

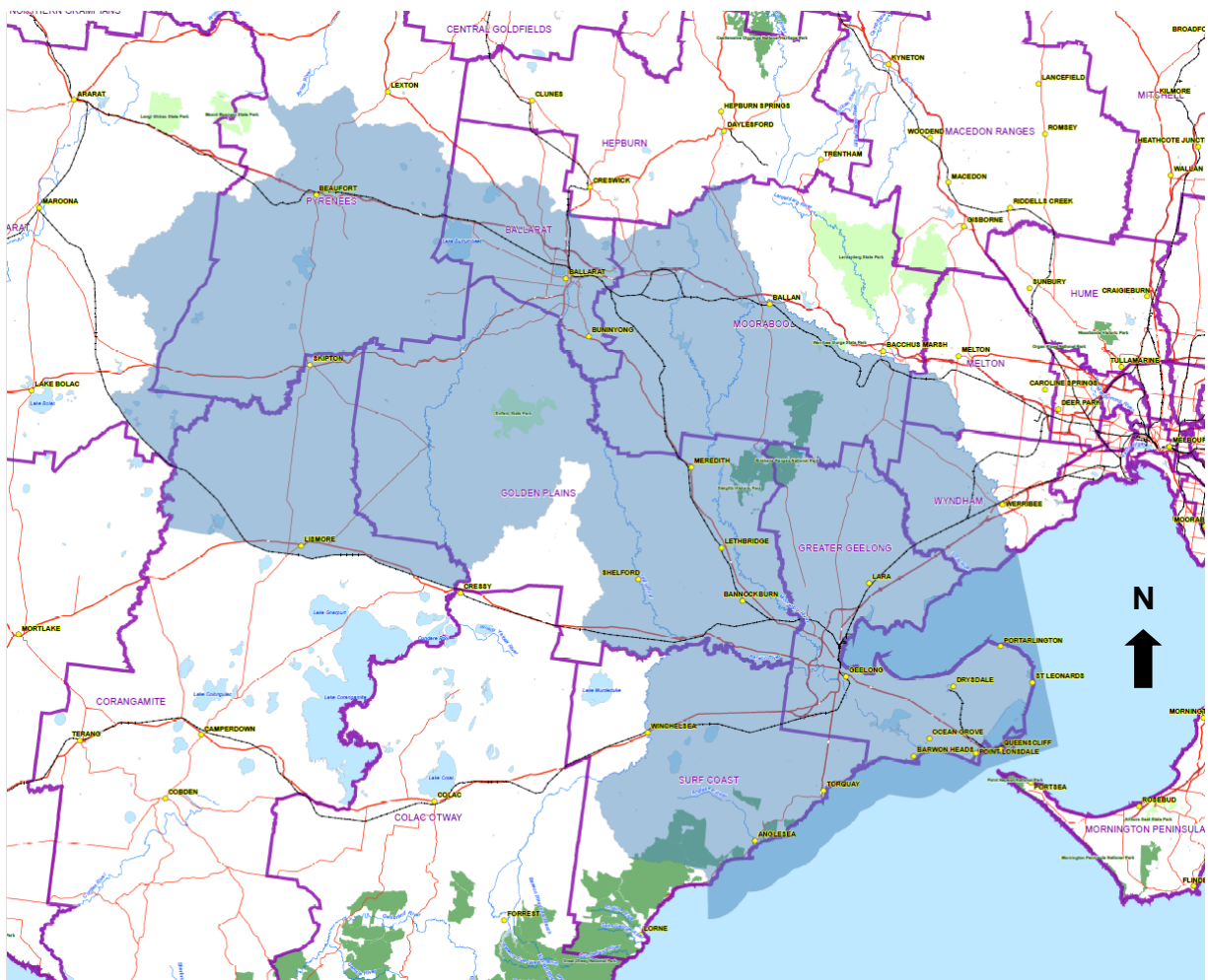
Distinctive Areas and Landscapes

BELLARINE PENINSULA CULTURAL HERITAGE



1. Introduction

Wadawurrung are the Traditional Owners of this land and surrounding waters (Refer to map 1). Our family have had a continued connection to and cared for our Country for over a thousand generations and are still caring for it to this day.



Map 1: Boundaries of the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation RAP area
(Source: Aboriginal Heritage Council)

The Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (WAC), trading as Wadawurrung, is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for Wadawurrung Country and statutory authority for the management of Aboriginal heritage values and culture, under the *Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

We have prepared this document to describe the Cultural connections and perspectives of our coastal Country for the Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) project. This has included a process of identifying culturally significant sites within the landscapes of the Bellarine Peninsula declared area, with an emphasis on consultation and approval from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners first and foremost.

The Balla-wein (Bellarine) Peninsula declared area lies east of Djilang (Geelong), across to Indented Heads to the east, Point Lonsdale to the southeast and Koorno (Barwon Heads) to the southwest with the waterways of Lake Connewarre and the Barwon River boundary to the west. The latter is the largest body of water in Wadawurrung Country and water is the most valuable and dominant feature of Wadawurrung Country with its interlinked creation stories and storylines

2. Statement of Significance

The following statement sets out the significance of Wadawurrung Country and the declared area to the Traditional Owners in Traditional language:

Comugeen budj-o thalikiyu kin kin bil beng-ordi-ngadak. Ngarrwabil, boron, guli, bagurk. Comugeen budj-o bengadak ngarr-uk dja, ngubiyt, weagoon gobata gupma wurring-wurring baap beng-ordi-nganak, djarrima murrup-nhuk bengadak.

Gobata Wadawurrung balug jumbuk didalbil murrup-nhuk bundjil monomeeth beek-o weagoon. Mutjak-ak noogie n'uder durrallully Wa-ngarrak Wadawurrung balug bengadak mirriyu boron-dja gobata-k ying ying, ngarrimilli, wah-ak, karrung, kuy-a, nyanayit-yanunit, djilenawurr, baap willam beng-ordi-ngadak.

Nyurrinana-ngal beng-ordi-ngadak

Willam Barwon Yaluk baap Koaka-dorla "bass strait" Wadawurrung Balug dja beng-ordi-ngadak, bullarto nerr-i-girr baap monomeeth worrowing warree, gelanyi bul-boluk

Gupma gobata Bellawein beek Bengali Balug bengadak

Weeagoon-o Beangala, Nerm, Connewarre baluk, Pawon Yaluk monomeeth-wa Yonbarra baap wirrapiyn, buniya, tark-a binyak-ngal.

wa-weagoon nerr-i-gurr-o kit kit baap bullarto gurrin-gurrin-k wah-ak, karrung, yanikan-werrity. Corroborree bullarto wa-ik-ngitj balug-wa beng-ordi-ngadak Yeraioo, Perweit, Wooranalyook, Boronggook. Willam Wadawurrung.

Mirr wurru-ngarra dja bengadak.

Mirr-i-tonton dja Wadawurrung balug, gobata be-ak yerra-ak murrup yani-mirriyu ngarrwa-uk beng-ordi-ngadak

The following statement is an English translation of the above statement:

We deeply respect our people of the past. Elders, children, men, women. We deeply respect their knowledge of country, water, life, their care of the traditions and of each other, we stand with their spirit.

Great spirit Bundjil told us to take care of the great life within the land. To only take what you need without selfishness. Wadawurrung shared their knowledge of singing, dance, trade, camps, fishing, hunting, paintings, and homes to us to protect for our future generations.

We all need to help.

Our Wadawurrung family group lived within Barwon River and Bass Strait, with a large land of forested areas and wonderful banks of the ocean, near many water bodies.

The Bengali family were the caretakers of the Bellarine land Beangala, Nerm, Lake Connewarre, Barwon River all provide ideal life to birds and fish, eels. Reeds turned into our baskets. Life in the forest gave resources like food and lots of tools to use for trade, building, journey.

If there were lots to trade, we would share with our families and celebrate We would name our country, by what we could see.

Yeraioo, Perweit, Wooranalyook, Borongook. Home of Wadawurrung. Our country is remembered by Wadawurrung, our proud spirit walks to tomorrow to teach others the care of our earth.

3. Findings

The findings of this document are presented in a number of categories that detail important site types and areas that are significant for the Wadawurrung and found within the Bellarine Peninsula declared area. These are summarised below.

Coastal Middens and Living Spaces

The Bellarine Peninsula encompasses coastal shell middens, fishing sites and living spaces which wrap around the coastline from the base of Point Henry to Kaaraf Wetlands, including Curlewis, Port Arlington, Indented Heads, Point Lonsdale, Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads. These are long-term places of living in context with housing and multiple natural resources. Aquaculture and agriculture were also practised within this landscape.

Living Space Inland

Living spaces inland indicated family group home bases. These living spaces were adequately supplied with diverse natural resources and fresh water.

Forested Areas

Forested areas are important to the Wadawurrung for their rich resources. These resources included plants for food, medicine and wood, as well as many types of birds, amphibians and marsupials hunted for food. The many types of trees and plants gave the Wadawurrung the resources to make shelter, boats, baskets, ceremonial items and weapons.

Waterways

Wadawurrung Country is rich with an abundance of fresh water, an asset to Wadawurrung as healthy waterways supported family groups within their living spaces and continue to be a wealthy attribute for Wadawurrung today. Waterways within the area include large river systems, estuaries, swamps and wetlands, permanent waterholes, lakes, streams and creeks meant that between wet and dry seasons fresh water was accessible in all parts of the Wadawurrung landscapes.

Natural Resources

Natural resources are found throughout the declared area and are important to the Wadawurrung. Natural resources are defined as the utilisation of natural materials for tools, weapons, utensils, baskets, bags, clothes, house materials and ceremonial dress from birds, marsupials, mammals, gumtrees, fish and shellfish. Other uses of natural resources come from the direct association between natural landscapes and waterways for harvesting, aquaculture and transport such as boating and trade of materials. Large animals post the megafauna era such as kangaroo are utilised for meat, skins, sinew for thread and bone.

4. Threats

Threats to Wadawurrung places within the declared area, that need to be managed, are as follows:

- Urban development
- Lack of coordination between land manages
- Rising sea temperatures
- Inappropriate visitation
- Erosion
- Vandalism
- Weeds
- Rabbits
- Bushfires
- Sea level rise
- Drought
- Extraction
- Lack of real time consultation



Map 2: Areas of cultural heritage sensitivity (Source: ACHRIS)*

OFFICIAL-Sensitive

5. Conclusion and recommendations

Recognising what is culturally significant for Wadawurrung is complex and intricate, requiring the intimate knowledges and connection to place and space. As the extent of knowledge is mostly hidden from the public view due to cultural sensitivities, planning policies tends to neglect cultural information and this, in turn, is reflected within these policies.

Recommendations:

- Wadawurrung management of cultural sites including waterways and coastal areas within the Bellarine DAL area.
- Wadawurrung management of cultural education and tourism activities relating to significant sites within the Bellarine DAL area.
- Updating signage and place names within the DAL area to reflect Wadawurrung language and information, as prepared by Wadawurrung.
- Naming of unnamed estuaries and waterways in Wadawurrung language and recognition of existing Wadawurrung names of waterways.
- Incorporate the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan (currently under preparation) into future recommendations and implementation plans for land management.
- Encourage revegetation programs to manage coastal erosion within culturally sensitive areas.
- Support Wadawurrung to re-assess existing cultural site and assessment of potential sites.

Wadawurrung place names

Wadawurrung	English
Djilang	Geelong
Balla-wein	Bellarine Peninsula
Koorno	Barwon Heads
Godocut	Point Addis
Jan Juc	Jan Juc
Karaaf	Karaaf Wetlands
Kiang-Purt	Thompson Creek
Doorangwar	Spring Creek