

OCTOBER 2016



# BALLARAT WEST PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN



**Quality Assurance - Report Record**

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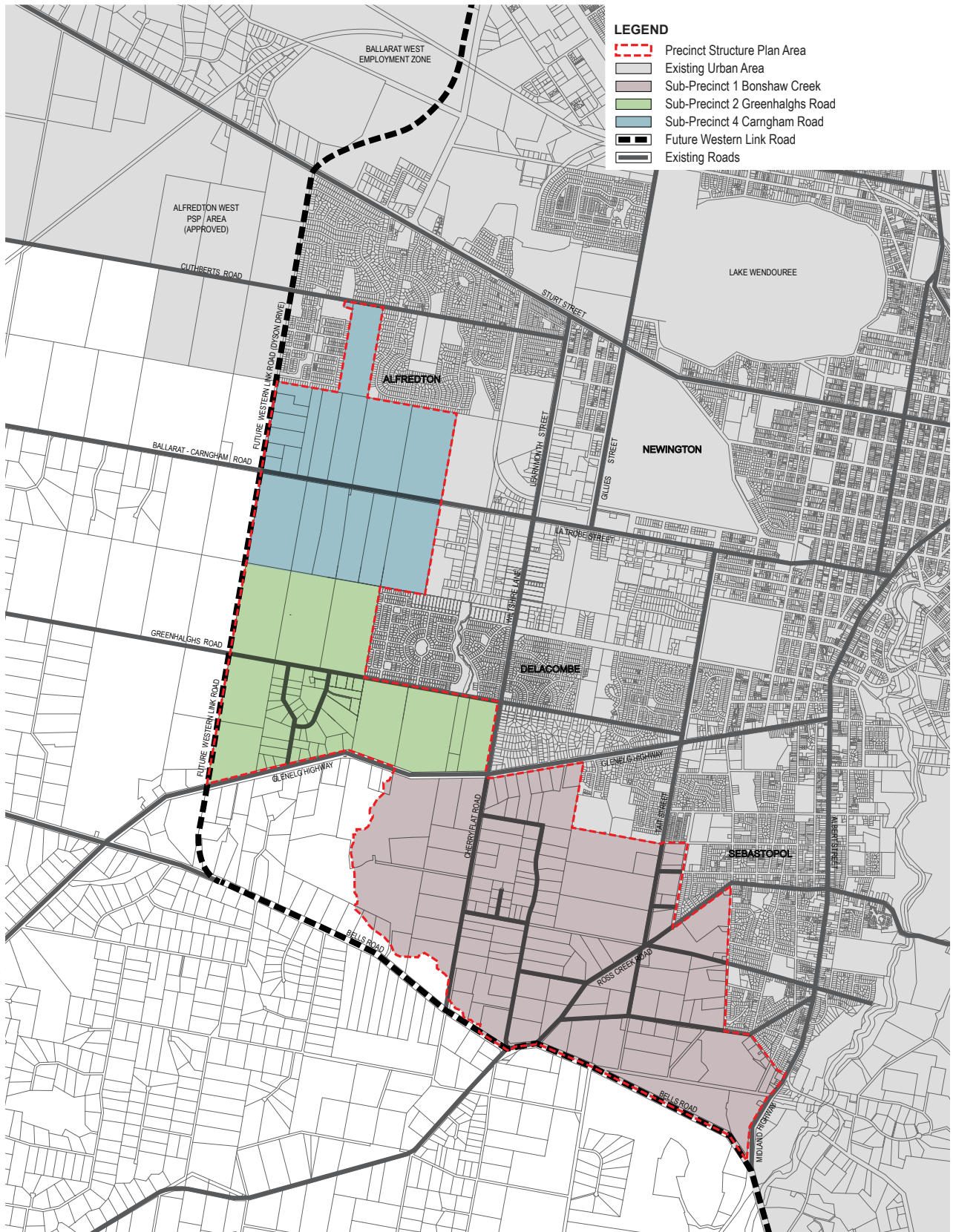
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# Plan 1 PSP Area



- LEGEND**
- Precinct Structure Plan Area
  - Existing Urban Area
  - Sub-Precinct 1 Bonshaw Creek
  - Sub-Precinct 2 Greenhalghs Road
  - Sub-Precinct 4 Carngham Road
  - Future Western Link Road
  - Existing Roads

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# 1 Introduction

The Ballarat West Precinct Structure Plan (Ballarat West PSP) has been prepared by the City of Ballarat (Council) with the assistance of government agencies, service providers and key stakeholders. The document should be read in conjunction with the Ballarat West Native Vegetation Precinct Plan (Ballarat West NVPP) and the Ballarat West Development Contributions Plan (Ballarat West DCP). The role of these documents and their inter-relationship with the Ballarat West PSP are set out below.

The Ballarat West PSP is a comprehensive plan which provides direction for future urban development within the Ballarat West Precinct and is informed by the Ballarat West Growth Area Plan (2009). The Ballarat West PSP describes how land is expected to be developed and identifies the community infrastructure and services required to support development.

The Ballarat West PSP guides the delivery of a quality urban environment in accordance with current best practice and Victorian Government Guidelines. The Ballarat West PSP:

- Enables the transition of non-urban land to urban land;
- Sets out the vision for how land should be developed and the objectives to be achieved;
- Determines the overall layout of future land use and development;
- Outlines projects required to ensure that future residents, visitors and workers within the Precinct can be provided with timely access to services, transport, jobs, shops, open space and recreation facilities to support a quality, affordable lifestyle;
- Details the form and conditions that must be met by future land use and development;
- Provides the basis for the use and development controls that apply in the Schedule to the Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) and identifies which permits may be granted under this Schedule;
- Provides developers, investors and local communities with certainty about future development within the Ballarat West PSP area; and
- Enables the assessment, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and heritage values in the Precinct.

The Ballarat West PSP is informed by:

- The State Planning Policy Framework set out in the Ballarat Planning Scheme and the Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines (Growth Areas Authority 2009);
- The Ballarat West Growth Area Plan (2009); and
- The Local Planning Policy Framework of the Ballarat Planning Scheme, including local policies and strategies.

The Ballarat West DCP has been prepared concurrently with this document. The DCP sets out requirements for development proponents to make a contribution toward the necessary infrastructure to support the implementation of the Ballarat West PSP. The Ballarat West DCP only applies to the Ballarat West PSP area.

## 1.1 Land to which the Precinct Structure Plan Applies

The Ballarat West PSP applies to approximately 1,290 hectares of land in the Ballarat West Growth Area as shown in Plan 1. The land is zoned Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) Schedule 2. The Ballarat West PSP comprises three Sub-Precincts as shown on Plan 1.

- Sub-Precinct 1: Bonshaw Creek is approximately 707 hectares;
- Sub-Precinct 2: Greenhalghs Road is approximately 296 hectares; and
- Sub-Precinct 4: Carngham Road is approximately 287 hectares.

The Ballarat West Growth Area also includes the Alfredton West Precinct (now renamed Lucas). Lucas was originally identified as Sub-Precinct 3, and does not form part of the Ballarat West PSP. The Alfredton West Precinct was prepared by the developer for the area in conjunction with City of Ballarat and was approved in June 2011.



## 1.2 The Ballarat West Native Vegetation Precinct Plan

The Ballarat West NVPP has been prepared to enable native vegetation issues to be considered in a co-ordinated way across the Ballarat West PSP area. The Ballarat West NVPP has been prepared in a manner consistent with the requirements of Clause 52.16 of the Ballarat Planning Scheme. It identifies:

- Native vegetation which may be removed without a planning permit;
- Native vegetation which cannot be removed without a planning permit;
- The offset that must be provided to remove affected native vegetation; and
- Conditions that must be met in relation to vegetation that is to be protected.

The Ballarat West NVPP is one of the planning tools used to facilitate development and is a separate incorporated document within the Ballarat Planning Scheme (Clause 81.01).

## 1.3 Implementation

The Ballarat West PSP is implemented by:

- Development proponents who develop land generally in accordance with this PSP;
- The Victorian Government, the City of Ballarat and developers by funding, delivering and managing a range of infrastructure and services to support the development of the Precinct;
- Non-government service providers and individuals such as volunteers who manage and deliver services; and

- The Ballarat Planning Scheme including:
  - Schedule 2 to the Urban Growth Zone at Clause 37.07;
  - The Ballarat West Development Contributions Plan incorporated in the Scheme at Clause 45.06;
  - The Ballarat West Native Vegetation Precinct Plan incorporated in the Scheme at Clause 52.16;
  - Open space requirements under Clause 52.01 of the Scheme;
  - Applying the Environmental Audit Overlay to land with a high potential for contamination;
  - Applying the Heritage Overlay to identified heritage sites of local significance; and
  - Any other requirements of the Ballarat Planning Scheme.

## 1.4 Reference Material

A Glossary and other information such as technical studies supporting the preparation of this PSP are listed in Section 6 – Other Information.

## 1.5 Monitoring and Review

The City of Ballarat will monitor the implementation of the Ballarat West PSP. The effectiveness of the Ballarat West PSP will be evaluated regularly, at least every five years. The Ballarat West PSP may be revised and updated following review, which may trigger a review of the Ballarat West DCP.

The first review of this PSP has been undertaken in 2016.

This is the consultation draft that has resulted from the PSP review in 2016. The changes to this PSP comprise:

- Realigning the designated '*Air Emissions Buffer Area*'.
- Realigning the '*Industrial/Commercial Precinct*'.
- Amending the noise attenuation requirements for land located within the '*Noise Emissions Buffer*', to more appropriately address potential air quality and noise impacts generated by the adjoining Delacombe Industrial Area.
- Reducing to the extent of land designated as having '*High Potential for Contamination*'.
- Amending the level of environmental assessment required for land designated as 'low potential for contamination' and 'medium potential for contamination' to more accurately reflect the environmental conditions and intended use of potentially contaminated land.

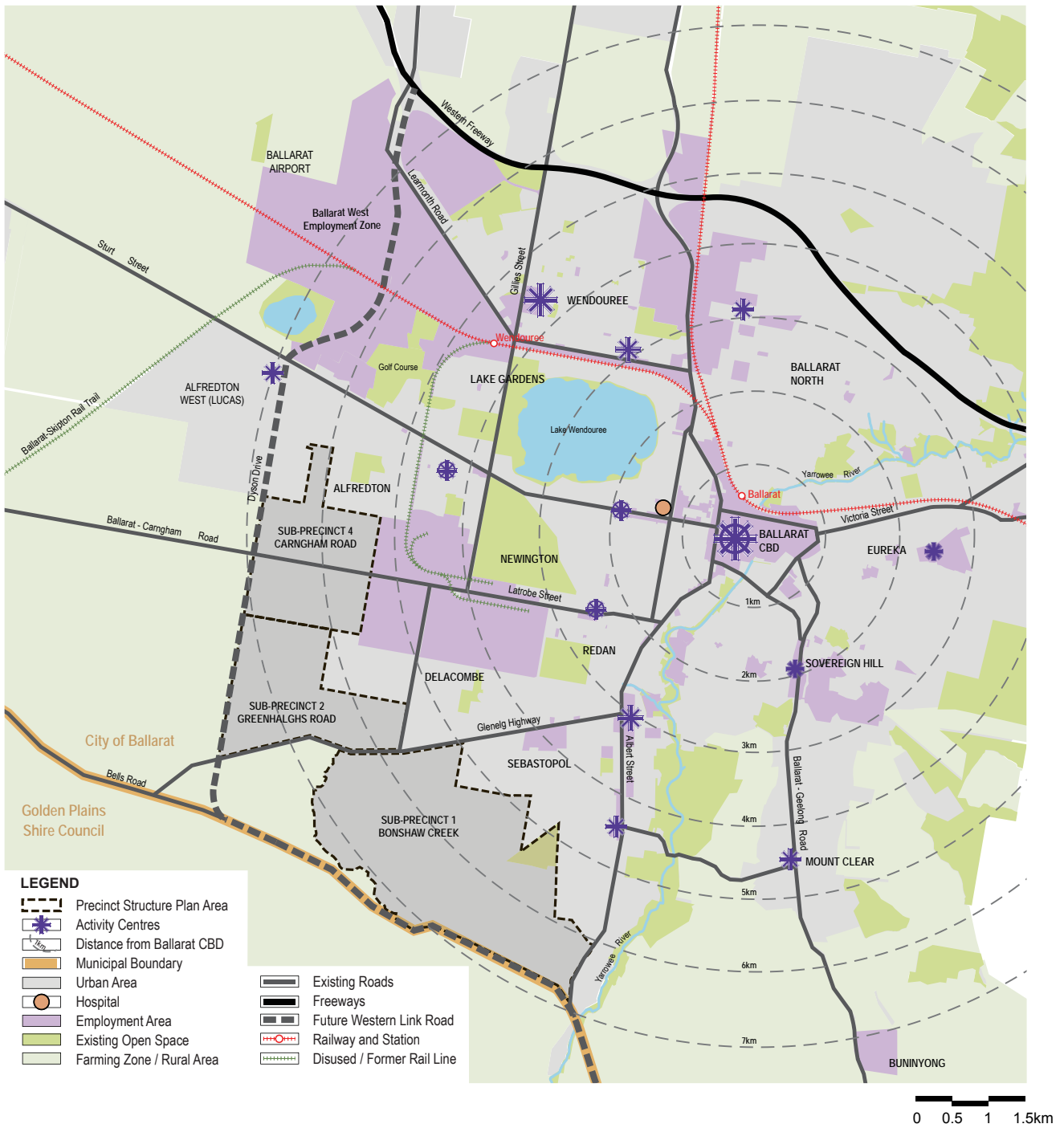


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# Plan 2 District Context



## 2 Strategic Context

Melbourne 2030 (2002) identifies a number of regional cities including Ballarat as the focus for accelerated development. It aims to create a network of cities which will ultimately provide viable centre alternatives to metropolitan Melbourne.

This focus is complemented by the 'Moving Forward' program released in 2008. Developed by Regional Development Victoria, the program provided \$502 million to ensure that regional cities like Ballarat have plans and systems in place that facilitate the growth of population and economy, and its flow on impacts on the environment, infrastructure and services. These systems will support the 'Melbourne @ 5 Million' forecast of 40% regional population growth concentrated in Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat.

In 2010, 'Ready for Tomorrow: A Blueprint for Regional and Rural Victoria' was released. This is a \$630.7 million State Government plan to generate new opportunities and build a prosperous and sustainable future for regional and rural Victoria. It includes new initiatives that will create more jobs, improve education opportunities, boost support for businesses and industries and preserve the regional and rural way of life.

Additional emphasis by State Government on Ballarat as a major transit city has assisted this focus on growth. Recent examples include the construction of the Deer Park bypass, Anthony's Cutting realignment and upgrades to the Ballarat – Melbourne railway line. Melbourne 2030 specifically identifies the region between Melton and Ballarat as a suitable regional transport corridor.

The Regional Growth Fund will help provide support for strong vibrant regional cities such as Ballarat. It will provide financial support for major strategic infrastructure and community-led local initiatives which improve both the competitiveness and liveability of regional and rural Victoria. The Regional Growth Fund will lead to increased job creation and improved career opportunities.

### 2.1 District Context

The Ballarat West PSP area is located approximately 5km west of Ballarat CBD and 120km from Melbourne.

The Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plan (2010) identifies that the Central Highlands Region, in which Ballarat is located, is viewed as a sustainable living alternative to Melbourne with the population of Ballarat expected to increase by 30,000 people between 2006 and 2026. It identifies the key strengths of Ballarat and the Central Highlands Region including:

- its location on the east-west transport corridor connecting Melbourne, western Victoria and Adelaide;
- proximity to the western metropolitan area of Melbourne, where major infrastructure and population growth is planned;

- the most developed and integrated higher education and training system network in regional Victoria;
- the highest concentration of IT and computing services and capacity in regional Victoria;
- location within a highly productive agricultural area; and
- an economy that is restructuring and embracing new opportunities in areas such as IT, advanced manufacturing, education and tourism.

The Regional Strategic Plan identifies that Ballarat is able to attract and support people who relocate from Melbourne and elsewhere and has significant opportunities to capitalise on its proximity and connections to Melbourne.

Urban growth in Ballarat is recognised as an alternative to growth around metropolitan activity centres which lack the infrastructure, services and jobs already available in Ballarat.

The Regional Strategic Plan supports urban growth in the Ballarat West Growth Area and recognizes this is a major growth area for the Central Highlands Region.

Ballarat also provides highly regarded primary and secondary education services and higher order health services for the Central Highlands Region through the Ballarat Base Hospital and St John of God Hospital.

High-quality rail services connect Ballarat with Melbourne, Ararat and Maryborough with the Ballarat Railway Station located at the northern end of the CBD and the Wendouree Railway Station, which offers park and ride services, located approximately 3km to the north of the Ballarat West PSP area. There is an opportunity to connect these railway stations with the Ballarat West PSP area through future bus services.

The Ballarat Airport is located approximately 3 km north of the site and provides a key infrastructure node for Ballarat and the region. Council is currently undertaking extensive investigations into potential development options (including industrial, commercial and associated development opportunities) for the Airport and adjacent land, collectively known as the Ballarat West Employment Zone.

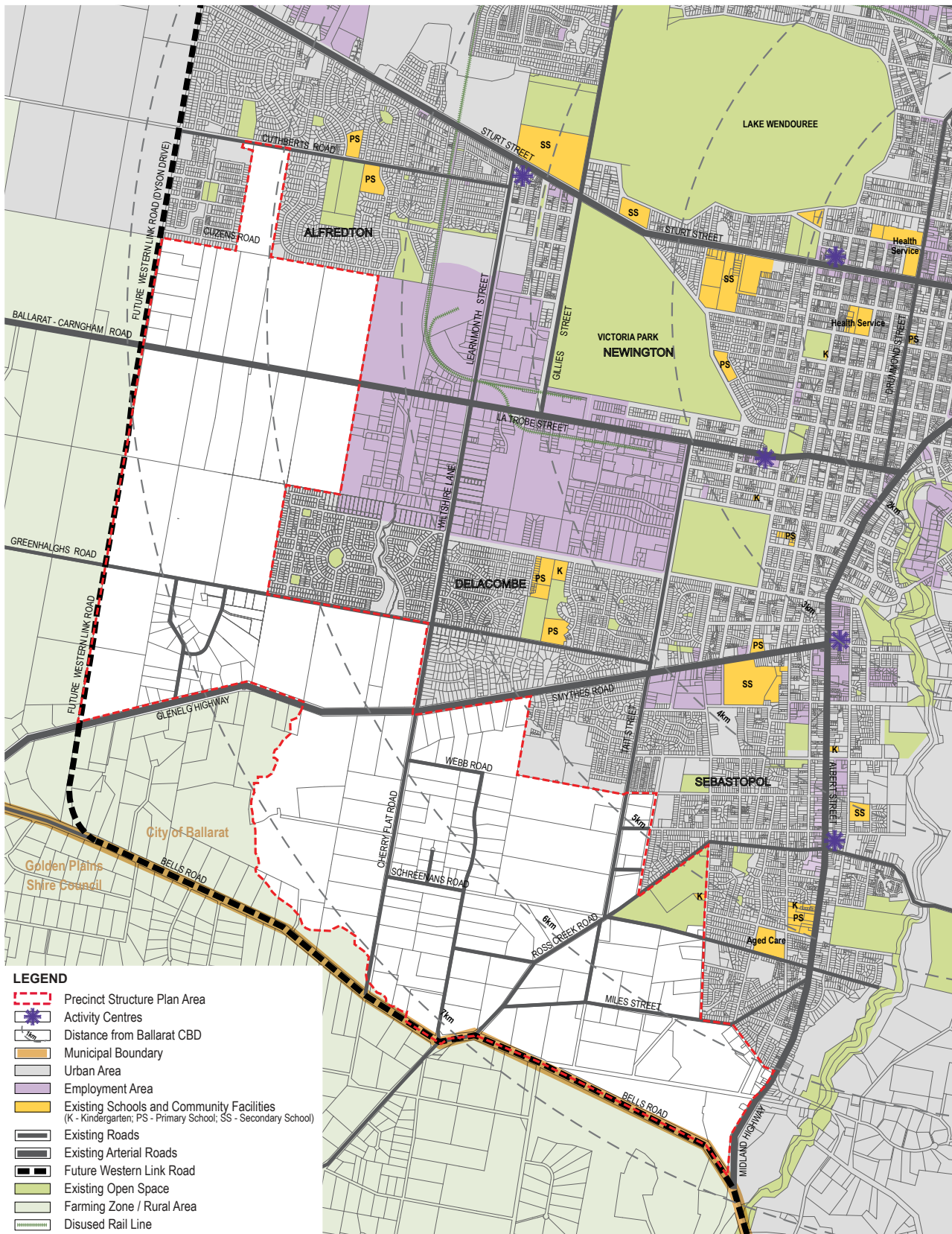
The Western Freeway is the key road transport corridor between Melbourne and Ballarat. The Midland Highway provides regional road connections from Ballarat to Geelong and Bendigo. The Glenelg Highway provides the road connection from Ballarat to Hamilton.

Improved connections from the Ballarat West PSP area to the Western Freeway will be created by the proposed Western Link Road which defines the outer south-western extent of the Ballarat West PSP area.

Plan 2 shows the site in its district context.



# Plan 3 Local Context



- LEGEND**
- Precinct Structure Plan Area
  - ★ Activity Centres
  - Distance from Ballarat CBD
  - Municipal Boundary
  - Urban Area
  - Employment Area
  - Existing Schools and Community Facilities (K - Kindergarten, PS - Primary School, SS - Secondary School)
  - Existing Roads
  - Existing Arterial Roads
  - Future Western Link Road
  - Existing Open Space
  - Farming Zone / Rural Area
  - Disused Rail Line

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## 2.2 Local Context

Plan 3 shows the site within its local context.

Ballarat is the largest inland urban centre in Victoria. It is part of the municipality of the City of Ballarat which encompasses an area of 740 square kilometres.

### 2.2.1 History

The Wathaurung people have inhabited the land in the Ballarat West PSP area for at least the last 25,000 years. The Wathaurung territory extended from the southern side of Werribee River to Port Phillip, the Bellarine Peninsula, the Otway forests, and northwest to Mount Emu and Mount Misery, and encompassed the Ballarat goldfields.

The European heritage of Ballarat is defined by its gold mining past. Ballarat is one of the most significant Victorian era boomtowns in Australia. Gold was discovered near Ballarat in 1851 spawning the Victorian gold rush. Ballarat was found to be a rich alluvial field where gold could easily be extracted. The arrival of over 10,000 migrants to the city within a year transformed it from a sheep station to the largest settlement in the newly proclaimed Colony of Victoria.

### 2.2.2 Employment and Activity Centres

#### Activity Centres

Ballarat's large, centrally located Central Business District (CBD) comprises an estimated 194,749 square metres of retail floor space, located in approximately 500 retail tenancies. It provides retail, commercial, community, education and cultural facilities which serve the Western Victoria region.

The City of Ballarat has recently completed a CBD Strategy which seeks to guide the growth and revitalisation of the CBD over the long term. The CBD is supported by activity centres of varying sizes including:

- a Major Activity Centre at Wendouree in the northwest of Ballarat;
- two large Neighbourhood Activity Centres; Howitt Street and Sebastopol North; and
- A mixture of small and Local Activity Centres including a smaller Neighbourhood Activity Centre at Sebastopol and Lucas.

#### Employment

There are a number of employment areas that surround the Ballarat West PSP area which are expected to provide employment opportunities for future residents.

These include:

- Ballarat CBD, which acts as the primary employment centre for retail and commercial jobs. This includes the hospitals and health precinct on Mair and Drummond Streets, which is a major employment node for the city;
- The Delacombe Industrial Area abuts the eastern boundary of Sub-Precinct 4 and currently provides various industrial employment opportunities comprising a mix of large and small businesses;
- The Ballarat West Employment Zone located to the north of the Ballarat West PSP area. It comprises a large area of land at and around the Ballarat Aerodrome, the southern extent of which is approximately 2.5km from the Ballarat West PSP area. The Ballarat West Employment Zone is a critical asset for the Ballarat community, with significant potential as an airport to service the region's aviation needs, as well as providing a future supply of industrial and employment based activities. This area will provide opportunities for new industrial, freight and aviation business; and
- The existing activity centres, education and community facilities in the surrounding neighbourhoods will also provide local employment opportunities.



### 2.2.3 Community Facilities

Ballarat is well serviced by a range of community facilities including education, passive and active open space, entertainment and health care facilities, all of which are easily accessible to the Ballarat West PSP area.

Primary and Secondary education facilities in close proximity to the Precinct include:

- Alfredton Primary School and St Thomas Moore Primary School in Alfredton;
- Delacombe Primary School and Lumen Christi Primary School in Delacombe;
- Sebastopol Primary School, St James Parish School and Ballarat Christian College in Sebastopol;
- Ballarat High School;
- Loreto College;
- Ballarat and Clarendon College; and
- St Patricks College.

Early development in the Ballarat West PSP area will have good access to a range of social, health and community infrastructure including hospitals, childcare, maternal and child health, libraries and community centres in the CBD and surrounding neighbourhoods. New facilities for childcare, maternal and child health, libraries and community centres will be required as the population grows.

In addition to these facilities, an Integrated Education precinct comprising a P-9 State school, active open space and community centre is proposed in Lucas to the north-west of the Ballarat West PSP area.

### 2.2.4 Open Space and Recreation

The Ballarat West PSP area is in close proximity to a range of passive and active open spaces and recreational facilities which cater for the variety of interests and ages within the community. These include:

- Ballarat Aquatic Centre;
- Alfredton Sports Reserve;
- Prince of Wales Park;
- Lake Wendouree;
- Botanical Gardens;
- Ballarat Skipton Rail Trail;
- Ballarat Golf Club;
- Victoria Park;
- Marty Busch Reserve;
- Moreshead Park; and
- Doug Dean Reserve.

As the population of the Ballarat West PSP area grows, some additional facilities will be required; particularly neighbourhood and district open spaces.

Additional regional sporting facilities will also be required as population in the Ballarat West PSP area grows, however existing regional facilities have the capacity to meet the needs of some sports such as golf and swimming.





## 2.2.5 Transport and Movement

The Ballarat West PSP area is currently traversed east-west by three key routes:

- Carngham Road, an arterial road that provides connections through to the Delacombe Industrial Area and Ballarat CBD. It also provides access to the Western Freeway via Dyson Drive and Sturt Street. Carngham Road is currently subject to a Public Acquisition Overlay to widen the section through the Ballarat West PSP area to a 40m road reservation to facilitate an ultimate 4 lane divided carriageway;
- Greenhalghs Road, a City of Ballarat road, provides an east-west connection from Delacombe, across Wiltshire Lane through the Ballarat West PSP area to the proposed Western Link Road; and
- Glenelg Highway is an arterial road and is a key transport route into Ballarat from Hamilton and south-west Victoria.

Key north-south routes that currently traverse the Ballarat West PSP area include:

- Wiltshire Lane / Learmonth Street, a City of Ballarat Road, providing north-south connections between Sturt Street / Remembrance Drive and the Glenelg Highway;
- South of the Glenelg Highway, Wiltshire Lane becomes Cherry Flat Road which connects with Bells Road (the future Western Link Road) to the south. A Public Acquisition Overlay in favour of the City of Ballarat applies to land on the east side of Cherry Flat Road, south of Schreenans Road; and
- Tait Street, a City of Ballarat Road, currently provides a north-south connection between the Glenelg Highway and Ross-Creek Road, which provides connections to Bells Road (the future Western Link Road).

The proposed Ballarat Western Link Road will improve access opportunities between the Ballarat West PSP area, the Ballarat West Employment Zone, the Western Freeway and Geelong. It will be directly accessed from the Ballarat West PSP area via Carngham Road, Greenhalghs Road, Glenelg Highway and so forth.

At present the public transport network consists of bus services along Dyson Drive and Cuthberts Road to the north and routes which run along the eastern edge of the Ballarat West PSP area through Delacombe and Sebastopol. All routes provide direct access to Ballarat CBD.

The Ballarat West PSP area is also located approximately 5km from Ballarat Railway Station and 3km from Wendouree Railway Station.

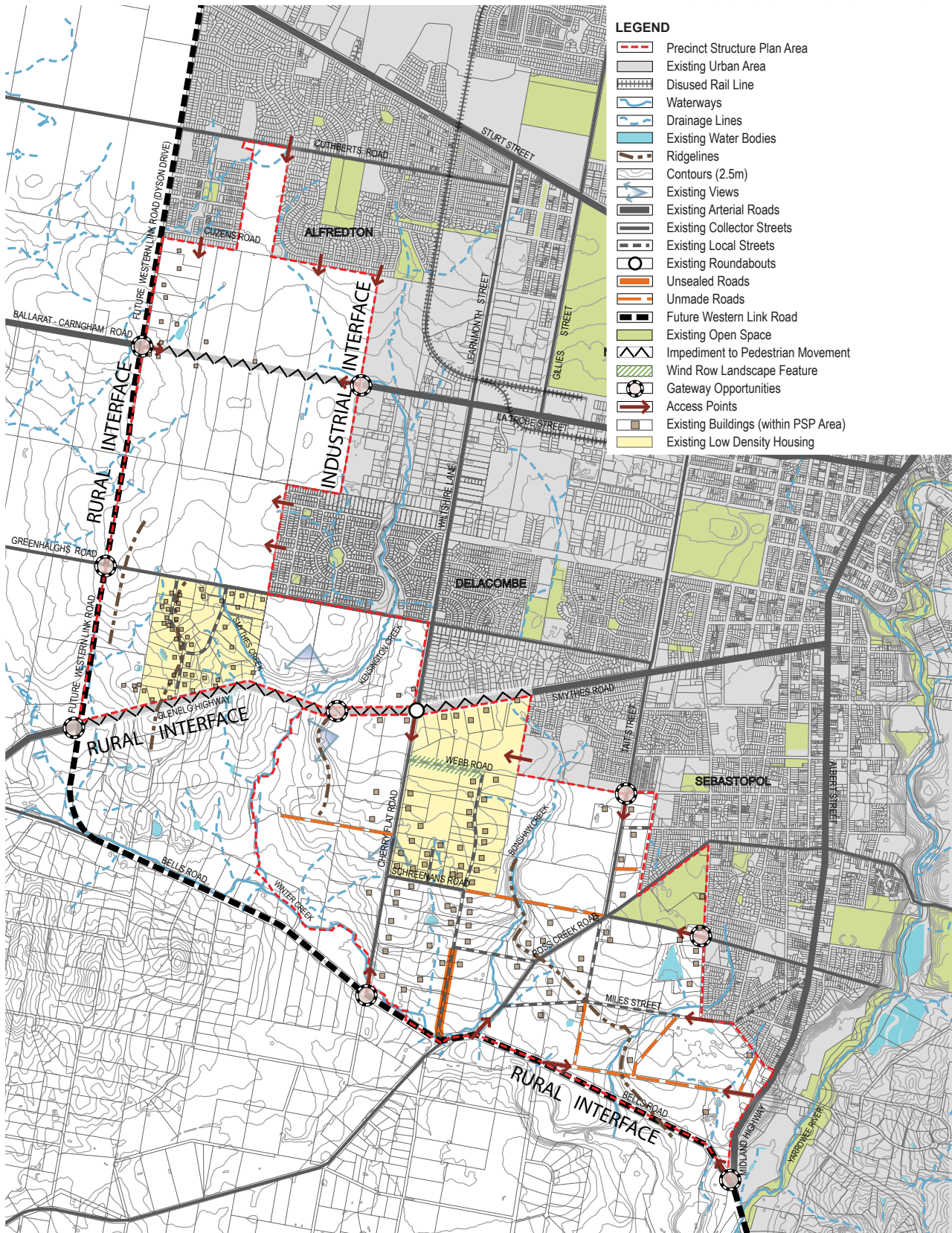
There is currently only a limited on and off road bike path network in surrounding areas – however a much more extensive network is envisaged in the Ballarat Bicycle Strategy. Key existing links include:

- On-road cycle lanes along Wiltshire Lane between Carngham Road and the Glenelg Highway and along parts of Cuthberts Road; and
- Off-road paths within Alfredton that will eventually link to Victoria Park.

Footpaths exist within much of the surrounding street networks and can be connected into new developments to create an integrated walking network.



# Plan 4 Site Features



- LEGEND**
- Precinct Structure Plan Area
  - Existing Urban Area
  - Disused Rail Line
  - Waterways
  - Drainage Lines
  - Existing Water Bodies
  - Ridgelines
  - Contours (2.5m)
  - Existing Views
  - Existing Arterial Roads
  - Existing Collector Streets
  - Existing Local Streets
  - Existing Roundabouts
  - Unsealed Roads
  - Unmade Roads
  - Future Western Link Road
  - Existing Open Space
  - Impediment to Pedestrian Movement
  - Wind Row Landscape Feature
  - Gateway Opportunities
  - Access Points
  - Existing Buildings (within PSP Area)
  - Existing Low Density Housing

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### 3 Precinct Features

Plans 4 to 7 show the key features of the Ballarat West PSP area as described in the following sections.

#### 3.1 Topography and Landform

The northern section of the Ballarat West PSP area at Sub-Precinct 4 is relatively flat with mild undulating land.

In Sub-Precinct 2, south of Greenhalghs Road, the land falls towards the Glenelg Highway and Winter Creek.

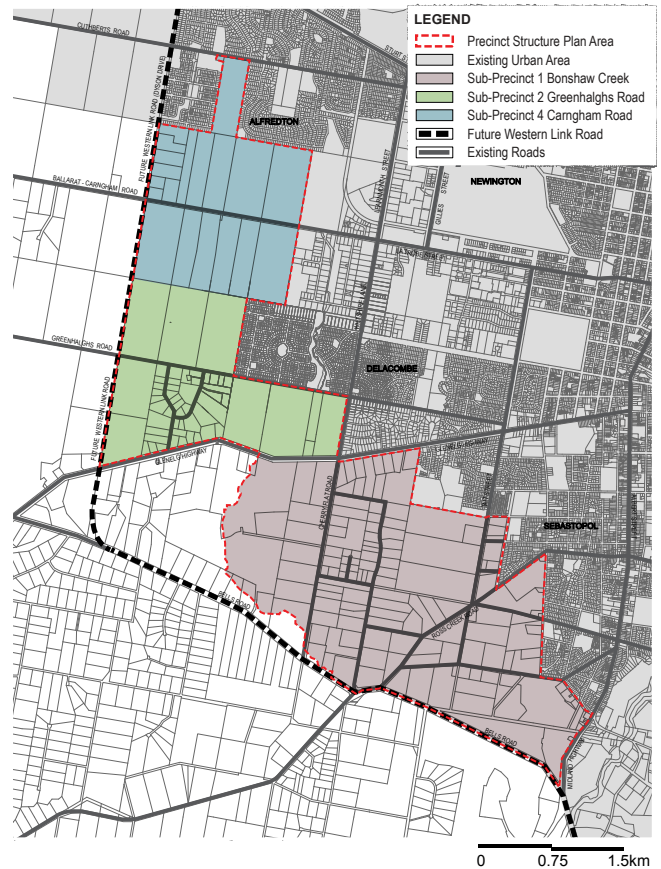
Within Sub-Precinct 2, Kensington Creek is defined by steep slopes which are unsuitable for development, with minor ridgelines along the western edge and centre (north to south). A minor plateau to the north-west of Kensington Creek provides views across the open farmland and rural landscape to the south.

The northern section of Sub-Precinct 1 to the south of Glenelg Highway and west of Tait Street is relatively flat. South-east of this area the topography slopes gradually towards the Winter, Bonshaw and Kensington Creeks, to a minor escarpment running north-west/south-east across the middle of the Sub-Precinct. Below the escarpment, the land falls gradually to the floodplains of Winter and Kensington Creeks.

Winter and Kensington Creeks define the southern and western boundaries of the Ballarat West PSP area.

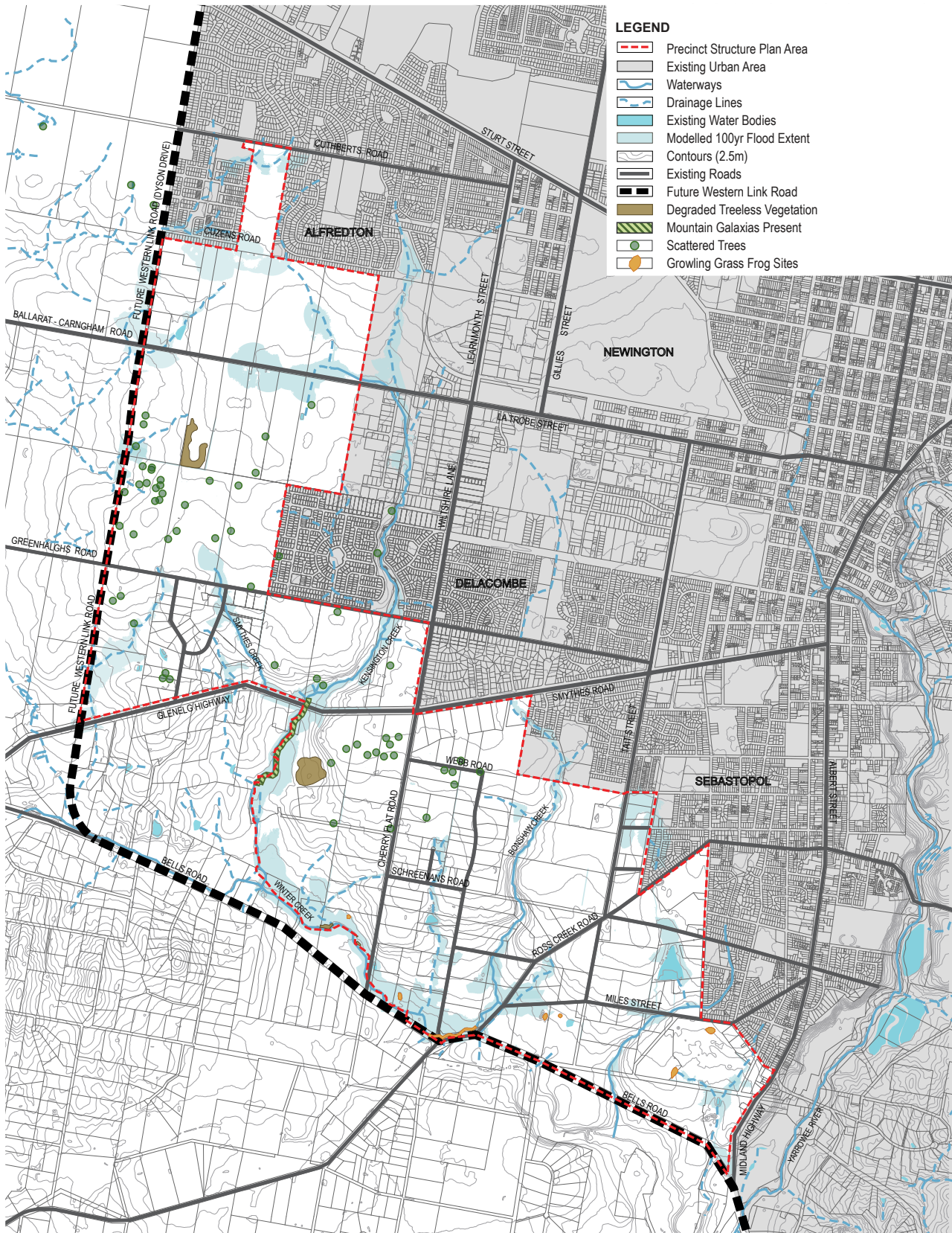
Kensington Creek, within Sub-Precinct 2, runs north-south through the eastern section of sub-Precinct. It has incised edges at the northern end, which present potential barriers crossings of this creek in this location.

Bonshaw Creek bisects Sub-Precinct 1. It runs north from Winter Creek and is incised in many places as it passes through the escarpment. The incised edges of the creek prevent crossing sections of the creek.





# Plan 5 Environmental Features



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## 3.2 Biodiversity

### 3.2.1 Flora

The Ballarat West PSP area falls within the Victorian Volcanic Plains Bioregion. A Flora and Fauna Assessment of the area, undertaken in 2010 found that it is highly modified and dominated by exotic vegetation due to past clearance associated with agriculture and gold mining. In total, 57 remnant scattered trees of high and low significance were identified. The remnant vegetation is associated with two Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs): Plains Grassy Woodland and Creekline Herb-rich Woodland.

### 3.2.2 Fauna

The habitat within the Ballarat West PSP area was identified in the Flora and Fauna Assessment undertaken in 2010 as being highly fragmented. Notwithstanding this, a total of 62 fauna species were recorded, comprising of 54 birds (49 native and five introduced), five mammals (two native and three introduced) and three native frogs.

Targeted studies were undertaken in 2010 due to the presence of suitable habitat for the nationally significant fauna species, Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis*. The Growling Grass Frog is listed as a Vulnerable species under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. It is also listed as a threatened species under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

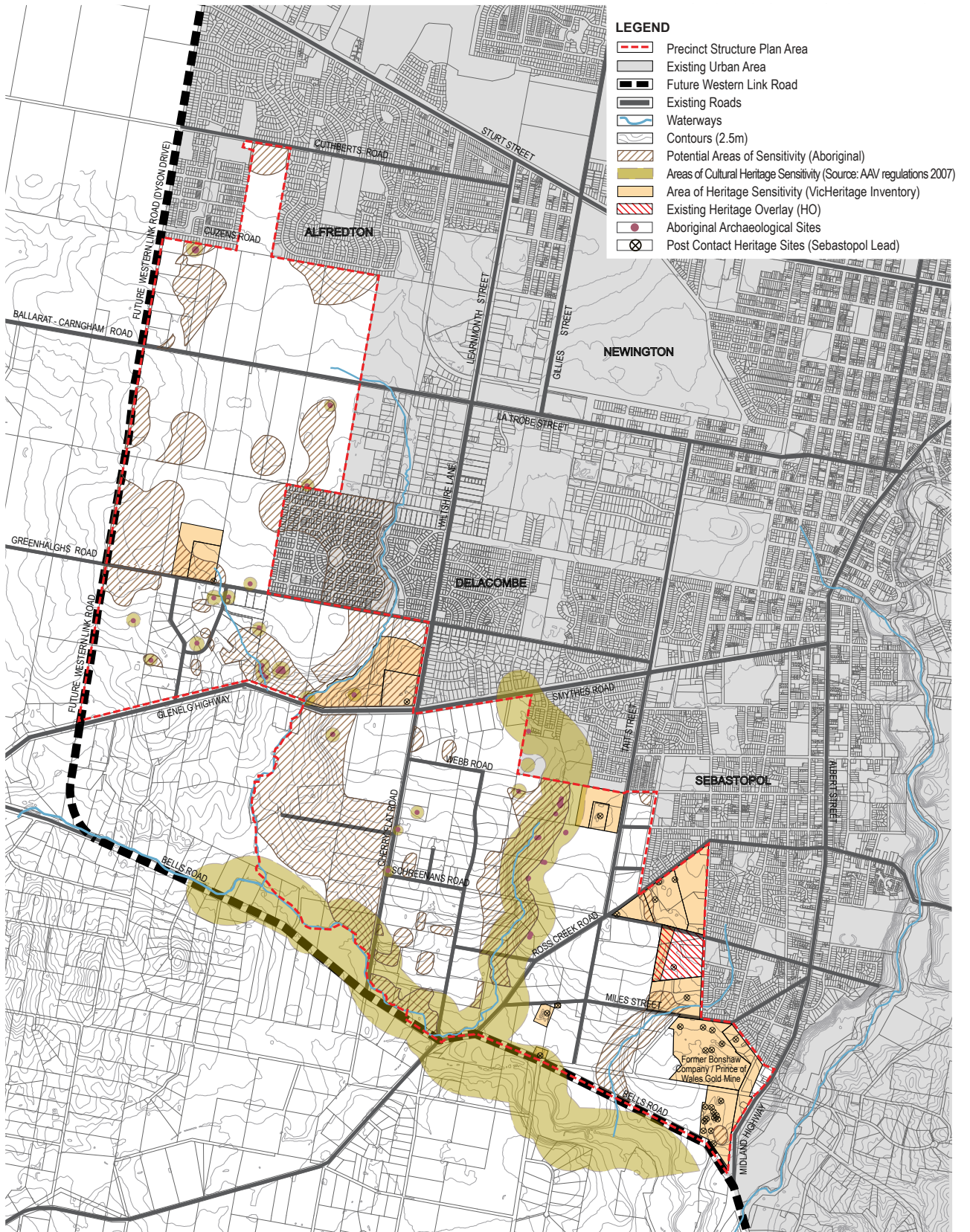
Growling Grass Frogs were recorded in the southern section of Sub-Precinct 1. One was recorded within the watercourse that runs along the south edge of the Precinct. The other recorded sightings were found in dams.

The targeted studies recorded eight Mountain Galaxias' along the Creek in the north-eastern section of Sub-Precinct 1. The Mountain Galaxias is listed as a threatened species under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* and is of State conservation significance.





# Plan 6 Heritage



## LEGEND

- Precinct Structure Plan Area
- Existing Urban Area
- Future Western Link Road
- Existing Roads
- Waterways
- Contours (2.5m)
- Potential Areas of Sensitivity (Aboriginal)
- Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity (Source: AAV regulations 2007)
- Area of Heritage Sensitivity (VicHeritage Inventory)
- Existing Heritage Overlay (HO)
- Aboriginal Archaeological Sites
- Post Contact Heritage Sites (Sebastopol Lead)

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## 3.3 Heritage

### 3.3.1 Aboriginal Heritage

The Wathaurung are the traditional inhabitants of this region. The Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

The Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment undertaken in 2010 found that the Ballarat West PSP area contains a number of areas of cultural sensitivity, as defined by the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007. In total, 26 Aboriginal heritage sites were identified in the Ballarat West Growth Area; 11 in Sub-Precinct 1, 10 in Sub-Precinct 2 and 3 in Sub-Precinct 4 (Refer to Plan 6).

The majority of the identified sites were found along creek lines, typically contained 1 to 2 isolated artefact scatters and were considered of low significance from a scientific perspective (the Wathaurung people consider all artefacts to be of cultural significance). Two sites of moderate significance were identified in Sub-Precinct 1. Three sites of moderate significance were identified in Sub-Precinct 2. All sites of moderate significance were located along creek corridors.

The study that identified these artefact scatters also identified areas with potential to contain Aboriginal heritage material outside of the areas of cultural heritage sensitivity prescribed by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

The preparation of the Ballarat West PSP has incorporated the findings of the archaeological and heritage reports by creating linear open space corridors along creeks in order to protect these areas from development.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007*, all areas of cultural heritage sensitivity require a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to be prepared and approved prior to development of the land. Voluntary Cultural Heritage Management Plans have been recommended for areas identified as possessing potential Aboriginal heritage material.

### 3.3.2 European Heritage

The Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment undertaken in 2011 found 11 European heritage sites in Sub-Precincts 1 and 2. No European heritage sites were identified in Sub-Precinct 4.

The heritage sites recorded relate to historic gold mining activities and later rural settlement in the area. Of the 11 sites identified, none were identified as being of State or regional significance; all are listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

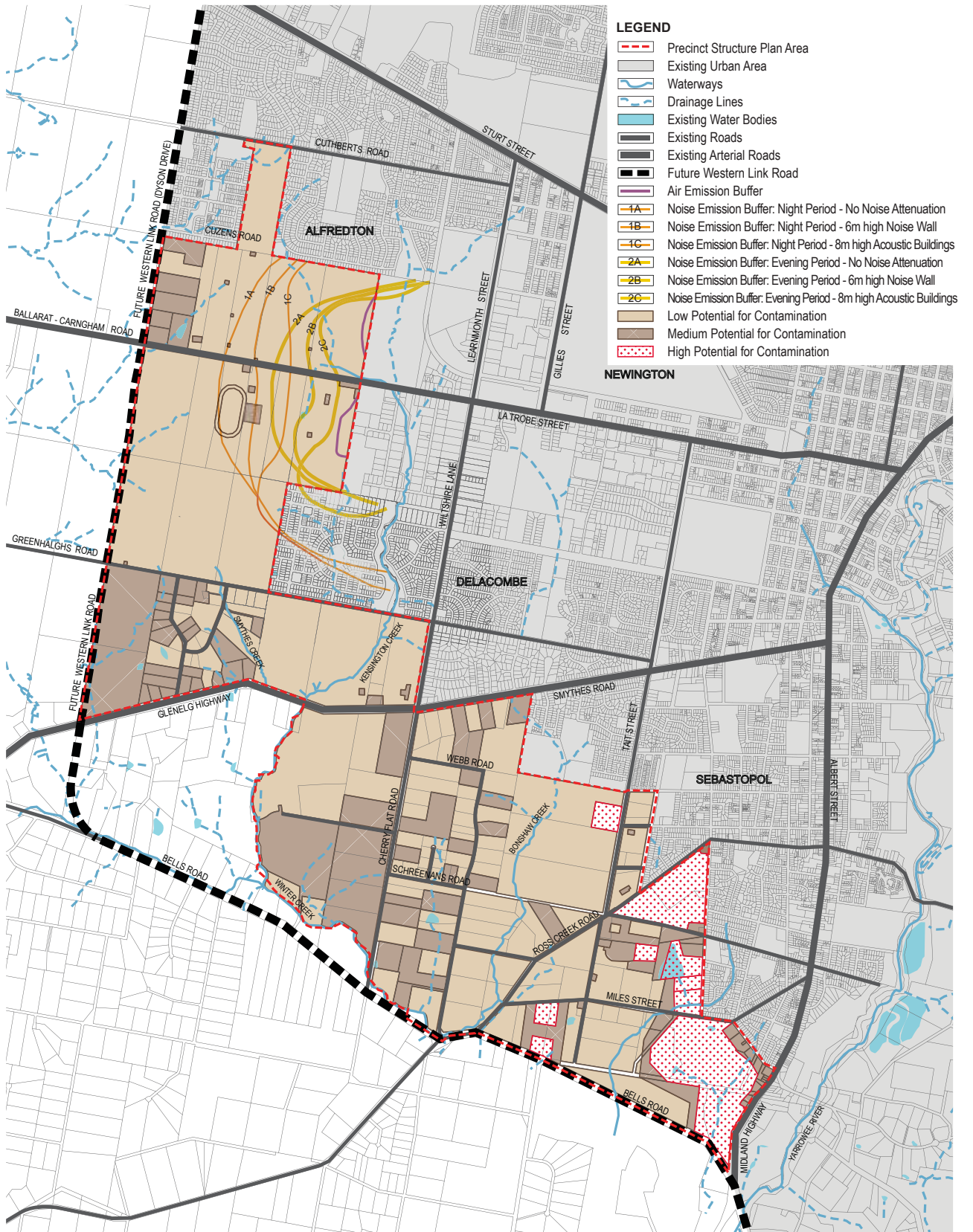
One of the sites (the former Bonshaw Company/Prince of Wales gold mine in Sub-Precinct 1) has been identified as being of local significance and will be protected through the City of Ballarat Planning Scheme. In addition, a series of former gold mining sites along the Sebastopol Lead has been identified as having importance as a cultural landscape. Both of these items are addressed through the Ballarat West PSP.

Sub-Precinct 1 also contains an existing heritage site which is covered by Heritage Overlay Schedule 142 (HO142) - Former St Joseph's Home, which is to be retained. This site is also being considered for State listing.





# Plan 7 Environmental Issues



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### 3.4 Catchments and Drainage

The Ballarat West PSP Area is mostly located within the Winter Creek Catchment, with a small area that flows more directly to the Yarrowee River via minor creeks.

The management of the quantity and quality of water discharged from the Ballarat West PSP area is critical in ensuring there are no detrimental impacts to the existing watercourses within the catchment as a result of future development.

There are three existing named creeks within the Precinct: Kensington Creek, Winter Creek and Bonshaw Creek. This network forms a continuous creek corridor through Sub-Precincts 1 and 2. In existing urban areas adjacent to the Ballarat West PSP area, these creeks are supported by an existing drainage network consisting of open channels, underground pipes, pits, retarding basins and various hydraulic structures.

As part of the Ballarat West PSP, the Drainage Scheme for the study area has been reviewed. An integrated trunk drainage system is required to protect future properties and water quality. There are also opportunities for stormwater harvesting, for example for irrigation of sportsgrounds.

### 3.5 Site Contamination

In accordance with Ministerial Direction 1, studies have been carried out to identify areas within the Ballarat West PSP area that have Potential for Contamination (PFC) as a result of past land uses. Properties were classified into three categories; High, Medium and Low PFC.

Areas identified as having a high PFC will have the Environmental Audit Overlay applied to them.

Areas identified as having a medium PFC will be required, where they are to be developed for sensitive uses, to provide evidence that the land is suitable for future use of the land prior to development commencing on any affected landholdings. Conditions to be met for medium PFC areas in relation to sensitive land uses, are detailed in the Urban Growth Zone Schedule that applies to the land.

Areas identified as having a low PFC will require a general duty of care pursuant to the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

### 3.6 Roads and Access

#### Ballarat Western Link Road

The Western Link Road will act as a key traffic route for Ballarat, linking the Western Freeway to the north of the airport and the Midland Highway to the south of Sebastopol. The proposed alignment of the Western Link Road will extend southward from Dyson Drive defining the western edge of Sub-Precincts 2 and 4 and the southern boundary of Sub-Precinct 1. The ultimate road design will be two lanes in each direction between the Western Freeway and Glenelg Highway, one lane in each direction between Glenelg Highway and Cherry Flat Road, and either one or two lanes from there to the Midland Highway, depending on future traffic volumes. Service lanes may also be provided by developers.

Access to the Western Link Road from the PSP area will be limited to Carngham Road, Greenhalghs Road, the Glenelg Highway, Cherry Flat Road, Ross Creek Road and the proposed Schreenans Lane extension. The Western Link Road will fulfil both a local and regional function in the PSP area as development occurs in the Ballarat West Growth Area. Land for part of the Western Link Road reservation will need to be reserved and acquired within the Ballarat West PSP area in Sub-Precincts 2 and 4; this has been included in the land use budget.

#### Opportunities for the Future Road Network

There are opportunities to provide an integrated, walking, cycling, public transport and vehicle network throughout the Ballarat West PSP area. Opportunity exists for an additional north-south link through Sub-Precincts 2 and 4 which will provide opportunity for public transport routes, walking and cycling paths.

Schreenans Road and Webb Road provide additional east-west connections in the southern parts of the Ballarat West PSP area. The new road cross section for these key roads will incorporate carriageways and verges that can accommodate public transport routes and bike and foot paths to support a range of transport nodes and provide walking and cycling connections throughout the precinct.

The Ballarat West PSP Road network, Public Transport and Walking plans provide for the extension of existing networks into the Ballarat West PSP Area and expansion of existing networks throughout the PSP area.



## 3.7 Land Use

### 3.7.1 Existing Land Uses

At present, the Ballarat West PSP comprises predominantly farming and rural-residential land.

#### Existing Low Density Residential Zoned Land

There are two existing areas of Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ) within the Precinct:

- LDRZ Area 1 in Sub-Precinct 1 to the east of Cherry Flat Road and south of Glenelg Highway; and
- LDRZ Area 2 in Sub-Precinct 2 to the south of Greenhalghs Road and north of Glenelg Highway.

LDRZ Area 1 comprises 110ha hectares across 48 properties. Properties in this low density area vary in size and character. Some properties are of conventional residential character while others have a more rural character. Landholdings vary in size from 4,000 square metres to over 16ha. Land could be subdivided to conventional residential densities in the medium term once services are available, however there would be a requirement to provide for additional access roads and public open space should this occur.

LDRZ Area 2 comprises 66 hectares across 45 properties. Due to the configuration of the streets, landholdings in this area have irregular shapes and sizes. The fragmented nature of landholdings in this area and the irregular shape of lots place constraints on how this area could be further developed. There is potential to further subdivide this area in the long-term to accommodate more conventional residential density, once services are available. New east-west road connections to the development will be critical to ensuring integration with future development.

#### Miscellaneous Uses

An existing regional park, MR Power Park, is located in the east of Sub-Precinct 1. This park is currently underutilised and offers excellent potential to improve the quality of the recreational provision and landscape character.

There is also a small Mixed Use Zone in the south-east corner of Sub-Precinct 1 which will be rezoned to the Urban Growth Zone.

### 3.7.2 Interfaces

There are a number of sensitive interfaces which have been considered in the preparation of the Ballarat West PSP. The western edges of Sub-Precincts 2 and 4 are defined by farming areas and the future alignment of the Western Link Road.

The southern edge of the Ballarat West PSP area abuts the City of Ballarat municipal boundary with Golden Plains Shire. This land within the Golden Plains Shire is designated for rural-residential purposes.

The northern and eastern boundaries of the Ballarat West PSP area abut the existing residential communities of Alfredton, Delacombe and Sebastopol which are predominantly suburban residential density, with the exception of the Delacombe Industrial Area (discussed below). The Ballarat West PSP will ensure that future development is integrated with the existing communities.

The Delacombe Industrial Area abuts the eastern edge of Sub-Precinct 4. Historically this area was the preferred location for heavy industry in Ballarat. As a consequence, the area has an Industrial 1 Zoning. There are a number of existing industrial uses that require substantial buffers from sensitive land uses to accord with Clause 52.10 of the Ballarat Planning Scheme.

There is also a section of undeveloped Industrial 3 Zoned land abutting the eastern boundary of Sub-Precinct 4 to the north of Carngham Road.

Studies have been undertaken to investigate the demand for further industrial land as well as identifying buffer requirements for existing industry to protect it from the encroachment of sensitive land uses. These studies concluded that:

- There was little current demand for new industrial uses in the eastern portion of Sub-Precinct 4, though population growth in the Ballarat West Growth Area will bring demand in the longer term;
- An air emissions buffer is required which incorporates part of Sub-Precinct 4. No sensitive land uses are permitted within the air emission buffer area;
- The industrial area produces noise emissions that need to be mitigated before sensitive uses can be built in parts of Sub-Precinct 4; and
- There are a number of noise mitigation options available to achieve an acceptable noise environment at future sensitive uses within the PSP area having regard to the standards and amenity sought to be protected and achieved by SEPP N-1.





### 3.7.3 Land Ownership

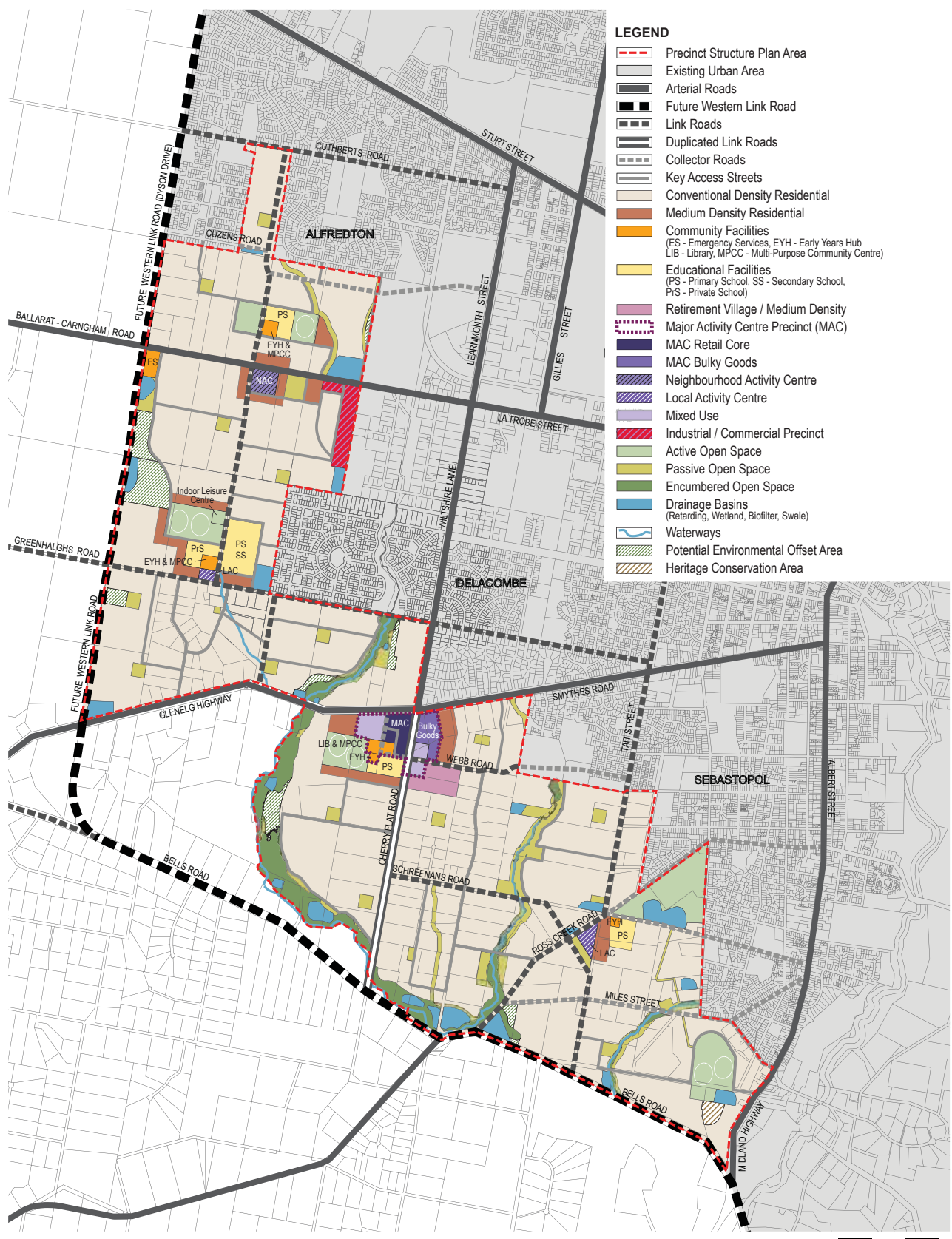
The Ballarat West PSP has a total area of approximately 1,290 hectares comprising of 230 properties controlled predominantly by individual landowners.

Many of these properties are small landholdings of 4 hectares or less and result in a fragmented landownership. The fragmented land ownership of the Ballarat West PSP presents a significant challenge to the development of the area, specifically in Sub-Precincts 1 and 2.

The PSP provides a robust framework to manage these issues and support integrated development outcomes.



# Plan 8 Future Urban Structure



- LEGEND**
- Precinct Structure Plan Area
  - Existing Urban Area
  - Arterial Roads
  - Future Western Link Road
  - Link Roads
  - Duplicated Link Roads
  - Collector Roads
  - Key Access Streets
  - Conventional Density Residential
  - Medium Density Residential
  - Community Facilities  
(ES - Emergency Services, EYH - Early Years Hub  
LIB - Library, MPCC - Multi-Purpose Community Centre)
  - Educational Facilities  
(PS - Primary School, SS - Secondary School,  
PrS - Private School)
  - Retirement Village / Medium Density
  - Major Activity Centre Precinct (MAC)
  - MAC Retail Core
  - MAC Bulky Goods
  - Neighbourhood Activity Centre
  - Local Activity Centre
  - Mixed Use
  - Industrial / Commercial Precinct
  - Active Open Space
  - Passive Open Space
  - Encumbered Open Space
  - Drainage Basins  
(Retarding, Wetland, Biofilter, Swale)
  - Waterways
  - Potential Environmental Offset Area
  - Heritage Conservation Area

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## 4 Integrated Precinct Design

### 4.1 Vision

Ballarat West is the City's primary residential growth area and will be designed for the Ballarat context. It will draw on and continue Ballarat's excellent service provision, employment opportunities, recreation opportunities and accessibility. The built form will take cues from Ballarat's history, the form of its established areas and its landforms and rural environment. While each neighbourhood will form its own community with its own character, it will also be integrated into the broader city and all that it offers.

Ballarat West will be a place where people can enjoy healthy, affordable and sustainable lifestyles.

The community will be a vibrant and prosperous series of neighbourhoods which offer housing choice and diversity supported by schools and community facilities and a network of passive and active open spaces which cater for a range of recreational pursuits. The neighbourhoods will be interconnected by a walkable street and trail network, with access to public transport to ensure that all residents have access to a range of community, retail and recreational uses within their community.

A network of accessible 'neighbourhood centres' with differing functions will provide a community focus for each neighbourhood and form part of the larger Ballarat community, encouraging integration between the existing and new. These centres will accommodate a major activity centre, a neighbourhood activity centre and two local activity centres with co-located commercial, community, education and/or open space facilities. An Industrial/Commercial Precinct at Carngham Road will provide an appropriate interface with the existing Delacombe Industrial Area and opportunities for local employment.

These centres will prioritise pedestrian access over vehicle movement to contribute to safer and more active shopping streets. This high accessibility to a range of facilities will reduce transport costs for households and businesses, reduce carbon emissions through reduced car travel and enhance the quality of life for local communities.

Ballarat West will provide a wide range of housing types to improve housing choice and cater for all sectors of the market. This choice will include affordable urban living; opportunities for retirement villages and conventional residential houses. Opportunities will be provided for higher density housing near the activity centres, the education and community hub and areas of open space. Lower density living will be provided at key rural interfaces and where environmental constraints make denser living less suitable.

The built environment will incorporate leading practice Environmentally Sustainable Design standards in order to achieve exceptional high quality urban design and amenity.

The Precinct will embrace sustainable urban development practices such as maintaining and restoring native vegetation where appropriate, providing treed streets and landscape trails, and incorporating water sensitive urban design solutions.

Ballarat West will be developed in a logical and orderly manner to ensure that residents are supported by community facilities and other essential infrastructure from the early stages of development.



## 4.2 Future Urban Structure

This section describes how the Ballarat West PSP delivers the Vision through the principles and objectives of integrated neighbourhood design. Plan 8 shows the Future Urban Structure Plan.

### 4.2.1 To establish a sense of place and community

The Ballarat West PSP establishes a framework for the development of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable communities. The key land uses are interlinked and combine to create an urban environment that promotes healthy lifestyles and strong, diverse communities. Neighbourhoods are safe and efficiently designed, making it easy to walk or cycle to shops, local jobs, schools, community facilities and public transport stops.

A sense of place and community is fostered through careful planning of public spaces and community facilities such as schools and community hubs. This will ensure all facilities are central to their catchment and linked to other services directly via the key road, public transport and pedestrian and cycle networks. The plan seeks to respond to natural features by retaining them within the public realm in prominent locations and view lines. Winter, Bonshaw and Kensington Creeks will provide a central unifying landscape element that links the Sub-Precincts. Enhancing connection to past communities is also important. A sense of place will be achieved by recognising and incorporating the gold mining heritage areas of Sub-Precinct 1.

The environment for positive community interaction is further enhanced by the Major Activity Centre and smaller supporting activity centres. The provision of shops to meet regular shopping needs will promote interaction through the associated creation of formal and informal meeting spaces. This is further enhanced by the specific desire to see the Major Activity Centre develop over time as a place that offers more than retail services. The centre will provide opportunities to establish non-retail related businesses which service both the immediate community and the broader catchment. The non-retail component will provide local employment opportunities over time.

### 4.2.2 To create greater housing choice

The Ballarat West PSP encourages the development of a range of housing densities that will lead to the creation of a variety of lot sizes and housing types across various levels of affordability. This diversity will provide opportunities to cater for people in different stages of their lives and to age in place, contributing to the creation of a strong community. The Ballarat West PSP promotes affordable housing through a mix of alternatives, such as private and social housing in and around the activity centres.

The mix of housing typologies in the Precinct will include:

- Medium to higher density housing within and around the activity centres and around high amenity areas such as the Education and Community hub;
- Conventional density housing with a broad design diversity across the range of lot sizes; and
- Lower density housing in areas that require development to be responsive to the character of the natural environment and site characteristics.

The Ballarat West PSP is to achieve a minimum average net density of 15 dwellings per developable hectare.

### 4.2.3 To create highly accessible and vibrant activity centres

The network of activity centres in the Ballarat West PSP area will provide local employment opportunities and community based services within walkable catchments. All of the centres will offer a mix of retail, non-retail, community services and other employment opportunities serviced by safe cycling, pedestrian and public transport networks.

A major activity centre has been nominated on Cherry Flat Road and is supported by a neighbourhood activity centre at Carngham Road and two smaller local activity centres at Greenhalghs Road and Ross Creek Road.

The activity centres are accessible to their residential catchments, being located within a reasonable walking distance for the majority of residents. This creates opportunity to reduce the dependency on private vehicles.

While initially providing local retail services, the planning for each centre is flexible enough to enable an appropriately scaled response to retail and non-retail demand over time.

Each activity centre is co-located with community facilities and higher density residential development to ensure that these centres are well used throughout the day and evening, creating safe and vibrant streets.



#### 4.2.4 Deliver integrated, accessible and adaptable community facilities

The Ballarat West PSP seeks to service the changing needs of the community through the provision of accessible, integrated and adaptable community facilities. The Ballarat West PSP makes provision for a range of community infrastructure to serve the diverse needs of the local community. Community facilities will be delivered as early as possible to foster a sense of community in the new neighbourhoods.

##### Community & Early Years Hubs

A network of community and early years hubs are provided within Ballarat West. These hubs are co-located with schools and where appropriate, activity centres, to create focal points for community activity and interaction within each neighbourhood.

The Precinct offers a wide range of education facilities; government primary and secondary and non government primary schools. Early Years Hubs are co-located with schools and provide opportunities for the provision of kindergarten, childcare, child and maternal health and flexible community spaces. All schools and Early Years Hubs within the Precinct are located on the connector street network to maximise community access by walking, cycling and public transport.

##### Open Space

The open space network within the Precinct will cater for the diverse ages and interests within the local community. The open spaces range from neighbourhood to regional parks and will provide for a variety of active and passive recreational pursuits.

The Winter, Kensington and Bonshaw Creek linear parks will provide a green link with a shared path network through the heart of the development. This linear park network will provide connections to open spaces and other key community uses.

Other components of the open space network include neighbourhood parks, passive open space (conservation areas and linear open space) as well as active open space (including district and regional sport reserves).

#### 4.2.5 Provide for Local Employment and Business Activity

The Ballarat West PSP area will support a variety of local economic development opportunities which will generate local employment in a number of sectors including retail, business and service industries. The Major Activity Centre, the Neighbourhood Activity Centre and Industrial/Commercial Precinct will provide a range of employment opportunities for the community. Employment opportunities will also be provided by schools, early years hubs, public and private community facilities and other uses such as retirement and aged care facilities that establish within the Precinct.

The employment areas are co-located with supporting uses and are planned to be easily accessible via the public transport and walking and cycling networks, as well as the proposed road network.

The Ballarat West PSP also promotes:

- The establishment of home based businesses;
- The development of serviced and small offices located within and at the edge of the major and neighbourhood activity centres; and
- The development of flexible buildings in mixed use areas to ensure they can adapt over time to meet changing market needs.

Local employment opportunities will also be provided outside the Ballarat West PSP, in close proximity to the Ballarat West Employment Zone to the north.

