YAN YEAN RESERVOIR VISITOR EXPERIENCE FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN

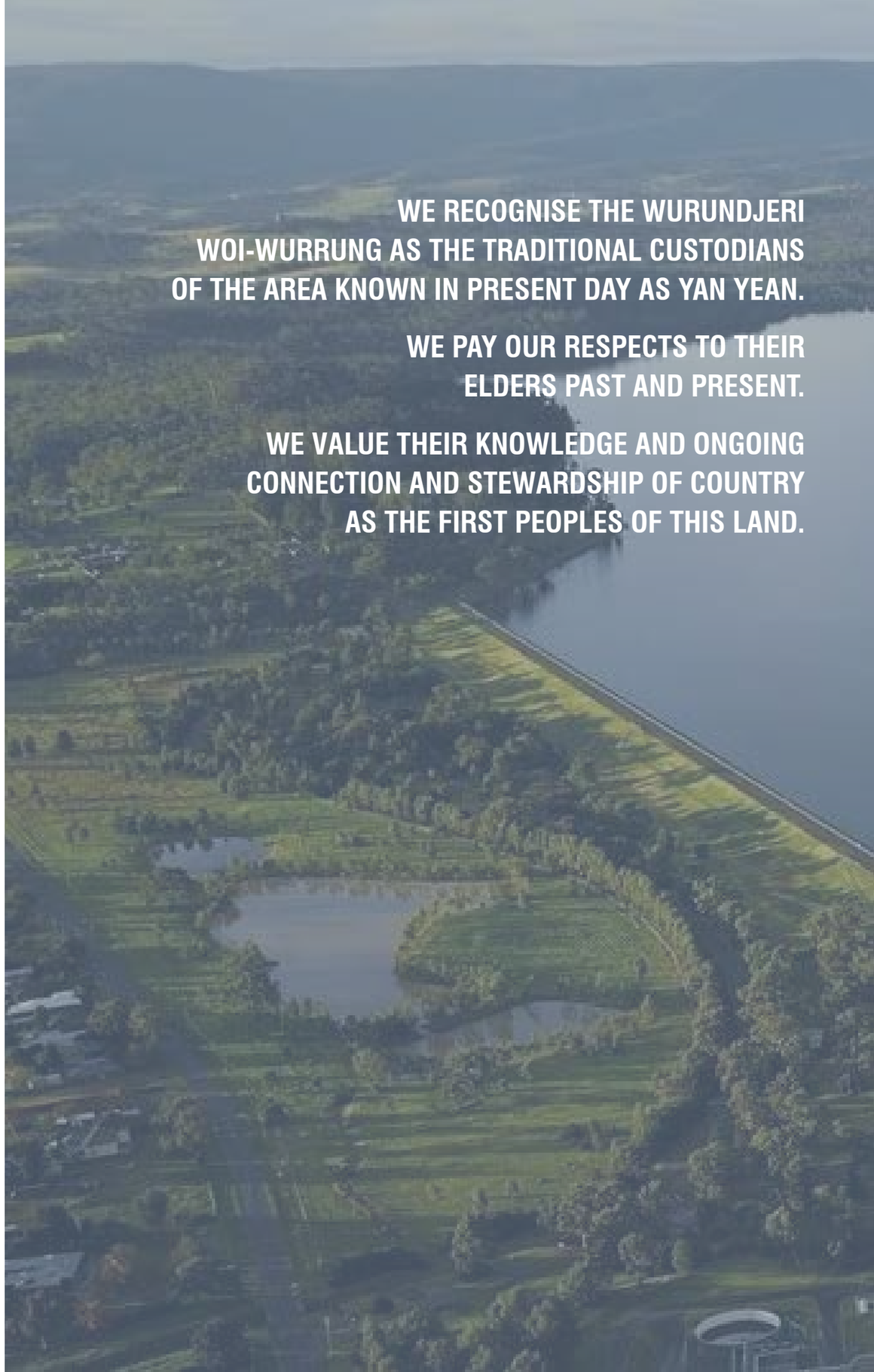
OCTOBER 2026

Melbourne Water

Parks Victoria

City of Whittlesea

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung



STATUS	DATE	COMPILED BY	AUTHORISED
Preliminary Draft for Project Partner input	20/08/2024	JM	AL
Draft FDP for Project Partner review	22/07/2025	JM / AL	SOC
Draft FDP for Melbourne Water review	16/09/2025	AL	SOC
Draft FDP for Melbourne Water review	19/09/2025	AL	SOC
Draft FDP for Melbourne Water review	31/10/2025	AL	AL
Draft FDP for Project Partner endorsement	12/11/2025	AL	AL
Draft FDP for Community Consultation	08/12/2025	AL	AL
DRAFT Final FDP for Project Partner Endorsement	17/08/2026	AL	AL
Final Endorsed FDP	02/10/2026	AL	AL

The Yan Yean Reservoir Visitor Experience - Future Directions Plan was commissioned by Melbourne Water and was prepared by Spiire Australia, Level 4, 469 La Trobe Street PO Box 16084 Melbourne Victoria 8007

Cover image supplied by Melbourne Water

Note: All mappings based in this report are indicative only and subject to site based survey and confirmation of data.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Melbourne Water has prepared this Future Directions Plan in collaboration with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Victoria and the City of Whittlesea. The plan has been prepared to articulate a future vision to improve the visitor experience at Yan Yean Reservoir Park and to help guide its development as a valued regional recreation and open space destination for the community over the next 50 years and beyond.

Melbourne Water would like to formally acknowledge and thank each partner organisation for their assistance and support in developing the plan. Their knowledge, expertise and considered feedback has been invaluable, and we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all involved.

We look forward to continuing to work with all project partners and the local community to finalise and deliver the Future Directions Plan.

Thank you.



PART 1: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

01.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

SITE CONTEXT

Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment is located in the City of Whittlessea (CoW), east of Whittlesea township and approximately 40km north of Melbourne. The purpose of the site is to provide water supply to Melbourne, and this will remain the primary purpose of the site into the future. It receives water from catchments north of Melbourne and supplies high-quality drinking water to Melbourne's northern and central suburbs.

As well as being a critical water supply asset, the site has significant values including:

- **Environmental** - Yan Yean Reservoir is one of Melbourne Water's (MW's) Sites of Biodiversity Significance, recognised as critical habitat for significant rare and threatened species. The site also has two "Reference Areas" within its catchment, which are places put aside under Victorian legislation to preserve a snapshot of what Victoria's bush was like, to assist future land managers and scientists.
- **Cultural** - Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung are the Traditional Owners of the land and a Cultural Values Assessment for the catchment has been completed highlighting the significant site values and recommendations for their management and protection at Yan Yean.
- **Heritage** - Yan Yean Reservoir is Melbourne's oldest water supply reservoir, completed in 1857, and holds significant water supply heritage values, in addition to post-contact European heritage values.
- **Social** - Yan Yean Reservoir Park has been a popular recreational destination for the community since the 1900s and remains a valuable recreational space, attracting around 80,000 visits per year.

The CoW is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia and is located near Melbourne's northern growth corridor. By 2040 the population is expected to increase by more than 60 percent, as the municipality welcomes over 8,000 new residents per year. To accommodate this growth, the CoW plans to develop around 56,000 new homes within its local government area. As urban change may alter access to private open space over time, well designed and maintained public open space is likely to become more heavily relied upon.

MW recognises the importance of ensuring the appropriate infrastructure and management actions are in place to accommodate the likely future increase to visitation at Yan Yean and ensure the long-term protection of cultural and environmental values.

THE PROJECT

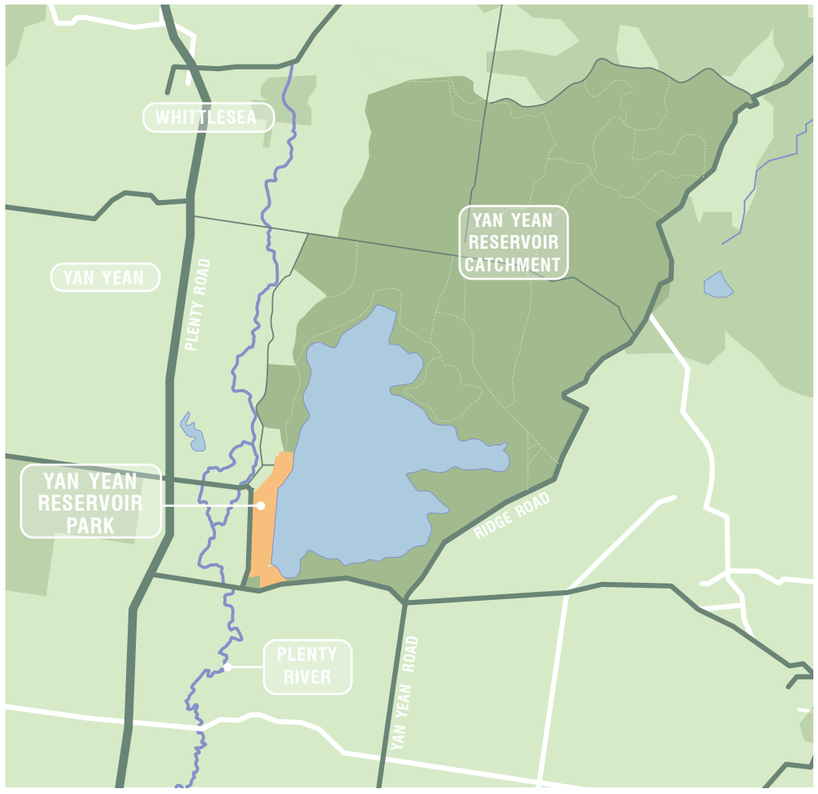
In line with State Government Policy and MW's legislative obligations under the Water Act, MW has approved the investigation of opportunities to improve the social and recreational opportunities at Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment provided that any increased risks can be adequately managed.

This project is an outcome of this investigation. It is intended to provide a long term plan to deliver upgraded recreational facilities at Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment to provide much needed additional recreational spaces in the greater Melbourne region. This will provide additional access for social and recreational activities in a highly populated and rapidly expanding growth area.

To facilitate this, MW is seeking to develop the Yan Yean Visitor Experience Future Directions Plan (FDP) to articulate a future vision for the site and help guide its development as a valued regional recreation and open space destination for the community over the next 50 years and beyond.

This FDP is informed by the requirements to balance community aspirations for recreation at Yan Yean, with an approach that considers cultural values, environmental protection and community safety whilst ensuring it's function in providing Melbourne with world-class drinking water is maintained. It is clear that there are significant opportunities to enhance recreation at Yan Yean, but there must also be careful consideration of its limitations in order to preserve its inherent value.





02.

PROJECT GOVERNANCE

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

The FDP is being delivered through collaboration between MW, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC), Parks Victoria (PV) and the City of Whittlesea (CoW) to develop a plan that best meets the collective goals and aspirations of the partners, and meets community desires and expectations for the site.

Each of the four organisations have a distinct role to play at Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment and bring unique knowledge and experience to the project.

MELBOURNE WATER

MW is the land owner and operational manager of the Yan Yean Water Supply Reservoir and its Catchment. Whilst the majority of the site is closed for public access, the portion known as Yan Yean Reservoir Park is publically accessible. This is leased to PV to manage the site.

WURUNDJERI WOI-WURRUNG CULTURAL HERITAGE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people of the Kulin nation are the Traditional Custodians of the Yan Yean area. The WWCHAC are the Registered Aboriginal Party.

The WWCHAC represent the ongoing cultural interests and aspirations for Yan Yean as Traditional Custodians.

PARKS VICTORIA

PV hold a lease over a portion of the MW owned land. This lease represents the current Yan Yean Reservoir Park and currently defines the public access extent of the reservoir catchment.

PV is responsible for maintaining the assets and managing activities within the leased area.

CITY OF WHITTLESEA

The CoW represents the local community interests as the Local Government Authority. Council has no formal management role in the park. It is a much loved destination for both local residents and community from the broader metropolitan Melbourne region.



Source: State Library of Victoria, 'Album of Views of Victoria' Evan Luly



Source: State Library of Victoria, 'Album of Views of Victoria' Evan Luly

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PROJECT PROCESS

This FDP has been developed through an iterative process to ensure a foundation of support and feasibility for future recreation opportunities at Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment. A brief summary of the process commenced in 2022 is as follows;

FDP DELIVERY

- MW initiation of project and Draft Project Principles
- Community consultation
- Project Partner formation
- Development of Cultural Values Assessment
- Commencement of FDP development
- Opportunities and constraints identified
- Additional investigations undertaken
- Draft FDP development
- Project Partner review of Draft FDP
- Community consultation on Draft FDP
- Updating Draft FDP following community input to prepare Final FDP
- Endorsement of Final FDP

PHASE ONE DELIVERY

- Feasibility investigations, design and construction of priority visitor areas in YYRP
- Feasibility and investigations required to make a decision on the higher risk activities (ie fishing, non motorised boating and access to the broader catchment)



03.

THE SITE



IMAGE: VIEW OVER RESERVOIR FROM UPPER PICNIC ZONE

PROJECT AREA

For the purposes of this FDP, three Precincts have been identified by MW as potential locations to consider increased social and recreational use. These include:

YAN YEAN RESERVOIR PARK

This area is the existing PV managed land that is known as Yan Yean Reservoir Park. The FDP investigates initiatives to enhance the visitor experience in this precinct, utilising and enhancing existing access and infrastructure with a focus on expanding nature-based recreation and enhancing the unique experiences that Yan Yean Reservoir Park has to offer.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN EXTENSION PRECINCTS

A potential expansion to include two additional areas to the immediate south and north of the existing publically accessible Yan Yean Reservoir Park land. These areas are currently closed to public access and provide the potential for visitors to experience the waterfront and the remnant bushland.

RESERVOIR WATER BODY

This includes consideration of introducing secondary contact shoreline and on-water activities such as fishing and use of non-petrol powered craft (canoe/kayak) within the water body itself. (Note: primary contact recreation (ie swimming) and use of petrol powered craft is not permissible.)

PREFERRED APROACH

While Part 1 of this report investigates the three areas identified above, Part 2 articulates the Future Directions Plan for Yan Yean Reservoir Park as the primary focus. While all the precincts have been investigated for potential public access and use, ultimately it was decided to focus our attention on the existing Yan Yean Reservoir Park area as Phase 1 for delivering upgrades to recreational facilities.

Phase 1 scope will also include further feasibility investigations required to make a decision on the higher risk activities (ie fishing, non motorised boating and access to the broader catchment.)

Refer to Section 15 for more detail.

This map shows the key precincts being investigated under this FDP.

Note: All mappings based in this report are indicative only and subject to site based survey and confirmation of data.

LEGEND

- Extent of Melbourne Water managed land. This area is a nominated Site of Biodiversity Significance (or SoBS), which is a Melbourne Water categorisation to identify land supporting significant biodiversity values which are protected under Commonwealth and/or State legislation and which MW afford a higher level of land management than the standard applied to less ecologically significant land parcels.
- Zone of biodiversity / cultural focus - (catchment area)
- Reference Areas (Designated public land of ecological interest and significance under Reference Areas Act 1978)
- Plenty River
- Reservoir
- Existing Yan Yean Reservoir Park
- Area for potential expansion to public access through future investigations (Northern and Southern Extension Precinct)

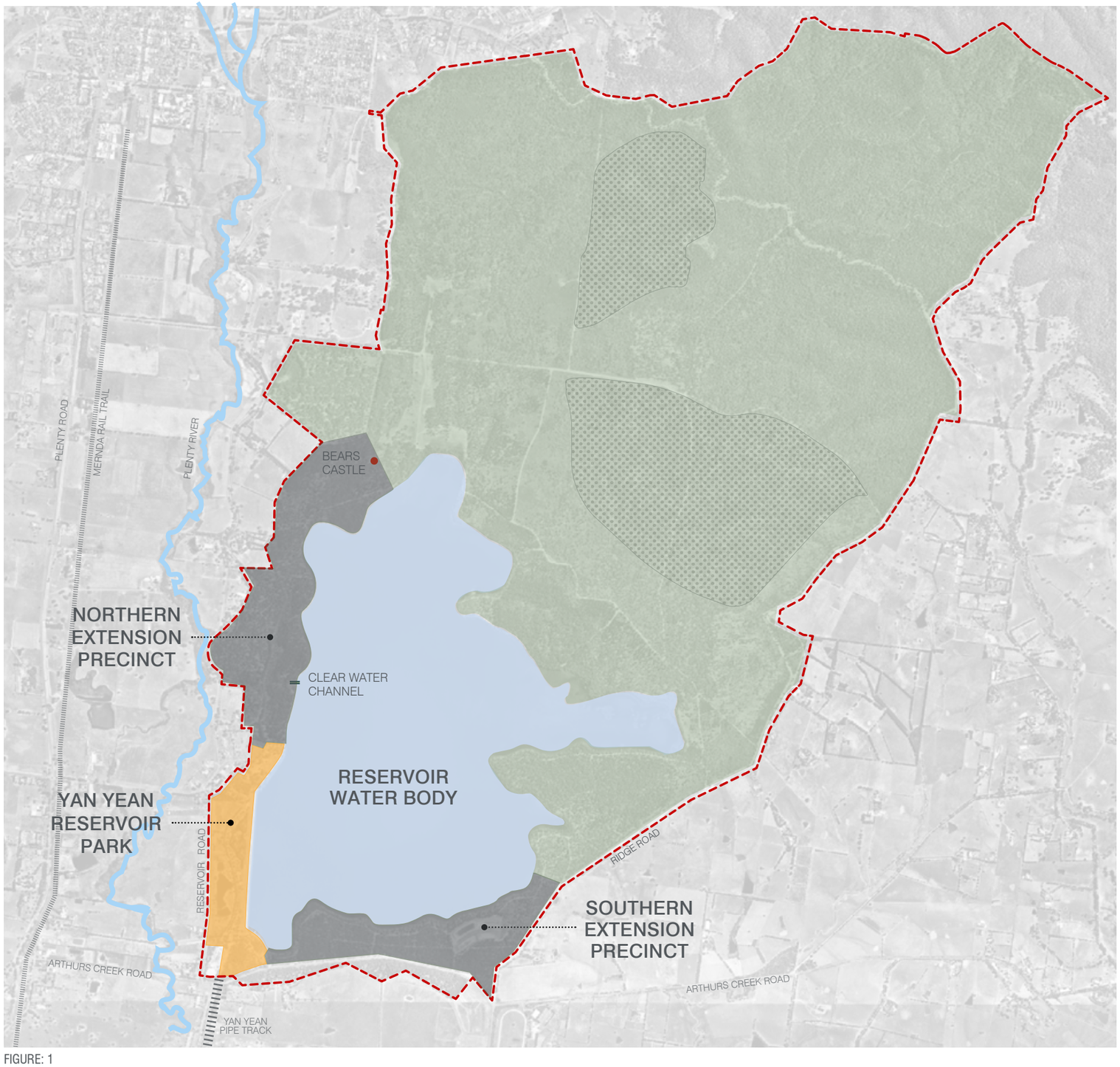


FIGURE: 1

04.

YAN YEAN VALUES - PEOPLE AND PLACES

YAN YEAN'S TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment is located within the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. Prior to the reservoir being built, Yan Yean was an area rich with wetlands, natural forests and grasslands. The area supported community lifestyle and was a great source of food and fresh water.

To this day, it is an area of significant cultural importance.

Some key points of note are as follows:

- Plenty River and Yan Yean were living areas for Wurundjeri community pre and post colonial influences
- Yan Yean is a place of internment of ancestral remains
- Caring for Country is a cultural responsibility for Wurundjeri people
- Yan Yean is the location of tangible Aboriginal Cultural Heritage including lithic artefacts and modified trees

A copy of the 'Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Assessment for the Yan Yean Reservoir catchment' Summary Report is available online.

RESERVOIR ROLE FOR OUR WATER SUPPLY

Completed in 1857, the Yan Yean Water Supply System is the oldest surviving water supply system in Victoria, and still forms part of Melbourne's water supply today. The purpose of the site in our water supply system is to provide water to Melbourne and will remain the primary purpose of the site into the future.

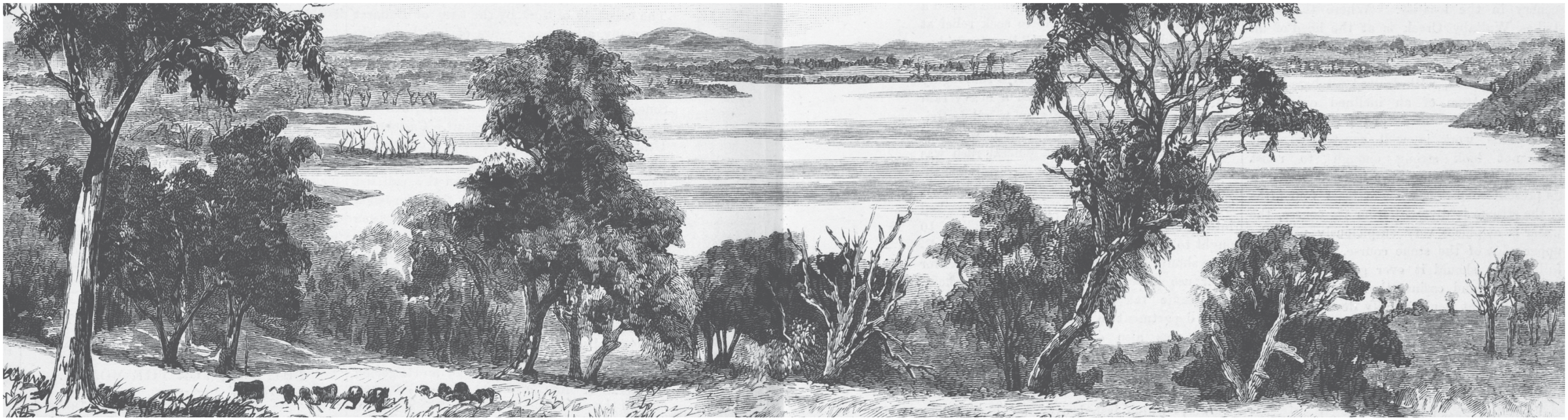
A notable feature of the Yan Yean Water Supply System is the extent of it's archaeological remains. These include decommissioned pipes, reservoirs, aqueducts and other infrastructure that serve as an important historical record about the system, its construction and operation. The remains throughout the park are points of interest to visitors and assist as a living archive of the park's critical role in supplying drinking water for the growing city of Melbourne.

MW is required to manage the designated catchment area under 'The National Parks Act 1975', 'The Water Act 1989' and 'Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018.'

NARRAP RANGERS CARING FOR COUNTRY

The Narrap Rangers are a business unit of WWCHAC. They have an ongoing management role within the broader reservoir catchment (excluding the Yan Yean Reservoir Park) and care for this site and its landscape as a place of cultural importance to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, following in the footsteps of their Ancestors.

Representing the interests of the WWCHAC, the Narrap Rangers are developing a 'Healthy Country Plan' for the Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment, and this will be used to help guide their ongoing role at Yan Yean in the future.



Source: State Library of Victoria, 'Melbourne Water Supply Picture' Sleap.F.A, 1883

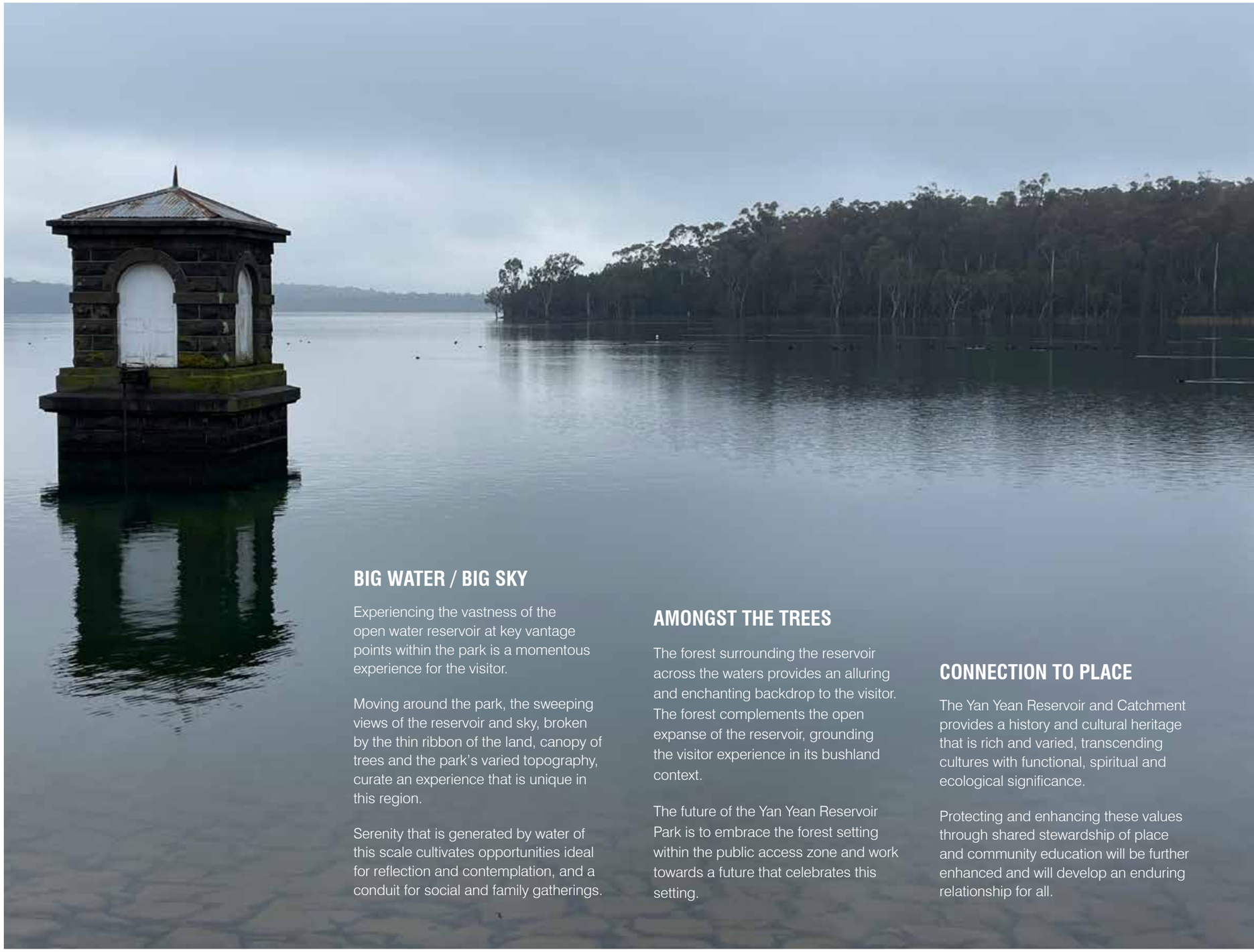
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YAN YEAN RESERVOIR PARK VISITORS

Yan Yean Reservoir Park provides a unique destinational experience that is valued by a broad sector of the community. The park has been available for community access for the purposes of recreation since the 1800's. It has significant value to the community as a recreation space to enjoy nature amongst the backdrop of the large open water-body and is highly valued by the community for its recreational, environmental and scenic qualities.

Three pillars encapsulate the essence of the visitor experience at Yan Yean Reservoir Park as outlined below.

- Big water / Big sky
- Amongst the Trees
- Connection to Place



BIG WATER / BIG SKY

Experiencing the vastness of the open water reservoir at key vantage points within the park is a momentous experience for the visitor.

Moving around the park, the sweeping views of the reservoir and sky, broken by the thin ribbon of the land, canopy of trees and the park's varied topography, curate an experience that is unique in this region.

Serenity that is generated by water of this scale cultivates opportunities ideal for reflection and contemplation, and a conduit for social and family gatherings.

AMONGST THE TREES

The forest surrounding the reservoir across the waters provides an alluring and enchanting backdrop to the visitor. The forest complements the open expanse of the reservoir, grounding the visitor experience in its bushland context.

The future of the Yan Yean Reservoir Park is to embrace the forest setting within the public access zone and work towards a future that celebrates this setting.

CONNECTION TO PLACE

The Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment provides a history and cultural heritage that is rich and varied, transcending cultures with functional, spiritual and ecological significance.

Protecting and enhancing these values through shared stewardship of place and community education will be further enhanced and will develop an enduring relationship for all.

IMAGE: DISUSED OUTLET TOWER

05.

ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

BIODIVERSITY VALUES AT YAN YEAN

The land and waters of the Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment provide a rich environment to support biodiversity. The area is important to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and is recognised as one of MW's 'Sites of Biodiversity Significance' (SoBS).

The significant biodiversity values persist despite the landscape having changed significantly over time. The development of the reservoir water body and significant plantations of exotic trees, such as pines and non-indigenous sugar gums, have influenced the local landscape. Whilst there are extensive areas of plantation forest surrounding the reservoir, it is recognised that native fauna species have adapted and these areas also provide valuable habitat for consideration in decision making.

The increase of human presence and affiliated recreation infrastructure can pose significant impact to both flora and fauna species. The protection and enhancement of the area's biodiversity needs strong consideration in the context of potential increased recreational opportunities at Yan Yean.

Threatened species recognised under 'The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999' (EPBC Act) and the 'Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998' (FFG Act) have been recorded within the Yan Yean FDP area.

More recently, information from the State Conservation Agency has highlighted the presence of White-bellied Sea Eagles/nesting sites located within Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment over the last 30 years.

As stated by one of the volunteers:

'The threatened sea eagle is FFG listed, and the FFG Action Statement makes reference to potential nesting/ breeding disturbance from human activity, and that the birds may desert sites. The closed access to Yan Yean Reservoir gives the birds safety and security and is very important to the long-term success of the breeding at Yan Yean over at least the last 35 years of very discrete personal observations. The sea eagle is very sensitive to human activity and any prolonged disturbance is very likely to interfere with feeding/roosting and nesting requirements.'



IMAGE: YAN YEAN SHORELINE NORTHERN EXTENSION PRECINCT

THREATENED SPECIES - FAUNA

BIRDS

Due to the extensive water and bushland environment, Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment is an area rich in birdlife. The following bird species are listed as threatened and known to exist within the area:

- Australasian Bittern (EPBC and FFG Endangered)
- Australian Shoveler (FFG Vulnerable)
- Blue-billed Duck (FFG Vulnerable)
- Caspian Tern (FFG Vulnerable)
- Common Sandpiper (FFG Vulnerable)
- Eastern Great Egret (FFG Vulnerable)
- Freckled Duck (FFG Endangered)
- Gang-gang Cockatoo (EPBC Endangered)
- Lathams Snipe (EPBC Vulnerable)
- Little Eagle (FFG Vulnerable)
- Little Egret (FFG Endangered)
- Musk Duck (FFG Vulnerable)
- Plumed Egret (FFG Vulnerable)
- Powerful Owl (FFG Vulnerable)
- Sharp Tailed Sandpiper (EPBC Vulnerable)
- Swift Parrot (EPBC Critical)
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle (FFG Endangered)
- White-throated Needletail (EPBC Vulnerable)

MAMMALS

The bushland environment is home to an extensive range of mammals. Three threatened species are known to exist within the area:

- Eastern Bent Winged Bat (FFG Critical)
- Brush-tailed Phascogale (FFG Vulnerable, known in Southern Extension Precinct)
- Common Dunnart (FFG Vulnerable)

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

The following Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) and plant communities are recognised to occur within the area:

- Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) [E]
- Grassy Woodland (EVC 175) [D/E]
- Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125) [E]
- Valley Grassy Forest (EVC 47) [V]
- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakeley's Red Gum Woodland
- Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains

THREATENED SPECIES - FLORA

As part of the vegetation communities identified there are four EPBC and FFG listed plant species known to occur in the area:

- *Dianella aomena*
  (EPBC Endangered, FFG Critically endangered)
- *Dianella longifolia var. grandis s.l.* Glaucous Flax-lily
  (FFG Engendered)
- *Eucalyptus yarraensis* Yarra Gum
  (FFG Critically engendered)
- *Geranium sp. 3,* Pale-flower Crane's-bill
  (FFG Endangered)

Note: In addition to these known species, a number of other species are classified as likely to occur in the area and their occurrence will be monitored in future studies to inform decision making. Requirements for species protection will inform decision making on increasing visitor access and recreation opportunities.



IMAGE SOURCE: https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/PlantDirectory/Trees/Trees-5m/Eucalyptus-yarraensis

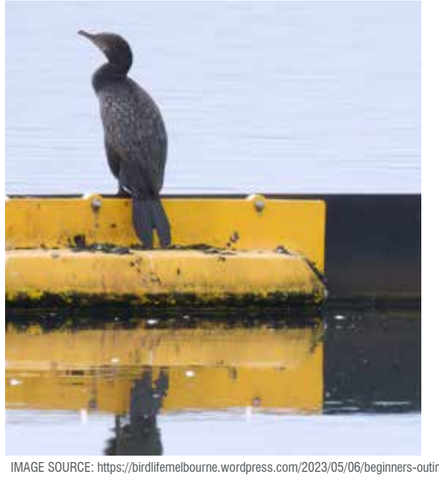




IMAGE SOURCE: https://birdlifemelbourne.wordpress.com/2023/05/06/beginners-outing-to-yan-yean-reservoir/

06.
EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Yan Yean Reservoir Park consists of approximately 42Ha of lightly undulating open space comprising a mix of open lawn areas with scattered trees and zones of native remnant bushland.

Behind the dam wall, the site has a large flat expanse that is characterised by the grassed dam wall embankment and the adjacent wetlands. There is a significant level change between this area and the Caretakers Cottage Picnic Area which is a major destination for visitors due to the significant and elevated open water views.

The Northern and Southern Extension Precincts as defined in the FDP are areas that adjoin the existing Yan Yean Reservoir Park.

They are both areas that are predominantly bushland with zones of remnant indigenous vegetation, and zones of pine tree and sugar gum plantations.

Both areas have water supply and operational infrastructure.

VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE

The existing park is well serviced with visitor infrastructure including picnic and BBQ facilities, public toilets and a playground. While serviceable, these facilities could benefit from an upgrade.

The key features of the park are represented in the adjacent plans. Key observations on the existing park for community use is as follows:

- The expansive picnic areas and facilities provide for passive recreational uses and the enjoyment of scenic views.
- The two existing toilet blocks are in need of upgrade and improved connectivity for accessibility.
- The existing playground supports the site's visitation and recreational interests.
- Access into the park is via Reservoir Road, with an internal central road servicing north and south community access.
- Car parks are scattered throughout the site, servicing the picnic locations and points of interest.
- Pedestrian oriented footpaths are limited and the gravel maintenance track along the dam wall forms part of the pedestrian experience of the site.

MELBOURNE WATER OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The FDP area has a significant amount of water supply infrastructure that requires access to be maintained for operations and maintenance purposes. This includes a new circular steel auxiliary water storage tank that is proposed to be constructed within the existing lease area in 2027. The PV lease will be modified to exclude the new tank.

A Caretakers Cottage from the original operations infrastructure sits in the north of the Yan Yean Reservoir Park.

Historic heritage assets and current water supply infrastructure are an integral part of the sites unique features and visitor experience.

LEGEND

- 1 Public Park Entry
- 2 Playground
- 3 Public Toilets
- 4 Melbourne Water Depot
- 5 Caretakers Cottage
- 6 Proposed Auxiliary Storage Tank
- Yan Yean Reservoir Park boundary
- Public road
- Public access road within park
- Melbourne Water maintenance access tracks
- Plenty River
- Yan Yean heritage water channel
- Melbourne Water high pressure pipe easement
- Clear water channel (Biodiversity significance)
- Reservoir
- Existing wetland
- Existing Yan Yean Reservoir Park (visitor access)
- Water treatment plant / Melbourne Water infrastructure
- Indicative area of recorded remnant vegetation within the FDP*
- Outlet tower
- Outlet tower (disused)
- Existing picnic areas
- Existing car park locations
- Key views
- Bears Castle
- Melbourne Water operations boat ramp

NOTE:
*Areas of remnant vegetation mapped indicatively within FDP as represented in Ecological Perspectives Report and subject to further site based investigations

NOTE:
Existing conditions have not been included for the Northern and Southern Extension Precincts. Refer to Section 15 for further information on why these areas have not been included here.

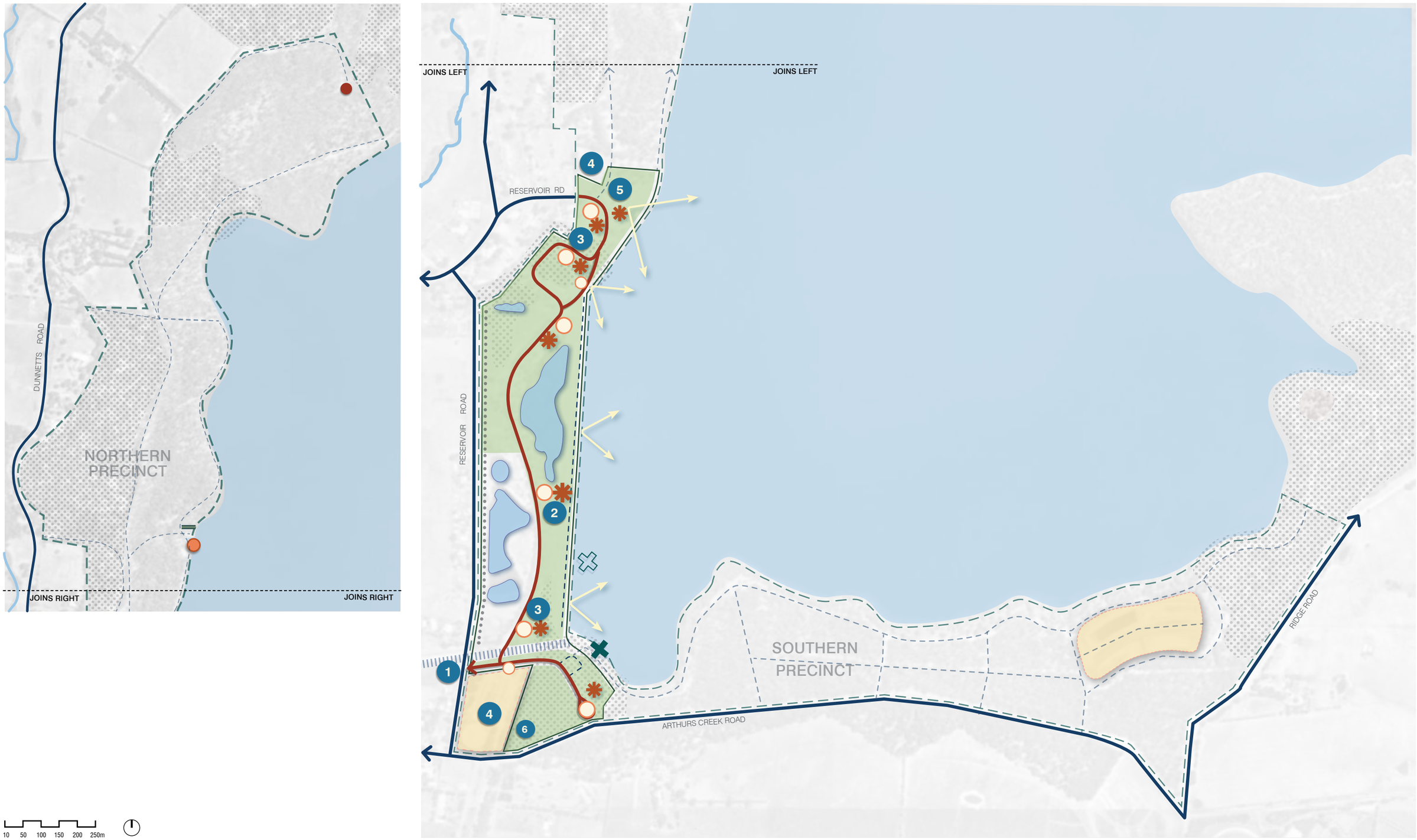

JOINS LEFT
JOINS LEFT
RESERVOIR RD
DUNNETTS ROAD
RESERVOIR ROAD
NORTHERN PRECINCT
SOUTHERN PRECINCT
ARTHURS CREEK ROAD
RIDGE ROAD
JOINS RIGHT
JOINS RIGHT
1
2
3
4
5
6
10 50 100 150 200 250m
SCALE 1:10,000@A3

FIGURE: 2

07.
EXISTING CONDITIONS - YAN YEAN RESERVOIR PARK

OVERVIEW

The existing infrastructure in the Yan Yean Reservoir Park has the core purpose of supporting visitors to the park, or supporting the site's water supply function. An overview of these elements is as follows

PARK EXPERIENCES & ASSETS

Some of the park's key assets are as follows:

- Extensive provision of picnic tables and BBQ's
- Wetland zone
- Flat accessible topography below the dam wall and surrounding the wetland areas
- Open lawn areas for informal use
- Existing playground
- Visitor information and education about the heritage water supply assets
- Open lawn picnic area adjacent to the Caretakers Cottage as part of the heritage protected area
- Functional water supply assets managed by MW within the park (prohibited to public access)
- Heritage infrastructure (Caretakers Cottage, Heritage Channel, disused reservoir infrastructure)
- Open water viewing points along dam wall, Caretakers Picnic Area and Yan Yean Bluff
- Fragmented zones of remnant vegetation with biodiversity and habitat values


1


2


3


4


5

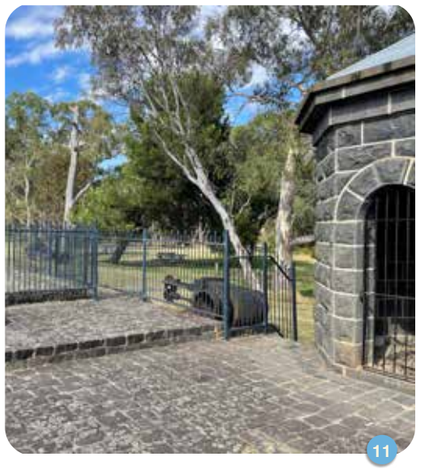

6


7


8













LEGEND

- Reservoir
- Yan Yean Reservoir Park
- Site photo location & orientation
- 1 Public Park Entry
- 2 Playground
- 3 Public Toilets
- 4 Melbourne Water Depot
- 5 Caretakers Cottage

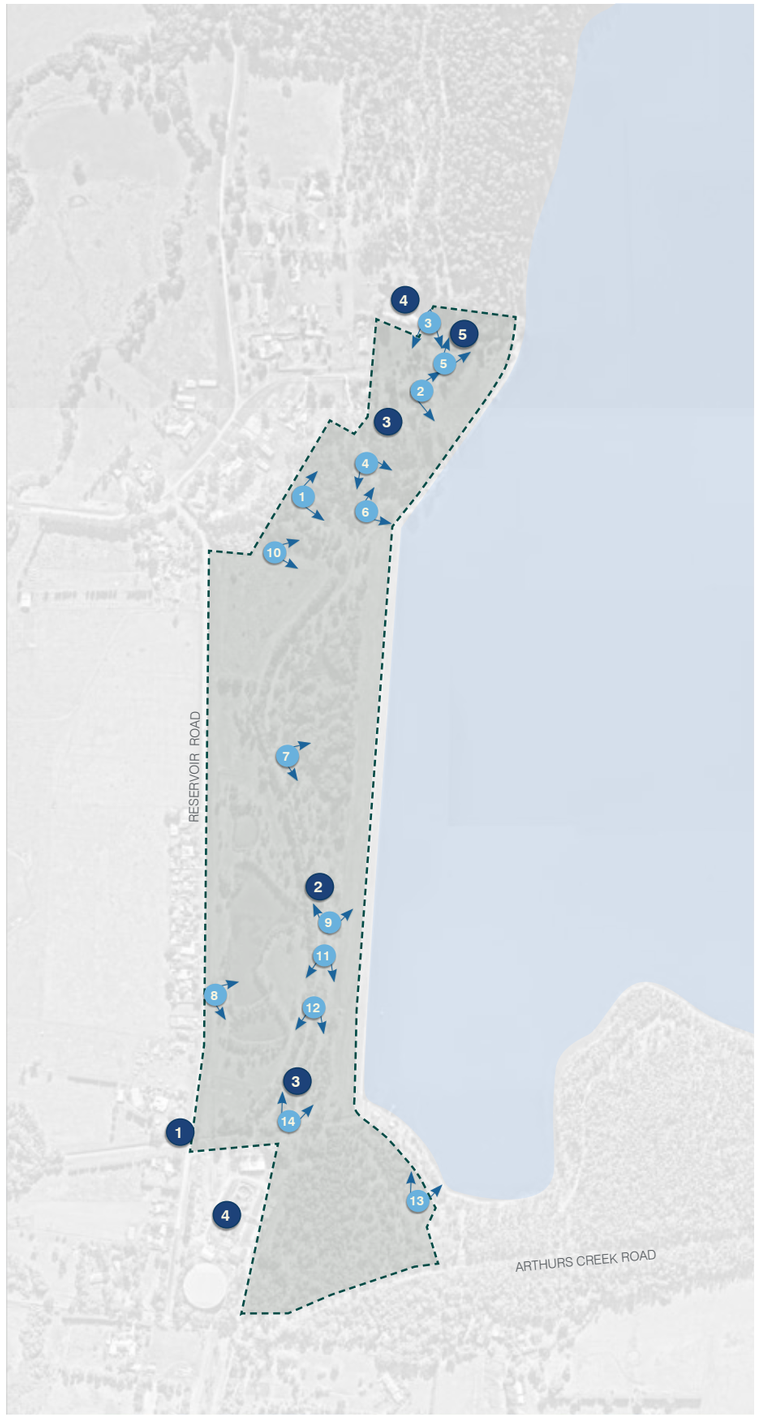


FIGURE: 3

08.
SITE INVESTIGATIONS OVERVIEW

To support decision making around future recreational opportunities at Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment, a number of investigations have been completed to inform outcomes represented in this report.

These investigations support the complexity of decision making required for a site with complex environmental & cultural values coupled with the site's role as an integral piece of infrastructure to support Melbourne's water supply.

The following pages in this report provide a high level summary of the investigations undertaken including:

- Yan Yean Reservoir Catchment Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Assessment: to identify existing cultural values at the site and recommend potential management actions to protect those values.
- Melbourne Water (2022) Revitalising Yan Yean Reservoir – Community Consultation - to test the vision and guiding principles and to identify what the community values about Yan Yean Reservoir Park.
- Traffic Impact Assessment Report: to understand traffic circulation patterns and car parking capacity at the site and test proposed changes.
- Environmental eDNA Assessment: to identify what aquatic and bird species are present within the site (from DNA sampling from the water body).
- Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA): to determine the potential for proposed FDP activities and infrastructure to adversely impact environmental values, including impacts to threatened species, and recommend actions to protect those values.

These investigations, along with Subject Matter Experts (SME) and Project Partner feedback have helped inform the development of the draft FDP.



IMAGE: YAN YEAN SHORELINE NORTHERN EXTENSION PRECINCT

09.

YAN YEAN RESERVOIR CATCHMENT WURUNDJERI WOI-WURRUNG CULTURAL VALUES ASSESSMENT

In 2022, the WWCHAC and MW collaborated to undertake a Cultural Values Assessment (CVA) of the Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment as an important foundation for future planning for the area.

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people are the Traditional custodians of Yan Yean and this study revealed the historical, cultural and heritage significance of the catchment area to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. The Yan Yean landscape is home to cultural attributes representing the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community's connection to their Country including archaeological places, plants, animals, environmental features, and places representing colonial settler and Woi-wurrung interactions.

The report outlines the study area's significance to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, its cultural features of interest, and recommendations to appropriately protect, manage and celebrate the cultural attributes of this landscape into the future. The findings of the CVA provide a strong foundation for Wurundjeri and MW to continue walking Country together at Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment.

A copy of the 'CVA for the Yan Yean Reservoir catchment' Summary Report is available online.

CULTURAL VALUES ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The WWCHAC has developed a set of recommendations to appropriately protect and manage the cultural attributes and promote cultural values. These recommendations are below:

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

Establish a mutually-agreed framework for assessing, protecting and managing Aboriginal cultural heritage at Yan Yean, including through further assessments, and avenues such as cultural inductions and an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management Agreement.

CARING FOR COUNTRY

Recognise the responsibility of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people to care for Country by supporting the capacity and diversity of Narrap Ranger service delivery, improving ecological diversity and supporting cultural practice within the catchment. Ensure potential impacts on culturally significant species are considered in FDP development.

PARTNERING IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE YAN YEAN FDP

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung aspirations and directions will guide FDP development and implementation.

PROMOTING WURUNDJERI CULTURAL VALUES

Development of a consistent interpretation strategy will enhance public knowledge of the cultural importance and sensitivity of the Yan Yean landscape. In the short term, this may be achieved by upgrading the existing signage and adding new interpretive elements to reflect Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung history and cultural practice at Yan Yean, past, present and future.

PROTECT THE AESTHETIC AND NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE LANDSCAPE

The WWCHAC would like the public to continue to enjoy Yan Yean Reservoir Park; however, there is a continual need to work with MW and other Yan Yean land managers to ensure that any new recreational opportunities and infrastructure do not damage the cultural values or natural attributes of their ancestral place.



ARTWORK CREDIT:
ASH FIREBRACE COMMISSIONED BY WWCHAC FOR THE YAN YEAN CULTURAL VALUES ASSESSMENT REPORT

10.
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Phase 1 Community Engagement took place in April and May 2022.

The purpose of this engagement was to understand what the community values about Yan Yean Reservoir Park, their aspirations future recreational use, and hear any concerns or considerations for additional features and activities. This engagement also aimed to build community understanding of the existing function and values of the site and to promote the potential benefits of offering new recreational and open space opportunities.

The community were engaged via a number of methods including the following:

- Online survey
- Three community information sessions
- Two site tours
- A community workshop

In addition to responding on their current use and future aspirations for recreation at Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment, community members were also asked to workshop their thoughts on a series of Draft Project Principles to guide the FDP.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY HAS TOLD US

A summary of the Stage 1 consultation can be found online. This information has been used to contribute to decision making within the FDP.

Some key summary points are as follows:

WHAT WE HEARD

The most frequently mentioned reasons why people love Yan Yean Reservoir in the participant surveys was:

- Scenery
- Peacefulness
- Nature and wildlife
- Location
- Facilities
- Personal memories

FUTURE IDEAS

More than 50% of the respondents indicated the following as future ideas for the Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment:

- Active recreation - 62%
- Nature based activities - 61%
- Socialising - 53%

OTHER IDEAS

The top three themes for other ideas were:

- Fishing
- Non motorised watercraft
- Walking running and cycling

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

There were general considerations raised by participants as being important for MW to consider.
The top three themes were:

- Impact on drinking water quality
- Impact on the environment
- Site management (public safety)

"It's the only place you can enjoy a large free open space."

SURVEY RESPONDENT

'It's close to home but feels worlds away from the built-up surrounding areas. The reservoir is stunning to look at.'

SURVEY RESPONDENT

"One of the most picturesque water spots in Victoria. Absolutely stunning yet under-utilised."

SURVEY RESPONDENT

"I like the pristine state of the surrounding forest and reservoir. It's a special place with minimal impact on environment and wildlife."

SURVEY RESPONDENT

"I am a local, the park is very run down ... additional activities for the kids would be great, sailing, fishing, new playground, walking and riding tracks only to name a few."

SURVEY RESPONDENT

11.
TRAFFIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In order to better support visitor access, a Traffic Impact Assessment Report was commissioned to understand current condition and use of the existing Yan Yean Reservoir Park's access infrastructure with a focus on roads, carparks and visitor accessibillity.

The information gathered to inform the report included visitation data, carparking surveys, site observations and early ideas being considered for the FDP.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

Observations on the existing traffic conditions within the park are as follows:

- The road and carpark surfaces are in poor condition
- Road widths require review to meet current standards for access
- Intersections to be improved for safe use
- Survey data collected for the study indicated improved directional signage would assist in guiding visitors throughout the site
- Consideration should be given to upgrading the accessible parking spaces as part of the FDP to comply with AS 2890.6
- At peak times cars park in undesignated areas, particularly in the north where there are high car parking demands on peak days.
- Inefficient use of unmarked carparks was observed
- Lack of pedestrian connections provided throughout the park, with pedestrians required to share the roadways with vehicles.
- Main accessway could be widened adjacent the Valve House Picnic Area to provide additional capacity for carparks utilising this area including toilet access
- Consideration for new path connections to make provision in design for cyclists

PROPOSED TRAFFIC AND ACCESS UPGRADES

In response to the advice provided in the traffic report, opportunities for improvements to access and movement within the park are identified in the FDP.

Specific access initiatives are identified for each precinct and are referenced and identified on the plans in this report.









IMAGES: Existing internal access road and parking conditions at Yan Yean Reseroive Park

12.
ENVIRONMENTAL DNA REPORTING

As part of this project, Environmental DNA (eDNA) reporting has been undertaken to better understand the biodiversity values of the area via water sampling of the reservoir. This reporting combined with other records assists with understanding what fish, amphibians and mammals occur within the Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment.

eDNA methods are being used routinely to monitor aquatic animals including fish,amphibians and mammals across waterways, estuaries and wetlands throughout Australian catchments. For this study the consultants used vertebrate, mollusc and two decapod metabarcoding assays to screen 22 (Spring 23: 12, Autumn 24: 10) water samples collected from Yan Yean Reservoir, Victoria by Narrap Rangers and MW staff in December 2023 and May 2024. Mussel qPCR assays were also used to confirm species presence or absence.

A summary of the Spring and Autumn test results is included below, noting some technical knowledge is required to properly interpret these results

SPRING 2023

In total, 74% (vertebrate assay), 50% (decapod assay) and 57% (mollusc assay) of all taxa were resolved at the species level in the Spring 2023 sampling event.

Overall, 50 vertebrate taxa were detected, including 10 vertebrate species that are not native to Australia and 2 vertebrate species listed at the Federal and/or State level (listing data from https://www.environment.gov.au/sprat-public/action/report); Hardhead (Aythya australis), Musk duck (Biziura lobata), Blue billed duck (Oxyura australis) and Short-necked turtle/ Murray river turtle (Emydura macquarii). Four frog, 5 fish, 2 reptile, 30 bird, and 9 mammal taxa were detected. The number of vertebrate taxa at each site (across all replicate samples) ranged from 8 to 22 .

A subset of 5 sites was analysed for decapods, overall, 2 decapod taxa were detected. The number of decapod taxa at each site (across all replicate samples) was 2.

AUTUMN 2024

Overall, 78% of vertebrate taxa detections were resolved at the species level in the Autumn 2024 sampling event.

Overall, 32 vertebrate taxa were detected, including 2 species (Oxyura australis , blue-billed duck, and Pteropus poliocephalus , grey-headed flying-fox) listed at the Federal and/or State level (listing data from https://www.environment.gov.au/sprat-public/action/report). Eight mammal, 1 frog, 5 fish, and 18 bird taxa were detected. The number of vertebrate taxa at each site (across all replicate samples) ranged from 3 to 15. The number of native vertebrate taxa at each site (across all replicate samples) ranged from 3 to 7.

One mollusc species (Physella acuta, bladder snail) was detected at 1 site.



IMAGE: Southern Extension Precinct

13.
ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

In addition to the eDNA testing, an Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) was commissioned to further develop our appreciation of the risks to the environment associated with increasing recreation at Yan Yean. Recommendations on managing the risk to flora and fauna are provided within the ERA and have influenced the FDP.

Increasing recreation opportunities at Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment requires careful management and planning in accordance with the project's Guiding Principles and subsequent investigations.

ERA MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

The ERA included a range of recommendations to help preserve and protect the inherent ecological values that may be impacted by the proposed recreation opportunities being considered, These are as follows;

- Use existing disturbed areas or upgrade existing infrastructure where possible to avoid clearing/disturbing new habitat.
- Undertake targeted ecological assessments to guide planning and minimise impacts to sensitive species and habitats.
- Restrict potential recreational activities (e.g. fishing, boating, kayaking/canoeing, walking/hiking and cycling/ mountain biking) to designated areas to minimise disturbance to wildlife and habitat.
  (**Note:** this recommendation relates only to those activities that are deemed appropriate following future feasibility testing.)
- Install signage to educate visitors on the presence and importance of threatened species and communities and how to avoid causing harm.
- Promote regular cleaning of footwear, bicycles, and aquatic equipment to prevent the spread of weeds and pathogens.
- Limit artificial lighting and human activity during the evening (or early morning) to reduce disturbance to nocturnal fauna.
- Incorporate erosion and drainage control measures into site design to minimise run off and protect habitats during and after construction of infrastructure.
- Avoid removal or disturbance of key habitat features that do or may support threatened species, such as aquatic vegetation, hollow bearing trees or vegetation.
- Encourage responsible visitor behaviour through signage and education to reduce littering, trampling and other actions that may degrade habitat.









14.
OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

The opportunities and constraints of increasing visitor access and recreation have been investigated throughout the process of developing the FDP.
Those that have influenced outcomes represented in the FDP are included here.

Note:
Any proposed activities to extend recreational zone beyond current park boundary will be subject to further investigation and feasibility testing.

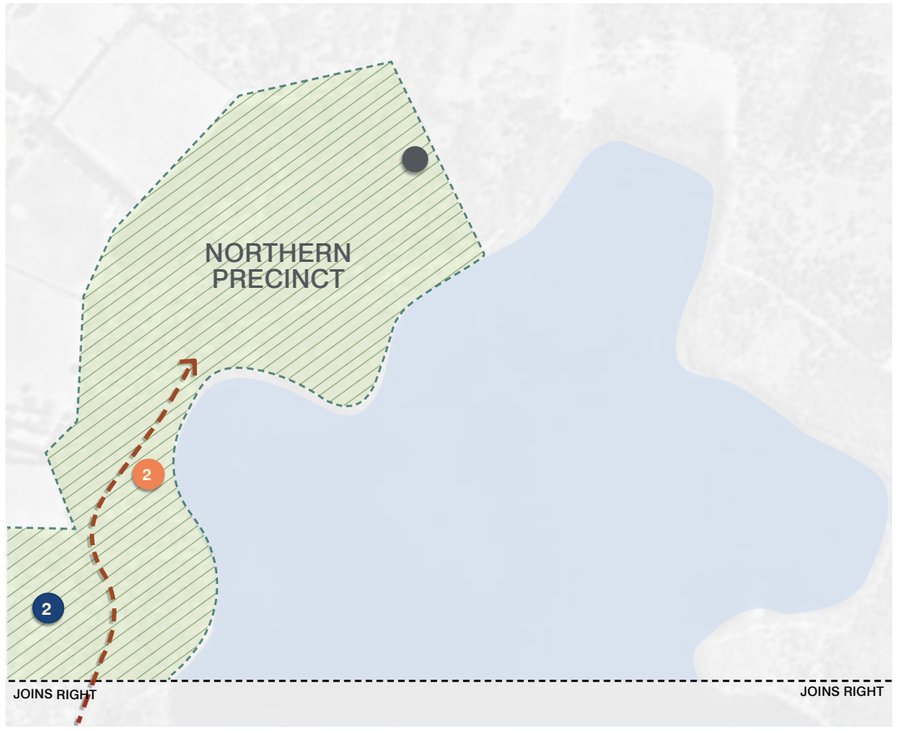
Legend Note:
Where opportunity is general in nature, number is not shown on adjacent plans. ie represented by icon 1

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Consider internal cycle connections to support park integration into regional trail network, including the future Yan Yean Pipe Track Shared Use Trail and the Whittlesea Rail Trail to the west
2. Potential to utilise existing maintenance tracks for walkers trail into Northern Extension Precinct
3. Improve access, safety and circulation for cars, pedestrians and cyclists through road network upgrade including road surfacing. Consider traffic management opportunities for visitor safety
4. Opportunity to support Wurundjeri cultural heritage and Caring for Country practices and educate the community through interpretive signage throughout public access area
5. Investigate protection, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings for administrative, commercial or community group use
6. Upgrade facilities for improved visitor experience at key reservoir viewing points
7. Upgrade parking facilities for improved visitor experience including priority access parking for all abilities
8. Consider opportunity to upgrade picnic zone at vantage points for improved use and access through accessible infrastructure
9. Consider re-vegetation opportunities across the Park to establish a consistent bushland experience and enhance biodiversity contribution
10. Rehabilitate wetland areas to improve ecological and cultural values and visitor experience. Include opportunities for interpretation and education. Remove existing fence to expand community access area once wetland is safe to maximise visitor experience opportunities
11. Provide accessible water experience - potential location for viewing platform
12. Renew existing playground and enhance nature play experience in wetland zone
13. Consider providing small scale additional play elements at main picnic areas
14. Opportunity to provide accessible path from Playground Picnic Area to reservoir wall
15. Enable all abilities access to nature with a looped walking trail through the renewed wetland zone
16. Consider new visitor car-park on Ridge Road to service potential extended community access zone
17. Consider opportunity to enhance existing Red Hill Picnic Area as a departure point for walkers entering the Southern Extension Precinct
18. Opportunity to upgrade existing toilet facilities to meet current standards to support visitor experience
19. Potential to provide waterfront picnic opportunities
20. Opportunity to provide pedestrian access to this Precinct along waterfront (consider maintenance vehicles access)
21. Opportunity to utilise Melbourne Water tank for arrival artwork
22. Potential for provision of external car park off Ridge Road to provide walkers access to Precinct
23. Consider allowing shoreline fishing
24. Investigate feasibility to allow boat access to reservoir (non petrol powered craft only), conditional on meeting environmental protection requirements as outlined in the ERA
25. Future Yan Yean Pipe Track Shared User Path
    Whittlesea Council to investigate the provision of cycle connections from the Mernda Rail Trail and the Yan Yean Pipe Track Trail
26. Promote active travel link from closest bus stops west and south of the Yan Yean Reservoir Park
27. Increase education within park as a place of environmental and cultural heritage significance for:
    - Wurundjeri cultural values and
    - Melbourne Water Historic Water supply infrastructure

CONSTRAINTS

1. Unclear signage creates confusion to visitors not familiar with park.
2. Cultural and ecological values to be protected whilst enhancing community's value and awareness of these important aspects of the park
3. Limited pedestrian paths result in park infrastructure being poorly connected, with limited accessibility in key visitor zones
4. Functional integrity of dam wall to be protected, including procedural maintenance requirements. Limitations on infrastructure and planting
5. High pressure Melbourne Water pipe-track easement on western boundary of park limits opportunities in this zone
6. Limited active use in the southern picnic / car park zone creates safety considerations.
7. Melbourne Water operational 'no-go' zone. Location adjacent to existing entry impacts arrival experience
8. Recreation on water and in catchment area can pose health risks to the consumers of drinking water. The risks must be managed reliably
9. Visitor access into new areas subject to Safety Assessments that consider risks surrounding fire, water and trees
10. Steep topography limits accessible connection between lower park area and Caretakers Picnic Area



LEGEND

- Extent of Future Directions Plan
- Reservoir
- Current visitor access area
- Melbourne Water Plant
- Potential future expansion of visitor access zone
- Existing Public Access Road
- Existing Maintenance Access Road
- Bears Castle
- Key views

0 100 200 300m

SCALE 1:12,500@A3

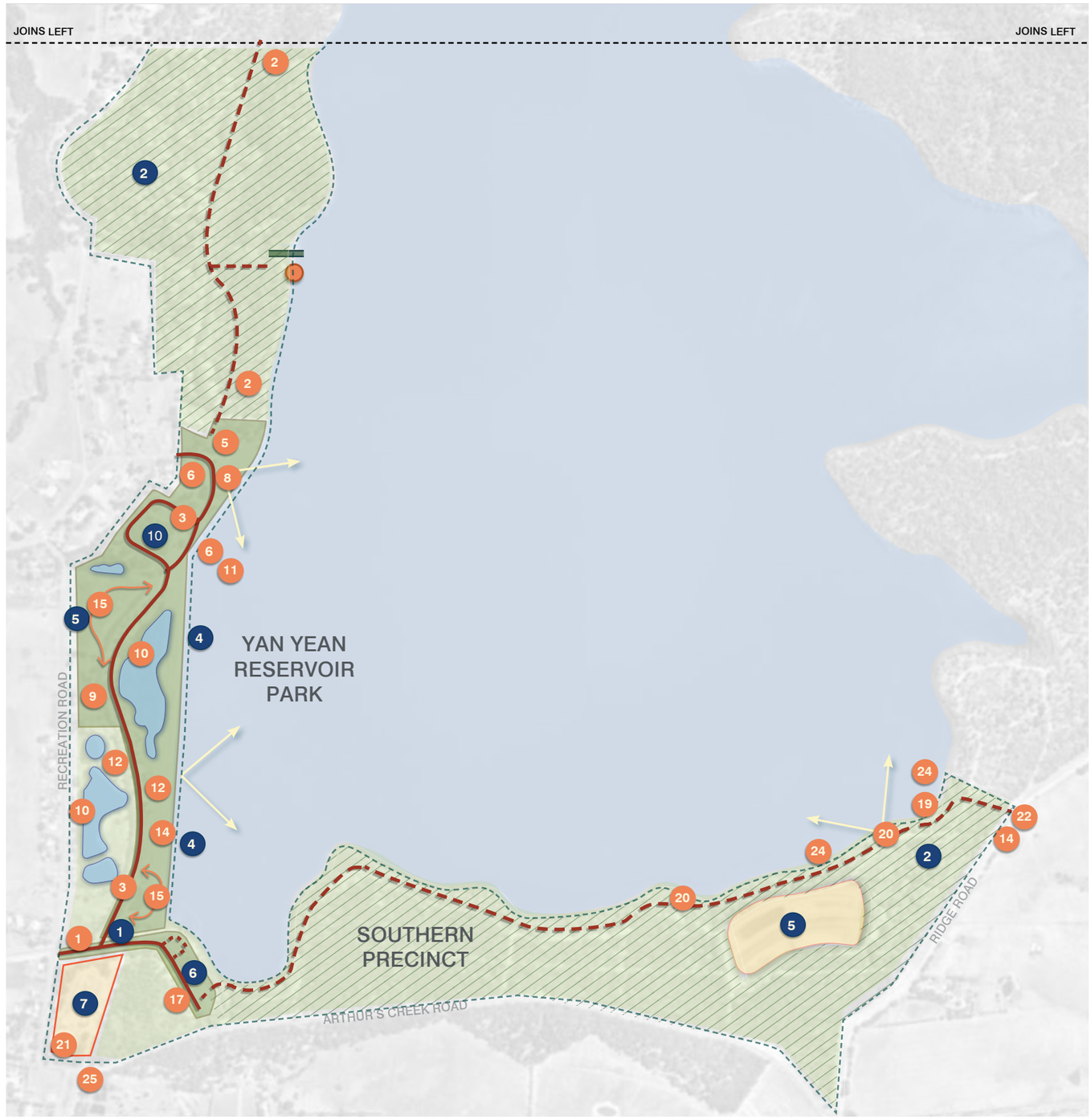


FIGURE: 4

15.
PROJECT PARTNER FEEDBACK AND DISCUSSION

The Site Investigations and subsequent feedback from Project Partners has identified a number of risks that if not properly managed could result in harmful impacts to the inherent values that make Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment such an important and highly valued natural asset and/or compromise its primary role as a water supply asset. These include risks related to:

- Water quality
- Impact on cultural values
- Impact on environmental values
- Community safety

WATER QUALITY

Allowing fishing, shoreline or otherwise, and/or other recreational access to the catchment or water body would reduce the level of protection of the Yan Yean Reservoir source waters, introducing additional risks of microbial, physical, and chemical contamination of drinking water. These risks, if not appropriately managed, may compromise water quality and may lead to advisory notices being issued to water customers (such as boil water advisory notices) and/or could result in ceasing water supply from Yan Yean Reservoir. These consequences are highly undesirable at any time, but the latter potential consequence in particular should be considered in the current context of climate change and variability, recent dry conditions, and with growth (particularly in the regions supported by the Melbourne system) the approaching need to make very substantial investments in improved water security for Greater Melbourne and the surrounding region.

It is likely that substantial further investment, including in water treatment and access management infrastructure and operational management of any recreational access, would be required to ensure safe and aesthetically pleasing drinking water could continue to be reliably supplied if recreational access was to be allowed in the catchment and/or the water body. Substantial further technical work would be required to assess the feasibility of this change and/or confirm what level of investment might be required to safely accommodate these new activities. It is important to recognise that in the event that it was decided recreational access was to be allowed into the catchment and/or the water body, it is likely any necessary water quality risk management infrastructure would take several years to plan, design, and deliver.

IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

The site is a MW Site of Biodiversity Significance (SoBS) and includes two areas listed under the Reference Areas Act 1978. Historic restrictions to uncontrolled human access to Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment has resulted in approximately 400 hectares of viable, relatively undisturbed public land representative of land types that elsewhere have been subjected to extensive modification. These unique conditions have resulted in a surprising array of rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species within close proximity to Melbourne's CBD. Coupled with the long-term presence of endangered White-bellied Sea Eagles, including nesting sites, it is vitally important that any decision about future recreation opportunities does not negatively impact these high quality ecological environments.

Key actions recommended in the ERA to help ascertain the feasibility, or potentially reduce the impacts of proposed recreation opportunities include (among other things):

- Use existing disturbed areas or upgrade existing infrastructure where possible to avoid clearing/disturbing new habitat.
- Undertake targeted ecological assessments to guide planning and minimise impacts to sensitive species and habitats.
- Restrict recreational activities (e.g. fishing, boating, kayaking/canoeing, walking/hiking and cycling/mountain biking) to designated areas to minimise disturbance to wildlife and habitat.
  (**Note:** this recommendation relates only to those activities that are deemed appropriate following future feasibility testing.)

Further investigations are required prior to making any decision that may impact the significant flora and fauna known to inhabit those parts of the catchment that are currently closed to public access. This includes decisions related to fishing/on-water access/boating (due to potential impact on birdlife and aquatic species) and opening up areas that are currently closed to the public.

IMPACT ON CULTURAL VALUES

Project Partners, including the WWCHAC would like the public to continue to enjoy Yan Yean Reservoir Park; however, there is a continual need to work with MW and other Yan Yean land managers to ensure that any new recreational opportunities and infrastructure do not damage the cultural values or natural attributes of the TO's ancestral place. Concerns have been raised about potential impacts to cultural artifacts, fauna and flora resulting from increased access to the water body and/or those parts of the reservoir that have been closed to public access for more than 150 years. There are very few sites left where human activity has not compromised the cultural and natural value of the land, and the need to priorities human activity above the needs of the flora and fauna that inhabit the area should be given serious consideration.

Further investigations are required prior to making any decision that may impact the cultural values and significant flora and fauna known to inhabit those parts of the catchment that are currently closed to public access.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Introducing new infrastructure and activities will cause more people to visit the site more often. While this is an inevitable and intended outcome of the project, it is important that any increased activity does not compromise the safety of those people visiting or working at the site.

Risks related to vehicle access/circulation, wind damage/falling debris, fire, tripping, falling, remote/unauthorised/illegal activity and access, fishing, boating including potential drowning etc must be managed safely and sustainably. Similarly any off-site risks to human health resulting from potential water contamination issues must be securely managed. While many of these risks are not new, any increase to the frequency, accessibility and use of the site will increase the potential risk profile for users.

Managing these new and emerging risks will require careful planning and management and this takes time. In particular, new activities like fishing and boating require clear delineation of roles and responsibilities for all Project Partners, including the need for additional surveillance, compliance and enforcement. Any proposed changes to current management roles and responsibilities must be thoroughly considered and agreed by all parties, and may require new delegations, protocols, training and funding to implement.

While these arrangements are largely in place for the existing Yan Yean Reservoir Park, further work will be required to properly plan and manage any new activities both within the existing Yan Yean Reservoir Park and/or any proposed activities in the areas that are currently not publicly accessible.

16.
RECOMMENDATIONS

YAN YEAN RESERVOIR PARK

There is a high level of Project Partner support to investigate the opportunities that have been identified for consideration for inclusion within the Yan Yean Reservoir Park. This area has been open for public access for many years and whilst popular for visitors, it does not exhibit the same cultural/ecological value as the closed portions of the catchment. Therefore, this area is less sensitive to change and offers an excellent opportunity to improve both the visitor experience and cultural/ecological value. While the existing public infrastructure is serviceable, it does not maximise the use and enjoyment of the space, and is in need of improvement and upgrade. There is also significant scope to introduce new activities and infrastructure that will support existing and attract new users to the site.

All Project Partners support enhancing the social and recreational opportunities in this area. This is seen as a great opportunity to not only improve the visitor experience, but also improve the cultural and environmental value of the park through better education, interpretation as well as on-ground improvements to physical infrastructure and environmental assets.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN EXTENSION PRECINCT

The significant cultural, ecological, and water quality protection values associated with these areas present a challenge to opening them up for broader community use. The exclusion of public access has (by default) protected these areas from many of the detrimental impacts typically associated with urban development. Any public access to these areas must only be considered where the inherent cultural and environmental values can be protected for future generations, and where water quality risks can be appropriately managed. The ERA has identified a range of measures that would need to be undertaken in order to assess the relative impact of any new infrastructure/activity.

Further risk and feasibility assessment work would be required to inform any decision on the extent to which access to the Northern and/or Southern Extension Precincts may be possible, and the character of any risk management interventions that might need to be implemented.

For this reason, the Project Partners do not support opening up these areas until more detailed risk and feasibility assessments have been completed, and there is assurance that the inherent values can be adequately protected.

RESERVOIR WATER BODY

Not unlike the Northern and Southern Extension Precinct, the cultural and ecological values within the water body present a challenge to opening it up for broader community use. This includes both values directly associated with the water such as impact on the threatened fauna species such as the Common bent-wing bat (Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis), Australasian Shoveler (Anas rhynchotis), Blue-billed Duck (Oxyura australis), Musk Duck (Biziura lobata), Royal Spoonbill (Platelea regia) and Whitebellied Sea-eagle (Haliaeetus leucogaster) as well as other native turtles, frogs and waterfowl. These species rely on the water body for its habitat and food source. There are also other potential impacts to the cultural/ecological assets which would become accessible from the water via unauthorised land access by boat users. It is worth noting the significance of the water body as a drought refuge for many water bird species, becoming increasingly important in a drying climate.

Beyond the potential impact fishing and boating may have on the cultural and ecological values of the site, recreational access to the water body is likely to create additional water quality risks beyond those associated with opening the Northern and/or Southern Extension Precincts. Further risk and feasibility assessment work would be required to inform any decision on the extent to which on-water recreational access may be possible, and the character of any risk management interventions that might need to be implemented.

For these reasons, the Project Partners do not support making any decision on shoreline fishing, on-water fishing or boating (non petrol powered craft only) until more detailed risk and feasibility assessments have been completed, and there is assurance that the inherent values can be protected and the required water quality standards can be met.

PREFERRED APPROACH – REDUCE SCOPE TO FOCUS ON EXISTING YAN YEAN RESERVOIR PARK ONLY AND MAKING A DECISION ON FEASIBILITY OF HIGHER RISK ACTIVITIES (PHASE 1)

A staged approach is favoured by Project Partners whereby we focus on improving the existing Reservoir Park now as Phase 1, and once improvements to this area are delivered and operating well, consider expanding our focus to the more sensitive areas (ie Northern and Southern Extension Precinct and Reservoir Water Body) as Phase 2.

To support this, as part of Phase 1 we will also undertake the risk and feasibility investigations required to determine whether the higher risk activities (ie fishing, non motorised boating and access to the broader catchment) can be accommodated.

This staged approach will deliver improvements to the existing Reservoir Park in the short term, and enable a decision to be made as part of Phase 1 funding about the potential for higher risk activities. This decision will inform what (if any) higher risk activities can be considered in Phase 2.

This has led to a decision to formally reduce the scope of proposed upgrades to include Phase 1 only (i.e. to investigate upgrades to social and recreational opportunities within the publicly accessible Yan Yean Reservoir Park and undertake the risk and feasibility investigations to determine whether or not the higher risk activities can be accommodated.)

Part 2 of this report articulates the Future Directions Plan for Yan Yean Reservoir Park, and establishes a pathway and timeline to make a decision on the higher risk activities to inform Phase 2.





WHAT IS THE FDP AND HOW WILL IT BE USED

The FDP has been prepared to articulate a future vision to improve the visitor experience at Yan Yean Reservoir Park (Phase 1) and to help guide its development as a valued regional recreation and open space destination for the community over the next 50 years and beyond. The FDP identifies a range of potential onsite activities and infrastructure to increase the social and recreational opportunities available at the site, whilst maintaining the inherent cultural and natural values and the site's primary function as a drinking water supply catchment.

While no formal decision has been made on the specific elements proposed in the plan, the FDP does identify those elements that are supported by the Project Partners for further investigation and feasibility testing, in line with the sites primary function as a water supply catchment and recommendations contained in the cultural values, environmental risk and traffic assessments. Once feasibility is determined, these elements may be progressively delivered as part of MW's Recreation in Reservoirs program, pending confirmation of budget and agreement of maintenance and management roles and responsibilities. While every endeavour will be made to implement the plan, there is no guarantee that it will be delivered in its entirety, and any elements deemed un-feasible through further investigation will not be progressed.

The more sensitive areas (ie Northern and Southern Extension Precincts and Reservoir Waterbody) may be considered in future, pending further risk and feasibility investigations to determine whether the higher risk activities (ie fishing, non motorised boating and access to the broader catchment) can be accommodated without compromising environmental and cultural values and/or impact water quality. These investigations will be completed as part of the Phase 1 delivery program and will inform what will be considered in Phase 2.

PART 2: FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN

PHASE 1: YAN YEAN RESERVOIR PARK

17.

PROJECT VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

VISION FOR THE YAN YEAN RESERVOIR PARK

The FDP will create a space for the community that celebrates cultural, environmental, heritage and water supply values by:

- Acknowledging the ongoing connection and custodianship of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.
- Safeguarding the Reservoir's role as a water source.
- Protecting the site's cultural and environmental values.
- Enhancing existing and creating new recreational opportunities and raising awareness and connection to the site's cultural, environmental, heritage, and water values.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Informed by initial community & stakeholder engagement outcomes undertaken by MW, the Guiding Principles set the framework to test and ground the visitor experience through the FDP for the Yan Yean Reservoir Park.

The eight Guiding Principles for the FDP were developed following the initial community consultation phase in 2022. Strategic directions have been developed under each of the Guiding Principles. These assist as a framework for both the high level and detailed directions set herein.

These Principles can be distilled into three overarching categories:

- **Enhance environmental values and sustainability**
- **Enhance cultural & heritage significance**
- **Enhance community connection & well-being**

Throughout this report, these categories will be identified by the denoted colour codes above.



PROTECT MELBOURNE'S WORLD CLASS DRINKING WATER

Definition:

- Ensure enhancements & interventions consider the functionality of the reservoir; future-proofing Melbourne's world class water quality.

Strategic directions in FDP:

- Manage community interface of functional infrastructure including open water access.
- Consider enhancements that manage run-off and further improve water quality through renewal of wetlands.
- Maintain barriers to the reservoir where required; upgrading barrier fences and their alignment at key visitor nodes to enhance visitor experience.
- Meet all regulatory requirements for supply of safe drinking water.



ENHANCE COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Definition:

- Provide sustainable and equitable access that maximises the visitor experience to the park's key features.

Strategic directions in FDP:

- Provide access that maximises the visitor experience, provides equitable access and celebrates the park's key features of open water view, picnic lawns and bushland.
- Enhance visitor experience in key areas that responds to the requisite frequency and considerations for people of all abilities (Disability Discrimination Act 1992).
- Investigate additional recreation opportunities that support connection to nature to enhance the visitor experience.



PROTECT AND ENHANCE CULTURAL VALUES

Definition:

- Empower WWCHAC in a leadership and decision making role to support ongoing cultural connections and stewardship of Country.

Strategic directions in FDP:

- Manage public access to the broader catchment to protect the area's cultural values.
- Enhance educational aspects to visitor zones (interpretation at nodes etc).
- Expand role of Narrap Rangers in leading land management, including consideration of re-vegetation works within public access zone.
- Engage WWCHAC in all decisions for potential expansion of community access zones.



PROTECT AND ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY

Definition:

- Preserve and enhance the biodiversity and landscape character unique to the Yan Yean Reservoir Park.

Strategic directions in FDP:

- Manage public access to water where required to protect the area's bio-diversity.
- Implement strategic re-vegetation within community access zones under the guidance of Narrap Rangers (where appropriate) to enhance visitor experience.
- Establish strategic and varied habitat connections across the park.
- Record, protect and enhance existing areas of native vegetation



PROTECT AND ENHANCE HERITAGE

Definition:

- Retain and enhance the park's rich heritage, considering a balanced approach between pre and post-colonial settlement and it's values.

Strategic directions in FDP:

- Enhance integration of historic water supply infrastructure to the visitor experience through access infrastructure, interpretation and education program.
- Investigate future community / administrative or commercial use of the Caretakers Cottage.
- Manage access to physical heritage infrastructure in a way that integrates physical assets as part of the visitor experience, whilst protecting and maintaining the infrastructure.



PROTECT AND ENHANCE LANDSCAPE VALUES

Definition:

- Explore opportunities to protect and enhance the landscape values of the park whilst enhancing the visitor experience.

Strategic directions in FDP:

- Focus investment into the Yan Yean Reservoir Park on visitor experience and enhancing the park's core experiential values of:

  - Big water / big sky

  - Amongst the trees

  - Connection to place

- Revegetation across the existing Yan Yean Reservoir Park to support biodiversity and enhance visitor experience.



ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR RECREATION AT YAN YEAN RESERVOIR

Definition:

- Invest in enhancements that are sustainable for management by the relevant authority.

Strategic directions in FDP:

- Consider management responsibilities and requirements as part of access and frequency of maintenance.
- Obtain management feedback on assets (i.e. what assets are currently functioning and what aren't) and demonstrate planned improvements in the FDP.
- Communicate planned staging of proposed works.
- Consider re-purposing and re-use of materials.



PROMOTE RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Definition:

- Communicate the park's cultural & environmental values and functional role.

Strategic directions in FDP:

- Support ongoing investigations and research as outlined under the Cultural Values Assessment in partnership with WWCHAC.
- Engage community through an ongoing Community Engagement Program developed for the park including examples such as citizen science programs, 'Friends Of' groups and seasonal education days that represent the local Wurundjeri calendar etc.
- Develop an education and interpretation strategy encompassing the values of Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment holistically.

18.
KEY RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

APPROACH

Informed by the agreed Project Vision, Guiding Principles, background investigations, feedback from Project Partners and initial community & stakeholder engagement, a range of recreational opportunities have been identified for further investigation and consideration within the Yan Yean Reservoir Park.

The recreation opportunities nominated for consideration within the FDP are aimed at improving on, and identifying new opportunities to enhance the existing park experience. A focus has also been on providing recreation opportunities that are appropriate for the site, its natural and cultural values, and water supply role as managed by PV and MW.

The adjacent page includes a summary of the recreation opportunities to be investigated further and their strategic approach. Those listed are supported by the Project Partners.

The following requirements need to be recognised as steps to inform further decision making:

- All new recreation opportunities will be subject to safety assessments that consider risks surrounding fire, water, trees and access.
- Flora and fauna assessments targeting FDP areas will need to be undertaken.
- All recreation opportunities identified in this plan will be subject to further detailed planning and design to confirm feasibility against recommendations contained in the CVA, ERA and Traffic Report.
- Implementation of any new asset will be subject to available budget and funding.
- Any new proposals will be subject to legislative, environmental, planning or building approvals (i.e. CHMP, Heritage controls, Overlays).
- Visitor capacity and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles need to be considered.
- Feasibility must consider all stages of potential delivery including construction phase and ongoing maintenance and management.



IMAGE: Echidna in Yan Yean Reservoir Park, Spiire

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TO BE CONSIDERED

BUSH-WALKING
As part of the enhanced visitor experience, opportunities to explore the park will be provided through a series of accessible loop trails connecting the features in the Yan Yean Reservoir Park

BIRD-WATCHING
Due to its large range of biodiversity and habitats, Yan Yean Reservoir Park provides a significant opportunity for bird watching and is a highly regarded site by bird watchers across Melbourne. Over 170 bird species have been recorded at the Yan Yean Reservoir and Catchment.

Bushland areas, vast open water in the reservoir and wetland areas present opportunities for bird watching.

CYCLING
Provision for destinational cyclists through the park via a shared use path and end of trip facilities will be considered in the Yan Yean Reservoir Park.

PICNICKING
Picnic areas will be upgraded to enhance the visitor experience, improve accessibility and to provide connectivity to other park features/experiences

PLAYGROUND FACILITIES
Existing playground facilities will be renewed at the Playground Picnic Area with additional small scale nature based play elements provided at the picnic areas with toilets.

INFORMAL RECREATION
Open lawn areas will be maintained for informal recreation and picnicking. Informal use of lawn area for games will be encouraged away from open water areas.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT REQUIRE FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Further risk and feasibility investigation is required to make a decision on higher risk activities (ie fishing, non motorised boating and access to the broader catchment). This work will be completed as part of the Phase 1 delivery program.

Higher-risk activities that present increased risks to water quality, cultural and environmental values, safety, and operational management may be considered for future implementation where those risks can be effectively managed.

All proposed new activities will be subject to further cost benefit analysis, including consideration of appropriate cost sharing arrangements that take into account relative beneficiaries.

FISHING / ON-WATER ACTIVITIES / BOATING
Project Partners do not support making any decision on shoreline fishing, on-water fishing or boating (excluding petrol powered vessels) until more detailed feasibility assessments have been completed, and there is assurance that the inherent values can be protected and the required water quality standards can be met.

ACCESS TO THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN EXTENSION PRECINCT
Project Partners do not support opening up these areas until more detailed risk and feasibility assessments have been completed, and there is assurance that the inherent values can be adequately protected.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TO BE PROHIBITED

BOATING (PETROL POWERED)
Due to the site's important role in water supply, boating via petrol powered craft will be prohibited at Yan Yean Reservoir and not subject to future investigation.

SWIMMING
Due to the sites important role in water supply, activities that require direct contact with water such as swimming will not be considered at Yan Yean Reservoir.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
In support of protecting the sites environmental values, the reservoir's important role for water supply, safety considerations and conflict with other park uses, dedicated mountain bike trails will not be supported. Mountain bikes will continue to be permitted to access the shared use paths provided at Yan Yean Reservoir Park.



IMAGE: Bush-walkers in Parks Victoria Sherbrooke Reserve, Spiire

19.
FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN - YAN YEAN RESERVOIR PARK (OVERALL PLAN)

PARK AMBITION

Revitalisation of Yan Yean Reservoir Park seeks to enhance the existing visitor experience, providing opportunity to develop connectivity to key landscape assets for people of all abilities, and further bolster the visitor experience.

Design of the park upgrades will manage intensity of use, consider local impacts and retain the social and landscape value of the precinct.

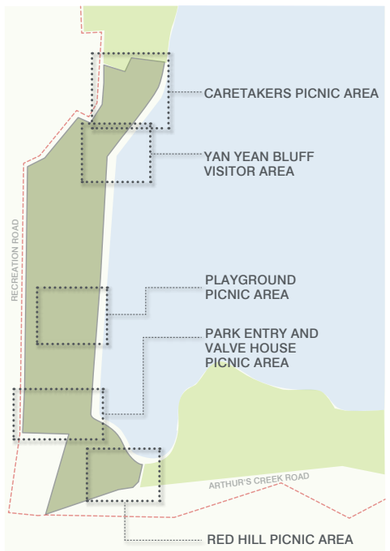
Through this improved connectivity, opportunity to build upon the parks rich heritage and culture will be considered in addition to enhancing key user experiences and moments unique to the park.

The Yan Yean Reservoir Park also presents an opportunity for extensive re-vegetation, creating a link (in both appearance and habitat) between the established bush land that bookends the north and south of the park.

An overall plan and five distinct Visitor Areas are represented in more detail further in this report. These include

- Park Entry and Valve House Picnic Area
- Playground Picnic Area
- Yan Yean Bluff Visitor Area
- Caretakers Picnic Area
- Red Hill Picnic Area

KEY PLAN



KEY DIRECTIONS IN THE PARK INCLUDE:

1. **Upgraded park entry**
Improve Entry Zone with planting, signage and feature entry wall, leveraging off local bushland character.

2. **Caretakers Cottage**
Investigate opportunities to better utilise the historic caretakers cottage. This may include opportunities for administrative, special interest, community and/or limited commercial use (subject to feasibility).

3. **Enhance habitat corridor throughout park**
Protect and enhance existing indigenous vegetation, undertake weed management and re-vegetation works with an emphasis on delivering a tree canopy coverage and re-vegetation works where appropriate west of the dam wall (ensuring strategic views are preserved).

4. **Establish grasslands along Recreation Road interface within pipe track easement**

5. **Pedestrian trail loops**
Establish accessible walking loops to encourage engagement with varied landscape experiences including wetland walking trails & access from key activity areas to views of water from the top of the dam wall.

6. **Access road upgrades**
Upgrade internal roads in line with traffic advice including roadside barriers such as bollards and road widening where required (to meet safety standards). Directional signage, Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and planting incorporated into design.

7. **New car-park**
Nominated zone for new car-park to support visitor use. Design to incorporate WSUD and planting.

8. **Shared use path (SUP)**
Establish destinational cycle route along dam wall with connections from the park entry point on Recreation Road.

9. **Fencing**
Review of all fencing within the park to ensure visitor safety and protection of vegetation and park areas.

10. **Existing Carparks**
Upgrade existing car-parks to better utillise capacity of existing footprint, provide equitable access and incorporate WSUD and planting into design.

11. Development of a way-finding and interpretation strategy under guidance from WWCHAC Education and Cultural Consultations Units.

12. Development of an educational program for the park under guidance from WWCHAC Education and Cultural Consultations Units.


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NOTE:
As a minimum requirement, all opportunities identified in this plan will be subject to further detailed planning and design to confirm feasibility in line with:

- Recommendations contained in the CVA, ERA and Traffic Report including detailed flora and fauna assessments of affected areas,
- MW's legislated obligations and requirements to meet water quality standards, and
- Safety assessments that consider risks surrounding fire, water, trees, access and Occupational Health and Safety requirements.

LEGEND

- Extent of Melbourne Water managed land
- Extent of Yan Yean Reservoir Park
- Yan Yean pipe track
- Yan Yean water channel (heritage asset)
- Dam wall extent
- Existing wetland
- Indicative area of recorded remnant vegetation within the FDP
- Melbourne Water pipe track
- Upgraded public access road
- Proposed pedestrian trail
- Proposed cycle route (SUP)
- Grassland treatment along pipe track
- Wayfinding / Interpretation signage
- Heritage water supply infrastructure
- Carpark and picnic facilities
- Caretakers Cottage

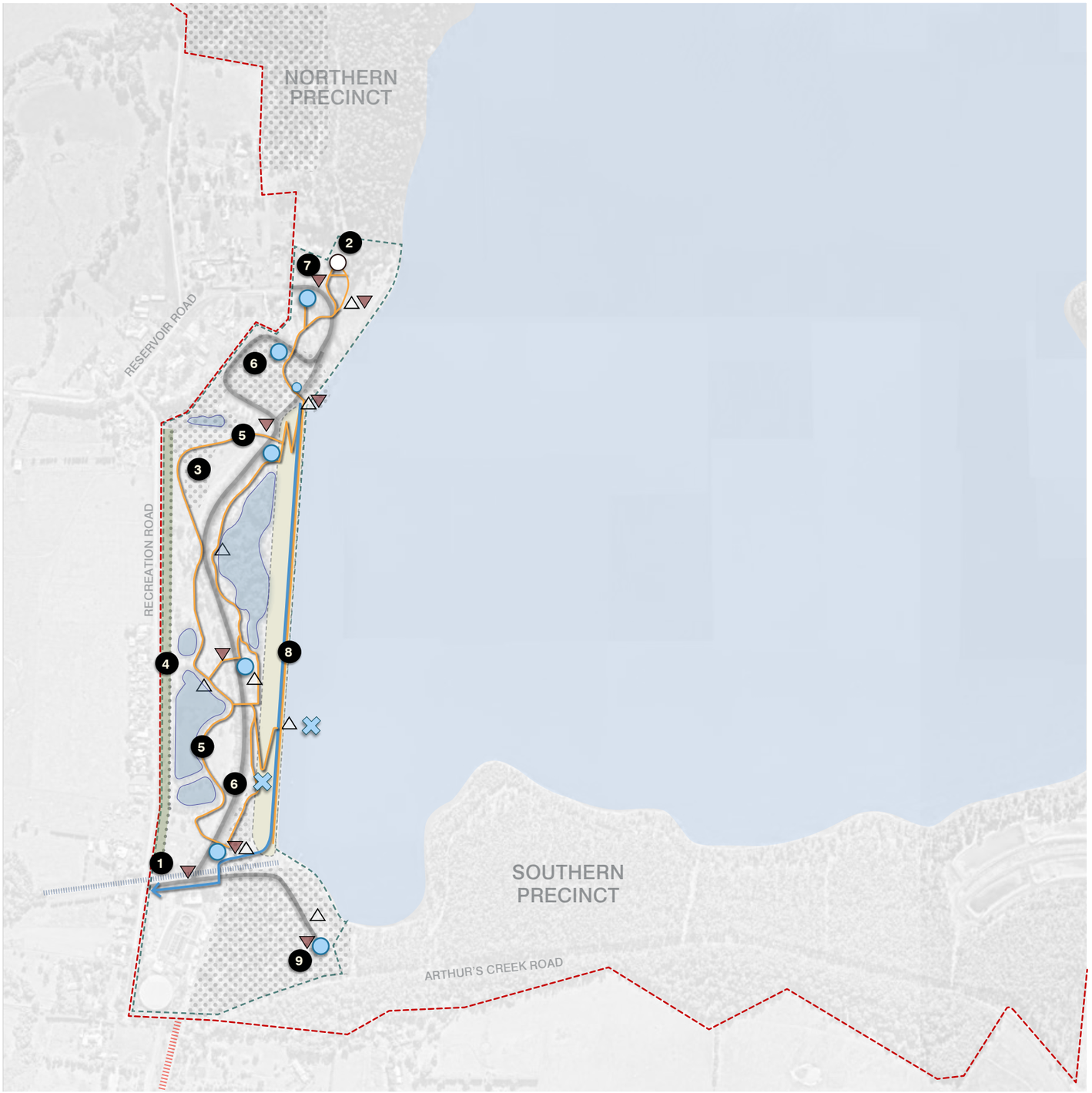
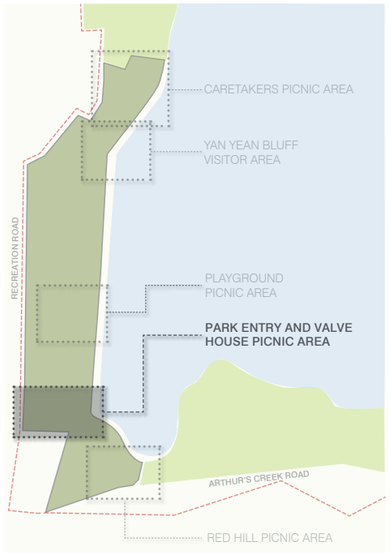


FIGURE: 6

20.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN - PARK ENTRY AND VALVE HOUSE PICNIC AREA

KEY PLAN



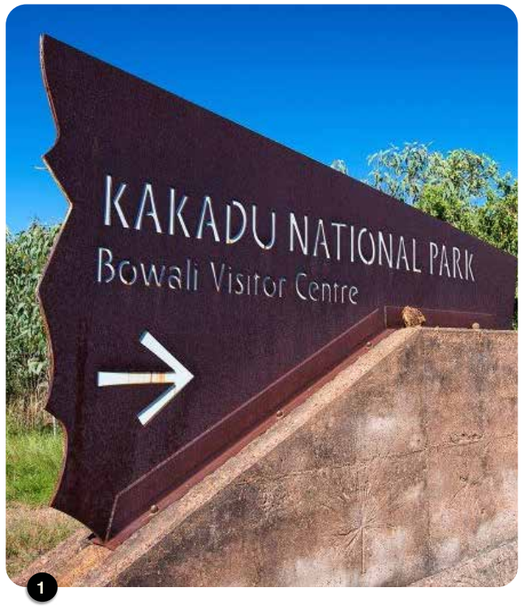
AREA AMBITION

The existing Yan Yean Reservoir Park entry point will be upgraded with new features that are reflective of welcoming visitors to a high quality visitor experience.

When considering the diversity of visitor experience and the broad user demographic it can cater for, the Valve House Picnic Area provides opportunity to consider enhancements of existing elements and new interventions that improve accessibility to new and existing user experiences within the park.

KEY DIRECTIONS IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

1. **New entry walls and gate with potential for feature artwork and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Welcome to Country signage.** Artwork to be developed with guidance from WWCHAC
2. **Indigenous entry planting to enhance visitor entry**
3. **Upgraded pedestrian bridge** Upgrade existing pedestrian crossing over water channel to cater for SUP connection
4. **New pedestrian bridge** New Shared Use Path (SUP) bridge over water channel at entry
5. **Establish accessible pedestrian path network** Linking key elements such as picnic facilities, water views and wetland zone to offer connection to the park's key experiences
6. **Proposed play elements** Small scale nature play elements to complement picnic area
7. **Upgrade & improve car-park as per Traffic Report** Comprising of upgrading existing pavement and accessible bays to comply with AS2890.6 and provision for mini-bus parking
8. Parallel parking on central road adjacent toilets as per Traffic Report
9. **Upgraded toilet facility (location TBD)** Currently located within arrival zone as a strategic visitor destination, upgrade to provide equitable access to park facilities upon arrival
10. New arrival and directional signage to orientate user of park amenity & opportunities as per Traffic Report
11. **Bike access** Separated entry for cyclists on proposed internal Shared User Path (SUP) as part of destinational cycling facilities
12. **Potential additional carpark to support Valve House Picnic Area**



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LEGEND

- Existing public toilet to be upgraded
- Existing shelter
- Melbourne Water high pressure pipeline easement
- Extent of Yan Yean Reservoir Park
- Existing car park to be upgraded
- Existing reservoir / wetland
- Proposed activity zone
- Existing barbecue
- Existing picnic settings (indicative only)
- Proposed feature landscaping area
- Existing heritage overflow drainage
- Existing fence
- Existing farm fence
- Existing buildings / structures
- Existing bridge to be retained
- Proposed play elements
- Proposed new pedestrian footbridge
- Upgraded public access road
- Proposed Shelter
- Proposed pedestrian paths
- Proposed shared-use path
- Wayfinding signage
- Interpretation signage
- Proposed screening tree

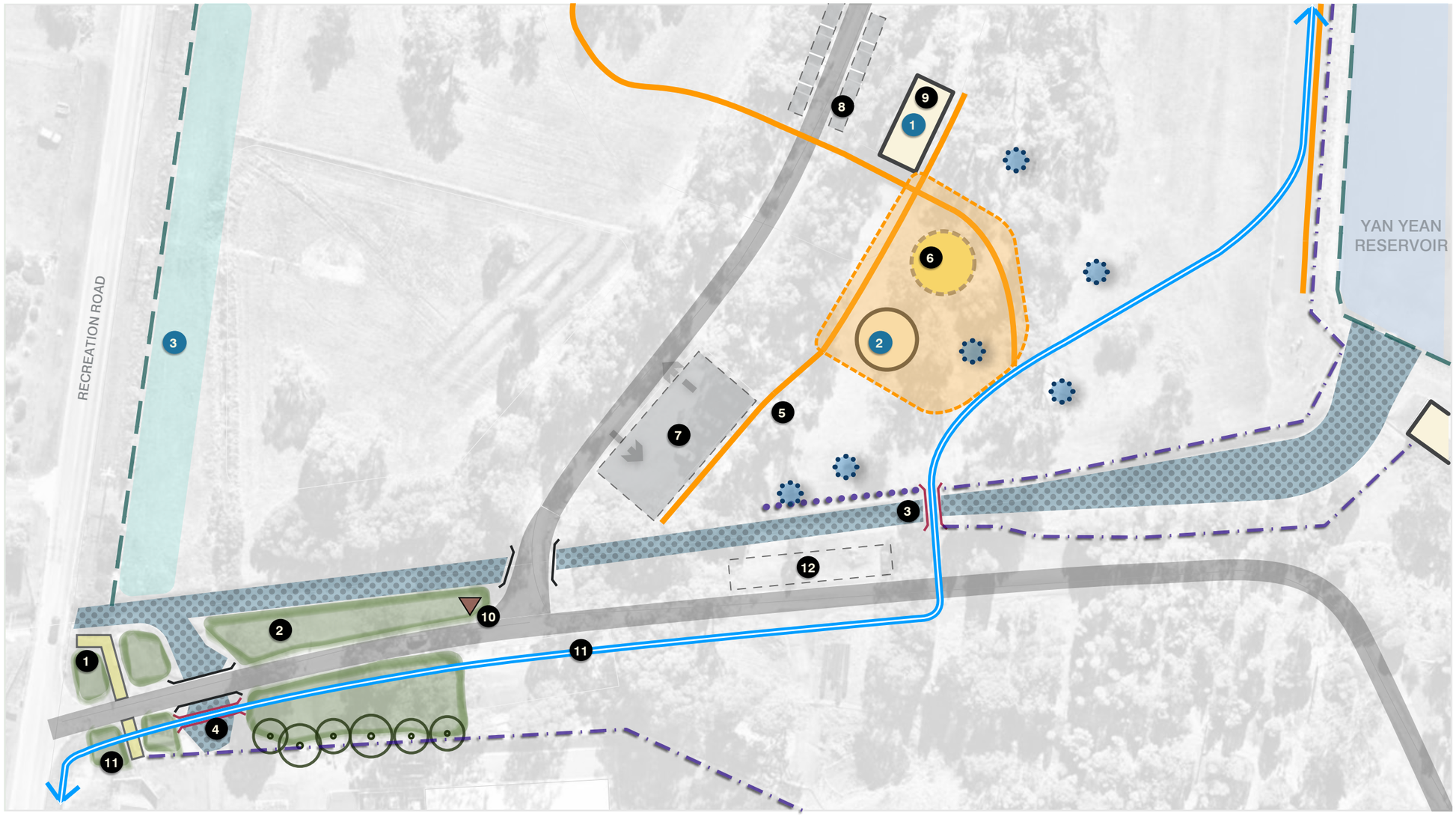
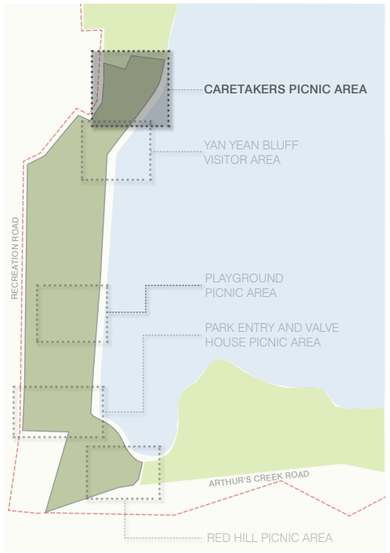


FIGURE: 7

21.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN - CARETAKERS PICNIC AREA

KEY PLAN



AREA AMBITION

The Caretakers Picnic Area in the Yan Yean Reservoir Park provides a combination of considered enhancements to existing infrastructure with new interventions to improve:

- Connectivity and accessibility within the area
- Accommodate visitor groups of varying scales
- Visitor engagement & sense of place utilising key landscape & heritage elements
- A focus for visitors seeking one of the park's key viewing points across the water

KEY DIRECTIONS IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

1 Upgrade & improve car-park as per Traffic Report
Upgrade & improve existing car park for efficiency and integration with parkland character.

Comprising of upgrading existing pavement, line-marking to reduce driver confusion and accessible bays to comply with AS2890.6

2 New picnic shelter
New shelter and landscaped setting at vantage point. Located to ensure maintaining access to water views across the reservoir. Comprising of picnic settings to service adjacent existing BBQ's and open structure for enhanced passive surveillance

3 Cultural gathering / Education space

4 Precinct planting

- Screening shrubs and planting as a buffer to western residential interface
- Planted buffer of indigenous grasses to eastern fence-line to improve visual amenity and capture water run-off
- Yellow-box tree planting to supplement existing trees

5 Caretakers Cottage
Adaptive re-use of building appropriate to heritage considerations. Opportunities include:

- Community use (ie Historic Society)
- Office & administration for asset managers
- Potential commercial activation

6 New parking zone
Provision for new parking zone to cater to visitor use including provision for minibus parking.
WSUD and planting to be incorporated into design

7 Access gate
Maintain access to external road for emergency access vehicles only

8 Upgraded pedestrian paths
Improved path network to provide equitable access to key features of the park

9 Interpretation and way-finding signage

10 Consideration of low key play elements to support picnic activities

11 Upgraded toilet facility (location TBD)


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LEGEND

- 1 Caretakers Cottage
- 2 Existing shelter
- 3 Existing public toilets
- Extent of Yan Yean Reservoir Park
- Existing car park to be upgraded
- Proposed overflow car park
- Open lawn area
- Upgraded public access road
- Maintenance access road
- Existing barbecue
- Existing picnic settings (indicative only)
- Gated access
- Existing buildings / structures
- Proposed shelter
- Proposed activation zone
- Proposed play elements
- Existing heritage bluestone path
- Existing upgraded paths
- Proposed pedestrian paths
- Buffer planting (along fenceline)
- Key views

0 5 10 15 20 25m

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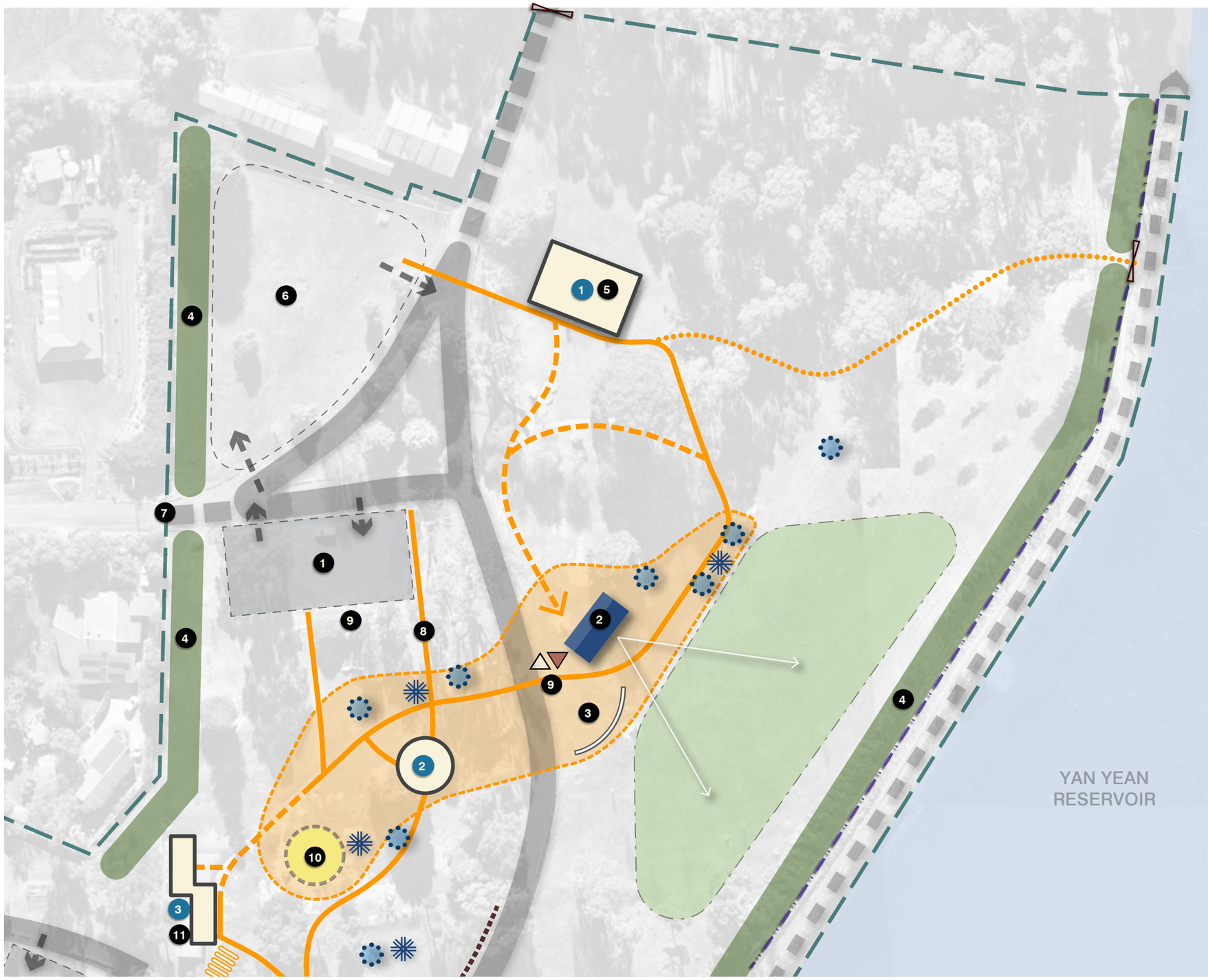
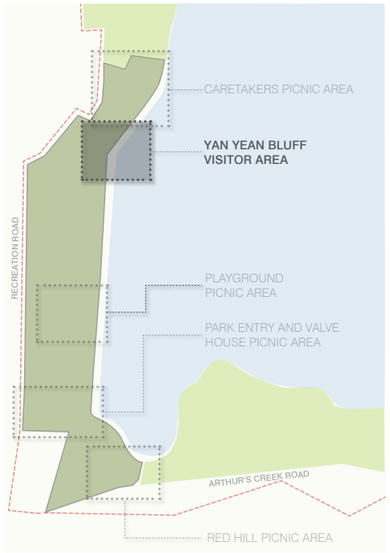


FIGURE: 8

22.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN - YAN YEAN BLUFF PICNIC AREA

KEY PLAN



AREA AMBITION

On the northern termination of the reservoir dam wall is a key opportunity to enhance the visitor experience and celebrate strategic views across the water and looking south along the dam wall. There are two key vantage points here; one at the water's edge and the second point on the 'bluff'.

By realigning the barrier fencing at water's edge and the provision of a viewing deck, visitors will be able to enjoy this lower vantage point and connection to water within the existing Yan Yean Reservoir Park. Reconfigured access connections within this zone will provide improved pedestrian connections and further enhance the visitor experience of this key area. Pedestrian footpaths and a cycle connection from the dam wall will establish this as a key connecting node between the Caretakers Picnic Area and the area to the south.

KEY DIRECTIONS IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

1 Viewing node
Enhanced access to waters edge through realignment of fencing and incorporating viewing deck over water connected to main pedestrian loop. Creation of a destinational node for pedestrians and cyclists. Comprising of bike hoops, seating and feature low balustrading to optimise views

2 Reservoir lookout
Activate lookout point on bluff to capitalise key views of reservoir. Comprising of seating areas for passive gathering and educational information

3 Upgrade & improve car parks as per Traffic Report
Comprising of upgrading existing pavement, line-marking to reduce driver confusion and accessible bays to comply with AS2890.6.
WSUD and planting to be incorporated into design

4 Upgrade roadway as per Traffic Report
Widen road width to 5.5m on loop road and 6.1m where bound by walls

5 Interpretation and way-finding signage
At strategic nodes and path intersections

6 Path connection
Accessible grade path connection between car-park and viewing node

7 Dam wall
Maintain operation of dam wall monitoring point


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LEGEND

- Existing public toilets
- Extent of Yan Yean Reservoir Park
- Existing car park to be upgraded
- Existing buildings / structures
- Existing retaining wall
- Existing stairs
- Existing fence
- Gated access
- Upgraded public access road
- Maintenance access
- Proposed pedestrian paths
- Existing upgraded paths
- Proposed shared-use path
- Proposed landscape buffer
- Proposed feature landscaping area
- Proposed activation zone
- Proposed stairs to vantage point
- Proposed viewing deck
- Key views
- New pedestrian balustrade / wall
- Existing barbecue
- Existing picnic settings (indicative only)
- Proposed wayfinding signage
- Proposed interpretation signage



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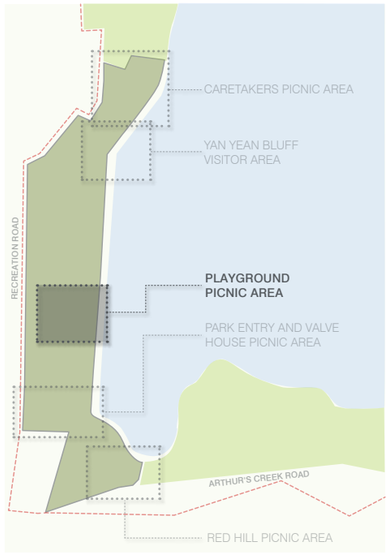
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FIGURE: 9

23.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN - PLAYGROUND PICNIC AREA

KEY PLAN



AREA AMBITION

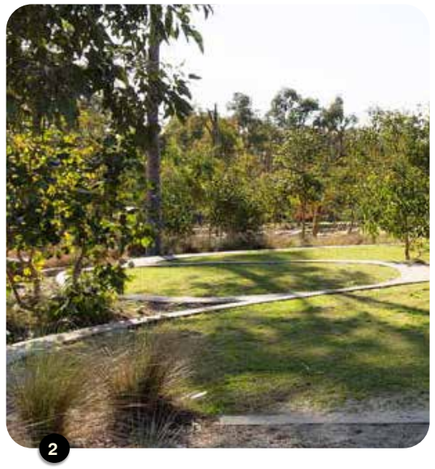
The existing Playground Picnic Area provides opportunity to consider enhancements to existing elements and new interventions that improve accessibility to new and existing user experiences within the park. Connection to the walking trails and the enhanced wetland area will support a strong connection to the park's biodiversity features for visitors.

KEY DIRECTIONS IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

1. **Bird-hides**
   Potential location for bird-hides within wetland zone to be investigated
2. **Retain & establish open lawn areas**
   For passive recreation opportunities and new picnic areas adjacent western wetlands
3. **Opportunities for shelter on dam wall**
   To experience water views through provision of shade and seating
4. **Upgrade & improve car-park as per Traffic Report**
   Comprising of upgrading existing pavement and accessible bays to comply with AS2890.6
   WSUD and planting to be incorporated into design.
5. **Establish accessible pedestrian path network**
   Linking key features such as picnic facilities, reservoir views and wetland zone to offer connection to the park's key experiences
6. **Playground renewal**
   Renewal of existing playground utilising nature-based materials
7. **Interpretation and way-finding signage**
8. **Feature planting**
   To enhance playground setting and provide safety barrier from carpark and central road
9. **Picnic Shelter**
   Proposed picnic shelter to support large gatherings
10. Parallel parking on central road to support use of new shelter


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LEGEND

- Existing signage board
- Extent of Yan Yean Reservoir Park
- Existing car park to be upgraded
- Existing reservoir / wetland
- Existing play area to be renewed
- Existing barbecue
- Existing picnic settings (indicative only)
- Proposed bird-hide
- Proposed open lawn area
- Proposed feature landscaping area
- Proposed shelter
- Upgraded public access road (one way only)
- Proposed pedestrian paths
- Proposed shared-use path
- Existing fence
- Wayfinding signage
- Interpretation signage
- Proposed activation zone

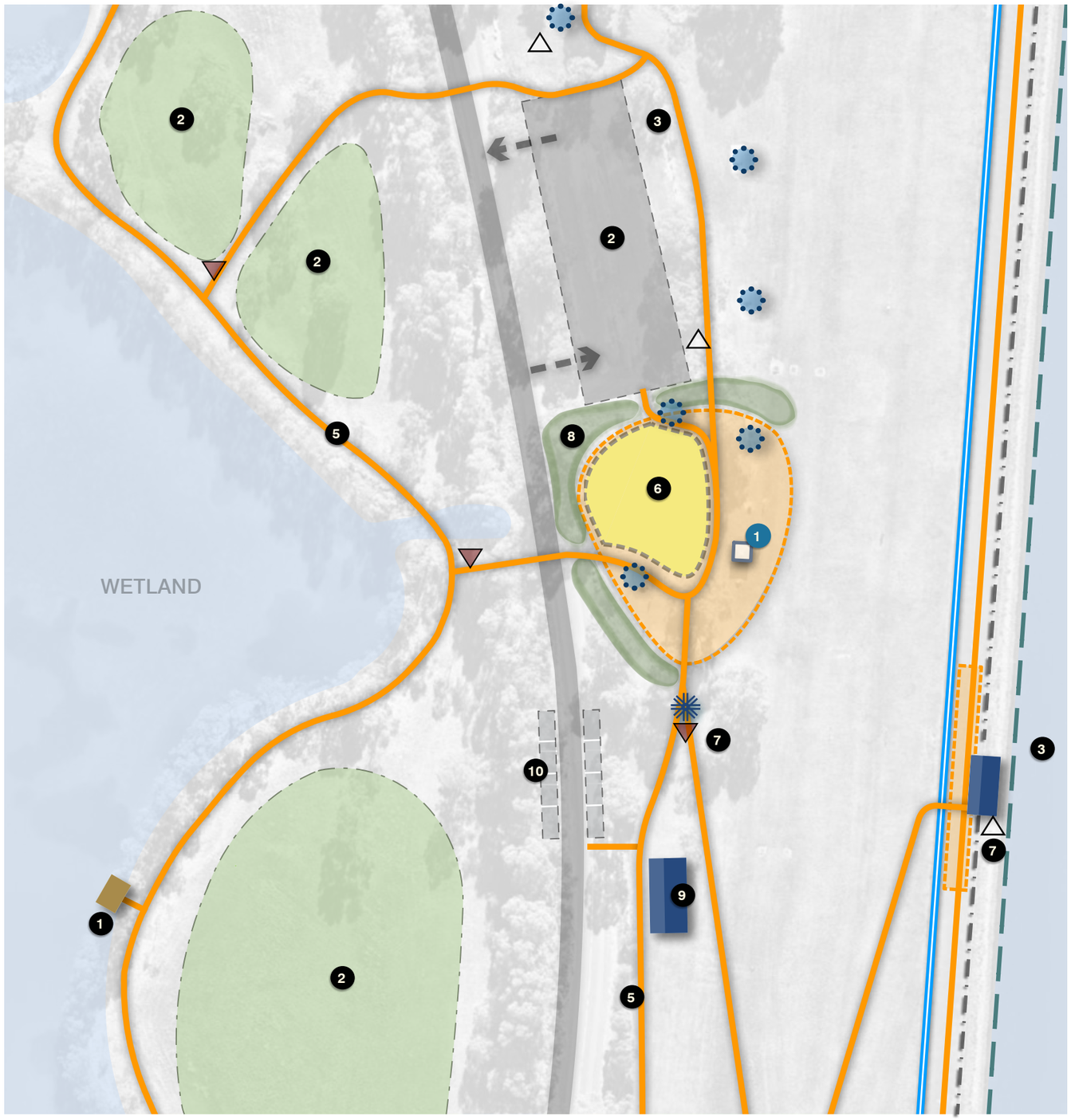
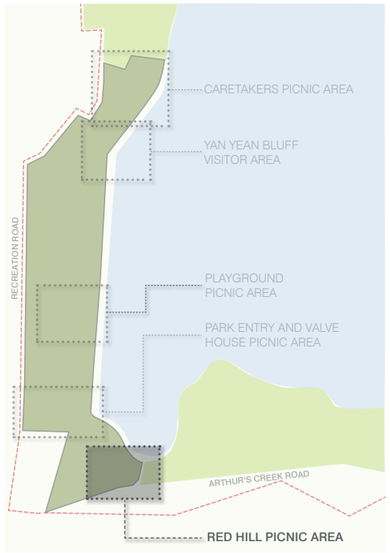


FIGURE: 10

24.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN - RED HILL PICNIC AREA

KEY PLAN



AREA AMBITION

This picnic area will be upgraded to provide diversity of picnic experiences across the park, this location leveraging key views to the north across the reservoir.

KEY DIRECTIONS IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

1. **Retain open lawn areas**
   For passive recreation opportunities and spill over picnic areas during days of high use

2. **Reconfigure & upgrade car-park**
   Accommodating additional car-parking. Comprising of parallel and 65 degree parking with suitable line marking, signage and accessible bays.
   WSUD and planting to be incorporated into design

3. **Opportunities for additional picnic facilities**
   Accommodating enhanced amenity offerings in existing open lawn area. Comprising of new shelter and additional picnic settings to increase water views, activation and passive surveillance in area

4. **Interpretation and way-finding signage**
   To improve connectivity of this picnic area to other parts of the park

5. Bollards and fencing to road interfaces to limit access into high value vegetation areas

6. Expand on remnant vegetation areas across park through strategic revegetation works


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LEGEND

- Extent of Yan Yean Reservoir Park
- Reservoir
- Existing car park to be upgraded
- Existing fence
- Proposed shelter
- Proposed activation zone
- Proposed feature landscaping area
- Upgraded public access road (one way only)
- Maintenance access
- Proposed pedestrian paths
- Proposed stairs to shelter
- Wayfinding signage
- Interpretation signage
- Key views



FIGURE: 11

25.
NEXT STEPS

As referenced throughout this report, the FDP has been prepared to articulate a future vision for Yan Yean Reservoir Park and identify a range of potential onsite activities and infrastructure designed to increase the social and recreational opportunities available.

While no formal decision has been made on the specific elements proposed in the plan, Phase 1 of the FDP does articulate those elements that the Project Partners' are willing to support for further investigation and feasibility testing.

This feasibility testing stage is a critical next step to confirm whether or not these elements can be practically and safely delivered in a way that maintains and protects the inherent cultural and natural values and the site's primary function as a drinking water supply catchment.

As a minimum requirement, all opportunities identified in this plan will be subject to further detailed planning and design to confirm feasibility in line with:

- Recommendations contained in the CVA, ERA and Traffic Report including detailed flora and fauna assessments of affected areas,
- MW's legislated obligations and requirements to meet water quality standards, and
- Safety assessments that consider risks surrounding fire, water, trees, access and Occupational Health and Safety requirements.

Only once feasibility is confirmed will these elements be progressively delivered as part of MW's Recreation in Reservoirs program, pending confirmation of budget and agreement of maintenance and management roles and responsibilities. While every endeavour will be made to implement the plan, there is no guarantee that it will be delivered in its entirety, and any elements deemed un-feasible through the feasibility assessment stage will not be progressed.

The commitment under this FDP is to deliver Phase 1 outcomes including:

- Design and delivery of Stage 1 works including elements of the Park Entry and Valve House Picnic Area and Playground Picnic Area, pending confirmation of feasibility and funding.
- Work with all Project Partners to determine whether fishing, non motorised boating and access to the broader catchment can be accommodated in a way that achieves an acceptable balance between access for recreation and protection of cultural/environmental values and water quality.

A high level summary of the next steps under Phase 1 include the following:

- Undertake the additional investigations and feasibility testing and complete detailed design and costing for stage 1 works including elements of the Park Entry and Valve House Picnic Area and Playground Picnic Area, pending confirmation of feasibility and funding.
- Pending feasibility testing, detailed design and costing, implement Stage 1 on-ground works.
- Undertake additional investigations and feasibility testing and complete concept design and costing of remaining Visitor Areas in preparation for delivery should additional funding become available.
- Undertake the required investigations to explore and define potential access models (i.e. events based, club licence, pilot programs, access agreement or MOU etc), including staging, monitoring, and incorporate this information into a decision making framework (see below).
- MW to work with Project Partners to develop an agreed decision making framework to formally progress a decision on whether fishing, non motorised boating and access to the broader catchment (Northern and Southern Precincts) can be accommodated in a way that achieves the desired balance between access for recreation and protection of cultural/environmental values and water quality.
- Utilise the decision making framework to formally work through the required investigations and progress a decision with all Project Partners to determine whether and how fishing, non motorised boating and access to the broader catchment can be accommodated in a way that achieves the desired balance between access for recreation and protection of cultural/environmental values and water quality.
- Work with DEECA, Parks Victoria, Traditional Owners and MW's Operations team to agree how the impact of increased visitation and expected levels of service could be managed, given the current level of operational oversight and funding. This will include consideration of ongoing maintenance of new infrastructure, management of new activities and services and funding arrangements. Resolution of this issue is seen as a prerequisite to implementation of Stage 1 works.

Notes:

- All works listed above are scheduled for completion within 5 years of the FDP being approved.
- All works are subject to confirmation of feasibility and funding.
- The implementation order of the 5 Visitor Areas may change as project planning progresses.
- The location and extent of recreational assets and supporting infrastructure shown in the FDP are notional and may be subject to change as project planning progresses.

26.
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