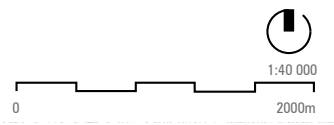


## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- LEGEND**
- Study Area
  - Municipal Boundary
  - Property
  - Contour
  - Roads
  - Railway Line
  - Rail Trail
  - Waterbody / Course

- LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA**
- Plains





## 1 PLAINS

The 'Plains' landscape character area comprises gently sloping terrain with expansive grassed grazing lands, typical of the wider Burrumbeet Plains. Canopy vegetation is generally sparse, but where present it is typically established exotic or native windbreaks along property boundaries and roadsides, with some scattered native vegetation in paddocks present. The Ballarat Avenue of Honour runs through the center of the study area from east to west along Remembrance Drive, and forms a significant feature of mature canopy trees. The adjacent plains provide a rural character setting for the Avenue.

Elements such as scattered agricultural infrastructure, livestock, post-and-wire fencing, occasional small scale dwellings, sheds and agricultural facilities, help to reinforce a distinctively active and functioning rural landscape character set within a gently sloping to undulating landscape. Recreational access is encouraged into and around the study area through the Remembrance Drive shared trail and Skipton - Ballarat Rail Trail.

The combination of sparse vegetation and low grazing land typically allows open views when within or adjacent to the character area. Drainage lines and waterways can also be seen, but they are not a visually dominant character element.





# ASSESSMENT OF

## 3. VIEWSHEDS

This section of the report describes the outcomes of the viewshed analysis which is undertaken to inform the landscape assessment. The viewshed analysis is undertaken as a means to ascertain the full extent of technically feasible views to and within the study area from the surrounding landscape.

A viewshed is defined as the surface area or terrain visible from a given viewpoint. It is also the area from which that viewpoint or series of viewpoints may be seen. This is referred to as the 'intervisibility' relation. Although the viewshed plans shown only the visible terrain from a specific viewpoint, the visibility between two points depends upon the presence of on-ground obstacles, such as trees and buildings along the sight-line which connects the two points. Such obstacles may obstruct or reduce the reciprocal vision of the same two points.

The approach used in this assessment is to identify this extent of potentially visible terrain from a specific point as a basis for proofing the results through extensive fieldwork. It is important to emphasise that the viewshed analysis will typically yield a much broader extent of views as it is based on topography only and does not take into consideration the restrictive impact on views from factors such as built form and vegetation. This will be further discussed for the North Western GIA in the proceeding Visual Exposure section of the report.

### VIEWSHED METHODOLOGY

The viewshed analysis of the study areas was developed using computer software packages (Autocad, Rhinoceros & Adobe) to develop a three-dimensional terrain model of the region within which the subject land is contained. The model used topographical data obtained from Council's GIS database, comprising elevation information with a 1m contour interval.

Following development of the terrain model and its surrounds, a series of points were selected based on the desktop analysis of likely sensitive viewing locations.

Utilising Rhino terrain and based on the concept of intervisibility described above, a projection was simulated at a height of 1.6m above the ground radially to the surrounding terrain. This height was selected to represent the height of an average viewer. The objective of this process is to ascertain all locations that are conceivably visible from a particular location. This analysis is based on topography only and does not consider built form, vegetation or any other potential visual obstruction.

The resultant mapping provides an illustrative description of the viewshed from a specific point, whereby the potentially visible terrain is shown coloured in red, and not visible areas are white.





## FIELD WORK ASSESSMENTS

Each viewpoint has also been assessed through subsequent field work to review the outcomes of the viewshed analysis. This process is necessary in order to account for the potential screening and filtering effect on views caused by existing vegetation and built form.

The field work was conducted on the 12th May 2017 between 10am and 4pm.

It is important to reinforce that the viewshed analysis maps are based on topography only and do not take into account the screening effects of other elements in the landscape such as existing vegetation and built structures that further obscure views. Typically the actual view from the ground will be reduced once these factors are taken into consideration.

## VIEWSHED MAPPING

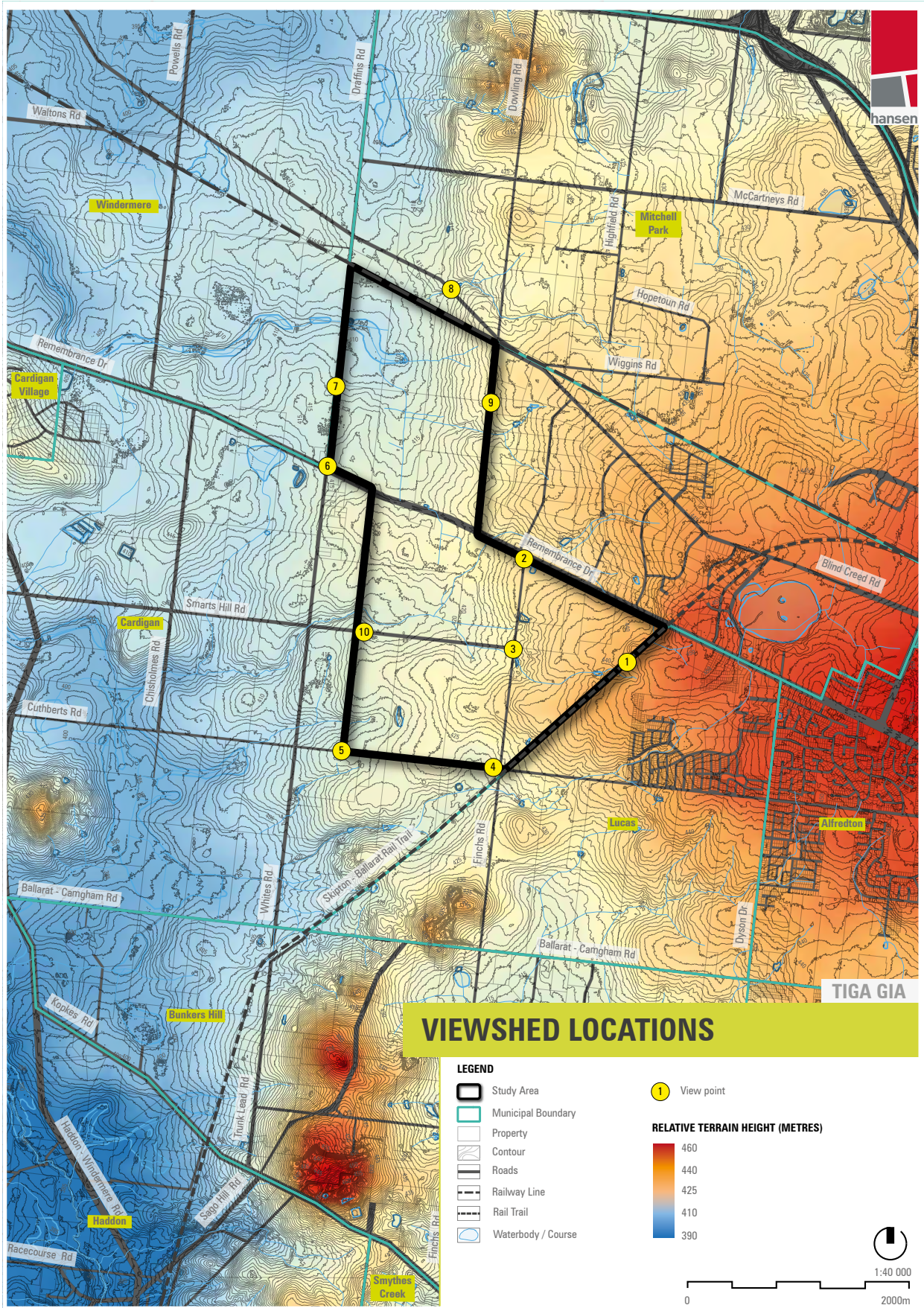
The following mapping demonstrates the ten viewsheds for the North Western GIA. Each map provides an illustrative description of the viewshed from a specific point, whereby the potentially visible terrain is shown coloured in red, and not visible areas are white.

A broad discussion of the viewsheds, their accompanying photography and the relationship between the viewpoints and topography is included in the Visual Exposure Section of the report. The following mapping presents data and findings from the site investigations which are used as a basis for this later discussion. This discussion will reveal key patterns and facets of the viewshed assessment, as required for the subsequent values / visual sensitivity assessment.

## VIEWSHED LOCATIONS

The viewshed locations selected are located within publicly accessible areas, including within road and recreational reserves. The purpose of this task is to develop a picture of the extent of views from a range of locations spread evenly around and within the study area. The viewpoints covered are shown in the following table / mapping.

The mapping also demonstrates relative terrain height which comprises shaded graphic of the collated 1m contour data. This assists to understand the relative changes in level and the landform which contributes to the composition of the landscape. On this basis the study area has been shaded to indicate topography ranging from low (blue) to high land (red).





THE

# NORTH WESTERN GIA

## VIEWSHED LOCATIONS

NORTH WESTERN GIA	
VIEWSHED NO.	LOCATION
1	Skipton-Ballarat Rail Trail
2	Finches Road and Remembrance Drive
3	Finches Road and Smarts Hill Road
4	Finches Road and Cuthberts Road
5	Cuthberts Road
6	Remembrance Drive and Draffins Road
7	Draffins Road
8	Blind Creek Road
9	Dowling Road
10	Smarts Hill Road