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# Landscape Vision

Mount Ettalong Reserve Masterplan

**Client**


Central Coast Council

**Issue**

28.08.2020 (FINAL)



Beveridge Williams



**Beveridge Williams would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.**

Client: Central Coast Council

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01

# Introduction

## 1.1 Site Introduction

This Landscape Concept Document will provide an overall vision for the landscape works and public realm experience at the Mount Ettalong walking trail and lookout, located in Pearl Beach within the municipality of the Central Coast Council.

Situated on the Central Coast, the site is located in Broken Bay and is positioned between Umina Beach to the north and Pearl Beach to the south. To the east, across Broken Bay, are views of Box Head, Little Box Head and Lobster Beach.

The Landscape Concept and vision for the site will draw

inspiration from the existing landscape character of the surrounding area, cultural heritage, existing landscape features and existing established flora & fauna.

A key objective of the Landscape Concept shall be to recognise and interpret the cultural and environmental heritage of the site. Other important factors include providing a space in which accessibility and safety is greatly improved, providing users with the opportunity to passively appreciate landscape views and enable an immersive and calming landscape experience.



Figure 1: Existing site context NearMap plan - Not To Scale (N.T.S)



02

Existing Conditions

## 2.1 General Site Analysis Plan

Located along Patonga Drive, the site is heavily vegetated with existing high retention value species and is positioned with adjoining interfaces of the Heathy Woodland and Pittwater / Wagstaffe Spotted Gum Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregions.

Beyond these conservation areas, further north and south of the site is established urban development, mainly resulting in residential and tourism lead dwellings.

The existing crushed sandstone trail provides access to two lookout viewing decks, which are located on the site plan beside and referenced as 'Lookout 01' and 'Lookout 02'. Lookout 01, the southern most lookout, provides views across to Broken Bay and Pearl Beach while Lookout 02, the eastern lookout, which is presently closed for public access due to structural integrity issues, provides sweeping views of Umina Beach, Broken Bay and Box Head. Both lookouts provide vast vistas of the surrounding coastal interfaces, beaches and peninsular areas.

Steep ridge lines are located along the southern edge of the site, parallel to the existing pedestrian track, creating boulder cliff edges that steeply drop away.

### LEGEND

- - - Extent of Works
- Existing Road
- Existing pedestrian gravel path
- Ridge Line / Boulder Escarpment
- Existing Carpark
- Existing Residential Dwellings / Built Form Interface
- Existing Reservoir Tank (to be retained)
- ~> Site Views
- Existing Lookout 01
- Existing Lookout 02
- (Plant Community Types) PCT1627: Smooth-bark Apple Turpentine - Sydney Peppermint Heathy Woodland on sandstone ranges of the Central Coast
- (Plant Community Types) PCT1214: TEC Pittwater and Wagstaffe Spotted Gum Forest in Sydney Basin Bioregion



Figure 2: Extended site context analysis plan - N.T.S

## 2.2 Site Analysis Plan








Located along Patonga Drive, the site's main vehicle entry is via a steep driveway which leads into a small irregular gravel carpark. Bitumen paving formalises the driveway entry and provides a sealed road running parallel to the existing barbwire fenced Reservoir facility, down to an existing steel gate. The site is heavily vegetated with establish native trees and shrubs that provide a sheltered interface between the entry and Patonga Drive.

The existing pedestrian trail is characterised by undulating terrain with floating boulders. Large trees and significant bushland line the edges of the crushed sandstone track, with timber logs and other rocks, providing markers for navigating surface level grade changes. Low timber edging and logs are located at various

points along the trail, acting as both directional markers and places of informal rest. Also located at various points is timber pine seating and pine picnic table / benches, both which are aged.

The southern lookout, that is located approximately 650m from the car park entrance, requires replacement of the existing barrier and handrail fencing so as to meet Australian Standards. The eastern lookout, located a further 80m has significant structural flaws and is therefore closed to public access. This document seeks to address the replacement of the southern lookout barrier fencing and the redesign and replacement of the eastern lookout.

### LEGEND

- - - Extent of Works
  - - - Existing pedestrian gravel path
  - . . . . . Ridge Line / Boulder Escarpment
  -  Existing Carpark
  -  Existing Reservoir Tank (to be retained)
  - ~ ~ ~ Barbwire Fencing to Reservoir
  - = = = Existing Gate Access
  - = = = Log Barrier
  -  Existing Lookout 01
  -  Existing Lookout 02
  -  Hollow Bearing Trees (to be protected and retained)
  -  Existing Bench Seat
  -  Existing Picnic Seating
- \*Refer to Page 9 & 10 for corresponding images shown as number locations on the plan below

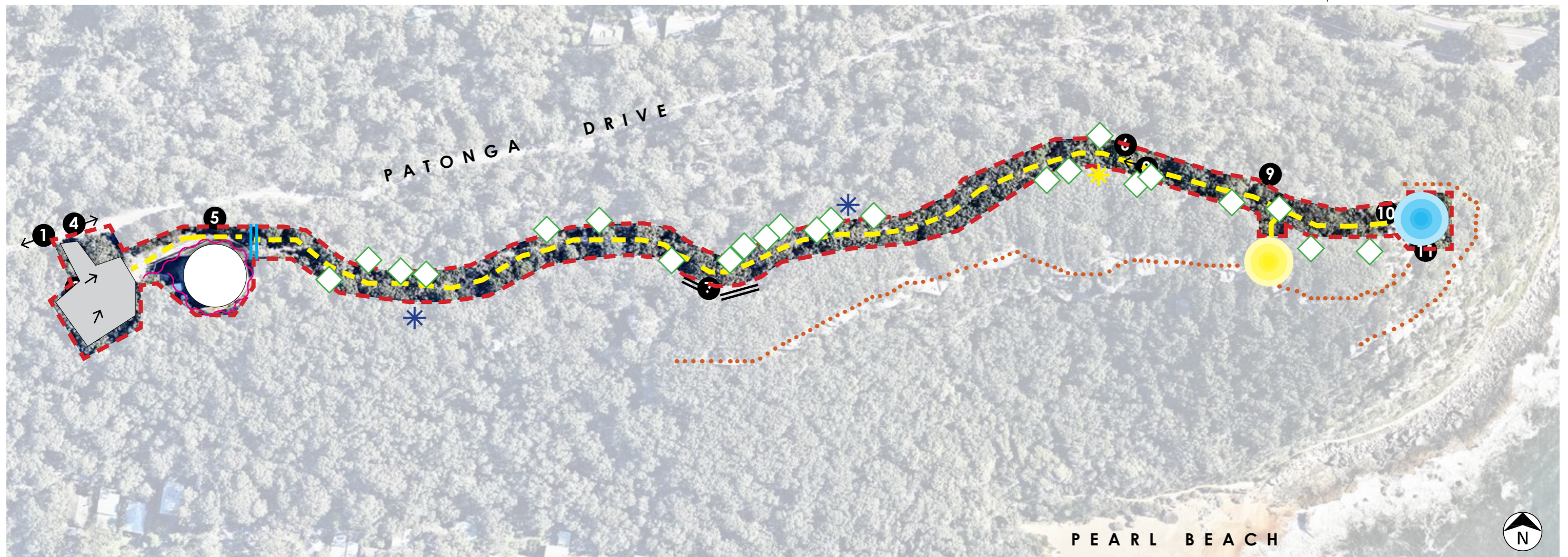


Figure 3: Site analysis plan N.T.S



## 2.3 External Landscape Interface and Conditions

Located along the Mt Ettalong Road, an existing paved driveway enables access to a small gravel car park. Existing large established bushland shrubs and trees surround the car park and entry providing a natural interface.

An existing concrete water reservoir tank with high cyclone mesh and barbwire fencing, stands in stark contrast to the existing bushland, as a harsh and uninviting object upon arrival. An existing gate is located to indicate the entrance to the Mt Ettalong Lookouts and Trail.

- 1 Adjacent Patonga Drive - looking west
- 2 Existing driveway leading to car park
- 3 Water reservoir tank with barbwire fencing
- 4 Adjacent Patonga Drive - looking east
- 5 Existing gravel path & entry gate to trail

\*Refer to Page 8, Figure 3 'Site analysis plan N.T.S' for on-site locations of images below



## 2.4 Internal Site Landscape Conditions

The Mount Ettalong pedestrian trail to lookouts is situated within native coastal bushland. It is intended that the landscape concept design response be sympathetic to the existing natural setting and shall minimise the amount of earthworks required.

Existing large rock boulders and strategically placed timber logs navigate gradient changes along the trail towards the southern and eastern vantage lookouts.

- 6** Established existing tree located in the middle of trail
- 7** Edge of existing gravel trail is marked by log
- 8** Existing path clearing near picnic seating area
- 9** Existing picnic / seating spot along trail
- 10** Eastern Lookout currently closed
- 11** Rock support underneath Eastern Lookout

\*Refer to Page 8, Figure 3 'Site analysis plan N.T.S' for on-site locations of images below



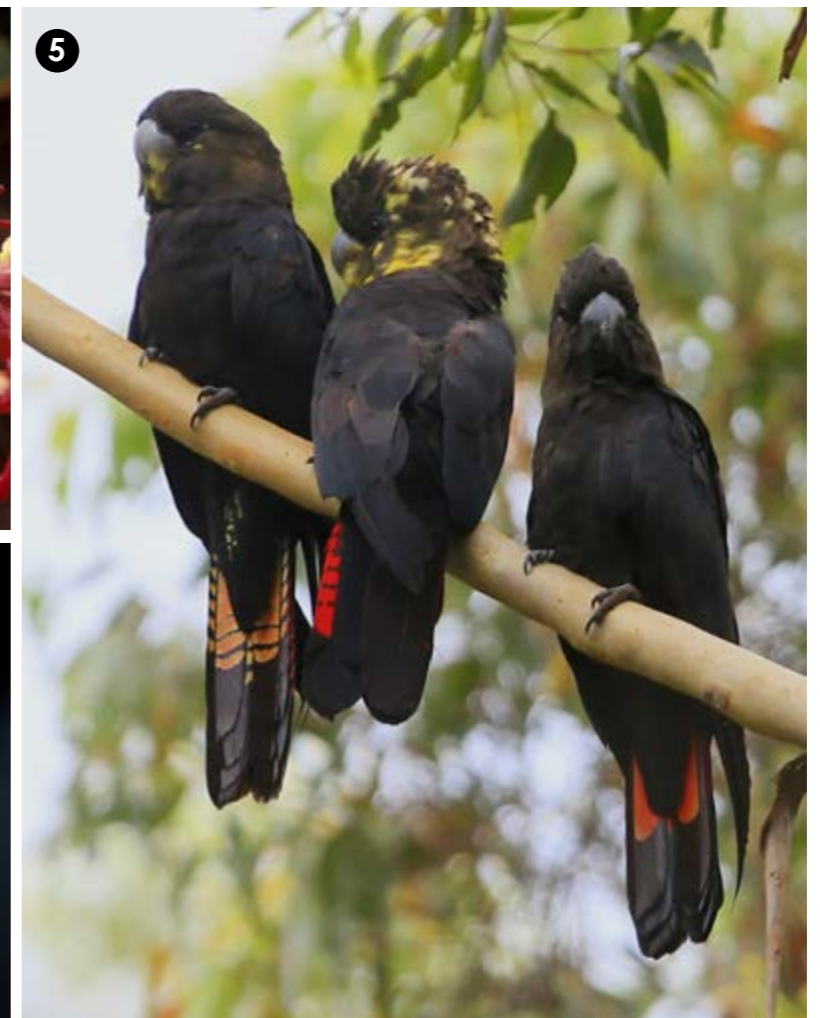
## 2.5 Existing Wildlife

The Mount Ettalong precinct is rich in local flora, fauna and biodiversity. It is of the utmost importance that existing endemic and local wildlife is protected and environments are retained throughout the landscape upgrade process. Some local birds and mammal wildlife that are known to frequent the site are listed below.

As a result, the works associated with this Landscape Concept and Masterplan proposal shall be restricted to retaining the existing general arrangement of pedestrian trails and access. The extent of works throughout the trail shall be confined to the placement of seating, directional and interpretive signs and the resurfacing of

the trail in materials that are sympathetic to the current conditions in an effort to preserve the existing landscape interface and ensure minimal disturbance to local flora and fauna.

- 1 *Tyto novaehollandiae* - Masked Owl
- 2 *Phoniscus papuensis* - Golden Tipped Bat
- 3 *Cercartetus nanus* - Eastern Pygmy-possum
- 4 *Petaurus norfolcensis* - Squirrel Glider
- 5 *Calyptorhynchus lathami* - Glossy Black-Cockatoo





03

# Community Consultation

### 3.1 Community Consultation - Key Design related findings

Council and Beveridge Williams conducted community consultation and online interactive mapping and face-to-face meetings, to gauge public interest in the project and to establish direction for the proposed design. These key findings will drive the outcomes of our design and assist to establish our design principles for the Mt Ettalong project.

From the consultation results we can ascertain that the majority of people who visit the site do not have a disability as noted in Figure 5. This could be attributed for the lack of Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant access throughout the site.

Seating and picnic amenities, set within a natural 'look & feel' with pathways similar to the existing arrangement was strongly supported as evident in Figures 4 and 6.

It was also noted that the majority people who visit the site do so 'several times a year' and carry out an array of active and passive outdoor activities, such as bush-walking, environmental bush care, photography and also weddings as per Figures 7 and 8.

From these findings it is clear that the landscape design response must be sympathetic and respectful of the existing environmental conditions and must provide improvements to the current access of key destinations.

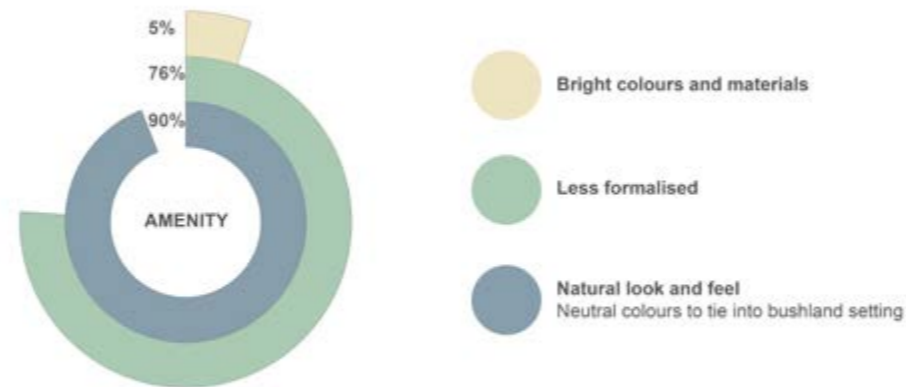


Figure 4: Participants' views towards look of amenity

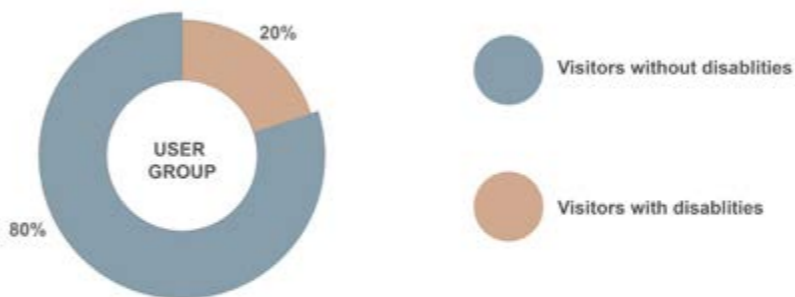


Figure 5: Participant group

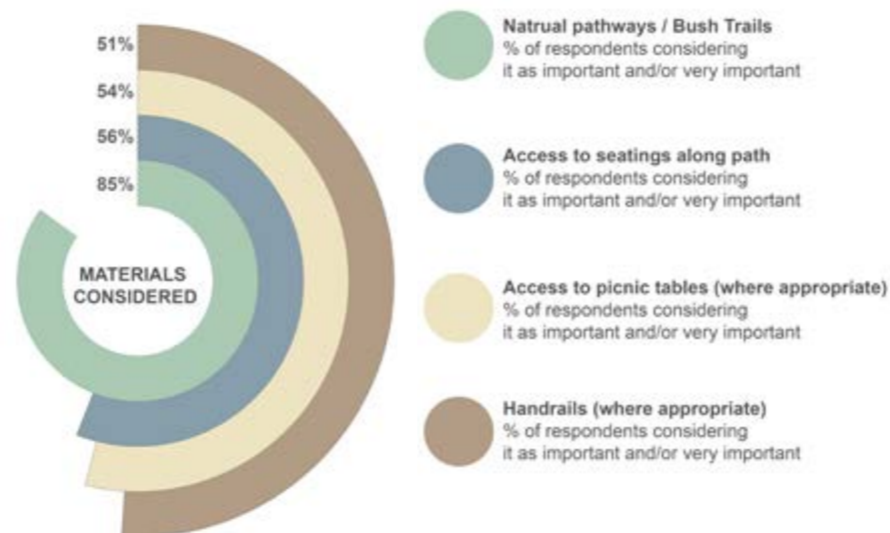


Figure 6: Participants' response towards access to materials

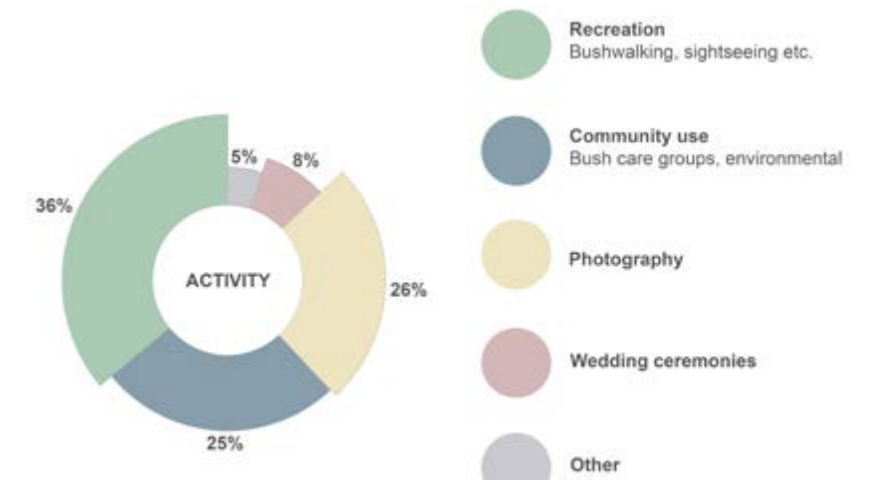


Figure 7: Activity types

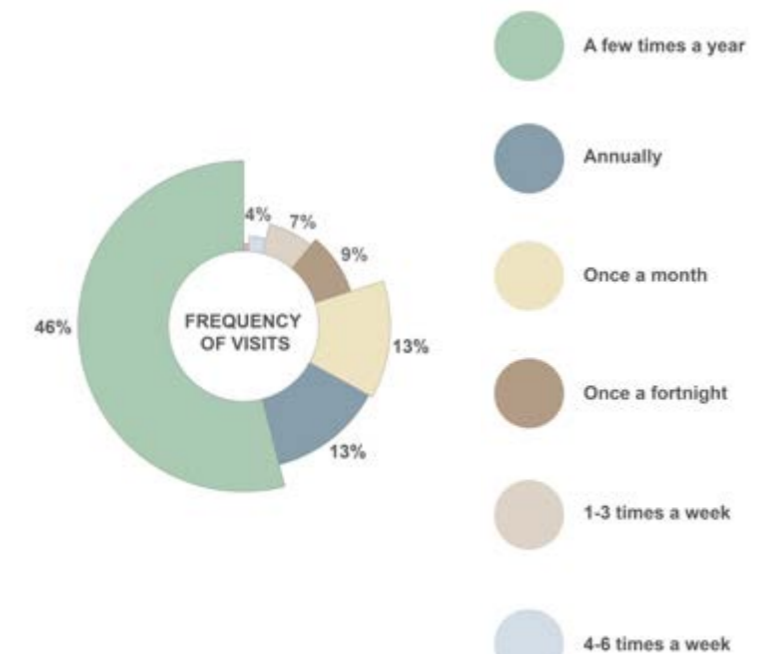


Figure 8: Frequency of visits



Figure 9: Preference on themes



## 4.1 Design Principles

This Landscape Concept Document prepared by Beveridge Williams sets forth the guiding principles for the landscape design of the Mount Ettalong Visitor and Lookout area.

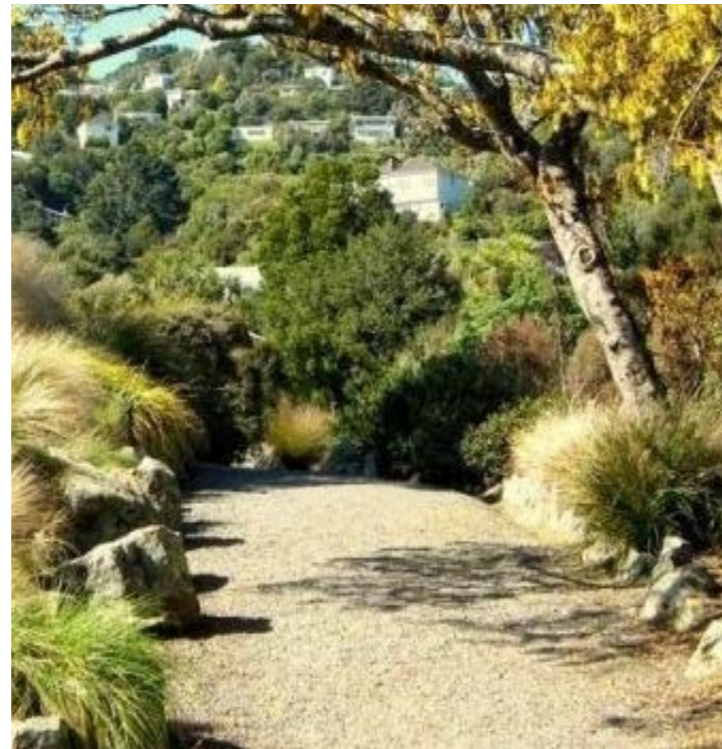
The landscape architectural design intent seeks to provide a light touch landscape response, where accessibility and safety to key lookout destinations is increased, while also creating an immersive user experience that respects the cultural and environmental heritage of the space.

The following general principles will form the landscape approach to the Mt Ettalong Trail and Lookout Concept:



### SENSITIVE TO SITE CONTEXT + ENVIRONMENT

- Provide a facility that harvests community participation, ownership and pride;
- Maximise opportunities for social and environmental interactions;
- Provide an immersive landscape experience where people are able to connect to nature, culture and geological places of significance



### ENABLE CONNECTIONS

- Ensure access for all is encouraged while retaining existing environmental conditions. Enable safe and legible pedestrian links and access;
- Provide clear directions of travel for those attending trail and lookouts;
- Provide opportunities for increased mental, social and physical well being through increased connections to nature.



### CULTURAL REPRESENTATION

- Respectfully acknowledge and express indigenous and cultural representation within specifically chosen designed aspects;
- Collaborate and engage with local traditional owners to ensure appropriate cultural representation is achieved.



### A LIGHT TOUCH LANDSCAPE RESPONSE

- Respect the existing environmental character and setting;
- Ensure designed items are suited to the intended placement and use onsite;
- Ensure minimal intervention in existing vegetated areas and places of wildlife habitat.

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## 4.2 Sustainability Principles

As part of the design philosophy, it is envisaged that a holistic approach should address aspects of environmental, social and cultural outcomes as well as the aesthetic nature of a design, as follows:



### INTEGRATE WATER MANAGEMENT / WSUD

- Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) treatments for carpark runoff through integrated use of native rain-gardens thereby working with natural ecological processes for water treatment;
- Minimise car park stormwater runoff and pollutants;
- Increase habitat for local and non-local flora and fauna through additional diverse WSUD garden bed planting at entry.



### PROVIDE VEGETATED SURFACES

- Minimise urban heat island effect;
- Improve overall site permeability and reduce stormwater runoff by retaining crushed rock trail surfacing;
- Increase overall site aesthetics and increase community experience and connection to place.



### INCREASE URBAN BIODIVERSITY

- Utilise species that attract local fauna;
- Compliment the existing landscape palette with additional tree, shrub, grass and indigenous species planting;
- Choose species that are climate resilient and adaptive to environmental changes.



## 4.3 Connections, Community, Health & Wellbeing

- Provide places of rest, celebrating views and natural landscape bush coastal setting; **1**
- Ensure safe pedestrian passage through the site while respectfully acknowledging the existing established vegetation and cultural heritage; **2**
- Use landscape features, planting and information signage to inform paths of access; **2 3**
- Celebrate existing views and vista points; **4**
- Provide access for all abilities where ever possible.

Indicative precedent images:





05

Landscape Concept

## 5.1 Overall Landscape Concept Plan

The landscape design response for the overall works will commence with the redesign and formalisation of the existing car park. Clear pedestrian connections and a formalised paved entry area with seating and signage will announce the threshold into the Mt Ettalong trail and lookouts.

The trail itself shall remain mostly unchanged, only with crushed sandstone rock resurfacing to ensure a level ground surface is achieved. Provisions of wayfinding signage and location markers will be placed at key locations providing visitors with distance, cultural and environmental specific information.

Seating and picnic table amenities shall be provided at regular intervals along the trail to ensure rest and respite opportunities are provided. Seating will also be provided at strategic locations where visitors can passively occupy and appreciate the environment in which they are immersed.

The existing southern lookout shall be retained as is while the further eastern lookout will be redeveloped, where the structural integrity, general amenity and appearance is updated and increased.

Detailed plans of specific areas of interest are shown further in this document.

### LEGEND

- 1 Re-aligned driveway off Patonga Drive
- 2 Re-designed DDA compliant carpark
- 3 Entry landscape with feature paving seating node
- 4 Existing water reservoir
- 5 Existing gate
- 6 Proposed seating along the trail (new)
- 7 Proposed picnic table & benches along trail
- 8 Alternate DDA compliant viewing area with sandstone bench seating
- 9 Existing lookout to be retained
- 10 Eastern lookout to be re-designed
- 11 Trail to be re-surfaced with granitic sand
- 12 Locations of large in-ground rocks (all to be retained)
- i Indicative locations of way-finding signage



Figure 10: Overall Concept Plan - Scale as shown

## 5.2 Carpark and Pedestrian Entry Plan

The resurfaced carpark entry will provide an unambiguous arrangement where vehicle parking bays are formalised and pedestrian access is clear, safe and intuitive.

With additional vehicle linemarking and a dedicated DDA compliant car space, the redesigned carpark and pedestrian entry shall provide a safe and accessible place for visitors to access and enter the Mt Ettalong lookout trail. It is proposed that WSUD garden beds be located surrounding the carpark extents, to both soften the car park interface with existing bushland and to enable carpark runoff to be naturally filtered and

treated.

The Mt Ettalong lookout trail entry encourages a 'sense of arrival' through sandstone seating blocks, decorative surface paving and facility signage. Formalised gates ensure that the site can be controlled and closed thereby discouraging anti-social behavior.

The landscape concept plan provides the opportunity for cultural representation to be expressed within stone paving surface treatments and in the 'Welcoming Signage' located at the entry threshold, which will also help form the sites' identity.

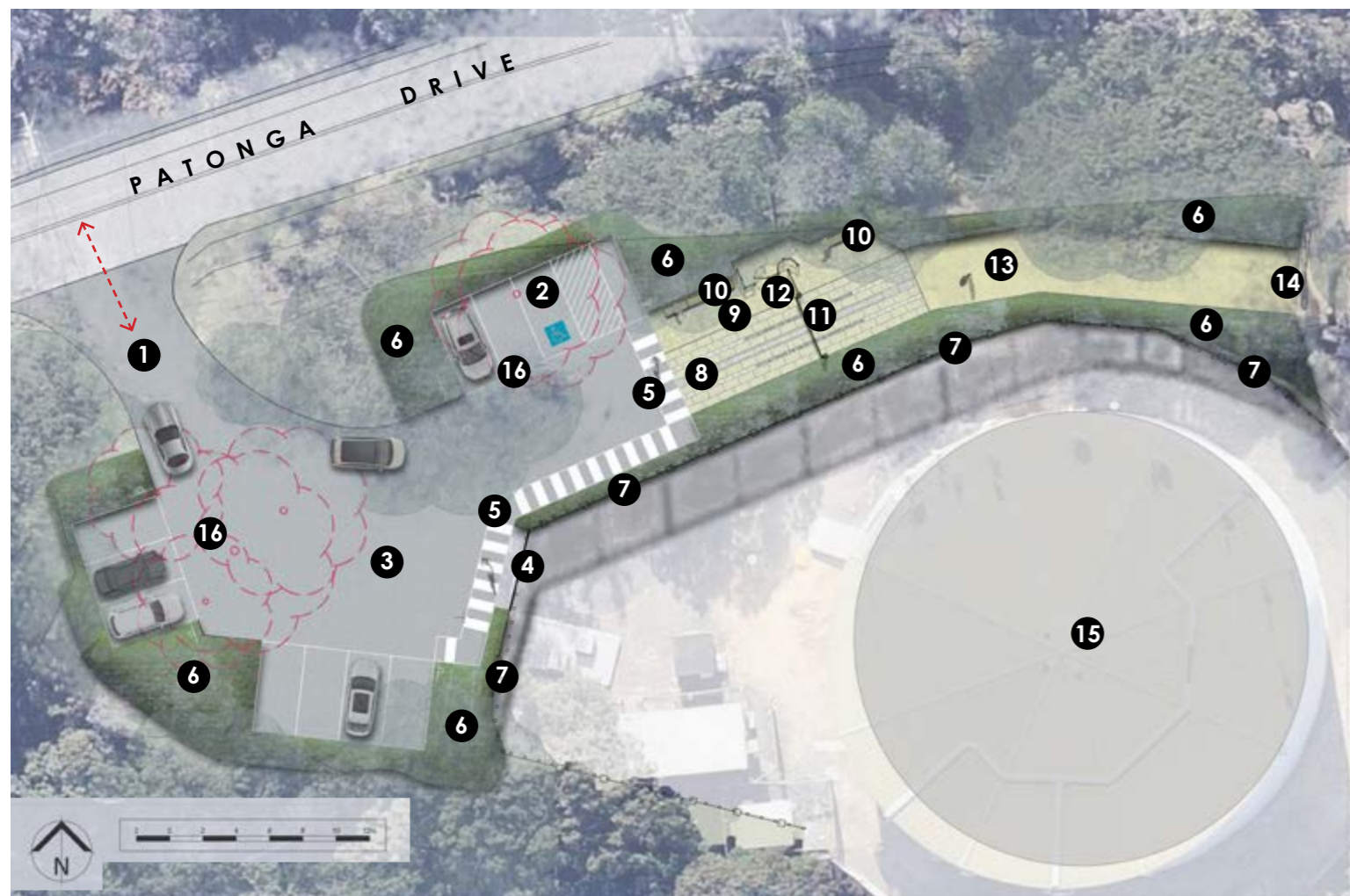


Figure 11: Car park & Entry Concept Plan - Scale as shown

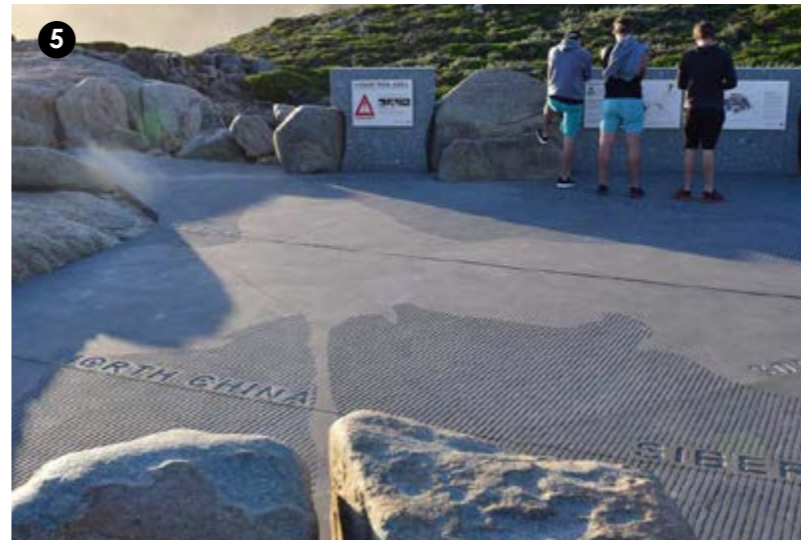
### LEGEND

- ① Re-aligned driveway off Patonga Drive
- ② DDA compliant car parking space
- ③ Driveway re-surfaced with bitumen
- ④ Existing gate to water reservoir
- ⑤ Pedestrian linemarking for increased safe access
- ⑥ Proposed garden bed / WSUD planting
- ⑦ Screening fence with consideration for vertical climbing plants
- ⑧ Sandstone pavers with text etching along bands
- ⑨ Sandstone paving for pedestrian access
- ⑩ Sandstone seating plinths encourage suggest a 'meeting place'
- ⑪ Proposed vehicular gate
- ⑫ Proposed pedestrian and wheel chair access gate
- ⑬ Crushed sandstone pathway
- ⑭ Existing entry gate to start of trail
- ⑮ Water reservoir tank
- ⑯ Existing trees to be removed as part of works

### 5.3 Car Park, Entry & Water Reservoir

- Provide timber bollard fencing and placement of rocks to contain car park space; **1 2**
- Clad existing fence mesh with species that encourage vertical climbing to soften the Reservoir fencing interface. Ensure adequate plant spacing so visual surveillance through fence is maintained; **3 4**
- Opportunity to incorporate endemic vertical climbing plants to blend fence better with natural surrounds; **3 4**
- Opportunity to incorporate cultural representation through etched paving treatments; **5**
- Incorporate WSUD treatments for runoff through integrated use of native rain-gardens; **6 7**
- Minimise removal of tree and vegetation within area;
- Provide clear and safe pedestrian access through car park to start of Mt Ettalong lookout nature trail.

Indicative precedent design images:



5.4 Entry Montage



\*Landscape Architects impression only

## 5.5 Trail and Furniture

- Re-level, resurface and grade path with crushed sandstone rock to ensure safer access throughout trail, noting existing path alignment and layout to remain unchanged; **1**
- Ensure a variety of seating to allow for all ability access, backrests, arm rests, picnic and flexible bench seating; **2 3 4**
- Provide robust Way-finding & Information Signage at key locations, with possibility to incorporate cultural representation in layout. **5 6**

- Seated rest stops are provided at regular locations along the trail;

Indicative precedent design images:



5.6 Trail Montage



\*Landscape Architects impression only



## 5.7 Eastern Lookout Concept Plan

The Mt Ettalong pedestrian trail guides visitors to the furthestmost point at which visitors are presented with the reconfigured Eastern Lookout.

Hexagon in layout, the reconfigured lookout seeks to maximise 180° views towards Umina beach, Box Head and Broken Bay. A flush timber decking leads visitors onto the lookout structure, which could then raise and fold into seated timber benches with arm & back rests.

Marine grade stainless steel (Heel guard) mesh provides a light touch but robust structure which floats and anchors into the existing rock surface. The structure cantilevers over the cliff edge, further connecting visitors to the expansive views.

Steel rod balustrades are provided as a contemporary, low maintenance material that safely allow people to hold, steady themselves and safely enjoy and appreciate this unique environment.

The Landscape Concept plan encourages further collaboration and engagement with the traditional owners of the site, to explore opportunities for cultural representation within design of balustrades, seats and mesh surfaces.

### LEGEND

- ❶ Timber entry ramp (to suitable grade) with seating nook / rest point
- ❷ Timber deck to finish flush with steel mesh platform
- ❸ Raised timber deck (1 x step up) for increased viewing
- ❹ Consideration for timber seating with back and arm rests
- ❺ Heel Guard mesh viewing platform (Marine Grade)
- ❻ Stainless Steel Rod Balustrade (Marine Grade)

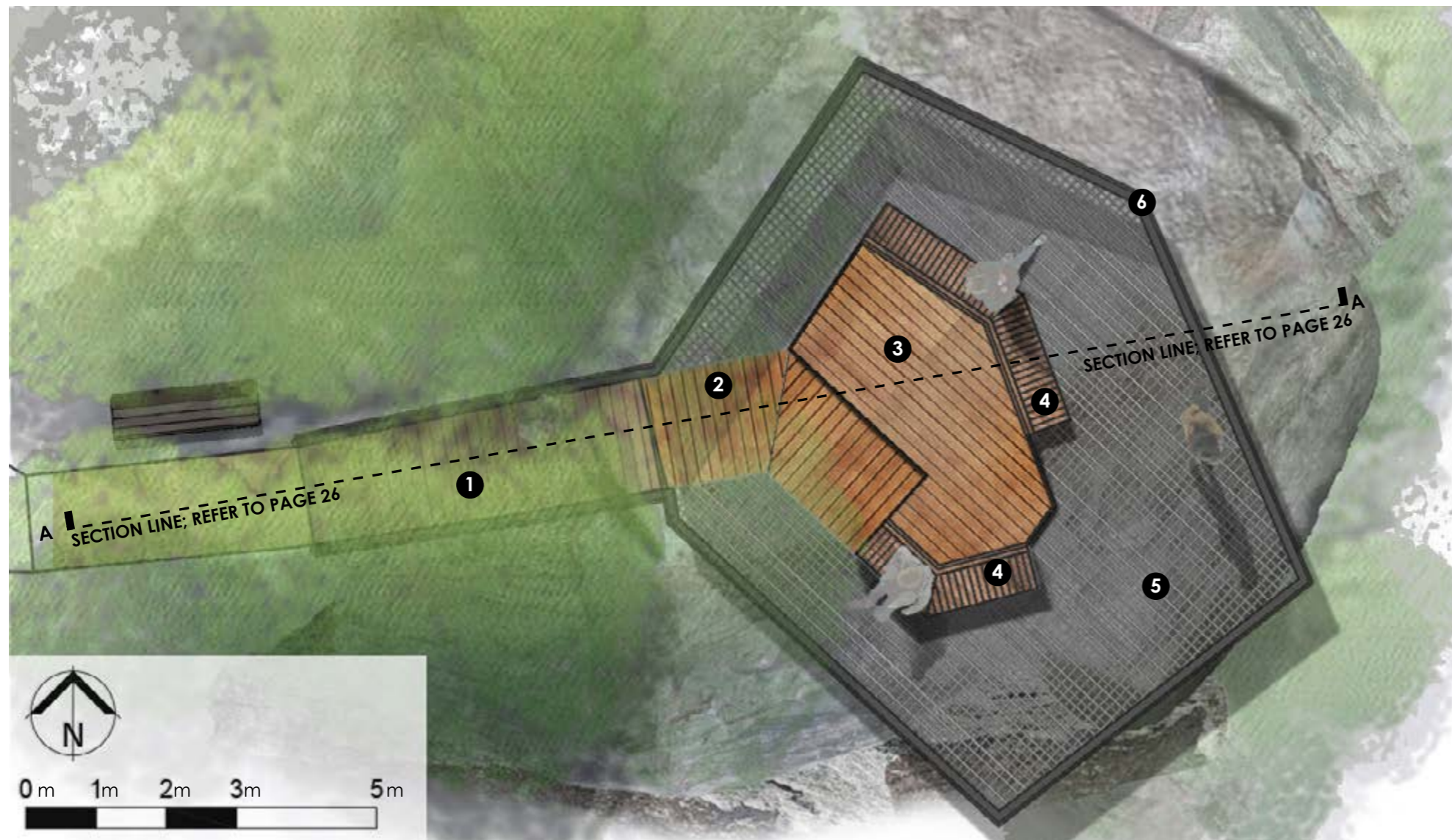


Figure 12: Eastern Lookout Concept Plan - Scale as shown

## 5.8 Eastern Lookout Section

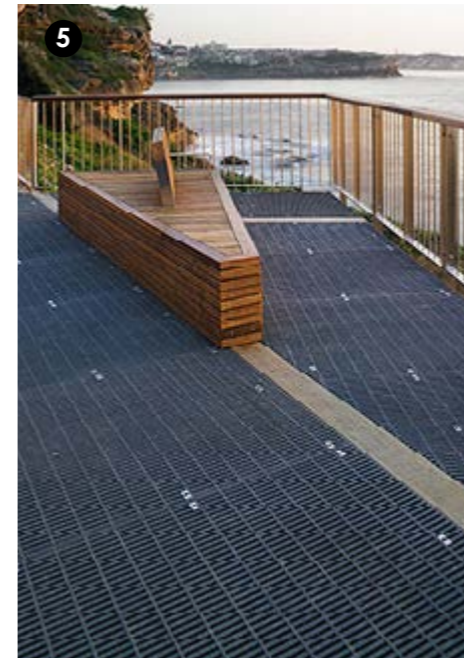


Figure 13: Eastern Lookout Concept Section A-A - Scale as shown

## 5.9 Eastern Lookout Material & Finishes

- Steel rod balustrades provide a contemporary, low maintenance material that safely allow people to hold and enjoy views; **1 2 3**
- Consideration of angled seating decks with backings and armrest provide wide views out to the south east / east, north & north east; **2 3**
- Steel mesh surface finishes flush with the timber decking, and provide a light touch surface, that floats on-top of the rock platform; **4 5**
- Opportunity to include Indigenous and Flora / Fauna representation in surface finishes and furniture items. Eg. Stingray referenced in Balustrade handrail or a phrase written in dialect and etched in timber etc. **6 7 8**

Indicative precedent design images:



5.10 Eastern Lookout Montage



\*Landscape Architects impression only



06

# Planting & Materials Palette

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## 6.1 Planting Composition

- Celebrate existing landscape features through plant retention;
- Provide a light touch landscape response that seeks to compliment and enhance the existing landscape conditions;
- Use planting at entry area to inform the entrance to the Mt Ettalong trail and lookouts thereby contributing to site identity and character;



## 6.2 Suggested Planting Palette

The planting palette for Mt Ettalong Pedestrian Trail and Lookout will utilise indigenous, hardy and low maintenance species, which are endemic to the local region and assist to support local biodiversity.

Planting will reference the existing coastal bushland while also formalising the trail entry and assisting in WSUD principals to the redesigned car park. Plants with vertical creeping characteristic will be incorporated to assist with screening and greening fencing facade of the existing Water Reservoir.



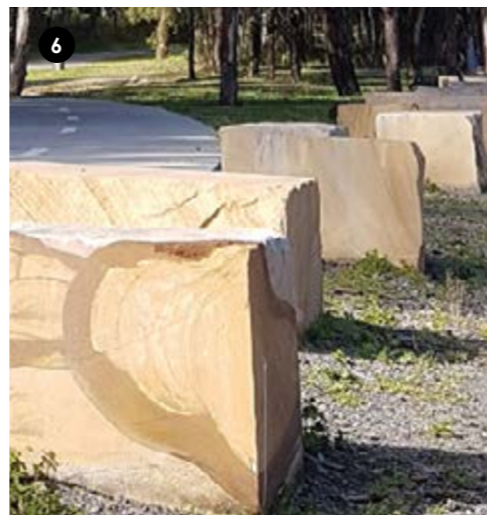
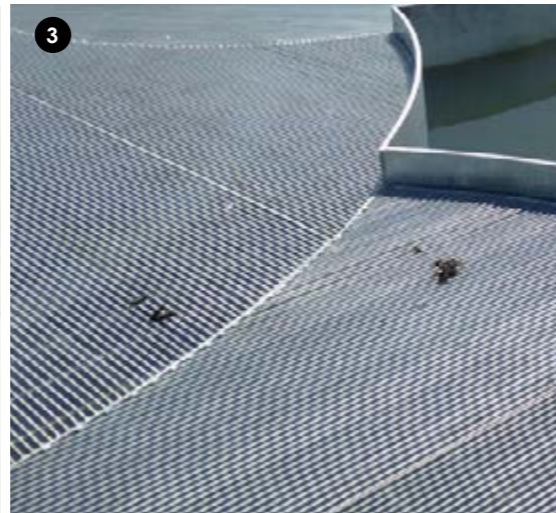
### LEGEND

- 1 *Banksia spinulosa* 'Birthday Candles' / Prostrate Banksia
- 2 *Poa labillardieri* / Tussock Grass
- 3 *Epacris longiflora* / Fuchsia Heath
- 4 *Goodenia ovata* / Hop goodenia
- 5 *Grevillea sericea* / Pink Spider Flower
- 6 *Hardenbergia violacea* 'Happy Wanderer' / Purple Coral Pea
- 7 *Tetradlea thymifolia* / Thyme Pink-Bells
- 8 *Westringia fruticosa* / Coastal Rosemary

## 6.3 Hardscape Surface Materials Palette

The hardscape surface material palette utilises hard wearing, low maintenance materials that reference the heritage of the site, while also complimenting the natural bush coastal character.

Indicative precedent images:



### LEGEND

- 1 Sandstone paving announce key thresholds;
- 2 Steel rod balustrades provide a contemporary, low maintenance material that safely allow people to hold and enjoy views;
- 3 Steel mesh (Heel Guard Marine Grade) provides a light touch but tactile surface with timber seating allowing wide views at eastern lookout;
- 4 Opportunity for endemic cultural representation to be expressed within stone paving surface treatments and in the 'Welcoming Signage' located at the entry threshold;
- 5 Wayfinding bollard signage throughout the trail and close to lookouts and rest nodes, to provide visitors with distance, cultural and environmental specific information;
- 6 Sandstone seating blocks at trail entry to provide respite from parking and sense of arrival;
- 7 Trail to be resurfaced with crushed sandstone rock to ensure achieve a level ground surface.



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