



REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

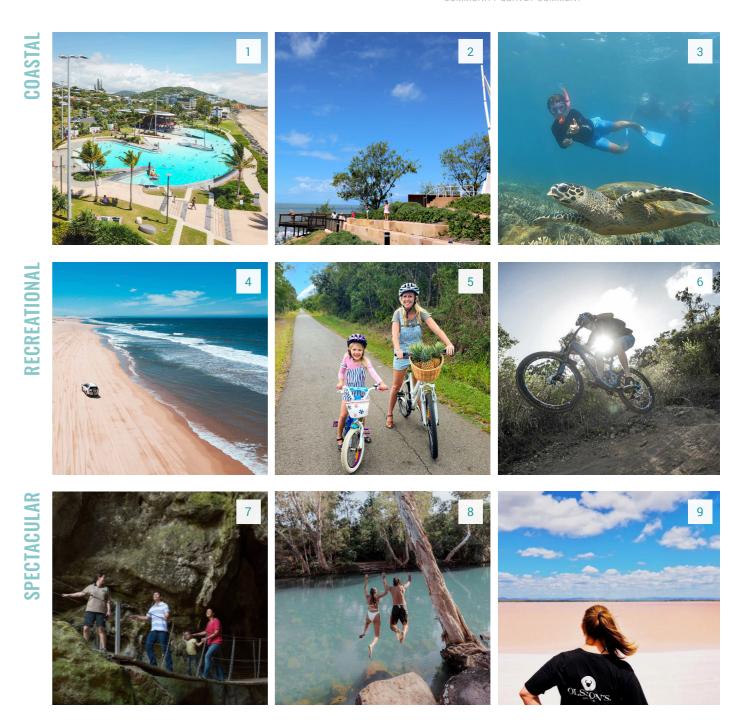
A review of regional destinations was undertaken to avoid duplicating activities within the region.

Current visitors to Causeway Lake are drawn to its laid back natural setting adjacent to national park and the southern most reach of the Great Barrier Reef.

Many visitors who enjoy fishing would otherwise be travelling 45 minutes to the Fitzroy River, an hour to Mount Morgan Dam or over 2 hours to Awoonga Dam south of Gladstone.

Seems the region is exploding at the moment... why not move with the times? Causeway Lake is such a great spot for families now and into the future

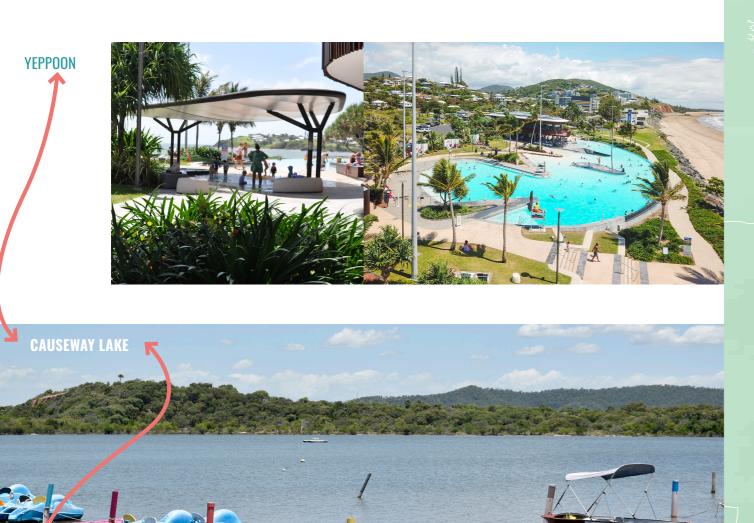
COMMUNITY SUBVEY COMMEN



Causeway Lake The scenic highway's Rough Diamond

The Causeway Lake is central between Yeppoon and Emu Park and is a good place to meet for activities.

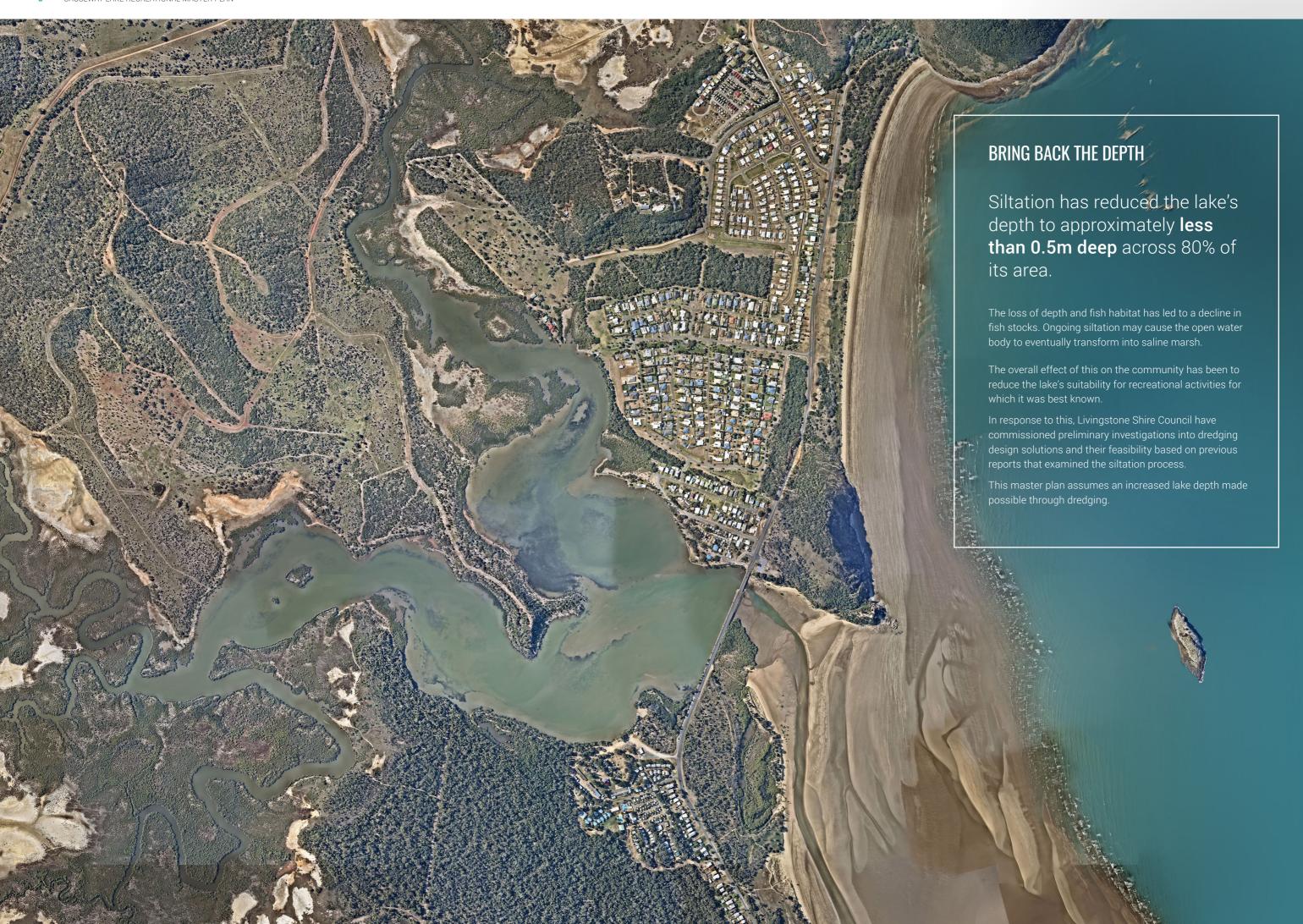
COMMUNITY SURVEY COMMENT



EMU PARK







WHAT THE COMMUNITY HAS TO SAY

A survey carried out between 10–22 January 2022 (680 responses!) showed Causeway Lake is a meaningful place to the community. Results were overwhelmingly in favour of improving the Causeway Lake precinct.



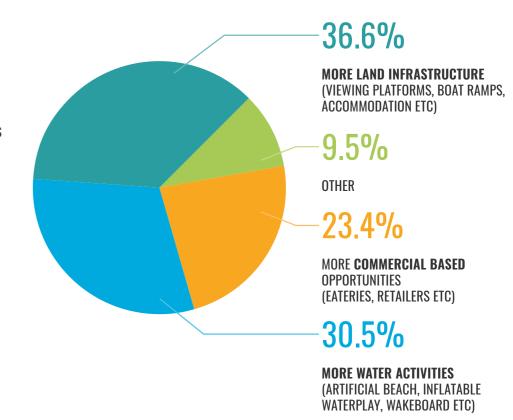
Do you think
Council should
improve the
precinct to
better utilise the
space to draw
more visitors to
the region?



8% NO

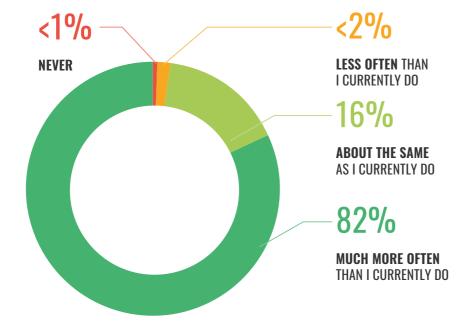


What improvements would you like to see to enhance your Causeway Lake experience?



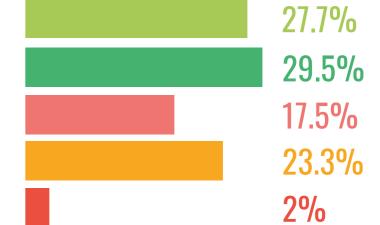
Two

If Council dredged the lake and enhanced the lake shorelines how likely would you be to visit the precinct then?





What do you **like** about the lake and shoreline now?



SCENERY & ENVIRONMENT

SAFE ENVIRONMENT (FLAT WATER)

LIMITED COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

PEACE & QUIET

OTHER

Three

What **activities**do you currently
visit Causeway
Lake for?



15.5% BOATING



23.5% FISHING



20.6% NON-MOTORISED

NON-MOTORISED WATER RECREATION



22% PICNICS



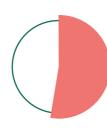
15.4%
NATURE APPRECIATION



3% OTHER



If you are a long time visitor, **are** you visiting more or less now?



58%LESS



11% MORE



31%
ABOUT THE SAME

SITE OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

CONSTRAINTS

RECREATION

- Little to entice or facilitate swimming in the lake
- Limited shoreline-water engagement opportunities and limited existing activities
- Generally ad hoc provision of picnic and other recreation facilities, many without shade.
 Generally not taking full advantage of the site's natural appeal
- Some conflict between recreational uses (swimming / fishing; motorised / nonmotorised watercraft)
- No dedicated fish cleaning area despite popular use by fishers
- Public perceptions of safety risk by potential crocodiles and stone fish

OPPORTUNITIES

- Strong community interest in lake restoration and enhancement of shoreline recreation opportunities
- History of being a popular recreational destination supported by community desire to restore historic lake uses
- Increase patronage of existing business and increase revenue generation by supporting new business opportunities
- Existing Council facilities (picnic, amenities, shower)
- Existing accommodation can support more visitation and events
- Sheltered still-water location supports recreation and watercraft training
- Potential adventure use of undeveloped vegetated lots around western shores and their existing trails

ENVIRONMENT

- · Increasingly shallow water
- Maintaining existing 'natural' character distinct from Yeppoon and Emu Park's developed public spaces
- Protecting important vegetation and habitats from disturbance caused by increased recreational use
- · Dredging to restore depth
- Can leverage existing mature vegetation to provide increased shade and amenity
- Add value to lake destination by improving the adjacent coastal connection to the adjacent National Park and other State lands
- · Dredging can support improved fish stocks

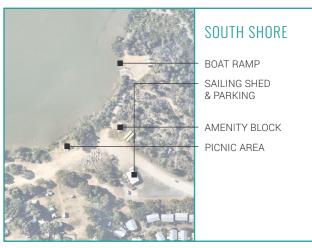
ACCESS & PARKING

- Perceived safety risk of narrow width of existing path along Causeway, conflicting users (pedestrians & fishers), and close proximity to traffic severely constrains pedestrian movements between North and South Shores
- Limited and very informal parking
- 'Unofficial' boat ramp on North Shore maintained by Council
- Lake has excellent visibility from Scenic Highway
- Increased car and boat parking to support increased recreation and events resulting from lake improvements
- Planned Sailability boat ramp upgrade; existing Main Roads owned boat ramp
- Proximity to bus stops

SERVICES & OWNERSHIP

- · No sewer to South Shore amenities
- All the currently utilised lake edge is state owned under Council control or sub-leased
- Alterations to Causeway structure may be difficult, costly and protracted
- Negotiating with state / privately owned lots for public access
- Convert unnecessary road reserves to public open space
- Existing sewered amenities on North Shore









The Causeway & Pinnacle Point

Access and recreation improvements to transform the way people move around and activate areas beside the Causeway for fishing and other uses

JICOMES

- Improved pedestrian / cycle Causeway connection
- Fishing pier / jetty
- Scenic Highway pedestrian crossing
- National Park headland walk
- Viewing platforms / picnic shelters
- Designated car / boat trailer parking
- Conserved natural areas
- General accessibility



North Shore

Picturesque lakeside precinct offering a mix of land and water-based facilities which respect the village character

•

- Safe swimming enclosure / beach
- Upgraded kayak launch
- Fishing jetty / pier
- Upgraded amenities building
- Floating island deck
- Village Green for picnicking and markets

- Lakeside restaurant and other eateries
- Pedestrian priority areas / shared zone
- Improved traffic movement / intersections
- l deck Designated car parking
 - New playground
 - · Boat hire outlet

Creeks & Mangroves

Remarkable natural environments rewarding users keen to explore the lake's deeper reaches and bushland trails

TUNMES

- Conserved natural areas
- Lakeside bush trails
- Mangrove boardwalk
- Kayak launches / jetties
- Bird hides
- Environmental signage and interpretation
- Walk-in 'bush' campsSchool excursions
- Indigenous education
- Boat tours
- Beach / island landings



South Shore

Vibrant sailing hub which champions inclusiveness and supports an array of quiet water activities, public gatherings and sporting events

JTCOMES

- All abilities access and inclusion focus
- Upgraded amenities building
- Changing Places facility
- Upgraded boat ramp
- Food vans / temporary outlets
- Separate kayak

- launch / pontoon
- Designated car / boat trailer parking
- Fish stock quota system
- Upgraded picnic / BBQ facilities
- Outdoor events / gathering place
- Conserved natural areas

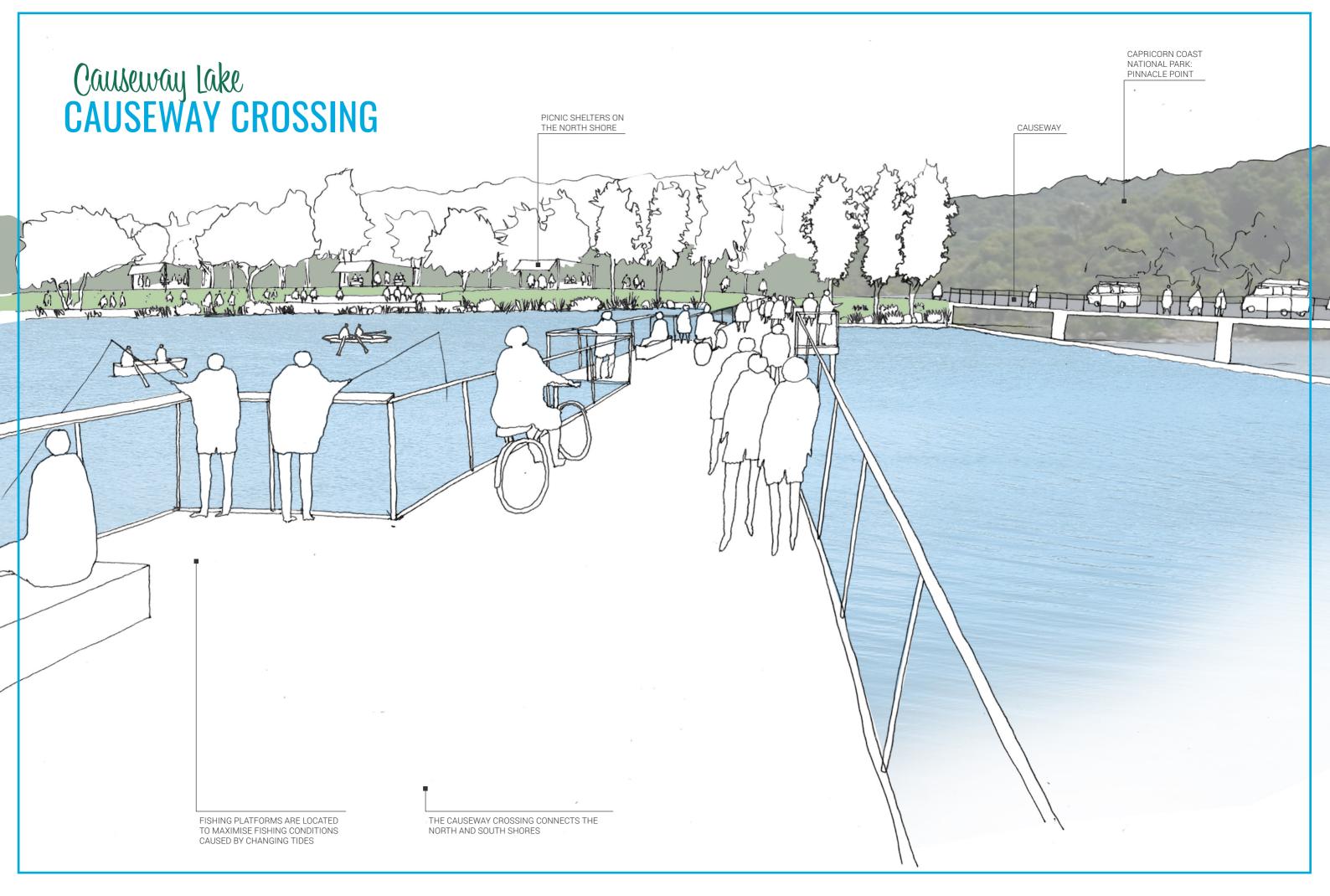


MASTER PLAN 0 100 200 300 400 500m 1 1 1 1 1 1

Four distinct areas come together to make Causeway Lake an engaging day trip destination for a broad range of visitors.







Causeway Lake NORTH SHORE WEST

KEYPLAN

LEGEND

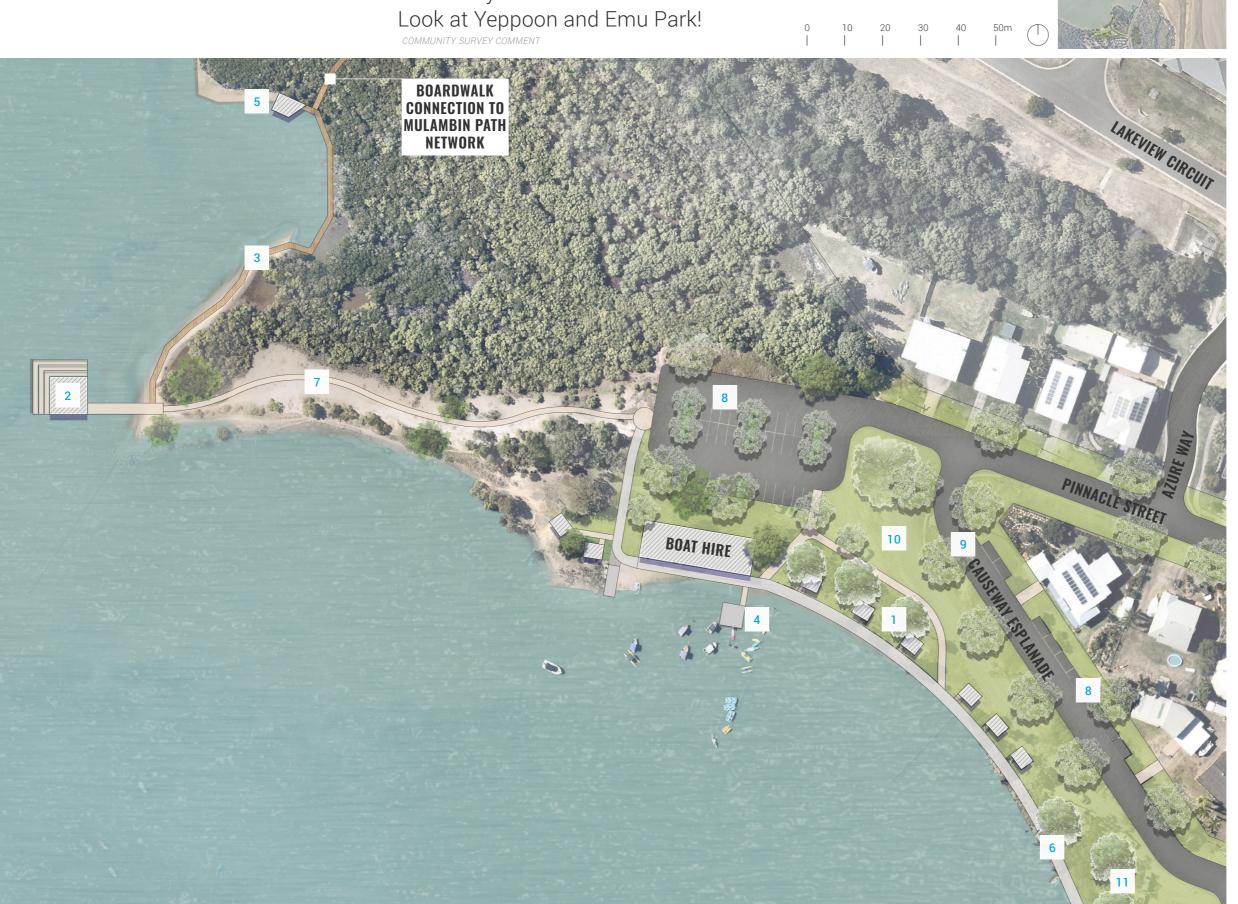








- 5 BIRD HIDE SHELTER
- 6 CAUSEWAY LINK
- 7 BEACH PATH WITH EQUITABLE ACCESS
- 8 CAR PARKING
- 9 ROAD REALIGNED TO MAXIMISE OPEN SPACE
- 10 OPEN SPACE (POTENTIAL MARKET AREA)
- DESIGN MAXIMISES RETENTION OF EXISTING VEGETATION



Tourism is the key for progress. It

ensures locals will stay and play at Causeway Lake. Others will follow.

Causeway Lake NORTH SHORE **EAST**

KEYPLAN

LEGEND













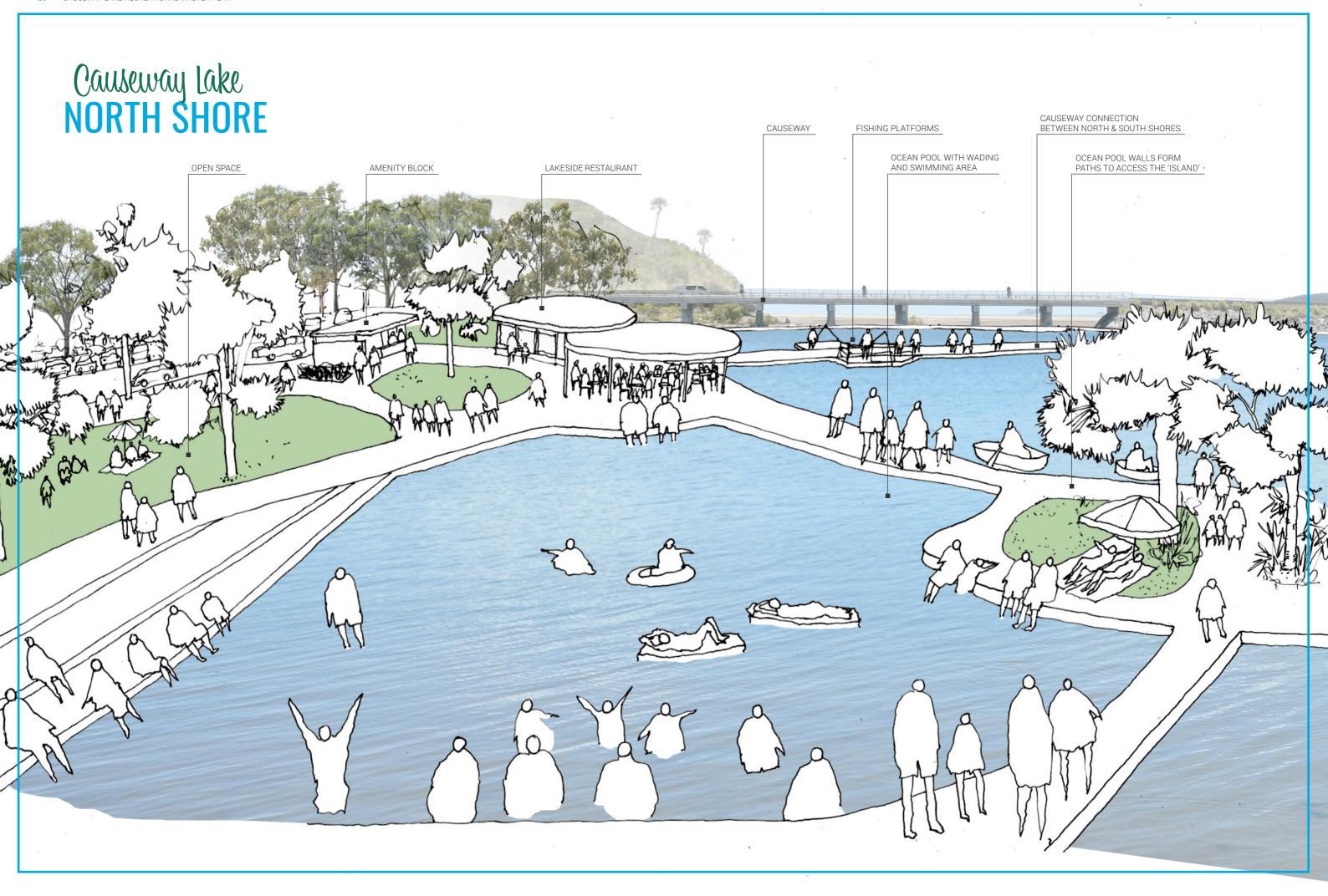
- 5 LARGE SHELTER WITH PICNIC SETTINGS
- 6 AMENITY BLOCK
- 7 OPEN SPACE (POTENTIAL MARKET AREA)
- 8 VIEWING PLATFORMS
- 9 PICNIC SHELTERS
- 10 FISH CLEANING SHELTER & MEASURING STATION
- 11 SHARED ZONE ENTRY (SLOW VEHICLES)
- 12 CAR PARKING
- 13 LOADING AREA FOR RESTAURANT
- 14 PLAYGROUND



It's one of very few safe

for the asset it is

waterways in the area. It's not being utilised enough



Causeway Lake SOUTH SHORE

KEYPLAN

LEGEND

It's a beautiful spot, but it could be enjoyed by so many more people if there was more access and things to do

COMMUNITY SURVEY COMMENT









PICNIC AREA WITH BBQS & SHELTERS



- 5 NON-MOTORISED WATERCRAFT BOAT RAMP
- 6 CAR PARKING
- 7 BOAT TRAILER PARKING
- ACCESS TO BOAT RAMP FOR AUTHORISED USERS (LOCK RAIL)
- 9 ADVENTURE TRAIL CONNECTION
- 10 ECO TRAIL CONNECTION TO CAUSEWAY LINK
- 11 CAUSEWAY LINK
- DESIGN MAXIMISES RETENTION OF
- LANDSCAPE BUFFER TO CARAVAN PARK FOR
- 14 SHELTERS TO SUPPORT SAILING EVENTS





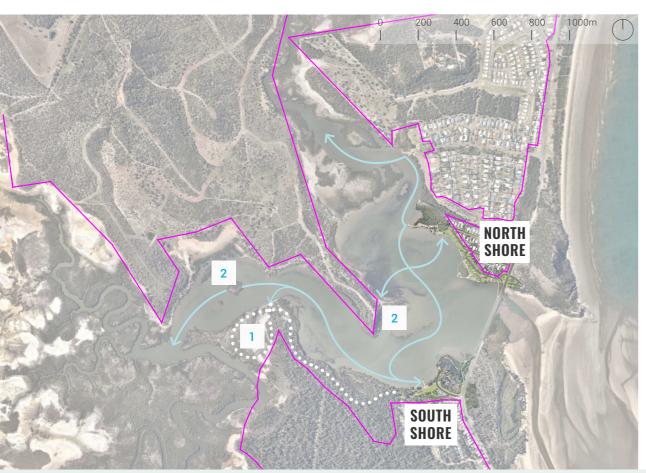
Mangroves are a vital part of the

lake's ecology. Boardwalks and trails would encourage youth to learn about biodiversity

COMMUNITY SURVEY COMMENT



Causeway Lake THE CAUSEWAY & PINNACLE POINT



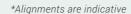
- 1 WALK-IN 'BUSH' CAMP
- 2 INFORMAL BEACH LANDING / ADVENTURE STOP
- WATERCRAFT ADVENTURE TRAILS*
- BUSH ADVENTURE TRAILS*
- EXTENT OF PRIVATELY OWNED LOTS

*Alignments are indicative





- 1 CAUSEWAY LINK
- 2 EXISTING PATH CONNECTION BENEATH SCENIC HIGHWAY (NON-COMPLIANT)
- TRAILHEAD FOR PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK TRAILS AND BEACH WALKS
- 4 EXPANDED CAR PARKING. EXISTING AMENITY BLOCK RETAINED
- NATIONAL PARK TRAILS*





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Causeway Lake is a place of natural beauty at the mouths of Shoal and Mulambin Creeks, where a semi-artificial lake was created with the construction of a causeway in 1939. The causeway acts as a barrier to retain creek waters whilst also allowing some tidal exchange. Initially the causeway enabled recreational activities such as swimming, sailing, boating, fishing and water skiing but the reduction in water depth caused by ongoing siltation has decreased the lake's suitability for these pastimes.

The Causeway Lake Master Plan proposes lakeside improvements to accompany selective dredging that will restore areas of water depth and the lake's reputation as a recreation destination.

A community survey heard passionate voices advocating for infrastructure and activities to increase lake access and participation while preserving its quiet scenic character.

Following are improvements and changes that could be realised, in response to lake dredging, to optimise the service of the lake precinct as a premier local recreation attraction.

CAUSEWAY LINK

The 1.5km Causeway Link path will be a walking destination that connects the North and South Shores, crossing the lake and giving locals and visitors the chance to enjoy the water's edge. It will provide commuters a safe lake crossing alternative to the Scenic Highway and be accessed from the road and car park areas via a network of smaller compliant paths suitable for users of all abilities. This will transform Causeway Lake into an inclusive destination suitable for the whole community and a greater range of visitors.



NORTH & SOUTH SHORES



The Causeway Link will have mixed construction depending on the lake edge it abuts. Where the existing lake edge is deteriorating, a concrete path and retaining will assist with stabilisation and prevent the edge from dispersing into the lake. Where the lake edge contains sensitive vegetation, a raised timber deck will retain and protect vegetation while allowing important ecological processes such as evapotranspiration to continue.

Causeway Lake will be a day trip destination with two distinct but complementary offerings: passive recreation and gathering on the North Shore and active adventures on the South Shore. These characters optimise existing facilities.

Common to both shores will be the lake's scenic natural setting, with existing vegetation retained as much as possible. New shade trees will further enhance the lake's natural character, comfort for visitors and habitat for wildlife.

NORTH SHORE - VILLAGE GREEN

The North Shore will be a Village Green for visitors drawn by a new lakeside restaurant and picnic facilities, an upgraded playground and shady open space for markets and informal recreation. A new Ocean Pool will offer bathers a safe and sheltered swimming alternative to coastal beaches. The Ocean Pool will cater for all swimming abilities with both dedicated deep water and wading areas, accessed via a compliant ramp or wide terrace steps where carers can sit comfortably at close range.

The North Shore will be home to a new launch for non-motorised watercraft activities typical of day trip destinations such as stand-up paddle boating, kayaking and pedal boats. This facility will support the existing Boat Hire Shed and be collocated with a new car park which will also service visitors seeking the mangrove and beach experiences at the western end of North Shore.



The Sunset Shelter is positioned over the water at the west of the North Shore for unobstructed sunset views. It connects with a new boardwalk skirting the mangrove's edge to another shelter suitable for bird watching. The boardwalk will provide educational opportunities and sensitively step through an area of Least Concern Wildlife Habitat (Matter of State Environmental Significance) to connect the Mulambin and Causeway Lake communities.

SOUTH SHORE - EVENT HUB

The South Shore will continue to be the home of boating and sailing with dedicated boat ramps for each. New facilities will include picnic shelters, a pontoon with shelter and all-abilities watercraft launch, and car and boat trailer parking. The existing open space will be expanded and shaded with new tree planting to better facilitate rigging activities and larger community events. Power and authorised vehicular access to the open space will enable pop-ups or food trucks to cater for large crowds.

Compliant paths will provide direct access between these facilities, sailing sheds, and a new amenity block that will include general and disability cubicles as well as Changing Places cubicles to accommodate people with disabilities together with their carers. The new amenity block will assist in resolving existing conflicts between users of varying abilities associated with the Sailability Club and the Keppel Bay Sailing Club when their activities occur simultaneously.

An adventure trailhead located at the western end of the South Shore will connect to a bush trail network for visitors wanting a land-based environmental experience. The combination of land and water-based activities with open space and amenities will attract triathlon and adventure racing events which often have charity causes appealing to more than just sportspeople.





Causeway Lake will continue to be a popular destination for fishing, which was the most popular lake activity recorded in the community survey. The Causeway Link will increase access to the lake's edge, and fishing platforms where it crosses the lake's mouth will provide closer access to the most rewarding fishing spot, where large predatory fish wait to feed on the incoming tide's baitfish.

The popularity of fishing will likely increase as the fish numbers increase, buoyed by increasing lake depth and potentially a fish stocking program. This demand will be supported by a fish cleaning shelter and measuring station with car parking, collocated with fishing platforms. These will assist in managing fish waste which could be unpleasant if disposed of within the lake and may cause safety concerns by attracting predatory animals.

BOATING AND SAILING



As boating and sailing are two of the most popular activities at Causeway Lake, it is anticipated that a Lake Use Plan would be developed by Council to manage conflicts between motor and non-motorised watercraft.

Motorboat access to the lake will be via the existing Transport and Main Roads owned boat ramp accessed off Resada Esplanade. Boating visitors will be supported by increased boat trailer parking adjacent to Coolwaters Caravan Park, and by upgrades to the boat ramp's access road which will likely be required for dredging activities. The informal boat ramp on the North Shore is proposed to be closed to establish a safe passive activity zone there instead.

Primary sailing users of the lake are associated with the Sailability Club and Keppel Bay Sailing Club who both believe their activities and numbers could significantly increase with enhanced facilities. To support this, a new a pontoon with shelter and an all-abilities watercraft launch is proposed adjacent to the existing sailing ramp which has already secured funding for an upgrade. The existing Sailability Club shed will be joined by new storage for the Keppel Bay Sailing Club, replacing existing temporary storage containers. Both clubs will have authorised access to the pontoon and sailing ramp via a maintenance track secured by lock rails.



Causeway Lake is much loved for its scenic beauty. Optimising access into its creeks and mangroves and connecting with the adjacent National Park will expand the lake's experiences, appealing to a greater range of visitors as a day trip destination.

Causeway Lake will provide access to a range of distinct environments and wildlife habitats:

- Bush interior accessed via the South Shore's Adventure Trailhead
- Mangroves accessed via the North Shore's Mangrove
- Small beach experiences accessed at the west of the North Shore or on the South Shore via an Eco trail shortcutting between the ramp for motorboats the Causeway Link
- Small islands and beaches along Shoal and Mulambin Creeks discoverable by non-motorised watercraft launched from either North or South Shores
- Pinnacle Point section of Capricorn Coast National Park accessed via the North Shore beneath the Causeway or from the existing car park east of the Scenic Highway. Although no National Park walks exist in this section, the lake's inlet here is accessible at low tide providing access to a dramatic rocky coast and Mulambin Beach. More adventurous walkers can meander along the beach to reach National Park trails at the Bluff Point section less than 2km north, and potentially another 9km north to Yeppoon Lagoon by combining trails, beaches and local paths.



For Causeway Lake to be a successful day trip destination with the least disturbance for residents, the existing limited car parking will need to be increased. Car parks have been located away from the lake's edge to maximise public access to recreation areas. Landscape buffers to car parks are proposed where they directly abut residents or businesses. Parking is proposed in key locations:

NORTH SHORE

- Ware Avenue parallel parking adjacent the Causeway Caravan Park
- Causeway Esplanade
- Parallel parking adjacent the Causeway Caravan Park. Existing vegetation is proposed to be retained and augmented with a 5m landscape buffer to screen car parking from the caravan park
- · Parallel parking adjacent 29 Causeway Esplanade
- A new car park requiring purchase of a currently vacant lot adjacent to the Fish and Chip Shop
- Formalised car parking adjacent to the proposed Fish Cleaning Shelter off Causeway Esplanade where a clearing currently facilitates informal parking
- Pinnacle Street a new car park north of the Boat Hire Shed in an existing clearing

It is proposed to realign the section of road fronting 27-29 Causeway Esplanade and the intersection with Pinnacle Street to increase the open space area beside the lake, making it a safer and more pleasant place by distancing traffic. Large tree planting along Causeway Esplanade will create a boulevard to enhance pedestrian experience and provide amenity for adjacent residents.

- Formalise existing car and boat trailer parking at the ramp for motorboats
- New car park off Resada Esplanade to cater for both cars and boat trailers. Existing vegetation is proposed to be retained and augmented with a 5m landscape buffer to screen car parking from the caravan park

While the existing Resada Esplanade appears to directly connect the Scenic Highway to the ramp for motorboats, its gazetted alignment passes west of the Sailability Club's shed. The master plan proposes that the gazetted road be adjusted to match the existing use alignment.

SCENIC HIGHWAY

The existing car park beside the National Park is proposed to be expanded into existing cleared areas. Upgraded pedestrian access across the Scenic Highway at its intersection with the car park entry and Causeway Esplanade would increase safety for visitors and draw more lake visitors to engage with the National Park's coastal offering.

Should lake users or event crowds become significantly large, additional parking may be viable east of Scenic Highway off the intersection with Resada Esplanade.

Bus stops on the Scenic Highway at both the North and South Shores could alleviate car parking and cater for a greater range of visitors if pedestrian access could be upgraded between them and the Causeway Link.

The Causeway Lake Master Plan envisages a variety of opportunities which complement the lake's recreational uses and have the potential to generate revenue for both the private sector and Council. Revenue generating opportunities may include:

- Lakeside restaurant lease
- Watercraft hire lease/permit
- Pop-up kiosks, food trucks and markets permit
- Event use (sporting competitions, charity events) permit
- House boats accommodation leases
- Boat tour permit

ACTION LIST

RECREATION

OCEAN POOL Resurrect the lake's swimming history by introducing a safe all-tide swimming area that has both designated lap swimming and wading areas. Give Causeway Lake an instagrammable identity by incorporating a unique recreation 'island' visible from the Scenic Highway.

LAKESIDE RESTAURANT Encourage more visitors by introducing more food offerings including a lakeside restaurant and areas for food trucks during high visitation.

UPGRADED PLAYGROUND & PICNIC AREAS Attract families to the lake by improving the play offering and providing facilities to accommodate family and birthday gatherings.

OPEN SPACE Improve the overall quality, appeal and usability of open space through additional plantings, addressing underutilised areas, adding shaded picnic and family event facilities, lighting, improved shoreline interaction and other enhancements.

FISHING PLATFORMS Enhance one of the lake's most popular activities with dedicated fishing platforms and a cleaning and measuring station.

WATERCRAFT & SAILING FACILITIES Enable increased sailing and watercraft use by adding shade structures and pontoon. Provide a launch access to the lake for small craft such as canoes, paddle boards and kayaks. Replacing existing shipping containers with a storage shed.

ENVIRONMENT

RETAIN VEGETATION Protect wildlife habitat and the lake's much loved natural character by retaining mature trees and vegetation. Replace vegetation where possible.

MANGROVE BOARDWALK & BUSH TRAILS Encourage environmental stewardship by leading visitors through natural areas via educational mangrove boardwalks and bush trails.

ACCESS

THE CAUSEWAY LINK Give visitors access to a broader range of the lake's experiences by joining the north and south shores via a new shared path.

COASTAL CONNECTION Enhance the lake's day trip destination status by connecting it via safe accessible paths to the Capricorn Coast National Park and beaches within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

IMPROVED PATH NETWORK Increase visitor accessibility by making paths suitable for pedestrians and cyclists of all abilities. Path connections between streets, activity areas, facilities and the shoreline.

SHARED ZONE Transform the Causeway Esplanade into a speed-limited zone to increase visitor safety and foster a more pleasant pedestrian experience.

ROAD REALIGNMENT Realign the west section of Causeway Esplanade to increase open space against the lakeside, suitable for markets and informal recreation.

SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

CAR PARKS Cater for increasing visitation and resolve existing conflict by providing appropriate car and boat trailer parking.

AMENITY BLOCKS Cater for the lake's increased popularity and resolve existing deficiencies by providing an appropriate number and standard of amenities to cater for all visitors including people with disabilities and their carers.

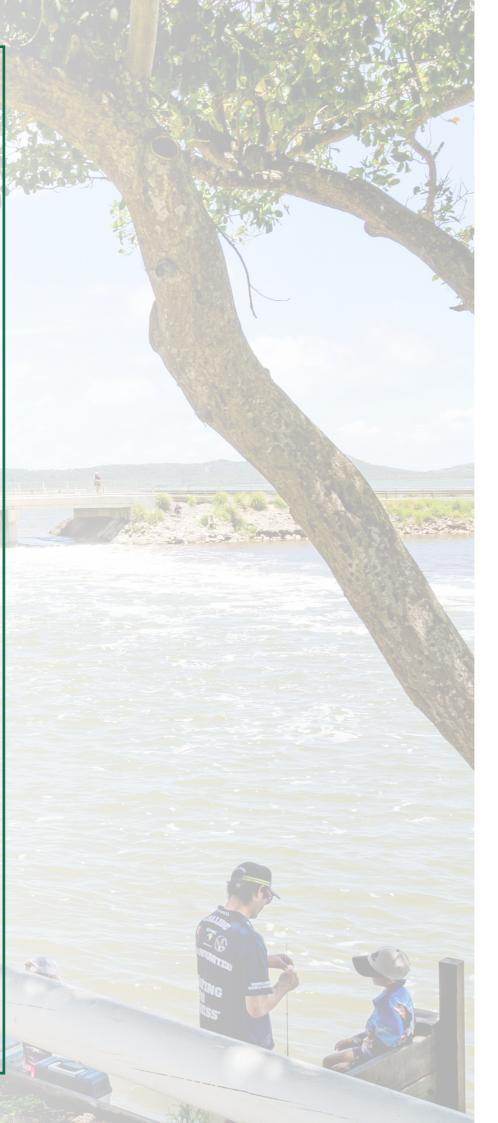


2022

- Causeway Lake Master Plan
 (Place Design Group)
- Environmental Baseline Report (BMT)

AND BEYOND

- Ongoing Community
 Consultation
- Funding Applications
- Detailed Design Dredging
- Detailed Design Landscape
- Economic Evaluation
- Planning & Approvals
- Implementation









placedesigngroup.com

Causeway Lake MASTER PLAN

