



FoCC
Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated



No: A0097535B ABN: 65 669 025 773

April 27th 2026
Proposed New Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Warrenheip
warrenheip@avenisenergy.com.au

Dear Project Team,

Re: Big Battery proposal, Coulsons Rd, Warrenheip

The Friends of the Canadian Corridor Incorporated (FoCC) is a local neighbourhood group dedicated to the conservation of the natural environment, in particular native vegetation along the “Biolink” between the Wombat Forest and Enfield Forest including the Creswick Forest and the new Woookarung Regional Park (formerly the Canadian Forest and Plantation).

The principal aims of the group are to protect neighbourhood character, maintain and promote public open space and maintain, improve and protect wildlife links, corridors and habitat in the local area.

The Friends of Canadian Corridor (FoCC) is a strong supporter of sustainable development and welcomes this project and the opportunity to have input into the site and surrounds landscape design.

This submission will outline the significance of the location of the Battery in relation to the “Biolink”. The project may provide an opportunity to protect Ballarat’s most significant stand of old trees, whilst restoring and enhancing the sites biodiversity plus adding a walk/cycle trail to the local communities amenities.

Biodiversity and Bio link

The Big Battery site sits within the “Biolink” on the east side of Ballarat. Early Ballarat Council documents note the east side of Ballarat as the “scenic eastern forested skyline”.

The “Bio link” was formally identified in the late 1980’s as a part of the biodiversity studies in the planning for the Western Highway By Pass by Mr Patrick Prevett, Senior Lecturer in Wildlife management at Ballarat University College. The map below was provided to Mr Adam Parrott of the COB on July 29th 1991 and shows clearly the extent of the “Biolink” at that time. The report identified that “urban Ballarat is part of a natural vegetation corridor which passes through Ballarat in a North South direction.” Map shown below.

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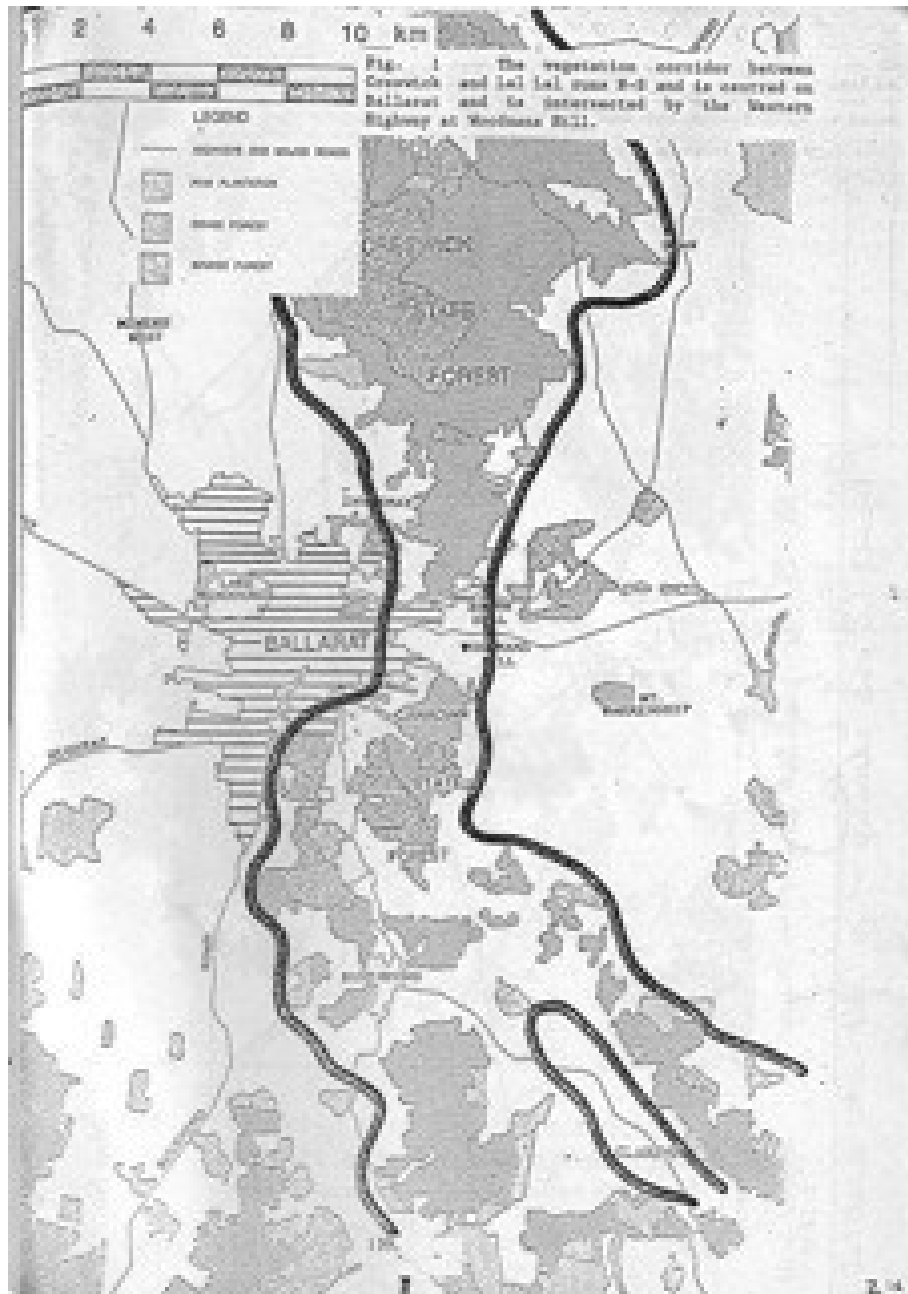


Image: Map by P Prevett, Ballarat University College (now federation University), 1988

City of Ballarat “Woodmans Hill” Gateway Precinct Master Plan 2013 -15

In 2013 the City of Ballarat began the C173 Woodmans Hill Masterplan Project. Woodmans Hill is directly north of the Battery Site.

In a submission to the Masterplan the FoCC identified the approximate location of the Canadian Corridor “Biolink” on the eastern side of Ballarat as shown on the map below.

The C173 Master Plan and C175 amendment was adopted by the City of Ballarat in 2015 with the Biolink identified between Brewery Tap Rd and the Brown Hill turnoff 1 km to the west.

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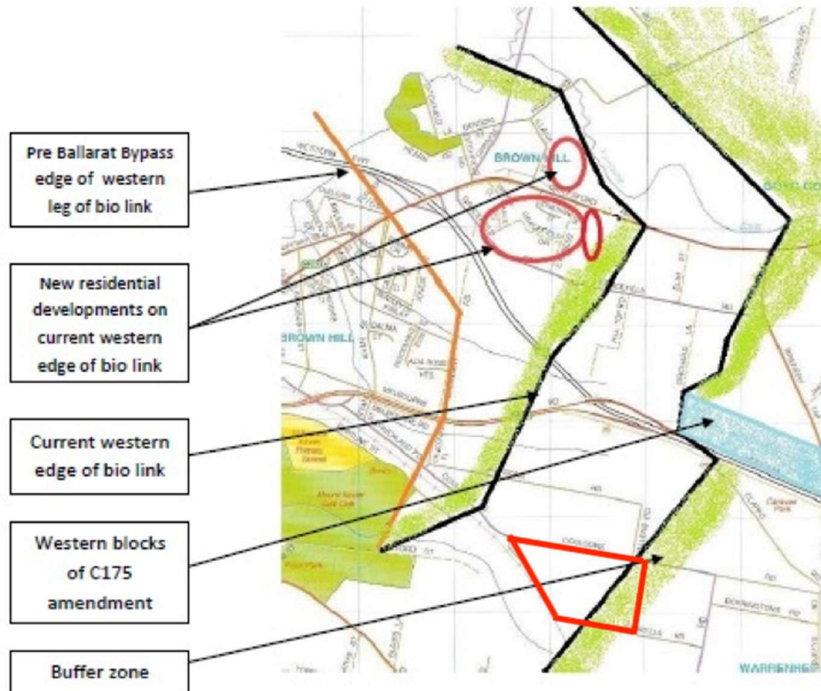


Image: Map prepared by the FoCC in 2014 for the C173 Woodmans Hill Master Plan and subsequent C175 amendment. Battery site noted in red.

Warrenheip Growth Zone (GIA)

The zone was considered by the City of Ballarat as a Growth Zone and rejected in 2019 with one factor being; "There is an Ecological Corridor running through the GIA from the Canadian State Forest to the Gong Gong Reservoir to the north that should be preserved"



Woookarung Regional Park

The Woookarung Regional Park is located to the south of the Battery Site. It was established in 2016 and is now the keystone of the Biolink.

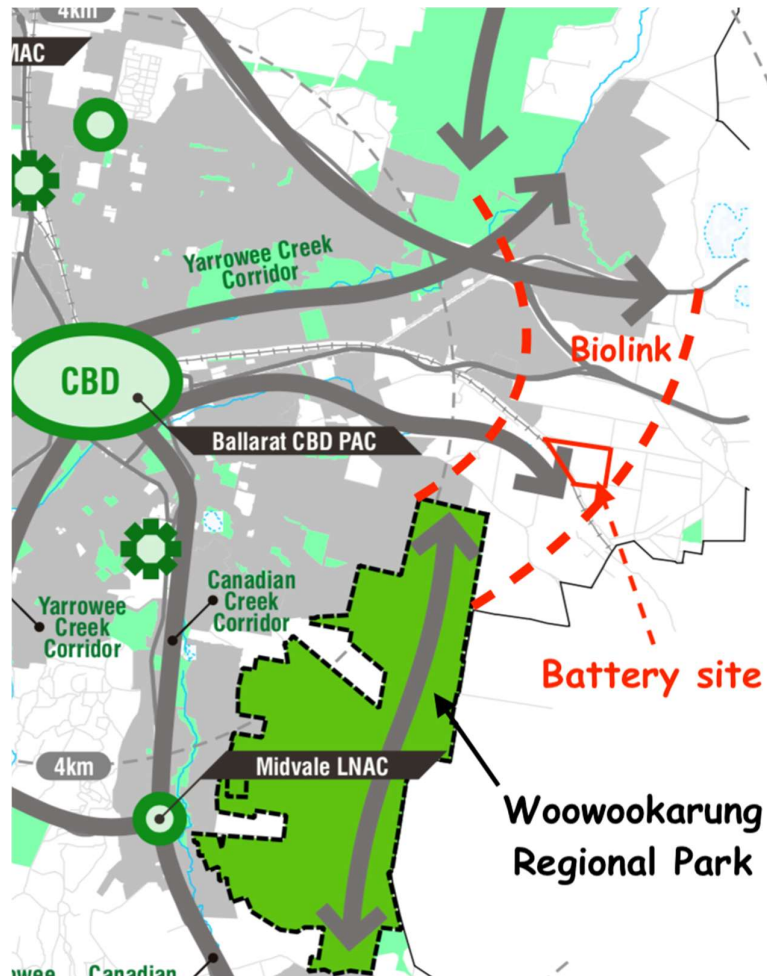


Image: P19 Part 4 The Ballarat Strategy, Today Tomorrow Together, Our Vision for 2040

Biodiversity and site landscape restoration

The location of the battery at Coulsons Rd Warrenheip within the "Biolink", provides an opportunity to enhance the "Biolink". The site has a significant stand of old remnant trees mostly Messmate, Peppermint, Scentbark and Manna Gums.

The "Old Trees" on the Battery Site, the adjacent Railway reserve and to the south side of the railway were subject of a major study in by Eleisha Birkin of the Ballarat College of Advanced Education (Federation University) in 1989. The biodiversity data from that study may be useful in creating a management plan for the remnant old trees.

In February 2026 the FoCC nominated the trees the City of Ballarat Heritage Gaps Review Program, such is the significance of those trees.

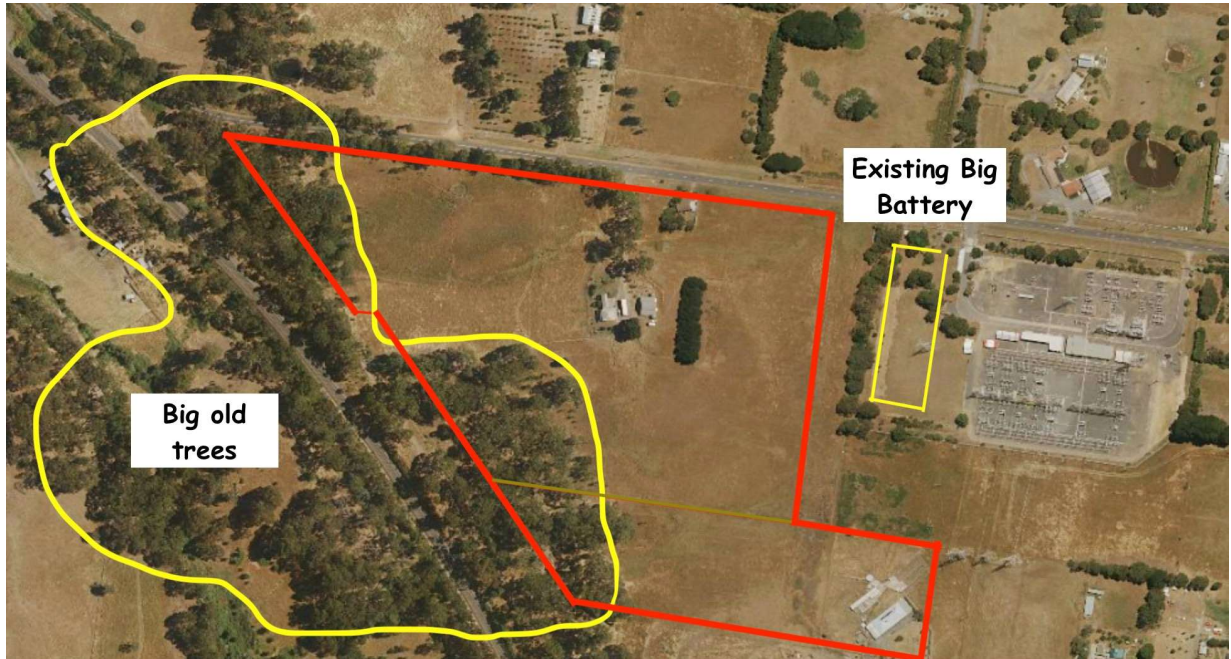
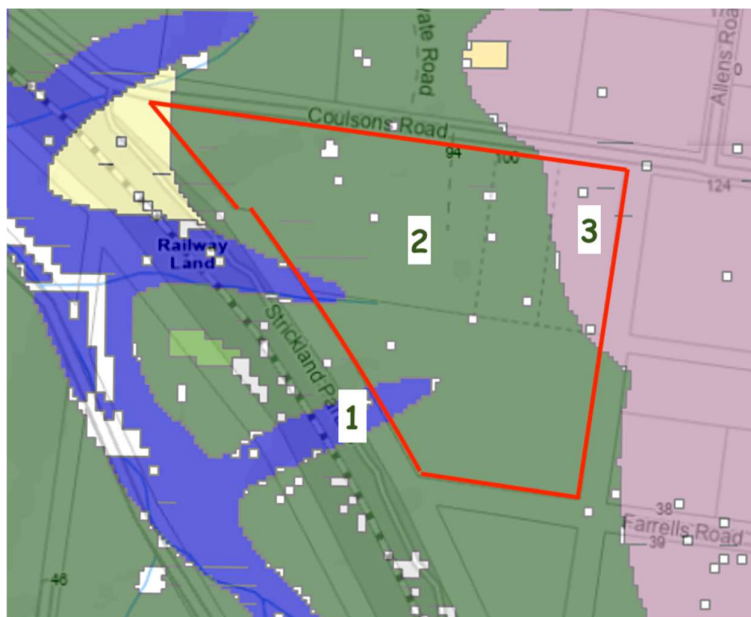


Image: FoCC big old trees heritage listing map 2025 with Battery site added.



Floristic Mapping Units (FMU) for site and three FMU's numbered.

Image from

https://nrmp.ccmaknowledgebase.vic.gov.au/nrmp_map.php?section=my_landscape&landscape_region=northern_plands&map=98

The FoCC requests that the Big Battery project undertake a full ecological assessment of the remnant vegetation on the site and surrounds with the following initiatives to follow:

- Removing the weeds and rubbish from the site
- Conserving the existing native vegetation on the site.

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- Restoring the native vegetated area with appropriate indigenous plantings including understory plantings, using the Bunanyung Landscape Restoration guide procedures. This has Floristic Mapping Units (FMU) at its heart as a method of ensuring that appropriate plant species are planted. A copy of the restoration guide is attached. See FMU map above.
- Species to be planted around the northern and eastern boundary of the site should be site specific plantings in line with the FMU map below. Note the site has three specific Floristic zones, 1, 2 and 3. Each zone has a different species list. Note: Many species are common to all three zones.
- If security lighting is to be utilised on site, that the lighting is designed in such a way so as to minimise light impacts on range of light sensitive birds (owls etc) that reside in the old trees.

Walk Cycle Trail Link opportunity

The Big Battery project opens up the opportunity to provide a new through walk/ride trail between the Corner of Strickland Parade and Coulsons Rd Brown Hill and Warrenheip township via Farrells Rd

The southern boundary of the site is along a section of Farrells Rd that is not available at present to the public. The construction of a walk ride trail would connect Brown Hill with Warrenheip via scenic and interesting off busy main roads.

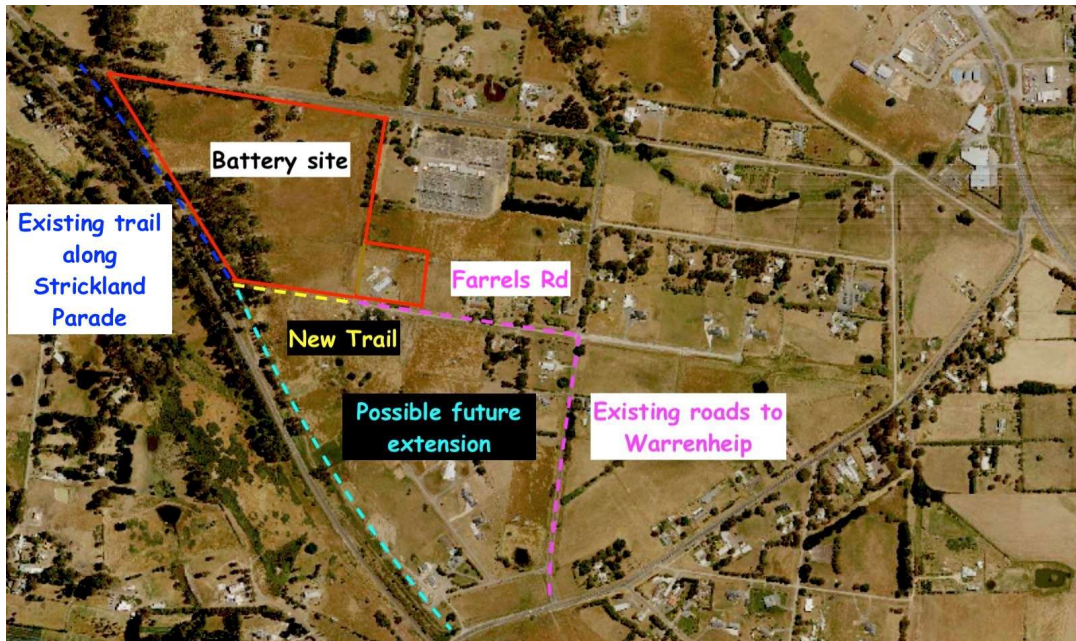


Image: FoCC map of walk cycle route possibilities

The FoCC is grateful for the opportunity to provide input into this project and we would be very happy to meet and talk through our request with the project planners and to provide further information to assist.

Kind regards

Jeff Rootes

FoCC President

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