NOTIFICATION OF A FUTURE ACT UNDER DIVISION 3 OF PART 2, NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993

"OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT – 28 DAYS"

THIS NOTICE RELATES TO THE PROPOSAL TO (CONSTRUCT A PUBLIC WORK) WHICH IS A VALID FUTURE ACT UNDER SECTION 24JA OF THE NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993.

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

GIVEN BY: Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

DATE OF ISSUE: *5 March 2026* **OUR REFERENCE:** *Helidip site- Snowy Range Airbase*

THE PROPOSED FUTURE ACT

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF REMOTE WATER HELIDIP POINT – SNOWY RANGE AIRBASE SITE

The Department proposes to install a number of permanent remote water (helidip) points to provide a water source to support aerial firefighting across the Gippsland Region. This site was chosen due to it's key geographical location to reduce turnaround times for first attack bushfire suppression given the long distances from reliable water sources for helicopter access. This will in turn assist in protecting communities, water supplies and environmental values.

The remote water point will consist of installing two water storage tanks (10m diameter/tank), pipes connecting the tanks and an open top helidip tank (6m diameter) of which the tanks will be installed on prepared crushed rock pads.

The proposed layout of the site as per the attached Site Plan is already cleared of trees and shrubs to provide the necessary clear approach and departure flight paths for helicopters when operating from the site. The plan is to install the tanks and pipes on previously disturbed areas of the airbase to avoid areas of sensitive vegetation.

The proposed timing of the construction of the remote water point is April – June 2026.

Plans showing the details and location of the proposal is attached.

THE FUTURE ACT IS VALID

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, (which extinguishes native title rights and interests), it is necessary that formal procedural notice be given to any registered claimant and to any registered Representative Body.

In this case 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 (Forest Reserve).

The proposed works are considered "a structure that is a fixture" which constitutes the establishment of public works under Part 15, Division 4, Section 253 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

The extinguishment principle applies over the footprint of the works, where other acts have not yet extinguished Native Title rights and interests.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND OR WATERS AFFECTED:

Crown allotment 3, Parish of Arbuckle, Municipality of WELLINGTON (SPI:3\PP2021)

This allotment is Crown land permanently dedicated as part of the Alpine National Park in accordance with the *National Parks Act 1975*.

Located at the Snowy Range Airfield, Howitt Road.

Site Co-ordinates: 37° 21.067' South, 146° 45.915' East

Attached:
Cadastral plan showing Crown allotment.
Aerial Photo with site layout
Proposed tank details
Locality plan

INVITATION TO COMMENT

The State is extending an invitation to comment on the proposed future act described above. Comments can be forwarded to:

Stephen Poon
Traralgon Regional Office
Level 3. 8-12 Seymour Street
Traralgon, Victoria, 3844

Telephone: 0408 556283
Facsimile: 5172 2100
e-mail: stephen.poon@deeca.vic.gov.au

All comments received within 28 days of the date of this notice will be considered.

DISCLAIMER

State Government Victoria

VICTORIA State Government

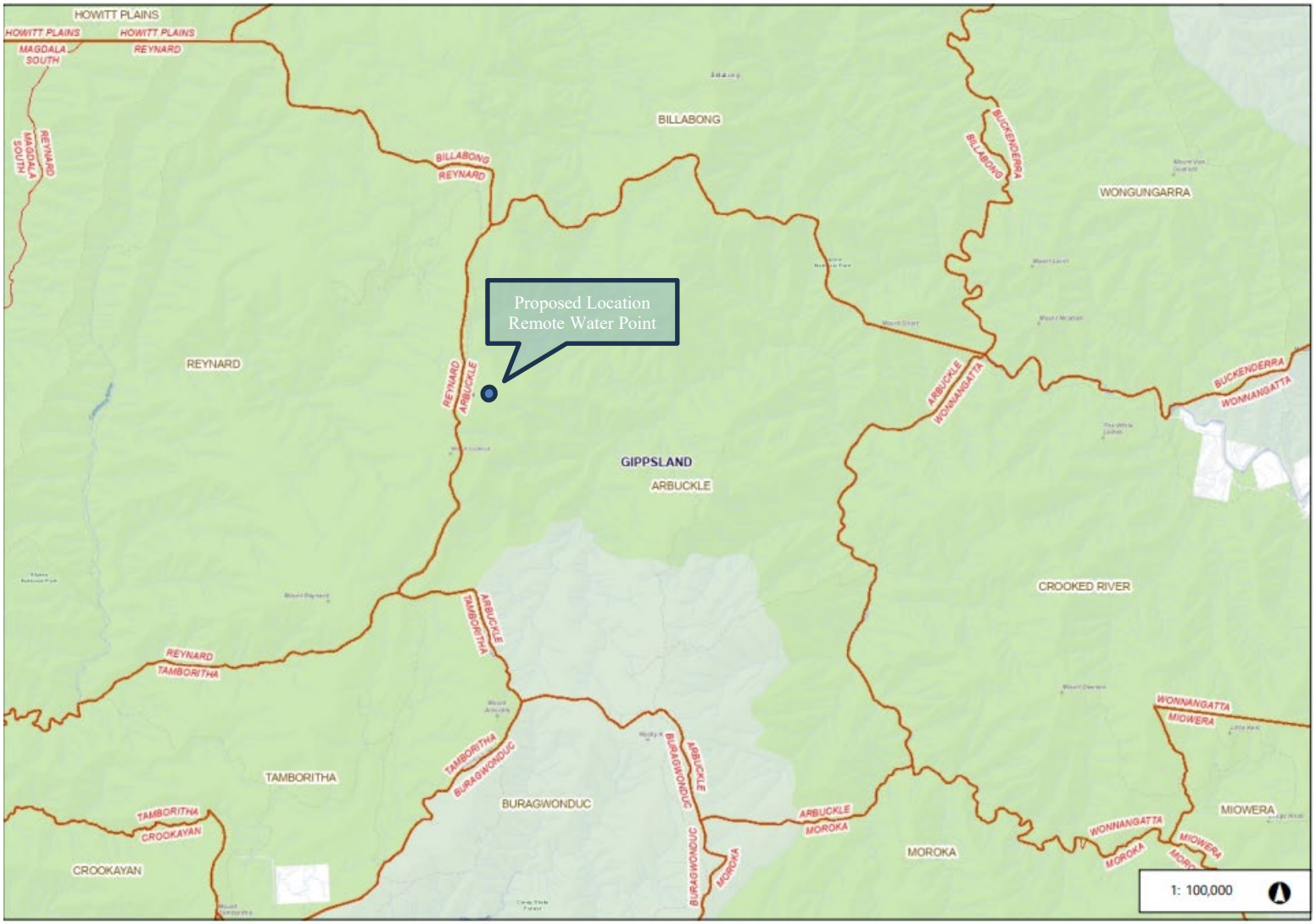
This notification is given to you under the provisions of Division 3 of Part 2 of the Native Title Act 1993. By giving such notice, the State makes no admission or acknowledgment of any kind for the purposes of any pending or future application for a determination of native title, whether made under the *Native Title Act* or at common law, for the land or waters in respect of which this notice is given.

Stephen Poon
Project Manager – Remote Water, Gippsland,
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Date of Notice: 5 March 2026

VICTORIA State Government

Cadastral Map – Snowy Range Airbase – Proposed Remote Water Point



Legend

- Parish
- Locality
- DEECA Region

Map Created on **08-Jan-2026**

5,080 0 2,540 5,080 Meters

GDA2020_Vicgrid

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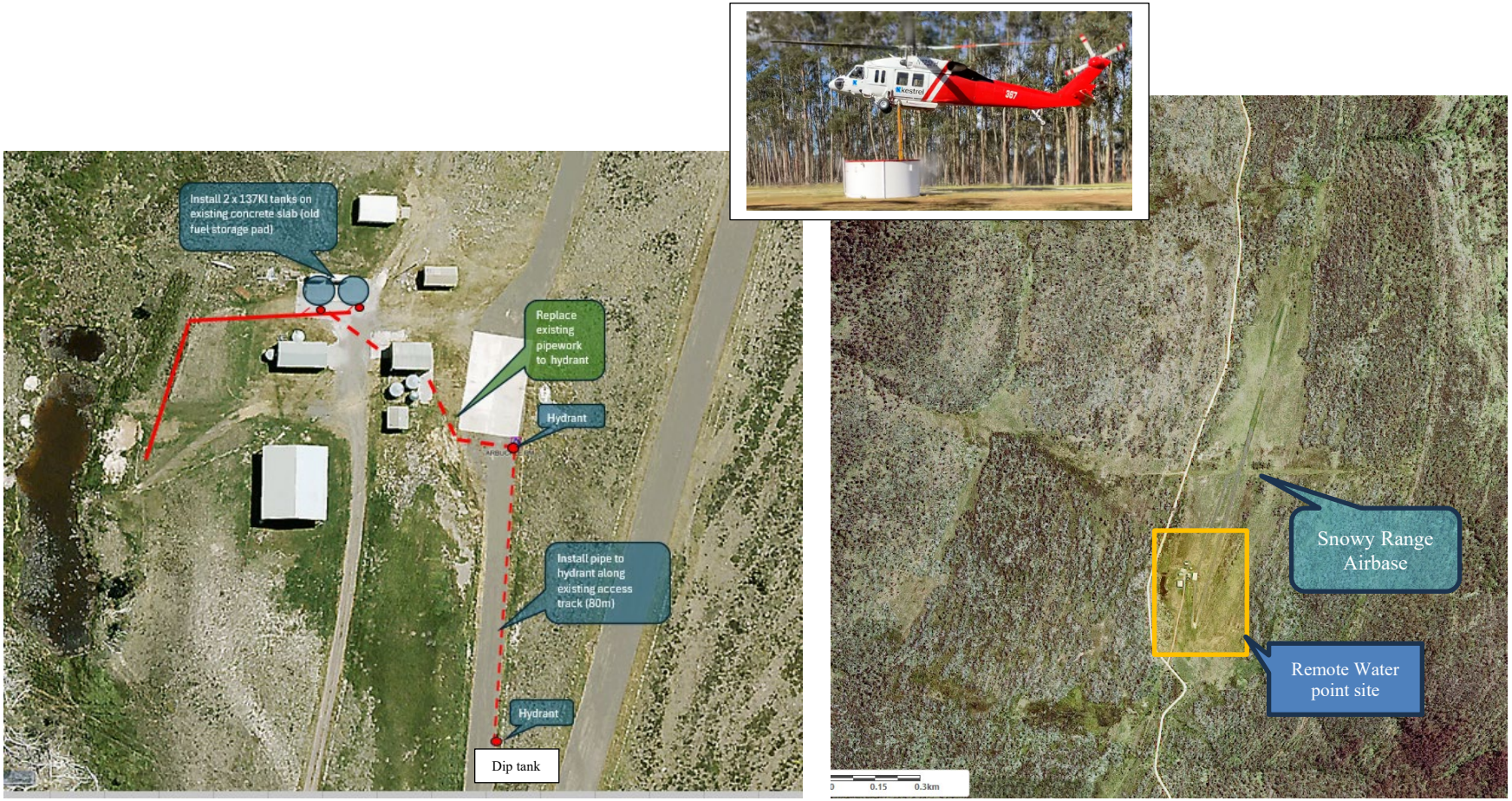
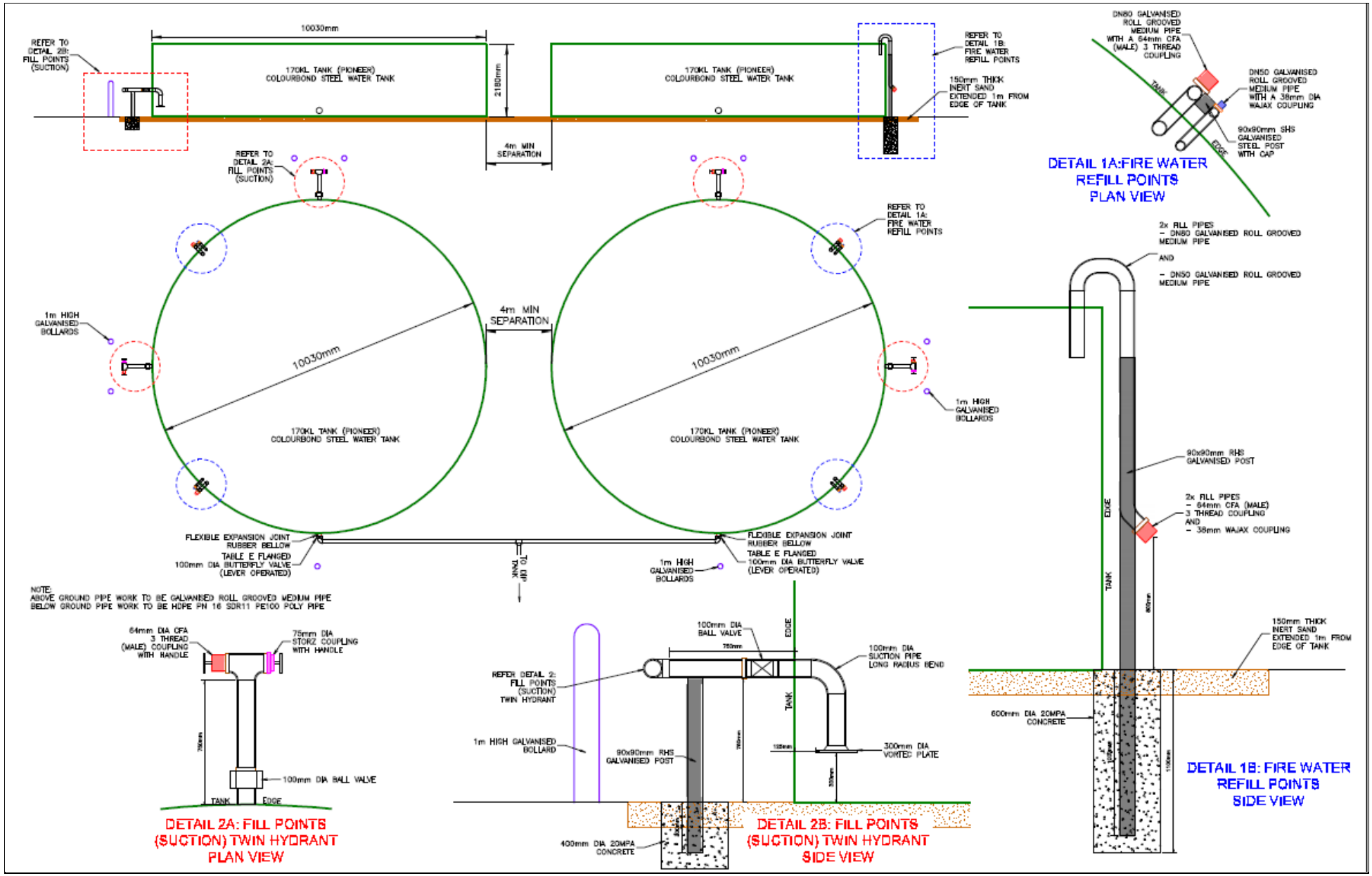
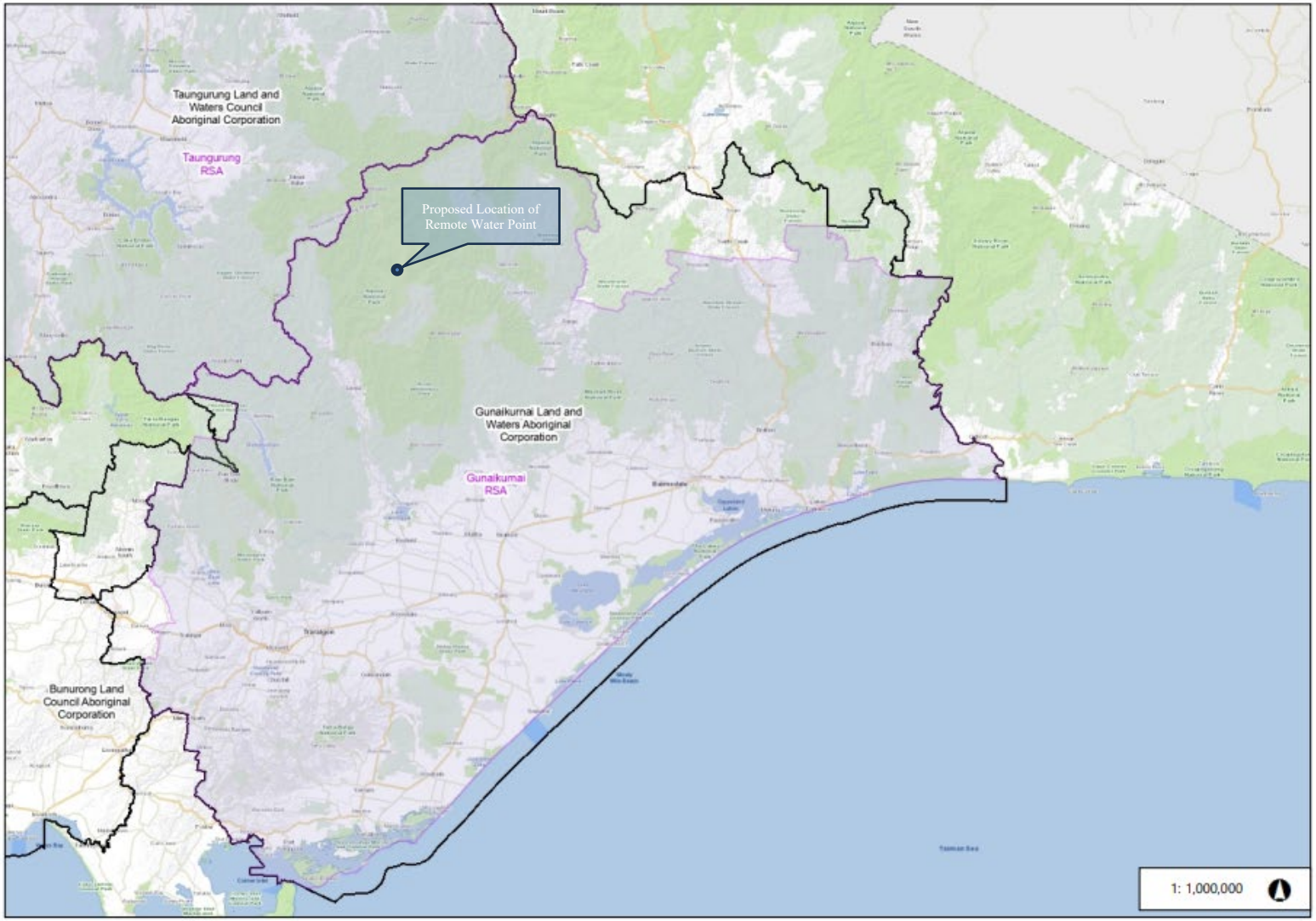


Snowy Range Airbase – Site Layout Plan for Remote Water Helidip point

Detail of Proposed Storage tanks



Locality Map - Snowy Range Airbase - Proposed Remote Water Point



Legend

Recognition and Settlement Agreement

Registered Aboriginal Parties

- Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Djab Djab Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
- First People of the Millewa-Mallee
- Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
- Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation
- Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Map Created on **08-Jan-2026**

50,800 0 25,400 50,800 Meters

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