

6.2.2 Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan Endorsement

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Recommendation(s)

That Council

- Notes the program of community engagement undertaken, feedback received, and subsequent changes made to the Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan.
- Endorses the final Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan.
- Provides the final Masterplan to the community on its website and thanks the community for its feedback.
- Notes the detailed design of Stage 1 of the Masterplan is proposed to commence in the 23/24 financial year, subject to Council endorsement in June 2023 of its annual budget.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan

Executive Summary

The draft Emerald Lake Precinct (ELP) Masterplan was presented to Councillors in June 2022 prior to community engagement. Community consultation was undertaken over an eight-week period from 4 July to 25 August 2022. The draft Masterplan was well received with 3,074 views and 428 contributions from 333 contributors through the Creating Cardinia online portal. In addition, targeted consultation was undertaken with stakeholders to gain further insights and feedback.

Significant feedback was received regarding the playspace, including water play area. As per the draft Masterplan, removing the wading pool and replacing it with zero depth water play remains the preferred option by the community. However, further investigation will take place as part of the detailed design phase to explore how the water play experience can meet community expectations, improve accessibility, and provide the most appropriate technical, operational, and environmental outcomes.

Many actions identified in the Masterplan are focused on asset renewal, followed by upgrades to meet the Precinct's regional status without compromising its character.

Actions have been prioritised as low, medium and high based on community identified priorities and recent cost increases and fiscal pressures. The implementation of the Masterplan will be staged based on available funding with Stage 1 commencing following Masterplan and Council budget endorsement. Detailed design of Stage 1 will enable Council to seek external grant funding to support the delivery of this project.

Stage 1 will include:

- Upgrade of the playspace (playground, water play and public toilets)
- Large new shelter and picnic area with new toilets including the removal of the existing ELP Cafe
- New exercise hub for all ages and abilities
- Expression of Interest (for external investment) for the waterside cafe

- Improvements to the Lakeside carpark including more parking spaces, alignment of the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT), carpark lighting and infrastructure to support food vans
- Renewal of the Gus Ryberg Amphitheatre seating, and
- New arbour to support the wisteria in Nobelius Heritage Park.

Background

Historically, Emerald Lake Precinct (ELP) has been considered a regional park and a tourist attraction. It has always attracted international and domestic visitors with Puffing Billy, one of Victoria's major tourist attractions located in the park. The regional status of ELP is validated in the 2020 ELP Strategic Plan, 2018 Open Space Management Framework and Council's draft Open Space Strategy. The actions proposed in the ELP Masterplan reflect this regional importance.

In 2020, Council adopted the Emerald Lake Precinct (ELP) Strategic Plan 2020 – 2030. This Plan provides the strategic direction to the Emerald Lake Park and Nobelius Heritage Park (NHP) which are collectively known as Emerald Lake Precinct. A priority action in the ELP Strategic Plan is for the development of a Masterplan that includes the following key themes:

- Playground and pool
- Events and activation
- Food and hospitality
- Parking and road access, and
- Maintenance standards and upkeep.

Fitzgerald Frisby Landscape Architects (FFLA) were engaged to complete a Masterplan for the precinct which included a literature review, site investigations, targeted stakeholder, and council staff engagement. The draft ELP Masterplan was presented to a Councillor Briefing in June 2022 prior to being presented to the community for eight weeks of engagement.

The draft ELP Masterplan was prepared based on the Strategic Plan and other key reports including:

- 2020 Arborist Assessment identified significant trees and recommendations for their ongoing management
- 2020 Conservation Management Plans completed for both parks provide a clear understanding of the requirements and around significant infrastructure and vegetation and a guide to future development
- 2021 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage desktop assessment informed Council about the potential areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivities
- 2021 ELP Building and Facilities Feasibility provided recommendations that align the buildings and commercial operations with the regional status of the precinct, moving from a 'business as usual' approach to one considering asset renewal through upgrades and redevelopments.

The precinct has been divided into five zones. These include:

- Lake Treganowan (main activity area)
- Western forest
- Nobelius Heritage Park
- Cafe, and
- Lake Nobelius.

The draft Masterplan identified whole of site actions as well as actions identified in each of the five zones. The key features of the draft Masterplan included:

- An upgrade of the existing playspace to a regional level playspace. This included the removal of the wading pool, to be replaced by zero depth waterplay.

- Improvements to the Lakeside carpark including Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail connection, additional carparking spaces and disabled parking bay, and lighting.
- Consolidation of toilet blocks from three toilet blocks that do not meet standards to one new toilet block that has a Changing Places facility and four unisex toilets which is centrally located near the playground and lakeside carpark entrance. Upgrade of the heritage Lake Treganowan toilets.
- An upgrade to the Gus Ryberg Amphitheatre to improve performer and spectator amenity with all abilities access, upgraded seating, stage area and a new soundshell. Repairs and renewal work to the four other amphitheatres: The Pines, The Gums, Bunurong and Carl Stemp.
- Conversion of part of the Lakeside Office to a waterside cafe (retaining some office space for Council staff) and demolish the ELP cafe building and replace with a large picnic shelter and barbecue area.
- Lighting installed (for night-time events only) along key paths connecting performance areas to carparks.
- Four shelters with barbecues and picnic facilities have been identified: three in the main activity area and the fourth in a quiet location in the Gus Ryberg Arboretum.
- Nobelius Heritage Park bandstand upgrade with a shelter and power supply for performers to align the park's suitability for smaller music events and performances.
- Improved pathways including accessible loop path around Lake Treganowan, new bridge over the lake connecting the playspace, the loop path, bandstand and new picnic area
- Bike parking (including e-bike charging and bike repair stations) at key locations
- Improved wayfinding, interpretative, and educational signage throughout the precinct.

Community consultation on the draft Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan was held from 4 July 2022 to 25 August 2022. The online survey on Council's Creating Cardinia online portal was the primary source of feedback. There were other options for community members to learn about the proposals and provide feedback which are all detailed in the Consultation/Communication section of this report.

In response to the feedback received, the following changes to the Masterplan were made:

Playspace (including zero depth water play) – as per the draft Masterplan, the wading pool is proposed to be removed because it is ageing and requires significant capital investment to bring it up to standard. Zero depth water play has broader universal appeal and provides play opportunities throughout the year, which was highlighted in the feedback received from the community. However, in response to community feedback, further investigation and community engagement will take place during the detailed design phase to ensure the most appropriate water play option for the Precinct is provided, which also aligns with community expectations.

Changes to the Masterplan and next steps for water play

- Following community consultation, input from industry experts and other Councils about their water play facilities was sought to apply learnings to the ELP location.
- Some facilities suggested by community members were not achievable for this site due to the associated high-cost plant infrastructure and operational requirements, limited available space for these facilities, and the volume of water usage is extremely high. The space for the ELP water play is constrained by the mature trees and the lake boundary.
- More investigation is required to determine accessibility of people powered elements, the condition and capacity of existing services to feed the water and the potential impacts on the water quality of the lake even though it is proposed to use potable water. This will be undertaken during the detailed design phase.
- The community will continue to be informed about the water play options and feedback considered. Community engagement will continue through the detailed design stage.

- The history of water activities in and around the lake as part of the precinct redevelopment will be considered.

Amphitheatres

There are five amphitheatres of varying shapes, sizes, and conditions. Prior to consultation, the community's attachment and sentiment towards these assets was largely unknown. One of the purposes of asking people to choose their top 5 priorities was to ascertain how people would prioritise amphitheatre upgrades. Feedback demonstrated that the amphitheatres were not a high priority for the community.

10 people provided comments and feedback varied:

- Four performance spaces were not required
- The amphitheatres were not used
- They are part of the precinct's history and while not perfect, they are a quiet spot to sit or hang out with friends.

Subsequent input and ideas were sought from the ELP Advisory Committee, Council's Arts and Creative Industries Team and Council staff in the Project Working and Project Control Groups, as to the future role of each amphitheatre.

The function of the little used Gums amphitheatre is proposed to change. The Gums is located at the furthest end of the park, has a 30-metre steep access path that will be difficult to improve from an accessibility perspective, and six tiers of seating that has deteriorated will be expensive to renew. It was felt that this space would be better suited as a quiet area with less formal seating, to be used as more of a reflection or informal meeting space in a natural setting rather than another space for events or performances.

The Bunurong Amphitheatre will continue as a performance space but to alleviate budgetary pressures, the arbour, which was added to improve aesthetics only, will be removed.

Changes to the Masterplan:

- Amend the action to repurpose the Gums amphitheatre while retaining respect for the original intent of the area. This may include removing the timber tiered seating, retaining a bowl like shape and have logs or mudstone rocks for seating around the base only.
- Amend the action for the Bunurong Amphitheatre to remove the arbour element.

Toilets and change rooms

Emerald Lake Park has four existing toilet blocks in addition to toilets and a changing places facility within the Puffing Billy Visitor Centre. There are also public toilets in Nobelius Heritage Park. The existing Emerald Lake Park toilet blocks are located:

- Lake Treganowan historic toilets (Lake Treganowan zone)
- Cafe toilets (cafe zone)
- Bandstand toilets (cafe zone)
- Lake Nobelius toilets (Lake Nobelius zone)
- Lakeside Visitor Centre (managed by Puffing Billy)

The historic Lake Treganowan toilet block building needs to be retained due to its historic significance and will be upgraded internally.

The other three toilet blocks in ELP all need upgrading and currently do not meet requirements and regulations. The draft Masterplan proposed to remove these three toilet blocks and replace them with one toilet block in the Lake Treganowan activity zone. Two toilet blocks are in the cafe zone and one toilet block is in Lake Nobelius zone: a passive recreation area, away from the activity of Lake Treganowan and Cafe zones.

Community and stakeholder consultation and a meeting with Victoria Police determined the following:

- There will not be enough toilets in the park to cater for busy days
- Change rooms were suggested to support water play
- If there is an increase in activation of spaces, toilets should be nearby
- The isolated location in the Lake Nobelius zone is not suitable for toilets and as a low traffic area, does not meet CPTED requirements.

The site for the large new shelter and barbecue facilities (ELP cafe building) has enough space and plumbing infrastructure for new toilets to be added to the Masterplan. This new location is close to the Lake Nobelius zone to cater for walkers, Paddleboats and picnic areas on the same side of the lake.

Changes to the Masterplan:

- Add new toilets on the site of the proposed new large shelter where the existing ELP cafe is currently located
- Add change facilities to the proposed new toilet block in the playspace adjacent to the Lakeside carpark.

Food retail in the park

The proposed waterfront cafe in part of the lakeside building on Lake Treganowan was well supported during community consultation and there is an expectation that more than one food retail should be offered in the park. As business investment in the waterfront cafe is not guaranteed, infrastructure for 1-2 food vans in the Lakeside carpark will be added to the Masterplan with costs absorbed into the carpark upgrade action. Food vans will provide more options for people during summer peak times and during events (i.e., ice cream & fish and chip vans).

Change to the Masterplan: Include opportunity to support food vans as part of Action 10 – Lakeside carpark upgrade.

Nobelius Heritage Park

Feedback from Heritage Victoria was sought to ensure there are no significant concerns with the proposed outcomes for Nobelius Heritage Park in the draft Masterplan. Clarification was sought on where permit exemptions for specific actions are likely to apply, and a decision on the merits of a finalised proposal (detailed design) will be fully tested through the permit processes under the *Heritage Act 2017*. The proposed design for the Nobelius Heritage Park access road and carpark upgrade retains the crushed rock surface but with improved drainage to align with the heritage requirements for the park.

Heritage Victoria recognises the significance of the NHP landscape and encourages Council to work towards botanic garden status and to become a member of the Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ)

Community feedback about Nobelius Heritage Park focused on the value of retaining the quiet sensory ambience and its unsuitability as a venue for markets and events that attract lots of people and traffic. A barbecue and more picnic facilities in Nobelius Heritage Park rated as the fourth highest priority by the community and a small new shelter with two picnic tables and barbecue will be added instead.

Proposed new action: Investigate Nobelius Heritage Park being officially recognised with botanic garden status

Proposed changes:

- Remove Action 9: To provide power and a shelter over the band platform and replace barriers to cater for events and performances.
- A new picnic shelter and one barbecue will be added to support community priorities.

Western forest zone

There were 12 responses for the western forest zone, eight with comments. While the idea of bird hides was well received, it didn't rate highly in the top 5 priorities, so the number has been reduced to provide one bird hide.

Change to Masterplan: Reduce the number of bird hides for birdwatchers and nature photographers to one bird hide

Funding for the implementation of the ELP Masterplan will be incorporated in Council's future capital works budget, in addition, Council will advocate for funding from other levels of government.

Following the endorsement of the ELP Masterplan, Council will commence detailed design for Stage 1. There are opportunities to group actions and co-deliver projects to save costs, improve efficiencies, and minimise visitor impact.

Policy Implications

The regional status of ELP is validated in the 2020 ELP Strategic Plan, 2018 Open Space Management Framework and Council's draft Open Space Strategy. Therefore, the actions proposed in the ELP Masterplan reflect this regional importance.

Service levels and infrastructure should be developed and maintained to meet this expectation and the asset renewal focus of the draft Masterplan aligns with Council's Asset Management Policy.

Emerald Lake Precinct Strategic Plan 2020

- Incorporating both Emerald Lake Park and Nobelius Heritage Park as a precinct yet respecting their individual attributes – A focus on recognising and conserving the heritage of the quiet NHP with a focus on pedestrian connectivity and wayfinding to link the popular activities and infrastructure of Emerald Lake Park
- Recognising the precinct as a regional level open space with service levels that meet this expectation – this is especially evident with the proposed playspace and zero depth water play, upgraded Gus Ryberg Amphitheatre, relocation of an ELP cafe to the waterside location at Lakeside office building and the consolidation of toilets in the main activity area.
- Incorporating key placemaking principles to ensure success and buy-in of visitors and stakeholders, of which the following placemaking qualities have been applied: being accessible, engaging people in activities, being comfortable and having a positive image and allowing people to be sociable, meet others and take visitors.

Open Space Management Framework 2018

This framework establishes an open space hierarchy of which Emerald Lake Park is rated as a regional park. Characteristics of a regional park include:

- Cater for residents of Cardinia and beyond and in the case of ELP, attracts international, interstate, and regional visitors
- Attracts large numbers of residents and visitors for long periods of time
- Access is from numerous transport options which in the case of ELP includes private car, public transport (bus), Puffing Billy Railway, pedestrians and cycling on the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail
- There is infrastructure to cater for large numbers of visitors and periods of intense use. At ELP this includes café, paddle boats, model railway, Puffing Billy facilities, barbecues, picnic shelters and facilities, shared paths, walking tracks, toilets, carparks, cultural and heritage artwork, exercise equipment and a playspace.

Cardinia Shire Council draft Open Space Strategy

Emerald Lake Precinct's regional status is validated and meets the criteria for regional level open space in Council's draft Open Space Strategy.

Cardinia Shire Council Playspace Strategy 2014

The action pertaining to the playspace at Emerald Lake Park states the following: Investigate the feasibility of a 'municipal' playspace at Emerald Lake Park in consultation with key stakeholders and with consideration given to the topography of the area and provision of accessible play opportunities. Pending the outcome, develop detailed plans and source funding to develop a municipal playspace in Emerald.

Cardinia Shire Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan January 2022 – December 2023

Engagement with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation has commenced to ultimately determine how their culture and knowledge can be recognised and honoured at ELP. As the longest continuing living culture in the world, embedding cultural stories of people and place will add value to the precinct and Council's relationship with the Wurundjeri.

Cardinia Shire Council Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) 2015-25

The IWMP addresses the need to consolidate Council's management of water issues under the banner of integrated water management, rather than focus specifically on potable water use, stormwater, and on-site wastewater issues. This is particularly relevant to the operating model chosen for the water play facility which will be further investigated during the detailed design stage.

Relevance to Council Plan

2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places

2.1.1 Advocate, plan for and deliver accessible community infrastructure and services that address community need.

2.1.2 Plan and maintain safe, inclusive and connected open spaces, places and active travel routes.

4.1 We support our productive land and employment land to grow local industries

4.1.5 Strengthen and promote our shire's unique identity and visitor attractions.

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

Climate Emergency Consideration

Climate change and natural resource protection and efficiencies have been considered in the following ways:

- The significant trees and remnant vegetation will be conserved and protected. No trees are earmarked for removal in this concept stage of the Masterplan.
- Water saving measures will be considered for water play and new toilet facilities. These will be guided by Council's Integrated Water Management Plan.
- Sustainable materials and products will be sourced in line with Council's environmental commitments.
- E-bike and electric vehicle charging stations will be investigated at ELP.

Consultation/Communication

Community consultation on the draft Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan was held from 4 July 2022 – 25 August 2022. The Creating Cardinia online portal was the primary source of feedback with an in-depth online survey. This was advertised through:

- Council's Facebook page

- Mailout to 3,386 residents,
- Emails: 239 database of interested residents, sports clubs, Emerald community groups and all Cardinia Council staff, 8 x local schools (newsletter item)
- Six open office drop-in sessions at ELP Lakeside building with promotional signs throughout the precinct.
- Hills Hub, Emerald: Display board with opportunity for community to leave comments on sticky notes.

The gender split for responses was a 49% male and 51% female. There was a good distribution from the 4 age groups with biggest contributors being 55+ (29%). Emerald residents were the main contributors at 58%, other Hills residents (28%) which indicates that feedback was received from those who have an interest in the precinct.

The following targeted consultation also took place:

- On site/online meetings: Victoria Police (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) feedback), Heritage Victoria (Nobelius Heritage Park)
- Presentations to committees and community groups: Emerald Lake Precinct Advisory Committee, Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and the Emerald Village Association.
- Local schools: Workshop with Emerald Primary School Grades 4-6 (341 students), Emerald Secondary College – lunchtime drop-in session for all years and newsletter information for families.
- Meeting with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to discuss how they would like to add value to the Masterplan and future collaborative projects.

Overall, the feedback for the draft Masterplan was very positive and well received by the community. (Refer to Attachment 2 – ELP Draft Masterplan Community Consultation Summary Report).

The Creating Cardinia page received 3,074 views and 428 contributions from 333 contributors. The high number of views indicate good public awareness of the campaign and high interest in the project. The online survey asked specific questions about each of the five zones, playspace concept and whole of precinct actions. However, as shown in Table 1 below, questions asking for their precinct priorities received the most responses.

Table 1 – Number of responses received for each zone

	Online	Other	Total
Lake Nobelius Zone	7	3	10
Lake Treganowan Zone	16	3	19
Cafe Zone	11	3	14
Nobelius Heritage Zone	9	6	15
Playspace (incl water play)	18	3	21
Western Forest Zone	11	1	12
Whole of Precinct actions	31	3	34
Precinct Priorities	325	2	327

Top 5 priorities

Respondents were asked to select their top 5 priorities from a list of 15 actions and to then rate them in order of importance. This is to understand community priorities for consideration in project implementation.

309 people participated and the most selected in the top 5 (in order) were:

- Playspace and water play
- New waterside cafe near the Paddleboats
- More picnic shelters in Emerald Lake Park
- A barbecue and more picnic facilities in Nobelius Heritage Park
- All abilities loop path with sealed surface around Lake Treganowan

The playspace attracted the most interest during community consultation. 227 (79%) respondents included this in their top 5 priorities on what matters most to them. It rated the highest priority for the precinct with 140 people putting it as the number one priority and 34 as number two. The playground was well supported and recognised that it catered well for a range of ages and designed well using the slope and trees to advantage. The water play feedback was a little more mixed.

Of the 227 responses, feedback was as follows:

- 31 (13.6%) of people who answered that question, made a comment to keep or upgrade the pool. However, the remaining 86.4% of people who selected this option as a priority, accepted the proposal to remove the pool.
- 2 people said they preferred the proposed water play
- 8 people requested waterslides to be brought back

Carparking fees

14 people provided feedback that paying carparking fees to use their local park was unfair and that it is a barrier for locals to visit Emerald Lake Park, particularly for families who would like to have regular, free access to the play facilities. The submissions from the Emerald Village Association and Puffing Billy Railway also advocated for free carparking. Cardinia residents can purchase an annual parking pass for \$10.

This feedback has been considered in the preparation of Council's 2023/24 Fees and Charges which will be considered as part of the annual budget due to be adopted in June 2023.

Community engagement next steps

There will be further engagement opportunities with the community and relevant committees and community groups throughout the next stage of the project.

Financial and Resource Implications

The indicative cost of the draft Masterplan presented to Council prior to community consultation was \$13.9 million. Recognising increasing costs, fiscal pressures, and the community's prioritised actions, the total cost has been reduced to \$12.13 million.

The current cost estimate to implement Stage 1 high priority works, is approximately \$5.3M. Once the detailed design of Stage 1 has been finalised, funding to implement the design will be sought from other levels of government.

The next step subject to Council's endorsement will be to commence the detailed design phase for Stage 1 which will help to confirm costs and support future funding advocacy and grant applications.

Conclusion

Community consultation for the draft Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan was detailed and targeted a wide range of community groups, stakeholders and residents. Overall, it was well received and supported by the community.

The infrastructure at Emerald Lake Precinct is ageing and requires an endorsed Masterplan to guide the future renewal and upgrade of assets improving accessibility, safety, usability, and overall amenity of this significant open space. The estimated cost to deliver the Masterplan is \$12.13 million. A staged approach has been adopted with Stage 1 seeing the delivery of high

priority actions as determined by the community and to ensure ageing infrastructure is upgraded in a logical manner and in consideration of the impact to the community.

Stage 1 will see the implementation of priority actions identified in the Cafe zone, Lake Treganowan zone, and Nobelius Heritage Park zone.

Subject to endorsement of the Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan, the project will move into detailed design for Stage 1. Through this process more detailed cost estimates for each of the key elements will be developed. This information will then inform the preparation of future council budgets and external funding applications. As a tourist attraction and regional park, Emerald Lake Precinct is an excellent candidate for grant funding from various streams.

An endorsed Masterplan will ensure that the aging infrastructure at Emerald Lake Precinct is proactively replaced to a modern, regional park standard, in a logical order, that supports the community's identified priorities for this precinct.



EMERALD LAKE PRECINCT
Draft Masterplan

October 2022

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Emerald Lake Precinct
Masterplan

1. Introduction

Project Aim

The aim of the Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan is to undertake a strategic analysis and assessment of Emerald Lake Park and Nobelius Heritage Park in order to guide development, maintenance and management of the parks for the long term.

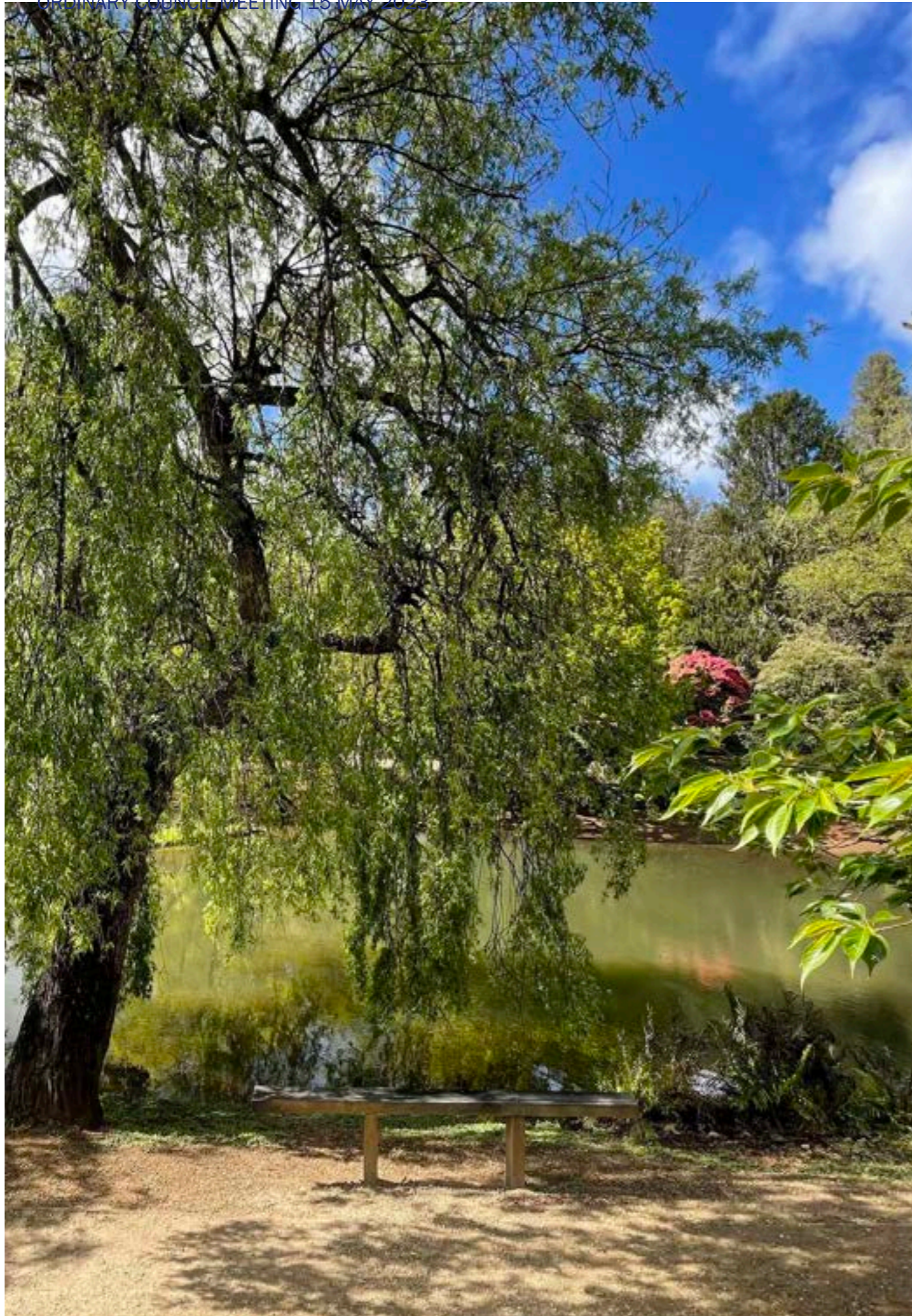
Project Objectives

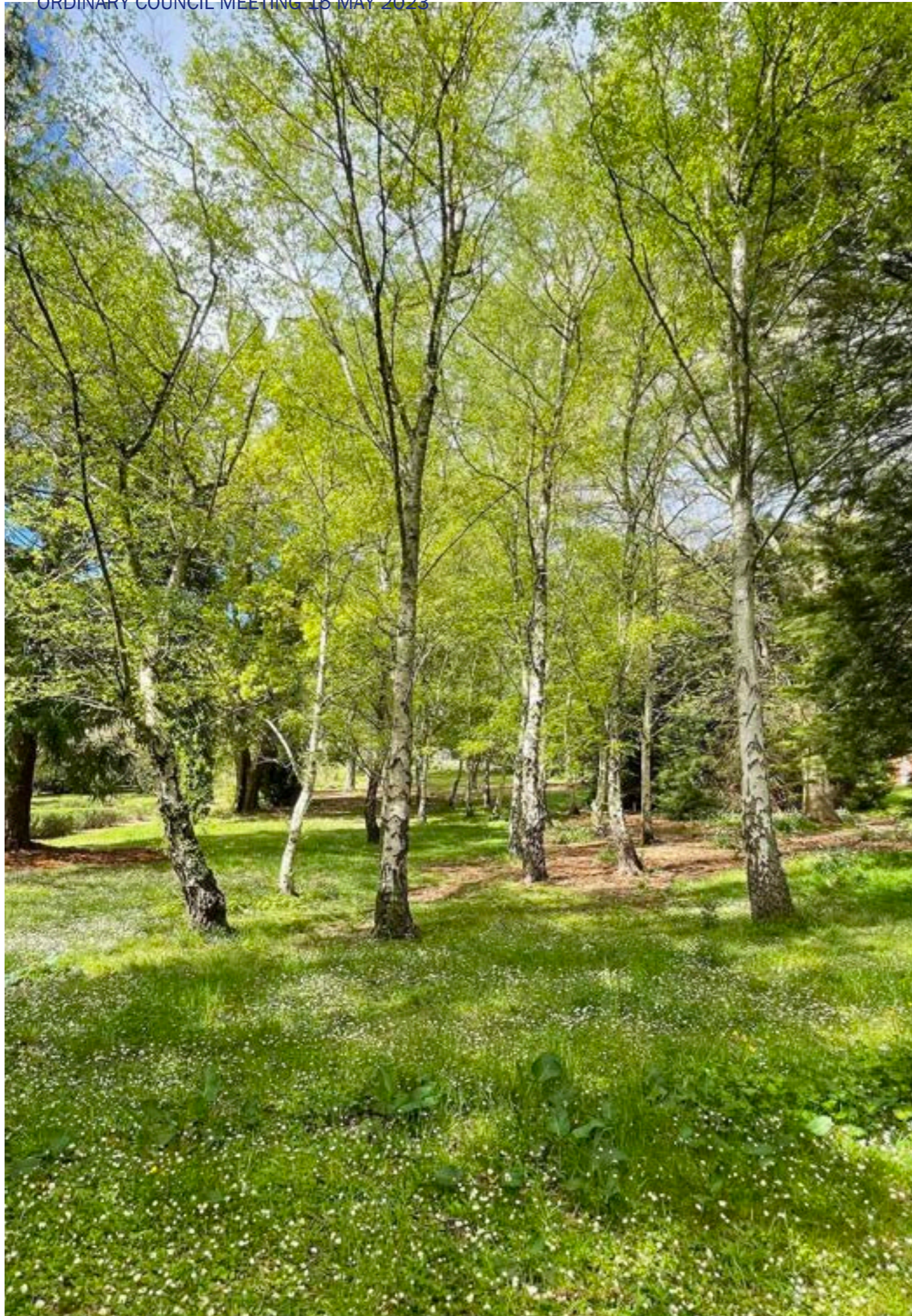
The Masterplan is based on a strategic review of use and assets within the precinct, and Cardinia Shire Council's Strategic Plan (2020-2030) priorities. The Masterplan aims to respect the heritage and unique qualities of the precinct whilst creating a solid foundation on which to build the future.

Key considerations include:

- A new regional scale playground including a zero depth water play facility
- Provision of two new shelters to replace those that were removed as part of Lakeside Visitor Centre development
- An upgrade to the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail to comply with shared path standards where possible
- Improvement of accessibility and DDA compliance where practical throughout the precinct
- Review and potential upgrade of the existing performance area and amphitheatres to suit the events across the site
- Exploration of opportunities to further beautify and enhance the park's presentation to reflect the history of the precinct and meet contemporary expectation
- Improve and upgrade signage and wayfinding

The Masterplan will guide investment priorities at Emerald Lake Precinct to help facilitate opportunities at Emerald Lake Park and Nobelius Heritage Park.



Emerald Lake Precinct
Masterplan**Background**

Close to the Dandenong Ranges, and 45 kilometres south-east of Melbourne to east of Emerald township, are two distinctly unique parklands – Emerald Lake Park (52ha) and Nobelius Heritage Park (4ha). These parks, including the Puffing Billy Railway facilities, are known as the Emerald Lake Precinct (ELP). The two parks are both historic and impressive but have unique characters and perform different functions.

Emerald Lake Park has commercial operators, Puffing Billy precinct and historic shelters for hire. It is busy and attracts large crowds, which makes it appropriate to activate with a regional playspace, waterplay, new shelters, upgraded carpark, new toilets and major event space upgrade.

Nobelius Heritage Park is home to the Emerald Museum, exotic mature trees and shrubs of which some are rare, with significant heritage value. The park lends itself to an interpretation of the nursery long gone and is suitable for passive recreation and small celebrations and events. Any changes to the landscape and buildings need to be approved by Heritage Victoria, who are committed to retaining its cultural landscape. The masterplan focuses on improved wayfinding, celebrating the nursery history, emphasising the Museum's presence with minor infrastructure that enhances the landscaped gardens.

The historic nursery cart tracks through the western forest are now popular bushwalking tracks which transition the visitor's experience from one park to the other park and remain largely unchanged.

ELP is Cardinia Shire Council's premier regional open space and the precinct's attractions draw large numbers of local, regional and international visitors. The precinct is owned and managed by Council, however, the Puffing Billy Railway, Packing Shed and Railway Siding, Lakeside Station and new Visitor Centre are owned and operated by Emerald Tourist Railway Board in conjunction with the Puffing Billy Preservation Society.

The Masterplan is an action from the Emerald Lake Precinct Strategic Plan (2020-30), which builds on previous strategic documents that created a foundation on which the future of the precinct can build.

The following objectives, drawn from the Emerald Lake Precinct Strategic Plan (2020-2030) highlight Council's vision for the Precinct:

- The precinct is recognised as a regional park offering a unique blend of natural, historical, recreational and cultural experiences for local, regional, national and international visitors.
- The precinct is accessible for all ages, abilities and cultures and hosts a range of opportunities for social and economic exchanges.
- The precinct is well maintained and comfortable and offers appropriate amenities and infrastructure expected in a regional open space.
- Visitors are engaged in a range of events, activations, recreation and leisure activities and the precinct supports both public and private functions.
- Through sustainable management and practices, the precinct balances development with the natural environment.

History

Prior to European Settlement, the land was home to members of the greater Kulin nations. The recognised Traditional Owners for the Emerald Lake Precinct are the Wurundjeri People (<https://achris.vic.gov.au/weave/wca.html>).

The area was settled in 1835 following which, the Gembrook Nursery (now the Emerald Lake Precinct) was established by Swedish immigrant Carl Axel Nobelius in 1886. The Gembrook Nursery, more commonly known as Nobelius Nursery (after its proprietor), became one of Australia's foremost plant nurseries in the early 20th century, selling exotic plants and fruit trees locally, all over Australia and overseas.

Emerald Lake Park was established in 1939 after the Shire of Fern Tree Gully compulsorily acquired 47 hectares to develop the park. Emerald Lake (later named Lake Treganowan) was constructed in 1940 in the location of Nobelius' dam along with a swimming pool, dressing sheds, kiosk and caravan park. Many of these structures still exist today.

This rich history contributes to the Precinct's notable landscape character, with mixed forest comprising of remnants of exotic nursery trees and an understorey of regrowth and planted indigenous vegetation alongside well used facilities for a public recreation park.



Diving Tower, Emerald Lake c. between 1920-1954
(source: State Library of Victoria)



Nobelius Packing Shed and Nobelius Nursery c.1906
(source: Emerald and District Museum)



Emerald Lake pool, c. between 1920-1954
(source: State Library of Victoria)



Workers budding cherries at Nobelius Nursery c.1890
(source: State Library of Victoria)

Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan

2. Existing Conditions



Within the Precinct, the two parks have their own distinct identities with shared landscape characteristics that link the two.

Emerald Lake Park is defined in the north by Emerald Lake Road and on the east by the railway line with an additional area to the east of the Lakeside Station. The western boundary abuts Nobelius Heritage Park.

The eastern end of Emerald Lake Park has established facilities for public recreation. Elements include Lake Treganowan, Lake Nobelius, Lakeside Office, picnic shelters, walking tracks, bridges, board walks and car parks. A number of buildings within the parklands have heritage significance including three rubble stone picnic shelters and the Lake Treganowan toilets. Additionally, there are barbecue facilities, seating, amphitheatres, playgrounds and fitness stations. Unknown service locations, in particular water, is a significant barrier to upgrading and consolidating these facilities.

The recently constructed Puffing Billy Lakeside Visitor Center and upgraded car parks are not included in this Masterplan. The Visitor Centre, owned and managed by Puffing Billy has unisex, ambulant, and disabled toilet facilities as well as a Changing Places facility. This project included an upgrade of nearby Council owned and managed car parks which now have lighting, disabled parking bays and DDA compliant paths.

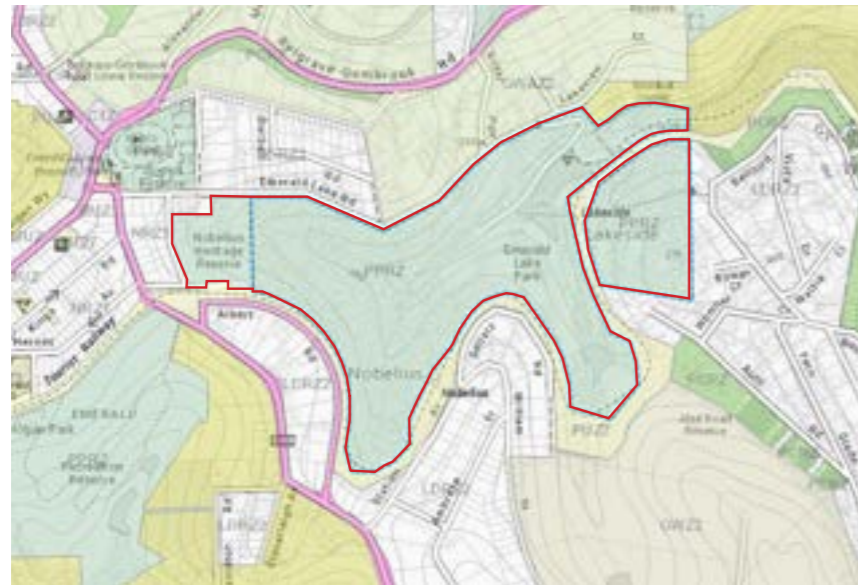
The western end of the Emerald Lake Park is a dense mixed forest comprising remnants of exotic nursery trees, an understorey of regrowth and areas of revegetation. Several walking tracks throughout this area provide recreational opportunities and pedestrian connections to destinations.

Further to the west, is the Nobelius Heritage Park. A 4.5 hectare parkland within a small valley, dominated by exotic mature trees. It contains the historic Packing Shed, the Emerald and District Museum and the Blue Hills Lapidary Club Inc. who utilise Linton's Cottage.

Formed in the year 2000, Friends of Emerald Lake Park (FELP) continue to carry out important maintenance works in the park including weed removal, planting and creek restoration. FELP have been instrumental in securing funding to assist with enhancing and preserving the bushland.

Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan

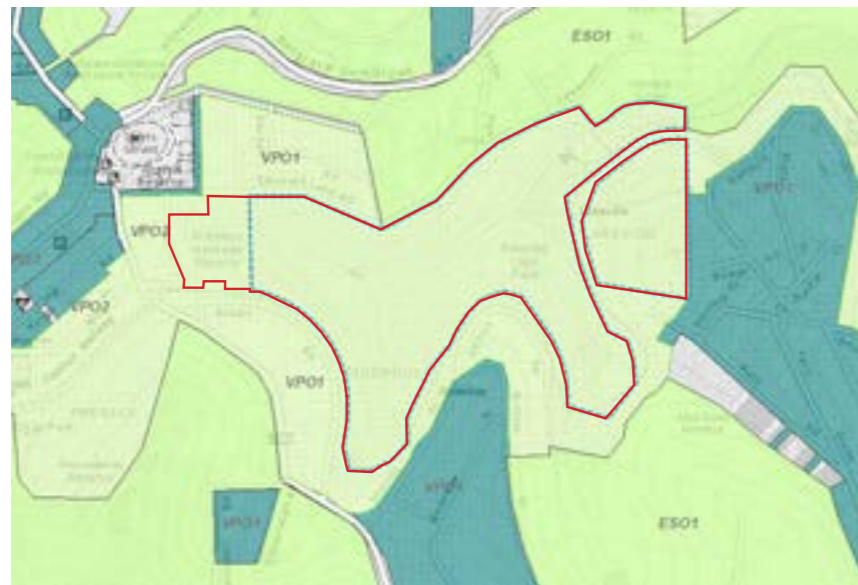
Land Use Planning Zones



- Emerald Lake Precinct Site Boundary
- PPRZ - Public Park and Recreation
- PUZ7 - Other Public Use

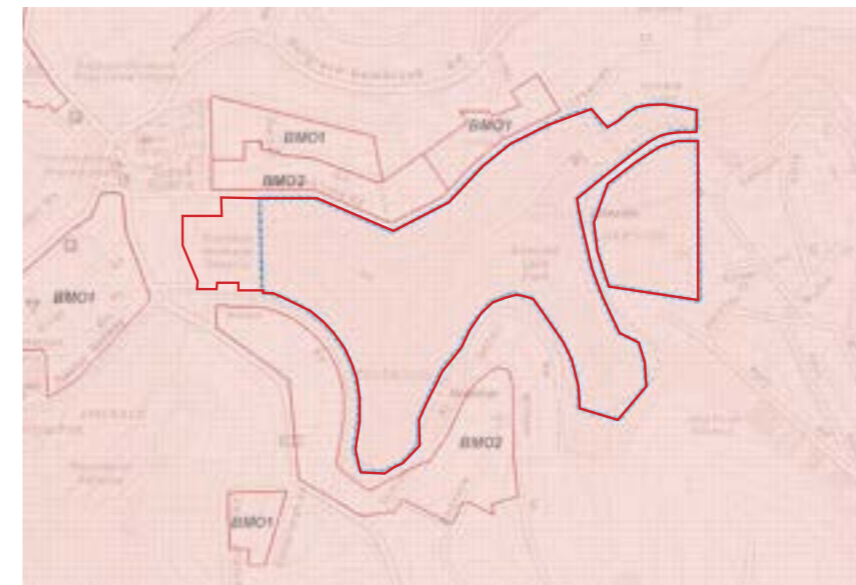
Emerald Lake Precinct comprises primarily as a Public Park and Recreation Zone. This includes both Nobelius Heritage Park and Emerald Lake Park. Adjacent to the site is the Puffing Billy railway, Public Use Zone 7 (Other Public Use), recognised for public utility and community services and facilities, which bisects the Precinct on the eastern side.

Planning Overlays



- Emerald Lake Precinct Site Boundary
- SLO1 - Significant Landscape Overlay

Environment and Landscape overlays seek to protect vegetation or landscape features of an area and are used to recognise areas of environmental or landscape significance. The SLO running through Emerald Lake Precinct, is to ensure any development is compatible to the conservation and enhancement of the character of the significant landscape. Areas within an SLO can require a permit to construct a building or construct or carry out works, construct a fence, and remove, destroy or lop any vegetation.



- Emerald Lake Precinct Site Boundary
- BMO - Bush fire Management Overlay

The BMO is a planning control which regulates development in areas where there is extreme bush fire hazard. The entire Precinct and surrounds have a Bush fire Management Overlay which triggers permits requiring mandatory bush fire protection measures such as defensible space, water supply, access and ongoing vegetation management requirements.



- Emerald Lake Precinct Site Boundary
- HO106 - Heritage Overlay
- HO273 - Heritage Overlay

The heritage overlay is in place to ensure that development does not adversely affect the significance of heritage places. Additionally, Nobelius Heritage Park, including the Former Nobelius Nursery, Packing Shed and Railway Siding is part of the Victorian Heritage Register (# H2285), which is subject to the requirements of the Heritage Act 2017.



- Emerald Lake Precinct Site Boundary
- Area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

The majority of the Emerald Lake Precinct is considered to be of cultural heritage sensitivity. These areas are defined under the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 and require a 'cultural heritage management plan' to be prepared where a listed 'high impact activity' is proposed.

Source: Planning Maps Online

3. Strategic Context Review

Background Documents

Below is a summary of key background documents and existing strategies that may influence future directions and priorities for the master plan

	Environmental significance and sustainability	Playgrounds	Events and Activation	Parking and road access	Cultural and Historical significance	Built infrastructure, venues, shelters and toilets	Maintenance
Emerald Link Precinct Strategic Plan 2020-30	ELP is a leading example in sustainable operation and management.	Upgrade the swimming and water play options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential zero depth water play opportunities, • Increase playspace options to incorporate accessible and nature play options 	A desire to have an increased number of events and activations within the precinct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire for improved pedestrian walkways including to the Emerald Township • Clearly signed wayfinding between parks • General concerns regarding Emerald Lake Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised and celebrated for its distinctive cultural and historical significance and offerings. • The Wurundjeri with neighbouring Bunurong/Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation are the First Peoples of the land and area currently known as Emerald. • Swedish immigrant Carl Axel Nobelius establishes Gembrook Nurseries on the site (late 1800's) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accessible and inclusive facilities and trails where appropriate, recognising that not all areas in the precinct can meet all abilities due to the natural topography of the landscape. • Disappointment in food delivery opportunities within the precinct • Desire to have more options, including healthy options • Expanded service hours • More inviting spaces available to park visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a long-term maintenance program for the precinct • Desire for an increased level of service standard to be implemented.
Project Brief for Design Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local community is passionate about their park and have resisted development in the park with preference to retaining bushland areas and exotic trees • The Master Plan needs to demonstrate that any development and infrastructure considers the environment and the protection and enhancement of the existing bushland • The aquatic flora and fauna needs to be protected whilst ensuring the banks of the lakes are stabilised to cope with the recreation activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially integrated into the same area as the playground • Accessible options included and a preference in design that incorporates interchangeable parts with other waterplay facilities in Cardinia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire to have an increased number of events and activations in the precinct servicing the local community. • Some current events are held in spaces that are not ideally suited to the events or their size (eg. Lakeside Sounds family music event, and Christmas Carols). • The precinct is becoming popular for wedding ceremonies, but facilities and services are not all suited to this use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle and truck access through the main Emerald Lake Park thoroughfare is necessary to carry out regular and emergency functions. • The regional shared path, Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT) crosses through the Precinct yet there are no bike facilities (parking, repairs) • A formal path connection between Emerald Lake Park into Nobelius Heritage Park will link the two parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an opportunity to showcase indigenous flora and fauna and be inclusive of Aboriginal culture and the needs of the CALD and other underrepresented communities. • The history of the park has a European focus reflected by the exotic flora and European settlement in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the week when the park is quiet, ELP is popular with carers and people with disabilities • Park is popular on weekends and holiday periods with large groups who like to picnic and bring their own food. 	The large amount of leaf fall and leaf litter impacts paths, making them slippery and needs to be carefully considered in the maintenance and operation costs of an upgraded playspace or waterplay area.

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Continued.....	Environmental significance and sustainability	Playgrounds	Events and Activation	Parking and road access	Cultural and Historical significance	Built infrastructure, venues, shelters and toilets	Maintenance
<p>Emerald Lake Park and Nobelius Heritage Park Conservation Management Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance environmental significance of precinct including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large remnant nursery trees in the western forest Remnant gully vegetation Conifer arboretum Garden beds to the south western corner of Lake Treganowan Lake Nobelius and its setting Trees planted from 1960-1980 Construction of any new infrastructure to occur outside TPZs Recognition to be given to the unique nature of the western forest Control and removal of all native and exotic weeds along creeks and throughout the park A fire management strategy is essential to provide protection for visitors, staff and heritage assets Consideration to be given to tree replacement, maintenance and new plantings by a specialist nursery. Retain the current lake perimeter and reinforce edges as necessary. Engage an arborist with demonstrated heritage experience to monitor the ongoing condition of all trees and to carry out associated works. Specialist horticulturalists to be engaged to complete ID of plants not captured by arborist report Records should be maintained for any significant tree prior to its removal 		<p>Entry and gateway signage</p> <p>A lighting strategy should be considered for any areas subject to pedestrian use in connection with after-hours events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paths with high pedestrian use should have asphalt (or concrete) surfaces to minimise both slipping and maintenance. Recycled plastic edges or steel edging should be provided for asphalt. The steep section of path from Princess Avenue (in NHP) has an erosion problem. The gravel surfaced path and the crushed rock to the roadway is moved by heavy rain and washes in grass areas. The steep top section of this path needs to be replaced with a sealed surface. 	<p>Protect and enhance heritage of primary significance including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association with Gembrook Nursery/ Nobelius & Sons Western forest tracks Lake Treganowan and its setting The Lake Treganowan toilet block and picnic shelters Gus Ryberg Arboretum <p>Elements of contributory significance should preferably be retained and conserved including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small stone dam remnant walls on creek Bluestone retaining walls to north and south of the Lakeside carpark Ticket box to entry Wading pool Entry road Lakeside carpark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain heritage rubblestone toilet block and picnic shelters (sympathetic alterations/ additions possible if they enable appropriate adaptive re-use) Upgrade Lake Treganowan toilets to meet current standards, including disability access. Maintenance shall be carried out by contractors with demonstrated experience in heritage restoration. The Park's setting should be retained including the open sloping lawns around Lake Treganowan. Consideration should be given to the selective removal of small trees to enable specimen trees to expand and be fully appreciated. The view from the Puffing Billy Railway Line towards the lake or the western forest should not be obscured by new landscape elements or features. There have been multiple kiosks in the park - the first one built in 1941 in the Lakeside car park, a second one built at the south end of the lake in the 1950s and a third one 1962 overlooking the southwestern end of the lake. The fourth one, currently the home of the cafe was built in 1982 	<p>General maintenance can be carried out in accordance with the conservation policies of this report and without the assistance of a conservation specialist.</p>

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Continued.....	Environmental significance and sustainability	Playgrounds	Events and Activation	Parking and road access	Cultural and Historical significance	Built infrastructure, venues, shelters and toilets	Maintenance
Assessment of trees at Emerald Lake Precinct (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All trees meeting significance criteria are protected through addition to a municipal or state tree protection register or significant veg. overlay Consideration be given to recognising NHP as a collection of botanical specimens, with further research to determine the cultivars of the significant fruit tree varieties A Tree Management Plan, focusing on the maintenance of significant trees be prepared All pruning works and tree removals are carried out by qualified arborists and conform to the Australian Standard, Pruning Amenity Trees (AS4373 2007) Trees that are removed should be replaced to ensure the ongoing landscape contribution and to retain the landscape character. Onsite propagation facilities are recommended to assist with succession planning A walkover assessment of the trees is carried out every 12 months to assess condition, risk and to determine any further works requirements 						
Playspace Strategy (2014)		Investigate the feasibility of a 'regional' playspace at Emerald Lake Park		Safe and convenient access to playspaces that are centrally located and connected to a pedestrian / cycling network			
Buildings and Facilities Feasibility Study				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carparking needs to be considered with anticipation of larger visitor numbers Emerald Lake Rd is not suitable for pedestrians (Existing access lacks wayfinding to encourage people to use it) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lakeside office building opportunity: pursue the idea for a waterside restaurant and/or cafe. 	
Recreational Open Space Strategy (2000)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an interconnected trail system to cater for informal walking, bike riding and greater public access to waterways and Open Space facilities (Emerald to Gembrook) Establish an open space linkage between Cockatoo and Emerald through Wrights Forest and Emerald Lake Park 			

Emerald Lake Precinct
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Continued.....	Environmental significance and sustainability	Playgrounds	Events and Activation	Parking and road access	Cultural and Historical significance	Built infrastructure, venues, shelters and toilets	Maintenance
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wattle Creek identified as an area of Cultural Heritage sensitivity Likely that Aboriginal cultural heritage is in locations: in lower elevated land form areas along Wattle creek and surrounding Emerald Lake and Nobelius Lake, in gradual moderately sloping land form areas within 200m from Wattle creek and Emerald Lake and Nobelius Lake. 		Aboriginal cultural heritage contingency plans would be of value for civil maintenance contractors engaged within the Emerald Lake Precinct
Actions to be considered in the Master Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan to preserve and enhance significant natural environmental assets in the precinct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope for additional Tree survey - further identification of trees and tree groups adjacent to the tracks in the western forest Prepare a strategy for long-term replacement planting of exotic trees, particularly for significant species in the two arboreta. Prepare a strategy for new tree and shrub planting in addition to tree replacements Install labels to identify both National Trust Significant Trees and all mature trees within the two arboreta Complete a fire management strategy for the site. Strategy to consider protection of heritage aspects of the precinct & museum contents. Any path network connection or upgrade needs to ensure the structural integrity of lake edges are maintained or improved Action recommendations outlined in the CMPs Action recommendations outlined in the Arborist Assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan to include additional/ increased play opportunities incorporating water play, accessible play and nature play. Potential to consolidate and develop a 'regional' level playspace (large playspace servicing a regional area with a broad range of play opportunities for all ages and abilities). 	<p>Master Plan to outline areas to offer a range of programs, including educational programs, organised recreational activities and classes, arts and cultural events, festivals and markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan should consider provision of power, lighting, shelter and stage area(s). Upgrade signage with entry "statement" or gateway. 	<p>Master Plan to establish safe and accessible path network, trails and facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential of additional connecting trails to maximise potential of spaces Create a connection with Emerald Township Defined and safe access for pedestrians/cyclists and cars (including bike parking) Improve path connection between Emerald Lake Park into Nobelius Heritage Park Design the EDRT crossing safely through Lakeside carpark Replace section of trail from Princess Avenue with sealed surface <p>Access Roads and routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main entry road embankment north-west of Lake Treganowan requires stabilisation – possibly with a retaining wall. Additional flights of steps, in conjunction with a barrier fence to the top of the embankment, should be constructed to provide controlled access to the Gus Ryberg arboretum <p>Provide wayfinding signage to direct pedestrians and cyclists to use the EDRT rather than Emerald Lake Road.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan to protect and enhance heritage significance of precinct. Interpretive and wayfinding signage for visitors on the precinct's historic significance (including Aboriginal, post settlement, economic and industrial themes). Expression of local Aboriginal culture and significance through public art, interpretation signage, events etc Proposals must be aligned with a CHMP (any proposed civil or recreational infrastructure works that are 'High Impact' within the 'Area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity' of Wattle creek may trigger a CHMP) The 'Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity' overlay within Emerald Lake Precinct could be updated to include the overall extent of the Wattle creek, Paternoster creek and Mackenzie creek. View from the Puffing Billy Railway line towards the lake or the western forest should not be obscured by new landscape elements or features. Removal of silt build-up should occur on a regular basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan to include updated facilities and infrastructure where necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easily accessible, personable and welcoming information and customer service Maintenance to be carried out by contractors with demonstrated experience in heritage restoration Consider upgrading picnic tables in the three picnic shelters. Tables should have extended ends to allow for wheelchair access. Upgrade toilet facilities to meet current health and council standards, including disability access, or consider replacement of toilet blocks if necessary. 	All repairs and maintenance should be carried out with regard to the significance of the place and the conservation policies of the CMP.



4. Consultation Summary

2018/19 consultation

Extensive community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken in 2018 and 2019 as part of the Emerald Lake Precinct Strategic Plan 2020-30. Of the responses received, 74% were from Cardinia Shire residents and 26% from respondents who resided elsewhere. Results from this consultation are detailed in the Strategic Plan and have formed the key deliverables for this Master Plan.

2021 consultation

Key stakeholder consultation was completed as part of the background research phase for the Master Plan project in October and early November 2021. Staff workshops and interviews were conducted with members from the Cardinia Shire Council, who raised a number of issues and considerations. These included:

- Maintaining site character
- Playground and waterplay
- Site amenities
- Access in and around the site
- Signage and wayfinding throughout the site
- Designated fishing areas
- The activation of spaces through organised events.

Stakeholder contributions from the Friends of Emerald Lake Park, Wombat Corner, Puffing Billy, Lakeside Paddleboats and Emerald and District Museum reiterated these ideas with an underlying push for improved accessibility throughout the site. These user groups highlighted issues and opportunities within the reserve specific to their needs, which have been considered in the Draft Master Plan. The stakeholders advocated for upgraded and shared facilities that improve overall connectivity and wayfinding at the site whilst maintaining its distinct identity.

A summary of key comments, issues or priorities is identified in Appendix A.

2022 consultation

Community and stakeholder consultation for the draft Masterplan was undertaken 4 July 2022 – 25 August 2022. The Creating Cardinia portal was the primary source of feedback, and was distributed to the general community through:

- Council Facebook page
- Mailout to 3,386 local residents,
- Emails: 239 database of interested residents, sports clubs, Emerald community groups and all Cardinia Council staff, eight x local schools (newsletter item)
- Six open Office sessions at ELP Lakeside building
- Hills Hub, Emerald: Display with opportunity for sticky notes comments

The gender split for responses was a 49% male and 51% female split. There was a good distribution from the 4 age groups with biggest contributors being 55+ (29%). Emerald residents were the main contributors at 58%, other Hills residents (28%) which indicates that feedback was received from those who have an interest in the topic.

The following targeted consultation also took place:

- On site/online meetings: Victoria Police (CPTED feedback), Heritage Victoria (Nobelius Heritage Park)
- Presentations to Committees: Emerald Lake Precinct Advisory Committee, Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and Emerald Village Association
- Local schools: Workshop with Emerald Primary School Grades 4-6 (341 students), Emerald Secondary College – lunchtime drop-in session for all years and newsletter information

The Creating Cardinia page received 3,074 views and 428 contributions from 333 contributors. The high number of views indicate good public awareness of the campaign and high interest in the project.

5. Issues and Opportunities

The following is a summary of issues and opportunities identified during the stakeholder consultation, desktop analysis, strategic document review and site investigation phase.

Key Considerations:

Emerald Lake Precinct (ELP) will be reinforced as Cardinia Shire Council's premier regional open space. Key considerations for ELP include:

- A new regional scale playground
- Improvement of accessibility, wayfinding and DDA compliance where practical throughout the precinct
- Improve opportunities for community use including event space activation, walking, play and community gatherings

Accessibility and Wayfinding

- 1 Opportunity to improve the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT) particularly through the Lakeside carpark, around the lake and to Nobelius Heritage Park, to improve user safety and experience
- 2 The extensive path network throughout the precinct requires renewal and rationalisation which presents the opportunity to improve accessibility and connections
- 3 Opportunity to improve connectivity and engage the community through wayfinding and interpretive signage/ artwork. This may include information/ expression on:
 - the precinct's history and heritage around first nations, post settlement, economic and industrial themes.
 - local Aboriginal culture and significance in relation to the site
 - the precinct's identity through the definition of 'zones' to assist with legibility of the precinct.

Parking and Road Access

- 4 Opportunity to improve the condition of the embankment north-west of Lake Treganowan along the main access road to improve safety and access. This could include additional and improved access points to destinations north of the embankment such as the Gus Ryberg arboretum and paths
- 5 Opportunity to modify the existing Lakeside Carpark to provide additional parking spaces through embankment stabilisation.

Note: bus access is provided at the Lakeside Visitors Centre and is not required at the Lakeside Carpark

Shelter and Facilities

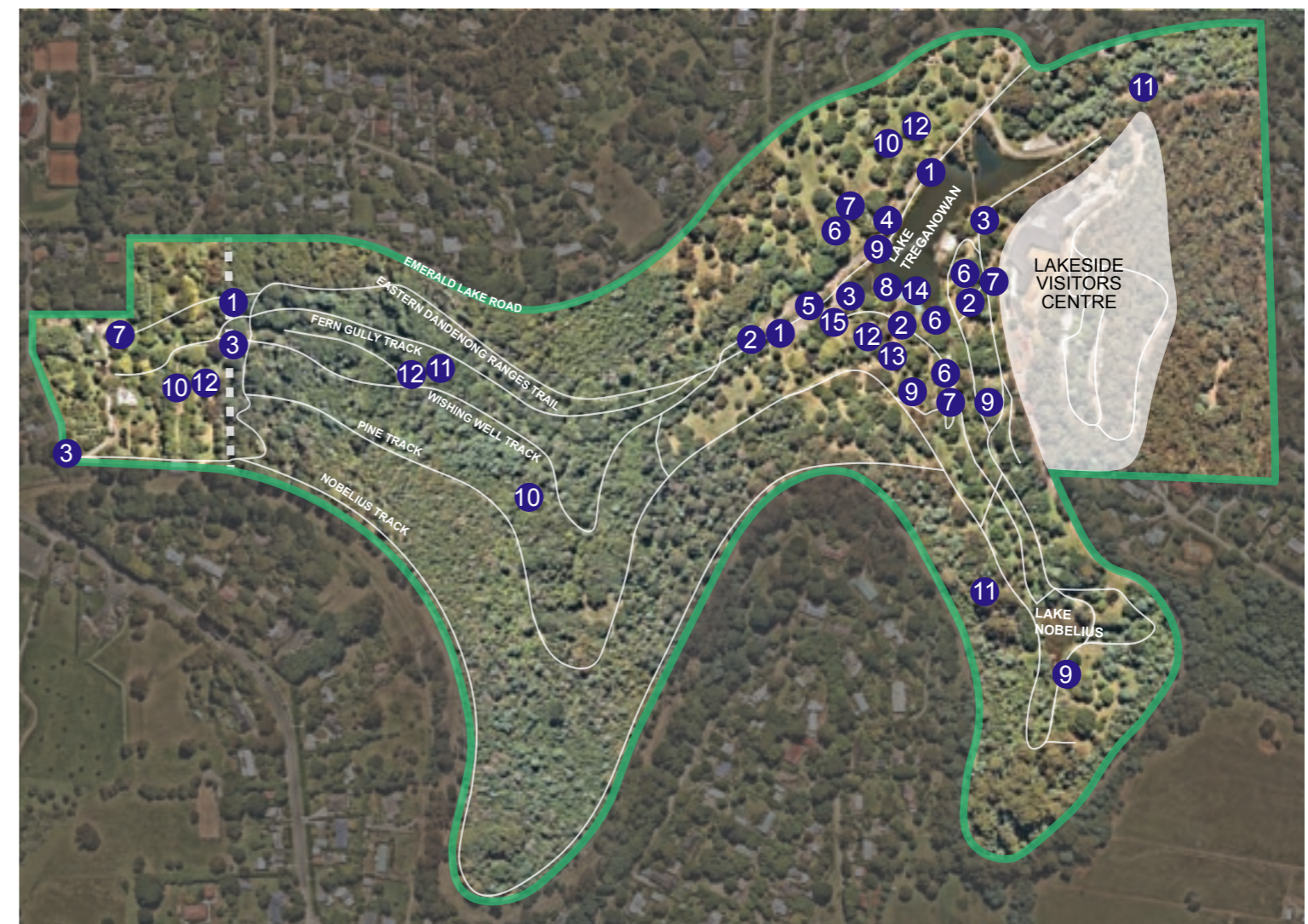
- 6 Establishment of the recently completed Lakeside Visitor Centre involved the removal of two key picnic shelters. Opportunity to provide two new shelters within the precinct to cater to the community and visitors
- 7 Opportunity to upgrade existing furniture, particularly seats, bins and picnic tables throughout the precinct to achieve a consistent suite of materials and to improve accessibility. Consider use of sustainable materials and products in line with Council's environmental commitments
- 8 Opportunity to provide lookout/ viewing areas around Lake Treganowan. Consider photo opportunities for weddings and events that take place in the precinct
- 9 Opportunity to consolidate the number of toilet blocks and upgrade existing toilet facilities to bring them into line with current health and council standards, including disability access

Landscape and Environment

- 10 The reserve is home to a selection of significant trees and remnant vegetation, which should be conserved and protected
- 11 The reserve is dominated by a 'bushland/ parkland' character, which should be reinforced
- 12 Opportunity for implementation of succession planting plan for trees

Playgrounds

- 13 The existing playground facilities are outdated and in need of upgrading. Opportunity for a new 'destination playspace' that is an accessible, regional scale playspace that complements the Precinct



- 14 Opportunity to upgrade water play facilities in line with community expectations and current standards whilst reducing maintenance and resource requirements

Activation

- 15 Opportunity to activate the precinct by providing appropriate facilities and services to accommodate a range of programs and events to take place in the precinct including educational programs, recreational activities, arts and cultural events, festivals and markets

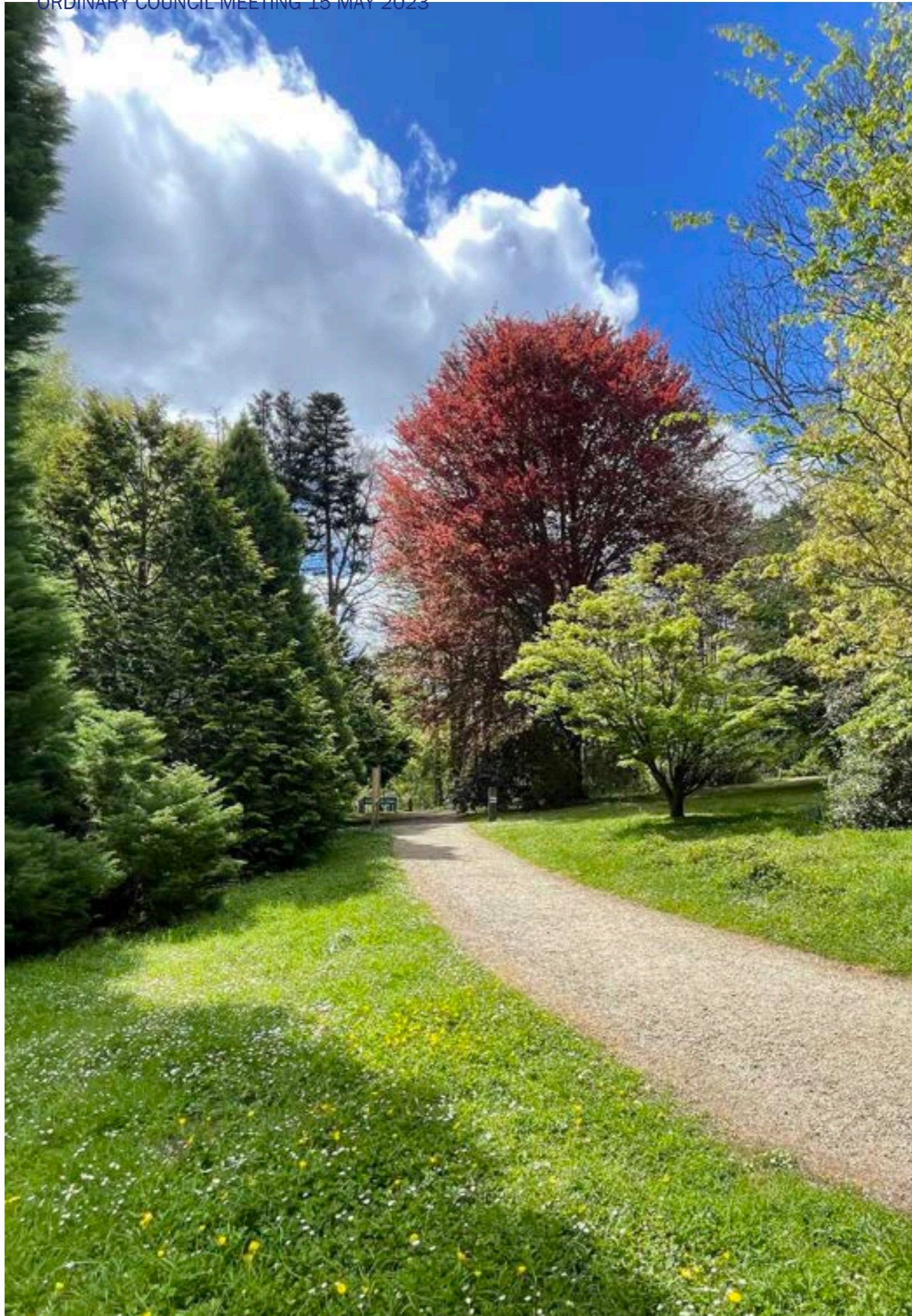
Emerald Lake Precinct
Masterplan

6. Master Plan

The Master Plan has been developed to assist in guiding the future development of Emerald Lake Park. The plan has been informed by Council's objectives, strategic documents and plans, in particular the Emerald Lake Precinct Strategic Plan (2020-2030), internal consultation with Council and stakeholder engagement.

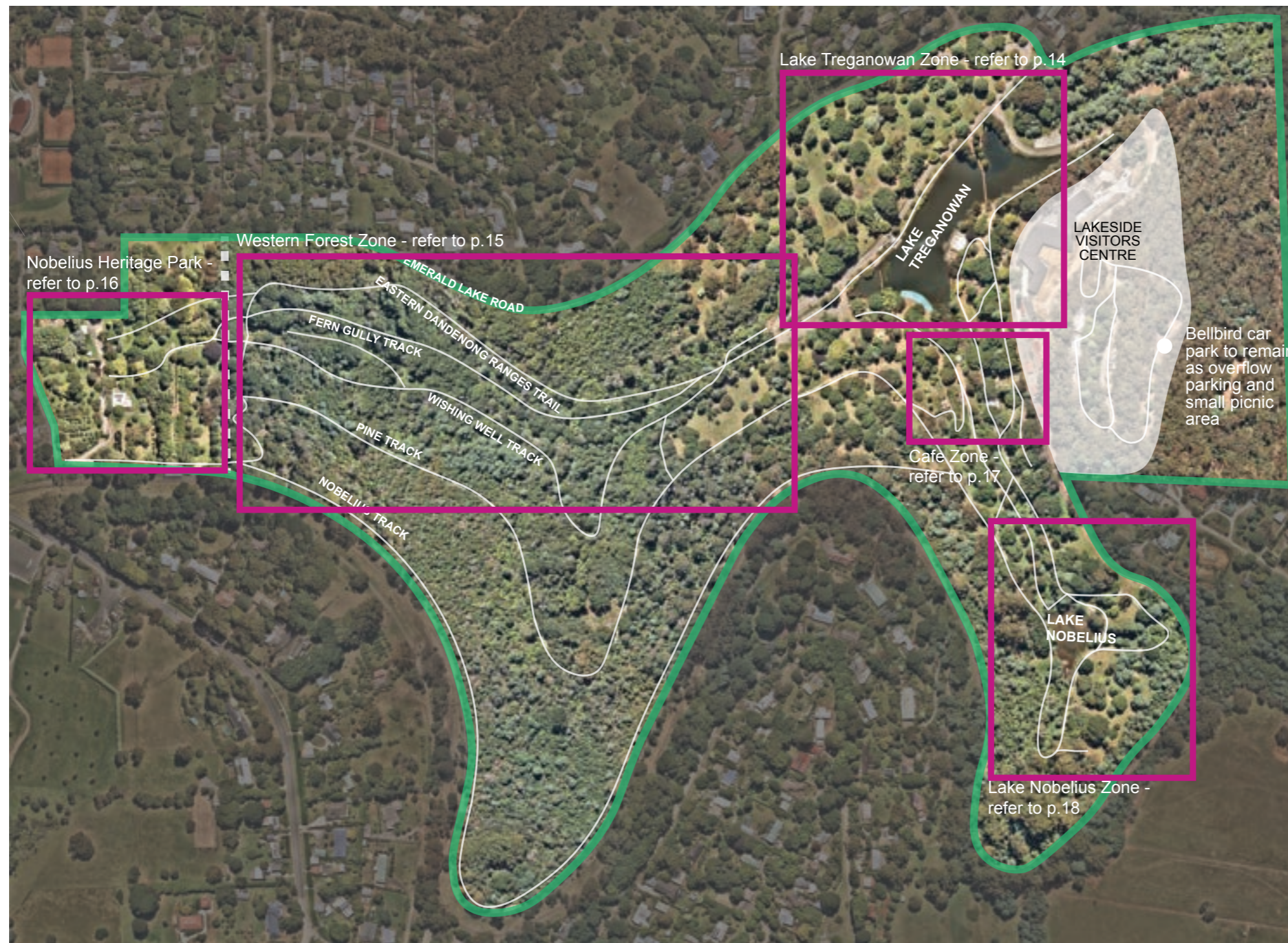
A set of key principles have been developed to guide the Master Plan and to provide direction on the future development at Emerald Lake Park. The key principles are:

1. Preserve and enhance significant natural environmental assets in the precinct.
2. Ensure the existing views from the Lakeside Visitor Centre are retained and not obscured by new landscape elements or features
3. Protect and enhance heritage significance of precinct
4. Ensure all repairs and maintenance should be carried out with regard to the significance of the place and the conservation policies of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP).
5. All works must be aligned with a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP), noting that any proposed civil or recreational infrastructure works that are 'High Impact' within the 'Area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity' of Wattle creek may trigger a CHMP.



Emerald Lake Precinct
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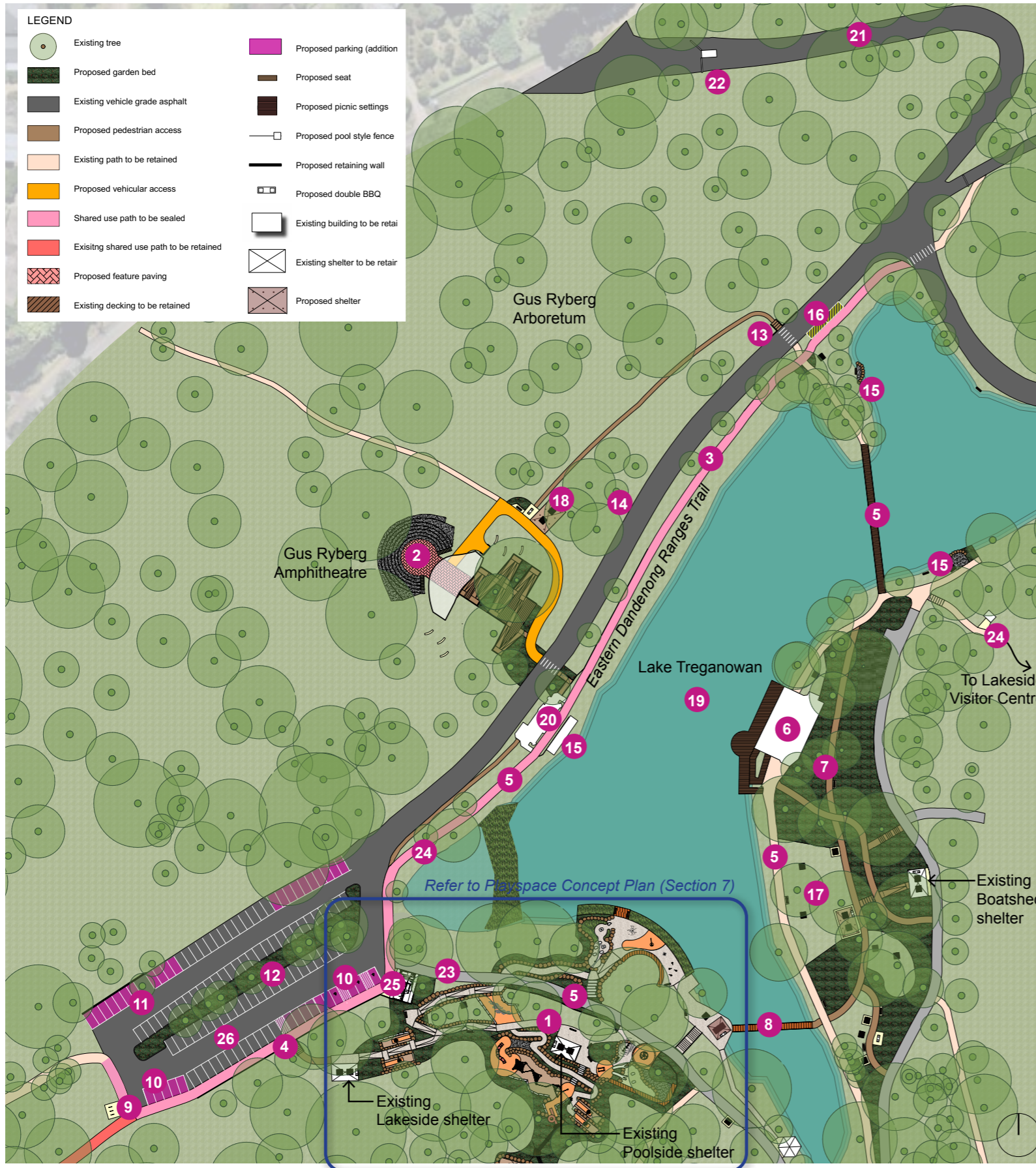
6.1 Whole of site action items



- 1 Provide interpretive signage at all park entries and throughout the park for information and educational purposes. Consider the historical significance of the precinct and how that translates to the present day including Indigenous history and post settlement heritage
- 2 Develop a consistent signage suite for the park. Implement easily accessible gateway, wayfinding, etiquette, identification and interpretive signage across the site
- 3 Consider programming opportunities within the park including educational programs, organised recreational activities and classes, arts and cultural events, festivals and markets
- 4 Upgrade the existing paths to establish safe and accessible network where possible. Consider the use of boardwalks or 'mini-mesh' as required to protect existing trees and root systems
- 5 Upgrade all existing furniture to Council's preferred furniture suite including DDA compliant furniture including drinking fountains at all activity nodes and picnic tables at Bellbird Picnic Area
- 6 Update the 'Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity' overlay within Emerald Lake Precinct to include the overall extent of the Wattle Creek, Paternoster Creek and Mackenzie Creek
- 7 Implement and undertake the recommendations outlined in the Arborist report including maintaining and improving weed and pest management
- 8 Ensure the structural integrity of lake edges are maintained or improved in all works
- 9 Prepare a strategy for long-term replacement planting of nursery and exotic trees in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan
- 10 Restrict vehicular access within the park to maintenance and emergency vehicles only to reduce traffic and improve pedestrian safety
- 11 Engage traditional owners to add value to the precinct upgrades (including interpretive signage and artwork).
- 12 Consider Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in future development of the park to ensure the safety of all users
- 13 Continue to work with Friends of Emerald Lake Park with the removal of invasive woody trees and native revegetation works
- 14 Complete a fire management strategy for the site that will compliment the Emergency Management Plan for extreme weather and fire which is already in place.
- 15 Develop a waste management plan for the precinct

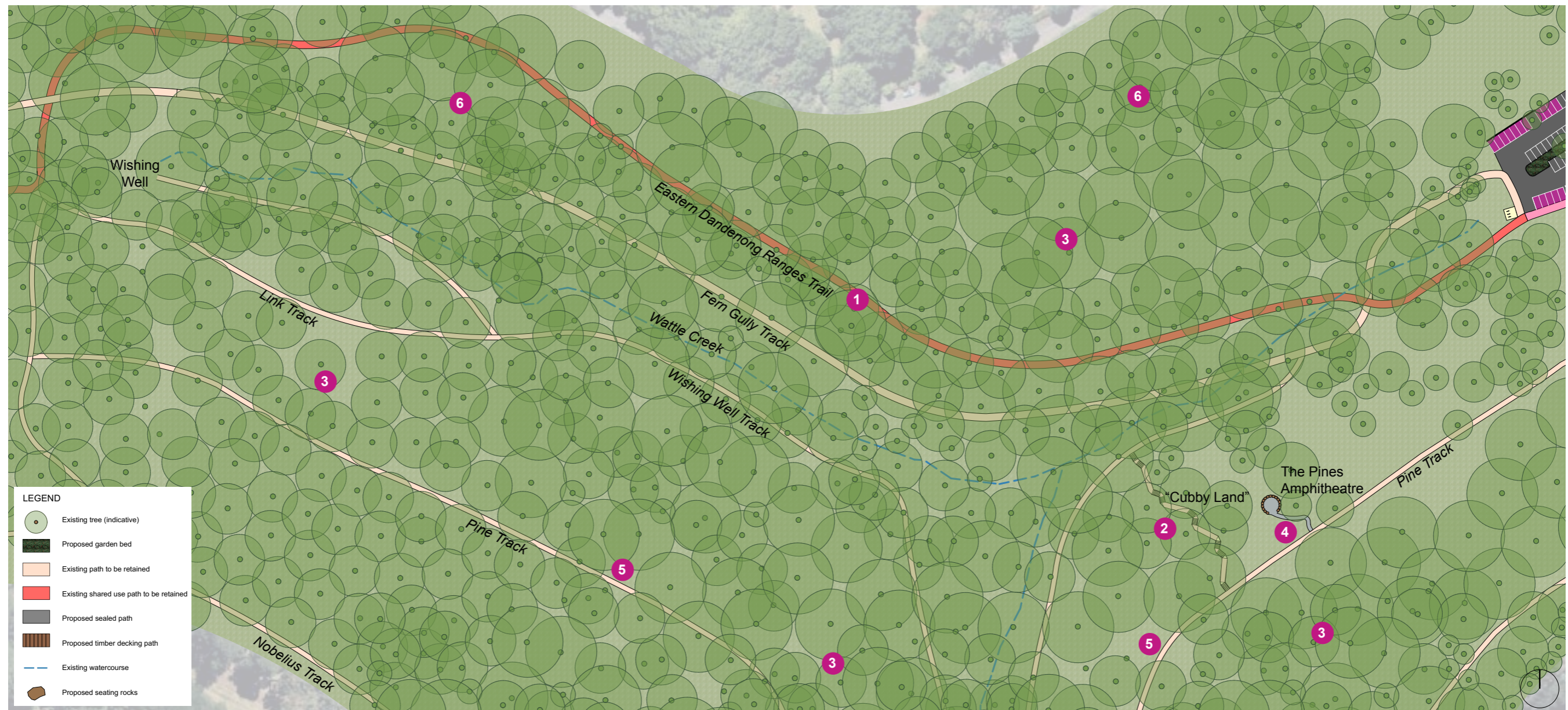
6.2 Lake Treganowan Zone

Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan



- 1 Upgrade existing playground facilities to a 'regional' level playspace with a broad range of play opportunities for all ages and abilities including water play, accessible play, nature play and new toilets. Existing wading pool to be removed. Refer to play space concept plan (section 7).
- 2 Upgrade the Gus Ryberg Amphitheatre to include a sound shell with lighting, shelter and a stage area, all abilities access (i.e. blended ramp and stairs), vehicle access, pedestrian priority road crossing, and upgrade the existing seating facilities to composite timber seats (including seating areas for all abilities). As required, relocate or replace the murals which depict the precinct's history.
- 3 Define the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT) with sealed surfacing and wayfinding and etiquette signage. Upgrade the trail as required to meet regional standards (noting that this may require removal/ relocation of existing trees), refer to Appendix B
- 4 Connect the EDRT through the Lakeside Carpark. Construct a retaining wall along the southern edge as required
- 5 Define an all abilities loop path around the lake with sealed surfacing, lighting, and wayfinding and etiquette signage
- 6 Investigate developing the Lakeside Office building to 'Emerald Lake Boathouse.' Opportunity to retain the paddle boats, part of the Council office and to include a waterside restaurant or cafe (pending market interest for private investment).
- 7 Upgrade the paths, drainage and garden bed areas behind the Lakeside building with accessible paths and new planted areas including the removal of fencing and edging to garden bed areas. Consider ground covers and plants to prevent erosion of garden beds and to keep sight lines open to achieve Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- 8 New bridge connecting the playspace to the loop path around the lake and to allow the bandstand to be blocked off to pedestrian traffic during events and performances
- 9 Bike parking, drink fountains and bike repair station near the EDRT
- 10 Realign carparking bays along the southern edge of the Lakeside Carpark to allow for the EDRT connection and create additional car parking bays, including disabled parking bays and the opportunity to accommodate food vans
- 11 Stabilise embankment and create more carparking bays (keeping bluestone retaining walls)
- 12 Provide lighting to Lakeside Carpark and retain parking meter
- 13 Construct stairs with safety balustrades to the top of the embankment and a new path to provide safe access to the Gus Ryberg Arboretum and amphitheatre. Include a pedestrian crossing as required
- 14 Embankment stabilisation works north of the entry road including a retaining wall as required
- 15 To protect the bank of the lake, establish dedicated fishing areas and stabilise areas that have been damaged
- 16 Establish an informal loading zone near the northern section of the lake to create a drop off area. Stabilise lake edge as required
- 17 Extend the picnic area with a shelter, two picnic tables and a double barbecue
- 18 New shelter with two picnic tables near the existing barbecues
- 19 Undertake desilting works at Lake Treganowan as required to maintain lake health
- 20 Upgrade the historic toilet facilities in-line with current health and safety standards and heritage requirements. Provide disability access from the EDRT and the Lakeside Carpark
- 21 Continue to advocate for the widening of Emerald Lake Road with a pedestrian path to the township
- 22 Retain the ticket box and provide a CCTV camera at the boom gate park entry
- 23 Create a unique and contemporary gateway at the park entrance that reflects the precinct character
- 24 Provide lighting for events from the Lakeside Carpark to the Gus Ryberg amphitheatre and the Lakeside Visitor Centre in accordance with Council's Wildlife Sensitive Lighting Guidelines.
- 25 New toilet block with Changing Places facility
- 26 Investigate installation of charging points for electric vehicles (at Lakeside carpark) and e-bikes (close to the EDRT)

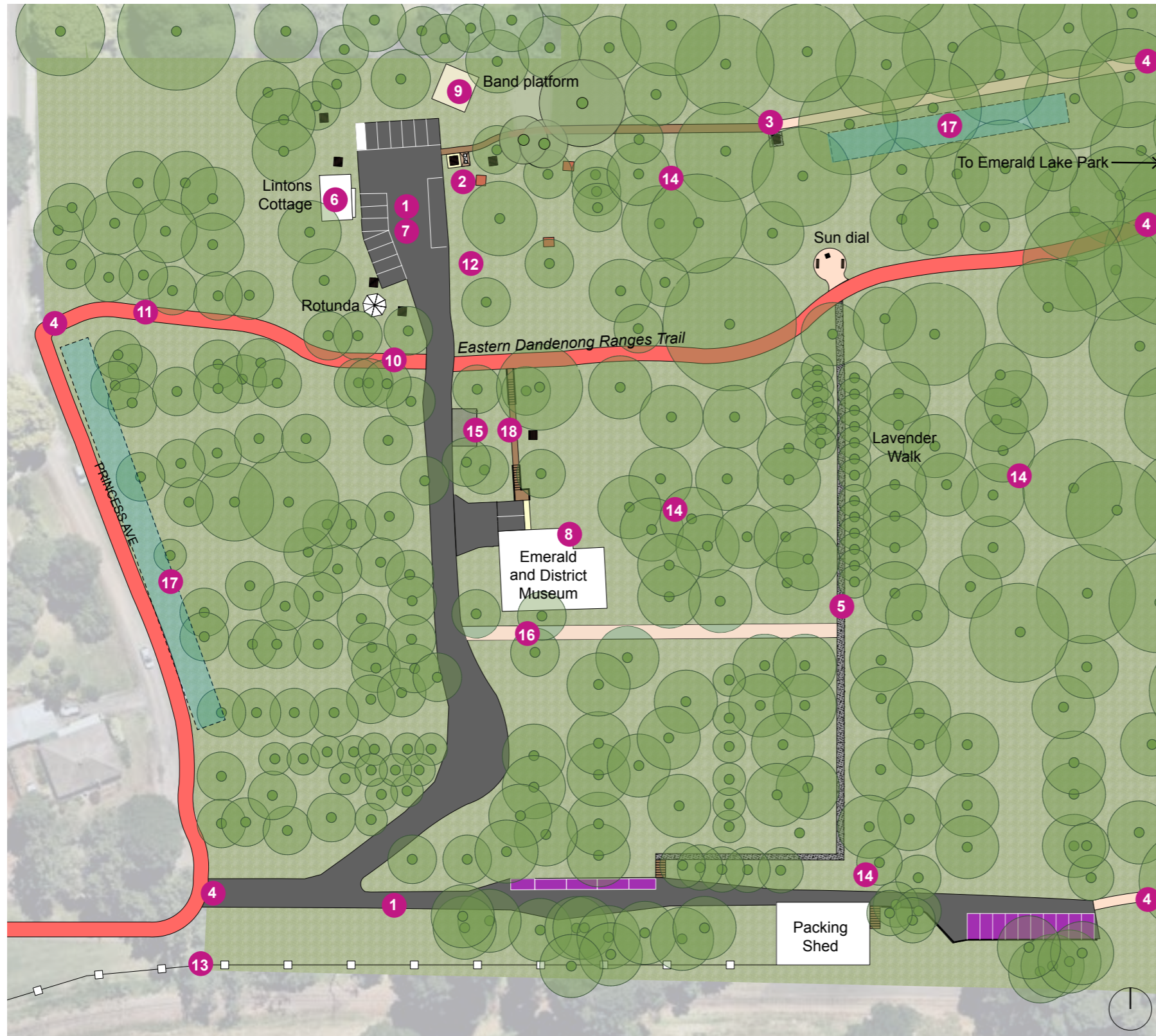
6.3 Western Forest Zone



- 1 Define the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT) through the park with consistent wayfinding and etiquette signage. Retain existing surface through the western forest and add seating in suitable locations.
- 2 Encourage imaginative play opportunities to the existing informal nature play area in the western forest, and the addition of wide wooden steps. Ensure CPTED principles are considered.
- 3 Preserve and enhance significant natural assets in the precinct. Undertake an additional tree survey to identify trees and tree groups along the tracks in the western forest in accordance with Emerald Lake Park Conservation Management Plan
- 4 Raise the Pines Amphitheatre to ground level and use rock seats to create an informal seating area for groups. Provide an accessible path to provide a safe connection for all users
- 5 Provide bird hides for bird watchers and nature photographers in different areas of the park
- 6 Repair areas throughout the Western Forest that have been damaged by mountain biking. Install barricades to encourage bike riders to use the EDRT and prevent them from accessing problem areas.
- 7 Investigate the suitability of handrails on the steeper sections of the walking trails.

Emerald Lake Precinct
Masterplan

6.4 Nobelius Heritage Park



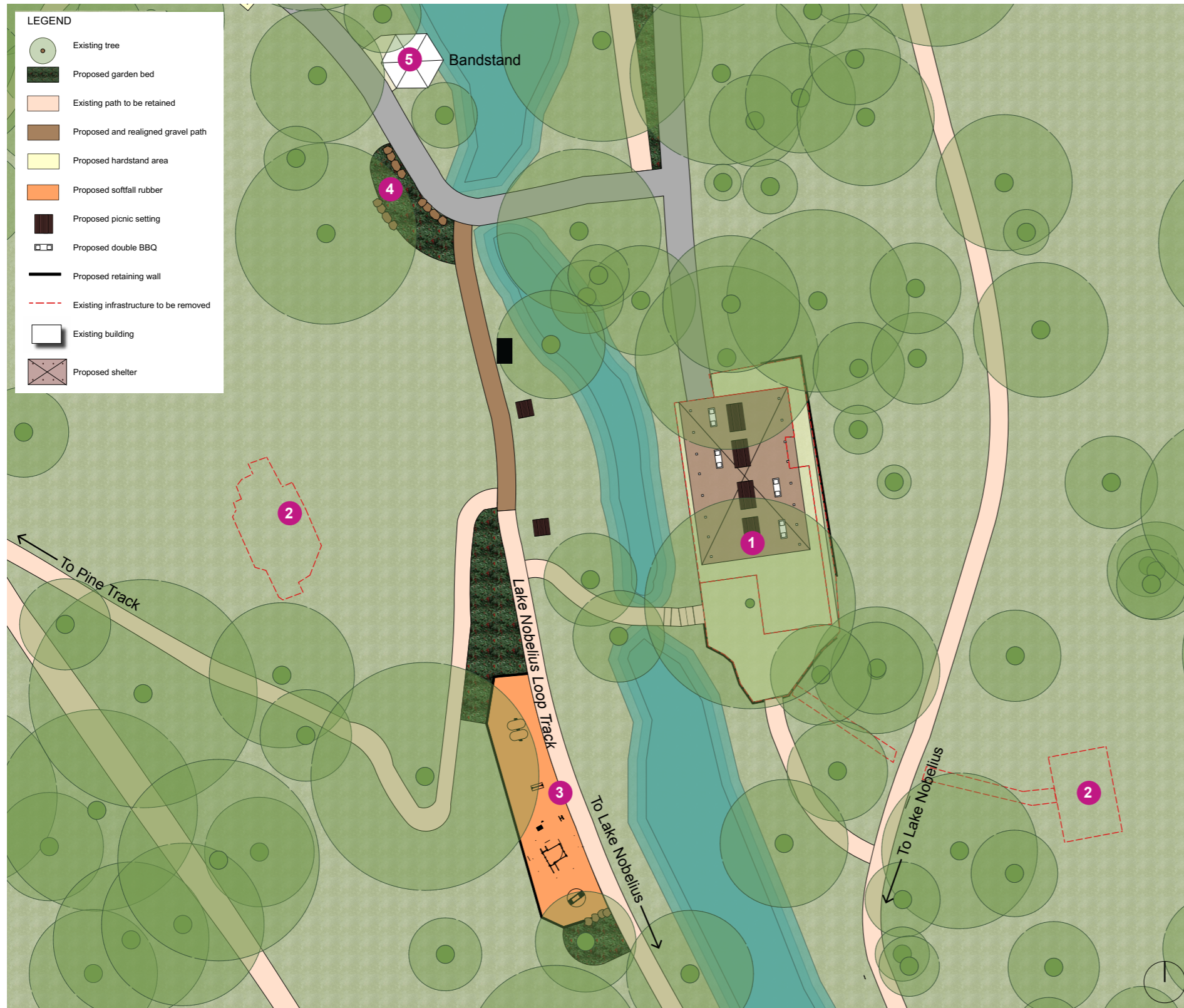
- 1 Upgrade access road and carpark as proposed
- 2 More picnic tables near the band platform area
- 3 Strengthen the informal path connection between Emerald Lake Park into Nobelius Heritage Park with wayfinding signage
- 4 Provide gateway signage/ feature at the entrances to the Nobelius Heritage Park
- 5 Provide an informal path connection with wayfinding signage from the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT) to the packing shed
- 6 Upgrade the exterior of Linton's Cottage and include interpretive signage to explain its historical significance to the site. Investigate opportunities to improve the interior to meet future community needs
- 7 Provide carpark lighting in accordance with Council's Wildlife Sensitive Lighting Guidelines.
- 8 Investigate an upgrade to the Museum toilets.
- 9 Provide power and a shelter over the band platform and replace barrier to cater for events and performances
- 10 Remove chicanes from the EDRT and replace with removable bollard to align with regional trail standards
- 11 If drainage issues continue on the EDRT between Princess Avenue and the road to the carpark improve drainage or stabilise the trail surface
- 12 Consider opportunities for activation and increased visitation to the Nobelius Heritage Park such as markets, performances and events
- 13 Upgrade fence between rail embankment and main entrance
- 14 New interpretive signage and maintain specimen display plates for park information, historical and educational purposes
- 15 Replace wheel stops with post and rail fence
- 16 Relocate wisteria away from the road, with a new arbour for support
- 17 Undertake regular maintenance on the existing water sensitive urban design (WSUD) swale to ensure it retains drainage functionality
- 18 New connecting path, with steps as required from the EDRT to the Emerald and District Museum.
- 19 Work towards Nobelius Heritage Park being officially recognised with botanic gardens status

Note: All actions for Nobelius Heritage Park require approval from Heritage Victoria under the *Heritage Act 2017*.

LEGEND	
	Existing tree (indicative)
	Proposed gravel path
	Proposed vehicular grade asphalt
	Proposed path
	Existing path to be retained
	Existing shared use path
	Existing park furniture to be retained
	Proposed picnic settings
	Proposed BBQ
	Existing building
	Proposed shelter

Emerald Lake Precinct
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6.5 Cafe Zone



- 1 Remove the Emerald Park Park cafe building and repurpose to a picnic and barbecue area with a large shelter and toilets
- 2 Remove existing toilet facilities, associated infrastructure, landscape embankment, fencing and access path. Return the site to open lawn
- 3 Create an exercise hub close to the paths to provide all abilities. Ensure it includes equipment suitable for all abilities
- 4 New garden area to prevent erosion where the slope meets the path
- 5 Retain Bandstand for small events and performances

6.6 Lake Nobelius Zone



- 1 Remove existing toilet facilities and associated infrastructure
- 2 Undertake repair and renewal works at Carl Stemp Amphitheatre including the upgrade of seating facilities (including seating areas for all abilities where possible)
- 3 Undertake repair and renewal works at the Bunurong amphitheatre including the upgrade of existing seating facilities (including seating areas for all abilities), an accessible path from the lower path and the addition of an arbour (refer to images below).
- 4 Repurpose The Gums Aphphitheatre from an event/performance function to an informal picnic and quiet reflection space. Remove old wooden tiers, landscape to achieve a more bowl-like shape and include informal log or mudstone rock seating at the base.
- 5 Undertake ongoing desilting work at Lake Nobelius as required to maintain lake health



Bunurong Amphitheatre



Example of access ramp cut through amphitheatre to improve access.



Arbour example

LEGEND

- Existing tree
- Existing path to be retained
- Proposed and realigned gravel path
- Proposed seat
- Proposed picnic setting
- Existing infrastructure to be removed
- Existing pedestrian bridge
- Existing building

6.7 Precedent images

Images are indicative only.



Sound shell - 6.2, #2



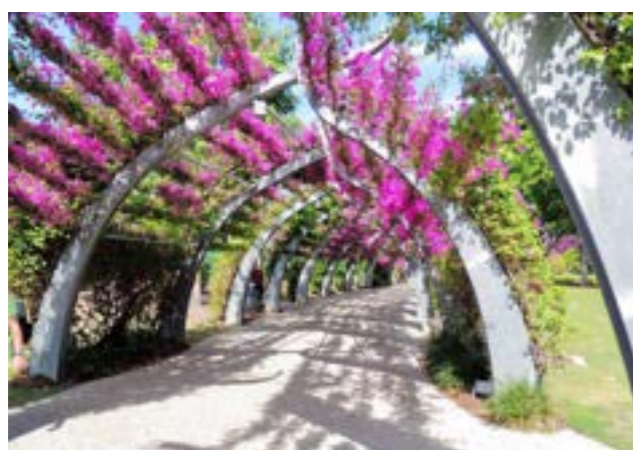
Blended ramp and stairs - 6.2, #2



DDA compliant BBQs - 6.1, #5



DDA compliant park furniture - 6.1, #5



Gateway entry feature - 6.2, #23



Permeable amphitheatre seating - 6.6, #2 & #3



Post and mesh fence - 6.4, #13



Automatic, DDA compliant toilet unit with unisex, ambulant and disabled cubicles. Consider Colorbond cladding or similar that blends into the environment

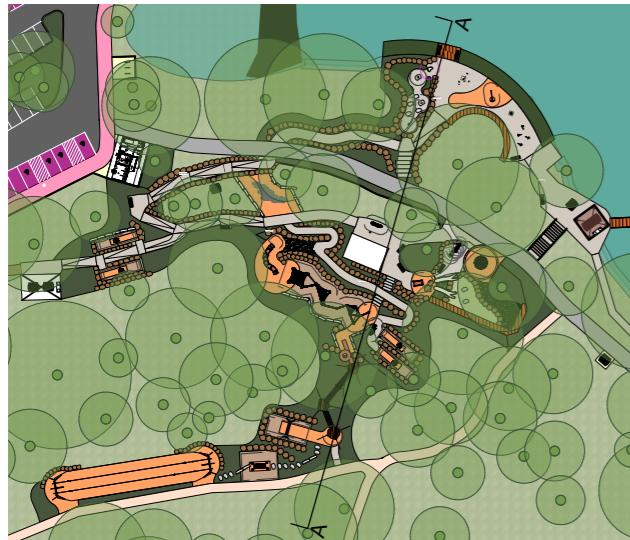
7. Playspace Concept Plan



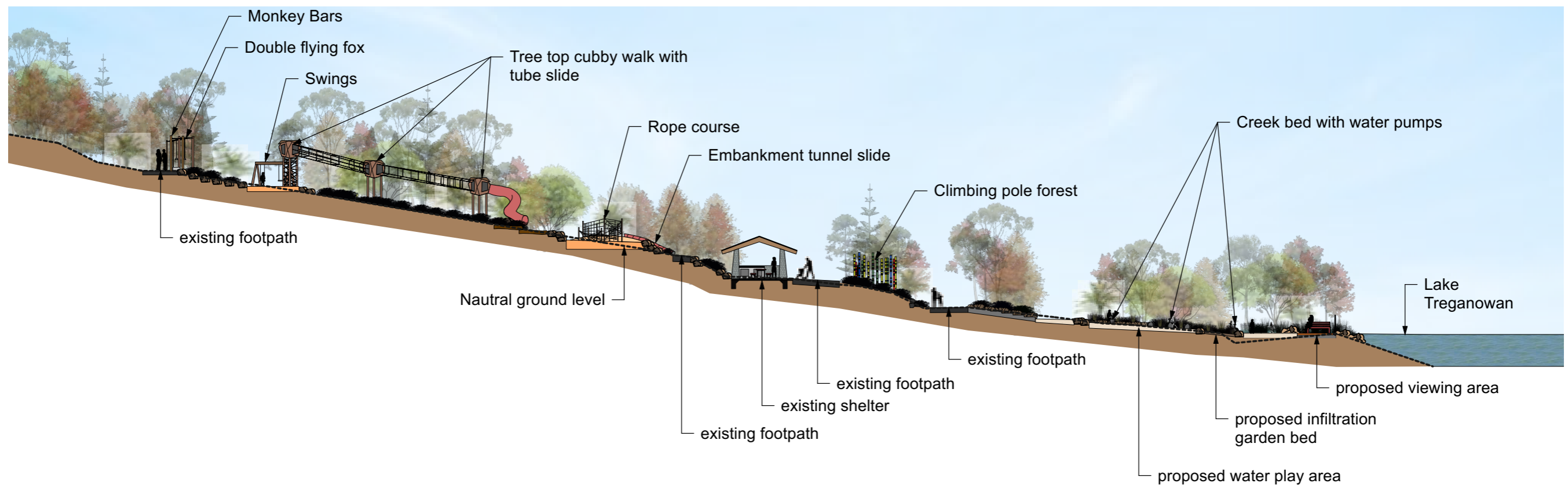
- 1 Creek bed with water pumps in rocks
- 2 Seating and viewing area
- 3 Investigate opportunities to convert wading pool into infiltration garden bed to catch waterplay runoff. Garden bed fenced as a barrier between the playground and the lake
- 4 Water sprays
- 5 Water pump and seesaw water pump
- 6 Water spray masts

These water play elements are indicative only. Community involvement will form part of the next stage - detail design process.

- 7 New shelter and picnic area
- 8 Steps
- 9 Toilet block with Changing Places facility, disabled cubicle and 3 x ambulant cubicles.
- 10 Climbing pole forest
- 11 Swings
- 12 Retain rubble stone shelter
- 13 Embankment tube slide
- 14 Rope course
- 15 Junior embankment slide
- 16 Accessible carousel
- 17 Sandpit with retaining seating edge
- 18 Musical equipment
- 19 Tree top cubby walk with tube slide
- 20 Monkey bars and balance trail
- 21 Double flying fox
- 22 Consider opportunities to engage local artists in the development of the playground such as through sculpture, visual artwork signage
- 23 Ensure all rocks and logs can be used as informal seating to create quiet spaces for all users



Context Plan



Section A-A

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Images are indicative only.



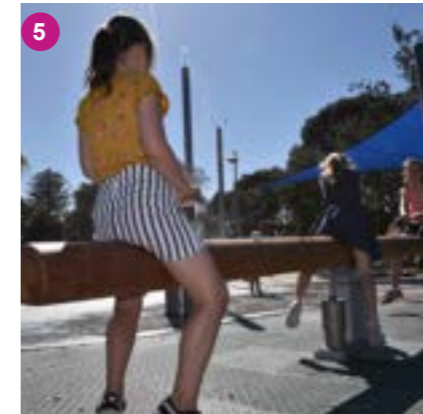
1
Creek bed with water pumps



3
Infiltration garden bed



4
Water sprays



5
Seesaw to activate water pumps



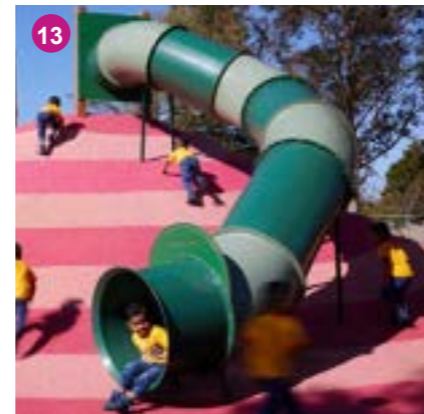
6
Water spray masts



10
Climbing pole forest



11
Swings (with junior and senior seats)



13
Embankment tunnel slide



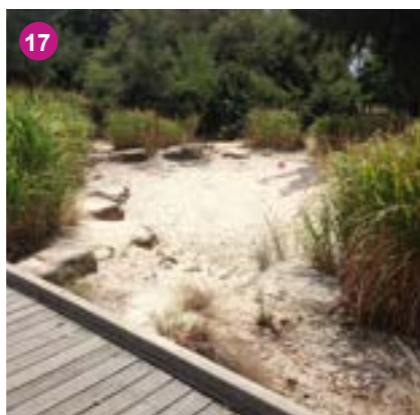
14
Rope course



15
Junior embankment slide



16
Accessible carousel



17
Sand pit



18
Musical instruments



19
Tree top cubby walk with tube slide



21
Double flying fox

8. Implementation

Table 1. Whole of site action items

Item	Action	Priority High = 1-5 years Medium= 5-10 years Low = 10 years+	Indicative cost
1	Provide interpretive signage at all park entries and throughout the park for information and educational purposes. Consider the historical significance of the precinct and how that translates to the present day including Indigenous history and post settlement heritage	Medium	\$50,000
2	Develop a consistent signage suite for the park. Implement easily accessible gateway, wayfinding, etiquette, identification and interpretive signage across the site	Medium	\$50,000
3	Consider programming opportunities within the park including educational programs, organised recreational activities and classes, arts and cultural events, festivals and markets	Medium	-
4	Upgrade the existing paths to establish safe and accessible network where possible. Consider the use of boardwalks or 'mini-mesh' as required to protect existing trees and root systems	High	\$350,000
5	Upgrade all existing furniture to Council's preferred furniture suite including DDA compliant furniture including drinking fountains at all activity nodes and picnic tables at Bellbird Picnic Area	High	\$300,000
6	Update the 'Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity' overlay within Emerald Lake Precinct to include the overall extent of the Wattle Creek, Paternoster Creek and Mackenzie Creek	Ongoing	-
7	Implement and undertake the recommendations outlined in the Arborist report including maintaining and improving weed and pest management	High	-
8	Ensure the structural integrity of lake edges are maintained or improved in all works	Ongoing	-
9	Prepare a strategy for long-term replacement planting of nursery and exotic trees in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan	High	\$75,000
10	Restrict vehicular access within the park to maintenance and emergency vehicles only to reduce traffic and improve pedestrian safety	Ongoing	-
11	Engage traditional owners to add value to the precinct upgrades	Ongoing	\$5,000
12	Include CPTED principles in future development of the park to ensure the safety of all users	Ongoing	-
13	Continue to work with Friends of Emerald Lake Park with the removal of invasive woody trees and native revegetation works	Ongoing	-
14	Complete a fire management strategy for the site. Strategy to consider emergency responses during extreme fire danger days and actions to reduce fire risk. This will compliment the Emergency Management Plan for extreme weather and fire that is already in place.	High	be be completed internally
15	Develop a waste management plan for the precinct	Medium	\$50,000

Table 2. Lake Treganowan Zone

Item	Action	Priority High = 1-5 years Medium= 5-10 years Low = 10 years+	Indicative cost
1	Upgrade existing playground facilities to a 'regional' level playspace with a broad range of play opportunities for all ages and abilities including water play, accessible play, nature play and new toilets. Remove existing wading pool. Refer to Playspace Concept Plan (section 7)	High	\$3,500,000
2	Upgrade the Gus Ryberg Amphitheatre to include a sound shell with lighting, shelter and a stage area, all abilities access (i.e. blended ramp and stairs), vehicle access, pedestrian priority road crossing, and upgrade the existing seating facilities to composite timber seats (including seating areas for all abilities). As required, relocate or replace the murals which depict the precinct's history	Medium	\$2,500,000
3	Define the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT) with sealed surfacing and wayfinding and etiquette signage. Upgrade the trail as required to meet regional standards (noting that this may require removal/ relocation of existing trees), refer to Appendix B	High	\$150,000
4	Connect the EDRT through the Lakeside Carpark. Construct a retaining wall along the southern edge as required	High	\$300,000
5	Define an all abilities loop path around the lake with sealed surfacing, lighting, and wayfinding and etiquette signage	High	\$150,000
6	Investigate developing the Lakeside Office building to 'Emerald Lake Boathouse.' Opportunity to retain the paddle boats, part of the Council office and to include a waterside restaurant or cafe (pending market interest for private investment).	High	-
7	Upgrade the paths, drainage and garden bed areas behind the Lakeside building with accessible paths and new planted areas including the removal of fencing and edging to garden bed areas. Consider ground covers and plants to prevent erosion of garden beds and to keep sight lines open to achieve Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)	Medium	\$350,000
8	New bridge connecting the playspace to the loop path around the lake and to allow the bandstand to be blocked off to pedestrian traffic during events and performances	Medium	\$500,000
9	Bike parking, drink fountains and bike repair station near the EDRT	Medium	\$15,000
10	Realign carparking bays along the southern edge of the Lakeside Carpark to allow for the EDRT connection and create additional car parking bays, including disabled parking bays	High	\$100,000
11	Stabilise embankment and create more carparking bays (keep bluestone retaining walls)	High	\$100,000
12	Provide lighting to Lakeside Carpark and retain parking meter	High	\$150,000
13	Construct stairs with safety balustrades to the top of the embankment and a new path to provide safe access to the Gus Ryberg Arboretum and amphitheatre. Include a pedestrian crossing as required	Medium	\$100,000
14	Embankment stabilisation works north of the entry road including a retaining wall as required	Medium	\$150,000
15	To protect the bank of the lake, establish dedicated fishing areas and stabilise areas that have been damaged	Low	\$150,000
16	Establish an informal loading zone near the northern section of the lake to create a drop off area. Stabilise lake edge as required	Low	\$50,000
17	Extend the picnic area with a shelter that has two picnic tables, a double barbecue and picnic tables	High	\$300,000
18	New shelter with two picnic tables near the existing barbecues	Medium	\$25,000

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19	Undertake desilting works at Lake Treganowan as required to maintain lake health	Ongoing	-
20	Upgrade existing toilet facilities in-line with current health and safety standards and heritage requirements. Provide disability access from the EDRT and the Lakeside Carpark	Medium	\$200,000
21	Continue to advocate for the widening of Emerald Lake Road with a pedestrian path to the township	Ongoing	-
22	Retain the ticket box and provide a CCTV camera at the boom gate park entry	Low	\$20,000
23	Create a unique and contemporary gateway at the park entrance that reflects the precinct character	Medium	\$50,000
24	Provide lighting for events from the Lakeside Carpark to the Gus Ryberg amphitheatre and the Lakeside Visitor Centre in accordance with Council's Wildlife Sensitive Lighting Guidelines	Low	\$250,000
25	New toilet block with Changing Places facility	High	Allowed under item #1
26	Investigate installation of charging points for electric vehicles (at Lakeside Carpark) and e-bikes (close to the EDRT)	High	\$10,000

Table 3. Western Forest Zone

Item	Action	Priority High = 1-5 years Medium = 5-10 years Low = 10 years+	Indicative cost
1	Define the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT) through the park with consistent wayfinding and etiquette signage. Retain existing surface through the western forest and add seating in suitable locations	High	\$75,000
2	Encourage imaginative play opportunities to the existing informal nature play area in the western forest, and the addition of wide wooden steps. Ensure CPTED principles are considered.	Low	\$80,000
3	Preserve and enhance significant natural assets in the precinct. Undertake an additional tree survey to identify trees and tree groups along the tracks in the western forest in accordance with Emerald Lake Park Conservation Management Plan	Medium	\$100,000
4	Raise the Pines Amphitheatre to ground level and use rock seats to create an informal seating area for groups. Provide an accessible path to provide a safe connection for all users	Low	\$150,000
5	Provide bird hides for bird watchers and nature photographers in different areas of the park	Low	\$70,000
6	Repair areas throughout the Western Forest that have been damaged by mountain biking. Install barricades to encourage bike riders to use the EDRT and prevent them from accessing problem areas	Medium	\$150,000
7	Investigate the suitability of handrails on the steeper sections of the walking tracks	Low	\$50,000

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Table 4. Nobelius Heritage Park			
Item	Action	Priority High = 1-5 years Medium= 5-10 years Low = 10 years+	Indicative cost
	Note: All actions for Nobelius Heritage Park require approval from Heritage Victoria under the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> .		
1	Upgrade access road and carparking	High	\$1,000,000
2	More picnic tables near the band platform area	High	\$20,000
3	Strengthen the informal path connection between Emerald Lake Park into Nobelius Heritage Park with wayfinding signage	Low	\$75,000
4	Provide gateway signage/ feature at the entrances to the Nobelius Heritage Park	High	\$100,000
5	Provide an informal path connection with wayfinding signage from the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT) to the packing shed	Low	\$50,000
6	Upgrade the exterior of Linton's Cottage and include interpretive signage to explain its historical significance to the site. Investigate opportunities to improve the interior to meet future community needs	Low	\$100,000
7	Provide carpark lighting in accordance with Council's Wildlife Sensitive Lighting Guidelines	High	\$150,000
8	Investigate an upgrade to the Museum toilets	Low	\$125,000 - \$250,000
9	Provide power and a shelter over the bandstand and replace barrier to band platform to cater for events and performances	Low	\$250,000
10	Remove chicanes from the EDRT and replace with removable bollard to align with regional trail standards	High	\$10,000
11	If drainage issues continue on the EDRT between Princess Avenue and the road to the carpark improve drainage or stabilise trail surface	High	\$50,000
12	Consider opportunities for activation and increased visitation to the Nobelius Heritage Park such as markets, performances and events	Medium	-
13	Upgrade fence between rail embankment and main entrance	Medium	\$50,000
14	New interpretive signage and specimen display plates for park information, historical and educational purposes	Medium	\$25,000
15	Replace wheel stops with post and rail fence	Low	\$10,000
16	Relocate wisteria away from the road with a new arbour for support	High	\$75,000
17	Ensure ongoing maintenance is undertaken on the existing water sensitive urban design (WSUD) swale to ensure it retains drainage functionality	Ongoing	-
18	Connecting path, with steps as required from the EDRT to the Emerald and District Museum	Medium	\$50,000
19	Work towards Nobelius Heritage Park being officially recognised with botanic garden status	Low	-

Table 5. Cafe Zone

Item	Action	Priority High = 1-5 years Medium= 5-10 years Low = 10 years+	Indicative cost
1	Remove the Emerald Lake Park Cafe building and repurpose to a picnic and barbecue area with a large shelter with toilets	High	\$500,000
2	Remove existing toilet facilities, associated infrastructure, landscape embankment, fencing and access path. Return the site to open lawn	Medium	\$75,000
3	Create an exercise hub close to the paths to provide all abilities. Ensure it includes equipment suitable for all abilities	High	\$100,000
4	New garden area to prevent erosion where the slope meets the path	Low	\$10,000

Table 6. Lake Nobelius Zone

Item	Action	Priority High = 1-5 years Medium= 5-10 years Low = 10 years+	Indicative cost
1	Remove existing toilet facilities and associated infrastructure	Medium	\$75,000
2	Undertake repair and renewal works at Carl Stemp Amphitheatre including the upgrade of seating facilities (including seating areas for all abilities where possible)	Low	\$150,000
3	Undertake repair and renewal works at the Bunurong amphitheatre including the upgrade of existing seating facilities (including seating areas for all abilities), an accessible path from the lower path and an arbour.	Low	\$200,000
4	Repurpose The Gums Amphitheatre from an event/performance function to an informal picnic and quiet reflection space. Remove the old wooden tiers, landscape to achieve a more bowl-like shape and include informal log or mudstone rock seating at the base.	Low	\$150,000
5	Undertake ongoing desilting work at Lake Nobelius as required to maintain lake health	Ongoing	-

Appendix A: Consultation Summary

Stakeholder Consultation

The following table provides a summary of key findings, comments or suggestions from initial consultation with key stakeholders as part of the master plan project.

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Masterplan

Meeting with Cardinia Council, Internal Consultation via MS Teams - 1pm, 27.10.2021

Present:	Kristen Jackson	Manager, Active and Connected Communities
	Samantha Cross	Coordinator Parks Planning
	Stephanie Langton	ELP Placemaker
	Beck Ellis	Shelter and event booking
	Anna Benjamin	Hills Hub Placemaker
	Andrew Pomeroy	Manager Arts, Advocacy and Economy
	Owen Hardidge	Manager Regulatory Services
	Ben Wood	Manager Operations
	Emily Tuck	Social Inclusion - Disability
	Nicholas Charrett	Traffic Engineer
	Ellie Urrutia Bernard	Emerald Museum curator
	Yasmin Daud	Parks maintenance team
	Gordon Campbell	Buildings Maintenance
	Colin Millward	Buildings and Facilities
	Gabby Fisher	Arts programs & events
	Stewart Matulis	Emergency Management
	Tim Fitzgerald	FFLA
	Anna O'Sullivan	FFLA
	Prue Batchelor	FFLA

Water Play

1. Leaf and vegetation litter throughout seasons needs to be considered in any water play zones from a maintenance and safety point of view
2. Quantity of water used and type: Recycled water (substantial water treatment facilities - some are existing) vs. use of potable water vs. bubbler with no treatment
3. Hesitance to use sand as it clogs valves for stormwater discharge outlets
4. There is a community expectation for water play - potential to incorporate existing wading pool shell as an element

Regional Playground

1. Nature play with sculptural elements
2. Potential for a theme - prevalence of tree arboretum interplayed with tree house theme
3. High importance of DDA/accessibility with accessible features for play

Site Character

1. High heritage value of Nobelius park - Puffing Billy (train and stations) exists because of Karl Nobelius - would be great to bring that into focus
2. Importance of arboretum could be brought into focus by enhancing existing character traits for improved cohesion
3. Opportunity to create a new 'hero' in the park such as a flyway, which could connect Nobelius to ELP
4. Connectivity (both metaphorical and physical) - importance of wayfinding and educational signage that can connect culture and history with destination points throughout site
5. Potential for input by Traditional Owners
6. 'Quiet spaces'/ Sensory experiences - marry that with connection/picnic facilities
7. Idea to connect different parts of the park as a permanent scavenger hunt or geocaching

Access in and around the site

1. Pathway thoroughfare to continue for Pines Track rather than through playground
2. Need to establish Outdoor Event Framework (fencing off events etc.) - Therefore pathways need to consider going around these areas to ensure traffic thoroughfare during events
3. Potential for steeper tracks to offer different user experience as long as there is DDA alternative
4. Opportunity to consolidate toilet blocks and make them accessible
5. Addition of lighting along access paths and carparks
6. Entrance improvement/ Gateway (currently boom gates) whilst maintaining security after-hours (security for internal operators)
7. Opportunity for improvement of Gateway between Nobelius and ELP

Toilet Facilities

1. Review needed - many of the facilities are still on septic tank facilities (no mains sewer connection in the park, Puffing Billy Vis. Centre is connected)
2. BBQ facilities proximity to toilets needs to be considered
3. Finishes on buildings could be made more appealing, environmentally friendly
4. Existing water pipe system is very complex - logistics to be explored (Matthew Everson)

Furniture

1. Council has preferred furniture suite
2. 'Regional' appeal of park provides opportunity to have Emerald Park Lake Park specific furniture (ensure it meets DDA standards and replacement ease)
3. More picnic facilities in Nobelius Park are needed
4. BBQs and toilets at NHP may also increase recurring visitation as currently there are none

Other Issues and Opportunities

1. Additional signage - variable messaging (removable/inserts) r.e high risk days closure, emergency info., UV risk, temperature (passive emergency info. to mitigate Council's risk)
2. Opportunity for increased weddings - ceremonies and receptions
3. Photo opportunities - addition of platform/gazebo on lake
4. Existing buildings - current buildings don't really fit with where ELP is headed (possibly suggest staged interventions)
5. Opportunity to retrofit 'boathouse' into destination building

Meeting with Cardinia Council, Internal Consultation via MS Teams - 1pm, 09.11.2021

Present:	Kristen Jackson	Manager, Active and Connected Communities
	Samantha Cross	Coordinator Parks Planning
	Stephanie Langton	ELP Placemaker
	Caroline Gillies	Planning - Community infrastructure/Liveability plan
	David Fice	Manager Community infrastructure
	Tim Cooper	Economic Development/tourism
	Emma Firth	Youth Services
	Janene Vurlov	
	Lisa Kuriata	
	Thomas Nicholls	
	Anna O'Sullivan	FFLA
	Prue Batchelor	FFLA

Water Play

1. Waterplay to be turned off in colder months? Consideration for the function that play area will serve during Winter?
2. Edge of wading pool to the lake seems unsafe

Regional Playground

1. Work with topography to make it safe and accessible
2. Youth and social activities - 'hang out' spaces (inviting but not confronting)
3. Integrated space (with skate, bikes, par cor?) Activities for older children - make some elements informal skate
4. Exercise equipment should be separate to play
5. Bike trails connecting to amphitheatres - re purposed to be used as informal hangout spaces
6. Meaningful theme to play space (hills uniqueness)
7. Unstructured play/cubby building - re purpose 'Pines' amphitheatre for seating circle/cubby building etc.

Site Character

1. Interpretation consolidation to guide people between two parks, Buffing Billy, what there is to see - break it up into manageable areas/zones with identifiable themes/names/identities
2. Signage/wayfinding to extend to promotional maps etc. to assist people knowing what's there before they arrive
3. Revegetation of native species in bushland areas as an offset to what was lost for development of Puffing Billy

4. Opportunity for implementation of succession planting for trees
5. Opportunity for propagation, seed harvesting area that could be used by universities etc. and contribute to succession planting and planning

Access in and around the site

1. Connection between Puffing Billy to rest of the park
2. Bring amenities to lake level as much as possible
3. 'Scale' of accessibility paths to retain variety of experiences - cater for all abilities (priorities facilities as being accessible)

Toilet Facilities

1. Toilets currently not in good, accessible locations

Furniture

1. Consider new shelter locations: near Lake Nobelius to spread people around the park - currently a 'forgotten gem', near carpark to tie in with new facilities/wayfinding as it is currently a point of congregation
2. Shelter to include seating/BBQ as there is enough 'shade' from tree areas
3. Bin locations/water fountains (co-located hubs for maintenance access)
4. Bins for Dog Walkers

Other Issues and Opportunities

1. Needs to be a consideration for existing specimen trees - implementation of MP staging could suit existing conditions/life expectancies of trees
2. Fishing is a point of contention - designate an area/limit fishing area/designated fishing infrastructure
3. Consider perceived and true 'safety' of spaces
4. Spaces should cater for 'events'/activation/programmatic areas - School Groups, Rotary, Youth Groups
5. Dedicated education spaces for gatherings to occur (nature-based)
6. Encapsulate historical memories (e.g water slides/lake tower) through modern day allowances

Meeting with Council Officers r.e Water Play, Wading Pool at ELP - 8:30am, 11.11.2021

Present: Stephanie Langton ELP Placemaker
Matthew Everson
Roland Rozario
Nicholas Charrett Traffic Engineer
Ben Fenton
Shane McGrath
Anna O'Sullivan FFLA
Prue Batchelor FFLA

1. Complexity of water connections - no pipe or water mains mapping
2. Consideration of sustainability, phase out or limit the use of potable water
3. Water play infrastructure - Supplier to provide data to estimate litres per push
4. "Reclaim" area of wading pool (fill) rather than return area to lake
5. Potential for water recycle and re-use - Grey water for irrigation and toilets to offset potable water use in water play area
6. Current wading pool water seeps/mixes with lake water

Meeting with Council Officers r.e EDRT and Carpark, Lakeside Carpark - 9:30am, 11.11.2021

Present: Stephanie Langton ELP Placemaker
Roland Rozario
Nicholas Charrett Traffic Engineer
Anna O'Sullivan FFLA
Prue Batchelor FFLA

1. Need for pedestrian trails to connect to EDRT at Western end of Carpark
2. Create pedestrian connection from western end to eastern side of carpark along southern edge where existing retaining stone wall is
3. Potential to build into northern embankment for additional carparks with a structural retaining wall
4. Carpark location (and layout?) is original and has heritage overlay
5. EDRT connection alongside lake needs to be widened and prioritised (concrete, minimum 2.5m width) with the addition of a pedestrian crossing at eastern end next to hairpin turn of Emerald Lake Rd

Meeting with Council Officers r.e Waste and Services, Lakeside Carpark - 9:30am, 11.11.2021

Present: Stephanie Langton ELP Placemaker
Matthew Everson
Nigel Loughridge
Anna O'Sullivan FFLA
Prue Batchelor FFLA

Bins and Waste

1. 8.8m service vehicle - maintenance access required to allow for this
2. Opportunity for Smart Bins however, cost benefit needs to be considered as maintenance schedule will empty bins regardless
3. Smart bins present opportunity for additional information (wifi enabled) e.g temperature, park closures and events etc.
4. Locations for bins should be at entry points (carparks) and amenity points
5. Currently, Recycle bin contents' are put into land fill due to contamination - opportunity to have bins with specific opening shape, such as rounded, to allow for bottles and containers
6. Opportunity for education activities and campaigns associated with wastes, recycling and sustainability such as compost as waste use on the site - combine these campaigns with operators

Services

7. Lake Nobelius Loop toilets run on septic and there is an opportunity to consolidate them however, use is unknown and they may still be needed therefore, pedestrian and maintenance access needs to be improved
8. Requirements for Masterplan - Priority is to locate services and connection points with the ability to isolate toilet blocks
9. Existing heritage toilet (on Lake) could be converted for an alternative use and consolidate toilets with a new facility near playground
10. Gus Ryberg amphitheatre rounded shape could be extended into a more half oval shape to accommodate additional seating - allow for functions and change facilities ('wings')

Emerald Lake Precinct
Masterplan**Meeting with Friends of Emerald Lake Park, Lakeside Office - 1:00pm, 11.11.2021**

Present: Sheila Hampson FELP
Anna O'Sullivan FFLA
Prue Batchelor FFLA

1. Activations across the site, particularly in Summer - movies on the hill, live entertainment etc.
2. Silt up and filtration of the lakes requires attention
3. Existing cafe lacks facilities such as dishwasher which prevents it from expanding, meeting growing crowd needs
4. Eastern side of existing Cafe has potential to be activated (in conjunction with upgraded toilet facilities) with seating, rock edging along waterway for stabilisation and informal seating
5. Need to move gym/fitness equipment, possibly to Lake Nobelius Loop
6. Additional furniture along bush tracks and Lake Nobelius (a matching suite)
7. Amphitheatres have sentimental significance and need to be maintained. There is an opportunity to make them informal gathering spaces, rather than bookable space
8. More park staff (rangers) to facilitate activities, provide information to visitors and maintain areas
9. "Western Forest" (West of older children's playground) has an existing open space, with topographical challenges, that could be utilised e.g High Ropes course (repurpose poles from Lions Den)

Meeting with Wombat Corner, Lake Treganowan Bridge - 2:00pm, 11.11.2021

Present: Stephanie Langton ELP Placemaker
Jordan Rickard Wombat Corner
Anna O'Sullivan FFLA
Prue Batchelor FFLA

1. Improved signage along Emerald Lake Driver for Puffing Billy visitors to avoid cars stopping on corner/hairpin (Wombat Corner's entrance)
2. Wombat Corner clients have local access by coming down the hill but there is no formal footpath - there is poor pedestrian access into the park from the East
3. High use of canoes on eastern side of Lake Treganowan - existing entry point is eroding lake edge and exposing tree roots. This requires protection whilst maintaining access
4. Need one trailer bay park - could be positioned between EDRT and road
5. Northern embankment opposite lake, adjacent to Emerald Lake Dr needs to be structurally retained and there is opportunity to provide access steps as it's a thoroughfare for pedestrians

Meeting with Emerald Lake Precinct Advisory Committee - 3:00pm, 11.11.2021

Present: Stephanie Langton ELP Placemaker
Samantha Cross Coordinator Parks Planning
Brett Butler Puffing Billy
Jordan Rickard Wombat Corner
Sheila Hampson FELP
Bill Whitbourn FELP
Stuart Evans Lakeside Paddleboats
Pauline Murphy Emerald and District Museum
Anna O'Sullivan FFLA
Prue Batchelor FFLA

Water Play & Playground

1. Separation of 'attractions' by separating play elements for age groups
2. Separate gym from play areas
3. 'Retain' wading pool character - holds high value to locals so could capture history of the pool with modern day elements
4. Themed areas or precincts - potential to have zones for specific activity areas. Signage and wayfinding is coordinated with those zones to promote various areas of the park
5. Potential for 'nature play' in Nobelius park - could be a low key elements as it is a passive area

Site Character

1. Maintain and improve weed management for indigenous vegetation areas with the potential to continue revegetation (implementation of arborist recommendations)
2. Succession planting - Replace European/exotic trees when they reach end of life to maintain site character (particularly at Nobelius Park)
3. Additional (matching) seating throughout precinct

Site Amenities

1. Shelter locations require flat ground which will most likely result in excavation
2. Existing location of gym/play could facilitate larger shelter (needs to be accessible)
3. Replicate shelter character of two shelters to be replaced
4. Large shelter needs two BBQ's (DDA accessible)
5. Preservation of park character
6. Gus Ryberg and Bunerong are well used and to be retained and amphitheatres (retain others but convert them to informal spaces)
7. Gus Ryberg should be considered as an event space with shelter upgrade

Additional Comments**Lakeside Paddle**

1. Viewpoint / Decking Area with vantage points
2. Pathways and improved access to and around boathouse
3. Defined hubs with appropriate facilities (take into account various cultural requirements)

Puffing Billy

1. Opportunity to activate park relationship with Puffing Billy
2. Park as a hub for all visitors (PB and park visitors)
3. General accessibility and amenity throughout park to be improved
4. Retain and enhance unique character (highlight Nobelius differences)
5. Embankment on rail corridor between station and park, could be planted out

Nobelius Park

1. Improved signage and promotion
2. Improved passive activity
3. Water treatment system is incompetent and destroying track - Runoff of Princes Avenue runs through site (opportunity for passive water treatment systems)

Emerald Lake Precinct
Masterplan

Friends of Emerald Lake

1. Picnic facilities or casual informal seating near Puffing Billy (near new Bus Loop)
2. Surface treatment of paths needs to be improved (asphalt is cracking and could be replaced with concrete)
3. Replace treated pine bollards and fencing
4. Formal and accessible access through arboretum
5. Formal fishing bays to discourage fishing from sensitive areas around the lake

Meeting with Nobelius Heritage Park Stakeholders, NHP Carpark - 9:30am, 19.11.2021

Present: Stephanie Langton ELP Placemaker
 Pauline Murphy Emerald and District Museum
 Anna O'Sullivan FFLA
 Prue Batchelor FFLA

1. Opportunity to activate newly surfaced carpark and existing bandstand for events e.g markets
2. Utilise Linton's Cottage as a café/kiosk or amenity block (e.g toilets for park users)
3. WSUD rain garden needs attention/ to be desilted
4. Weed management along ELP/NHP fence line
5. Fencing between rail embankment and main entrance to be upgraded
6. Entrance into park requires new gates and signage (to create an obvious gateway)
7. Current 'Emerald Museum' sign upon entrance to be upgraded to suit character of place
8. Nature play or passive play elements (eg rocks and logs) could be implemented in existing picnic seating area with the addition of a BBQ
9. Steps leading from Museum directly to existing picnic table area (slope is steep with no formalised access)
10. Opportunity to extend existing building for more museum space and to rearrange full storage areas
11. Lighting in carpark
12. Toilet facilities for bandstand area (potential to repurpose existing Linton's Cottage)

PATHWAYS

13. Additional signage and wayfinding throughout Nobelius park
14. "Entrance" or gateway between ELP and NLP
15. Retain informal pathway on northern side of park (ensure safe surface)
16. Edging or barriers either side of path over Wattle Creek (On ELP/NHP boundary area)
17. Consolidate entry signage into Nobelius Park from ELP with corresponding signage on neighbouring pathways
18. Formalised connection to Packing Shed from park pathway with the potential to add steps or ramp access from top of Salvia Garden to Packing Shed
19. Review existing interpretive signage (e.g 'Flax' and other historical signage)

Meeting with Council Officer r.e Shelters, Lion's Den Shelter - 11:15am, 19.11.2021

Present: Stephanie Langton ELP Placemaker
 Anna O'Sullivan FFLA
 Prue Batchelor FFLA

1. Existing 'overflow' carpark at top of site to be retained without development
2. 16 logs retained from Lion's Den shelter for re-use in park?
3. Approximate size of Lion's den shelter 80-100sqm

Meeting with Council Officer, Lake Treganowan - 12:00pmm, 19.11.2021

Present: Stephanie Langton ELP Placemaker
 Anna O'Sullivan FFLA
 Prue Batchelor FFLA

1. Decking for small access area (used by Wombat Corner) to protect and stabilise lake edge
2. Fishing needs designated areas with a standardised treatment for fishing and non-fishing zones
3. Re-vegetate eroded bank areas to obstruct pedestrian access with the addition of rocks
4. EDRT requires formalised edging on lake side
5. Implement signage or landscaping to prevent fishing on southern lake edge between bridge and lake house

Appendix B: Regional Trail Standards & Guidelines

Emerald Lake Precinct Masterplan

STANDARD FOR TRAIL CLEARANCE
A clearance of one metre must be provided between the trail pavement edge and other elements, including furniture, signs, lights, and vegetation.

STANDARD FOR SIGNS
A standard suite of signs is to be used consistently for wayfinding and behavioural signage.

STANDARD FOR EMERGENCY MARKERS
Emergency markers complying with ESTA requirements to be installed every 500m-1km. Emergency markers can be incorporated into other trail signage. Bollards should be easily distinguishable from the trail with luminance contrast greater than 30%.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN
Regional trails must be designed to be accessible to as broad a section of the community as possible. This requirement infiltrates most aspects of trail infrastructure design.

STANDARD FOR TRAIL PAVEMENTS
Surface material

- Most trails to be either concrete or asphalt .
- All pavements to be designed to accommodate maintenance vehicle access (ie. for concrete min. 150mm depth reinforced concrete)
- Saw cuts (rather than ruled/tooled joints) to be used for concrete surfaces to reduce 'bumpiness' for cyclists.
- Compacted gravel surfaces are only to be considered on trails that:
 - are not intended to be used for cycle commuting
 - have no flooding risk or drainage issues
 - are to accommodate equestrian use

Pavement width

- Typically 3.0 metres wide to allow clear passing of oncoming trail users.
- Min. 2.5 metres wide where physical constraints prevent greater width.
- Segregated paths to be considered for high-use paths, in line with Austroads recommendations.

Regional trail infrastructure standards for Eastern Melbourne

LIGHTING GUIDELINES
Lighting should be considered in areas where there is a clear benefit such as in dark underpasses, and for providing a safe route in high use areas for commuters and recreational users.

VEGETATION GUIDELINES
Trees should be planted near trails to provide shade and amenity benefits, but far enough away to avoid interfering with the trail function (usually at least 3 metres from the trail edge and to ensure good sight lines). Appropriate shrubs and vegetation should be selected to avoid growth onto the trail surface. Vegetation should be kept under 1m high near trails to maintain safe view lines.

SEPARATED PATHS
Segregated walking/cycling surfaces should be considered for high-use trails in line with Austroads guidelines.

BICYCLE PARKING GUIDELINES
Bike parking should be provided at all key destinations and stopping points (and should be installed at least 1 metre from the path edge onto concrete or asphalt).

FURNITURE GUIDELINES

- **Seats** with arm rests and backs should be provided on all trails, approximately every 500 metres, focused upon areas where people will want to sit (view points, trail heads, intersections, facilities and activity nodes).
- **Rubbish bins** should be provided only at key activity nodes, destinations and key dog off-lead/dog walking areas.
- **Drinking fountains** should be provided at key activity nodes, destinations and key dog off-lead/dog walking areas where these are existing water connections.
- **Shelters** should be provided at key activity nodes and destinations, providing shade and rain shelter for small groups.

PUBLIC TOILET GUIDELINES
Access to toilet facilities is important for busy trails. These facilities are most efficiently and effectively provided through adjoining reserves, activity centres and civic facilities.

Regional trail infrastructure guidelines for Eastern Melbourne

EMERALD LAKE PRECINCT MASTERPLAN

Community consultation summary

August 2022

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Cardinia Shire Council acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional custodians of these lands the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people.

Prepared by Cardinia Social Research, August 2022

Key findings

1. If you are going to upgrade the amphitheatres around Nobelius Lake, you probably need to keep the toilets as alternatives are too far away.
2. Careful consideration will need to be made regarding the removal of current vegetation, particularly established trees. There is support for new plantings to be native, but people also want to keep large established trees even if they aren't native. In the precinct comments 23 people mentioned the importance of protecting / enhancing or being considerate of the nature in the park.
3. Staging of works is going to be particularly important. People do not want to see facilities being removed followed by long waits for replacements (especially the café and the pool/water play spaces).
4. Toilets are a reoccurring theme. There is a concern that taking away toilet options when there is increased activation of spaces will be problematic. People don't want to walk long distances to a toilet, or encounter toilet blocks that are closed (because they are adjoined to a business). In the precinct comments 8 people mentioned the need for toilet upgrades or appropriate placement of toilets.
5. Throughout all zone forms 10 people mentioned that they wanted the pool to stay (or an alternative pool facility provided), 7 mentioned that they were happy for it to be taken away and 8 mentioned that they like the waterplay concept (sometimes also saying they want to keep the pool). A further 7 people said that they liked all of the playspace and water play concept (or gave a general positive comment). However, it is not possible to identify if the mentions of the pool in different zone responses are the same people or different people. Given the mixed response (and no clear direction regarding the pool), it is recommended that further research specific to this element be undertaken to better understand user and community views. This could be done through inclusion of a question on a multi-topic representative survey (Omnibus or Liveability survey) and/or pop-ups during high use periods (summer) at the pool. In the precinct comments 31 people said they want to pool to stay, and 2 said they were happy for it to be removed.
6. There were 14 people who mentioned in the precinct comments section that they didn't want locals to be charged for entry /using the car park. Feedback provided during the open office sessions and on the Hills Hub display also mentioned that paying for parking is a barrier to locals using the park. Given the potential for this to be a controversial issue, it is recommended that this be explored further, with both current and non-users of the park who live in close proximity.

Emerald residents should not have to pay for parking. A free parking voucher should come with our rates. Emerald has to put up with all the tourists, lose areas of the park for development of roads to allow tourists access to the park and then pay to use our own park. What other town in the shire has to pay to use its own park.

Methodology

This research was conducted using the Creating Cardinia portal, and was distributed to the general community through:

- Council Facebook page
- Mailout to 3,386 local residents,
- Emails: 239 database of interested residents, sports clubs, Emerald community groups and all Cardinia Council staff, 8x local schools (newsletter item)
- Open Office sessions at ELP Lakeside building x 6
- Hills Hub, Emerald: Display

The following targeted consultation also took place

- On site/online meetings: Victoria Police (CPTED feedback), Heritage Victoria (Nobelius Heritage Park)
- Presentations to Committees: Emerald Lake Precinct Advisory Committee, Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, Emerald Village Association
- Local schools: Workshop with Emerald Primary School Grades 4-6 (approximately 146 students), Emerald Secondary College (7 students) – lunchtime drop-in session for all years and newsletter information

Consultation was held 4 July 2022 – 25 August 2022. The Creating Cardinia page received 3,074 views and 428 contributions from 333 contributors (11% of visitors contributed). The high number of views indicate good public awareness of the campaign and high interest in the project.

The on-line consultation was split into 8 separate forms; one for each of the 6 zones in the masterplan, one for the entire precinct, and one to capture priorities overall. Given the way the software works, there was no way to accurately link a single person's response across multiple forms.

The number of responses per section was as follows:

	Online	Other	Total
Lake Nobelius Zone	7	3	10
Lake Treganowan Zone	16	3	19
Cafe Zone	11	3	14
Nobelius Heritage Zone	9	6	15
Playspace	18	3	21
Western Forest Zone	11	1	12
Precinct Wide Actions	31	3	34
Precinct Priorities	325	2	327

The precinct priorities form asked the respondent for their gender, age and suburb; 210 respondents provided this information. The prioritisation tool was mostly completed by Emerald residents, with a skew towards females and middle-aged people.

		Number	%	Census 2021 %
Gender	Male	74	25%	49%
	Female	227	75%	51%
Age	Under 30	31	10%	25%
	30-39	103	33%	21%
	40-54	118	38%	24%
	55+	60	19%	29%
Location	Emerald	180	58%	
	Other Hills	87	28%	
	Other Cardinia	38	12%	
	Outside Cardinia	8	3%	

It should be noted that given the distribution method, this consultation presents feedback from those with an interest in the topic. As such, findings do not represent the broader Cardinia Shire community.

Top 3 priorities

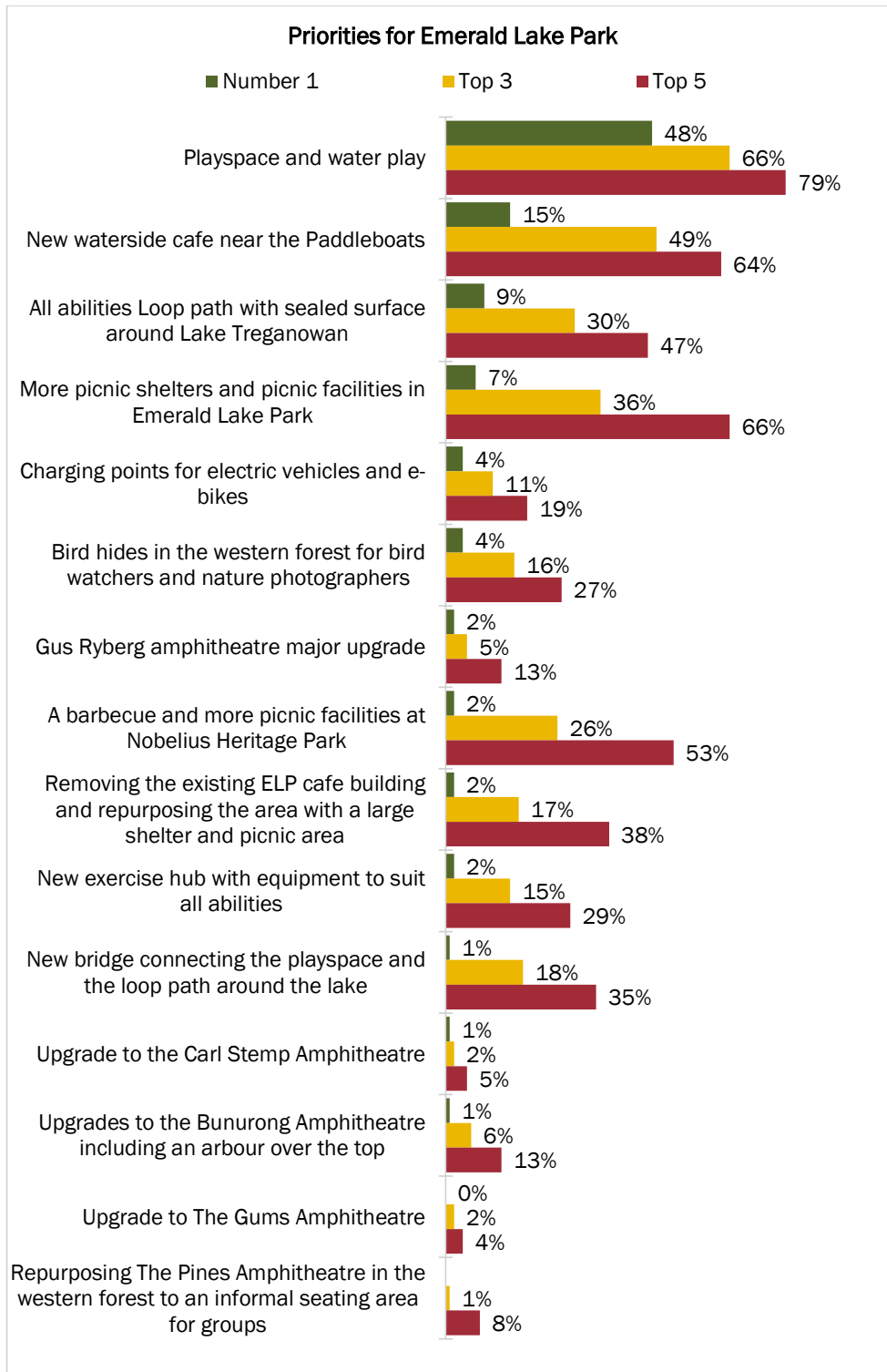
Respondents were asked to select the top 5 priorities for the Emerald Lake Masterplan, from a list of 15 topics, and sort these in order of importance. The list of topics was randomised on each page load to avoid order bias.

The following chart shows the incidence of each topic being ranked number 1, in the top 3 and in the top 5. There were 290 respondents who answered this question.

The most commonly selected in the top 3 were playspace and water play, waterside café, all abilities loop path and more picnic shelters. A BBQ at Nobelius Heritage Park commonly featured within the top 5, but seldom in the top 3.

Notable demographic variations were:

- A very high 76% of 30-39 year olds rated the playspace and water play as number 1 (only 17% 55+ year olds).
- Under 30 year olds and 55+ year olds show a higher instance of setting their number 1 priority as a new waterside café (23% and 26% respectively, compared to 5% 30-39 year olds).
- Those who live in the hills are, but not Emerald, show a higher instance of setting picnic shelters as their number one priority (12%, compared to 4% Emerald respondents).



There were 138 comments outlining additional things for Council to consider. These comments were grouped into themes for ease of analysis. The most common suggestions were:

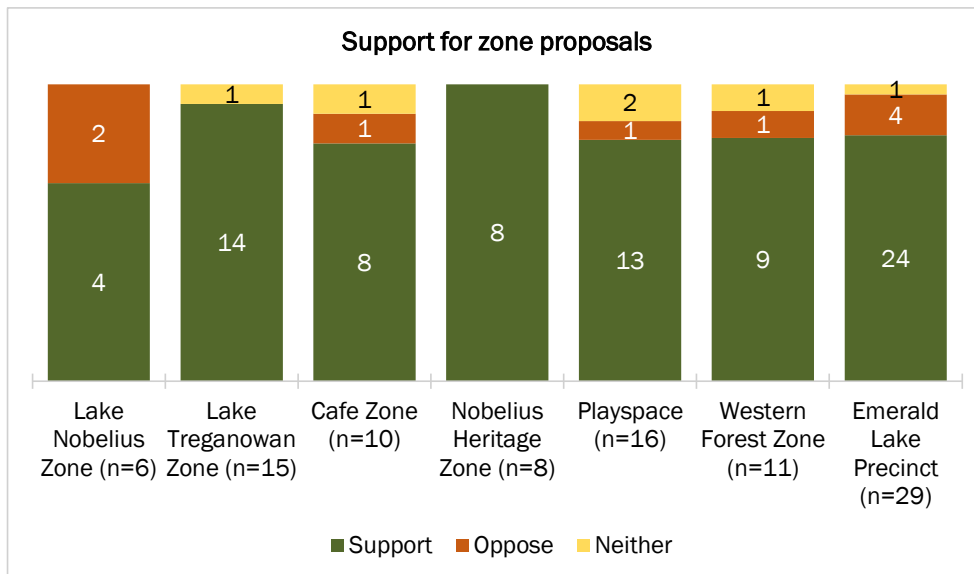
- Keep the pool (31 comments), whilst only 2 mentioned that they were happy for it to be removed.

- Maintain natural aspects (23 comments). Comments under this theme included weed management, water management, not removing native vegetation, and construction that complements the natural surroundings.
- Parking (23 comments). Most of these (14) were specific to wanting free parking for local residents.
- Playground design (22 comments) including comments about the need for the features to cater for all ages.
- Improved pathways (16 comments), including the need for accessibility (6 comments).
- Ensure local needs are considered in the planning, not just tourists (14 comments).
- Improved toilets (8 comments).
- Waterslide (8 requests).

Support for masterplan zones

At the start of each masterplan zone section, respondents were asked to rate their level of support for the proposed changes. Sample sizes are very low so the level of insight from these ratings alone is limited; however they can help us identify any issues.

None of the respondents who completed the Lake Treganowan nor Nobelius Heritage Park zone sections opposed the proposals. There were only one or two respondents who opposed each of the other zones, and 4 who opposed the overall precinct proposal (IP code in the data suggests they were different respondents each time).



Lake Nobelius Zone

The consultation form put forth the following information. Eight people provided a comment about this zone.

Proposed changes to the Lake Nobelius zone

1. Remove existing toilet facilities and associated infrastructure
2. Undertake repair and renewal works at the Gums and the Carl Stemp Amphitheatres with upgraded seating (including all abilities access where possible)
3. Undertake ongoing desilting works at Lake Nobelius as required to maintain lake health

- 4. Undertake repair and renewal works at the Bunurong Amphitheatre with upgraded seating (including all abilities access) a new accessible path and the addition of an arbour

Lake Nobelius zone



The desilting works was well received, with six respondents mentioning that they like this part of the proposal, although two said timing will need to take into account bird nesting schedules.

De-silting of the lake is long overdue. It will improve the health of the lake and the aesthetic value of the site for walkers and visitors. Needs to be done out of bird breeding season.

Agree [desilting] works required - poor lake appears forgotten about

The other aspect of the proposal mentioned as particularly liked was the amphitheatre upgrades (3 mentions), with one respondents suggesting if they were upgraded they would be safer and used more often. However, another respondent suggested that they are never used, and never have been, so it isn't worth upgrading them.

With regards to the toilets, two said that the toilets need to be removed, whereas four mentioned that they should stay if you want people using the amphitheatres, as it is a long way to alternative toilets. Victoria Police suggested the current location for toilets was not ideal in a passive area of the park and suggested signage (with distances to toilets) and QR codes on maps would assist people finding the closest toilet and planning their walks.

Removal of the toilet facilities. It is a considerable distance from other toilet facilities, especially for people who, due to health or wellbeing reasons, need to access toilet facilities quickly. Especially if you want to encourage more picnic-ing in that area.

Better to upgrade toilet facilities and invest in picnic areas, than to invest money in amphitheatres. Also - if investing in amphitheatres goes ahead, limited usage if the closest toilet is over 400m walk away ...

I think the toilet facilities are needed particularly if the amphitheatres are upgraded leading to greater patronage. In past years this has been a popular location for weddings and even a series of theatre performances of "wind in the willows "

I understand the need to remove outdated toilet amenities but it is quite some distance to walk back to the main park area to use those amenities. I would support a smaller toilet block in this area.

Two people also mentioned concerns regarding the addition of an arbour, and others indicated that they didn't want vegetation removed.

I strongly oppose removal of exotic or nursery planted trees

The use of an arbour into Bunurong doesn't quite fit, particularly with wisteria plants.

Other suggestions for this zone include:

- I'm not sure how many amphitheatres one park needs and how often they are used but three in this area and another at The Pines seems like a lot, especially if they all need to be upgraded. Perhaps one of them could be individualised with some art/sculptures or educational focus to make a point of difference or reason for visiting that space.
 - Another comment suggested "The Gums" could be removed, but the others upgraded.
- Better to upgrade toilet facilities and invest in picnic areas, than to invest money in amphitheatres.
- Consideration to relocating the toilet facility to Bunurong side of the footbridge and upgrading to sewerage connected system. Including all abilities access.
- Perhaps one of the amphitheatres could be used as a sculpture park or art trail to display sculptures by local or indigenous artists. Or include some educational resources on the flora and fauna in the park, aimed towards children.

- If the amphitheatres are to be saved they must be repaired and maintained with materials that are durable, attractive, functional and accessible to users.
- If any arbour is constructed native creepers should be used in this area not wisteria.
- More picnic tables in this area.

Lake Treganowan Zone

The consultation form put forth the following information. Fourteen people provided a comment about this zone.

Proposed changes to the Lake Treganowan zone

1. Upgrade existing playground facilities to original level play space with a broad range of play opportunities for all ages and abilities including water play, accessible play, nature play and Changing Places facility
2. Enhance the Gus Ryberg Amphitheatre to include a sound shell with lighting shelter and a stage area, all abilities access (i.e. blended ramp and stairs), vehicle access and pedestrian priority road crossing. Upgrade the existing seating facilities to composite timber seats including seating areas for all abilities. As required, relocate or replace the murals which depict the precinct's history
3. Define the Eastern Dandenong Rangers Trail (EDRT) with sealed servicing and way finding and etiquette signage. Upgrade the trail as required to meet regional standards (noting that this may be that this may require removal or relocation of existing trees)
4. Connect the EDRT through the Lakeside carpark. Construct a retaining wall along the southern edge as required
5. Define an all abilities loop path around the lake with sealed surfacing, lighting, and way finding and etiquette signage
6. Investigate developing the Lakeside Office building to 'Emerald Lake Boathouse.' Opportunity to retain the paddle boats, part of the Council office and to include a water side restaurant or cafe (pending market interest for private investment)
7. Upgrade the paths, drainage and garden bed areas behind the Lakeside building with accessible paths and new planted areas including the removal of fencing and edging to garden bed areas. Consider ground covers and plants that prevent erosion of garden beds and to keep sight lines open to encourage CPTED
8. New bridge connecting the playspace to the loop path around the lake and to allow the bandstand to be blocked off to pedestrian traffic during events and performances
9. New bike parking, drink fountains and bike repair station near the EDRT
10. Realign car parking bays along the southern edge of the Lakeside carpark to allow for the EDRT connection and create additional car parking bays, including disabled parking bays
11. Provide lighting to Lakeside carpark and retain existing parking meter
12. Construct stairs with safety balustrades to the top of the embankment and a new path to provide safe access to the Gus Ryberg Arboretum and Amphitheatre. Include a pedestrian crossing as required
13. Embankment stabilisation works north of the entry road including a retaining wall as required
14. To protect the bank of the lake, establish dedicated fishing areas and stabilise areas that have been damaged
15. Establish an informal loading zone near the northern section of the lake to create a drop off area. Stabilise lake edge as required
16. Extend the picnic area with a shelter that has two picnic tables and a double barbecue
17. New shelter with two picnic tables near the existing barbecues
18. Undertake desilting works at Lake Treganowan as required to maintain lake health

19. Upgrade the historic toilet facilities in-line with current health and safety standards and heritage requirements. Provide disability access from the EDRT at the Lakeside carpark
20. Continue to advocate for the widening of Emerald Lake Road with a pedestrian path to the township
21. Provide a CCTV camera at the boom gate entry to the park
22. Create a unique and contemporary gateway at the park entrance that reflects the precinct character
23. Provide event lighting from the Lakeside carpark to the Gus Ryberg Amphitheatre and to the Lakeside Visitor Centre
24. New toilet block with Changing Places facility and unisex ambulant toilets
25. Investigate installation of charging points for electric vehicles (Lakeside carpark) and e-bikes (close to the EDRT)



Emerald Lake Park 2022 masterplan consultation findings

Playspace

A couple of comments welcome the upgrade of the playground and water play space. One recognises that this will include the removal of the pool, which was seen as underutilised and having poor amenity when not in use, whilst another made comment that suggested they perceived that the pool would be upgraded (*Love upgrading the wading pool*).

Pool only open short period in the year and only on very warm days. Rest of the year it looks horrible. Needs a lot of maintenance and cost of Life guards. Turn into a facility that can be used more often.

Great idea to upgrade playground and water play space to make more accessible to all needs.

Water play area is likely to be used more frequently and by more people than the wading pool.

The overall play space proposals are strongly supported. They have the potential to greatly increase the area's appeal to children and families including local residents

There was one comment in this section of the consultation suggesting that the pool should be retained.

Although I do like the sound of the zero depth water play area, the loss of the wading pool is a high price to pay. There is no other swimming pool in the area and even the pool in Monbulk is currently unavailable.

Amphitheatre

Two comments welcome the amphitheatre upgrade, recognising the potential for increased usage. However, one respondent felt the proposed upgrade would take away from the natural feel of the space.

The creation of a Sound shell/performance space is exciting, it will provide wonderful opportunities for community based events. The park has a history of these so the provision of an improved facility will be well received

Upgrade of the Gus Ryberg amphitheatre is excellent, with possible blended ramp, stairs and sound shell. Vehicle access only for activities in the venue, with a bollard closure at the bottom. Relocation of the three murals to join the other three, plus the information podium provided by FELP.

No 2 is inappropriate over-development. The Gus Ryberg Amphitheatre is great the way it is - an amphitheatre in a natural environment. The proposed development involves too much man-made infrastructure which detracts the natural environment in the park.

Path

A range of aspects of the proposed new pathways were mentioned, including appreciation for the safety improvements. However, there is a concern that there may be too many works planned, which could detract from the beauty of the area.

All abilities path around the lake, much safer, neater and requiring less maintenance.

Construction of stairs into the arboretum opposite the bridge is a safety hazard and well overdue.

The new bridge to create a loop path sounds good. Would make an excellent spot to take photos of the lake and surrounds.

Probably don't support another bridge as I don't think it's required. Strongly support pedestrian path along emerald lake road. Considerable works in this area should be kept to minimum as this part of the precinct is beautiful. These plans sounds reasonable not don't want to over do it.

Support pedestrian path along Emerald Lake Drive as it would enable a loop to be walked and provide easier access to the township. Walking along the side of the road is dangerous.

I question the aesthetics of a widened sealed surface pathway all around the lake. Won't it appear as though the beautiful lake is effectively surrounded by a bitumen roadway to the water's edge?

Parking

The loading zone (near the pedestrian bridge) is welcomed, however there is a concern that the area near Lakeside carpark may become too congested with all of the activities in one place (car parking, bike parking, bike repair, EDRT, playspace etc.)

Bike parking, people coming from car park, and EDRT all will be converging in this small area, while families go to water play and play space. It seems very congested. Bike area at the other end of Lakeside car park seems a better place to repair and collect bikes.

Lakeside car park edge will see visitors exiting car park, a proposed toilet block, proposed bike station, general walkers, cyclists on EDRT, children going to proposed waterplay and playspace, and people looking at map (if it remains in this current spot)

One respondent even suggested the parking should be reduced: *Should not create additional car parking within the park. Instead, should reduce car parking and traffic within the park. Carparking within the park should be restricted to mobility impaired visitors.*

Toilets

For the toilet upgrade, people desire for the historic nature of the building to be maintained.

I like the toilet upgrades especially seeing the heritage look of the old stone toilet block at the water's edge will be preserved.

Strongly support keeping historic shelters and toilets where possible as they enhance the amenity of the area and recognise the parks heritage

There was also a mention on the Playspace feedback form of the need for change rooms. Furthermore, 2 students in the Emerald Primary School consultation mentioned the need for change rooms.

Fishing zones

One comment suggested fishing zones were a good idea (Creating designated zones for fishing is crucial to help protect lake from further degradation), whereas another suggested they weren't necessary (*wonder why the fishing area needs to be formalised and dictated. think it should be left as is for the relatively small number who fish there*).

Eight Emerald Primary School students commented on the need for fishing facilities such as platforms and rod holders and fishing spots

Other

Other comments and suggestions include:

- It is important that the planning for the work is staged so that the **removal and replacement of a facility are planned as one job**. ie the removal of the wading pool must coincide with the building of the water park and the cafe moves to the new location. What cannot occur is that we remove the wading pool and then look to get additional funds to build the water park eventually, or we close the cafe and the new one can't happen for some time or drops off the list.
- Concern has been expressed at the water quality in Lake Treganowan. Assurances from Council staff and the reported results of testing has failed to convince EVA members that water quality is not an issue.
- I don't mind the idea of a private cafe in the boathouse building, but **why do all the period buildings in the park have to be removed?** The recently completed new puffing billy centre is suitably modern, but why do we need to remove any remaining heritage look buildings like the old cafe? Puffing billy patrons expect to be travelling into the country, not into a modern business precinct of Colourbond and stainless steel everywhere. Couldn't the building be repurposed?
- I like the suggestion to improve the **outdoor gym**, but question whether moving it to the cafe precinct is really desirable; adults may prefer the current more private location, rather than performing on public display.
- Like the exercise hub being relocated, spreads people out through the park. Pleasant spot to exercise (from café zone data form).
- Support the idea of a **bike repair station** - I have seen these elsewhere are they are very handy. I have had a flat type in ELP and had to walk my bike home.
- Additional work will need to be undertaken to the boathouse to enable the **comfortable flow of visitors** to the boat hire, cafe and those just doing a walk round the Lake. We would be concerned if the removal of the Cafe occurred without the replacement occurring as the current cafe fills a different niche to the cafe in the visitors' centre. A cafe overlooking the lake would be lovely.
- I strongly oppose **removal of exotic or nursery planted trees**.

- No 6: lakeside office building is fine as it is. **Should not commercialise it.** The park is a natural environment, not a business park. Businesses should be encouraged within the Emerald township, not within the park.
- I think a **lakeside cafe** would be a great asset but needs to be purpose built and located either near the footbridge or below the boatshed picnic area. I have concerns that the proposal for a cafe at the paddle boat/ Lakeside office will overload this small already congested area. Could I recommend a study of patron movements during busy periods to see how this space currently functions and how the added attraction of a Cafe would impact paddle boat operations.
 - There is a need for a cafe - even if it is a 'seasonal' one that is closed in winter but open in the spring/summer. It would be great to be able to grab a coffee when on a walk, and would be a popular addition to the park.
- Removal of so many **autumn foliage trees** in the park, presumably because they are not natives is concerning. I can understand some thinning of maple saplings but not 100-year-old oaks. This is not a national park, intended to showcase our native fauna and flora, but a local heritage park, renowned for its autumn colour and its connection to the Nobelius nurseries which specialized in exotic trees, not native scrub. There is weeding and there is environmental fascism. Sorry, but I found the intentional ring-barking of historic oaks quite upsetting, as I did the systematic clearing of non-natives, simply for being non-natives by council/its contractors or the supposed "friends" of Emerald Lake Park.
- Waterside restaurant - consider operation by a **social enterprise** such as L'Arte Central Social Enterprise Cafe, Florist and Art Space in Cranbourne which facilitates employment opportunities for people with disabilities or mental health conditions.
- A small **community art space** in the Lakeside area would be great as the natural environment would be conducive to running arts workshops - could be done in conjunction with programming through Emerald Community House or the Emerald Arts Society.
- Find or develop an **App** for a phone to show a map that can allow a visitor to find their way around tracks within the Precinct. how will garden beds be defined and plants protected. If the hill leading to the bandstand could be reduced, as it is difficult to push a pram or wheelchair up and older people to walk up. Lighting to be only used for events, not on all the time.

Cafe Zone

The consultation form put forth the following information. Twelve people provided a comment about this zone.

Proposed changes to the Cafe zone

1. Remove the Emerald Lake Park cafe building and repurpose the site to a picnic and barbecue area with a large shelter
2. Remove existing toilet facilities and associated infrastructure. Landscape embankment remove fencing and access path. Return the site to open lawn
3. Create an exercise hub close to the paths to provide all abilities excess. Ensure it includes equipment suitable for all abilities
4. Create new garden area to prevent erosion where the slope meets the path
5. Retain Bandstand for small events and performances



Eight people supported the removal / repurposing of the building to make way for a shelter, another person suggested repurposing the existing building to a shelter. One of these people also suggested to have a coffee van to service the community at peak times

Ten respondents answered the question “How likely are you to use exercise equipment here?”; 3 of these said they would be likely to use the exercise equipment at the proposed location, and 5 said they wouldn’t.

Those who said they would mentioned that they enjoy using the current equipment, and that they want a shoulder press. Only one respondent who said unlikely provided an explanation for their response, which was that the location was not part of their daily exercise route.

Most positive comments about the proposed changes for this zone supported the removal of the café to create a large under cover area, as it was seen as better utilization of the space. However, two people mentioned that this café shouldn't be removed before a suitable alternative is available (waterside café). There is also concern about the loss of toilets (4 comments), as it is felt that with a new community space easily accessible toilets will be important. Victorian Police noted that the Bandstand toilets (to be removed) are well utilised on busy days and that more toilets than those proposed should be included.

We are concerned about the removal of 3 toilet blocks as this leaves parts of the park a long way from any facilities. It also appears that you plan to replace 10 toilets with 3. This appears very problematic as it is a significant walk over to the planned new facilities and on busy days do not believe there are enough facilities for the visitor numbers.

In the consultation with Emerald Primary school students, 8 supported new food options (café, ice cream vans, restaurant/pub).

Other suggestions were:

- Would also love to see some creek play opportunities set up in this area if possible. Would create a draw to this area, and provide a natural alternative to the new water play area. Think: creek at Healesville Sanctuary.
- Spend time thinking about how to make new picnic area appealing. It's further into the park from car park so people will want it to look and feel welcoming. Create Views where possible and look to add to charm character to the space.
- A small community art space in the Lakeside cafe area would be great as the natural environment would be conducive to running arts workshops - could be done in conjunction with programming through Emerald Community House or Emerald Artist Society.

Nobelius Heritage Zone

The consultation form put forth the following information. Thirteen people provided a comment about this zone.

Proposed changes to Nobelius Heritage Park

1. Upgrade existing access Road and carpark
2. More picnic tables near the bandstand area
3. Strengthen the path connection between Emerald Lake Park into Nobelius Heritage Park with wayfinding signage
4. New gateway feature signage at the entrances to Nobelius Heritage Park
5. Provide an informal path connection with wayfinding signage from the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail to the packing shed
6. Upgrade the exterior of Linton's Cottage and include interpretive signage to explain its historical significance to the site. Investigate opportunities to improve the interior to meet future community needs
7. Provide carpark lighting
8. Investigate an upgrade to the museum toilets. Explore options for adding a third cubicle
9. Provide power and a shelter over the bandstand and replace barrier to cater for events and performances
10. Remove chicanes from the EDRT and replace with a removable bollard to align with regional trail standards
11. Monitor drainage concerns on the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail between Princess Avenue and the road to the car park. Consider upgrading trail surface with an exposed aggregate concrete to match the existing gravel surface
12. Consider opportunities for activation an increased visitation to Nobelius Heritage Park such as markets, performances and events
13. Upgrade fence between rail embankment and main entrance
14. New interpretive signage and maintain tree specimen display plates for park information, historical and educational purposes
15. Replace wheel stops with post and rail fence
16. Relocate wisteria away from the road with a new arbour for support
17. Undertake regular maintenance on the existing water sensitive urban design (WSUD) swale to ensure it retains drainage functionality
18. New connecting path with steps as required from the EDRT to the Emerald and District Museum



Comments welcomed the upgrades to the paths and car park to improve usability, particularly during winter months, and the historic nursery plantings were valued. It was also felt that improved wayfinding and picnic facilities would increase utilization.

It's a beautiful part of the park so keeping the nursery gardens and trees is an absolute must. Paths and grass get muddy in wetter months so efforts to drain water away from wading paths make sense without disturbing the area. Car park upgrade and events would be great

More wayfinding signage and connection to areas/buildings within the zone and to ELP would be beneficial and would better promote the space.

We are very pleased to see the increased picnic capacities as well as a BBQ as the park is a lovely spot for a picnic and family get togethers due to its level grassed areas for small children to run safely around in. The upgrading of and provision of Power to the Stage is supported as will enhance the amenity of the park of small weddings etc. We support the graveling of the path marked 3 on plan 6.4, this path has been made by walkers and is a logical route from Lakeside through to the carpark in the Heritage Park

The building of the Salvia walk with the path through to the Packing Shed is much needed as is the proposed new path (18) connecting the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail to the Museum.

However, there was concern that large events might negatively impact on the ambience of the area.

Please avoid mass congregation events such as festivals, markets etc. The park is valuable because it is peaceful and quiet. Mass congregations of people and traffic would destroy the park

t's a quieter spot, not so overrun with crowds, even on weekends. I think parking and local traffic would be an issue in this area if you were to run a major event there, such as a market.

The Nobelius Heritage Park Zone has always been a peaceful, quiet, beautiful escape where people go to be slow & away from hustle & bustle. People are often seen wandering, meditating, doing yoga/ mindfulness, enjoying the peace & sensory experience or have quiet picnics, lying on the grass. Extra lighting, markets, events, performances, activities space would spoil the nature of this section of the park - let alone the required parking & traffic involved. Also more amenable for local residents & streets. The Emerald Lake Park development should be the activity, fun, noisy, entertaining section, while the Nobelius park should be kept as the peaceful quiet area - often the forgotten space in most developments. Perhaps even promoted as that meditative space that people can enjoy 'being slow' & sensory. There's already beautiful trees & vistas, gardens, lavender & rosemary, salvia garden, small alcoves, wandering paths, history, museum- really only needs a few more picnic areas, perhaps shelters & perhaps meditation signs similar to the ones around Lake Treganowan.

While accepting that the overall strategy for the precinct seeks to 'activate' spaces to a higher level, there should be a balance where the potential lies in offering a contrasting experience. Emerald Lake Park is clearly suited to the activation goal through a range of engagement types, while Nobelius Heritage Park can offer deeper insights to the cultural landscape itself.

Other suggestions for this zone were:

- An addition of a natural **play space** playground amongst the trees would be fun for children.
 - Consider a play space for children.
 - a natural play space playground.
 - It is a quiet safe park and many mothers gather here with their children.
- We would ask that reconsideration be given to the provision of a small natural playground, noting the expansion of the playgrounds planned for both Lakeside and Pepi's Land.
- There is a thin strip of Lakeside Parkland that adjoins the Heritage Park and is on the park side of the linking track that comes down from the Nobelius Track to the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail. This area is not currently being well maintained due to its "in between" location. The use and ongoing maintenance of this area needs to be part of the precinct plan.
- Three supported a **toilet upgrade**:
 - **Toilets** toilets toilets - such a wonderful space, just very important that toilets are available and accessible from sunrise to sunset. Also love idea of additional picnic facilities here. Good to have an alternative to the Lakeside - bit quieter.
 - We note and support the desire to increase the number of Public Toilets in the Heritage Park. We are not supportive of any proposal that these would be built adjacent to the current museum as this would remove any future expansion opportunities for the museum, as the proposed placement of the new toilets would be in the only available adjoining space to the museum. We would suggest building a toilet block adjacent to the green shed (Lintons Cottage) utilising the plumbing that is already in existence. This placement is also near the carpark and not uphill and would there be significantly more accessible than the current location.
- Support all the points for Nobelius Heritage Park emphasising the need for signage, the toilet upgrades, bandstand and removal of the chicanes to a bollard. The significance of the precinct as a **habitat for birdlife** should a key consideration for any developments that may be proposed for the precinct.

Playspace

The consultation form put forth the following information. Eighteen people provided a comment about this zone.

Proposed Playspace Concept Plan

1. Creek bed with water pumps in rocks
2. Seating and viewing area
3. Investigate opportunities to convert wading pool into infiltration garden bed to catch water play runoff. Garden bed fenced as a barrier between the playground and the lake
4. Water sprays
5. Water pump and seesaw water pump
6. Water spray masts
7. New shelter and picnic area
8. Steps
9. New toilet block with Changing Places facility, disabled cubicle and three ambulant cubicles
10. Climbing pole forest
11. Retain historic stone rubble picnic shelters
12. Embankment tube slide
13. Rope course
14. Junior embankment slide
15. Accessible carousel
16. Sandpit with retaining seating edge
17. Musical equipment
18. Tree top cubby walk with tube slide
19. Monkey bars and balance trail
20. Double flying fox
21. Opportunities to engage local artists in the development of the playground with sculpture and visual artwork signage
22. Ensure all rocks and logs can be used as informal seating to create quiet spaces for all users
23. Provide paths and accessible surfaces to ensure all play areas can be accessed by all

Playspace Concept Plan



Seven people said they like the whole design or made a general comment about liking it. Some of the specific aspects of this proposed redesign that were mentioned as appealing were:

- Spaced out / not congested (2 mentions)
- Using slope of the hill (2 mentions)
- Covers all ages and abilities (4 mentions)
- Artwork and sculptures (2 mentions)

(Playspace is) exactly what area needs to attract more users

Out of all of the masterplan concepts, this is the most vital and will service both locals and bring tourists to the area. Emerald is in desperate need for play spaces for children with facilities extremely lacking compared to surroundings area like Cockatoo, Gembrook and Monbulk. Currently there are two run down parks and families choose to go outside of Emerald to meet play needs of their children e.g. Seville and Warburton. With such a young community this upgrade is desperately needed.

The Zero-Depth pool upgrade is a wonderful idea, along with the Infiltration to save water, would feel safer if entry were less rock and rocky terrain around entrance for all ages and more platform based similar to what it is already.

Love that the playground areas will have natural shade from the canopy trees. All of the elements in the playground sound amazing and will provide interest and challenge for children of all ages.

The pool is getting older and will require more costly maintenance. It is only available for use December to March depending on the weather. The rest of the year it looks horrible. The water play idea will be very popular and will be available longer hours and all year. No lifesavers required

Emerald Primary school students were all supportive of the playspace and waterplay proposal. However, 28 students were keen to keep the spinning element from the current playground. Some of their other ideas included:

- Waterslide (17 requests)
- Big(ger) slide (14 requests)
- Ninja warrior/parkour obstacle style course (11 requests)
- Mountain bike track (11 requests)
- Flying fox (9 requests)
- Tipping bucket, water guns (6 requests)
- Wildlife / forest area for nature play (6 requests)
- Change rooms (4 requests)

However, there were some concerns from the community and the school about the removal of the pool:

- 10 primary school students said they want to keep the pool (or have somewhere they can swim)
- Loss of pool may see more children and teenagers swimming in the lake and jumping off the bridge. This was a problem over the summer of 2021-22.
- This area only caters for Pre Kindergarten and up to grade three at the most. I don't like that the pool is going. Older primary school kids and Teenagers love having a dip after school in summer. You take the pool away, you will take a lot of the locals away. A zero depth play area is not for them.
- Do not want to see the wading pool removed. it provides a different experience to the water play elements.
- Getting rid of pool should be part of redevelopment. Kids need to be able to be in the water not just splash it about.
- We would like at least some of the deep pool retained, need somewhere to be able to fully immerse the body on a hot day!
- Have both a small zero depth water area for the young kids and fix the pool for the older kids. Please don't put it in the too hard to fix box and get rid of it. Our teens are never catered for when it comes to enjoyment, It is a great place in summer for them. Please consider keeping the pool. Our epic water slides were removed now the pool.
- The removal of the wading pool removes the last opportunities for people to "swim" in the Emerald lake. This free swimming experience is part of many people's memories both old and young. The final removal of the "pool" needs to be undertaken with due regard to this strong sense of nostalgia and the feelings that this is an iconic part of living and visiting the "hills". We do understand the issues with maintaining a "pool" especially in the light of the enthusiasm of the local duck population to utilise both the pool water and the edges for duck purposes. We wonder if there is any way we can maintain a small wading pool.
- The proposed closure of the swimming pool is seen as a very unfortunate but understandable element of the Masterplan, given the costs of maintenance and the condition of the pool. There is an understandable concern by many residents about the loss of the swimming pool. The Masterplan should acknowledge that fact and Council needs to understand that in earlier times the Lake was available for swimming and was a very popular facility – Emerald even had its own lifesaving club. With the prohibition on swimming in the Lake that local facility was lost to the community, the small swimming was only a partial replacement for a lost facility. With the closure of the swimming pool local residents, particularly children, will have lost a valued local community facility and children will have to rely on parents to transport them to other venues. There is understandable concern that with the loss of the swimming pool some people may

attempt to swim in the Lake, which potentially has health and other hazards issues. If the water quality is as good as Council officers have assured us that it is – is it feasible to allow swimming in part or all of the Lake? This potential should be examined in the Masterplan and reported on and a clear statement about the feasibility or otherwise should be set out in the Masterplan and if it is to be prohibited on what basis and how is that to be enforced.

Suggestions and ideas include:

- **Artwork and sculptures** - Maybe of park animals and birds, educate the users.
- The removal of the wading pool to a more accessible water play space is a great idea, however I think that more '**features**' are needed in this. Seville water play space has a 'creek' element to it that creates a great central point for kids to play in the puddled water.
- Water play and playspace should be **located in town** where it is more accessible for locals to walk to and enable use of local shops for food/beverage options. Location at Emerald Lake Park encourages people to drive there and add to congested roads and parking. Appears targeted at tourists and not locals.
- The lack of **toilets**. It seems many toilet blocks are being removed in the park and not replaced. Parks this large need MORE toilets, not less.
 - Additional toilets at the 'top' of the playspace are needed. Small children often leave it to the last minute to tell you they need to go, so to have a long downhill walk to get to the toilets could be a disaster. The proposed new toilet block is also servicing a large area of the park, so could be busy. A small toilet block located at the top of the playground (between 11 and 19 on the map, for example) would be helpful.
- The main concern would be any damage or **removal of existing trees** in that area. I strongly oppose removal of exotic or nursery planted trees
- Want to ensure that the **view** from the bridge looking back at that side of the park isn't affected. Currently amazing viewpoint so ensure overhaul change to that side of the lake doesn't affect that view which includes seeing the trees on that side.
- Just make sure it is **good quality** and had a nice **ambience** to sit around with kids.
- Different **themes** for each Area possibly Elemental or Pirate themed etc A possible game where they're hidden things to find and search for and types of unique tunnels to see things in, sculptures of aussie animals and creatures related to emerald, photo shoot areas in creative wooden huts, hammocks, fire pit areas that is ran by staff, food events and sharing exotic animals such as lizards, small bird and frog species and donations towards them for those endangered and art competitions etc.
- Adventure for **older kids**, nature play.
- Maybe **climbing poles** could be added throughout the park to create extra interest and for children to be encouraged to explore different aspects/zones of the park and discover the poles.
- Is there opportunity to include some **shaded areas** (shade cloth) for use on Summer to avoid the current situation of the playground being in full sun and therefore too hot to use in the middle of the day in the summer months?
- It is important that the planning for the work is **staged** so that the removal and replacement of a facility are planned as one job. i.e., the removal of the wading pool must coincide with the building of the water park and the cafe moves to the new location. What cannot occur is that we remove the wading pool and then look to get additional funds to build the water park eventually, or we close the cafe and the new one can't happen for some time or drops off the list.

Western Forest Zone

The consultation form put forth the following information. Eight people provided a comment about this zone.

Proposed changes to the Western Forest zone

1. Define the Eastern Dandenong Rangers Trail (EDRT) through the park with consistent wayfinding and etiquette signage. Retain existing surface through the western forest.
2. Encourage imaginative play opportunities to the informal nature play area and the addition of wide wooden steps. Ensure Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles are considered.
3. Preserve and enhance significant natural assets in the precinct. Undertake an additional tree survey to identify trees and tree groups along the tracks in the western forest in accordance with the Emerald Lake Park Conservation Management Plan.
4. Raise the Pines Amphitheatre to ground level with rock seats to create an informal seating area for groups. Provide an accessible path to provide a safe connection for all users.
5. Provide bird hides for bird watchers and nature photographers in different areas of the park
6. Repair areas through the western forest that have been damaged by mountain biking. Install barricades to encourage bike riders to use the EDRT and prevent them from accessing problem areas.

Western forest zone



When asked which aspects of this proposal they like, cubbyland and wayfinding were mentioned, as well as better bike rider management.

Important to keep bikes out of the areas that have been cleared of weeds and are being revegetated. The informal tracks cause erosion and destruction of any indigenous plants naturalizing.

Love the concept of Cubbyland to encourage adventurous and imaginative play for children. I also support improvement of walking tracks including more signage.

Although there was feedback that the cubbyland features may need reconsidering.

"Cubbyland" steps seem too large. In winter will be very wet and slippery with fallen leaves, need regular cleaning.

Other considerations and ideas for this space were:

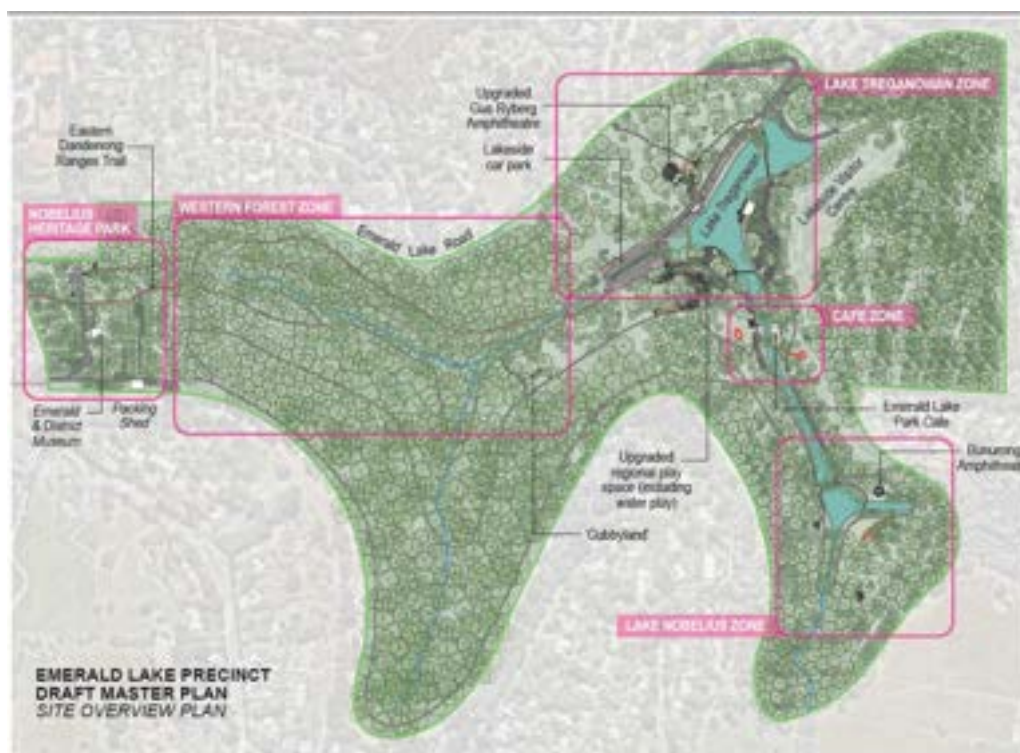
- Do not support raising the Pines Amphitheatre. This is part of the history, culture and character of Emerald Lake Park.
- I strongly don't want to see removal of any exotic or nursery planted trees.
- I don't like the sounds of barricades. If we must have them can they be natural or use signs pointing out features of the park.
- Bikes riding down Fern Gully track. It is very narrow and bikes coming fast, there is nowhere for walkers or people with dogs to get off the track. Bikes need to keep to the wider tracks. Damage is also occurring to ferns and orchids that grow on the side of the track.
- Provide seating for walkers in significant and picturesque areas to enjoy view, peace and quiet. Not in the bird hides. Continue with weed maintenance and removal through the Emerald Lake Park Vegetation Management Project to enhance the natural assets. Increase the funding from Cardinia Shire Council and supported by additional grants sourced by FELP. Provision needs to be made for new dead branches to be added, so live trees and ferns are not destroyed.

Emerald Lake Precinct

The consultation form put forth the following information. Thirty-one people provided a comment about the overall precinct.

Precinct wide proposed actions

1. Provide interpretive signage at all park entries and throughout the park for information and educational purposes. Consider the historical significance of the precinct and how that translates to the present day including indigenous history and post settlement heritage
2. Develop a consistent signage suite for the park. Implement accessible gateway, wayfinding, etiquette, identification and interpretive signage across the site
3. Consider programming opportunities within the park including educational programs, organised recreational activities, arts and culturally events, festivals and markets
4. Upgrade the existing paths to establish a safe and accessible network where possible. Consider the use of boardwalks or 'mini mesh' as required to protect trees and root systems
5. Upgrade all existing furniture to comply with Council's preferred furniture suite including DDA compliant drink fountains, seats, picnic tables and barbecues at all activity nodes and picnic tables at Bellbird picnic area
6. Update the 'Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity' overlay within Emerald Lake Precinct to include the overall extent of the Wattle Creek, Paternoster Creek and Mackenzie Creek
7. Implement and undertake the recommendations outlined in the 2020 Tree Assessment Report including maintaining and improving weed and pest management
8. Ensure the structural integrity of lake edges are maintained or improved in all works
9. Prepare a strategy for long term replacement planting of nursery and exotic trees in accordance with the 2020 Conservation Management Plans
10. Restrict vehicle access within the park to maintenance and emergency vehicles only, to reduce traffic and improve pedestrian safety
11. Engage traditional owners to add value to the precinct upgrades including interpretive signage and artwork
12. Include Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in future development of the park to ensure the safety of all users
13. Continue to work with Friends of Emerald Lake Park with removal of invasive woody weeds and native revegetation works
14. Complete a fire management strategy for the site that will complement the Emergency Management Plan for extreme weather and fire which is already in place
15. Develop a waste management plan for the precinct



Some of the key positive items mentioned in the comments were:

- Upgraded / all abilities paths (5 mentions);
- Wayfinding and signage needed (4 mentions);
- Indigenous components / consultation (4 mentions);
- New water playspace (4 mentions);
- Need for seating (2 mentions);
- Remove the pool (2 mentions);
- Café by the water (2 mentions);
- Gus Ryberg amphitheatre upgrade / events (2 mentions);
- Reduce traffic (car);
- Drinking fountains; and
- Toilet upgrades.

Some of the key negative features mentioned were:

- Too many toilet blocks removed (2 mentions);
- Don't remove the pool (2 mentions);
- Removal of trees / vegetation – don't remove exotics (2 mentions);
- Concern that large events and congregations will interrupt the ambience of the park;
- Address parking on surrounding roads;
- Better manage fishing areas; and
- Better tell the story of the parks' history.

Additional suggestions were:

- Parking permits for locals (2 mentions);
- Design to reflect heritage / not modern architecture (2 mentions);
- More car parking needed (2 mentions);
- Walking times on signage / signage to support fitness activities (2 mentions);
- Improve entrance signage;
- Footpath from township;
- Camping options;
- Consider CALD users;
- Water slide;
- Ensure it is still appropriate for locals, not just tourists;
- Build a pool in the town somewhere;
- On-site rangers;
- Running and fitness options;
- Large maps of the park;
- Ensure accessibility;
- Fire management considerations (including with Electric Vehicle chargers);
- Dedicated bike track;
- More seating;
- More bins

Engage traditional owners to add value to the precinct upgrades including interpretive signage and artwork. Emerald really lacks an acknowledgement and recognition of traditional owners and emerald lake is a great place to start improving this!

The upgrade of paths is so important. Lots of areas that are not suitable for people with additional needs.

School Consultation Findings

Consultations activities were conducted with students at Emerald Primary School and Emerald Secondary College.

Feedback from primary school students showed their priorities to be:

- Keeping the spinning feature, and perhaps add more spinning playground features;
- Following this suggestion for more spinning features, the next most common new playground idea was some sort of climbing or ropes course (ninja warrior, parkour, climbing wall);
- Bigger equipment was also frequently suggested, most commonly related to a slide (big slide) and/or flying fox;
- Many students indicated that they wanted to keep the pool so there was somewhere for them to swim, although additional waterplay elements were quite popular as well, specifically tipping buckets / water guns;
- Other popular ideas were more food options (café, ice cream van, restaurant), fishing facilities (rod holders, platform) and more forest play areas.

Feedback from secondary college students showed common priorities to be:

- Grassed area for dancing;
- Exercise equipment;
- Picnic area;
- Hang-out places; and
- Under-cover areas.

Useful feedback to follow up

Electric vehicle charging points. Almost an unregulated industry at the moment. We have been watching several webinars on EV recently as all fire brigades are still learning about these vehicle fires. What is known is they can take potentially hours to extinguish, and use tens to hundreds of thousand litres of water to extinguish them. Also 1 in 3 EV fires have occurred whilst charging. Therefore, are the EV charging stations away from structures or trees?

Distances could be included on Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail e.g. to Museum (signage)

Could the **tables/chairs combo have concrete pads under them** to make them more accessible and cleaner underfoot?

Some **seating** along the EDRT and other major trails would be an asset to walkers to rest and admire the view.

One suggesting regarding the amphitheatre upgrade - **make sure that the hills behind the formal seating are logical places to sit if all the formal seating is taken up**, i.e. the hills behind flow on from the formal seats - this would allow much greater numbers to participate in the event.

The **signage at the entrance** of the lake is confusing for visitors. The wombat corner sign directs cars in both directions and many lake visitors go the wrong way, up Lakeview Ct instead.

Perhaps some **charging points** for technology if you want to make a day of it heading down then need somewhere to charge phones

I would like to see the allocation of **parking** spaces specifically set aside for **motorcycles** especially at the lower carpark, as there isn't any.

Rod holders on bridge