

Community Feedback Summary

Enhancements at Peace Park, Spearwood
April - May 2023



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1. Background

The City of Cockburn has prepared a draft design to improve the amenity of Peace Park, a small (17,000m²) public open space in Spearwood designed to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

The draft design is guided by a project budget of \$150,000 and feedback the City collected from nearby residents and several key stakeholders between November 2022 and January 2023. Key feedback themes included:

- Lighting and safety – The park feels dark and feels unsafe
- Park furniture – Consider installing a gazebo, picnic setting, or park bench
- Landscaping – Improve the footpath and consider traditional Japanese garden features
- Signage, artwork, and sculptures – Strengthen the story and connection to Hiroshima.

The draft design includes the following features:

- A gazebo, picnic setting, and park bench
- Repairs and extensions to the existing footpath
- Murals and feature paving along sections of the footpath
- Three interpretive signs
- New Ginkgo biloba trees along Spearwood Avenue
- General tidy-up and debris removal.

Before finalising the design, the City invited the community and key stakeholder to provide feedback on the draft. This document summarises the feedback process and the comments received.

2. Process

The draft design was open for comment between 13 April and 3 May 2023.

Participants could have their say in the following ways:

- Online feedback form
- Phone
- Email
- In-person discussions.

The City distributed the following communications to raise awareness about the draft design and to encourage input:

- Letters and a copy of the draft design dropped to properties nearby Peace Park
- Signage at the park
- Enewsletter to:
 - Comment on Cockburn subscribers who live in Spearwood
 - People who provided feedback earlier in the process.
- Updates on the City's Comment on Cockburn website
- Direct correspondence with:
 - City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch
 - Birdlife WA
 - Japanese Consulate in Perth
 - Spearwood Progress Association
 - Mayors for Peace organisation.

3. Feedback Summary

The Comment on Cockburn page was visited 147 times during the comment period and the City received 13 submissions. Key findings include:

- Most respondents (64%) are somewhat or very satisfied with the draft design.

“All good ideas for the budget you are working with.”

“The improvements you suggest are excellent. Particularly weed removal. Hopefully people will stop leaving junk there.”

- Two respondents are somewhat dissatisfied with the design and a further two feel neutral.

“Nothing interesting about the design.”

“I would prefer if the design further helped increase foot and bicycle traffic. I would prefer if the council increased the proportion of locally endemic understory vegetation that will support bird life...”

- While respondents reported positive feedback on all of the proposed features, the most liked aspects are the planting, weeding, and improvements to tree health (four responses).

“Improving the health and maintaining the pine trees.”

“I appreciate that the impact of the design on the existing trees will be fairly minimal.”

- Respondents proposed minor changes to the design, the most common being to improve lighting (four responses) and reconsider the shelter (two responses).

“Improve lighting as it's very dark and dingy.”

“I am not convinced that the shelter, being so close to the noisy road will be well utilised, however if it must go ahead, I would suggest that it's design actually reflects in some way, Japanese culture.”

4. Participant Responses

Responses are shown as received and therefore some spelling and grammatical errors may exist.

4.1 Feedback form responses

Q1. Which aspects of the draft design do you like?
I like the focus on improving public access and environmental benefits. I like the investment in paths
Improving the Gardens
Seating and clean-up
Planting of more trees is always a good move and removal of weeds.
I like the lot !
The new pathway, seating and Gazebo
Improving the health and maintaining the pine trees.
All additional features
I like the addition of the shelter, benches and new trees.
The trees and the path repairs, waste clean up
I appreciate that the impact of the design on the existing trees will be fairly minimal.

Q2. What, if any, changes would you make to the draft design while keeping within the budget?
I would add additional areas to lock and store bicycles. This doesn't have to be expensive, but it should be functional and include rain protections.
I would highly encourage adding some play equipment for the children in the area.
I love the Gazebo but my fear is it will be a meeting place after dark for roaming youths and undesirable activities (such as drug use) if not flooded with lighting of a night.
Improve lighting as it's very dark and dingy
Needs lighting along the pathway, esp now in the winter it is not an inviting space.
A method to keep cars/trucks out of the area who regularly dump rubbish along the railway line and tear up the space.
No changes
On the Adela side of the park , instead of a new path I wish you could put in a small car park so people don't park on the road waiting to pick up their kids from the bus stop or if they are visiting the park. It can get congested when you turn around the corner and cars are parked along there .
A bird waterer
Add some form of lighting as it is very dark along the current footpath at night.

No shelter as this will attract lingering and more rubbish. I would recommend to clean up the path next to the railway. It's used as a dump behind the rainwater drainage area sump. It's a nice connecting walk away from the main road and could use an upgrade/ big clean up.

I am not convinced that the shelter, being so close to the noisy road will be well utilised, however if it must go ahead, I would suggest that it's design actually reflects in some way, Japanese culture. Perhaps a modern take on a traditional pagoda. This will help inform the public of the history and significance of the park. As it is, only the sign on the eastern boundary indicates such. My idea for the pavement is as follows: rather than have a painted mural, I would love to see reference to the beautiful story of Sadako and the One Thousand Paper Cranes. If you are not familiar with this, it is the story of a little girl who whilst hospitalised with radiation poisoning following Hiroshima, decided to make one thousand origami cranes. This was in accordance with a traditional belief that the gods would grant good health to those who did so. Sadly, Sadako died before this task was completed, so her classmates folded the remaining 356 birds, and a thousand paper cranes were buried with her. Now there is a tradition of children from all over the world to send paper cranes to Japan by August 6th to commemorate that fateful day. They are placed beneath a statue of Sadako. I can imagine the image of a little paper crane pressed one thousand times into the cement, or perhaps little metal or ceramic tiles imbedded into it. The picnic shelter could have a small sculptural element with some cranes hanging as well. These are just ideas, but relatively inexpensive to execute, and could really highlight the park's original purpose...to remind us all of the need for Peace.

Q3. On a scale of 1 to 5, how satisfied are you with the draft design, given the Park's purpose and the budget available for the project?		Count
1 - Very dissatisfied		0
2 - Somewhat dissatisfied		2
3 - Neutral		2
4 - Somewhat satisfied		5
5 - Very satisfied		2
<i>Total</i>		<i>11</i>

Q.4 Please let us know why

'Somewhat dissatisfied' responses

I am extremely happy that the council is investing in parks in the Spearwood region. I feel this is deeply needed and will be highly valuable. There is a great need to increase vegetation cover, including bushes and trees in Spearwood. I would prefer if the design further helped increase foot and bicycle traffic. I would prefer if the council increased the proportion of locally endemic understory

vegetation that will support bird life. Also, there is no ethical reason to plant non-native new vegetation, when this space is needed for local native trees and bushes that support black cockatoos and other bird life. Please, please, please replace the proposed ginkos with locally native species including bankisa sessiles, Banksia attenuate, Eucalyptus gomphocephala

As mentioned above, the path next to the railway really needs an upgrade and massive clean up as people have dumped everything from TVs, washing machines to prams and other electrical devices. I would keep the park as natural as possible. Me and my dog enjoy this quiet area for our daily morning walk and a shelter would only attract people lingering and littering. Would really appreciate your consideration.

'Neutral' responses

Nothing interesting about the design

I am not sure the reason for a picnic area, considering subdued natural light due to the trees and so close to a very busy main road I do not think it will be utilised. Something like this maybe would be better over in Beale Park.

'Somewhat satisfied' responses

Please make sure there is adequate lightings or some deterrent to stop gatherings of undesirable behaviour in the park. I don't want to see another park become a nightmare for residents. Undesirables do not like lights and would make it very unattractive to be there if an evening. Solar lighting throughout the park with some protected (so they cannot be smashed) major flood lights over seating or gazebo areas.

All good ideas for the budget you are working with.

I think overall the changes look good. The only thing it is missing is lighting.

The design is relatively sympathetic to the park, but could easily be just another stock standard 'improvement'. Unappealing and in that fairly isolated location, open to vandalism. I hope that a beautiful, reverent structure may be more respected. Lighting around any structure built must be considered to help avoid vandalism, as well as bollards to prevent vehicles driving in the park itself. (This has occurred on several occasions.)

'Very satisfied' responses

I like the park, often walk there in winter. The improvements you suggest are excellent. Particularly weed removal. Hopefully people will stop leaving junk there.

A nice improvement.

Q5. Any further comments

Thank you

Could include info re the bird/wildlife life in the area: I have seen, Black cockatoos, Kestrels, Kites, Rainbow Honey eaters (summer), wagtails, fairy wrens, swamp hens, kookaburras and there are a couple of resident Quendas in the area.

I live around the corner so to speak and security n keeping it a safe park is my priority.

no all good

To me, the environment and cultural importance are very high.

Taking better care of Beale Park esp the Tuarts a long term roosting site for the endangered Carnabys. Many are now roosting at Phoenix Primary.

Take even better environmental care of Manning Park.

I am a teacher at the Lance Holt School in Fremantle. I run a Bush School which sees us take a class of children out into the bush to learn and play, each Friday for most of the year. During the late Spring and Summer months, the risk of snakes in the bush is too high so we tend to do our outdoor learning in parks where there are wild spaces. For thirteen years we have used Peace Park. It is a much loved space as there's room to run and play, and despite being so close to traffic, it still feels like a forest. By far the most favourite activity to do at Peace Park is cubby building. (You may have seen the evidence!) It's for this reason that I ask that after the upgrades have been made, the council be mindful of the importance of natural wild spaces for children's development. Fallen branches and sticks and other loose parts are crucial to this kind of creative play. There is a wealth of research to support the health and intellectual benefits of this, and all over the world there are brilliant children's play spaces that promote wild place learning. I would be happy to come to chat to anyone about this, or provide further information if required. Many thanks if you have read this far! I know it's wordy but I feel that this could be an opportunity to create something very special in our neighbourhood. Warm regards,

Q6. How far do you live from Peace Park?		Count
Between 100m - 500m		6
More than 500m		5
<i>Total</i>		<i>11</i>

4.2 Email responses

One of the concerns made was that the park felt dark and spooky so it would be good to have some solar path lighting put into the park, so people can feel safer walking through at night. Also a light on a timer under the pergola structure would be useful.

Also will there be anything within the park such as a memorial plaque or information panels describing what happened in Hiroshima or why it is called the 'Peace Park'.

The extra trees along Spearwood Ave will be good along with improving signage.

Sorry for the delay. I have looked through the documents and it all looks good. I agree with Ecoscape in that the removal of dead wood should not impact on the black-cockatoos. The Carnaby's are not known to roost at Peace Park, but rather across Spearwood Ave in Beale Park. Removal of dead wood should not impact on the quality of foraging habitat remaining.

I can't see that any of the other features being added to the park – seats, shelter, pathways – should have any impact on the black-cockatoo habitat on site. I had a good look at Peace Park last year, when I dropped into Beale Park to assess what affect the proposed tree removal at that site would have on the roosting Carnaby's. The proposed developments intended to make it more people friendly and reflective should enhance the overall atmosphere of the area nicely.

The only other comments I would make is that there is always room to add in more habitat if that was an option, however it depends on the final desired purpose and landscaping of the park. Adding in a bit of ground cover or shrubs in the more open areas (where they are not too shaded) could add a bit more vegetation structure and diversity, and hence encourage more birdlife and other wildlife in the area, especially with the drainage sump adjacent. This could enhance the area as a place of quiet reflection and contemplation, however, as mentioned earlier, depends on the final desired visions for the park.

Finally, I feel obliged to note that BirdLife would always recommend local native species be used in new plantings to support local ecosystems. However, given the context of the park as a commemoration of Hiroshima, we understand the use of Gingko biloba in the area given its importance in Japanese culture.

Overall I think the design has done well in balancing the purpose of the park as a commemoration to Hiroshima with the importance of the area as a foraging area for black-cockatoos, all on a relatively small budget. I hope this feedback on behalf

of BirdLife is useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding my feedback or any queries relating to black-cockatoos in the area.

5. Officer Notes

City officers have reviewed the feedback and provided the following comments.

Feedback theme		Officer notes
Lighting		Given the density of the tree canopy and the lack of sunlight in the area, solar lighting will not be suitable in this location. The City has investigated hardwired bollard lighting, which will be out of this project's budget. However, the City may consider this as a future project.
Native trees		The City normally prioritises native and waterwise trees in its parks. Ginkgo biloba has been selected for the Peace Park design, as these trees are used to commemorate Hiroshima Day and planting ceremonies. The trees are intrinsically linked to the park's purpose and history. Further, a number of Agonix flexuosa will be planted to provide future habitat for Black Cockatoos.
Shelter design		A custom-designed 'pagoda' style shelter will not be possible within the budget.
Car park		This is beyond the budget scope, however the City will install compacted limestone on the park's verge near Adela Place.
Playground		A playground is located nearby (within 300m) at Beale Park.
Bike storage		This is beyond the project's budget.
Ideas for interpretative signage	Native wildlife	This can be considered.
	History of Hiroshima and Peace Park	This can be considered.
	The story of Sodako Sasaki	This can be considered.

6. Next Steps

Thank you for sharing your feedback on the draft design. The City has considered the feedback and is now finalising the design and engaging contractors to deliver the works.

The City will commence landscaping and footpath repairs in late May 2023, followed by pruning dead vegetation, planting, artwork installation, and shelter construction. The City expects to complete the works by the end of July 2023.

For more information, please contact the City at 08 9411 3444 or customer@cockburn.wa.gov.au.

7. Appendix

Appendix A – Environmental Consultant's Report

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30 March 2023

Our ref: 4819-23 Peace Park Black Cockatoo Habitat Assessment rev1.docx

Reviewed: LS 29.03.2023

Craig Martindale
Project Manager
Landscape & Coastal Projects
City of Cockburn

Dear Craig

PEACE PARK BLACK COCKATOO HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Context

Ecoscape was engaged by the City of Cockburn (the City) to undertake an assessment of Black Cockatoo habitat at Peace Park, Spearwood (the park) and comment on the proposed dead wood pruning works with respect to the potential impact on Black Cockatoo habitat. The assessment has referred to the 2022 Arbor Logic report *Assessment of Identified Trees at Peace Park, Spearwood*, which provides information on Black Cockatoo foraging habitat within the park (Arbor Logic 2022), and the Commonwealth referral guidelines for the assessment of conservation-listed Black Cockatoo species habitat values (DAWE 2022).

Method

A review was undertaken of the Arbor Logic report which details the tree species within the park and comments on those species that have been identified within the Commonwealth referral guidelines as important foraging species for the Black Cockatoo (DAWE 2022; DEC 2011). Peace Park is an area of planted introduced trees in a parkland setting (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Peace Park representative landform (Arbor Logic 2022)

The Commonwealth guideline foraging quality scoring tool was applied to the park area under canopy (1.66 ha, Map 1) to determine its potential value for Black Cockatoo species.

Results and Discussion

Black Cockatoo habitat mapping (Map 1), based on information provided in the Arbor Logic report, indicates that the park does not exhibit values associated with Black Cockatoo breeding habitat, as determined by the Commonwealth guidelines (DAWE 2022). There are no large hollow bearing eucalypt trees with a stem diameter of 500 mm or greater, identified by the Commonwealth guidelines as potential breeding habitat.

The area of the park under tree canopy exhibits values of foraging habitat for Black Cockatoo in that the introduced pine species, identified by Arbor Logic, have all been identified as important foraging species for Black Cockatoo (DEC 2011). The Canary Island Pine, Monterey Pine and White Cedar are all known to have some level of importance for foraging habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo (Arbor Logic 2022; DEC 2011).

The application of the Commonwealth guidelines foraging quality scoring tool provided a resulting score of 10 for Carnaby's Cockatoo and is therefore considered very high quality. The presence of identified foraging tree species and the extent (>1 ha) are the main factors contributing to this score with no subtractions reducing the functionality of the habitat.

The City of Cockburn is proposing to prune and remove dead branches and vegetation to ensure public safety and improve the overall health of the tree canopy. Dead trees and dead wood do not provide any value as foraging habitat in that no new food resources are being generated for the Black Cockatoo species and as such Ecoscape is of the opinion that dead wood pruning and/or removal of dead trees will not impact on the existing habitat values for the Black Cockatoo species that currently exist in the park.

Yours sincerely

Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd



Bruce Turner
Principal Zoologist

REFERENCES

- Arbor Logic 2022, *Preliminary Assessment of Trees; Peace Park, Spearwood*.
Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment 2022, *Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's Cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black-cockatoo*.
Department of Environment and Conservation 2011, *Plants used by Carnaby's Black Cockatoo*. Available from: https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/threatened-species/carnabys/Plants_used_by_Carnabys_black_cockatoo_20110415.pdf.



LEGEND

 Black Cockatoo forage habitat

DATASOURCES:
SOURCE DATA: BLACK COCKATOO FORAGE HABITAT (ECOSCAPE 2023)
AERIAL: ESRI: SAGEMAP (2023)
SERVICE LAYERS: SOURCE: ESRI, MAXAR, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

ecoscape

BLACK COCKATOO FORAGE HABITAT PEACE PARK BLACK COCKATOO ASSESSMENT



COORDINATE SYSTEM: GDA 1984 MGA ZONE 50
PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
DATUM: GDA 1984
UNITS: METERS

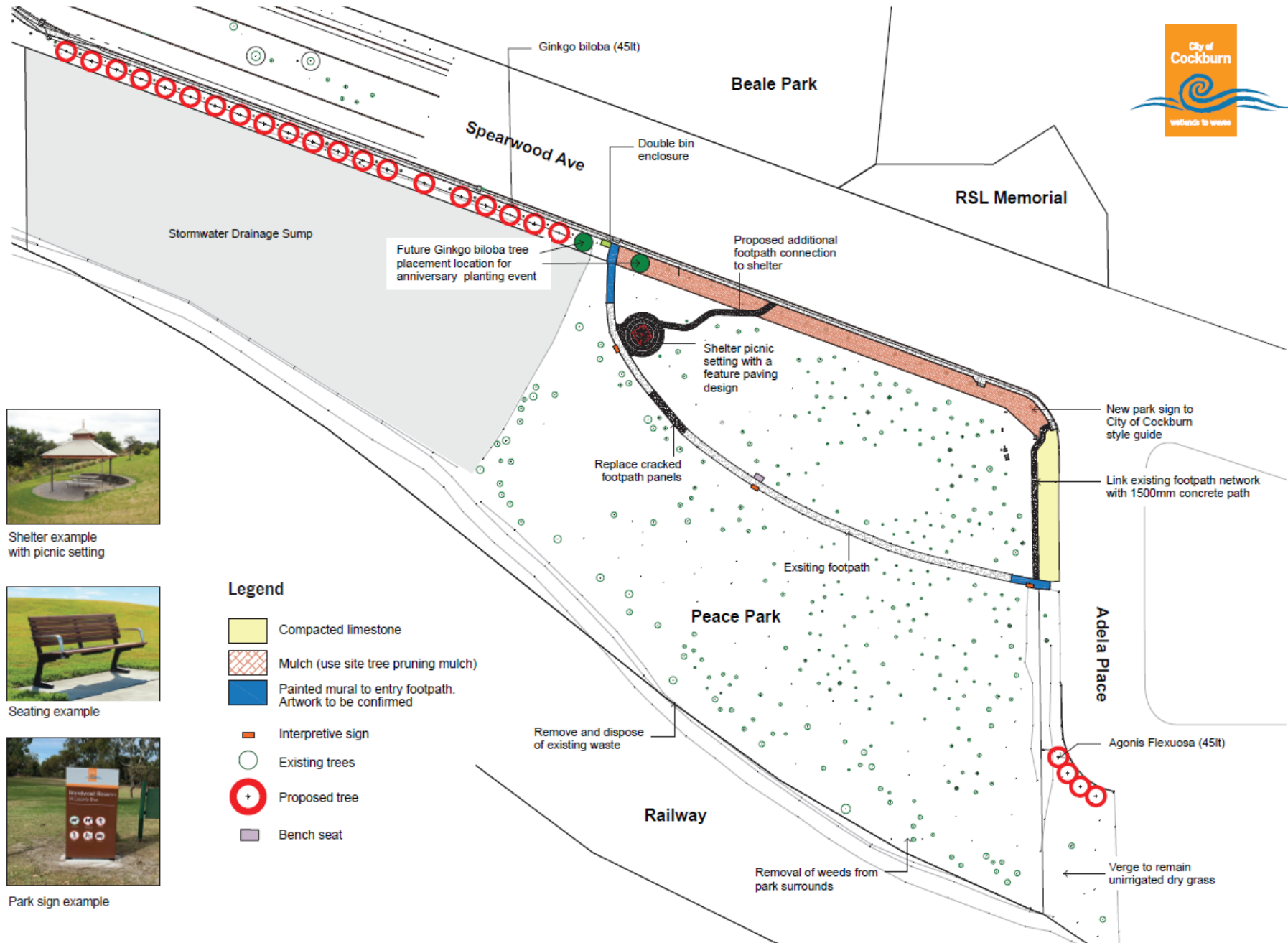


PROJECT NO: 4619-23

REV	AUTHOR	APPROVED	DATE
00	NW	BT	26/03/2023

**MAP
01**

Appendix B – Draft Design



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