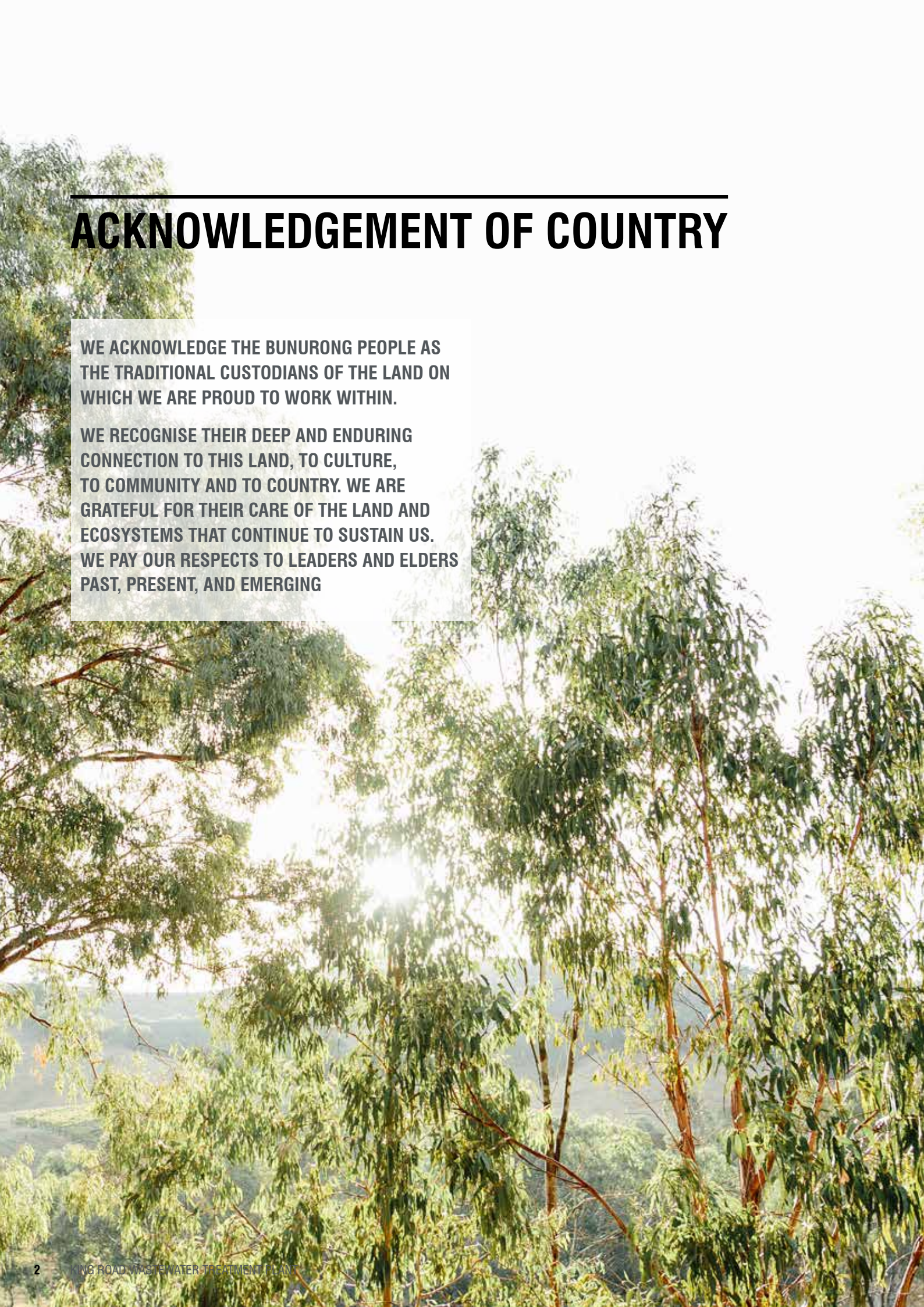


KING ROAD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

CULTURAL VALUES AND RECREATION CONCEPT PLAN
AUGUST 2026



WESTERNPORT
WATER™



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUNURONG PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE ARE PROUD TO WORK WITHIN.

WE RECOGNISE THEIR DEEP AND ENDURING CONNECTION TO THIS LAND, TO CULTURE, TO COMMUNITY AND TO COUNTRY. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR CARE OF THE LAND AND ECOSYSTEMS THAT CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN US. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO LEADERS AND ELDERS PAST, PRESENT, AND EMERGING

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STATUS	DATE	COMPILED BY	CHECKED	AUTHORISED
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Updated Draft to WPW	16.07.2026	ZH	AL	
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Final Issue	26.08.2026	ZH	AL	NC

INTRODUCTION

The King Road Wastewater Treatment Plant (KRWWTTP), managed by Westernport Water (WPW) is located at Corinella, Victoria, on Bunurong Country.

KRWWTTP currently treats sewage inflows from approximately 3,000 customers, with the service area projected to expand to around 8,000 customers by 2040. In response to this anticipated growth, as well as the need to adapt to climate change, WPW is planning the expansion to the current site with an integrated system including 150 Megalitres of storage and a 2.24 hectare wetland, anticipated to be delivered in 2027.

This initiative is called the King Road Recycled Water Wetlands Storage (KRW&S) project and is funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments and delivered in partnership with WPW. The project aims to enhance treated water quality, support carbon sequestration and deliver shared environmental and recreational benefits.

As part of the KRW&S Project, a Cultural Values and Recreation Concept Plan is being developed for the KRWWTTP site. The Plan was initiated in response to Bunurong feedback that cultural values are embedded throughout Country. The project presents a unique opportunity to integrate agriculture, biodiversity, and circular economy benefits while recognising and celebrating Bunurong culture and creating new recreational opportunities.

This Concept Plan will establish a clear vision, guiding principles, staged approach and design framework to support future use and upgrades. It seeks to balance operational requirements with environmental stewardship, recreational use, and the protection and promotion of cultural values.

This Concept Plan will be documented to inform a staged approach to future development, identifying key focus areas, infrastructure improvements, and opportunities for country, restoration, recreation and educational uses. The works will be progressively implemented over a 20 year period.

WESTERNPORT WATER FOREWORD

This Concept Plan provides a framework for the future of the site, guiding its evolution as a valued restoration landscape that supports environmental stewardship, recognises cultural values, and offers opportunities for learning and low-impact recreation.

Westernport Water is deeply committed to building strong, respectful, and collaborative relationships with First Nations people and organisations. We are committed to recognising and respecting the cultural values, heritage, and connection that Traditional Owners have with water and Country, working collaboratively to support the inclusion of First Nation's cultural knowledge and aspiration in water planning and management.

We recognise that this Concept Plan is the beginning of a longer journey. We look forward to walking alongside Bunurong and community partners to turn aspirations into action.

Dona Tantirimudalige,
Managing Director



**THE PROJECT PRESENTS A
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO
INTEGRATE AGRICULTURE,
BIODIVERSITY, AND
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
BENEFITS WHILE
FACILITATING
PUBLIC ACCESS AND
RECOGNISING
BUNURONG CULTURE**

SITE APPRECIATION

The site currently performs a predominantly functional role in the treatment and reuse of water, however the ancillary benefits to these processes and existing characteristics of the land hold significant value. WPW strongly value this site and have a deep understanding of its defining and valued features. This has prompted various studies to further understand and support future aspirations associated with the land.

The following themes highlight the intrinsic values, significance of the site and its operations, and their relevance to the emerging conceptual framework.

CULTURAL VALUES

This area holds deep cultural, spiritual and historical significance, encompassing stories, practices, and ancestral knowledge that continue to guide Bunurong cultural life today.

The Guys Creek wetlands and surrounding landscapes are integral to Bunurong cultural heritage, serving as places of ceremony, sustenance, and storytelling for at least three thousand years.

They reflect generations of knowledge about water management, seasonal cycles, and ecological stewardship. Preserving these values is essential to maintaining the living cultural identity of the Bunurong People.

The area is home to many plants and animals of cultural significance such as Bunjil (Wedge Tail Eagle), turtles, eels and kangaroos.

WPW has taken a proactive approach to protect and preserve this culturally significant site. The project strives to integrate cultural heritage considerations at every stage, from planning and design through construction and long-term management.

Bunurong Elder and appointed representative, Robert Ogden of Tarwin Cultural Services has provided cultural guidance and on-Country support, including the identification of sensitive sites, provision of cultural advice and protocols, and ensuring that Bunurong cultural values are embedded in project planning and delivery.

Dr Vincent Clark Archaeology and Heritage have delivered cultural heritage assessments. Mitigation strategies are in place to safeguard archaeological sites and other tangible and intangible cultural markers.

WPW pays their respects to Sonia and Wally Hume for their invaluable cultural advice and knowledge while

working on this site. We also thank and respect Adam Magennis for his cultural knowledge and advice, which has been incorporated into the plan.

Bunurong leadership and cultural authority are integral to all decision-making regarding the development of this project. Project planning to date has respected ancestral connections by avoiding sensitive areas, and incorporating opportunities for cultural recognition, interpretation, and education.

SYSTEMS AND FUNCTION

The site is currently operated and managed as a wastewater treatment plant. As such it supports a series of functional operations and land uses that need to be maintained (especially in the short term) to ensure a manageable closed loop system, these include:

- Existing (and proposed) treatment system
- Existing irrigation pivots
- Existing cattle grazing and operations
- 'Koala browse' (tree crops) for ongoing food provision for external koala sanctuaries in the region.

These operations are critical in maintaining the water balance within the treatment plant. This use of water is integral to system management as water can only be discharged off-site under extremely rare wet-water events.

Due to these operational requirements, public access is restricted. However, supervised access is permitted within designated areas of the site, providing opportunities for community engagement and education.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

This KRWWTWP site's key environmental features that support habitat and ecology are as follows:

- managed farmland
- aquatic habitat (through treatment ponds)
- planted vegetation (including Koala browse)
- Guys Creek corridor and floodplain

WPW has undertaken a range of ecological assessments to identify and understand the presence of significant vegetation, habitat, and fauna values across the site. Despite its modified rural character, the site supports significant flora and fauna throughout including:

- River Swamp Wallaby-grass (*Amphibromus fluitans*) recorded along Guys Creek.
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) – recorded within vegetated channel along Guys Creek.
- Southern Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus* subsp. *globulus*) - recorded in planted areas of native vegetation
- Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*) and Blue-billed Duck (*Oxyura australis*) recorded in storage lagoons.

Southern Toadlet (*Pseudophryne semimarmorata*) & Glossy Grass Skink (*Pseudemoia rawlinsoni*) habitat was also identified along Guys Creek fringe, periphery of the lagoons and low lying depressions. Whilst no species were recorded within the King Road site during the studies undertaken, there are multiple recordings within 10km of the site increasing the likelihood this site could provide habitat for the species.

Whilst much of the study site is highly modified and dominated by non-native pasture, there are small sections of ecological significance, concentrated along Guys Creek, which functions as the key ecological corridor within the site.

RECREATION

While currently limited, the site already supports some recreational use including supervised birdwatching walks when conditions are deemed safe for public access.

Underpinning this project and the drivers for WPW to consider recreational uses within the KRWWTWP is the Water for Victoria, Water Plan. This document actively encourages water corporations and authorities to develop land and recreation management plans for water storage sites with recreation potential, highlighting access to water as a key recreation value.

The Water for Victoria Plan specifically identifies opportunities for recreation at sites featuring waterways and storage areas (both of which are present at the KRWWTWP site) highlighting the potential to strengthen tourism, enhance community access and maximise recreation outcomes.



Pictured: members of the Corinella Residents and Ratepayers Association and Tenby Point residents on a tour to KRWWTWP in 2024 with Tony Ferres, WPW Senior Wastewater Treatment Operator.

KING ROAD RECYCLED WATER WETLANDS STORAGE PROJECT

Led by WPW, the King Road Recycled Water Wetlands Storage Project, aims to build the facility's capacity to manage growing population demands whilst delivering shared environmental and recreational benefits. This presents a unique opportunity to integrate agriculture and biodiversity while recognising and celebrating Bunurong culture and creating new recreational and educational opportunities for the community.

The importance of strong collaboration with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) is central to the project and WPW has been closely supported by Tarwin Cultural Services to navigate this partnership. Alongside broader consultation with BLCAC, this active collaboration ensures that cultural heritage values are respected, preserved and celebrated throughout the project.

The project comprises two parts:

PART A

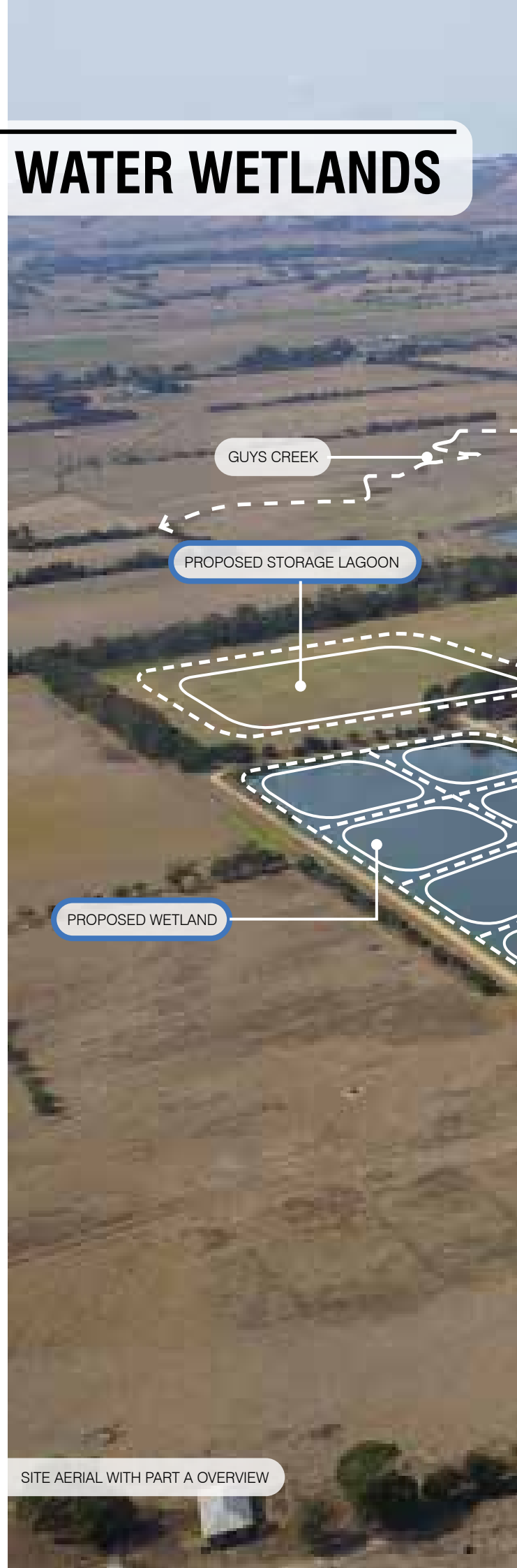
Part A will deliver a new recycled water storage lagoon and constructed wetland designed to support future population growth and enhance climate resilience over the next 10 years. Wastewater quality elements aim to improve water quality, contribute to carbon sequestration, and foster increased community engagement through integrated environmental and social outcomes.

PART B

Part B is the Cultural Values and Recreation Concept Plan, which is the focus of this report.

This includes the exploration of opportunities to integrate recreation and cultural opportunities into the site. These opportunities will represent values of the Bunurong and their aspirations, focussing on areas zoned as suitable for public access, with a key focus on Guys Creek.

This scope will also assess the prospect of integrating these values into the surrounding areas at the wetlands site (where relevant), as well as more broadly for the land managed by WPW.



SITE AERIAL WITH PART A OVERVIEW



EXISTING WINTER STORAGE LAGOON

EXISTING OPERATIONS FACILITY

EXISTING MATURATION LAGOON

PROPOSED FLOATING WETLAND

EXISTING IRRIGATION PIVOTS

SHAPING THE VISION

A REGENERATED LANDSCAPE THAT SUPPORTS BUNURONG CULTURAL VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS AND ATTRACTS RECREATIONAL USE.

Developing a clear and enduring landscape vision requires a thorough understanding of the site, its context and the many factors that influence its future potential. At the KRWWT, this process responds to the physical landscape encompassing operational requirements, ecological systems, cultural values and community aspirations. A comprehensive understanding to inform future decision-making has been established by investigating the site's existing conditions, reviewing relevant strategic and technical studies, and engagement with key stakeholders. This foundation provides the basis for identifying opportunities that balance the requirements for functional infrastructure with environmental enhancement, cultural recognition and meaningful recreational experiences.

INFORMED APPROACH

The approach taken for the Concept Plan was founded on developing a comprehensive understanding of the site's environmental, cultural and recreational context and how these currently operate within the operational constraints of a wastewater treatment plant.

To build this understanding, the following due diligence and data collection was undertaken:

- ▶ Preparation of public access assessments, recreational planning studies and biodiversity investigations
- ▶ Review of state water policy and regional planning frameworks
- ▶ Meetings and site inspections with WPW and internal stakeholder groups
- ▶ On site meetings between WPW and the BLCAC

A central component of the approach was the recognition of Bunurong cultural values and aspirations. Project investigations identified a high likelihood of culturally significant areas associated with waterways and landforms, leading to a focus on aspects such as:

- ▶ Minimising ground disturbance
- ▶ Restoration of country
- ▶ Exploring ongoing Bunurong involvement in land management, revegetation, pest control and fauna protection

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

Early opportunities and ideas for recreation and cultural integration, sensitive to operational and environmental constraints were investigated to inform future thinking. Potential outcomes included:

- ▶ Guided access,
- ▶ Education and research partnerships
- ▶ Birdwatching,
- ▶ Habitat restoration,
- ▶ Interpretation and cultural learning experiences.

Sensitive ecological areas such as Guys Creek were identified as requiring managed or seasonal access to balance public use with conservation outcomes.

SCENARIO TESTING

To test future possibilities for change in site use and access, the Project Working Group developed site access and land management scenarios, ranging from an operations-focused approach through to biodiversity and recreation-led outcomes.

These scenarios provided a framework for evaluating how cultural values, ecological restoration and community access could be progressively integrated over time. Ultimately, the preferred direction was to proceed on a staged and zoned approach (refer following page) with an aim to maintain existing operations in the short term while creating opportunities for long term biodiversity enhancement, cultural stewardship and carefully managed public access.

ZONE 1A - GUYS CREEK

Zone 1A is the Guys Creek waterway corridor and was identified as a distinct sub-zone due to existing isolation from existing farm operations and subsequent feasibility for achieving short term public access. It also contains characteristics that would attract visitation through opportunities associated with ecology, habitat, recreation and cultural significance. WPW are currently working in collaboration with Melbourne Water, undertaking staged revegetation and maintenance of the waterway corridor, establishing this area as a key zone for the Concept Plan focus.

ZONE 1B - GUYS CREEK PERIPHERY

Zone 1B is defined by its landform as a flood plain to Guys Creek with subsequent limitations for a role in the sites treatment operations. WPW chooses not to discharge wastewater onto the low lying farmland based upon its limited capability for continuous irrigation. To assist in the management of this land, cattle are run to keep grass low, however this operation is not considered essential to the treatment plant's processes if the land can be successfully managed otherwise. As such this zone was deemed feasible for short - medium term transformation to facilitate public access and build on the offering from Zone 1A.

Cultural heritage has been identified in this zone, a foundation to further support the provision of enhancing cultural values and 'caring for Country' principles throughout this zone.

ZONE 2 - WETLANDS AND FUNCTIONAL VEGETATION

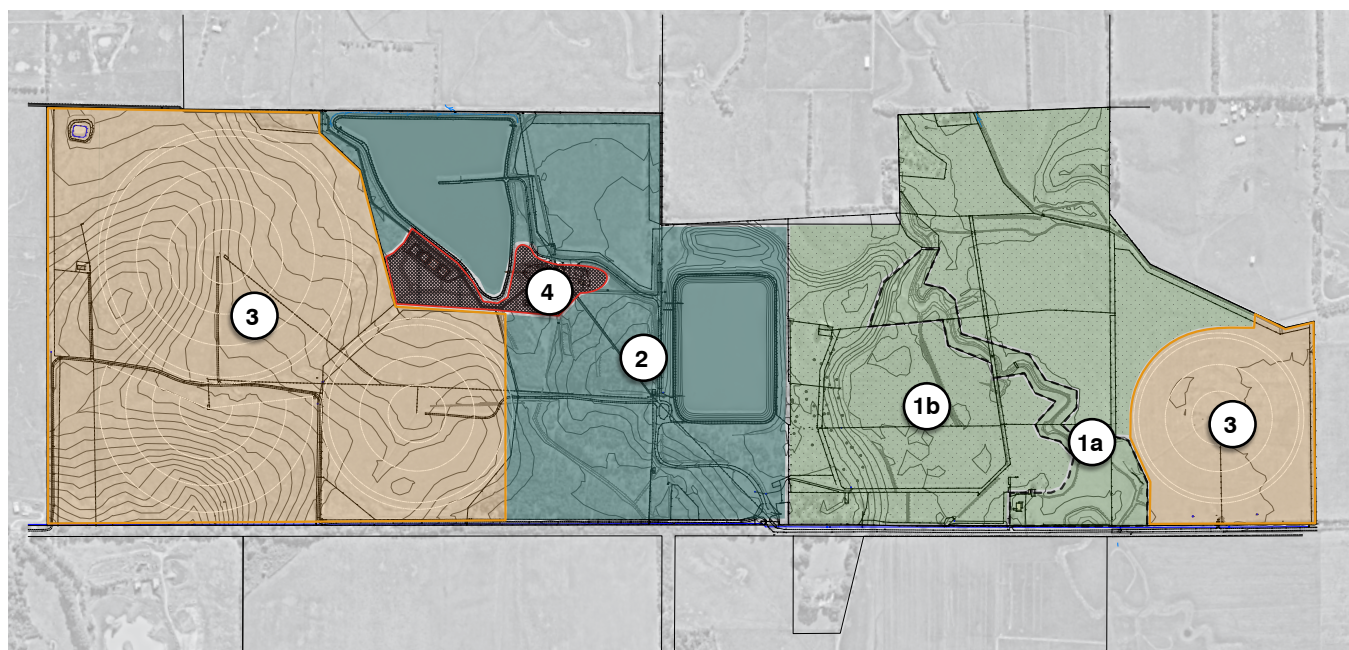
Zone 2 contains the site's treatment wetland and tree crops, both assets of which are integral to water treatment operations and not considered safe for public access. Supervised access is currently provided for birdwatching and will remain under this constraint, until the water is able to treated to an improved quality. With investment in new wetland infrastructure, this site still provides short and long term opportunities for recreation, education and cultural interventions, albeit under supervision.

ZONE 3 - IRRIGATION PIVOTS

Zone 3 predominantly captures the irrigation pivots which are currently the most efficient means of recycled water use on the treatment plant's site. Due to treated water being applied in an airborne capacity, the site is considered high risk for public safety, preventing opportunity for public access short term. To the west of this zone, the topography promotes a great vantage point for views across the treatment plant and to Westernport Bay, providing opportunity for public access infrastructure in the future should the water treatment process on the site no longer require a closed loop re-use system

ZONE 4 - RESTRICTED OPERATIONS ZONE

Zone 4 is the critical operation area of the treatment plant and deemed unsafe for project opportunities now and throughout the 20 year vision of this project.



SITE ZONING PLAN

INTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

Internal engagement within WPW formed a critical component of the concept planning process, providing valuable insight into the site's operational requirements, opportunities and constraints. As the land manager, WPW possesses extensive knowledge of the site, its day-to-day operations, customer expectations and long-term strategic objectives. Capturing this knowledge was essential to ensuring the Concept Plan is both achievable and responsive to the needs of the organisation and broader community.

PROJECT WORKING GROUP

The Project Working Group comprised of representatives from across WPW alongside a multidisciplinary consultant team, including Landscape Architects, Cultural Heritage Advisors and Community Engagement specialists. Collectively, the group provided strategic direction, technical expertise and stakeholder insights to guide the development of the Concept Plan and realise WPW's aspirations for the site.

A series of consultations were undertaken with representatives from across WPW, drawing on expertise in operations, engineering, ecology, asset management, wastewater management, communications and partnerships. This collaborative process provided a diverse range of perspectives, helping to build a comprehensive understanding of the site and to align aspirations for this Concept Plan. The insights gathered have provided a baseline for the integration of recreation, education, environmental outcomes and Bunurong cultural values, while ensuring the Concept Plan remains grounded in operational feasibility and realities of public access.

Recognising the site's significant cultural values, guidance from Bunurong representing Traditional Owner aspirations were embedded from the outset of the project. Cultural Heritage Advisors, Tarwin Consulting, worked closely with WPW to help inform project decisions, ensuring opportunities and constraints were understood and that future directions for the site were respectful, considered and responsive to its cultural context.

OPERATIONS TEAM

The Operations Team are the managers of the site, making their support and alignment with the project's vision critical to its future success. While the Concept Plan seeks to create opportunities for recreation, education and cultural engagement, these aspirations must be balanced with the site's primary role as an operational wastewater treatment facility.

To ensure operational requirements were fully understood, a dedicated on-site workshop was conducted with WPW's Operations Team. The workshop provided a forum to discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with introducing public access to the site, while gaining valuable insight into day-to-day operations, maintenance requirements, safety considerations, security and future infrastructure needs. The session also enabled the project team to test emerging ideas and identify areas where community aspirations could be successfully integrated alongside operational objectives.

The outcomes of this workshop have been instrumental in shaping a Concept Plan for the site that is both forward thinking and practical, ensuring the site's long-term functionality and successful public integration.

LEGEND (overleaf)

- 1 New planting opportunity
- 2 New wetland opportunity
- 3 Proposed viewing platform or lookout for birdwatching
- 4 Proposed floating wetland to support habitat initiatives
- 5 Proposed re-purposing of irrigation pivot
- 6 Proposed pools in creek to support habitat and slow water movement
- 7 Proposed expansion of Guys Creek buffer planting
- 8 Trail connection to Corinella township

OPERATIONS WORKSHOP FINDINGS

The following captures a summary of the opportunities and themes identified for each zone from the Operations Team workshop.

ZONE 1A AND 1B - GUYS CREEK AND PERIPHERY

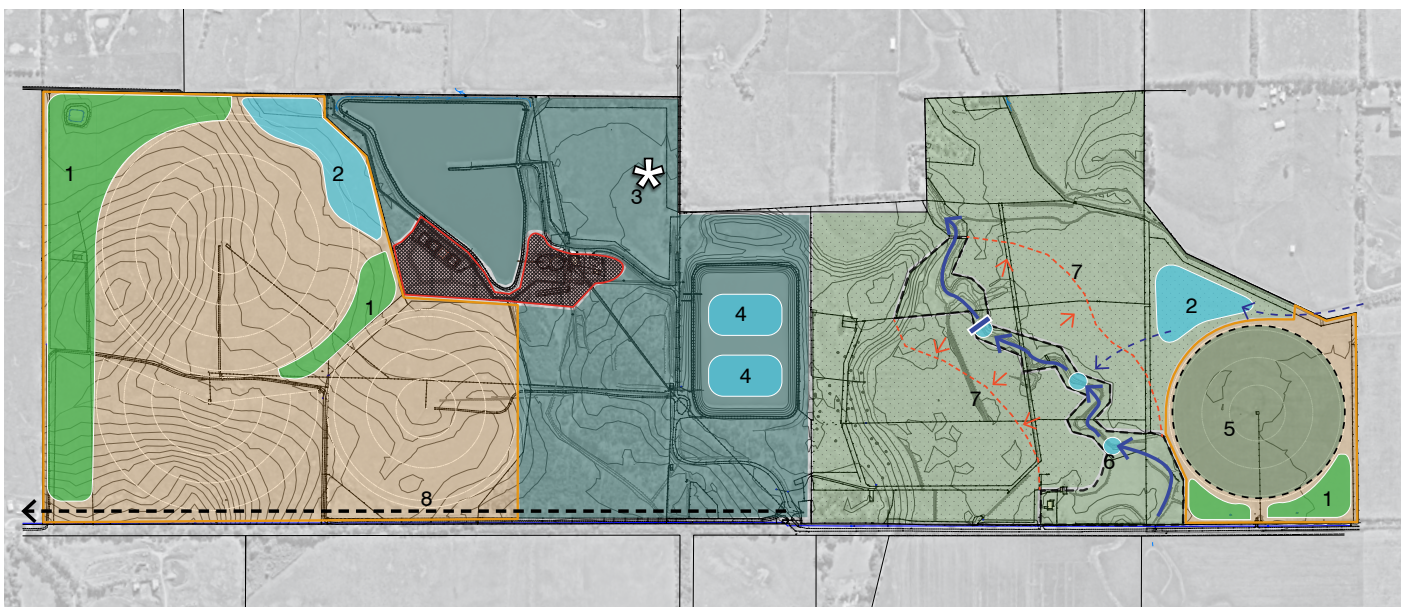
- ▶ Walking trail with opportunity for community amenity was highly supported and deemed feasible /achievable. Supporting infrastructure will be required to ensure success such as car park and signage
- ▶ Strong support for integration of educational opportunities along trail (cultural biodiversity and habitat, recycled water systems)
- ▶ Walking trail creates a platform to support the long term goal (5-10 years) for integration of viewing platforms, birdwatching hides etc once vegetation is well established
- ▶ Support to change current operation (cattle farming) to protect cultural values and support recreational and cultural opportunities
- ▶ Strong support into how Guys Creek can support further biodiversity and habitat (bird life, aquatic life)
- ▶ Support for Guys Creek to be integrated/activated with recycled water system

ZONE 2 - WETLANDS AND FUNCTIONAL VEGETATION

- ▶ Support to improve biodiversity within lagoons
- ▶ General support to increase educational capacity of the site's operation and systems to facilitate research and educational opportunities
- ▶ General support to build on current recycled water re-use strategies such as tree crops to increase revegetation and site biodiversity
- ▶ Long term opportunity to create a predator free space enabling the site to act as a sanctuary style offering for birdwatching

ZONE 3 - IRRIGATION PIVOTS

- ▶ General acknowledgement that these areas are pivotal to current WPW operations
- ▶ General support to reconsider the land use if water balance requirements can be met
- ▶ Strong support for these areas to generate an output ie nursery site, crops
- ▶ Support for these areas to offer an educational or research opportunity
- ▶ Strong support for this area to facilitate walking trails/loops given topography and proximity to Corinella township



OPERATIONS WORKSHOP SUMMARY PLAN

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

The success of this project relies on ensuring that the proposed opportunities noted in the Concept Plan align with the expectations and aspirations of future stakeholders. Building on the internal engagement undertaken by WPW, targeted engagement was conducted with external stakeholders, including community members and agency representatives. This process supported the valuation of the opportunities identified within the internal WPW engagement and ensured that broader community and stakeholder perspectives were considered.

The following section outlines the stakeholder groups engaged and the methods used to capture and incorporate their thoughts and feedback.

KEY PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS (EXTERNAL)

The project requires support and input from a diverse range of stakeholders, each with varying levels of influence, interest, and contribution to the overall project outcomes including:

- ▶ Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC)
- ▶ Adjacent landholders
- ▶ Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- ▶ Australian Government (WISER program)
- ▶ Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC)
- ▶ Melbourne Water
- ▶ Bass Coast Landcare Network
- ▶ BirdLife Australia
- ▶ Corinella Residents and Ratepayers Association
- ▶ Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) / Regional Development Victoria (RDV)
- ▶ Destination Gippsland / Destination Phillip Island
- ▶ Parks Victoria
- ▶ Western Port Biosphere
- ▶ Intelligent Water Network
- ▶ Schools (e.g. Bass Valley PS, Bass Coast College, Newhaven College)

To support the engagement process, WPW developed a Communication and Engagement Strategy to establish a clear framework for stakeholder participation and project communication. The strategy was designed to ensure that appropriate engagement processes were implemented from the outset, positioning the project for successful delivery.

BUNURONG LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The engagement approach with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) was identified as central to the project and positioned at the highest level of influence, particularly for aspects relating to cultural and community outcomes.

A program of engagement, comprising on-Country workshops, site inspections, stakeholder meetings, and regular project updates, supported by a dedicated cultural heritage advisor, is proposed for the life of the project. This collaborative approach will facilitate the ongoing integration of Bunurong knowledge, values, and aspirations throughout the project lifecycle and as future opportunities associated with the site continue to emerge.

At the time of this report, WPW has proactively collaborated with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC), seeking their insights and guidance to inform future construction considerations associated with the project. This Concept Plan is intended to evolve over time as further research, investigations and collaboration build shared understanding of the site's tangible and intangible heritage values. Future insights from Bunurong will help strengthen recommendations for how the site can be appropriately managed, acknowledged, protected and celebrated into the future.

GENERAL PUBLIC (COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS)

Engagement with the general public focused on informing and consulting community members, including residents, customers, and local groups, about the project's purpose, impacts, and opportunities.

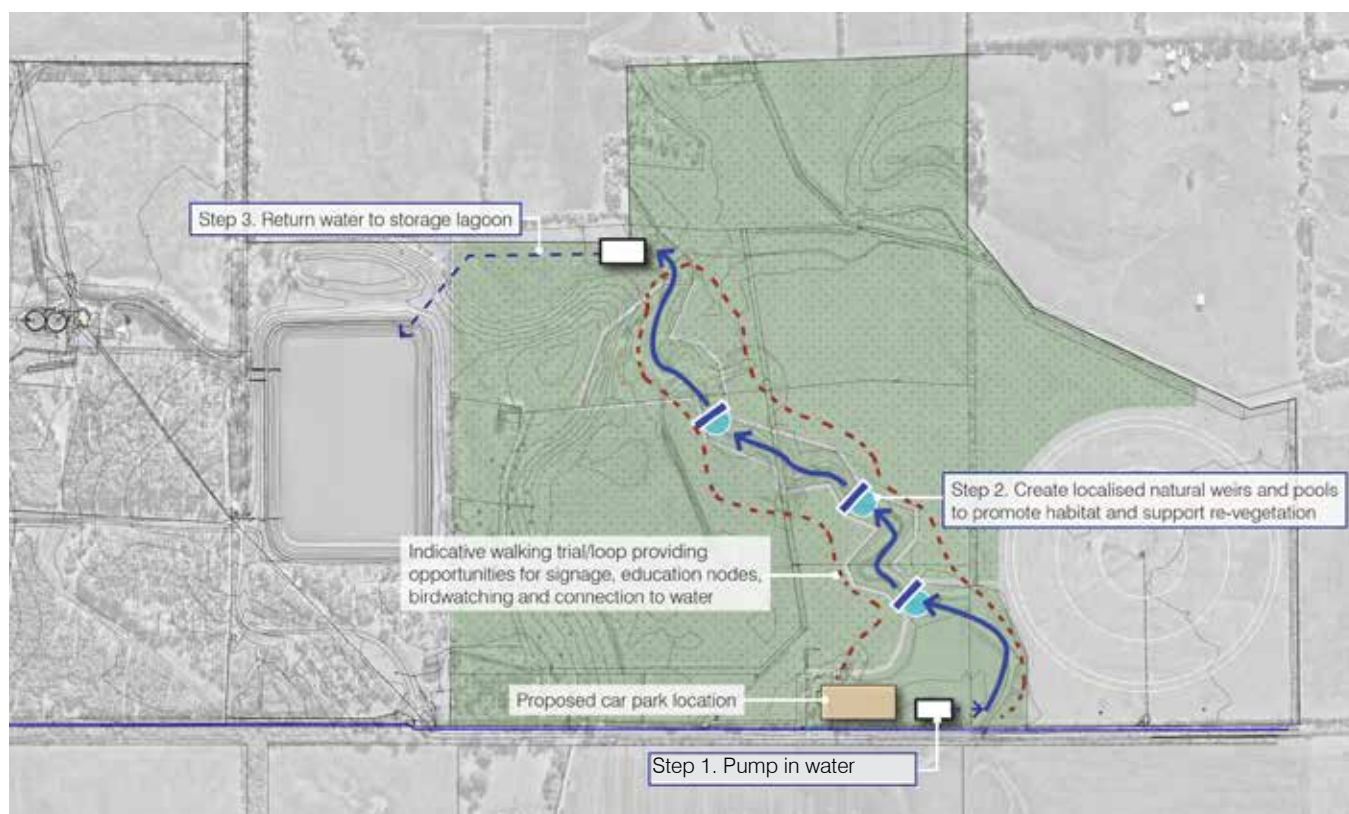
The engagement process utilised accessible channels such as WPW social media, surveys, market pop-ups, and online public information sessions to reach a broad audience. This approach enabled WPW to present the thinking to date and gave the community members a chance to provide input on the project site opportunities. By offering multiple avenues for participation, the goal was to create an engagement process that increases awareness and encourage community support.

The overall project and its objectives were presented to the community to ensure members had a clear understanding of the site's purpose, operational requirements, and the constraints associated with the

ongoing function of the wastewater treatment facility. Providing this context was essential to ensuring that feedback was informed by a realistic understanding of the opportunities and limitations of the site.

As Zones 1A and 1B were identified as the areas offering the greatest opportunity for short-term public access by WPW, the below plan was developed based on the early collaboration with the Project Working Group and presented to the community.

Various infrastructure, landscape, and recreational opportunities were illustrated to demonstrate the potential for the site, allowing the project to gauge community interest and gather feedback on the project's key themes of recreation, education, ecology, and cultural values, helping to inform the future direction of the Concept Plan.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PLAN

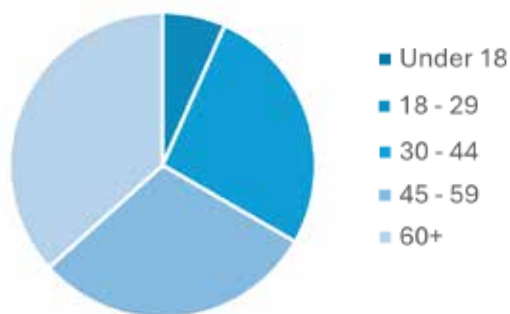
WHAT WE HEARD

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

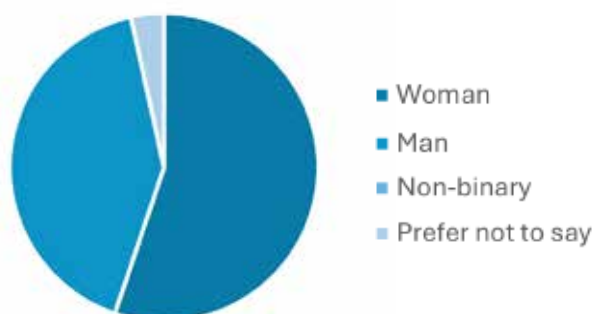
The following is a summary of the feedback received from the online survey following community engagement.

PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Age Breakdown



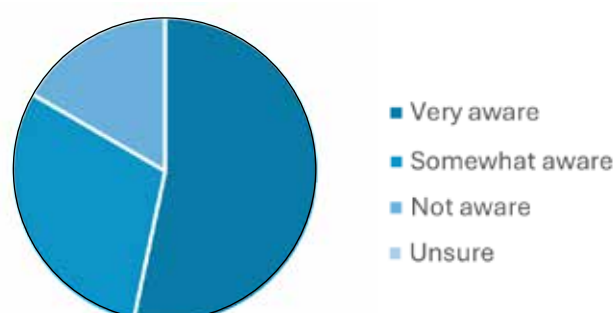
Gender Breakdown



PROJECT SUPPORT AND RESPONSES

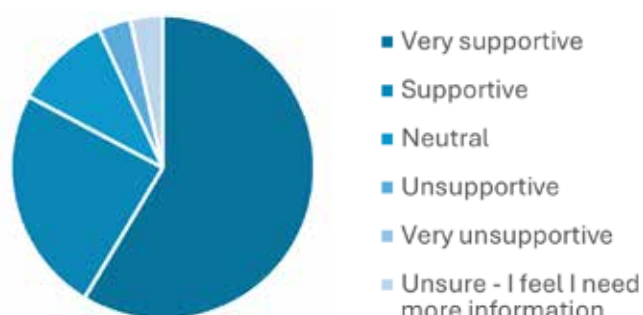
Project Awareness and Support

Question asked: How aware are you about the King Road Wastewater Treatment Plant, and that it has restricted access and safety requirements?



Level of Support

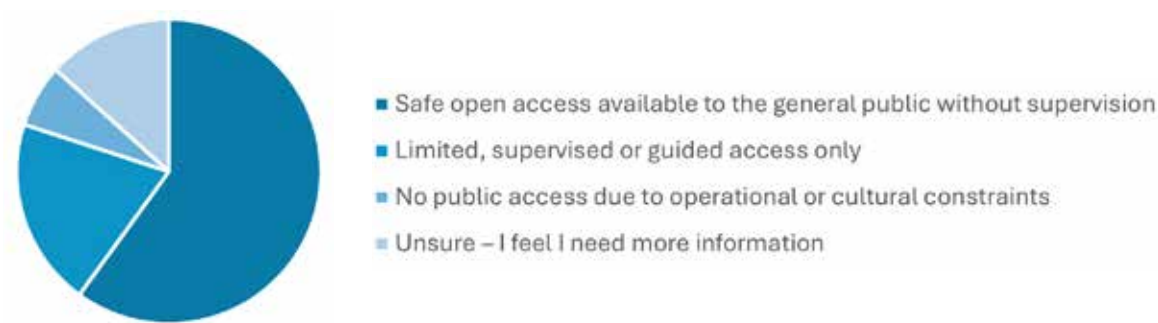
Survey participants were asked their level of support about the Project, which was described as 'working to improve water storage and treatment, enhance biodiversity and explore whether some public access might be possible in the future'. As the chart demonstrates there was very strong support for this direction.



EXPECTATION

Survey responses indicated a broad range of expectations regarding future public access arrangements. While many respondents supported some form of public access, engagement discussions and written feedback consistently highlighted the importance of environmental protection, cultural sensitivity and operational safety.

Question asked: Which statement best reflects your expectations for public access at King Road in the future?

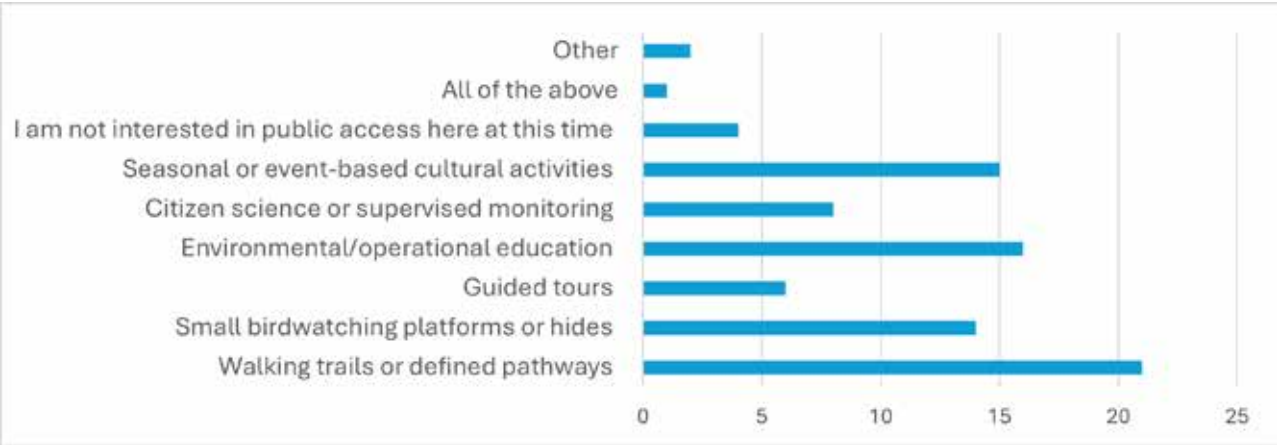


A recurring theme throughout the engagement process was that future access should remain carefully managed and environmentally sensitive

VALUE

Survey participants were asked, if limited public access is feasible in the future, which of activities would they value most. Responses indicated strongest interest in low-impact recreational, environmental and educational activities. This aligned closely with themes raised during the online information sessions and written feedback, where participants consistently emphasised environmental protection, passive recreation and learning opportunities over intensive recreational uses.

Question asked: If limited public access is feasible in the future, which of the following activities would you value most?



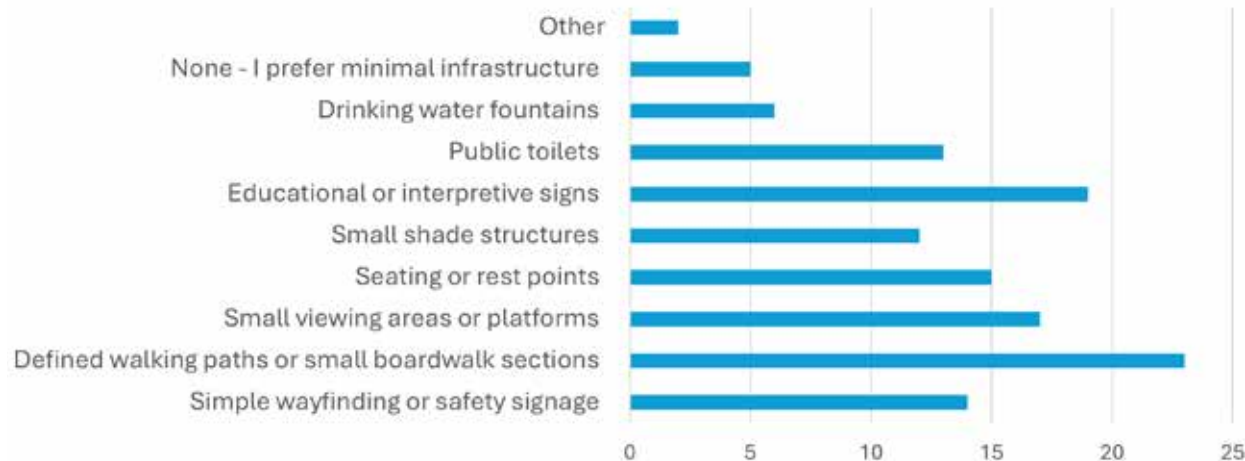
WHAT WE HEARD

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONTINUED

INFRASTRUCTURE

Survey participants were asked, if limited public access is possible in the future, what types of infrastructure is needed. Responses suggested strongest support for low-impact infrastructure that would support environmental education, accessibility and passive recreation while minimising ecological disturbance. Themes raised during engagement sessions also highlighted support for carefully managed access arrangements and sensitivity to environmental impacts.

Question asked: If limited public access is possible in the future, what types of infrastructure would best support this?



KEY THEMES

ENVIRONMENTAL

A consistent theme across engagement activities was surprise and interest regarding the ecological and environmental qualities already present at the KRWWTTP site. This was clear even though several participants indicated they were previously unaware of:

- ▶ the biodiversity values of the site
- ▶ existing revegetation and habitat work
- ▶ the role of the site in supporting wildlife
- ▶ the use of recycled water within the landscape
- ▶ the broader environmental functions of the wastewater treatment process

The 'Beyond the Gate' framing of the one of the information sessions appeared to resonate with some participants, with many expressing curiosities about a

site that had historically been inaccessible to the broader community. Participants also responded positively to the idea that the site could support:

- ▶ biodiversity outcomes
- ▶ environmental education
- ▶ low-impact recreation
- ▶ cultural learning opportunities
- ▶ long-term ecological stewardship

The information sessions also demonstrated strong interest in understanding how wastewater treatment processes, wetlands and biodiversity systems interact within the broader landscape.

ACCESS

Across the survey, information sessions and written feedback, participants generally supported exploring carefully managed future public access opportunities. Participants recognised that:

- ▶ the site remains an operational wastewater treatment facility
- ▶ some areas would need to remain restricted
- ▶ environmental and cultural values should guide future access arrangements

A recurring theme was support for ‘managed access’ rather than unrestricted public use. This included interest in:

- ▶ guided tours
- ▶ boardwalks and defined trails
- ▶ viewing areas and hides
- ▶ supervised educational experiences
- ▶ citizen science and monitoring opportunities

One written submission strongly emphasised the importance of protecting wildlife and sensitive environments through controlled access arrangements, noting that unrestricted access could introduce risks associated with dogs, bikes, littering, vandalism and disturbance to habitat areas

The submission also highlighted the importance of positioning visitors as “guests” within a sensitive environmental landscape

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Participants consistently identified opportunities for the site to support environmental learning and awareness. This included an interest in:

- ▶ understanding wastewater treatment processes
- ▶ learning about wetlands and biodiversity
- ▶ understanding local ecological systems
- ▶ school and education opportunities
- ▶ citizen science initiatives
- ▶ interpretation of flora, fauna and water systems

Several participants reflected that the project presented an opportunity to challenge perceptions about wastewater treatment infrastructure and demonstrate positive environmental outcomes associated with water recycling and nature-based treatment systems.

The idea of creating educational opportunities linked to local schools, birdwatching groups, conservation organisations and visitors was discussed positively throughout engagement activities.

Survey responses also demonstrated strong interest in:

- ▶ environmental or operational education opportunities
- ▶ interpretive signage
- ▶ guided learning experiences
- ▶ nature observation activities

WHAT WE HEARD

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONTINUED

RECOGNITION OF CULTURAL VALUES

The engagement process highlighted recognition of the cultural significance of the site and surrounding landscape. Presentations and project communications have emphasised:

- ▶ the site as part of a valued cultural landscape
- ▶ long-standing connections to water, wetlands and Country
- ▶ the presence of cultural heritage values
- ▶ opportunities for cultural learning and storytelling
- ▶ the importance of ongoing Traditional Owner stewardship and guidance
- ▶ a place for cultural gatherings and connection

Participants in the engagement process responded positively to the emphasis on cultural values and the potential for future cultural interpretation and education opportunities at the site.

A recurring theme throughout engagement was that future access and use should:

- ▶ respect cultural heritage
- ▶ protect environmental values
- ▶ support long-term care for Country
- ▶ position visitors as respectful guests within a culturally and environmentally significant landscape

TOURISM AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Engagement activities identified interest in the site potentially supporting low-impact recreation and tourism experiences over time, such as:

- ▶ birdwatching
- ▶ photography
- ▶ nature walks
- ▶ environmental tourism
- ▶ guided cultural experiences
- ▶ quiet observation and learning activities

There was relatively limited requests for highly active or intensive recreational uses. Instead, feedback generally favoured:

- ▶ passive recreation
- ▶ nature appreciation
- ▶ ecological education
- ▶ carefully controlled visitation
- ▶ experiences aligned with the environmental character of the site

Many participants also acknowledged the need to balance future opportunities with:

- ▶ operational requirements
- ▶ customer affordability
- ▶ ecological protection
- ▶ long-term maintenance considerations

CONCLUSION

The March-May 2026 engagement process demonstrated strong community and stakeholder interest in the future of the King Road Wastewater Treatment Plant site and the opportunities associated with the broader wetland and storage project. Feedback indicated broad support for exploring:

- ▶ environmental enhancement
- ▶ biodiversity outcomes
- ▶ cultural interpretation and strengthening cultural values
- ▶ environmental education
- ▶ carefully managed public access opportunities.

At the same time, participants consistently emphasised the importance of:

- ▶ protecting environmental and cultural values
- ▶ maintaining operational safety
- ▶ ensuring realistic and carefully managed future access arrangements.

The engagement process also highlighted significant curiosity and enthusiasm regarding the environmental and ecological qualities of the site, with many participants expressing surprise at the biodiversity and landscape values already present within the wastewater treatment plant environment. Survey responses also indicated strong interest in remaining involved as the project progresses, suggesting appetite for continued

community engagement, updates and opportunities to contribute to future planning discussions.

Several insights also emerged regarding future engagement and communications activities as the project progresses. Participation to date was generally strongest amongst environmentally engaged and older community stakeholders, suggesting future engagement activities could benefit from broader participation from younger people, families and more diverse community groups across the Bass Coast region.

The engagement process also reinforced the importance of continuing to strengthen and foreground First Nations knowledge, cultural values and Bunurong-led perspectives as future planning progresses. While cultural values were strongly supported throughout the engagement process, there remains an opportunity for future engagement activities to further embed Traditional Owner voices and on Country learning experiences within the broader community conversation.

A further lesson emerging from the engagement process was the value of direct exposure to the site itself. Participants noted that understanding the environmental qualities, biodiversity and operational context of the site significantly shifted their perception of the wastewater treatment plant and its future potential. This suggests future engagement activities may benefit from increased use of guided site visits, on-site learning opportunities and place-based engagement approaches to support more informed community feedback and participation.



DESIGN SUMMARY

The King Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Cultural Values and Recreation Concept Plan establishes a long-term vision that integrates wastewater infrastructure with ecological restoration, cultural values, visitor recreation and community engagement.

Located on Bunurong Country, the plan builds upon the site's water treatment functions to enhance biodiversity, support environmental education, and provide low-impact recreational opportunities.

Ultimately, the vision for this site is to become a valued restoration site and a destination for visitors immersed in a precinct that inspires walking, exploration, learning, and a deeper appreciation of its unique setting. This vision seeks to balance human experience with shared environmental stewardship, supporting ongoing revegetation and the creation of new habitats, while fostering meaningful connections between people, place and culture.

PART B: PROPOSED CONCEPT DESIGN

SHORT TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

Based on suitability determined by site zoning, Part B of the project - Cultural Values and Recreation Concept Plan has a strong focus on the Guys Creek corridor. This waterway and its surrounding land were identified as providing the greatest opportunity for the introduction of public access and community-focused initiatives within the short to medium term.

As a precinct, this area contains a diverse range of ecological and cultural values to underpin the recreation and education opportunities, while remaining largely separate from the critical wastewater treatment functions of the site. Existing revegetation programs, habitat enhancement works, and recognised cultural values further support their suitability for community engagement and environmental education.

In contrast, the treatment wetlands and tree crop areas of Zone 2 remain integral to site operations and are not suitable for unrestricted public access. To maximise the site's offering, these zones offer opportunities for supervised educational, cultural, and nature-based experiences that can strengthen community understanding of the site's environmental and operational functions.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Future planning and implementation should seek to balance public access opportunities with the operational, environmental, and cultural requirements of the site.

Protection of ecological values, waterway health, cultural values and wastewater treatment functions must remain a priority when considering any interventions. Opportunities should focus on delivering low-impact recreation, environmental education, cultural interpretation, and habitat enhancement outcomes that complement the site's broader purpose.

Any new infrastructure should be designed to respond to site constraints, including flood-prone land, environmental sensitivities, cultural heritage, and public safety requirements.

ZONE 1A AND 1B CONCEPT DESIGN

SHORT TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

The short-term implementation focus of the Concept Plan centres on Zones 1A and 1B, which together present the most valued and feasible opportunity to introduce public access while maintaining the operational integrity of the wastewater treatment facility. The proposed Concept Plan draws on the information, research and community engagement feedback to date to highlight achievable interventions such as walking trails, signage and interpretation, areas of revegetation and supporting facilities such as a car park and seating areas.

IMPLEMENTATION

In order to achieve the aspirations for the site and begin to introduce pedestrian access, an implementation plan is required to ensure the proposal is grounded in reality, with provision for funding, and provides a commitment from WPW into the future.

A key focus in the short term is to prioritise interventions that utilise existing features due to their cost effectiveness and low impact on ground disturbance in line with cultural heritage advice to date.

To ensure a functional and usable outcome, each implementation item is separated into achievable scopes that don't require excessive funding or construction works at any one time. Each of these items are considered by their ability to support the previous items installed on site, ensuring the asset grows in value and interest for visitors.

To avoid harm to ecological values along Guys Creek:

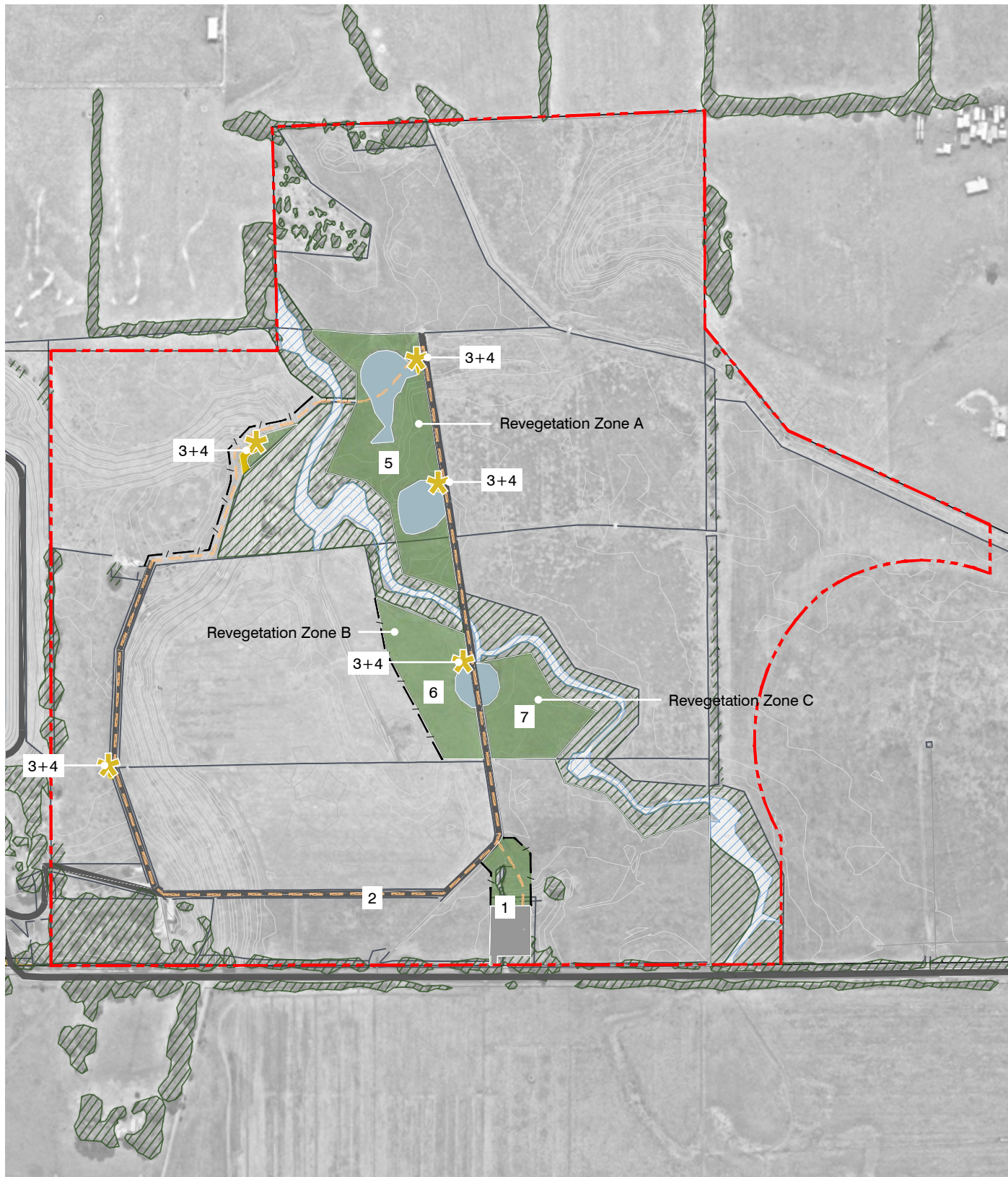
- ▶ Cattle must continue to be excluded
- ▶ Works should be scheduled between April and July to avoid Latham's Snipe migration
- ▶ Seed collection and propagation for river swamp wallaby-grass recommended
- ▶ Conduct risk assessment, net benefit analysis and environmental flow recommendations for Guys Creek Pending BLCAC and stakeholder support

The availability of funding from the current project grant is dependent on the outcomes of Part A of the project. Based on the funding available and permission requirements, WPW will review and determine priority scope items for implementation. Further proposed works may require additional funding, grant support, and relevant approval processes, including environmental and cultural heritage investigations.

CAPITAL WORKS COSTING

The following table provides a breakdown of estimated costs for each of the identified opportunities. More detail can be found in appendix B.

Item	Description (Scope items are not listed in order of priority)	Estimated Time for Implementation	Estimated Cost
1	Temporary car park including new gate and picnic area	< 2 years	\$ 126,500
2	Upgrade of existing farm track for pedestrian access loop	<2 years	\$ 280,350
3	Installation of new visitor nodes (cost per instance)	<2 years	\$ 17,500
4	Installation of feature and interpretive signage	<2 years	\$ 6,500
5	Revegetation Zone A (includes minor earthworks, planting and fencing)	<2 years	\$ 120,900
6	Revegetation Zone B (includes minor earthworks, planting and fencing)	<2 years	\$ 58,570
7	Revegetation Zone C (includes minor earthworks, planting and fencing)	<5 years	\$ 40,270



LEGEND

	Zone Boundary		Proposed Pedestrian Walking Trail (utilising existing access tracks)
	Existing Vegetation		Proposed Pedestrian Walking Trail (new track)
	Existing Water Creek Corridor		Proposed Visitor Node/Seating Area
	Proposed Revegetation		Proposed Fence
	Proposed Ephemeral Planting	6	Reference Number (Refer capital works costing)
	Existing Access Track		

ZONE 2 CONCEPT DESIGN

SHORT TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone 2 contains the site's treatment wetlands and tree crop areas, both of which are integral components of the wastewater treatment process. Due to the operational nature of these assets and associated public health and safety risks, unrestricted public access is currently not considered appropriate. However, these intrinsic characteristics of this zone host great short term potential to support recreation, education and ecology under controlled conditions.

The Part A treatment wetland expansion delivered as part of this project will enhance the ecological values of the site, creating improved habitat conditions that are expected to support increased birdlife and broader faunal activity. Building on the existing supervised birdwatching program, the design seeks to provide complementary visitor infrastructure, including dedicated viewing areas and interpretive signage. These elements will enhance visitor experience while supporting environmental education opportunities for schools and community groups. The signage strategy also establishes the foundations for a future interpretive trail, creating a scalable framework that can be expanded to accommodate broader public access should operational constraints be reduced over time.

For the protection and enhancement of turtle habitat, additional soft gravel will be installed on the edge of existing tracks. Fringing vegetation within and adjacent to lagoons are to be retained as critical turtle refuge. The concept of a freshwater mussel trial in lagoon/s captive breeding program in partnership with BLCAC and research institutions is to be explored. This item is discussed further in Section 15.

IMPLEMENTATION

The implemenation of this zone is proposed to be undertaken alongside the wetland expansion (Part A of the overall project).

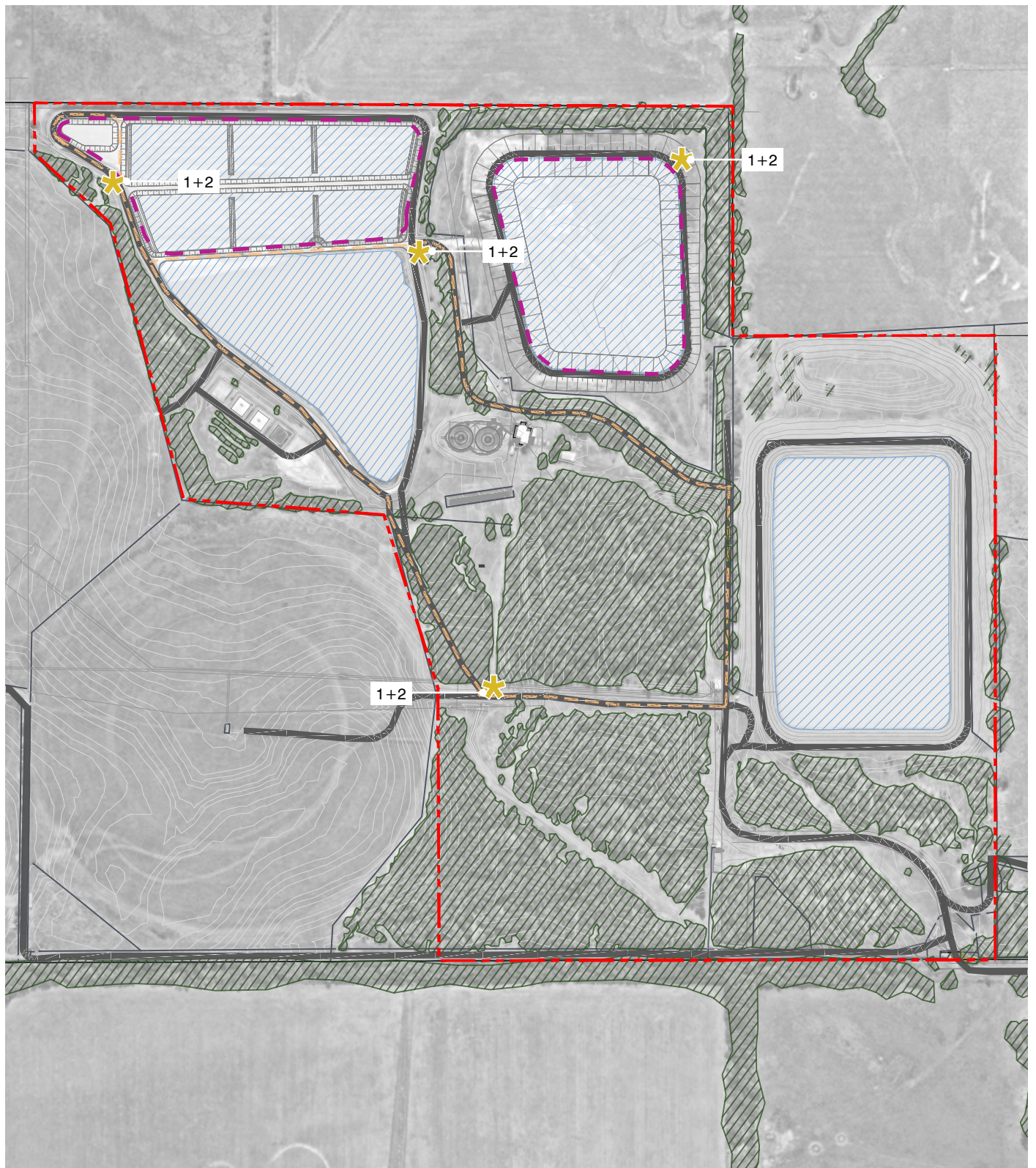
The cost items listed in the phase are designed to ensure a functional and usable outcome complimenting the wetland expansion and enhancing the existing supervised access experience. Implementation items

are separated into achievable scopes that don't require excessive funding or construction works at any one time. In the short term, the funding from the current project grant is proposed to support only a partial implementation of items 1 & 2, with future signage and visitor nodes to be installed subject to additional funding.

CAPITAL WORKS COSTING

The following table provides a breakdown of estimated costs for each of the identified opportunities. More detail can be found in appendix B.

Item	Description <i>(Scope items are not listed in order of priority)</i>	Estimated Time for Implementation	Estimated Cost
1	Installation of new visitor nodes (cost per instance)	<2 years	\$ 22,000
2	Installation of feature and interpretive signage	<2 years	\$ 6,500



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|--|
|  | Zone Boundary |  | Proposed Pedestrian Walking Trail (utilising existing access tracks) |
|  | Existing Vegetation |  | Proposed Pedestrian Walking Trail (new track) |
|  | Existing Water Asset |  | Proposed Visitor Node/Seating Area |
|  | Part A Scope | 2 | Reference Number (Refer capital works costing) |
|  | Existing Access Track | | |



PROPOSED CONCEPT DESIGN

MEDIUM AND LONG TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES



OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

This section aims to identify key opportunities for further, long term integration of cultural, recreational and educational opportunities into the treatment plant site. Due to the current constraints of operations, public safety and funding, WPW are unable to undertake all initiatives from the start. However, it is expected these conditions will evolve in future to facilitate further longer term implementation items that support the project vision.

Future considerations build on works anticipated in the short term, further enhancing the integration of ecological, recreational, educational, and cultural values present within the Guys Creek corridor (Zone 1a & 1b) and functional assets (Zone 2). In addition, the broader site is also considered, identified as 'Zone 3' in this concept which features existing elevated topography providing excellent vantage points across the treatment plant and toward Westernport Bay. This creates opportunities for integrated recreational use and provides greater cultural appreciation of the site within its wider context.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

All opportunities associated with long term implementation are subject to key milestones in funding, permits and additional studies for feasibility. The protection and enhancement of ecological values, waterway health, cultural heritage, and wastewater treatment functions must remain fundamental to all future initiatives.

Any future infrastructure should be designed to respond sensitively to the site, ensuring that access and amenity improvements are sustainable and adaptable over time.

ZONE 1A AND 1B CONCEPT DESIGN

MEDIUM AND LONG TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

The long-term implementation for Zones 1A and 1B builds on the opportunities identified in the short term to further enhance user amenity and experience, while supporting ongoing revegetation of former agricultural pasture areas to establish new habitat and strengthen ecological values.

The areas identified for long-term initiatives within this zone are generally unconstrained by the site's operational requirements. However, the successful delivery of key projects will be dependent on securing appropriate funding and addressing cultural heritage considerations.

All initiatives proposed within this approach are informed by site investigations, background research, and community engagement outcomes to ensure they align with community aspirations and enhance the visitor experience. Proposed improvements include key infrastructure such as boardwalks, viewing platform, expanded revegetation works, and new habitat opportunities. Ultimately, the vision for this zone is to establish a destination with a strong bushland character that encourages walking, exploration, learning, and appreciation of the site, while simultaneously supporting ecological restoration and the creation of new habitat areas.

CAPITAL WORKS COSTING

The following table provides a breakdown of estimated costs for each of the identified opportunities. More detail can be found in appendix B.

Item	Description (Scope items are not listed in order of priority)	Estimated Time for Implementation	Estimated Cost
1	New boardwalk A	5-10 years	\$ 260,000
2	New boardwalk B	10 years	\$ 80,000
3	New viewing platform	5-10 years	\$ 200,000
4	New wetland	10+ years	\$ 1,160,000
5	New turtle habitat pools in Guys Creek	5-10 years	\$ 28,500
6	New Pump Station	5-10 years	\$ TBD
7	New Walking Trail (Through Revegetation Zone D)	5 Years	\$ 77,000
8	New Walking Trail (Through Revegetation Zone E)	10 years	\$ 152,000
9	New Walking Trail (Through Revegetation Zone H)	10-15 years	\$ 22,000
10	Installation of new visitor nodes (cost per instance)	To be associated with trail installations	\$ 22,000
11	Installation of feature and interpretive signage		\$ 6,500
12	Revegetation Zone D (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	5 Years	\$ 134,250
13	Revegetation Zone E (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10 years	\$ 551,250
14	Revegetation Zone F (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10 years	\$ 537,150
15	Revegetation Zone G (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	5-10 years	\$ 86,000
16	Revegetation Zone H (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10-15 years	\$ 266,000
17	Upgraded car park	5-10 years	\$ 166,400



LEGEND

- - -	Zone Boundary		Proposed Ephemeral Planting	★	Proposed Visitor Node/ Seating Area
	Existing Vegetation		Proposed Wetland/Habitat	—	Proposed Boardwalk
	Existing Water Asset		Existing Access Track	■	Proposed Viewing Platform
	Proposed Revegetation		Earlier Phase Pedestrian Circulation	5	Reference Number (Refer capital works costing)
	Earlier Phase Revegetation		Proposed Walking Trail (new track)		

ZONE 2 CONCEPT DESIGN

MEDIUM AND LONG TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

The medium to long-term implementation of Zone 2 works builds upon the opportunities already delivered to further improve user amenity and visitor experience. Long-term initiatives within Zone 2 continue to assume a supervised access model, while seeking to deliver a more immersive and structured trail experience throughout the facility. It is anticipated this will include access around the treatment wetlands and through the established 'tree browse areas' that support koala food production.

In addition to recreational opportunities such as birdwatching and walking, a key focus of Zone 2 infrastructure is its capacity to facilitate education and research for schools, tertiary institutions, and the broader community. Site features to be explored by visitors include water treatment processes and wetland systems. These present habitat areas with subsequent birdwatching locations as valuable opportunities for educational interpretation and engagement. Building on the visitor nodes proposed within the short-term implementation strategy, additional infrastructure such as a terraced viewing deck is proposed to provide an outdoor classroom and gathering space for educational activities and programs.

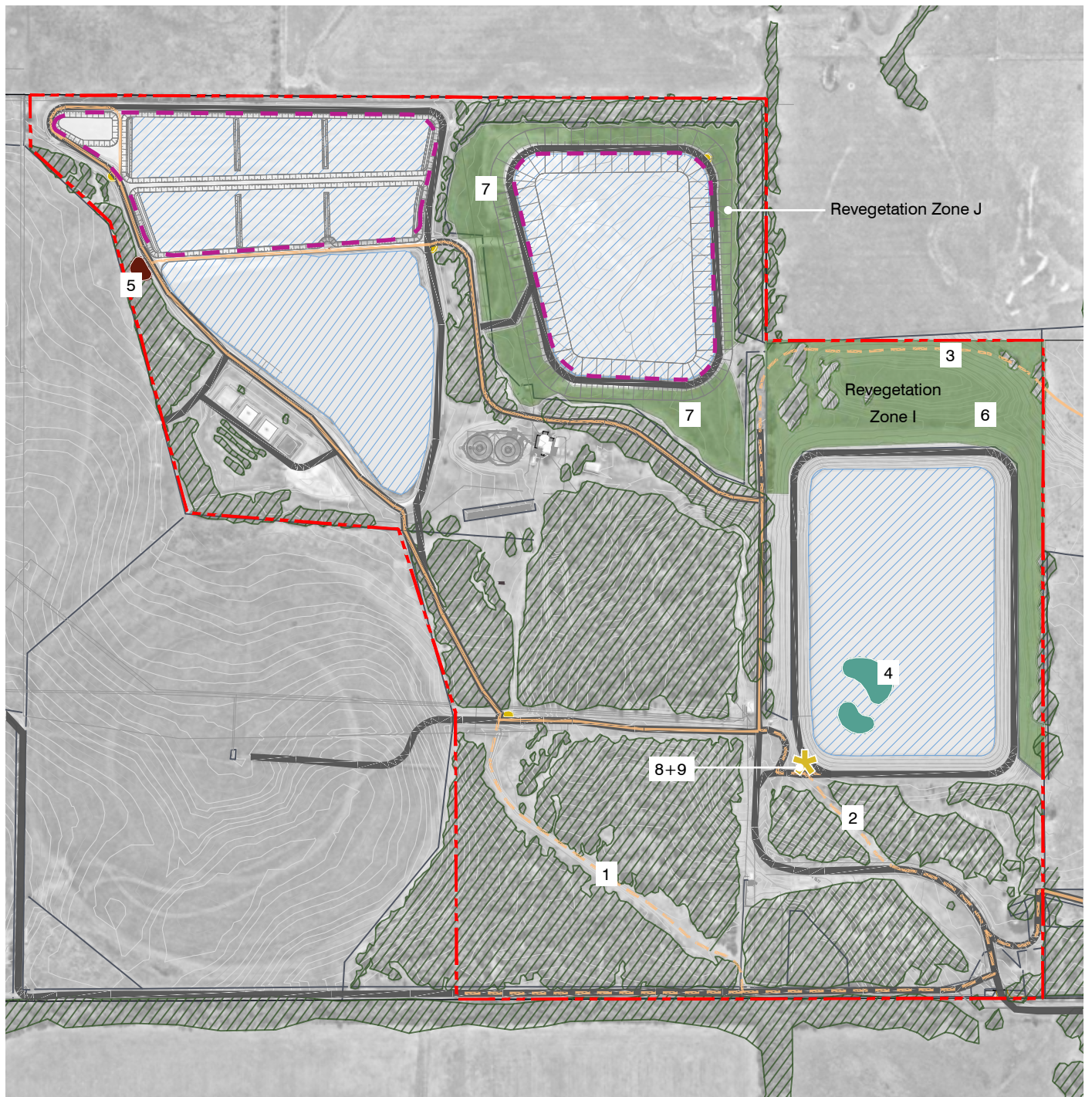
Additional revegetation areas are also proposed to strengthen biodiversity and ecological values across the site, expanding habitat opportunities that further support educational and recreational experiences, including walking and birdwatching. Options for in-situ freshwater mussel reintroduction following freshwater mussel trial in lagoon/s captive breeding program in partnership with BLCAC (TBC) and research institutions will be explored, as well as the concept for the site to be a turtle nursery site.

While this zone is strategically planned to support a supervised access circuit, it also establishes a trail network that connects more broadly with other areas of the treatment plant. Ultimately, the vision for this zone is to provide a safe and accessible public environment, connected by walking trails that enable visitors to explore and understand the role of the treatment plant within ecological, cultural, and recreational context

CAPITAL WORKS COSTING

The following table provides a breakdown of estimated costs for each of the identified opportunities. More detail can be found in appendix B.

Item	Description <i>(Scope items are not listed in order of priority)</i>	Estimated Time for Implementation	Estimated Cost
1	New Walking Trail A	5-10 years	\$ 54,500
2	New Walking Trail B	5-10 years	\$ 19,000
3	New Walking Trail C (Continuation of trail from Zone 1B)	10+ years	\$ 60,000
4	Floating Wetland (cost per asset)	5-10 years	\$ 650,000
5	Bird watching deck and outdoor classroom	5-10 years	\$ 310,000
6	Revegetation Zone I (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10 years	\$ 130,500
7	Revegetation Zone J (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10-15 years	\$ 108,000
8	Installation of new visitor nodes (cost per instance)	5-10 years	\$ 22,000
9	Installation of feature and interpretive signage	5-10 years	\$ 6,500



LEGEND

	Zone Boundary		Part A Scope		Proposed Walking Trail (new track)
	Existing Vegetation		Proposed Floating Wetland		Proposed Visitor Node/ Seating Area
	Existing Water Asset		Existing Access Track		Reference Number (Refer capital works costing)
	Proposed Revegetation		Earlier Phase Pedestrian Circulation		Proposed Viewing Platform / Bird watching deck

ZONE 3 CONCEPT DESIGN

MEDIUM AND LONG TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone 3 predominantly encompasses irrigation pivots, currently the most efficient method of recycled water use across the treatment plant. Due to restrictions on discharge into Guy's Creek, these pivots remain critical, irrigating grassland harvested for hay and silage. As a result, this area is considered high risk for public safety, limiting short-term access unless water use regimes are changed.

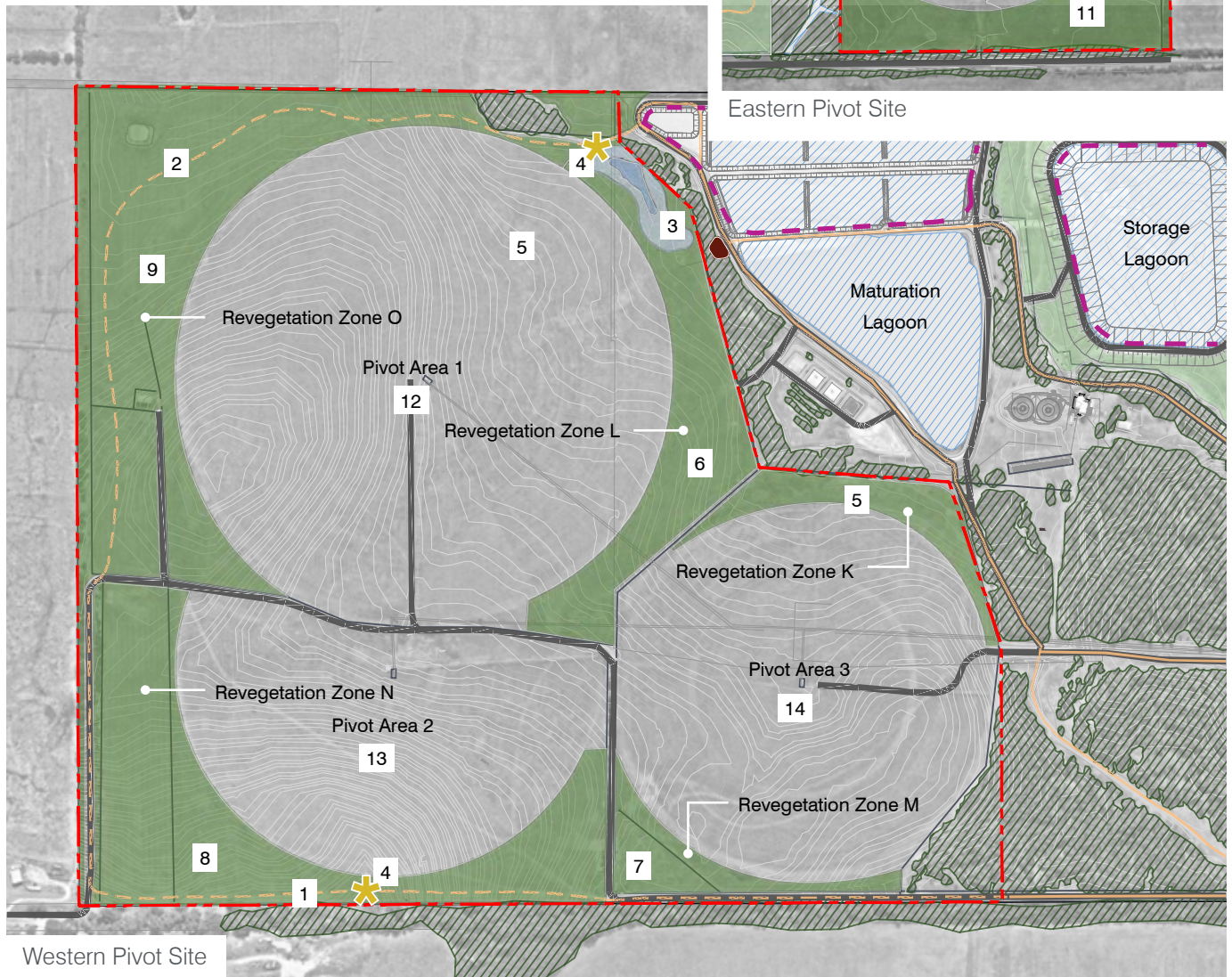
In response to growing regional demand for water treatment and reducing the need for additional land acquisition, a key goal of WPW's is to suitably treat water for discharge off site. In consideration, this concept design explores long-term opportunities that support the broader vision, including expanded walking trails, revegetation of pastoral and operational land, and initiatives supporting cultural values where access permits in the future for this zone. Opportunities in this zone also capitalise on its topographical position, proposing a new wetland in low-lying areas while maximising views towards Western Port Bay from elevated locations.

Ultimately, this zone will connect to the broader trail network, linking visitors to other areas of the site and providing opportunities for longer walks, enhanced views, ecological appreciation, and greater understanding of the site's environmental and operational functions.

CAPITAL WORKS COSTING

The following table provides a breakdown of estimated costs for each of the identified opportunities. More detail can be found in appendix B.

Item	Description <i>(Scope items are not listed in order of priority)</i>	Estimated Time for Implementation	Estimated Cost
1	New Walking Trail A	5-10 years	\$ 80,000
2	New Walking Trail B	5-10 years	\$ 142,000
3	New Wetland	5-10 years	\$ 1,535,000
4	Viewing Deck and Visitor Node (including signage)	5-10 years	\$ 112,500
5	Revegetation Zone K (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	5-10 years	\$ 51,500
6	Revegetation Zone L (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10-15 years	\$ 111,000
7	Revegetation Zone M (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10-15 years	\$ 46,250
8	Revegetation Zone N (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10-15 years	\$ 265,000
9	Revegetation Zone O (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10-15 years	\$ 372,000
10	Revegetation Zone P (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10-15 years	\$ 50,000
11	Revegetation Zone Q (includes minor earthworks, site prep and planting)	10-15 years	\$ 118,600
12	Revegetation of Pivot Area 1	<20 years	\$ 895,000
13	Revegetation of Pivot Area 2	<20 years	\$ 382,000
14	Revegetation of Pivot Area 3	<20 years	\$ 500,000
15	Revegetation of Pivot Area 4	<20 years	\$ 389,000



LEGEND

	Zone Boundary		Proposed Revegetation		Earlier Phase Pedestrian Circulation
	Existing Vegetation		Earlier Phase Revegetation		Proposed Walking Trail (new track)
	Existing Water Asset		Proposed Wetland/Habitat		Proposed Visitor Node/ Seating Area
	Part A Scope		Existing Access Track		

CONCEPT SNAPSHOT

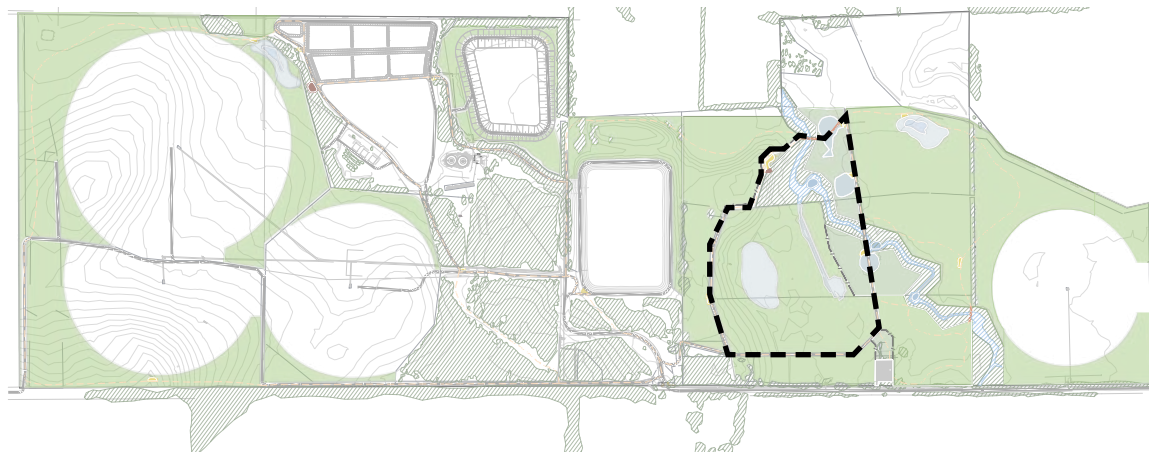
STAGED ACCESS AND WALKING LOOPS

The staged approach to the Concept Plan provides the basis for a walking trail network designed to progressively enhance visitor access, recreation, education, and ecological appreciation of the site. Building on initial infrastructure and visitor nodes, future trail extensions will provide a more immersive experience through wetlands, revegetation areas, and koala browse plantations.

Supporting both public and supervised access, the trail system will connect key educational, cultural, and environmental features while integrating opportunities for walking, birdwatching, outdoor learning, and community engagement within a rich landscape setting.

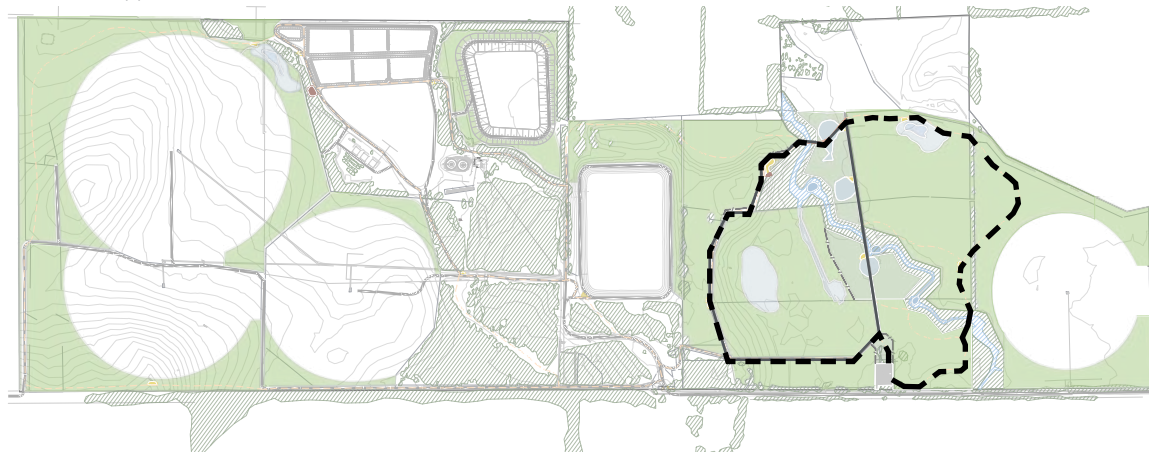
TRAIL 1 - GUYS CREEK LOOP

--- Approx Distance 1.5km



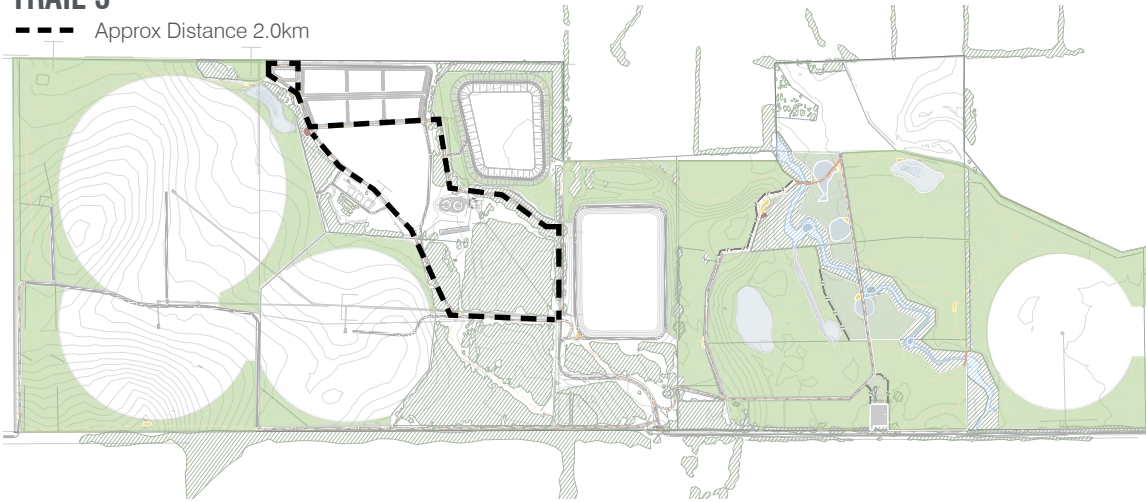
TRAIL 2 - GUYS CREEK EXTENDED LOOP

--- Approx Distance 2.0km



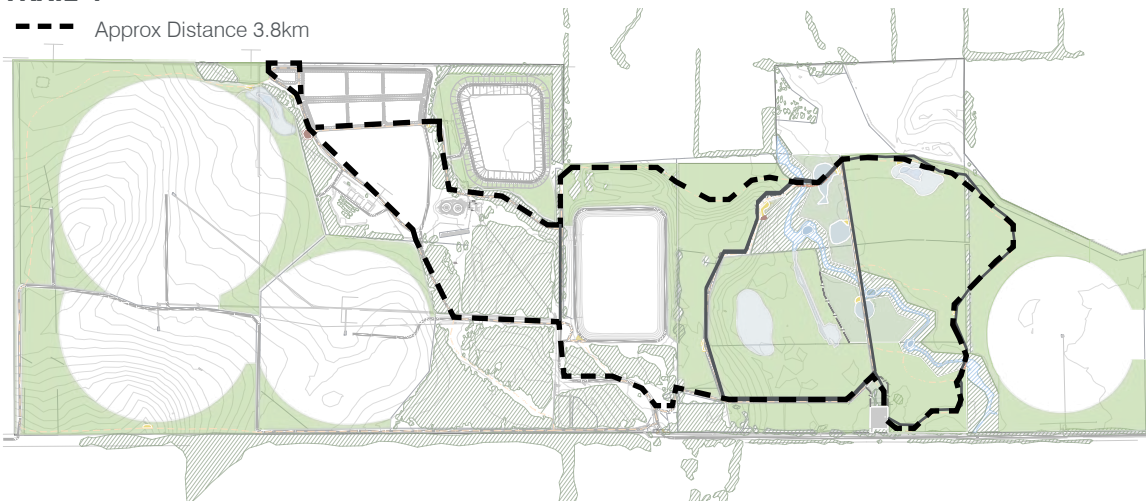
TRAIL 3

--- Approx Distance 2.0km



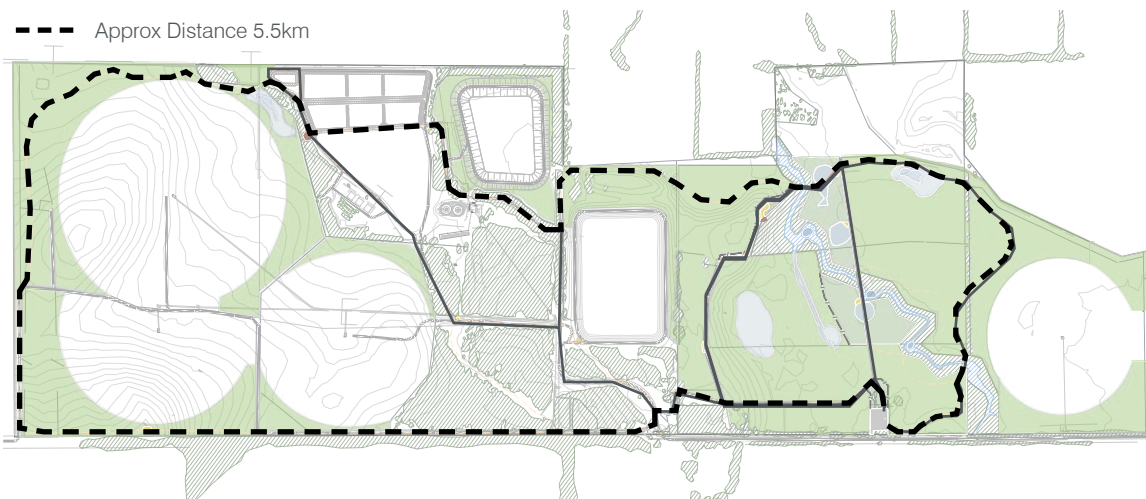
TRAIL 4

--- Approx Distance 3.8km



TRAIL 5

--- Approx Distance 5.5km





NEXT STEPS

The next phase of the King Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Cultural Values and Recreation Concept Plan should focus on progressing priority short-term initiatives within Zones 1A and 1B. It should also focus on creating opportunities for the community to experience the site's unique setting to build a shared sense of stewardship and care for this evolving landscape. Experiences such as open days, seasonal or event based activities, guided tours and digital interpretation should be prioritised to encourage exploration, learning and a deeper appreciation of the site.

Key actions include detailed design and feasibility investigations for pedestrian access infrastructure, habitat restoration works, interpretive elements, and cultural engagement opportunities.

To support this, ongoing collaboration with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation will be critical to ensure cultural values are embedded throughout implementation. Concurrently, environmental assessments, funding applications, and operational planning should be undertaken to support staged delivery. Regular monitoring and review of early initiatives will also inform future investment decisions and guide the progressive expansion of recreation, education, and biodiversity outcomes.

SUCCESS METRICS

Success of the Concept Plan should be measured through a combination of environmental, cultural, social, and operational indicators. Key metrics include

- ▶ Extent of habitat restoration completed across the site.
- ▶ Increase in native vegetation cover and overall biodiversity values.
- ▶ Protection and management of identified cultural heritage assets.
- ▶ Community participation rates in educational programs, guided visits, and research science activities.
- ▶ Stakeholder satisfaction levels and successful delivery of initiatives without impacting wastewater operations, public safety, or asset management objectives.

Importantly, all recreation and cultural initiatives must be delivered without compromising wastewater treatment operations, public safety requirements, or long-term asset management objectives.

STAKEHOLDER AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Effective stakeholder and change management will be essential to the successful implementation of the Concept Plan over its 20-year horizon.

Continued engagement with the internal and external project stakeholders, especially WPW management and the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, will help ensure that future decisions reflect a diverse range of perspectives and foster shared ownership of project outcomes.

Transparent communication and regular project updates will be critical in managing expectations between public access and operational constraints whilst considering funding priorities, implementation time frames and impact on the broader site.

The staged delivery model, supported by relevant and continued stakeholder feedback, will enable the project to respond to emerging opportunities, evolving community aspirations, and changing environmental conditions while maintaining the key project objectives.

APPENDIX A

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Water for Victoria, Water Plan, Victorian State Government

LINK: <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/about-us/water-for-victoria>

Distinctive Areas and Landscapes, Victorian State Government

LINK: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/guides-and-resources/strategies-and-initiatives/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes>

Final Draft Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy, March 2025, Victorian State Government

LINK: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/page/bass-coast>

Other documents prepared by Westerport Water and Specialist Consultant

- King Road Wastewater Treatment Plan Public Access, *Westerport Water, 2025*
- Notes from Tour of King Road with BLCAC, *Westerport Water, 2024*
- Water for Recreation, Options Paper, *Josh Byrne and Associates, 2018*
- Targeted Flora and Fauna Survey, KRWWTP Recycled Water Wetland Concept, *Pinion Advisory, 2024*
- Detailed Flora and Fauna Assessment, King Road Recycled Wetlands, *SMEC, 2024*

APPENDIX B

COSTINGS

ADELAIDE | ALBURY | BALLARAT | BENDIGO | BRISBANE
CANBERRA | GEELONG | GIPPSLAND | MELBOURNE | SHEPPARTON

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