

Proposed Wodonga Creek Activation Project & Walking Trail, Gateway Island Wodonga, VIC 3690

Cultural Heritage Management Plan No: 20361



Activity Size: Medium

Assessment: Desktop & Standard Assessment

Sponsor: Wodonga City Council

(ABN: 63 277 160 265)

Heritage Advisor: Damian Wall

Authors: Damian Wall,
Emily Mendham
& Jacqui Durrant

Version 2

Date: 21/9/25

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Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
Section 65

Cultural Heritage Management Plan – Notice of Approval

CHMP Name: Proposed Wodonga Creek Activation Project & Walking Trail, Gateway Island Wodonga, VIC 3690

CHMP Number: 20361

Sponsor: Wodonga City Council


ABN: 63 277 160 265

Heritage Advisor(s): Damian Wall

Author(s): Damian Wall, Emily Mendham & Jacqui Durrant (Red-Gum Environmental Consulting)

Cover date: 21 September 2025

Pages: i-vii & 1-86

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SECRETARY (OR DELEGATE)	Yes	No
I have considered the Evaluation Report for this CHMP and:		
<i>I am satisfied that the CHMP has been prepared in accordance with the standards prescribed for the purposes of section 53 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.</i>	✓	
<i>I am satisfied that the CHMP adequately addresses the matters set out in section 61.</i>	✓	
<i>In considering this application, I consulted with and considered the views of Aboriginal persons or bodies I considered relevant to the application.</i>	✓	
<i>I have given proper consideration to any relevant human rights</i>	✓	
<p>I, Simon Crocker, Acting Director Heritage Services First Peoples – State Relations, acting under authority delegated to me by the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and pursuant to section 65(2) of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> hereby <u>approve</u> / refuse to approve this cultural heritage management plan:</p>		
<p>Signed: </p> <p style="text-align: center;">SIMON CROCKER</p>		
Dated: 08/10/2025		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This notice of approval should be inserted after the title page and bound with the body of the management plan. • The conditions in this management plan are now compliance requirements. Officers from the Department of Premier and Cabinet may attend the subject land to monitor compliance with the conditions. 		

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Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the Activity Area:
None

Version 2

21/9/25

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Compliance requirements are set out in Part 1 of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan. Part 2 describes the assessment undertaken within the Activity Area.

Activity Area

The proposed activity is the construction of a new shared walkway and associated infrastructure (including water access, water play areas, playgrounds, picnic tables, carparks, toilets, barbecue areas, some resealing of existing roads and general landscaping) connecting existing pathways on Gateway Island, Wodonga VIC 3690. The Activity Area intersects five (5) planning zones: Transport Zone 1 – State Transport Infrastructure (TRZ1), Transport Zone 2 – Principal Road Network (TRZ2), Farming Zone (FZ), Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) and Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). The Activity Area is located in the City of Wodonga Local Government Area (LGA) in North East Victoria on Gateway Island.

The Sponsor

The sponsor for this CHMP is Wodonga City Council (ABN: 63 277 160 265).

The Activity

The proposed activity involves the construction of approximately 1.1 kilometres of new concrete path and the creation of river access (including small beaches and terraced lawns), picnic benches, barbeque areas, playgrounds and car parking areas within Activity area. Several existing dirt roads are proposed to be sealed and therefore the proposed activity will require some machinery excavation and surfacing. A new raised boardwalk is also proposed. Specific impacts are detailed in **Section 4** of this CHMP.

Assessment Undertaken & Results

A desktop and standard assessment were undertaken as part of the preparation of this CHMP. The desktop assessment determined that, despite the likely disturbance within the Activity Area, it is possible that Aboriginal cultural heritage is present, therefore a standard assessment was required pursuant to r.62(1) of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018. The No (zero) Aboriginal cultural heritage was discovered during the standard assessment. The survey team observed that previous land use activities such the vegetation clearance, the construction of roads, paths, facilities and vehicle use had permanently and significantly impacted the natural surface of the alignment and works areas in the Activity Area.

The survey team also concluded that the proposed activities would not extend into any parts of the highly modified floodplain, where clear evidence of 'Significant Disturbance' (as it is defined in the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018) was *not* observed during the Standard Assessment.

Therefore, in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018, the CHMP has determined that further surface or sub-surface Aboriginal cultural heritage is not 'reasonably possible' (r.62), or likely to occur (r. 64) within the Activity Area. Therefore, a complex assessment is 'not required'.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the Activity Area

None.

Contributors

Ms Jacqui Durrant' sole and specific attribution to this CHMP is Section 6.2.4 *Historical and Ethno-historical accounts in the geographic region*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Johnny Murray - Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation

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Part 1. Cultural Heritage Conditions

These Conditions become compliance requirements once the CHMP is approved. Failure to comply with a Condition is an offence under Section 67A of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

The Cultural Heritage Management Plan must be readily accessible to the sponsor and their employees and contractors when carrying out the activity.

1 Cultural Heritage Conditions

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* requires a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to set out Management Conditions for measures to be taken before, during and after the activity. No (zero) Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during the standard assessment, and no areas were identified as likely to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage. No specific cultural heritage management activities are provided; however, one (1) general cultural heritage Management Condition has been detailed below.

1.1 Management Condition 1: Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to be available onsite

A hard copy (or a digital copy on a suitable electronic device) of this approved CHMP must be held onsite at all times within the on-site construction office or with the site manager if an office is not provided, where it will remain readily available to all construction staff.

2 Cultural Heritage Management Contingencies

Clause 13(1) Schedule 2 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 requires that the management plan must contain a contingency plan for the matters referred to in Section 61 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the resolution of disputes between the sponsor and the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP), reviewing compliance with the CHMP including mechanisms for non-compliance, the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage identified during the activity, and the notification requirements in regards to the identification of Aboriginal cultural heritage during the activity.

Note that any notification and/or communication required as a result of adhering to these contingencies should refer to **Appendix 6** for relevant contacts. A Compliance Checklist has been added as **Appendix 5** for use prior to and during the works stage.

2.1 Contingency 1 – The Discovery of Human Remains

If any suspected human remains are found during any activity, works must cease. The Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office must be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe the remains are Aboriginal, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be contacted immediately on 1300 309 519. This advice has been developed further and is described in the following 5-step contingency plan. Any such discovery at the Activity Area must follow these steps.

1) Discovery:

- a) If suspected human remains are discovered, all activity within at least 30 metres must stop
- b) The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage.
- c) Do not contact the media; do not take any photographs of the remains other than those requested by the relevant authorities below.

2) Notification:

- a) If suspected human remains have been found, the State Coroner's Office and the Victoria Police must be notified immediately.
- b) If there are reasonable grounds to believe the remains are Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be immediately notified on 1300 309 519.
- c) All details of the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the relevant authorities.
- d) If it is confirmed by State Coroner's Office that the discovered remains are Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, the person responsible for the activity must report the existence of them to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council in accordance with section 17 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

3) Impact Mitigation or Salvage:

- a) The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, after taking reasonable steps to consult with any Aboriginal person or body with an interest in the Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, will determine the appropriate course of action as required by section 18(2)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

- b) An appropriate impact mitigation or salvage strategy as determined by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council must be implemented by the Sponsor. All costs associated with this will be the responsibility of the Sponsor.

4) Curation and further analysis:

- a) The treatment of salvaged Aboriginal Ancestral Remains must be in accordance with the direction of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council.

5) Reburial:

- a) Any reburial site(s) must be fully documented by an experienced and qualified archaeologist and all relevant details provided to the Registrar.
- b) Appropriate management measures must be implemented to ensure the Aboriginal Ancestral Remains are not disturbed in the future.

2.2 Contingency 2 – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Excluding Aboriginal Ancestral Remains)

1) Secret / Sacred Objects

- a) Any suspected Secret / Sacred Objects must be reported to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, as per Part 2, Division 3 (sections 21-2) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
- b) All works must stop within at least 10 metres of the objects
- c) The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council will transfer the object/s to an Aboriginal person that the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council is satisfied is entitled to and willing to take possession, custody or control of the object/s, or otherwise deals with the object/s as the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council thinks appropriate, as per section 21B of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

2) Discovery

If any other suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage, excluding Aboriginal Ancestral Remains and suspected Secret / Sacred Objects, is uncovered or identified:

- a) All works must stop within at least 10 metres of the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage
- b) The 'stop works' area around the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage must be fenced off using appropriate temporary fencing and protected from further disturbance; "no-go zone" signage must be attached to the fencing at all times to prevent the area being disturbed further
- c) An appropriately qualified Heritage Advisor must be notified within two working days
- d) An appropriately qualified Heritage Advisor must inspect the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage within three working days of notification
- e) Relevant Traditional Owner groups must be provided the opportunity to participate in the inspection.

3) Notification

The Department of Premier and cabinet (vahr@dpc.vic.gov.au) must be notified of the discovery of any Aboriginal cultural heritage, excluding Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, by the Sponsor within five working days.

4) Unexpected Discoveries of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

If the Heritage Advisor determines that the discovery is Aboriginal cultural heritage, and is not Aboriginal cultural heritage as described in Example Contingency 2.5:

- a) the Sponsor must consider whether it is possible to avoid harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage, and if harm cannot be avoided, whether harm can be minimised, and salvage excavation of the Aboriginal cultural heritage undertaken to mitigate impact
- b) if harm cannot be avoided, the Sponsor must arrange a meeting between the Heritage Advisor, relevant Traditional Owner groups (should they wish to attend) and the Department of Premier and Cabinet, as soon as practicable, to discuss and agree an appropriate way of managing the Aboriginal cultural heritage
- c) all reasonable costs arising from the meeting and any agreed management actions must be borne by the Sponsor
- d) the temporary fencing around the suspected or identified Aboriginal cultural heritage may be removed, and works re-commence in the “no-go zone”, when the suspected or identified Aboriginal cultural heritage has been investigated and managed appropriately, in accordance with *the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and as agreed in discussions with the Department of Premier and Cabinet
- e) the Heritage Advisor must record the Aboriginal cultural heritage in accordance with Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) standards and relevant forms must be submitted to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register as soon as practical.

5) Not Unexpected Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Low Density Artefact Distributions

If the Heritage Advisor determines that the discovery is a low density artefact distribution or other expected Aboriginal cultural heritage:

- a) the Heritage Advisor must record the Aboriginal cultural heritage in accordance with VAHR recording standards, and relevant forms must be submitted to the VAHR as soon as practical
- b) works can continue once the Aboriginal cultural heritage has been recorded and all temporary fencing is removed.

2.3 Contingency 3 – Custody and Management

Where the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, determines the approval of a Management Plan, the custody of Aboriginal cultural heritage (with the exception of Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, or Secret or Sacred Objects) discovered during or after an activity must comply with the requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and be assigned according to the following order of priority, as appropriate:

- a) any relevant Registered Aboriginal Party for the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged
- b) any relevant registered native title holder for the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged
- c) any relevant native title party (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*) for the land from

which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged

- d) any relevant Traditional Owner or Owners of the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged
 - e) any relevant Aboriginal body or organisation which has historical or contemporary interests in Aboriginal cultural heritage relating to the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged
 - f) the owner of the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged
 - g) Museum Victoria.
- 1) Final management arrangements, such as repatriation and / or reburial, must occur within six months of the completion of the activity.
 - 2) If the relevant Traditional Owners request, and if it is practical, provisions should be made to re-bury artefacts within the activity area, in a place which will not be disturbed by future works. (Note, if reburial is to be within the extent of registered place the management plan must allow for that harm to occur.)
 - 3) Any reburial must be documented by a suitably qualified Heritage Advisor and the relevant forms and spatial data provided to the VAHR, as soon as practicable.

2.4 Contingency 4 – Dispute Resolution

This contingency has no application as the Secretary to the Department of Premier and Cabinet is evaluating the Management Plan.

2.5 Contingency 5 – Compliance

In the event of suspected non-compliance:

- a) All relevant works must stop
- b) The Sponsor must contact the Statewide Compliance and Enforcement Unit (compliance.aboriginalvictoria@dpc.vic.gov.au) within two working days to review the suspected non-compliance and agree to any required remedies
- c) If agreement cannot be reached by all parties, the Minister may order an audit of the management plan.
- d) All reasonable costs arising from the meeting and any agreed remedies must be borne by the Sponsor.

Part 2. Assessment

3 Introduction

The proposed activity is the construction of a new shared walkway and other infrastructure (water access, water play areas, playgrounds, picnic tables, carparks, toilets, barbecue areas, resealing of existing roads and general landscaping) connecting existing pathways on Gateway Island, Wodonga VIC 3690 [Map 1]. The Activity Area intersects five (5) planning zones: Transport Zone 1 – State Transport Infrastructure (TRZ1), Transport Zone 2 – Principal Road Network (TRZ2), Farming Zone (FZ), Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) and Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). The Activity Area is located in the City of Wodonga Local Government Area (LGA) in North East Victoria. Specific impacts are detailed in **Section 4** of this CHMP.

3.1 The Reasons for Preparing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan

In order to ensure compliance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* a CHMP will be prepared as a result of the following findings:

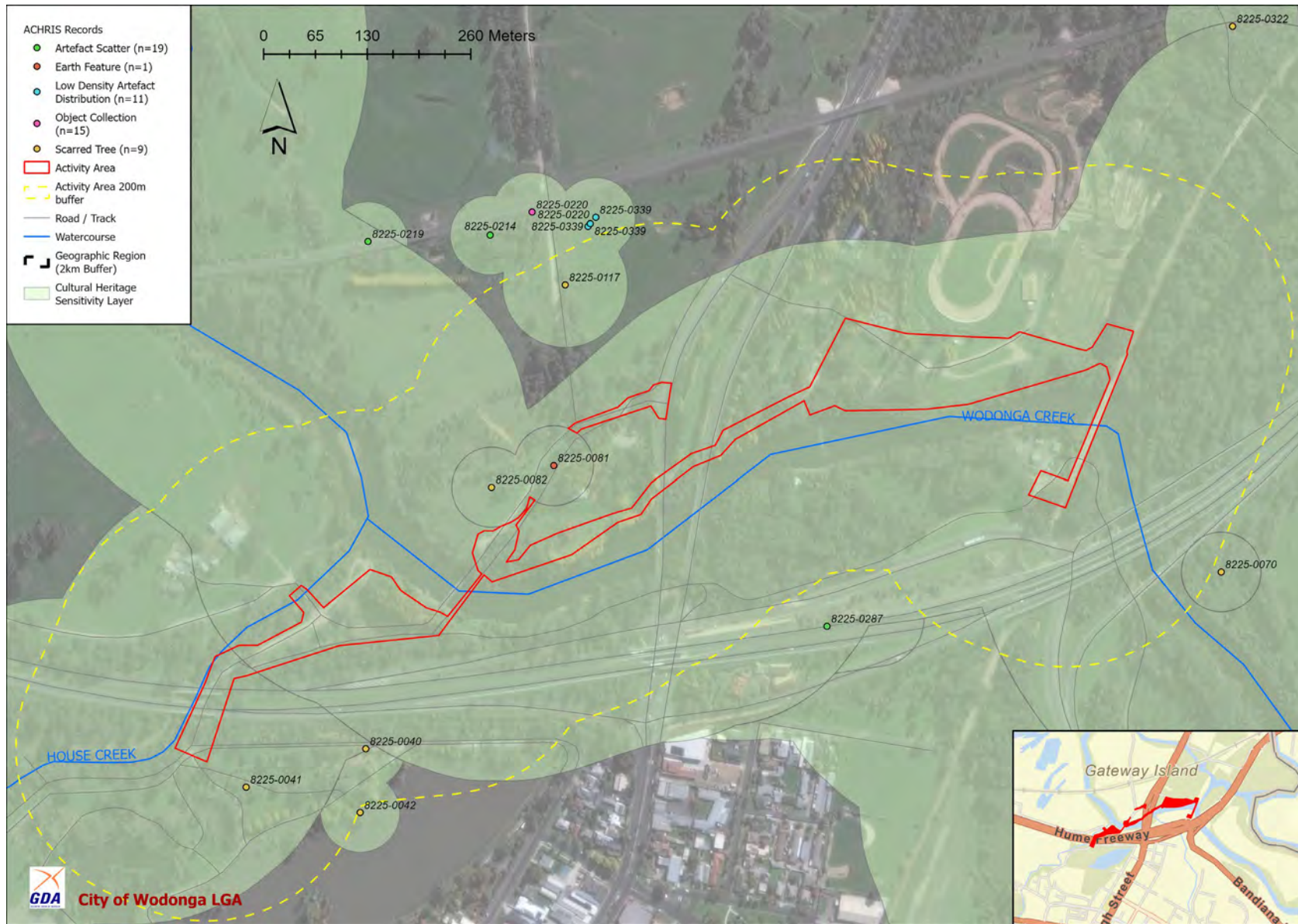
- The Activity Area intersects one statutory area of cultural heritage sensitivity, being:
 - *A waterway or land within 200 metres of a waterway (Wodonga Creek, House Creek, Jack in the Box Creek) is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity in accordance with r.26 (1) of the Regulations.*
- The proposed activity is considered to be a high impact activity in accordance with:
 - *r. 47 (1)(b) a bicycle track with a length exceeding 500 metres*
 - *r. 47 (1)(g) a walking track with a length exceeding 500 metres*
 - *r.46 (1)(a)(b)(iii) a car park*
 - *46(1)(a)(b)(xv) a minor sports and recreation facility*

3.2 Notice of Intention to Prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan

Currently there is no Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Activity Area. A Notice of Intention (NoI) to prepare a plan was provided to the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) on 12th October 2024. A copy of this notice is in **Appendix 1**.

3.3 Location and Extent of Activity Area

The Activity Area is approximately 66,000 m² on the banks of Wodonga Creek in Wodonga, VIC. The Activity Area intersects multiple cadastral parcels along its linear works area [Table 1]. This CHMP assessed land proposed to be included within the Wodonga Creek Activation Project, between Sumsion Gardens and the rail trail, immediately east of Diamond Park in Wodonga, Victoria for the purposes of opening up a currently unused section of Wodonga Creek to improve the recreational opportunities for residents of Albury-Wodonga. The proposed activity is the construction of a new shared walkway (1.1km of new concrete path) and other infrastructure mostly within Diamond Park (water access via beaches and terraced areas, water play areas, playgrounds, picnic tables, carparks, toilets, barbecue areas, resealing of existing roads and general landscaping) connecting existing pathways on Gateway Island, Wodonga VIC 3690. A number of existing concrete bike paths will be utilised, in addition to the creation of new paths, which will create a loop along the northern banks of Wodonga creek, then up onto the rail trail and back along existing paths running along the southern banks of the creek. The Activity Area intersects five (5) planning zones: Transport Zone 1 – State Transport Infrastructure (TRZ1), Transport Zone 2 – Principal Road Network (TRZ2), Farming Zone (FZ), Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) and Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). The Activity Area is located in the City of Wodonga Local Government Area (LGA) in North East Victoria.



Map 1: Activity Area location, Gateway Island, Wodonga, VIC 3690. Scale 1:6,000. Source: ESRI, 2025.

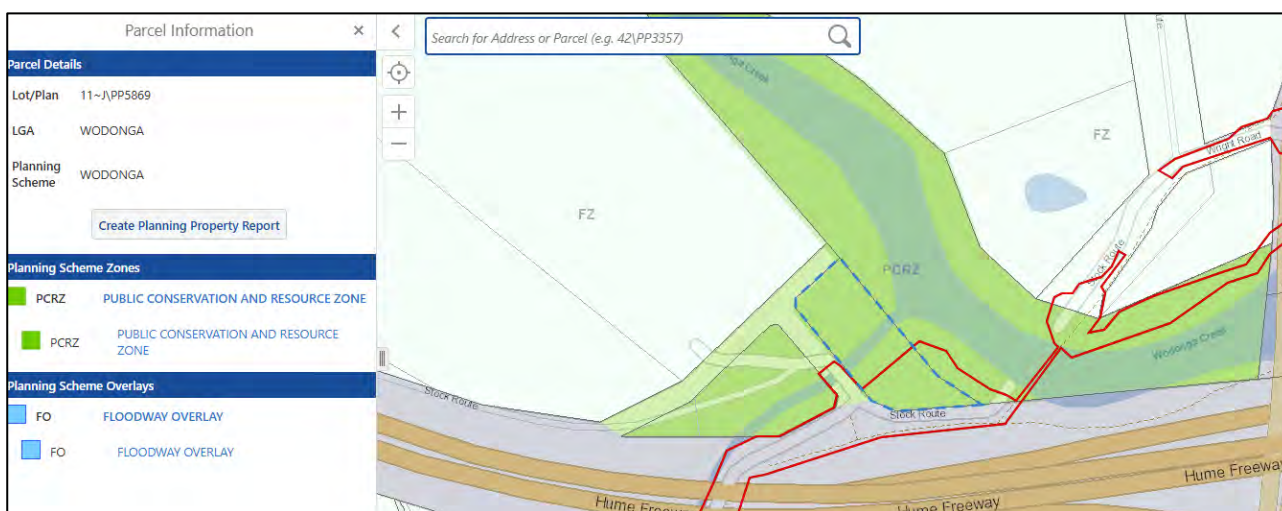
Table 1: Parcels intersecting the Activity Area.

PARCEL_PFI	PARCEL_SPI	PC_PLANNO	PC_PNUM	PC_FDESC	Screenshot ¹
45247710	8~J\PP5869		P204319		A
125012753	2037\PP5869		P374680	LEGL 99-172	D
45250950	1\TP180144	TP180144			C
45251027	11~J\PP5869		P204316		B
128577477	2100\PP5869		P392383	LEGL 12-415	F
125153247	5\PS538204	PS538204			J
420375877	2098\PP5869		P392406	LEGL 12-415	E
52806831	1\TP948619	TP948619			I
5280926	1\PS319159	PS319159			K
133016574	2076\PP5869		P391467		H
420375878	2099\PP5869		P392006	LEGL 12-415	G
420375875	2096\PP5869		P392404	LEGL 12-415	L

Screenshot A

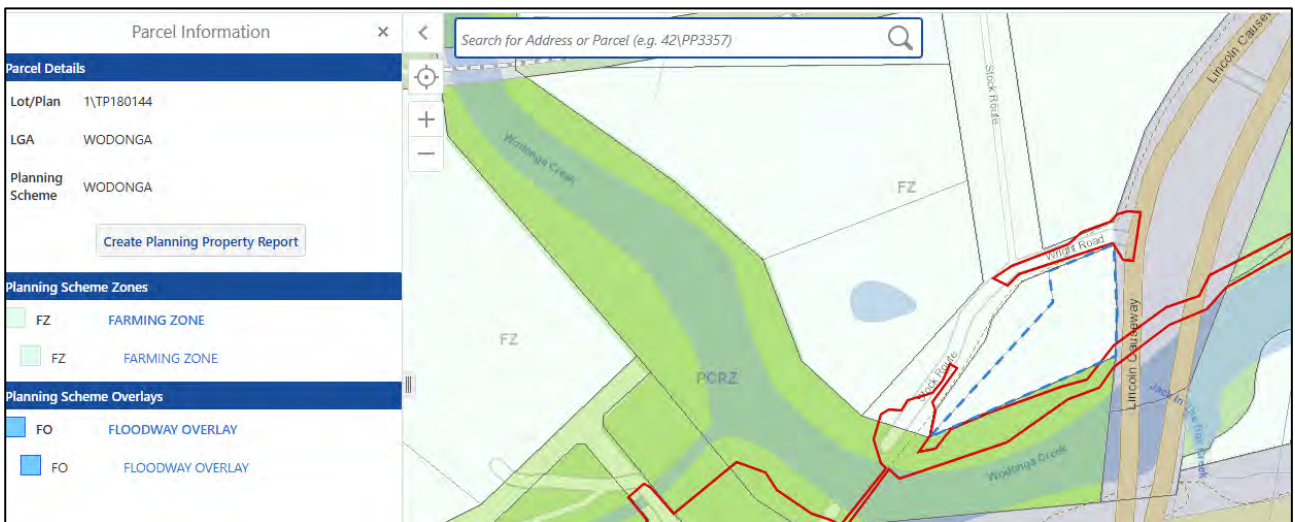


Screenshot B



¹ All screenshots were taken from MapShare: <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/mapshare/vic/> on 6/02/2025

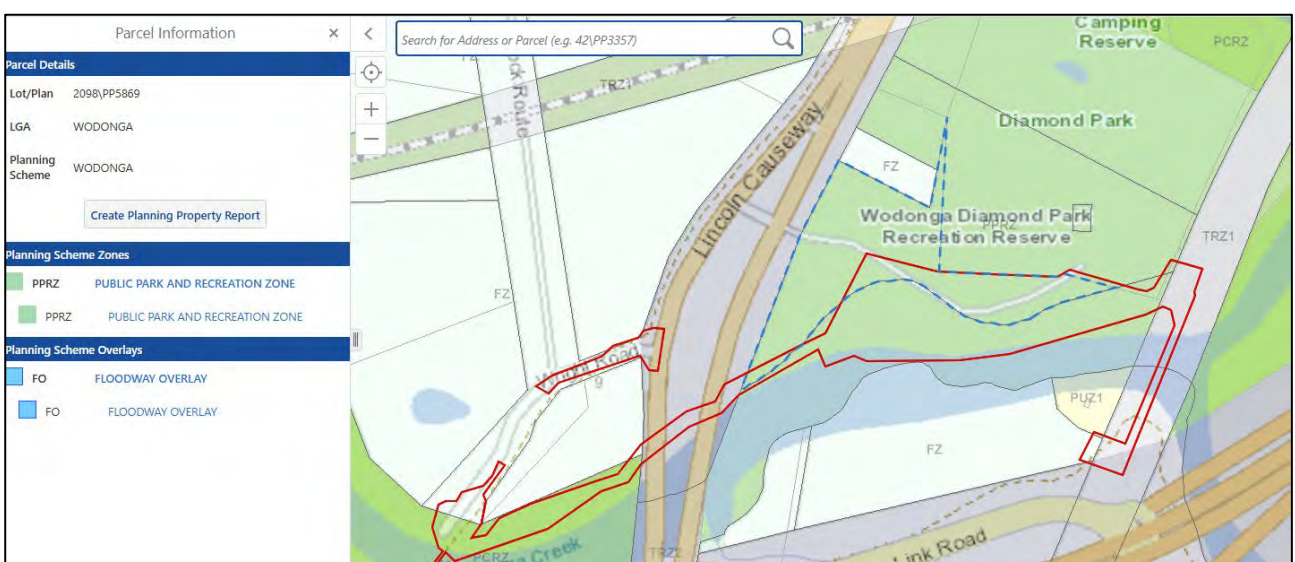
Screenshot C



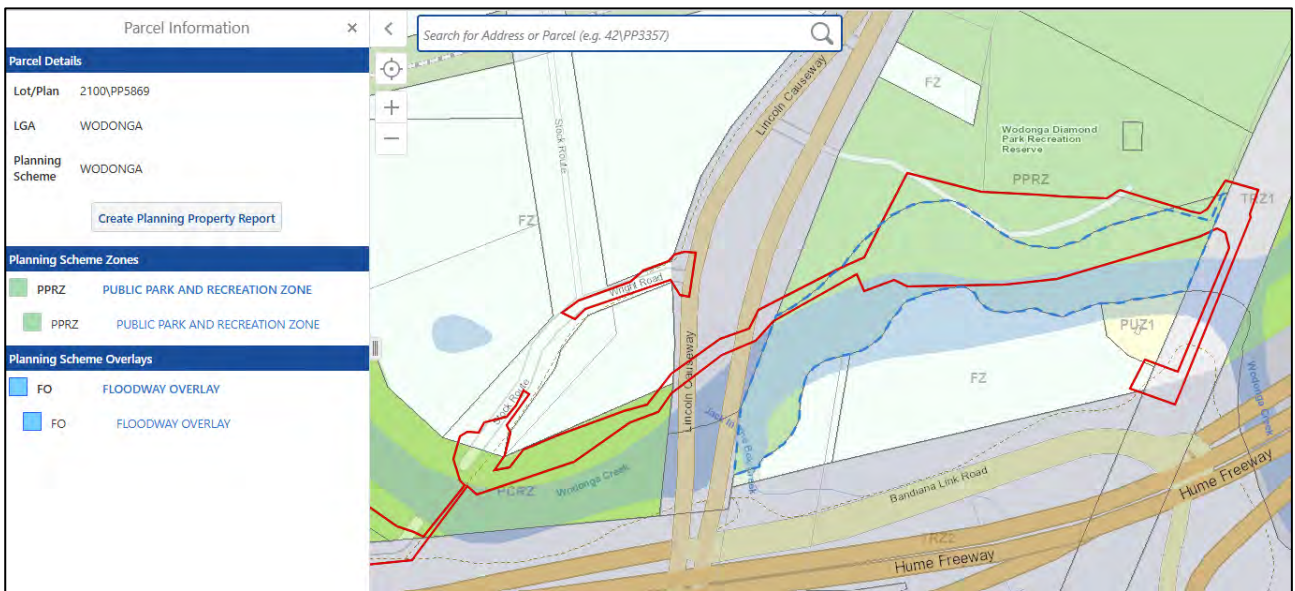
Screenshot D



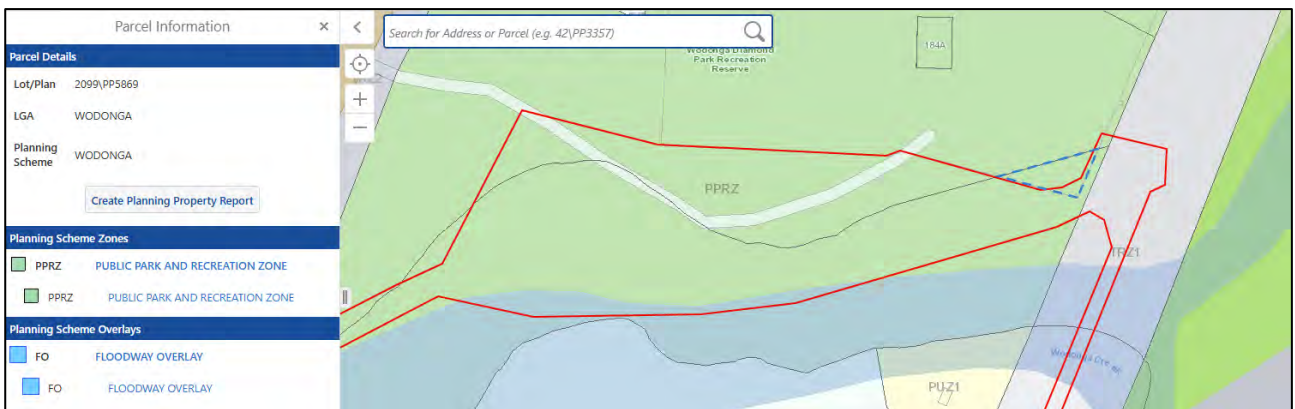
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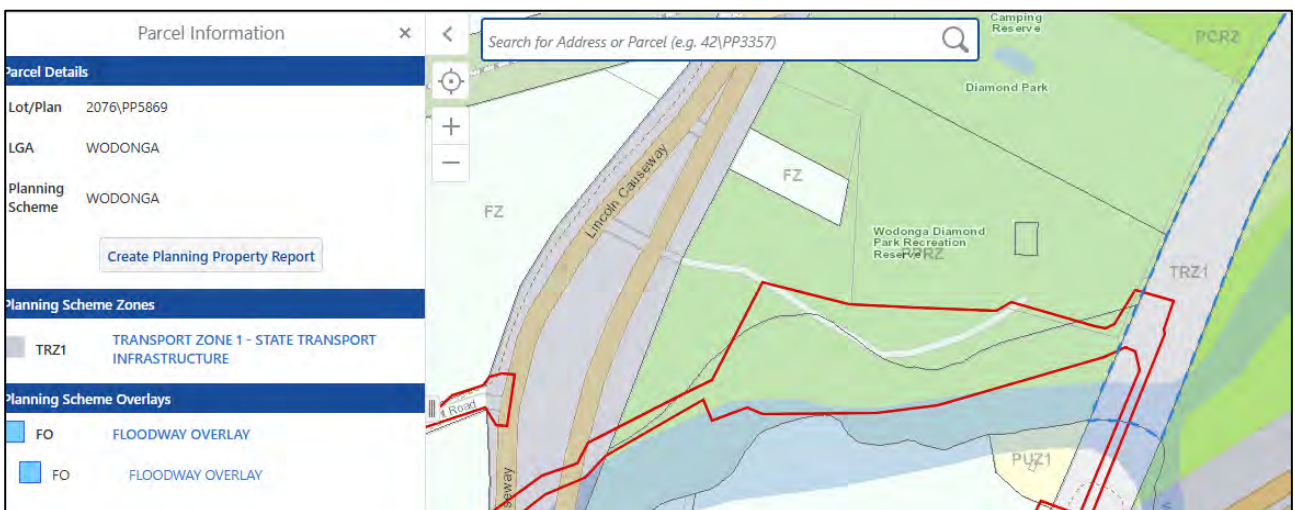
Screenshot F



Screenshot G



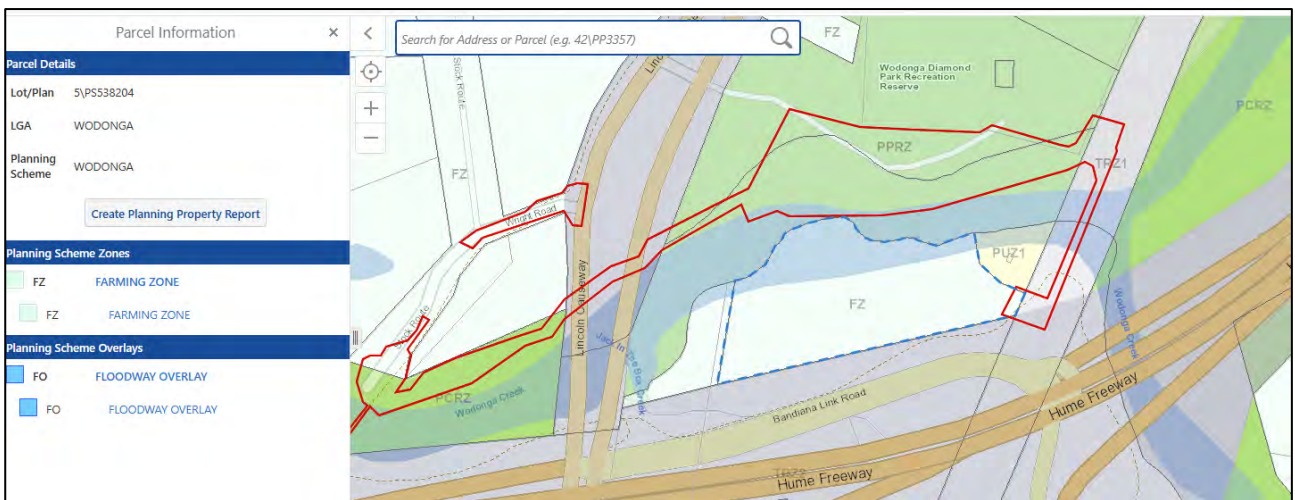
Screenshot H



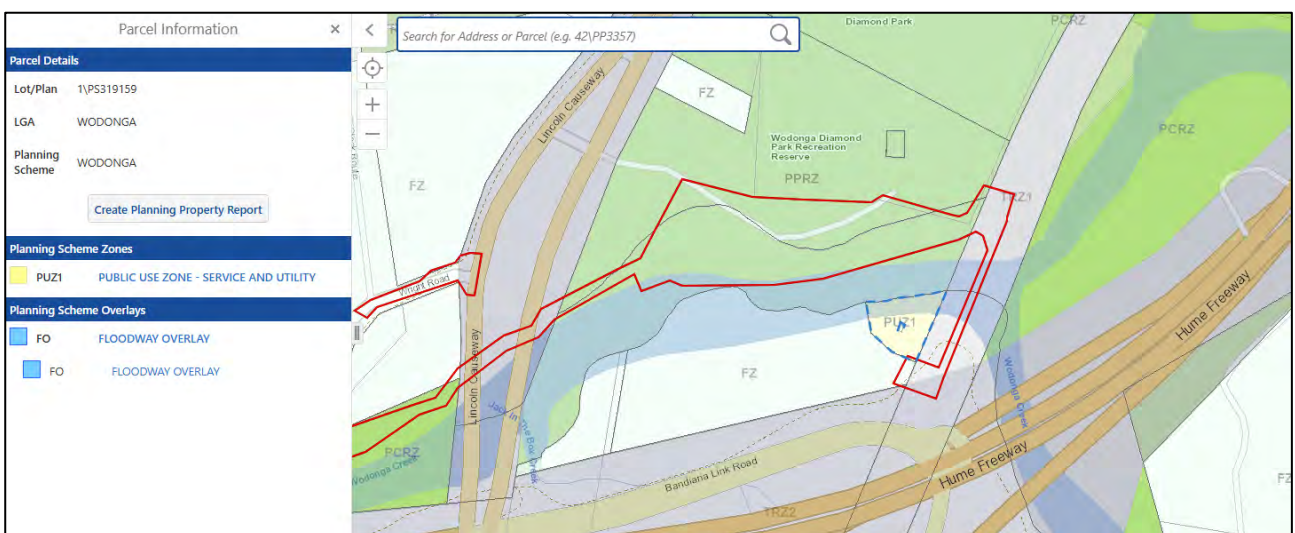
Screenshot I



Screenshot J



Screenshot K



Screenshot L



3.4 Sponsor

The sponsor for this CHMP is Wodonga City Council (ABN: 63 277 160 265). The contact for this project is:

Name: Stuart Woodward
Address: 3/46 Elgin Blvd, Wodonga VIC
Email: stuart@woodwardcivil.com.au
Phones: 0403 090 178

3.5 Heritage Advisors

Damian Wall (Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd) has 25+ years' field experience in archaeological practice, is a full member of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc (AACAI) and has a Graduate Certificate in Cultural Heritage Management from Flinders University (SA). Mr Wall is suitably qualified under section 189 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and appropriately qualified in archaeology to supervise excavation for complex assessments (as required) as specified in Regulation 61(3).

3.6 Owners & Occupiers of the Land

The Activity Area mostly occurs on Crown Land managed by **Wodonga City Council**, with a small area of private land (Gypsy Gardens). This small part of the privately owned Gypsy Gardens will be leased by Wodonga City Council under an agreement (the area affected by this lease agreement is shown in **Appendix 7**). The owners of this small section of land to be leased by Wodonga City Council are **Henry Wayenberg and Judith May Wayenberg**.

3.7 Registered Aboriginal Parties

Currently there is no Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Activity Area. The Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) will assess this CHMP.

4 Activity Description

The proposed activity involves the construction of approximately 1.1 kilometres of new concrete path for the purposes of opening up a currently unused section of Wodonga Creek to improve recreational opportunities for residents of Albury-Wodonga. The proposed maximum width of the new trail is 2.5 metres wide. The total impact zone, factoring in construction, will consist of a three (3) metre wide linear alignment (the centreline buffered by 1.5m each side) [**Figures 1 – 5**]. There are several existing dirt roads which are proposed to be sealed, and a number of existing concrete bike paths will be utilised. The creation of new paths will create a loop along the northern banks of Wodonga creek, then up onto the rail trail and back along existing paths running along the southern banks of the creek.

The proposed development also involves the creation of river access and swimming areas (including small beaches and terraced lawns), picnic benches, car parks, playgrounds (water play, nature play, adventure playgrounds), toilets and barbecue areas. Several existing dirt roads are proposed to be sealed. The proposed activity will require some machinery excavation and surfacing.

The construction activities will require some excavation, and some heavy machinery will be in regular operation, including concrete trucks and machinery involved with surfacing the dirt roads. Topsoil will be stockpiled, with all other extracted materials to be exported off site, with the topsoil then used to rehabilitate the construction areas during the rehabilitation stage. A raised boardwalk is proposed for the eastern termination point where the trail merges with the rail trail, to help reduce impacts to vegetation and to achieve the gradual grade increase to reach the height of the rail trail. Resealing paths and the creation of new paths will create a loop along the northern banks of Wodonga Creek, up onto the rail trail, and back along existing paths running along the southern banks of the creek.

4.1 Statement of Potential Impacts

The proposed development will involve disturbance to both surface and potential buried land surfaces. All activities are to be contained within the area assessed by this CHMP. The types of impacts that are likely to occur during the course of the development may include:

- Site preparation and excavation to a depth of 150mm for new pathways.
- Widening and sealing dirt paths to a depth of 100mm on existing road shoulders.
- Installation of concrete paths.
- Construction of playgrounds which may involve round 300mm diameter footings for anchored play equipment to a depth of 800mm.
- Construction of sealed car park surfaces which may involve levelling and excavation up to 100mm in some areas.
- Construction of picnic areas and toilet facilities which may also involve round 300mm diameter footings for anchored play equipment to a depth of 800mm and connection to existing sewerage services at a depth of 1-1.5m.
- Construction of imported sand water entry points. It is not anticipated that excavation will be required, just import of beach sand along the creek bank at select, low-slope grade points.
- Some tree protection zones will be impacted to facilitate some of the new path works (and therefore, those trees considered 'lost', although they are being retained)
- Stockpiling of any stripped soil for future use within the Activity Area during the rehabilitation stage.
- Underground connections to existing services and utilities (i.e. over-head power and underground town water and sewer).
- General landscaping, fencing and 150mm round balustrades installation to a depth of 800mm.

All use and development of allotments must comply with the relevant planning scheme, in this case the Wodonga Planning Scheme and found at:

<https://planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Wodonga/ordinance>

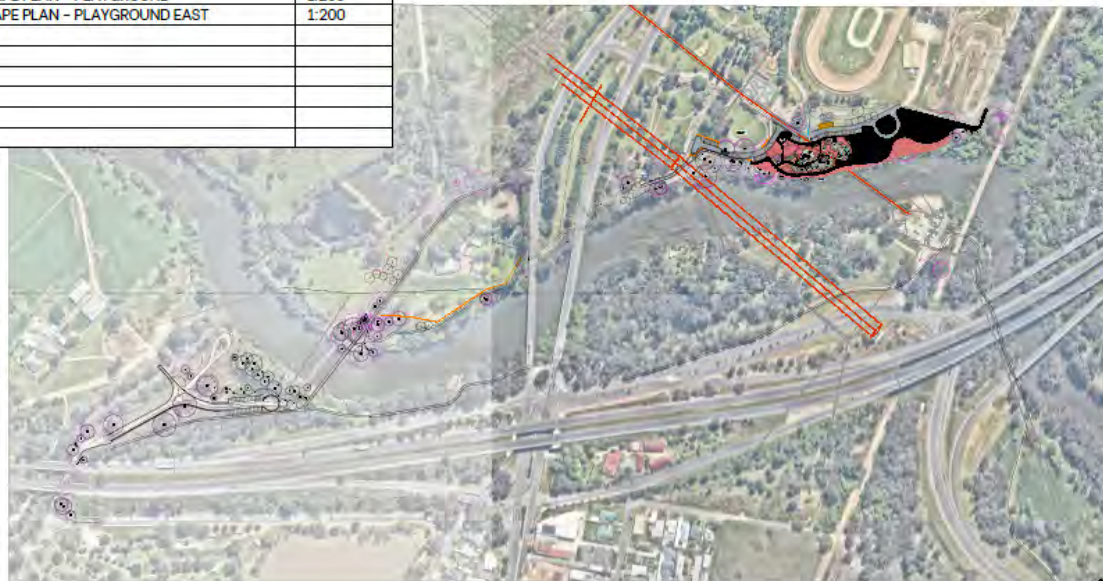
WODONGA CREEK ACTIVATION PROJECT

CITY OF WODONGA AND WOODWARD LAND AND CIVIL

LANDSCAPE WORKS

DRAWING SCHEDULE

DRAWING No.	DRAWING TITLE	SCALE
L-23050-001	COVER PAGE	-
L-23050-002	SCHEDULES	-
L-23050-003	SCHEDULES	-
STOCK ROUTE RESERVE AND NORTHERN BANK WORKS		
L-23050-101	LANDSCAPE PLAN - STOCK ROUTE RESERVE SOUTH	1:500
L-23050-102	LANDSCAPE PLAN - STOCK ROUTE RESERVE NORTH	1:500
L-23050-103	LANDSCAPE PLAN - NORTHERN BANK	1:500
DIAMOND PARK WORKS		
L-23050-201	LANDSCAPE PLAN - CREEK EDGE	1:200
L-23050-202	LANDSCAPE PLAN - PLAYGROUND	1:200
L-23050-203	LANDSCAPE PLAN - PLAYGROUND EAST	1:200



SERVICES NOTE:

The location of underground services shown on this drawing are approximate only, and the contractor will need to investigate and locate the position of existing services prior to construction.

The exact position of the services must be established by the contractor prior to any construction.

WODONGA CITY OF WODONGA

BEFORE WORKING ON ANY SITE, THE CONTRACTOR MUST OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE CITY OF WODONGA AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS.

- GENERAL NOTES**
- ALL DIMENSIONS AND EXISTING CONDITIONS SHALL BE CHECKED AND VERIFIED BY THE LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE WORK.
 - THE LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR SHALL CROSS CHECK ALL PLANT QUANTITIES ON THE PLANT SCHEDULES TO THE LANDSCAPE PLAN PRIOR TO ORDERING OF PLANTS.
 - ALL TREES, SHRUBS AND GROUNDCOVERS SHALL BE PLANTED WITH WATER RETENTION CRYSTALS TO REDUCE THE REQUIREMENT OF ONGOING WATERING. ADD WATER CRYSTALS TO EACH PLANTING HOLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATION.
 - ALL TREES, SHRUBS AND GROUNDCOVERS SHALL ALSO BE PLANTED WITH SLOW RELEASE FERTILISER. ENSURE THAT THE FERTILISER FOR NATIVE PLANTS ARE LOW PHOSPHOROUS AND IS FORMULATED SPECIFICALLY FOR NATIVE PLANTS.

We acknowledge and respect Traditional Owners or the traditional custodians of our shared lands, waters and seas. We recognise their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection with Country. We honour Elders past, present and emerging, whose knowledge and wisdom will ensure the continuation of culture, and the values which uphold them.

WOODWARD LAND AND CIVIL

30/01/2025

yonder.

Client: **WOODWARD LAND AND CIVIL**

Project: **WODONGA CREEK ACTIVATION PROJECT LANDSCAPE WORKS**

Sheet Title: **COVER PAGE**

Drawing No: **L-23050 001** **A**

Drawn By: **YLM**

Checked By: **YLM**

Approved By: **YLM**

Figure 1: Proposed works, Gateway Island Wodonga VIC 3690. Source: Woodward Civil, 2025

SCHEDULE OF PLAY EQUIPMENT					
IMAGE	#	EQUIPMENT TYPE	SUGGESTED SUPPLIER	MODEL / CODE	QTY
LITTLE KIDS PLAY					
	P1.1	SAND CATERPILLAR	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	Caterpillar Type 01 5.00010	1
	P1.2	SMALL SPINNER	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.20400	1
	P1.3	MEDIUM SPINNER	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.20401	1
	P1.4	TODDLER SMALL SWING	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	L0.12700	1
	P1.5	SMALL PLATFORM HUT WITH WALLS, BENCHES AND TABLE AND SLIDE	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	3.14150	1
OLDER KIDS PLAY					
	P2.1	CLIMBING FOREST WITH SLIDE	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	10.80011	1
	P2.2	EXTRA HIGH SWING SPECIAL	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	7.14020	1
	P2.3	MULTI SURFACE TWIN SWING SPECIAL	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.12820	1
	P2.4	CAROUSEL	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.20502	1
	P2.5	CROSS-SCALES	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.10100	

SCHEDULE OF WATER PLAY EQUIPMENT					
IMAGE	#	EQUIPMENT TYPE	SUGGESTED SUPPLIER	MODEL / CODE	QTY
		CRANK HANDLE PUMP	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	5.17637	
		RIVER FORK	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.28040	
		MUSHROOM SPRING	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.18004	
		ARCHIMEDES SCREW	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.1800	
		WATER SCOOP	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.4201	
		WATER SWITCH	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.20907	
		SICKLE GATE	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.28032	
		DAMPING WEDGE	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.2091	
		RECTANGULAR FLAP	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.28034	
		LOCK GATE	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.2093	
		PLAYGROUND PUMP	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.1773	
		LARGE BUCKET WHEEL	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.1992	
		BALL VALVE	URBANIA (Richter Spielgeräte)	0.2095	

SCHEDULE OF FURNITURE						
IMAGE	#	EQUIPMENT TYPE	SUGGESTED SUPPLIER	MODEL / CODE	FINISH	QTY
	F1	PICNIC TABLE SETTING	GX OUTDOORS	MODA TABLE SETTING	FRAME: SABLE-COR-TRN SLATS: BLACKBUTT WOODIMAGE	
	F2	SEAT WITH BACK-REST AND ARM-REST	GX OUTDOORS	MODA PARK SEAT		
	F3	BENCH SEAT	GX OUTDOORS	MODA BENCH SEAT		
	F4	SUN-LOUNGER	GX OUTDOORS	MODA WAVE SEAT		
	F5	TABLE + STOOLS	GX OUTDOORS	ROUND TABLE SETTING		
	F6	ELECTRIC BARBECUE	GX OUTDOORS	ELITE BBQ		
	F7	BIN ENCLOSURE	GX OUTDOORS	INTEGRA EX BIN ENCLOSURE		
	F8	BIKE RACK	GX OUTDOORS	MODA BIKE RACK		
	F9	WATER STATION	MERT PAT	PERMANENT REFILL STATION W DRINKING FOUNTAIN FM-RS-03-GM	CUSTOM GRAPHICS WRAP WITH IMAGE AS SUPPLIED	
	L1	POLE TOP LIGHTING	GREENFRID SYSTEMS	ASPIRE 225 MODULAR SOLAR PATH & STREET LIGHT		
		SHELTER	GX OUTDOORS	CUSTOM		

Figure 2: Proposed works, Gateway Island Wodonga VIC 3690. Source: Woodward Civil, 2025

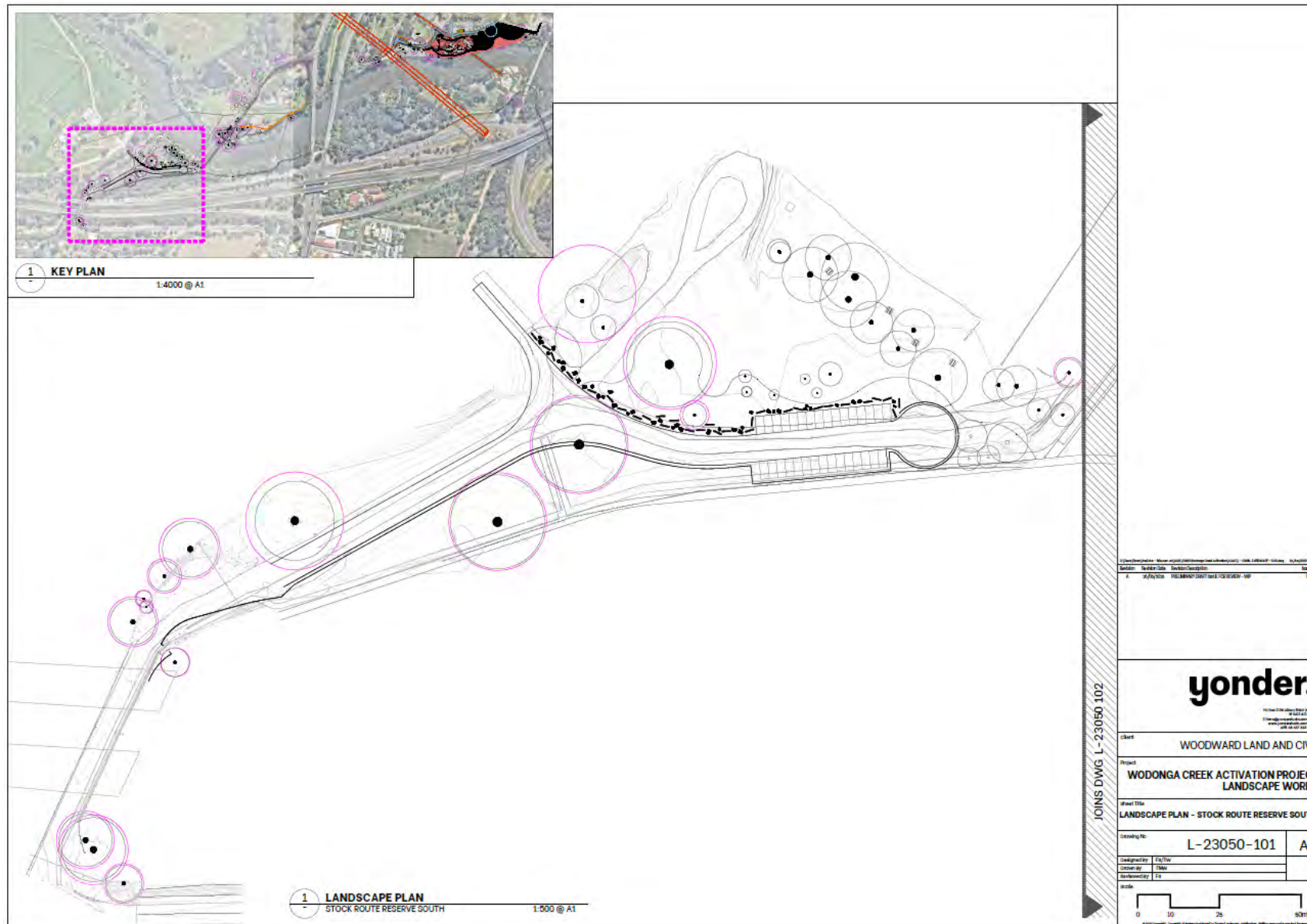


Figure 3: Proposed works, Gateway Island Wodonga VIC 3690. Source: Woodward Civil, 2025

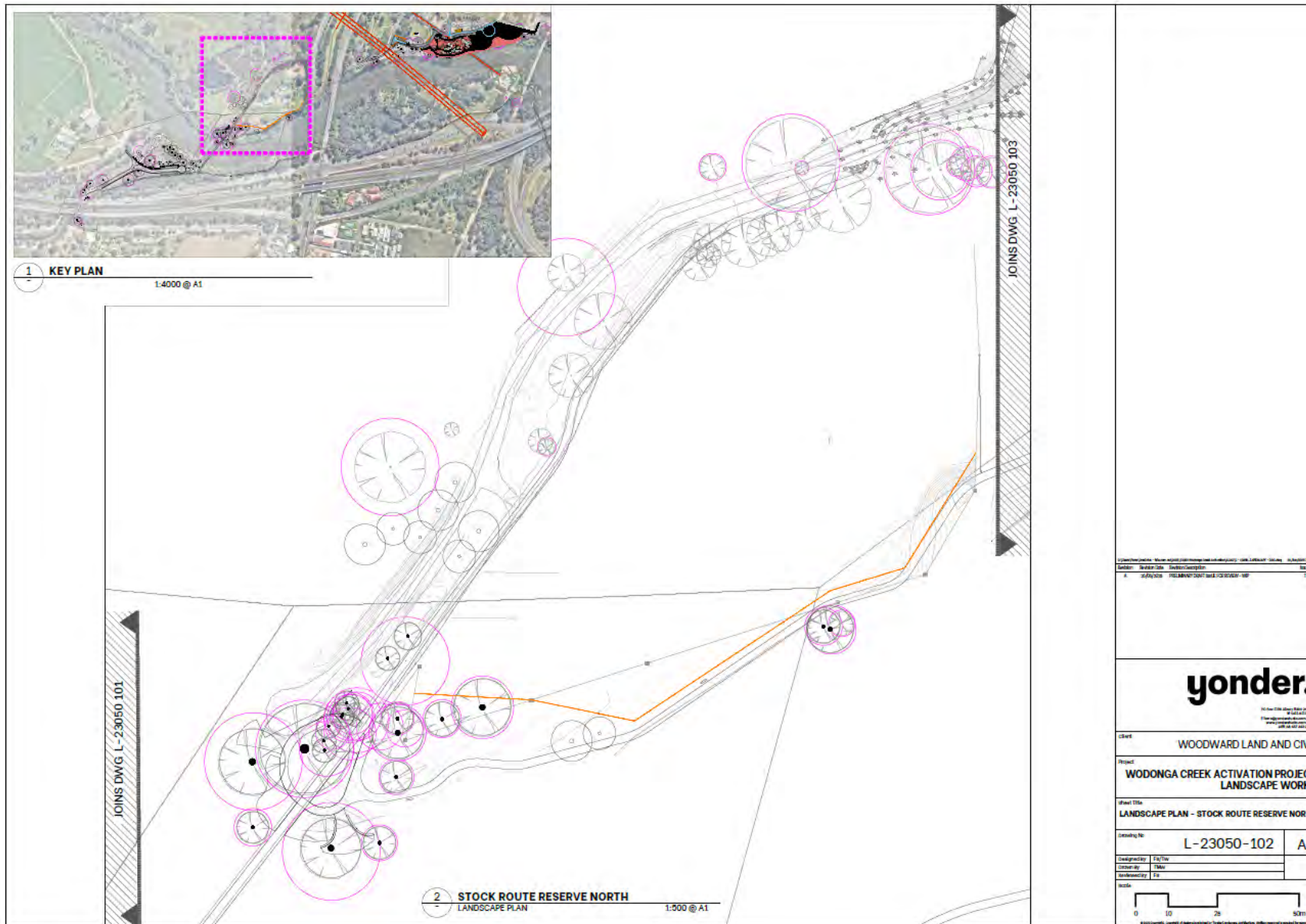


Figure 4: Proposed works, Gateway Island Wodonga VIC 3690. Source: Woodward Civil, 2025



Figure 5: Proposed works, Gateway Island Wodonga VIC 3690. Source: Woodward Civil, 2025

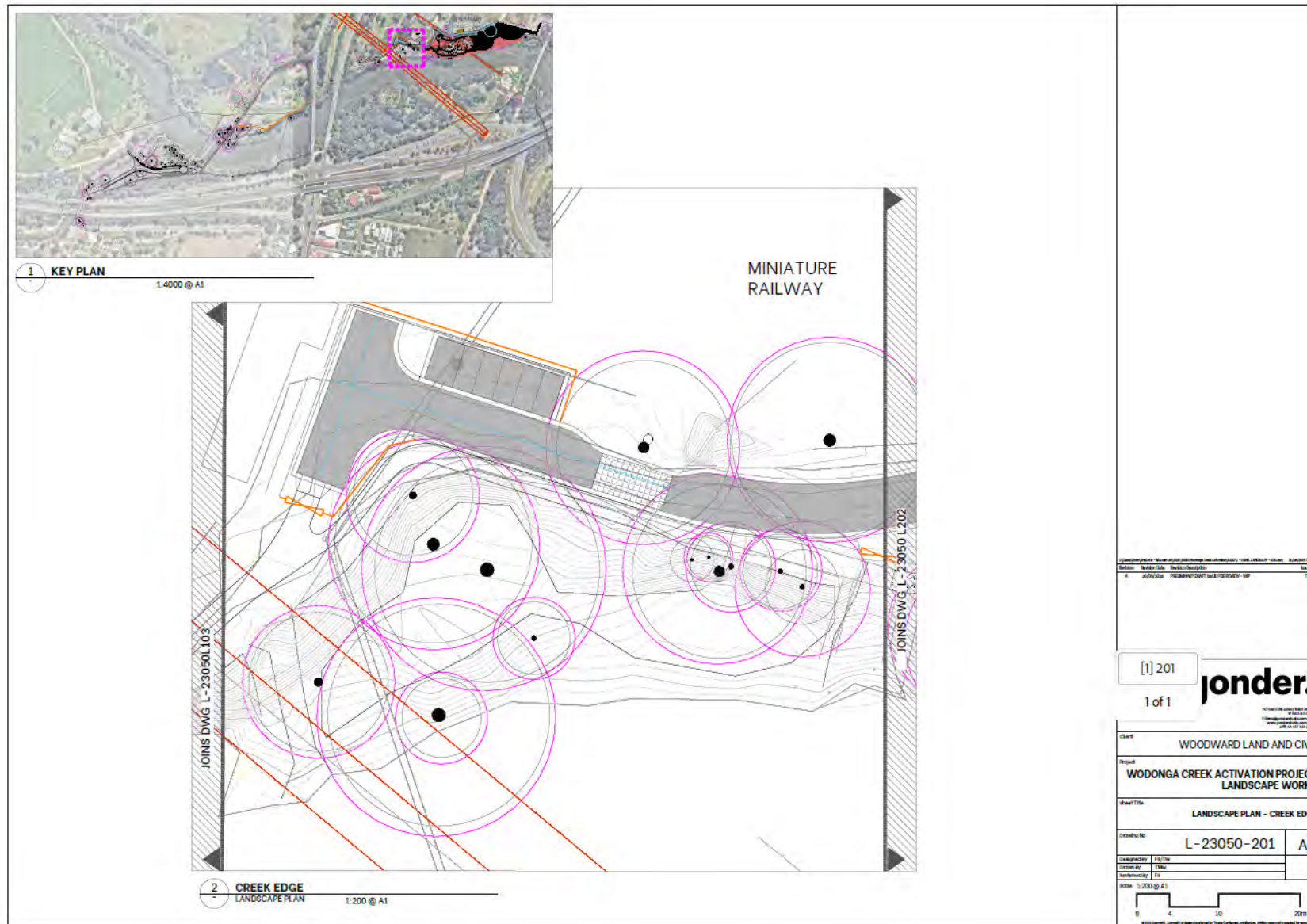


Figure 6: Proposed works, Gateway Island Wodonga VIC 3690. Source: Woodward Civil, 2025



Figure 8: Proposed works, Gateway Island Wodonga VIC 3690. Source: Woodward Civil, 2025

5 Documentation of Consultation

A Notice of Intent to Prepare a Management Plan (NOI) was submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) on 12th October 2024 in accordance with s.54 of the Act (**Appendix 1**).

5.1 Consultation in Relation to the Assessment

An inception meeting between Damian Wall (Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd) and Johnny Murray of Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation (DDAC) was held on site on 17th October 2024. Fieldwork methodology was agreed to include one (1) heritage advisor and one (1) Aboriginal representative walking the entire area during the pedestrian survey. **Appendix 2** lists the consultation undertaken for the assessment.

5.2 Fieldwork Participation

A standard assessment was undertaken on the 17th October 2024 by Damian Wall (Heritage Advisor, Red-Gum Environmental Consulting) and Johnny Murray (DDAC).

5.3 Consultation in Relation to the Management Conditions

An on-site meeting immediately following the standard assessment on 17th October 2024 was held between the fieldwork participants to discuss the results of the assessment and the CHMP Management Conditions.

All parties were satisfied with the results of the standard assessment and the proposed Management Conditions and Contingencies. The meeting concluded that a complex assessment was not required due to the disturbance levels and lack of archaeological potential in the Activity Area related to utilities, tracks, infrastructure and informal access ways within a regularly flood affected riparian zone of depositional soil.

5.4 Summary of Outcomes

Following consultation with field work participants during the preparation of the CHMP and during the fieldwork stage, Management Conditions and Contingencies were developed for the activity. A summary of consultation is presented in **Appendix 2**.

6 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Desktop Assessment

6.1 Introduction

Under Part 3 of the Regulations, a CHMP must include a desktop assessment and, if required, also a standard assessment and/or a complex assessment. The desktop assessment was undertaken by Damian Wall (Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd) to determine the likelihood of the Activity Area containing Aboriginal cultural heritage and to assist in assessing the significance of any heritage that may be found. Desktop research provides information enabling predictions to be made as to whether a place may contain Aboriginal cultural heritage. This research involves the following:

- Investigating the site registry.
- Reviewing other cultural heritage reports undertaken within the geographic area.
- Reviewing local ethnographic histories of the area.
- Research into past historic land use.
- Reviewing local histories of the area.
- Researching the geomorphology and geology of the region encompassing the Activity Area.

6.2 The Geographic Region

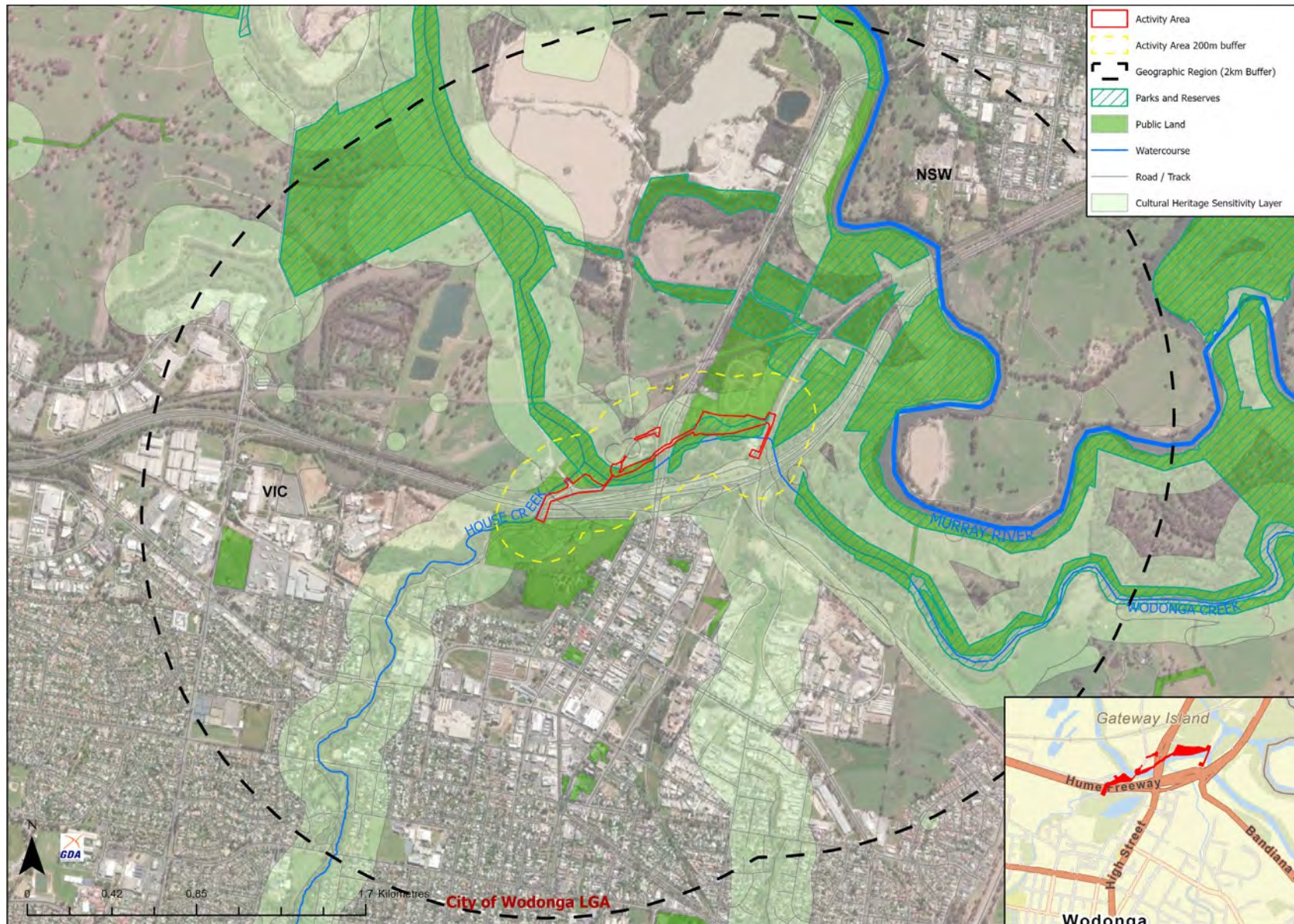
For the purposes of this report, the geographic region is the area within two (2) kilometres of the Activity Area (**Map 2**). This area is considered to contain representative landforms as present in the Activity Area, as well as a broader landscape understanding to provide an effective sample of comparative information regarding resources which would have been available to Aboriginal people. This also allows predictive statements to be made about Aboriginal place types and areas of potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage.

6.2.1 Climate

Annual average maximum temperatures in the Wodonga region are 22 °C. The mean summer temperature is 31.8 °C and prevailing winds are from the northwest. Rain typically falls as thunderstorms in the summer, and in winter with cold fronts, with February the driest month and July the wettest (Bureau of Meteorology, 2024).

Rainfall in the Wodonga region averages 717 millimetres per year, most of which falls in winter with passing frontal systems; however, these can occur at any time of year, and the main form of rainfall in spring and summer is from thunderstorms (Bureau of Meteorology, 2024).

Aboriginal people have been in Australia for at least 40–60,000 years and possibly longer (Allen, 1989; Jones, 1995). This period falls within the last world climatic downturn or glacial period, which commenced about 80,000 years ago. During the glacial period, the climate was up to 6°C lower in the southern hemisphere, the tree line was lower, and large glaciers formed in Tasmania and on the Great Divide (Gibson, Kiernan, & Macphail, 1987). Greater amounts of water held within the large glaciers and ice sheets led to lower sea levels and Tasmania and Papua New Guinea were joined to Australia by land bridges. The climate was much drier and cooler and landmasses stretched to the edge of the continental shelf. After 26,000 years before present (BP) the climatic downturn became more severe and sea levels were at their lowest and the climate at its coldest at 18,000 BP (Bowler, Hope, Jennings, Singh, & Walker, 1976:374; Dodson, Fullager, & Head, 1992:117; Freslov, 2018:27).



Map 2: Geographic Region of the Activity Area, Cultural Heritage Sensitivity. Scale 1:22,000. Source: Data Vic vic.gov.au

While Tasmania was heavily glaciated, on the mainland cirque glaciers were only found at Mount Kosciusko (Peterson, 1968:74-75). As conditions ameliorated following the last glacial, it became milder, but wetter, and the tree line increased to its present altitude. Vegetation dependant on wetter conditions expanded, including rainforests and wet sclerophyll forests, reaching its maximum extent during the mid-Holocene at 5000 BP (Gell & Stuart, 1989: Figures 6-11). Since 5000 BP, conditions have been cooler and drier, with the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) weather pattern becoming more dominant (Rowland, 1999; Sandweiss, Richardson, Reitz, Rollins, & Maasch, 1996). Increased fire risks and extensive fires are associated with a periodic but severe ENSO weather pattern (Freslov, Clark, & Marsh, 2004; Freslov & Goulding, 2002: 27).

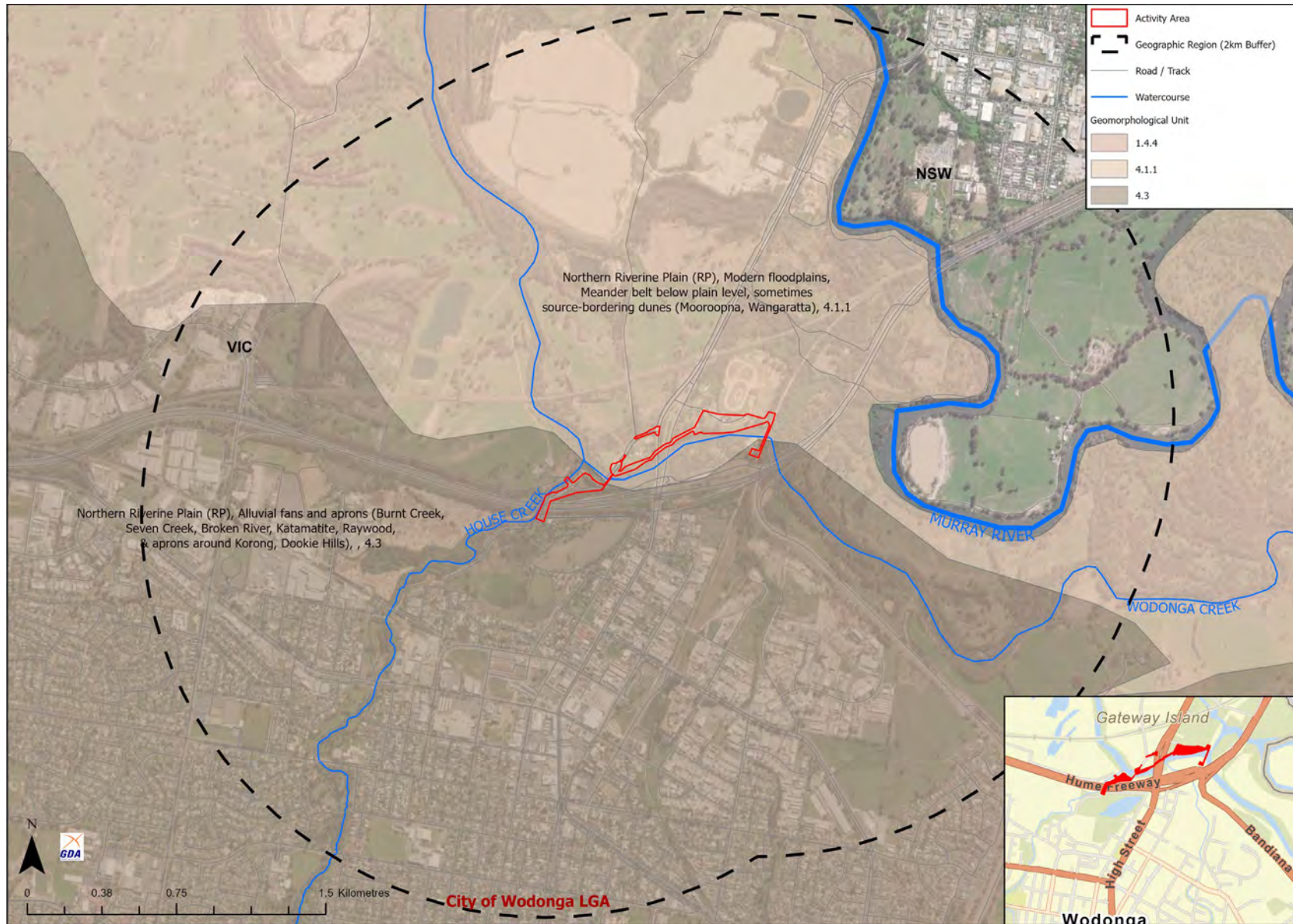
6.2.2 *Geomorphology and Geology*

The Activity Area is located within the Northern Riverine Plains geomorphological division. The Northern Riverine Plain of New South Wales and Victoria is a very extensive and complex alluvial plain associated with the Murray River and its tributaries which developed following the retreat of the Neogene (Pliocene) Sea from the Murray Basin (State of Victoria, 2020c). The climate is subhumid in the east and south east. Eucalypt forests and woodlands with casuarinas grew in the area along with substantial areas of treeless plain. During the Quaternary period, changing climate, vegetation, runoff and evaporation produced palaeochannels of different ages (State of Victoria, 2020c). The Activity Area lies across two geomorphological units within the Northern Riverine Plains: *alluvial fans and aprons (Burnt Creek, Seven Creek, Broken River, Katamatite, Raywood, & aprons around Korong, Dookie Hills) (4.3)* and *meander belt below plain level, sometimes source-bordering dunes (Mooroopna, Wangaratta) (4.1.1)*.

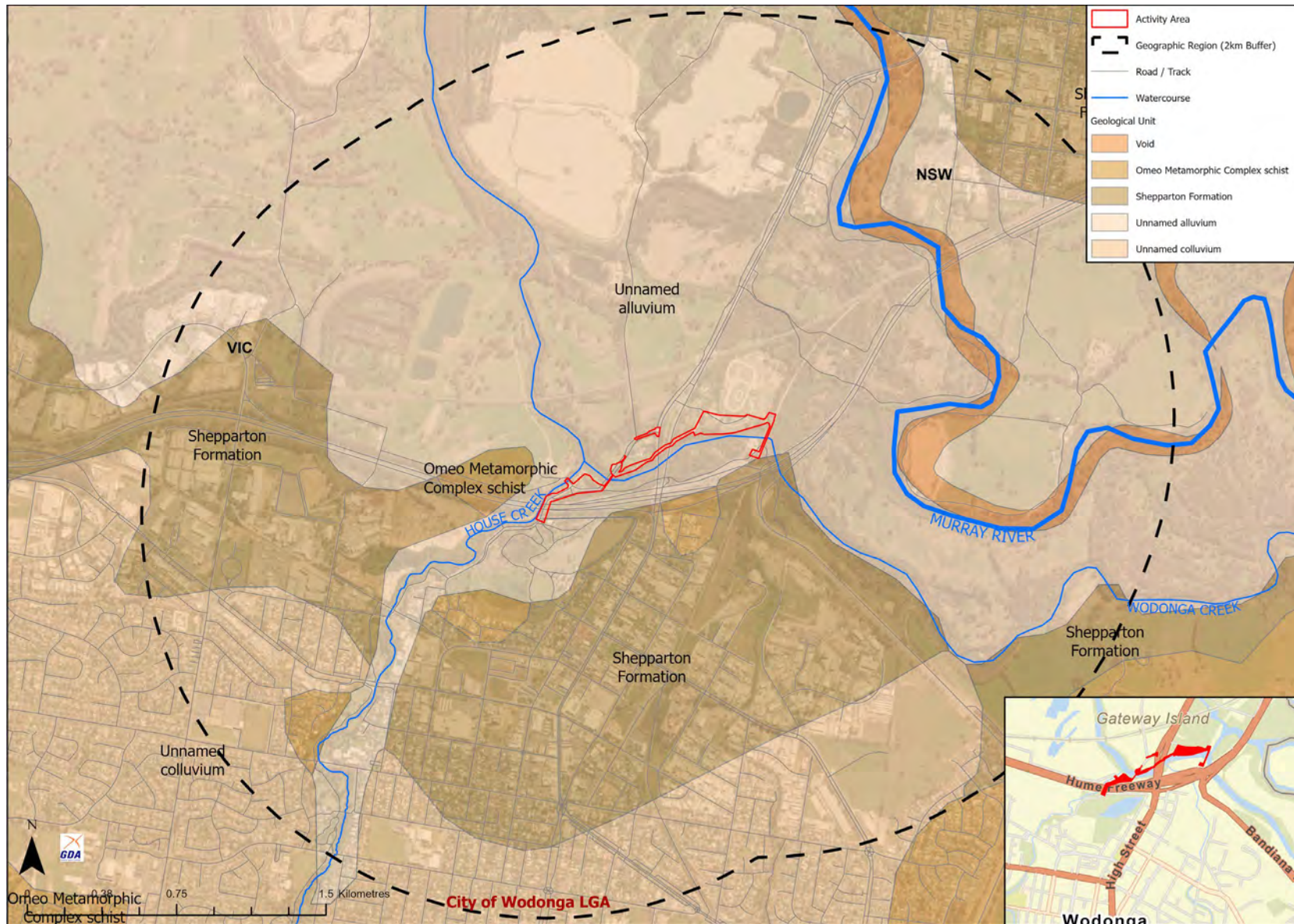
Around the edge of the Eastern Uplands, the *alluvial fans and aprons (Burnt Creek, Seven Creek, Broken River, Katamatite, Raywood, & aprons around Korong, Dookie Hills) (4.3)* subunit is described as encompassing pediments and alluvial fans and aprons derived from the uplands (State of Victoria, 2020b). The sediments here are much deeper than in the west and separation between the alluvial fans and aprons subunit and the older alluvial plains subunit (4.2) is largely an arbitrary decision (State of Victoria, 2020b). This unit comprises deep sediments of a variety of soils including grey Vertosols, brown Sodosols and yellow and brown Kandosols (State Government of Victoria, 2020a) **(Map 3)**.

The *meander belt below plain level, sometimes source-bordering dunes (Mooroopna, Wangaratta) (4.1.1)* geomorphological unit includes modern alluvial terraces and floodplains of today's active rivers carrying young soils or varied texture (late Quaternary Coonambigal Formation). This unit generally describes the youngest spatial landscape features, including current floodplains of major rivers and streams. It is generally incised into an alluvial plain with or without terraces and are unconfined (not surrounded by upland), formed on alluvial material. Source bordering dunes are found along these channels, generally on the northeastern sides. Several former (but young) courses of major rivers are marked by inset terraces and extensive floodplain meander belts with scrolls and oxbow lakes (State of Victoria, 2020a) .

Geologically the site is mapped as unnamed alluvium: sedimentary (Non-Marine (Alluvial)), fluvial: alluvium, gravel, sand, silt) **(Map 4)**. The Activity Area is a floodplain landform with complex hydrology. The Activity Area is located adjacent to, and crosses over, an anabranch of the Murray River (Wodonga Creek), and two tributaries flowing into Wodonga Creek: House Creek (including where these two creeks join), and Jack in the Box Creek. The Murray River is located approximately 600m east of the Activity Area. Aboriginal sites in the area are likely to be located on the well-drained terraces, above the floodplain and adjacent to the rivers and morasses where most resources in the area will be concentrated.



Map 3: Geomorphological units of the Activity Area and surrounding region. Scale 1:22,000. Source: GeoVic, 2025.



Map 4: Geological units of the Activity Area and surrounding region. Scale 1:22,000. Source: GeoVic 2025

6.2.3 Vegetation

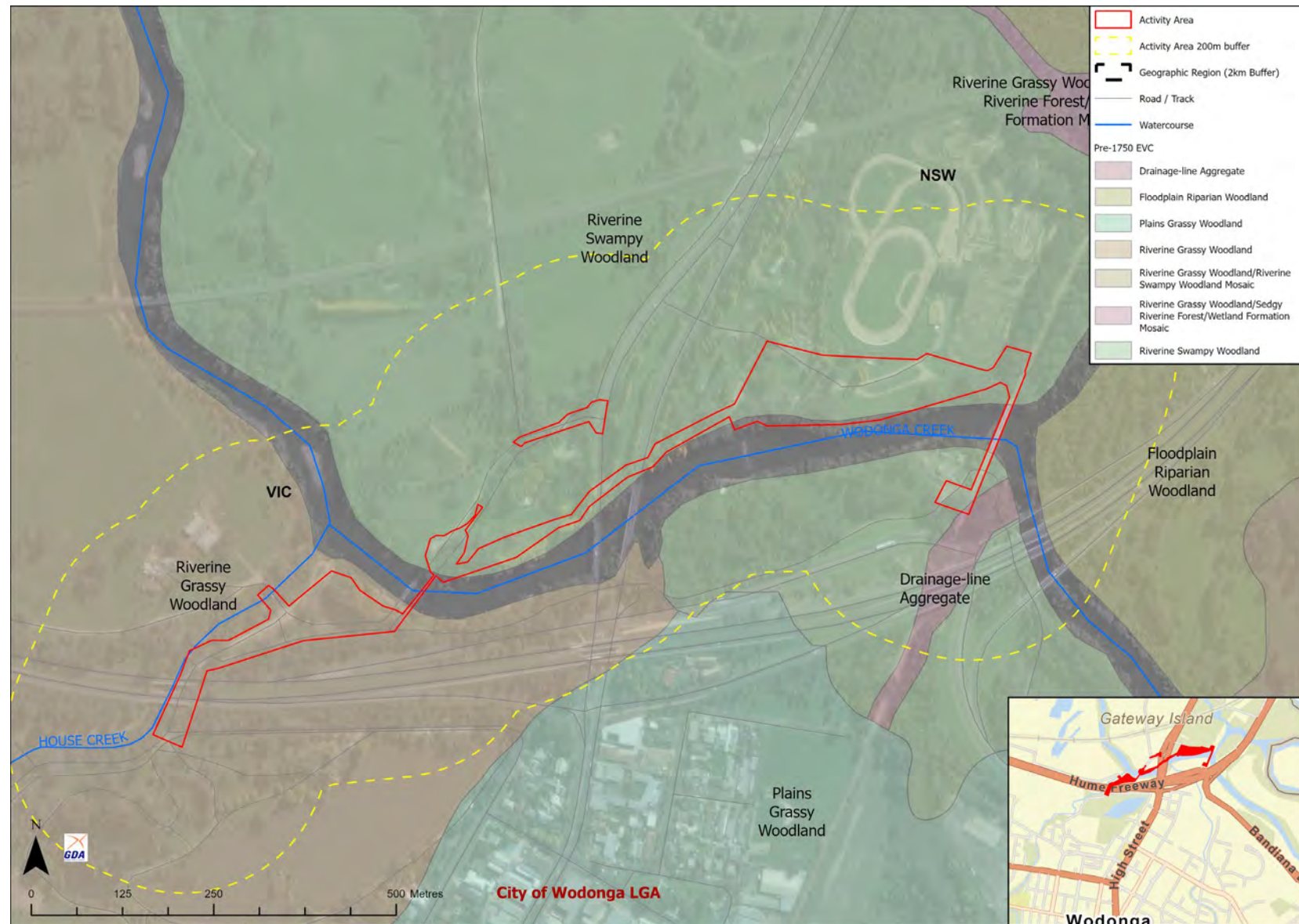
Pre-1750 ecological vegetation class (EVC) mapping indicates that the Activity Area was most likely to include Riverine Grassy Woodland (EVC 295) and Riverine Swampy Woodland (EVC 815) of the Victorian Riverina bioregion [Map 5]. Riverine Grassy Woodland (EVC 295) occurs on the floodplains of major rivers, in areas that are slightly elevated where floods are infrequent. It grows on deposited silts and sands, forming fertile alluvium soils. River Red-Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) woodland grows to 20 metres tall, with a groundcover dominated by graminoids (Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2004).

Riverine Swampy Woodland (EVC 815) occupies areas of shallow inundation from higher-level flooding on the riverine floodplain. Soils are heavy, cracking mottled grey-brown clays/clay-loams and water retentive, often with a gilgai profile which can be wet during winter. River Red-Gum (*E. camaldulensis*) and Black Box (*E. largiflorens*) grow to 15 metres tall, above a grassy to sedgy-herbaceous ground layer (Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2004).

These vegetation systems would have supported a range of floral and faunal resources for local Aboriginal communities to exploit. Pre-settlement Aboriginal peoples would have had access to a variety of faunal sources, such as possums, sugar gliders, wombats, bush rats, rosellas, and skinks. They would also have had access to a wider variety of floral sources than are currently present in the Activity Area, as the species present were highly desired by European settlers and were therefore cleared very soon after settlement (V. Clark, Stevens, George, & Langberg, 2003). These floral remains would have a variety of uses, such as food sources, in tool production, weaving, and medicines. Aboriginal people would have used the roots, tubers, seeds and leaves of many of these plants for food and medicinal purposes, as well as raw materials in the manufacture of tools, baskets and ornaments (Zola & Gott 1992).

The diversity of grasses present would have been a good source for fibre, and could be split, woven and wound. For example, Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) was used in the manufacture of fishing nets (Zola and Gott 1992: 58). The wood from the River Red-gum (*E. camaldulensis*) was used to fashion a variety of implements, such as clubs and spear throwers. The bark was removed and used to make canoes for fishing and transport (Zola & Gott, 1992:14) and also for shelter and to make shields (Zola & Gott 1992:55). The gum or sap of the River Red Gum was used to aid in the healing of burns and was also mixed with water as a remedy for diarrhoea (Zola & Gott, 1992: 55). According to Zola & Gott (1992:55), the leaves of this tree were also used in '...aromatic steam baths for a variety of illnesses'. Grasses such as kangaroo and tussock grasses were used to make fishing nets, mats and string (Zola & Gott, 1992: 58). The gum from Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) can be eaten or mixed with water to make a sweet drink, while the bark is high in tannin and could be used for fibre and medicine (Gott & Conran, 1998: 45).

Regardless of the vegetation community that occupied the site pre-settlement, the area would have provided a wide range of food and material resources for Aboriginal people. Water rushes and marsh vegetation as well as a number of plant-food resources would have grown in nearby. The rivers, creeks, lagoons and swamp areas in the geographic region would have supported various species of fish, eel, frogs and turtle as well as various larger game including kangaroos, wallabies and wombat (Reich, 2018).



Map 5: Pre 1750 Modelled Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) of the Activity Area. Scale: 1:6,000. Source: Data Vic vic.gov.au

6.2.4 Historical and Ethno-Historical Accounts in the Geographic Region

This section addresses a review of historical and ethno-historical accounts of Aboriginal occupation of the geographic region and relevant to the Activity Area. This information is used to establish pre-settlement Aboriginal spatial organisation; however, it is mostly based on observations made by Europeans during the initial period of contact and subsequent settlement of the region and must be considered in the historical context in which it was recorded.

Prior to European settlement of the region, Aboriginal people occupied every part of the Victorian landscape, with some places near permanent water and food resources often permanently occupied. Other areas, such as the Alps and regularly inundated floodplains, were frequented less often as part of cultural events or for harvesting seasonally available food resources, such as the Bogong Moth. Aboriginal country was governed by a complex system of land ownership, with an equally complex social system of marriage and inter-group relationships based on tribe (or language group), descent, clan and moiety.

The tribe was the largest unit of classification, which was made up of people who shared a common language. The tribe members shared the same rules of descent (patrilineal or matrilineal) and claimed ownership of a particular region, ownership boundaries that continue to change and be disputed today (Coutts, 1981).

Like many parts of northeast Victoria, the documented Aboriginal ethnographic record for the geographic region is quite fragmentary, due to the rapidity with which introduced diseases such as small pox, measles and influenza spread through the indigenous populations at the time of European colonisation. Many of the first Europeans to come to the area had little interest in, or training for, recording much about the society they encountered. European explorers, such as Hume and Hovell, who sighted the Kiewa River in 1824, had little to say about the people they observed (Hovell & Hume, 1831: 44).

There were three main language groups which owned country in vicinity to Wodonga: Wiradjuri, Waywuru and Dhudhuroa. However, Wodonga itself was Waywuru country. This is supported by the work of Ian Clark,² Sue Wesson,³ Marie Fels,⁴ and most recently by this author (Jacqui Durrant).⁵ That Wodonga was not Waywuru country is only contradicted by the earlier work of Norman Tindale, which can be explained by the fact that Tindale did not access any of the primary evidence for Waywuru, and as such, was unaware of their existence. As a compensation for having no information relating specifically to the Wodonga area, Tindale simply filled in the gap on his map with guesswork — initially labelling it as Pangerang (Yorta Yorta) in 1940,⁶ and later as Dhudhuroa in 1974.⁷

There is primary evidence which provides some insight into the Aboriginal communities in the Wodonga region at the time of European occupation. The environmental richness of the Murray River environment at Albury-Wodonga, especially during spring-time, sustained large groups of people, especially for ceremonial gatherings. Between 30 September and 5 October, 1844, Chief Protector of Aborigines for the Port Phillip

² Ian Clark, *Aboriginal Languages and Clans: An Historical Atlas of Western and Central Victoria, 1800–1900*, Monash Publications in Geography Number 37, Monash University, Melbourne, 1990, p.370; Ian Clark, *Aboriginal language areas in Victoria: a report to the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages*, 1996; and Ian Clark, *Victorian Aboriginal Clans: A Reconstruction, A Report to Coranderrk Koori Co-operative Ltd*, August 1996.

³ Sue Wesson, *An Historical Atlas of the Aborigines of Eastern Victoria and far South-Eastern New South Wales*, Monash Publications in Geography and Environmental Science Number 53, Melbourne, 2000, pp.76-77.

⁴ Marie Hansen Fels, *Ancestral Lands from Bangerang to Yorta Yorta, A Historical Analysis of the Yorta Yorta Native Title Claim*, unpublished report, 1996.

⁵ Jacqui Durrant, *Waywuru and Dhudhuroa: Their socio-political identity and interrelationships, country and ancestors*, Volume 5 of Jacqui Durrant and Anthony Jefferies, *Ngurai-ilam, Waywuru and Dhudhuroa: Their socio-political identity and interrelationships, country and ancestors*, independent unpublished report commissioned by Holding Redlich Lawyers with funding from the State of Victoria, 2023.

⁶ Norman B. Tindale, 'Results of the Harvard – Adelaide universities anthropological expedition, 1938–1939, distribution of Australian aboriginal tribes: a field survey, with one map', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*; v.64 no.1, 1940.

⁷ Norman B. Tindale, *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia — Their Terrain, Environmental Controls, Distribution, Limits, and Proper Names*, Australian National University, Canberra, 1974.

District, George Augustus Robinson, witnessed a major gathering of 250 people from a number of southern Wiradjuri local groups, and one or more Waywurru local groups, occupying 50 'huts' in Albury. They held one of the largest corroborees he had ever seen.⁸

During that same visit, on the 5 October, Robinson stayed with the Huons at Wodonga station at their home station, approximately 500 metres from the nearest section of the Activity Area, and took down names and details of the Aboriginal people staying there. This group comprised War.render and his wife Tale.a.nin.er.goroke, who were from 'Won.er.rard.jer, at Mr Faithfull's' (ie: 'Won.er.rard.jer' is 'Wangaratta', the original name not of present day Wangaratta but of the Oxley plains not where George Faithfull had his station); Tale.a.nin.er's sister Mone Mone, from Bontharambo; and a family who resided at 'Wo.dong.er' (Wodonga): Wor.ro.bar, his wife Bo.nin.mun, and their son Wy.wun.er.er. The Waywurru origins of this party is confirmed not only by the home country of those present (ie: Oxley, Bontharambo and Wodonga), but is further substantiated by the way in which Tale.a.nin.er has appended the common Kulin feminine suffix 'goroke' to her name — a common practice readily seen among Waywurru's southern Taungurung neighbours.

During this period, the waterways around Wodonga were covered in dense reeds (predominantly *Typhus latifolia*). In the early 20th century, pastoralist J. F. H. Mitchell, recalled of the area from his childhood in the 1840s, 'When we boys used to go fishing or gathering wild raspberries, the vegetation was thick, and far above our heads, and reed beds 20 feet high.'⁹ He also stated that, 'There are but few men, white or black, now living, who will remember these reed beds: they have long since been destroyed by cattle and bushfires; but at that time the various tribes procured reeds from these beds, near and far.'¹⁰ The original toponym 'Wodonga' is cognate with the Waywurru word for reed, 'Modhunga',¹¹ and certainly, European accounts of the meaning of the name 'Wodonga' allude to its value as a resource.¹²

On the same visit, Robinson collected a vocabulary from Pallangan-middang man Mul-ler-in-ner (Joe) of what linguists now call 'Pallanganmiddang' language, otherwise known as 'Waywurru'. While Joe made no specific claims as to custodianship of the Wodonga area, Robinson recorded that 'Pal.ler.an.mitter' belong to Nar.rar, called Little River, where Mr Huon's Station; language is different to Way.rad.jerre'¹³ (Wiradjuri). 'Mr Huon's station at the 'Little River' could have referred to Baranduda: shortly after brothers Charles and Paul Huon de Kerilleau (known by the surname 'Huon') established Wodonga station in 1836, Charles Huon proceeded to 'form an out station at Baranduda...[15km the south-east of the Activity Area, at the confluence of the Kiewa River and the Yackandandah Creek] the custom of the time being to form an out station for the heifers and young stock, away from the breeding herd... He took up his residence there either at the end of this year, or early in 1837,¹⁴ and 'resided there for some years'.¹⁵ However, in his notes from 29 September 1844, Robinson specified that Huon's second station was at 'Mur.er.ber.rung.bun'¹⁶ (Murrumbidgee) on the Kiewa River at present-day Kiewa.

Wiradjuri-speaking people were also present around Wodonga. When Robinson visited North-East Victoria in 1840, he had also noted in his journal on 25 April, 'The Woraggy blacks extend from the Hume [ie: Murray

⁸ Ian Clark (ed.), *The Journals of George Augustus Robinson, Chief Protector, Port Phillip Protectorate, 1839-1852*, published Melbourne, 2014. All references, except where specified, to Robinson refer to dates in this journal.

⁹ John Francis Huon Mitchell, Papers, 1903-1923, Call number A 1671, State Library of New South Wales. p.83.

¹⁰ J. F. H. Mitchell, *ibid.*, p.53.

¹¹ *Way Wurru and Dhudhuroa Dictionary* (draft), Way Wurru and Dhudhuroa Language Program, Wodonga, 2008, p.26.

¹² For example, 'Aboriginal names,' *Corowa Free Press*, Friday 15 May, 1925, p.8.

¹³ Ian Clark (ed.), 2014, *op cit.* This reference: 'Taken at the Hume this 30 September 1844.'

¹⁴ Arthur Andrews, *The First Settlement of the Upper Murray: with a short account of over two hundred runs, 1835 to 1880*, D. S. Ford, Sydney, 1920, p.42.

¹⁵ *ibid.* p.106.

¹⁶ Ian Clark (ed.), *op cit.*, entry for: 29 September 1844.

River] to Billybong [Holbrook], also to Barber's [ie: Barnawartha Station], nine miles west of the Hume.' The following day, upon visiting the head station of nearby Barnawartha (16km downstream from the study area), Robinson wrote, 'There were a number of blacks at Barber's. Belonged to the Wore.rag.ger.ry tribe. There were 14 in number, viz. 4 women, 8 men, 2 children.'¹⁷

Years later, David Reid, who had taken over Barnawatha Station, furnished Robert Brough Smyth with a vocabulary of the Aboriginal people who visited Barnawartha station for rations — a vocabulary which he labelled 'Emu Mudjug'.¹⁸ Upon analysis, Blake and Reid have found the 'Emu Mudjug' vocabulary to represent a dialect of Wiradjuri, with a 22% commonality with Pallanganmiddang (Waywuru).¹⁹ Reid's head station at Barnawatha (with its house known as 'The Hermitage'), was situated only 500+ metres back from the Murray River. We can assume this as the approximate location of Barber's original head station. The Wiradjuri people at Barnawatha may have had a connection to this country, but it is far more likely because they present as the close kin of Waywuru people (in particular the Western Waywuru group Pallangan-mittang), with whom they shared marriages and ceremony.²⁰ In 1858, William Huon of Wodonga Station, reported to the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines, that there were about 35 Aboriginal people remaining in his district, and that they were 'Tharamattay' and 'Wooradgery',²¹ ie: the Waywuru-speaking Tare-re-mittang local group associated with the Kiewa River,²² and the Wiradjuri.

When interviewed around the turn of the 19th century by ethnographer R.H. Matthews, Dyinging-mittang man Neddy Wheeler, told Matthews that his language, Dhudhuroa, was spoken in the Mitta Mitta Valley, and along the Murray River from Welaregang to Albury.²³ Although, there is no other corroborative historical evidence to support Wheeler's statement, we might extrapolate that Dhudhuroa was spoken on both sides of the Murray River along the immediate course of the River between Welaregang and Albury, in the same way that Wiradjuri was spoken on both sides of the River at least from Albury to Howlong.²⁴ Once again, this distribution of language can be attributed to the fact that Dyinging-mittang intermarried with the Eastern Waywuru-speaking Tare-re-mittang, essentially forming a multi-lingual community.²⁵

Historical accounts of Waywuru and their kin: Wodonga's 'Aboriginal camp'

In the post gold rush period, there was a concerted effort by the colonial government to shift Waywuru and Dhudhuroa people onto Reserves. In 1862, a Reserve was created at Tangambalanga,²⁶ and was occupied by both Waywuru and Dhudhuroa,²⁷ but when this closed in 1873,²⁸ the children were taken to Coranderk Aboriginal station at Healesville.²⁹ Meanwhile, remaining adult Waywuru (and their Dhudhuroa kin)

¹⁷ *ibid.*, entries for 25 & 26 April, 1840.

¹⁸ R. B. Smyth, *The Aborigines of Victoria: with notes relating to the habits of the natives of other parts of Australia and Tasmania compiled from various sources for the Government of Victoria*, Vol. 2, J. Ferres, Government Printer Melbourne, 1878, p.68.

¹⁹ Barry J. Blake and Julie Reid, 'Pallanganmiddang: a language of the Upper Murray,' *Aboriginal History*, 1999, Vol. 23, pp.16-17.

²⁰ Jacqui Durrant, *op cit.*

²¹ *Report — Select Committee of the Legislative Council, The Aborigines*, Government Printer, Melbourne, 1859, p.26.

²² Jacqui Durrant, *op cit.*, see: 'Chapter 2: The two 'countries' of the Waywuru Mittang'.

²³ R. H. Matthews, MS8006, Series 5, File 3, Box 6, National Library of Australia.

²⁴ Two vocabularies — one from Howlong [E. M. Curr, *The Australian Race*, 1886-87, p.398] and another from Corowa by Tommy McCrae, who was known to occupy Lake Moodemere (close to Rutherglen) [Tommy McCrae, sketchbook also containing vocabulary, given to Roderick Kilborn by McCrae in 1891, now held in the National Gallery of Victoria], show a strong Wiradjuri influence.

²⁵ A lengthy discussion of this is contained in Anthony Jefferies, Volume 4 of Jacqui Durrant and Anthony Jefferies, *Ngurai-ilam, Waywuru and Dhudhuroa: Their socio-political identity and interrelationships, country and ancestors*, independent unpublished report commissioned by Holding Redlich Lawyers with funding from the State of Victoria, 2023.

²⁶ Police Magistrate and Warden Henry Lane of Yackandandah recommended Tangambalanga on the Kiewa River as a suitable site for an Aboriginal reserve. Henry Lane, extract from letter to the Central Board of 12th August 1861. See: 'Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of Aborigines; Recommending the proclamation of a Reserve on the Upper Murray and Little Rivers - Tangambalanga Aboriginal Reserve.' VPRS 2896/P0000, D1861/7901, 1861-08-30, Public Records Office Victoria.

²⁷ 'The Aborigines,' *The Herald*, Monday 9 June 1862, p.5.

²⁸ *Victorian Government Gazette*, 52, July 11th 1873, p.1242.

²⁹ *Ninth Report for The Board of Protection of the Aborigines in the Colony of Victoria*, John

continued to occupy camp sites around the region, including at Wodonga; as did Wiradjuri-speakers. A simple news report describing Wodonga in 1856 describes two separate Aboriginal groups as occupying the Wodonga area: 'About 200 people reside in and around the neighbourhood, and a *small tribe or two of blacks* have taken up their quarters there.'³⁰ [author's italics]

Although accounts of Aboriginal people at Wodonga are few and far between, those which do exist render two points quite clear: that the individuals present at camps in Wodonga were in the main, the same individuals who frequented the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers, and that the preferred areas to camp were located on the Wodonga Creek between Jack-in-the-Box Creek and House Creek, at a site in proximity both to the large lagoon that has since become Belvoir Park Lake and the 'old Bridge' (stock bridge) over Wodonga Creek [Figure 9].

In 1912, upon the death of pastoralist William Huon of Wodonga station, it was recalled that when he first arrived in the area [late 1830s], 'The aboriginals were in a majority, as many as 100 blacks being camped on the banks of what is now called Lake Huon.'³¹ [ie: Belvoir Park Lake]

One of the earliest specific historical mentions of an Aboriginal camp at Wodonga dates from 8 October 1855, when Nanny — the wife of a Waywurru man from the Kiewa Valley, Neddy Mitchell — was murdered at a camp in Belvoir (Wodonga), near 'the bridge' (over Wodonga Creek). W. H. Gaunt, the sub-warden for Yackandandah, remanded Neddy Mitchell to the Beechworth gaol until the 16 October, and an enquiry was made into Nanny's death the following day, during which another Aboriginal man at the camp blamed her murder on 'blacks [ie: Wiradjuri] from down the river near Brown's station' [ie: Collendina].³² In the mid-20th century, recollections published in the *Wodonga and Towong Sentinel* recounted that:

*'Every year a tribe of aborigines visited Wodonga and camped on the lagoon, where they held corroboree at night and spent the day in cadging tobacco; tea, sugar, bread, etc., and generally making themselves a nuisance. One very fat lubra was called Queen Mary.'*³³ This was almost certainly Queen 'Big Mary' Brangy, wife of King Brangy, 'King of the Ovens River'. Both King and Queen Brangy were well-known identities around Wangaratta, Oxley and Tarrawingee.³⁴

In an interview with the *Border Morning Mail* in 1946,³⁵ Robert Gordon McIlree recalled that, as an eight year old, when the first train arrived in Wodonga, the driver blew the whistle, which was so frightening to himself and his brother that they 'fell into a blacks' camp, near the pound, and shared their terror with the aborigines.' In 1873 the North East Railway was run through land owned by the McIlree family, abutting the public pound reserve, on the eastern side of House Creek (where Forrest Mars Ave crosses House Creek). The McIlrees also owned the land around the western end of the lagoon which is now Belvoir Park Lake.³⁶ Consequently, it can be assumed that it is around this area that at least one of the 'black's camp[s]' existed. All of this information suggests that the area between Belvoir Park Lake, House Creek and the stock bridge, was originally an important campsite of Aboriginal people.

Ferres, Government Printer, Melbourne, Victoria, 1873, p.6.

³⁰ 'Colonial News. VICTORIA.' *The Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser*, Saturday 29 November 1856, p.3.

³¹ 'OBITUARY. WILLIAM HUON. A LINK WITH THE PAST.' *Wodonga and Towong Sentinel*, Friday 14 June 1912 - Page 2.

³² Death Inquest, Nanny (Aboriginal woman); Cause of death: Murder, tomahawk blow; Location of hearing : Belvoir; VPRS 24/P0000, 1855/90 Female, 1855-10-09. Public Records Office Victoria.

³³ 'WODONGA RE-VISITED MEMORIES OF THE PAST: BY W.ED.' *Wodonga and Towong Sentinel*, Friday 15 June 1945, p.2.

³⁴ Jacqui Durrant, op cit.; refer to section: 'King Brangy and Queen 'Big' Mary and family — apical ancestors,' p.69 onwards.

³⁵ *Border Morning Mail*, Wednesday 17 July 1946, p. 3.

³⁶ This can be seen on early maps such as 'RAIL32D TOWNSHIP OF WODONGA AND PARISH OF BELVOIR' from the sub-collection Railway Lines 1852-1913, This is a sub collection from VPRS 8168 Historic Plan Collection, Public Records Office Victoria.

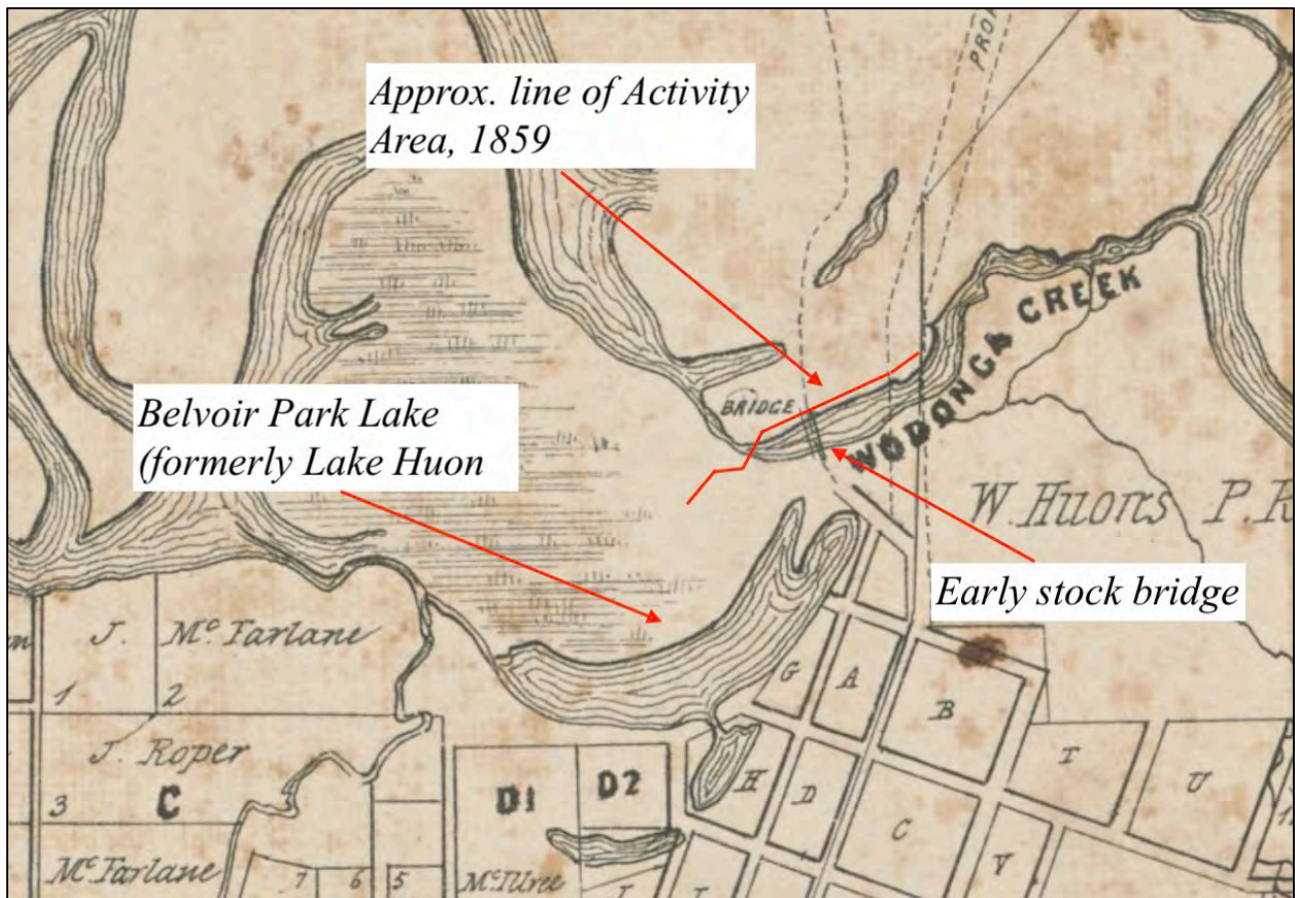


Figure 9: Excerpt from 'Suburban & country lands, Parish of Belvoir, Murray River', 1859, illustrating the un-surveyed marshland on the north side of Wodonga Creek, as well as the position of the original stock bridge.

6.2.6 Land Use History of the Activity Area

The Activity Area runs from the south side of Wodonga Creek, crossing that Creek, and then running along the stream-side of its north bank. The information concerning the historical usage of this area is based in part on 19th century maps, which when overlaid with present-day aerial imagery, appear to correspond very closely with the main features of the landscape today. However, there remains a possibility that the course of Wodonga Creek has altered over time, and that matching 19th century maps with present-day aerial imagery may be an imperfect process. Therefore, this historical study will take in a slightly broader area than the Activity Area itself, to cover any northwards shift in the banks of Wodonga Creek.

Early Pastoralism — Wodonga Run, 1836 onwards

During the pastoral era, the Activity Area was located within what was the Wodonga pastoral run [Figure 10]. In 1836, Charles and Paul Huon de Kerilleau (known by the surname 'Huon') arrived on the Hume (Murray) River, and squatted on the south of the river, opposite Charles Hotson Ebdens' recently-established Mungabareena Run, on an area Aboriginal people called 'Wodonga'.³⁷ Soon after, another brother, Aime Huon, and brother-in-law Robert Brown, arrived. Brown set up an Inn for travelers near the place where

³⁷ Billis, R. V. and Kenyon, A. S., *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip*, Macmillan & Company Ltd., Melbourne, 1932, p.272.

Hume and Hovell had first sighted the River (near the present-day Noreuil Park). This store, at what was known as 'the Crossing Place', was the beginning of Albury.³⁸

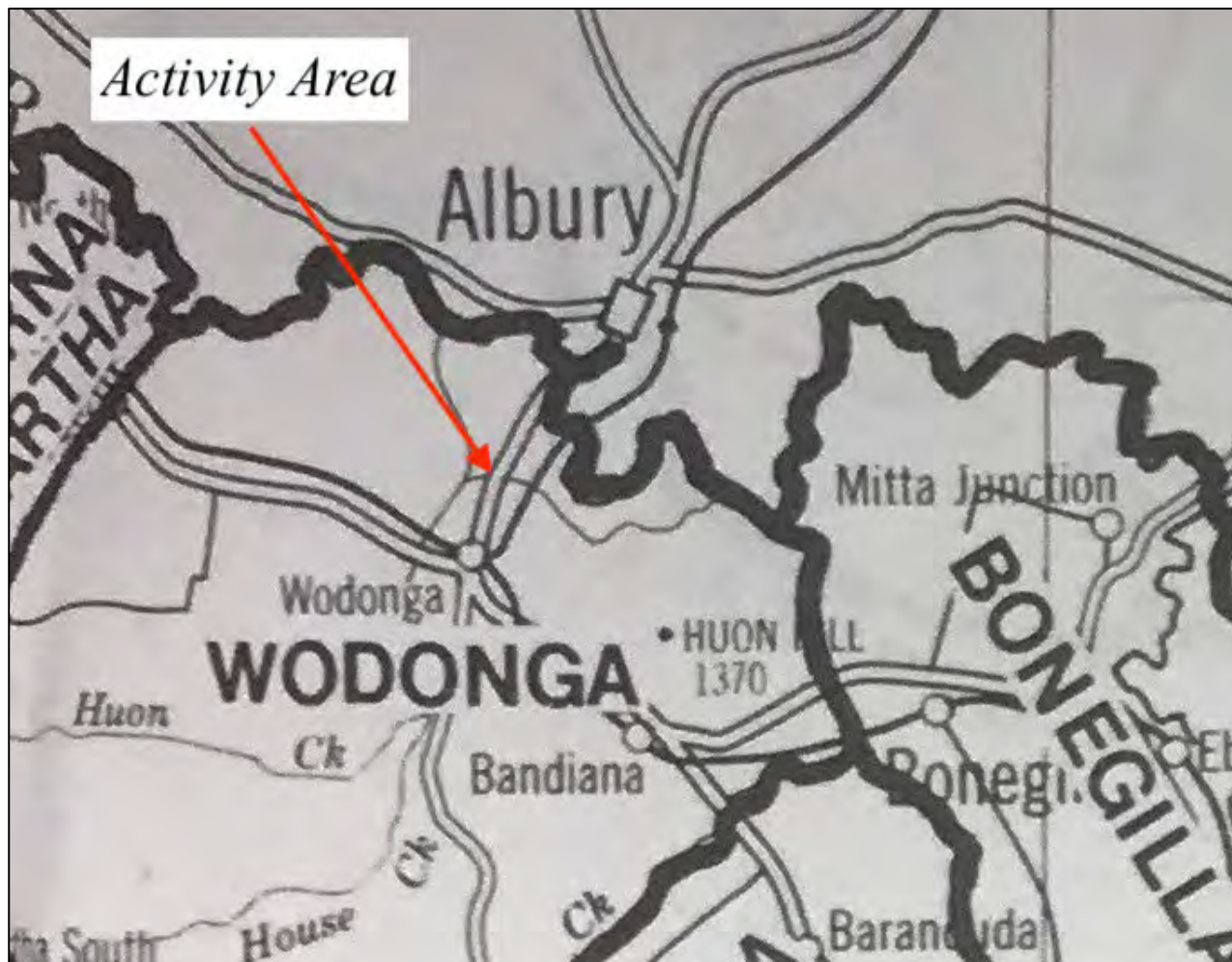


Figure 10: Illustration of the position of the Activity Area within the Wodonga squatting run (leasehold), taken from R. Spreadborough, and H. Anderson, *Victorian Squatters*, 1983.

The boundaries of the run were not well defined for a considerable period of time, but it covered a large stretch of country west and south of the Bonegilla run on the south bank of the Murray, to opposite the site of Albury.³⁹ The Huon's first homestead was built on the south bank of Wodonga Creek, at the entrance to the present town of Wodonga when approached from Albury. (The actual location was somewhere between present day Cambourne House and Jack-in-the-Box Creek. However, the Huons eventually moved their homestead to higher ground, to the site of present-day De Kerilleau homestead, beneath Huon Hill).

The original site of Wodonga homestead formed a significant social centre for European and Aboriginal people alike prior to the formation of the town of Belvoir (Wodonga). When Crown Lands Commissioner Henry Bingham visited 'Woodonga' in 1839, he found four non-Aboriginal people living in slab huts. Manager Charles Huon had cultivated 14 acres (about 6ha) and was running 900 cattle and 25 sheep. He also had 25

³⁸ Arthur Andrews, 'Early Settlement in Victoria,' *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*, series of articles published: 26 May, 1916; 2 June 1916; 9 June 1916.

³⁹ Arthur Andrews, *The First Settlement of the Upper Murray*, op cit., pp.41-42.

horses.⁴⁰ Most of the main activities for the Huon's pastoral enterprise were centred around the Woodonga homestead, in close physical proximity to the Activity Area (e.g. only 300 metres distant at points), but on the opposite side of the Creek to the Activity Area.

Paul Huon would remain the official leaseholder of the 42,000 acre Wodonga Run until 1851, after which time the lease was taken over by his son William. The Huons finally abandoned what remained of the run in 1881.⁴¹

Wodonga Township

The site for Belvoir (Wodonga) township was gazetted in 1852.⁴² A survey of township allotments took place in 1854, and this survey was expanded in 1859. The 1854 survey marked the site of a bridge over Wodonga Creek (within the Activity Area), which was described as 'destroyed by floods'.⁴³ This bridge was marked as present (rebuilt) in 1859, connecting with a track which would come to be regarded as a 'stock route'.⁴⁴ Worth noting is that the original bridge site marked on these maps was approximately 170 metres east (situated roughly where power lines now cross Wodonga Creek) from the current historic stock bridge. This indicates that the stock route and stock bridge area within the Activity Area not only has a long history, but has shifted geographically over time **[Figure 11]**. During this same 1850s period, land on the northern side of Wodonga Creek remained un-surveyed, with the 1859 map representing the area as swampy Crown land⁴⁵ **[Figure 11]**.

Camping Reserve, 1873-74

By 1874, two roads had been gazetted to cross Wodonga Creek (one would eventually form the newly aligned stock route and bridge; the other which would become the Lincoln Causeway), and two large Camping Reserves of 55 and 75 acres respectively had been gazetted on the northern bank of Wodonga Creek (which was now commonly referred to as the 'Wodonga Flats'⁴⁶), which took in land included within the Activity Area. This added to an existing camping reserve which had been gazetted nearby in 1873⁴⁷ **[Figure 11]**.

This reservation of land on the Wodonga Flats in the mid-1870s arose primarily from public concerns regarding the recent freehold selection of land on the Flats. People were concerned that if all the land on the Flats was selected, there would be nowhere to temporarily hold stock that had been driven down the stock route to meet the rail head of the North Eastern railway line at Wodonga. It was successfully argued that land between the Murray River and the railway station should be left open 'facilitate the passage of stock'.⁴⁸ Accordingly, the camping reserves were created not merely to house human travellers, but a continual stream of travelling stock.

⁴⁰ NRS 906: Colonial Secretary: Commissioners of Crown Lands - Itineraries, Murrumbidgee, Henry Bingham, 10 Jul - Nov 1839, Aug 1843, Jul 1844, Mar - Nov 1845, Apr - Jun 1847 [X812], Reel 2748 [Squatters and Graziers Index, State Archives and Records NSW].

⁴¹ Billis and Kenyon, op cit., p.272.

⁴² *Victorian Government Gazette*, Gazette 19, Date: Wednesday, May 12th 1852, p.474.

⁴³ 'Township of Belvoir,' lithographed at the Surveyor General's Office, Melbourne, March 30th 1854 by James B Philp. Victoria. Surveyor General's Office, 1854. State Library of Victoria.

⁴⁴ 'Suburban & country lands, Parish of Belvoir, Murray River' by W. S. Chauncy, Assist. Surveyor; lith'd at the P. L. Office January 1859. Victoria. Department of Crown Lands and Survey, 1859. State Library of Victoria.

⁴⁵ *ibid.*

⁴⁶ 'Parish of Wodonga, County Bogong,' Dept. Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1876, Proclaimed roads map, from a sub-collection from VPRS 8168 Historic Plan Collection, Public Records Office Victoria; *Victorian Government Gazette*, Gazette 9, Date: Friday, January 30th 1874, p.185.

⁴⁷ 'Parish of Wodonga, County Bogong,' Dept. Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1876, Proclaimed roads map, from a sub-collection from VPRS 8168 Historic Plan Collection, Public Records Office Victoria.

⁴⁸ 'SELECTIONS ON THE WODONGA FLATS.' *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, Friday 1 August 1873 - Page 2.

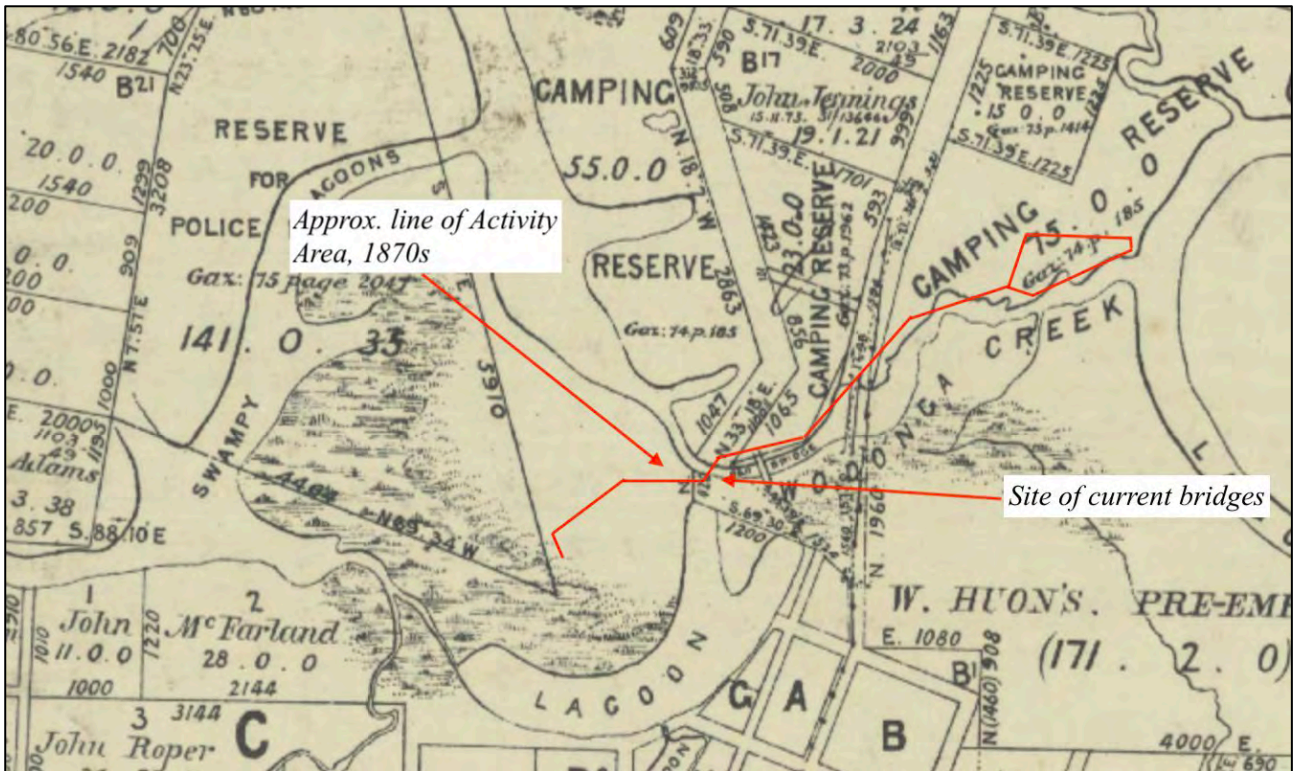


Figure 11: Excerpt from 'Parish of Wodonga, County Bogong,' 1876, illustrating camping reserves designed to service the movement of stock to the Wodonga railhead during the 1870s.

Water Reserve, 1881

By the late 1850s the retention of unbroken strips of Crown land along the margins of water ways had emerged as a general policy, although it was many years before this was formalised.⁴⁹ In 1881, a reserve two hundred links wide covering 'each bank of ana-branches of from winter level [was] permanently reserved for public purposes' along a length of the Wodonga Creek associated with the Activity Area, as a part of a formal Order in Council of these stream side reserves across the Colony of Victoria⁵⁰ [Figure 12]. This 1881 Permanent Reservation represented the greatest protection that could be afforded, being reversible only by an act of Parliament, Under the Land Act 1869.⁵¹

Any sections of the Activity Area which are 40 metres or closer to the banks of the Wodonga Creek, could be considered to have been afforded a measure of 'protection' since this time. However, this does not mean that they have not been impacted by grazing pressures and unauthorised clearing or other development, and it also does not account for a shift in the position of the Wodonga Creek over time.

⁴⁹ Neville Brayley (Senior Surveyor), *Crown Land Issues: Rivers & Streams*, Surveyor-General Victoria Tuesday, 28 July 2020, Dept. Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Melbourne, p.9.

⁵⁰ *Victorian Order in Council*, 27 May 1881/1389.

⁵¹ Neville Brayley, op cit., p.26.

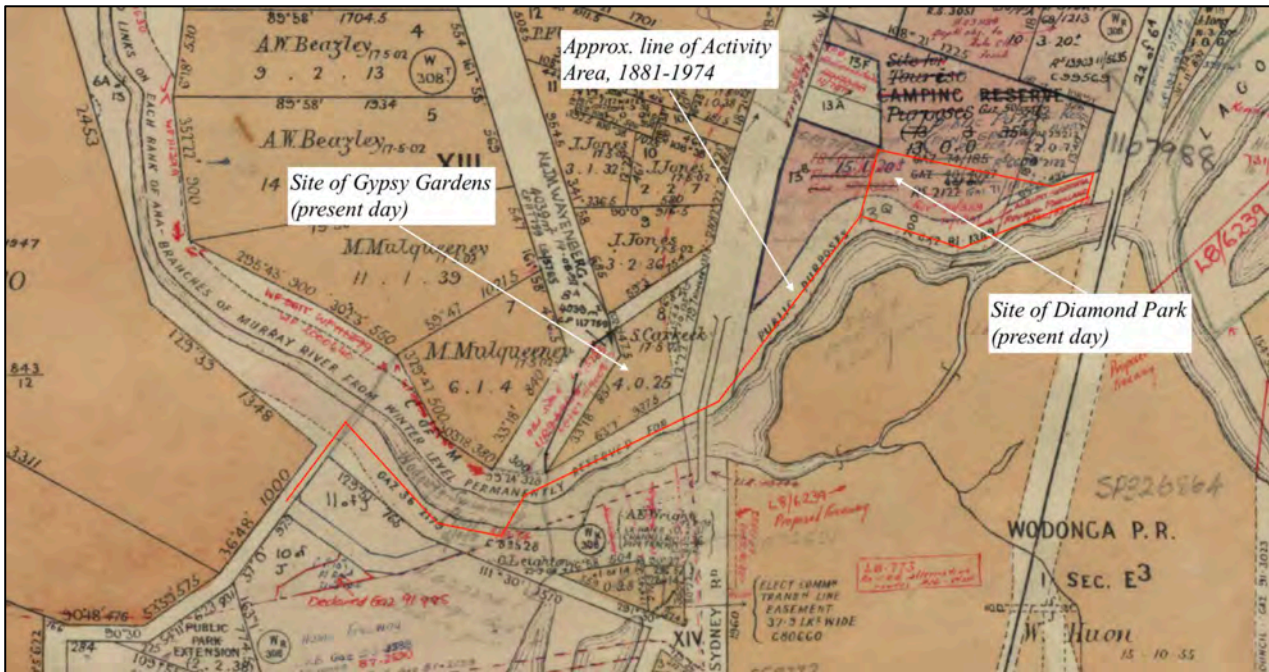


Figure 12: Excerpt from ‘Wodonga Township plan, Imperial measure 5869,’ 1948, illustrating land permanently reserved along the Wodonga Creek in 1881, freehold allotments dating from the late 19th century/early 20th century, the creation of a number of road reserves, and the conversion of one of the camping reserves into public recreational parklands.

Early to mid 20th century usage, 1902-1950

By the turn into the 20th century, some of the area formerly gazetted as a camping reserve situated to the east of the road that would become Lincoln Causeway, was surveyed into agricultural allotments and presented for purchase. In 1901, the stock bridge was no longer standing, but the stock route continued to function by driving livestock over a ford at the site of the current ‘old stock bridge’. One allotment, between the stock route and the road that would become Lincoln Causeway — Allotment 8 of Section 8, Township of Wodonga — which may be relevant to the Activity Area, was purchased by S. Carkeek in 1902⁵² [Figure 13]. Carkeek, a manager of the Terminus Hotel in Wodonga (owned by his father),⁵³ also raced horses⁵⁴ — so it is not difficult to imagine to what use Carkeek put this land.

The ‘old stock bridge’ which crosses Wodonga Creek today (adjacent to the Activity Area, but not included within it), was built in 1940. Its construction solidified the general area as the major point at which stock continued to be crossed. A photograph of the ‘swimming pool’ which was located west of the bridge (c.1950s) illustrates the impact on the banks of the Wodonga Creek of the removal of vegetation and heavy stock movement. It also illustrates willows growing along the north side of Wodonga Creek within the Activity Area which have since been removed, most likely with machinery⁵⁵ [Image 1]. The camping reserve adjacent located east of the road that would become Lincoln Causeway, was eventually made into ‘a site for tourist camping purposes by order in Council dated 24th October 1950, together with that portion of the permanent reserve for public purposes along the Wodonga Creek which abuts such land’⁵⁶ [Figure 12].

⁵² ‘Wodonga, County of Bogong’ drawn and reproduced at the Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 1948. Public Records Office Victoria.

⁵³ ‘OBITUARY. DEATH OF MR. W. CARKEEK.’ *The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*, Friday 23 March 1900 - Page 16.

⁵⁴ ‘Wodonga Turf Club,’ *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, Saturday 27 April 1901 - Page 2.

⁵⁵ Image sourced from Hermes Orion, Heritage Victoria database, entries for Wodonga Creek Stockbridge (multiple entries), <https://orion.heritage.vic.gov.au/places/206357>, <https://orion.heritage.vic.gov.au/places/70047>, accessed 18 October 2024.

⁵⁶ *Victorian Government Gazette*, Gazette 967, Date: Wednesday, November 29th 1950, p.6315.

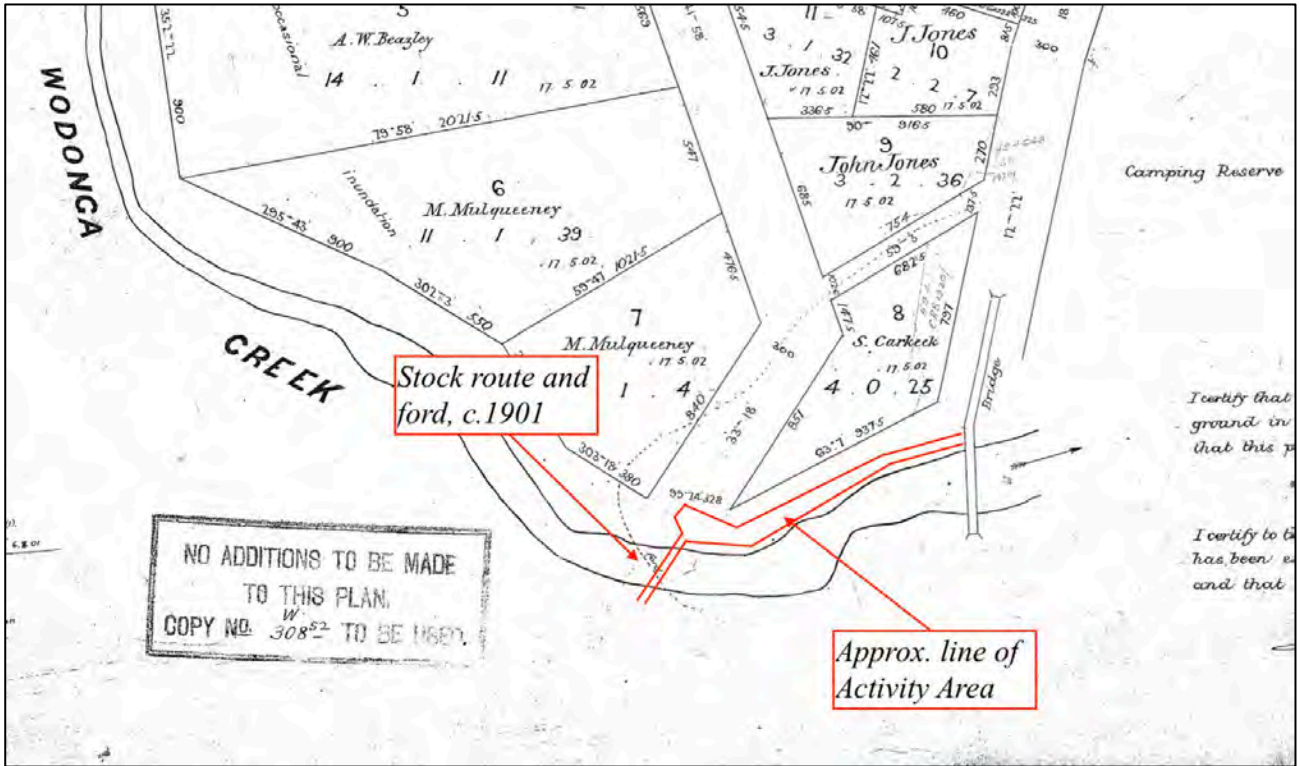


Figure 13: Excerpt from 'Wodonga, County of Bogong', 1901, illustrating the period during which the old stock bridge had been replaced by a Ford, and also marking the stock route at this period.



Image 1: The Wodonga 'Swimming Pool' near the Wodonga Creek Stock Bridge, c.1950s, illustrating denuded and eroding Creek banks, as well as willow trees growing within the Activity Area.

The following year (1951), the Public Works Department began discussions for providing a laundry and sanitary block for tourist camping on site.⁵⁷ The site also included provisions for caravans.⁵⁸ An army survey corps map from 1951 illustrates a roadway into this tourist camping area, as well as a structure⁵⁹ [Figure 14].

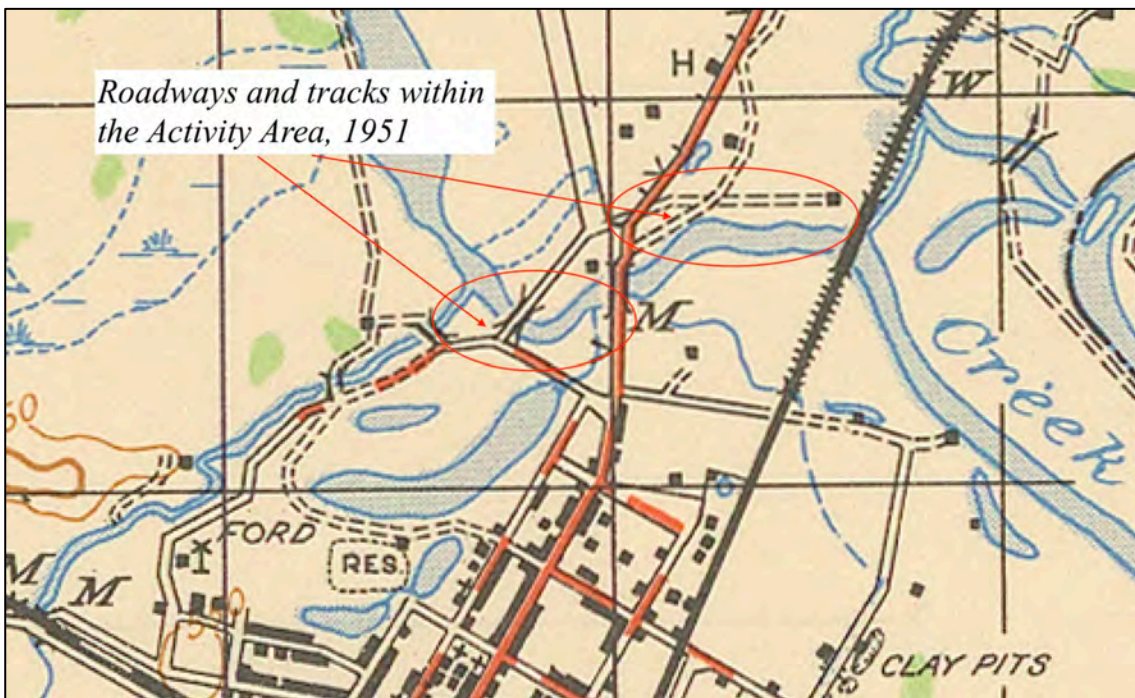


Figure 14: Excerpt from 'Victoria, Wodonga,' prepared by Australian Section, Imperial General Staff. Great Britain. War Office, 1951, illustrating roadways and tracks in the vicinity of the Activity Area in the mid-century.

Mid to late 20th century usage, 1955-1996

Between 1955 to 1996, the Activity Area is recorded in a series of aerial photographs, illustrating some change during this period. The photograph from 1955⁶⁰ illustrates that, by this time, the Activity Area has been substantially cleared of native vegetation, with the exception of a handful of mature Eucalyptus trees dotted along the stream-side, and a patch of trees associated with a small beach (in proximity to what is now the Wodonga Creek Miniature Railway). The stock route on the south side of Wodonga Creek within the Activity Area is broad and worn, while the Activity Area to the east side of Lincoln Causeway features a number of tracks and roadways associated with a structure — most notably a roadway which runs all the way from the stock route to the structure itself, which starts with the formally gazetted Wright Road, and continues to the structure as a driveway [Figure 15].

A photograph from 1961⁶¹ shows little change, but for a strip of vegetation regrowth along the bank of the Wodonga Creek immediately west of the railway bridge. By 1975, native vegetation along the bank of Wodonga Creek has regrown even further in places, and Lincoln Causeway has been made into a dual carriage roadway⁶² [Figure 16].

⁵⁷ 'WODONGA FLATS AS TOURIST STOPPING PLACE,' *Border Morning Mail*, Wednesday 1 August 1951 - Page 9.

⁵⁸ 'Comforts station for Wodonga Flats campers,' *Border Morning Mail*, Thursday 16 April 1953 - Page 2.

⁵⁹ 'Victoria, Wodonga,' [cartographic material], prepared by Australian Section, Imperial General Staff. Great Britain. War Office. General Staff. Australian Section, Govt. Printer, Melbourne, 1951.

⁶⁰ 'Photo-map of Victoria. 782 A4, Albury,' State Aerial Survey, Victoria, 1955, State Library Victoria.

⁶¹ 'Historic Aerial Photos: ALBURY', Sheet number 8225, 1961, Historical Imagery Search and Discovery, Spatial services New South Wales Government.

⁶² 'Historic Aerial Photos: ALBURY', Sheet number 8225, 1975, Historical Imagery Search and Discovery, Spatial services New South Wales Government.

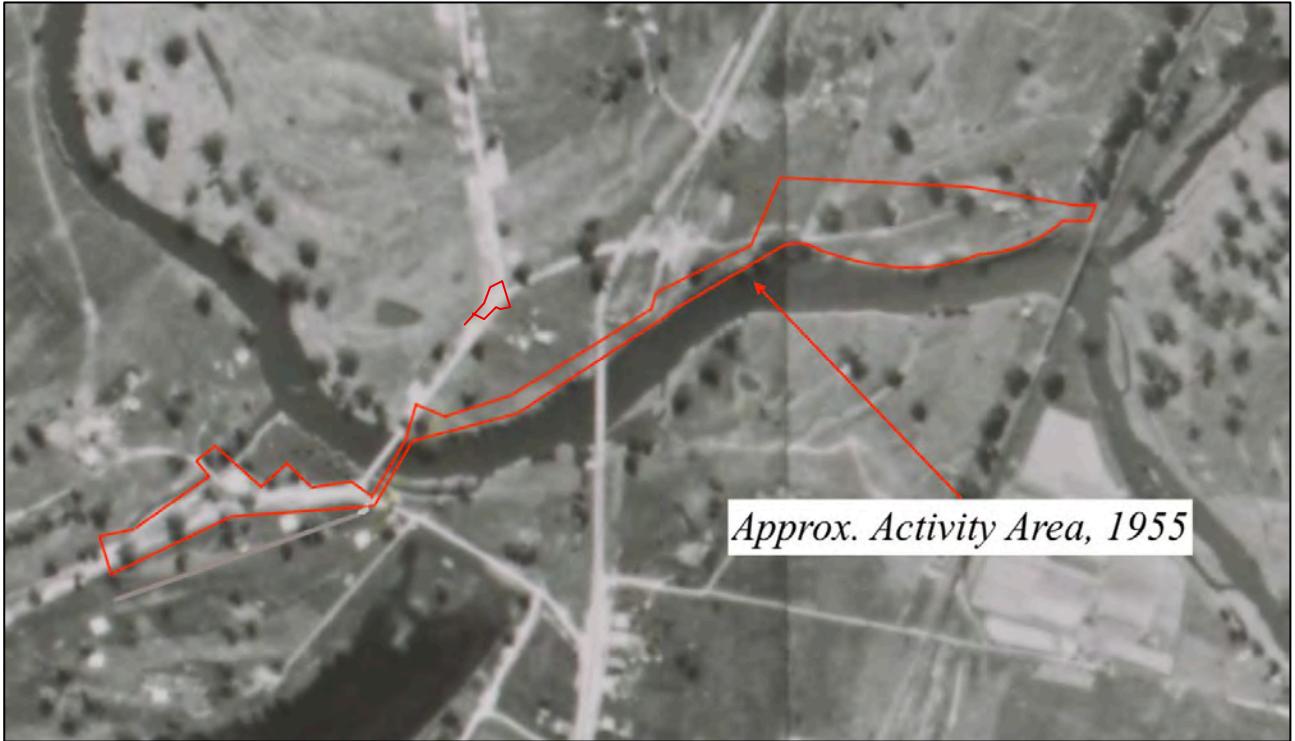


Figure 15: 'Photo-map of Victoria. 782 A4, Albury,' State Aerial Survey, Victoria, 1955, illustrating the Activity Area virtually cleared of all vegetation in 1955.

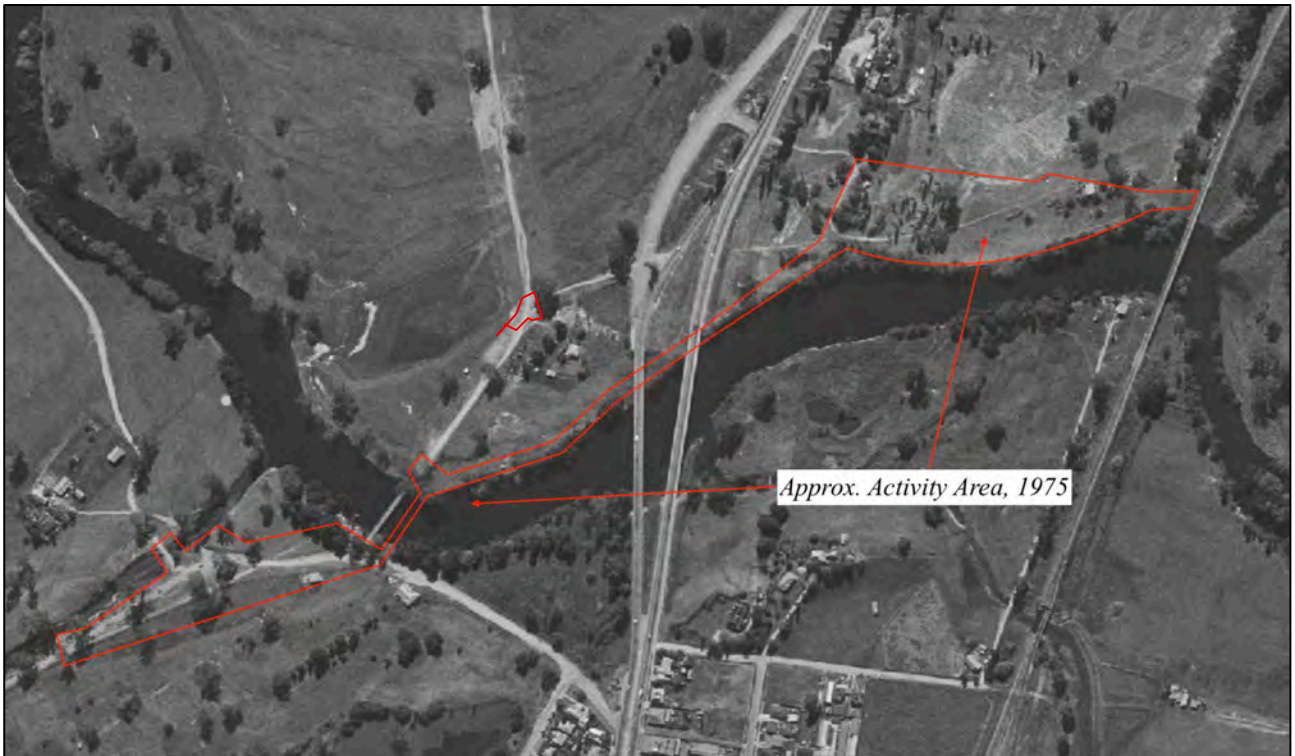


Figure 16: 'Historic Aerial Photos: ALBURY', Sheet number 8225, 1975, illustrating some regrowth of vegetation along the Wodonga Creek.

In 1971, the 'site for tourist camping purposes' was gazetted as a site for 'picnic grounds and a recreation reserve'.⁶³ This led the way for the development of Diamond Park. By 1990, the Activity Area west of Lincoln Causeway is beginning to be impacted by infrastructure and access requirements associated with Diamond Park, such as the development of the Wodonga Creek Miniature Railway, and more formalised roadway access.⁶⁴ These developments were associated with significant ground disturbance. The impact of these developments, combined with continuing regrowth of native vegetation, can also be seen in 1996⁶⁵ [Figure 17].

Late 20th century and early 21st century development

In 1999, the 'permanent reserve for public purposes along the Wodonga Creek' was handed over to Albury-Wodonga Regional Parklands [Figure 12]. The adjacent Lot (now numbered 13B) formerly comprising the tourist camping park continued to be used as Diamond Park, featuring the Wodonga Creek Miniature Railway with associated buildings, the club house and dirt-biking jump tracks of the Albury-Wodonga Motorcycle Club, and additional public amenities such as picnic tables and public toilets. Where they impact the Activity, these developments have been associated with significant ground disturbance.

The Allotment originally purchased by S. Carkeek in 1902 remained privately owned, and began to be developed into the Gypsy Gardens Wedding Venue and Black Duck Cafe in c.2000. This has entailed landscaping along the edge of the Allotment abutting the reserved area along Wodonga Creek (and possibly encroaching upon it), to make an extensive area of lawn. However, it is not apparent to what degree, if any, this entailed significant ground disturbance.

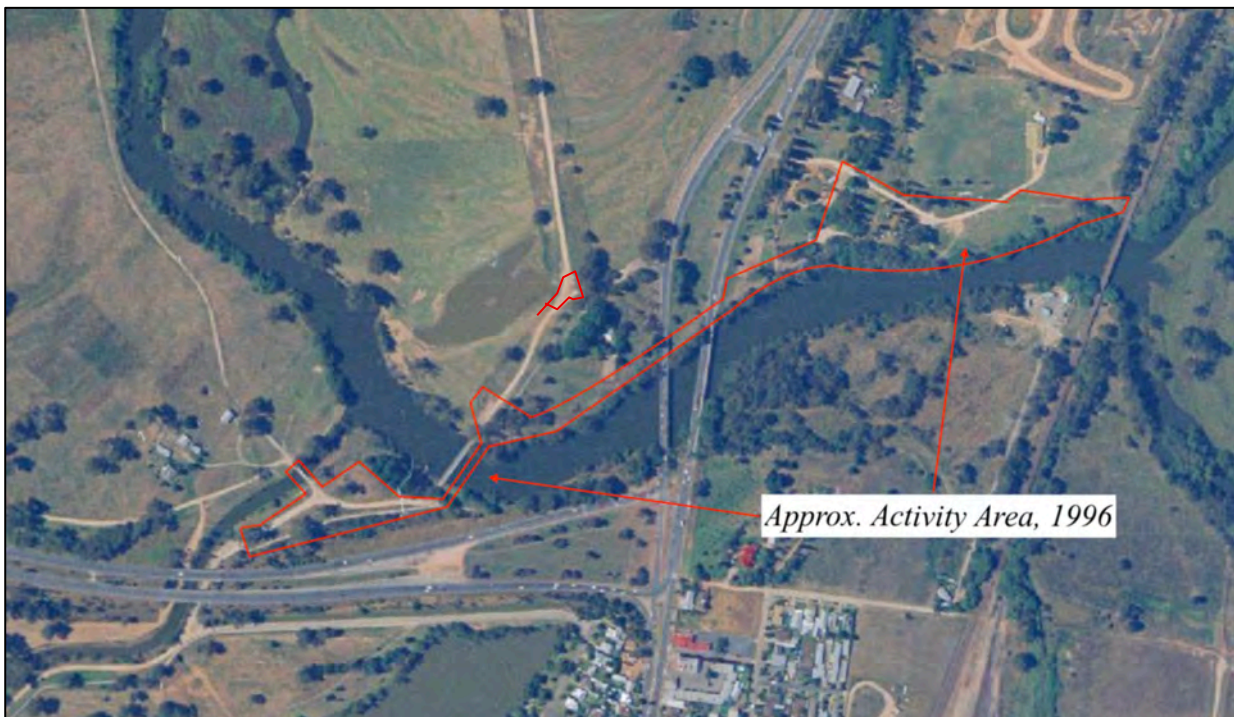


Figure 17: 'Historic Aerial Photos: ALBURY', Sheet number 8225, 1996, illustrating an early phase of the Diamond Park development, including the Wodonga Creek Miniature Railway.

⁶³ 'Wodonga, County of Bogong' drawn and reproduced at the Department of Lands and Survey, n.d., Landata website, map number W308S4, with annotations.

⁶⁴ 'Historic Aerial Photos: ALBURY', Sheet number 8225, 1990, Historical Imagery Search and Discovery, Spatial services New South Wales Government.

⁶⁵ 'Historic Aerial Photos: ALBURY', Sheet number 8225, 1996, Historical Imagery Search and Discovery, Spatial services New South Wales Government.

Conclusion

The Activity Area associated with Wodonga Creek has seen substantial public use at least since the 1850s, due to its association with a travelling stock route. The first bridge over Wodonga Creek servicing the stock route appears to have been constructed in the early 1850s, or perhaps the late 1840s. This bridge was located approximately 170m east of the existing historic stock bridge. This bridge was washed away during the 1850s, but repaired by 1858/59. Land on the north side of Wodonga Creek, the 'Wodonga Flats', was reserved for camping purposes during the mid 1870s, facilitating the temporary holding and movement of stock across the Creek, also providing somewhere for stockmen to camp. By the turn of the century, the stock bridge was no longer present, and instead, stock was crossed through a ford in Wodonga Creek in proximity to the current historic stock bridge and adjacent footbridge. The current Wodonga Creek stock bridge was built in 1940.

Aerial and land-based photographs from the mid-20th century show that the Activity Area and all of the surrounding land has been heavily impacted by the stock route. By this time the area had been stripped of most of its native vegetation with the exception of some mature Eucalyptus, and the creek banks were either suffering erosion, or had been overtaken by willow trees. The stock route and other tracks/roadways were well worn-in. The south side of Wodonga Creek in the Activity Area also received foot and vehicle traffic, due to this area on the creek being the local 'swimming pool' around the mid-century. Meanwhile, the north side of Wodonga Creek between Lincoln Causeway and the railway line, was made into a tourist park, including facilities for campers and caravans.

This tourist park area (now Diamond Park) was gazetted as a picnic grounds and recreational area in the mid-1970s, and has been developed as such since this time. However, the north bank of Wodonga Creek between the historic stock bridge and Lincoln Causeway remained largely undeveloped until works commenced on the adjacent Gypsy Gardens wedding venue. It is apparent that willows have been removed from along the creek banks at this point (more than likely involving the use of machinery), and that machinery has been used to grade various surfaces at various points within the Activity Area as a whole. This has resulted in significant ground disturbance over select sections within the Activity Area.

6.3 Search of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

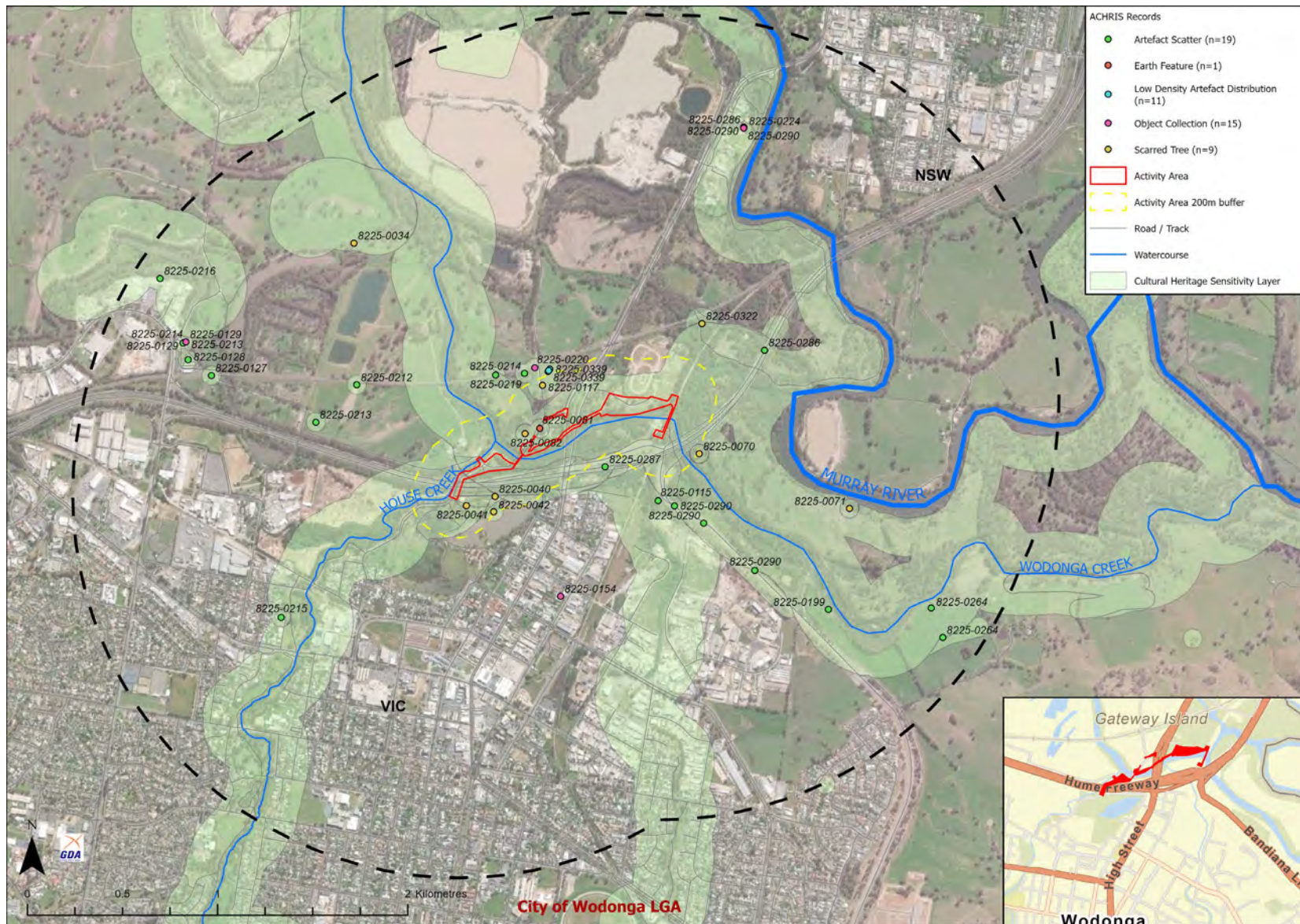
The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) was searched on 4th February 2024 by Damian Wall. A total of twenty-eight (N=28) Aboriginal places with a total of forty-one (41) individual components have previously been recorded within the defined geographic region (and 13 object collections consisting of 15 components). These consist of scarred trees (n=9), an earth feature (n=1), artefact scatters (n=16, 19 components), a sensitive registration (n=1), and an LDAD (n=1, 11 components) **[Map 6]**.

Five (5) registered Aboriginal Places occur within 200 metres of the Activity Area. VAHR 8225-0041 WODONGA GOLF COURSE 2 (scarred tree); VAHR 8225-0082 WODONGA CREEK 3 (scarred tree); VAHR 8225-0081 WODONGA CREEK 2 (earth feature – soil deposit); VAHR 8225-0117 WODONGA S 1 Scarred Tree; and VAHR 8225-0040 WODONGA GOLF COURSE 1 (scarred tree).

Table 2: VAHR listed sites within the defined Geographic Region two (2) kilometre buffer of the Activity Area

Aboriginal Place Number	Aboriginal Place Name	Component Place Number	Component Type	Distance from Activity Area (m)
8225-0034	SEC JINDERA-DEDERANG TL 15	8225-0034-1	Scarred Tree	1303
8225-0040	WODONGA GOLF COURSE 1	8225-0040-1	Scarred Tree	132
8225-0041	WODONGA GOLF COURSE 2	8225-0041-1	Scarred Tree	59
8225-0042	WODONGA GOLF COURSE 3	8225-0042-1	Scarred Tree	203
8225-0070	WILLOW BANK 1	8225-0070-1	Scarred Tree	211
8225-0071	WILLOW BANK 2	8225-0071-1	Scarred Tree	1051
8225-0081	WODONGA CREEK 2	8225-0081-1	Earth Feature	50
8225-0082	WODONGA CREEK 3	8225-0082-1	Scarred Tree	50
8225-0115	BANDIANA 1	8225-0115-1	Artefact Scatter	325
8225-0117	WODONGA ST 1	8225-0117-1	Scarred Tree	162
8225-0127	MELROSE 1	8225-0127-1	Artefact Scatter	1401
8225-0128	MELROSE 2	8225-0128-1	Artefact Scatter	1546
8225-0129	MELROSE 3	8225-0129-2	Object Collection	1595
8225-0129	MELROSE 3	8225-0129-1	Artefact Scatter	1605
8225-0154	INGRAMS ROAD IA 1	8225-0154-2	Object Collection	713
8225-0199	RANCHO HOLDINGS P 1	8225-0199-1	Artefact Scatter	1252
8225-0212	WODONGA CREEK WEST TERRACE	8225-0212-2	Object Collection	1595
8225-0212	WODONGA CREEK WEST TERRACE	8225-0212-1	Artefact Scatter	713
8225-0213	WODONGA CREEK SW TERRACE	8225-0213-2	Object Collection	1595
8225-0213	WODONGA CREEK SW TERRACE	8225-0213-1	Artefact Scatter	800
8225-0214	WODONGA CREEK EAST TERRACE	8225-0214-2	Object Collection	1595
8225-0214	WODONGA CREEK EAST TERRACE	8225-0214-1	Artefact Scatter	259
8225-0215	126 Melbourne Road Wodonga	8225-0215-1	Artefact Scatter	1089
8225-0216	MOLONEY DRIVE ISOLATED ARTEFACT	8225-0216-1	Artefact Scatter	1878
8225-0219	EAST TERRACE PIER 1	8225-0219-2	Object Collection	1595
8225-0219	EAST TERRACE PIER 1	8225-0219-1	Artefact Scatter	344
8225-0220	WODONGA CREEK EAST TERRACE 2	8225-0220-1	Artefact Scatter	262
8225-0220	WODONGA CREEK EAST TERRACE 2	8225-0220-2	Object Collection	262
8225-0224	RIVERSIDE ESTATE 7	8225-0224-2	Object Collection	1454
8225-0225	RIVERSIDE ESTATE 8	8225-0225-2	Object Collection	1454
8225-0240	Barnawartha Golf Course 1	8225-0240-3	Object Collection	1454
8225-0264	Meridian Estate AS	8225-0264-3	Artefact Scatter	1807
8225-0264	Meridian Estate AS	8225-0264-2	Artefact Scatter	1670
8225-0271		8225-0271-1	Sensitive Registration	1427
8225-0286	Gateway Island - Hume Freeway 2004	8225-0286-1	Artefact Scatter	514
8225-0286	Gateway Island - Hume Freeway 2004	8225-0286-2	Object Collection	1455
8225-0287	Cambourne House - Hume Freeway 2004	8225-0287-1	Object Collection	1455
8225-0287	Cambourne House - Hume Freeway 2004	8225-0287-2	Artefact Scatter	252
8225-0290	Wodonga Terrace (WT) East - Centre and West Paddocks - VicRoads	8225-0290-1	Object Collection	1455

Aboriginal Place Number	Aboriginal Place Name	Component Place Number	Component Type	Distance from Activity Area (m)
8225-0290	Wodonga Terrace (WT) East - Centre and West Paddocks - VicRoads	8225-0290-6	Artefact Scatter	357
8225-0290	Wodonga Terrace (WT) East - Centre and West Paddocks - VicRoads	8225-0290-5	Object Collection	1450
8225-0290	Wodonga Terrace (WT) East - Centre and West Paddocks - VicRoads	8225-0290-2	Artefact Scatter	846
8225-0290	Wodonga Terrace (WT) East - Centre and West Paddocks - VicRoads	8225-0290-3	Artefact Scatter	493
8225-0290	Wodonga Terrace (WT) East - Centre and West Paddocks - VicRoads	8225-0290-4	Object Collection	1450
8225-0322	Gateway Island Scarred Tree - Harris Rd	8225-0322-1	Scarred Tree	402
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-12	Low Density Artefact Distribution	222
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-2	Low Density Artefact Distribution	217
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-1	Low Density Artefact Distribution	217
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-7	Low Density Artefact Distribution	217
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-6	Low Density Artefact Distribution	217
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-5	Low Density Artefact Distribution	217
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-4	Low Density Artefact Distribution	217
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-3	Low Density Artefact Distribution	217
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-10	Low Density Artefact Distribution	215
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-9	Low Density Artefact Distribution	217
8225-0339	Stock Route LDAD	8225-0339-8	Low Density Artefact Distribution	217



The following types of Aboriginal places have been recorded and registered in the defined geographic region:

Aboriginal Artefact Scatters: Artefact scatters are the material remains of past Aboriginal people's activities. Scatter sites usually contain stone artefacts, but other material such as charcoal, animal bone, shell and ochre may also be present. Artefact scatters may vary over the ground surface from one square metre to one hectare, and contain few or thousands of artefacts. Artefacts often are chipped stone artefacts and occasionally, animal bone, shell, charcoal, hearth stones, clay balls and ochre.

Low Density Artefact Distributions: A Low Density Artefact Distribution (LDAD) is the occurrence of stone artefacts at densities of up to 10 counted artefacts in any area of approximately 10m x 10m, or 100m², including within a single test pit of ≤1m². As a distribution, the LDAD does not have an 'extent' but each individual artefact is accorded an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.

Aboriginal Scarred Trees: Aboriginal scarred trees are the result of people marking or removing bark from a tree for a wide range of uses. Scarring exposes the sapwood on the trunk or branch of a tree, with the tree healing over a period of time, generally leaving a prominent scar. Mature trees with scars are located across Victoria, and more commonly are present on box and red gum eucalypts that occur along the margins of rivers, lakes and floodplains.

Aboriginal Ancestral Remains (Burials): Often located near or within Aboriginal occupation sites such as oven mounds, shell middens or artefact scatters, Aboriginal burials are normally found as human bones eroding from the ground, or exposed during ground disturbance. Aboriginal customs for honouring and disposing of the dead varied greatly across Victoria, but burial was common. Aboriginal burial sites normally contain the remains of one or two people, although cemeteries that contain the remains of hundreds of people buried over thousands of years have been found.

Aboriginal Earth Features: Aboriginal mounds are places generally located on higher ground near waterways, lakes, dunes and swamps, where Aboriginal people lived over long periods of time. Mounds often contain charcoal, burnt clay or stone heat retainers from cooking ovens, animal bones, shells, stone tools and, sometimes, Aboriginal burials.

6.4 Previous archaeological work in the geographic region

Localised and regional archaeological investigations have established the general character of Aboriginal sites located within the same geographic region as the Activity Area. This information, together with an environmental context, history of land use, and historical and ethnohistorical sources can be used to form the basis for a site prediction statement. The most relevant reports to the activity area undertaken within two (2) kilometres of the Activity Area at the time of this CHMP, are summarised below. Only the most relevant reports have been included in the following sections.

6.4.1 Regional Studies

Zobel (1984) undertook a desktop study of the Aboriginal occupation of north-east Victoria for the Land Conservation Council (Report No. 36). A summary of the Aboriginal and colonial history of the north-east is presented in the report. Zobel identified 83 Aboriginal places within the study area, including 26 scarred trees, 25 surface artefact scatters, 13, isolated artefacts, 10 art/rockshelter places, two (2) mounds, two (2) rockshelters, one (1) burial, one (1) mound with burial, one (1) quarry, one (1) rock arrangement and one (1) exposure (Zobel 1984:27). Zobel clarified that Aboriginal sites could be expected across most ecological zones of the north-east. Burial sites were more likely to be found in association with flood plains (Zobel 1984:34–

36), while the art sites discussed were typically located on massive granite boulder outcroppings that occur on hills in the area (Zobel, 1984: 25). The artefacts identified at sites were interpreted as reflecting small, temporary camps associated with a mobile settlement pattern and with tools made and used on the spot then discarded (Zobel 1984: 28-29).

Thompson (1996) conducted an archaeological survey of a large section of northeast Victoria. Thompson (1996: 1) reiterated Zobel's (1984: 24) observation that very little dedicated study has been undertaken in the north-east with the result being limited knowledge of the Aboriginal archaeological record of the region. Thompson (1996: vi) divided the study area into three landscape divisions: Murray Basin Plains, Foothills and Eastern Highlands. Within these divisions were further subdivisions. Sample surveying was undertaken and a total of 111 Aboriginal places were identified, including 69 scarred trees and 42 stone artefact occurrences (Thompson 1996: 23). However, of the 69 scarred trees, Thompson (1996: 23) suggested that 22 were of European origin. Of the Aboriginal scarred trees, 39 were grey box, seven were red box and one was on a tree of unidentified species. Stone artefact sites, as a general rule (i.e. excluding a particular exception associated with a silcrete outcrop), were quartz dominated. Of all the sites recorded, two-thirds were within 100 metres of a water source and two-thirds of the stone artefact sites were within 500 metres of a permanent water source (Thompson 1996: 25). Thompson concluded that remnant mature stands of grey box would be sensitive for Aboriginal scarring and that the lowland valleys were a focus of subsistence activities (Thompson, 1996).

Clarke (1997) undertook a desktop study of box-ironbark forests and woodlands with regards to Aboriginal associations (Report No. 1074). The area contained 4201 recorded Aboriginal sites comprising 558 scarred trees (most around lakes, streams and swamps), 252 mounds, 184 isolated artefacts, 145 artefact scatters, 92 art sites, 49 rock shelters (notably in the Kooyoora Range), four (4) quarries, 14 burials, 14 rockwells, 11 shell middens, five (5) exposures in banks, four (4) hearths, one (1) rock arrangement, and an unspecified number of fish traps and grinding grooves (Marshall et al. 1996 cited in Clarke 1997:1). Scarred trees, the most prolific site type, were most common around streams, waterbodies, and swamps (I. Clark, 1997). It was posited that the whole area of box-ironbark forest had been inhabited since at least 13,000 years ago, based on carbon dating of burials along the Murray River (Gunn 1990 cited in Clarke 1997:2-3).

Hughes and Buckley (1999) developed a model for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management in the Victorian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) region (Report No. 4334) with the goal of improving the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage (Hughes and Buckley 1999:1). The proposed approach was to develop map-based Aboriginal archaeological significance zoning (Hughes and Buckley 1999:31). Environmental Units outlined large scale areas, further broken into Geographic Representation Units (Hughes and Buckley 1999:36-37). High, medium and low sensitivity ratings were based on the presence, absence and intersection of the relevant variables. These included environmental/geographic maps, land tenure, existing vegetation classes, pre-1750 vegetation classes, old growth forest, water supply catchment and drainage basins, geology, disturbance and land clearance (Hughes and Buckley 1999:51). The North East region was described as so poorly studied that it was not feasible to create a predictive model for the forests in that area (Hughes and Buckley 1999:42). At the time of the study, 326 sites were registered in the region: scarred trees (41%), isolated artefacts (21%), artefacts scatters (21%) and rock shelters with art and/or deposit (10%). It was noted that 67.5% of the registered sites occurred on freehold land or adjacent easements (Hughes and Buckley 1999:44). In the region, the places registered on the National Estate were all rock outcrop sites (Buckley and Hughes 1999:45). The two site types in the area deemed to be of high archaeological and cultural significance were rock shelters and overhangs and greenstone quarries (Hughes and Buckley 1999:49). They suggested that, although more scarred trees were recorded than artefact scatters, this was likely due to sampling error,

reflecting the fact that much of what had been surveyed was areas where scarred trees were relatively common (Hughes & Buckley, 1999: 49).

Buckley and Hughes (2000) prepared a report for Environment Australia (Report No. 1887), specifically for the North East RFA, an area of 2.3 million hectares (Buckley and Hughes 2000:13). At the time, there were 326 registered Aboriginal sites within the North East Victoria RFA: 41% scarred trees, 22% isolated artefacts and 21% artefact scatters. The remaining 10% consisted of rock shelters with art and/or deposits (Buckley and Hughes 2000:13). There were also eight (8) registered Aboriginal places: six (6) rock art sites (all on granite outcrops), one (1) stone axe quarry complex and one (1) memorial to a massacre site (Buckley and Hughes 2000:15). However, it was stated that the forested areas were little surveyed, and probably have a lot of Aboriginal heritage potential. The authors concluded that stone artefact scatters were the most likely site type to be found in the region despite the fact that scarred trees had been more regularly recorded over Artefact Scatters. They reiterated that the larger number of scarred trees than artefact sites recorded was likely due to sampling error (Buckley and Hughes 2000:16). The report recommended the adoption of a new Aboriginal heritage archaeological sensitivity assessment model. In addition, a number of improvements to the consultation process were recommended to ensure intangible places of significance to Aboriginal people would be less likely to be overlooked; these places may be associated with various landforms (Buckley & Hughes, 2000).

Gunn (2002) conducted a site-specific investigation for Mudgegonga-2 and the Rock Art of North-East Victoria. The site was located in the Foothills of the Great Dividing Range. The investigation looked at 14 rock art sites recorded in north-east Victoria, represented by five distinct clusters and one singular site. Analysis suggests they consist of an early phase of small red paintings with a core of 'simple human figures' with a broader suite of 'geometric elements and simple designs'. It is largely homogeneous across the region (Gunn, 2002).

Clark et al (2003) completed a desktop review of Cultural Heritage of the North East Catchment. The study area is just under two million hectares, bordered on the north and east by the Murray River and on the south by the Great Dividing Range. Amidst the lack of documentation of Aboriginal people and territories around contact, a study of primary source information by Wesson (2000) is credited as being the most comprehensive document at the time. A diversity of resources in the region, reflected in the diversity of landforms, would have influenced the occupation and utilisation of the landscape, relative to season and cyclic changes. At the time of publication, 476 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites had been recorded, the majority of which are located along the Murray River, and in the mountains of Mount Buffalo and the Alpine National Park. However, lack of sites recorded in other areas are not reflective of lack of occupation of those sites, but potentially related to the absence of archaeological investigations throughout the region in a systematic fashion.

Artefact scatters dominate the archaeological record (60%), followed by scarred trees (27%). Other sites recorded in the study area include rock wells, hearths, mounds, burials, art sites, stone arrangements, quarries and fish/eel traps. A site prediction model for the most likely site types was attempted based on the sites recorded in the area:

- Artefact scatters were predicted to be found in flat gently sloping areas near accessible water and resources; larger sites found at lower elevations and smaller sites in upland areas; sites near to rivers and streams likely to be buried under alluvial deposits; and, in steep terrain and highland areas, sites occur around sheltered areas, ridgelines, spurs, saddle and rocky knolls.

- Scarred trees are possible anywhere where mature stands of eucalypt remnant vegetation occurs, especially along creeks and rivers at low elevations.
- Quarries are associated with exposed rock outcrops.
- Rock art sites are associated with rock shelters and overhangs, especially in granite areas on low/mid slopes.
- Mounds are related with the Murray River and adjoining wetlands (V. Clark et al., 2003)

Freslov et al. (2004) undertook a broad scale pedestrian archaeological survey of historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage places following a large-scale bushfire that occurred in 2003 of the Chesney Vale Reserves. Freslov concluded that there were a total of 61 previously recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites within the parks, comprising two artefact scatters, 40 scarred trees, 11 isolated artefacts, five rock wells and three mounds. Freslov's subsequent survey of the Chesney Vale Reserves located a further 21 Aboriginal archaeological sites including eight (8) isolated artefacts, two (2) artefact scatters, six (6) scarred trees, three (3) rock wells and two (2) earth ovens (Freslov, Hughes, & Mullett, 2004).

Pardoe (2014) examined both skeletal and ethnographic evidence for warfare and violence in Aboriginal Australia, focusing principally on the central Murray River, a rich and densely populated area approximately 500 kilometres long in the Murray-Darling Basin. To achieve this, historical evidence from the 1850s was studied and compared with previously discovered skeletal evidence covering 10,000 years. Pardoe states that *'The Murray River environment is characterised by good-quality food resources: fish and fowl that are high in protein and fats, and massed amounts of staple carbohydrates in yams and rhizomes. Water was always available, and this obviously has great importance for carrying capacity (Birdsell 1953). String, wood, and shell are available for tool manufacture, although the region is lacking in stone.'* All these factors have contributed to the River's reputation as "the most favoured area of Australia" amongst aboriginal populations and why it is rich in archaeological history (Pardoe, 2014).

6.4.2 Localised Studies

Several relevant local archaeological reports have been completed within two (2) kilometres of the Activity Area. Only those most relevant to the Activity Area have been summarised here, including all CHMPs.

O'Reilly et al. (2008) prepared CHMP 10436 for a proposed construction of a new railway station at West Wodonga and new rail infrastructure (track and signals) to allow rail services to bypass the main urban area of Wodonga. The bypass extended from Sheathers Road (North of the Hume Freeway), crossing over the Lincoln Causeway to just south of the existing Murray River Rail Bridge. The Activity Area was 5.4 kilometres long with an average width of 35 metres, covering an area of 25 hectares. Desktop, standard and complex assessments were undertaken. Three previously registered Aboriginal places were located within the Activity Area, but no artefacts relating to these sites were found during the standard assessment. Subsurface testing was carried out on the areas of moderate to high archaeological sensitivity on the floodplain west of the Lincoln Causeway and east of Melrose Drive. A total of 123 shovel test pits (STP) and six (6) 1x1 m controlled test excavations were completed. Of these, 61 STPs were excavated manually using hand tools while 62 STPs were undertaken using mechanically using an auger ~45 cm in diameter. Three previously unidentified Aboriginal sites were recorded: Wodonga Creek West Terrace (8225-0212, a buried deposit of stone artefacts, n=221, of moderate scientific significance), Wodonga Creek SW Terrace (8225-0213, buried deposit of stone artefacts, n=2) and Wodonga Creek East Terrace (8225-0214, deposit of stone artefacts, n=5) (O'Reilly, Long, Page, & de Lange, 2008).

Brown (2009) prepared CHMP 10717 for the construction of an internal access road to the Wilson Transformer Company through the purchase of a 10x270 metre strip of unused road reserve from Wodonga City Council. The Activity Area was located on a low alluvial terrace on the southern side of the Murray River floodplain, near a prior waterway (billabong). Desktop, standard and complex assessments were undertaken. The standard assessment covered 100% of the area with 30-50 % ground surface visibility. One isolated artefact was located just outside the Activity Area. The topsoil of the Activity Area has been subject to disturbance due to flooding, erosion and ploughing and the planting of two rows of trees involving deep ripping. It was considered unlikely that the top 30 cm of soil retained intact lithic sites. The proposed activity would involve the removal of 10cm of topsoil to be stockpiled and respread adjacent to the Activity Area, with 30cm of concrete or 44cm of asphalt laid on top. Any isolated artefacts that may be present in the top soil will be translocated and not destroyed. Given artefacts are likely already in disturbed contexts the potential for impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage was considered minor (Brown, 2009).

O'Neill and O'Dwyer (2010) prepared a CHMP (10402) for "Hunterland" 17-Lot Residential Subdivision 126 Melbourne Road, Wodonga, Victoria. A desktop assessment and a four phase standard assessment which included pedestrian surveys, soil sampling, and the retrieval and sieving of samples from material previously excavated from the terrace by the sponsor were undertaken. One new site was registered as VAHR 8225-0215 and consisted of multiple quartz flakes, one silcrete flake, quartz scrapers and flaked glass artefacts. The assessments concluded that in situ Aboriginal cultural heritage is unlikely to be found across the Activity Area due to prior disturbances of the Activity Area and the dumping of thousands of cubic metres of fill. The limited number of stone artefacts found to be eroding from the redeposited topsoil across the western boundary of the Activity Area (registered as VAHR 8225-0215), do not occur in original ground surface and are likely to have been brought into the Activity Area with fill which was intended to raise the ground surface above the one-in-one-hundred-year flood zone. The authors concluded that as the proposed activity will be limited to areas containing fill, it is unlikely that any disturbance will occur to ground surface or former buried land surfaces that have the potential to yield Aboriginal cultural heritage (O'Neill & O'Dwyer, 2010).

Edwards and Bell (2012) prepared CHMP 12269 for a proposed 11 kilometre long by 10 metre wide walking track between Belvoir West and Wodonga via the Murray River and Wodonga Creek. The majority of the Activity Area was on Crown Land, bounded by the Murray River to the north and Wodonga Creek to the east, with farmland to the west and south. Desktop, standard and complex assessments were undertaken. No Aboriginal places were identified within the Activity Area during the standard assessment. Several areas likely to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage were identified. Three test pits and five shovel probes were excavated across three areas within the Activity Area during the complex assessment. No sub-surface Aboriginal cultural heritage material was identified. The entire soil surface was likely 19th and 20th century alluvial and it was therefore unlikely that in situ deposits of Aboriginal cultural heritage would be identified (Edwards & Bell, 2012).

Grinter, Edwards and Bell (2013) prepared CHMP 12428 for a proposed pedestrian and bicycle path bridge over Wodonga Creek on the Stock Route, Gateway Island. The Activity Area for CHMP 12428 prepared by Grinter, Edwards and Bell (2013) intersects the Activity Area for this CHMP. Desktop and standard assessments were undertaken. No Aboriginal Cultural Heritage was found during the standard assessment. One area of potential cultural heritage sensitivity was identified, but was not to be impacted by construction of the bridge. The areas to be impacted by the bridge had undergone significant ground disturbance (Grinter, Edwards, & Bell, 2013).

Dunn and Wall (2014) prepared CHMP 13011 for a proposed 5km bushwalking track on West Gateway Island, following the Murray River and Wodonga Creek. Desktop, standard and complex assessments were undertaken. The 5 hectare (ha) study area consisted of a 10m wide transect over a distance of 5km within the Crown Land that is adjacent to the Murray River and Wodonga Creek. The area is on the Murray River floodplain that is subject to periodic flooding which is somewhat reflected in the soil structure (i.e. young alluvial sediments that were most likely deposited in the past 150---200 years). The Activity Area for CHMP 13011 prepared by Dunn and Wall (2014) intersects the Activity Area for this CHMP. The extent of a registered Aboriginal Place (VAHR 8225-0211) extended into the Activity Area. While the river corridor possessed some very old and large River Red-Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), there was also evidence to suggest the area has been subject to periodic logging. One (1) 1 x 1m test pit and fifteen (15) shovel probes were excavated across four (4) designated paths within the Activity Area. Aboriginal cultural material was found at two (2) locations (not within the mapped extent of the existing registered Aboriginal Place). At both of these locations radials were undertaken to determine the extent of the site. The radials yielded cultural material and the excavation ceased to protect the integrity of other cultural material that may be present on the request of the Aboriginal representatives. The two locations were discovered less than 1km apart. They were recorded as a single LDAD (VAHR 8225---0267). Three shovel probes excavated within the mapped extent of the existing Registered Place yielded no cultural material (Dunn & Wall, 2014).

Edwards and Bell (2014) prepared a CHMP (12979) for the Proposed Boundary Realignment and Further 11 Lot Industrial Subdivision Queen Street, Wodonga. Desktop and standard assessments were undertaken. Historic plans and aerial mapping indicated that the Activity Area had been disturbed by the clearance of native vegetation for pastoral use. The installation of utilities has also disturbed portions of the Activity Area, particularly the northern and western boundaries. Recent geotechnical testing and local oral history indicates that the site has been used to dump spoil from the nearby foundry over several decades. The standard assessment identified that the Activity Area was quite low lying and is situated on a floodplain landform. There was no evidence of the original or the mapped Jack in the Box Creek other than shallow drains. Visibility was generally low (0-5%) due to grass cover, leaf litter and fill. However, it was established that the ground surface under the recent clay fill was also fill (sand and rubble from the steel foundry) and that the original ground surface was well below the current ground surface. No Aboriginal places were identified during the standard assessment (A. Edwards & Bell, 2014)

Edwards, Grinter and Bell (2015) prepared a CHMP (13533) for a proposed Road Extension and Industrial Subdivision, Havelock St, Wodonga. Desktop and standard assessments were carried out during the preparation of the plan. The desktop assessment determined that the Activity Area had been subject to archaeological survey in the past for the Albury-Wodonga Bypass. The standard assessment determined that the Activity Area is situated on a rise landform. Visibility in the Activity Area was generally low (0-20%) due to green grass coverage, gravel fill and high reeds, although some areas had greater visibility. A large portion of the Activity Area had been disturbed by the clearing of vegetation and the construction of roads and railway from at least the 1870s. The railway embankment and car park areas were covered by fill (up to 3m). The remaining part of the Activity Area is a very low-lying, wet area. The authors determined it was unlikely that Aboriginal cultural heritage exists in the Activity Area as the conditions would have been too wet for Aboriginal occupation. No Aboriginal places or areas likely to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage were identified during the standard assessment (A. Edwards, Grinter, & Bell, 2015)

Bell and Lushey (2019) prepared CHMP 16302 for the construction of a levee behind a row of houses fronting Park Lane, Wodonga. Desktop and standard assessments were undertaken. The Activity Area is within an area subject to varying degrees of disturbance associated with residential development and stormwater installation. The area appears to comprise modified landforms, perhaps due to previous drainage works and floodplain remodelling. The standard assessment found no Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and no areas of potential sensitivity (Bell & Lushey, 2019).

Stevens (2020) prepared CHMP 15395 for an Industrial Development and Subdivision of Land at 1-5 Mill Street, Wodonga. Desktop, standard and complex assessments were undertaken. The desktop assessment indicated that the Activity Area had been impacted by tree clearance followed by agricultural activities including deep ripping on multiple occasions to a depth of at least 70cm. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified on the ground surface during the standard assessment field survey. The Activity Area contained approximately 1% GSV averaged across the entire site due to thick exotic grass. During the complex assessment, one (1) 1mx1m hand-excavated TP and one 10mx1m mechanical transects were excavated within the Activity Area. No cultural heritage was identified during the complex assessment (Stevens, 2020).

Wall (2020a) prepared CHMP 17010 for a proposed internal boundary adjustment and future two-lot subdivision. Only a desktop assessment was undertaken, which determined that the Activity Area is located on a highly developed terrace that has been raised above its natural level through imported fill, overlooking a lagoon (part of the Wodonga Creek system in times of high flow and flooding). The proposed boundary alignment activity did not involve any soil disturbance beyond the establishment of new fence-lines. The future subdivision was to occur on the highly modified terrace consisting of imported materials and it was determined that it would unlikely to impact on any Aboriginal cultural heritage (Wall, 2020a).

Wall (2020b) prepared a desktop CHMP 17316 for a proposed warehouse on Sanyo Drive, Wodonga. The Activity Area was located on a highly developed terrace that has been raised above the natural level through the importation of fill. The Activity Area is within an area that is a developed and levelled block with 600-800mm of imported material on the surface, consisting of imported rock and asphalt. New footings for the warehouse are unlikely to penetrate beyond the unnatural surface (Wall, 2020b).

Bell (2021a) prepared CHMP 17005 for the proposed construction of a destination holiday park on the Lincoln Causeway on Gateway Island. The Activity Area was located on modern floodplain deposits associated with the Murray River and subject to flooding. Historical plans identify Gateway Island as a series of meander scrolls. Aerial imagery appears to show the development of the entire Activity Area under a variety of industries, causing significant ground disturbance in their establishment. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified, and no areas of potential sensitivity were identified during the standard assessment (Bell, 2021a).

Bell (2021b) prepared CHMP 17715 for the proposed construction of a 5.2km long shared trail on Gateway Island. Desktop, standard and complex assessments were undertaken. The Activity Area lies on modern floodplain deposits associated with the Murray River. GSV varied throughout the Activity Area. The complex assessment consisted of one (1) 1x1m test pit and seven (7) shovel test pits (50x50cm) on the high terrace landform within the Activity Area. No testing was undertaken on the active floodplain. No Aboriginal Cultural Heritage was identified (Bell, 2021b)

Sonego and Valka (2024) prepared CHMP 19750 for the proposed construction of three new monopole structures to raise the existing overhead cables across the North East Rail Line in within the City of Wodonga LGA. Desktop, standard and complex assessments were undertaken. The standard assessment was impeded by poor GSV across the entire Activity Area owing to grass cover and lead litter. Disturbance from road

construction and adjacent infrastructure, including the railway, was observed. No new Aboriginal cultural heritage was found during the standard assessment. An existing registered site VAHR 8225 – 0117 (scarred tree) was inspected. The complex assessment consisted of five (5) subsurface excavations including one (1) 1x1m test-pit, two (2) 0.5x0.5 shovel test pits and two (2) 0.5x0.5m radial test pits. Soils were consistent with the alluvial landform of a subdued scroll, most likely formed during the Holocene. Aboriginal cultural heritage material was recorded in two (2) of the five (5) test pits. Ten stone artefacts were identified and registered as a LDAD VAHR 8225 – 0339 “Stock Route LDAD”. Most artefacts were recovered from 200-400mm deep, comprised of quartz, likely obtained locally. The similar nature of the quartz and narrow range of depths suggest that the assemblage may be the result of a single knapping event (Sonego & Valka, 2024).

Moore and Dudek (2024) prepared CHMP 19776 for the proposed construction of a flood levee, retaining wall and subsurface stormwater utilities, as well as the removal of pre-existing footpaths and the reconstruction of the edge of an artificial wetland within Les Stone Park, Wodonga. The Activity Area was located within a low lying floodplain subjected to constant significant flooding events. Ground disturbance associated with facilities and an artificial wetland were observed. No areas of archaeological potential were found during the standard assessment owing to the low lying nature of the area and the lack of any high points. This, combined with the regular flooding events impacting the area, resulting in the authors determining that the likelihood of Aboriginal cultural heritage occurring in the area to be very low (Moore & Dudek, 2024).

6.5 Oral History

No oral history information was collected during the desktop assessment.

6.6 Obstacles Encountered in Completing the Desktop Assessment

No obstacles were encountered in completing the desktop assessment.

6.7 Site Prediction Model

Generally speaking, Aboriginal places would be expected to be situated close to either an ephemeral or permanent water source, providing adequate shelter from the elements and rising floodwaters, and have access to a food source. Additionally, for Aboriginal places to remain in these situations through time, the landscape will not have sustained significant ground disturbance activities.

Ethnographic evidence suggests that the wider region was occupied by Aboriginal people up until the 1860s. The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) was searched on 4th February 2024 by Damian Wall. A total of twenty-eight (N=28) Aboriginal places with a total of forty-one (41) individual components have previously been recorded within the defined geographic region (and 13 object collections, 15 components). These consist of scarred trees (n=9), an earth feature (n=1), artefact scatters (n=16, 19 components), a sensitive registration and an LDAD (n=1, 11 components). Previous archaeological investigations across the region also indicate that artefact scatters are most likely to be found on hills or spurs leading onto watercourses while scarred trees are most likely to be encountered on floodplains or river terraces that haven't been impacted by historic gold mining or urbanisation.

Research indicated that the Activity Area has likely been significantly impacted by historical use as a travelling stock route since the 1850s. The first bridge over Wodonga Creek servicing the stock route appears to have been constructed in the early 1850s, located approximately 170m east of the existing historic stock bridge.

Land on the north side of Wodonga Creek, the 'Wodonga Flats', was reserved for camping purposes during the mid 1870s. By the turn of the century, the stock bridge was no longer present, and instead, stock was crossed through a ford in Wodonga Creek in proximity to the current historic stock bridge and adjacent footbridge. The current Wodonga Creek stock bridge was built in 1940.

Aerial and land-based photographs from the mid-20th century show that the Activity Area and all of the surrounding land had been heavily impacted by the stock route. By this time, the area had been stripped of most of its native vegetation with the exception of some mature Eucalyptus, and the creek banks were either suffering erosion, or had been overtaken by willow trees. The stock route and other tracks/roadways were well worn-in. The south side of Wodonga Creek in the Activity Area also received foot and vehicle traffic, due to this area on the creek being the local 'swimming pool' around the mid-century. Meanwhile, the north side of Wodonga Creek between Lincoln Causeway and the railway line was made into a tourist park, including facilities for campers and caravans. This tourist park area (now Diamond Park) was gazetted as a picnic grounds and recreational area in the mid-1970s, and has been developed as such since this time. However, the north bank of Wodonga Creek between the historic stock bridge and Lincoln Causeway remained largely undeveloped until works commenced on the adjacent Gypsy Gardens wedding venue, with its extensive lawns and landscaped gardens. It is apparent that willows have been removed from along the creek banks at this point (more than likely involving the use of machinery), and that machinery has been used to grade various surfaces at various points within the Activity Area as a whole. This has resulted in significant ground disturbance over select sections within the Activity Area.

The clearance of native vegetation disturbs and turns over at least the upper 250mm of deposit. While these issues are negligible when looking at scarred trees, there can be enormous constraints to locating scatters of stone artefacts and other cultural features. Prior to development on site, Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Activity Area would probably have comprised artefact scatters and scarred trees.

6.8 Conclusions from the Desktop Assessment

The implications for the Aboriginal sites are as follows:

- There is one (1) statutory area of cultural heritage sensitivity within the Activity Area; land within 200 metres of a waterway (r.26).
- Generally speaking, Aboriginal places would be expected to be situated close to either an ephemeral or permanent water source (Murray River/Wodonga Creek), providing adequate shelter from the elements and rising floodwaters, and have access to a food source.
- Any mature, remnant trees that remain within the Activity Area have the potential to be culturally scarred.
- Historically, the Wodonga area would have provided a wide range of food and material resources for Aboriginal people across a range of habitats given the landforms on site (i.e. swampy low areas, creek line, moderate slopes with mature trees).
- A total of twenty-eight (N=28) Aboriginal places with a total of forty-one (41) individual components (plus 13 object collections, 15 components) have previously been recorded within the defined geographic region in a range of landforms and contexts. These consist of scarred trees (n=9), an earth feature (n=1), artefact scatters (n=16, 19 components), a sensitive registration, and an LDAD (n=1, 11 components).
- While formalisation as a reserve in the late 1800s afforded any sections of the Activity Area which are 40 metres or closer to the banks of the Wodonga Creek a measure of 'protection', this does not mean

that the area was not impacted by grazing pressures and unauthorised clearing or other development, and it also does not account for a shift in the position of the Wodonga Creek over time. Indeed, land use history indicated that the Activity Area has been subject to varying degrees of disturbance in different sections. The Activity Area associated with Wodonga Creek has seen substantial public use at least since the 1850s, due to its association with a travelling stock route and associated clearing of vegetation and subsequent erosion and invasion of willow trees. Use of the area recreationally as a swimming hole, and the later development of Diamond Park and the miniature railway and formalised road access, saw significant changes to the natural surface of the area. Development of the private venue Gypsy Gardens and mechanical willow removal has affected the central section of the Activity Area.

- Ethno-history suggests that it is reasonably possible for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage to be present within the Activity Area. Analysis suggests that the area to the south-west of the Activity Area, between Belvoir Park Lake, House Creek and the stock bridge, was originally an important campsite of Aboriginal people.
- Given the proximity to the Activity Area of previously identified places, results of the ethno-historical analysis, and the previously recorded Aboriginal places and the pattern of place distribution in the wider geographic region, Aboriginal cultural material, in the form of artefact scatters and scarred trees are considered the most likely site type to occur in the Activity Area.

The results of the desktop assessment determined that, despite the likely disturbance within the Activity Area, previous studies and regional assessments have recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage in similar riparian/floodplain landscapes, and therefore it is reasonably possible for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage to be present, therefore a standard assessment was required pursuant to r.62(1) of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018.

7 Standard Assessment

The results of the desktop assessment indicated that a standard assessment was required, as there was potential that Aboriginal cultural heritage is present in the Activity Area. The specific aims of the survey are to identify and investigate the following:

- All areas of high ground surface visibility for targeted detailed surface inspection;
- Evidence of previous ground disturbance;
- Any surface or obtrusive cultural heritage places, if present;
- Areas of cultural heritage sensitivity;
- Landform patterns and elements;
- Areas of proposed activities that would result in significant ground disturbance; and
- Test the site prediction model generated by the desktop assessment.

7.1 Methodology

The pedestrian survey was conducted in a systematic manner and in accordance with proper archaeological practice. All areas were examined to determine areas of good ground surface visibility and/or high potential archaeological sensitivity for Aboriginal cultural material. The systematic pedestrian survey examined all areas, landform patterns, elements and attributes. The fieldwork participants (**Section 5.2**) were spaced at approximately five metres apart during the survey.

Detailed notes were taken, including description of landform elements, ground surface visibility, ground disturbance, vegetation, water sources and potential Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity (Burke & Smith, 2004). The standard assessment was recorded using recording forms to note features and disturbance within the Activity Area. The location of the features and disturbance were recorded using a GPS. Photographs of the Activity Area were also taken using a digital camera.

7.2 Fieldwork Participants

A standard assessment was undertaken on the 17th October 2024 by Damian Wall (Heritage Advisor, Red-Gum Environmental Consulting) and Johnny Murray (DDAC).

7.3 Oral History

No oral history information was provided during the standard assessment.

7.4 Obstacles Encountered in Completing the Standard Assessment

Some areas of very thick undergrowth in private land were not traversed in their entirety due to safety concerns (i.e. snakes).

7.5 Ground Surface Visibility, Survey Areas and Effective Survey Coverage

Archaeological visibility refers to the amount of ground surface that is clearly visible for inspection. The greater the ground surface visibility (GSV), the more effective are surface surveys. Examples of high surface visibility are vehicular and pedestrian tracks, dune blow outs (100% per m²); and examples of poor visibility are areas of heavy vegetation cover (0-10% per m²) (Murphy & Thomson, 2016) [Table 3].

Unfortunately, it is often the case that highly visible Aboriginal cultural heritage places are also often highly disturbed. High GSV is therefore often related to the amount of disturbance that has occurred [Map 9 & 10]. This disturbance may be manmade (such as drainage lines, vehicle tracks), by stock (overgrazing, tracks), or due to natural processes (erosion by wind or water). Effective Survey Coverage (ESC) is a measure of each Survey Unit identified in the Activity Area that was adequately surveyed during the standard assessment by the survey team [Table 4].

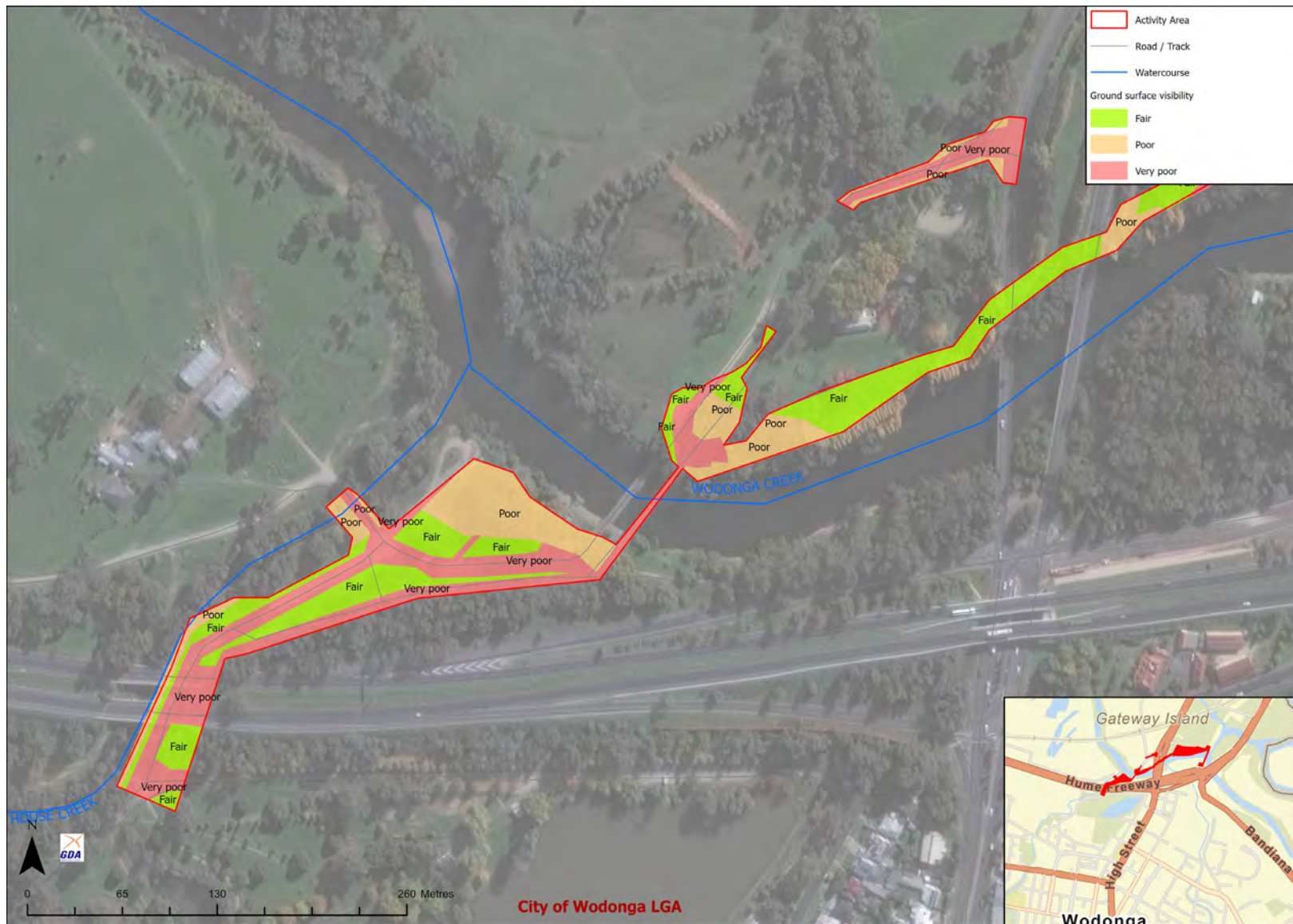
Table 3: Ground Surface Visibility (GSV)

%	0%	0 – 10%	10 – 30%	30 – 50%	50 – 70%	70 – 90%	90 – 100%
Rating	No visible ground surface	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent

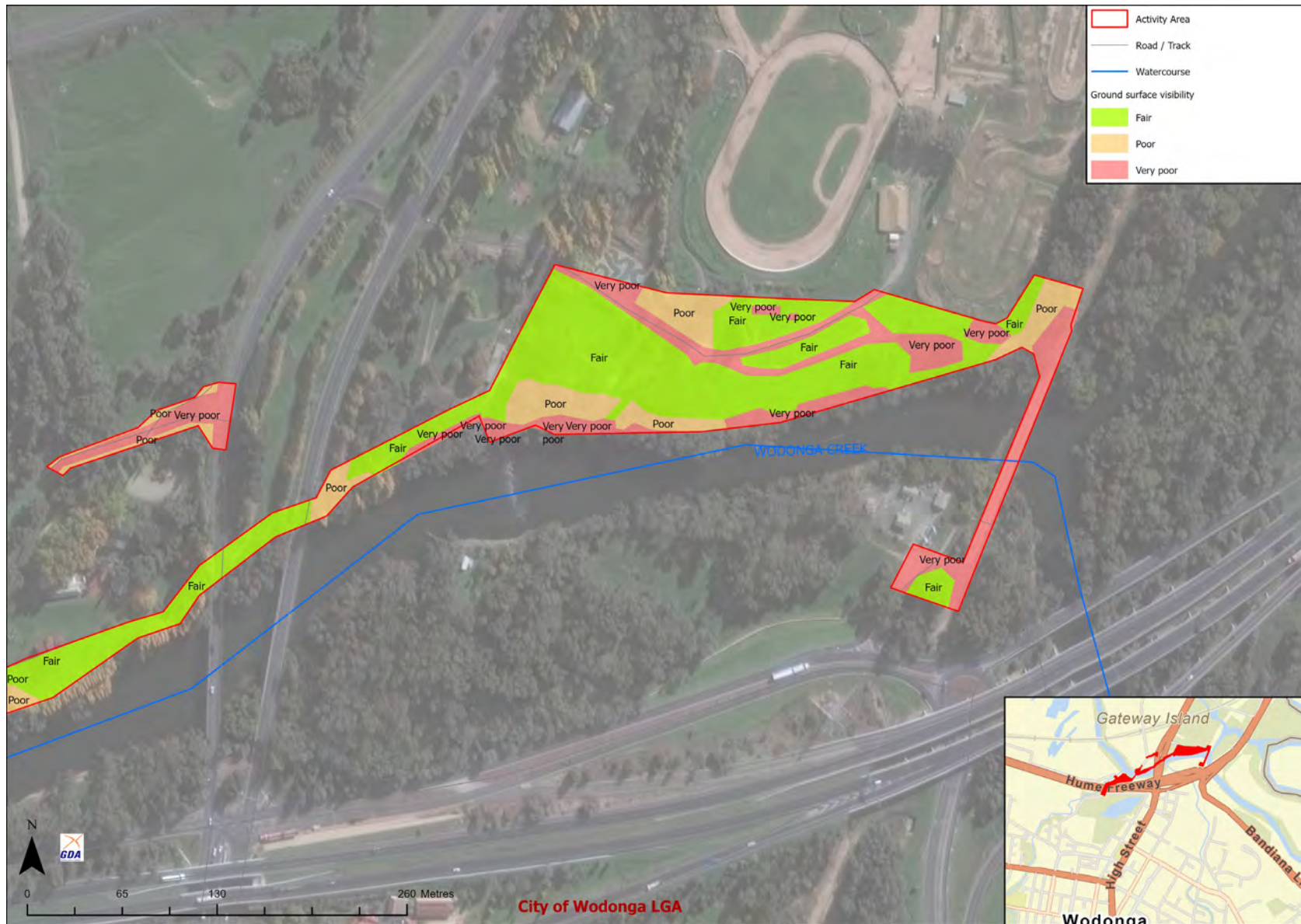
Table 4: Effective Survey Coverage

Survey Unit	Area of Survey Unit (m ²)	Area Surveyed (m ²)	GSV	ESC ¹
Paths/Roads	16,700	16,700	0%	0%
Existing facilities	376	376	0%	0%
Vegetated areas	48,900	35,000	40%	29%

¹ Equals Area Surveyed divided by Area of Survey Unit x 100 x GSV expressed as a percentage



Map 7: Ground Surface Visibility in the Activity Area -western end . Scale 1:2,500. Source: ESRI 2025.



Map 8: Ground Surface Visibility in the Activity Area – eastern end. Scale 1:2,500. Source: ESRI 2025.

7.6 Results of the Standard Assessment

The desktop assessment indicated the potential for the Activity Area to contain landforms that may contain Aboriginal cultural heritage, in-situ or otherwise. Site inspection confirmed the results of the land use history described in the desktop assessment, revealing that the Activity Area has been subject to various degrees of disturbance.

The site is located on a floodplain landform predominantly on the northern bank of Wodonga Creek. Numerous existing pathways traverse the Activity Area in various states of condition ranging from poorly managed informal access tracks to formal sealed roads. In these areas GSV was poor, with the surface covered with gravel. Much of the site was mown exotic grass, with often thin coverage on the heavier clay soils where GSV was generally fair/poor.

Parts of the Activity Area were covered in very thick grass, vegetation, or leaf litter (often near the river bank). Landscaped areas also had a thick layer of leaf litter or bark chips where GSV was generally fair to good at the time of survey. Part of the Activity Area is currently private property (subject to a land swap) and GSV was fair in the gardens beds and along worn paths. While the entirety of the Activity Area was traversed on foot, some areas of very thick grass and vegetation could not be completely covered due to the density of the vegetation. The main form of visible ground disturbance in the mapped Activity Area was vegetation clearance, vehicle use, and the current paths and tracks and facilities (e.g. cement slabs, Diamond park, picnic areas) plus various underground utilities (sewerage and water) with overhead power in places.

The Activity Area and immediate surrounds retain a few large, mature (>100 years) native trees of which some may have their tree protection zones impacted. All trees within the boundary of the Activity Area as shown in this report were inspected for potential scarring with no culturally scarred or modified trees identified as a result. There were no rock shelters or caves and there are no naturally occurring waterholes or soaks present within the Activity Area.



Photo 1: Revegetated & landscaped areas on the south bank, west end of alignment, east orientation. Good GSV, imported fill. Photo: D.Wall, 2024.



Photo 2: Revegetated & landscaped areas on the south bank, west end of alignment, north orientation. Good GSV, lack of natural surfaces. Photo: D.Wall, 2024.



Photo 3: Existing path and landscaped area on the south bank, west end of alignment, west orientation. Good GSV, lack of natural surfaces. Photo: D.Wall, 2024.



Photo 4: South bank, excellent GSV, imported surfaces and high disturbance. Photo: D.Wall, 2024.



Photo 5: South bank, excellent GSV, high disturbance on heavy clay soils. Photo: D.Wall, 2024.



Photo 6: Thick grass cover, north bank on private land, east orientation. Poor GSV. Photo: D.Wall, 2024.

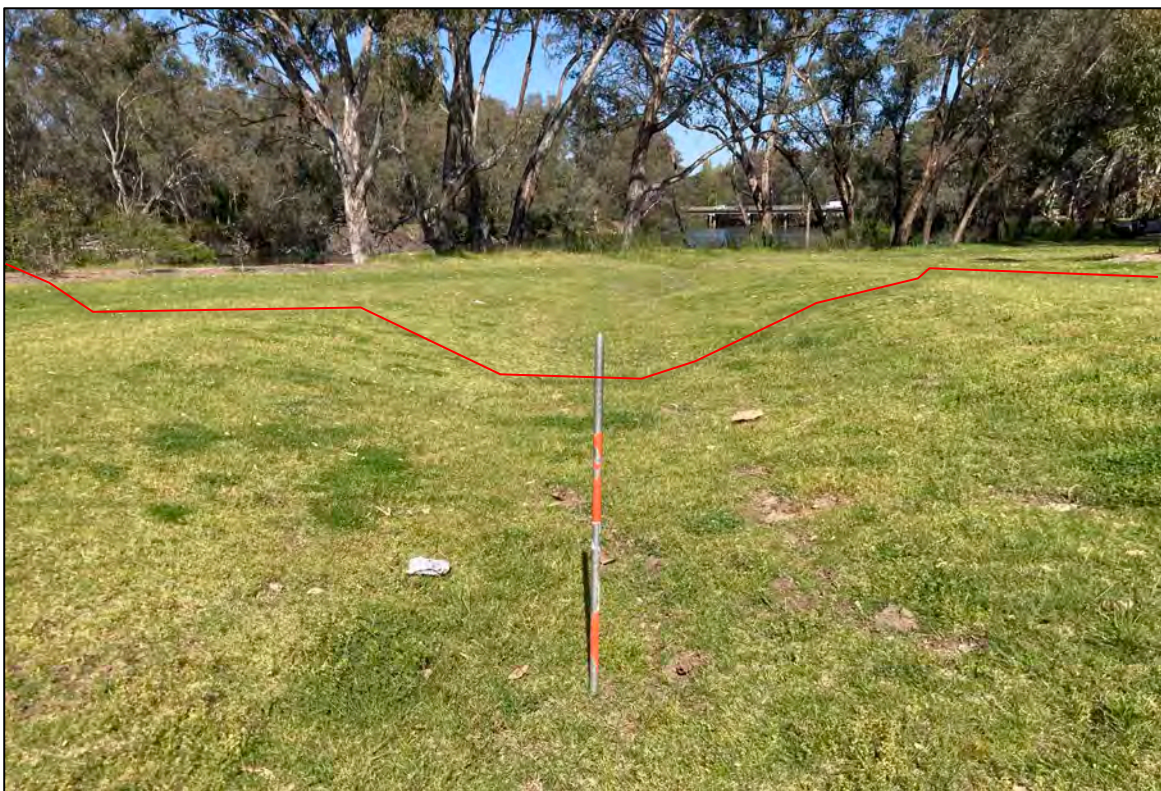


Photo 7: Existing swale drain, mown exotic grass on north bank, mid-section, west orientation. Poor GSV: Photo: D.Wall, 2024.



Photo 8: Areas of exposure showing a mixed soil profile of imported fill on the proposed track alignment. Photo: D.Wall, 2024.



Photo 9: Existing facilities within the Activity area. Photo: D.Wall, 2024.



Photo 10: Existing vehicle track disturbance on an informal track. East end of alignment, East orientation, Good GSV. Photo: D.Wall, 2024.



Photo 2: Existing track on alignment, Diamond Park. Fair GSV, west orientation. Photo: D.Wall, 2024.

7.7 Areas Likely to Contain Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Scientific Sensitivity Model

Generally speaking, Aboriginal places would be expected to be situated close to either an ephemeral or permanent water source, providing adequate shelter from the elements and rising floodwaters, and have access to a food source. For intact Aboriginal places to remain in these areas, the landscape will not have sustained ground disturbing activities. Where they do remain in disturbed landscapes or contexts, they are not likely to be *in situ*. The results of the standard assessment have been used to refine the desktop assessment's Aboriginal cultural heritage prediction model (**Section 6.7**). The standard assessment did not record any cultural heritage material within the Activity Area. Varying degrees of disturbance were noted across the Activity Area, associated with existing paths, roads and facilities.

7.8 Conclusions from the Standard Assessment

The standard assessment has demonstrated that in relation to the mapped Activity Area:

- No (zero) Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during the standard assessment.
- Previous land use activities such the vegetation clearance, the construction of roads, paths, facilities and vehicle use will have impacted subsurface deposits in the Activity Area.
- GSV encountered was variable ranging from very poor to fair.
- The majority of surfaces are either clay based (depositional) along the creek bank, or mixed soil profiles with imported gravels and road base used to construct the existing tracks and trails in the Activity area.
- The entirety of the Activity Area consists of a riverine floodplain landform that is regularly subject to flooding.
- All mature native trees within the mapped Activity Area were inspected for potential scarring and no culturally scarred or modified trees identified as a result.
- There were no rock shelters or caves within the Activity Area with no exposed rock features or stone arrangements.
- It was determined that given the floodplain environment, with depositional soils or mixed soil profiles and/or imported gravel/road base, that it was not reasonably possible for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage to exist within the majority of the Activity Area (e.g., the area for the proposed new concrete path).
- The areas of the Activity Area that would have been more favourable for Aboriginal use (higher, drier terraces) have been subject to varying degrees of Significant Disturbance (especially within Diamond Park).

In accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018, the CHMP has determined that further surface or sub-surface Aboriginal cultural heritage is not 'reasonably possible' (r.62), or likely to occur (r. 64) within the Activity Area. Therefore, a complex assessment is 'not required'.

8 Consideration of Section 61 matters

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, an assessment must be made as to whether the proposed activity will be conducted in a way that avoids harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage or be conducted in a way that minimises harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The purpose of the Act is to provide for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria. In the first instance, harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage should be avoided. This may be achieved through appropriate management strategies (or specific measures) in relation to the Aboriginal Places and the activity, the use of protective fencing during construction or restricting access, in addition to cultural awareness training for contractors. In the second instance, harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage must be minimised. This may be achieved through re-aligning infrastructure, locating public open space areas over cultural values (if appropriate) or using less invasive construction methods. The final resort is the salvage of cultural heritage where appropriate.

This CHMP has undertaken desktop and standard assessments in order to investigate the nature and extent of any Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Activity Area and to mitigate the risks to these Aboriginal Places through appropriate management strategies. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was discovered during the standard assessment.

8.1 Can Harm to Identified Cultural Heritage Places be Avoided?

The proposed activity will not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage places as there were no Aboriginal cultural heritage places identified within the Activity Area.

8.2 Can Harm to Identified Cultural Heritage Places be Minimised?

No specific measures are required as no Aboriginal cultural heritage material was identified.

8.3 Are Specific Measures Needed for the Management of Identified Cultural Heritage Places?

No specific measures are required as no Aboriginal cultural heritage material was identified.

8.4 Are There Particular Contingency Plans That Might be Necessary?

Processes to be followed in relation to disputes, delays and other obstacles are outlined in the management conditions in Section 2. Procedures are outlined for factors that may affect the conduct of the activity. These include procedural guidelines in the event that suspected human remains are discovered, as well as safety requirements.

8.5 What Custody and Management Arrangements Might be Needed?

The custody and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage are addressed in Section 2.3.

12 References

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13 Appendices

Appendix 1: Notice of intention to prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan



Notice of Intent to prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the purposes of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*

This form can be used by the Sponsor of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to complete the notification provisions pursuant to s.54 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (the "Act").

For clarification on any of the following please contact Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) enquiries on 1800-726-003.

SECTION 1 - Sponsor information

Sponsor: Wodonga City Council
 ABN/ACN: 63 277 160 265
 Contact Name: Stuart Woodward
 Postal Address: 3/46 Elgin Blvd, Wodonga VIC
 Business Number: 0403 090 178 Mobile: 0403 090 178
 Email Address: stuart@woodwardcivil.com.au

Sponsor's agent (if relevant)

Company: _____
 Contact Name: _____
 Postal Address: _____
 Business Number: _____ Mobile: _____
 Email Address: _____

SECTION 2 - Description of proposed activity and location

Project Name: Wodonga Creek Activation Project & Walking Trail, Gateway Island, Wodonga, VIC 3690
 Municipal district: Wodonga City Council

Clearly identify the proposed activity for which the cultural heritage management plan is to be prepared (ie. Mining, road construction, housing subdivision)

Walking track exceeding 500m

SECTION 3 - Cultural Heritage Advisor

<u>Damian Wall</u>	<u>Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd</u>	<u>damian.wall@red-gum.com.au</u>
<i>Name</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Email address</i>

SECTION 4 - Expected start and finish date for the cultural heritage management plan

Start Date: 12-Oct-2024 Finish Date: 30-Nov-2024

Submitted on: 12 Oct 2024



Premier and Cabinet

SECTION 5 - Why are you preparing this cultural heritage management plan?

A cultural heritage management plan is required by the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007
What is the high Impact Activity as it is listed in the regulations?

Is any part of the activity an area of cultural heritage sensitivity, as listed in the regulations? 1

- Other Reasons (Voluntary)
- An Environment Effects Statement is required
- A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
- An Impact Management Plan or Comprehensive Impact Statement is required for the activity

SECTION 6 - List the relevant registered Aboriginal parties (if any)

This section is to be completed where there are registered Aboriginal parties in relation to the management plan.

SECTION 7A - List the relevant Aboriginal groups or Aboriginal people with whom the Sponsor intends to consult (if any)

This section is to be completed only if the proposed activity in the management plan is to be carried out in an area where there is no Registered Aboriginal Party.

Duduroa Local Custodians

SECTION 7B - Describe the intended consultation process (if any)

This section is to be completed only if the proposed activity in the management plan is to be carried out in an area where there is no Registered Aboriginal Party.

All parts of the CHMP process will be in partnership with DDAC

SECTION 8 – State who will be evaluating this plan (mandatory)

The plan is to be evaluated by:

- Joint - Registered Aboriginal Party AND The Secretary
- A Registered Aboriginal Party
- The Secretary
- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council

SECTION 9 – Preliminary Aboriginal Heritage Tests (PAHTs)

List the Reference Number(s) of any PAHTs conducted in relation to the proposed activity:

SECTION 10 - Notification checklist

Ensure that any relevant registered Aboriginal party/ies is also notified. A copy of this notice with a map attached may be used for this purpose.
(A registered Aboriginal party is allowed up to 14 days to provide a written response to a notification specifying whether or not it intends to evaluate the management plan.)

Submitted on: 12 Oct 2024

Appendix 2: Summary of Communication

Date	Time	Type	Name (from)	Party (to)	Discussion/Details
12/10/24	10.00	Email	Damian Wall (Red-Gum)	DPC	Notice of Intent to Prepare a Management Plan (NOI) was submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC)
13/10/24	13.30	Phone	Damian Wall (Red-Gum)	(DDAC)	DW rang DDAC to organise a Standard Assessment. Johnny Murray (JM) and Damian Wall (DW) agreed on the approach to the CHMP development.
17/10/24	08.00	Field work	Damian Wall (Red-Gum)	(DDAC)	DW and JM inspected 87% of the site
15/2/25	10.45	Email	Damian Wall (Red-Gum)	Johnny Murray (DDAC)	DW emailed RM a copy of the draft CHMP and advised that the Management conditions etc had not changed from those discussed.

Appendix 3: Qualifications of Heritage Advisor

Damian Wall

Managing Director - Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation & Heritage), CSU Albury, 1996
- Master Environmental Management and Restoration, CSU, 2005
- Certified Environmental Practitioner (CENVP), Environment Institute of Australia & New Zealand, 2008
- Graduate Certificate in Cultural Heritage Management (CHM), Flinders University, 2011
- Heritage Advisor as defined under section 189(1) of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.
- Full Member Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists (AACAI)

Dr Emily Mendham

Environmental Consultant – Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd

Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Parks, Recreation and Heritage (First Class Honours), CSU Albury, 2005
- PhD in environmental sociology and the human dimensions of natural resource management from CSU Albury (2010)

Ms Jacqui Durrant

Consulting Historian

Qualifications:

- Professional Historian of the Professional Historians' Association of Australia.
- Specialisations in ethnohistory (Aboriginal history), and land use history from early pastoralism onwards.
- Registered consultant with First Peoples – State Relations, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Victoria).
- PhD in Cultural History from La Trobe University (2005)
- Honours Degree in Applied Science (Cultural Resource Management major) - B.App.Sc 1st Hons, Charles Sturt University 1997).

Appendix 4: Glossary of terms

Activity	The development or use of land
Activity Area	The area or areas to be used or developed for an activity
Archaeology	The study of the past through the systematic recovery and analysis of material culture.
Artefact Scatter	A group of stone or other artefacts found scattered on the ground surface.
Assemblage	A collection of artefacts that are derived from the same Aboriginal place.
Burial (Aboriginal Ancestral Remains)	Usually represented by a concentration of human bones or teeth. Burials can be associated with charcoal or ochre, shell, animal bone or stone tools. They tend to be located in sandy areas, which were easy to dig or in rock shelters or tree hollows. They are usually exposed through earthworks or erosion.
Culturally Modified Tree	See Scarred Tree
Earth Feature	Includes mounds, rings, hearths, post holes and ovens.
Excavation	The systematic recovery of archaeological data through the exposure of buried sites and artefacts.
Low Density Artefact Deposit (LDAD)	Artefact deposit with average stone density of less than 10 artefacts in a 10m x 10m area.
Material culture	The tangible evidence or cultural remains that are produced by human activity.
Object Collection	A collection of Aboriginal cultural heritage objects.
Quarry	A location from which Aboriginal people have extracted stone for making stone artefacts or mineral such as ochre for use in painting.
Rock Art	Paintings or engravings on the surface of caves or rock shelters, created by Aboriginal people in the past.
Scarred Tree	Trees from which bark has been removed for the manufacture of utilitarian items such as containers, shelter sheets, canoes or medicine.
Shell Midden	A midden is the remains of a meal. In the case of shell middens, marine or freshwater molluscs are the dominant component.
Stone Feature	Rock art consisting of stones arranged in a pattern.

Appendix 5: Compliance Review Check list

COMPLIANCE CHECK LIST CHMP 20361						
Item	Date	Compliance (Y/N)	Issue/reason for non-compliance	Action	Person supervising action	Date to be completed by
Management Conditions						
Is a copy of this CHMP stored at all times in the site construction office? (Section 1.1)						
Contingencies						
If any skeletal remains area identified during the activity have all works ceased & the remains been protected <i>in situ</i> ? (2.1)						
If Aboriginal cultural material (non-skeletal) is found during the activity have all works ceased within 10 m of the find and a fenced buffer zone been established and clearly marked as a 'no-go' zone? (2.2)						
Have all following steps been followed regarding notification, inspection, reporting, managing, agreement and custody been followed? (2.3)						
Have appropriate and required VAHR forms been completed and submitted as per Section 2.3?						
Has compliance with the CHMP been reviewed (2.5)?						
If any non-compliance has been identified have works ceased (2.5)?						
Have any non-compliance issues been managed as per 2.5?						
Comments (can the process be improved)						
Signature:			Date:			

Appendix 6: Communication Contact Table

Name	Role	Company	Phone	Address	Email
Texas Nagel	Manager, Heritage Programs (Hume)	First Peoples - State Relations	M: 0458 325 421	Level 1, 62 Ovens Street, Wangaratta VIC 3677	texas.nagel@dpc.vic.gov.au
Stuart Woodward	Sponsors Agent	Woodward Civil	M: 0403 090 178	3/46 Elgin Blvd, Wodonga VIC	stuart@woodwardcivil.com. au

Appendix 7: Area of land to be leased by Wodonga City Council from Gypsy Gardens

