

Volcanic Trail Masterplan

FINAL REPORT — MARCH 2022

COOPER SCAIFE ARCHITECTS

 lookear



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1. Introduction

The 'Volcanic Trail' concept builds on the significant cultural and environmental values of selected volcanic sites within the Southern Grampians Shire. As described in the project brief:

it provides a clear direction...to protect cultural heritage, maintain / improve existing assets and develop the visitor economy by leveraging our natural assets and known tourist linkages.

The 'Trail' is comprised of seven sites within the Shire: Wannon Falls, Nigretta Falls, Byaduk Caves, Harman's Valley Lookout, Wallacedale Tumuli, Mt Napier and Mt Rouse. Currently these sites are developed and maintained to varying degrees across multiple government authorities, and are not linked in any way through branding, interpretive themes or a consistent approach to infrastructure.

Cooper Scaife Architects and LookEar interpretive design were engaged in July 2020 to undertake a master planning process for the Volcanic Trail. The purpose of the master plan is to set out the strategic direction for development of these assets over the next 10 years.

Over a 12-month period, the design team has undertaken extensive site visits, research, consultation and master planning, culminating in a set of proposals for each site. The resulting masterplan places high importance on preserving and promoting both the natural environment and Indigenous heritage of the region, with an approach that is sustainable, respectful and inclusive.

Proposals cover both infrastructure and heritage interpretation, with examples provided to illustrate a best-practice approach. Infrastructure proposals range from the upgrades of existing walking trails, through to the development of entirely new campsites and picnic grounds. An interpretive framework is also provided for each site, covering major themes and supporting content for heritage interpretation.

If implemented fully, the plan has the potential to achieve the dual benefits of attracting increased tourism to the region, as well as improving the recreational opportunities available to local residents, through the creation of high quality and meaningful visitor experiences.

2. Background

2.1 Market Research & Strategic Directions

Visitor Economy – Strategic Directions Paper, 2016, Southern Grampians Shire Council

This report provides some useful background for the aspirations and directions for the development of the Volcanic Trail. This includes:

- Target markets for domestic tourism is the ‘Lifestyle Leader’. This is a market segment identified by Tourism Victoria and Roy Morgan Research, as part of the Visit Victoria campaign. The profile of this segment includes the following:
 - they represent 30.1 per cent of the Australian population (1.66 million Victorians).
 - they are more likely to be socially aware and they like to shop, particularly online.
 - they are open to trying new things and believe that quality is more important than price.
 - they are professionals or managers, belonging to AB quintile and have an average annual household income of \$130,160.
 - they like to stay active, and the majority likes to experience the local culture and see nature. They like to plan for their trips and are less likely to prefer to have their trips organised for them.
 - they live a busy life, and because success is important to them, they consider themselves leaders more than followers.
 - they are more likely to travel within Australia for short and long trips compared to the average Australian population.¹
- A SWOT analysis for the Experience Offer identifies ‘Indigenous Tourism Experiences’ as an important opportunity, whilst identifying the current planning and presentation of these experiences as a significant weakness. Furthermore, the quality of the Kanawinka tourism experience is limited by the ‘lack of interpretation, onsite information and visitor amenities’.
- Key strategies and actions include:
 - Identify initiatives to improve and promote the visitor experience at the shire’s volcanic attractions, especially onsite interpretation and amenities.
 - Support cultural interpretative centres/museums to develop and exhibit cultural stories, including Indigenous cultures
 - Showcase and reflect our cultural stories through urban design, signage and interpretive materials
 - Work with Indigenous communities to identify opportunities to create visitor experiences and provide information about local cultures and traditions.
 - Promotional programs should also continue to ‘leverage’ visitor drawcards outside the SGS, with the potential for World Heritage listing of the Budj Bim Landscape and attracting travellers from the Great Ocean Road as two primary opportunities.

Clear directions can be gleaned from this report, especially the potential to emphasise and promote Indigenous cultural stories and values as part of the tourist offer. However, it is critical that this is done in partnership with the relevant Indigenous communities, where they also receive the rewards, both financial and social from these endeavours and enterprises.

Community Survey

An online questionnaire was distributed by the Council, seeking local people’s attitudes and experiences at the various Volcanic Trail sites. The following summary of the results from the recent Survey Monkey questionnaire (with approx 40 respondents), provides some indication as to the visitor demographic and their potential areas of interest.

- The vast majority of visitors (93%) are local residents
- Gender breakdown is approx. 58% female and 42% male
- The largest cohort of visitors are 65 to 74 years old (28%), with approx. 70% of visitors aged 45 years and older
- The most popular activities are sightseeing (85%) and bushwalking (65%)
Topics of interest in order of priority score are:
 1. Flora and fauna (3.55)
 2. Geology and earth history (3.40)
 3. Aboriginal cultural heritage (3.20)
 4. Conservation and environmental management (2.91)
 5. European history - explorers and settlement (1.92)
- Lookouts, walking paths and toilets were the most commonly used facilities

Broad community consultation was also undertaken in face to face consultation sessions, held over two nights in December 2020, at Wannon and Peshurst respectively. Records of this consultation are included in

¹ https://assets-corporate.visitvictoria.com/images/Visit-Victoria_Stay-Close-Go-Further_Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf

the Appendices. A brief summary of the common themes that emerged from community consultation includes:

- Recognition of the high value of these assets from an environmental, cultural and recreational point of view.
- A lack of pride in the current state of many sites and a desire to see the sites better maintained, including weed control, reduction of fire hazards and maintenance of paths and signage.
- Potential to involve Traditional Owners in future land management and tours of the sites, including utilising traditional practices such as cool burns.
- A desire to see infrastructure such as lookouts, picnic facilities and toilets upgraded and modernized.
- A strong interest in interpretations that focus more on the natural environment and indigenous history.
- An appetite for more walking tracks, including upgrading and extending existing tracks as well as providing new extended walking trails.
- A need for better information and wayfinding signage at the approaches and entrances to the sites, including descriptions of distances and grades of walking trails.
- A desire to link the volcanic sites to other tourist attractions in the region, whether they be rail trails, galleries or nearby reserves and national parks.



2.2 Site Descriptions

The Western Victorian Volcanic Plain is the third largest volcanic plain in the world covering approximately 22,000 square kilometres. It extends from Melbourne through to Mt Gambier and south-eastern South Australia.

The region features approximately 100 extinct volcanoes, dotted with lakes, rivers and wetlands. Some of the wetlands are RAMSAR listed and are of international importance, and many of the regions parks and reserves are listed as protected areas by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

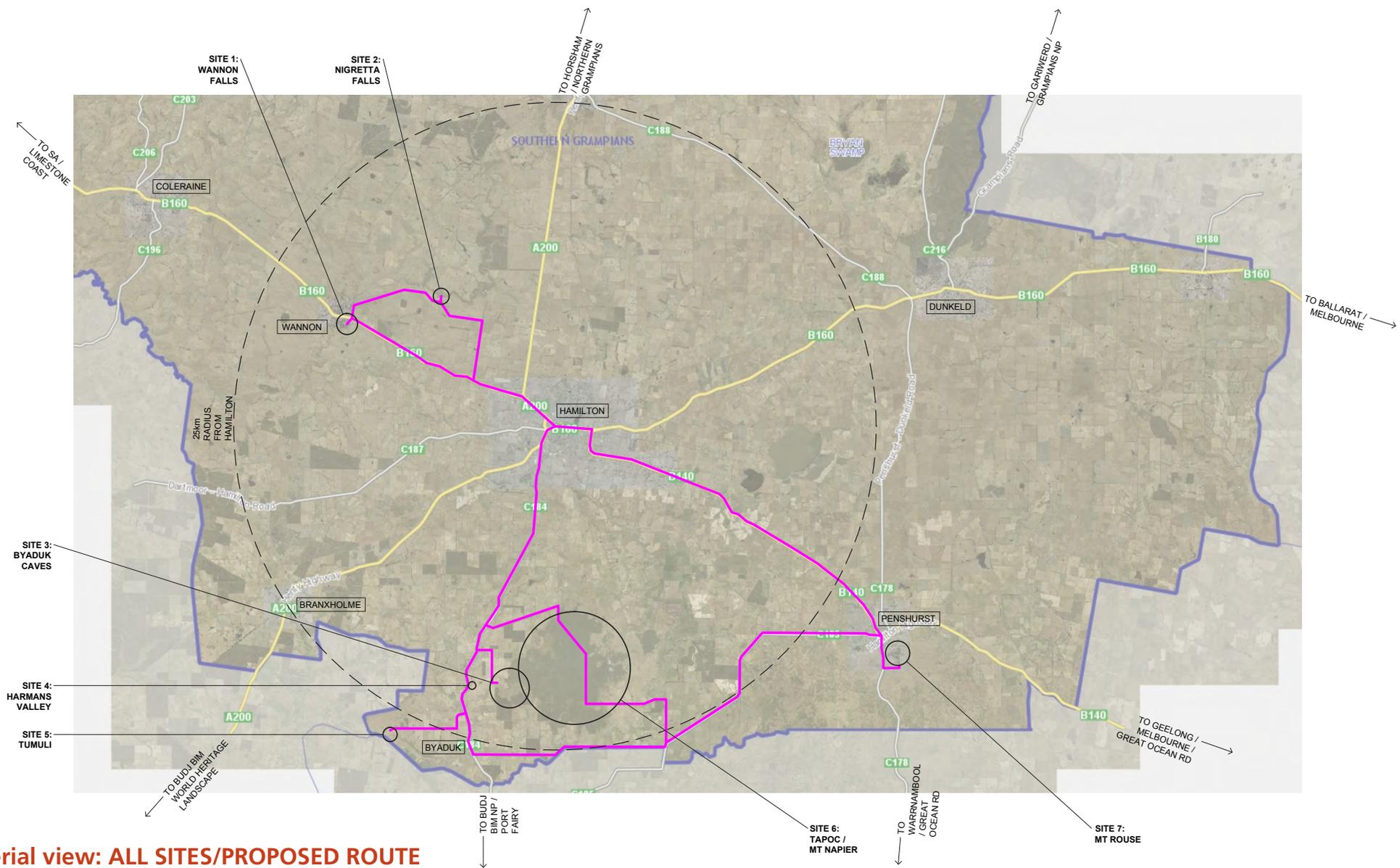
The region includes the traditional lands of four Aboriginal nations – Boandik, Jardwadjali, Djab Wurrung and Dhauwurd Wurrung (Gunditjmara). Aboriginal people have occupied the area for many thousands of years, and continue to have a close association with the land for its cultural, environmental and spiritual values.

In 2008, the region was included in the Kanawinka Geopark and was declared as Australia's first National Geopark by UNESCO. Part of the objectives of this geopark was to promote and encourage tourism to the region, along with the associated economic benefits. However the Kanawinka Geopark received only limited support from the State and Federal Government, and the Geopark status was removed in 2012.

The sites included in this Volcanic Trail masterplan, include seven locations within a radius of approximately 30km from Hamilton, and have the potential to become the focus of a coordinated, focused and well-managed tourism offer that is promoted through the various tourism outlets and media.

Management Responsibility at Each Site

Site	Management Body Responsible
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	Southern Grampians Shire Council
Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve	Southern Grampians Shire Council
Byaduk Caves	Parks Victoria
Harman's Valley Lookout	Southern Grampians Shire Council
Wallacedale Tumuli	DEWLP (Department of Environment Water Land & Planning)
Mount Napier State Park	Parks Victoria
Mount Rouse Reserve	Southern Grampians Shire Council



Aerial view: ALL SITES/PROPOSED ROUTE

Revision History				
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked

Client	SOUTHERN GRAMPIONS SHIRE COUNCIL			
Project Description + Address	VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN			
Project No.	20.07	Date	05.10.2020	Scale
Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING	Drawn	BS	Checked
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Drawing No. **A0.01** Revision -

Sheet Title **AERIAL VIEW: ALL SITES / PROPOSED ROUTE**

WANNON FALLS

Description

The Wannon River plunges over a 30 metre cliff made of hard volcanic lava, into a deep pool below. The volcanic lava flow is approx. 1 to 2 million years old, which lies over a layer of softer rock, and is undermined by the constant erosion of falls. Consequently, the falls are gradually moving upstream, albeit very slowly, leaving a narrow gorge behind.

The area is covered with Manna Gum woodland with plants such as Drooping Sheoak, Silver Banksia and Tree Violet, which in turn provide important habitat for a range of wildlife species including Koala, Feather-tailed Glider, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Brush-tailed Phascogale.

This section of the Wannon River is on the boundary of the territories of two Aboriginal language groups, the Jardwadjali to the north and the Gunditjmarra to the south. The Wannon Falls area was a traditional meeting place for Aboriginal communities, who, with the coming of Europeans settlers and pastoralists, were subject to massacres, disease, dispossession and the eventual relocation to the Wannon Falls Reserve.

The beautiful dark-green or blue crystalline mineral of vivianite was mined here from the late 1800s, and was used as a pigment and in jewellery. The area attracted several well-known artists during the mid to late 19th century including Thomas Clark and Eugene von Guerard, whose paintings of the area are in both the National Gallery of Victoria and the Hamilton Art Gallery. It has been a popular recreation reserve for many years, starting with the monster picnic carnivals in the early 20th century, and in more recent times featuring a small camping ground, oval and picnic facilities.

Observations of Existing Conditions / Issues

The following observations were made during visits to the Wannon Falls in August and November 2020 accompanied by various SGSC staff, including Daryl Adamson, Hugh Koch, Mary McArthur, Sherie Bain and Joshua White.

General Comments

- The site is easy to access, being only a 15-minute drive from Hamilton
- The lookout which provides views of the falls is accessible to people of all abilities.
- The site is clearly signposted from the main highway, with substantial stone & steel entry gates, although there is some confusion between the turnoff to the alternative (Thomas Clarke) viewing area and the main entry.
- It is already established as a destination, but there needs to be additional opportunities created to increase the time that visitors spend on the site, such as longer walks.
- It would be good to cater more for the independent / self-guided traveller, with physical signage plus digital resources. Improving Wi-Fi access would support this.
- The falls have been painted by a number of well-known Colonial artists who are represented in the Hamilton Gallery collection, so there is an opportunity to link to this, perhaps with an 'art walk'.
- Interpretations focus on geological history, there is a lack of knowledge about indigenous history and connection to the site.
- Other potential tourism linkages include the Hamilton – Coleraine Rail Trail, tourists that travel

through Coleraine and partnerships with licensed tour operators (LTOs) who could bring coaches from Melbourne on a loop along Great Ocean Rd / Southern Grampians / Grampians and return).

- There are strong connections and a sense of ownership over the site by various local groups as well as a history of tension between them, with some wanting to preserve the site for its environmental values while others are more focused on recreation.

Lower Carpark / Lookout

- Most infrastructure (lookout, toilets & signage) dates from 1990s and is in need of upgrade or replacement.
- The lookout floor surface (treated pine boards) has been covered in chicken wire, as it became dangerously slippery.
- Toilets are not fully compliant with current accessibility standards.
- There are issues with runoff from the bitumen carpark causing erosion.
- The Rotunda is currently used as a shelter for interpretations, but doesn't function well for this purpose, with steep steps up to a raised floor and a small internal floor area. Architecturally, the building doesn't relate well to the site and its presence detracts from the qualities of the natural environment.
- There are paths that lead from this carpark to the Thomas Clark Viewing area and to the opposite side of the river, but these are not clearly marked and are not well known.
- Selective pruning / tree removal could open up better views of the falls from the carpark.

Upper Carpark / Campground

- This is an attractive bushland campground that is free and popular amongst backpackers and also seniors with RVs.
- The infrastructure and signage are very piecemeal and lack any overall planning or direction.
- Local friends groups are concerned about bushfire risk from campfires and do a lot of informal checking and maintenance of the site.
- When providing fireplaces, there is a need to manage risk and also potential damage from collection of firewood, similar to national parks.
- The toilet facilities duplicate those at the lower car park. They are the same age and are also in need of upgrade.
- The picnic shelter with large built-in fireplace is in good condition and works quite well, but other infrastructure appears completely unrelated to this.
- The site is one of the best places for tourists to go for picnics in the shire at the moment, but could be greatly improved with better planning and facilities.
- The oval opposite the campground is used by locals for group recreation / events. There are significant colonies of indigenous grass species on the oval and it is also a common place to see kangaroos grazing.

Thomas Clark Viewing Area

- There is currently only a car park at this site, with no other facilities.
- There is no explanation of the significance of this site or the reason for its name (who was Thomas Clark?)
- There is no way finding signage to connect back to the main Wannon site, tourists who turn off the highway to stop at this area often confuse it with the main area. The walking path back to the lookout is not marked.
- The view back to the falls is quite picturesque and there is an opportunity to provide a viewing point that could be used by artists, with interpretations linking to the Hamilton Gallery collection.
- The lack of existing infrastructure is in some respects an advantage – the site is a blank slate and provides an opportunity for a more sensitive development.



Lower Carpark, view to rotunda & sign / shelter



Lower Carpark, Toilets



View of falls from lookout



Lower Carpark, path to picnic shelter



Lower Carpark, signboard



Path to lookout



Upper Carpark, picnic shelter



Oval



Thomas Clark Viewing Area



Campground & picnic area



Upper Carpark, signboard



View of falls from Thomas Clark Viewing Area



0 50 100m
SCALE

Existing aerial view: WANNON FALLS

Revision History				
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked

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Drawing No. **A1.01** Revision **-**

Sheet Title **EXISTING AERIAL VIEW: WANNON FALLS**



- LEGEND:**
- 1 MAIN ENTRANCE GATES
 - 2 CAMPING AREA / TOILETS
 - 3 OVAL
 - 4 LOWER CARPARK / FALLS LOOKOUT / TOILETS
 - 5 WEIR / SWIMMING AREA
 - 6 SECONDARY ENTRANCE
 - 7 THOMAS CLARKE LOOKOUT

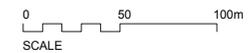
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SCALE

Existing site plan: WANNON FALLS

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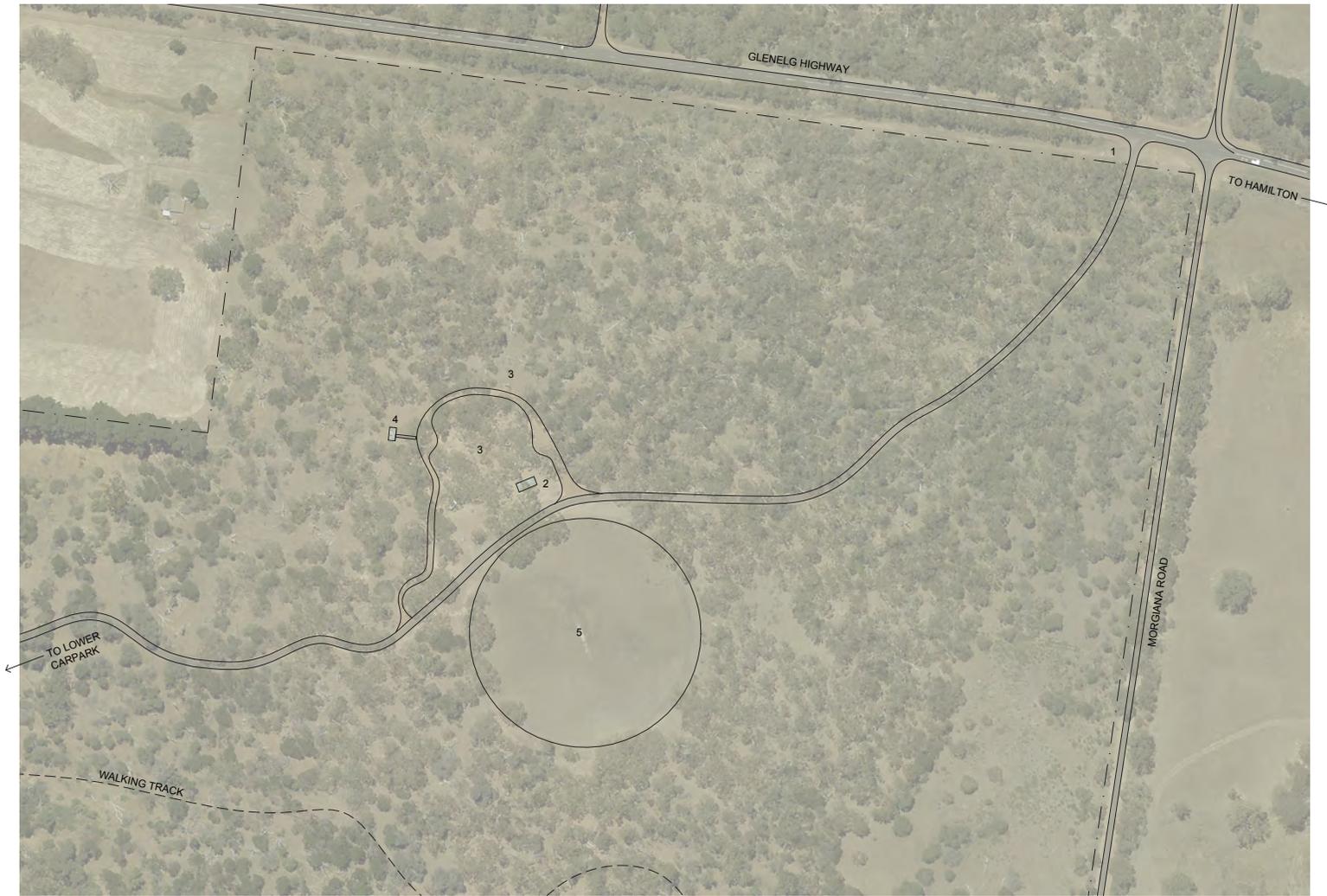


- LEGEND:**
- 1 WEIR CAR PARK
 - 2 WEIR / SWIMMING AREA
 - 3 TOILETS
 - 4 PICNIC SHELTER
 - 5 LOOKOUT CAR PAK
 - 6 ROTUNDA
 - 7 LOOKOUT

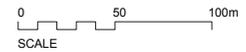


Existing site plan: WANNON FALLS (west/lookout)

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					Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING			File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP					Sheet Title	EXISTING SITE PLAN: WANNON FALLS (WEST/LOOKOUT)		



- LEGEND:**
- 1 MAIN ENTRANCE GATES
 - 2 PICNIC SHELTER
 - 3 CAMPING AREA
 - 4 TOILETS
 - 5 OVAL



Existing site plan: WANNON FALLS (east/campground)

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										EXISTING SITE PLAN: WANNON FALLS (EAST/CAMPGROUND)	

NIGRETTA FALLS

Description

The Nigretta Falls flow over the lava flow from a 410 million year old 'super volcano' - which is much older than the nearby Wannon Falls. The very hard rock has cracked and eroded to form a series cascades below the falls, with some rocks containing vertebrate fossils.

Like the Wannon Falls, this area is covered with Manna Gum woodland with plants such as Drooping Sheoak, Silver Banksia and Tree Violet, which in turn provide important habitat for a range of wildlife species including Koala, Feather-tailed Glider, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Brush-tailed Phascogale.

Also like the Wannon Falls, the area is on the boundary of the territories of two Aboriginal language groups, the Jardwadjali to the north and the Gunditjmara to the south, who experienced the tragedy of dispossession, disease and massacres with the coming of European settlers. In fact, western Victoria has one of the country's highest densities of Aboriginal massacre sites.

Observations of Existing Conditions / Issues

Lookout / Carpark

- Like Wannon Falls, this site is also easy to access from Hamilton and is an established destination for locals and tourists. It can be visited as a continuation of a visit to the Wannon, being only 9km further northeast and is clearly signposted from the main highway, opposite the Wannon Falls entrance. There are also signs along the Nigretta Rd.
- It also has the potential to cater for visitors of all abilities, with the lookout within easy reach of the carpark, but could be improved by providing opportunities for longer walks and exploration beyond the lookout.
- The visitor experience at this site is currently dominated by vehicle access, with a large sealed loop road and carparking area adjacent the lookout.
- There is a strong need to better manage and control vehicles to prevent them driving off-road, directly down to the riverside and onto grassed areas / picnic grounds.
- The carpark is immediately adjacent the lookout, with no walking path or vegetation separating them. This detracts from the visitor experience, as there is very little sense of the site being revealed – it is all already visible from the carpark and the cars all remain visible while looking at the falls.
- The lookout is a similar age to that at the Wannon Falls and is also in need of upgrade. Views of the falls from the lookout are partially obscured by trees, and some selective pruning could improve view lines.
- Timber steps provide access to the base of the falls, these are starting to rot and are in need of

upgrade. Compared to the more subtle style of path construction typical to national parks, the staircase structure is quite visually dominant on the slope. The access to these steps is via a poorly formed and not well marked path.

- The cyclone wire fences around the lookout and access to steps are out of place and detract from the qualities of the natural environment.
- There is a complete absence of interpretation at this site, with the exception of one sign about endemic flora that was installed by a local field naturalist group. There is also no knowledge of local indigenous history at the site.
- In addition to the lookout, there are toilet facilities and a picnic shelter / tables.
- The toilets are the same age and design as those at the Wannon falls and are in good working order, but dated and in need of upgrading.
- The picnic shelter and tables are located in the grassy 'island' in the centre of the loop road. They are quite exposed, with no views of the falls and not much connection to the surrounding native landscape, being encircled by the access road and adjacent a plantation of European trees.

Riverside

- There is a small lookout at the crest of the falls, accessed via a poorly formed and unmarked walking track. The construction of the lookout itself is very dated and not in keeping with the natural environment (such concrete poured onto natural rock surfaces, cyclone wire fencing).
- There is potential to develop a riverside walking trail, which takes visitors on a longer walk away from

the carpark past the top of the falls to the eastern section of the river. The riverside offers attractive rural / bushland views across the river, with opportunities for bird-watching, picnics and a more immersive experience away from other infrastructure.

- There is a sealed road which provides access to the riverside area and terminates in a small carpark. Unfortunately, locals regularly drive off this track, causing significant erosion and degradation of the river bank.
- In the absence of any overnight camping at this site, a culture of hoon driving has developed, which SGSC are currently trying to deter through the use of security cameras.
- The local CFA use the river as a water point and truck access needs to be maintained for this in one location. Access for canoe launching is also needed and could be consolidated with CFA access point.
- Other than this designated point, vehicles need to be prevented from driving down to the river edge.
- Walking trail access to a small jetty for fishing and canoe launching could be provided, and the river banks repaired and revegetated.



Nigretta Falls in full flow (Oct 2020)



Top of stairs, flora & warning signage



Lookout approach from main carpark



Walking path from carpark to top of stairs



Toilets



Lookout at crest of falls



Picnic shelter & lawn with European trees



View from crest lookout down Wannon River



View of Wannon River above falls



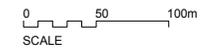
Riverside swimming area



Upper carpark / river access



Informal vehicle tracks causing erosion

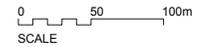


Existing aerial view: NIGRETТА FALLS

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- LEGEND:**
- 1 MAIN ENTRANCE
 - 2 TOILETS
 - 3 PICNIC SHELTER / LAWN
 - 4 LOWER CARPARK / FALLS LOOKOUT / STAIRCASE
 - 5 UPPER CARPARK / RIVER ACCESS



Existing site plan: NIGRETТА FALLS

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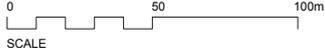
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Drawing No. **A2.02** Revision -

Sheet Title **EXISTING SITE PLAN: NIGRETТА FALLS**



- LEGEND:**
- 1 PICNIC SHELTER / LAWN
 - 2 LOWER CARPARK
 - 3 FALLS LOOKOUT
 - 4 STAIR TO RIVER / BASE OF FALLS
 - 5 OLD STAIRCASE
 - 6 FALLS LOOKOUT (CREST)
 - 7 UPPER CARPARK / RIVER ACCESS
 - 8 SWIMMING / CANOEING AREA
 - 9 TOILETS



Existing site plan: NIGRETТА FALLS (enlargement)

Revision History					Client				
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Drawing No. **A2.03** Revision -

Sheet Title **EXISTING SITE PLAN: NIGRETТА FALLS ENLARGEMENT**

BYADUK CAVES

Description

The Byaduk Caves were formed by the major lava flow from Mt Napier, approx. 30,000 years ago. The caves were originally a series of tubes through which molten lava flowed, eventually draining at the end of the eruption leaving a series of open caves.

The Byaduk Caves are considered to be the most accessible and extensive lava caves in Australia, and featured prominently in the lives and beliefs of traditional Aboriginal people.

Ferns dominate in the protected parts of the caves, along with small colonies of Southern Bent-wing Bats. The caves have historically been used as animal habitat, with sub-fossil remains of many animals and even Thylacine bones.

Observations of Existing Conditions / Issues

- This site is managed by Parks Victoria, however in reality, maintenance consists of little more than mowing twice a year.
- The site is signposted from the main Port Fairy Rd and is accessed via a dirt road that terminates in a small carpark.
- At the park entrance there is very little sense of arrival and while there is plenty of signage telling visitors all that they *can't* do (i.e. rules and regulations) there is nothing to tell them what they *can* do (ie. Site introduction / map / activities available).
- There are a number of walking paths that consist of grassy tracks with stone edging. While they are fairly informal, this natural quality is quite attractive in the landscape and provides a contrast to the more developed sites. With some improvements to wayfinding, and maintenance of stone edges, this would be enough to direct visitors.
- The site is currently visited by school groups as well as independent travellers and has the potential to be further developed for educational purposes. It is suited to visitors who are able bodied, and are looking for extended walks and more immersive nature experiences.
- The caves are circular formations that are open from above and formal 'lookouts' have been located at the edge of many caves, marked with a wire fence about 1.4m high. These are not particularly successful – the fences are too high and singular viewing point they provide doesn't match the nature of the formations themselves. It is clear from the informal paths around the area that visitors have a desire to circumnavigate the cave openings in order to look down into them from multiple viewpoints.
- There is potential to provide safe access with a constructed path down into one of the caves, as an alternative way of experiencing them and to add to education opportunities. It would be important to leave other caves untouched.
- There are a lot of weeds and vegetation growing in the caves that obscure views.
- There is also some competition from surrounding farmland, which brings in weeds and undermines the visitor's sense immersion in the natural environment. Some revegetation along the boundaries would help to visually buffer from farmland and out-compete weed species.
- This site has some obvious similarities to the Budj Bim stone country and would be a natural tourism linkage point to the nearby Budj Bim World Heritage Landscape.
- There are also other potential linkages with other cave sites, such as the World Heritage Naracoorte Caves National Park, in southeast South Australia. It is noted that this is a very different type of caving experience to Naracoorte, and it is important to provide good information to visitors prior to their arrival at the site, so that they are not disappointed by the comparison.
- There is very limited phone coverage, which prevents visitors accessing digital information while at the site.
- A side path takes visitors to the site of an historic dry rock wall, adjoining a farm on the northern boundary of the park. It is a good example of this type of structure and provides an opportunity to discuss Colonial history, however the current interpretive sign is almost illegible and in need of replacement.
- Apart from this one sign, there are no other interpretations at the site.
- There is also no knowledge or recorded history of the traditional owners' connections to the site.



Carpark, looking down access road



Harman Cave (Cave 1)



Bridge Cave (Cave 4)



Typical path, grass with stone edging



Typical cave lookout point (Bridge Cave)



Dry stone wall



0 50 100m
SCALE

Existing aerial view: BYADUK CAVES NATIONAL PARK

Revision History					Client				Project Description + Address				Drawing No.		Revision	
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL				VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN				A3.01		-	
					Project No.	20.07	Date	05.10.2020	Scale	NTS	Drawn	BS	Checked	DC	EXISTING AERIAL VIEW: BYADUK CAVES NATIONAL PARK	
					Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING			File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP						



- LEGEND:**
- 1 CAR PARK
 - 2 CAVES 1 & 2 (HARMAN CAVES)
 - 3 CAVE 3 (BRIDGE CAVE)
 - 4 DRY STONE WALL
 - 5 CAVES 4 & 5
 - 6 CAVES 6, 7, 8 & 9

0 50 100m
SCALE

Existing site plan: BYADUK CAVES NATIONAL PARK

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					Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING			File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP					Sheet Title	EXISTING SITE PLAN: BYADUK CAVES NATIONAL PARK		

HARMAN'S VALLEY LOOKOUT

Description

The Harman's Valley lookout provides a view along the valley to Mt Napier, which during its eruption some 30,000 years ago, flooded molten lava down the valley leaving a range of volcanic formations such as tumuli mounds, lava tubes, raised levee banks and stoney rises.

It was into this valley other surrounding areas that Aboriginal people came and made stone houses, along with aquaculture systems and complex land management systems.

Observations of Existing Conditions / Issues

- The views down the valley are quite spectacular and provide a clear line of sight to the source of the lava flow, Mt Napier.
- Facilities include a small vehicle pullout and a series of interpretive signs, with a plantation of Allocasurinas providing a buffer to the main road.
- The current facilities are functionally adequate; however, they are in need of upgrade with the road heavily potholed and signage is not weathering well.
- The existing signage is very large and visually intrusive, consisting of quite dry geological information.



Typical signboard (one of three)



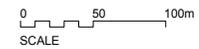
Approach from south, Port Fairy-Hamilton Rd



Roadside pullout and signage



View down Harman's Valley (to Mt Napier)



Existing aerial view: HARMAN'S VALLEY LOOKOUT

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Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL						Drawing No.	Revision
					Project Description + Address					A4.01	-	
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					Project Stage MASTER PLANNING File C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP							
											Sheet Title	EXISTING AERIAL VIEW: HARMANS VALLEY LOOKOUT



LEGEND:
 1 ROADSIDE PULL OUT
 2 INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

0 50 100m
 SCALE

Existing site plan: HARMAN'S VALLEY LOOKOUT

Revision History				
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked

Client	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL			
Project Description + Address	VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN			
Project No.	20.07	Date	05.10.2020	Scale
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Drawing No. **A4.02** Revision **-**

Sheet Title **EXISTING SITE PLAN: HARMANS VALLEY LOOKOUT**

WALLACEDALE TUMULI

Description

The Wallacedale tumuli are volcanic formations that were created during era of the Mt Napier volcanic eruptions approx. 30,000 years ago. They were formed by molten lava welling up beneath the surface and bursting through the thin crust to form these 'lava blisters' and mounds. These tumuli are unique in Australia and rare on a world scale.

These formations are also included in some important Aboriginal Dreaming stories.

Observations of Existing Conditions / Issues

- There are currently no facilities at this site and no way finding to it from the main access point on the Port Fairy Road.
 - The tumuli are located on a section of Crown land but also continue onto adjacent private farmland and the boundaries of the two parcels are not clearly defined. Visitors frequently wander onto farmland and conversely, cattle from the adjacent farm also graze the crown land.
 - There is a section of dry-stone wall on the boundary between the Tumuli site and adjoining farmland to the west.
 - The tumuli site is managed by DELWP and SGSC are responsible for the road reserve.
 - There is little maintenance currently undertaken and the site needs to have weeds removed.
 - The site is located on a bend in Old Crusher Road and because there is no carparking, vehicles simply pull onto the verge. Ideally a small car park and a drop off / turnaround area for coaches would be provided within the road reserve. Warning signage is also needed on the approach in both directions.
- The tumuli are an unusual formation in the landscape that require some explanation in order for visitors to appreciate what they are looking at. There is an opportunity to introduce visitors with an elevated, more distant view on approach along Old Crusher Road. This could be a first stopping point before arriving at the site itself for a close-up experience.
 - There are no formal paths or interpretations currently and past tourism brochures have featured visitors climbing the tumuli. Consideration is needed as to whether this is appropriate and should still be encouraged.



Entrance to Tumuli site



Dry stone wall on boundary with farmland



Tumuli



Current parking on roadside reserve



View south along east boundary fence



View from crest to tumuli in distance



Existing aerial view: TUMULI (Old Crusher Rd)

Revision History				
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked

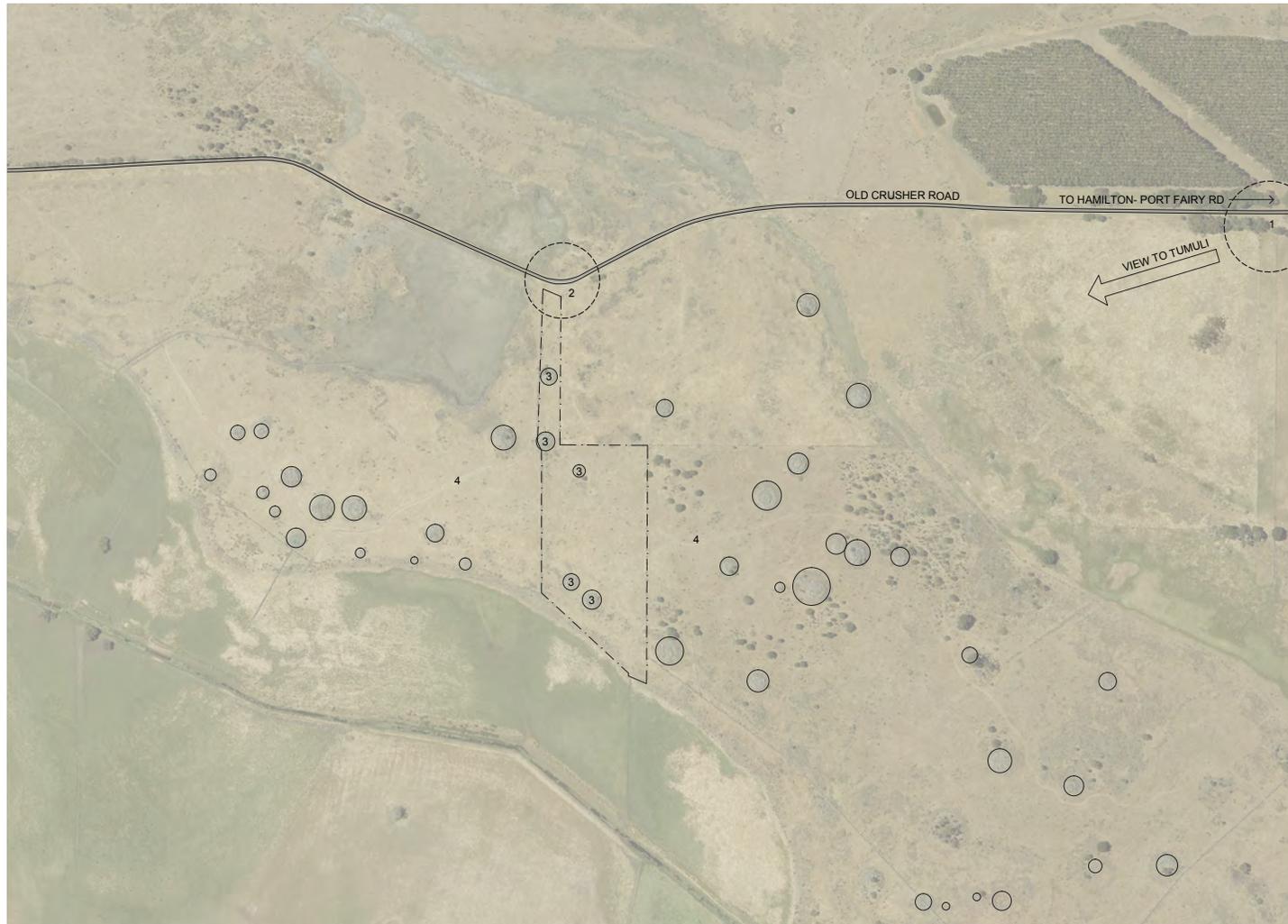
Client	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL								
Project Description + Address	VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN								
Project No.	20.07	Date	05.10.2020	Scale	NTS	Drawn	BS	Checked	DC
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Drawing No. **A5.01** Revision **-**

Sheet Title **EXISTING AERIAL VIEW: TUMULI (OLD CRUSHER RD)**



Existing site plan: TUMULI (Old Crusher Rd)

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					Project No. 20.07 Date 05.10.2020 Scale NTS Drawn BS Checked DC					Drawing No. A5.02 Revision -	
					Project Stage MASTER PLANNING File C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP					Sheet Title EXISTING SITE PLAN: TUMULI (OLD CRUSHER RD)	

MT NAPIER

Description

Mt Napier is one of Australia's youngest volcanoes, erupting approx. 30,000 years ago. The volcano started as a lava shield that was built up from lava flows from a central molten lava lake, with lava flowing across the landscape including along Harman's Valley. The central typical volcano-shaped mountain was formed towards the end of the volcanic period, with a series of violent explosions that blasted out scoria to form cones and craters.

Manna Gum woodland dominates Mt Napier with a thick understorey of Black Wattle, Blackwood and Cherry Ballart. This provides habitat for a variety of wildlife such as Koala, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Sugar Glider, Gould's Wattle Bat and Brown Antechinus. Birds include the Grey Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon and Satin Flycatcher.

Surrounding Mt Napier was an extensive network of swamps and wetlands, that provided valuable food and resources for the Gunditjmarra people, who called the mountain 'Tapoc' and the large Buckley Swamp 'Konungiyoke'. As with many other neighbouring areas, Aboriginal people enjoyed a life with an abundance of food and resources, and building villages of stone and timber houses.

During the early 19th century, European explorers such as Major Mitchell claimed the country as they went, and when he and his party climbed to the summit of Mt Napier, they cut down the trees on the summit in order to obtain a clear view of the country. Subsequent fires have kept the summit clear of trees.

Observations of Existing Conditions / Issues

General

- The main access into Mt Napier State Park is on Menzel's Pit Rd, which is accessed via Murroa Lane and the Port Fairy Rd. The dirt access road is currently in poor condition and is accessible to 4WD vehicles only.
- As a state park, it has less restrictions on use than a National Park site, allowing visitors to bring dogs or horses into the park. It is also popular amongst trail bike riders and has potential to be a good site for mountain bikes also.
- The site is well-suited to visitors who are willing to stay for a longer time and are looking for a more adventurous outdoor experience.
- There is limited mobile phone coverage.
- As with all the other Volcanic Trail sites, there is no knowledge of the traditional owner's history or connections to country.

Summit walk

- There is a small, unmarked carpark at the base of the summit walk. Although the start of the summit walk is signposted, there is no indication of the length of the walk or degree of difficulty.
- The walk is about a 2km round trip and meanders through bushland, before climbing the mountain with rewarding views along the way. There are two rest points along the path where simple bench seats have been provided.
- The summit has dramatic 360-degree views as well as interesting views into the crater.

- The only infrastructure on the summit is a surveyor's trig point and a plaque commemorating Major Mitchell, which is mounted on a large (damaged) concrete plinth. There are no interpretations provided or directional information to help orient the visitor within the landscape.
- It is also possible to walk around the crater rim, although this path is not well formed or marked.

Quarry site

- A former quarry site is located near to the base of the summit walk. This is currently undeveloped but is a large clear area that is relatively flat and has the potential to be used as a camp site.
- It could potentially cater for coach tour groups who need an overnight stay between the Great Ocean Road and Grampians or Budj Bim Landscape.
- Facilities could include a toilet, picnic tables, fireplaces and designated car parks and campsites, similar to what is provided in a national park.
- The cut away section of the quarry reveals the strata of scoria and is a potential attraction for educational user groups. Both Mt Napier and Mt Rouse have been used as study sites by university students studying geology.



Menzel's Pit Rd access track



Summit walking track, approaching summit



Crater, looking west



Summit walking track near base



Trig point & plinth on summit



Former quarry site



- LEGEND:**
- 1 FORMER QUARRY SITE
 - 2 CARPARK / SUMMIT TRACK START
 - 3 SUMMIT
 - 4 CRATER
 - 5 EXISTING BORAL QUARRY

0 50 100m
SCALE

Existing site plan: TAPOC/MT NAPIER STATE PARK

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		Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING			File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP						

MT ROUSE

Description

Mt Rouse is the largest volcano in the region at about 1.8 million years old. It was formed during two phases - the first as a huge lava fountain that formed loose scoria rock as it fell back to the ground, and the second much later phase with an extensive lava flow that reached as far as Port Fairy.

The scoria formed during this volcanic activity has been used for many years - firstly by Aboriginal people for ochre paint, and in later years quarried for road building. The Kolorer gunditj people who are the Traditional Owners of the Mt Rouse area, called the mountain 'kolor' which is also the name of the lava stone that was used for rubbing ochre.

With the coming of the European settlers, the Aboriginal people were relocated onto the Mount Rouse Aboriginal Protection Station, which eventually became the basis for the nearby town of Penhurst. During this early colonial time, the vegetation on Mt Rouse was extensively cleared with woodland eventually returning to the mountain after revegetation programs during the 1960s.

Observations of Existing Conditions / Issues

General

- Mt Rouse is located on the southern edge of Penhurst. This site is strategically important as an entry to the Volcanic Trail and has the potential to 'catch' visitors who are enroute from the Great Ocean Road to the Grampians.
- The site is easily accessible and has the potential to provide experiences for visitors with a range of abilities.
- There is currently no signage linking this site to other volcanic sites in the shire. There is also not a lot of directional signage from within the town nor linkage signage to the Budj Bim World Heritage Landscape.
- Within Penhurst, the SGSC has established the 'Volcanoes Discovery Centre', a small museum / interpretive display that is staffed by volunteers. This can potentially complement and augment the interpretive information provided on the mountain.
- The main access to the reserve is via a sealed road to the south of Mt Rouse. The turnoff is clearly marked on the main road, but the park entry itself is marked by a decaying timber sign.
- There are 3 carparks within the reserve, one near the crater (which is below the summit), one just below the summit and one at the summit.
- A gravel walking track that starts from a gravel carpark on the northern side of the reserve is accessible from the town and forms a loop walk via the summit lookout and picnic ground.
- There is excellent phone coverage with telecommunications towers located on the summit.

Lower Carpark / Crater

- There is no signage to direct visitors to this carpark, and many would drive past it without realizing it is there.
- There is a single interpretative sign, the picnic tables are in disrepair and the area is not well used.
- The crater, which sits well below the summit, is quite picturesque and potentially more significant as a volcanic feature than the summit. It is accessible within about 100m of the car park, although there is no formed walking trail.
- One of the attractive qualities of the crater is that from within it, there are no views of surrounding farmland or other built forms and it is possible to imagine a pre-Colonial landscape.
- There have been events held within the crater such as concerts in the past and the natural amphitheatre that it forms lends itself to this use.
- The crater fills with water depending on rainfall and is a grazing and watering site for kangaroos and wallabies.
- Some locals drive their vehicles off road and into the crater. This needs to be discouraged to prevent damage.



South entry



Picnic tables & signage at Lower carpark



Adjacent quarry site



Lower carpark



Informal path into crater



Summit walking track from township

Upper Carpark / Picnic ground

- The sealed road up the southern face of the mountain is a scenic drive that offers good views to the west towards Mt Napier, providing an opportunity to make a visual link to another of the Volcanic Trail sites.
- The facilities at the picnic ground consist of a shelter with an electric BBQ and picnic table, a toilet and some bench seating. There are opportunities for attractive views to the north toward the Grampians and over Peshurst. These are partly obscured by trees and some selective pruning would open up these views.
- The facilities themselves are very aged and in need of upgrade. The location of the shelter itself dominates the view from the car park.
- There is a map provided that illustrates the loop walk and summit lookout but no other interpretations are provided at the site.
- The toilet is in good working order, although not fully compliant with current access standards and appears to have been retrofitted within what was formerly an information shelter. The original structure is of some architectural merit, with a concrete roof and bench seat that is an unusual feature, although it is not well sited within the existing car park.
- There is another opportunity to create a side walk up to a second high-point to the southeast of the car park (with an informal, unmarked track at the moment). This could be another picnic or viewing location, however without extensive pruning or providing an elevated platform the surrounding trees would limit views.

Summit Lookout

- From the small carpark, a recently installed aluminium-framed staircase provides pedestrian access to a lookout on the summit. The choice of bright aluminium means the staircase stands out against the natural landscape rather than recedes. Beside the lookout, there is also an older informal track leading to a bench seat.
- From the summit there are panoramic, 360-degree views of the surrounding rural landscape, including Peshurst, the Grampians, other volcanic sites and recently constructed wind farms to the southwest.
- The summit is also the site of a significant amount telecommunications infrastructure, including towers and associated buildings, which unfortunately obstruct view lines and are dominate the site.
- It is difficult to screen these buildings without restricting views as they are so close to the lookout, however if visitors are being directed to this site then this issue needs to be addressed, as the current state of these buildings detracts from the quality of the experience.



Upper carpark / picnic ground



Upper carpark picnic ground



Telecommunications equipment on summit



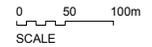
Upper carpark



Staircase to summit lookout

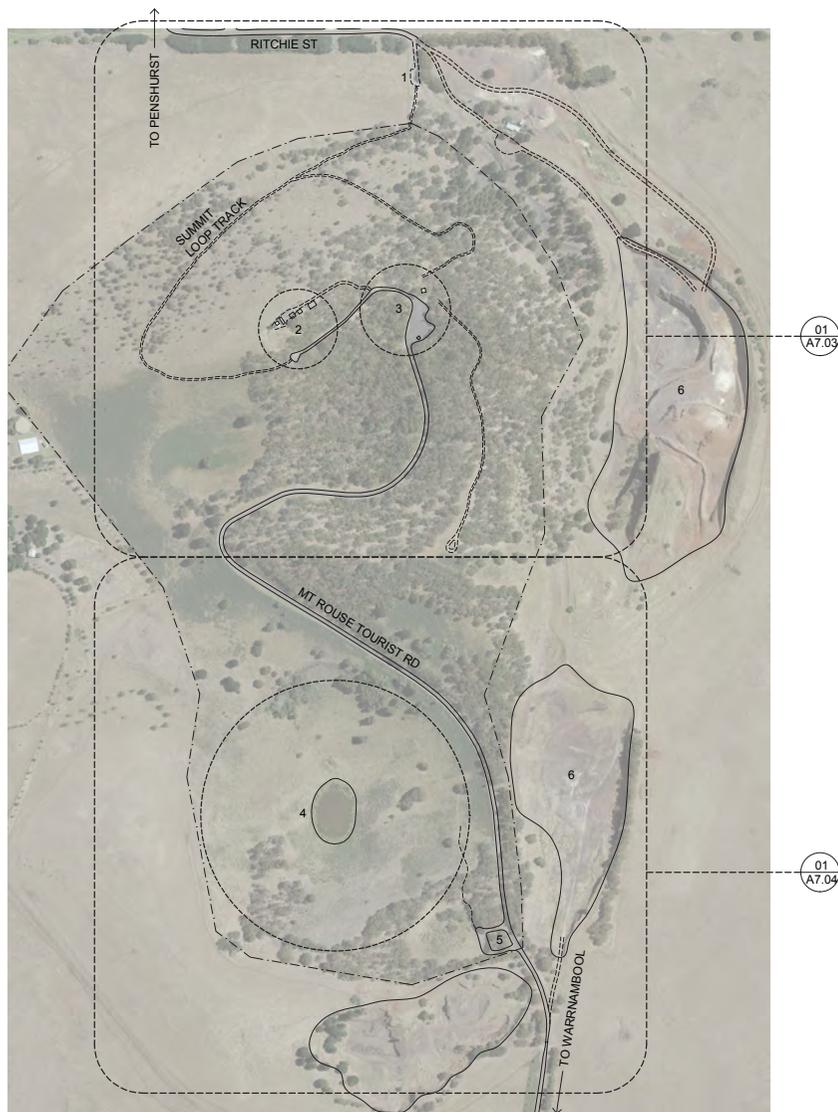


View across Penshurst from summit lookout

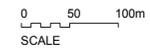


Existing aerial view: MT ROUSE

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Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	Project Description + Address				
					VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN	Drawing No.	A7.01	Revision	-
					Project No. 20.07 Date 05.10.2020 Scale NTS Drawn BS Checked DC	Sheet Title	EXISTING AERIAL VIEW: MT ROUSE		
					Project Stage MASTER PLANNING File C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP				



- LEGEND:**
- 1 NORTH (TOWNSHIP) ENTRY
 - 2 SUMMIT LOOKOUT
 - 3 PICNIC GROUND / TOILETS / CAR PARK
 - 4 CRATER
 - 5 SOUTH ENTRY / CRATER CAR PARK
 - 6 EXISTING QUARRY



Existing site plan: MT ROUSE

Revision History				
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked

Client	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL				
Project Description + Address	VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN				
Project No.	20.07	Date	05.10.2020	Scale	NTS
Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING		Drawn	BS	Checked DC
File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP				



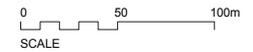
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Drawing No. **A7.02** Revision -

Sheet Title EXISTING SITE PLAN: MT ROUSE



- LEGEND:**
- 1 CRATER
 - 2 CRATER
 - 3 SOUTH ENTRY
 - 4 QUARRY



Existing site plan: MT ROUSE (south/crater)

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					Project No.	20.07	Date	05.10.2020	Scale	NTS	Drawn	BS	Checked	DC	Drawing No.	A7.04	Revision	-
					Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING		File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP									
Sheet Title																EXISTING SITE PLAN: Mt Rouse South Crater		

3. Methodology

The masterplan has been undertaken in a number of phases over approximately 12 months from July 2020 to July 2021. The following is a summary of the masterplan process:

PHASE 1 Information Gathering & Research

This phase included the review of existing volcanic asset management plans, strategies and resource information, along with research into relevant precedents such as the nearby Budj Bim Landscape and Gariwerd / Grampians National Park. The design team visited all seven sites and developed an understanding of the existing conditions, site opportunities and constraints. Aerial photographs of the sites were sourced and base drawings of the existing conditions were developed.

PHASE 2 Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

Consultation was undertaken with a range of strategic partners including Parks Victoria, DELWP, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA). Separate consultation sessions were also held with key stakeholders including: Friends Groups, Landcare Groups, Emergency services, Road Authorities, Council officers and Councillors.

Traditional Owners' groups, the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, whose country falls within the area of the masterplan were advised of the project, provided with an information package and invited to participate in consultation. As of the date of writing this report, we have been unable to engage with Traditional Owners any further than this initial contact, however efforts to do so are ongoing.

In addition to reaching out to Traditional Owners' corporations, Uncle Johnny Lovett, a Gunditjmara Elder, was engaged to provide cultural advice to the design team. This took the form of a 2-day tour of the sites in November 2020 and provided a wealth of insight and information about the traditional owners' relationship with this landscape. A summary of the advice provided by Uncle Johnny is included in the Appendices.

Community consultation was undertaken in the form of an online survey and face to face sessions. A summary of outcomes is included in Section 2.1.

PHASE 3 Development of the Master Plan Concepts, Cost Plan and Master Plan Report

Through the process of gathering site information and in-depth consultation, a clear picture emerged of what was needed at each site and the masterplan design concepts were developed in response to this brief. The plans cover both infrastructure and interpretations and these are described in detail in other sections of the report.

Feedback was sought on these proposals from Councillors and the project coordinator, before seeking a cost plan by a Quantity Surveyor. The QS costings were then provided and projects prioritized to help guide future investment decisions. Following the approval of the final design proposals, interpretations plan and the cost plan, these have been compiled into a report for adoption by Council.

4. Masterplan Design Principles

4.1 Site Development and Infrastructure

The following guiding design principles have been developed for the design of physical infrastructure across all the sites:

- Provide infrastructure that is aligned with the profile of the current and target markets, based on the available data and markets identified as future growth opportunities.
 - Provide infrastructure that supports a range of activities and visitors with different levels of physical ability. There should be a mix of passive activities such as lookouts and picnic areas that are easily accessible as well as more challenging activities such as hiking, bike riding and canoeing.
 - Provide experiences that encourage visitors to extend their stay, by offering longer activities such as extended walks, themed tours, additional camping facilities and links to other local attractions (such as the Hamilton Gallery).
 - Respect and preserve indigenous cultural heritage by consulting with Traditional Owners to seek their advice on the approach to each site and incorporating their knowledge of country into the design proposals.
 - Preserve and protect significant natural assets including waterways, vegetation, fauna and geological features.
 - Encourage removal of non-native (and non-indigenous) plant species and revegetation of sites with indigenous species, to help restore and repair the natural landscape.
- Design infrastructure that promotes engagement with the landscape, opening up to views, oriented to take advantage of solar gain and sheltered from prevailing winds.
 - **Plan the sites so that built infrastructure does not dominate the natural landscape, but instead supports visitors to access the unique qualities and features of each site.**
 - Provide some separation between car parks and lookouts or other facilities, with screening of vehicles from major viewpoints, so that visitor feels immersed in the landscape.
 - Design to limit vehicle access to prevent damage caused by informal vehicle tracks, erosion and degradation of sites.
 - Use a consistent palette of materials, to provide a coherent experience across each of the seven sites. This will help to visually link the sites, so that the unfamiliar visitor can draw connections between them and have the sense that they are following a recognizable 'trail'.
 - **Use materials that are of this place, allowing the structures themselves to tell part of the 'story' of the landscape and enrich the visitor's experience. Materials such as local bluestone, scoria and red gum or other local eucalypt species would all be suitable, provided they are appropriately sourced.**
 - Design to promote community pride in these local assets, for their cultural and environmental values.

Examples of recommended design principles and inappropriate design responses are illustrated in the following pages, along with a suggested palette of materials for infrastructure elements.

Buildings/structures



- DONT:
- CREATE STRUCTURES THAT DOMINATE OR ARE UNRELATED TO THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE
 - USE UNNATURAL MATERIALS THAT STAND OUT AGAINST THEIR SURROUNDINGS

Shelter/information hut



- DO:
- DESIGN HIGH QUALITY CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE
 - USE NATURAL MATERIALS THAT RECEDE AGAINST THEIR SURROUNDINGS
 - DESIGN TO MINIMISE DISTURBANCE TO THE SITE AND BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE
 - CREATE STRUCTURES THAT SIT LIGHTLY ON THE GROUND

Toilets



Revision History				
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Project No.	20.07	Date	05.10.2020	Scale
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				DC
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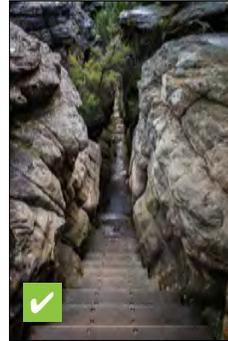
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Drawing No. **A15.01** Revision **-**
 Sheet Title **DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

Walkways/trails



- DON'T:**
- USE SOLID CONCRETE PATHS OR OTHER MATERIALS ASSOCIATED WITH URBAN / SUBURBAN SITES
 - USE MATERIALS WITH LOW DURABILITY & HIGH MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS OR POTENTIAL TO BE SLIPPERY



- DO:**
- USE EXISTING STONES OR NATURAL, MUTED MATERIALS TO CREATE PATHWAYS
 - USE NATURAL MATERIALS TO CREATE FENCES / BARRICADES TO DIRECT VISITORS.
 - CREATE PATHS THAT MAKE MINIMAL INTRUSION ON THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE



Revision History				
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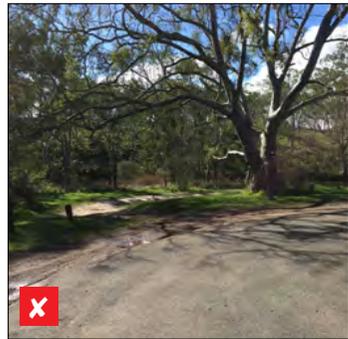
Drawing No.	A15.02	Revision	-
Sheet Title	DESIGN PRINCIPLES		

Carparks



DONT:

- USE LARGE EXPANSES OF ASPHALT OR SIMILAR HARD SURFACES
- ALLOW THE EDGE OF THE CARPARK TO 'CREEP' INTO THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE
- ALLOW PARKING AND DRIVING OFF DESIGNATED ROADS
- HAVE CAR PARKS DIRECTLY ABUTTING OTHER FACILITIES SUCH AS LOOKOUTS
- ALLOW VEHICLES TO DOMINATE THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE



DO:

- USE SOFT LANDSCAPING TO BREAK UP THE USE OF HARD SURFACES
- USE VEGETATION AND SUBTLE BARRIERS TO DEFINE THE EDGE OF THE ROAD / CARPARK
- REDUCE THE VISUAL IMPACT OF VEHICLES BY USING SOFT LANDSCAPE BUFFERS BETWEEN CARS AND NATURAL FEATURES / OTHER FACILITIES

Revision History				
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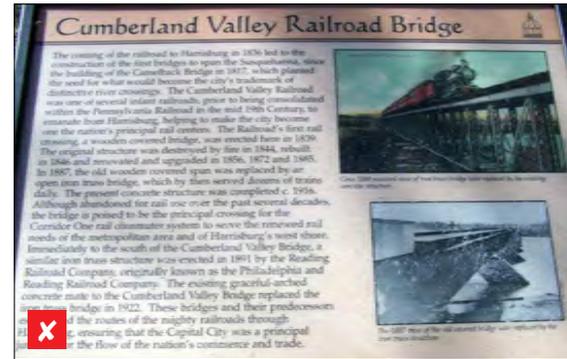
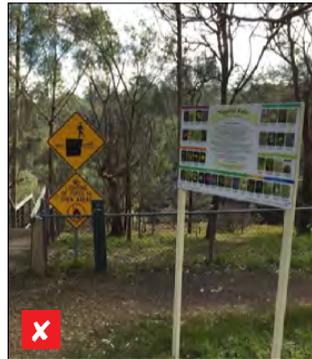
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Sheet Title **DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

Signage



- DON'T:**
- FILL SIGNS WITH LARGE SLABS OF TEXT
 - USE VEHICULAR SIZE TEXT OR SIGNAGE FOR PEDESTRIANS
 - INTERRUPT THE LANDSCAPE WITH LARGE MASSES OF CONCRETE OR SIMILAR UNSYMPATHETIC MATERIALS
 - LOCATE SIGNAGE IN CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS



- DO:**
- USE SHORT PIECES OF TEXT AND EVOCATIVE IMAGES TO CONVEY KEY MESSAGES
 - USE A VARIETY OF INTERPRETIVE FORMS, APPROPRIATE TO THE AUDIENCE AND SETTING
 - PROVIDE SIMPLE, CLEAR WAY FINDING AT KEY DECISION POINTS
 - USE NATURAL MATERIALS THAT ARE INTEGRATED INTO THE LANDSCAPE AND ARE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN



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Drawing No. **A15.04** Revision **-**

Sheet Title **DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

Soft landscaping



DON'T:

- INTRODUCE NON-NATIVE SPECIES
- MAKE BARRIERS FROM INDUSTRIAL OR URBAN MATERIALS THAT ARE UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE



DO:

- REVEGETATE WITH APPROPRIATE INDIGENOUS SPECIES
- USE LANDSCAPING TO REINFORCE EDGES OF PATHWAYS & CARPARKS
- USE NATURAL MATERIALS SUCH AS TIMBER AND STONE WHERE PHYSICAL BARRIERS ARE REQUIRED.



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A15.05

Revision

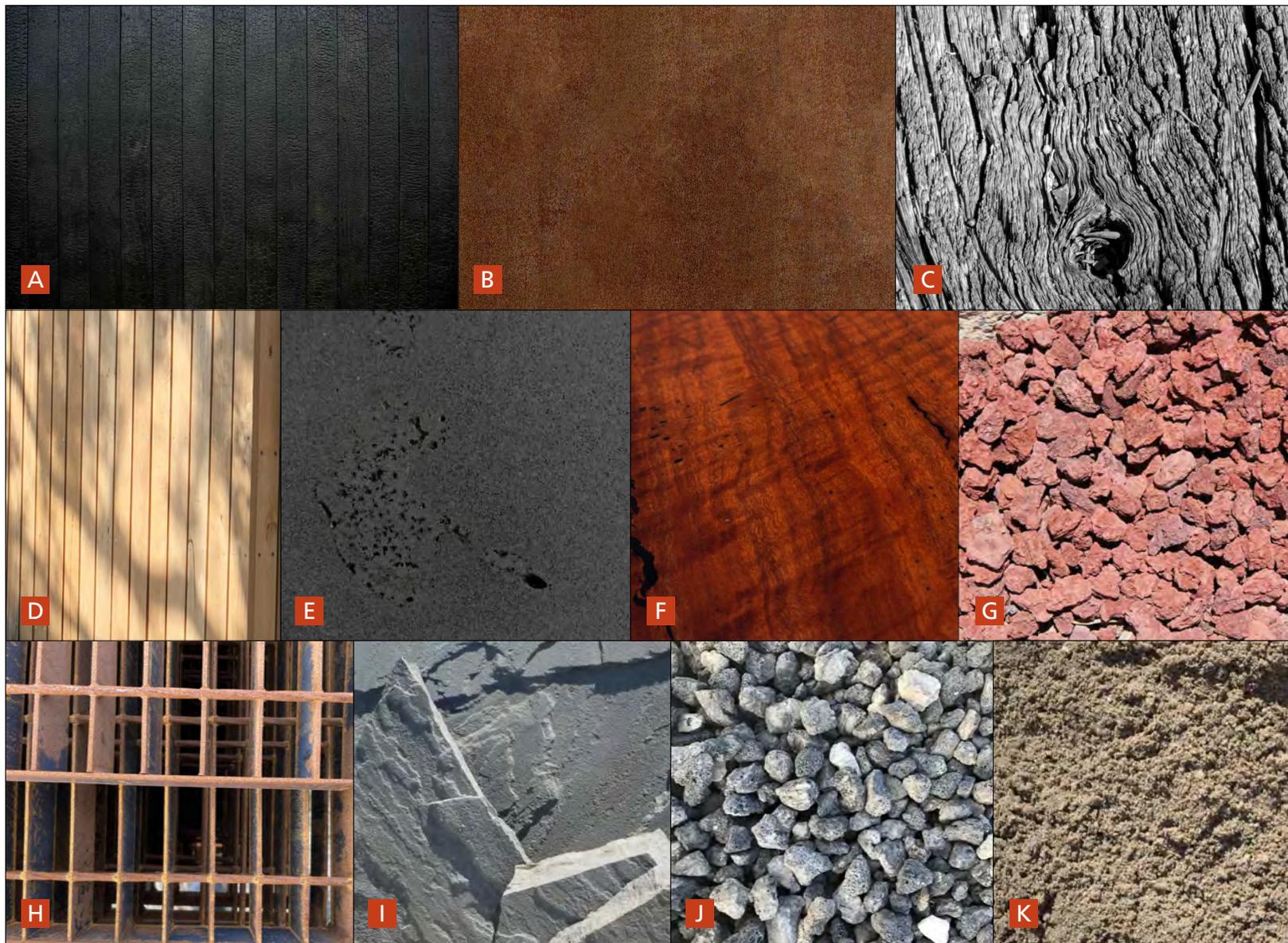
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Sheet Title

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

LEGEND

- A. CHARRED TIMBER
- B. WEATHERED STEEL
- C. WEATHERED TIMBER
- D. NATURAL HARDWOOD
- E. SAWCUT BLUESTONE
- F. RED GUM
- G. RED SCORIA
- H. WEATHERED STEEL GRATING
- I. CRAZY PAVING BLUESTONE
- J. BLACK SCORIA
- K. RIVER SAND



Revision History				
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Sheet Title	INDICATIVE MATERIAL PALETTE		

4.2 Heritage Interpretation

Core Principles

Why?

If only these places could talk ... what would they say?

In many ways, that is the role of interpretation; to bring an area's significance to life, make it accessible, meaningful and memorable, and establish the important connections with a 'sense of place' and the key conservation messages. Interpretive design is the process of establishing a structure between site, story and visitors. It is the process of communication that takes into account the values of a place, the relevant stories and the profile and behaviour of the visitors. This is sometimes referred to as "meaning making". In other words, creating a sense of meaning and connection with a place and its significance.

Meaning that allows visitors to put places, things or concepts into some sort of perspective.

Meaning that allows visitors to identify with the place and its stories in a way that's more than random fact-learning.

Meaning that is considered as the experience.

When we attach meaning to items and places, they come to be important to us ... and make people care. And through this, learn the important lessons that natural and cultural history can teach us.

The interpretation should include a variety of themes and topics that supports the Tourism Victoria recommendations and opportunities for Aboriginal cultural tourism. There is also potential to establish close links with other related tourism venues such as Budj Bim and Grampians/ Gariwerd. It is important however that the interpretation must be developed with close involvement/ liaison with the relevant Aboriginal communities.

What?

It is important to recognise the difference between information and interpretation - they are quite different things. All interpretation contains information, but not all information is interpretation. Information provides orientation and useful details, whereas interpretation is a process of gaining understanding, appreciation and even empathy.

The form of the information and interpretation should be more than simple signage, although this does have a role in the correct context.

- Site information needs to be clear and well presented at strategic locations in each site and include basic values of the site, orientation and map, care for the park code, and recognition of the Volcanics Trail.
- The interpretation (which contains information but is not simply facts and figures) can include a variety of media such as signage, paving treatment, discrete 'salt and pepper' discoveries, seating elements, balustrade/ handrail signage and or engraving, fence treatments, landscape features, simple display units, soundscapes and smart phone apps etc.

How?

Interpretive materials should be developed that satisfy the following criteria:

- Create a holistic visitor experience across the sites, where each site is part of a greater story, rather than being fragmented and disconnected.
- Develop interpretive themes, key messages and content that are more than simple, scientific facts and dates.
- The interpretation should introduce environmental and cultural links and context for each of the sites and for the region as a whole.
- The interpretation should be sensitively designed and located to avoid becoming a visual intrusion
- The interpretation must be authentic and follow the important principles and protocols of heritage interpretation e.g. ICOMOS Ename Charter, Interpretation Australia guidelines

Interpretive media need not be limited by tradition or what is in vogue. A wide range of media can be employed, depending on suitability and budget levels. But whatever media is chosen, the success of the interpretive/ educational technique comes back to careful planning, imaginative and innovative design, and viewing the world through the eyes of the visitor.

"The primary choice of which way you organise something is made by deciding how you want it to be found".¹

¹ Richard Saul Wurman, 1996. *Information Architects*. Graphis Inc

Volcanics Trail Themes and Designs

The heritage interpretation at the various locations of the Volcanic Trail should be based on a clear message that encompasses the important values of the sites and area as a whole. It is proposed that this key and overarching message is along the lines of the following.

The volcanic landscape of SW Victoria has both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history, significance and meaning. It is the basis of all environmental and human activity – access, settlement, food, resources, and native plants and wildlife.

To the Traditional Owners, this is Tungatt Mirring or Stone Country – a place of plenty. To the colonial pastoralists, this was Australia Felix or Fortunate Australia with its lush pastures and agricultural land.

But the long term viability and health of the land is increasingly under threat, and much can be learned by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities working and implementing some of the time-honoured traditional understandings of land management practices.

Research Topics And Treatment

A series of relevant topics have been identified that can become the basis for on-going research and information gathering. This information can then be used as a resource base, and used to illustrate and provide content for the main interpretive themes and stories.

It is important to clarify at this point that topics and themes are two different things. Topics are simple broad headers for subject matter (as listed below), whereas themes are statements that illustrate key messages by way of stories and illustration.

- **Volcanic formations** – simple geological explanations linked where possible with Aboriginal creation stories and significance
- **Aboriginal connections** – Aboriginal practices can be explained and demonstrated, highlighting the fact that much of Australia is a cultural landscape that was a carefully and well-managed estate consisting of a series of ‘farms without fences’ under the stewardship of Aboriginal people. Many of these land management practices and lessons are now being learned and adopted for contemporary land management.
- **Indigenous plants** – their role in the environment and their potential uses for food, medicine and fibre
- **Wildlife** – common species that can be seen, their behaviour and their cultural connections e.g. the Magpie-lark is included in some creation stories and its call often heralds the coming of bad weather
- **Colonial history** – pastoralist movement into the area

for the rich volcanic soils and lush pastures of Australia Felix (meaning blessed) with the changes that came in their wake.

Key Considerations

Tungatt Mirring (Stone Country) is central to the story of Gunditjmara and Djab wurrung people. It is a place of plenty, of cultural meaning and importance. It is also a place of refuge, of loss, of family and community, of inequity, of family settlements, a place where wetlands were drained and wars fought.²

The Gunditjmara Traditional Owners Ecological Tool Kit is proposed as part of the efforts by Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, Parks Victoria and the CMA to document traditional land management knowledge that can then be used inform new ways of managing the land using traditional practices.³

Aboriginal creation narratives are relevant, however they need to be understood as a response to the landscape and the cultural relationship to it, using the stories as a link to deeper meaning. These stories can be presented where appropriate, but only when offered and expressed by the Traditional Owners.

“Time is irrelevant. We never really put any focus on when an event occurred. What’s important is that it did occur ... it’s not a past tense that we use to refer to these events. They are events that happened that are just part of the story of the landscape.” John Clarke, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation notes⁴

2 Ngootyoong - Gunditj Management Plan pg 9

3 Ngootyoong - Gunditj Management Plan pg 99

4 Wilkie B et al. 2020. Volcanism in Australian Aboriginal oral traditions pg9

Theme Development

The proposed interpretive content for each site is described by way of a site-specific interpretive lens and a series of interpretive themes. These are useful tools that enable the interpretation developments to be focused and with clear outcomes.

The interpretive lens provides a broad focus for the interpretation at each site. It provides an overarching message that the visitors will take away with them, and define an angle or perspective in which the relevant themes can be presented.

The themes are simple statements that reflect this interpretive lens. They consist of a simple title or header, followed by a supporting story or idea that can be expressed through the various interpretive media. Likewise the supporting content details are simply a set of resources that have been organised according to the main topics, which can be utilised when designing the interpretation elements.

This structure is the basis for all on-site interpretive elements, no matter what the final form. Whether the interpretation is signage, paving engraving, seating inserts, display boards etc., the thematic structure is the basis for the interpretation and the glue that holds these items in place and provides a coherent logic or structure.

Each site has been allocated a series of relevant themes, which are intended as a guide as what is possible – they are not intended as a definitive list. Areas within

each site have been identified as suitable locations for the interpretive elements, whilst recognising that the interpretation needs to be designed and developed with a degree of sensitivity. It should not overplay its hand and ensure that it does not dominate or become visually intrusive.

Interpretive Zones and Form

Potential interpretive zones have been identified for each site, each of which is allocated a specific theme. This is a very broad allocation that can be used as a basis for future development, and does not infer a suite of interpretive signage etc. within each zone. These are simply the themed messaging that is relevant for each area and the potential locations in which they can be presented – the form of the interpretation is a different design issue.

The associated palette of design elements includes both formal items such as information boards and lookout signs as well as much more informal items such as seat engraving, ‘salt and pepper’ items and more subtle track-side discoveries.

It is our vision that the interpretive elements are integrated into the look and feel of the sites and the proposed landscape elements. Natural materials such as etched and charred timber, hot-wire engraved graphics (potentially done by members of the Aboriginal communities), rusted steel etc. are preferred over standard signage.



Information sign

Timber plinth with wrap around panel featuring key visitor information, maps, wayfinding and an introduction to interpretive themes.



Lookout signage

Grouping of timber posts with panel featuring interpretive messaging related to the landscape and view beyond.



Seating

Simple timber seating with engraved / burned treatments featuring text and patterns highlighting relevant interpretive themes.



Trail signage

Angle-cut timber posts featuring interpretive thematic introduction on larger signs at the trail header and snippets of text on scattered 'salt and pepper' elements along the trail.



Research and inspiration

Exploration of potential design, materials and treatments.

5. Masterplan Design Proposals

The following masterplan proposals address each of the seven sites making up the Volcanic Trail. Each design is intended to form part of a suite of designs that make up the larger experience of the volcanic landscape as a whole and there are common themes to both the infrastructure design and interpretations. However, it is also understood that many visitors will not visit all sites, so each site must have enough facilities and sufficient interpretation to provide a satisfying and coherent visitor experience in its own right.

In addition to designs within the sites, there are two proposals for new extended trails that link locations: a combined mountain bike / walking trail along the Wannon River frontage between Nigretta Falls and Wannon Falls; and an overnight walking trail between Tapoc / Mt Napier and Byaduk Caves, with a walk-in campsite enroute.

5.1 Wannon Falls

Site Development and Infrastructure

Proposals for Wannon Falls are grouped into three areas: the riverside; upper campground; and Thomas Clark viewing area. The following scope is included within each area:

Riverside

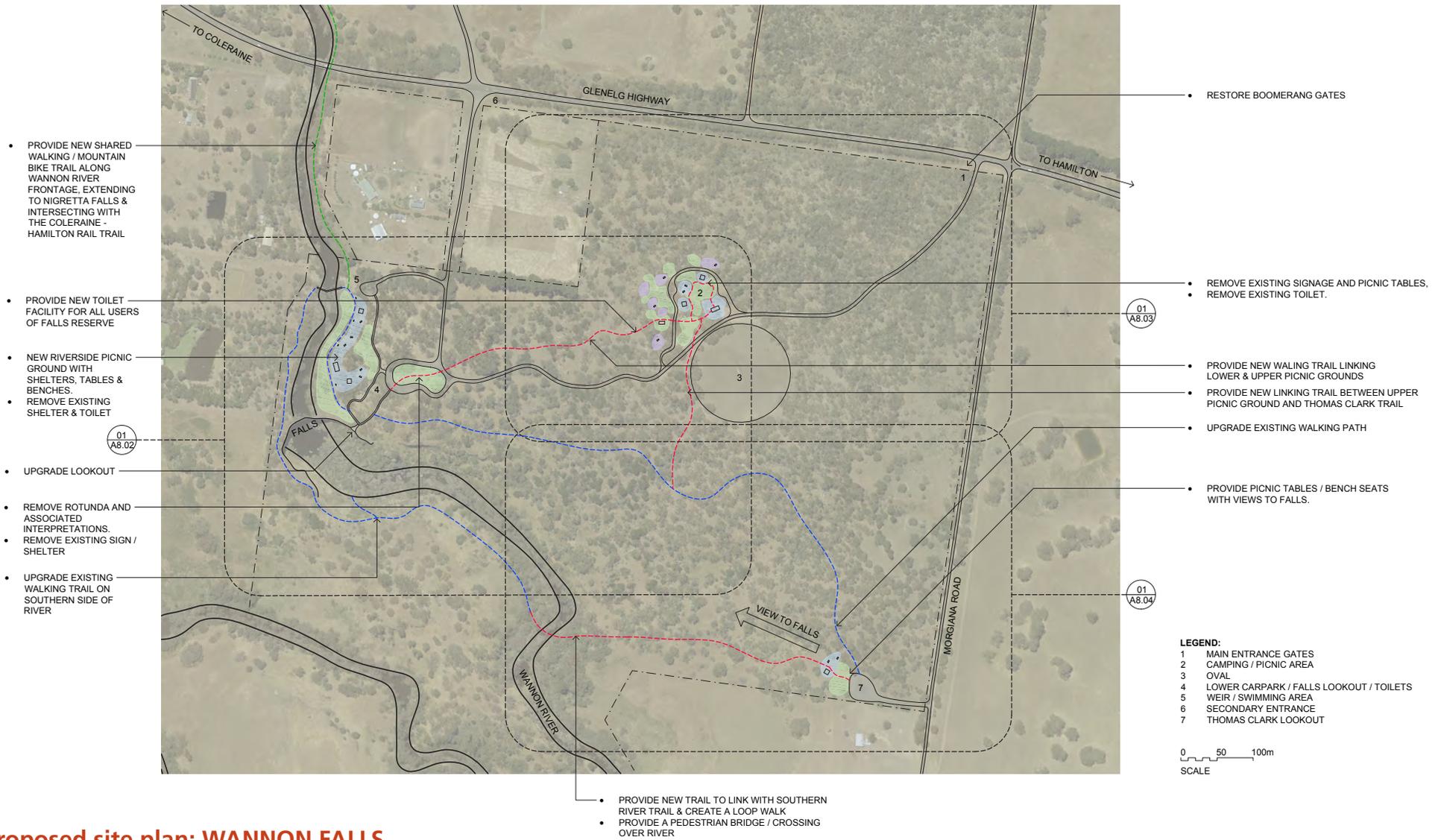
- Development of a new picnic area along the Wannon River frontage, with new picnic shelters with gas BBQs and tables / benches within landscaped surrounds
- Upgrade of the existing lookout
- Removal of obsolete infrastructure such as the Rotunda, signage, toilets and shelters
- Upgrade of existing walking trails to Thomas Clark viewing area and along the southern side of the Wannon River, with a new pedestrian bridge at the base of the gorge to create a complete loop trail
- New walking trail to the upper campground

Upper campground

- Restoration of the heritage listed 'Boomerang gates' at main entrance
- Upgrade of the existing picnic shelter
- Installation of additional new picnic shelters with gas BBQs along with new picnic tables and soft landscaping
- Installation of a new toilet facility to serve both the campground and riverside areas
- Upgrade of campground sites with defined edges, new soft landscaping and picnic tables
- Installation of a new walking trail linking to the Lookout / Thomas Clarke trail

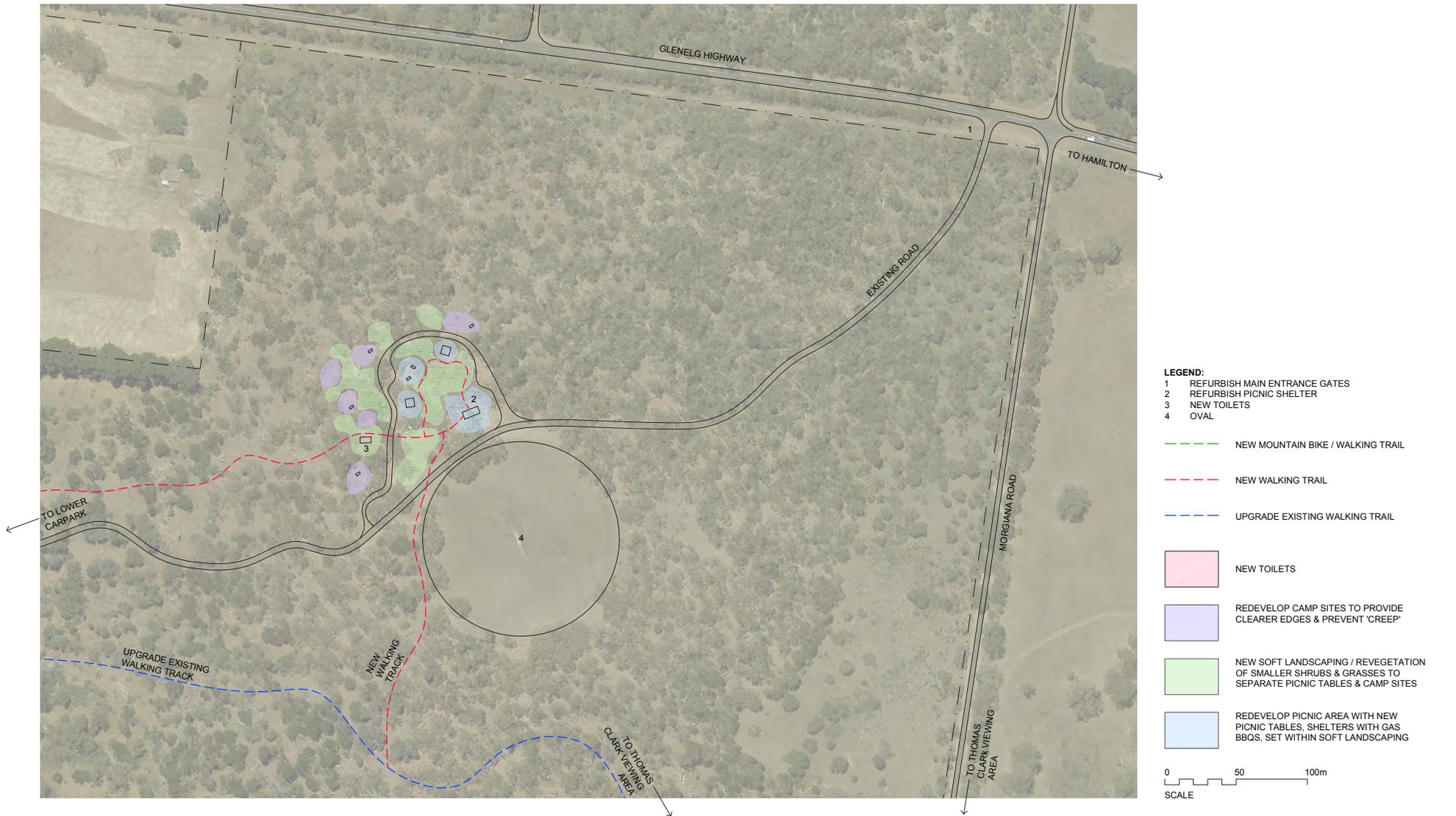
Thomas Clark viewing area

- New picnic shelter and picnic tables
- Soft landscaping to provide a buffer to car park and to encourage visitors to leave their cars and walk through the landscape to the viewing area.



Proposed site plan: WANNON FALLS

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									Project Stage: MASTER PLANNING				File: C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP		Sheet Title: PROPOSED SITE PLAN: WANNON FALLS	



LEGEND:

- 1 REFURBISH MAIN ENTRANCE GATES
- 2 REFURBISH PICNIC SHELTER
- 3 NEW TOILETS
- 4 OVAL

- NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE / WALKING TRAIL
- NEW WALKING TRAIL
- UPGRADE EXISTING WALKING TRAIL

- NEW TOILETS
- REDEVELOP CAMP SITES TO PROVIDE CLEARER EDGES & PREVENT 'CREEP'
- REDEVELOP PICNIC AREA WITH NEW PICNIC TABLES, SHELTERS WITH GAS BBQS, SET WITHIN SOFT LANDSCAPING

0 50 100m
SCALE

Proposed site plan: WANNON FALLS (entrance/campground)

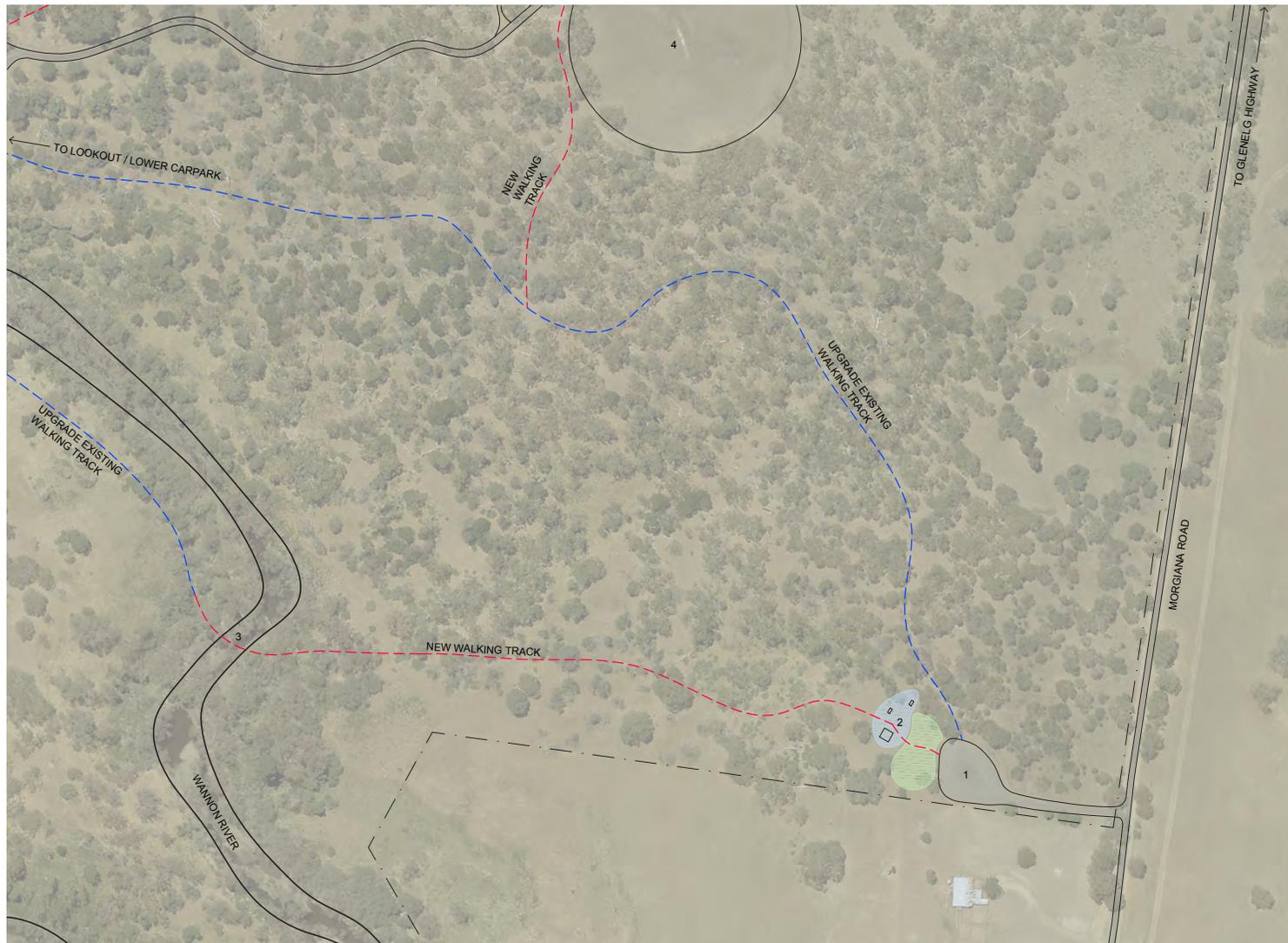
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Drawing No. **A8.03** Revision -

Sheet Title **PROPOSED SITE PLAN: WANNON FALLS (ENTRANCE / CAMP)**



LEGEND:

- 1 EXISTING THOMAS CLARK CAR PARK
- 2 NEW PICNIC / VIEWING AREA
- 3 NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER WANNON RIVER
- 4 OVAL

- NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE / WALKING TRAIL
- NEW WALKING TRAIL
- UPGRADE EXISTING WALKING TRAIL

- NEW SOFT LANDSCAPING / REVEGETATION OF SMALLER SHRUBS & GRASSES TO SEPARATE PICNIC TABLES FROM CAR PARK
- NEW PICNIC AREA WITH PICNIC TABLES SET WITHIN SOFT LANDSCAPING

0 50 100m
SCALE

Proposed site plan: WANNON FALLS (east/thomas clark)

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Project Description + Address					VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN					Drawing No.		A8.04	Revision	-											
Project No.					20.07					Date		05.10.2020		Scale		NTS		Drawn		BS		Checked		DC	
Project Stage					MASTER PLANNING					File		C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP					Sheet Title		PROPOSED SITE PLAN: WANNON FALLS (THOMAS CLARK)						

Heritage Interpretation

GRASSLAND

Native grasses are a major element of this dynamic and changing volcanic landscape. They thrive in this woodland environment and provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife species. Native grasses were also an important resource for the Indigenous people who traditionally inhabited this area, and who would have sustained the environmental values of the area through careful land management practices. This grass was also a major attraction for the pastoralists who saw this land as a place of great opportunity and wealth - Australia Felix.

Interpretive Themes

- Wandering Waterfall: as the water of the Wannon River erodes the hard lava and soft bed rock, the waterfall gradually moves upstream cutting into the land above leaving remnants below.
- A Hidden History: many open, flat grassy areas that are used as playing fields and ovals have long been Aboriginal meetings and games venues
- Wildlife Refuge: this isolated remnant of grassy woodland provides an important habitat for an abundance of wildlife
- Painting Australia Felix: colonial artists recorded the changing landscape that had previously been cared for and managed by Aboriginal people
- Caring for Country: cultural connections and

traditional land management practices ensured the health of this country

- Missions and Reserves: Aboriginal people were dispossessed from their land and moved to missions, with dire consequences for both the people and the land they cared for.

Supporting Content Details

Volcanic Formations

- Hard lava over soft rock and hence the falls undermines the hard cap and the falls gradually move up stream leaving a narrow gorge below the falls
- Lava flow about 1 to 2 million years old - from a small volcano 10km to the south. Cut into sand over an older lava flow of about 4 million years

Aboriginal Connections

- The section of the Wannon River on which the Wannon and Nigretta Falls are located formed the boundary of the territories of two Aboriginal language groups, the Jardwadjali to the north and the Gunditjmara to the south.
- Wannon Falls known as Bung Bundjil, and the local clan of the Jardwadjali was names 'Bug Bundjil gundidj'^{1 2}
- The base of the Wannon Falls is thought to be the Rainbow Serpents nest
- It was thought that people should never fish in the moonlight (as it was poisonous) but dancing and men's business takes place at this time, under moonlight.

- Traditionally Aboriginal communities used this area as an important meeting place for trade and ceremonies. Open, flat grassy areas such as the present location of the oval, are most likely to have been the venues for these meetings, and now replaced by meetings and events of a different sort.
- The Wannon Falls Reserve was set up for Aboriginal people and predates the Condah Mission. The formation of reserves was partly motivated by a desire of some settlers to protect Aboriginal people from the massacres that were occurring, while at the same time removing them from their land and banning their cultural practices and traditions.

Indigenous Plants

- At Wannon Falls, the main vegetation community is Manna Gum woodland, and the flora reserve north of the highway contains about 250 indigenous plant species.
- Common plants include Drooping She-oak, Silver Banksia and Tree Violet. These were used by Aboriginal people for a wide range purposes such as boomerangs, spears and clubs (Drooping She-oak), sweet drinks (Banksia flowers) and medicines (Manna Gum leaves)
- The old recreation ground at Wannon Falls is a healthy native grassland, which is potentially the remnant open grassland from the times when it was used for large meetings of Aboriginal people.³
- At least 240 native plant species have been recorded from the Wannon Falls Reserve. More than 90 native

1 Clark I, 2007 in Helicite pg 4/5

2 Clark I. 1990. Aboriginal Languages and Clans: An Historical Atlas of Western and Central Victoria, 1800 —1900 and Wannon Nigretta Management Plan pg 12

3 Wannon Nigretta Management Plan pg 9

plant species have been recorded from Nigretta Falls Reserve. Five of the plant species documented from Wannon Falls are listed as rare or threatened in the state, and two of these are threatened nationally.

Wildlife

- The reserves are home to many mammals including Platypus, Koala, Water Rat, Bush Rat, Feather-tail Glider, Sugar Glider, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Swamp Wallaby, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Ring-tailed Possum, Brush-tailed Possum and Echidna.⁴
- Many bird species have been observed in the reserves and the river environments offer good habitat for amphibians and fish.
- Since European settlement, the depletion and degradation of natural habitats, combined with the introduction of exotic pests has led to the demise of a number of native animal and bird populations in the Hamilton area, such as the Australian Bustard, Spotted-tailed Quoll and Eastern Barred Bandicoot.

Colonial History

- Early European settlers claimed large areas of land or 'sheep walks' ranging in size from 8,000 to 60,000 acres

"About that time a yellow flower in the grass caught my eye and, remembering that we had seen none of these golden flowers since we left the beautiful valley of the Wannon, I ventured to hope that we were at length approaching the good country at the head of that stream. Such was my anxious wish when I perceived through the trees a glimpse of an open grassy country, and immediately entered a fine clear valley with a lively little stream flowing westward through it and which I named the Grange. This was indeed one of the heads of the Wannon and we had at length reached the good country."⁵

- Area has links to some well-known Colonial artists e.g. Thomas Clark who was a landscape artist in the 1850s and 60s. Thomas Clark viewing area named in his honour. Other artists included Nicholas Chevalier, Louis Buvelot and Eugene von Gerard
- In 1890s, excursion trains ran from Hamilton to Redruth, with many people visiting Wannon Falls. In 1909, a monster picnic carnival and sports day was held with 2000 people attending – this became an annual event for several years

Site Recommendations

Main interpretation elements should include:

- Timber plinth information panels at key locations featuring simple inserted text, graphics and map panels
- Lookout balustrade with integrated signage
- Timber seating with engraved/ burned text and graphics
- Simple, low key trail signage
- Trail head signage

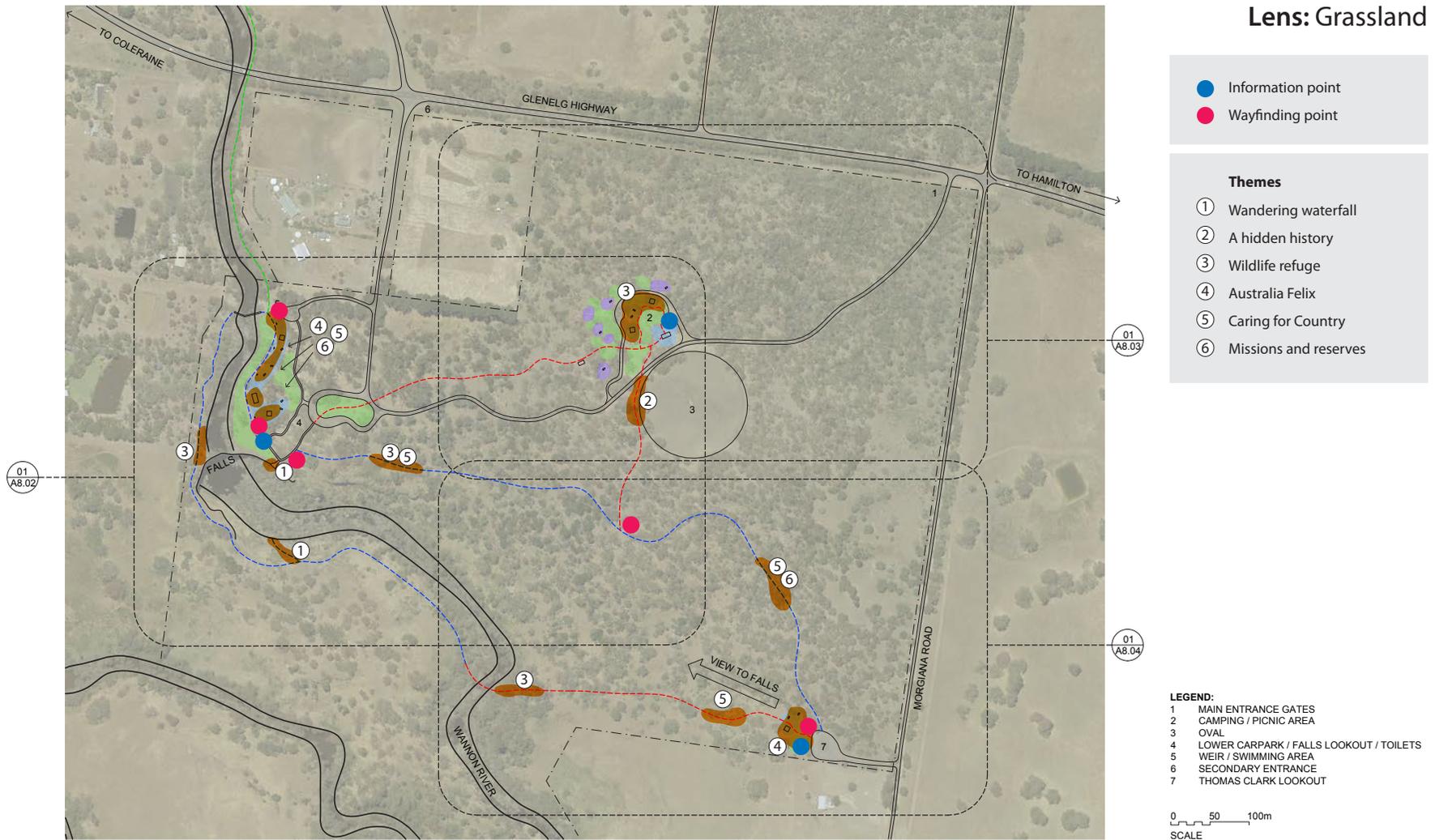
Wayfinding at critical decision points should also be provided.



Upper Falls on the Wannon by Thomas Clark, 1867 (NGV)

⁴ Wannon Nigretta Management Plan pg 10

⁵ Major Mitchell journal Vol 2. and Ngamadijidj Encounters



Proposed site plan: WANNON FALLS

5.2 Nigretta Falls

Site Development and Infrastructure

Proposals at Nigretta are divided into three areas: the riverside; main car park loop; and the extended trail to Wannon Falls. The following scope is included within each area:

Riverside

- Development of a new picnic area along the Wannon River above the falls, providing new picnic tables and benches within landscaped surrounds
- Repair of vehicle damage, installation of new soft landscaping and traffic barriers along the riverside (such as volcanic boulders) to prevent informal vehicle access
- Upgrade of existing walking trail to falls lookout
- Removal of falls head lookout (concrete structure)
- New walking trail back to main loop picnic ground

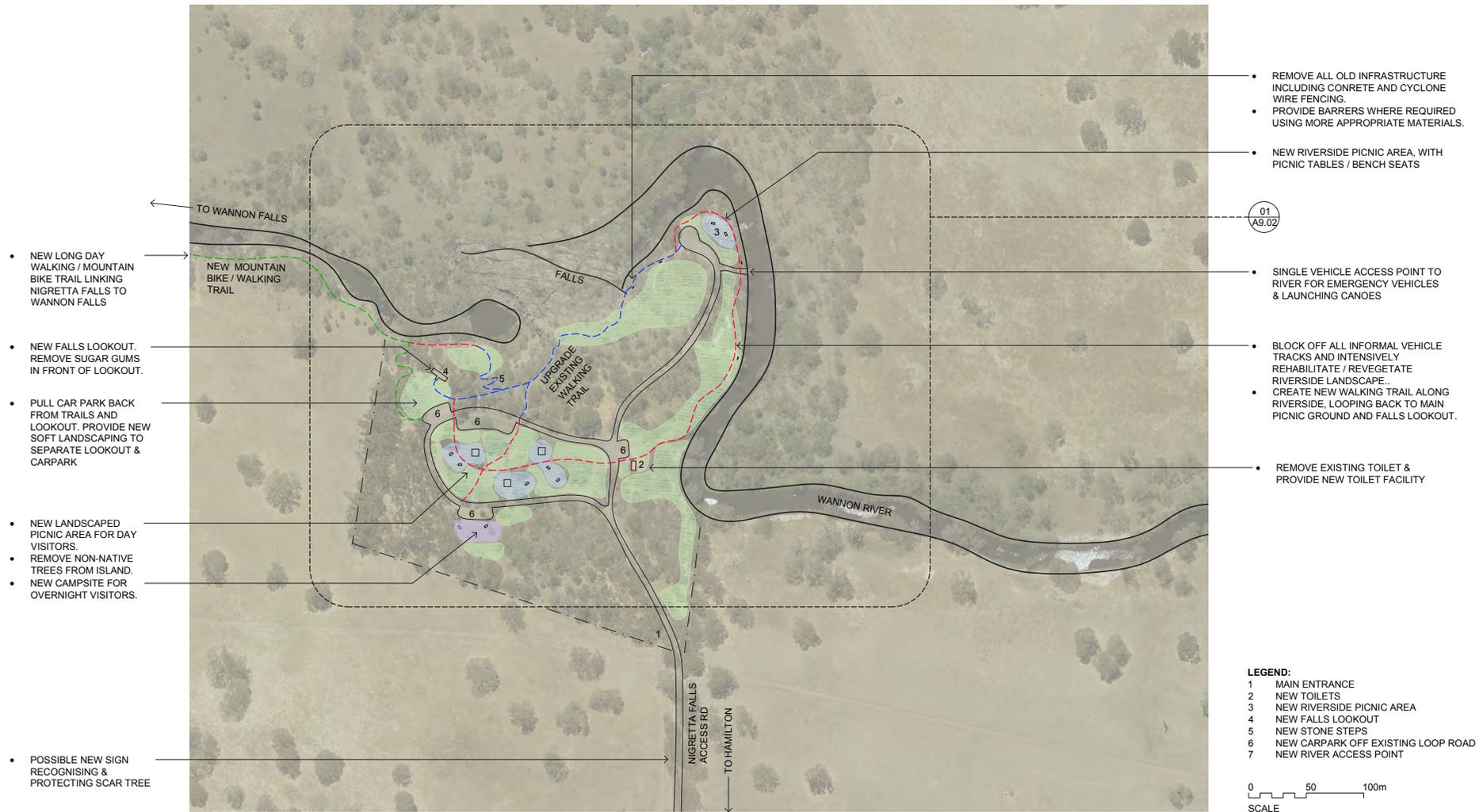
Main car park loop

- Removal of existing picnic shelter and lookout
- Installation of new picnic shelters with gas BBQs, picnic tables and soft landscaping
- Installation of a new lookout
- Installation of a new toilet
- Replacement of cyclone wire fencing with less industrial / more sympathetic barriers
- Reconfiguration of car parking, with new 'pockets' of car park off the main loop and a soft landscape buffer with short walking trail between the car park and new lookout

- New overnight camp area, with picnic tables and parking area
- Upgrade of access down to base of falls with stone steps similar to National Park construction
- Removal of existing timber and concrete steps
- New mountain bike access trail down to start of extended Wannon River trail

Extended Wannon River trail

- Provision of a new shared mountain bike / walking trail along the Wannon River frontage, approximately 9km long
- Trail intersects with Hamilton / Coleraine Rail Trail and would include some interpretative content along the route
- The shared use of the track by walkers and cyclists would need to be considered further at the next design stage including consultation with potential users. This track has the potential to expand the appeal of these two sites to a new group of visitors as well as to help to unify them.



- NEW LONG DAY WALKING / MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL LINKING NIGRETТА FALLS TO WANNON FALLS
- NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE / WALKING TRAIL
- NEW FALLS LOOKOUT. REMOVE SUGAR GUMS IN FRONT OF LOOKOUT.
- PULL CAR PARK BACK FROM TRAILS AND LOOKOUT. PROVIDE NEW SOFT LANDSCAPING TO SEPARATE LOOKOUT & CARPARK
- NEW LANDSCAPED PICNIC AREA FOR DAY VISITORS.
- REMOVE NON-NATIVE TREES FROM ISLAND.
- NEW CAMPSITE FOR OVERNIGHT VISITORS.
- POSSIBLE NEW SIGN RECOGNISING & PROTECTING SCAR TREE

- REMOVE ALL OLD INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING CONCRETE AND CYCLONE WIRE FENCING.
- PROVIDE BARRIERS WHERE REQUIRED USING MORE APPROPRIATE MATERIALS.
- NEW RIVERSIDE PICNIC AREA, WITH PICNIC TABLES / BENCH SEATS
- SINGLE VEHICLE ACCESS POINT TO RIVER FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES & LAUNCHING CANOES
- BLOCK OFF ALL INFORMAL VEHICLE TRACKS AND INTENSIVELY REHABILITATE / REVEGETATE RIVERSIDE LANDSCAPE..
- CREATE NEW WALKING TRAIL ALONG RIVERSIDE, LOOPING BACK TO MAIN PICNIC GROUND AND FALLS LOOKOUT.
- REMOVE EXISTING TOILET & PROVIDE NEW TOILET FACILITY

Proposed site plan: NIGRETТА FALLS

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					Project No.					Drawing No.				
					Date					Revision				
					Scale					A9.01				
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					Checked					Sheet Title				
					Project Stage					PROPOSED SITE PLAN: NIGRETТА FALLS				
					File									
					C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP									



LEGEND:

- 1 NEW TOILETS
- 2 NEW LANDSCAPED PICNIC GROUND
- 3 NEW CARPARKS OFF EXISTING LOOP ROAD
- 4 NEW CAMP SITE
- 5 NEW FALLS LOOKOUT
- 6 NEW STONE STEPS
- 7 NEW RIVERSIDE PICNIC AREA
- 8 NEW RIVER ACCESS POINT

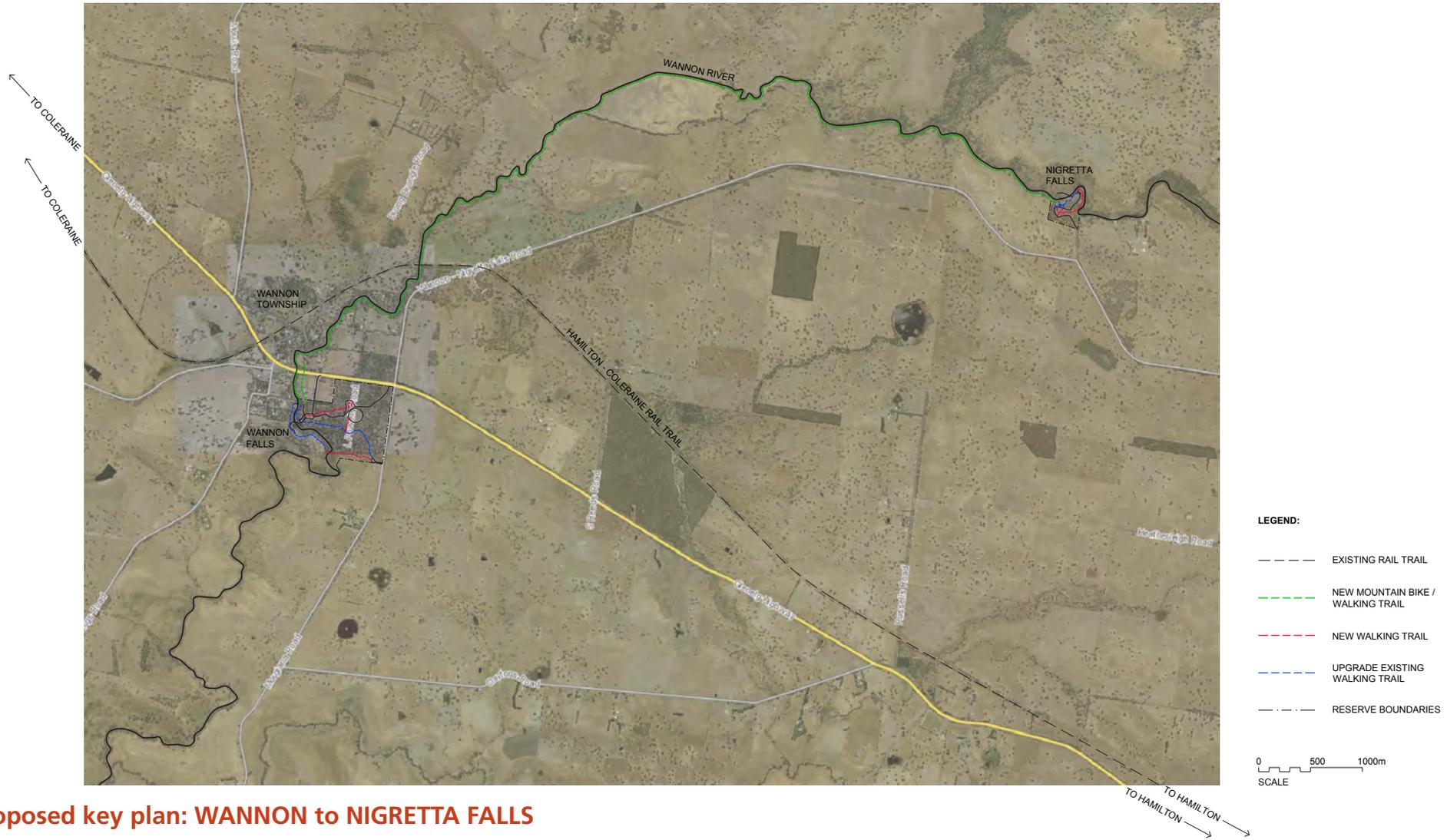
- NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE / WALKING TRAIL
- NEW WALKING TRAIL
- UPGRADE EXISTING WALKING TRAIL

- NEW CAMPSITE
- NEW TOILETS
- NEW SOFT LANDSCAPING / REVEGETATION OF TREES MIXED WITH SMALLER SHRUBS & GRASSES
- NEW PICNIC AREAS WITH PICNIC TABLES, COOKING SHELTER WITH GAS BBQS & BENCH SEATING

0 50 100m
SCALE

Proposed site plan: NIGRETТА FALLS (detail)

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					20.07					A9.02				
					Date					Revision				
					05.10.2020					-				
					Scale					Sheet Title				
					NTS					PROPOSED SITE PLAN: NIGRETТА FALLS (DETAIL)				
					Drawn									
					BS									
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					DC									
					Project Stage									
					MASTER PLANNING									
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Proposed key plan: WANNON to NIGRETТА FALLS

Revision History				
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked

Client	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL			
Project Description + Address	VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN			
Project No.	20.07	Date	05.10.2020	Scale
Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING	Drawn	BS	Checked
		File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP	DC



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Drawing No. **A9.03** Revision **-**

Sheet Title **PROPOSED KEY PLAN: WANNON TO NIGRETТА FALLS**

Heritage Interpretation

WOODLAND

Eucalypts such as Manna Gum and River Red Gum make up the woodland of this rich volcanic area and provide a rich habitat for a wealth of wildlife and bird species. But these areas have been reduced to small islands in an ocean of pasture. Aboriginal people managed and cared for this country using traditional and age old techniques – with the dispossession of the Traditional Owners having a major impact on both the people and the country.

Interpretive Themes

- The Power of Water: as the water cuts away the hard, ancient volcanic rock to gradually form the cascades below the falls, its presence sustains the surrounding bushland
- Wildlife Refuge: this small area of grassy woodland in an ocean of pasture provides important habitat for a wealth of plants and animals
- Caring for Country: cultural connections and traditional land management practices ensured the health of this country
- Missions and Reserves: Aboriginal people were dispossessed from their land and moved to missions, with dire consequences for both the people and the land they cared for.

Supporting Content Details

Volcanic Formations

- The lava flow in this area is approx. 410 million years from the remnants of a ‘super volcano’ – much older than the rock at nearby Wannon Falls which is 1 to 2 million years old from a much smaller volcano
- The landform at the waterfall is capped with hard rock but with no soft rock underneath - hence the waterfall will not gradually move upstream (as is the case with Wannon Falls) and eventually created a series of rapids
- Crack patterns in the rock formed a series of cascades
- Vertebrate fossils nearby

Aboriginal Connections

- The section of the Wannon River on which the Wannon and Nigretta Falls are located formed the boundary of the territories of two Aboriginal language groups, the Jardwadjali to the north and the Gunditjmara to the south. The Bung bung gul gundidj clan of the Jardwadjali occupied the Wannon Falls area ¹
- The ‘Seven Sisters Dreaming’ is part of this land. This is one of the strongest songlines in Australia, it isn’t as strong here as in some other areas (such as the Flinders Ranges). The ‘Seven Sisters Dreaming’ is a story of seven sisters and an old man who fell in love with the youngest sister. He chased them all over the sky, trying to win her hand. In some [Aboriginal] Countries, that old man can be seen laying down looking at the sky. One of those places is in the Grampians. The first evening star and last morning star are also the old

man, looking for the sisters. This story is the same as that attached to the Seven Sisters Constellation.

- The nearby Wannon Falls Reserve was set up for Aboriginal people and predates the Condah Mission. The formation of reserves was partly motivated by a desire of some settlers to protect Aboriginal people from the massacres that were occurring, while at the same time removing them from their land and banning their cultural practices and traditions.
- Before European settlement, there were large stands of red gum other eucalypts here, with plentiful yam daisies in spring and abundant hunting for kangaroos, emus and other wildlife.
- This was a cultural landscape – a farm without fences – that was carefully managed under the stewardship of the Aboriginal people. Fire was used to keep the country healthy, food and resources were harvested sustainably, and cultural responsibilities were central to people’s way of life and wellbeing.
- Current Aboriginal elders have expressed a wish to be involved in the development of future management directions. ²

Indigenous Plants

- At Nigretta Falls, grassy woodland is the major vegetation type, with River Red Gums prominent along the riverbanks. About 165 indigenous plant species have been recorded. Remnants of native grasslands are found north and west of the river.³
- Common plants include Drooping She-oak, Silver Banksia and Tree Violet. These were used by

1 Clark I. 1990. Aboriginal Languages and Clans: An Historical Atlas of Western and Central Victoria, 1800 –1900

2 Wannon Nigretta Management Plan pg 12

3 Wannon Nigretta Management Plan pg 9

Aboriginal people for a wide range purposes such as boomerangs, spears and clubs (Drooping She-oak), sweet drinks (Banksia flowers) and medicines (Red Gum leaves)

- Because the reserves contain remnants of natural vegetation once widespread around the Hamilton area, they provide valuable habitat for native fauna.

Wildlife

- Since European settlement, the depletion and degradation of natural habitats, combined with the introduction of exotic pests has led to the demise of a number of native animal and bird populations in the Hamilton area. Species such as the Australian Bustard, Spotted-tailed Quoll and Eastern Barred Bandicoot were once common in the area but are now locally extinct.
- Native animals still found within the reserves include the Platypus, Koala, Water Rat, Bush Rat, Feather-tail Glider, Sugar Glider, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Swamp Wallaby, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Ring-tailed Possum, Brush-tailed Possum and Echidna.⁴

Site Recommendations

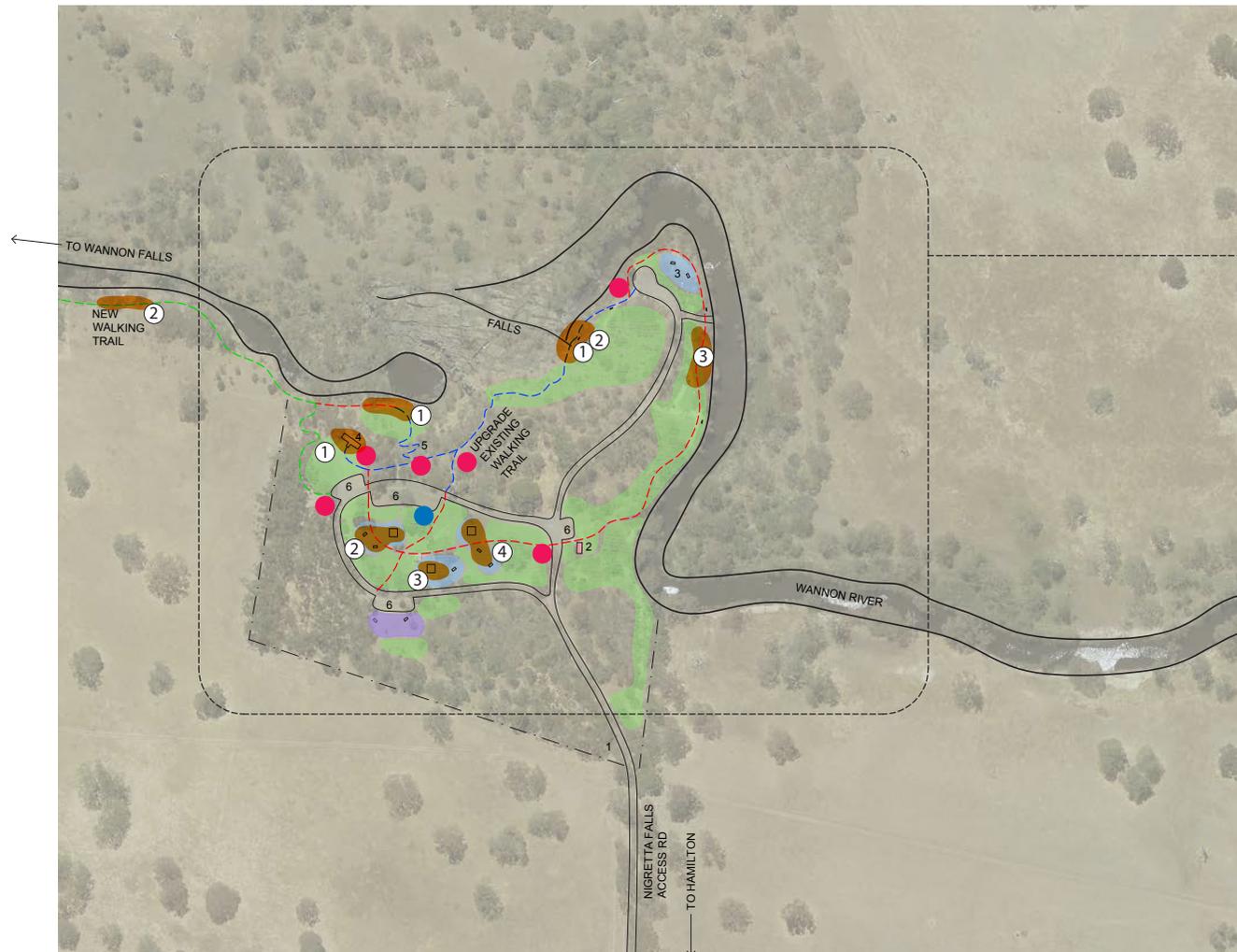
Main interpretation elements should include:

- Timber plinth information panels at key locations featuring simple inserted text, graphics and map panels
- Lookout balustrade with integrated signage
- Timber seating with engraved/ burned text and graphics
- Simple, low key trail signage
- Trail head signage

Wayfinding at critical decision points should also be provided.

4 Wannon Nigretta Management Plan pg 10

Lens: Woodland



- Information point
- Wayfinding point

- Themes**
- ① Power of water
 - ② Wildlife refuge
 - ③ Care for Country
 - ④ Missions and reserves

- LEGEND:**
- 1 MAIN ENTRANCE
 - 2 NEW TOILETS
 - 3 NEW RIVERSIDE PICNIC AREA
 - 4 NEW FALLS LOOKOUT
 - 5 NEW STONE STEPS
 - 6 NEW CARPARK OFF EXISTING LOOP ROAD
 - 7 NEW RIVER ACCESS POINT
- 0 50 100m
SCALE

Proposed site plan: NIGRETITA FALLS

5.3 Byaduk Caves

Site Development and Infrastructure

Proposals at Byaduk Caves are divided into two areas: Caves 1 to 4; and the extended trail to the Great Barrier Formation (which then leads onto the overnight campsite within Tapoc / Mt Napier State Park). The following scope is included within each area:

Caves 1 to 4

- Development of a new picnic area near caves 1 and 2, including picnic shelters with gas BBQs and tables
- Installation of a new toilet
- Upgrade of existing walking trail from car park to caves 1 and 2
- Installation of new trails around caves 1 to 4 and to dry stone wall viewing area
- Installation of new steps down into cave 1
- Removal of existing cave lookout points and replacement with loop tracks or boardwalk with a lightweight edge marker that circumnavigates the cave openings
- Installation of soft landscaping around picnic area and along south boundary to provide a buffer to adjacent farmland
- Upgrade of existing carpark, to provide an improved surface and turnaround loop suitable for coaches with edges defined by soft landscaping

Extended trail to Great Barrier Formation

- Installation of new walking trail that skirts caves 5 & 6 but takes walkers away from caves 7-9, which provide important habitat for some rare species

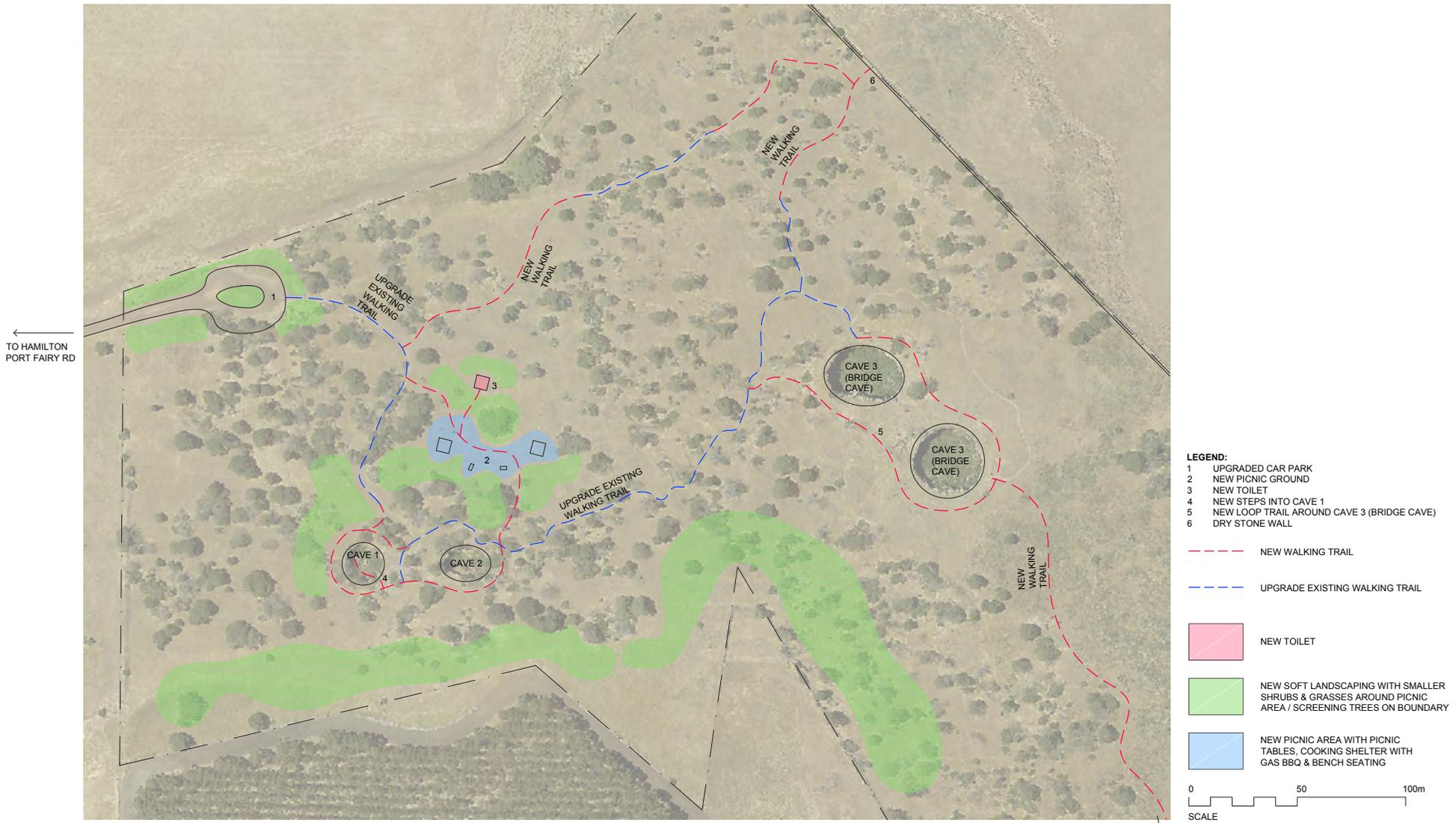
- Walkers can choose to finish at the great Barrier Formation and return via the same trail or continue on an extended trail into Tapoc / Mt Napier State Park



Proposed site plan: BYADUK CAVES NATIONAL PARK

Revision History					Client		Project Description				Drawing No.		Sheet Title			
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	SOUTHERN GRAMPPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL		VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN				A10.01		PROPOSED SITE PLAN: BYADUK CAVES NATIONAL PARK			
							Project No.	20.07	Date	16.04.2021	Scale	NTS	Drawn	BS	Checked	DC
							Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING		File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP					

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LEGEND:

- 1 UPGRADED CAR PARK
- 2 NEW PICNIC GROUND
- 3 NEW TOILET
- 4 NEW STEPS INTO CAVE 1
- 5 NEW LOOP TRAIL AROUND CAVE 3 (BRIDGE CAVE)
- 6 DRY STONE WALL

--- NEW WALKING TRAIL

--- UPGRADE EXISTING WALKING TRAIL

NEW TOILET

NEW SOFT LANDSCAPING WITH SMALLER SHRUBS & GRASSES AROUND PICNIC AREA / SCREENING TREES ON BOUNDARY

NEW PICNIC AREA WITH PICNIC TABLES, COOKING SHELTER WITH GAS BBQ & BENCH SEATING

0 50 100m
SCALE

Proposed site plan: BYADUK CAVES day visitor area

Revision History				
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked

Client	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL			
Project Description + Address	VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN			
Project No.	20.07	Date	16.04.2021	Scale
Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING	Drawn	BS	Checked
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Drawing No. **A10.02** Revision -
 Sheet Title PROPOSED DETAIL PLAN: BYADUK CAVES NATIONAL PARK

Heritage Interpretation

SHELTER

The Byaduk Caves are the result of a period of dramatic volcanic activity and landforming, which left empty tubes of rock. The sinkholes and caves of this once fierce place have become the habitat for many plants and animals that thrive in this now sheltered environment, and are a place of significance for local Aboriginal people.

Interpretive Themes

- Tubes of Molten Lava: the violent birth of this landscape is now hidden in the quiet and sheltered environment it eventually created
- Sheltered Refuge: the sinkholes and caves are an important refuge for plants and animals that need sheltered, protected and dark environments in which to live.
- Connection with Country: traditional stories and cultural connections with country have great meaning for Aboriginal people, who would have witnessed its volcanic formation.
- Clearing the Country: pastoralists cleared the land for their stock and used what they could find for their farms, including volcanic stones from Aboriginal people's houses

Supporting Content Details

Volcanic Formations

- The Byaduk Caves are approx. 30,000 years old, and were part of lava flow from Mt Napier that joined with the Budj Bim lava flow at Tyrendarra
- The Byaduk Caves were formed as tubes of molten lava that drained at the end of the eruption to leave a series of open caves. Rock arches were left between two collapsed sections of a big lava tube.
- Byaduk Caves are considered to be the most extensive and accessible lava caves in Australia.

Aboriginal Connections

- Caves and sink holes featured prominently in the lives of Aboriginal people – they were often believed to be the abode of malevolent creatures and spirits and some were associated with important ancestral heroes, and traditional harming practices. Some were important in the after-death movement of souls to their resting places.
- Colonial documents refer to a custom involving two large sink-holes, probably two of the large collapsed entrances of the lava tubes at the Byaduk Caves, where Aboriginal people would drop a morsel of the excrement of an enemy down the sink hole 'who was supposed thereafter to pine and die'. In western Victoria, Aboriginal people were very careful in disposing of their excreta, usually burying it with a spatula they called a gunigalk (excrement stick) to ensure that it could not be found by their enemies¹
- Mt Napier and Byaduk Caves are included in the Ngootyoong Gunditj Mgt Plan as requiring Gunditjmara input in land management and protection of key features

Indigenous Plants

- The shallow soil of the area prevents the growth of Manna Gums. Consequently, the main tree species are Black Wattle and Blackwood.
- The sinkholes feature Shiny Cassinia, Kangaroo Apple, Nodding Saltbush and an abundance of ferns

Wildlife

- Small colonies of Southern Bent-wing Bats occur in some of the caves
- Sub-fossil remains of many animals, some extinct, occur in the caves. This includes Thylacine bones.

Colonial History

- Extensive sections of dry rock wall are nearby, created using the local stone from the lava flow.

Site Recommendations

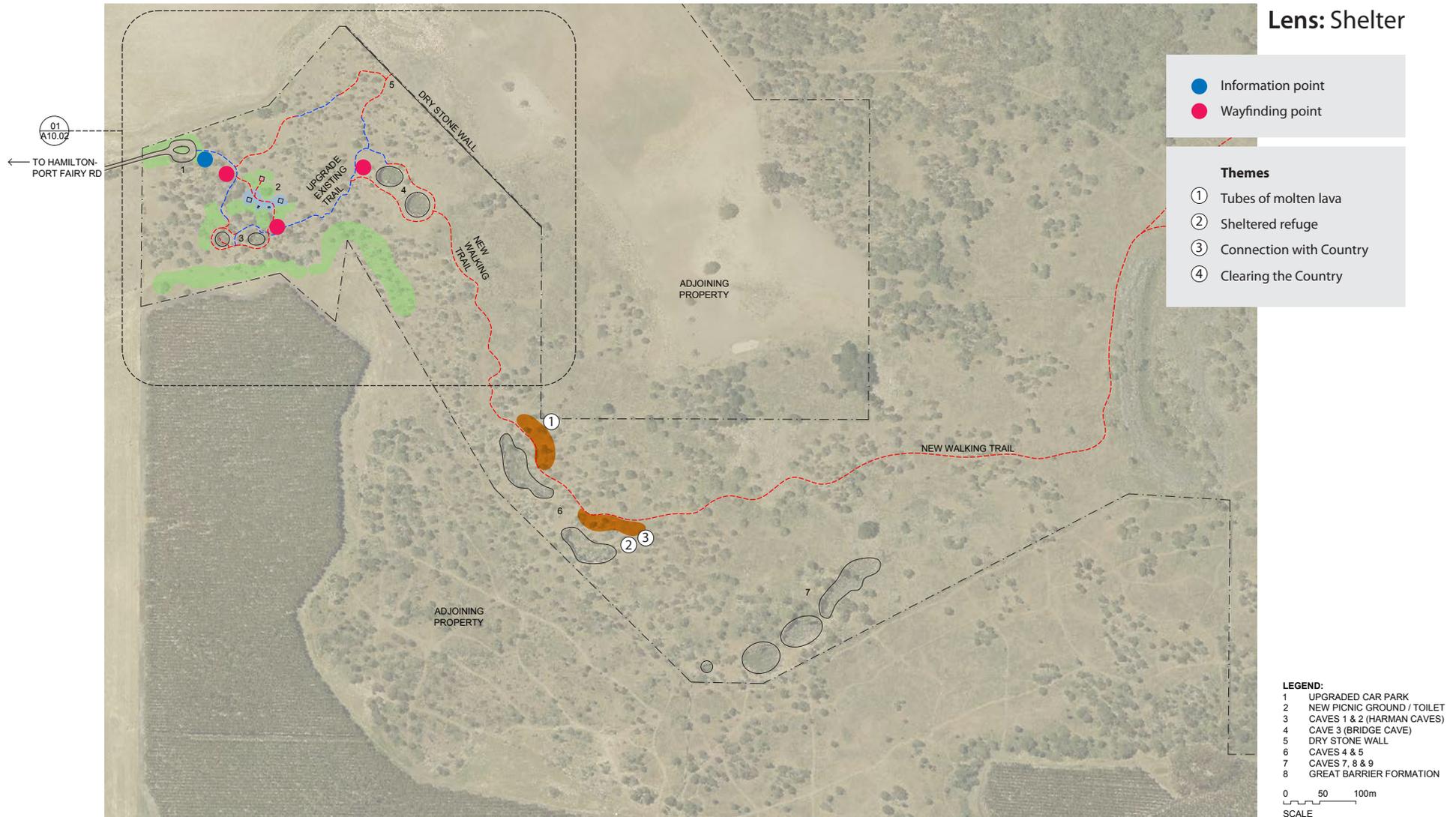
Main interpretation elements should include:

- Timber plinth information panel at carpark area, featuring simple inserted text, graphics and map panels
- Caves viewing area balustrade with integrated signage
- Timber seating with engraved/ burned text and graphics
- Simple, low key trail signage

Wayfinding at critical decision points should also be provided.

¹ Clark I., 2007 in Helicite, 2007, 40 (1). pg 8/9

Lens: Shelter



Proposed site plan: BYADUK CAVES NATIONAL PARK

5.4 Harman's Valley Lookout

Site Development and Infrastructure

The following scope is included at Harman's Valley lookout:

- Upgrade of the road base and sealing of road surface
- Formalising of car park spaces in 'pockets' separated by soft landscape
- Installation of a new picnic table and a bench seat, separated from the car park area by soft landscaping
- Additional soft landscaping to provide a greater buffer to the main road
- Removal of existing signage and replacement with less intrusive interpretive materials



Proposed site plan: HARMAN'S VALLEY LOOKOUT

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					Project No.					Drawing No.				
					Date					Revision				
					Date					A11.01 -				
					Scale					Sheet Title				
					NTS					PROPOSED SITE PLAN: HARMANS VALLEY LOOKOUT				
					Drawn									
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					MASTER PLANNING									
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Heritage Interpretation

LAVA FLOW

Harman's Valley was once a river of lava, flowing from Mt Napier in the distance across the land and smothering everything in its wake. And in the process, it created a series of strange volcanic landforms and a rich landscape that was the home for Aboriginal people for millennia.

Interpretive Themes

- River of Molten Lava: a relentless stream of molten lava from Mt Napier flooded across this landscape and filled the existing river valley
- Twisted and Buckled: tumuli mounds, lava tubes, stoney rises and raised levee banks formed as the lava flowed, cooled and solidified
- Ancient Connections: Aboriginal people would have witnessed this area's volcanic formation, built houses from its stone and sustainably managed the country and its resources.

Supporting Content Details

Volcanic Formations

- The Mt Napier eruption occurred approx. 32,000 years ago, with the lava flowing across the landscape through existing river valleys
- Levee banks along Harman's Valley were built up by a series of overflows, each leaving a layer of lava
- The Harman's Valley lava flow is one of the youngest lava flows dated on the continent
- Swamps were formed where the lava dammed the river valley

Aboriginal Connections

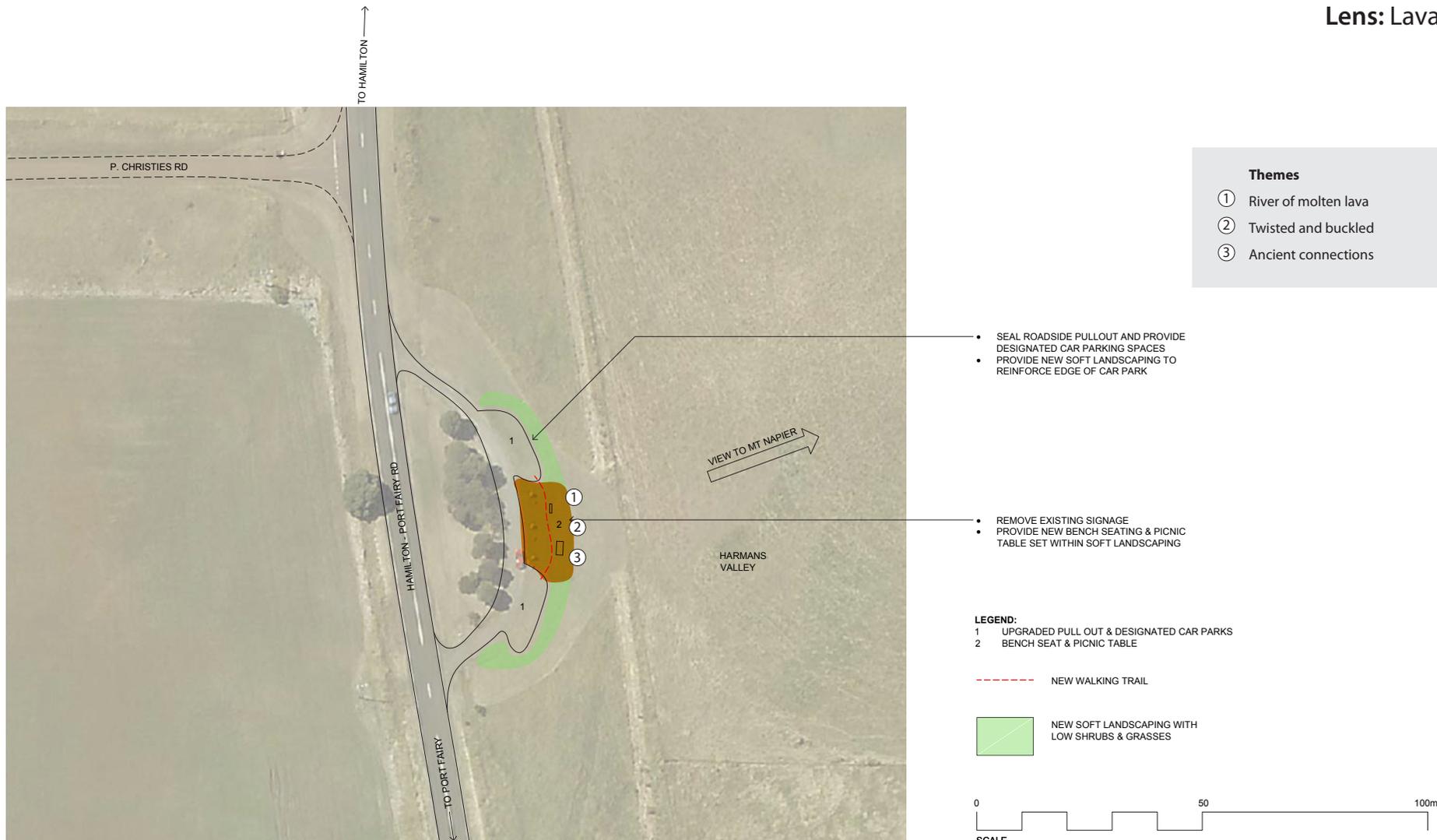
- Evidence exists of Aboriginal stone houses along Harman's Valley and surrounding areas. Stone houses were common throughout the region, with villages and aquaculture systems built, in particular at Budj Bim.
- This area is part of Gunditjmara country. Mt Napier and Byaduk Caves (and surrounding areas) are included in the Ngootyoong Gunditj Management Plan as requiring Gunditjmara input in land management and protection of key features.

Site Recommendations

Main interpretation elements should include:

- Simple, low key signage that is integrated into the revised landscape design of the area.

Lens: Lava



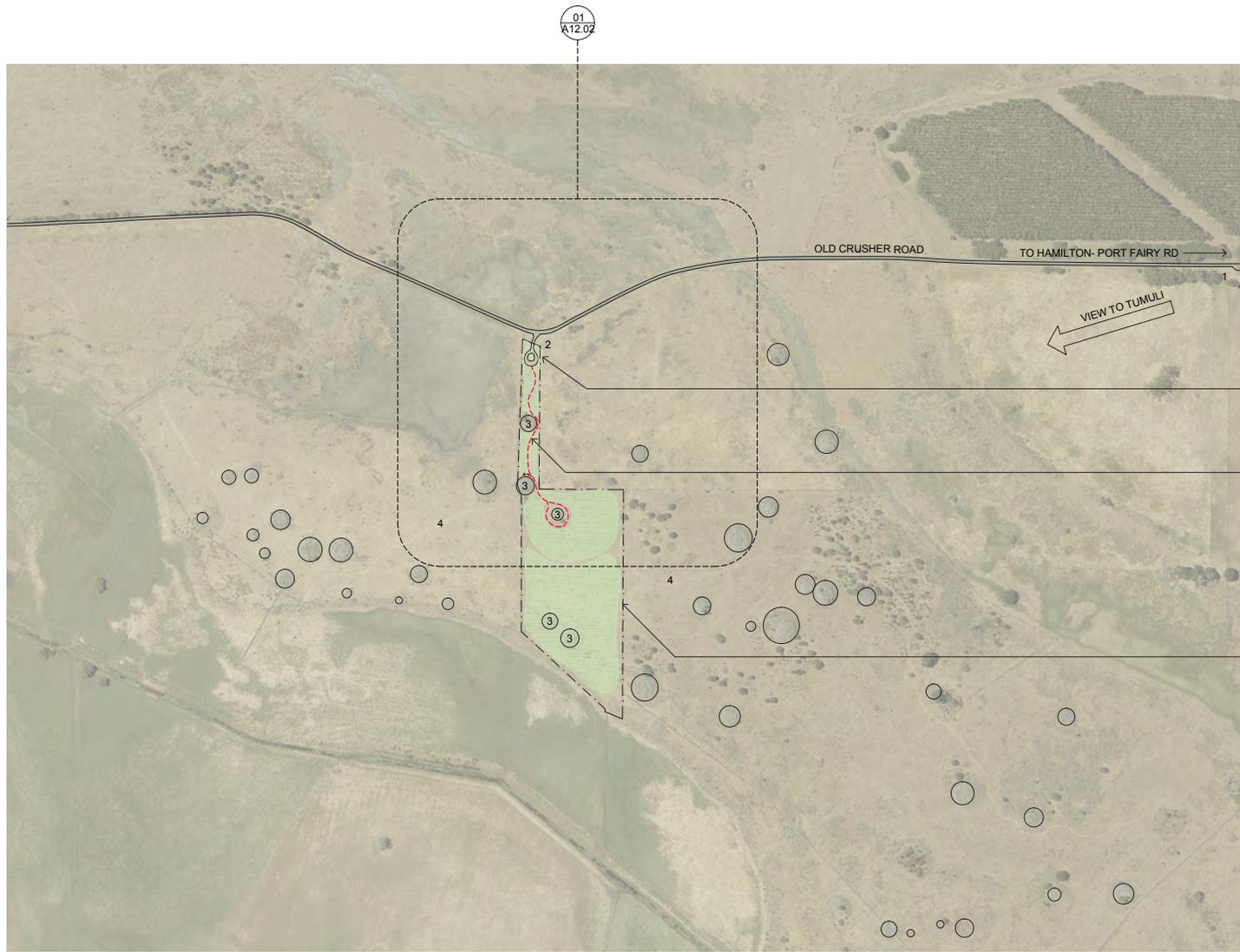
Proposed site plan: HARMAN'S VALLEY LOOKOUT

5.5 Wallacedale Tumuli

Site Development and Infrastructure

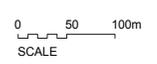
The following scope is included at the Wallacedale Tumuli:

- Installation of a new car park with a turnaround loop suitable for coaches within the site boundary
- Installation of a new walking trail leading from the car park to the first 3 tumuli formations
- Installation of some bench seating at the second tumuli
- Removal of weeds and revegetation with indigenous species throughout the site to out-compete weeds and provide a more natural context for the tumuli
- Upgrade perimeter fencing to prevent entry of livestock and make boundaries clear to visitors
- Provide a small roadside pullout on the crest approaching the tumuli from the east, as an introductory viewing point



- PROVIDE ROADSIDE PULLOUT AND VIEWING AREA ON CREST
- PROVIDE NEW ENTRANCE ROAD WITH CARPARK / TURNAROUND LOOP INSIDE SITE BOUNDARY
- PROVIDE NEW WALKING TRAIL TO FIRST THREE TUMULI
• PROVIDE BENCH SEATING AT SECOND TUMULI
• REMOVE ALL WEED SPECIES AND REVEGETATE WITH INDIGENOUS SPECIES
- UPGRADE BOUNDARY FENCING TO PREVENT ENTRY OF STOCK AND MAKE SITE BOUNDARIES CLEAR TO VISITORS

- LEGEND:**
- 1 CREST (OLD CRUSHER RD)
 - 2 UPGRADED ENTRANCE & NEW CARPARK
 - 3 TUMULI
 - 4 ADJOINING FARMLAND



Proposed site plan: TUMULI (Old Crusher Rd)

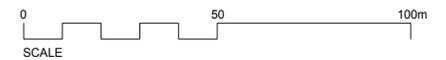
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					Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING		File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP				Sheet Title	PROPOSED SITE PLAN: TUMULI (OLD CRUSHER RD)				



- LEGEND:**
- 1 NEW ENTRANCE / LOOP ROAD & CARPARK
 - 2 TUMULI
 - 3 BENCH SEATS

--- NEW WALKING TRAIL

REVEGETATION WITH INDIGENOUS SPECIES



Proposed detail plan: TUMULI (Old Crusher Rd)

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Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL					COOPER SCAIFE ARCHITECTS								
					Project Description + Address					SUITE C, 84 THOMPSON ST, HAMILTON, VIC 3300. T: 03 5572 2505 E: info@cooperscaife.com ABN: 92 123 739 882								
					Project No.	20.07	Date	16.04.2021	Scale	NTS	Drawn	BS	Checked	DC	Drawing No.	A12.02	Revision	-
					Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING			File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP					Sheet Title	PROPOSED DETAIL PLAN: TUMULI (OLD CRUSHER RD)		

Heritage Interpretation

DOMES

The tumuli are the result of lava pushing up through the thin layer of cooling crust to form strange domes of buckled basalt rock. This fragmented rock was ideal building material for the stone houses built and occupied by Aboriginal people for many thousands of years, as well as the source of important creation stories.

Interpretive Themes

- Strange Formations: pressure builds and bursts through the thin crust to form blisters of lava
- Ancient Connections: Aboriginal people would have witnessed this area's volcanic formation some 30,000 years ago, built houses from its stone and sustainably managed the country and its resources.
- Sacred Story: an important creation story is how the Rainbow Serpent's eggs were covered by the Creation Being's blood (the lava) to create the tumuli

Supporting Content Details

Volcanic Formations

- Tumuli are lava blisters caused by lava welled up beneath the surface. As the lava cools to form a thin crust, pressure builds beneath and bursts through to form blisters and house-sized lava mounds.
- The Wallacedale tumuli are unique in Australia and probably rare on a world scale.

Aboriginal Connections

- Aboriginal peoples' most sacred beliefs centre on the Dreaming. At the dawn of creation, it was the ancestor beings – some human, some beast – who brought what was previously barren land to life.
- At nearby Budj Bim, the Dreaming story tells how after the creation of this volcanic landscape, the Rainbow Serpent emerged from Budj Bim's mouth and laid her eggs. She asked Budj Bim to protect her eggs by covering them with his blood (the lava), to be eventually retrieved when Budj Bim shows his face in the landscape again.
- Extensive evidence of stone houses exists in and around the tumuli

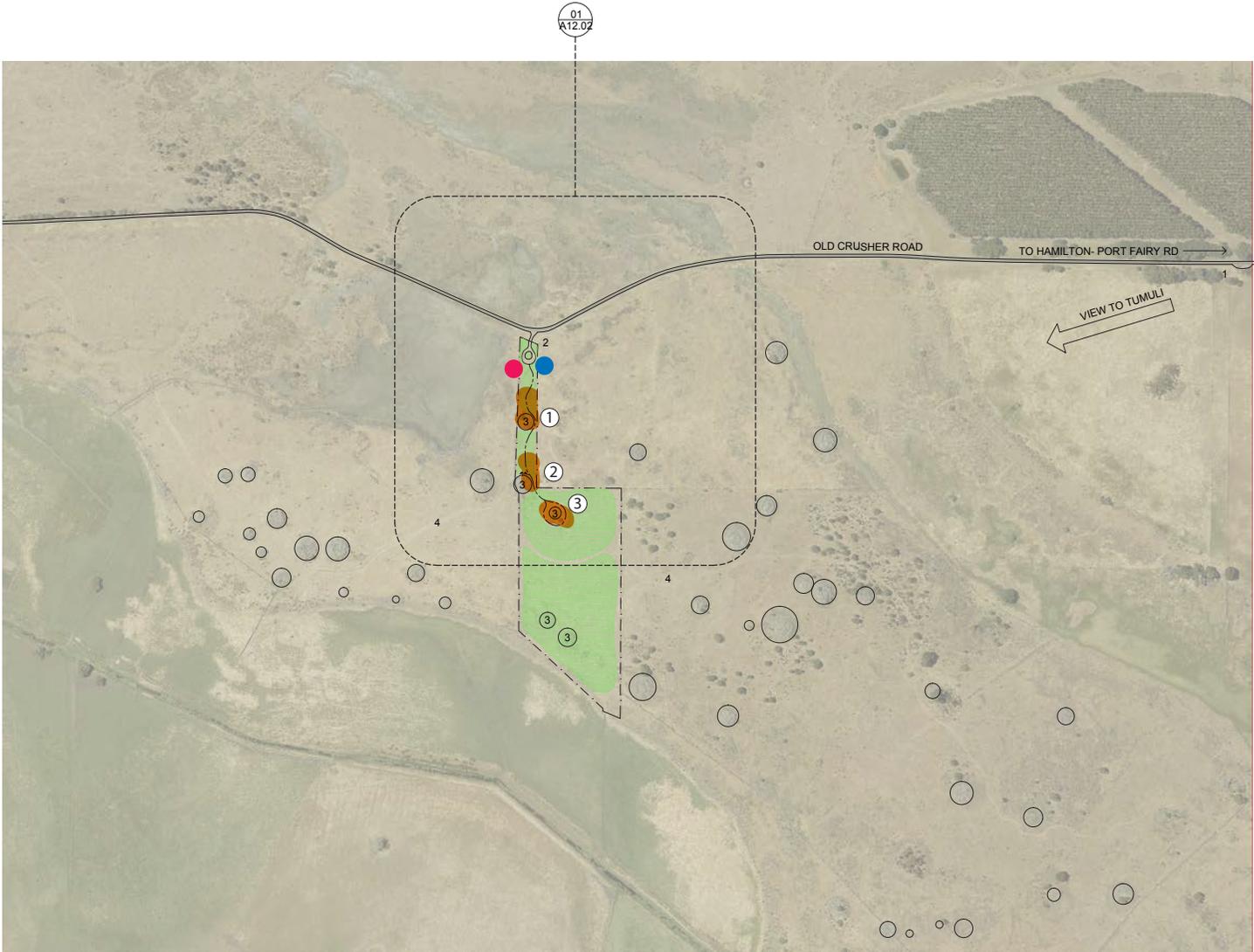
Site Recommendations

Main interpretation elements should include:

- Timber plinth information panel at carpark area, featuring simple inserted text, graphics and map panels
- Timber seating with engraved/ burned text and graphics
- Simple, low key trail signage

Wayfinding at critical decision points should also be provided.

Lens: Domes



- Information point
- Wayfinding point

Themes

- ① Strange formations
- ② Ancient connections
- ③ Sacred story

LEGEND:
 1 CREST (OLD CRUSHER RD)
 2 UPGRADED ENTRANCE & NEW CARPARK
 3 TUMULI
 4 ADJOINING FARMLAND

0 50 100m
 SCALE

Proposed site plan: TUMULI (Old Crusher Rd)

5.6 Mt Napier

Site Development and Infrastructure

Proposals at Tapoc / Mt Napier are divided into three areas: the campsite; the summit; and the extended walk. The following scope is included within each area:

Campground

- Upgrade of the Menzel's Pit Road access track to provide all weather 2WD access to the campground, suitable for coaches and RVs
- Development of a new campsite area on the site of a former scoria quarry
- The campsite would comprise three areas, one campground to cater for groups such as schools or coach tours, a picnic area for day visitors and another campground for independent campers
- The group campsite will include a vehicle access loop, installation of a large cooking shelter with gas BBQs, benches and picnic tables, plus additional picnic tables in the open
- The day visitor area will have a mix of picnic tables and shelters with gas BBQs as well as a designated day visitor parking area
- The independent campsite will include installation of a vehicle access loop, a communal cooking shelter with gas BBQs, benches and picnic tables, plus additional picnic tables in the open
- Installation of a new toilet facilities to serve both the campgrounds and day visitor area
- Installation of new soft landscaping to provide natural edges and buffers between campsites and to revegetate the former quarry

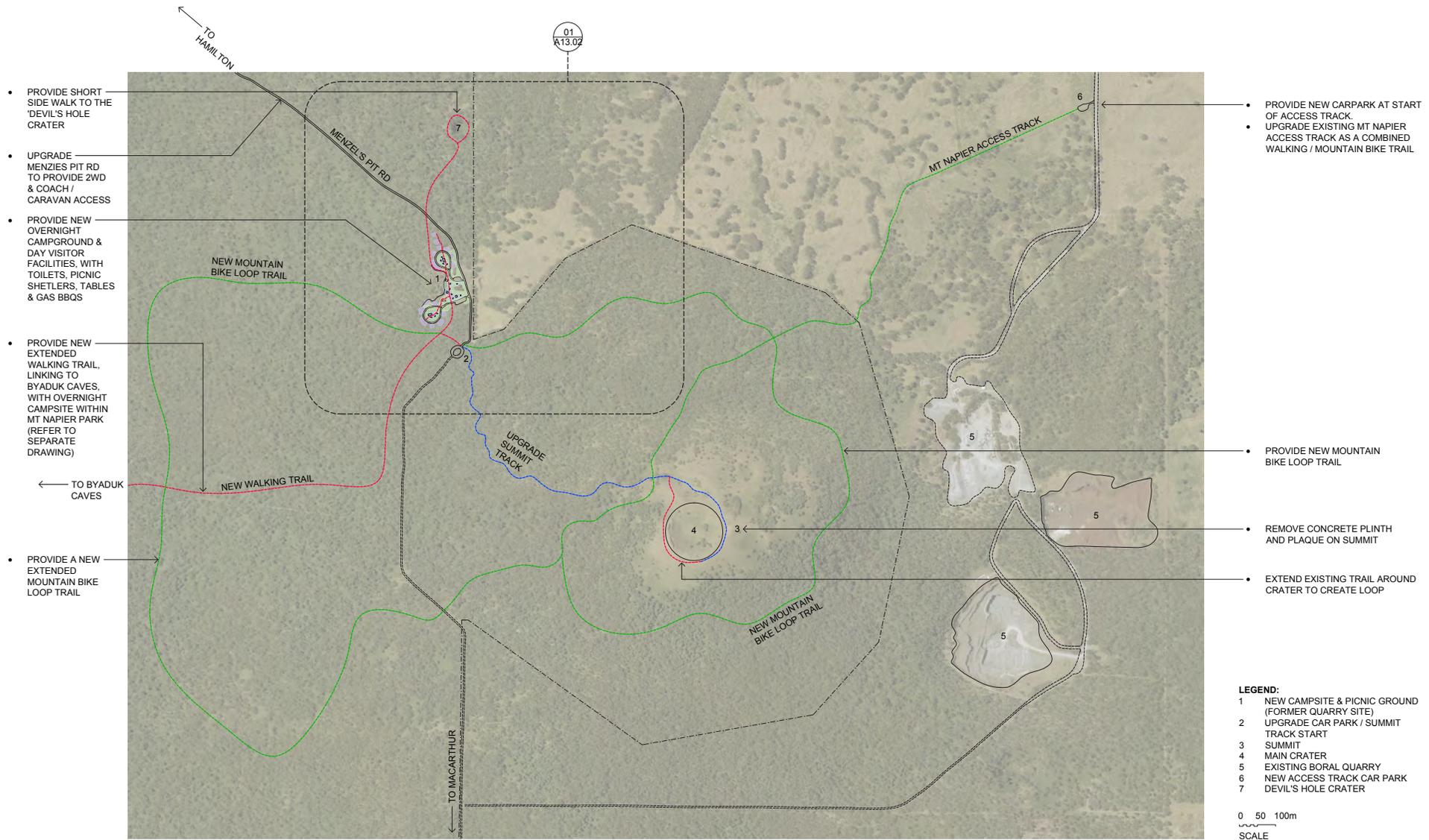
- A new walking trail will lead from the campsite to the Devil's Hole Crater, providing access to another volcanic feature with an easier grade walk than the summit track
- Another new trail will lead southwest from the campsite, forming the start of a new extended walking trail to Byaduk Caves

The Summit

- Upgrade of the carpark at the summit trail head
- Upgrade of the existing summit walking trail, including a new loop track on the summit to circumnavigate the crater
- Removal of the dilapidated concrete plinth and plaque on the summit and replacement with more appropriate interpretations
- Installation of a new mountain bike loop trail traversing the slopes of the mountain and linking to the existing Mt Napier Access Track to the northeast
- Upgrade of the car park at the start of the Mt Napier Access Track, to provide an additional starting point for mountain bike rides or walks into the park

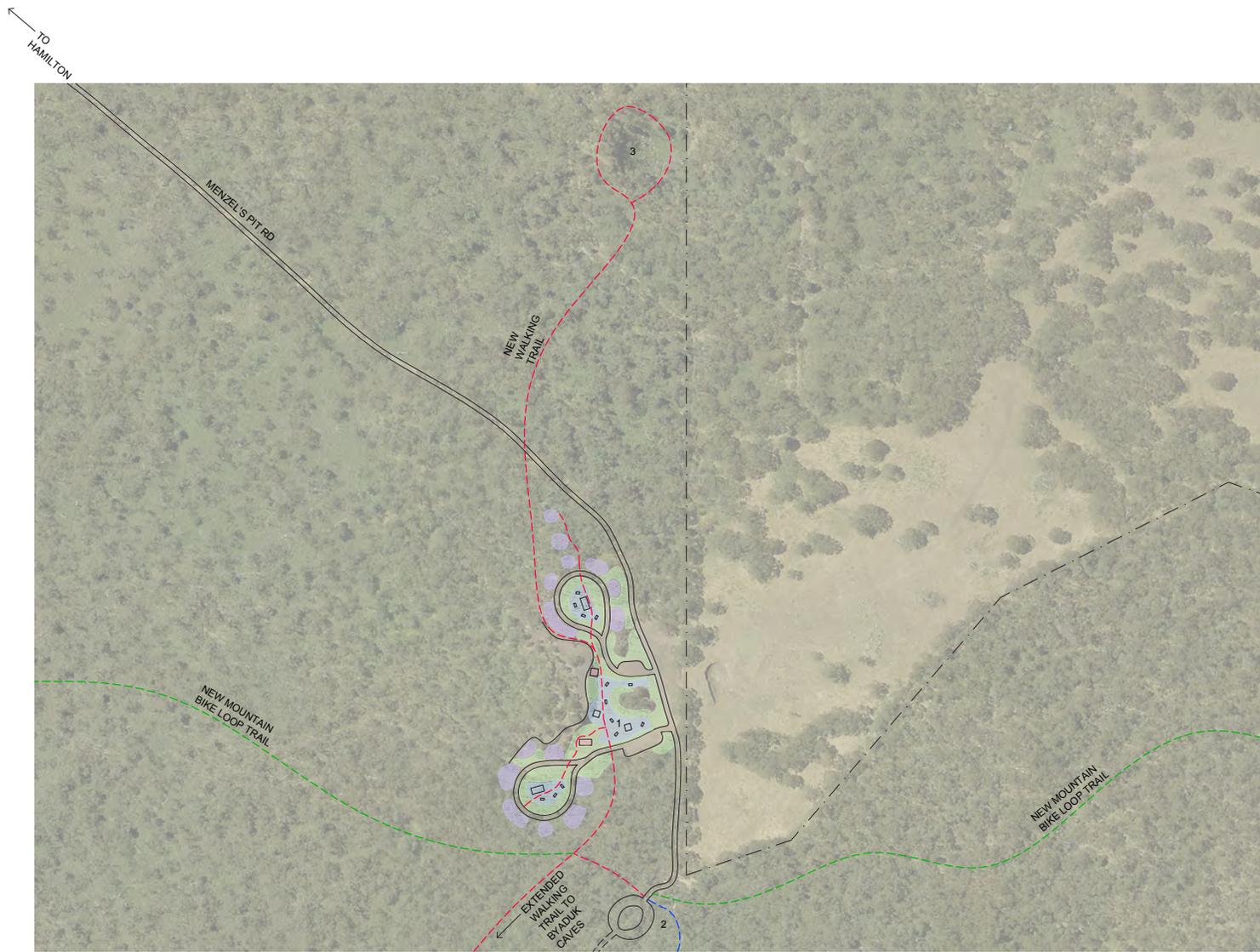
The Extended Walk

- Installation of a new extended walking trail, approximately 12km long to link the Tapoc / Mt Napier campground with the Byaduk Caves
- Installation of a walk-in overnight campsite, with designated camping areas, a toilet and a small cooking shelter with a picnic table



Proposed site plan: TAPOC/MT NAPIER STATE PARK

Revision History					Client		Project Description				Drawing No.		Revision	
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	SOUTHERN GRAMPPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL		VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN				A13.01		-	
					Project Description + Address		Project No. 20.07 Date 16.04.2021 Scale NTS Drawn BS Checked DC				Sheet Title		PROPOSED SITE PLAN: TAPOC / MT NAPIER STATE PARK	
					Project Stage		File C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP							



Proposed detail plan: TAPOC/MT NAPIER STATE PARK

Revision History				
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked

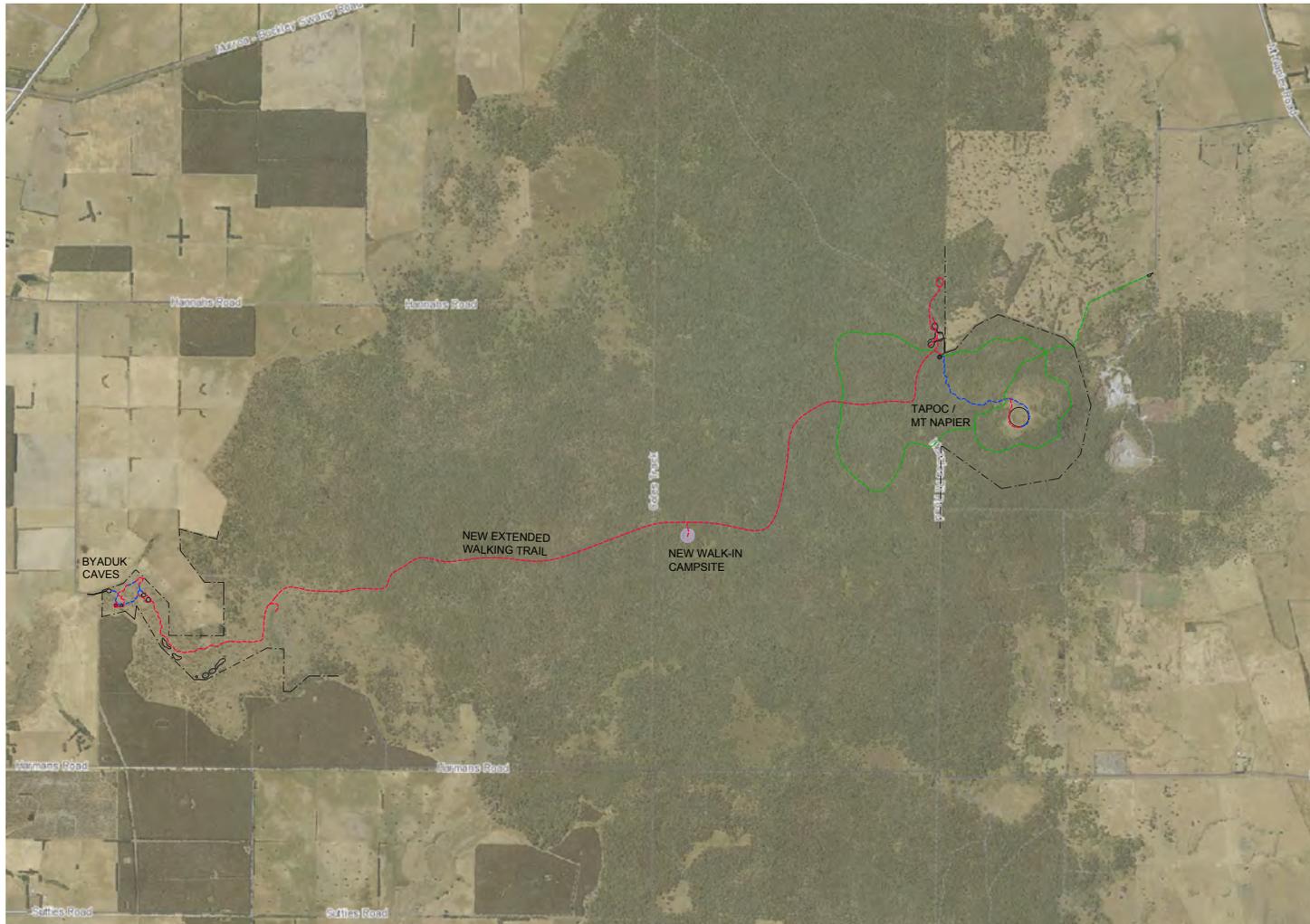
Client	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL				
Project Description + Address	VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN				
Project No.	20.07	Date	16.04.2021	Scale	NTS
Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING	Drawn	BS	Checked	DC
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Drawing No. **A13.02** Revision -

Sheet Title PROPOSED DETAIL PLAN: TAPOC / MT NAPIER STATE PARK



Proposed key plan: BYADUK CAVES to TAPOC/MT NAPIER

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					Project No. 20.07 Date 05.10.2020 Scale NTS Drawn BS Checked DC					Drawing No. A13.03 Revision -	
					Project Stage MASTER PLANNING File C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP					Sheet Title PROPOSED KEY PLAN: BYADUK CAVES TO TAPOC/ MT NAPIER	

Heritage Interpretation

SCORIA

The explosive eruption of Mt Napier created a classic volcano shaped mountain, with scoria covering the earlier lava flows that had extended out across the landscape, blocking rivers and forming extensive swamps and wetlands ... all witnessed by the ancestors of today's Aboriginal communities.

Interpretive Themes

- Violent Birth: this young volcano was formed by molten lava that spread across the land, culminating in a series of violent explosions of molten rock and ash
- Wildlife Refuge: this isolated remnant of grassy woodland provides an important habitat for an abundance of wildlife
- Water and Mud: the blocking of rivers by the lava flows flooded large areas forming extensive areas of swamps and wetlands
- Australia Felix: pastoralists ventured into and claimed western Victoria knew that it was a place of wealth and fortune
- Ancient Connections: Aboriginal people would have witnessed this area's volcanic formation, and sustainably managed the country and its resources

Supporting Content Details

Volcanic Formations

- Mt Napier is one of Australia's youngest volcanoes, erupting approx. 32,000 years ago
- The mountain is a lava shield that was built up from a series of lava flows that ran out from a central molten lava lake. One of these lava flows fed the Harman Valley lava flow.
- The steep central section of the volcano was formed towards the end of the eruption by violent explosions that emitted scoria, forming a series of cones and craters.

Aboriginal Connections

- Mt Napier is called Tapoc by the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners
- Buckley Swamp was formed when Mt Napier blocked a river valley, and at its height covered around three-thousand hectares of land south of Hamilton in western Victoria. The Tapoc gunditj clan, who were Djab wurrung speakers called the volcano Tapoc and the swamp Konungiyoke.
- The swamp caused the first ngamadjidj (white people) to visit the land great difficulties. In 1841, George A. Robinson made a special visit to the swamp to meet the Tapoc gunditj people, who had maintained their village and culture despite the ongoing pastoral invasion. During this time, Robinson noted *"several native wurns (Wuurns) or huts, one 10 feet in diameter". Also, "I counted 13 large huts built in form of a cupola. ... they have the appearance of mounds of earth. They are built of large sticks closely packed together and covered with turf, grass side inwards. There are several*

*variations. Those like a cupola are sometimes double and have two entrances; others again are like a niech. Then there are some made of boughs and grass. And last are the common screens. The permanent huts are those in form of a cupola. Three of these huts had been occupied a day or two previous to my visit. A shield or, in the language of the natives, por.ral, as also a bucket or po.pare.re, and a shield of boughs for catching birds were left at the huts."*¹

- Mt Napier and Byaduk Caves are included in the Ngootyoong Gunditj Mgt Plan as requiring Gunditjmara input in land management and protection of key features.

Indigenous Plants

- Manna Gum dominates the rises with Swamp Gum in the surrounding basalt plains.
- Black wattles, Blackwood and Cherry Ballart are common understorey trees, with shrubs such as Sweet Bursaria, Sticky Boobialla, Kangaroo Apple and Shiny Cassinia.
- Swamps were formed throughout the area when the rivers were dammed by lava flow e.g. Buckley Swamp.

Wildlife

- Common mammal species include Koala, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Black Wallaby, Echidna, Common Brushtail Possum, Sugar Glider, Brown Antechinus, Swamp Rat, Gould's Wattle Bat, Chocolate Wattle Bat, and Lesser Long-eared Bat.
- Common birds include Grey Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Black Falcon, Rose Robin and Satin Flycatcher.
- Feral goats have become established in the area, causing significant damage.

¹ Wilkie B, 2021. Ngamadjidj Encounters with the Tappoc Gunditj, 1836-41

Colonial History

- Major Mitchell was the first European explorer to venture into this country, claiming and naming it as he went. Major Mitchell's men cut down the trees on the summit of Mt Napier in 1836 in order to obtain a clear view of the surrounding country. Subsequent fires have kept the summit clear of trees.
- During his 1836 expedition, Thomas Mitchell first encountered Mount Napier, or Tapoc, on Dhauwurd wurrung country. He wrote that
- *'Trees and bushes grew luxuriantly everywhere.' The next day, he ascended the volcano 'followed by a party of men with axes to clear its summit, at least sufficiently for the purpose of taking angles with the theodolite.'*²
- Mitchell and his expedition encountered many swamps surrounding Mt Napier. They *"could not avoid the passage of various swamps or boggy soft hollows in which the carts and more especially the boat-carriage, notwithstanding the greatest exertions on the part of the men, again sank up to the axles"*.³
- Robinson also wrote that the *'swamp was reported to be of great magnitude ... The country round it was said to be well grassed and fine for cattle.'* Also, at the station there was *'a fine spring, the only water on the creek. The natives, therefore are deprived of their water. A whole village, therefore, have been forced away from their ancient pool.'*⁴

Site Recommendations

Main interpretation elements should include:

- Timber plinth information panel at carpark area, featuring simple inserted text, graphics and map panels
- Timber seating with engraved/ burned text and graphics
- Simple, low key trail signage

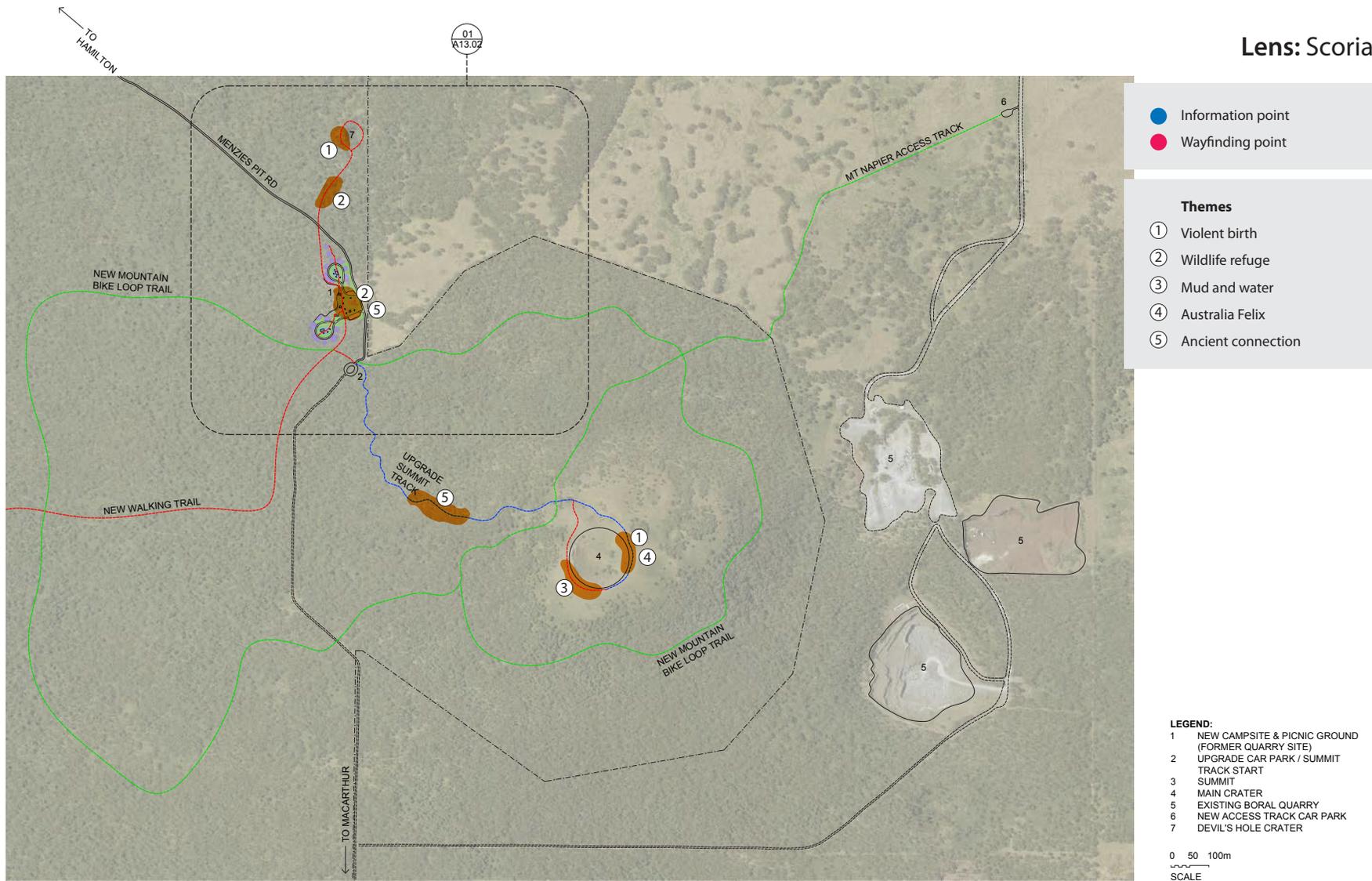
Wayfinding at critical decision points should also be provided.

2 Wilkie B. The Deforestation and Reforestation of Victorian Volcanoes

3 Wilkie B, 2021. Ngamadjidj Encounters with the Tappoc Gunditj, 1836-41

4 Wilkie B, 2021. Ngamadjidj Encounters with the Tappoc Gunditj, 1836-41

Lens: Scoria



Proposed site plan: TAPOC/MT NAPIER STATE PARK

5.7 Mt Rouse

Site Development and Infrastructure

Proposals at Mt Rouse are divided into two areas: the summit / north entry; and the crater / south entry. The following scope is included within each area:

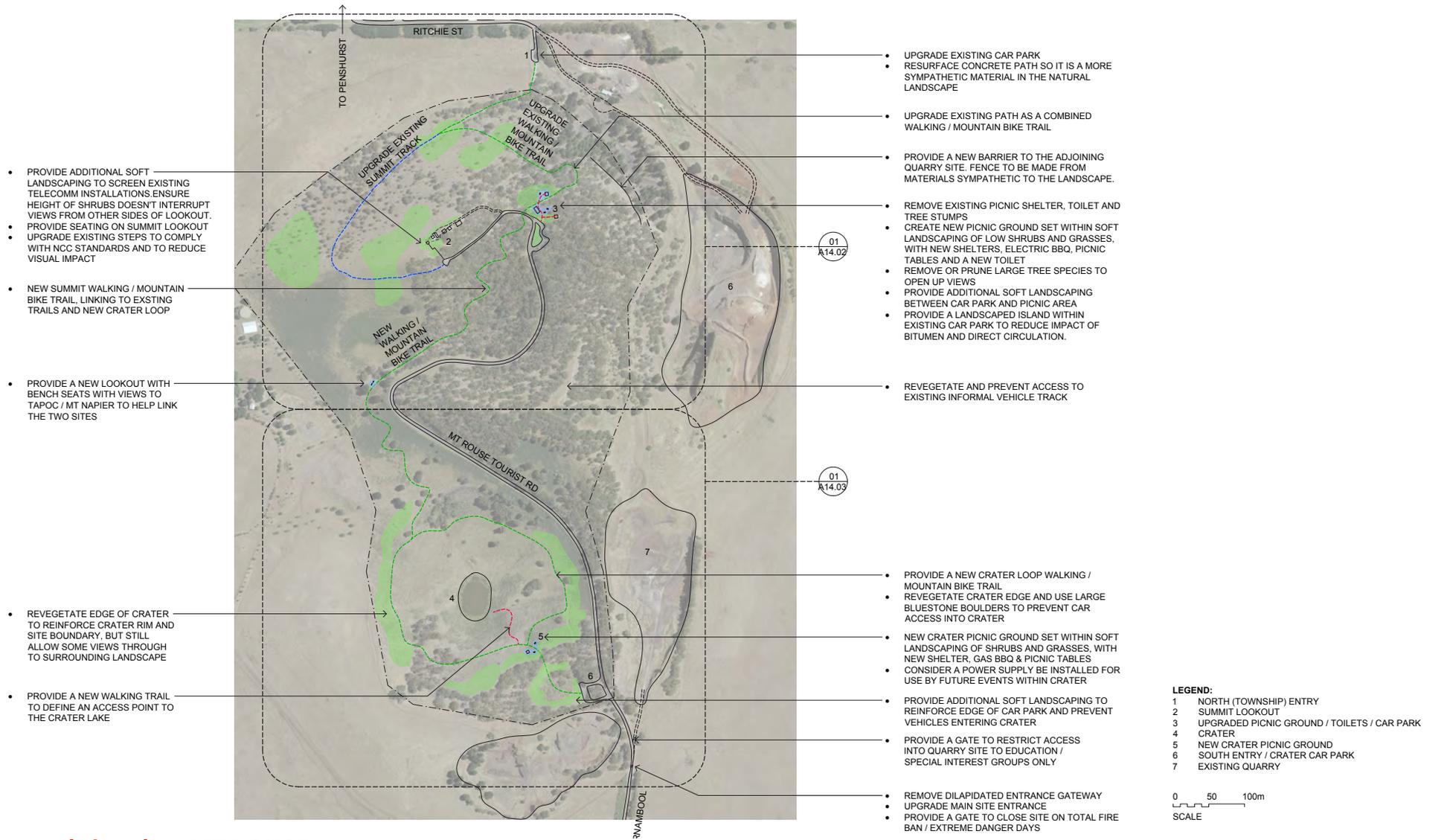
Summit / North Entry

- Removal of the existing picnic shelter, toilet and tree stumps
 - Installation of new picnic facilities, including new shelters with electric BBQs, benches and picnic tables
 - Installation of a new toilet
 - Selectively prune or remove large trees to the north of the picnic ground to open up views to the Grampians
 - Installation of new soft landscaping around the picnic ground and a landscaped island within car park to create a loop and reduce the amount of bitumen surface
 - Installation of a new barrier to the adjoining quarry to the east of the picnic ground, which is sympathetic to the landscape surrounds
 - Upgrade existing car park off Ritchie St to the north of the site
 - Resurface the existing concrete path from this car park to a more sympathetic material
 - Upgrade the existing northeast summit walking trail as a combined walking / mountain bike trail to the picnic ground
 - Upgrade the existing northwest summit walking trail to the steps and lookout
- Upgrade existing summit steps and viewing platform, to reduce visual impact of structure, comply with NCC (National Construction Code) and provide some bench seating
 - Provide additional soft landscaping on the summit around telecommunications installations, to screen these structures as much as possible without obstructing distant views
 - Provide a new combined walking / mountain bike trail on the slope between the picnic ground and the crater, connecting to a new crater loop trail
 - Installation of a bench seat along this new trail with a vantage point to nearby Tapoc / Mt Napier
 - Further revegetation on the slopes of the mountain to build on the previous efforts to return the reserve to its pre-Colonial state

Crater / South Entry

- Installation of a new combined walking / mountain bike trail leading from the existing crater car park to a new picnic area and onto a loop trail circumnavigating the crater
- Installation of a new crater picnic area, including a new shelter with gas BBQ and picnic tables
- Revegetation around the crater rim and installation of barriers (such as volcanic boulders) to prevent vehicle access into the crater
- Installation of new soft landscaping to reinforce the edge of the existing car park and prevent vehicle access off road
- Installation of a gate to restrict access into the former quarry site to special interest and education groups only

- Removal of the dilapidated main entrance gateway
- Installation of a new gate to enable the site to be closed on extreme fire risk days
- Upgrade of main entrance, including new signage



Proposed site plan: MT ROUSE

Revision History				
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked

Client	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL			
Project Description + Address	VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN			
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Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING	Drawn	BS	Checked
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Drawing No. **A14.01** Revision -

Sheet Title **PROPOSED SITE PLAN: MT ROUSE**



- LEGEND:**
- 1 UPGRADED CAR PARK AT NORTH ENTRY
 - 2 UPGRADED SUMMIT LOOKOUT / STEPS
 - 3 UPGRADED PICNIC GROUND / TOILETS / CAR PARK
 - 4 EXISTING QUARRY
 - 5 NEW LOOKOUT TO TAPOC / MT NAPIER

- NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL
- NEW WALKING TRAIL
- UPGRADE EXISTING WALKING TRAIL
- NEW TOILETS
- NEW SOFT LANDSCAPING / REVEGETATION. SMALLER SHRUBS & GRASSES AROUND PICNIC GROUND & LOOKOUTS, SHRUBS MIXED WITH TREES ON SLOPES
- NEW PICNIC AREA WITH PICNIC TABLES, COOKING SHELTER WITH ELECTRIC BBQS & BENCH SEATING

0 50 100m
SCALE

Proposed site plan: MT ROUSE summit

Revision History		Client	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL					© COPYRIGHT / MORAL RIGHTS PROTECTED		COOPER SCAIFE ARCHITECTS						
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	Project Description + Address			SUIITE C, 84 THOMPSON ST, HAMILTON, VIC 3300. T: 03 5572 2505 E: info@cooperscaife.com ABN: 92 123 739 882		Drawing No.	Revision					
					Project No.	20.07	Date	05.10.2020	Scale	NTS	Drawn	BS	Checked	DC	A14.02	-
					Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING		File	C:\CS PROJECTS\2007_SGSC Volcanic Trail MP			Sheet Title	PROPOSED SITE PLAN: MT ROUSE SUMMIT			



- LEGEND:**
- 1 CAR PARK AT SOUTH ENTRY / CRATER
 - 2 NEW CRATER PICNIC GROUND
 - 3 CRATER
 - 4 EXISTING QUARRY
 - 5 NEW LOOKOUT TO TAPOC / MT NAPIER

--- NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

--- NEW WALKING TRAIL

--- UPGRADE EXISTING WALKING TRAIL

NEW TOILETS

NEW SOFT LANDSCAPING / REVEGETATION. SMALLER SHRUBS & GRASSES AROUND PICNIC GROUND & LOOKOUTS, SHRUBS MIXED WITH TREES ON SLOPES

NEW PICNIC AREA WITH PICNIC TABLES, COOKING SHELTER WITH GAS BBQ & BENCH SEATING

0 50 100m
SCALE

Proposed site plan: MT ROUSE crater

Revision History					
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	

Client	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL				
Project Description + Address	VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN				
Project No.	20.07	Date	05.10.2020	Scale	NTS
Project Stage	MASTER PLANNING		Drawn	BS	Checked DC
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Drawing No. **A14.03** Revision -

Sheet Title **PROPOSED SITE PLAN: MT ROUSE CRATER**

Heritage Interpretation

OCHRE

Mount Rouse is the dominant landform, and its red, brown and grey scoria is the basis for all life in the local area. The rich soils it created provide nutrients for the bush, and the wildlife habitat it creates. And the scoria was traditionally used as ochre by Aboriginal people, used in ceremonies and trade.

Interpretive Themes

- Forces of Nature: the formation of Mt Rouse was explosive, spectacular and brief, with dramatic results on the surrounding landscape
- From the Earth: ochre was one of the many resources that this volcanic landscape provided and was quarried.
- Wildlife Refuge: this small area of grassy woodland in an ocean of pasture provides important habitat for a wealth of plants and animals
- Cleared for Grazing: early settlers cleared much of the land for grazing with major consequences for the land and the wildlife, requiring more recent revegetation work
- Caring for Country: cultural connections and traditional land management practices ensured the health of this country
- Missions and Reserves: the dispossession of Aboriginal people from their land had dire consequences for both the people and the land

Supporting Content Details

Volcanic Formations

- Mt Rouse's scoria rock was formed by a lava fountain, which then formed as loose scoria when it fell back down. The base of the scoria cone at the main crater and lake, is overlapped by a much later final lava flow from the crater adjacent to the summit.
- Basalt located within the scoria cone of Mount Rouse has been dated to approximately 1.8 million years while lava flow from Mount Rouse located at Port Fairy has been dated at approximately 0.3 to 0.45 million years.¹
- Mount Rouse is the largest volcano in the region, with its lava flow extending for approx. 60km to the coast at Port Fairy.
- Beneath the hardened and insulating crust, tubes of molten lava in places burst up through crust to form the landscape known as the Stony Rises.
- "It is the only known location in the world featuring a volcanic surge deposit that also contains Pele's Hairs and Tears. These are very fragile and would normally be broken up in a surge deposit, which is a turbulent mixture of ash and gases. This 2 metre deposit is only found in the Old Railway Quarry directly beneath the lava flow."²
- The volcanic scoria has been used by both Aboriginal people for ochre, and non-Aboriginal people in more recent times as it was quarried for road building

Aboriginal Connections

- Mount Rouse is on the land of the Kolorer gunditj, who were Djabwurrung speakers. This name means 'belonging to Kolorer'
- The Djabwurrung name for Mount Rouse is 'kolor', and is also the name of 'the lava stone used for rubbing ochre'³
- The Stony Rises were known as Kurt baulen meaning 'islands of stone' and Kullorr maleen meaning 'lava islands'.
- The Mount Rouse Aboriginal Protectorate Station was established in 1842 in order to 'protect' the Aboriginal people from the brutal actions of the squatters. This was established at the base of Mt Rouse at a traditional meeting place and permanent spring. Cultural insensitivities led to the eventual closure of the Station in 1852, with the remaining government buildings used as the basis for the town of Penhurst.⁴
- Eastern Maar has lodged a threshold statement seeking negotiation with the State of Victoria under the Traditional Owners Settlement Act 2010 with the area of claim encompassing the reserve. They have also recently completed a Country Plan which outlines their interest in managing country.⁵

1 Mt Rouse Reserve Management Plan pg9

2 Mt Rouse Reserve Management Plan pg9

3 Wilkie B. Volcanism in Australian Aboriginal oral traditions pg4

4 http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/places/result_detail/23746?print=true

5 Mt Rouse Reserve Management Plan pg8

Indigenous Plants

- Mount Rouse is a designated public reserve and has undergone extensive revegetation since the 1960s.
- The mountain's slopes were once 'lightly wooded' which was cleared and grazed by colonial pastoralists. They were later planted with Monterey Pines and buffalo grass, but erosion continued, and by the early twentieth century, Mount Rouse was almost completely denuded.
- Since the 1960s, revegetation programs have resulted in the return of woodland vegetation including drooping she-oaks, blackwoods, silver wattles, and manna gums, with an understorey of bracken, herbs and tussock grasses. ⁶

Wildlife

- Common wildlife species include echidna, kangaroo, wallaby, possum, Tiger Snake and Koala. Peregrine Falcons are also commonly seen. ⁷

Site Recommendations

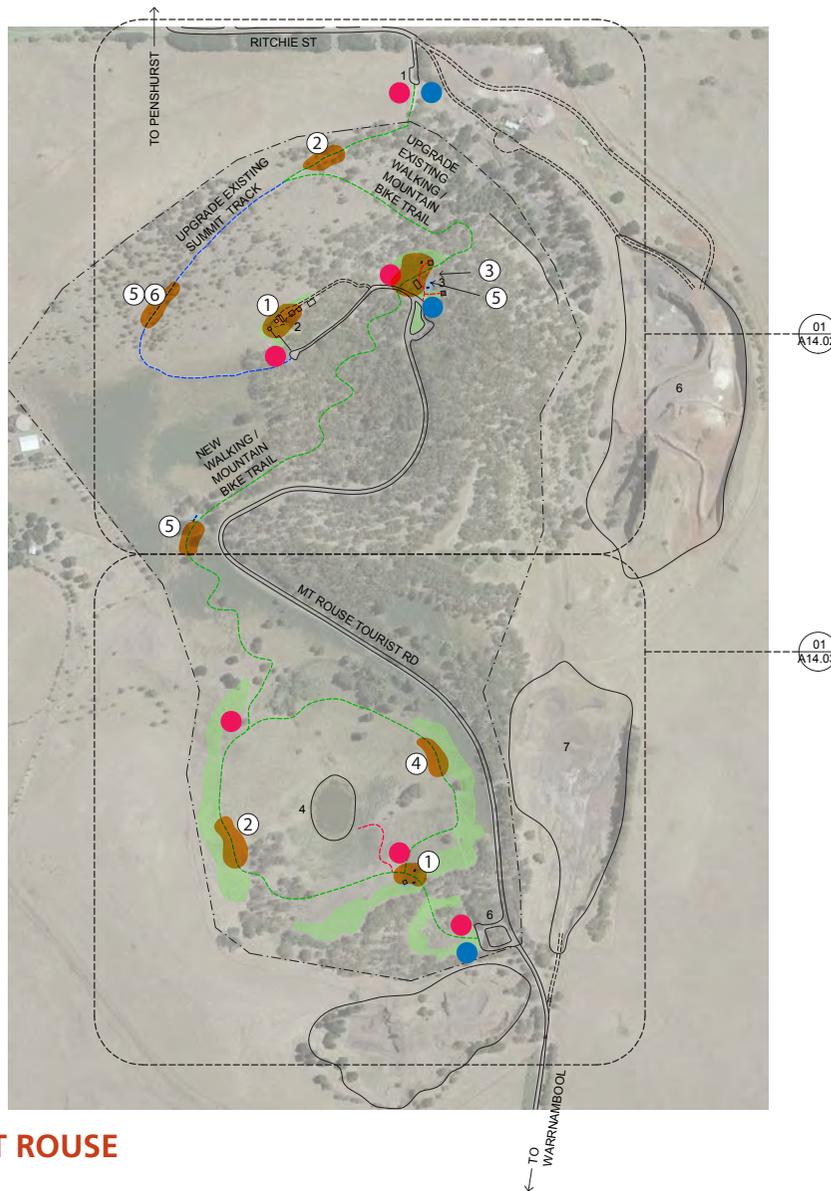
Main interpretation elements should include:

- Timber plinth information panel at the main carpark areas, featuring simple inserted text, graphics and map panels
- Timber seating with engraved/ burned text and graphics
- Simple balustrade/ handrail signage at the summit lookout
- Simple, low key trail signage

Wayfinding at critical decision points should also be provided.

6 Wilkie B. Deforestation and Reforestation of Victorian Volcanoes

7 Mt Rouse Reserve Management Plan



Lens: Ochre

- Information point
- Wayfinding point

Themes

- ① Forces of nature
- ② From the earth
- ③ Wildlife refuge
- ④ Cleared for grazing
- ⑤ Caring for Country
- ⑥ Missions and reserves

- LEGEND:**
- 1 NORTH (TOWNSHIP) ENTRY
 - 2 SUMMIT LOOKOUT
 - 3 UPGRADED PICNIC GROUND / TOILETS / CAR PARK
 - 4 CRATER
 - 5 NEW CRATER PICNIC GROUND
 - 6 SOUTH ENTRY / CRATER CAR PARK
 - 7 EXISTING QUARRY

0 50 100m
SCALE

Proposed site plan: MT ROUSE

6. Cost Plan

A Cost Plan has been developed for the project by WT Partnership, a quantity surveying firm with extensive experience working on similar types of environmental and cultural tourism projects. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$19 million. This estimate has been broken down by site and further divided into sub-areas within each site, to allow maximum flexibility in planning for implementation of the proposals. A full copy of the Cost Plan, with an elemental costing at each site is included in the appendices.

6.1 Summary of Cost Plan

A summary of the cost plan is provided in the table below.

Site / Item	\$ (ex GST)
Wannon Falls	2,680,000
Nigretta Falls	2,533,000
Byaduk Caves	1,603,000
Harman's Valley	147,000
Wallacedale Tumuli	595,000
Mt Napier	3,959,000
Mt Rouse	2,082,000
Extended Walk – Nigretta Falls to Wannon Falls	817,000
Extended Walk – Mt Napier to Byaduk Caves	1,237,000
Other (Wayfinding / Website Creation)	143,000
Subtotal	15,796,000
Consultants Fees (for all sites) [see 6.3]	3,160,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	18,956,000

6.2 Limitations of the Cost Plan

The full details of assumptions and exclusions are listed in the detailed Cost Plan, included in the Appendices.

It is important to be aware that the costings are based on current day rates and no allowance has been made for escalation because at this early stage, the implementation date is unknown. We therefore recommend that Council obtain a review of the cost plan from the same quantity surveyors once funding becomes available, to adjust the estimate to reflect the rates at the time the works will be undertaken.

Council should also be aware that the cost plan makes many assumptions about the nature of both the site conditions and the proposed works, as the master plan designs do not contain detailed information about proposals. We therefore recommend obtaining further cost plans at subsequent design stages, including concept design, design development and pre-tender.

6.3 Consultants Fees

The allowance for consultant fees includes the detailed design of infrastructure and interpretations at all seven sites including project management fees during construction. Based on previous experience on similar projects we anticipate that the consultants needed to undertake these next stages of work would include: an architect, interpretive designer, graphic designer, website designer, quantity surveyor, archaeologist (CHMP), ecologist (environmental assessments), land surveyor, building surveyor, landscape architect, structural, civil engineers, electrical and hydraulic engineers, DDA consultant, bushfire management consultant and a project manager.

7. Recommendations

The Volcanic Trail master plan sets out a strategic direction for the development of a high-quality visitor experience that capitalises on both the natural and cultural values of the Southern Grampians Shire. Our community consultation revealed the significant untapped potential of these sites, coupled with a strong desire to see them developed appropriately and maintained to a much higher standard. The master plan therefore proposes a wide range of activities and engaging interpretive content that will appeal to local, interstate and international visitors. Importantly, these new facilities will also provide high quality recreation opportunities for local residents of the shire.

To implement the master plan, we recommend that Council establish priorities for both short and long-term projects and set a timeframe for them to be undertaken. This will guide the allocation of funds in future budgets and direct campaigns to obtain the substantial funding necessary to pursue the large-scale proposals contained in the plan.

The design team recognises that the masterplan is likely to be undertaken in a number of stages and therefore priority projects need to be identified within the overall scope. Where funding is limited, we strongly recommend undertaking the full scope of works proposed at a select number of sites, rather than a piecemeal approach where small parts of the design proposals for all seven sites are undertaken and the impact of the improvements are lost or confused by the existing infrastructure that still surrounds it.

It is also recommended that a signage manual/ style guide be developed including an associated branding strategy to ensure that all the reserves across the Shire present a consistent and well designed suite of signage elements.

The criteria used for these recommendations are:

- existing and potential visitations
- site suitability for the potential for increased numbers
- relative ease/ straight forward nature of implementing the recommendations
- the level of risk posed to the public at each site in its current state.

Lower priority sites are based on an assessment of relative difficulty to access, sensitivity to visitor impact and requiring a larger degree of base works with other organisations (ie PV).

Priority sites that have been identified for early implementation are:

- **Nigretta Falls**
- **Wannon Falls**
- **Harman's Valley**
- **Mount Rouse**
- **Byaduk Caves**

Sites / projects that will require a longer design and consultation process in order to proceed are:

- **Mt Napier**
- **Extended walks (Nigretta to Wannon and Mt Napier to Byaduk Caves)**
- **Wallacedale Tumuli**

Further consultation and engagement with Traditional Owners is essential, to ensure they are involved in, and can gain tangible economic and social benefits from, any tourism that is based on the sharing of their culture. Negotiations will also be important with key stakeholders, particularly on those properties that are owned or managed by other government bodies, such as Mt Napier, Wallacedale Tumuli and Byaduk Caves. The formation of strong partnerships with Parks Victoria and DEWLP will be essential to successfully implementing the masterplan proposals on these sites.

Once Council is in a position to proceed with implementation of the plan, we recommend that a detailed design process be undertaken for the physical infrastructure, landscape and interpretations. This is critical to ensure the built outcome achieves the level of quality needed to match other similar attractions in the region and appeal to the intended target markets. A thorough design and documentation phase will also enable Council to obtain the best value for money, allowing a competitive tender process for the construction works. As previously mentioned, reviews of the cost planning should be undertaken at key milestones throughout the design process to ensure that the project can be delivered within budget.

The Volcanic Trail master plan is an ambitious proposal that requires significant commitment at all levels of government and from the many stakeholders involved, in order to be fully realized. If implemented successfully, it has the potential to become a significant new tourist attraction in the region and deliver a 'triple bottom line' of economic, environmental and socially sustainable development for the residents of the Southern Grampians Shire.

8. References

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9. Appendices

9.1 Cost Plan

ESTIMATE SUMMARY						
PR-010869 - Volcanic Trail Masterplan			Job No: PR-010869			
Masterplan Estimate No. 1			Cost Base Date: GFA (m2): 0.00			
Date Printed: 5/07/2021						
Section	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Cost (\$)		
1	Estimate Criteria					
<u>SITE 1 - WANNON FALLS</u>						
2	Wannon Falls - Riverside					754,825
3	Wannon Falls - Campground					635,315
4	Wannon Falls - Thomas Clarke Lookout					494,355
5	Preliminaries and Margin	%	17.5	1,884,495	329,787	
6	Design Development Contingency	%	10	2,214,282	221,429	
7	Construction Contingency	%	10	2,435,711	244,289	
Subtotal - Wannon Falls					2,680,000	
<u>SITE 2 - NIGRETТА FALLS</u>						
8	Nigretta Falls - Main Loop/Lookout					1,397,750
9	Nigretta Falls - Riverside					383,455
10	Preliminaries and Margin	%	17.5	1,781,205	311,711	
11	Design Development Contingency	%	10	2,092,916	209,292	
12	Construction Contingency	%	10	2,302,208	230,792	
Subtotal - Nigretta Falls					2,533,000	
<u>SITE 3 - BYADUK CAVES</u>						
13	Byaduk Caves - Caves 1-4 Loop					1,018,390
14	Byaduk Caves - Extended Walk					109,050
15	Preliminaries and Margin	%	17.5	1,127,440	197,302	
16	Design Development Contingency	%	10	1,324,742	132,475	
17	Construction Contingency	%	10	1,457,217	145,783	
Subtotal - Byaduk Caves					1,603,000	
<u>SITE 4 - HARMANS VALLEY</u>						
18	Harmans Valley Lookout - Construction Works					102,755
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ESTIMATE SUMMARY						
PR-010869 - Volcanic Trail Masterplan			Job No: PR-010869			
Masterplan Estimate No. 1			Cost Base Date: GFA (m2): 0.00			
Date Printed: 5/07/2021						
Section	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Cost (\$)		
19	Preliminaries and Margin	%	17.5	102,755	17,983	
20	Design Development Contingency	%	10	120,738	12,074	
21	Construction Contingency	%	10	132,812	14,188	
Subtotal - Harmans Valley					147,000	
<u>SITE 5 - TUMULI</u>						
22	Tumuli - Construction Works					418,238
23	Preliminaries and Margin	%	17.5	418,238	73,192	
24	Design Development Contingency	%	10	491,430	49,143	
25	Construction Contingency	%	10	540,573	54,427	
Subtotal - Tumuli					595,000	
<u>SITE 6 - TAPOC/MT NAPIER</u>						
26	Mt Napier - Main Campground					2,133,335
27	Mt Napier - Summit					650,870
28	Preliminaries and Margin	%	17.5	2,784,205	487,236	
29	Design Development Contingency	%	10	3,271,441	327,145	
30	Construction Contingency	%	10	3,598,586	360,414	
Subtotal - Tapoc/Mt Napier					3,959,000	
<u>SITE 7 - MT ROUSE</u>						
31	Mt Rouse - Summit/Picnic Ground					1,040,780
32	Mt Rouse - Crater					423,370
33	Preliminaries and Margin	%	17.5	1,464,150	256,227	
34	Design Development Contingency	%	10	1,720,377	172,038	
35	Construction Contingency	%	10	1,892,415	189,585	
Subtotal - Mt Rouse					2,082,000	
<u>OTHER - NIGRETТА FALLS EXTENDED WALK</u>						
PR-010869 - Volcanic Trail Masterplan			WT Partnership Summary 2			

ESTIMATE SUMMARY



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Date Printed: 5/07/2021

Section	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Cost (\$)
36	Nigretta Falls - Extended Walk			574,140
37	Preliminaries and Margin	%	17.5	574,140
38	Design Development Contingency	%	10	674,615
39	Construction Contingency	%	10	742,077
	Subtotal - Nigretta Falls Extended Walk			817,000
	<u>OTHER - TAPOC/MT NAPIER - EXTENDED WALK</u>			
40	Mt Napier - Walk-In Camp Ground			869,820
41	Preliminaries and Margin	%	17.5	869,820
42	Design Development Contingency	%	10	1,022,039
43	Construction Contingency	%	10	1,124,243
	Subtotal - Tapoc/Mt Napier Extended Walk			1,237,000
	<u>OTHER</u>			
44	Wayfinding allowance between sites			50,000
45	Website creation and content			50,000
46	Preliminaries and Margin	%	17.5	100,000
47	Design Development Contingency	%	10	117,500
48	Construction Contingency	%	10	129,250
	Subtotal - Other			100,000
	TOTAL			15,796,000
49	Consultants Fees	%	20	15,796,000
	TOTAL PROJECT COST (Excl GST)			18,956,000

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Summary 3

ESTIMATE DETAIL



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Masterplan Estimate No. 1

Job No: PR-010869
Cost Base Date:
GFA (m2): 0.00

Date Printed: 5/07/2021

Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
1	Estimate Criteria				
1.1	This estimate has been prepared for the Southern Grampians Shire				
1.2	The project comprises the development of 7 No. sites surrounding Hamilton to form the Volcanic Trail				
1.3	This estimate has been based on the following information: <u>Cooper Scaife Architects Drawings received 24 May 2021:</u>				
1.4	- A8.00/- Aerial View: All Sites				
1.5	- A20.01/- Valuable Natural Assets				
1.6	- A20.02/- Design Principles				
1.7	- A20.03/- Design Principles				
1.8	- A20.04/- Design Principles				
1.9	- A20.05/- Design Principles				
1.10	- A20.06/- Design Principles				
1.11	- A8.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Wannon Falls				
1.12	- A8.02/- Proposed Site Plan: Wannon Falls (Lookout/Camp)				
1.13	- A8.03/- Proposed Site Plan: Wannon Falls (Entrance/Camp)				
1.14	- A8.04/- Proposed Site Plan: Wannon Falls (Thomas Clark)				
1.15	- A9.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Nigretta Falls				
1.16	- A9.02/- Proposed Site Plan: Nigretta Falls (Detail)				
1.17	- A9.03/- Proposed Site Plan: Wannon to Nigretta Falls				
1.18	- A10.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Byaduk Caves National Park				
1.19	- A10.02/- Proposed Site Plan: Byaduk Caves National Park				

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ESTIMATE DETAIL



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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
1	Estimate Criteria				<i>(Continued)</i>
1.20	- A11.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Harmans Valley Lookout				
1.21	- A12.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Tumuli (Old Crushers Rd)				
1.22	- A12.02/- Proposed Site Plan: Tumuli (Old Crushers Rd)				
1.23	- A13.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Tapoc/Mt Napier State Park				
1.24	- A13.02/- Proposed Site Plan: Tapoc/Mt Napier State Park				
1.25	- A13.03/- Proposed Key Plan: Byaduk Caves to Tapoc/Mt Napier				
1.26	- A14.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Mt Rouse				
1.27	- A14.02/- Proposed Site Plan: Mt Rouse				
1.28	- A14.03/- Proposed Site Plan: Mt Rouse Crater				
	<u>Cooper Scaife Architects Interpretative Plans received May 2021:</u>				
1.29	- A8.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Wannon Falls				
1.30	- A9.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Nigretta Falls				
1.31	- A10.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Byaduk Caves National Park				
1.32	- A10.02/- Proposed Site Plan: Byaduk Caves National Park				
1.33	- A11.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Harmans Valley Lookout				
1.34	- A12.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Tumuli (Old Crushers Rd)				
1.35	- A12.02/- Proposed Site Plan: Tumuli (Old Crushers Rd)				
1.36	- A13.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Tapoc/Mt Napier State Park				
1.37	- A13.02/- Proposed Site Plan: Tapoc/Mt Napier State Park				
1.38	- A14.01/- Proposed Site Plan: Mt Rouse				

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
1	Estimate Criteria				<i>(Continued)</i>
1.39	- Information Sign 3D indicative dwg				
1.40	- Lookout Sign 3D indicative dwg				
1.41	- Seating 3D indicative dwg				
1.42	- Trail Signage 3D indicative dwg				
1.43	- Research and Inspiration 3D indicative dwg				
	EXCLUSIONS				
1.44	- Archeological assessments or excavations				
1.45	- Abnormal or unforeseen ground conditions				
1.46	- Removal and treatment of hazardous and contaminated materials and site remediation				
1.47	- Land aquisition				
1.48	- Net gain offset costs for removal of native vegetation				
1.49	- Negotiated Contract/Construction Management				
1.50	- Staged Construction				
1.51	- Out of hours works/out of sequence works				
1.52	- Works beyond a 5 day work week				
1.53	- Cost Escalation beyond current day costs at July 2021				
1.54	- Client Project Contingency				
1.55	- Legal and marketing costs				
1.56	- Headworks fees and charges				
1.57	- Delay and prolongation allowances due to COVID-19				
1.58	- GST				

ESTIMATE DETAIL



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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
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1 Estimate Criteria (Continued)

Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
<u>COVID-19</u>					
1.59	This cost advice does not make allowance for costs or additional time that may occur as a result of increased or new restrictions introduced by Authorities due to COVID-19. The implications that may result from COVID-19 restrictions include, but are not limited to:				
1.60	- Costs arising from delays in the delivery or installation of plant and materials				
1.61	- Increased costs relating to substitution of plant or materials required for the project due to shortages or delivery issues in Australia or overseas				
1.62	- A reduction in productivity due to a direction of any Government or Authority as a result of COVID-19				
1.63	WT recommends a periodic review of this estimate to adjust as appropriate, for any ongoing implications of COVID-19 restrictions and consequential impacts on the construction market				

2 Wannon Falls – Riverside

Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
<u>MAIN WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A8.01 - 'Wannon Falls Proposed Site Plan' Note & A8.02 - 'Wannon Falls (Lookout/Camp)'</i>					
2.1	Electrical Supply to site EXCLUDED	Note			
<u>Civil Works</u>					
2.2	Assume no upgrade works to existing Weir Carpark, Swimming Area and Lookout Carpark	Note			
2.3	Construction of new mountain bike / walking trail from Weir Swimming Area to Glenelg Highway	m	323	55	17,765
2.4	Construction of new walking trail	m	1,310	55	72,050
2.5	Allow to upgrade existing walking trail	m	1,861	35	65,135
<u>Removal Works</u>					
2.6	Remove existing toilet	Item	1	5,000	5,000
2.7	Remove existing picnic shelter	Item	1	1,500	1,500

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
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2 Wannon Falls – Riverside (Continued)

Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
2.8	Remove existing rotunda and associated interpretations	Item	1	2,000	2,000
<u>Construction Works</u>					
2.9	Minor soft landscape clearing to create picnic areas	m2	2,843	5	14,215
2.10	Hardwood timber picnic table with bench seating	No	3	7,000	21,000
2.11	Stone feature bench seat	No	3	10,000	30,000
2.12	Small picnic shelter	No	2	65,000	130,000
2.13	Large picnic shelter	No	1	85,000	85,000
2.14	BBQ - assume gas bottle supply with solar powered ignition	No	3	15,000	45,000
<u>Soft Landscaping</u>					
2.15	Allow for soft landscaping / revegetation of smaller shrubs and grasses	m2	5,558	20	111,160
<u>Existing Lookout</u>					
2.16	QS assume Existing Lookout Area: approx. 49m2	Note			
2.17	Footings and subfloor structure to be retained - QS assume allowance for protection and minor make good works	Item	1		
2.18	Allow for the sustainable refurbishment of existing lookout - floor and balustrades completely replaced	Item	1	100,000	100,000
<u>INTERPRETIVE WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A8.01 - 'Wannon Falls Site Plan - Interpretive'</i>					
<u>Information & Wayfinding Signs</u>					
2.19	Allow for information and wayfinding signage - WT assume large timber plinths with wrap around panels featuring key visitor information, maps and wayfinding information	Note			
2.20	Wayfinding Point	No	3	5,000	15,000

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
2 Wannon Falls – Riverside (Continued)					
<u>Themed Zones</u>					
2.21	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	8	5,000	40,000

754,825

3 Wannon Falls – Campground

Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
<u>MAIN WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A8.03 - 'Wannon Falls (Entrance/Camp)' Note</i>					
<u>Civil Works</u>					
3.1	New walking trails and upgrade works to existing walking trails all measured at 'Wannon Falls - Riverside'	Note			
<u>Removal Works</u>					
3.2	Remove existing toilet	Item	1	5,000	5,000
3.3	Remove existing signage and picnic tables	Item	1	2,500	2,500
<u>Construction Works</u>					
3.4	Minor soft landscape clearing to create picnic areas	m2	1,366	5	6,830
3.5	Allow to redevelop camp site to provide clearer edges and prevent 'creep'	m2	1,141	25	28,525
3.6	Hardwood timber picnic table with bench seating	No	6	7,000	42,000
3.7	Small picnic shelter	No	2	65,000	130,000
3.8	Large composite toilet facility and services	Item	1	250,000	250,000
3.9	BBQ - assume gas bottle supply with solar powered ignition	No	3	15,000	45,000
3.10	Budget allowance for refurbishment of existing large picnic area - QS note approx. 5m wide x 11.5m long	Item	1	25,000	25,000
3.11	Refurbishment of existing boomerang entrance gates	Item	1	10,000	10,000

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
3 Wannon Falls – Campground (Continued)					
<u>Soft Landscaping</u>					
3.12	Allow for soft landscaping / revegetation of smaller shrubs and grasses	m2	3,773	20	75,460
<u>INTERPRETIVE WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A8.01 - 'Wannon Falls Site Plan - Interpretive' Note</i>					
<u>Information & Wayfinding Signs</u>					
3.13	Allow for information and wayfinding signage - WT assume large timber plinths with wrap around panels featuring key visitor information, maps and wayfinding information	Note			
3.14	Information Point	No	1	5,000	5,000
<u>Themed Zones</u>					
3.15	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	2	5,000	10,000

635,315

4 Wannon Falls – Thomas Clarke Lookout

Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
<u>MIAN WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A8.04 - 'Wannon Falls (Thomas Clark)' Note</i>					
<u>Civil Works</u>					
4.1	New walking trails and upgrade works to existing walking trails all measured at 'Wannon Falls - Riverside'	Note			
4.2	Assume no upgrade works to existing Thomas Clark Carpark	Note			
<u>Construction Works</u>					
4.3	Minor soft landscape clearing to create picnic areas	m2	603	5	3,015
4.4	Hardwood timber picnic table with bench seating	No	2	7,000	14,000

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
4 Wannan Falls – Thomas Clarke Lookout (Continued)					
4.5	Small picnic shelter	No	1	65,000	65,000
4.6	New pedestrian bridge over Wannan River - assumed 30m long x 1.5m wide	Item	1	350,000	350,000
	<u>Soft Landscaping</u>				
4.7	Allow for soft landscaping / revegetation of smaller shrubs and grasses	m2	867	20	17,340
	<u>INTERPRETIVE WORKS</u>				
	<i>Refer drawing A8.01 - 'Wannan Falls Site Plan - Interpretive'</i>	Note			
	<u>Information & Wayfinding Signs</u>				
4.8	Allow for information and wayfinding signage - WT assume large timber plinths with wrap around panels featuring key visitor information, maps and wayfinding information	Note			
4.9	Information Point	No	1	5,000	5,000
4.10	Wayfinding Point	No	2	5,000	10,000
	<u>Themed Zones</u>				
4.11	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	6	5,000	30,000

494,355

5 Nigretta Falls – Main Loop/Lookout

	<u>MAIN WORKS</u>				
	<i>Refer drawings A9.01 'Nigretta Falls Site Plan' and A9.02 'Nigretta Falls Detail'</i>	Note			
	<u>Civil Works</u>				
5.1	Assumed no upgrade works to existing Loop Road (QS allowed for upgrade to carpark works only)	Note			
5.2	Construction of new walking trail	m	683	55	37,565

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ESTIMATE DETAIL



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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
5 Nigretta Falls – Main Loop/Lookout (Continued)					
5.3	Allow to upgrade existing walking trail	m	414	35	14,490
	<u>Removal Works</u>				
5.4	Remove existing lookout	Item	1	10,000	10,000
5.5	Remove existing toilet structure	Item	1	5,000	5,000
5.6	Remove existing picnic shelter	Item	1	1,500	1,500
5.7	Remove existing non-native trees from picnic island	Item	1	6,000	6,000
5.8	Remove existing sugar gum trees from in front of lookout	Item	1	2,500	2,500
5.9	Remove existing carpark and allow to revegetate area	m2	1,121	50	56,050
	<u>Construction Works</u>				
5.10	Minor soft landscape clearing to create picnic areas	m2	1,810	5	9,050
5.11	Allow to develop new camp site	m2	607	25	15,175
5.12	New carparks off existing loop road including extension of existing bitumen surface, linemarking, wheelstops, etc.	m2	1,276	150	191,400
5.13	Small picnic shelter	No	3	65,000	195,000
5.14	Hardwood timber picnic table with bench seating	No	6	7,000	42,000
5.15	Allow to remake existing timber staircase to base of falls with stone steps - gravel path measured elsewhere	m	54	2,000	108,000
5.16	New lookout - 4m wide x 8m long comprising steel framework	Item	1	200,000	200,000
5.17	Large composite toilet facility and services	No	1	250,000	250,000
5.18	BBQ - assume gas bottle supply with solar powered ignition	No	5	15,000	75,000
	<u>Soft Landscaping</u>				
5.19	Allow for soft landscaping / revegetation of smaller shrubs and grasses	m2	6,201	20	124,020

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ESTIMATE DETAIL



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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
7 Byaduk Caves – Caves 1–4 Loop (Continued)					
7.1	Construction of new walking trail	m	856	55	47,080
7.2	Allow to upgrade existing walking trail	m	575	35	20,125
<u>Removal Works</u>					
7.3	Remove existing viewing points and signage	Item	1	10,000	10,000
7.4	Remove existing entry signs to carpark	Item	1	500	500
7.5	Remove existing signage to Dry Stone Wall and allow to upgrade existing viewing point	Item	1	10,000	10,000
<u>Construction Works</u>					
7.6	Minor soft landscape clearing to create picnic areas	m2	889	5	4,445
7.7	Small picnic shelter	No	2	65,000	130,000
7.8	Hardwood timber picnic table with bench seating	No	2	7,000	14,000
7.9	Stone feature bench seat	No	2	10,000	20,000
7.10	Small composite toilet facility and services	No	1	175,000	175,000
7.11	Upgrade existing carpark loop with new road base and gravel surface	m2	1,118	80	89,440
7.12	Steel steps down to Cave 1 - allow for steel gridforge structure similar to Budj Bim	m	21	5,000	105,000
7.13	BBQ - assume gas bottle supply with solar powered ignition	No	2	15,000	30,000
<u>Soft Landscaping</u>					
7.14	Allow for soft landscaping / revegetation of smaller shrubs and grasses	m2	14,640	20	292,800
<u>INTERPRETIVE WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A10.02 - 'Byaduk Caves Detail Plan - Interpretive'</i>					
<u>Information & Wayfinding Signs</u>					

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7 Byaduk Caves – Caves 1–4 Loop (Continued)					
7.15	Allow for information and wayfinding signage - WT assume large timber plinths with wrap around panels featuring key visitor information, maps and wayfinding information	Note			
7.16	Information Point	No	1	5,000	5,000
7.17	Wayfinding Point	No	7	5,000	35,000
<u>Themed Zones</u>					
7.18	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	6	5,000	30,000
1,018,390					
8 Byaduk Caves – Extended Walk					
<u>MAIN WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A10.01 - 'Byaduk Caves Site Plan'</i> Note					
<u>Civil Works</u>					
8.1	Extended walking trail to Mt Napier State Park measured at 'Site 6: Mt Napier - Walk-In Camp Ground'	Note			
8.2	Construction of new walking trail to provide an extended walk option to Caves 4 & 5 and the Great Barrier Formation	m	1,710	55	94,050
<u>INTERPRETIVE WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A10.01 - 'Byaduk Caves Site Plan - Interpretive'</i> Note					
<u>Themed Zones</u>					
8.3	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	3	5,000	15,000
109,050					
9 Harmans Valley Lookout – Construction Works					
<u>MAIN WORKS</u>					

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9 Harmans Valley Lookout – Construction Works (Continued)					
<i>Refer drawing A11.01 - 'Harmans Valley Lookout'</i>		<i>Note</i>			
<u>Civil Works</u>					
9.1	Make good levels to existing gravel carpark and provide asphalt layer over	m2	561	80	44,880
9.2	Construction new walking trail through soft landscaping areas between carpark areas	m	25	55	1,375
9.3	Allowance for road signage	Item	1		
<u>Construction Works</u>					
9.4	Remove existing signage boxes	No	3	1,500	4,500
9.5	Stone feature bench seat	No	1	10,000	10,000
9.6	Hardwood timber picnic table with bench seating	No	1	7,000	7,000
<u>Soft Landscaping</u>					
9.7	Allowance for soft landscaping with low shrubs and grasses (tubestock assumed), mulching and weed control	m2	382		20,000
<u>INTERPRETIVE WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A11.01 - 'Harmans Valley Lookout - Interpretive'</i>		<i>Note</i>			
<u>Themed Zones</u>					
9.8	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	3	5,000	15,000
					102,755

10 Tumuli – Construction Works

<u>MAIN WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A12.01 'Tumuli Site Plan' & A12.02 'Tumuli Detail Plan'</i>		<i>Note</i>			
<u>Civil Works</u>					

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
10 Tumuli – Construction Works (Continued)					
10.1	Budget allowance for gravel roadside pullout and viewing area on crest of Old Crusher Road east of site	m2	87	80	6,960
10.2	New entrance road from Old Crusher Road with carpark and turnaround loop - gravel with compacted roadbase	m2	261	80	20,880
10.3	Construction new walking trail	m	280	55	15,400
10.4	Allowance for road signage	Item	1	2,500	2,500
<u>Construction Works</u>					
10.5	Timber bench seat	No	2	3,500	7,000
10.6	Budget allowance for removal of existing perimeter fencing and replace with new farm type fence	m	1,072	80	85,760
<u>Soft Landscaping</u>					
10.7	Budget allowance to remove all weed species	m2	23,158	1	23,158
10.8	Allowance for soft landscaping with low shrubs and grasses (tubestock assumed), mulching and weed control	m2	23,158	10	231,580
<u>INTERPRETIVE WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A12.02 - 'Tumuli Detail Plan - Interpretive'</i>		<i>Note</i>			
<u>Information & Wayfinding Signs</u>					
10.9	Allow for information and wayfinding signage - WT assume large timber plinths with wrap around panels featuring key visitor information, maps and wayfinding information	Note			
10.10	Information Point	No	1	5,000	5,000
10.11	Wayfinding Point	No	1	5,000	5,000
<u>Themed Zones</u>					
10.12	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	3	5,000	15,000
					418,238

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
11 Mt Napier – Main Campground					
<u>MAIN WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawings A13.01 - 'Mt Napier Site Plan', A13.02 - 'Mt Napier Detail Plan' and A13.03 - 'Byaduk Caves to Tapoc/Mt Napier'</i>					
<u>Civil Works</u>					
11.1	Budget allowance to upgrade Mezies Pit Road from intersection with Coles Track to campsite to allow for 2WD and Coach/Caravan access	m	4,000	200	800,000
11.2	Construction new carpark and roadways within campground - gravel with compacted roadbase	m2	2,165	80	173,200
11.3	Allowance to upgrade existing carpark to Summit Track start	m2	691	80	55,280
11.4	Construction new walking trail from campground to Devil's Hole Crater	m	616	55	33,880
11.5	Allowance for road signage	Item	1	2,500	2,500
<u>New Campground</u>					
11.6	Minor soft landscape clearing to create picnic areas	m2	2,263	5	11,315
11.7	Ditto to new campsite areas	m2	2,238	5	11,190
11.8	Large picnic shelter	No	2	85,000	170,000
11.9	Small picnic shelter	No	2	65,000	130,000
11.10	Large composting toilet building and services	No	1	250,000	250,000
11.11	Small composting toilet building and services	No	1	175,000	175,000
11.12	Hardwood timber picnic table with bench seating	No	12	7,000	84,000
11.13	BBQ - assume gas bottle supply with solar powered ignition	No	6	15,000	90,000
<u>Soft Landscaping</u>					
11.14	Budget allowance to remove all weed species	m2	4,635	2	9,270

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
11 Mt Napier – Main Campground (Continued)					
11.15	Allowance for soft landscaping with low shrubs and grasses (tubestock assumed), mulching and weed control	m2	4,635	20	92,700
<u>INTERPRETIVE WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawing A13.01 - 'Tapoc/Mt Napier Site Plan - Interpretive' and A13.02 - 'Tapoc/Mt Napier Detail Plan - Interpretive'</i>					
<u>Information & Wayfinding Signs</u>					
11.16	Allow for information and wayfinding signage - WT assume large timber plinths with wrap around panels featuring key visitor information, maps and wayfinding information	Note			
11.17	Information Point	No	1	5,000	5,000
11.18	Wayfinding Point	No	3	5,000	15,000
<u>Themed Zones</u>					
11.19	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	5	5,000	25,000
					2,133,335
12 Mt Napier – Summit					
<u>MAIN WORKS</u>					
<i>Refer drawings A13.01 - 'Mt Napier Site Plan' and A13.03 - 'Byaduk Caves to Tapoc/Mt Napier'</i>					
<u>Construction Works</u>					
12.1	Budget allowance to upgrade existing Summit Track from existing carpark	m	1,259	80	100,720
12.2	Extend existing Summit Track around crater to create loop	m	323	55	17,765
12.3	Allowance to remove concrete plinth (2m x 2m) and plaque on summit of Mt Napier	Item	1	5,000	5,000
12.4	Supply and install timber bench seats along walking trails	No	4	3,500	14,000
12.5	Construct new walking/mountain bike trail with loop around Mt Napier	m	8,143	55	447,865

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
12 Mt Napier – Summit (Continued)					
12.6	Construction new gravel access track carpark	m2	569	80	45,520
<u>INTERPRETIVE WORKS</u>					
	<i>Refer drawing A13.01 - 'Tapoc/Mt Napier Site Plan - Interpretive'</i>	<i>Note</i>			
<u>Themed Zones</u>					
12.7	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	4	5,000	20,000

650,870

13 Mt Rouse – Summit/Picnic Ground

Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
<u>MAIN WORKS</u>					
	<i>Refer drawing A14.02 - 'Mt Rouse Summit'</i>	<i>Note</i>			
<u>Civil Works</u>					
13.1	Assume no upgrade works to existing Mt Rouse Tourist Road	Note			
13.2	Construction of new mountain bike / walking trail	m	1,194	55	65,670
13.3	Construction of new walking trail	m	83	55	4,565
13.4	Allow to upgrade existing walking trail	m	546	35	19,110
<u>Construction Works</u>					
13.5	Minor soft landscape clearing to create picnic areas	m2	886	5	4,430
13.6	Hardwood timber picnic table with bench seating	No	3	7,000	21,000
13.7	Stone feature bench seat	No	2	10,000	20,000
13.8	New barrier to quarry	m	160	200	32,000
13.9	Small picnic shelter	No	1	65,000	65,000

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
13 Mt Rouse – Summit/Picnic Ground (Continued)					
13.10	Large picnic shelter	No	1	85,000	85,000
13.11	BBQ - assume gas bottle supply with solar powered ignition	No	2	15,000	30,000
13.12	Small composite toilet facility and services	No	1	175,000	175,000
13.13	Upgrade carpark at North Entry including extension of existing bitumen surface, linemarking, wheelstops, etc.	m2	428	80	34,240
13.14	Budget allowance for new lookout to Tapoc / Mt Napier	Item	1	200,000	200,000
13.15	Budget allowance for connection to existing electrical supply	Item	1	30,000	30,000
<u>Upgrade of Existing Lookout</u>					
13.16	Budget allowance to paint existing lookout structure	Item	1	10,000	10,000
13.17	Budget allowance for addition of new balustrade, stair nosings and seating	Item	1	25,000	25,000
<u>Soft Landscaping</u>					
13.18	Allow for soft landscaping / revegetation of smaller shrubs and grasses	m2	30,953	5	154,765
<u>INTERPRETIVE WORKS</u>					
	<i>Refer drawing A14.02 - 'Mt Rouse Summit' - Interpretive</i>	<i>Note</i>			
<u>Information & Wayfinding Signs</u>					
13.19	Allow for information and wayfinding signage - WT assume large timber plinths with wrap around panels featuring key visitor information, maps and wayfinding information	Note			
13.20	Information Point	No	2	5,000	10,000
13.21	Wayfinding Point	No	3	5,000	15,000
<u>Themed Zones</u>					
13.22	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	8	5,000	40,000

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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
13 Mt Rouse – Summit/Picnic Ground					<i>(Continued)</i>
					1,040,780

14 Mt Rouse – CraterMAIN WORKS

Refer drawing A14.03 - 'Mt Rouse Crater' Note

Civil Works

14.1	Assume no upgrade works to existing carpark at South Entry/Crater	Note			
14.2	Construction of new mountain bike / walking trail	m	1,498	55	82,390
14.3	Construction of new walking trail	m	106	55	5,830

Construction Works

14.4	Minor soft landscape clearing to create picnic areas	m2	270	5	1,350
14.5	Hardwood timber picnic table with bench seating	No	2	7,000	14,000
14.6	Small picnic shelter	No	1	65,000	65,000
14.7	Allow for new gate to entrance	Item	1	10,000	10,000
14.8	Allow for new gate to quarry	Item	1	10,000	10,000

Soft Landscaping

14.9	Allow for soft landscaping / revegetation of smaller shrubs and grasses	m2	19,980	10	199,800
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INTERPRETIVE WORKS

Refer drawing A14.02 - 'Mt Rouse Summit' - Interpretive Note

Information & Wayfinding Signs

14.10	Allow for information and wayfinding signage - WT assume large timber plinths with wrap around panels featuring key visitor information, maps and wayfinding information	Note			
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Item	Section	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost \$
14 Mt Rouse – Crater					<i>(Continued)</i>
					423,370

14 Mt Rouse – Crater

14.11	Information Point	No	1	5,000	5,000
14.12	Wayfinding Point	No	3	5,000	15,000
<u>Themed Zones</u>					
14.13	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	3	5,000	15,000

423,370

15 Nigretta Falls – Extended WalkMAIN WORKS

Refer drawing A9.03 - 'Proposed Key Plan: Wannan to Nigretta Falls' Note

Civil Works

15.1	Construction of new mountain bike / walking trail from Glenelg Highway Wannan Falls to Nigretta Falls	m	10,348	55	569,140
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INTERPRETIVE WORKS

Refer drawing A9.01 - 'Nigretta Falls Site Plan - Interpretive' Note

Themed Zones

15.2	Allow for 'themed zones' incorporating various signage bollards and posts, benches, angle-cut timber posts and the like - all featuring interpretive messaging, themed graphics and panels (based on marked areas on plan)	No	1	5,000	5,000
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574,140

16 Mt Napier – Walk-In Camp GroundMAIN WORKS

Refer drawings A13.01 - 'Mt Napier Site Plan' and A13.03 - 'Byaduk Caves to Tapoc/Mt Napier'

Construction Works

16.1	Construction new walking trail from campground to Byaduk Caves	m	9,923	55	545,765
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16 Mt Napier – Walk-In Camp Ground					<i>(Continued)</i>
16.2	Upgrade existing walking trail at Byaduk Caves	m	573	35	20,055
16.3	Create new walk-in campsite along new walking trail - area assumed 50m x 50m	m2	2,500	20	50,000
16.4	Construction of small picnic shelter	No	1	65,000	65,000
16.5	Timber Picnic tables and bench seating	No	2	7,000	14,000
16.6	Small composting toilet building and services	No	1	175,000	175,000

869,820

17 Wayfinding allowance between sites					
17.1	Budget allowance for roadside wayfinding signage between sites	Item	1	50,000	50,000

50,000

18 Website creation and content					
18.1	Budget allowance for website creation and app support to visitor information	Item	1	50,000	50,000

50,000

9.2 Record of Community Consultation

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VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The following is record of feedback provided through community consultation for the master plan.

Two sessions were held: the first at the Wannan CFA Shed on 9th December and the second at the Volcanoes Discovery Centre in Peshurst on 10th December 2020. Both sessions were well attended by local residents who provided some valuable and constructive insights.

The consultation sessions were facilitated by Daryl Adamson (SGSC), Sherie Bain (SGSC Biodiversity Officer) & Bianca Scaife (Cooper Scaife Architects).

CONSULTATION SESSION 1: WANNON

- The Coleraine-Hamilton Rail Trail is an important community project that has been developed over many years. This would be an obvious link to build on when considering the development of tourism at the Wannan & Nigretta Falls sites. There is a growing appetite for longer walks in both the local community and visitors and not a lot of trails currently exist in the area.
- The two sections of the Rail Trail from Wannan to Coleraine and Wannan to Balkins Rd (outside Hamilton) are relatively good, however the section that connects these within the Wannan needs to be upgraded. This would entail upgrading the historic timber railway bridge and providing gates to allow access along the trail while preventing stock from escaping. Currently the trail leads walkers along main roads through Wannan and this is unsafe, so the preference is to redirect the trail away from these roads.
- Resources that provide more detail on what is needed to upgrade the rail trail include the 'Safer Together' Report and the Rail Reserve website.
- The 'Bochara Falls' were mentioned as another waterfall, from the same volcanic flow, that is located on private farmland. It may be possible to arrange occasional access for visitors to see this site as well.
- The links to the Colonial art collection at the Hamilton Gallery should be improved (for example at the Thomas Clark Viewing Area). Currently, very little is made of this link.
- There are links that could be made to other volcanic sites within the Shire such as Mt Baimbridge, that are outside the master plan scope.
- It is important that the tourism infrastructure doesn't dominate or detract from the sites. The emphasis should be on visitors coming to enjoy the natural qualities of the sites rather than providing them with artificial entertainment (such as plastic playground equipment).
- The possibility of making a walking trail along the public land on the Wannan River frontage between the Nigretta and Wannan Falls was discussed. This idea was well supported. Some attendees have already done this walk and said it was possible to travel about halfway to Nigretta from the Wannan without encountering any obstacles. However, some sections of the frontage are privately owned so negotiations would be required with private landowners of these parcels. The development of the Grampians Peaks Trail provides a precedent for this type of trail development and successful negotiation processes.

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- There is already a walking path on the southern side of the Wannan River, accessed by crossing the river at the weir above the head of the falls. This is a fairly difficult grade track, that is quite narrow and steep in sections, but is very rewarding and takes walkers down to the river at the bottom of the cutting.
- The Hamilton Field Naturalists website is a valuable resource (that David Huxtable, the interpretive designer would find useful).
- The preference is not to cut down trees between the car park and lookout at the Wannan Falls, so that the view of the falls is revealed at the end of the short walk to the lookout rather than all visible from the car park.
- The duplication of toilets at the upper and lower car parks at the Wannan was discussed and the consensus was that they do get used in both locations.
- Gas BBQs should be provided to discourage collection of wood for open fires. Open fireplaces are not necessarily a risk if they are formal fireplaces and fire warnings are observed.
- At Nigretta, it would be better to keep picnicking away from the edge of falls. The trail close to the falls and upper river should just be for viewing and walking.
- The issue of hoon driving was discussed, with the recent SGSC strategy of installing bollards and security cameras proving very successful. The design of the landscape can also be used to discourage hoon driving, but limiting car access and revegetating the large open areas of lawn.
- The possibility of providing camping at Nigretta was raised, partly as a deterrent for hoon behaviour. If camping is provided it should be on the already disturbed land (in the grassy island in the centre of the access road. If fireplaces are provided, they would need to be properly built and maintained.
- The sugar gums that have self-seeded in front of the Nigretta Falls lookout should be removed. They are not indigenous (having seeded from a plantation on the western boundary) and will block the views.
- The Byaduk Caves have wild bat populations and a unique species of tree fern in one of the caves on the eastern side of the site. It will be important to restrict access to these caves in order to preserve this habitat and a balance needs to be struck between conservation and education / tourism uses. It was suggested that Cave 1 near the entrance could be made accessible with steps for the public down to the base of the cave, but others should be limited to viewing platforms above and some should be kept away from public access altogether.
- The large natural stone formation visible on the aerial photos of Byaduk Caves is known as the 'Great Barrier Formation'.
- At Mt Napier, there is a beautiful crater to the north of the pit known as the 'Devil's Hole'. An alternative walking track to the summit could pass this crater.
- There is also an historic dry-stone fence on the west side of the Mt Napier. This could be a point of interest along a longer walk from Mt Napier to the Byaduk Caves.

CONSULTATION SESSION 2: PENSHURST

- Most visitors to Mt Rouse are looking for outdoor experiences, particularly walks.
- There are no signs at the start of existing walking trails indicating the grade or length of the walk.
- There is an opportunity for a new walk to be created from the summit or lookout car parks, down the western side of the mountain through the bushland towards the main road.
- The trees that have grown in front of the viewing area at the picnic ground need to be pruned as they're blocking views.
- On other parts of the mountain, it would be good to have more trees, as well as understory plants. This would help with weed control.
- There is a huge kangaroo population in the crater. While this is good habitat for them, it also makes it difficult to revegetate as they often eat the new seedlings.
- The stumps at the picnic area need to be removed (dead trees were recently cut down but the stumps remain and are an unsightly obstacle scattered throughout the area).
- There should be a gate at the entrance to the site that can be closed on high fire danger days (a gate previously existed).
- The quarry on the south side of the mountain is of interest to school groups, geologists and universities. However, the quarry cutting is dangerous to general visitors and should only be accessed by special interest groups. It should also be made safer, with fencing to limit areas of access.
- There is a sheer drop off into the quarry from the plateau above, which is accessible by an informal walking path leaving from the picnic ground car park. This should be fenced and/or warning signs erected to prevent a visitor falling (particularly young children).
- There is no point replicating the information at the Volcanoes Discovery Centre on Mt Rouse. Instead, visitors should be made aware of the centre and encouraged to visit it to find out more.
- One participant was keen on seeing the story of Napier Waller presented in greater depth to visitors. He is a significant artist and his link to Penshurst is not as well-known as it should be.
- There was consensus that the strongest story to be shared with visitors was the way in which the volcanic landscape had shaped the agricultural and social history of the area. It affected the flows of the water, creating rivers and lakes, it improved the fertility of the soils and the spring in the Penshurst Botanic Gardens only exists because of the volcano. Of course, this story extends well beyond colonial history to the much more ancient history of the local Aboriginals whose lives were also directly linked to the volcanic landscape. The Budj Bim Landscape provides direct evidence of this and provides a strong link to this story.
- The replanting of Mt Rouse started in the 1980s. The focus at the time was just to 'get the plants in' as the land was severely degraded. There wasn't a great deal of thought about what species were being planted and most are not indigenous.
- Bracken and ferns are indigenous to the area, but it is difficult to know what the natural, pre-colonial state of the landscape on the mountain was – how much vegetation was present and what type.
- Penny Irons (who is a Warmambool based consultant) was suggested as a good contact who trains people who work in tourism. It was suggested we use a wide range of mediums other than signage and brochures, such as audio technologies to deliver interpretive content. It needs to be kept in mind that not everyone will visit all sites and

some visitors will be time-poor, so providing ways for them to access information (for example through a podcast) while driving to the sites could be valuable.

- The lookout at the summit needs a sign that explains the view to visitors (ie something that points to the various landmarks).
- Yatmarone Swamp Reserve was mentioned as another nearby site that is visible from Mt Rouse. It is not well signposted and most visitors don't know about it.
- Mt Rouse is a scoria cone, not basalt.
- The Kanawinka Geopark produced an excellent map that visitors still find very interesting and are still referred to by the Volcanoes Discovery Centre. It is no longer being printed, but there is nothing else as comprehensive as this map.
- The general consensus was that the facilities at Mt Rouse are very dated and the site needs a big facelift. There isn't much community pride in it due to its current condition.

9.3 Cultural Advice from Uncle Johnny Lovett

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VOLCANIC TRAIL MASTERPLAN CULTURAL ADVICE FROM JOHNNY LOVETT

The following is a collection of notes made while visiting sites with Johnny Lovett, a Boandik / Gunditjmarra Elder who was engaged to provide cultural advice for the master plan. The visits took place over two days, 30th November and 1st December 2020.

The site tour was attended by: Daryl Adamson (SGSC), David Huxtable (LookEar) and Bianca Scaife (Cooper Scaife Architects) for the full 2 days. Joshua White (SGSC – Hamilton Gallery Director) attended the visit to Wannon Falls and Sherie Bain (SGSC Biodiversity Officer) took part in visits to both Wannon & Nigretta.

WANNON FALLS

- This [Wannon Falls] is *Boandik* Country.
- The volcanic sites traverse the *Boandik* (also known as *Bugandidj*), *Djab Wurrung* and *Dhauwurd Wurrung* (Gunditjmarra) country.
- The Wannon Falls Reserve was set up for Aboriginal people and predates the Condamine Mission.
- Johnny believes that the formation of reserves was partly motivated by a desire of some settlers to protect Aboriginal people from the massacres that were occurring (while at the same time removing them from the land).
- Two good references were recommended as credible sources of Colonial history:
 - Dawson, James. *Australian Aborigines: The Languages and Customs of Several Tribes of Aborigines in the Western District of Victoria, Australia*. Originally published by George Robertson, Melbourne, 1881. Facsimile edition published by Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra, 1981.
 - Arkley, Lindsey. *The Hated Protector: The Story of Charles Wightman Sievwright, Protector of Aborigines 1839-42*. Mentone, Victoria, Orbit Press, 2000.
- Johnny is doubtful about the prospect of teaching local language. It is impossible to define a dominant or universal language to teach. For example, there are 59 different dialects spoken within this area [of south west Victoria] alone.
- The people waited here for the Eagle to give language and law – mainly language.
- The *Boandik* people have a story of creating the kangaroo. The kangaroo is very significant to Aboriginal people.
- Volcanoes are a part of the creation stories. The eruptions of Mt Eccles (which Johnny knows as *Peech Bim* rather than *Budj Bim*), Mt Napier and Mt Schank were all witnessed by Aboriginal people and had creation stories attached to them.
- There are stories of giants connected to volcanoes, *Peech Bim* being one example. The story in this place was that a giant attacked all the men, so the women invited him to sit down with them and talk. They sat the giant in a nest of snakes, the snakes bit him and he died. They took him to rest at Deen Maar.
- The base of the Wannon Falls is thought to be the Rainbow Serpents nest
- There are also stories attached to tsunamis and fires.

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- The 'Seven Sisters Dreaming' is also part of this land. This is one of the strongest songlines in Australia, it isn't as strong here as in some other areas (such as the Flinders Ranges).
- The 'Seven Sisters Dreaming' is a story of seven sisters and an old man who fell in love with the youngest sister. He chased them all over the sky, trying to win her hand. In some [Aboriginal] Countries, that old man can be seen laying down looking at the sky. One of those places is in the Grampians. The first evening star and last morning star are also the old man, looking for the sisters. This story is the same as that attached to the Seven Sisters Constellation.
- On this Country, it is believed that you should never fish in the moonlight (as it was poisonous) but dancing and men's business takes place at this time, under moonlight.
- Johnny believes that we need to be truthful in telling the history of what happened to Aboriginals as a result of European colonization.
- It is also important not to appropriate or fabricate culture that is not yours or that is not actually known (because stories and connections have been lost).
- When asked 'what is appropriate [to share of traditional culture]?', Johnny's response is that it needs to be honest and sincere and suggested that the Seven Sisters was a strong songline that could be referred to as an example of cultural connection to the land.
- Connection to Country should be the overriding message conveyed to visitors to the sites – an understanding that there is a cultural connection through songlines, caring for and sustainably living off Country.
- Keen to have local Aboriginal people more involved in land management practices, which can also be useful in educating young people about cultural practices. For instance, traditional burning practices could be taught and practiced, with assistance/ consultation with the CFA.

NIGRETТА FALLS

- The walk to the upper level of the falls is of value - it is a good swimming hole with still water, reeds and platypus. This is special country for Uncle Johnny.
- While visiting this site, Johnny pointed out a scar tree, a large red gum on the roadside just outside the entrance to the Nigretta Falls Reserve. He suggested it could be 300 or more years old and that the bark would have been used to make a canoe.
- The significance of this scar tree has clearly not been recognized by local government or non-Aboriginals. A fishing license sign has been nailed to the smooth face of the scar, probably about 50 years ago and still remains today.



Johnny Lovett pointing out a scar tree near Nigretta Falls

TUMULI

- Johnny didn't know anything about the traditional story of serpent's eggs laying under the tumuli, that had previously been shared with us by Eileen Alberts, a Gunditjmara Elder during our work for Gunditj Mirring TOAC on the *Budj Bim Masterplan*.
- He suggested that there would most likely be stone fish traps in the area, as it is located on a low-lying flood plain and a number of stone house sites have already been identified (and registered) on a neighbouring property.
- When asked about people climbing the tumuli, Johnny responded that it would not be appropriate to climb them. Although their cultural significance is not known for certain, it's safe to assume they would have had cultural significance to previous generations and should be respected as such.
- The view is through to Mt Napier (Tapoc) – this was the boundary for a different clan.

MOUNT ROUSE

- *"The Mount Rouse Tribe is called 'Kolor', after the Aboriginal name for the mountain ... The language of the Kolor tribe is called 'Chaap wuurong', meaning 'soft' or 'broad lip', in contrast to other dialects of harder pronunciation. The Kolor tribe and its language occupy the country commencing near Mount Napier, thence to Germantown, Dunkeld, Wickliffe, Lake Boloke, down to Salt Creek to Hexham, to Caramut, and to the starting point"* Dawson Pg 2

PENHURST GARDENS AND NATURAL SPRING

- The Penhurst area belonged to the *Djab Wurrung* mob.
- The natural spring in the Botanic Gardens in Penhurst had a story that it attracted spirits and local Aboriginals would leave the area before dark.
- There was a man who was known to travel around between the mobs who was a healer, and used to visit the springs
- There was also a woman known as the 'white witch' who thought she could bring back lunar spirits. She used this to get things from the local mob.
"In the Kolor tribe there was a sorceress well known in the Western district under the name of White Lady, who was the widow of the chief, and whose supernatural influence was dreaded by all" Dawson Pg 55
- There was so much trouble between the settlers and Aboriginal people who lived in this area that the threatened to make a reserve covering a 60-mile radius around Mt Rouse in order to protect the local Aboriginal population. This was circa 1830-1840.
- In the 1830/40s, there was much conflict with many Aboriginal people killed by settlers, so the Governor's appointed Protector of Aborigines suggested establishing a protection area of a 60 mile radius around Mt Rouse. This didn't occur and Aboriginal peoples situation continued to decline. Missions were then established. This was the era of the Eumerella War which lasted for approx. 22 years – 1830/40s to the 1860s.

BYADUK CAVES

- Johnny did not have any stories or knowledge specific to the caves area. He speculated that there could have been houses in the area, as it was part of the Harman's Valley flow, where houses are known to have been built on other nearby land.

BUDJ BIM NP (PEECH BIM)

- Johnny's history of the Lake Condah possum skin cloak is that it was a gift to Captain Page. The cloak was made by six men at the Condah Mission and presented to him. He believes the fact it was embellished so much with patterning suggests it would have been a special gift rather than an everyday item of clothing.
- Captain Page was a Protector of Aborigines and was not indigenous himself.
- Johnny also has a theory that the modern-day football grounds in many country towns were originally corroboree grounds. He believes they would have naturally evolved into football grounds, given that they were already established gathering places for the community.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Main story suggested is 'sustainable living/ connection with country' and also connection with community.
- Important that people understand the injustices and massacres of Aboriginal people - not as a guilt thing, but as a simple recognition of history so all can move on and learn from each other, and live together - a way of healing and coming together.
- Current tourist information has very little if anything on Aboriginal people and culture eg the Hamilton Shire official tourist map!
- Initial ideas
 - base level orientation needed
 - simple values presented
 - Aboriginal stories can be presented in a variety of ways, not necessarily by way of standard signage. This can potentially include short quotes by Uncle Johnny and others he can nominate – 1st person interpretation – values, thoughts, impressions, way of seeing.

9.4 Stakeholder and Community Feedback following exhibition

Consultation Methods

1. Draft Masterplan online (Jan- Feb 2022) - The Draft Master Plan report was made available online for public viewing.
2. Presented to Gundiḡmarra Board and Executive Officer Damein Bell
3. Facebook & email - The draft Master Plan report was made available online for public viewing. Community members were encouraged to participate and provide their feedback through email and/or the Southern Grampians Shire Council's Facebook page.
4. Stakeholder Engagement – The draft masterplan was shared with all the user groups and agencies were requested feedback via email.

14 responses were received from individuals and stakeholders.

Overall feedback was positive and constructive; and several congratulated Council on their leadership in developing this document. Many took the time to provide detailed responses. Most of the feedback related to the next stages of the project particularly in the detailed design phase. Feedback in relation to factual errors in the report were fact checked and corrected where appropriate. Opinion provided on aspects of the report have been noted.

Feedback received did not change the overall content of the document but again it is noted, that more work is required with land managers, traditional owners and community in the next stage of detail design of each site.

Land Managers Feedback

Parks Victoria were invited and participated as part of the project working group including site visits. Department of Environment Water Land and Planning (DEWLP) as land owners have responded on behalf of Parks Victoria. The overall feedback received was positive with ongoing engagement required in the detailed design phase when relevant stages of the master plan are ready to be further developed. DEWLP noted many of the regulatory steps that will be required in order to realise the objectives of the document. DEWLP identified several areas that will require further negotiation and understanding in the detailed design stage of the project. The main themes of feedback received were on the following:

- Land Management strategies
- Further engagement with traditional owners
- Native Vegetation assessment
- Emergency Management Plan for bush fires
- Biodiversity
- Planning Permits

