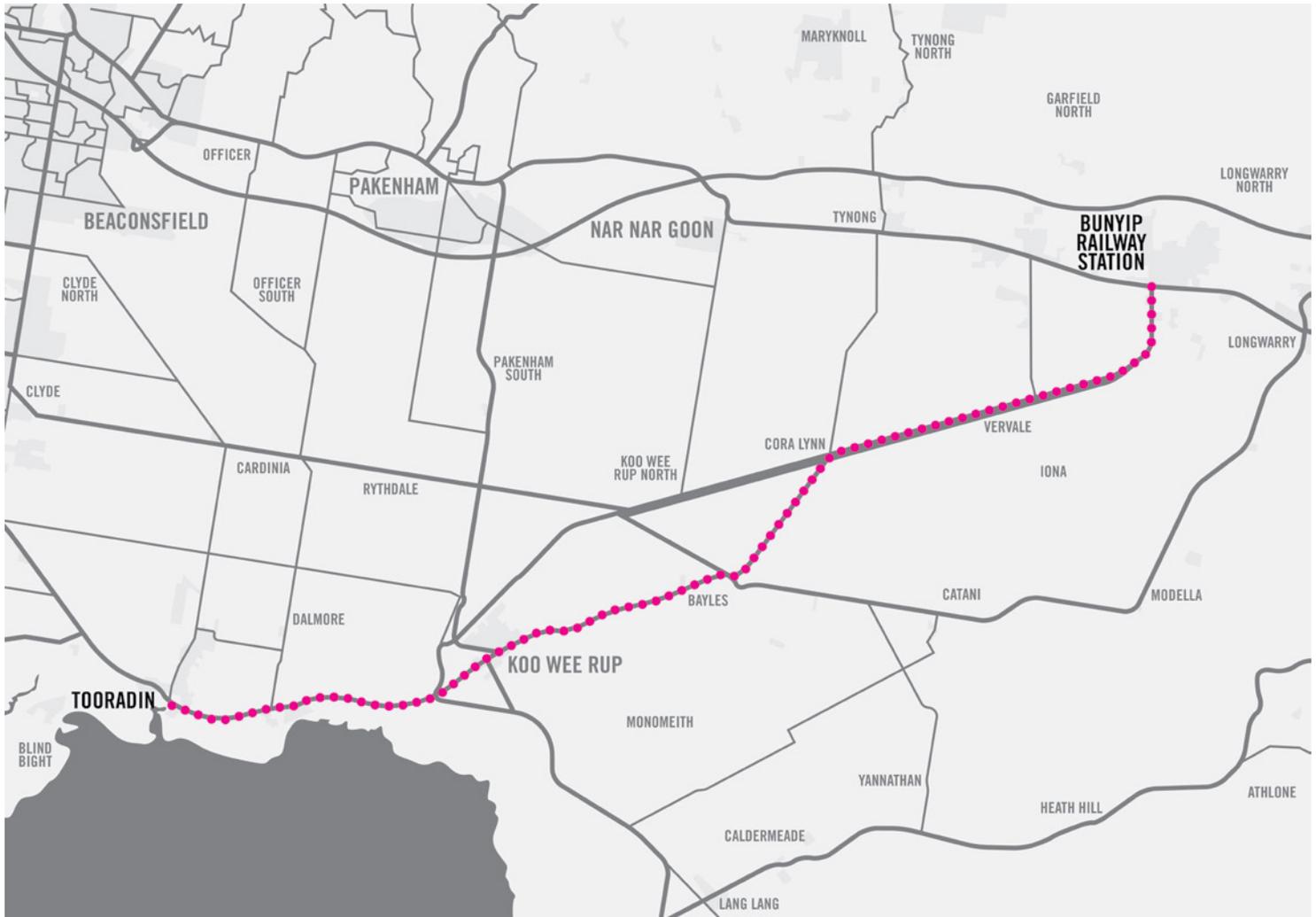


# WATERFRONT: WATERSCAPES OF SOUTH WESTERNPORT TOUR



Explore deep-time ecology and delve into issues facing southern Westernport on a self-guided bicycle tour of the old swamplands of Koo Wee Rup and the coastal reserves of Tooradin.

The old Koo Wee Rup swampland is drained with scores of channels, constructed from the 1890s-1930s. As you ride, consider that this land has been in flux for millennia, with dynamic water at its core. Consider the extent of the huge modifications to this landscape over 200 years — what could it be in another 200? Could the swamp and its biodiverse landscape be regenerated in a new form as the sea level rises?

Follow Main Drain Road South — a quiet gravel road that runs on the other side of the channel to the sealed Bunyip River Road. Stop and view the stretches of vegetated open drains and imagine that once this water was on the surface of the largest swamp in Victoria.

Stop at Little Road bridge to see the old wooden bridge (no longer taking vehicles) and St Joseph's brick church. Pedal through Cora Lynn that is the centre and deepest part of the previous swampland.

Go past the richest asparagus farming country in Australia with its deep black 'Dalmore Clay' soils, founded on peat that lay beneath the swamp — much of which was burnt during colonisation.

Walk along the old Gippsland railway line bridges over the parallel channels of the main drainage network next to Koo Wee Rup (Railway Rd).

As you get closer to Tooradin, observe the change in the stretch of flat land where mangroves are moving inward and Melaleuca shrub appears. In Tooradin, explore Sawtell's Inlet and the coastal reserves of Tooradin, as well as its heritage buildings.

For more information visit:  
[openhousemelbourne.org/waterfront2021](http://openhousemelbourne.org/waterfront2021)

Acknowledgements:  
Presented by Monash Urban Lab

## TOUR TYPE

Bicycle or vehicle

## TOUR ROUTE DETAILS

Distance: 37km, one way  
Bicycle: 2 hrs (or 4 hrs return)  
Car: 30 mins by car (or 1 hr return)  
Begin at Bunyip Railway Station, end at Tooradin.

## Please note:

The tour route includes a mix of quiet gravel roads and busy sealed 100km roads. CAV | OHM reminds participants to be aware of their surroundings and to adhere to road-safety guidelines at all times. When following this tour, participants must assume personal responsibility for any liability, injury, loss or damage in any way connected with the tour.



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