

Appendix

Greater Hamilton Volcanic Trails Master Plan Stakeholder and Community Feedback following exhibition

Consultation Methods

1. Draft Masterplan online (Jan- Feb 2022) - The Draft Master Plan report was made available online for public viewing.
2. Presented to Gunditjmarra Board and Executive Officer Damein Bell
3. Facebook & email - The draft Master Plan report was made available online for public viewing. Community members were encouraged to participate and provide their feedback through email and/or the Southern Grampians Shire Council's Facebook page.
4. Stakeholder Engagement – The draft masterplan was shared with all the user groups and agencies were requested feedback via email.

14 responses were received from individuals and stakeholders.

Overall feedback was positive and constructive; and several congratulated Council on their leadership in developing this document. Many took the time to provide detailed responses. Most of the feedback related to the next stages of the project particularly in the detailed design phase. Feedback in relation to factual errors in the report were fact checked and corrected where appropriate. Opinion provided on aspects of the report have been noted.

Feedback received did not change the overall content of the document but again it is noted, that more work is required with land managers, traditional owners and community in the next stage of detail design of each site.

Land Managers Feedback

Parks Victoria were invited and participated as part of the project working group including site visits. Department of Environment Water Land and Planning (DEWLP) as land owners have responded on behalf of Parks Victoria. The overall feedback received was positive with ongoing engagement required in the detailed design phase when relevant stages of the master plan are ready be further developed. DEWLP noted many of the regulatory steps that will be required in order to realise the objectives of the document. DEWLP identified several areas that will require further negotiation and understanding in the detailed design stage of the project. The main themes of feedback received were on the following:

- Land Management strategies
- Further engagement with traditional owners
- Native Vegetation assessment
- Emergency Management Plan for bush fires
- Biodiversity and Planning Permits

Detailed Community and Stakeholder Feedback Summary

Reference/Item	Reviewer Comment	Designer/Originator Response
Mount Napier	Fire risk is HUGE in the state park – we have had problems in past where campers have lit fires that have got away – the Park is a very dangerous spot in the summer and access and exits to the area are problematic. Given the event of a fire it is more than likely that the brigade response locally will be to wait till the fire comes out and fight it on the perimeter	Further assessment and feasibility studies to be done prior to detailed design- Consideration to be given on designated zones at campsites
Mount Napier	Adjoining landholders have reported escaping dogs of walkers in past who have chased kangaroos and been lost in the park and then move onto private farming areas- clearly a problem. The wildlife on the mountain are currently quiet and quite used to people. Dogs will change this.	Ongoing consultation required prior to detail design
Mount Napier	The landholders who are on both sides of the NE Mt Napier Access Track <u>need to be consulted</u> directly	Ongoing consultation required prior to detail design
Mount Napier	We looked at this land (either side of the Mt Napier Access Track) to purchase many years ago -and our understanding was that <u>that this track is actually on private land which continues until it adjoins the Shire council quarry site – so ownership of that land on the track may need to be clarified ?</u>	Ownership of land to be confirmed prior to any work
Mount Napier	Menzies Pit is actually called Menzel’s Pit	Updated in Masterplan
Mount Napier	Phone reception for safety is an issue	Review in detail design
Mount Napier	There would need to be a toilet if a carpark at Mt Napier Access Track is constructed	Review in detail design
Mount Napier	There does not seem to be any funding separately listed for the Mt Napier Access Track /Car park/toilet development	Funding will be sought for all future work with further

		work needed to confirm the project scope
Mount Napier	The park boundary fence on the North side would require some maintenance and signage to prevent tourists entering private property	Review in detail design
Mount Napier	Is there funding for a water tank together with CFA coupling for emergencies as it is too far from other water sources in an emergency	Funding will be sought for all future work with further work needed to confirm the project scope
Mount Napier	What provisions for ongoing maintenance (including weed control) of the track and camping ground on DWELP land is planned, as maintenance has historically been neglected	Review in detail design
Mount Napier	Signage at Mt Rouse and Mt Napier could indicating Gazette Landcare's ongoing project to create a wildlife corridor between Mt Rouse and Mt Napier could be helpful as well www.gazettelandcare.com.au	Will be considered in the scope for signage in detailed design
Page 97, 5.7 Crater - South entry	Absolute MUST - Remove dilapidated entrance sign before it falls on car	Agree
Page 97, 5.7 Crater - South entry	<u>Put gate at entrance to close site at TFB - great idea</u>	Agree
Page 97, 5.7 Crater - South entry	A new gate (and small fence if needed) to restrict public entrance to the railway quarry. Only special interest groups allowed entry. This should be done ASAP to stop rubbish dumping - and possible damage to the many layers of sediment which is unique in Victoria geological history.	Will be considered and evaluated in detailed design
Page 97, 5.7 Crater - South entry	A new shelter, BBQ and picnic facilities at car park.	Review in detail design
Page 97, 5.7 Crater - South entry	New signage at entrance to highlight Mt Rouse Reserve - and a direction to the crater car park.	Review in detail design

Page 97, 5.7 Crater - South entry	Power supply needed for possible future events in the crater. A decade ago, Penshurst had a music festival and the crater was considered, but there would have been too many planning and physical problems, and it was held in the Penshurst Botanic gardens. However, the crater would be a spectacular backdrop to concerts.	Review in detail design
Page 97, 5.7 Crater - South entry	Access to the crater has to be denied to cars (never heard this is a problem). Only access to the crater should be walking or mountain bikes from the car park.	Will be considered and evaluated in detailed design
Page 97, 5.7 Crater - South entry	Secondary Importance - A new walking trail to crater (red line). Perhaps, but again only accessible for walkers/mountain bikers.	Review in detail design
Page 97, 5.7 Crater - South entry	I am not in favor of revegetating the edge of the crater. I don't favor prettying up nature. It's been there for 330,000 years and looks good on it's own. Perhaps put a ring of large blue stone boulders around it to accentuate it's shape.	Will be considered and evaluated in detailed design
Page 97, 5.7 Crater - South entry	A new walking/mountain bike circle around the crater is low priority. It would be costly and again interfere with what nature put there - which is my main consideration in everything. I think it would be better to upgrade the existing tracks around the face of Mt Rouse - they are currently poorly maintained.	Review in detail design
	My suggestion of removing half of the 200 metres of shrubs on the left hand side of the road (up the Mt Rouse Tourist Road) hasn't been accepted - people want to see the crater in all it's glory from up high (up the first bend which leads to the BBQ area), currently the shrubs block any vision of the crater.	Will be considered and evaluated in detailed design
	I like the idea of bench seats at the corner before the road turns sharp right, it's an unbelievable view. There could be an information board at this corner Re Mt Napier and Kolor (perhaps not the wind farm which dominates the horizon)	Will be considered and evaluated in detailed design
Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	A new picnic shelter, tables and toilets are a must. The facilities presently there are outdated and crass.	Agree
Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	The car park is huge and can cater for many cars. Perhaps planting native shrubs in the middle of the car park would 'break-up' all that bitumen.	will be assessed in detailed design

Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	A sign is needed on the road from the BBQ area to the summit, only cars and mini buses can go further, caravans and buses should stop at the BBQ area. The small 'car park' at the bottom of the steps is too dangerous to manoeuvre large vehicles.	Location of signage will be expanded and assessed in detail design
Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	There needs to be a sign at the picnic/BBQ area giving the geological Aboriginal and European historical links with Mt Rouse. The geological info is easily the most important.	Location of signage will be expanded and assessed in detail design
Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	Some trees at the picnic ground need to be cut back (or even 3-4 removed). The spectacular vista of the Grampians has to be seen - Trimming the trees would give a fantastic view of the most majestic sight in Western Victoria - The Grampians.	Will be assessed in the detailed design
Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	The existing path from the BBQ area around the face of Mt Rouse should be better maintained for walkers and mountain bikers	Agree
Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	I agree that a stone wall should be erected to provide a barrier the existing quarry	No change required in the masterplan
Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	A stone wall barrier should be erected to stop vehicles accessing the second peak.	Will be assessed in the detailed design
Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	The existing Ritchie Street car park does need an upgrade. The concrete footpath should be blue stone pavers.	Will be assessed in the detailed design
Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	Low Priority - A new bike trail from the picnic ground down to the crater would be very expensive giving its length. Again I would rather see the nature scene that's been there 330,000 years rather than people riding bikes.	Will be assessed in the detailed design

Page 97, 5.7 Summit - North entry	Low Priority - I would like to see signs in Peshurst, on Mt Rouse and especially on Macarthur Road pointing tourists to the Budj Bim world heritage area. Tourism is expected to explode in BB area in next five years and I hope Peshurst (and Mt Rouse) can gain even a tiny fraction of this tourist flow.	Location of signage will be expanded and assessed in detail design
Page 101 - Heritage Interpretation	Mt Rouse now is thought to be around 330,000 years old, the 1.8 million years reading is from a previous lava flow, not Mt Rouse.	Noted
Page 101 - Heritage Interpretation	The date for the Aboriginal Protectorate is slightly wrong. It began in 1842 by Charles Sturt but he was sacked within a few months and succeeded by Dr John Watton. It was never a great success and Dr Watton resigned in 1849. It was formally closed in 1850.	Updated in Masterplan
page 102	I agree with timber information panels at the main car park and perhaps at the summit lookout. I am not in favor of timber seats - use the blue stone material from Bamstone.	Material selection to be done in detailed design
Page 103	The 3 information points are where I would put them. I am confused about the 6 themes - are they supposed to be on information boards? If so, then I think we should exaggerate the significance of the Aboriginal connection. Two out of the six themes highlighting an Aboriginal connection is one too many. Number 6 says missions and reserves - Mt Rouse was a Protectorate not a mission.	No update in the masterplan
Page 122 - Cultural Advise	The date is wrong - The Mt Rouse protectorate was established in 1842 and closed in 1850. Be careful about using the term 1830's - The big expansion of white settlement, and the resultant clashes with local Aborigine tribe were mainly in the 1840's and beyond.	Updated in Masterplan
	You quoted Johnny "Aboriginal people would have witnessed the explosion of the volcano" - Johnny could't be more wrong. Mt Rouse exploded 330,000 years ago, homo sapiens didn't exist! The arrival of Aborigines in Australia (the earliest so far) is 65,000 years ago and only 40,000 years ago in Victoria. If the claim of humans witnessing Mt Rouse erupting ever went on an information board, we would be a laughing stock.	Updated in Masterplan

	I appreciate that you will be working toward a balance of views regarding aboriginal and white history. Again, I stress that I am not racist, but feel with culture cancel exploding that the white man and our history is being wiped away and we have to feel ashamed of our history.	No update in the masterplan
	I think there should be more information available, on site, highlighting the flora and fauna of the Reserve. The Field Nats.have a information board at the camping ground shelter but there needs to be similar information at the Falls Platform area, both on the flora and fauna.	Will be reassessed in the masterplan
Page 3	Swimming is a very popular activity - Include in the description	Update in Masterplan
Page 7	Include history of vivianite mining and more information about Phascogale	Update in Masterplan
Page 7	Strongly object - 'There are strong connections and sense of ownership....focused on recreation'	No update in the masterplan
Page 8	potential damage from collection of firewood - Not a problem	Update in Masterplan
Page 9	Long dry grass alongside paths - Issue with snakes and fire(cigarette butts)	Review in detail design
Page 12	Upgrade lower entrance gate	Review in detail design
Page 13	Weir - access in drier weather only	Review in detail design
Page 14	Location 3 indicated as camping area is not a camping area	Update in Masterplan
Page 61	Upper campground - Include more detail of the upgrades at the existing picnic shelter	Will be reassessed in the detailed design
Page 61	Another set of toilets to be included	
Page 62	Removal of Rotunda - What will the area be used for?	Not identified at this stage and will be scoped out in detail design
Page 63	Dot point 2 - Only access across river when dry	

Page 110	Remove stone feature bench seat from scope	Indicative only and will be reviewed in detailed design
Page 120	Disagree with the statement ' The duplication of toilets was discussed ...both locations' There should be speed limit signage on the Reserve roadway, there is none at present.	Noted Review in detail design
	One major consideration that comes to mind regarding the costing of implementing the recommended developments is that this document does not include any provision for the ongoing cost to the Shire after the implementation of the Volcanic Trail Masterplan . These costs include the supervision of people in these reserves and the cost of repair and maintenance to the infrastructure that will be necessary with the anticipated increase in human use of the reserves.	Estimated operational costs will be completed in detailed design and also factored into the material selection
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	Removal of trees between car park and the falls (p. 63) – why? The Falls cannot be seen until one is almost upon them and the trees offer a ‘soft’ entrance to the Falls as well as providing shade along the path and habitat for native animals.	Native veg assessments will be done prior to any finalisation of works
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	Walk on south side of the river – the crossing of the river at the ‘swimming hole’ is only feasible in summer. There is a public road reserve almost opposite that does allow all-year access but that might require creating a parking area on the first part of that road reserve (no doubt most people would drive around to it).	Review in detail design
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	We are hesitant to endorse more disruption to the flora of this significant botanical reserve by installation of more trails. One that we think could be changed is that from the camping area to the Falls. This could be routed to pass along the pines boundary on the north side.	Native veg assessments will be done prior to any finalisation of works
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	The suggested construction of a trail from the Thomas Clark station across the river and back to the Falls is welcome but we think the route should go further south to take in the ascent along the narrow spur that begins at the far bend in the river. The passage along the spur gives great views across the Wannon Valley.	Trails are not finalised yet. More work on actual locations and length of tracks will be

		completed in detailed design
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	The text suggests that the oval once was a native grassland used as a ceremonial meeting place by Aborigines. While it is possible that they did meet there, it was never a grassland. It was a Manna Gum woodland, the same as is now around on all sides. The site was cleared of trees a long time ago for the purposes of sport.	Update in Masterplan
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	There is no mention of the problem of woody weeds in the reserve – Sallow Wattle, Burgan (urgent action needed), Coastal Tea-tree, Gosford Wattle, Hedge Wattle (a bad pest there), Bridal Creeper, Ixia, Freesia etc. There is much more to this reserve than mere geology.	Purpose of the masterplan is to identify infrastructure upgrade. Not all areas are captured
Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve	Again, we are happy with most of the recommendations for this reserve. One query is the need to provide a camping facility	Will be reassessed in the detailed design
Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve	Trail from Nigretta to Wannon Falls – we believe, on the basis of past flora surveys along the Wannon and dealings with the former Lands Department, that several section fronting the Wannon are not Crown lands. How is it proposed to deal with that when a path is to be constructed? Our club did conduct such a walk many years ago and found some difficulties with the low-lying section a couple of km before the old railway bridge. Parts were under water and the course of the river was a little obscure.	Will be reassessed in the detailed design
Byaduk Caves	These ‘caves’ are, in fact, in the Mt Napier State Park. That is not indicated anywhere in your document.	Update in Masterplan
Byaduk Caves	Our main comment is in relation to the future site of a toilet, shelters and picnic area. We do NOT think it should be near the sink holes. We would prefer it to be on the northern area, not far from the present car park as one walks through the gate. The presence of buildings and other construction should not be allowed to intrude on the approach to the collapsed lava tubes.	Exact location will be assessed in detail design

Byaduk Caves	Access to Harmans No.1 cave could be made safe by the provision of a metal staircase, dropping to a platform that allows visitors to walk into the dark zone of the cave without disturbing the ferns that once flourished in the protected zone of gloom.	Will be reassessed in the detailed design
Byaduk Caves	We agree with the provision of a walking trail past Church Cave to The Great Barrier, steering clear of the Flower Pot and Fern Cave. Most of the caves once had Soft Treeferns but most of the ferns were taken out by home gardeners many years ago.	Will be reassessed in the detailed design
Harmans Valley Lookout	We are surprised at the suggestion that the information is 'dry'. We think it is factual and largely informative. We would NOT support the 'dumbing down' of the information. As you note (p. 3) visitors are interested in geology and earth history.	Update in Masterplan
Harmans Valley Lookout	There is at least one error in the information on one sign – the age of the lava flow is not 7,000 years.	Update in Masterplan
Harmans Valley Lookout	The question of ideal size and shape of the information 'sheets' is debatable.	will be assessed in detailed design
Harmans Valley Lookout	We agree that the plans for a re-modelled car park and viewing stage (p. 84) would be a great improvement. It would also allow a better view of the lava field below.	No update required in the masterplan
Wallacedale Tumuli	Viewing place to pull off the road on the hillside on Old Crusher Rd above the tumuli – that is an excellent idea (and something that people do now).	No update required in the masterplan
Wallacedale Tumuli	Aborigine stone houses are found on adjacent land, as are the remnants of old swamps.	No update required in the masterplan
Wallacedale Tumuli	A case could be made for acquiring the land with tumuli on both sides of the present road reserve and Crown Land block. That would allow more than just geology to be inspected by visitors it would bring in more Aborigine content.	No update required in the masterplan
Wallacedale Tumuli	The term 'lave blister' is used (p. 29) but should be replaced by lava mound.	Updated in Masterplan
Mt Napier State Park	The age of eruption is thought now to be around 45,000 years, not 32,000, based on newer methods.[the article is on the HFNC website]	Updated in Masterplan

Mt Napier State Park	The <u>understorey</u> in the Tapoc forest is NOT Blackwood, Black Wattle or Cherry Ballart (these are mid-level trees); it is Austral Bracken, Poa Tussock, Tree Violet, Sweet Bursaria, Goodia medicaginea, Sticky Boobiella, Cassinia, Tree Everlasting, etc. You will find mention of plants and animal species in <i>The Victorian Naturalist</i> (1997) Vol 114, p. 52-65 ('Mammals and birds of the Mount Napier State Park' – PR Bird. [The HFNC website has this publication] (the HFNC website also has the native species list of AC Beaglehole, Elmore and Bird]	No update required in the masterplan
Mt Napier State Park	The birds you have listed on p.33 and p. 94 are NOT common! They are UNCOMMON there.	Update in Masterplan
Mt Napier State Park	Dogs are permitted in some State Parks as long as they are on lead and controlled at all times. Horses are allowed in some State Parks where they must keep to the roads (p.33). We have strong reservations about allowing dogs and horses into the park, particularly because there is currently no supervision of the activities of the animals or their animals. Impacts on flora and fauna must be considered (as noted on p.94).	Not finalised and will be reassessed in the detailed design
Mt Napier State Park	2WD vehicles routinely travel on Menzels Tk, as far as Menzels Pit and the start of the walk to the summit. There are, however, a couple of 'jump-ups' where some engineering is needed to remove the rock bulges in the track. Menzels Tk around the mount is not currently suitable for 2WD vehicles	Noted
Mt Napier State Park	Rarely is there water on the Menzels Tk (or any other in the forest) – it is very well drained and never boggy. The photo depicts an aberration and should be removed because it suggests a difficulty that simply does not exist.	Noted
Mt Napier State Park	If a camp site was to be developed at Menzels Pit – and it is an obvious place – the situation of an escape route arises, in the case of fire starting in the north or west. This would easily be resolved by upgrading the boundary fire trail on the north boundary of the former Mt Napier Reserve so that vehicles could leave by that route to Mt Napier Rd.	Noted
Mt Napier State Park	We do NOT endorse the development of Mountain Bike trails on any slope of Tapoc. We are strongly opposed to the concept of opening up more tracks that will add to the weed problem and fragmentation of the reserve. There are many trails already present through the forest and around the boundaries that the bikes can use. Trail bikes would inevitably use any new trails and there would be no-one there to stop them.	Trails are not finalised and need to be reevaluated in the detail design
Mt Napier State Park	The proposed walking track from Menzels Pit to Byaduk Caves should run past Elmore's Cone and the Natural Bridge – 2 very significant volcanic features. These lie together about 200 m south of the E-W stone fence and old Fire Tk that runs from Tapoc to the Cole Tk, hitting that at the corner with private land.	Trails are not finalised and need to be reevaluated in the detail design

Mt Napier State Park	We strongly urge you to, wherever possible, utilise existing trails instead of making new ones.	Agree
Mt Napier State Park	One area that you noted (p. 90) was the proximity of the Devils Hole to Menzels Pit parking area. This is a fantastic crater only 400 m north along the boundary fence. We note that half of the crater is actually on private land and the other half is now also fenced into the private land – we have drawn PV's attention to this over many years and it needs to be resolved. Your map (p. 91) is not correct.	Indicative map only No change made in the masterplan
Mt Napier State Park	We believe that the Crown Land boundaries near the Boral quarries on the SE side (p.36) are not drawn in the correct place (one quarry in the 1970s encroached upon the reserve).	Indicative map only No change made in the masterplan
Mount Rouse (Kolor)	The statement that the age of basalt in Mt Rouse is 1.8 m years is misleading. The age of the lava flow from the Mt has been variously determined to be from 280,000 years to (we think) about 350,000 years. That marks what we would consider to be the age of the volcano. What you are referring to is the older basalt upon which Mt Rouse sits. Flows like that occurred widely in the region at about 2 mya, overlying lava flows of around 4.5 mya (as at Lake Linlithgow).	Noted
Mount Rouse (Kolor)	Mention is made, again, of the need for 'a simple explanation' in signage. Since this tour is intended for people interested in geology, we think one needs to be factual and not balk at being too complex. Visitors do not have to read everything!	Exact information to be displayed will be addressed in detail design
Mount Rouse (Kolor)	A quarry on the SE side has some interesting things to show (p. 98) – including layers of ash and volcanic 'bombs'. Why restrict that to special interest groups? Quarries are excellent educational sites for visual interpretation of the structure and formation of a volcano. Visitors are unlikely to cause significant damage to such areas.	Noted
Mount Rouse (Kolor)	We support the majority of aims for the site, including a mountain bike trail because the floristic value of this area is relatively poor. A trail could also be run around the whole mountain side.	No update in the masterplan
Other Issues	Since it is on the general route from Kolor to Hamilton, why not consider Lake Linlithgow? This shows the impact of a 2 mya lava flow creating a terminal lake when it erupted through older basalt but leaving an area uncovered. There are cliffs on the northern side that display intricate weathering patterns. There is good access off North Lakes Rd and a potential parking area where that road diverts away from the lake. In addition, this lake is now one of Birdlife Australia's 6 priority site for important migratory birds in Victoria. It is now recognized in the National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat. A relief from pure geology would not go amiss with most visitors!	Noted

Other Issues	Again, why not include Mt Baimbridge, a mid-age volcano, on the tour. It is conveniently located on the run from Nigretta and has a parking area and excellent views to the Red Gum landscape in the west.	Noted
Native Grasses	I think the plan is great, and am happy to see emphasis put on our volcanic icons, yet the native grasslands that remain on many of our roadsides are the result of this volcanic landscape. These are what people will drive along to visit each site, so making mention of them in the plan would be a really beneficial addition.	No update needed in the masterplan
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	Our main concern is that during the process of rehabilitation and development of the Wannon Fall Reserve and environs all care must be taken to preserve the existing indigenous flora and fauna (we note it's been stated in the plan that this will be a priority).	Prior to any detailed design, feasibility studies on native vegetation and fire management will be undertaken
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	The temptation to “slash, burn and tidy up” all the fallen timber and bush litter from other than the main visitor areas should be resisted. The soil, plants and animals depend on the interaction with this decomposition process. Without the fungi, insects and micro habitats we will destroy the very diversity people are coming to see. It's not just a pretty waterfall that is the attraction here.	Prior to any detailed design, feasibility studies on native vegetation and fire management will be undertaken
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	Another serious issue to consider is the removal and control of environmental weeds and pest animals. Again, people won't want to visit if all they see is African weed orchid (an incredibly invasive plant that now exists on both sides of the river), bridal creeper, Phalaris, etc. We note and appreciate the recent work done by Andy Govanstone and the council in removing invasive hedge wattles and burgan bushes. Rabbits and foxes are on the increase and feral cats abound.	Prior to any detailed design, feasibility studies on native vegetation and fire management will be undertaken
Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	We also feel the collection of any timber, fallen or otherwise, for campfire use, should be banned entirely. It's accepted practice across Australia now for people to provide their own wood.	Prior to any detailed design, feasibility studies on native vegetation and fire management will be undertaken

Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve	Clear signage, understandable across all languages, should leave visitors in no doubt about this - Banning all fires during the recognised fire period would save the locals a lot of work patrolling and reduce the risk of bushfires. Many times we've discovered fires unnecessarily large or not extinguished.	Prior to any detailed design, feasibility studies on native vegetation and fire management will be undertaken
Target Audience	This is only a small part of the target audience and the target audience should not be so narrowly defined, especially given the desires of the shire to expand visitor numbers. For instance the target audience includes "grey Nomads", ordinary families, overseas travellers, tour groups and educational groups.	Considering its is only masterplan not all the information has been included. Primary focus of the document is to identify infrastructure changes
Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve	Carpark is not a problem causing distraction when viewing the falls as it is behind the viewers.	Will be factored into the design
Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve	The lookout above the falls is very popular and, due to age, now does not clash with the natural environment. It would be unfortunate if it was removed. The path to it does need upgrading for safety, if no other, reasons.	Will be addressed in the next stage
Byaduk Caves	These caves are not the most accessible and extensive in Australia. Those at Undarra in Qld are much more extensive and well accessible.	Noted
Wallacedale Tumuli	This is a significant geological site and it needs a major upgrade. However, it would not be appreciated by the geological community if access to the tumuli, ie climbing on them, was restricted.	Noted
Mt Napier	Note: All of the volcanoes in this report have been used for both undergraduate and graduate study by students from those Victorian universities with earth sciences departments, not just Mts Napier and Rouse. (Personal note: I visited and studied Budj Bim on a geological field trip in 1969.)	No update in the masterplan
Mt Rouse	Mt Rouse is about 330,000 years old not 1.8 million years. There are surrounding and underlying lava flows of about 1.8 million years but these are not from Mt Rouse, rather a different earlier eruption. Mt Rouse's eruption was not spread over a long period but may have all occurred within about a year. Both scoria and lava phases were erupted simultaneously and are intermixed in the local exposures	Noted

Mt Rouse	The VDC does much more than “potentially complement and augment the interpretative information on the mountain”. The VDC provides detailed information on the whole of the Newer Volcanic Province and places it in the context of volcanism generally. With regard to MT Rouse itself, the VDC provides guided tours of the mountain to educational and community groups.	No update in the masterplan
Mt Rouse	Crater ‘fills with water’???? The crater usually has a small lake (< 0.5 h) except after long drought conditions. It is a pond at the bottom of the crater.	Noted
Mt Rouse	VDC personnel have not noticed any (hoon/illegal) vehicle access from the crater site. It is only a problem in the old railway quarry, and from the track that leads from the main car park towards the plateau area.	Noted
Mt Rouse	The toilet is inadequate. Definitely not for groups.	Noted
Mt Rouse	Calling the slightly wider road at the base of the summit stairs a carpark is not realistic. There is limited room and it is completely unsuitable for any vehicles larger than cars. It is also somewhat unsafe with a major drop-off where cars need to back and fill to turn.	Noted
Mt Rouse	The concern about the infrastructure at the summit is overdone. They are legitimate uses of this peak and, rather than try to hide them, explanation of their roles would be a better solution. Any attempt to hide them would detract from the significant geological aspects of the summit.	Noted
Mt Rouse	There is no reference at all to the railway quarry. This is an important geological site as well as a major highlight of the VDC run guided tours.	Noted
	The VDC is concerned that the project team does not even mention the VDC as a strategic partner or key stakeholder in this process. The VDC was not specifically consulted apart from the presence of some of its people in their personal roles at the Penshurst meeting. There are numerous instances where consultation with the VDC could have improved this study.	Noted
Design Principles Page 46	“Provide links to other local attractions (such as the Hamilton Gallery).” While the target market for volcanic assets as identified above may be the same as for the gallery, VDC suggests that this is largely inaccurate and other links which would be better referred to could be Dunkeld and its walks, Coleraine and its trees, even the Ansett Museum would be a better reference. Especially the VDC is directly relevant.	Noted
Design Principles Page 47-51	While this is interesting, the suitability for each site should be the prime consideration. For example, the old steps to the Mt Rouse summit were less obtrusive but subject to weathering. The new steps are obtrusive but can be easily screened and will last better and be safer.	Noted

Opinion on Materials Page 52	Charred timber - Supposed to be very fashionable now but will date quickly. Weathered steel – designed to look old, and it does. It looks old and tired and rusty. Will date very quickly. Very yuppy.	Materials are not finalised and will be looked at in detailed design also factoring ongoing maintenance etc
Page 53	“There is also potential to establish close links with other related tourism venues such as Budj Bim and Grampians/ Gariwerd.” - It is just as important to establish links with other tourism venues with/of volcanic assets (like Mt Gambier, Derrinalum, Campedown etc).	Agree
Page 54	Paragraph beginning ‘but the long term...’ is irrelevant. The ““viability and health”??? Surely even setting up this volcanic asset study is trying to use the area in a way to be best advantageous to the shire, ie, bringing tourists to the area with their dollars. The so called health of the assets would be better served to fence the areas off and leave them to nature. The volcanics have been used by humans ever since humans have set foot here.	Noted
Page 54	There is an over emphasis on the indigenous story. Yes, this story is important. So is the white settlement story. But the bit that created both and is still current is the geological story. It is the most important and is still current and relevant. There seems to be the thought that the area is volcanically extinct. It is not. It is just as likely to erupt as it ever was. The topics should be in order of importance and detail 1.The geology 2.The Indigenous story 3.White settlement and current use	Noted
Page 55	The palette of materials seems reasonable with the exception of charred timber and rusted steel. Rusted steel especially cannot be regarded as a natural material.	Materials are not finalised and will be looked at in detailed design also factoring ongoing maintenance etc
Page 55-60	Surely a more relevant, longer lasting and sustainable use of material would be to use bluestone much more than timber or rusted steel.	Materials are not finalised and will be looked at in detailed design also factoring ongoing maintenance etc

Nigretta Falls Page 69-75	Fossils are from a much more recent age and are completely unrelated to the falls or its geology. Therefore probably should not be included in interpretation.	
Byaduk Caves Page 76-80	The Mt Napier flow reached the Budj Bim flow at Tyrendarra. It did not join as they were separated in time.	
Harmans Valley Page 81-84	While young, the Harman's Valley flow is not among the youngest.	Noted
Mt Rouse Page 97-103	Note: Plan on page 98 has existing operating quarry labelled as "South Entrance"	Noted
Mt Rouse Page 97-103	An alternative to screening the installations on Mt Rouse would be to have explaining signage. Emphasis should be on how we now use the landscape, not on making it pretty to look at. Visitors would simply accept their appearance if they understood their importance. Visitors would benefit from explanations of what the fire spotter does, how it works and how important it is. Same for the other towers.	
Mt Rouse Page 97-103	Revegetation must be more in line with original vegetation rather than that currently in place which was not chosen for its local relevance.	Agree
Mt Rouse Page 97-103	Question the need for revegetation of large areas on Nth West slopes as shown on plan on page 99.	Will be addressed in detail design
Mt Rouse Page 97-103	Question the need for revegetation of large areas around South crater as shown on plan on page 100. This will reduce the visual impact of the crater and obscure the lava overflow to the West	Will be addressed in detail design
Wannon falls Page 62	No mention of existing concrete path that is being used for people to cross before the waterfalls - New pathway linking the walking trail?	
Wannon falls Page 62	Provision of fire pits at Nigretta similar to wannon falls as people create their own	Agree
Nigretta Falls Page 70	Reaccess the location indicated on the map for Emergency services to fill trucks - Preferred location around the bulb, also allows multiple trucks to be parked if needed	Will be addressed in detail design
Nigretta Falls Page 70	Current location is no suitable due to lack of visibility and incline (head loss in pumps). Location still suitable for canoeing	Will be addressed in detail design
Land management	Three of the sites are managed by Parks Victoria and DELWP rather than Council. It is not clear to readers that a mutual understanding has been reached regarding Council's preparation and potential delivery of Masterplan content on land managed by other agencies.	

Traditional Owner Engagement	The report indicates that engagement with traditional owners has not been progressed beyond an initial contact. This represents a significant limitation of the Masterplan, posing significant risks to its ultimate success. The phrase “There is no knowledge or recorded history of the traditional owners’ connections to the site.” that appears at several points in the Masterplan highlights this limitation, and is likely to be incorrect.	Ongoing consultation needed throughout the project
Land Owner Consent	All works on Crown land sites will require DELWP consent on behalf of the landowner.	Ongoing consultation needed throughout the project
Planning Permits	From a brief review of the sites and proposals, it is apparent that most will require planning permits for removal of native vegetation, if not for other aspects. The Masterplan does not indicate if any consideration of the ‘avoid and minimise’ principles have been considered in siting and scoping proposed developments.	Review in detail design
Planning permits	Incorporation of preliminary native vegetation assessment into proposals identification and siting is vital to building confidence around how the proposals may ultimately navigate native vegetation policy, and indeed contribute to deliverability. Both cost and availability of offsets for native vegetation losses can be primary obstacles to delivery of development proposals.	Review in detail design
Biodiversity	The sites are generally vegetated and contain habitats for wildlife that can be vulnerable to increased disturbance resulting from increased visitation. The Masterplan’s descriptions of these features and values are only generalised, and fail to identify the range in values or significance of including particular high value assets.	Review in detail design
Biodiversity	The <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> and the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwth) provide protection for protected flora and listed threatened flora, fauna and communities, including at several of the sites.	Review in detail design
Biodiversity	The FFG Act requires that in performing any function that may reasonably be expected to impact on biodiversity, including a function under any act, ministers and public authorities must give proper consideration to the act’s objectives, so far as is consistent with the proper exercising of their functions. The Masterplan does not indicate how or if its preparation or recommendations have been informed by this obligation.	Review in detail design

Biodiversity	I note that the Byaduk caves include several important roost sites for the listed critically endangered Southern Bent-wing Bat. Prevailing management arrangements for this species is informed and supported by a National Recovery Plan, National Conservation Advice and a Recovery Team. <u>DELWP would not support proposals which increase visitation to these caves, or which inadvertently increase threats to this species.</u> It is recommended that proposed developments in the caves area be reviewed with DELWP.	Review in detail design
Bushfire Safety	New paths and to a greater degree new campgrounds must be considered from a bushfire safety and regulatory perspective.	Review in detail design
Bushfire Safety	Irrespective of whether these facilities require a planning permit under the Bushfire Management Overlay, DELWP recommends informing such proposals by some form of detailed assessment of bushfire risk and mitigation opportunities. The Masterplan should reference the need to scope this important aspect. A suitable form of assessment is likely to be a Bushfire management Statement, as is required for planning permit applications under the BMO.	Review in detail design
Bushfire Safety	A BMS should consider the following non-exhaustive design and operational matters: separation of campsites from surrounding bush edge; information compliance and informational signage; provision (or otherwise) and location of fire pits and access to a static water supply; mobile phone and radio coverage; Road access upgrades to support access by emergency agencies; campground management (booking) system enabling contact with campers; and Emergency Management Plan for the campground detailing closure arrangements in elevated bushfire conditions periods, weather triggers for patrol, documented emergency communications coverage, and site specific information to inform Warnings and Advice messages for campers.	Review in detail design