Coliban Connections Conservation Action Plan

DECEMBER 2016

VERSION 1

Upper Campaspe Landcare Network

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project has been a collaborative effort between dedicated and highly knowledgeable members of Malmsbury Landcare, Tylden Landcare, Trentham Landcare and Ashbourne Landcare and the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network. It would not have been possible without the time and input into meetings, discussions and workshops and following up efforts of:

John Walters
President Malmsbury Landcare
Brendan Smith
President Tylden Landcare
Barry Elliot
Trentham Landcare
Rob Burdett
Malmsbury Landcare
Liz Burns
Trentham Landcare
Alan Denehey
Ashbourne Landcare
Patricia Scheltus
Trentham Landcare
Libby Peck
Ashbourne Landcare

The field day greatly benefited from the ecological and conservation knowledge of;

Paul Foreman
Blue Devil Consulting
Damian Cook
Rakali Ecological Consulting

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Workshop facilitation, mapping and document production: Dr Sophie Bickford

Introduction

A number of Landcare groups of the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network met to discuss the merit of working collaboratively in priority landscapes identified in the UCLN Strategic Plan. They identified 2 areas where an alignment of their efforts, and the development of partnerships with other key stakeholders, would result in greater ecological outcomes, including functional connectivity and increasing and improving habitat for threatened species and ecological communities, at a landscape scale:

- The Upper Coliban Corridors including the Coliban River from its headwaters to Malmsbury Reservoir, the Kangaroo Creek, the Little Coliban River and other creeklines feeding into the Upper Coliban.
- Cobaw – Macedon Ranges to Campaspe Connections

Greater knowledge of the values, their ecology and threats to them within priority landscapes was identified by the Landcare group representatives as being the key to increasing the capacity of groups to strategically target their actions. This project will further develop the capacity for the landcare groups to work strategically and collaboratively across these priority zones, and act as pilots in developing capacity building processes for other priority zones identified in the UCLN Strategic Plan.

This report is the outcome of a series of action planning workshops and field days developed by Malmsbury Landcare, Tylden Landcare, Trentham Landcare and Ashbourne Landcare with Upper Campaspe Landcare Network, that bring together ecological expert knowledge with community knowledge in the Upper Coliban region.

Stages and people involved in developing this plan

1. Desktop study and initial landscape-scoping
2. Asset workshop (identifying and documenting existing values)
3. Field day - A tour of assets showing how the landscape may have looked and functioned, what is missing from the landscape now and why it matters and what needs doing to repair it - lead by a river ecologist, terrestrial ecologist and local indigenous representative
4. Bringing it together workshop –refinement of assets, threats, project objectives and strategic directions.

For a full list of participants and program details see Appendix 1.

Vision

Our long term aim is to restore functional connectivity for the persistence of the biodiversity of the Coliban - Connections region.

Brendan Smith talking on the field day about restoration of riparian vegetation on the Little Coliban River. Paul Foreman in the Wombat forest talking about the importance of local variation in habitat and historical influences on present day vegetation composition.

Project area

The project boundary was takes in the extent of the major waterways in the upper Coliban sub-catchment across which the Malmsbury, Tylden, Trentham and Ashbourne landcare groups operate.

It covers the area containing the major waterways east of the Campaspe River to the Wombat Forest, from Trentham in the south and to Malmsbury in the north. It is an area of some 36,800 ha.

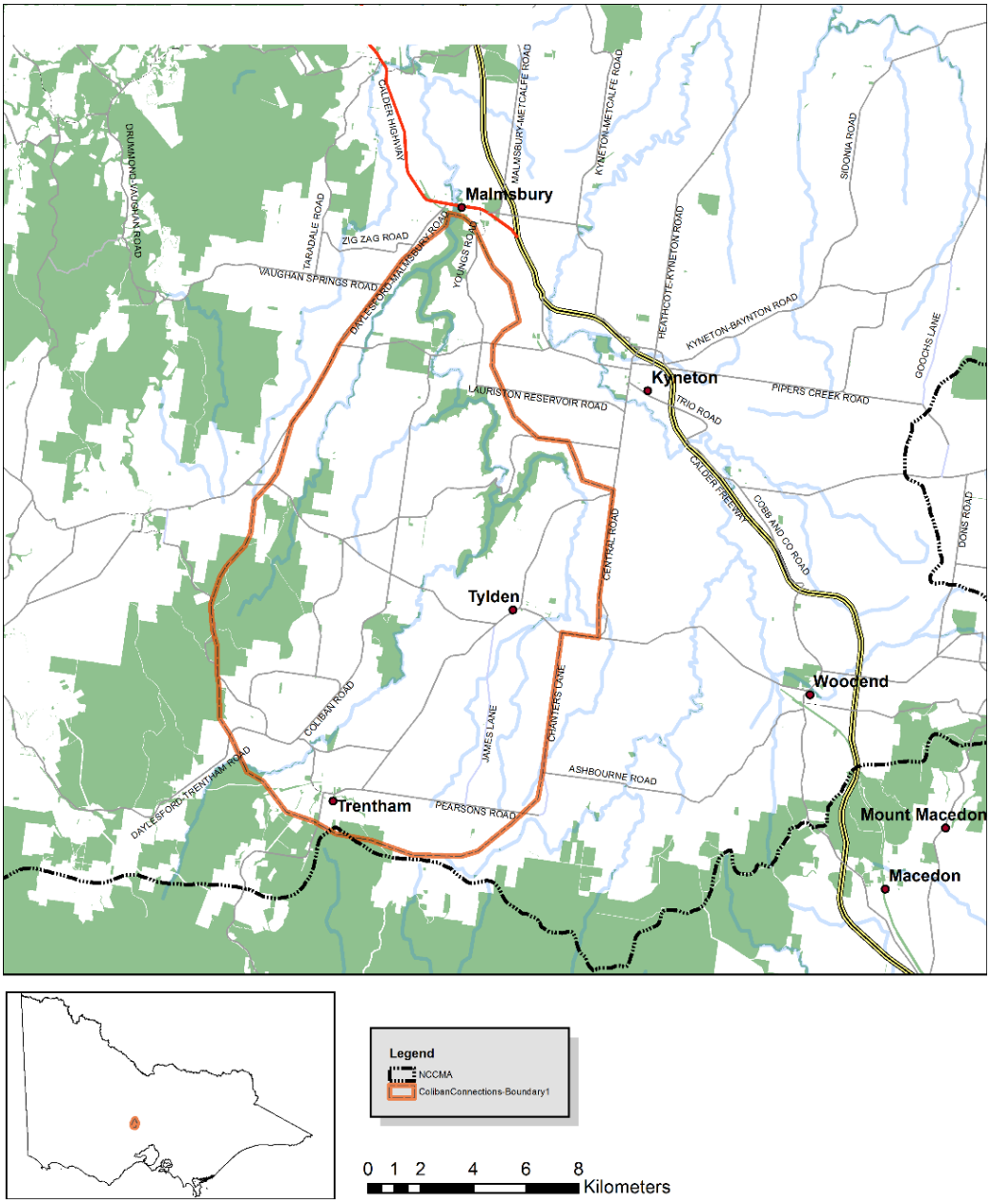


Figure 1. Map showing the boundary defining the project area and its location in Victoria.

Priority features – ecological assets

The planning team decided that a combination of species, ecological and functional assets, that represent the range of biodiversity and functional processes supporting that biodiversity, be the focus of conservation efforts.

- Key structural/functional features
  - Rivers
  - Roads
  - Remnant vegetation – especially larger patches
- Significant vegetation types
  - Threatened
  - 'Functional'
- Focal species
  - Landcare groups existing focal species
  - Keystone (ecologically important species)
  - Threatened species
  - Area sensitive species
  - Habitat specialists
  - Dispersal limited species
  - Barrier sensitive species
  - Meta-populations

The team identified assets in each of these classes and they are described and mapped in the following section.

Rivers and creeks

The major waterways are natural linkages running through the landscape. Rivers in the region are the upper reaches of the Coliban River from its inception in the Wombat Forest to the Malmsbury Reservoir, taking in both the Lauriston and Upper Coliban Reservoirs and the entire length of the Little Coliban River, a tributary of the Coliban River. It also contains tributaries of both – Shepherds Hut Creek which feeds into the Coliban River at the Lauriston Reservoir and Jones Creek, which runs into the Little Coliban River near Tylden. More minor creeks feeding into the uppermost reaches of the Coliban River near Trentham, Trent Creek and Stony Creek are in the project area.

The project area takes in the length of the Kangaroo Creek from its inception in the Wombat Forest to its junction with the Coliban River at the Malmsbury Reservoir as well as more minor creeks that flow into it, namely Mudlark Creek, Doctors Creek and Emu Creek.

The Priority Rivers and Creeks are shown in Figure 2.

Field day attendees crossing Kangaroo Creek

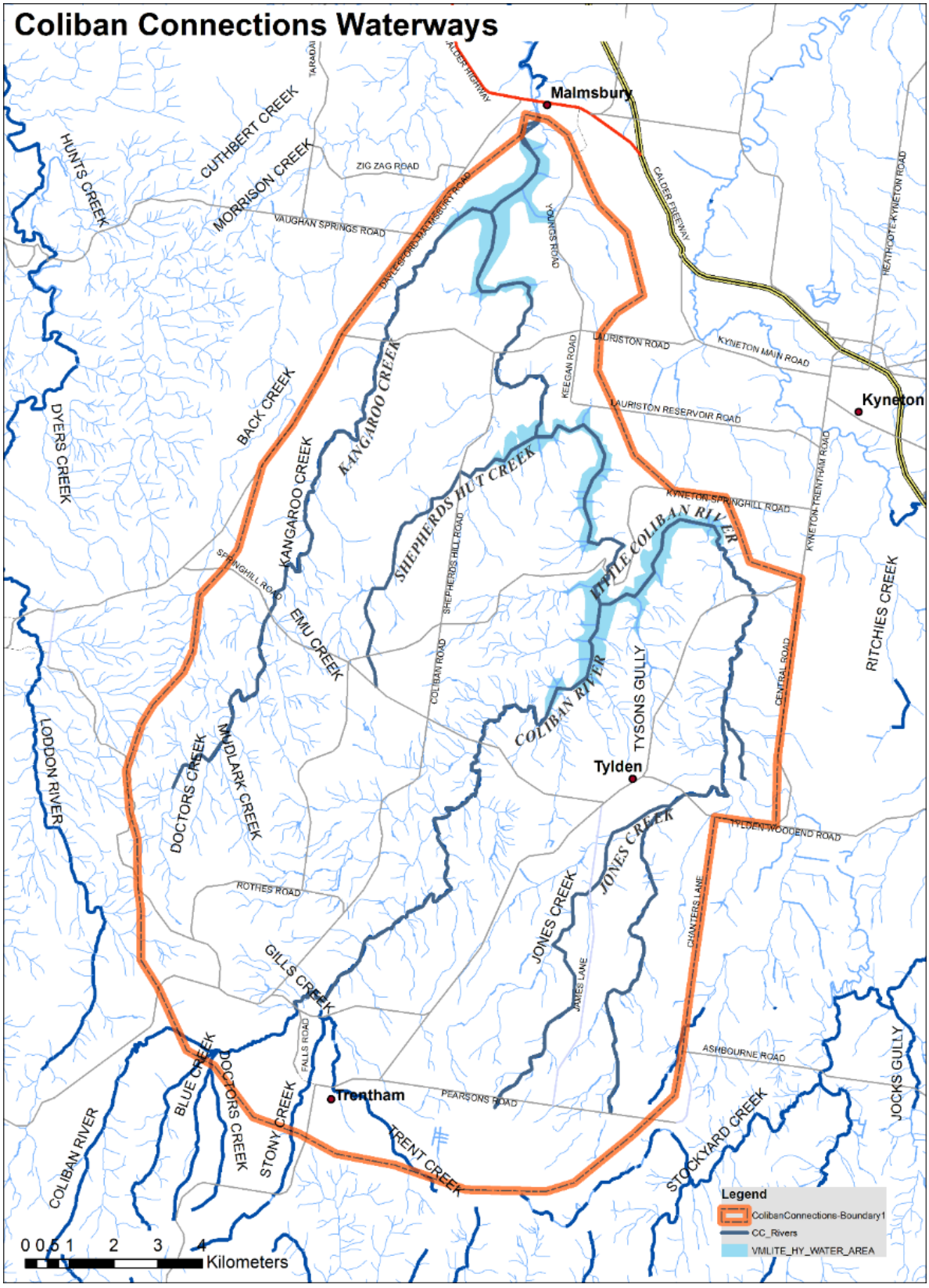


Figure 2: Waterways in the project area.

Patches of vegetation on private and public land

The project area extends to blocks of the Wombat State Forest south of Trentham and takes in a portion of Wombat State Forest north east of Trentham (Coliban Block). These large patches of public land are the most significant in size in the project area, have high value because of that, and for which improved connectivity is sought.

Relatively intact small to medium sized patches of vegetation provide significant habitat as well as act as stepping stones providing the potential for linkages through the landscape. Two medium sized patches of native vegetation on public land occur in the area - the Lauriston Bushland Reserve and the Tylden South Education Area that connects with a patch of the Wombat State Forest.

The area contains many other smaller patches of vegetation on public land namely Coliban 18 Bushland reserve, Coliban 19 Bushland reserve, Coliban River Streamside Reserve, Stream Frontage reserves, Drummond 191 Bushland Reserve, Drummond 189 Bushland Reserve and Kangaroo Creek Bushland Reserve. Public lands are shown in Figure 3.

Sizable patches of remnant native vegetation on private land include that around the Kangaroo Ck between Denver and Malmsbury Reservoir, Premier Mine/Trentham Rd near Tylden, near the Coliban Block of Wombat forest to Glenlyon Block and North Shepherds Hut Creek. Native vegetation extent is shown in Figure 4.

Roadsides

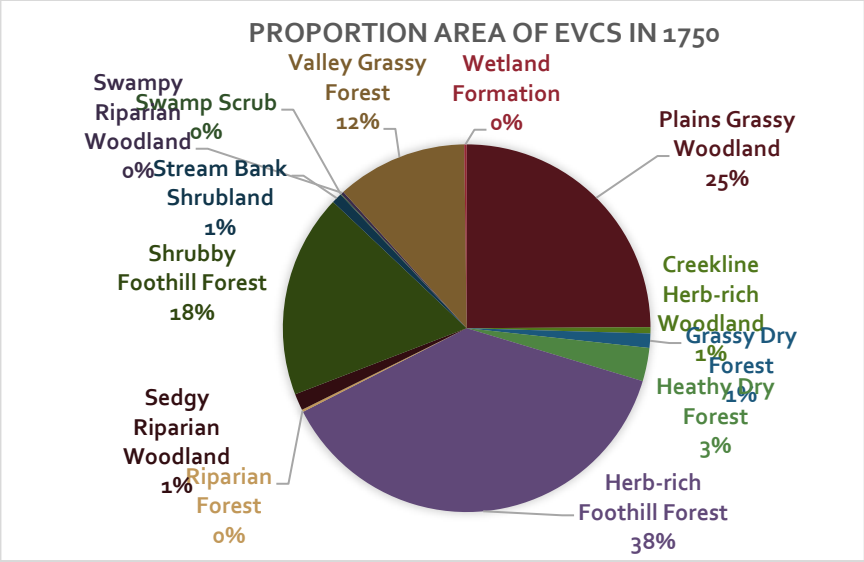
Key roadsides from a connectivity point of view include

- Kyneton Trentham Rd (E-W connectivity through highly cleared part of project area)
- Springhill Rd
- Kyneton Springhill Rd
- Trentham Springhill Rd
- Daylesford Malmsbury Rd

Significant vegetation types

Victoria's Ecological Vegetation Classification system indicates 13 different vegetation types were present at the time of European settlement. Around quarter of the project area was Plains Grassy Woodland then the greater part of the rest of the area was Herb-rich foothill forest (50.3 %), Shrubby Foothill Forest (23.84%) and Valley Grassy Forest (15.31%). These 4 dominant classes were interspersed with wetland, creek line and riparian communities along waterways and in low lying areas.

The project area's native vegetation has been highly cleared with only X% of native vegetation remaining.



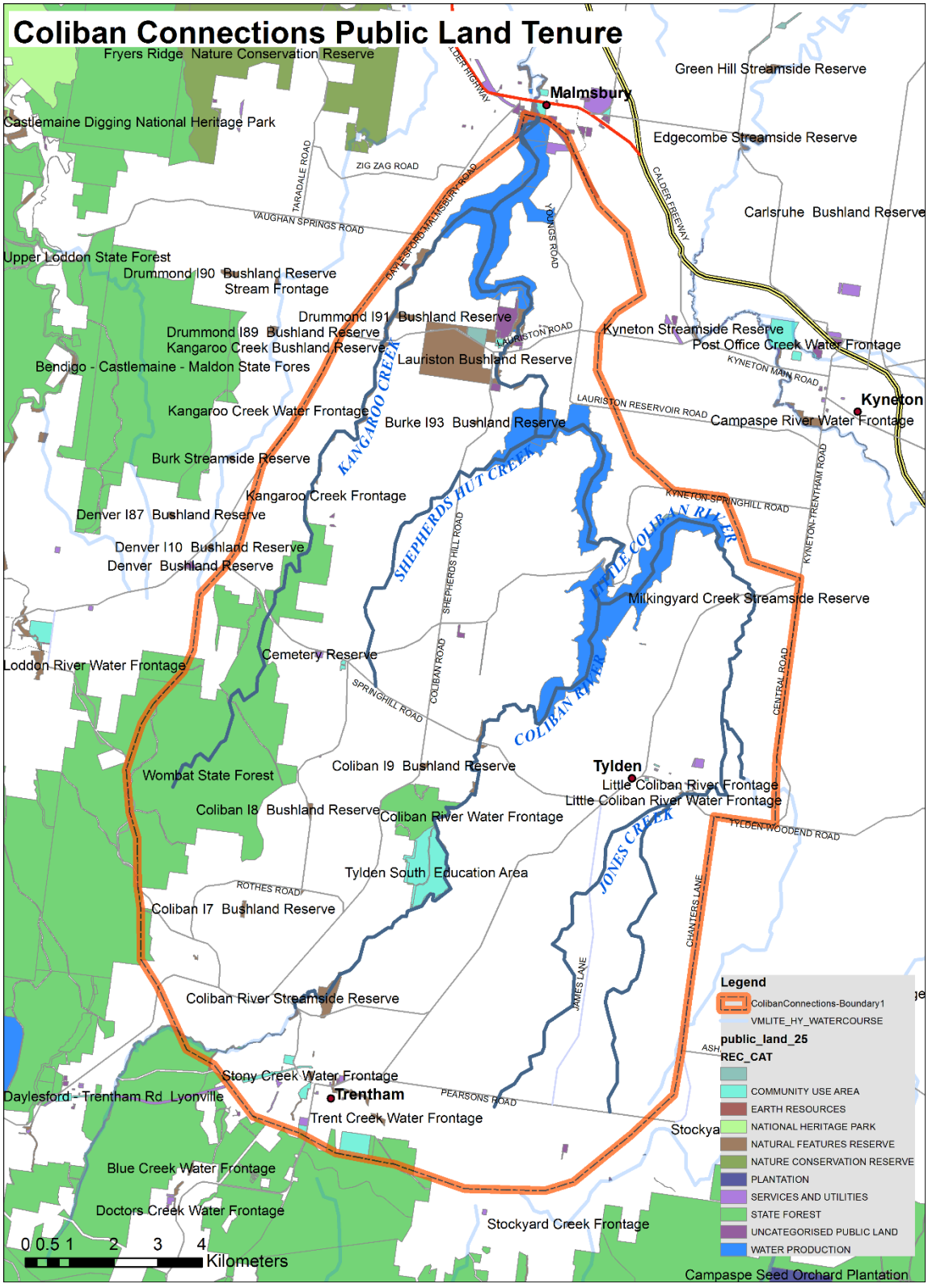


Figure 3. Public land types in the Coliban Connections Project area.

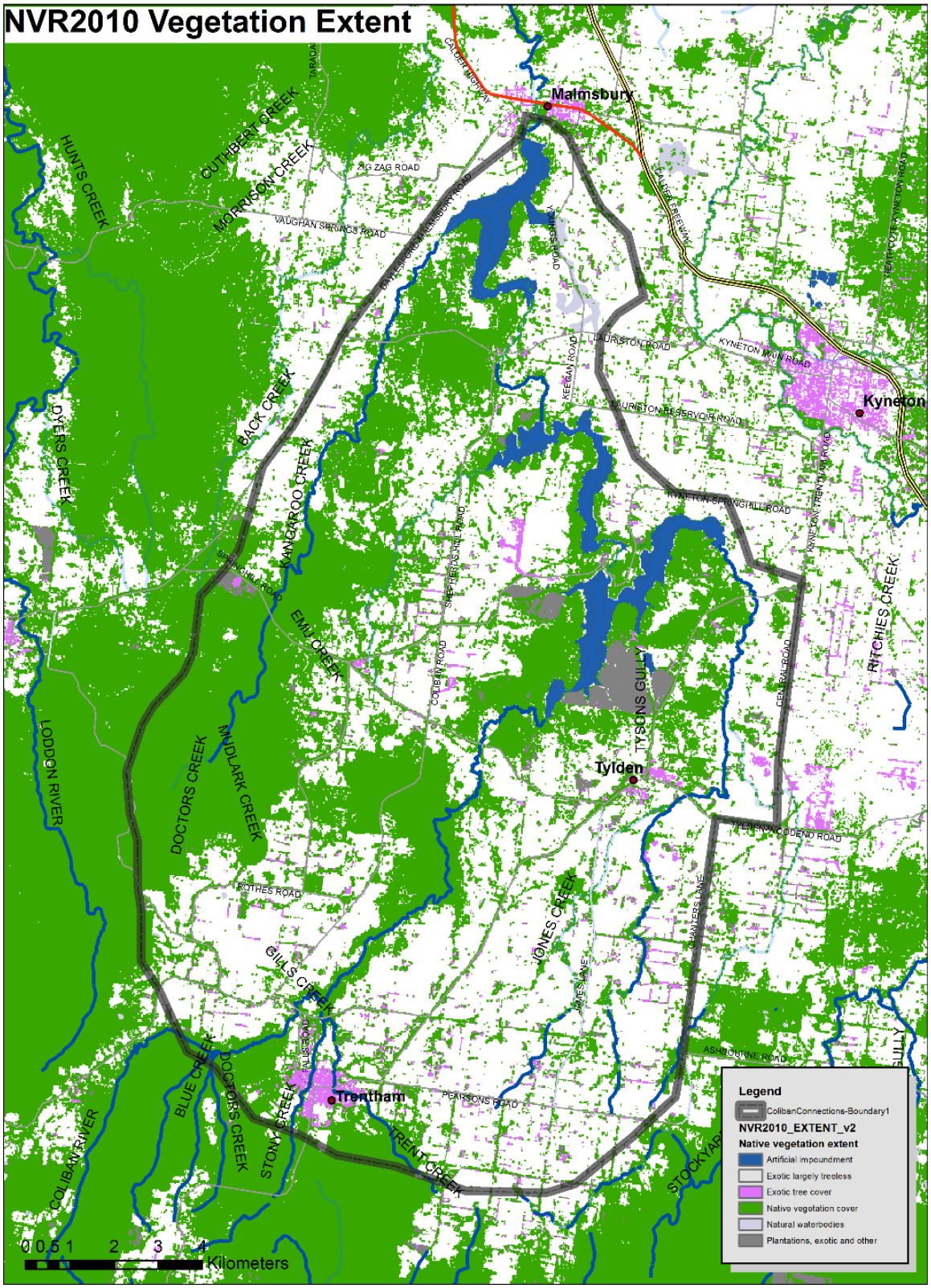


Figure 4. Vegetation extent in the project area and surrounds – native vegetation cover is green.

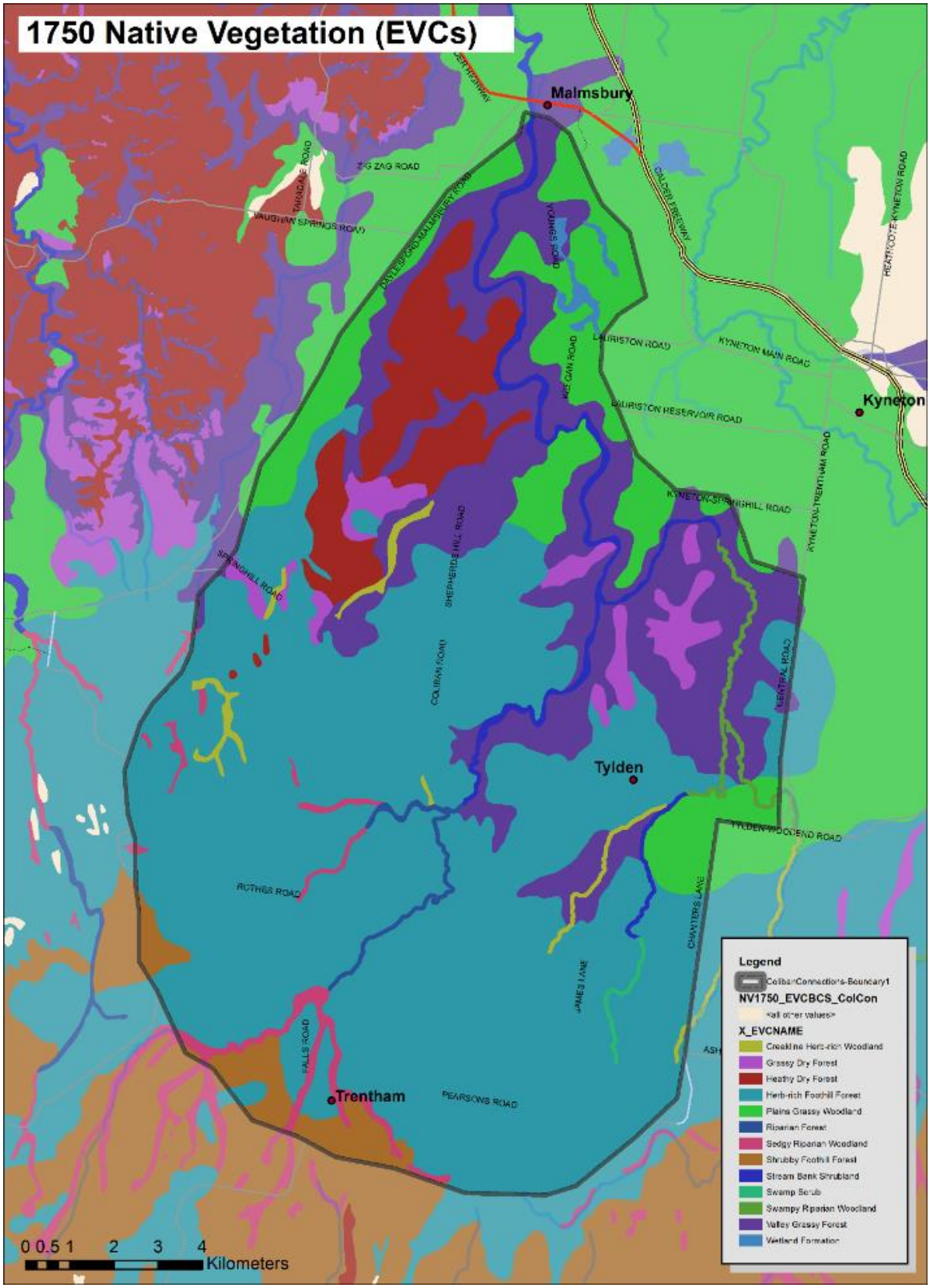


Figure 5: 1750 Ecological Vegetation Classes distribution

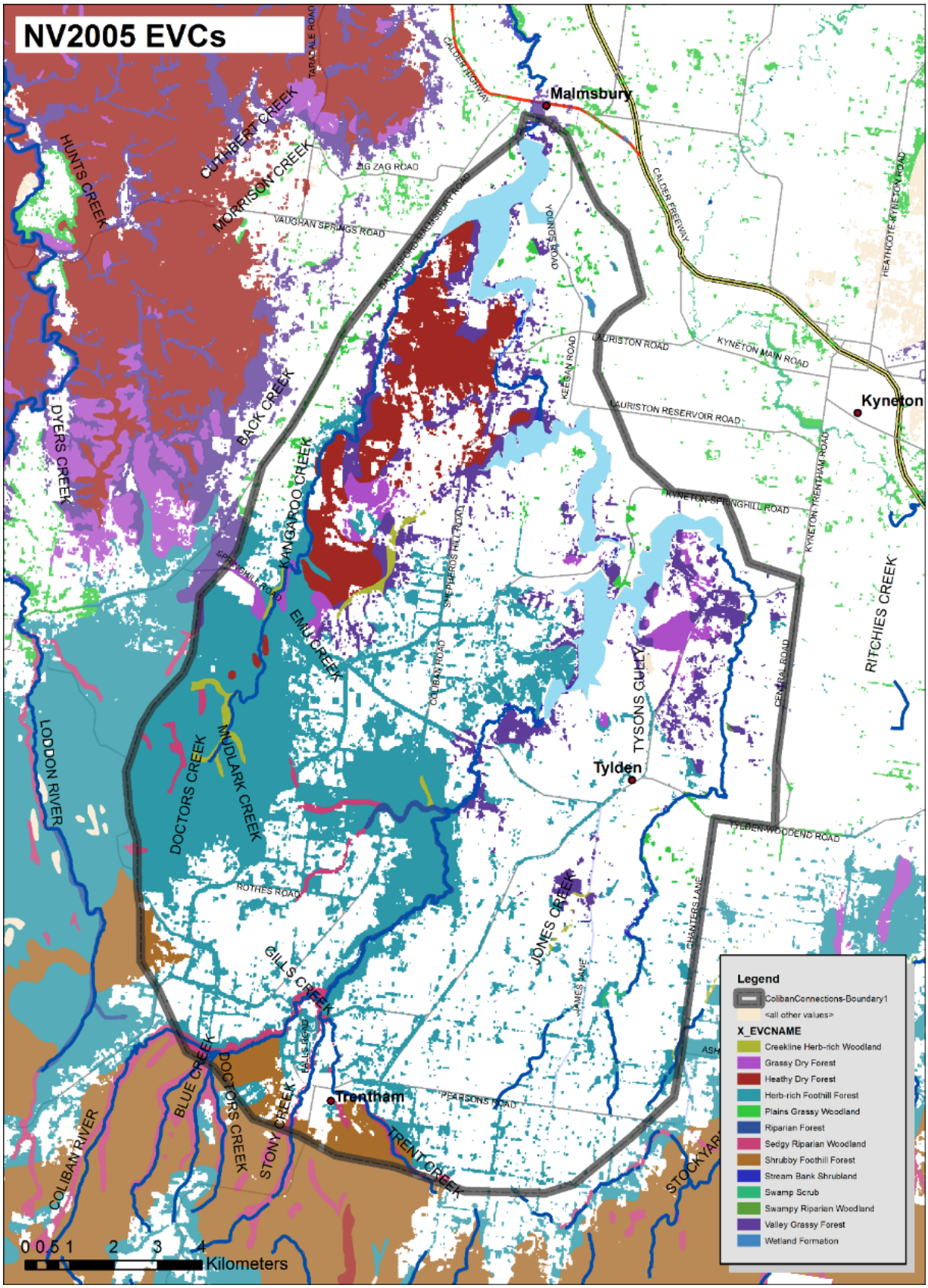


Figure 6: Present day distribution (2006) of Ecological Vegetation Classes

Focal species

Species that are a focus of landcare groups in the project area include;

- Powerful Owl,
- Brush tailed phascogale,
- Growling Grass Frog,
- Spotted tailed Quoll

Status of Assets

Rivers and creeks

The team ranked the overall condition of the riparian vegetation rivers and creeks in the area from 0 to 3. The process provided a rough estimate only and could be refined (probably by reach) using Index of Stream condition data or on-ground assessments. It indicated that waterways traversing predominantly cleared land are in poor condition, while those in the forested regions are in higher condition.

	Status (estimate – 3 Good, 1 Poor	Riparian vegetation extent	Vegetation width (ISC)	Riparian Fragmentation (ISC)	Deep pools (number remaining wet in dry periods)
Coliban River	**1.5**	*Information available – Index of stream condition. NCCMA to help?*			
Little Coliban River	**1**				
Kangaroo Creek	**2.5**				
Jones' Creek	**0.5**				
Shepherds Hut Creek	**1**				
Trent Creek	**?**				
Stony Creek	**?**				
Mudlark Creek	**2?**				
Daniels Creek	**2?**				
Milking Yard Creek	**0.5**				

At the Campaspe River near Lauriston

Hearing from ecologist Damian Cook

Patches of vegetation on public and private land

Patches of vegetation on public and private land were analysed for their size (relative rank from small to large), NVR2013 Vegetation Condition Mapping and NVR 2013 NaturePrint Score to provide a basis for estimating their current status (and conservation value). The analyses will allow decisions to be made around relative value to the conservation of the function and diversity of the project area as a whole.

	Tenure	Size (ranking)	Condition (NRV 2013 Veg Condition)	Significance (NaturePrint Score)
Wombat State Forest	Public	Large	63-84	Low-Med (along Kang Ck)
Lauriston Bushland Reserve	Public	Medium	63-84	Low
Tylden South Education Area	Public	Medium – surrounded by veg on private land that connects it to the Coliban	63-84	Low
Coliban 18 Bushland reserve	Public	Small, but surrounded by Veg (Trentham Springhill Rd)	63-84	Low-Med
Coliban 17 Bushland reserve	Public	Small – patch between Coliban Rd and Wombat Forest. (off Rothes Rd)	51-62	Low
Coliban 19 Bushland reserve	Public	Small, but surrounded by veg on private land (Coliban Rd)	63-84	Low
Coliban River Streamside Reserve	Public	Small to Med near the falls.	0-12	Med
Stream Frontage reserves	Public	Small		Various – low
Drummond 191 Bushland Reserve	Public	Small but almost connects to Lauriston BR and runs from Kangaroo Ck	63-84	Low
Drummond 189 Bushland Reserve	Public	Small – Edge of Upper Loddon SF. Runs along Back CK	63-84	Low
Drummond 190 Bushland Reserve	Public	Small, Surrounded by Native Veg Edge of Upper Loddon SF	63-84	
Kangaroo Creek Frontage	Public	Small – narrow strip once Ck leaves Wombat SF to the Coliban R. junction	63-84	Med
Kangaroo Ck between Denver and Malmsbury Reservoir	Private	Med – fragmented	63-84 interspersed with lower value	Med
Premier Mine/Trentham Rd near Tylden	Private	Small, fragmented	41-60	Low
Coliban Block of Wombat forest to Glenlyon Block	Private	Medium. Connects Coliban R. through Tylden South Edu Area to Wombat SF and takes in Small Coliban BRs	63-84	Low-Med
North Shepherds Hut Ck	Private	Small and fragmented	63-84 interspersed with very low	Small patches of high
Upper reaches Shepherds Hut Ck?? Springhill	Private	Small – Med Fragmented.	63-84 and 1-12 (patchy)	Med (because of cemetery records?)
Cemetery Reserve (Springhill)	Public	Surrounded by Native Veg.	63-84	Med

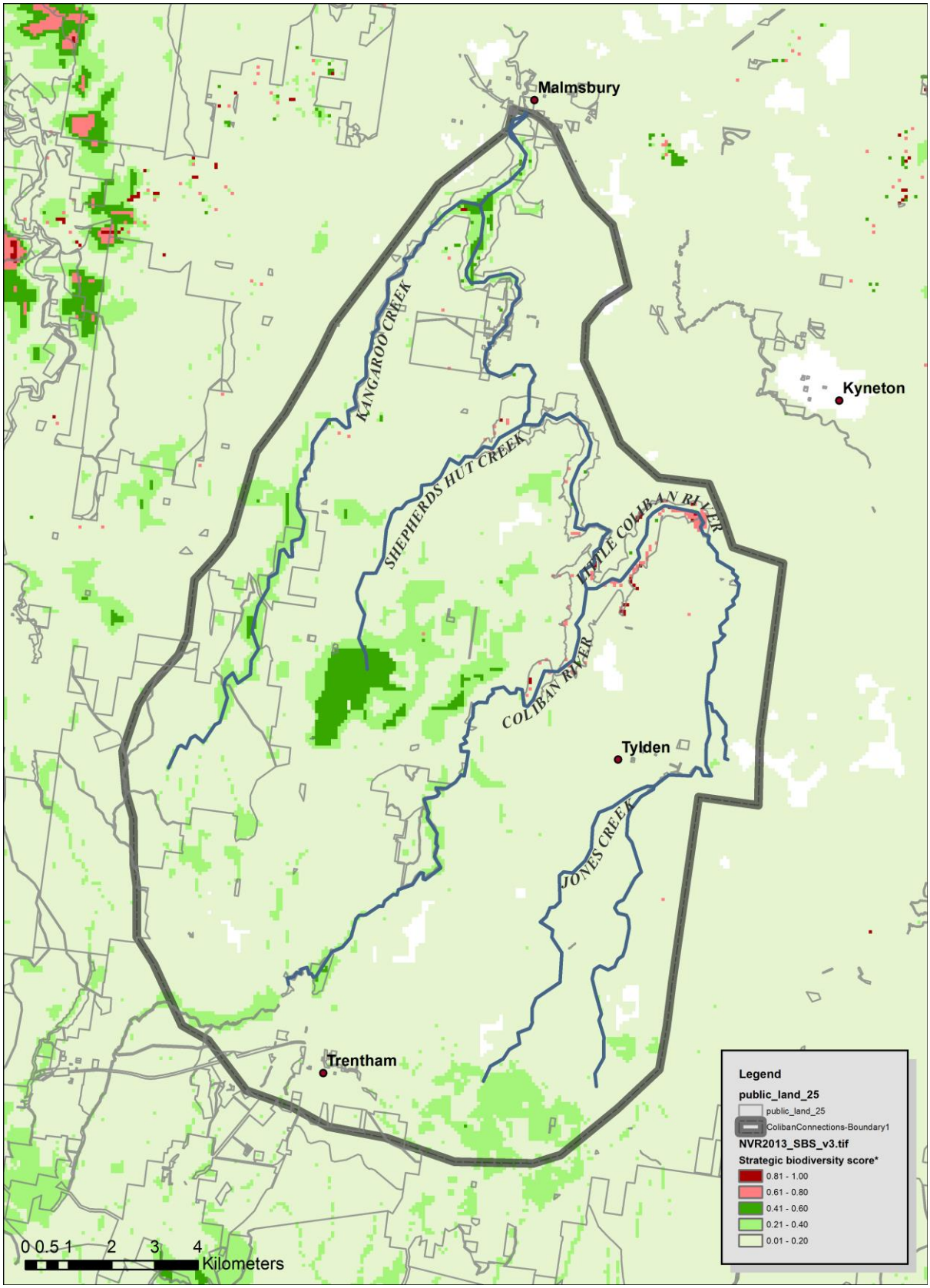


Figure 7: Biodiversity Value (Significance) of remnant vegetation in the Project area (NVR2013 - NaturePrint 3)

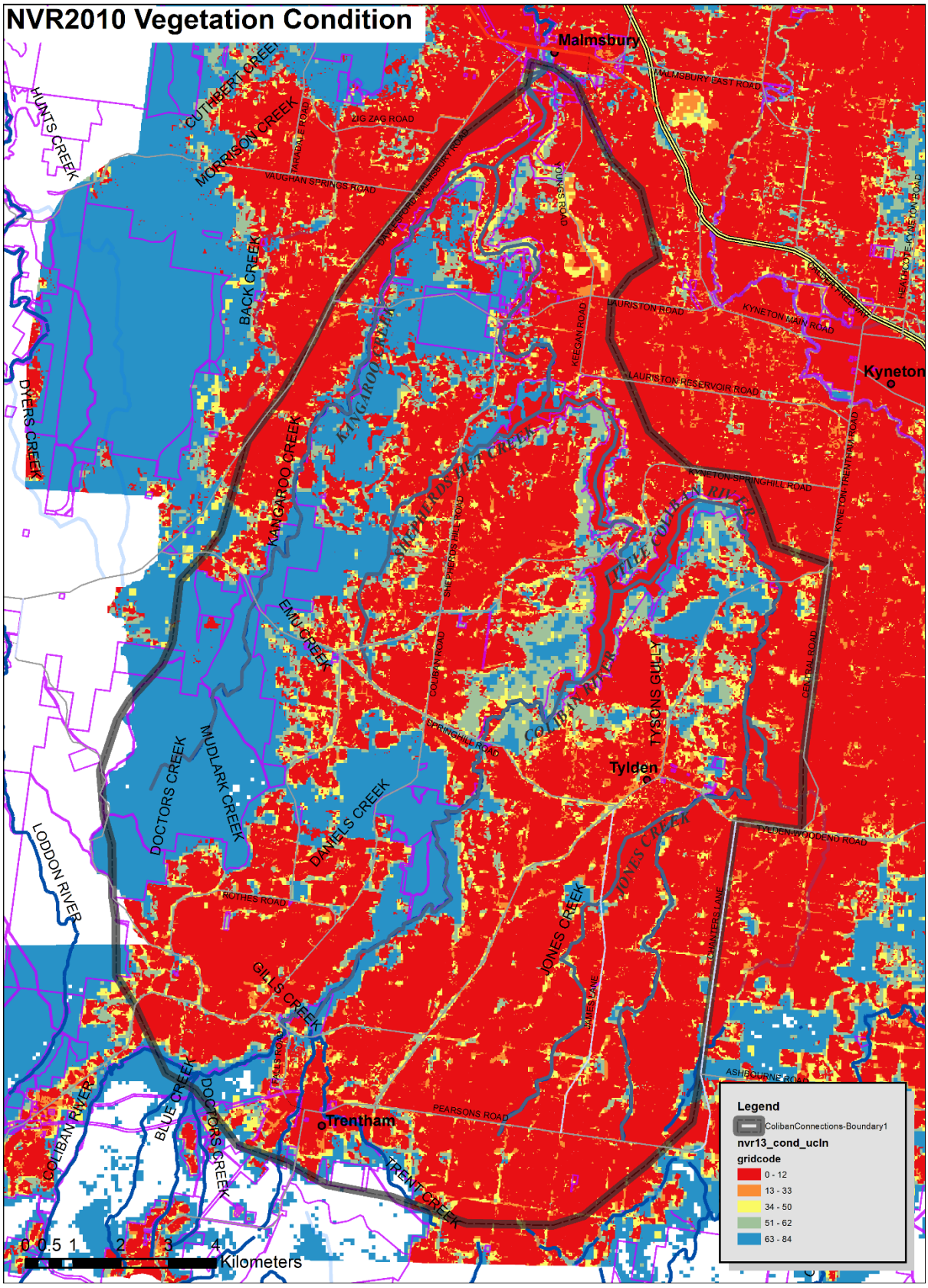


Figure 8: Vegetation Condition in the project area. (NVR2013 Condition). The higher the score the better the condition.

Vegetation types

Of the 13 Ecological Vegetation Classes mapped as being present at the time of European settlement 8 of those classes are considered to be threatened in Victoria.

Endangered

- Plains Grassy Woodland
- Swamp Scrub
- Swampy Riparian Woodland
- Wetland formation

Vulnerable

- Valley Grassy Forest
- Stream bank Shrubland
- Creekline herb-rich Woodland
- Riparian Forest

The area remaining of the EVC types originally occurring in the project area is shown in the table below. Plains Grassy Woodland, once 33% of the area in 1750 has been reduced to 1.5% of its original extent. Valley Grassy Forests have also been severely reduced in extent, with only 15 % remaining. We have not undertaken condition analyses or fragmentation analysis of these EVCs however this could be done with existing statewide modelled datasets. It is likely that only the forest types remaining in the large blocks of vegetation are in reasonable condition, with those much-diminished community types likely to be in small, highly fragmented patches and their floristic composition highly altered.

EVC type	Threat status	2005 area (ha)	1750 area (ha)	% of area 1750	Loss of area since 1750	% remaining	Average patch size/ Fragmentation index	Condition score
Plains Grassy Woodland	Endangered	182.1	12212.28	33.17	12030.18	1.49		
Creekline Herb-rich Woodland	Vulnerable	134.57	269.57	0.73	135	49.92		
Grassy Dry Forest	Depleted	274.59	617.79	1.68	343.2	44.45		
Heathy Dry Forest	Least concern	1047.93	1437.9	3.91	389.97	72.88		
Herb-rich Foothill Forest	Depleted	7344.45	18543.66	50.37	11199.21	39.61		
Riparian Forest	Vulnerable	98.84	99.77	0.27	0.93	99.07		
Sedgy Riparian Woodland	Depleted	602.36	718.68	1.95	116.32	83.81		
Shrubby Foothill Forest	Least concern	8271.32	8777.9	23.84	506.58	94.23		
Stream Bank Shrubland	Vulnerable	77.59	445.69	1.21	368.1	17.41		
Swamp Scrub	Endangered	19.1	36.28	0.10	17.18	52.65		
Swampy Riparian Woodland	Endangered	6.72	126.47	0.34	119.75	5.31		
Valley Grassy Forest	Vulnerable	1282.1	5634.94	15.31	4352.84	22.75		
Water Body - man-made		831.53		0.00	-831.53			
Wetland Formation	Endangered	9.76	104.36	0.28	94.6	9.35		
Grand Total		20182.96	36813.01	100.00	16630.05	52.57		

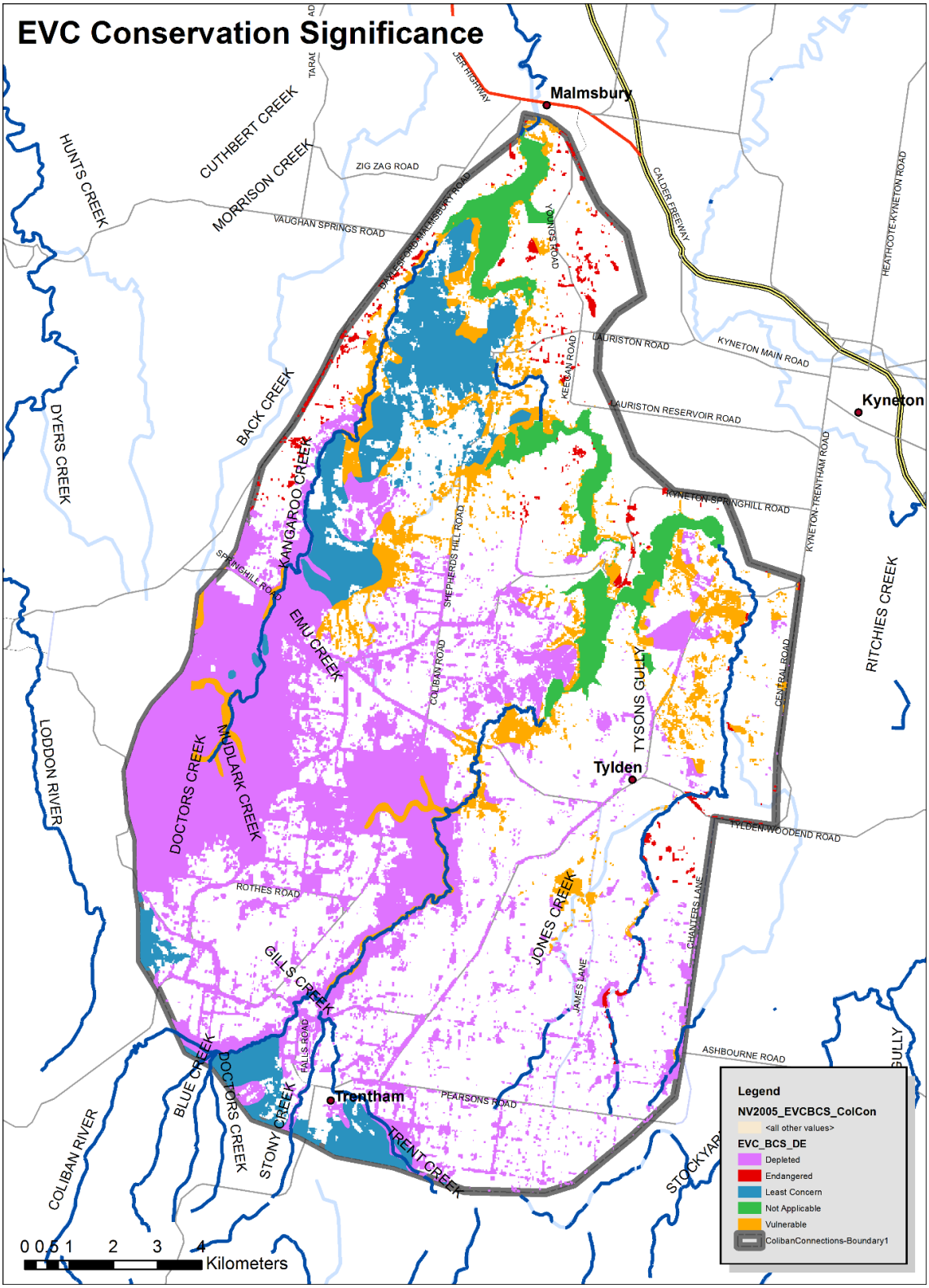


Figure 9 Conservation significance of Ecological Vegetation Classes.

Roadsides

The map below shows roadside vegetation condition as mapped in 2006 by the NCCMA Roadside Vegetation Assessment. It shows that only a small areas of roadside vegetation is in good condition, with most of the remaining native roadside vegetation in poor condition.

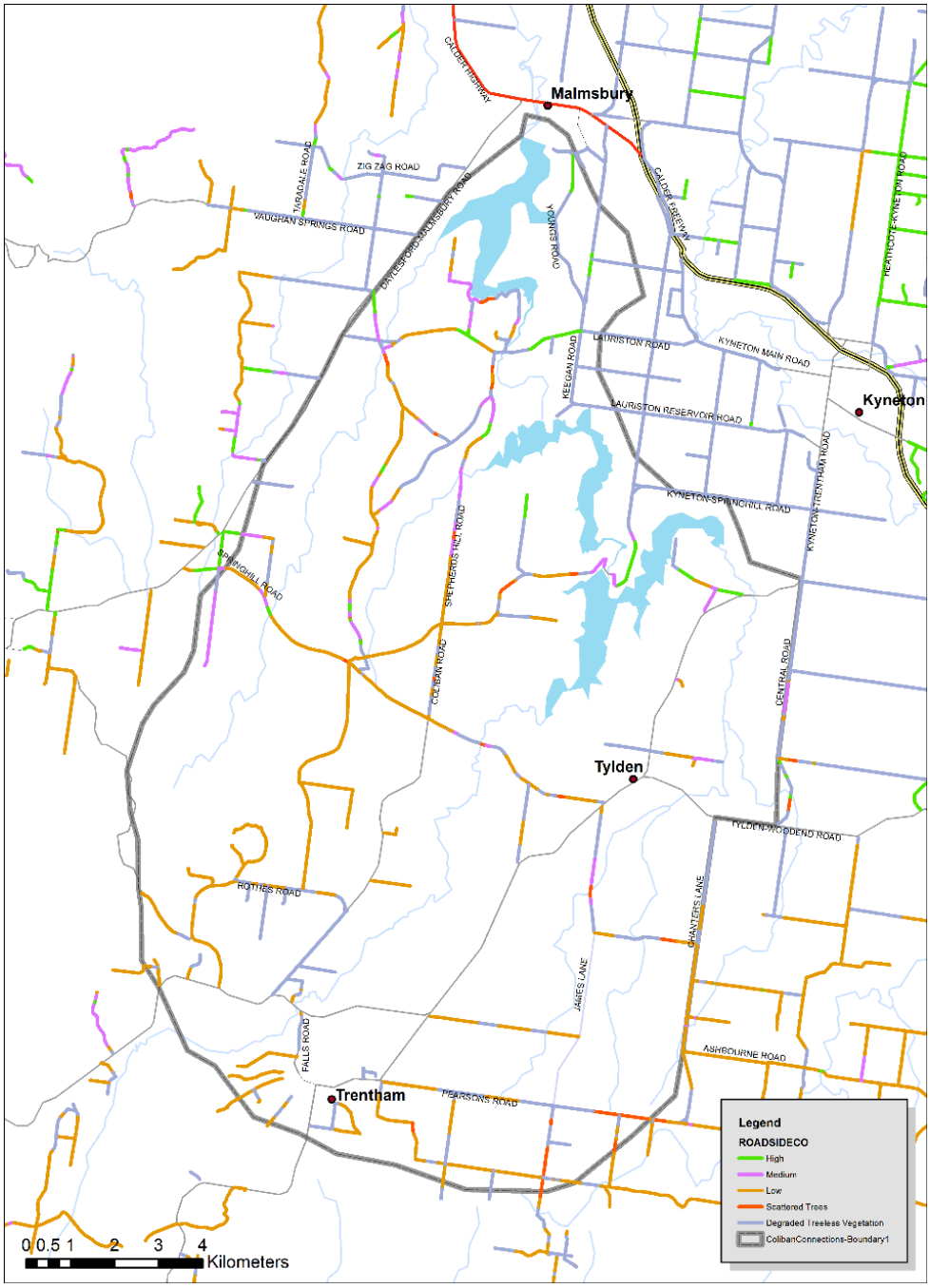


Figure 10: Condition of roadside vegetation as mapped in 2006 by the NCCMA Roadside Vegetation Assessment.

Critical threats and key factors

The team discussed the threats and factors that were most affecting the viability of conservation assets so that strategic actions are directed to where they will have the most impact. Threats and factors are listed for each asset type below along with specific actions for addressing them.

Rivers and creeks

Key threats were identified as being:

- Uncontrolled stock access
- Invasive plants
- Climate change
- Vegetation fragmentation - historical vegetation clearance
- Fire

Specific actions:

- Fencing waterways to restrict stock access
- Identify potential deep waterholes and springs for prioritization of works
- Revegetation
- Identification of weed infestations and develop communication channels between relevant agencies to work towards Integrated Pest Management

Patches of remnant vegetation

Key threats to sizable patches of remnant vegetation include:

- Vegetation clearance for new dwellings and off-setting
- Fragmentation (past land clearance)
- Lack of knowledge of value of vegetation
- Land management
- Fire
- Weed species

Specific actions include:

- More knowledge of distribution and condition of remnant vegetation
    - Asset inventory – survey of condition using a standard and easily employed methodology/tools
    - Inventory of remnant native vegetation on landcare members' properties (using GIS mapping tools)
- Protection (fencing, covenanting)
- Management (grazing and fire)
- Restoration

Roadsides and railway lines

Key threats to roadside vegetation include:

- Council Engineering Department – weed spray and slashing
- Fire breaks ploughed by farmers
- Weeds
- Firewood collection, "Wood Grubs"
- Poor management
- Illegal activities such as cultivation and cropping

Specific actions:

- Identify high priority roadsides from a connectivity perspective and ensure they are included in the MRSC Council Roadside Vegetation Plan

- Increase community awareness of the value of roadside vegetation
- Establish landcare 'roadside vegetation' working groups
- Signage for significant roadside vegetation
- More survey – CMA resources?

Significant vegetation types

Key threats to significant vegetation

- Past clearance- fragmentation and small patch size
- Lack of knowledge and awareness of former distribution and composition
- Fire
- Land management
- Weeds
- Climate change

Specific actions

- Awareness raising – possibly through establishing reference sites
- One-on-one property consultations
- Network human asset register of expertise
- Revegetation, restoration, appropriate management

Focal species

Key threats include

- Insufficient habitat
- Poor condition habitat
- Habitat fragmentation

Objectives

Objective 1: **Contribute to the restoration of major rivers and creeks in the project area to ensure 50% are in good condition by 2035 and are more naturally functioning ecosystems (Monitor condition through ISC and rapid appraisal techniques)**

Objective 2: **Protect existing remnant native vegetation and increase the extent and condition of native vegetation in strategic locations so that it provides viable habitat for threatened species and ecological connectivity**

Objective 3: **Ensure no further decline in condition and increase the condition in priority roadside vegetation**

Objective 4: **Protect existing remnant and increase the extent and condition of endangered Plains Grassy Woodlands and Wetland Formation (and others?? – Grassy Foothill Forest?) ecological vegetation classes in the region to 20% of their original extent by 2030.**

Objective 5: **Ensure the long-term persistence of focal species including the Powerful Owl, Phascogale, Growling Grass Frog, Spotted tailed Quoll**

Strategic Actions

How will we get there – what are the larger strategic actions we need to take to be able to reach our objectives through the actions identified in this plan?

STRATEGIC ACTION 1*: Survey, planning and refinement of priority areas, vegetation classes and species and the project's targets*

This plan is a first pass at setting objectives and actions for the project. Implementation of those objectives will require further consultation and scientific input and finer-scale planning. Suggestions to how this could progress include:

- MRSC is currently developing a Roadside Vegetation Plan and are surveying a selection of roadsides identified as high priority by the 2006. Assessment should be completed by the end of this year and results used to help set targets and actions around Roadsides for this project.
- Remnant vegetation asset inventory on Public Land – survey of condition using a standard and easily employed methodology/tools
- Inventory of remnant native vegetation on Private Land – beginning with landcare members' properties (using GIS mapping tools)
- Further identification of focal species for which, future restored habitat can be designed. UCLN will engage terrestrial and aquatic ecologists with knowledge of the local area to carry out this work. Starting with a review of the Action Plans, the ecologists will determine an inventory of focal species for the project areas taking account of such factors as: local Landcare groups' existing priority species, ecologically important species, area sensitive species, habitat specialists, dispersal limited species, barrier sensitive species and meta-populations. Advice will be sought on habitat requirements (type, area, connectivity) for focal species and on barriers and threats to their movement
- Ensure impact of climate change are adequately incorporated into project implementation

STRATEGIC ACTION 2: *Public education and interpretation*

This was a key strategic direction to achieve our objectives. Implementation of actions will depend very much on the attitudes and knowledge of the communities within the project area. Community education will be crucial. Some ideas were proposed in the Actions for individual assets and they include:

- Establishing representative sites for ecological communities we aim to protect and restore
- One-on-one property consultations to raise the awareness of the value of native vegetation on peoples' properties, as often knowledge of its value is low.
- Increase community awareness of the value of roadside vegetation – including signage for significant roadside vegetation
- Interpretative material and promotion of the Coliban Connections projects objectives

STRATEGIC ACTION 3: *Landcare group capacity building*

Engaged and empowered Landcare groups will be key to implementing project. While the landcare groups have been highly effective in working in their local areas, working collaboratively around expanded objectives will require another level of input from, in some cases already stretched, volunteers.

- Assessment of what existing capacity there is within member landcare groups to implement the project and what is needed over the next 10 years. Plan for this.
- Work with UCLN to build capacity
- Establish landcare 'roadside vegetation' working groups and other groups relevant to project objectives and actions

STRATEGIC ACTION 4: ***Advocacy***

Providing a voice for the environment was seen as an important and necessary role for the project and its proponents. We decided that the project's objectives should represent what the natural environment needs to be sustainable in the long-term, not around current political/administrative constraints etc.

STRATEGIC ACTION 5: ***Partnerships***

Restoring landscapes at large scales require collaboration and alignment of objectives of the many stakeholder in the region. Ongoing engagement and partnerships will be furthered or developed with;

- Dja Dja Warrung Tradional Owners
- North Central CMA – Upper Coliban River project
- Coliban Water
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Forests Vic
- DEWLP
- Parks Vic?

STRATEGIC ACTION 6: ***Governance, implementation and resources***

- Develop project governance model
- Scope resource needs (personnel, funding)
- Develop implementation plans for priority assets/areas (Biolinks)

STRATEGIC ACTION 7: ***Focus efforts around landscape-scale biolinks***

Large-scale bioinks were identified considering assets identified in this planning process. They are described and mapped below. They could provide the focus for future implementation planning and project community engagement, communication and promotion and the focus of landholder and community grants for:

- Protection of existing habitat
- Enhancement of habitat – including infill plantings, weed/pest control, nest boxes etc
- Revegetation

1. ***Lauriston to Drummond Biolink***

This biolink focuses on connections between the forests of the Upper Loddon State Forest, Lauriston Bushland Reserve, Kangaroo Creek and the Coliban River near Lauriston. It extends to the east of the Coliban river to take in endangered and high conservation value Wetlands Formation (EVC) – that are little understood or protected. It additionally takes in former Plains Grassy Woodlands on its eastern extent (soil type?) along the Daylesford Rd.

2. ***Lauriston to Spring Hill Biolink (possibly merge with Shepherds Hut Creek Biolink)***

This biolink largely follows Shepherds Hut Creek connecting the Wombat State Forest near Springhill to the Coliban River near the Lauriston Reservoir. It takes some significant vegetation on private land near the reservoir and around Springhill, abutting the Wombat State Forest. The area was in a large part originally Valley Grassy Forest (Vulnerable) with some Heathy Dry Forest in the upper reaches of the Shepherds Hut Creek.

3. ***Coliban River to Wombat Forest at Mudlark Creek***

This biolink connects the Coliban River downstream from the Trentham Falls to the Wombat Forest near Mudlark Creek. It takes in some significant patches of public land, the Tylden South Education Area, Wombat Forest Coliban Block as well as some significant patches of native vegetation on private land around these public lands. It is largely composed of Herb-rich Foothill Forest (Depleted) and riparian communities.

4. ***Ashborne to Campaspe Biolink*** (harder to define and I am still working on how to approach it). Area is highly cleared, not major blocks of public land (stepping stones). Was originally Herb-rich Foothill Forest (Depleted)
5. ***Waterways*** that are not in any of the above Biolinks but have been identified in this plan.

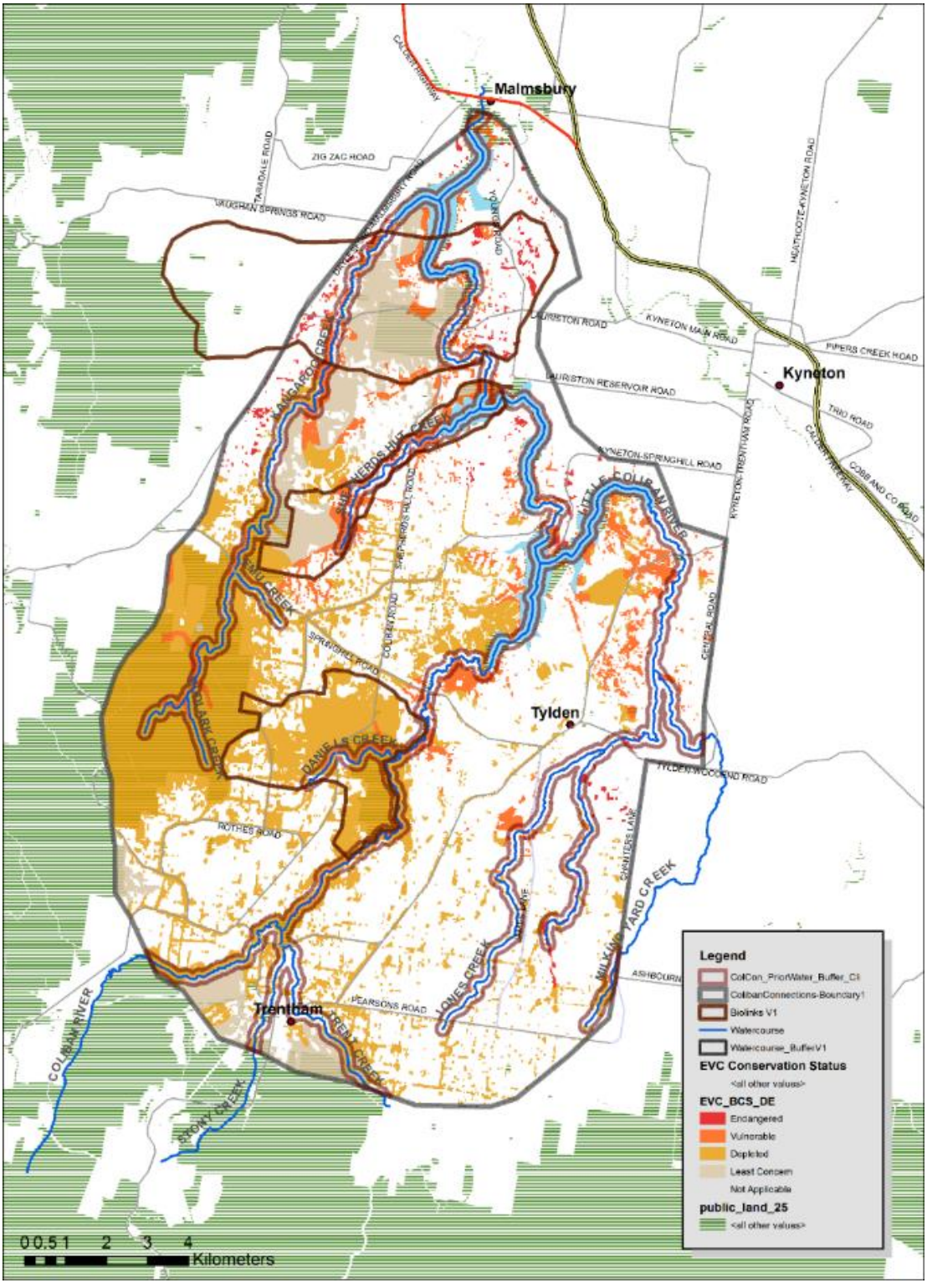


Figure 11. Landscape-scale biolinks identified in this planning process using key landscape elements (waterways, blocks of remnant vegetation, elevational gradients and ecological vegetation classes of high significance).

Appendix 1: Stages and participants involved in developing this Plan

Workshops

John Walters, Malmsbury Landcare

Rob Burdett, Malmsbury Landcare

Brendan Smith, Tylden Landcare

Sophie Bickford, Tylden Landcare

Barry Elliot, Trentham Landcare

Alan Denehey, Ashbourne Landcare

Liz Burns, Trentham Landcare

Patricia Scheltus, Trentham Landcare

Michelle Wyatt, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Facilitator: Sophie Bickford.

Program for the Coliban Connections Field Day 24 July 2016

TIME	WHAT	WHERE	TOPIC
9.00 for 9.15 am	Start - meet	Tylden Hall, Tylden	Acknowledgement of Country, Intro to the day, John Walters, Malmsbury Landcare
9.15 am – 9.30	Bus	Swabys Hill via Tylden-Springhill Rd. Left Springhill Trentham Rd. Mudlark Track.	
9.30 – 11.00	Good condition river & forest vegetation walk and talk.	Kangaroo Creek, Swabys Hill, Wombat State Forest	River health, vegetation, flora, fauna 'intact system' - Damian Cook. Catchment vegetation - Paul Foreman.
11.00 – 11.15	Bus	To Drummond via Sugarloaf Rd, Springhill Rd, Dickersons Lane, Drummond Daylesford Rd.	
11.15 – 12.30	Lunch ✓Toilet	Drummond Hall, Drummond	
12.30 – 12.45	Bus	Lauriston - Coliban R.	
12.45 – 1.30	Poor condition river walk and talk. Landscape connections.	Coliban River/Coliban Water Reserve. Surrounding: Lauriston Nature Reserve.	Coliban R. – altered system – gorse, willows. Damian. Catchment vegetation and connections to River. Paul F.
1.30 – 1.45	Bus	Shepherds Hill Rd to Upper Coliban Reservoir	
1.45 – 2.15	Reservoirs; their impact and potential walk and talk.	Upper Coliban Reservoir	Rod Andrews- Former Engineer with State Rivers and Water Supply. John Walters – Aboriginal stone tool quarry.
2.15 – 2.30	Bus to Little Coliban R reveg site	Bridge… Kyneton Tylden Rd	
2.30 – 3.15	River restoration site walk and talk	Little Coliban River-restoration site	River vegetation restoration. Brendan Smith, Tylden Landcare. Damian Cook & Paul Foreman.
3.15 – 3.30	Bus	To Tylden Hall	
3.30 – 4.00	Afternoon tea, wrap up and where to from here.	Tylden Hall	Towards a Landscape Action Plan. Sophie Bickford.

Coliban Connections field day feedback

John Walters in the Wombat Forest near Kangaroo Creek on the field day.

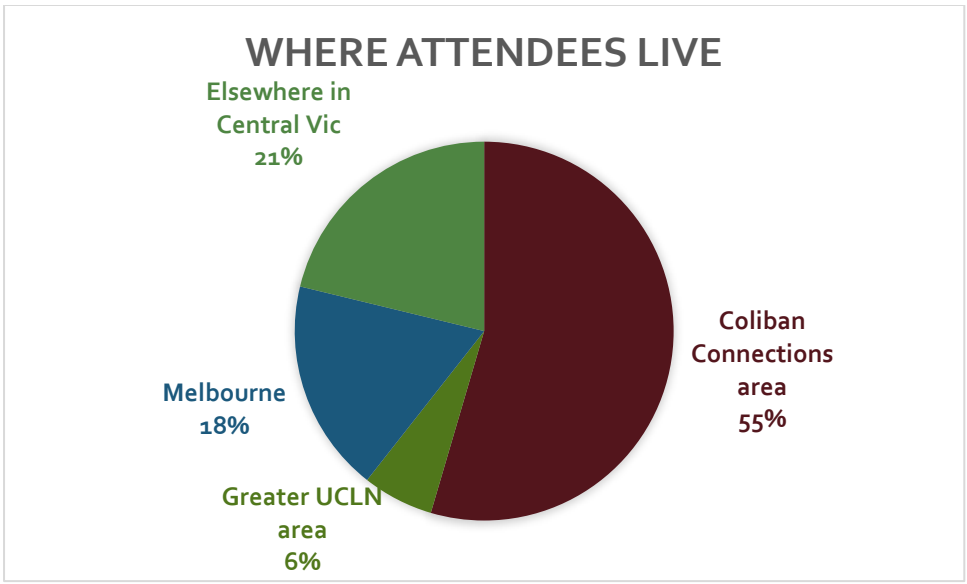
57 Attendees, including speakers.

30 Feedback forms were received on the day.

Where attendees came from:

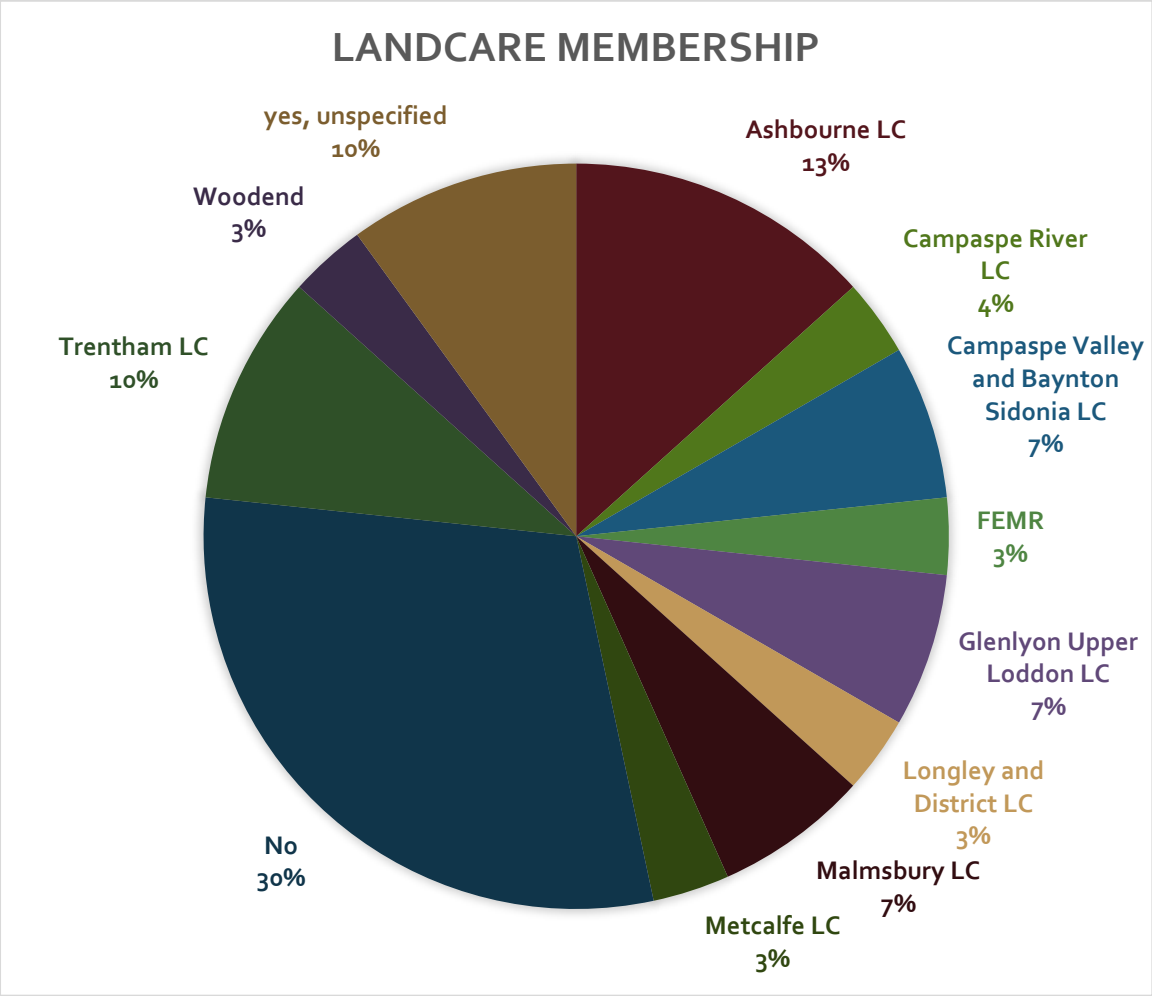
Attendees were asked where they lived.

- Approximately half live permanently in the Coliban Connections project area.
- One attendee lived in Melbourne but owned a property in Trentham.
- Other attendees were from other regions in the Upper Campaspe LC Network area, or from elsewhere in Central Victoria (near the network area, Bendigo, Gisborne, Lake Eppalock).



Landcare membership

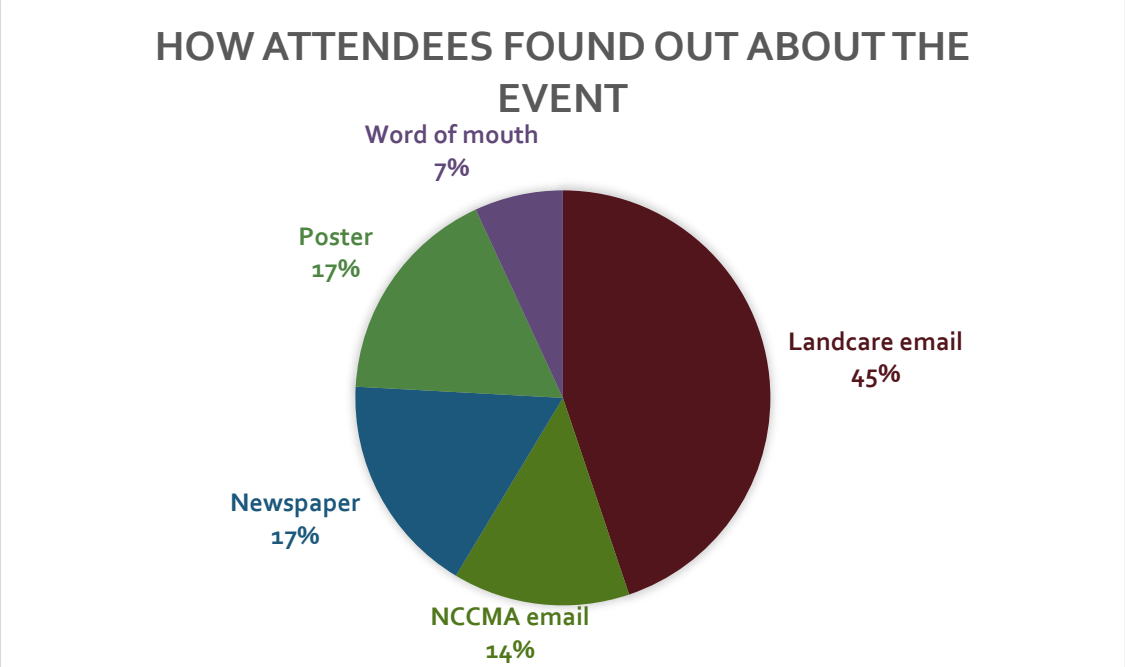
About 30% of attendees were not members of landcare groups. Most others were from landcare groups within the UCLN area.



How attendees heard about the Field Day

About two thirds of attendees heard about the day from either their local landcare email or the email news from North Central CMA.

The other third heard through the poster and or newspaper – this value accords with the approximately 30% of non-landcare member attendees.



What attendees liked about the Field Day

The graph below shows the different responses to the day as a percentage of all responses received (62 in total). It shows that what stood out for most people was the variety and choice of sites visited, the insight that the 'informative' and 'interesting' speakers provided and they also appreciated how well the day was organised – commenting on how well it flowed and worked. There were also a significant number of positive remarks about the food and being driven around in a bus!

It is worth noting some of the less frequently made comments – a number expressed their appreciation of the inclusive 'landscape'/geographical' perspective the field day gave.

Some suggestions were made – information was asked for on

- invertebrates,
- plant species lists for sites (main species ecologists spoke about) and
- for preparatory information to be made accessible before/after the trip.