



Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Master Plan

Version 01
August 2023



Acknowledgment of Country

Sunshine Coast Regional Council acknowledges the traditional Country of the Kabi Kabi Peoples and the Jinibara Peoples of the coastal plains and hinterlands of the Sunshine Coast and recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging – and acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community. Council is committed to ongoing communications and consultation with the Traditional Owners and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of the Sunshine Coast in the implementation of the plan.

A faint, light brown topographic map of the Iluka area is visible in the background. It shows contour lines, a coastline, and some inland features like hills and valleys.

place
design
group.

iluka.

Disclaimer

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Executive Summary

Figure 2 Looking north to Mt Coolum

Master Plan Vision

Resting where the Mooloolah River meets the sea, this ancient, much-loved place, has profound beauty, precious cultural heritage and important ecology.

The Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park 2041 Master Plan looks to the past, present and future with deep respect for place, and strives to reflect a coherent vision of the hopes, dreams and aspirations of a diverse community.

Unanimous agreement about the future is not the goal of the Master Plan. Rather it strives to create balance and blending of views to responsibly manage change for the enduring benefit of the place and community.

Executive Summary

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park are much loved and used areas with significant environmental, recreational, and cultural heritage values.

Located within the small coastal neighbourhood of Buddina, the area is defined by the Pacific Ocean to the north and east, Warana to the south, Minyama to the west, and the Mooloolah River to the west and north.

In 2021, Council initiated a master plan process to guide the future use and management of this coastal area, balancing the needs of users and the environment, for all the community to enjoy.

Key challenges

An extensive Site Analysis and Place Assessment brought to light the following key challenges.

Place Character

- Infrastructure and park embellishments have been added in an ad-hoc manner over time resulting in an array of design characters and quality. This has diluted the unique qualities of the site resulting in weak and inconsistent place character.
- Unrecognised and under-appreciated cultural heritage sites have resulted in damage to attributes and missed opportunities to engender community pride and enjoyment of the parkland.

Environment and Ecology

- A lack of understanding of high value ecological areas has resulted in degradation through inappropriate access and vandalism.
- Turtle hatching areas are negatively impacted by car headlights, and public and private building lights.
- Fauna habitat including that of shore birds, is adversely impacted by uncontrolled dog use and poor collection and disposal of dog faeces.

Getting to and Around

- Paths throughout the parkland are used by walkers, runners, motorised and no-motorised cyclists, skateboarders and scooter riders. At times respectful and safe sharing of paths are not observed resulting in conflicts between users.
- There are substantial opportunities to improve equitable access throughout the parkland and surrounding streets.
- High pedestrian use areas around the Harbour Parade off-street boat trailer and carpark, Gulia Street and the Pacific Boulevard off-street carpark, do not prioritise pedestrians.
- Visitors beyond walking and cycling distance are dependent on car use and car parking as there are no other alternatives to getting to the parkland.

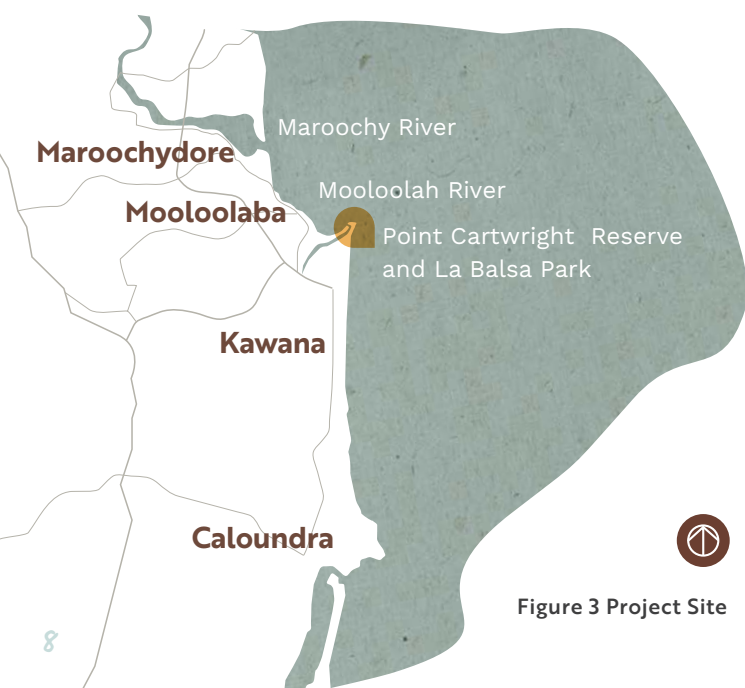


Figure 3 Project Site

Relaxation and Enjoyment

- Park visitation is on the increase due to population growth, putting pressure on the type and suitability of existing infrastructure.
- Some existing infrastructure is outdated and in need of renewal.
- Some existing embellishments and infrastructure have been located in an ad-hoc manner and do not enrich relaxation and enjoyment of the parkland.
- Marine recreation access and management: pressure on boat trailer parking has led to non-compliant parking at peak times and requires the boat trailer carpark to be upgraded.
- Waterway issues and management: conflict between divers and snorkellers, and boat users has resulted in an unsafe environment and requires further education and management.

Climate Resilience

- The southern parkland currently experiences flooding and is vulnerable to increased flooding in the future due to sea level rise and storm surges.
- The existing seawall in the southern parkland is nearing the end of its design life and will require replacement.
- The Buddina Beach dunes are vulnerable to erosion caused by sea level rise and storm surges and will require ongoing maintenance.
- Buddina currently experiences the impacts of heat island effect due to lack of shade.

Management and Maintenance

- Dog management and responsible dog ownership: non-compliance in dog off-leash and on-leash areas and lack of collection and disposal of dog faeces, has led to degradation of flora and fauna habitat, cultural heritage sites and for some parkland users, personal health, safety and comfort.
- Planning, design and management: the absence of a current long-term Master Plan encompassing both Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park, has made good planning, design and management and the ability to achieve appropriate funding, difficult for Councils various asset owners. In addition, a process for maintenance coordination and collaboration between Councils various asset owners is not clear resulting in ad-hoc decision making.

Executive Summary

Development of the Master Plan

The Sunshine Coast Design Strategy, alongside councils broader strategic directions, has been applied throughout the design process and underpins the Master Plan.

Findings from the Place Assessment formed a clear understanding of the parklands and distilled the key challenges to be addressed. Alongside this assessment, community and stakeholder engagement took place.

The purpose of phase 1 engagement was to understand the vision and values for the project area. While there was divergent community opinion about dog access, feedback collected clearly demonstrated that the community loves the parklands and generally wants the area to remain the same.

The following themes embody the community's values:

- **The environment**
Preserve and enhance the sites natural environmental values and scenic amenity
- **Improve awareness**
Provide education and awareness of the rich history of the site, the environmental values, and the significance of the land for Kabi Kabi People
- **Social and recreational**
Maintain social connections, exercise opportunities and pet friendly activities
- **Inclusive**
Create an inclusive place for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy

These values were used to guide the design response through a series of targeted strategies including:

- **Manage park use**
- **Enrich the place experience**
- **Prioritise places for people**
- **Embed enduring sustainability**
- **Advance healing and caring for Country**

The Master Plan strategies link cultural and environmental custodianship and climate-responsive design with social benefits to service the community's vision and values for the site.

The Master Plan design does not look to make substantial or vast changes that will alter the existing character and amenity of the place. The plan proposes sensitive, subtle, and achievable change for the purpose of improved management and protection.

The Master Plan is complimented by guidance on staging, implementation, funding and includes an Action Plan.

The Action Plan synthesises the strategies into a series of detailed, prioritised actions to deliver the Master Plans activities and built outcomes.

The Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Master Plan envisions a 15 to 20 year process that can begin immediately.



Figure 4 Sandstone

Executive Summary

The Master Plan process

Good design depends on a good process.

Design is a complex and iterative process involving: responding to strategic plans and directions, collaboration with community and stakeholders, robust research and analysis, exploration of possibilities and testing scenarios, and developing a plan for how the design will be implemented.



Sunshine Coast
Design.



Sunshine Coast Design Principles

1. Work with the local climate
2. Create places that respect and incorporate landscape
3. Bring our cultures, arts and heritage to life
4. Capture and frame views and create vistas
5. Strengthen and extend a network of green corridors
6. Be inspired by the natural and built environment
7. Create shady streets that put people first
8. Create welcoming places that can be enjoyed by everyone
9. Design places to be resilient and ready for change
10. Create and add value

Place Assessment

- Site analysis
- Place character
- Environment and ecology
- Getting to and around
- Relaxation and enjoyment
- Climate change and adaptation
- Management and maintenance



Figure 5 Master Plan process diagram

Executive Summary

The Master Plan










































- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | Site boundary |  | Paragliding launch/viewing lawn |
|  | Entry/threshold treatment |  | Decking over retaining wall and water access |
|  | Cultural/ecological interpretation opportunity |  | Outdoor shower and stair access |
|  | Exercise equipment |  | Cultural heritage protection |
|  | Kick-around space |  | Turtle habitat protection (timber louvre and vegetation screening) |
|  | Playground |  | Restricted access (barriers and planting) |
|  | Revegetated area |  | Potential Bus Loop Stop |
|  | Lookout |  | Potential ferry landing |
|  | Toilets |  | New shade tree planting and pedestrian link |
|  | Parking |  | Ramp access and terraced revetment wall |
|  | Trailer Parking |  | Formalised beach access track |
|  | New Tree |  | Existing Coastal Pathway |
|  | Revegetation Type 1 |  | 1.2m wide nature walk |
|  | Revegetation Type 2 |  | 1.8m wide connector path |
|  | Revegetation Type 3 (low planting) |  | 2m wide nature walk |
|  | 1 Natural play area |  | 3m wide Coastal Pathway |
|  | 2 Informal shaded picnic zone |  | 3m wide access road/ Coastal Pathway |
|  | 3 Yarning circle, timber deck |  | Existing parallel parking to remain |
|  | 4 Terraced/seating timber deck |  | 45 Degree angle on-street parking |
| | |  | Proposed reconfiguration of off-street car parking |
| | |  | Overflow car with boat trailer parking |
| | |  | Proposed reduction of street corners to low speed radius |



Figure 6 Master Plan

1:4000 @ A4



2

Introduction



Figure 7 Surf Ski off Point Cartwright

What is a Master Plan?

This Master Plan Report is a document providing a strategic framework to guide the sustainable use, improvement, maintenance and management of public land. The plan provides strategies and identifies important actions to achieve what is envisioned for the project area. These strategies and actions are guided by direction from Council plans and policies, research, expert investigations and advice, and engagement with the community, to identify an approach to sustainable future use and management of the site. A Master Plan Report also serves to consolidate information about a site and its users.

Together, this information informs the design of the Master Plan for the project area. The Master Plan is a comprehensive long-term plan illustrating an integrated approach and design direction for a site.

The Master Plan Report describes an agreed vision and provides strategic and operational direction for the improvement and management of a site for a defined period. It provides certainty for the community, community organisations, State Government agencies, utility providers and Council about what change is expected and how to manage change sustainably.

Why is a Master Plan needed?

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park currently experience a number of challenges in how the spaces are used and managed.

In public spaces, it is not uncommon to experience conflict when people disagree on how spaces should be shared and used and when people use spaces in a way that threaten or damage the community's values such as – lifestyle, health and wellbeing, protection of history and culture, and protection of the natural environment.

As the population grows, public spaces are increasingly valuable because they provide free spaces for people to come and decompress from their stressful daily routines at home and work, either by connecting with nature, relaxing or being physically active. When public spaces are not planned, designed and managed well, they struggle to sustainably meet the recreation needs of the community, and celebrate and care for the place appropriately.

A Master Plan is needed to help balance the interests of all users of the project area including the local community, residents, businesses, visitors and asset owners responsible for caring for the site.



Figure 8
Car parking within dedicated open space



Figure 9
The Point Cartwright Reserve headland fence with unauthorised memorial plaques



Figure 10
Degraded vegetation due to human impacts

Purpose of the Master Plan

The purpose of the Master Plan is to guide the future use and management of this coastal area. It will not be possible to meet everyone's desires for how the space is used. This strategy seeks balance for the mutual long-term benefit of place and people.

The Master Plan's scope and process

The scope of this Master Plan is to guide the future use and management of Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park until 2041 with a proposed review every five years.

A range of engagement activities were programmed over two key stages to gain stakeholder and community feedback to assist in setting the strategies identified in this Plan.

The methodology for developing this Master Plan is illustrated below:

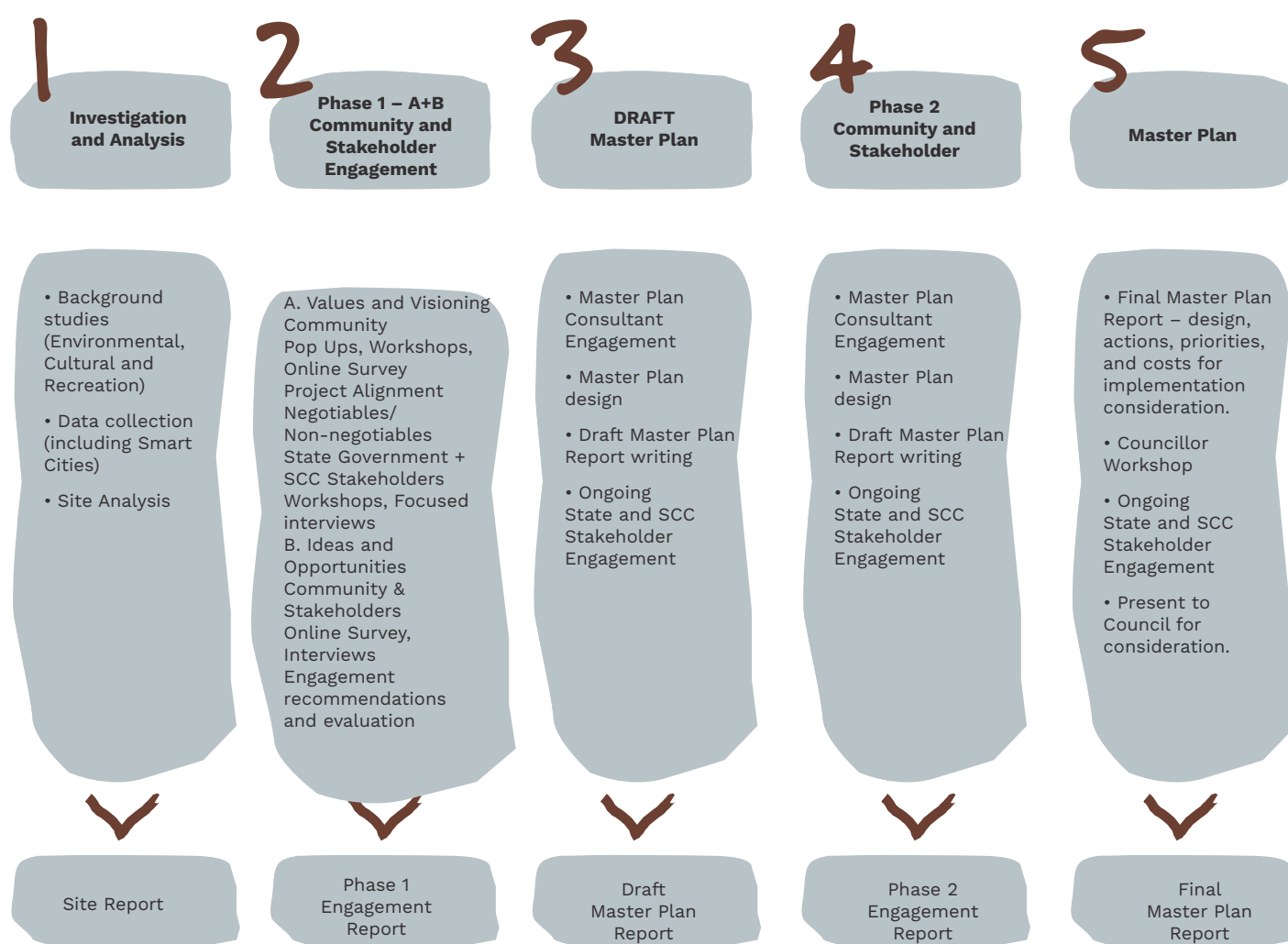


Figure 11 Master plan methodology

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Site Context



Figure 12 Point Cartwright cliffs

Historical Context

Kabi Kabi Cultural and Archaeological Context

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park are part of the extensive cultural landscape of the Sunshine Coast. Figure 15 illustrates the network of traditional pathways across the Sunshine Coast with a pathway extending from the Maroochy River through the project area to Caloundra and many more connected to favoured campsites, Bora and ceremonial grounds. It is likely that both Sippy Creek and the Mooloolah River were traditional pathways.

Within a regional context, numerous landscape features in Kabi Kabi Country have stories and cultural significance attached to them. For example, Mount Ninderry, Mount Coolum, the Maroochy River, and Mudjimba Island to the north and north-west are all important places and landforms associated with Creation ancestors and all are inextricably linked to the Mooloolah River and its Creation ancestor, Mooloolah.

Traditionally the project area would have been in the coastal and sub coastal zones along waterways and their associated ecotones onwards to eucalypt open forests/woodlands on the lower slopes and in the valleys of the hinterland. These contain a considerable variety of potential faunal food resources. In addition, these areas would have provided a large range of floral resources utilised for both food and the construction of housing and items of material culture. Faunal remains in the project area were dominated by 'Eugarie' also known as Pipi (*Donax deltoides*) indicating utilisation of the ocean beach environment. In addition, the area contained substantial stone artefact assemblages comprised of grinding and pounding implements and a flaked tool component.



Figure 13
Sandstone cliff face

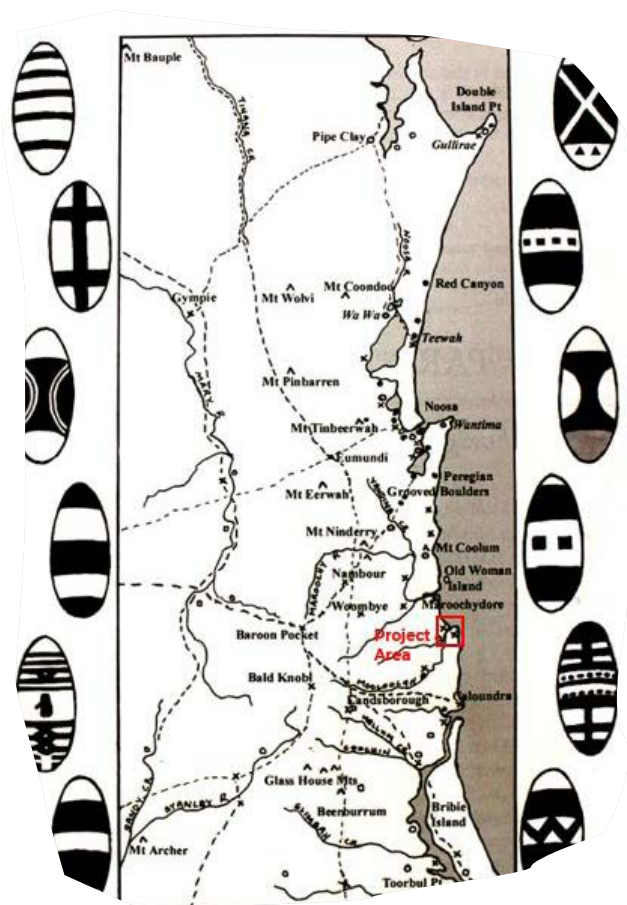


Figure 14
Map Robin Wells

Earliest assessments of the project area relate to Jackson (1939) who investigated a series of middens in the sandhills behind the beach immediately south of Point Cartwright extending to the north of Caloundra.

In addition to these middens Jackson was also shown another series of extensive middens on the banks of the Mooloolah River, 'sometimes rising in the bank to a height of 7ft above the river' (Jackson 1939:291) and composed entirely of oyster shells.

Also noted during Jackson's inspections of Point Cartwright was the presence of extensive rock engravings on the sandstone terraces off the shoreline at the base of the cliff. These, along with others at Moffat and Wickham Heads, were in the process of active erosion at the time and are now sadly absent. Specifically noted were emu, kangaroo and dingo footprints amidst many smaller bird prints, at least one human footprint and "other markings of an indefinite character" (Jackson, 1939:293). While now gone, this record is extremely noteworthy since rock art and in particular rock engravings are rare in southeast Queensland.

Several culturally significant sites are recorded within the project area on the Cultural Heritage Database and Register including shell middens, engravings, a fish trap, stone feature and several Aboriginal Intangible Place's. An Aboriginal 'Intangible Place' refers to locations that hold significant cultural heritage values related to the existence of traditional creation stories, song or story lines or places associated with restricted knowledge related to specific rites, customs or ceremony. They are places associated with traditional knowledge and cultural expressions, held collectively by Aboriginal people or a particular group of Aboriginal people, and passed down across generations with or without adaptations and evolutions in nature or practice as elements of a living culture.

Although the project area has undergone extreme change, the Kabi Kabi People have primary lore, customary and cultural rights, and obligations to their "Country", the management of "Country" and significant cultural values within it. Caring for Country is a traditional responsibility for them. Likewise, maintaining connection to spiritually significant places continue to be important for the Kabi Kabi People, and the study area is part of a culturally significant landscape.

Statement of Cultural Significance

During the Cultural Heritage Assessment, Kabi Kabi representatives offered the following as a statement of the Cultural Significance of the project area:

The project area has complex and multiple layers of cultural significance related to both residential and special use functions. Both the Mooloolah River and Point Cartwright are saturated with the essence of Kabi Kabi creation stories and the creation ancestors.

The Point Cartwright landform is of prime cultural importance in terms of ceremonial significance, being a place that could sponsor special festivities like the annual mullet and tailor runs and Pandanus festivals.

The project area is an environmental setting that provides ready access to a wide and rich range of resources, and the size, density and distribution of archaeological sites is tangible proof of the scale and intensity of these activities. This same resource diversity also supported a more mundane but no less important, daily lifestyle. Fish traps, middens, rock art, stone artefacts and quarry sites exist side by side with sites of intangible value and the whole is connected to other areas of Kabi Kabi country by traditional pathways, some of which aided and abetted the destruction of the traditional lifeway of Kabi Kabi People.

For too long we have been disconnected and we look forward to again having a deterministic voice as the Point Cartwright area continues to evolve.

Post European settlement

European settlement of the area dates back to the 1850's. Timber was the most viable and easily accessible natural resource for the new settlers as Queensland had a seemingly unlimited supply of Cedar, Maple, Mahogany, Walnut and Silky Oak, together with excellent general



Figure 15
Middens



Figure 16
Rocky foreshore

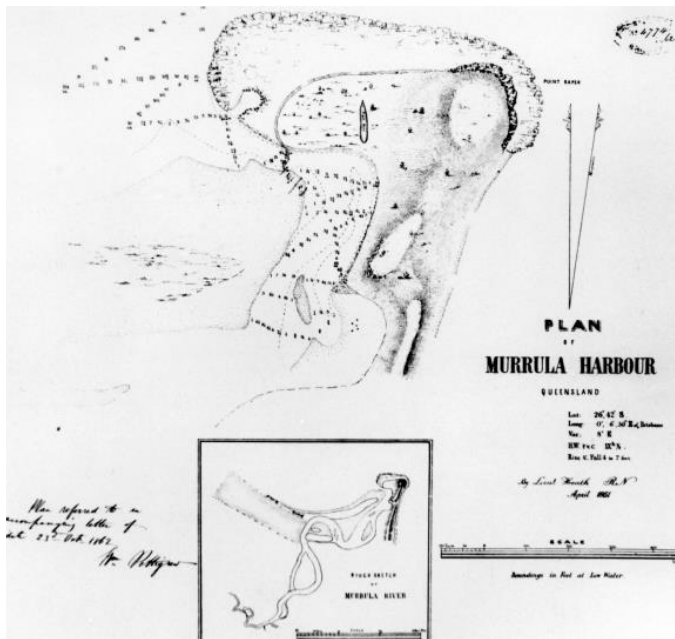


Figure 17 Lt Heath's 1861 plan of Point Cartwright (then known as Murrula Harbour).



Figure 18 Aerial photo of the study area May 1st, 1958, QAP0747038 (QImagery 2022).

Post European settlement

European settlement of the area dates back to the 1850's. Timber was the most viable and easily accessible natural resource for the new settlers as Queensland had a seemingly unlimited supply of Cedar, Maple, Mahogany, Walnut and Silky Oak, together with excellent general utility pine including Hoop, Bunya and Kauri pine.

Timber getters were often the first non-indigenous people to enter a region with exploration frequently prompted by a desire to find timber. Consequently, they entered areas where there were no roads beyond Aboriginal pathways. Rivers were the most efficient means of transporting timber, hence, timber cutting started in coastal areas near rivers with cutters only moving inland as reserves of timber became depleted.

The Maroochy area had the reputation of having the finest timber in the colony and was a particularly valuable source of timber and became a focal point for initial activity. However, the Maroochy River had a treacherous, shifting bar and the process of floating logs down the river to the open sea for gathering into rafts and towage to the Port of Brisbane for milling, was fraught with danger to workers and resulted in heavy losses of product (Heap, 1965).

In 1861, Naval Lieutenant, George Heath was commissioned by the Government to report on the state of the Maroochy River and investigate prospects for the establishment of a safe harbour.

Heath found "a very snug, perfectly land locked little harbour just inside Point Raper" inside the Murrula River (Heath 1861). Point Raper then being the name for Point Cartwright.

The first plan of Point Cartwright, shown in figure 18, was drawn in 1861 by Lieutenant Heath and shows the project area before any development. Notable features are the eastern embayment (fish trap), saddle area and lagoon and the influence of channel infilling from sand blow deposits from Buddina Beach to the Mooloolah River. The earliest aerial photographs date from 1958 and show a diminished lagoon and vegetation, and a track from Half Moon Bay to the northern foreshore. Significant change occurred over the next 10 years as illustrated in figure 20. The image shows that the east and west breakwater walls have been constructed at the river entrance and sand dredging has taken place to widen and deepen the channel. On land, a large quantity of sand has been extracted from the saddle area, removing vegetation and impacting the lagoon. The sand has been placed behind the east breakwater, infilling the natural embayment and extending the land mass to reclaim the rocky shoreline.

To the south of the spit, canal estates are under construction, filling and modifying natural wetlands and levelling sand dunes. A road extending to Point Cartwright headland is evident as is land clearing on the site where apartment buildings now stand.



Figure 19 Aerial photo from May 27th, 1971, QAP2230009 (QImagery 2022)



Figure 20 Aerial photo December 22, 2005, QAP6180009 (QImagery 2022)

Figure 21 shows that five car parks have been inserted into La Balsa Park between 1984-2005. A reservoir has also been constructed on the most elevated area of the headland and network of pathways through the remnant vegetation and along the eastern cliff top. The sand extraction area is now a grassed open space as is La Balsa Park.

In 1987 destruction of a large midden associated with dredging works on the original bank of the Mooloolah River occurred. This was associated with construction of the marine precinct of the Sunshine Coast Water Police and a mooring facility.

The point has been a beacon to shipping since 1978 when the 32m pentagonal lighthouse replaced use of the Caloundra Lighthouse.

La Balsa Park obtained its current name from the famous 1970's La Balsa expedition in which a raft made of balsa logs carrying four men and a cat, travelled from Guayaquil, Ecuador to the Sunshine Coast. The La Balsa expedition was undertaken to show that it was possible for contact to have occurred between pre-Columbian South American cultures and those of the Pacific Region.



Figure 21
Looking east to Mooloolaba



Figure 22
The La Balsa Voyage arrival



Figure 23 Regional Map

Regional Context

Located in South East Queensland, about 100 kilometers north of the Brisbane CBD, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council area is bounded by the Gympie Regional Council area in the north-west, Noosa Shire in the north-east, the Pacific Ocean in the east, the Moreton Bay Regional Council area in the south, and the Somerset Regional Council area in the south-west.

The current population is 356,059 across 2,291 sq.km. The population density 155.4 pp/sq.km.

The Sunshine Coast is a diverse region with picturesque hinterland towns, coastal urban centres, waterways, national parks, state forests, bushland, rural areas and scenic mountains. This area is the ancestral homelands of the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples and is also home to an increasing number of First Nations people originating from across Queensland and Australia.

European settlement dates from the 1850s, with land used mainly for grazing and timber-getting. Population was minimal until the 1860s, when several townships were established and agriculture, including sugarcane growing, became more popular. Growth took place from the late 1850s into the early 1900s, spurred by the opening of the railway line between Brisbane and Gympie in 1891. Land was then used for fruit growing and dairy farming. Expansion continued during the 1920s and 1930s, aided by tourism and improved access. At this time the area was known as the North Coast, however, in the 1960's it was re-named the Sunshine Coast, to describe the area in a way that promoted tourism.

Significant development occurred during the post-war years, particularly from the late 1960s, with the population of the Council area increasing from about 21,000 in 1947 to about 36,000 in 1971. Rapid growth took place during the 1970s and 1980s, with the population rising to about 98,000 in 1986. The population grew by over 79,000 people between 2011 and 2021 and is forecast to grow to over 500,000 people by 2041.

Major infrastructure investments including the Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion, University of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore City Centre, Sunshine Coast University Hospital and international broadband submarine cable, the future Mass Transit System, and specific areas designated for more dense urban growth have all been designed to support sustainable prosperity for the Sunshine Coast.

Local Context

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park are located within the small coastal neighbourhood of Buddina, the most northerly suburb of the Kawana Waters locality. The area is defined by the Pacific Ocean to the north and east, Warana to the south, Minyama to the west, and the Mooloolah River to the west and north.

Buddina is distinctive for its dual water frontage and the Point Cartwright, rising from the dunes to punctuate the headland. Point Cartwright boasts expansive views to Mount Ninderry, Mount Coolum, Mudjimba Island and the north and south coastline. The parkland is linked into the Coastal Pathway extending from Coolum in the north to Bells Creek in the south.

Buddina is situated on a low sand dune system and coastal floodplain within the Mooloolah River catchment. As a result, the area is relatively flat and close to sea level. The natural landform and landscape were intact until the early 1960's when substantial alteration took place to shape the canal system and residential housing estate.

The suburb has a busy local café opposite La Balsa Park, a small shopping village, Parkana Shops, and a Primary School. Beyond the suburb, the community has access to a Surf Life Saving Club, community library, community garden, major shopping centre and additional schools, in Kawana Waters.

The area has a mix of housing types, including single houses, townhouses and apartments, with over 70 per cent being single detached dwellings. The local population was recorded as 4,236 in the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census with the median age being 43 years.



Point Cartwright Reserve

Mooloolaba Beach

Mooloolaba

Mooloolah River

La Balsa Park

Buddina

Minyama

Kawana Beach

Figure 24 Local Map

4

Planning Context



Figure 25 Point Cartwright Reserve Coastal Pathway



This chapter encompasses a summary of the relevant state and local planning instruments, policies, local laws and manuals, that the Master Plan is required to be informed by. In addition, ownership, tenure and management responsibilities are explained.

Guiding strategies and plans

Sunshine Coast Regional Council has developed three long-term strategic documents to inform corporate and operational planning and delivery including the:

- Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017 (ELS)
- Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013 – 2033 (REDS); and the
- Community Strategy 2019 – 2041 (CS)

These documents have been carefully reviewed and reflected in the Point Cartwright and La Balsa Park Master Plan. In addition to the three regional strategies, other key Council documents, including the Operational Plan, the Sunshine Coast Design Strategy 2020 and the Recreation Parks Plan 2021-2031, have been considered and incorporated in the development of the Master Plan.

Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

The Environment and Liveability Strategy provides long-term strategic direction to shape the region by guiding growth and delivering the transformational change required to maintain a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast until 2041. The strategy focuses on the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the liveability of the region, enabling a good quality of life for all residents and supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment. The Environment and Liveability Strategy identifies a governance framework for delivery, a range of council services central to the delivery of the strategy, and 26 transformational actions delivered through five strategic pathways to actively respond to the drivers of change. The preparation of this Master Plan is in accordance with - Our Environment and Liveability, Strategic Pathway 2. Protection and enhancement of our natural assets and distinctive landscapes.

Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-2033

The Regional Economic Development Strategy provides a 20-year blueprint for sustainable economic growth across the Sunshine Coast region. The strategy establishes a pathway through a changing economy, including becoming a part of the global economy while respecting the region's local character. It focuses on high value industries, investment in talent and skills and a collaborative approach to growth. There are strong synergies with the Environment and Liveability Strategy, and therefore this Master Plan, which both seek to support a transition to a smarter, innovative and more sustainable region while protecting the environment and liveability. The Master Plan acknowledges how vibrant public spaces and recreation opportunities attract skilled workers to the Sunshine Coast and support the tourism, sport and leisure industry.

Community Strategy 2019-2041

Council's Community Strategy provides long-term social direction that builds on the region's positive social attributes - Sunshine Coast communities are engaged, diverse and resilient. The strategy provides pathways to four distinct outcomes, each focused on ensuring that people are included, treated with respect and provided with equitable opportunities throughout the region. Recreation parks play a vital role in the delivery of these outcomes by promoting healthy lifestyles and ensuring that people and places are connected.

Recreation Parks Plan 2021-2031

The Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan outlines the strategic direction for recreation parks across the region. The plan is supported by two technical documents that provide additional planning tools to ensure consistent and sustainable development of these public spaces. The first supporting document contains technical guidelines and additional locational criteria for park infrastructure. A second technical document provides geographic and demographic information on each of the 31 localities of interest in the Sunshine Coast Regional Council region as well as the mapping which shows the current provision of key park infrastructure.





**Sunshine Coast
Design.**

Sunshine Coast Design Strategy 2020

Sunshine Coast Design is a resource to help plan and design buildings, parks, public spaces, streets and neighbourhoods on the Sunshine Coast by using a set of simple and accessible values and design principles.

The Strategy, created using a co-design process with the Sunshine Coast community, was developed to encourage a place-based design approach to protect and enhance all that is loved about the Sunshine Coast.

The four values are:

We love our climate

We live within and cherish our landscape

We treasure our ocean, beaches and waterways

We are a community of communities

These values can be realised through applying the 10 Sunshine Coast design principles to guide planning and design of parkland.

The design principles are:

1

Work with the local climate

2

Create places that respect and incorporate landscape

3

Bring our cultures, arts and heritage to life

4

Capture and frame views and create vistas

5

Strengthen and extend a network of green corridors

6

Be inspired by the natural and built environment

7

Create shady streets that put people first

8

Create welcoming places that can be enjoyed by everyone

9

Design places to be resilient and ready for change

10

Create and add value



Relationship with other planning documents

In addition, the Master Plan is guided by the following Sunshine Coast Council strategies, policies, local laws and manuals.

- State Controls Local Gov Act
- Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014
- Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy
- Sunshine Coast Integrated Transport Strategy
- Coastal Pathway Linear Open Space Master Plan 2017
- Environmental Reserves Network Management Plan 2017
- Sunshine Coast Active Transport Plan 2011-2031
- Sunshine Coast Arts Plan 2018-2038
- Sunshine Coast Street Tree Master Plan 2018
- Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2021
- Sunshine Coast Parking Management Plan 2017
- Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2022
- Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012
- Urban Public Lighting Master Plan 2016
- Place Assessment 2020
- Access And Inclusion Policy 2011
- Community Land and Complementary Commercial Activity Policy 2017
- Community Safety Policy 2014
- Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011
- Regional Wayfinding Signage Manual 2011

Previous Master Plans

La Balsa Park Landscape Plan 2015

Sunshine Coast Regional Council prepared a Landscape Plan for La Balsa Park in 2015 based on the local community's issues and requests. The plan encompassed upgrades to amenities, parking, lighting, paths, picnic seating and barbecues, shelters, playgrounds, planting and signage.

Point Cartwright Master Plan 2002

In 2002, Caloundra City Council and Anembo Consultants prepared the Point Cartwright Master Plan making recommendations regarding: strategic planning, recreation design, natural resource management and social development.

Many of the recommendations from both plans have been initiated. This Master Plan recognises the good work to date and incorporates the relevant planning, design and management direction from both the La Balsa Park Landscape Plan 2015 and the Point Cartwright Master Plan 2002.

Master Plan 2023-2033 related studies

To support the master planning process, specialist background reports have been undertaken to further investigate the cultural heritage, environmental and recreation value of the site.

In 2022 the following reports were received:

Point Cartwright and La Balsa Park Cultural Heritage Survey Report for the Kabi Kabi First Nations Aboriginal Corporation and Sunshine Coast Council by Converge Heritage and Community.

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Master Plan Project Environmental Values Report by Future-Plus Environmental.

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Recreation Values Report by ROSS Planning Pty Ltd.

The reports each made a series of recommendations for the future planning, protection and development of the parklands. These recommendations are included in the Place Assessment chapter of this Master Plan Report.

Ownership and Management

La Balsa Park and Point Cartwright Reserve are owned by the Queensland Government and designated as Reserves under the control of Sunshine Coast Regional Council as trustee. Point Cartwright Reserve is comprised of two allotments, both designated as Reserve for Recreation and Scenic Purposes. La Balsa Park is also comprised of two allotments, one designated as Reserve for Parks and Gardens, and the other Reserve for Park and Recreation. Council classifies the combined parklands as a district level recreation park. Most of the site is zoned Open Space.

Council's Planning Scheme identifies (6.2.14.2 Purpose and overall outcomes) the purpose of the Open space zone code is to:

Provide open space and park functions which are associated with the safe and comfortable public use of those areas. The zone may also accommodate open space required for drainage or amenity purposes. Where required to meet community needs, development may include shelters, amenity facilities, picnic tables, and playgrounds and infrastructure to support safe access and essential management.

The range of existing uses are generally consistent with this purpose.

Sunshine Coast Regional Council Business Areas managing the parkland include:

Civil Asset Management

The Civil Asset Management branch are the operational custodian for pathways, boardwalks, car parks, boat trailer park etc.

Environmental Operations

The Environmental Operations Branch are the operational custodian for the natural area's assets both hard and soft elements, as well as the manager of the ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation of parts of the site.

Parks and Gardens

The Parks and Gardens Branch are the operational custodian for the landscape recreation assets both hard and soft elements, as well as the manager of the ongoing maintenance of these assets.

Response Services

The Response Services Branch manage the sites local laws including dog management and permits.

Property Management

The Property Management Branch are the operational custodian for the four amenity buildings. The Land Management Branch will advise on land related matters between Council and the State Government.

Transport Infrastructure Management

The Transport Infrastructure Management branch is responsible for the car parking network, footpath network, public lighting and sustainable transport.

Figure 27 illustrates state authorities responsible for waterways and infrastructure.

Operated by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Point Cartwright Light is an active lighthouse located on Point Cartwright. It marks the entrance to the northwest channel, a deep-water channel into Moreton Bay and the Port of Brisbane and provides guidance into the Mooloolaba Harbour. The land is leased from Sunshine Coast Council.

Point Cartwright Reservoir is operated by Unity Water and leased from Sunshine Coast Council. An easement provides access through the Pacific Boulevard car park to the reservoir.

Energex have an area of underground easement in La Balsa Park.

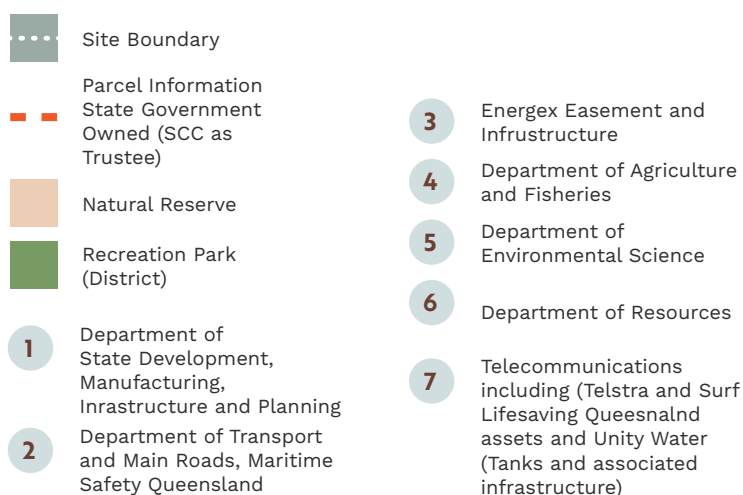




Figure 26 Ownership and management map

1:5000 @ A4



A photograph of a person skateboarding on a paved path that runs along a rocky coastline. The person is wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt, purple pants, and a cap. In the background, there is a body of water and a city skyline with several high-rise buildings. The sky is overcast. The image is decorated with abstract graphic elements: a vertical line of orange and yellow circles and irregular shapes on the left side, and a large, thick, brown wavy line at the bottom left. The text 'The Community' is written in a white, handwritten-style font across the middle of the image.

The Community

Figure 27 Point Cartwright Reserve walkway

The following chapter presents a snapshot of the local community and how they currently use the parkland based on community feedback, Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data and on-site activity data. This chapter also provides insights into future population and use.

The Local Community

In the 2021 census, the population of Buddina was 4,236 people consisting of 2,105 males and 2,025 females. The highest per cent of the population are aged between 35-49 years. Of the labour force population, 96% is employed. Only 17.7% of the local population were born overseas making Buddina a relatively non-diverse area.

The total number of dwellings were 2,025 with the highest percentage being single detached dwellings. The portion of the population rent is 29%, with the remainder being homeowners or purchasers. The highest percentage of household type was couples without children.

Local concerns

There are several community groups active in the area indicating that a portion of the community are highly motivated in the desire to help shape the future of the area. These include:

La Balsa Bow Wows

A group for the Sunshine Coast community and four-legged friends who love walking around Point Cartwright. They advocate for dog access to Point Cartwright and share news and social activities online.

Friends of Buddina

Friends of Buddina is a volunteer community group formed in 2019. They aim to share information about social, economic, environmental and land use development issues that impact residents, visitors and neighbouring communities.

The Beach Matters Group

The Beach Matters Group is a community group who aims to protect and preserve healthy and clean Sunshine Coast beaches.

The Point Cartwright Care Group Inc.

The group runs the 'Save Point Cartwright' campaign. Their aim is to protect Point Cartwright Reserve from future development, keep it a natural place and prevent further degradation of the reserve by managing the reserve as a conservation park and advocating to change State Government land use zoning to Environmental Management and Conservation.

Turtle Care Group

The volunteer Turtle Care group is facilitated by Sunshine Coast Council's Environmental Operations Branch. The aim of the Turtle Care volunteer program is to implement an ongoing marine turtle monitoring program for nesting activity on the Coast's beaches.



Users of Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park

Together, La Balsa Park and Point Cartwright Reserve offer a set of unique recreation experiences that are utilised by the local community, the wider Sunshine Coast community and tourists visiting the Sunshine Coast. The ability to enjoy scenic walks in a natural setting, run, ride, barbecue, picnic, play, and exercise, swim, surf, fish, dive, snorkel, boat and hang glide – all from an area where on-leash and off-leash dog activities are permitted, (and all within a heavily developed residential area), is quite unusual. It is this large scope of activities and population pressures that has led to conflicts between users and uses.

Council undertook an Activity Data Study in 2021 and 2023 to better understand parkland users, uses and conflicts. The study focused on four types of users: adults, children, dogs and cyclists, and utilised four data collection methods. These methods and key findings are summarised.

Field Survey – on the ground observation for 24hrs

Field survey data was collected from September 2-5, October 11-14 in 2021 and again from Mar 17-20 in 2023. Human monitoring at fixed points to purposefully collect data at 7am and 1pm has provided an opportunity to characterise the recreational activity occurring in the Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park.

Figures numbered clockwise starting with top left:

Figure 28 Viewing area - looking south along Buddina Beach

Figure 29 Mobility scooter in La Balsa park

Figure 30 Viewing area at Point Cartwright Headland looking east to Mooloolaba

Figure 31 Half Moon Bay

Council officers counted the number of adults, children, wheels (bicycles, skateboards, scooters etc.), and dogs passing through the La Balsa Park entry to Point Cartwright Reserve and the Pacific Boulevard entry to Point Cartwright Reserve. Counts were grouped over periods of 10 minutes to match the observations being recorded by the Wi Fi counting devices.

Key findings:

- The average ratio of adults to children is 89%/11%
- The average ratio of adults to wheels is 92%/8%
- The average ratio of adults to dogs is 80%/20%
- Comparison of field survey results across 2021 and 2023 yielded very similar ratios for adults, children, wheels and dogs.

Wi-Fi n-counters – over 644 days

WiFi hotspot (nCounter) data was collected over 644 days from September 2021 to June 2023. Silent WiFi hotspot (nCounter) anonymously counts devices moving nearby. Two counters were installed, one at the La Balsa Park entry to Point Cartwright Reserve and second at the Pacific Boulevard entry to Point Cartwright Reserve. This longitudinal dataset allows investigation of changes in patterns over time.

Key findings:

- Visitation has increased in peak holiday periods and off-peak holiday periods indicating that visitation increase is due to local population growth as well as increased holiday visitors
- The busiest month is January
- In January 2022 visitation was 84,296 compared to 89,044 in January 2023
- The average people visiting per day (over 644 days - Sept 2021 to June 2023) was 1271
- The maximum people visiting per day (NYE 2022) was 3729.

Strava Metro - crowd sourced over 1 year

A crowd sourced dataset produced from the Strava 'app' built for iOS and Android devices. Both cycling and walk/run views are displayed as Heatmap, or activity attributes can be analysed on individual segments including people aged:

- 13-19
- 20-34
- 35-53
- 55-64
- 65+

Key findings:

- The largest cohort (50%) using the parkland while using the Strava App are aged between 35-54.
- The smallest cohort (2.65%) using the parkland while using the Strava App are aged 65+.

Google Popular Times – crowd sourced

A crowd sourced dataset produced by Google generated from aggregated and anonymised Location History Data, from people who have opted in to turn this setting on from their Google account. Measured at 1-hour intervals.

Key findings:

- The most popular time to visit the parkland on the weekend is between 3-4pm and between 11-12pm on weekdays.



Figure 32 Picnicking and barbecuing in La Balsa Park

Future population and use

The population of the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area is forecast to grow to over 500,000 people by 2041. A growing population will mean that the number of people seeking outdoor recreation and play opportunities will increase within the catchment. If not managed appropriately, this could lead to further degradation of the existing assets, inappropriate use of areas of high cultural heritage and/or ecological value and continued user conflicts.

Participation trends

Ongoing research conducted by SportAUS highlights a clear move away from formal sport participation while physical activity and recreation have increased significantly (by more than 20% since 2001). Participation in walking and fitness/gym have increased the most. There are few formal sports/activities undertaken across the project area. For those activities reported by SportAUS, significant participation increases have been highlighted at a national level for adults in air sports, cycling, fishing, paddle sports and surfing since 2017. Increases in participation in air sports and fishing have also been observed for children. These findings support reports for increasing demand for space for car and trailer parking across the project area.

Convenience

Our society is becoming increasingly convenience orientated. People desire the flexibility to do activities when it suits. This desire has contributed to an increasing trend in 'no strings attached' participation. Results from the 2021 AusPlay Focus Report indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on organised sport due to restrictions on community gatherings. By contrast, there has been a national increase in adult participation in physical activity, and with higher frequency per week being driven by women.

Walking for recreation remained the most participated in activity, and jogging was almost as popular, followed by cycling, bushwalking and swimming. Most of these more popular activities are available across the parklands.



Increasing health and environmental awareness

People are becoming increasingly concerned about their health, with conditions such as obesity and heart disease on the rise. With the trend of small residential blocks and higher density living, people have less contact with the outdoors (including backyards). A significant body of knowledge now exists as evidence that residents with good access to the natural environment report a higher quality of life. Additionally, at societal level, there is growing awareness of the environment and the challenges it is facing, such as climate change and urban growth. This has facilitated a growth in visitation to various natural areas. A term referred to as 'returning to nature' has emerged, where people feel the desire to become connected to the natural environment in an effort to escape their modern lifestyles.

COVID-19 and dog ownership

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a substantial boom in pet ownership in Australia. Nationally, 69% of households now own a pet, up from 61% at the start of the pandemic. This increase has largely been led by a surge in dog ownership, with over a million additional dogs being brought into Australian households since 2019. Companionship is by far the most common reason for wanting a dog.

These significant increases in dog ownership are resulting in higher demand for dog parks and dog on- and off-leash areas. Point Cartwright Reserve and the surrounding foreshore areas are some of the more popular areas for recreation with dogs across the Sunshine Coast. Dog clubs from outside the region are also known to undertake group activities within the study area.



Figures numbered left to right:

Figure 33 Aerial photograph looking south over Pt Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park

Figure 34 The Coastal Pathway is an popular link through the site that connects with the regional open space network

Figure 35 The open spaces offer a variety of experiences

Figure 36 Places to exercise and socialise dogs are in high demand across the region



Place Assessment

Figure 37 Osprey off Point Cartwright Reserve

This chapter brings together an assessment of the physical site with all the other considerations outlined in the previous chapters, to form a clear picture of the challenges and opportunities for the Master Plan.

Site Analysis

Climate

The Sunshine Coast experiences a sub-tropical climate with long summers that are warm, muggy, wet and partly cloudy; and winters that are short, cool, and mostly clear. Over the course of the year, temperatures typically vary from 10°C to 28°C and are rarely below 5°C or above 35°C.

The site faces north, affording sunrises from the ocean to the east and sunsets over the river to the west.

Prevailing winds are from the south-east. The site also experiences north and south-west winds. The site's dual water address means that visitors have opportunities to enjoy cool breezes off the water.

The average yearly rainfall is 600mm over 48 days.

Geology

The project area lies within Land Zone 2: Coastal Dunes - Quaternary coastal dunes and beach ridges; and Land Zone 12: hills and lowlands on granitic rocks.

The general area is dominated by numerous Jurassic period igneous intrusions into older sedimentary sandstones resulting in their uplift to form scattered and isolated hills and mountains. Point Cartwright is an eroded remnant of one of these features.

Topography

Point Cartwright, characterised by sandstone terraces at the shoreline, rock outcrops and cliffs, is at the very northern end of Kawana Beach.














High cliffs provide spectacular views of Mooloolaba, the Mooloolah River mouth, Mount Coolum, Mount Ninderry and Mudjimba Island to the north and Kawana Beach to the south. The site's natural landform creates features that are an essential part of the local character.

To the east, a well-defined dunal system runs north south defining the area's coastal edge, and the low-lying land to the west fronts the Mooloolah River.

Both Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park's topography have been modified through sand extraction. Sand was mined from the central area on Point Cartwright Reserve and used to fill the area east of the western breakwater and sand dunes in La Balsa Park were trimmed and leveled.

Regional Ecosystem

The Regional Ecosystem Description Database search identifies that the project area lies within Bioregion 12: Southeast Queensland Bioregion. From a biogeographic perspective, the project area lies within the Gympie Block province of the Southeast Queensland bioregion (Sattler and Williams 1999:12). This province comprises low, hilly landscapes on old sedimentary rocks, metamorphic's and intermediate and basic volcanics with scattered acid volcanic intrusions. The relatively fertile soils associated with the intermediate basic volcanics support extensive patches of Araucarian notophyll and microphyll rainforest and mixed eucalypt forests. Ironbark woodlands replace the mixed eucalypt forests in areas of low rainfall (Sattler and Williams 1999, p. 12/6).

-  Site Boundary
-  Summer Solstice Sun Path
-  Winter Solstice Sun Path
-  Prevailing Winds
-  Contours
-  Landsborough Sandstone Headland and Rock Outcrops
-  Views
-  Coastal Dune
-  Seawall
-  Deep Water Access
-  Remnant Vegetation
-  District Park
-  Nature Reserve
-  Shorebird Habitat
-  Turtle Nesting



Place Character

Cultural Heritage

The parkland holds profound cultural heritage importance. Although the site has experienced substantial alterations dating from the 1960's, much of the cultural and ecological value is intact.

There are several Tangible and Intangible Places outlined in the Point Cartwright and La Balsa Park Cultural Heritage Survey Report for the Kabi Kabi First Nations Aboriginal Corporation and Sunshine Coast Council. Converge 2022.

The report made the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

Protection and management of archaeological sites.

Recommendation 2

Broader consultation.

- Seek additional layers of significance to identify unidentified issues of cultural concern.

Recommendation 3

Cultural interpretation and revitalisation opportunities.

- Signage, public art, guided tours, revegetation, cultural revitalisation.
- Opportunity for Kabi Kabi people to outline the traditional use and significance values of the precinct.
- Recommended that collaborative talks be undertaken to explore the full range of initiatives and further develop those that Kabi Kabi People feel are appropriate.

It is important to note that the identification of an Aboriginal area or object of significance is determined because of the area or objects significance in Aboriginal tradition and its history, including the contemporary history. Importantly, the area around a place or object may also be considered part of that place or object. It is also not necessary for the area to contain markings or physical evidence to be of significance i.e., it might be a story place. Historical archaeological sites include those places or objects involving the activities of non-Aboriginal peoples. In Queensland such sites are protected under provisions of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 (Qld).

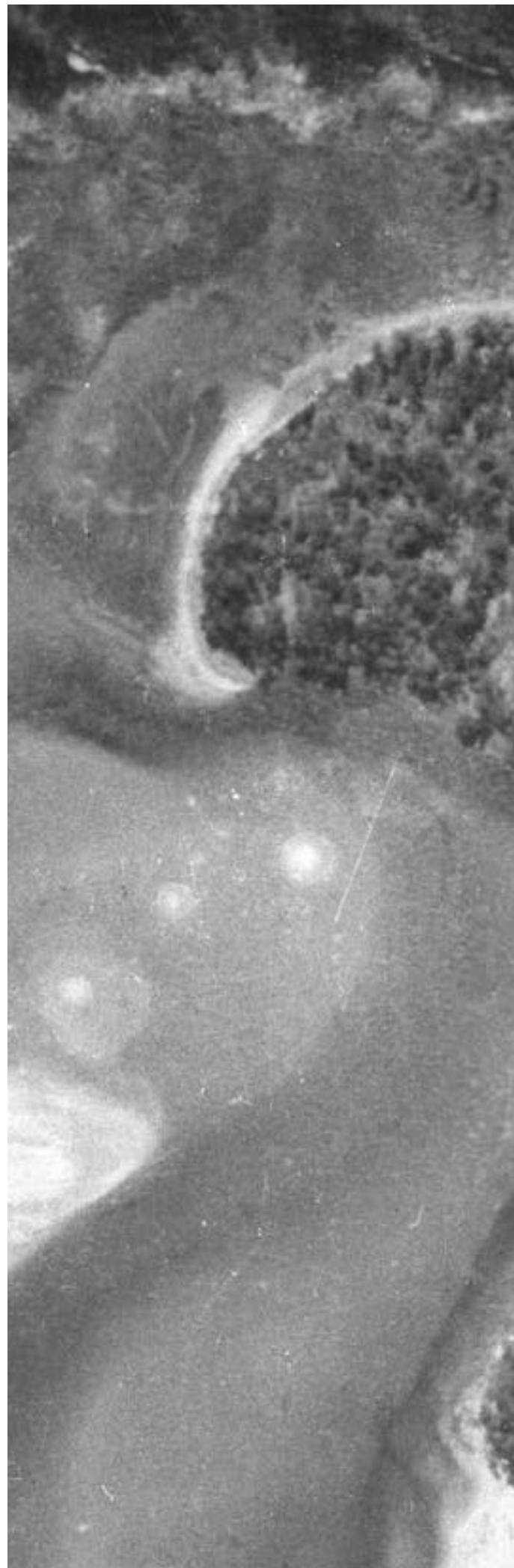


Figure 39 Aerial photo of Point Cartwright Reserve 1940



Place Character

Local character

There are several landscape character precincts within the parklands, ranging from closed forests to open forests, open grassed areas with shady trees, coastal dunes, rocky headland and shrubland. These precincts provide a range of diverse landscape experiences for the community to appreciate.

Throughout the parklands, there is a wide array of design characters and quality seen in the collection of the amenity buildings, shade structures, furniture, pathway finishes and planting palette. Some elements such as the sandstone block seats and timber and gravel access stairs feel very appropriate and complimentary to the natural local character while others, such as exotic planting beds in La Balsa Park (carpark 3) and brown brick barbecues, could be 'anywhere'.

Views

The project area features multiple and varied views looking within the site and looking out to significant Creation story Sunshine Coast landmarks including Mudjimba Island, Mount Coolum, and Mount Ninderry, give visitors a strong sense of where they are and an appreciation for how the parkland fits in the greater coastline, the Mooloolah River system and this part of land, sea and sky Country.

Art, Interpretation and Memorials

The Point Cartwright Reservoir is registered on the Silo Art Trail. The reservoir was painted in 2016 and 2022 with a seascape mural by artists Joel Fergie and Travis Vinson (Brightsiders).

Point Cartwright also features a collection of memorial plaques mounted to the coastal fence rail at the headland lookout. The majority of plaques have been installed without Council permission. Some visitors feel that the memorial plaques are morbid and make the headland feel like a cemetery while others find the plaques add meaning to the place.

There are further memorial plaques that have been illegally installed onto the cliff faces. These plaques are at odds with the majestic beauty and cultural significance of the ancient cliff faces.

The La Balsa raft voyage is marked by a sign and concrete pad featuring the crews' footprints, set in 1970.

A new addition to the parkland is the 2020 Pente Poets Hinterland to Headland Poetry Trail along Half Moon Bay which has been sponsored by Sunshine Coast Council. Poems have been carved into large format sandstone blocks/seats along the trail providing the visitors with a new experience connecting to nature and the arts.

Most of the interpretation/education signage relates to fauna and flora information and is of low quality.



Figures numbered from bottom left to top right:

Figure 40 *Casuarina equisetifolia*

Figure 41 Sandstone rock shelf

Figure 42 Point Cartwright foreshore

Figure 43 *Banksia integrifolia*

Figure 44 Surf off Point Cartwright

Figure 45 Fossilised plant material in rocks

Figure 46 Point Cartwright lighthouse and water tower



Key Challenges Place Character

- Unrecognised and under-appreciated cultural heritage sites and remnant ecology have resulted in damage to attributes and missed opportunities to engender community pride and enjoyment of the parkland.
- Infrastructure and park embellishments have been added in an ad-hoc manner over time resulting in an array of design characters and quality. This has diluted the unique qualities of the site resulting in weak and inconsistent place character.

Environment and Ecology

Vegetation

The Point Cartwright Reserve Regeneration Works Plan (2014) currently guides management and maintenance of the reserve including revegetation, restoration and weed treatment programs.

The 2022 Environmental Values Report undertaken by Future-Plus Environmental, assessed that the project area contains five Vegetation Communities (VC).

Vegetation Community 1

L. suaveolens & *C. glauca* closed forest on Landsborough Sandstone with rainforest elements.

Two species listed as CEEVNT under the The Nature Conservation Act 1992 were encountered during vegetation assessments including:

- *Pararistolochia praevenosa* (Richmond birdwing butterfly vine) – ‘near threatened’. Eight vines were encountered with recruitment evident (seedling plant); and
- *Muraya crenulata* (Smyrell's clausena) – ‘endangered’. One plant was encountered.

From information available, it is likely that both of these species have been planted between 2002 – 2014 due to their absence in historical local records and outside their known distribution and preferred habitat areas. Despite this, they provide ecological value to the site and should be protected and enhanced.

Vegetation Community 2

Closed wind-sheared shrubland, *Casuarina equisetifolia* woodland to open woodland with mid-dense to closed shrub layer and patches of grassland (plus herbaceous plants) on Landsborough Sandstone on seaward side of the headland.

The survey found that the shrubland and grassland patches at Point Cartwright retain a diversity of native species despite competition from habitat-modifying invasive species.

Vegetation Community 3

Closed microphyll vine forest growing on foredune (Regional Ecosystem 12.2.2)

Regional Ecosystem 12.2.2 forms part of the littoral rainforest and coastal vine thickets of eastern Australia threatened ecological community (TEC).

Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia are listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community under the Environment Protection and Conservation Act 1999

Vegetation Community 4











Macaranga tanarius + *Banksia*, *Acacia* & *Casuarina* sp. regeneration area.

This area is mapped as Regional Ecosystem 12.2.14 (foredune complex) but may have formed part of the Regional Ecosystem 12.2.2 vegetation community prior to the clearing/disturbance associated with construction of the break walls and channel realignment in the 1960s. This area has since been subject to bush regeneration works to redevelop a canopy.

Vegetation Community 5

Strand and foredune complex on beach and dunes.

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, Protected Matters Report

-  Site Boundary
-  Turtle Nesting Beach
-  Nudibranch
-  Shorebird
-  Vegetation Community 1
Vegetation complex of exposed rocky headlands
-  Vegetation Community 2
Vegetation complex of exposed rocky headlands
-  Vegetation Community 3
Foredune complex
-  Vegetation Community 4
Foredune complex
-  Vegetation Community 5
Strand and fore dune complex
-  Riparian Protection Area



Environment and Ecology

Figures numbered from left to right:

Figure 48 Brush turkey

Figure 49 Vegetation Community 5. Strand and fore dune complex on beach and dunes

Figure 50 Turtle hatchling, Buddina Beach

Figure 51 Loggerhead turtle

Figure 52 Vegetation Community 3 Closed microphyll vine forest



Habitat

Due to its unique geographical location, bounded by the Pacific Ocean and the Mooloolah River, varied topography and geology, the Point Cartwright Reserve and its immediate surrounds contain a unique mosaic of habitats worth restoring and protecting. There are 5 distinct vegetation communities across the site that provide habitat to a range of flora and fauna, some of which is critically endangered and nationally significant.

The Ocean facing foreshore including the north facing beach, rocky foreshore and Buddina beach are all mapped as significant sea turtle nesting areas by Queensland Government. The rocky foreshore is also mapped as Shorebird habitat by Sunshine Coast Council.

The Point Cartwright Reserve and Buddina Beach dune habitat include a number of areas, mapped by Queensland Government as Matters of state environmental significance (MSES), including:

- MSES high ecological significance wetlands – the entire rocky foreshore area
- MSES wildlife habitat (endangered or vulnerable) – Buddina beach dunal habitat
- MSES wildlife habitat (special least concern animal) – all naturally vegetated parts of the site
- MSES wildlife habitat (sea turtle nesting areas) – all ocean facing parts of the site
- MSES regulated vegetation (category B – endangered or of concern)
- MSES regulated vegetation (essential habitat) – Buddina Beach dune vegetation

An independent assessment of the closed microphyll vine forest growing on foredune (RE 12.2.2) found that it meets the diagnostic criteria and condition thresholds for the Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC)

Littoral Rainforest

Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia are listed as Critically Endangered under the Environment Protection and Conservation Act 1999

The National Recovery Plan for the Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia Ecological Community (DEE 2019) provides guidance on strategies and actions to reduce threats to this TEC, that are recommendations of this master plan, including;

- Reducing feral animal activity
- Reducing pathogens and disease
- Reducing damage caused by recreation uses
- Rehabilitation and restoration of the vegetation structure
- Increasing connectivity and natural buffers
- Engaging with the public to Promote the values of Littoral Rainforest
- Seek funding applications for management and rehabilitation activities
- Fine-scale mapping of Littoral Rainforest
- Establish baseline conditions at local and regional scales and compare these against the condition thresholds
- Monitor and evaluate patches at regular (maximum 5 yearly) intervals

The significance of the habitat areas is proven by the fauna that uses the site including a range of international migratory and resident shorebirds, EPBC listed birds including the Eastern Osprey, Wandering Tattler, various Terns, endangered Loggerhead Turtles, and a globally significant diversity of Nudibranchs. There are also threatened and endangered plant species present on the site.



Sea turtles

There are only seven recognised species of sea turtle surviving in the world today.

Queensland's coast has some of the most important marine turtle nesting sites in the world.

The main species nesting on Sunshine Coast beaches are the endangered loggerhead turtle and, less frequently, the green turtle.

Given that Australia's eastern population of nesting loggerheads comprises only around 500 nesting females, the Sunshine Coast population continues to be a small but important sub-population.

Loggerheads lay between 95-150 eggs, depending on which geographic region they belong to. In Australia the average clutch size is 127 eggs although this can vary considerably between individual nests. Females nesting on the Sunshine Coast usually nest at intervals of 10-14 days and incubation can vary from 56-90 days, although in an average summer it is usually around 63 days.

The conservation status of the Loggerhead turtle, *Caretta caretta* is:

- Nature Conservation Act 1992: Endangered
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999: Endangered
- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Endangered

The South Pacific Loggerhead subpopulation is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

The Sunshine Coast Turtle Nesting Technical Report (2005 – 2016) details the nesting populations of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). Buddina Beach contains one of the highest numbers of nest sites on the Sunshine Coast, this is due to the landform including a high dune system that creates a dark land silhouette.

The northern extremity of Buddina beach is a particularly popular nesting site. However, due to variable erosion and ground water discharge from the headland, the nests are commonly relocated south of Beach Access #201 where they are monitored and protected by TurtleCare volunteers.

Threats

Major threats to loggerhead turtle populations include climate change, marine debris -entanglement and ingestion, chemical and terrestrial discharge, light pollution and fisheries bycatch. Other threats include feral animal predation, habitat modification and boat strike.

- Climate change impacts appear to be affecting nesting sand temperatures with changes in hatchling sex ratios and emergence success and increased extreme weather events resulting in erosion of nesting sites.
- Light pollution: Lights from coastal development results in changed light horizons, which causes increased mortality of hatchlings when they move towards stronger light sources inland instead of the low horizon out at sea. There is also a decline in the recruitment of new adults to nesting populations on lit beaches as they avoid brightly illuminated beaches.
- Crab pots: Loggerhead turtles get tangled and drown in commercial and recreational crab pots and their float lines. Trap types that cause an impact include round crab pots, collapsible pots, and spanner crab traps.

The turtle nesting beaches within the project area are mapped by the Queensland Government as Significant. Managing and monitoring the turtle nests require very high levels of effort from council and community volunteers. The outcomes of the masterplan aim to reduce existing impacts on the turtle nesting areas, mitigate concentration of impacts and reduce light pollution from the general project area.

Shorebirds

Shorebirds, also known as waders, are a diverse group of birds commonly seen feeding in intertidal areas or on the fringes of wetlands.

Shorebirds make up about ten percent of Australia's species of birds and are the world's most threatened group of birds.

Migratory shorebirds

The Sunshine Coast is an important non-breeding habitat in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, which is one of only eight international routes taken by migratory birds.

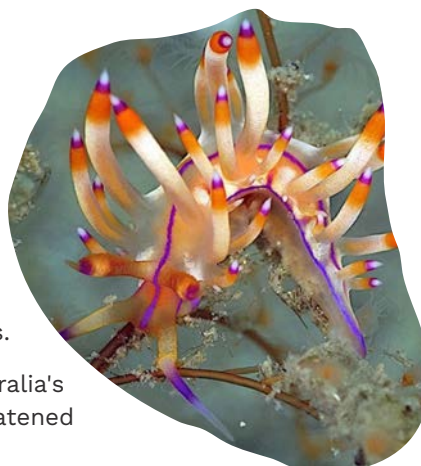
About two thirds of the Sunshine Coast's shorebird species migrate from the Northern Hemisphere each year, some travelling distances up to 15,000 kilometres one way.

Migratory shorebirds spend the summer in Australia feeding, recovering from the long migration, and readying themselves for the return flight. Any disturbance to the birds during this time limits their ability to gain essential weight and energy. Even short disturbances add up and impact on their return journey, breeding success, and survival.

Resident shorebirds

The Sunshine Coast has a population of resident shorebirds. Some of the most recognisable species include the pied and sooty oystercatchers, the beach stone-curlew and the red-capped plover. The beach stone-curlew and the sooty oystercatcher are less common. Resident shorebirds do not migrate to breed, and the Sunshine Coast provides nesting habitat for them on dunes along the beaches and on rocky headlands. However, nesting success of resident shorebirds on the Sunshine Coast is unknown and likely to be low due to high disturbance and potentially high predation and egg/chick destruction rates.

Point Cartwright Reserve is considered a high value roosting and (potential) nesting location for resident and migratory shorebirds, including conservation significant species.



Surveys conducted by volunteers of the Queensland Wader Study Group have recorded several Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 listed birds within the area, including the Wandering tattler (*Tringa incana*) and Eastern osprey (*Pandion cristatus*). Surveys by council officers regularly observed Sooty Oystercatchers, for which the Point Cartwright Reserve is a potential nesting habitat. In addition, searches on eBird found a total of 112 bird species identified at Point Cartwright Reserve and 28 species at La Balsa Park in 2022 (although this list is not limited to only shorebirds).

In 2022, the Queensland Government published Guidelines for Local Government dog off leash areas in State Marine Parks which provides valuable guidance and evidence based data to assist Local Governments in planning and managing dog off leash areas in State Marine Parks. While Point Cartwright is not a designated State Marine Park, the research, evidence and assessment processes are valuable and applicable to this site.

Point Cartwright can be considered as a High Value area*, based on the following site-based assessment:

- Identified high tide roost site
- Presence of nesting species (Sooty Oystercatcher)
- Presence of conservation significant species (Wandering Tattler, Terns), and
- Distance to other suitable shorebird roost areas

*Based on the Guidelines for Local Government dog off leash areas in State Marine Parks. Queensland Government 2022



Figures numbered from left to right:

Figure 53 Nudibranch, Mooloolah River

Figure 54 Crested turn, Point Cartwright foreshore

Figure 55 Wandering Tattler

Threats

All shorebirds are protected by state and federal law.

Shorebirds are very easily disturbed by close activity. A disturbance is any action that interrupts the breeding, feeding or resting of shorebirds. For example, causing a shorebird to take flight represents a significant disturbance.

Disturbance by human recreational activities and free-roaming dogs are probably the biggest threats to foraging and roosting migratory shorebirds at Point Cartwright.

There is strong evidence about the negative effects of dogs on shorebirds—and striking a balance between recreational demand and protection of wildlife is a significant challenge. For example, dogs that are allowed to run about off-lead cover considerably more ground than the route of a footpath, so their effects can be widespread (Priestman 2017).

The distance at which a bird becomes vigilant or alert is referred to as the alarm initiation distance (AID). The distance at which shorebirds fly as a result of disturbance is referred to as the flight initiation distance (FID). In general, the AID of the bird is twice the FID (Lilleyman 2016).

A review of international and local research studies that assessed the response of shorebirds to the presence of dogs and human stimuli clearly indicated that dogs elicit a greater response from shorebirds than humans walking alone. Other common themes included the that FIDs were species dependent, longer for migratory birds and that the larger the birds were more sensitive to threats.

Marine Mammals

Point Cartwright is considered a popular sighting point due to its broad ocean views. The seasonal migration of Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) runs from June to early October and is a highlight of the tourism calendar. Dolphin and turtle spotting in the water are also popular.

Marine Invertebrates

Nudibranch's (Noo-di-brahnk) are an order of Gastropoda that commonly occur in shallow waters and are famed for their diversity in size, colouring, and shape. The lower reaches of the Mooloolah River have long been established as a popular diving area for marine enthusiasts. Local dive groups have documented the species of Nudibranchs found within the Mooloolah River for over seven years. In total, 610 species of Nudibranch have been found along the shores of La Balsa Park. With only 3000 species known worldwide this number is quite extensive in a small area.

Recommendations

Retention of vegetated areas

Vegetation Community's 1 and 4 have been modified through regeneration efforts over the years. These areas should be preserved and improved through supplementary planting, weed control and restricted access as a matter of priority.

Weed treatment, bush revegetation and restoration

Further monitoring and weed control.

Increasing fauna habitat values

Installation of fauna nest boxes, installation of an osprey platform, consideration of unprotected fauna.

Construction of new headland track/stairway

A track be formalised connecting beach to headland, the others closed and rehabilitated.

Construction of exclusion fencing

Exclusion fencing and revegetation of bike trails.

Dog access

The requirement for all dogs to be on leads and to remain with their owners while on the headland would assist in improving and preserving fauna and flora values associated with vegetation within the reserve

Shorebirds

Based on its high value habitat, and potential for improvement, it is recommended that the mapped shorebird habitat around Point Cartwright should be protected, where dogs are prohibited from High Value areas, and the requirement for all dogs to be on leads and to remain with their owners while within the reserve would assist in improving and preserving ecological values

Getting to and Around















The Coastal Pathway accommodates shared pedestrian and cycle access to the site. There are currently no separated cycle on-road travel lanes and no access to public transport in the area resulting in visitors beyond walking and recreation cycling distance, or ability, being dependent on car use and car parking. There are five separate off-street car parks within designated public open space that not only dominate, but fragment what could be continuous open space along the foreshore.

In general pedestrian links into the parkland via the surrounding street network do not prioritise pedestrians.

The Coastal Pathway runs through the project area providing good access for the community to enjoy the greater Coastal Pathway network. The southern link at La Balsa Park does not meet current design standards however, there is a planned upgrade to define this connection. Through the reserve, the Coastal Pathway also requires upgrading and widening to align with the required provision of a shared path pedestrian/cycle that is safe, accessible and meets the volume of foot and cycle traffic of local and neighbouring communities. To the north, the current link across Pacific Boulevard also requires better definition to improve safety.

La Balsa Park has only the Coastal Pathway running along the eastern foreshore and lacks east/west connections from on-street car parking to the foreshore. Within Point Cartwright Reserve, the circulation network includes a series of paths that circumnavigate and crisscross the space. These could be improved to better align with desire lines and to define and control the range of experiences throughout the parkland, for example, a wide high use edge path contrasting with more narrow intimate paths through bushland. There are several informal goat tracks through erosion prone and protected areas that will need to be revegetated to protect from further degradation or formalised to provide safe access.

Members of the community have expressed safety concerns around high cycle, skateboard and scooter speeds conflicting with pedestrian use. In addition, there is ample evidence of damage to valuable cultural heritage and ecological areas caused by off-track biking.

-  Site Boundary
-  Beach Access
-  Pedestrian Crossing
-  Pedestrian Refuge
-  Beach Walk
-  Coastal Pathway (shared bicycle and pedestrian path)
-  Pedestrian Footpath
-  Through Block Access
-  On-Street Car Parking
-  Off-street car park
-  Boat Trailer Parking
-  Accessible Car Parking
-  Motorcycle Parking
-  Bicycle Parking

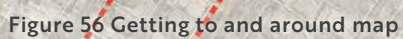




Figure 57 Erosion caused by informal 'goat tracks'



Figure 58 Existing Coastal Pathway



Figure 59 Damage to vegetation caused by mountain bikers

Getting to and Around

Car Parking Analysis

Existing car parking areas, including on-street and off-street car parking provide 331 spaces.

AREA	Off Street	On Street
1 Harbour Pde Boat Ramp	43	-
2 Harbour Pde 1	20	-
3 Harbour Pde 2	19	-
4 Harbour Pde 3	29	-
Harbour Pde - east side	-	45
Harbour Pde - west side	-	74
Gulai Street	-	12
5 Point Cartwright car park	46	-
6 Pacific Blvd	29	14
TOTAL (331)	186	145

Key Challenges Getting to and Around

- Visitors beyond walking and cycling distance or ability, are dependent on car use and car parking as there are no other alternatives to getting to the parkland.
- High pedestrian use areas around the Harbour Parade off-street boat trailer and carpark, Gulai Street and the Pacific Boulevard off-street carpark do not prioritise pedestrians.
- There are substantial opportunities to improve equitable access throughout the parkland and surrounding streets.
- Paths throughout the parkland are used by walkers, joggers, and motorised and no-motorised cyclists, skateboarders and scooter riders. At times respectful and safe sharing of paths are not observed resulting in conflicts between users.



Figure 6D Parking Map

1:5000 @ A4



Relaxation and Enjoyment

Together, La Balsa Park and Point Cartwright Reserve offer a set of unique recreation experiences that are utilised by the local community, the wider Sunshine Coast community and tourists visiting the Sunshine Coast. They provide for a range of activities including walking, running, riding, barbecuing, picnicking, playing, and exercising, swimming, surfing, fishing, diving, snorkeling, boating and hang gliding.

La Balsa Park and Point Cartwright Reserve are often viewed by users as one 'site'. However, up to this point, Council has planned and developed the two parks as separate areas providing largely different experiences.

Point Cartwright Reserve has been left as mainly natural open space with limited embellishments. Other than two toilet facilities, the space includes limited seating, no picnic shelters and no barbecues.

In contrast, La Balsa Park has been heavily embellished with barbecues, picnic shelters of varying sizes, uncovered picnic tables, an array of seating, two toilet facilities and three play nodes across the length of the park. As a result, the park is very popular as a site for family outings and all forms of celebrations.

Dog on-leash and off-leash areas are very popular in the parkland and the community is equally divided on the future of dog use in the parkland.

Dog owners place a high value on their ability to access the parkland.

Other members of the community believe that there is too much access to off-leash areas, noting the presence of faeces, and poor behaviour of dogs and owners.

Dog companionship has many benefits for individual wellbeing and for connecting with other members of the community. Training, exercise and socialisation are very important parts of a healthy dog's life, and it is acknowledged that all these needs can be met on a lead while in the park.

The Boat Ramp is particularly popular for offshore fishers and the boat trailer park is regularly filled to capacity.



























-  Site Boundary
-  Beach Access
-  Running
-  Walking
-  Wheels - Ride/Skate/Scooter
-  Picnicking
-  Swimming
-  Snorkelling
-  Surfing
-  Boating
-  Fishing
-  Fauna Watching
-  Hang Gliding
-  Fish Cleaning
-  Shelter
-  Picnic Table
-  Seat
-  Barbecue
-  Playground
-  Lookout
-  Public Carpark
-  Boat Trailer Park
-  Toilets
-  Dog Off Leash 4pm-8am
-  Dog Off Leash All Time
-  Commercial Permit Area (Fitness Trainers)



Figure 62 Relaxation and Enjoyment Map

1:5000 @ A4



Relaxation and Enjoyment

Recommendations

The Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Recreation Values Report by ROSS Planning 2022 made the following recommendations:

Paths, tracks and trails

- Formalise the desire line short cuts toward the lighthouse end of Point Cartwright Reserve.
- Construct an additional formal track link from the sealed path down to the rocky headland up toward the lighthouse end of Point Cartwright Reserve. The one close to Buddina beach is preferred.
- Construct a formal track leading from the lighthouse to the fenced grass area at the headland end of Point Cartwright Reserve (and close and rehabilitate the other existing goat tracks in this area).
- Restrict inappropriate access to the unsealed tracks and trails (and the heavily vegetated areas).

Play and picnic

- Retain the existing range of play and picnic facilities (with La Balsa Park heavily embellished and Point Cartwright Reserve sparingly embellished).

Activities with dogs

- Reduce the amount of area available for off-leash dog activities at Point Cartwright Reserve to the existing beach section only (Beach access 198 to 201). The current Point Cartwright Reserve area (including Half Moon Bay) are to be converted to on-leash only areas). Dogs will be prohibited from environmentally sensitive environments.

Additional uses

Continue to monitor formal bookings for celebrations such as weddings. Current levels of bookings are appropriate. However, if these uses increase significantly a capped system may be required.

Water-based recreation elements, uses and experiences

Fishing

- Retain the existing embellishments supporting fishing opportunities.

Boating and paddling

- Investigate opportunities to expand and upgrade the parking area for the La Balsa Park boat ramp.

Swimming, snorkeling and diving

- Ensure opportunities for swimming, snorkeling and diving are not diminished through future development.

Surfing

- Formalise one track link from the sealed path down to the rocky headland up toward the lighthouse end of Point Cartwright Reserve.

Air-based recreation elements, uses and experiences

Hang gliding and paragliding

- Continue to approve hang gliding and paragliding from Point Cartwright Reserve (assuming Civil Aviation Authority approvals remain in-place). No additional infrastructure is required to support this use.



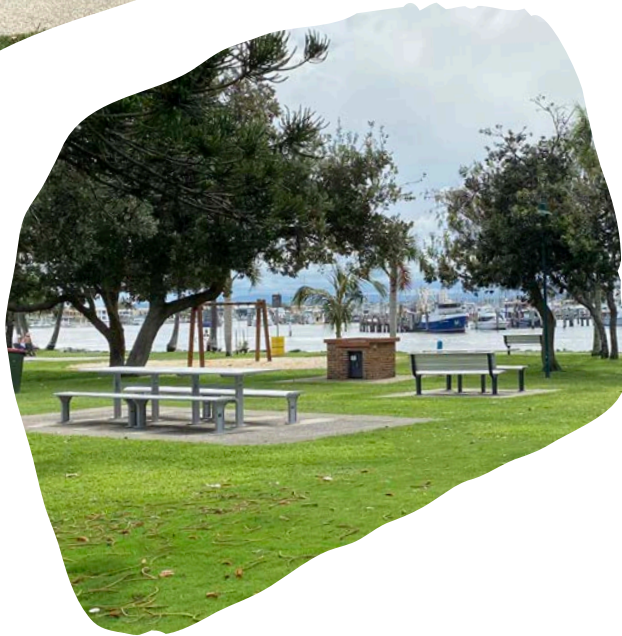
Figures numbered from top to bottom:

Figure 63 Generic park furniture at Point Cartwright Reserve

Figure 64 Ad hoc park infrastructure

Figure 65 Existing playground

Figure 66 Mixture of structures



Key Challenges Relaxation and Enjoyment

- Park visitation is on the increase due to population growth, putting pressure on the type and suitability of existing infrastructure.
- Some existing infrastructure is outdated and in need of renewal.
- Some existing embellishments and infrastructure have been located in an ad-hoc manner and do not enrich relaxation and enjoyment of the parkland.
- High dog use and poor behaviour of dogs and owners conflicts with the cultural, ecological and recreation values of the site.

Climate Change and Resilience

The project area is highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change.

The eastern coastal dune system establishes a natural defence and protection against coastal erosion. This system is increasingly exposed to open coastal and human erosion and the impacts of climate change.

The low-lying and highly altered environment along the river edge is at risk from future impacts of climate change. The southern parkland currently experiences flooding and is vulnerable to increased flooding in the future due to sea level rise and storm surges.

The existing seawall in the southern parkland is nearing the end of its design life and will require replacement.

Safe passage into the Mooloolaba Harbour is an ongoing requirement for recreation and commercial boat users. Maritime Safety Queensland continue to dredge the sand shoal to achieve 2.5m water depth.

Buddina currently experiences the impacts of heat island effect due to lack of shade. Mapping shows that only 20.8% of Buddina benefits from shade generated by tree canopy. Of this, 5.5% is in open space and 1.2% is in streets. Increased tree canopy will reduce the impacts of heat island effect for the community.

Key Challenges Climate Changes and Resilience

The southern parkland currently experiences flooding and is vulnerable to increased flooding in the future due to sea level rise and storm surges.











- The existing seawall in the southern parkland is nearing the end of its design life and will require replacement.
- The Buddina Beach dunes are vulnerable to erosion caused by sea level rise and storm surges and will require ongoing maintenance.
- Buddina currently experiences the impacts of heat island effect due to lack of shade cover.

Figure 67 La Balsa Park revetment wall



Figure 68 Point Cartwright Reserve erosion



-  Site Boundary
-  Seawall
-  Coastal Dune
-  Landsborough Sandstone Headland and Rock Outcrops
- Overland Flow Extents:**
 -  Current Overland Flow Extent 1 in 100 years
 -  Future Overland Flow Extent 1 in 100 Years
- Flood Extents:**
 -  Current Flood Extent (1 in 100 years)
 -  Future Flood Extent (1 in 100 years)
- Erosion Prone Area 2100:**
 -  Tidal Areas (HAT) based on 0.8m SLR
 -  Open Coastal Erosion (1% AEP) 2100

An easement provides access through the Pacific Boulevard carpark to the reservoir.

Energex have an area of underground easement in La Balsa Park.

Management and Maintenance











La Balsa Park and Point Cartwright Reserve are owned by the Queensland Government and designated as Reserves under the control of Sunshine Coast Regional Council as trustee. Point Cartwright Reserve is comprised of two allotments, both designated as Reserve for Recreation and Scenic Purposes. La Balsa Park is also comprised of two allotments, one designated as Reserve for Parks and Gardens, and the other Reserve for Park and Recreation. Council classifies the combined parklands as a district level recreation park.

Several State Government departments share management responsibilities within the project area. These include:

- Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDILP) - for planning and engagement processes etc.
- Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) - for safe harbour access, boat ramps, navigable waterways etc.
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) - for marine plants, access to fisheries resources, dredging impacts etc.
- Department of Environmental Science (DES) - for coastal processes, revetment walls etc.
- Department of Resources (DoR) - for mapped vegetation etc.

Operated by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Point Cartwright Light is an active lighthouse located on Point Cartwright. It marks the entrance to the northwest channel, a deep-water channel into Moreton Bay and the Port of Brisbane and provides guidance into the Mooloolaba Harbour. The land is leased from Sunshine Coast Council.

Point Cartwright Reservoir is leased from Sunshine

-  Site Boundary
-  Parcel Information
State Government Owned (SCC as Trustee)
-  Natural Reserve
-  Recreation Park (District)
-  Dog Off Leash (All the time)
-  Dog Off Leash (4:00PM - 8:00PM)
-  1 Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
-  2 Department of Transport and Main Roads, Maritime Safety Queensland
-  3 Energex Easement and Infrastructure
-  4 Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
-  5 Department of Environmental Science
-  6 Department of Resources
-  7 Telecommunications including (Telstra and Surf Lifesaving Queensland assets and Unity Water (Tanks and associated infrastructure))
-  8 AMSA - Australian Maritime Safety Authority (Functioning Lighthouse)





Management and Maintenance

Maritime Safety Queensland

Figure 70 illustrates state authorities responsible for waterways and infrastructure including Maritime Safety Queensland's eastern and western breakwaters at the mouth of the Mooloolah River.

To maintain a safe navigable entrance for boats, the Mooloolaba Harbour and entrance training walls, including the eastern breakwater on the west side of Point Cartwright, were built by Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) in the late 1960's. Since that time, sand shoaling events, where sand accretes to form a shoal (like a sand bar), have occurred regularly in the entrance channel. The shoal decreases the water depths making navigation more hazardous. To counter this, MSQ conduct sand dredging to remove the sand shoal by pumping the sand onto Mooloolaba Beach. In 2014, MSQ undertook investigations to determine a long-term solution. A 60m extension to the eastern breakwater, to intercept most of the sand before it enters the channel, was determined as the preferred option. It is noted that this area of the site is controlled by MSQ.

As stakeholders, the community and Sunshine Coast Regional Council continue to be informed as the project progresses.

Dog Management

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park are popular places for people to exercise their dogs. Field survey results suggest almost 1 in 5 uses each week involve dogs.

Figure 70 shows that dogs are allowed off-leash at all times across much of the headland and south across Buddina beach. Additionally, between 4pm and 8am dogs can be off-leash across the outer perimeter of the headland and south through Half Moon Bay.

It is also important to recognise that while the sites are popular for exercising dogs, there are also large parts of the community that would like to see the presence of dogs managed more tightly by Council. This is particularly the case for Point Cartwright Reserve where much of the headland is designated off-leash at all times and Half Moon Bay, where off-leash activities are allowed at restricted times.



Key Challenges Management and Maintenance

- The absence of a current long-term Master Plan encompassing both Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park, has made good planning, design and management and the ability to achieve appropriate funding difficult. In addition, a process for maintenance coordination and collaboration between Councils various asset owners is not clear resulting in ad-hoc decision making.
- State ownership of the marine channel and their requirements to provide a safe navigable harbour will have unknown effects on the edge of the study area.
- Marine recreation access and management: pressure on boat trailer parking has led to non-compliant parking at peak times and requires the boat trailer carpark to be upgraded.
- Conflict between divers and snorkelers, and boat users has resulted in an unsafe environment and requires further education and management.
- Dog management and responsible dog ownership: non-compliance in dog off-leash and on-leash areas and lack of collection and disposal of dog faeces, has led to degradation of flora and fauna habitat, cultural heritage sites and for some parkland users, personal safety.

Key reasons, cited by those seeking reduced dog activity, include:

- potential harm to cultural heritage sites
- potential harm to important flora and fauna
- public health concerns (resulting from dog faeces)
- noise-related impacts from barking
- potential for inappropriate interactions (attacks) between dogs and park users.

Figures numbered from left to right:

Figure 73 Environmental education signage

Figure 74 Stabilized gravel steps

Figure 75 Timber boardwalk

Figure 76 Dog exercise

The background of the page is a photograph of a modern residential building with a mix of tan and white architectural elements. In the foreground, there are green bushes. The entire image is decorated with numerous irregular, organic shapes in shades of brown, tan, and orange, scattered across the top, left, and right sides. The text 'Community Engagement' is centered in a white, handwritten-style font.

Community Engagement

7

Figure 77 Residential apartments

This chapter summarises engagement methods and activities used to gain insights from the community about their vision, values and issues, in order to guide the development of the Master Plan.

“

I feel so lucky that
I get to enjoy this
stunning place evreyday!
I love looking after the turtles
and caring for the bush,
catching up with my friends...
and my dog ABOLUTELY loves
catching up with her friends
too!

”

Phase 1

Community Engagement

Community Reference Group

At the initiation of the master planning process in 2021, Council called for Expressions of Interest to form a Community Reference Group. The purpose of the group was to provide a forum to ensure community views and needs were represented and provided, to guide Council in the planning and management of the project area.

The groups' role was to bring local knowledge and individual skills and passion to help guide the project, and to share progress with their family, friends, colleagues, and neighbours.

The group consisted of an independent chair, appointed by Council, Councillor representation, and 10 community representatives appointed through the Expression of Interest process.

Members were chosen based on a range of interest areas and demographics to ensure a diverse representation of the Sunshine Coast community.

The group met officially four times over an 18 month period, with unofficial and informal group meetings and information sharing along the way. Unfortunately, throughout the engagement process, several members resigned. The remaining members are primarily active members of the Point Cartwright Care Group Inc.

Have Your Say Phase 1

From the 29 November 2021 to 9 January 2022, the community were invited to share their values and future vision for the Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park area.

Through a community workshop, school visioning workshop, park pop-up events, an online and hardcopy survey and a social media campaign, the community were asked:

- how people travel to these open spaces
- how frequently they visit Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park and when they visit
- main reasons they visit Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park
- what they love about Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park
- what they see as an issue with how the open spaces are used and managed
- ideas about the future of Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park.

These activities resulted in:

- 2350 on-line survey responses
- 100 plus community members speaking to the project team at three pop up sessions at La Balsa Park
- 30 attendees at the community workshop at Kawana Community Hall
- 25 attendees at the school workshop and visioning session
- 830 signatures submitted to Council via a petition to retain the dog areas.

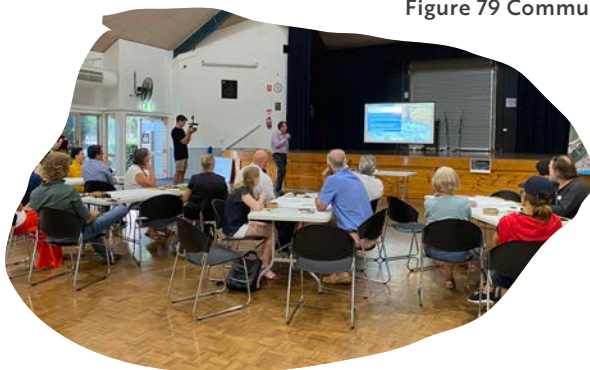
The engagement process:

- gathered significant feedback, insight and understanding
- increased community awareness of the project
- provided multiple inclusive and accessible options to be involved.



Figure 78 Pop up in the park

Figure 79 Community Workshop



Summary of findings

Analysis of community and stakeholder feedback about what they 'love' about Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park indicated the following values:

- natural environment and beauty
- dog and pet access and friendliness
- peaceful character of the space
- opportunities for recreation, exercise and active transport.

Analysis of community and stakeholder feedback about what they consider to be 'issues' with the use and management of Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park indicated the following issues:

- dog and dog owner behavior
- traffic management and parking
- adequate park infrastructure
- management and maintenance of the spaces.

Analysis of community and stakeholder feedback about what they would like to 'see' at Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park in the future indicated the following vision elements:

- improved management and maintenance of the spaces
- maintained dog access with improved behavior of dogs and dog owners
- preserved and restored natural environment with community education to improve awareness of the environmental values of the spaces
- improved park infrastructure.

Feedback collected clearly demonstrated that the community loves the parklands. The most popular response on three of four survey questions on issues and vision of the area were that people have no issues with the space and would like it to remain the same.



Figure 80 Buddina Primary School Workshop

It is important to acknowledge when responding to 'issues' about how the parkland is managed and maintained, participants also requested additional park infrastructure including paths, seating, barbecues and shade and upgrades to playgrounds; and that this will inherently result in 'change'. A key challenge for the Master Plan is to incorporate change sensitively to improve what the community love and value about the parkland.

Another key challenge for the Master Plan is divergent community opinion about dog access. Analysis of community and stakeholder feedback indicates a strong response from participants who want dog access to be retained coupled with a strong response from participants who want to minimise this access. Analysis also indicates that the issues participants raised in relation to dog access relate to dog and dog owner behavior.



Figure 81 Pop up in the park

Phase 2 Community Engagement

Have Your Say Phase 2

From the 5 June to July 2023, the community were invited to have their say on the draft master plan for Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park area.

Phase two involved conducting one-on-one meetings with key community representatives as well as the online component. Council's 'Have Your Say' website provided educational information about the reserve, presenting the draft master plan in an easily understandable format, and hosting a survey to collect feedback. The feedback received from the community influenced the refinement of guiding strategies, design responses, and recommendations for the master plan.

The survey was well-promoted through various communication channels, and participants were provided with key documents such as expert reports on environmental and recreational values, the draft master guiding strategies, illustrative plans and information on proposed changes to pet access.

In total, 1509 survey responses and 87 email responses were received. The majority of respondents were between the ages of 45-54, and there was a higher level of female participation. The feedback was analysed and grouped into themes and sub-themes to capture community views.

Summary of findings

The overarching message from the community feedback is the importance of a balanced approach in the design and management of the area. The community expressed their passion for the area but had competing desires and opposing views regarding its use, protection, and preservation.

One significant theme was the need to balance pet access and responsible pet ownership. There were some interest groups that expressed no support for any pet access changes while other groups wanted to see reduced access or no pet access to the Reserve. The community expressed interest in suitable pet access while raising concerns about proposed changes to dog access locations and control. Equitable access for all community members, including those with mobility issues, was emphasised.



Concerns were also raised about proposed infrastructure, such as the location of the barge platform at La Balsa, which some felt could impact native plants and animals. Safety issues related to e-transport, brush turkeys, and dogs were also highlighted by the community.

Cultural heritage and environmental protection were important to the community, with a focus on protecting nesting marine turtles and improving habitat. The community supported measures such as low-growing vegetation to allow hang/paragliding and the closure of unauthorised/goat trails.

There were no major objections for the broader draft master plan proposal which includes improvements to the park infrastructure, car parking, vegetation restoration and tree planting.



Figure 82 Community enjoying picnicking at Point Cartwright Reserve

Guiding themes

Engagement feedback has been grouped into four themes in order to distil the community's values and visions to guide the Master Plan.



**The environment -
preserve and enhance
the sites natural
environmental values and
scenic amenity**



**Improve awareness -
provide education and
awareness of the rich history
of the site, the environmental
values, and the significance of
the land for Kabi Kabi People**

Figure 83 Community Values Diagram



**Social and recreational -
maintain social connections,
exercise opportunities and
pet friendly activities**



**Inclusive -
create an inclusive place for
people of all ages and abilities
to enjoy**



The Master Plan

Figure 84 Surfer at Point Cartwright foreshore



Vision

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park have a wonderful array of coastal landscapes and boast rich cultural heritage.

It is an inclusive place for community to connect, appreciate natural beauty, enjoy recreation activities and take part in the preservation and restoration of this valuable cultural and natural environment.

The Master Plan Strategies

Strategy 1

Manage park use

Why?

The parkland plays an important role providing a relaxing and inviting atmosphere where people can come and decompress from their stressful daily routines at home and work, either by relaxing or being physically active. Equally important are the parklands' complex and multiple layers of cultural significance and ecological value.

In public spaces, it is not uncommon to experience conflict when people disagree on how spaces should be shared and used and when people use spaces in a way that threatens or damages the natural environment. The key challenges for the parkland include dog activity management, population growth, climate change, protection of turtle hatching areas, shorebird and Nudibranch habitat, safe diving and snorkelling, damage to cultural sites, damage to vegetation and sustainable asset management.

It will not be possible to meet everyone's desires for how the parkland is used. This strategy seeks balance for the mutual long-term benefit of place and people.

How?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>S.1.1 Amend dog access throughout the reserve to protect the ecology, cultural heritage, reduce park user conflicts and improve amenity (eliminating unattended dog waste).</p> <p>S.1.2 Retain dog access through the park and reserve and change to be on-leash at all times.</p> <p>S.1.3 Restrict dog access to certain areas to protect ecology and cultural heritage.</p> <p>S.1.4 Provide a new 3 metre wide Coastal Pathway in La Balsa Park to accommodate shared pedestrian and cycle use.</p> <p>S.1.5 Link the new section of the Coastal Pathway with the coastal pathway network at Gulai Street for clearer navigation through Buddina.</p> <p>S.1.6 Encourage reduced cycle, scooter, and skateboard speeds throughout the parkland to minimise pedestrian and cycle conflicts; and impose some 'path only' use to protect</p> | <p>the ecology and cultural heritage.</p> <p>S.1.7 Improve safety and accessibility by clearly delineating spaces for pedestrians and spaces for vehicles, introducing additional pedestrian crossing points, and reducing traffic speeds.</p> <p>S.1.8 Manage light spill from the Pacific Boulevard residential towers and car park to protect turtle nesting areas.</p> <p>S.1.9 Define areas for special uses and events.</p> |
|---|---|

What happens if we do nothing?

If the recreation needs of the community are not balanced with the long-term need to protect and enhance cultural heritage and the ecology, the parklands existing value will continue to be degraded.

Strategy 2

Enrich the place experience

Why?

While the parkland is already a much loved and well used destination, the exceptional history and ecological qualities of the site are not well known and appreciated. Gaining a better understanding of these qualities through knowledge sharing will help foster community pride, delight and respect, enriching the experience of this special place.

The history and qualities of the area can be reflected through the design of infrastructure. This will help to strengthen its distinctive character and identity, ensuring its look and feel is unique.

How?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>S.2.1 Reveal and share the place story at arrival points, gateways, lookouts, and special places.</p> <p>S.2.2 Provide a cultural and ecological education area in the heart of the reserve to educate the community, elevating the cultural and environmental significance of the reserve.</p> <p>S.2.3 Strengthen the place character through design of infrastructure, built form and furniture elements, and selection of materials and planting.</p> <p>S.2.4 Establish a clear and accessible pedestrian pathway network.</p> <p>S.2.5 Improve existing lookouts and create more opportunities to highlight and enjoy views.</p> <p>S.2.6 Locate tables and seating in a variety of landscape character settings across the parkland to increase the range of possible experiences and appreciation of the place.</p> <p>S.2.7 Enhance playgrounds with interpretive</p> | <p>elements, educating children about the reserve and its surroundings while increasing play value.</p> <p>S.2.8 Enhance community awareness and appreciation of this unique place by incorporating interpretation and education to deepen understanding and enrich experiences throughout the reserve and park.</p> <p>S.2.9 Elevate the environmental and cultural significance by implementing a statement/interpretation/experience at the reserve entrances, enhancing awareness and respect.</p> <p>S.2.10 Improve connection to the Mooloolah River with accessible river viewing platforms at La Balsa Park.</p> <p>S.2.11 Retain the existing informal hang gliding and paragliding headland launch area.</p> |
|---|--|

The Master Plan Strategies

Strategy 3

Prioritise places for people

Why?

Population growth puts pressure on existing amenities, infrastructure, housing and services. It is critical to plan well so that we can shape sustainable growth and maintain all that we love about living on the Sunshine Coast.

Parks, reserves and open spaces are especially valuable as they give the community a place to be active and relax for free, whether it's walking, swimming, socialising or connecting with nature.

People visiting the reserve and parkland get there by walking, cycling, or driving. The main method of transport is by car and these visitors park in one of five off-street car park areas. While these are well used, they could be better configured to utilise the open space along the foreshore, while maintaining convenient access.

This long-term Master Plan provides the opportunity to advance a solution to the community's future transport needs in balance with their need for high quality open space.

How?

- S.3.1 Reconfigure the car park at the end of Pacific Boulevard to improve pedestrian accessibility and safety. Screen vehicle headlight impacts on the turtle nesting beach.
- S.3.2 Reconfigure the Gulai off-street car park to make better use of the space, improving pedestrian accessibility and safety.
- S.3.3 Reclaim valuable parkland by reconfiguring the two southern off-street car parks in La Balsa Park to on-street angle parking arrangement increasing high value parkland area for all to enjoy.
- S.3.4 Provide open 'kick and throw' lawn areas for recreation and exercise
- S.3.5 Reconfigure Harbour Parade off-street boat trailer and car park to improve efficiency, improve function, reduce conflict and improve pedestrian safety.

- S.3.6 Improve water access by integrating an accessible terraced revetment wall and ramp at Half Moon Bay to increase accessibility and activation.
- S.3.7 Provide opportunities for sustainable recreation activities within the reserve, park and surrounding area e.g. hang gliding launch lawn, nudiebranch diving.
- S.3.8 Improve comfort and equity through design of accessible paths, park infrastructure, built form and furniture elements, motorised and non-motorised vehicle parking.
- S.3.9 Improve east-west pedestrian links from Buddina Beach to the Mooloolah River
- S.3.10 Allow for the future transport needs for the community by incorporating active and public transport and reduced car reliance.
- S.3.11 Investigate the feasibility of a frequent bus loop and a ferry connection to Mooloolaba spit.

What happens if we do nothing?

If parkland is not prioritised for the community's recreation use, car parking will continue to dominate and fracture valuable public open space and the community's recreation needs will be adversely impacted.

Proposed Car Parking

The Master Plan concept design reconfigures car parking areas to better utilise valuable open space by removing two off street car park within La Balsa Park, and by maximising car parking in existing areas.

Proposed car parking areas, including on and off street car parking, provide 304 spaces

AREA	Off Street	On Street
Harbour Pde Boat Ramp	53	3
Harbour Pde 1	-	13
Harbour Pde 2	-	15
Harbour Pde 3	34	-
Harbour Pde - east side	-	45
Harbour Pde - west side	-	50
Gulai Street	-	18
Point Cartwright car park	52	-
Pacific Blvd	21	14
TOTAL (318)	160	158



Figure 85 Existing section through Harbour Parade car park 2



Figure 86 Proposed section through Harbour Parade car park 2

The Master Plan Strategies

Strategy 4

Embed resilience and adaptation

Why?

Whether rapid or gradual, change is a fact of life on the Sunshine Coast, as it is across the planet. Responding to climate changes is one of the many challenges that need to be planned for.

Good planning, design and construction, and plant species and material selection, play a critical role in reducing the projects 'whole of life' costs and long-term sustainability.

How?

- S.4.1 Design a new seawall that can be adapted to accommodate sea level rise, as well as raise park levels to minimise impacts to valuable open space
- S.4.2 Where necessary, raise park levels in the southern parkland to future proof valuable open space and assets.
- S.4.3 Maintain and enhance the Buddina Beach dunes and dunal vegetation to reduce coastal erosion and the impacts of climate change.
- S.4.4 Increase shade and tree canopy coverage to reduce heat island effect to create comfortable places for recreation, walking and cycling.
- S.4.5 Integrate water sensitive designs through the parkland that improve water quality.
- S.4.6 Prioritise good planning, design and construction; and select endemic vegetation species and robust materials suitable to the local climate and place character.

What happened if we do nothing?

Ignoring the impacts of climate changes will result in a loss of useable open space, safe entry into the Mooloolaba Harbour and poor health outcomes.

Strategy 5

Advance healing and caring for Country

Why?

Indigenous Australians are the oldest continuing living culture in the world. The richness of this culture(s) is something we can all take pride in as a nation. The parkland holds profound cultural heritage importance and features high value fauna and flora. Although the site has experienced substantial alterations dating from the 1960's, much of the cultural and ecological value is intact.







































How?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>S.5.1 Work with the Traditional Custodians of this land to improve land management, foster cultural awareness and respect the significance of this place.</p> <p>S.5.2 Create a long-term management and maintenance framework for the parkland. Bring together relevant Council areas with community volunteer groups to support Indigenous Land Management activities.</p> <p>S.5.3 Raise awareness and deepen appreciation of this place by providing learning and education opportunities throughout the reserve and park.</p> <p>S.5.4 Provide interpretation elements such as signage and art, as well as activities like a yarning circle, sound trails, cultural tours, and volunteer programs.</p> <p>S.5.5 Reconnect fragmented vegetation patches by revegetation, providing increased continuous habitat for vulnerable flora and fauna within the reserve.</p> | <p>S.5.6 Close off goat tracks within the reserve removing human presence allowing ecological regeneration.</p> <p>S.5.7 Establish environmental protection areas prohibited to pets to minimise impacts to endangered migratory shorebirds and other vulnerable flora and fauna.</p> <p>S.5.8 Establish designated dog on-leash areas to minimise impacts on other vulnerable flora and fauna in the reserve.</p> |
|--|--|

What happens if we do nothing?

The cultural heritage and remnant vegetation attributes are currently at risk of being damaged and/or lost. If they are not protected future generations will not have the opportunity to enjoy them.

The Master Plan

-  Site boundary
-  Entry/threshold treatment
-  Cultural/ecological interpretation opportunity
-  Exercise equipment
-  Kick-around space
-  Playground
-  Revegetated area
-  Lookout
-  Toilets
-  Parking
-  Trailer Parking
-  Tree
-  Revegetation Type 1
-  Revegetation Type 2
-  Revegetation Type 3 (low planting)
-  1 Natural play area
-  2 Informal shaded picnic zone
-  3 Yarning circle, timber deck
-  4 Terraced/seating timber deck
-  5 Paragliding launch/viewing lawn
-  6 Decking over retaining wall and water access
-  7 Outdoor shower and stair access
-  8 Cultural heritage protection
-  9 Turtle habitat protection (timber louvre and vegetation screening)
-  10 Restricted access (barriers and planting)
-  11 Potential Bus Loop Stop
-  12 Potential ferry landing
-  13 New shade tree planting and pedestrian link
-  14 Ramp access and terraced revetment wall
-  15 Formalised beach access track
-  16 Existing path
-  17 1.2m wide nature walk
-  18 1.8m wide connector path
-  19 2m wide nature walk
-  20 3m wide Coastal Pathway
-  21 3m wide maintenance access road/ Coastal Pathway
-  22 Existing parallel parking to remain
-  23 45 Degree angle on-street parking
-  24 Proposed reconfiguration of off-street car parking
-  25 Overflow car with boat trailer parking
- 26 Proposed reduction of street corners to low speed radius



1:4000 @ A4



Figure 87 Master Plan

The Master Plan Area 1

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | Site boundary |  | Turtle habitat protection (timber louvre and vegetation screening) |
|  | Entry/threshold treatment |  | Restricted access (barriers and planting) |
|  | Cultural/ecological interpretation opportunity |  | Potential ferry landing |
|  | Exercise equipment |  | Ramp access and terraced revetment wall |
|  | Playground |  | Formalised beach access track |
|  | Revegetated area |  | Existing path |
|  | Lookout |  | 1.2m wide nature walk |
|  | Toilets |  | 1.8m wide connector path |
|  | Parking |  | 2m wide nature walk |
|  | New Tree |  | 3m wide Coastal Pathway |
|  | Revegetation Type 1 |  | 3m wide maintenance access road/Coastal Pathway |
|  | Revegetation Type 2 |  | Existing parallel parking to remain |
|  | Revegetation Type 3 (low planting) |  | Proposed reconfiguration of off-street car parking |
|  | 1 Natural play area | | |
|  | 2 Informal shaded picnic zone | | |
|  | 3 Yarning circle, timber deck | | |
|  | 4 Terraced/seating timber deck | | |
|  | 5 Paragliding launch/viewing lawn | | |
|  | 8 Cultural heritage protection (indicative) | | |

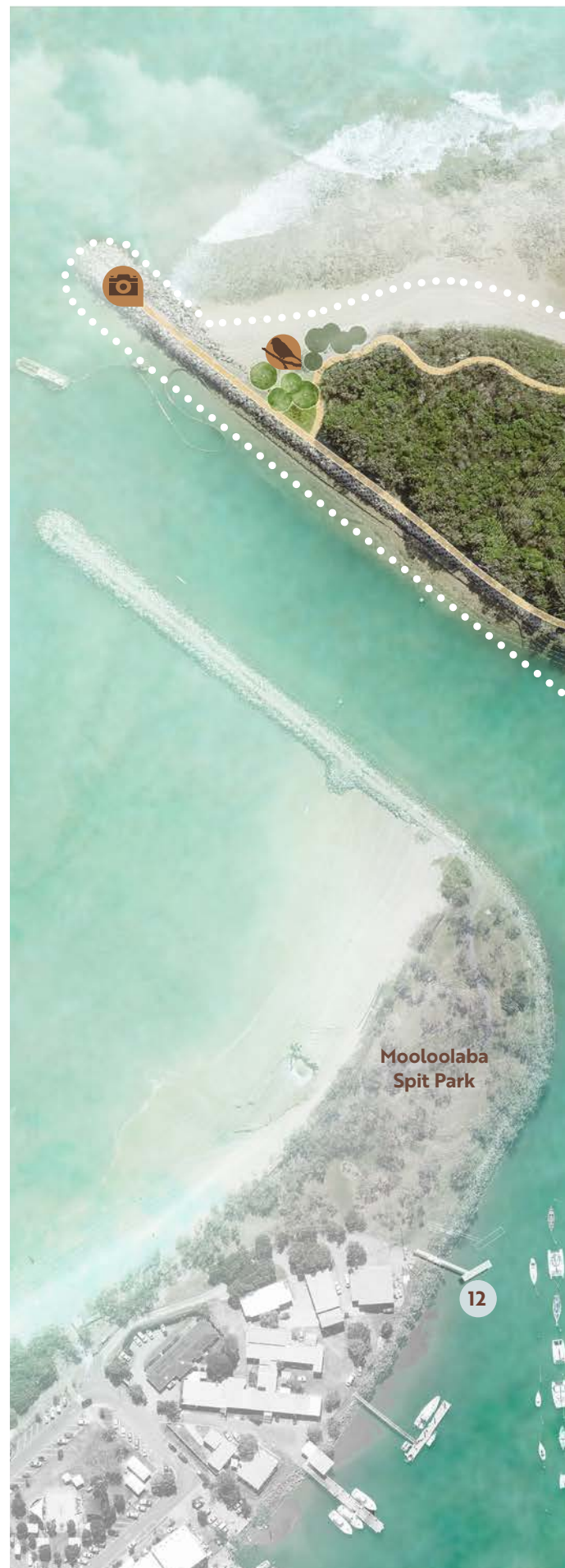


Figure 88 Master Plan Area 1



The Master Plan

Area 2




















-  Site boundary
-  Entry/threshold treatment
-  Cultural/ecological interpretation opportunity
-  Exercise equipment
-  Kick-around space
-  Playground
-  Toilets
-  Parking
-  Tree
-  1 Natural play area
-  2 Informal shaded picnic zone
-  7 Outdoor shower and stair access
-  11 Potential Bus Loop Stop
-  12 Potential ferry landing
-  16 Existing Coastal Path
-  20 3m wide Coastal Pathway
-  21 3m wide access road/Coastal Pathway
-  22 Existing parallel parking to remain
-  24 Proposed reconfiguration of off-street car parking



Figure 89 Master Plan Area 2

The Master Plan

Area 3



Site boundary



Kick-around space



Playground



Parking



Tree

2

Informal shaded picnic zone

6

Decking over retaining wall and water access

7

Outdoor shower and stair access

11

Potential Bus Loop Stop

13

New shade tree planting and pedestrian link

20

3m wide Coastal Pathway

22

Existing parallel parking to remain

23

45 Degree angle on-street parking

24

Proposed reconfiguration of off-street car parking

26

Proposed reduction of street corners to low speed radius



Figure 90 Master Plan Area 3

The Master Plan

Area 4

















-  Site boundary
-  Entry/threshold treatment
-  Playground
-  Toilets
-  Parking
-  Trailer Parking
-  Tree
-  Informal shaded picnic zone
-  Decking over retaining wall and water access
-  New shade tree planting and pedestrian link
-  3m wide Coastal Pathway
-  Existing parallel parking to remain
-  45 Degree angle on-street parking
-  Proposed reconfiguration of off-street car parking
-  Overflow car with boat trailer parking
-  Proposed reduction of street corners to low speed radius



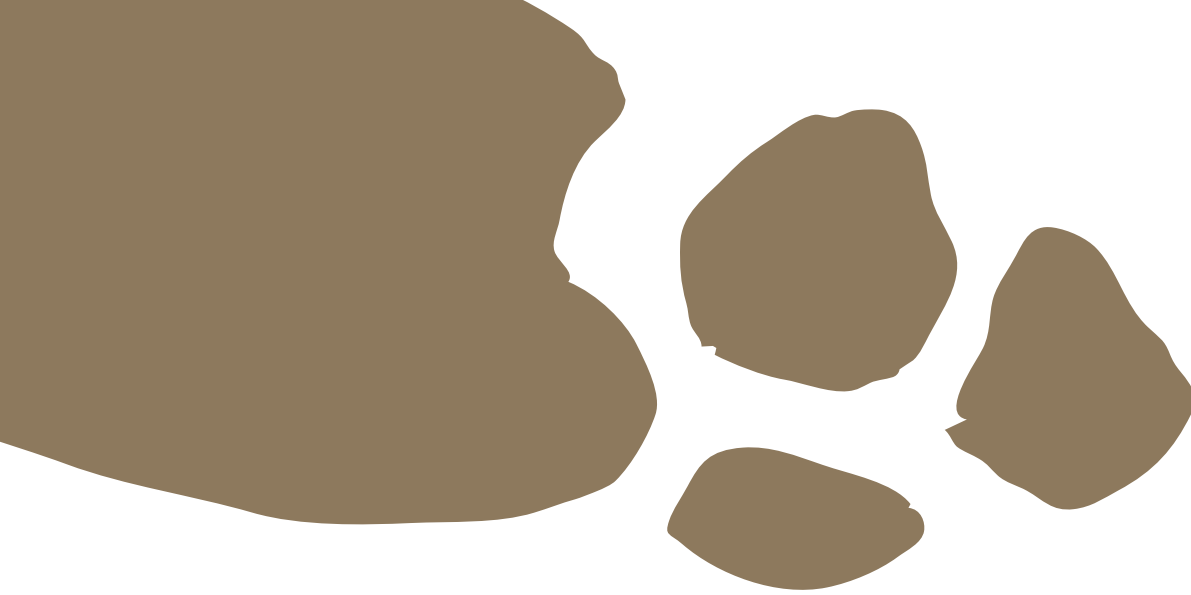
Figure 91 Master Plan Area 4

Implementation and Funding

9



Figure 92 Shorebirds, Point Cartwright foreshore



Measuring Success

To effectively implement the Action Plan performance indicators are required to demonstrate that the desired outcomes from the Master Plan have been achieved. It is essential that the strategies and actions of this plan can be measured by some means.

For this purpose, the following activities are considered practical survey methods of monitoring the progress and performance of the Action Plan:

Surveys

Carry out surveys and questionnaires periodically (approximately every five years) accompanied by a survey of user numbers in various parts of the area; qualitative and quantitative in nature. The survey/questionnaire should establish any changes in park usage, visitor experience and perceptions etc. Additionally, web surveys can be undertaken to request feedback on the implementation of programs and management strategies.

Register of correspondence

Review of letters, emails and community requests received each year (positive and negative) on various subjects related to the parklands. This register can be used to indicate general trends and changes in issues and opportunities and the management of the spaces.

Photographic survey

Taken at key and consistent locations every five years to establish degrees of change (either positive or negative). This could be compared with aerial photographs reviewed every five years.

Review and Monitoring

If the Master Plan is to remain relevant in the future, it is essential that its implementation is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure any relevant changes are incorporated.

Changes which may need to be addressed include new legislation, changes in community values, project priorities, funding resources and new opportunities for future upgrades. Given that community desires and expectation change over time, this Master Plan also needs to have some flexibility to adapt to any changes of circumstance. As such, review of the plan allows for the values to be redefined over time.

In line with the outcomes described in the Action Plan, it is recommended that the Master Plan be reviewed in the following sequences and time spans.

Annually

Review progress of Action Plan.

Two years

Review management and administration structures and update priorities.

Five years

Major review of all values based on revised analysis and issues and amended planning legislation. Review outcomes against survey information, photographic record and register of correspondence.

Council funding for implementing the Master Plan will

Funding

either be allocated for:

- future asset renewal works through the Capital Works Program
- maintenance and management of the parklands through the Operational Works Program

Funding is currently provided through Council's 10 year budget allocation.

Funding of the more substantial changes (included in the long-term plan) are subject to securing additional funding.

Additional funding options which may be investigated include:

- State and Federal Grants
- Partnerships with community groups or businesses

The amount of funding through these streams is difficult to anticipate as it is dependent on grant programs and partnerships.



Figure 93 Osprey, Point Cartwright



Figure 94 Coastal Banksia

Action Plan

The Action and Implementation Plan outlines the actions associated with the Master Plan strategies and identifies timeframe, delivery responsibility, cost, benefit and prioritisation.

Master Plan strategies and actions

The plan includes a list of detailed actions recommended to deliver the five Master Plan strategies.

1. Manage park use
2. Enrich the place experience
3. Prioritise places for people
4. Embed enduring sustainability
5. Advance healing and caring for Country

Time

Timeframe is defined in the following categories.

Short

1-5 years

Medium

5-10 years

Long

10+ years

Cost Estimate

The cost of an action is classified in the following categories.

Low

\$0-\$150k

Medium

\$151k-\$500k

High

\$501k+

Benefit

High Benefit

High benefit is when the proposed action has a profound impact on the broad community, disadvantaged user group, or the environment. It means that the project will significantly improve the well-being and quality of life for a group or the environment. For example, it could involve the development of infrastructure that enhances accessibility for people with disabilities or implementing initiatives that have a substantial positive impact on the environment.

Medium Benefit

Medium benefit is when a smaller user group stands to benefit from the project, even though the majority may not experience a significant impact. This category typically involves more localised or specific improvements that cater to specific needs. For example, it could include a playground upgrade to benefit children and families or implementing conservation measures that protect a specific species within an ecosystem.

Low Benefit

Low benefit is when the existing situation is acceptable but could be improved. It means that the proposed action or solution would bring about refinements or enhancements. For example, it could involve resealing a car park.

Priority Factors

Additional factors that influence the prioritisation of projects or assets based on specific circumstances or conditions. For example for scheduled asset renewals when an asset is at end of life or if a policy position increases priority.

Priority

High Priority

High priority indicates that the proposed action offers significant benefits while the associated costs remain within an acceptable range. This means that the potential positive impact outweighs the expenses involved, making it a top priority for allocation of resources.

Medium Priority

Medium priority signifies that the benefits derived from the proposed action or solution justify the costs involved, although they may not be as pronounced as in high-priority cases. The balance between cost and benefit is moderate, indicating a reasonable investment of resources to achieve meaningful outcomes. Projects or actions classified as medium priority warrant attention and resources but may require further evaluation to determine the optimal allocation.

Low Priority

Low priority indicates that the benefits derived from the proposed action or solution may not be significant enough to justify the associated costs. While there may be some advantages, the overall value gained does not outweigh the expenses incurred. Projects or actions classified as low priority may be considered for implementation only if resources become available after higher priority initiatives are addressed.

Action Plan

Strategy	Action/Task
1. Manage park use	Undertake local law amendment process to amend dog access throughout the reserve to balance protection of ecology, cultural heritage, recreation and to reduce park user conflicts and improve safety and amenity.
	Prepare detailed design and costing for a new 3 metre wide Coastal Pathway in La Balsa Park to accommodate safe shared pedestrian and cycle use.
	Prepare detailed design and costing for a Coastal Pathway link between La Balsa Park and Buddina Foreshore Reserve at beach access 201 (Gulai Street) providing an accessible link in the coastal pathway network.
	Prepare detailed design and costing for a new 3 metre wide Coastal Pathway through Point Cartwright Reserve to accommodate safe shared pedestrian and cycle use.
	Prepare detailed design and costing for new nature trails in Point Cartwright Reserve that includes restricting access to vegetated areas and decommissioning undesirable goat tracks.
	Prepare detailed design and costing for lighting upgrade to public lighting in La Balsa Park to meet National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife.
	Undertake waste management assessment with recommendations for services provided in the reserve and park.
	Continue shared path user behaviour campaigns to ensure safe shared path use taking into consideration Etransport modes and conflicts with other users
	Plan and implement measures to manage light spill from the Pacific Boulevard residential towers and car park to protect turtle nesting areas.
2. Enrich the place experience	Develop signage and wayfinding strategy including entry statement concept design, cost estimate, interpretive/ educational elements. This action will require capital funding for delivery.
	Prepare detailed design for a cultural and ecological education area in the heart of the reserve to educate the community, elevating the cultural and environmental significance of the reserve. This action will require capital funding for delivery.
	Prepare furniture, finishes and planting design guideline to strengthen the place character through design of infrastructure, built-form and furniture elements, and selection of materials and planting.
	Prepare detailed design for playgrounds with interpretive elements, educating children about the reserve and its surroundings while increasing play value.
	Prepare detailed design for accessible river viewing platforms (x2) in La Balsa Park to improve connection to the Mooloolah River. This action will require capital funding for delivery.
	Locate tables and seating in a variety of landscape character settings across the parkland to increase the range of possible experiences and appreciation of the place.

The Action Plan has been developed with relevant parts of Council. Implementation will be based on future availability of resources, funding and detailed design outcomes.

Time	Who		Cost Estimate	Benefit	Priority Factors	Priority
	Group	Branch			(end of life asset renewals, policy position)	
S	Civic Governance	Civic Governance	Low	High		High
M	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	Medium		Medium
M	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	Medium		Medium
M	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	Medium		Medium
M	Built Infrastructure/ LaNA	Parks and Gardens/ Environmental Operations	Low	High		High
M	Built Infrastructure/ LaNA	Transport Infrastructure Management	Low	High		High
S	LaNA	Waste & Resource Management	Low	Medium		Medium
S	Built Infrastructure	Sustainable Transport Services	Low	Medium		Medium
S	LaNA	Environmental Operations	Medium	Medium		Medium
S	Built Infrastructure/ LaNA	Environmental Operations/ Parks and Gardens	Low	High		High
M	Built Infrastructure/ LaNA	Environmental Operations/ Parks and Gardens	Low	High		High
S	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	Medium		Medium
S	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	High	*	High
M	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Medium	Medium		Medium
S	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	High	*	High

Action Plan

Strategy	Action/Task
3. Prioritise places for people	Undertake parking study and prepare recommendations for car parking changes.
	Prepare detailed design for Harbour Parade off-street boat trailer and carpark to make best use of the space, improving accessibility maximising parking and space for planting.
	Prepare detailed design for a terraced revetment wall and ramp at Half Moon Bay to increase accessibility and activation. This action will require capital funding for delivery.
	Prepare detailed design for upgrade to park infrastructure to meet current council standards for accessibility - consolidating the barbeques, and some park furniture under new shelters.
	Prepare detailed design for exercise equipment that meets the community needs.
	Prepare detailed design to improve east-west pedestrian links from Buddina Beach to the Mooloolah River via Illawong Street.
	Investigate traffic calming devices & crossing points in the surrounding road network to encourage slower vehicle speeds and promote pedestrian priority.
	Prepare detailed design for central amenities building upgrade to improve accessibility and openness.
	Prepare Regional Dog Exercise Areas (DEA) Network Plan
	Investigate future sustainable transport opportunities for the community by incorporating active and public transport and reduced car reliance.
4. Imbed enduring sustainability	Prepare detailed design for a new seawall that can be adapted to accommodate sea level rise, as well as raise park levels to minimise impacts to valuable open space.
	Maintain and enhance the Buddina Beach dunes and dunal vegetation to reduce coastal erosion and the impacts of climate change and people through education and signage.
	Prepare detailed design for additional tree planning in the reserve and park to increase shade and tree canopy coverage to reduce heat island effect to create comfortable places for recreation, walking and cycling.
	Prepare detailed design for water sensitive urban design initiatives through the parkland that improve storm water runoff quality.
	Undertake a comprehensive Flora and Fauna Survey and Assessment of the area identified as Littoral Rainforest and Vine Thicket of Eastern Australia Ecological Community
	Undertake an education campaign in conjunction with the relevant State departments to raise awareness of State legislation regarding foraging and harvesting of shells and fossils on the rocky foreshore areas
	Prepare a plan of how to manage the Littoral Rainforest and Vine Thicket Ecological Community in accordance with the National Recovery Plan
5. Advance healing and caring for Country	Undertake further cultural heritage investigations to contribute to the interpretation strategy, including the creation of an intellectual property (IP) agreement, incorporate anthropological insights.
	Prepare Cultural Heritage Management Plan (part 7 of Cultural Heritage Act) with detailed design for cultural protection mitigation measures.
	Work with the Traditional Custodians of this land to improve land management, foster cultural awareness and respect the significance of this place.
	Prepare detailed design for revegetation areas to reconnect fragmented vegetation patches, providing increased continuous habitat for vulnerable flora and fauna within the reserve.
	Create a long-term management and maintenance framework for the parkland. Bring together relevant Council areas with community volunteer groups to support Indigenous Land Management activities. Noting that this is not a current service provided by EO for this category of environment reserve, but could be implemented with appropriate resourcing and support.
	Benchmark, survey and report the recovery of habitat and biodiversity through Bushland Operational Assessment methodology on a 5 yearly basis
	Continue to engage with Kabi Kabi Elders to gain knowledge of additional layers of significance.

Time	Who		Cost Estimate	Benefit	Priority Factors	Priority
Short/Med/Long	Group	Branch			(end of life asset renewals, policy position)	
M	Built Infrastructure	Transport Infrastructure Management	Low	Low		Low
S	LaNA	Environmental Operations	Medium	High	*	High
M	LaNA	Environmental Operations	Medium	Medium		Medium
S	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	High	*	High
S	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	Medium	*	Medium
M	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	Medium		Medium
M	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	Medium		Medium
L	Business Performance	Property	Low	Medium		Medium
S	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	Medium		Medium
M	Built Infrastructure	Transport Infrastructure Management	Low	Medium		Medium
M	Customer & Planning Services	Strategic Infrastructure Planning & Policy	Low	Medium		Medium
S	LaNA	Environmental Operations	Low	High		High
S	Built Infrastructure	Parks and Gardens	Low	High		High
L	Customer & Planning Services	Strategic Infrastructure Planning & Policy	Low	Medium		Medium
S	LaNA	Environmental Operations	Low	Medium		Medium
S	LaNA	Environmental Operations	Low	High		Medium
S	LaNA	Environmental Operations	Low	Medium		Medium
M	LaNA	Environmental Operations	Medium	High		High
S	LaNA	Environmental Operations	Low	High		High
M	Economic & Community Development / LaNA	First Nations Partnerships / Environmental Operations	Medium	High		High
S	LaNA / Built Infrastructure	Environmental Operations / Parks and Gardens	Low	High		High
S	LaNA / Built Infrastructure	Environmental Operations / Parks and Gardens	Low	High		High
S	LaNA	Environmental Operations	Low	High		High
S	Economic & Community Development / LaNA	Community Development / Environmental Operations	Low	High		High

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Figure 92 Shorebirds, Point Cartwright foreshore
Figure 93 Osprey, Point Cartwright
Figure 94 Coastal Banksia
Figure 95 Sunset at Point Cartwright looking west to Mooloolaba

Attribution

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Glossary

Caring for Country

Caring for country centres on the relationships between Indigenous peoples and their country, which includes their lands, waters, plants, animals, heritage, culture, ancestors, laws, religions and more.

Country

Country is the term often used by Aboriginal peoples to describe the lands, waterways and seas to which they are connected. The term contains complex ideas about law, place, custom, language, spiritual belief, cultural practice, material sustenance, family and identity.

Ecotones

Areas of steep transition between ecological communities, ecosystems, and/or ecological regions along an environmental or other gradient. Ecotones occur at multiple spatial scales and range from natural ecotones between ecosystems and biomes to human-generated boundaries.

Embayment

A recess in a coastline forming a bay.

Design life

The design life of a component or product is the period of time during which the item is expected by its designers to work within its specified parameters; in other words, the life expectancy of the item.

Intangible cultural heritage

A practice, representation, expression, knowledge, or skill considered by UNESCO to be part of a place's cultural heritage.

Nudibranch

Nudibranchs are a group of soft-bodied marine gastropod molluscs that shed their shells after their larval stage. They are noted for their often extraordinary colours and striking forms, and they have been given colourful nicknames to match, such as "clown", "marigold", "splendid", "dancer", "dragon", and "sea rabbit". Currently, about 3,000 valid species of nudibranchs are known.

Regional Ecosystem

Regional ecosystems are vegetation communities in a bioregion that are consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil.

Shared path

Where people walking and cycling are moving at speed and sharing space. A shared path is recommended to be 3m wide to allow two people to walk side by side and a bicycle rider to pass with adequate operating space and clearance.

Tangible cultural heritage

Physical artefacts produced, maintained and transmitted intergenerationally in a society. It includes artistic creations, built heritage such as buildings and monuments, and other physical or tangible products of human creativity that are invested with cultural significance in a society.

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