

Character Area 1.3  
**Volcanic Agricultural**



## 2.2 VOLCANIC AGRICULTURAL

The Volcanic Agricultural Character Area is a vast area within an extensive Character Type.

This landscape is dominated by flat to slightly undulating agricultural plains with open views and a lack of outstanding features. Paddocks are separated by post and wire fences and occasional dry stone walls. Exotic and native shelterbelts cut across the land, lining paddock edges, farmsteads and roadsides.

Long range views with 'big skies' terminate at partially wooded backdrops with the Pyrenees and Grampians Ranges occasionally visible on the horizon.

Scattered farm buildings, including old structures related to sheep farming and dairying, tend to be set back from the road with long driveways. In areas with a finer grain of subdivision pattern, buildings are often located closer to the road. This is a sparsely treed landscape, but with some regeneration and new planting in specific locations.

Remnant stands of vegetation are present in patches beside the roadside, alongside creek lines or occasionally within paddocks.

This is the landscape that so suited the first European settlers who used the cleared plains for grazing sheep.

### Key Features

- Open pastoral landscape with long distance views
- Exotic shelterbelts
- Stands of remnant vegetation

### Settlements

- Ballarat (part)
- Skipton
- Meredith (part)
- Lethbridge
- Lismore
- Buangor



*Farm buildings located back from the road to the south of Skipton*



*Long range views over undulating paddocks*



*Looking north on the Minhamite-Caramut Road, long range views are available over the volcanic agricultural landscape with the Grampians visible in the far distance. Remnant stands of vegetation and exotic shelterbelts can be seen in across the plain.*





Figure 1 Volcanic Agricultural Overview

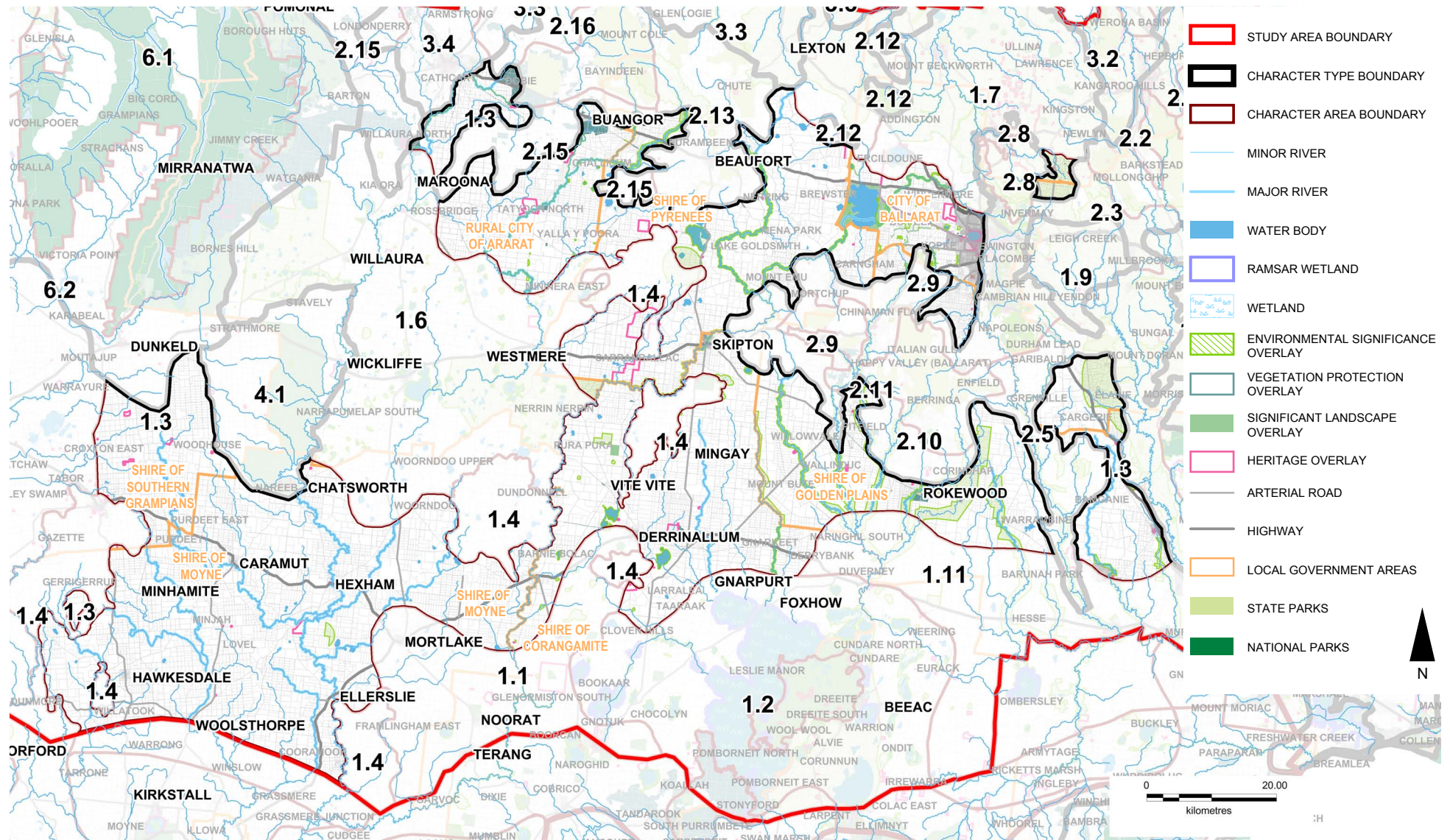




Figure 2 Volcanic Agricultural Landform

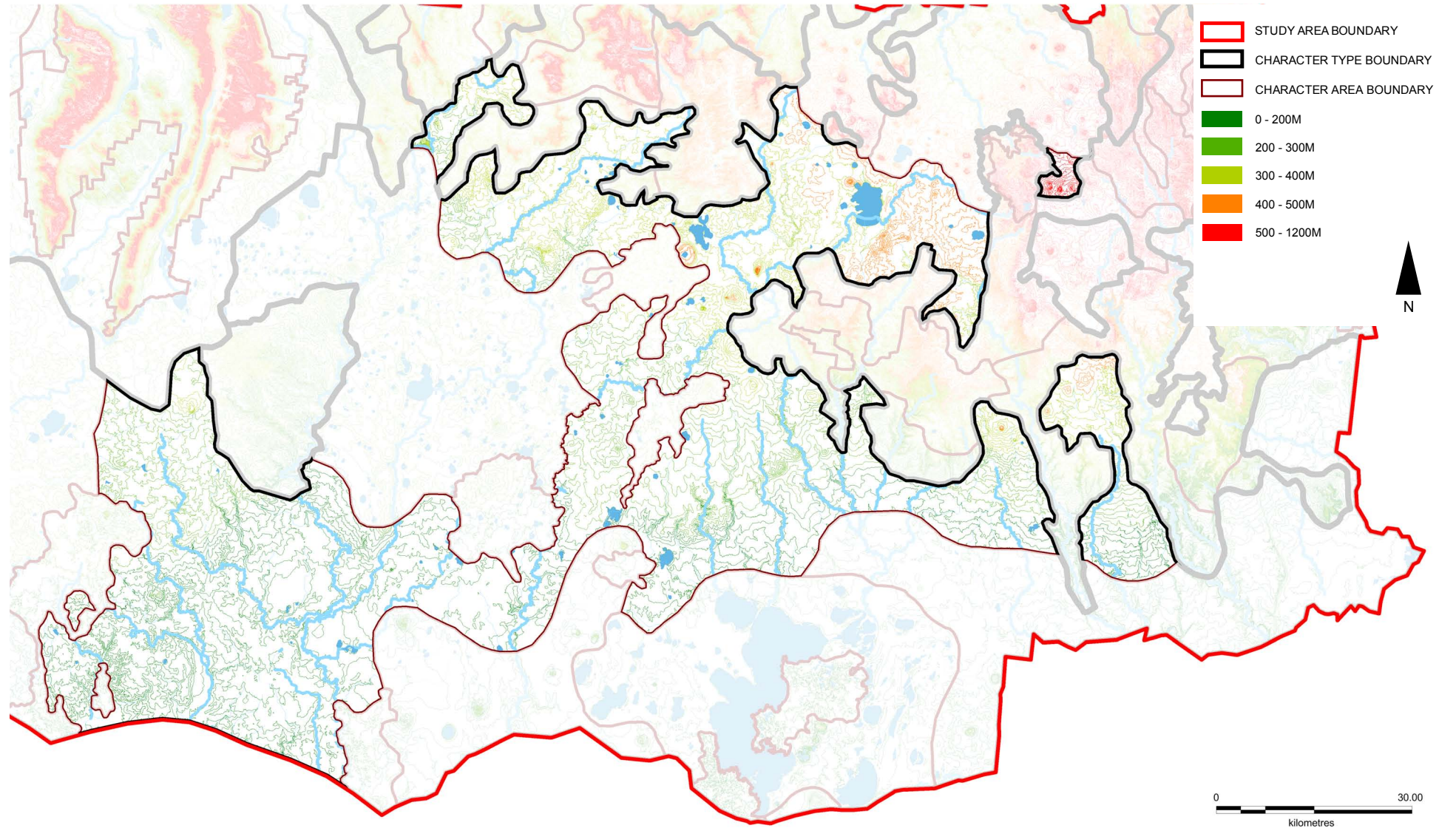
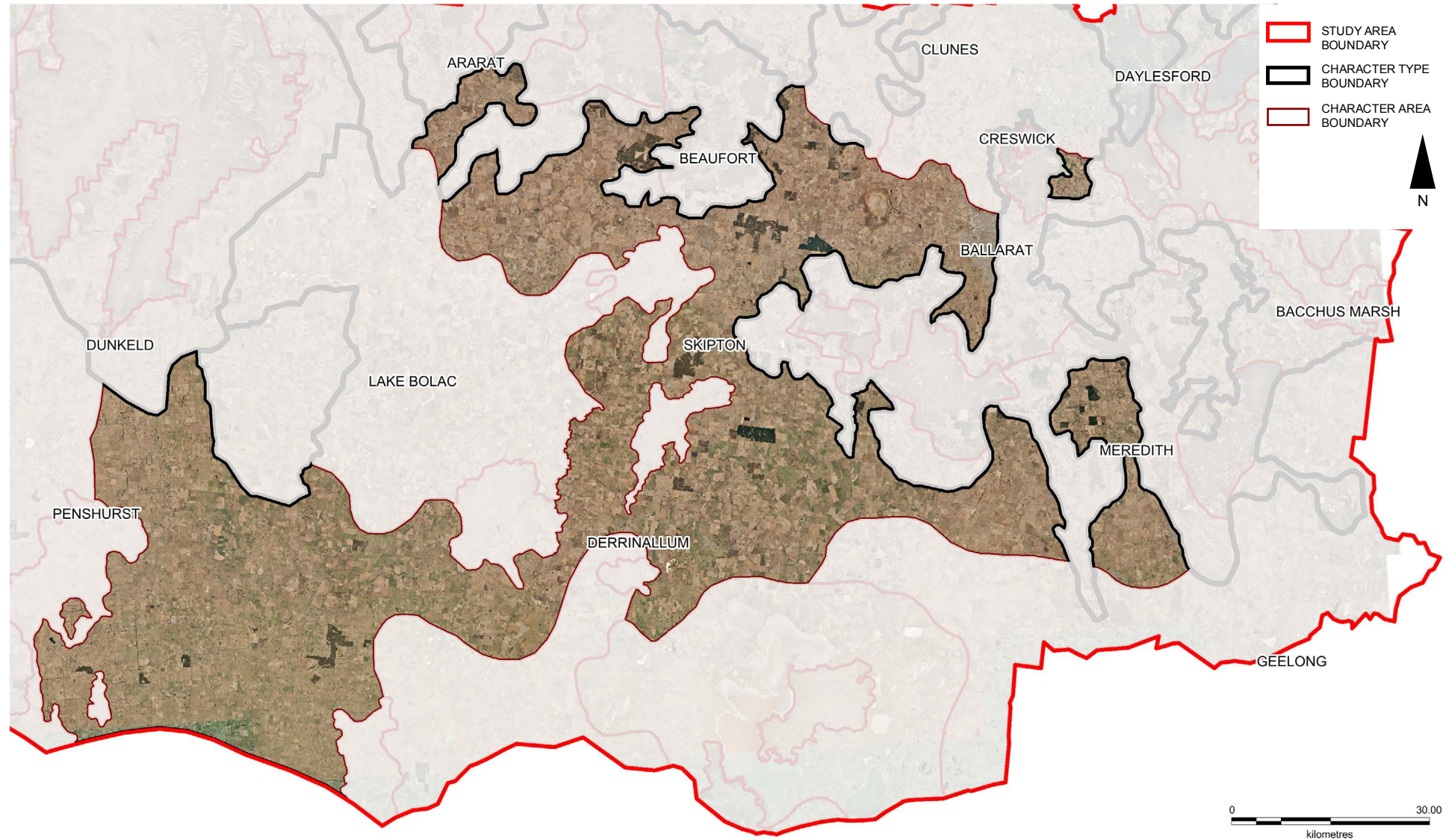




Figure 3 Volcanic Agricultural Aerial



## PATTERN OF VIEWING

This extensive Character Area can be viewed from the many roads which dissect the landscape.

- The Western Highway, Lake Burrumbeet to Beaufort
- Lismore-Skipton Road
- Rokewood-Skipton Road
- Lismore Road
- Hamilton Highway between Mortlake and Peshurst
- Warrnambool-Caramut Road

The northern edge of this Character Area abuts the Uplands Character Type, and views in this location often terminate on the distant ranges as the topography of the land rises from the flat volcanic plains.

To the south, views are long ranging over the predominantly flat agricultural plains. Stands of vegetation and shelterbelts are a typical feature on the landscape. Volcanic rises can occasionally be seen on the distant horizon.



*Long ranging views over mainly featureless agricultural landscape. In this location views terminate at the Chalicim Hills with windfarms visible on the horizon*



*The silhouette of the Grampians can be seen in the distance, to the foreground views are of agricultural plains, occasionally slashed by the contrasting green of exotic shelterbelts*







*Local erosion cuts into the plains along drainage lines*



*Remnant Red Gums appear occasionally in low lying areas*



*Farming infrastructure located at the roadside*



*Native and exotic shelterbelts cross the landscape to the south of Skipton*



*Development sits back from the roadside and is often surrounded by planting which cloaks and protects the built form*



# LANDSCAPE VALUES

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## Historic

- Evidence of Aboriginal use
  - inland middens near Meredith
- Hopkins River, significant Aboriginal place, also has evidence of fish traps, identified by DPCD
- Stone cairns & stone walled dam, Dundonnell, Moyne Shire on file with National Trust
- Regionally significant Lake Wendouree, Ballarat listed by National Trust due to its importance for recreation, social activities and habitats for bird species
- Chatsworth Road remnant vegetation (Dundonnell Section), Woorndoo, registered on the Register of the National Estate

## Environmental/Scientific

- Views to Mount Bolton, a unique landscape characterised by granite outcrops and remnant mature forest, protected by Ballarat SLO1
- Volcanic landscapes & features, protected by Corangamite SLO1
- Significant vegetation, protected by VPOs, including:
  - scattered red gums, an important habitat & links
  - riparian habitat, important links and endangered EVCs (Creekline Grassy) at Hopkins River North Streamside Reserve, Dobie
- Vegetation & wildlife at Framlingham Forest
- Koalas, habitats protected by Ballarat ESO5
- Nationally important wetlands
  - Lake Wendouree
  - Widderin Swamps
- Locally significant watercourses & waterbodies, protected by ESOs
- Protected areas on the IUCN list
  - Black Lake, Cobra Killuc & Flax Mill Swamp Wildlife Reserves, Boonderoo, Mount Mercer & Teesdale Sheoak Nature Conservation Reserves & Darlington Common, Mortlake Common & Warrambine Flora Reserves, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve)
  - Fiery Creek Streamside Reserve, Category III (Natural Monument or Feature)
  - Waterloo Bushland Reserve, Category IV (Habitat/Species Management Area)
  - Lake Barnie Buloke & Lake Goldsmith Wildlife Reserves, Category VI (Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources)

## Social

- Goldfields Touring Route between Clunes & Ararat
- Great Southern Touring Route between Port Fairy and Dunkeld & Ararat and Ballarat
- Water supply areas, protected by protected by ESOs, supply potable water to urban & rural communities throughout the region





# LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

## Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

This Character Area is subject to the following Planning Schemes:

- Ararat
- Ballarat
- Corangamite
- Golden Plains
- Moorabool
- Moyne
- Pyrenees
- Southern Grampians

## Key Zones

- FZ
- PCRZ (except Ballarat, Moyne & Southern Grampians)
- RLZ at Bald Hills, Cambrian Hill, Caramut, Cardigan, Clunes, Haddon, Magpie, Nerrina, Ross Creek, Sebastopol, Smythes Creek & Sulky
- RCZ (Pyrenees only)
- RAZ (Golden Plains only)
- SUZ (Ballarat & Moyne only)
- PPRZ (Ballarat only)

## Key Overlays

### SLO

- Ballarat SLO1: Mount Bolton
- Corangamite SLO1: Volcanic Landscape Area

### ESO

- Ballarat ESO2: Streamside & Watercourse Protection
- Ballarat ESO3: Water Catchment Areas
- Ballarat ESO4: Wastewater Treatment Plant Buffer Area
- Ballarat ESO5: Koala & Koala Habitat Protection
- Corangamite ESO1: Watercourses, Water Body & Wetland Protection Overlay

- Corangamite ESO2: Habitat Protection Overlay
- Golden Plains ESO1: Barwon Water Supply Catchment
- Golden Plains ESO2: Watercourse Protection
- Golden Plains ESO3: Mount Misery Creek, Surface Hill – Smythesdale, Klein & Swanston Road Area, Dereel, Swamp Road – Dereel, Yarrowee Creek, Teesdale Reserve, Moorabool Valley, Sutherland Creek, Meredith, Steiglitz
- Moorabool ESO1: Proclaimed Water Catchment Areas
- Moyne ESO3: Mortlake Power Station Environs
- Pyrenees ESO1: Designated Water Supply Areas
- Pyrenees ESO2: Watercourse Protection

### HO

- Numerous HOs including homesteads, stables, mileposts, bridges & huts

### VPO

- Ballarat VPO1: Native Vegetation Protection Areas
- Corangamite VPO1: Significant & Remnant Vegetation
- Corangamite VPO2: Roadside Vegetation Protection Area
- Pyrenees VPO1: Roadside Grassland Protection & Conservation

### DDO

- Ararat DDO1: Airport Environs
- Ballarat DDO17: Ballarat Airfield - Building Height above 5m
- Ballarat DDO18: Ballarat Airfield - Building Height above 15m
- Golden Plains DDO7: Rural Living Zone Outbuildings & Sheds
- Moorabool DDO2: Visual Amenity & Building Design

### RO

- Moorabool RO3: Elaine North
- Pyrenees RO18: Former Townships of Snake Valley & Carngham Environs
- Pyrenees RO19: Former Township of Chepstowe & Baillies Creek Environs
- Pyrenees RO23: Former Stockyard Hill Crown Township
- Pyrenees RO24: Former Middle Creek Crown Township
- Pyrenees RO26: Former Shirley Crown Township

### Other overlays

- Ararat DPO1: Ararat Renewable Energy Park
- Ararat, Ballarat, Corangamite, Moyne & Pyrenees WMO / BMO
- Ballarat RFO
- Golden Plains SMO
- Ballarat & Colac Otway AEO
- Ballarat PAO1 & Pyrenees PAO1: Road Construction or Widening

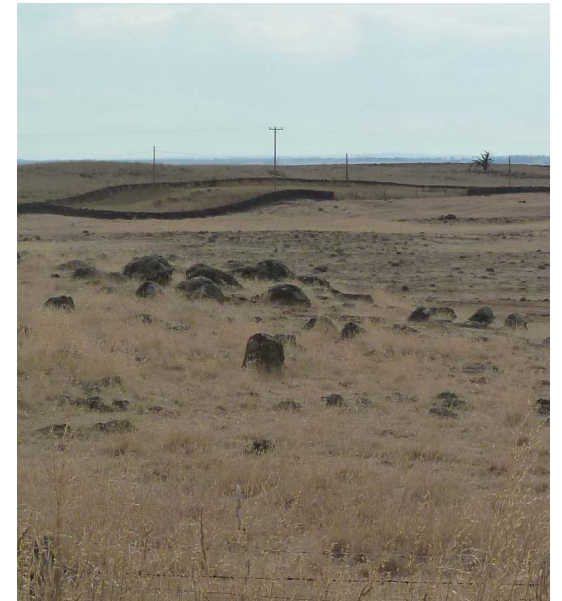
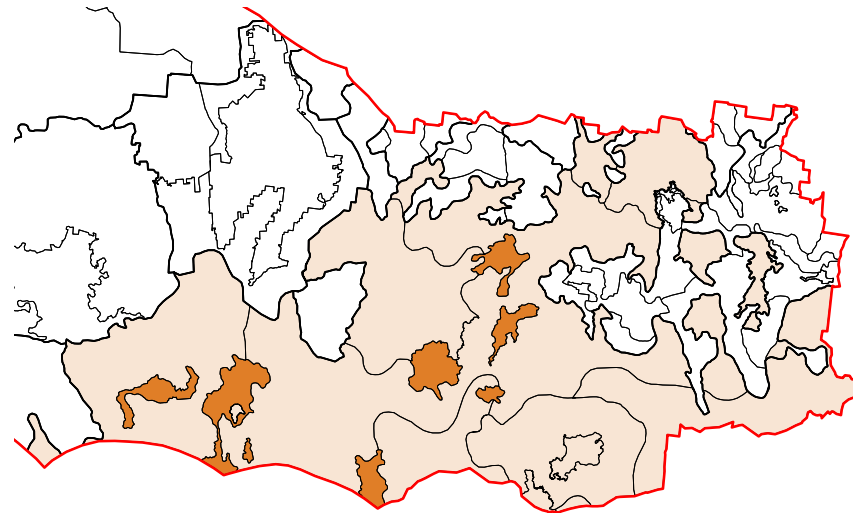
## Proposed Zones & Overlays

- Corangamite RAZ1
  - Glenelg Highway, Skipton
- Corangamite DDO5: Tourism Opportunity Sites
  - Glenelg Highway, Skipton
- Ballarat EMO









Character Area 1.4

## Stony Rises & Lava Flows



## 2.3 STONY RISES & LAVA FLOWS

This landscape is typified by places where the volcanic history of the Western Plain is visibly written in the landscape through dramatically exposed geology. It features the basaltic lava flows that are often adjacent to dormant volcanoes across the Western Volcanic Plain, including the sculptural and ethereal Tumuli lava blisters and the caves of the Byaduk area.

The roughly textured landscape features exposed rocky outcrops and water-filled, peaty sink holes. Paddocks are strewn with rocks and boulders and mostly cleared of vegetation. Land is generally not highly productive though livestock is often grazing within the rocky landscape. It supports growth of bracken, grasses and low shrubs, along with rare and endangered flora which are associated with scoria in lava flows.

The volcanic rocks that were cleared from the land were used to create the prolific dry stone walls, and the basalt rock / bluestone was a common material sourced for many iconic structures in Melbourne and regional towns.

### Key Features

- Geology and geological features
- Starkness and rough texture of the landscape
- Exposed rocky outcrops and sinkholes
- Textural contrast with adjacent paddocks

### Settlements

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| ▪ Penshurst     | ▪ Dundonnell     |
| ▪ Byaduk        | ▪ Stockyard Hill |
| ▪ Gerrigerrup   | ▪ Framlingham    |
| ▪ Nerrin Nerrin |                  |



Stone strewn paddocks south of Penshurst



Long range views over lava flows and dry stone walls near Nerrin Nerrin









Figure 2 Stony Rises & Lava Flows Landform

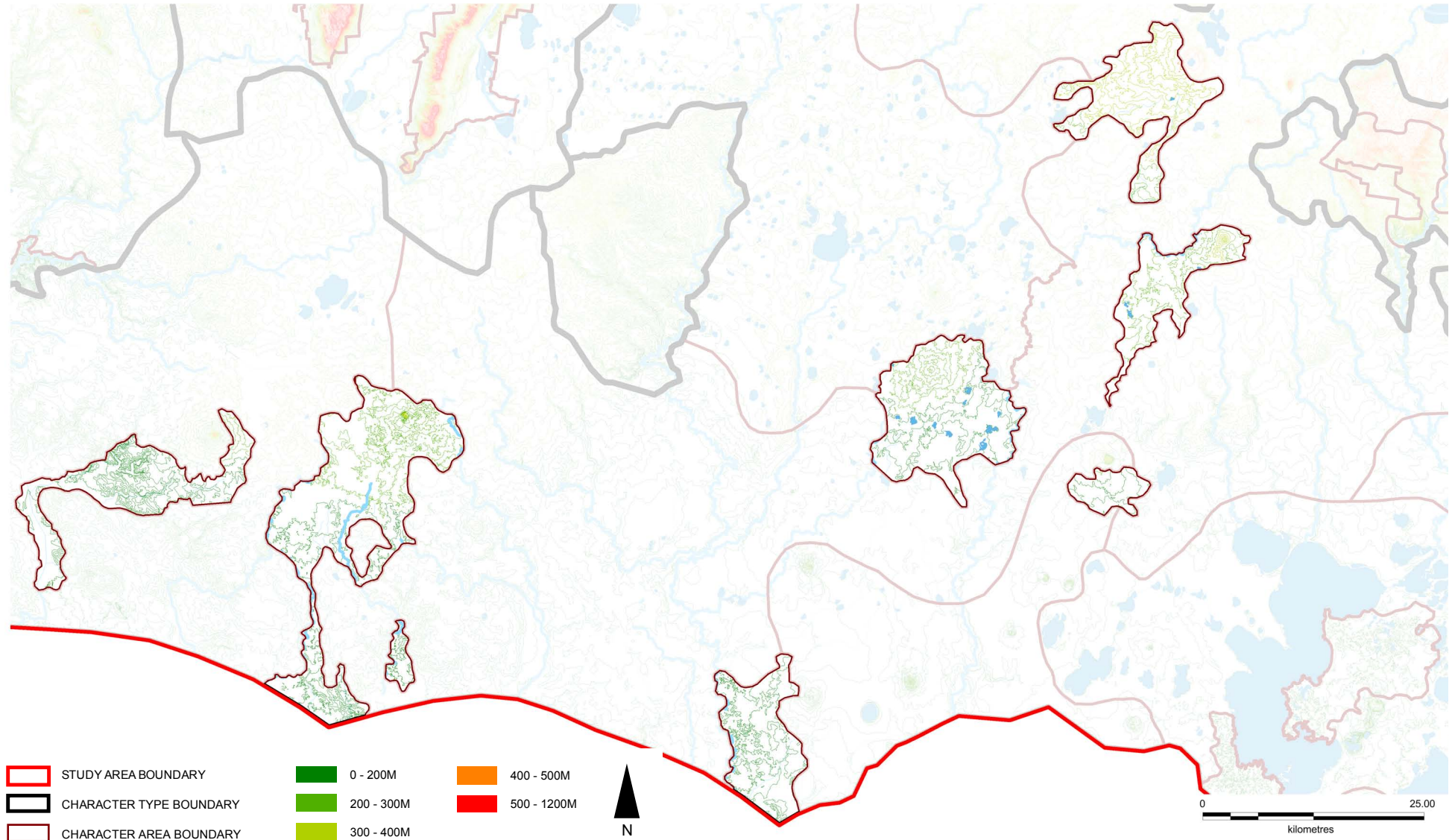
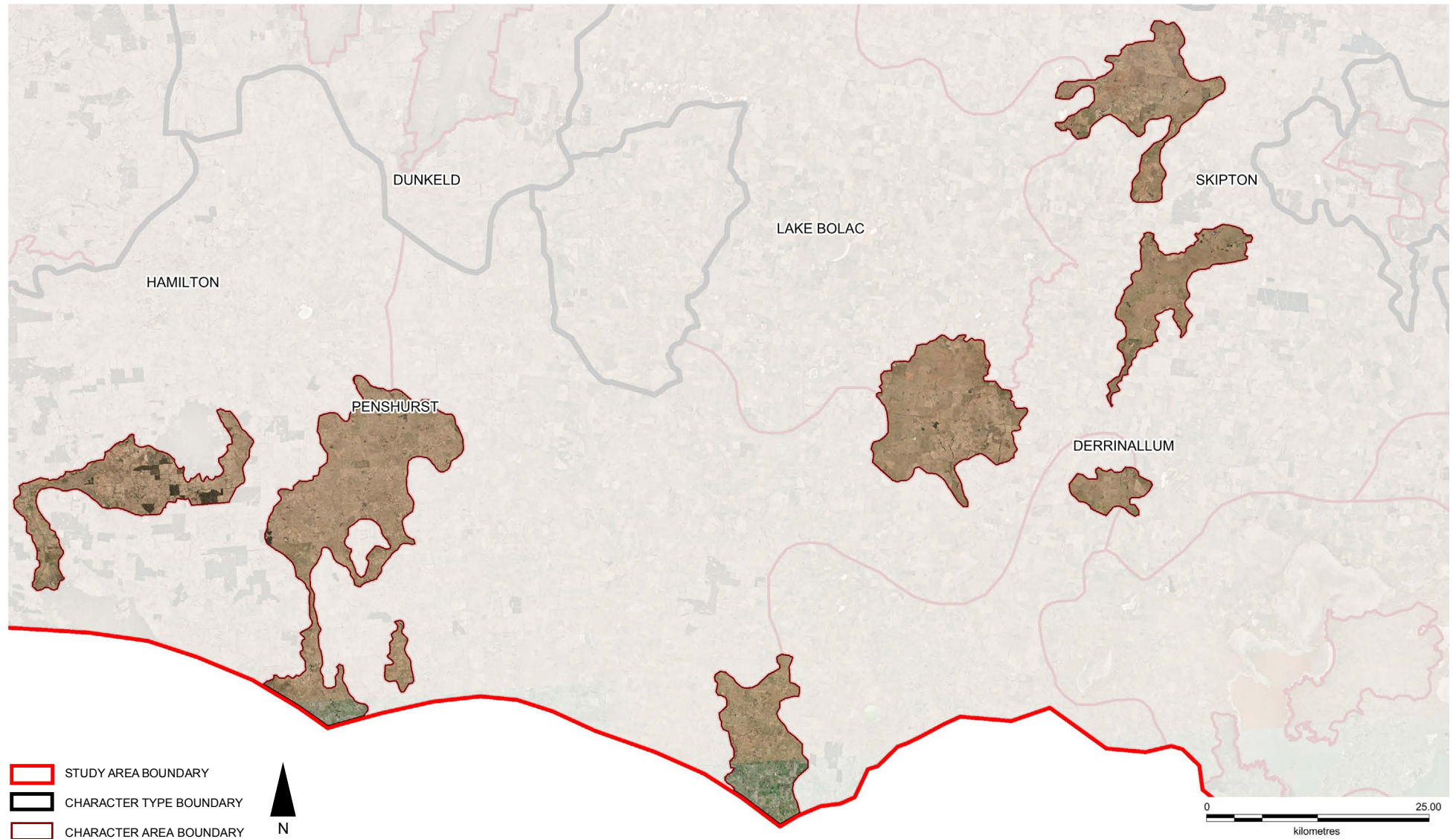




Figure 3 Stony Rises & Lava Flows Aerial



## PATTERN OF VIEWING

When travelling through the Western Volcanic Plain the lava flows are often a surprising feature which appear and quickly disappear as the landscape is traversed. Different viewing opportunities prevail at different geological features, the lava caves at Byaduk must be sought out by foot and viewed from dedicated platforms, while rock strewn paddocks can be seen stretching into the distance from the roadside.

There are a number of roads from which the lava flows can be viewed, these include:

- The Darlington-Nerrin Road
- The Derinillum-Lara Road
- Wallacedale-Byaduk Rd & Old Crusher Road
- Stonefield Lane
- Hamilton-Port Fairy Road

On occasion the lava flows create a hillier topography and bank to create narrow views which quickly open again to reveal long range views over paddocks.

The designated lookout points at Mount Rouse and Harmans Valley allow views over the lava flows and across the plains which can be seen to break up the regular field patterns.



*Typical view of lava flow from one of the many viewing corridors traversing the landscape.*



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







*The Harmans Valley lookout point is located on the Hamilton Port Fairy Road. The liquid lava flowed from Mount Napier down the river valley and created the rocky textured landscape in the valley floor. The cleared nature of the surrounding landscape allows long views terminating in stands of vegetation on the horizon.*



*Banked lava flows and dry stone walls create narrow views*



*The Mount Rouse lookout in Peshurst allows panoramic views across the landscape to the wider Western Volcanic Plain. The lava flows from Mount Rouse can be seen following the shallow, gently sloping river course to the south.*



# LANDSCAPE VALUES

## Historic

- Evidence of Aboriginal use including stone arrangements on top of Mount Rouse
- Tyrendarra Indigenous Land (Peters Property), included with Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape, a Nominated place on the National Heritage List
- Hopkins River, significant Aboriginal place, which has evidence of fish traps, identified by DPCD
- Mount Napier Volcanic Complex, identified by Heritage Victoria for its landscape values (but has not been assessed)
- Stone cairns & stone walled dam, Dundonnell, Moyne Shire on file with National Trust
- Mount Rouse & Crater Reserve, identified in the Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study Stage 2
  - centred on extinct volcano with large crater in the centre
  - named by Major Mitchell
  - has associations with the very early squatting run of John Cox & with the Aboriginal Protectorate
- Mount Rouse, site of a government-run mission / station for Aborigines 1842-1850

## Environmental/Scientific

- Volcanic landscape & features, protected by Corangamite SLO1
- Mount Rouse & Crater Reserve, protected by Southern Grampians SLO2
- Vegetation & wildlife at Framlingham Forest
- Byaduk Caves in Mount Napier State Park
- Harman’s Valley lava flow & Tyrendarra lava flow which flows out to sea
- Tumuli Lava Blisters, possible international significance
- Protected areas on the IUCN list, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve)
  - Blacks Creek Nature Conservation Reserve
  - Mount Fyans Wildlife Reserve
  - Warrambine Flora Reserve
- State & locally significant roadside vegetation, protected by Pyrenees VPO1
- Nationally important wetlands
  - Banongill Network
  - Widderin Swamps
- Locally significant watercourses, waterbodies & wetlands, protected by Corangamite ESO1

## Social

- Designated water supply areas, protected by Pyrenees ESO1, supply potable water to urban & rural communities throughout the region



*The lava caves at Byaduk are a destination attraction and must be viewed on foot from dedicated viewing platforms*



*Tumuli lava blisters are considered rare on a world scale and are of international importance*





# LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

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## Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

This Character Area is subject to the Corangamite, Glenelg, Moyne, Pyrenees and Southern Grampians Planning Schemes.

### Key Zones

- FZ
- PCRZ (except Corangamite)

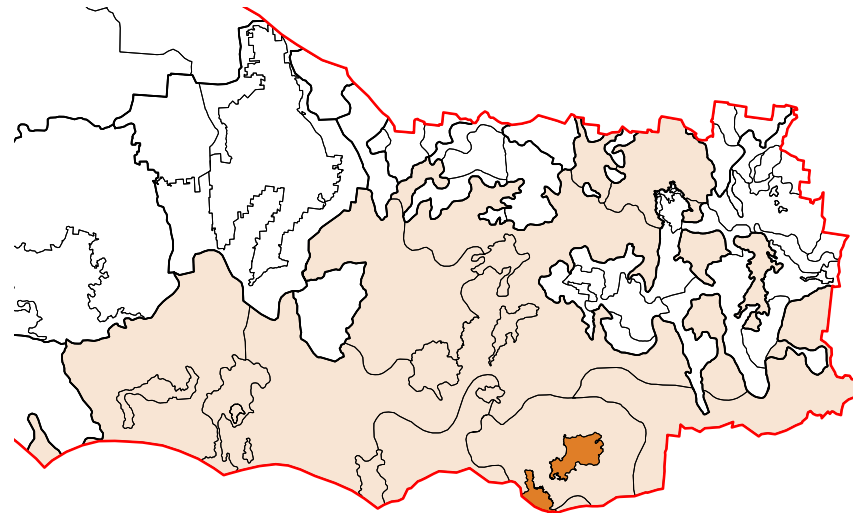
### Key Overlays

- Corangamite SLO1: Volcanic Landscape Area
- Southern Grampians SLO2: Mount Rouse & Crater Reserve
- Corangamite ESO1: Watercourses, Water Body & Wetland Protection Overlay
- Corangamite ESO2: Habitat Protection Overlay
- Moyne ESO5: Tarrone Power Station Environs
- Pyrenees ESO1: Designated Water Supply Areas
- Corangamite HO5 & HO73: Homesteads, HO29: Dry Stone Wall, HO106: English Oak
- Pyrenees HO40: Homestead
- Southern Grampians HO including several Homesteads & HO88 Major Mitchell Plaque, summit of Mount Napier
- Pyrenees VPO1: Roadside Grassland Protection & Conservation
- WMO / BMO (except Pyrenees)
- Corangamite LSIO









Character Area 1.5

## Lakeside Stony Rises



## 2.4 LAKESIDE STONY RISES

Areas to the south east and south west of Lake Corangamite feature a distinctive landscape of dense stony rises which have a highly textured and hummocky topography that is more prominent and dramatic than the stony rises associated with the open plains and volcanic rises (outlined in Character Area 1.4). These ancient lava flows blocked natural drainage lines and influenced the creation of Lake Corangamite.

The rises often support scrubby growth of bracken, brambles and low shrubs, with occasional stands of eucalyptus surrounded by cleared, grassy areas. Poor drainage has led to the development of a number of seasonal lakes and wetlands.

The nature of the topography and vegetation creates a landscape which feels sheltered and protected from the elements. Short and medium range views are available to plains and hummocks.

Apart from the unique geology, another feature of the area are the dry stone walls that partition the paddocks and define the road corridor. Built form in the landscape is characterised by rambling farm houses, some constructed of stone. The main land use is grazing which occurs on the grassed areas available between the rises, and there are a number of conservation areas.

### Key Features

- Exposed stony outcrops
- Hummocky topography
- Native vegetation cover
- Dry stone walls

### Settlements

- Pomborneit
- Dreeite



*Cattle are often hidden amongst the rocky hummocks*



*Agricultural elements and dry stone walls at Pomborneit to the South West of Lake Corangamite*



*Stone strewn landscape at Pomborneit*





Figure 1 Lakeside Stony Rises Overview

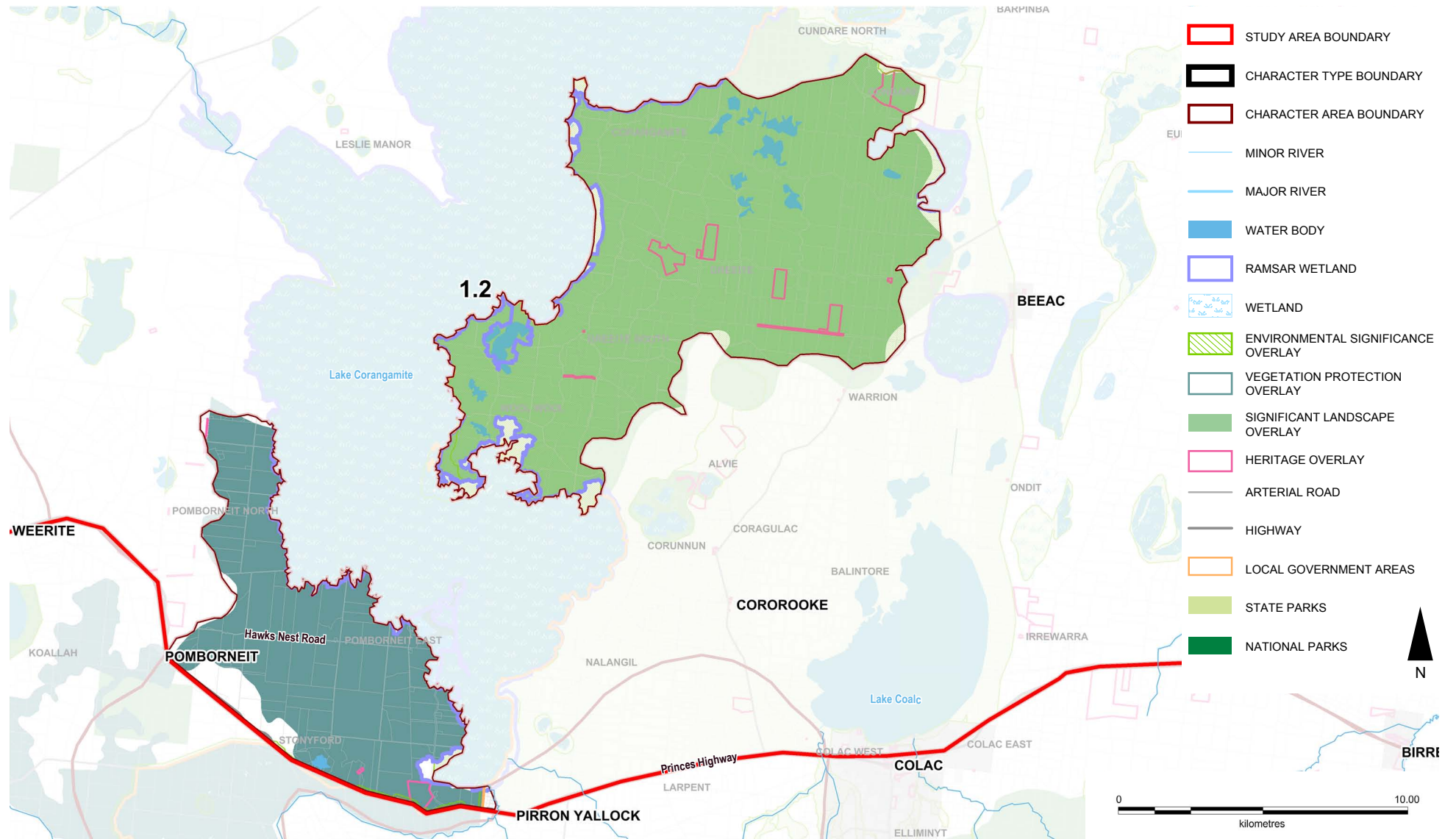


Figure 2 Lakeside Stony Rises Landform

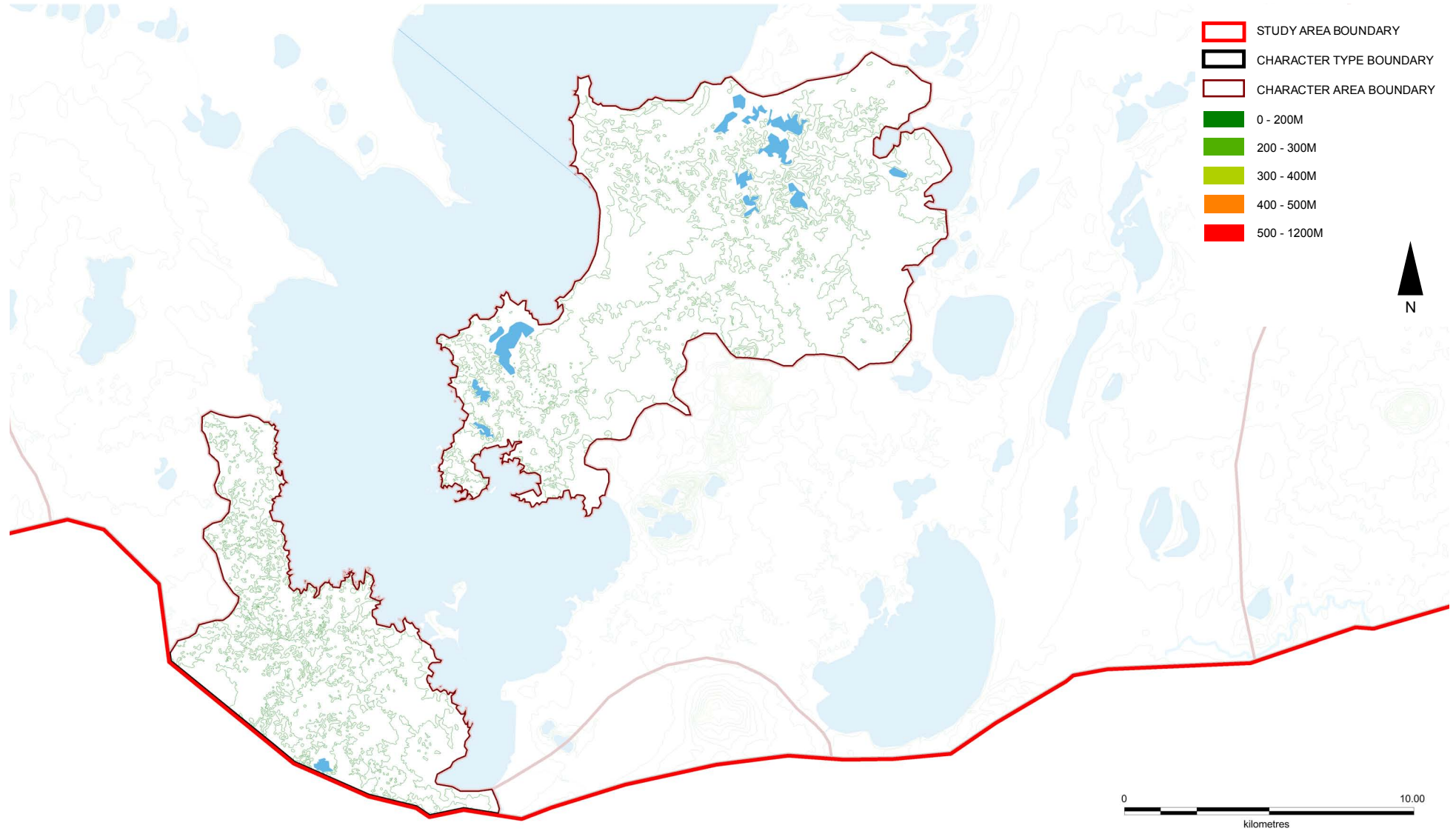
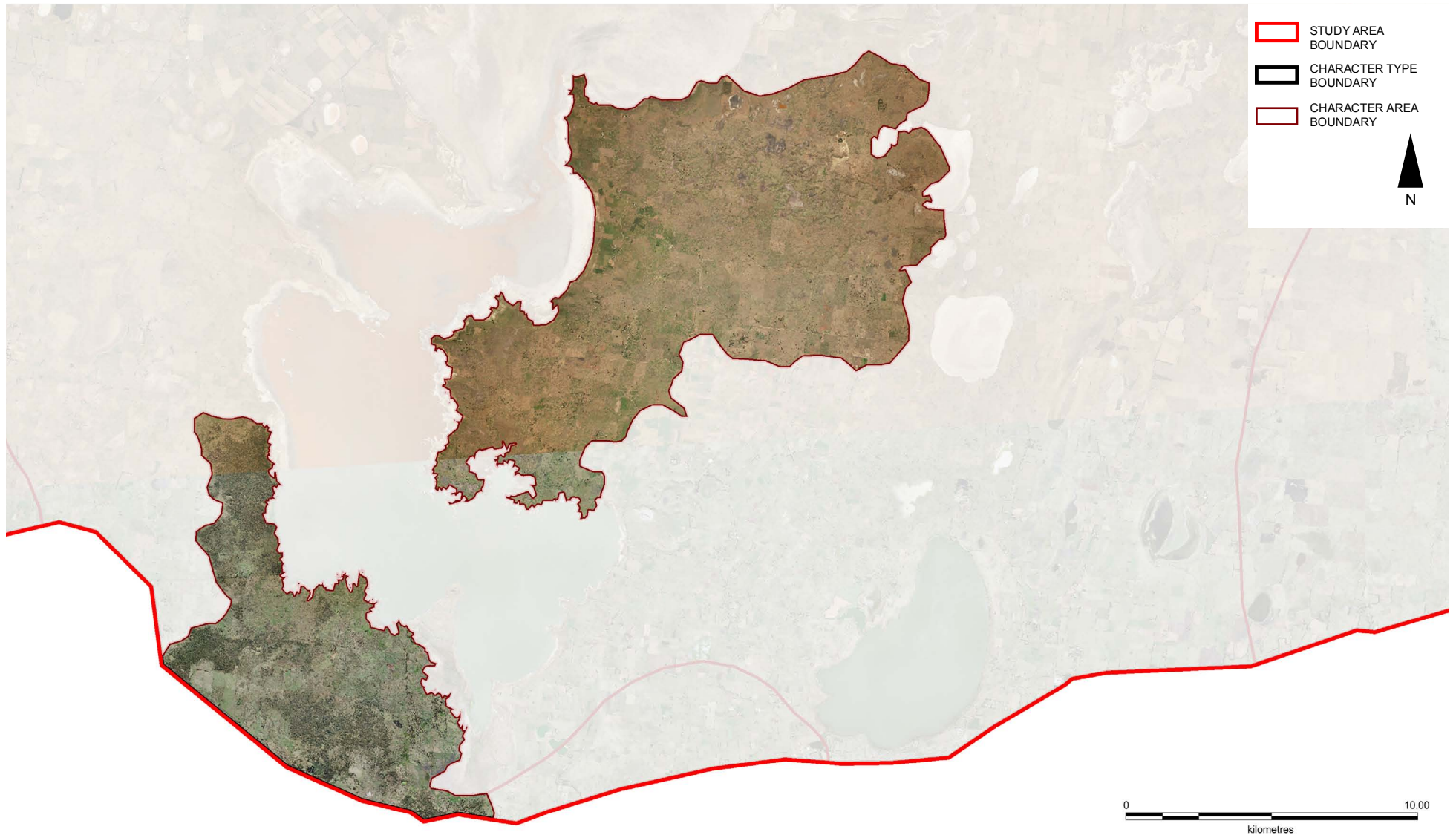


Figure 3 Lakeside Stony Rises Aerial





## PATTERN OF VIEWING

The Stony Rises can be viewed intimately from the viewing corridors which wind through the hummocky landscape.

The Pomborneit East Road to the south of Lake Corangamite winds through and in between hummocky vegetated stony rises and presents narrow views which open up across the lake at high points.

The Dreeite area to the east of Lake Corangamite displays a more undulating topography with an increase in native vegetation. This landscape creates narrower views which occasionally open up to reveal long ranging views across Lake Corangamite at high points.

This landscape sits within the middleground of views to Lake Corangamite available from the Red Rock lookout in Alvie. From here the relationship between the stony landscape and the formation of the lake is more evident.



*Views with longer views towards Lake Corangamite at high points*



*Short and medium range views over rocky paddocks to the east of Lake Corangamite in the Dreeite area*





*Viewing corridors wind through the hilly, rocky vegetated landscape of Pomborneit*



*To the east of Lake Corangamite the area around Dreeite creates a more intimate viewing experience with undulating topography, thick, shrubby vegetation and occasional long views opening up over the lake*





# LANDSCAPE VALUES

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## Historic

- State significant Hawks Nest Road & Environs, Stony Rises, almost intact 19th century farming landscape, listed by the National Trust
- Dry stone rabbit wall, Iletts Road, Dreeite, extends 3km, built 1880s-1990s, protected by Colac Otway HO183
- Dry stone Consumption Cairn, Iletts Road, Dreeite comprises irregular volcanic scree, is graded from largest boulders near the base to smaller near the top of the cairn, has been designed in a pyramid shape, protected by Colac Otway HO182

## Environmental/Scientific

- Valleys, hills or plains of geological significance & landscape character, protected by Colac Otway SLO1
- Warrion aquifer area, protected by Colac Otway ESO1
- The Basins, an important wetland, protected by Colac ESO2
- Spiny pepper cress at Pipe Clay Lake, listed as Vulnerable on the EPBC Act list, habitats protected by Colac Otway ESO4
- Significant remnant vegetation, protected by Corangamite VPO1
- Protected areas on the IUCN list, Category IA (Strict Nature Reserve)
  - Floating Islands Flora & Fauna Reserve
  - Dreeite Nature Conservation Reserve
  - Pomborneit North Nature Conservation Reserve



*Eugene Von Guerard: Lake Corangamite Stony Rises (1857) depicts the distinctive landscape and Aboriginal occupation of the area*



# LANDSCAPE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

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## Planning Scheme Policies & Controls

This Character Area is subject to the Colac Otway and Corangamite Planning Schemes.

### Key Zones

- FZ
- PCRZ

### Key Overlays

- Colac Otway SLO1: Valleys, Hills & Plains Landscape Precinct
- Colac Otway ESO1: Warrion Groundwater Area
- Colac Otway ESO2: Lakes, Wetlands & Watercourses
- Colac Otway ESO4: Habitat Protection
- Corangamite ESO1: Watercourses, Water Body & Wetland Protection Overlay
- HO including:
  - Colac Otway HO182: Dry Stone Rabbit Wall
  - Colac Otway HO183: Consumption Cairn
  - Corangamite HO34: Dry Stone Wall
  - Corangamite HO115: Stone Causeway
- Corangamite VPO1: Significant & Remnant Vegetation
- Corangamite WMO / BMO
- Colac Otway LSIO





