

# **PYKES CREEK RESERVOIR AND WERRIBEE RIVER**

## **WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT**

### **A Proposal for Proclamation**

Statement prepared for consideration by the  
Land Conservation Council

August 1989

Land Protection Division  
Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands

## **PYKES CREEK RESERVOIR AND WERRIBEE RIVER WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT**

The catchment (23,700 ha) is located in Western Victoria and drains the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, which contain the headwaters of the Werribee river and its tributary streams that feed Pykes Creek Reservoir. The reservoir drains an area of 11,900 ha upstream of the reservoir wall, constructed on Korjamunnip Creek within CA 15 of the Parish of Myrniong. The reservoir also receives water during winter from a diversion on the Werribee River. This catchment contains 11,800 ha upstream of the diversion located adjacent to CA 16 Section 4 in the Parish of Gorong. Korweinguboora Creek, a main stream feeding Pykes Creek Reservoir has an on-stream storage (Colbrook reservoir) within its upper reaches.

### ***The Catchment***

Pykes Creek Reservoir lies in the southeast corner of the catchment within an area of deeply entrenched valleys draining a basalt plain. The undulating plain extends to the west across the southern catchment area. As the elevation increases to the north this topography grades through low hills and moderately dissected slopes to steep, strongly dissected sedimentary slopes to the Great Dividing Range. Elevation encountered ranges from 778 m (Mt Hope - central), to 741 m (Leonards Hill - north) and 639 m (Mt Steiglitz- south). Duplex soils, black clays and gradational soils occur on the plains and slopes of the basalt parent material. The sedimentary hills have yellow mottled soils tending to shallow, stony soils on the ridges. Native vegetation consists of a mixed species dry sclerophyll eucalypt forest.

### ***Elevation/Rainfall***

Ballan	442 m	573 mm
Leonards Hill	741 m	983 mm

### ***Land Tenure and Use***

The catchment contains both public land (47%) and freehold land (53%). Public land is predominantly Wombat State Forest (E1) but also includes a reference area (B3) an education area (M4), Pykes Creek Reservoir (D55), Colbrook Reservoir (D54), and other smaller reserves (P6) and (V1). There is a history of mining in the hills to the northeast, but only minor evidence of this activity is now present. Land affected has recovered naturally. Mining activity is now limited to an area near Green Hills. Major uses of the Wombat State Forest (E1) include timber harvesting and recreation.

The major use of freehold land in the catchment is grazing (sheep and cattle). The catchment contains the small rural residential areas of Greendale and Blakeville, and the township of Ballan (population 900).

The Land Conservation Council (LCC) recommendations for the use of public land in this area are contained in "Melbourne Area, District 1 Review, Final Recommendations, 1987, LCC". LCC recommendations appear in brackets above.

### ***Water Supply Systems***

Pykes Creek Reservoir (24,000 ML) is an irrigation storage for the Bacchus Marsh and (in conjunction with Melton reservoir) Werribee areas. It is also a popular recreational venue. Township supply for Myrniong (population 180), administered by the Shire of Bacchus Marsh, is taken from the storage. Water quality is of a satisfactory standard. The Rural Water Commission (RWC) is the responsible water supply authority for the reservoir.

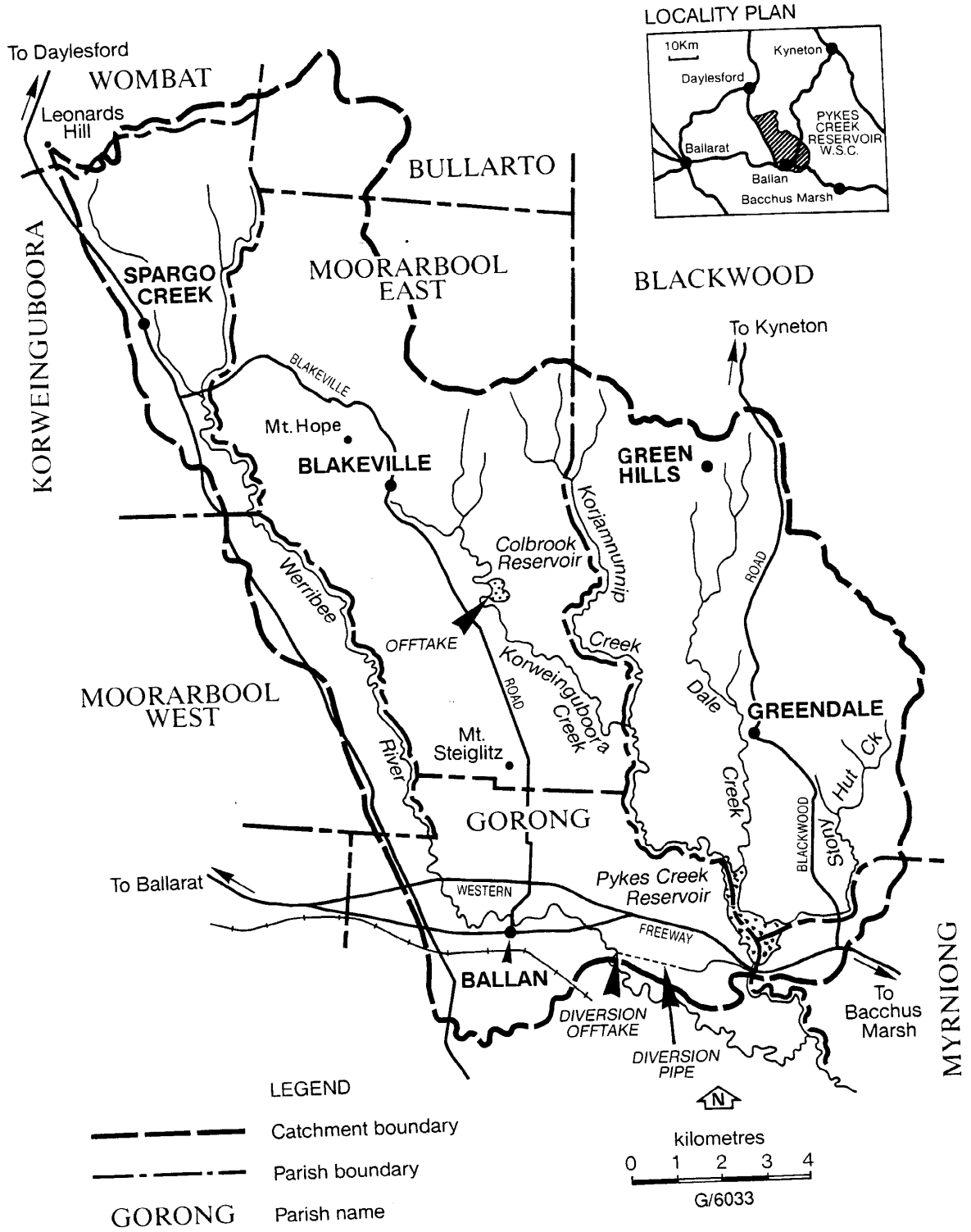
Water from Colbrook reservoir (104 ML) is used for domestic supply to the township of Ballan. In terms of quality, water is seasonally coloured, slightly turbid and frequently displays high *E. coli* levels. The Shire of Ballan is the responsible water supply authority.

### ***Administrative Areas***

Parishes: Gorong, Korweinguboora, Blackwood, Bullarto, Moorarbool East, Moorarbool West, Myrniong

Municipality: Shire of Ballan.

**PLAN No. S-1495**  
**PYKES CREEK RESERVOIR AND WERRIBEE RIVER**  
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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Land Conservation Council, under section 5 (1) of the *Land Conservation Act* 1970, recommend to the Governor-in-Council that the following catchment, as indicated on Plan S-1495 be proclaimed under section 22 (1) of the *Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act* 1958:

- Pykes Creek Reservoir and Werribee River Water Supply Catchment.