Cardinia Dam

Multiple Benefits and Liveability

Prepared by Water4Good for

Melbourne Water

Final Landscape Concept Plan

Revision A

August 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

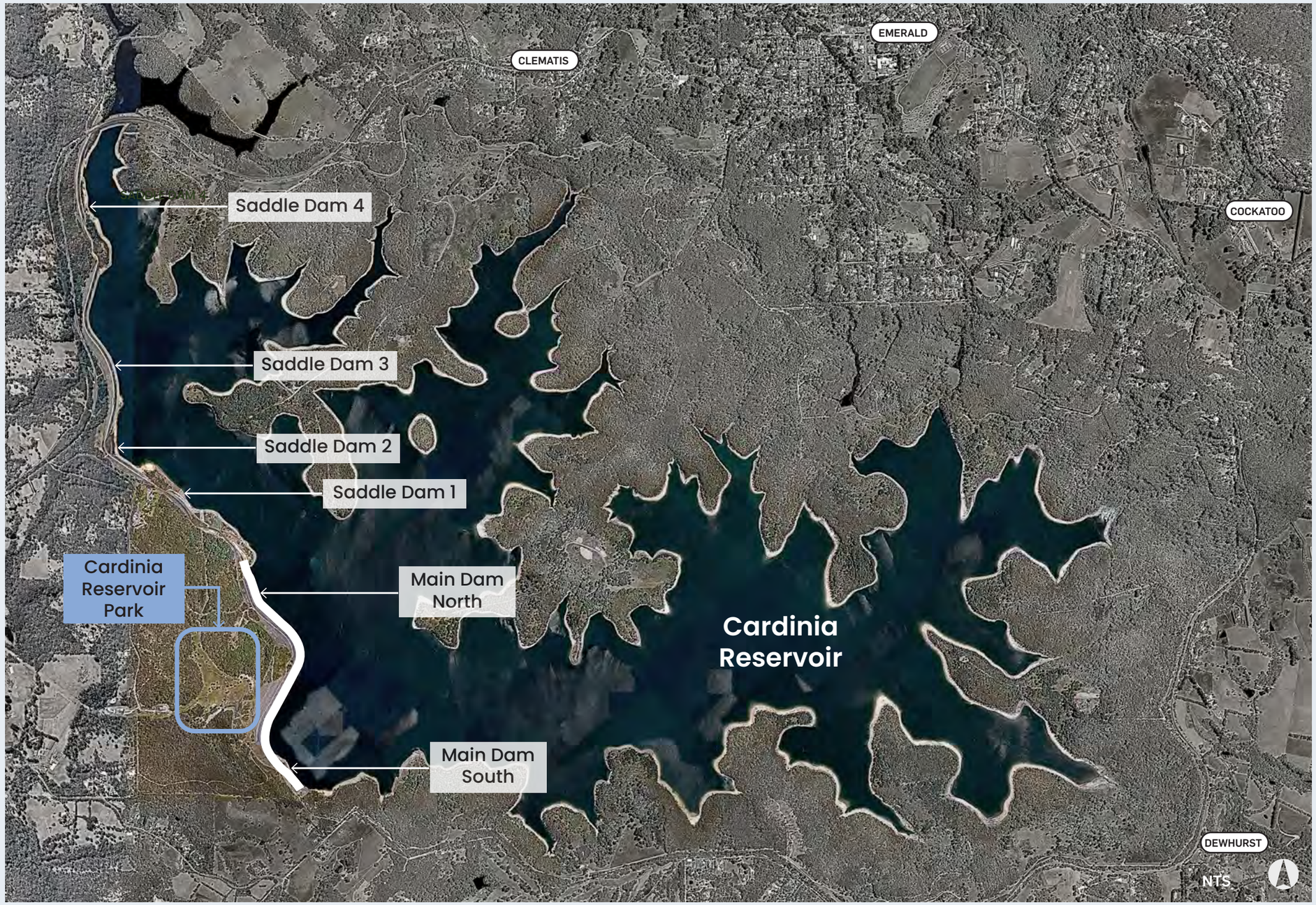
The Cardinia Dam is situated on the traditional lands of the Bunurong People. We recognise and respect the connection of their land, waterways, cultural heritage and community, and we pay respects to their Elders past and present.



1. Introduction

Cardinia Reservoir and Surroundings

Cardinia Reservoir is formed by a series of embankment structures comprising the Main Dam and Saddle Dams 1, 2, 3 and 4, which work together to retain the reservoir and respond to the surrounding topography. These structures form a critical component of Melbourne's water supply network, with the reservoir serving as Melbourne's second-largest water storage facility. The dam system is currently the focus of the Cardinia Dam Safety Upgrade project, which will enhance the long-term safety, resilience and operational performance of the reservoir infrastructure while maintaining the environmental and recreational values of the surrounding landscape.



Cardinia Reservoir Park within context of Cardinia Reservoir

2. Existing Wildlife and Habitat

Landscape Setting and Ecological Communities

The surrounding landscape is characterized by a mix of native vegetation, agricultural land and patches of rural residential development. It is a strategically protected non-urban zone aimed at conserving bio-diversity, supporting agriculture, and providing recreational opportunities. The area is contained by the Western Port Green Wedge. The wedge helps to maintain ecological connectivity and acts as a buffer against urban sprawl from Melbourne's expanding metropolitan boundary.

Historical aerial imagery indicates a landscape characterized by a mosaic of native wooded areas, prior to the construction of the reservoir which was cleared for agricultural purposes. The land was then mainly utilised for farming, echoing the rural character of the region prior the reservoir's establishment.

The following page identifies the existing fauna, trees and shrubs that are present within the surrounding.

Source - Cardinia Dam Safety Upgrade
Existing Ecological Conditions and Impact Assessment (Doc No. CDSU_ACM_R15_RevA)
(16-OCT-2025)



Open parkland areas, manicured lawns of exotic grasses and planted trees.



Lowland Forest EVC



Riparian Forest EVC

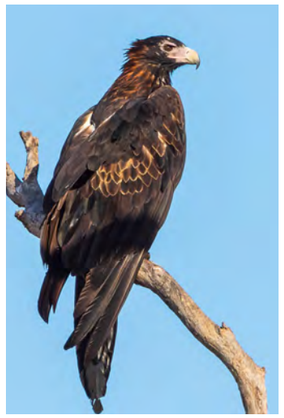


Damp Healthy Woodland

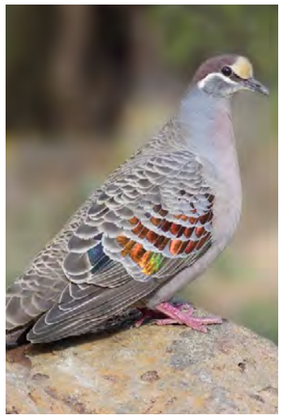
Fauna



Grey Kangaroos



Wedge Tailed Eagles



Common



stringybark



Little Corella

Trees



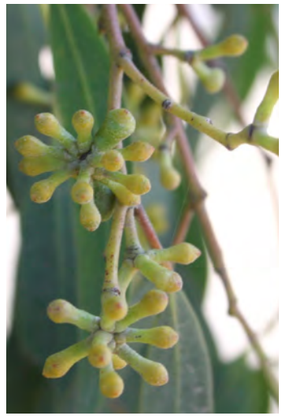
Tea Tree



Wattles



Sheoaks



Stringybark



Narrow- leaf Peppermint

Shrubs



Prickly Moses



Broom Spurge



Silver Banksia



Showy Bossiaea



Shiny Cassinia
Cassinia longifolia

3. Existing Site Conditions



Existing Arrival and Signage Amenity



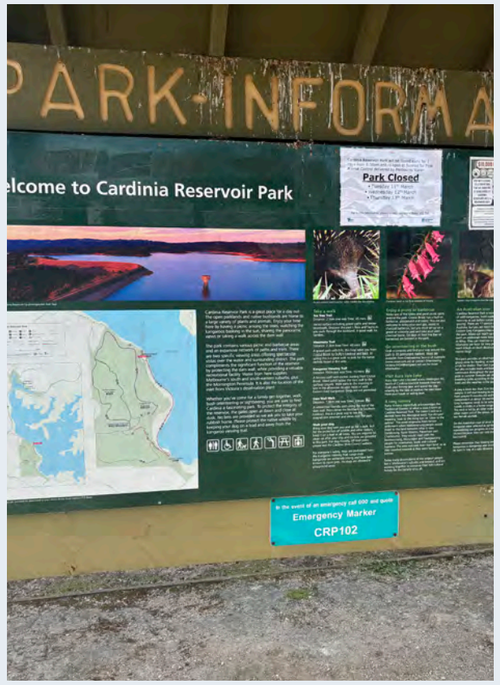
Existing:

The arrival car park



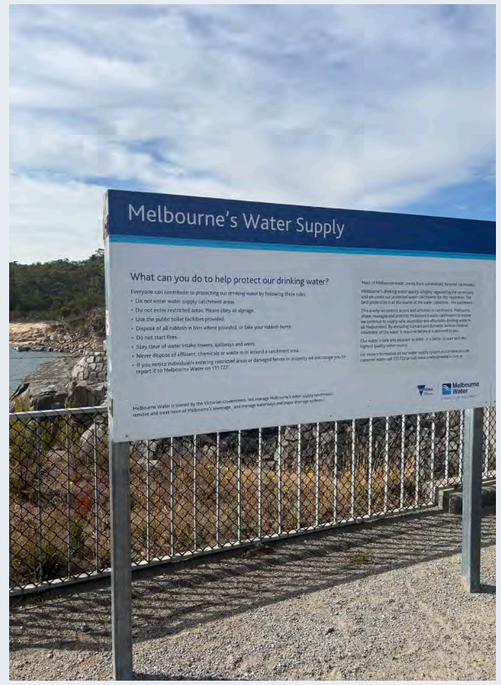
Existing:

Park Information Signage and picnic benches near the Dam



Existing:

Welcome to Cardinia Reservoir Park Signage



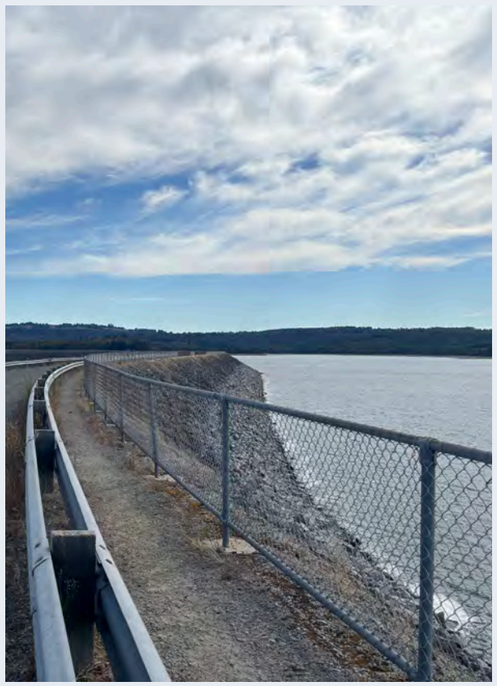
Existing:

Melbourne's Water Supply Signage

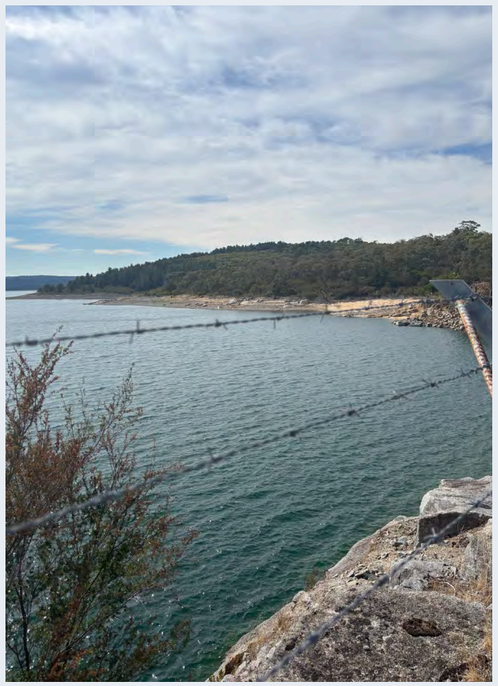
Existing Views to the Water



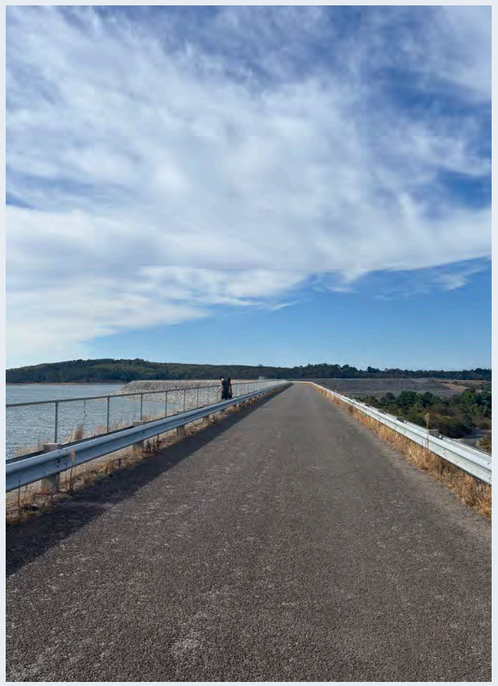
Existing Views of the reservoir from the Dam Wall Walk



Existing Fencing along the Dam Wall Walk



Views to the Reservoir



Existing Dam Wall Walk

Existing Parkland and Trails



Existing: Undulating landforms

Opportunities: Retain the distinctive and open green areas.
Design interventions can be around these landforms.



Existing: Signage towards Duffy's Lookout

Opportunities: Replacing with consistent signage as per the signage and wayfinding proposal.



Existing: Bird hide

Opportunities: To replace with upgraded benches.

Existing Reservoir Park



Existing covered shelter with picnic benches and tables

Opportunities: Retain the shelters and benches



Existing Picnic Areas

Opportunities: To resurface and reinstate existing picnic amenities in place, and supplement with additional picnic sets throughout the parklands.



Existing: Toilet Block

Opportunities: Retain the toilet block, enhance the area with feature planting and CPTED friendly planting



Existing Playground

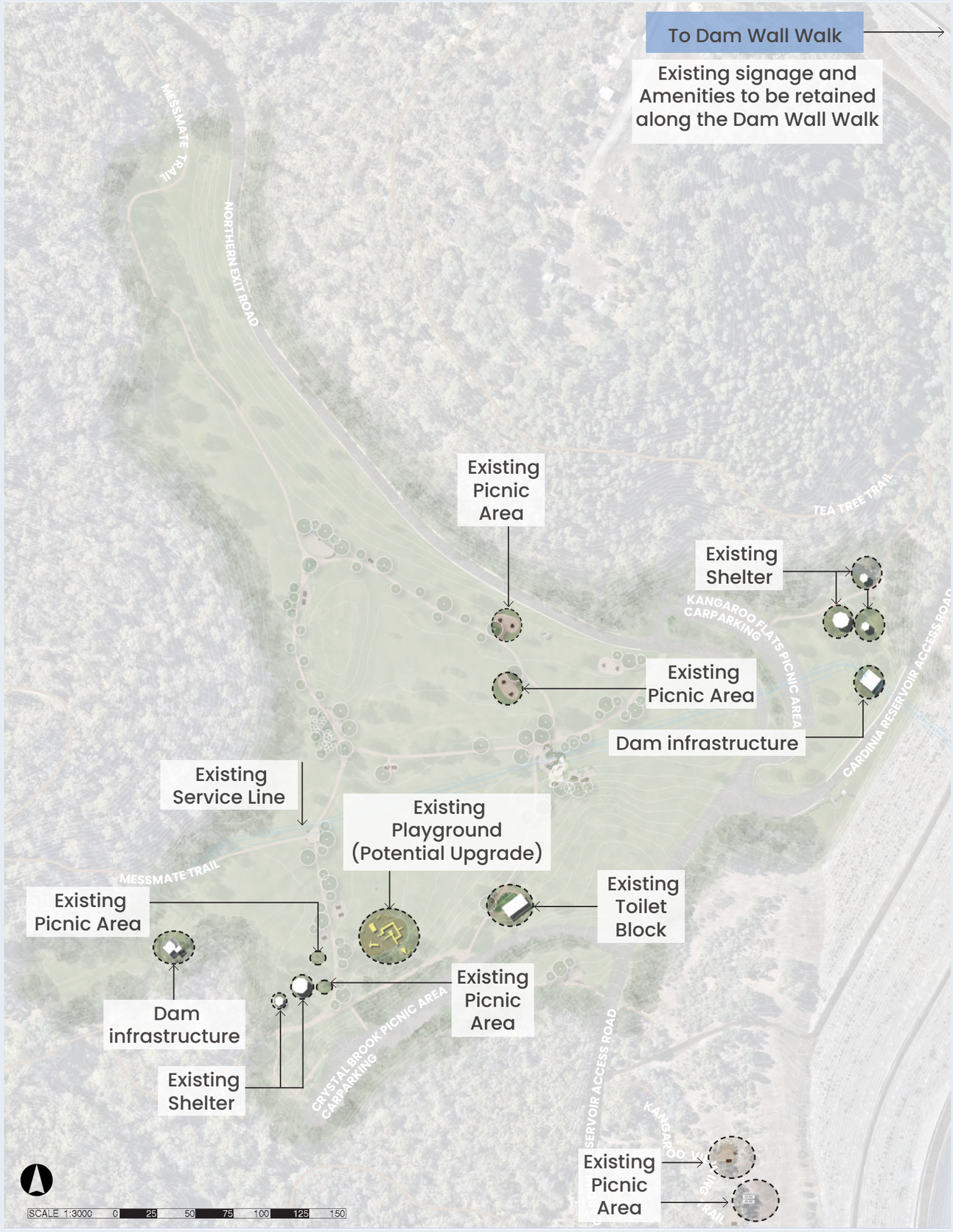
Opportunities: Potential maintenance of this playground. Alternatively replace with new play equipments.

Existing Amenities Plan

The following plan identifies the existing amenities on site. The intention is to retain most of these amenities on site following construction of the new dam wall.

The amenities along the Dam Wall walk such as signage, benches are to be retained.

The existing playground may be subject to removal and reinstatement, with a potential upgrade pending further detailed design development. An indicative look and feel of play equipments are provided under the Landscape Concept Plan of this report.



4. Community and Stakeholder Engagement Process

Co-Design Summary

Water4Good, in partnership with Melbourne Water, undertook a series of community and stakeholder engagement activities between March and July 2026 to inform the Liveability Concept Design for Cardinia Reservoir Park.

Engagement commenced through drop-in sessions and an online survey hosted on Melbourne Water's Let's Talk page, providing the community with an opportunity to share ideas, priorities and aspirations for the park. Feedback gathered through these channels informed a longlist of potential liveability enhancements for further exploration.

The longlist was subsequently tested and refined through two co-design workshops, where participants engaged in group discussions, reviewed precedent imagery and image boards, and provided feedback on the proposed key moves and evolving concept plan.

The final concept design is a direct outcome of this collaborative process, reflecting the values, priorities and ideas identified by the community and stakeholders while balancing environmental, recreational and operational considerations.

A summary report of the engagement process is attached in Appendix A of this report.







Co-Design Roadmap

Drop-in sessions + Print Media

Online Survey

Workshop 01 (May 2026)

Activities included:

- Presenting images of materials based on 4 key themes
- Worksheets to get feedback

Draft Concept Plan

(June 2026)

Workshop 02 (July 2026)

Activities included:

- Presenting of Draft Concept Plan
- Feedback and QA session

Final Concept Plan

(August 2026)

We are here

Enhanced Cardinia Dam + Reservoir Park

What we heard

The adjacent graphic summarises the feedback received from the community through Melbourne Water's Let's Talk engagement platform. Responses highlighted a strong appreciation for the park's natural landscape, bushland character, walking trails and picnic opportunities, with many participants expressing a desire to retain and enhance these valued qualities.

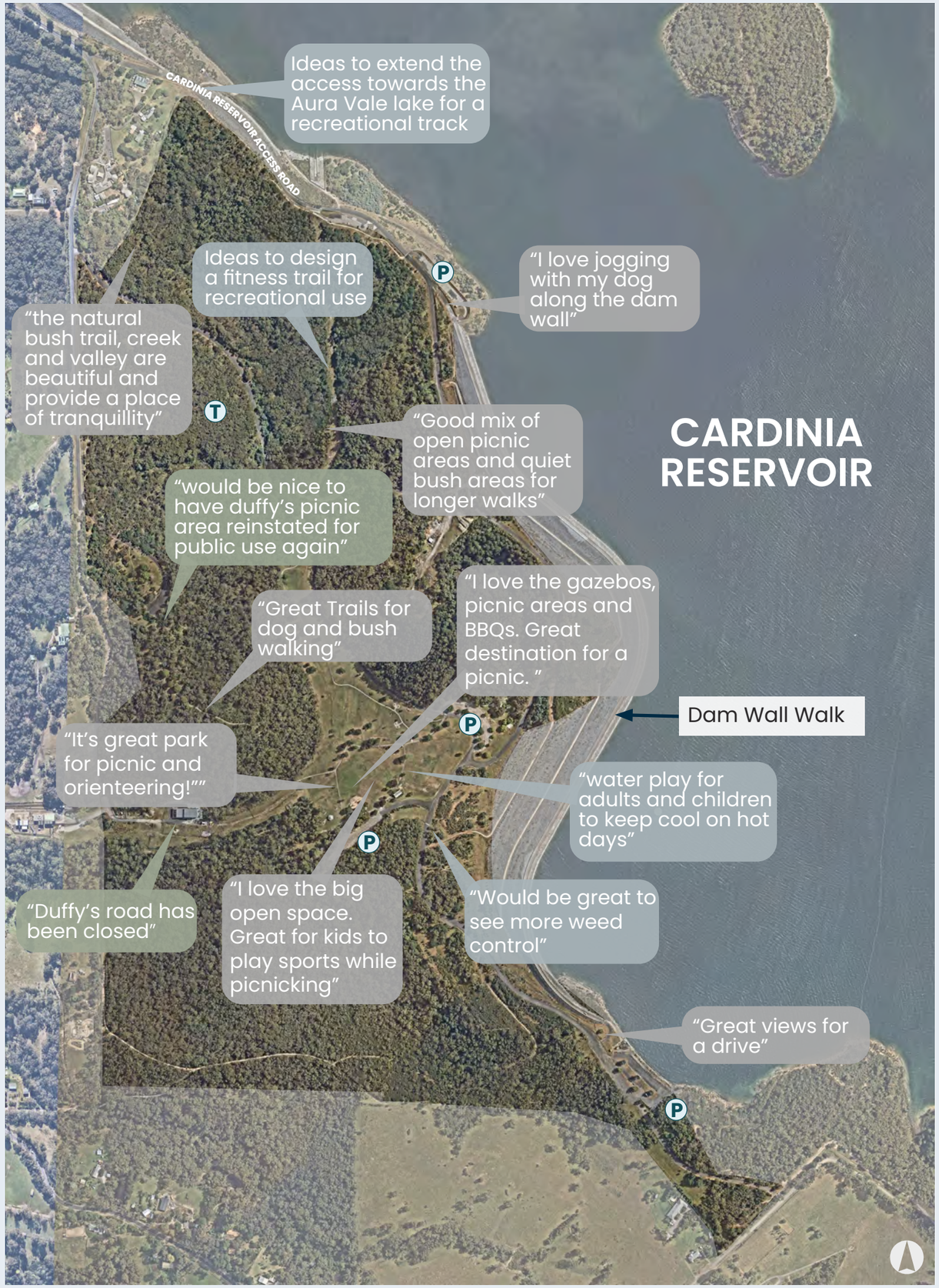
Ⓟ Parking

Ⓣ Trail

What did they like about the place?

What ideas do you have for the place?

What is the problem with this place?

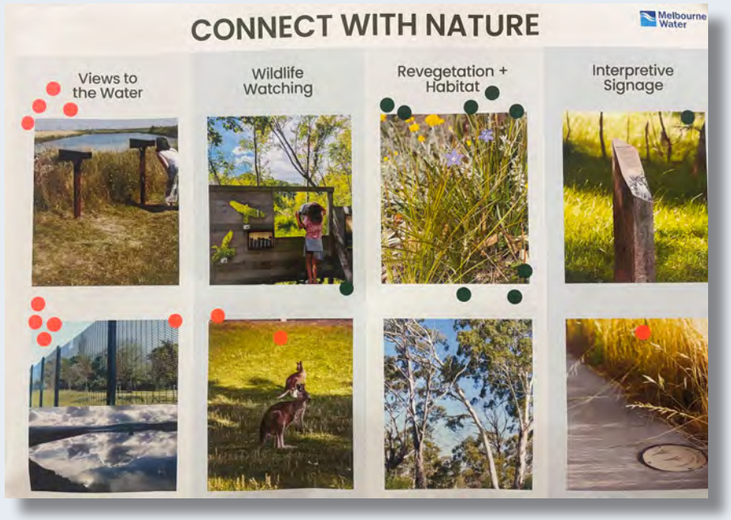


Co-Design Workshop 01

Workshop 1 was held at the Emerald Hills Hub on Wednesday 27 May and was attended by 20 participants, comprising local residents and key stakeholders. Representatives were present from Cardinia Shire Council, Yarra Ranges Council, Parks Victoria, Dandenong Ranges Steiner School, as well as neighbouring property owners and park users.

The purpose of the workshop was to gather feedback on opportunities and ideas identified through the initial engagement process and to identify any additional liveability enhancements that may not have been previously considered. The workshop was not intended to assess, prioritise, or exclude potential interventions. Instead, it provided an opportunity for participants to review the emerging ideas, contribute local knowledge and perspectives, and help ensure that a broad range of opportunities were considered in the development of the concept plan.









Materials presented in Workshop 01

Co-Design Workshop 02

A second co-design workshop was held on 22 July 2026 to test and validate the draft concept plan with community members and stakeholders who participated in the initial engagement process.

Following Workshop 01, Water4Good prepared and assessed a longlist of potential liveability enhancements based on community and stakeholder feedback. The evaluation process was used to identify feasible opportunities for inclusion within the concept design. Further details of this assessment are provided in Appendix B.

The workshop comprised two facilitated discussion sessions:

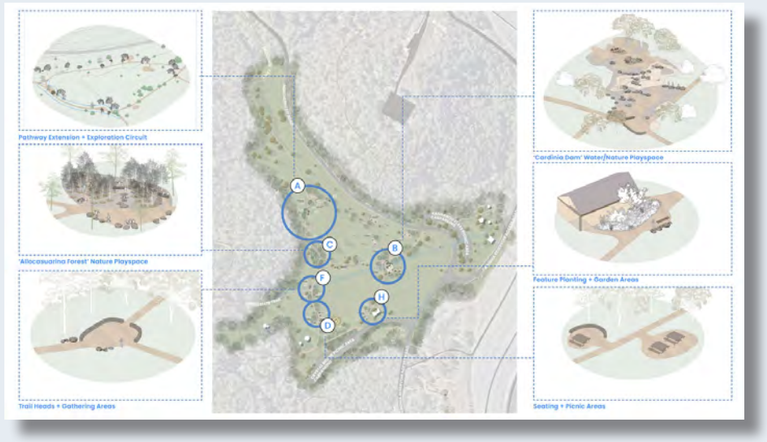
Longlist Evaluation Review
Participants reviewed the outcomes of the longlist evaluation and were invited to identify any opportunities, issues or considerations that may not have been captured during the assessment process. Discussion focused on the potential restoration and enhancement of Duffy's Lookout and the adjoining picnic area, as well as questions relating to the proposed indicative fencing along the dam wall.

Draft Concept Plan Review
The draft Liveability Concept Plan was presented for feedback and discussion. Participants generally endorsed the proposed improvements within Cardinia Reservoir Park and expressed support for the overall vision and direction of the concept. Feedback also highlighted opportunities to further enhance Duffy's Lookout as a destination within the broader trail network, with suggestions aimed at improving its functionality, comfort and appeal for local residents, walking groups and other visitors.

The feedback received during Workshop 02 helped refine and validate the final concept design, ensuring it responds to community aspirations while balancing environmental, recreational and operational considerations.







Materials presented in Workshop 02

5. Cardinia Reservoir Park Liveability Concept Design

Landscape Vision

The concept plan for Cardinia Reservoir Park has been shaped through a collaborative process that places community and stakeholder voices at its centre.

The project vision reflects a strong commitment to local knowledge, user needs and land management priorities to inform the design and enhanced amenity of the park.

Liveability upgrades to Cardinia Reservoir Park provide targeted amenity enhancements that improve comfort, accessibility and connection to nature, while carefully retaining the landscape qualities that are highly valued. The park's bushland character, open spaces and connection to the reservoir will remain central to its identity, with upgrades designed to sit quietly within the existing environment.

Upgrades have been guided by four key themes.

- Active Recreation will support walking, and fitness through the parkland and peripheral trails.

- Play and Explore will encourage curiosity and discovery, particularly for children and families, through nature-based play and learning experiences.

- Meet and Gather will provide well-located spaces for social connection, picnicking and small community events.

- Connect to Nature will strengthen opportunities for visitors to experience the landscape through improved trails, viewing points and interpretation.



Landscape Key Moves

The concept plan for Cardinia Reservoir Park has been shaped through community and stakeholder responses that guide the adjacent key Moves:



ACTIVE RECREATION

Retain a sense of open space in the park for activity

Encourage walks through wayfinding and trail amenity

Support comfort through increased canopy cover, furniture and water refill stations



MEET + GATHER

Furniture elements to support picnic amenity

Seating to provide rest nodes

Diversity of seating types for various users (Nature trails and accessible park access)



PLAY + EXPLORE

- Nature and water play elements
- Sensory Play through vegetation and natural materials
- Interpretive and educational signage
- Path networks to explore new circuits and encourage discovery



CONNECT WITH NATURE

- Enhanced vegetation to support Biodiversity and Wildlife
- New Tree Planting
- Landform character to be retained

Landscape Concept Plan

This section outlines the Landscape Concept Design for Cardinia Reservoir Park and the key principles that have informed the proposed interventions across the site. The design approach is structured around two levels: a Primary Focus Area and a Secondary Focus Area.

The Primary Focus Area centres on the reservoir park itself and identifies six distinct intervention typologies aimed at enhancing park functionality and visitor experience while respecting the site's natural character. Each intervention typology is presented through an enlarged plan, supported by material references and an accompanying axonometric illustration on the following page to clearly communicate its intent and design outcomes.

The Secondary Focus Area addresses broader, lower-impact improvements across the wider park landscape.



Overall Cardinia Plan and Circulation

The Cardinia Reservoir precinct is characterised by an extensive network of recreational walking trails that connect key visitor destinations throughout the wider landscape. These trails include the 1.6 km Dam Wall Walk, a popular route that offers a unique visitor experience with expansive views across the reservoir and surrounding catchment.

While the Dam Wall Walk forms an important component of the broader visitor network, it is not the primary focus of this Liveability Concept Design. The principal project area is Cardinia Reservoir Park, identified on the adjacent plan, which serves as the primary visitor destination within the precinct. The park is accessed via the Northern Exit Road, with additional access provided from the south via Cardinia Reservoir Access Road.

The concept design focuses on enhancing the visitor experience within Cardinia Reservoir Park while strengthening its connection to the wider recreational network. Existing walking trails have been identified and retained as key movement corridors, ensuring the proposed park improvements integrate seamlessly with the surrounding trail system. This approach improves accessibility, legibility and connectivity for visitors, while encouraging exploration of the broader Cardinia Reservoir landscape. Pedestrian access to the park will continue to be supported through the existing network of walking trails that connect the park to adjacent recreational destinations.

A secondary focus area extends beyond the park to include Dam Wall Walk and Duffy's Lookout. Within this broader context, only minimal and targeted interventions are proposed to enhance the existing visitor experience while maintaining the character of the landscape. These improvements include strategically located seating and signage within the Dam Wall Walk and adjacent car park areas. The proposed works are intended to improve visitor comfort, orientation and understanding of the site. Refer to page 50 of this report for the broader design interventions.

EXISTING PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

- DAM WALL WALK
- TEA TREE TRAIL
- MESSMATE TRAIL
- KANGAROO VIEWING TRAIL
- RESERVOIR PARK PATHS

EXISTING VEHICULAR ACCESS



Cardinia Reservoir Park Landscape Plan

The primary focus of the Liveability Concept Design is Cardinia Reservoir Park, which has been developed to enhance the day-use visitor experience while respecting the site's established landscape character. The design has been informed by the existing park amenities, findings from community engagement, analysis of site opportunities and the surrounding bushland setting.

The concept proposes a series of targeted landscape interventions that improve recreation, accessibility and visitor amenity without fundamentally altering the character of the park. New gathering spaces, nature play opportunities, picnic facilities, seating, planting, interpretation and improved circulation are carefully integrated within the existing landscape to create a cohesive and accessible visitor experience. The major landscape interventions are illustrated on the concept plan and have been strategically located to respond to existing visitor movement patterns, enhance key destinations, and reinforce the park's role as the primary recreational hub within the wider Cardinia Reservoir precinct.

Refer to Drawing - Cardinia Dam Upgrade - Landscape Concept_1-1000-REV-B for more details.

- **A** PATHWAY EXTENSION AND EXPLORATION CIRCUIT
- **B** PROPOSED 'CARDINIA DAM' PLAYSPACE
- **C** PROPOSED ALLOCASUARINA FOREST PLAYSPACE
- **D** PROPOSED PICNIC AREAS - WITH NEW PICNIC TABLE
- **D1** EXISTING PICNIC AREAS RESURFACED AND REINSTATED
- **E** PROPOSED TRAIL HEAD WITH SEATING AND SIGNAGE
- **E1** PROPOSED TRAIL HEAD WITH SIGNAGE
- **F** PROPOSED FEATURE UNDERSTORY PLANTING
- **G** EXISTING PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

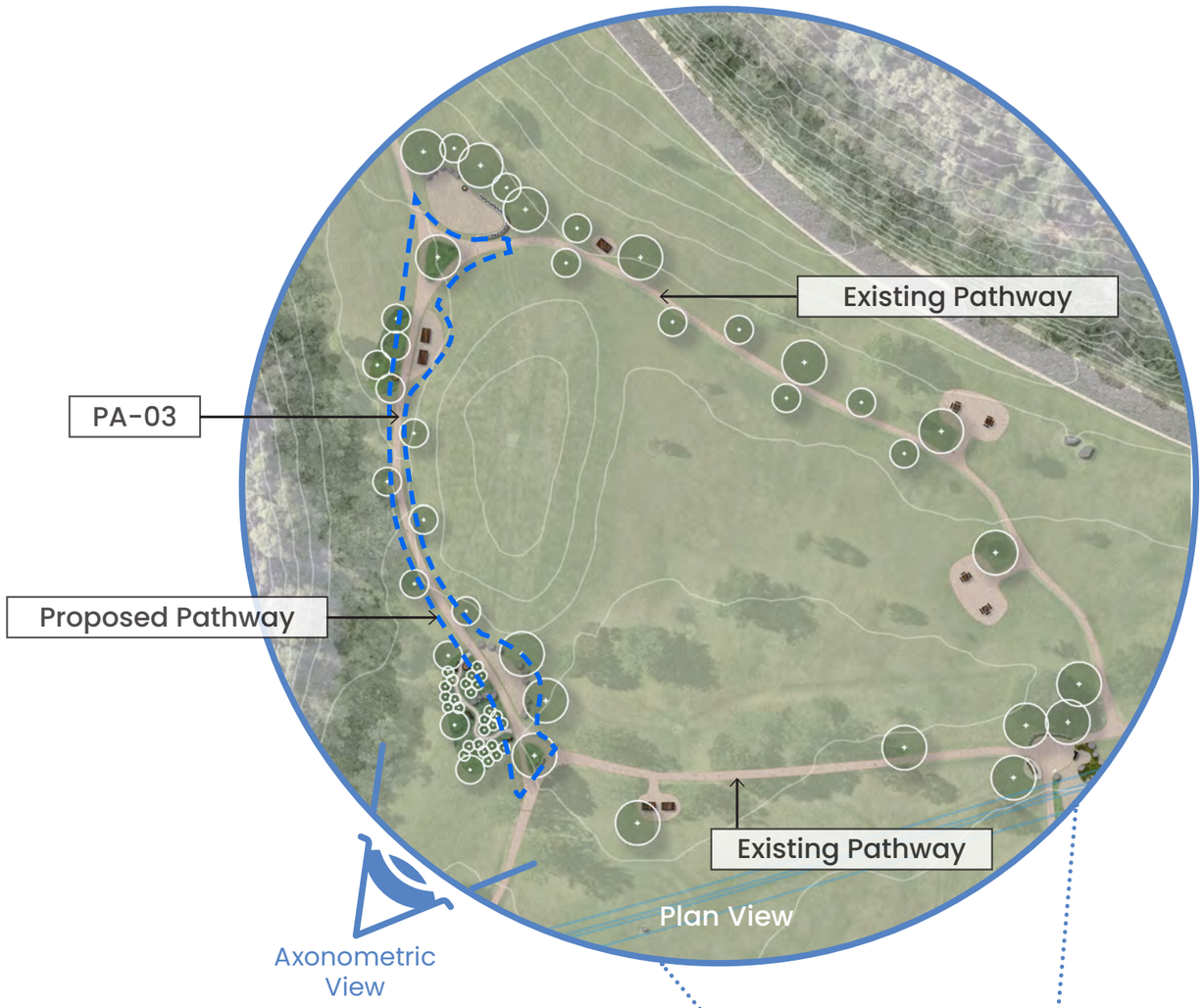


A Pathway Extension and Exploration Circuit

A proposed pathway network strengthens connections between the existing walkways and creates a continuous exploration circuit throughout the site. This improves accessibility and allows visitors to move more easily through the park while encouraging longer recreational walks and exploration of the surrounding landscape. As Cardinia Park forms part of a broader network of regional walking trails, establishing clear and connected pathways is an important component of the proposal.

DDA compliance will be a key consideration, and an accessibility audit should be undertaken during the detailed design phase to ensure pathways, gradients and circulation spaces meet current standards.

Planting also forms a significant part of the proposal. The existing landscape character is defined by mature European trees, which provide substantial shade, amenity and visual identity across the site. The proposed planting approach retains and complements this established character while introducing additional native species to enhance biodiversity, habitat opportunities and seasonal variation.



Legend



PA-03
Granitic Lilydale Toppings

Tree Palette



EUC ova
Eucalyptus ovata
Swamp Gum



EUC obl
Eucalyptus obliqua
Messmate Stringy-bark



EUC cep
Eucalyptus cephalocarpa
Silver-leaf Stringybark



EUC mel
Eucalyptus melliodora
Yellow Box



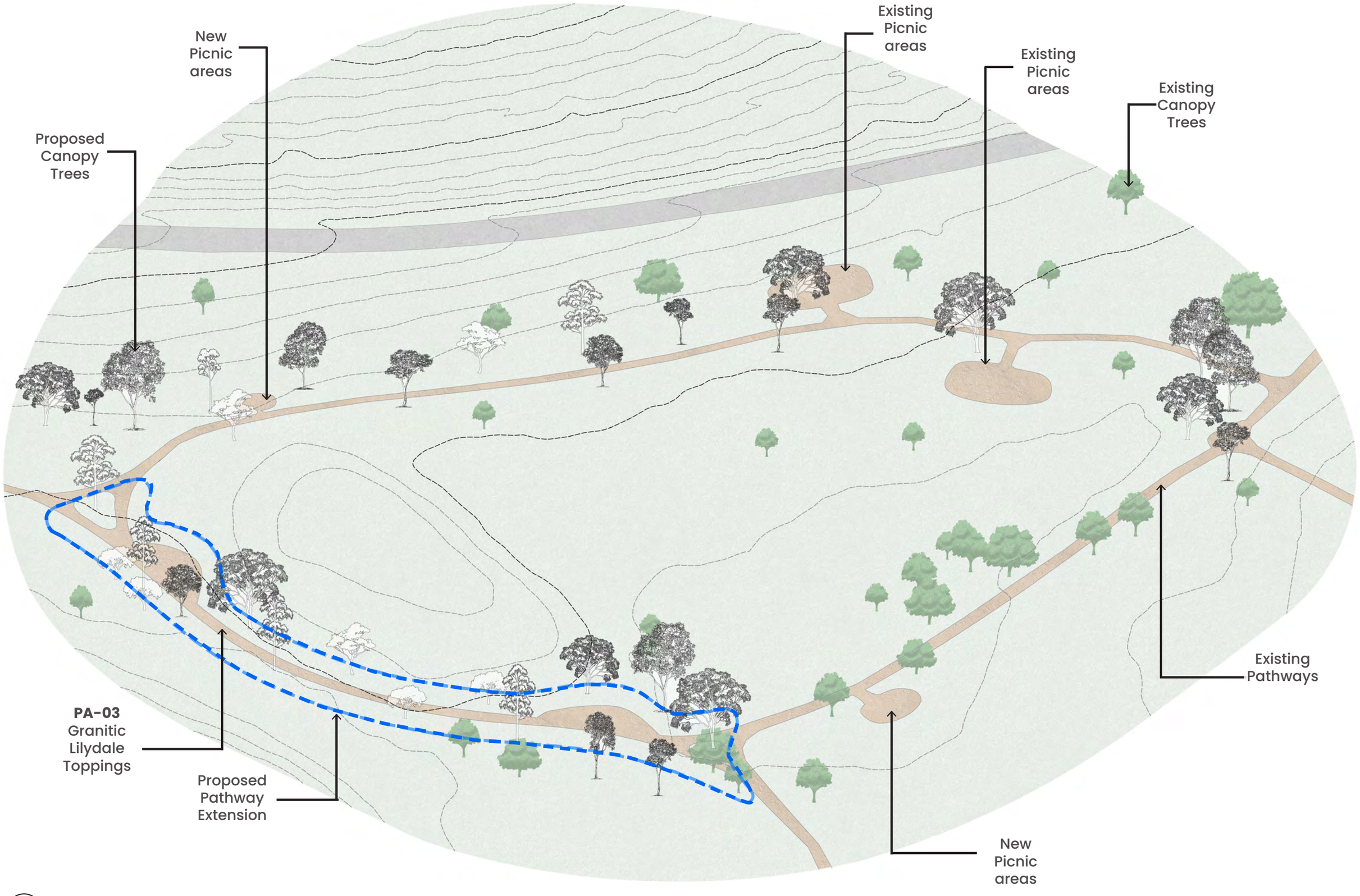
COR fic
Corymbia ficifolia
Flowering Gum



COR cit
Corymbia citriodora
Lemon scented gum



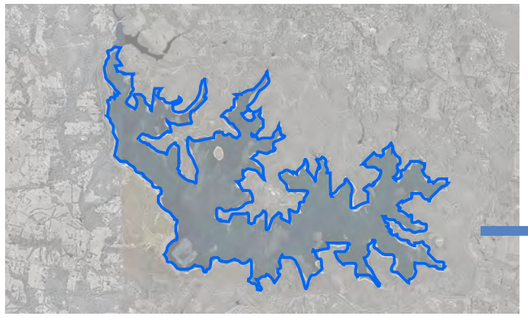
KEY PLAN



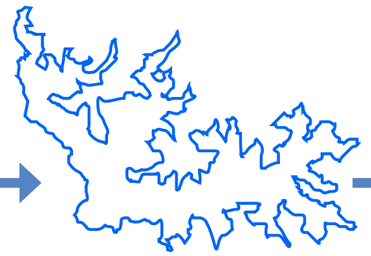
A Pathway Extension and Exploration Circuit

Axonometric View - Not to Scale

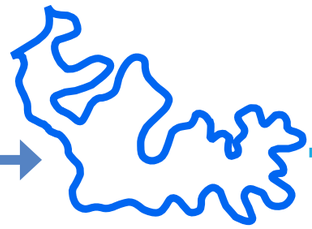
B ‘Cardinia Dam’ Playspace



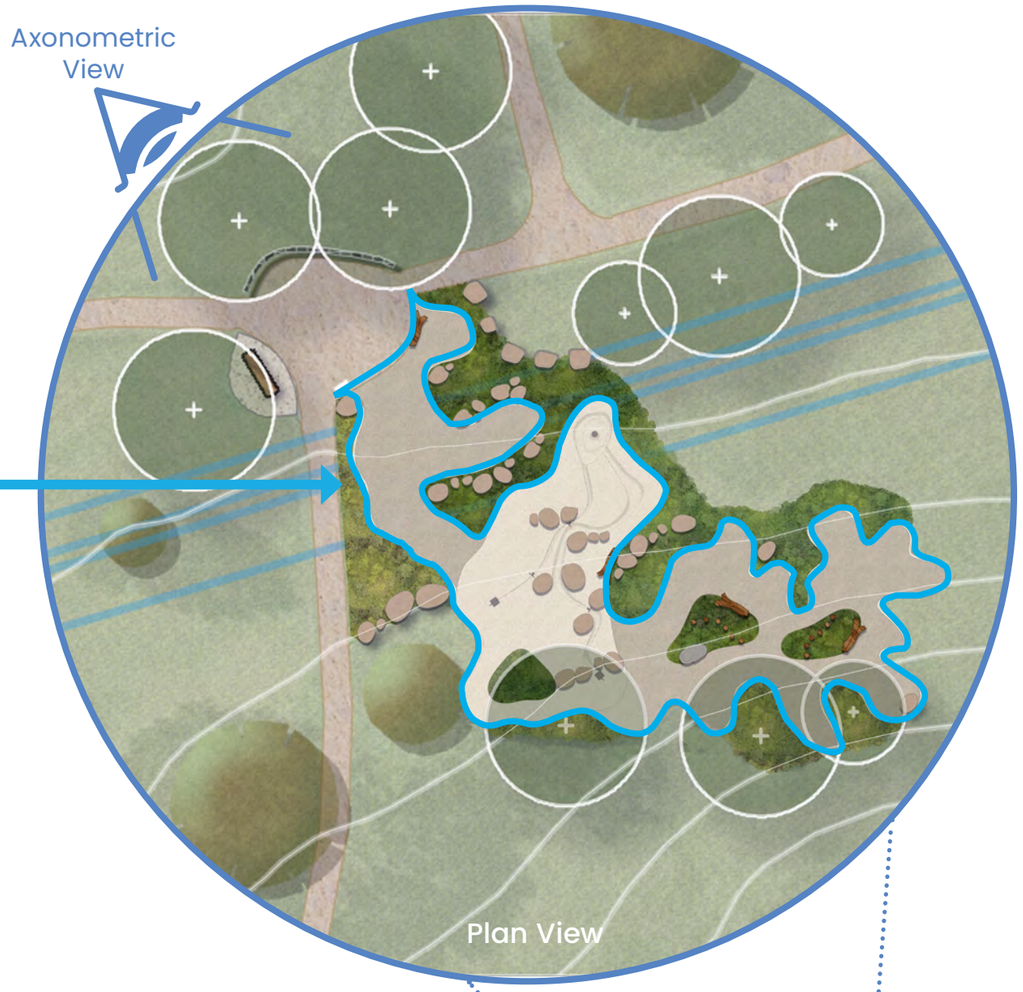
PLAYSPACE INSPIRED BY THE DAM



EXTRACTED SHAPE



SIMPLIFIED SHAPE



Feedback received during Workshop 1 identified the importance of creating more opportunities for children and families within the park.

The proposed playspace draws inspiration from the form and identity of the Cardinia Reservoir itself, creating a unique and site-responsive play experience.

2 design options have been developed based on the availability of potable water, overall cost impact and detailed analysis. Option 1 – Water Play incorporates interactive water elements and a watercourse experience, while Option 2 – Nature Play focuses on timber play structures and nature-based play opportunities. Both options share a consistent design language, material palette and landscape character.

The enlargement plans for the two options are shown in the following spreads.

Legend - *Material Codes and Description*



FU-03
Sawn-top Boulder Seat



FU-07A
Mudstone and Sandstone Boulders



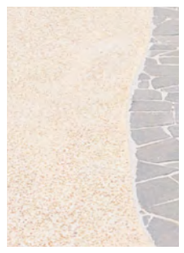
FU-07C
Grinding stone



FU-06A
Habitat Log - Felled Trees



FU-06B
Log Steppers



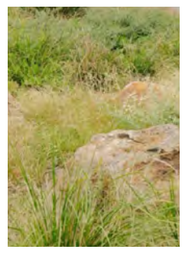
PA-02
Exposed Aggregate Concrete



PA-03
Granitic Lilydale Toppings



FU-02A
Timber Look Aluminium seating on Gabion Wall



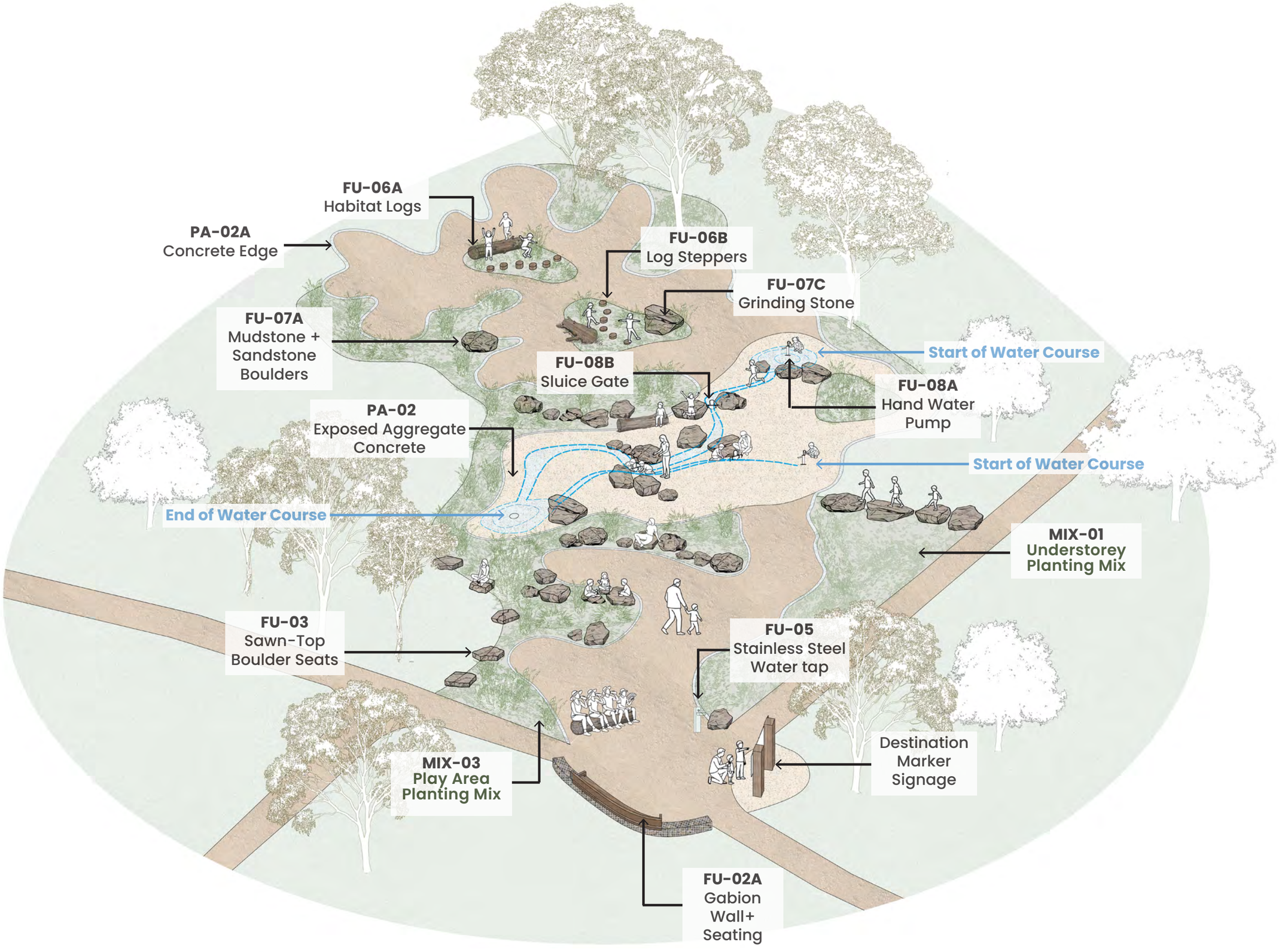
GB-01
Understorey Plants



GB-02 (Mix 03)
Native and Flowering Plants



KEY PLAN



B ‘Cardinia Dam’ Playspace (Option 1 - Water Play)

Axonometric View - Not to Scale

B ‘Cardinia Dam’ Playspace Option 1 - Water Play

Option 1 incorporates a shallow watercourse feature. The water play option is subject to cost impact, detailed analysis and availability of potable water. This option creates opportunities for interactive water play while also allowing drinking fountains to be integrated into the playspace. The flowing water element provides a strong connection to the identity of the reservoir and introduces sensory and educational play opportunities.

Legend - *Material Codes and Description*



FU-03
Sawn-top Boulder Seat



FU-06A
Habitat Log - Felled Trees



FU-06B
Log Steppers



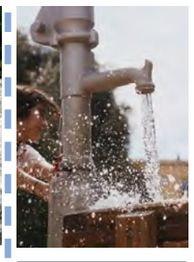
FU-07A
Mudstone and Sandstone Boulders



FU-05
Stainless Steel Drink Tap



FU-07C
Grind Stone



FU-08A
Hand Water Pump



FU-08B
Sluice Gate

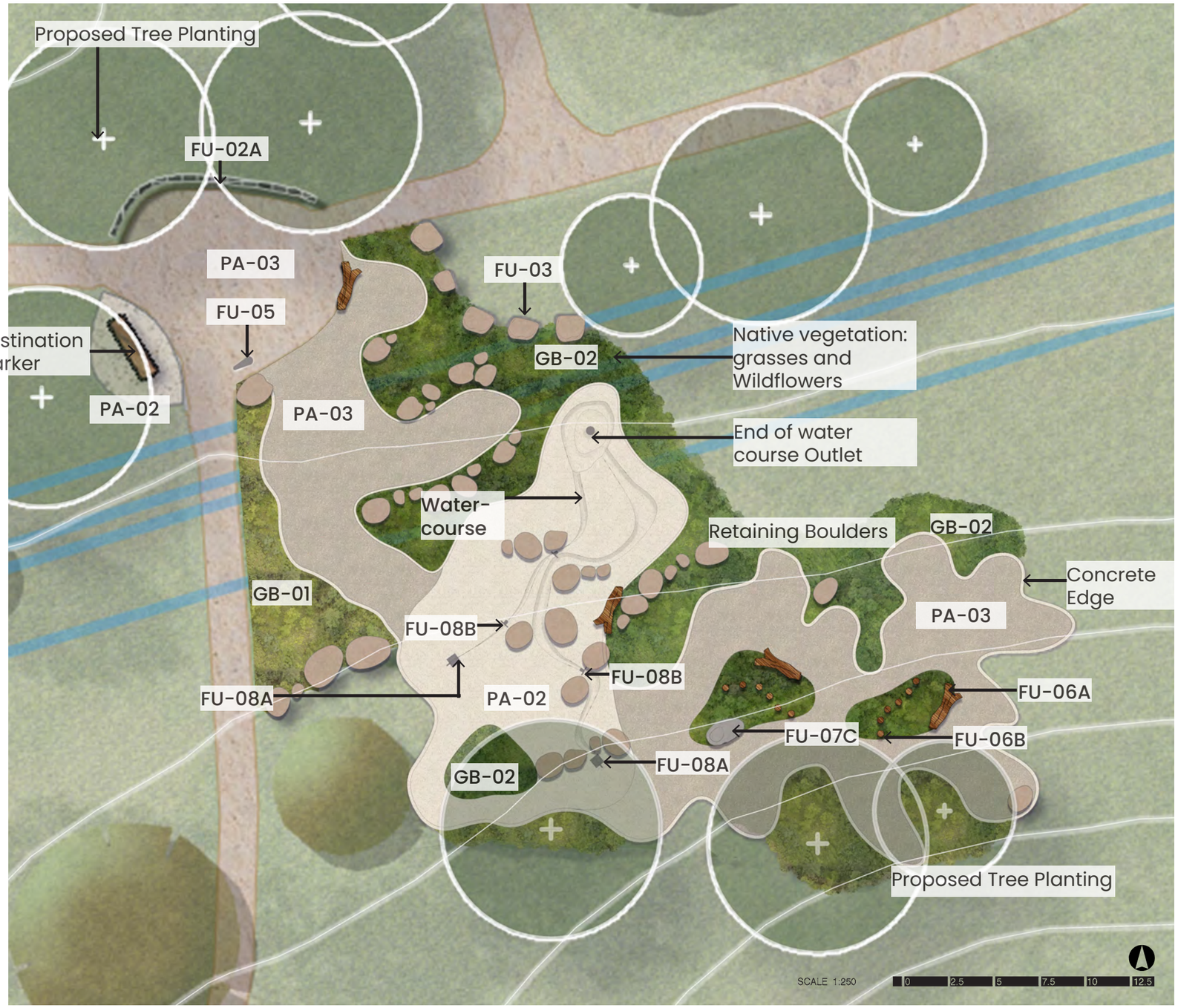


PA-03
Granitic Lilydale Toppings



PA-02
Exposed Aggregate Concrete

Unique to Water Play Option



B ‘Cardinia Dam’ Playspace Option 2 - Nature Play

Option 2 replaces the water feature with timber nature-play elements. This option focuses on climbing, balancing and imaginative play using natural materials integrated into the landscape. The timber elements maintain the same character and spatial intent while offering a low-maintenance and durable alternative.

Legend - *Material Codes and Description*



FU-03
Sawn-top Boulder Seat



FU-06A
Habitat Log - Felled Trees



FU-06B
Log Steppers



FU-07A
Mudstone and Sandstone Boulders



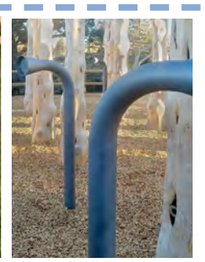
FU-05
Stainless Steel Drink Tap



FU-07C
Grind Stone



FU-09
Timber Balancing Beam



FU-10
Talking Tubes



PA-02
Exposed Aggregate Concrete

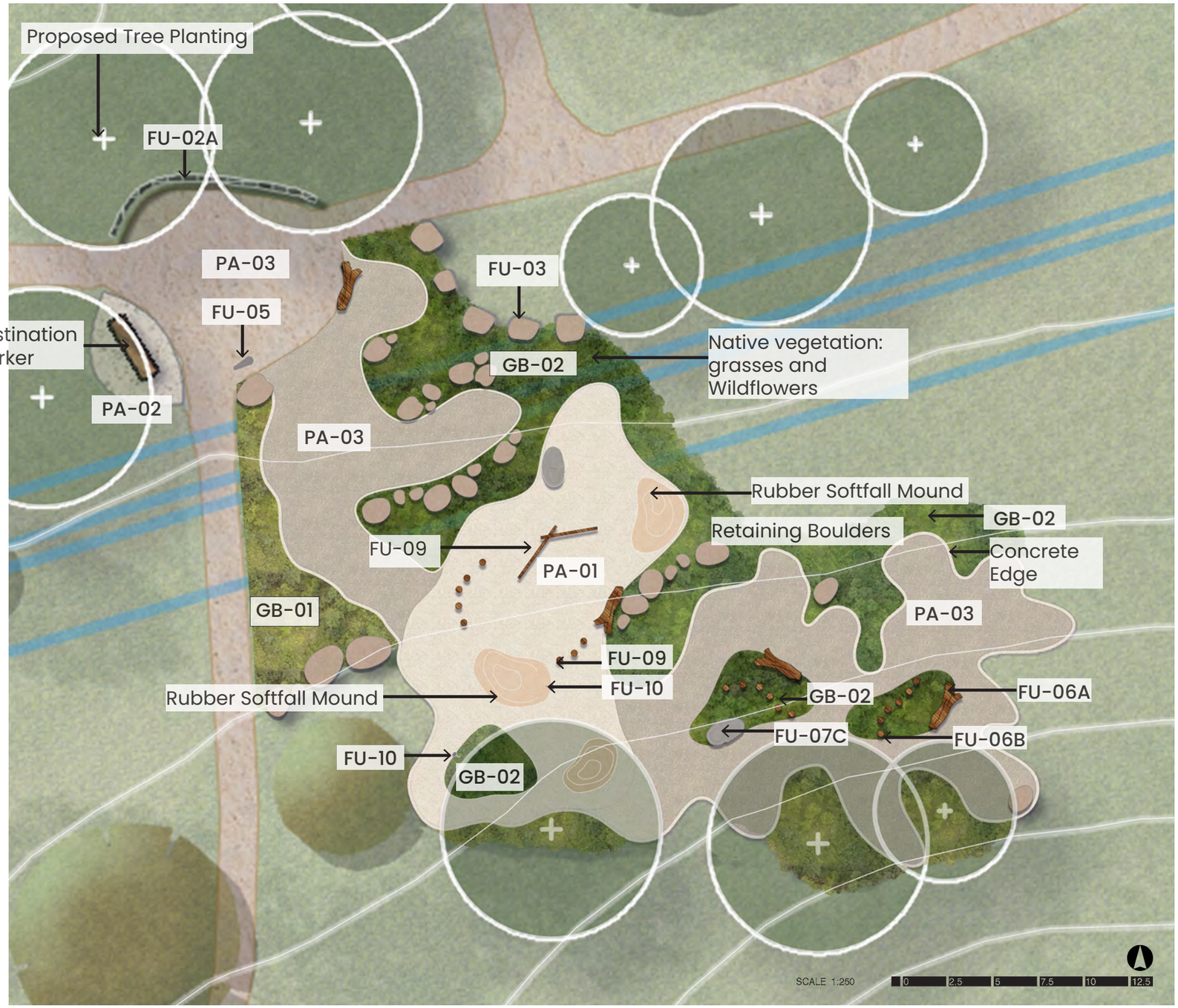


PA-03
Granitic Lilydale Toppings



PA-01
Rubber Softfall Mounding

Unique to Nature Play Option



C ‘Allocasuarina Forest’ Playspace

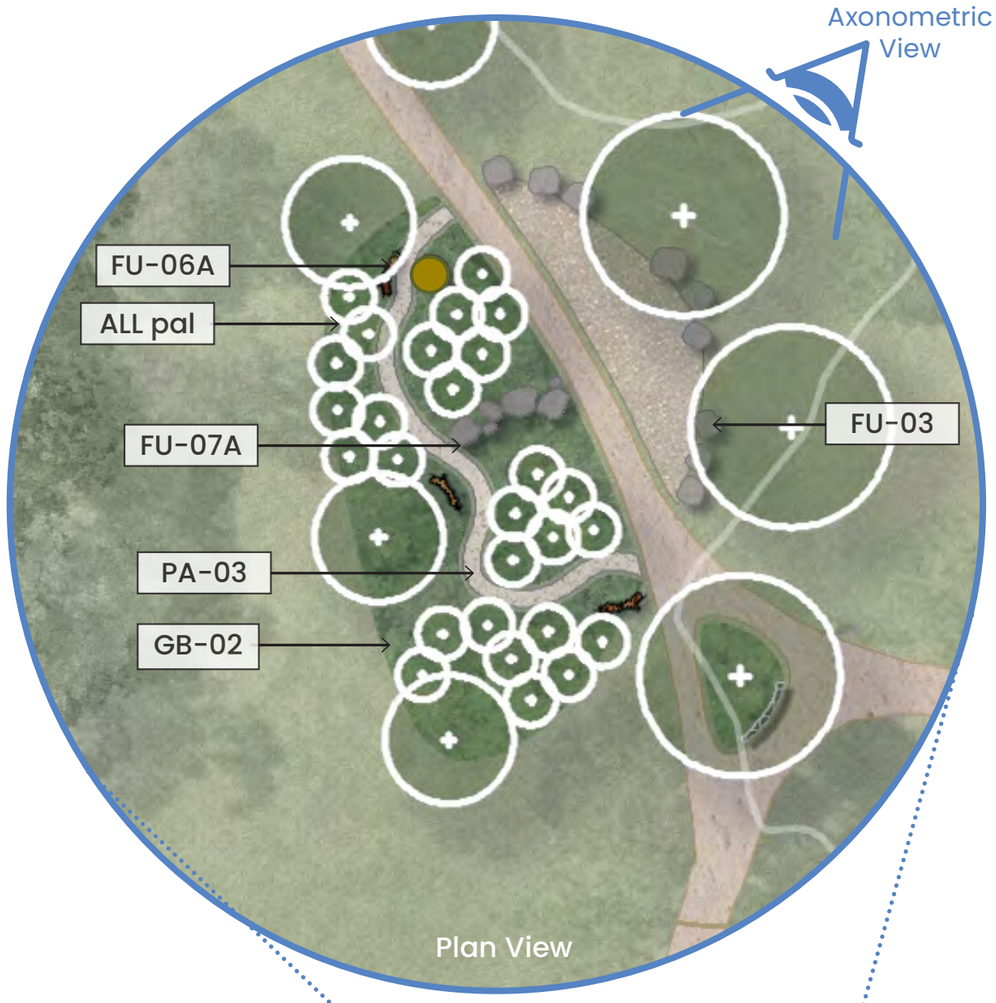
The Allocasuarina Forest Playspace is a natural play area. The landscape itself becomes the primary play experience rather than relying on traditional playground equipment. The design focuses on creating a nature-based play environment that encourages exploration, imagination and informal discovery.

The proposed ‘Allocasuarina Forest’ forms the key feature of the space. As the trees mature, they will establish a distinctive woodland character defined by tall, slender trunks and a soft layer of fallen needles across the ground plane. This evolving landscape creates a calm and immersive setting for play and exploration.

The needle-covered ground introduces a unique sensory experience, encouraging children to engage with the landscape through movement, texture and touch. The spacing of the trees supports informal play activities such as weaving between trunks, hide-and-seek and imaginative games.

As there is no prescribed way to use the space, children are encouraged to interact with the environment creatively and at their own pace. Additional nature-play elements, including logs and boulders, are also proposed throughout the grove to further support informal play and seating opportunities.

Over time, the landscape will continue to evolve as the trees grow and mature, enriching the overall character and creating an increasingly immersive play environment.





KEY PLAN

Legend - *Material Codes and Description*



Educational / Interpretive Signage



FU-03
Sawn-top Boulder Seat



FU-07A
Mudstone + Sandstone Boulders



FU-06A
Habitat Log - Felled Trees



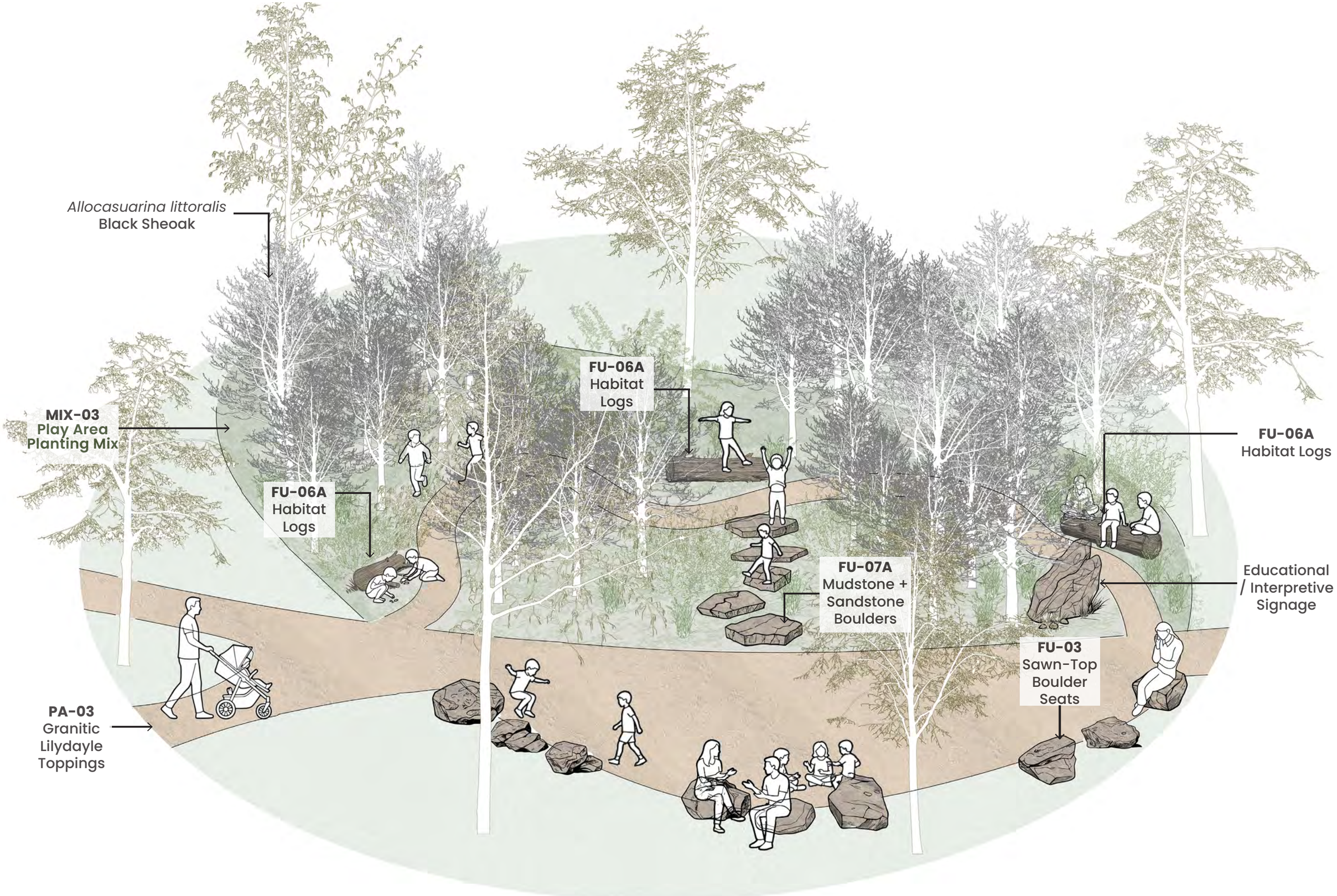
PA-03
Granitic Lilydale Toppings



MIX-03
Play Area Planting Mix



ALL pal
Allocasuarina littoralis
‘Black Sheoak’



C 'Allocasuarina Forest' Playspace

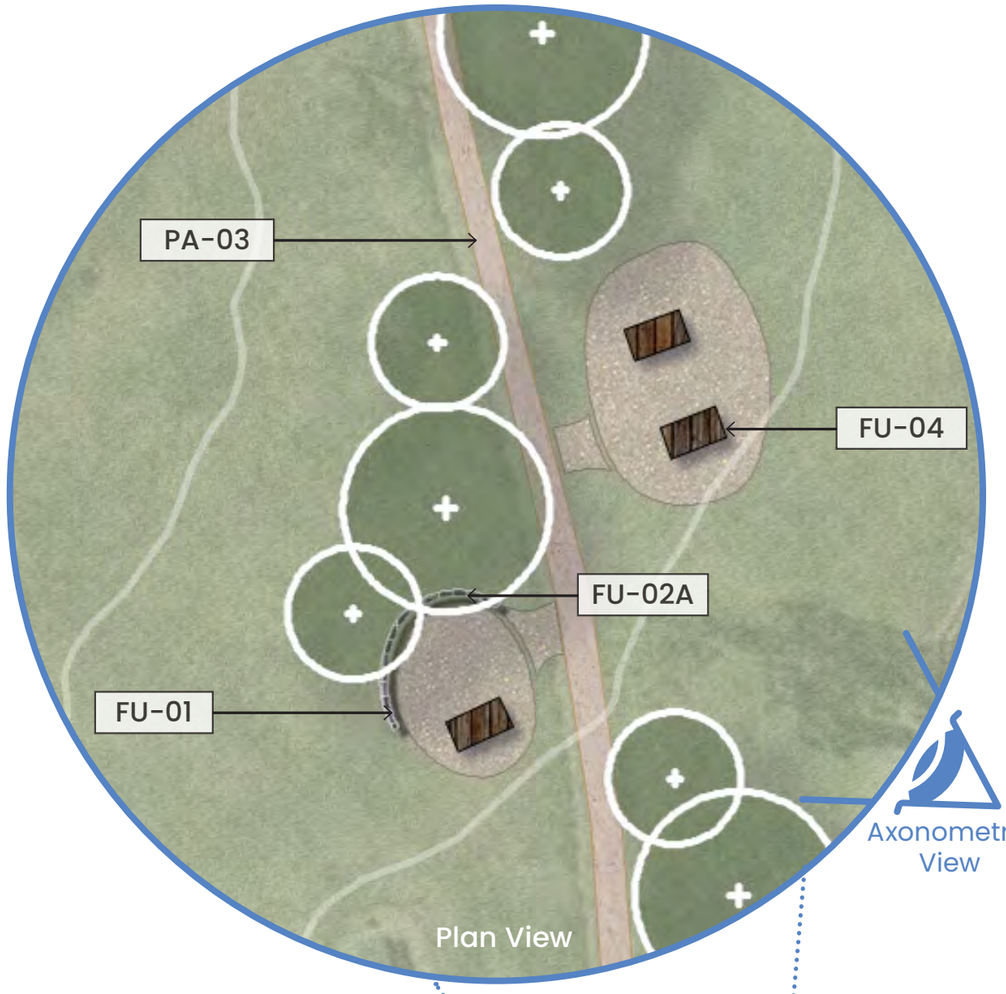
Axonometric View - Not to Scale

D Seating and Picnic Areas

The proposed picnic and seating areas are strategically located in areas where visitors already tend to gather, reinforcing existing patterns of use across the park.

Several picnic spaces are positioned close to existing amenities and the proposed playspace, allowing parents and carers to comfortably supervise children while remaining connected to key activity areas. Other seating and picnic locations are distributed more broadly throughout the site, providing visitors with a variety of quieter and more secluded settings to rest and gather.

The proposed material palette adopts a rustic and understated character that complements the existing bushland setting. Timber-look materials and natural brown tones help the seating and picnic infrastructure sit comfortably within the landscape without detracting from the surrounding environment. The seating with arm and back rests ensure accessibility requirements are met.



Legend - *Material Codes and Description*



FU-01
Gabion Wall



FU-02A
Timber-Look Aluminium seating on Gabion Wall



FU-04
Timber-Look Aluminium Picnic Bench and Table (Supply + Install)



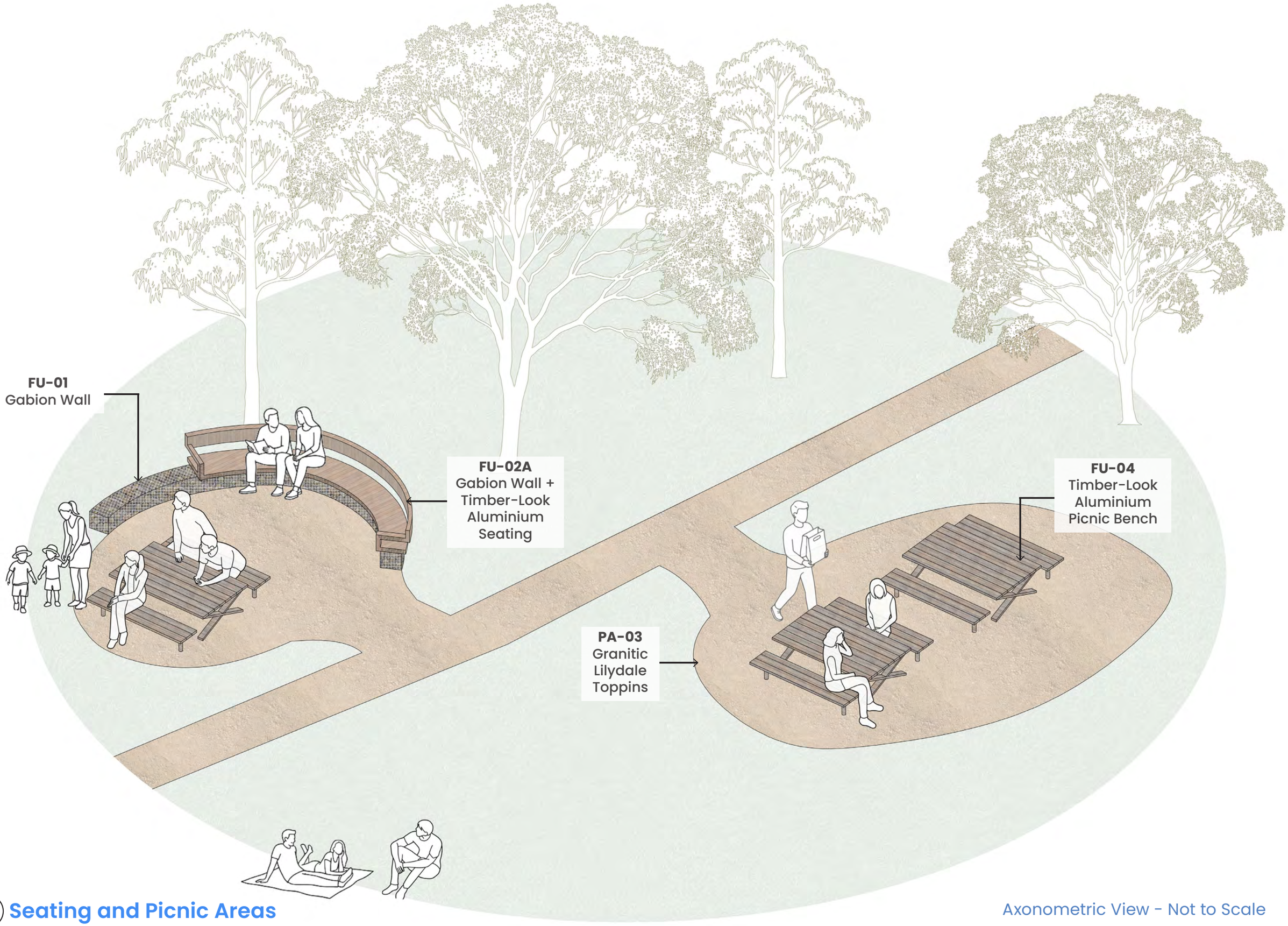
PA-03
Granitic Lilydale Toppings

PROPOSED SEATING + PICNIC AREAS

EXISTING PICNIC AREAS RESURFACED + REINSTATED



KEY PLAN



D Seating and Picnic Areas

Axonometric View - Not to Scale

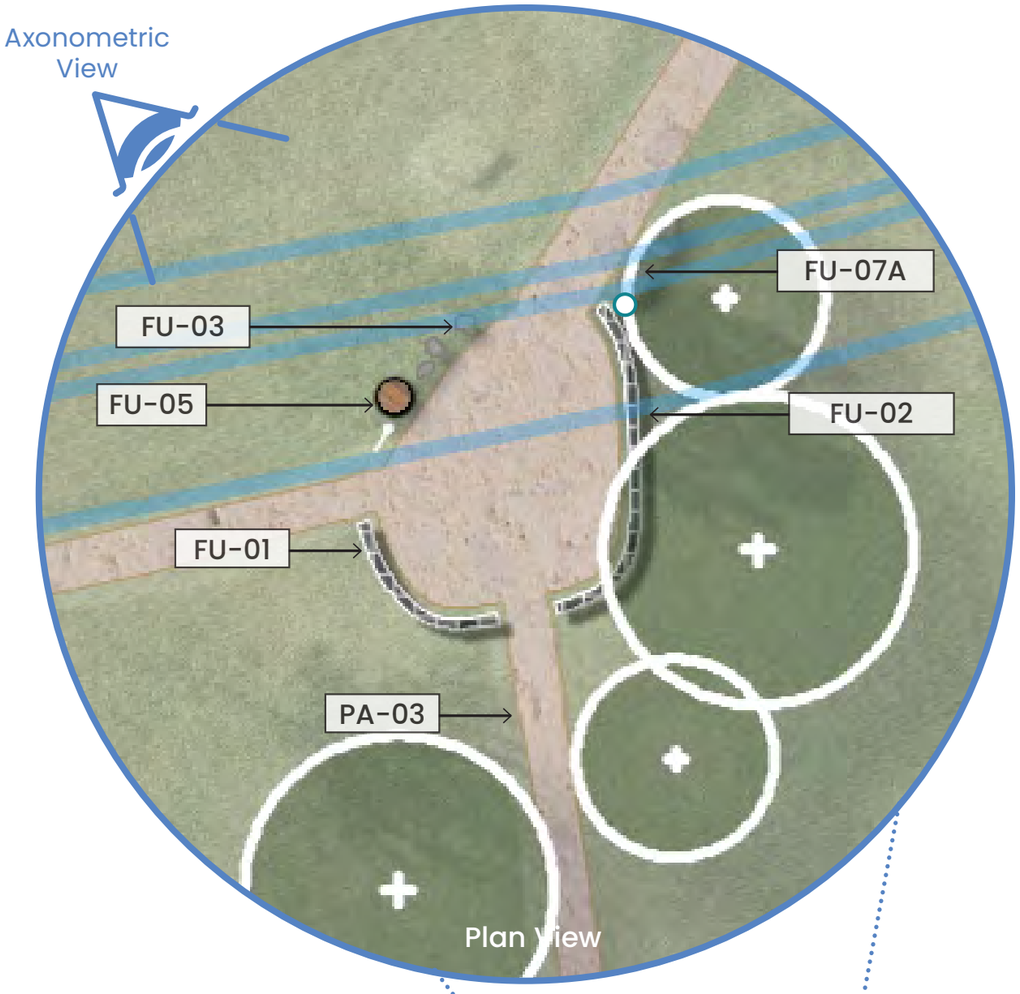
E Trail Heads and Gathering Areas

The proposed trail heads are designed to function as both arrival points and orientation spaces, helping visitors navigate the broader network of walking trails and park destinations.

New seating areas and drinking fountains provide comfortable places for visitors to gather before commencing their walk or to rest afterwards. These spaces also create opportunities for informal social interaction and community use.

Some trailhead locations have also been designed to accommodate larger gatherings and could support outdoor learning, guided walks or small community events within a natural setting.

The proposed gabion wall seating draws inspiration from the material character of the Cardinia Dam wall itself, creating a subtle visual connection between the infrastructure and the surrounding landscape.



Legend - *Material Codes and Description*



Trail Head Signage



FU-01
Gabion Wall



FU-02
Timber Look Aluminium seating on Gabion Wall



FU-03
Sawn-top Boulder Seat



FU-07A
Mudstone + Sandstone Boulders



FU-05
Stainless Steel Drink Tap



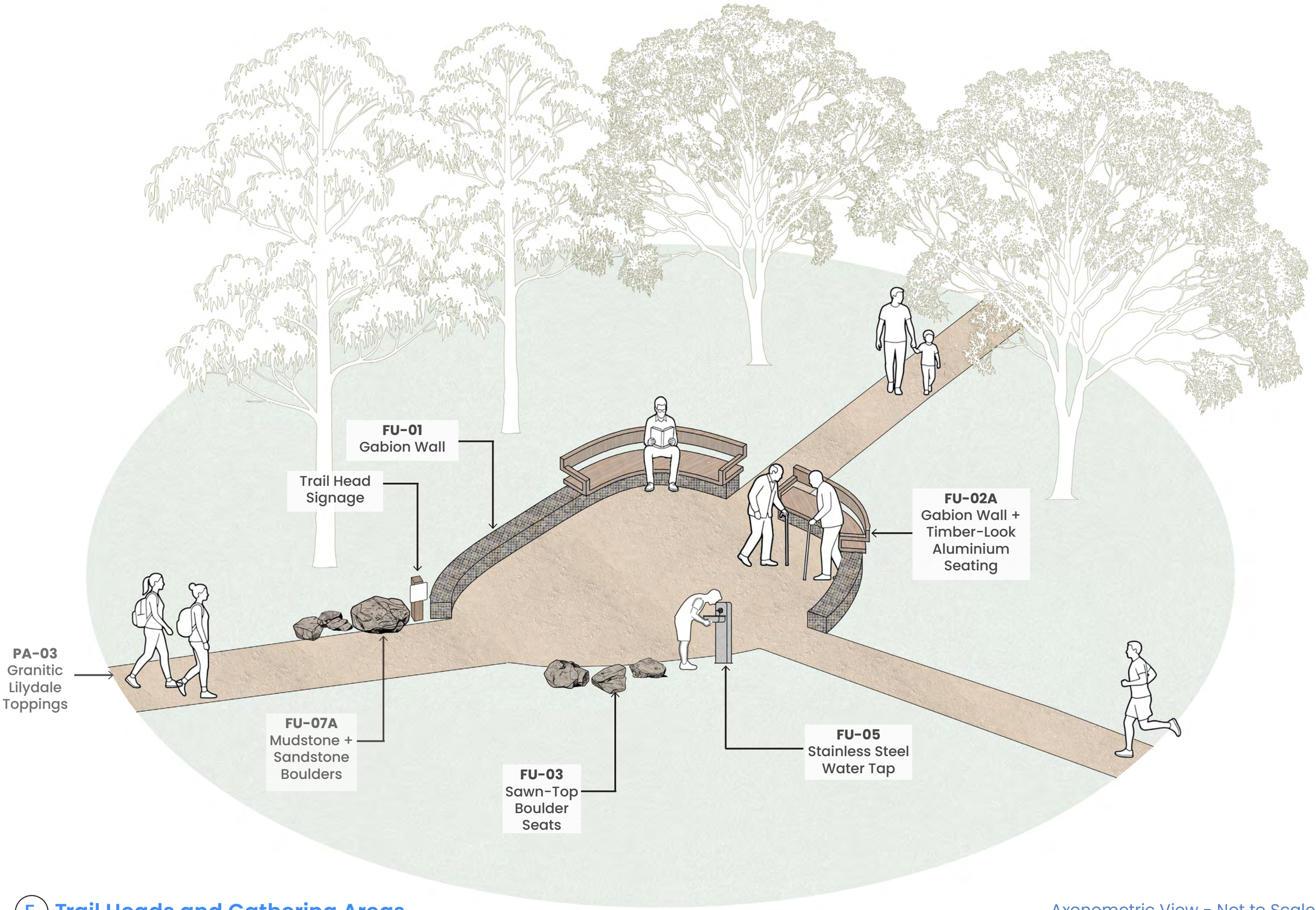
PA-03
Granitic Lilydale Toppings

PROPOSED TRAIL HEAD WITH SEATING + SIGNAGE

PROPOSED TRAIL HEAD WITH SIGNAGE



KEY PLAN



E Trail Heads and Gathering Areas

Axonometric View - Not to Scale

F Feature Planting and Garden Areas

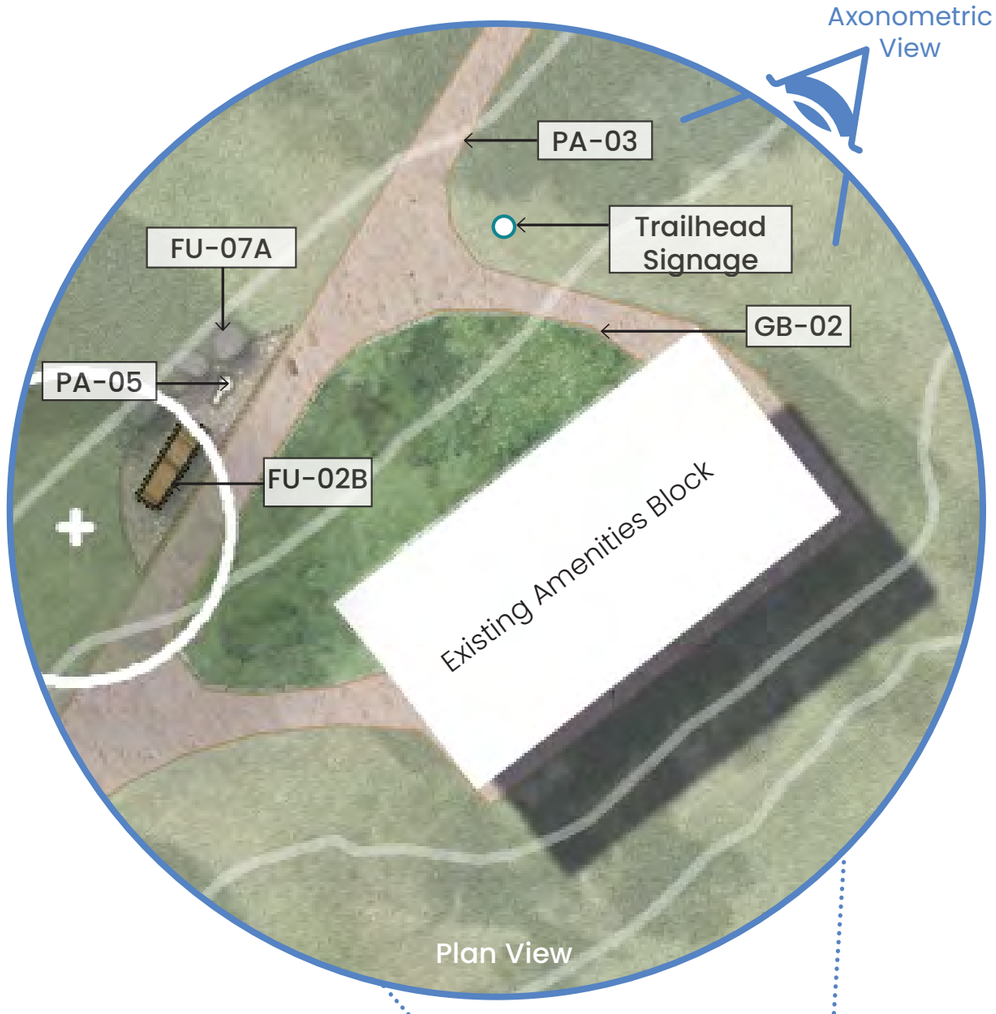
The proposal includes targeted feature planting and flowering garden beds to enhance existing amenities and improve the overall presentation of key visitor areas throughout the site.

While relatively minimal in scale, these planting interventions help soften the built form and introduce seasonal colour, texture and visual interest within highly used spaces. The planting also contributes to a more welcoming and comfortable visitor experience.

The existing toilet block (pictured in adjacent plan and Axonometric view) is currently a prominent visual element within the landscape. The proposal introduces low-level planting around the edges of the structure, together with additional seating and signage, to soften its appearance and better integrate it into the surrounding setting.

All proposed feature planting within these areas will remain below 2 metres in height to support CPTED principles. Maintaining lower planting heights will help preserve clear sightlines, improve passive surveillance and minimise potential hiding spots throughout the site.

The planting palette has provided Mixes 02 and 03, that shows the feature mixes. Play areas have a different plant mix that ensure it is non toxic and safe for children to be around. Refer to Planting Palette for more details.



Legend - *Material Codes and Description*



Trail Head Signage



FU-02B
Timber-Look Aluminium Bench



FU-05
Stainless Steel Drink Tap



FU-07A
Mudstone + Sandstone Boulders



PA-03
Granitic Lilydale Toppings

Feature Planting



Grasses





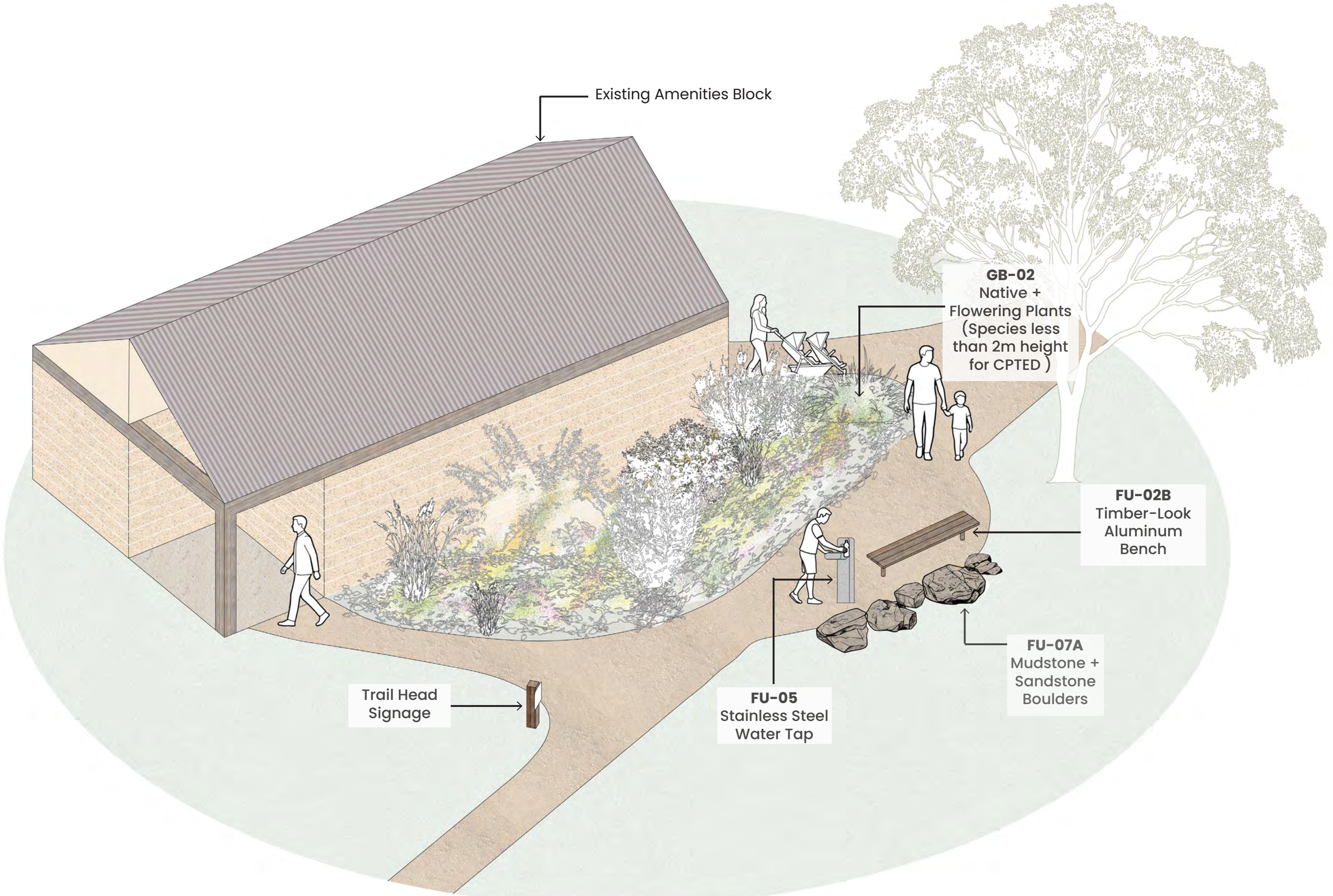




Flowering + Herbaceous



KEY PLAN



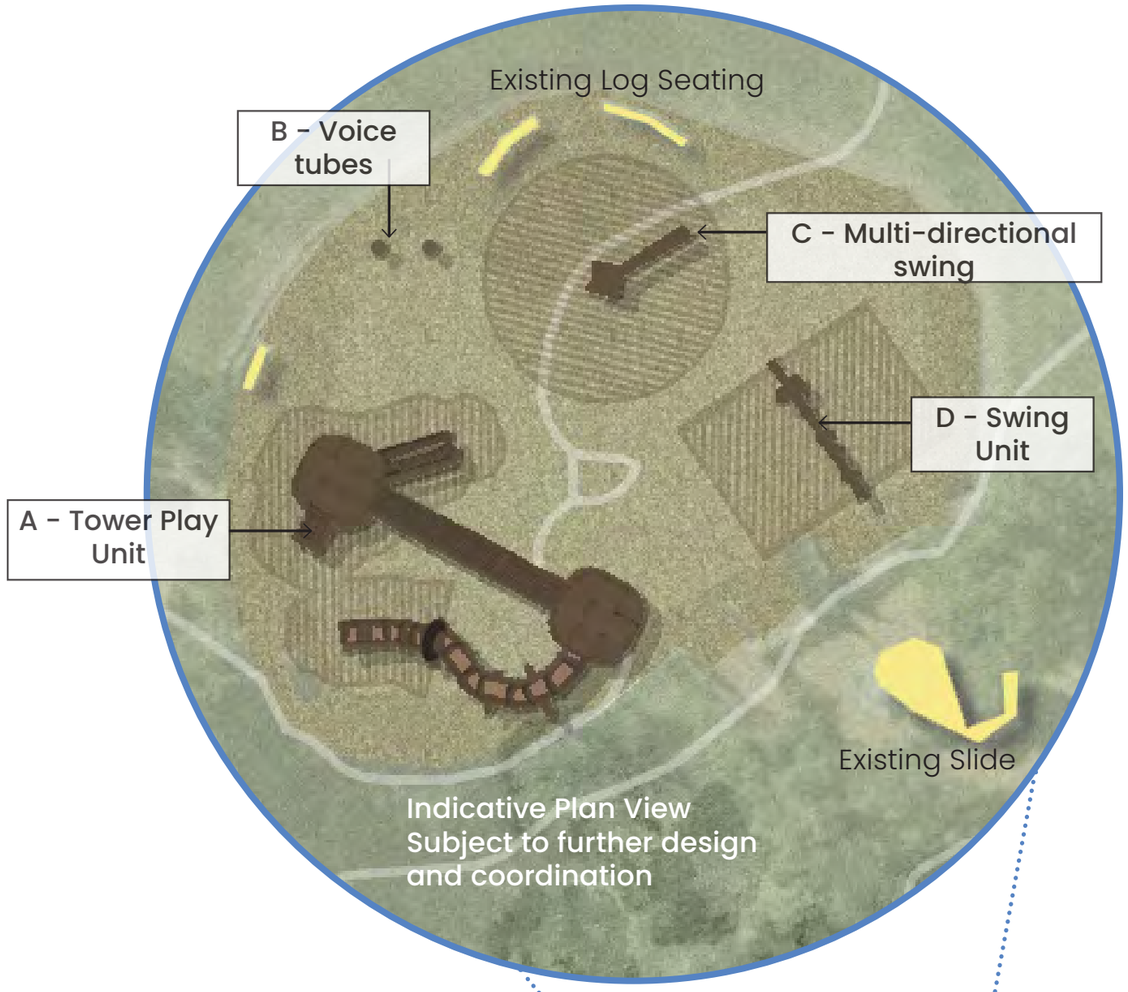
F Feature Planting and Garden Areas

Axonometric View - Not to Scale

G Existing Playground Upgrade

The proposed playground upgrade will provide an enhanced recreation space for children and families through the introduction of new play opportunities, supporting infrastructure and landscape improvements. The design aims to create an engaging, inclusive and visually appealing destination while complementing the surrounding parkland character.

The play equipment, layout and associated imagery shown in the Landscape Concept Plan are indicative only and intended to communicate the desired look and feel of the future playground. Further coordination, refinement and selection of play elements will be undertaken during the detailed design stage to respond to site conditions, accessibility requirements, safety standards and stakeholder input.



Images are indicative only and intended to convey the character of play experiences and equipments that may be incorporated within the final design.

Legend - *Material Codes and Description*

Indicative Playground Equipment



A
Tower Play Unit
(Example Image only - Subject to design and coordination)



B
Voice Tubes



C
Multi-Directional Swing



D
Swing Unit



KEY PLAN

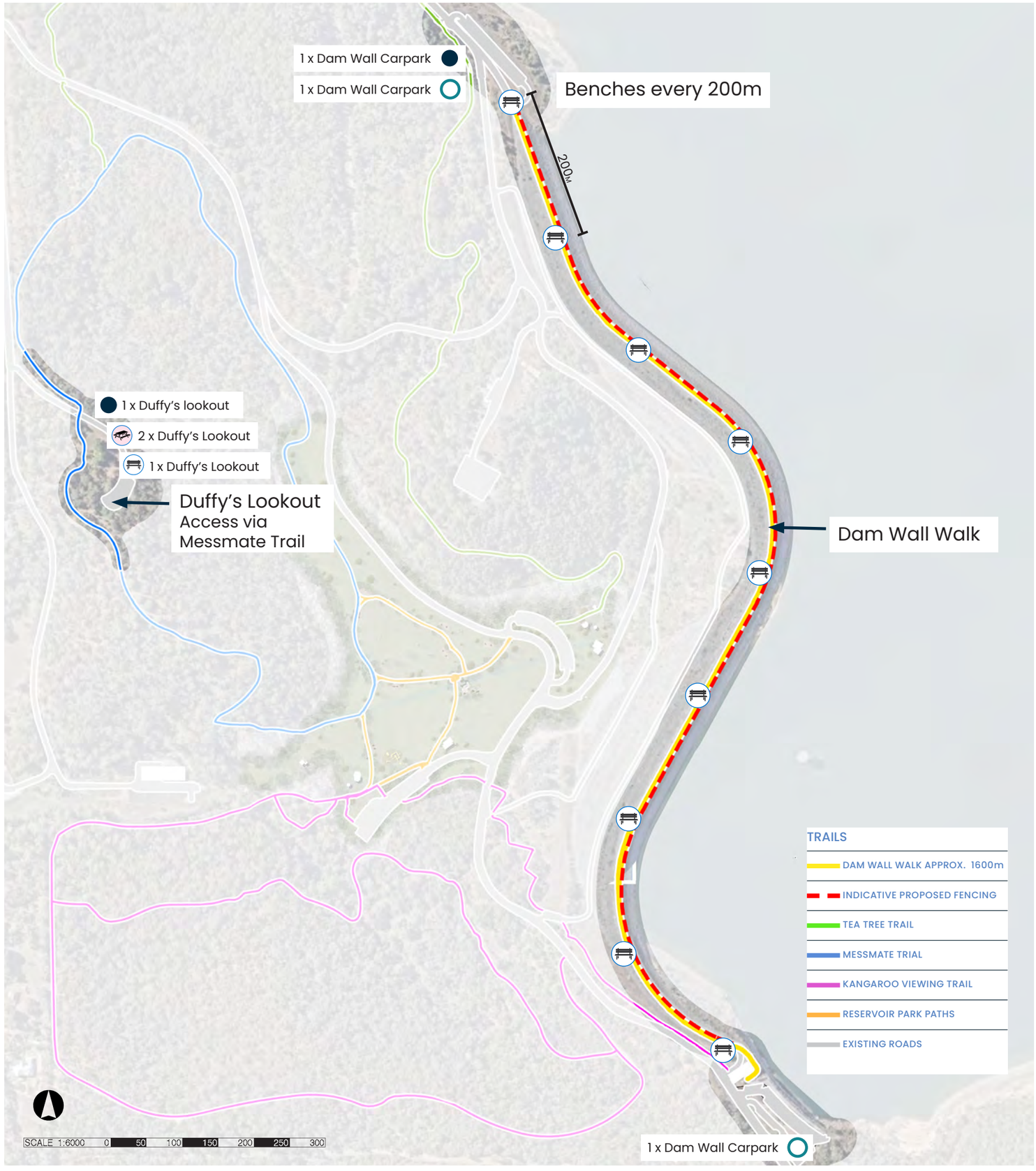
Broader Design Interventions

The secondary focus of this Liveability Concept Design is the identification of strategic locations where targeted, low-impact interventions can enhance the visitor experience in response to community and stakeholder feedback. Rather than extensive upgrades, these areas are proposed to receive a series of carefully considered improvements guided by a high-level furniture and visitor amenity strategy.

Along the Dam Wall Walk, seating has been strategically located at approximately 200-metre intervals to provide regular rest opportunities for visitors and improve accessibility for users with varying mobility levels. These rest points encourage a more comfortable walking experience while enabling visitors to pause and enjoy views of the reservoir and surrounding landscape.

Duffy's Lookout has been identified as a key gathering and meeting point for walking groups and reservoir visitors. Improvements are proposed including interpretive and wayfinding signage, additional seating and a picnic table. These elements will support social interaction, provide opportunities for rest and reflection, and enhance visitor orientation and appreciation of the surrounding landscape.

Indicative fencing alignments have been shown for context only to illustrate potential future site management and operational requirements. Fencing is not included within the scope of the Liveability Concept Design, and the locations shown should be considered indicative only



Legend - *Material Codes and Description*



FU-02B
Timber-Look Aluminium Bench



FU-04
Timber-Look Aluminium Picnic Bench and Table (Supply + Install)



Destination Marker



Trail Head

Material and Furniture Palette

The material palette has been carefully selected in response to feedback gathered through community consultation workshops, balancing durability, low maintenance requirements, and a rustic, natural character that complements the landscape setting of Cardinia Reservoir Park. Materials have been chosen to blend with the surrounding environment while providing a robust and long-lasting solution for park infrastructure.

Accessibility

Seating throughout the park includes armrests and backrests to provide comfort and assistance for users when sitting and standing.

Pathways and gathering spaces are proposed to utilise compacted Lilydale topping, providing a firm, stable and slip-resistant surface suitable for wheelchairs, prams and other mobility devices.





FU-01- A Gabion Wall

FU-02 -Gabion Wall with timber Seating



FU-02B
Timber Look Picnic Table (Supply & Install)



FU-03
Sawn-top Boulder Seat



FU-04
Timber Look Aluminium Picnic Bench



FU-05
Stainless Steel Drink Tap

Active Recreation	
Meet + Gather	
Play + Explore	
Connect With Nature	

Water Course : Option 01



FU-06A Habitat Log - Felled Tree

FU-06B Log Steppers (play element)





FU-07A Mudstone and Sandstone Boulders

FU-07B Mudstone Retaining Boulders

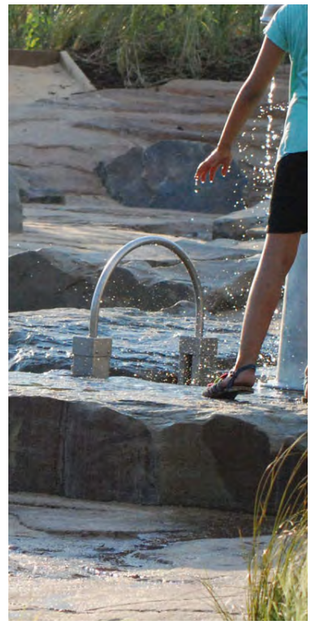
FU-07C Boulder - grind stone





FU-08A Hand Water Pump

FU-08B Sluice Gate



Active Recreation	
Meet + Gather	
Play + Explore	
Connect With Nature	

Furniture Palette

Nature Play : Option 02



FU-06A Habitat Log - Felled Tree

FU-06B Log Steppers (play element)



FU-07A Mudstone and Sandstone Boulders

FU-07B Mudstone Retaining Boulders

FU-07C Boulder - grind stone





FU-09
Timber Balancing Beam



PA-01
Rubber Softfall Mounding



FU-10
Talking tubes

Active Recreation	
Meet + Gather	
Play + Explore	
Connect With Nature	

Material Palette

Nature Play : Option 02

Water Play : Option 01



GB-01
Understorey Planting



GB-02
Native and flowering Plants



PA-01
Rubber Softfall in ‘Natural Sand’ Tones



PA-02
Exposed Aggregate Concrete





PA-03
Granitic Lilydale Toppings

Active Recreation	
Meet + Gather	
Play + Explore	
Connect With Nature	

Proposed Tree Palette

The tree palette for Cardinia Reservoir Park has been carefully selected to complement the existing bushland character of the site, which is predominantly defined by eucalypt species typical of Melbourne's south-east. Proposed tree planting will strengthen habitat connectivity across the park, providing opportunities for wildlife movement, foraging and nesting, while reinforcing the site's ecological values.

Allocasuarina littoralis has been specifically incorporated within the Nature Playspace to provide shade, habitat value and opportunities for nature-based discovery and pla

Where appropriate, selected exotic and European species currently established within the landscape have also been incorporated into the palette to maintain landscape continuity and facilitate the replacement of existing trees that may be removed as part of future park improvements.

A diverse understorey of indigenous shrubs, grasses and groundcovers is proposed to enhance biodiversity, improve ecological resilience, and contribute to the protection of soil and water quality within the reservoir catchment. Collectively, the proposed vegetation will enrich the natural character of the park, support local fauna and create a richer visitor experience through seasonal variation, texture and habitat value.



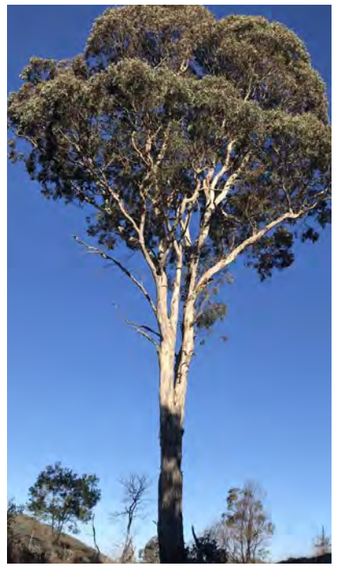
Eucalyptus ovata
Swamp Gum



Eucalyptus obliqua
Messmate Stringybark



Eucalyptus cephalocarpa
Silver-leaf Stringybark



Eucalyptus melliodora
Yellow Box



Allocasuarina littoralis
Black Sheoak

Proposed around the Allocasuarina Forest Playspace



Corymbia ficifolia
Flowering Gum



Corymbia citriodora
Lemon scented gum



Quercus robur
English Oak



Fraxinus oxycarpa 'Raywood'
Claret Ash



Ulmus glabra 'Lutescens'
Golden Wych Elm

European Species (To replace removed european species on site)

Planting Palette

Mix 01 - Understorey Planting 1

GRASS



Poa sieberiana
Grey Tussock-grass



Tetrarrhena juncea
Forest Wire-grass



Lomandra filiformis
Wattle Mat-rush

FLOWERING



Arthropodium strictum
Chocolate Lily

GROUNDCOVER



Goodenia lanata
Trailing Goodenia



Gonocarpus tetragynus
Common Raspwort

Mix 02 -Feature Understorey Planting

ACCENT GRASS



Lomandra filiformis
Wattle Mat-rush

FEATURE GRASS



Themeda triandra
Kangaroo Grass

FLOWERING



Arthropodium strictum
Chocolate Lily



Dianella revoluta
Black-anther Flax-lily



Goodenia ovata
Hop goodenia



Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Everlasting Daisy



Brachyscome multifida
Cut-leaved daisy

Mix 03 - Play Area Mix

Grass



Microlaena stipoides
Weeping Grass



Lomandra longifolia
Basket Grass

Low Shrubs



Correa reflexa
native fushia



Pultenaea daphnoides
large-leaf bush-pea

FLOWERING



Viola hederacea
Australian Violet



Goodenia lanata
Native primrose

HABITAT

- Butterfly attracting
- Bird attracting
- Frog habitat

Signage and Wayfinding

Signage and Wayfinding: Schedule

The wayfinding and signage strategy is subject to review and consultation with community and stakeholders including Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water.

Wayfinding and Signage design including interpretive and educational signage is subject to design development by others.



Destination Marker



Trail Head



Distance + Direction Marker





Educational / Interpretive Marker

Signage Schedule

Location	A prominent entry sign identifying the park or destination, welcoming visitors, establishing identity, and clearly marking key locations within the broader park network	Located at trail entrances, this sign provides trail names, permitted uses, safety information, maps, and guidance to help visitors confidently begin their journey.	A simple navigational sign showing distances and directions to destinations, helping users orient themselves and plan routes while moving through the park or trails	An interpretive sign or plaque sharing information about local ecology, history, or culture, encouraging learning and deeper connection with the park environment.
Dam Wall Walk	1	2	3	-
Cardinia Reservoir Park	1	-	5	6
Duffy's Look out	1	-	2	1
Kangaroo Trail	1	1	3	3
Tea Tree Trail	-	1	3	3
Messmate Trail	-	2	3	3

Signage locations to be confirmed. Subject to change following stakeholder coordination

TRAILS

- DAM WALL WALK
- TEA TREE TRAIL
- MESSMATE TRIAL
- KANGAROO VIEWING TRAIL
- RESERVOIR PARK PATHS
- EXISTING ROADS

AMENITY UPGRADES

- DESTINATION MARKER
- TRAIL HEAD
- DISTANCE + DRIECTION MARKER
- EDUCATIONAL / INTERPRETIVE MARKER



Thank you.