

## **SUBMISSION RESPONSES**

### **Submission dated 04.05.2025**

The project Manager would be happy to meet the resident and Ed Crothers BVSC's Recreation Assets Officer to discuss and assess the tree in question. We have recently engaged an Arborist to conduct tree trimming and canopy reduction works at the Market Street end of the Boardwalk similar to what may be required here.

### **Submission dated 17.04.2025**

The upgrade design proposes an increase in width to 2.5m, as part of the design development, Loci Design Collective prepared a Precedent Assessment comparing nine (9) coastal walks across NSW including Aslings Beach boardwalk (Eden), Waverley coast walk (Sydney), Uranga boardwalk (Uranga), Mill Bay boardwalk (Narooma), Red Bluff boardwalk (Lake Macquarie), Terrigal boardwalk (Terrigal), Saltwater Creek boardwalk (Central Coast), Tathra headland walk (Tathra) and Newcastle memorial walk (Newcastle). The Precedent Assessment took into consideration the boardwalk widths which ranged from 1.8m to 2.5m. The Precedent Assessment found that boardwalks that were 2.5m wide were more comfortable to walk, particularly for those with dogs, children, a pram, a wheelchair, mobility scooter or infirm walkers. Notably, 2.5m allows for a wheelchair to turn around on the boardwalk.

Lighting was looked at as part of the Concept design and Design Development however, during discussions with the Department of Fisheries, it was advised that lighting has negative impacts on the surrounding nocturnal fauna and marine life and is not supported. Additionally, it was felt that the boardwalk and foreshore path were predominately a natural experience in an area with very low passive surveillance (unlike other parts of the Merimbula Lake), and therefore night use should not be encouraged. Concerns were also raised by asset management and maintenance regarding lighting in a remote area and corrosive environment. For these reasons it was advised that lighting should be limited to both entries and the carpark at the eastern entry upgrade only.

### **Submission dated 12.05.2025**

While Council staff agree with your observation, it is difficult to get an accurate gauge on visitor increase and the predictive model provides what we understand to be a conservative estimate that we can report on. Once the upgrade is complete Council will be looking to capture more user information as this allows staff to understand focus areas for town teams, ranger etc. Increasing the width of the Boardwalk to 2.5m wide, upgrading the pathways, undertaking revegetation and weed management in the area following the upgrade has been shown to reduce the 'off track' use in other areas.

### **Dogs**

Environmental educational signage and targeted dog on leash signage are currently being developed for these areas as part of the upgrade works to try and help with these issues. However targeted enforcement and local community education would significantly reinforce this message if/when Council staff have the resources to conduct.

Environmental educational signage is currently being developed for these areas to educate the community and visitors of the importance of these areas to the natural systems of the lake and surrounding landscape.

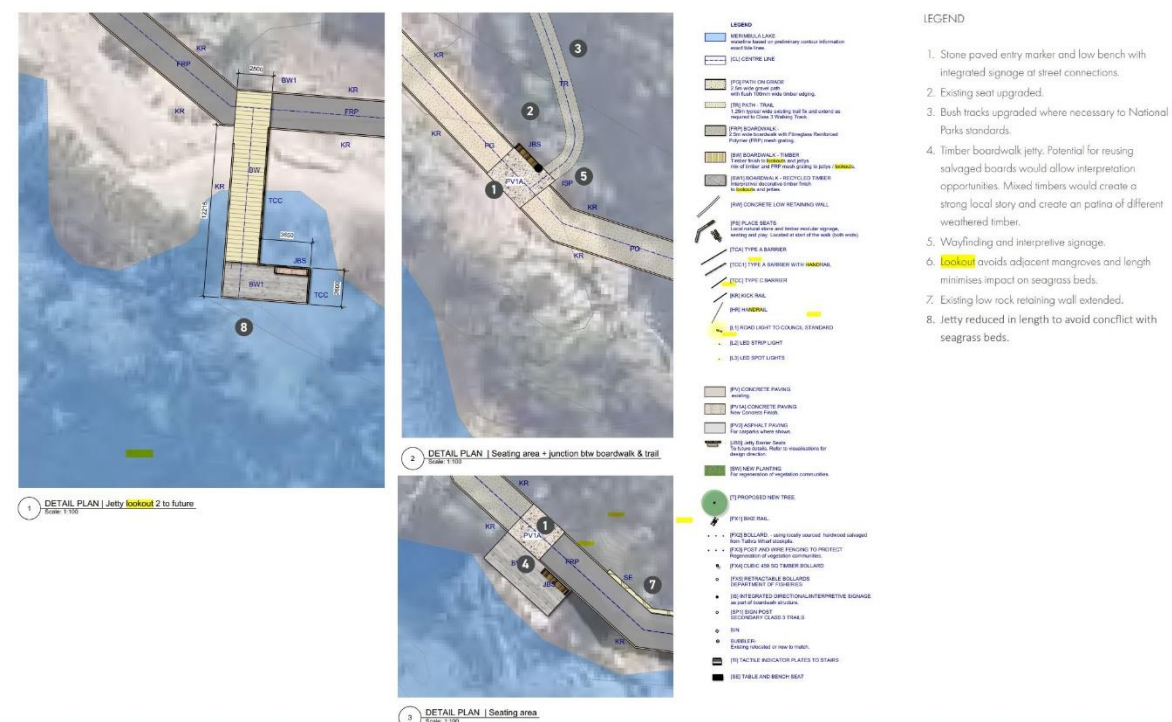
## Weed control

The project funding grants are very specific to upgrade construction works and budgets are very tight. In saying this our Environmental team works hard to secure grant funding to target priority areas and this project area has been identified. Weed management is taking place along the Boardwalk and a targeted revegetation and weed management program will coincide with the completion of construction. The project team are also working closely with Council's environmental team and DPI Fisheries to develop an ongoing management plan and revegetation program for the protection of Key Fish Habitat including saltmarsh and other marine vegetation around the Boardwalk. This will allow Council to secure the Environmental Offset \$\$ that are required to allow the project to go ahead and that would otherwise be required to be paid into a national trust for future use, into onsite protecting the local environment for up to 10 years.

### General Arrangement 05 - Proposed new lookout

The design team identified this site because of the amount of disturbance and use through the mangroves in this area by users already. While not critical to the upgrade works, this was seen as an opportunity to allow another interaction point and different viewpoint over the water's edge. If it is believed this will encourage antisocial behaviour in the area the risk may outweigh the benefit.

Detail Plans 03 (JETTY 02 AND OTHERS)



### **Closing unnecessary shortcuts with post and wire strand fencing and re-vegetating**

Agreed Consultation is required. The fencing and closing of some trails are proposed only in the areas where significant vegetation and aboriginal heritage artefacts are being impacted currently. The trail connection upgrades and any works outside of the current Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit do not form part of this current development and require future funding and undertaking of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report before any works can be designed and constructed.

### **Is FRP the best material for this setting?**

The original Concept Plan proposed the replacement of the Boardwalk structure with timber. This was not supported by DPI Fisheries because of the impact of shade over vegetation. Mesh must be used to gain approval of the upgrade works and achieve this requirement. FRP is the only other viable economic option for marine environments and there has been a lot of development in recent years around material stability and the resin compounds used to ensure UV stability of the products as the question of Microplastic risk was also asked by Council staff to DPI Fisheries. FRP mesh is lightweight and easy to construct similar to timber, with a considerable reduction in maintenance of requirements for the life of the structure with up 40 year warranty on products. The resin used is cures similar to concrete and although some colour may fade the product strength and bonding increases over time.

### **Oyster industry plastic waste**

Environmental educational signage is currently being developed and we are trying to get a strong emphasis on caring for and protecting the environment.