

# Rail Gauge Standardisation Project

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## **Integrated Approval Requirements**

## **1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Rail Gauge Standardisation Project (RGSP) facilitates the conversion of existing broad gauge rail lines to standard gauge. The lines included in this document are Geelong to Mildura-Yelta, including the spur line to Panitya on the South Australian border, and the lines from Dunolly to Robinvale and Kulwin.

In this document, 'RGSP' refers to buildings and works connected with rail gauge conversion, including the construction, alteration, upgrading or replacement of railway track and the construction or alteration of railway related buildings and works and other infrastructure including signalling and telecommunications infrastructure.

This Integrated Approval Requirements document provides an integrated process for the evaluation and approval of the planning, heritage and environmental aspects of buildings and works associated with the RGSP.

## **2.0 APPLICATION**

These requirements apply to land required for the RGSP, as shown in the Project Area Maps (section 5).

## **3.0 REQUIREMENTS**

### **3.1 Operation**

Despite any provision to the contrary in the planning scheme land may be used for a Railway and buildings and works constructed or carried out in association with the implementation of the RGSP as described in the Project Description (section 1).

This does not apply to an advertising sign.

All buildings and works associated with the RGSP must meet the requirements of this document.

### **3.2 Requirements for buildings and works associated with the RGSP**

#### **3.2.1 Preparation of a Site and Environmental Management Plan**

Before the commencement of any buildings and works associated with the RGSP, a Site and Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) must be prepared.

The SEMF must meet the requirements of section 3.3 of this document.

The SEMF may be prepared and implemented for parts of the RGSP, provided each part meets the requirements of this document as if it were an entire SEMF.

### **3.2.2 Consultation**

In preparing the SEMP, the proponent must consult with the following bodies:

- (a) the relevant local government authority or authorities;
- (b) any relevant State Government department or agency;
- (c) any relevant water drainage or sewerage authority; and
- (d) any other referral authority or organisation specified in a planning scheme.

### **3.2.3 Approval of a SEMP**

The SEMP must be approved by the Minister for Planning.

In deciding whether or not to approve a SEMP, the Minister must consider:

- (a) the effect of the proposed buildings and works on:
  - (i) native flora and fauna including any threatened or endangered species or habitats, migratory bird species, potential wildlife corridors;
  - (ii) water quality and aquatic species near any river crossings;
  - (iii) the heritage values of any building structure or place;
  - (iv) any Aboriginal cultural or archaeological values or sites;
  - (v) the natural and cultural landscape of the locality; and
  - (vi) the flooding and natural drainage characteristics of the area;
- (b) the effect of proposed construction activities on:
  - (i) the amenity of the locality by virtue of noise, vibration, light-shed and dust;
  - (ii) contaminated land and the need for remediation;
  - (iii) the potential permanent effect on the values or qualities of the existing railway reserve or its environs due to the storage of plant, equipment and materials during construction;
- (c) the decision criteria of any overlay in the planning scheme affecting the site; and
- (d) the effect of any qualifications or other comments made in the peer review and validation (section 3.4).

The Minister may approve a SEMP subject to conditions.

The Minister may amend a SEMP. Before amending a SEMP, the Minister may require further consultation and may amend the conditions of approval.

Where there is a dispute between the proponent and a person or agency required to be consulted under section 3.2.2, the Minister may seek an evaluation of the issues and a recommendation from an independent person before making a decision.

### **3.3 Site and Environmental Management Plan**

#### **3.3.1 Purpose**

The purpose of the SEMP is to identify and to set out ways to avoid or minimise the potential environmental and related impacts of the construction of the RGSP, and in particular:

- (a) to establish a management mechanism which ensures that the RGSP is designed and implemented in an environmentally sustainable manner;
- (b) to protect the heritage and environmental resources and values of any significant locations within the existing railway reserves and their environs;
- (c) to protect the amenity of sensitive uses adjoining existing railway reserves from construction activities;
- (d) to ensure the application of consistent standards for each rail corridor; and
- (e) to facilitate the efficient construction of the RGSP.

#### **3.3.2 Structure**

At a minimum, the SEMP must contain the following parts.

(a) Area

This part must describe the area of land to which the SEMP applies.

(b) Existing conditions analysis

This part must describe the existing conditions and environs that are likely to be affected by the proposed buildings and works including:

- (i) location of all significant existing railway features and infrastructure including rails, improved permanent way, embankments and cuttings, buildings and principal structures, major infrastructure, main drainage features including culverts, permanent pedestrian and road crossings and fencing;
- (ii) location, size, number and species of existing vegetation to be removed or lopped;
- (iii) all significant environmental or heritage features which may be affected by the proposed buildings and works; and
- (iv) any statutory controls including planning scheme overlays or other similar provisions that would apply if it were not for the exemption contained in section 3.1 of this document.



(c) Proposed buildings and works

This part must describe the nature of the proposed buildings and works including drawings to a suitable scale and supporting documentation which sets out:

- (i) proposed buildings and works including new rail and track works, level changes, building demolition and alteration, new structures, signalling, optic fibre and other communication works, crossings including full details of grade separated structures, drainage works and fencing;
- (ii) proposed tree planting and other landscaping works; and
- (iii) proposed staging and construction and commissioning timeframes.

(d) Planning, heritage and environmental issues and analysis

This part must provide an analysis of all relevant planning, environmental and heritage issues including those set out in section 3.2.3(a) and (c), and any application requirement and decision guideline that would apply if it were not for the exemption from permit provisions contained in section 3.1 of this document.

This part must explicitly consider the principles of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Strategy and have regard to the Native Vegetation Management Framework.

(e) Consultation

This part must include a description of the outcomes of the consultations undertaken under section 3.2.2 above (including full details of any unresolved or disputed matters).

(f) Management and mitigation measures

This part must set out in full the management and mitigation measures for each item identified above and must clearly demonstrate how:

- (i) the proponent will carry out the RGSP to avoid or reduce impacts to acceptable levels;
- (ii) nominated site-specific measures will avoid or reduce impacts to acceptable levels; and
- (iii) the construction management guidelines (as set out below) will avoid or reduce impacts to acceptable levels.

The following paragraphs provide specific details which must be provided or considered, as appropriate, in this part of the SEMP.

(iv) Environmental actions

The management and mitigation measures must contain:

- each environmental issue;
  - the environmental objective;
  - the proposed mechanisms for environmental monitoring during works and prevention of environmental risks;
  - the responsibility for implementing the proposed actions; and
  - the timeframe for the proposed actions.
- (v) Construction guidelines
- The management and mitigation measures must contain guidelines to be followed by the proponent for the known repetitive activities involved in the proposed buildings and works of the RGSP.
- (vi) Emergencies
- The management and mitigation measures must include:
- an identification of reasonably likely environmental emergency scenarios; and
  - for each of those scenarios, an appropriate contingency plan or procedure to manage the potentially significant environmental consequences.
- (g) Approval Instrument
- This part must provide a section where the Minister may note:
- (i) approval of the SEMP in accordance with 3.2 above; and
  - (ii) any or all of the following:
    - any modifications to the contents of the SEMP; and
    - any conditions which attach to his approval of the SEMP.

### **3.4 Peer review and validation**

The proponent must ensure that:

- (a) the SEMP is subjected to peer review by an appropriately qualified person; and
- (b) that person provides a statement of validation (the Statement) for the SEMP (or part of the SEMP) when it is submitted to the Minister.

‘Appropriately qualified person’ means a person with qualifications and experience in environmental assessment, environmental auditing, or environmental management and approved by the Minister.

The Statement must indicate that he/she is satisfied that:

- (c) the proposed works are adequately described to permit an assessment of environmental and other issues;

- (d) the assessment of impacts has adequately addressed all material issues;
- (e) the management and mitigation measures are appropriate;
- (f) an appropriate consultation process has been carried out; and
- (g) the conclusions are practicable.

### **3.5 Performance monitoring**

The SEMP must contain a monitoring program to assess the achievement of the objectives of the SEMP and the achievement of the management and mitigation measures identified above.

### **4.0 EXPIRY OF SPECIFIC CONTROL**

This specific control will expire if:

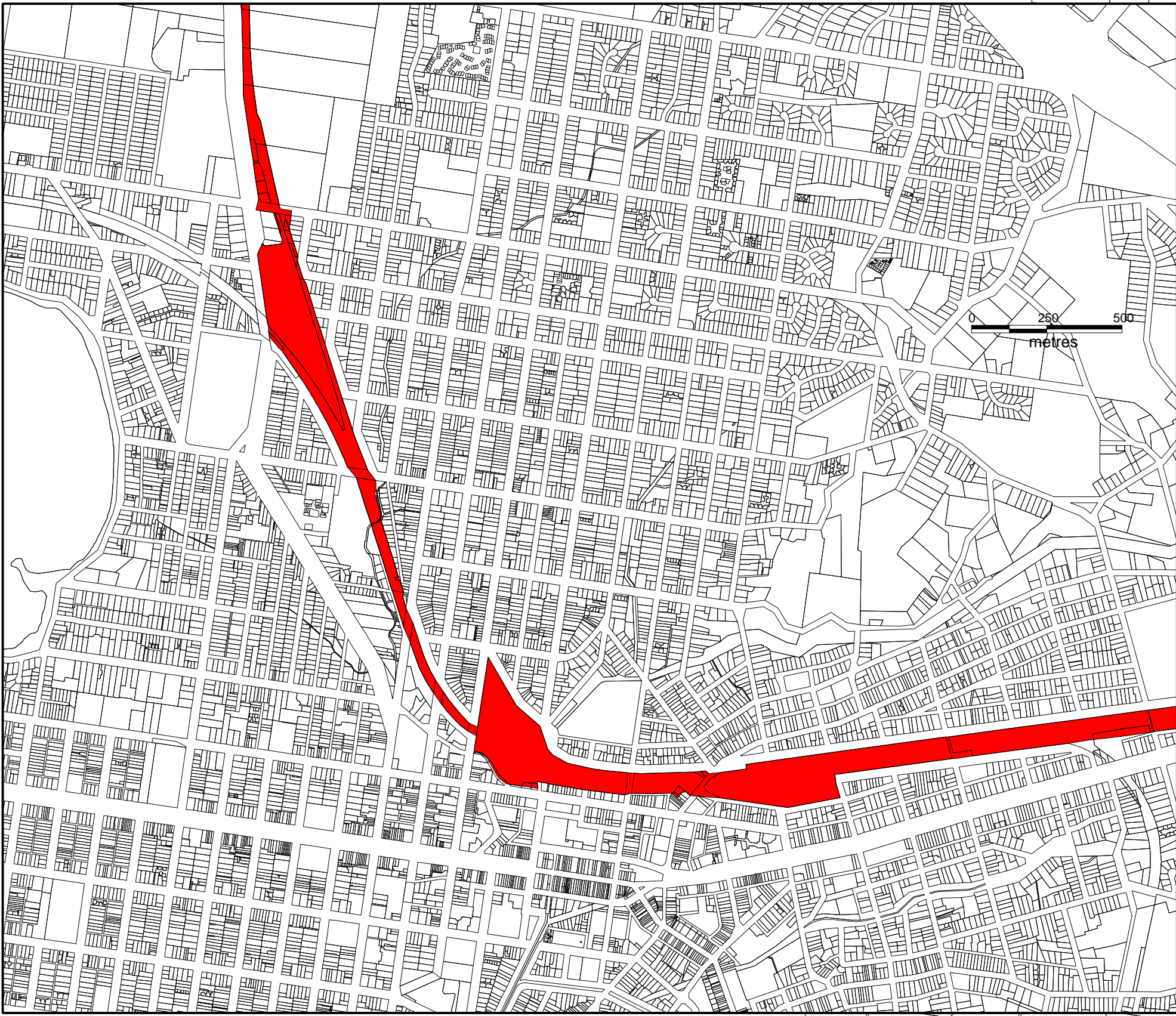
- The buildings and works are not started within two years of the approval date.
- The buildings and works are not completed within five years of the date of commencement of works.

### **5.0 PROJECT AREA MAPS**

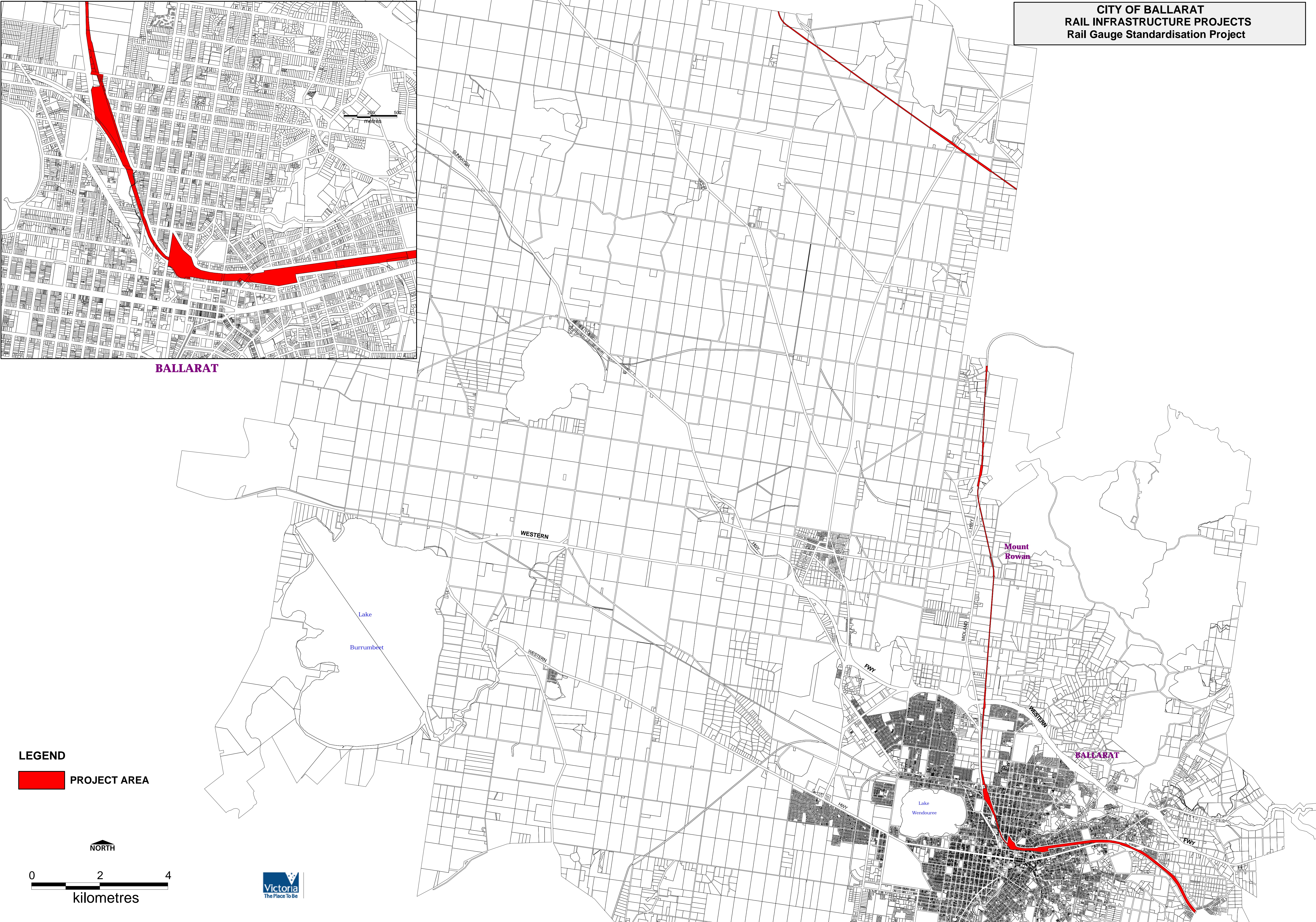
The following Project Area Maps delineate the project area to which the requirements of this document apply in the City of Ballarat, the Shire of Buloke, the Shire of Central Goldfields, the Shire of Gannawarra, the Shire of Golden Plains, the Shire of Hepburn, the Shire of Loddon, the Shire of Mildura, the Shire of Moorabool, the Shire of Northern Grampians, the Shire of Swan Hill, the Shire of Yarriambiack.

**Note:** This document is designed to be read electronically. In order to see the detail of the Project Area Maps you should use the “Zoom In” and “Zoom Out” tools in your PDF reader.

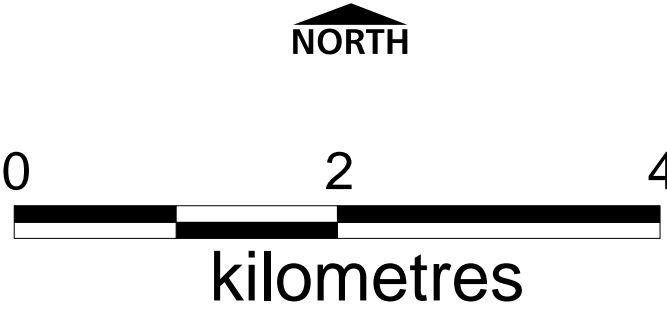




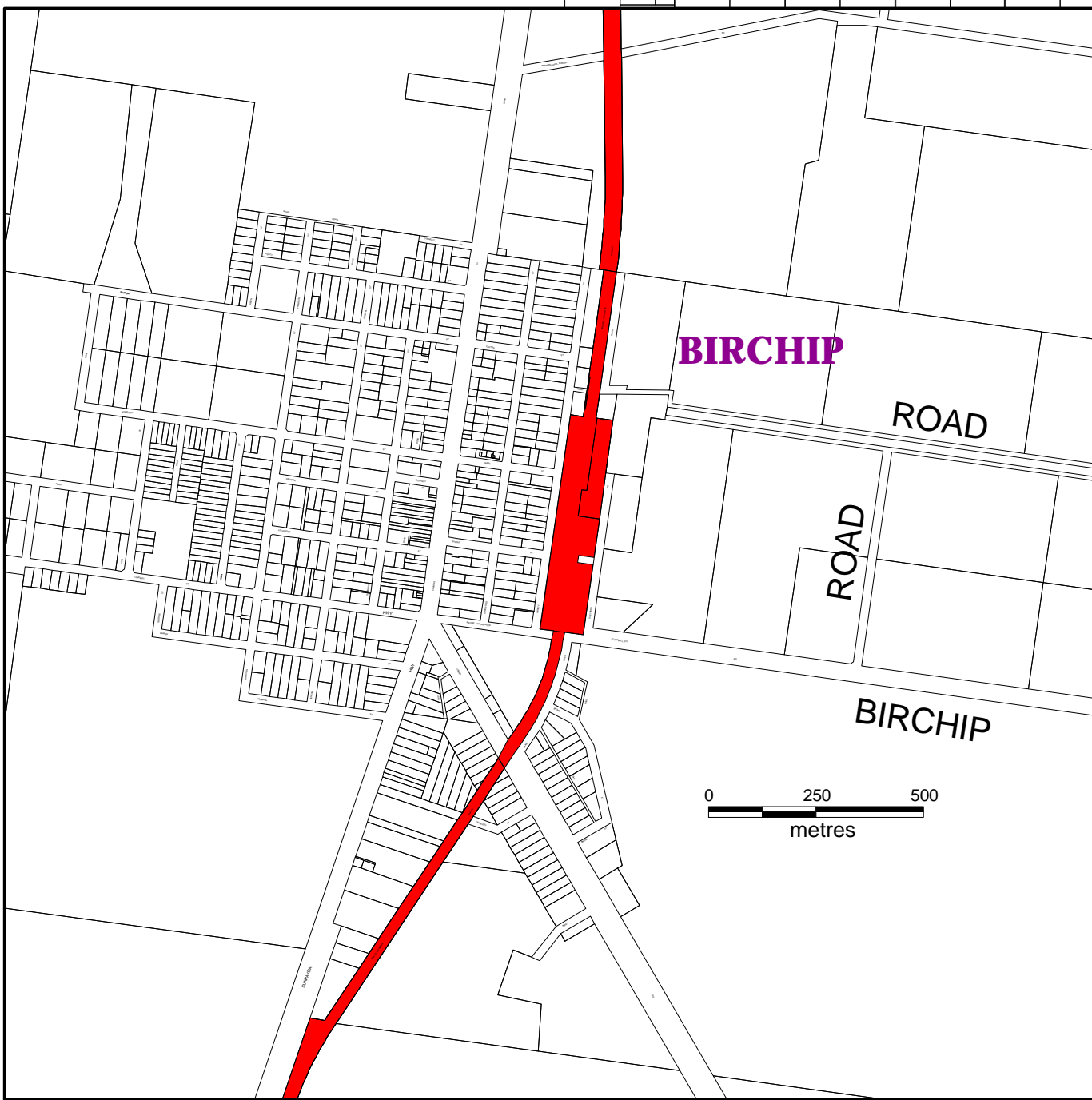
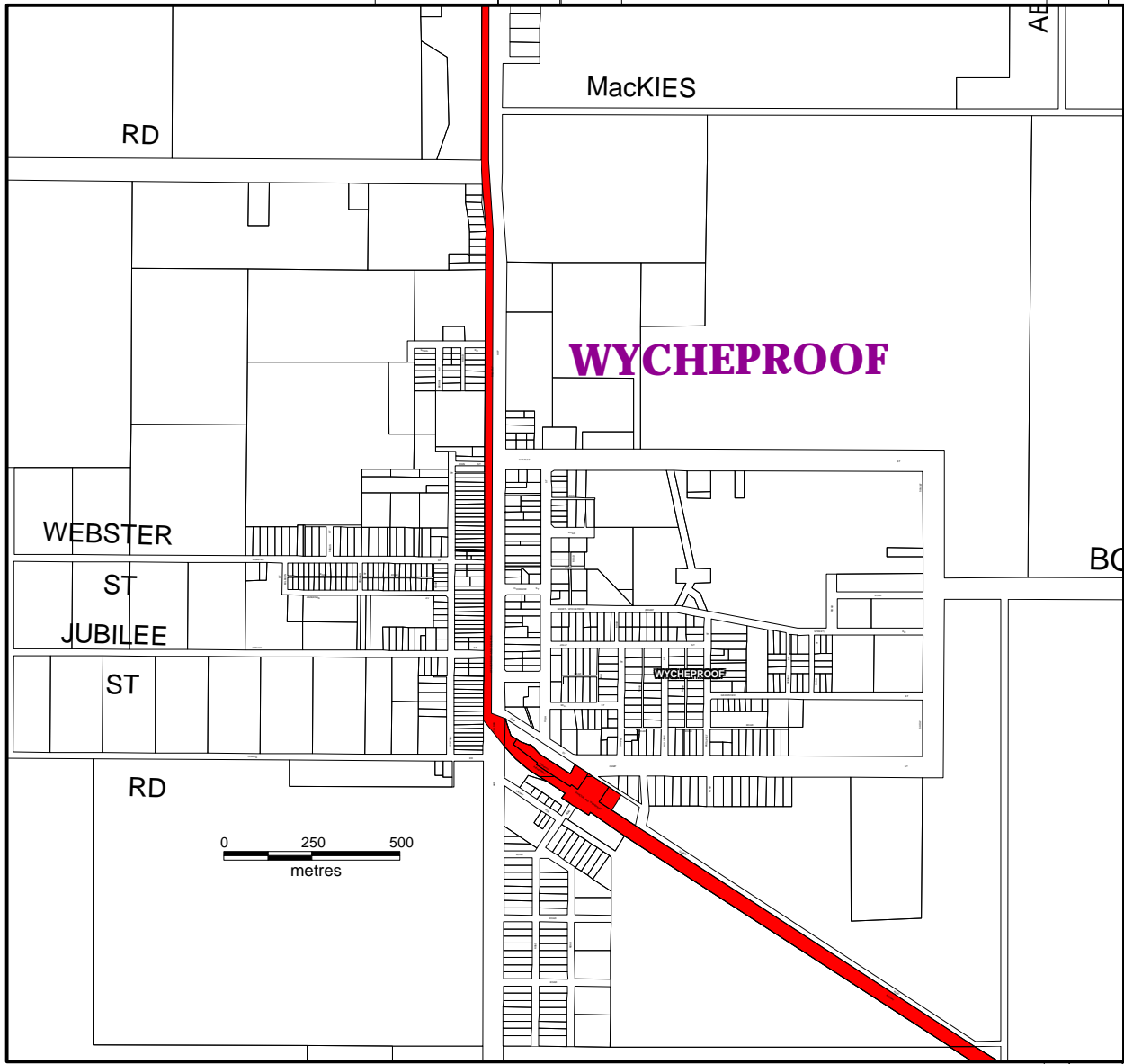
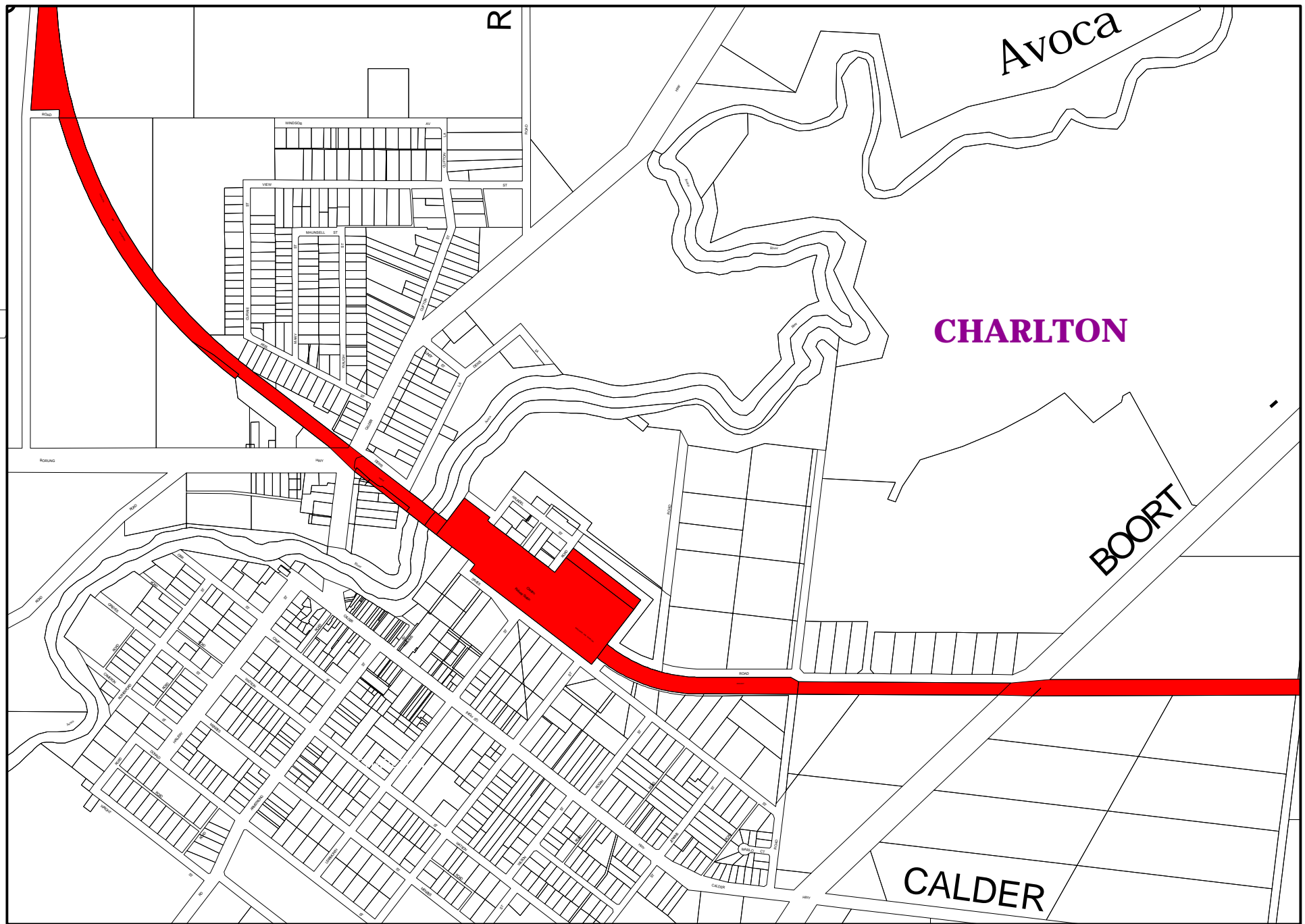
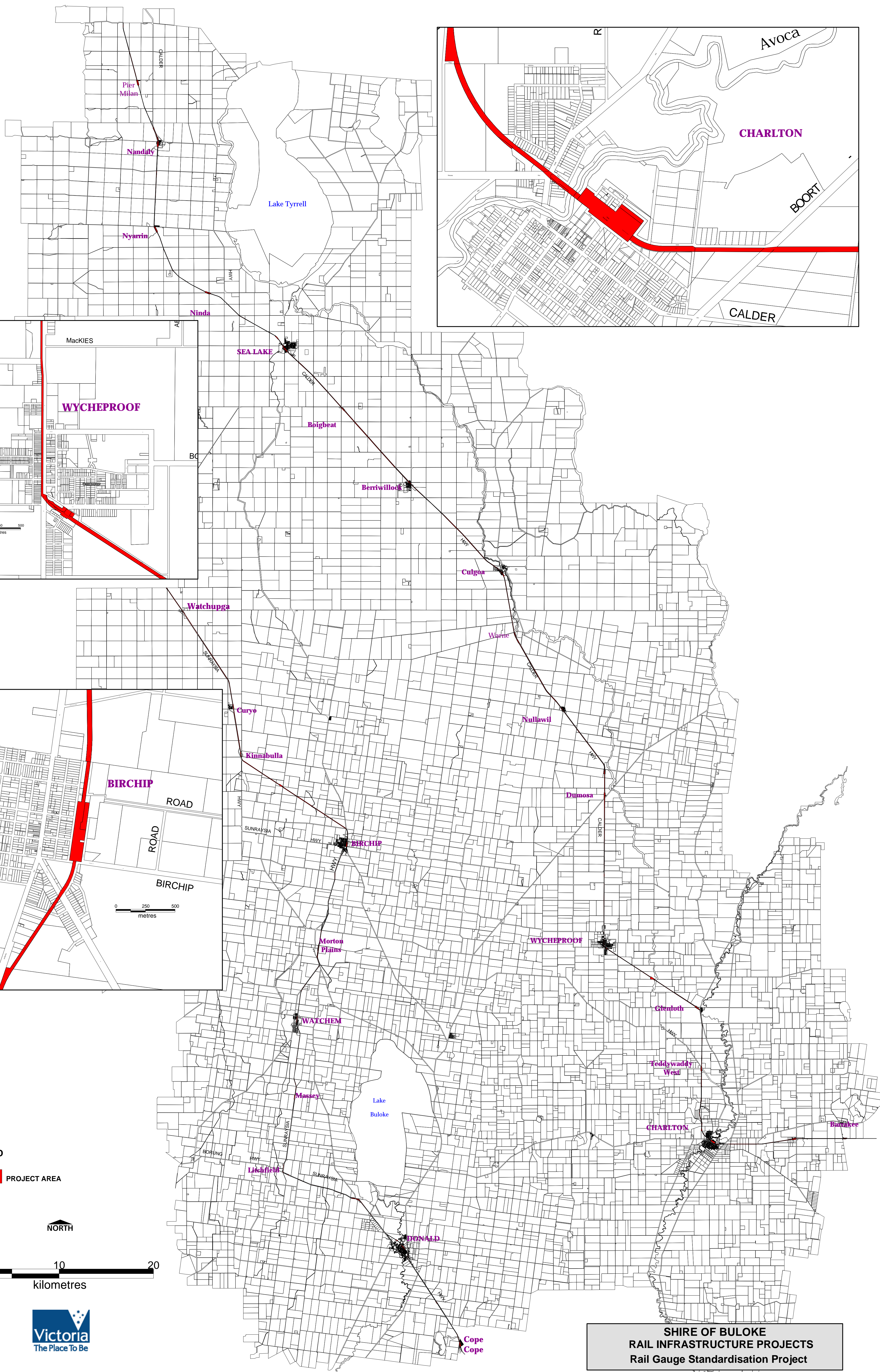
BALLARAT



LEGEND  
PROJECT AREA



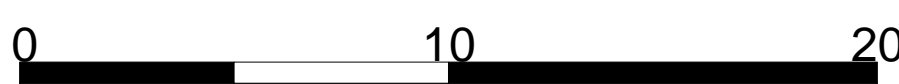




LEGEND

 PROJECT AREA

 NORTH

 0 10 20  
kilometres



SHIRE OF BULOKE  
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
Rail Gauge Standardisation Project



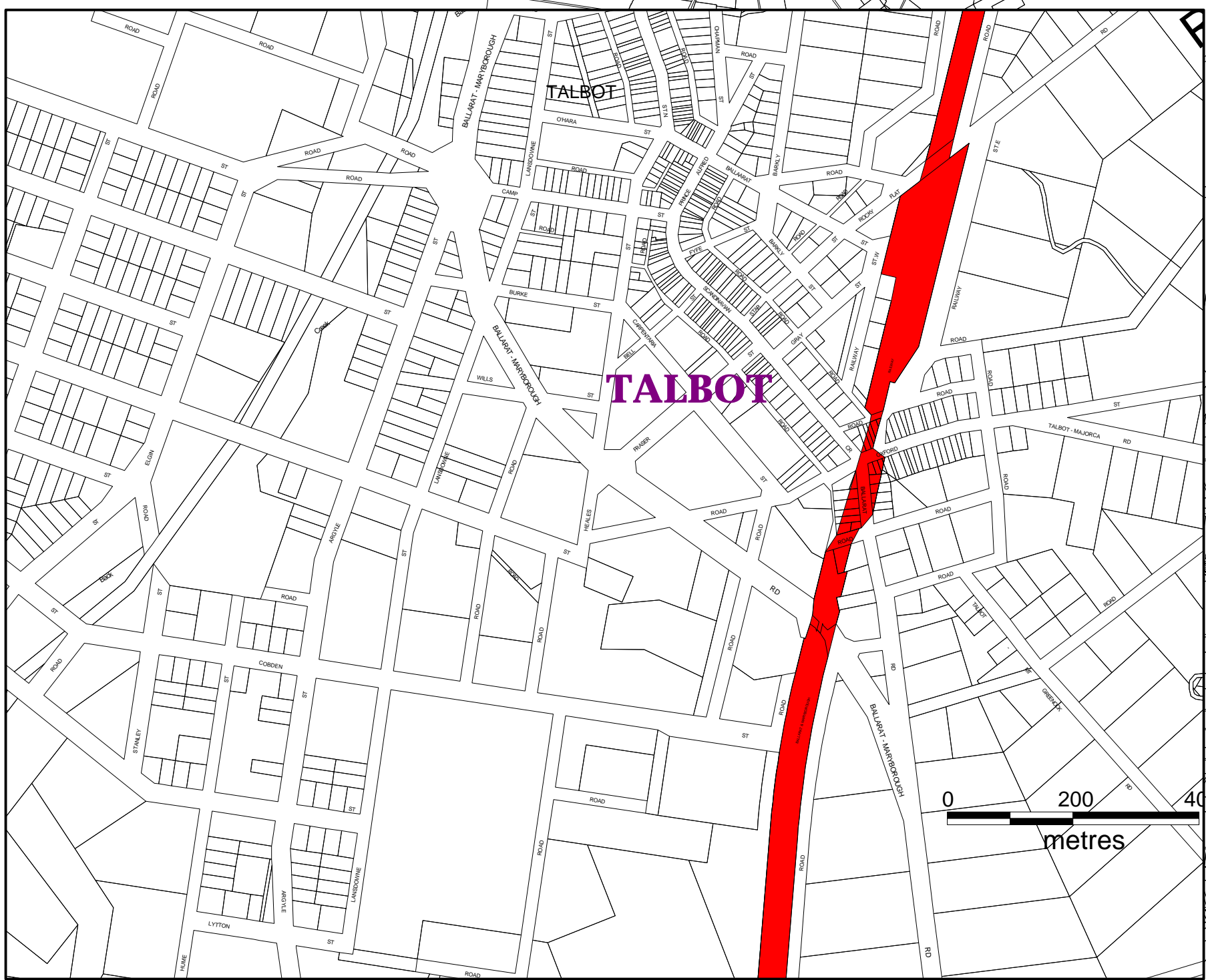
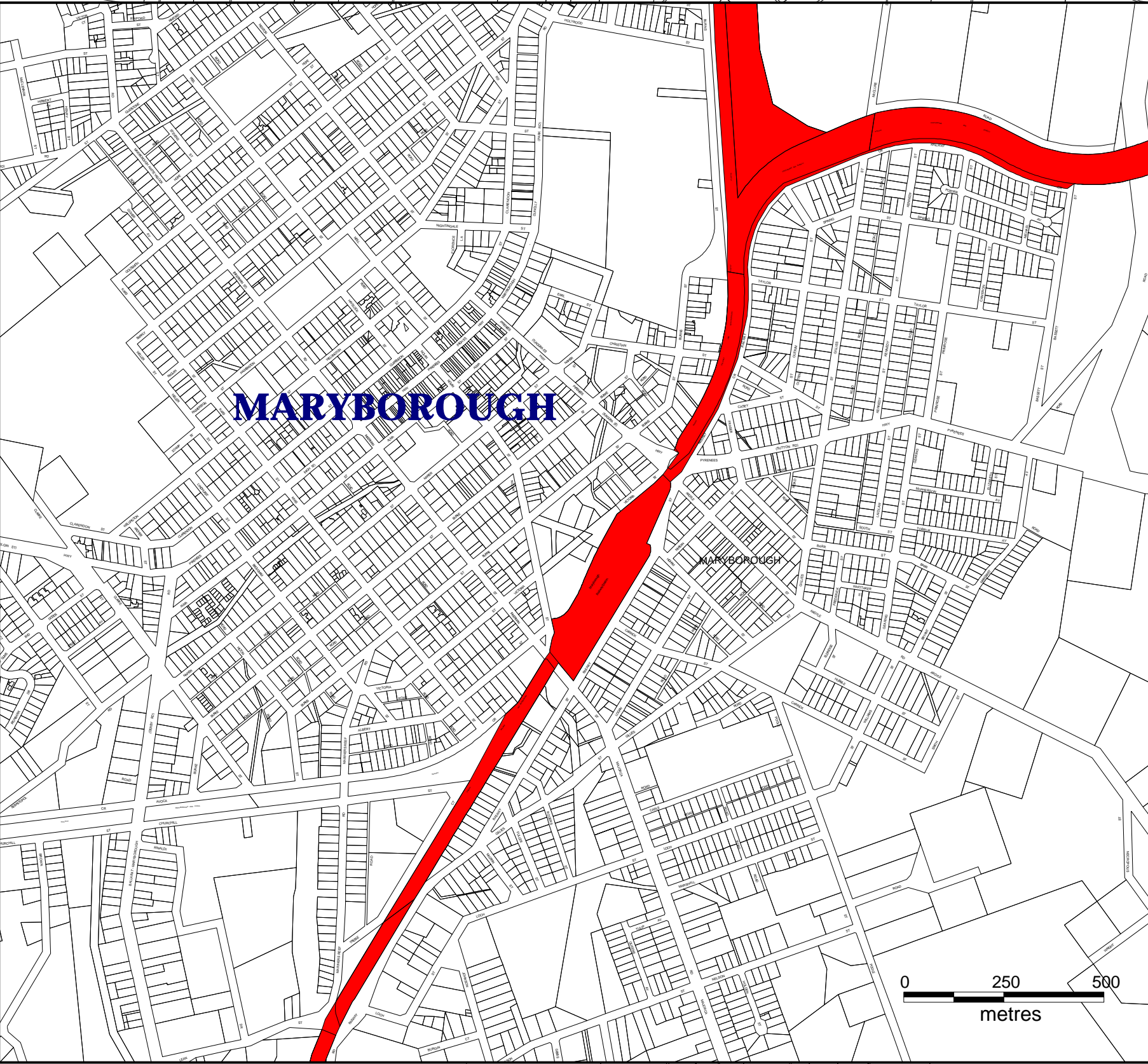
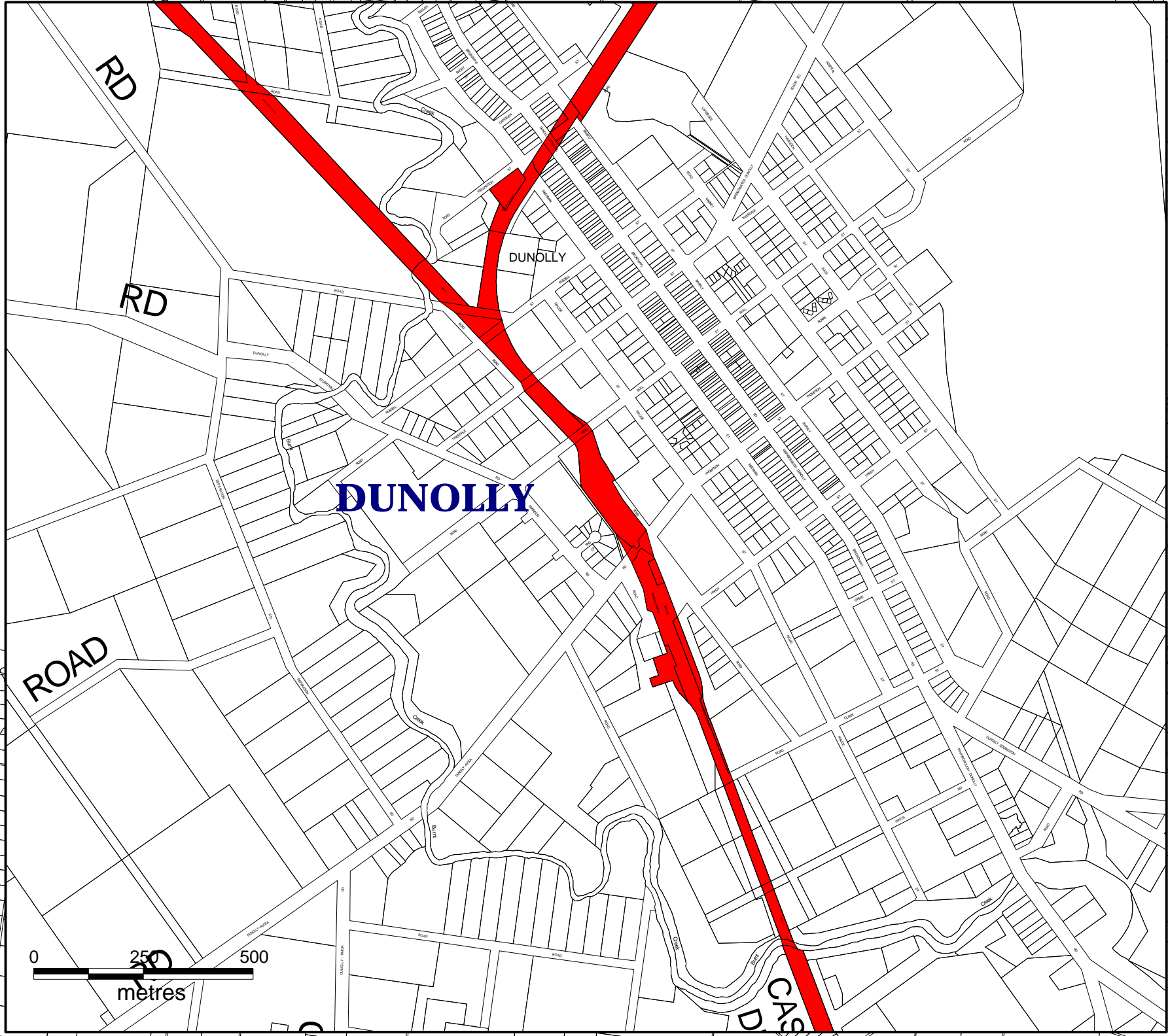
SHIRE OF CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS  
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
Rail Gauge Standardisation Project

LEGEND

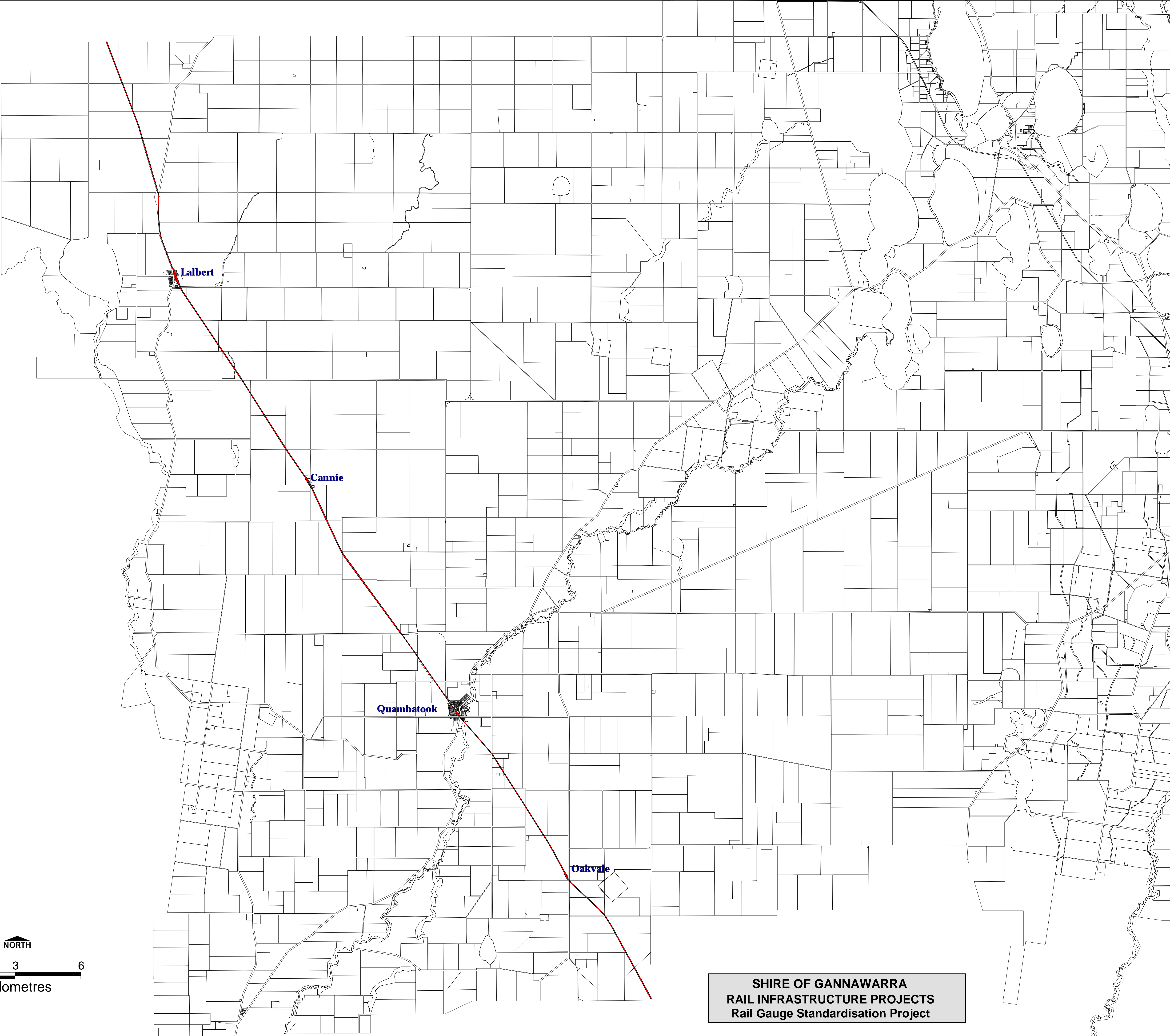
PROJECT AREA

NORTH

0 3 6  
kilometres

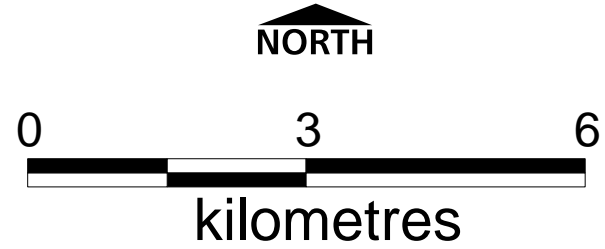






LEGEND

 PROJECT AREA



**SHIRE OF GANNAWARRA**  
**RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**  
Rail Gauge Standardisation Project



SHIRE OF GOLDEN PLAINS  
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
Rail Gauge Standardisation Project

MEREDITH

MIDLAND

LEGEND

PROJECT AREA

NORTH

0 2 4  
kilometres

LETHBRIDGE

BANNOCKBURN

Victoria  
The Place To Be





CLUNES

CRESWICK

0 400 800  
metres

LEGEND  
PROJECT AREA



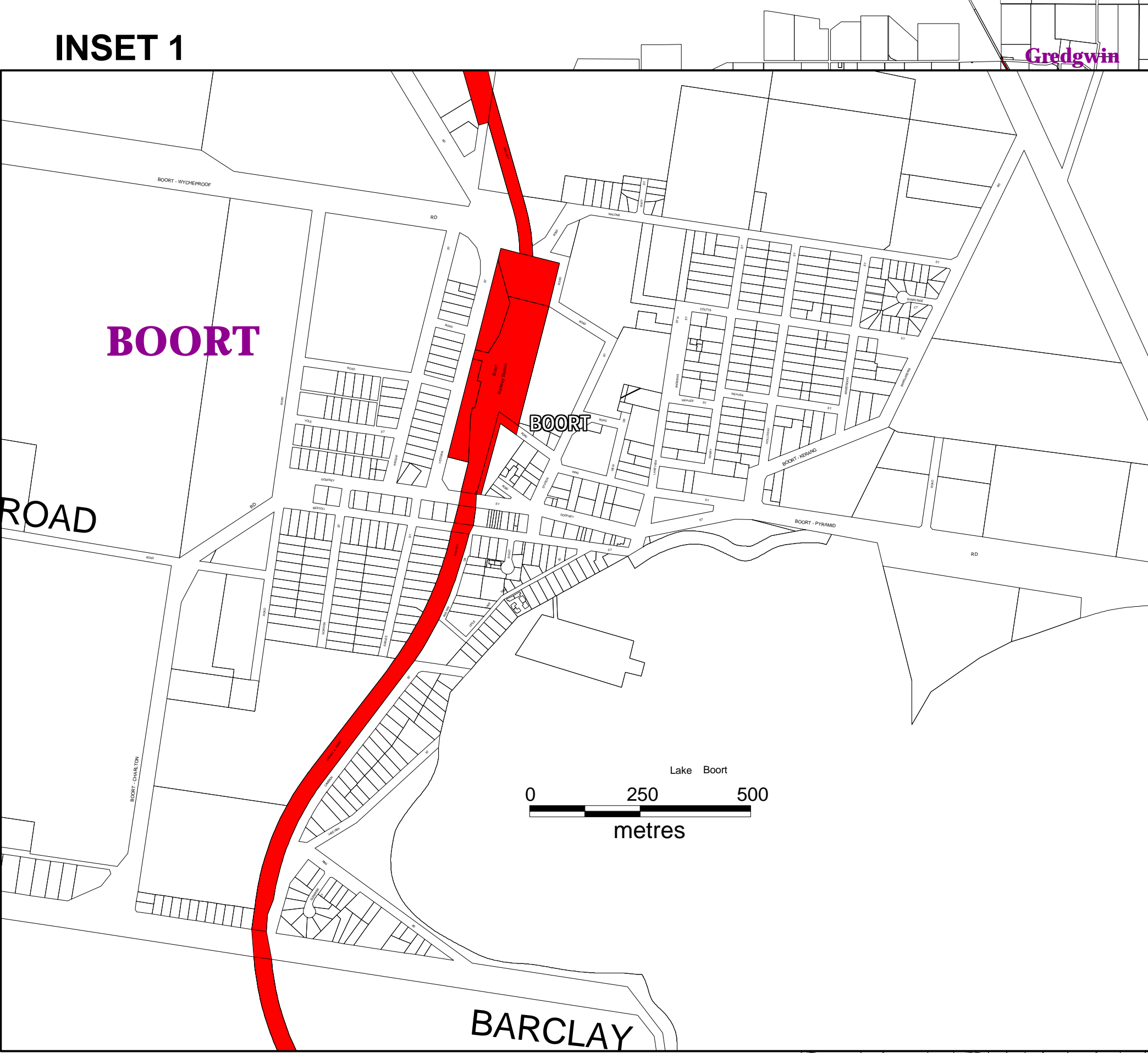
SHIRE OF HEPBURN  
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
Rail Gauge Standardisation Project

0 1 2  
kilometres

CRESWICK




INSET 1




INSET 2



LEGEND

 PROJECT AREA

 NORTH

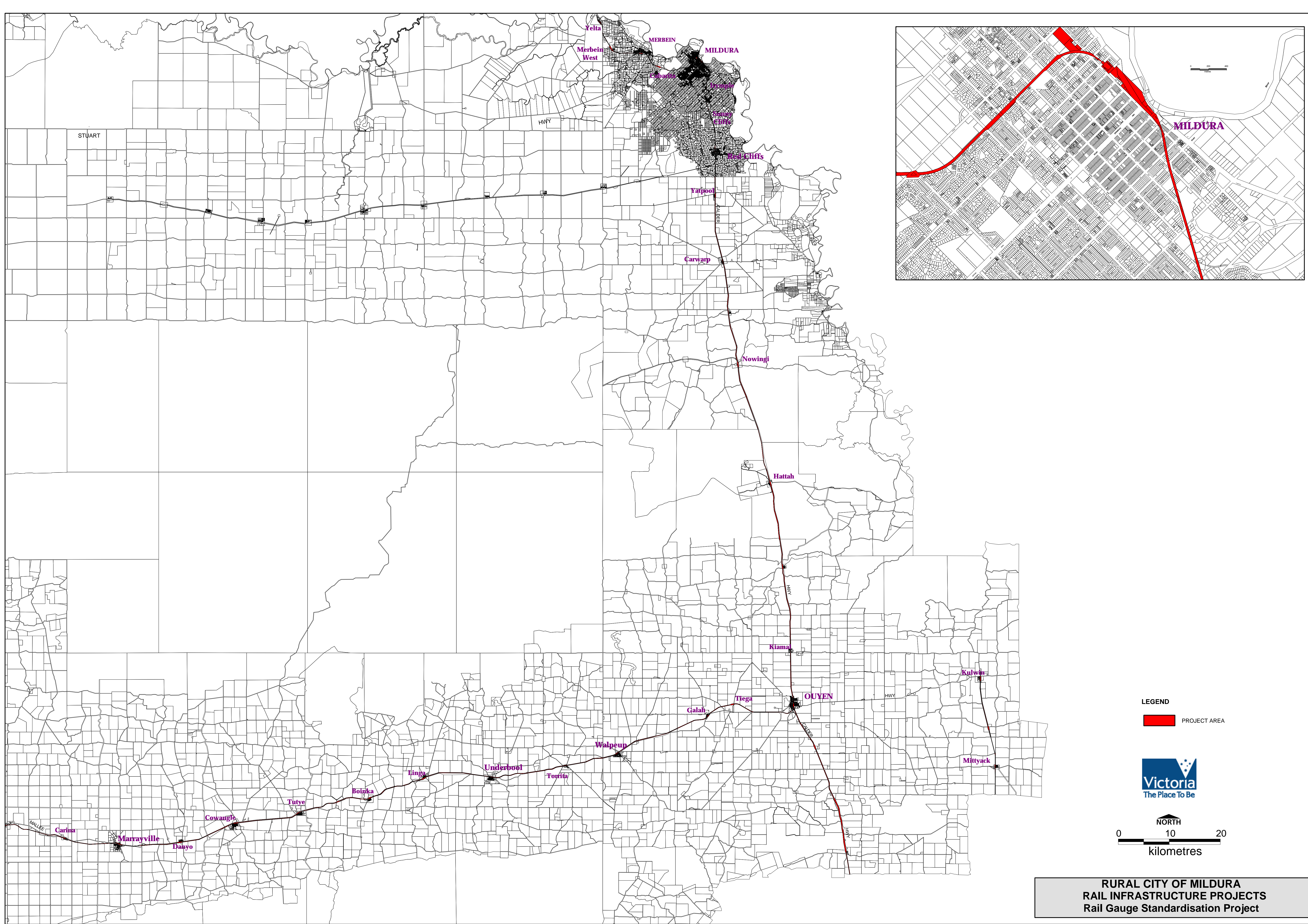
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kilometres

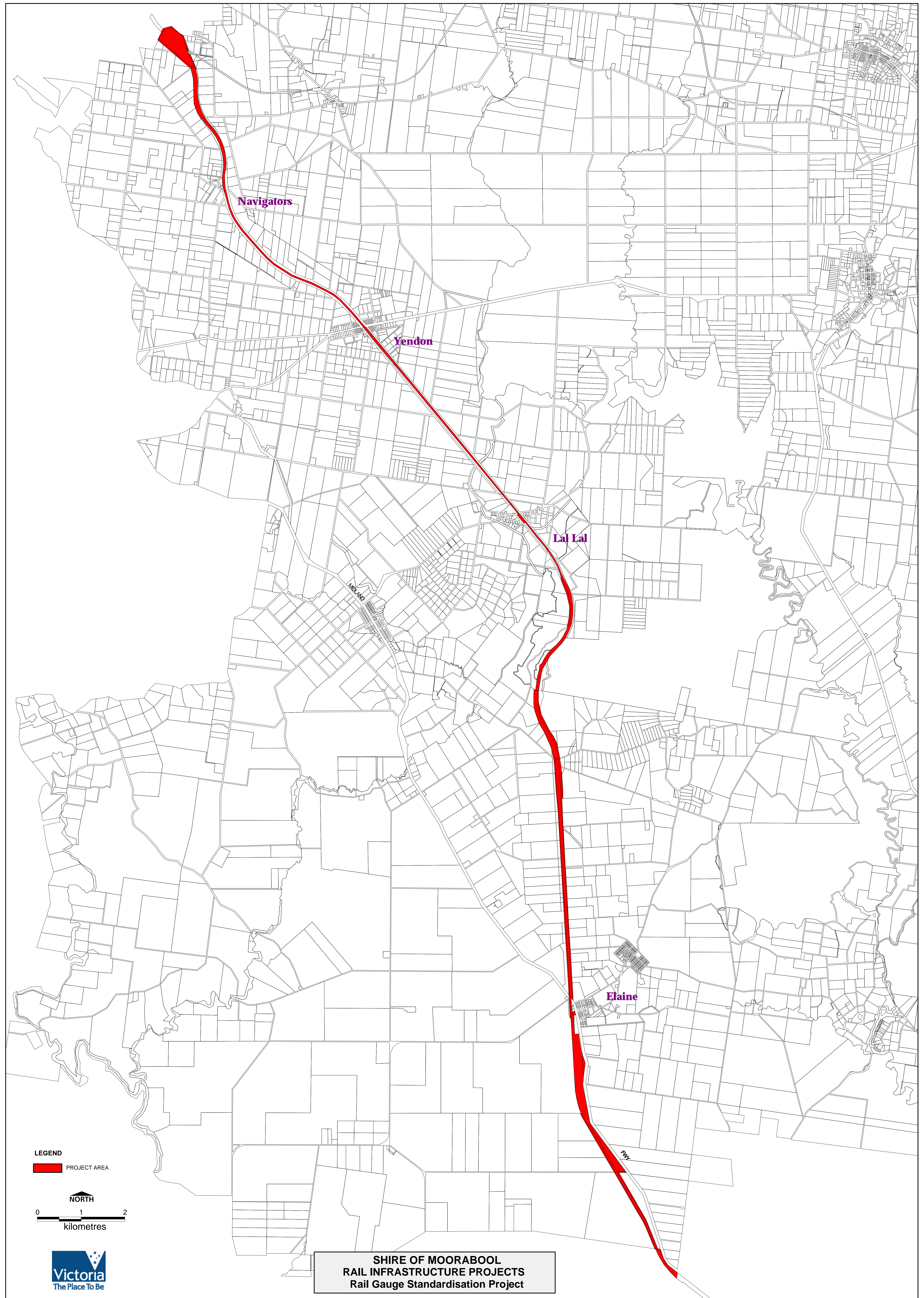


SHIRE OF LODDON  
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
Rail Gauge Standardisation Project









LEGEND

PROJECT AREA

NORTH

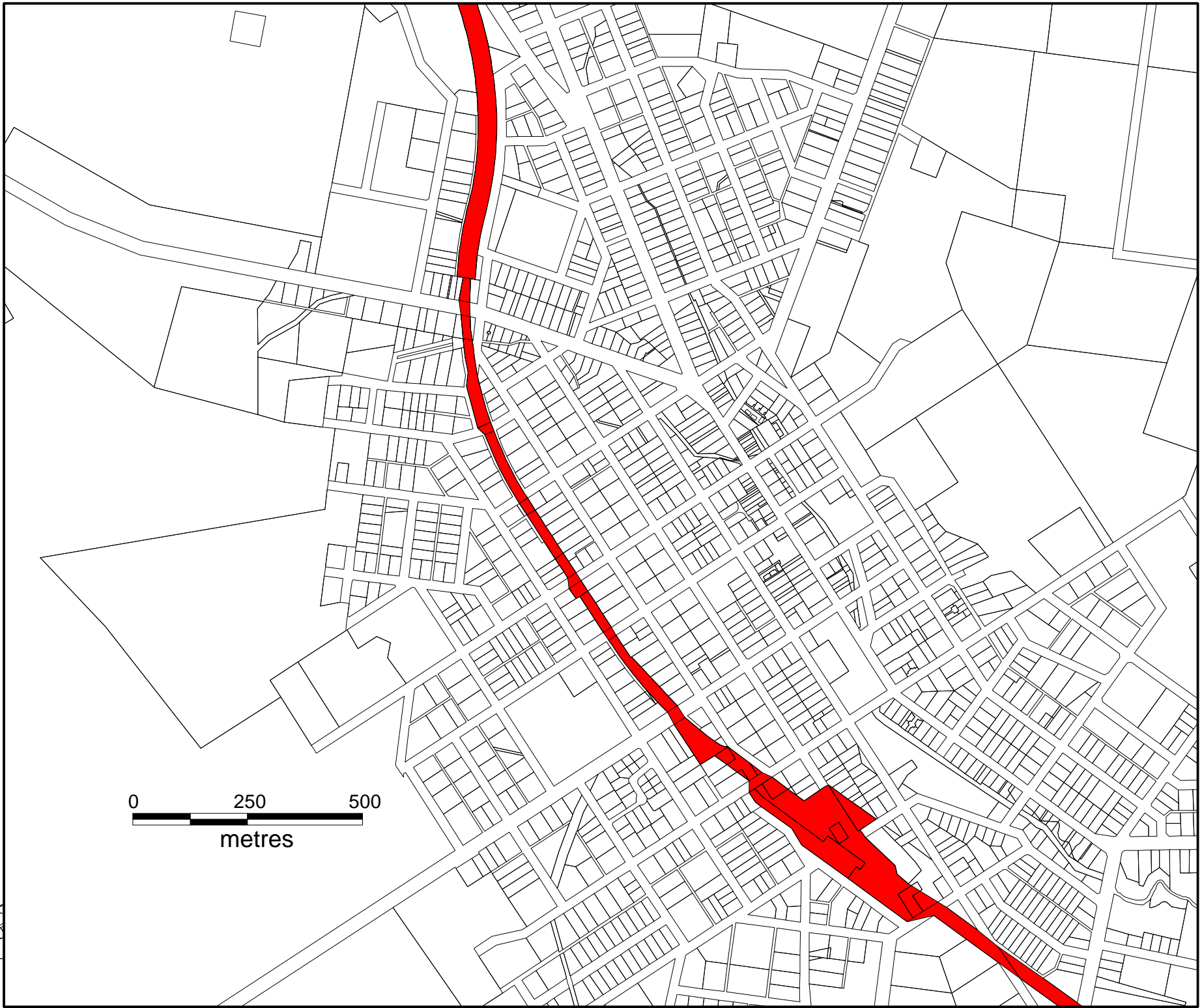
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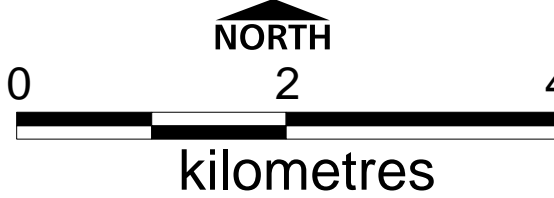
SHIRE OF MOORABOOL  
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
Rail Gauge Standardisation Project





LEGEND

PROJECT AREA



SHIRE OF NORTHERN GRAMPians  
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
Rail Gauge Standardisation Project



