



Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Level 3
8-12 Seymour Street
Traralgon, Victoria 3844
Telephone: 03 5172 2111
deeca.vic.gov.au

Chairperson
Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
27 Scriveners Road
Kalimna West Victoria 3909

By email: notifications@glawac.com.au

Date: 19 March 2026
Our Reference: 15L10.8094

Dear Chairperson

RE: NOTICE CONCERNING WORKS ON NATIVE TITLE LANDS (RIGHT TO COMMENT) PROPOSED CARPARK SEALING WITH BITUMEN – STRATFORD RECREATION RESERVE

The Proposal

The Stratford Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Incorporated proposes to seal the existing car park at the Stratford Recreation Reserve with bitumen.

The current car park has deteriorated following recent significant rainfall and continues to degrade with ongoing use. Sealing the surface with bitumen will help ensure the area functions as a safe and reliable parking space for the user groups of the reserve, while also directing stormwater into appropriately constructed drainage systems.

A map of the proposed works is attached, works are to be completed by an appropriately qualified contactor.

The location of the area subject to proposal is outlined in the following attachments:

- Cadastral plan showing Crown allotment descriptions.
- Aerial Photo
- Site Plan

Description of The Native Title Land and Waters Affected

Crown allotment 1, Section 33 in the Township of Stratford, Parish of Stratford (P262128).

This allotment is Crown lands permanently reserved for Site for Public Recreation by notice published in the *Victoria Government Gazette* in 1902 on page 1792.

Privacy Statement

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorized by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to foi.unit@deeca.vic.gov.au or FOI Unit, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002.



OFFICIAL

The above areas are subject to a recommendation from the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council that the lands be utilised Community use Area, Recreation Area, under the Gippsland Lakes Hinterland Area study.

Gippsland Lakes Hinterland Area (1983) – O4 – Community Use Area

Seeking Your Comments

The *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA) requires DEECA to consult and seek comments from the Traditional Owners of Native Title lands and incorporate appropriate conditions into consent to use and develop the land.

We understand that the proponent may also be obliged under Cultural Heritage legislation to contact the Gunaikurnai RAP body concerning this project and we will advise them of those responsibilities as a matter of standard process. However, if you would also like DEECA to raise some specific conditions on cultural heritage protection matters in the exercise of your native title right to protect cultural heritage as part of this formal commentary and approvals process, we will be happy to do so at your direction.

Further, your comments on how this proposal might affect your other native title rights and interests, and how that can be managed or addressed as part of this approvals process are also keenly sought.

These recognised rights and interests include the:

- right to have access to or enter and remain on the land and waters;
- right to use and enjoy the land and waters;
- right to take the resources of the land and waters for the purposes of satisfying personal, domestic or communal needs, but not for any commercial purposes;
- right to protect and maintain places and areas on the land and waters which are of importance according to Gunaikurnai traditional laws and customs;
- right to camp
- right to engage in cultural activities;
- right to engage in rituals and ceremonies;
- right to hold meetings and gatherings;
- right to teaching and learning about the physical, spiritual and cultural attributes of places and areas of importance.

Please note that the ‘non-extinguishment’ principle applies to these works and your native title rights will continue to exist over the site.

The Department intends to advise the proponent that the project can proceed after 40 days from the date of this notification have elapsed. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this proposal however in the meantime please contact Fiona Munson at the following details.

Fiona Munson
PLS Project Support Officer, Gippsland
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action



OFFICIAL

8-12 Seymour Street
Traralgon, Victoria, 3844

Email: fiona.j.munson@deec.vic.gov.au

Phone: 0436 616 617

Legislative Basis for this Notice

The proposed activity is a valid future act pursuant to Section 24 JA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Subdivision J of the *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA) allows for acts to be carried out on reserves provided that the act is in good faith with the purpose of the reservation. Where the act involves the construction of a public work, it is necessary that formal procedural notice be given to any Body Corporate and to any registered Representative Body.

This notice is also prepared and issued cognisant of the agreed terms outlined in Section 7.3 of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement between the State of Victoria and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation dated 22 October 2010 and registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on 8 February 2011.

The proposed works are to be carried out over land that was validly reserved prior to 23/12/96. The future act is in accordance with the purpose of the reservation (Site for Public Recreation).

The proposed works are considered “a major earth work” which constitutes the establishment of public works under Part 15, Division 4, Section 253 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

The non-extinguishment principle applies.



Fiona Munson
PLS Project Support Officer, Gippsland
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Date of Notice: 19 March 2026



40.6 0 20.32 40.6 Meters

GDA2020_Vicgrid
© The State of Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action 2026

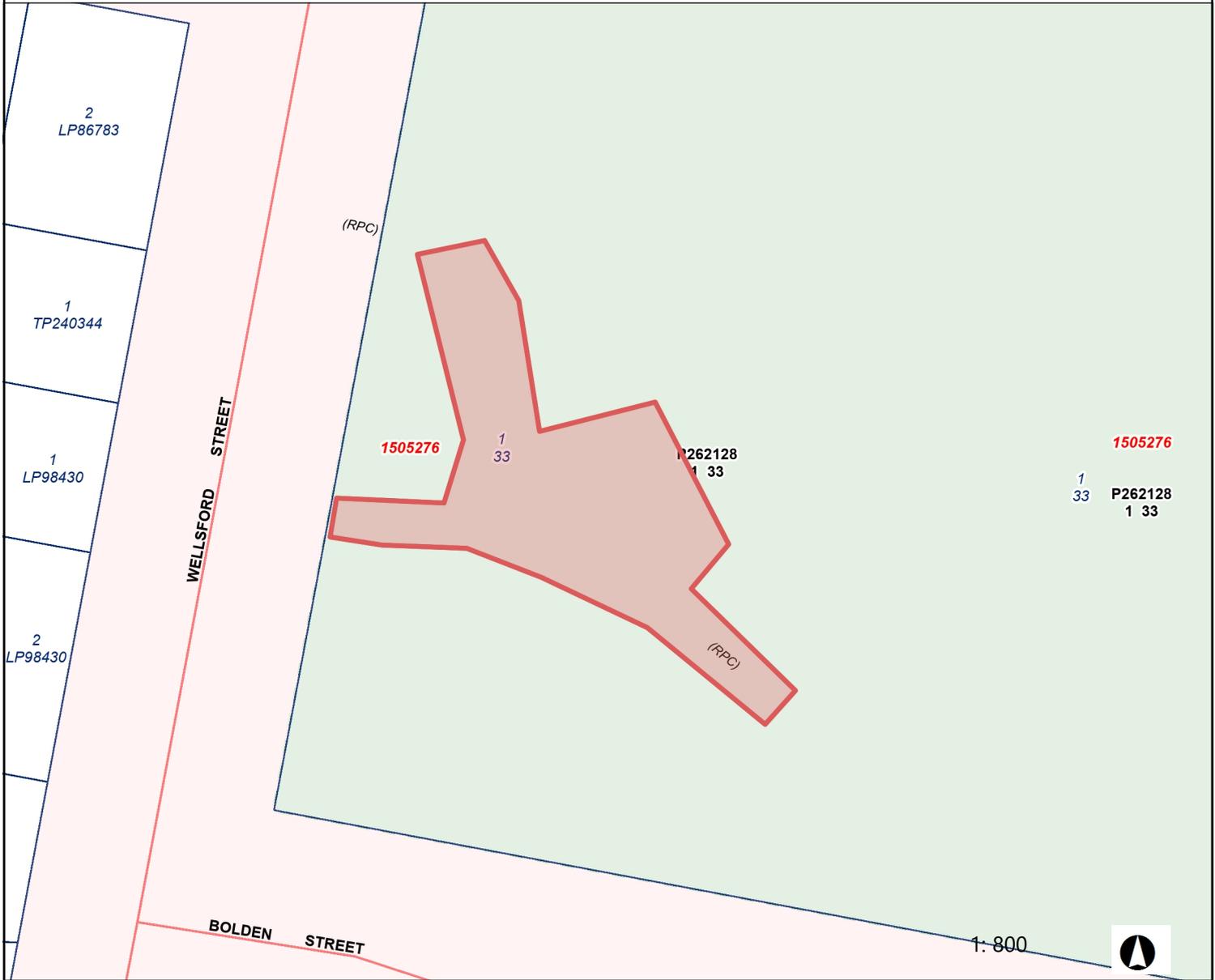
This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise
THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Legend

- Township
- Parish
- Delegated Lease
- Delegated License
- Plan Noting
- Linear Tenure**
 - Industrial Commercial licences
 - Recreation Amusement licences
 - Occupancy licences
 - Radio TV Telecom site licences
 - Emergency Services Use licences
 - Water Supply licences
 - Miscellaneous General licences
 - Easements
 - Pine Consents



Notes



40.6 0 20.32 40.6 Meters

GDA2020_Vicgrid
© The State of Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action 2026

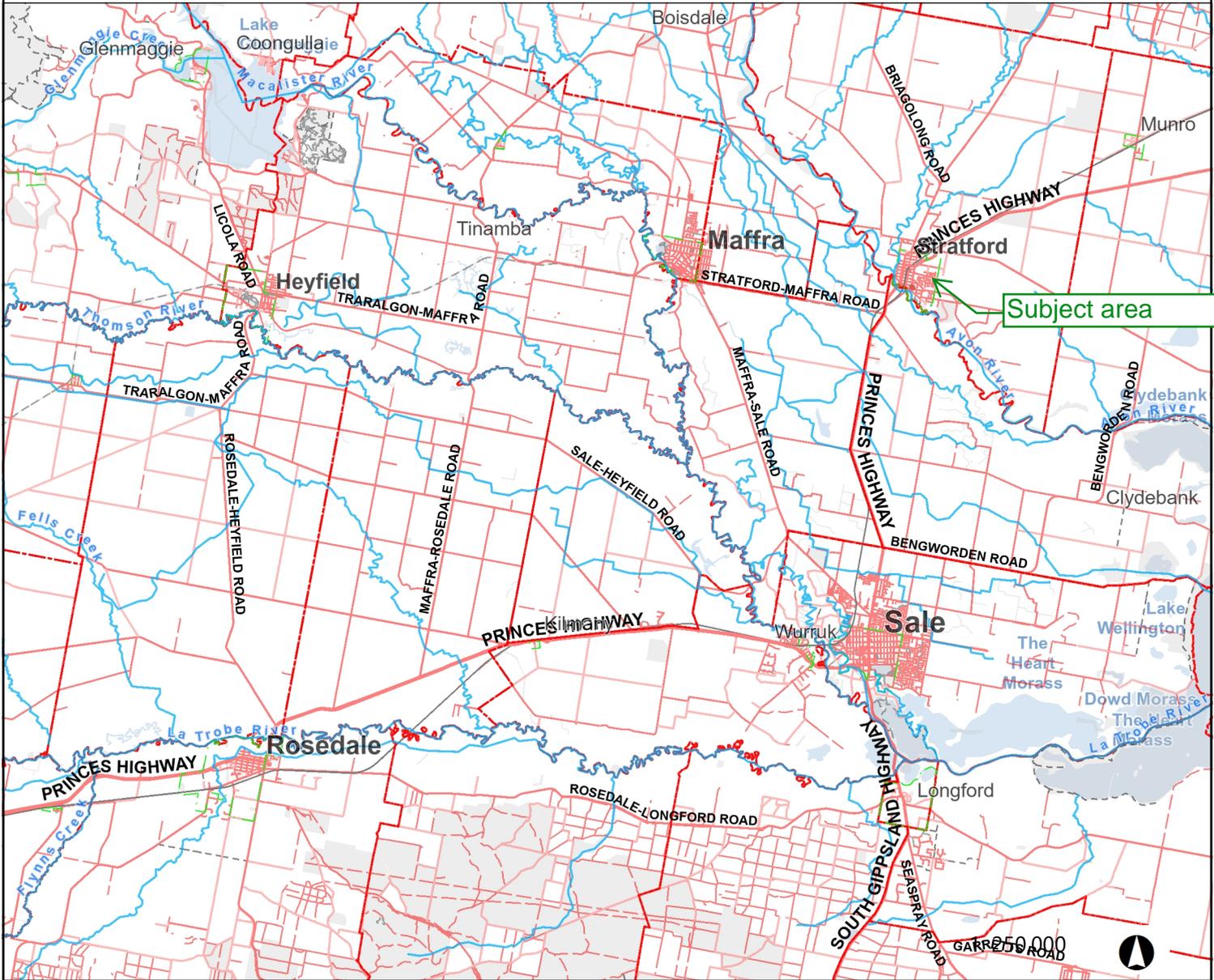
This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise
THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Legend

- Township
- Parish
- Delegated Lease
- Delegated License
- Plan Noting
- Linear Tenure**
 - Industrial Commercial licences
 - Recreation Amusement licences
 - Occupancy licences
 - Radio TV Telecom site licences
 - Emergency Services Use licences
 - Water Supply licences
 - Miscellaneous General licences
 - Easements
 - Pine Consents



Notes



12,700.0 0 6,350.00 12,700.0 Meters

GDA2020_Vicgrid
© The State of Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action 2026

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise
THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Legend

- Township
- Parish
- Crown Parcel
 - Crown Land
 - Government Road



Notes