# KONGWAK BUTTER FACTORY LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

**ADVERTISED** PLAN

JUNE 2024

PWLA ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUNURONG PEOPLE OF THE KULIN NATION AS THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND FIRST NATIONS CUSTODIANS OF KONGWAK AND ITS SURROUNDING LANDS AND WATERS ACROSS GREATER MELBOURNE, MORNINGTON PENINSULA, AND THE BASS COAST. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMMENSE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS COUNTRY, AND THE BUNURONG PEOPLES' ONGOING CONNECTION TO IT. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUATION OF THEIR CULTURAL, SPIRITUAL AND EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES AND PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT.















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DATE

#### **KONGWAK BUTTER FACTORY** LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

#### PREPARED BY:

PETE WILSON LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

	ARCHITECTURE	TP1	Town Planning	16-08-23
		TP2	Response to	05-06-24
	BARWON HEADS, VICTORIA, 3227.		RFI	
	www.pwla.com.au			
	Project No: 2210			
V, V	Report Contact: Pete Wilson			

REVISION STATUS



#### **DESIGN STATEMENT**

This masterplan represents a regenerative approach to landscape and place in a rural community. In association with the re-imagining of the Kongwak Butter Factory buildings the masterplan enables a rich and holistic expression of Gippsland through the intermingling of food, culture, art, landscape, and environment. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore, relax and connect with this special place on their own level.

Importantly, the project has a deep respect for the significance of these iconic buildings and the social capital which has shaped and sustained the Kongwak community over generations. As such, community and environmental benefits have been key drivers in the design process.

It is hoped that this project represents the beginning of another chapter in the rich history of Kongwak and the iconic Butter Factory can once again become the pride of its community.

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#### A HISTORY OF CHANGE

Since colonisation Kongwak has endured unimaginable change. The surrounding hills were once blanketed with majestic temperate forest, with towering Eucalypts, dense ferny gullies and clear flowing streams all carefully managed for thousands of generations by the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation. In the early 20th Century, that forest was cleared for dairy farming, a butter factory built, and a small community began to form around it.

Fast forward 120 years and Gippsland has grown into a rich community. A place known for its arts, culture, food, and significant environmental values, along with farming. Today we have a very different approach to landscape and environment, with extensive revegetation works undertaken by the Kongwak community in the last decade, however Foster Creek is still in a sad state of ill health. More change is required.

The masterplan aims to be the next step in this story, applying modern thinking on regenerative land management approaches to farming and food systems. Importantly it also provides the opportunity for visitors to the site to be part of this story, learn of its importance and appreciate, experience and connect with all things Gippsland.



#### **CONNECTION WITH CONTEXT & COMMUNITY**

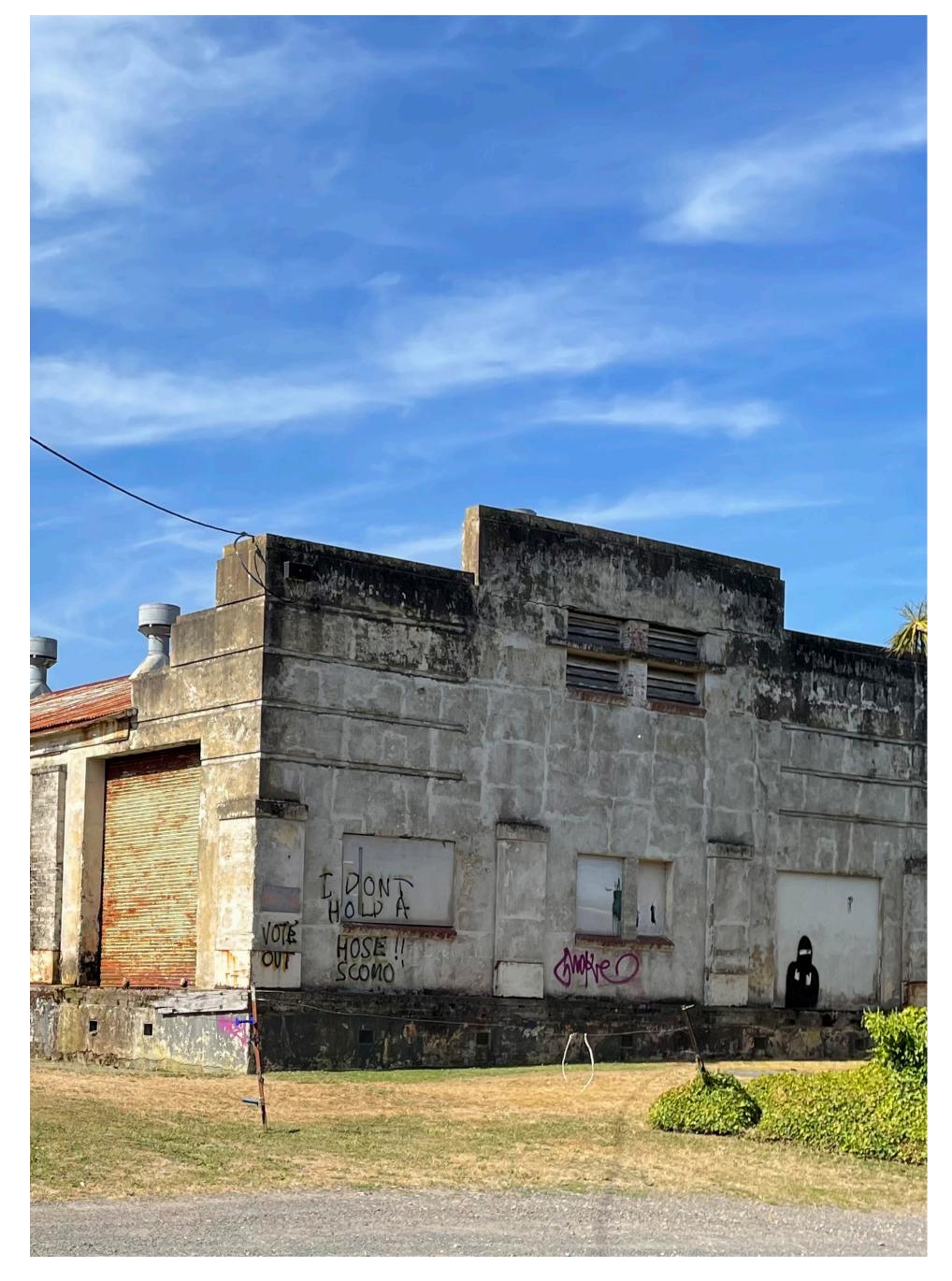
The masterplan carefully considers the sites interface with the township of Kongwak, the Valley of Peace. It is hoped that offerings such as the general store, restaurant, and gallery can provide new life to the main street and will be a place for the local community to socialise over a coffee, connect with the creative community or have the basics like milk and bread only a walk away. The north facing parkland and sculpture walk will be permanently open to the public and provide a stunning new perspective to appreciate the avenue of honour trees and offers a new walking loop in the town. As seen from the public realm, the Butter factory buildings will once again have pride of place, being fully restored in close collaboration with an expert in heritage architecture who has paid careful attention to internal and external heritage values of the buildings. All new functions will be integrated and hidden behind the heritage facade.

Importantly, the day-to-day operation of the site and movement of guests has been carefully planned to occur within private property and as far away from the public realm as possible. Visually, all new buildings have been designed to be in keeping with their rural setting using simple agricultural materials of corrugated iron and timber. Building placement in the landscape ensures long distant views are not interrupted, and new informal landscaping, trees and vegetation respond to the existing character of the site and help integrate and screen any new built form.

#### A THOROUGH DESIGN PROCESS. AN EXPERT TEAM.

PWLA have extensive experience in master planning and design for projects that must strike a careful balance. Community, culture and the environment are fundamental to the PWLA design approach.

The Kongwak Butter Factory Landscape Masterplan has been prepared in consultation with the following key consultants and experts. Our collective knowledge underpins all aspects of the project, and all will provide ongoing advice and oversight during the future detailed design process.



#### ARCHITECTURE | WARDLE

We are a studio of architects, inventors, designers, and makers that navigate beyond conventional practices into the emerging.

From the curiosity of our enquiring minds, we gather together the influences of culture, technology, and crafts, to inspire new stories to be told and design for the unexplored possibilities of tomorrow.

Wardle have led all Architectural design across the site including accommodation, restoration of the Butter and Cheese factories and the proposed bridge over Foster Creek. They have also had a key role in ensuring careful siting of all accommodation buildings within the landscape and general oversite of the masterplan.

#### REGENERATIVE FARM DESIGN | NINA BREIDHAL & BEN SHAW

Nina is a horticulturalist and regenerative farmer, best know for her previous position as the head gardener at the internationally acclaimed organic farm-to-table fine dining restaurant, 'Brae' in Birregurra, Victoria. Nina's current role is head farmer at the 'Farm My School' project on the Bellarine Peninsula where she runs an organic market garden and is involved in education and improving the accessibility to organic produce for the local community.

Ben is a permaculturist, with extensive experience in designing and establishing permaculture gardens. He has studied and worked on regenerative farms across the world and is passionate about creating connections and resilience in communities and food systems.

Ben and Nina have had a pivotal design role on the project advising on farm and food systems layout, requirements, and operations. Ben and Nina will be key advisers on the future detailed design and implementation of the project.

#### FIRST PEOPLES NARRATIVES | ADAM MAGENNIS / KAPTIFY ART

Adam Magennis is a multidisciplinary Bunurong Artist and archaeologist with extensive experience in collaborative art projects and strong interests in habitat regeneration and land management by First Peoples.

Adam has worked in collaboration with PWLA to form some preliminary ideas around habitat regeneration across the site, how the project can connect with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (Traditional Owners of Kongwak), along with other local First Peoples community and business groups. Adams work on the project aims to ensure a meaningful connection with First Peoples community and give visitors the opportunity to learn about and experience culture on site. Adam will work in close collaboration with the design team and help guide the consultation and co-design process for this aspect of the masterplan going forward.

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE** | JOSEPH BROOKS / UNEARTHED HERITAGE IN CONSULTATION WITH BUNURONG LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Jo is an Archaeologist and Heritage Advisor with over 13 years experience in the heritage industry. Jo and his team are working in close collaboration with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to undertake a Cultural Heritage Management Plan. This involves a desktop and complex archaeological investigation of the site and its context to better understand the history of Bunurong occupation of this land, and ensure the project has no impacts.

## **ECOLOGY |** PETER GANNON / ECOCENTRIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Peter is a Gippsland based ecologist with over 20 years' experience in ecological management and monitoring. Peter has undertaken all site flora and fauna assessments as required under the planning process. Importantly, he has also advised on the habitat regeneration proposed across the site and associated potential environmental benefits. Peter will be a key adviser on the project going forward and have an ongoing role after completion to help monitor the habitat regeneration process and associated improvements to biodiversity.

#### WATER & CIVIL ENGINEERING | CJ ARMS

CJ Arms are a Creative Design Studio that integrate Science, Design, Research, Landscape Architecture and Engineering. They have specific experience in 'Green Infrastructure' and stormwater treatment. CJ Arms have provided preliminary Civil Engineering advice on the masterplan and have produced a Stormwater Management Plan to demonstrate that all water runoff from the site can be effectively filtered within the landscape.

#### SERVICE ENGINEERING | COVA

Cova are a multidisciplinary Engineering consultant with extensive experience working in low impact and off grid tourism developments. Cova have undertaken water demand modelling and produced a preliminary design to demonstrate how roof runoff can be captured across the site, pumped to storage tanks and treated for reuse as a potable water supply for the entire development.

### **WASTEWATER TREATMENT |** DISTON WASTEWATER TECHNOLOGY

Diston Wastewater is a family owned, Australian Company with over half a century of experience in engineering, design, manufacturing, installation & maintenance of wastewater treatment systems. Diston specialise in management of wastewater in remote and environmentally sensitive locations. Diston have undertaken wastewater modelling for the development and will design a treatment system using advance treatment technology to ensure compliance with strict EPA guidelines. Diston will remain involved in the project during and after construction as they undertake maintenance and regular testing to ensure the highest level of treatment is maintained.

#### AGRICULTURE | TONY PITT / AGG CHALLENGE

Tony has a dual background in both soil science and agronomy and has been consulting on design, implementation, and management of Agricultural projects in the Gippsland region since 1989. Tony has undertaken a preliminary site assessment of the property to confirm its suitability for the proposed agricultural uses. Tony has also provided some preliminary advice on the farm design and operation. Tony will be a key adviser to the project going forward.

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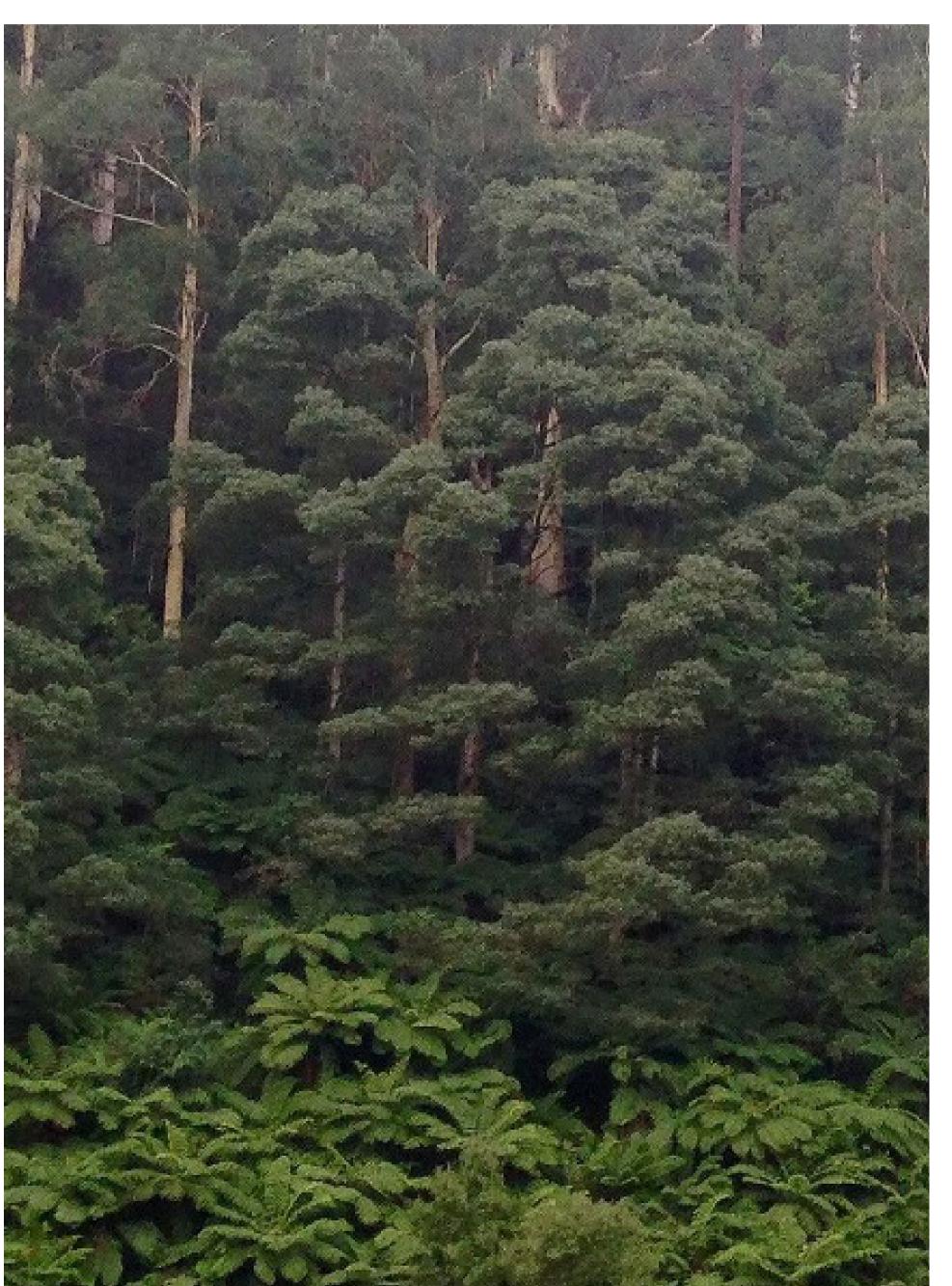


#### LANDSCAPE DESIGN PRECEDENTS

A connection with place. Touching lightly. Respect the past, but look to the future. A holistic expression of Gippsland through the intermingling of food, culture, art, landscape, and environment.

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2022 LEFT: A example of the forests that once would have surrounded Kongwak. The site falls within the Strzelecki Ranges
Bioregion and all new planting will be species of the local
Ecological Vegetation Classes which include Swampy Riparian
Woodland, Damp Forest and Wet Forrest.

ABOVE: Rapid establishment of existing re-vegetation at the site undertaken along creek-lines by the Kongwak Hills Landcare Group sets an encouraging precedent for the project.





Permeable paving to keep things looking green



Playful art in a stunning landscape setting.



How did the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation occupy this land, and how do they continue culture today?



Elevated walkways in key areas to touch lightly on the landscape



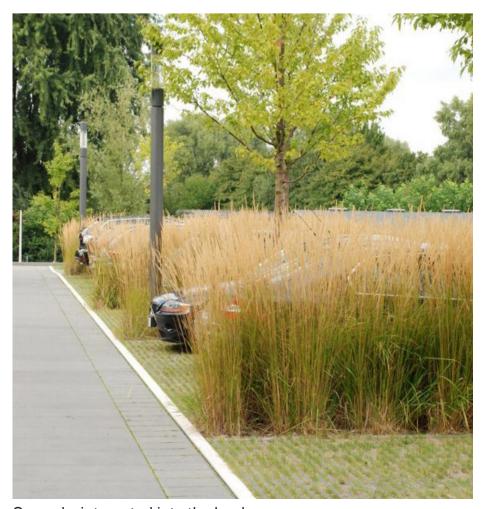
Foster Creek of the future?



Old farming infrastructure left in place along creek lines as regenerated bushland grows around it. This is an important part of the site's regeneration story.



Enjoy local food in a stunning rural setting



Carparks integrated into the landscape





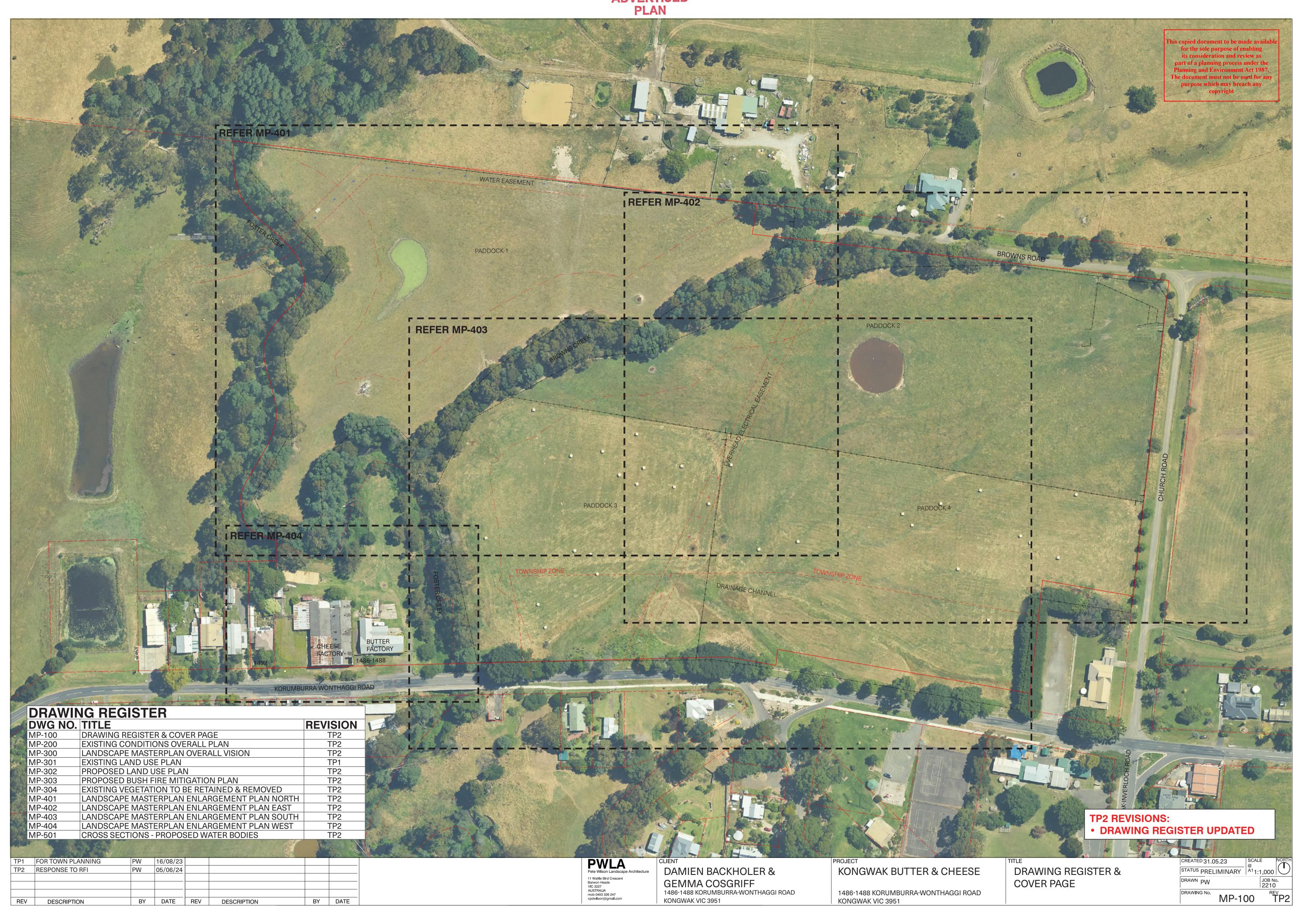
Different ways to explore, learn and connect with place

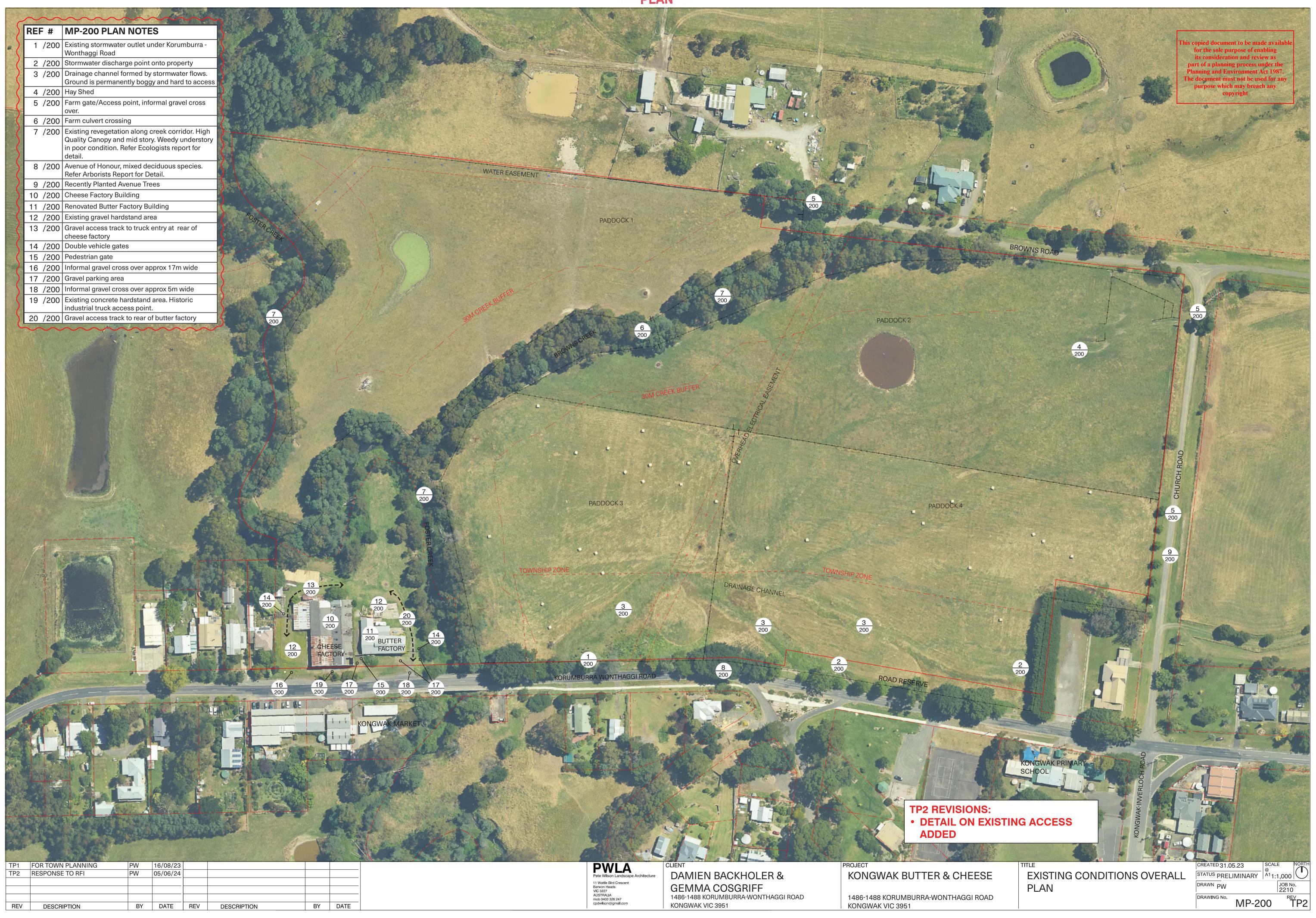


Learn about the role of bushland regeneration in waterway health. Plant a tree propagated in greenhouses on site from locally collected seed.

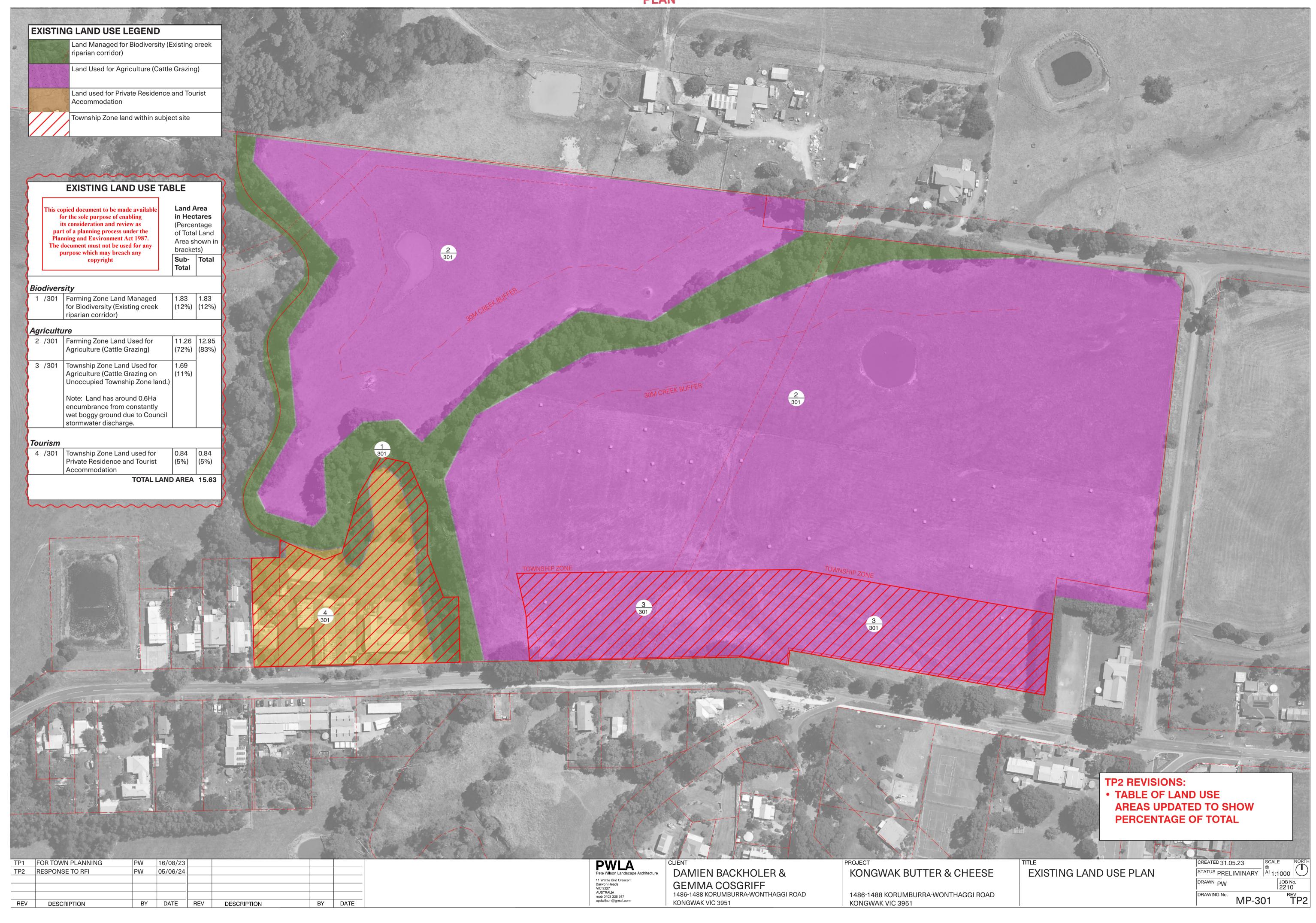


Learn about your food and food systems

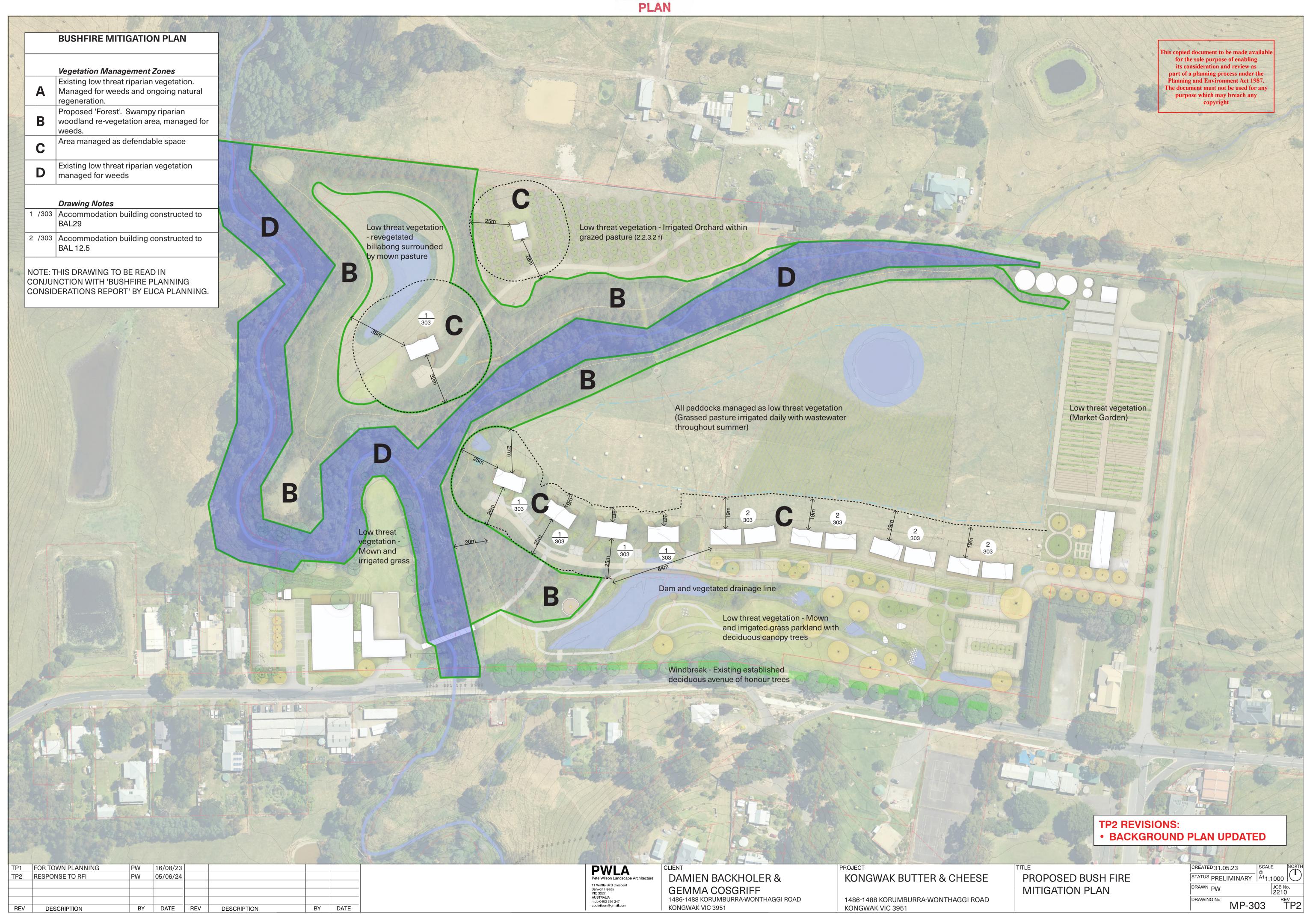




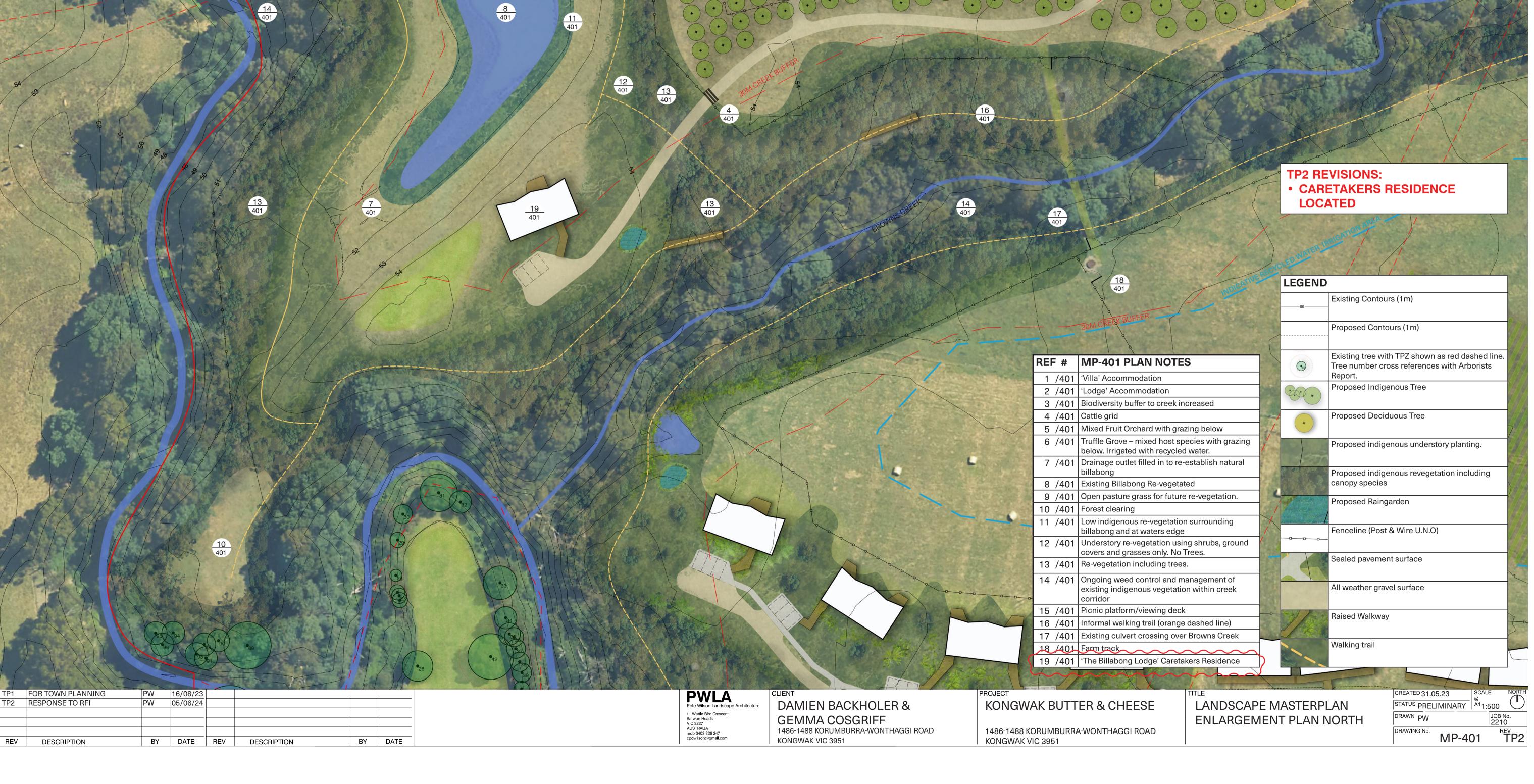








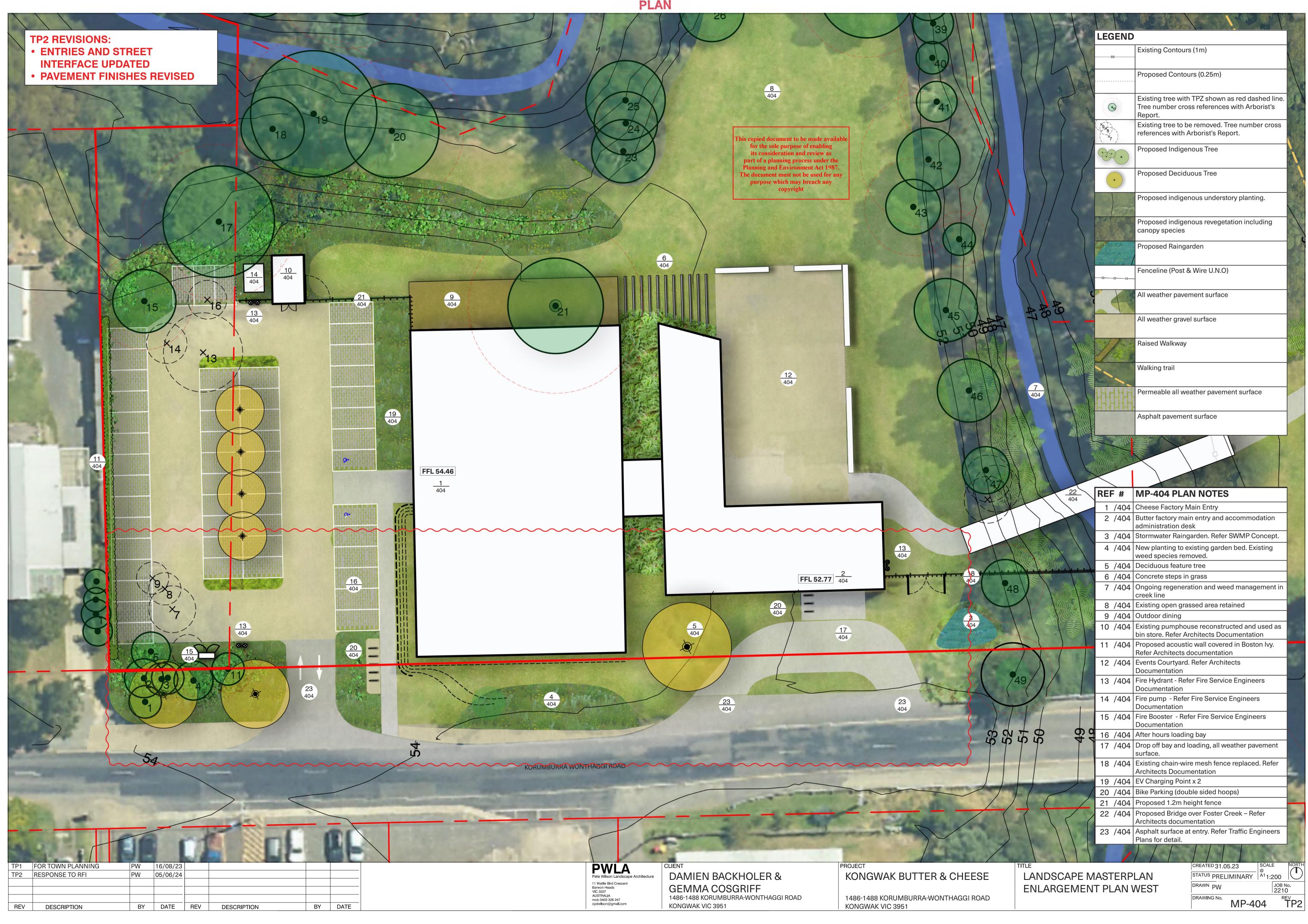


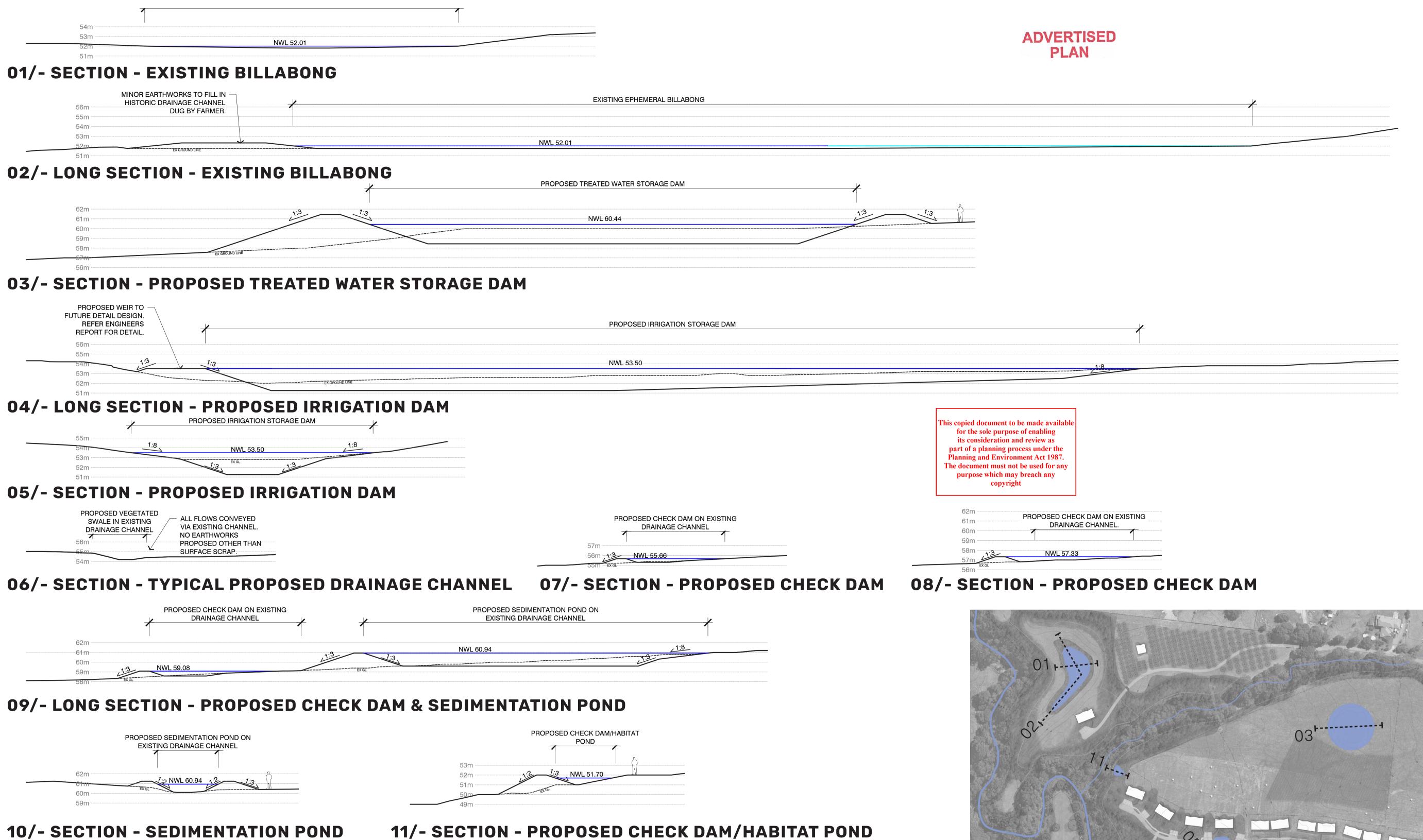




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**NOTES:** 

1. All excess spoil to be disposed of off site.

- 2. Sections show existing and proposed ground levels only. Refer plans for detail on proposed vegetation and landscape treatments surrounding water bodies.
- 3. All earthworks will be finished with a layer of minimum 100mm deep site-won topsoil and typically re-vegetated with indigenous plant species. The treated water storage dam will be planted with pasture grass to match surrounding landscape.

**TP2 REVISION:** DRAWING SHEET ADDED

03
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**KEY PLAN (N.T.S)** 

TP2	RESPONSE TO RFI	PW	05/06/24				
REV	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE	REV	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE

PWLA Pete Wilson Landscape Architect
11 Wattle Bird Crescent Barwon Heads VIC 3227 AUSTRALIA mob 0403 326 247 cpdwilson@gmail.com

DAMIEN BACKHOLER & **GEMMA COSGRIFF KONGWAK VIC 3951** 

KONGWAK BUTTER & CHEESE

**KONGWAK VIC 3951** 

**CROSS SECTIONS** PROPOSED WATER BODIES 1486-1488 KORUMBURRA-WONTHAGGI ROAD

CRE	ATED 31.0	5.23	SCALE @		NORTH
STA	STATUS PRELIMINARY			00	
DRA	WN PW		J	OB No 2210	).
DRA	WING No.	MP-50	01	RE'	<sup>4</sup> P2