged woody weed control along the riparian corridor to reduce potential downstream impacts.
- Monitor, evaluate and respond to the impacts of climate change in natural systems.
- Secure, review and manage environmental water in the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers and Connewarre wetland complex to protect and improve the ecological health and function of the lower river system.
- Ensure building design, vegetation and emergency management practices consider the increasing risk from flood, drought, wildfire and rising sea levels.
- Review barriers on public and private land and improve fish passage.



## Biodiversity Protection

- Supporting the delivery of works and measures to protect the extent and quality of native vegetation in the Moorabool River corridor under Geelong’s Plan for Nature (under development) and Biodiversity Response Planning under Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037 (2017).
- Supporting the use of Trust for Nature conservation covenants to conserve and protect the natural, cultural or scientific values of the land along the Moorabool corridor.
- Supporting ecological restoration of the Waurn Ponds Creek and creation of a biodiversity (wildlife) corridor at Deakin University’s Waurn Ponds Campus in line with the Barwon Integrated Water Management Forums’ Strategic Directions Statement 2022 (Project #18).
- Encouraging floodplain and waterway restoration of the *Porronggitj Karrong* (Place of the Broлга) cultural precinct, building on Wadawurrung living cultural heritage land management and knowledge.

## Management of the Barwon through Geelong

- Reviewing the Barwon through Geelong Management Plan to ensure the:
  - Development and maintenance of a well connected, diverse and sustainable waterway parkland.
  - Maintenance of the balance between recreation use and conservation principles while protecting and enhancing understanding of the significant environmental and cultural heritage values of the Barwon River through Geelong.
  - Protection of existing habitat, landscape and environmental diversity along the river and continue to build upon community use, support and pride in the area.

## Integrated Water Management and Floodplain Management

- Developing an Integrated Water Management Plan for the City of Greater Geelong in line with the Barwon Integrated Water Management Forums’ Strategic Directions Statement 2022 (Project #2).
- Implementing the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas through the Precinct Structure Planning Process in line with the Barwon Integrated Water Management Forums’ Strategic Directions Statement 2022 (Project #5).
- Supporting the implementation of the Barwon and Moorabool River flood study in line with the Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2018 – 2028, and the Our Coast initiative in preparation for changes in the lower Barwon coastal zones and estuary due to coastal sea level rise.

## Catchment and Waterway Management

- Protecting existing vegetation and waterway health in line with the Greater Geelong and Golden Plains planning schemes (policy, zones and overlays, i.e. VPO, Greater Geelong ESO1: Areas of Flora and Fauna Habitat and of Geological and Natural Interest and Golden Plains ESO3 for the Moorabool Valley). This includes state planning policy 14.02-1S Catchment Planning and Management for vegetated buffers, in particular retaining natural drainage corridors with vegetated buffer zones at least 30 metres wide along each side of the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers and Waurn Ponds Creek to:
  - maintain the natural drainage function, stream habitat and wildlife corridors and landscape values,
  - minimise erosion of stream banks and verges, and
  - reduce polluted surface runoff from adjacent land uses.
- Encouraging landowners to apply best practice land management in line with the Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy 2021 –2027 (includes Waurn Ponds Creek, the Moorabool Valley downstream of Batesford and the Barwon catchment within the Barabool Hills and Bellarine Peninsula)
- Continuing to deliver the Living Moorabool flagship waterway project, including improved riparian management of the Moorabool and Barwon Rivers and Waurn Ponds Creek as priority waterways in accordance with the Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014 -2022, via landholder agreements, bank stability works, willow control and other pest plant management, pest animal control (i.e. rabbits and foxes), off stream watering, fencing and revegetation works.
- Supporting the progressive removal of barriers to fish passage in line with recommendations of the “Prioritising Barriers to Upstream Fish Passage - Barwon and Moorabool Catchments” study. These include the Batesford Quarry ford and drop structures, Batesford Weir, Stan Maddon Weir, Parkers Weir and Broccoli King Weirs.
- Supporting the progressive removal for barriers to fish passage in line with recommendations of the “Prioritising Barriers to Upstream Fish Passage - Barwon and Moorabool Catchments” study. This includes investigating options to improve native fish migration at Buckley Falls in line with Action:8-4 of the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (2022).
- Improving the management of instream woody habitat in the lower Barwon River downstream of Buckley Falls and Gundog Lane (including angling species such as Estuary Perch).
- Rehabilitating the Moorabool River at Batesford Quarry in line Action:8-1 of the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (2022).
- Supporting the implementation of the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site Management Plan (2018) to maintain, and where necessary improve, the ecological character of Lake Connewarre Complex including Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamps and parts of the Sparrovale wetlands.

The environmental and waterway objectives include:

- Partner with Wadawurrung to identify and protect Wadawurrung cultural values of the Barwon River via the *Gobata Dja baap Ngubiyt* (Taking Care of Country and Waters) Program and *Dja and Yulluk* (Country and Water) strategy.
- Promote the natural character and environmental value of the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers by supporting environmental and waterway strategies, partnership programs, and land use planning policies that:
  - reduce the impact of agriculture and development on the waterway, riparian and floodplain values
  - improve water quality and manage the impacts of urban stormwater and flooding
  - protect and enhance native riparian vegetation while managing historically significant exotic planting and park landscapes
  - reduce the impact of weeds and pest animals
  - improve habitat connectivity while managing the impacts of recreational use on these values
  - secure additional water for the environment
  - protect significant landscapes and view lines (including the gorge escarpments and valley views)
  - promote environmental restoration along the Waurn Ponds Creek corridor.
- Encourage floodplain and waterway restoration building on Wadawurrung living cultural heritage land management and knowledge developed as part of the cultural and community precinct, referred to as *Porronggitj Karrong* (Place of the Broлга), which is intended as an opportunity to investigate, rediscover, trial, rehabilitate and introduce traditional land and water management practices.

- Support the newly established Sparrovale wetlands as a diverse and sustainable wetland and waterway wildlife reserve to enjoy nature, history and improve community well-being.
- Protect and enhance the internationally significant values of the Lake Connewarre Complex including Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamps and the Barwon River Estuary.

Key project initiatives underway include:

## Management of Water for the Environment

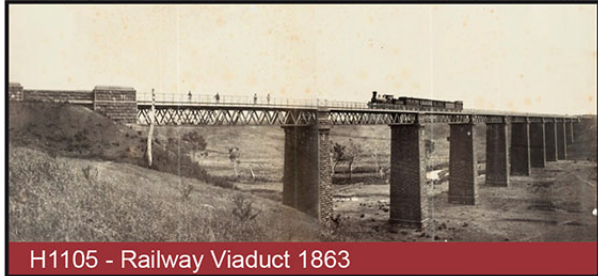
- Recovery of water for the environment (Moorabool and Barwon Rivers) and under Policy 8.1 and 8.2 of the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (2022).
- Delivery of water for the environment under the Seasonal Watering Plan 2022 – 2023 - Section 3.6 for the Moorabool targeting the confluence of the Moorabool East and West Branches to She Oaks Weir (Reach 3b) and She Oaks Weir to the Barwon River (Reach 4).
- Management of water for the environment under the Seasonal Watering Plan 2022 – 2023 - Section 3.7.2. for the Lower Barwon Wetlands (Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamps)



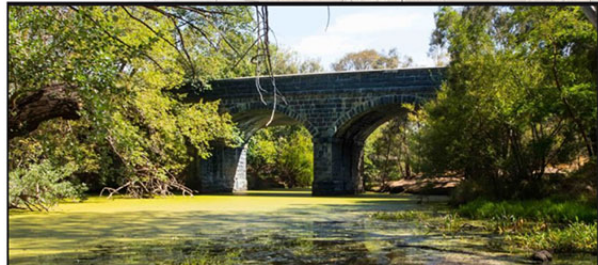


# KITJARRA-DJA-BUL BULLARTO LANGI-UT

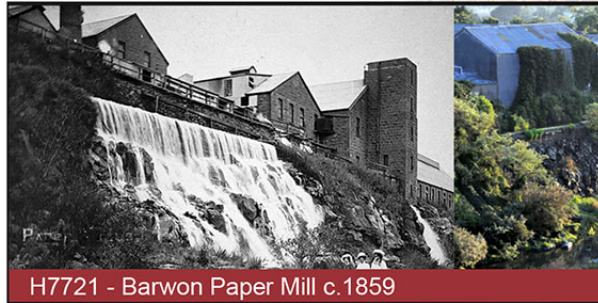
# HISTORIC HERITAGE



H1105 - Railway Viaduct 1863



H1115 - Batesford Bridge c.1859  
HO846 - Travellers Rest Inn



H7721 - Barwon Paper Mill c.1859



H7121 - Barrabool Flour Mill



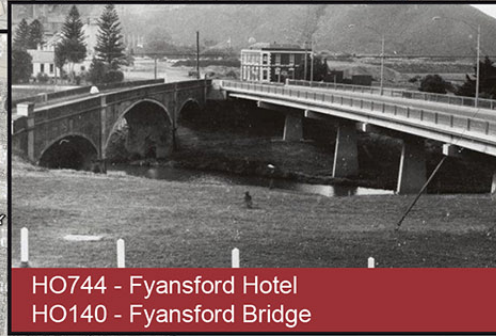
H7721-0068 Waurn Ponds School



Waurn Ponds Bridge



H7721-0443 Sparrovale Farm



HO744 - Fyansford Hotel  
HO140 - Fyansford Bridge



Brearley's Tannery, 1936



H1102 - Barwon Grange

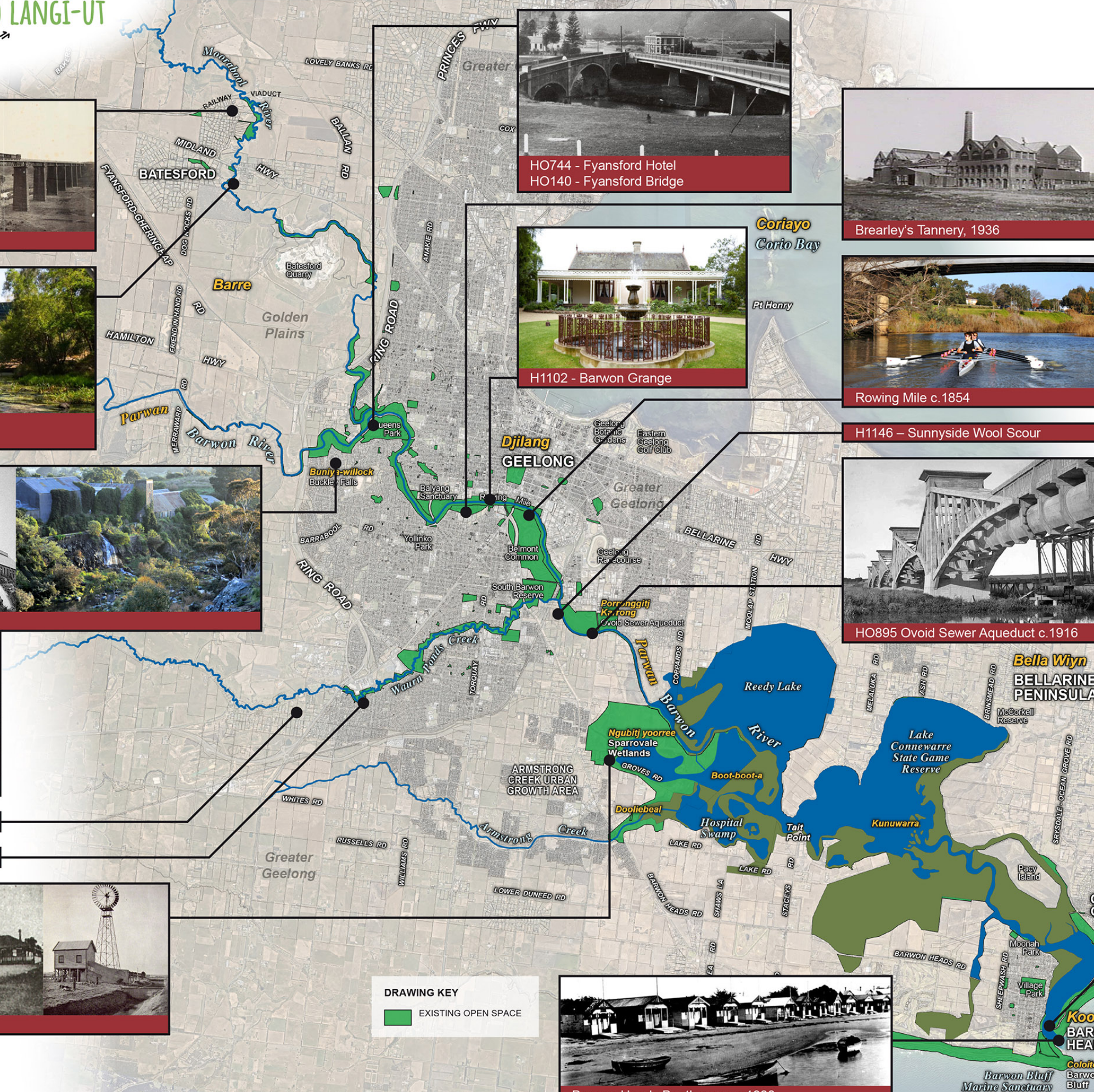


Rowing Mile c.1854

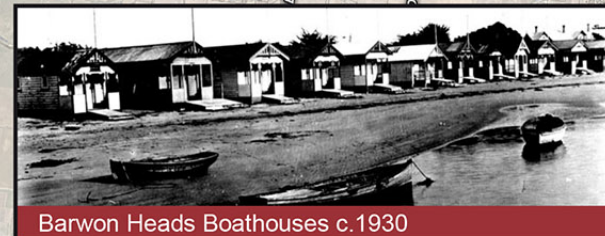
H1146 - Sunnyside Wool Scour



HO895 Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct c.1916



**DRAWING KEY**  
■ EXISTING OPEN SPACE



Barwon Heads Boathouses c.1930

William Buckley, an escaped convict who jumped ship in 1803 near Sorrento provided the initial link between the early settlers, led by Captain Foster Fyans, and the Wadawurrung people with whom he had lived for over 30 years. The first settlements were based around the Fyansford area, which was the only reliable source of fresh drinking water until completion of the breakwater near what is now Gun Dog Lane in 1836.

The region began the pastoral expansion across the Western District and *Djilang* / Geelong, which with direct access to the port at Corio Bay, was commonly known as the wool centre of the world. Access to the port then drove further expansion of the city during the gold rush where the Moorabool River and later railway lines provided direct links to the goldfields at *Ballaarat* / Ballarat.

Use of water from the river was a key driver in the early establishment of industry in central *Djilang* / Geelong. The weirs upstream of *Buniya-willock* / Buckley Falls still divert water to the historic Barwon Paper Mill c.1878. The West Fyans Street area is of historical and architectural significance with various industrial buildings including Marnockvale, Godfrey Hirst and other wool mills and scours along with listed residential properties closely linked with the *Parwan* / Barwon River.

The region is known for an amazing array of bridge architecture. Early bridges including the Batesford bridge c.1859 and railway viaduct c.1862 were built using bluestone from Lethbridge. The natural limestone of the region then led to a boom in cement technology starting with the Fyansford Bridge c.1899 and the magnificent Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct c.1916. Other bridges of note include the timber bridge at *Koornoo* / Barwon Heads, the longest of its type in Victoria completed c.1927 and the single lane steel bridge at Queens Park.

Modern day refrigeration was invented in *Djilang* / Geelong by James Harrison c.1851 using water pumped from the *Parwan* / Barwon River to caves at Rocky Point on the north bank of the rowing mile, named for rowing regattas which started in 1864 and still continue to this day. The area known as *Ngubiti yoorree* / Sparrovale Wetlands was originally owned by the Geelong Harbour Trust who ran an experimental farming complex on the site from c.1909 with silos designed by Sir John Monash. Barrages were designed to protect *Koornoo* / Barwon Heads from flooding and are still in place today.

The *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* presents an opportunity to improve community awareness and appreciation of these many stories and infrastructure.



H1848 Barwon Heads Bridge





## Management coordination

The land which forms *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* is managed by a range of agencies who will work collaboratively towards implementation of the masterplan and key areas of cooperation include:

- Protection of Wadawurrung values and support in caring for country
- Environmental programs and works
- Recreational services and development
- Tourism and economic development
- Planning and regulatory compliance
- Community engagement and education services
- Research, data collection and reporting

## New open space areas

The majority of river frontage in existing urban areas is already in public ownership and the intent is to ensure that in areas of planned future growth there is a continuous open space corridor provided adjacent to the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers and their tributaries. The corridor is to be of adequate width to protect the entire floodplain, preserving the environmental and cultural values of the waterway while allowing for recreational access and facilities in areas where these activities do not impact natural values and provide effective buffers for protection and connection to important escarpments and areas of remnant vegetation.

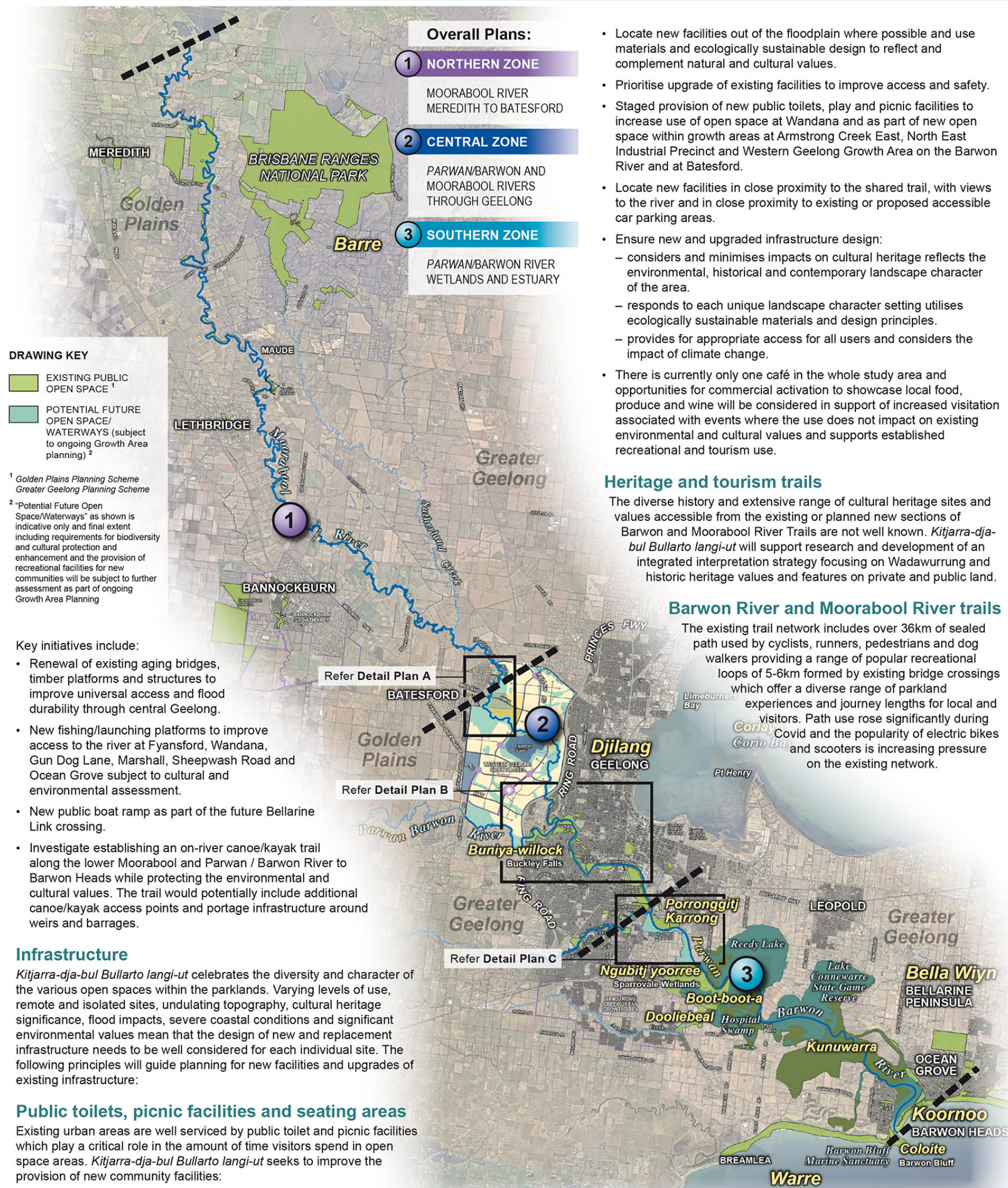
Future public open space reserves along the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers will include:

- Protection of the entire river floodplain with a corridor of sufficient width and buffers to enable protection and restoration of the riparian corridor while sustainably establishing new recreational facilities.
- Provision of sustainable public access to the river for recreation while ensuring protection of culturally sensitive areas and environmental values.
- Establishment of connected linear recreational paths and circuit loops. The preferred model is to establish the sealed shared cycle/pedestrian paths to the outside edge of the open space corridor to minimise potential flooding and provide good connection to adjoining urban areas using more informal walking tracks closer to the river's edge where they are not significantly impacting on the waterway and cultural heritage values.
- Provision of seating areas and viewing points at selected locations to allow recreational users to enjoy views over the waterway and adjoining landscape.
- Establishment of new picnic areas and recreation nodes which can be adequately serviced and of sufficient size to enable increasing use without impacting on environmental and cultural values in the future.
- Staged development to ensure new communities are linked to existing trails and recreational facilities in support of active and sustainable transport initiatives.
- Consideration of adequate funding and maintenance of new facilities and public open space.
- Environmental and educational signage.

Where land is redeveloped and new public open space is acquired along the rivers these areas will be incorporated into *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* program. The *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* project partnership will work in collaboration with Local Government Growth Area Planning process to explore options for accessing the new public open space proposed in this masterplan.

## Water-based recreation

The Barwon River provides for a diverse range of water-based recreation including fishing, rowing, canoe/kayaking, dragon boat racing and water skiing. *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* supports improving community access to the rivers while maintaining the balance between powered and non-powered craft and minimising the impact of powerboats on the instream and adjoining habitat values in natural sections of the river and through the Lake Connemara State Game Reserve.



### Overall Plans:

- 1 NORTHERN ZONE**  
MOORABOOL RIVER  
MEREDITH TO BATESFORD
- 2 CENTRAL ZONE**  
PARWANBARWON AND  
MOORABOOL RIVERS  
THROUGH GEELONG
- 3 SOUTHERN ZONE**  
PARWANBARWON RIVER  
WETLANDS AND ESTUARY

**DRAWING KEY**

- EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE<sup>1</sup>
- POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/ WATERWAYS (subject to ongoing Growth Area planning)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Golden Plains Planning Scheme Greater Geelong Planning Scheme  
<sup>2</sup> "Potential Future Open Space/Waterways" as shown is indicative only and final extent including requirements for biodiversity and cultural protection and enhancement and the provision of recreational facilities for new communities will be subject to further assessment as part of ongoing Growth Area Planning

### Key initiatives include:

- Renewal of existing aging bridges, timber platforms and structures to improve universal access and flood durability through central Geelong.
- New fishing/launching platforms to improve access to the river at Fyansford, Wandana, Gun Dog Lane, Marshall, Sheepwash Road and Ocean Grove subject to cultural and environmental assessment.
- New public boat ramp as part of the future Bellarine Link crossing.
- Investigate establishing an on-river canoe/kayak trail along the lower Moorabool and Parwan / Barwon River to Barwon Heads while protecting the environmental and cultural values. The trail would potentially include additional canoe/kayak access points and portage infrastructure around weirs and barrages.

### Infrastructure

*Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* celebrates the diversity and character of the various open spaces within the parklands. Varying levels of use, remote and isolated sites, undulating topography, cultural heritage significance, flood impacts, severe coastal conditions and significant environmental values mean that the design of new and replacement infrastructure needs to be well considered for each individual site. The following principles will guide planning for new facilities and upgrades of existing infrastructure:

### Public toilets, picnic facilities and seating areas

Existing urban areas are well serviced by public toilet and picnic facilities which play a critical role in the amount of time visitors spend in open space areas. *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* seeks to improve the provision of new community facilities:

- Locate new facilities out of the floodplain where possible and use materials and ecologically sustainable design to reflect and complement natural and cultural values.
- Prioritise upgrade of existing facilities to improve access and safety.
- Staged provision of new public toilets, play and picnic facilities to increase use of open space at Wandana and as part of new open space within growth areas at Armstrong Creek East, North East Industrial Precinct and Western Geelong Growth Area on the Barwon River and at Batesford.
- Locate new facilities in close proximity to the shared trail, with views to the river and in close proximity to existing or proposed accessible car parking areas.
- Ensure new and upgraded infrastructure design:
  - considers and minimises impacts on cultural heritage reflects the environmental, historical and contemporary landscape character of the area.
  - responds to each unique landscape character setting utilises ecologically sustainable materials and design principles.
  - provides for appropriate access for all users and considers the impact of climate change.
- There is currently only one café in the whole study area and opportunities for commercial activation to showcase local food, produce and wine will be considered in support of increased visitation associated with events where the use does not impact on existing environmental and cultural values and supports established recreational and tourism use.

## Heritage and tourism trails

The diverse history and extensive range of cultural heritage sites and values accessible from the existing or planned new sections of Barwon and Moorabool River Trails are not well known. *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* will support research and development of an integrated interpretation strategy focusing on Wadawurrung and historic heritage values and features on private and public land.

## Barwon River and Moorabool River trails

The existing trail network includes over 36km of sealed path used by cyclists, runners, pedestrians and dog walkers providing a range of popular recreational loops of 5-6km formed by existing bridge crossings which offer a diverse range of parkland experiences and journey lengths for local and visitors. Path use rose significantly during Covid and the popularity of electric bikes and scooters is increasing pressure on the existing network.

The majority of the existing trail network is subject to flooding and requires constant repair and management and there are also some sections and access points which due to steep topography and or historical development do not meet contemporary standards.

While there is significant community interest in development of an off road shared trail link from Geelong to Barwon Heads at this stage the floodplain width, significant cost, environmental impact and safety issues associated with developing this link make it an unrealistic priority. *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* supports improvements in on road cycling links between Geelong to Barwon Heads while noting some of these will be delivered through other programs as part of future road upgrades.

*Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* shared trail priorities include:

- Improving width, surface condition and maintenance on the existing trail network.
- Developing consistent directional and code of conduct signage.
- Linking new communities at Armstrong Creek, Wandana, Fyansford and Batesford to the river and existing trail network.
- Developing enhanced trail loops at Sparrowvale Wetlands, Wandana/ Fyansford and Batesford.

Development of new trails will:

- Where possible locate the main sealed shared trail away from the edge of the river to minimise flooding and impacts on existing and future riparian corridor revegetation and habitat links.
- Use concrete to reduce maintenance requirements and improve safety in areas prone to more frequent flooding and consider lower cost asphalt and unsealed granitic gravel surfaces in other areas where expanding the network is a higher priority.
- Use unsealed walking tracks and boardwalks to provide access closer to the river and avoid ground disturbance in areas of cultural heritage sensitivity.
- Include supporting infrastructure, resting points, drinking fountains etc. as needed to ensure a positive user experience.

Bridges are a critical part of developing and expanding the looped trail network however the width of floodplain and significant cost and environmental impact of limit opportunities for new dedicated pedestrian and cycle bridges.

- Prioritise a new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the Barwon River downstream of the Ring Road to link Wandana, Fyansford and the Ted Wilson Trail.
- Where new road bridges are established at Bellarine Link and as part of the Western Geelong Growth Area ensure integration of dedicated pedestrian and cyclist access to current Australian Standards.
- Prioritise improving pedestrian and cyclist access on and to and under existing road bridges.

## Community consultation

*Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* supports the active participation of local communities in the management, protection and operation of the river and open space to improve community well-being and health including:

- Ongoing consultation with established advisory and user groups.
- Establishment of Community Notice Boards at key visitor nodes in each management zone to update users and visitors about upcoming works and events.
- Further consultation with relevant community stakeholders as part of detailed design and implementation of masterplan recommendations.
- Support community and volunteer groups and river users to assist and actively participate in management of the river and public open space.



The CCMA has developed an assessment and rating system for waterway amenity based on its **N Naturalness** and **U Use/Facilities/Access**. Current values and ratings for each zone are described below and have been used to inform Draft Masterplan recommendations and priorities for each zone.

## 1 NORTHERN ZONE

### Meredith to She Oaks Weir

- N1** Natural channel and floodplain, western floodplain contains mostly native dryland forest with eastern floodplain mostly cleared south of Duggans Road and mostly native dryland forest north of Duggans Road. Flows typically less than half of natural flow in most years.
- U1** Meredith Education Area managed by Parks Victoria contains walking trails, bush camping and picnic facilities (4WD access only) and educational signage.

### She Oaks Weir to Maude

- N2** Thin strip of riparian remnant vegetation around river channel otherwise cleared. Some private diversion weirs modify channel and flow.
- U2** Fishing, bird watching, picnicking at She Oaks and Pedrisat Road Picnic Area.

### Maude to Sutherland Creek

- N3** Thin strip of riparian remnant vegetation around river channel otherwise cleared. Some private diversion weirs modify channel and flow.
- U3** Mostly private land with limited access. Bunjil's Lookout provides traditional owner educational signage and picnic facilities.

### Sutherland Creek to Batesford

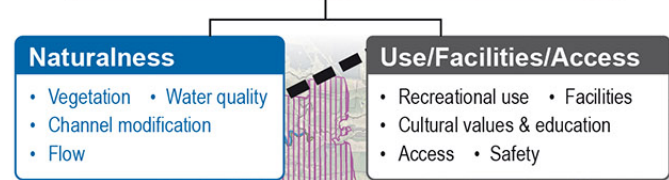
- N4** Thin strip of riparian remnant vegetation (mostly only one to five trees wide) flanked by cleared private land. Environmental flows insufficient to meet ecological objectives.
- U4** Mostly private land – limited public access. Little or no recreation opportunity.

## 2 CENTRAL ZONE

### Batesford Moorabool River Reserve

- N5** Thin strip of riparian remnant vegetation (mostly only one to five trees wide) flanked by cleared private land (except for significant remnant vegetation in the Moorabool River Reserve managed by the City of Greater Geelong in the Dog Rocks area). Environmental flows insufficient to meet ecological objectives.
- U5** Access limited to formal and informal walking trails at the Golden Plains Shire Council managed Moorabool River Reserve at Batesford and the City of Greater Geelong managed Moorabool River Reserve near Dog Rocks.

## Current Waterway Amenity Rating

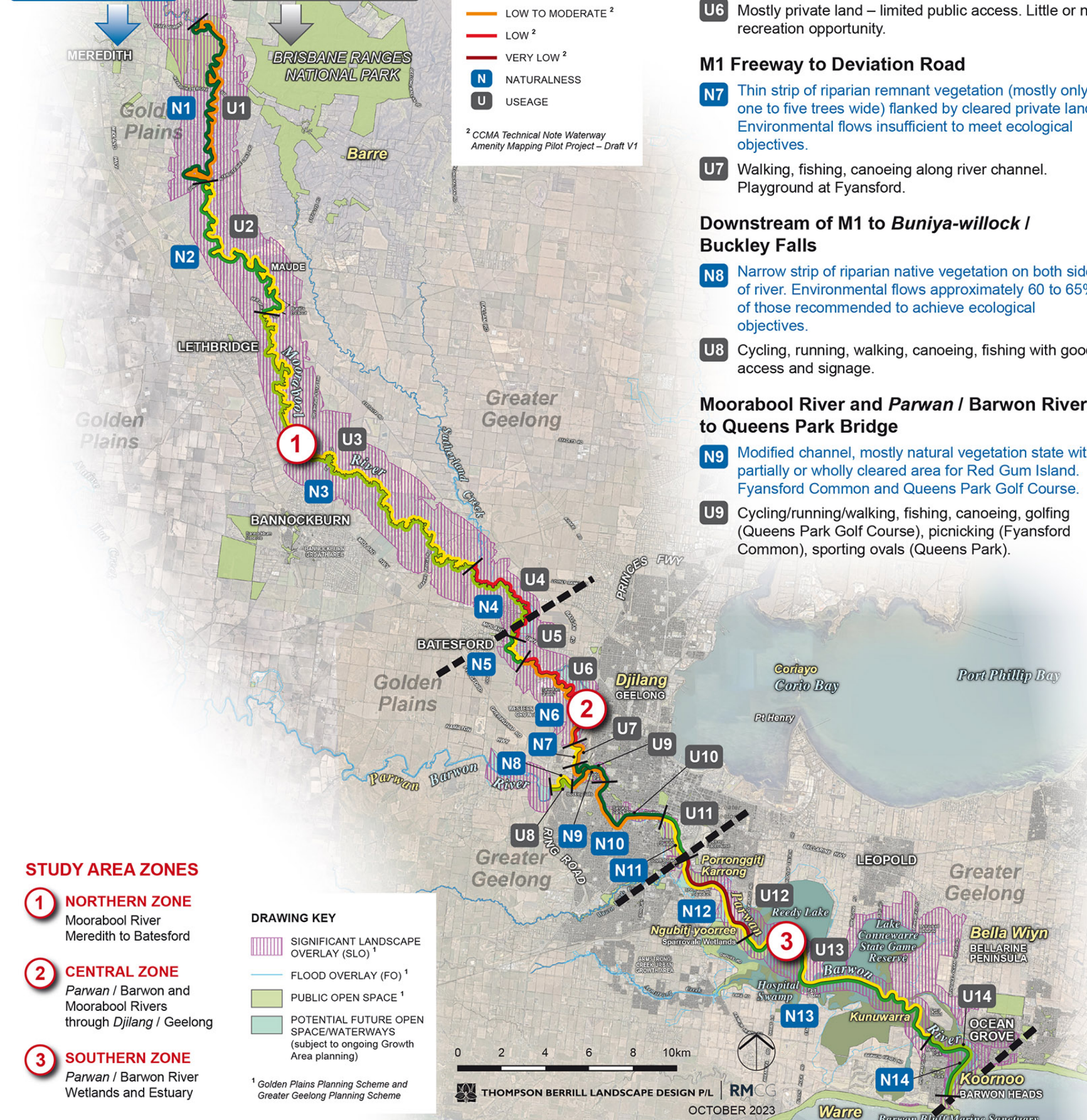


### CURRENT AMENITY RATING

- VERY HIGH<sup>2</sup>
- HIGH<sup>2</sup>
- MODERATE TO HIGH<sup>2</sup>
- MODERATE<sup>2</sup>
- LOW TO MODERATE<sup>2</sup>
- LOW<sup>2</sup>
- VERY LOW<sup>2</sup>

**N** NATURALNESS  
**U** USEAGE

<sup>2</sup> CCMA Technical Note Waterway Amenity Mapping Pilot Project – Draft V1



### STUDY AREA ZONES

- 1 NORTHERN ZONE**  
Moorabool River  
Meredith to Batesford
- 2 CENTRAL ZONE**  
Parwan / Barwon and Moorabool Rivers  
through Djilang / Geelong
- 3 SOUTHERN ZONE**  
Parwan / Barwon River  
Wetlands and Estuary

### DRAWING KEY

- SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE OVERLAY (SLO)<sup>1</sup>
- FLOOD OVERLAY (FO)<sup>1</sup>
- PUBLIC OPEN SPACE<sup>1</sup>
- POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/WATERWAYS (subject to ongoing Growth Area planning)

<sup>1</sup> Golden Plains Planning Scheme and Greater Geelong Planning Scheme

### Batesford Moorabool River Reserve to M1 Freeway

- N6** River reverts to a concrete channel along a significant portion of this reach to divert water around a limestone quarry. Quarry discharges around 3.5GL annually to the river.
- U6** Mostly private land – limited public access. Little or no recreation opportunity.

### M1 Freeway to Deviation Road

- N7** Thin strip of riparian remnant vegetation (mostly only one to five trees wide) flanked by cleared private land. Environmental flows insufficient to meet ecological objectives.
- U7** Walking, fishing, canoeing along river channel. Playground at Fyansford.

### Downstream of M1 to Buniya-willock / Buckley Falls

- N8** Narrow strip of riparian native vegetation on both sides of river. Environmental flows approximately 60 to 65% of those recommended to achieve ecological objectives.
- U8** Cycling, running, walking, canoeing, fishing with good access and signage.

### Moorabool River and Parwan / Barwon River to Queens Park Bridge

- N9** Modified channel, mostly natural vegetation state with partially or wholly cleared area for Red Gum Island. Fyansford Common and Queens Park Golf Course.
- U9** Cycling/running/walking, fishing, canoeing, golfing (Queens Park Golf Course), picnicking (Fyansford Common), sporting ovals (Queens Park).

### Queens Park Bridge to High Street Bridge

- N10** Modified channel, pockets of native vegetation around Balyang Sanctuary and Yollinko Wetlands with sparser native vegetation elsewhere with cleared areas at Barwon Valley Park.
- U10** Rowing Mile between Shannon Avenue and High Street Bridge, water skiing from High Street Bridge to Railway Bridge, canoeing walking/cycling tracks on both sides of river, numerous picnic facilities especially at Balyang Sanctuary area and cultural interpretation areas.

### High Street Bridge to Breakwater Road Bridge

- N11** Mostly natural channel. Narrow corridor of riparian native vegetation on both sides of river including significant she-oak stands on western side. Cleared areas at Belmont Common, Barwon Valley Golf Club and South Barwon Reserve.
- U11** Cycling/running/walking, fishing, water-skiing, picnicking (Belmont Common), golfing (Barwon Valley Golf Club), sporting ovals (South Barwon Reserve), athletics (Landy Field).

## 3 SOUTHERN ZONE

### Breakwater Road Bridge to Reedy lake

- N12** Natural channel, mostly cleared except for 75Ha area of native vegetation along northern floodplain at Barwon Water's *Porrongitj Karrong Park*.
- U12** Heritage listed sewer aqueduct. Lack of access due to private land and safety issues associated with sewer aqueduct. Recreation limited to water-skiing and fishing.

### Reedy lake and Kunuwarra / Lake Connemarre to Koornoo / Barwon Heads Estuary

- N13** State Game Reserve with open wetland areas interspersed with native wetland vegetation. Flood barrier at Reedy Lake preventing saline water moving upstream.
- U13** Taits Point: lookout, signage, picnic facilities and canoe/kayak access pontoons. Duck shooting allowed during session and canoe/kayaking at other times. Few if any walking trails.

### Koornoo / Barwon Heads Estuary

- N14** Mainly natural estuary albeit with significantly lower than natural flows. Some remnant fringing native vegetation including mangroves and coastal Moonah trees.
- U14** Walking tracks and boardwalk along both sides of the lower estuary. Picnic facilities and playground on estuary beach at *Koornoo / Barwon Heads*. Caravan Park on *Bukareeyoo / Ocean Grove Spit*. Pedestrian Bridge over *Parwan / Barwon River* at *Koornoo / Barwon Heads*. *Coloite / Barwon Bluff* on southern side of river discharge to ocean contains extensive walking trails including picnic facilities. Sailing, swimming and boating.



The Moorabool River from Meredith to Batesford traverses mostly privately owned grazing land, with some pockets of irrigated horticulture, mainly viticulture. A significant characteristic of this landscape are the gorges. The steep escarpments within these gorges protect bands of remnant vegetation, providing important habitat corridors for wildlife.

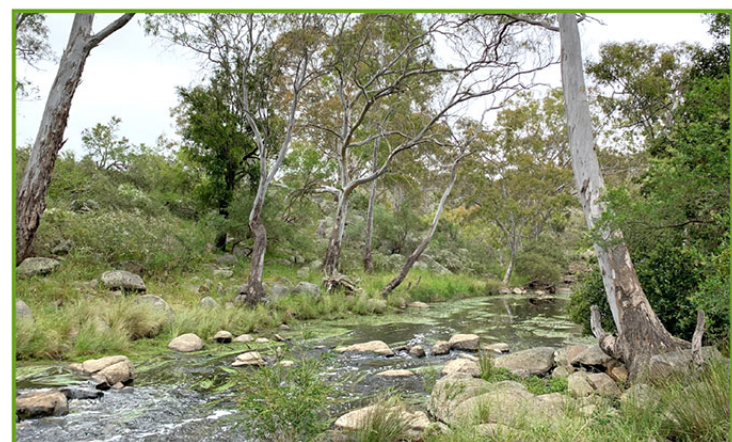
Along the steep gorge country between Meredith and Lethbridge, stands of Blue Box, Grey Box, She Oak, Stringybark and Yellow Gum can be found along the rocky banks and steep channels. Between Lethbridge and Batesford the floodplain widens and changes to more of a riparian woodland characterised by large ancient *biyal* / River Red Gums. There are historically significant exotic tree plantings around Batesford, however, these have become weedy and have spread downstream in some areas.



She Oaks, Moorabool River

Across this landscape, it is not uncommon for *bunjil* / Wedge-tailed Eagles to soar overhead using the gorge thermals, and *go-yin* / Black Wallaby and *goim* / Eastern Grey Kangaroo are still common. Despite limited flows *perridak* / Platypus can also be found in the permanent pools of the lower reach of the Moorabool.

There are limited points of public access to the Moorabool River along this stretch, however the various road crossings offer visitors an opportunity to swim, walk and relax in spectacular gorges and take in the tranquility of being by the water's edge in these small pockets that remain largely untouched.



Moorabool River at Batesford



The Moorabool region has already become warmer and drier, reflecting long term climate change trends expected to continue into the future. Likely impacts include increasing year-round temperatures, fewer frosts, more frequent and more intense rainfall events, more hot days and warm spells, less rainfall in autumn, winter and spring, harsher fire weather and longer fire seasons.

Biodiversity values, which have already been in serious decline over the past two centuries because of land clearing, fire, pest plants and animals, land development, altered hydrological regimes and water pollution are further threatened by these changes with losses of local populations and species extinctions possible. Planning for the Western Geelong Growth Area provides an opportunity to protect and enhance biodiversity values within the corridor.



Moorabool River escarpment Batesford



Bunjil / Wedge-tail Eagle



Swift Parrot



Go-yin / Black Wallaby



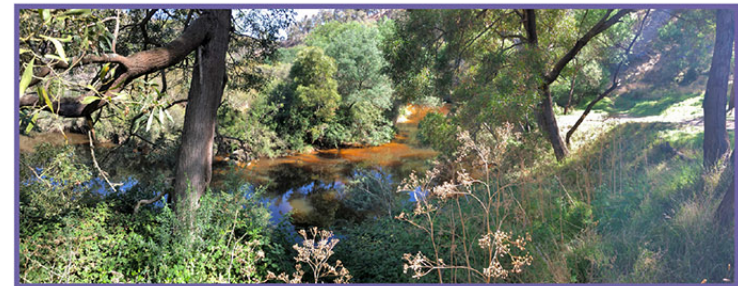
Perridak / Platypus



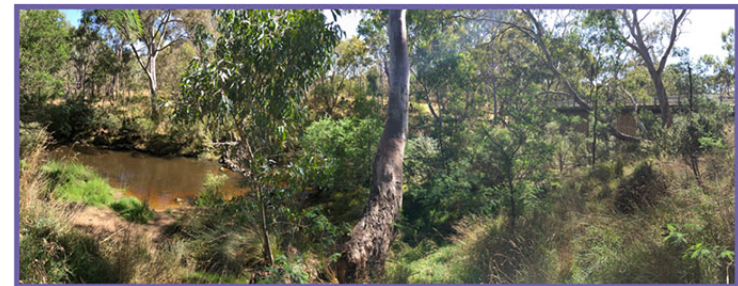
Most of the river frontage between Meredith and Batesford can only be accessed through private land or from road crossings. Public access to the Moorabool River at existing road bridge crossings on the river are used for fishing and there are occasional picnic tables.



Slate Quarry Road Bridge



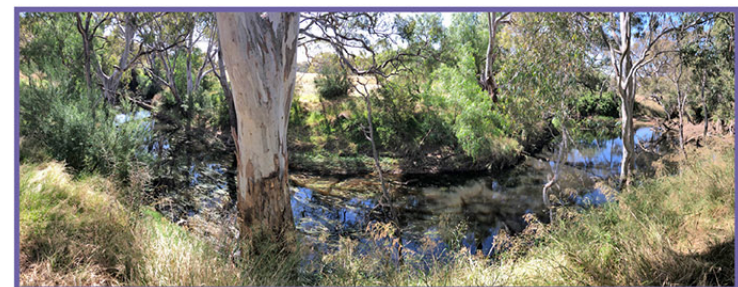
Meredith-Steiglitz Road



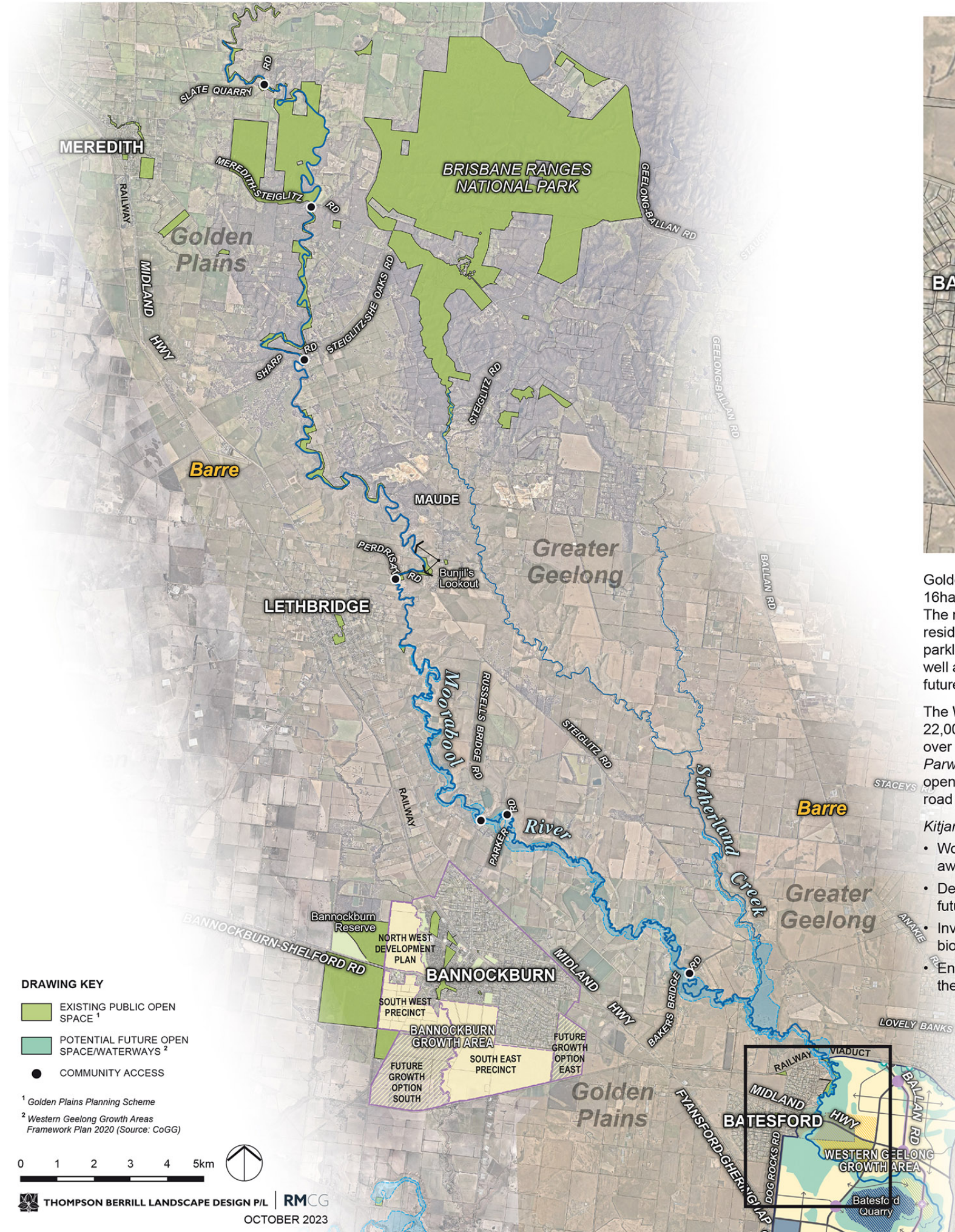
Sharp Road



Bunjil's Lookout, Maude



Russells Bridge Road

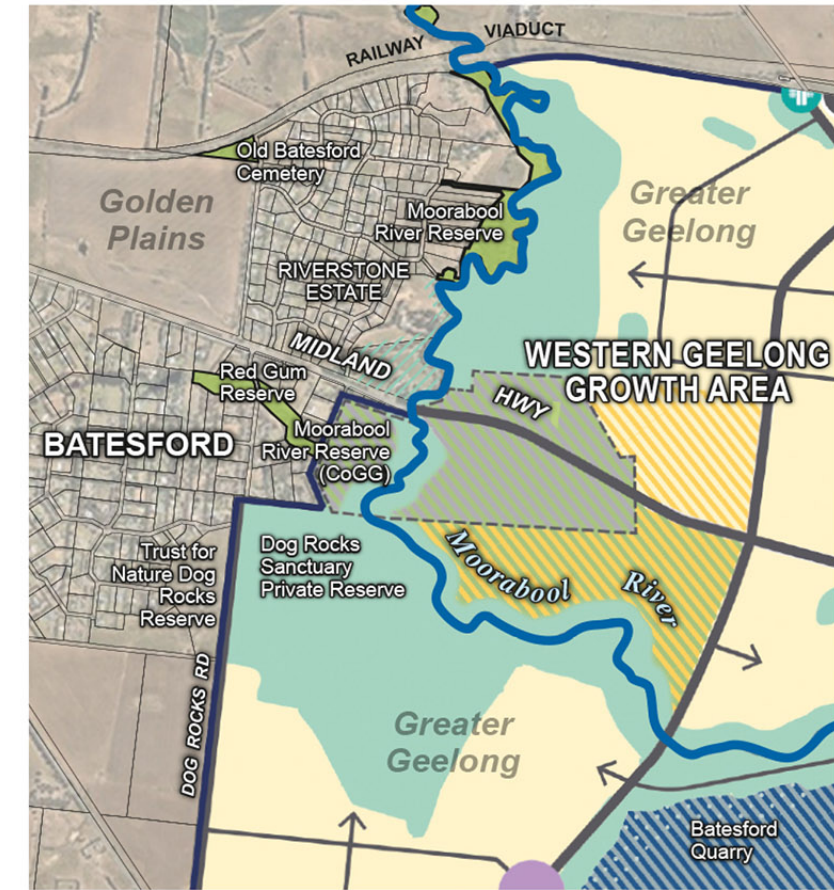


**DRAWING KEY**

- EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE <sup>1</sup>
- POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/WATERWAYS <sup>2</sup>
- COMMUNITY ACCESS

<sup>1</sup> Golden Plains Planning Scheme

<sup>2</sup> Western Geelong Growth Areas Framework Plan 2020 (Source: CoGG)



Golden Plains Shire has recently acquired 2.5km of river frontage and over 16ha of open space on the west bank downstream of the railway viaduct. The new parkland will provide open space for Batesford and adjoining residents as well as visitors from the wider area. Planning for the new parkland will consider the significant cultural and environmental values as well as opportunities for future links to Batesford and Dog Rocks and the future Western Geelong Growth Area on the other side of the river.

The Western Geelong Growth Area is expected to include approximately 22,000 new homes and over 60,000 residents. The project will also open up over 20km of river frontage and riparian conservation reserves along the Parwan / Barwon and Moorabool Rivers creating opportunities to improve open space links and facilities within Batesford and eventually provide off road links back to *Djilang / Geelong*.

*Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* provides an opportunity to:

- Work with public and private landholders to improve protection and awareness of cultural and environmental values.
- Develop a consistent approach to planning for community access and future open space along the Moorabool River in the Batesford area.
- Investigate short and longer term opportunities to improve public access, biodiversity links and environmental flows along the Moorabool River.
- Enhance and link current public access areas where public roads cross the rivers (eg Sharps Road Crossing, Russells Bridge etc).



Moorabool River at Batesford



## NORTHERN ZONE VISION

Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut provides an opportunity to:

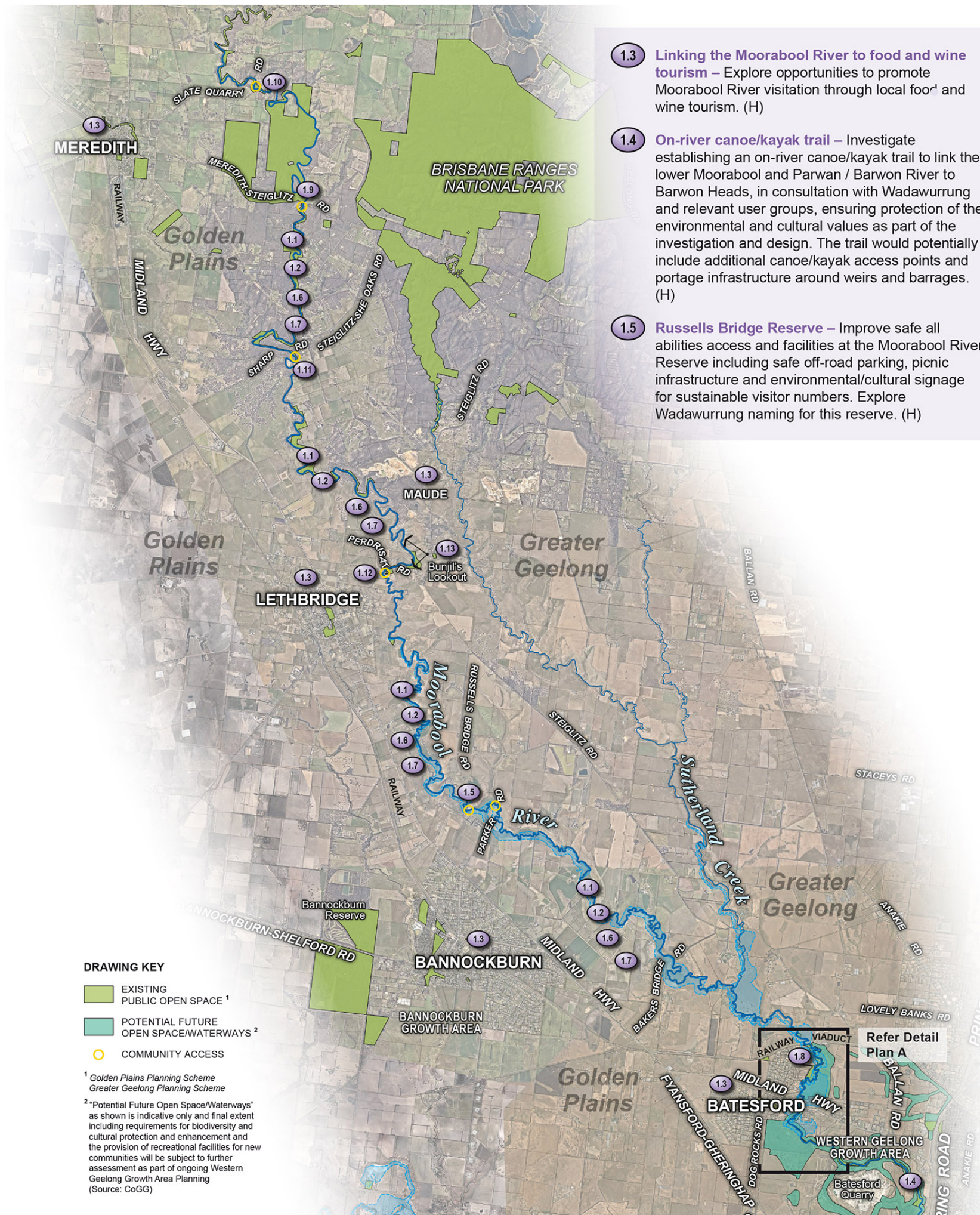
- ensure new development and access points are in keeping with Wadawurrung living cultural heritage values and protects the existing natural and rural character beyond the Western Geelong Growth Area.
- improve local community access to the Moorabool River where consistent with environmental objectives to provide the opportunity to enjoy, appreciate and protect nature through unstructured recreational activities such as bushwalking, fishing, kayaking and picnicking.
- enhance regional tourism through linkages to local food produce and wineries.

The Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project's strategic basis aligns with current Victorian Government policy direction. It also responds to the recognised values and distinctive area attributes of the project area, which result from complex interactions between landscape character, biodiversity and other natural values, existing and future settlement patterns, infrastructure, Wadawurrung living cultural heritage values and historic heritage. Key focus areas of strategic alignment include:

- Support Wadawurrung rights to self-determination so that their aspirations for their lands, waters and culture are realised through the transfer of relevant decision-making powers.
- Support Wadawurrung to identify manage, conserve and enhance living cultural heritage and their values: places, landscapes, waterways (including unnamed waterways), natural resources and significant views.
- Use shared Wadawurrung knowledge and practices to inform planning, land and water-management decisions and help to protect the environment and biodiversity within the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project area.
- Improve awareness, understanding and appreciation of tangible and intangible Wadawurrung living cultural heritage knowledge within the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project area, including language, oral traditions and pre-colonial cultural practices.
- To support initiatives and policies that enable the healing of this significant riverine corridor.
- Support use of Wadawurrung Language and place names within the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project area.

## Draft Northern Zone Priorities:

- 1.1 **Wadawurrung Values** – Work with public and private landholders to improve awareness and protection of Wadawurrung values. (H)
- 1.2 **Wadawurrung Cultural Awareness** – Develop cultural trails and interpretive signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of Wadawurrung values. (H)



### DRAWING KEY

- EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE <sup>1</sup>
- POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/WATERWAYS <sup>2</sup>
- COMMUNITY ACCESS

<sup>1</sup> Golden Plains Planning Scheme  
Greater Geelong Planning Scheme

<sup>2</sup> "Potential Future Open Space/Waterways" as shown is indicative only and final extent including requirements for biodiversity and cultural protection and enhancement and the provision of recreational facilities for new communities will be subject to further assessment as part of ongoing Western Geelong Growth Area Planning (Source: CoGG)

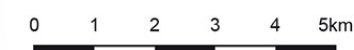
- 1.3 **Linking the Moorabool River to food and wine tourism** – Explore opportunities to promote Moorabool River visitation through local food and wine tourism. (H)
- 1.4 **On-river canoe/kayak trail** – Investigate establishing an on-river canoe/kayak trail to link the lower Moorabool and Parwan / Barwon River to Barwon Heads, in consultation with Wadawurrung and relevant user groups, ensuring protection of the environmental and cultural values as part of the investigation and design. The trail would potentially include additional canoe/kayak access points and portage infrastructure around weirs and barrages. (H)
- 1.5 **Russells Bridge Reserve** – Improve safe all abilities access and facilities at the Moorabool River Reserve including safe off-road parking, picnic infrastructure and environmental/cultural signage for sustainable visitor numbers. Explore Wadawurrung naming for this reserve. (H)

## Other Northern Zone Recommendations:

- 1.6 **Moorabool River Environmental Programs** – Support initiatives that protect and enhance the health of the Moorabool River including water for the environment, pest animal control, removal of fish barriers, weed control and riparian vegetation management. (O)
- 1.7 **Moorabool River Biodiversity Management** – Work with Landcare, private and public landholders, to improve floodplain and riparian values, habitat corridors and biolinks. (O)
- 1.8 **Moorabool River Parklands** – Prepare a masterplan for new open space on the west bank of the river north of the Midland Highway. Coordinate plan implementation with Western Geelong Growth Area planning. (O) Refer Detail Plan A
- 1.9 **Meredith-Steiglitz Road** – Improve safe public access and upgrade picnic and parking facilities at the Moorabool River in keeping with natural and cultural values and sustainable visitor numbers. (M)
- 1.10 **Slate Quarry Road** – Improve safe public access and upgrade picnic and parking facilities at the Moorabool River in keeping with natural and cultural values and sustainable visitor numbers. (M)
- 1.11 **Sharp Road - Sheoaks** – Improve safe public access and upgrade picnic and parking facilities at the Moorabool River in keeping with natural and cultural values and sustainable visitor numbers. (M)
- 1.12 **Perdrisat Road** – Improve safe public access and upgrade picnic and parking facilities at the Moorabool River in keeping with natural and cultural values and sustainable visitor numbers. (M)
- 1.13 **Bunjils Lookout Cultural Values** – Investigate opportunities to improve cultural links between the lookout and the Moorabool River. (M)

The proposed projects have been prioritised based on their expected benefits, feasibility, community/agency support, risks and costs. The prioritisation is categorised as follows:

(H) HIGH – 1 to 3 years  
(M) MEDIUM – 4 to 6 years  
(L) LOW – 7 to 10 years  
(O) ONGOING – part of current programs





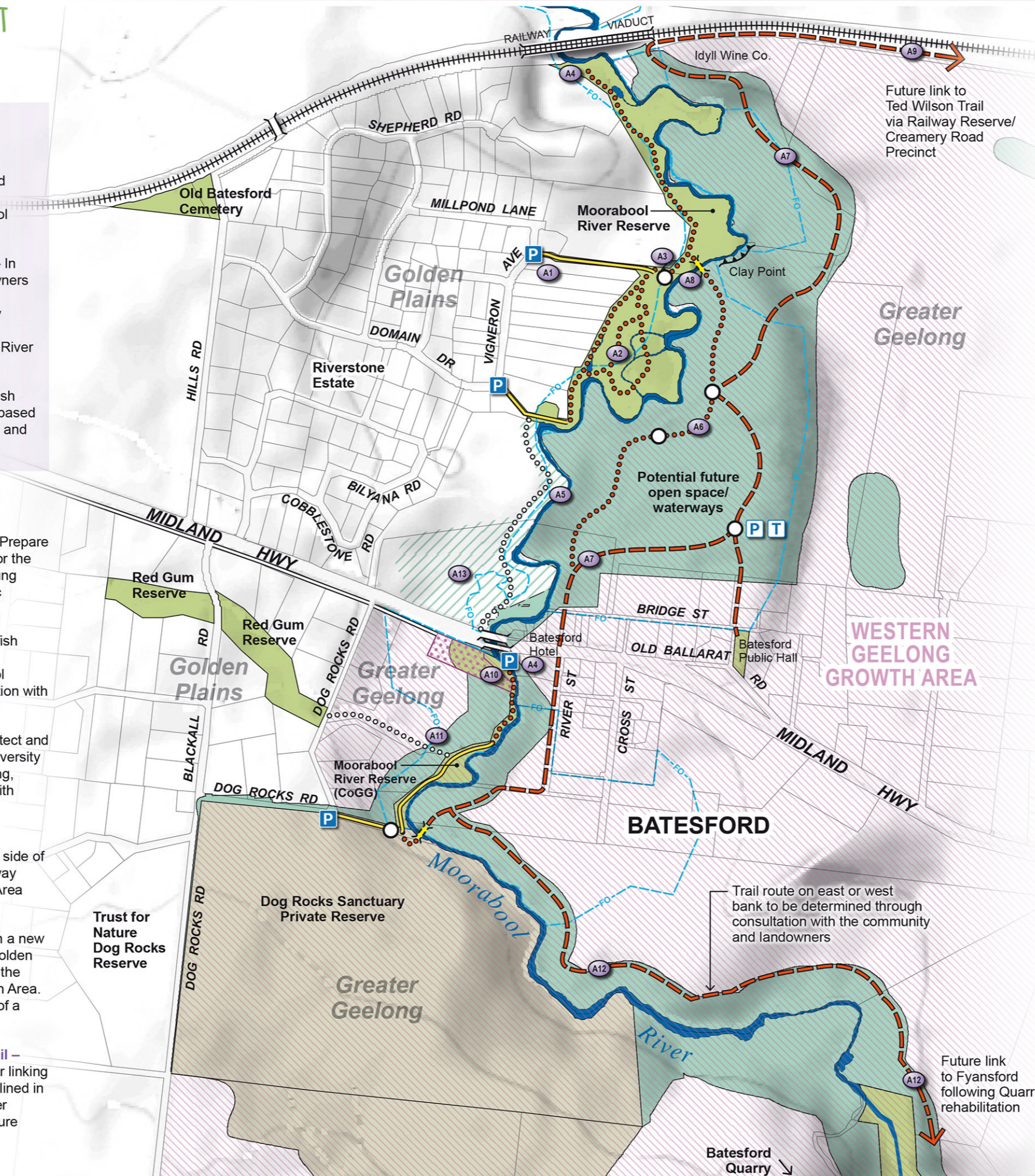
### Draft Detail Plan A Priorities:

- A1 Wadawurrung Values** – In consultation with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, develop and implement a plan to preserve and enhance Wadawurrung cultural values for the Moorabool River Reserve. (H)
- A2 Moorabool River Reserve walking access** – In consultation with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and the community, improve walking access through the reserve including formalising entry points and establishing anabranch pedestrian crossing points consistent with the Moorabool River Reserve Masterplan. (H)
- A3 Moorabool River Reserve facilities** – Establish new seating and potentially picnic and nature based play facilities consistent with natural floodplain and Wadawurrung values. (H)

- A10 Dog Rocks Walking Trail Extension** – Connect the Moorabool River Reserve Walking Trail to the Midland Highway on the west bank. (M)
- A11** As part of planning for the Western Geelong Growth Area seek an expanded open space corridor, improved access and protection of the floodplain on the western side of the river. (M)
- A12 Batesford shared trail extension to Geelong** – In the longer term, extend the Batesford Shared Trail along either the east or west bank of the Moorabool River connecting to the existing river trails at Fyansford and Geelong Ring Road, including a new pedestrian bridge across the river south of the Midland Highway. The route will be determined through consultation with landowners and the community and the rehabilitation plan for the Batesford Quarry. (L)
- A13 Future Moorabool River Reserve extension** – Investigate opportunities to extend the Moorabool River Reserve providing additional recreation facilities and walking access from Domain Drive to the Midland Highway if existing private land adjoining the floodplain is redeveloped. (L)

### Other Detail Plan A Recommendations:

- A4 Moorabool River Reserve Signage Strategy** – Prepare and implement an interpretive signage strategy for the Moorabool River Reserve to promote Wadawurrung cultural values, environmental values and historic heritage. (M)
- A5 Fish Passage** – Review and remove barriers to fish passage at Batesford and directly upstream in accordance with the 2016 Barwon and Moorabool Catchments fish barrier study, including consultation with potentially impacted landowners. (L)
- A6 Western Geelong Growth Area Planning** – Protect and enhance the floodplain and riparian corridor biodiversity values incorporating walking/cycling paths, seating, picnic areas and play spaces where consistent with environmental and cultural values. (O)
- A7 Batesford Shared Trail** – Establish off road pedestrian/cycle shared path links along the east side of the river linking the Midland Highway to the Railway Viaduct as part of the Western Geelong Growth Area planning. (O)
- A8 Moorabool River Pedestrian Bridge** – Establish a new pedestrian/cycle bridge to connect the existing Golden Plains Reserve and new open space planned on the east bank as part of the Western Geelong Growth Area. This bridge will also eventually allow completion of a circuit walk back to the Midland Highway. (L)
- A9 Batesford shared trail – link to Ted Wilson Trail** – Establish a new shared trail along railway corridor linking to Ted Wilson trail on Geelong Ring Road (as outlined in current shared trail planning by the City of Greater Geelong and the Creamery Road Precinct Structure Plan) (L)



**DRAWING KEY**

EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE <sup>1</sup>	POTENTIAL INDICATIVE FUTURE LINK
RURAL CONSERVATION ZONE <sup>1</sup>	POTENTIAL ACTIVITY NODES
POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/WATERWAYS (subject to ongoing Western Geelong Growth Area planning) <sup>2</sup>	EXISTING BRIDGE
POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE (NOT subject to current planning process)	PROPOSED BRIDGE
FLOOD OVERLAY (FO) <sup>1</sup>	EXISTING PUBLIC CAR PARKING
PRIVATELY LEASED AREA	PROPOSED PUBLIC CAR PARKING
WESTERN GEELONG GROWTH AREA	PROPOSED PUBLIC TOILET
EXISTING SEALED PATH	
EXISTING UNSEALED PATH	
INDICATIVE ALIGNMENT OF POTENTIAL FUTURE SEALED SHARED PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE PATH	
POTENTIAL INDICATIVE SECONDARY WALKING PATH	

<sup>1</sup> Golden Plains Planning Scheme  
Greater Geelong Planning Scheme

<sup>2</sup> "Potential Future Open Space/Waterways" as shown is indicative only and final extent including requirements for biodiversity and cultural protection and enhancement and the provision of recreational facilities for new communities will be subject to further assessment as part of ongoing Western Geelong Growth Area Planning. (Source: CoGG)

The proposed projects have been prioritised based on their expected benefits, feasibility, community/agency support, risks and costs. The prioritisation is categorised as follows:

(H) HIGH – 1 to 3 years  
(M) MEDIUM – 4 to 6 years  
(L) LOW – 7 to 10 years  
(O) ONGOING – part of current programs

**Note:**  
The location of proposed trails/paths through private land is indicative and subject to agreement on access or land purchase.



The Moorabool and *Parwan / Barwon* Rivers converge at Fyansford and the *Barwon* River commences its journey through the urban landscape of *Djilang / Geelong*. This stretch of the River, which also encompasses *Waurm Ponds* Creek, is more modified than other zones. The waterways through *Djilang / Geelong* have long been subject to the pressures of industry and development. Historic quarry operations, development of paper mills, wool scours and other industry along the *Parwan / Barwon* River in the 1800's led to removal of most remnant vegetation along the River through central *Djilang / Geelong*.

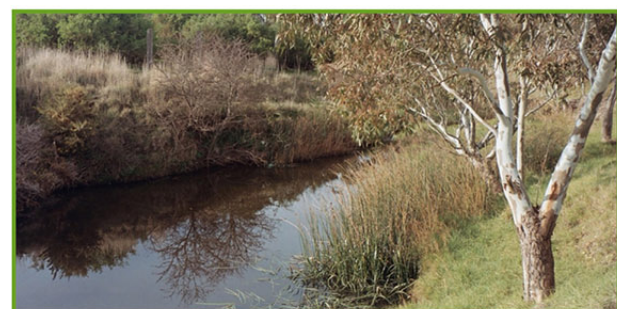


Buckley Falls, Barwon River

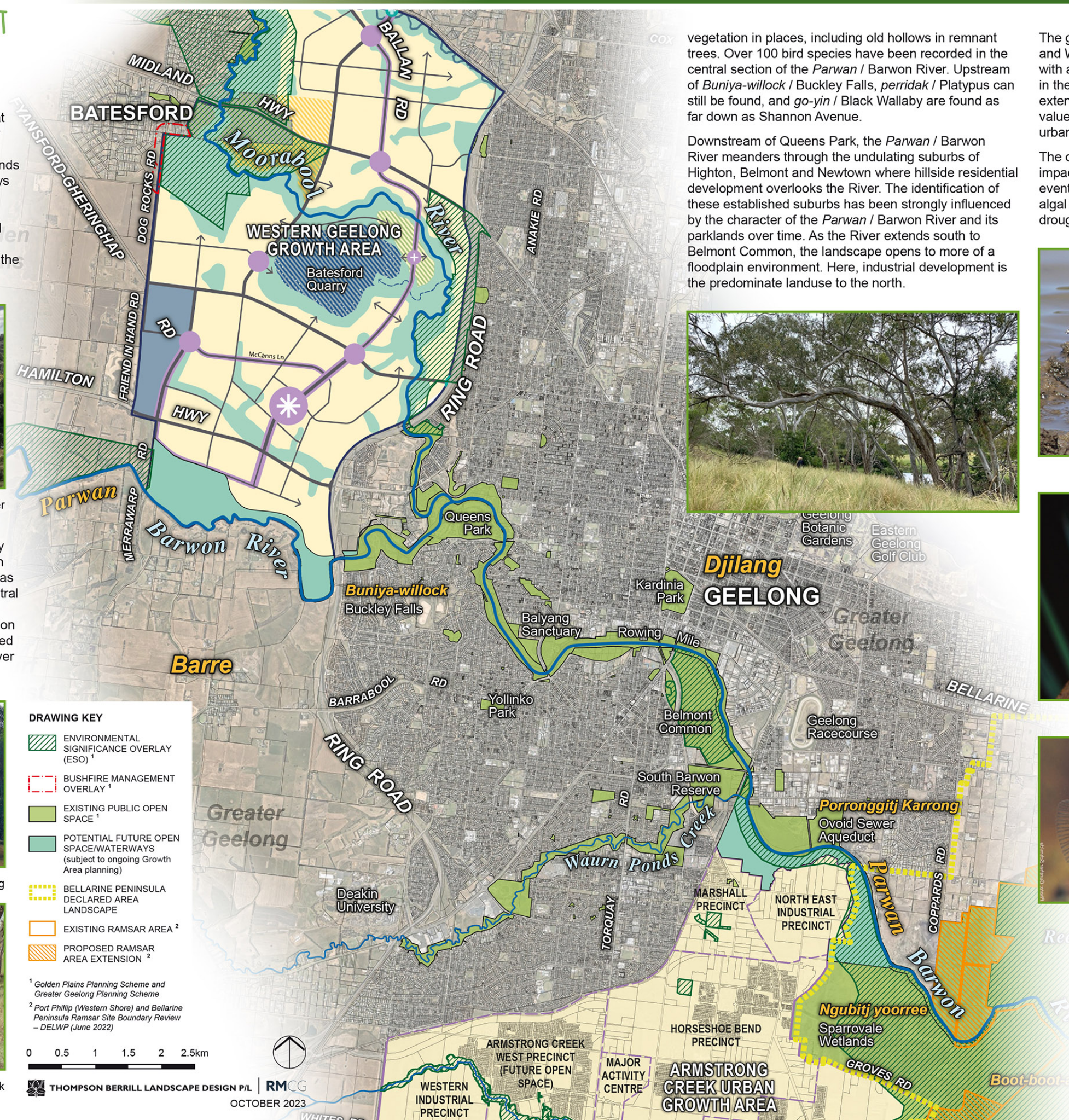
Despite this, significant areas of parklands, containing natural and exotic vegetation, exist along the River today extending from *Queens Park* to *Belmont Common* and in small patches along the *Waurm Ponds* Creek. These areas remain an important corridor for biodiversity through central *Djilang / Geelong*, when much as been lost elsewhere. Following the closure of industries the natural regeneration of *Tangled Lignum*, *tark / Phragmites* and *biyal / River Red Gums* has become a feature of the *Parwan / Barwon* River with pockets of significant regenerating indigenous



Barwon River through Geelong



Waurm Ponds Creek



- DRAWING KEY**
- ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY (ESO) <sup>1</sup>
  - BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT OVERLAY <sup>1</sup>
  - EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE <sup>1</sup>
  - POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/WATERWAYS (subject to ongoing Growth Area planning)
  - BELLARINE PENINSULA DECLARED AREA LANDSCAPE
  - EXISTING RAMSAR AREA <sup>2</sup>
  - PROPOSED RAMSAR AREA EXTENSION <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Golden Plains Planning Scheme and Greater Geelong Planning Scheme  
<sup>2</sup> Port Phillip (Western Shore) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site Boundary Review – DELWP (June 2022)

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THOMPSON BERRILL LANDSCAPE DESIGN P/L | RMCG  
OCTOBER 2023

vegetation in places, including old hollows in remnant trees. Over 100 bird species have been recorded in the central section of the *Parwan / Barwon* River. Upstream of *Buniya-willock / Buckley Falls*, *perridak / Platypus* can still be found, and *go-yin / Black Wallaby* are found as far down as *Shannon Avenue*.

Downstream of *Queens Park*, the *Parwan / Barwon* River meanders through the undulating suburbs of *Highton*, *Belmont* and *Newtown* where hillside residential development overlooks the River. The identification of these established suburbs has been strongly influenced by the character of the *Parwan / Barwon* River and its parklands over time. As the River extends south to *Belmont Common*, the landscape opens to more of a floodplain environment. Here, industrial development is the predominate landuse to the north.



The green corridors along the *Parwan / Barwon* River and *Waurm Ponds* Creek provide residents and visitors with a highly valued and accessible connection to nature in the center of Victoria's second largest city. They offer extensive recreational opportunities, significant amenity values, and an opportunity to escape the busyness of urban life and recharge in a natural landscape.

The central *Djilang / Geelong* region is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including extreme weather events and flooding as well as poor water quality and algal blooms caused by extended dry periods and drought.



Latham Snipe



Growling Grass Frog



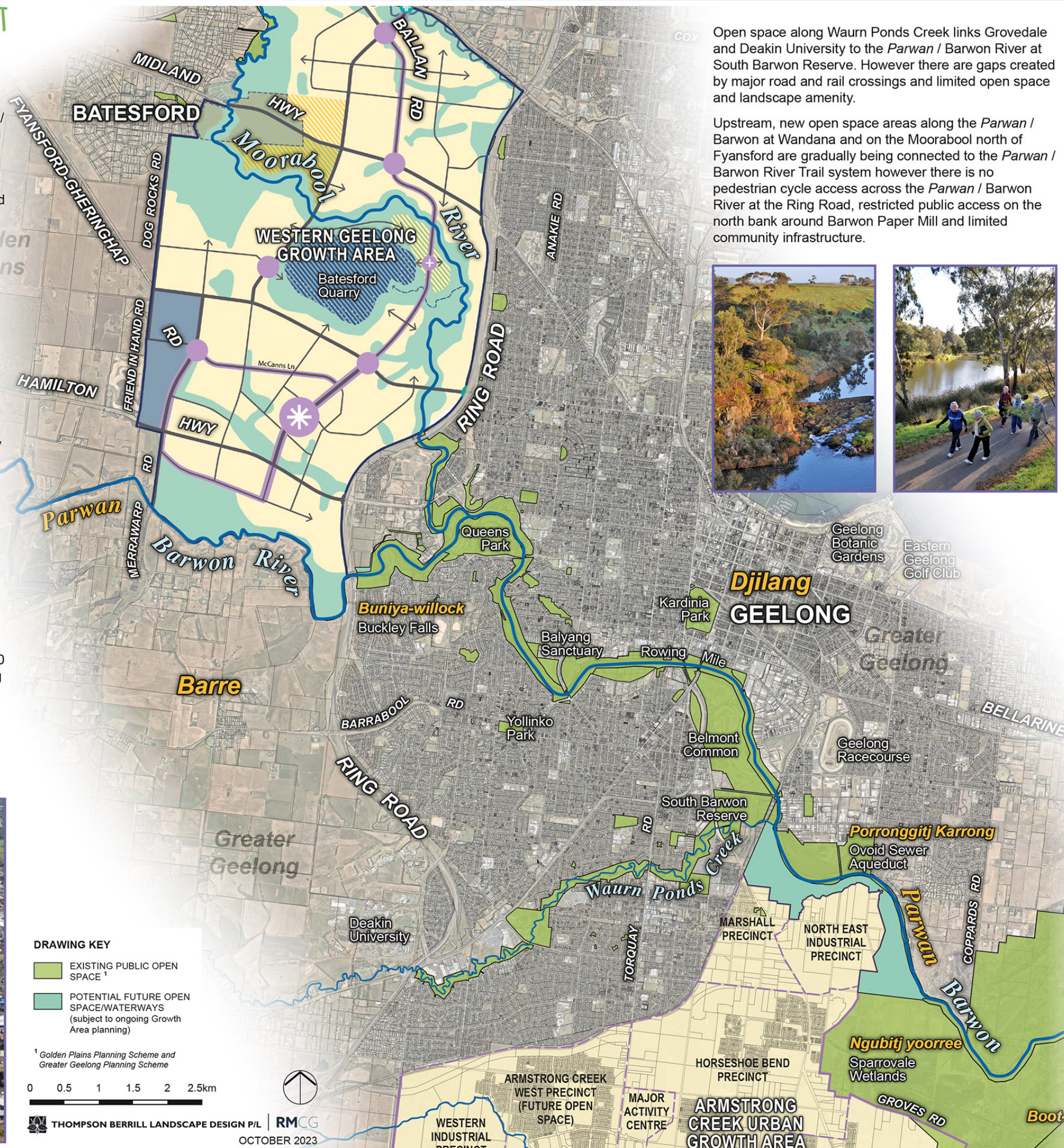
Pygmy Perch



A long history of strategic planning has provided *Djilang / Geelong* with an open space network of parks, trails and conservation areas along the *Parwan / Barwon* River. This legacy is the outcome of vision planned and implemented over more than a century and now embedded in the landscape and character of the city and the values of its community.

The *Parwan / Barwon* River Trail consists of more than 26 kilometres of sealed paths along the banks of the *Parwan / Barwon* River through central *Djilang / Geelong*. The trail has been developed over many years and the existing pedestrian and road bridges combine with the landscape character to form a series of popular connected walking/cycling loops of between 4-5km total length providing for a 1 hour walk, jog of 30 minutes or off road cycle journey of less than 10 minutes. The diversity of character and visitor experience within these loops, both as part of the linear trail along the river, and established parkland visitor nodes including *Buniya-willock / Buckley Falls* Park, *Fyansford Common*, *Queens Park*, *Balyang Sanctuary*, *Barwon Valley Park*, *Belmont Common* and *South Barwon Reserve* is a key feature of the parklands.

There is a wide range of facilities available along the river including three public golf courses, sports fields, numerous fishing and viewing platforms, play spaces, public toilets, boat ramps and picnic/seating areas. The rowing mile between *Shannon Avenue* and *Moorabool Street* has been used for rowing since the late 1800s and also provides for canoeing, kayaking, outrigger canoes and dragon boat racing. Water skiing is popular with several clubs using river at *Belmont Common* and the rowing mile on Sundays. The river is also home to 50 major events and 1200 smaller recreational and sporting events which draw thousands of visitors people to the area each year. These events and general public use of the river corridor in central *Djilang / Geelong* is supported by a wide range of community infrastructure including bridges, car parking, platforms, boat ramps, play spaces, picnic areas and public toilets.



**DRAWING KEY**

- EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE<sup>1</sup>
- POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/WATERWAYS (subject to ongoing Growth Area planning)

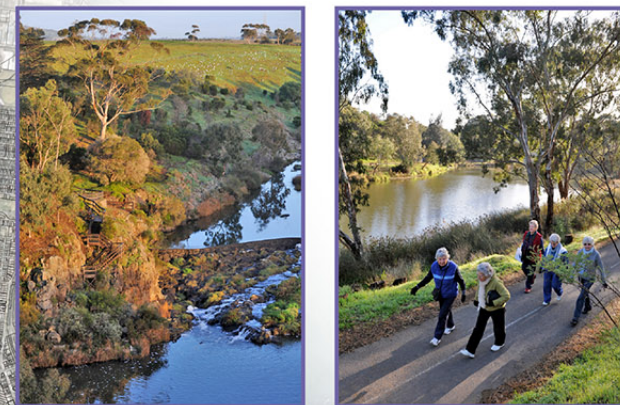
<sup>1</sup> Golden Plains Planning Scheme and Greater Geelong Planning Scheme

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THOMPSON BERRILL LANDSCAPE DESIGN P/L | RMCG  
OCTOBER 2023

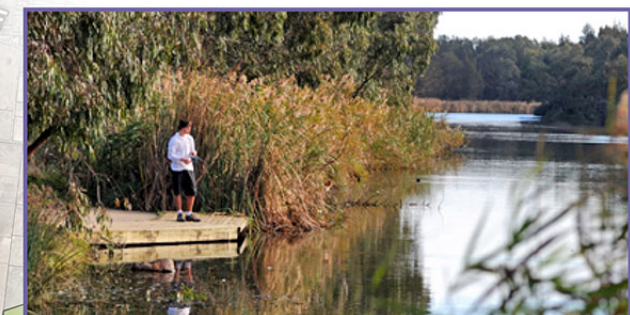
Open space along *Waurm Ponds Creek* links *Grovedale* and *Deakin University* to the *Parwan / Barwon* River at *South Barwon Reserve*. However there are gaps created by major road and rail crossings and limited open space and landscape amenity.

Upstream, new open space areas along the *Parwan / Barwon* at *Wandana* and on the *Moorabool* north of *Fyansford* are gradually being connected to the *Parwan / Barwon* River Trail system however there is no pedestrian cycle access across the *Parwan / Barwon* River at the *Ring Road*, restricted public access on the north bank around *Barwon Paper Mill* and limited community infrastructure.



The *Western Geelong Growth Area* is expected to include approximately 22,000 new homes and over 60,000 new residents. The project will also open up over 20km of river frontage along the *Parwan / Barwon* and *Moorabool* Rivers linking *Batesford* to existing open space reserves at *Fyansford* and *Wandana-Buniya-willock / Buckley Falls*. Planning for these new parkland areas will consider the significant cultural and environmental values as well open space and recreational requirements for the new population which will expand west from the *Ring Road*.

- Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* provides an opportunity to:
- Improve protection and community awareness of cultural and environmental values.
  - Develop an integrated program for renewal of existing infrastructure.
  - Ensure consistent approach to planning for community access and future development in new open space areas.
  - Identify opportunities to improve riparian vegetation, public access and amenity along *Waurm Ponds Creek* corridor.
  - Support and promote existing events and community stakeholders.
  - Improve recreational opportunities including expansion and connection of walking trails resulting in improved mental and physical health of the community.





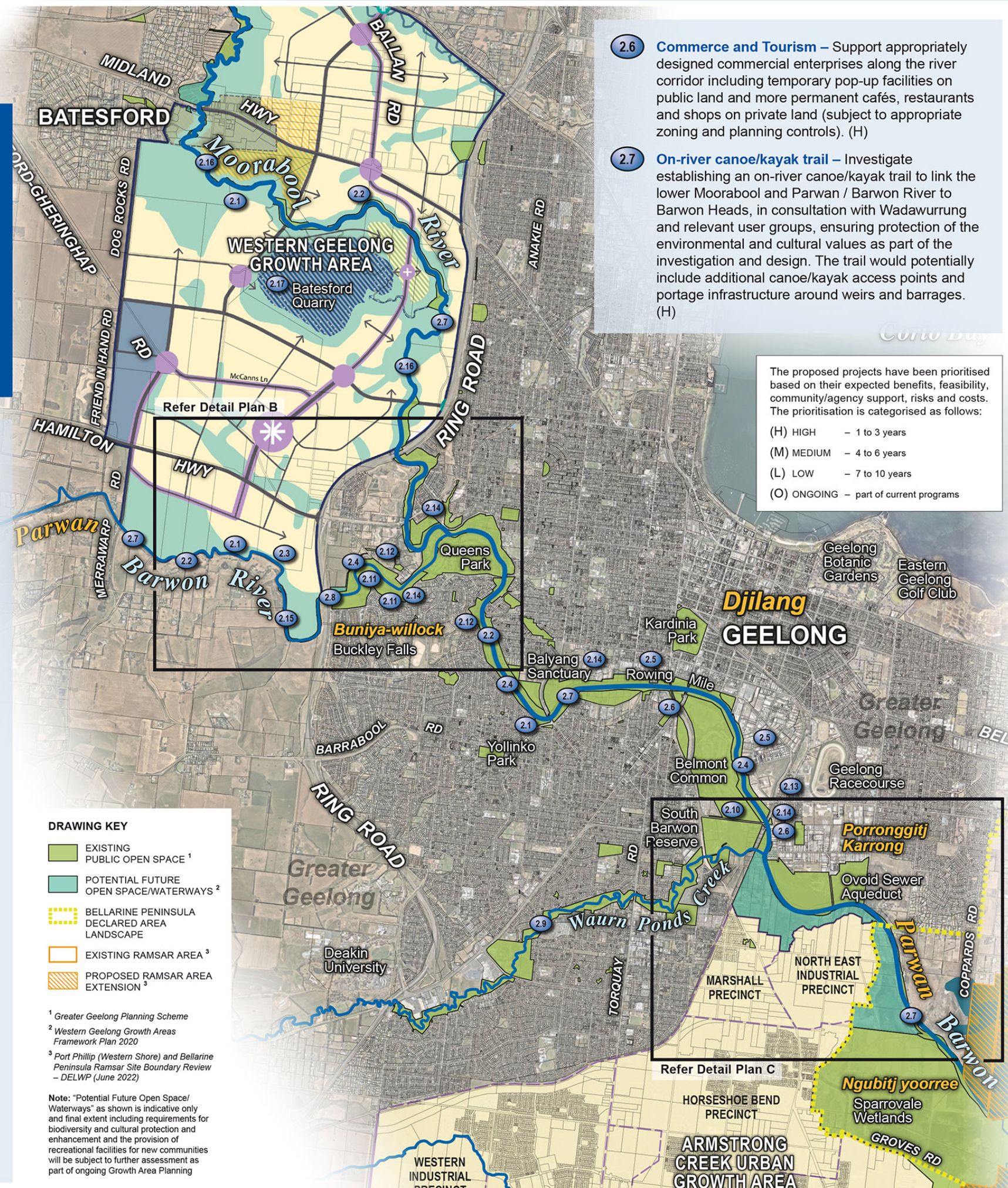
### CENTRAL ZONE VISION

*Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* provides an opportunity to:

- maintain and improve facilities and infrastructure in support of existing passive and active recreational use and major events including rowing, canoe/kayaking and water skiing
- to link the Central Business District of Geelong with upstream and downstream growth areas, and the growing desire for this reach to be a place for attracting major events
- ensure new infrastructure and events are in keeping with the existing landscape character and natural values while seeking opportunities to activate and increase community use and visitation.

### Draft Central Zone Priorities:

- 2.1 Wadawurrung Values** – Support Wadawurrung to identify, protect and maintain areas of cultural sensitivity in renewal and planning for new infrastructure, and investigate opportunities to improve appreciation of Wadawurrung values and culture. (H)
- 2.2 Barwon and Moorabool River Environmental Programs** – Support initiatives that protect and enhance the health of the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers including management of water for the environment, progressive removal of barriers to fish passage, bank stability works, woody weed control, reporting on native species and revegetation work in accordance with the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. (H)
- 2.3 Growth Area Planning** – When land west of the Ring Road is redeveloped ensure provision of a minimum 200m wide open space and buffers to the Barwon River on either side to allow for protection and enhancement of riparian vegetation and sustainable provision of recreational facilities for new residential communities. (H)
- 2.4 Existing Infrastructure renewal and maintenance** – Update the Barwon through Geelong Management Plan, extending the study area up to the Ring Road to develop an integrated program for renewal and maintenance of the extensive ageing recreational infrastructure along the Barwon River through Geelong, including paths, picnic areas, toilet facilities, water access platforms, car parking, furniture and signage. (H) Refer Detail Plan B
- 2.5 Stormwater Management** – Improve water quality at stormwater drainage connections and outfalls to the Barwon River from older established urban areas, in line with the Barwon Integrated Water Management Strategic Directions Statement 2022 and the development of the City of Greater Geelong Integrated Water Management Plan. (H)



- 2.6 Commerce and Tourism** – Support appropriately designed commercial enterprises along the river corridor including temporary pop-up facilities on public land and more permanent cafés, restaurants and shops on private land (subject to appropriate zoning and planning controls). (H)
- 2.7 On-river canoe/kayak trail** – Investigate establishing an on-river canoe/kayak trail to link the lower Moorabool and Parwan / Barwon River to Barwon Heads, in consultation with Wadawurrung and relevant user groups, ensuring protection of the environmental and cultural values as part of the investigation and design. The trail would potentially include additional canoe/kayak access points and portage infrastructure around weirs and barrages. (H)

The proposed projects have been prioritised based on their expected benefits, feasibility, community/agency support, risks and costs. The prioritisation is categorised as follows:

(H) HIGH – 1 to 3 years  
 (M) MEDIUM – 4 to 6 years  
 (L) LOW – 7 to 10 years  
 (O) ONGOING – part of current programs

- 2.8 Barwon River Loop Trail** – Establish a new Barwon River Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge east of the Geelong Ring Road to complete the Barwon River loop trail circuit from Queens Park/Fyansford Common, and connect the existing northern and southern shared path links along the Ted Wilson (Ring Road) Trail. (H) Refer Detail Plan B
- 2.9 Waurm Ponds Creek Environmental Programs** – Support Deakin University plans for revegetation of the Waurm Ponds Creek riparian zone from their Waurm Ponds Campus to Cochranes Road. Expand the program to the entire length of the Waurm Ponds Creek to protect and enhance the health of Waurm Ponds Creek and enhance community access and use of the corridor including stormwater management, weed control, indigenous revegetation and recreational facilities consistent with the environmental and cultural values. (H)
- 2.10 Waurm Ponds trail connection to Barwon River trails** – Link the existing Barwon River and Waurm Ponds Creek trail at the South Barwon Reserve. (H) Refer Detail Plan C
- 2.11 Fish Passage** – Investigate options to remove barriers to fish passage at Baums Weir, Barwon Paper Millrace and Buckley Falls while considering public safety and historic heritage values. (H)

**DRAWING KEY**

- EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE <sup>1</sup>
- POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/WATERWAYS <sup>2</sup>
- BELLARINE PENINSULA DECLARED AREA LANDSCAPE
- EXISTING RAMSAR AREA <sup>3</sup>
- PROPOSED RAMSAR AREA EXTENSION <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Greater Geelong Planning Scheme  
<sup>2</sup> Western Geelong Growth Areas Framework Plan 2020  
<sup>3</sup> Port Phillip (Western Shore) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site Boundary Review – DELWP (June 2022)

Note: "Potential Future Open Space/Waterways" as shown is indicative only and final extent including requirements for biodiversity and cultural protection and enhancement and the provision of recreational facilities for new communities will be subject to further assessment as part of ongoing Growth Area Planning

### Other Central Zone Recommendations:

- 2.12 Highton Hill Loop Trail** – Develop shared trails linking through Barwon Water's Montpellier Basin landholding and connecting to Barwon River trails at Buckley Falls and Pinnacle Close creating a 5km loop trail. (M) Refer Detail Plan B
- 2.13 South Geelong Landfill Open Space** – Develop trail links from Gun Dog Lane - Wal Whiteside Walk to new open space at the South Geelong Landfill and to the Geelong Racecourse. (M) Refer Detail Plan B
- 2.14 Heritage Trail** – Develop a Barwon River Heritage Trail including interpretive signage connecting historic sites and places associated with the early development of Geelong. (M)
- 2.15 Extend Barwon River Trail** – Extend the shared trail under the Geelong Ring Road to provide off road connection to the Western Geelong Growth Area and future open space along the Barwon River. (L)
- 2.16 Batesford Quarry** – Extend the Moorabool River Trail and provide a continuous open space corridor through to Batesford. (L)
- 2.17** Improve environmental values along the Moorabool River corridor as part of planned future use of a decommissioned Batesford Quarry. (L)



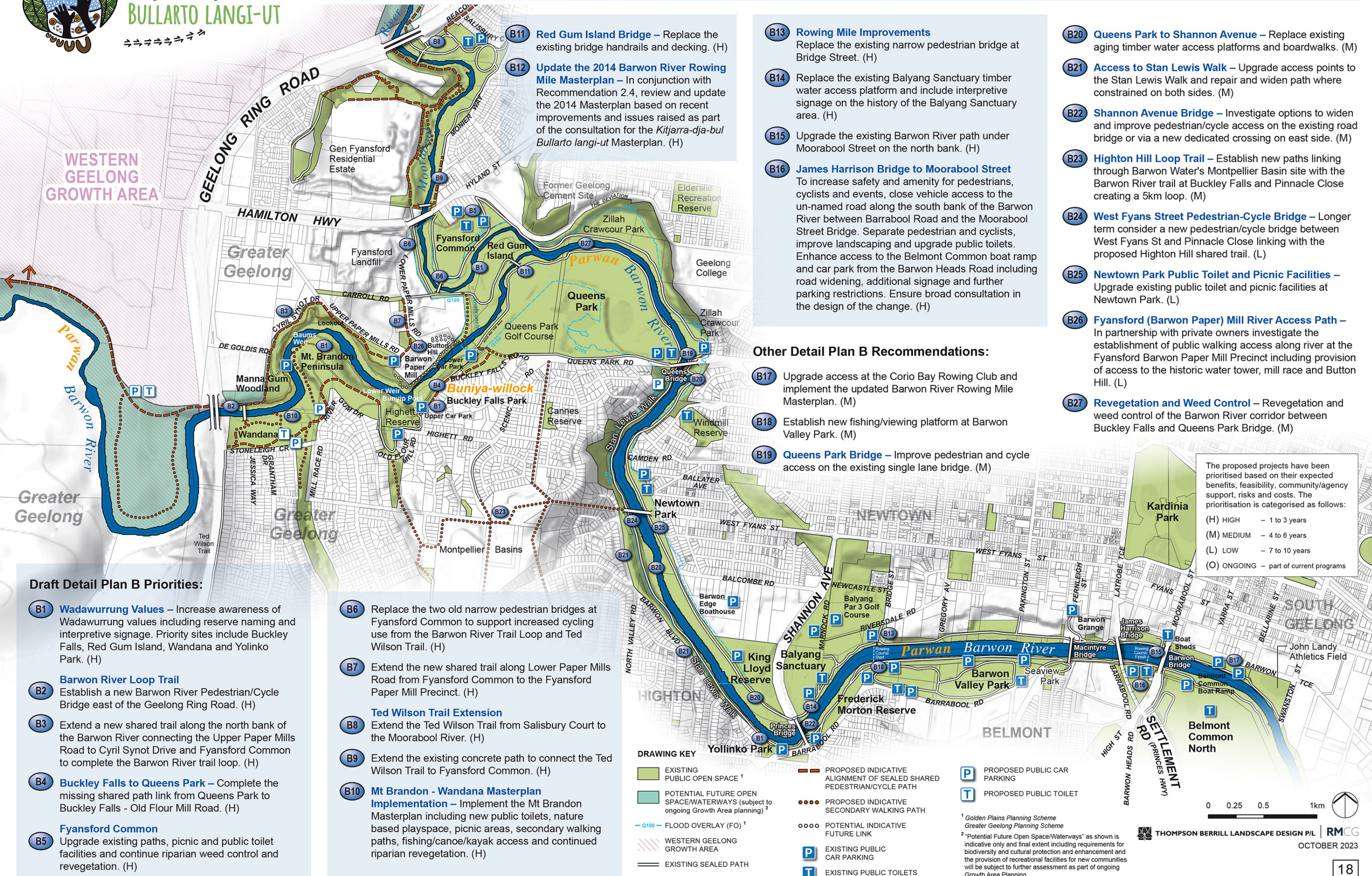




# KITJARRA-DJA-BUL BULLARTO LANGI-UT

# MASTERPLAN – DETAIL PLAN B

PARWAN / BARWON AND MOORABOOL RIVERS AT FYANSFORD WGGA



**B11 Red Gum Island Bridge** – Replace the existing bridge handrails and decking. (H)

**B12 Update the 2014 Barwon River Rowing Mile Masterplan** – In conjunction with Recommendation 2.4, review and update the 2014 Masterplan based on recent improvements and issues raised as part of the consultation for the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* Masterplan. (H)

**B13 Rowing Mile Improvements**  
Replace the existing narrow pedestrian bridge at Bridge Street. (H)

**B14** Replace the existing Balyang Sanctuary timber water access platform and include interpretive signage on the history of the Balyang Sanctuary area. (H)

**B15** Upgrade the existing Barwon River path under Moorabool Street on the north bank. (H)

**B16 James Harrison Bridge to Moorabool Street**  
To increase safety and amenity for pedestrians, cyclists and events, close vehicle access to the un-named road along the south bank of the Barwon River between Barrabool Road and the Moorabool Street Bridge. Separate pedestrian and cyclists, improve landscaping and upgrade public toilets. Enhance access to the Belmont Common boat ramp and car park from the Barwon Heads Road including road widening, additional signage and further parking restrictions. Ensure broad consultation in the design of the change. (H)

**B20 Queens Park to Shannon Avenue** – Replace existing aging timber water access platforms and boardwalks. (M)

**B21 Access to Stan Lewis Walk** – Upgrade access points to the Stan Lewis Walk and repair and widen path where constrained on both sides. (M)

**B22 Shannon Avenue Bridge** – Investigate options to widen and improve pedestrian/cycle access on the existing road bridge or via a new dedicated crossing on east side. (M)

**B23 Highton Hill Loop Trail** – Establish new paths linking through Barwon Water's Montpellier Basin site with the Barwon River trail at Buckley Falls and Pinnacle Close creating a 5km loop. (M)

**B24 West Fyans Street Pedestrian-Cycle Bridge** – Longer term consider a new pedestrian/cycle bridge between West Fyans St and Pinnacle Close linking with the proposed Highton Hill shared trail. (L)

**B25 Newtown Park Public Toilet and Picnic Facilities** – Upgrade existing public toilet and picnic facilities at Newtown Park. (L)

**B26 Fyansford (Barwon Paper) Mill River Access Path** – In partnership with private owners investigate the establishment of public walking access along river at the Fyansford Barwon Paper Mill Precinct including provision of access to the historic water tower, mill race and Button Hill. (L)

**B27 Revegetation and Weed Control** – Revegetation and weed control of the Barwon River corridor between Buckley Falls and Queens Park Bridge. (M)

### Other Detail Plan B Recommendations:

**B17** Upgrade access at the Corio Bay Rowing Club and implement the updated Barwon River Rowing Mile Masterplan. (M)

**B18** Establish new fishing/viewing platform at Barwon Valley Park. (M)

**B19 Queens Park Bridge** – Improve pedestrian and cycle access on the existing single lane bridge. (M)

### Draft Detail Plan B Priorities:

**B1 Wadawurrung Values** – Increase awareness of Wadawurrung values including reserve naming and interpretive signage. Priority sites include Buckley Falls, Red Gum Island, Wandana and Yolinko Park. (H)

**B2 Barwon River Loop Trail**  
Establish a new Barwon River Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge east of the Geelong Ring Road. (H)

**B3** Extend a new shared trail along the north bank of the Barwon River connecting the Upper Paper Mills Road to Cyril Synot Drive and Fyansford Common to complete the Barwon River trail loop. (H)

**B4 Buckley Falls to Queens Park** – Complete the missing shared path link from Queens Park to Buckley Falls - Old Flour Mill Road. (H)

**B5 Fyansford Common**  
Upgrade existing paths, picnic and public toilet facilities and continue riparian weed control and revegetation. (H)

**B6** Replace the two old narrow pedestrian bridges at Fyansford Common to support increased cycling use from the Barwon River Trail Loop and Ted Wilson Trail. (H)

**B7** Extend the new shared trail along Lower Paper Mills Road from Fyansford Common to the Fyansford Paper Mill Precinct. (H)

**Ted Wilson Trail Extension**

**B8** Extend the Ted Wilson Trail from Salisbury Court to the Moorabool River. (H)

**B9** Extend the existing concrete path to connect the Ted Wilson Trail to Fyansford Common. (H)

**B10 Mt Brandon - Wandana Masterplan Implementation** – Implement the Mt Brandon Masterplan including new public toilets, nature based playspace, picnic areas, secondary walking paths, fishing/canoe/kayak access and continued riparian revegetation. (H)

The proposed projects have been prioritised based on their expected benefits, feasibility, community/agency support, risks and costs. The prioritisation is categorised as follows:

(H) HIGH – 1 to 3 years  
(M) MEDIUM – 4 to 6 years  
(L) LOW – 7 to 10 years  
(O) ONGOING – part of current programs

**DRAWING KEY**

- EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE<sup>1</sup>
- POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/WATERWAYS (subject to ongoing Growth Area planning)<sup>2</sup>
- FLOOD OVERLAY (FO)<sup>1</sup>
- WESTERN GEELONG GROWTH AREA
- EXISTING SEALED PATH

- PROPOSED INDICATIVE ALIGNMENT OF SEALED SHARED PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE PATH
- PROPOSED INDICATIVE SECONDARY WALKING PATH
- POTENTIAL INDICATIVE FUTURE LINK
- EXISTING PUBLIC CAR PARKING
- EXISTING PUBLIC TOILETS

- PROPOSED PUBLIC CAR PARKING
- PROPOSED PUBLIC TOILET

<sup>1</sup> Golden Plains Planning Scheme  
Greater Geelong Planning Scheme

<sup>2</sup> "Potential Future Open Space/Waterways" as shown is indicative only and final extent including requirements for biodiversity and cultural protection and enhancement and the provision of recreational facilities for new communities will be subject to further assessment as part of ongoing Growth Area Planning



The *Parwan / Barwon River* continues its southward journey passing through the industrial and new growth areas on the margins of *Djilang / Geelong*. Not too far from the urban expanse the landscape opens to a vast floodplain environment characterised by a complex network of wetlands. The River meanders across the floodplain as the central backbone connecting the network of freshwater, saline, natural and artificial wetlands.

*Kunuwarra / Lake Connewarre* is the largest area of native vegetation remaining on the Bellarine Peninsula and Reedy Lake is the largest freshwater lake in central Victoria. The area forms part of the Port Phillip Bay and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Area wetlands providing habitat for migratory shorebirds which are listed for protection under International Agreements with Japan and China.



The diverse vegetation includes coastal salt marsh, white mangroves and rich variety of fresh and brackish wetlands which support a range of rare and threatened bird and invertebrate species including around half the remaining population of Orange-bellied Parrot. Protection of these critical biodiversity areas is a key element of the plan and other supporting upstream actions include:

The floodplains of the lower *Parwan / Barwon River* lie to the backdrop of the cleared, gently undulating terrain of the *Bella Wiyin / Bellarine* hinterland. The landscape is dominated by grazing land with few examples of intact remnant vegetation remaining. Even so, the open hills are valued for the important urban breaks they provide between townships such as Ocean Grove and Leopold.

As the *Parwan / Barwon River* exits *Kunuwarra / Lake Connewarre* to the south, it enters a more typically estuarine landscape. Here the river is flanked by stands of the regionally significant White Mangrove. The village of *Koornoo / Barwon Heads* identifies strongly with the estuarine landscape, and this stretch of the river is highly valued for its recreational, amenity and conservation values.

The limestone headland of the *Coloite / Barwon Bluff* stands as a striking feature marking the point at which the *Parwan / Barwon River* meets the Southern Ocean. Unlike most other estuaries along the southwest coastline, the *Parwan / Barwon River* is permanently open to the sea due to the protection of the Bluff in preventing a buildup of sand at the river mouth. From the top of the *Coloite / Barwon Bluff*, expansive views can be afforded to the north of the *Parwan / Barwon River* as it meanders on its final leg from *Djilang / Geelong* across the floodplains to the ocean.

The Lower *Parwan / Barwon* and *Kunuwarra / Lake Connewarre* wetland system are vulnerable to inundation from sea-level rise and ocean acidification. As the climate becomes less suitable for some existing vegetation communities, it is likely that there will be a change in species composition and dominance as some species and communities are replaced by others, leading to a shift biodiversity and habitat values. Coastal species, such as saltmarsh and mangroves, that have specific inundation regimes may be reduced or lost as sea levels rise and there is no available land for retreat.



Coastal Alkaline Scrub



Parwan / Barwon River Estuary



Ngubitiyoorree / Sparrovale Wetlands



Coastal Saltmarsh



Orange-bellied Parrot





# KITJARRA-DJA-BUL BULLARTO LANGI-UT

# COMMUNITY ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SOUTHERN ZONE 3 – PARWAN / BARWON RIVER WETLANDS & ESTUARY

There is currently no continuous off road access between *Djilang* / Geelong and *Koornoo* / Barwon Heads. Fishing is popular all along the river however land access to the *Parwan* / Barwon River and Lake Connemare State Game Reserve between Gun Dog Lane and Sheepwash Road is restricted to existing road reserves and small local open spaces including Tait Point, Lake Reserve and McCorkell Reserve. Recreational fishing and water craft launch at *Koornoo* / Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove and there is access into the *Kunuwarra* / Lake Connemare system subject to tidal conditions. The Lake Connemare State Game Reserve is also gazetted under the Victorian Wildlife Act allowing hunting activities according to seasonal conditions and at specified times. *Koornoo* / Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove are popular coastal tourism areas with seasonal camping areas along the *Parwan* / Barwon River and increasing day visitation associated with expanding residential development in the area.

*Porronggitj* Karrong on the north bank of the *Parwan* / Barwon River includes the heritage listed Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct. Barwon Water, CCMA and Wadawurrung are currently working in partnership to further develop environmental and cultural values. Removal of the river spans of the Aqueduct will also restore public access along the *Parwan* / Barwon River. A Healthy Country Plan is being developed for *Porronggitj* Karrong which may include walking trails, boardwalks and improved site access.

*Ngubitj yoorree* / Sparrovale Wetlands has added 500ha of public land and over 5km of river frontage for environmental conservation and restoration. The wetlands will also provide walking access to the river and future nature based tourism opportunities.

The continued development of the Armstrong Creek Growth Area is expected to ultimately provide approximately 22,000 new homes and over 60,000 residents. Key related projects include:

- Railway line upgrades at Marshall could provide opportunities to improve public access along the river south of Gun Dog Lane to Horseshoe Bend Road.
- Future North East Industrial Precinct will provide open space along the south side of the *Parwan* / Barwon River from Horseshoe Bend Road to *Ngubitj yoorree* / Sparrovale Wetlands.
- Future East West link from the Geelong Ring Road to the *Bella Wiyn* / Bellarine Peninsula could provide another shared pedestrian/cycle bridge crossing on the *Parwan* / Barwon River and links to the Bellarine Rail Trail.



**DRAWING KEY**

- EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE <sup>1</sup>
- POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/WATERWAYS (subject to ongoing Growth Area planning)

<sup>1</sup> Greater Geelong Planning Scheme



- Armstrong Creek East Active Open Space will provide regional standard recreation facilities for the new community and an important off road destination on the Barwon River Trail.

*Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* provides an opportunity to:

- Work with public and private landholders to improve protection and awareness of cultural, environmental and landscape values.
- Develop a consistent approach to planning for community access and future open space along the *Parwan* / Barwon River and Lake Connemare State Game Reserve.
- Coordinate extension of the Barwon River Trail from *Djilang* / Geelong to new residential areas and open space at Armstrong Creek.
- Investigate improving cycle access between Armstrong Creek and Barwon Heads.
- Investigate new eco tourism opportunities associated with the wetlands, river and estuary.
- Increase public awareness of the Wadawurrung values of the landscape.





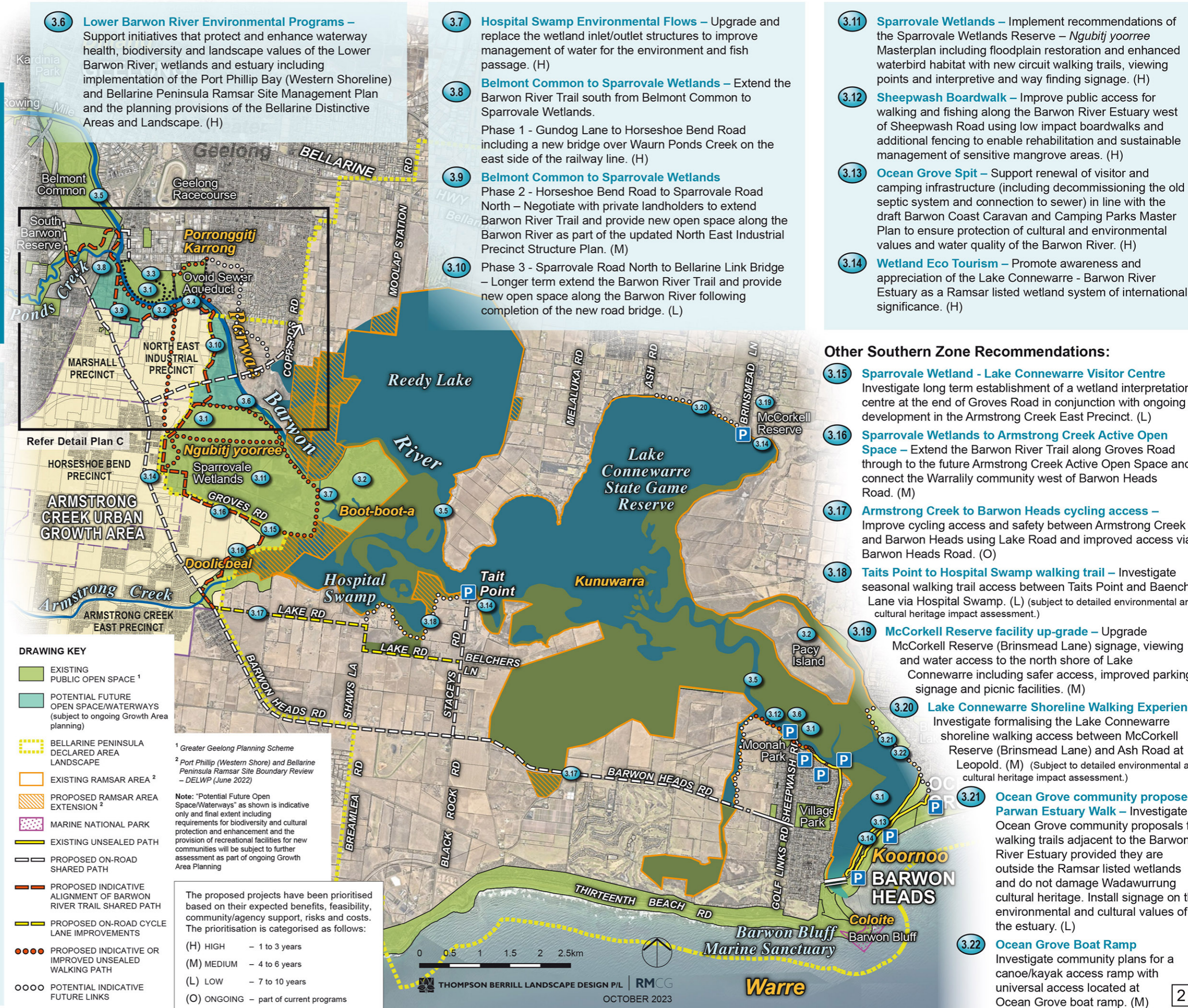
## SOUTHERN ZONE VISION

*Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut* provides an opportunity to:

- Protect and improve public awareness and appreciation of the unique and internationally significant values of the Barwon River estuary and Ramsar listed wetland complex.
- provide enhanced opportunities for the local community and visitors to explore, enjoy and appreciate the river and wetlands where proposals are consistent with Ramsar area conservation objectives and requirements.
- ensure new development is in keeping with Wadawurrung living cultural heritage values and protection of internationally significant bird habitats while improving access to and along the Barwon River between Geelong and Barwon Heads.

## Draft Southern Zone Priorities:

- 3.1 Wadawurrung Values** – Support Wadawurrung to identify, protect and maintain areas of cultural sensitivity in renewal and planning for new infrastructure and investigate opportunities to improve appreciation of Wadawurrung values and culture. (H)
- 3.2** Investigate Wadawurrung management partnerships with public and private landowners on natural island sites including Boot-boot-a Island, Goat Island and Pacey Island. (M)
- 3.3 Porrongitj Karrong and removal of sewer aqueduct spans across the Barwon River** – Support the Wadawurrung - Barwon Water management partnership for the development and implementation of a Healthy Country Plan for the *Porrongitj Karrong* site including facilities to allow public access and enjoyment of the site. Apply the learnings to management of land on opposite side of the river. Remove four sewer aqueduct spans across the river to allow safe boating passage and pedestrian access and preserve other features of the historical sewer aqueduct in accordance with Heritage Victoria requirements. (H)
- 3.4 New Boating Opportunities** – Develop new boating rules for the Barwon River through Geelong to the estuary allowing for safety and equity of on-water use of the Barwon River for a broad range of users. This will take advantage of the imminent removal of the sewer aqueduct over the Barwon River at *Porrongitj Karrong* which is currently restricting access. (H)
- 3.5 On-river canoe/kayak trail** – Investigate establishing an on-river canoe/kayak trail to link the lower Moorabool and Parwan / Barwon River to Barwon Heads, in consultation with Wadawurrung and relevant user groups, ensuring protection of the environmental and cultural values as part of the investigation and design. The trail would potentially include additional canoe/kayak access points and portage infrastructure around weirs and barrages. (H)



**3.6 Lower Barwon River Environmental Programs** – Support initiatives that protect and enhance waterway health, biodiversity and landscape values of the Lower Barwon River, wetlands and estuary including implementation of the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site Management Plan and the planning provisions of the Bellarine Distinctive Areas and Landscape. (H)

**3.7 Hospital Swamp Environmental Flows** – Upgrade and replace the wetland inlet/outlet structures to improve management of water for the environment and fish passage. (H)

**3.8 Belmont Common to Sparrovale Wetlands** – Extend the Barwon River Trail south from Belmont Common to Sparrovale Wetlands.  
Phase 1 - Gundog Lane to Horseshoe Bend Road including a new bridge over Waurm Ponds Creek on the east side of the railway line. (H)

**3.9 Belmont Common to Sparrovale Wetlands**  
Phase 2 - Horseshoe Bend Road to Sparrovale Road North – Negotiate with private landholders to extend Barwon River Trail and provide new open space along the Barwon River as part of the updated North East Industrial Precinct Structure Plan. (M)

**3.10** Phase 3 - Sparrovale Road North to Bellarine Link Bridge – Longer term extend the Barwon River Trail and provide new open space along the Barwon River following completion of the new road bridge. (L)

**3.11 Sparrovale Wetlands** – Implement recommendations of the Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve – *Ngubityj yoorree* Masterplan including floodplain restoration and enhanced waterbird habitat with new circuit walking trails, viewing points and interpretive and way finding signage. (H)

**3.12 Sheepwash Boardwalk** – Improve public access for walking and fishing along the Barwon River Estuary west of Sheepwash Road using low impact boardwalks and additional fencing to enable rehabilitation and sustainable management of sensitive mangrove areas. (H)

**3.13 Ocean Grove Spit** – Support renewal of visitor and camping infrastructure (including decommissioning the old septic system and connection to sewer) in line with the draft Barwon Coast Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan to ensure protection of cultural and environmental values and water quality of the Barwon River. (H)

**3.14 Wetland Eco Tourism** – Promote awareness and appreciation of the Lake Connewarre - Barwon River Estuary as a Ramsar listed wetland system of international significance. (H)

## Other Southern Zone Recommendations:

**3.15 Sparrovale Wetland - Lake Connewarre Visitor Centre**  
Investigate long term establishment of a wetland interpretation centre at the end of Groves Road in conjunction with ongoing development in the Armstrong Creek East Precinct. (L)

**3.16 Sparrovale Wetlands to Armstrong Creek Active Open Space** – Extend the Barwon River Trail along Groves Road through to the future Armstrong Creek Active Open Space and connect the Warrally community west of Barwon Heads Road. (M)

**3.17 Armstrong Creek to Barwon Heads cycling access** – Improve cycling access and safety between Armstrong Creek and Barwon Heads using Lake Road and improved access via Barwon Heads Road. (O)

**3.18 Tait's Point to Hospital Swamp walking trail** – Investigate seasonal walking trail access between Tait's Point and Baenchs Lane via Hospital Swamp. (L) (subject to detailed environmental and cultural heritage impact assessment.)

**3.19 McCorkell Reserve facility up-grade** – Upgrade McCorkell Reserve (Brinsmead Lane) signage, viewing and water access to the north shore of Lake Connewarre including safer access, improved parking, signage and picnic facilities. (M)

**3.20 Lake Connewarre Shoreline Walking Experience**  
Investigate formalising the Lake Connewarre shoreline walking access between McCorkell Reserve (Brinsmead Lane) and Ash Road at Leopold. (M) (Subject to detailed environmental and cultural heritage impact assessment.)

**3.21 Ocean Grove community proposed Parwan Estuary Walk** – Investigate Ocean Grove community proposals for walking trails adjacent to the Barwon River Estuary provided they are outside the Ramsar listed wetlands and do not damage Wadawurrung cultural heritage. Install signage on the environmental and cultural values of the estuary. (L)

**3.22 Ocean Grove Boat Ramp**  
Investigate community plans for a canoe/kayak access ramp with universal access located at Ocean Grove boat ramp. (M)





Draft Detail Plan C Priorities:

- C1 Waurn Ponds Creek Trail Extension** – Extend the Waurn Ponds Creek shared path through the South Barwon Reserve to link to the Barwon River Trail at Gundog Lane. (H)
- C2 Gundog Lane Barwon River boating access** – Upgrade the existing platform north of Gundog Lane and establish a new fishing platform with canoe/kayak launch to improve access to the river on the south side following removal of the sewer aqueduct spans at *Porrongitj Karrong*. (H)
- C3 Extend Barwon River Trail to Horseshoe Bend Rd** – Extend the Barwon River Trail from Gundog Lane to Horseshoe Bend Rd including a bridge across Waurn Ponds Creek to link new residential areas at Armstrong Creek to the Barwon River trails through Geelong. Ensure this link is accommodated in the Warrnambool railway line bridge upgrade/duplication. (H)
- C4 Horseshoe Bend Road Boat and Fishing Access** – Establish a fishing/canoe launch platform and formalise a small car parking area at the northern end of Horseshoe Bend Road. (H)
- C5 Bellarine Link Shared Trail** – Ensure provision of pedestrian and cycle access across the river in planning and design for the future Bellarine Link Project to eventually link the Barwon River Trail to the Bellarine Rail Trail. (H)
- C6 Porrongitj Karrong** – Support the Wadawurrung-Barwon Water management partnership for new parklands at *Porrongitj Karrong* and investigate establishing a small car parking area and viewing point with interpretive signage at the end of Tanner Street and Boundary Road. (H)
- C7 Belmont Common to Porrongitj Karrong** – Establish walking path access from Gundog Lane and Wal Whiteside Walk to *Porrongitj Karrong* via Tucker Street. (H)

The proposed projects have been prioritised based on their expected benefits, feasibility, community/agency support, risks and costs. The prioritisation is categorised as follows:

(H) HIGH	- 1 to 3 years
(M) MEDIUM	- 4 to 6 years
(L) LOW	- 7 to 10 years
(O) ONGOING	- part of current programs

Other Detail Plan C Recommendations:

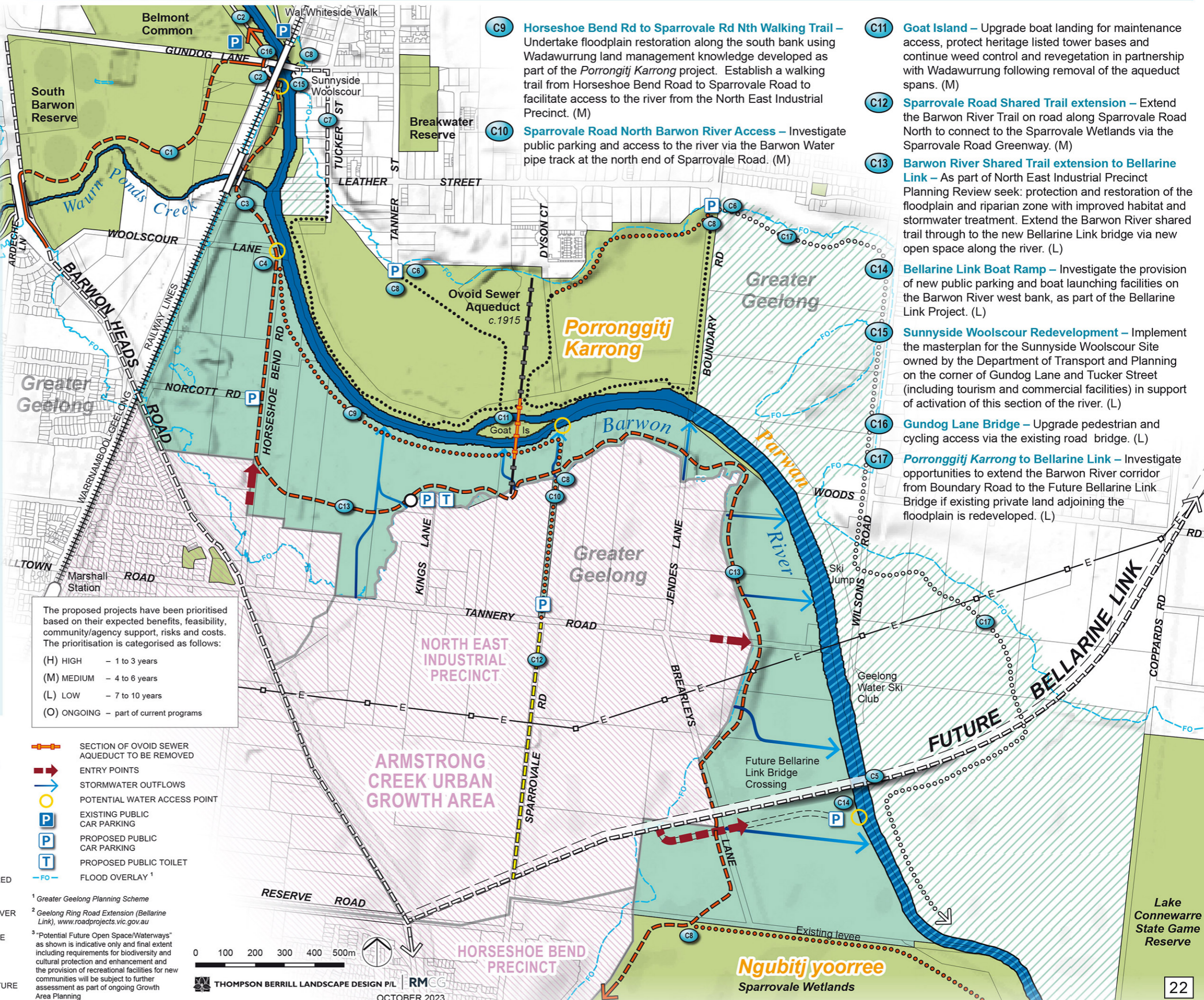
- C8 Historic Signage** – Provide interpretation of key historic heritage sites include the Ovoid Aqueduct, Sunnyside Woolscour, Green Banks, ruins at Tanner Road and Sparrovale Farm/wetlands. (M)

DRAWING KEY

- EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE <sup>1</sup>
- POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE/WATERWAYS (subject to ongoing Growth Area planning) <sup>3</sup>
- POTENTIAL FUTURE OPEN SPACE (NOT subject to current planning process)
- ARMSTRONG CREEK URBAN GROWTH AREA
- WATER SPORTS ACCESS
- FUTURE BELLARINE LINK <sup>2</sup>
- PROPOSED ON-ROAD SHARED PATH
- PROPOSED INDICATIVE ALIGNMENT OF BARWON RIVER TRAIL SHARED PATH
- PROPOSED ON-ROAD CYCLE LANE IMPROVEMENTS
- PROPOSED INDICATIVE UNSEALED WALKING PATH
- POTENTIAL INDICATIVE FUTURE LINKS

- SECTION OF OVOID SEWER AQUEDUCT TO BE REMOVED
- ENTRY POINTS
- STORMWATER OUTFLOWS
- POTENTIAL WATER ACCESS POINT
- EXISTING PUBLIC CAR PARKING
- PROPOSED PUBLIC CAR PARKING
- PROPOSED PUBLIC TOILET
- FLOOD OVERLAY <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Greater Geelong Planning Scheme  
<sup>2</sup> Geelong Ring Road Extension (Bellarine Link), www.roadprojects.vic.gov.au  
<sup>3</sup> "Potential Future Open Space/Waterways" as shown is indicative only and final extent including requirements for biodiversity and cultural protection and enhancement and the provision of recreational facilities for new communities will be subject to further assessment as part of ongoing Growth Area Planning



- C9 Horseshoe Bend Rd to Sparrovale Rd Nth Walking Trail** – Undertake floodplain restoration along the south bank using Wadawurrung land management knowledge developed as part of the *Porrongitj Karrong* project. Establish a walking trail from Horseshoe Bend Road to Sparrovale Road to facilitate access to the river from the North East Industrial Precinct. (M)
- C10 Sparrovale Road North Barwon River Access** – Investigate public parking and access to the river via the Barwon Water pipe track at the north end of Sparrovale Road. (M)

- C11 Goat Island** – Upgrade boat landing for maintenance access, protect heritage listed tower bases and continue weed control and revegetation in partnership with Wadawurrung following removal of the aqueduct spans. (M)
- C12 Sparrovale Road Shared Trail extension** – Extend the Barwon River Trail on road along Sparrovale Road North to connect to the Sparrovale Wetlands via the Sparrovale Road Greenway. (M)
- C13 Barwon River Shared Trail extension to Bellarine Link** – As part of North East Industrial Precinct Planning Review seek: protection and restoration of the floodplain and riparian zone with improved habitat and stormwater treatment. Extend the Barwon River shared trail through to the new Bellarine Link bridge via new open space along the river. (L)
- C14 Bellarine Link Boat Ramp** – Investigate the provision of new public parking and boat launching facilities on the Barwon River west bank, as part of the Bellarine Link Project. (L)
- C15 Sunnyside Woolscour Redevelopment** – Implement the masterplan for the Sunnyside Woolscour Site owned by the Department of Transport and Planning on the corner of Gundog Lane and Tucker Street (including tourism and commercial facilities) in support of activation of this section of the river. (L)
- C16 Gundog Lane Bridge** – Upgrade pedestrian and cycling access via the existing road bridge. (L)
- C17 Porrongitj Karrong to Bellarine Link** – Investigate opportunities to extend the Barwon River corridor from Boundary Road to the Future Bellarine Link Bridge if existing private land adjoining the floodplain is redeveloped. (L)



**Project Governance**

The project is a partnership between a number of state government agencies, local government and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, who is the Registered Aboriginal Party for the region. All have a shared interest in protection of values and improving the amenity of the river corridor. The project governance structure consists of a Strategic Advisory Committee providing high level guidance for the project and a Working Group to deliver the project actions with administration and project management provided by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.

**Administration and Project Management**

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

**Strategic Advisory Committee**

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Barwon Water, City of Greater Geelong, Golden Plains Shire Council, Parks Victoria, G21 Geelong Region Alliance, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation, Regional Development Victoria, Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine.

**Working Group**

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Barwon Water, City of Greater Geelong, Golden Plains Shire Council, Parks Victoria, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation, Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Barwon Coast Committee of Management, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

**TRADITIONAL OWNERS**



Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) and representative body for the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and works to support their aspirations and protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in accordance with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. Wadawurrung Country extends from the western side of Melbourne to Beaufort including Ballarat and south west from Werribee to Aireys Inlet including Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula.

**PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS**



Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA), as the regional caretaker of river health, is responsible for the implementation of State Government priorities for the management, protection and enhancement of high value river, wetland and estuarine assets in the Barwon and Moorabool Basins, as identified under the Corangamite River Health Strategy (RHS). This includes management of environmental entitlements as manager of the Environmental Water Reserve (EWR). The Corangamite CMA is also responsible for the bed and banks of the Barwon River between Orana Road and the lower breakwater. It is also responsible for most of the open space river corridor directly adjoining the river downstream of the Queens Park bridge, including Stan Lewis Walk, Newtown Park, Rowing Mile, Richardson Reserve, Belmont Common Boat Ramp, Wal Whiteside Walk, as well as leased Crown land reserves along the river downstream of Breakwater Road to Reedy Lake and the lower breakwater.



Barwon Water (BW) own and manage McIntyre Footbridge and Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct. They directly manage reserves surrounding sewerage and water supply infrastructure at these locations and other sewer pumping stations through the region. They are responsible developing Porrongitj Karrong, new parkland around the Aqueduct in partnership with the Wadawurrung.



Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) leads the Victorian Government's efforts to sustainably manage water resources and catchments, climate change, bushfires, parks and other public land, forests, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and environment assessment as the owner of Crown Land. DEECA is directly responsible for the direct management of the Marnockvale site off Shannon Ave, former Sunnyside wool scour on Tucker Street and small parcels of land along the Moorabool River near Meredith at Sharp Road and Steglitz Road.



Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) centralises key planning and land use activities, precinct and policy functions. DTP ensures Victoria's transport network and land use is safe, sustainable and integrated, and manage precinct and policy, land, planning, building and heritage systems to shape places and communities. DTP has a role in the land use planning of the growth areas in the study area.



Golden Plains Shire (GPS) is responsible for management of new open space along the west bank of the Moorabool River north of the Midland Highway Batesford as well as reserves along the Barwon River outside of the study area. The Shire is the local planning authority and responsible for Urban Growth Area Planning at Bannockburn.



City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) is the local planning authority and responsible for management of all open space reserves along the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers upstream of Queens Park Bridge to the Geelong Ring Road. They also manage Balyang Sanctuary, King Lloyd Recreation Reserve, Barwon Valley Park, Landy Field, South Barwon Reserve, Barwon Heads Village Park, Ash Road, McCorkell Reserve and the majority of Belmont Common as well as open space reserves along Waurn Ponds Creek and Sparrowale Wetlands. The City is the local planning authority and responsible for Urban Growth Area Planning at Armstrong Creek and the Western Geelong Growth Area.



Parks Victoria is a statutory authority of the Victorian Government responsible for managing land and marine parks and reserves (18 per cent of Victoria's landmass, 75 per cent of Victoria's wetlands and 70 per cent of Victoria's coastline). Parks Victoria recognises the value and importance of working in partnership with Traditional Owners to manage parks and reserves to providing accessible, enjoyable, diverse programs and destinations while protecting and enhancing environmental and cultural values.

\* Parks Victoria manage the Lake Connemara State Game Reserve, which includes Reedy Lake and the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary.



Barwon Coast Committee of Management (BCCM) are the committee of management for coastal Crown land including the Ocean Grove Spit, Barwon Heads Caravan Park and coastal land along 13th Beach Road. They are responsible for the management of the Port of Barwon Heads downstream of Sheepwash Road to the mouth of Barwon River.

**OTHER PROJECT PARTNERS**



Other agencies have a role in the development of the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto Langi-ut Masterplan that are not specifically mentioned here.

**COMMUNITY**

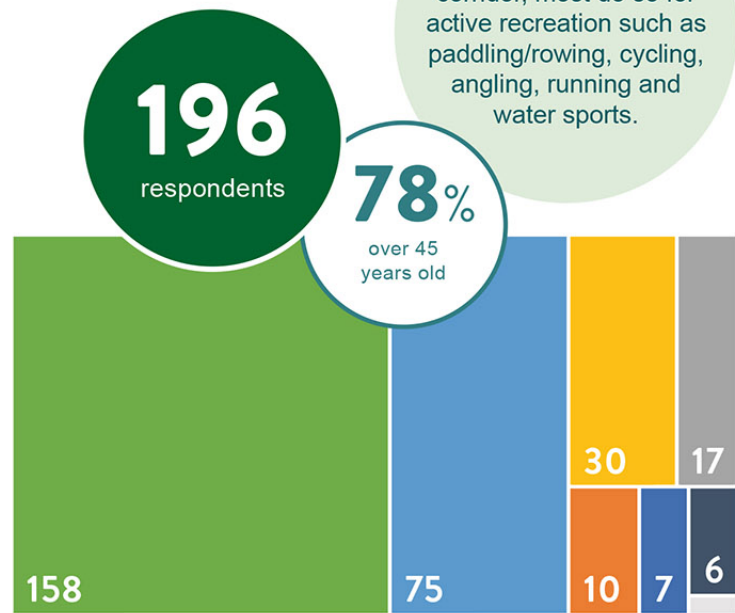
The community have an important role in caring for the river corridor and implementing this masterplan, including user groups, environment groups, friends of groups, landcare groups, recreation groups, community members and landholders.



### ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY

The online survey asked the community a number of questions about the river corridors, the draft vision and objectives for the project. A total of 196 responses were received and this is what we heard:

Which of the following best describes your interest or involvement in the river corridor of the lower Barwon and Moorabool Rivers? Please select all the options that apply to you.



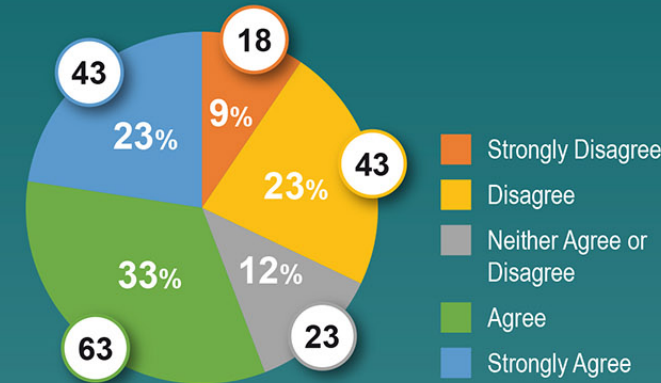
- I represent a Traditional Owner/First Nations group in the region
- I am an active member or volunteer for a community-based group that has an interest in management or use of the river corridors
- I work for a government organisation that has a role in management of the river corridor (i.e. government department/ agency or Council)
- I regularly use or visit the river corridor
- I visit as a tourist from outside the local area
- I work for or own a business that benefits or has interest in management or use of the river corridors
- I am a landowner directly fronting a waterway within the Barwon or Moorabool River catchment area including Lake Connemawarre or Waurn Ponds Creek
- Other

### VISION STATEMENT

The majority of respondents over 56% agreed with the vision statement:

*“The Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut is a well – connected, diverse and healthy waterway landscape, that balances recreation, conservation, respect of place and culture, that also provides for everyday enjoyment of nature, community, liveability and wellbeing.”*

Common themes for support or otherwise for the vision statement included river access, river recreation, safety and maintaining waterway and landscape character.



### OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

The majority of respondents also agreed with each of the opportunity statements for the Southern Zone, Central Zone and Northern Zones.

- For the Southern Zone the common themes and reasoning behind their support for the opportunity statement include maintaining waterway and landscape character, followed by trail extension and then maintaining the existing trail network and “river access” and “connection” and river recreation.
- For the Central Zone, the key reasons cited for supporting the opportunity statement included encouraging greater commercial opportunities such as riverside cafes. Maintaining environmental character and river flow/quality also were readily cited as important reasons as to why people rated their agreement with the statement.
- For the Northern Zone, the key reasons cited for supporting the opportunity statement were river access and connection, as well as managing environmental character.

### OTHER CHALLENGES

- Community consultation also identified the following challenges:
- Nature protection and connectivity and preventing habitat loss or fragmentation
  - Protecting river flows and water quality

### PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

The common themes for project opportunities involved trail extension or management, being a total of 69 responses, other key project opportunities centred around river recreation, river flows/quality and safety.

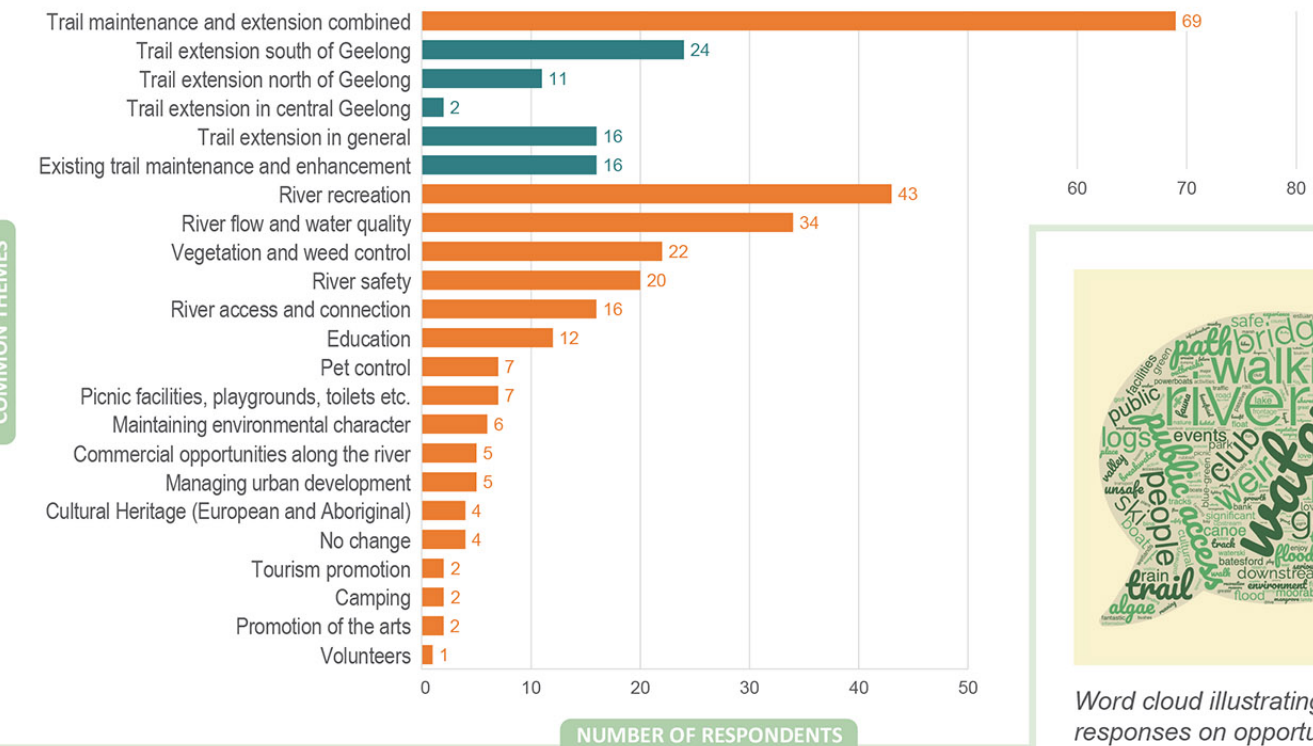
A diverse sample of some of the responses are highlighted below:

- “Greater connectivity of paths along the river corridors would be fantastic”
- “Highlight cultural landmarks”
- “Report counts of native species (e.g. fish, Platypus, Rikali, etc.)”
- “A bike trail along the length of the river would be a major draw card that is suitable for all abilities”
- “Return the operation of the weir downstream of Geelong Water Ski Club to its original height”
- “Review the management of water level and flow in the river above Lake Connemawarre to ensure adequate flow/flushing and timely clearance of flood waters”
- “More dining or cafe opportunities along the Barwon in central Geelong”
- “Safe portage around the upper and lower breakwater walls, ... a canoe dock on the south side of the river above Mt Brandon walking track”
- “Improved boat ramps and car/trailer parking in the lower reaches. (Sheepwash to the river mouth)”
- “Needs more on unlocking commercial opportunities, where appropriate, around new dining and cultural spaces (e.g. art installations on walking tracks, gallery) including specific areas for night time use - and for that to be integrated with Geelong City of Design ambitions and art/culture product development.”

These responses on opportunities have been captured and assessed against the project objectives and prioritisation criteria to inform development of the Draft Masterplan.

### Common themes from Q4.1

What ideas (project or opportunities) do you suggest would enhance your enjoyment and use of the river corridor?



Word cloud illustrating captured responses on opportunities



## Implementation

A masterplan provides a vision for an area identifying what is important and what it should look like and how it should function into the future. It establishes a strong and consistent direction by providing a framework for ongoing protection and improvement. It considers the interrelationship between:

- Current character and functionality of the landscape
- Public expectations and needs delivered by date
- Emerging issues and trends
- The realities of the economic, social, environmental, and legislative context of the time.

The result is a plan that balances need across a range of often conflicting interests. The masterplan does not necessarily suggest that all elements of the plan should proceed immediately, or that ratepayers and user groups should be responsible for all capital costs, in respect of those items that are progressed.

It is important to note that the intent of a masterplan is to provide a framework for future management, use and development of the river and open space over an extended period of time so that ad-hoc projects are avoided, and community use and long-term sustainability are maximised. To ensure this intent is achieved the masterplan will be regularly monitored to ensure the outcomes continue to meet community needs in the best possible way.

The masterplan provides recommendations in the following key areas:

- **Strategy and Planning** – to maximise integration with other plans and major projects including future Growth Area Planning.
- **Community Programs** – support for community user groups and private landholders to assist with project delivery
- **New Capital Projects** – new facilities, open space and waterway improvements
- **Existing Asset Renewal** – upgrade and replacement of existing facilities

The priorities are broadly identified as follows and all works are subject to funding:

- High (H) – 1 to 3 years
- Medium (M) – 4 to 6 years
- Low (L) – 7 to 10 years
- Ongoing (O) – Part of current programs

The project is currently funded for three years to June 2024 as an action of the Rivers of the Barwon (*Barre Warre Yulluk*) Action Plan with the program covering:



Most of the projects identified in this masterplan are currently un-funded and will require significant new capital investment which is not guaranteed. The project partners are committed to working together with the community to attract the funds necessary to implement the vision established in this masterplan






**STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTEXT**

- Rivers of the Barwon (Barre Warre Yulluk) Action Plan (2021)
- Victorian Waterway Management Strategy (2013)
- Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 (2017)
- Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (2022)
- Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy (2021)

**PROJECT AREA SCALE**

**Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut Masterplan (2023)**



Northern section | Central section | Southern section

**PRECINCT SCALE**

- Barwon through Geelong Management Plan (2007)
- Moorabool River Reserve Masterplan (2023)
- Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve - Ngubitj yoorree Masterplan (2022)
- Mt Brandon Peninsula Landscape Plan (2012)
- Barwon Coast Caravan & Camping Parks Masterplan (2023)
- Future masterplans on specific areas or features of the river corridor
- Barwon River Rowing Mile Masterplan (2014)

AGENCY	POLICY, STRATEGY, PLAN OR STUDY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Catchments Our Communities – Integrated Catchment Management in Victoria 2016-19</li> <li>Our Catchments Our Communities: Building on the Legacy for Better Stewardship 2021-24</li> <li>Planning and Environment Act 1987</li> <li>Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site Management Plan (2018)</li> <li>Regional Riparian Action Plan 2015</li> <li>Rivers of the Barwon (Barre Warre Yulluk) Action Plan 2021</li> <li>Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 2013</li> <li>Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy 2016</li> <li>Water Act 1989</li> <li>Water for Victoria – Water Plan 2015</li> <li>Water and Catchment Legislation Amendment Act 2019 - relating to recreation and Aboriginal water values, urban waterways and integrated water management</li> <li>Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap 2022</li> </ul> <p><b>Relevant studies, investigations and reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Living Rivers of the Barwon: A Discussion Paper for the Future, Barwon Ministerial Advisory Committee 2019</li> <li>Independent Review of the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy, RMCG 2021</li> </ul>
Barwon Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barwon Water Strategy 2030</li> <li>Porrongitj Karrong project</li> </ul>
City of Greater Geelong	<p><b>Policy, strategies, and plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change Response Plan 2021-30</li> <li>Environment Strategy 2020 – 2030 and Action Plan 2020 – 22</li> <li>Geelong Wetland Strategy 2006</li> <li>Geelong's Plan for Nature (under development)</li> <li>Greater Geelong Planning Scheme</li> <li>Jerringot Wetland Reserves Master Plan 2013</li> <li>Latham's Snipe Action Plan – Belmont Common, Jerringot Wetlands and Begola Wetlands 2022</li> <li>Mount Brandon Peninsula Landscape Plan 2012</li> <li>Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas: Framework plan 2020</li> <li>Open Space Strategy: Social Infrastructure Plan Generation One: 2020-23</li> <li>Queens Park Masterplan 2009</li> <li>Rabbit Control Plan 2021 - 2026</li> <li>Sparrovale Wetlands Reserve – Ngubitj yoorree Master Plan 2022</li> <li>Urban Forest Strategy 2015 – 2025</li> </ul> <p><b>Relevant studies, investigations and reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barwon River interface with the Armstrong Creek Growth Area - Background Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper 2014</li> <li>Our Coasts: Bellarine Peninsula – Corio Bay Local Coastal Hazard Assessment – Inundation Report</li> </ul>
Golden Plains Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Golden Plains Planning Scheme</li> <li>Environment Strategy 2019 – 2027</li> </ul>
Barwon Coast Committee of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barwon Coast Coastal and Marine Management Plan 2020 - 2025</li> </ul>

AGENCY	POLICY, STRATEGY, PLAN OR STUDY
<b>Other Government Stakeholders</b>	
Department of Transport and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rivers of the Barwon (Barre Warre Yulluk) Action Plan 2021</li> <li>Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscape Final draft Statement of Planning Policy (DELWP, 2022)</li> </ul>
Environment Protection Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment Protection Act 2017</li> </ul>
Victorian Environmental Water Holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal Watering Plan 2022-23</li> </ul>
Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Tourism Development Plan 2019 – 2022</li> </ul>
Sports and Recreation Victoria, DJPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active Victoria 2022 - 2026 – A strategic framework for sport and active recreation</li> </ul>
Regional Development Victoria, DJPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victoria's Regional Statement 2015</li> <li>Barwon Regional Digital Plan</li> <li>Central Highlands Regional Digital Plan</li> <li>Barwon South West Regional Trails Masterplan 2009</li> <li>Growing Adventure Tourism in Barwon South West Region - Regional Trails Action Plan 2015 – 2025</li> </ul>
Heritage Council of Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Victorian Heritage Register</li> </ul>
G21 Regional Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>G21 Regional Growth Plan 2013</li> <li>G21 Regional Growth Plan Implementation Plan 2013</li> </ul>
Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2019 - 2023</li> </ul>
Trust for Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trust for Nature Strategic Plan 2021-2025</li> </ul>
Victorian Fisheries Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corangamite Fishery Management Plan 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Other Stakeholders and Community Groups</b>	
Friends of the Barwon	<p><b>Relevant studies, investigations and reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting and restoring the rivers of the Barwon (Barre Warre Yulluk) system 2019</li> <li>Response to Barwon MAC Our Living Rivers of the Barwon: A Discussion Paper for the Future (2019) On behalf of Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) and Friends of the Barwon (FoB) 2019</li> </ul>
People for a Living Moorabool	<p><b>Relevant studies, investigations and reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission to the Water Plan Project Team in response to the Water for Victoria Discussion Paper 2016</li> <li>The River Moorabool film (2021) (link)</li> </ul>
Field and Game Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connemara Wetland Centre in connection with the Wetland Environmental Taskforce</li> </ul>
Landcare and volunteer groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various strategies, plans and programs of Landcare networks and other volunteer groups (e.g. Bellarine Catchment Network, Geelong Landcare Network, Geelong Field Naturalists, Geelong Environment Network, Waterwatch, EstuaryWatch, Friends of the Bluff, Buckleys Falls Friends Group)</li> </ul>
Barwon River User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various strategies, plans and programs of Barwon River User Groups: Geelong Angling Club, Geelong Cross Country Club, Geelong Rowing Association and Outriggers, Geelong Canoe Club, Geelong Water Skiing Association, Geelong Field and Game, Heads Sailing Club, Bellarine Paddlers, Coast Watch - Ocean Grove.</li> </ul>

AGENCY	POLICY, STRATEGY, PLAN OR STUDY
<b>Traditional Owners</b>	
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paleert Tjaara Dja - Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan 2020-30</li> </ul>
<b>Public Land Managers and Key Project Partners</b>	
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA)	<p><b>Policy, strategies and plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barwon through Geelong Management Plan 2007</li> <li>Barwon Seasonal Watering Proposal 2022-23</li> <li>Corangamite NRM Plan for Climate Change 2017</li> <li>Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy 2021 – 2027</li> <li>Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2018–2028</li> <li>Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014 – 2022</li> <li>Discover the Living Moorabool 'Flagship Waterway' project</li> <li>Moorabool River Environmental Water Management Plan 2016</li> <li>Moorabool Seasonal Watering Proposal 2022-23</li> </ul> <p><b>Relevant studies, investigations and reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis of the social and economic values dependent on a flowing Barwon River (through Geelong) and lower Moorabool River, RMCG and HARC 2021</li> <li>Barwon River Parklands Project - Strategic Review – Workshop Report, Encader Consulting 2018</li> <li>Instream Barrier Assessment and Prioritisation of the Lower Barwon River and Otways Streams, Environous, Kingfisher Research and Arthur Rylah Institute 2010</li> </ul>

AGENCY	POLICY, STRATEGY, PLAN OR STUDY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moorabool River FLOWS Study Update, Jacobs 2015</li> <li>Moorabool River Water Resource Assessment, SKM 2004</li> <li>Prioritising Barriers to Upstream Fish Passage – Barwon and Moorabool Catchments, Fisheries Collective 2016</li> <li>Barwon River Parklands Draft Strategy Implementation Plan 2014 – 2024</li> </ul>
Parks Victoria	<p><b>Policy, strategies and plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barwon River Parklands Strategy 2011</li> <li>Healthy Parks Healthy People Framework 2020</li> </ul> <p><b>Relevant studies, investigations and reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parklands along the Barwon River connecting Geelong to Barwon Heads - Trail Alignment Concepts - Community Consultation Report - Executive Summary 2014</li> </ul>
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)	<p><b>Policy, strategies, and plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barwon Strategic Directions Statement 2022 (Integrated Water Management Forums)</li> <li>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</li> <li>Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (2022)</li> <li>Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 (2017)</li> <li>Biodiversity Response Planning</li> <li>Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria: An IWM approach to urban water planning and shared decision making throughout Victoria 2017</li> <li>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</li> <li>Open Space for Everyone 2021</li> </ul>