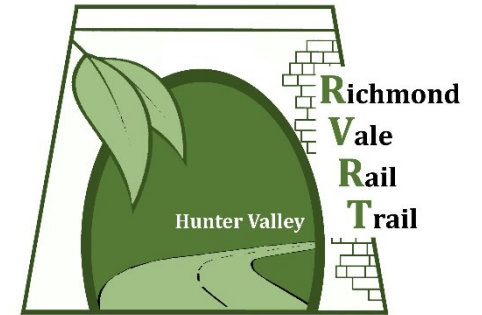


Extracted from RVRT Inc. *Facebook Post* – July 31<sup>st</sup> 2023:

<https://www.facebook.com/richmondrailtrail/posts/pfbid0whK3UCx8dmpVtWCThVTQCKk44wnAUpnznez85LZxKHQ7QAGN4eimUjSY4Ti9hbQHI>

From Terry J. Lewin (*RVRT Inc. Vice-President - RVRT Supporters' Group*)

## Suggested Strategic Zones (or Themes) – For characterising broad segments within the Richmond Vale Rail Trail (RVRT) [and 'Shiraz to Shore' Hunter Cycle Trail]



As local discussions about the proposed 'Shiraz to Shore' Hunter Cycle Trail intensify, we felt that it would be a good time to start to talk about possible Strategic Zones (or Themes) across the full (100+ km) length of the trail. Here are some initial suggestions.

The first two images contain the same material, overlaid over different RVRT graphics (a stylized trail image; and 20 Points of Interest along the RVRT).

Please see previous Blog-Posts and Media Releases on our Website for further details about current RVRT approvals and Likely Points of Interest.

CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK WELCOME.

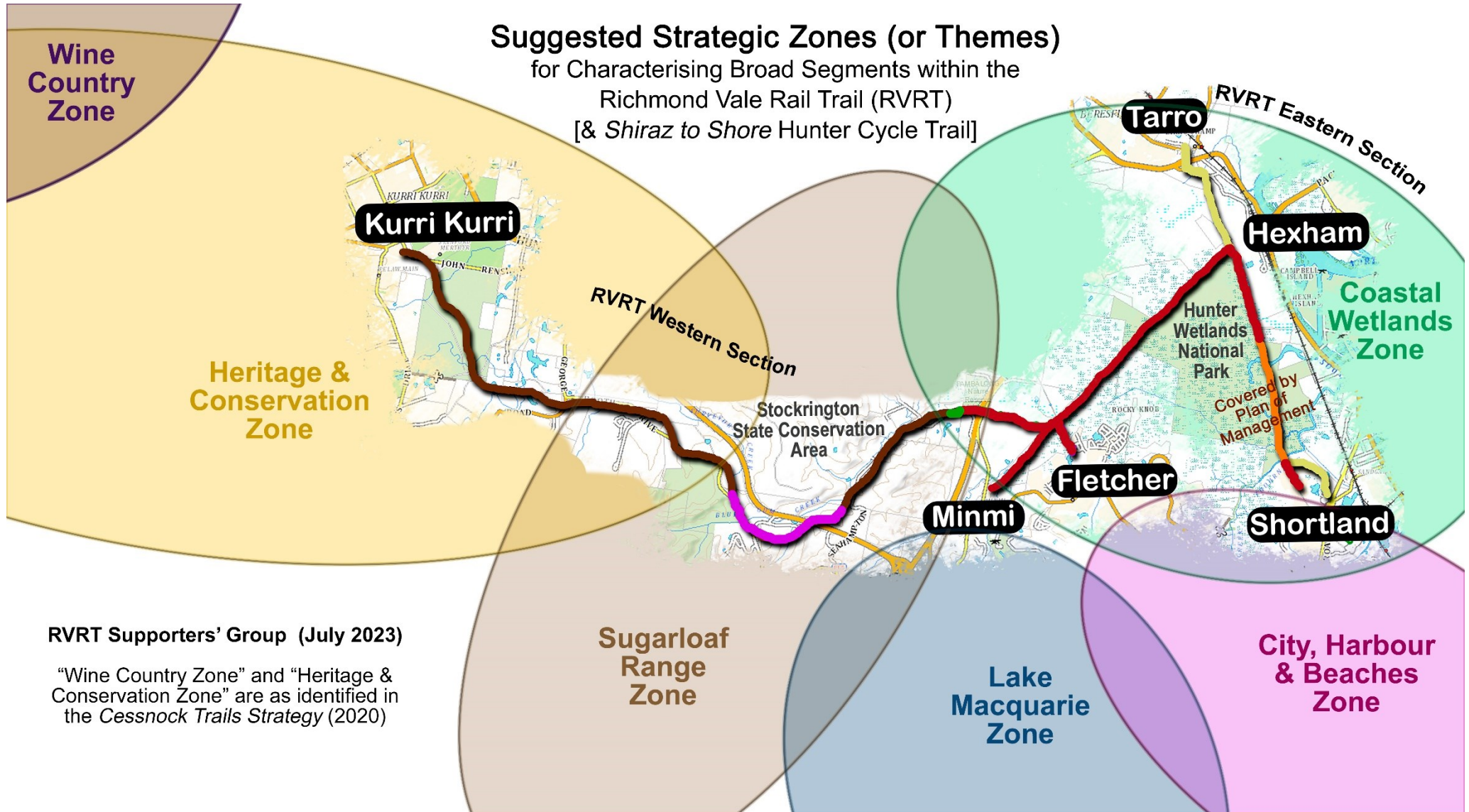
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**Suggested Strategic Zones (or Themes)**  
for Characterising Broad Segments within the  
Richmond Vale Rail Trail (RVRT)  
[& Shiraz to Shore Hunter Cycle Trail]



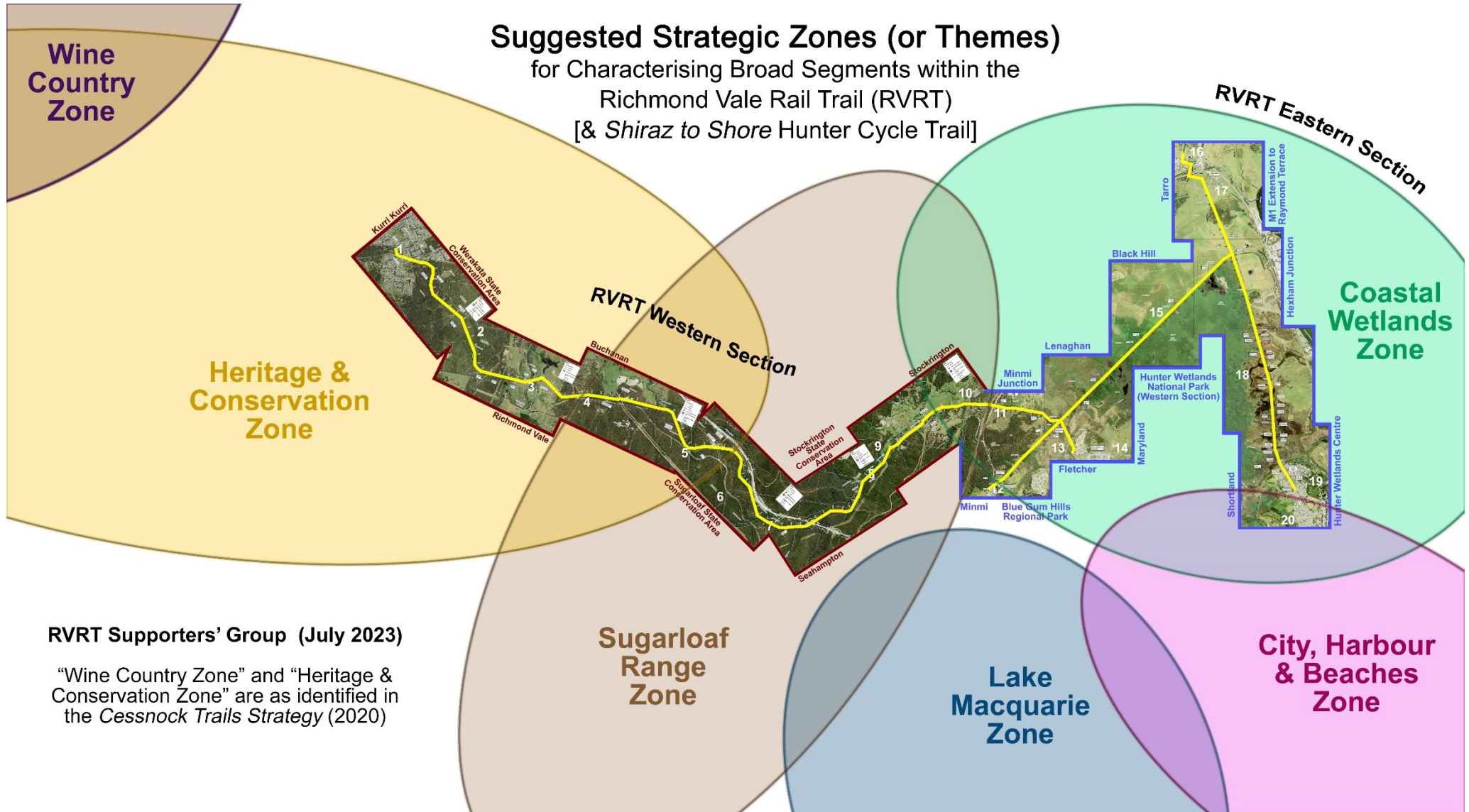
RVRT Supporters' Group (July 2023)

"Wine Country Zone" and "Heritage & Conservation Zone" are as identified in the *Cessnock Trails Strategy* (2020)

**Image 1: Suggested Strategic Zones - Overlaid over stylized trail image.**

RVRT Western Section: Cessnock and Lake Macquarie LGAs; RVRT Eastern Section: Newcastle LGA.

## Suggested Strategic Zones (or Themes) for Characterising Broad Segments within the Richmond Vale Rail Trail (RVRT) [& Shiraz to Shore Hunter Cycle Trail]



RVRT Supporters' Group (July 2023)

"Wine Country Zone" and "Heritage & Conservation Zone" are as identified in the *Cessnock Trails Strategy* (2020)

Image 2: Suggested Strategic Zones - Overlaid over 20 Points of Interest along the RVRT.

## **Suggested Strategic Zones (or Themes)** – For characterising broad segments within the Richmond Vale Rail Trail RVRT) [and Shiraz to Shore Hunter Cycle Trail].

Below are some relevant extracts from a range of sources:

### **Wine Country Zone**

“The Wine Country Zone offers experiences in the renowned Hunter Valley Wine Region ... such as events and functions. Enhancing the provision of recreational trails ... will support the region’s tourism goals ... and provide unique experiences. This zone extends north from Cessnock with key localities being Pokolbin, Branxton and Greta, with potential for enhanced connectivity towards Singleton.” (Cessnock Trails Strategy, May 2020, Page 58).

### **Heritage & Conservation Zone**

“The Heritage and Conservation Zone is strongly ... associated with mining and rail ... There is also significant potential to showcase Indigenous heritage and culture across this region, and the links to conservation and landscapes. The township of Kurri Kurri is the key population centre ... with strong ... connections to existing colonial heritage features such as Richmond Main, the Richmond Vale Railway Museum and Rail Trail (proposed), and Log of Knowledge Park ...” (Cessnock Trails Strategy, May 2020, Page 58).

### **Sugarloaf Range Zone**

The Sugarloaf Range Zone “... features high-quality, tall open forest and is part of a green corridor stretching from the Watagans Ranges through to Hexham Swamp, the Hunter River estuary and the coastal plains of the Tomago Sandbeds, Stockton Bight and Port Stephens”. (Extracted from Sugarloaf State Conservation Area description provided by NSW NPWS, May 2014). Mount Sugarloaf (412 metres) is one of the highest points within the Sugarloaf Range, which extends from Awaba to Black Hill. It “... provides a vantage point for the areas that belong to the Awabakal people, making it an important teaching place. The Awabakal also have a creation story about Mount Sugarloaf, and it is a place where sacred ceremonies are known to have taken place.” (Extracted from Lake Macquarie City Libraries article about Mount Sugarloaf’s history).

**Image 3: Suggested Strategic Zones - (Draft) Sample descriptors for first 3 Zones.**

### **Coastal Wetlands Zone**

“Coastal wetlands include estuarine lakes and lagoons, coastal floodplain forests, and mangrove and saltmarsh swamps.” (Extracted from NSW Wetlands Policy, 2010, Page 10). The identified Coastal Wetlands Zone overlays almost all of the RVRT Eastern Section (within Newcastle LGA). However, the Lower Hunter region has a much more extensive network of coastal wetlands. Hunter Wetlands National Park (HWNP) has “... two distinct sections. The eastern part includes: Stockton Sandspit; Sandy and Smiths islands; the bed of Fullerton Cove; part of the north and southern arms of the Hunter River, Tomago Wetlands, Kooragang, Ash, Hexham and Campbell islands. The western part covers Hexham Swamp.” (Extracted from Hunter Wetlands National Park Plan of Management, Section 1.1).

### **Lake Macquarie Zone**

The Lake Macquarie Zone “... has a network of cycleways, including the high-profile Fernleigh Track rail trail and the Northern Bays Way (includes Red Bluff Boardwalk) ... Visitors to Lake Macquarie, particularly families and caravanners/RVers, are increasingly travelling with bicycles and are looking for safe and attractive places to ride. ... Lake Macquarie City Council is expanding its cycleway network, with a focus on linking routes and improving access to key localities [currently, Lake Macquarie has approx. 120 km of off-road shared paths]. Council is also supporting the development of the Richmond Vale Rail Trail linking Newcastle and Kurri Kurri through the north western corner of the city, with plans to link the Rail Trail to Speers Point via the Tramway Track and to the Fernleigh Track via Charlestown.” (Extracted from Lake Macquarie City Destination Management Plan 2022-2026, Page 85).

### **City, Harbour & Beaches Zone**

“The backbone of our [City of Newcastle] cycling network – the established routes such as the Fernleigh Track, Jesmond cycleway, and the north-south Mayfield to Warners Bay (R4) route were constructed as shared paths on former tram lines that remained in public ownership ... Design and implementation were generally less problematic ... Our expectations and aspirations have changed ... the motivation now is to make riding a convenient, preferred transport option for the majority of the community. A fine-grained, safe network of low volume, low traffic routes and separated infrastructure is needed ... The centrepiece of the Coastal Revitalisation Program is construction of the Bathers Way, a 6km shared pathway linking Nobbys Beach to Merewether Beach. New cycling infrastructure in the Newcastle City Centre is being addressed under the Hunter Street Revitalisation Program ...” (Extracted from On-our-bikes Cycling Plan 2021-2030, Pages 35-36).

**Image 4: Suggested Strategic Zones - (Draft) Sample descriptors for Zones 4 to 6.**