

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT C125

EXPLANATORY REPORT

Who is the planning authority?

This amendment has been prepared by the Minister for Planning, who is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of Nillumbik Shire Council.

Land affected by the Amendment

The amendment applies to 130 and 195 Laughing Waters Road, Eltham.

What the amendment does

The amendment inserts and applies a Specific Controls Overlay (Clause 45.12), and an incorporated document 'Garambi Baan (Laughing Waters) Residency Centre Project, November 2019', (Clause 72.04) to allow the existing buildings to be used, subject to conditions, in a manner that is prohibited under the existing zone (Public Conservation and Resource Zone).

The amendment inserts a new Planning Scheme Map, map No. 14SCO to identify the sites to be used for the purpose of the project.

Strategic assessment of the Amendment

Why is the Amendment required?

Amendment C125 is required to facilitate the use of existing buildings at 130 and 195 Laughing Waters Road for the purpose of an Artist Residency Centre.

Locally referred to as Laughing Waters, the sites are of historical, artistic, architectural and Aboriginal heritage significance for the region, and has been an important artistic asset for the community, through the Laughing Waters Artist Residency.

The Laughing Waters Artist Residency was a longstanding signature program of Council's Arts and Cultural Development programming suite, with an international reach. The program ran from 2001 until 2015 via a lease of two properties from the Victorian Government, managed by Parks Victoria; Birrarung at 195 Laughing Waters Road, Eltham (from 2001) and River Bend at 130 Laughing Waters Road, Eltham (from 2008). In 2015, the program was discontinued temporarily, whilst Council and Parks Victoria were negotiating new lease conditions and maintenance costs. However, these matters were not resolved and the program remained in hiatus. In mid-2018, Council was approached by Residency Projects, an independent artist-run-initiative, to re-establish the Artist Residency program. With Council's support, the Victorian State Government awarded Residency Projects funding to contribute to the maintenance of the buildings and facilitate the program.

The use of Laughing Waters for the purposes of an artist residency is currently prohibited under the Public Conservation and Resource Zone. Previously, Council was able to run the residency program under existing use rights. However, since the program was discontinued in 2015, the existing use rights provision has expired and therefore a Planning Scheme Amendment is now necessary if the site is to be used for this purpose again. Concurrent to the amendment, Parks Victoria and Nillumbik Council are preparing a new lease and service agreement.

How does the Amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

The amendment implements the objectives of planning in Victoria as set out in Section 4 (1) and 12 (1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act). The following objectives in Section 4 (1) are particularly relevant to the amendment:

- 4(1a) - to provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land
- 4 (1b) - to secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria
- 4(1d) - to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value
- 4(1g) - to balance the present and future interests of all Victorians

How does the Amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

The amendment will have positive economic and social effects by facilitating the use of the sites to continue the operation of a valued artist's residency program and the continued use of significant heritage sites

Does the Amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The amendment has addressed the relevant bushfire risk.

Preliminary bushfire planning advice and a Bushfire Emergency Management Plan has been provided by Terramatrix. The sites have been assessed as not being in extreme risk locations, however they are not safe places to be in the event of a bushfire. As protection of human life must be prioritised, as required under Clause 13.02, the dwellings will not be occupied during the declared fire danger period, or outside that period, on days declared or forecast to be, a Total Fire Ban (TFB) or a day with a fire danger rating (FDR) of Severe or above. This condition is included in the Incorporated Plan, Lease and Service agreements.

Does the Amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

The amendment is consistent with the *Ministerial Direction 1 on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes* under section 7(5) of the Act and *Ministerial Direction 11: Strategic Assessment Guidelines* under Section 12(2) of the Act.

The amendment has been prepared with regard to *Ministerial Direction 9: Metropolitan Planning Strategy*, which refers to Plan Melbourne 2017-2050.

The amendment is consistent with the following directions in *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*, as outlined in the following table:

Direction	Policy/Action	Amendment
4.2 – Build on Melbourne's cultural leadership and sporting legacy	<p>Policy 4.2.1 – Strengthen Melbourne's civic legacy of great places</p> <p>Policy 4.2.2 – Support the growth and development of Melbourne's cultural precincts and creative industries.</p> <p>Action 64 – Affordable spaces for creatives industries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for emerging creative industries to access affordable spaces to pursue cultural production and 	<p>The renewed Garambi Baan/Laughing Waters Residency Centre will facilitate State wide arts projects with partners including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung – formal partnership with Residency Projects for the use of the sites for Wurundjeri artists. • Ilbjerri – a leading Australian theatre company for indigenous

	<p>expression by removing regulatory barriers, and brokering and facilitating cultural development programs.</p>	<p>artists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midsumma – LGBTQIA+ arts and cultural festival. <p>Working collaboratively across local, State, Federal Government and community, the program will support a diverse, inclusive and sustainable arts and cultural program. This amendment is an important step to enable this program to successfully operate.</p>
<p>4.4 – Respect Melbourne’s heritage as we build for the future</p>	<p>Policy 4.4.2 – Respect and protect Melbourne’s Aboriginal cultural heritage</p> <p>Policy 4.4.3 – Stimulate economic growth through heritage conservation</p> <p>Policy 4.4.4 – Protect Melbourne’s heritage through telling its stories</p> <p>Action 69 – Heritage Planning initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising the diverse ways in which people celebrate their heritage through arts and culture projects. <p>Action 71 – Actively involve Aboriginal people in cultural heritage management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities for Aboriginal people to be actively involved in the identification, protection, rehabilitation and management of cultural heritage places across Melbourne, working with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal community organisations, councils and others. 	<p>The Amendment applies to land that has multiple shared cultural heritage values. Heritage assessments have identified significant artistic and architectural heritage values associated with the house at 130 Laughing Waters Road, an Alistair Knox residence, known as Riverbend and, Birrarung House, located at 195 Laughing Waters Road.</p> <p>Birrarung was designed and built by well-known architect, Graham Rose, and innovative landscape architect, Gordon Ford. It is covered by Heritage Overlay (HO 111). 130 Laughing Waters Road also has a significant Oak identified by Heritage Overlay (HO158).</p> <p>Laughing Waters contribution to Melbourne’s, and the State’s, arts and cultural sector, dates back to the 1980s with the first establishment of an artist-in-residence program. In 2001, Parks Victoria and Nillumbik Shire Council operated a new residency program. This continuity of use has helped protect the sites artistic legacy and will, through this Amendment, allow for the continued contribution to the State’s art and cultural practices.</p> <p>The proposed maintenance works, being funded by the State Government grant, will also ensure the properties don’t fall into disrepair. This has already happened another building, ‘Boomerang House’, located at 195 Laughing Waters Road (not subject to this proposal). It is also covered by the HO111 but the condition of that building has deteriorated to the point that conservation works are no longer viable.</p> <p>130 and 195 Laughing Waters Road are identified as a Wurundjeri sites of significance. 130 Laughing Waters Road was formally renamed in Woiwurrung language to Garambi Baan, in a 2015 ceremony, as part of an eel trap restoration project.</p>

		<p>The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, are in partnership with Residency Projects (the program operator) for dual use of the sites, collaborative programming and language permissions formalised in early 2018. The Wurundjeri will be represented on the Centre's board.</p>
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How does the Amendment support or implement the Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

The amendment supports or implements the following clauses of the Planning Policy Framework:

Clause 11.03-6S Regional and local places

- Objective: To facilitate integrated place-based planning.

Clause 12.03-1R Yarra River protection

- Objective: To maintain and enhance the natural landscape character of the Yarra River corridor.

Clause 15 Built Environment and Heritage

- Planning should ensure all land use and development appropriately responds to its surrounding landscape and character, valued built for form and cultural context.
- Planning should promote excellence in the built environment and create places that:
 - Contribute positively to local character and sense of place.
 - Reflect the particular characteristics and cultural identity of the community.

Clause 15.03-1S Heritage conservation

- Objective: To ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance.
- Strategies:
 - Retain those elements that contribute to the importance of the heritage place.
 - Provide for the protection of natural heritage sites and man-made resources.
 - Support adaptive reuse of heritage buildings where their use has become redundant

Clause 17.03-1 Facilitating tourism

Objective: To encourage tourism development to maximise the employment and long-term economic, social and cultural benefits of developing the State as a competitive domestic and international tourist destination.

Clause 17.03-2 Tourism in Metropolitan Melbourne

Objective: To maintain and develop Metropolitan Melbourne as a desirable tourist destination.

Clause 19.02-3 Cultural facilities

Objective: To develop a strong cultural environment and increase access to arts, recreation and other cultural facilities.

How does the Amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?

The amendment supports the Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF), including the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme:

- 21.04-3 – Nurture and support the development and practice of the arts.
- 21.05-3 - To protect places of natural and cultural heritage.
 - Strategy - Encourage new use and development to contribute to the protection and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage.

Does the Amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The amendment makes proper use of the Victorian Planning Provision by introducing a schedule to the Specific Controls Overlay (Clause 45.12) that allows the land to be used in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited or restricted, in accordance with a specific control contained in the incorporated document.

How does the Amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

Parks Victoria supports the proposal and is entering into a lease with Council. Residency Projects will then sub-lease the sites from Council. The views of Melbourne Water and CFA have been sought and the amendment addresses their views.

Does the Amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?

The amendment does not impact on the transport system or the requirements of the *Transport Integration Act 2010*.

Resource and administrative costs

The amendment does not have significant impacts on the resource and administrative costs of Nillumbik Shire Council.

Where you may inspect this Amendment

The amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

Nillumbik Shire Council

Planning Counter

34 Civic Drive, Greensborough

The Amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection.

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME

Garambi Baan (Laughing Waters) Residency Centre Project

Incorporated Document
December 2019

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is an incorporated document in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme (the Scheme), pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

This incorporated document facilitates the delivery of the Garambi Baan (Laughing Waters) Residency Centre Project (the project).

The control in this document prevails over any contrary or inconsistent provision in the Scheme.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this control in Clause 4.0 is to permit the use of land described in Clause 3.0 of this document for the purposes of the project.

3.0 LAND

The control in this document applies to land located at 130 and 195 Laughing Waters Road, Eltham.

4.0 CONTROL

4.1 EXEMPTION FROM PLANNING SCHEME REQUIREMENTS

Despite any provision to the contrary, on any inconsistent provision in the Scheme, no planning permit is required for, and no planning provision in the Scheme operates to prohibit, restrict or regulate the use of the land for the purpose of the project.

The project includes, but is not limited to, the following use(s):

- a) Use of land for the purposes of Accommodation and Art and Craft centre.

4.2 Conditions

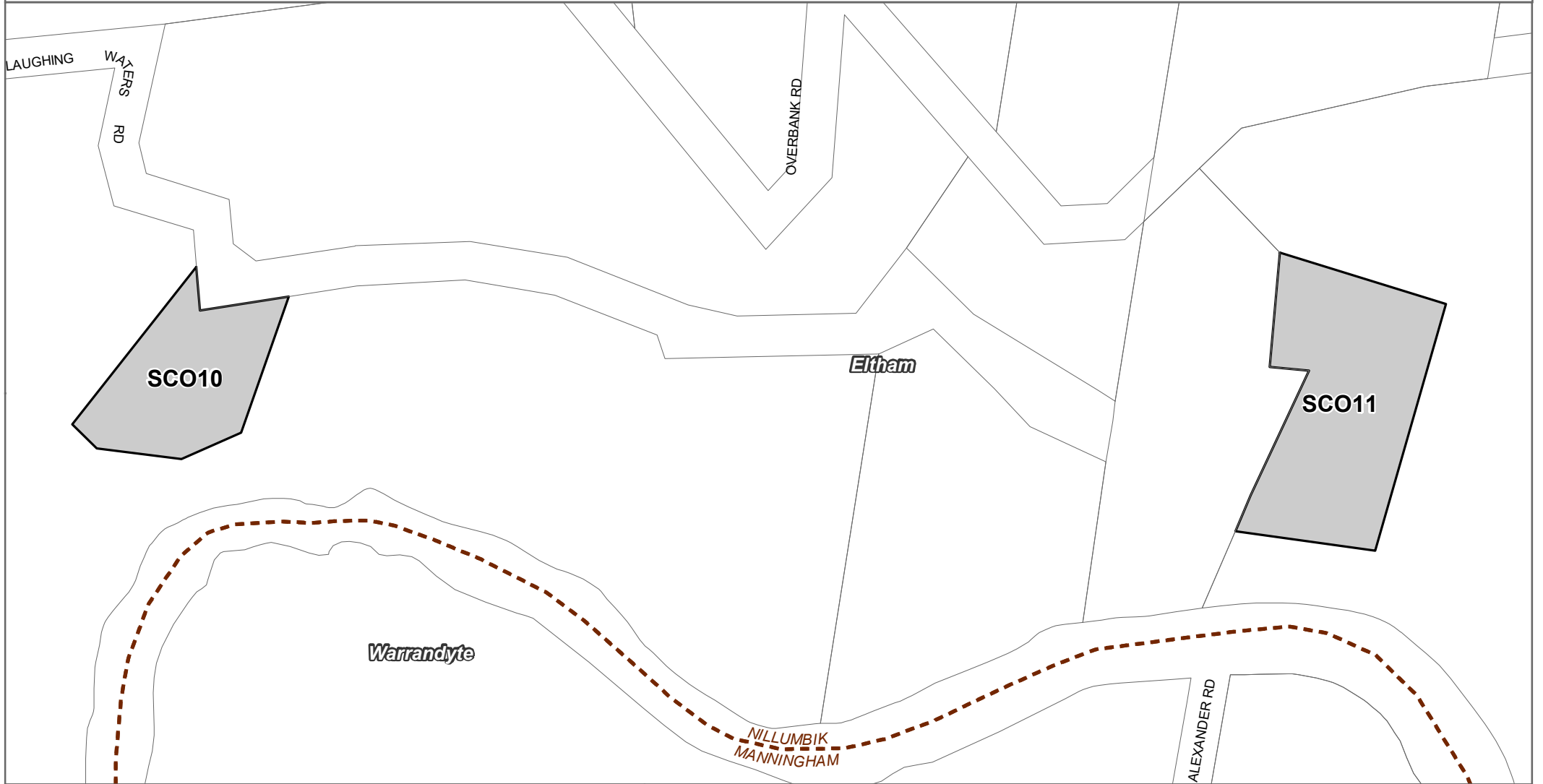
The use permitted by this incorporated document must be undertaken in accordance with the following conditions:

- a) The dwellings will not be occupied during the declared fire danger period, or outside that period, on days declared or forecast to be, a Total Fire Ban (TFB) or a day with a fire danger rating (FDR) of Severe or above.
- b) The use is permitted only in accordance with a lease, licence or authority from the public land manager.

5.0 EXPIRY

This control expires if the use of the land as authorised under this incorporated document does not commence within 2 years of the Date of Approval.

NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION AMENDMENT C125



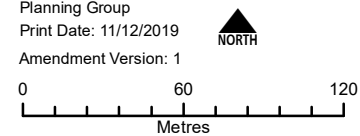
LEGEND

- SCO10 - Specific Controls Overlay - Schedule 10
- SCO11 - Specific Controls Overlay - Schedule 11
- Local Government Area

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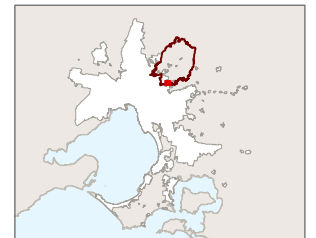
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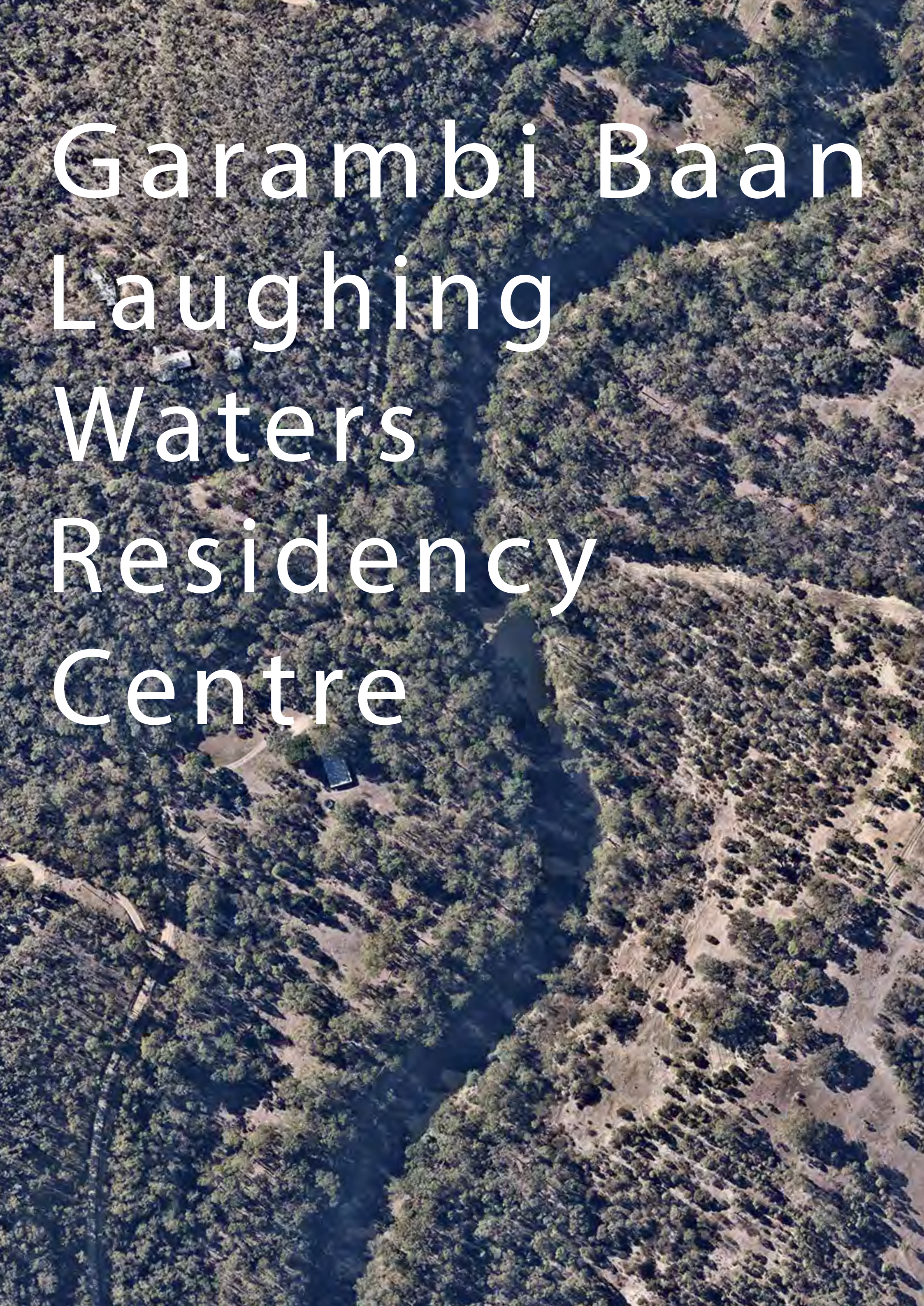
Planning Group
 Print Date: 11/12/2019
 Amendment Version: 1



Environment,
 Land, Water
 and Planning

Part of Planning Scheme Map 14SCO



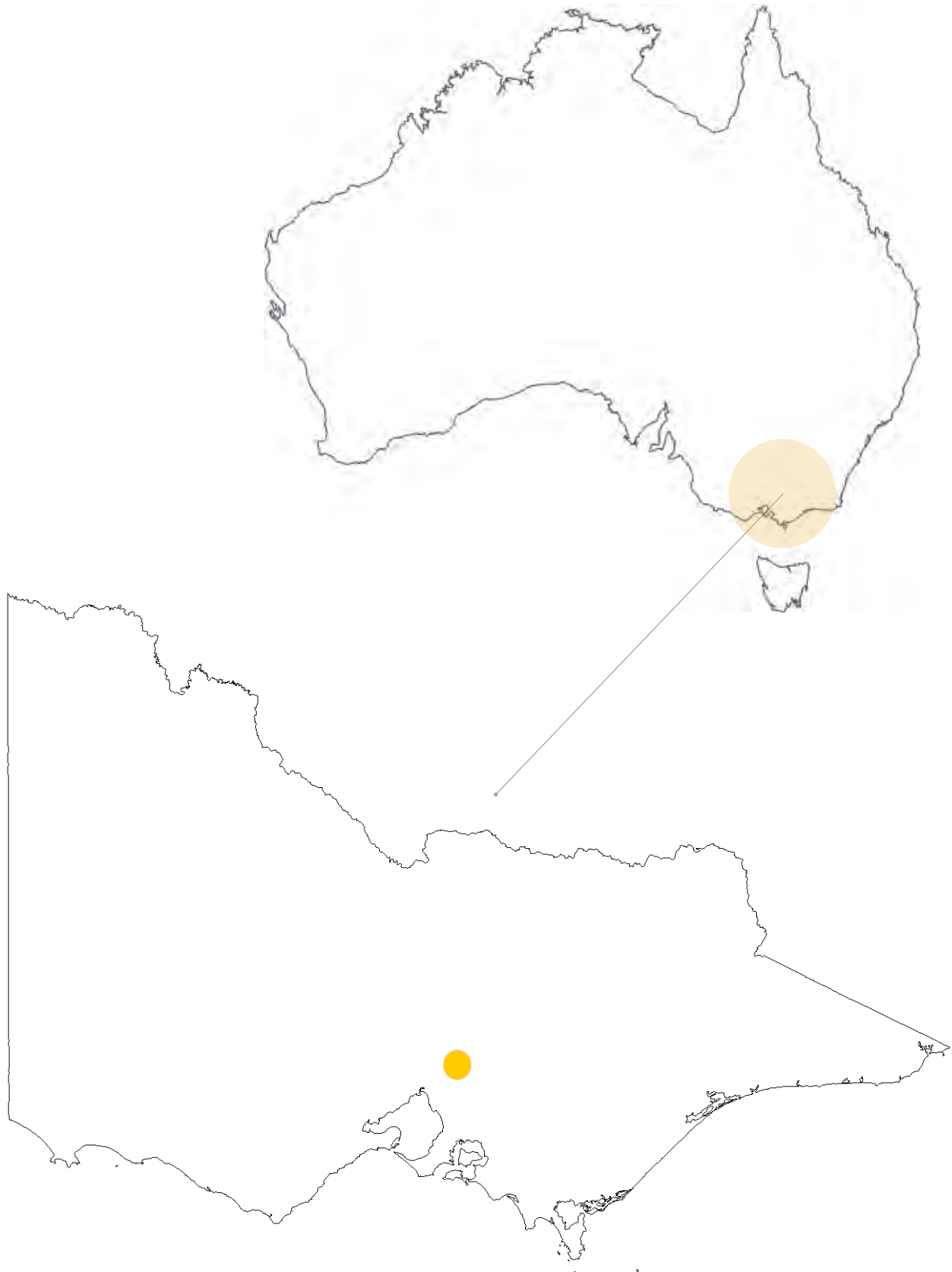
An aerial photograph of a lush, green forest. A river winds through the center of the image. In the lower-left quadrant, there is a small clearing with a blue-roofed building and some other structures. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Garambi Baan
Laughing
Waters
Residency
Centre

Garambi Baan/ Laughing Waters

The *Garambi Baan/Laughing Waters Residency Centre* program has been designed by Residency Projects Inc. as a nerve centre for the creative industries.

Residency Projects is utilising two disused, historically significant buildings on the outskirts of Melbourne, to accommodate this ambitious residency program, being delivered in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The buildings, Birrarung House and River Bend House, sit within a Crown Land conservation zone, on Laughing Waters Road, Eltham. This document outlines the context, program structure, partnerships, governance, sustainability and expertise contributing to the delivery of this centre.



Vision

The new *Garambi Baan/Laughing Waters Residency Centre* has been developed by Residency Projects in consultation with the Victorian arts sector, major partner the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Victoria and Nillumbik Shire Council. This revitalised centre will become an important residency-based arts and cultural centre for Victoria, nurturing the development of ambitious ideas across all disciplines through extended, live-in residencies... from theatre, film, music and painting, to dance, writing and sculpture, the centre will offer artists the chance to inhabit this important place for intensive artistic development.

2018 saw the Victorian State Government award Residency Projects funding for maintenance of the buildings. Residency Projects has forged a raft of partnerships with leading cultural organisations across Melbourne, providing priority access to the program through a dedicated stream. These partnerships will position the *Garambi Baan/Laughing Waters Residency Centre* as an important and vital place for Victoria's creative ecologies, attracting some of the most exciting artists practicing today. The two houses, situated as they are in isolated bushland beside the Birrarung (Yarra River), offer a space that is uniquely conducive to deep reflection and creativity. Located just half an hour from Melbourne, in an 'interface' urban/rural setting, the centre offers a unique opportunity for isolation whilst remaining accessible.



Birrarung House, once home to photographer Sue Ford, surrounded by an iconic Gordon Ford landscape. Image: Eugene Howard

Place

Situated in secluded bushland in Eltham, approximately 25km from Melbourne's CBD in the north eastern suburbs, Laughing Waters sits within the Shire of Nillumbik (Shallow Earth). The Shire is bordered by Murrindindi Shire in the north, Yarra Ranges Shire in the east, Manningham and Banyule Cities in the south, and the City of Whittlesea in the west.

Laughing Waters is the name for a stretch of the Yarra Valley Parklands, consisting of river flats and hilly riparian bushland. With Birrarung (Yarra River) flowing through, Laughing Waters has been an important gathering place for thousands of years. For the Wurundjeri, 'Garambi Baan' (the name for Laughing Waters in Woi Wurrung language) is an important site for growing and harvesting food. Significantly, Wurundjeri iuk (eel) traps remain at Garambi Baan to this day.

An artist-in-residence program was first established along Laughing Waters Road in the 1980s as the 'Melbourne Parks and Waterways Artist in Residence Program', led by esteemed curator and inaugural director of Heide Museum of Modern Art, Maudie Palmer AO, and current Residency Projects Board member. Maudie recalls that, '[t]he thing I liked most about the Laughing Waters mud brick houses was the association with Alistair Knox and Gordon Ford, there was always a lot of talk at Heide about them'¹. The Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works had initiated acquisition of properties along Laughing Waters Road in the mid 1970s, for the preservation of precious riparian habitat for threatened and endangered species of birds, mammals, insects and plants². This was in accordance with Sir Rupert Hamer's vision, when

¹ Maudie Palmer AO, quoted in Jane Woollard's "Laughing Waters Road: Art, landscape & memory in Eltham", Nillumbik Shire Council, 2016, pp. 14.

² *ibid.*, p.8.

Minister for Local Government, 1964-71, for the creation of 'Green wedges' to be set either side of Melbourne's waterways, forming six new parks covering over 5000 hectares.

In 2001, with Parks Victoria the new statutory authority responsible for Laughing Waters, a partnership with Nillumbik Shire Council was formed to operate a residency program for artists. Originally involving Birrarung House and the now condemned Boomerang House, the program expanded in 2008 with the acquisition of River Bend House. 2015 saw the closure of the program by Nillumbik Council due to maintenance costs. Since the closure of the residency the Nillumbik communities and the arts sector, both locally and nationally, have mourned the loss of this unique place. The houses hold significant historical, architectural, aesthetic and social value³, with River Bend (originally the 'Cuming House') designed by renowned architect Alistair Knox, whilst Birrarung was designed and built by Graham Rose and innovative landscape architect Gordon Ford.

³ 'Statement of Significance: Adobe house, outbuilding, Boomerang house and bathing shed', Heritage Council Victoria, 2010, Victorian Heritage Database, Melbourne, VIC, Nillumbik Shire Council, <http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/63476>, (accessed: 20/10/2018).



Birrarung (Yarra River) flowing in front of River Bend House, Laughing Waters Road, Eltham. Image: Eugene Howard

Current situation

Laughing Waters residences are important cultural heritage to Victorians. The sites have been a vibrant cultural hub for hundreds of local, national and internationally significant artists since being gifted to the State in the mid 1990s for these purposes by Gordon and Gwen Ford.

On their current trajectory, the sites of the former Laughing Waters Artist-in-Residence Program, will fall into an irreversible state of disrepair; the costs associated with their maintenance will rise exponentially; Melbourne and the broader Victorian communities

risk losing an important cultural asset, both in the form of a contemporary creative program operating out of the buildings and the buildings themselves, if action is not taken.

This program will be part of a renaissance of the rich arts and cultural ecology that once thrived across Nillumbik. Rejuvenation of these sites will see powerful diversification in arts and culture within the Victorian arts sector, empowerment of community, respect for local heritage and foregrounding of Indigenous culture. Having identified a niche in arts and cultural activities in Nillumbik, with a lack of residencies, engagement with

Wurundjeri and trans-disciplinary contemporary practice, Garambi Baan/Laughing Waters will enrich the cultural fabric of this region profoundly through re-instating this valuable cultural asset.



River Bend House (formerly Cuming House) designed by renowned architect Alistair Knox. Image: Jane Woollard

Partners

Residency Projects was approached in 2017 by Nillumbik Council with the opportunity to take over the sites, supported by Council. Residency Projects have, over the subsequent two years, devised a sustainable strategy to operate a diverse arts and cultural program. Through developing partnerships with like-minded institutions, Residency Projects not only builds on shared philosophies, we also guarantee a substantial income pipeline to sustain the centre's ongoing costs. Major partners include:

- **Parks Victoria**
leasing buildings on Laughing Waters Road
- **Nillumbik Shire Council**
funding & services agreement with Residency Projects, providing between \$30,000 - \$60,000 P/A for a ten year period with inclusion in Council's insurance
- **Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation**
formal partnership with Residency Projects for use of the sites for Wurundjeri artists

Residency Projects has strategically evolved partnerships with a suite of arts and cultural organisations and local governments, ensuring the Garambi Baan/Laughing Waters Residency Centre has the broadest reach possible, whilst remaining geographically relevant, these partners include:

- **Bundoora Homestead (Darebin Council)**
- **Midsumma Festival (LGBTQIA+)**
Annual artists development residencies
- **Arts House (City of Melbourne)**
- **NextWave Festival**
Annual artist in resident developing ambitious projects for NextWave Festival
- **Ilbijerri Theatre**
- **Maroondah City Council**
Exhibition partner
- **RMIT University**
Education partner

Existing funders & Pro Bono Support

- **Nillumbik Shire Council**
Planning support, insurance, legal advice, program funding (\$30,000 P/A), lease renewals through Parks Victoria, provision of ongoing in-kind marketing support
- **Creative Victoria**
Co-Working and Creative Spaces funding
- **Department of Environment Land Water & Planning (DELWP)**
funding (initial \$6,000 emergency works)
- **Nillumbik Mud Brick Association**
providing expert restoration advice around mudbrick buildings
- **Samantha Westbrooke**
Conservation Architect and Nillumbik Shire Heritage Advisor (National Trust)
- **Sian Morgan**
Director Urbis



Iuk (eel) trap tour with Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Wurundjeri. The ancient iuk traps, stretching across the Birrarung in front of the Garmabi Baan residency house, River Bend, are highly significant cultural heritage to Australians. Image: Melbourne Water

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung

The Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin Nation have lived in the area known as Nillumbik for tens of thousands of years. The Wurundjeri flourished across the region, utilising the resources of the Birrarung (Yarra) River, abundant bush lands and surrounding ranges. The Birrarung – ‘river of mists and shadows’ – marked the centre of Wurundjeri traditional land and Dreaming stories.¹ The Birrarung provided iuk (eel) for the Wurundjeri, with refined stone traps and freshwater muscle farms occurring in the area. Significantly, Wurundjeri iuk (eel) traps remain at Garambi Baan to this day. The Stringybark and Manna Gum forests of the greater region provided game and a diverse range of foods. The Wurundjeri often hosted inter-tribal events involving thousands of guests at the Bolin Bolin Billabong, downstream in Bulleen, and Pound Bend upstream in Warrandyte.

Residency Projects have sought to respect, consult and centre Indigenous culture at Garambi Baan, enshrining this through formal partnerships. The Wurundjeri have important cultural connections to Garambi Baan, with the site being significant as one of only a few known remaining iuk (eel) traps on Country once found the length of the Birrarung².

The Wurundjeri have been consulted from the beginning of the Laughing Waters renewal process in 2017, with partnership for dual use of the sites, collaborative programming and language permissions formalised in early 2018. Wurundjeri will continue to be consulted by Residency Projects and be actively involved in the strategic vision for the new centre with positions on the centre’s board.

The Wurundjeri people take their name from the Woi Wurrung language word ‘wurun’, the Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), which is common along Birrarung (Yarra River), and ‘djeri’, the grub which is found in or near the tree. Wurundjeri are the ‘Witchetty Grub People’ and their Ancestors have lived on this land for millennia. In the early 1980’s a small group of passionate Wurundjeri Elders, the Traditional Custodians of Greater Melbourne, developed a shared vision for themselves and future generations of Wurundjeri people. By 1985, their vision had crystallised and the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation (now the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation), a representative body, was born. In August 2015, the Council launched a ceremonial ground in Warrandyte, near Garambi Baan (Laughing Waters). Three trees were scarred

to commemorate this event in recognition of the family groups that comprise Wurundjeri.”³

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation have been consulted by Residency Projects from the beginning of the Laughing Waters renewal planning process. Residency Projects has entered a formal partnership with the Wurundjeri Land Council.

³ Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation ‘Melbourne, VIC, <https://www.wurundjeri.com>, (accessed 10 October 2018).

¹ ‘Aboriginal History in Manningham’, Manningham Council, 2018, <http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/indigenous-and-reconciliation>, (accessed 10 March 2019).

² Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation ‘Management of Wurundjeri Properties & Significant Places’, Wurundjeri Land Council, Melbourne, VIC, <https://www.wurundjeri.com>, (accessed 10 October 2018).

Partner profiles

Ilbjerri is one of Australia's leading theatre companies creating innovative works by First Nations artists. They create, present and tour powerful and engaging theatre, creatively controlled by Indigenous artists. Ilbjerri's stories are provocative and affecting, giving voice to unique and diverse cultural experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Each year Ilbjerri travel to national, regional and remote locations across Australia and the world. Since 2010 they have presented 18 new works, performed 621 times in 312 venues to 99,417 people.

Ilbjerri is an advocate and leader for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Australia. In this role they deliver a broad program of Artist Development for new and emerging Indigenous writers, directors, actors and creatives. Born from community ILBIJERRI has become a spearhead



Confirmed 2020 residency partner Ilbjerri Theatre; Trevor Jamieson starring in Coranderrk. Image: James Henry

for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in telling stories of what it means to be Indigenous in Australia today.

Ilbjerri promote discussion and raise awareness of key issues facing the community through the development and touring of issue-based works. Ilbjerri's work possesses the power to reach out and remind audiences of every person's need for family, history and heritage, their collaborative relationships with communities and artists are at the heart of their creative process and all their work empowers and enlightens their audiences.

Midsumma is Victoria's premiere LGBTQIA+ arts and cultural festival. Midsumma champion LGBTQIA+ cultures, conversations and events and act as an intersection between generations, people, ideas, stories and experiences – a focal point for connections and belonging. Midsumma provides platforms for shared experience in a world which often under-represents LGBTQIA+ people. Midsumma values diversity and embraces difference and aim to increase the LGBTQIA+ communities' profiles and amplify the stories that might otherwise not be seen, heard or felt.



Confirmed partner and 2020 residency partner, Midsumma Festival. Above image shows Midsumma Festival's annual program 'Pathways', for gender and sexuality diverse (LGBTQIA+) artists and cultural workers living with disabilities. Image: Eugene Howard

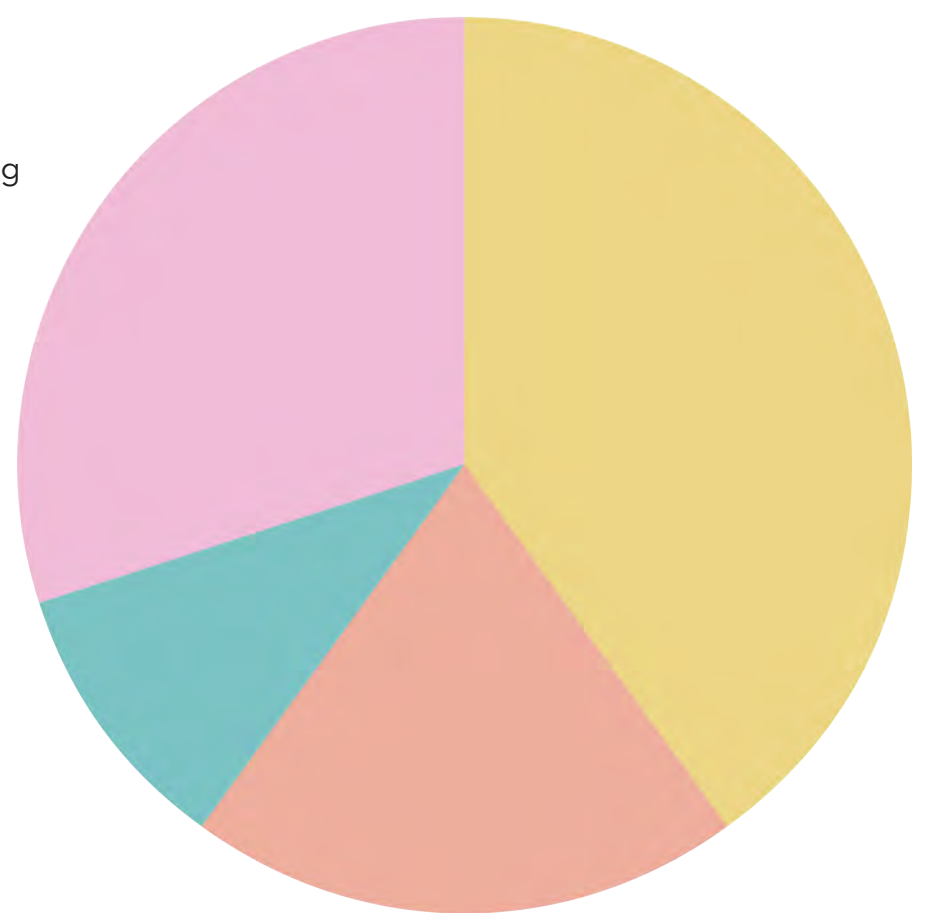
Program Structure

As directors and caretakers of the new Garambi Baan/Laughing Waters Residency Centre, Residency Projects will program a multi-streamed centre for the research and development of projects from across disciplines, this will include: visual artists, dancers, authors, screenwriters, filmmakers, sculptors and academic researchers.

Residency Projects will maintain a flexible, responsive program methodology, with four core programming streams across Birrarung and River Bend houses. Our focus is on environmentally-minded practices and organisations representing historically marginalised voices, including gender and sexuality diverse artists (LGBTQIA+) and foregrounding First Nations artists. Residency Projects' own commissioning stream seeks to explore issues of land-use and material ethics. Garambi Baan (Laughing Waters) will have a dedicated stream for multi-purpose cultural use by the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, whilst also prioritising a raft of key 'organisational partners' in our annual programming, accommodating a diverse array of artists in residence.

Summer closure

The Garambi Baan/Laughing Waters Residency Centre will not operate during the declared fire danger period.



Organisational sustainability

Having established itself as a registered Charity through the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC), accessing Charity Tax Concessions from the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and currently awaiting confirmation of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status through the Federal Government's Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO), Residency Projects Inc. is well placed to secure and manage significant philanthropic funding.

There exist multiple opportunities for program funding upon completion of capital works at Laughing Waters. Residency Projects is in dialogue with a diverse array of philanthropic organisations as well as state and federal governments.

Weathering shocks

The Residency Projects Inc. fund will include dedicated capital, accumulated over the first five years, to be invested to provide income to cover costs of unforeseen maintenance or organisational emergencies. In addition to this, Residency Projects Inc. has developed robust relationships with an array of philanthropic trusts and foundations. Through the model being implemented by Residency Projects Inc. we are able to scale the percentage of paid residencies depending on the financial demands of maintenance and operations. For example, to ensure the long-term viability of

the program, it is entirely feasible that Residency Projects Inc. may, for one year, program solely paid residencies by our partnering organisations to ensure we meet our income requirements for any major works required.

Operational costs & income pipeline

Nillumbik Shire Council delivered a high quality, internationally recognised Artist-in-Residence Program at the Laughing Waters houses on a full operational budget of under \$26,000 P/A. This program saw no cost to the resident artists. Residency Projects Inc. will differ from council in that key organisational partners will be required to pay nominal fees for their time at Garambi Baan/ Laughing Waters; this will cover overheads and additionally the 'quick response' residency stream, at no cost to the independent artist(s) and/or groups. The baseline operational budget for Residency Projects at Laughing Waters can be delivered for under \$30,000 per annum. With an increased budget Residency Projects would deliver an ambitious suite of programming.

Income pipeline

based off profit made from partnering organisations paying for residencies. A modest average of 109 days in the program year will be assigned to paid residencies, which across both houses equates to an average income between \$10,000 - \$15,000 per annum

(based off a single person paying \$60 per night¹, which would likely significantly increase due to larger groups). The houses are also equipped with solar panels which have the potential to generate surplus power to be fed back into the grid, turning a modest profit which would be invested into the maintenance fund established for the houses.

Advocates

Through the Residency Projects Inc. Board, our Advisory Committee and the 'Friends of Garambi Baan' group, we will form once established at the sites, we aim to ensure we actively nurture an expansive and diverse network of individuals and groups who will continue to act to advance the interests of Residency Projects Inc. at Garambi Baan/ Laughing Waters. We aim to ensure we cultivate healthy ongoing relations with both local, State and Federal Governments, whilst sustaining dialogue with the philanthropic sector.

¹ Figure based off consultation with Bundanon Trust, NSW

Governance

Residency Projects Inc. is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission (ACNC), is an Australian Taxation Office (ATO) endorsed Tax Concession Charity (TCC) and is currently registering as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) with the Australian Tax Office through the Federal Government's Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO).

Charity Board

Residency Projects Inc. has established a board of relevant, skilled and high profile individuals. governing the Residency Projects' charity fund, this board includes qualified Responsible Persons such as Maudie Palmer AO.

Advisory Committee

In addition to the Residency Projects Inc. Board, Residency Projects have established an informal Advisory Committee, comprised of a diverse range of arts sector leaders, relevant stakeholders and individuals with a shared passion for Residency Projects' core aims and vision. This committee will include:

- Léuli Mazyar Lunai Eshraghi: guiding community/arts sector engagement and advising on Great Ocean (Pacific) artist exchanges.
 - Maudie Palmer AO: guiding strategy, sector engagement and advising on organisational matters
 - Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy AO; guiding community engagement Wurundjeri
 - Co-opted local community member
 - Marion Webster OAM (Founding Executive Director, Philanthropy Australia)
-
- Dr. Marnie Badham (RMIT University): guiding community engagement and advising on organisational matters.
 - The Projects (Testing Grounds/ Site Works), Millie Cattlin & Joseph Norster

Organisational Profile & Boorhaman Residency Program

Residency Projects was borne from the Boorhaman Residency Program (BRP) which took place in the spring of 2017 in the small rural NE Victorian town of Boorhaman. Development began in 2012 with detailed consultation.

Residency Projects entered a licence contract with the State Government of Victoria, granting us exclusive access to the dis-used Boorhaman Primary School, where the entirety of the program took place. This program saw:

- Internationally recognised artists Chaco Kato and Dylan Martorell living and working in the rural town of Boorhaman on a two month residency
- The creation of major new site-specific projects
- 100% free public events including: talks, workshops and performances
- Auslan interpretation
- Over 100 rural youth engaged
- Community participation from both rural and urban areas

This program benefited the rural community by offering workshops, talks, school visits and access to contemporary art, whilst BRP provided an opportunity for urban artists to work in a rural farming area, engage with locals, experience the land through different perspectives. BRP held a public open day to mark the end of the 2017 program, this was an accessible day of celebration, talks and performances with overwhelming community turnout. A major exhibition of outcomes from BRP was held in 2018 at the Wangaratta Art Gallery, curated by Eugene Howard and Kate Hill.



Pbangerang Elder Aunty Betty Cherry performing a Welcome to Country for the launch of the Boorhaman Residency Program. Image: Eugene Howard

Artistic Director and CEO



Photograph by Jacqueline Mitelman, 2019

Eugene Howard is an independent artist and arts worker, he is Artistic Director and CEO of Residency Projects Inc., a Not-for-profit arts and cultural organisation he founded with artist Kate Hill in 2017. He has worked across numerous inter-disciplinary projects as both an artist, administrator and producer. Through his arts leadership he is deeply passionate about cultivating care and custodianship for place, and providing access to arts and culture for diverse communities. Currently Eugene is Co-Curator and Strategic Consultant at Hamilton Gallery in Victoria's Western Districts, alongside Maudie Palmer AO.

Through Residency Projects Inc. Eugene has worked in partnership with the Victorian State Government, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Victoria, and various Local Government Authorities and cultural organisations. Eugene is currently Acting Co-Curator and Strategic Consultant of Hamilton Gallery in Western Victoria, alongside Maudie Palmer AO.

Eugene has most recently been working with Maudie Palmer AO, founding Director of Heide Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and TarraWarra Museum of Art,

developing a comprehensive plan for an internationally significant 'Birrarung Cultural Precinct', to interact directly with Melbourne's new North East Link. This project would enshrine protections for a significant tract of parkland and see a new Birrarung Meeting Place built, accommodating artist studios, conference spaces and performance/exhibition space. This has occurred in collaboration with Senior Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin AO.

Eugene has sat on the Testing Grounds Board since 2016, appointed by Creative Victoria, and since 2017 has sat on Nillumbik Shire Council's Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee, steering the development and delivery of the Council's Arts & Cultural Strategy (2018-2022). He studied at the Victorian College of the Arts (University of Melbourne), RMIT University and has undertaken scholarship with the New York Studio School in Italy. As an artist, Eugene has exhibited internationally and is held in both private and institutional collections including RMIT, Maroondah City Council and Abbotsford Convent Foundation, amongst others.

Founding Partner



Principle Partners



Industry Partners



Supporters



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