



LIVINGSTONE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN



East Gippsland Shire Council

Revision 2018

Planning Partners – The management plan was prepared with assistance from: Goulburn Murray Water, East Gippsland Shire, Department of Sustainability & Environment, Parks Victoria, North East Catchment Management Authority, Omeo Region Business and Tourism Association, Omeo Historical Society, Omeo, Benambra and Dinner Plain Landcare Group, and interested residents from the Omeo area.

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Cover Page: 'Omeo Pool'

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Study Area

Livingstone Park is located in Omeo, 120km north of Bairnsdale. Omeo is a small town with a population of approximately 300 people. Omeo was established in the 1850's during the gold rush as a mining camp and today is primarily an agricultural based town, which also services a tourism market within the region.

Omeo is becoming an increasingly popular stopping point for tourists and adventure seekers who visit the nearby Victorian High Country. The town is strategically located to provide a base for those wanting to undertake adventure activities during summer and winter. In addition, Omeo and the immediate surrounds retain many historical buildings and sites, especially from past gold-mining activity.

The study area includes the area commonly known as Livingstone Park and additional areas of Crown land to the west and north of the Park. Livingstone Park and the study area border the western side of Omeo Township between Bazeley Street and Old Omeo Highway. Links to nearby walking tracks and sites such as the Oriental Claims Historic Area and Omeo Caravan Park are also considered within this plan.

Important historical, cultural and natural values exist within the park, in addition to the site providing valuable recreational opportunities within close proximity to the Omeo Township. The study area is larger than the formal Livingstone Park, but will from this point on be simply referred to as Livingstone Park.

The study area is approximately 25 hectares in size (Refer to Figure 1), and includes the informal Livingstone Creek Swimming Pool, a network of walking tracks, day visitor area and picnic facilities, playground, war memorial, Pump Track and Skate Ramp. Significant safety and amenity issues surround the use of the Omeo Pool in its current configuration.

1.2 Objective and Scope of Management Plan

Livingstone Park Management Plan will provide:

- **A strategic guide for the future development and ongoing management of Livingstone Park.**
- **Clarification of management responsibility within the study area for both assets and actions identified within this plan.**

The scope of the management plan includes:

- Establishment of an overarching vision and management objective for Livingstone Park;
- Description of the natural, recreational, historical and cultural values present within the study area;
- Identification of management issues (refer to Section 7 of this report) impacting on Livingstone Park values/features;
- Identification of current and potential user groups within the park;
- Links to nearby walking tracks and sites such as the Oriental Claims Historic Area and Caravan Park;
- Review of actions identified in Livingstone Park Works Plan prepared in 2002;

- Strategies to address specific management issues;
- Assignment of responsibility for implementation of management strategies to the most appropriate group or authority / agency;
- Preparation of a business plan which will prioritise works identified within the management plan.

Implementation of the plan will enable East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC), supported by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and other stakeholders to protect and conserve the park's natural, historical and cultural values whilst also providing appropriate recreational and tourist facilities for the sustainable use and enjoyment by visitors and the community.

1.3 Implementation and Community Involvement

In 2009 the original Management Plan for Livingstone Park was prepared with input from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Gippsland Shire Council, Parks Victoria and Steering Committee members from; North East Catchment Management Authority, Goulburn Murray Water, Omeo Region Business and Tourism Association, Omeo Historical Society and Omeo Landcare Group. Preceding the Plan both an Issues and Opportunities Paper and Draft Management Plan were prepared.

In mid-2012 a record-breaking flood event severely impacted Livingstone Creek throughout the park area. As part of the initial recovery effort a substantial consultation process with the relevant agencies and the Omeo Community was carried out. The outcome of the consultation and the recovery project that followed formed what was essentially a partial review of the management plan.

In 2016 a formal review of the management plan was conducted. The 2016 review process generated a greater level of Community involvement than the original consultation processes held in 2009. During the 2016 review period an allied study to evaluate the feasibility of Omeo as a mountain bike tourism destination was also carried out. This feasibility study concluded that Omeo including Livingstone Park possesses excellent physical and geographic attributes to become a mountain bike tourism destination.

The Key management strategies are outlined within this Management Plan and have been prioritised in order of Low, Medium, High or Ongoing. Timeframes for implementation of these actions are: Low – within 5-10 years, Medium – between 2-5 years, High – commence immediately, and Ongoing – continual implementation.

Many of the management actions listed within the Management Plan are of an on-going maintenance nature and can likely be built into the existing maintenance programs.

The funding of the actions listed in the Management Plan are subject to future budget consideration as part of Council's normal budget and business planning processes. Additionally, government funding programs to assist management of public reserves such as Livingstone Park will be investigated to assist fund the strategies identified within this plan.

Ideally the management plan will be reviewed at 5 yearly intervals.

2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

2.1 Vision

Over the next 15 years Livingstone Park will become an attractive park providing residents and visitors with opportunities to undertake a range of passive or active recreational activities including; picnicking, walking, cycling and nature observation. The public will benefit from improved access, public facilities, cycling and walking trails and vehicle parking.

Livingstone Park will become an important component of Omeo's Historical Attractions providing interpretative walks, signage and enhanced visitor experiences.

Native flora and fauna will be protected to provide important biodiversity and aesthetic values. Riparian health will be improved through control of weeds, provision of fish passage and revegetation.

Livingstone Park will be a venue for events and provide key recreational facilities for the community and visitors. Defined access routes will protect remnant vegetation and provide vehicles and pedestrians with a safe and enjoyable environment. The existing trail network will be improved to provide for both pedestrian and cycle use of varying difficulties and lengths.

East Gippsland Shire Council - working closely with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, and community user/interest groups – will have in place an annual program of maintenance works and progressively implement asset improvements, funded by Government, Council and external sources.

2.2 Management Objectives

The overarching long-term management objective for Livingstone Park is to:

- **Manage the park to provide for a range of recreational use, whilst ensuring the conservation of natural, historical and cultural values.**

Specific management objectives are to:

- Provide for a range of recreation opportunities that do not conflict with other objectives;
- Conserve and protect biodiversity values, natural features and landscape aesthetics of the park;
- Conserve and protect all historical, cultural and archaeological features/sites;
- Enhance biodiversity values, natural and landscape features through revegetation and control of pest animals and plants; and
- Establish agreed responsibility for upgrading and maintaining the park, including all physical assets.

3 LAND STATUS

Within the Livingstone Park Study Area (Refer to Figure 1 at rear):

- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is the underlying Crown land manager for all Crown land along the full extent of the study area;
- East Gippsland Shire is Committee of Management over Livingstone Park and Mt Mesley Reserve;
- Gunai Kurnai and Jaithmathang identify this area as their Traditional Country;
- Two areas of Freehold land exist near the memorial park adjoining Day Avenue, within Livingstone Park. Both parcels of land are owned by East Gippsland Shire Council.

4 MANAGEMENT ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Current Land Management Responsibilities

Appointed land managers are responsible for (within their designated area); control of weeds and vermin, vegetation management, management of assets and structures.

- Within the study area East Gippsland Shire, as the appointed 'Committee of Management' is directly responsible for management of Livingstone Park and Mt Mesley Reserve.
- All other areas within the Park are managed by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) (refer to 1), as the underlying Crown land Manager.
- Parks Victoria manages the Oriental Claims reserve, near Livingstone Park, which is linked to the park via a walking track.

4.2 Other Relevant Authorities

- Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) is the rural water authority in the region. Rural water authorities deliver irrigation water, domestic and stock supplies, and drainage services to rural water entitlement holders. The authority also supplies bulk water to the urban water authorities in the region for supply to towns. Natural waterways are utilised in the water supply system, and the Livingstone Creek supplies water to entitlement holders in the Omeo region.
- North East CMA is a water authority constituted under the Water Act with delegated waterway management and floodplain management functions. This empowers the Authority to undertake works on designated waterways, and to authorise others to undertake works in accordance with its By-law Waterways Protection. The North-East CMA priorities works in accordance with state and regional strategies based on available funding. Livingstone Creek is a waterway designated by the North-East CMA.
- East Gippsland Water is a regional water authority. They provide domestic and industrial water and manage wastewater (sewage). East Gippsland Water has an underground sewage main through the Livingstone Park.

5 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND NATIVE TITLE

All indigenous places and objects, whether registered or not, are protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics and Preservation Act 1972*.

Any future new works, developments or uses (including tenures) on Crown land must comply with the future act provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the relevant procedural rights, if any, must be extended to the appropriate Native Title Parties.

6 KEY FEATURES AND VALUES

6.1 Cultural and Heritage Values

Gunai Kurnai and Jaithmathang Aboriginal tribes identify the Omeo area as their Traditional Country. Rivers and creeks within the high country were default highways and borders between tribes and hence a key landmark. Aboriginal Affairs Victoria records indicate no recorded artefacts or sites of significance within Livingstone Park. Previous mining activity within the area has been extensive, especially within the study area, which would suggest that if any objects did exist they may have been moved and/or disturbed during that period. Although not formally recorded, it is possible that there are places and objects along Livingstone Creek which are significant for indigenous people.

Agricultural areas were established around Benambra and Omeo in the early 1830s with Livingstone taking up the area of the current Omeo Township and giving the creek his name. With gold being discovered in 1851, Omeo was established by 1857, with Omeo Shire being declared in 1872. The town developed along the edge of the creek workings; however, the remote location meant the gold rush was delayed but it was well underway in the 1860s. Easily mined alluvial gold¹ was diminishing by the 1870s, being replaced by hard rock mining which occurred throughout the Shire. Hydraulic alluvial mining (sluicing) continued at the Oriental Claims until the sedimentation problems it caused bought about its banning in 1904. The Oriental Claims are the highest alluvial workings in Australia and consist of a large area extending to the foot of Mt Livingstone and are gravel beds 30- 40 metres deep. The “hydraulic” aspect comes from the use of high pressure hoses to break down and wash away the gravel cliffs, hopefully recovering the gold in the process. Dredging of the Livingstone Creek was undertaken to recover gold (not recovered in the first instance) from an estimated 6 million or so cubic metres which had been removed from the Oriental Claims and deposited along the creek as well as the sediment from all the previous workings along the creek banks. The Griffith tunnel was constructed to allow the working of Livingstone Creek without the obstruction of flowing water.



Omeo (Town and Shire) reached its peak in the late 1890s but from around 1910 a steady decline was in process and by 1920 virtually all mining had ceased and nearly all shops were closed. Chinese contribution to mining in Omeo was considerable, as they worked better in groups and are known for reworking gravels already worked by Europeans. Their careful construction of stone walls and channels are still evident and some may be located within Livingstone Park. The “Swim Hole” for the town was within the Oriental Claims area until 1925 when the current structure was built by

¹ Alluvial gold is gold eroded from its original rock and deposited (usually) in water courses. Recovery of alluvial is simply a matter of sifting gold from gravel. Hard rock mining is recovering gold from its parent rock, it is normal for the alluvial to be mined first and then reef mining to occur.

volunteers led by Councillor Grosse. It was a part of a “revitalisation” of Omeo and was intended to offer the children an opportunity to pursue swimming activities.²

6.2 Recreational Values

Livingstone Park offers a range of recreational activities including swimming, kayaking/canoeing, fishing, walking, bike riding and picnicking. Existing facilities include toilets, picnic shelter, BBQs, rotunda, memorial, seats, walking tracks, playground equipment, shade sail shelters with picnic tables, informal pool, interpretative signage, Pump Track and Skate Ramp. Facilities within the park are primarily located at the end of Creek St and this site is hence considered the **Key Activity Node** for the park. The following activity nodes (refer to Figure 3) have been identified within Livingstone Park, as sites where concentrated recreational activity occurs:

- **Day Visitor Node**

At the end of Creek St, this site caters for day visitors undertaking recreational activity such as picnicking, short walks and BBQ's.

- **Aquatic Activity Node**

Located around the “Omeo Pool”, this site provides the opportunity for water based recreational activity including; kayaking, swimming and fishing. Although this site is commonly known as a ‘pool’ and will be referred to as such within the Plan, the site is essentially an informal swimming hole within a creek, dammed by a weir.

- **Historical Activity Node**

Commonly known as Memorial Park, this node adjoins Day Avenue and is opposite other key historical sites (e.g. Courthouse). This site provides the ideal take-off point for a historical walk through the park.

- **Potential for Cycling**

There is significant potential to develop dedicated mountain bike trails and associated facilities throughout the Livingstone Park area.

The informal “Omeo Pool” has provided recreational opportunities since the early 1900's and is a popular venue for swimming during the summer months. Safety issues have been identified from an audit by Life Saving Victoria which investigated compliance of the site to operate as a “pool”.

Networks of tracks exist within the park including a concrete pedestrian path which leaves Day Avenue past the war memorial and crosses Livingstone Creek to the Rotunda. From this point walkers can head west (upstream) to the Day Visitor Area and picnic shelter or east (downstream) towards Omeo Caravan Park or follow the track in a northerly direction up-hill towards Mt Mesley and on to the Oriental Claims. Significant potential exists to develop mountain bike trails and facilities throughout the Livingstone Park and Mt Mesley area.

6.3 Natural Values

Vegetation within the Park consists of a mixture of introduced species and patches of remnant open eucalypt woodland. DELWP on-line EVC (Ecological Vegetation Class) mapping indicates that Montane Grassy Woodland exists over the majority of the park,

² Historical information provided by Omeo Historical Society, 2009.

with some Herb-rich Foothill Forest and Grassy Dry Forest located to the western approach of Mt Mesley. Montane Grassy Woodland consists of open grassy woodland generally dominated by and overstorey of Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) and Candlebark (*Eucalyptus rubida*) as seen on Bakers Island. Shrub cover is sparse and ground level cover is generally dominated by native grasses, especially Kangaroo Grass (*Themedia triandra*), Common Wheat-grass (*Elymus scabrus*) and Wallaby Grasses (*Danthonia* sp.).

An old pine plantation of approximately 10ha is located within the western slopes of the Park towards Mt Mesley and was badly burnt during the alpine bushfires in 2003. The pine plantation was established around 1960 by the Department of Education as a "school plantation". Following the 2003 bushfire many of the dead pine posed a significant public risk, as a result most of the burnt pine have since been removed.

Revegetation works have previously been undertaken on Bakers Island (which is the small knoll located to the east of the tunnel), with some success; however, revegetation of riparian vegetation has been largely unsuccessful. The creek bed has in many areas very thick deposits of silt from past mining activity which does not provide a very suitable environment to plant riparian vegetation. Failure to adequately control re-establishment of previously treated willow trees has further reduced the success of riparian revegetation works.

A number of threatened flora and fauna species including three listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1988) have been recorded within and surrounding the study area (DELWP, 2008a,b). The twoflora species listed under the FFG Act are the Australian Anchor Plant (*Discaria pubescens*) and Austral Toad-flax (*Thesium australe*). In recent years research work has been carried out by the Australian Platypus Conservancy to identify the presence of numbers of platypus in the urban reaches of Livingstone Creek. The work carried out by the Australian Platypus Conservancy indicates that good numbers of platypus are present.

Table 1: Threatened Flora

Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC Code	Vic Conservation	FFG Code
<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral Toad-flax	V	v	L
<i>Senecio georgianus</i>	Grey Fireweed	X	x	
<i>Discaria pubescens</i>	Australian Anchor Plant		r	L
<i>Corunastylis arrecta</i>	Erect Midge-orchid		r	
<i>Pomaderris eriocephala</i>	Woolly-head Pomaderris		r	
<i>Bossiaea riparia</i>	River Leafless Bossiaea		r	

Table 2: Threatened Fauna

Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC Code	Vic Conservation	FFG Code
<i>Litoria verreauxii</i>	Verreaux's Tree Frog		Cmp	
<i>Limnodynastes dumerilii dumerilii</i>	Southern Bullfrog (northern form)		Ssp	
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl		VU	L

Management and protection of habitat for these species is a legislative requirement and will be considered through implementation of the plan.

7.1 Park Boundaries, Committee of Management Area and Leases

Ideally management of assets, activities and/or issues should be the responsibility of the underlying land manager, though in some circumstances this is not always the best option as some agencies are better equipped to deal with certain issues. This plan provided the opportunity to review Park management boundaries and assign clear responsibility for aspects of the Park's management.

East Gippsland Shire Council is the delegated land manager over Livingstone Park. Mt Mesley Reserve is an area of native bushland on the north-west side of the Park. The Reserve has significant natural and recreation value and is currently managed by EGSC.

RECOMMENDATION – PARK BOUNDARIES, COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT AREA and LEASES

AIM

- To rationalise and consolidate park boundaries.
- To maximise protection of significant natural and cultural values.
- To improve management efficiency of the park.
- To increase community involvement in management of the park.

Recommendations

7.1a. Retain EGSC as the delegated Committee of Management over Mt Mesley Reserve. – **HIGH**

7.1b. EGSC to continue managing the section track to the Oriental Claims, from Livingstone Park to the northern end of Bazeley St. - **HIGH**

Responsibility: Crown Land Management - Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in consultation with East Gippsland Shire Council.

7.2 Vehicle Access and Parking

Vehicle access and parking is available via Creek St to a Day Visitor Area where there are toilets, picnic tables, a shelter, a playground and an informal swimming pool within Livingstone Creek. Alternatively, vehicles can park opposite the War Memorial on Day Avenue and pedestrians can then access the park via the War Memorial path. No vehicle access is possible from the northern end of town into the park.



A gravel car park is located at the Day Visitor Area and numerous vehicle tracks lead off from this area. Movement of vehicles to the west of the car park is undefined. The area is used as an overnight stop site. Vehicles are currently able to park very close to the creek embankment.

There is an opportunity to improve the appearance of this area. Clear definition of this turn around point at the western end is required to prevent adhoc parking, creek bank instability, and protect riparian habitat.

A unsealed vehicle access track follows the creek in a westerly direction to Bazeley St from Creek St and provides important emergency access. Maintenance of this track for use by emergency vehicles including fire trucks is required.

Networks of old informal tracks exist within the Park, some of which are now closed. Some vehicle barriers to control unauthorised vehicle access to the park have been installed in the past.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – VEHICLE ACCESS AND PARKING

AIM

- To provide safe and efficient vehicle access and parking.
- To minimise risks to pedestrians from vehicle movement and traffic.
- To ensure efficient use of available space for parking.
- To minimise impacts on biodiversity values from inappropriate vehicle use.

Strategy

- 7.2a. Restrict vehicle access to weir and across the creek at Day Visitor Area, to management vehicles only. – **HIGH**
- 7.2b. Maintain the western end of the access track from Creek St to Bazeley St through Park for access by management and emergency service vehicles. – **HIGH**
- 7.2c. Seal and extend car park at Day Visitor Area. – **HIGH**
- 7.2d. Formalise track and turn around area to the west of the Day Visitor Area, restricting vehicle movement near creek embankment. – **HIGH**
- 7.2e. Provide parking opportunities on the southern side of the track between Creek St and Bazeley St, for overnight RV parking and people wanting to fish upstream of the Omeo Pool. – **HIGH**
- 7.2f. Provide a formalised and designated water point for fire tankers on Livingstone Creek. – **HIGH**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire Council

7.3 Walking Tracks and Pedestrian Access



A network of walking tracks of varying standard exists within the park. These tracks can be accessed from a number of locations within and around the park including; the Day Visitor Area off Creek St, behind the bus stop, near the war memorial and off Old Omeo Highway, near the Omeo Caravan Park. Refer to Figure 2 at rear of document.

A concrete path leaves Day Avenue and extends past the War Memorial over Livingstone Creek near (but not completely to) the Rotunda and then west to another footbridge over the Creek and on to the Day Visitor Area. The path was built with the intention of extending the concrete section to the Rotunda to provide wheelchair access, however this remaining portion has yet to be built.

From the Rotunda, a gravel/dirt walking track continues north around Bakers Island to a viewing point above the pool and tunnel or alternatively, on the southern side of the Creek to the Caravan Park. From Bakers Island the walking track divides into a loop near Mt Mesley through the pine plantation, where you can either follow a track back to the pool, or take a longer walk on to the Oriental Claims. Upgrade of the track to the Oriental Claims must consider any impacts on historical or natural values.

An additional loop track could be created by construction of a footbridge at the old ford crossing, near the tunnel exit. This was a previous recommendation of the Livingstone Creek Park Works Plan (*Crossco, 2002*). The walk/cycle path which extends from Commissioners Gully on the East side of the creek towards the Caravan Park was built following the release of the previous plan. Extension of the pathway (which is currently an old management vehicle track) to the Omeo Caravan Park would provide an important linkage for visitors and/or Omeo residents.

Walking tracks within the park, although not formally designated as cycle paths, are frequently used by bike riders. Signage exists which restricts motorbikes on a number of the walking tracks. Walk and cycle paths should ideally be at least 2m wide to meet a "shared pathway" standard and designated with adequate signage to indicate their use.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – WALKING TRACKS AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

AIM

- To provide and maintain pedestrian and cycle pathways within the park without compromising natural and cultural values.
- To provide pathways within the park which are accessible for pedestrians of all ages and abilities.
- To prevent vehicle and motorbike access on trails and pathways with the park.
- To upgrade a number of tracks, some to a shared pathway standard.

Strategy

- 7.3a. Extend existing concrete path to the Rotunda and from the western pedestrian bridge past the shelter to Creek St. – **HIGH**
- 7.3b. Extend low level track from Livingstone Park to Omeo Caravan Park, and upgrade existing section for use by cyclists and pedestrians, and designate as a 'shared pathway'. Construction of a pedestrian bridge over Livingstone Creek near the northern exit point of the tunnel is required to complete this loop track. – **HIGH**
- 7.3c. Short term – upgrade 'stepping stones' to aid pedestrian connectivity during low/normal flow conditions. - **HIGH**
- 7.3d. Install signage which designates path or track recreational type/use. - **MEDIUM**
- 7.3e. Upgrade the track from Livingstone Park to Oriental Claims. EGSC to manage and upgrade the section of the track from Livingstone Park to the northern end of Bazeley St, - **HIGH**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire Council

7.4 Facilities and Amenities



A range of public facilities exist within Livingstone Park including; toilets, day shelter, shade sail and picnic tables, playground equipment, bridges, a Rotunda, bench seats, and walking tracks. The shade sails at the Aquatic Activity Node which cover the picnic tables are in need of replacement. New picnic tables could also be located to the west of the Day Shelter near the creek and turn around circle. Refer to Figure 2 at rear of document.

There is a toilet block, day shelter and BBQ located at the Day Visitor Node off Creek St. This site is recognised as the key activity node within the park as it is possibly the most visited location in the park and provides the most facilities. Playground equipment is located across Livingstone Creek on Bakers Island, near the Omeo Pool. This equipment is in need of replacement and additional play equipment could be located closer to the day shelter and BBQ area. Here parents could actively supervise children, and a fence could be located so as to deter access to the nearby creek. Consideration should also be given to providing equipment suited to younger children.

Seats are located near the War Memorial, at the Rotunda and Day Visitor Area along with some interpretative signage. The Rotunda is accessed via a concrete path from the War Memorial or the Day Visitor Area. Two pedestrian bridges provide access over Livingstone Creek. There is potential to locate an open performance stage within the park which could be used for future concerts, festivals or events.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

AIM

- To provide recreation opportunities and high standard public facilities for passive use and enjoyment of Livingstone Park.
- To ensure recreation activities and facilities do not detrimentally impact on the natural and cultural values of the park.
- To adopt a consistent style and design of facilities within Livingstone Park.

Strategy

- 7.4a. Provide new playground equipment within an enclosed fenced area, suitable for younger children. – **MEDIUM**
- 7.4b. Upgrade old playground equipment on Bakers Island. - **HIGH**
- 7.4c. Provide more shade opportunities with trees and shade structures. – **HIGH**
- 7.4d. Provide new picnic tables near the turnaround circle, west of the shelter. – **MEDIUM**
- 7.4e. Provide new picnic tables and shade within Aquatic Activity Node. – **MEDIUM**
- 7.4f. Ensure facilities located within Aquatic Activity Node are suitable for placement within a flood zone. – **ONGOING**
- 7.4g. Provide a 'dump point' facility within Day Visitor Node. - **HIGH**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire Council

7.5 Omeo Pool



“Omeo Pool” was originally established within the Oriental Claims area and then moved to its current location within Livingstone Creek in 1925. The title “Omeo Pool” is a misnomer. The “pool” exists as an informal swimming hole and activity area which was created by damming the Livingstone Creek with a weir. The Omeo Pool is located within the Aquatic Activity Node in Livingstone Park. Refer to Figure 3 at rear of document.

The Omeo Pool provides opportunities for water based recreational activities such as swimming, kayaking, canoeing and is currently managed by EGSC. In addition, the Omeo Pool is an important source of water for use by emergency services during a fire event.

A number of safety and environmental issues currently surround the Omeo Pool in its existing form. An Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment undertaken by Life Saving Victoria found that the “pool” in its current form does not meet a number of Safety Standards (LSV, 2008). Signage has been installed at the site in accordance with this audit.

Specific safety issues (identified by Life Saving Victoria) relate to the following:

- A steep drop into deep water from the embankment, especially near the weir and old diving platform;
- Currents within the Omeo Pool, especially close to the weir;
- Unrestricted access to the pool, no barriers or fencing;
- Steep edges/embankments around the Omeo Pool make entry and exit of the water potentially difficult;
- Proximity of the Omeo Pool to nearby playground and BBQ area, as there is no fencing;
- Poor water clarity, which can mean underwater obstacles are not visible; and
- Lack of scheduled supervision or patrolling at the Omeo Pool.

During a flood event the pool site can be subject to very high-water flows which due to a sharp creek bend, before the weir, results in a large wall of water hitting the embankment. This in turn can result in loss of vegetation, destabilisation of creek embankments and damage to physical structures. Erosion and slumping of embankments around the creek edge is currently occurring. Stabilisation of these areas is required to ensure the safety of people and protect from the further loss of soil and vegetation. The weir was also heavily damaged during the past flood event and works have been undertaken to stabilise the structure in the short term. Further stabilisation works are required to ensure the weir, if retained, is able to withstand a large flood event.

Three hydrological control points exist at the Omeo Pool (R. Candy, EGCMA, and TiBar Services, pers.comm); the weir and low flow chute, a high flow chute and the point where both meet. Refer to Figure 4. These control points have been engineered to reduce the occurrence of over bank flooding at the site for flood events which occur frequently (i.e. 1 in 5 years). The importance of retaining these control points within the creek has been highlighted as a critical factor in protecting the area from damage during frequent flood events.

Fish movement within streams is protected under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998*. Fish movement up stream within the Livingstone Creek is restricted in the low flow chute by the weir, however it can occur when the stream is in high flow and water reaches a level so that the high flow chute is in flow. Fish movement within the Livingstone Creek is likely to be episodic and there are numerous in-stream obstacles within the upper reaches of the stream which restrict fish movement. The high flow chute was previously specifically constructed at a grade suitable to allow for fish passage during high flow (R. Candy, EGCMA, pers comm.).

Water downstream of the “Omeo Pool” is extracted from the Livingstone Creek for use by agricultural landholders and managed by Goulburn Murray Water. Ensuring water flow for downstream water users is necessary and must be accounted for within any redevelopment or alteration to the existing Omeo Pool. Redevelopment of the site and repairs to the weir may require a water taking permit from Goulburn Murray Water.

Consideration has been given to the redesign and feasibility of having a pool within the Livingstone Creek. A number of options were identified, during the development of this plan, for the redevelopment of the Aquatic Activity Node to address the safety and environmental issues previously mentioned.

These options included:

1. Removal of the weir and re-establishment of the site as a shallow, narrow creek.
2. Stabilise embankments through retaining wall or rock treatment with a combination of concrete or timber steps and boardwalk around the water edge. Provision of a site for fish passage around the weir. There is also potential to remove the weir structure, fill in the overflow area and install a new gate at the tunnel to enable improved control of water flow within the ‘pool’ area, including during flood events.
3. Retain the weir; provide a formal built pool area within concrete walls on all sides, appropriate safety equipment and a site for fish passage around the weir.

While the East Gippsland Shire recognises the site has been a known swimming location for a long time, the requirement to meet current safety standards for a formal pool at this site is not feasible. However, this key Aquatic Activity Node has

considerable potential to provide for a range of recreational activity and redevelopment of this site is a priority in order to address safety and environmental issues. East Gippsland Shire recognises that people will use this site for aquatic activity in the future and will undertake actions to ensure that the embankments around the Omeo Pool and weir structure are safe. The Aquatic Activity Node Concept Plan (Figure 4) illustrates several concepts relating to how this site could be redeveloped to address safety, amenity and environmental issues.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – OMEO POOL

AIM

- To provide for accessible and safe recreational activity within the park.
- To provide adequate safety and warning information.
- To manage the pool area so as to minimise potential flood damage and ensure the environmental impact associated with the draining of the pool are minimised.
- To improve the interpretive opportunities relating to the history of the pool and tunnel area.

Strategy

- 7.5a. Undertake Pool and tunnel stabilisation works. – **HIGH**
- 7.5b. Provide safe movement in and out of the Pool - **HIGH**
- 7.5c. Undertake repair/replacement works on the weir in order to secure the structure for future flood events. – **HIGH**
- 7.5d. Replace the gate deck area with a new structure to provide increased control over water releases from the pool and provides greater interpretive opportunities. – **HIGH**
- 7.5e. Retain all existing hydrological control points and structures. - **HIGH**
- 7.5f. Update water safety and warning signage. – **HIGH**
- 7.5g. Maintain high flow chute as a rocky site free from vegetation to ensure that water flow during a flood is not impeded and to allow fish passage in high flow. – **HIGH**
- 7.5h. Construct a crossing point for pedestrian access across the high flow chute, just below the current rock level, to the Omeo Pool. – **HIGH**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire / Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

- 7.5i. Restrict vehicle movement over Livingstone Creek at the Aquatic Activity Node. - **HIGH**
- 7.5j. Landscape Pool area and plant trees to provide shade. – **HIGH**
- 7.5k. Install edging treatment around steep creek embankments within the Aquatic Activity Node to deter entry into the rocky high and low flow chutes, and to allow the area to be better maintained. - **HIGH**
- 7.5l. Review all signage installed at Aquatic Activity Node. - **HIGH**
- 7.5m. Develop protocol for opening and closing the tunnel gate - **HIGH**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire

7.6 Recreational Activities



Within Livingstone Park a range of recreational activities can be undertaken including; fishing, horse riding, swimming, kayaking, mountain biking and walking.

No motorised recreational activities including motor bike riding and four-wheel driving is permitted within the park or Mt Mesley areas,

An old skate ramp and a pump-track is located within the Node. The skate ramp is in poor condition and is in need of upgrading or removal.

Substantial opportunity exists to develop and promote mountain biking within the park and adjoining Mt Mesley Reserve. Mountain biking is an increasingly popular adventure sport with several trail networks already developed throughout the North-East Region.

Mountain biking is recognised as an activity that can deliver wide reaching economic, social and wellbeing benefits for a town and the wider region. Omeo including Livingstone Park and the Mt Mesley areas have been evaluated as having very high potential for development as a nationally significant mountain bike destination.

A key reason why the Omeo area has potential to become a nationally significant mountain bike destination is the base or 'hub' that Livingstone Park can provide for riders heading out or returning from rides on a remote network of trails. The park has many attractive features and facilities that when coupled with a high-quality network of trails would be extremely attractive for mountain bike riders.

A key strength of Livingstone Park is its proximity to the Omeo township. This close connectivity to the urban area makes the park very accessible both physically and visually from the Main Street area. Livingstone Park also has strong connectivity to the caravan park to the north, and the Oriental Claims area to the south-west.

The park also has the potential as a standalone mountain bike activity node. Livingstone Park has the topography, availability of space and features that are ideally suited to the development of new mountain bike facilities including pump tracks, jump parks and high-profile trails suitable for hosting competitive events. With further development, Livingstone Park has the potential to become high profile event centre

suitable to host mountain bike events such as cross-country race events and 24-hour type race events. If Livingstone Park is further developed as a mountain bike event centre, the park is also likely to be well suited as an event centre for many other activities and events unrelated to mountain biking.

If a mountain bike trail network is established in the Omeo area, Livingstone Park will be critical asset in assuring the success of a mountain bike trail proposal. The park will be required to perform several key roles including being a primary point of access to the trail network, and provision of allied facilities such as parking, toilets, showers, picnic facilities, bike wash and basic repair facilities.

While there is substantial potential to further develop and promote Livingstone Park for mountain biking and other recreational pursuits, the park in its current condition and relatively undeveloped state will require substantial investment in both new facility development and ongoing maintenance. Many of the existing facilities no longer meet community expectation including challenges relating to access and useability, safety and amenity. The current poor condition of many assets within the park also create significant challenges for the ongoing management, amenity and maintenance of the area.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

AIM

- To provide appropriate facilities and enable safe use of Livingstone Park for all recreational users.
- To provide the opportunity for events to be held in the Livingstone Park area.
- To reduce the potential for conflict between different user groups.
- To provide adequate safety and warning information.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Strategy

- 7.6a. Continue to develop the area near the Pump Track and Skate Ramp. – **MEDIUM**
- 7.6b. Develop existing and new facilities such as showers, bike wash and bike repair to support mountain biking both within and beyond the Livingstone Park area. – **HIGH**
- 7.6c. Establish a network of high quality mountain bike trails, including trails and facilities suitable for the hosting of events. – **HIGH**
- 7.6d. Construct creek crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists at northern end of Bakers Island and near Bazeley St to provide access across Livingstone Creek. – **HIGH**
- 7.6e. Provide parking opportunities on the side of the track between Creek St and Bazeley St, for RVs and people wanting to fish upstream of the Omeo Pool. – **MEDIUM**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire

7.7 Flora and Fauna

Livingstone Park is located within the Highlands Northern Fall Bioregion which is the northerly fall aspect of the Great Dividing Range. Characteristics of this bioregion include; moderate to steep slopes, high plateaus and alluvial flats along the main valleys. Vegetation within the Park consists of a mixture of introduced species and patches of remnant open eucalypt woodland. EVC (Ecological Vegetation Class EVC) mapping indicates Montane Grassy Woodland as the main vegetation type within Livingstone Park. On the northerly slopes off Mt Mesley Grassy Dry Forest is present and on the southerly more protected slopes Herb-rich Foothill Forest can be found.

Damage to the pine plantation following the 2003 Alpine Fires left the pine trees with little commercial value. Safety issues have arisen due to the number of dead pine trees. Most of the pines have been removed in recent years however removal of the remaining pines throughout the area and revegetation with indigenous vegetation would provide benefit to indigenous flora and fauna in the Park and minimise safety issues to the public, as well as improving the aesthetics of the Park.

A number of threatened flora and fauna species are recorded within the study area including the Australian Anchor Plant (*Discaria pubescens*), Austral Toad-flax (*Thesium australe*) and Sooty Owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*) which are listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Revegetation works have previously been undertaken on Bakers Island and along the creek with some success. Failure to adequately control re-establishment of previously treated willow trees has further reduced the success of riparian revegetation works.

Australian Platypus Conservancy has been recording platypus numbers along Livingstone Creek for several years and recommend that careful management and protection of the riparian areas along Livingstone Creek is critical for the long-term survival of the platypus.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – FLORA AND FAUNA

AIM

- To protect all indigenous vegetation within Livingstone Park for biodiversity, recreational and landscape values.
- To preserve and enhance indigenous vegetation within Livingstone Park.

Strategy

- 7.7a. Remove any trees which pose safety risks to pedestrians or are located near facilities/buildings within the reserve. – **HIGH / ONGOING**
- 7.7b. Implement the 2017 Australian Platypus Conservancy platypus awareness and conservation strategy - **HIGH / ONGOING**
- 7.7c. Ensure rare and threatened plant species are identified and protected prior to any development activity within the Park. – **ONGOING**
- 7.7d. Continue to remove pine trees throughout the Livingstone Park area. – **ONGOING**
- 7.7e. Revegetate areas immediately up and downstream of the Park with indigenous vegetation. - **ONGOING**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire

7.8 Pest Plant and Animal Management



Pest plant and animals pose a considerable threat to biodiversity values within the park. Willows and Cumbungi within the creek can have detrimental impacts on aquatic health by restricted natural flow of the water and preventing indigenous native vegetation from growing.

There are a number of weed species found within Livingstone Park, including the following 'high threat' weeds; English Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus aggregate*), Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Blue Periwinkle (*Vinca major*), Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus sp.*), Pine trees (*Pinus radiata*) and Willows (*Salix sp.*). Weed populations are most prevalent along the riparian zone of Livingstone Creek.

English Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus aggregate*) weed control was undertaken within the park by Parks Victoria in April 2008. An extensive Willow control program and creek bed stabilisation project was undertaken several years ago. Willows are now regrowing within the creek and follow-up control works are required.

Comprehensive management strategies are required to address the control of high threat pest plant and animals. Effective management and control of weeds and pest animals will require an integrated multi-agency approach.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – PEST PLANT AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

AIM

- To reduce, control and where possible eliminate pest plant infestations.
- Management agencies to work co-operatively to control all high threat weed populations within Livingstone Park.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – PEST PLANT AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT Cont'd

Strategy

- 7.8a. Develop and implement a program to control high threat pest plant and animal populations. - **MEDIUM**
- 7.8b. Implement ongoing Willow and Cumbungi control program as required. - **HIGH**
- 7.8c. Remove all non-indigenous vegetation planted within the park, which presents an unacceptable invasive threat (for example spreading of new plants through sucker production, vegetative reproduction or prolific seed dispersal), and replace with indigenous species. – **MEDIUM**
- 7.8d. Ensure any new planting outside of the Pool and day visitor area are indigenous species. - **ONGOING**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire supported by North-east Catchment Management Authority and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

7.9 Water Quality and Flow



Livingstone Creek supplies water to entitlement holders in the Omeo region. Maintenance of flow rates within the creek is important for downstream water licence holders, and in-stream creek health.

A diversion tunnel exists at the “Omeo Pool” which can be used to divert moderate flood flows or to empty water from the Omeo Pool. When water is diverted through the tunnel, the current creek alignment is starved of water and this can detrimentally impact upon downstream users, aquatic plants and animals.

Water flow within the creek is currently directed through the ‘pool’ area via a low flow chute. This is one of three hydrological controls to minimise damage to facilities during frequent flood events. Careful management of water flows to and through the ‘pool’ is required to maintain appropriate water levels and water quality. Installation of a new gate at the tunnel site would help to better manage high flow flood events, which could otherwise cause considerable damage within the Aquatic Activity Node.

In 2012 the Park area was severely damaged by a high flow flood event. Following the flood event a large-scale restoration project was implemented to repair the Park and prevent or lessen the impact from future flood events.

Willow and Cumbungi infestations in Livingstone Creek also have the potential to restrict the natural flow of water. In addition, these plants tend to out-compete indigenous vegetation and provided limited habitat for aquatic fauna. A works program to control populations of Willow and Cumbungi is required.

An East Gippsland Water sewer main extends through the Park near Livingstone Creek. Protection of this asset from damage is required to avoid damage to the pipe and to ensure water quality within the creek is not detrimentally affected.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – WATER QUALITY AND FLOW

AIM

- To ensure management actions applied to Livingstone Park do not reduce water quality or adversely impact upon water flows within Livingstone Creek.

Strategy

- 7.9a. Develop and implement a weed management plan to control weed infestations (including Broom, Willows Blackberry and Cumbungi) in and around Livingstone Creek. – **HIGH**
- 7.9b. Consult with East Gippsland Water (EGW) prior to any riparian works within the park near Livingstone Creek, to ensure EGW assets are protected. – **ONGOING**
- 7.9c. Develop and implement protocols for operation of the tunnel gate. - **ONGOING**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire

- 7.9d. Undertake detailed design and construct a replacement weir and spillway. – **HIGH**
- 7.9e. Design and install a new water control gate on the diversion tunnel at Omeo Pool. The gate should enable i) regulation of water depth in the pool, ii) flows to pass both under and over the gate (for flushing purposes), and iii) prompt and easy opening to allow flood flows to be diverted through the tunnel. – **HIGH**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire / Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

7.10 Cultural Heritage Values



Aboriginal Victoria records (*GCHU, 2008*) indicate that there are no specific sites of Indigenous cultural significance recorded within Livingstone Park. All indigenous

places and objects, whether registered or not, are protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Livingstone Park is rich in ‘European’³ history, and the park today still retains features and landmarks some from the “gold rush” such as the water diversion tunnel built in 1868, old water races and diggings. The “Omeo Pool” is also a feature of the park which was constructed in 1925, following relocation from its original site within the Oriental Claims. There is potential to highlight the following historical sites within Livingstone Park, within a short walking distance:

- diversion tunnel
- Omeo Pool
- diggings site
- dredging of creek
- water races.

The plan identifies the Historical Node as near the War Memorial. This site is ideally located adjacent to several of Omeo’s other historical structures and could provide the ideal take-off point for the historical interpretive walk.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES

AIM

- To protect all Indigenous sites and places of significance in Livingstone Park.
- To enhance public appreciation of all cultural heritage sites within Livingstone Park and surrounding areas.

Strategy

7.10a. Maintain confidentiality in respect of Indigenous customs, places and objects in accordance with Indigenous tradition and the wishes of relevant Indigenous communities. - **ONGOING**

7.10b. Protect all Indigenous and Historical places / sites / objects from disturbance during any construction and maintenance works, and change of use or tenure, by seeking advice from Crown Land Management, AV, DELWP, Omeo Historical Society prior to works / maintenance commencing. - **ONGOING**

7.10c. Create a short historical walk which provides interpretative historical information of sites such as the tunnel and pool, leaving from the War Memorial. - **MEDIUM**

Responsibility: All parties / Aboriginal Victoria (AV)

³ “European” refers to all early settlement nationalities, including those of Chinese origin.

7.11 Fire Management and Emergency Access



Fire management issues on Crown land are addressed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and the Omeo Country Fire Authority Brigade. The Great Alpine Fire of 2002/3 swept through the region burning surrounding hills and numerous assets within the local area.

Emergency access into Livingstone Park is available only from Creek Street or Bazeley Street via an unnamed track. Access to the east of the park was previously possible on an unformed 4WD track via Old Omeo Highway, near the Caravan Park. This management vehicle only track follows the creek to a bend, where a ford crossing. The ford crossing is sometimes unpassable and is not currently considered as a reliable or appropriate emergency access point.

Access into the Park for emergency management vehicles is important to enable access to water for the purpose of fighting fires and also to undertake other firefighting activities such as preventing the spread of a fire from the Park into the town.

Omeo Pool is an important water source in the event of a fire. During the 2003 Alpine Fires the pool provided an invaluable source of water to fire-fighters who helped defend assets within the town.

The position of the Park just north of the main CBD area is significant from a fire hazard perspective. The Park has the potential to be a critical buffer from fires approaching the CBD area from the north. For the Park to be an effective bush fire buffer the vegetation types, densities and position will require careful consideration and management. Other fire hazards in the park include long grass and areas of native vegetation in close proximity to private property. Where native vegetation extends up to private properties a fire break should be maintained where vegetation is limited to ground level cover only.

The size of the Park and associated areas such as the Oriental Claims area and the Caravan Park could make it difficult for the emergency services to respond to a call for emergency assistance. The installation of Emergency Markers could significantly improve emergency response times particularly in areas that are difficult to define by callers to triple zero (000).

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – FIRE MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY ACCESS

AIM

- Provide suitable emergency access to the Livingstone Park area.
- Improve emergency response times.
- Undertake appropriate fire protection and fuel reduction activities to reduce the severity and risk of fire causing detrimental impacts on the Park and associated infrastructure, and the Omeo Township.

Strategy

- 7.11a. Remove dead and/or dying vegetation that poses a fire risk. - **HIGH**
- 7.11b. Maintain all high-risk grass areas to reduce fuel loads within the park, as per existing regime. - **ONGOING**
- 7.11c. Install Emergency Markers within the Livingstone Park area - **HIGH**
- 7.11d. Provide a formalised and designated water point for fire tankers on Livingstone Creek. – **HIGH**
- 7.11e. Continue to prohibit all open fires within the park. Erect signage accordingly. – **HIGH**
- 7.11f. Determine a name for the vehicle track that runs between Livingstone Park and the northern end of Bazeley Street. - **HIGH**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire

- 7.11g. Establish signage indicating water access points for fire trucks. – **MEDIUM**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire / Country Fire Authority

- 7.11h. Consult with landholders adjoining the park about appropriate fire management strategies around their property. - **ONGOING**
- 7.11i. Maintain the track for management and emergency vehicle access through the park from the Day Visitor Area to Bazeley St. - **ONGOING**

Responsibility: Country Fire Authority, East Gippsland Shire Council and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

7.12 Property Boundaries

The current boundary between Livingstone Park and adjoining private land is sometimes un-marked and difficult to distinguish. Access to the northern end of Livingstone Park off Day Avenue is currently not possible due to private property which borders the main road.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

AIM

- To identify and clearly mark private property boundaries which border the park.

Strategy

7.12a. Where required undertake discrete marking of private property boundaries along park and private property boundaries. – **ONGOING**

Responsibility: Local residents in consultation with East Gippsland Shire and Department of Sustainability and Environment

7.13 Signage and Interpretative Information

Safety, historical, directional and interpretative signs are located throughout the park. Signage currently varies in appearance, detail and condition and a number of signs are faded, damaged and in need of replacement. Safety or warning signage must comply with relevant standards which may determine the location, size, colour etc. of the sign.

Signage has been installed at the Omeo Pool site in accordance with an audit undertaken by Life Saving Victoria (LSV, 2008). Such signage requires review as the site is not a pool by definition.

Establishment of any new facilities may require complementary new signage. Directional, restrictive, visitor and interpretive information could be enhanced at the Day Visitor Node. There is potential to develop a short-themed walk through the park which details historical sites of interest, which could complement the recently installed signs at the new Omeo Bus stop.



Consideration should be given to the installation of Emergency Markers throughout the study area. Emergency Markers are designed to pinpoint the location of an incident when a call is made to Triple Zero (000).



Directional signage from Day Avenue into Livingstone Park is in place at the Creek Street intersection and in Memorial Park.

However, the existing signage alone is not proving to be highly effective as many visitors are still not aware of the park.

Improved signage or other innovative approaches that make visitor more aware of the park is required.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY – SIGNAGE AND INTERPRETATIVE INFORMATION

AIM

- To enhance visitor's enjoyment and understanding of the park.
- To improve way finding.
- To provide adequate directional, safety and warning information.

Strategy

- 7.13a. Co-locate signs wherever possible and adopt common standards to reduce visual impact of excessive signage. - **ONGOING**
- 7.13b. Remove / replace all old, faded or damaged signs. – **HIGH**
- 7.13c. Provide safety/warning signage at "Omeo Pool". – **HIGH**
- 7.13d. Shared Pathway, Pedestrian and/or Mountain Bike signage required at start, end and entry points to each track. - **MEDIUM**
- 7.13e. Install new and prominent directional signage or other approaches to highlight the Park from Day Avenue. – **HIGH**
- 7.13f. Provide signage to complement historical walk within the park. – **MEDIUM**
- 7.13g. Review placement, terminology, quality and number of signs installed at Aquatic Activity Node. - **HIGH**

Responsibility: East Gippsland Shire

8 IMPLEMENTATION



Actions contained within the management plan have an implementation rating of low, medium, high or ongoing. Timeframes for implementation of these actions are ideally: Low – within 5-10 years, Medium – between 2-5 years, High – commence immediately (ideally), and Ongoing – continual implementation.

Many of the actions have been listed as individual tasks and include an individual priority rating. This approach makes it clear as to the specific issue that needs to be addressed. However, for assets such as the pool the most desirable approach would be to undertake an overall upgrade of the pool as a project inclusive of all identified actions. An upgrade of the pool and associated infrastructure has an estimated cost of \$500,000.00.

Many of the recommended actions will also require further detailed design prior to final costs, required approvals and implementation timeframes becoming known.

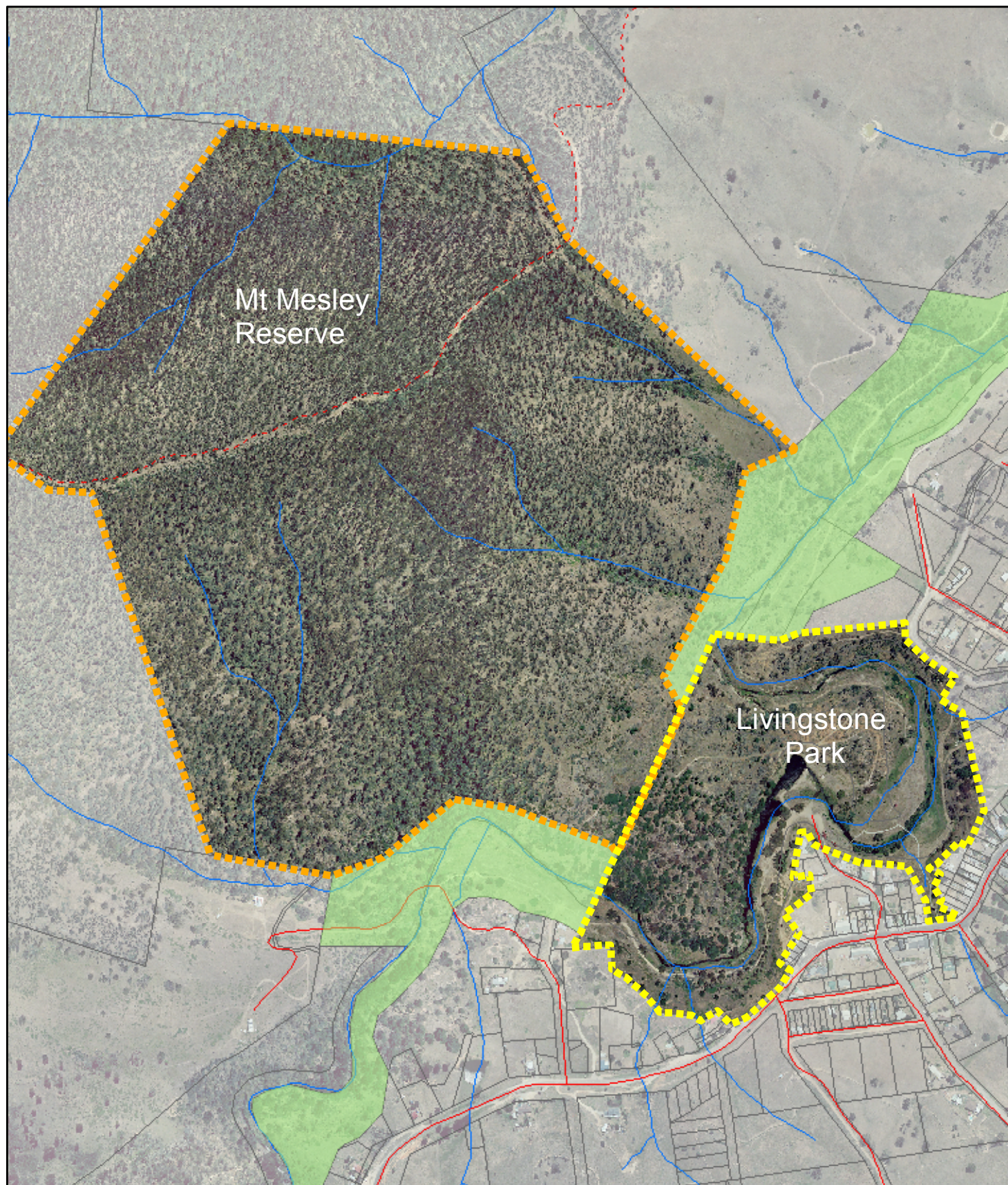
Implementation of some actions are also likely to be influenced by other projects such as development of a mountain bike trail network. If a large-scale mountain biking project is progressed in the short term, this will place greater importance on implementing the cycling related priority actions listed in the management plan.

The priorities listed in the management plan will be further considered by Council during its annual integrated planning and budgeting process; and against other priorities for Omeo identified in other planning processes including the soon to commence Omeo Place Plan.

To guide the implementation of the plan and to aid sourcing of external funding, a business plan will be developed to complement the management plan. This business plan will also be considered within the broader Omeo Place Plan, which will prioritise needs and actions across multiple assets within the Omeo area.

9 REFERENCES and RELEVANT STRATEGIES




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- TiBar (2005) Omeo Pool – Assessment of 16th September 2005.
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Legend

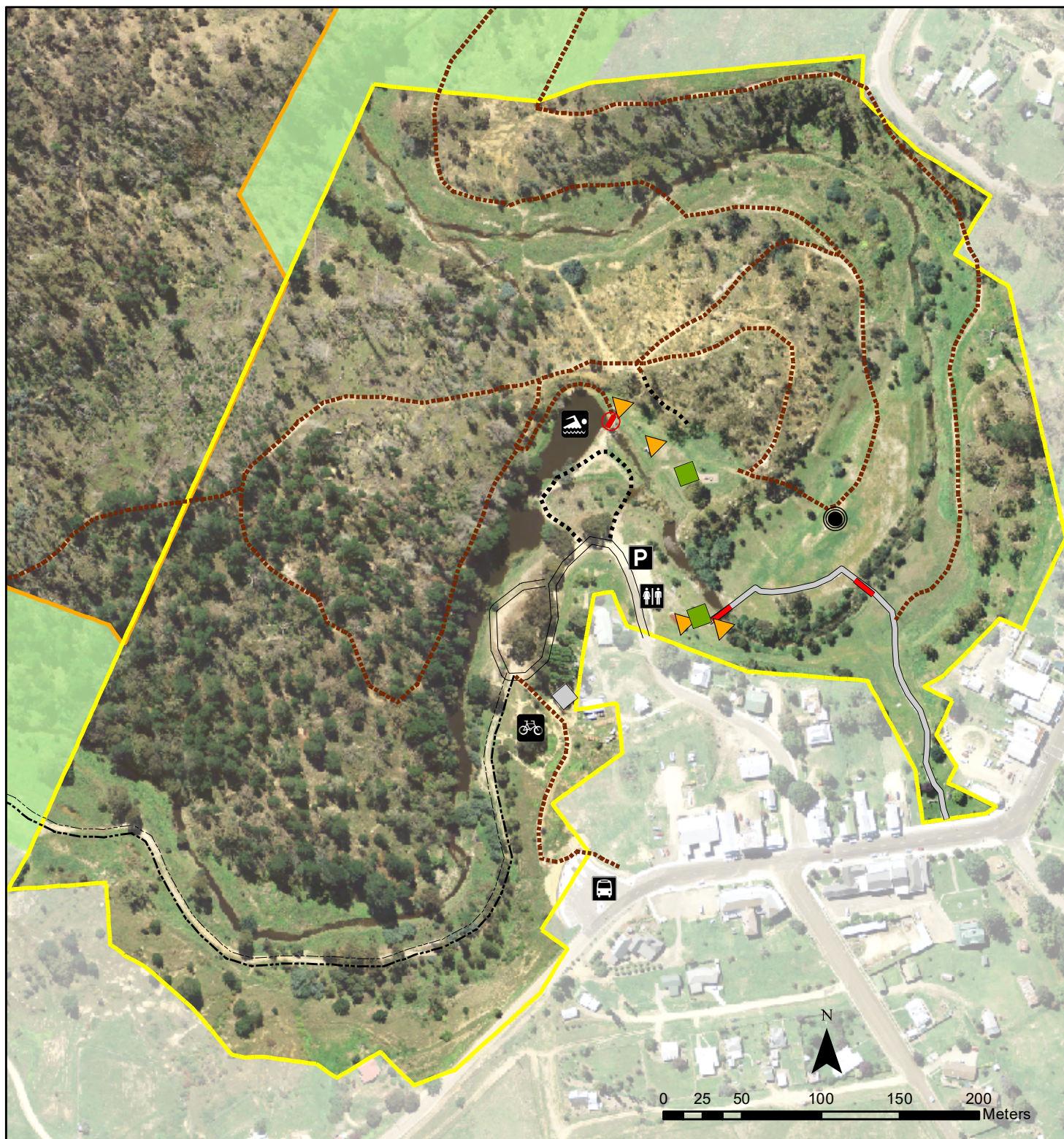
- Roads
- - - Tracks
- Hydrology
- Property Boundaries




















East Gippsland Shire Committee of Management Areas

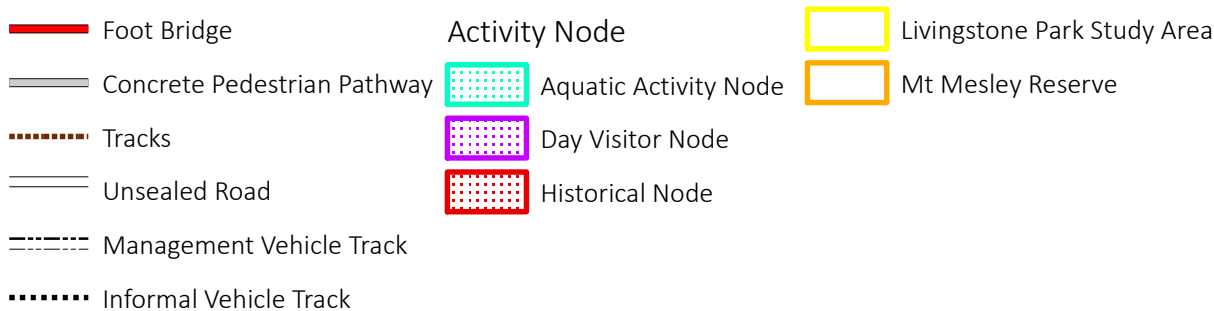
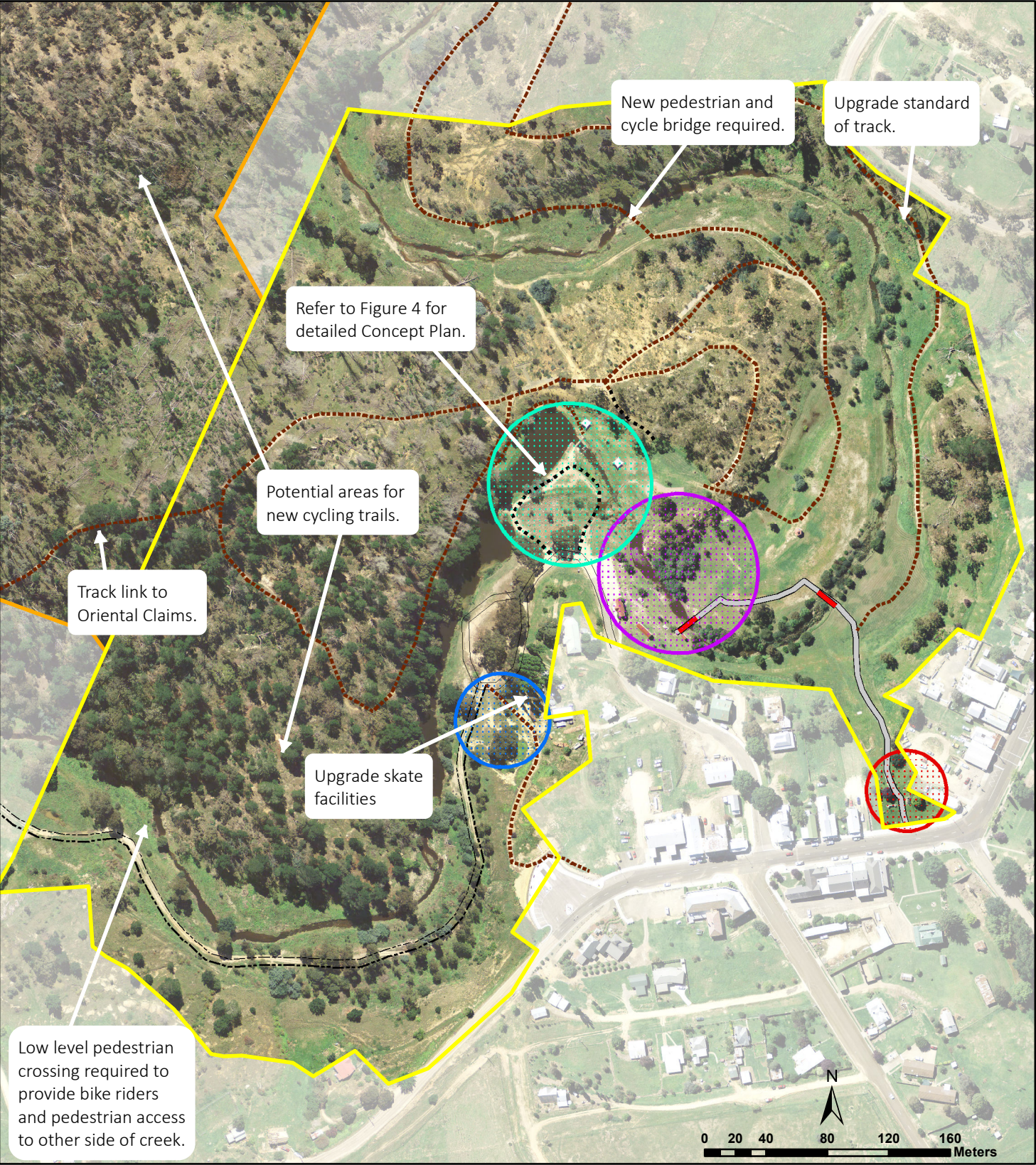
-  Livingstone Park Study Area
-  Mt Mesley Reserve
-  Surrounding EGSC Committee of Management Areas

Livingstone Park Management Plan

Figure 2 - Study Area Features



- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  Pump Track |  Shelter |  Foot Bridge | East Gippsland Shire
Committee of Management Areas
 Livingstone Park Study Area
 Mt Mesley
 Surrounding EGSC Committee of Management Areas |
|  Bus Turn Around and Car Park |  Skate Ramp |  Concrete Pedestrian Pathway | |
|  Car Park |  Swimming Pool |  Tracks | |
|  Playground |  Toilet Block |  Unsealed Road | |
|  Rotunda |  Weir and Bridge |  Management Vehicle Track | |
| | |  Informal Vehicle Track | |



LIVINGSTONE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

FIGURE 4 - Detailed Concept Plan - Aquatic Activity Node, Omeo Pool

