

7 Metung

The Metung area encompasses the Tambo Bay, Tambo Bluff, Kings Cove, Chinaman's Creek and Mosquito Point areas. The town spreads across historic coastal bluffs and the Shaving Point peninsula, bordered by Bancroft Bay and Lake King.

The appeal of the picturesque village is the lakeside views, surrounding natural wilderness and water access for fishing and boating. The tranquil town is a popular holiday and retirement spot with waterfront accommodation, restaurants, and boardwalks. Metung also hosts a hot springs, country club and golf course.

7.1 Community and connection to coast

Metung is a popular retirement, holiday and coastal lifestyle community. The community has a high median age and relatively low percentage in the workforce. The very high percentage of unoccupied dwellings also indicates many holiday home and non-resident property owners.

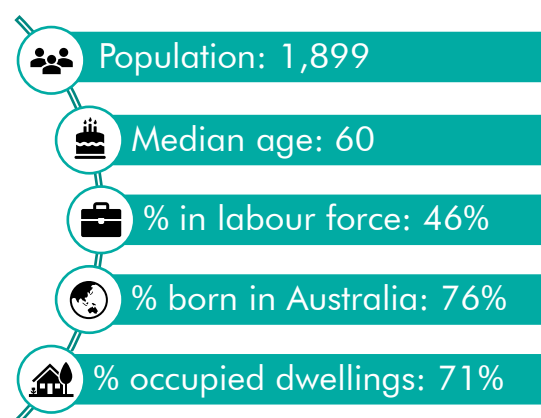


Figure 54. Key statistics for Metung (ABS, 2021).

The population is growing steadily with around 30% growth in population from the 2016 to 2021 censuses. Lower numbers of young families mean population growth is largely driven by migration.

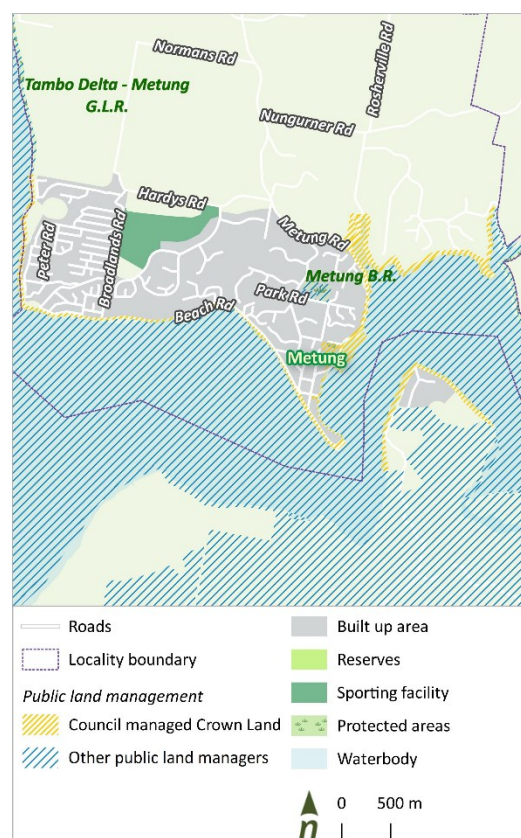


Figure 55. Metung locality.

The Gunaikurnai people are Traditional Owners of the areas around Metung, represented by GLaWAC. The area sits within Tatungalung Country. The town itself was developed on Traditional Owner camping grounds. The area holds many Aboriginal places and objects such as middens, scar trees and artefact scatters.

The story of legend rock

Legend Rock lies in the shallow waters of Bancroft Bay. It is an important part of Gunaikurnai mythology and holds great spiritual value to the Gunaikurnai people.

One day, three fishermen caught many fish in their nets but didn't share their catch with the mob. The women, who were guardians of the social law, turned them into stone as punishment for their greed.

The story reminds people of the laws of the land and gathering and sharing. There were originally three rocks in the formation. Two were destroyed in the 1960s during road construction. The final rock is now protected under the *Heritage Act 1995*.

Gunaikurnai Whole of Country Plan (GLaWAC, 2015)



7.2 The coastal environment

The coastlines around Metung and Tambo Bluff are historic coastal bluffs, formed at much higher sea levels. The Metung area sits within Bancroft Bay, part of the broader Lake King. The deepest point in the Gippsland Lake system is located at the tip of the Shaving Point peninsula.

The foreshore ranges from coastal cliffs around Tambo Bluff, to sandy and gravelly beaches along Beach Road. The artificial foreshore along Shaving Point and the main Metung township host various jetties and boardwalks. Jetties continue west into Chinaman's Creek and Boxes Creek.

Fronted by sublittoral seagrass beds, the Metung coastal zone also supports several important ecological communities:

- Endangered Warm Temperate Rainforest at Chinaman's Creek
- Limestone Box Forest, Gippsland Coastal Grey Box and Box-Ironbark
- Plains Grassy Forest
- Deep Freshwater Marshes across Dolphin Lagoon
- Saltmarsh and reedbeds at Mosquito Point



Listed fauna recorded in the area include:

- White-bellied Sea Eagle
- Regent Honeyeater
- Little and Plumed Egrets
- Fairy Tern
- Lace Monitor

The community actively contribute to enhancing these environments.

7.3 Coastal processes and hazards

With higher terrain of the historic coastal bluffs, the Metung region is less prone to inundation and flooding. The Shaving Point Peninsula and main township reserve could be vulnerable to inundation and erosion impacts into the future.

Values, uses and infrastructure potentially impacted in the long term could include Metung Road, waterfront properties and community infrastructure such as the boat ramp and jetties. Mosquito Point is likely to be impacted by inundation from storms and sea level rise into the future. The coastal lagoons at Tambo Bluff are also opened to the lake through erosion and large runoff volumes.



Cliff stability is a community concern. Around Tambo Bluff, the steeply sloping shoreline and cliffs show signs of erosion. An Erosion Management Overlay (EMO) applies to most of the Metung township and aims to minimise land disturbance and inappropriate development in areas prone to erosion.

There are many structures across the Metung foreshore to manage coastal hazards. These include seawalls along the eastern shore of the Metung township, several groynes along Beach Road and a breakwater at the end of Beach Road.



7.4 Coastal uses, reserves and facilities

Metung offers a peaceful retirement and holiday destination. The foreshore supports boating, fishing, leisure, and recreational activities, with facilities to support these including:

- Shaving Point Boat Ramp, public and private jetties, wharfs, marinas and moorings
- Walking trails and boardwalks
- Yacht and boating clubs
- Lookouts and viewing areas at 100 Steps and Chinamans' Creek
- Foreshore reserves, including the 'Village Green'.
- Picnic and playground facilities

The foreshore also hosts the Metung Market, fun runs, festivals, and fishing events such as the Bream Classic.

Other facilities and attractions across the town include the Hot Springs, cafes, restaurants, holiday villas, waterfront properties, day spas and retreats.

7.5 Coastal and marine management

Council hold foreshore management responsibility across the Metung area from Outlook Drive to Boxes Creek. The Metung Bushland Reserve is managed by Parks Victoria, the Kings Cove Marina is managed by DEECA and Gippsland Ports manages the Metung Town Wharf.

The Metung Urban Design Framework (2007) guides future development across Metung. This provided multiple objectives with the key themes and objectives to:

- Retain the landscape setting and 'village' character and create a cohesive, attractive village centre
- Support Metung's boating centre role and improve water access
- Improve safe pedestrian circulation

There are several recent or ongoing Council-led projects across Metung:

- Shaving Point boat ramp (completed) and park upgrades
- Chinaman's Creek toilet upgrades

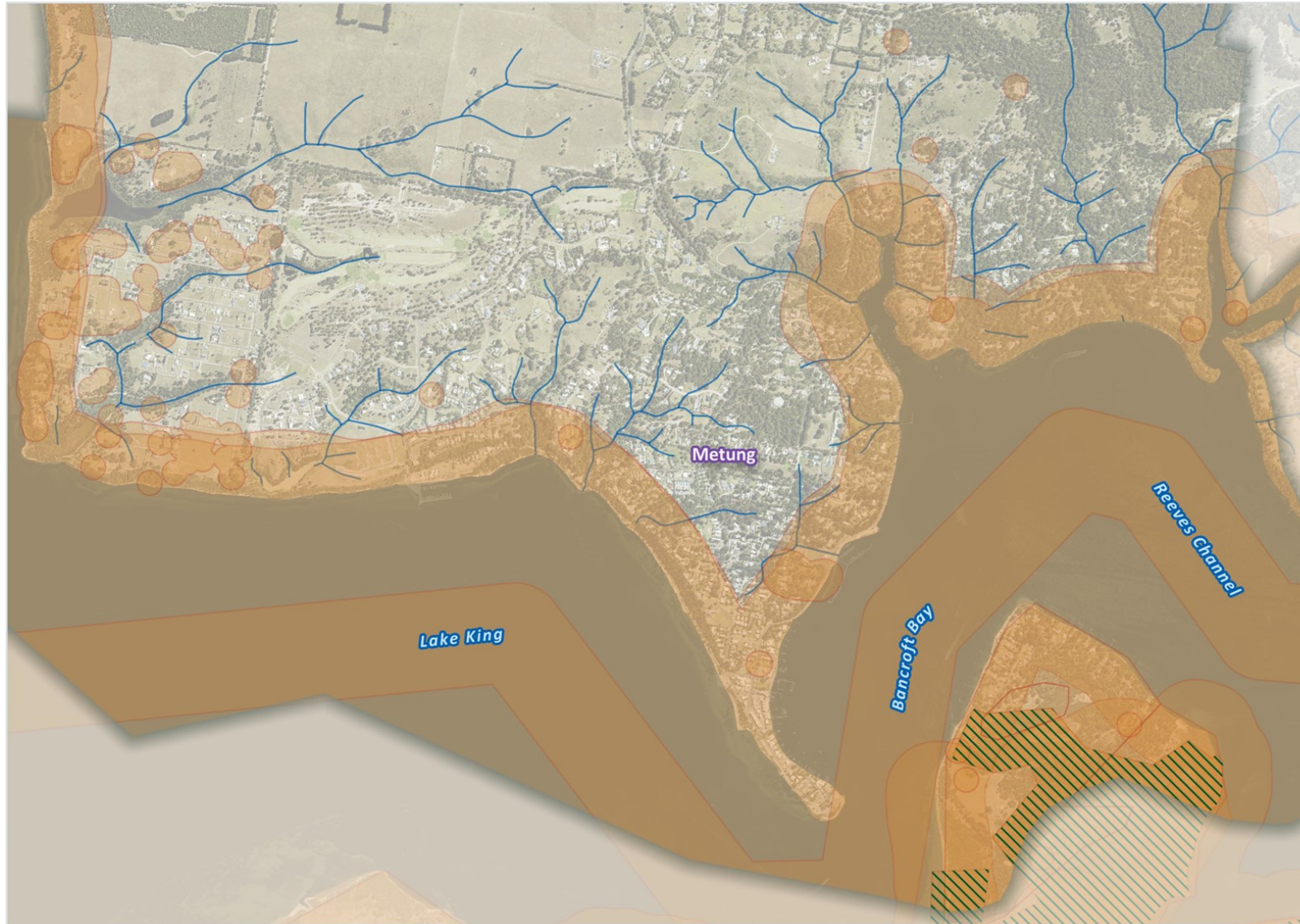
Table 14 summarises community values, challenges and opportunities across Metung, with focus areas for future management. Figure 56 to Figure 64 map key features, values, and management arrangements across the foreshore.



Table 14. Values, challenges and opportunities for Metung coastal and marine management, with focus areas for future management.

		Metung			Focus for management
		Values	Challenges	Opportunities	
	Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations and knowledge	- Tatungalung people and broader Gunaikurnai connection to Country - Evidence of use and occupation of camping grounds – middens, artefact scatters, scar trees. - Other significant Aboriginal Heritage places and sites (recorded and unrecorded) - Legend Rock, stories and Bataluk Cultural Trail	- Heritage sites being impacted or destroyed by other activities e.g. road and house construction and inappropriate recreational use - Limited awareness and understanding of Metung's cultural values - Outdated signage and lack of story telling	- Identify unrecorded Aboriginal Heritage sites - Initiatives to share Aboriginal stories and knowledge, where desired by Traditional Owners – includes updated signage of known stories and values - Continue appropriate planning overlays and controls to protect sites	 - Protect and enhance existing natural foreshore values including remnant vegetation and coastal lagoons. - Improve stormwater management and water-sensitive urban design, particularly in development areas. - Better-define and communicate existing erosion and coastal hazard controls, including boundaries of public and private land. - Enhance opportunities for community involvement in environmental monitoring and management - Adaptation planning and clarity around potential risks, management strategies and adaptation pathways for managing coastal hazards, including inundation (flooding) and erosion. - Investigate and increase understanding of cultural heritage and ensure protection.
	The marine and coastal environment	- High value natural vegetation and habitat across all foreshore reserves - Important vegetation communities - warm temperate rainforest, limestone box forest, Gippsland coastal grey box, plains grassy forest, freshwater marshes, saltmarsh and reedbeds - Rare and threatened species – e.g. Coast Grey Box, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Regent Honeyeater, Lace Monitor, owls, egrets and terns - Natural bush setting and landscape - Coastal lagoons - Bluff and Dolphin Lagoons - Good water quality in lakes and lagoons to support environmental values	- Coastal squeeze and reducing foreshore reserves with sea level rise and development pressures - Stormwater quality, sewage releases and pollution from urban development zones - Weeds, vegetation removal and pest animal impacts - Pest animals (feral cats, foxes and deer) - Boating and jet ski activities disrupting wildlife	- Monitor water quality conditions in coastal lagoons - Vegetation protection and enhancement, including weed and pest management - Investigate ecosystem response to climate change and options of retreat and creating space for foreshore reserves - Monitoring and communication of sewage release requirements and water quality - Educate and engage private landowners on native plants, species selection and vegetation protection	
	Natural processes and climate change	Coastal bluff setting and terrain that limits inundation hazards in higher areas	- Coastal squeeze from sea level rise and steep terrain, limiting foreshore open space - Cliff erosion at Tambo Bluff and concerns of development impacts on cliff stability - Coastal flooding along Beach Road - Likely future inundation across Shaving Point, Mosquito Point - Increase in coastal hazard impacts - sea level rise	- Improve understanding of potential impacts of coastal hazards into the future - Improve understanding of cliff stability and potential erosion impacts - Communicate current erosion and coastal hazard planning requirements and overlays - Consider hazard planning and resilient design in upcoming works	
	Sustainable use and development	- Lakeside boardwalks and access along the coast - Major boating facilities – Shaving Point boat ramp, Yacht Club, jetties, moorings, wharfs and marinas - Waterfront properties and views - Village character and landscape setting - Festivals and events across the foreshore reserve - Facilities to support recreational activities - fishing platforms, parking, toilets, playgrounds, BBQ and picnic facilities	- Development pressures and water quality impacts (sediment runoff) - Landscape setting (terrain), available space and connectivity constraints - Inappropriate development, not in-keeping with natural setting - Litter and inadequate bins around Shaving Point - Balancing parking demands across different seasons - Providing all abilities access	- Improved stormwater controls, enforcement and water-sensitive urban design, particularly in development areas - Increase boardwalks and all abilities connectivity, where terrain allows - Improve foreshore facilities, bins, playgrounds, boating facilities, picnic areas, etc. including Shaving Point upgrades.	
	Stewardship, knowledge, engagement and collaboration	- Community groups – Tambo Bluff Landcare - Recreational clubs – Metung Yacht Club - Community stewardship and care for the environment - Citizen science programs	- Poorly defined and understood land and asset management arrangements - Confusing, outdated and surplus signage	- Define and communicate land management boundaries and public vs. private land - Support volunteers and citizen science opportunities - Consolidate and update signage, sympathetic to natural settling	

Metung mapping: Traditional Owners and cultural values



Traditional Owners and Cultural Values

- Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
- Jointly managed parks and reserves (Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria)

Other Features

- Creeks and waterways

Inset map

Registered Aboriginal Parties

- Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
- Other Registered Aboriginal Parties

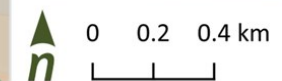
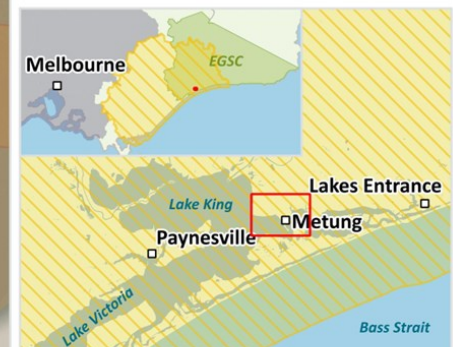


Figure 56. Registered Aboriginal Party areas, culturally sensitive areas and Joint Management areas for Metung.

Metung mapping: Environmental values

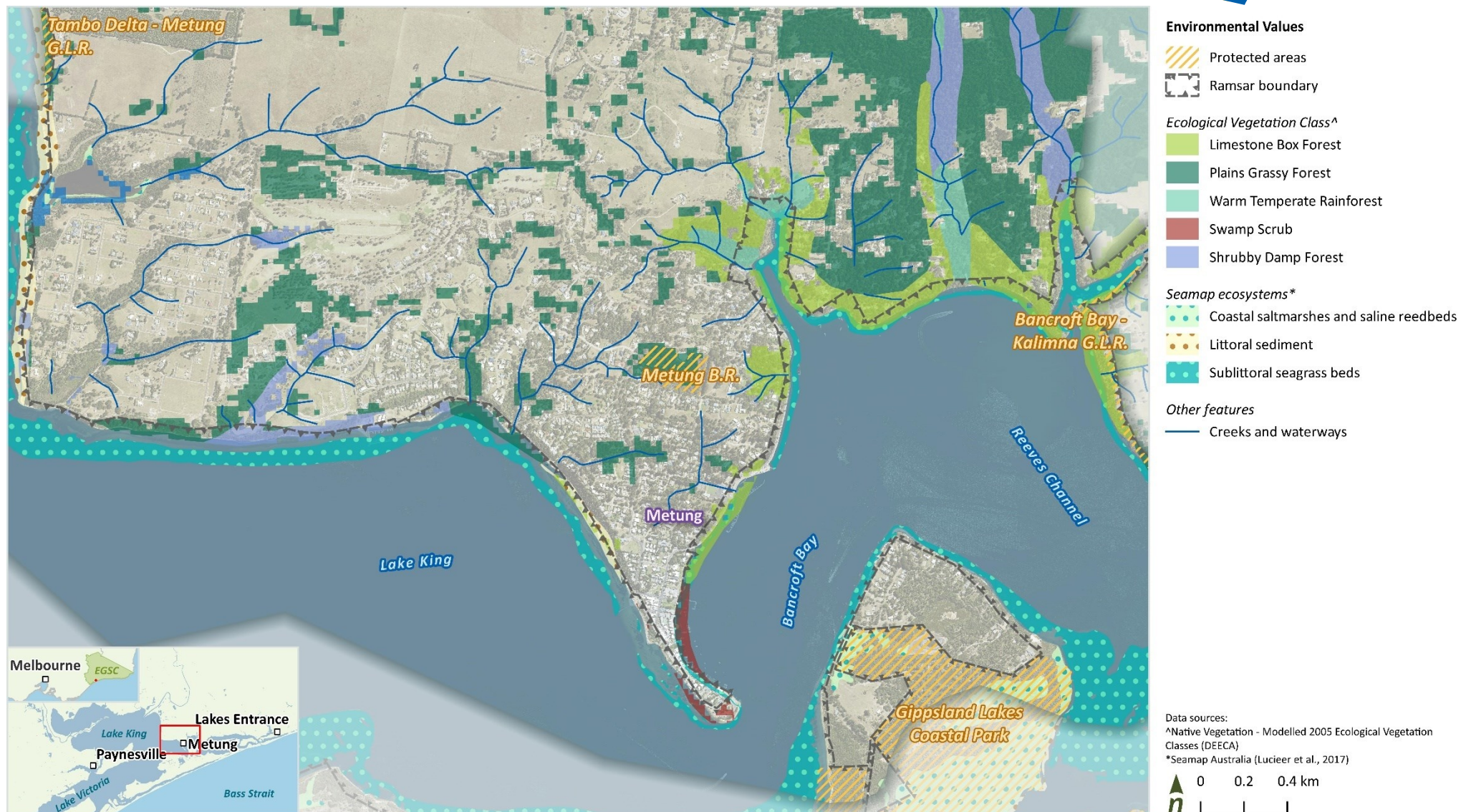


Figure 57. Key coastal and marine environmental values, including protected areas, ecological vegetation classes (EVCs) and biotypes for Metung.

Metung mapping: Environmental overlays

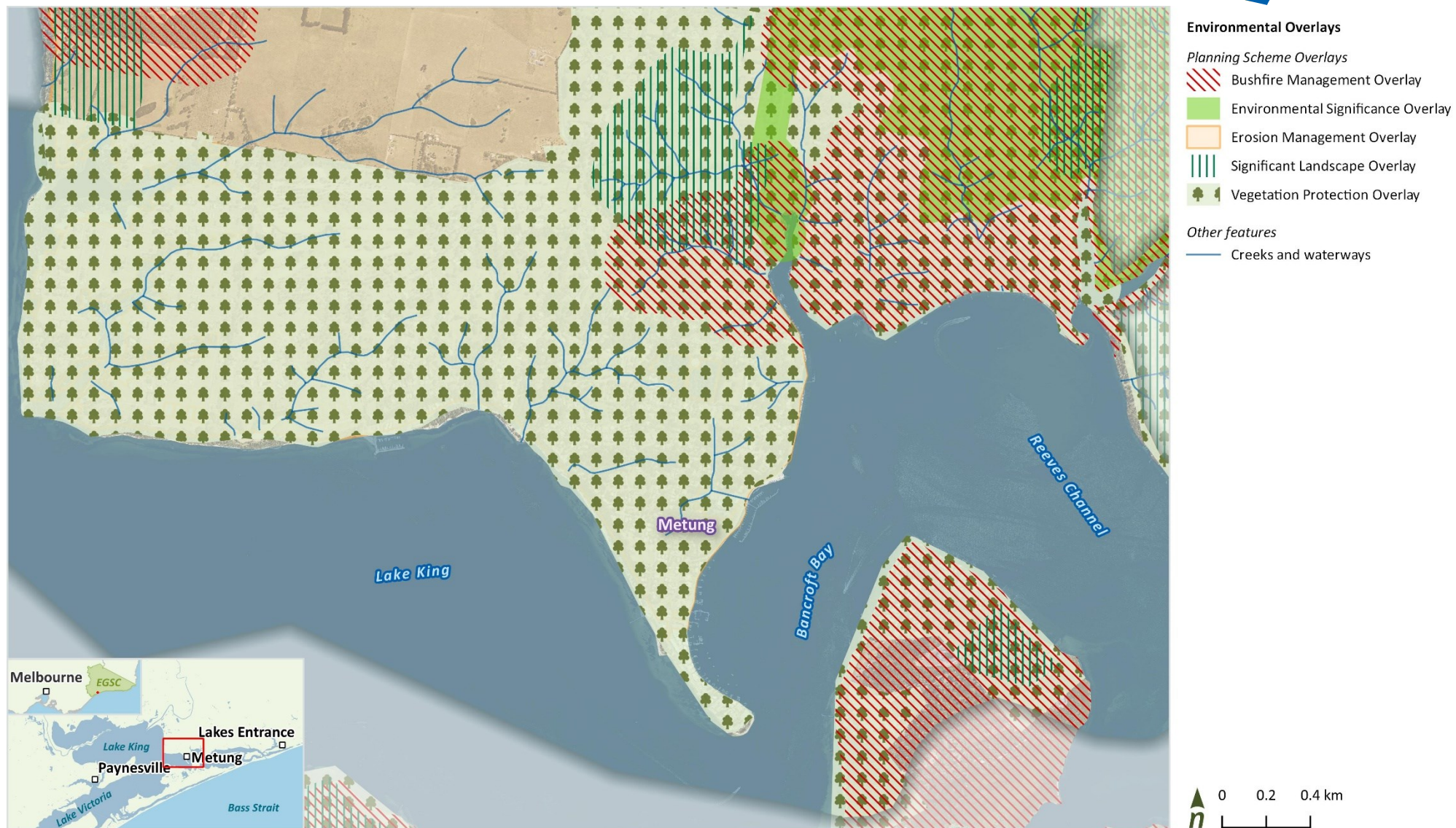
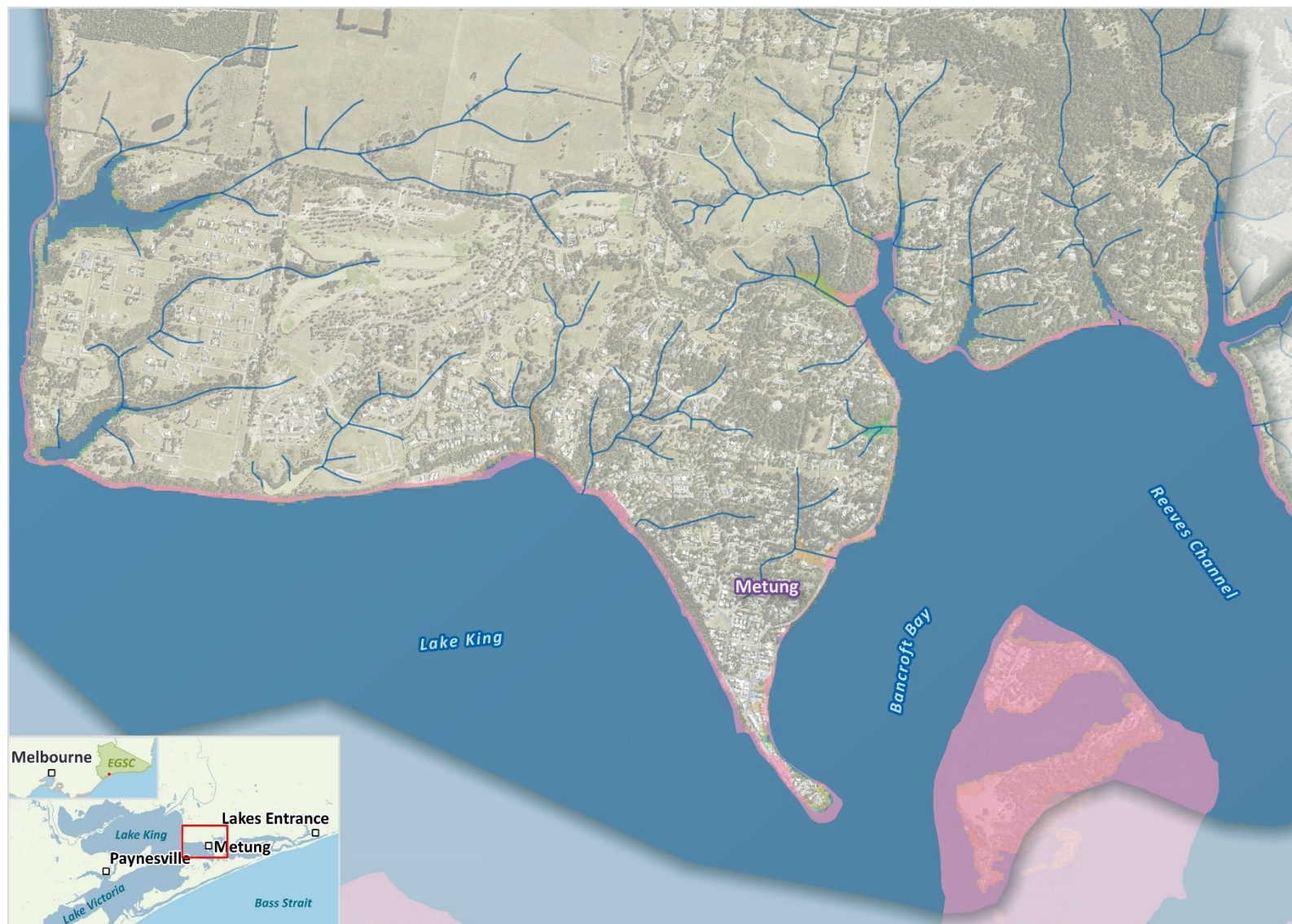


Figure 58. Environmental and land management planning overlays for Metung.

Metung mapping: Coastal hazards



Coastal Hazards

Gippsland Lakes/90 Mile Beach LCHA*:

10% AEP Gippsland Lakes flood extent

- 0.0 m sea level rise (2014 baseline)
- 0.2 m sea level rise
- 0.4 m sea level rise
- 0.8 m sea level rise

Lake shoreline erosion hazard extent

- 0.8 m sea level rise

Other features

- Creeks and waterways

AEP: Annual Exceedence Probability (AEP) is the probability of an event occurring in any given year.

Data sources:

*Water Technology 2014 - Gippsland Lakes and 90 Mile Beach Local Coastal Hazard Assessment (LCHA) Project

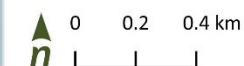


Figure 59. Coastal hazard mapping from the Gippsland Lakes/90 Mile Beach LCHA for Metung.

Metung mapping: Coastal protection and drainage infrastructure

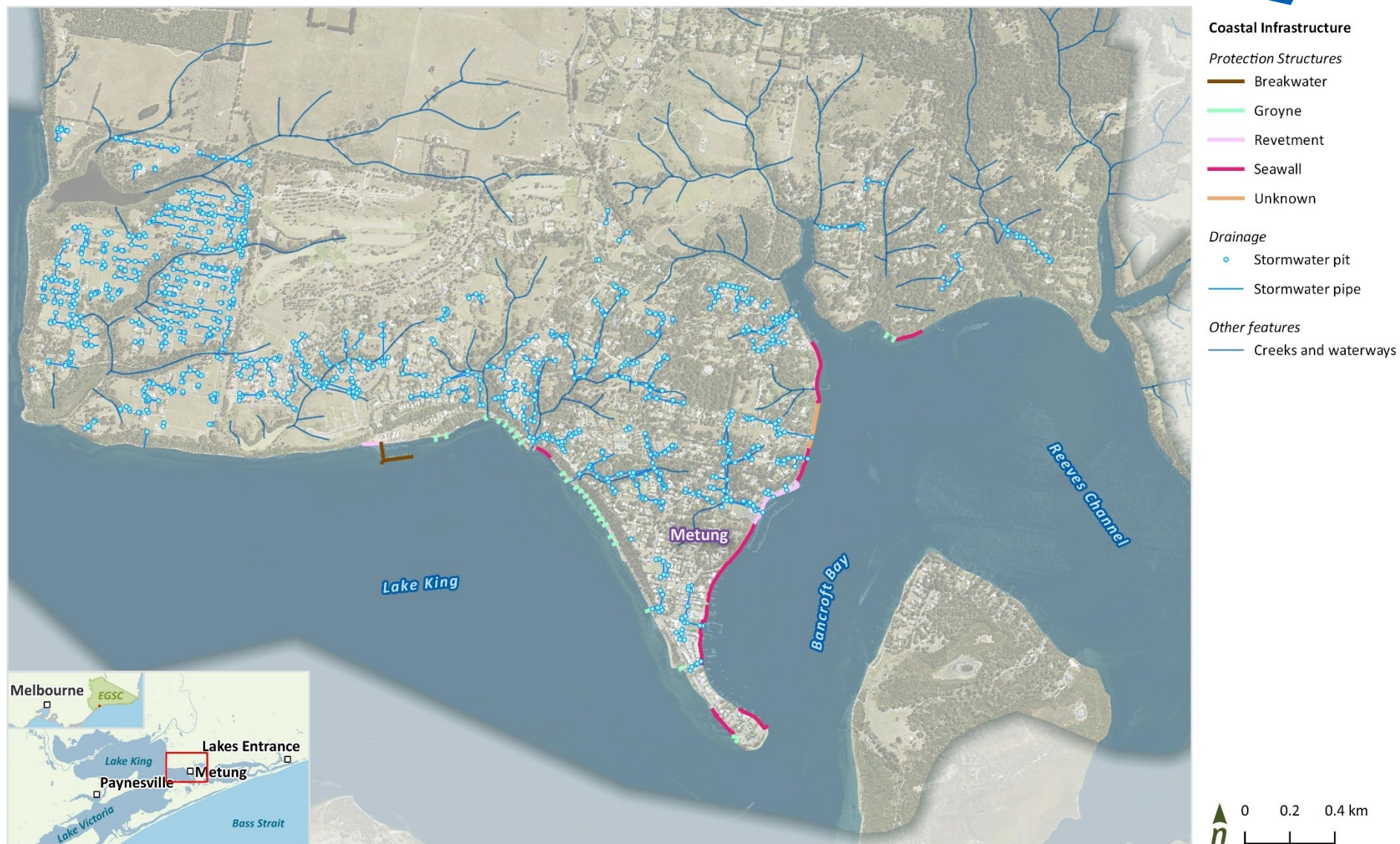


Figure 60. Coastal protection and drainage infrastructure for Metung.

Metung mapping: Recreation and transport

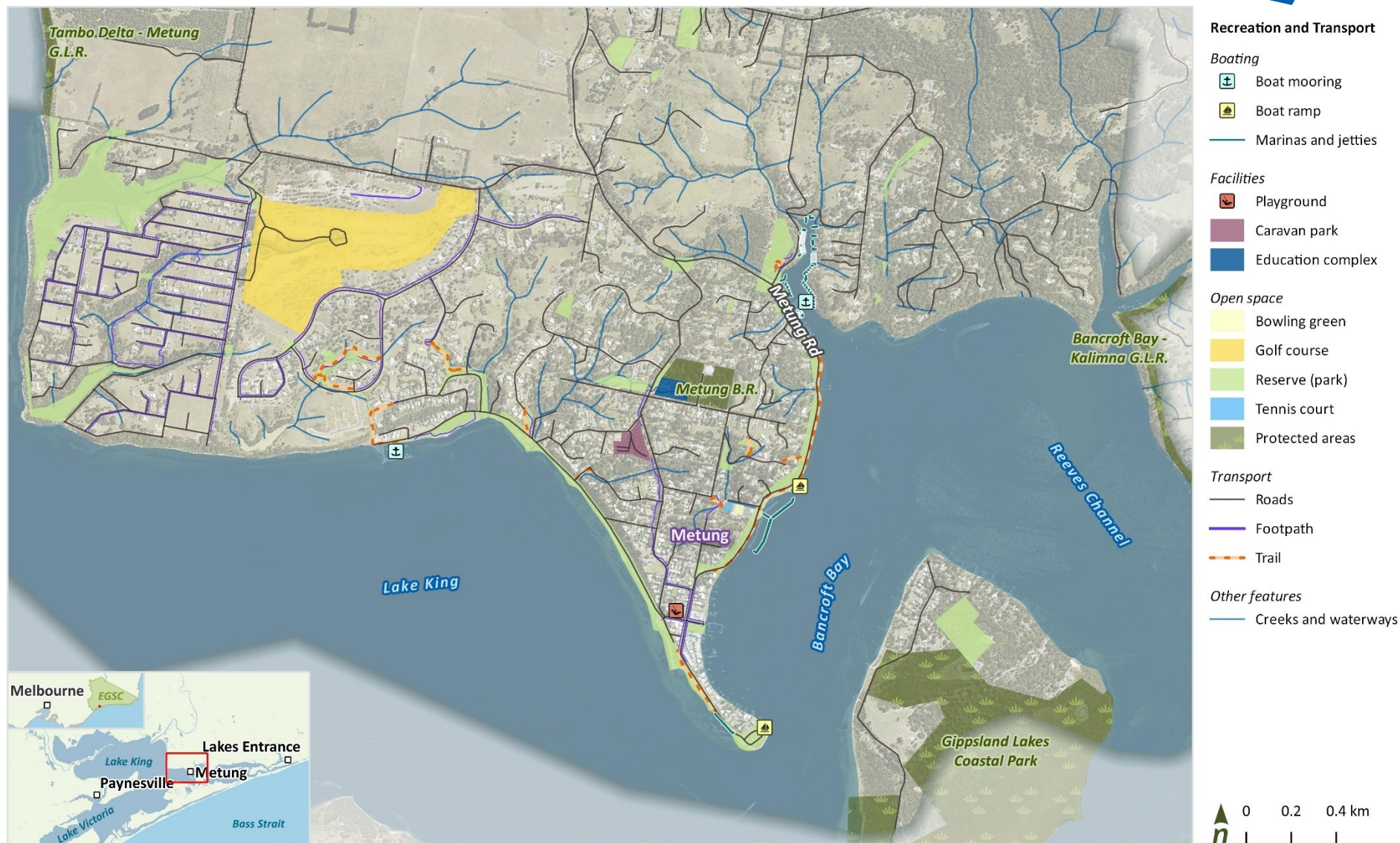


Figure 61. Recreation facilities and transport networks for Metung.

Metung mapping: Planning scheme zones

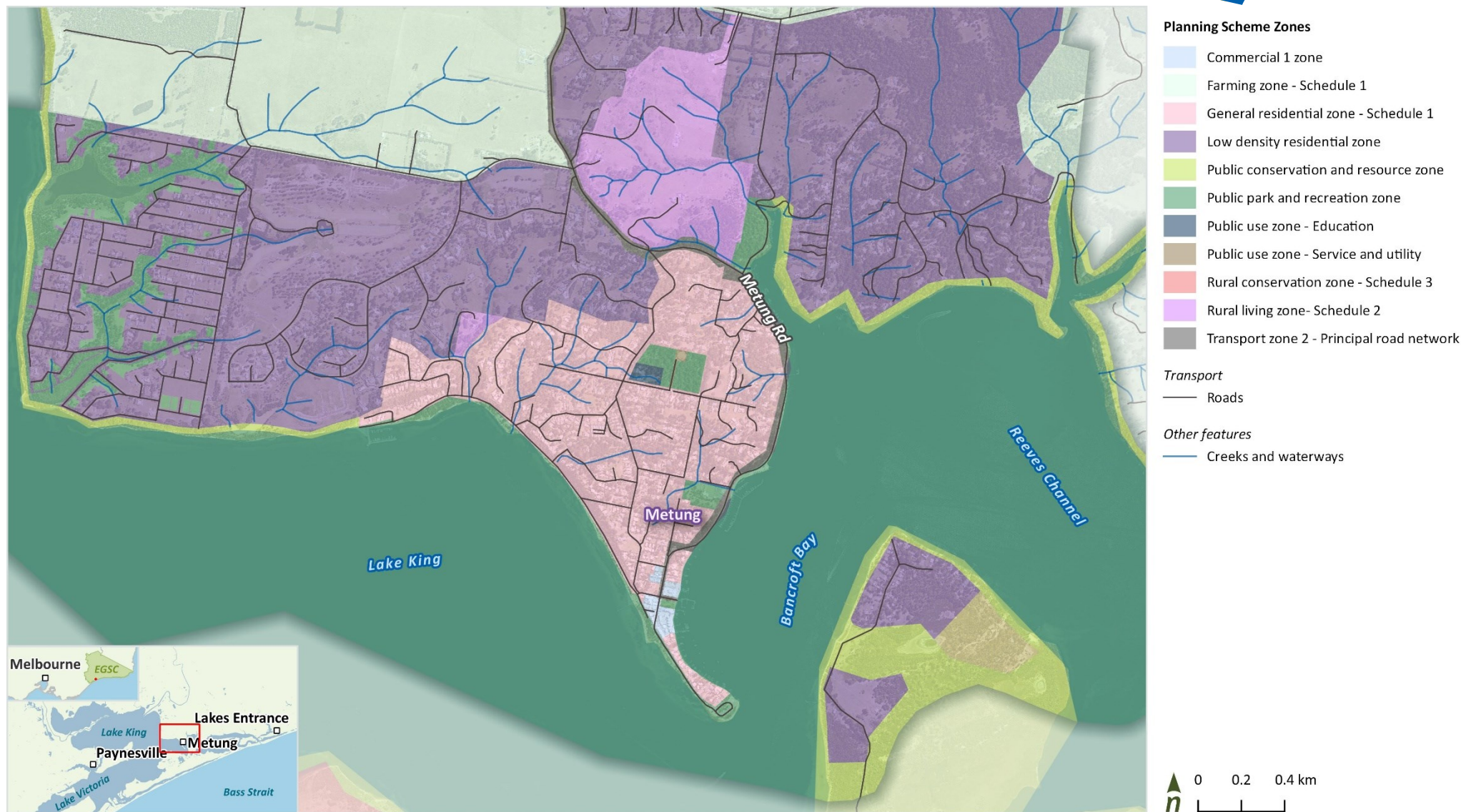


Figure 62. Planning scheme zones for Metung.

Metung mapping: Planning overlays

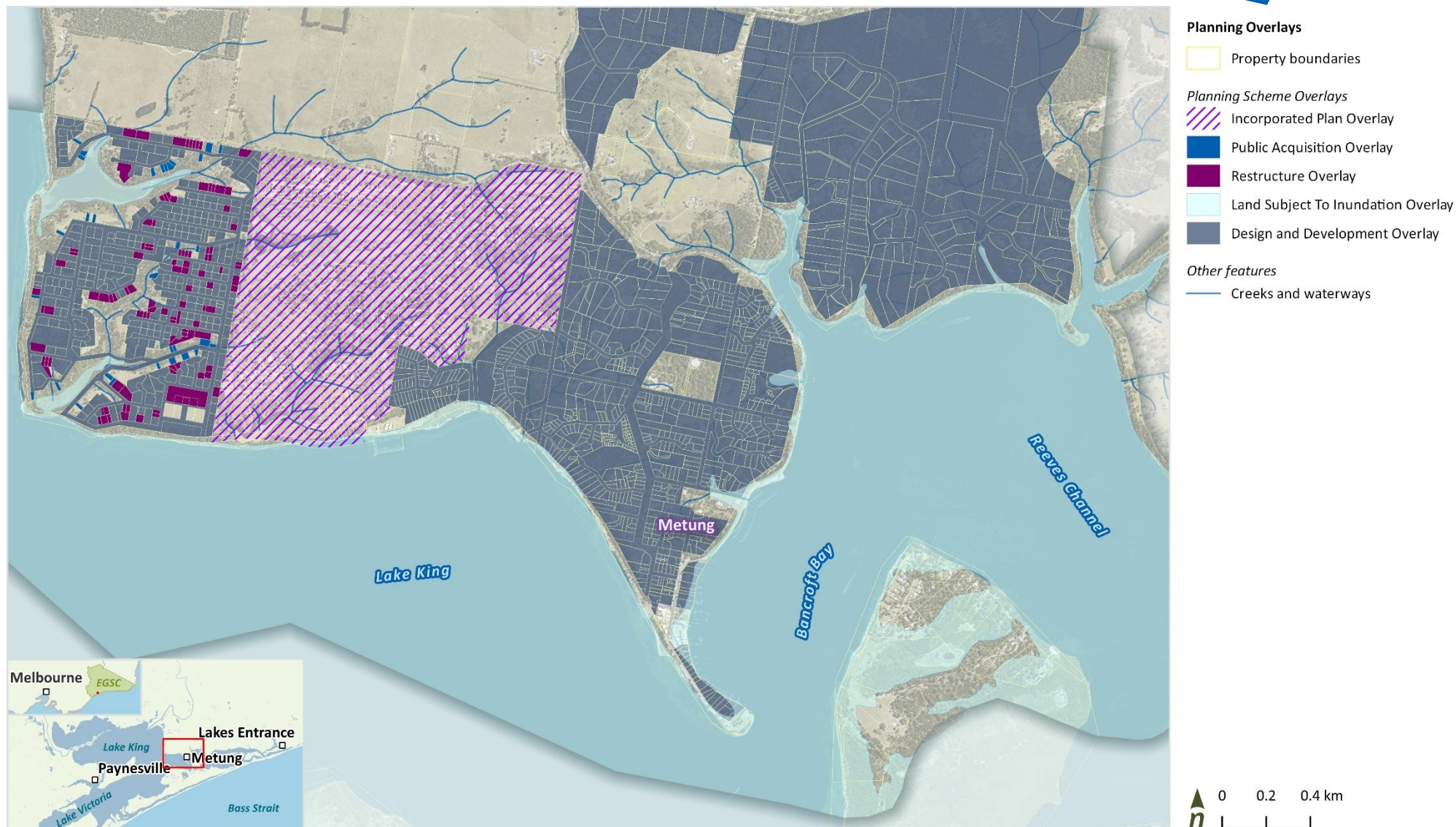


Figure 63. Other planning scheme overlays for Metung.

Metung mapping: Land management arrangements

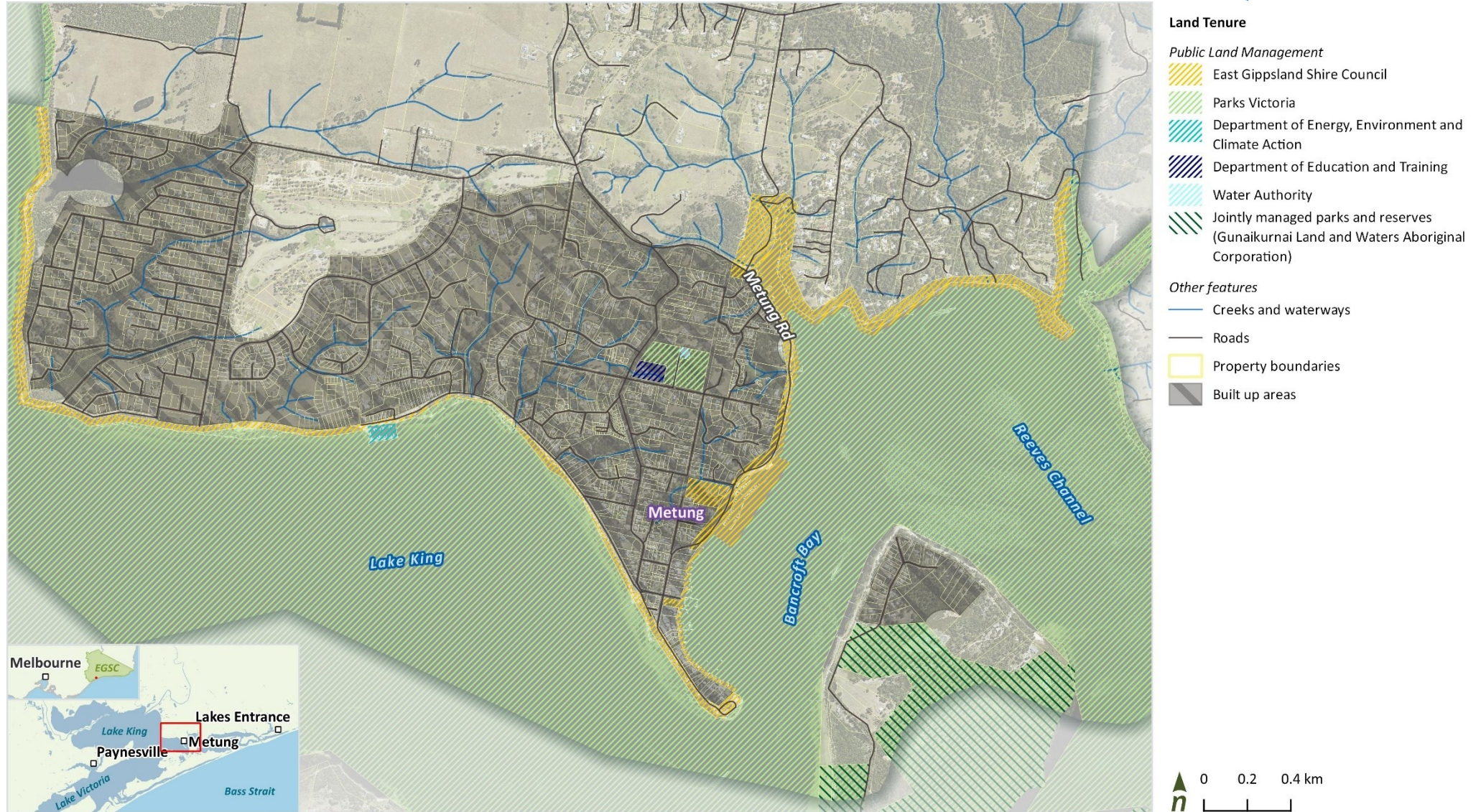


Figure 64. Public land management arrangements for Metung.



7.6 Management actions

Table 15 details the CMMP management actions for Metung.

Figure 65 presents site-specific management actions and maps activity and recreation nodes.

Table 15. Metung management actions

Long-term objective	No.	Action	Timeframe	Council role	Partners
Objective 1: Acknowledge Traditional Owners' rights, aspirations and knowledge	ME1.1	Guided by GLaWAC, support identification, management and protection of cultural heritage values across Metung coastal areas. In alignment with Shire Wide actions, this includes: - Supporting GLaWAC to identify unrecorded cultural heritage sites. - Continuing to implement appropriate planning overlays and controls such as Cultural Heritage Management Plans to protect cultural heritage. - Collaborating with GLaWAC to better understand cultural values and inform future protection. - Incorporating culturally-sensitive design into all works across Council-managed coastal reserves.	Ongoing	Participate	GLaWAC
	ME1.2	In collaboration with GLaWAC and Action EG1.3, investigate development and implementation of initiatives, such as signage, to share Aboriginal stories and knowledge of the Metung region (e.g. Legend Rock). Consider how cultural heritage sites may form part of the Gippsland-wide Bataluk Cultural Trail and how this connection can be more clearly communicated to the community and visitors.	3-5 years	Lead	GLaWAC
Objective 2: Protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment	ME2.1	In collaboration with EGCMA and Parks Victoria, investigate how loss of coastal habitat resulting from changing inundation regimes with sea level rise, coastal erosion, lack of space for habitat migration and development pressures may be addressed. Consider the creation of space for nature, to aid ecosystem retreat with sea level rise, e.g. lagoon ecosystems	5+ years	Participate	EGCMA, Parks Victoria, research institutes, not-for-profits
	ME2.2	Support EGCMA and citizen science programs to monitor water quality throughout Metung's surrounding lakes and coastal lagoons (e.g. Bluff and Dolphin Lagoons) and utilise findings to inform best-practice Council stormwater management controls, water-sensitive upgrades, pollution management and development controls in alignment with Action ME4.4. Communicate and enforce requirements needed to improve water quality. Aligns with Shire wide Action EG5.2.	3-5 years	Participate	EGCMA, citizen science programs
Objective 3: Respect natural processes and strengthen resilience to climate change	ME3.1	Building from existing coastal hazard assessments to date, investigate opportunities for long-term strategic coastal hazard adaptation planning. Includes: - Reviewing available information, data and mapping for Metung and suitability for adaptation planning. - Investigating potential adaptation planning funding applications for Metung (in alignment with Action EG3.2). - Following Victoria's Resilient Coast framework and guidelines to develop long-term adaptation and resilience planning. - Engaging and communicating throughout process, including stakeholder and rightsholder partnerships and community engagement.	Ongoing	Lead	DEECA, EGCMA, GLaWAC Gippsland Ports, Parks Victoria, other land asset and infrastructure managers
	ME3.2	In collaboration with DEECA, monitor and assess coastal protection structures across Metung, including seawalls, revetments and other structures. Consider opportunities for enhancing ecological outcomes (e.g. living seawalls) or alternatives to protection infrastructure through hybrid/nature-based solutions and adaptation planning. Embed State policy to consider adaptation options in order of preference. Aligns with Action EG3.5.	0-3 years	Participate	DEECA



Long-term objective	No.	Action	Timeframe	Council role	Partners
Objective 4: Use and develop sustainably	ME4.1	In alignment with Action EG4.1, utilise activity and recreation nodes to clearly delineate distinct purposes and uses within foreshore zones, and ensure efficient development through co-location, partnership use, and consolidation of community assets. Includes delineation of: - Metung Foreshore Reserve (Village Green) and Metung Pier surrounding Kurnai Avenue as main activity node. - Shaving Point Boat Ramp, Metung Marina and Chinamans Creek as key recreation nodes providing boating access, boat mooring, toilets and other recreation facilities.	0-3 years	Lead	All other land managers
	ME4.2	In alignment with East Gippsland Housing and Settlement Strategy (2023), continue to foster Town character through: - Maintenance of existing foreshore facilities and investment in facilities, based on assessment of need. - Sustainable growth within extent of existing urban zoning through infill development and subject to environmental risk (bushfire, flood, coastal hazard) constraints. - Promoting adherence to township boundaries, planning overlays and land use planning.	Ongoing	Lead	
	ME4.3	Progress and complete upgrade works to foreshore precincts and facilities that are currently underway including Shaving Point Park Upgrade. Review designs and planning to ensure proposed works and upgrades align with CMMP objectives, principles, actions and State policy.	3-5 years	Lead	
	ME4.4	In collaboration with the East Gippsland Integrated Water Management Forum, develop a stormwater management plan to promote best-practice stormwater management in Tambo Bluff.	3-5 years	Lead	DEECA, IWM Forum partners
	ME4.5	Ensure resilient design of new/upgraded infrastructure and facilities, considering natural processes and current and future coastal hazards. Consider: - Ecologically and culturally sensitive design e.g. boardwalks through hazard prone areas and/or sensitive cultural heritage sites or ecological communities. - Integrated water management approaches and water-sensitive urban design to reduce flood risk, improve stormwater quality, sediment runoff and discharge points. - Infrastructure design life and resilience to coastal hazard impacts, and adaptative management of facilities, recognising any emerging coastal hazard risk.	Ongoing	Lead	
	ME4.6	Consolidate and promote all-abilities foreshore connectivity and safety throughout Metung, Tambo Bay, Tambo Bluff and Chinamans Creek through: - Reviewing current pathways and connectivity. - Progressively updating and improving priority sections, including ongoing maintenance. - Wayfinding signage and communication of routes and activity/recreation nodes. Embed ecologically and culturally sensitive design where possible. Consider maintenance of path stability and access with current and future coastal hazards in all works, in alignment with Action ME4.5.	3-5 years	Lead	



Long-term objective	No.	Action	Timeframe	Council role	Partners
Objective 5: Take a stewardship approach, build understanding and knowledge, engage and collaborate	ME5.1	Continue to support and collaborate with local volunteer community environment groups e.g. Tambo Bluff Landcare Coastcare. Includes: - Promoting community group activities in the coastal and marine space. - Fostering open communication and engagement channels with community groups. - Continuing to seek opportunities to increase community involvement, including through community grants and Council partnerships. - Promoting and increasing citizen science opportunities (including environmental monitoring - Action ME2.2).	Ongoing	Lead	All other management agencies, environmental and community groups and organisations
	ME5.2	In alignment with Shire wide Action EG5.3, review, consolidate and update foreshore signage across Metung to: - Ensure consistency and consolidate volume of signage. - Communicate land and asset management arrangements and private vs. public land boundaries. - Promote connectivity and wayfinding. - Celebrate unique environments, history and culture. - Support implementation of activity and recreation nodes (Action ME4.1).	3-5 years	Lead	Other land managers, GLaWAC
	ME5.3	In alignment with Shire wide Action EG5.6, investigate initiatives to engage private landowners in environmental management and restoration through education on the values of native ecosystems for local resilience, and the importance of their protection e.g. against inappropriate recreational use.	Ongoing	Lead	Private landholders

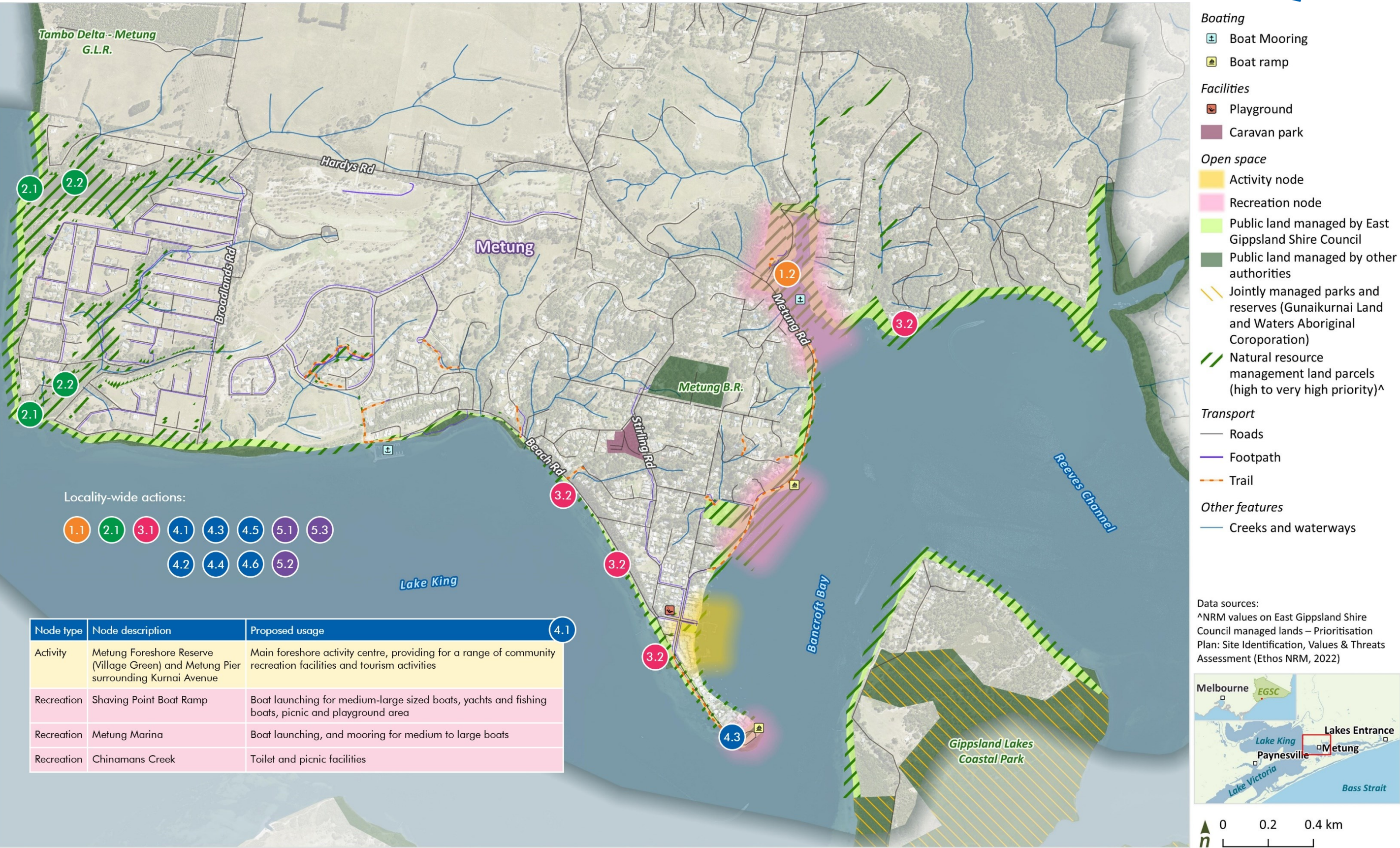


Figure 65. Metung management actions and nodes