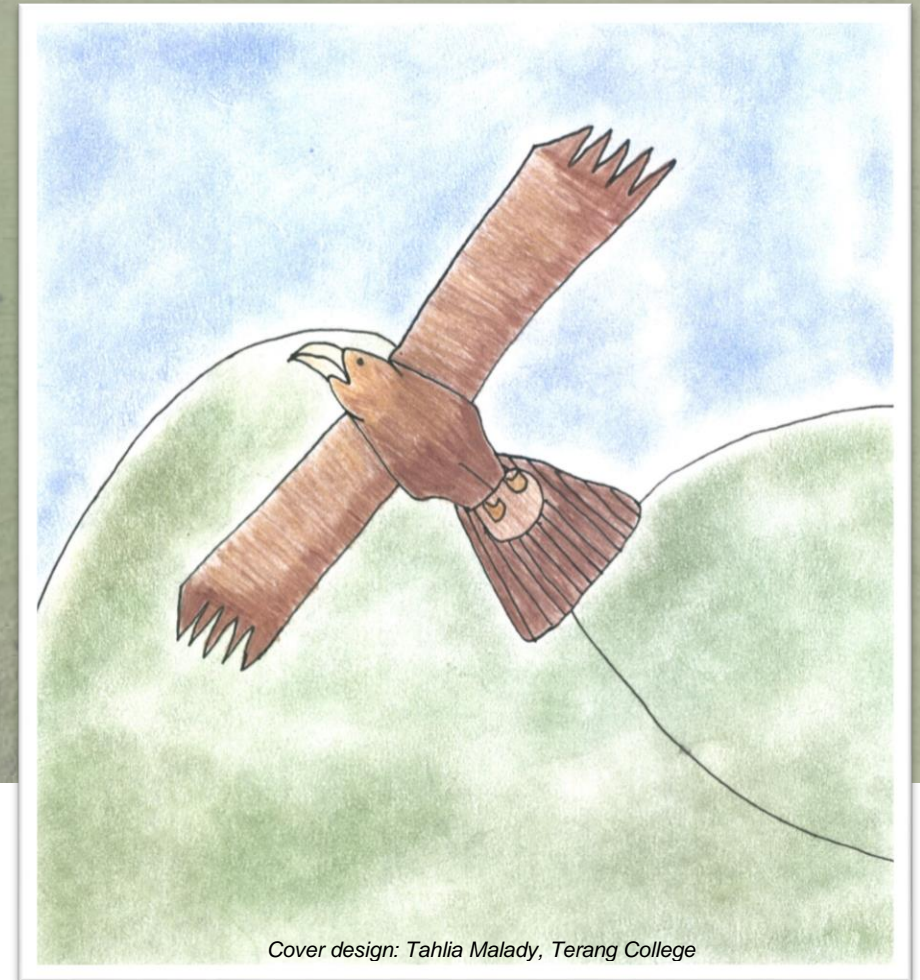


Mount Noorat Management Plan

September 2019



Cover design: Tahlia Malady, Terang College



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE



MOUNT NOORAT

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Acknowledgements

TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Mt Noorat Management Committee acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which Mt Noorat stands. We respectfully recognise Elders past, present and emerging and their ongoing connection to this site.

THE BLACK FAMILY

In 2017, the Black family gifted the 146.5ha Mt Noorat site to Corangamite Shire so that it could be retained as a community asset in perpetuity. This was done in accordance with the wishes of the late Niel Black who had managed the Mt Noorat property since 1965 until his death in 2012.

This generous contribution will ensure that Mt Noorat continues to be enjoyed by the community well into the future and is gratefully acknowledged by the Mt Noorat Management Committee and Corangamite Shire.

MT NOORAT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Development of this Management Plan would not be possible without the contributions and dedication of the 17 members of the Mt Noorat Management Committee, and the support of Corangamite Shire Council. This Plan was developed with the support of RM Consulting Group. A particular thank you goes to Kerry Vickers for the detailed accounts of the geological, cultural and natural history of Mt Noorat.



Management Plan Summary

VISION

Mt Noorat is a destination known for its geological and natural values and experiences; a place where culture past and present is understood and respected and where access is provided for all to enjoy.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. *Protected and enhanced natural values*
2. *Quality visitor experiences that reflect the character of the site*
3. *Aboriginal and European history is understood and respected*
4. *Walking tracks are accessible, well maintained and cater for diverse experiences*
5. *Self-sustaining financial management and governance*

OBJECTIVE 1: NATURAL VALUES

Goals

- Increase understanding of the native flora and fauna
- Identify, protect and enhance native vegetation
- Reduce the spread and impact of weeds and pest animals
- Maintain significant view lines
- Increase understanding of the geological significance

Immediate Actions

- Undertake flora and fauna assessment
- Prioritise key areas for revegetation and develop prescriptions for native vegetation management, protection and enhancement
- Establish annual weed and pest animal control program
- Identify and preserve significant view lines
- Conduct geological assessment



OBJECTIVE 2: QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Goals

- Attract visitors who are interested in low-impact recreation as a priority
- Install infrastructure that meets visitors' needs whilst ensuring it does not detract from the character of the site
- Provide educational and interpretive information in suitable locations and formats that are sensitive to the character of the site

Immediate Actions

- Conduct visitor count
- Install visitor book
- Identify promotional channels and materials
- Use the "Three Mounts" brand to attract visitors
- Confirm locations of new infrastructure
- Consider regulated, limited vehicle access to the summit for those unable to utilise the walking track
- Confirm the location of interpretive signage and type of information to be included

OBJECTIVE 3: ABORIGINAL & EUROPEAN HISTORY

Goals

- Build a relationship with the Traditional Owners
- Recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal heritage of Mt Noorat and the surrounding area
- Provide educational and/or interpretive information on the Aboriginal and European history of Mt Noorat and the surrounding area

Immediate Actions

- Commence discussions with Traditional Owners as a step towards acknowledging the past and building future partnerships
- Invite Traditional Owners to attend Committee meetings
- Work with Traditional Owners to hold a smoking ceremony or similar
- Work with local historians to provide information on the history of Mt Noorat
- Establish a memorial acknowledging gifting of Mt Noorat to the community



OBJECTIVE 4: WALKING TRACKS

Goals

- Improve visitor access and experience to the first viewing platform
- Provide infrastructure to enhance walker experiences
- Establish new tracks that provide diverse experiences

Immediate Actions

- Provide improved access at the entrance to the farmland
- Investigate options for an improved surface and more defined tracks
- Upgrade the existing wooden stile

OBJECTIVE 5: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Goals

- Maintain on-site income generation
- Explore alternative avenues for income generation
- The operation of the Management Committee is sustainable and well supported

Immediate Actions

- Review the existing grazing lease
- Establish a long-term goal for the proportion of leased grazing land
- Investigate the installation of a donations station
- Seek donations from visiting groups



1 Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE

Mt Noorat is a 146.5ha site located in southwest Victoria, approximately 6km north of the township of Terang. In 2018, the *Mt Noorat Management Committee* was established as a special committee of Council under the *Local Government Act 1989*. The Committee has been delegated the responsibility to manage and develop the site in the best interests of Noorat residents, the wider community and all visitors to Mt Noorat.

This is the first Mt Noorat Management Plan. The purpose of this Plan is to set the future direction of management actions at Mt Noorat over the next ten years.

1.2 STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

This Plan comprises four main sections:

- **Section 2: Mt Noorat** – Provides an overview of the geological and natural landscape, Aboriginal and European history and current uses and values at Mt Noorat
- **Section 3: The Plan** – Forms the basis of the Management Plan. It sets out the long-term vision for Mt Noorat, which is underpinned by five objectives and a series of management goals and actions
- **Section 4: Annual Action Plan** – Provides a template for the Committee to develop its annual action plans for the next ten years. The Action Plan has been provided as a stand-alone Excel spreadsheet
- **Section 5: Measuring Progress** – Provides guidance on how the Committee can monitor their progress in achieving the objectives of this Plan over the next ten years.

A separate Risk and Emergency Management Plan is included as Appendix 3.

1.3 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

Mt Noorat is a highly valued and utilised community asset, which has been recognised in the bequeathing of the site to the local community in 2017. For this reason, it was imperative for the community to have a say about the future management of Mt Noorat.

Development of this Plan has been largely informed by community consultation. The consultation phase extended from November 2018 to January 2019. During this period, the primary avenue for collecting feedback was an online survey. Hard copies were also made available. In total, 215 survey responses were received. Respondents represented a broad cross-section of the community with regard to age, gender and place of residency. This included 19% of respondents living outside the Corangamite Shire, demonstrating the value of Mt Noorat not only to locals but also to those who live further afield.

Opportunities for in-person consultation were also provided at the Noorat Show in November 2018 and at a community drop-in session at the Noorat Recreation Reserve in December 2018. Members of the Mt Noorat Management Committee also promoted the project via their local networks and through a presence in the Terang shopping strip, where local shoppers were provided with hard copies of the survey.

In addition to the community consultation, targeted workshops were held with the Mt Noorat Management Committee and Corangamite Shire Councillors.

Local school students from Terang, Noorat and Glenormiston were also engaged in the development of the Plan via a cover design competition. Entries from students were invited over the consultation period, with the winning design decided by the Committee.



2 Mt Noorat

2.1 GEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

Mt Noorat is a dormant scoria cone rising abruptly from the surrounding volcanic plains and is a geologically significant feature of the Newer Volcanics Province, a widespread field of small volcanoes extending across Victoria and South Australia. It is estimated that Mt Noorat erupted around 20–25,000 years ago.

Unique to Mt Noorat is the 150m-deep crater, which is lower than the level of the surrounding plain. This is the deepest scoria enclosed crater in Victoria, and possibly Australia. The highest point on the crater rim is a mound of scoria reaching a height of 310m above sea level (ASL). Examples of other eruption points surround the main crater, the most obvious being a partly enclosed depression on the northern side¹.

Mt Noorat continues to be a place of interest amongst volcanologists and geology enthusiasts.

2.2 FLORA AND FAUNA

Once old growth woodland, the outer slopes and steep side of the crater were forested with Manna Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Stringybarks (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), Blackwoods (*Acacia melanoxylon*), Silver Banksias (*Banksia marginata*), Black Wattles (*Acacia mearnsii*), Cherry Ballarts (*Exocarpus cupressiformus*) and She-oaks (*Allocasuarina verticillata*). The understorey consisted of Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*), Clematis (*Clematis aristata*), Kangaroo Apples (*Solanum aviculare*) and various other species.

In 1857, artist Eugene von Guerard and author James Bonwick visited Mt Noorat. Their accounts offer valuable insight into what the landscape would have looked like around the time of early European settlement (see Figure 2-1 and Figure 2-2). There had already been 18 years of European occupation at the time of their visit, and the Mount had been harvested of the largest trees for timber and exposed to sheep grazing. Bonwick wrote:

Healthy, but comparatively young trees cover all the hills outside and inside and give to the distant view of Noorat a beauty not shared by Shadwell, Elephant and most of the other extinct volcanoes.



Figure 2-1: Mt Noorat from Lake Keilambete by Eugene von Guerard, 1857²



Figure 2-2: Mt Noorat crater by Eugene von Guerard, 1857³

¹ Agriculture Victoria (2019) *Mount Noorat*. Victorian Resources Online, Victorian State Government. URL: http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/glenreg.nsf/pages/eruption_points_noorat (Accessed 21 Feb 2019)

² von Guerard, E. *Volume 05: Sketchbook XXVI, No. 8 Australian*. Mar-Apr, 1857, Sep-Oct, 1859. Dixson Galleries, State Library of NSW.

³ von Guerard, E. *Volume 05: Sketchbook XXVI, No. 8 Australian*. Mar-Apr, 1857, Sep-Oct, 1859. Dixson Galleries, State Library of NSW.

The original woodlands at Mt Noorat supported a diverse range of wildlife. This included large numbers of Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Wallabies, Eastern Barred Bandicoots, Koalas, Gliders, Echidnas, Possums, Antechinus, Dunnarts, Dingoes and Eastern Quolls. A multitude of woodland birds would have occupied the Mount, and a large number of waterbirds such as Brolgas and Magpie Geese would have utilised the nearby marshes.

Under today's classification of vegetation types in Victoria, the original Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) at Mt Noorat was Scoria Cone Woodland (EVC 894). The description of this EVC is true to the observations of von Guerard and Bonwick. It is described as a "eucalypt woodland to 15m tall or non-eucalypt woodland to 10m tall over a grassy to bracken-dominated understorey with a range of herbs". The Scoria Cone Woodland EVC is considered endangered within the Victorian Volcanic Plains bioregion⁴. A list of the types of flora species that would typically occur within the Scoria Cone Woodland EVC range is provided as Appendix 1.

Small, isolated stands of remnant Blackwoods (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and Manna Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) can be observed on the Mount today and they continue to provide habitat values, including for two resident Wedge-Tailed Eagles.

2.3 ABORIGINAL HISTORY

Remarkably, Indigenous people witnessed the eruption of Mt Noorat around 20–25,000 years ago. This is based on the discovery of a stone axe in volcanic deposits at Tower Hill to the southwest⁵. They were likely the ancestors of the Girai Wurrung people (also referred to as the Kirrae

Wuurong). The Girai lands covered a territory of 4,921km² from Warrnambool and the Hopkins River down to the coast at Princetown. The northern boundary was at Lake Bolac and Darlington, and the eastern boundary extended beyond Camperdown.

Girai Wurrung translates as 'blood lip' language. The Girai Wurrung people had 21 clans, each differing slightly in dialect. One of the clans was the Mount Noorat clan occupying the Mount and the nearby Pejark Marsh⁶. More than 1,000 generations called this area home.

Based on available evidence Mt Noorat was known as Knorart or K'noorat by the local Aboriginal inhabitants. Prior to European settlement, great gatherings or meetings of the Aboriginal clans from across southwest Victoria took place on Mt Noorat. James Dawson, local settler and champion of Aboriginal interests, wrote of these gatherings:

A favourite place of meeting for the purpose of barter is a hill called Noorat, near Terang. In that locality the forest kangaroos are plentiful, and the skins of the young ones found there are considered superior to all others for making rugs⁷.

In March 1839, Frederick Taylor was the first European settler to take up a vast tract of land encompassing Mt Noorat. Within a short period of time, Taylor had killed or run off most of the local Girai Wurrung people, as well as introducing disease⁸. Frederick fled the area in late 1839 fearing prosecution.

⁴ Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) (2019) *Bioregions and EVC Benchmarks*. URL: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/bioregions-and-evc-benchmarks> (Accessed 4 March 2019)

⁵ Birch, W. D. (1994), *Volcanoes in Victoria*. Royal Society of Victoria: Melbourne. Cited in: Vickers, K. (2018) *The Mount: A natural and social history of Mount Noorat*. Kolora, Victoria.

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girai_wurrung (Accessed 28 February 2019)

⁷ Dawson, J. (1881, 1981 AITSIS reprint). *Australian Aborigines: The languages and customs of several tribes of aborigines in the Western District of Victoria, Australia*. George Robertson: Melbourne. Cited in: Vickers, K. (2018) *The Mount: A natural and social history of Mount Noorat*. Kolora, Victoria.

⁸ Vickers, K. (2018) *The Mount: A natural and social history of Mount Noorat*. Kolora, Victoria.

In April 1841, Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate, Chief Protector George Augustus Robinson visited the Mount and met a group of Aboriginal men at the base of the Mount. He later recorded in his journal that the Aboriginal name for the Mount was *Knorart*. The surviving Girai Wurrung people travelled to an Aboriginal Protectorate station at Mount Rouse in the early 1840s.

2.4 EUROPEAN HISTORY

The first Europeans arrived at Noorat less than 180 years ago. Frederick Taylor was the first European to arrive, in 1839, and he established “Strathdownie” run for MacKillop & Smith. By late 1839, Taylor had left the area and Niel Black & Co. took over the run in January 1840. They called the run “Glenormiston” and the site included Mt Noorat, which they referred to as “The Hill”. Ownership of Mt Noorat remained with the Black family until 2017 when the family gifted the site to Corangamite Shire.

The establishment of farming and nearby settlements led to the rapid denuding of woodlands on Mt Noorat. Timber was harvested for buildings and fencing, tracks cleared across the Mount, scoria mined for nearby developments and sheep grazing was introduced. Settlement of the township of Noorat commenced in 1873 and by the 1880s the majority of vegetation on Mt Noorat had been cleared. A significant loss of wildlife followed, which was further exacerbated by the introduction of pest species such as rabbits, cats and foxes.

In addition to being grazed by sheep and cattle, ostrich farming was trialled for a brief period at Mt Noorat between 1914 and 1920. The summit of Mt Noorat was also utilised as a fire lookout station, where a small hut and flagpole were erected during the 1880s.

Since European settlement, Mt Noorat has captured the interests of authors and artists including Austrian artist Eugene von Guerard and author James Bonwick, whose works provide valuable insights into the landscape at the time of settlement. The history of acclaimed Australian author Allan Marshall is deeply interwoven with Mt Noorat and his award-winning novel *I Can Jump Puddles* is set to the backdrop of Mt Noorat.

2.5 MT NOORAT TODAY

Mt Noorat means different things to different people. For many in the community it is the peaceful ambience of Mt Noorat offering a place for quiet reflection that they value the most. For others it is the uninterrupted views of the surrounding volcanic landscape and the chance to marvel at the geology of the Mount and surrounds. On a clear day, views are afforded as far as the Grampians in the northwest and the Otway Ranges in the southeast.

The few stands of remnant native vegetation and the Wedge-Tailed Eagles that call the crater home provide visitors with an opportunity to experience nature and take a rare glimpse into what the landscape would have been like prior to European settlement.

The network of informal walking tracks is highly valued by the community for the recreational opportunities they provide, from walking to trail running. Climbing the Mount has been a popular pastime in the district for well over 150 years. Climbing the Mount was and still is part of growing up in Noorat and the surrounding district.

A recent survey⁹ of community members revealed that the main reasons people visit Mt Noorat is for the views, the opportunity to exercise, the peace and quiet, to be in nature and for the geology and natural history.

Mt Noorat also evokes a strong sense of place for many people. This includes connection to the natural landscape, to the past, to home, to family and to spirituality. Even the character and identity of the Noorat township is deeply entwined in the majesty of Mt Noorat, which features as a prominent backdrop to the settlement.

The significance of Mt Noorat will remain high for locals and visitors alike and it is through this Plan that the values of the Mount will continue to be enhanced and protected.

⁹ A community survey was distributed in November 2018 to capture input to the development of this Plan. A total of 215 community members responded to the survey.



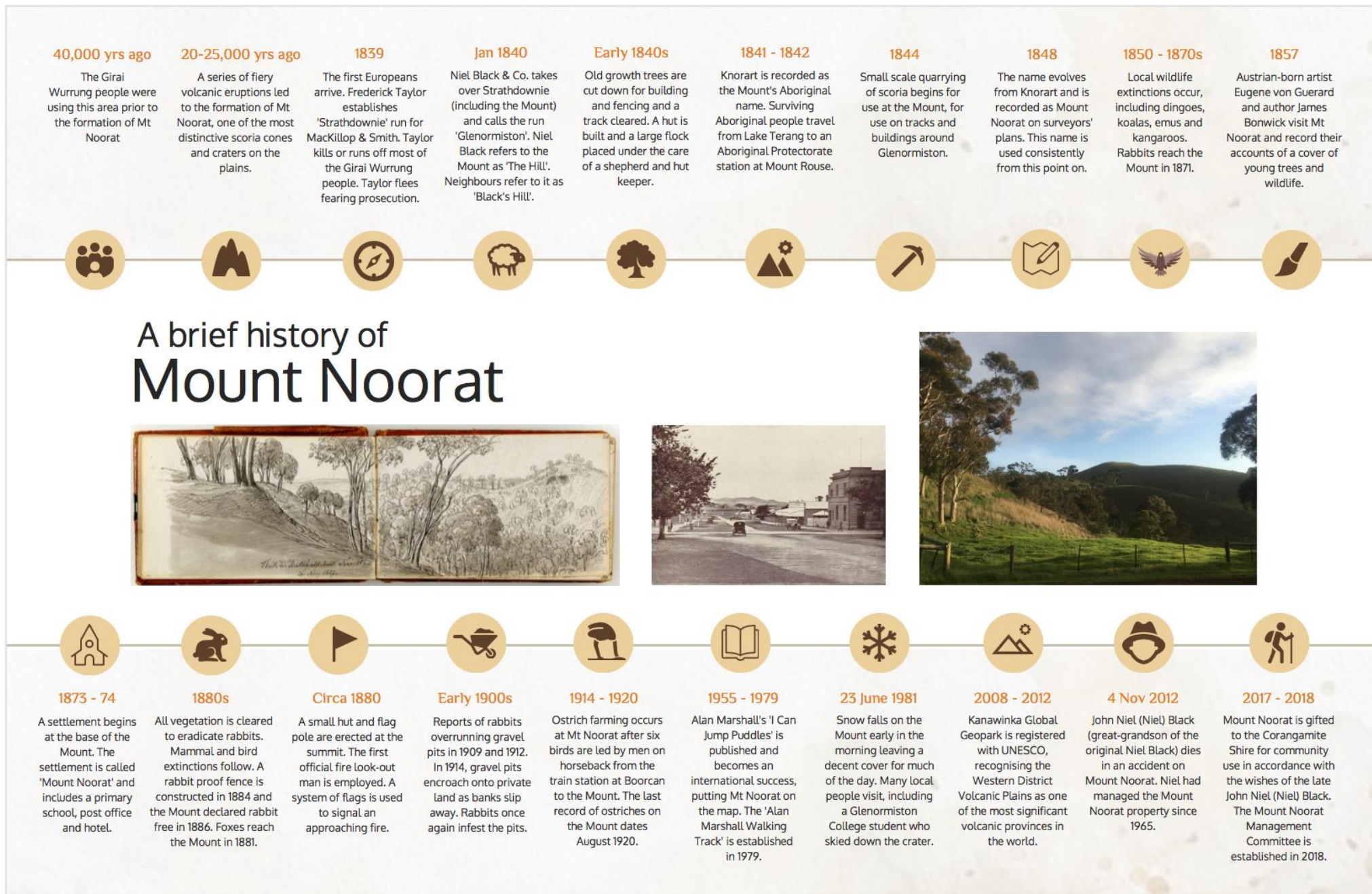


Figure 2-3: A brief history of Mount Noorat

3 The Plan

3.1 LONG-TERM VISION

The long-term vision has been prepared in response to feedback from the community about what they would like Mt Noorat to look like in 30 years' time. The vision sets the direction for the future management of Mt Noorat.

Mt Noorat is a destination known for its geological and natural values and experiences; a place where culture past and present is understood and respected; and where access is provided for all to enjoy.

3.2 OBJECTIVES

The Mt Noorat Management Plan is guided by five objectives. These objectives form the main areas of focus under which a series of goals and actions have been identified.

1. Protected and enhanced natural values
2. Quality visitor experiences that reflect the character of the site
3. Aboriginal and European history is understood and respected
4. Walking tracks are accessible, well maintained and cater for diverse experiences
5. Self-sustaining financial management and governance

The actions underpinning the objectives are presented in the following sections. Broad timeframes for implementation have been assigned to each action and include: **Immediate (1–3 years), Medium (4–7 years), Long (8–10 years).**



3.3 OBJECTIVE 1: PROTECTED AND ENHANCED NATURAL VALUES

GOALS

Five goals have been identified to protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat:

- Increase understanding of the native flora and fauna
- Identify, protect and enhance native vegetation
- Reduce the spread and impact of weeds and pest animals
- Maintain significant view lines
- Increase understanding of the geological significance

Actions to achieve each of the goals are presented in Table 3-1.

CONTEXT

Amongst the main reasons that people visit Mt Noorat is the opportunity “to be in nature” and to appreciate the geology and natural history of the site. This was reflected in the community responses to the survey. The protection of remnant native vegetation and the planting of more native vegetation also rated highly amongst community as important management actions. Similarly, when people were asked what they would like Mt Noorat to look like in 30 years’ time, “more native vegetation and wildlife” was a common response.

This desire to recreate a landscape more representative of pre-European settlement must, however, be balanced with retaining the current character and profile of the site. While many people would like to see more trees at Mt Noorat, for others it is the distant treeless profile of the Mount and the uninterrupted views of the surrounding landscape from the site that are highly valued.

There is a challenge for the Mt Noorat Management Committee to strike a balance between revegetating to increase the biodiversity of the Mount and retain the existing profile and vistas. Immediate opportunities exist in revegetating the gullies and lower-lying slopes of Dead Man’s Gully (refer to Zone A in Figure 3-1), and the crater (refer to Zone B in Figure 3-2). Revegetation of slopes and lower-lying areas in these zones will help manage erosion and protect existing stands of native remnant vegetation without detracting from the external profile or impeding view lines from the site. Commencing efforts here also aligns well with the walking track upgrade (refer to Objective 4), where Zone A forms the immediate priority.

Currently, there is a scarcity of detailed information about the biodiversity at Mt Noorat. This represents a significant knowledge gap that will ideally be closed to enable long-term management of the Mount. A flora and fauna survey should be conducted to provide detail on the presence, condition and diversity of flora and fauna at Mt Noorat. This will provide important baseline information that can be built upon over time and be used to monitor the progress and impact of regenerative works.

Within the next three years, a Native Vegetation Management Plan should be prepared for the whole of the Mt Noorat site (beyond the immediate works at the crater and Dead Man’s Gully). This should identify the goals for native vegetation, including the desired proportion of native vegetation cover across the site, protection of remnant native vegetation and zones for revegetation and stock exclusion. The flora and fauna assessment will give useful baseline information for such a plan.

As an overarching principle, it is important that any revegetation is undertaken with indigenous species and that grasses and understorey species are included in revegetation works. This will contribute to more diverse plantings that over time will provide greater habitat values for native wildlife, from ground-dwelling mammals to birds.

The removal of grazing stock from the revegetated areas will be important to ensure these areas become well established and understorey species are not grazed out. The removal of stock from these areas may call for alternative weed management approaches, such as seasonal burns or dense planting with native grasses to outcompete pasture grass.

For the short to medium term it is envisaged the site will continue to have grazing to manage pastures and maintain income. As a result, there is potential for tensions to arise between the grazing lease and revegetation. For example, revegetation fencing will need to be resistant to stock, and this might restrict stock from areas that may be under the current lease. Consideration of these tensions will need to be given when planning protection of vegetation and revegetation. There is also opportunity for future lease arrangements to include sustainable farming practices involving programs such as Landcare or Land for Wildlife, and the possibility to consider grazing with livestock that have less impact on the landscape than cattle.

People within the community have expressed that they would like to know more about the natural environment of Mt Noorat, such as information on the native flora and fauna (particularly birds of prey) and past fire regimes. This is an excellent opportunity to build local knowledge and offer a rare glimpse into what the landscape was like prior to European settlement. There are also opportunities to actively engage the community through activities such as fauna monitoring and the construction and installation of nest boxes.

Fire risk management has also been identified as a concern by the local community. This is addressed separately in the Risk and Emergency Management Plan, which is included as Appendix 3.



PRINCIPLES

The following actions will be undertaken according to the following principles:

- Ensure only indigenous plant species are used in revegetation works
- Ensure native grasses and understorey species are included as part of revegetation work, to encourage greater biodiversity outcomes
- Focus revegetation in the gullies and low-lying areas to protect significant view lines
- Consider the pressures associated with grazing and the obligations of the lease agreement when making decisions

ACTIONS

Table 3-1: Actions to help achieve the goals of Objective 1: *Protected and enhanced natural values*

OBJECTIVE 1: PROTECTED AND ENHANCED NATURAL VALUES			
ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAMES
<i>Goal: Increase understanding of the native flora and fauna</i>			
1.1	Undertake Flora and fauna assessment	Undertake a flora and fauna assessment to provide baseline information on the presence, condition and diversity of flora and fauna species at the site and provide recommendations on priority protection and regeneration works.	Immediate
1.2	Establish Flora and/or fauna monitoring program	Establish a flora and/or fauna monitoring program, building on the baseline data from Action 1.1 and track the impact of regenerative work over time. Consider involving local schools and/or community volunteers to assist with the monitoring.	Medium
1.3	Install native fauna habitat	Install native fauna habitat, which could include nest boxes, depending on the outcomes of a fauna assessment (Action 1.1). Consider working with local community groups (e.g. Men's Shed, Rotary, schools) to construct and install any habitat infrastructure, such as nest boxes.	Medium
1.4	Develop educational and/or interpretive information	Develop educational and/or interpretive information that raises awareness of the native flora and fauna and past fire regimes. Identify suitable locations and/or formats for this information. Refer also to Actions 2.11–2.15.	Medium

OBJECTIVE 1: PROTECTED AND ENHANCED NATURAL VALUES

ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAMES
Goal: Identify, protect and enhance native vegetation			
1.5	Prioritise key areas for revegetation and develop prescriptions for native vegetation management, protection and enhancement	Based on the outcomes of Action 1.1, identify priority areas for the whole of Mt Noorat for native vegetation protection and enhancement. Prescriptions for the management of native vegetation, inclusive of mapping, should be developed from this process, designating key areas for a staged delivery of revegetation. The desired type and proportion of native vegetation cover across the site for revegetation, stock exclusion, consideration of retaining the profile and important view lines and any impact on resident eagles and other flora must be considered.	Immediate
1.6	Conduct regenerative works in priority areas	As a “site of first action”, commence regenerative works in priority areas identified by the Committee such as Zone A and the crater. This may include revegetation, stock exclusion fencing and protection of remnant native vegetation. Refer also to actions in Objective 4.	Immediate – Medium
1.7	Undertake prescriptions for native vegetation management, protection and enhancement	Undertake vegetation management prescriptions at priority sites identified from Action 1.5.	Immediate – Medium
Goal: Reduce the spread and impact of weeds and pest animals			
1.8	Establish annual weed and pest animal control program	Establish an annual weed and pest animal control program, with a focus on managing declared noxious weeds and high-threat pests.	Immediate
1.9	Investigate and trial pest animal and weed control	Investigate and trial strategies for pest animal and weed control, particularly in areas where stock access is to be excluded. For example, this may include seasonal burns or suppression with indigenous perennial grasses. Pest animal management can be combined with weed management as their issues are often interconnected.	Immediate – Medium
1.10	Pine tree removal	Progressively remove the pine trees near the telecommunications facilities and other parts of the site and replace with native vegetation. Stage the removal of the pine trees to occur once the native vegetation has become established and continues to screen out these facilities. Any decisions about removal will be made by the Committee on an individual basis with consideration of overall objectives and heritage.	Long
Goal: Maintain significant view lines			
1.11	Identify and preserve significant view lines	Confirm the locations of significant view lines to be preserved (refer to Figure 3-1) to ensure that any planned revegetation and infrastructure does not adversely affect these view lines. Consideration should be given to community preferences for views.	Immediate

OBJECTIVE 1: PROTECTED AND ENHANCED NATURAL VALUES

ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAMES
<i>Goal: Increase understanding of the geological significance</i>			
1.12	Conduct a geological assessment	Conduct an expert geological assessment and mapping of the whole of the site that includes geological dating, the site's volcanic past, its significance within the greater region, the impact of quarrying and other geological history.	Immediate
1.13	Establish ongoing geological protection works	Based on the outcomes of Action 1.12, identify priority areas for geological protection and enhancement.	Medium

Figure 3-1: Indicative location of remnant native vegetation and significant view lines at Mt Noorat



Legend

- Summit
- Viewing Platform
- Walking Track Entrance
- Significant View Point
- Mt Noorat Property Boundary
- Priority Zone
- Remnant Native Vegetation
- Dead Man's Gully

Walking Tracks

- Mt Noorat Viewing Platform
- Mt Noorat Summit
- Crater Rim

0 75 150 300
Meters

3.4 OBJECTIVE 2: QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCES THAT REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF THE SITE

GOALS

Three goals have been identified to provide quality visitor experiences that reflect the character of the site:

- Attract visitors who are interested in low-impact recreation as a priority
- Install infrastructure that meets visitors' needs whilst ensuring it does not detract from the character of the site
- Provide educational and interpretive information in suitable locations and formats that are sensitive to the character of the site

Note: goals relating to improved access are addressed as part of the walking track upgrade in Section 3.6.

Actions to achieve each of the goals are presented in Table 3-2.

CONTEXT

One of the main attractions of Mt Noorat is the undisturbed ambience and opportunity to escape to a place of peace and quiet. The results of the community survey found that "peace and quiet" is one of the top reasons people value the Mount, second only to the views.

A delicate balance exists between retaining this peaceful ambience and supporting a potential increase in visitation. Many in the community recognise Mt Noorat as a place to be shared and that visitation may provide a small source of revenue for the ongoing management of the site. In attracting visitors to Mt Noorat, the community expressed a preference to cater for low-impact recreation as a priority over more active forms of recreation so as not to detract from the peaceful character of the site. Low-impact recreation refers to low-impact activities and may include walking, trail running, nature watching, picnicking, photography and artistic pursuits.

Even though there has been a strong focus on low-impact recreation, there has been interest from some in the community for more active forms of recreation at suitable locations. There may be opportunity to accommodate this form of recreation at a location where it does not detract from the overall character and feel of the Mount. The disused quarry site may offer one such location. In the immediate to medium term, however, the focus is on enhancing visitation for low-impact users.

There is an opportunity to work with regional tourism bodies to encourage visitation to Mt Noorat as well as promote it as a desirable destination amongst bushwalkers, nature and geology enthusiasts and trail runners. Mt Noorat is a place of interest amongst volcanologists and geology enthusiasts, and there is opportunity to capitalise on other nearby areas of geological significance.

Capitalising on existing services, such as the V/Line train to Melbourne and Warrnambool as well as infrastructure such as the Terang-Noorat Walking and Cycling Track, presents opportunities to market Mt Noorat as an accessible day trip or overnight destination. In doing so, there is also potential to promote visitation to the historical township of Noorat.

Some works are required to improve the overall visitor experience, and this will be particularly important if the site is to be promoted as a destination to attract more visitors. Through the survey, community cited the poor condition of the walking tracks, poor access, lack of places to sit and/or picnic and lack of shade as being amongst the main factors that stop them visiting. The works proposed as part of the walking track upgrade will address many of these limitations, including improving access and the condition of the tracks, providing more shade and infrastructure such as seating, picnic tables and signage. This detail is provided as part of Objective 4 in Section 3.6.

A resounding message from the community was that any upgrade or installation of infrastructure should be sensitive to and not detract from the character of the site. This should be applied as an underlying principle to any works undertaken at the site and will mean utilising natural materials that are unobtrusive and blend in with the surrounding landscape.

The current preference of both the community and the Committee is to keep infrastructure and facilities at Mt Noorat to a minimum thereby encouraging visitors to utilise facilities in Noorat itself, increasing patronage of local businesses. As visitation increases, the Committee will investigate options for infrastructure at the site itself, particularly at the entrance to the walking track.

Similarly, while there was a strong appetite for much more information to be provided about Mt Noorat, the form that interpretive information takes requires careful consideration. Many survey respondents expressed concern about too much and large signage detracting from the landscape. Subtle approaches may be more appropriate and could include the development of a smartphone app, online information, brochures and/or a booklet that is available in the Noorat township.

The types of information that people are seeking includes information about the natural, geological and cultural (both Aboriginal and European) history of Mt Noorat and the surrounding region, as well as information about the walking tracks such as location, distance and times to complete.



PRINCIPLES

The following actions will be undertaken according to the following principles:

- All planned infrastructure must consider potential impacts on trade and visitation in the town of Noorat
- Preference the use of natural and unobtrusive materials for any infrastructure installations; where appropriate, engage a specialist to assist with the design of new structures (such as for more substantial installations)
- Undertake works in line with the walking track upgrade as a priority (refer to Objective 4 in Section 3.6)
- Consider the pressures associated with grazing and the obligations of the lease agreement when making decisions
- Install signage and other infrastructure to encourage visitation
- Close access to the Mount on Code Red fire days

ACTIONS

Table 3-2: Actions to help achieve the goals of Objective 2: *Quality visitor experiences that reflect the character of the site*

OBJECTIVE 2: QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCES THAT REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF THE SITE			
ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
<i>Goal: Attract visitors who are interested in low-impact recreation as a priority</i>			
2.1	Conduct visitor count	Conduct an ongoing count of visitors to determine changes in visitation levels.	Immediate
2.2	Install visitor book	Install a visitor book at the commencement of the walking track to identify where visitors are travelling from and why they visited. This may help inform where efforts should be focused to attract more visitors.	Immediate
2.3	Identify promotional channels and materials	Identify the appropriate channels and materials to promote Mt Noorat as a destination for bushwalkers and nature and geology enthusiasts, both locally and further afield.	Immediate
2.4	Use the “Three Mounts” brand to attract visitors	Strengthen connections with the Mt Leura & Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee and Mt Elephant Community Management under the “Three Mounts” brand to attract visitors. This should include joint marketing with GORRT and other organisations and may include public events (e.g. Four Peaks Challenge and geological events and activities).	Immediate
2.5	Capitalise on existing services and tracks	Capitalising on existing services and infrastructure to boost Mt Noorat as a day/overnight destination, e.g. promote the V/Line train service from Melbourne and Warrnambool and continue the Terang-Noorat Walking and Cycling Track to the Mount. Market the historical township of Noorat as part of the experience.	Medium

OBJECTIVE 2: QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCES THAT REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF THE SITE			
ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
2.6	Identify opportunities to encourage visitation	Consult with regional tourism bodies and other relevant organisations to identify opportunities to encourage visitation to Mt Noorat, e.g. Great Ocean Road Tourism, Grampians Tourism.	Medium
2.7	Consider opportunities for more active recreation	Consider providing opportunities for different forms of lower-impact recreation at suitable locations on the Mount, that do not detract from the overall character of the site or impact on native vegetation, e.g. the old quarry site and northern and northwest areas of the site may be potential locations.	Long
Goal: Install infrastructure that meets visitors' needs whilst ensuring it does not detract from the character of the site			
2.8	Confirm locations of new infrastructure	Confirm the locations of new infrastructure, such as picnic tables and seating and plan works to install infrastructure (refer to Figure 3-2 for potential locations of infrastructure).	Immediate
2.9	Consider regulated, limited vehicle access to the summit for those unable to utilise the walking track	Consider providing regulated and limited vehicle access for those unable to utilise the walking track to the summit. Access to be via the informal vehicle track through The Valley and provided via the Committee on a semi-regular basis, e.g. monthly (or as determined by the Committee).	Immediate
2.10	Determine future infrastructure requirements based on increased visitation and develop infrastructure design style	Committee to scope infrastructure requirements based on an expected increase in visitor numbers over time. Infrastructure considerations should include facilities located at and near to the beginning of the walking track. Additionally, the development of an infrastructure design style for the whole of Mt Noorat that reflects the character of the site should be investigated. All planned infrastructure must consider interaction with and potential impacts on the town of Noorat.	Immediate – Medium
Goal: Provide educational and interpretive information in suitable locations and formats that are sensitive to the character of the site			
2.11	Confirm the location of interpretive signage and type of information to be included	Confirm the location of interpretive signage and the type of information to be provided at each location. Potential locations include at the commencement of the walk, the first viewing platform, the telecommunications facilities lookout and at the summit.	Immediate
2.12	Design and develop interpretive material	Engage a suitably qualified professional to develop and design interpretive material for Mt Noorat that provides information on the geological, natural and cultural (Aboriginal and European) history of the site and is appropriate to each location.	Immediate – Medium
2.13	Investigate current and emerging technological opportunities to provide interpretive information	Investigate opportunities to provide interpretive information via current and emerging technologies, such as smart phone/device applications inclusive of augmented reality, QR codes on interpretive signage and other technologies.	Immediate – Medium

OBJECTIVE 2: QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCES THAT REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF THE SITE

ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
2.14	Consider the development of Mt Noorat website	Consider the development of a website and social media for Mt Noorat to act as a repository for information, both historical and what people need to know about visiting Mt Noorat.	Immediate – Medium
2.15	Consider sites for the installation of an education or visitor centre	Consider the installation of an education or visitor centre in a suitable location, such as the commencement of the vehicle track through Dead Man's Gully.	Medium – Long

Figure 3-2: Potential locations for interpretive signage and new infrastructure (e.g. seats and picnic tables)



Legend

- Summit
- Viewing Platform
- Walking Track Entrance
- Significant View Point
- Interpretive Signage
- Picnic Facilities (Table)
- Seating / Rest Area
- Mt Noorat Property Boundary

Walking Tracks

- Mt Noorat Viewing Platform
- Mt Noorat Summit
- Crater Rim

0 75 150 300
Meters

3.5 OBJECTIVE 3: ABORIGINAL AND EUROPEAN HISTORY IS UNDERSTOOD AND RESPECTED

GOALS

Three goals have been established to allow Aboriginal and European history to be understood and respected:

- Build a relationship with the Traditional Owners
- Recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal heritage of Mt Noorat and the surrounding area
- Provide educational and/or interpretive information on the Aboriginal and European history of Mt Noorat and the surrounding area

Actions to achieve each of the goals are presented in Table 3-3.

CONTEXT

Aboriginal history

Mt Noorat holds the imprint for more than 1,000 generations of the Girai Wurrung people. To overlook the significance and longevity of the Aboriginal connection to Country would be to ignore a fundamental element of the future management of the site. It is deeply entwined in the landscape and can still be felt today, as summarised by one survey respondent:

“It (the Mount) was and still is highly significant to Indigenous people of the region and you can literally feel the area’s history and energy as you walk around the crater.”

Many of the stories about the local Aboriginal people and their interaction with Mt Noorat have been recounted from the European perspective, as well as from the period since European settlement. There is interest amongst the community to understand the stories as told by the Aboriginal people.

This includes understanding more about who lived there, how the Mount was used, Dreamtime stories and what happened to local clans.

Unfortunately, Mt Noorat and surrounds were not immune to the genocide that occurred on the settlement frontier. There are accounts of violence and the Girai Wurrung being driven to leave their land under the watch of early settler Frederick Taylor. In order to move forward, it is important that all aspects of the past are acknowledged, from the Aboriginal connection to Country and the impact of settlement on Aboriginal people. By doing this we can learn from the Aboriginal culture and relationship to Mt Noorat.

There are many steps the Committee can take to acknowledge the past, build relationships and incorporate the significance of Aboriginal culture and history into the management of Mt Noorat. A small but significant step will be to commence each Committee meeting or event at Mt Noorat with an acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners. Commencing discussions with Elders will be central to this process and it is essential that discussions be guided by what Traditional Owners would like to see at Mt Noorat, not what we think should occur. This means asking questions such as, “What does acknowledgement and recognition look like for Aboriginal people?” and “How would they like their stories represented?”

Over time it is hoped that more substantial activities will take place, which may include cultural walks, the sharing of Elders’ stories with visitors to Mt Noorat and revegetation with bush foods.

European history

European occupation of Mt Noorat dates to the 1830s. A short period relative to the Aboriginal presence, however one that had a transformative impact on the landscape of Mt Noorat. With European settlement came timber harvesting, sheep grazing, hunting and the introduction of pest animals and weeds. Over a relatively short period of time, this led to the denuding of the Mount and the depletion of native flora and fauna.

It is no surprise that early settlers were attracted to Mt Noorat and surrounds. Enticed by the rich volcanic soils and grassy plains, accounts from early settlers describe the area as “*fine country*”. Mt Noorat has also captured the interest of artists and writers, including Eugene von Guerard and author James Bonwick whose works from the 1850s provide valuable insights into the landscape at the time of early European settlement. More recently, author Alan Marshall’s acclaimed novel *I Can Jump Puddles* was set to the backdrop of Mt Noorat.

Today, farming continues to be synonymous with the district and many descendants of original settlers remain in the area. Much of the farming history of Mt Noorat is intertwined with the Black family who have farmed Mt Noorat since 1840. In 2017, the Black family bequeathed Mt Noorat to the community with the title transferred to Corangamite Shire. This generous act was the wish of the late Niel Black. It is proposed that Niel’s gift to the community be formally recognised in some form.

For local people, the history of European settlement continues to be an important part of the Mt Noorat story. The community is particularly interested in learning more about the farming history at Mt Noorat, the stone walls of the area and the impact of settlement on the natural landscape. The form in which information is provided requires careful consideration – it may be through interpretive signage or physical structures, or via more subtle mediums such as a smartphone app, website or brochure. This has been addressed in more detail as part of Objective 2 in Section 3.4.



PRINCIPLES

The following actions will be undertaken according to the following principles:

- Commence each Committee meeting and event at Mt Noorat with an acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners, following the advice provided by Aboriginal Victoria (accessible at www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria)
- Engage with Traditional Owners about Aboriginal heritage matters

ACTIONS

Table 3-3: Actions to help achieve the goals of Objective 3: *Aboriginal and European history is understood and respected*

OBJECTIVE 3: ABORIGINAL AND EUROPEAN HISTORY IS UNDERSTOOD AND RESPECTED			
ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
<i>Goal: Build a relationship with the Traditional Owners</i>			
3.1	Commence discussions with Traditional Owners as a step towards acknowledging the past and building future partnerships	Commence discussions with the appropriate Traditional Owner group for Mt Noorat as a first step to acknowledging the past and building future partnerships. Discussions should be guided by what Traditional Owners would like to see at Mt Noorat – e.g. what does acknowledgement and recognition look like for them? How would they like their stories represented?	Immediate
3.2	Invite Traditional Owners to attend Committee meetings	Invite Traditional Owners to attend Committee meetings and/or where appropriate meet with the Committee on-site to share stories of the Aboriginal significance of Mt Noorat.	Immediate
<i>Goal: Recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal heritage of Mt Noorat and the surrounding area</i>			
3.3	Work with Traditional Owners to hold a smoking ceremony or similar	Work with Traditional Owners to conduct a smoking ceremony or similar on-site to formally acknowledge the Aboriginal connection to Country and the more recent impact of European settlement.	Immediate
3.4	Consider the installation of a memorial to acknowledge Aboriginal significance	Consider the installation of a memorial, or other structure, that acknowledges the significance of Mt Noorat to the Aboriginal people. This action should occur in close consultation with the Traditional Owners.	Medium
3.5	Establish a cultural walk event	Establish an annual (or semi-regular) Mt Emu Creek to Mt Noorat “cultural walk” that engages private landholders and the broader community and shares stories of Aboriginal people along the trail. The walk should be led by the appropriate Elders.	Medium

OBJECTIVE 3: ABORIGINAL AND EUROPEAN HISTORY IS UNDERSTOOD AND RESPECTED

ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
Goal: Provide educational and/or interpretive information on the Aboriginal and European history of Mt Noorat and the surrounding area			
3.6	Work with local historians to provide information on the history of Mt Noorat	Work with local historians to uncover historical stories from Mt Noorat. This may include information on Aboriginal and European history including the stone walls of the area, the farming history, stories of early settlers, the history of land use and activities at Mt Noorat (e.g. dairy, piggery, sheep and ostrich farming and fire observation).	Immediate
3.7	Establish a memorial acknowledging gifting of Mt Noorat to the community	Establish a memorial and/or information that acknowledges the recent gifting of Mt Noorat to the community by the late Niel Black.	Immediate
3.8	Provide information that shares the significance for the Aboriginal people	Work with Traditional Owners to provide information at Mt Noorat that shares the significance of the site for the Aboriginal people. Information could include stories from Elders or something else, if endorsed by Traditional Owners.	Immediate – Medium
3.9	Incorporate historical artwork and writings in information provided	Consider opportunities to incorporate the works of Eugene von Guerard and authors James Bonwick and Alan Marshall, as part of historical displays for Mt Noorat.	Medium
3.10	Invite Traditional Owners to lead guided walks	Invite Traditional Owners to lead guided walks at Mt Noorat on a semi-regular basis, e.g. annually, biannually.	Medium – Long
3.11	Cultural Heritage Management Plan	Investigate the need for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan or similar. This will be dependent on legislative requirements and the scope of any planned infrastructure. Work to be undertaken with advice from Traditional Owners.	Medium – Long
3.12	Investigate creative and tactile avenues to express Aboriginal history	Investigate creative and tactile avenues to express Aboriginal history at Mt Noorat, e.g. revegetated areas with examples of bush foods and medicines (seasonal gardens).	Long

NOTE: At the time of preparing this Plan, there was no formally registered Traditional Owner group for the area that encompasses Mt Noorat. The Eastern Maar people are currently negotiating a Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the Victorian Government for an area that encompasses Mt Noorat. The Gunditjmara people to the west are represented by the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation. Elders of both the Gunditjmara and Eastern Maar should be consulted as part of the reconciliation process for Mt Noorat.

3.6 OBJECTIVE 4: WALKING TRACKS ARE ACCESSIBLE, WELL MAINTAINED AND CATER FOR DIVERSE EXPERIENCES

GOALS

Three goals have been identified to provide walking tracks that are accessible, well maintained and cater for diverse experiences:

- Improve visitor access and experience to the first viewing platform
- Provide infrastructure to enhance walker experiences
- Establish new tracks that provide diverse experiences

Actions to achieve each of the goals are presented in Table 3-4.

CONTEXT

There is a long history of people climbing Mt Noorat and traversing the surrounding slopes and valleys. The Girai Wurrung people were the first to explore the lands of Mt Noorat, from where they conducted trade gatherings with neighbouring tribes. Shortly following European settlement, climbing the Mount became a popular pastime amongst the new settlers and visitors.

In 1977, “The Mount Noorat Fun and Fitness Trail Project” resulted in the establishment of semi-formal walking tracks at Mt Noorat for community use. The series of walking tracks continue to be highly valued and utilised by the local community today. The recent gifting of Mt Noorat to Corangamite Shire presents an opportunity to undertake upgrades of the walking tracks and consider the inclusion of new trails.

The community survey (distributed as part of the development of this Plan) sought feedback on how community members use the walking tracks and what they would like to see upgraded. In total, 168 respondents provided insights that will help shape the walking track upgrades.

The existing tracks at Mt Noorat can be categorised into three main sections (as shown in Figure 3-3):

- Section 1: The walking track from the carpark to the viewing platform
- Section 2: The walking track from the viewing platform to the summit
- Section 3: The crater rim track

The first two sections of the walking track are the most utilised, with more than 60% of survey respondents accessing these tracks on every visit. The crater rim track is less utilised (only 34% undertake this walk on every visit).

Not surprisingly, the community priorities for track upgrades are consistent with the areas most frequented, with many of the respondents prioritising works to the first section of the track. Upgrades in this area include improving access (i.e. for wheelchairs and prams), increasing vegetation for shade and amenity, and providing more seating and picnic facilities.

For the purposes of this Plan, the first section of the track has also been expanded to include the area colloquially known as “Dead Man’s Gully”, through which an informal vehicle track extends from the southern entrance to the viewing platform. Collectively, this area has been referred to as Zone A in this Plan and has been identified as one of the immediate focus areas for walking track upgrades and regenerative works at Mt Noorat, alongside the crater.

Beyond Zone A, the survey respondents placed less emphasis on enabling improved access in acknowledgement of the steep terrain. There were, however, comments to suggest the need for improved support and soil stabilisation to the summit. This could include the construction of steps, hand supports and a stile upgrade (or replacement with a gate).

Generally, respondents were more inclined for the crater rim track to be retained as a more informal track. This is in line with a broader sentiment around preserving areas and tracks that are informal and provide a more “untouched” and challenging experience.

With a total area of 146.5ha there is effectively a “blank canvas” for the establishment of new walking tracks at Mt Noorat. Potential new walking tracks have been identified by the Committee in response to community feedback. Some of these tracks are the extension and/or formalisation of existing informal tracks (such as a proposed walk to the telecommunications facilities and a southern perimeter loop walk). A more extensive boundary track has also been proposed, providing a longer route, which would also offer a unique perspective of the Mount. It is important that the establishment of new tracks addresses the need to provide a diversity of experiences, including areas that offer improved access and areas that provide a more remote experience.

Similarly, there remains an underlying principle that all works (e.g. track surface upgrades, new infrastructure and signage) are sensitive to the character of the landscape and do not detract from the current natural experience. This means ensuring natural and unobtrusive materials are used and construction works do not leave a lasting impact. In some instances, it may be necessary to engage the expertise of a design professional to assist with ensuring new structures fit aesthetically within the landscape.

As a site with active grazing, it is important to note that livestock may cause damage by using signage and seating as scratching posts in addition to walking on any newly formed tracks. Given that there will be a grazing lease on the site in the short to medium term, consideration will need to be given to the impact livestock will have when planning infrastructure.



PRINCIPLES

The following actions will be undertaken according to the following principles:

- Ensure that upgrade works and installation of infrastructure do not detract from the character of the site
- Preference the use of natural and unobtrusive materials for all walking track upgrade works including surface upgrades, signage, seating and picnic tables
- Consider the pressures associated with grazing and the obligations of the lease agreement when making decisions about infrastructure

ACTIONS

Table 3-4: Actions to help achieve the goals of Objective 4: *Walking tracks are accessible, well maintained and cater for diverse experiences*

OBJECTIVE 4: WALKING TRACKS ARE ACCESSIBLE, WELL MAINTAINED AND CATER FOR DIVERSE EXPERIENCES			
ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
<i>Goal: Improve visitor access and experience to the first viewing platform</i>			
4.1	Undertake routine weed maintenance	Undertake routine weed maintenance along the upgraded walking track, such as grazing or slashing pasture grass especially during the warmer months.	Annual
4.2	Consider the need to reduce grass in the warmer months	Consider the need to reduce grass cover along the walking tracks to the viewing platform, summit and crater rim during the warmer months of the year (refer to Figure 3-5 to Figure 3-12).	Annual
4.3	Annual track maintenance	Undertake planned annual track maintenance to ensure quality visitor experiences.	Annual
4.4	Maintain informal vehicle track to the summit	Maintain the existing informal vehicle access track to the summit for emergency and regulated vehicle access as per Action 2.9.	Annual
4.5	Provide improved access at the entrance to the farmland	Provide improved accessibility at the entrance to the farmland (at the end of the formalised walking path). Consider the removal or widening of the bollards (refer to Figure 3-5), or the installation of a gate. NOTE: exclusion of stock from this area may eliminate the need for a barrier.	Immediate
4.6	Investigate options for an improved surface and more defined tracks	Investigate options for an improved surface and more defined track along the existing trail through the farmland to the first viewing platform (refer to Figure 3-6 and Figure 3-7). As a priority ensure the track improves accessibility, is all-weather durable and fits within the aesthetic of the area.	Immediate

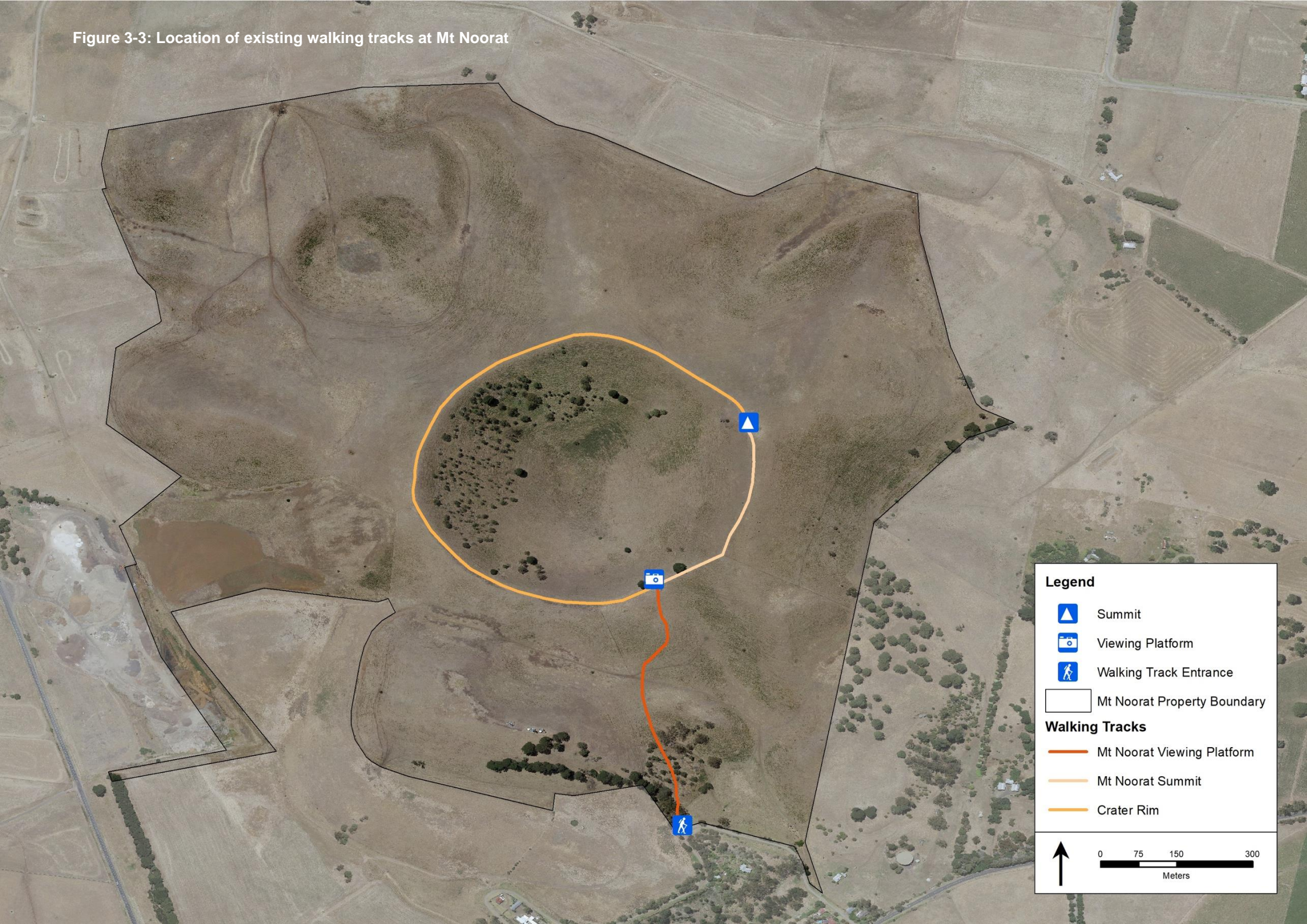
OBJECTIVE 4: WALKING TRACKS ARE ACCESSIBLE, WELL MAINTAINED AND CATER FOR DIVERSE EXPERIENCES

ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
4.7	Upgrade the existing wooden stile	Explore options to upgrade or replace the existing wooden stile, such as installing a gate in place of the stile, to provide improved access and safety from the electric fence (refer to Figure 3-9).	Immediate
4.8	Upgrade the walking track to the viewing platform	Upgrade the walking track to the viewing platform to improve visitor experience and accessibility.	Immediate – Medium
4.9	Revegetate slopes and gullies alongside identified walking tracks with indigenous species	Revegetate identified sections of walking tracks that pass through slopes and gullies for shade, amenity and as a further contribution to Actions 1.5 and 1.6. Revegetation to occur using indigenous species only, with grasses and understorey species to be considered where appropriate given weed management considerations.	Immediate – Medium
4.10	Restrict stock from new and upgraded walking tracks, infrastructure and revegetation related to these tracks	Restrict stock from revegetation areas, upgraded walking tracks and new infrastructure to support the establishment of native vegetation and protect new and upgraded walking tracks and associated infrastructure (such as seating and signage). Anticipated focus areas include Zone A and around the crater. Existing fencing could be utilised, or new fences installed at suitable locations. Stock movement to be enabled via temporary fencing when required. Where stock exclusion is not feasible, consider using infrastructure materials and designs resistant to stock.	Immediate – Medium
4.13	Install picnic tables	Install picnic tables at the viewing platform as a priority. Consider other locations such as the entrance. Preference the use of natural and unobtrusive materials.	Immediate – Medium
4.11	Install an information board and/or shelter at the commencement of the Mt Noorat Walking Track	Install an information board and/or shelter at the start of the Mt Noorat Walking Track, providing information on the geological, natural and cultural (Aboriginal and European) history of Mt Noorat, as well as walking track information, e.g. map, distance and times for each walk. Preference the use of natural and unobtrusive materials.	Medium
4.12	Install seating at locations along the walking track	Install seating at locations along the walking track as a priority (refer to). Preference the use of natural and unobtrusive materials.	Medium
4.14	Provide information at appropriate sites	Provide information at appropriate sites relevant to that location, e.g. geology of the crater and surrounding view, native flora and fauna. Provide information at the viewing platform as a priority.	Medium
Goal: Provide infrastructure to enhance walker experiences			
4.15	Install directional signage	Install directional signage at suitable locations along the walking tracks, with areas marked on Figure 3-4 a priority and other areas as appropriate.	Immediate – Medium





OBJECTIVE 4: WALKING TRACKS ARE ACCESSIBLE, WELL MAINTAINED AND CATER FOR DIVERSE EXPERIENCES

ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
4.16	Investigate the feasibility of installing steps	Investigate the feasibility of installing steps from the first viewing platform to the stile (along the track to the summit) as a priority and other locations as appropriate. This will provide improved walker support and access and assist with erosion control (refer to Figure 3-8).	Medium
4.17	Consider the installation of a hand rail or rope at steep points	Consider the installation of a hand rail or rope at the steepest points along the walk from the viewing platform to the stile (along the track to the summit).	Medium
4.18	Install seating and information at the summit	Install seating at the summit and information relevant to that location, e.g. geology of the surrounding volcanic landscape (refer to Figure 3-10).	Medium
Goal: Establish new tracks that provide diverse experiences			
4.19	Investigate improved access options	Investigate opportunities for improved access to Mt Noorat in consultation with Rural Access Victoria.	Medium
4.20	Consider the establishment of a boundary walk	Consider the establishment of a boundary walk (refer to Figure 3-13) that is informal and provides a different experience.	Long
4.21	Consider the establishment of a walk to the telecommunications facilities	Consider the establishment of a walk to the telecommunications facilities, utilising the existing vehicle track (refer to Figure 3-13).	Long
4.22	Consider the establishment of a southern perimeter loop walk	Consider the establishment of a southern perimeter loop walk, starting and returning to the carpark (refer to Figure 3-13).	Long




Figure 3-3: Location of existing walking tracks at Mt Noorat



Legend

-  Summit
-  Viewing Platform
-  Walking Track Entrance
-  Mt Noorat Property Boundary

Walking Tracks

-  Mt Noorat Viewing Platform
-  Mt Noorat Summit
-  Crater Rim


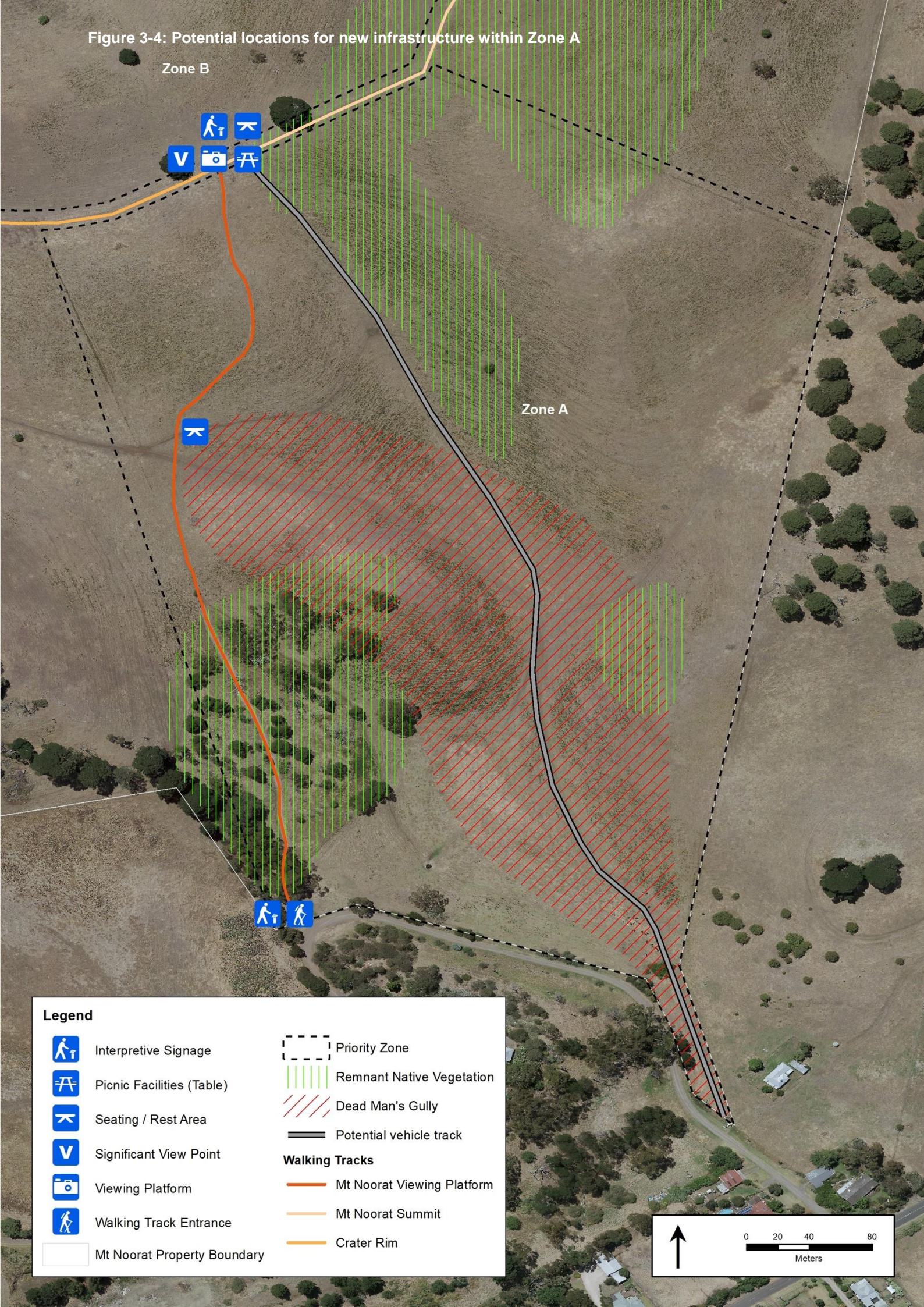
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Figure 3-4: Potential locations for new infrastructure within Zone A



Zone B

Zone A

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
|  | Interpretive Signage |  | Priority Zone |
|  | Picnic Facilities (Table) |  | Remnant Native Vegetation |
|  | Seating / Rest Area |  | Dead Man's Gully |
|  | Significant View Point |  | Potential vehicle track |
|  | Viewing Platform | Walking Tracks | |
|  | Walking Track Entrance |  | Mt Noorat Viewing Platform |
|  | Mt Noorat Property Boundary |  | Mt Noorat Summit |
| | |  | Crater Rim |

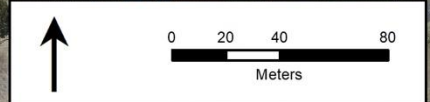




Figure 3-5: Bollards at the entrance to the farmland

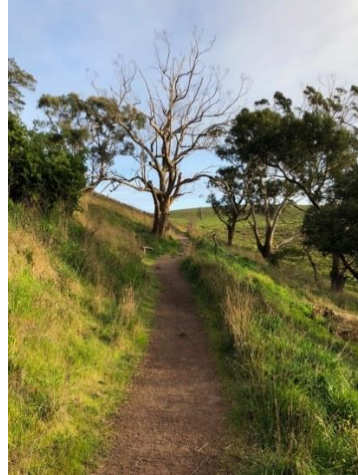


Figure 3-6: Sealed track from the carpark



Figure 3-7: Informal path to the viewing platform

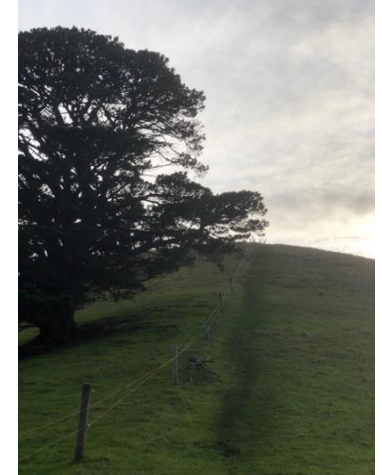


Figure 3-8: Steep ascent to the summit



Figure 3-9: Stile over fence on track to summit



Figure 3-10: Existing infrastructure at summit



Figure 3-11: Informal crater rim walking track

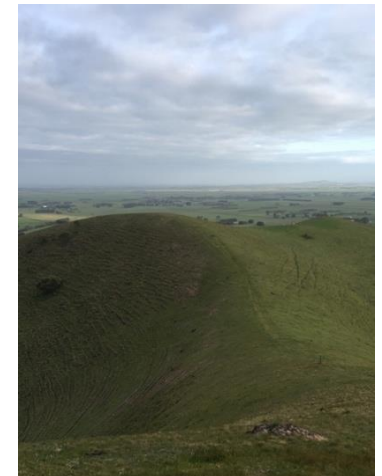
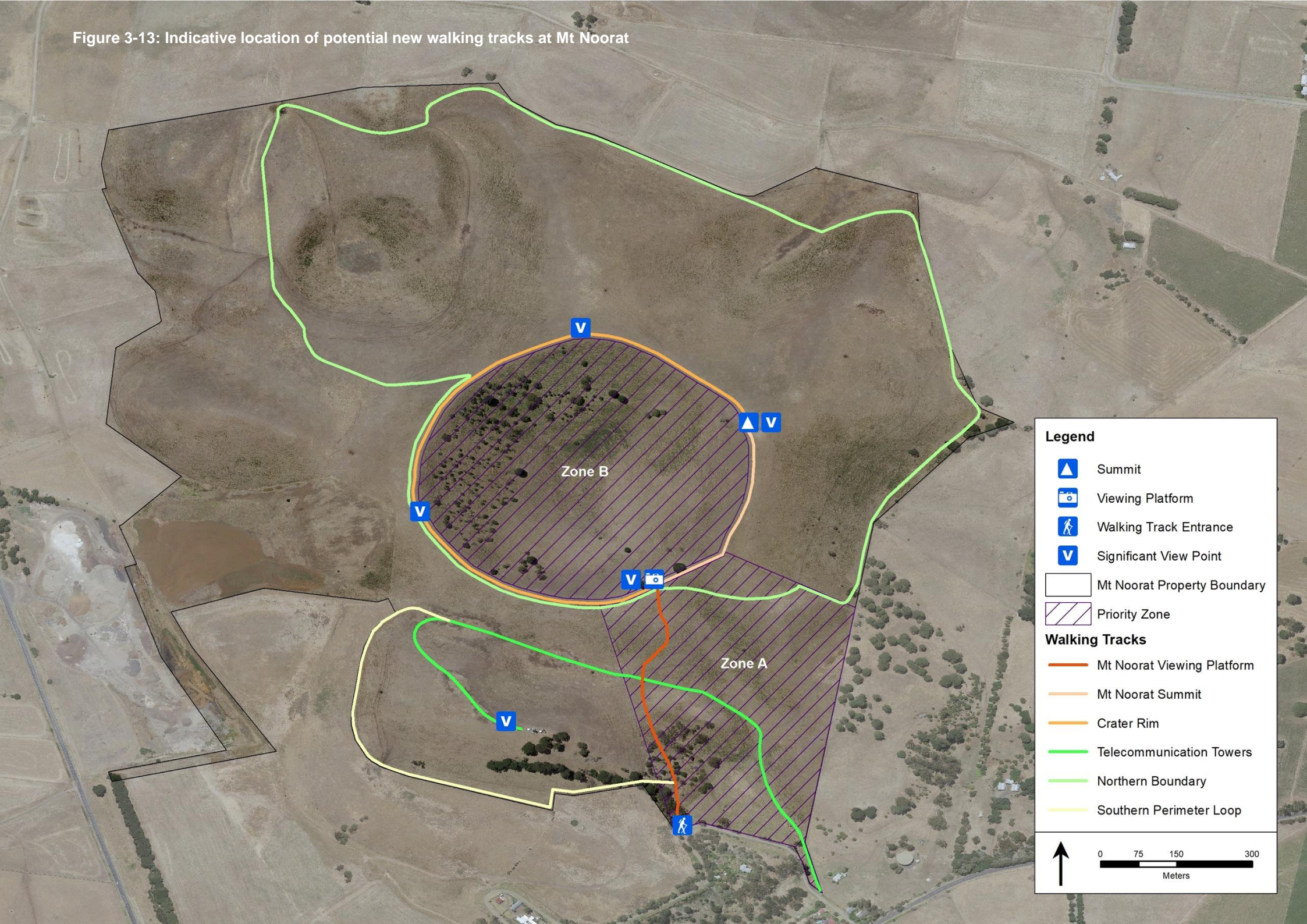


Figure 3-12: Informal crater rim walking track

Figure 3-13: Indicative location of potential new walking tracks at Mt Noorat



Legend

- Summit
- Viewing Platform
- Walking Track Entrance
- Significant View Point
- Mt Noorat Property Boundary
- Priority Zone

Walking Tracks

- Mt Noorat Viewing Platform
- Mt Noorat Summit
- Crater Rim
- Telecommunication Towers
- Northern Boundary
- Southern Perimeter Loop

0 75 150 300
Meters

3.7 OBJECTIVE 5: SELF-SUSTAINING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

GOALS

Three goals have been identified to help achieve self-sustaining financial management and governance:

- Maintain on-site income generation
- Explore alternative avenues for income generation
- The operation of the Management Committee is sustainable and well supported

Actions to achieve each of the three goals are presented in Table 3-5.

CONTEXT

The long-term financial viability and self-sufficiency of Mt Noorat will be central to implementing the actions in this Plan and to the ongoing management and maintenance of the site. Revenue is currently generated through the lease of grazing land and an elevated section for telecommunications facilities.

While the current lease arrangements provide a reliable avenue of funding, their compatibility with the future aspirations for Mt Noorat may not always align or exist. For example, the goals to establish more native vegetation and install new infrastructure are unlikely to be compatible with grazing in some areas. There is a role for the Committee to determine where grazing should continue to be accommodated without compromising the management goals and objectives in other areas.

Any change in the lease arrangements will call for new sources of income to be considered. Through the community survey, potential alternative sources of income generation were identified. These include visitor donations, grant funding, physical (e.g. trail running), cultural and nature-based events and the sale of Mt Noorat merchandise.

The sustainable governance will also be crucial to the ongoing management of the site. This includes ensuring the Committee is well supported by the Corangamite Shire to perform its functions. Support could be provided in the form of physical resources (e.g. facilities for meetings), administrative support and planning guidance (e.g. ensuring that activities align with the relevant Council strategies and meet the required planning regulations).

As with any community-based group, attention must be given to ensuring that, collectively, the Committee has the capacity (i.e. skills and expertise) to deliver this Plan. It is equally important that steps are taken to prevent community “burn-out” and appropriate measures are put in place support the succession of Committee members, particularly the Chair.

The formation of a ‘Friends of’ group may offer additional “people power” to support the Committee in the implementation of this Plan. Similarly, the employment of a part-time Project Officer may bring professional administrative support to the Committee and allow members to focus on the strategic management of the site rather than the operational detail.

PRINCIPLES

The following actions will be undertaken according to the following principles:

- Ensure that Corangamite Shire continues to support the function of the Mt Noorat Management Committee, e.g. through the provision of physical resources (such as facilities for meetings), administrative support and planning and land management guidance
- Maintain a reserve for working capital and short-term financial stability

ACTIONS

Table 3-5: Actions to help achieve the goals for Objective 5: *Self-sustaining financial management and governance*

OBJECTIVE 5: SELF-SUSTAINING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE			
ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
<i>Goal: Maintain on-site income generation</i>			
5.1	Annual budget review	Conduct an annual budget review to agree on the financial management approach for the coming year, with the aim of maintaining the reserve.	Annual
5.2	Review the existing grazing lease	Ask Council to review the existing grazing lease in discussion with the Committee. Consider potential reduction in grazing land associated with walking track and anticipated revegetation works (refer to Objectives 1 and 4).	Immediate
5.3	Establish a long-term goal for the proportion of leased grazing land	Establish a long-term goal for the proportion of grazing land to continue to be leased at Mt Noorat.	Immediate
5.4	Continue the leases of the telecommunications facilities	Continue the lease of the telecommunications facilities in the medium term.	Medium
5.5	Investigate alternate arrangements for the telecommunications facilities	Explore opportunities to attract income between existing and new leases.	Medium
<i>Goal: Explore alternative avenues for income generation</i>			
5.6	Investigate the installation of a donations station	Investigate the options for donations, including tech options, at the commencement of the Mt Noorat walking track.	Immediate

OBJECTIVE 5: SELF-SUSTAINING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

ACTION #	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	TIMEFRAME
5.7	Seek donations from visiting groups	Seek donations from groups, such as school groups, who visit the Mount (local schools and groups to be exempt).	Immediate
5.8	Seek opportunities for grant funding	Seek opportunities for grant funding. This may include, but not be limited to, tourism, environmental, cultural and arts grants, philanthropic funding, corporate sector funding and/or renewable energy sector funding.	Immediate – Medium
5.9	Investigate opportunities for an annual endurance event	Investigate opportunities for an annual endurance event to be held at Mt Noorat, e.g. a trail-running event, 1200-step run to the summit, run from the Noorat Pub or 6hr team walking event around the base.	Medium
5.10	Investigate the suitability of hosting cultural activities	Investigate the suitability of hosting cultural activities such as music concerts, outdoor theatre and/or community Christmas carols.	Medium
5.11	Investigate opportunities for nature and culturally based tourism/events	Investigate opportunities for nature- and culture-based tourism/events, e.g. guided tours focused on geology, Aboriginal and European history. Consider linkages with regional tourism bodies, as per Action 2.6.	Medium
5.12	Consider the sale of Mt Noorat merchandise	Consider the sale of Mt Noorat merchandise, such as an annual calendar.	Medium
<i>Goal: The operation of the Management Committee is sustainable and well supported</i>			
5.13	Establish a “Friends of” group	Establish a “Friends of” group to provide an opportunity for members of the local community to assist in on-ground works and other activities. Committee to consider a membership fee.	Immediate – Medium
5.14	Investigate funding opportunities to employ a part-time Project Officer	Investigate funding opportunities to employ a part-time Project Officer to assist with on-ground and administrative management.	Medium – Long



4 Annual Action Plan

A stand-alone annual Action Plan has been prepared to help guide the Committee in delivering the works to realise this Management Plan. The Action Plan is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet designed to enable the Committee to track, modify and prioritise actions as new opportunities and challenges arise. Users can filter by objective and action, assign priority and responsibility to tasks and track progress over time. A screenshot of the Action Plan is shown in Figure 4-1.

The Action Plan includes the following elements:

- **Action details:** including the objective, action number, description and timeframe as per Section 1.1 to Section 3.7 of this Management Plan. These appear in columns A to D in the spreadsheet.
The timeframe filter (column D) allows users to search by Immediate, Medium and Long-term actions. The “immediate” actions (which have a timeframe of 1–3 years) will be the Committee’s first focus.
- **Priorities for the year:** this allows the Committee to determine which actions are of high, medium or low priority for the year. For example, the Committee can determine which immediate actions are high, medium or low priority for that year. This is column E of the spreadsheet.
- **Delegate/s:** the individual, group or organisation that is responsible for the implementation of each action. This is column F of the spreadsheet.
- **Cost:** the likely cost of implementing each action. This is column G of the spreadsheet.
- **Completion date:** the expected completion date for each action. This is column H of the spreadsheet.
- **Status:** the status of each action according to whether it is completed, underway, deferred or cancelled. This is column I of the spreadsheet.
- **Notes:** additional notes can be captured here, including reasons for a deferred or cancelled action. This is column J of the spreadsheet.

It is recommended that prior to the commencement of each year (either calendar year or financial year), the Committee dedicates a meeting solely to planning its annual works calendar. This may be convened as a special meeting that runs over a longer duration than a typical Committee meeting.

Additionally, to get the most out of the Action Plan and ensure that progress is closely monitored throughout the year, it is recommended that the spreadsheet be referred to at each Committee meeting and status updates and notes incorporated where required.

A copy of the Action Plan spreadsheet has been provided to the Committee and Corangamite Shire.

1	Annual Action Plan: Template										
2	Objectives	Action no.	Action title	Description	Timeframe (as per Management Plan)	Priority for the year	Delegate	Cost	Completion date	Status	Notes
3	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.1	Conduct regenerative works in "Dead Man's Gully"	As a "site of first action", commence regenerative works in "Dead Man's Gully" in conjunction with the walking track upgrade. This includes revegetation such as along the slopes and gullies, stock exclusion and protection of remnant native vegetation. Refer also to Actions 4.7 and 4.8.	Immediate						
4	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.2	Native Vegetation Management Plan	Prepare a brief Native Vegetation Management Plan for the whole of Mt Noorat that identifies the goals for native vegetation in consideration of retaining the profile and view lines. The Plan should include the desired proportion of native vegetation cover across the site, protection of remnant native vegetation and zones for revegetation and stock exclusion. The Plan should guide the staged delivery of native vegetation works over the next 10 years. NOTE: This action should occur after the flora and fauna assessment (Action 1.5) which will likely provide useful information for the plan.	Immediate						
5	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.3	Implement the Native Vegetation Management Plan	Implement the Native Vegetation Management Plan	Medium – Long-term						
6	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.4	Expert flora and fauna assessment	Engage an expert (e.g. an ecologist) to undertake a flora and fauna assessment of Mt Noorat to provide baseline information on the presence, condition and diversity of flora and fauna species at the site and provide recommendations on priority protection and regeneration works.	Immediate						
7	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.5	Flora and/or fauna monitoring program	Establish a flora and/or fauna monitoring program at Mt Noorat, building on the baseline data (from Action 1.5) and to track the impact of regenerative work over time. Consider involving local schools and/or community volunteers to assist with the monitoring.	Medium						
8	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.6	Install nest boxes	Install nest boxes for wildlife, depending on the outcomes of a fauna assessment (Action 1.5). Consider working with local community groups (e.g. Men's Shed, Rotary, schools) to construct and install the boxes.	Medium						
9	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.7	Develop educational and/or interpretive information	Develop educational and/or interpretive information that raises awareness of the native flora and fauna of Mt Noorat and past fire regimes. Identify suitable locations and/or formats for this information. Refer also to Actions 2.9 – 2.13.	Medium						
10	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.8	Annual weed control program	Establish an annual weed control program for Mt Noorat, with a focus on managing declared noxious weeds	Immediate						
11	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.9	Investigate weed control strategies	Investigate and trial strategies for weed control in areas where stock access is to be excluded e.g. "Dead Man's Gully". For example, this may include seasonal burns or suppression with indigenous perennial grasses.	Immediate – Medium						
12	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.10	Pine tree removal	Progressively remove the pine trees near the telecommunications tower and replace with native vegetation. Stage the removal of the pine trees to occur once the native vegetation has become established and continues to screen out the towers.	Long-term						
13	Objective 1: Protect and enhance the natural values of Mt Noorat	1.11	Locate and preserve significant view lines	Confirm the location of significant view lines to be preserved both within the reserve and from outside (looking at the Mount). [link to map]	Immediate						
	Objective 2: Provide quality			Conduct a count of visitors to Mt Noorat over a designated period of							

Figure 4-1: The Mt Noorat Action Plan template

5 Measuring Progress

The Mt Noorat Management Plan represents a moment in time. It has been prepared based on the priorities, interests and concerns of the day. It is likely that over the next 10 years, to 2029, priorities and opportunities will change, and new issues may emerge. For this reason, it is important that the actions in this Plan are reviewed annually to:

- Track their progress towards implementation
- Determine if they are still relevant and of priority
- Make changes where required

Working through the Action Plan template (refer to Section 4) should provide the Committee with a regular opportunity to take stock of the actions and reprioritise or make changes as needed. An Annual Review Questionnaire has also been provided overleaf to guide the Committee in reviewing its progress each year. It is recommended that this review process take place at the end of each year and as part of the work plan for the next year.

A more thorough review of the Management Plan could be considered at the mid-term (in five years' time) and end of plan stages.



ANNUAL REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What have been the main achievements for the year?

- *What were the main actions implemented? Any highlights?*

2. What didn't work so well? Why?

- *Were there any unexpected issues or challenges? Any changes or variations to actions? Did any actions have to be deferred or cancelled?*

3. What lessons were learnt?

4. What improvements could be made next time?

5. Overall, how are we tracking against the five objectives?

- *Are there any indicators to suggest that the actions are contributing to the objectives of the Management Plan?*



Appendix 1: Flora species list typical of Scoria Cone Woodland (EVC 894)

Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) are the standard unit for classifying vegetation types in Victoria. They are described through a combination of floristics, lifeforms and ecological characteristics. The ideal condition (or “benchmark”) of EVCs have been developed to assess the vegetation quality of a site in comparison to that benchmark. The EVC benchmarks contain a subset of “typical” flora species for each EVC. It should be noted that not all species listed in the benchmark will be appropriate to all sites across the range of an EVC in a bioregion nor readily available through local nurseries.

Mt Noorat is located within the Scoria Cone Woodland EVC range. This EVC is considered endangered within the Victorian Volcanic Plains bioregion, and in its full form is described as a “eucalypt woodland to 15m tall or non-eucalypt woodland to 10m tall over a grassy to bracken-dominated understorey with a range of herbs”¹⁰.

Table A-1 provides an indication of the types of flora species that are likely to occur within the Scoria Cone Woodland (EVC 894) range across the Victoria Volcanic Plains bioregion.

Table A-1: Flora species that would typically occur across the Scoria Cone Woodland EVC range¹¹

LIFEFORM	SPECIES NAME	COMMON NAME
Understorey Tree or Large Shrub	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
Medium Shrub	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria
Large Herb	<i>Senecio pinnatifolius</i>	Variable Groundsel
Large Herb	<i>Rumex brownii</i>	Wiry Dock
Large Herb	<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	Cotton Firewood

¹⁰ Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment (2004) *Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion – EVC 894: Scoria Cone Woodland* URL: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/bioregions-and-evc-benchmarks> (Accessed 15 March 2019).

¹¹ Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment (2004) *Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion – EVC 894: Scoria Cone Woodland* URL: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/bioregions-and-evc-benchmarks> (Accessed 15 March 2019).

LIFEFORM	SPECIES NAME	COMMON NAME
Medium Herb	<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Bidgee-widgee
Medium Herb	<i>Geranium potentilloides</i>	Cinquefoil Cranesbill
Medium Herb	<i>Acaena echinata</i>	Sheep's Burr
Medium Herb	<i>Viola hederacea</i> sensu Willis (1972)	Ivy-leaf Violet
Small or Prostrate Herb	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney-weed
Small or Prostrate Herb	<i>Oxalis exilis</i>	Shady Wood-sorrel
Large Tufted Graminoid	<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Common Tussock-grass
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	<i>Dianella revolute</i> s.l.	Black-anther Flax-lily
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	<i>Carex breviculmis</i>	Short-stem Sedge
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	<i>Austrodanthonia pilosa</i>	Velvet Wallaby-grass
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass
Ground Fern	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Austral Bracken

Appendix 2: Mt Noorat Risk and Emergency Management Plan



1 Introduction

Mt Noorat is a 146.5ha site located in southwest Victoria, approximately 6km north of the township of Terang. It provides a prominent backdrop to the small township of Noorat. The Corangamite Shire now owns the parcel of land as it was bequeathed to the Council as a community asset by previous owners, the Black family.

An extinct scoria cone, Mt Noorat is one of several geologically significant features scattered across the Newer Volcanics Province, a widespread field of small volcanoes extending across Victoria and South Australia. The Mt Noorat site is located within the Farming Zone and is subject to a Significant Landscape Overlay. Agricultural land adjoins the western, northern and eastern boundaries of the site. A mix of agricultural land and residential development adjoins the southern boundary.

Mt Noorat is highly valued by the community for its unique landscape, recreational, historical, cultural and environmental values.

The site is accessed via Morack and Carroopook streets in Noorat, with carparking provided at the main entrance. There is no public vehicle access to the site. There are a series of informal walking tracks across the site, which offer views of the 150m-deep crater and surrounding volcanic landscape.

The land at Mt Noorat maintains a number of leasing arrangements carried over from the previous owners, including the lease of land for grazing and telecommunications facilities.

Mt Noorat is managed on behalf of Corangamite Shire by the Mt Noorat Management Committee, a special committee of Council established under the *Local Government Act 1989*. The Committee has been delegated the responsibility to manage and develop the site in the best interests of the Noorat community.

This is the first Risk and Emergency Management Plan for Mt Noorat, which has been developed in conjunction with the Mt Noorat Management Plan in 2019.

The purpose of the Mt Noorat Risk and Emergency Management Plan is to provide guidance to Council and the Committee on the appropriate treatments to help manage risks at Mt Noorat. Eight main risks have been identified and assessed in accordance with Council's current risk management procedures.

2 Method

2.1 ASSESSING RISK

The Corangamite Shire Community Emergency Risk Management workbook (revised 2014) has been used to develop this Risk and Emergency Management Plan. The workbook has been established in accordance with Australian Standards (AS/NZS 4360:1999). Whilst more recent standards have since been published, the framework set out in the workbook has been used to ensure consistency with current Council procedures and risk management plans.

Based on AS/NZS 4360:1999, “risk” is defined as:

The chance of something happening that will have an impact upon objectives. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood.

Qualitative measures of both consequence and likelihood are provided in the workbook (refer to Table A-2 and Table A-3). Combined, these give a risk rating ranging from “rare” to “almost certain” (Table A-4).

Risks identified for Mt Noorat have been analysed against the likelihood and consequence criteria, and then evaluated against the risk matrix.

Table A-2: Qualitative measures of likelihood

LEVEL	DESCRIPTOR	DESCRIPTION
A	Almost certain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The event is expected to occur ▪ High level of recorded incidents and/or very strong anecdotal evidence ▪ A strong likelihood event will reoccur ▪ Great opportunity, reason, or means to occur
B	Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The event will probably occur ▪ Regular recorded incidents and strong anecdotal evidence ▪ Considerable opportunity, reasons or means to occur
C	Possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The event should occur at some time ▪ Few infrequent, random recorded incidents or little anecdotal evidence ▪ Very few incidents in associated organisations or comparable facilities ▪ Some opportunity, reason or means to occur
D	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The event could occur at some time ▪ No recorded incidents or any anecdotal evidence ▪ No recent incidents in associated organisations or facilities ▪ Little opportunity, reason or means to occur
E	Rare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The event may occur only in exceptional circumstances.

Table A-3: Qualitative measures of consequence

LEVEL	DESCRIPTOR	DESCRIPTION
1	Insignificant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No injuries or fatalities. Small number or nil people are displaced and only for short duration. Little or no personal support required (support not \$ or material). ▪ Inconsequential or no damage. Little or no disruption to community. ▪ No measurable impact on environment. ▪ Little or no financial loss
2	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small number of injuries but no fatalities. First aid treatment required. Some displacement of people (less than 24hrs). Some personal support required. ▪ Some damage. Some disruption (less than 24hrs). ▪ Small impact on environment with no lasting effects. ▪ Some financial loss
3	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medical treatment required but no fatalities. Some hospitalisation. Localised displacement of people who return within 24hrs. Personal support satisfied through local arrangements. ▪ Localised damage which is rectified by routine arrangements. Normal community functioning with some inconvenience. ▪ Some impact on environment with no long-term effect or small impact on environment with long-term effect. ▪ Significant financial loss
4	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extensive injuries, significant hospitalisation, large number displaced (more than 24hrs duration). Fatalities. External resources required for personal support. ▪ Significant damage that requires external resources. Community only partially functioning, some services unavailable. ▪ Some impact on environment with long-term effects. ▪ Significant financial loss – some financial assistance required
5	Catastrophic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large number of severe injuries. Extended and large numbers requiring hospitalisation. General and widespread displacement for extended duration. Significant fatalities. Extensive personal support. ▪ Extensive damage. Community unable to function without significant support. ▪ Significant impact on environment and/or permanent damage. ▪ Huge financial loss – unable to function without significant support.

Table A-4: Risk rating matrix

LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE				
	Insignificant 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Major 4	Catastrophic 5
A (almost certain)	H	H	E	E	E
B (likely)	M	H	H	E	E
C (possible)	L	M	H	E	E
D (unlikely)	L	L	M	H	E
E (rare)	L	L	M	H	H
LEGEND					
Level of risk	Recommended action				
E = extreme risk	Detailed research and management planning required at senior levels. Action must be taken to reduce consequences or likelihood.				
H = high risk	Senior management attention required. Further research might be required. Some action must be taken.				
M = moderate risk	Management responsibility must be specified. Specific monitoring or response procedures required.				
L = low risk	Managed by routine procedures.				

2.2 RISK TREATMENTS

Treatment strategies have been developed for each risk identified for Mt Noorat. These are documented in Section 3.

Risk treatment involves selecting one or more options for modifying risks and implementing those options. Once implemented, treatments provide or modify the controls. Risk treatment options can include the following:

- Avoiding the risk by deciding not to start or continue with the activity that gives rise to the risk
- Taking or increasing the risk in order to pursue an opportunity
- Removing the risk source
- Changing the likelihood
- Changing the consequences
- Sharing the risk with another party or parties (including contracts and risk financing)
- Retaining the risk by informed decision

This includes the development of treatment plans for each risk to document how the chosen treatment options will be implemented¹².

2.3 MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Risk and Emergency Management Plan should be reviewed annually. In doing so, the Committee should examine the following:

- Progress towards meeting treatment actions
- Changes to the sources, likelihood or consequence of risk
- New knowledge or advice which may impact on treatment strategies or priorities
- Identification of new or emerging risks

¹² AS/NZS ISO (31000:2009) cited in Corangamite Shire (2013) *Mt Leura & Mt Sugarloaf Management Plan 2013-2018*. Corangamite Shire, Camperdown, Victoria.

3 Risk assessment and treatment

3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF RISKS

In total, eight risks have been identified at Mt Noorat and are presented in Table A-5. Risks have been assessed against the likelihood and consequence criteria and then evaluated according to the risk matrix (presented in Section 2) to provide a risk rating.

Table A-5: Risks, ranked in priority order, at Mt Noorat

EXTREME RATED RISKS (E)	
1.	Fire
2.	Vehicle accidents
3.	Personal injury and illness (including falls)
HIGH RATED RISKS (H)	
4.	Workplace incidents / accidents
5.	Incidents – animals / insects
6.	Severe weather
7.	Landslides and falling objects
MODERATE RATED RISKS (M)	
8.	Electric shock

A description of the risk, a risk analysis and treatment strategies are provided for each risk in following sub-sections.

Where a risk had variable consequences, the risk was assessed according to what the consequences would most likely be, although the range of potential consequences is also listed.

Timeframes have been listed for each treatment strategy. Mostly the actions are ongoing; however, some have been listed according to the following: **Immediate (1–3 years), Medium (4–7 years), Long (8–10 years).**

3.2 ANNUAL RISK INSPECTION

In order to manage risk effectively, the Committee will need to develop and conduct an annual risk inspection checklist (Table A-6).

Table A-6: Annual risk inspection checklist

NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
1.	Develop an annual risk inspection checklist	Committee	Immediate
2.	Conduct annual risk inspection	Committee	Annual

3.3 FIRE

The most recent occurrence of fire in the surrounding district was in March 2018 during which grass fires burnt 40,000ha and destroyed 18 homes around Terang and Garvoc. It is reported that the fire was caused by an electrical discharge between powerlines at Terang, which ignited dry vegetation. Mt Noorat was not affected by these fires. There is no record of wildfire at Mt Noorat, though there have been some small fires.

Potential sources of wildfire on Mt Noorat include lightning strikes, arson, fire from adjoining areas, equipment use (e.g. mowers, grinders and welders), illegal campfires and barbeques, cigarette butts, vehicles and burning of stockpiles. Weather conditions, terrain and fuel loads are also likely to influence the extent (or consequence) of a wildfire.

Fire risk management was identified by the community as “very important” for the future management of Mt Noorat¹³. Currently, fuel loads are managed via grazing stock. If livestock are to be removed from certain areas, such as where revegetation works are to be undertaken, alternative fuel reduction techniques may need to be investigated, which may include seasonal burns or the planting of fire-resilient vegetation to create a fuel break.

The likelihood and consequence assessment rated the fire risk at Mt Noorat as “Extreme” (E). Treatment strategies to help mitigate the fire risk are presented in Table A-8.

Table A-7: Risk analysis for fire

RISK ANALYSIS: FIRE	
Likelihood	Likely (B): The event will probably occur
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infrequent occurrence, but considerable opportunity ▪ Any recorded incidents?
Consequence	Major (2): Ranging from insignificant to catastrophic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People: Injuries, fatalities and displacement ▪ Infrastructure: Ranging from minor to catastrophic; damage to property and assets on or adjoining the reserve ▪ Environment: Minor/short term impact to major/long term impact; damage to vegetation; wildlife fatalities ▪ Financial: Minor to significant costs depending on loss of infrastructure, pasture and livestock
Risk rating	Extreme (E)
Vulnerable elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitors ▪ Adjoining residents ▪ Infrastructure, e.g. seating, picnic tables, signage, tracks, fences, telecommunications facilities ▪ Adjoining infrastructure and assets, e.g. homes, sheds, fencing, community facilities, livestock, pasture ▪ Vegetation and wildlife ▪ Pasture and livestock on the site ▪ Emergency services
Can this risk be handled by existing measures and/or will the risk be tolerated? No	
Can the likelihood and/or consequence/vulnerability be reduced? Yes	

¹³ Based on feedback from 215 respondents who completed a community survey on the future management of Mt Noorat (November 2018–January 2019).

Table A-8: Treatment strategies for fire

NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
1.	Committee, volunteers or contractors must not use equipment such as mowers or angle grinders on Total Fire Ban days.	Committee	Ongoing
2.	Where possible, do not drive vehicles off formed tracks to minimise the potential for ignition from vehicles.	Committee	Ongoing
3.	Close Mt Noorat on Code Red Fire Danger days and install signage to inform visitors.	Committee, Council	Ongoing
4.	Remove any stockpiles of trees and branches as soon as practically possible. Burning of stockpiles must be done outside the fire restriction period and should be supervised by the CFA.	Committee, CFA	Ongoing
5.	Investigate the appropriateness of seasonal burns to manage weed and pasture growth in areas where stock have been removed, such as revegetation sites (in accordance with the Mt Noorat Management Plan).	Committee, CFA	Ongoing

3.4 VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Vehicle access at Mt Noorat is restricted to the public. A series of informal vehicle tracks extend across the site, such as through Dead Man’s Gully and to the telecommunications facilities, as well as across the farmland in the northern areas. Access to the tracks is limited to the farm lessee, telecommunications contractors and Committee members. Generally, access is required via an all-terrain vehicle.

There has been one fatality resulting from a vehicle accident on-site. This occurred in 2012, when the vehicle lost traction and rolled 200m into the old quarry site.

It is imperative that steps are taken to mitigate risks associated with vehicle accidents on-site. Factors that may contribute to a vehicle accident include landslides or erosion, steep and uneven terrain, poorly maintained tracks, overgrowth of vegetation on or near tracks, weather conditions and driver behaviour or inexperience.

Based on the likelihood and consequence analysis, vehicle accidents at Mt Noorat are deemed to have an “Extreme” (E) risk rating. The treatment strategies identified in Table A-10 should assist in managing this risk.

Table A-9: Risk analysis for vehicle accidents

RISK ANALYSIS: VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	
Likelihood	Likely (B): The event will probably occur
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Few infrequent incidents ▪ Considerable opportunity, reason or means to occur
Consequence	Major (4): Ranging from insignificant to catastrophic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People: Injuries and fatalities ▪ Infrastructure: Damage to vehicles and assets, e.g. track ▪ Environment: Minor/short term; damage to vegetation; wildlife and livestock fatalities ▪ Financial: Minor to major; costs associated with damage to vehicles and assets
Risk rating	Extreme (E)
Vulnerable elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lessees ▪ Contractors ▪ Committee members ▪ Council staff ▪ Volunteers ▪ Vegetation and wildlife ▪ Livestock ▪ Infrastructure – tracks and vehicles
Can this risk be handled by existing measures and/or will the risk be tolerated? No	
Can the likelihood and/or consequence/vulnerability be reduced? Yes	

Table A-10: Treatment strategies for vehicle accidents

NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
1.	Continue to restrict public vehicle access to the site.	Committee	Ongoing
2.	Ensure that vehicles operating on the site (e.g. by the Committee, lessees, Council staff, volunteer supervisors) are suitable for the terrain, such as a 4WD and that operators are experienced in driving vehicles on steep terrain.	Committee	Ongoing
3.	Regularly inspect the condition of existing vehicle tracks, ensuring that the terrain is stable and tracks are clear of vegetation.	Committee	Ongoing
4.	Identify designated vehicle tracks across the site and ensure that they remain a safe distance from steep descents (such as near the crater and quarry).	Committee	Ongoing

3.5 PERSONAL INJURY AND ILLNESS

Personal injury and illness refer to events or activities that may cause harm to persons at Mt Noorat. This includes the risk of people falling and causing injury or death. The risk of falls is perhaps one of the more likely events at Mt Noorat due to the steep, and in places rocky, terrain. High-risk sites include the crater and old quarry site; there is a risk that people may fall while attempting to access these points. There is also a risk of people falling while climbing structures, such as the stile on the walking track to the summit or other fences or gates across the site.

Other risks that may result in injury or illness include people becoming ill due to strenuous activity, pre-existing medical conditions and lack of shelter, shade or rest points. Injuries may arise from people going off-track, tripping and slipping or vegetation overhanging the tracks. Other events may include allergy attacks, sunburn, sunstroke, dehydration and illness through contact or ingestion of poisonous plants.

The likelihood and consequence analysis for the risk of personal injury and illness resulted in an “Extreme” (E) risk rating. Treatment strategies for this risk are presented in Table A-12.

Table A-11: Risk analysis for personal injury and illness

RISK ANALYSIS: PERSONAL INJURY AND ILLNESS	
Likelihood	Almost certain (A): The event is expected to occur
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One recorded injury or illness where a school student fell in the crater and was taken to hospital by helivac ▪ Considerable to great opportunity, reason or means to occur
Consequence	Moderate (3): Ranging from minor to major
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People: Injuries (including minor, first aid and hospitalisation) and fatalities ▪ Infrastructure: Insignificant to major damage ▪ Environment: none ▪ Financial: Insignificant to major (e.g. infrastructure repairs or replacement, medical costs, loss of income and insurance claims to Council)
Risk rating	Extreme (E)
Vulnerable elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteers and Committee members ▪ Visitors ▪ Contractors
Can this risk be handled by existing measures and/or will the risk be tolerated? No	
Can the likelihood and/or consequence/vulnerability be reduced? Yes	

Table A-12: Treatment strategies for personal injury and illness

NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
1.	The Committee to determine its position on maintaining access to the crater.	Committee	Immediate
2.	If crater access is to be maintained, investigate appropriate means to deter visitors from walking into the crater or to take appropriate precautions in doing so, such as fencing.	Committee	Immediate
3.	Regularly inspect tracks and clear trip hazards as required.	Committee	Ongoing
4.	Regularly inspect infrastructure, e.g. seating, picnic tables and fencing for risk issues and address issues as required.	Committee, lessee	Ongoing
5.	Provide shade and shelter to visitors through the provision of trees and shelters.	Committee	Ongoing
6.	Provide information/signage that identifies walking track locations, difficulty and indicative times to complete.	Committee	Immediate
7.	Investigate appropriate means to prompt visitors to take adequate precautions whilst visiting the site, e.g. hat, sunscreen, water.	Committee	Immediate
8.	Prepare an Emergency Access Plan that identifies emergency vehicle access points across the site.	Committee	Immediate
9.	Consider erecting "000" signage at the site with a recognised location name to assist emergency services.	Committee	Immediate – Medium
10.	Ensure all vehicle tracks, emergency access points and other relevant data for emergency access is registered by the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA).	Committee	Immediate

3.6 WORKPLACE INCIDENTS / ACCIDENTS

This risk includes incidents or accidents that may involve volunteers, contractors, Council staff and Committee members undertaking work at Mt Noorat.

This risk may also refer to school groups and other volunteer groups that may work on-site in the future, such as Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and/or a Friends of Mt Noorat group. Some of these groups (e.g. schools and CVA) will have their own team leaders who will be responsible for ensuring workplace safety. For other groups, such as a “Friends of” group, the Committee may be tasked with the responsibility for supervising volunteers and providing a safe workplace. From time to time, the Committee may also employ contractors to undertake activities such as weed control, mowing and construction.

Factors that may contribute to workplace incidents or accidents include a lack of supervision, failure to undertake risk assessments or volunteer inductions, lack of understanding of Occupational Health and Safety practices and lack of volunteer experience and/or training. Lack of personal protective equipment and the use of faulty or inappropriate equipment may also increase this risk, as may short timeframes and insufficient budgets.

The risk rating for workplace incidents and accidents is rated “High” (H) based on the likelihood and consequence analysis. Table A-14 identifies treatment strategies to help manage this risk.

Table A-13: Risk analysis for workplace incidents / accidents

RISK ANALYSIS: WORKPLACE INCIDENTS / ACCIDENTS	
Likelihood	Likely (B): The event will probably occur
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One workplace incident – car rolled into quarry site leading to death of the driver ▪ Considerable opportunity, reason or means to occur
Consequence	Moderate (3): Ranging from minor to major
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People: Injuries (including minor, first aid and hospitalisation) and fatalities ▪ Infrastructure: Vehicles and equipment ▪ Environment: none ▪ Financial: Medical costs, replacement of vehicles/equipment, WorkCover costs, loss of income
Risk rating	High (H)
Vulnerable elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteers ▪ Contractors ▪ Council staff ▪ Committee members ▪ Visitors, e.g. school groups
Can this risk be handled by existing measures and/or will the risk be tolerated? No	
Can the likelihood and/or consequence/vulnerability be reduced? Yes	

Table A-14: Treatment strategies for workplace incidents or accidents

NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
1.	Committee to purchase a first aid kit and make this available when volunteers are working on-site. Ensure first aid kits are inspected annually and updated as required.	Committee	Immediate
2.	Provide all Committee members who supervise volunteers with accredited Level 2 First Aid training and/or refresher first aid training.	Committee, volunteer supervisors	Ongoing
3.	Ensure that personal protective equipment is provided to volunteers working on-site.	Committee, Council, volunteer supervisors	Ongoing
4.	Ensure formal inductions take place before volunteers work on-site and that it aligns with current Council volunteer induction processes. Ensure that this is delivered to all volunteers/workers and all volunteers/workers are registered prior to works starting.	Committee, volunteer supervisors	Ongoing
5.	Ensure that all volunteers are supervised whilst working on-site.	Committee, volunteer supervisors	Ongoing
6.	Ensure that tasks are only undertaken in appropriate weather/seasonal conditions.	Committee, volunteers, contractors	Ongoing
7.	Where possible, avoid driving vehicles off the formed tracks.	Committee, volunteer supervisors, contractors	Ongoing
8.	Ensure that Committee members or volunteers do not use mechanical equipment without appropriate training/qualifications and only employ herbicide techniques that minimise the potential for herbicide contact, e.g. cut and paint.	Committee, volunteer supervisors	Ongoing
9.	Inspect volunteer equipment for faults and replace or repair as required.	Committee, volunteer supervisors	Ongoing
10.	Ensure that any workplace accidents, incidents or near-misses are recorded and submitted via standard Incident/Hazard Report forms.	Committee, volunteer supervisors	Ongoing

3.7 INCIDENTS – ANIMALS / INSECTS

Some domestic animals and wildlife use Mt Noorat. This includes livestock (mostly dairy cattle) that graze across the entire site, domestic dogs, native birds, snakes and insects. There is potential for some animals and wildlife to cause injury or harm, such as snake bite, dog attack, injury from livestock, stings and bites by bees, wasps, spiders or other insects, swooping birds and animal–human induced disease. There are certain factors that may increase the likelihood of incidents, such as season (e.g. a higher risk of snake bite during the warmer months), human behaviour (e.g. provoking livestock or dogs), habitat and fence maintenance.

The likelihood and consequence analysis deemed this risk to be of a “High” (H) rating. Strategies to help manage the risk are presented in Table A-16.

Table A-15 : Risk analysis for incidents – animals / insects

RISK ANALYSIS: INCIDENTS – ANIMALS / INSECTS	
Likelihood	Likely (B): The event will probably occur
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No recorded injury or illness as a result of animals or insects ▪ Considerable opportunity, reason or means to occur
Consequence	Minor (2): Ranging from insignificant to major
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People: Injuries and fatalities ▪ Infrastructure: None ▪ Environment: Minor/short-term damage to vegetation and wildlife ▪ Financial: insignificant
Risk rating	High (H)
Vulnerable elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitors (especially walkers) ▪ Volunteers ▪ Contractors ▪ Committee members
Can this risk be handled by existing measures and/or will the risk be tolerated? No	
Can the likelihood and/or consequence/vulnerability be reduced? Yes	

Table A-16: Treatment strategies for incidents – animals/insects

NO.	ACTION	R'BILITY	TIMEFRAME
1.	Restrict stock access in Zone A (in accordance with the Mt Noorat Management Plan) as this is the most frequented area.	Committee, lessee	Immediate – Medium
2.	Inspect boundary and internal fencing regularly and undertake replacement or repairs as required, to ensure stock are contained to designated areas.	Committee, lessee	Ongoing
3.	Inspect tracks regularly and clear overgrown grass to reduce habitat for snakes close to the tracks.	Committee	Ongoing
4.	Employ qualified contractors to remove bee/wasp hives as soon as identified/reported.	Committee	Ongoing

3.8 SEVERE WEATHER

Mt Noorat can be exposed to severe weather such as thunderstorms, strong winds, heavy fog, heavy rain or hail and extreme high and low temperatures. Injury and illness to people using Mt Noorat may occur as a result of severe weather, such as dehydration, sunstroke, sunburn or being struck by falling tree limbs.

The risk analysis rated the risk for severe weather as “High” (H). Table A-18 lists strategies to help manage risks associated with severe weather.

Table A-17: Risk analysis for severe weather

RISK ANALYSIS: SEVERE WEATHER	
Likelihood	Almost certain (A): The event is expected to occur
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No recorded injury or illness as a result of severe weather ▪ Great opportunity, reason or means to occur
Consequence	Minor (2): Ranging from insignificant to major
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People: Injuries and fatalities ▪ Infrastructure: Ranging from minor to major; damage to signage, seats, picnic tables, fences and vehicles ▪ Environment: Short-term; damage to vegetation ▪ Financial: Ranging from insignificant to moderate; costs associated with repairs and replacement of infrastructure; some external resources may be required
Risk rating	High (H)
Vulnerable elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitors ▪ Volunteers and contractors ▪ Committee members ▪ Structures – signage, seats, picnic tables, fences ▪ Vehicles
Can this risk be handled by existing measures and/or will the risk be tolerated? No	
Can the likelihood and/or consequence/vulnerability be reduced? Yes	

Table A-18: Treatment strategies for severe weather

NO.	ACTION	R'BILITY	TIMEFRAME
1.	Remove hazards (e.g. fallen trees) following severe weather events as required.	Committee / SES	Ongoing
2.	Ensure that all new structures are built to meet building standards appropriate for the conditions of the site (e.g. materials meet appropriate wind standard).	Committee	Ongoing
3.	Inspect facilities regularly for hazards which may be caused by, or vulnerable to severe weather events (e.g. tree limbs hanging over walking tracks).	Committee	Ongoing
4.	Identify procedures and triggers for cancelling volunteer activities during extreme weather.	Committee, volunteer supervisors	Immediate – Medium
5.	Provide volunteers with protective measures against severe weather (e.g. water, hat and sunscreen).	Committee, volunteer supervisors	Ongoing
6.	Include severe weather risks as part of the volunteer induction process that should occur prior to any volunteer works on-site.	Committee, volunteer supervisors	Ongoing

3.9 LANDSLIDES AND FALLING OBJECTS

Landslides and falling objects are likely occurrences at Mt Noorat due to the steep topography and soil and rock material on the site. Natural influences such as wind and rain can contribute to erosion and falling objects, as can human activities such as dislodging material while walking, driving on tracks, track maintenance and track construction. Livestock grazing and movement across the site are likely to also contribute to erosion and landslides in certain areas.

Particular sites at Mt Noorat are likely to be more vulnerable to erosion and landslides than other areas. This includes the walking track to the summit and steep terrain around the crater and disused quarry site.

Planned tree removals at Mt Noorat (such as the pine trees around the telecommunications facilities) may cause destabilisation of soil and erosion.

The likelihood and consequence assessment revealed a “High” (H) risk rating for landslides and falling objects. Treatment strategies to help mitigate the risk of landslides and falling objects are provided in Table A-20.

Table A-19: Risk analysis for landslides and falling objects

RISK ANALYSIS: LANDSLIDES AND FALLING OBJECTS	
Likelihood	Almost certain (A): The event is expected to occur
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No recorded injury or illness as a result of landslides and falling objects ▪ Great opportunity, reason or means to occur
Consequence	Minor (2): Ranging from insignificant to major
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People: Injuries and fatalities ▪ Infrastructure: Localised damage to fences, structures and tracks; potential impact to livestock ▪ Environment: Moderate damage but could be catastrophic; localised erosion over short to long term ▪ Financial: Ranging from insignificant to major – repairs or replacement of infrastructure, remediation works to address erosion issues, medical costs, loss of income and insurance costs
Risk rating	High (H)
Vulnerable elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitors ▪ Volunteers and contractors ▪ Structures, e.g. fences and tracks ▪ Livestock
Can this risk be handled by existing measures and/or will the risk be tolerated? No	
Can the likelihood and/or consequence/vulnerability be reduced? Yes	

Table A-20: Treatment strategies for landslides and falling objects

NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
1.	Identify areas of high erosion risk and investigate mitigation methods in these areas, such as where erosion impacts on amenity and/or visitor safety (e.g. the track to the summit, around the disused quarry site).	Committee	Ongoing
2.	Temporarily close areas of Mt Noorat to the public that may be affected by falling objects when high risk activities are being undertaken (e.g. tree removal and construction of tracks). Closures should be advertised in local media, Council's website and via temporary signage.	Committee	Ongoing
3.	Ensure that new structures and facilities are appropriately sited and constructed to minimise soil disturbance.	Committee	Ongoing
4.	Regularly inspect tracks and organise for the removal of any large rocks from the tracks.	Committee	Ongoing

3.10 ELECTRIC SHOCK

The most likely cause of electric shock at Mt Noorat is from the electric fences used to fence grazing stock. Many of the internal fences at Mt Noorat are electrified for this purpose. Other sources of electric shock are from lightning strike, use of faulty equipment and inappropriate use of electrical equipment.

Electric shock at Mt Noorat is considered to be of a “Medium” (M) risk rating based on the likelihood and consequence assessment. Table A-22 lists the treatment strategies that may help to reduce the extent of this risk.

Table A-21: Risk analysis for electric shock

RISK ANALYSIS: ELECTRIC SHOCK	
Likelihood	Possible (C): The event should occur at some time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any recorded incidents? ▪ Some opportunity, reason or means to occur
Consequence	Minor (2): Ranging from insignificant to major
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People: Injuries and fatalities ▪ Infrastructure: None ▪ Environment: Insignificant; minor, short-term damage to vegetation and wildlife ▪ Financial: Insignificant
Risk rating	Medium (M)
Vulnerable elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitors ▪ Volunteers and contractors ▪ Committee members
Can this risk be handled by existing measures and/or will the risk be tolerated? Yes	
Can the likelihood and/or consequence/vulnerability be reduced? Yes	

Table A-22: Treatment strategies for electric shock

NO.	ACTION	R'BILITY	TIMEFRAME
1.	Ensure that appropriate signage is installed on all electric fences across the site. Ensure fences are regularly inspected and replaced as needed.	Committee, lessee	Ongoing
2.	Provide safe access over/through electrified fences (e.g. stiles, gates). Ensure these structures are built to appropriate standards, regularly inspected and maintained.	Committee, lessee	Ongoing
3.	Provide all volunteers and Committee members with appropriate induction and training in the use of electrical equipment.	Committee	Ongoing

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