

ATTACHMENTS TO

Ordinary Meeting Business Paper
26 February 2026

EXCLUDED FROM AGENDA

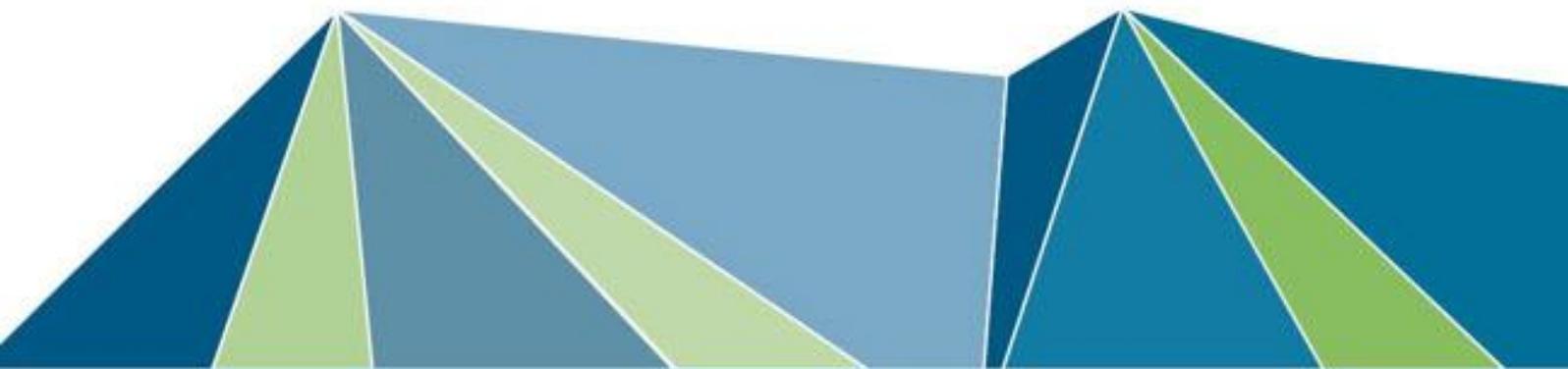


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Jaaguun (Land / Country)

Spoonbill Reserve, Skennars Head

DRAFT MASTER PLAN

9 February 2026





Ballina Shire Council acknowledges that we are here on the land of the people of the Bundjalung Nation. The Bundjalung are the traditional owners of this land and are part of the oldest surviving continuous culture in the world.

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Jaaguun (Land / Country)



The Project

BACKGROUND

Spoonbill Reserve is Ballina Shire Council owned community land, strategically located between older and expanding new residential areas of Skennars Head and opposite Xavier Catholic College. For many years, members of the Skennars Head community have been advocating for a plan to be prepared to articulate the community's aspirations for the future of the Reserve.

In response to this, Council's current Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2025- 2029 includes an activity EL1.2b to:

"Prepare management plan for Spoonbill Reserve " (2025/26).

The Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043, sets the community contextual vision for this project to:

- *"maintain the coastal, village feel (ngumbiny munay), through a network of connected, well serviced neighbourhoods each with their own local character..."*
- *"enhance our wild coast, rural amenity and habitat connectivity..."*
- *providing opportunities for ...recreation...to meet the needs of existing and future generations (Jaagan)".*

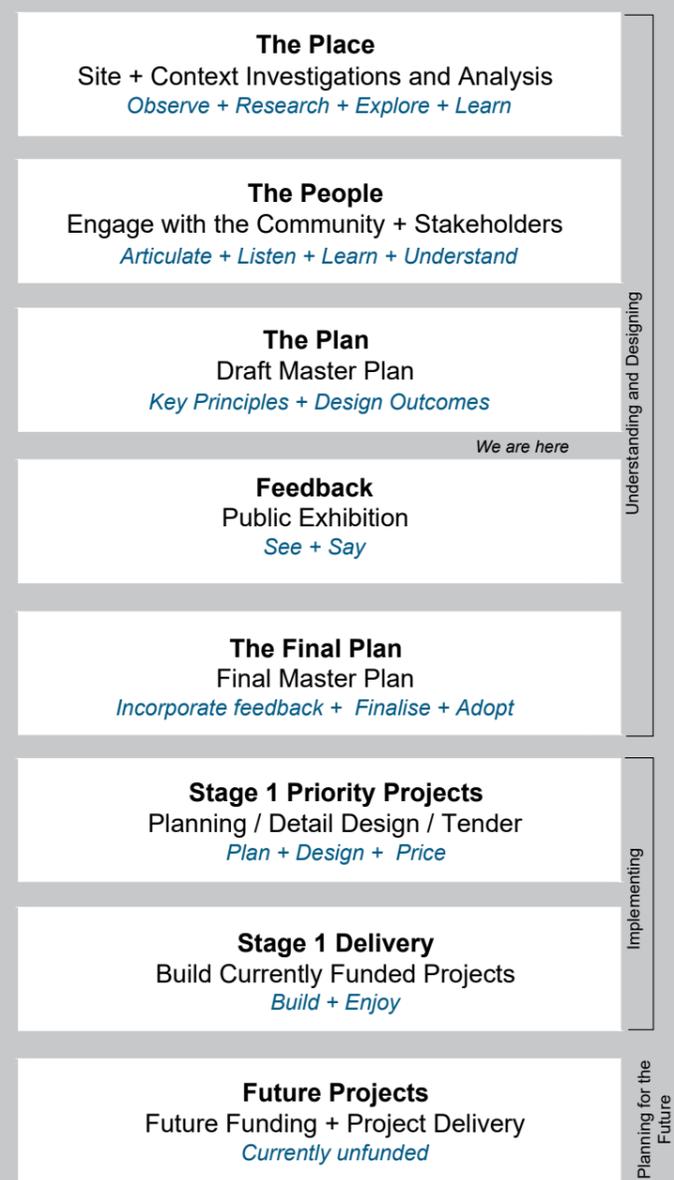
In addition to this, the master plan articulates the specific community needs and aspirations into a longer term but modest vision which will provide a strategic tool to support future investment, planning and implementation of improvement works.

Project Objectives

This process and the final master plan seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- meaningfully engage with stakeholders and the community to better understand the intricacies of the place and community values;
- determine and articulate priorities for environmental, recreational and social infrastructure and activation within the Reserve which address community needs and aspirations and are, where possible consistent with key principles of the Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043.

PROCESS



Jaagun (Land / Country)

The Big Picture

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

North Coast Regional Plan 2041

The North Coast Regional Plan 2041 (NCRP) acknowledges the continuous Aboriginal connection to the land, water, sea and skies in the region and the important role this connection plays in the cultural identity of the region and its places. This and the natural environment are defining characteristics, and must be valued, respected and carefully managed and protected.

The NCRP sets a framework for the future of the region which has consideration to the broader environmental context and hierarchy of places. The plan envisages strong regional growth, an aging population, an increase in smart technologies, new job opportunities and a need to protect assets such as farmland and the natural environment. The plan envisions the region as a collective of *"healthy and thriving communities, supported by a vibrant and dynamic economy that builds on the region's strengths and natural environment"*.

Within the context of this plan, Skennars Head is an urban growth area set within the "coastal strip" with identified opportunities for urban expansion and growth. This potential is also reinforced by Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement and the Ballina Local Environmental Plan 2012 which identifies land zoned for a "local centre", increased medium density and for further expanded low density residential areas to the south. This means more people within 10 minutes walk of the site and demand for open space.

Key NCRP Shire specific goals relevant to this project include:

- *"Livable and Resilient - Promote and recognise Aboriginal culture, local character and local creativity and investigate opportunities for the provision and enhancement of cultural and community assets within the shire"*.
- *"Housing and Place - Promote social cohesion and connection through good design and place making"*.

The community is well connected to Ballina by The Coast Road and via a scenic coastal shared path network.

Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043

The Skennars Head community, through an extensive engagement process undertaken in 2023, have articulated their vision for the locality into a locally relevant strategic plan.

This vision provides a clear strategic direction for the community with the vision:

*"Lennox Head and Skennars Head will maintain the coastal, village feel (**ngumbiny munay**) through a network of connected, well serviced neighbourhoods each with their own local character, complementing Lennox Head village. Our respect for First Nations and Australian cultural heritage and our natural environment (**jaaguun**) ensures we enhance our wild coast, rural amenity and habitat connectivity. We will work together for a strong, diverse community by providing opportunities for mixed income housing, local employment, recreation and transport to meet the needs of existing and future generations (**jaagan**)"*.

The recommendations of the Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043 are intended to guide future development in Skennars Head. Therefore, this master plan aims to provide design solutions which link to the following specific locality objectives as they relate to the Site:

- *Improve and maintain pedestrian access from the neighbourhood to Sharpes Beach.*
- *Maintain and sensitively increase residential densities close to the local centre.*
- *Nurture existing street trees to provide future pedestrian amenity and visual character.*
- *Retain wild coast values of Skennars headland.*



The Place

The Skennars Head and Lennox Head cultural landscapes have been cared for by the Nyangbal people of the Bundjalung Nation for many thousands of years. The findings of significant artefacts and cultural sites near Spoonbill Reserve are evidence also of an active culture and more recent history of enduring Aboriginal occupation and custodianship of the area.

Following colonisation, the forested land in this area was substantially cleared for farming and became a popular holiday destination generally known as 'The Pines' because of the visual prominence of the 5 Norfolk Pine trees. The area near Spoonbill Reserve and the pine trees later contained the pioneering Sharpe family homestead. Sharpes Beach derives its name from this family.

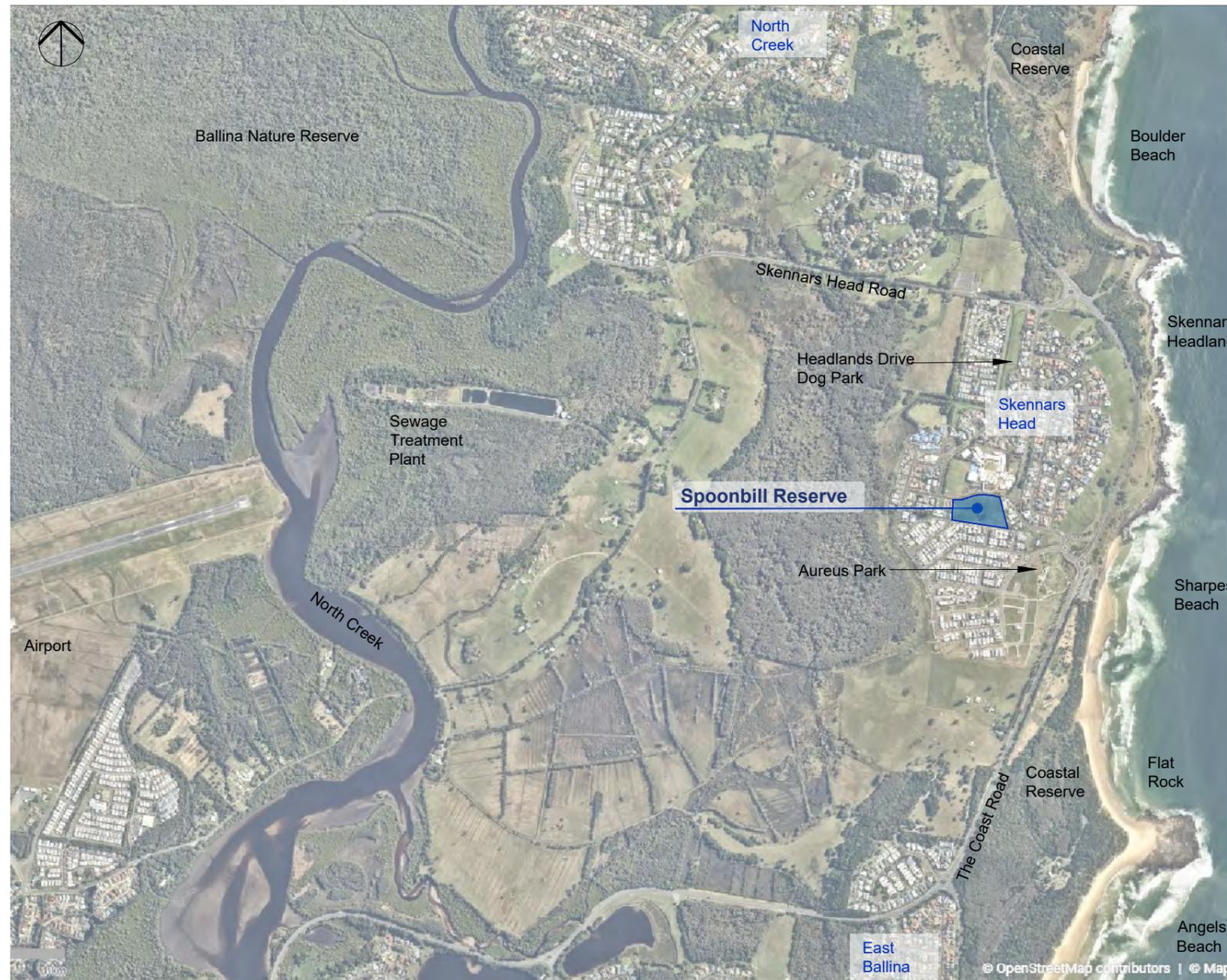
The wild coastline of the locality, which includes Skennars Headland is visually prominent comprising a sequence of scenic headlands (*ngamgirr/ bawur jaaguun* - headland), beaches and coastal escarpments supporting a diversity of endemic flora and fauna.

Spoonbill Reserve sits within part of the 'coastal corridor' which has undergone recent and rapid change. Today, the landscape of the locality is a patchwork of residential developments, rural pastures, coastal wetlands and diverse natural ecosystems. Historically and again more recently, community members report sightings of the Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*) in the Norfolk Pine trees or roaming the grass areas, inspiring the reserve name. The sedgelands, swamp forests and Nature Reserve to the west are likely habitat for this and other bird species.

The Site, which remains unembellished, is now central to the expanding residential catchment of Skennars Head and nearby to private primary and secondary schools. It is also a short 20-25 minute bike ride from the village centre of Lennox Head and the Ballina CBD.

Top Left: NearMaps sourced 21/10/2025

Bottom Left: Extract from historic photograph date unknown (Council records)





- - - - Study Area
- * Key landmark (pine tree)
- - - - Pedestrian pathway (narrow)
- ← - - Slope/fall direction (approx 3%)
- Zone of high vehicle movement, parking and pedestrian conflict (40km/hr)
- Significant tree
- ⊙ Street lighting
- - - - Path kerb ramp / crossing point
- - - - Interface public and private land
- Urban street tree (immature)
- ← - - Vegetated drainage swale
- - - School pedestrian entry point
- - - - View corridor
- ● ● ● ● Area of high pedestrian and youth activity
- - - Desirable connection to park and beach

The Place

FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

The study area for the project is shown on the adjacent map. The study area land parcel was dedicated to Council for public open space in the late 1990's as a condition of consent of the nearby Headlands Estate development.

Cadastral Description

The land is described as Parcel 13432, Lot 32 Section -, D.P. 846639, 5-15 Redford Drive, Skennars Head NSW 2478.

Zoning

The land is zoned RE1 Public Recreation under Ballina Shire Local Environmental Plan 2012.

Tenure

The land is owned by Ballina Shire Council, and classified as Community Land under the Local Government Act 1993.

It's use is governed by Council's generic Plan of Management for Community Land 2025 (Land Register 3201701) and is categorised for *General Community Use*. The purpose of this category is 'Providing a location for, and supporting, the gathering of groups for a range of social, cultural or recreational purposes. Providing multi-purpose buildings (e.g. community halls and centres) with specialised community uses...'

Land Use Context

The study area is a large parcel of open space set within a low to medium density residential context. The northern and eastern older residential areas predominantly feature traditional low-rise housing on large lots. Xavier Catholic College is immediately to the north of the study area. The school recreation facilities are not accessible to the general public. The southern, most recent residential precinct features houses on smaller lots, apartments, a future local centre and additional substantial open space embellished with children's playground and picnic facilities. Access to Sharpes Beach, the coastal reserve and shared path network is provided via a pedestrian underpass.

The Place

FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

The following sections discuss some key aspects of the place important to consider when developing a plan for the site.

Trees + Vegetation + Habitat

Observations:

1. The vegetation of the broader locality is biodiverse with the two large trees at the site providing vegetation 'stepping stones' between the wetlands to the west and coastal reserve to the east.
2. Whilst primarily a large open lawn area, the site is known to be used by a variety of birds such as the Royal Spoonbill and is part of a larger coastal connector corridor for species such as the grey-headed flying fox and rose-crowned fruit dove.
3. There is a large Norfolk Pine tree and Moreton Bay Fig tree central to the site. The pine tree was part of the Sharpe colonial family property and has local community significance.
4. The pine tree is a visual landmark when viewed from surrounding residential areas.
5. The large open grass area is used informally by the community for recreation but lacks shade.
6. New native street trees have been planted on the southern street frontage as part of the water sensitive urban design drainage structure. These trees will improve shade and amenity on this frontage over time.

Design Considerations:

- Retain existing pine and fig tree as habitat trees and visually dominant features of the site and ensure that constructed works will not adversely impact the tree root system or tree health.
- Look for opportunities to provide additional shade.
- Strengthen the corridor function of the site through additional tree planting.
- Consider opportunities to provide education about local birds and wildlife.

Drainage

Observations:

7. Vegetated swale drains form part of the southern streetscape.
8. The site is gently sloped (approx 3%), draining to the north-western corner. This makes it a good area for informal play.

Design Considerations:

- Maintain good drainage to support informal use of open space areas.



Jaagunn (Land / Country)

The Place

FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

Walkability, Access + Parking

Observations:

1. Most houses in Skennars Head are located within a 20 minute walking catchment of the site, making it a convenient open space for local residents. The site is also within a 20-25 minute bicycle ride of East Ballina and the southern edge of Lennox Head village centre.
2. The locality has a fragmented pathway network and the site is poorly connected to this network with only a narrow footpath along part of the southern boundary. Most footpaths and shared paths in the locality connect to the high school but not to the site. There are few pathways connecting open spaces.
3. People walk across the site on the grass to access residential areas and the schools. There are limited pathway connections to further support or promote walking or cycling.
4. Redford Drive, opposite Xavier Catholic College contains a lot of parked cars during school hours, but few parked cars outside school hours. School drop off and pick up times are busy with short-term parking congestion. There is no dedicated pedestrian crossing point on Redford Drive between the site and school.
5. Some adjoining private properties have unapproved gates providing direct access to the site.

Design Considerations:

- Investigate opportunities to improve parking on Redford Drive without encroaching on the site.
- Investigate ways to provide accessible pathway connections to encourage and support active travel to the site and school.
- Improve opportunities for equitable pedestrian access to and through the site.



Jaagunn (Land / Country)

The Place

FOCUS AREA OBSERVATIONS + CONSIDERATIONS

Amenity + Activity

Observations:

1. There are no places to sit at the site other than on the grass.
2. There are no basic amenities to support day-to-day community use or entice people to stay for longer (e.g. places to sit, gather, eat, water for drinking, weather protection).
3. The site is popular for walking dogs even though there is a designated off-leash dog area along the Headlands Drive drainage reserve.
4. Footpath access is limited with only a narrow path on part of the southern street frontage and there is a lack of connectivity across the site.
5. The school and local residents use the open space area for informal sporting activities. Some residents have basketball hoops in their driveways or on the street verge so they can play on the road.
6. The area in front of the high school is high activity at peak school drop off and collection times in the morning and afternoons, but few people use the site at these times.

Design Considerations:

- Look for opportunities to provide individual and group seating and other amenities to support day-to-day use.
- Consider the impact of dogs at the site and opportunities to connect and improve access to the nearby Headlands Drive off-leash dog area as the primary dog exercise and play space. Improvements to the Headlands Drive off-leash dog area are part of the Companion Animal Management Plan (Policy) review planned for 2026.
- The abundant open space presents opportunities for large amenity and habitat trees to provide shade to footpaths and streets.
- Make design choices that support general community use and are compatible with the residential context.
- Make provision for services such as power supply and water to enable small local activities or events to occur in the space from time to time.
- Balance any new site features with protection of tree roots.



Source: Date unknown. Council records LIB/666



Culture + Heritage + Art

7. The landscape of the locality has been shaped by layers of Aboriginal, colonial and natural cultural heritage values.
8. The Nyangbal people of the Bundjalung Nation have deep spiritual and cultural connections to the sky, land and waters of the Skennars Head locality.
9. The Lennox Head Heritage Committee reports that the site has some local colonial heritage significance, believed to be the location of (or near to) the pioneering Sharpe family homestead. Council holds some old sand-stock bricks from the Prospect Sugar Mill (Ballina) constructed by John Sharpe for reuse at the site.
10. The pine tree is a significant colonial historic landmark.

Design Considerations:

- There are opportunities to increase education and information about cultural heritage stories and features.
- Explore opportunities for local art in the public domain.
- Involve the community to articulate the unique cultural heritage narrative of the place into immersive and sensory experiences throughout the site (story telling, interpretative signage, native gardens, plantings, sound trails, art).
- Look for opportunities to respectfully integrate the sand-stock bricks into design features at the site.



The People

DEMOGRAPHICS

Lennox Head + Skennars Head

Usual resident population 2021



Usual resident population increase from 2016 to 2021



Population aged over 15 years



Average household size (persons per dwelling)



Skennars Head

The population of Skennars Head and the surrounding locality is growing as a result of approved residential developments. This growth is predicted to continue with a forecast increase in population from 1925 (2026) to 3970 (2046). According to forecasting datasets, the largest increase in persons to 2035 will be "Parents and Homebuilders (aged 35-49)", followed by an increase in older age groups (50+) between 2035 and 2046.

Source: Population and Household Forecasts, 2021 to 2046, National Forecasting Program, .id (informed decisions), June 2024).

ENGAGEMENT

In late 2025, Council consulted widely through a variety of forums to obtain insights into community values, needs and aspirations.

Community and Stakeholder Notification

Letterbox drop, web site content, social media, print media
October 2025

Community Conversations

Listening + mapping values and ideas
2 drop-in sessions
(Epiq Marketplace + Spoonbill Reserve)

This also included online ideas mapping opportunities between October 2025 and November 2025 via the Your Say Ballina portal.
October - November 2025

CURRENT KEY USER GROUPS

The key user groups are predominantly:

- Residents in nearby residential areas of Skennars Head
 - visual amenity
 - observing wildlife
 - walking through it
 - dog walking
 - informal recreation activities or leisure.
- Primary and high school students
 - informal sports and recreation
 - walking through it.

Council's community engagement sought to find out more about the community values and ideas for the future of the site. Community participation in all activities was high.

Online Feedback

A YourSay project page was established on Council's web site as a central location to connect to the community and provide general information about the site and project. The web site used the 'Ideas' tool to gather feedback from the community on the following questions:

What is important to you about Spoonbill Reserve?

How would you like to see the Reserve embellished in the future?



* This included 3 ideas by Council staff to start the conversation.

Written Submissions + Meetings



Community Conversation Drop-In Sessions



The People

STRONG COMMUNITY MESSAGES

The raw community engagement material is available from Council in a separate report. This includes a transcription of values and ideas from the drop-in sessions, online ideas mapping and comments, written submissions, meetings and phone conversations. The following strong community messages were heard:

01 Community Values

The community value the site as an informal open space which is primarily a 'natural' green area.

The community value the birds and wildlife which use the site, in particular the Royal Spoonbill.

The community value the open grass area and the opportunities this presents for informal use and play (e.g. throwing/kicking a ball, cricket etc).

The pine tree and fig tree are valued for shade and wildlife habitat values.

The nearby residents value the peacefulness of the current open space.

02 Community Ideas

Whilst there were people who wish the site to remain "as is", many people also identified opportunities for improvements at a variety of scales. The most popular community ideas can be grouped into 3 themes:

1/ Natural/environmental values and peaceful informal open space.

More trees and natural shade were mentioned repeatedly as a priority for comfort, environmental value and wildlife.

Maintaining a large open grass area to enable casual and informal recreation and as space for wildlife is important.

Many of the comments on this theme made explicit the aspiration to maintain the peaceful nature of the site without additional structured infrastructure.

2/ Active recreation and things for youth/older children to do.

Facilities for older children were frequently mentioned, with examples including a bike pump track, basketball court, skatepark, general hardstand, sportsfield, courts, playground, exercise equipment.

3/ General amenity improvements and low-key additions to support family use.

Low-key additions to the park to support day-to-day and family use were frequently mentioned with examples including a drinking fountain, pathway connections, seating, picnic facilities, shade, landscaping and interpretative signage.

A dog park or off-leash dog area was also an idea often mentioned, particularly at the drop-in sessions. Many people did not realise that there is an existing dedicated off-leash dog area at Skennars Head.

Less commonly mentioned ideas included:

- *Formal open space constructs such as botanical gardens, community gardens or water park.*
- *Buildings or other infrastructure such as pre-school, shops and carparking.*

Community Engagement at Epiq Marketplace



The Vision

MASTER PLAN STRATEGY

There is a community desire to maintain the informality, low-key and 'natural' charm of the site as a place of environmental value and peacefulness within an expanding residential precinct.

There is also strong community aspiration to improve opportunities for general community use with provision of basic general amenities (such as seating and pathways) and some things to do for youth.

This master plan aims to articulate design strategies for the future of Spoonbill Reserve which balance these aspirations, to ensure the site remains a place which supports and is loved by the locals.

KEY DESIGN OBJECTIVES

Enhance Natural and Environmental Values

- Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
- Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.

Maintain Open Green Space

- Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.

Provide Things to do for Youth

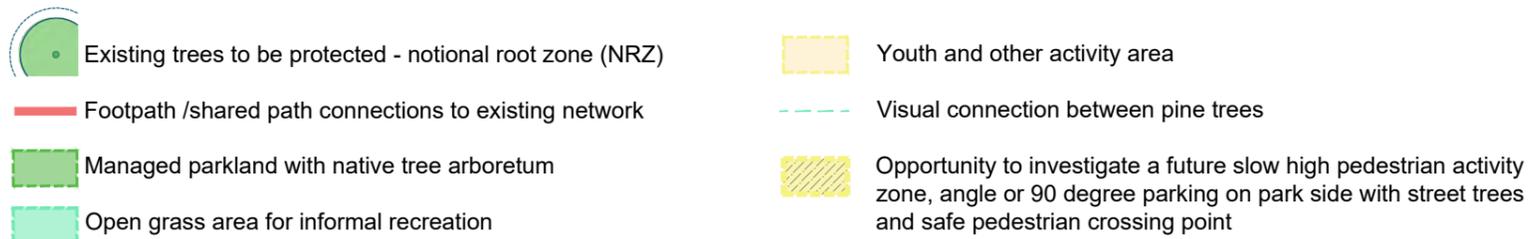
- Unlock the potential of the open space for youth-oriented recreation that aligns with the communities environmental values and amenity expectations.

General Amenity Improvements

- Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
- Connect the site with accessible pathways to key destinations and existing pathway networks and nodes such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
- Improve the pedestrian safety of Redford Drive (slow traffic speeds, safe crossing points, parking capacity)
- Provide intuitive wayfinding (visual/sound/sensory) which tells the unique story of the place and people.

DESIGN + KEY FUNCTIONAL ZONES

The below illustration shows the key design features and functional relationships for Spoonbill Reserve.



The Vision

MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT



DESIGN ZONES

Refer to Pages 15 - 17 for plan enlargements of each design zone:

- 1 Zone 1 - Managed parkland with native tree arboretum
- 2 Zone 2 - Open grass area for informal recreation
- 3 Zone 3 - Youth and other activity area

ILLUSTRATIVE LEGEND

Existing

- Significant tree root protection area (NPZ)
- Pathway
- Street tree
- Vegetated swale drain

Proposed Features

- Primary accessible pathway connection through parkland
- Secondary accessible pathway
- Pedestrian priority crossing (subject to traffic investigations)
- Native trees
- Native groundcover garden
- Open grass area
- Picnic shelter and table setting
- Youth art paving
- Interpretative signage
- Seating (various types)



0 5 10 20 30 50m

The master plan is subject to detailed investigations, survey, design and approvals.

The Vision

MASTER PLAN UP CLOSE - ZONE 1

Managed Parkland with Native Tree Arboretum

- 1A** Mixed native trees provide shade for people and habitat for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail throughout the site that includes:
 - tree information signs (botanical species, cultural significance or use, description of key features)
 - opportunities for planting of larger specimen trees.
- 1B** There is open space under the shade of the existing pine and fig tree with seating providing opportunities for outdoor learning.
- 1C** An interpretative signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides education about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage.
- 1D** Recovered red sand-stock bricks from the Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.
- 1E** Native groundcover gardens provide refuge and habitat for bees, birds and bugs.
- 1F** Seating is provided in quiet areas around the parkland.



All features of the master plan are subject to further detailed investigations, design and approvals.

The Vision

MASTER PLAN UP CLOSE - ZONE 2

Open Grass Area for Informal Recreation

- 2A** Two large open areas of grass are retained for community recreation and play. These areas support informal community use. Open grass areas also support ground foraging birds.
- 2B** A pathway provides an accessible connection across the site supporting users of varied capability. Subject to traffic investigations, a safe road crossing point could also be provided to the high school. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references.



Jaaguun (Land / Country)



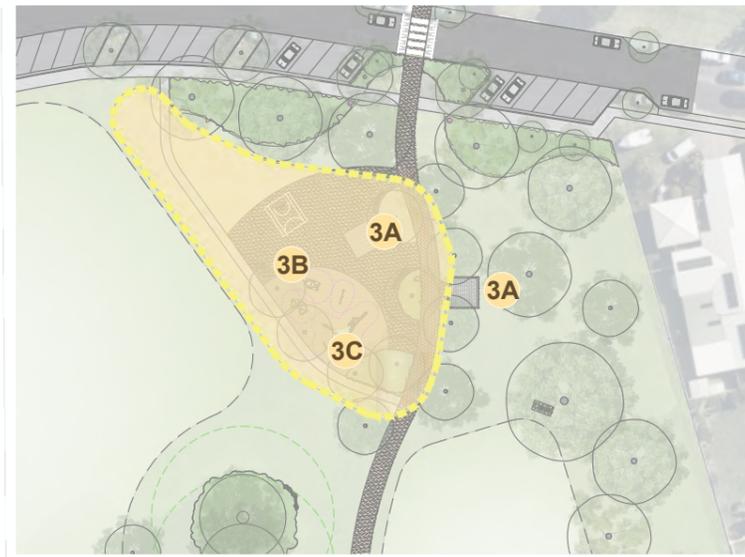
All features of the master plan are subject to further detailed investigations, design and approvals.

The Vision

MASTER PLAN UP CLOSE - ZONE 3

Youth Activities Area

- 3A** Picnic shelters and table settings provide a formal place for community small scale activities
- 3B** Equipment suitable for teens supports flexible and active play:
 - basketball hoop (not full court)
 - outdoor bouldering
 - gymnastics high bars
 - general use hardstand area
- 3C** Rope and timber seating is interactive and multifunctional overlooking the active play areas.
- 3D** Artwork created by youth features throughout the site.
- 3E** Recovered red sand-stock bricks from the Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.
- 3F** Native groundcover gardens provide refuge and habitat for bees, birds and bugs.



Jaagunn (Land / Country)



All features of the master plan are subject to further detailed investigations, design and approvals.



Where to next?

Feedback - Public Exhibition

The Draft Master Plan will be placed on public exhibition to obtain further feedback from the community relating to the content of the master plan and priorities.

Final Master Plan Adoption

Feedback received during public exhibition will be considered and the master plan finalised and presented to Council for adoption. Priority minor works will be identified for construction with the available budget. All other works are unfunded.

Implementation of Priority Minor Works

Priority minor works will be built with the available funding. This may require planning approvals and a tendering process which will be determined upon confirmation of the project scope.

Future Projects

All other works currently remain unfunded.

REFERENCES

Ballina Shire Council, 2023, *Lennox Head Strategic Plan 2023 - 2043*

Ballina Shire Council, 2023, *Lennox Head Planning and Environment Study 2023*

NSW Department of Planning an Environment, 2022, *North Coast Regional Plan 2041*

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Council acknowledges and thanks the Skennars Head and surrounding community for the extensive input provided towards the preparation of the plan to date.



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SPONBILL RESERVE, SKENNARS HEAD

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Community engagement for Spoonbill Reserve was undertaken from 20 October until 17 November 2025.

The purpose of the community engagement was to inform the community of the project and gain insights into community values and aspirations for the reserve.

The community was informed and the project promoted as follows:

- Project fliers delivered to residents in the Skennars Head locality;
- Signage installed on site;
- Letters or emails sent to key stakeholders and stakeholder groups;
- A web site YourSay project page established;
- Social media posts to Council's facebook page and pushed to local pages;
- Media release sent to local media with 1 radio interview undertaken and article published in Ballina Times;
- YourSay ideas mapping tool;
- 2 drop-in sessions (Epiq Marketplace Saturday 25 October 2025, Spoonbill Reserve Tuesday 28 October 2025)

During the early face to face and online engagement it became apparent that there was some misinformation in the community regarding the history and status of the open space. The following Frequently Asked Questions were added to the project YourSay page during the engagement period as clarification.

1. *What is the purpose of Spoonbill Reserve in the Plan of Management for Community Land?*

Spoonbill Reserve is Council owned, community land. All community land is required by legislation to be categorised as one or more of five possible categories that aligns with the purpose for which the land is dedicated or reserved. Spoonbill Reserve has a category of 'General Community Use'.

'General Community Use' is for all areas where the primary purpose relates to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social, and intellectual welfare or development of members of the public. This includes venues such as community halls, scout and guide halls, and libraries.

The core objectives of land in the 'General Community Use' category are (Local Government Act 1993):

- to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land;
- to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:
 - (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and

(b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

A link to the Plan of Management for Community Land is here: [plan-of-management-for-community-land-v3-web-1.pdf](#)

2. *How was Spoonbill Reserve created?*

Spoonbill Reserve is Council owned, community land subject to Council's general *Plan of Management for Community Land*. It was dedicated to Council in the late 1990's as a condition of consent to satisfy open space requirements as part of the Headlands Estate subdivision. Whilst the site is special to the local community for the presence of Spoonbills and was formerly known in the community as the 'spoonbill nesting site', it was not dedicated or reserved for any conservation purpose. It was reserved for public use.

3. *Was Spoonbill Reserve gifted to Council?*

No. Spoonbill Reserve was not 'gifted' to Council. Spoonbill Reserve was dedicated to Council in the late 1990's as a condition of consent to satisfy open space requirements as part of the Headlands Estate subdivision. There were several subsequent submissions by the land developer at the time to utilise the land for alternative purposes. These submissions were vehemently opposed by the local community who passionately advocated for the 'spoonbill nesting area', as it was known at the time, to be reserved (kept aside) as open space for the general public.

4. *What is a public reserve?*

Spoonbill Reserve contains the word 'reserve' in the title. This is because historically, the Plan of Management relevant to the land (now superseded) identified the land use as 'public reserve'. This means that the land was conveyed, transferred or dedicated to Council and reserved for public use - akin to a public park. It is NOT, and has never been, a nature reserve as defined under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

5. *Do Spoonbills still nest at the site?*

The Royal Spoonbill is known to have nested in the pine tree in the reserve in the mid to late 1990's prior to substantial development of housing around the area. At the time the site was affectionately known by the community as the *Spoonbill Nesting Area*. The most recent official records of the Royal Spoonbill in the area are in the pine trees further west at the end of Seaside Avenue with one sighting of Juvenile Royal Spoonbill in 2021 - [Record: BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife:SPJGI8019113 | Occurrence record | Atlas of Living Australia](#)

Local residents report more recent sightings of Spoonbill using the subject open space area.

6. *What is a master plan?*

A master plan is a document which is developed with the community to articulate a medium - long term vision for a site. It recognises the value of the reserve to the community and provides a conceptual layout to guide the future of the parkland for general community use.

A master plan is a big picture which often requires staged implementation as funding becomes available.

Engagement Activities

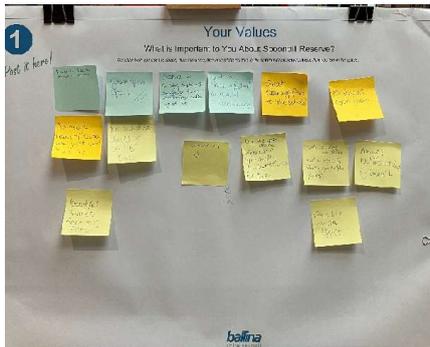
Drop-in Session 1 – Epiq Marketplace

The drop-in session was attended by Council staff from 1pm to 5pm on Saturday 25 October 2025. Approximately 103 people spoke to Council staff or left feedback with others stopping to look or read information but not leaving comments. Most people who spoke to Council staff were from the Skennars Head and Lennox Head village areas.

- 51 Skennars Head and nearby localities (Headlands Estate, Epic, Aureus Estate, Meadows, Elevation etc)
- 21 Lennox Head village area
- 4 other Ballina Shire area
- 2 area outside the Shire
- 25 places of residency not able to be recorded.



The raw community input from this drop-in session is shown below:



Above: Community values and ideas posted at the drop-in session at Epiq Marketplace

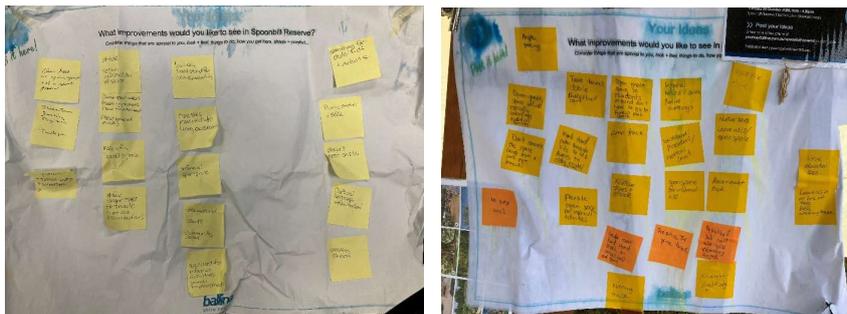
Transcripts of the comments are provided in Appendix 1.

Drop-in Session 2 – Spoonbill Reserve

The drop-in session was attended by Council staff from 8am to 12:30pm on Tuesday 28 October 2025 under a marquee in Spoonbill Reserve. The drop-in session was planned to go until 4:30pm but due to adverse weather was packed up at 12:30pm. Approximately 24 people spoke to Council staff or left feedback. Most people who spoke to Council staff were from the immediate surrounding areas of Headlands Estate and Aureus Estate.

- 23 Skennars Head and nearby localities (20 Headlands Estate, 3 Aureus Estate)
- 1 place not recorded

The raw community input from this drop-in session is shown below:



Above: Community values and ideas posted at the drop-in session at Spoonbill Reserve

Transcripts of the comments are provided in Appendix 1.

Online Feedback

The YourSay project page was established as a central location to connect to the community and provide general information about the site and project. The page was updated with material from the drop-in sessions and FAQ during the engagement period to keep the community informed.

The online engagement was open from 20 October until 17 November 2025.

- 742 page visits (509 unique visitors to the project)
- 232 visitors to the ideas tool
- 20 people were registered (19 from Lennox Head/Skennars Head, 1 from Ballina Island)
- 38 participants were unregistered

The web site used the 'Ideas' tool to gather feedback from the community on the following questions:

What is important to you about Spoonbill Reserve? How would you like to see the Reserve embellished in the future?

58 different contributors made 274 contributions to the "Ideas" page contributing 55 new ideas.

Note that Council staff contributed 3 ideas to assist with starting the conversation: Picnic shelters and BBQ's (3 community likes), Half-court basketball court (2 community likes), shade trees (9 community likes).

The following is a snapshot of the raw online entry data. Refer to Appendix 1 for a summary of key ideas and Appendix 2 for the full YourSay report and expanded comments.

The image displays a grid of 16 user-submitted comments for the Spoonbill Reserve draft master plan. Each comment includes a title, a main text block, and interaction icons (upvote, downvote, share).

- shelly!** (22 days ago): Stop wasting rate payers money of projects we never asked for!
- Protect green space** (23 days ago): Why pursue upgrades when Council has publicly reported financial strain and is seeking a rate rise?
- Gaz** (23 days ago): Pathway linking Reef St to Xavier and a basketball half court to complement what we have at Aureus Park.
- R** (23 days ago): Keep it as is, with minimal development. Keep nature the way it is.
- Jase** (23 days ago): Too much green space lost.
- Protect green space** (a month ago): Ballina Council can save money and avoid unnecessary rate increases by preserving what's already beautiful and thriving.
- Protect green space** (a month ago): Leave Spoonbill Reserve as it is - a natural sanctuary. Instead of developing it, plant to rewild and enhance its ecology.
- shelly!** (a month ago): Why preserving Spoonbill Reserve as open green space is important.
- shelly!** (a month ago): Why is BSC advertising in the Tweed Coast Times to have your say?
- Lennox Head Heritage Committee** (a month ago): Spoonbill was in Sharpe family 1860s land grant. BSC holds sandstock bricks (c1830) from their sugarmill. Bricks as seats/paths ...
- Dbel** (a month ago): Basketball half court, outdoor ping pong table, mini skate 2ft-3ft halfpipe.
- Shaun** (a month ago): keep as open space but increase the canopy cover to provide sun and heat relief. Would be great if plants were all native to local area.
- SandraC** (a month ago): Keep some green space but add something for older kids like a half court basketball/pickleball court, courts or outdoor table tennis.
- abbeyo** (a month ago): Keep it green, a possible offlead dog area or a half court for kids to play but mostly keep it as a green space with native planting.
- Tony's** (a month ago): This is a lovely open space, used by kids, dog walkers and lots of native birds. Please leave it as is.
- Amyf** (a month ago): Leave this space as is, or plant sections with native plants for wildlife and pollinators. Please do not use as anything but a green space.

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The screenshot displays a grid of 16 community comments, each with a unique title and content:

- Lakota:** Leave as is, why does everything need to be developed? It's such beautiful open space.
- Steve @ Headlands:** Maintain the reserve as a reserve, as declared in 1995. The spoonbill reserve should stay as a reserve. More bird-attracting trees should be planted. No structures should...
- pal:** leave as is as the local kids use it for informal games. It is great to see kids of all ages just playing without formal structures.
- Justinel:** Leave it as a green nature reserve - we do not need another concrete development!! As a long term resident of Skennars Head (20 plus years) I ask that you please leave it as a green nature ...
- Seaside ave resident:** Grass and native shade trees to attract bird life, simple and passive
- Skye:** No development - keep this rare natural space green! As a 22 year resident of Skennars head, I feel it is important to preserve any natural spaces and nature reserves th...
- AN:** Some nice native gardens, pathways connecting Aureus to Xavier and some exercise equipment would be great! Think chin up and dip bars etc Thanks for great consultation BSC well done!
- bergoss64:** A community multi-use ball courts for pickleball / basketball fronting Redford Drive & opposite XCC catering for all ages in this area. A multi-purpose pickleball / basketball court would benefit all ages of this community as well as cater for ...
- E:** Leave as open space for kids It is a nice space for children to run around, play footy, kick a soccer ball and enjoy being outside. It would be ...
- JayJ:** Kids and Fitness Creating a space with a fun kids' playground and fitness areas for bodyweight workouts would be a great ...
- Eagle:** Birds like spoonbills in the landscape are a reminder of the deep spiritual connection Aboriginal and all people have with the natural world
- BenJammin:** Designated native tree reserve, how many old growth trees are available for future populations? Align with Australia's current National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Net Zero targets for carbon ...
- Leigh:** Please plant with native trees and grasses and consult with Ballina LOCAL Aboriginal Land Council with interpretive signage Green space, cultural space
- PB:** I agree with the idea of keeping it simple. Perhaps more shade trees and a few seats.
- Ally:** Leave it alone.... It's a beautiful space as it is. Don't touch it, please.
- Meg Smith:** Minor improvements such as landscaping, casual sporting facilities would be good. Nothing major. I tend to agree with other comments that this space should be kept fairly low key. Parking during school hours is ...

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The screenshot displays 16 community posts arranged in a 4x4 grid. Each post consists of a header with the user's name and profile picture, a main message in a colored box, a detailed text block, and engagement metrics (likes, replies, shares).

- Post 1 (B):** "Protect the site and add more vegetation". Text: "Spoonbill is a valued community space. It does need more vegetation (trees, plants) to increase the biodiversity, ...". 4 likes, 0 replies, 0 shares.
- Post 2 (D):** "Spoonbills still visit this reserve". Text: "As a resident of Skennars Head for 32 years I would like to see this reserve maintained as it is. If not for objections ...". 6 likes, 1 reply, 0 shares.
- Post 3 (PP):** "Spoonbill Reserve was gifted for protection — not development. Let's keep it wild, quiet, and full of life." Text: "Let's redefine enhancement: ✖ Rewilding and native planting ✓ Removal of invasive species...". 8 likes, 0 replies, 0 shares.
- Post 4 (M):** "As a 28 yr Skennars Head 'local'...Are there really Spoonbills there? Use the space for student car parking and free up the side streets". 0 likes, 0 replies, 4 shares.
- Post 5 (L):** "Long term local". Text: "Please preserve it as an open green space for all to continue to use as is ...There are not enough spaces to accommodate increasing pop I all". 2 likes, 2 replies, 0 shares.
- Post 6 (S):** "Spoonbill Reserve is a vital ecological sanctuary in Skennars Head, home to endangered species like the royal spoonbill, its wetlands and n". 3 likes, 1 reply, 0 shares.
- Post 7 (B):** "It is a beautiful, passive recreation area that is vitally necessary for the area. Please leave as is." 3 likes, 0 replies, 0 shares.
- Post 8 (R):** "Please leave it as it is. It is a natural, safe and peaceful site that children and families visit regularly. The wildlife is gorgeous too." 3 likes, 0 replies, 0 shares.
- Post 9 (B):** "Leave Spoonbill Reserve as it is. It is a great open green space for children & residents to play informal games". 2 likes, 0 replies, 0 shares.
- Post 10 (S):** "Community Consultation". Text: "I'm concerned that Ballina Shire council are not following best practice when conducting their community ...". 2 likes, 0 replies, 0 shares.
- Post 11 (J):** "Keep it green & within a long term budget". Text: "Keep it green, add more shade and what ever other items such as paths or skate park to one side. But what ever ...". 0 likes, 1 reply, 0 shares.
- Post 12 (E):** "Please keep it as is- green space and no development". Text: "This is a significant green space in an otherwise highly developed area. It is a safe zone for wildlife and for kids to pla...". 5 likes, 2 replies, 0 shares.
- Post 13 (JT):** "Casual sporting facilities (wall ball, 1/2 basketball court, pump track, skate park etc)". 0 likes, 1 reply, 0 shares.
- Post 14 (M):** "Please no development, the last thing we need in this space is picnic shelters or coffee shops. Plant it out with natives and keep it green". 5 likes, 0 replies, 0 shares.
- Post 15 (S):** "Stop the Spending—Fix What's Broken First". Text: "We all value our green spaces, but many of us are concerned about the growing trend of spending ratepayer ...". 4 likes, 0 replies, 0 shares.
- Post 16 (A):** "Centennial park (sydney) but in Skennars! Large open space, big trees, botanical gardens, running/walking track, coffee shop at one end". Text: "Skennars doesn't currently have areas that community can congregate. A mini Centennial Park would be perfect as it ...". 0 likes, 0 replies, 2 shares.

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The screenshot displays a grid of 16 user submissions, each with a profile picture, name, and date (2 months ago). The submissions are as follows:

- Georgina:** "Keep Spoonbill Reserve a green haven—not housing! Support nature, play, and community space." Description: "I'd love to see low-impact improvements: walking paths, shady picnic seating, native tree planting, and..."
- Ninkil:** "Does everything Green have to be developed?" Description: "Please maintain some green space for informal use: family cricket, picnics, exploring the natural environment that..."
- Louise:** "Pump track for kids, leave alot of green space with some large trees for shade, tennis court." Description: "Pump track for kids to ride bikes. Toddlers track for scooters etc. Basketball court / tennis court..."
- Gof:** "Leave as is as my grandchildren and neighbours love the space to play touch football and other informal games after school there." Description: "Then you will not need to think about raising our rates. Have a free alcoholic drink on us at your next meeting to..."
- Melanie:** "Community Preschool and Fairy Forest." Description: "This would be a terrific site for a community preschool, with adjoining playground and even a fairy forest!"
- Lisa McCafferty:** "Save for wildlife." Description: "Green space for wildlife, A few tables with cover for shade. Great for leaving as is. Too much development already..."
- JR:** "Outdoor sports area." Description: "Pump track for kids to ride bikes. Toddlers track for scooters etc. Basketball court / tennis court..."
- sharpsbeach:** "Subdivide it into tiny 450 Square meter blocks and sell for a squatta and put the money toward over engineered and wasteful infrastructure!!" Description: "Then you will not need to think about raising our rates. Have a free alcoholic drink on us at your next meeting to..."
- Humphreys:** "Maintain the open, well maintained green space and just add some paths!" Description: "The obvious requirement for the reserve is to install some paths that allow residents and visitors to traverse..."
- Carolyn:** "Keep half as open green space (the local kids use it for informal sport), and plant out rest with native bird-attracting plants." Description: "The obvious requirement for the reserve is to install some paths that allow residents and visitors to traverse..."
- JORS:** "Maintain a green space. Add more native greenery." Description: "Things like basketball court, concrete table..."
- Kerrie:** "A mini shared sanctuary." Description: "Fill the block with native trees, shrubs, and grasses with some habitat boxes and an eagle nest pole. Create a few..."
- Sheryn Da-Re (Council staff):** "Picnic shelters and BBQ facilities." Description: "Some picnic shelters and BBQ facilities would be great to include - What do you think?"
- Sheryn Da-Re (Council staff):** "Half-court basketball courts for informal use." Description: "I would like to see some half-court basketball courts in the park - What do you think?"
- Sheryn Da-Re (Council staff):** "Shade Trees." Description: "I would like to see some large shade trees to sit under and have a family picnic - What do you think?"

The online engagement report with full commentary can be found in Appendix 2.

Written Submissions

Seven written submissions were received via email. These submissions are contained in Appendix 2.

Key messages from these submissions include:

- The respondents value the casual and informal open space which can be used for kicking around a ball or general passive recreational use, the peaceful and natural feeling of the reserve and the wildlife.
- Ideas for the parkland include tidying up the weeds around the stumps, a dog park, keeping it as a low impact open greenspace for informal use, enhancing it for environmental protection and wildlife, including a walkway through the park and using the heritage bricks at the site.

Meetings (upon request)

The Lennox Head Heritage Committee highlighted some colonial heritage associated with the site and the pioneering Sharpe family. Council holds some old sand-stock bricks related to this colonial heritage which were from the Sharpe family's Prospect Sugar Mill chimney circa 1860s. These bricks have been set aside by Council for some years for reuse at the site.

At their request and because of the adverse weather at drop-in session 2, a meeting was held between staff and a member of the Sharpe family to discuss their family connections to the site.

Other Feedback and Considerations

Council staff were made aware of a community flier that distributed to the Skennars Head locality with a key message to "Protect Skennars Head Green Space". This flier urged attendance at the Tuesday drop-in session at Spoonbill Reserve and participation online. This may have influenced participation and the engagement outcomes.

Strong Community Messages

The raw community engagement material is contained in Appendix 1 and 2. This includes a transcription of values and ideas from the drop-in sessions, online ideas mapping and comments, written submissions, meetings and phone conversations.

The following strong community messages were heard:

Values

- The community value the reserve as an informal open space which is primarily a 'natural' green area.
- The community value the birds and wildlife which use the reserve, in particular the Royal Spoonbill.
- The community value the open grass area and the opportunities this presents for informal use and play (e.g. throwing/kicking a ball, cricket etc).
- The pine tree and fig tree are valued for shade and wildlife habitat values.
- The nearby residents value the peacefulness of the current open space.

Ideas

Whilst there were people who wish the reserve to remain “as is”, many people also identified opportunities for improvements at a variety of scales. The most popular community ideas can be grouped into 3 themes:

1. Natural/environmental values and peaceful informal open space:

- More trees and natural shade were mentioned repeatedly as a priority for comfort, environmental value and wildlife.
- Maintaining a large open grass area to enable casual and informal recreation and as space for wildlife is important.

Many of the comments on this theme made explicit the aspiration to maintain the peaceful nature of the reserve without additional structured activity.

2. Active recreation and things for youth/older children to do:

- Facilities for older children were frequently mentioned, with examples including a bike pump track, basketball court, skatepark, general hardstand, sportsfield, courts, playground, exercise equipment.

3. General amenity improvements and low-key additions to support family use:

- Low-key additions to the park to support day-to-day and family use were frequently mentioned with examples including a drinking fountain, pathway connections, seating, picnic facilities, shade, landscaping and interpretative signage.

A dog park or off-leash dog area was also an idea often mentioned, particularly at the drop-in sessions.

Less commonly mentioned ideas included:

- Formal open space constructs such as botanical gardens, community gardens or water park.
- Buildings or other infrastructure such as pre-school, shops and carparking.

This community engagement will inform preparation of the master plan for Spoonbill Reserve.

APPENDIX 1: Community Engagement Supplementary Information

Transcription of Drop-in Session 1 – Epiq Marketplace

Values

What is important to you about Spoonbill Reserve?

Consider how you use the space, things you see, the value of the reserve to the community and environment, how you feel in the space...

- I would like to keep it green
- Green open space
- Nature is a very important contributor to our wellbeing – we need it
- Great to kick a football or throw a boomerang
- Great thoroughfare to the school
- No fences open plan
- No more beautification we just want it as is!
- No buildings should go on this site
- Leave as is
- Love the green space. Kids use it informally – it's a blank canvas for them.
- Lots of dog walking and walking through the park
- Always well maintained by Council
- Beautiful sunsets from this park
- Flexible open space

Ideas

What improvements would you like to see in the reserve?

Consider things that are special to you, look and feel, things to do, how you get here, shade and comfort...

- More trees
- Natural shade, dog/no dog areas, big trees
- Water feature park
- Somewhere for new community to meet – coffee shops etc, botanical gardens (Centennial Park in Sydney)
- Botanical garden
- Off-leash dog area
- Off-leash dog area
- We need skate parks and more bike jumps
- BBQ area, playground for kids, area for school to utilise, native trees
- Anything for kids, especially teenagers
- Comfortable family area and landscaping
- Off-lead dog area
- More trees and natural shade
- Dog area needed
- Trees, no dogs, water features
- More green space!

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- Pump track
- Consider parking on the site
- More trees and landscaping
- All ages playspace
- Keep it open, open space, keep it simple
- More native vegetation for natural recreation
- Fenced off dog area so he can play without traffic danger
- Outdoor reading areas, fenced dog area
- We need a skatepark
- Water fountains for cyclists
- Open parkland to offset units and townhouses
- Sports facilities to act also as overspill for the schools
- Playgrounds for teenagers, older kids
- We need playgrounds for older kids
- Please preserve as many trees and plant as possible. We don't need more concrete!
- A shop that sells snacks or pizza (Sand St, age 10)
- Indoor/outdoor sportsground
- Bike and scooter track around a playground for young and old kids
- Kids sports field that doesn't flood
- More carparking for students from the school in the neighbourhood
- Community garden?, quiet meditation space, mix of uses, beauty, art
- Bike track / jumps, anything for older kids too
- Off-lead fenced dog play area
- Lots of trees for shading
- Green area, more trees and seating. Wit the school there will already be enough traffic. Would like a tranquil space (Redford Dv)
- A fast food etc KFC, McDonalds, Subway
- More skateparks
- Skatepark
- Skatepark
- Please make use of the 3-4k sandstone bricks in Council's works depot – from Sharpe's Prospect Sugar Mill, Ballina. Also some acknowledgement of the Sharpe family and significance of the property.
- Community garden linked to the school
- Formalise thoroughfare link up to the pedestrian path and shade. Limit access to faster bikes
- Pump track and BBQ area
- More trees, natural shade
- Plant more native trees that belong here
- Open space, keep it simple
- Leave as is for dogs
- Basketball court, greenspace and playground
- Facilities for the school and community playing fields, courts, community garden
- More trees for shade, potential great picnic area
- Fenced dog area
- Hand surface for handball
- Greenspace, sporting field

- Picnic tables covered, BBQ area, external gym like in Noosa – Singapore, walking track around perimeter
- Dog park, dog agility course, community gardens, Keep as much green space
- Path across for school kids, extra parking for school
- Cricket pitch. Will save neighbours using driveways / road
- Area for teens, bike track, skate ramp, basketball, volleyball, community garden, BBQ shaded areas
- Teenage play spaces
- Community hangout zone
- Basketball courts
- Family friendly facilities for play. Get kids out of driveways.
- Additional sports fields.
- You know those urbanised parks in the cities. Could be a cool look for the area.
- Volleyball court.

Transcription of Drop-in Session 2 – Spoonbill Reserve

Values

What is important to you about Spoonbill Reserve?

Consider how you use the space, things you see, the value of the reserve to the community and environment, how you feel in the space...

- This exercise was not undertaken due to wet and windy weather.

Ideas

What improvements would you like to see in the reserve?

Consider things that are special to you, look and feel, things to do, how you get here, shade and comfort...

- Please keep as open space not a sports ground
- Shade trees, seating, play area (thankyou)
- Shade, retain informality of space
- Youth plaza, tennis courts, basketball
- Some open areas, trees and gardens (low maintenance) – BBQ's better at Aureus
- More of a local space
- A few larger trees for shade (not too crowded)
- Low key hardstand for skateboarding
- More trees, more wildlife, living classroom
- Informal open space
- Playground, seats, community space
- Well used for informal activities, small improvements
- Something for older kids and adults
- Picnic shelter and BBQ
- Plover's nest on site
- Cultural heritage information
- Chairs in shade

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Online Ideas Tool

Below is a table of the community ideas contributed to the ideas tool on the website. Expanded ideas and comments can be viewed in the Engagement HQ raw data in Appendix 2.

Contributor	Key Idea	Thumbs up	Comments
Shelly1	Stop wasting rate payers money of projects we never asked for!	1	0
Shelly1	Why preserving Spoonbill Reserve as open green space is important	1	0
Shelly1	Why is BSC advertising in the Tweed Coast Times to have your say?	1	1
Shelly1	Community consultation	2	0
Shelly1	Stop the Spending—Fix What's Broken First	4	0
Shelly1	Spoonbill Reserve is a vital ecological sanctuary in Skennars Head, home to endangered species like the royal spoonbill. Its wetlands and n	3	1
Protect green space	Why pursue upgrades when Council has publicly reported financial strain and is seeking a rate rise?	1	0
Protect green space	Ballina Council can save money and avoid unnecessary rate increases by preserving what's already beautiful and thriving.	2	0
Protect green space	Leave Spoonbill Reserve as it is — a natural sanctuary. Instead of developing it, plant to rewild and enhance its ecology.	2	0
Gaz	Pathway linking Reef St to Xavier and a basketball half court to complement what we have at Aureus Park	0	1
R	Keep it as is, with minimal development. Keep nature the way it is	2	0
Jase	Too much green space lost	2	2
Lenno Head Heritage	Sharpe family sandstone bricks (reuse)	0	0
Dbel	Basketball half court, outdoor ping pong table, mini skate 2ft-3ft halfpipe	0	2
Shaun	Keep as open space but increase the canopy cover to provide sun and heat relief. Would be great if plants were all native to local area.	3	0
SandraC	Keep some green space but add something for older kids like a half court basketball/pickleball court, courts or outdoor table tennis	1	1
AbbeyO	Keep it green, a possible offlead dog area or a half court for kids to play but mostly keep it as a green space with native planting	1	1
Tony's	This is a lovely open space, used by kids, dog walkers and lots of native birds. Please leave it as is.	3	0
AmyF	Leave this space as is, or plant sections with native plants for wildlife and pollinators. Please do not use as anything but a green space	3	0
Lakota	Leave as is, why does everything need to be developed? It's such beautiful open space.	4	0

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Steve @ Headlands	Maintain the reserve as a reserve, as declared in 1995	3	1
Pal	leave as is as the local kids use it for informal games. it is great to see kids of all ages just playing without formal structures.	3	0
Justine1	Leave it as a green nature reserve - we do not need another concrete development!!	3	2
Seaside Ave resident	Grass and native shade trees to attract bird life, simple and passive	3	1
Skye	No development - keep this rare natural space green!	3	1
AN	Some nice native gardens, pathways connecting Aureus to Xavier and some exercise equipment would be great! Think chin up and dip bars etc	0	1
Bergosk64	A community multi-use ball courts for pickleball / basketball fronting Redford Drive & opposite XCC catering for all ages in this area.	1	2
E	Leave as open space for kids	3	2
JayJ	Kids and fitness	1	1
Eagle	Birds like spoonbills in the landscape are a reminder of the deep spiritual connection Aboriginal and all people have with the natural world	2	1
BenJammin	Designated native tree reserve, how many old growth trees are available for future populations?	2	0
Leigh	Please plant with native trees and grasses and consult with Ballina LOCAL Aboriginal Land Council with interpretive signage	3	1
PB	I agree with the idea of keeping it simple. Perhaps more shade trees and a few seats.	2	0
Ally	Leave it alone..... it's a beautiful space as it is.	3	0
Meg Smith	Minor improvements such as landscaping, casual sporting facilities would be good. Nothing major.	4	1
B	Leave Spoonbill Reserve as it is. It is a great open green space for children & residents to play informal games	2	0
JA	Keep it green & within a long term budget	0	1
EllenB	Please keep it as is- green space and no development	5	2
JamesT	Casual sporting facilities (wall ball, 1/2 basketball court, pump track, skate park etc)	0	1
Mark60	Please no development, the last thing we need in this space is picnic shelters or coffee shops. Plant it out with natives and keep it green	5	0
Abbie	Centennial Park (Sydney) but in Skennars! Large open space, big trees, botanical gardens, running/walking track, coffee shop at one end	0	2
Brth	Protect the site and add more vegetation	4	0
Dave2	Spoonbills still visit this reserve	6	1
Preserve environmental	Spoonbill Reserve was gifted for protection — not development. Let's keep it wild, quiet, and full of life.	8	0
Maloom	As a 29 yr Skennars Head 'local'...Are there really Spoonbills there? Use the space for student car parking and free up the side streets	0	4

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Long term local	Please preserve it as an open green space for all to continue to use as is ..There are not enough spaces to accommodate increasing pop i all	2	2
BettyBoo	It is a beautiful, passive recreation area that is vitally necessary for the area. Please leave as is.	3	0
Rochelle	Please leave it as it is. It is a natural, safe and peaceful site that children and families visit regularly. The wildlife is gorgeous too.	3	0
Georgina	Keep Spoonbill Reserve a green haven—not housing! Support nature, play, and community space	3	1
Ninki1	Does everything Green have to be developed?	3	1
Louise	Pump track for kids, leave alot of green space with some large trees for shade, tennis court	0	1
Gof	Leave as is as my grandchildren and neighbours love the space to play touch football and other informal games after school there	5	1
Melanie	Community Preschool and Fairy Forest	0	0
Lisa McCafferty	Save for wildlife	9	2
JR	Outdoor sports area	0	3
Sharpesbeach	Subdivide it into tiny 450 Square meter blocks and sell for a squatza and put the money toward over engineered and wasteful infrastructure!!	1	1
Humphreys	Maintain the open, well maintained green space and just add some paths!	6	1
Carolyn	Keep half as open green space (the local kids use it for informal sport), and plant out rest with native bird-attracting plants	3	0
JORS	Maintain a green space. Add more native greenery	1	4
Kerrie	A mini shared sanctuary	7	0
Staff	Picnic shelters and BBQs	3	3
Staff	Half-court basketball courts for informal use	2	3
Staff	Shade trees	9	3

Written Submissions

Name	Key message
M. Phillips	<p>1. Remove Tree Stumps and Logs for Safety and Usability I respectfully request the removal of tree stumps and logs currently located beneath the foliage in the Reserve. These present a safety hazard and limit the usability of the space, particularly for children, older residents, and those walking through the area.</p> <p>2. Retain the Reserve as an Unstructured, Creative Community Space Spoonbill Reserve is valued for its open, adaptable nature. It is regularly used for informal recreation such as dog walking, children's play, casual cricket and football games, bicycle riding, and even golf practice. This kind of unstructured use is essential for a healthy, vibrant community and should be preserved.</p> <p>3. Include a Designated Off-Lead Dog Area An area set aside for safe, off-leash dog training and play would be a valuable addition and enhance the Reserve's role as a social and recreational hub for local dog owners and their pets.</p>

	<p><i>4. Support for Environmental and Wildlife Values</i> I would like to see a portion of the Reserve thoughtfully landscaped to include shaded areas, seating, and habitat-supporting plantings. This would offer respite for residents while also supporting the endangered spoonbill and other local wildlife. Preservation and enhancement of biodiversity should be a key goal.</p> <p><i>5. Prioritise Safety and Accessibility</i> The Reserve serves as a thoroughfare for school children walking to and from local schools. Maintaining open sight lines and a sense of safety throughout the space is critical. Any planning or landscaping should consider passive surveillance and clear visibility.</p> <p><i>6. Avoid Structured Sporting Facilities and Lighting</i> I strongly oppose the installation of structured sports courts (e.g. tennis, cricket nets, basketball), night lighting, or any infrastructure that encourages night-time use. These would negatively impact the peaceful nature of the Reserve and risk displacing current community uses. Additionally, lighting would disrupt local fauna and the natural character of the area.</p> <p><i>7. Preserve Natural Airflow and Microclimate</i> Spoonbill Reserve contributes to the natural cooling and airflow that benefits surrounding homes, particularly in the Aureus estate. Any development should avoid obstructing breezes or altering the local microclimate, which is especially important in the hotter months.</p> <p><i>In summary, I support a low-impact, community-focused approach that protects the natural character of Spoonbill Reserve, enhances biodiversity, and respects the way it is already well-used and loved by residents.</i></p>
R. Siebert	<p>Leave Spoonbill Reserve as it is. The area needs open space that is not taken up with sports fields (which are close by anyway), car parks (which should be provided by those who generate the need for car parks), or built structures (already on pathway behind Xavier College).</p> <p>Leave it as an attractive open space area.</p>
G. Gover	<p>I have lived at Headland since it was first developed and released. I am not in favour of developing the Reserve, other than planting and maintaining spoonbill nesting trees. The rest should be left undeveloped as an open green space. The spoonbills will use it if it is suitable for their nesting. There is another spoonbill site on the reserve at Adele Street, quite close to houses, they tolerate people pressure when they have mature trees. Development with more paths/ street furniture/ playgrounds are not required here. Maintain it properly in its designated role, as it was planned and has been since.</p>
K. Brown	<p>Please do leave a large open area for impromptu touch footy, picnics or such should the locals want to use this space. A walkway on one side with lots of shrubs for birds would also be nice</p> <p>I was of the thought that this area is also an evacuation safety area for the surrounding schools & residential area</p> <p>OPEN SPACE IS GOOD</p>
R. Hargrave (Lennox Head Heritage Committee)	<p>LH Heritage Committee interest in the site relates to the original Sharpe family who built the house, The Pines there and were the founders of the Prospect Sugar Mill on North Creek back in the 1860s or thereabouts.</p> <p>Around 5,000 of the sandstock bricks from the sugar mill were retained by Council at the works depot, now vacated, on the canal adjacent to the bridge on Tamarind Drive</p>

	<p>crossing the canal (Canal Road Bridge?). I understand the bricks were relocated to a new site.</p> <p>Members of the Sharpe family (and the Heritage Committee) have expressed interest in having some of the bricks put to use on Spoonbill Park as an acknowledgement of the original Sharpe family.</p>
A. Viel	<p>As a resident that adjoins the reserve, I would prefer the current open space to remain in its' current state – a nature reserve. Spoonbill Reserve serves as a vital open space for birds and wildlife, especially with the significantly reduced natural area due to the Aureus Development. The current open space is also highly valued as an informal space for residents to walk their dogs and for children and parents to play. The current Aureus Park, in addition to the park adjoining Xavier Catholic College, is underutilised by the current residents of Skennars Head. Without demand for such facilities, it would be unreasonable to make provision for further development. Furthermore, with established Aureus Park, I believe that further additions (such as sporting courts) would be best placed in immediately surrounding Aureus Park so that parents could supervise children in one space, instead of amenities for different age groups being separated by such a distance.</p> <p>A further concern as an adjoining resident to the Reserve is the noise that would result from the establishment of sporting and recreational facilities. If such projects were to be brought to fruition the constant noise over a long-term period would become distressing for neighbouring residents. Instead, the introduction of sporting courts and associated facilities constructed immediately surrounding the current Aureus Park would result in no additional noise impact to residents, as the current road noise would be of greater volume.</p> <p>The effort of increasing usage of Spoonbill Reserve through its' development may seem to be positive at face-value, it will ultimately incur negative impacts for residents. In recent times of population increase, we have experienced abuse from children who have entered private property areas and threatened to damage property, including throwing objects and graffiti. As a matter of causation, residents could expect an increase of unruly and unwanted behaviour which would be detrimental to our current way of life.</p> <p>Aside from these impacts, the proposed development will unfavourably impact the natural drainage system of the reserve. In the event of extreme weather events, of which have occurred in previous years, would the council take responsibility for, or provide definite assurance that any proposed development would not result in increased risk of flooding or drainage issues for residents?</p> <p>The construction of such facilities will incur significant cost for the Ballina Shire Council. We have recently been notified of Council's desire to increase rates over the coming years, citing increased expenditure and costs. In a time of increased costs and an underperforming budget it would seem unreasonable to allocate expenditure to projects that are not essential or of high importance. Not only would development of sporting facilities and other recreational amenities incur substantial upfront costs, but ongoing maintenance would also be higher than compared with the current costs of maintaining the reserve. If the Council wishes to enhance the reserve for resident usability and minimise costs when compared to construction, it would be recommended to undertake mowing at more regular intervals, especially following periods conducive to high grass growth.</p> <p>Finally, it is of our understanding that the Council has conducted community feedback in multiple locations and advertisement in various media forms. As adjoining residents, we are concerned that the feedback received will not be correctly weighted to the proximity of the Reserve in which that respondent is located. We believe that in order to correctly assess the feedback of residents, Council must consider the location of respondent in the assessment of feedback. Responses received from wider locations may not understand the local impacts that such development will cause.</p>
G. Newson	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the future of Spoonbill Reserve. Spoonbill Reserve is one of several valued green areas in Skennars Head, but it plays a unique role as a quiet, open sanctuary rather than an activity-based park. At present</p>

	<p>it includes a Norfolk pine, a Morton Bay fig, a few smaller trees, and broad grassed areas. Opposite the reserve is Xavier Catholic College, which is brightly lit at night, creating substantial light spill that affects nearby homes and the bird life currently roosting in the mature trees.</p> <p>The open grass areas support a surprising amount of wildlife. Spoonbills, herons, ibis, miners, magpies, pee wees, plovers, currawongs, and rosellas regularly forage there. The space functions as an important natural corridor for birds and other species moving through the area.</p> <p>What we would like to see in the master plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More mature, majestic trees planted throughout the reserve to support night-time roosting, provide shade, soften school lighting, and elevate the overall environmental quality of the space. • A strong focus on environmental enhancement, allowing the reserve to continue supporting the diverse bird life and natural activity already present. • Preserving the reserve as a peaceful, nature-centred sanctuary, rather than shifting it towards high-use recreation. We do not support basketball courts, skate parks, playgrounds, or other built structures that attract noise, gatherings, or late-night activity. These facilities are already available in nearby recreation zones. • Maintaining the natural feel of the reserve, providing residents with a quiet place to walk, relax, and enjoy open space while protecting wildlife habitat. <p>Spoonbill Reserve has the potential to become an exceptional natural asset if its future is guided by habitat protection, tree planting, and environmental health rather than the introduction of concrete structures. Building on its strengths as a calm and ecological green space will benefit residents, wildlife, and the broader Skennars Head community for decades to come.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this submission.</p>
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The original submissions are contained in Appendix 2.

Phone Conversations

Name	Date	Key message
Andrew	27/10/25	Returned call as requested and left message.
Sam N	03/11/25	Likes to retain informal open space for kids to use. No extra parking is required. More plants would be nice.

Community Flier Distributed during Community Engagement Period

The following flier prepared by a community members was distributed to the general public.

Rec'd 3/11/25
SDC

PROTECT SKENNARS HEAD GREEN SPACE



Nature doesn't need enhancing - it needs protection

True enhancement of a Reserve should be for conservation not construction.

Rewilding, native planting, removing invasive species, and adding low-impact walking paths or educational signage will keep Spoonbill Reserve a shared, restorative space for everyone.

Preserving Our Natural Heritage in Skennars Head

The Spoonbill Reserve isn't just a scenic backdrop — it's a crucial green sanctuary amid a growing residential area. It's a living, breathing ecosystem that supports biodiversity, regulates climate, and offers a quiet refuge for both wildlife and community.

Good intentions can be a misstep for future generations.

Councils around NSW have over landscaped many Reserves which were once open green spaces for all to enjoy. This has led to the destruction of habitat and loss of connection and identity for the communities who are directly impacted.

Make your voice heard before the decision is made without you.

Ballina Shire Councillors are influenced by ideas from the wider community to support their decisions. Your say is vital in the protection of this open green space now and for future generations.

Please make the effort to speak out – it only takes a few minutes:

Go to the Spoonbill Reserve tomorrow (Tuesday 28, October) or

Phone: 1300 864 444 Email: council@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Mail: Ballina Shire Council, 40 Cherry St, Ballina NSW



APPENDIX 2: Community Engagement Original Material

- Engagement HQ / Online Project YourSay Report (including expanded comments)
- Written Submissions

Tell us Your Ideas Here!				20 Oct - 17 Nov 2025			
Date of contribution	Ideas		Votes	Visitors	Sign Up form Details		
	Title	Description			Login Name (this name will be shown when you join discussions on this site)	Suburb	Tell us a bit about yourself and your relationship with our region (check as many as are relevant)
Oct 20 25 11:14:23 am	Outdoor sports area	Pump track for kids to ride bikes Toddler track for scooters etc Basketball court / tennis court Maintain section as maintained open space	0	28			
Oct 21 25 09:12:52 am	Save for wildlife	Green space for wildlife. A few tables with cover for shade. Great for leaving as is. Too much development already. Need more green space, eg community gardens	9	21	Lisa McCafferty	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 22 25 01:56:21 pm	Community Preschool and Fairy Forest	This would be a terrific site for a community preschool, with adjoining playground and even a fairy forest!	0	2	Melanie	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 22 25 03:19:12 pm	Leave as is as my grandchildren and neighbours love the space to play touch football and other informal games after school there		5	12	Gof	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire
Oct 22 25 03:24:22 pm	Pump track for kids, leave alot of green space with some large trees for shade, tennis court		0	13	Louise	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire
Oct 22 25 03:24:47 pm	Does everything Green have to be developed?	Please maintain some green space for informal use: family cricket, picnics, exploring the natural environment that will soon disappear for our future generations. More planting to encourage native birds, butterflies etc Please let's just leave something undeveloped in Lennox for future generations. The best playground for exploring is the natural environment, not a 'man mad one'.	3	10	Ninki1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire
Oct 22 25 05:49:32 pm	Keep Spoonbill Reserve a green haven—not housing! Support nature, play, and community space	I'd love to see low-impact improvements: walking paths, shady picnic seating, native tree planting, and play areas that fit the area's quiet, coastal character. Linking the reserve with local cycle and footpath networks would make it a safe, accessible hub between Redford Drive, Seaside Avenue, and nearby schools. Future planning should prioritise biodiversity, stormwater resilience, and keeping the open feel that makes Spoonbill Reserve so valued. Please protect it as long-term green community land.	3	8	Georgina	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 22 25 07:34:10 pm	Please leave it as it is. It is a natural, safe and peaceful site that children and families visit regularly. The wildlife is gorgeous too.		3	4			

7.3 Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan

Oct 22 25 08:01:45 pm	It is a beautiful, passive recreation area that is vitally necessary for the area. Please leave as is.		3	4			
Oct 23 25 09:48:07 am	Spoonbill Reserve is a vital ecological sanctuary in Skennars Head, home to endangered species like the royal spoonbill. Its wetlands and n		3	15			
Oct 23 25 11:24:28 am	Please preserve it as an open green space for all to continue to use as is ..There are not enough spaces to accommodate increasing pop i all		2	16			
Oct 24 25 10:58:08 am	As a 29 yr Skennars Head 'local'...Are there really Spoonbills there? Use the space for student car parking and free up the side streets		0	25	Maloom	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 25 25 07:23:34 am	Spoonbill Reserve was gifted for protection — not development. Let's keep it wild, quiet, and full of life.	Let's redefine enhancement: 🛠️ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Rewilding and native planting ✓ Removal of invasive species ✓ Educational signage and low-impact trails That's the kind of enhancement that sustains biodiversity and honours community heritage.	8	8			
Oct 25 25 11:48:16 am	Spoonbills still visit this reserve	As a resident of Skennars Head for 32 years I would like to see this reserve maintained as it is. If not for objections from locals the Aureus estate would have had houses built built to the coast nd little in the way of green space would have been preserved. Spoonbills do visit the reserve. I have recent photos and video of spoonbills on the reserve. If you want to have sporting facilities (not on reserves) pressure council to include these facilities in developments.	6	27			
Oct 25 25 04:28:59 pm	Protect the site and add more vegetation	Spoonbill is a valued community space. It does need more vegetation (trees, plants) to increase the biodiversity, connectivity and increase the utility (shade) of this park. It will have a cooling affect to the surrounding residents with more vegetation.	4	13			
Oct 26 25 06:45:53 am	Centennial park (sydney) but in Skennars! Large open space, big trees, botanical gardens, running/walking track, coffee shop at one end	Skennars doesn't currently have areas that community can congregate. A mini Centennial Park would be perfect as it gives you a bit of everything. Trees and botanicals around the perimeter (giving shade) along a walking/running track, big open space in the middle for people to use for recreation, and with a cute botanical coffee shop at one end with some benches and shade/and toilets. That way still keeping the reserve big, open and green but up-levelling and finessing. BBQ areas are not needed as they're not nice looking, the ones in Skennars currently are never used, and it's also in the middle of a residential area where people can have their bbqs at home. Please no bbq areas!	0	23			

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Oct 26 25 08:18:00 am	Stop the Spending—Fix What's Broken First	We all value our green spaces, but many of us are concerned about the growing trend of spending ratepayer money on "enhancements" to parks and reserves that are already in great condition. These projects, while well-meaning, often seem unnecessary, especially when essential services and infrastructure need attention. At a time when rates are increasing, we urge you to prioritise spending on what truly matters: maintaining core services, addressing urgent repairs, and easing the financial burden on residents. Beautifying already beautiful spaces shouldn't come at the cost of affordability. Please listen to the community. Let's focus on needs before wants.	4	23			
Oct 27 25 01:52:47 pm	Please no development, the last thing we need in this space is picnic shelters or coffee shops. Plant it out with natives and keep it green		5	1	Mark60	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 27 25 03:23:52 pm	Casual sporting facilities (wall ball, 1/2 basketball court, pump track, skate park etc)		0	14			
Oct 27 25 06:18:28 pm	Please keep it as is- green space and no development	This is a significant green space in an otherwise highly developed area. It is a safe zone for wildlife and for kids to play freely.	5	9			
Oct 28 25 06:29:59 am	Keep it green & within a long term budget	Keep it green, add more shade and what ever other items such as paths or skate park to one side. But what ever you come up with make sure there is a budget to maintain it to reduce pressure on budgets.	0	15			
Oct 28 25 12:02:40 pm	Community Consultation	I'm concerned that Ballina Shire council are not following best practice when conducting their community consultation . This needs to be done transparently and meaningfully. I am not confident that writing your ideas on post-it notes at a shopping centre, and being at the Reserve on a rainy day to seek community consultation would pass the standard. Without names, postcodes, or proof of residency, there's no way to confirm the feedback came from ratepayers or park users. Proper consultation should include verified surveys, mail-outs, and fair on-site engagement. Anything less risks decisions being shaped by random input, not the voices of the people (rate payers) who fund and use the space.	2	20	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 28 25 01:57:22 pm	Leave Spoonbill Reserve as it is. It is a great open green space for children & residents to play informal games		2	1			

7.3 Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan

Oct 28 25 02:36:20 pm	Minor improvements such as landscaping, casual sporting facilities would be good. Nothing major.	I tend to agree with other comments that this space should be kept fairly low key. Parking during school hours is already challenging, so I don't think any traffic generating land uses would be a good idea. I think the site is big enough to have some basic casual sporting facilities for older kids (such as wall ball/ basketball half court), while leaving a large area of open space. I think some replanting/ landscaping would be good too. Lastly, I think the residents of Skennars Head are best placed to comment. Thanks	4	11			
Oct 28 25 04:10:20 pm	Leave it alone..... it's a beautiful space as it is.	Don't touch it, please.	3	0			
Oct 28 25 04:23:40 pm	I agree with the idea of keeping it simple. Perhaps more shade trees and a few seats.		2	0			
Oct 28 25 04:29:42 pm	Please plant with native trees and grasses and consult with Ballina LOCAL Aboriginal Land Council with interpretive signage	Green space, cultural space	3	5			
Oct 28 25 04:36:49 pm	Designated native tree reserve, how many old growth trees are available for future populations?	Align with Australia's current National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Net Zero targets for carbon sequestration and climate mitigation.	2	3			
Oct 28 25 05:33:56 pm	Birds like spoonbills in the landscape are a reminder of the deep spiritual connection Aboriginal and all people have with the natural world		2	8			
Oct 28 25 07:19:19 pm	Kids and Fitness	Creating a space with a fun kids' playground and fitness areas for bodyweight workouts would be a great way to bring our community together and support healthy lifestyles. At the same time, we can protect and nurture our native birds (not including ibises) by keeping, enhancing and landscaping the natural features that make this reserve special. This way, we make the most of the space for everyone while caring for the plants and animals that call it home.	1	15			
Oct 29 25 05:50:10 am	Leave as open space for kids	It is a nice space for children to run around, play footy, kick a soccer ball and enjoy being outside. It would be great to have the weeds managed so children can play barefoot, but please leave as an open space for all to enjoy.	3	8			
Oct 29 25 08:40:58 am	A community multi-use ball courts for pickleball / basketball fronting Redford Drive & opposite XCC catering for all ages in this area.	A multi-purpose pickleball / basketball court would benefit all ages of this community as well as cater for members of the wider community. Both Pickleball and basketball offer numerous benefits for all ages.	1	17	bergosk64	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 29 25 07:24:55 pm	Some nice native gardens, pathways connecting Aureus to Xavier and some exercise equipment would be great! Think chin up and dip bars etc	Thanks for great consultation BSC well done!	0	11	AN	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer

7.3 Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan

Oct 30 25 10:58:56 am	No development - keep this rare natural space green!	<p>As a 22 year resident of Skennars head, I feel it is important to preserve any natural spaces and nature reserves that we have left.</p> <p>With all the new developments (Aureus/Sharpes car park) our estate is loosing its natural beauty and spacious feel.</p> <p>Adding extra tables, benches or toilets is not needed and encourages graffiti. Basketball courts, tennis courts and pickleball courts will not get used and it cheapens the look of an area dramatically. Barbecues are already located less than 100m away in Aureus and we definitely do not need a third park.</p> <p>More importantly, this reserve is a habitat for the royal spoonbill birds (one of the six spoonbill species in the world).</p> <p>Reading other people's suggestions, it is clearly evident that the local residents feel there is a vital need to protect this rare green space we have left.</p> <p>Please do not develop this beautiful nature reserve.</p>	3	10			
Oct 30 25 12:52:34 pm	Grass and native shade trees to attract bird life, simple and passive		3	7			
Oct 31 25 03:30:32 pm	Leave it as a green nature reserve - we do not need another concrete development!!	As a long term resident of Skennars Head (20 plus years) I ask that you please leave it as a green nature reserve!! I don't believe that it needs to be developed. We have Aureus just a short walk away - where there is a kids playground and a bbq area for all to enjoy. Creating another concrete development will only 'cheapen' the area and potentially encourage vandalism. Please leave it :)	3	11			
Nov 02 25 07:59:16 am	leave as is as the local kids use it for informal games. it is great to see kids of all ages just playing without formal structures.		3	0	pal	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Nov 02 25 02:17:03 pm	Maintain the reserve as a reserve, as declared in 1995.	The spoonbill reserve should stay as a reserve. More bird-attracting trees should be planted. No structures should be built, even seating. Free space for kids to play would also be suitable. No consideration should be given to car parking space for the school. If the current parking situation is inadequate, this is not Council's fault or responsibility. A cafe or shop would be unviable, as demonstrated by the change in zoning in the Aureus over-development. We are long-term residents of the Headlands Estate, being part of the community group which successfully sought to stop the development of the reserve in 1993-4. In a letter dated January 30th, 1995, Council stated that it had resolved not to change the reserve and 'formally require the Spoonbill Nesting Area to be dedicated as a public reserve'. Given recent housing developments in the area, as much open space as possible should be available for the residents to enjoy.	3	10			
Nov 03 25 01:10:26 pm	Leave as is, why does everything need to be developed? It's such beautiful open space.		4	0			

7.3 Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan

Nov 03 25 01:29:00 pm	Leave this space as is, or plant sections with native plants for wildlife and pollinators. Please do not use as anything but a green space.		3	3	AmyF	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Nov 03 25 04:28:27 pm	This is a lovely open space, used by kids, dog walkers and lots of native birds. Please leave it as is.		3	0			
Nov 03 25 04:32:28 pm	Keep it green, a possible offlead dog area or a half court for kids to play but mostly keep it as a green space with native planting	A much needed offlead dog space would be a great consideration, but otherwise keep it green or use the space to encourage the community to spend time outdoors such as a half court.	1	11			
Nov 04 25 01:26:48 pm	Keep some green space but add something for older kids like a half court basketball/pickleball court, courts or outdoor table tennis		1	9			
Nov 04 25 02:55:10 pm	keep as open space but increase the canopy cover to provide sun and heat relief. Would be great if plants were all native to local area.		3	3	Shaun	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire
Nov 07 25 07:57:21 pm	Basketball half court, outdoor ping pong table, mini skate 2ft-3ft halfpipe		0	3			
Nov 09 25 01:44:13 pm	Spoonbill was in Sharpe family 1860s land grant. BSC holds sandstock bricks (c1830) from their sugarmill. Bricks as seats/paths + int. sign	Prospect Sugar Mill was situated on North Creek with some ruins still visible on the 11th tee of Ballina Golf Course. The Sharpe family built and ran the largest privately operated sugar mill in the area from around 1870 to mid 1890s, until CSR opened up Broadwater mill. This is an appropriate place to make use of the bricks, in a low key manner, such as seating or pathways, along with interpretive signage acknowledging the family, Sharpes Beach, the mill and their contribution to the early days of Ballina and Lennox Head.	0	9			
Nov 11 25 08:04:11 am	Why is BSC advertising in the Tweed Coast Times to have your say ?	https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/tweedcoasttimes/news/community-drawings-to-help-shape-spoonbill-reserve/	1	5	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say

7.3 Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan

Nov 11 25 08:44:09 am	Why preserving Spoonbill Reserve as open green space is important	In 2022 Ballina Shire Council adopted its Open Space and Community Facilities Contributions Plan, resolving "to find as many reserves, parks and open spaces as possible to develop into recreation facilities." While this broad approach aims to increase recreation opportunities, the experience of the Jack Evans Skate Park in Tweed Heads serves as a cautionary tale of the risks involved. Jack Evans was once an open green space for families, but its conversion into a skate precinct led to more than \$2.6 million in upgrades for lighting, footpaths, and youth facilities within just two years, persistent vandalism including graffiti on commissioned artworks, and the need for increased police patrols to deal with antisocial behaviour, trespassing, truancy, and youth crime. Residents were asked to monitor and report vandalism, shifting responsibility and costs onto locals, while the broader community lost access to a shared green space that became dominated by a single use facility. Spoonbill Reserve is a two hectare green space surrounded by homes and opposite Xavier Catholic College, valued by residents for its tranquility. A skate park would fundamentally change its character, attracting outsiders, noise, and antisocial behaviour, while requiring ongoing upgrades and security measures that would fall on ratepayers. Its concealed location within a residential estate also makes it highly likely to become a truancy hang out, just as the Tweed skate park has had issues with truancy, compounding risks of antisocial behaviour and undermining the safety and amenity of the neighbourhood. The Tweed experience demonstrates that skate parks are not a one off investment but a long term liability, meaning higher rates, loss of amenity, increased antisocial behaviour spilling into nearby streets and schools, and outsiders shaping the reserve's future while locals pay the price.	1	6	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Nov 12 25 10:23:13 pm	Leave Spoonbill Reserve as it is — a natural sanctuary. Instead of developing it, plant to rewild and enhance its ecology.	Avoid high-cost infrastructure in quiet reserves Facilities like sports courts, skate ramps, and lighting require ongoing resurfacing, graffiti removal, repairs, and compliance checks—an unnecessary expense for small neighbourhood reserves	2	0	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Nov 12 25 10:23:44 pm	Ballina Council can save money and avoid unnecessary rate increases by preserving what's already beautiful and thriving.	Avoid high-cost infrastructure in quiet reserves Facilities like sports courts, skate ramps, and lighting require ongoing resurfacing, graffiti removal, repairs, and compliance checks—an unnecessary expense for small neighbourhood reserves	2	5	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Nov 16 25 11:06:13 am	Too much green space lost.	With the development of Stewart's farm the once quiet community is changed already. Currently Spoonbill reserve is a small haven for several species of nesting birds including the said spoonbills that nest in the pines each year, pink and blue tongue lizards along with snakes, I see this each morning on my daily walk. People already use the space without it being altered, there is enough curated space just up the road via Aureus, some places just need to be left alone.	2	5			
Nov 16 25 11:13:01 am	Keep it as is, with minimal development. Keep nature the way it is.	This is a native reserve where wildlife come to visit. By building concrete structures, it takes away the beauty and natural diversity. The only suggestion I'd have is to include a path, to the side, that helps with disability access and suggests to bike riders that they use this route, instead of scaring away wildlife and ripping up the grass. Only native trees that are relevant to the current wildlife should be added. The plantings should be in line with what the native wildlife, e.g. spoonbills, require. This space should be kept the same, children can grow their imaginations in the natural habitat and with developments made for specific sports and activities, it removes the nature, creativity and adaptability of the space. We have many concrete structures around the Skennars Head and Aureus estates, adding more to a reserve, is overkill and leaves limited natural spaces. As it is a reserve, making it a dogs off lead area threatens wildlife and scares them away, this wouldn't be a positive solution. There are other spaces around the estates where a dogs off lead area can be established. Please, no more concrete.	2	4			
Nov 16 25 03:48:47 pm	Pathway linking Reef St to Xavier and a basketball half court to complement what we have at Aureus Park	Green space is an asset, but linking Aureus to Xavier via a pathway will further enhance it. A half court basketball court would complement what is already on offer for families a short walk away in Aureus Park.	0	5	Gaz	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer

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Nov 16 25 08:37:43 pm	Why pursue upgrades when Council has publicly reported financial strain and is seeking a rate rise?	Council has recently communicated significant financial pressure and the need to increase rates. In this context, residents are concerned that spending money on upgrading a reserve where no infrastructure is required — and where existing natural values are the primary community benefit — is an inefficient use of limited funds.	1	2	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Nov 17 25 07:29:36 am	Stop wasting rate payers money of projects we never asked for!	Enhancing Spoonbill Reserve is not only unwanted by the community, it is financially and environmentally irresponsible. The reserve is already serving its purpose as a natural refuge, providing important habitat for wildlife and a tranquil space for residents to enjoy in its untouched form. Any effort to hardscape this area would undermine its inherent value, replacing biodiversity with unnecessary concrete and infrastructure. Such changes would not only erode the unique qualities that make Spoonbill Reserve special but also introduce ongoing costs and environmental consequences that are neither needed nor sustainable. The cost of unnecessary works at Spoonbill Reserve would be directly transferred to ratepayers. Currently, only about 40–45% of Ballina Shire residents are ratepayers, these are the property owners who already bear the financial responsibility for maintaining local infrastructure. In contrast, the majority of residents are either renters or live in properties exempt from rates and therefore do not contribute directly to the funding of public amenities, even though they benefit from them. This situation places a disproportionate burden on ratepayers, asking them to finance projects that the wider community did not request. Furthermore, it is particularly unjustifiable to impose these costs while the Council itself has acknowledged it is experiencing financial difficulties. There is already a fully hardscaped, curated space nearby at Aureus Park, which features playgrounds, seating, and various facilities for the community. The need for additional enhancements at Spoonbill Reserve has not been expressed by residents; rather, this initiative originated from Council's own 2022 plans. Consultation efforts were promoted outside the immediate community, further distancing the project from local priorities. Investing in the duplication of amenities that already exist at Aureus Park, while simultaneously compromising a valuable natural sanctuary, is unsustainable from both financial and environmental perspectives. This approach risks unnecessary expenditure and the loss of irreplaceable natural habitat, undermining the principles of responsible stewardship and fiscal prudence. We therefore ask Council to take the following actions regarding Spoonbill Reserve: Cease plans to hardscape Spoonbill Reserve and instead protect it as a natural habitat. The reserve is an important sanctuary for wildlife and is cherished by residents in its untouched state. Redirect funds toward enforcement and revenue opportunities that safeguard natural environments, rather than investing in projects that harm or alter these valued spaces. Ensure transparency and open communication in procurement processes and financial management before any rates are raised. This will foster trust and accountability with the community.	1	2	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 22 25 02:03:35 pm	Comment response to "Outdoor sports area"	100% on maintain the open space section children and adults already use this area for playing footy, soccer, practicing kicking goals	0	0	Shh895	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 24 25 11:50:01 pm	Comment response to "Outdoor sports area"	There is already a track for scooters and toddlers at the Aureus park. Maintain 100% open green space.	0	0			
Oct 25 25 12:06:17 pm	Comment response to "Outdoor sports area"	Hardscaping Spoonbill Reserve with recreation items duplicates what already exists nearby, pump tracks, courts, and scooter paths are well catered for. What's missing is protected, biodiverse green space. Spoonbill Reserve isn't just a visual backdrop to a densely populated area: it's one of the last natural corridors in our suburb, offering habitat for species that rely on open spaces. This was a gift from developers to remain open green space. Our legacy should be a thriving habitat for birdlife and wildlife for future generations to enjoy. Coastal residents are stewards to the environment and should preserve it wherever possible through conservation not construction.	0	0			

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Oct 24 25 11:46:27 pm	Comment response to "Save for wildlife"	Agreed, leave it alone. Preserve it for environmental protection.	0	0			
Oct 25 25 11:35:10 am	Comment response to "Save for wildlife"	Spot on Lisa ! Spoonbill Reserve is home to diverse native wildlife, which is what makes it valuable to the community. Species include the Royal Spoonbill (Platalea regia), Laughing Kookaburra (Dacelo novaeguineae), Rainbow Lorikeet (Trichoglossus moluccanus), Eastern Water Dragon (Intellagama lesueurii), Green Tree Frog (Litoria caerulea), Blue Banded Bee (Amegilla cingulata), and Common Crow Butterfly (Euploea core). These animals rely on open green areas for nesting, feeding, and shelter. Preserving Spoonbill Reserve protects biodiversity, supports pollinators, and maintains ecological balance. It also provides a peaceful space for the community to connect with nature. Open green spaces reduce urban heat, manage stormwater, and improve air quality. Keeping this area undeveloped ensures future generations can learn from and enjoy the natural environment. Spoonbill Reserve is not just habitat, it's a living classroom and a vital part of the local ecosystem.	0	0			
Oct 24 25 11:44:17 pm	Comment response to "Leave as is as my grandchildren and neighbours love the space to play touch football and other informal games after school there"	Agree - leave it as is. Why ruin it?	0	0			
Oct 25 25 08:31:19 am	Comment response to "Pump track for kids, leave alot of green space with some large trees for shade, tennis court"	Enhancing green open space with hardscaping, as suggested, risks transforming a community gift into a regional attraction that serves a select few rather than the broader local population. Once you introduce built infrastructure, pump tracks, tennis courts, concrete paths etc, the space no longer feels like a quiet, natural refuge. It becomes a destination, drawing people from outside the community who may not share the same respect or stewardship for the land or respect for our community. The facilities you mentioned already exist nearby that cater for active recreation. This open green space was a rare gift to the community lets ensure it remains inclusive, peaceful natural space and truly community focused.	0	0			
Oct 28 25 11:42:42 am	Comment response to "Does everything Green have to be developed?"	Exactly !! well said. Its what an open green reserve is designed for- informal use. Across Australia, councils have spent millions on enhancement and hardscaping that communities didn't ask for. If anything plant more trees for enhancement , it costs far less and delivers more benefits. Trees cool suburbs, support wildlife, and improve mental health. A single mature tree can provide thousands in ecosystem services annually. Instead of costly enhancements that only benefit a few, planting more trees is cheaper, greener, and its something the whole community can benefit from.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 25 25 08:09:31 am	Comment response to "Keep Spoonbill Reserve a green haven—not housing! Support nature, play, and community space"	Good point Georgina, Green spaces are not just a scenic backdrop, they support biodiversity, regulate climate and offer quiet refuge. The Spoonbill Reserve should be enhanced through environmental restoration—rewilding, native planting, and removing noxious species. Our legacy should be a thriving habitat for birdlife and wildlife. Low-impact trails and educational signage without disrupting the landscape, ensuring the park remains a shared, restorative space that honours its environmental and cultural heritage. True enhancement means conservation, not construction	0	0			

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Oct 24 25 11:36:30 pm	Comment response to "Spoonbill Reserve is a vital ecological sanctuary in Skennars Head, home to endangered species like the royal spoonbill. Its wetlands and n"	The Royal Spoonbills are still active in the area, despite council removing trees from the site. Further destruction of the their habitat threatens the future of these magnificent birds.	0	0			
Oct 24 25 11:29:29 pm	Comment response to "Please preserve it as an open green space for all to continue to use as is ..There are not enough spaces to accommodate increasing pop i all"	Green spaces are for everyone, they support biodiversity and regulate climate. We should preserve the few remaining green spaces.	0	0			
Oct 25 25 08:04:37 am	Comment response to "Please preserve it as an open green space for all to continue to use as is ..There are not enough spaces to accommodate increasing pop i all"	Your so right ! Open green spaces form the heart of communities, places where everyone, young and old, can access and move about how they want to connect with nature. Keeping them natural and open means they stay welcoming and inclusive for everyone.	0	0			
Oct 24 25 11:25:38 pm	Comment response to "As a 29 yr Skennars Head 'local'...Are there really Spoonbills there? Use the space for student car parking and free up the side streets"	Yes - spoonbills are really there which is why the reserve should remain environmental protection.	0	0			
Oct 25 25 07:47:49 am	Comment response to "As a 29 yr Skennars Head 'local'...Are there really Spoonbills there? Use the space for student car parking and free up the side streets"	Spoonbill Reserve was gifted to the community to remain open green space, not for infrastructure. In our densely populated estate, it offers rare peace and should stay accessible to all. It's a vital community asset and a habitat for native wildlife, including the Royal Spoonbill, which still resides there, though barely. This special place deserves protection, not conversion into overflow parking. The school's parking needs are valid, but it should first explore optimizing or expanding its own onsite facilities before seeking to use the reserve. Preserving Spoonbill Reserve safeguards biodiversity and supports community wellbeing. Let's honour its original purpose and ensure future generations can enjoy it too.	0	0			
Oct 28 25 08:59:14 am	Comment response to "As a 29 yr Skennars Head 'local'...Are there really Spoonbills there? Use the space for student car parking and free up the side streets"	Not sure where you live but I live 3 doors away and Spoonbills are there along with nesting plovers.	0	0	shadon	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 28 25 04:38:56 pm	Comment response to "As a 29 yr Skennars Head 'local'...Are there really Spoonbills there? Use the space for student car parking and free up the side streets"	Omg really? 29years and you dont know? Yes there are Spoonbills, they are seasonal nesters, keep your eyes on the skies	0	0			

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Oct 26 25 08:44:00 am	Comment response to "Spoonbills still visit this reserve"	Well said, Dave. As long-time residents of Skennars Head, we've seen wildlife corridors vanish and native species pushed out by developers who profit and leave. Spoonbill Park is one of the last sanctuaries, home to the royal spoonbill, which we see daily on our walks. If council wants to invest, rewild the area. Protect what's left. Sporting facilities belong in new developments, not nature reserves. If balance is the goal, plant shade trees and create naturally landscaped quiet picnic spots so people can enjoy nature without disturbing it. Bring a picnic rug, leave only your footprints. Spoonbill Park isn't just green space, it's a haven. Let's keep it that way.	0	0			
Oct 26 25 08:30:52 am	Comment response to "Centennial park (sydney) but in Skennars! Large open space, big trees, botanical gardens, running/walking track, coffee shop at one end"	Hi Abbie, just letting you know a mini Centennial-style park with shops is already planned at the front of Aurius. If you're drawn to vibrant crowds and urban infrastructure, nearby towns & cities offer that. This land was gifted to serve the local community, not to attract large volumes of visitors. Overdeveloping green spaces risks turning Skennars Head into a busy destination, eroding its peaceful, natural character. In dense housing estates, open green areas are vital, not just for residents' wellbeing, but for local wildlife that depends on undisturbed habitat. Hardscaping every blade of grass may look polished, but it strips away the quiet refuge that makes this place special. Let's protect it.	0	0			
Oct 26 25 11:21:00 pm	Comment response to "Centennial park (sydney) but in Skennars! Large open space, big trees, botanical gardens, running/walking track, coffee shop at one end"	Hi Abbie, There is currently a big open space in the middle of the walking track/cycle path in Aurues park. I agree that the spoonbills reserve should remain a green space without BBQ areas. The narrow roads in the estate have not been developed for	0	0			
Oct 28 25 11:31:33 am	Comment response to "Casual sporting facilities (wall ball, 1/2 basketball court, pump track, skate park etc)"	Ballina and Lennox Head are cautionary tales. Once-quiet reserves now echo with noise, traffic, and concrete. Locals lost peaceful green space to infrastructure that never stops demanding more, more money, more maintenance, more control. The cost isn't just financial; it's cultural. We've traded birdsong for skate ramps, serenity for chaos. Spoonbill Reserve is one of the last untouched spaces in a medium-density area. Not every blade of grass needs a purpose. Nature is the purpose. The push to develop everything reflects an insatiable appetite that forgets what open space is for: breathing, listening, being. Once it's gone, it's gone. Let's not make the same mistake.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 28 25 07:36:19 am	Comment response to "Please keep it as is- green space and no development"	Brilliant suggestion - we don't need every remaining green space to be built on or developed.	0	0			
Oct 28 25 11:23:42 am	Comment response to "Please keep it as is- green space and no development"	NSW councils have made planning mistakes by over-hardscaping quiet green spaces, turning peaceful reserves into busy recreation zones. These changes have brought more traffic, louder playgrounds, and crowds, disrupting the calm that locals once cherished. Noise pollution, parking stress, and loss of privacy now affect formerly tranquil communities. Applying urban style upgrades without proper consultation has overlooked the needs of med -density suburbs. Not all green space needs activation; councils should preserve passive areas and rethink one-size-fits-all planning.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say

Oct 28 25 11:17:53 am	Comment response to "Keep it green & within a long term budget"	Spoonbill Reserve is a rare pocket of open green space in our quiet neighborhood. Its a peaceful refuge for both wildlife and residents. Adding infrastructure like a skate park would disrupt the natural habitat, increase noise, and change the character of the reserve. Native birds and animals rely on undisturbed areas, and residents value the calm for walking, reflection, and connection to nature. Recreational facilities like skate parks already exist in Lennox Head and Ballina, Our rates are maintaining these already. Replicating them here would be redundant and strain council budgets with ongoing maintenance. Instead, preserving Spoonbill's natural beauty with minimal enhancements , like native shade trees and informal paths, keeps costs low and protects what makes the reserve special, peaceful open green space. You can't have both: once hardscaping begins, these types of spaces are lost.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 29 25 08:25:44 am	Comment response to "Minor improvements such as landscaping, casual sporting facilities would be good. Nothing major."	2 Hectares isn't big for green space. While casual sporting facilities may seem minor, they often trigger a shift in how a space is used and valued. Once hardscaping begins, more structures tend to follow and the open, green corridor becomes a managed, recreational zone. That changes the culture of the space. It's no longer a quiet, natural retreat but a built environment with defined uses and rising noise. The community already fought to protect this area from encroachment. There's plenty of room at the front of Aureus, with existing play areas and concrete paths. Why push development into one of the few peaceful corners of the estate? Replanting and landscaping are welcome, but structured recreation belongs elsewhere. Once the reserve is compromised, it rarely returns to what it was. Let's not lose the cultural and environmental value of this space piece by piece.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 29 25 09:24:23 am	Comment response to "Please plant with native trees and grasses and consult with Ballina LOCAL Aboriginal Land Council with interpretive signage"	Great idea! The Royal Spoonbill, which the Reserve is named after is a living emblem of Aboriginal cultural tradition. Birds like the Spoonbill are revered as messengers and custodians of Country, their presence a powerful reminder of the deep spiritual and ecological interconnectedness of all life. Protecting Spoonbill Reserve is an act of recognition to this. Safeguarding the spoonbills' nesting grounds, preserving native vegetation, and maintaining the reserve's open, unspoiled character with signage is a great idea.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 28 25 07:20:46 pm	Comment response to "Birds like spoonbills in the landscape are a reminder of the deep spiritual connection Aboriginal and all people have with the natural world"	Children spend their days in hardscaped schools surrounded by concrete and structured recreation. A nearby green space—landscaped to attract wildlife like spoonbills, provide shade, and offer walking trails—creates a golden opportunity for learning beyond the classroom. Spoonbills in the landscape remind us of the deep spiritual connection Aboriginal and all people share with the natural world. With three levels of schooling within walking distance, this space becomes a living laboratory for science, a canvas for art, and a quiet refuge for writing and reflection. It encourages environmental stewardship and connects students to the culture and ecology of their community. In a world where nature is increasingly distant, this space offers hands-on experiences that foster curiosity, creativity, and care. What better legacy than a place where children learn not just from books, but from the land itself.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 28 25 07:37:31 pm	Comment response to "Kids and Fitness"	Why replace an untouched wildlife corridor with more concrete and noise? This reserve is a vital passage for spoonbills, pollinators, and native species that rely on peace and thriving vegetation. Installing gym equipment here fragments habitat, reduces flowering plants, and disrupts biodiversity. These stations often sit unused yet cost money and take up valuable green space. There's already a playground and hardscaping at Aureus—why not place the adult gym equipment there? Children don't need expensive gear to thrive. Nature play builds creativity, resilience, and a lifelong bond with the environment. Open space supports pollination, wildlife movement, and peaceful recreation. This corridor is a living legacy. By protecting it, we give future generations a place to explore, imagine, and connect with nature. Let's see the value in what we already have—and keep this special place wild, open, and alive.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say

Oct 29 25 08:41:29 am	Comment response to "Leave as open space for kids"	Great comment - Everyone needs space to play barefoot. Councils across Australia are beginning to recognise that over-hardscaping Community Reserves are costly and unsustainable. Maintaining natural spaces with native planting is far more cost-effective for Ballina Shire Council. These areas require minimal infrastructure, lower maintenance (weed control), and no expensive asset renewals. A clever planting schedule suited to the local environment will reduce water use and upkeep as well. Short-term, that saves us money, the ratepayer! Long-term, it preserves the open green reserve for future generations.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 29 25 06:42:16 pm	Comment response to "Leave as open space for kids"	Well said Shelly & E, maintain the natural space for everyone to enjoy.	0	0	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 29 25 09:34:44 am	Comment response to "A community multi-use ball courts for pickleball / basketball fronting Redford Drive & opposite XCC catering for all ages in this area."	Sporting fields are ideal for public basketball and pickleball courts. They're zoned for active use, offer parking, lighting, and toilets, and are built to handle crowds. Green reserves in quiet suburbs lack infrastructure and face noise complaints. Upkeep costs for public courts average \$2,000-\$5,000 annually, sporting fields already absorb maintenance budgets. Risks like vandalism, loitering, and traffic congestion are lower when courts are placed in monitored, purpose-built areas. Strategic placement in sporting precincts ensures safer play, better access, and stronger community engagement—without disrupting residential peace.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 29 25 06:39:22 pm	Comment response to "A community multi-use ball courts for pickleball / basketball fronting Redford Drive & opposite XCC catering for all ages in this area."	Courts placed in established sporting precincts are safer, easier to manage, and better for community use—without impacting residential streets. They're already zoned for active recreation, with parking, lighting and toilets. In contrast, quiet neighbourhood reserves which lack infrastructure and are more prone to noise and amenity complaints are best left as green space which also caters for the wider community.	0	0	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 29 25 08:00:05 pm	Comment response to "Some nice native gardens, pathways connecting Aureus to Xavier and some exercise equipment would be great! Think chin up and dip bars etc"	Let's protect what little green we have left by keeping it green. A reserve should feel like nature, not a park with a footpath. Put the chin up bar in Aureus Park where hardscaping has already been done.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Oct 31 25 02:05:06 pm	Comment response to "No development - keep this rare natural space green!"	Well said Skye. I am amazed that people would suggest duplicating the BBQ area and consider hardscaping the beautiful nature reserve when those facilities are available in Aureus. Let's hope the views of the local residents are considered.	0	0	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Oct 31 25 01:48:51 pm	Comment response to "Grass and native shade trees to attract bird life, simple and passive"	Fabulous suggestion, we don't need hardscaping. Protect the green space and nature and keep the hardscaping in Aureus Park.	0	0	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Nov 02 25 06:44:22 am	Comment response to "Leave it as a green nature reserve - we do not need another concrete development!!"	Fabulous suggestion, we don't need hardscaping. Protect the green space and nature and keep the hardscaping in Aureus Park.	0	0	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer

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Nov 03 25 08:12:48 am	Comment response to "Leave it as a green nature reserve - we do not need another concrete development!!"	Your suggestion rings true for most people in Skennars Head. Sometimes the most peaceful places are the ones left untouched. Just grass, trees, nature and space for everyone." Open untouched green reserves are rare now, because of the insatiable need humans have to develop every blade of grass, pave footpaths, erect fences just to turn it into something "useful." But when we leave nature alone, it becomes a peaceful place for everyone, not just designed for one group, not owned, just there for all of us to share.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Nov 03 25 08:01:23 am	Comment response to "Maintain the reserve as a reserve, as declared in 1995."	Well said Steve. Spoonbill Reserve is a vital sanctuary and community legacy. Its protection is not negotiable. If newcomers seek hardscapes, cafes, or skate parks, town centre in Ballina or Lennox Head offer that sort of living. This space was fought for, promised, and must remain open, natural, and free for wildlife and families alike. Any enhancement should be for more bird attracting trees and maintaining this green corridor.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Nov 04 25 06:58:02 am	Comment response to "Keep it green, a possible offlead dog area or a half court for kids to play but mostly keep it as a green space with native planting"	Our central green reserve is one of the last quiet, open spaces in the neighborhood. It was never meant to be a dog park. Off-leash dogs disturb nesting birds, damage native plants, and make the area less safe and welcoming for families, children, and those uncomfortable around dogs. Adding an off-leash zone here would also attract people from outside the area, increasing noise, traffic, and parking issues for nearby residents. It risks turning a peaceful retreat into a busy hotspot. There's already a dog park in Ballina just six minutes away. And if dog owners truly need something closer, Aureus Park which is already overdeveloped and heavily altered, could accommodate a fenced dog area and half court without sacrificing what little natural space we have left. Let's protect the reserve's original purpose: a quiet, inclusive space for everyone in the neighborhood.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Nov 04 25 02:48:04 pm	Comment response to "Keep some green space but add something for older kids like a half court basketball/pickleball court, courts or outdoor table tennis"	Spoonbill Reserve is a wildlife corridor. Its only 2 hectares. It deserves protection, not development Long-term residents have seen the promises of "enhancement," only to leave behind overbuilt spaces that no longer reflect the natural and unspoiled environment of our coastal community. Spoonbill Reserve is one of the last truly open green spaces in our suburb and it must remain that way. Adding basketball courts, pickleball courts, or other hardscaped features may sound appealing to a few, but it would permanently damage the quiet, nature of this reserve. Spoonbill was preserved as a sanctuary for wildlife, for peaceful walks, for children to explore freely, and for residents to enjoy the simplicity of just being outside in an open space. Once concrete goes down, that character is lost forever, it never reverts. Some people have an insatiable need to develop every blade of grass in the name of recreation. That's not progress. We're not lacking in active recreation options. Aureus Park, just down the road, is already packed with hardscaping and facilities. Ballina and Lennox Head offer even more, though many locals feel those towns have been overdeveloped to the point of losing their soul. We should protect what makes this part of Skennars Head different, not follow the same path. Open green space is inclusive. It doesn't require equipment, noise, or competition. It welcomes everyone young and old. The community as a whole would not appreciate turning this quiet space into something that belongs in town where there is infrastructure to support it and all the problems that come with these spaces. This is a quiet residential community. Spoonbill Reserve is valuable precisely because it's untouched. In a world where natural space is vanishing, this reserve is a rare gift. Let's not chip away at it. Let's protect it for ourselves, for future generations, and for the character of our community	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say

7.3 Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan

Nov 09 25 02:20:16 pm	Comment response to "Basketball half court, outdoor ping pong table, mini skate 2ft-3ft halfpipe"	Spoonbill Reserve at Skennars Head is valued, peaceful, green sanctuary. Residents have fought hard to preserve it as open space and will continue to do so to preserve it for now and for future generations. Hardscaping as you have suggested is environmentally unsustainable. Sports courts and skate ramps bring noise, traffic and draw crowds from outside the local area into a quiet residential neighborhood. This opens the potential to bring unwanted issues and increased disturbances. If you are seeking structured facilities, Ballina and Lennox Head offer these amenities in well-managed and appropriate settings. The beauty of Spoonbill Reserve lies in its simplicity. This open reserve is rare in already over developed neighborhoods. Any enhancement should strengthen the reserve's role as an environmental sound corridor, supporting birdlife and native animals. Planting more native trees, adding shade, and creating quiet seating areas would enrich the habitat while preserving tranquility now and for future generations.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say
Nov 11 25 10:20:21 pm	Comment response to "Basketball half court, outdoor ping pong table, mini skate 2ft-3ft halfpipe"	Spoonbill Reserve is a rare, tranquil green sanctuary that residents are committed to protecting. Sports courts or ramps would disrupt its peace and draw crowds to a quiet neighbourhood. Any improvements should support its environmental value—like native plantings and gentle seating areas—to preserve habitat and calm for the future.	0	0	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Nov 11 25 10:16:53 pm	Comment response to "Why is BSC advertising in the Tweed Coast Times to have your say ?"	Great question. The current council consultation process doesn't separate local community input from visitor feedback, which means we can't identify local preferences.	0	0	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Nov 16 25 08:22:32 pm	Comment response to "Too much green space lost."	Jase, well said. It is a shame that already limited animal habitats might be lost because the Council have a desire to hardscape green reserves. I hope more like-minded people have their say to protect the reserve.	0	0	Protect green space	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I work in Ballina Shire, I am a Ballina Shire ratepayer
Nov 17 25 07:05:47 am	Comment response to "Too much green space lost."	Well said Jase, the community does not want to lose this space! Spoonbill Reserve holds a special place in our community as a cherished natural sanctuary. Proposals to enhance the reserve have been met with strong opposition, not only because they go against the community's wishes, but also due to concerns about the financial implications of such projects. The reserve is already fulfilling its intended role as a refuge for wildlife and a place of tranquility for residents. Our community values the natural state of the reserve and seeks its preservation, rather than further development or hardscaping that would alter its character.	0	0	shelly1	Lennox Head / Skennars Head	I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say

7.3 Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan

<p>Nov 17 25 07:52:13 am</p>	<p>Comment response to "Pathway linking Reef St to Xavier and a basketball half court to complement what we have at Aureus Park"</p>	<p>More concrete, more recreational facilities are not complimentary at all. In Aureus, extensive areas of medium-density housing have been developed in a manner reminiscent of the crowded "projects" constructed in the United Kingdom decades ago. The central focus of these developments appears to be maximizing the number of dwellings, often at the expense of liveability and the preservation of natural environments. As a result, families who purchased homes in Aureus found themselves with large residences situated on small lots, surrounded by rows of medium-density units. This design has left many residents with only limited private outdoor areas, reducing opportunities for recreation and relaxation within their own properties. In response to the limited private green space, Aureus Park was established as a landscaped and curated area featuring playgrounds and seating. While this park provides some recreational amenities for the community, it does not offer the same benefits as authentic green space. The constructed nature of Aureus Park means it lacks the ecological value and sense of natural connection that genuine open areas provide. Landscaping Spoonbill Reserve would mirror the errors already made in Aureus, where natural land was sacrificed to compensate for inadequate planning decisions. Such an approach not only undermines the value of green space but also imposes an unjust financial burden on ratepayers. It is important to recognize that only 40–45% of Ballina Shire residents are ratepayers, while the majority of residents rent and do not contribute directly to local rates. Despite this, all residents benefit from infrastructure that is primarily funded by ratepayers.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>shelly1</p>	<p>Lennox Head / Skennars Head</p>	<p>I live in Ballina Shire, I prefer not to say</p>
<p>Forcing ratepayers to subsidise projects they neither requested nor support is inequitable, especially in light of the Council's own acknowledgment of existing financial difficulties. Moving forward with landscaping initiatives under these circumstances would be both a repetition of past planning mistakes and an unfair distribution of costs within the community. Spoonbill Reserve stands as a testament to the significance of open green spaces within a community. These areas create opportunities for all residents, families, and local wildlife to coexist and enjoy the benefits of nature. Unlike landscaped or artificially constructed environments, genuine green spaces foster a sense of connection and harmony, offering a shared resource that is accessible to everyone. However, the process of landscaping threatens to disrupt this delicate balance. Once natural land is replaced with concrete structures—beginning with the addition of a footpath, followed by the installation of a half court, and eventually leading to complete coverage—the original character and ecological value of the reserve are irreversibly lost. This progression not only diminishes the utility of the space for both people and wildlife but also undermines the essential role that authentic green spaces play in the well-being of the community.</p>							

25/74/98

Sheryn Da-Re

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 October 2025 7:13 PM
To: Strategic
Subject: Fwd: Submission to Ballina Shire Council - Spoonbill Reserve

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] Phillips
Subject: Submission to Ballina Shire Council - Spoonbill Reserve
Date: 22 October 2025 at 19:10:08 AEDT
To: strategic@ballina.nsw.gov
Cc: [REDACTED] Phillips, Simon Chate

Submission to Ballina Shire Council – Spoonbill Reserve

Dear Ballina Shire Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the future of Spoonbill Reserve. As a local resident and regular user of this important green space, I'd like to share my support for maintaining the Reserve as a flexible, natural, and community-oriented area.

1. Remove Tree Stumps and Logs for Safety and Usability

I respectfully request the removal of tree stumps and logs currently located beneath the foliage in the Reserve. These present a safety hazard and limit the usability of the space, particularly for children, older residents, and those walking through the area.

2. Retain the Reserve as an Unstructured, Creative Community Space

Spoonbill Reserve is valued for its open, adaptable nature. It is regularly used for informal recreation such as dog walking, children's play, casual cricket and football games, bicycle riding, and even golf practice. This kind of unstructured use is essential for a healthy, vibrant community and should be preserved.

3. Include a Designated Off-Lead Dog Area

An area set aside for safe, off-leash dog training and play would be a valuable addition and enhance the Reserve's role as a social and recreational hub for local dog owners and their pets.

4. Support for Environmental and Wildlife Values

I would like to see a portion of the Reserve thoughtfully landscaped to include shaded

areas, seating, and habitat-supporting plantings. This would offer respite for residents while also supporting the endangered spoonbill and other local wildlife. Preservation and enhancement of biodiversity should be a key goal.

5. Prioritise Safety and Accessibility

The Reserve serves as a thoroughfare for school children walking to and from local schools. Maintaining open sight lines and a sense of safety throughout the space is critical. Any planning or landscaping should consider passive surveillance and clear visibility.

6. Avoid Structured Sporting Facilities and Lighting

I strongly oppose the installation of structured sports courts (e.g. tennis, cricket nets, basketball), night lighting, or any infrastructure that encourages night-time use. These would negatively impact the peaceful nature of the Reserve and risk displacing current community uses. Additionally, lighting would disrupt local fauna and the natural character of the area.

7. Preserve Natural Airflow and Microclimate

Spoonbill Reserve contributes to the natural cooling and airflow that benefits surrounding homes, particularly in the Aureus estate. Any development should avoid obstructing breezes or altering the local microclimate, which is especially important in the hotter months.

In summary, I support a low-impact, community-focused approach that protects the natural character of Spoonbill Reserve, enhances biodiversity, and respects the way it is already well-used and loved by residents.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,

[Redacted] Phillips

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

25175976.

Sheryn Da-Re

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2025 7:09 AM
To: Strategic
Subject: Spoonbill Reserve

Leave Spoonbill Reserve as it is. The area needs open space that is not taken up with sports fields (which are close by anyway), car parks (which should be provided by those who generate the need for car parks), or built structures (already on path way behind Xavier College).

Leave it as an attractive open space area.

Rob S

PS Correct the email address on your web site

25/76081

Sheryn Da-Re

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2025 7:33 AM
To: Ballina Shire Council
Subject: Re: Spoonbill Reserve Skennars Head

I have lived at Headland since it was first developed and released. I am not in favour of developing the Reserve, other than planting and maintaining spoonbill nesting trees. The rest should be left undeveloped as an open green space. The spoonbills will use it if its suitable for their nesting. There is another spoonbill site on the reserve at Adele Street, quite close to houses, they tolerate people pressure when they have mature trees. Development with more paths/ street furniture/ playgrounds are not required here. Maintain it properly in its designated role, as it was planned and has been since.

[REDACTED] Gover
[REDACTED]

25/76 088 .

Sheryn Da-Re

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2025 11:11 AM
To: Ballina Shire Council
Subject: Spoonbill Reserve - SKENNARS HEAD NSW

Hi,

Please do leave a large open area for impromptu touch footy, picnics or such should the locals want to use this space. A walkway on one side with lots of shrubs for birds would also be nice

I was of the thought that this area is also an evacuation safety area for the surrounding schools & residential area

OPEN SPACE IS GOOD

Thank you,

25/75835

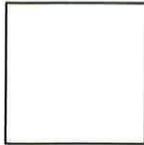
Robyn Hargrave

Convenor

Lennox Head Heritage Committee



Meets the second last Tuesday of the month



On Tue, 21 Oct 2025, 11:59 am Lennox Head Heritage Committee,
 wrote:

Sheryn

Terrific, many thank yous. Yes, the original number of bricks which were cleaned were quoted as around 5,000 so who knows?

I am just so pleased they have been retained as our estimates are they were likely made in the 1830s and probably in Sydney as they match exactly those at the Clifton Gardens Hotel in Mosman. Obviously not convict and no frog to positively identify them. If only they could talk!

Certainly I plan to attend one or both of the drop in sessions (weather dependent on Tuesday) and will share the information

with [REDACTED] Sharpe and husband Alan. They may arrange for others of the family to come down from Brisbane as well.

And just as an aside, I am also pleased there are still some folk at BSC and whom I know from past exercises. Seems to be a bit of a turnover of late.

Regards

Robyn

On Tue, Oct 21, 2025 at 8:09 AM Sheryn Da-Re [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Robyn,

Thank you for making contact. You will be pleased to know that I have found 4 (maybe 5) palettes of red/orange sandstock bricks which the depot will be very pleased to move to a new home at Spoonbill Reserve. I doubt that there would be 5000 though. I estimate perhaps 3000-4000, but won't know for sure until I get in there and pull the palettes apart. I look forward to incorporating these somewhere in the site. They are very beautiful bricks.

I hope you can attend our drop in sessions and complete the online 'ideas' on the project 'Your Say' page.

Sheryn

Sheryn Da-Re
Landscape Architect



Ballina Shire Council acknowledges that we are here on the land of the Bundjalung people. The Bundjalung are the traditional owners of this land and are part of the oldest surviving continuous culture in the world.

ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com.au
p: 02 6681 0588 | m: 0439 738 564



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From: Strategic <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 7:47 AM
To: Sheryn Da-Re <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Spoonbill reserve - community ~ letter to Lennox Head Heritage Committee inviting participation

From: Lennox Head Heritage Committee <lennoxheadheritage@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 5:45 PM
To: Strategic <Strategic@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Spoonbill reserve - community ~ letter to Lennox Head Heritage Committee inviting participation

Planning and Environment

Thank you for the attachment. We have been waiting for this announcement for some time so are pleased to see it on the table.

LH Heritage Committee interest in the site relates to the original Sharpe family who built the house, *The Pines* there and were the founders of the Prospect Sugar Mill on North Creek back in the 1860s or thereabouts.

Around 5,000 of the sandstock bricks from the sugar mill were retained by Council at the works depot, now vacated, on the canal adjacent to the bridge on Tamarind Drive crossing the canal (Canal Road Bridge?). I understand the bricks were relocated to a new site.

Members of the Sharpe family (and the Heritage Committee) have expressed interest in having some of the bricks put to use on Spoonbill Park as an acknowledgement of the original Sharpe family.

My question is: does Council still have custody of the bricks?

I look forward to your (positive) response.

Regards

Robyn

25/809 57

Sheryn Da-Re

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 November 2025 8:38 PM
To: Strategic
Subject: Spoonbill Reserve

ATTN: Ballina Shire Council
RE: Proposed Development of Spoonbill Reserve

As a resident that adjoins the reserve, I would prefer the current open space to remain in its' current state – a nature reserve. Spoonbill Reserve serves as a vital open space for birds and wildlife, especially with the significantly reduced natural area due to the Aureus Development. The current open space is also highly valued as an informal space for residents to walk their dogs and for children and parents to play.

The current Aureus Park, in addition to the park adjoining Xavier Catholic College, is underutilised by the current residents of Skennars Head. Without demand for such facilities, it would be unreasonable to make provision for further development.

Furthermore, with established Aureus Park, I believe that further additions (such as sporting courts) would be best placed in immediately surrounding Aureus Park so that parents could supervise children in one space, instead of amenities for different age groups being separated by such a distance.

A further concern as an adjoining resident to the Reserve is the noise that would result from the establishment of sporting and recreational facilities. If such projects were to be brought to fruition the constant noise over a long-term period would become distressing for neighbouring residents. Instead, the introduction of sporting courts and associated facilities constructed immediately surrounding the current Aureus Park would result in no additional noise impact to residents, as the current road noise would be of greater volume.

The effort of increasing usage of Spoonbill Reserve through its' development may seem to be positive at face-value, it will ultimately incur negative impacts for residents. In recent times of population increase, we have experienced abuse from children who have entered private property areas and threatened to damage property, including throwing objects and graffiti. As a matter of causation, residents could expect an increase of unruly and unwanted behaviour which would be detrimental to our current way of life.

Aside from these impacts, the proposed development will unfavourably impact the natural drainage system of the reserve. In the event of extreme weather events, of which have occurred in previous years, would the council take responsibility for, or provide definite assurance that any proposed development would not result in increased risk of flooding or drainage issues for residents?

The construction of such facilities will incur significant cost for the Ballina Shire Council. We have recently been notified of Council's desire to increase rates over the coming years, citing increased expenditure and costs. In a time of increased costs and an underperforming budget it would seem unreasonable to allocate expenditure to projects that are not essential or of high importance. Not only would development of sporting facilities and other recreational amenities incur substantial upfront costs, but ongoing maintenance would also be higher than compared with the current costs of maintaining

7.3 Spoonbill Reserve - Draft Master Plan

the reserve. If the Council wishes to enhance the reserve for resident usability and minimise costs when compared to construction, it would be recommended to undertake mowing at more regular intervals, especially following periods conducive to high grass growth.

Finally, it is of our understanding that the Council has conducted community feedback in multiple locations and advertisement in various media forms. As adjoining residents, we are concerned that the feedback received will not be correctly weighted to the proximity of the Reserve in which that respondent is located. We believe that in order to correctly assess the feedback of residents, Council must consider the location of respondent in the assessment of feedback. Responses received from wider locations may not understand the local impacts that such development will cause.

Regards,



25/80124.

Sheryn Da-Re

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 November 2025 10:43 AM
To: Strategic
Subject: Submission: Spoonbill Reserve Master Planning

To the Ballina Shire Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the future of Spoonbill Reserve.

Spoonbill Reserve is one of several valued green areas in Skennars Head, but it plays a unique role as a quiet, open sanctuary rather than an activity-based park. At present it includes a Norfolk pine, a Morton Bay fig, a few smaller trees, and broad grassed areas. Opposite the reserve is Xavier Catholic College, which is brightly lit at night, creating substantial light spill that affects nearby homes and the bird life currently roosting in the mature trees.

The open grass areas support a surprising amount of wildlife. Spoonbills, herons, ibis, miners, magpies, pee wees, plovers, currawongs, and rosellas regularly forage there. The space functions as an important natural corridor for birds and other species moving through the area.

What we would like to see in the master plan

- **More mature, majestic trees** planted throughout the reserve to support night-time roosting, provide shade, soften school lighting, and elevate the overall environmental quality of the space.
- **A strong focus on environmental enhancement**, allowing the reserve to continue supporting the diverse bird life and natural activity already present.
- **Preserving the reserve as a peaceful, nature-centred sanctuary**, rather than shifting it towards high-use recreation. We do *not* support basketball courts, skate parks, playgrounds, or other built structures that attract noise, gatherings, or late-night activity. These facilities are already available in nearby recreation zones.
- **Maintaining the natural feel of the reserve**, providing residents with a quiet place to walk, relax, and enjoy open space while protecting wildlife habitat.

Spoonbill Reserve has the potential to become an exceptional natural asset if its future is guided by habitat protection, tree planting, and environmental health rather than the introduction of concrete structures. Building on its strengths as a calm and ecological green space will benefit residents, wildlife, and the broader Skennars Head community for decades to come.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



Pat Morton Lookout Precinct, Lennox Head
SHARED PATHWAY INTEGRATION CONCEPTUAL IDEAS

10 January 2019

www.designteamink.com

Sheryn Da-Re (AILA Registered Landscape Architect)

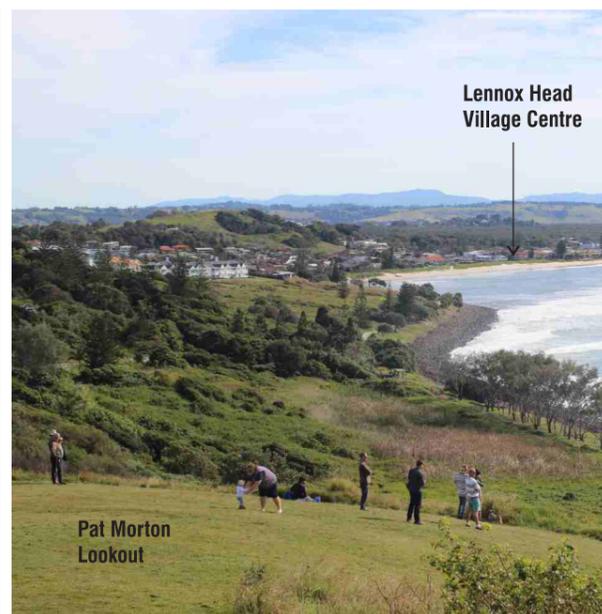
PO Box 1473 Ballina NSW 2478 | M 0428 259 286 | E sheryn@designteamink.com | ABN 474 05963844

This document presents CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS ONLY.



Mapping sourced from Ballina Shire Council Online Intra-Maps

SITE LOCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF LENNOX HEAD AND THE COAST



BACKGROUND

Ballina Shire Council has obtained approvals and commenced implementation of a series of pathways which connect the township of Ballina to the village of Lennox Head. The preferred pathway alignments come out of an extensive stakeholder and community engagement process undertaken over many years.

In summary the pathway system consists primarily of two routes:

- a “coastal walk”, which follows the coastline on the eastern side of The Coast Road and connects users to beaches, recreation nodes, access points and lookouts.
- a shared pathway, which includes coastal and urban pathway segments and is intended to support commuting and access to residential areas, schools and sports facilities.

At Pat Morton Lookout, which is a regionally significant scenic, cultural and geomorphological landmark as well as a popular recreational and tourist destination, the shared pathway converges with the coastal recreation pathway.

This document relates to that part of the shared pathway that traverses the lower Pat Morton Lookout Precinct and connects from the bushland maintenance track south east of the carpark (near The Coast Road), across the open space to the existing ramped boardwalk in the north -western corner which continues to the village centre.

SCOPE

This document identifies the landscape features, constraints and issues relevant to master planning this area and subsequently explores the opportunities, translating these into concept design options for the future of the precinct.

The goal of the master planning process is to develop design options for the connection of the shared pathway across the recreational open space at Pat Morton Lookout which can be used to engage the community with a view to determining a preferred final alignment and treatment for construction. The design options will consider this alignment as part of an integrated design for the lower part of Pat Morton Lookout Precinct (The Study Area).

THE PRECINCT

The study area is located at Pat Morton Lookout which is part of Lennox Headland, the largest headland in Ballina Shire. Lennox Headland is a significant regional and local landmark which is part of a dramatic and distinctive cliff system and rock platform system which stretch south to Sharpes Beach.

Lennox Headland is documented (Steele 1984) as a natural Aboriginal mythological site. The Headland itself has been subject to land clearing in the past but recent revegetation activities have seen the regeneration of a variety of vegetation communities.

Pat Morton Lookout is located adjacent to The Coast Road, west of the crest of the headland at between 34 and 44m AHD. This elevated position with the abrupt cliff faces to the north offers extensive scenic vistas to the north and west. The lookout is a popular location for tourists as well as locals and supports recreational activities such as whale watching, access to a National Surfing Reserve, walking, hang-gliding, paragliding, bike riding, exercising, picnicking and the occasional small function (wedding, birthday party and the like). The headland and lookout is highly valued by the local community.



Mapping sourced from Ballina Shire Council Online Intra-Maps

THE STUDY AREA - PAT MORTON LOOKOUT PRECINCT

www.designteamink.com 10 January 2019

Shared Pathway - Pat Morton Lookout Precinct
BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

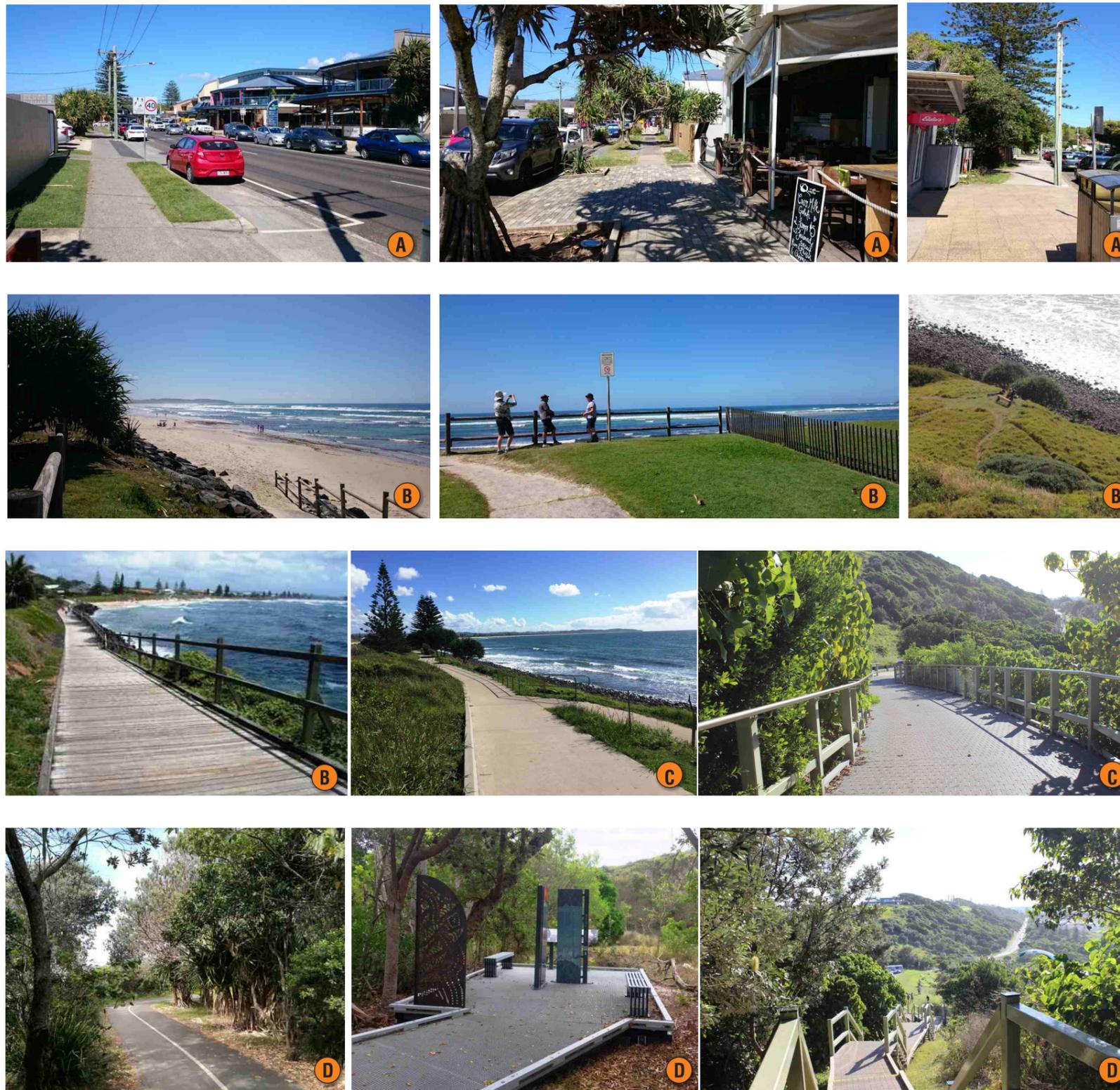
Sheet 2 of 17

A Lennox Head Village
 Ballina Shire Council is presently undergoing a master planning process for the upgrading of the village centre. This will include consideration of new pavement materials and furniture. The character of the village centre is changing but originates from a low-key, laid back, beach side vibe based upon coastal recreation and in particular surfing. An exquisite beach, the lake, dramatic headland and escarpment, coastal heath and wetlands underpin this character.

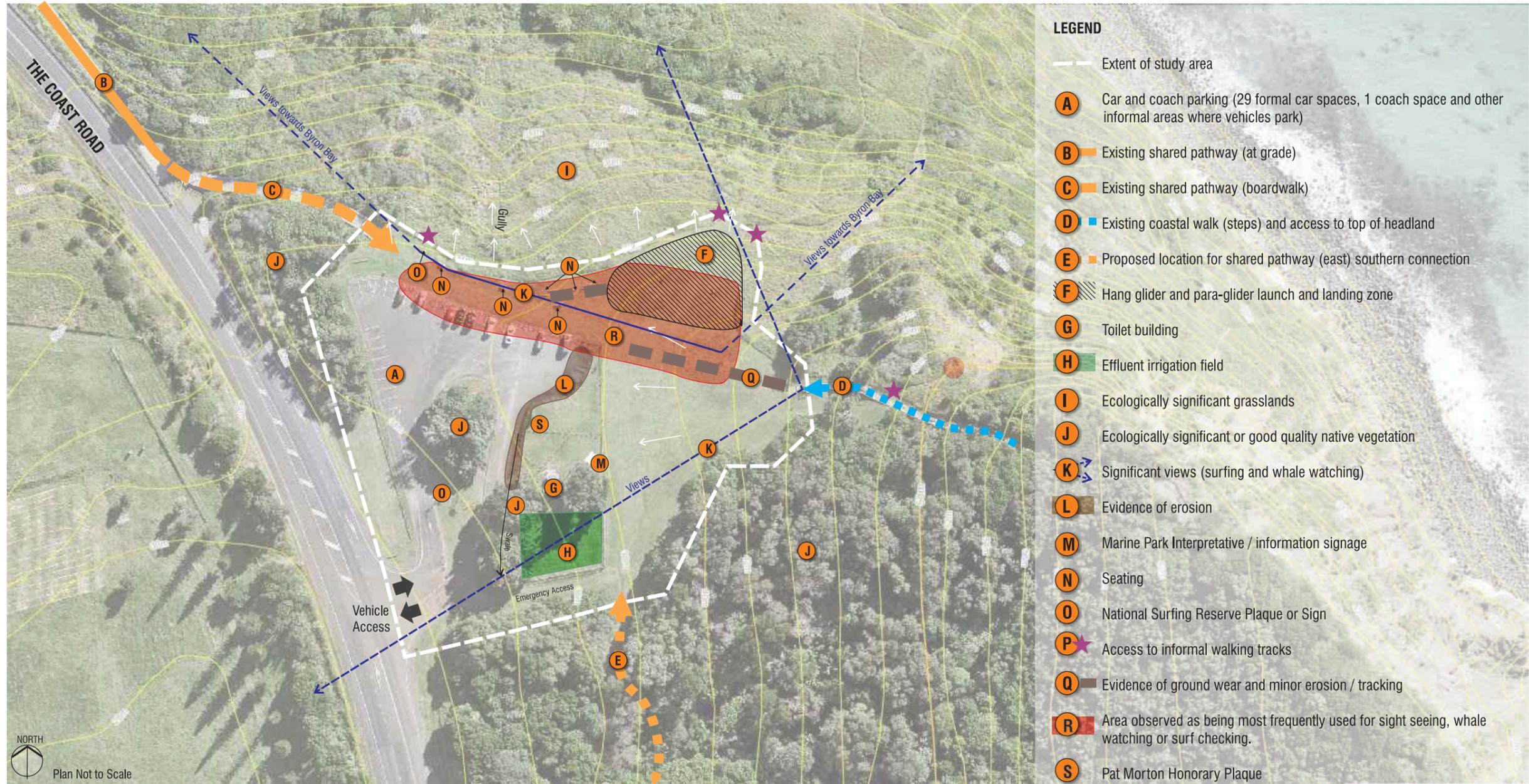
B Lennox Head Coastal Pathways
 Pathways within the coastal reserve areas of Lennox Head vary in size and treatment. They are most commonly plain concrete of variable width. Pathways connecting Lennox Head Village Centre to Pat Morton Lookout consist of plain concrete (variable width), a timber boardwalk structure across the rock revetment near the boat channel (known locally as the Brian Smith Boardwalk), informal gravel tracks which connect various parts of the main pathway to key surf access points and informal 'single track' trails within vegetated slopes. The alignment is generally organic in formation based upon the location of existing vegetation and key environmental or scenic elements. Other than the newly built shared pathway from the village centre, other pathways are generally low-key in character.

C Completed parts of the Shared Pathway
 The completed part of the shared pathway connecting Pat Morton Lookout to Lennox Head Village consists of a wide concrete formation at the interface of the lower headland slopes and the coastal rock revetment. Near the lookout, where the land form becomes steeper, this changes to a bulky boardwalk structure made from composite fibre materials with metal handrail. Elsewhere in the shire the shared pathway is primarily a 2.5m wide (or wider) plain concrete formation or asphalt which is, in most areas, separated from the road pavement by a grass or planted verge.

D Completed parts of the Coastal Walk and Coastal Recreation Path
 The coastal walk meanders along the coastline through vegetated and open areas connecting people to beaches and recreation areas. The coastal walk and recreation pathway surface is variable with sections constructed from asphalt (generally through bushland areas), concrete (generally at the urban fringe) and elevated, light weight composite fibre mesh (generally through sensitive vegetated areas). The journey includes a cultural heritage trail with interpretative signage and features.



Shared Pathway - Pat Morton Lookout Precinct
 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT AND CHARACTER



Mapping sourced from Ballina Shire Council Online Intra-Maps
 PAT MORTON LOOKOUT PRECINCT: SITE FEATURES

Left: Lennox Headland and Pat Morton Lookout viewed from Ross Park in Lennox Head Village Centre

Far Left: Pat Morton Lookout viewed on the approach from The Coast Road



Shared Pathway - Pat Morton Lookout Precinct
SITE FEATURES AND CHARACTER



LOCATION REFERENCE

Access and Circulation

There are three main points of access to the site for pedestrians and cyclists. They include:

- via the boardwalk at the north-western corner which connects to Lennox Head village
- via the steps to the higher parts of the headland which connects to the coastal walk, and-
- via the gravel maintenance track which provides a bush-walk style experience through regenerating areas of the headland to the south.

At present the pathways do not connect across the grassy open space around the carpark. There is evidence of grass wear in places which are popular walking routes.

There are also a number of small narrow single-track trails that provide informal access from the lookout to a lower coastal track along the top of the beach rocks. These trails are popular with surfers, walkers and bike riders.

Motorised Vehicles and Buses

The main vehicle access is from The Coast Road. Presently the carpark provides 29 formal spaces for cars and 1 space for bus parking. The orientation of the carpark allows drivers to park overlooking the ocean without leaving the vehicle. A circular one-way vehicle movement minimises conflict between vehicles entering and exiting the site. A cluster of native trees is located central to the carparking area and along the western edge. It is common to see people sitting within the central island under these trees.

The carpark is presently has an aged and informal appearance with evidence of erosion of soils and bitumen at the pavement interface. The Environmental Assessment (NSW Public Works) identifies that once the shared pathway is operating, it is not anticipated that any additional parking would be required as users would predominantly be local residents and tourists starting or ending their journeys at private properties or local accommodation.

The carpark is well used and is often congested, especially when the surf swell is large and in holiday seasons. The widened area on the eastern side of the carpark is used by people with hang gliders and para-gliders when it is windy as it is in close proximity to the landing and launching area. It is also a popular illegal overnight camping place although this is checked by rangers.



Above: Existing boardwalk component of the shared pathway that connects the Pat Morton Lookout Precinct to Lennox Head Village Centre.



Above: Existing boardwalk component of the shared pathway that connects the Pat Morton Lookout Precinct to Lennox Head Village Centre.



Above: Existing boardwalk construction



Above: Existing gravel track on the approximate alignment of the proposed shared pathway (east) where it connects to the Pat Morton Lookout Precinct at the southern end.



Above: Existing boardwalk which connects to the coastal walk

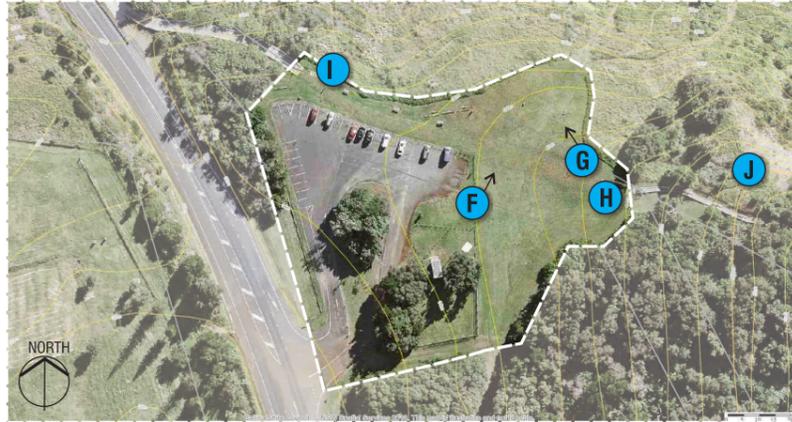


Above: Exit from the car parking area between existing native vegetation. Weathered pavement surface and eroded swale drain.



Above: Carparking facing the ocean.

Shared Pathway - Pat Morton Lookout Precinct
SITE FEATURES AND CHARACTER



LOCATION REFERENCE

Function

Pat Morton Lookout is a popular local and regionally significant place. It is a:

- Destination for people walking or exercising;
- Meeting place for locals and travellers;
- Tourist bus stopping location;
- The southern extent of the Marine Park;
- A place to check and access the surf;
- A place to watch whales during migration seasons;
- A place to hang glide or para-glide;
- A place to watch observe the view.

When the wind is suitable, the open grassy area is used for launching and landing hang-gliders and para-gliders. This is quite a unique and colourful spectacle which attracts many visitors.

The unique formation of the headland also creates a large right hand surfing break and the site is part of a National Surfing Reserve.



Above: Cars parked along the edge of the carpark to obtain access to the hang gliding area.



Above: The grassy hillside is a popular place to sit



Above: The large open space area supports many functions including passive observation, walking, hang gliding, para-gliding, surf checking and whale watching. When it is windy these areas can be busy with people watching the gliders, often from their launching and landing area.



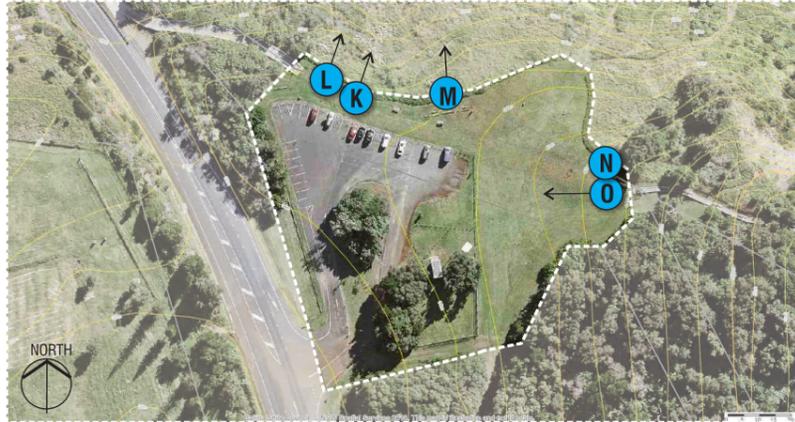
Above: Passive open space used for whale watching, sight seeing, watching the hang gliders and general relaxation. People use the seats as well as sit on the grassy hillside.



Above: People sit and watch the surfing

Shared Pathway - Pat Morton Lookout Precinct
SITE FEATURES AND CHARACTER

Sheet 6 of 17



LOCATION REFERENCE

Views and Scenic Qualities

The Lennox Headland is part of a system of interconnecting ridges and escarpments. The shape of the headland is visually distinctive making it a local landmark. It can be seen from many locations within the village and is a feature of the viewshed from the beach. The Pat Morton Lookout Precinct, located on Lennox Headland, can also be seen from the village centre, beaches and from The Coast Road and associated residential areas. When viewed from these locations, the appearance is predominantly natural in character. Pat Morton Lookout is in the direct line of sight for viewers travelling along The Coast Road from Lennox Head making it a focal point of the view and parts of it sensitive to visual changes in the landscape.

Pat Morton Lookout offers extensive panoramic views to the western escarpments and northwards towards Byron Bay. The Byron Lighthouse can be seen in the distance.

The headland's scenic qualities make it a regionally significant landscape feature and major tourist attraction.

The lookout is a vantage point for viewing the National Surfing Reserve, the Cape Byron Marine Park, the village centre, whales and other aquatic life and the spectacle of the gliders.



Above: View of Lennox Headland and Pat Morton Lookout from Ross Park in the Lennox Head Village Centre



Above: View northwards from Pat Morton Lookout. Byron Bay Lighthouse can be seen beyond Broken Head.



Above: National Surfing Reserve Plaque ('Share, Respect, Preserve')



Above: Views to the water

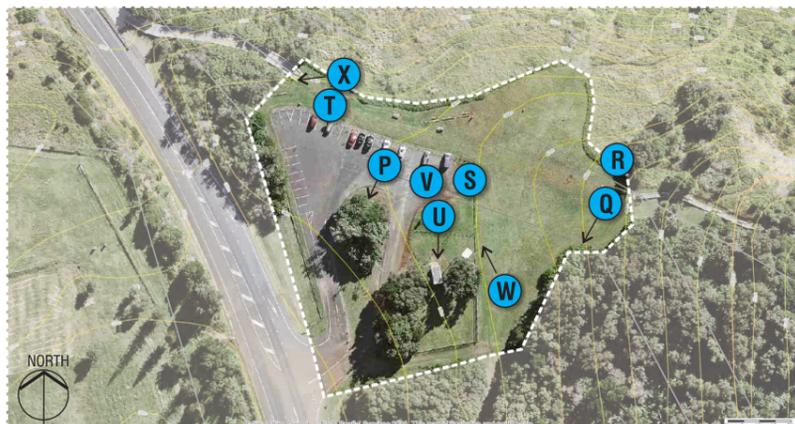


Above: Views of the para-gliders



Above: The panoramic views possible from various parts of Pat Morton Lookout

Shared Pathway - Pat Morton Lookout Precinct
SITE FEATURES AND CHARACTER



LOCATION REFERENCE

Vegetation

Historically the Headland has been cleared for cattle grazing. Some small pockets of remnant vegetation were retained, and since then extensive natural and assisted regeneration has occurred including on the north facing slopes of the headland and around Pat Morton Lookout. The local community is active in the regeneration of vegetation on the Headland.

There is a cluster of *Banksia integrifolia* (Coast banksia) and other mixed native species central to the car parking area. These provide shade and also break up the visual mass of pavement. The open grassy area surrounding the carpark is also flanked to the east and south by regenerating rainforest. The existing gravel maintenance track at the southern end of Pat Morton Lookout Precinct, where the shared pathway is proposed to be formalised, is surrounded by regenerating vegetation and creates an interesting visual contrast upon exiting the track into the open grassy area where the views northward become expansive.

Various ecological assessments note important grass species such as *Themeda australis* (Kangaroo grass), part of an endangered ecological community, and *Arthraxon hispidus* (Hairy joint grass), a vulnerable species, on the northern face of the Headland.

Drainage and Erosion

Much of the open grass area slopes east to west falling towards the carparking area. There is evidence of water and vehicles eroding the interface of the grass and carparking area. North of the central ridge the land falls away steeply towards the north. Drainage in this area passes through native grasslands and vegetated slopes with little evidence of erosion, other than on small narrow, low-key walking tracks.

Built Form

A toilet facility is provided near the carparking area. An effluent irrigation field is located south of the toilet building. The building is concrete in construction and does not reflect the character of the landscape or village. The building is not clearly identifiable as a toilet facility. Solar lighting exists near the toilet facility. Additional lighting was installed and subsequently removed due to potential impacts upon turtles in the marine park. There appears to be no consistent built form or colour theme for the site.

Furniture is informal with old round coppers logs being used as seating and bollards. Three custom designed timber seats was recently installed near the boardwalk access. In the past there has been significant wear and erosion around the base of seats. Many people sit on the grass.



Above: Copses of *Banksia integrifolia* and other native species are present within the car parking area and around the eastern and southern edges of the precinct.



Above: Regenerating vegetation around the perimeter of the open space area



Above: Grasslands on the northern slope



Above: Erosion and water tracking along the edge of the gravel and pavement



Above: New seating and other informal seating



Above: The toilet building which is not legible as a public toilet. The effluent field is behind.

Way Finding

The site contains way finding and advisory signage in Council's standard format. An interpretative sign under a shelter structure is located near the toilet facility. There is no obvious or co-ordinated way-finding signage to direct visitors to the upper lookout area or to other observation points or walkways.



Above: General view of the carpark and built elements with a vegetated backdrop



Above: Information sign



Above: Way-finding / regulatory signage

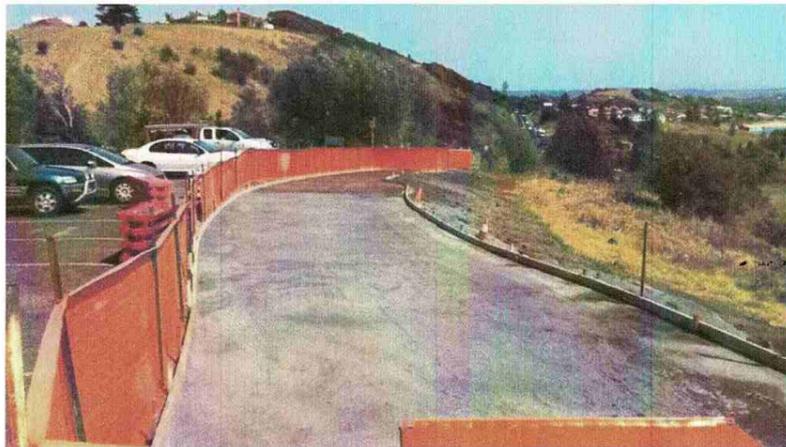
Shared Pathway - Pat Morton Lookout Precinct
SITE FEATURES AND CHARACTER

DISCUSSION

The objectives of the shared pathway (extract from Council meeting minutes 26 August 2010) is to “provide an efficient, safe and accessible transport route between Lennox Head and the Ballina Town Centre with easy access to schools, sporting fields and other facilities in between and provide adequate disabled access to increase overall accessibility.”

Development of the shared pathway proposal and alignment is a result of a number of community consultation processes, ecological investigations, cultural heritage investigations and discussions over more than five years. Construction of the shared pathway has been staged with many parts already completed.

In 2013, Council commenced construction of a 3.5m wide concrete pathway adjoining the asphalt carpark and received community opposition resulting in them terminating the shared pathway at the end of the boardwalk without proceeding across the front of the carparking area. Some new timber seats were installed.



Above: Photograph of pathway construction that was stopped as a result of community opposition

The documented concerns of the community are summarised below:

- 3.5m is too wide for a pathway in this location.
- The design of the pathway needs to be considered in relation to the entire carparking area at Pat Morton Lookout.
- The timber seats were supported.
- There was a preference for timber over aluminium for seating.
- There was support for a surface other than plain concrete (e.g. patterned, textured, other material).
- One submission stated they felt that concrete was not suitable and that grass was preferred over concrete.
- There was general support for a ‘natural’ look and feel.
- One submission stated that there should not be a concrete connection to the stairs.
- When considering possible design solutions, adopt the motto ‘Share, Respect, Preserve’.

KEY OBJECTIVES

One of the key objectives of the shared pathway is to provide a **continuous and accessible** pathway between Ballina and Lennox Head. Therefore, the design options explore ways to achieve this having consideration to the community preferences noted in the discussion.

Aesthetics and Amenity

- maintains a sense of ‘naturalness’
- maintains opportunities for informal use of open grassy areas for passive recreation
- maintains the panoramic views from the open grassy areas and carpark for enjoyment of the general public
- provides conveniences that are adequate for the low-key vibe of the space
- retains a predominantly natural look when viewed from the village centre, beach and residential areas

Accessibility and Connectivity

- achieves the vision of the shared pathway network
- is well connected to adjoining pathway networks
- has areas with panoramic views which are accessible to most users
- incorporates open space areas which are accessible to most users
- provides carparking to at least the same capacity as exists at present
- provides for the safe ingress, egress and parking of tourist coaches

Ecology

- protects significant amenity and native vegetation
- protects vulnerable species and endangered ecological communities
- respects and protects areas of community bushland regeneration activities

Supports Community

- provides publically accessible, shared open spaces
- supports existing local recreational activities such as hang gliding, paragliding, whale watching, cycling, walking, jogging and exercising
- provides opportunities for involvement of the community in creation of furniture and artwork
- educates the community about the environment or history of the site/place (e.g. Marine Park, Geology, Geography, Lennox Head village, significant local activities, cultural heritage etc)

Safety

- addresses crime prevention through environmental design criteria to provide a place where people feel and can be safe

Sustainability

- supports healthy lifestyle activities
- uses locally sourced materials
- repairs eroded areas and ensures that the design minimises the potential for future erosion
- utilises water sensitive urban design techniques for stormwater management

Wayfinding

- improves navigation by providing graphically co-ordinated, structured and clear directional signage
- includes interpretative signage which is educational and interesting.

CONCEPT OPTIONS

This report presents four concept options which seek to achieve the key objectives of the shared pathway project and take into consideration, the community comments. Whilst these options focus on the provision of the pathway, design options and improvements to the facilities and features of the broader lookout area have also been considered.

Option 1

This option provides for a new pathway north of the carparking area in a similar location to the original approval. The edge of the carparking area would be pulled back to the south to give more grass area and to make provision for the path. The pathway is 2.5m wide and separated from the carparking pavement by a narrow grass verge.

Option 2

This option provides for a 2.5m wide pathway along the northern edge of the carparking area adjoining edge of the carpark. The edge of the carpark is pulled back 1m to maximise the grass area. The pathway would be defined and separated from vehicles by wheels stops and pavement colour / patterning treatment.

Option 3

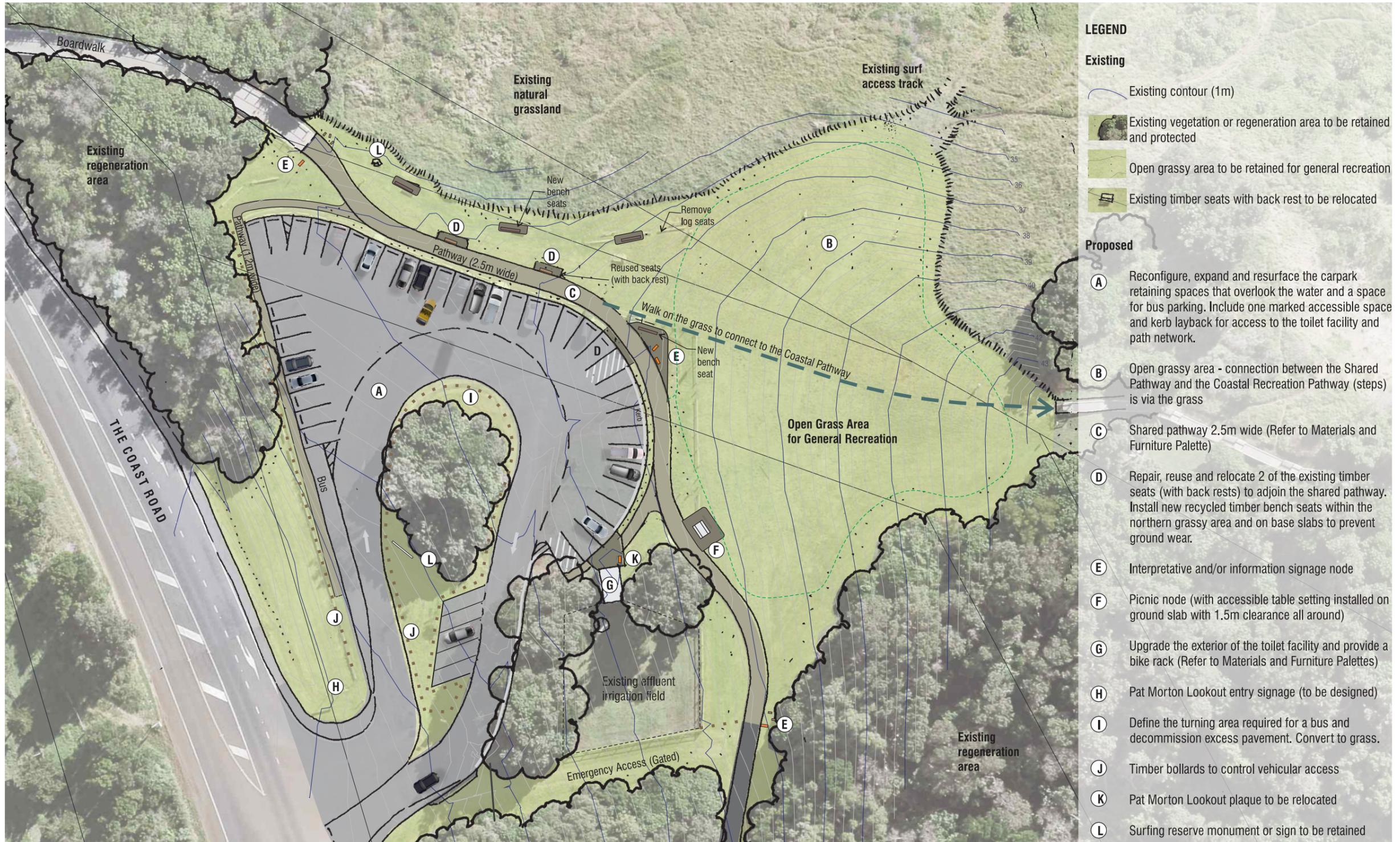
This option provides for a 2.5m wide pathway that passes through the carparking area leaving the northern edge of the carpark as a grass surface.

Option 4

This option provides for reconfiguration and reconstruction of the entire carparking area to minimise the amount of hard pavement surface and provision of a 2.5m wide pathway that passes through the carparking area leaving the northern edge of the carpark as a grass surface.

Suggestions for other embellishments, preferred materials, furniture and signage are also provided herein.

CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT OPTION 1



LEGEND

Existing

- Existing contour (1m)
- Existing vegetation or regeneration area to be retained and protected
- Open grassy area to be retained for general recreation
- Existing timber seats with back rest to be relocated

Proposed

- (A)** Reconfigure, expand and resurface the carpark retaining spaces that overlook the water and a space for bus parking. Include one marked accessible space and kerb layback for access to the toilet facility and path network.
- (B)** Open grassy area - connection between the Shared Pathway and the Coastal Recreation Pathway (steps) is via the grass
- (C)** Shared pathway 2.5m wide (Refer to Materials and Furniture Palette)
- (D)** Repair, reuse and relocate 2 of the existing timber seats (with back rests) to adjoin the shared pathway. Install new recycled timber bench seats within the northern grassy area and on base slabs to prevent ground wear.
- (E)** Interpretative and/or information signage node
- (F)** Picnic node (with accessible table setting installed on ground slab with 1.5m clearance all around)
- (G)** Upgrade the exterior of the toilet facility and provide a bike rack (Refer to Materials and Furniture Palettes)
- (H)** Pat Morton Lookout entry signage (to be designed)
- (I)** Define the turning area required for a bus and decommission excess pavement. Convert to grass.
- (J)** Timber bollards to control vehicular access
- (K)** Pat Morton Lookout plaque to be relocated
- (L)** Surfing reserve monument or sign to be retained



Plan Scale 1:500 at A3

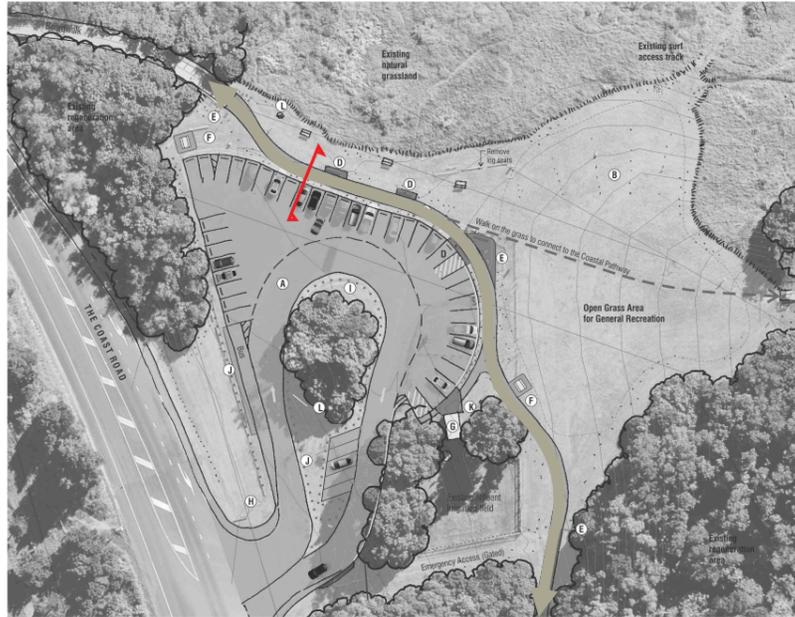
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10 January 2019

Shared Pathway - Pat Morton Lookout Precinct

OPTION 1: PLAN

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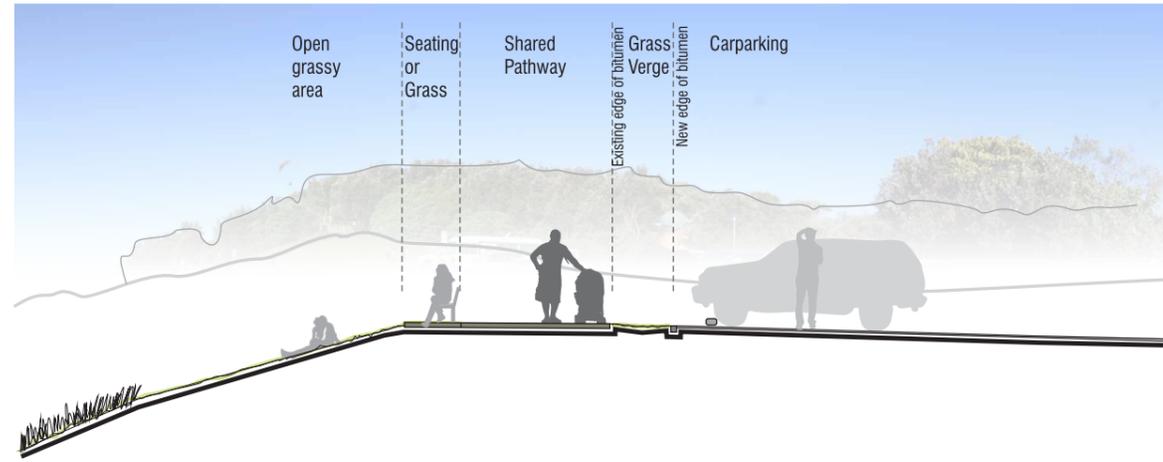
CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT OPTION 1: REFERENCE PLAN

BENEFITS

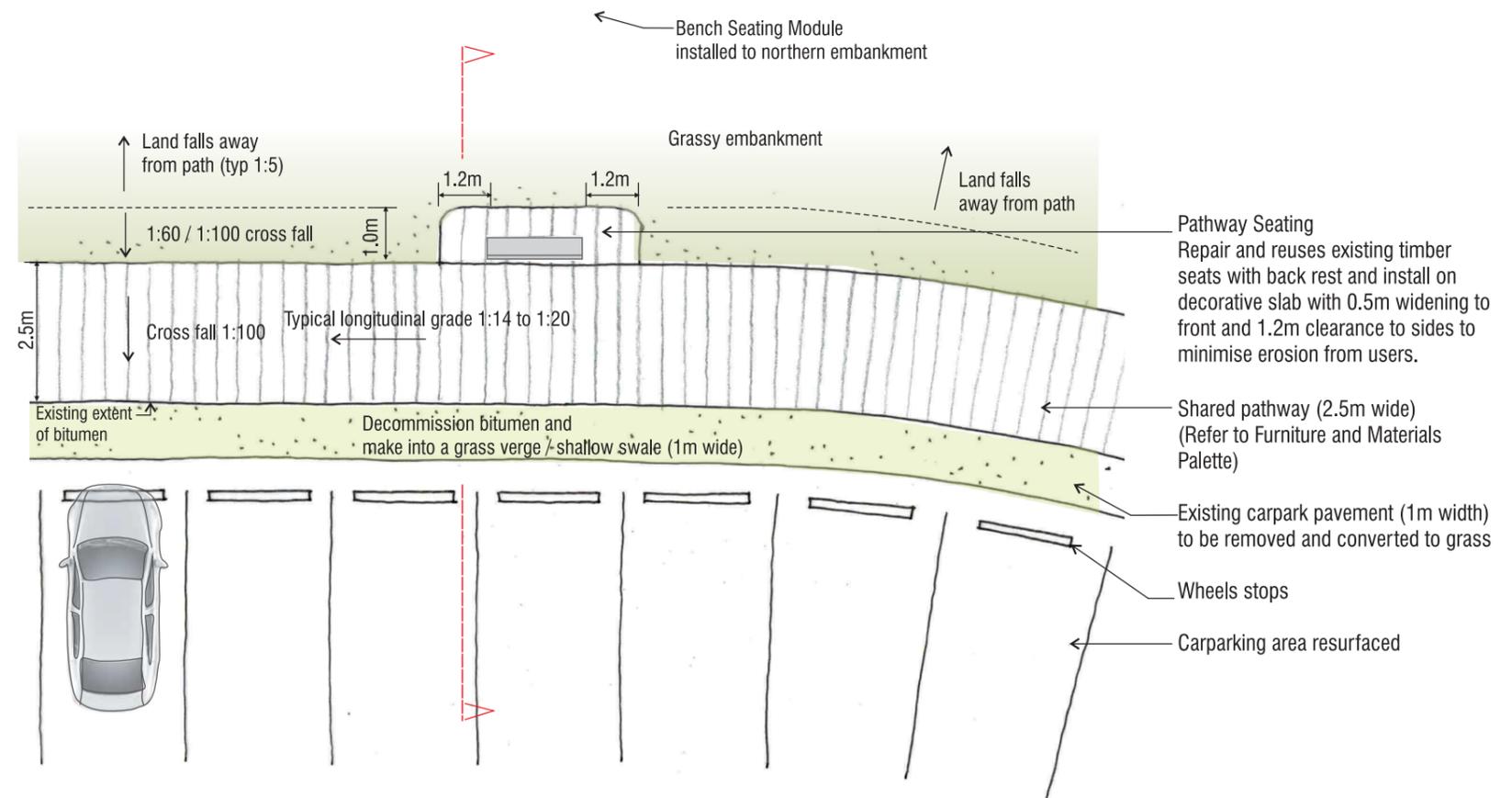
- Provides a continuous pathway connection without vehicular conflict.
- Provides a pathway which is accessibility compliant (grade, cross-fall, width).
- Retains a predominantly 'natural' experience and large open area for general recreation purposes.
- Reduces the amount of asphalt pavement in the existing carpark area by decommissioning 1m of the northern edge of the pavement.
- Provides additional grass area central to the carpark.
- Improves parking by providing 42 standard, 1 disabled and 1 bus parking spaces
- Remediates eroded areas by sealing the carparking area, adding kerb to the eastern side and formalising drainage along the eastern edge of the access driveway.
- Retains and protects existing vegetation.
- Provides community education via interpretative and informative signage
- Presents a distinctive image for the lookout precinct via subtle and coordinated suite of signage.

ISSUES

- The pathway occupies a presently grassed area, although this area is a current thoroughfare to the upper lookout area.
- There is no hard surface pathway link to the Coastal Recreation Pathway (steps) which may be preferred by some users.



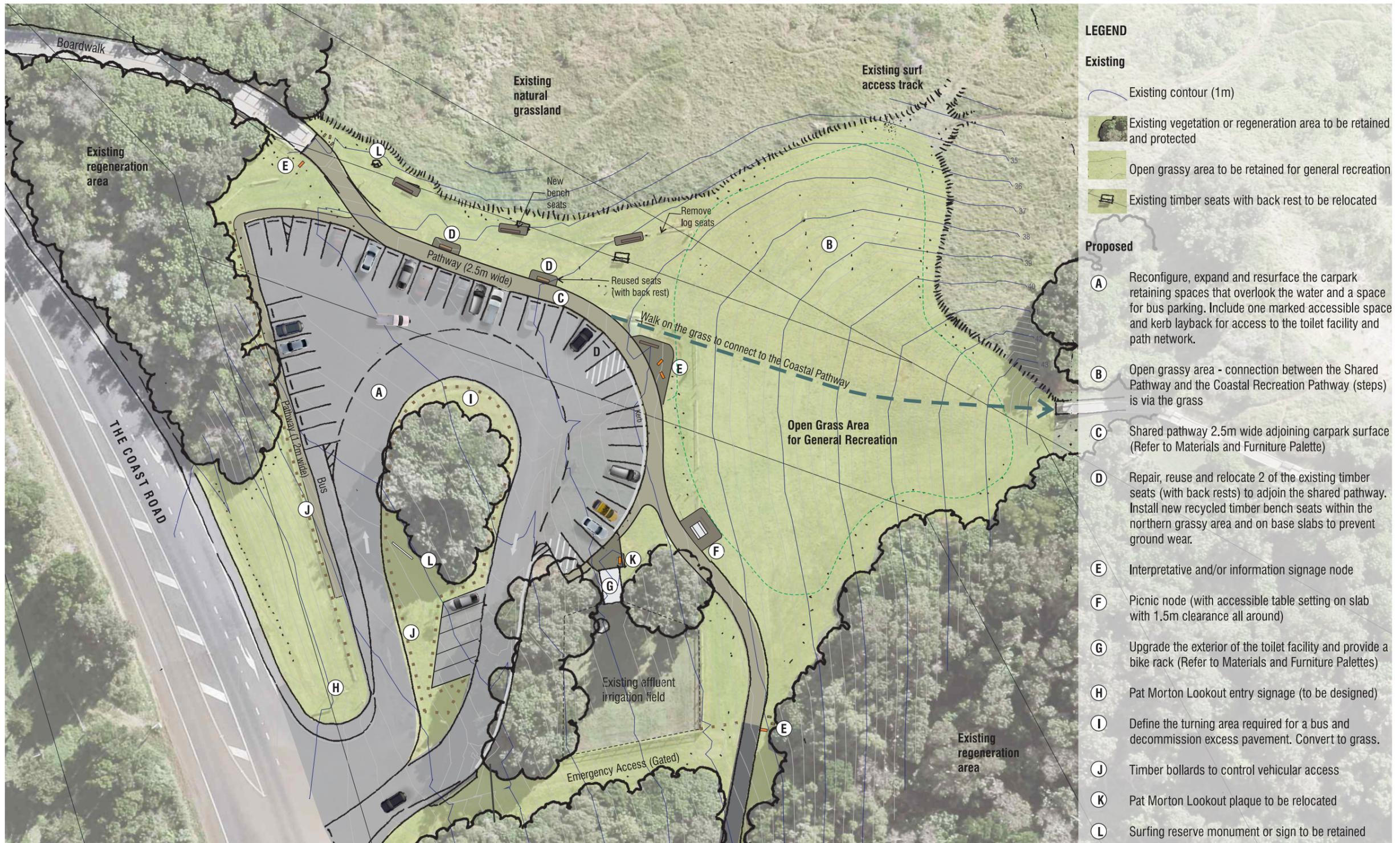
TYPICAL SECTION OF OPTION 1 SHARED PATHWAY ARRANGEMENT

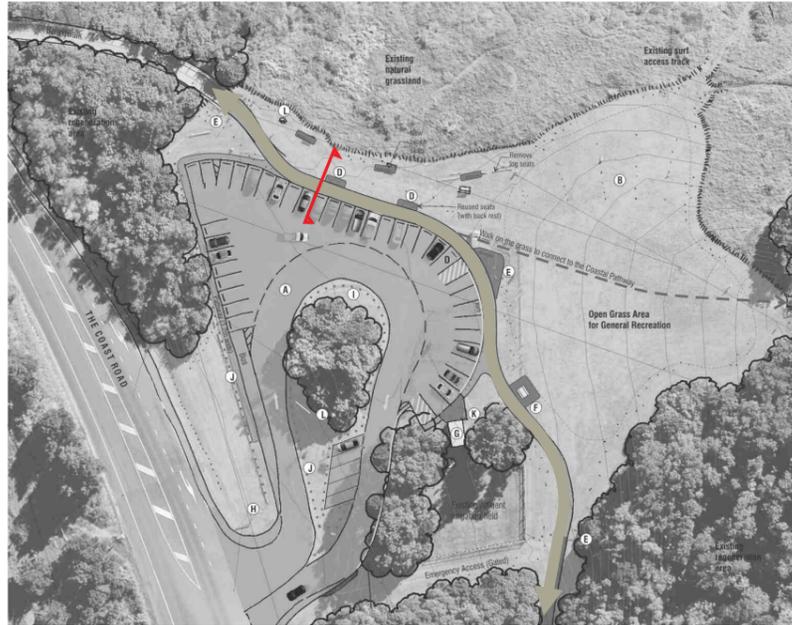


TYPICAL OPTION 1 SHARED PATHWAY ARRANGEMENT (Plan Sketch Only)



CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT OPTION 2





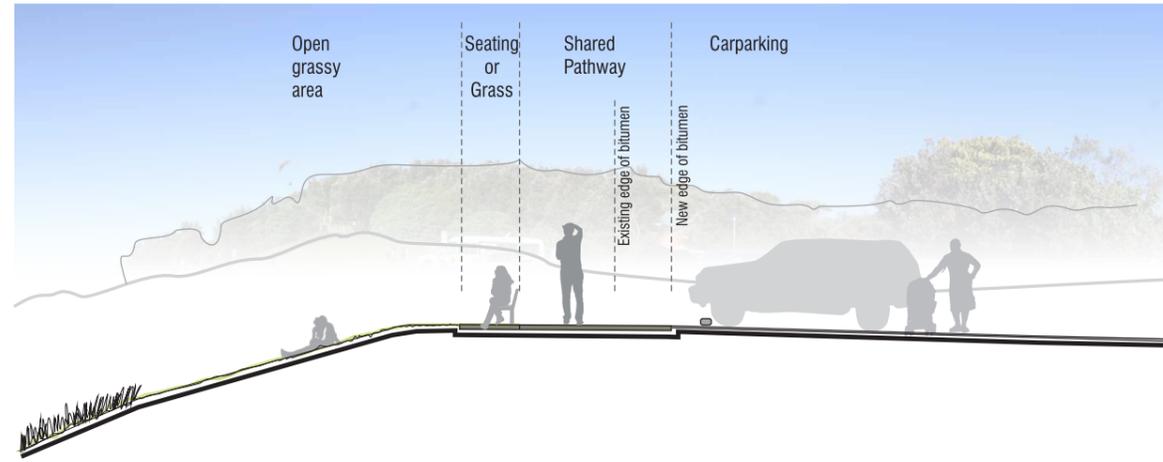
CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT OPTION 2: REFERENCE PLAN

BENEFITS

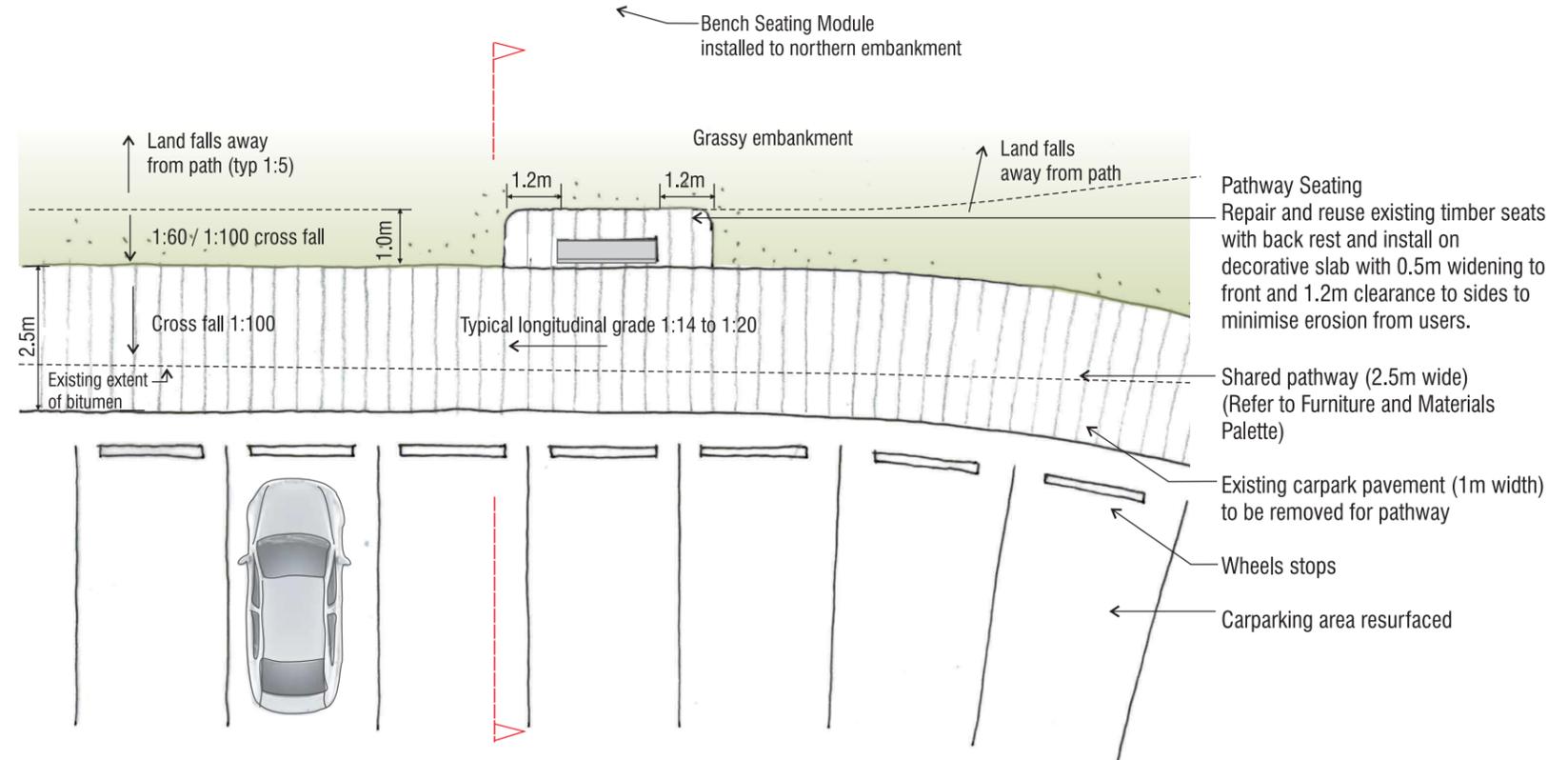
- Provides a continuous pathway connection without vehicular conflict.
- Provides a pathway which is accessibility compliant (grade, cross-fall, width).
- Retains a predominantly 'natural' experience and large open area for general recreation purposes.
- Maximises the amount of grass space on the eastern side of the pathway by decommissioning 1m of the northern edge of the carpark pavement and locating the pathway adjoining the carpark.
- Provides additional grass area central to the carpark.
- Improves parking by providing 42 standard, 1 disabled and 1 bus parking spaces.
- Remediates eroded areas by sealing the carparking area, adding kerb to the eastern side and formalising drainage along the eastern edge of the access driveway.
- Retains and protects existing vegetation.
- Provides community education via interpretative and informative signage
- Presents a distinctive image for the lookout precinct via subtle and coordinated suite of signage.

ISSUES

- Provides no 'soft' / green separation between the pathway and the carpark
- No grass verge between the pathway and carpark for stormwater infiltration
- There is no hard surface pathway link to the Coastal Recreation Pathway (steps) which may be preferred by some users.

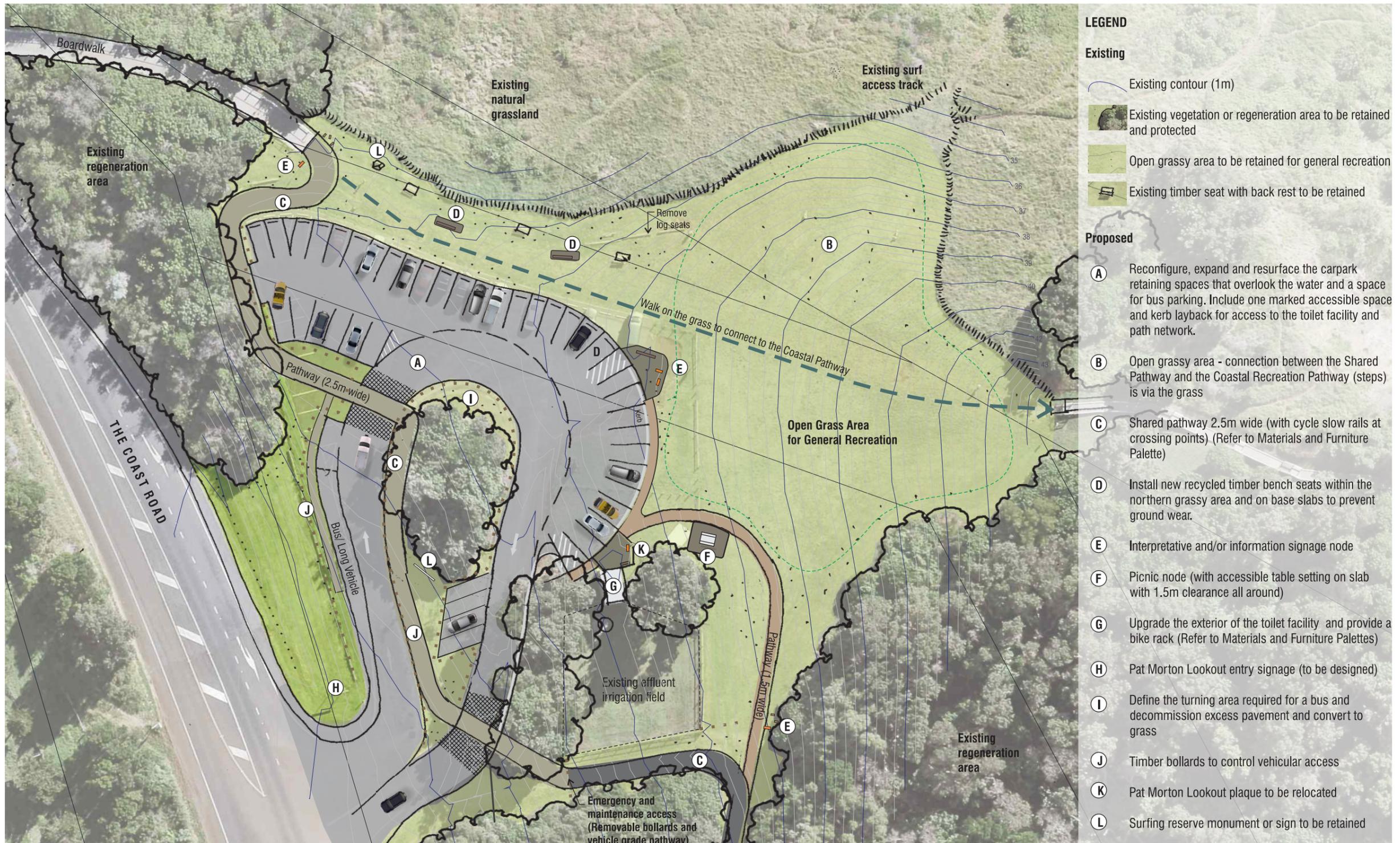


TYPICAL SECTION OF OPTION 2 SHARED PATHWAY ARRANGEMENT

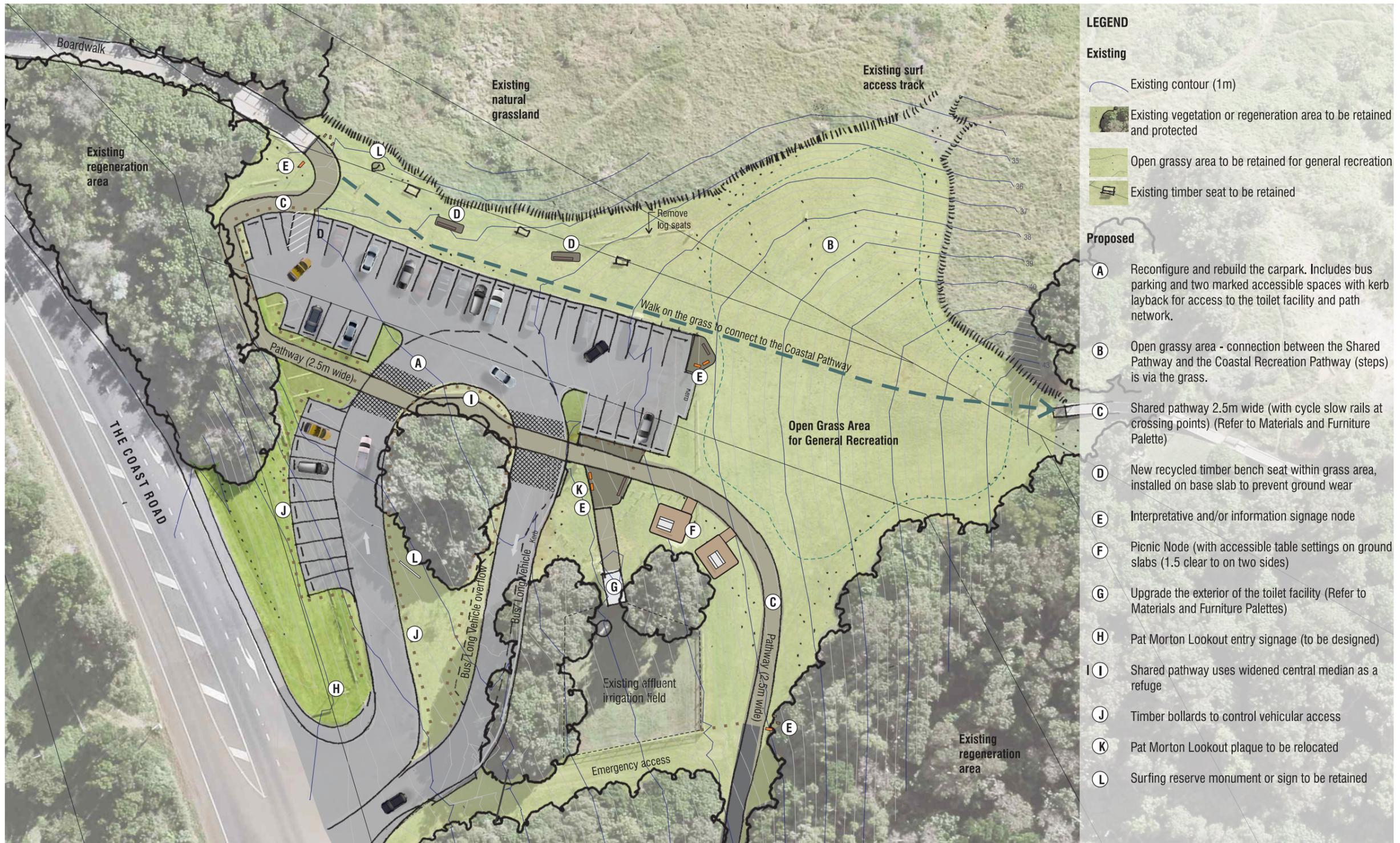


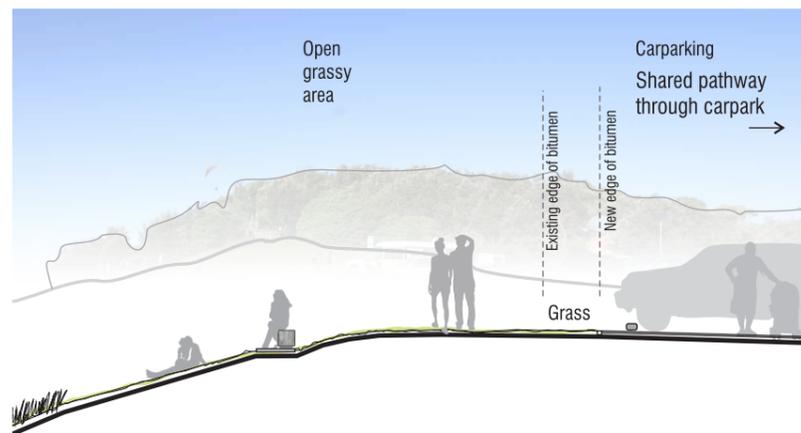
TYPICAL OPTION 2 SHARED PATHWAY ARRANGEMENT (Plan Sketch Only)

CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT OPTION 3

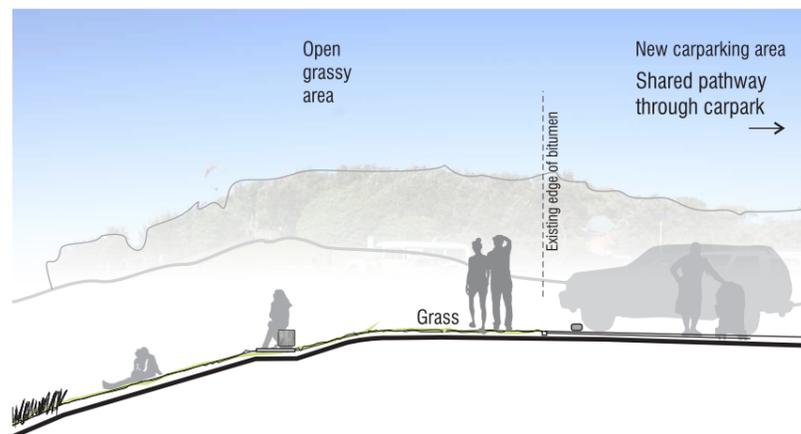


CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT OPTION 4





TYPICAL SECTION OF OPTION 3 ACROSS FRONT OF CARPARK



TYPICAL SECTION OF OPTION 4 ACROSS FRONT OF CARPARK



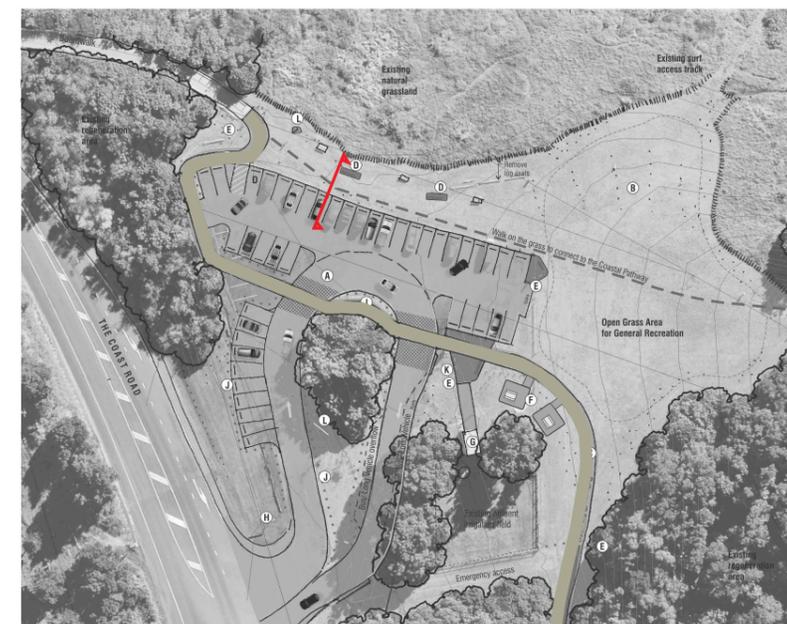
CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT OPTION 3: REFERENCE PLAN

BENEFITS

- Provides a continuous pathway connection (but with crossing points)
- Provides a pathway which is accessibility compliant (grade, cross-fall, width).
- Retains a predominantly 'natural' experience and large open area for general recreation purposes including the front of the carparking area as grassland.
- Maximises the amount of grass space on the eastern side of the pathway by decommissioning 1m of the northern edge of the carpark pavement and locating the pathway adjoining the carpark.
- Provides additional grass area central to the carpark.
- Improves parking by providing 39 standard, 1 disabled and 1 bus and 1 long vehicle parking spaces.
- Remediates eroded areas by sealing the carparking area, adding kerb to the eastern side and formalising drainage along the eastern edge of the access driveway.
- Retains and protects most of the existing vegetation.
- Provides community education via interpretative and informative signage
- Presents a distinctive image for the lookout precinct via subtle and coordinated suite of signage.
- A narrower pathway connects the disabled carparking space to the toilet facility and to the shared pathway network.

ISSUES

- The shared pathway has to cross the carpark access road. This could be designed with slow points and a threshold on the road to increase crossing safety.
- There is no hard surface pathway link to the Coastal Recreation Pathway (steps) which may be preferred by some users.
- The emergency access is retained and this section of the shared pathway would require removable bollards and vehicular grade pavement design.
- Some minor vegetation removal may be required to build the central part of the shared pathway.



CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT OPTION 4: REFERENCE PLAN

BENEFITS

- Provides a continuous pathway connection (but with crossing points)
- Provides a pathway which is accessibility compliant (grade, cross-fall, width).
- Retains a predominantly 'natural' experience and large open area for general recreation purposes including the front of the carparking area as grassland.
- Redesigns the carpark to maximise spaces and minimise pavement surface (whilst still keeping spaces facing the water)
- Improves parking by providing 42 standard spaces, 1 disabled spaces and 2 bus spaces and 1 multipurpose overflow parking area (equivalent to 3 parallel spaces) on grass.
- Remediates eroded areas by sealing the carparking area, adding kerb to the eastern side and formalising drainage along the eastern edge of the access driveway.
- Retains and protects most of the existing vegetation (some vegetation removal and pruning would be required for widening to accommodate the bus parking area).
- Provides community education via interpretative and informative signage
- Presents a distinctive image for the lookout precinct via subtle and coordinated suite of signage.

ISSUES

- The shared pathway has to cross the carpark access road. This could be designed with slow points and a threshold on the road to increase crossing safety.
- There is no hard surface pathway link to the Coastal Recreation Pathway (steps) which may be preferred by some users.
- Some native vegetation removal and pruning will be required to accommodate the bus parking area.
- The parking near the entry may be seen from the Coast Road.

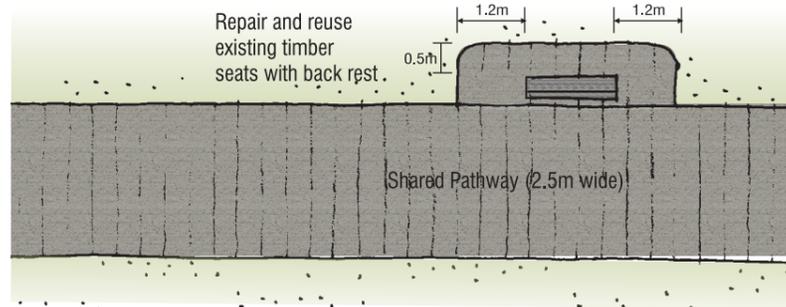
CONCEPT RATIONALE

The furniture and materials palette has been designed to reflect the low key and natural character of the headland and it's status as a National Surfing Reserve.

Consideration has also been given to the durability of ground plane surfaces which need to withstand high volumes of pedestrian use as a result of the location being a popular and significant tourism destination.



PATHWAY TREATMENT



Coloured concrete with saw-cut joints at regular intervals. All path areas would include a curved radius to corners.

TOILET EXTERIOR UPGRADE



Repaint the surface of the toilet block. Install timber battens to the sides with the surfing reserve motto "Share Respect Preserve" routed from battens in random locations. Install new signage. Remove existing concrete slab and install new slab to match paving palette

FURNITURE AND SIGNAGE

BENCH SEATING WITHIN NORTHERN GRASS AREA



Recycled timber posts (lightly sanded to top face). Routed horizontal lines with recess painted white.



Graphic example of broom finished concrete with regular saw cut joints



Alternative option - Photographic example of salt finished concrete with regular saw cut joints

BOLLARDS

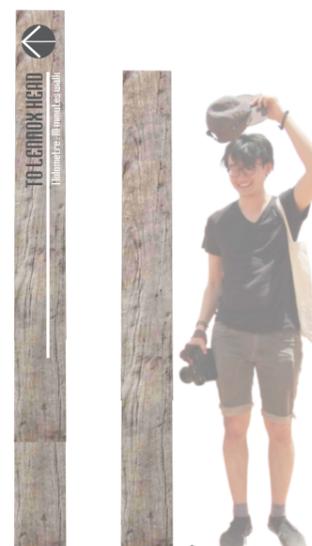


"PAT MORTON LOOKOUT" SIGN



Navigation and wayfinding signage. Include location, distance and approximate walking time.

PATHWAY NAVIGATION MARKERS



Shared Pathway - Pat Morton Lookout Precinct

MATERIALS AND FINISHES