

Project:

Bannockburn South East Draft Precinct Structure Plan

Submission ID	Q1. What is your full name?	Q2. What is your email address?	Q3. What is your postal address?	Q4. You can enter your submission	Date
1330037				<p>Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for Wadawurrung Country. With the statutory authority for the management of Aboriginal heritage values and culture, under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act, 2006.</p> <p>In support of our above responsibilities, we provide a wide variety of services to organizations, assisting them in compliance with the aforementioned Act. We do not support the submission please see attachment and concerns and recommendations</p>	2025-06-13 14:01:53

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Response – Bannockburn South East PSP

Wabdallah – A Place of Deep Cultural Significance

Bannockburn, known as Wabdallah to Wadawurrung People, holds deep cultural, spiritual, and ecological significance. It was a key winter and early spring gathering place, known for small spears used in hunting goim and go-yin (kangaroos and wallabies), and the Borum wirrm-ngum (now Bruce's Creek), whose muddy waters brought life to the savannah woodlands.

To the west, the Garrang (Yellow Gums) provide habitat for Wadawurrung Spirit Moieties — Bundjil (wedge-tailed eagle) and Waa (the raven), as well as Kalwerk (Nankeen Kestrel), a Wadawurrung totem. These woodlands once stretched as far south as Murgheboluc. This area was a site of male learning, spear and boomerang making, and seasonal harvesting of beal (nectar), barnong (ringtail possum), and walart (brushtail possum).

To the east lies the Ngarrung, a place of Ngarris (she-oaks) and known gathering sites. North-east are the war bulloc (grassy, stony plains) — important hunting grounds of the great volcanic plain.

Bruce's Creek is a baaaring (legal pathway) created by Bundjil, linking to the Barwon River through Murgheboluc — 'the shining of the waters'.

This entire landscape connects Wadawurrung People to Country, Sky Country, and waterways — as it has for millennia.

Wadawurrung people are concerned for the PSP as read above our Cultural heritage consists of Intangible and tangible, see below concerns and recommendations.

All of this above has not been recognized, **We seek engagement and in-depth consultation.**

Key Cultural Heritage concerns and Recommendations

1. Cultural Sensitivity Mapping

Concern: Partial mapping of sensitivity misrepresents Wadawurrung connection to Country.

Recommendation:

Map the entire PSP as culturally sensitive.

Encourage voluntary CHMPs for developments not requiring them, as all Country holds significance.

2. Stony Rises and Elevated Ground

Concern: Important stony and elevated areas may be overlooked.

Recommendation:

Include all rises and elevated terrain in culturally sensitive mapping.

Recognize these as gathering and vantage points with equal cultural value to stony rises.

3. Bridge Construction

Concern: The proposed bridge may disturb culturally rich creek corridors, including burial sites.

Recommendation:

Avoid placing bridge in area of Cultural Heritage sensitivity, constructing the bridge

If unavoidable, minimize the investigation area and use low-impact construction methods only.

4. Basins and Water Flow

Concern: Infrastructure causing Cultural harm and may disrupt Bruce Creek's natural flow and significant cultural values.

Recommendation:

Protect creek floodplains and escarpments from disturbance.

Oppose outfall drains or pipes into the creek corridor.

5. Unnamed Waterways

Concern: Unnamed streams, creeks, waterways hold significant tangible and intangible Cultural heritage

Recommendation:

Map all waterways, named or unnamed, with protective buffer zones to reflect cultural importance.

6. Open Space and Cultural Recognition

Concern: Intangible cultural impacts of development are not addressed, Language not being returned to it's right place.

Recommendation:

Consult with Wadawurrung regarding language

Include dedicated cultural walking tracks, open spaces for education and place of Cultural reflection.

Stormwater and Waterway Protection

Concern: Urban stormwater threatens the ecological and cultural health of waterways, including Ramsar-listed wetlands and the habitat of the Growling Grass Frog. Bruce Creek's natural seasonal flow must be maintained.

Recommendation:

Require adherence to EPA Urban Stormwater Guidance 1739.1 to manage flow volumes.

Ensure stormwater retention occurs outside riparian corridors.

Remove the G35 reference to stormwater transfer to She Oaks until further assessment ensures cultural benefit.

Final Statement

All Wadawurrung Country is culturally significant. The current PSP approach falls short of acknowledging the full depth of Wadawurrung's Cultural values, Cultural waters, artefacts, sites, knowledge and deep Cultural heritage values.

We call for:

A respectful, transparent planning process.

Meaningful engagement with Wadawurrung with engagement ongoing with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners at all stages.

Prioritisation of cultural protection and environmental integrity.

This PSP presents an opportunity to lead by example — embedding cultural respect and sustainable water management at the heart of planning.