

OM162303-3 LAKE COLAC FORESHORE MASTER PLAN

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Purpose

To consider the release of the draft Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan for public exhibition for a six week period.

Declaration of Interests

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 1989* in the preparation of this report.

Background

Lake Colac is an iconic natural feature within Colac Otway Shire. Although Council only manages a small portion of the lake (approximately 10%), Council is committed to working with Parks Victoria, which manages the remaining area and the other government agencies to support implementation of the community's aspirations for the lake.

The existing Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan is 13 years old and many of the recommendations in the plan have been implemented. Accordingly there is a need to develop a new plan that identifies what actions should be taken on the lake foreshore over the next ten years.

Council obtained a grant from the Federal Government to develop a new Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan (the Plan). The Plan (only) makes specific recommendations for the areas managed by Council along the foreshore of Lake Colac and along the lower section of Barongarook Creek. It does not make recommendations for the whole water body and does not address broader catchment scale issues such as water quality as these areas are beyond Councils control.

The Lake Colac Coordinating Committee (LCCC) is appointed to advise Council on the implementation of the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan. The LCCC also provides a forum for coordinated efforts of community, local Government and State Government agencies to implement strategic actions across the entire area of the lake. The scope for the Plan was developed in consultation with the LCCC. LMH Consulting Group was appointed in June 2015 to help Council develop the new Plan. The development of the new Plan has three major stages.

Stage 1. Environmental Scan

Consisting of a desk top review of all related documents and other available information to determine the status of actions identified in existing documents (e.g. 2002 Lake Colac Master Plan) that have a direct influence on the study area.

Stage 2. Community Engagement

A community engagement plan was developed that identified a comprehensive list of stakeholders and a range of engagement methods that were used to ensure a broad cross-section of the community was involved in the development of the Plan.

Stage 3. Masterplan Development

Development of a plan that sets a vision for the area and provides annotated concept designs on how the vision can be realised along with a high level implementation plan. The Plan identifies actions in a prioritised framework, highlighting likely resource implications and potential funding opportunities for implementation.

Council Plan / Other Strategies / Policy
A Healthy Community and Environment

Actively connects and includes people of all ages and backgrounds and promotes a healthy and vibrant community life in a clean, safe and sustainable environment.

Our Goal:

Respect cultural differences, support a diverse range of healthy and creative activities, foster community safety and promote environmental sustainability.

Issues / Options

Stages 1 and 2 of the project have been completed. The community engagement process undertaken in Stage 2 of the project during August 2015 ensured a broad cross section of the community could contribute their ideas for the lake foreshore by providing variety of different opportunities for people to contribute their ideas.

These included:

- Completing an online survey.
- Coming to talk to Council Officers at Lake Colac.
- Sending in a formal submission.
- Putting pictures up on Facebook or on the ideas wall in COPACC.

In summary 150 Surveys were completed, approximately 50 people met with staff at the lake on 23 August, 15 written submissions were made and over 1000 pictures were contributed to the ideas wall. A special effort was made to engage the local schools to get the younger generations' perspective on what could be done within the lake foreshore precinct. As part of this process, children were asked to send us a picture of something they would like to see on the lake foreshore or along Barongarook Creek and put them up the wall in COPACC. At the end of August the wall was covered with a vast range of ideas and comments that demonstrated the passion and interest in the lake foreshore area.

The key finding from the community consultation process was that there is an overwhelming agreement from the community for the activation of the foreshore area. The foreshore is viewed by many as a lost opportunity for the town's economy and there is a strong desire for it to 'better reflect who we are as a community'. The existing Open Space Strategy identifies the Lake Colac Parklands as a regional open space asset but currently it does not have the level of features and amenities, and the level of use that normally accompanies a regional level facility. Activation of the foreshore will only be achieved by introducing features and environments that people want access to and by landscape and design features that create attractive and safe environments. Public spaces that have people constantly coming and going because there is an array of different things to do, will in turn attract more people, creating a destination that becomes a prominent community hub.

The attached draft Plan has been developed based on the key findings of the community engagement and after lengthy discussion with the LCCC. The Plan identifies a vision for the area and makes specific recommendations for the ten zones within the study area (refer page four). The vision in the draft Plan is;

The Lake Colac Foreshore will be:

- A place to meet, greet, play and relax.
- A place of activity, vitality, tranquility, and a place to restore the soul.
- An expression of who we are and what we aspire to be.
- A place to explore, find new and different things to do.
- An expression of beauty, and a place to embrace and nurture the natural world.
- A place of celebration, creativity, imagination, and fun.

- A place where memories are created and celebrated.
- A place of inspiration.
- A place where we want to be.

While each of the ten zones identified in the plan has specific recommendations that align with the zone's characteristics, there are a number of key principles listed below that are integral to the Plan.

The foreshore space will be:

- Environmentally sustainable and developed to respond to the challenges arising from climate change.
- Accessible to all members of the community whether they live in urban centres, smaller settlements, coastal towns or rural areas.
- Provided and improved to offer a balanced and diverse range of opportunities for passive recreation, children's play, social gatherings, informal active recreation, walking, cycling and organised sport.
- Managed, where appropriate, in partnership with other agencies, service organisations, sports clubs, and other groups.
- Managed to protect and enhance areas with significant flora, fauna, geological, heritage, cultural and/or landscape values.
- Planned so that it contributes to the economic, health, social wellbeing, and connectivity of the diverse communities.
- Sufficiently resourced to provide quality development and maintenance at appropriate standards.
- Expanded as opportunities arise such as in new subdivisions and along waterways.
- Preserved for future generations by ensuring that there is 'no net loss' of open space as land use and environments change over time.

It is important to note that in accordance with these principles the Plan has been built on the premise that climate change is real in terms of the future water level in the lake. The latest climate science suggests that a low water level in the lake will be more common and this means that there is a focus (and priority) on land based opportunities and infrastructure, as opposed to a primary focus and priority on water based activities and infrastructure.

Furthermore, the vision and principles of the Plan suggest that the amenity of the foreshore area and enjoyment by users has priority over the interests of adjoining property owners in terms of views. However, the Plan also recognise the interests of adjoining land owners and efforts need to be made to respect their needs.

While the Plan makes many recommendations and summarises them in an Action Plan in Section 6.3, there are a number of specific recommendations listed below that should be particularly highlighted during the next community consultation phase:

- Investigate the opportunity for a regional play space to be built on the foreshore area in front of the Botanic Gardens.
- The buildings should be integrated over time where possible.
- The rose arbors along Barongarook Creek should be removed.

The Plan currently only recommends that the opportunity to incorporate a nature / botanic themed play and education space in this location be investigated with Heritage Victoria.

While Heritage Victoria has given in principle support to the concept of a regional play space on the foreshore, their approval will depend on more detailed concept plans and further discussions with Council and the community. For any play space to be constructed on the foreshore in this area it

would need to be sympathetic to the natural environment and the adjoining Botanic Gardens and integrated well with the open grassed area.

Residents engaged through the project identified a number of commonly recurring issues relating to infrastructure. Buildings along the foreshore vary greatly in style and are generally very dated and tired. The Plan recommends that when buildings reach the end of their life consideration should be given to removing or consolidating them with other buildings if there is still a viable use for them. In the short-term rendering / painting of the buildings should be considered to provide a colour theme that is consistent with other infrastructure, and minimises their visual impact.

Many people also reported that they do not feel comfortable using the rose covered archways along Barongarook Creek, particularly when there are no people around and after twilight. There was support for removing the rose arbors for reasons of safety and amenity. However, there are residents who want to keep the archways for historic or environmental reasons (e.g. they provide habitat for wildlife). The Plan recommends their removal primarily because the archways do not provide the minimum 0.5 mt clearance required either side of a pathway used by cyclists or allow a clear line of sight to oncoming cyclists and pedestrians.

All the recommendations in the Plan are summarised in a practical and subject to funding, achievable 10-year action plan that gives indicative timeframes and costings. The more complex actions identified will require further detailed design to be completed before any implementation can take place.

Proposal

That Council releases the draft Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan for public exhibition for a six week period.

Financial and Other Resource Implications

Implementation of the actions identified in the Masterplan will be subject to future funding consideration as part of normal budget processes.

Risk Management & Compliance Issues

There are no significant risk management or compliance issues associated with the proposal in this report.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

There are no significant environmental issues associated with the proposal in this report.

Community Engagement

The community engagement strategy follows the recommendations of the Colac Otway Shire Council Community Engagement Policy of July 2013, which details five levels of engagement – inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower.

The method selected would be to consult the community on the recommendations made in the draft Plan and involve key stakeholders in discussions about specific issues prior to submitting a final Plan to Council for formal adoption.

Implementation

- If the proposal in this report is supported by Council the Draft Plan will be placed on public exhibition for a six week period.
- A copy of the Plan will be placed on Council's website and hard copies will be placed in Council Offices along with the public libraries in Colac and Apollo Bay. A media release will be issued to highlight to the community that the Plan is on exhibition and public comment is being sought. In

addition social media will be utilised to promote the opportunity for the community to provide comment and a visual display will be set up in COPACC to show what the Plan is recommending to enable people to make comment on what is being proposed in a more creative manner.

- If requested Council officers will also meet with community members to discuss their views on the Plan. All comments received will be carefully considered and all submissions received in writing will be provided a formal written response from Council.

Conclusion

The extensive community engagement process undertaken to date has directly influenced the development of the draft Plan. Further community engagement will ensure the community has the opportunity to consider the recommendations and priorities identified in the draft plan and provide feedback to Council.

Attachments

1. Lake Colac Foreshore Masterplan

Recommendation

That Council:

1. ***That Council releases the draft Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan for public exhibition for a six week period.***

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# DRAFT LAKE COLAC FORESHORE MASTER PLAN

INCLUDING LOWER BARONGAROOK CREEK PARKLANDS AND MEREDITH PARK

2016



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|                                                                   |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Executive Summary                                                 | 4  |
| 1 Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan                                | 7  |
| 1.1 The Purpose and Scope of the Master Plan                      | 7  |
| 1.2 The Project Zones                                             | 7  |
| 2 Ownership and Management of Lake Colac Foreshore                | 7  |
| 2.1 Use of Lake Colac Foreshore Areas                             | 8  |
| 3 Lake Colac                                                      | 9  |
| 4 Colac Botanic Gardens                                           | 10 |
| 5 A Historical Snapshot                                           | 10 |
| 6 The Vision for Lake Colac Foreshore and How It Will be Achieved | 11 |
| 6.1 Our Vision for the Lake Colac Foreshore                       | 11 |
| 6.2 How will We Achieve the Vision?                               | 11 |
| 7 Overview of the Project Zones and Key Proposals for the Zone    | 13 |
| 8 Design Considerations                                           | 26 |
| 8.1 Universal Design                                              | 26 |
| 8.2 Design that Encourages Use and Physical Activity              | 26 |
| 9 Discussion of General Project Findings                          | 27 |
| 9.1 Lake Colac Water Body                                         | 27 |
| 9.2 Activation of Spaces                                          | 27 |
| 9.2.1 Activation of the Foreshore Zone                            | 28 |
| 9.2.2 Activity Nodes                                              | 29 |
| 9.3 Infrastructure                                                | 31 |
| 9.3.1 Buildings and Structures                                    | 31 |
| 9.3.2 Pathways                                                    | 33 |
| 9.3.3 Signage                                                     | 34 |
| 9.3.4 Park furniture                                              | 35 |
| 9.4 Landscape and Plantings                                       | 36 |
| 9.5 Public Art / Celebration / Recognition plates                 | 36 |
| 9.6 Maintenance and Amenity                                       | 38 |
| 10 Landscape Concept Plans                                        | 39 |
| 10.1 Landscape Concept Plan Plates                                | 39 |
| 10.2 Years 1 to 5 proposed infrastructure works                   | 52 |
| 10.3 Action Plan to Address General Project Findings              | 54 |
| 11 Materials and Landscape Concepts Guide                         | 55 |
| 11.1 Buildings and structures                                     | 55 |
| 11.2 Pathways                                                     | 57 |
| 11.3 Lighting                                                     | 57 |
| 11.4 Signage                                                      | 58 |
| 11.5 Park furniture                                               | 59 |
| 11.6 Public Art / Celebration / Recognition / Memorial plates     | 60 |



Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

|      |                                                |    |
|------|------------------------------------------------|----|
| 11.7 | Examples of Play Space Elements                | 61 |
| 11.8 | Trees recommended in landscape plans           | 62 |
| 11.9 | 'Playable' / Engaging Landscapes               | 63 |
| 12   | Implementing and Reviewing the Master Plan     | 64 |
| 12.1 | How Did We Determine Priorities?               | 64 |
| 12.2 | Review of the Master Plan                      | 64 |
| 13   | How we went about the project                  | 64 |
| 13.1 | Consultation                                   | 64 |
| 13.2 | Council Planning                               | 65 |
| 14   | Appendices                                     | 66 |
|      | Appendix 1 - Reference documents / information | 66 |

**Our Vision for the Lake Colac Foreshore**

The Lake Colac Foreshore will be:

- a place to meet, greet, play and relax
- a place of activity, vitality, tranquility, and a place to restore the soul
- an expression of who we are and what we aspire to be
- a place to explore, find new and different things to do
- an expression of beauty, and a place to embrace and nurture the natural world
- a place of celebration, creativity, imagination, and fun
- a place where memories are created and celebrated
- a place of inspiration
- a place where we want to be.

**Acknowledgement**

**The development of the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan was funded through a grant provided to Colac Otway Shire by the Australian Government.**

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

| Term                 | Definition                                                  | Term           | Definition                                                                                          |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Council              | Colac Otway Council                                         | Lake Colac     | The Lake Colac water body                                                                           |
| High water level     | High water level prior to the drought / 2008                | Shared pathway | Pathway that is designed to accommodate a number of uses e.g. walking, cycling, significant numbers |
| Lake Colac Foreshore | The Foreshore as defined by the 10 zones in the master plan |                |                                                                                                     |

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

**Executive Summary**

The Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan provides a framework to guide planning and development of the area of the foreshore that extends east-west between Rifle Butt Rd. and Clark St; and north-south from the foreshore along the Barongarook Ck. corridor to Murray St. It also includes Meredith Park on the northern shores of the lake.

The Victorian State Government<sup>1</sup> owns the major component of the project area, including the lower reaches of the Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park. The Colac Otway Shire Council is responsible for the day-to-day planning and management of the Lake Colac Foreshore under agreement with the state government.

Lake Colac is the largest freshwater lake in Victoria and one of the defining geographic features of the Colac Otway Shire. The lake is valued for the recreational, environmental and economic opportunities that it provides.

However, drought conditions between 1997 and 2009 saw water levels decline so dramatically that all significant water-based activities, and many associated land based activities, ceased. Forecasts are for a continuation of the climatic conditions that have severely impacted on water levels, and in turn use of the associated Foreshore.

In view of these conditions, and findings from community consultation and research undertaken for the project, the master plan recommends a focus on land-based activities as a priority over water based activities. This can be reviewed if climatic conditions change significantly over the life of the plan.

The estimate for completing works proposed for years 1-5 of the master plan is \$1,658,063. A summary of works proposed for each zone in years 1-5 is provided in the following table 1.

| <b>Table 1 – Cost estimates for works proposed for years 1-5 of the master plan</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>PROPOSED WORKS FOR YEARS 1-5</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>ESTIMATED COST</b> |
| <b>Zone 1: Rifle Butt Rd. to Stodart St. West</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>\$7,500</b>        |
| Ensure relevant changes / notations are made to the planning scheme to include:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ amenity and vegetation / habitat buffers between the high water level and residential infrastructure. Ensure public access to the lake surrounds are in line with CEPTED / safe design principles<sup>2</sup></li> <li>▪ appropriate space for extension of a shared pathway</li> </ul> |                       |
| Signage – Distance / direction signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |
| <b>Zone 2: Stodart St. West to Stodart St. East</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>\$162,640</b>      |
| Formalise car park including replacement of old bollards and maintenance access gates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |
| Construction of an all abilities access ramp at the end of Balnagowan Av.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                       |
| Plant shade trees in the vicinity of new installations at end of Stodart St.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |
| Reinforcement works to stabilise Ash Trees / prevent further erosion around root system                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |
| Extend foreshore planting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                       |
| Risk and needs assessment in relation to the toilet at the end of Balnagowan Av.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                       |
| Plant Eucalypt species along foreshore and remove weed species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                       |
| Signage – Distance / direction signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |
| <b>Zone 3: Stodart St. East to Armstrong St.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>\$179,500</b>      |
| Install bins in the Sea Scouts / Yachting precinct and Western Bay Park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |

<sup>1</sup> Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

<sup>2</sup> Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria, Department of Land Water Environment and Planning;

Healthy By Design: A Planners' Guide to Environments for Active Living, Victorian Heart Foundation

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

| <b>Table 1 – Cost estimates for works proposed for years 1-5 of the master plan</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>PROPOSED WORKS FOR YEARS 1-5</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>ESTIMATED COST</b> |
| Plant shade trees and seating and drink stations (Western Bay Park)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |
| Install youth activity precinct equipment e.g. Parkour (Western Bay Park)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                       |
| Landscape and clean up environs in the vicinity of the buildings used by the yachting and sea scouts buildings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                       |
| Prepare a business case, for the consolidation of existing buildings when they reach the end of their life. Any new facility will need to accommodate a number of community uses including yachting, angling, sea scout, band, and other community activities as required                                                                                                                      |                       |
| Assess aged / inappropriate trees and plan for replacement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |
| Signage – Distance / direction signage, Precinct, Walking circuit, Compliance signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |
| <b>Zone 4: Armstrong St. to Gellibrand St.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>\$42,650</b>       |
| Landscape / ground works to address compaction of tree roots and mulching (triangle) and planting of 3 advanced Cook Pines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |
| Seating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                       |
| Ongoing / selective removal of trees / vegetation on the embankment as it reaches end of practical life                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                       |
| Signage – Distance / direction, Precinct, Walking circuit signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                       |
| <b>Zone 5: The Foreshore / Commons</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>\$934,338</b>      |
| Formalise and seal car park to the west of the common                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |
| Create gently undulating grassed area on the common to integrate with Botanic gardens embankment and plant feature trees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                       |
| Additional seating, picnic tables, and BBQs etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                       |
| Seating in bandstand shelter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                       |
| Investigate options for a fully accessible play space at the eastern end of the common. Design to be sympathetic to the surrounding environments and features. Play elements to consider - Hammock swing; Basket Swing; Sandpit with deck; Climbing nets; Natural play landscaping; Shelters; Sound / sensory elements; Various type under surfacing; Access pathways; Feature walls / rockery |                       |
| Enhance existing play space in line with a 'Children's Garden' theme                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |
| Install security / safety lighting in the car park and along the foreshore pathway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                       |
| Signage – Distance / direction signage; Precinct; Walking circuit signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                       |
| <b>Zone 6: The Esplanade and Wetlands to Bruce St.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>\$98,370</b>       |
| Environmental themed public art sculptural features alongside the boardwalk ('The dell')                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                       |
| Upgrade to the boardwalk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                       |
| Seating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                       |
| Cluster plantings of mature River Red Gums or similar throughout Esplanade Park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Signage – Distance / direction, Precinct; Walking circuit, Compliance signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                       |
| <b>Zone 7: Bruce St. to Clark St.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>\$17,415</b>       |
| Seal off vehicle access immediately past last property in McGonigal, Bruce Sts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Cluster plantings of River Red Gums or similar every 50 mts alongside landfill / maintenance track                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                       |
| Signage – Distance / direction, Walking circuit signage, signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                       |
| <b>Zone 8: Lower Barongarook Ck. to Chapel Street Bridge</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>\$120,550</b>      |
| Remove aged timber structures including the 'Woolshed, timber arbours and derelict arbours                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |
| Remove 7 aged steel arbours in line with 'Safe Design Guidelines' <sup>3</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                       |
| Mature tree planting along Fyans St., and Chapel St.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |
| Habitat and screen plantings (adjoining properties)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |

<sup>3</sup> Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria, Department of Land Water Environment and Planning; Healthy By Design: A Planners' Guide to Environments for Active Living, Victorian Heart Foundation

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

| <b>Table 1 – Cost estimates for works proposed for years 1-5 of the master plan</b>                    |                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>PROPOSED WORKS FOR YEARS 1-5</b>                                                                    | <b>ESTIMATED COST</b> |
| Replace 1 bridge over Barongarook Ck.                                                                  |                       |
| Seating                                                                                                |                       |
| Signage – Distance / direction, Precinct signage                                                       |                       |
| <b>Zone 9: Upper Barongarook Ck. from Chapel St. to Murray St. Bridge</b>                              | <b>\$50,700</b>       |
| Maintenance of existing stands of trees to the south of Chapel Street (west side of Baroongarook Ck.   |                       |
| Continue exposed aggregate concrete pathway from toilet block to existing creek path                   |                       |
| Vegetation / general tidying – rear of motel, and pathway to the east of the toilet block and bollards |                       |
| Relocation or removal of sculptures                                                                    |                       |
| Mature tree planting in Foreshore to the east of Barongarook Ck.                                       |                       |
| Signage – Distance / direction signage; Precinct signage                                               |                       |
| <b>Zone 10: Meredith Park Foreshore</b>                                                                |                       |
| Complete a feasibility / viability assessment of (free) camping at Meredith Par                        | <b>\$40,800</b>       |
| Clear rubbish, old / unkempt vegetation and fill depressions                                           |                       |
| Signage – Distance / direction, Precinct, Compliance signage                                           |                       |

## 1 Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan

### 1.1 The Purpose and Scope of the Master Plan

The Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan provides a framework to guide planning and development of the area of the foreshore that extends east-west between Rifle Butt Rd. and Clark St; and north-south from the foreshore along the Barongarook Ck. corridor to Murray St. It also includes Meredith Park on the northern shores of the lake.

The master plan does not include the lake water body and associated waterways. Matters relating to these assets are addressed in separate council and agency planning documents.

The purpose of the master plan is to:

- Identify a vision for the foreshore, and establish the demand for different opportunities, and the parameters that will guide how they will be addressed
- Consider current open space research, planning and design practices and how it should be applied to enhance Foreshore amenity and visitor experience
- Establish short, medium, and long term actions to address the findings of the project and associated cost estimates
- Provide a framework for monitoring the implementation of the actions.

There are four technical papers that contain detailed information and research undertaken for the master plan:

Technical Paper 1 - Zone Action Plans and Cost Estimates

Technical Paper 2 – Community Consultation Summary

Technical Paper 3 – Review of Previous Master Plan

Technical Paper 4 – Technical and Product Information

### 1.2 The Project Zones

The project area extends along the south bank of Lake Colac foreshore from Rifle Butt Road in the west to Clark St. in the east. It also includes the Barongarook Ck. parkland corridor from the foreshore to Murray St. and Meredith Park, which is located on the north side of the lake.

The following summarises the 10 zones that make up the project area (Reference plans on pages 40-51):

Zone 1: Rifle Butt Rd. to Stodart St. West

Zone 2: Stodart St. West to Stodart St. East

Zone 3: Stodart St. East to Armstrong St.

Zone 4: Armstrong St. to Gellibrand St.

Zone 5: The Foreshore / Commons

Zone 6: The Esplanade and Wetlands to Bruce St.

Zone 7: Bruce St. to Clark St.

Zone 8: Lower Barongarook Ck. to Chapel St.

Zone 9: Chapel St. to Murray St.

Zone 10: Meredith Park. Background Information

## 2 Ownership and Management of Lake Colac Foreshore

The Victorian State Government<sup>4</sup> owns the major component of the project area, including the lower reaches of the Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

The Colac Otway Shire Council is responsible for the day-to-day planning and management of the Lake Colac Foreshore under agreement with the state government.

Council owns and manages the foreshore along the Barongarook Ck. corridor, including the waterway and embankments.

The state government also owns the land on which the adjoining Colac Botanic Gardens and the Colac Caravan Park is located. Council is responsible for the day-to-day management of these areas. The caravan park is leased to a private operator.

The 'Botanic Gardens Friends Group' and the 'Lake Colac Coordinating Committee' provide advice to council on matters relating to the lake, foreshore, and the Botanic Gardens.

Council's annual maintenance budget for the Lake Colac Foreshore over the last three years has been approximately \$135,000.

**2.1 Use of Lake Colac Foreshore Areas**

Until 2007/8 Lake Colac was a popular fishing, boating, rowing, and swimming destination and hosted water based events including sailing and rowing regattas and fishing competitions. Since this time the low water levels means recreation activities are largely restricted to land based activities associated with walking and cycling trails, the Botanic Gardens, and nature observation, and picnicking.

The community survey indicates that the foreshore area in front of the Botanic Gardens<sup>5</sup>, and the pathways of the foreshore are their most popular feature. Feedback and observation shows that the sealed sections of the foreshore pathway are most frequently used followed by the pathways through the Barongarook Ck. corridor<sup>6</sup>. While not as extensively used, the unsealed track from the wetlands to Clark St. is popular, especially for dog walkers. Residents use the foreshore for a variety of activities with trail related activities the most popular.

However, nearly half of residents involved in the project, including 45% of survey respondents, use the foreshore for 'taking in the views', reflecting and relaxing, and 'taking in the fresh air'. A similar number of residents, approximately 30%, enjoy the lake to observe nature and play with children.

Observation and feedback through the project identified a number of sites that are popular stop-off points for travellers and for locals taking time out at lunchtime or after work. These include the foreshore area / car park, the Gillibrand St. car park, Queens Av. and the adjoining Botanic Gardens.

The community survey and onsite discussion indicates that people visit the foreshore primarily with members of their family, however there is a significant number of people who visit on their own.

Young people who visit the foreshore are more likely to visit with their family but more young people are likely to cycle to the foreshore than the general community. Similarly, young people are far less likely to go the foreshore on their own.

Table 2 - Who people visit the Foreshore with

|                          | % / No.    |
|--------------------------|------------|
| My family                | 33.3% / 49 |
| I generally go on my own | 22.5% / 29 |
| Friend/s or neighbour/s  | 10.1% / 13 |
| My partner               | 7.0% / 9   |

Table 3 - The areas people use most

|                           | % / No.  |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Botanic Gardens / cafe    | 70% / 91 |
| Foreshore area            | 64% / 82 |
| Foreshore pathway         | 50% / 65 |
| Barongarook Ck. pathway   | 35% / 45 |
| Bird sanctuary / wetlands | 31% / 40 |
| Playground                | 28% / 36 |
| Barongarook Ck. Foreshore | 21% / 27 |

<sup>5</sup> 63% of survey respondents

<sup>6</sup> 50% of survey respondents / 35% of survey respondents

### 3 Lake Colac<sup>7</sup>

Lake Colac is the largest freshwater lake in Victoria and one of the defining geographic features of the Colac Otway Shire. The lake is valued for the recreational, environmental and economic opportunities that it attracts. However, drought conditions between 1997 and 2009 saw water levels decline so dramatically that all significant water-based activities, and many associated land based activities, ceased.

Over the summer of 2008-2009, Lake Colac dried out completely. With increased rainfalls post 2009 the lake partially refilled however, it is forecast that the lake will dry out again by the end of this summer.<sup>89</sup>

The Western Victorian lakes have long been the focus of scientific and conservation work, because of the important ecological communities they support. Many of the lakes are showing significant signs of stress due to extended drought and climate change. Over the past two decades in particular, the lakes and wetlands of this region have undergone significant, climate-driven changes in hydrology and ecology, and some have experienced dramatic increases in salinity and decline in water levels.

Lake Colac is a large, shallow, eutrophic, brackish-freshwater lake, primarily fed by localised rainfall and was formed by early volcanic activity and is a partially closed system. The Lake is fed by Deans Ck. and Barongarook Ck. but relies heavily on direct rainfall over the Lake. In most years more water evaporates from the Lake than is captured by rain. Flood frequency has a 25 year recurrence interval and last occurred in 1998.

The lake has always been shallow. It is one of the more than 1,000 shallow lakes in the Corangamite Basin formed by early volcanic activity. Sediment washed from Deans Creek and Barongarook Ck. has added to the level of the lakebed over time decreasing the depth of the lake.

In recorded memory the Lake has receded a number of times and recovered. In 1862 and again in 1946 it became a series of pools, the largest in 1946 covering 15 acres at a depth of 15cm. The Lake reached the similar low levels as today in 1962, 1969, 1983 and 1989, 2009.

The lake levels have been steadily declining since 2000, and historical lake level measurements going back to 1990 also reflect the same trend.

The key climatic predictions and projections for South Western Victoria predict a generally drier and hotter climate with a higher frequency of extreme weather events; higher average temperatures; less rainfall in the cool seasons; and increased intensity of extreme rainfall events.

Of particular relevance for Lake Colac are the following climate change observations for the Western District lakes of Victoria:

- lakes, including Lake Colac, have become or are becoming more saline and many are drying out due to both recent drought & longer term climate change
- biodiversity has decreased and will continue to decrease as a result of this increased salinity and drying out
- climate change will accelerate this trend and is likely to drive the lakes into a drier and saltier state than has existed for thousands of years
- the character of many lakes has changed and the trend is likely to continue with impacts of climate change, which warrants a reassessment of conservation strategies and management of the lakes.

<sup>7</sup> CSIRO; Bureau of Meteorology; DELWP; Grose, M et al., 2015; Leahy, P et al., 2010 - Refer references Appendix 1

<sup>8</sup> 2015/16

<sup>9</sup> Recreational Use of Waterways. Victorian Waterway Management Strategy

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

#### 4 Colac Botanic Gardens

The Colac Botanic Gardens were gazetted in 1865 and comprise 12 hectares<sup>10</sup>. The gardens are bounded by the southern shore of Lake Colac, Gellibrand St., Fyans St. and Barongarook Ck.

In 1868 Daniel Bunce, the Director of the Geelong Botanic Gardens prepared the original plan. In 1910 William Guilfoyle, Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens prepared an updated plan in which he incorporated a vision for the area, he named 'The Dell', to the east of Barongarook Ck.

The gardens are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register because of their 'historical, aesthetic, and scientific (botanical) significance to the State of Victoria.<sup>11</sup>

The National Trust classified the gardens in 1990 as one of Victoria's largest regional botanic gardens. Five of the gardens' trees have been placed on the National Trust of Victoria's Significant Tree Register.

In 1992 council established the 'Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens' to provide advice and support in relation to the planning, development and management of the gardens. The friend's group has been instrumental in providing technical and practical advice about the gardens and fund-raising for projects.

The Botanic Gardens Master Plan<sup>12</sup> guides the management and development of the gardens. The gardens are not part of the project, however they are particularly important to the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan because:

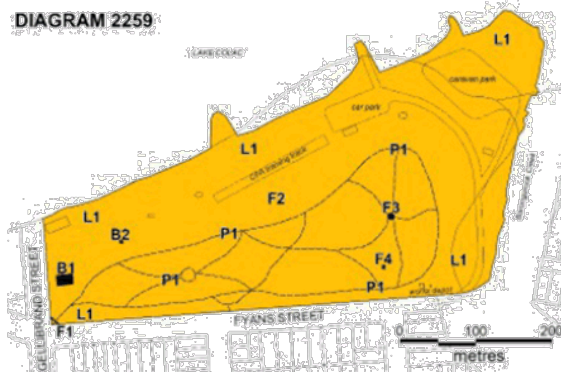
- of their botanic, and historic significance
- their impressive backdrop and aesthetic amenity they provide
- the need to integrate adjoining foreshore environments sensitively with the Foreshore
- of the opportunity to incorporate features and themes associated with the gardens into other foreshore environments

#### 5 A Historical Snapshot

The Gulidjan<sup>13</sup> are the **indigenous Australian** tribe whose traditional lands occupied the grasslands, woodlands, volcanic plains and lakes region east. This includes the Lake Colac region. The town's name is thought to have derived from a Gulidjan word referring to the 'fresh water'.

It is understood that families of the Gulidjan (Gulidjan Balug clan) had their own portion of Lake Colac frontage. Large areas of the plains were ephemeral wetlands interspersed with lakes, which supplied game, fish, and edible aquatic plants, wildflowers, herbs, and edible tuberous roots.<sup>14</sup>

The history of white occupation of the Colac district dates back to 1837, making it one of the oldest inland settlements in the colony and as a result, one that experienced the major waves of immigration.



Ref: Victorian Heritage Database Report 29/2/16

<sup>10</sup> Australian National Botanic Gardens Directory, <https://www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/bg-dir/028.html>

<sup>11</sup> Victorian Heritage Database Report. Report generated 29/02/16; Victorian Heritage Registration Number H2259

<sup>12</sup> Colac Botanic Gardens Master Plan – Reviewed in 2012

<sup>13</sup> Alternative names / spellings Colijan, Kolac Gnat, Colagdlans

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.speakingoftheotways.net/people/gulidjan.php>



Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

The first European to settle in the area was the pastoralist Hugh Murray, who settled near Barongarook Ck. at the southern end of Lake Colac and built his first homestead in 1840 in what is now Chapel St. Colac's main street, now part of the Princes Highway, and the Hugh Murray Reserve within the Foreshore were named in recognition of Murray.<sup>15</sup>

## 6 The Vision for Lake Colac Foreshore and How It Will be Achieved

### 6.1 Our Vision for the Lake Colac Foreshore

The vision for the Lake Colac Foreshore expresses the aspirations for the foreshore as reflected by the people involved in the consultation for the master plan.

The Lake Colac Foreshore will be:

- a place to meet, greet, play and relax
- a place of activity, vitality, tranquility, and a place to restore the soul
- an expression of who we are and what we aspire to be
- a place to explore, find new and different things to do
- an expression of beauty, and a place to embrace and nurture the natural world
- a place of celebration, creativity, imagination, and fun
- a place where memories are created and celebrated
- a place of inspiration
- a place where we want to be.

### 6.2 How will We Achieve the Vision?

The Colac Otway Open Space Strategy<sup>16</sup> articulates the principles that guide the planning and development of open space. Table 4 lists the open space planning principles and Key Direction Statements that underpin the master plan.

The Key Direction Statements:

- articulate the key themes that emerged from the research for the project
- respond to the planning, management, and environmental context that will have an impact on the development of the foreshore over the next 10 to 20 years
- take into account previous research, planning documents, information from technical working groups, and information from community consultation conducted as part of the project.

| Open Space planning principles                                                                                                      | KEY DIRECTION STATEMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Open space will be:                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1. Environmentally sustainable and developed to respond to the challenges arising from climate change                               | The aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incorporate landscape and vegetation features that are tolerant of local environmental conditions</li> <li>▪ Focus on optimising land based recreation and social opportunities as a priority.</li> </ul>                                                                                         |
| 2. Accessible to all members of the community whether they live in urban centres, smaller settlements, coastal towns or rural areas | The aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase the number and range of people who can access foreshore environments and who want to use foreshore areas on a regular basis</li> <li>▪ Plan and enhance foreshore so they provide maximum benefit</li> <li>▪ Plan and design environments so they are safe and encourage use.</li> </ul> |
| 3. Provided and improved to offer a balanced and diverse range of opportunities for                                                 | The aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide and encourage a range of different social, recreation, and natural environments including picnic and BBQ facilities;</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                           |

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.otway.biz/history.html>

<sup>16</sup> Colac Otway Open Space Strategy

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

| Table 4: Key Directions proposed for the Lake Colac foreshore and how they respond to the Colac Otway Open Space Planning principles             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Open Space planning principles                                                                                                                   | KEY DIRECTION STATEMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Open space will be:<br>passive recreation, children's play, social gatherings, informal active recreation, walking, cycling and organised sport. | play spaces; natural and reflective spaces, artistic features, pathways for walking, cycling and fitness activities; fitness circuits<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhance the appearance of the foreshore through modern and well-integrated infrastructure and landscape design.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4. Managed, where appropriate, in partnership with other agencies, service organisations, sports clubs, and other groups                         | The aim is to:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and investigate / continue partnerships with relevant community organisations (e.g. CMA, DELWP, Parks Victoria) and private enterprise in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To activate relevant areas in the Foreshore</li> <li>▪ manage the foreshore effectively and efficiently</li> <li>▪ identify opportunities to enhance environmental, social, and cultural outcomes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Plan for the gradual upgrading and revitalising of buildings / infrastructure used by community groups.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 5. Managed to protect and enhance areas with significant flora, fauna, geological, heritage, cultural and/or landscape values.                   | The aim is to:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhance, preserve and maintain natural environments in line with defined service levels. These environments include waterways and wetlands; exotic and native plantings, formal and informal activity areas</li> <li>▪ Increase community awareness and understanding of natural and created environments; and social and cultural history through interpretive and educational features</li> <li>▪ Enhance visual links throughout the Foreshore via thematic vegetation plantings i.e. between the different zones of the Foreshore; between the foreshore and the Botanic Gardens; between the foreshore and connector streets</li> <li>▪ Retain / strengthen cultural and heritage plantings (e.g. exotic trees) in relevant areas (e.g. Barongarook Ck. corridor, Foreshore Zone).</li> </ul>                                                                                   |
| 6. Planned so that it contributes to the economic, health, social wellbeing, and connectivity of the diverse communities.                        | The aim is to:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Optimise the consolidation / integration of buildings at the end of their life, where they are no longer viable or where there is a need to provide a different or higher level of provision</li> <li>▪ Develop the foreshore as a multiuse fully integrated recreation and social hub with the incorporation of features that support community activities e.g. events and community markets</li> <li>▪ Plan, manage and develop the Foreshore so they attract visitation and contribute to the liveability of the town and region.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 7. Sufficiently resourced to provide quality development and maintenance at appropriate standards.                                               | The aim is to:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To plan and develop Infrastructure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ has creative and conversational design features</li> <li>▪ is planned and designed to reflect the role the foreshore play in achieving the shire's social, recreation, cultural / historic, and economic / tourism aspirations</li> <li>▪ is designed and maintained to meet all relevant standards and guidelines</li> <li>▪ is planned and designed to optimise integration with natural environments and reflect the aesthetic aspirations for the foreshore</li> <li>▪ is consistent in style and colour.</li> <li>▪ is as low maintenance as possible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Ensure the type and standard of infrastructure reflects the 'regional' status of the foreshore</li> <li>▪ Ensure infrastructure maintenance regimes are in keeping with a 'regional' level facility.</li> </ul> |

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

| Table 4: Key Directions proposed for the Lake Colac foreshore and how they respond to the Colac Otway Open Space Planning principles     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Open Space planning principles                                                                                                           | KEY DIRECTION STATEMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Open space will be:                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 8. Expanded as opportunities arise such as in new subdivisions and along waterways.                                                      | The aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and where relevant preserve opportunities to connect adjoining residential and open space areas with the foreshore e.g. future subdivisions, creek corridors, other parks.</li> </ul>                            |
| 9. Preserved for future generations by ensuring that there is 'no net loss' of open space as land use and environments change over time. | The aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimise provision for current and projected future needs</li> <li>Consider the impact of proposals that have the potential to reduce the amount of open space for environmental or recreation / social uses.</li> </ul> |

## 7 Overview of the Project Zones and Key Proposals for the Zone

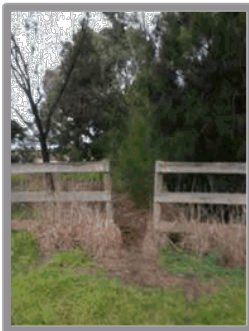
This section provides a summary of the 10 project zones, the key focus for the zone, and key actions proposed over the life of the plan.

There are a number of considerations that are relevant to all or most of the zones. These are addressed in section 4 and relate to:

- Activation of spaces including in the 'Foreshore Zone'
- Play spaces
- Infrastructure – including buildings, structures, park furniture, and pathways
- Landscape and plantings
- Public art
- Maintenance and amenity.

### Zone 1: Rifle Butt Rd. to Stodart St. West (Reference Map 1)

#### Overview of the zone



This zone is at the western end of the project area. The pre drought high water level in this zone is very close to the boundary of adjoining properties.

There is no formal pathway and there are limited opportunities to construct a pathway that would be above the pre drought high water mark. There is evidence (desire lines) of minor bicycle and or foot traffic at the Stodart St. entrance to the zone. However, feedback indicates minimal use of the area at this time, primarily because of its sense of remoteness and distance from the township.

The embankment is primarily grassland and a mix of young native trees that have been planted over the last 3-5 years. The adjoining land in the vicinity of Rifle Butt Rd. is heavily to moderately vegetated, which provides a bushland and serene amenity to the area as well as significant wildlife habitat.

Subdivisions are proposed in the proximity of Rifle Butt Rd. in the future. Any development of adjoining land should consider opportunities to preserve, and preferably enhance, this amenity and habitat via spatial and vegetation buffers between the lake and residential development.

As part of any subdivision consideration should be given to:

- a significant spatial and vegetation buffer between residential development and the lake boundary in order to preserve the environmental amenity and wildlife habitat
- a shared pathway that links to the foreshore trail that currently terminates at Stodart St. West
- shared pathways, including a pathway loop within the subdivision

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

In the interim, a mown pathway should continue to provide access for people who use the zone for walking and mountain bike riding.

The area to the west of Rifle Butt Rd. is outside the boundary of the project area. However, there is merit in considering options for extending shared pathways through this zone as part of a long term strategy to extend a pathway east and west around the perimeter of the lake. There is some but minimal demand for this at the present time

There is an indication of minor bicycle, motorbike, and or foot traffic to the west of Rifle Butt Rd. The foreshore from this point to Deans Ck. is attractive and serene and encouraging of walking, mountain bike riding, and nature observation activities.



**Key focus for the zone:**

- Recreation / Lifestyle
  - Walking / cycling
  - Future subdivision - Preserving the opportunity for pathway through the subdivision
- Environmental
  - Vegetation buffer between residential development and lake edge – For habitat / vegetation preservation and enhancement



**Key Actions for the Zone**

- Ensuring relevant changes / notations are made to the planning scheme to include:
  - amenity and vegetation / habitat buffers between the high water level and residential infrastructure. Ensure public access to the lake surrounds are in line with CEPTED / safe design principles<sup>17</sup>
  - appropriate space for extension of a shared pathway
- Signage – Distance / direction signage

**Zone 2: Stodart St. West to Stodart St. East (Reference Map 2)**

**Overview of the zone**

Between Stodart St. West and Stodart St. East there is a concrete pathway that runs along the narrow strip of foreshore between the boundaries of adjoining residential properties and the lake's edge. The width of the pathway is approximately 2 metres with the greater part of the lake edge designated by an old blue stone retaining wall.

Vegetation is sparse in the zone but includes a row of Ash trees along the high water line in the area of Stodart St. west. There is an opportunity to enhance the zone with additional plantings of shade trees.

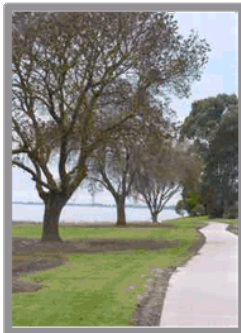
Much of the bluestone retaining wall along part of this pathway has fallen into disrepair. Attempts to reinforce the embankment are indicated by rubble and 'spray concrete', which does not add to the aesthetics of the area.

A significant section of this narrow zone has a foreshore character due to the frequent mowing and maintenance of the area by residents in adjoining properties.

Stodart St. West, Balnagowan Av., and Stodart St. East provide the only access down to the foreshore in this zone. Access to the small park at the end of Stodart St. West is via a small, poorly defined section of gravel road. The park includes fitness equipment which was installed in 2007 as part of a neighbourhood revitalisation project, and is used occasionally by fitness groups and sporting clubs.

17 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria, Department of Land Water Environment and Planning; Healthy By Design: A Planners' Guide to Environments for Active Living, Victorian Heart Foundation

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park



There is an opportunity to create a more significant 'end of trail' destination at this point and to increase local use with the addition of more family friendly features such as seating, shade, natural / landscape play elements. Access to the site is via local streets, which will restrict opportunities to make this a more significant point of access to the foreshore other than for local residents.

The ramped access pathway from Balnagowan Av. is rough as a result of periodic attempts to stabilise and level it, and as a result does not comply with access codes of practice.

Access to the foreshore at Stodart St. East is via local streets and a small carpark. This restricts opportunities to make this a more significant point of access. Approximately 10 years ago a small 'toilet box' was constructed directly alongside the trail at Stodart St. East to cater for people fishing from the embankment. General community feedback suggests the toilet is not well used and should be removed. However, further enquiry is necessary to ascertain the actual level of use and likely use in the future, particularly if a new toilet facility is provided at the end of Hamilton St.



There is an opportunity to enhance the appeal of this zone for walkers and bike riders with the addition of shade trees, however feedback indicates that the desire of adjoining property owners to maintain water views may conflict with this objective.



**Key focus for the zone:**

- Recreation / lifestyle
  - Walking / jogging / cycling
  - Quiet / reflective environments
- Environmental
  - Views
  - Amenity

**Key Actions for the Zone**

- Enhancing of the small park at the end of Stodart St. West with shade trees, playable rock / landscape features, small shelter\*
- Widening of shared pathway where possible
- Seating
- Removal of fitness equipment at the end of its life, and replacement with new equipment at Western Bay Park (recommended) or Hugh Murray Reserve
- Intermittent plantings of shade trees along the foreshore\*
- Signage – Distance / direction signage
- A needs and risk assessment of the 'toilet box' prior to any decision to remove / relocate toilet box from the end of Stodart St.
- Fishing platform. Installation will be dependent on lake water levels and associated fish stock
- Signage – Distance / direction signage.

\* Would be undertaken in consultation with adjoining landowners



**Zone 3: Stodart St. East to Armstrong St. (Reference Map 3)**

**Overview of the zone**

The concrete foreshore pathway continues through the Colac Yacht and Colac Sea Scouts precinct. There is significant potential for this area to be an attractive access point to the lake pathway, lake views, and the water body if water levels increase.

If well designed, and inclusive of features that attract families, this precinct provides an opportunity to ease the pressure on the main foreshore area off Fyans St.

However, access to the precinct is via residential roads, which will restrict the level and type of activity that could be encouraged in the precinct.

At former high water levels very little of the grassed area was exposed. During extreme weather events in the past the yacht club and sea scout clubrooms have been inundated, though this has not occurred for some time.

Water views from the pathway have become obstructed by reed growth that has increased significantly while low water levels have endured.

The foreshore on the rise to the south of the precinct provides excellent views of the lake and has the potential to have better landscape and vegetation links to the lake environs. This foreshore is used by the Colac Sea Scouts for weekly activities, and in the past has been used for camping and car parking during yachting regattas.

The yachting club has not conducted any significant yachting activities on the lake for the last 8 years, in which time club activities have been relocated to Lake Purrumbete approximately 50 kms west of Colac. Club membership has dropped from a maximum of 150 (approximately 30 juniors and 120 seniors) when the lake was full to the current 50, largely adult, members<sup>18</sup>. The yacht club facilities are occasionally used by the community for events and meetings.

The number of young people involved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Colac Scouts (sea scouts) has increased slightly over the last few years to approximately 50. The group caters for ages 6 through to 26 with the 8-11 year olds (cubs) having the strongest membership at this time. Members travel, as they have always done, to different training venues around the region. Low water levels have not impacted on the group's activities, apart from limiting training opportunities associated with their skill development programs (e.g. canoeing and sailing).

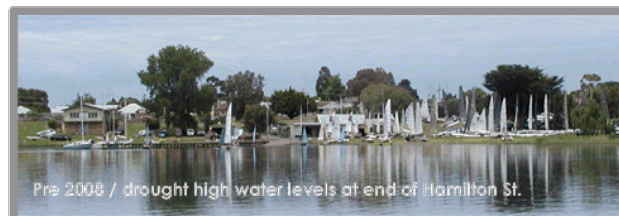
Buildings in this precinct are old and near the end of their life. Consideration needs to be given to their consolidation, upgrade, or removal depending on their condition and likely level of use in the future.

**Key focus for the zone:**

- Recreation / Lifestyle
  - Walking / jogging / cycling
  - Water sports (if water levels are consistently higher than they are now)
  - Play (Western Bay Park)
  - Quiet / reflective environments
- Environmental
  - Views
  - Amenity

**Key Actions for the Zone**

- Short term – Landscape / vegetate and clean up around buildings
- Med to long term - Consolidate and upgrade of infrastructure – Only if water based activities are considered viable in the longer term
- Shade trees (Western Bay Park)



<sup>18</sup> Information provided by Commodore Colac Yacht Club, Nov 2015

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

- Seating
- Consolidating Western Bay Park as a children's and youth hub with installation of parkour / free running circuit and consider as an alternative site for exercise equipment (relocated from Stodart St. East)
- Signage – Distance / direction, precinct and compliance signage.

**Zone 4: Armstrong St. to Gellibrand St. (Reference Map 4 and Inset 1 – Car Park Precinct)**

**Overview of the zone**



In zone 4 the two-metre concrete foreshore pathway is on a narrow strip of Foreshore that is bounded by the old lake bluestone retaining wall and the steep embankment that rises to meet Queens Av. to the south.

Council has undertaken cleanup and re-vegetation works along this section of the



trail, including the installation of garden beds. The embankment is planted primarily with Flowering Red Gum trees, Pinus radiata, and Acacia and Eucalyptus species.

Many of these trees have been removed and others are in poor condition and will need to be replaced.

Queens Av. runs parallel with the foreshore pathway and provides excellent views over the lake. It is popular with walkers and bike riders, and is a popular lunch spot for visitors and locals.



Constant car parking on the north side of Queens Av., particularly in the vicinity of the Colac Cricket Ground, has eroded and compacted the soil under trees and exposed tree roots. As a result many trees are in poor condition and need replacing.

The trees are a feature of Queens Av. and make it a very appealing street. A tree replacement and management regime is needed to ensure this amenity is preserved and enhanced.

There is no formal pathway that links Queens Av. with the foreshore pathway below. However there is evidence of foot traffic and bike activity on the embankment.



Tourist buses and travellers with caravans use the Gellibrand St. car park as a wayside stop. People visiting the Botanic Gardens' café ('Café on the Lake') and the community house and the local church use the car park. The car park and the Gellibrand St. road verges are not sealed and as a result the car park and roadsides are subject to degradation and erosion. The roots of the large trees on the site have been subject to many years of compaction due to unregulated car parking, which will

eventually impact their condition.

There is an opportunity to increase the profile of the junction of Queens Av. and Gellibrand St. It is a main entry point to the lake foreshore precinct that can be enhanced with vegetation plantings and public art as a significant landmark.

The extension of Gellibrand St. to the foreshore car park is narrow. There is no opportunity to incorporate a pathway alongside the road due to the steepness of the terrain. However,

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

consideration can be given to road markings and signage that indicate a shared vehicle and pedestrian way.

**Key focus for the zone:**

- Recreation / Lifestyle
  - Walking / jogging / cycling
  - Quiet / reflective environments
- Environmental
  - Amenity tree planting and replacement
  - Views

**Key Actions for the Zone**

- New shared pathway along Queens Av.
- Formalising indented parking bays along Queens Av
- Formalising parking adjacent to Cricket Oval to protect future tree plantings
- Plantings of flowering gums along Queens Av to replace aged gums on embankment
- Sealing of the end of Gellibrand St. and the car park
- Landscape features (Gellibrand St.) to highlight a main entry to the foreshore environs and protect trees
- Viewing platform at the end of Grant St.
- Tree plantings to stabilise the embankment, reinvigorate old plantings to enhance environmental amenity and create a stronger link to the Botanic Gardens
- Picnic tables / seating at various points along Queens Av. to take advantage of elevated lake views
- Signage – Distance / direction, and precinct signage.



**Zone 5: The Foreshore / Commons (Reference Maps: Map 5)**

**Overview of the zone**

In this zone the pathway hugs the side of the Rowing Club building and continues along the top of the blue stone wall until the edge of the grassed 'common' area where it becomes a brick paved pathway.

A second pathway runs along the base of the Colac Botanic Gardens embankment around to picnic facilities and the playground.

Much of the foreshore zone is within the Botanic Gardens property title boundary, which can be loosely defined in terms of 4 precincts.

The first precinct is the formal component of the Botanic Gardens dedicated to the collection, cultivation, preservation, and display of plants. The gardens overlook the foreshore zone from atop the 8 mt. embankment and provide views of the lake through the branches of large pine and canopied trees.

This precinct is roughly bounded by Fyans St. on its south and east boundaries, Gellibrand St. on its west boundary and the base of the embankment on its north boundary. The Botanic Gardens playground nestles around the eastern embankment of the gardens with picnic and BBQ facilities adjoining. The playground was installed in 1980 and underwent major redevelopment from 2006 to 2010 with community assistance.

The second precinct is the largely grassed foreshore area to the north of the embankment that includes the CFA training track, tower and pump room; picnic / BBQ facilities and rotunda; the Tachyglossus mosaic, and pathways.





Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park



The third precinct includes a large car park, the Colac Anglers pavilion, boat ramp, fishing jetty and part of the Colac Caravan Park.

The fourth precinct includes the Colac Rowing Club and carpark.

Rowing Club members constructed the rowing club buildings in the 1950s. Club membership has dropped from a maximum of 50 (approximately 25 juniors and 25 seniors) when the lake was full to the current 15 adult male members who primarily use the fitness equipment in the pavilion<sup>19</sup>.



The Foreshore Zone is the main recreation and activity area on the within the study area. When water levels were higher, this was a busy and often overcrowded precinct with car parking extending along Fyans St. This was the main entry point for motorised boating and associated activities such as skiing. The sandy beach entry to the nearby lake shallows, and open lawn area with large shade trees made it an attractive destination for families.



In recent years the water line has often been over 80 mts from the lake embankment and as in other zones, screened from the shoreline because of reed and weed growth.

Generally, infrastructure in the zone is dated and there is not a consistent style or colour theme.

Many residents and visitors have strong recollections of childhood, family, and recreation activities focused on this area of the foreshore. Hence conflicting views prevail as to the future use of the zone, and associated infrastructure and landscaping aspirations.



In more recent times the site has hosted a number of community events, including Australia Day in 2015 in the Botanic Gardens<sup>20</sup>

The foreshore pathway diverges at the main car park. To the left it continues along the foreshore, crossing the boat ramp and then travels to the north of the caravan park and on to the Barongarook Ck. crossing. To the right it

continues around the rear of the angling pavilion to the playground.

There is an opportunity to reinvigorate or reactivate this zone, however given the significantly changed environmental conditions, this means a focus on land-based activities as a priority over water-based activities.

The activation of spaces in foreshore areas, in particular the Foreshore Zone is discussed in greater detail in section 6.2.

The master plan respects the need to ensure developments or enhancements thoughtfully consider a number of sensitive environments associated with the Foreshore Zone. These environments are the adjoining Botanic Gardens environment, history, and outlook; the Tachyglossus mosaic; and the memorial brick pathway.

The master plan proposes enhanced and additional picnic and social facilities, amenities to support community events, and an updated play space on the foreshore. The master plan also builds on the indigenous Australia theme with inclusion of the 'Dreaming' or Infinity Jetty at the end of the Tachyglossus mosaic groyne.

<sup>19</sup> Information provided by Rowing Club President, November 2015

<sup>20</sup> Botanic gardens / Foreshore lawn area

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

**Key focus for the zone:**

- Recreation / Lifestyle
  - Walking / jogging / cycling
  - Community events and celebrations
  - Family social activities and play
- Environmental
  - Sympathetic integration with the natural / environmental features of the Botanic Gardens including the embankment and vegetation
  - Preserving and enhancing treed lawn features
- Heritage / Culture
  - Sensitive and well integrated celebration of indigenous and non-indigenous culture and history

**Key Actions for the Zone**

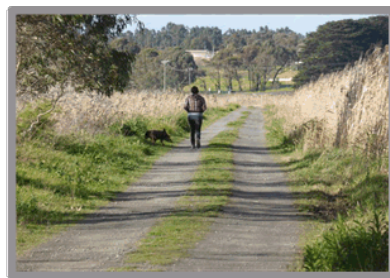
- 'Dreaming' / Infinity jetty at the end of the Tachyglossus mosaic spit
- Relocation of the CFA training tack and associated structures
- Investigating of options for a fully accessible play space at the eastern end of the common that is well integrated into the environment by using appropriate materials, colour themes, and structures
- Enhancing of the existing Botanic Gardens play space as a unique botanic and natural environmental play space
- Foreshore lighting and feature tree lighting
- Power to enable provision for mobile food / coffee vans and cater for events
- Additional picnic and social facilities including shelters, BBQ facilities
- Additional plantings
- Widening of the pathway to meet shared pathway standards
- Signage – Distance / direction, precinct and compliance signage
- Sealing of the car park to the west of the common and enhancing the area (long term).

**Zone 6: The Esplanade and Wetlands to Bruce St. (Reference Map 6)**



The main pathway continues its way along the foreshore to the north of the open grassland area abutting The Esplanade. This area is within the designated flood zone, is low lying, and slow to drain after rain events. After past very high water levels, and particularly when accompanied by northerly winds, this area has flooded.

There is no significant use of the area apart from off leash dog activities even though the area is a designated on-leash area<sup>21</sup>, however the area provides a valuable environmental buffer between residential properties and the lake.



There is a small picnic area at the end of Church St. with a serene and attractive view out over the lake. Council's Environmental Services Team run programs in this area with primary and secondary schools, and alternative education institutions. These include environmental awareness and education, and tree planting programs.

The pathway continues along the foreshore where it connects to the dirt / gravel maintenance track. The maintenance track continues along the foreshore to the north of the man made wetlands.

<sup>21</sup> Refer Colac Otway Local Laws / Responsible Pet Ownership brochure [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Files/ResponsiblePetOwnershipBrochure.pdf](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Files/ResponsiblePetOwnershipBrochure.pdf)

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

The wetland and bird sanctuary provides habitat for over 20 species of water birds, including a number of migratory species that are listed under agreements between the Australia and Japan and China for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats that are in danger of extinction<sup>22</sup>.

A raised boardwalk connects the end of the Esplanade to Fyans St. and Quamby St. The boardwalk traverses the low lying Barongarook creeklands, with the west arm crossing the creek via an old timber bridge to meet up with Fyans St. The east arm of the boardwalk links to Quamby St. The boardwalk is narrow with right angle junctions that do not provide easy access for bike riders.

There is an opportunity to vegetate the area in line with Guilfoyle's vision for 'The Dell' and to incorporate a public art trail along the raised board walk that reflects the environmental and social themes of the lake environments and the township of Colac.

A significant public art feature through this area will potentially draw interest and activity across the Barongarook Ck. and to the wetlands environmental features. Refer to section 6.5 for additional discussion on public art.

Consideration should be given to extending the public art trail upstream along the Barongarook Ck. to Murray St. Over time, as the trail is developed, it has the potential to be a major feature that extends the opportunities associated with the foreshore zone without 'crowding' the foreshore zone itself.

**Key focus for the zone:**

- Environmental
  - Habitat / wildlife protection
  - Environmental education
  - Views
- Heritage / Culture
  - Public art
- Recreation / Lifestyle
  - Walking / jogging / cycling – existing shared pathway upgrade.
  - Nature observation

**Key Actions for the Zone**

- Cluster plantings of trees such as River Red Gums around Esplanade Park
- An environmental education / picnic shelter
- Environmental education stations
- Wetlands boardwalk and bird hide
- Extension of the raised boardwalk from the vicinity of The Esplanade to meet with the shared foreshore pathway near Barongarook Ck. mouth
- Public art trail (through 'The Dell') that reflect the natural environment, indigenous and non-indigenous history, and story telling.
- Signage – Distance / direction, precinct and compliance signage.



<sup>22</sup> [www.otway.biz/lakecolac.html](http://www.otway.biz/lakecolac.html)

### Zone 7: Bruce St. to Clark St. (Reference Map 7)

#### Overview of the zone

The pathway in the form of the maintenance track continues along the foreshore past the former landfill site and the informal extension of McGonigal St to Clark St. The former landfill site cannot be vegetated because tree and plant roots will penetrate the 'cap' / cover of the landfill which then allows the contained leachates to escape into the environment.

Because of the above and the remoteness of the site, the master plan does not recommend the site for BMX or other related activities that were raised for consideration during the project.

There are high points along this section of the track, particularly in the vicinity of McGonigal St., that provide expansive views over the lake.

Consideration could be given to allowing dogs off-leash given it is not a significant habitat or recreation zone and there are no other opportunities to allow dogs off leash in the parklands. Consideration was given to the Esplanade Park as a possible off-leash area, however its close proximity to the wetlands and associated wildlife would preclude this.

#### Key focus for the zone:

- Recreation / Lifestyle
  - Walking / jogging / cycling
  - Dog off-leash
- Environmental
  - Amenity tree planting
  - Views

#### Key Actions for the Zone

- Cluster plantings of trees such as River Red Gums along the lake foreshore and the edge of the landfill where they will not interfere with the landfill cap and accompanying seating are proposed. This will enhance the amenity of the zone, provide a visual connection with Esplanade Park and the Wetlands Zone, and provide a visual buffer from the industrial buildings at the end of Clark St. Screen planting along the last 50-75 metres of St. will provide an additional visual buffer.
- It is not proposed to formalise the foreshore pathway at this time due to the low level of use. However, use should be monitored and in the long term there can be further investigation of opportunities to formalise the pathway and extend it around the lake to the north.
- Signage – Distance / direction, and compliance signage.



### Zone 8: Lower Barongarook Ck. to Chapel Street Bridge (Reference Maps: Map 8)

#### Overview of the zone

From Fyans St. the pathway travels along both sides of the Barongarook Ck. and crosses the creek 4 times. The pathway is generally 1.8-2 metres wide in this zone and is in predominantly poor condition. The creek parklands have a sense of serenity after the more formal and activity focus of other zones.

The zone is characterised by old plantings of large exotic trees and in some areas later plantings of Australian natives (northern area of Hugh Murray Reserve).

The Hugh Murray Reserve includes seven old steel archways that are covered in creeping plants including jasmine, hardenbergia and honeysuckle<sup>23</sup>. The archway structures are old and dated and because they are enclosed by vegetation it is difficult to see into the archway and as a result they do not comply with safe design principles.

<sup>23</sup> Declared pest plant references] <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/state-prohibited-weeds>,  
[http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/page/Page.asp?Page\\_id=203&h=1](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/page/Page.asp?Page_id=203&h=1)

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park



The zone also includes a large open timber structure, referred to as 'the Woolshed' (near Chapel St.), which was constructed as a community project in the 1980s along with a number of other structures including small timber gazebos in varying condition, and a pathway junction arbour that is also dated and in poor condition.

There is an opportunity to better define Chapel St. as an entry point to the foreshore parklands with street tree plantings and more attractive and updated road / pedestrian barrier treatments. Wear on the roadside indicates car parking occurs at the end of the barriers on a narrow strip of road verge.

Council has undertaken extensive weed eradication, planting, and bank stabilisation works in this zone over the last 3-5 years.



The Hugh Murray Reserve is classified as a 'neighbourhood' park<sup>24</sup> which indicates that it is not a site that warrants or is appropriate for additional recreation of social infrastructure. Any additional infrastructure proposed for the site must take into consideration the likely level of use, given its profile, and the function of the park in the overall open space / park network.

There is the opportunity to establish the Hugh Murray Reserve as a more significant local family recreation precinct with the enhancement of the informal BMX track; land sculpting and feature rock installations that are suitable for climbing and scrambling; dog off leash sensory plantings and exploratory landscapes; and social / picnic facilities. Respondents to the community survey expressed a desire for family friendly areas and facilities elsewhere in the parklands as an alternative to the

foreshore area.

There is also the opportunity to continue the public artwork trail upstream of the proposed art trail alongside the raised boardwalk in zone 6.

Creative and significant feature landscapes that are easy to maintain provide exploratory and play opportunities for families, and if it remains as a dog off-leash area, the family dog.

**Key focus for the zone:**

- Environmental
  - Environmental education
  - Tree / vegetation amenity – mixed planting of native and exotic
  - Habitat enhancement
- Recreation / Lifestyle
  - Walking / jogging / cycling
  - Family play
  - Off-leash dog activities



**Key Actions for the Zone**

- Removing of the 7 old archways and derelict gazebos
- Continue the public art trail with installations that reflect the natural environment, indigenous and non-indigenous history, and story telling.
- Bridge replacement upgrading



<sup>24</sup> Colac Otway Open Space Strategy, p 57

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

- Enhancing Hugh Murray Reserve as a local community hub with activity spaces and recreation features that attract families and young people. Features to include land sculpting and large feature rocks that are 'playable and climbable'; enhancing of the BMX track; and social / picnic facilities
- Mature feature plantings of trees such as Crepe Myrtle along Chapel St. to profile the entry to the parklands and provide seasonal colour to the streetscape
- Informal car park off Chapel St. (Hugh Murray Reserve)
- Signage – Distance / direction, and precinct signage.

**Zone 9: Upper Barongarook Ck. from Chapel St. to Murray St. Bridge (Reference Map 9)**



**Overview of the zone**

The Barongarook Ck. pathway continues under the Chapel St. bridge to emerge on the western side of the creek as a 'desire line', an unformed track that continues through the 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Colac Scouts precinct to rejoin the sealed pathway.

The northern area of this precinct is characterised by older unkempt plantings of Australian native trees, open areas, and low lying ground that is often wet for 4-6 months of the year. The southern area of the precinct contains the scout facilities and access road ways.



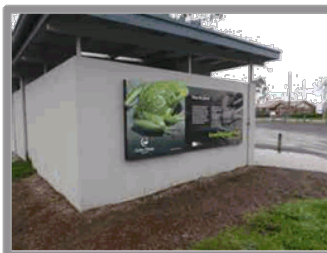
The main pathway through this zone is accessed from the footpath on Chapel St. and travels along the east side of the Barongarook Ck. The area known as the 'Sculpture Park' lays to the east of the creek and includes various steel based public art installations that were erected in the 1970s as part of a public art project.

Some of the pieces have been relocated and many of the remaining works are in disrepair and have no interpretive information that would normally accompany such installations. The works are scattered through open parkland areas, which can remain wet underfoot for 4-6 months of the year. The general consensus from consultation supported the removal of the works from the site because they were dated, and are not an attractive reflection of the Colac Community.



There is however the opportunity to continue the public artwork trail proposed for zones 6 and 8, upstream and through this zone

This zone can be enhanced with plantings to screen adjoining properties, including the motel.



When the pathway meets with the Murray St. wayside stop, the main branch of the pathway follows the creekline past the scout precinct and passes under Murray St. A landscape plan has been developed for this precinct as the CBD entry point.

The other branch of the pathway travels along the eastern side of the wayside stop where it ends at Murray St. There is an opportunity to neaten vegetation in this area and

increase the profile of the area as a main entry point to the parklands and creek pathway

Council has renovated the toilet block and added picnic facilities and shelters at the wayside stop. The car park is graveled but is subject to degradation, particularly in wet weather. Some residents of the adjoining units use the car park for private parking and there is evidence that residents use the car park, parklands, and lane way at the back of the motel to access their units.

Council has also undertaken extensive weed eradication, planting, and bank stabilisation works in this zone over the last 3-5 years.

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

**Key focus for the zone:**

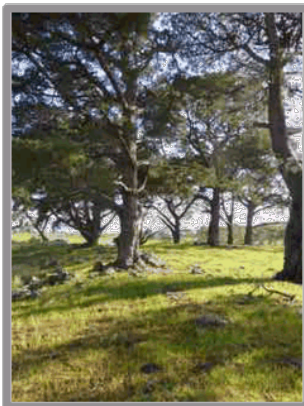
- Environmental
  - Tree / vegetation amenity – mixed planting of native and exotic trees
  - Habitat enhancement
- Recreation / Lifestyle
  - Walking / jogging / cycling
  - Reflection / Nature observation

**Key Actions for the Zone**

- Continue the new public art trail with installations that reflect the natural environment, indigenous and non-indigenous history, and story telling.
- Relocating / removing installations from the Sculpture Park
- Additional exotic tree plantings to the east of the pathway to create massed lawn plantings
- Screen planting of adjoining properties
- Prevent car access from the parklands
- Upgrading wayside stop car park
- Neatening vegetation along pathway (eastern side of wayside stop)
- Enhancing entry in line with CBD and Entrances Master Plan
- Signage – Distance / direction, and precinct signage.

**Zone 10: Meredith Park (Reference Maps: Map 9)**

**Overview of the zone**



Meredith Park is on the northern bank of Lake Colac. Prior to 2008 when water levels were high the park was a popular picnic and recreation zone, and a launch point for watercraft. The site treed and rocky with a peaceful and expansive outlook over the lake

There is no fee for camping at the site, however council is in the process of considering whether to retain free camping. Discussions with caravaners indicate it is the natural amenity, quietness, and remoteness of the site that appeal to caravaners.

The site is popular for special events such as New Year's Eve celebrations and private celebrations. Because of the remoteness of the site it often attracts anti-social behavior at these events.

The BBQ, picnic and toilet facilities at the site are basic but any upgrade should consider the future of the site as a camping venue.

There is an opportunity to improve the amenity of the site with some minor maintenance and road works. Pine trees are the dominant tree species at the site, which need to be removed over time. These can be replaced with a mix of Australian natives and shade trees, that will assist to suppress grass growth over the rocky landscape.

**Key focus for the zone:**

- Recreation / Lifestyle
  - Reflection / Nature observation
  - Camping – The continuation or extent of camping will depend on the outcome of the proposed camping feasibility study
  - Water activities – The extent of activities is dependent on water levels
- Environmental
  - Tree / vegetation amenity enhancement – mixed planting of native and exotic

**Key Actions for the Zone**

- Cleanup vegetation and increase maintenance to gravel road and road verges
- A feasibility study to determine the future of camping at Meredith Park
- Depending on the outcome of the feasibility study, renew or relocate toilets and renew picnic infrastructure

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

- Fishing platform. Priority will be dependent on lake water levels and associated fish stock
- Signage – Distance / direction, precinct and compliance signage.

**8 Design Considerations**

This section highlights some of the key open space and landscape design principles that underpin the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan.

**8.1 Universal Design**

Universal design is the term used to describe the practice of designing buildings and public spaces so they allow use by the broadest range of ages and abilities.

Rather than focusing on users with specific disabilities, universal design focuses on making provision for mobility issues faced by people through every stage of their life.

The key principles include design that caters for a wide range of abilities, is simple and easy to use, and minimises the effort required to use.

The following are examples of how universal design principles will influence the Lake Colac Master Plan:

- Easy and direct access between park amenities and features such as between car parks and toilets and picnic areas
- Play equipment and environments that optimises play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities; and opportunities for carers of different abilities to interact with children
- Pathways and access ramps that are easy to access, and even and wide enough to accommodate people with different mobility needs and abilities e.g. motorised scooters, children on trikes, parents with prams
- Toilets that are easily accessible for different abilities
- Car parking spaces of a size and layout that allows easy access to cars for mothers with children and prams, people with mobility aids, or people with picnic equipment
- Feeder and internal road crossings that are safe
- Directional and distance signage that clearly indicates distance; estimated times; and terrain information if relevant.



**8.2 Design that Encourages Use and Physical Activity**

There is an array industry documents<sup>25 26</sup> that clearly detail the design requirements for public spaces so these spaces will attract use, and encourage people to be physically and socially active.

Importantly, these spaces must be and feel safe, and be attractive and inviting. To achieve this, spaces should:

- Be modern, attractive, inviting, and well maintained to encourage constant and high levels of use used
- Optimise sightlines including sightlines:

Healthy active spaces are achieved by providing:

- well planned networks of walking and cycling routes
- streets with direct, safe and convenient access
- local destinations within walking distance from homes
- accessible open spaces for recreation and leisure
- conveniently located public transport stops
- local neighbourhoods fostering community spirit.

Ref: Healthy By Design

<sup>25</sup> Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria, Department of Land Water Environment and Planning

<sup>26</sup> Healthy By Design: A Planners' Guide to Environments for Active Living, Victorian Heart Foundation



Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

- Into parks from surrounding streets and local residences. This means minimising the enclosing of spaces by backyard fences
- Along pathways
- From car parks and toilets
- Be well lit to enhance visibility and natural surveillance
- Be designed to accommodate the activities people want to use them for e.g. recreation and commuter trails
- Regular spacing of seating i.e. every 200-400 mts
- Have well designed elements such as park furniture, drinking fountains, public information, public toilets, and play equipment to encourage the informal use of parks
- Ensure vegetation and landscape features (e.g. pergolas, rock mounds) do not obscure sightlines or lighting
- Have directional signage to major local destinations, public transport, facilities (e.g. police, telephone); distance and 'walking time' signage, closest exit routes etc.
- Spaces that are well used are less likely to be subject to vandalism and anti-social behavior.

## 9 Discussion of General Project Findings

A number of considerations raised during consultation were relevant to all, or a number, of the project zones. These are discussed in this section.

### 9.1 Lake Colac Water Body

There is an overwhelming desire for the return of the days when lake water levels were consistently high and enabled water based activities to flourish.

There was diverse opinion expressed as to the strategies that might return water to Lake Colac, and the sometimes-high costs associated with these. This is despite the many technical and scientific reports<sup>27</sup> written about changed climatic conditions that will continue to affect water levels.

The majority of project participants acknowledged the changed climatic conditions in the region and the ongoing impact on water levels. In view of this, they agreed there should be a focus on enhancing land-based opportunities as the priority over water based activities.

### 9.2 Activation of Spaces

Spaces that are constantly used have a number of attributes that stand them apart from lesser-used spaces. These attributes include a wide range of different things to do, to see, to interact with all in close proximity to each other; attractions for different age groups and abilities; facilities that support these attractions such as toilets and picnic facilities; infrastructure such as pathways that makes it easy to move between different environments and facilities; attractive and interesting design features; natural features; and features such as lighting that increase hours of use. Importantly they feel safe and are safe.

The more of these features and considerations that can be addressed then the more popular the space will be that can be drawn together the more popular or 'activated' a space will.

A number of council planning documents have identified the need to activate the Foreshore Zone including the Open Space Strategy and the Lake Colac Commercial Development Opportunity Report<sup>28</sup>

This section gives consideration to the activation of the Foreshore Zone, which received strong support through the project, and the

'Enhancements to informal recreation facilities can generate broader social benefits including improvements to community health and fitness, enhanced civic pride and improved recreation opportunities.'  
Ref: Lake Colac Commercial Development Opportunity Report, p31

<sup>27</sup> Refer Appendix 1 for examples

<sup>28</sup> Lake Colac Commercial Development: Opportunity Profile, Cost-Benefit Analysis and Economic Impact Assessment

activation of other spaces such as trails and the surrounding Foreshore.

### 9.2.1 Activation of the Foreshore Zone

There is overwhelming agreement from the community consultation for the activation of the Foreshore Zone, which is viewed as a lost opportunity for the town's economy. There is a strong desire for the Foreshore Zone to 'better reflect who we are as a community'<sup>29</sup>.

The Open Space Strategy identifies the Lake Colac Foreshore as a regional open space asset. Currently it does not have the level of features and amenities, and the level of use that normally accompanies a regional level facility.

Comments about the foreshore typically related to the need for additional and modern picnic, BBQ and toilet facilities; invigorating and cleaning up the area; providing facilities that cater for families; shade trees; modern play features that cater for a wider age group and people of all abilities, and things that make the foreshore interesting and different.

Residents involved in the project identified 'making the foreshore area in front of the Botanic Gardens more appealing'<sup>30</sup> as the most important priority for improving the Foreshore.

Activation of the foreshore will only be achieved by introducing features and environments that people want access to and by landscape and design features that create attractive and safe environments. Public spaces that have people constantly coming and going because there is a significant array of different things to do, will in turn attract more people, creating a destination that becomes a prominent community hub.

There does not appear to be any sound justification for the inclusion of any significant commercial infrastructure at this time. Council has commissioned reports that made recommendations regarding water based commercial activities and does not recommend that commercial infrastructure be developed in the foreshore areast this time.

The CFA training track is viewed as an obstacle to the foreshore achieving its potential as a community and family recreation hub. Previous studies<sup>31</sup> have recommended that the CFA fire training track and facilities be moved. These structures remain intrusive on views from the Botanic and impose on the amenity of the lower foreshore area. The CFA training track significantly impacts on the ability to enhance the grassed foreshore area and expand its use.

The foreshore ... 'A safe, vibrant spot well utilised by the community ... A really well developed spot that will encourage activities such as walking, running, cycling, catching up with friends and simply enjoying the fresh air'  
Ref: Community survey respondent

The training track is used in summer 2 times a week for senior training and 2 times a week for junior training.

The project considered opportunities to use the sealed training track for alternative activities including recreation activities and community markets. However, the safety, functional and access requirements of these activities cannot be addressed with the existing dimensions and configuration of the track. Importantly the size and location of the running track prevents optimising the use and development of the foreshore area as a significant community recreation and social hub.



Residents at community meetings and responding to the survey strongly identified with the need for 'wow' features in the foreshore areas, and in particular in the Foreshore Zone, that might include landscape features and a more significant and modern play space.

A large number of residents<sup>32</sup> consulted for the project viewed the foreshore as a good location for an 'iconic

<sup>29</sup> Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan, Community Survey, 2015

<sup>30</sup> Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan, Community Survey, 2015; community meetings; project comment wall at COPACC

<sup>31</sup> Patrick & Wallace, 1993, as cited in the Botanic Gardens Master Plan, p100; Botanic Gardens Master Plan; 2012 Lake Colac Master Plan

<sup>32</sup> Including 62% of survey respondents who agreed / strongly agreed. 38% of survey respondents disagreed / strongly disagreed with a play space on the foreshore

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

play space' that could cater for a wider age and skill range than the existing play space. Contrary opinion was reflected on the basis that a play space would change the use and amenity of the foreshore; would not be in keeping with the amenity and theme of the Botanic Gardens; and would not have shelter from prevailing winds.

Young people involved in the survey communicated a desire for more exciting and challenging things for them to do. Older children indicated that they 'hung around' the play space because there was nowhere else to go. They did not find the play space suitable or challenging enough and did not find other areas of the foreshore parklands particularly inviting for young people.

The great majority of people who participated in the project recognise and accept that prospects associated with the water have significantly diminished. This is because of changed environmental conditions, and water levels that are unlikely to return to those of the past for any consistent period of time.

They did however ask that consideration be given to opportunities to create a 'connection to the water' though they were unclear how this might be achieved. The project proposes that circular walkway be constructed at the end of the jut of land that includes the mosaic. The walkway will extend the visual, and on some occasions physical, connection to the water body; provide access to the sandy lake shoreline when exposed; and will sit above the water when water levels are higher to provide a reflective space.

Further activation can be achieved through partnerships with private enterprise. This is occurring to a small degree with private fitness providers using the foreshore, Botanic Gardens and pathways, and often at times when the Foreshore are not widely used. Additional opportunities should be considered as they arise or proactively investigated. If demand from commercial operators does eventuate to any significant degree council may need to develop a policy to guide.

### 9.2.2 Activity Nodes

#### Foreshore and Botanic Gardens Play Space



The Lake Colac foreshore play space is located on the treed eastern embankment of the Botanic Gardens.

The community and the Friends of the Botanic Gardens have primarily been responsible for the development of the play space over this time and many of those close to the development have strong sentiment about any changes that might be proposed for the play space. The play space is in an attractive and shady setting, which provides protection from the heat in the summer.



Despite this it has to be acknowledged that the layout and design of the play space is dated as are many of the pieces of equipment, even though some remain popular with children. There are three key issues that detract from the site as a play space and these are highlighted in the Victorian State Government 'Safer Design Guidelines' and the 'Healthy by Design Guidelines'. Because of the surrounding vegetation and terrain passive surveillance of the site from the road and Foreshore Zone is poor. In addition, sightlines from the main seating and picnic area are limited.



Further, the play space does not provide easy access for children and carers with restricted mobility, and the terrain will make this more difficult to address than a play space on a more even site. Feedback from mothers with prams and young children and older people commented that many elements within the play space are difficult to access.

There was significant feedback from parents and school children that the play space did not cater for older children, lacked 'challenging' and 'interesting' elements and was

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

outdated.<sup>33</sup> It will not be possible to introduce elements that address these requirements because of the restrictions associated with its location in the Botanic Gardens.

Upgrading and relocating the play space to the Foreshore Zone had greater support from project participants than upgrading the play space in its current location. It is however noted that shade structures would need to be incorporated into the design on the foreshore until new tree plantings provided natural shade.

A play space constructed on the foreshore should be sympathetic to the natural environment of the adjoining Botanic Gardens, integrated well with the open grassed area and the gardens. Heritage Victoria has given 'in principle' support to the foreshore play space however approval will be dependent on the final design.

The master plan recommends that consideration be given to a nature / botanic themed play and education space for younger children in the vicinity of the existing play space.

#### Alternative sites for a playspace

The open space area on the Esplanade and the Hugh Murray Reserve were suggested as alternative sites for a regional play space. This was primarily by people who did not support the relocation of the play space to the Foreshore Zone.

If a play space were to be located at either of these sites, the retention of the Botanic Gardens play space could not be justified on play space planning basis or in terms of cost. That is, an additional play space could not be justified in such close proximity to existing play spaces (Chapel St. and Botanic Gardens play space) or in terms of the cost to maintain and renew the play space over its life. In addition, council is struggling to maintain and renew existing play spaces and has to plan for additional play space in growth areas.

A site that is to accommodate a regional play space needs to have, or have the space for toilets, picnic and social facilities and shelters, pathways that connect to parklands and play elements, and off-road and sealed car parking.

Regional play spaces are usually on regional level open space that has a range of social and recreation activity options. The Hugh Murray Reserve and the Esplanade Park are classified as 'Neighbourhood' level parks in the Open Space Strategy<sup>34</sup>, which means they are not designated to have regional level facilities.



#### Fitness / Exercise Elements

The foreshore is popular with fitness trainers and for sporting club training sessions. These groups use the Botanic Gardens embankment and internal road, the foreshore pathway and to a lesser extent the exercise equipment at the end of Stodart St. west. These groups use the Foreshore because of the different environments available, the attractive amenity of the area, and the camaraderie associated with being with like-minded people. Equipment that would provide alternative training and exercise options was looked on favourably but not seen as a necessity.

<sup>33</sup> COPACC display and feedback wall, onsite meetings, children's submissions and surveys, community survey

<sup>34</sup> Colac Otway Open Space Strategy, p52

### Western Bay Park (Hamilton St.)

There is an opportunity to enhance the Western Bay Park as part of a longer-term plan to upgrade and integrate the foreshore area occupied by the yachting and sea scout's buildings. Council plans to renew the Western Bay Park play space in the on council's 2016 capital works program. There is an opportunity to create a play / activity node that provides recreation and health and wellbeing infrastructure for a wide age range. The master plan recommends that consideration be given to constructing a parkour circuit for young people, and or installing new fitness equipment once the equipment at the end of Stodart St. west reaches the end of its life.

The master plan proposes that mature trees be planted on the site to provide shade and make the site more attractive. Development on the site will need to be undertaken in consultation with local residents, and young people who were involved in consultation for the project.

The right of all people, regardless of age or ability, to access play spaces and associated amenities such as toilets, seats and tables, and pathways in line with the requirements of the Federal Disability Discrimination Act (1992)

## 9.3 Infrastructure

The Lake Colac foreshore parklands are classified as a 'regional' level asset. This means that, generally speaking, facilities and environments will be developed to a higher level than at 'district' or 'township' level facilities. Council defines the type and level of development (e.g. for trails, buildings, bollards) for each classification of open space.<sup>35</sup>

It is necessary that infrastructure and environments are renewed and upgraded over time to ensure they remain relevant to community needs and expectations, attractive, and modern in design. Proactive maintenance will help extend the life of public infrastructure, however trends and expectations change over time, which means council, has to budget for the ongoing renewal of its public infrastructure if it is to continue to reflect the aspirations of the community. Residents involved in the project identified a number of commonly recurring themes and aspirations relating to infrastructure. These are summarised as follows:

- Ensure a modern and consistent style and colour of infrastructure for seating, shelters, barriers and bollards, bridges and pathways / walkways
- Modernise or replace old / out of date buildings and structures
- Ensure infrastructure incorporates creative, unique and conversational design features

The following sections summarise findings in relation to specific types of infrastructure – buildings and structures surfaces; signage; park furniture; public art and memorial plates.

### 9.3.1 Buildings and Structures

Buildings along the foreshore vary greatly in style and construction materials and are generally very dated and tired.

When buildings reach the end of their life consideration should be given to removing or consolidating them with other buildings if there is still a viable use for them. In the short-term rendering / painting of the buildings should be considered to provide a colour theme that is consistent with other infrastructure, and minimises their visual impact.

Council undertook cosmetic works on the three toilet blocks in the parklands<sup>36</sup>. This has provided a short-term enhancement of the buildings but over time they need to be replaced with modern facilities.

Both the Colac Botanic Gardens Conservation Study<sup>37</sup> and the later review of the Botanic Gardens Master Plan<sup>38</sup> recommended, at a minimum, the painting of the building occupied by the Colac Angling Club, and preferably its removal.

<sup>35</sup> Colac Otway Open Space Strategy, p15

<sup>36</sup> Murray St; Foreshore carpark; Meredith Park

<sup>37</sup> Patrick & Wallace, 1993, as cited in the Botanic Gardens Master Plan, p100

<sup>38</sup> Colac Botanic Gardens Master Plan Review, 2012, p91

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

Even more modern structures such as the picnic shelters at the Murray St. wayside stop and Meredith Park do not reflect a style or standard characteristic of a regional open space asset or a CBD 'gateway'. The picnic / band rotunda in the Foreshore Zone, while a representation of a heritage theme, is different in style again.



The community is looking for more picnic facilities in nodes throughout foreshore areas that can provide opportunities for adjoining residential areas. Shelters need to be designed so they are of a size and style that provide adequate shelter and extend use of the parklands throughout the year.

Structures throughout the parklands, such as bridges, arbours and pergolas, are generally constructed from treated pine timber, and are of a style that is characteristic of 1970's and 80's design. Many of these structures are in poor condition, do not reflect modern day design trends and as a result detract from the amenity of the parklands.

Some of these structures were built with a significant investment of community labour and passion as in the case of the 'Hayshed' and the wooden arbour over the trail in Hugh Murray Reserve. These together with the dilapidated timber shelters near the raised walk way alongside Barongarook Ck. and alongside Fyans St. have reached the end of their practical / structural life and need to be dismantled.

Similarly, the seven steel archways along the creek are dated and detract from the amenity of the parklands. The archways are not in keeping with safe landscape design principles<sup>39</sup> because they are fully enclosed with creeping plants and so do not allow for the passive surveillance of people who walk through or around the arbours.

Passive surveillance of the parklands should be optimised, particularly along Barongarook Ck. where residential properties abut the parklands and passive surveillance is generally only achieved from the intersecting roads. Many people reported that they do not feel comfortable using the archways, particularly when there are no people around and after twilight. There was support for removing the archways for reasons of safety and amenity. In addition, the archways do not provide the minimum 0.5 m clearance of either side of a pathway used by cyclists<sup>40</sup> or allow a clear line of sight to oncoming cyclists and pedestrians.

There are however residents who have a sentimental attachment to the archways for historic (e.g. extension of the Botanic Garden theme, their age) or environmental reasons (e.g. they provide habitat for wildlife).

<sup>39</sup> Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment Crime Prevention Victoria; Healthy By Design, SA Government  
<sup>40</sup> Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides, p 107

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

Four bridges cross the Barongarook Ck. between the foreshore and Chapel St. These should be progressively upgraded to better reflect the design guidelines for infrastructure throughout the parklands.



**9.3.2 Pathways**

The style and condition of pathways throughout the parklands differs significantly. The most common surface is concrete as in the vicinity of Murray Street and Ross's Point and bitumen. In the area between Quamby St and the Esplanade there is a raised walkway.

The construction of the brick pathway in the Foreshore Zone is a relatively recent development. For some residents the pathway will be very symbolic and there is likely to be a sentimental attachment. When the pathway is upgraded consideration must be given to an appropriate incorporation of the pavers into the pathway or an appropriate feature. This should be done in conjunction with people for whom the pavers have special meaning.

Overall, the narrow width (1.8-2.0 mts) of pathways and the uneven or poor condition of surfaces means pathways are well below the recommended minimum 2.5-3.0 mtr width<sup>41</sup>. Pathways throughout the parklands are used by families with prams and children on bikes or scooters; skateboarders and inline skaters; fitness and recreation joggers and cyclists; and dog walkers.

The standard of pathways is not supporting of the range of activities residents want to use the pathways for. The pressure on pathways in the foreshore parklands is particularly intense given there are no other off road pathways in Colac.

The master plan recommends that when pathways are upgraded to meet the standards for shared pathways in recognition of the range of activities, ages, and skill levels they cater for. The master plan also recommends that pathways have a 0.5 – 1.0 mt clearance either side, be of a consistent width, and have a smooth and even surface. This should also apply to access pathways and ramps from adjoining streets and car parks.

Good design<sup>42</sup> of shared pathways will optimise use and minimise conflict between pathway users<sup>43</sup>. Good design should also be complemented by educational messages relating to pathway etiquette.

<sup>41</sup> Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6a – Pedestrians and cyclist paths

<sup>42</sup> Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides, Austroads

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

The Colac Otway Physical Activity and Open Space Strategies highlight the need to better connect residential areas to the Lake Colac Foreshore trails. Consultation for the master plan reinforces community aspirations for well linked walking and cycling routes to the township and residential areas.



A relative immediate opportunity to achieve this is via the Murray St. underpass trail that currently ends in the vicinity of the railway line. There is an opportunity to upgrade the trail in line with guidelines recommended in the master plan and to extend it to connect with nearby residential areas via the existing pathway or roadway network. These works will need to be accompanied by relevant pathway and road markings and signage.

If and when subdivision occurs in the vicinity of Rifle Butt Rd. (Zone 1) the master plan recommends that an exclusive bike lane be constructed along the Moore Street extension to service the secondary college and the new subdivisions, through to Deans Ck. Rd. This should be a minimum width of 1.5m within the 60km/h driving zone.

A number of requests were received in relation to the extension of the foreshore trail around the perimeter of the lake to the east to Meredith Park, and to the west beyond Deans Ck.. This has been flagged in the master plan for further consideration, however is not considered a priority at this time.

### 9.3.3 Signage

The style and condition of signage varies throughout the parklands and is generally very dated. The most modern signage is in the vicinity of the Tachyglossus mosaic. In some areas there is a clutter of signs, which do not add to the visual amenity of the area. The majority of signs are compliance related and some interpret landscape cultural features.

The need for directional, to and within the Foreshore, and distance signage was repeated throughout the consultation. People who walk, jog, or cycle for exercise were interested in distance signage along circuits that incorporated Foreshore pathways and local footpaths and streets.

There are a number of signs to Lake Colac from the highway, however these are small and often and easily overlooked. There is minimal signage along the roads leading to the Foreshore, and

43 Pedestrian-Cyclist Conflict Minimisation on Shared Paths and Footpaths , Austroads Research Report, 2006



Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

various vehicle and pedestrian entry points to the lake environs and viewing points are not well marked.

'Safer By Design Guidelines' highlight the importance of directional and distance signage and the Open Space Strategy designates that regional level parklands 'must have' information, directional and interpretive signage and linear open space corridors 'must have' information and directional signage and 'might have' interpretive signage.<sup>44</sup>



9.3.4 Park furniture

Similar to other Foreshore infrastructure, the style and condition of park furniture varies throughout the Foreshore, including the Botanic Gardens and in most cases is of a basic style, and dated. Seats are made from a variety of materials but primarily timber. There does not



<sup>44</sup> Colac Otway Open Space Strategy, p51

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

appear to be any regular placement of seats along trails and in most cases the distance between seats is greater than the 200-400 mts recommended in industry guideline documents.<sup>45</sup>

Bollards and railings are generally made from treated pine and date from the 1980s, and in many areas have fallen into disrepair or have been vandalised.

The master plan recommends that bollards be replaced over time to improve the amenity of the parklands. The master plan identifies sites where replacement of bollards and barriers should occur as a priority, but consideration should be given to a gradual replacement as part of the parks maintenance program.

#### 9.4 Landscape and Plantings

The different project zones and landscapes provide an opportunity to create / consolidate landscape and vegetation themes. There are opportunities to create or consolidate landscape themes throughout the parklands.

A number of proposed directions were tested during community consultation in relation to this. The following reflect directions that were commonly supported or that were raised and considered as viable opportunities.

##### Tree and vegetation plantings

- More shade trees, particularly along the Barongarook Ck. parklands and the foreshore pathway to Stodart St. West, where practical
- Shade trees in Western Bay Park
- The renewal of flowering gum plantings along Queens Av. And the embankment to create a colourful vista from the shoreline / lake and preserve the treed amenity along Queens Av.
- Cluster perimeter planting of trees (River Red Gums) on the Esplanade Park to provide shade and feature plantings. Cluster planting will preserve a large area for run-about play
- Planting of mature shade trees in Western Bay Park
- Maintain / enhance historic exotic tree plantings in lawn areas along the Barongarook Ck. corridor with native plantings in the immediate vicinity of the creek
- Screen plantings to break / screen the impact of adjoining properties e.g. motel, residential fenceline
- Optimise habitat plantings.

The barren former landfill site adjoins the project area. Although requested during consultation, is not possible to vegetate this site because of the need to preserve the integrity of the landfill cap.

In an attempt to create a visual distraction from the site and enhance the amenity of the zone, the master plan proposes to continue the cluster planting of River Red Gums along the maintenance track.

##### Landscape Features

- Creative but cost effective landscape features that are low maintenance but make the zones different and interesting to pass through. Every effort should be made to create landscape features that are interesting and draw people into them such as climbable and playable rockscapes, grassy knolls, and edible plant gardens.

#### 9.5 Public Art / Celebration / Recognition plates

In the 1980s a community project resulted in the installation of a number of modernistic and rustic artistic pieces in what became known as the Sculpture Park. The park is located alongside Barongarook Ck. in between Murray and Chapel St. Over the

"A mix of Australian natives and exotic trees makes the Foreshore interesting and represents our environmental heritage."  
Ref: Project meetings & 83% project survey respondents

"Public art projects will be most effective when they are part of a larger, holistic, multidisciplinary approach to enlivening a city or neighborhood."  
Ref: Collaborative, Creative Placemaking

<sup>45</sup> e.g. Healthy By Design: A Planners' Guide to Environments for Active Living, Victorian Heart Foundation: Safe Design Guidelines for Victoria

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

years some of the pieces have been relocated and many of the remaining pieces have fallen into disrepair.

While community feedback largely supported the removal of the Sculpture Park installations, there was support for quality public artwork installations throughout the parklands. Quality public art installations that reflect local history, character and environment; encourage conversation and diversity of opinion; and included interactive elements were well supported. Further, many saw this as one of a number of key parkland features, if of a high standard, that could draw people to Colac<sup>46</sup>.

There is an opportunity over time to strengthen the linear or pathway linkages through the



parklands and with the CBD with public art. In the shorter term the area referred to as 'the Dell' by Guilfoyle<sup>47</sup>, which is located close to the main Foreshore Zone. This will extend activity opportunities available at easy walking distance from the main car park. The area has an existing raised walkway from which installations can be viewed in wet weather. At other times of the year visitors can more closely interact with installations.

The Open Space Strategy and the CBD and Entrances Master Plan recommend public art be incorporated in the CBD and regional parklands. The Open Space Strategy designates that artwork 'must be' incorporated into regional level parklands and 'might be' incorporated into regional level linear corridors such as along the Barongarook Ck. corridor.<sup>48</sup>



<sup>46</sup> In addition to a modern regional playspace, wetland / wildlife areas / features, and quality picnic facilities

<sup>47</sup> from William Guilfoyle's redesign of the Colac Botanic Gardens and adjoining environments

<sup>48</sup> Colac Otway Open Space Strategy, p51

### 9.6 Maintenance and Amenity

There is an overwhelming desire by the community for the parklands to be presented to a higher standard than is occurring. This was generally expressed in terms of the standard and style of infrastructure, and the state of disrepair of infrastructure.

In terms of general maintenance project participants were divided as to their opinion on the appropriateness of maintenance standards. Generally speaking, basic maintenance was viewed as fair. However observation and feedback indicates the need for expanded maintenance regimes particularly in relation to pruning / removal of relevant vegetation; and removal of fallen and pruned tree branches.

Maintenance protocols relating to mowing in wet weather, spraying and removal of disused / vandalised infrastructure should be reviewed to ensure practices do not detract from parkland appearance.



The previous master plan recommended that spraying procedures be reviewed in order to minimise the unsightliness of vast areas of poisoned grass / dirt around trees and signs. Similar practices continue throughout the project area. Unfortunately changing management protocols can result if additional budget requirements, however alternative protocols should still be investigated.

The community recognise the significant works that council has undertaken along Barongarook Ck. and appreciate how works have improved the appearance of the parklands and environmental values. Maintenance standards will need to be reviewed to determine how maintenance can better reflect the regional status of the project area. This will be particularly relevant as environments and facilities are progressively renewed and upgraded.

The master plan recognises the significant costs associated with enhancing or replacing ageing and less attractive infrastructure such as broken and remedial repairs on lake retaining walls as in the vicinity of Ross Point; reinforcement of jetty embankments, old boat ramps and jetties.

In the longer term this will require separate and significant consideration given the change in recent weather events the significant cost involved. In the short term, other measures to enhance associated environments should be considered to improve the appearance of the parklands. These include tree and vegetation plantings, upgrading of park furniture, and enhancing infrastructure that will activate the parklands.

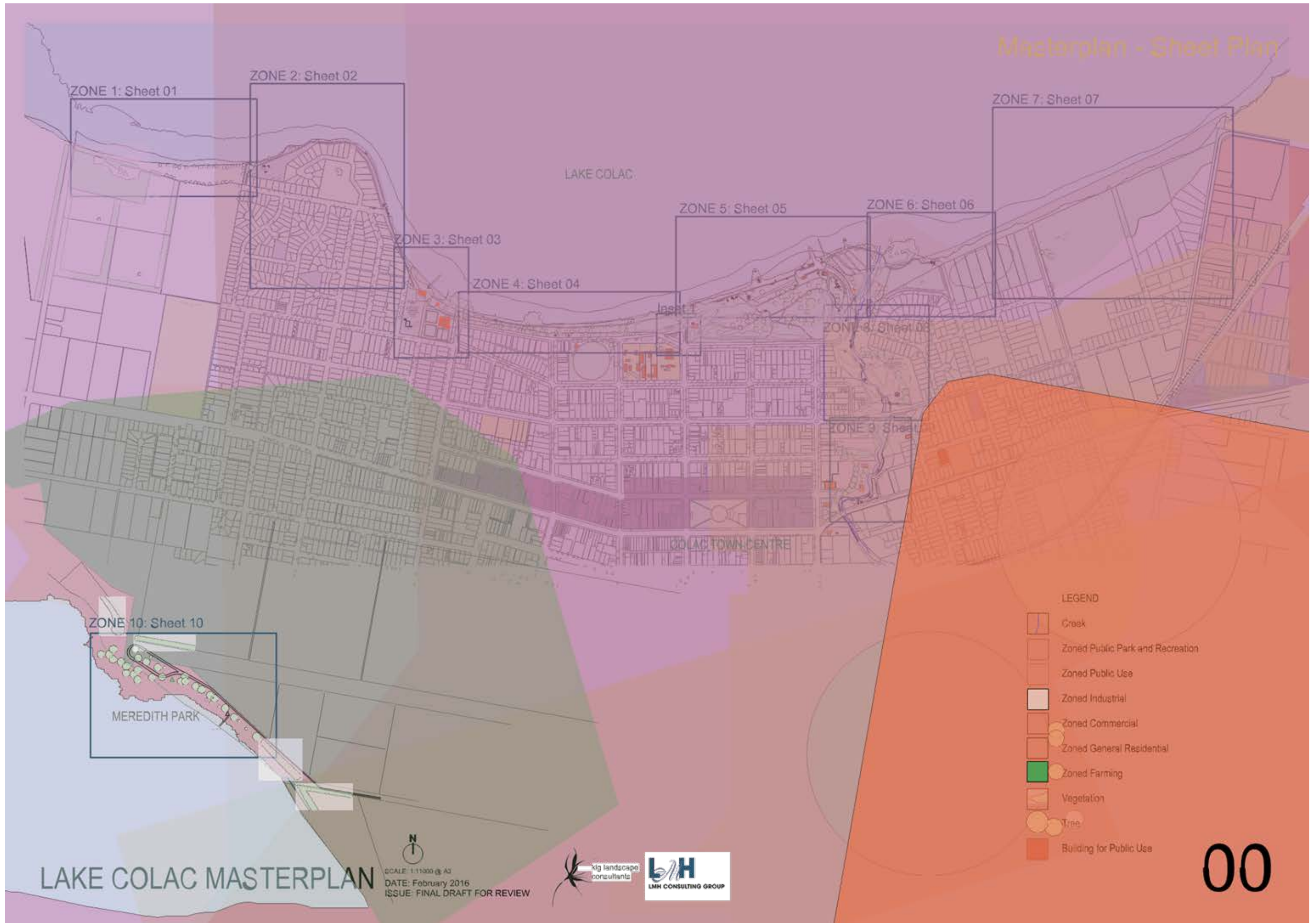
Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

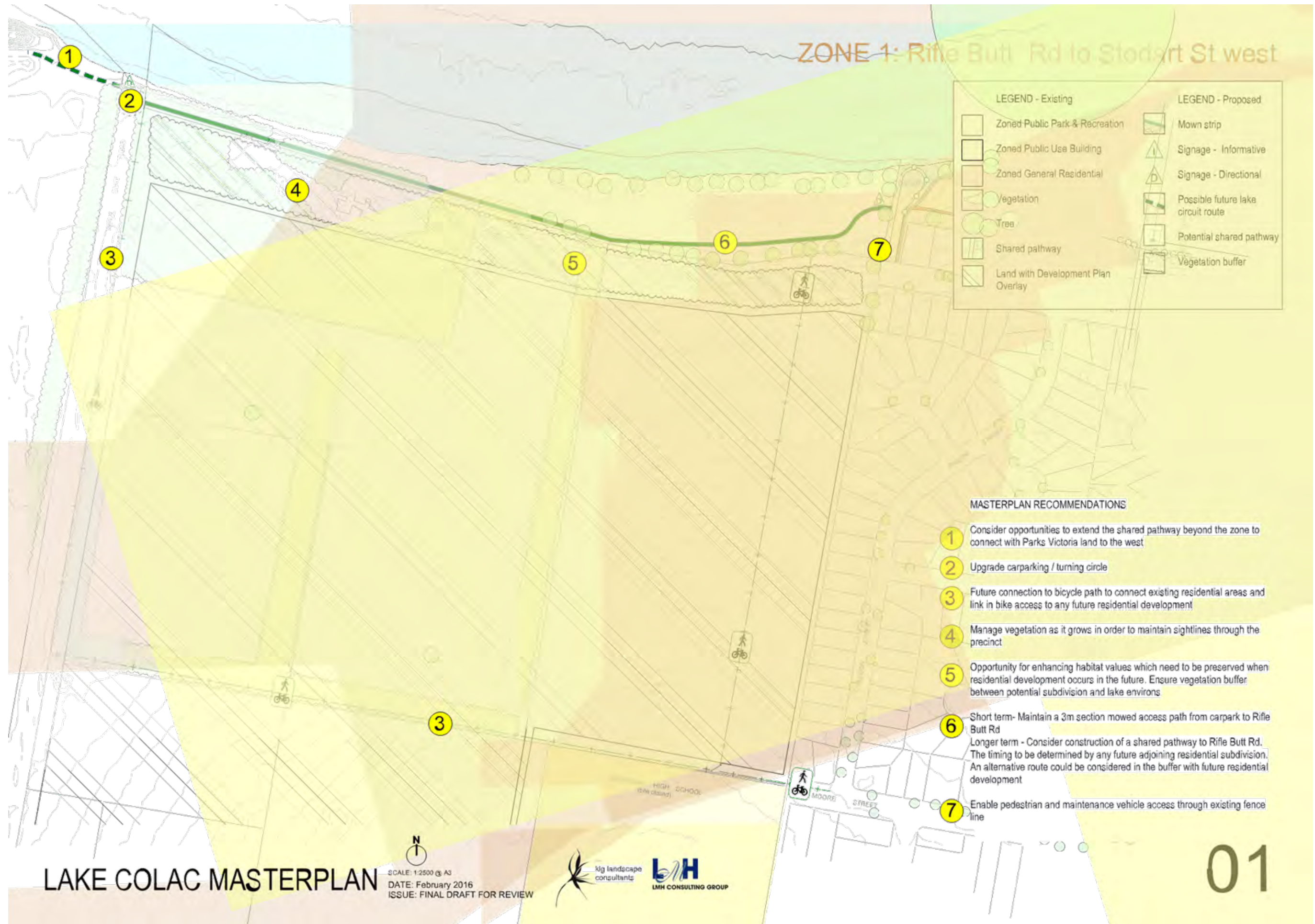


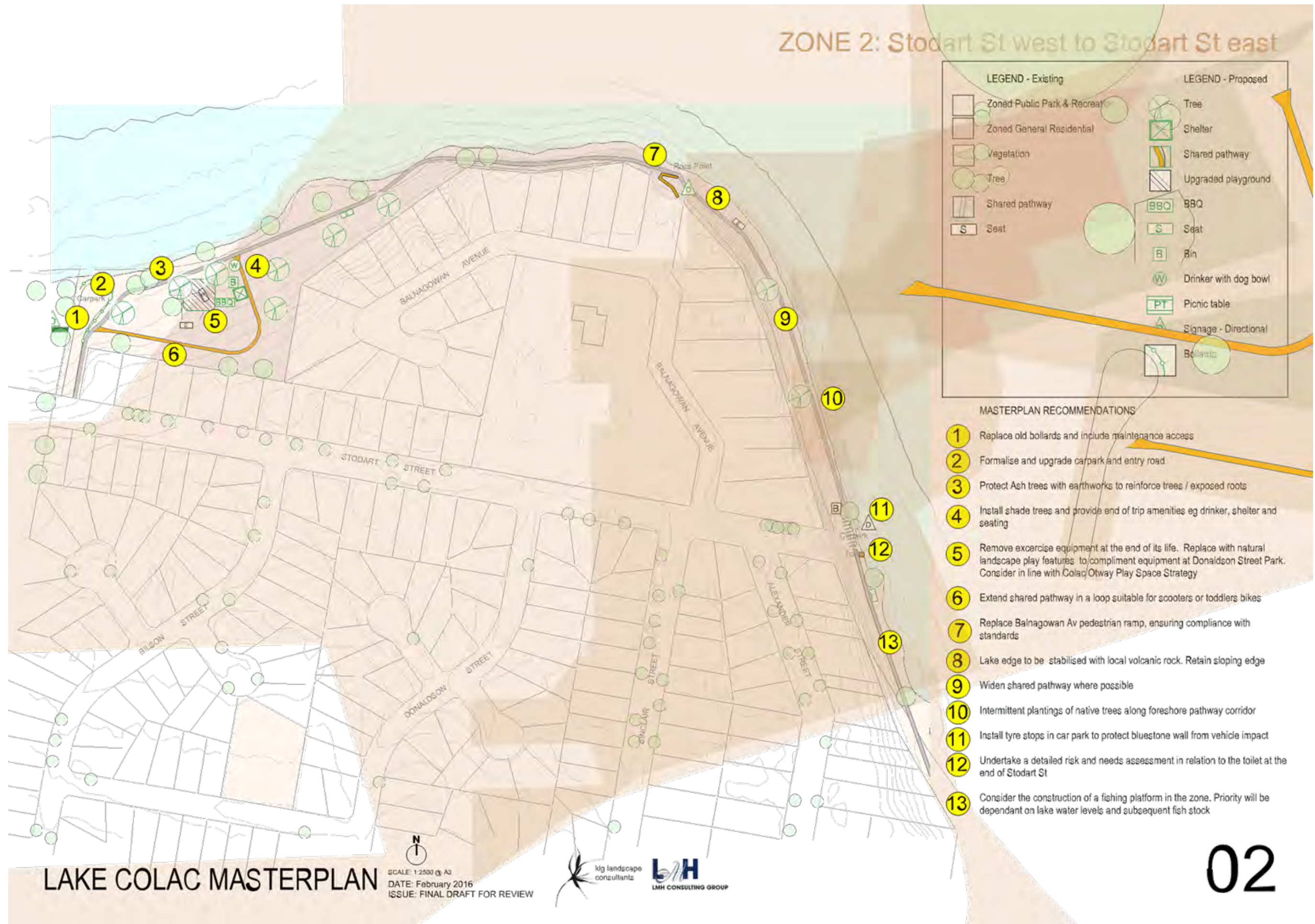
## 10 Landscape Concept Plans

### 10.1 Landscape Concept Plan Plates

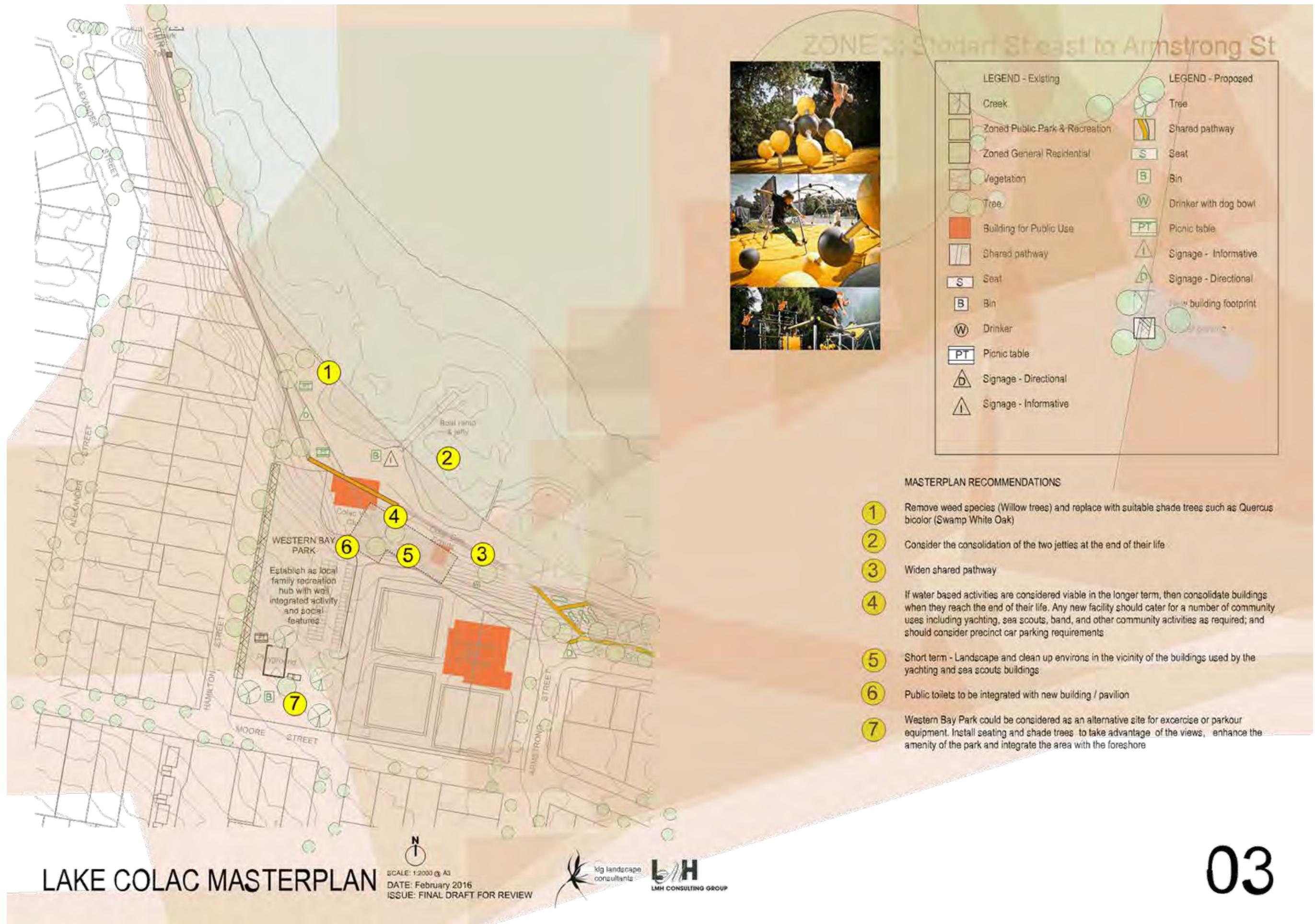
- Plate 00 – Plan of the Project Zones
- Plate 1 – Zone 2: Rifle Butt Rd. to Stodart St. West
- Plate 2 - Zone 2: Stodart St. West to Stodart St. East
- Plate 3 - Zone 3: Stodart St. East to Armstrong St.
- Plate 4 - Zone 4: Armstrong St. to Gellibrand St.
  - Inset 1 (Plate 4) – Gellibrand St. Car Park
- Plate 5 - Zone 5: The Foreshore / Commons
- Plate 6 - Zone 6: The Esplanade and Wetlands to Bruce St.
- Plate 7 - Zone 7: Bruce St. to Clark St.
- Plate 8 - Zone 8: Lower Barongarook Ck. to Chapel St.
- Plate 9 - Zone 9: Chapel St. to Murray St.
- Plate 10 - Zone 10: Meredith Park











ZONE 3: Stoddart Street to Armstrong St



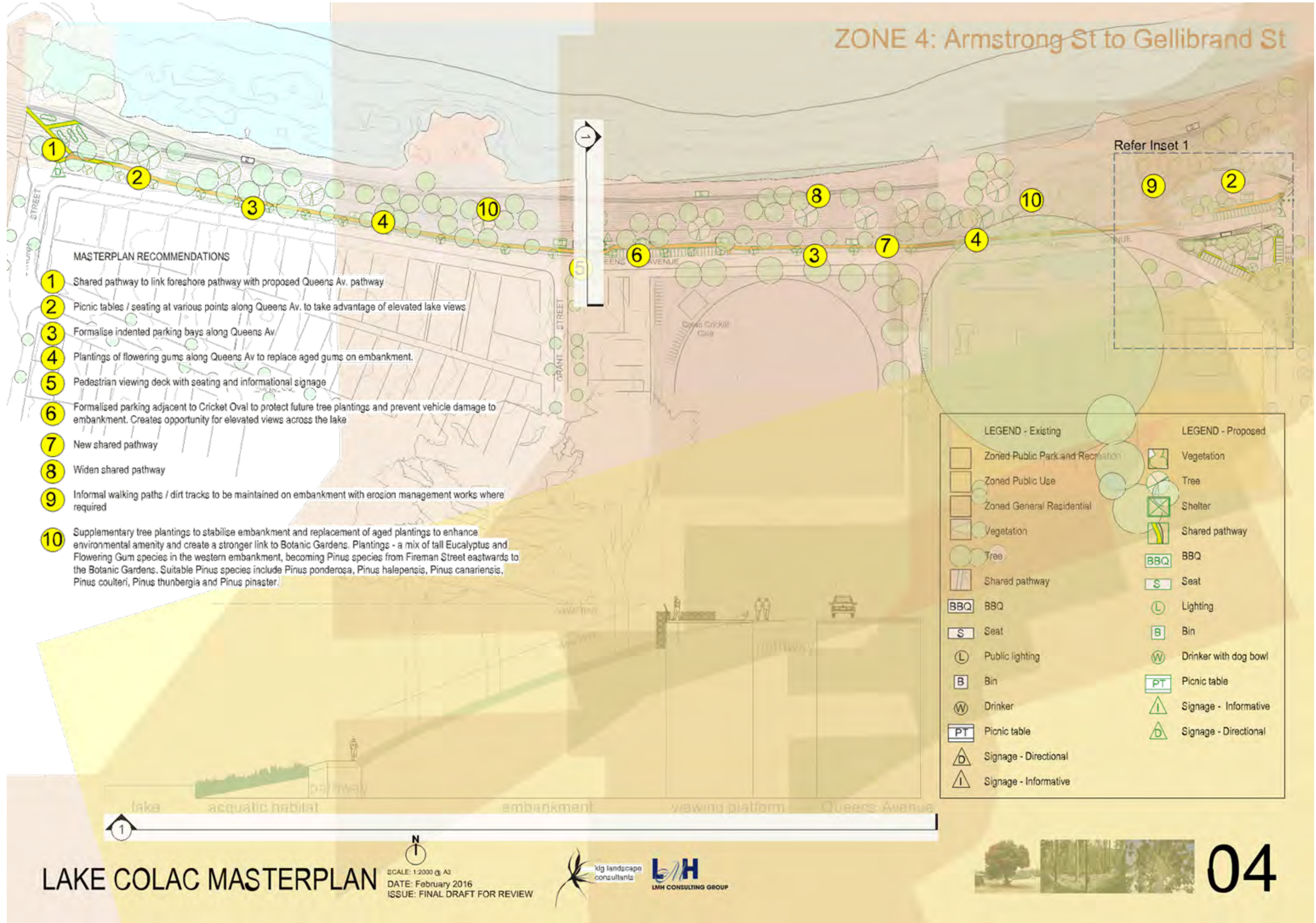
| LEGEND - Existing              | LEGEND - Proposed      |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Creek                          | Tree                   |
| Zoned Public Park & Recreation | Shared pathway         |
| Zoned General Residential      | Seat                   |
| Vegetation                     | Bin                    |
| Tree                           | Drinker with dog bowl  |
| Building for Public Use        | Picnic table           |
| Shared pathway                 | Signage - Informative  |
| Seat                           | Signage - Directional  |
| Bin                            | New building footprint |
| Drinker                        |                        |
| Picnic table                   |                        |
| Signage - Directional          |                        |
| Signage - Informative          |                        |

MASTERPLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Remove weed species (Willow trees) and replace with suitable shade trees such as Quercus bicolor (Swamp White Oak)
- 2 Consider the consolidation of the two jetties at the end of their life
- 3 Widen shared pathway
- 4 If water based activities are considered viable in the longer term, then consolidate buildings when they reach the end of their life. Any new facility should cater for a number of community uses including yachting, sea scouts, band, and other community activities as required; and should consider precinct car parking requirements
- 5 Short term - Landscape and clean up environs in the vicinity of the buildings used by the yachting and sea scouts buildings
- 6 Public toilets to be integrated with new building / pavilion
- 7 Western Bay Park could be considered as an alternative site for exercise or parkour equipment. Install seating and shade trees to take advantage of the views, enhance the amenity of the park and integrate the area with the foreshore

03

# ZONE 4: Armstrong St to Gellibrand St



**MASTERPLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1 Shared pathway to link foreshore pathway with proposed Queens Av. pathway
- 2 Picnic tables / seating at various points along Queens Av. to take advantage of elevated lake views
- 3 Formalise indented parking bays along Queens Av.
- 4 Plantings of flowering gums along Queens Av to replace aged gums on embankment.
- 5 Pedestrian viewing deck with seating and informational signage
- 6 Formalised parking adjacent to Cricket Oval to protect future tree plantings and prevent vehicle damage to embankment. Creates opportunity for elevated views across the lake
- 7 New shared pathway
- 8 Widen shared pathway
- 9 Informal walking paths / dirt tracks to be maintained on embankment with erosion management works where required
- 10 Supplementary tree plantings to stabilise embankment and replacement of aged plantings to enhance environmental amenity and create a stronger link to Botanic Gardens. Plantings - a mix of tall Eucalyptus and Flowering Gum species in the western embankment, becoming Pinus species from Fireman Street eastwards to the Botanic Gardens. Suitable Pinus species include Pinus ponderosa, Pinus halepensis, Pinus canariensis, Pinus coulteri, Pinus thunbergia and Pinus pinaster.

| LEGEND - Existing  |                                  | LEGEND - Proposed |                       |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| [Light Blue Box]   | Zoned Public Park and Recreation | [Green Box]       | Vegetation            |
| [Light Orange Box] | Zoned Public Use                 | [Green Circle]    | Tree                  |
| [Light Yellow Box] | Zoned General Residential        | [Green Square]    | Shelter               |
| [Light Green Box]  | Vegetation                       | [Yellow Line]     | Shared pathway        |
| [Green Circle]     | Tree                             | [BBQ Icon]        | BBQ                   |
| [Yellow Line]      | Shared pathway                   | [S Icon]          | Seat                  |
| [BBQ Icon]         | BBQ                              | [L Icon]          | Lighting              |
| [S Icon]           | Seat                             | [B Icon]          | Bin                   |
| [L Icon]           | Public lighting                  | [W Icon]          | Drinker with dog bowl |
| [B Icon]           | Bin                              | [PT Icon]         | Picnic table          |
| [W Icon]           | Drinker                          | [I Icon]          | Signage - Informative |
| [PT Icon]          | Picnic table                     | [D Icon]          | Signage - Directional |
| [D Icon]           | Signage - Directional            |                   |                       |
| [I Icon]           | Signage - Informative            |                   |                       |

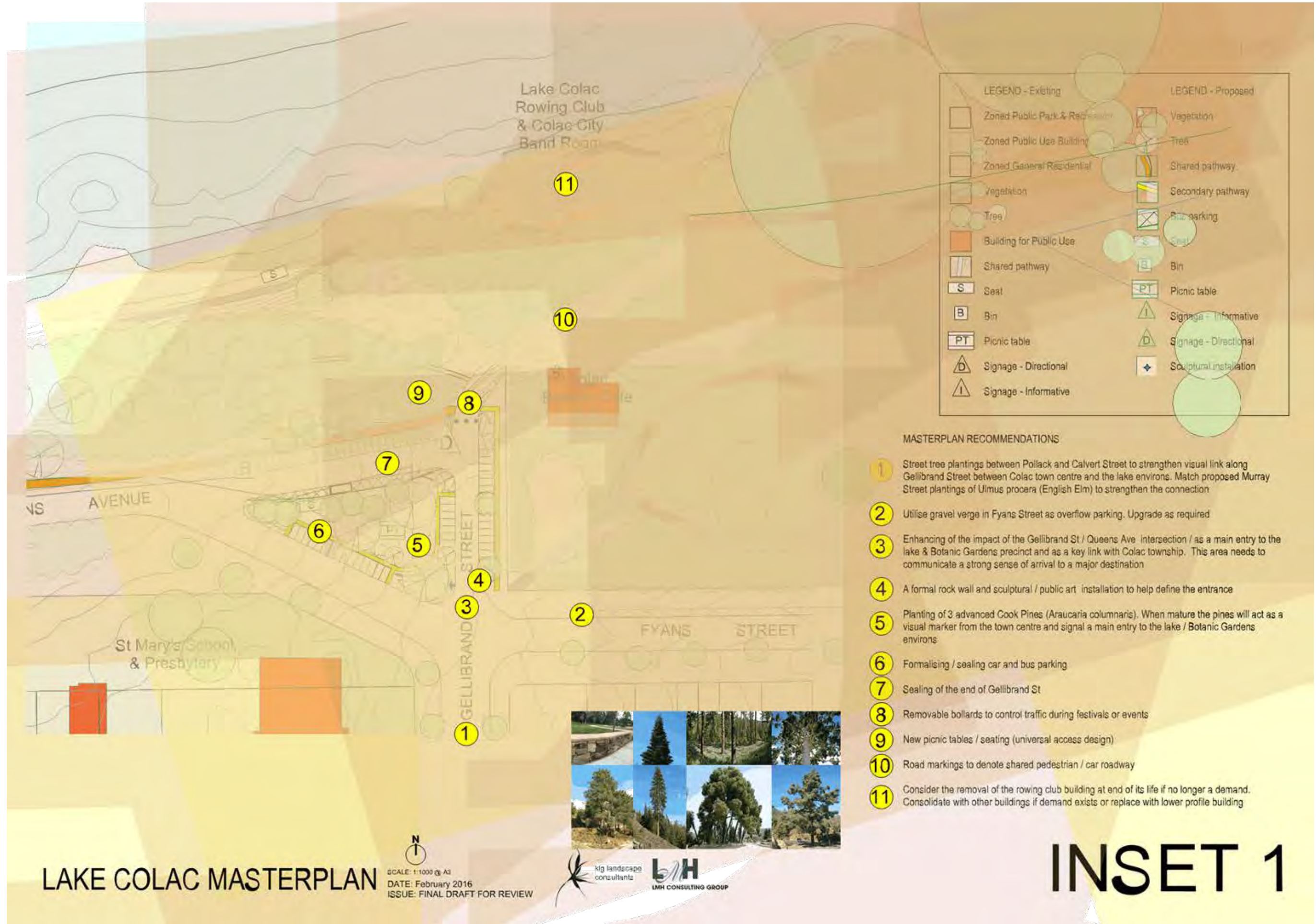


**LAKE COLAC MASTERPLAN**

SCALE: 1:2000 @ A3  
 DATE: February 2016  
 ISSUE: FINAL DRAFT FOR REVIEW



**04**



# ZONE 5: The Foreshore / Common



## MASTERPLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1** Short term - Painting and clean up / screen plant around buildings.  
Longer term- consolidate, upgrade or remove buildings at end of life and depending on viability of water based activities
- 2** Formalise and seal carpark to the west of the common
- 3** In the short term install picnic tables beneath the band stand and install drinker. In the longer term relocate / replace with a more functional and modern structure near the existing BBQs / picnic table and closer to the western car park
- 4** Move CFA training track and associated infrastructure. Enhance the integration between the embankment with new gently undulating grassed areas into the foreshore to cater for public events e.g. film nights, markets, fireworks etc.
- 5** Plant feature trees (Pinus Pinea - Italian Stone Pine) along the foreshore to provide shade and enhance environmental amenity
- 6** Install 2 additional shelters with BBQ facilities in the eastern area of the common and integrate with proposed regional play space
- 7** Install feature lighting among trees (foreshore and Botanic Gardens embankment) and in conjunction with circular jetty
- 8** Widen shared pathway
- 9** Install security / safety lighting in the car park and along the foreshore pathways

- 10** Install 3-Phase power connection points
- 11** Interpretive artwork
- 12** Investigate options for a fully accessible play space at the eastern end of the common. Design to be sympathetic to the surrounding environments and features. Play elements to consider - Hammock swing; Basket Swing; Sandpit with deck; Climbing nets; Natural play landscaping; Shelters; Sound / sensory elements; Various type undersurfacing; Access pathways; Feature walls / rockery
- 13** Enhance existing play space in line with a 'Children's Garden' theme. Consider natural (plant, rock, water) play features; Water play features / shallow water course - simulated creekbed with hand pump and weirs / waterplay elements
- 14** Carpark to be re-sealed. Review line marking to maximum parking capacity and accommodate tandem parking. Consider redesign
- 15** Shared pathway to be re-aligned away from boat ramp
- 16** Move caravan park fencing in by 2m to provide better connection / flow of shared pathway and create stronger visual connection with the pathway from the foreshore. Remove scrubby vegetation which obscures the pathway at this point. Remove willows and replace with native species
- 17** Replace / relocate fishing jetty
- 18** Circular infinity / Dreamtime jetty enabling access to sandy lake foreshore and fishing during high water and enhancing the spit as a celebration of Aboriginal culture

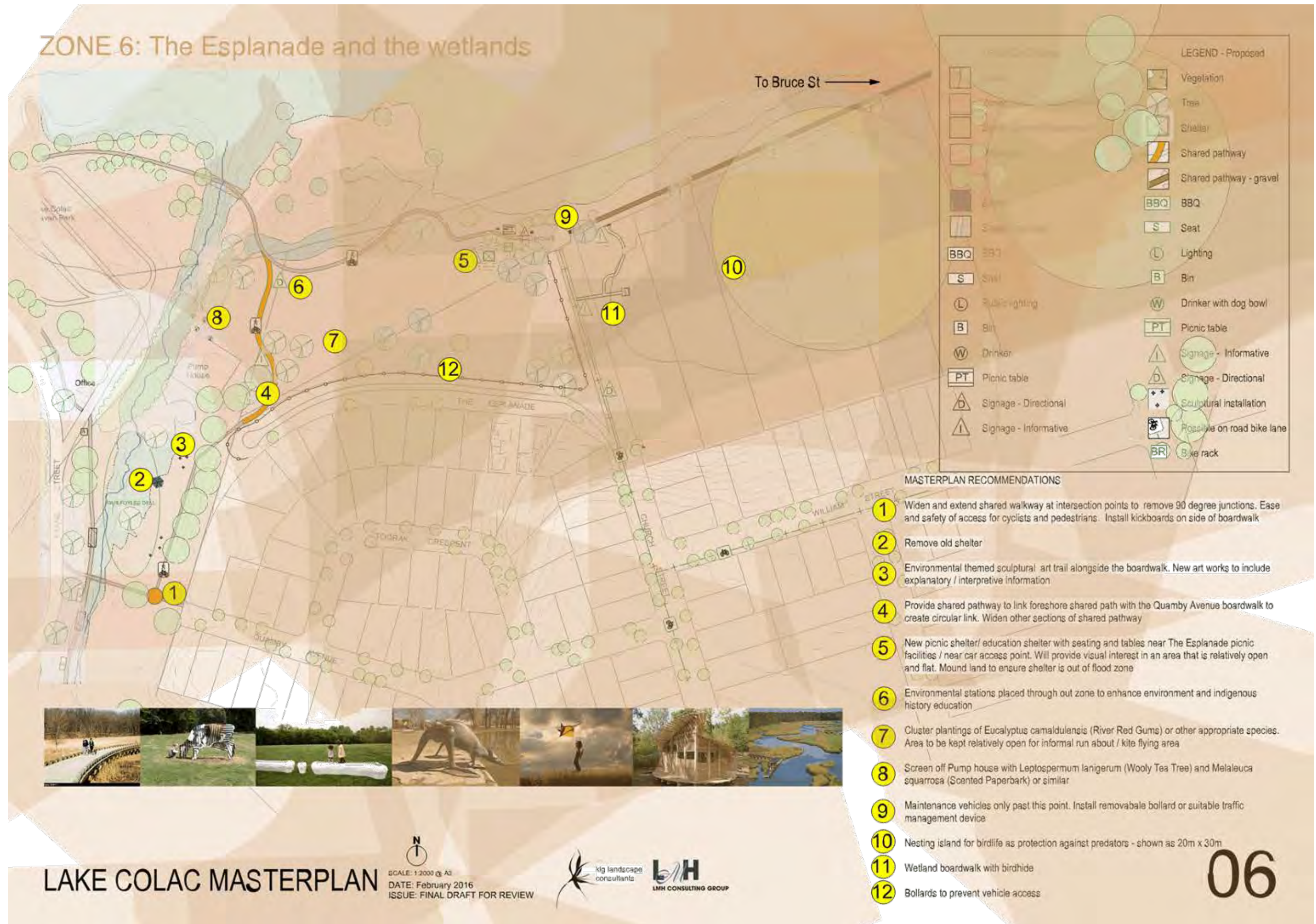
| LEGEND - Existing |                                  | LEGEND - Proposed |                       |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
|                   | Zoned Public Park and Recreation |                   | Vegetation            |
|                   | Vegetation                       |                   | Tree                  |
|                   | Tree                             |                   | Shelter               |
|                   | Building for Public Use          |                   | Shared pathway        |
|                   | Shelter                          |                   | BBQ                   |
|                   | Shared pathway                   |                   | Seat                  |
|                   | BBQ                              |                   | Lighting              |
|                   | Seat                             |                   | Bin -                 |
|                   | Public lighting                  |                   | Drinker with dog bowl |
|                   | Bin                              |                   | Picnic table          |
|                   | Bike rack                        |                   | Signage - Informative |
|                   | Drinker                          |                   | Signage - Directional |
|                   | Picnic table                     |                   | Bike rack             |
|                   | Signage - Directional            |                   |                       |
|                   | Signage - Informative            |                   |                       |

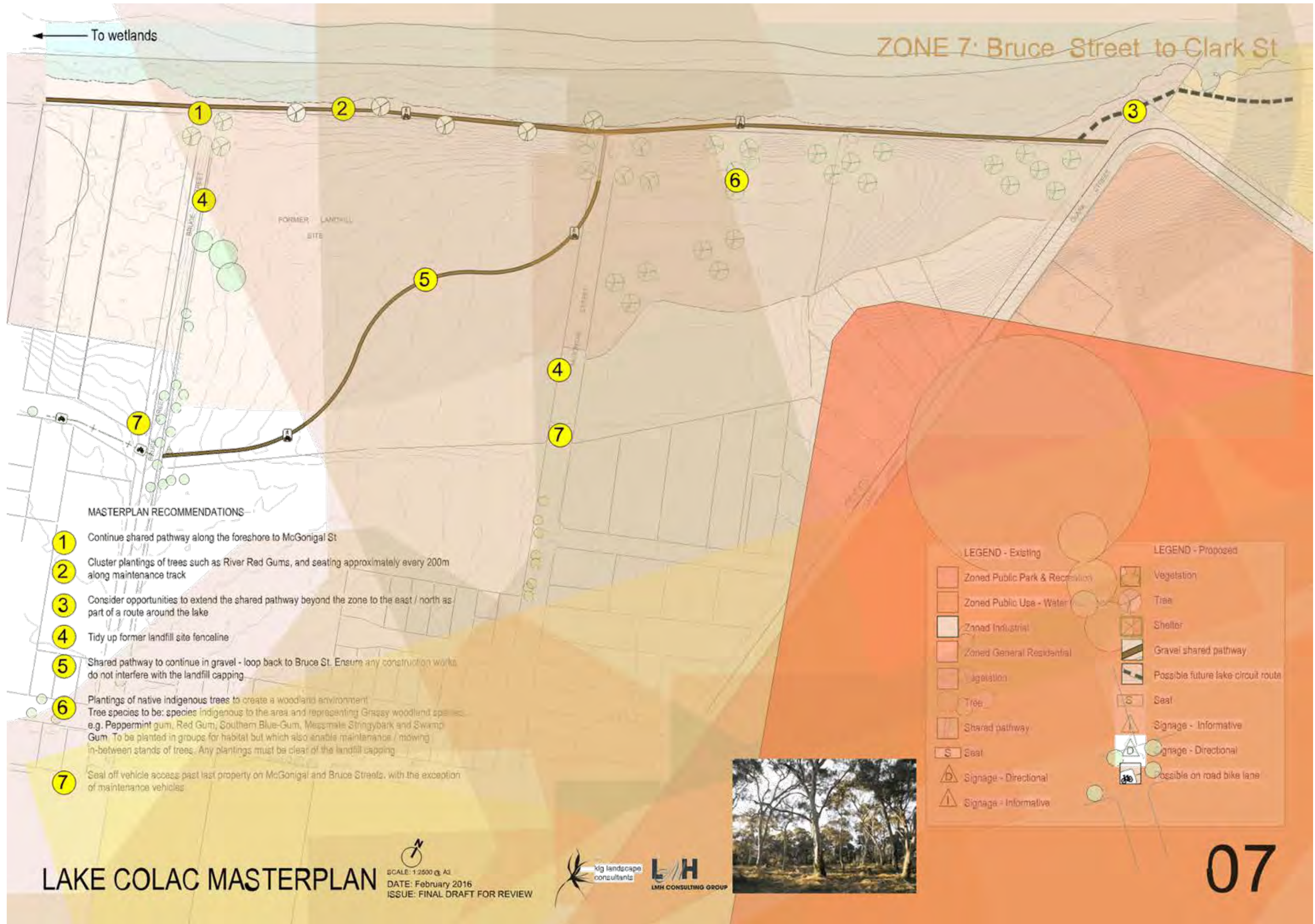
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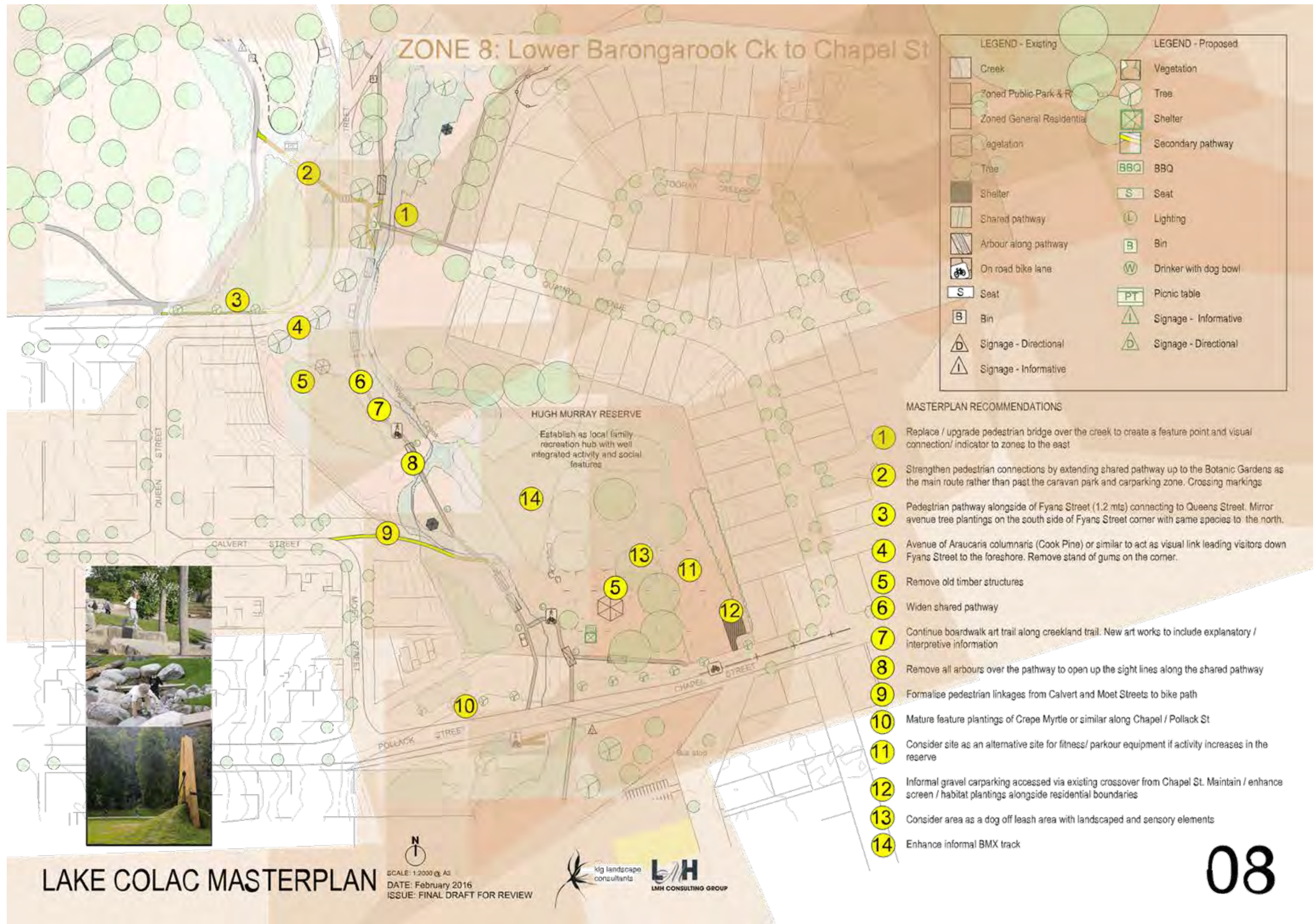
## LAKE COLAC MASTERPLAN

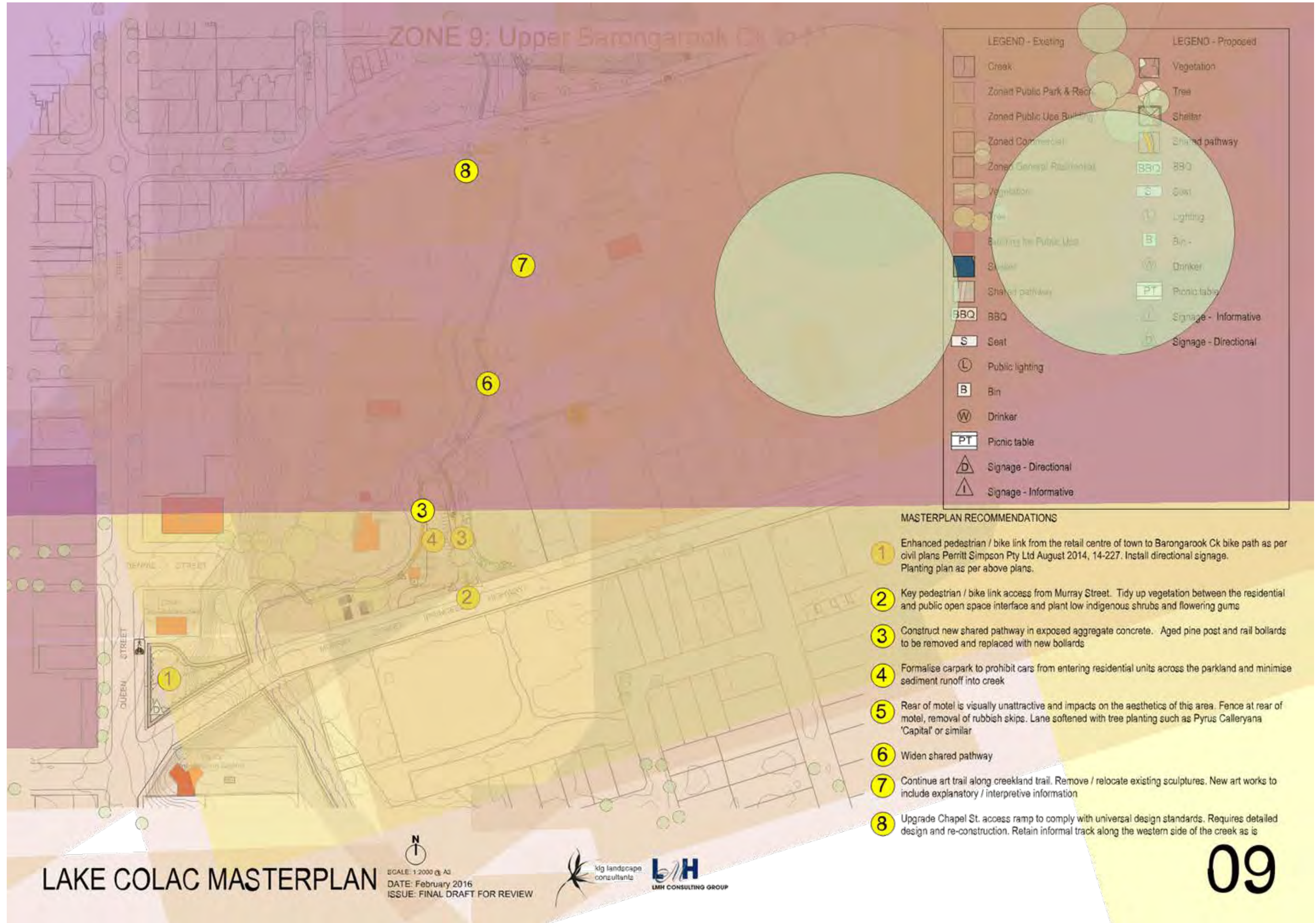
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DATE: February 2016  
ISSUE: FINAL DRAFT FOR REVIEW



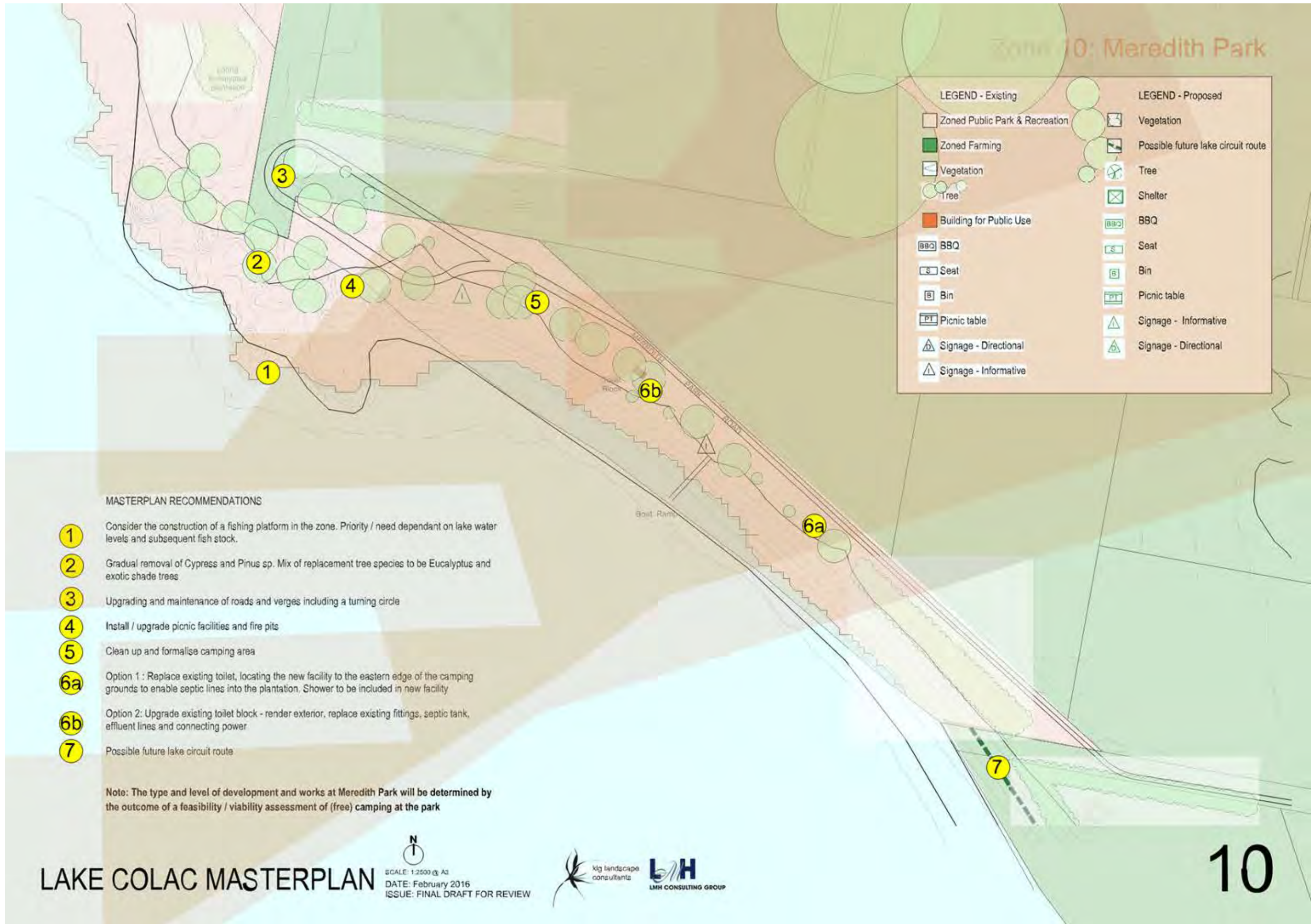












Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

**10.2 Years 1 to 5 proposed infrastructure works**

The following provides a summary of works proposed in years 1 to 5 of the master plan for each of the project zones. The estimate for completing works proposed for years 1-5 of the master plan is \$1,658,063.

| Table 4 – Cost estimates for works proposed for years 1-5 of the master plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| PROPOSED WORKS FOR YEARS 1-5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | ESTIMATED COST   |
| <b>Zone 1: Rifle Butt Rd. to Stodart St. West</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>\$7,500</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure relevant changes / notations are made to the planning scheme to include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ amenity and vegetation / habitat buffers between the high water level and residential infrastructure. Ensure public access to the lake surrounds are in line with CEPTED / safe design principles<sup>49</sup></li> <li>▪ appropriate space for extension of a shared pathway</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Signage – Distance / direction signage</li> </ul> |                  |
| <b>Zone 2: Stodart St. West to Stodart St. East</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>\$162,640</b> |
| Formalise car park including replacement of old bollards and maintenance access gates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                  |
| Construction of an all abilities access ramp at the end of Balnagowan Av.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |
| Plant shade trees in the vicinity of new installations at end of Stodart St.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                  |
| Reinforcement works to stabilise Ash Trees / prevent further erosion around root system                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |
| Extend foreshore planting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |
| Risk and needs assessment in relation to the toilet at the end of Balnagowan Av.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                  |
| Plant Eucalypt species along the foreshore and remove weed species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                  |
| Signage – Distance / direction signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |
| <b>Zone 3: Stodart St. East to Armstrong St.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>\$179,500</b> |
| Install of bins (Sea Scouts / Yachting precinct) and Western Bay Park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                  |
| Plant shade trees and seating and drink stations (Western Bay Park)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                  |
| Install youth activity precinct equipment e.g. Parkour (Western Bay Park)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |
| Landscape and clean up environs in the vicinity of the buildings used by the yachting and sea scouts buildings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |
| Prepare a business case, for the consolidation of existing buildings when they reach the end of their life. Any new facility will need to accommodate a number of community uses including yachting, angling, sea scout, band, and other community activities as required                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |
| Assess aged / inappropriate trees and plan for replacement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  |
| Signage – Distance / direction signage, Precinct, Walking circuit, Compliance signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                  |
| <b>Zone 4: Armstrong St. to Gellibrand St.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>\$42,650</b>  |
| Landscape / ground works to address compaction of tree roots and mulching (triangle) and planting of 3 advanced Cook Pines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  |
| Seating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |
| Ongoing / selective removal of trees / vegetation on the embankment as it reaches end of practical life                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |
| Signage – Distance / direction, Precinct, Walking circuit signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |
| <b>Zone 5: The Foreshore / Commons</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>\$934,338</b> |
| Formalise and seal car park to the west of the common                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                  |
| Create gently undulating grassed area on the common to integrate with Botanic gardens                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                  |

<sup>49</sup> Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria, Department of Land Water Environment and Planning; Healthy By Design: A Planners' Guide to Environments for Active Living, Victorian Heart Foundation

Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Lower Barongarook Ck. and Meredith Park

| Table 4 – Cost estimates for works proposed for years 1-5 of the master plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| PROPOSED WORKS FOR YEARS 1-5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | ESTIMATED COST   |
| embankment and plant feature trees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                  |
| Additional seating, picnic tables, and BBQs etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |
| Seating in bandstand shelter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                  |
| Investigate options for a fully accessible play space at the eastern end of the common. Design to be sympathetic to the surrounding environments and features. Play elements to consider - Hammock swing; Basket Swing; Sandpit with deck; Climbing nets; Natural play landscaping; Shelters; Sound / sensory elements; Various type under surfacing; Access pathways; Feature walls / rockery |                  |
| Enhance existing play space in line with a 'Children's Garden' theme                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  |
| Install security / safety lighting in the car park and along the foreshore pathway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                  |
| Signage – Distance / direction signage; Precinct; Walking circuit signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                  |
| <b>Zone 6: The Esplanade and Wetlands to Bruce St.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>\$98,370</b>  |
| Environmental themed public art sculptural features alongside the boardwalk ('The dell')                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |
| Upgrade to the boardwalk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |
| Seating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                  |
| Cluster plantings of mature River Red Gums or similar throughout Esplanade Park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                  |
| Signage – Distance / direction, Precinct; Walking circuit, Compliance signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                  |
| <b>Zone 7: Bruce St. to Clark St.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                  |
| Seal off vehicle access immediately past last property in McGonigal, Bruce Sts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>\$17,415</b>  |
| Cluster plantings of River Red Gums or similar every 50 mts alongside landfill / maintenance track                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                  |
| Signage – Distance / direction, Walking circuit signage, signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |
| <b>Zone 8: Lower Barongarook Ck. to Chapel Street Bridge</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>\$120,550</b> |
| Remove aged timber structures including the 'Woolshed, timber arbours and derelict arbours                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                  |
| Remove 7 aged steel arbours in line with 'Safe Design Guidelines' <sup>50</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                  |
| Mature tree planting along Fyans St., and Chapel St.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  |
| Habitat and screen plantings (adjoining properties)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |
| Replace 1 bridge over Barongarook Ck.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                  |
| Seating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                  |
| Signage – Distance / direction, Precinct signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |
| <b>Zone 9: Upper Barongarook Ck. from Chapel St. to Murray St. Bridge</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>\$50,700</b>  |
| Maintenance of existing stands of trees to the south of Chapel Street (west side of Barongarook Ck.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |
| Continue exposed aggregate concrete pathway from toilet block to existing creek path                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  |
| Vegetation / general tidying – rear of motel, and pathway to the east of the toilet block and bollards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                  |
| Relocation or removal of sculptures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |
| Mature tree planting in parklands to the east of Barongarook Ck.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |
| Signage – Distance / direction signage; Precinct signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |
| <b>Zone 10: Meredith Park Foreshore</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                  |
| Complete a feasibility / viability assessment of (free) camping at Meredith Par                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>\$40,800</b>  |
| Clear rubbish, old / unkempt vegetation and fill depressions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                  |
| Signage – Distance / direction, Precinct, Compliance signage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                  |

<sup>50</sup> Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria, Department of Land Water Environment and Planning; Healthy By Design: A Planners' Guide to Environments for Active Living, Victorian Heart Foundation

### **10.3 Action Plan to Address General Project Findings**

The following recommendations are in addition to the infrastructure works proposed and costed in the proposed Action Plan for each of the project zones. They are also listed in the Action Plans.

1. Commence discussions and planning for a new all abilities play space in the Foreshore Zone

Stakeholders: Friends of the Botanic Gardens, Heritage Victoria, Parents / families; Young people

Timeframe: Year 1

2. Develop a consistent style guide so that new park buildings, structures, signage, and furniture:

- is modern, interesting and includes creative design / feature elements is applied consistently throughout the project area
- is cost effective in terms of whole of life costs
- can be refined where required to optimise integration with the environmental, social, and cultural settings.

Stakeholders: Council; General community

Timeframe: Year 1

3. Review maintenance provision for the project area to ensure:

- protocols respond to council's best practice objectives (i.e. weed / grass spraying, wet weather mowing, and other as identified)
- service levels (e.g. vegetation clearing / pruning and removal) are in line with council guidelines for regional level parklands
- damaged infrastructure is removed or repaired within agreed timeframes.

Stakeholders: Council; General community; Arts community

Timeframe: Year 1 and ongoing

4. Develop a framework that will guide the funding and procurement of public art for the project area and how art installations will be maintained and renewed.

Stakeholders: Council; General community; Arts community

Timeframe: Year 2

5. Undertake a feasibility study to determine the future of free camping at Meredith Park.

Stakeholders: Council; Regional councils; General community; DELWP

Timeframe: Year 2

6. Investigate opportunities to replace the old inspection pits along the Barongarook Ck.

Stakeholders: Council; CMA

Timeframe: Year 3

7. Assess the need to retain the toilet box at the end of Balnagowan Av.

Stakeholders: Council; General community; Local residents

Timeframe: Year 2

8. Prepare a an infrastructure and detailed landscape plan for the yachting and sea scouts precinct once the future use of the zone has been determined.

Stakeholders: Council; General community; Community groups; Local residents

Timeframe: Year 5+

11 Materials and Landscape Concepts Guide

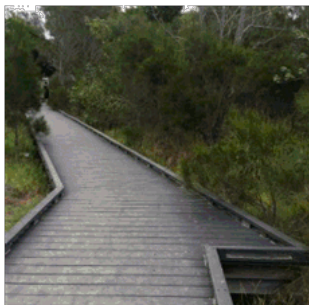
11.1 Buildings and structures



Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Barongarook Ck. Parklands and Meredith Park



11.2 Pathways



11.3 Lighting



11.4 Signage

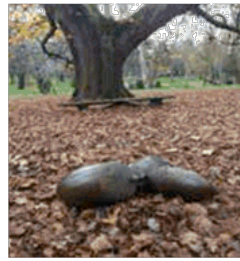
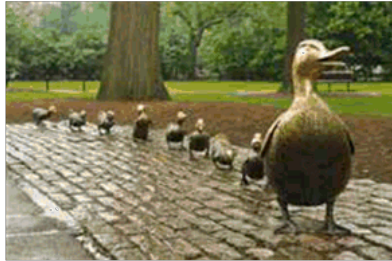




11.5 Park furniture



11.6 Public Art / Celebration / Recognition / Memorial plates

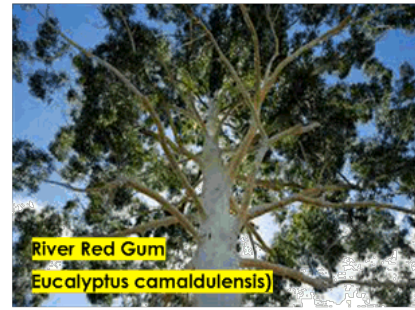
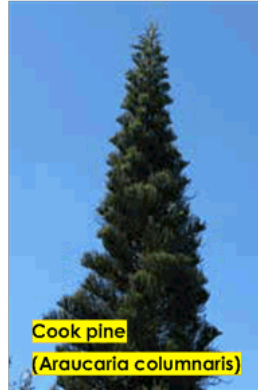


Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Barongarook Ck. Parklands and Meredith Park

11.7 Examples of Play Space Elements



11.8 Trees recommended in landscape plans



Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Barongarook Ck. Parklands and Meredith Park

11.9 'Playable' / Engaging Landscapes



## 12 Implementing and Reviewing the Master Plan

### 12.1 How Did We Determine Priorities?

Actions that best address the following criteria will be considered for priority works. Criteria that determine priorities may differ from one zone to another depending on the objectives for the zone and the way in which an action helps achieve these. Priorities will generally be determined by actions that:

- Activate spaces – with a priority on the Foreshore Zone and zones extending from it
- Respond to verified demand
- Address risk management issues
- Address 'Universal Design'
- Enhance / update existing amenities
- Achieve the greatest benefit for the expenditure
- Enhance opportunities for physical activity
- Address changing recreation and social trends
- Enhance natural environments
- Create efficiencies in procedures and operations

### 12.2 Review of the Master Plan

The Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan will be reviewed every two years to identify any actions that have not been implemented in line with proposed timelines.

These actions will be reviewed to ensure they are still consistent with community and council priorities and aspirations. Any issues that may have prevented these actions from being implemented will be identified and addressed.

A major review of the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan will be undertaken in 10 years.

## 13 How we went about the project

### 13.1 Consultation



The following summarises the consultation undertaken for the project:

- Project Wall Mural (Colac Performing Arts & Community Centre)
- Visitations by 5 schools and 155 students
- Colac Otway staff (30)
- Colac Community House Project Mural Wall
- 114 community surveys
- 77 surveys from young people
- 14 submissions
- Interviews – Street Interviews; Telephone interviews; side Walk intercepts
- 4 on site talking posts / discussion sessions - 54 people
- Workshops - Council staff, Colac Lake Committee, Project Steering Committee
- 5 Environmental Services workshops / activity sessions with schools



Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan including Barongarook Ck. Parklands and Meredith Park

The project was promoted via:

- The 'promotional wall' at the Colac Performing Arts and Community Centre (COPACC)
- Local papers – editorials, interviews and advertisements
- Local radio
- Promotional stand in shopping precinct
- Promotional flyers – including 500 delivered to households
- Via council's environmental education programs
- The Colac Neighbourhood House
- Schools
- Council's website

### 13.2 Council Planning

Council has prepared a number of service planning documents and policies that are relevant to the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan.

The Council Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement articulate the shire's vision and the framework used to guide decision-making to ensure the vision is achieved, in this case via the lake colac foreshore areas.

Documents such as the Open Space Strategy, Lake Colac Management Plan, the Botanic Gardens Management Plan, and the Access, Equity, and Inclusion Plan are documents particularly relevant to the master plan because they provide planning and policy information relevant to the project. Other documents include objectives and aspirations, some of which can be, and have been, addressed by the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan.

'A sustainable, vibrant future'  
Ref: Council Plan 2013-17

Examples of documents reviewed for the plan:

- The Council Plan
- Open Space Strategy
- Botanic Gardens Master Plan
- Physical Activity Strategy
- Access, Equity, and Inclusion Plan
- Colac Structure Plan
- Lake Colac Commercial Development Assessment
- The 50+ Plan
- Re-vegetation and Weed Control Plan
- Lake Colac Management Plan

## **14 Appendices**

### **Appendix 1 - Reference documents / information**

#### **Lake Colac / Climate Change**

- CSIRO and BoM 2014. Climate change in Australia, Technical report. ([www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/resources.php](http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/resources.php))
- CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, Climate Change in Australia website, cited 1 March 2016 (<http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/>)
- Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, 2015 Climate-Ready Victoria: Barwon South West. The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning.
- Grose, M et al., 2015, Southern Slopes Cluster Report, Climate Change in Australia Projections for Australia's Natural Resource Management Regions: Cluster Reports, eds. Ekström, M et al., CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, Australia
- Leahy, P et al., 2010, lakes in the Western District of Victoria and Climate Change, EPA Publication 1359 – Scientific Report, EPA, Australia

#### **Council Documents**

- Council Plan 2013-17
- Colac Botanic Gardens Master Plan Review, 2012
- Lake Colac Management Plan, MacroPlan Australia, 2002
- Colac Otway Open Space Strategy
- Colac Otway Physical Activity Strategy, 2014 - 2017
- Colac Structure Plan, 2007
- Consultation on Lake Colac Family Recreation Area, 2008
- Lake Colac Commercial Development: Opportunity profile, Cost-Benefit Analysis & Economic Impact Assessment
- Colac Otway Access, Equity, and Inclusion Plan
- Colac Otway Shire The 50+ Plan 2015-2025 (Phase 1: 2015-2017)
- Lake Colac and Barongarook Creek Revegetation and Weed Control Plan
- Apollo Bay Strategic Footpath Network Plan
- Colac Otway Active Transport Strategy
- Colac CBD and Entrances Master Plan