

Rainbow Beach Reserve Master Plan

February 2026



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Yii Birrbay Barray

This is Birpai Country

Nyura yii gu mara la barray gu, nyaa- gi, ngarra gi

You have come here, to the country to see, listen and remember

Gathay Nyiirun Wakulda

Let's all go together as one

We acknowledge that we are on Birpai Country and pay respect to all elders past and present. We acknowledge the ongoing connection to the traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waters of the Port Macquarie Hastings region.

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OVERVIEW

A popular recreational destination for the local community, regional visitors, water sports enthusiasts and national and international tourists, Rainbow Beach Reserve in Bonny Hills attracts people of all ages and abilities. The Rainbow Beach Reserve Master Plan (hereafter referred to as the Master Plan) assesses existing site conditions, applies principles presented in the 2022 Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan and is informed by community and stakeholder engagement.

A surf beach with vegetated sand dune foreshore forms the east boundary of the reserve. The mouth of “Little Vinegar” creek borders the reserve to the north and remnants of littoral rainforest are located both to the north and south. A residential community neighbours the reserve to the west and south and tourist holiday parks are situated to the north and south. Ocean Drive, an arterial road, runs along the southern boundary.

Within the reserve, a double-story building houses the Wauchope-Bonny Hills Surf Lifesaving Club (SLSC) emergency services, a cafe, toilets and an event hall. A bitumen carpark runs along the southern beachfront with a driveway entrance from Beach Street. The sloping lawn to the north of the building is frequently used for informal overflow carparking. Between the southern carpark and the beach, the “grassy knoll” is an informal but important social gathering space, highly valued by the community. Pedestrian pathways connect the building and the carparking to the street south of the reserve. Multiple access points along the foreshore, including a viewing deck in front of the lifeguard tower, connect the reserve to the beach. A toilet amenity building includes an outdoor shower and another shower and bubbler is located between the beach and the carpark. A play space and outdoor fitness equipment are located in the centre of the reserve, close to Beach Street. The northern area of the reserve has multiple picnic and barbeque amenities and a highly-valued open space for recreational activities.

To ensure the reserve meets the needs of the community and optimises recreational opportunities, the creation of a Master Plan is essential. This plan will serve as a strategic framework for the management and enhancement of the Rainbow Beach Reserve. By implementing a Master Plan, Council can guarantee that the reserve



remains well-maintained and effectively managed, catering to the diverse needs of residents and visitors alike.

The vision for the Rainbow Beach Reserve includes upgraded pathways and facilities, enhanced landscaping and drainage systems and improved car parking layout. This approach aims to foster physical activity, social interaction, safety and overall accessibility among users.

With thoughtful planning and active community participation, Rainbow Beach Reserve will continue to flourish as a welcoming hub for a variety of recreational activities, providing an inviting environment for all who visit.

The sensitivities and opportunities presented by the Birpai culture which once thrived in this rich coastal environment are considered in upgrade proposals. This Master Plan will guide the future management and development of this valued community space. The plan will balance environmental protection, recreation, space utilisation, and community need to ensure the reserve continues to be a safe, inclusive, functional and sustainable space for future generations.

When finalised later this year, this Master Plan report will present a set of prioritised project initiatives, to be realised in stages as funding becomes available over the coming years. Priorities will be determined based on stakeholder needs, feasibility and feedback received during the continued public engagement process.





DESIGN PRINCIPLES

In addition to the community's vision for the space, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (Council)'s overarching design principles provide a reference point and a commitment to achieving a design that is socially, environmentally and economically responsible. The following principles underpin the design for the Rainbow Beach Reserve Master Plan:

1. Ensure Country is cared for

appropriately and sensitive sites are protected by continuing to enable Aboriginal people's access to their homelands to continue their cultural practices.

- **Safe spaces.** Parks including their upgrades and new elements should be located and designed to provide a safe and user friendly environment.
- **Accessible and equitable.** The Council is committed to creating and maintaining equitable access to its parks and reserves for the community.
- **Cost effective.** Maintenance costs and whole of life cycle asset costs for parks represent a significant part of the Council's budget. These costs are ultimately passed onto the community through rates.
- **Relevant to community needs and expectations.** Reserves should reflect the natural environment and local community values and needs while also considering Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- **Socially and environmentally sustainable.** Council is committed to

progressing the concept of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) to ensure enhanced individual and community wellbeing, welfare, equity within and between generations, to ensure the protection of biological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes.

- **Lifestyle flexibility.** Reserves must be designed to be flexible and adaptable to the changing demographics of the area.
- **Protect and enhance natural and heritage features and values.** This includes, but is not limited to ensuring that communities can access and enjoy these features, and that they remain intact for future generations, that biosecurity risks are minimised through planting appropriate native species.
- **Innovative.** It is important that the design is innovative in its regard to form and function and response to existing environment and surrounds.
- **Purpose built.** An individual design response is required for each setting, site and community.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK

The *Imagine 2050 Community Strategic Plan* envisions Port Macquarie LGA as the most livable, sustainable, and innovative place in Australia. The community values its high quality of life and aims to adopt thoughtful practices that leverage opportunities in a mindful and resilient way. To support this vision, five community outcomes have been identified:

1. PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE
2. LIVEABLE
3. ENVIRONMENT
4. ECONOMY
5. LEADERSHIP

The *Delivery Program 2025-2029* breaks these themes down into specific, achievable objectives, with the Liveable theme being particularly relevant to the Rainbow Beach Reserve Master Plan. Below are the key goals that this Master Plan aims to achieve:

- We enjoy easy access to clean, green and blue spaces and a wide range of active and passive cultural, sporting and recreational activities
- Protect, enhance and maximise the use of existing public open space and expand in line with the needs of our community

Overall, the Rainbow Beach Reserve Master Plan is designed to foster a safe, connected, and dynamic community space that meets a variety of interests. It aims to facilitate easy movement throughout the reserve while ensuring that all developments are grounded in thoughtful planning and robust infrastructure.



PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS AND DATA

LAND OWNERSHIP

Rainbow Beach Reserve is managed by the Port Macquarie Hastings Council but is located on Crown Land.

COASTAL ECOLOGY PROTECTION

Remnants of protected littoral rainforests at either end of the Rainbow Beach Reserve coastline and fragile foredunes present limitations to the expansion of recreational spaces and structures. These sensitive areas do not necessarily exclude low impact recreational upgrades, but require a higher level of consideration and approvals.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Rainbow Beach has significant current and forecast erosion issues related to climate change and sea level rise. Increasing erosion and long-term shoreline recession are recognised as significant risks to the reserve and community infrastructure within it.

A Coastal Management Program (CMP) is currently being developed by Council encompassing the greater coastal zone, which is not yet formally approved and thus not yet able to inform this Master Plan. The CMP includes a Coastal Hazard Assessment that quantifies risks due to coastal hazards and processes and will assist in planning suitable mitigation approaches for these hazards at Rainbow Beach.

NATIVE VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Dune Tuckeroo Littoral Rainforest borders the east edge of the pathway in the southern part of Rainbow Beach Reserve. This plant community is a low to tall closed forest dominated by Tuckeroo (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) occurring with White Aspen (*Acronychia oblongifolia*), Jackwood (*Cryptocarya glaucescens*), Black Plum (*Diospyros australis*), Guioa (*Guioa semiglauca*) and other species.

Banksia / She-oak Woodland grows along the foreshore and headland. These plant communities are dwarf to low open forest or woodland co-dominated by Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) and Black She-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) growing in association with Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) and less frequently *Corymbia intermedia* and *Angophora floribunda*.

WALKING AND CYCLING PLAN

This plan encompasses the entire Port-Macquarie Hastings Local Government Area (LGA) and was completed by Council in 2025.

The Walking and Cycling Plan proposes an all ages and ability walking and cycling facility through Rainbow Beach Reserve, a footpath connecting Ocean Drive to the Reserve and a local path / quiet street along Beach Street.

PLANNING ZONES TENURE OWNERSHIP



-  Crown Land (LPI)
-  Crown Land Reserve
-  Road Ownership NSW Government



State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 2021 Resilience and Hazards

- Littoral Rainforests
- Proximity Area for Littoral

- 9 - Dune Tuckerroo Littoral Rainforest
- 47 - Coast Banksia - Black She-oak Headland Woodland
- 48 - Coast Banksia - Coastal She-oak Headland Woodland
- 65 - Broad-leaved Paperbark - Mixed Eucalypt Swamp Forest Complex

- Educational Facility
- High Activity Hub/ Town Centre
- Steep Hill (Arrows Point Up Hill)
- Crossing Facilities**
 - Crossing Facility (Existing)
 - Signalled Crossing (Existing)
 - Crossing Facility (Proposed)
- Strategic Active Mode Network**
 - Footpath Strategic (Proposed)
 - All Ages and Ability Walking and Cycling Facility (Proposed)
 - All Ages Ability Strategic Network Shared Path (Existing)
- Local Street & Park Area Active Mode Path Network**
 - Local Path/ Quiet Street (Proposed)
 - Footpath (Proposed)
 - Local Path Through Parks/ Reserves (Proposed)
 - Footpath (Existing)
 - Walking Trail (Existing)
 - Shared Path (Existing)

PREVIOUS PLANNING DOCUMENTS

A master plan for the reserves in Bonny Hills was first prepared in 2012. Since then additional community planning has been completed (documents summarised below). Several of the elements proposed in these plans have since been completed.

Previous planning documents have informed the current Master Plan for Rainbow Beach Reserve. The 2022 update to the Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan recommended a separate master plan be prepared exclusively for Rainbow Beach Reserve.

2012 BONNY HILLS RESERVES MASTER PLAN

This plan recommended the following design elements for the Rainbow Beach Reserve:

1. Pedestrian / cycle path and coastal walk through the reserve focused on slow recreational cycling.
2. Formalised pavement for car parking along Beach Street, with bollard separation.
3. Enhance, protect and maintain dune vegetation:
 - revegetate / under-plant trees and shrubs
 - restrict access with inconspicuous fencing
 - cater for beach access with a mix of steps and ramps
 - install rock revetment.
4. Replace the toilet block with a smaller building closer to the access road and playground. Include outdoor shower/wash station.

5. Restore the damaged lawn in the overflow carparking area, restrict vehicle access and monitor. In the long term formalise and cater for car parking toward the rear / west of the reserve as demand requires, including associated shade tree planting.

6. Mass-plant steep slope north of Ocean Drive.

2019 BONNY HILLS COMMUNITY PLAN

The vision for Bonny Hills indicates that residents enjoy their stunning natural environment and wildlife in a close-knit community that celebrates its seaside village character and remains well connected to surrounding towns. The goals encompassed in this vision are:

- Maintain and enhance village character.
- Maintain the natural environment.
- Ensure safe access and movement of people around and through the community.
- Manage future growth to ensure that the inclusive nature of the community is not lost.

2022 BONNY HILLS RESERVES MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Design to be developed for Rainbow Beach Reserve with the following considerations:

- Weed removal / regeneration of native species along foreshore
- Address lack of parking in reserve.

- Access for Wauchope-Bonny Hills SLSC to be improved and address conflict with parking including service/emergency vehicle manoeuvre & laydown area.
- Pedestrian movement through reserve to be reviewed.
- Beach access upgraded (current location).
- Service / emergency vehicle manoeuvre and laydown area.
- Beach access and viewing platform improved and shall incorporate disabled access and showers.
- Provide community gathering space(s) and opportunity to hold markets and events.
- Upgrade playground incorporating exercise equipment, shade, shelters and seating etc.
- Provide more seating, bbq and shelters in wider reserve.
- Existing toilets to be expanded to include additional toilet, baby change table, internal shower and change area.
- Wayfinding signage at decision making points.
- Incorporation of public art
- Address coastal erosion issues and site drainage.

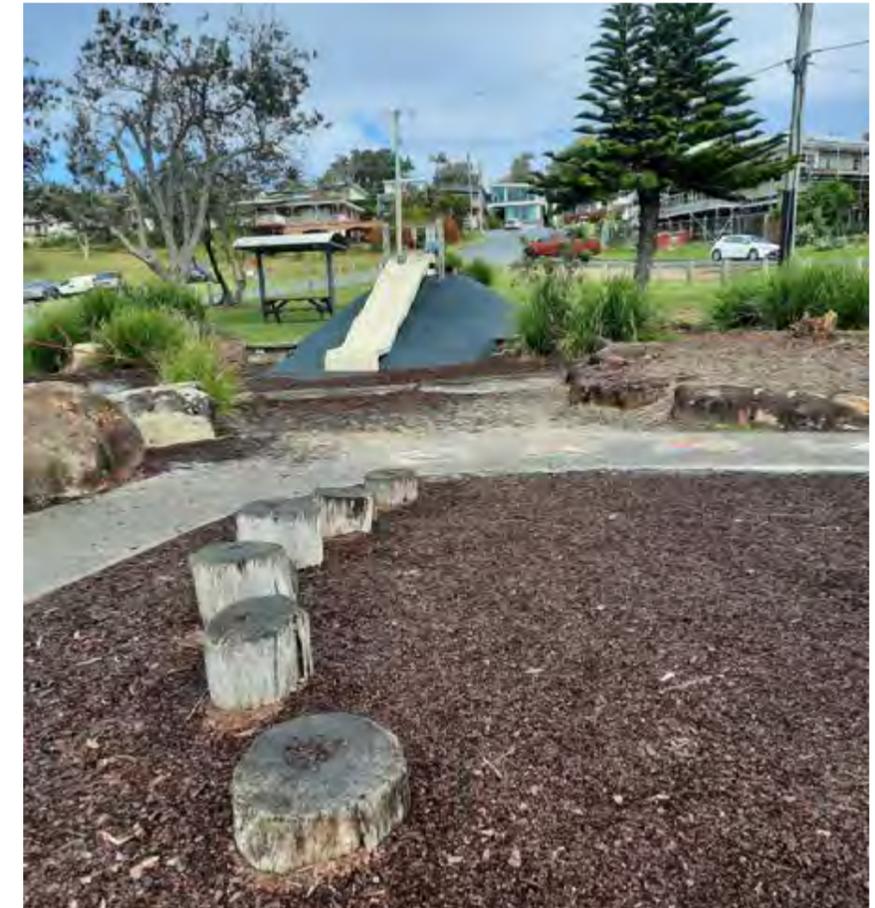


EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

These photos (continued overleaf) show existing conditions including various site issues that are addressed in the proposed master plan design.



The “grassy knoll”



Play Space



Surf Lifesaving Club (SLSC) building



Open grass activity area



Outdoor Fitness Equipment



Stairs down from Ocean Drive boardwalk



South pathway entrance



Utilities



Sculptural seat



Back of the SLSC building



Picnic and barbeque area



Interpretive signage



Beachfront carpark



North entrance from Beach Street



Beach access ramp (south)



Beach access stairs (to be replaced in 2026)



Viewing deck and beach access stairs (to be replaced in 2026)



Beach access stairs (middle)



Beach access stairs (north)



Former beach access (now closed) near "Little Vinegar" creek



Cafe pathway entrance



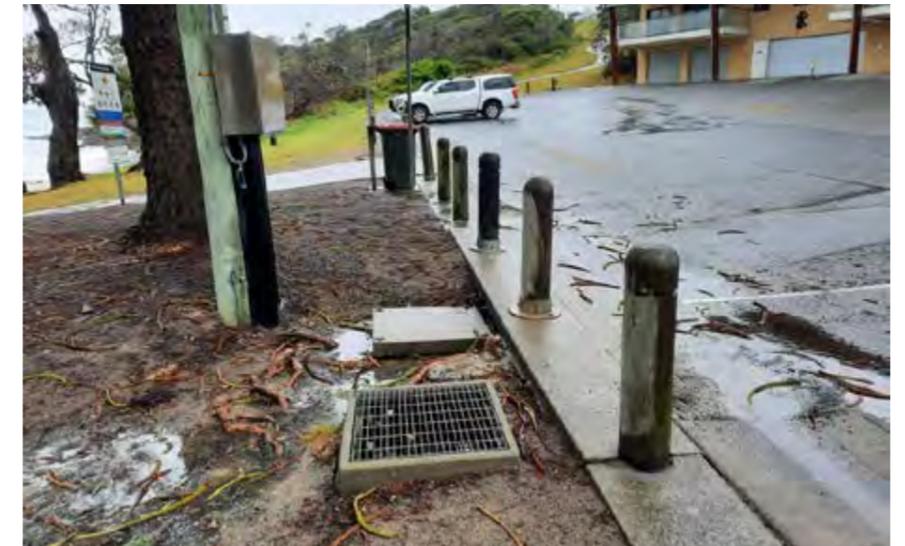
SLSC accessible entrance



Foreshore erosion control measures (temp.)



Drainage inlet in grass open space



Drainage inlet near carpark



Overflow carpark rutting



Mouth of "Little Vinegar" creek

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

LEGEND

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|----------------------|--|-----------------|--|-------------------------|--|--------------------|--|--------------|
| | MASTER PLAN BOUNDARY | | BUILDING ROLLER DOOR | | RETAINING WALL | | SEWER MANHOLE | | SIGN POST | | PAPERBARK |
| | GIS BOUNDARIES | | GARDEN ROCK | | GARDEN EDGE | | SEWER INSPECTION OUTLET | | STORM WATER PIT | | NORFOLK PINE |
| | GIS WATERMAIN DISUSED | | HAND RAIL | | LIP OF KERB | | ELECTRICITY PIT | | TELSTRA PIT | | CARROTWOOD |
| | GIS WATERMAIN | | CONCRETE PATH | | INVERT OF KERB | | LIGHT POLE | | SURVEY MARK GIP | | BANKSIA |
| | GIS SEWER GRAVITY | | EDGE OF CONCRETE | | TOP OF KERB | | WATER METER | | EXISTING TREE | | SHEOAK |
| | GIS STORM WATER | | PLAYGROUND | | EDGE OF BITUMEN | | WATER HYDRANT | | 0.1m CONTOUR LINES | | |
| | UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY | | PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT | | | | WATER STOP VALVE | | SPOT LEVEL | | |
| | TELSTRA CABLE | | BOTTOM OF BANK | | | | BOLLARD | | | | |
| | BUILDING | | TOP OF BANK | | | | GARBAGE BIN | | | | |





Ocean Drive, an arterial road, runs along the southern boundary of the reserve.

A residential community neighbours the reserve to the west and south.

Littoral rainforest remnant.

Littoral rainforest remnant.

A surf beach with vegetated sand dune foreshore forms the east boundary of the Reserve.

The mouth of "Little Vinegar" creek borders the reserve to the north.

SITE ASSESSMENT PLAN

LEGEND*

-  Master Plan boundary
 -  Proposed all ages and ability walking & cycling facility (per Council's 2025 Walking & Cycling Plan)
 -  Proposed footpath (per Council's 2025 Walking & Cycling Plan)
 -  Park pathway
 -  Accessible parking
 -  Beach access
 -  Bike rack
 -  Carparking access
 -  Emergency vehicle route
 -  Bubbler / shower station
 -  Toilet amenities
 -  First Aid and Cafe
 -  BBQ facilities
 -  Steep slope
 -  Open grass area
 -  Sea views
 -  Salt spray direction
- * Refer to Legend on page 16 for existing conditions items.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

SEASONAL VISITATION

Rainbow Beach includes a large expanse of sand, a patrolled area for safe swimming, good surf breaks and a dog area further to the north so it's a popular recreational destination, attracting families and water-sports enthusiasts from the local community and around the region.

The Wauchope-Bonny Hills SLSC hosts a Nippers program Sunday mornings during the summer sport season - an example of carparking patterns during a Nippers event is shown in the aerial photo below. In addition to this, national and international sporting events are occasionally held here, attracting large crowds from out of region.



The popularity of the beach and the pressures on the reserve dramatically increase in the warmer months. Pressures include insufficient parking, traffic congestion and pedestrian conflicts.

COASTAL EROSION

This coastal environment is under growing threat due to climate change and sea level rise, requiring considered and resilient long term solutions. In particular, the outlet of "Little Vinegar" creek to the north of the reserve periodically carves out sand. Interim measures are currently being implemented to curtail ongoing coastal erosion threats; in the long term these need to be replaced with more durable and aesthetically cohesive permanent structures.

A Coastal Management Program encompassing the greater ecosystem is currently being developed by Council, however this program has not yet been formally approved so is not available to inform this Master Plan.

CONNECTIVITY

Concrete pathways built in the south part of the reserve connect the back of the SLSC building to the footpath on Ocean Drive, however some of the pathways are quite steep so are not accessible for people using mobility devices. There is a gap between the path and the carpark so the only unbroken route to the cafe at the upper level of the building is to walk on the concrete service road, potentially causing an unsafe condition where pedestrians and vehicles are in conflict. Some cafe customers and event hall visitors prefer to drive up the service road and park on the lawn to gain easier access to the upper level of the building.

All of the timber stairs down to Rainbow Beach are nearing end of life. There is an opportunity to upgrade some of these access points to be more accessible when they are replaced. The viewing deck and stairs near the lifeguard tower are scheduled to be replaced in 2026.

Emergency vehicles require access to the service entrance north of the building to transport people from the beach that require first aid. The south-east part of the building requires clear access at all times to allow emergency vehicles to move between the garage and the beach.

VEGETATION

Remnants of protected littoral rainforest are located both to the north and south of the reserve. A native community of coastal headland woodland vegetation grows on the sand dune foreshore within the reserve, however some of the Banksia and She-oak trees are dead or dying so there is an opportunity for succession planting to regenerate the foreshore ecosystem. Norfolk Island Pines planted along the carpark and within the play space and picnic area are the dominant tree silhouette in the park. Although not native to the area, these large trees provide shade and frame views.

DRAINAGE

Parts of the reserve periodically experience puddling and washouts after heavy rains when the underground infiltration drainage system becomes clogged. An example of a recent washout is shown below.



The stormwater network within the reserve relies on infiltration with underground slotted pipe lengths buried in the sand to disperse water below ground. The issue is that sand accumulation from car park areas, shower runoff, and from wind movement accumulates sand into the numerous pits and eventually blocks the pipe system causing stormwater surcharge and scour.

TOPOGRAPHY

The northern half of the reserve is quite flat, providing opportunities for recreational activities such as unprogrammed/informal sports and social gathering such as picnics and barbeques.

The southern half of the reserve slopes up to Ocean Drive. Some areas are quite steep which limits recreational opportunities and creates challenges for accessibility but provides great opportunities to enhance panoramic sea views.

AMENITIES

The toilet block was rebuilt in 2020. It includes an outdoor shower on the east wall, but no dedicated change rooms or indoor showers.

Council's 2025 Places to Play Plan notes that *the regional play space at Rainbow Beach Reserve requires an update to its accessibility*. The play space is located close to Beach Street and some pieces of play equipment are nearing end of life. When the equipment requires replacement this play space could be renewed to be more accessible and relocated within the reserve to be further away from the road.

The outdoor fitness equipment is well used and in good condition but is very close to Beach Street. There is an opportunity to relocate this equipment within the reserve to be further away from the road.

Most barbeque and picnic shelters and furniture are nearing end of life. When these facilities require replacement their locations could be moved to be more accessible and maximise open grass activity areas.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council undertook community engagement in 2025 to inform the development of the draft Rainbow Beach Reserve Master Plan. The purpose was to ensure the draft plan reflects community values, priorities, and ideas.

Engagement activities included a community workshop, online survey, ideas wall, and targeted stakeholder discussions. In total, 63 people attended the workshop, 12 surveys were submitted, and further input was received through the Ideas Wall and email submissions.

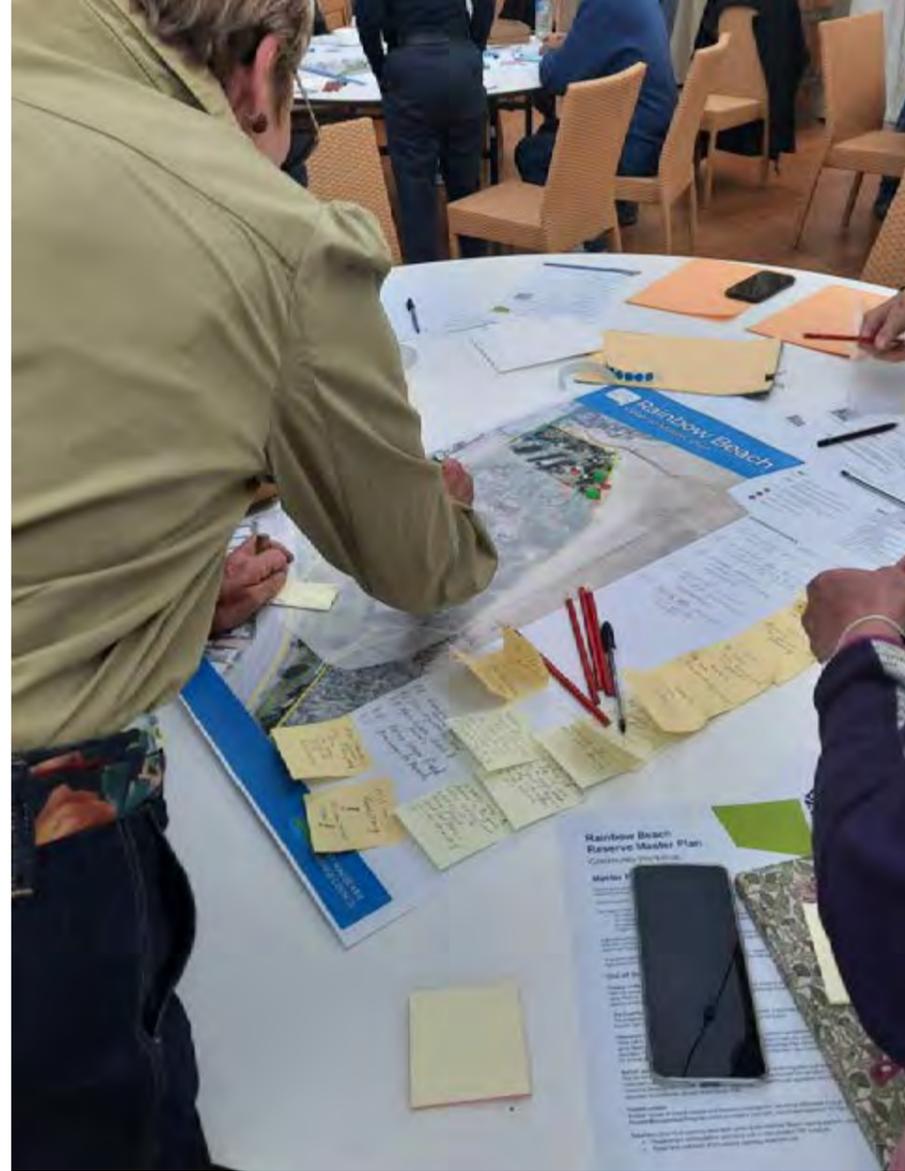
Activities were designed to encourage broad participation, capture community values and ideas, and test these against the design principles established during previous engagement for the Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan process.

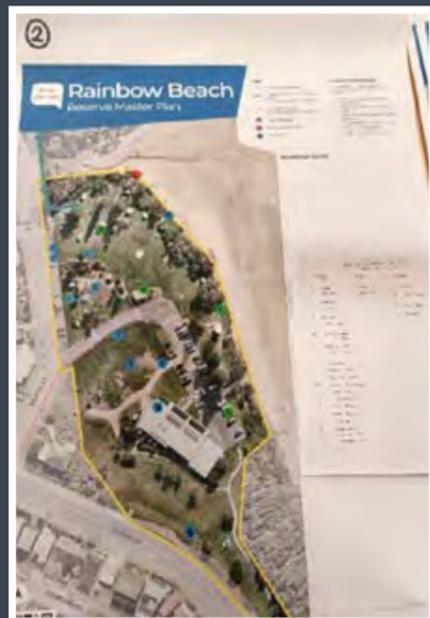
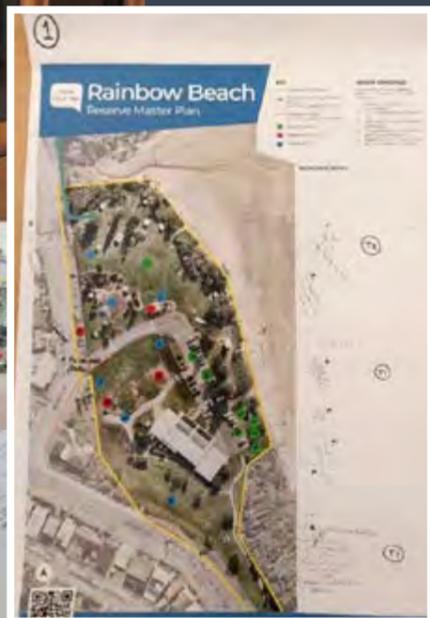
This engagement built on the earlier Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan process, where Rainbow Beach Reserve emerged as needing a dedicated plan. Site-specific design principles developed at that time provided a strong foundation for this standalone Master Plan.

ACTIVITIES

- Community workshop
- Online survey
- Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Lifesaving Club focus meeting
- Informal discussion with young surfers
- Social media event and posts
- Signage installed in the reserve
- Posters installed in local shops and public noticeboards

The engagement generated **30** submissions, and over **600** visits to the project page with **63** participants attending the community workshop.





WHAT WE HEARD

The engagement process for the draft Rainbow Beach Reserve Master Plan reinforced the community's deep connection to the reserve and their desire to see it protected and enhanced for future generations. Participants expressed strong support for maintaining the natural character of the reserve, improving safety and accessibility, and ensuring that any changes reflect the village feel of Bonny Hills.

Across all engagement activities, feedback was consistent in highlighting several key priorities for Rainbow Beach Reserve:

- **Retain the village character**
Preserve the informal, relaxed feel of Bonny Hills, avoiding overdevelopment or excessive infrastructure.
- **Protect the environment**
Regenerate foreshore vegetation, stabilise dunes, and manage erosion.
- **Value open space**
Keep the grassy knoll, open grassed areas and foreshore as natural, flexible community areas.
- **Improve safety and accessibility**
Upgrade beach access points, pathways, toilets, and playground facilities, while ensuring inclusivity for all ages and abilities.
- **Balance parking with green space**
Address drainage, layout, and safety in car parks, but avoid turning open spaces into formal carparks.
- **Enhance community use**
Provide shade, seating, picnic facilities, and safe play areas while maintaining the reserve's natural character.

MASTER PLAN DESIGN

The Master Plan design has been guided by principles shaped by community input:

1. **Protect and regenerate the environment.**
2. **Retain the village feel of Bonny Hills.**
3. **Limit hard surfaces and prioritise green space.**
4. **Improve safety and accessibility without over-formalising.**
5. **Design with community values, not just infrastructure needs.**

To achieve these design principles, and in consideration of the main issues that emerged from site analysis and stakeholder consultation, an overhaul of the carparking layout, pedestrian circulation network and drainage system are the sweeping improvements that have shaped the overall design. The re-alignment of the reserve access road and carparking layout both allows for more parking spaces and gains more green space in the middle of the reserve. Utilisation of grass-pave material for new parking spaces preserves the village character of Bonny Hills while also reducing stormwater runoff. A connected network of new accessible pedestrian pathways are clearly separated from vehicular movements. These major improvements are illustrated in more detail on the following pages.

Some existing parts of the reserve are highly valued by the community, therefore the Master Plan proposes to preserve and enhance them. These include the “grassy knoll” social gathering space between the southern carpark and the beach, the open grass activity area in the middle of the reserve and native vegetation along the foreshore.

The Master Plan also proposes upgrading existing beach access points, adding more beach shower / foot wash stations, enhancing sea views and moving the play space to a more central location in the reserve when the existing equipment is at end-of-life.

PLAN LEGEND

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| | MASTER PLAN BOUNDARY |
| | GIS BOUNDARIES |
| | GIS WATERMAIN DISUSED |
| | GIS WATERMAIN |
| | GIS SEWER GRAVITY |
| | GIS STORM WATER |
| | UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY |
| | TELSTRA CABLE |
| | BUILDING |
| | HAND RAIL |
| | CONCRETE PATH |
| | RETAINING WALL |
| | GARDEN EDGE |
| | EDGE OF BITUMEN |
| | SEWER MANHOLE |
| | SEWER INSPECTION OUTLET |
| | ELECTRICITY PIT |
| | LIGHT POLE |
| | WATER METER |
| | WATER HYDRANT |
| | WATER STOP VALVE |
| | BUBBLER / SHOWER STATION |
| | BOLLARD |
| | SIGN POST |
| | STORM WATER PIT |
| | TELSTRA PIT |
| | SURVEY MARK GIP |
| | EXISTING TREE |
| | 0.1m CONTOUR LINES |
| PROPOSED FEATURES | |
| | SHADE TREE |
| | ASPHALT DRIVEWAY / PARKING |
| | GRASS-PAVE PARKING SPACE |
| | GRASS |
| | MULCHED GARDEN BED |
| | RAIN GARDEN |
| | PATHWAY CONNECTION |
| | SANDSTONE BLOCK |
| | PARK BENCH |
| | PICNIC / BBQ SHELTER |
| | DECK |
| | PLAY SPACE / OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT |

PLAN KEY

1. Existing “grassy knoll” social gathering space to be retained.
2. Existing path/ramp to be retained.
3. Grass-pave parking spaces:
 - a. to replace existing asphalt spaces along the beachfront;
 - b. on each side of new two-way driveway; and
 - c. on each side of new one-way driveway.
4. Protect, maintain and enhance native foreshore vegetation.
5. Existing viewing deck and stairs (2026 upgrade) to be extended to include seating and an outdoor shower station.
6. Accessible ramp to beach.
7. Viewing deck and stairs to beach.
8. Embankment erosion control measures - design to be informed by Council’s upcoming Coastal Management Program.
9. Gardens and viewing platform with stairs down to lawn.
10. Shady amphitheatre with sea views.
11. Shady sloping lawn with sea views.
12. Flat grass activity area.
13. Reserve sign.



CIRCULATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

VEHICULAR

To increase car parking capacity, the Master Plan proposes to re-align the access road, pulling it closer to the SLSC building in an arc shape that allows parking on both sides, and maximises the amount of spaces on the east side of the road with good beach views. A one-way loop between this main access road and the building provides service and emergency vehicle access, a turning circle for vehicles that are continuing to look for a parking space, additional parking on each side of the road and accessible spaces for barrier-free access to the cafe and event hall.

By adding more parking along the main access road, formalising parking spaces in the area of lawn currently used for informal overflow parking and paving the informal carparking area on Beach Street, Rainbow Beach Reserve will be better equipped to handle high volumes of visitation during holiday periods and organised events.

Rainbow Beach Reserve Carparking Analysis



PEDESTRIAN

A network of accessible pedestrian pathways is proposed to flow through the reserve; removing barriers, connecting amenities and separating pedestrians from vehicle traffic wherever possible.

An all-ages and ability walking and cycling facility will link Beach Street to Rainbow Beach. Barrier-free pathways (including accessible ramps where needed) link accessible parking spaces to both the upper and lower floors of the SLSC building, all amenities in the reserve, the beach and Beach Street. Council's 2025 Walking and Cycling Plan includes a proposed footpath connection along Beach Street to Ocean Drive, however this initiative is outside the scope of this Master Plan.

Where pathways need to be installed within tree protection zones of existing trees, design solutions using root-sensitive materials such as permeable paving or floating decking will be considered.



Existing concrete pathways west and south of the SLSC building will remain in place. Some of these pathways are too steep to be an accessible route, however upgrading these pathways to meet accessibility standards is not feasible due to limited space.

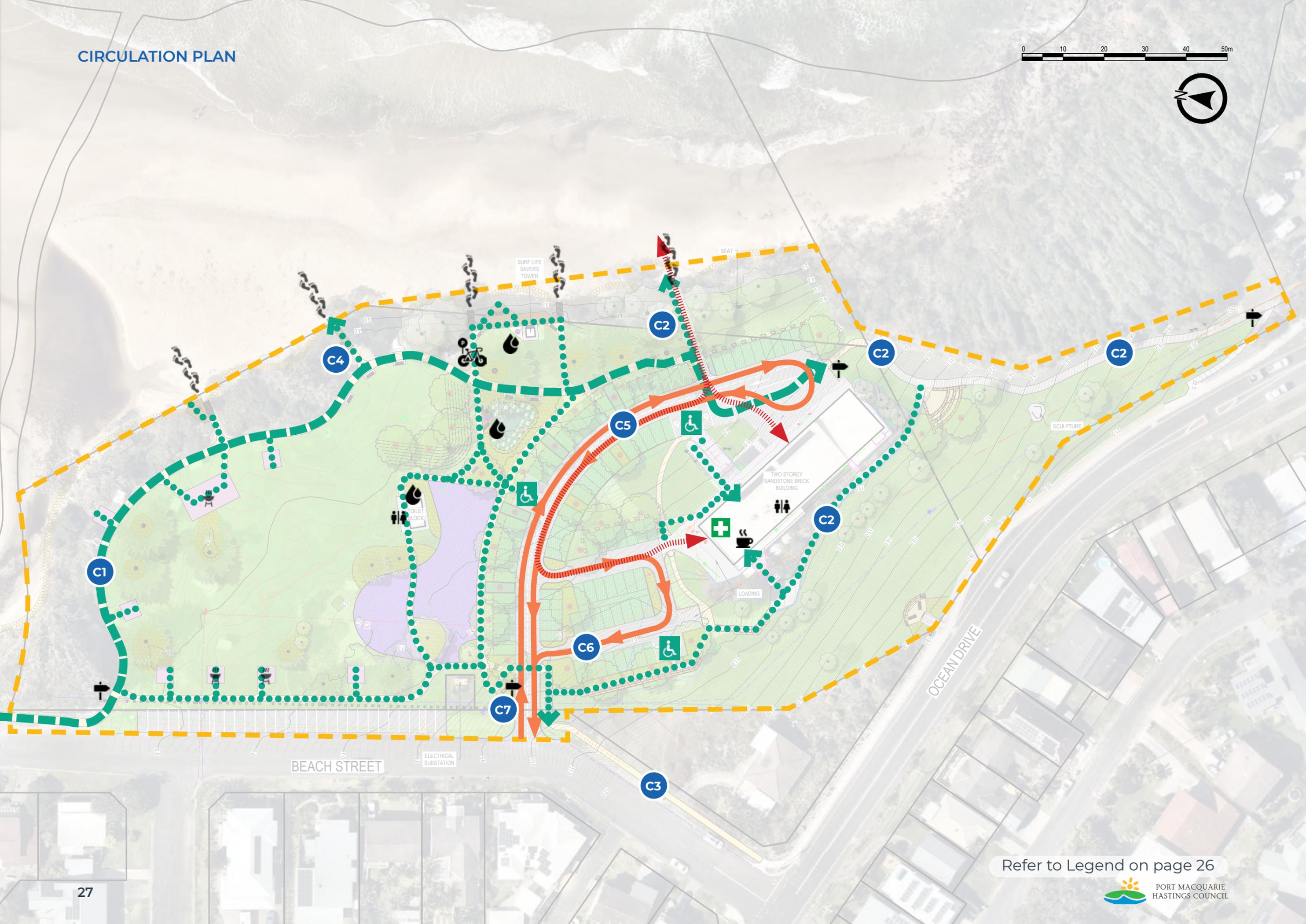
PLAN KEY

- C1. All ages and ability walking and cycling facility per Council's 2025 Walking and Cycling Plan.
- C2. Existing path/ramp to be retained.
- C3. Proposed footpath connection per Council's 2025 Walking and Cycling Plan (out of scope).
- C4. Beach access to be upgraded to an accessible ramp.
- C5. Two-way driveway.
- C6. One-way driveway.
- C7. Space for three vehicles to queue at entrance.

PLAN LEGEND

- Master Plan boundary
- All ages and ability walking and cycling facility
- Barrier-free pathway
- Accessible parking
- Beach access
- Bike rack
- Carparking access
- Emergency vehicle route
- Entrance / wayfinding sign
- Bubblers / shower station
- Toilet amenities
- First Aid and Cafe
- BBQ facilities

CIRCULATION PLAN



Refer to Legend on page 26



Grass-pave carparking example



Accessible pathway example



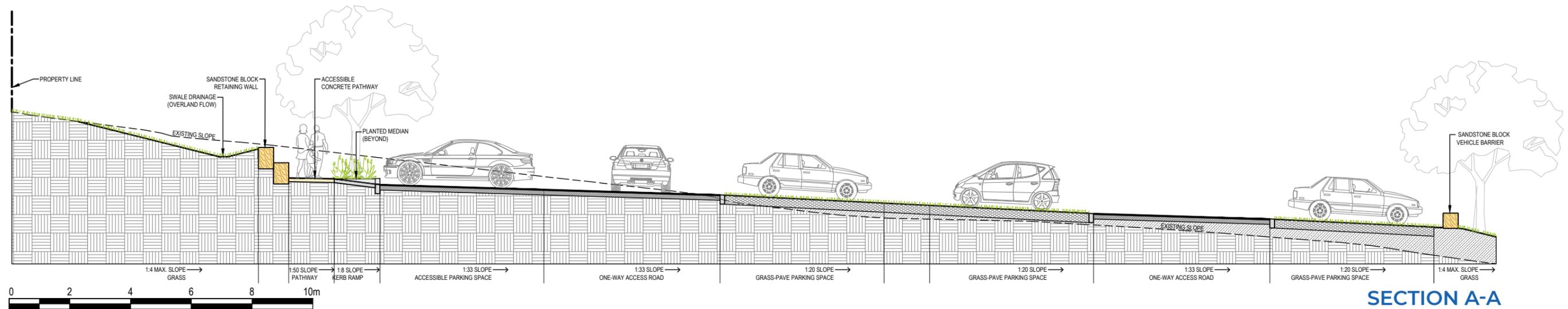
Reserve entry sign example



Shared pedestrian and cycle facility example

PLAN LEGEND

| EXISTING CONDITIONS | | PROPOSED FEATURES | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | GIS BOUNDARIES | | SHADE TREE |
| | GIS WATERMAIN DISUSED | | ASPHALT DRIVEWAY / PARKING |
| | GIS WATERMAIN | | GRASS-PAVE PARKING SPACE |
| | GIS SEWER GRAVITY | | GRASS |
| | GIS STORM WATER | | MULCHED GARDEN BED |
| | UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY | | RAIN GARDEN |
| | TELSTRA CABLE | | PATHWAY CONNECTION |
| | BUILDING | | SANDSTONE BLOCK |
| | HAND RAIL | | PARK BENCH |
| | CONCRETE PATH | | PICNIC / BBQ SHELTER |
| | RETAINING WALL | | DECK |
| | GARDEN EDGE | | PLAY SPACE / OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT |
| | EDGE OF BITUMEN | | |
| | SEWER MANHOLE | | |
| | SEWER INSPECTION OUTLET | | |
| | ELECTRICITY PIT | | |
| | LIGHT POLE | | |
| | WATER METER | | |
| | WATER HYDRANT | | |
| | WATER STOP VALVE | | |
| | BUBBLER / SHOWER STATION | | |
| | BOLLARD | | |
| | SIGN POST | | |
| | STORM WATER PIT | | |
| | TELSTRA PIT | | |
| | SURVEY MARK GIP | | |
| | EXISTING TREE | | |
| | 0.1m CONTOUR LINES | | |



SECTION A-A THROUGH ONE-WAY CARPARK

NATURAL SYSTEMS

DRAINAGE

Grass-pave carparking spaces are built using interlocking plastic or concrete grids (pavers) to reinforce soil, allowing grass to grow through while creating a stable, permeable surface for vehicles, preventing ruts and managing stormwater effectively. Grass-paving is an eco-friendly solution that reduces expanses of bitumen and improves water infiltration.

A rain garden is a shallow, landscaped depression planted with native plants that collects and filters rainwater runoff, allowing it to soak into the ground, recharge groundwater, and reduce pollution entering waterways. It acts as a natural sponge, holding water temporarily after rain and filtering pollutants like fertilizers, oils, and sediment, preventing them from washing into storm drains and harming local ecosystems. The Master Plan proposes to install a connected system of rain gardens to manage rainwater runoff within the reserve without outletting to the beach. This system will alleviate the risk of washouts during storm events.



VEGETATION

Naturally-occurring woodland plant communities on the dune foreshore are to be protected and enhanced with succession planting. A robust ecosystem here will help to make the foreshore more resilient to coastal erosion.

New trees in the reserve must be selected carefully to be salt spray and wind tolerant, grow wide enough to provide valuable shade but not grow high enough to obstruct views of the beach from surrounding areas.

Rain gardens and other garden beds will be planted with native, hardy, low-maintenance species that add to the biodiversity of the area.



CONSIDERATIONS

Further investigation, research and consultation with field experts will be undertaken during detailed design project phases to determine the most appropriate comprehensive solutions for drainage and planting in the Rainbow Beach Reserve.



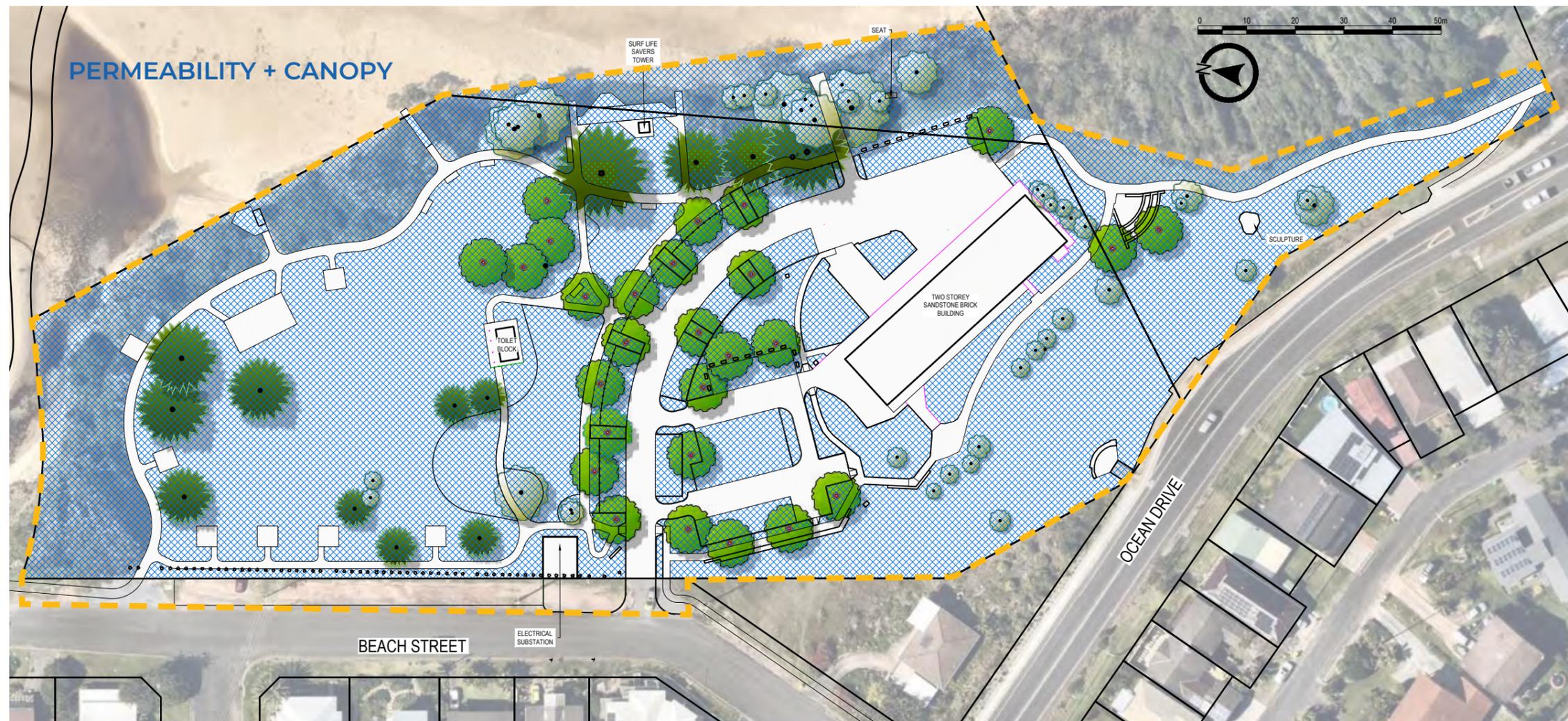
LEGEND

-  Master Plan boundary
-  Runoff direction (overland)
-  Grass swale (overland)
-  Gutter (overland)
-  Drain inlet / manhole
-  Drain line (underground)
-  Rain garden



LEGEND

-  Permeable area
-  Existing tree canopy
-  Proposed tree canopy



CONTACT US

Council welcomes the opportunity to hear if you have any questions, feedback or if you require a copy of the Plan.

You can contact us regarding this Master Plan:

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IMAGE SOURCES

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