Buchan Caves Reserve
Caves Road, Buchan

Heritage Impact Statement – Condition 7 Permit P34404

Prepared for Parks Victoria

August 2025

GML HERITAGE

Acknowledgement of Country

We respect and acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people, their lands and waterways, their rich cultural heritage and their deep connection to Country, and we acknowledge their Elders past and present. We are committed to truth-telling and to engaging with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation to support the protection of their culture and heritage. We strongly advocate social and cultural justice and support the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

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Report register

The following report register documents the development of this report, in accordance with GML's Quality Management System.

Job no.	Issue no.	Notes/description	Issue date
3345B	1	Draft Report	17 April 2025
3345B	2	Final Report	7 August 2025

Quality assurance

The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality assurance policy and procedures.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

GML Heritage (GML) was engaged by Parks Victoria on 28 November 2024 to prepare a heritage impact statement (HIS) for Buchan Caves Reserve (the Reserve), in accordance with Permit Condition 7 of P34404.

This Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) has been prepared to accompany a new permit application for the reconstruction of the historic landscape at Buchan Caves Reserve.

Buchan Caves Reserve is a registered place on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H1978). Additionally, a 2010 Native Title Determination by the Federal Court has recognised that the Gunaikurnai hold native title rights over much of Gippsland. Under subsequent agreements and legislation, Buchan Caves Reserve has been granted to the Gunaikurnai as Aboriginal Title by the Victorian Government and will be managed jointly by the Gunaikurnai and the Victorian Government. The 2018 Gunaikurnai and Victorian Government Joint Management Plan—Buchan Caves Reserve—Krauatungalung Country (Joint Management Plan) 'recognises and is consistent with the Buchan Caves Reserve's listing on the Victorian Heritage Register … for its aesthetic, scientific and historical significance to the State of Victoria'.

Consideration and assessment of impacts on the heritage significance of the Reserve therefore considers the state-level heritage significance of the Reserve and the cultural heritage significance of the place to the Traditional Owners, the Gunaikurnai. A cultural heritage management plan has been developed and approved (Buchan Caves Reserve Upgrade, Buchan – Cultural Heritage Management Plan Number:19165).

The HIS is for the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape, which addresses:

- trees lost because of bushfire (December 2019–January 2020)
- lost historic plantings
- natural tree losses
- inappropriate species planted since 2005.

The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape also provides information on:

- sourcing and propagation of nursery stock
- timing for implementation.

1.2 Project details

Heritage Impact Statement for: Buchan Caves Reserve

Victorian Heritage Register Number: H1978

This Heritage Impact Statement forms part of a permit application for: the reconstruction of the historic landscape at Buchan Caves, related to **Condition 7 of Permit P34404.**

Pre-application meeting number:. Meetings occurred on 16 February 2024, 4 March 2025.

Address and location description: Caves Road, Buchan, East Gippsland Shire

Prepared by: Dr Christina Dyson, GML Heritage
All photographs are by GML unless otherwise acknowledged.

Prepared for: Parks Victoria

Date: 17 April 2025

1.3 Study area

The study area is within the Buchan Caves Reserve, the VHR place (see Figure 1.1). The permit application is for works relating to the historic designed landscape areas of the site and their setting.

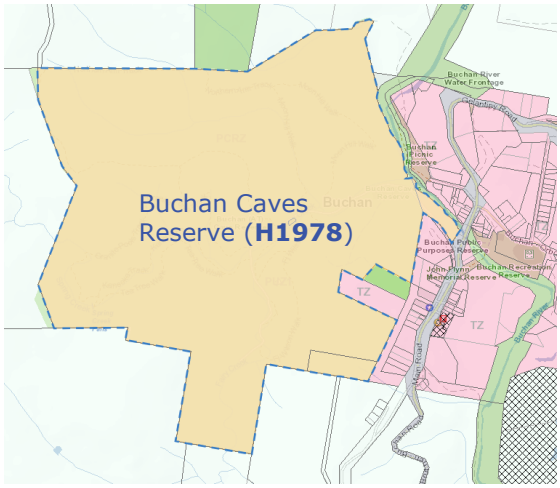


Figure 1.1 Buchan Caves Reserve, VHR boundary. (Source: VicPlan with GML overlay)

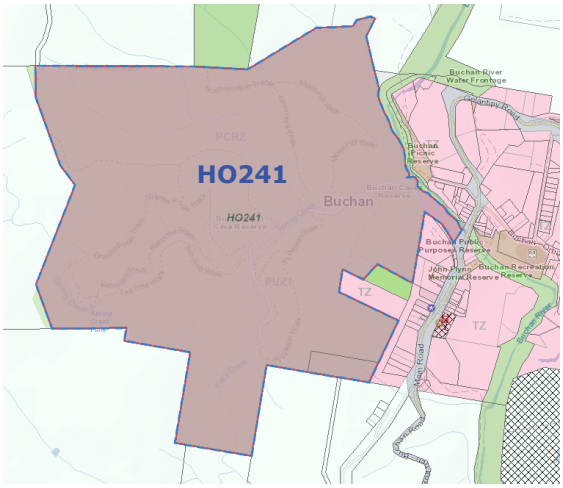
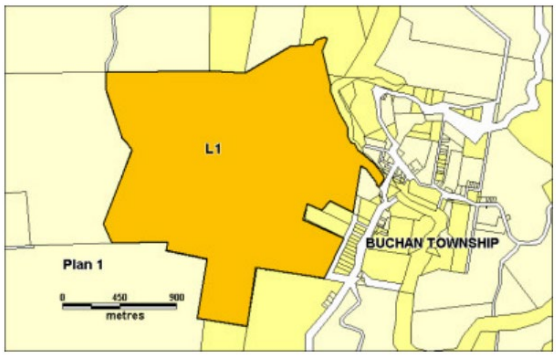
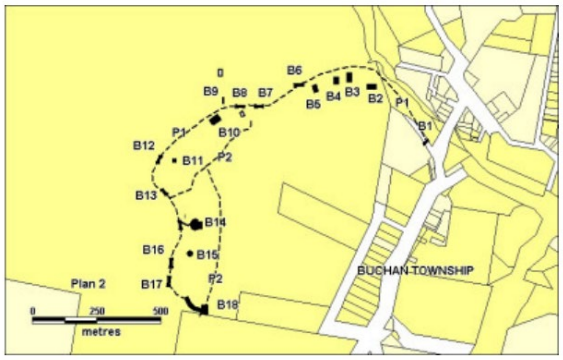


Figure 1.2 Heritage Overlay curtilage for HO241. (Source: VicPlan with GML overlay)



H01978 plan 1

Figure 1.3 VHR boundary for Buchan Caves Reserve. VHR boundary correlates with Reserve boundary as shown in Figure 1.1. (Source: Victorian Heritage Database, H1978)



H01978 plan 2

Figure 1.4 The part of the study area for this Heritage Impact Statement follows the roads and pathways and the curve of the valley floor; indicated in Plan 2 above, from the entry to Fairy Cave plus the North Arm. (Source: VHD H1978 Plan 2)

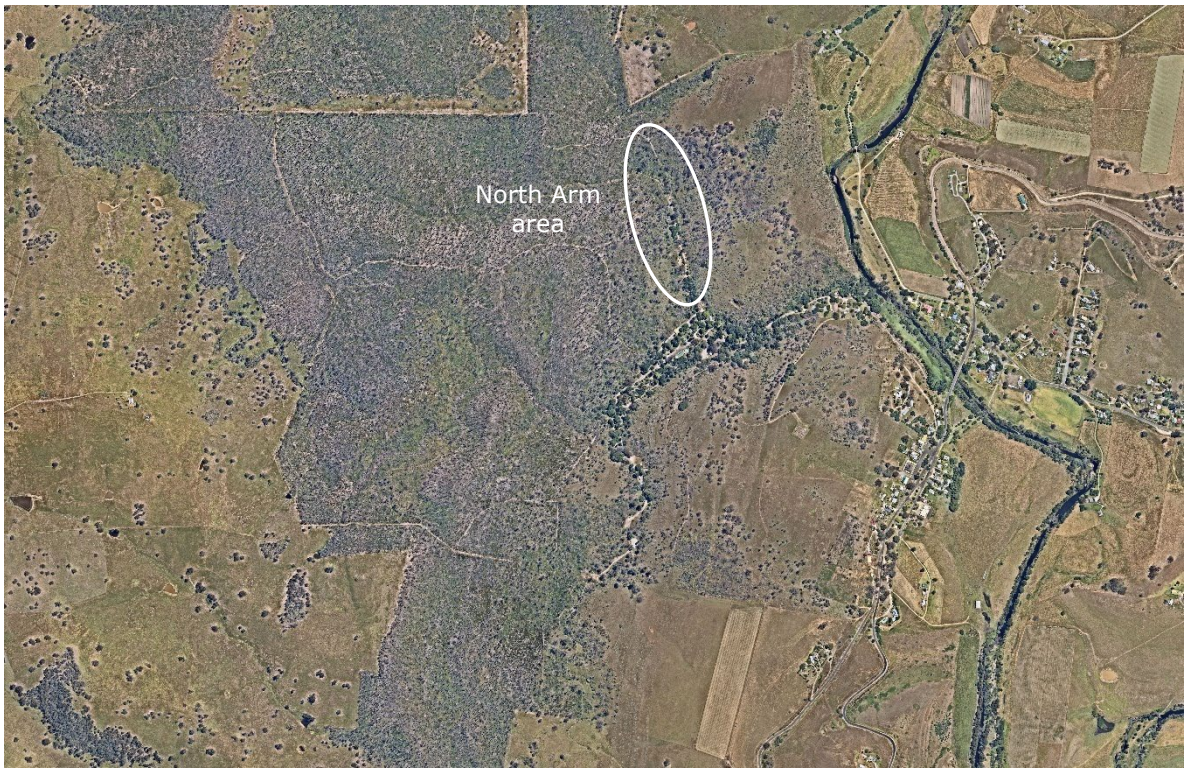


Figure 1.5 The most recent available aerial view of Buchan Caves Reserve. The curve of the valley floor that correlates with the 1929 Linaker plan is visible in this view. The North Arm area, which is not included on the 1919 Linaker plan, is indicated (white circle), extending north from the P1 road/path. (Source: Nearmap, image captured December 2020, exported 28 March 2025)

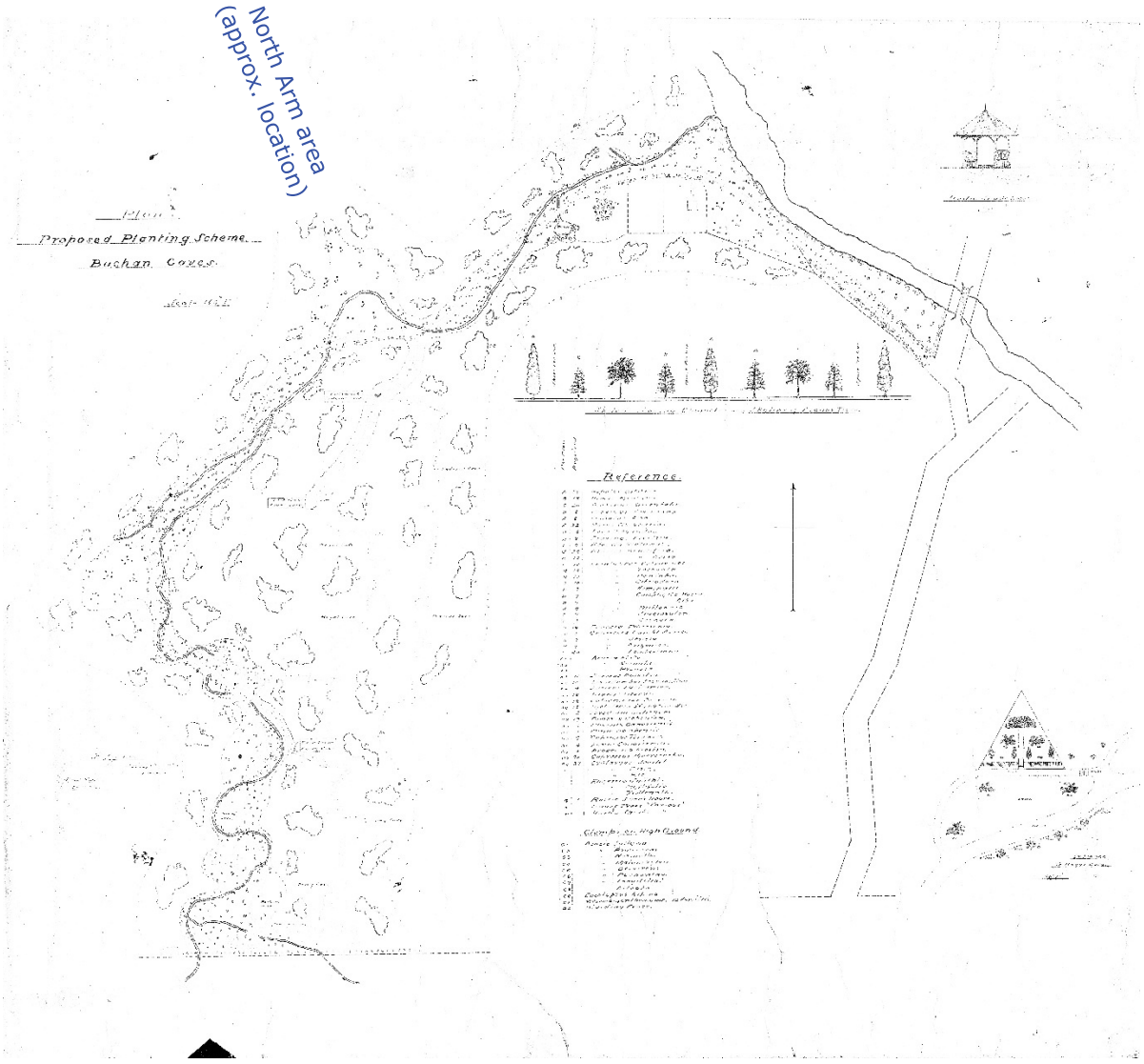


Figure 1.6 Copy of Linaker's 'proposed planting scheme for Buchan Caves' (the 1929 Linaker plan). Note the curve of the area covered by Linaker's proposed planting scheme, which is evident in the Figures above (Figures 1.4 and 1.5) and below (Figure 1.7).

The approximate location of the North Arm area in relation to the Linaker plan is indicated, and shows that this part of the site was not included in Linaker's 1929 planting scheme. (Source: courtesy Parks Victoria)

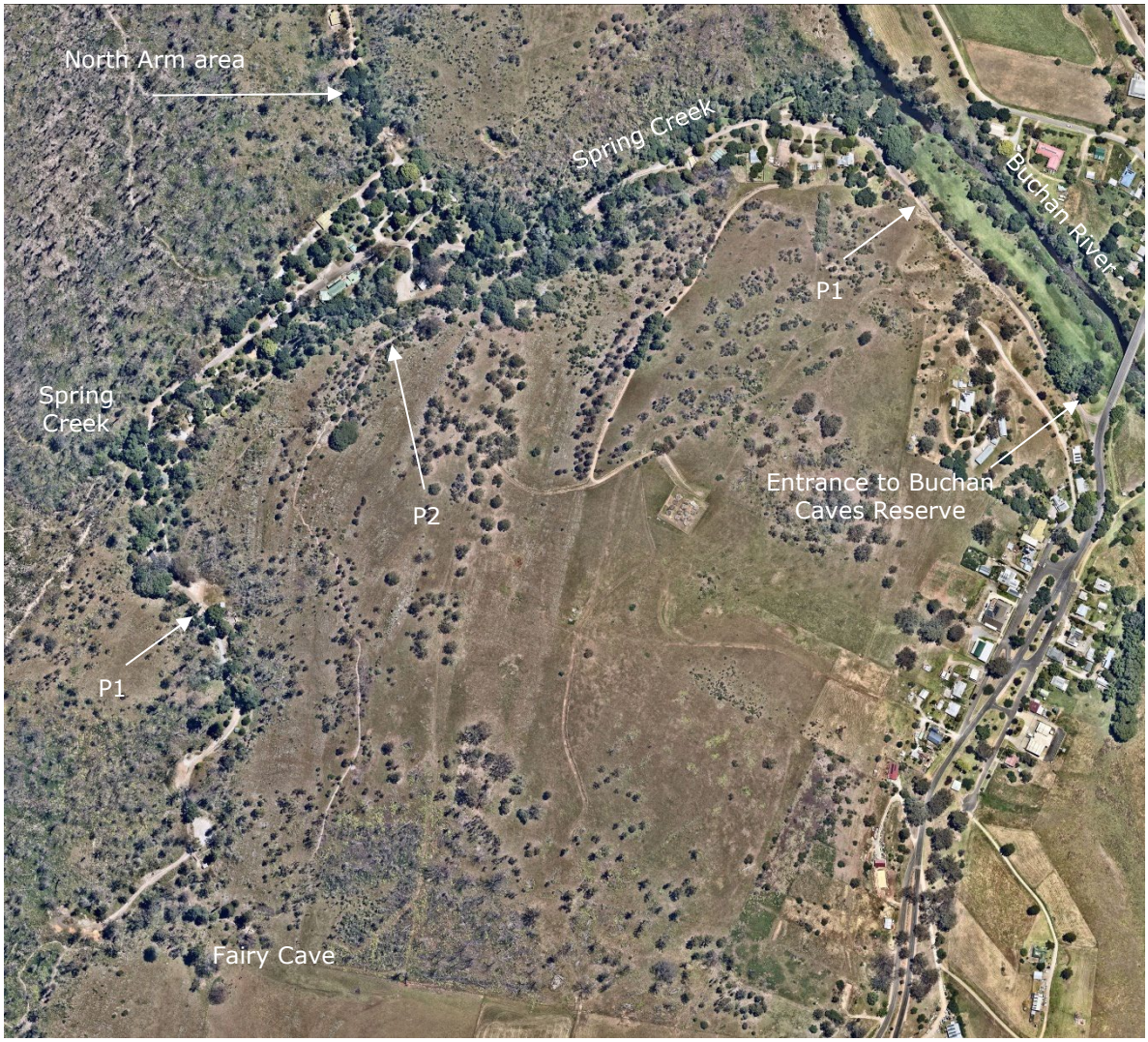


Figure 1.7 The most recent available aerial view of Buchan Caves Reserve, with key features indicated. The P1 and P2 reference numbers are drawn from the VHR plan for Buchan Caves Reserve (H1978 Plan 2). This closer view has been selected to show the area that correlates with the 1929 Linaker plan. (Source: Nearmap, image captured December 2020, exported 28 March 2025)

1.4 Methodology and scope

For methodology the report has been prepared with reference to the following documents, guidelines and key terms:

- *Heritage Victoria Guidelines for preparing heritage impact statements* (June 2021)
- *Australia ICOMOS* Cultural landscapes Practice Note 2022

- the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013* (the Burra Charter), including the conservation processes of *restoration* (Articles 18-19), *reconstruction* (Articles 18, 20), and *adaptation* (Article 21) together with *interpretation* (Article 25). See also Section 1.6.1 below.

The proposed works and this Heritage Impact Statement have also had regard to Article 13 of the Burra Charter 'coexistence of cultural values'. See also Section 1.6.1 below.

The site was visited and assessed in detail by heritage horticulturalist John Hawker on 10 and 11 February 2025. GML consultants Christina Dyson and Kristine Slawinski visited the site on 16 February 2024.

The HIS does not consider impacts from the proposed works on historical archaeology; there is no VHI record for the site.

1.5 Background documents

1.5.1 Proposal documentation

Documents that explain and set out the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape are:

- Buchan Caves Tree Replanting Plan report, prepared by John Hawker, Horticulturist, September 2023 (updated March 2025) (the **Tree Replanting Plan report**)
- Tree Removal and Planting Sheets 1 to 6, prepared by John Hawker, February 2025 (the **Tree Replanting Plan**), included as Appendix 3 of the Tree Replanting Plan report.

1.5.2 Reference documents

The key reference documents for this HIS are included in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Key reference documents

Date	Title	Commentary
1929	'Proposed planting scheme for Buchan Caves' prepared in 1929 by landscape gardener, horticulturalist and tree planter Hugh Linaker (1872–1938)	Referred to in this HIS as **the 1929 Linaker plan**. A digital copy of a black and white photocopy is held by Parks Victoria. The copy is high enough resolution for the notes on the plan to be legible.

Date	Title	Commentary
	Plant list from 'Plan, Proposed Planting Scheme Buchan Caves, H. Linaker, Landscape Gardener, Mont Park'	Referred to in this HIS as **the Linaker plant list** List of plants on the 1929 Linaker plan, transcribed by John Hawker, Heritage Victoria, 27 March 2007.
2004 (June)	Buchan Caves Reserve Heritage Action Plan, prepared by Richard Aitken Pty Ltd in association with Lee Andrews	Referred to in this HIS as **the 2004 Heritage Action Plan**. Survey of 475 trees. Relies on freehand plotting to approximate locations onto 4 survey plans (Hawker 2020, p.v)
2005	Tree survey by Earth Tech	Referred to in this HIS as **the 2005 survey**. Tree survey that accurately locates trees onto 6 scaled plans. Hawker identifies that this survey also misses some trees, among them the trees along, north and south hillsides of Spring Creek, around the perimeter of the reserve planting, and along the east and west hillsides in North Arm. (Hawker 2020, pp.37-38)
2020 (November)	Buchan Caves Significant Tree Assessment, prepared by John Hawker for Parks Victoria	Referred to in this HIS as **the 2020 tree assessment**. Updated survey of 714 trees conducted in May 2020. Identifies species, tree management recommendations including tree removal, canopy maintenance, pruning, mulching and tree replanting recommendations. Uses the 2005 survey to locate trees, and cross references the 2004 Heritage Action Plan tree numbers. (Hawker 2020, p.v) The 2020 tree assessment identifies the trees lost because of the fires, trees removed between 2005 and 2019 that have not but should have been replaced, and tress that should be removed because they are self-seeded or suckers and are growing in Spring Creek.

Date	Title	Commentary
		The recommended replanting approach is 'like for like'.
2003	Victorian Heritage Database Report—Buchan Caves Reserve	VHR citation and statement of significance. Sets out significance in the What, How and Why is it significant format, includes specific exemptions and details of the extent of registration. Last updated 5 March 2003
05/03/2003	Hermes Heritage Citation Report—Buchan Caves Reserve, Caves Road Buchan Hermes No. 186809	

1.5.3 Other relevant background

A meeting held with Heritage Victoria of relevance to the content of this HIS, that GML was party to, was an onsite pre-application meeting for a different permit (P39315) related to proposed works at Buchan Caves Reserve (in this instance, the proposed flood mitigation and roofed accommodation works proposed for the North Arm).

Following this meeting, the officer comments provided to GML expressed a level of comfort with the use of indigenous tree plantings instead of exotics for the North Arm (correspondence dated 15 March 2024.)

One species discussed as suitable in this location was Red Box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*).

Relevant background documentation includes:

- *Gunaikurnai and Victorian Government Joint Management Plan—Buchan Caves Reserve—Krauatungalung Country*, Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board (2018)
- Historic photographs held by State Library Victoria have also been reviewed as part of the preparation for the HIS Buchan Caves Reserve (State Library Victoria picture collection)

1.6 Terminology

1.6.1 Tree numbers

Tree numbers used in the HIS are from the **2005 tree survey** prepared by Earth Tech, unless indicated with a '/2004' suffix. The /2004 suffix is used in the Hawker reports for trees identified in the 2004 Heritage Action Plan which were not included in the 2005 survey.

1.6.2 Burra Charter terms

Burra Charter definitions for the following terms and conservation processes are of particular relevance in the context of this HIS:

> *Restoration* and *reconstruction* should reveal culturally significant aspects of the place. (Burra Charter, Article 18)
>
> *Restoration* is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric. (Burra Charter, Article 19)
>
> *Reconstruction* is appropriate only where a place is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the fabric. In some cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a use or practice that retains cultural significance. (Burra Charter, Article 20.1)
>
> *Reconstruction* should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional interpretation. (Burra Charter, Article 20.2)
>
> Adaptation is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place. (Burra Charter, Article 21.1)
>
> Adaptation should involve minimal change to significance fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives. (Burra Charter, Article 21.2)
>
> The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and engagement, and be culturally appropriate. (Burra Charter, Article 25)
>
> Coexistence of cultural values should always be recognised, respected and encouraged. This is especially important in cases where they conflict. (Burra Charter, Article 13)

2 History of Buchan Caves Reserve

2.1 Aboriginal history

The following quote from the Joint Management Plan provides an insight into the Aboriginal history of the place:

> Buchan Caves were traditionally an important meeting place for our people. The area connects to the high country and was a place of refuge during the seasonal migrations to and from the mountains, where our mob would go to chase the Bogong Moth and other food sources… Although Gunaikurnai people did not traditionally venture very deep into the limestone caves, there is evidence going back more than 18 000 years of the important role they played in the lives of our old people, including burials in the caves and ceremonial rings all through the Buchan area. *Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country Plan* (GLaWAC 2015)

The following summary history is taken from the GML *Gunaikurnai Cultural Heritage Interpretation Strategy* (2021).

> Buchan Munji was an important place to camp and meet during Bogong Moth season. It is part of landscape that provides evidence of human occupation during the Ice Age, with significant archaeology at Clogg's Cave on the Buchan River. Although Aboriginal people traditionally did not venture inside the caves (thought to be a place occupied by spirits and creatures like Nargun and Nyols) three deep grooves, which may still be easily observed, are a reminder of the Ancestors who have visited this place for centuries.
>
> While people may not have lived in Buchan Caves themselves, the stone from here was a valuable resource for tool making, and was traded over long distances. Buchan was an important place in trade networks and traveling routes. Being in high country, it was also an important vantage point and meeting place.
>
> Around the turn of the century, this area was used for less happy meetings. As Aboriginal people were forced by law to live in missions, they came to this traditional gathering place in secret and in fear.

2.2 European history

While the caves were known to the Gunaikurnai for tens of thousands of years, the first reference to them in the post-European settlement period was in 1840 and the first tourist reference in the Gippsland Lakes guide in 1886. An official government expedition documented Duke's Cave, Wilson Cave, Spring Creek Cave, Dickson's Cave, O'Rourke Cave, and Moon Cave in 1889. The first protective measures were put in place between

1903–1910 with the Shire of Tambo appointed as Committee of Management. The caves became a popular tourist attraction as the Victorian Railways made the site accessible. Buchan Caves Reserve was set aside in 1901 for the public and preservation of its natural heritage, with further landscaping undertaken in the 1930s.

The following excerpt from the East Gippsland Shire Council heritage citation provides an overview of the post-settlement history of the place:

> The karst, or Potholes country, near Buchan was an early attraction for residents and visitors to the area. The first documented tourist visits to caves in the Buchan district date from the 1880s. A guide published by the Victorian Railways listed the caves among its tourist attractions. The journalist W S Broome (Tanjil) praised the features of Wilson Cave in 1886, and helped draw attention to the caves in his guide to the Gippsland Lakes District. In this period tourists came to the caves to explore, camp and picnic, very often inside the larger chambers. (RNEDB, 100271) The Buchan Caves (in the main caves reserve) were developed for Show Cave Tourism in the late 1890s. Slocombe's Cave, operated by the family of the same name, was another popular cave about the turn of the last century. It was also one of the first caves to be reserved, in April 1901. Other known caves of this period included Spring Creek Cave, Murindal Cave, Dukes and Dickson's Caves, O'Rourke's (now known as Moon Cave) and Balcony (King's Cave). J C Wyatt, the hotel licensee in Buchan, was one of several who advertised and organised guided tours of caves in the district. (RNE, 100271)
>
> Government Geologist James Stirling surveyed the caves area in 1889 and recommended that they be developed and managed for the public. He published maps and descriptions of several caves, while his companion, J H Harvey later claimed to have taken the first photographs of the features. Stirling's recommendations were not followed up at the time. Another geologist, Albert Kitson, surveyed the caves in 1900 and, and like his predecessor, called upon the Government of the day to proclaim reserves around the more important caves. Various temporary reservations resulted from Kitson's work, as did Government regulations to protect cave features within the reserves. (RNE, 100271)
>
> Several people figured prominently in the discovery of the caves. F J Wilson had an important role while Frank Moon is widely attributed with discovering several of the most important caves around Buchan, and certainly contributing much to their development as tourist destinations. But Moon did not become involved in cave exploration until 1906. Before him were local explorers such as E H Henham, who began investigating caves in the Murrindal area in 1900 and discovered, in the following years, the Shades of Death, Lilly Pilly, Anticline and Murrindale caves. (RNEDB, 100271)
>
> In the first decades of this century many visitors to the caves made the journey from tourist accommodation at Lake Tyers, taking a boat up to Nowa Nowa and a coach through to Buchan. Before the Fairy and Royal Caves in the main Reserve were fully developed, tourists were taken to the Murrindal and Lilly Pilly caves. In the 1960s these

two caves were again opened briefly to the public. Private tourist caves currently operating include the Shades of Death Cave. (RNEDB, 100271)

The Buchan district has become known for the more adventurous, or serious, caves. These include Anticline, Scrubby Creek and Dalley's caves, and Trog Dip (a physical challenging though rewarding cave). Many cave on private land are not opened to the public and have been closed for public liability purposes. (RNEDB, 100271).
The Buchan Caves Reserve, was the location of the first reservation in the district of caves on public land. In 1887 the setting aside of an eighteen acre reserve on the Buchan - Gelantipy Road for droving camp purposes incorporated within its boundaries a series of dolines. Wilson Cave Reserve, NG18, was popular with visitors in the 1890s, with the main gallery serving as a local gathering place. This included Government Geologist Stirling who surveyed the cave in 1889 and recommended it to be lit by power generated from the Buchan River and a visit by the Governor Sir Reginald Talbot in 1908. The caves have been documented in detail since 1907: Royal Cave, discovered by Moon and F J Wilson in 1910 and Federal Cave which was discovered in 1915. Wilson was appointed as Caves Supervisor in 1907, followed by Frank Moon in the 1930s. The tourist development and modification of caves in the reserve began almost immediately after Wilson's appointment. His experience in cave management included stints at the Jenolan Caves in New South Wales, and caves in Western Australia. Wilson supervised the construction of artificial entrances and tunnels between chambers and the installation of steps, pathways and wire netting for the protection of cave features. (RNEDB, 100271)

Electric illumination was introduced in 1920. Beautification of the Reserve began in about 1929-30 when H Linaker supervised landscaping and planting of ornamental trees. Camping facilities were also developed in this period and Royal Cave was extended, with concrete steps installed and the electric lighting updated. When the State Member for Gippsland, Albert Lind, became the Minister for Lands in the late 1930s he pushed for the Buchan Caves Reserves to become a National Park. Many of the striking buildings and structures in the Reserve date from the early period of National Park designation. They include the swimming pool, tennis courts, entrance arch and landscaped paths, toilet blocks and communal camping kitchen. National Park status was revoked after the introduction of Victorian National Parks legislation in the 1950s (RNEDB, 100271)

2.3 Planting at Buchan Caves Reserve

The established collection of exotic, native and indigenous trees is a significant feature of the reserve, reflecting significant eras of planting in the period 1930s to 1950s beginning and largely in accordance with the 1929 planting scheme prepared by Linaker. Of these eras, horticulturist John Hawker notes that:

> ‘The Buchan Caves reserve planting has a significant history involving Hugh Linaker, a leading landscape designer from 1929 to 1938, followed by John Owens, Melbourne City

Council in 1940 and Percy Trevaskis, Public Works Department in 1955, each prominent park administrators.'

Further detail on the contributions to the designed landscape by Linaker from 1929, Owens in 1940 and Trevaskis in 1955 are provided in the 2020 tree assessment.

Later plantings in the 1960s of Japanese Maple, Pin Oak, Linden and Claret Ash trees in North Arm have been planted in the style of the 1929 Linaker planting scheme, but were not part of the area included in Linaker's 1929 planting scheme for Buchan Caves Reserve (see Figures 1.4 and 1.5 above, and section 2.5 below).

Figure 2.1 View over the main camping ground area at Buchan Caves Reserve from Moon Hill. (Source: Gold Museum Ballarat Collection Rose Stereograph Collection Object number 2017.1619)

2.4 Camping at Buchan Caves Reserve

The 2004 Heritage Action Plan provides insight into the changes and developments at Buchan Caves in regard to visitor and camping facilities.

In 1938, a memo was prepared to describe the proposed 'modern camping park' along the banks of Spring Creek. The memo also describes the formation of a walking track up North Arm (also known as Moon Gully).

> The proposed scheme for the development of this area is the construction of access roads to the camping sites, provision of water (supplied by water scheme from underground river), electric lighting (from Caves lighting plant), sewered conveniences, shelters, laundry, kitchens, kiosk (for the sale of provisions, etc.) and other amenities in the form of recreation hall, children's playground and tennis courts.
>
> The aesthetic appearance of the reserve will be cared for by the planting of suitable shade and foliage trees to blend with the many beautiful trees at present on the reserve. Many sections of the roadway are endangered by the erosion of the creek and assistance from the Rivers & Streams Fund will be sought to carry out protective works. Other projected schemes include the improvement of walking tracks to various vantage points, the clearing and forming of a walking track up Moon Gully, and the provision of seats and fireplaces throughout the reserve. (cited in HAP, 2004).

2.5 North Arm

Buildings and infrastructure supporting camping use

In 1937, the Betterment and Publicity Board proposed that 'log cabins' be built along the gully known as 'Moon Cave Gully'. Sketches were prepared, showing the cabins located in the position used later for the two self-contained, metal clad portable cabins, which were installed in 1991 and destroyed in the 2019/2020 bushfires, along with the wilderness retreats which were located further up North Arm.

The North Arm toilet and shower block was constructed in 1979, replacing an earlier structure from 1964.

The sewage plant located below the lower end of the North Arm track was installed and commissioned as a sewage treatment plant in 1979. The pipes and plant were upgraded in 1991. It is a metal structure set on a concrete base, with a small shed. It is screened off by a ti-tree fence and is the current operating system for Buchan Caves Reserve.

Plantings

In 1958, 12 advanced shade trees were recommended for planting in the area used for overflow camping (the North Arm). In 1964, more trees were planted in North Arm. In 1976, additional trees and shrubs were planted in the North Arm camping area. Many of the plantings continued the design themes and linear arrangement of the 1929 Linaker plan in the main camping ground and reserve. (HAP 2004, p. 23-24)

3 Heritage significance

3.1 Cultural heritage significance

The Buchan Caves area (Buchan Munji) is of cultural heritage significance to the Gunaikurnai people. The area holds significant stories, is an important meeting place and has spiritual significance to the Gunaikurnai. This significance is outlined in the Joint Management Plan and the Interpretation Strategy.

The significance of the place to the Traditional Owners, the Gunaikurnai, and their traditional rights and ownership is acknowledged. The knowledge and culture of the Gunaikurnai is recognised in the management of Buchan Caves Reserve. The assessment of significance and the impacts of the proposed development should also be informed by the relevant recent documents prepared for Parks Victoria including:

- *Gunaikurnai and Victorian Government Joint Management Plan—Buchan Caves Reserve—Krauatungalung Country,* 2018*,* Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board;
- Buchan Caves Reserve Upgrade, Buchan Cultural Heritage Management Plan Number: 19165, October 2023, prepared by Anita Barker, Anna Kent and Anthony Gowans for Parks Victoria;
- *Buchan Caves Reserve Interpretation Plan,* December 2023*,* Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) and Parks Victoria; and
- *Buchan Caves Style Guide,* December 2023*,* Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) and Parks Victoria.

Central to protecting the cultural heritage values of Buchan Caves Reserve is ensuring a balance across its many values including the importance to Gunaikurnai as a meeting place with spiritual significance that holds important stories.

3.2 State-level heritage significance

The heritage significance of Buchan Caves Reserve is recognised at the State level for its aesthetic, scientific and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

The Statement of Significance for Buchan Caves Reserve (VHR H1978) in the Victorian Heritage Database is as follows:

What is significant?

The 285ha Buchan Caves Reserve is situated in the Buchan-Murrindal cave system, a large outcrop of cave and karst-forming limestones in south-eastern Victoria. The earliest known written reference to the caves is in a report of Gippsland written in 1840. The earliest known tourist reference to the caves was in a guide to the Gippsland Lakes in 1886, but the caves were undoubtedly a visitor curiosity long before then.

The first government reservation was a camping reserve of 19 acres in 1887 along the line of the Buchan-Gelantipy Road, whilst the caves continued to be used unofficially for picnics and functions. In 1889 a government party reported on and photographed Duke's Cave, Wilson Cave, Spring Creek Cave, Dickson's Cave, O'Rourke Cave, and Moon Cave. Buchan had been gazetted as a township in 1873 and in 1901 the remaining unsold land in the township was reserved from sale. The first regulations for protection of the caves was promulgated and from 1903-1910 the Shire of Tambo was appointed as Committee of Management.

In 1906 Frank Moon explored Moon's Cave and subsequently was appointed to officially search for new caves. This led to exploration of Kitson's Cave in 1906 and Fairy Cave in 1907. The same year Frederick Wilson was appointed Caves Supervisor, a position he held until 1921. Wilson had experience from the Jenolan Caves in New South Wales. By the time of the First World War the area was being promoted by, amongst others, the Victorian Railways, and the caves were a very popular tourist attraction. Infrastructure works in the caves before the First World War included some lighting and barriers. After the First World War an electric lighting plant was installed, and tunnelling that facilitated a link for Fairy Cave and Royal Cave.

In 1929 Hugh Linaker prepared a landscape plan. Linaker was a landscaping consultant to mental hospitals, prisons and local governments. His plan showed predominantly exotic trees although natives were not entirely excluded. Work on Linaker’s plan proceeded piecemeal, but in 1938 the existing reserves, and a new camping reserve gazetted in 1930, were consolidated into the Buchan Caves National Park. The committee recommended additional infrastructure works and renewed planting in accordance with Linaker's plan.

The entry to Buchan Caves Reserve lies on the south bank of the Buchan River, and is approached through a stone and timber pole archway erected in 1938. The entry drive runs parallel to the river, and is lined with London Planes (*Platanus* x *acerifolia*) and *Populus* spp. At the confluence of Spring Creek and the Buchan River are small copses of mature specimen trees, including a large Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) and River She-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*). The drive swings west away from the river and into the Spring Creek Valley. Infrastructure from the 1930s along the drive include a manager's residence (weatherboard bungalow), tennis courts, concrete swimming pool (fed directly by a spring), bridges and sundry facilities.

The valley floor is planted with exotic trees to a plan prepared by Hugh Linaker in 1929. The Reserve contains a variety of vegetation, both native and introduced including species

that are rare or outstanding trees in Victoria. The trees include a very large *Populus deltoides* and two large River She-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), two impressive narrow Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens* 'Stricta'), several fine specimens of *Populus nigra* var. *italica*, *Populus* x *canadensis* 'Aurea', *Populus alba*, *Cupressus macrocarpa* (and 2 unusual single trunk forms), *Cupressus lusitanica*, *Cupressus torulosa*, *Cupressus glabra*, *Chamaecyparis funebris*, *Pinus radiata*, *Pinus nigra* var. *corsicana*, *Sequoia sempervirens*, *Tilia cordata*, *Betula pendula*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Faxinus ornus*, *Fraxinus augustifolia* subsp. *oxycarpa* 'Raywood', *Salix babylonica*. and rare *Cephalotaxus harringtonia*, *Quercus acuta*, *Tsuga canadensis*, *Populus balsamifera* and *Populus yunnanensis*.

Structures from the 1930s period in the valley include the entrance arch, a rustic rotunda, campers kitchen, a campers lounge (now functioning as a visitor centre), and the entrances to Fairy and Royal Caves. By their use of stone, crossed logs and timber these structures have a conscious rustic expression.

How is it significant?

Buchan Caves Reserve is of aesthetic, scientific and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Buchan Caves Reserve is aesthetically and scientifically significant for the spectacular caves and geological formations that comprise the underground features of the reserve. The natural features have been exploited by human intervention, particularly in the provision of illumination, and use of barriers to protect the limestone formations. Some of this infrastructure was the work of Frederick Wilson, including the stairway entrance and wire netting in Fairy Cave. As an example of early cave infrastructure, these works are rare in Australia.

The Buchan Caves Reserve is aesthetically significant as an example of the landscape work of Hugh Linaker, a pioneering designer of public landscapes in Victoria. The survival of Linaker's 1929 plan is important in understanding the design theory to beautification of the Reserve. The landscaping and tree planting has been carefully tended and sympathetically augmented in subsequent years. The landscape is characterised by the mature trees, particularly the high proportion of deciduous exotic species of *Populus*, *Fraxinus*, *Betula*, *Liquidambar* and *Ulmus* along the valley floor, which provide spectacular Autumn colour and contrast to the surrounding native landscape, which includes Yellow Box, Manna Gum and the rare *Acacia caerulescens*. The *Quercus acuatais* the only known specimen in Victoria and the only other known *Tsuga canadensis* trees occur at Alton and Pirianda. The road, which criss-crosses the creek, and the path layout in the Spring Creek Valley, which provide views within and out of the reserve, contribute to the aesthetic significance of the landscape.

The Buchan Caves Reserve is historically significant for demonstrating the influence of 1930s National Parks landscape ideals. This ideal was influenced particularly by

contemporary developments in the United States, and is manifest in the self-conscious rugged design idiom of the log and masonry construction of the entrance arch, campers lounge and kitchen and the entrance to Fairy Cave. Hard landscaping features such as the dry stone walling to the Spring Creek, composite timber-concrete bridges over the creek, and the steps and paving around the cave entrances are intrinsic to the significance.

The Buchan Caves Reserve is historically significant as an example of an early tourist attraction based on natural themes. The provision of a naturally fed swimming pool and a playground demonstrate this commitment to visitors in the late 1930s. The ongoing use of the caves for tourist activities contributes to the significance.

3.3 Local-level heritage significance

Buchan Caves Reserve is included in Schedule 43.01 Heritage Overlay of the East Gippsland Shire Planning Scheme as 'HO241 Buchan Caves Reserve'. The curtilage of the heritage overlay includes the whole site and is consistent with the VHR extent of registration (see Figure 1.2).

The schedule notes that the place was impacted by the 2019/2020 bushfires. The statement of significance for HO241 Buchan Caves Reserve is as follows:

> Buchan Caves Reserve is valued by Australians for the evocative and sublime aesthetic experiences derived from the cave environments with their rich array of uncommon geological formations. The aesthetic attributes of the caves have been extensively recorded in art and literature from the 1900s to modern times (Criterion E 1). (RNEDB, 100271)
>
> The caves reserve within its designed landscape setting, is an important tourist destination for Victorians. Generations of Victorians have visited the reserve since it opened in the early 1900s. It is probably Victoria's best known limestone cave area and symbolises a continuing interest in the science and beauty of cave formations. The continuity and length of use of this area for tourism suggests that it is of importance to communities throughout Victoria, and beyond as a place highly valued for educational and landmark significance (Criterion G.1). (RNEDB, 100271)
>
> The caves have a strong association with the development of tourism away from the metropolitan area that occurred at the turn of the century and which accelerated with the advent of motor transport. The caves reserve with its designed landscape setting is an example of the type of early 20th century caves recreation-tourism development that coincided with similar developments in other States (Criteria A.4 and D.2). (RNEDB, 100271)
>
> *Disjunct Fauna*
> Disjunct species, often evidence of past species distributions, are defined as those with populations separated by substantial geographic distance from other populations, such as

that of non-flying species, which are unlikely to interbreed with other populations. Refer to Methods Papers Volume 1, page 91 for further details. The following species have been identified as disjunct within the Buchan Caves Reserve area: PHASCOLARCTOS CINEREUS (Koala), CTENOTUS TAENIOLATUS (Copper tailed Skink). (Criterion A.1) (RNEDB, 100271)

Limit of Biogeographic Range of Fauna
The populations of species at the limit of a species range are considered indicative of the evolutionary processes associated with distribution contraction or expansion over time. Species whose accepted regular distribution ended within the East Gippsland region were identified. The following species are considered to reach the limit of their range within the Buchan Caves Reserve area: (Green/Gold Grass Frog), CTENOTUS TAENIOLATUS (Copper tailed Skink). (Criterion A.1) (RNEDB, 100271)

Remnant Vegetation classes
Remnant vegetation forms important present-day refuges and recruitment areas for both flora and fauna. Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) significantly depleted in their extent within the East Gippsland region were considered remnant communities. The threshold applied identified undisturbed examples of these communities. See Methods Papers Volume 1, page 74. The following Ecological Vegetation Classes, were identified as remnant within the Buchan Caves Reserve area: Limestone Grassy Woodland (EVC 25), Warm Temperate Rainforest (EVC 32). (Criterion A.2) (RNEDB, 100271)

Nationally Rare/Uncommon vegetation communities (EVC)
There are a number of Ecological Vegetation Classes that are rare within the context of the East Gippsland region. Due to lack of uniform detailed vegetation mapping across Australia it is difficult to identify those that are rare or uncommon at the national scale. Following a census of herbaria and other natural resource agencies across Australia the status of communities that were similar to those mapped in East Gippsland were identified, see Methods Papers Volume 1, page 77 for details. Where all states recorded the community as rare or uncommon it was considered above threshold for this criteria. The Buchan Caves Reserve area includes areas of the following nationally rare or uncommon vegetation communities: Limestone Grassy Woodland (EVC 25), Warm Temperate Rainforest (EVC 32). (Criterion B.1) (RNEDB, 100271)

Rare, endangered or uncommon fauna species and their habitats
Rare and threatened species are defined as those listed by the Australian and New Zealand Environment Council (ANZEC) on the Threatened Australian Vertebrate Fauna (ANZEC 1991), Australian Rare or Threatened species (AROTS) by ANZEC (1991), and the Victorian Rare or Threatened Species (VROTS) by NRE (CNR 1993). Details of the thresholds applied in identification of areas of significance for each species are outlined in the Methods Papers Volume 1, page 109. The following listed species are found within the Buchan Caves Reserve area: DASYURUS MACULATUS (Tiger Quoll). (Criterion B.1) (RNEDB, 100271)

Type Locality, Research and Teaching site
Type localities area areas from which type specimens for plants, animals or geological features have been collected and described. The Buchan Caves Reserve area contains a type locality for geological features. The Buchan Caves Reserve area is also an area where research has been undertaken that significantly contributes to a wider understanding of Australian Natural History. It is an area that has been used as a teaching site to improve understanding of natural history. (RNEDB, 100271)

The area is incorporated in part of the largest karst area in south-eastern Australia. It has a wide range of surface and subsurface features, which are of very high significance in determining rates and processes of denudation and times of uplift of the highlands of eastern Australia. It is an area of long-recognised earth science interest, the Buchan/Murrindal area is the site of many earlier and continuing studies into the evolution of the karst landscape. More recently the features of the area are being used to determine rates and processes of development of the highland areas of Australia. (Criterion C.1) (RNEDB, 100271)

Principle Characteristics of EVCs
Undisturbed examples of each mapped vegetation community with sufficient condition and integrity to be a good representation of that community are considered to exhibit the principle characteristics of that vegetation class. An important component of the analysis undertaken was to ensure representation across the geographic units of the East Gippsland Region. Details of the thresholds applied to each vegetation community are outlined in the Methods Report, Volume 1, page 81. Within Buchan Caves Reserve area, examples of the following vegetation communities have been identified. Limestone Grassy Woodland (EVC 25). (Criterion D.1) (RNEDB, 100271)

Description: Buchan Caves Reserve area is an area of 285.93 ha, at 148o 10'E, 37o 30'N, located slightly east of the Buchan Township. It is bordered by the Gelantipy Road to the east, and comprises the Buchan Caves Reserve area. The area is characterised by ridge and valley topography. (RNEDB, 100271)

3.4 Other recognition

3.4.1 National Trust

Buchan Caves Reserve (Property No G13038) is recognised by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) as being of state historic, aesthetic and scientific heritage significance. The National Trust statement of significance is as follows:

> The Buchan Caves Reserve, part if the outstanding Buchan-Murrindal cave system, set aside in 1901 for public purposes and the protection of natural features and landscaped in the 1930s, is of State cultural significance

- as an example of an early tourist attraction in Victoria based on natural themes; the ongoing use of the caves for tourist purposes is an important aspect of this significance, as is the tradition of guiding and transmission of oral history; early attributes of the reserve include the caves and their entries, caretaker's residence and the landscaping of the 1930's;
- aesthetically and scientifically, for the spectacular caves and geological formations which comprise the underground features of the reserve; these natural features have been exploited by human intervention, especially the use of light and the use of barriers to protect formations; this last attribute is part of the careful work of Frederick Wilson from 1907 onwards and is now rare on a national and even international basis;
- as a mature example of the landscape work of Hugh Linaker, a pioneering designer of public landscapes; the 1930s landscaping at Buchan has been carefully tended and sympathetically augmented in subsequent years and is exemplified by the mature trees in the reserve, the high proportion of deciduous exotic species, the road layout and small rustic rotunda;
- for the manner in which the reserve demonstrates the influence of contemporary 1930s National Parks landscape ideals; here represented by the incorporation of recreational facilities such as the swimming pool and tennis courts and the use of a self consciously rugged design idiom (such as the bold log structures at the entry gateway, the rugged stone construction of the kitchen and the log construction of the kiosk);
- for its high aesthetic values, including the exploitation of seasonal contrast by the use of deciduous trees, the contrast between exotic trees with the surrounding landscape, the manner in which the roadway winds up the Spring Creek valley, and
- for views within and out of the reserve; -
- for the manner in which in the Caves Reserve and Buchan township demonstrate the development of tourism within Gippsland, and the demands of that tourism on the natural environment.

3.4.2 Victorian Heritage Inventory

The Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI) is a listing of all known historical (non-Indigenous) archaeological sites in Victoria. Buchan Caves Reserve is **not** included in the VHI.

3.4.3 Aboriginal cultural heritage

The East Gippsland Shire occupies the traditional country of the Gunaikurnai people represented by the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation.

The site is within an area of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity. There is an approved cultural heritage management plan in place (Buchan Caves Reserve Upgrade, Buchan Cultural Heritage Management Plan Number: 19165, Barker, Kent & Gowans, October 2023).

There is an artefact scatter within the North Arm area. This report does not address Aboriginal cultural heritage.

3.4.4 World Heritage

Buchan Caves Reserve is not in a World Heritage Environs Area. Therefore, s.73(1)(a) of the Victorian *Heritage Act 2017* does not apply.

3.5 How significance is embodied in the place

The Reserve, including the North Arm area, is significant for Gunaikurnai people as the Traditional Owners of the land. It is significant as a place for Gunaikurnai people to connect with Country, foster employment and economic development opportunities, and build their capacity and skills through the joint management of the reserve, and as a place that can benefit the Gunaikurnai and the state by recognising, valuing, promoting, and incorporating Gunaikurnai culture, knowledge, skills and decision-making into the reserve (Joint Management Plan, page 6). The Buchan Caves area (Buchan Munji) is of cultural heritage significance to the Gunaikurnai people. The area holds significant stories, is an important meeting place and has spiritual significance to Gunaikurnai. This significance is outlined in the Joint Management Plan and the Interpretation Strategy.

The built and designed landscape features of the reserve mentioned in the VHR statement of significance are primarily located in the valley floor area and immediate surrounding hillsides along the Spring Creek corridor; the areas which correlate with the planting scheme for the designed landscape in the 1929 Linaker plan.

The North Arm area was not included in the 1929 Linaker plan, but since the 1960s have also been used for camping with planting introduced at a similar time 'in the spirit' of the Linaker; that is, an avenue planting of exotic deciduous trees using species that would provide showy Autumn colour.

The aesthetic and scientific significance of Buchan Caves Reserve relates to the caves and geological formations that comprise the underground features of the reserve. Early infrastructure associated with opening up the caves to tourism (including barriers, stairways at cave entrances and wire netting) are also significant.

The reserve has aesthetic significance as a designed landscape which is an example of the work of a noted landscape gardener and horticulturist Hugh Linaker, planned in 1929

and implemented over subsequent years. Features of the extant landscape that embody these values because of particular trees' intrinsic values and how the tree collection as a whole contributes to the overall aesthetic qualities of the landscape, include the collection of mature exotic, native and indigenous trees. As noted by horticulturist John Hawker:

> The mix of colourful exotic deciduous trees, conifers and evergreen trees set in a valley framed by eucalypt clad hillsides … [creating] a landscape of the highest aesthetic quality.
>
> The deciduous trees which display a variety of autumn colours from yellow, orange to red and has become a major tourist attraction in April, May and June.
>
> The remnant gums, blackwood trees and many indigenous plants, some listed as rare and threatened in Victoria...

There are specific mature trees and tree species on the valley floor that embody significance because of:

- when they were planted (1929 to 1950s)—in accordance with the Linaker plan or Linaker's design principles, or based on advice or recommendations from two subsequent park administrators, in 1940 by John Owen, Assistant Curator Parks and Gardens at Melbourne City Council, and in 1955 by Percy Trevaskis, Superintendent Parks and Gardens Public Works Department and former educator and gardener—and,
- for how they contribute to the overall aesthetic qualities and landscape character of the reserve.

Other trees of significance include:

- deciduous exotic species of *Populus*, *Fraxinus*, *Betula*, *Liquidambar* and *Ulmus* along the valley floor
- the surrounding native landscape, which includes Yellow Box, Manna Gum and the rare *Acacia caerulescens*
- rare specimens: a *Quercus acuatais* and a *Tsuga canadensis*
- views within and out of the reserve from the road, which criss-crosses the creek, and the path layout in the Spring Creek Valley

The statement of significance individually identifies the following species:

- a very large *Populus deltoides*
- two large River She-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*)
- two impressive narrow Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens* 'Stricta')
- several fine specimens of
  - P*opulus nigra* var. *italica*
  - *Populus* x *canadensis* 'Aurea'
  - *Populus alba*
  - *Cupressus macrocarpa* (including 2 unusual single trunk forms)

- *Cupressus lusitanica*
- *Cupressus torulosa*
- *Cupressus glabra*
- *Chamaecyparis funebris*
- *Pinus radiata*
- *Pinus nigra* var. *Corsicana*
- *Sequoia sempervirens*
- *Tilia cordata*
- *Betula pendula*
- *Liquidambar styraciflua*
- *Faxinus ornus*
- *Fraxinus augustifolia* subsp. *oxycarpa* 'Raywood'
- *Salix babylonica*

- rare trees
  - *Cephalotaxus harringtonia*
  - *Quercus acuta*
  - *Tsuga canadensis*
  - *Populus balsamifera*
  - *Populus yunnanensis.*

The 2004 Heritage Action Plan identifies the linear qualities of the designed landscape as part of the aesthetic significance, as well as the strong contrast between the inner and outer areas of the reserve created by the use of predominantly European species on the valley floor, surrounded by the more natural (and naturally regenerated) hillsides.

The reserve is historically significant for demonstrating the influence of 1930s National Park ideals, influenced by contemporary ideas in North America. Buildings such as the campers lounge and kitchen, the entrance to Fairy Caves, entry arch, and hard landscaping features such as dry stone walls (to Spring Creek), composite timber-concrete bridges over the creek, the steps and paving around the cave entrances embody evidence of this aspect of significance.

The ongoing use of the caves for tourist activities contributes to the significance.

3.6 Constraints and opportunities arising from significance

Constraints arising from the significance of the place, include the need to:

- retain individually significant trees that contribute to the State-level heritage significance of Buchan Caves Reserve.
- retain and conserve the aesthetic qualities and landscape character of the Reserve as envisaged by Hugh Linaker and planted from 1929 to 1938, 1940 and 1955.
- ensure plantings will not, over time, have adverse impacts on significant hard landscaping elements, paths, roads, stone and concrete stepping, drystone walls, fences and gates
- ensure plantings will not, over time, have adverse impacts on significant buildings from the 1930s period in the valley, including the entrance arch, a rustic rotunda, campers kitchen, a campers lounge, and the entrances to Fairy Cave and Royal Cave.
- consider the weediness of some species, because they are listed as noxious weeds or are no longer appropriate in this context because of their potential to proliferate
- retain the ongoing use of the Reserve and caves for tourist activities, which contributes to the significance of the place
- ensure visitor safety.

There are also **opportunities** arising from the significance of the place and the coexistence of values, including:

- to enhance the aesthetic qualities and landscape character of the Reserve as envisaged by Hugh Linaker from 1929, and which was implemented through 1929 to 1955 (through removal of plantings and species that have subsequently or recently been introduced to the landscape but which are not consistent with the significant aesthetic qualities and landscape character of the Reserve)
- to recover the aesthetic qualities and landscape character of the Reserve that was impacted by the December 2019-January 2020 bushfires
- to recognise the coexistence of values embodied in the Buchan Caves Reserve landscape and the Traditional Owners' desire for areas of the landscape to reflect an indigenous landscape character rather than a European one.
- to enhance the visitor experience and the ability to appreciate the Aboriginal cultural values embodied in the Reserve and the State level heritage significance of Buchan Caves Reserve for its aesthetic, scientific and historical values.

4 Existing conditions

Existing conditions of the historic tree collection at Buchan Caves Reserve are detailed, tree-by-tree in the 2020 tree assessment prepared by John Hawker and the tree data presented in the Tree Replanting Plan report that was updated in March 2025.

Refer to Section 2 of the Tree Replanting Plan report.

5 Proposal

5.1 Qualitative summary of proposed works

The proposed works comprise the reconstruction of the historic landscape, which are set out in the 2025 Tree Replanting Plan report and Tree Replanting Plan (sheets 1 to 6) included at Appendix 3, prepared by horticulturist John Hawker.

The proposal takes a whole of landscape approach based on detailed understanding of the aesthetic values of the Buchan Caves Reserve designed landscape derived from its tree collection.

This understanding is demonstrated in the 2020 Tree Assessment which includes detailed analysis of the 1929 Linaker planting scheme and the tree collection in 2020, detailed analysis of historic photographs and documentary records of how planting was implemented over time, records of site inspections that capture tree losses over the past two decades, and its setting in the wider landscape.

As noted in the 2020 Tree Assessment, a key component of the Buchan Caves Reserve is the tree collection.

> The mix of colourful deciduous trees, conifers and evergreen trees set in a valley and eucalypt clad hillsides is a landscape of the highest aesthetic quality. The remnant gums, blackwood trees and many indigenous plants, some listed as rare and threatened in Victoria are a significant feature in the landscape.

This detailed understanding of the landscape qualities of the place, and how it has evolved over time, have informed the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape; to the extant that, while replanting like for like is generally the approach, other proposed planting seeks to recover the important aesthetic qualities of the landscape that have been gradually lost or eroded overtime either through inaction or inappropriate plantings.

To this end, the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape is informed by the following principles. These are discussed in Section 4.3 of the Tree Replanting Plan report.

Table 5.1 Principles informing the reconstruction of the historic landscape

Principles informing the approach to reconstruction of the historic landscape at Buchan Caves Reserve
Areas that correlate with the Linaker plan
Valley Floor – colourful mix of deciduous exotics trees and evergreens, ringed by a conifer row of irregularly planted conifers.
Forested hillsides framing the valley – eucalypt clad, provide the backdrop or foil for the showy species on valley floor. "The plan reinforces the contrasting deciduous and evergreen treed landscape. The planting recognises the valley floor landscape ringed by a conifer row of irregularly planted conifers, between this planting and the forest on the hillsides. The principal conifers are Giant Redwood, Coast Redwood, Monterey Cypress, Mexican Cypress, Smooth Arizona Cypress, Bhutan Cypress Corsican Pine, Hoop Pine, Bunya Pine and Douglas Fir." (JH, p28)
Creek and stream margins (Spring Creek, Fairy Creek and North Arm drain)
Removal of woody weeds to enable revegetation. John Hawker lists the following woody weeds that should be removed: "mainly ash, poplars, elm and willow"
Revegetation with locally indigenous flora (trees and smaller plants). JH says: "Eucalyptus viminalis, Acacia melanoxylon and Tristaniopsis laurina while in Fairy Creek Acacia melanoxylon trees are shown to replace fire damaged removed trees. A variety of smaller indigenous plants should also be planted along the stream corridors to about 2m beyond the creek edge, including North Arm drain. These plants include Acacia dealbata, Acacia mearnsii, Melicytus dentatus, Pomaderris aspera, Myrsine howittiana, Kunzea peduncularis, Olearia lirata, Lomandra longifolia, and Poa sieberiana. The planting style and density can be determined by investigating the existing planting in Spring Creek between Bridges 3 and 4"
North Arm
The same number of trees to be replanted as lost, or removed because of later failures or observed defects following the recent fire and flood events. Exotic trees that have been removed not to be replaced like for like, but instead to be replaced with an Australian native or indigenous tree, in accordance with GLaWAC's preference for North Arm to have an indigenous landscape aesthetic, rather than a European landscape aesthetic, for this part of the Reserve.

5.2 Quantitative summary of proposed works

In terms of tree numbers, the total number of trees that have been removed between 2005–2019 is **58** and removed as hazardous trees as a result of the 2019-2020 bushfire is **116**; the combined total is **174**.

The total number of trees to be replanted as part of the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape is 222. 123 of the trees proposed to be replanted have a direct correlation with the removed/lost trees in the Tables for Sheets 1 to 6.

Table 5.2 Summary of removed trees and proposed trees to he replanted (excludes new and replacement trees in North Arm)

Drawing No.	Removed 2005–2019	Removed 2020–2024	To be Removed	Proposed replanting
		Hazardous trees	*Woody weeds and other unsuitable trees*	
Sheet 1	10	14	22 (+ 7 suckers)	26
Sheet 3	20	26	46	21
Sheet 2	1	12	4	3
Sheet 4	7 [plus 3 for office]	6	28	13
Sheet 5	12	27	28	25
Sheet 6	8	31	6	35
TOTAL	**58**	**116**	**134**	**123**

Comparing the total number of trees removed (174 trees, which excludes the unsuitable trees) with those in the proposed replanting column (123 trees) there is a shortfall of 51 trees.

A further 47 trees is proposed for North Arm, as a framework for replanting over time in this part of the reserve, instead of reconstructing the historic landscape. The framework proposes to replant four deciduous exotic trees at the southern end of the North Arm (two *Quercus palustris* and two *Tilia europea*) at the transition from the main camping ground to the North Arm, and then to plant 43 Victorian native trees for the North Arm as part of a proposed new landscape aesthetic that would align with GLaWAC's desires for this part of the reserve.

No extant healthy trees are proposed to be removed from North Arm as part of the works covered by this HIS.

The plan also recommends removal of woody weeds and revegetation of Spring Creek and other stream corridors, which includes planting of trees and shrubs, to improve several areas that are currently degraded. These woody weed removals and recommended planting are not included in the numbers provided above. This aspect of the proposed works is discussed at Section 4.3 of the report but not detailed on the plan.

5.3 Approach to replanting

For the areas in the Reserve which correlate with the 1929 Linaker plan, the approach in the tree replanting plan is, in the main, to replant significant trees like for like. This applies to trees that have been lost because of the bushfires (hazardous trees), and trees removed between 2005 and 2019.

Planting locations for the replanted trees are generally the same location or within about, in a few cases, a 1 metre distance from the original.

The exceptions to the like for like approach to replanting are:

Sheet 1

- The removed tree is a new replacement tree that should not have been planted; either it is in an inappropriate location or the species not consistent with retaining significance (tree 653).
- Like for like replacement of the lost tree would result in an undesirable outcome for the designed landscape and the proposed replacement species was present in the historic landscape (tree 683). Lost tree or tree recommend for removal is weedy, and not significant in that location (tree 68 *Catalpa bignonioides* to be replaced with *Cupressus torulosa*); trees 689 and 690(both *Fraxinus angustifolia* proposed to be replaced by Blackwoods), and trees 691 and 693 (not proposed to be replanted).
- Trees are growing where they should not be growing, some self-sown seedlings, some in Spring Creek (trees 14, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29,36, 37, 38, 40).

Sheet 3

Part of Sheet 3 correlates with the North Arm (south end).

- To be removed and not replaced, because it is a woody weed or other unsuitable tree: 513, 514, 534, 537.
- Already removed/lost and not to be replaced because they are woody weeds or other unsuitable trees: 551.

- Not to be replaced like for like because lost/removed species is weedy or inappropriate in the location: for example, tree 161 (*Quercus robur* to be replaced with *Betula pendula*); tree 177 (*Koelreuteria paniculata* to be replaced with *Acer palmatum*); tree 209 (*Gleditsia tricanthis* to be replaced with *Acer palmatum*); also trees 122, 515, 516.
- The tree has already been replaced: trees 168, 591, 597.
- 16 trees in North Arm are not proposed to be replanted like for like (trees 527*, 528*, 531*,533*, 555*, 556*, 557*, 558*, 560*569*, 576*, 577*, 585*, 561*, 565*, 568*).
- Victorian native trees are proposed for replanting and future replacement planting in North Arm **in accordance with the above-mentioned design principles**. These include *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* (2 trees), *Eucalyptus rubida* (4 trees), *Eucalyptus viminalis* (12 trees in two outer rows), and *Tristianopsis laurina* (10 trees in two inner rows)

Sheet 2

Sheet 2 correlates with the North Arm (north end). See note above at Sheet 3.

- Removed/lost and not to be replaced because they are woody weeds or other unsuitable trees (tree 606 removed for shelter, 592, 593, 598, 600, 602, 604, 605, 634).
- A dead tree, being retained as a habitat tree (tree 608).
- 8 trees in North Arm are not proposed to be replanted like for like (trees 603*, 611*, 613*, 619*, 620*, 621*, 622*, 631*).
- Victorian native trees are proposed for replanting and future replacement planting in North Arm **in accordance with the above-mentioned design principles**. These include *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* (2 trees), *Eucalyptus rubida* (4 trees), *Eucalyptus viminalis* (12 trees in two outer rows), and *Tristianopsis laurina* (10 trees in two inner rows).

Sheet 4

- To be removed and not replaced, because they are woody weeds or other unsuitable trees (species or location) (91, 224).
- Already replaced: 639.
- Removed for office (trees 139, 140, 264/2004).
- Replant with alternative, more appropriate species: 205 (*Eucalyptus melliodora* to be replaced with Mexican Cypress), 206 (*F. angustifolia* to be replaced with *F. excelsior*), 220 (*Acacia melanoxylon* to be replaced with Pin Oak).
- 310 Dead *E. melliodora* to be retained for habitat, and new Yellow Box to be replanted 3m N.

Sheet 5

- Removed/lost and not to be replaced because they are woody weeds or other unsuitable trees (236, 271, 702, 703, 430, 715. 716).
- To be replanted with alternative, more appropriate species (284, 291, 293, 299, 346, 357, 372, 377).

Sheet 6

- Removed for previous works, not possible to replant: tree 426 (area now paved)
- To be removed and not replaced, because they are woody weeds and other unsuitable trees: trees 424, 448, 467, 492, 510, 467/2004.
- To be replanted with alternative, more appropriate species: trees 480, 498.
- Replant two trees for one lost: tree 460 (to recover an earlier pair of trees to frame bridge entry).
- To be replanted with alternative, more appropriate species: 446 (replace *Gleditsia tricanthos* with *Populus* x *canadensis* 'Aurea'), 445 (replace Blackwood with Monterey Cypress), 475 (replace *Eucalyptus* sp. with Blackwood), 480 (replace *Acer negundo* with Pin Oak), and 498 (replace Blackwood with *Picea smithiana*).

5.4 Sources for replacement plants

Section 4.4 of the **Tree Replanting Plan report** provides detail on sources for replacement trees. This covers specialist nurseries, genetic propagation from cuttings or seed, contract growers, and potential sources of exotic plant species and indigenous plant species.

5.5 Timetable

Condition 7 of the Permit P34404 states that

> 'Planning for the reconstruction plan must anticipate a period of up to 2 years for this landscape work to be implemented.'

Parks Victoria have noted that the replanting will commence immediately following endorsement of Condition 7 and that it will be continued over several planting seasons.

5.6 Reasons for the proposed activity

The proposed activity was precipitated by the removal of hazardous trees following the 2019/2020 bushfire at Buchan Caves Reserve, and the identified need for woody weed removal (see P34404).

Other reasons informing the proposed activity set out in an assessment of the tree collection at Buchan Caves Reserve in 2020 (by John Hawker), compared the tree collection in 2020 with those identified in 2004 (HAP) and 2005 (survey). This 2020 assessment identified that since 2005, other trees had been lost including historic plantings and not replaced, and that some inappropriate species had been planted. The 2020 assessment also identified that 'tree planting, removals, replanting and new planting has occurred on a small scale over the past 50 years' (Hawker 2020, p. 1).

The proposed activity seeks to redress instances of inappropriate cumulative change to the established collection of exotic, native and indigenous trees at Buchan Caves Reserve, which form a significant landscape feature of the Reserve, since 2005.

The approach to North Arm is informed by the importance of the Buchan Caves area to the Gunaikurnai people and the priorities and objectives for Buchan Caves Reserve under the joint management of the Gunaikurnai and Victorian Government, set out in the *Joint Management Plan—Buchan Caves Reserve—Krauatungalung Country*, Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board, 2018.

Advice following an onsite meeting (16 February 2024) with GLaWAC and Heritage Victoria, expressed a level of comfort with not replacing the lost exotic trees in North Arm, like for like. This was communicated with John Hawker, by GML, in the development of the North Arm part of the plan for reconstruction of the historic landscape.

John Hawker's initial draft plan (for Sheets 3 and 2) was revised to reflect this. The initially proposed like-for-like tree replacement with alternate deciduous exotic trees (with showy Autumn foliage), was revised to instead propose Victorian native species, in a similar arrangement (an avenue planting, with spacing to allow for camping along the valley floor along the North Arm track.

6 Impacts of the proposal

6.1 Buchan Caves Reserve

The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape would have a positive impact on the state-level heritage significance of the registered place, Buchan Caves Reserve.

The proposed plan for the reconstruction of the historic landscape has had appropriate regard to the 2004 Heritage Action Plan, 2005 Heritage Tree Survey and 2020 Significant Tree Assessment, along with historic photographs and the 1929 Linaker plan in determining the tree species and layout.

It would reinforce the vegetation contrasts which contribute to the outstanding aesthetic qualities of the landscape, created by the contrasts in vegetation within the valley floor which comprises colourful deciduous and evergreen trees, reinforced by a conifer row of irregularly planted mixed conifers, and the forested hillsides.

The plan appropriately acknowledges the 2018 Gunaikurnai and Victorian Government Joint Management Plan and the 2003 VHR Statement of Significance, and that both these documents specifically refer to the significance of the Linaker landscape and the need to protect and conserve this landscape.

The **Tree Replanting Plan report** and **Tree Replanting Plan** would protect and conserve the Linaker landscape through different conservation processes as defined in the Burra Charter:

- *Restoration*, through the proposed removal of weedy specimens, or inappropriate plantings (because of species or location) added since 2005 and areas of weedy vegetation. The need for control of weeds, suckers, some Australian native vegetation with weedy potential (ie Cootamundra Wattle) is acknowledged in the 2004 Heritage Action Plan. At the time the 2004 HAP was prepared, weed infestation was noted as 'fairly light'. (page 80)
- *Restoration*, through the proposed like for like replacement of lost or removed trees using genetically propagated stock from historic trees on site within the Linaker landscape. Specifically, beside Tree 53 (lost) is a seedling that has naturally regenerated from the original trees. It is recommended that this be retained. Tree 364 has been identified as a propagation source for *Hesperocyparis glabra* and other conifers in the reserve are recommended to be used as a source for cuttings or seed.

- Further, because of limitations on availability, the following poplars are identified as sources for cuttings for replacement plantings: *Populus nigra* var. *italica*, *P*. *alba*, *P*. *alba* 'Pyramidalis', *P*. x *canadensis*, *P*. x *canadensis* 'Aurea', *P*. *balsamifera*.
  Four suitable nurseries are identified for contract growing/propagation of poplars and conifers for cuttings or seed (refer Section 4.4 of the **Tree Replanting Plan report**).
- *Reconstruction*, through the like for like replacement of historic plantings based on known evidence but through the introduction of new fabric (new trees but of the same species).
  The impacts of the proposed works on the landscape would also be positive as a result of implementing its recommendations related to landscape rehabilitation, involving the removal of woody weeds (noted above under restoration), and revegetation of areas such as sections of Spring Creek and other stream corridors which have become degraded through tree loss associated with the fires and weedy regrowth.
- *Adaptation*, through replanting with a different species to align with the aesthetic objectives of the Linaker plan but using a more appropriate species (non-weedy) but with similar values.
- *Adaptation* in North Arm, where it is proposed to adapt the landscape over time to new objectives for this part of the reserve. The approach is to not replace lost or removed species like for like, but instead with species that reflect design principles developed to align with the aesthetic objectives of the joint site managers of the reserve and GLaWAC plan but using a more appropriate species (non-weedy) but with similar values.
  The *adaptation* approach for the North Arm landscape would be gradual, implemented first to replace lost trees the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape reflects recognition of the *co-existence of cultural values* embodied by the reserve's landscape., that

6.2 North Arm

The new approach for North Arm, set out in the design principles and the corresponding proposed landscape plan (Sheets 3 and 2), adopts an approach that reflects an understanding of the Buchan Caves Reserve as a cultural landscape with layered values.

As noted in Section 1.1 of this HIS, the Gunaikurnai hold native title rights over much of Gippsland, and Buchan Caves Reserve has been granted to the Gunaikurnai as Aboriginal

Title by the Victorian Government. It is managed jointly by the Gunaikurnai and the Victorian Government.

The 2018 Gunaikurnai and Victorian Government Joint Management Plan—Buchan Caves Reserve—Krauatungalung Country (Joint Management Plan) 'recognises and is consistent with the Buchan Caves Reserve's listing on the Victorian Heritage Register … for its aesthetic, scientific and historical significance to the State of Victoria'.

When the place was registered on the VHR (2003) and when the 2004 HAP was prepared, the cultural values of the landscape to the Traditional Owners were not recognised.

The Australia ICOMOS cultural landscape practice note recognises that understanding and assessing cultural landscapes is a context-dependent practice. The Burra Charter recognises the co-existence of cultural values (Article 13), and that understandings of cultural significance may change, over time and with use, or as a result of new information (explanatory notes to Article 1.2).

Replanting with like-for-like species in North Arm was initially considered. However, in discussions with GLaWAC, it is understood that a different approach is desired, and this approach has been in principle support by Heritage Victoria.

The approach to replace trees already lost or removed from North Arm with Victorian native tree species is appropriate.

Sheets 2 and 3 of the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape provides a framework for tree replacement which is relevant now, for the replacement of trees already lost as a result of the bushfires, and for the longer term, for when trees are lost and need replacement into the future.

This part of the proposed replanting plan reflects an understanding of GLaWACs desires for the landscape.

6.3 Relevant policies

6.3.1 2004 Heritage Action Plan

The 2004 Heritage Action Plan identifies a number of heritage management policies and strategies to guide future change at the site and manage key elements of heritage value.

Policy ref. (2004 HAP)	Policy	Comment
5.7.3	That the fabric and setting of the Buchan Caves Reserve up to and including the 1938 work and its postwar consolidation as summarised in the statement of cultural significance be conserved. That the rankings of cultural significance contained in this report be adopted for specific conservation actions.	The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape respects the significance of the Buchan Caves Reserve as set out in the 2004 HAP. John Hawker's assessment of the Buchan Caves Reserve trees differs from the 2004 HAP policy with regards to the relative significance of trees introduced after Trevaskis (1955). Hawker assesses these as being of lower relative significance whereas the 2004 HAP ranks trees introduced after Trevaskis up to 1972 (including those in the North Arm) as having primary significance where they illustrate or are consistent with Linaker's design intention.
6.3.3 (i)	Ongoing Conserve existing indigenous trees as identified in 3.3.1.	Indigenous trees will be retained or replaced except where they are self sown wattle or gum seedlings which have come up in inappropriate locations that would obscure the ability to appreciate significant or physically impact other significant plantings or buildings. This is consistent with short term actions recommended in the 2004 HAP policy 6.3.3 Vegetation (vii). 133 (191) remains extant. 335 Not referenced in Tree tables by Hawker. 342 remains extant, to be retained. 389 remains extant, to be retained. *Brachychiton populneus*, several remain extant. Any lost are proposed to be replanted.
	Medium / long term Replant avenue trees (*E melliodora* and *E viminalis*) with material propagated from these existing trees.	The planting plan does not recommend that the replanted E viminalis Manna Gums (E viminalis) and Yellow Box (E melliodora) that are to be replaced like for like, are not

Policy ref. (2004 HAP)	Policy	Comment
		intended to be replanted with material propagated from the existing trees. Sources for indigenous plants are provided in Section 4.4 of the Tree Replanting Plan report, which is appropriate.
6.3.3 (ii)	Conserve early plantings (pre-1929) as identified in 3.3.2. Ongoing	Replacement is typically like for like. The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape has appropriate regard to the relative significance rankings in the 2004 Heritage Action Plan.
	Medium / long term	The only tree identified specifically is the *Pinus halepensis* (#92) or tree 650. This tree remains extant and is to be retained.
6.3.3 (iii)	Conserve Linaker era plantings (1929-38) as identified in 3.3.3. Ongoing	The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape has appropriate regard to the relative significance rankings in the 2004 Heritage Action Plan.
	Medium / long term Replace senescent trees with material propagated from these trees. With such replacements it is important to maintain the diversity and balance of the tree collection.	Where appropriate, replacement planting with a provenanced to original stock is recommended, for example: Each lost tree in the group 408–416 to be replaced with 1 selected extant seedling. Exceptions to like for like replacement only occur where a tree species is now weedy or now in an inappropriate location. For example: Overall, the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape would conserve the ability to appreciate the landscape qualities and horticultural importance of the Linaker planting scheme embodied by the collection of trees.

Policy ref. (2004 HAP)	Policy	Comment
6.3.3 (iv)	Conserve Owens / Sandford era plantings (1939-42) as identified in 3.3.4. Ongoing	The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape has appropriate regard to the relative significance rankings in the 2004 Heritage Action Plan.
	Medium / long term Replace senescent trees with material propagated from these trees.	Overall, the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape is consistent with this policy except for tree 268 (weedy species) and for 461, which is retained, a new spruce is recommended for location 498.
6.3.3 (v)	Conserve post-war plantings (1946-72) as identified in 3.3.5. Ongoing	The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape has appropriate regard to the relative significance rankings in the 2004 Heritage Action Plan.
	Medium / long term Replace senescent trees with similar species to maintain the design intent of spectacular autumnal display	Overall, the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape is consistent with this policy, except in North Arm.
6.3.3 (vi)	Conserve recent plantings (post-1972) as identified in 3.3.6 that adhere to Linaker's design intention. Ongoing	Overall, the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape is consistent with this policy, except where new species are inappropriately sited and obscure or may cause physical damage to other significant features.
	Medium / long term Replace senescent trees with similar species.	Overall, the proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape is consistent with this policy, except in North Arm.
6.3.3 (vii)	General actions Urgent Set up a programme for propagation from culturally significant trees to provide new progeny for planting in the future.	The report provides a framework and recommendations for setting up propagation from cultural significance trees and contract growing for difficult to source species to provide new progeny for replanting (conifers and poplars). Specialist nurseries are provided for difficult to source species which would not be available.
	Ongoing	See policy 6.3.3 (i) above.

Policy ref. (2004 HAP)	Policy	Comment
	Maintain contrast in vegetation between the valley floor/inner reserve and outer reserve by continuing tradition of planting exotics and indigenous native plants respectively.	The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape is consistent with this policy, except in North Arm.

The 2004 Heritage Action Plan does not include consideration of Aboriginal history of the Buchan Caves area or Aboriginal cultural values.

6.3.2 2018 Joint Management Plan

The Joint Management Plan for Buchan Caves Reserve was developed under Section 82 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* (Vic.) and the provisions of the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement 2010. The plan outlines the following objectives:

- Ensure that Buchan Caves Reserve is well managed, its values and assets are protected and conserved, and the statutory requirements for reserve management are fulfilled, through an equitable partnership between the Victorian Government and GLaWAC.
- Increase opportunities for Gunaikurnai people to connect with Country, foster employment and economic development opportunities and build their capacity and skills to take a central role in joint management with the other management partners.
- Benefit the Gunaikurnai and the State by recognising, valuing, promoting and incorporating Gunaikurnai culture, knowledge, skills and decision-making into the reserve.

The area of the reserve that correlates with the 1929 Linaker planting scheme and the North Arm site within an area designated as a 'recreation development zone' as designated in the Joint Management Plan (Figure 6.1). The purpose of this zone is to designate small areas with a high level of visitor facility development, catering for a high number of visitors.

Other relevant sections from the Joint Management Plan have been extracted below.

> Caring for Country:
>
> Today the caves remain important to Gunaikurnai as a meeting place with spiritual significance that holds important stories to be shared with young people.
>
> Landscape and Catchment:

The reserve lies within the Far East Catchments landscape program of the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA). The program aims to maintain the condition of significant and relatively undisturbed landscapes of these catchments with their large and continuous extent of natural ecosystems, from the mountains to the coast.

The Regional Catchment Strategy (EGCMA 2013) identifies the broad landscape objectives for public land as:

- Maintenance and targeted improvement of the condition, security, diversity and integrity of natural ecosystems and the status of threatened species and communities
- Maintenance of soil condition and stability on public land.

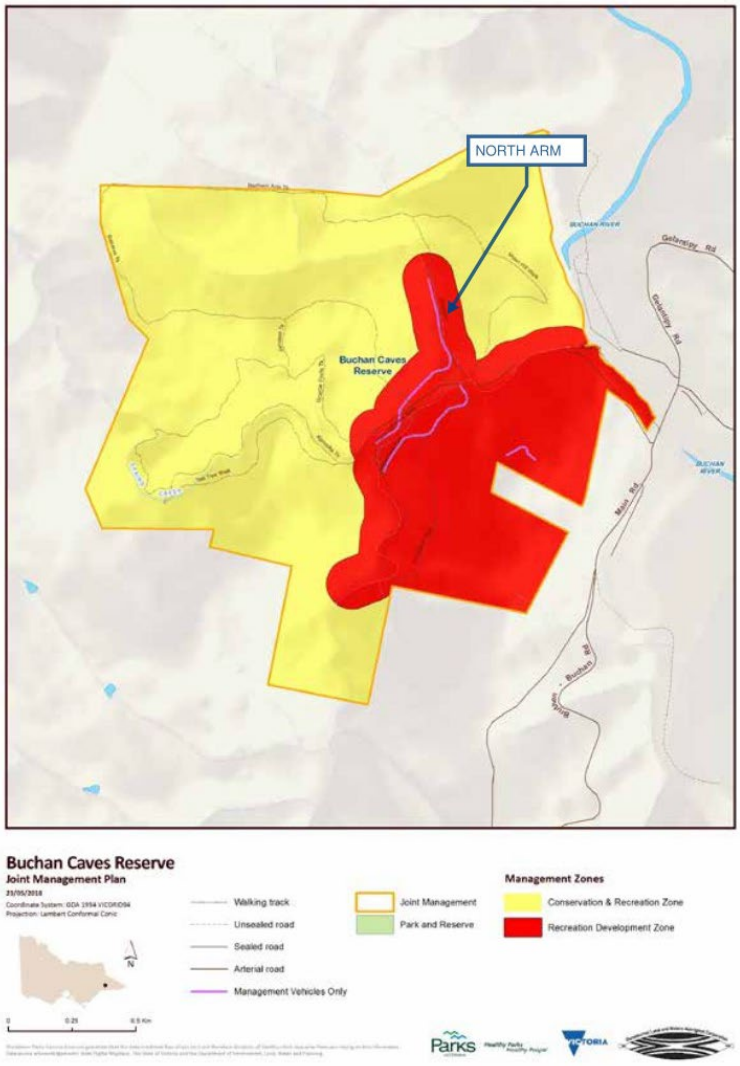


Figure 6.1 Map indicating the area of proposed recreation development zones (in red) as taken from the Joint Management Plan. The North Arm works are located within this zone. (Source: Joint Management Plan, page 88)

7 Assessment against the Heritage Act 2017

7.1 Reasons why the proposed works should be supported

Tree replacement to conserve the significant historic landscape at Buchan Caves has not been managed in a co-ordinated or systematic way since 2005.

The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape—as set out in the **Tree Replanting Plan** (Sheets 1-6) and accompanying **Tree Replanting Plan report**—provides a timely reset, providing historically appropriate, practical and relevant direction for the reconstruction of the historic landscape, so that its heritage values can be conserved, maintained and enhanced into the future.

The **Tree Replanting Plan** (at Sheets 3 and 2) gives appropriate and timely regard to the co-existence of cultural values of the reserve, by proposing a framework for an alternative planting scheme in the North Arm that reflects the reserve's Traditional Owner's and Joint Managers' desires for this part of the site to have an indigenous landscape aesthetic rather than a European landscape aesthetic.

The **Tree Replanting Plan** (Sheets 1 to 6) gives appropriate regard to environmental issues such as climate change, weediness, recommending alternative tree species – with similar values – that would perform better in current and future climate predictions or not pose future weed problems or ongoing weed management challenges.

7.1.1 Extent to which the application affects the cultural heritage significance of the registered place

The proposed works would conserve and enhance the aesthetic significance of Buchan Caves Reserve designed landscape through a range of appropriate conservation processes, including *restoration*, *reconstruction* and *adaptation*.

The proposed works would enhance the visitor's ability to appreciate the historic, aesthetic and scientific heritage values of the historic designed landscape at Buchan Caves Reserve.

The change in planting approach for North Arm is appropriate for this area of the reserve. It would have no impacts on the primary heritage values of the Reserve related to the

caves, early tourism infrastructure and the parts of the landscape that correlate with and reflect the 1929 Linaker plan, none of which would be physically or visually impacted as a result of proposed framework for replanting in the North Arm.

It is intended that the changed approach would assist in progress towards Buchan Cave Reserve landscape as a place that resonates with the Traditional Owners and assists in their connection with the place and communication of its important Aboriginal history and cultural values, and importance of the Buchan Caves area to the Gunaikurnai people.

The change in landscape character in this part of the reserve is considered acceptable and reasonable from a heritage perspective. The relative significance of this part of this part of the reserve means the area is better placed than other areas of the reserve's historic landscape to tolerate such change.

7.1.2 Reasonable and economic use

The effect on the reasonable use of the registered place if the proposal is refused, would be a diminished landscape character and adverse impact on the aesthetic significance of the Linaker landscape within Buchan Caves Reserve.

This would have an adverse impact of the ability of visitors to appreciate the significant historic and aesthetic qualities of the Buchan Caves Reserve landscape.

The effect on the reasonable and economic use of Buchan Caves Reserve if the North Arm aspect of the proposal is refused would be a lost opportunity to demonstrate recognition of the importance of the Buchan Caves area to the Gunaikurnai people and the goals of the joint owners for this part of the reserve.

8 Summary of impacts and conclusion

Overall, it is considered that the proposed development would have a positive impact on the heritage values of Buchan Caves Reserve.

The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape, as set out in the Tree Replanting Plan report and Tree Replanting Plan, have been developed with reference to relevant historic and current documentation about the place and its layered values. The proposed reconstruction of the historic landscape reflects deep knowledge of this particular designed landscape gained over many years of visiting and documenting the Buchan Caves Reserve landscape, its component parts including the individual trees, and the work of landscape gardener Hugh Linaker.

The approach to North Arm, to adapt the landscape over time to ultimately reflect a more indigenous landscape is appropriate. This would commence with replacement of lost exotic trees (among them deciduous exotics and Aleppo Pines) with Victorian native trees; variously *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*, *Eucalyptus rubida*, *Tristianopsis laurina*, and *Eucalyptus viminalis* (refer Sheets 3 and 2). The proposed approach for the North Arm is considered appropriate and timely. It would appropriately recognise the co-existence of cultural values of the site by reflecting the objectives of GLaWAC for this part of the site to have a more indigenous landscape character. Because the North Arm was not included in the 1929 Linaker planting scheme, the change in landscape character for this part of the reserve would not impact on the significant landscape qualities of the Linaker landscape that are recognised in the VHR statement of significance.

It is recommended that the proposed works be approved.

Recommendation

The recommendations in the 2020 tree assessment by John Hawker should be reviewed and updated following completion of works. The following recommendations should be included in the reviewed and updated set:

17. Commission by 2025 a new Tree Survey plan to update the 2005 survey and capture missing trees at the Entrance Arch, Caves House garden, hillside south of Spring Creek between Swimming Pool and Royal Cave, and North Arm. This new survey should have an ordered numbering system from east to west.

18. Review and update the 2004 Heritage Action Plan, this 2020 Tree and Landscape management plan, and prepare a Master Plan for the Reserve by 2025. (2020 Tree Assessment)