City of Ipswich

# Paynes Road Reserve

## Masterplan – summary of community input



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Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul People of the Yugara/Yagara Language Groups, as custodians of the lands and waters we share. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.



# MASTERPLAN

The Paynes Road Reserve Masterplan will facilitate a planned approach in protecting and restoring conservation values while providing a safe and accessible location for nature-based recreation.

The reserve covers 83 hectares of low undulating land at Ebenezer, approximately 15km southwest of Ipswich CBD. Past land uses include grazing, with vegetation regrowth occurring over time.

The Paynes Road Reserve Masterplan will be delivered in stages through the Ti Tree Bioenergy Funding Program. A staged approach will ensure that upgrades allow for a gradual increase in visitation over time, projects are designed appropriately and stages are funded over an appropriate timeframe.

### Revegetation and restoration

Areas of the reserve will be revegetated to meet future habitat requirements for koalas and a variety of wildlife. This includes natural regeneration assisted through weed management.

### Future vision for the day use area

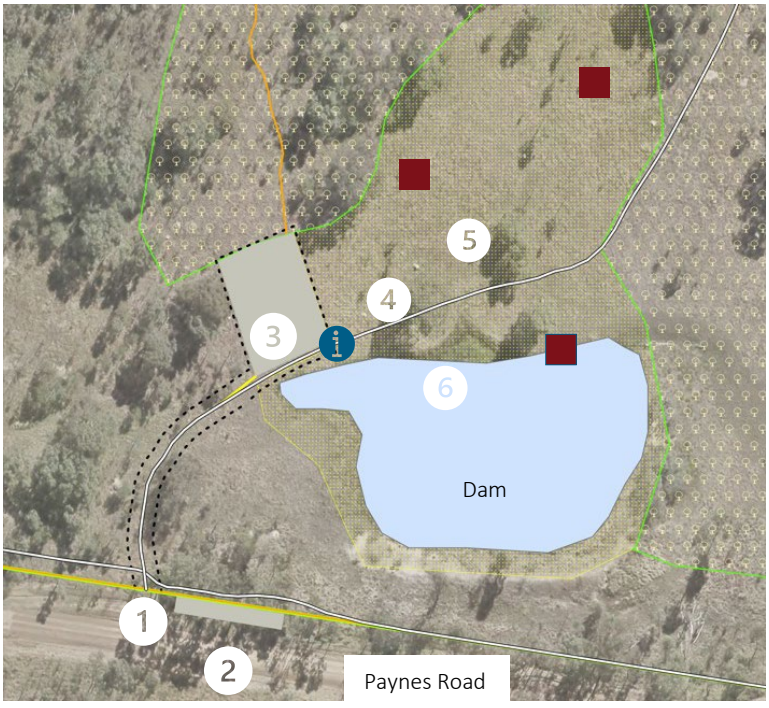
The day use area will be a simple space for spending time before and after enjoying a bushwalk. In the short term it will have a basic carpark, picnic shelters and signage. Medium and long-term embellishments include a bush amphitheatre, landscaping, toilets, bus parking on Paynes Road and a bird hide overlooking the nearby dam.

### Future vision for the wetland area

The eastern dam, or wetland area, will be a feature destination for bushwalkers. In the short term there will be a trail and wayfinding signage. Medium and long-term embellishments include trail rest points, watercourse stepovers and interpretive signage.

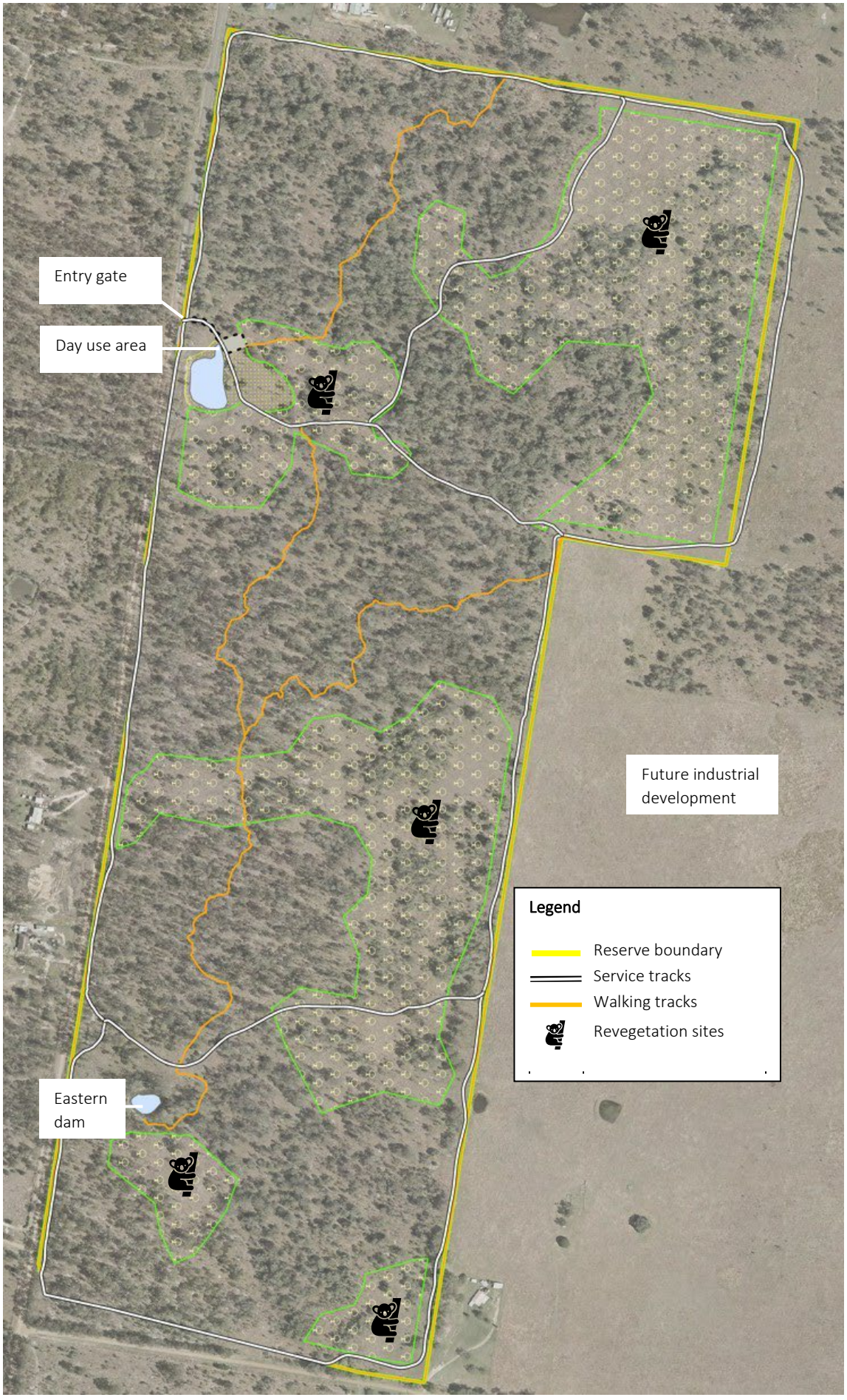
### Paynes Road Reserve Masterplan – day use area

*Locations are indicative only. Infrastructure to be developed in stages and subject to further feasibility and annual Council budget allocation.




**Legend**

1. Entry gate
2. Bus parking
3. Car parking
4. Toilets
5. Sandstone bush amphitheatre
6. Bird hide
- Picnic shelter
- Information signage


Entry gate
Day use area
Future industrial development
Eastern dam
Legend
Reserve boundary
Service tracks
Walking tracks
Revegetation sites

# UPGRADE PHASES

Short term:

- Weed management and assisted natural regeneration to pre-clearing regional ecosystem (ongoing)
- Establishment of public vehicle entry and traffic route, including gate, slip rails, bollards and car park
- Establishment of basic day use area facilities including picnic tables and shelters and interpretive signage
- Establishment of basic brush-cut walking tracks with wayfinding signage
- Establishment of service trails and fuel reduced areas.

Medium term:

- Weed management and assisted natural regeneration to pre-clearing regional ecosystem (ongoing)
- Investigation of a toilet (non-potable water and septic system)
- Basic sandstone block seating area (bush amphitheatre)
- Sandstone block resting/seating points along trails
- Further development of wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Landscaping around the day use area.

Long term:

- Weed management and assisted natural regeneration to pre-clearing regional ecosystem (ongoing)
- Bus parking location on Paynes Road and installation of connecting path
- Installation of a bird hide at the western dam (near day use area)
- Watercourse stepovers at eastern dam.

*Images are indicative only



Example of a sandstone block bush amphitheatre



Example of a picnic shelter



Example of an entry gate

# ENGAGEMENT BACKGROUND

Between 2 February 2026 and 8 March 2026 engagement was undertaken on the Masterplan for a new 83 hectare bushwalking and nature reserve on Paynes Road, Ebenezer.

Comments were captured via an online survey on Shape Your Ipswich, and at a guided site tour. There were also opportunities provided for feedback via hardcopy surveys, email and phone.

There was a total of 146 contributions to the engagement, predominately via the Shape Your Ipswich digital survey and in-person at the site tour.

More information about the engagement including the Community Engagement Report can be found on Shape Your Ipswich at www.shapeyouripswich.com.au/paynes-road-reserve.

# HOW FEEDBACK WAS INCORPORATED

The engagement sought feedback on future improvements to the reserve to allow public access for bushwalking and other nature-based recreation activities, while balancing the conservation and environmental values of the reserve.

The project team were closely involved in the engagement. They attended the site tour to hear feedback first-hand and received the de-identified survey data from Shape Your Ipswich once the engagement closed.

The project team considered community feedback while developing the Masterplan, investigating community ideas against technical and budget considerations, and incorporating various priorities identified through the community engagement process.

### Key changes between the concept and final masterplan:

- Further development of potential day use area facilities, incorporating features deemed priorities in community feedback such as toilets
- Changed the proposed dam lookout to a bird hide, based on community feedback
- Amendments to proposed trails to create bushwalking 'loops', based on community feedback
- Addition of resting points along the walking trails, following feedback on improving accessibility
- Additon of educational signage, to be reflective of community ideas and suggestions
- Development of the area for bus parking on Paynes Road, based on a community idea submitted.

### Key themes from the engagement:

Natural, light touch reserve: The Masterplan has reflected the desire to retain the natural character of the reserve and minimise built infrastructure. Visitor amenities have been kept simple and clustered around the day use area. The day use area is planned for a cleared paddock close to Paynes Road to avoid environmental disturbance. The upgrades are also phased in stages to support a gradual increase in visitation.

Nature-based recreation: The Masterplan provides amenities that support requested low-impact recreational opportunities such as bushwalking, picnics and wildlife observation. Features such as a bird hide overlooking the dam, natural brush-cut tracks and future toilets were all included based on community feedback.

Accessibility considerations: The Masterplan has considered options for increasing accessibility of the reserve for people with disabilities, older adults and families with prams. Rest points will be established at intervals along trails. Track accessibility such as removing trip hazards and track width will be incorporated as much as possible.

Environmental and wildlife protection: The Masterplan notes large areas of this former grazing property suitable for natural regeneration assisted by weed management. Council's goal is to return the natural environment to a pre-clearing state and provide important habitat for significant local species such as koala and *Melaleuca irbyana*.

| THEME | COMMUNITY FEEDBACK | MASTERPLAN RESPONSE |
|---|---|---|
| **Bushwalking tracks** | Strong desire for clearly defined and accessible tracks, and options for short and long trails. | Track paths have been amended to create loops using service trails for more interest. Tracks will be natural brush-cut at first. These will become more defined as hardened earth as visitation increases. |
| **Lookouts, viewing points and resting points** | Ideas including treetop platform, bird hide, resting points on trails, wildlife observation points. | The Masterplan initially had a pontoon at the western dam (near the day use area). This has been amended to a bird hide based on feedback. A resting point will also be established overlooking the eastern dam (wetland) for nature observation. |
| **Environmental value** | Importance of protecting wildlife habitat and avoiding unnecessary disturbance. | The day use area will be placed in a historically cleared area, and track routes have been planned to avoid the removal of trees as much as possible. Consideration is also being given to avoiding impacting the root zones of significant trees and remnant *Melaleuca irbyana*. Large areas of the reserve will have ongoing natural regeneration assisted through weed management. |
| **Wildlife sanctuary** | Keep reserve closed – do not open for public access. | A reserve that is open to the public for basic nature-based recreation will increase the social value and importance of the site, and awareness of the ecological value of the reserve to significant local species. The Masterplan seeks to balance opportunities for visitors with environmental protection. |
| **Signage** | Both educational and clear wayfinding signage was a common request. | Wayfinding directional signage will be placed at the day use area and key trail points. Some interpretive signage will be developed for the day use area, with consideration given to themes and ideas received during community engagement. |
| **Amenities** | Respondents rated the most important amenities as toilets, wayfinding signage and a parking area. The amenities rated least important were barbecues, mown areas and covered areas. | The Masterplan has prioritised the amenities rated as most important for future investment. There were many ideas and suggestions which have been considered against site constraints and intended use of the reserve. Some that have been incorporated into the Masterplan include bus parking and large seating area for school excursions (bush amphitheatre). Drinking water is not possible for the site at this time. |
| **Other activities** | Other reserve uses suggested included horse riding, bicycle activities (mountain biking, BMX jumps) and dog walking. | The Masterplan notes the strong sentiment from the community engagement for minimal impact on the environment. At this stage, these higher-impact activities are not incorporated into the Masterplan. |




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