



CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

GARDWELL

COMMUNITY PARK CONCEPT



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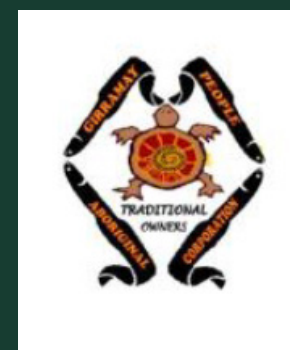
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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

World Trail respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land this project is sited, the Girramay people and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection they have maintained to this unique place for more than 2000 generations.

We accept the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to walking together to build a better future.

World Trail acknowledge that the Cardwell Tropical Mountain Bike Trails and this associated trailhead project sit in the foothills of Attie Creek and the 7 sisters (Elphinstone Range) in the lush, low-lying lands of the Girramay people and will commit to celebrating the wet tropics and continuous culture of the region through design.





CARDWELL COMMUNITY PARK

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

“Ride where our ancestors once walked, Girramay Country”

There is an opportunity to deliver complementary projects alongside the Cardwell Trailhead to enhance shade, amenity, and pedestrian connections. Early investment in tree planting and park improvements will benefit both the Trailhead and the wider community, supporting Cardwell’s identity as a proud town and growing tourist destination. A strategic approach to access, parking, public space activation, and park integration will help accommodate the projected increase in visitation and elevate the appeal of both Cardwell and the Cassowary Coast as a place to visit. The following outlines complementary projects that sit alongside this Community Park Concept Plan Report:

CARDWELL TROPICAL MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS PROJECT

The Cardwell Tropical Mountain Bike Trails Project includes the proposed development of a new 94km, 26 - trail mountain bike network in World Heritage Listed rainforest surrounding Cardwell, on the southern end or the Cassowary Coast. It is, and aims to provide:

- World class network that offers a variety of styles and difficulties for all riders
- Meaningful involvement and recognition of the Girramay People
- Ride in, ride out trails, located within 500m of the town centre and foreshore
- Off-bike cultural experiences and natural attractions in proximity to the Trails and Cardwell
- Community-led project that has been recognised on the national scale

TRAILHEAD DESTINATION MASTERPLAN

The Cardwell Trailhead Concept Report has been prepared to guide the creation of an iconic space in the South Eastern corner of the park. Nestled amongst an existing paperbark grove, this project will :

- Orientate and accentuate the arrival experience into the Cardwell Tropical Mountain Bike Trail network
- Service, support and relay safety and trail information to riders,
- Activate the park through events, enterprise and an expansive, site responsive community space
- Celebrate water/nature play, ecology, biodiversity, connection to and appreciation of Girramay Country.



1 INTRODUCTION

SITE ANALYSIS

CARDWELL AS A DESTINATION

- 2hrs 15mins to Cairns
- 2hrs to Townsville

ANTICIPATED USER GROUPS

- Families and Cardwell community
- Local and interstate MTB riders
- Tourists
- Visitors stopping/passing through
- Event participants and attendees

ROCKINGHAM BAY

CARDWELL JETTY

VICTORIA ST

BOWEN ST

FORESHORE

ST ALBANS ST

BRASENOSE ST

CARDWELL PARK

TRAILHEAD

ONE MILE CREEK

GIRRAMAY COUNTRY

GIRRAMAY COUNTRY

TO TRAILS

CARDWELL COUNTRY CLUB

THE SPA POOL

1 INTRODUCTION

SITE ANALYSIS





UNDEFINED PARK EDGES



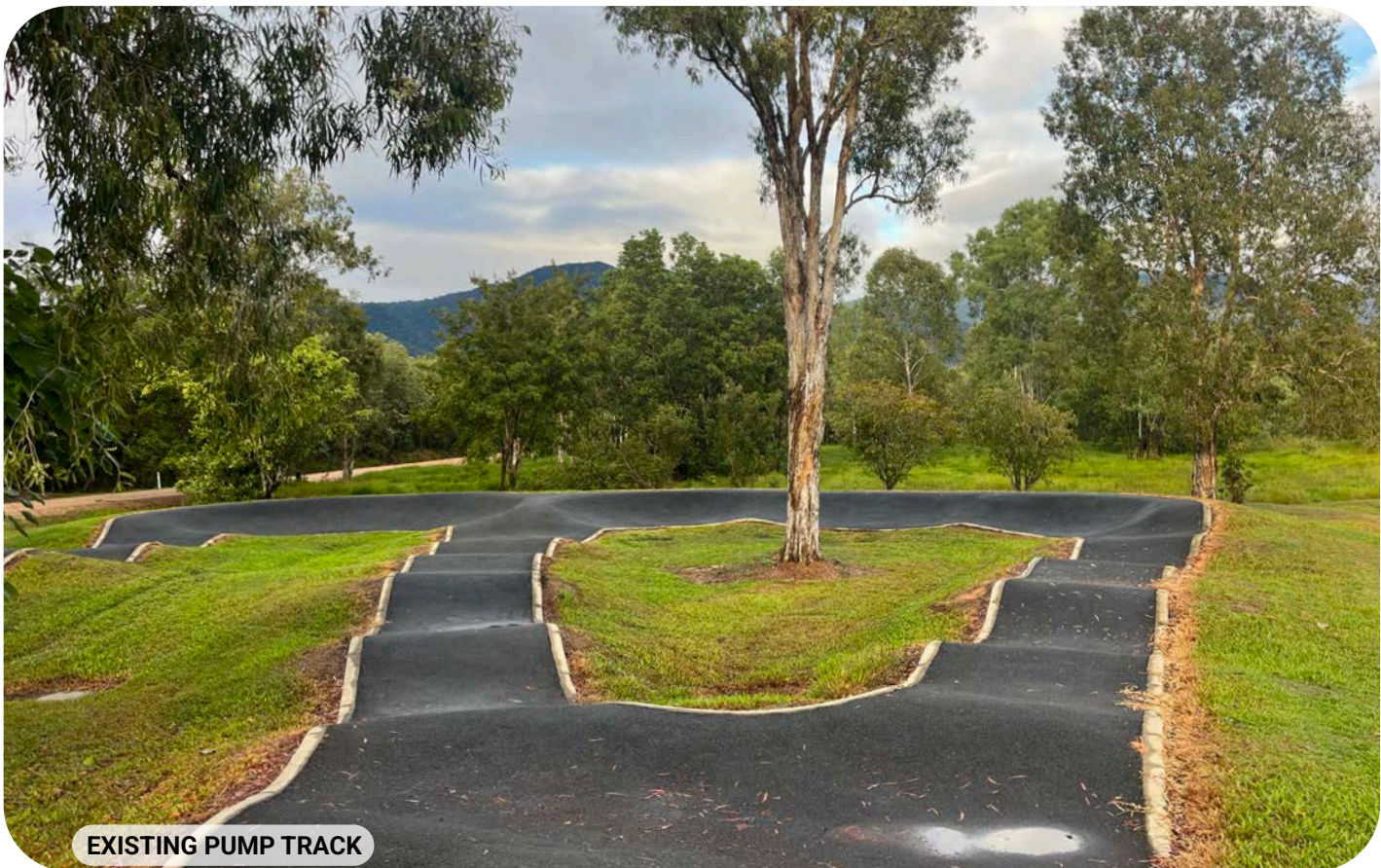
AMENITIES BUILDING



PAPERBARK LANDSCAPE



PARK AERIAL



EXISTING PUMP TRACK



1

INTRODUCTION

OBSERVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

UNDEFINED PARK EDGES:

Blurred boundaries, multiple informal entry points, and ad hoc parking.

TOILET FACILITIES:

Multiple blocks present maintenance and safety concerns.

LACK OF SHADE & AMENITY:

Minimal comfort across the park; strong community desire for natural shade.

POOR SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING:

Limited, outdated signage—new elements must be durable and low-maintenance.

RESTRICTED ACCESS & MOVEMENT:

Introduce a loop path to improve circulation, access, inclusivity and usage. Will also support events

UNDERUTILIZED SPORTS OVAL:

Potential for reprogramming or improved activation. Opportunity to design for events and improve infrastructure and access.

PLAYGROUND ISSUES:

Currently closed or unsafe—requires renewal.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

Improve offerings for teenagers and strengthen links to the pumptrack.

COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL:

Identify opportunities to introduce or support small-scale commercial activity.



1

INTRODUCTION

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF COUNTRY

The values, rights and lore of Country should guide decision-making for the project.

We have drawn from the work undertaken to date by the project team, inputs from the Girringin Aboriginal Corporation, local and state government partners, and ongoing contributions from the Cardwell community. We hope this project will improve the health and wellbeing of Country. To ensure this, we propose working within the following five principles:

INDIGENOUS ECOSYSTEMS SUPPORT

Establish and better understand habitat and fauna specific to this part of Girramay Country through tree planting, ecologies and designing public open space that supports the coexistence of humans and non-humans.

CONNECTION TO WATER

Connect to the bay and waterfront and celebrate and respond to the movement of water across the site. Use design to respond to the inundations and occasional flooding likely in this area of the wet tropics. Provide educational, sensory and play opportunities through introduced water, attracting and connecting people to this place and providing physical and psychological respite from the heat.

CONNECTION TO COUNTRY AND CULTURE

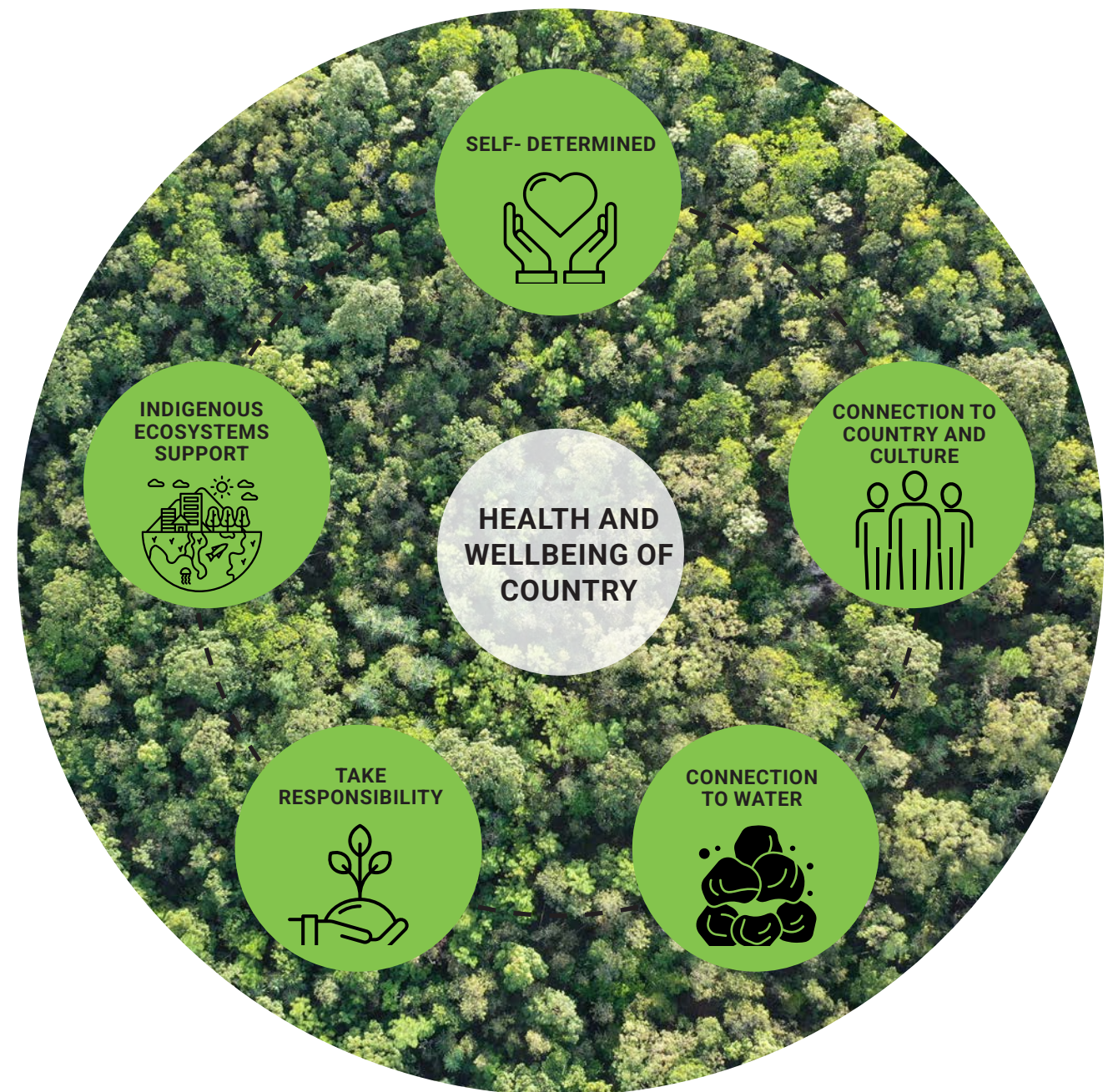
Integrate and reveal the markers, stories, truths and practices of Country through the design, interpretation planting and materials to strengthen connection to Girramay Country and culture and build appreciation for the landscape, Cardwell and the future bike trail network beyond.

SELF-DETERMINED

Ensure that the process of designing and delivering the project respects and is guided by Girramay cultural protocols, decision-making processes and opportunities for leadership and entrepreneurship.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

All involved in the delivery of this public space project must take responsibility to listen, to learn from the past, avoid harm, and design for the wellbeing of future generations—both human and non-human.



1
INTRODUCTION
SITE EXTENTS

COMMUNITY PARK
PRECINCT SITE EXTENTS

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD SITE
'PAPERBARK GROVE'



2

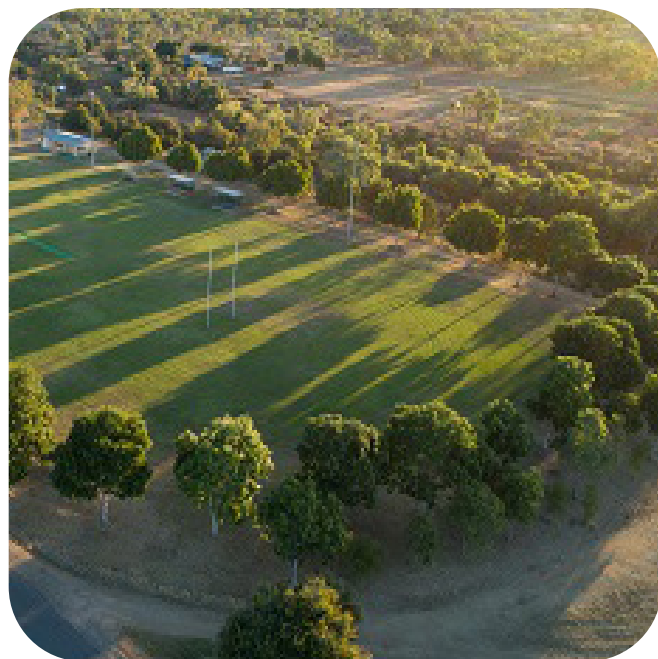
CARDWELL COMMUNITY PARK

DESIGN OBJECTIVES

Created as a tool to guide Cassowary Coast Regional Council's decision making, the following design themes and objectives are central to the development of the Cardwell Community Park Concept and are to be considered in all future site works :

- **PARK CHARACTER AND IDENTITY**
- **CONNECTIVITY AND CARPARKING**
- **SAFETY AND INCLUSIVITY**
- **DURABILITY AND MAINTENANCE**
- **BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**
- **URBAN FOREST AND TREE CANOPY**





CONNECT EXISTING PARK FEATURES, RECREATION AND BUILDINGS THROUGH AN ACCESSIBLE LOOP PATH



CONSIDER POWER, LIGHTING, PARKING + ACCESS WITHIN + AROUND THE SITE TO SUPPORT EVENTS



REUSE SUCCESSFUL ELEMENTS OF EXISTING FURNITURE SELECTION AND SIGNAGE



ADOPT EXISTING MATERIAL PALETTES TO STRENGTHEN LEGIBILITY + SENSE OF PLACE



STRENGTHEN IDENTITY AND CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PARK, CARDWELL, SHOPS AND FORESHORE



CELEBRATE THE CARDWELL TRAIL DESTINATION/ BRAND AND MOUNTAIN BIKING CULTURE



PROTECT EXISTING TREES, CONSIDER MAINTENANCE AND SELECT ROBUST, DURABLE MATERIALS AND PLANTING



FIND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMBEDDED STORYTELLING, GIRRAMAY ART, AND HISTORY



2

CARDWELL COMMUNITY PARK

KEY MOVES DIAGRAM

- PROPOSED LOOP PATH
- FLAME TREE AVENUE
- PERIMETER TREES
- PARKING OPPORTUNITIES
- FUTURE CAFE/ENTERPRISE
- GATED VEHICLE ACCESS (EVENTS)



2

CARDWELL COMMUNITY PARK

PARK PRECEDENT IMAGERY



2

CARDWELL COMMUNITY PARK

CONCEPT PLAN



LEGEND

-  *Brachychiton acerifolius*
-  Illawarra flame tree
-  *Calophyllum inophyllum*
-  Beauty Leaf Tree
-  *Castanospermum australe*
-  Black Bean
-  2m wide coloured concrete path
- 1 Existing skatepark
- 2 Existing cricket nets
- 3 Decommission and remove toilet
- 4 Proposed carparking area
- 5 Use rock boulders/ bollards to dissuade driving into park area.
- 6 Strengthen entry points.
- 7 Refurbish toilets and amenities to support riders (showers, paid washing machine, dryer etc)
- 8 Decommission/ remove playground
- 9 Retain existing trees
- 10 Existing pump track
- 11 Retain existing carpark and explore expansion in future if required
- 12 Retain existing toilets and community facilities. Increase signage.
- 13 Install line-markings to manage parking Prevent vehicle access to the park and design flexible, shaded landscape spaces to support use and amenity.
- 14 Flame tree avenue planting
- 15 Path connections into park
- 16 Seal road and design street parking

2

CARDWELL COMMUNITY PARK

BRASENOSE ST CONCEPT

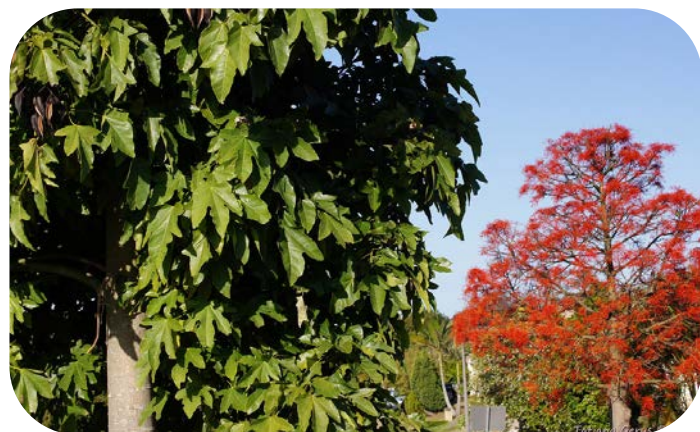
Creating an avenue of flowering or iconic trees will highlight the entrance to the trailhead and the park, enhancing a sense of arrival and wayfinding and contributing an identifiable, seasonal event to the town.

- Acts as a visual and sensory cue helping to orient visitors and create a strong sense of place.
- Provides a memorable threshold experience, symbolising the transition from town to trails.
- Reinforces the park as a civic landmark and focal point within the town.
- A seasonally flowering tree-lined street will create an 'event' and celebrate the history and significance of this species to the Girramay people
- Contributes to micro-climate improvement, biodiversity, and aesthetic value and encourages walking
- Becomes part of the town's shared public memory and identity, making the journey to Cardwell and the future trail network both functional and meaningful.



FLAME TREE
BRACHYCHITON ACERIFOLIUS





PROPOSED TRAILHEAD

FLAME TREE
BRACHYCHITON ACERIFOLIUS
 - APPROX 40-50 TREES
 - APPROX 10 M SPACING

2

CARDWELL COMMUNITY PARK

PLANTING PALETTE

PROPOSED SPECIES LIST FOR ANY FUTURE TREE PLANTING OR LANDSCAPE WORKS WITHIN THE PARK*

TREES

Brachychiton acerifolius
Calophyllum inophyllum
Castanospermum australe
Melaleuca viridiflora
Buckinghamia celsissima
Cupaniopsis anacardioides
Waterhousea floribunda
Stenocarpus sinatus
Maniltoa grandiflora lenticellata
Elaeocarpus eumundi

Melaleuca quinquenervia
Banksia Robur
Casuarina glauca
Casuarina cunninghamiana

Podocarpus elatus
Licuala ramsayi
Melicope elleryana

SHRUBS, FERNS AND GRASSES

Lomandra Hystrix
Dianella atraxis
Dianella caerulea
Liriope muscari
Crinum pedunculatum
Alpinia caerulea
Cyathea cooperi
Blechnum cartilagineum
Gahnia aspera

Illawarra flame tree
Wirri / Beauty Leaf Tree
Mirrayn* / Black Bean
 Broad-leaf tea-tree
 Ivory Curl Tree
 Beach Tuckeroo
 Weeping lilly pilly
 Fire Wheel tree
 Silk Handkerchief Tree
 Eumundi Quandong

Broad-leaved paper bark
 Swamp Banksia
 Swamp oak
 River she oak

Plum pine
 Fan Palm
 Corkwood

Green Mat Rush
 Northern flax lily
 Blue flax lily
 Evergreen giant
 Crinum lily
 Native Ginger
 Australian tree fern
 Soft water fern
 Rough saw edge



* Collaboration and review with Giringun is recommended.



CARDWELL COMMUNITY PARK

NEXT STEPS

- Seek Council endorsement of the Community Park Masterplan.
- Secure funding for development of the Masterplan, Council priorities and consultation.
- Commission a comprehensive feature survey, geotechnical and engineering analysis.
- Commence contract growing tree species for future planting.
- Engage services of Landscape Architect to coordinate, develop and document the approved design. Identify any seperable, early works packages.
- Establish opportunities for Girramay/Girrigun involvement .
- Further engage with Community and Stakeholders
- Secure funding for Construction - explore staging if necessary.
- Commence Construction



