



DISCUSSION PAPER

Cultural heritage

Yarra Ranges Council has commenced a comprehensive and transparent planning, consultation and assessment process for the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination through an Environment Effects Statement (EES).

Delivering a world-class mountain bike destination in the heart of the Yarra Ranges would generate tourism, economic and jobs growth and provide a positive community connection with the significant environmental and heritage values in the region.

Protecting the area's natural and cultural environment and minimising potential impacts is central to the project's development.

The EES for the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination will assess the project's environmental effects in four key areas, including cultural heritage.

The EES Scoping Requirements sets the following evaluation objective:

Avoid, or minimise where avoidance is not possible, adverse effects on Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage.



Work to date to understand cultural heritage in the project area

Warburton has a significant cultural history. The proposed network would be located in forested areas which are the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people.

This location has historically been used for gold mining, timber harvesting and its processing.

Over several years and stages of investigations and design, Council has undertaken a feasibility study, detailed planning, technical investigations and community consultation to understand the heritage and environmental values of the area and inform the project's design and Master Plan.

These investigations have included a historic heritage survey and a Complex Assessment undertaken as part of preparing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Consultation feedback has highlighted the community's recognition of their area's history and heritage significance, with questions raised about the approach to avoiding or minimising impacts on heritage places.

Previous investigations found there were five Aboriginal places within one kilometre of the project area but no previously registered or newly discovered Aboriginal places within the project area.

The project area falls into the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) area of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWWCHAC), which is part of the Project Reference Group advising the Yarra Ranges Council on the project and the Technical Reference Group advising on the EES preparation.



There have been substantial settlements in the bushland for short periods, especially during the 1850-1890 gold rush. Elements of these historical land uses can still be found today.

There are five heritage places in or near the project area, with the trails intersecting two of these places. Heritage specialists have been engaged to advise on design and construction methods, to ensure these areas are protected.

EES assessment of effects on cultural heritage

The study of the project's effects on cultural heritage will be conducted by technical specialists using research, field studies and consultation with stakeholders.

The EES will include the project's potential effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage value and places of historical cultural heritage significance and potential ways to avoid or mitigate any effects.

More information on the assessment requirements in relation to potential effects on cultural heritage is available in the EES Scoping Requirements.

www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/warburton-mountain-bike-destination

The following standards, regulations and legislation will be considered in relation to the project and Cultural Heritage:

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)
- Native Title Act 1993 (Cwth)
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)
- Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017 (Vic)
- Heritage Act 2017 (Vic)
- Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)
- Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018
- National Heritage List
- Commonwealth Heritage List
- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR)
- Victorian Heritage Register
- Victorian Heritage Inventory

Find out more and stay involved

Community input is an important part of the EES process and the project's continued development.

🌐 Sign up for project updates, find the latest information or ask a question on our website rideyarraranges.com.au

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NOVEMBER 2020

