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# Summit & McLaughlin's Shoulder Walk, Mt Buller Cultural Heritage Management Plan 18340

Sponsor: Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management

Heritage advisors: Daniel Carpenter, Aaron Dalla-Vecchia, Zachary Carter, Ané van der Walt, Lauren Prosser and Lucy Amorosi

Authors: Daniel Carpenter, Aaron Dalla-Vecchia, Zachary Carter, Natasha Haysom, Ané van der Walt, Lauren Prosser and Lucy Amorosi

9 January 2023

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**Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006  
Section 64**

## **Cultural Heritage Management Plan Notice of Approval by Registered Aboriginal Party**

**Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation**

I, Matthew Burns, Chief Executive Officer Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation,  
hereby approve the cultural heritage management plan referred to below:

Cultural Heritage Management Plan

For the proposed:

**Summit & McLaughlin's Shoulder Walk, Mt Buller**

Cultural Heritage Management Plan number:

**#18340**

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**Planning and Environment Act 1987.**

**Daniel Carpenter, Aaron Dalla-Vecchia, Zachary Carter,**

**Anè van der Walt, Lauren Prosser, Lucy Amorosi**

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**Authors:**

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Carpenter, Natasha Haysom, Anè van der Walt, Lauren  
Prosser, Lucy Amorosi**

Cover Date:

**09/01/23**

Pages:

**113**

Date received for approval:

**02/02/23**

Pursuant to s.64 of the Act this cultural heritage management plan takes effect  
upon its lodgement with the Secretary of the Department of Planning and  
Community Development with this notice of approval inserted. \*

Signed:



Dated: 08/03/23

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## Document information

**Title:** Summit & McLaughlin's Shoulder Walk Mt Buller Cultural Heritage Management Plan 18340

**CHMP No.** 18340

**Size:** Medium

**Assessment:** Standard

**Aboriginal places:** No Aboriginal places within the Activity Area

**Sponsor:** Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management

**Heritage Advisors:** Daniel Carpenter  
Aaron Dalla-Vecchia  
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## Document control

Version	Internal reviewer	Date issued
Draft version 01	AOS	16/02/2022

### Mapping

In accordance with the approved form, the following projected spatial data has been forwarded to VAHR for this CHMP: Activity Area boundary; ground survey areas and subsurface testing locations.

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## Executive summary

**Compliance requirements are set out in Part 1 of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).**

### Activity

Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management has engaged Biosis Pty Ltd to undertake this CHMP to support and inform an activity to be undertaken in two stages:

- **Stage 1:** Construction of a Fire Tower Lookout
- **Stage 2:** the construction of a McLaughlin's Shoulder Viewing Platform and two walking trails of approximately 1.1 kilometres in length.

The area of the Resort that will be impacted by these Activities covers approximately 2.362 hectares.

### Location

The Activity Area is located the Mount Buller summit and McLaughlin's Shoulder at Mt Buller Alpine Resort, Mt Buller Road, Mount Buller, 3723. The extent of the Activity Area covered by this CHMP is within Allot. 5A Sec. A, in the Parish of Changue East.

### Assessment

A Desktop Assessment was undertaken to provide relevant background information on the activity and its likely impacts to cultural heritage within the Mt Buller Alpine Resort. This assessment includes an overview of previous archaeological studies, registered Aboriginal places, the local environment, land use history, the ethno-historical record, to support development of a prediction model for the Activity Area. A Standard Assessment was undertaken to provide information on the ground surface visibility, previous disturbance to the Activity Area and to identify areas of high archaeological potential. Consultation with representatives of the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP), Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLWC), occurred throughout the CHMP.

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### Results

The Desktop Assessment found that there were no previously registered Aboriginal places within the Activity Area, or within a 200 metre buffer zone of the Activity Area. Since the mid-20th century, the Activity Area has been used primarily for recreational activities, including skiing and hiking. The past land use that has impacted the Activity Area includes construction of the Mount Buller Firetower, the Summit and Grimus Top chairlift stations and pylons, as well as the development of ski runs and walking trails, including one cut into the outcrop at the summit of Mount Buller, which would have impacted Aboriginal cultural heritage in these parts of the Activity Area. It was determined that it was reasonably possible for unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage material to be within the Activity Area.

The Standard Assessment identified three specific landforms within the Activity Area; Mountain Face, Mountain Peak and Mountain Saddle. Each landform was prescribed an individual survey unit. Considerable disturbance was identified within Survey Unit 2 due to ski infrastructure, with Survey Unit 1 and 3 also displaying evidence of disturbance. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during the Standard Assessment. Additionally, no areas of archaeological potential were identified. As a result of the Standard Assessment, a Complex Assessment was determined not to be required.

### Aboriginal places

No Aboriginal places were identified during the CHMP.

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## Acknowledgements

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Biosis acknowledges the contribution of the following people and organisations in undertaking this CHMP:

- Tom Karvonens (Turner & Townsend)
- Laura Osborne (Turner & Townsend)
- Daeyoo Kang (Biosis Pty Ltd)
- Alex Parmington (TLaWC)
- Francisco Almeida (TLaWC)
- Troy Wilkinson (TLaWC)
- Matt Antonopoulous (TLaWC)
- Dylan Wilkinson (TLaWC)

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## Abbreviations

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ACHRIS	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System
AOP	Area of Potential (for archaeological deposits)
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
DBYD	Dial Before You Dig
DGPS	Differential Global Positioning System
DPC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
FP-SR	First Peoples – State Relations (formerly Aboriginal Victoria)
GDA94	Geodetic Datum Australia 1994
HA	Heritage Advisor
LGA	Local Government Area
MGA	Map Grid of Australia
NOI	Notice of Intention
PGC	Primary Grid Coordinate
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
SGD	Significant Ground Disturbance
SU	Survey Unit
TLaWC	Taungurung Land and Waters Council (Aboriginal Corporation)
TO	Traditional Owner
VAHR	Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

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## PART 1 – CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

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**These conditions become compliance requirements once the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is approved. Failure to comply with a condition is an offence under Section 67A of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.**

**The CHMP must be readily accessible to the Sponsor, and their employees and contractors when carrying out the activity.**

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# 1 Specific cultural heritage management requirements

## 1.1 Condition 1 – Copy of cultural heritage management plan

A physical copy of this approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan (management plan) must be held on site at all times during the Activity.

## 1.2 Condition 2 – Cultural heritage induction

*To be completed before and during the activity*

A cultural heritage induction must be conducted with all site workers/contractors involved in ground disturbing works by the RAP immediately before the commencement of any ground disturbing activities. If it is not possible to induct all workers in a single session, a second or subsequent inductions may be required to ensure that all site workers/contractors involved in ground disturbing works are inducted.

The induction must include:

1. A brief history of the Aboriginal occupation of the Activity Area and the broader region
2. A summary of the archaeological investigations conducted within the Activity Area
3. A summary of the conditions and contingencies contained within this CHMP
4. The obligations of site workers/contractors and Sponsor under the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006
5. Information cards with contact numbers of the RAP

The purpose of the cultural heritage induction is:

1. Explain the procedures outlined in this CHMP
2. To show the site contractors examples of the most likely Aboriginal cultural heritage material to be located within the Activity Area.
3. To explain the procedure outlined in the Contingency Plan section (Section 2) of this CHMP in the event that this material is uncovered by them during the course of construction works.

A notification period of at least two weeks must be provided to the RAP to present a cultural heritage induction.

The cost of the cultural heritage induction must be met by the Sponsor or the site contractor/s.

## 1.3 Condition 3 – Supervision of works

*To be completed during the activity*

Supervision of works must be undertaken by a RAP representative during ground disturbing activities in the locations shown on Map 1. A RAP representative must conduct the supervision of works, and a Heritage Advisor/archaeologist may also attend if requested by the Sponsor or RAP. Monitoring may cease at the discretion of the RAP representative if it is thought that there is no probability of disturbing Aboriginal cultural heritage.

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If suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage (including human remains) is identified during the supervision of works, then the contingencies outlined in Sections 2.5 – 2.7 must be initiated. If the supervision of works reveals a suspected breach of the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 then this must be reported to First Peoples - State Relations (FP-SR) immediately and an Authorised Officer or Aboriginal Heritage Officer may be called out and/or a Stop Order may be issued by FP-SR.

The RAP must be notified at least two weeks before the supervision of works is required, prior to or during the activity. A Worker Request Form must be completed and sent to the RAP to book a representative for each RAP supervision of works session.

The procedures outlined in this condition must be organised and paid for by the Sponsor.

## **1.4 Condition 4 - Protocol for Handling Sensitive Information**

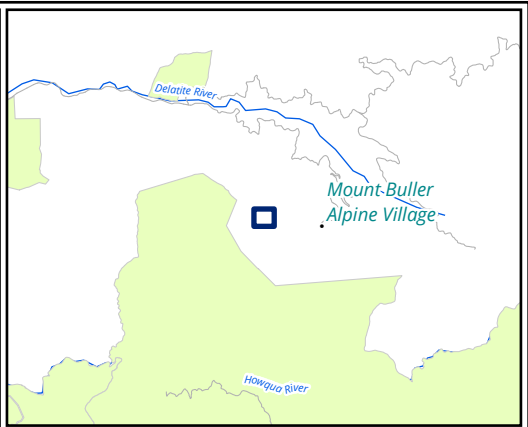
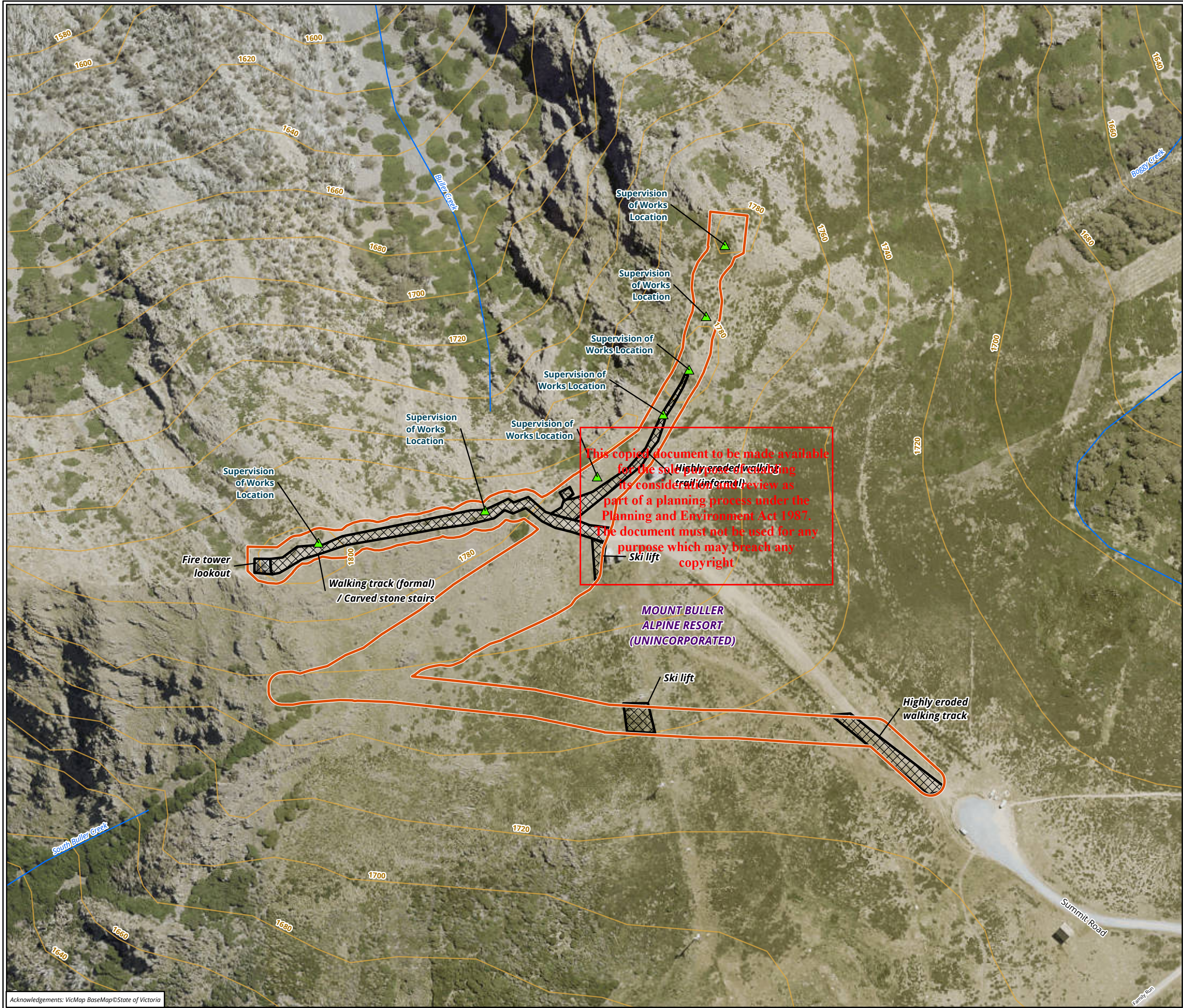
*To be completed before, during and after the activity*

With the exception of publicly available information, there shall be no communication or public release of information concerning Aboriginal cultural heritage without the written permission of the RAP. No onsite photographs or information concerning Aboriginal cultural heritage is to be circulated to the media or via social media (before, during or after the Activity) without the written permission of the RAP.

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- Legend**
- Activity Area
  - Local government area
  - Contour 20m interval
  - Areas of previous ground disturbance
  - Supervision of Works Location

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Map 1 Management Conditions

0 20 40 60 80 100  
Metres  
Scale: 1:2,000 @ A3  
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 36075, CHMP: 18340,  
Date: 09 September 2022 ,  
Prepared for: ZC, Prepared by: DK, Last edited by: dkang  
Layout: 36075\_M1\_MgmtConditions  
Project: P:\36000s\36075\Mapping\  
36075\_MtBuller\_McLachlin'sShoulder\_CHMP.aprx





## 2 Contingency plans

### 2.1 Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Sponsor of the activity to ensure that the contingencies in this section of the CHMP are implemented as required. Contingencies are a required as part of the CHMP under clause 13(1) Schedule 2 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

### 2.2 Dispute resolution

In the event of a dispute between the Sponsor and any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party or Activity Advisory Group during the implementation of this CHMP, the following process must be followed:

1. The parties agree to use their best endeavours to resolve the dispute in good faith.
2. Initially the parties must identify the nature of the matter in dispute. Ideally the parties should agree in writing as to the nature and scope of the matter in disputes within five working days of the dispute arising, with reference to the specific conditions or requirements in the CHMP.
3. Once the nature of the dispute is identified, the parties should meet within five working days to discuss any options or remedial actions that are available to resolve the matter/s in dispute.
4. If agreement can be reached between the parties in relation to remedial actions, this agreement should be recorded in writing and include a programme for the implementation of the action. In these circumstances any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party or Activity Advisory Group agree that it will use its best endeavours to ensure there are no avoidable delays to the schedule for the works.
5. If an agreement cannot be reached in relation to remedial actions, the parties agree to appoint (at a shared cost) an independent mediator to oversee a meeting between the parties.
6. The mediation meeting should be scheduled as soon as practicable.
7. The parties must attend the mediation meeting in good faith and use their best endeavours to resolve the dispute.
8. If agreement can be reached at the mediation meeting, this agreement should be recorded in writing and include a programme for the implementation of any remedial actions. In these circumstances any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party or Activity Advisory Group agree that it will use its best endeavours to ensure there are no avoidable delays to the schedule for the works.

In the event that a mediated solution cannot be reached between the parties, any matter of non-compliance may be pursued under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

### 2.3 Reviewing compliance

The Sponsor must comply with this CHMP. Failure to comply with the conditions and contingencies in this CHMP is an offence pursuant to Section 67A and clause 13(1) Schedule 2 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

A compliance checklist is included in Table 1

In order to ensure compliance with this CHMP, the Sponsor must:

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1. Provide all persons, engaged by the sponsor or their subcontractor for the conduct of the Activity, with access to a copy of the CHMP, explain the purpose of the CHMP and implications of non-compliance.
2. Have an up to date contact list for any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party, First Peoples - State Relations, a heritage advisor, Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office available on site at all times.
3. Respond to any questions or complaints in relation to the implementation and compliance with the CHMP within one working day.
4. Record any complaints received on a central register and keep a copy of any response/action taken in response to the complaint.

If it appears that there is non-compliance with the CHMP, then notification must be made to First Peoples - State Relations.

## 2.4 Remediating non-compliance

The Sponsor is responsible for remediating any non-compliance with the CHMP and is liable for any non-compliance.

In circumstances where there is non-compliance with the CHMP, the Sponsor must:

1. Notify the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet within one day of the non-compliance. Under Section 159 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet may assign an Authorised Officer to investigate the non-compliance.
2. Implement any remedial action to the satisfaction of the Secretary only.

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## 2.5 Management of Aboriginal cultural heritage found during the activity

If Aboriginal cultural heritage material is found, works must stop in the relevant area and the following process be followed:

- 1 Discovery
  - a. If suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage is identified, all activity within a 10 metre buffer must stop. The activity can proceed outside the buffer.
  - b. The suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage must be left in place, and protected from harm.
- 2 Notification
  - c. The person who identified the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage must notify the person in charge of the activity.
  - d. The person in charge of the activity must notify the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet of the identification of suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage within one working day of its discovery.
  - e. The person in charge of the activity must notify a heritage advisor and any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party of the identification of suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage within one working day of its discovery.
- 3 Assessment

- a. The person in charge of works must ensure that the 10 metre buffer is barricaded around the location of the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage within one working day of its discovery.
- b. The heritage advisor must attend the Activity Area within two working days of notification of the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage and, in consultation with any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party:
  - i. Fully assess and if required, record the Aboriginal cultural heritage.
  - ii. Advise and make recommendations in relation to appropriate management measures for the Aboriginal cultural heritage, to the person in charge of the activity.
- c. The person in charge of the activity, upon receipt of the assessment and recommendations from the heritage advisor and any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party, must provide the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet with an indicative impact mitigation or salvage strategy.

#### 4 Impact mitigation or salvage

- a. Following Section 61 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, harm avoidance, mitigation and minimisation must be explored by the Sponsor as the first priority. Where harm cannot be avoided, the below process must be followed:
- b. If the Aboriginal cultural heritage is assessed as being of low scientific significance and/or does not meet the threshold for registration as an artefact scatter or multi-component Aboriginal place:
 

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  - i. The Aboriginal cultural heritage can be recorded and collected by a heritage advisor; and
  - ii. The activity may continue within the buffered area after the salvage has been completed to the satisfaction of the heritage advisor and any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party.
- c. If the Aboriginal cultural heritage is assessed to be of high scientific significance and/or meets the threshold for registration as an artefact scatter or multi-component Aboriginal place:
  - i. An appropriate impact mitigation or salvage strategy must prepared by the Heritage Advisor, in consultation with the RAP (if one has been appointed) In the absence of a Registered Aboriginal Party, the Traditional Owner group(s) for the Activity Area must be consulted. The impact mitigation or salvage strategy must comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 –Practice notes: Salvage Excavation*.
  - ii. Once the impact mitigation or salvage strategy has been approved it must be implemented by the person in charge of works, in accordance with any conditions required by any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party (if one has been appointed) or relevant Traditional Owner Groups
  - iii. The activity may continue within the buffered area after the salvage has been completed to the satisfaction of the heritage advisor and any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party (if one has been appointed) or relevant Traditional Owner Groups and the relevant Record Edits/new Place Registrations have been submitted to the VAHR.
  - iv. A salvage report detailing the salvage undertaken and the results of the salvage works must be submitted to First Peoples - State Relations and the RAP (if one has

been appointed) or relevant Traditional Owner Groups within 3 months of the completion of the salvage works.

## 2.6 Custody of Aboriginal cultural heritage discovered during works

The custody of all Aboriginal cultural heritage material found during the activity must be assigned to the RAP (in accordance with Section 12 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*). Where there is no RAP it should be assigned to the following in order of priority:

- 1 Any relevant RAP for the land from which the Aboriginal heritage is salvaged
- 2 Any relevant registered native title holder for the land from which the Aboriginal heritage is salvaged
- 3 Any relevant native title party (as defined in the Act) for the land from which the Aboriginal heritage is salvaged
- 4 Any relevant Traditional Owner or Owners of the land from which the Aboriginal heritage is salvaged
- 5 Any relevant Aboriginal body or organisation which has historical or contemporary interests in Aboriginal heritage relating to the land from which the Aboriginal heritage is salvaged
- 6 The owner of the land from which the Aboriginal heritage is salvaged
- 7 Museum Victoria.

If the Traditional Owners and the Sponsor agree, reburial within the Activity Area can take place as per Condition 4. The location of the reburied artefacts must be fully documented by an experienced and qualified archaeologist, clearly marked and all details provided, registered via an updated Object Collection form (Record Edit). All details of the location and nature of the Aboriginal cultural heritage must be provided to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register within 3 weeks of recording.

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## 2.7 Discovery of suspected human remains

If any suspected human remains are discovered, you must contact the Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be contacted on 1300 888 544. This advice has been developed further and is described in the following 5-step contingency plan:

- 1 Discovery
  - a. If suspected human remains are discovered, all activity must stop.
  - b. The remains must be left in place, and protected from harm or damage.
- 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 is reasonable grounds to believe the remains are Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be immediately notified on 1300 888 544.
  - 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 these authorities 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 Heritage Council, after taking reasonable steps to consult with any Aboriginal person or body with an interest in 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.

### 4 Custody

- 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 experience and qualified archaeologist, clearly marked and all details provided to First Peoples - State Relations.
- b. Appropriate management measures must be implemented to ensure the Aboriginal Ancestral Remains are not disturbed in the future.

**Table 1**

**Compliance checklist**

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Compliance Review Checklist		Yes	No
<b>Has the CHMP been approved?</b>			
<b>Have all personnel been inducted or trained with regard to the requirements contained within the CHMP, particularly the conditions and contingencies?</b>			
<b>Have the appropriate personnel been inducted in accordance with Condition 2?</b>			
<b><i>During the activity</i></b>			
<b>Is a copy of the CHMP held on site at all times during the activity and accessible for all personnel in accordance with Condition 1?</b>			
<b>Is an up to date contact list for any appointed Registered Aboriginal Party, First Peoples - State Relations, a heritage advisor, Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office available on site?</b>			
<b>Is there a register for all questions and complaints? Has the register been updated with any response/action?</b>			
<b>Have the supervision of works been undertaken in accordance with Condition 3?</b>			
<b><i>Discovery of Aboriginal cultural heritage during the activity</i></b>			
<b>Has any Aboriginal cultural heritage been discovered during the activity? If yes, have the following been undertaken:</b>			
	Have all works ceased within 10 metres of the discovery location(s)?		
	Has the exposed Aboriginal cultural heritage been protected by a suitable barrier		

Compliance Review Checklist		Yes	No
	(e.g. fencing)?		
	Has the Secretary, DPC, been notified within one working day of the discovery?		
	Has a heritage advisor and any appointed RAP been notified within one working day of the discovery?		
	Has a heritage advisor and any appointed RAP assessed the Aboriginal cultural heritage within two working days of their notification?		
	Has an appropriate mitigation or salvage strategy been developed and implemented?		
	Has the heritage advisor completed new or updated Aboriginal place record(s) for the VAHR?		
<b>Discovery of human remains during the activity</b>			
<b>Have any actual or suspected human remains been discovered during the activity?</b>			
<b>If yes, have the following been taken:</b>			
	Has Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office been contacted?		
	If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, has the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be contacted on 1300 888 544?		
<b>If a breach of the CHMP is identified the sponsor must immediately report the breach by contacting the Statewide Compliance &amp; Enforcement Unit, First Peoples - State Relations via email to <a href="mailto:compliance.aboriginalvictoria@dpc.vic.gov.au">compliance.aboriginalvictoria@dpc.vic.gov.au</a> or by telephoning 1800 762 003.</b>			

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## PART 2 – CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

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## 3 Introduction

### 3.1 Reasons for preparing the CHMP

This is a mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) under Section 46(1)(a) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and is required as per the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 (s.47). The Sponsor intends to construction of two walking trails of approximately 1.1 kilometres in length and associated viewing platforms at Mt Buller Alpine Resort within the Activity Area.

The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 that have prompted the requirement for this plan are:

The proposed activity is a high impact activity under the following regulations:

- Regulation 47(1)(g) a walking track with a length exceeding 500 metres
- Regulation 50(1) the construction of a building or the construction or carrying out of works in an alpine resort

The Activity Area is in an area of cultural heritage sensitivity under:

- Regulation 26 Waterway (South Buller Creek and Buller Creek).

### 3.2 Notifications

In accordance with s.54(1)(a)/(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare a CHMP was submitted to the Secretary Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), TLaWC, the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) on 29 September 2021 (Appendix 1). In accordance with s.54(1)(d) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* an NOI was submitted to Mount Buller Alpine Resort (UNINC) (LGA) on 19 October 2021.

The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) has allocated CHMP number 18340 to this assessment.

The RAP elected to evaluate the CHMP on 5 October 2021.

### 3.3 Location of the Activity Area

The Activity Area is located on the summit of Mount Buller at Mt Buller Road, Mount Buller, 3723. The extent of the Activity Area covered by this CHMP is 2.362 hectares of land, within Crown Allotment 5A Sec. A (SPI 5A-A\PP2370) and the Parish of Changue East. The Activity Area is approximately 150 kilometres east-north-east of Melbourne CBD and 86 kilometres south of Wangaratta.

### 3.4 Sponsor

#### Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Resort Management Board

Daniel Argentov  
10 Summit Road  
Alpine Central, Summit Road, Mt Buller, VIC, 3723  
Phone: (03) 5777 6077  
Email: daniel.argentov@mtbuller.com.au  
ABN: 44 867 982 534

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## 3.5 Heritage advisors

### Daniel Carpenter (B.Bus/GradCertArchae/GradDipArchHgmt)

Daniel has five years' experience working in cultural heritage management in Victoria. He has experience in Aboriginal and historic sites and has been involved in fieldwork and reporting for both. He has authored and project-managed several CHMPs, identified and registered a historic site with Heritage Victoria as well as assisting with numerous other projects. Daniel's qualifications include a Bachelor of Business from RMIT as well as postgraduate qualifications in heritage management. His archaeological training includes writing cultural management plans, lithic identification and GIS. Daniel is a listed Heritage Advisor under the requirements of the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

### Aaron Dalla-Vecchia (BA Hons)

Aaron has over seven years' experience in cultural heritage management, including both Aboriginal and historic archaeology and heritage assessments. Aaron has worked both within and outside of Australia on a wide range of projects. As a heritage advisor he has authored and co-authored a number of reports including cultural heritage management plans, desktop assessments, salvage reports, as well as assessments of archaeological potential and due diligence reports.

Aaron's qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in archaeology and history from La Trobe University. Aaron also completed his honours degree at La Trobe University with a thesis focusing around use-wear patterns found on clay tobacco pipes from various sites around Melbourne.

Aaron's previous Aboriginal cultural heritage experience includes undertaking and project managing large scale projects including CHMPs associated with the Werribee Line Upgrade, Shepparton Line Upgrade and several large scale residential, commercial and industrial subdivisions. Aaron has undertaken and run large fieldwork teams on projects associated with the Ballarat Line Upgrade, APA gas pipeline, various residential subdivisions throughout Victoria as well as leading the assessment for small scale projects. Aaron has coordinated survey, subsurface testing, and salvage works as part of the requirements for various cultural heritage management plans. He has also participated in the excavation and recording of historic period sites in Melbourne.

Aaron is an associate member and State chapter Secretary for the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists and a listed heritage advisor under the provisions of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

### Zachary Carter BA, MArchSc(Adv)

Zachary has over five years of experience in the archaeology sector. Prior to working with specifically in the cultural heritage sector within Victoria, Zachary engaged in archaeological research within and outside of Australia, predominately throughout Western Europe and South East Asia.

Zachary has completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Archaeology and History from Monash University. Zachary then went on to complete a Masters of Archaeological Science (Advanced) through the Australian National University, where he specialised in Forensic Archaeology and Zooarchaeology with a thesis focusing on Colonial Tasmanian dietary practises through skeletal analysis.

As a project archaeologist at Biosis Pty Ltd, Zachary has undertaken a variety of Aboriginal cultural heritage research and fieldwork for small, medium and large scale projects across Victoria for a variety of clients and industries.

Zachary is a listed heritage advisor under the provisions of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

### **Lauren Prosser Ma Arch Sci (Adv) (Hons), B. Arch (Hons)**

Lauren has over six years of industry experience within Victoria and has participated in archaeological excavations in both Vanuatu and Jordan. Lauren has been working for Biosis since late 2019. She has a variety of experience conducting archival research, field surveys, excavations, reporting, artefact analysis, site mapping as well as investigating site formation processes and project management.

Lauren has specialist skills in geoarchaeology and the application of earth science techniques such as archaeological micromorphology, scanning electron microscopy and spatial analysis of geochemical residues from ancient human occupation to answer archaeological questions. Lauren is further expanding her experience to include a deeper knowledge of legislation, Aboriginal cultural heritage analysis and landform testing approaches within Australian archaeologically sensitive landforms.

Lauren is a fully qualified and listed Heritage Advisor pursuant to Section 189 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 and is a full international member of ICOMOS and a member of the Australian Archaeological Association.

### **Lucy Amorosi BArch (Hons) La Trobe University**

Lucy has over 20 years of experience managing a wide variety of cultural heritage projects, including background research, artefact analysis, archaeological place recording, cultural heritage assessments, Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs), archaeological survey and subsurface testing for a range of corporate and governmental clients. Lucy received a BArch (Honours) from La Trobe University in which she investigated Aboriginal artefact collections in Western Victoria.

Lucy's professional experience in both Aboriginal and Historical field archaeology has seen her work on small and large scale archaeological surveys and excavations throughout Victoria and has authored numerous CHMPs and other heritage assessments. Lucy is a fully qualified and listed Heritage Advisor pursuant to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

## **3.6 Owner/Occupier**

The Activity Area is located within Crown land managed by Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board on behalf of the State Government of Victoria.

## **3.7 Registered Aboriginal Party**

The Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLWC) is the RAP for the region that includes the Activity Area. The RAP elected to evaluate the plan on 5 October 2021 (Appendix 2).

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## 4 Activity description

This CHMP is being prepared to support a planning permit application for the construction a fire tower lookout and two walking trails and of associated viewing platforms at Mt Buller Alpine Resort. The project has been divided into two stages:

- **Stage 1: Fire Tower Lookout Construction:**

- Fire Tower Lookout, to be constructed on the northern side of the existing fire tower at the summit of Mount Buller. Maximum depth of impact will be 1500 millimetres with steel anchor rods in footings.

- **Stage 2: McLaughlin's Shoulder viewing platform and Path Construction:**

- Construction of McLaughlin's Shoulder viewing platform. Maximum depth of impact will be 1000 millimetres
- Construction of a new Summit walking trail, from the existing Summit carpark leading up to the existing section of Summit walking trail (approximately 825 metres). Approximate depth of impact will be 500 millimetres.
- Construction of McLaughlin's Shoulder walking trail, from the top of Grimus chairlift leading north to McLaughlin's shoulder (approximately 240 metres). Approximate depth of impact will be 500 millimetres.

In addition to these specific activities, associated activities common to both stages will be spoil stockpiling, materially laydown, plant movement and vehicle movement.

In accordance with Clause 6(2) and 10, Schedule 2 of the Regulations, the proposed activity will involve activities permitted under the Mount Buller Alpine Resort (UNINC) Planning Scheme for a Comprehensive Development Zone (CDZ) Schedule 2.

Activity plans can be found in Appendix 3.

### 4.1 Likely impact on former or present land surfaces

The construction of the fire tower, viewing platform and paths will displace, disturb or remove the existing sediments from within the path alignment. This has the potential to harm Aboriginal places that may be present in surface or subsurface contexts.

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## 5 Extent of the Activity Area

The extent of the Activity Areas is shown in Map 2. It is located within Crown land in the Mount Buller and Mount Stirling Alpine Resort (UNINC) on the summit of Mount Buller and MacLachlin Shoulder, approximately 1.15 kilometres west of Mount Buller Village. The Mt Buller fire tower and the top of the Grimus Chairlift and the top of the Summit Chairlift are all located within or nearby the boundaries of the Activity Area. The Activity Area is located within the Victorian Alps (VALp) Bioregion and sits at a height of between 1720 and 1805 (summit) metres above sea level (asl). Several creeks drain down from the summit, including Buller Creek and Boggy Creek, which drains to the Delatite River in the north and South Buller Creek, and Little Buller Creek that drains into the Howqua River to the south.

The Activity Area covers a total of 2.362 hectares with two trails and associated viewing platforms. The extent of the Activity Area covered by this CHMP is within Crown Allotment 5A Sec. A (SPI 5A~A\PP2370), Parish of Changue East.

Cadastral information for the Activity Area is detailed in Table 2.

**Table 2 Cadastral information for the Activity Area**

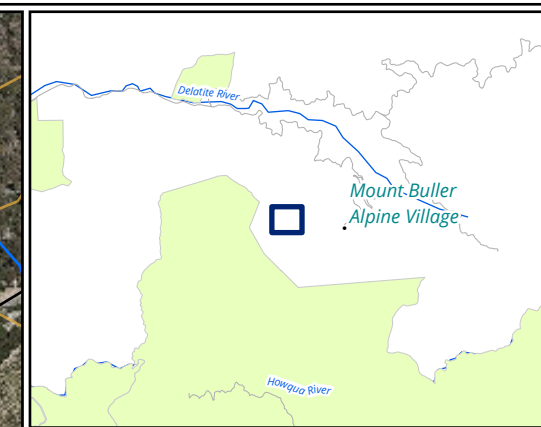
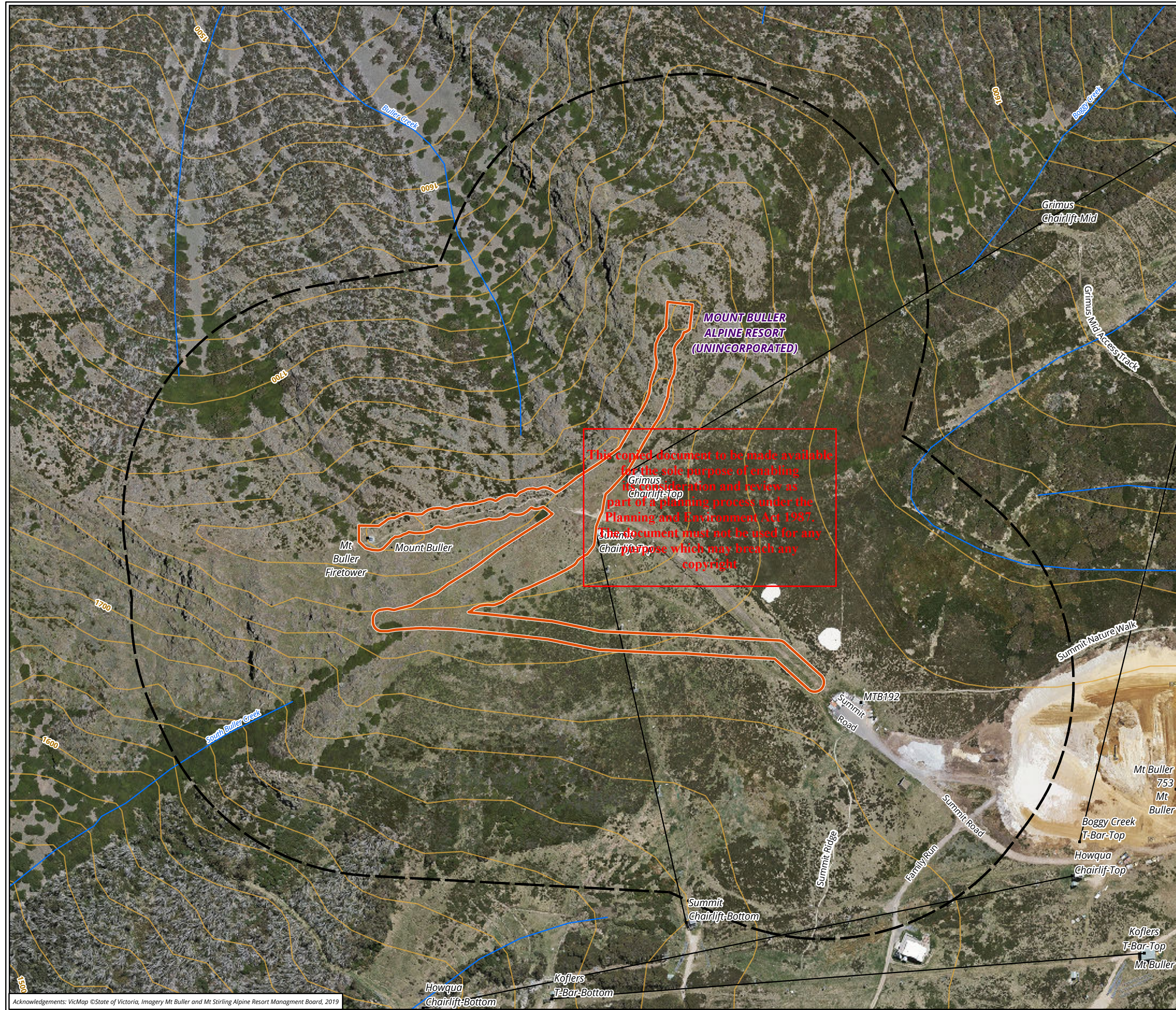
<b>Address</b>	Mt Buller Road, Mount Buller, Victoria 3723
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Mount Buller Alpine Resort (UNINC)
<b>Lot/Plan</b>	Crown Allotment 5A Sec. A. SPI 5A~A\PP2370
<b>Parish</b>	Changue East
<b>Planning Zone</b>	Comprehensive Development Zone (CDZ) Schedule 2
<b>Coordinates*</b>	E 449117.006 N 5888906.272
<b>VicRoads</b>	63 H4

\* All geographic coordinates in this CHMP are referenced to the Victorian Government Standard GDA94 MGA (Zone 55).

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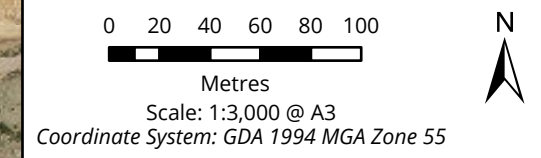




- Legend**
- Activity Area
  - 200m buffer
  - VAHR Place
  - Local government area
  - Chairlift
  - Contour 20m interval
- Hydrology**
- River or Creek

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Map 2 Extent of the Activity Area



**biosis**

Matter: 36075, CHMP: 18340,  
Date: 21 December 2021 ,  
Prepared for: LA, Prepared by: SKM, Last edited by: dkang  
Layout: 36075\_M2\_Extent\_AA  
Project: P:\36000s\36075\Mapping\36075\_MtBuller\_McLachlin'sShoulder\_CHMP.aprx



## 6 Documentation of consultation

### 6.1 Consultation in relation to the assessment

**Table 3 Consultation in relation to the assessment**

Date	Name and Title	Organisation	Nature of Consultation
29/09/2021	Lucy Amorosi, Consultant Archaeologist, (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis, Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board (LGO), TLaWC	Submit NOI to RAP/LGA
05/10/2021	Matthew Burns, Chief Executive Officer, TLaWC	Biosis, Daniel Argentov, Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board, TLaWC	RAP has elected to evaluate the CHMP
15/11/2021	Kylie McFadyen (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	Inception Meeting
	Ané van der Walt (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	
	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	
	Alex Parmington (Heritage Advisor and RAP Manager)		
	Michelle Monk (Elder, and Aboriginal Heritage Officer)		
07/03/2022	Zachary Carter (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	Standard Assessment results meeting
	Ashley O’Sullivan (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	
	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)		
	Alex Parmington (Heritage Advisor and RAP Manager)		
	Michelle Monk (Elder, and Aboriginal Heritage Officer)		
09/03/2022	Zachary Carter (Heritage	Biosis Pty Ltd	Zachary follows up on Standard Assessment

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Date	Name and Title	Organisation	Nature of Consultation
	Advisor)		results meeting to Francisco with further information supporting the recommended of ceasing at Standard Assessment.
	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	
23/03/2022	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	Francisco responded to Zachary's email indicating Complex Assessment would be required.
	Zachary Carter (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	
24/03/2022	Zachary Carter (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	Zachary responded to Francisco's email questioning testing locations and suggesting alternatives.
	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	
17/05/2022	Aaron Dalla-Vecchia (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	Telephone conversation between Aaron and Francisco regarding the methodology of the Complex Assessment.
	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	
18/05/2022	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	Email exchange between Francisco and Aaron regarding the methodology of the Complex Assessment.
	Aaron Dalla-Vecchia (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	
10/08/2022	Aaron Dalla-Vecchia (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	Aaron and Francisco communicated via telephone and email regarding the attempted Complex Assessment.
	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	
23/08/2022	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	Francisco responded to Aaron's email communication stating that internal discussions in TLaWC had taken place, and that the consensus was that Complex Assessment was not required.
	Aaron Dalla-Vecchia (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	
24/08/2022	Daniel Carpenter (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	Formal request for oral history
	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	
	Alex Parmington (Heritage Advisor and RAP Manager)		

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## 6.2 Participation in the conduct of the assessment

**Table 4 Participation in the conduct of the assessment**

Date	Name and Title	Organisation	Nature of Consultation
07/12/2021	Zachary Carter (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	Standard Assessment
	Troy Wilkinson (Field Representative)	TLaWC	
	Matt Antonopoulos; (Field Representative)		
23/05/2022	Aaron Dalla-Vecchia (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	Complex Assessment attempt
	Dylan Wilkinson (Field Representative)	TLaWC	

## 6.3 Consultation in relation to the conditions

**Table 5 Consultation in relation to the conditions**

Date	Name and Title	Organisation	Nature of Consultation
23/08/2022	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	Francisco stated via email that TLaWC would require monitoring of works if no Complex Assessment was to be undertaken.
	Aaron Dalla-Vecchia (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	
06/09/2022	Daniel Carpenter (Heritage Advisor)	Biosis Pty Ltd	Draft conditions sent to TLaWC for provisional approval.
	Francisco Almeida (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	
	Alex Parmington (Heritage Advisor)	TLaWC	

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## 6.4 Summary of outcomes of consultation

At the commencement of the project, a notice of intent to prepare a CHMP (NOI) was sent by Lucy Amorosi of Biosis Pty Ltd on 29 September 2021 through the ACHRIS platform. On the same day the VAHR acknowledged this and issued the number 18340 to the plan. This notification was sent to Mount Buller Alpine Resort on the same day and has been included in Appendix 1. Also on 29 September 2021, Lucy sent the notification and to TLaWC, inviting them to evaluate the plan. A request for oral history was also extended. TLaWC responded on 5 October indicating their intention to evaluation the plan. This notification has been included in Appendix 2.

An inception meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 30 August 2022. Present at this meeting was Kylie McFadyen, Ané van der Walt (Biosis Pty Ltd), Francisco Almeida, Alex Parmington and Michelle Monk (TLaWC). In this meeting, Kylie and Ané presented the results of the background research. Kylie and Ané discussed the

nature of the proposed activity and the impacts that it would have. They also presented the results of the Desktop Assessment. The result of the meeting is that Standard Assessment would be required.

On 7 December 2021 a Standard Assessment took place. Present was Zachary Carter (Biosis Pty Ltd), Troy Wilkinson and Matt Antonopoulous (TLaWC). A request for particular knowledge of the area was made by Zachary to the TLaWC field representatives, however, no particular knowledge was passed on. It was noted by the representatives that the area would have been seasonally used by Taungurung people.

A Standard Assessment results meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 7 March 2022. Present at the meeting were Zachary Carter, Ashley O'Sullivan (Biosis Pty Ltd), Francisco Almeida, Alex Parmington and Michelle Monk (TLaWC). The findings of the Standard Assessment were presented to the RAP which noted the disturbance and the poor place preservation potential. TLaWC Heritage Advisors requested that a Complex Assessment be undertaken in the saddle area, and that spatial data of the trail alignment be sent through so that a elevation model could be prepared to identify flat areas within the Activity Area.

Following the Standard Assessment results meeting, email correspondence occurred between Zachary Carter, Aaron Dalla-Vecchia (Biosis Pty Ltd) and Francisco Almeida (TLaWC). This consisted of a discussion around the Complex Assessment methodology. Initially, Zachary provided the spatial data requested at the Standard Assessment results meeting (9 March 2022) with a recommendation of not proceeding with Complex Assessment. Francisco responded on 23 March 2022 with a spatial analysis of the Activity Area providing a rationale for proceeding with the Complex Assessment and details of the required methodology. Zachary responded on 24 March accepting the requirement for a Complex Assessment, however, requesting adjustments to the methodology. On 17 and 18 May 2022 there was further email and telephone correspondence between Francisco and Aaron regarding the methodology of the Complex Assessment, and an agreement was reached.

On 23 May 2022, Complex Assessment was attempted to be completed by Aaron Dalla-Vecchia (Biosis Pty Ltd) and Dylan Wilkinson (TLaWC). Conditions were cold, with some snow cover. Although Biosis had received initial indication from TLaWC Heritage Advisors that field representatives would be comfortable digging through snow, the field representative advised that due to OH&S issues, it was unsafe to complete Complex Assessment at this time.

On 10 August 2022 email consultation and telephone consultation took place between Aaron Dalla-Vecchia (Biosis Pty Ltd) and Francisco Almeida (TLaWC) regarding the outstanding Complex Assessment. Aaron made a requested that the project cease at Standard Assessment level due to further in-field assessment identifying low-nil levels of remnant topsoil within the Activity area.

On 23 August 2022 an email was sent by Francisco Almeida (TLaWC) to Aaron Dalla-Vecchia and Daniel Carpenter (Biosis Pty Ltd) stating that due to the steepness of the slopes and additional advice provided by TLaWC field representatives, Complex Assessment would not be required. He noted that in lieu of the completion of Complex Assessment, supervision of construction works in areas where Complex Assessment was proposed would form part of the Conditions of the plan.

On 24 August 2022 an email was sent by Daniel Carpenter (Biosis Pty Ltd) to Francisco Almeida and Alex Parmington (TLaWC) making a request for oral history. No response was received. On 6 September 2022 an email was sent by Daniel Carpenter (Biosis Pty Ltd) to Francisco Almeida and Alex Parmington (TLaWC) requesting provisional endorsement of draft management conditions. No response was received.

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## 7 Desktop Assessment

The following section contains the results of the Desktop Assessment. The Desktop Assessment was prepared in accordance with Regulation 61 and includes the information set out in Schedule 2 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018.

### 7.1 Geographic region

The geographic region for the Activity Area has been selected to represent a range of landforms and resources that would have been accessible from the Activity Area. This has been defined by a wide sample of different landforms in the area, comprising the Alpine summits of Mount Buller and Mount Stirling to the north, as well as intersecting ridges and valleys which contain a number of watercourses and their tributaries that would have been accessed by Aboriginal peoples in the region (Map 3). Due to the complexity of the landscape features found throughout this area (e.g. the topography and number of watercourses present), higher points in the landscape and the 200 metre cultural heritage sensitivity buffers of creeks and the Delatite River have been selected as general boundaries of the geographic region.

Five geomorphological units (GMU) are identified within the geographic region. These include:

- GMU 1.1.1 - Summit plateaux (Mount. Bogong, Baw Baw, Buffalo, Mount Wills).
- GMU 1.1.4 - Capped (basalt) plains (Mount. Jim-Bogong High Plains, Dargo Plains, Nunniong Plains).
- GMU 1.3.2 - Enclosed landscapes of low relief (Murmungee, Omeo, Dargo, Buldah).
- GMU 1.4.1 - Prominent summits above 1200m (Mount. Feathertop, Mount. Howitt, Mount. Buller).
- GMU 1.4.3 - Escarpments, gorges (Mount. Buffalo escarpment/gorge, Erinundra escarpment; Genoa, Mitchell, Moroka gorges and Snowy River gorges), etc.
- GMU 1.4.4 - Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes (headwaters of major rivers such as the Wonnangatta, King and Kiewa Rivers Mount. Coopracambra).

The geographic region contains a number of waterways, with those closest to the Activity Area forming the headwaters of the Delatite River in the north and Howqua River in the south. It is likely that snow melting after winter snowfalls results in significantly higher water flows from the alpine summits located within the geographic region. Such high levels of water movement may have impacted the survivability of archaeological material (either surface or subsurface deposits) located on slopes by redepositing artefacts and sediments further downstream from their original depositional location. This indicates that cultural material located at the base of slopes within the geographic region may not be *in situ*.

The geographic region is situated in the Highlands – Northern Fall and the Victorian Alps bioregions. Pre-1750s Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) within the geographic region include Sub-alpine Treeless, Sub-alpine Woodland, Montane Dry Woodland, Montane Damp Woodland, Riparian Forest, Shrubby Dry Forest and Herb-rich Foothill Forest. A comparison of pre-1750s EVCs with the 2005 EVCs show that all native vegetation classes have remained protected and unaltered within much of the geographic region (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2021).

The geographic region would have provided Aboriginal peoples with an ample supply of freshwater which, in turn, would have attracted an abundance of native flora and fauna. The EVCs surrounding the Activity Area would have provided Aboriginal peoples with edible bulbs and tubers, as well as open eucalypt woodland, the

bark of which was used for making canoes, shelters, shields and containers while the leaves and sap were used for medicinal purposes (De Angelis 2005).

The geographic region is shown in Map 3.

## 7.2 Landforms and/or geomorphology of the Activity Area

The Activity Area is within the Eastern Uplands (EU) Tier 1 GMU. There is low variation in bedrock and documented patterns of soil development across the Eastern Highlands (Land Conservation Council 1977). On drier slopes, shallow, friable, stony red and brown gradation soils are dominant (Land Conservation Council 1977), corresponding with the lithosols described by Costin (1986). These soils are gradational from weathered bedrock and are largely mineral in character. Moist slopes, lower gradient areas and increasing altitude show progressively increasing amounts of organic material in the upper soil profile, passing through a transition into the Alpine Humus Soils (Costin 1986). The majority of the Activity Area is within the Tier 2 GMU Landscapes above 1200 m of low relief and Tier 3 GMU 1.1.4 *Capped (basalt) plains* (Mount. Jim-Bogong High Plains, Dargo Plains, Nunniong Plains) that has been capped by extensive flows of Older Volcanics (Palaeogene) basalt, with soils that are deep organic loams (Chernic Tenosols) to red or brown gradational soils (Dermosols). A small section of the Activity Area is within Tier 2 Dissected landscapes at a range of elevations and Tier 3 GMU 1.4.4 *Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes* (headwaters of major rivers such as the Wonnangatta, King and Kiewa Rivers Mt. Cooperacambra). In GMU 1.4.4, high, narrow-topped ridges form the divides between major streams in this unit, with steep spurs and side slopes extending down to steeply graded streams. Soils in this unit vary from red/brown gradational soils (i.e. dermosols) on the wetter and more stable slopes to poorly structured gradational soils (i.e. lithosols) on the drier slopes, with soils on steep slopes typically being shallow and containing abundant stones (Agriculture Victoria 2020).

The geology of the majority of the Activity Area consists of Cobbannah Group (Sc) comprised of hornfels formed from contact metamorphism of sandstone and mudstone and with Mount Stirling Granodiorite (G184) at the southern end, which is described as hornfels, granodiorite, diorite, gabbro; medium to coarse grained, which is a geological igneous intrusion described as hornfels, granodiorite, diorite, gabbro; medium to coarse grained, which is a geological igneous intrusion (Middle Devonian (Middle Devonian) period (Welch, Higgins, & Callaway 2011). Basalts, such as the capped basalt of the Activity Area and the surrounding area, have been weathered sufficiently to form slopes and subtle low rises adjacent to areas carved by snowmelt water flow (Birch 2003). As a result of this water movement and other weathering processes, basalt outcrops are known to occur within the local area and may occur within the Activity Area. These outcrops commonly occur along alluvial valleys such as Cow Camp Creek and may have provided a local source of raw material for stone tool production.

The Activity Area is situated on the summit of Mount Buller (1805 metres asl) and slopes to 1720 metres asl. It is within an alpine massif, consisting of steep-sided ridges reaching 1600–1700 metres elevation and dissected by streams and larger valleys (Birch 2003). Located in the Victorian Alps bioregion, the pre-1750s EVCs within the Activity Area was Sub-alpine Treeless Vegetation (EVC 44). A comparison of pre-1750s EVCs with the 2005 EVCs show that all native vegetation classes have remained protected and unaltered within the Activity Area (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2021).

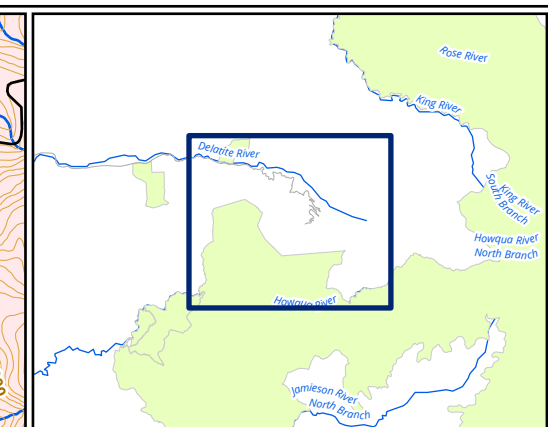
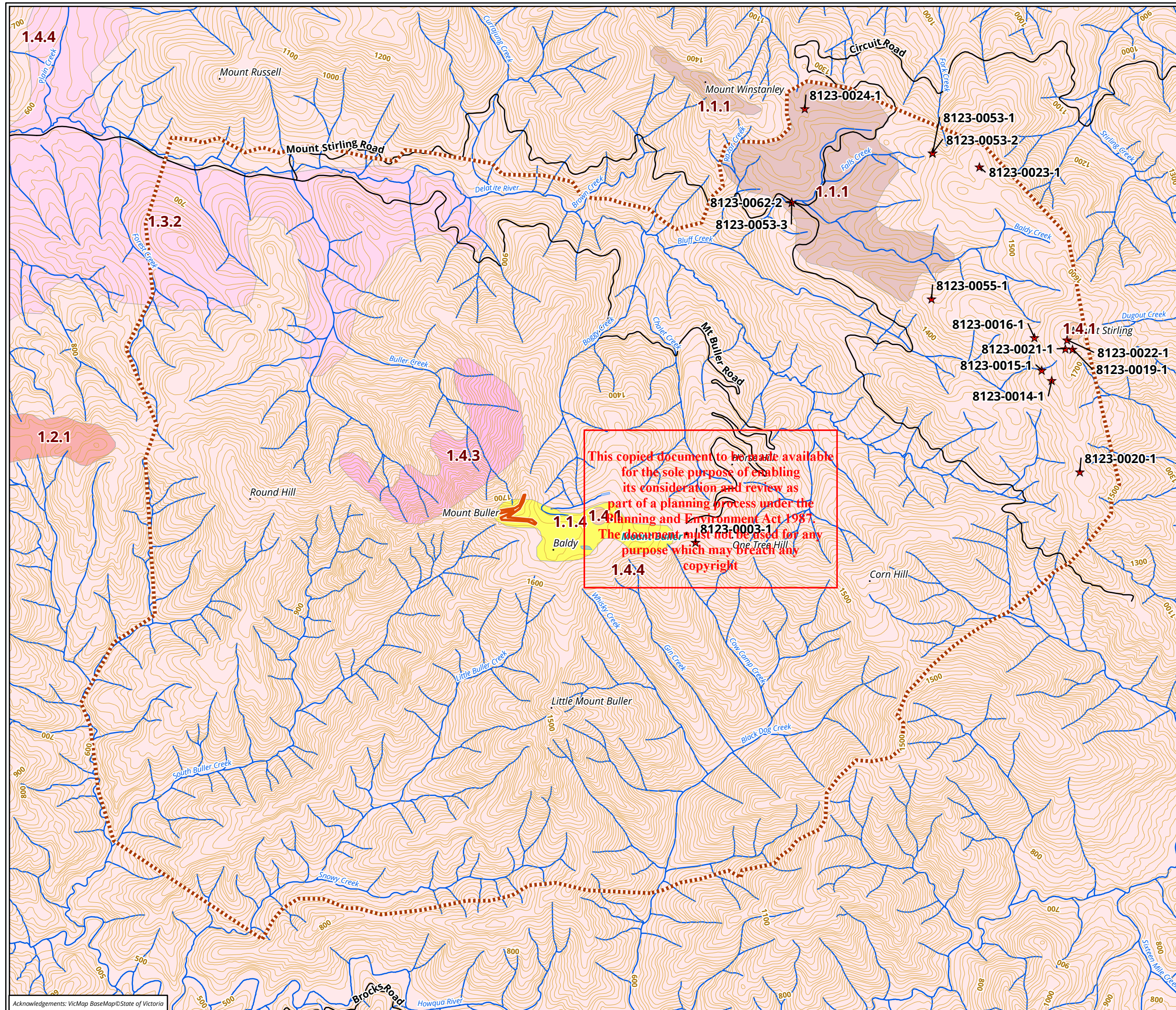
The geographic region contains a number of waterways, including those forming the headwaters of Delatite River and Howqua River. The waterways that are the closest to the Activity Area are Buller Creek, located approximately 45 metres to the north, South Buller Creek, located approximately 90 metres to the west and Boggy Creek, located approximately 220 metres to the east. Snow melting after winter snowfalls results in significantly higher water flows across the region. Access to reliable potable water is a significant determinant in the feasibility of a landscape being used by Aboriginal people, and the presence of these waterways in close proximity indicates that water would have been readily available in the area. However, as noted above, the significant increase in water flow due to melting snow may have made certain areas unsuitable for use for

extended periods and also may have significantly impacted the survivability of Aboriginal stone artefacts (either surface or subsurface) in their original context.

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### Legend

- ★ VAHR Place
- Activity Area
- Geographic region
- Contour 20m interval
- Major road

### Hydrology

- River or Creek

### Geomorphological units

- 1.1.1 Summit plateaux
- 1.1.4 Capped (basalt) plains
- 1.2.1 Moderate elevation plateaux and broad ridges
- 1.3.2 Enclosed landscapes of low relief
- 1.4.1 Prominent summits above 1200 m
- 1.4.3 Escarpments and gorges
- 1.4.4 Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes

### Map 3 Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) Places and geomorphology of the geographic region

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0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 1.5  
Kilometers  
Scale: 1:40,000 @ A3  
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 36075, CHMP: 18340,  
Date: 27 October 2021 ,  
Prepared for: LA, Prepared by: SKM, Last edited by: smithell  
Layout: 36075\_M3\_GR\_Geomorph\_VAHR  
Project: P:\36000s\36075\Mapping\36075\_MtBuller\_McLachlin'sShoulder\_CHMP.aprx



## 7.3 Historical and ethno-historical accounts in the geographic region

For the purposes of this assessment, information about Aboriginal peoples pre and post contact history has been sourced from 19th and 20th century primary and secondary ethnographic/historical records.

### 7.3.1 Ethno-historical accounts of Aboriginal peoples

#### Linguistic boundaries and social organisation

Prior to non-Aboriginal colonisation, the Victorian landscape was delineated by various socio-dialectical groups who shared a common language and who, as a group, identified as owning particular areas of land, with individually owned tracts of country. This was a system of spatial organisation based on land tenure (Clark 1990).

Aboriginal groups often mapped natural features as 'boundaries' for their ranges, estates and economic 'territories'. It is important to note that boundaries are a non-Aboriginal construct—one which places emphasis on identity as being defined by bounded territories. This is seen in native title claims which place Aboriginal peoples in a position where they must defend their Aboriginality and connection to Country, and to 'meet expectations of "authenticity" in asserting cultural identity' (Lydon 2016, p. 656).

Aboriginal land ownership and access rights or responsibilities centred on the smaller named groups that together formed the broader language grouping. These groups are often referred to as 'clans' or 'local descent groups', however as Wesson (2000) reasons, they are better described as 'named groups', as the membership structure of these groups and the degree of division from other groups could vary. In most instances, primary allegiance was owed to the named group, although this could also vary according to context and location. Most commonly, named groups were led by senior elders who exercised internal political and religious authority, while also being recognised as the group's spokesperson when dealing with other groups (Atkinson & Berryman 1983). Particularly influential group leaders could also assume authority over the leaders of other culturally affiliated groups (Wesson 2000).

Based on the ethnographic information available on the Activity Area and Mount Buller more generally, it is probable that the Activity Area was frequented by two Aboriginal groups. The first of these groups were the *Yowung-illam balug*, who are part of the *Daung wurrung* language group. This clan was known to have occupied land around Mount Buller, Mount Stirling, the Howqua River quarry (*Yowung-illam* stone quarry), Mount Battery, Alexandra, the Upper Goulburn River at Mansfield, sources of the Goulburn River and the Hunter and Watsons 'Wappan' Run (Barwick 1984, Clark 1990). The second group were the *Mogullumbidj* (Clark 2010, p. 182). Based upon ethnographic information collected by George Augustus Robinson in the 1840s, it is understood that the *Mogullumbidj*, who are otherwise known as the Mount Buffalo tribe, held land as far south as Dandongadale and the Wabonga Plateau to the back of Mount Buller (Durrant 2020, p. 24). The name *Mogullumbidj* was previously thought to represent a regional language name or subdialect name, however based upon a reassessment of ethnographic references, Clark (2010, p. 187) has argued that *Mogullumbidj* is a Kulin descriptive name and is likely to be an exonym (i.e. a name used only by people from outside the area). Clark (2010, p. 188) contends that the term *Minjambuta*, employed by Matthews and Tindale, is a Wiradjuri exonym for *Mogullumbidj* and/or *Pallanganmiddang* groups, but that the label of the *Mogullumbidj* for this specific region should remain despite most likely representing a 'collective group exonym based on descriptive characteristics'.

According to Durrant (2020, p. 26–27), it is reasonable to assume the *Mogullumbidj* spoke *Dhudhuroa* or at least some form of *Dhudhuroa*, as Assistant Protector William Thomas recorded six words spoken by the *Mogullumbidj*, which were later analysed by Stephen Morey who deduced they were of a *Dhudhuroa* dialect.

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## Moiety affiliation

A further level of social organisation was moiety affiliation. Based upon ethnographic information collected by Howitt (1904), it is understood that the moiety of the *Mogullumbidj* was *Bunjil*. This suggests that *Mogullumbidj* could have intermarried with their immediate neighbours including people from the *Daung wurrung* language area (Durrant 2020, p. 23).

Membership to a named group is variably defined by a localised matrilineal or patrilineal descent group, with female members of the group partnering with men outside of their own group (exogamous) and across moiety lines. These female members would, however, maintain an identity of belonging to their father's group and the men that they partnered with had to adhere to certain duties such as providing food to their father-in-law. Social engagement could also be influenced by specific and appropriate conduct between family members. For example, partnered men had avoidance behaviours that they had to adhere to in the presence of their mother-in-law, and there were other speech or special duties which were expected in family relationships (Atkinson & Berryman 1983).

Dual classification systems have provided a source for many moiety names, with opposing physical characteristics of totemic animals or human beings considered to form a basis of classification and related groups (Koch, Hercus, & Kelly 2018, p. 170). Bird names are emblematic of moieties in many parts of Australia; including the Eaglehawk and crow of the Eastern Kulin and Alpine areas, and the Corella and black cockatoo in south-western Victoria (Koch, Hercus, & Kelly 2018, p. 170). Meteorological contrasts have also been noted as a basis for dual classification systems, such as the hot west or north wind and the opposing cold east or south wind and floodwater or lightning (Koch, Hercus, & Kelly 2018, p. 171).

## Religion

Knowledge of Aboriginal religion was recorded and maintained through a highly sophisticated visual and oral tradition which ensured the maintenance of social structures through generations. Such knowledge was not always readily shared with non-Aboriginal social observers and as such there are limited written versions of Aboriginal religious traditions from early non-Aboriginal settlers, explorers or government employees in existence within Victoria. Ceremonies, or versions thereof, were occasionally performed to entertain non-Aboriginal people, however the meanings behind these performances were never fully explained (Robinson 1840). Private ceremonies, such as age initiations, important places and many other significant parts of Indigenous culture were actively kept secret (Presland 1994).

Brumm (2010, p. 188) speaks of one significant piece of traditional knowledge that exists across multiple Aboriginal groups: "the sky was a dome propped up by poles resting somewhere in the mountains in the north-east of Victoria". At the time of pastoral expansion into the north east of what is now known as Victoria, the message was passed between the Aboriginal groups that these poles were becoming rotten. If the poles fell the sky would also fall in and the clouds would break and all would drown (Brumm 2010, p. 188). This 'falling sky' message appears to have originated from the headwaters of the Ovens River, however the deep antiquity of this belief has been called into question by Hiscock (2013), who suggests that it may indicate an incorporation of Christian motifs, such as the deluge, into Traditional Owner cosmology. Brumm (2017), however, supports the antiquity of the belief, thus countering Hiscock's claims of Christian imagery.

## Economy and resource utilisation

Certain individuals within the Aboriginal groups had assigned responsibilities for the management of natural resources. Anthropogenic manipulation of the environment was observed by the first non-Aboriginal people within northern Victoria. For example, fire regimes which cleared tracks through reed beds aided hunting practices and also dissuaded settlers from entering Aboriginal territory (Atkinson & Berryman 1983). Hooped nets made from fibres were used to catch crayfish, yabbies and other fish, while cross-line nets were strung

low above the water for catching ducks, or below the water to catch schools of fish. Line nets were also used to catch emus and kangaroos, with a strategically placed group of people driving the animals toward the nets. Reed spears with hafted bone, carved barbs, stone pieces or hardened wooden points set into the head were used for catching larger marsupials. Oven mounds, an underground cooking pit, were then constructed to bake the game or large volumes of vegetables (Atkinson & Berryman 1983).

Occurrences of archaeological material connect the Mount Hotham, Dinner Plain and Horse Hair Plain ridge system from Cobungra Hill in the east to Mount Feathertop in the west, which would have provided suitable conditions for a walking route that would also provide access to the Alps, Bogong High Plains and Mount Buffalo (Shawcross, Hughes, & Mullett 1999). Significantly, the granite and gneiss tors, jointed basalt outcrops and basalt block streams of the southern Bogong High Plains also provide the right habitat conditions for the Bogong moth *Agrotis infusa*. These moths migrate to the south-eastern Alps during summer for aestivation in dark dry localities such as crevices in rock outcrops, and under boulders and rocks on scree slopes. In contrast, areas of the open plains above the tree line would not have provided such suitable conditions for aestivation (Hughes & Clarkson 2002).

The *Mogullumbidj*, *Yaitmathang*, *Daung wurrung*, *Yuin*, *Monero* (Ngarigo), *Pallanganmiddang* and other groups from the Baw Baw Plateau in Victoria (and Brindabella Ranges in New South Wales) each held a Bogong moth harvesting area over which they had sovereignty (Payton 1849, Tindale 1974). The *Mogullumbidj* had access to Bogong moths at Mount Howitt and the Howitt Plains (Wesson 2000). The routes taken were along the valleys and ridges in the area. As Flood (1973) noted:

*There is strong ethnographic evidence that in the Victorian High Plains the route from Beechworth to Omeo via the Bogong High Plains was a traditional Aboriginal route (Carr 1962) and also the route taken by the present Omeo Highway to Bruthen and south Gippsland (McMillan 1969).*

Flood (1980) argued that the main reason that these groups travelled to the mountains was for harvesting seasonally available Bogong moths, which began in October and continued to March. The moths were collected on bark sheets, nets and skins after which they were carefully cooked as to not scorch the bodies. After cooking, the moths were winnowed and eaten or ground into a paste to make smoked cakes which would preserve the food for carrying in coolamons back to their groups (Flood 1980, p. 67). Flood's (1980) analysis of historical data concluded that moth harvesting was primarily a male activity, however Kamminga (1992) proposed that women and children harvested moths in lower altitudes.

The Bogong High Plains were important to neighbouring Aboriginal groups for the harvest of Bogong moths; however Shawcross et al. (1999) argues that other important activity also took place, which is evident by the presence and types of artefactual material that they identified in the area that could not be attributed to moth exploitation. Aboriginal peoples in the region were also likely to have been taking advantage of other available alpine resources such as *Tasmannia* (Drimys) (berries), *xerophila* (alpine pepper) and various fauna.

Other important social activities also took place during the Bogong moth harvesting season, including ceremonial meetings during which the local groups would participate in marriage arrangements, trade, political affairs and entertainment (Bennet 1834). Howitt (1904) described numerous groups travelling to attend these occasions. Aboriginal groups also travelled to the alpine region to meet with people of distinction who may have held a more permanent presence in the region.

### 7.3.2 Historical accounts of Aboriginal people

The rapid spread of non-Aboriginal colonisation throughout Victoria altered Victorian Aboriginal societies. The increased presence of settlers resulted in dispossession of Aboriginal people from their traditional lands and diminished their access to resources. These factors combined with population decline from introduced diseases and conflict, transformed Aboriginal society.

In 1839, an Aboriginal Protectorate Scheme was established in Victoria. The Protectorates provided religious instruction, rations, homes and medical care to Aboriginal peoples whilst simultaneously allowing them to record population information (Broome 2005). Official inquiries into the welfare of Aboriginal peoples were held in 1849 and again in 1858. Although informants at the inquiries remarked on the rapid fall in the Aboriginal population, it was a number of years before any action was taken. The 1858 inquiry led to the formation of the Aboriginal Protection Board in 1860, which encouraged Aboriginal peoples to move onto reserves (Edwards 1988). In 1869, the Aborigines Act was passed to give the Governor of Victoria power to dictate where Aboriginal peoples could reside, what activities they could undertake on and off reserves and also provided the Governor with the authority to take charge of Aboriginal children (Edwards 1988).

William Thomas, Assistant Protector of the Aborigines, obtained two early Aboriginal drawings which he described as the shape of stone houses of *Aboriginal druids* who reside in the Australian Alps. He elaborated:

*There are in the Australian Alps a race of Blacks who live in stone houses made by themselves (not caves) and that some of these Blacks never to out to seek their food but eat herbs and what Blacks give them, that these Blacks are very like our Sunday, that they teach Omeo, Devils River, Broken River and other Blacks Dances and Singing (Brumm 2010, p. 190).*

Whilst Thomas refers to these people as druids, anthropologically they were referred to as Aboriginal men of high degree who were connected with the alpine mountains and were often visited by neighbouring groups (Elkin 1977).

Between the years of 1843-1844, a large ceremonial gathering with Kulin peoples was attended by assistant protector of Aborigines in Melbourne, William Thomas, who recorded the presence of the *Mogullumbidj* (Durrant 2020, p. 17). The gathering, which ran for six days, was comprised of 800 people from seven groups. During this gathering a *gaiggip* was performed by the *Mogullumbidj* and the *Daung wurrung* (Durrant 2020, p. 17). This performance may have been sung in one of the *Yuin* languages, which include *Ngarigu*—a language spoken around the Snowy Mountains, Monaro and Omeo (Durrant 2020, p. 28).

The Aboriginal population in the north-east of Victoria declined dramatically during the 1840s and 1850s. While there were attacks on the non-Aboriginal settlers by Aboriginal peoples, including the killing of 8 shepherds working for pastoralists William and George Faithfull in April 1838 (Durrant 2020, p. 30-31), there were also reprisal killings and other attacks that were initiated by the settlers, including George Faithfull and Peter Snodgrass' massacre of Aboriginal peoples attending a ceremonial gathering near Wangaratta (Barwick 1984).

## 7.4 Land use history of the Activity Area

### 7.4.1 Historical Land Use

In 1835, the explorer Thomas Mitchell passed through the Mansfield area and named Mount Buller after a man who worked for the British Colonial Office. Cattle mustering in the high country began in the 19th century and has influenced the development of the existing network of trails and other developments throughout the Victorian Alps. By the 1860s, European pastoralists were droving their cattle to the high plains for the summer. One pastoral family, the Klingsporns, have been credited with developing the roadway from Mansfield to Mount Buller.

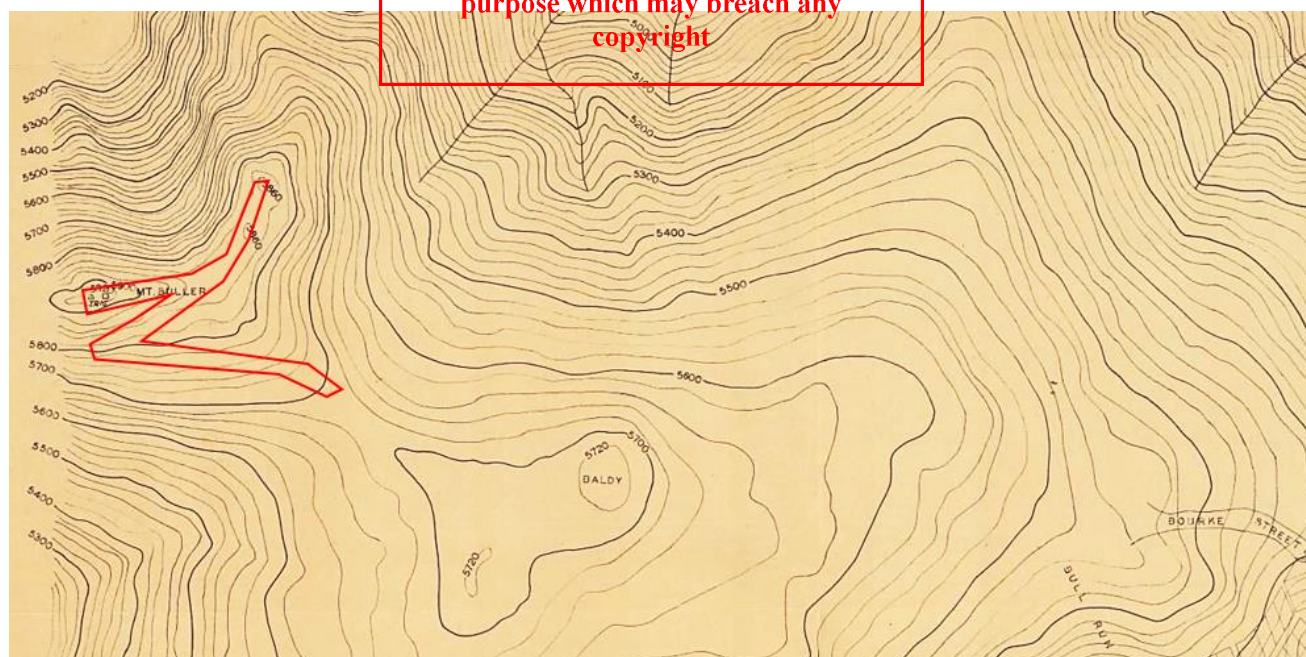
The development of Mount Buller as a tourist resort has its origins in the 1920s, when a company with five shareholders was formed with the intention of backing the building of a chalet at Mount Buller. The Horse Hill Chalet, which was completed in 1929, was reached by a bridle track 13 kilometres in length that the present road closely follows. The access track to the chalet was cut and widened by teams of workers during the Great Depression, from 1929 to 1938, and became a vehicle track in 1939 (Darby 2008, pp. 27). Logging and increasing tourism activity from the early 20th century also had an impact on the gradual development



of the Mount Buller Alpine Resort (Schlitz 2008). The first ski-lift went into service in 1949 and the village post office opened in 1958 (Mt Buller 2018).

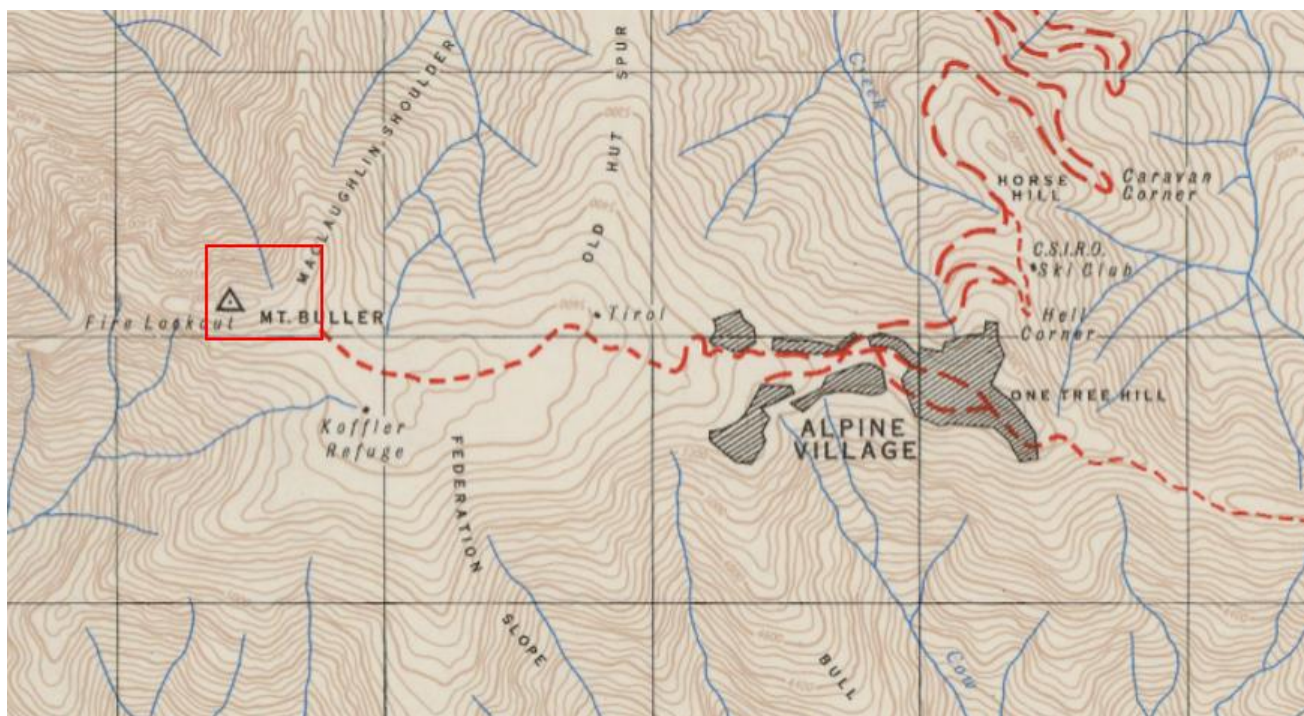
The 1950 map of Mount Buller Recreation Reserve shows the presence of a structure on the summit of Mount Buller, east of the trig point, but there appears to be no other tracks or structures in the Activity Area. The map does, however, show the presence of ski runs and the subdivision of land for the Mount Buller Alpine Village in the east (Figure 1). The 1967 Mount Buller Area map by the Forest Commission Victoria indicates that there are roads and that the Mount Buller Alpine Village to the east is developed. Within the Activity Area, the only structure that appears to be present at this time is the fire lookout (see Figure 2). The 1975 revised map of the Mount Buller Area shows that Mount Buller Alpine Village has further developed and that within the Activity Area trails now extend over the summit of Mount Buller from Summit Road past the fire tower, and with another trail extending north-east along MacLachlin Shoulder (see Figure 3). The 1986 map of the region shows that Mt Buller Alpine Resort and Mt Stirling Alpine Park have been divided and exist within the parish of Changue East (Figure 4).

The Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Alpine Resort are currently used for areas of winter and summer recreational activities. Popular winter activities include downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding and snowshoe trekking. Popular summer activities include bushwalking, camping, mountain biking, horse riding and four wheel driving. The main impacts of the current land use within the Activity Area relate to these recreational activities, and to the operation of emergency services during the bushfire season. There are two structures, the Mount Buller Firetower and Grimus Chairlift Top, within the Activity Area, as well as a number of access tracks that lead to the summit of Mt Buller and McLaughlin's Shoulder. These trails include the Summit Ridge Trail, Fannys Finish Trail, Summit Skiers Right Trail, Fast One Trail, SCV Hut Trail, and Access to Summit Chair Lift Trail, as well as sections of Ridge Run and Slalom Gully. The Summit Chairlift Top is adjacent to the Activity Area (see Figure 5). The Activity Area is easily and frequently accessed by the public for a recreation process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

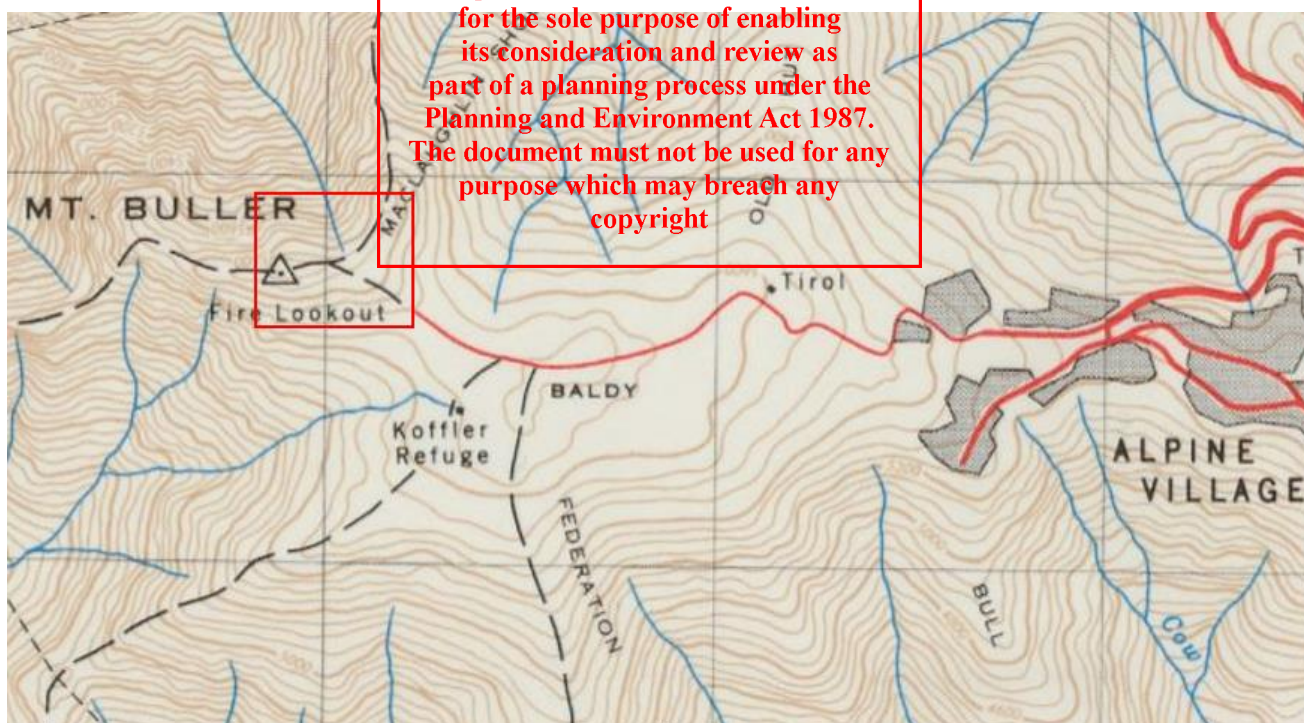


**Figure 1** Detail from map of Mount Buller Recreation Reserve, parish of Changue, approximate location of Activity Area in red (Department of Lands and Survey 1950)





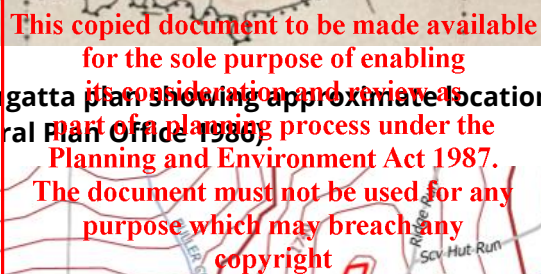
**Figure 2** Detail from Mount Buller Area Forest Commission Map, approximate location of Activity Area in red (Division of Forest Management, 1967)



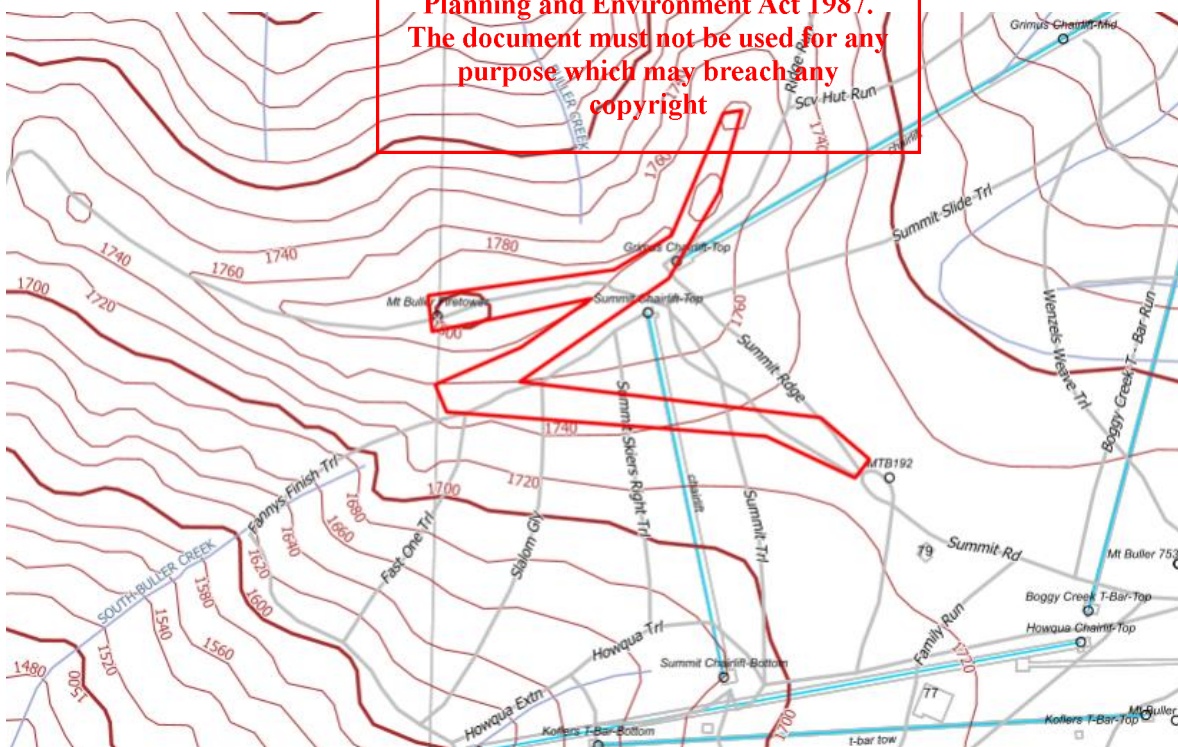
**Figure 3** Detail from revised Mount Buller Area Forest Commission Map, approximate location of Activity Area in red (Division of Forest Management 1975)

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**adjacent to the Activity Area (red)**

### 7.4.2 Aerial Photography

Historic aerial photography of the Activity Area captured between 1945 and 2019 demonstrate that the region has undergone a variety of development.

The aerial photograph from 1945 shows very little vegetation and no obvious development within the Activity Area or near the present day Mount Buller Alpine Village, with the white marked road signalling the beginnings of Mount Buller Road (Figure 6), which had been cut during the 1920s (see Section 7.4.1). By 1968 there is a double track up from the current day Summit Road to a nearby clearing, a track up to the summit of Mount Buller and a structure—most likely the Mount Buller Firetower—at the north-western extent of the Activity Area (Figure 7). By 1979 the Summit Road carpark area has been cleared and shaped adjacent to the southern extent of the Activity Area, very little else in the Activity Area has changed since 1968 (Figure 8). The 2009 aerial photograph shows that the Summit Chairlift and Grimus Chairlift had been constructed by this time, and several informal trails (Access to Summit Chair Lift top trail, Summit Trail and Summit Ridge trail) with some sections of each occurring within the Activity Area, had been developed. Additionally, the Summit Road carpark had been sealed just outside of the Activity Area and fencing along Summit Road has been erected (Figure 9). There is some widening of Summit Ridge Trail evident in the 2013 and 2019 aerials, but the remainder of the Activity Area shows very little change otherwise (Figure 10 and Figure 11).

In addition to the inspection of aerial photography, photographs available via a Google images search that were taken within the Activity Area from 2014 to 2019 were inspected. These photos show that the trail up the summit is cut into the rocky outcrop up to the Mount Buller Firetower, with the associated steps and path carefully fashioned with flat stones and cement. In contrast, these images show that other trails within this area appear to be more informal in structure. The images also show the presence of a small cairn along Summit Trail and to the east of the firetower. It is evident that the construction of the Top Grimus Chairlift and Top Summit Chairlift, as well as the pylons for the Summit Chairlift, would have required extensive rock and earth disturbance in those areas (Google Maps 2021).

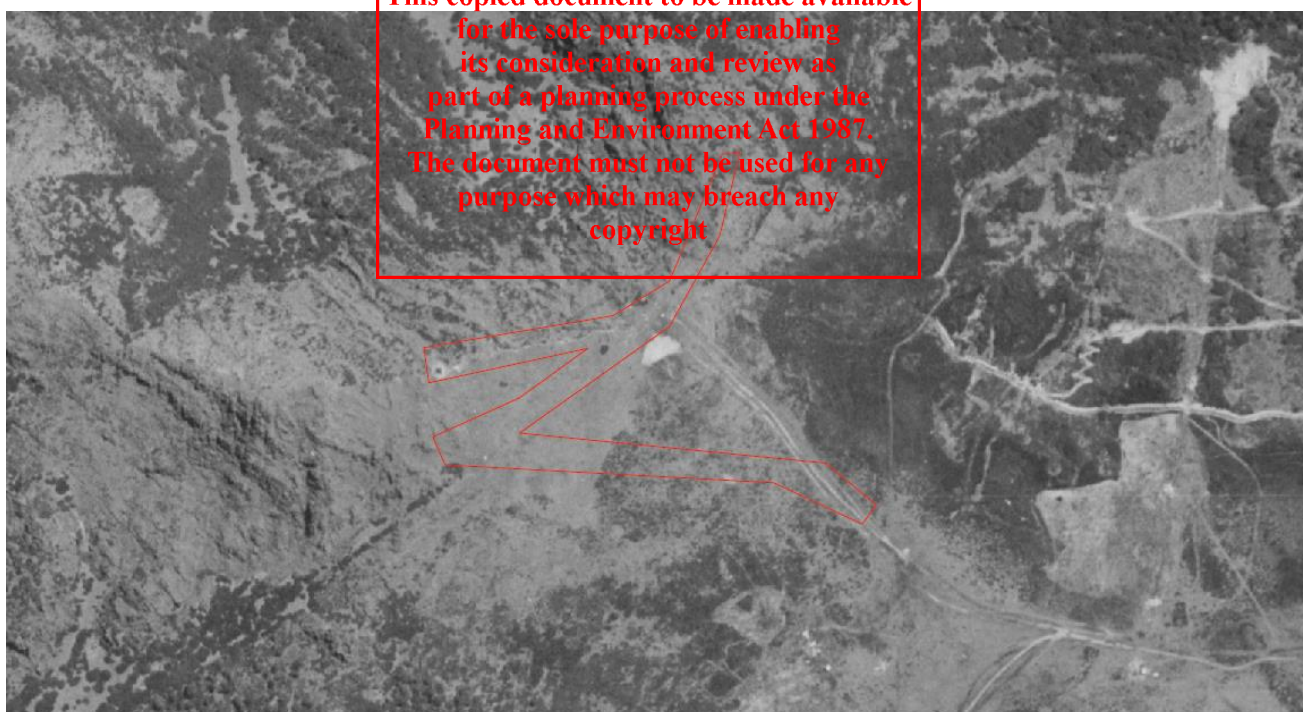
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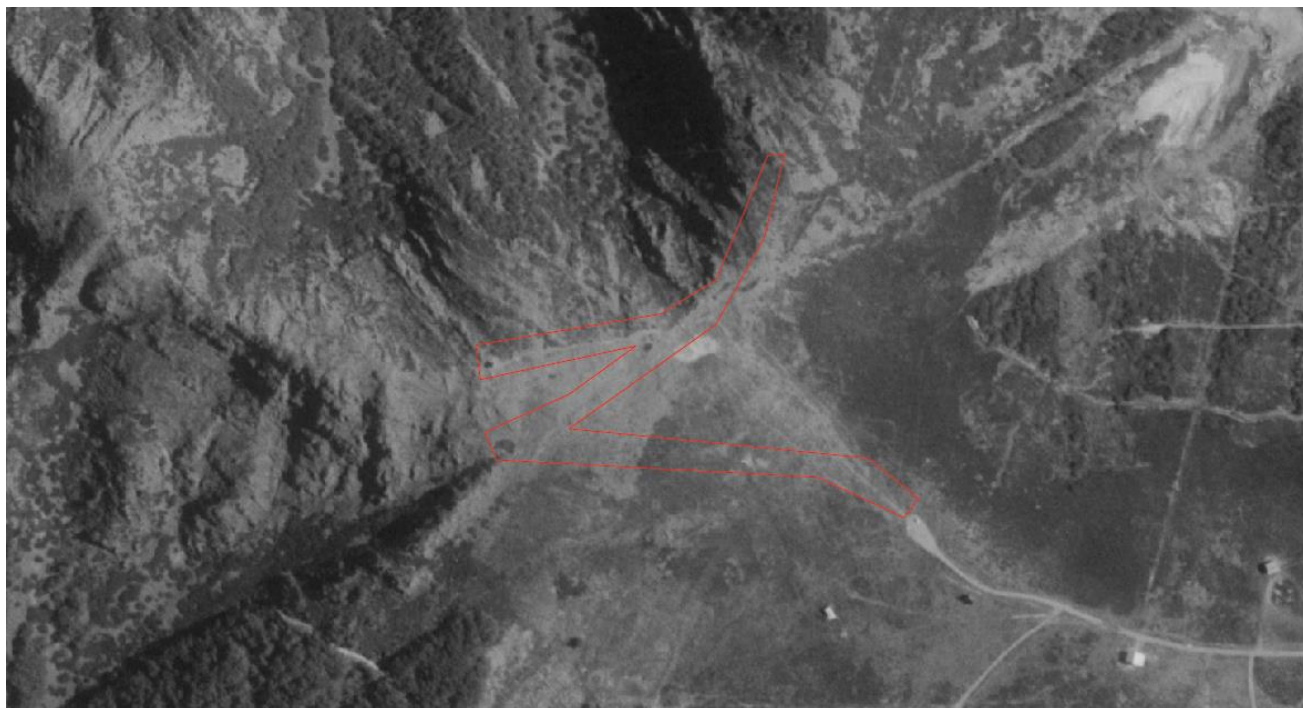
**Figure 6** Detail from historic aerial imagery of Mount Buller (Forests Commission of Victoria 1945) showing approximate location of Activity Area in red.



**Figure 7** Detail from 1968 aerial, showing Activity Area in red (Australia and New Zealand Land Information Council, Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying & Mapping 2021)

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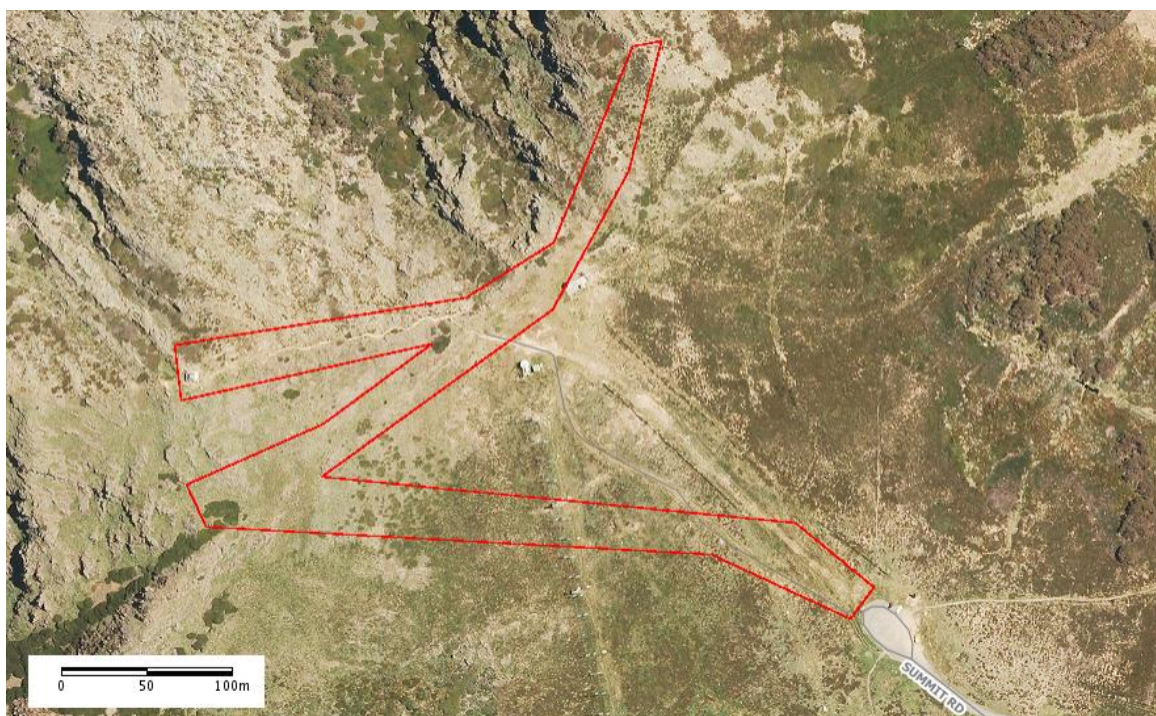
**Figure 8** Detail from 1979 aerial, showing Activity Area in red (Australia and New Zealand Land Information Council, Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying & Mapping 2021)



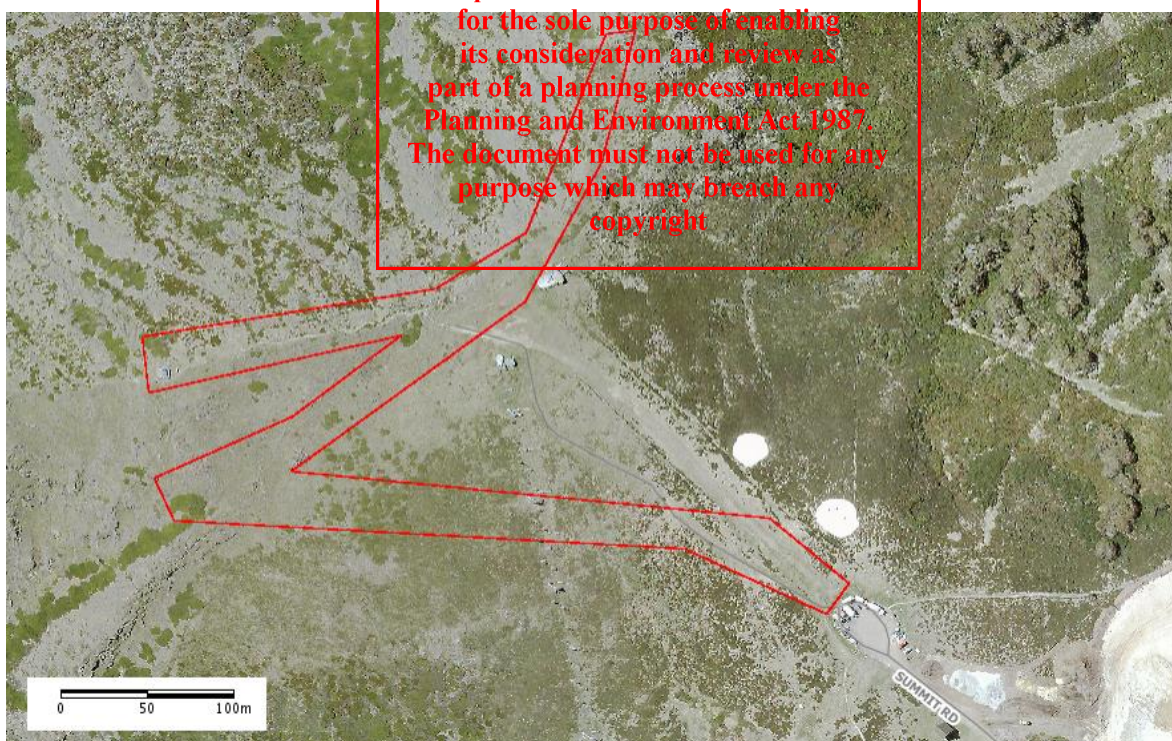
**Figure 9** Detail from aerial photograph Land Cover North East, December 2009, Activity Area highlighted in red (Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions 2021)

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**Figure 10** Detail from aerial photograph North East Victoria November 2013, Activity Area highlighted in red (Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions 2021)



**Figure 11** North East, October 2019, Activity Area highlighted in red (Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions 2021)

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## 7.4.3 DBYD Results

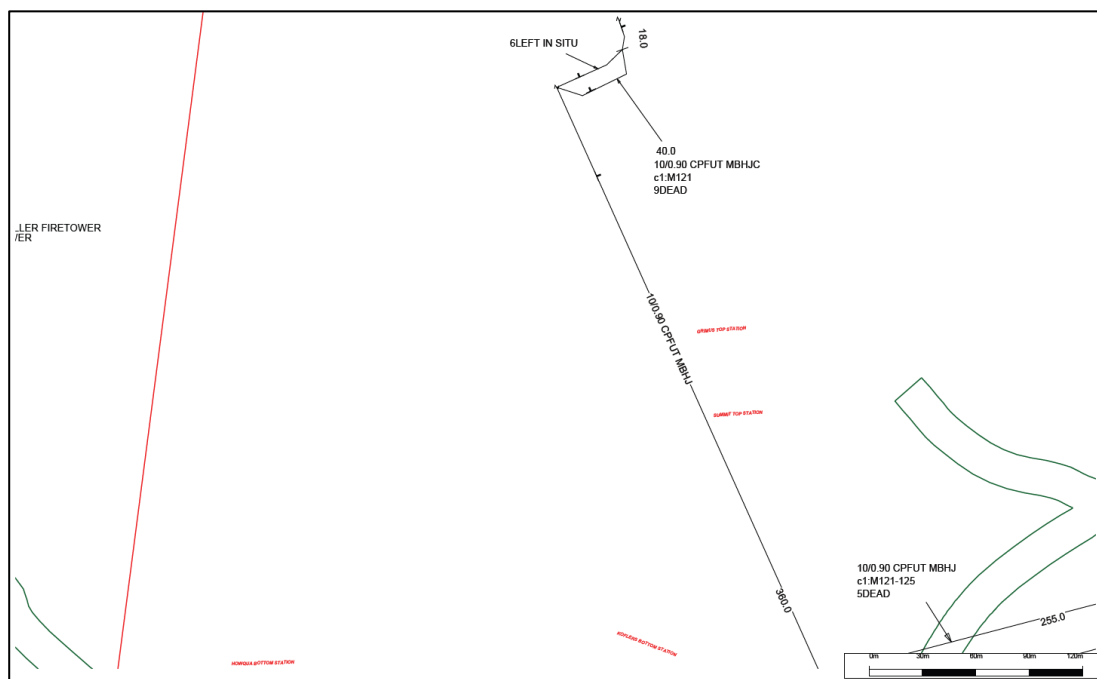
A dial before you dig (DBYD) enquiry was conducted on 19 of October 2021. Subsurface communications assets were identified within and adjacent to the Activity Area. These results are shown in Table 6.

The presence of the telecommunications assets indicate high levels of disturbance during the recent past, particularly to the west of the Summit and Grimus top stations, which are located within the Activity Area, and as a result of trenching related to the installation of underground assets. While there are no AusNet assets present, there is likely to be some electricity infrastructure up to the top chairlifts.

**Table 6 DBYD Results**

Service	Authority	Response
Communications	Telstra VICTAS	Subsurface communication assets present within the Activity Area. Assets are in NNW-SSE orientation and are present between Summit and Grimus top stations and Mount Buller Firetower (see Figure 12)..
Communications	Optus and/or Ucomm	No assets present within the Activity Area. Underground asset present adjacent to Activity Area at Summit Road car park.
Gas & Petroleum	Indigo Shire Council – Buller Gas	No assets
Electricity	AusNet	No assets
Council	Mount Buller Alpine Resort (UNINC)	No assets

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**Figure 12 Detail from cable plan supplied by Telstra in DBYD search**



## 7.5 Search of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

The VAHR contains information on all recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage within Victoria. It is accessed via the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS), a web based tool with restricted access.

A search of the VAHR was undertaken by Lucy Amorosi, Biosis Pty Ltd, on 18 October 2021. An updated search was undertaken by Daniel Carpenter, Biosis Pty Ltd on 7 September 2022.

## 7.6 Aboriginal places in the geographic region

A list of all Aboriginal places within the geographic region has been tabulated and provided in Appendix 5.

A search of the VAHR record revealed that 14 Aboriginal places have been previously identified and registered within the geographic region (Table 7).

**Table 7 Previously recorded Aboriginal places within the geographic region**

Aboriginal Place Type	Total number of components	Total % of Aboriginal components
Low Density Artefact Distribution	2	14%
Artefact Scatter	10	72%
Object collections	2	14%
Total Registered Places	14	100%

The most common Aboriginal place component type are stone artefact scatters (n=10, 72%), followed by Low Density Artefact Distributions (LDAD) (n=2, 14%), and object collections (n=2, 14%). The object collections include one ground edge axe (VAHR 8123-0062) and the artefacts collected from an LDAD (VAHR 8123-0053), which are currently held at Mount Stirling - Resort Management with permission from TLaWC. All (n=14, 100%) Aboriginal archaeological place types within the geographic region are artefact distributions (artefact scatters and LDADs). These places are predominantly located within the Mount Stirling saddle and contain a variety of raw stone materials and artefacts at all stages of reduction.

Two knapping events are present: one containing cores and debitage and another containing microliths and debitage. These artefacts are recorded as containing quartz and acid volcanic rock material. Edge ground and flaked axes, grinding stones, anvil and hammerstones are also present within these places, comprised of a variety of materials, including greenstone, feldspar, diorite, granite, sedimentary stone (possibly sandstone), sandstone, basalt and other materials (see summary below and Table 8).

### **Aboriginal places within 200 metres of the Activity Area**

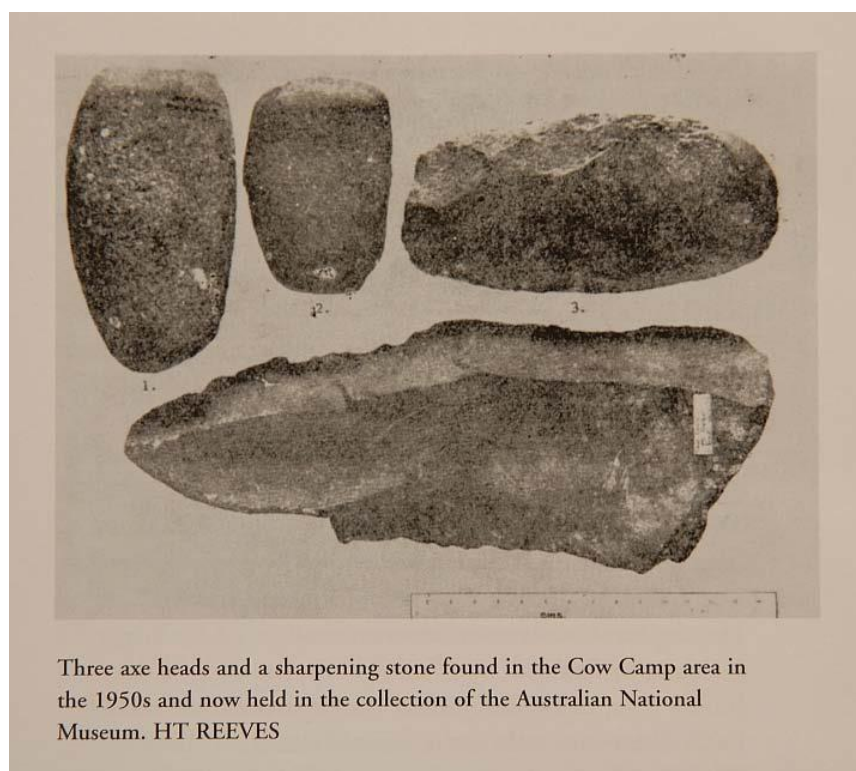
No Aboriginal places have been identified within, or within 200 metres of the current Activity Area (see Map 2).

### **Aboriginal places of particular relevance to the Activity Area within the geographic region**

There is one Aboriginal place recorded at Mount Buller, which is discussed below. The remaining Aboriginal places are all recorded at Mount Sterling between 4.2 and 6.6 kilometres east of the Activity Area, these places are summarised in Table 8.

**VAHR 8123-0003 (Mount Buller Cow Camp)** is located approximately 1.5 kilometres east of the Activity Area and consists of three stone axes and a grinding stone located in a 'suitable' campsite location. This place was

registered based on an article authored by Paul Fisch and published in *The Victorian Naturalist* in 1953. The article details Fisch's trip to Mount Buller which occurred for three days in the middle of January, 1952. The artefacts recorded in the article include one feldspar porphyry broken ground edge axe head, one diorite ground edge axe head, one chialstolite slate axe head, which had been shaped by flaking, and one hard sedimentary *sharpening stone* containing a "well-worn grinding groove" (Fisch 1953). One of the axe heads was recorded as being hammer dressed and the axe comprised of diorite was recorded as "resembling rock from the Mount William aboriginal quarry" (Fisch 1953). The artefacts were located upon the ground surface and no additional archaeological investigation has been undertaken in order to determine the depth or extent of the place. According to Marshall et al (1999), any additional information that could be recovered from this Aboriginal place has most likely been destroyed by building construction during the development of Mount Buller Alpine Village. The artefacts recorded in 1952 are now held in the collection of the Australian National Museum.



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**Figure 13 Artefacts from VAHR 8123-0003 Australian National Museum Collection (Darby 2008)**

**Table 8 Aboriginal places within the geographic region**

VAHR Place	Component Number and Type	Landform and Land Use	Place Details	Proximity to Activity Area
8123-0003 Mount Buller Cow Camp	1 - Artefact Scatter (surface)	Mt. Buller summit GMU 1.4.4	Three stone axes and a grinding stone located where Mount Buller Alpine Village is now constructed (see above for detailed summary).	1.5 km east
8123-0014 Mt Stirling 1	1 - Artefact Scatter (surface)	Base of a steep slope GMU 1.4.4	A hammerstone manufactured from metamorphosed sandstone (quartzite). The artefact is located at the peak of Mount Stirling and was recorded by Victorian	6.09 km east-north-east

VAHR Place	Component Number and Type	Landform and Land Use	Place Details	Proximity to Activity Area
			Archaeological Survey (VAS) staff in 1982. Little additional information is available on the place regarding its condition, as no place inspections have occurred since its original recording.	
8123-0015 Mt Stirling 2	1 - Artefact Scatter (surface)	Top of ridge GMU 1.4.4	An unused flake manufactured from acidic volcanic material, likely dacite. The artefact is located at the peak of Mount Stirling. As with VAHR 8123-0014, it was recorded by VAS in 1982 with minimal information and as no place inspections have occurred since its original recording there is no information on its condition.	6 km east-north-east
8123-0016 Mt Stirling 3	1 - Artefact Scatter (surface)	Top of ridge GMU 1.4.4	An unutilised flaked pebble found near the summit of Mount Sterling. As with VAHR 8123-0014, it was recorded by VAS in 1982 with minimal information and as no place inspections have occurred since its original recording there is no information on its condition.	5.7 km east-north-east
8123-0019 Mt Stirling 4	1 - Artefact Scatter (surface)	Saddle between two high points GMU 1.4.4	Surface artefact scatter 90x5 metres in size of 42 stone artefacts of chert, silcrete, quartz and basalt, including five microliths and a ground fragment. It is located on the saddle between two summits of Mount Stirling (Stanley Bowl), approximately 50 metres from VAHR 8123-0021. Dark grey to reddish brown thin soils over granite were noted. The area was noted to be eroded and damaged by vehicular access tracks and cattle trampling. The movement of artefacts was also attributed to water slope wash action and vehicles. The place was recorded by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) staff in 1994. It was assessed by Muhlen-Schulte et al (1995) as being of high scientific significance and further archaeological investigation, including subsurface testing was recommended prior to any proposed development in the location.	6.6 km east
8123-0020 Mt Stirling 2	1 - Artefact Scatter (surface)	Ridge top GMU 1.4.4	Surface artefact scatter of 30x5 metres comprised of five artefacts manufactured of an acidic volcanic material (n=4) and quartz (n=1) on granitic soil. The four acidic volcanic artefacts (one core and three flakes) were considered to be from the same knapping event. The artefact scatter is located on a mountain ridge top in a disturbed context with the artefact scatter likely to have been graded over for the creating of a track/road. The place was recorded by Muhlen-Schulte et al (1995) and assessed as being of	6.03 km east

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VAHR Place	Component Number and Type	Landform and Land Use	Place Details	Proximity to Activity Area
			moderate scientific significance, further archaeological investigation, including subsurface testing was recommended prior to any proposed development or track upgrade in the location.	
8123-0021 Mt Stirling 3	1 - Artefact Scatter (surface)	Mt. Stirling saddle GMU 1.4.4	Surface artefact scatter 1x4 metres in size of 12 stone artefacts of fine grained acid volcanic stone, including a backed microlith, and noted to possibly be a knapping event. Located on granitic soils in an eroded sheet wash exposure on the western side of the saddle between two summits of Mount Stirling (Stanley Bowl), approximately 50 metres from VAHR 8123-0019. The area was noted to be eroded and damaged by cattle trampling. VAHR 8123-0021 was assessed by Muhlen-Schulte et al (1995) as being of high scientific significance and further archaeological investigation, including subsurface testing was recommended prior to any proposed development in the location.	6.16 km east
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8123-0022 Mt Stirling 5	1 - Artefact Scatter (surface)	Top of ridge GMU 1.4.4	A surface scatter of seven artefacts of chert, quartz and silcrete, including a silcrete microlith. Recorded in 4WD wheel ruts on a disturbed vehicle track. VAHR 8123-0022 was assessed by Muhlen-Schulte et al (1995) as being of high scientific significance and further archaeological investigation, including subsurface testing, was recommended prior to any proposed development in the location.	6.3 km east
8123-0023 Mt Stirling 6	1 - Artefact Scatter (eroding out of cut section)	On a ridge, large flat area with granite boulders GMU 1.4.4	Three artefacts, two (quartz and acidic volcanic stone flakes) recorded on the break of slope eroding out of section, and one amorphous lump of acidic volcanic stone 60 metres lower down on a track. Located at the 'cricket pitch' area of Mount Stirling. Although VAHR 8123-0023 was assessed by Muhlen-Schulte et al (1995) as being of low scientific significance, further archaeological investigation, including subsurface testing, was recommended prior to any proposed development in the location.	6.06 km north-east
8123-0024 Mt Stirling 7	1 - Artefact Scatter (surface and eroding from exposure)	Ridge saddle GMU 1.1.1	Low density surface scatter on 2x2 metre oarea comprised of one amorphous silcrete piece, two quartz flakes, and a recently broken in two greenstone axe, located 30 metres east of Razorback/Purcells Hut Complex. VAHR 8123-0024 was assessed by Muhlen-Schulte et al (1995) as being of moderate scientific significance, however the ground stone axe was considered a rare example of	5.25 km north-north-east

VAHR Place	Component Number and Type	Landform and Land Use	Place Details	Proximity to Activity Area
<p><b>This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright</b></p>			<p>this artefact type and additional artefacts were likely to be found in the area. Therefore, further archaeological investigation, including subsurface testing was recommended prior to any proposed development in the location. As the axe was considered to be highly threatened in this location it was collected and stored at AAV with permission of the cultural officer from Camp Jungai, until it could be stored appropriately by Camp Jungai.</p>	
8123-0053 Stirling Black Track artefacts	1 and 2 - LDAD (surface) 3 - Object Collection	Mid slope west of the 'cricket pitch' GMU 1.4.4	Sandstone hammerstone and anvil recorded on Stirling Black Track and collected. The artefacts were recorded as an opportunistic find by a Gaye Sutherland, Heritage Advisor in 2015 and is stored in a display cabinet at Mount Stirling - Resort Management with permission from TLaWC.	5.96 km north-east
8123-0055 Bluff Spur Hammer Stone	1 - Low Density Artefact Distribution (surface)	Ridgeline GMU 1.4.4	Basalt hammerstone located on ridgeline 1.4 kilometres west of Mount Stirling summit. The artefact was recorded as an opportunistic find by a Gaye Sutherland, Heritage Advisor in 2015 and not collected.	5 km east-north-east
8123-0062 Pannican Creek Ground-Edge Axe	2 - Low Density Artefact Distribution (surface)	Not provided GMU 1.4.4	Greenstone ground edge axe. The artefact was recorded as an opportunistic find by a Gaye Sutherland, Heritage Advisor in 2020 and is stored in a display cabinet at Mount Stirling - Resort Management with permission from TLaWC.	4.2 km north-north-east

### 7.6.1 Aboriginal Historical References

There are no Aboriginal Historical References in the geographic region.

## 7.7 Previous work in the geographic region

The previous Aboriginal archaeological assessments which have occurred within the geographic region (n=25), are associated with specific infrastructure and walking/bike trails, as well as broad regional studies (Table 9). Eleven CHMPs (five Complex and six Standard) have been prepared within the geographic region, with none of these CHMPs recording any new Aboriginal places. A 340 square metres section of one CHMP has a very small section that overlaps a central eastern section current Activity Area (Murphy & Owen 2010). The reports reviewed below were associated with archaeological investigations which took place within the same landforms and geomorphological units which underlie the Activity Area and are deemed most pertinent for the information on the archaeological potential and subsurface nature of deposits likely to be encountered in the Activity Area.

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**Table 9 Summary of archaeological assessment types within the geographic region**

Report type	Number	Percentage
CHMP Complex Assessment	5	21.7%
CHMP Standard Assessment	8	26.1%
Desktop or Paper or Due Diligence or Other	4	17.4%
Heritage Management	1	4.3%
Site Specific Investigation (not excavation)	1	4.3%
Survey	5	21.7%
Test Excavation and Survey	1	4.3%
Total	25	100.0%

## Regional studies

**Muhlen-Schulte et al** (1995) prepared an Environment Effects Statement for Mount Stirling, approximately 4.1 kilometres east of the current Activity Area. They undertook a ground survey that resulted in the identification of six new Aboriginal archaeological places, five of which are within the present geographic region (VAHR 8123-0019, VAHR 8123-0020, VAHR 8123-0021, VAHR 8123-0022 and VAHR 8123-0024). The material was located within the area of the study. The assemblages contained non-local raw materials and included edge-ground axes, borers and microliths. Muhlen-Schulte et al assessed that areas of flat ground on ridge lines and in hill saddles were sensitive to Aboriginal archaeological material as Aboriginal movement patterns through rugged terrain were likely to have followed ridge lines and saddles. Muhlen-Schulte et al (1995) noted that no systematic or comprehensive archaeological survey of the area had been conducted prior to this statement. Among other landforms, ridge tops, saddles and well drained, level to gently sloping ground were surveyed and two LDAD Aboriginal places VAHR 8123-0020 (Mount Stirling 2) and VAHR 8123-0023 (Mount Stirling 6) were located in Mount Stirling on flat ground along ridge lines with snow gum woodland. Both places were located in areas of minimal disturbance and high visibility. VAHR 8123-0020 (Mount Stirling 2) consists of five stone artefacts identified in a surface context on a crest of a ridge while VAHR 8123-0023 (Mount Stirling 6) consists of a quartz artefact and an acid volcanic rock flake identified in an area of erosion within 100 metres of a creek line. It was suggested that very poor ground surface visibility and ground surface disturbance many account for why no other artefacts were identified.

**Marshall et al** (1999) undertook an Aboriginal Heritage Management Study for the Mount Buller Alpine Village for which they undertook a targeted sample survey and subsurface testing, approximately 1.2 kilometres east of the present Activity Area. Ground surface visibility within their study area is described as poor, although concentrations of fractured quartz in either blocks or fragments were noted. The lack of identified archaeological material was attributed to the impact of previous development, ground surface obscured by grass and scree and the incline of the area which was unsuitable for occupation and not conducive for the deposition and accumulation of archaeological material. A subsurface testing program was undertaken which uncovered a large concentration of fractured quartz, none of which was culturally modified. The soil profile contained fine grained sandy clay with a high humic content and a large quantity of fractured quartz. The overall potential for Aboriginal archaeological material within their study area was considered to be low due to previous development causing ground disturbance and an undesirable location of Aboriginal use or occupation. No Aboriginal cultural heritage material was identified during this assessment.

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**Murphy** (2001) undertook a cultural heritage assessment on land located immediately west of the Mount Buller village settlement on the mountain summit, approximately 770 metres east of the present Activity Area. The area comprises 3000 square metres of generally steep sloping land that has been subject to past developments relating to the ski resort. A ground surface survey was undertaken across the study area, with coverage of around 60%. However, the effective survey coverage of the study area that was achieved was assessed as being less than five percent due to low ground visibility. No Aboriginal places were recorded during the assessment. One location showing archaeological potential was identified at the level area north of the base of Burnt Hut Ski Run, however, a ground survey was not possible due to thick vegetation cover.

## Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs)

A total of 13 CHMPs have been completed within the geographic region; six of these CHMPs ceased at the Standard Assessment for the following reasons: lack of Aboriginal cultural heritage found during the survey, lack of landforms likely to contain Aboriginal heritage and high levels of ground disturbance. No new Aboriginal places were registered as a result of the CHMPs completed.

**Schlitz** (2008) prepared standard CHMP 10467 for an alternative alignment for the proposed road link between Mount Buller and Mount Stirling, located within a majority of the proposed Corn Hill Entry to Delatite River and Woolybutt Extension tracks, 3.28 kilometres east of the present Activity Area. Schlitz's Activity Area was located within *GMU 1.4.4 Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes*. During the survey ground surface visibility was constrained by vegetation cover and was poor. Disturbance at the proposed road entry (Corn Hill Walking Track) was noted in the form of heavy machine activity. No Aboriginal cultural heritage material was identified during the survey. This was determined to be a result of the stable gradient within the Activity Area, which offered no level areas for typical short or long-term Aboriginal campsite activity within this landform.

During the Standard Assessment, Schlitz (2008) found there was a low expectation that undetected Aboriginal cultural deposits would be present within the Activity Area. In addition, no Aboriginal cultural values were identified and no Aboriginal archaeological sites were identified. As a result, no Complex Assessment was required.

**Schlitz** (2009) completed a CHMP (10595) for the Australian Women's Ski Club Redevelopment at Mount Buller including an underground carpark and a new club premises. The Activity Area comprised 11,000 square metres of land to the south-west of the Mount Buller Village centre on the south side of The Avenue, approximately 1.6 kilometres east of the present Activity Area. The entire area was surveyed during the Standard Assessment via pedestrian survey. Ground surface visibility varied from 10% in cleared and vegetated areas to upwards of 50% on the outcrop. Extensive ground disturbances had occurred across the Activity Area due to heavy mechanical grading, installation of services and utilities and a nearby timber lodge. One area of Aboriginal cultural heritage potential was recorded as an outcrop on the north-west corner of the Activity Area. One 0.5 x 0.5 metre test pit was excavated over this outcrop to test the stratigraphy in this area. Modern materials were found within compact silt and gravels at depths of 220 millimetres. Due to the lack of deep deposits in the region and the amount of high impact ground disturbances, it was concluded that Aboriginal cultural heritage material was unlikely to occur in the area. No Aboriginal cultural material was identified during the CHMP.

**Patton and Schlitz** (2009) undertook a CHMP (10871) for the Alpine Club Victoria lodge redevelopment at Mount Buller involving the demolition of the existing lodge and construction of two new buildings. The Activity Area covered 813 square metres of land to the south-west of the Mount Buller Village Centre, on the southern side of The Avenue, approximately 1.55 kilometres east of the present Activity Area. A pedestrian survey was undertaken across the Activity Area with intervals of 2 metres between participants. Surface visibility was very poor at 5% due to thick vegetation, but portions were made visible by parting the vegetation. Extensive ground disturbances had occurred across the Activity Area due to heavy mechanical grading, installation of services and utilities and the nearby Alpine Club timber lodge. Two shovel probes (50 x 50 centimetres) were

excavated to test the stratigraphy of the flat surface behind the existing building and a third was excavated at the front of the building. The soil profile consisted of dark brown clayey loams over clay and granitic rock to depths between 350–450 millimetres. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was recorded during assessment. This was concluded to be the result of unsuitable landform structure (sloped) in the Activity Area, as well as extensive land use activity within the region that have greatly affected subsurface deposits.

**Murphy and Owen** (2010) prepared standard CHMP 11467 for the construction of new ski runs, chairlifts and snowmaking facilities in the Mount Buller Alpine Resort, of which approximately 340 square metres overlaps with the central-eastern extent of the current Activity Area. Murphy and Owen's Activity Area was predominately located within *GMU 1.4.4 Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes*. During the survey, Murphy and Owen (2010) observed that more than 60% of their Activity Area had been subject to previous ground disturbance and ground surface visibility was poor due to dense vegetation. It was determined that the remainder of their Activity Area remained vegetated, however due to the steep sloping nature of the site due to its location on the summit of Mt Buller it was unlikely that any Aboriginal cultural heritage material would be present. No Aboriginal cultural heritage material was identified during the Standard Assessment, as such a Complex Assessment was not required.

**Robb and Cavanagh** (Biosis Pty Ltd 2013) completed complex CHMP 12489 for proposed mountain bike trails, with the closest being 4.69 kilometres north-west of the present Activity Area, within geomorphological units 1.4.4 Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes and 1.3.2 Enclosed landscapes of low relief. During the survey dense vegetation, deep slopes and disused logging tracks were identified. Overall, ground surface visibility in the Activity Area was extremely low. Dense bracken fern, saplings, fallen trees and vegetation such as blackberry bush made any ground surface visibility for the survey units was 1%. Areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage potential were identified along the Delatite River in two sections of flat ground and along rocky outcrops. However, these sections were deemed unlikely to contain any in situ cultural heritage materials. Whilst no Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during the Standard Assessment, these findings demonstrated the potential for unrecorded Aboriginal cultural heritage therefore, a Complex Assessment was subsequently undertaken.

The Complex Assessment involved the excavation of four 1 x 1 metre test pits, each located in areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage potential. Test Pit 1, located on a rocky terrace above the Delatite River, was excavated to a maximum depth of 500 millimetres. The sediment profile was identified as a friable loam topsoil overlying a damp silt transitioning to a silty sand. Test Pit 2, located near the northern bank of the Delatite River along a flat alluvial plain, was excavated to a maximum depth of 240 millimetres. Fine silt over a sandy deposit was identified, with large granite cobbles transitioning to boulder present throughout. Test Pit 3 was located in the centre of an old logging road, Pinnacle Track, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 400 millimetres. Introduced fill (likely from the track construction) was identified above a natural profile of silt transitioning to silty clay. Test Pit 4 was placed at the beginning of an old logging road and was excavated to a maximum depth of 200 millimetres with a similar sediment profile as Test Pit 3. No Aboriginal cultural heritage material was identified during complex testing.

**Cavanagh** (2014) prepared a standard CHMP (12992) for the Mount Stirling Micro-hydroelectricity project, requiring the installation of a new generator and infrastructure at the Mount Stirling Alpine Resort, located approximately 3.8 kilometres north-east of the current Activity Area, within GMUs *1.4.4 Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes* and *1.1.1 Summit plateaux*. A survey was conducted on foot across the entirety of their Activity Area, beginning at the public facilities at Telephone Box Junction (TBJ). Surface visibility was limited between 0-10% due to the development in this area, dense vegetation, and also due to frequent leaf litter across the remaining areas of higher ground exposure. No areas sensitive for archaeological deposits were identified during the survey. It was concluded the sloping landform and eroding deposits were not conducive to Aboriginal occupation and the accumulation of archaeological material. No Aboriginal cultural heritage

material was recording during the survey, and as no sensitive deposits were identified a Complex Assessment was not undertaken.

**Thomas** (2014) undertook a CHMP (12912) for the Mount Buller off-stream storage dam. The Activity Area abuts the present Activity Area at the Summit Road car park (south-western extent of the present Activity Area). Geotechnical testing had been previously undertaken, indicating a soil profile of sandy silt and clays overlaying hard granite, basalt and sandstone approximately 490 millimetres deep. This stratigraphy was confirmed by subsurface testing which included the excavation of two test pits and 46 shovel test probes to a maximum depth of 600 millimetres. No Aboriginal cultural heritage material was identified during the investigation. **Biosis** (2016 amendment) prepared an amendment to this CHMP with a slightly altered Activity Area, with removal of two outlying parts of the development footprint and the addition of two small areas to the original Activity Area. The changes to the Activity Area for the CHMP were considered unlikely to impact any cultural heritage and no additional fieldwork was required.

**Cavanagh and Houghton** (2015) conducted a Standard Assessment (CHMP 13391) for the proposed Fawltly Towers development on Mount Buller (now Whitehorse Village). The Activity Area is located approximately 1.1 kilometres east of the present Activity Area. The desktop assessment found that the most likely Aboriginal place type to occur within the geographic region were artefact scatters consisting of one or more stone artefacts. These were most commonly recorded on high ground overlooking alluvial valleys. Although their area of investigation was located on elevated, relatively flat to sloping ground overlooking the surrounding landscape, previous archaeological investigation (surface and subsurface) did not identify any archaeological material of Aboriginal cultural significance. No Aboriginal places or areas of potential were identified during the Standard Assessment. As it was determined that there was a low potential for subsurface Aboriginal cultural heritage material to be present within the area of investigation, a Complex Assessment was not conducted. This CHMP was amended in 2017 to include a change to the activity from a proposed hotel to 10 chalets (rather than six) and a café/apartment. The Activity Area did not change.

**Edwards and White** (2017) undertook CHMP (14798) for the proposed demolition of an existing lodge building and the construction of four chalets at the corner of The Avenue and Breathtaker Road, Mount Buller, approximately 1.3 kilometres east of the present Activity Area. A ground survey identified a number of areas of previous ground disturbance within the Activity Area including existing ski lodge buildings, driveways, drain and utility covers. Ground surface visibility was poor due to heavy vegetation and snow in those areas of low disturbance. It was determined that due to previous disturbances the likelihood of subsurface Aboriginal cultural heritage was extremely low and a Complex Assessment was not required.

**Edwards and Aitchison** (2018) conducted a CHMP (15649) for the proposed construction of cabins, carparks and pedestrian access at RMB Workshop Road, Mount Buller, approximately 1.15 kilometres east of the present Activity Area. During the Standard Assessment, ground surface visibility was identified as very poor due to the thick alpine vegetation and modified ground surfaces. No areas of archaeological potential were identified in the Activity Area during the Standard Assessment. It was determined highly unlikely for subsurface Aboriginal cultural heritage to remain in the Activity Area. This was due to past ground disturbing activities such as removal of native vegetation, the construction of the existing roads and tracks and the installation of utilities. No Aboriginal places were identified during the assessment.

**Aitchison and Fitzgerald** (2019) completed a CHMP (16352) for the proposed construction of a garage associated with the existing Mount Buller Police Station located approximately 1.86 kilometres east of the present Activity Area. A desktop assessment found potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage to be found in subsurface conditions, based on its location in the high plains ridge top and in close proximity to Alpine watercourses. A Standard Assessment was undertaken to access the Activity Area, this included a pedestrian survey which found poor ground surface visibility and some disturbances due to the construction of a residence and makeshift driveway. A Complex Assessment was undertaken comprising of the excavation of



one 1x1 metre test pit and three 50 x 50 centimetre shovel test pits. Excavations showed clayey sand overlying granodiorite rocks at a maximum depth of 250 millimetres. They also revealed modern disturbance through glass fragments and metal wire inclusions in the upper 100 millimetres. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during subsurface testing.

**McFadyen et al** (2021) completed a CHMP (17675) to Standard Assessment level prior to the development of three mountain bike trails in the Taungurung RAP area. The result of the Desktop Assessment was that there was potential for Aboriginal material culture to be present on river or creek flats, terraces or slopes within 100 metres of major waterway. Although much of the Activity Area could not be accessed during the Standard Assessment, the survey was sufficient to conclude that due to the moderate to steep slopes, the presence of Aboriginal places was unlikely. Therefore, Complex Assessment was not deemed to be practical or necessary. Management conditions included a copy of the CHMP to be onsite during works, a cultural heritage induction and compliance inspections.

**Lushey and Bell** (2022) completed a CHMP (18597) to a Standard Assessment level. The Desktop Assessment noted that stone artefacts were the most likely Aboriginal material to be found, and these may occur on flat ground and close to waterways. The Standard Assessment found that the high levels of disturbance from historical land use and the steep slope made the presence of Aboriginal material unlikely, therefore a Complex Assessment was not required. Management conditions included a copy of the CHMP to be onsite, a protocol for communication, notification to the RAP of commencement of works, a cultural heritage induction and compliance inspections.

## 7.8 Prediction statement

Based on the above review of the geographic region, including its environment, recorded Aboriginal places, previous archaeological assessments and information on the activities of Aboriginal people, a place prediction statement has been developed. This utilises the existing regional information in order to target landforms which might have archaeological potential during the Standard Assessment. The place prediction statement acts as a guideline for designing the ground survey strategy and identifies key points for consideration (Table 7).

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**Table 10 Predicted Aboriginal place types in the Activity Area**

Place type	Description	Likelihood within the Activity Area
<b>Artefact distributions</b>	Artefact distributions consisting of one or more stone artefacts are associated with tool production, domestic activities and resource procurement. Scatters and isolated finds are most likely to occur on river or creek flats, terraces or slopes within 100 metres of major water courses.	All Aboriginal places within the geographic region have comprised artefact distributions (n= 13). These have been found on rise landforms such as ridges, and on level land within saddles, including the saddle adjacent to the summit of Mount Stirling. All Aboriginal places were identified in surface contexts, with the remainder identified within eroding exposures. Given the nature of the Activity Area, and its location within the alpine landscape, which includes landforms around the summit of Mount Buller with saddles and a broad gentle slope, there is low-moderate likelihood of surface artefact distributions

to be present within the current Activity Area. In particular, where the Activity Area crosses within 100 metres of a waterway and where it passes over the summit, saddles and areas with a less pronounced slope that have not been subject to historical and modern disturbances.

## 7.9 Summary and Conclusions from the Desktop Assessment

The geographic region is centred within an alpine landscape comprised of steep-sided ridges, dissected streams and large valleys. The geographic region is within the geomorphological units 1.1.1 - *Summit plateaux* (Mount. Bogong, Baw Baw, Buffalo, Mount Wills), 1.1.4 - *Capped (basalt) plains* (Mount. Jim-Bogong High Plains, Dargo Plains, Nunniong Plains), 1.3.2 *Enclosed landscapes of low relief*, 1.4.3 *Escarpments, gorges* and 1.4.4 *Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes*. Within the Activity Area, the landscape will likely feature a variation of ridges with high plateaus, broad ridges with flattened or rounded crests, low reliefs bordered by higher and steeper landscapes, and stable slopes. The waterways that are the closest to the Activity Area are Buller Creek, South Buller Creek and Boggy Creek, which would have provided rich resources including fish and plant life. Elevated, flat landforms in proximity to these waterways would have been appealing to Aboriginal people for short or long-term encampment.

The named group who occupied the Activity Area were the *Mogullumbidj*, who held land as far south as Dandongadale and the Wabonga Plateau to the back of Mount Buller (Durrant 2020, p. 24). The alpine region was important to Aboriginal groups for the harvesting of Bogong moths which provided a plentiful harvest as well as being an important social activity during the moth harvesting season, where marriage arrangements, trade and entertainment took place.

A total of 13 Aboriginal places have been recorded within the geographic region. No Aboriginal places have been recorded within 200 metres of the Activity Area. All Aboriginal archaeological place types in the geographic region are artefact scatters or LDADs. Most Aboriginal places within the geographic region are located near or on Mount Stirling and the majority of these were recorded on saddles or on ridges. The nearest Aboriginal place to the Activity Area, VAHR 8123-0003 (Mount Buller Cow Camp), is located approximately 1.5 kilometres east and comprises three axe heads and one sharpening stone. VAHR 8123-0003 is the only Aboriginal place recorded at Mount Buller and is considered to be a significant place as it contains several formal tools of varying raw materials, including greenstone, thought to have been traded from the Mount William Quarry. These stone artefacts provide evidence for the Aboriginal occupation of the land and surrounds. Identification of surface cultural material does indicate that at the time, impacts to the ground surface were minimal, at least up until the 1950s when these artefacts were recorded. While the artefacts were identified in a surface context, this does not preclude the potential for subsurface archaeological deposits to remain within the wider area (and within the Activity Area) should suitable landforms and soil deposition be present.

All but one Aboriginal place in the geographic region were identified on *GMU 1.4.4 Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes*. The Activity Area is situated partly within this GMU, the remainder of the Activity Area is in *GMU 1.1.4 Capped (basalt) plains* (Mount. Jim-Bogong High Plains, Dargo Plains, Nunniong Plains), which includes a saddle between the summit and a lower peak to the east, a narrower saddle to the north-east of the peak, and a broad gentle slope towards Summit car park. While the previous findings may suggest a higher likelihood for Aboriginal cultural material to be found within components of the Activity Area which traverse GMU 1.4.4, GMU 1.1.4 covers a comparatively small area confined to Mt Buller summit and has not been

subject to a comparable level of archaeological investigation. The findings of Muhlen-Schulte et al. (1995) indicate that Aboriginal places are most likely to be located in areas of flat ground such as saddles or ridges.

Land use history revealed that the Activity Area and surrounding landscape was impacted by non-Aboriginal settlers during the 19th century when pastoralists drove their cattle into the high plains seasonally. During the 20th century, logging and tourism was prevalent in the alpine region, leading to the development of the Mount Buller Alpine Resort. In terms of tourism development, the Activity Area has been disturbed by the construction of Grimus Chairlift – Top, the pylons of Summit Chairlift within the Activity Area and works around Summit Chairlift – Top. Several trails including the trail to the summit of Mount Buller, which has been cut into the rocky outcrop and paved with flat rocks and has a small cairn constructed along it, and trails to McLaughlin's Shoulder from the Summit Road carpark and a number of trails from the west, south-west and east, and ski runs on the slope of Mount Buller. The remainder of the Activity Area is largely undisturbed since 19th century cattle movement, as seen in aerial and satellite images between the mid-1940s and 2019. In addition, ground disturbances associated with the installation of telecommunications assets are present within the Activity Area to the west of the top chairlift stations, if electricity assets associated with the top chairlifts was installed underground, these would have caused disturbance also.

A review of the previous archaeological assessments in the geographic region was completed to determine possible areas of archaeological sensitivity that will aid in identifying the potential for and types of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Activity Area. Of the 11 CHMPs reviewed, six were completed to Standard Assessment on the basis of ground disturbance, undetected Aboriginal cultural deposits and values, and the presence of steep gradients which would not provide a suitable location for camping. Generally, it was assessed that areas of flat ground on ridges and in ridge saddles would be sensitive for Aboriginal archaeological material, when investigated these landforms occasionally contained Aboriginal cultural heritage in very low densities. However, a number of archaeological investigations have been conducted within the Mount Buller Alpine Resort (within close proximity to the current Activity Area) and no Aboriginal archaeological places have been identified. Although areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential were initially identified during Desktop Assessments (or comparable assessments), following field investigation (either during a Standard Assessment or comparable assessment), these areas were generally assessed as either being subject to high levels of disturbance, unsuitable landforms (such as steep slopes) or did not retain A horizon soils due to erosion or sheet wash as a result of high water flow during snow melt.

Previous complex CHMPs which included subsurface testing showed soil profiles of fine grained sandy clay with a high humic content and a large quantity of fractured quartz, and sandy silt and clays overlaying hard granite, basalt and sandstone. Excavations generally ceased at underlying rock bases and were excavated to maximum depths of approximately 600 millimetres. Subsurface testing also revealed varying levels of disturbance associated with the development of Mount Buller Alpine Village, with these investigations indicating that there is a low potential across the Mount Buller Alpine Resort due to the extent of ground disturbance present. However, it is noted that the environmental, ethno-historical and archaeological information available for the wider area indicates that Aboriginal people utilised the area for encampment and subsistence practices, and evidence of this use may still remain in areas that have been subject to lower levels of disturbance.

In consideration of the Activity Area, which is situated on the summit of Mount Buller, with two saddles, and a broad gentle slope and is a landscape with aspect, which have been shown to retain moderate archaeological potential.. It is noted that the Activity Area has been subject to varying disturbances, in particular the ongoing expansion and use of the Mount Buller Alpine Resort since 1950. As a result of this previous ground disturbance, it is likely that any unrecorded Aboriginal cultural heritage which may be present within the Activity Area within the disturbed areas (such as trails, ski runs, chair lifts and pylons and underground assets) has either been impacted or displaced. Where the impacts of these disturbances are lessened within the Activity, suitable landforms with the potential for subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits may remain.



As a result, there is a low-moderate likelihood for Aboriginal cultural heritage material to occur within the Activity Area.

The results of the Desktop Assessment have indicated that it is reasonably possible for unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage material to be within the Activity Area. Therefore, as per Regulation 62(1), it is necessary to undertake a Standard Assessment.

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## 8 Standard Assessment

The following section contains the results of the Standard Assessment. The Standard Assessment was prepared in accordance with Regulation 63 and Clause 8(1), Schedule 2 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018.

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#### 8.1 Aims

The aims of the Standard Assessment are to:

- Identify and record any surface Aboriginal cultural heritage material.
- Identify landforms with the potential for subsurface Aboriginal cultural heritage material.
- Ascertain the extent of ground disturbance resulting from previous land use activities and natural processes.
- Assess whether a Complex Assessment is required.

#### 8.2 Methodology

The Standard Assessment was completed on 7 December 2021. The ground survey was supervised by Zachary Carter, Biosis Pty Ltd, with assistance from Troy Wilkinson and Matt Antonopoulos from Taungurung Land and Water Council (see Section 6.2). Prior to the commencement of the Standard Assessment, the representatives were asked to share any knowledge they had of the area. Whilst no specific oral history was provided, representatives did comment that they believed that area would have been seasonally visited during the warmer months.

For the purpose of the Standard Assessment, the Activity Area was divided into 3 survey units (Table 11). Survey units were divided based on differing landforms within the Activity Area.

**Table 11 Description of survey units in the Activity Area**

Survey Unit	Land Use	Features	Size (ha)
Survey Unit 1	Ski slope and walking trails	Mountain face - Very steep with large rocky outcrops	1.176886
Survey Unit 2	Pre-existing walking trail	Fire Tower Trail - Pre-existing trail with carved stone steps	0.395776
Survey Unit 3	Ski slope	Mountain saddle and summit	0.342468

The Standard Assessment was completed by traversing the Activity Area on foot at intervals of 2 metres between survey participants. Full survey coverage of the Activity Area was undertaken and views of the Activity Area were recorded using Nikon AW 120 camera. Field notes were also taken recording ground conditions, the vegetation type, landform and details of areas of archaeological potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage. The location of ground survey area is shown on Map 4.

No mature indigenous trees were present within the Activity Area.

No Aboriginal cultural heritage material was recorded.

Following the completion of the ground survey, discussions were held with the Aboriginal representatives to establish cultural heritage management requirements for the Activity Area including whether a Complex Assessment was required.

## 8.3 Results

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**Table 12 Survey unit 1**

Survey team	
Heritage advisor	Zachary Carter (Biosis Pty Ltd)
Aboriginal representatives	Troy Wilkinson and Matt Antonopoulos (TLaWC)
Methodology	
Survey method	Systematic pedestrian.
Date survey completed	7 December 2021
Attributes	
Obstacles	Heavy logging and fuel impacting visibility. Survey impeded by steep inclines.
Mature trees	No mature trees were identified during the Standard Assessment.
Caves or rock shelters	No caves or rock shelters were identified during the Standard Assessment.
Assessment of archaeological potential	
No areas of archaeological potential were identified. This primarily due to the steep slopes observed across the Activity Area and natural periods of high snowfall. While some suitable landforms for subsurface deposits were observed in the form of flat, open spaces on the mountain face, snowmelt after periods of high snowfall is highly likely to have resulted in the displacement of any remnant soils downslope. As a result, there is negligible archaeological potential present.	
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	
No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified within Survey Unit 1.	

### 8.3.1 Discussion of Results from Survey Unit 1

Survey Unit 1 (SU1) is situated on a mountain face with small sections of shallow, flat, open spaces of approximately 3 – 6 square metres, with frequent rocky outcrops across the survey unit. SU1 is generally very steep with sharp inclines, although limited instances of flat, open areas were observed. The soil type was a dry silt with a high proportion of degrading rock, with predominate vegetation comprised of short, dense grasses. The previous and current land use include ski slopes and informal walking trails. Disturbances were



present within SU1 including ski infrastructure and the presence of man holes for subsurface utilities. The ground surface visibility across SU1 was 0-5%, with grass and moss covering the majority of the survey unit. Whilst three areas which demonstrated potential were identified on flat open spaces on the mountain face, no suitable soil deposition with the potential to contain subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits was observed. This is likely due to natural periods of high snowfall and subsequent snowmelt periods displacing any remnant soils downslope from the Activity Area. As a result, there is negligible archaeological potential present within SU1.



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**Photograph 1 Typical landforms within SU1 (facing west) (Z. Carter 7/12/21)**



**Photograph 2 Example of ground disturbance within SU1 (Z. Carter 7/12/21)**

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**Photograph 3 Typical ground surface visibility within SU1 (Z. Carter 7/12/21)**

**Table 13 Survey Unit 2**

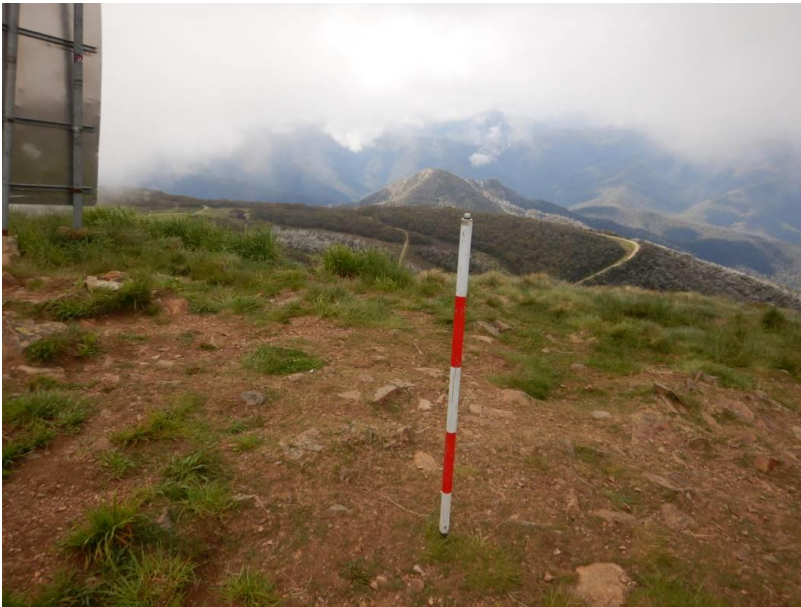
Survey team	<div>This copied document to be made available for the purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright</div>	
Heritage advisor		
Aboriginal representatives		
Methodology		
Survey method		Systematic pedestrian.
Date survey completed	7 December 2021	
Attributes		
Obstacles	Heavy and rolling cloud impacting visibility. Survey impeded by steep inclines.	
Mature trees	No mature trees were identified during the Standard Assessment.	
Caves or rock shelters	No caves or rock shelters were identified during the Standard Assessment.	
Assessment of archaeological potential		
No areas of archaeological potential were identified. This due to the level of disturbance observed and the lack of suitable landforms for soil retention, in association with natural periods of high snowfall and subsequent snowmelt periods displacing any remnant soils downslope. As a result, there is negligible archaeological potential present.		
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage		



No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified within Survey Unit 2.

### 8.3.2 Discussion of results from Survey Unit 2

Survey Unit 2 (SU2) is situated on a ridge and summit of a mountain. The survey unit covers a section of the Activity Area where there is a pre-existing trail which extends towards the fire tower. Sections of carved stone steps are present along the trail, with a high proportion of exposed rocky outcrops across the survey unit. The survey unit is steady with sharp inclines. The soil type was a dry silt with a high proportion of degrading rock, with predominate vegetation comprised of short, dense grasses. The previous and current land use include ski slopes and informal walking trails. Disturbances were present within SU2 include the pre-existing trail, carved stone steps, historic marker and fire tower. The ground surface visibility across SU2 was 0-5%, with grass and moss covering the majority of the survey unit. Due to the level of disturbance observed and the lack of suitable landforms for soil retention, in association with natural periods of high snowfall and subsequent snowmelt periods displacing any remnant soils downslope. As a result, there is negligible archaeological potential present within SU2.



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**Photograph 4 Typical landforms within SU2 (facing east) (Z. Carter 7/12/21)**

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**Photograph 5** Example of ground disturbance within SU2 (Z. Carter 7/12/21)



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**Photograph 6** Typical ground surface visibility and disturbance within SU2 (Z. Carter 7/12/21)

**Table 14** Survey Unit 3

Survey team	
Heritage advisor	Zachary Carter (Biosis Pty Ltd)
Aboriginal representatives	Troy Wilkinson and Matt Antonopoulos (TLaWC)
Methodology	

<b>Survey method</b>	Systematic pedestrian.
<b>Date survey completed</b>	7 December 2021
<b>Attributes</b>	
<b>Obstacles</b>	Heavy and rolling cloud impacting visibility. Survey impeded by steep inclines.
<b>Mature trees</b>	No mature trees were identified during the Standard Assessment.
<b>Caves or rock shelters</b>	No caves or rock shelters were identified during the Standard Assessment.
<b>Assessment of archaeological potential</b>	
No areas of archaeological potential were identified. This primarily due to the steep slopes observed across the Activity Area and natural periods of high snowfall. While some suitable landforms for subsurface deposits were observed in the form of flat, open spaces on the mountain face, snowmelt after periods of high snowfall is highly likely to have resulted in the displacement of any remnant soils downslope. As a result, there is negligible archaeological potential present.	
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</b>	
No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified within Survey Unit 3.	

### 8.3.3 Discussion of results from Survey Unit 3

Survey Unit 3 (SU3) is situated on a mountain saddle and peak, with frequent rocky outcrops across the survey unit. The survey unit is steady with sharp inclines. The soil type was a dry silt with a high proportion of degrading rock, with predominate vegetation comprised of short, dense grasses. The previous and current land use include ski slopes. There is minimal evidence of disturbance present across the survey unit. The ground surface visibility across SU3 was 0-5%, with grass and moss covering the majority of the survey unit. Whilst a saddle landform was identified within SU3, no suitable soil deposition with the potential to contain subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits was observed. This is likely due to natural periods of high snowfall and subsequent snowmelt periods displacing any remnant soils downslope from the Activity Area. As a result, there is negligible archaeological potential present within SU3.

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**Photograph 7 Typical landforms within Survey Unit 3 (facing east) (Z. Carter 7/12/21)**



**Photograph 8 Example of ground disturbance within SU3 (Z. Carter 7/12/21)**

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**Photograph 9 Typical ground surface visibility within SU3 (Z. Carter 7/12/21)**

## 8.4 Effective Survey Coverage

The survey effort assessed each Survey point within the Activity Area and factored in variables such as vegetation coverage and ground disturbance and how these have affected ground surface exposure. The effective survey coverage calculation assesses the average percentage of ground surface visibility across the areas covered during survey within the Activity Area. The Activity Area covers an area measuring 1.915 ha / 19,150 square metres and the total Activity Area was physically surveyed. The observed GSV ranged between 0% and 5%. The effective survey coverage calculation for the entire Activity Area was 5% and 957.5 square metres.

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## 8.5 Conclusions from the Standard Assessment

The Desktop Assessment determined that it was reasonably possible for unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage material to be within the Activity Area. Aboriginal places were identified as being likely to occur as surface artefact distributions located at the summit and saddle of the mountain, and in areas with less pronounced slopes. For completion of this CHMP a Standard Assessment was necessary to investigate whether unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage material is located within the Activity Area and determine the extent of prior ground disturbances.

The Standard Assessment involved a systematic pedestrian survey of the Activity Area, however there were inaccessible areas including very steep inclines and areas where buildings such as the fire tower were located. GSV was severely hampered by dense ground vegetation throughout the Activity Area. A number of disturbances were noted across the Activity Area, including manholes with access to subsurface utilities, signs, a fire tower, chairlift infrastructure, a current path and carved stone steps.

GSV across the Activity was low 0-5% throughout, which was reflected in the effective survey coverage calculation for the entire Activity Area equalling 5% and 957.5 square metres. The Activity Area was divided into three survey units for ease of mapping and reporting and were divided based on landform. No unidentified Aboriginal places were located during the ground survey. No areas of archaeological potential were identified within the Activity Area. This assessment was concluded due to the natural periods of high snowfall and subsequent snowmelt periods that occur within the Activity Area. These events are highly likely

to have resulted in the displacement of remnant soils downslope due to the large scale sheet wash. This natural movement of sediment, as has been observed previously in other investigations, is highly likely to have removed any Aboriginal archaeological material or deposits that may have previously existed within the Activity Area. As such, there is negligible archaeological potential present within the subsurface.

No Aboriginal Cultural heritage was identified during the Standard Assessment.

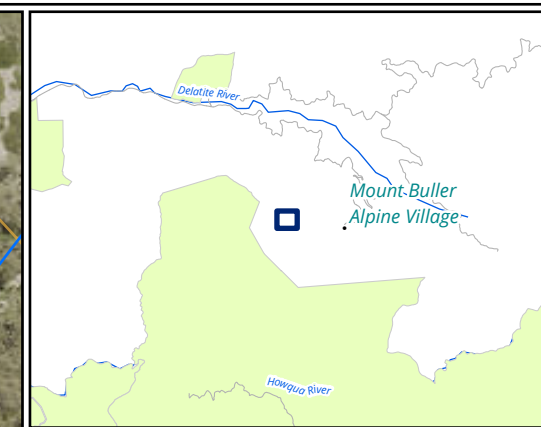
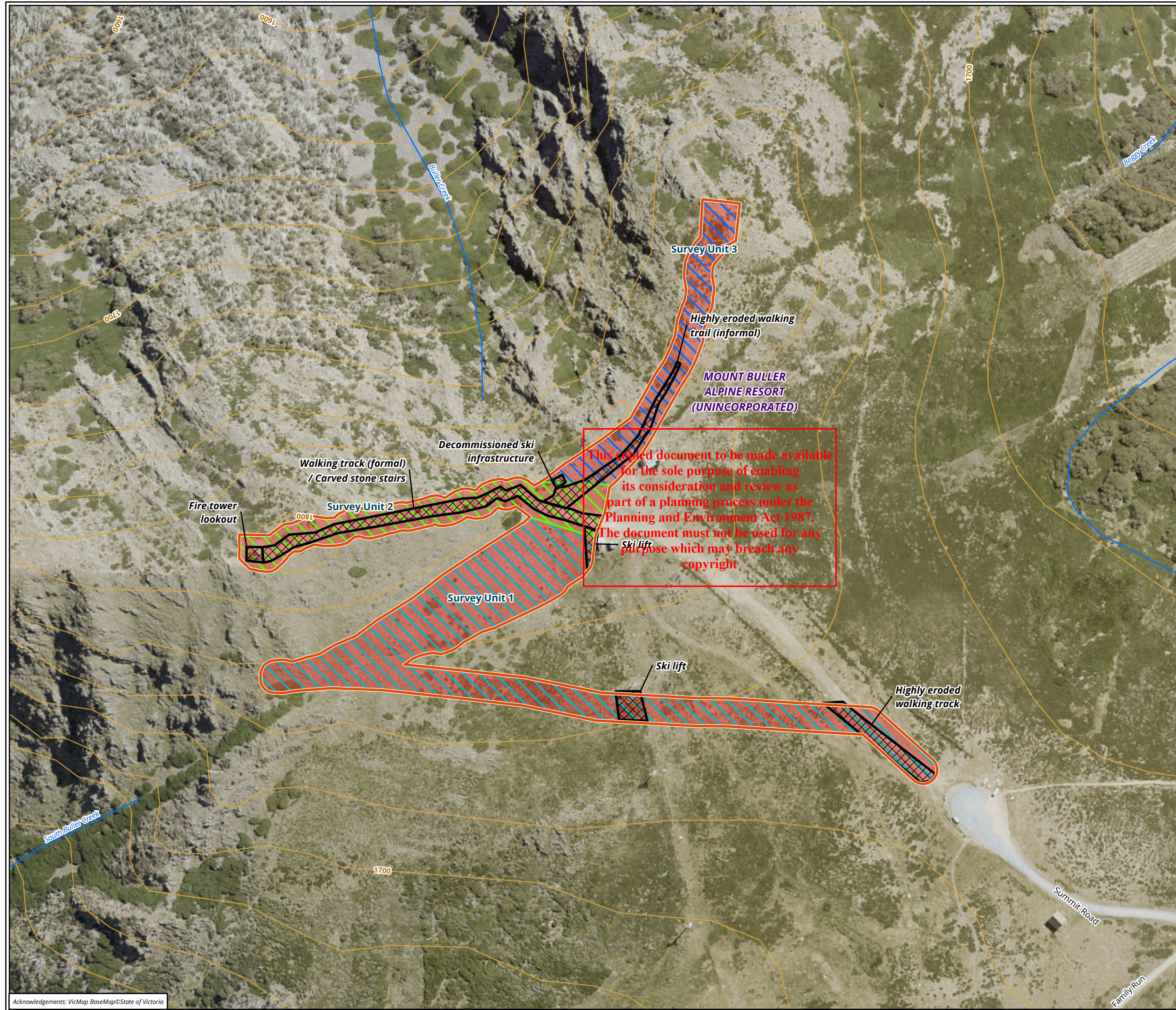
As per Regulation 64(1), a Complex Assessment is required if the Desktop and/or Standard Assessment have identified areas likely to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Activity Area. The results of the Standard Assessment identified that it is unlikely for Aboriginal cultural material to remain in either surface or subsurface contexts. As a result of this assessment and consultation with TLaWC, it has been determined that Complex Assessment is not required to assess the potential impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage. However, it was identified during consultation with TLaWC Heritage Advisors that in order to ensure that impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage are wholly mitigated for during the construction program for the activity, a condition that includes targeted supervision of ground disturbing works at areas that were proposed for Complex Assessment should be included in the CHMP.

Compliance conditions regarding this supervision of works are outlined in Section 1 of the CHMP.

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- Legend**
- Activity Area
  - Local government area
  - Contour 20m interval
  - Areas of ground disturbance
  - Area of ground survey - 0-5% ground surface visibility (gsv)
- Survey Units**
- Survey Unit 1
  - Survey Unit 2
  - Survey Unit 3

**ESC:**  
5% (957.5 square metres)

**Map 4 Results of the Standard Assessment**

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0 20 40 60 80 100  
Metres  
Scale: 1:2,000 @ A3  
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55





## 9 Consideration of Section 61 matters – Impact Assessment

No Aboriginal cultural heritage has been identified within the Activity Area. As such, no harm mitigation measures have been deemed as required in relation to the proposed activity.

### 9.1 What are the cumulative impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Activity Area?

Cumulative impacts of Aboriginal cultural heritage have been considered based on the combination of the overall impact of development within the geographic region, and how this development has impacted Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The limitations of a cumulative impact assessment on Aboriginal cultural heritage material is that the amount of recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage material is finite; and no region (however well-investigated) has been the subject of a comprehensive and systematic survey from which Aboriginal cultural heritage base data can be absolutely defined. The base datum for assessment must rely on Aboriginal cultural heritage material that has been identified, recorded and preferably preserved in situ in order to determine a calculation of loss.

First Peoples – State Relations' Guide to Preparing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan states that:

An assessment of the likely impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage of the Activity should also include consideration and assessment of the cumulative impact of the Activity on Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Activity Area in relation to the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the region.

At present, there are no agreed criteria for assessing potential cumulative effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage material. The following methodology has been developed based on advice from First Peoples – State Relations, in order to consider regional/landform factors relevant to the current CHMP.

Thirteen Aboriginal places were recorded within the geographic region, these were all artefact scatters or isolated finds recorded variously as artefact scatters, object collections or LDADs. Of these, 10 Aboriginal places (76.92%) were not impacted by development at the time of recording, of these, nine have not been inspected since 1982 or 1995, and one was recorded in 2020. The remaining three artefact distributions of ground artefacts have been collected and stored, with the location of one of these places (VAHR 8123-0003), which was collected in 1952, likely to have been destroyed when Mount Buller Alpine Village was constructed (see Table 15).

**Table 15 Impacts to Aboriginal places within the geographic region**

VAHR Place	Place Type	Current condition	Impact
8123-0003 Mount Buller Cow Camp	Artefact Scatter	Location destroyed by construction of Mount Buller Alpine Village and artefacts collected stored at Australian National Museum	Artefacts collected – in storage Location - Destroyed
8123-0014 Mt Stirling 1	Artefact Scatter	Unknown	No impact when recorded
8123-0015 Mt Stirling 2	Artefact Scatter	Unknown	No impact when recorded
8123-0016	Artefact Scatter	Unknown	No impact when

VAHR Place	Place Type	Current condition	Impact
Mt Stirling 3			recorded
8123-0019 Mt Stirling 4	Artefact Scatter	Unknown	No impact when recorded
8123-0020 Mt Stirling 2	Artefact Scatter	Unknown	No impact when recorded
8123-0021 Mt Stirling 3	Artefact Scatter	Unknown	No impact when recorded
8123-0022 Mt Stirling 5	Artefact Scatter	Unknown	No impact when recorded
8123-0023 Mt Stirling 6	Artefact Scatter	Unknown	No impact when recorded
8123-0024 Mt Stirling 7	Artefact Scatter	Unknown	No impact when recorded
8123-0053 Stirling Black Track artefacts	LDAD	Artefacts collected stored at Mount Stirling Resort Management in display cabinet.	Artefacts collected – in storage
8123-0055 Bluff Spur Hammer Stone	LDAD	Artefact left in location	No impact when recorded
8123-0062 Pannican Creek Ground-Edge Axe	LDAD	Artefacts collected stored at Mount Stirling Resort Management in display cabinet.	Artefacts collected – in storage

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The Desktop, Standard and Complex Assessment concluded that due to significant historical and modern impacts to the Activity Area, ~~there was a low likelihood for Aboriginal heritage~~. The assessment recorded high levels of ground disturbance across most of the Activity Area, likely associated with the modification of the landscape to existing infrastructure associated with the ski resort. It was noted through the background research for the assessment and through the completion of the Standard Assessment that parts of the Activity Area have been wholly modified to support this use.

Future archaeological investigations, such as those triggered by the CHMP process for the region have the potential to identify areas with a higher likelihood for Aboriginal cultural heritage to occur such areas with lower levels of disturbance away from existing ski infrastructure.

Impact to this Activity Area is not likely to contribute to the cumulative impact of Aboriginal heritage in the region.

## 9.2 Are there particular contingency plans that might be necessary?

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, a CHMP must consider any contingency plans required in relation to disputes, delays and other obstacles that may affect the conduct of the activity. Contingencies plans are presented in full in Section 2.

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### 9.3 What custody and management arrangements might be needed?

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, a CHMP must consider requirements relating to the custody and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage collected during the course of the proposed activity. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was recorded during the preparation of the CHMP, however, contingency plans for the custody and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage collected during the activity are presented in full in Part 1.

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## Appendix 1 Notice of intention to prepare a CHMP

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Premier  
and Cabinet

## 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: Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management  
 ABN/ACN: 44 867 982 534  
 Contact Name: Daniel Argentov  
 Postal Address: 10 Summit Road, Mt Buller VIC 3723  
 Business Number: 03 5777 6077 Mobile: 0490 012 037  
 Email Address: daniel.argentov@mtbuller.com.au

### Sponsor's agent (if relevant)

Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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### SECTION 2 - Description of proposed activity and location

Project Name: Summit and McLaughlin's Shoulder Walk, Mt Buller  
 Municipal district: Mount Buller Alpine Resort (Unincorporated)

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

Lucy Amorosi Biosis lamorosi@biosis.com.au  
 Name Company Email address

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

Start Date: 29-Sep-2021 Finish Date: 29-Sep-2023

Submitted on: 29 Sep 2021



# ADVERTISED PLAN



Premier  
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## 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? 0

- ☐ 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.

TAUNGURUNG Clans Aboriginal Corporation

## 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**.

Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation

## 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**.

Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLWC) Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the area. They will be evaluating the CHMP and will need to be consulted throughout the life of the project, in the form of meetings (inception, ~~post standard assessment and post complex assessment~~) and participation in fieldwork.

## 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  
If checked, list the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party Evaluating:  
☐ 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

Submitted on: 29 Sep 2021



Premier  
and Cabinet

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.)

In addition to notifying the Deputy Director and any relevant registered Aboriginal party/ies, a Sponsor must also notify any owner and/or occupier of any land within the area to which the management plan relates. A copy of this notice with a map attached may be used for this purpose.

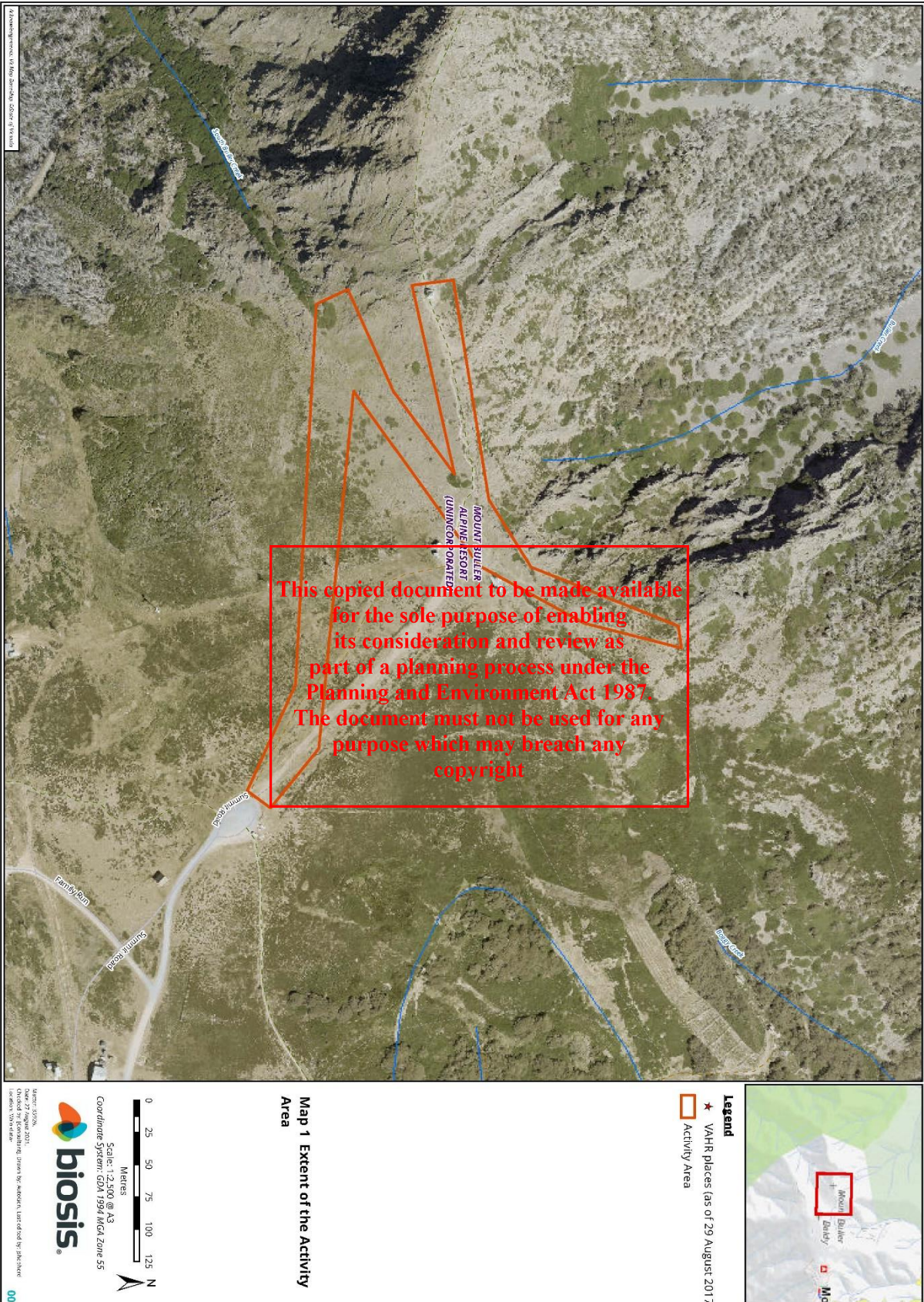
Ensure any municipal council, whose municipal district includes an area to which the cultural heritage management plan relates, is also notified. A copy of this notice, with a map attached, may also be used for this purpose.

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Submitted on: 29 Sep 2021





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## Appendix 2 Notice to evaluate the CHMP

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# ADVERTISED PLAN



Tuesday, October 05, 2021

Dear Daniel Argentov

**Re: Notice of Intent – CHMP 18340**

**Summit and McLoughlin's Shoulder Walk, Mt Buller**

I refer to your notification to the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC) to prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the above project, received on the 29 September 2021.

Having reviewed this notice, I wish to advise that the TLaWC accepts this notice and will evaluate this CHMP. We advise that during the preparation of this plan, TLaWC requires regular consultations with the Heritage Advisor and the Sponsor in relation to the assessments of the activity area and the management recommendations before the plan is complete. TLaWC also requires that representatives of the Corporation participate in all field assessments.

Please note the following requirements as stipulated by the TLaWC Board:

## Meetings

### Inception Meeting:

In order to clarify the aims of the CHMP and to discuss the methodologies it is a requirement that the Heritage Advisor who will be involved in the fieldwork and Sponsor attend an inception meeting at the TLaWC office before any fieldwork commences.

The TLaWC requires the following information before or at the Project Inception Meeting:

- an aerial photo and map of the Activity Area
- all Aboriginal site location data within a 5km radius of the Activity Area
- Aboriginal place cards for places already recorded in the Activity Area

### Progress Meeting:

In order to discuss the fieldwork results for this CHMP the Heritage Advisor who was involved in the fieldwork must attend a progress meeting at the TLaWC office after the fieldwork.

### Pre CHMP Submission Meeting:

In order to discuss the final Management requirements for CHMP the Heritage Advisor who was involved in the fieldwork must attend a meeting at the TLaWC office before the CHMP is submitted for evaluation. An on-site visit may be a preferable to an office meeting.

### Meeting Bookings

Each meeting must be booked via the CHMP Meeting Request Form attached and emailed to the Administration Officer on the email address below.

### Financial Payments

TLaWC's meeting and fieldwork fee schedule is attached.



TLaWC requires a flat fee of \$3,000 (excl GST) for meeting costs to be paid **before the project inception meeting**. This fee is for the time of two TLaWC representatives to attend the meetings and does not include travel expenses, including accommodation if required and mileage costs. These associated costs will be invoiced separately.

Once TLaWC has received the Inception Meeting booking form request and a copy of the remittance for the TLaWC CHMP meeting fees, our Administration Officer will organise a meeting time with you and your Heritage Adviser.

Please direct all project queries and requests to the TLaWC Administration Officer on 03 5784 1433 or 0427 832 241 or via email [sbrown@taungurung.com.au](mailto:sbrown@taungurung.com.au) please cc [careforculture@taungurung.com.au](mailto:careforculture@taungurung.com.au) in on any email correspondence. Please ensure the subject line includes the CHMP number.

Enclosed with this notice of intent response is the meeting booking form, the TLaWC schedule of fees and the field representative booking form. If you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Burns  
Chief Executive Officer

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## Appendix 3 Activity plans

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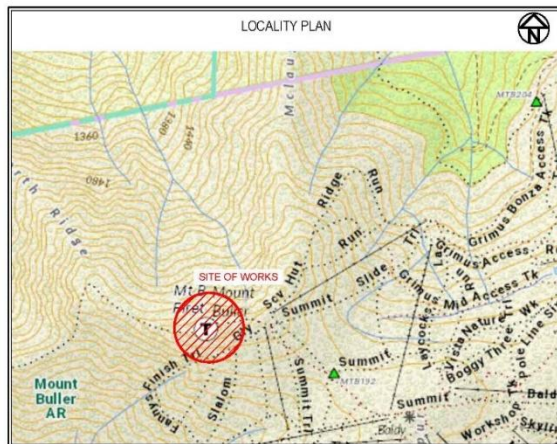
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REDUCED SCALE

# Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management Fire Tower Lookout Design Mt Buller Summit, Mt Buller



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## DRAWING SCHEDULE

DRAWING NUMBER	DRAWING TITLE	REVISION
GMR21019-FT01	Cover Sheet	
GMR21019-FT02	Existing Conditions	A
GMR21019-FT03	Existing Conditions - Aerial	A
GMR21019-FT04	Proposed Conditions	A
GMR21019-FT05	Proposed Conditions - Aerial	A
GMR21019-FT06	Proposed Long Section	A
GMR21019-FT07	Proposed Cross Sections	A
GMR21019-FT08	Proposed Beam Support	A
GMR21019-FT09	Proposed Member Schedule	A
GMR21019-FT10	Proposed Details	A
GMR21019-FT11	General Notes	A
GMR21019-FT12	Optional Elevated Structure	A

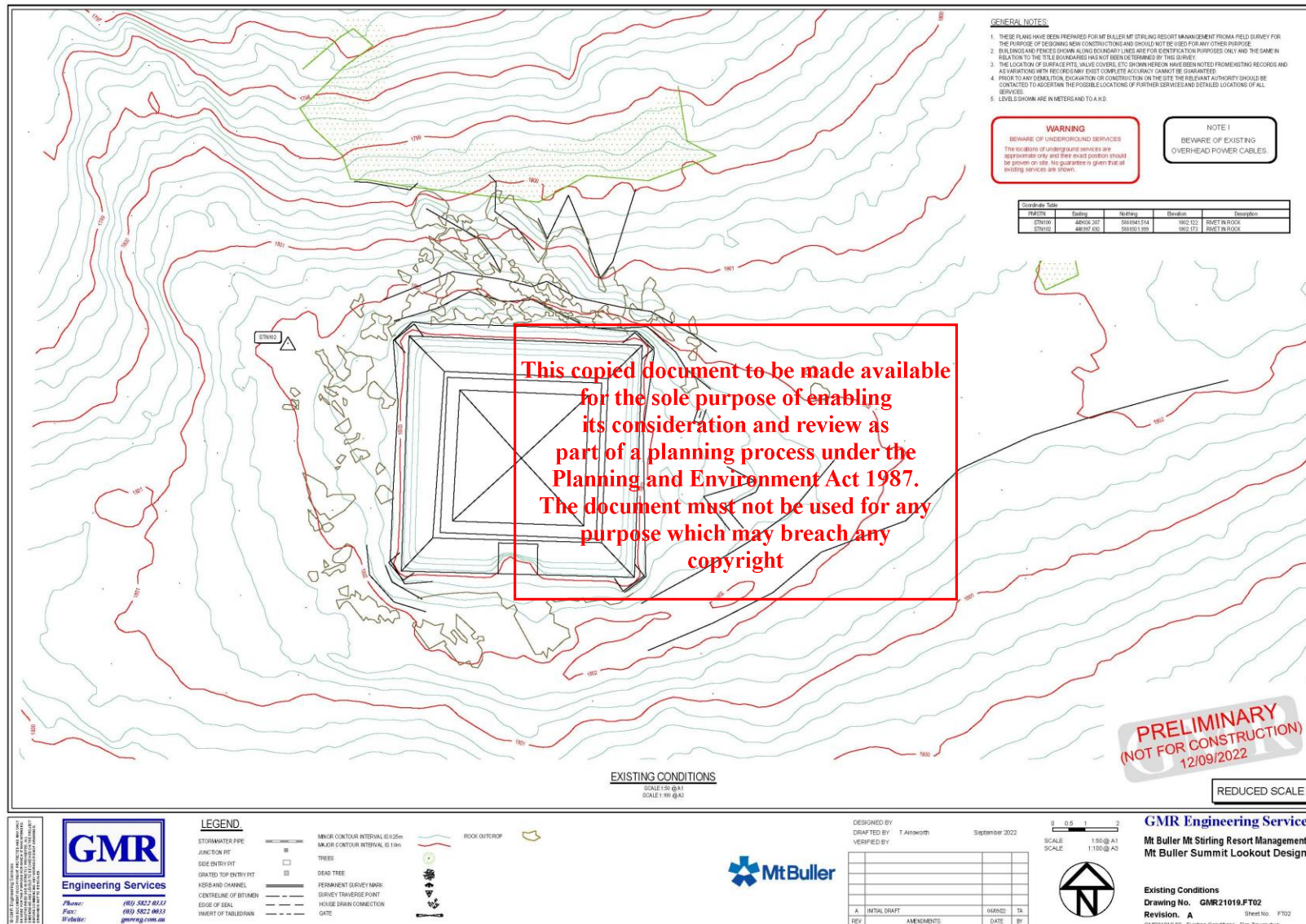
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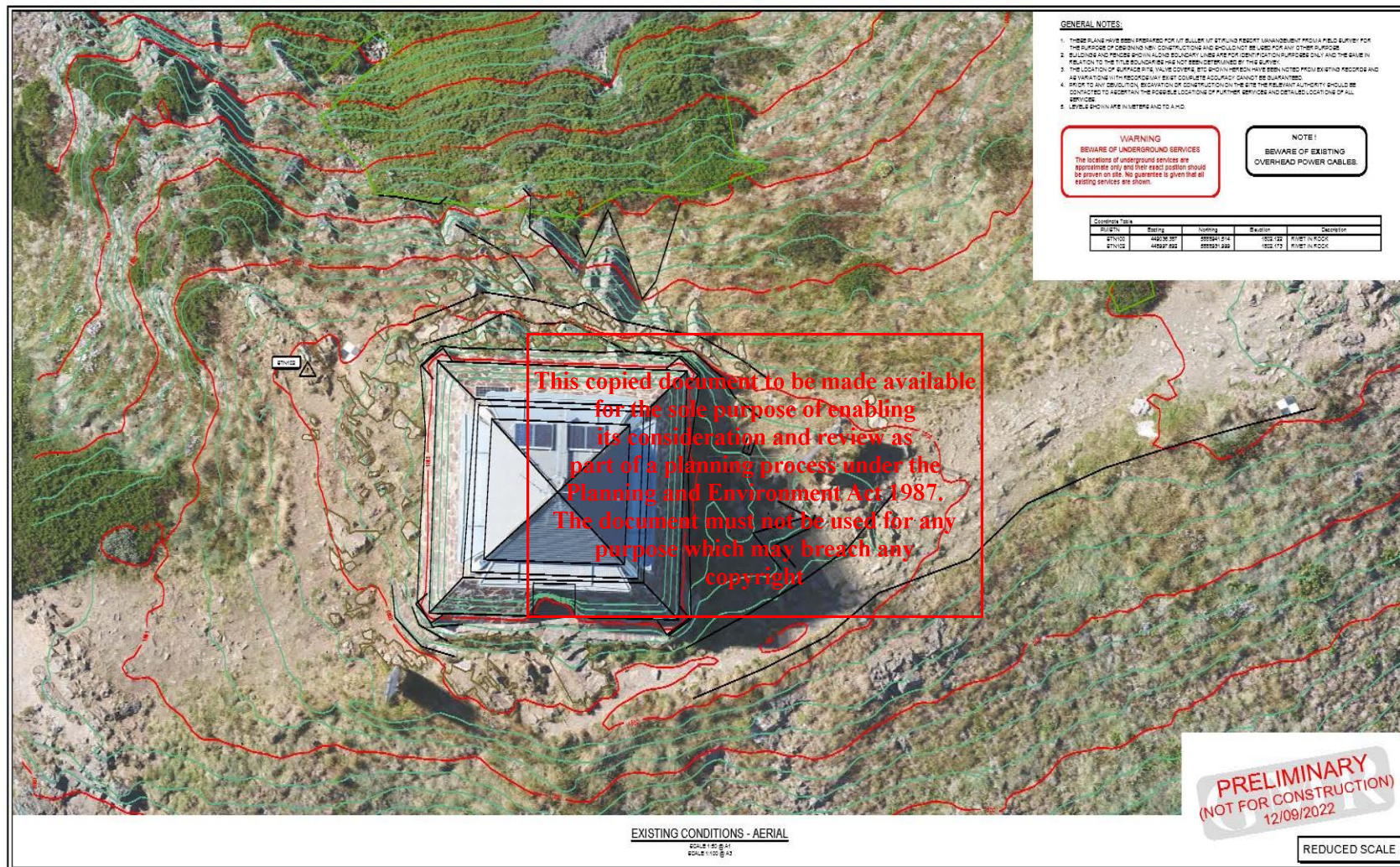
**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
The locations of underground services are approximate only and their exact position should be proven in situ. No guarantee is given that all existing services are shown.

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Fax: (08) 5822 8888  
Email: gmr@eng.com.au

**LEGEND**

STORMWATER BASE  
JUNCTIONS  
SIDE ENTRY RIT  
GRADED TOP ENTRY RIT  
RIMS AND CHANNEL  
CENTRELINE OF STUBS  
EDGE OF SEAL  
INVERT OF THE DRAIN

UNDER DRAIN INTERVAL @ 0.25M  
UNDER DRAIN INTERVAL @ 1.5M  
TREES  
DEAD TREE  
PERMANENT SURVEY MARK  
SURVEY TRAVEL POINT  
POLAR DRAIN CONNECTION  
DATE

ROCK OUTCROP

DESIGNED BY: T.A. Smith  
DRAFTED BY: T.A. Smith  
VERIFIED BY: T.A. Smith

September 2022

SCALE: 1:50 @ A1  
1:100 @ A3

**GMR Engineering Services**  
Mt Buller Mt Sirling Resort Management  
Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design

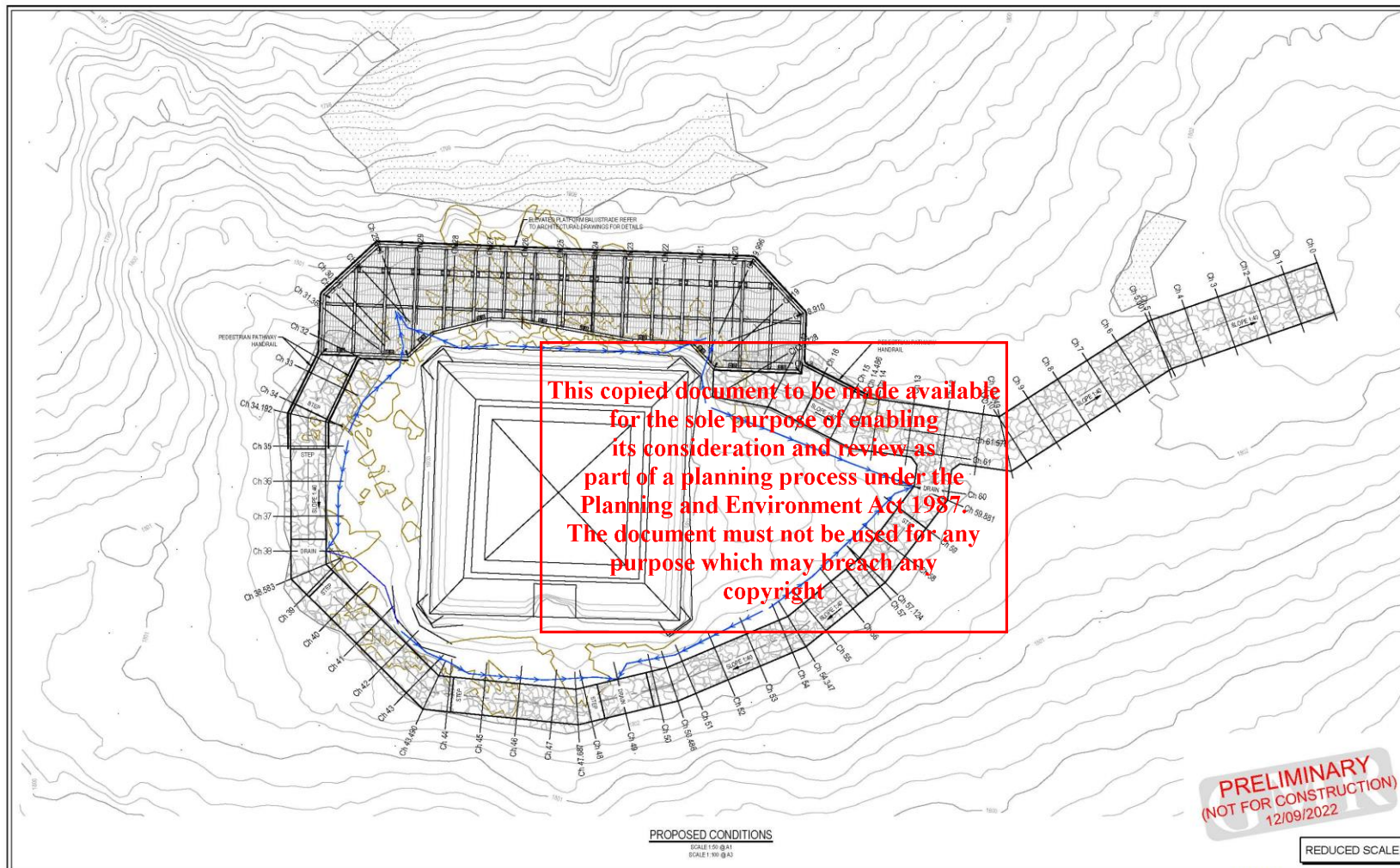
Existing Conditions - Aerial  
Drawing No. GMR21015.FT03  
Revision: A  
GMR21015.02 - Existing Conditions - Fire Tower.dwg

REVISIONS

NO	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY
A	INITIAL DRAFT	08/09/22	TA



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## LEGEND

RETAINMENT PIPE  
JUNCTION PIT  
SIDE ENTRY PIT  
GRAVED TOP ENTRY PIT  
KURRA AND CHANNEL  
CENTRELINE OF BOTTLE  
EDGE OF SEAL  
INVERT OF TABLET  
MINOR CONTOUR INTERVAL 0.5m  
MAJOR CONTOUR INTERVAL 1.0m  
TREES  
DEAD TREE  
PERMANENT SURVEY MARK  
SURVEY TRAVERSE POINT  
HOUSE DRAIN CONNECTION  
GATE

ROCK OUTCROP  
ROCK OUTCROP



DESIGNED BY: G Ryan  
DRAFTED BY: T Anwar  
VERIFIED BY:

September 2022  
September 2022

SCALE  
SCALE 1:50 @ A1  
SCALE 1:100 @ A3



REV	AMENDMENTS	DATE	BY
A	INITIAL DRAFT		

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Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design

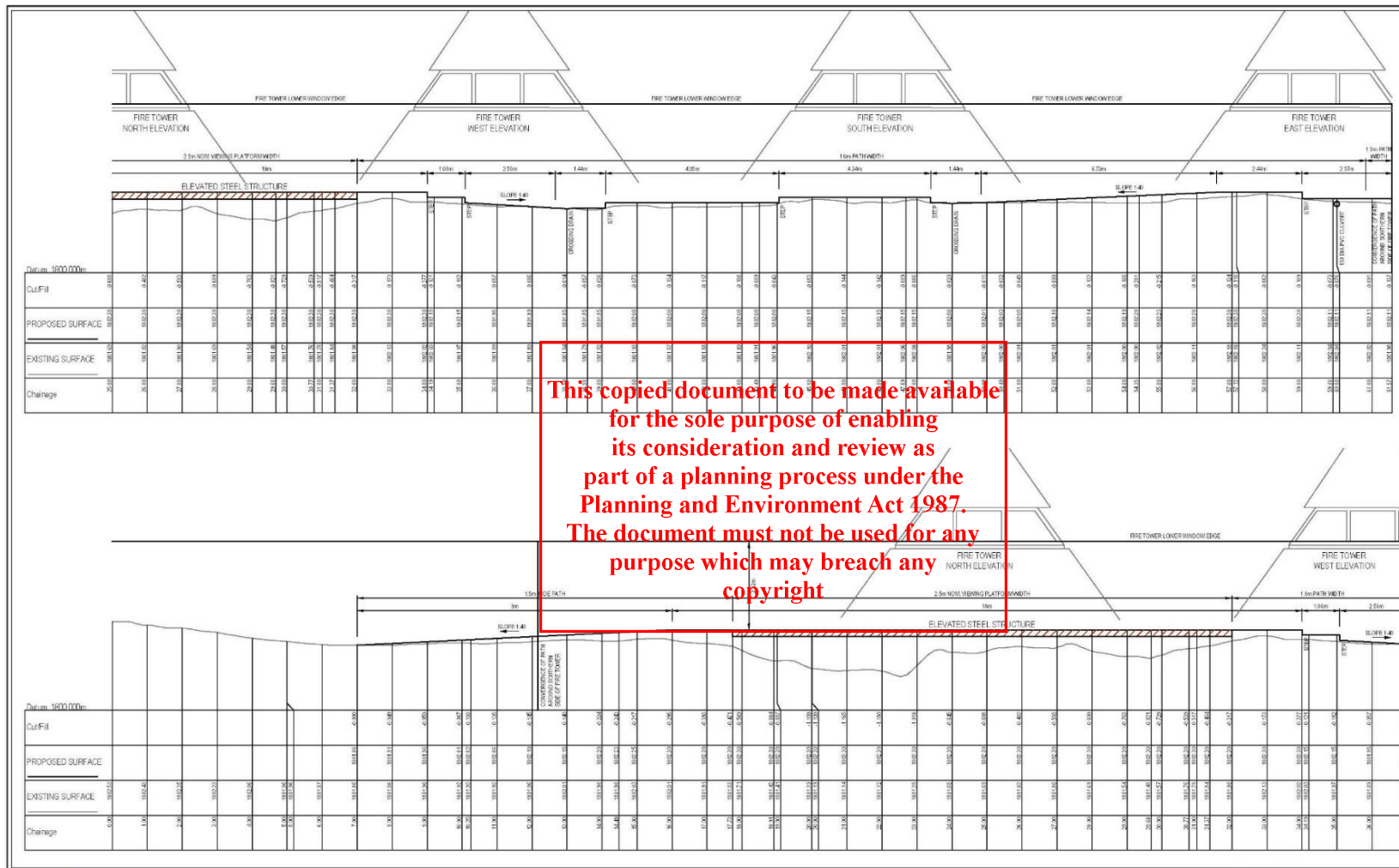
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Drawing No. GMR21019.FT04  
Revision: A Sheet No. FT04  
GMR21019.03 - Proposed Conditions - Fire Tower.dwg A1







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DRAFTED BY: T Anwar  
VERIFIED BY:

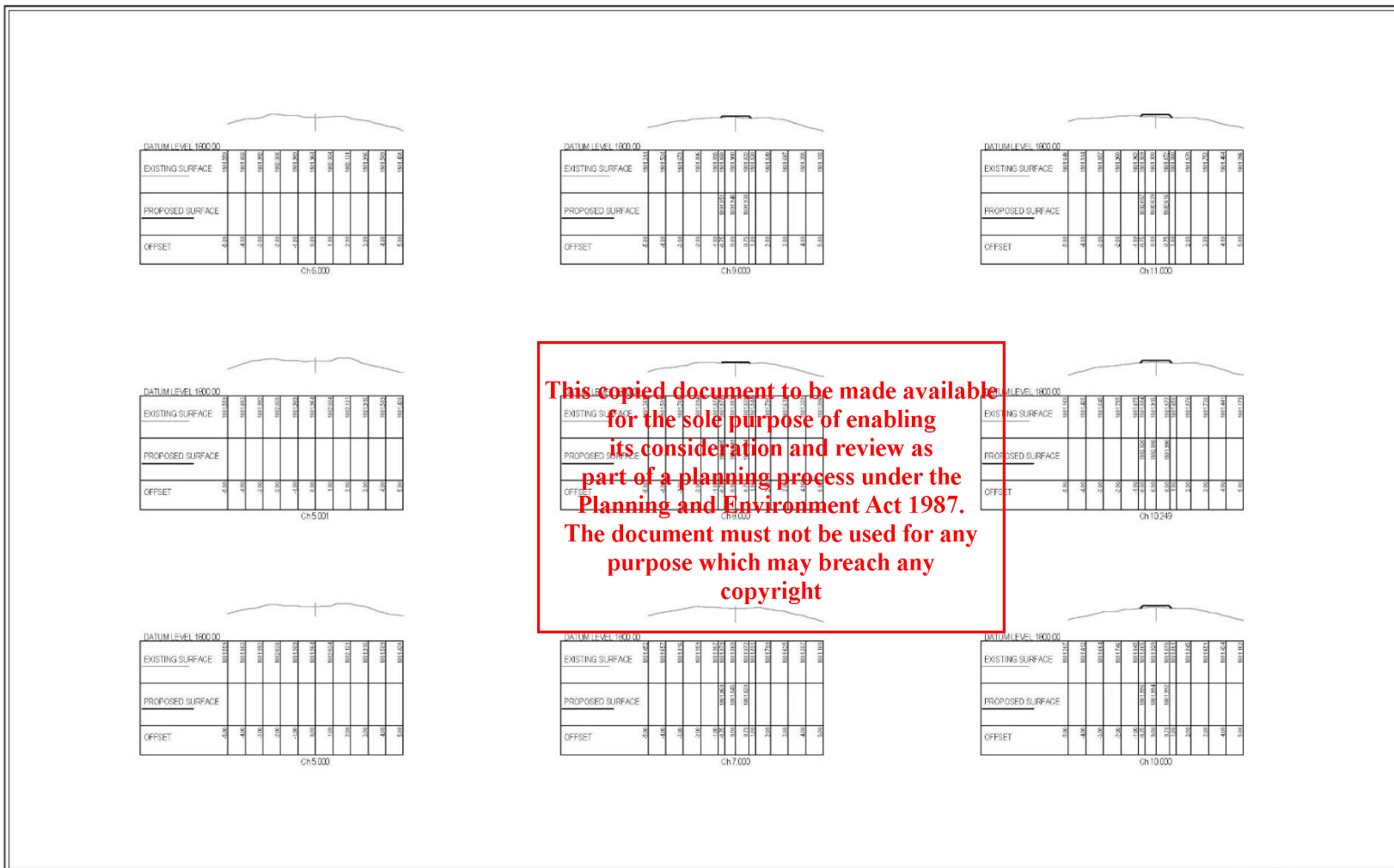
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September 2022

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SCALE: 1:1000 A3

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A	INITIAL DRAFT	16/09/2022	DR
	AMENDMENTS		

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Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design

Proposed Long Section  
Drawing No. GMR21019.FT06  
Revision: A Sheet No. 05  
GMR21019.03 - Proposed Conditions - Fire Tower.dwg A1



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VERIFIED BY

September 2022  
September 2022



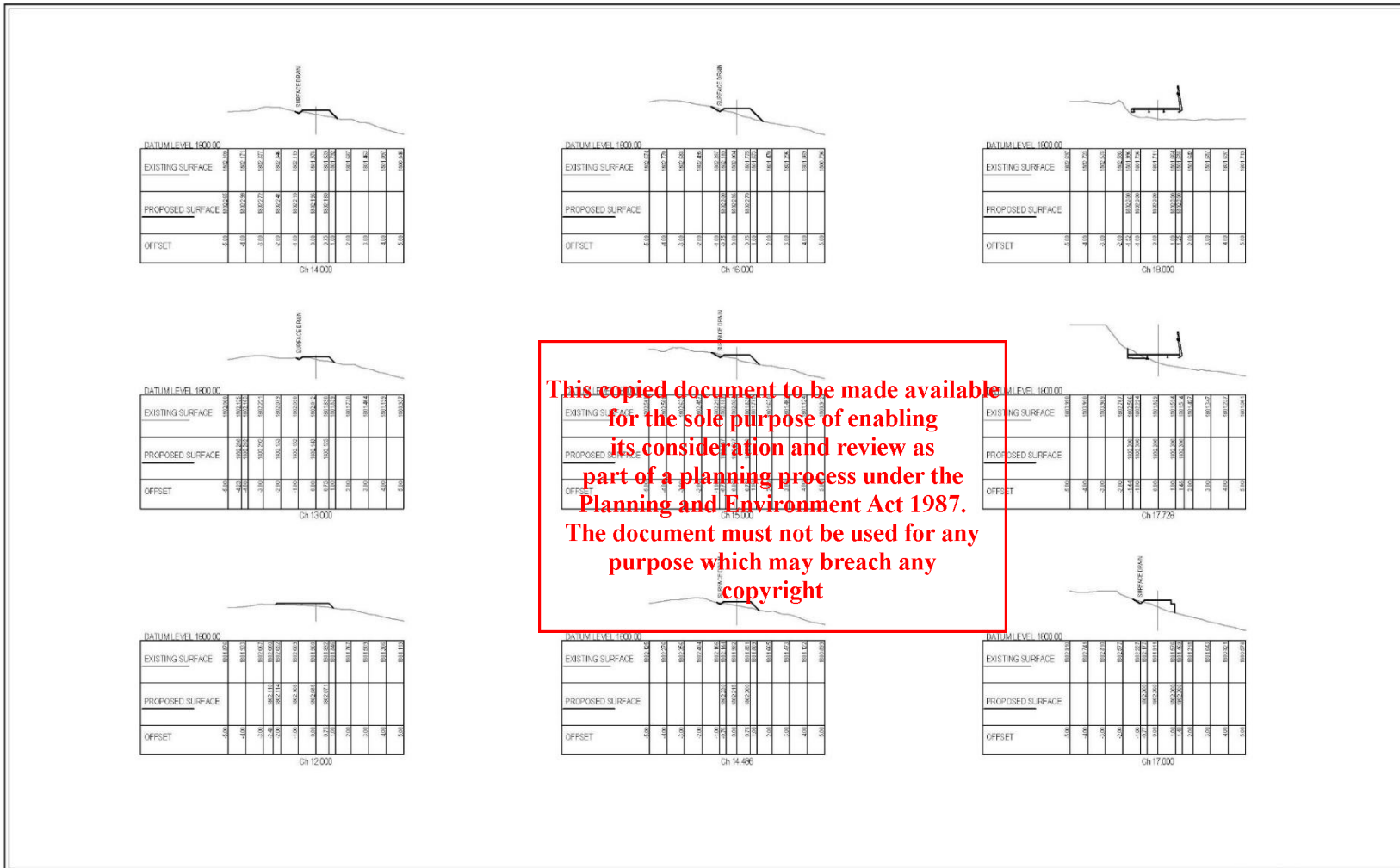
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**Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management  
Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design**

Proposed Cross Sections  
Drawing No. GMR21019.FT07

Revision. **A** Sheet No. FT07  
GMR21019.03 - Proposed Conditions - Fire Tower.dwg A1

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DRAFTED BY: T Alcock  
VERIFIED BY:

September 2022  
September 2022

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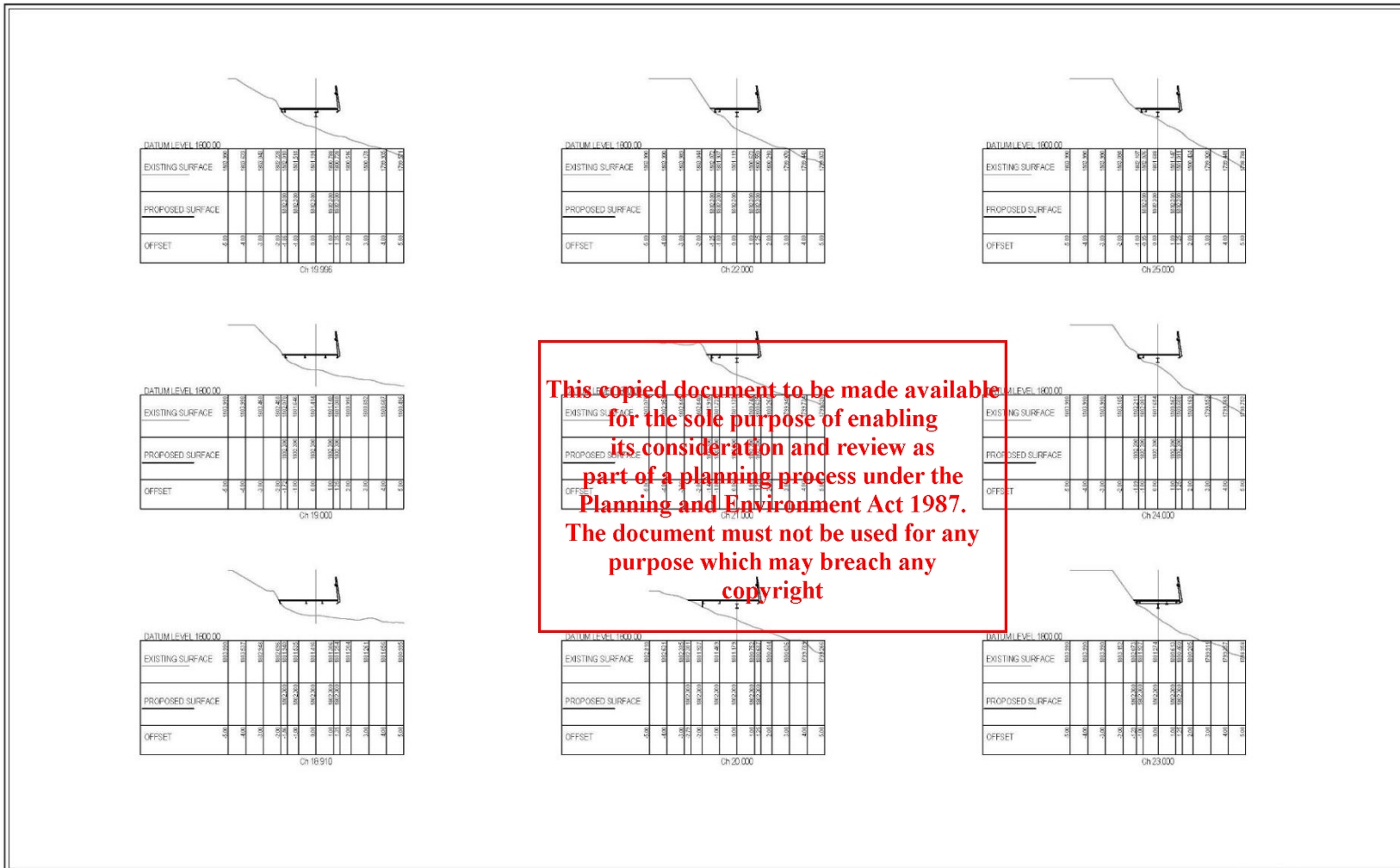
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Mt Buller Mt Sirling Resort Management  
Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design

Proposed Cross Sections  
Drawing No. GMR21019.FT08  
Revision: A Sheet No. FT08  
GMR21019.03 - Proposed Conditions - Pine Tower.dwg A1



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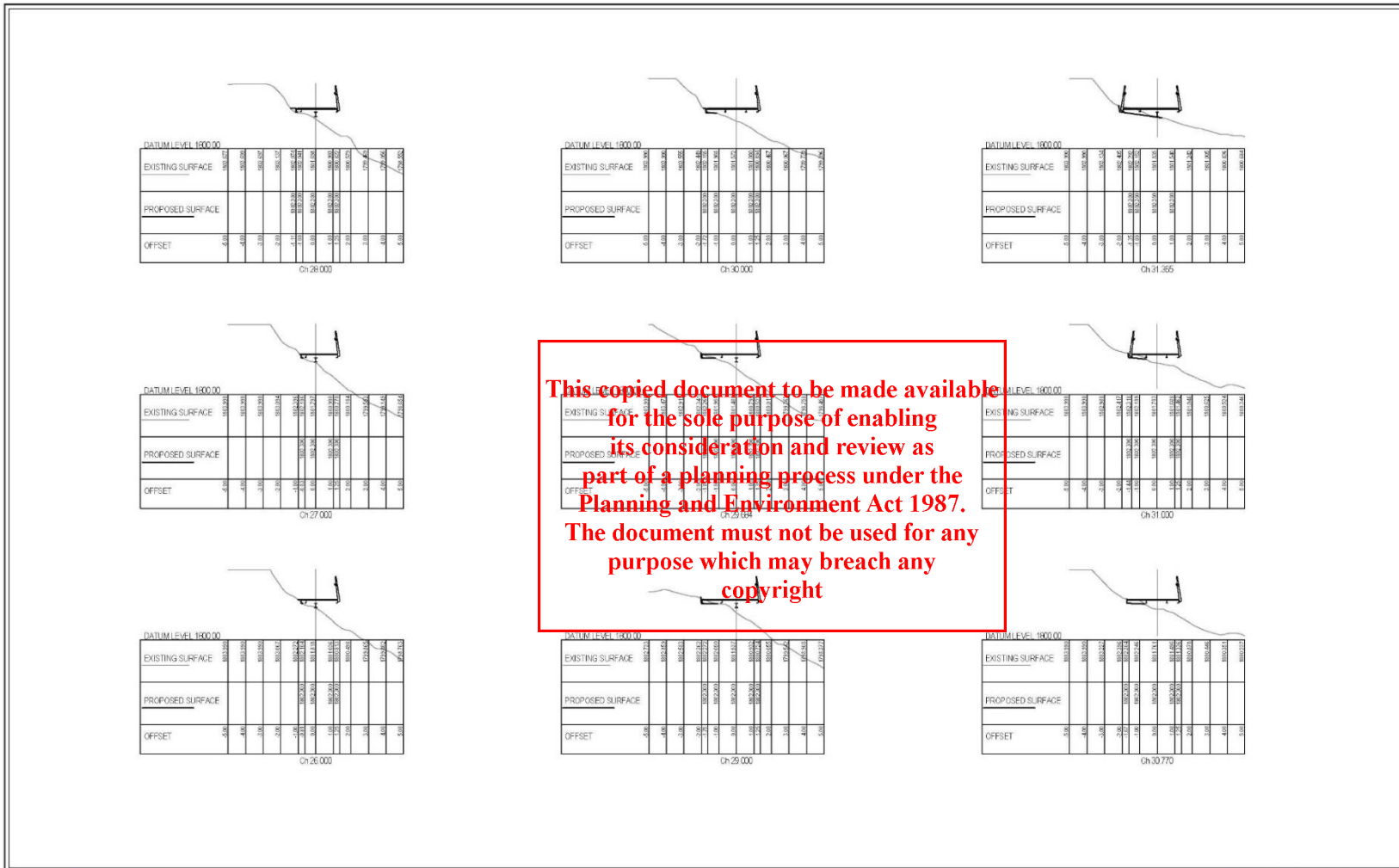
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Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design

**Proposed Cross Sections**  
Drawing No. GMR21019.FT09  
Revision: A Sheet No. FT09  
GMR21019.03 - Proposed Conditions - Pine Tower.dwg A1

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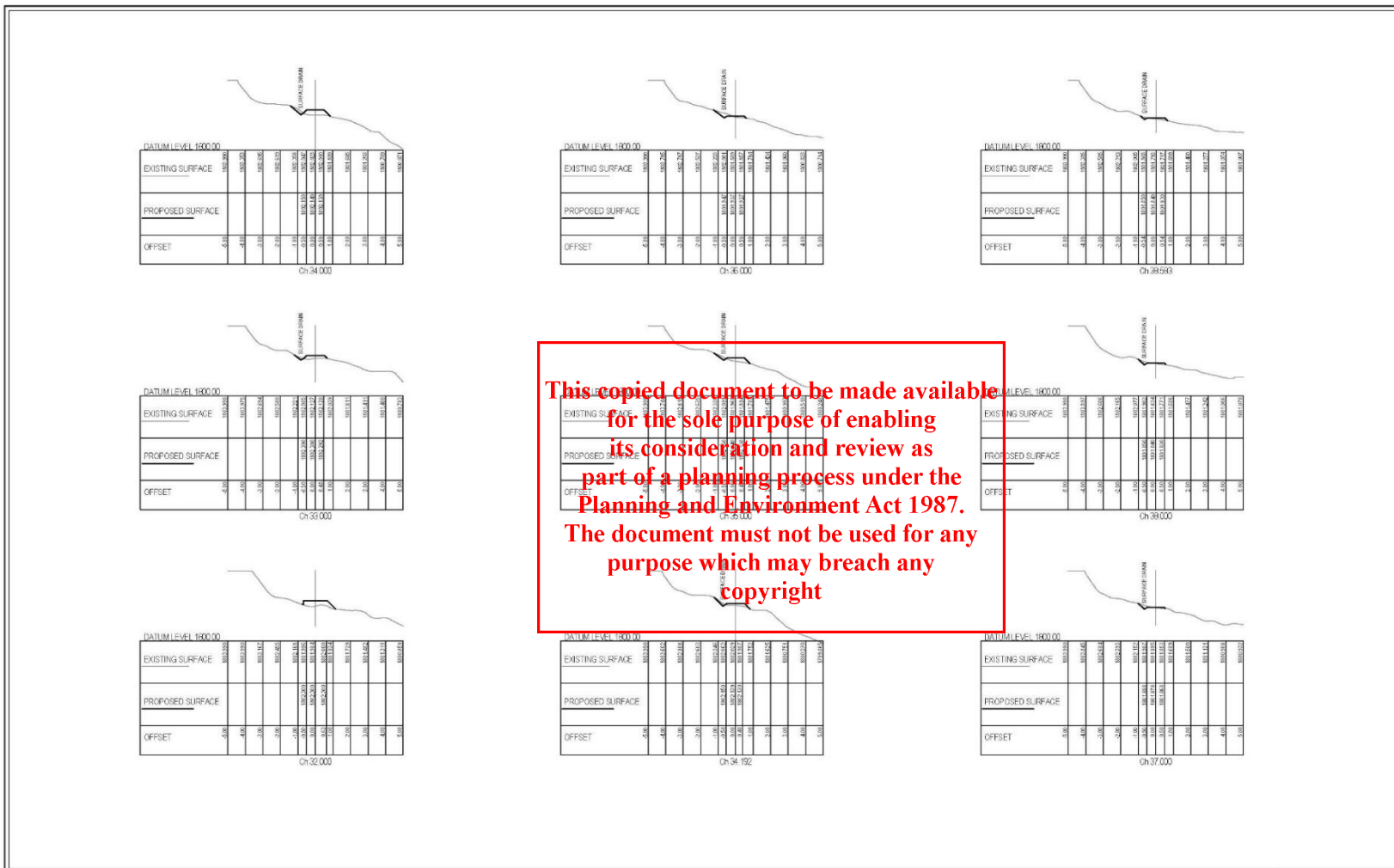


DESIGNED BY:	G Ryan	September 2022
DRAFTED BY:	T Alcock	September 2022
VERIFIED BY:		
REV	AMENDMENTS	DATE BY
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Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design

Proposed Cross Sections  
Drawing No. GMR21019.FT10  
Revision: A Sheet No. FT10  
GMR21019.03 - Proposed Conditions - Pine Tower.dwg A1



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**GMR Engineering Services**

**Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management  
Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design**

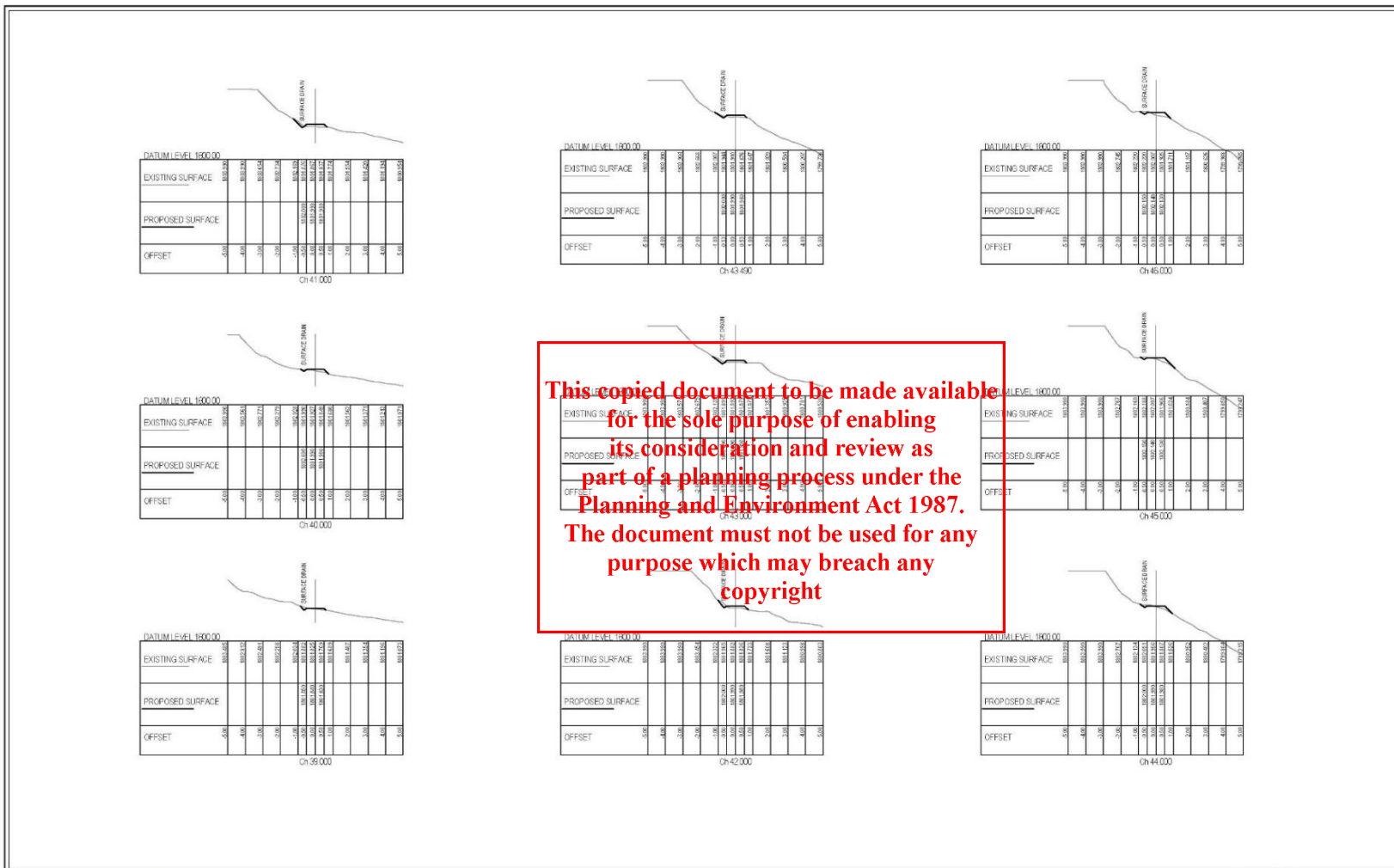
### Proposed Cross Sections

Drawing No. GMR21019.FT11

Revision. **A** Sheet No. FT11

GMR21819.03 - Proposed Conditions - Fire Tower.dwg A1





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DESIGNED BY G Ryan  
DRAFTED BY T Ainsworth  
VERIFIED BY

September 2022  
September 2022

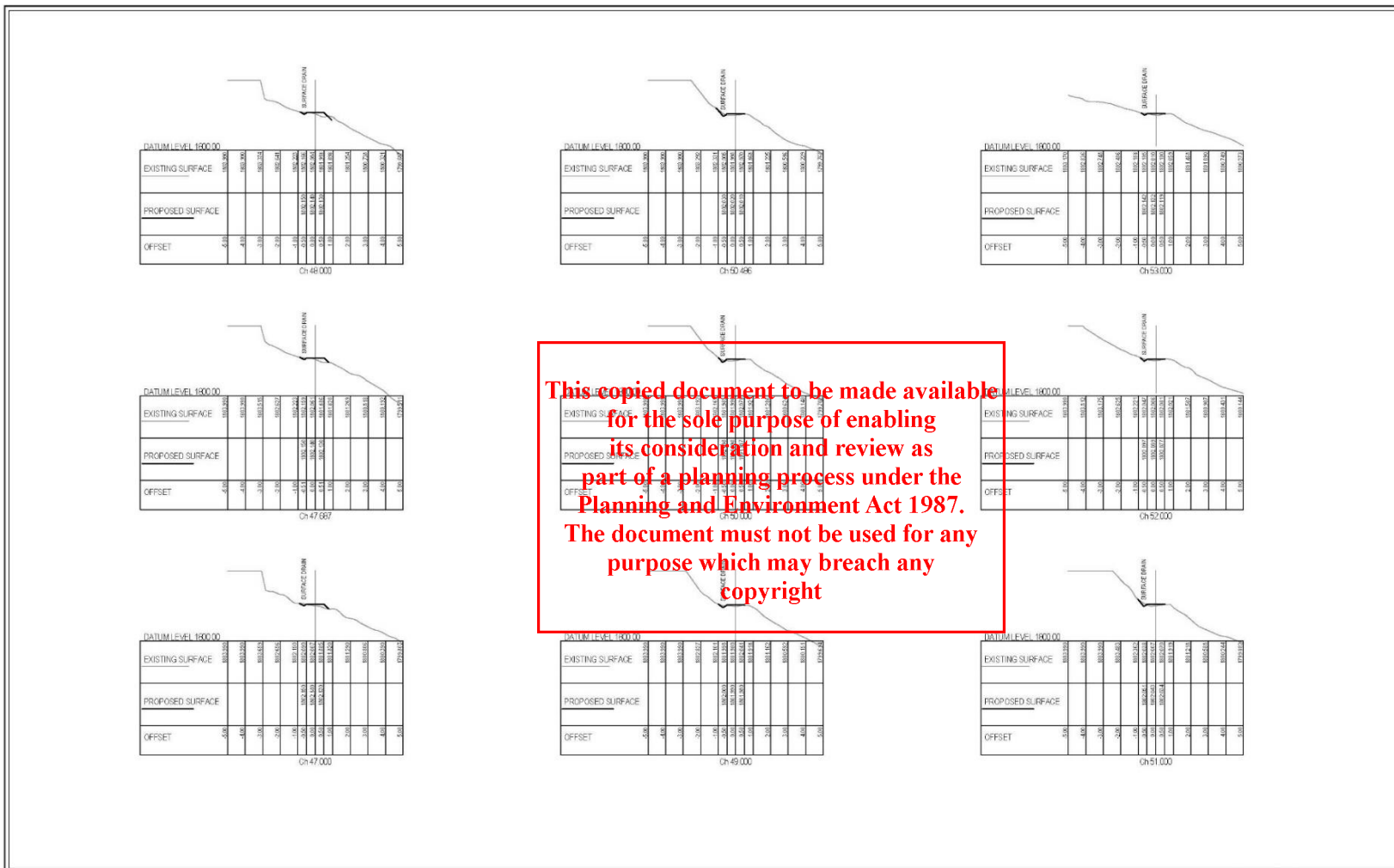


**GMR Engineering Services**

**Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management  
Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design**

Proposed Cross Sections  
Drawing No. GMR21019.FT12

Revision. **A** Sheet No. FT12  
GMR21019.03 - Proposed Conditions - Fire Tower.dwg A1



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DRAFTED BY T. Ainsworth  
VERIFIED BY

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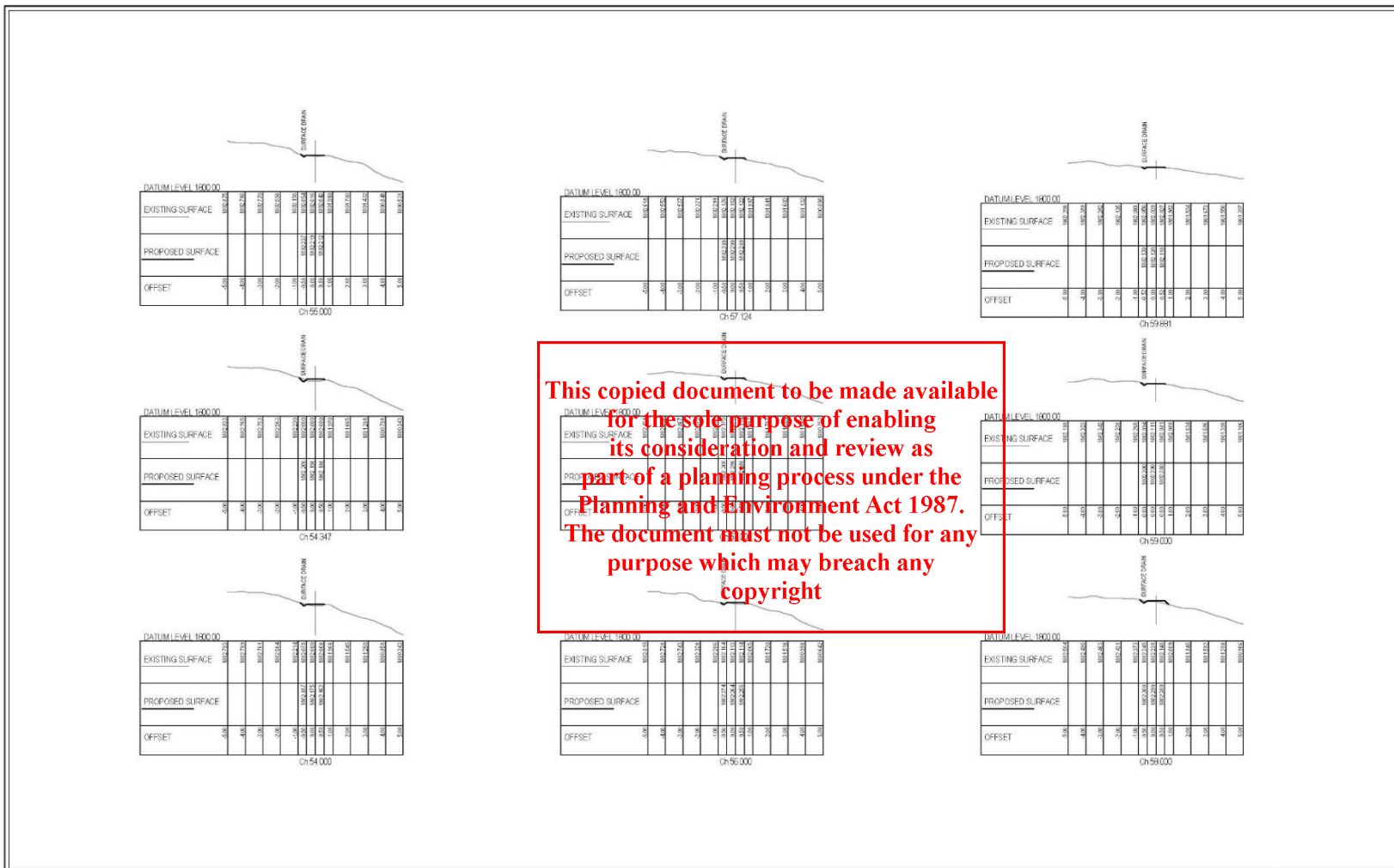
**Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management  
Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design**

### Proposed Cross Sections

Drawing No. GMR21019.FT13

Revision. A Sheet No. FT13

A1

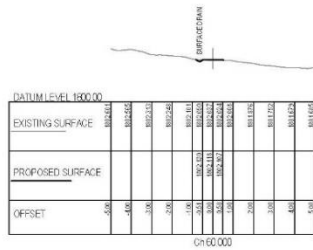
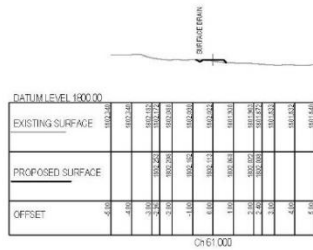


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## ADVERTISED PLAN



Phone: (03) 5822 0333  
Fax: (03) 5822 0033  
Website: [gmreng.com.au](http://gmreng.com.au)

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DESIGNED BY G. Ryan  
DRAFTED BY T. Ainsworth  
VERIFIED BY

September 2022  
September 2022

A	INITIAL DRAFT	6/6/2022	1
REV	AMENDMENTS	DATE	0

0 0.5 1

SCALE 150@A1  
SCALE 1:100@A3

GMR Engineering Services

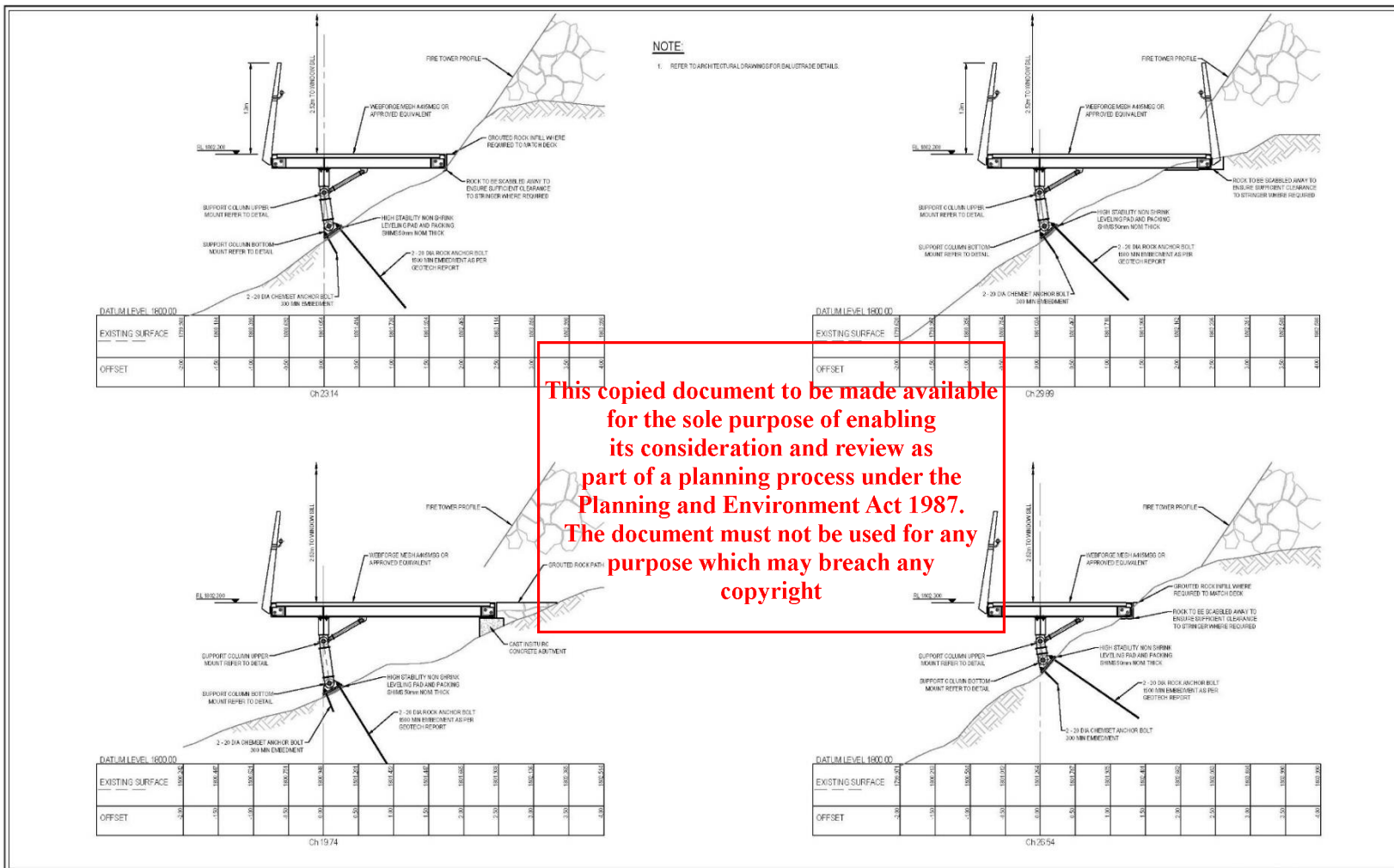
**Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management**  
**Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design**

### Proposed Cross Sections

Drawing No. GMR21019.FT15

Revision. A Sheet No. FT15

# ADVERTISED PLAN



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DRAFTED BY	T.Ainsworth	September 2022
VERIFIED BY		
A	INITIAL DRAFT	6665-02
REV	AMENDMENTS	DATE

SCALE: 1:25 @ A1  
SCALE: 1:50 @ A2

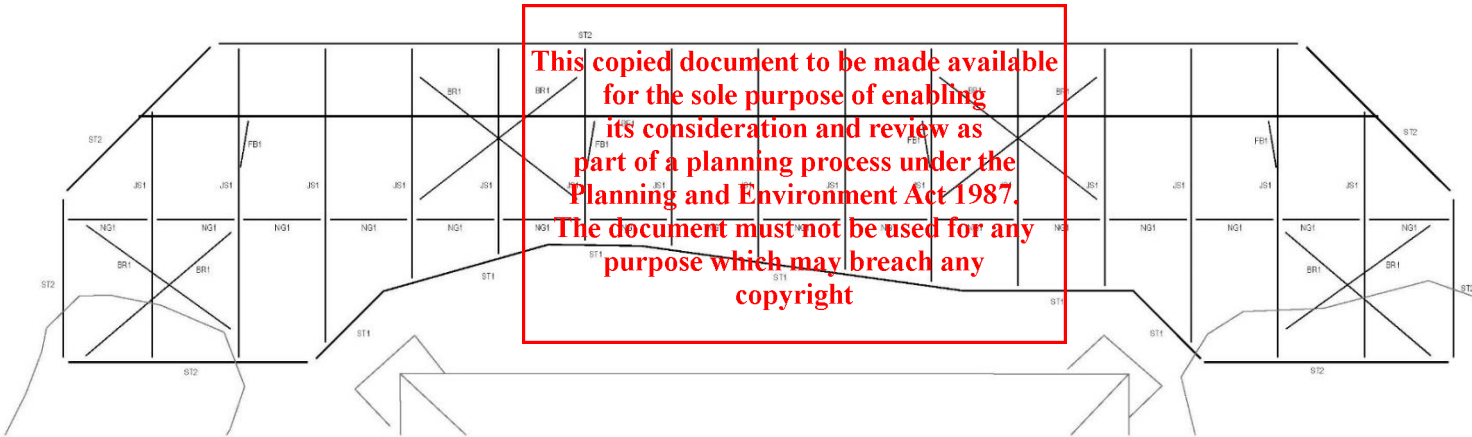
**GMR Engineering Services**  
Mt Buller Mt Sirling Resort Management  
Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design

Proposed Beam Support  
Drawing No. GMR21019.FT16  
Revision: A Sheet No. FT16  
GMR21019.04 - Proposed Details - Fire Tower.dwg A1

STRUCTURAL MEMBER SCHEDULE		
MARK	MEMBER SIZE	REMARK
BE1	200x317.4	BEAM
BR1	20 (A400)	REINFORCING
JO1	# 3 x 23 CM250.0	PLY BRACE
JO2	1500X10.0	JOIST @ 0.55M TRK SPACING
SC1	80X65	HEAVY SUPPORT COLUMN
SC2	100 X 7.4 CM250.0	SUPPORT COLUMN
ST1	200X250	WELDED STEELING ARRANGEMENT
ST2	200X250	WELDED STEELING ARRANGEMENT

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**MEMBER SCHEDULE**  
SCALE 1:20 @A1  
SCALE 1:40 @A3



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DESIGNED BY	G. Ryan	September 2022
DRAFTED BY	T. Ainsworth	September 2022
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A	INITIAL DRAFT	6643/22
REV	AMENDMENTS	DATE

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SCALE 1:20 @ A1  
SCALE 1:40 @ A3

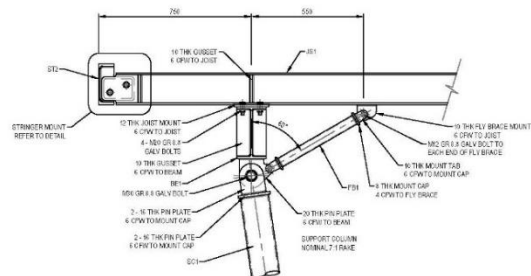
**GMR Engineering Services**  
Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management  
Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design

**Proposed Conditions**  
**Drawing No. GMR21019.FT17**  
**Revision. A** Sheet No. FT17  
 GMR21019.04 - Proposed Details - Fire Tower.dwg A1

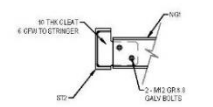
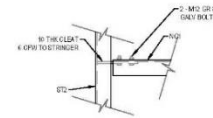
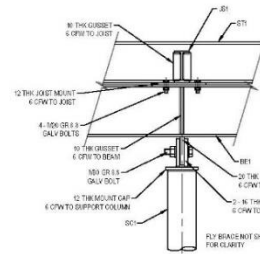


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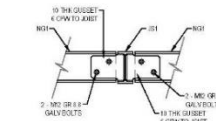
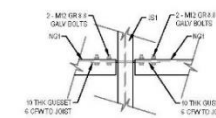
1. ALL STEEL MEMBERS TO BE NOT LESS THAN 100mm CLEAR OF GROUND.



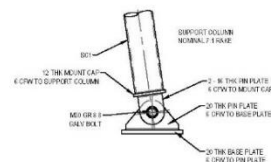
**SUPPORT COLUMN BEAM DETAILS**  
SCALE 1/80 @ A1  
SCALE 1/20 @ A3



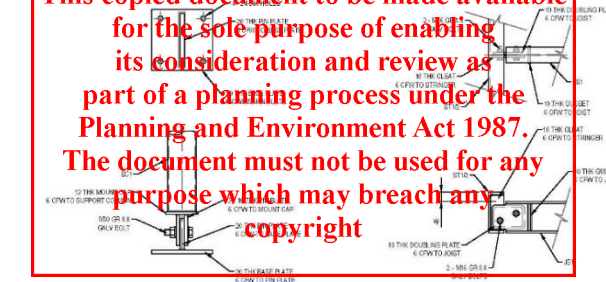
### STRINGER NOGGIN DETAILS



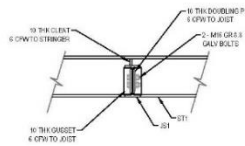
### JOIST NOGGIN DETAILS



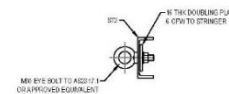
**SUPPORT COLUMN BASE DETAILS**  
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SCALE 1:20 @ A3



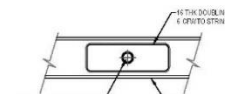
### STRINGER JOIST DETAILS



SCALE 1:10 @ A1  
SCALE 1:20 @ A0



### RECOVERY EYELET ANCHOR DETAILS



SCALE 1:10 @ A1  
SCALE 1:20 @ A0



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12/09/2022

REDUCED SCALE



DESIGNED BY G Ryan  
DRAFTED BY T Ainsworth  
VERIFIED BY

September 2022  
September 2022

0 0.1 0.2 0.4

SCALE 1100 Å

**GMR Engineering Services**

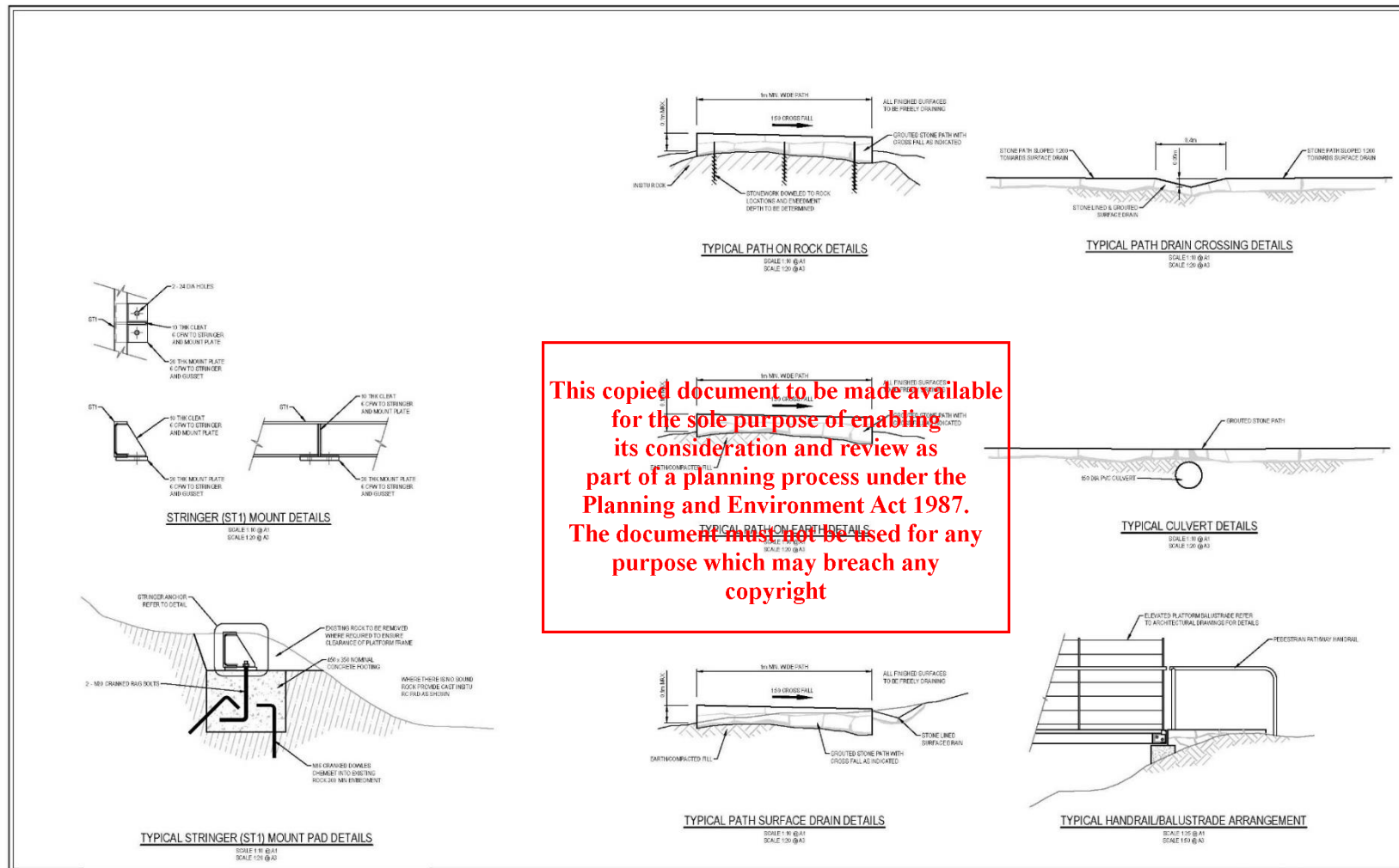
**Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management  
Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design**

### Proposed Details

Drawing No. GMR21019.FT18

Revision. A Sheet No. FT18

GMR21019.04 - Proposed Details - Fire Tower.dwg A1



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DESIGNED BY G Ryan  
DRAFTED BY T Ainsworth  
CHECKED BY

September 2022  
September 2022

A	INITIAL DRAFT	6/6/02
REV	AMENDMENTS	DATE

0 0.1 0.2 0

SCALE 1:10 (2A)

**GMR Engineering Services**

**Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management  
Mt Buller Summit Lookout Design**

**Proposed Details**  
**Drawing No. GMR21019.FT19**  
**Revision. A** Sheet No. FT19  
 GMR21019.04 - Proposed Details - Fire Tower.dwg

### GROUND ANCHOR NOTES

- [illegible]

5. INSPECTION OF COM

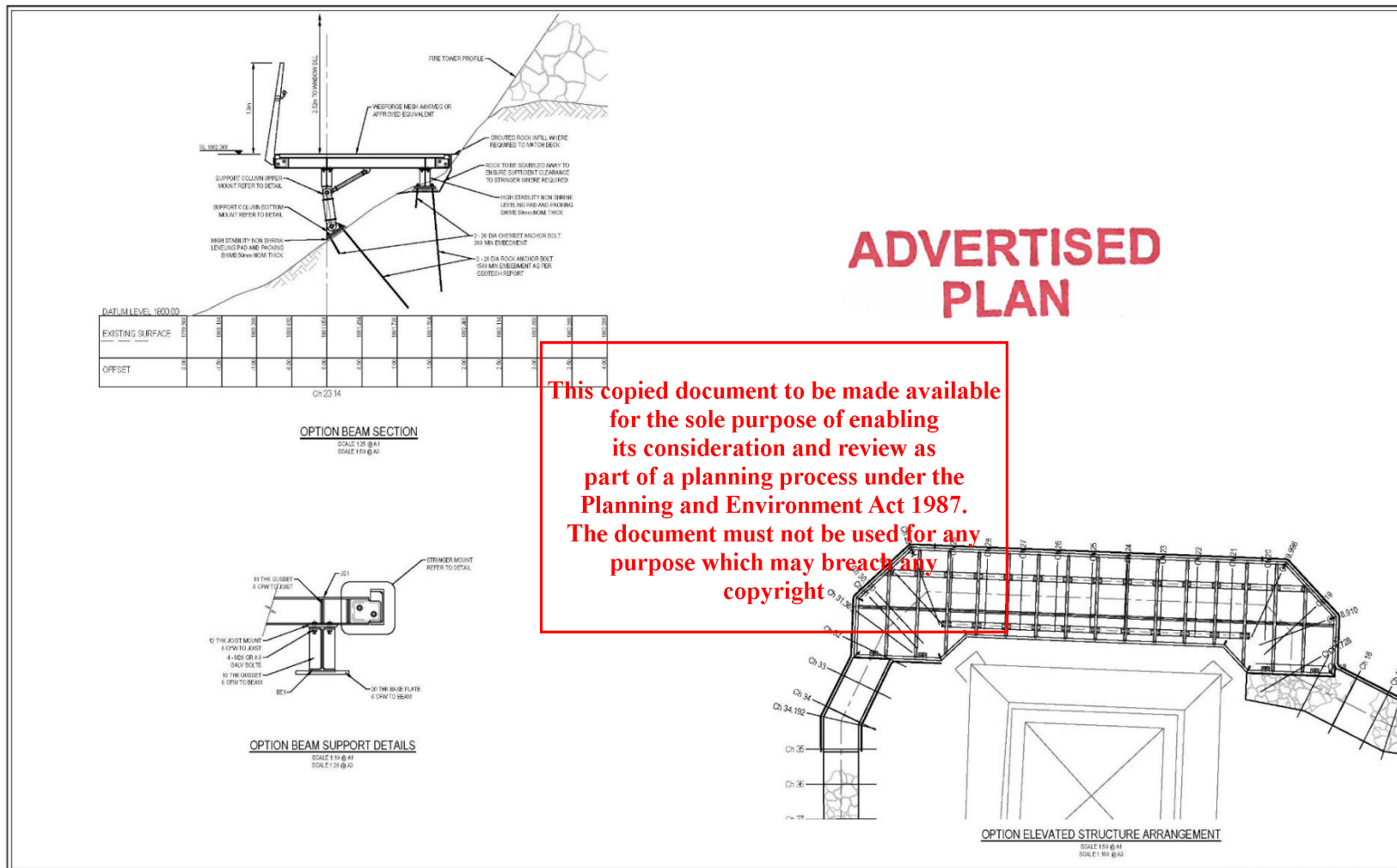
6. SET OUT OF CASING INCLUDING LEVELS AND ORIENTATION
7. PROGRAMMED SITE PROGRESS WORKS ALL NOTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREED CONTRACT WORKS PROGRAM
8. PRACTICAL COMPLETION INCLUDING RECTIFICATION OF ANY TO ALL DEFECTS APPROVAL OF PRIME VICTORIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMENCE DEFECTS PERIOD
9. FINAL COMPLETION ON COMPLETION OF SOME DEFECTS PERIOD, INCLUDING RECTIFICATION OF ANY TO ALL DEFECTS APPROVAL OF PRIME VICTORIA REPRESENTATIVES

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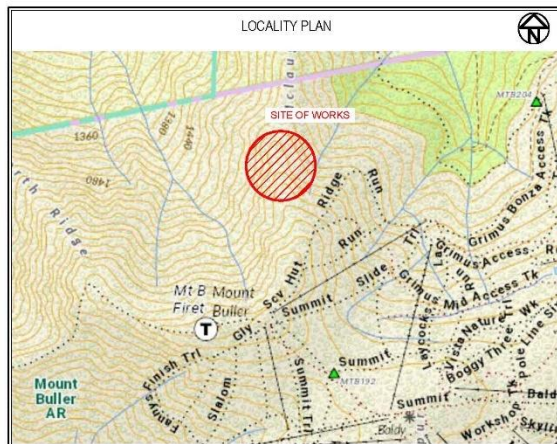


GMR Engineering Services

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# Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management McLaughlans Shoulder Lookout Design McLaughlans Shoulder, Mt Buller



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DRAWING SCHEDULE

DRAWING NUMBER	DRAWING TITLE	REVISION
GMR21010-N501	Cover Sheet	
GMR21010-N502	Existing Conditions	A
GMR21010-N503	Existing Conditions - Aerial	A
GMR21010-N504	Proposed Conditions	C
GMR21010-N505	Proposed Sections	C
GMR21010-N506	Proposed Structural & Details	C
GMR21010-N507	Proposed Details	C
GMR21010-N508	General Notes	A

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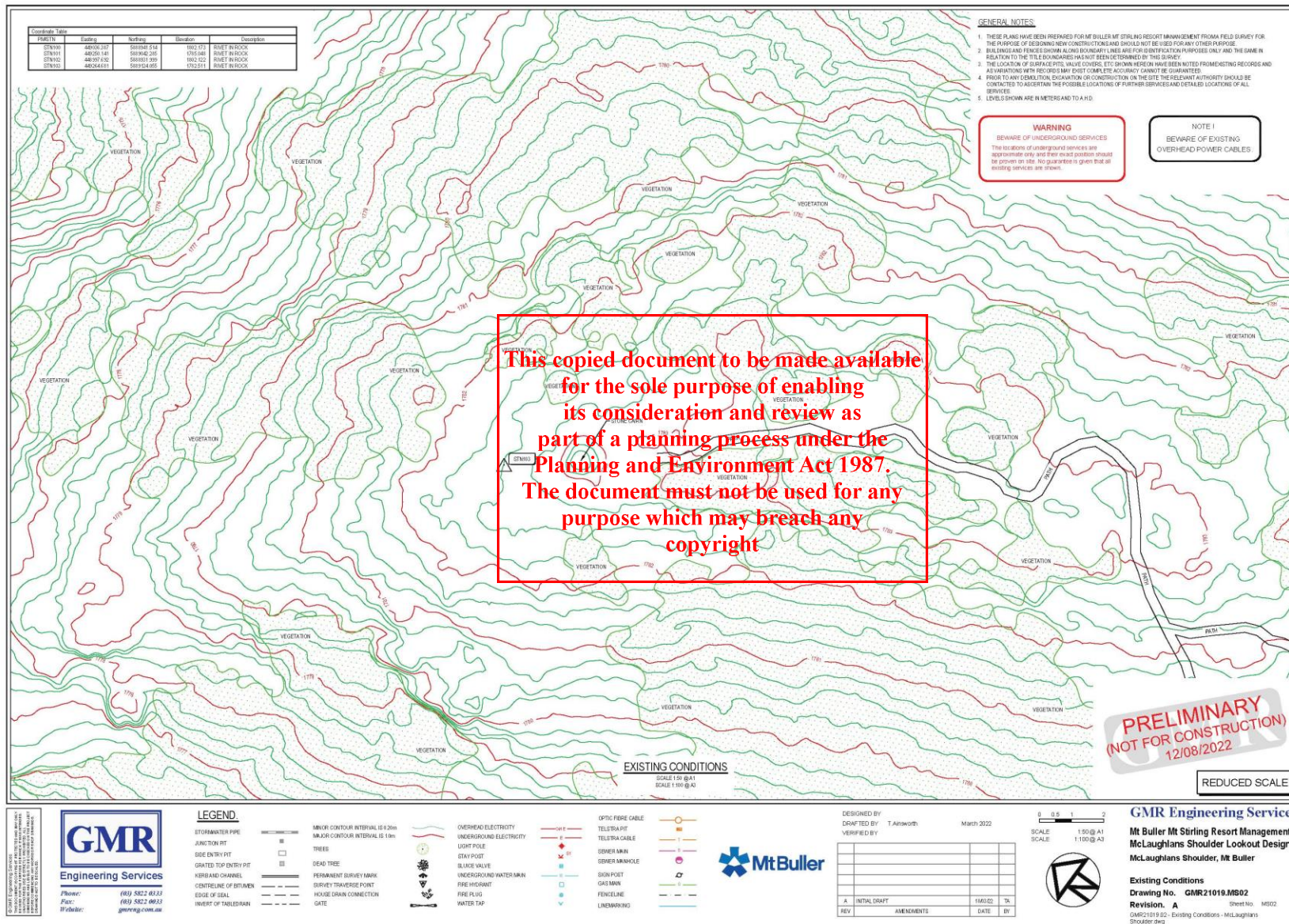
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The locations of underground services are  
approximate only and their exact position should  
be pinned or site. No guarantee is given that all  
existing services are shown.

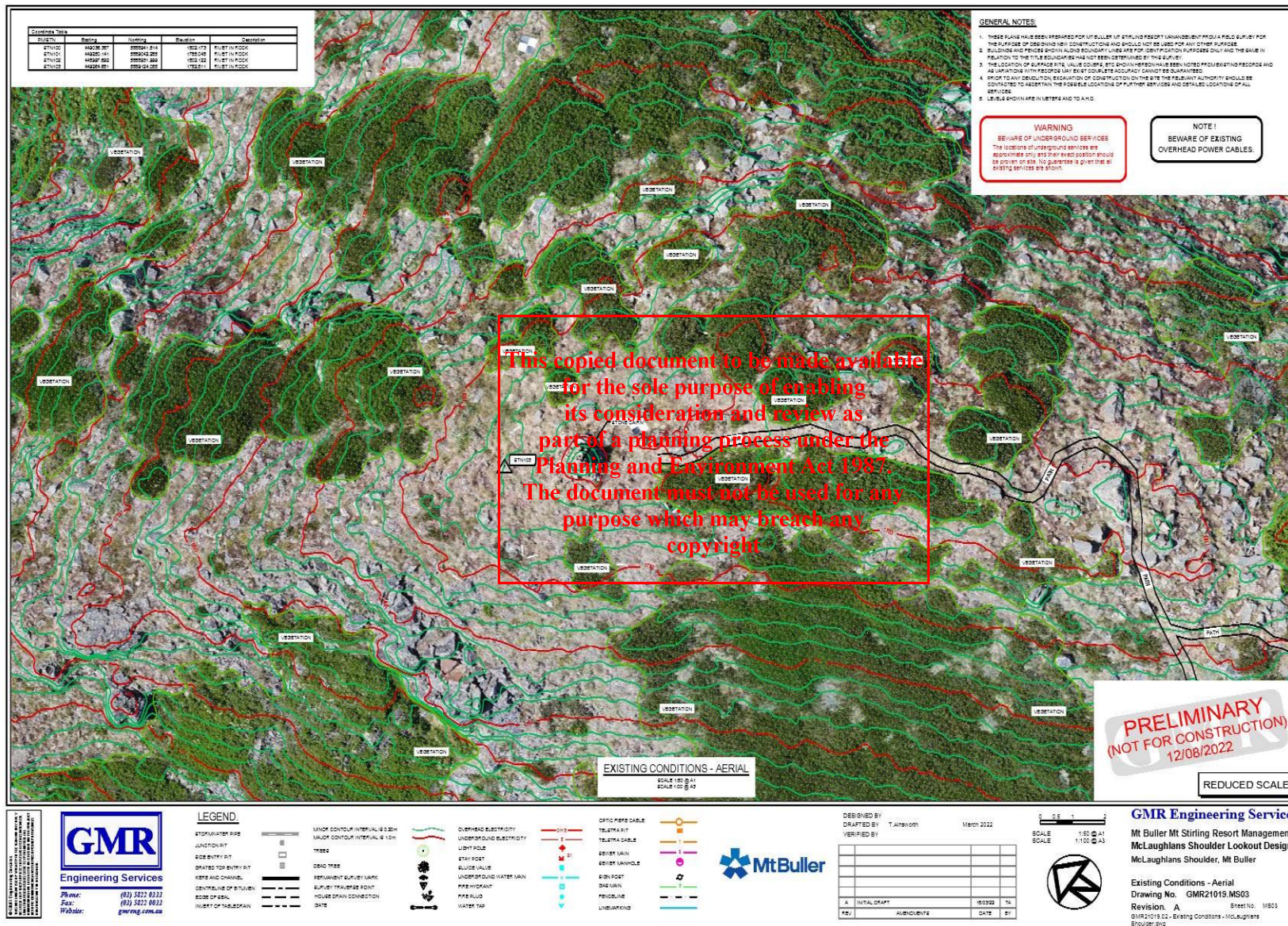


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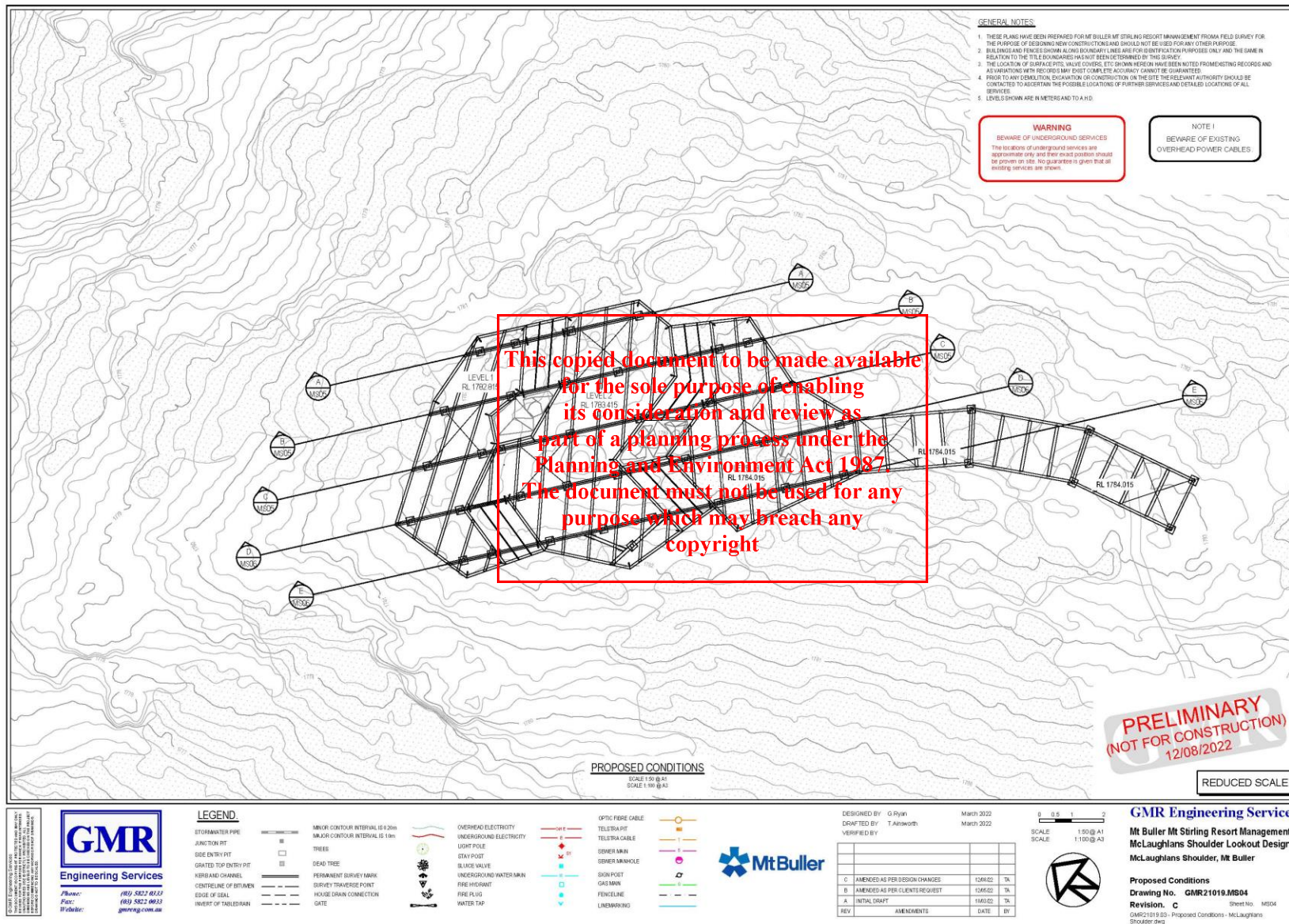


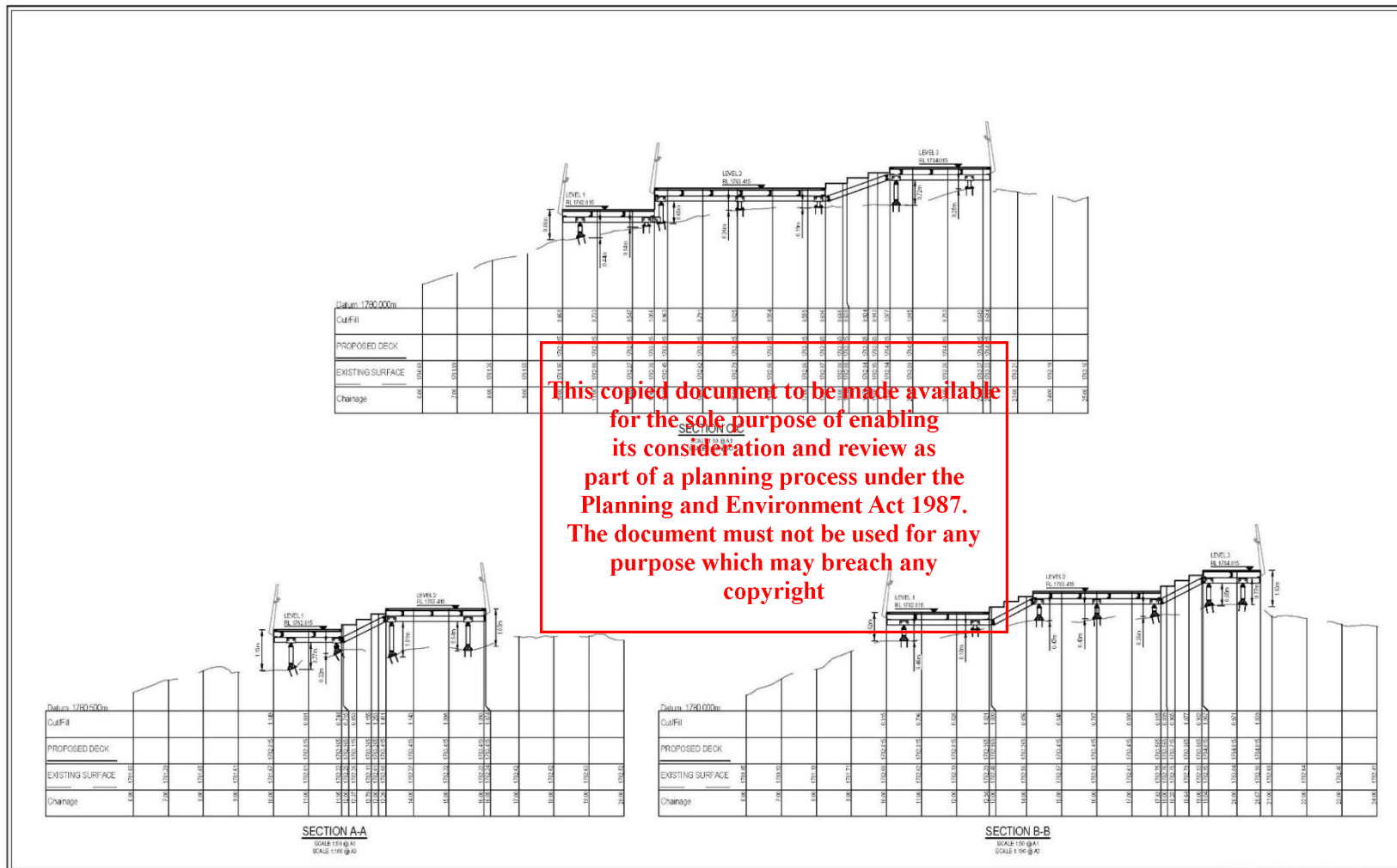
# ADVERTISED PLAN





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DESIGNED BY	G Ryan	March 2022
DRAFTED BY	T.Ainsworth	March 2022
VERIFIED BY		
C	AMENDED AS PER DESIGN CHANGES	12/06/02 TA
B	AMENDED AS PER CLIENTS REQUEST	12/06/02 TA
A	INITIAL DRAFT	16/02/02 TA
REV	AMENDMENTS	DATE BY

0 0.5 1

SCALE 150@A

SCALE 1:100@A

**GMR Engineering Services**

**Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management**  
**McLaughlans Shoulder Lookout Design**  
**McLaughlans Shoulder, Mt Buller**

### Proposed Sections

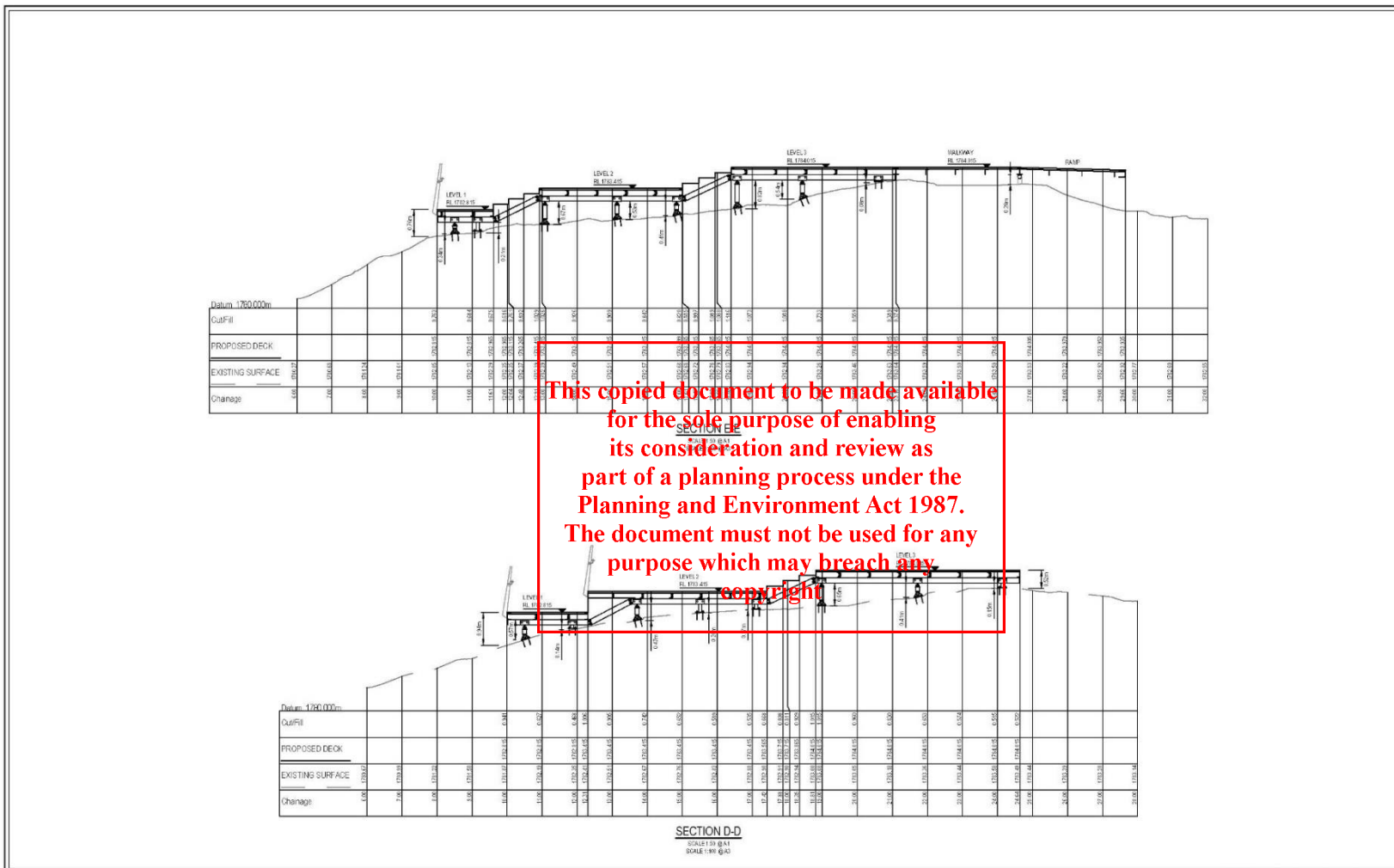
Drawing No. GMR21019.MS05

Revision. C Sheet No. MS05

GMR21819-03 - Proposed Conditions - McLaughland  
Shoulder dog



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10/10/2022 10:10:10 AM  
10/10/2022 10:10:10 AM  
10/10/2022 10:10:10 AM

**GMR**  
Engineering Services  
Phone: (08) 5521 6033  
Fax: (08) 5521 6033  
Website: gmr.com.au

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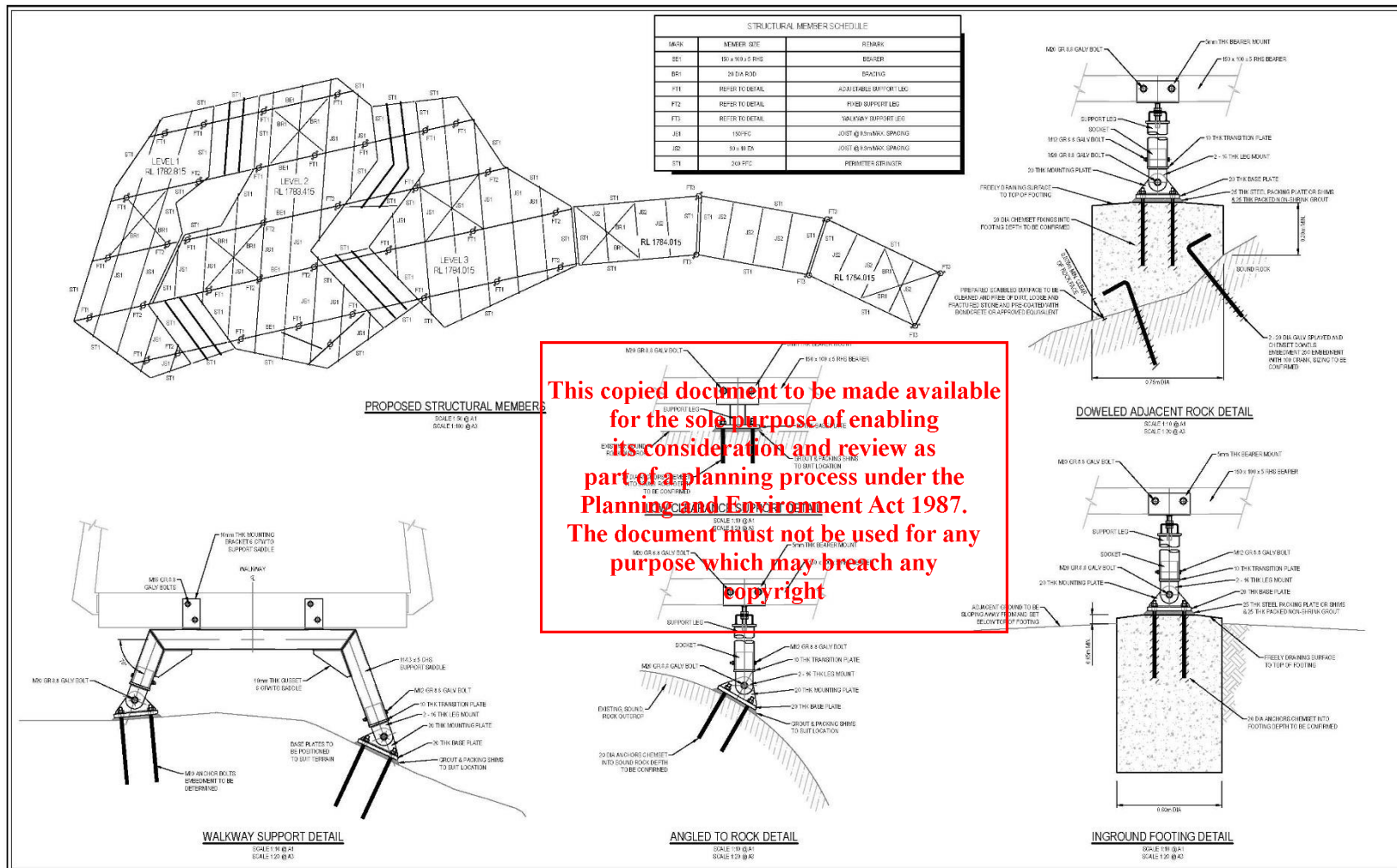


DESIGNED BY: D Ryan  
DRAFTED BY: T Anwar  
VERIFIED BY:  
C AMENDED AS PER DESIGN CHANGES  
B AMENDED AS PER CLIENTS REQUEST  
A INITIAL DRAFT  
REV AMENDMENTS DATE BY

March 2022  
March 2022  
SCALE 1:100 @ A1  
SCALE 1:100 @ A2

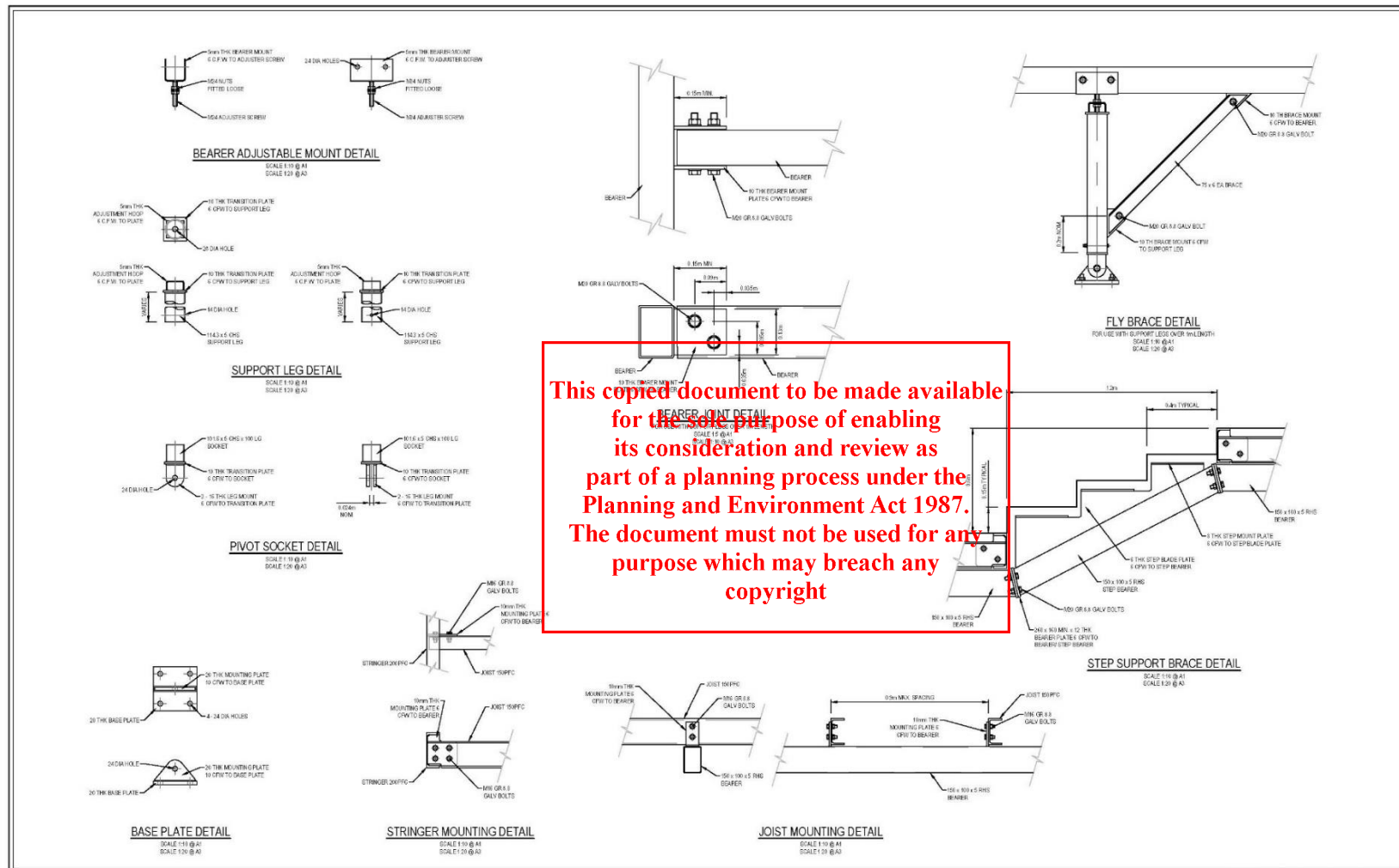
**GMR Engineering Services**  
Mt Buller Mt Sirling Resort Management  
McLaughlans Shoulder Lookout Design  
McLaughlans Shoulder, Mt Buller

Proposed Sections  
Drawing No. GMR21019.MS05  
Revision. C Sheet No. MS05  
Checked by: D Ryan  
Designed by: D Ryan  
Drawn by: T Anwar  
Reviewed by: T Anwar



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**PRELIMINARY**  
(NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION)  
12/08/2022

REDUCED SCALE



DESIGNED BY	G Ryan	March 2022
DRAFTED BY	T.Ainsworth	March 2022
VERIFIED BY		
C	AMENDED AS PER DESIGN CHANGES	12/05/22
B	AMENDED AS PER CLIENTS REQUEST	12/05/22
A	INITIAL DRAFT	18/03/22
REV	AMENDMENTS	DATE

**GMR Engineering Services**

Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management  
McLaughlans Shoulder Lookout Design  
McLaughlans Shoulder, Mt Buller

Proposed Details  
Drawing No. GMR21019.MS08

**Revision. C** Sheet No. MS08  
GMR21019-03 - Proposed Conditions - McLaughlin  
Shoulder dog



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## Appendix 4 Aboriginal Places within the Geographic Region

VAHR Place	Place Name	Component Number	Place Type
8123-0003	Mount Buller Cow Camp	8123-0003-1	Artefact Scatter
8123-0014	Mt Stirling 1	8123-0014-1	Artefact Scatter
8123-0015	Mt Stirling 2	8123-0015-1	Artefact Scatter
8123-0016	Mt Stirling 3	8123-0016-1	Artefact Scatter
8123-0019	Mt Stirling 4	8123-0019-1	Artefact Scatter
8123-0020	Mt Stirling 2	8123-0020-1	Artefact Scatter
8123-0021	Mt Stirling 3	8123-0021-1	Artefact Scatter
8123-0022	Mt Stirling 5	8123-0022-1	Artefact Scatter
8123-0023	Mt Stirling 6	8123-0023-1	Artefact Scatter
8123-0024	Mt Stirling 7	8123-0024-1	Artefact Scatter
8123-0053	Stirling Black Track artefacts	8123-0053-1	Low Density Artefact Distribution
8123-0053	Stirling Black Track artefacts	8123-0053-2	Low Density Artefact Distribution
8123-0053	Stirling Black Track artefacts	8123-0053-3	Object Collection
8123-0055	Bluff Spur Hammer Stone	8123-0055-1	Low Density Artefact Distribution
8123-0062	Pannican Creek Ground-Edge Axe	8123-0062-2	Object Collection

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## Appendix 5 Glossary

The glossary provides definitions of various terms used in this CHMP. There is often a degree of confusion about the use of terms such as *heritage place*, *historical place*, *archaeological place*. The definitions of these terms, as used in this report, have been included in the glossary. The term used most consistently is *heritage place*. For the purpose of discussion in this plan 'heritage place' can be subdivided into Aboriginal place and Historic place.

**Heritage place:** A place that has aesthetic, historic, scientific or social values for past, present or future generations – '...this definition encompasses all cultural places with any potential present or future value as defined above' (Pearson & Sullivan 1995, pp. 7).

**Aboriginal place:** Aboriginal place is defined under Section 5 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* as follows:

### 5 What is an Aboriginal place?

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, an Aboriginal place is an area in Victoria or the coastal waters of Victoria that is of cultural heritage significance to the Aboriginal people of Victoria.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), *area* includes any one or more of the following—
  - (a) an area of land;
  - (b) an expanse of water;
  - (c) a natural feature, formation or landscape;
  - (d) an archaeological place or feature under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1987*;
  - (e) the area immediately surrounding anything referred to in paragraphs (c) and (d), to the extent that it cannot be separated from the thing without diminishing or destroying the cultural heritage significance attached to the thing by Aboriginal people;
  - (f) land set aside for the purpose of enabling Aboriginal human remains to be re-interred or otherwise deposited on a permanent basis;
  - (g) a building or structure.

**Alluvial terrace:** a platform created from deposits of alluvial material along river banks.

**Angular fragment:** a piece of stone that is blocky or angular, not flake-like.

**Archaeology:** the study of the remains of past human activity.

**Artefact scatter:** a surface scatter of cultural material. Aboriginal artefact scatters are defined as being the occurrence of five or more items of cultural material within an area of about 100 square metres. Artefact scatters are often the only physical remains of places where people have lived camped, prepared and eaten meals and worked.

**Backed piece:** a flake or blade that has been abruptly retouched along one or more margins opposite an acute (sharp) edge. Backed pieces include backed blades and geometric microliths. They are thought to have been hafted onto wooden handles to produce composite cutting tools. Backed pieces are a feature of the 'Australian small tool tradition', dating from between 5,000 and 1,000 BP in southern Australia (Holdaway & Stern 2004).



**Blade:** a flake at least twice as long as it is wide.

**Burial place:** usually a sub-surface pit containing human remains and sometimes associated artefacts.

**Contact place:** see 'Aboriginal historical archaeological place'.

**Core:** an artefact from which flakes have been detached using a hammerstone. Core types include single platform, multi-platform and bipolar forms.

**Cortex:** original or natural (unflaked) surface of a stone.

**Cortical:** refers to the cortex.

**Flake:** a stone piece removed from a core by percussion (striking it) or pressure. It is identified by the presence of a striking platform and bulb of percussion, not usually found on a naturally shattered stone.

**Flaked piece:** a piece of stone with definite flake surfaces, which cannot be classified as a flake or core.

**Formal tool:** an artefact that has been shaped by flaking, including retouch, or grinding to a predetermined form for use as a tool. Formal tools include scrapers, backed pieces and axes.

**Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94):** a system of latitudes and longitudes, or east and north coordinates, centred at the centre of the earth's mass. GDA94 is compatible with modern positioning techniques such as the Global Positioning System (GPS). It supersedes older coordinate systems (AGD66, AGD84). GDA94 is based on a global framework, the IERS Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF), but is fixed to a number of reference points in Australia. GDA94 is the Victorian Government Standard and spatial coordinates for excavations, transects and places in CHMP documents.

**Geometric microlith:** a small tool that has been fashioned from breaking apart a microblade. The piece is then retouched or backed and a small tool formed.

**Grindstones:** upper (handstone) and lower (badal) stones used to grind plants for food and medicine and/or ochre for painting. A handstone sometimes doubles as a hammerstone and/or anvil.

**Hearth:** usually a sub-surface feature found eroding from a river or creek bank or a sand dune - it indicates a place where Aboriginal people cooked food. The remains of a hearth are usually identifiable by the presence of charcoal and sometimes clay balls (like brick fragments) and hearth stones. Remains of burnt bone or shell are sometimes preserved within a hearth.

**Isolated artefact:** the occurrence of less than five items of cultural material within an area of about 100 square metres. It/they can be evidence of a short-lived (or one-off) activity location, the result of an artefact being lost or discarded during travel, or evidence of an artefact scatter that is otherwise obscured by poor ground visibility.

**Manuport:** foreign fragment, chunk or lump of stone that shows no clear signs of flaking but is out of geological context and must have been transported to the place by people.

**Map Grid of Australia (MGA):** The official coordinate projection for use with the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94).

**Mound:** these places, often appearing as raised areas of darker soil, are found most commonly in the volcanic plains of western Victoria or on higher ground near bodies of water. The majority were probably formed by a slow build-up of debris resulting from earth-oven cooking; although some may have been formed by the collapse of sod or turf structures.

**Percussion:** the act of hitting a core with a hammerstone to strike off flakes.

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The lower (badal) stones used to grind  
plants for food and medicine and/or  
ochre for painting. A handstone  
sometimes doubles as a hammerstone  
and/or anvil.

**Platform preparation:** removal of small flake scars on the dorsal edge of a flake, opposite the bulb of percussion. These overhang removal scars are produced to prevent a platform from shattering.

**Pre-contact:** before contact with non-Aboriginal people.

**Post-contact:** after contact with non-Aboriginal people.

**Quarry (stone/ochre source):** a place where stone or ochre is exposed and has been extracted by Aboriginal people. The rock types most commonly quarried for artefact manufacture in Victoria include silcrete, quartz, quartzite, chert and fine-grained volcanics such as greenstone.

**Rejuvenation flake:** a flake that has been knapped from a core solely for the purpose of preparing a new platform and making it easier to get flakes off a core, as it reduces the angle between platform and core surface.

**Retouch:** a flake, flaked piece or core with intentional secondary flaking along one or more edges.

**Rock art:** 'paintings, engravings and shallow relief work on natural rock surfaces' (Rosenfeld 1988, pp. 1). Paintings were often produced by mineral pigments, such as ochre, combined with clay and usually mixed with water to form a paste or liquid that was applied to an unprepared rock surface. Rock engravings were made by incising, pounding, pecking or chiselling a design into a rock surface. Rare examples of carved trees occasionally survive.

**Rock shelter:** may contain the physical remains of camping places where people prepared meals, flaked stone, etc. They are often classed as a different type of place due to their fixed boundaries and greater likelihood of containing sub-surface deposits. Rock shelters may also contain rock art.

**Scarred tree:** scars on trees may be the result of removal of strips of bark by Aboriginal people e.g. for the manufacture of utensils, canoes or for shelter, or resulting from small notches chopped into the bark to provide hand and toe holds for hunting possums and koalas. Some scars may be the result of non-Aboriginal activity, such as surveyors' marks.

**Scraper:** a flake, flaked piece or core with systematic retouch on one or more margins.

**Shell midden:** a surface scatter and/or deposit comprised mainly of shell, sometimes containing stone artefacts, charcoal, bone and manuports. These place types are normally found in association with coastlines, rivers, creeks and swamps – wherever coastal, riverine or estuarine shellfish resources were accessed and exploited.

**Significance:** the importance of a heritage place or place for aesthetic, historic, scientific or social values for past, present or future generations.

**Striking platform:** the surface of a core, which is struck by a hammerstone to remove flakes.

**Structures (Aboriginal):** can refer to a number of different place types, grouped here only because of their relative rarity and their status as built structures. Most structures tend to be made of locally available rock, such as rock arrangements (ceremonial and domestic), fishtraps, dams and cairns, or of earth, such as mounds or some fishtraps.

**Stratified deposit:** material that has been laid down, over time, in distinguishable layers.

**Transect:** A fixed path along which one records archaeological remains.

**Utilised artefact:** a flake, flaked piece or core that has irregular small flake scarring along one or more margins that does not represent platform preparation.

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**Table 16 Scientific significance assessment criteria**

Place Contents	Place Condition	Representativeness	Overall Significance
<b>0</b> - No cultural material remaining.	<b>0</b> - Place destroyed.		
<b>1</b> - Place contains a small number (e.g. 0–10 artefacts) or limited range of cultural materials with no evident stratification.	<b>1</b> - Place in a deteriorated condition with a high degree of disturbance; some cultural materials remaining.	<b>1</b> - Common occurrence	<b>1 - 3</b> - Low
<b>2</b> - Place contains a larger number, but limited range of cultural materials; and/or some intact stratified deposit remains; and/or rare or unusual example(s) of a particular artefact type.	<b>2</b> - Place in a fair to good condition, but with some disturbance.	<b>2</b> - Occasional occurrence	<b>4 - 6</b> - Moderate
<b>3</b> - Place contains a large number and diverse range of cultural materials; and/or largely intact stratified deposit; and/or surface spatial patterning of cultural materials that still reflect the way in which the cultural materials were deposited.	<b>3</b> - Place in an excellent condition with little or no disturbance. For surface artefact scatters this may mean that the spatial patterning of cultural materials still reflects the way in which the cultural materials were deposited.	<b>3</b> - Rare occurrence	<b>7 - 9</b> - High

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