



### **Waterworks Reserve Master Plan**

Endorsed by Hobart City Council – 29 April 2024.

Cover photo: Waterworks Reserve with kunanyi/Mt Wellington in the background.

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Waterworks Reserve is a popular and significant park set within the ancient and spectacular landscape of the foothills of kunanyi/Mt Wellington. It possesses rich and diverse values that make it one of Hobart's most loved and valued bushland reserves. The picturesque, parkland landscape and scenic reservoirs allow visitors to enjoy and connect with Country, nature, and history, and its contemporary use as part of the Hobart Mountain Water Supply System.

For decades the Waterworks Reserve has been a popular destination for the people of Greater Hobart, with more than 30,000 people visiting the reserve every year to walk, ride, picnic, barbecue, or just sit and enjoy nature.

The reserve infrastructure has evolved over decades without a plan to meet the reserve's popularity.

This master plan has been prepared to guide the City of Hobart's management, asset replacement and future capital works in the Waterworks Reserve while allowing for its core purpose to store and distribute Hobart's drinking water.

Key issues to be addressed have been identified in Section 5. These include safer and more accessible facilities, improved

social gathering areas (picnic facilities/ shelters), improved tracks, trails and nature play, and better resolved traffic circulation and parking.

Section 6 presents the primary vision and principles that provide the foundation and shared view for the Waterworks Reserve's future management.

The main recommendations are displayed in ten plans presented in Figures 9-19.

This master plan has been informed by the City of Hobart 2018 Community Vision and broader strategic planning documents (Section 1), a diverse range of identified reserve values (Section 3) and results of community engagement (Section 4) that tell us people deeply value the reserve for its quiet ambience, seclusion, nature-based recreational experiences and connection to the broader kunanyi/Mt Wellington track network and landscape.

### **VISION**

Waterworks Reserve shall be a peaceful bushland retreat that provides seclusion and natural experiences. A place for the community and families to gather and celebrate immersed in nature and beauty. A place to enjoy, explore and connect with the mountain. It shall be a place to connect and commune with nature, Country and its more recent history as part of the Hobart Mountain Water Supply System.



## INTRODUCTION

The Waterworks Reserve is a popular and significant Hobart bushland and recreational reserve set within the ancient and spectacular landscape of the foothills of kunanyi/ Mt Wellington that today forms part of Tasmania's oldest functioning drinking water supply system.

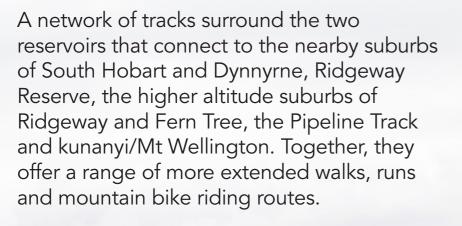
Prior to British invasion and colonisation in 1803, the Muwinina/Palawa people thrived on this Country for more than 40,000 years. They were strongly connected to kunanyi/ Mt Wellington, the rivulets and timtumili minanya/River Derwent.

In 1861, work started on the construction of Hobart's Mountain Water Supply System (MWSS) in the upper reaches of the Sandy Bay Rivulet. Its purpose was to provide drinking water collected from kunanyi/ Mt Wellington to the people of Hobart. It was completed in 1910. Due to it being a functioning system in close proximity to the city, its heritage value and bushland context, it is unique among other Australian water supply systems and for these reasons listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

This popular reserve sits within the City of Hobart's broader Ridgeway Reserve at the base of an over 20 kilometre corridor that forms Hobart's Mountain Water Supply System. The recreational corridor carrying the water pipeline is commonly known as the Pipeline Track.

The Waterworks Reserve is a linear park set in the Sandy Bay Rivulet valley. The area that is the focus of this master plan includes the approximate 32 hectares surrounding the reservoirs managed by the City of Hobart. It does not focus on the central 12.8 hectare TasWater land titles that include the upper and lower water reservoirs and associated infrastructure.





The reserve is a significant City of Hobart asset. Its infrastructure has evolved over the past 65 years without a plan to meet the reserve's popularity as a visitor destination with irrigated lawns, road and track network, a number of car parks, playground, 12 established picnic sites with barbecues

(two covered bookable sites) and two separate toilet buildings. The reserve was initially managed by the City of Hobart's water supply field staff based at the Waterworks and then bushland operational teams. The early park-based staff used their ingenuity and pooled their expertise and resources to build the facilities for visitors over time.

With the reserve infrastructure aging a master plan is needed to strategically guide the reserve's future development and

maintenance while allowing for its original purpose as a key part of Hobart's functioning drinking water supply.

This master plan has been informed by the values of the reserve as well as the community's understanding and use of the park. It is a 10-20 year guide that will inform asset replacement, future capital works and the ongoing management of the reserve.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Waterworks Reserve Master Plan aligns strongly with the City of Hobart's Community Vision, five year strategic plan and annual plan.

The community vision defines what people love and value about Hobart and how they want the city to grow (City of Hobart 2018). The importance of natural spaces and green linkages that connect to parks and reserves is expressed clearly in the vision. The vision's eight pillars guide strategic thinking about Hobart by looking at the important parts of city life now and in the future. Four of these are particularly relevant to this master plan.

### PILLAR 1

### **SENSE OF PLACE**

We are a city of unique beauty, environment, heritage and people, built on a shared sense of ownership, pride and wonder. This spirit of place has been shaped by Tasmanian Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years and continues to be shaped by all who have called Hobart home. It is developed jointly by community, private enterprise and government, valuing and enhancing our Hobart identity.

# WATERWORKS RESERVE MASTER PLAN STRATEGICALLY ALIGNS WITH THE CITY OF HOBART CAPITAL CITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2023

<b>Pillar 1:</b> Sense of Place participation		Hobart's cityscape reflects the heritage, culture and natural environment that makes it special.
<b>Pillar 2:</b> Community inclusion, participation and belonging Aboriginal people	Outcome 2.1:	Hobart is a place that recognises and celebrates Tasmanian history and culture, working together towards shared goals.
<b>Pillar 6:</b> Natural environment preserved	Outcome 6.1:	The natural environment is part of the city and biodiversity is conserved, secure and flourishing.
	Outcome 6.5:	Hobart's bushland, parks and reserves are places for sport, recreation and play.
	Strategy 6.5.4:	Develop and enhance the network of walking, cycling, mountain biking and other recreational tracks and trails throughout the city's open space network.

### PILLAR 2

# COMMUNITY INCLUSION PARTICIPATION AND BELONGING

We are an island capital city that is socially inclusive and coherently connected, whose people are informed, safe, happy, healthy and resilient.

### PILLAR 5

### **MOVEMENT AND CONNECTIVITY**

We are a city where everyone has effective, safe, healthy and environmentally-friendly ways to move and connect, with people, information and goods, and to and through spaces and the natural environment. We are able to maintain a pace of life that allows



us to fulfil our needs such as work, study, business, socialising, recreation, accessing services, shopping, entertainment and spending time with loved ones.

### PILLAR 6

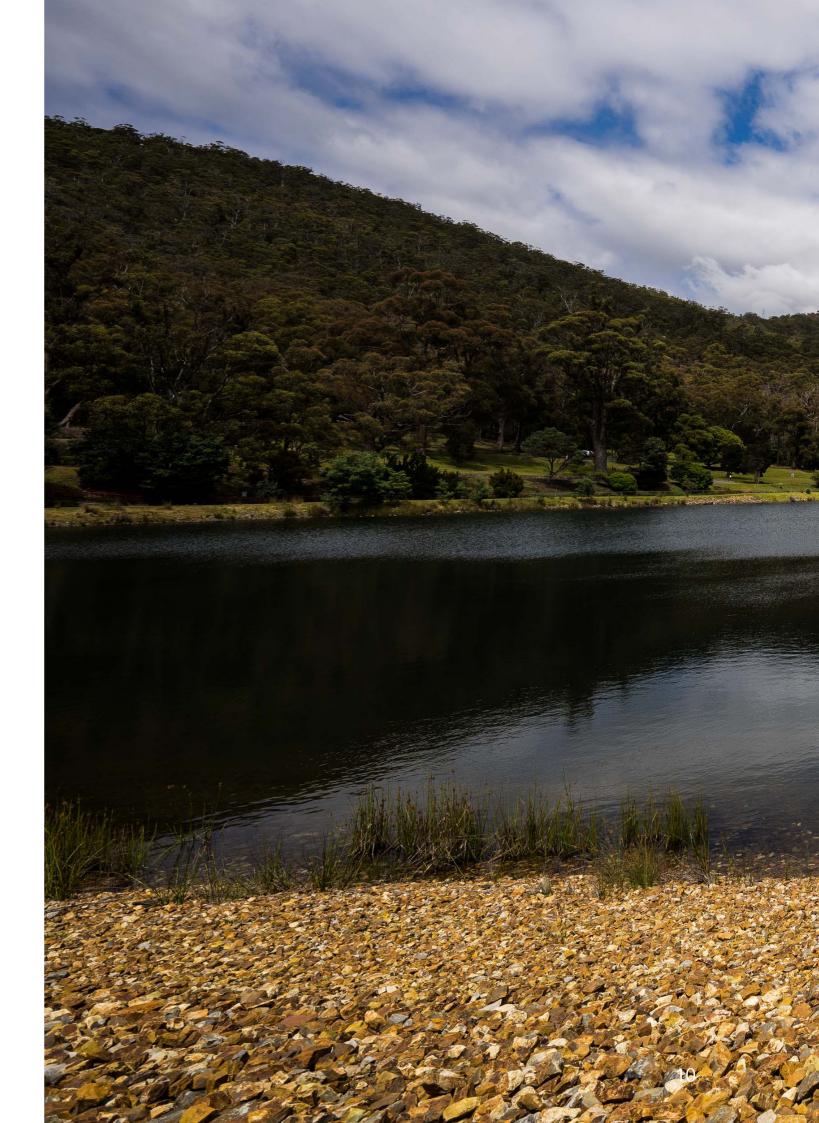
### **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

We are a city whose people see ourselves as part of a beautiful and unique natural environment, from the mountain to the river, which embraces us and shapes our identity. We are proud custodians and advocates, ensuring resources are appreciated rather than wasted, supporting biodiverse ecosystems in honour of the past, current and future generations.

# CITY OF HOBART ANNUAL PLAN 2022-2023

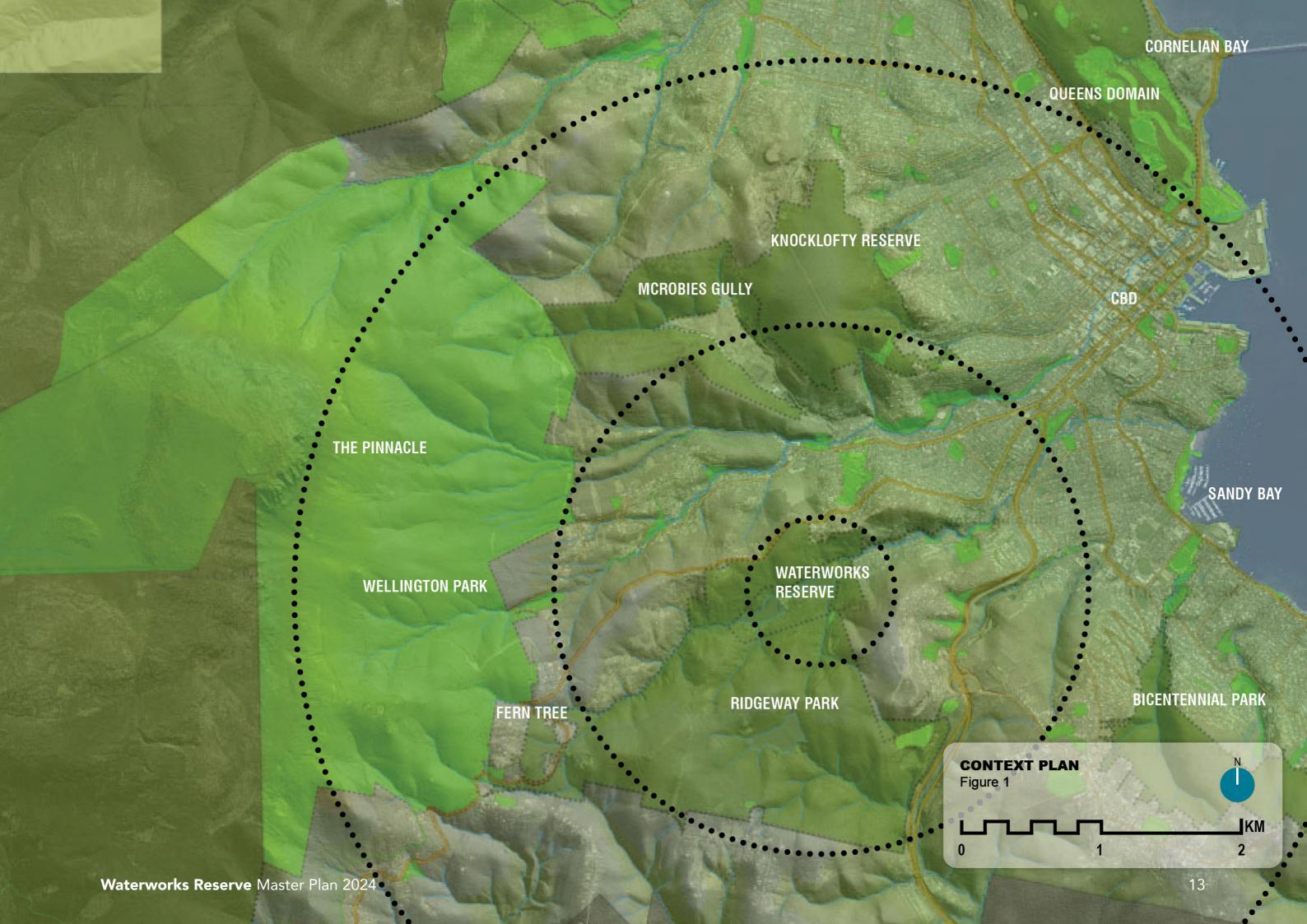
Each annual plan sets out the strategic directions, major actions and initiatives that guide the priorities of the City of Hobart for each annual 12 month period.

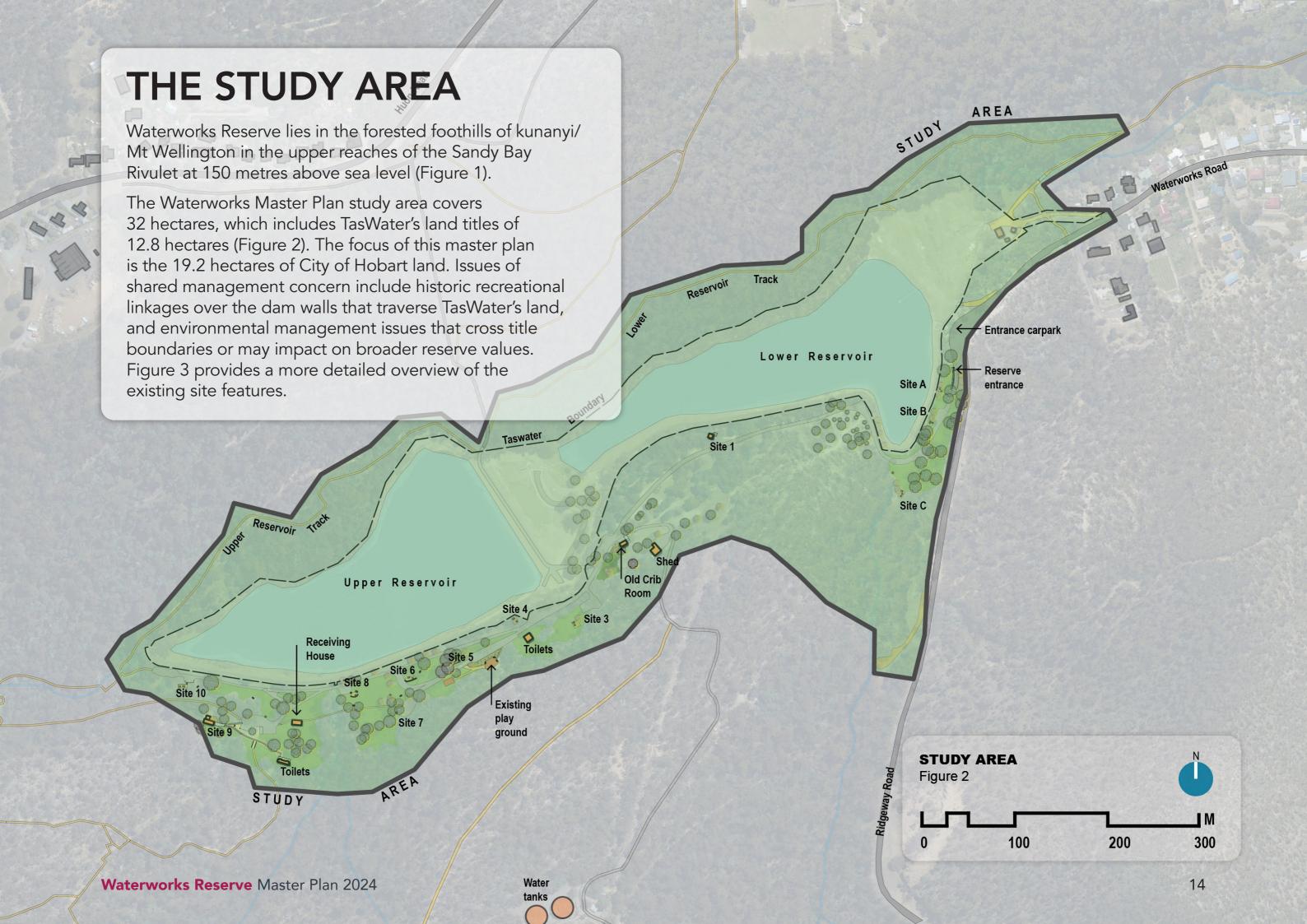
A major action identified in the Annual Plan 2022-2023 is "to prepare for community consultation, a Waterworks Reserve Master Plan to guide its future management and development".

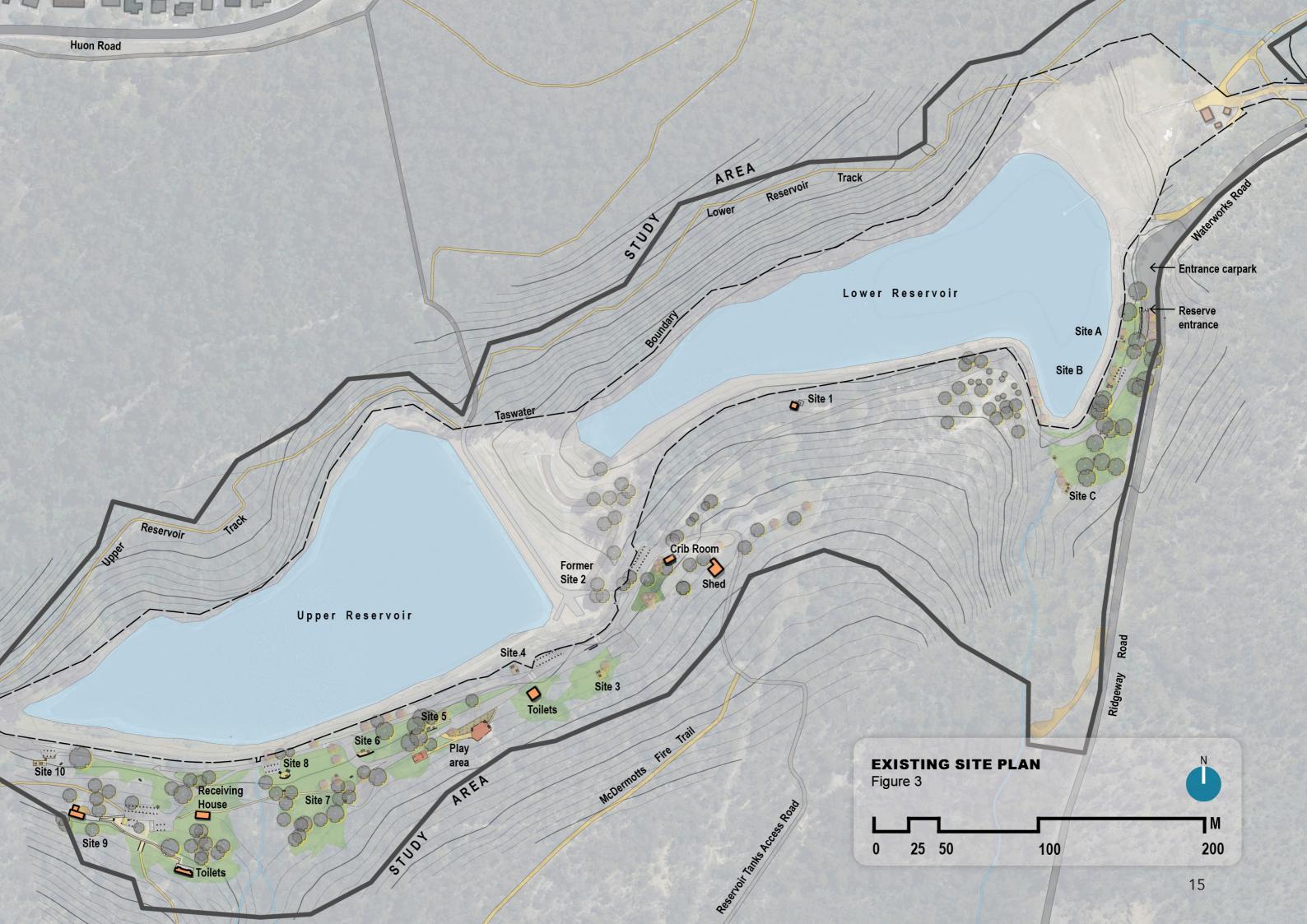












### **IN NATURE**

The diversity of the native vegetation communities and large trees attracts a large range of birds, native marsupials and insects.



## **VALUES**

Waterworks Reserve possesses rich and diverse values that make it one of Hobart's most loved and valued reserves. The mix of a picturesque, treed, parkland landscape merging with bushland and the two reservoirs allows visitors to enjoy and connect with Country, nature, and its history as part of the Hobart Mountain Water Supply System.

### **NATURAL VALUES**

Waterworks Reserve sits within the broader Ridgeway Reserve, which connects to Wellington Park, the Mountain Water Supply System and the Pipeline Track through a contiguous swathe of native vegetation extending down the valley to South Hobart.

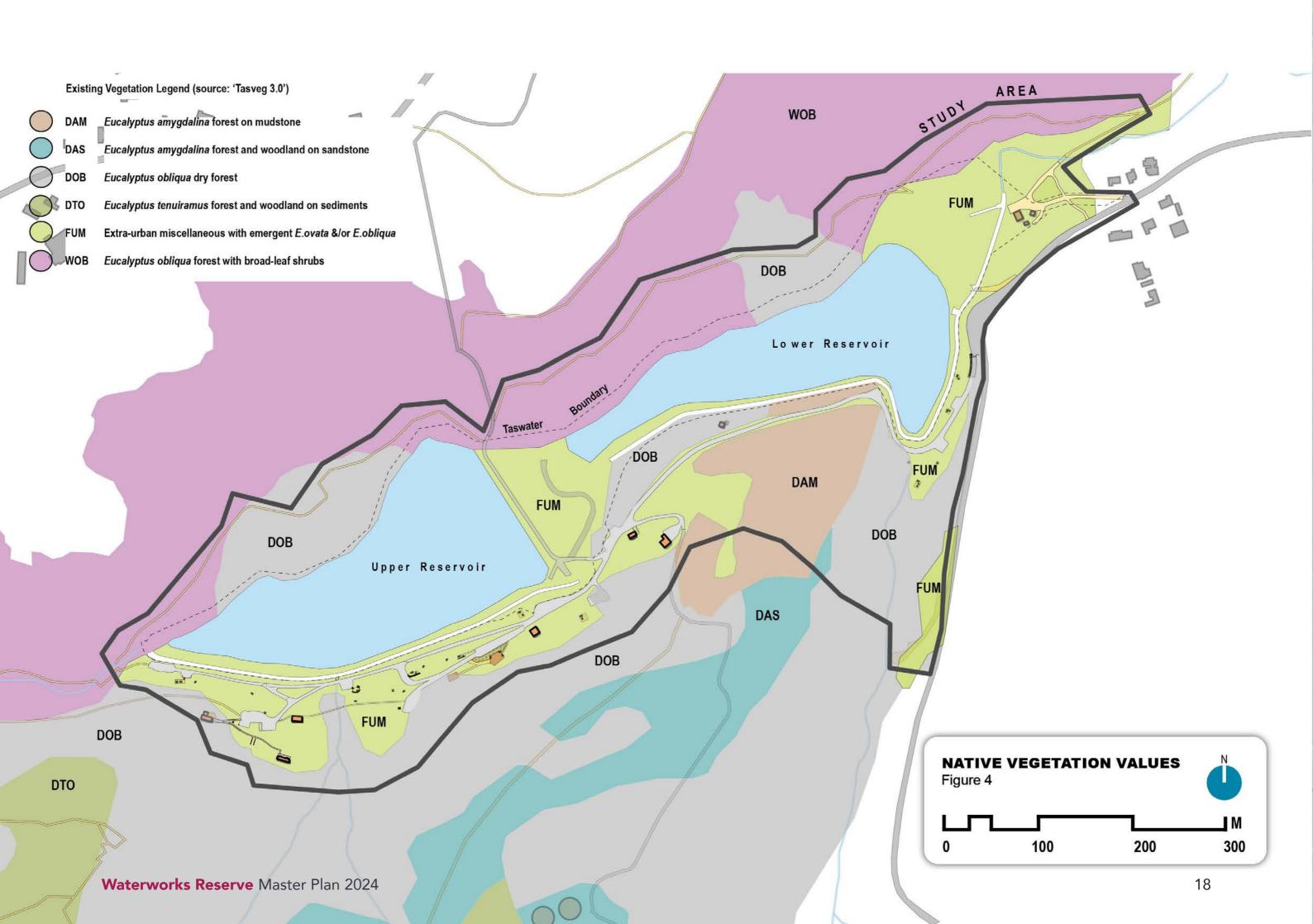
A mix of geologies extends through the reserve with Permian siltstone and fossiliferous mudstones surrounding the Lower Reservoir and Triassic sandstone the Upper Reservoir.

Much of the vegetation within the master plan study area has been extensively modified with sealed roads and car parks, barbecues and shelters, toilets, maintenance buildings and lawns. Bushland areas have been heavily disturbed by numerous quarries and excavations for buildings constructed as part of the development of the reservoirs. The character of the vegetation varies from

being highly modified with remnant mature trees through to disturbance induced regrowth to areas of more natural looking and intact vegetation. The disturbances associated with the reservoirs has influenced the character of the vegetation and created opportunities for introduced weeds. The parkland area has been extensively planted out with a mixture of native and non-native trees and shrubs.

A range of natural values assessments prepared over the past three decades has informed management planning and actions. The most recent was a vegetation condition assessment undertaken in 2019 by North Barker Ecosystem Services for the visitor zone on the southern side of the reservoirs (substantially overlapping the master plan study area). Six plant communities were identified and mapped, reflecting the history of development but also slope, aspect and geology (Figure 4). The dominant community is *Eucalyptus obliqua* dry forest (DOB), which





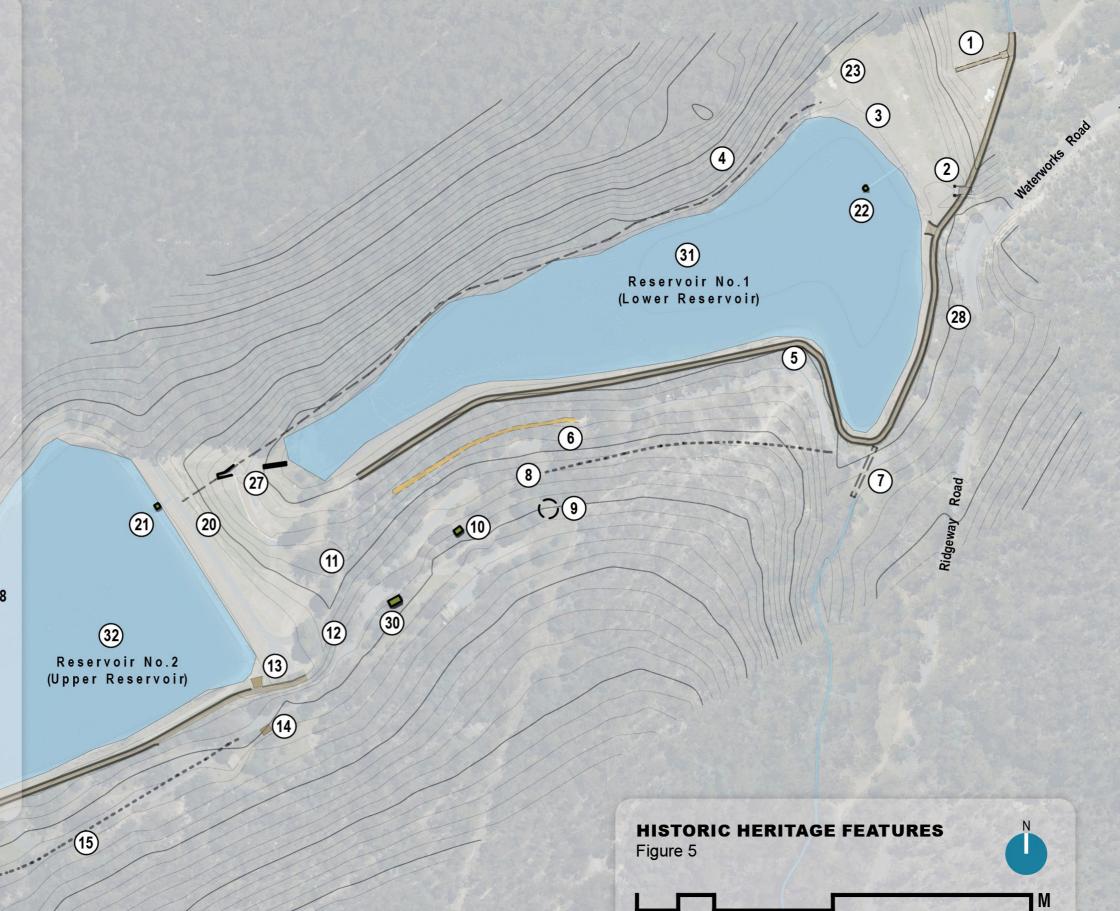
#### KEY

- 1 Lower Reservoir outlet structures c.1895
- 2 Commemorative Date Stone and bridge over storm channel c.1867 rebuilt 1895 and 1967
- 3 Lower Reservoir dam c.1867 rebuilt 1895
- 4 Northern bank pipe alignment c.1895
- 5 Storm channel c.1860 partially rebuilt c.1895
- 6 Bush track c.1861
- 7 Culvert at Ridgeway Creek c.1867
- 8 Southern bank pipeline alignment c.1866
- 9 Caretakers House site c.1890's
- 10 Pump House building c.1950's
- 11 Drainage culvert c.1895
- 12 Bridge over storm channel c.1895 rebuilt 1967
- 13 Storm channel c.1895
- 14 Office building foundations c.1880
- 15 Southern bank pipeline alignment c.1861
- 16 Regan's Gully storm channel intersection c.1886
- 17 Receiving House c.1861
- 18 Bush track c.1861
- 19 Sandy Bay Rivulet Trash rack c.1895
- 20 Upper Reservoir dam c.1895
- 21 The Valve House for Reservoir No. 2 c.1888
- 22 Reservoir No.1 Valve House c.1861
- 23 Reservoir Keeper's Cottage Site c.1875
- 24 Regans Gully Bridge c.+/-1860
- 25 Concrete Pipe Stands c. early 20th Century
- 26 Dry Stone Walls in Regans Gully (date unknown)
- 27 Upper Reservoir Outlet Sandstone Structures c.1888
- 28 Reserve Entrance Gates & Sandstone Walling
- 29 The Pipe-head Well
- 30 Old Crib Room (+/-c.1970)
- 31 Reservoir No. 1
- 32 Reservoir No. 2

#### References:

- Small S. and Douglas R. (1998)

- 'Waterworks Draft Master Plan and Management Review'
- Futurepast Heritage Consultants (2012)
- Hobart Mountain Water Supply System Conservation Management



25 50

100

Waterworks Reserve Master Plan 2024

17

26)

29

(18)

200

broad range of birds, native marsupials and insects.

No recent professional surveys of fauna have occurred but assessments will be undertaken to inform the implementation of this plan. Citizen scientists also contribute fauna and flora observations through iNaturalist or other platforms. Well known naturalists have observed a steady decline in the diversity of bird species and numbers over 22 years of visiting the reserve and collecting species data (personal communication Knowler 2022). Bird species such as dusky robins, black headed honeyeaters and strong billed honeyeaters have all but disappeared. An increase in the number of smaller native marsupials and nesting ground birds has been observed more recently and is thought to be related to the City of Hobart's feral cat control program undertaken in the area during 2020/21 (personal communication Knowler, 2022).

Over many years the combined actions of the Ridgeway Bushcare group and Waterworks Valley Landcare to remove weeds from Ridgeway and the lower section of Waterworks Reserve has had a valuable impact on improving native biodiversity values and vegetation condition. However, there remains healthy and expanding populations of Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*)

and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) surrounding the western bank of the Upper Reservoir that need removal to prevent expansion into high value bushland.

Ongoing management measures are also needed to exclude feral cats from the reserve, with the successful action taken to remove cats in 2020 allowing smaller marsupials such and eastern barred bandicoots to recolonise the Waterworks Reserve.

### **HERITAGE VALUES**

### Aboriginal values

Waterworks Reserve's contemporary cultural values and its significance to Tasmanian Aboriginal people will be woven into the implementation of this master plan. Tasmanian Aboriginal people have been involved in the preparation of this plan. It is intended to bring Country alive in the reserve as a place for healing the devastating impact of colonisation on the Muwinina people, the Traditional Custodians of the land in Hobart.

Tasmanian Aboriginal people, also known as Palawa people, represent the southernmost, oldest continuous culture in the world. Prior to colonisation, in 1803, there were nine known Aboriginal nations with close to 50 family groups living across Tasmania.

They have cared for the land upon which Hobart was built for more than 40 000 years. Aboriginal people were a sovereign people in this Country. This sovereignty was never ceded.

Hobart is now known by many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people as nipaluna (Nibberloonne). This place was home to the Muwinina people of the South-East Nation. The Muwinina people thrived on this Country, and were strongly connected to important places such as kunanyi/Mt Wellington, the rivulets, the valleys and timtumili minanya/ River Derwent. The riverbanks were used as meeting places for ceremonies, storytelling, song and dance. The women were renowned divers, collecting abalone, oysters, mussels and other shellfish. The men hunted kangaroo, possum and other marsupials on the land, crafted tools and made bark canoes to travel to offshore islands to harvest mutton birds and seals during summer and autumn.

It was from this place that, in 1832, the Aboriginal survivors of the Tasmanian frontier wars were taken to be imprisoned on Wybalenna, Flinders Island. The majority never returned to their homelands.

Appreciation and understanding of this broad and ancient cultural connection and relationship to Country is interwoven into the story of the small study area that is the focus of the Waterworks Reserve Master Plan.

Aboriginal heritage site assessments are an essential part of determining the locations of heritage sites. An Aboriginal Heritage Register search of records has been undertaken and reported that currently there are no recorded sites in the study area, but a few sites have been identified nearby. It is intended that further assessments will be undertaken prior to progressing the implementation of the master plan and the results referred to Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. Development proposals will be amended if required.

A previous Aboriginal sites survey of the broader Ridgeway Reserve was undertaken in 1998 (McConnell et al 1998). The survey identified four Aboriginal heritage sites. The low number of sites was attributed to the high level of disturbance of the landscape from construction of reservoirs and associated infrastructure and the high vegetative cover. All sites are outside of the study area. Some of these sites were further investigated in early 2022 through an Aboriginal site assessment undertaken as part of Pipeline Track improvements around the Gentle Annie Falls track (Gondwana Heritage Solutions 2022).



### Historic heritage values

Waterworks Reserve forms one part of the broader Mountain Water Supply System (MWSS), which is a highly significant cultural heritage complex. It is also historically significant due to it being a functional system that is largely intact, its construction techniques and bushland setting. It is unique among Australian water supply systems and for these reasons it is listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register and in the Historic Heritage Code of the Hobart Interim Planning Scheme 2015.

The reserve's heritage features are the result of engineering works carried out for the most part between 1861 and 1895, and completed in 1910. The reserve contains material from all phases of development of the MWSS. It was built to store and distribute water collected on kunanyi/Mt Wellington to the people of Hobart. Since then waters from the River Derwent now also enter the system from the Lake Fenton pipeline and the waters are also used by residents outside of Hobart. In 2023 the Mountain Water Supply System contributed 15% of Greater Hobart's water supply. Figure 5 shows the locations of 32 historic heritage features recorded in the Waterworks Reserve.

Over the past 40 years a range of reports



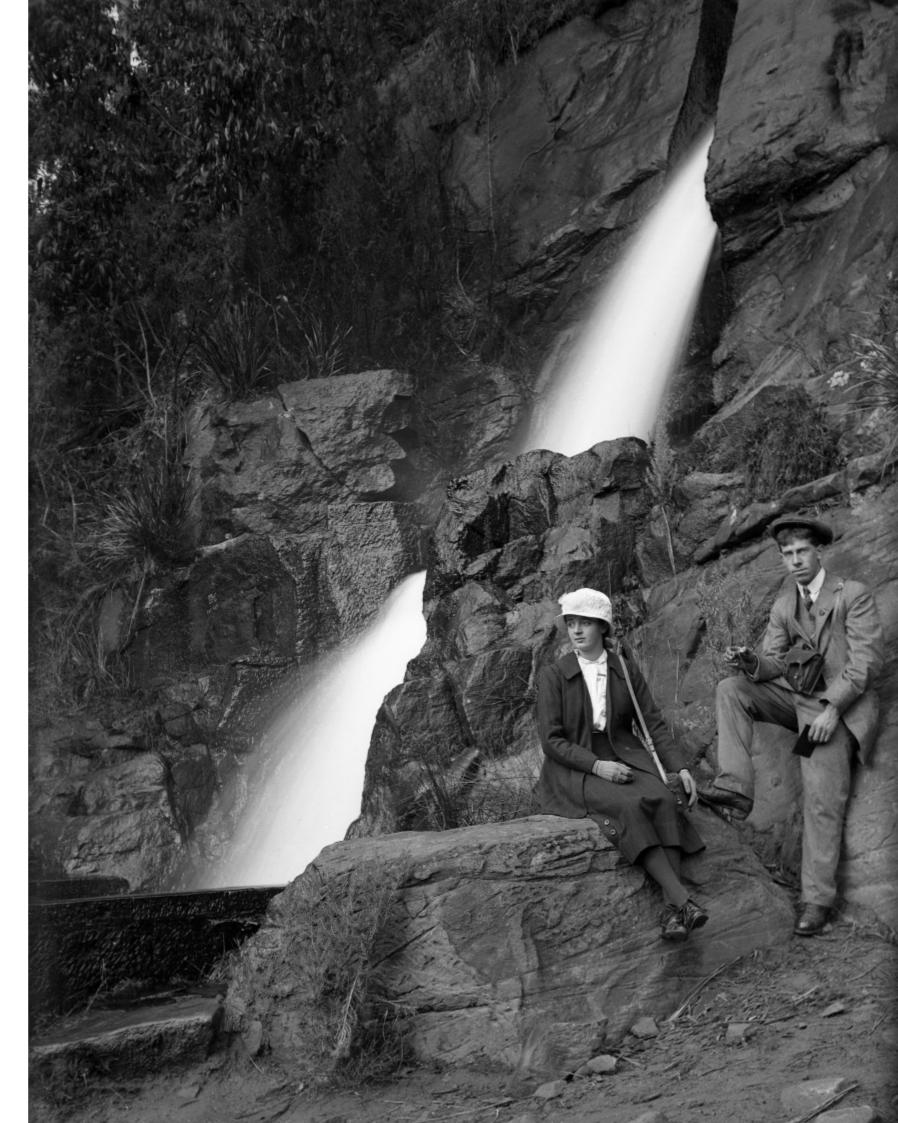
Looking towards the Receiving House. Photo: Grist Collection

and assessments have been prepared that have considered and identified the values of the Mountain Water Supply System and provide an extensive base of information that informs its historic heritage, conservation and management. The most relevant and recent is the 2012 Hobart Mountain Water Supply System Conservation Management

Plan (Futurepast Heritage Consulting 2012), followed by Design Guidelines for the Hobart Mountain Water Supply System in 2014 (Urban Initiatives and Arterial Design 2014).

All future works must include an Historic Heritage Assessment to guide conservation and support planning and heritage approvals. Herbert John King and Lucy King at Gentle Annie Falls, Hobart, 1918.

QVM:2014:P:3131 Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Collection.





# RECREATIONAL & SOCIAL VALUES

For decades the Waterworks Reserve has been a popular destination for the people of Greater Hobart to walk, picnic and barbecue. Its peaceful picturesque landscape, reservoirs and beautiful parkland and cultural heritage within the forested foothills of kunanyi/ Mt Wellington as a backdrop are its key attributes.

Visitor and community surveys tell us people deeply value the quiet, secluded, natural experience the reserve provides. It is also popular with naturalists as a place in which to observe wildlife and native flora.

The study area contains 1.3 kilometres of road surface and 2.6 kilometres of tracks. Many walkers, runners and riders visit the reserve every day to use the road, track and fire trail network to connect to Ridgeway Reserve and the broader trail network of kunanyi/Mt Wellington.

Events are also held frequently using the Waterworks as a base. Trail running events such as the annual Waterworks 10 attracts more than 100 runners using the trail network in the Waterworks and beyond. Orienteering Tasmania also uses the reserve regularly with mapped routes.

An estimated 30,000 people visit Waterworks Reserve every year, with pre-COVID visitor data revealing weekends as the most popular visiting time. Up to 160 cars have been counted in the reserve on a Sunday. The low point in the week has been on Thursdays, with vehicles numbering about 35 a day. It can be extrapolated from this data that up to 500 people visit Waterworks Reserve per day on weekends in the warmer months assuming there are three passengers in each car – and half that number on weekdays. Overall, about 20,000 people visit the reserve every year by vehicle. That figure could conservatively be multiplied by 1.5 by adding the visitors who park outside the reserve, and locals who walk, run or bike through the reserve without entering by vehicle.

Waterworks Reserve also provides an educational resource by providing a base for regular activities run by the City of Hobart's Bush Adventures program, Nita Education, which provides Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural experiences for schools and businesses, and the Forest Education Foundation, which delivers outdoor classes to as many as 35 school groups annually (pers comm Nita Education and Forest Education Foundation 2022).

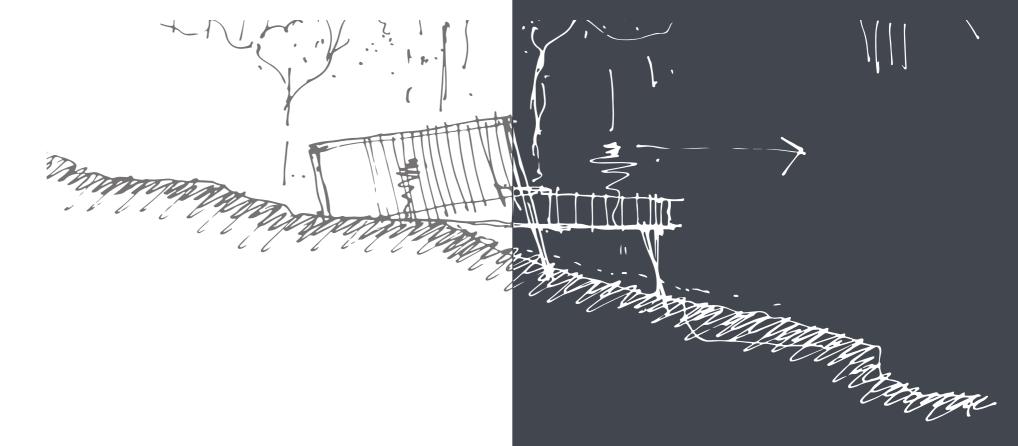
Links to the broader trail network from Waterworks to South Hobart, Ridgeway and Wellington Park are attractive to active recreational users. A missing recreational trail link has been identified by the City of Hobart between Waterworks Site 9 and the Pipeline Track. Separate to and outside of this plan and study area, planning approval is underway to build a new shared use trail to replace the steep incline of the Gentle Annie Track and to re-establish a connection to the Pipeline Head Wall. The new track will provide an improved recreational experience with a gentle incline, traversing varied geologies, vistas and vegetation types. It will attract more visitors to the Waterworks to enjoy this new trail experience or to use the Pipeline Track, and connect to Halls Saddle, Fern Tree and kunanyi/Mt Wellington.

The social value of Waterworks as a well-loved venue for significant family and community celebrations is considerable, with groups meeting annually at some of the 12 barbecue sites. The reserve is deeply imbued in generational memory after 65 years of history as a key picnic venue for Hobartians.

### LANDSCAPE VALUES

The Waterworks Reserve's picturesque landscape character is one of its key attributes.

The critical elements that create this picturesque character are the still, flat and reflective surfaces of the reservoirs, the surrounding bushland that encloses and provides a backdrop to the reserve, the large trees, and the sandstone heritage structures of the valve houses of both reservoirs, Regan's Gully Bridge, the Receiving House and the sandstone trash rack and hard water channel running alongside the upper reservoir. These features act as focal points within the internal landscape of the reserve.



# COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

The community was invited to participate in a survey using the City of Hobart website Your Say Hobart to inform the preparation of this master plan. The survey was promoted through social media and posters erected in the Waterworks Reserve. People were invited to identify what they value about the reserve, how they use it and what they would like to see in its future. The community was invited to visit the reserve if they wanted to chat face-to-face with City staff. Letters were also sent out to local residents and community groups in the neighbouring and nearby suburbs of Dynnyrne and Ridgeway.

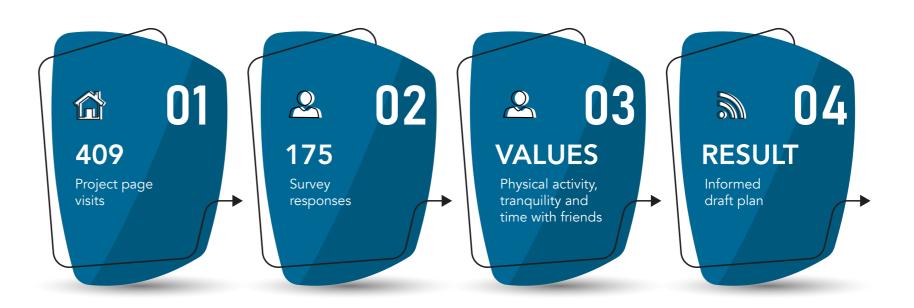
### **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

Community engagement was undertaken in two stages. The first stage was to inform the draft master plan. The second was to obtain feedback on the draft master plan and report back on what was heard in the first stage.

Stage 1 engagement results highlighted what was important to the community, which included recreation, the peace and tranquillity of the reserve and using the space to spend time with family and friends.

Stage 2 helped to shape the final master plan such as changes to shared tracks and aesthetic guidelines for future improvements.

### **STAGE 1**



### **STAGE 2**



To read more about what we heard during both stages of engagement and how we

responded, the Engagement Summary Report can be found at Appendix 1.

# STAKEHOLDER CONCERNS AND IDEAS

### **TasWater**

TasWater is the Tasmanian statutory authority that manages drinking water throughout the state. The purpose of the Waterworks is for the storage and delivery of clean drinking water to the people of Hobart. During an engagement meeting with TasWater it was stated that the authority's primary objective is to maintain high quality drinking water that meets Australian Standards and that access to maintain drinking water infrastructure is essential to delivering these services. These areas are generally located within TasWater land in and around the reservoirs and hard water channels. Access is also needed to water tanks on the northern slope of the reserve above the study area. There is a network of important pipes under the road at the reserve entrance, beneath the reserve road network and park land. TasWater referral and approval is required before any works can be undertaken within the vicinity of this infrastructure.

Works are planned in the near future to construct a UV disinfection station below the lower reservoir and works are also planned for the lower reservoir dam wall in the next



three to five years. TasWater remains open to developing a formal agreement with the City of Hobart for environmental management and maintenance of TasWater infrastructure that could impact the broader management of the reserve and delivery of visitor services.

### Tasmanian Aboriginal people

Sixteen individuals and groups representing Tasmanian Aboriginal people in southern Tasmania were invited to participate in the preliminary engagement of the development of the master plan. Some responded by saying they did not need to contribute. Additional conversations were had with representatives from Nayri Niara, Nita Education, Karadi, Lia Pootah and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. The key comments from this engagement are listed below:

- There is a desire to see a Tasmanian Aboriginal voice in the master plan.
- The shared values are very important to articulate in the master plan and to enliven it.
- The reserve could provide a healing base for the community and Aboriginal people to meet, gather and repair.

- The referral of all major works to Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania is essential.
- The plan should be referred to the Aboriginal Heritage Council.

### Waterworks Valley Landcare

The Waterworks Valley Landcare group values the quiet bushland ambience, picnic facilities, walking tracks and closeness to the city. It requests maintenance of current assets, no further parking or development including mountain bike tracks, no tree removal for development, planning for replacement of mature trees.

### **Ridgeway Community Association**

No comment.

# Recreational, cultural and educational operators

Trail Ventures organises the Waterworks 10 & kunanyi Trail run.

It wants the ability to run annual trail running events based in the reserve with about 150 runners and is keen for new track to connect to the broader track network.

### **Forest Education Foundation**

The Forest Education Foundation holds up to 35 group and teaching sessions every year within the Waterworks Reserve. The Forest Education Foundation is keen for new tracks, improved road and entrance car park safety, more toilets and shelters.

### **Nita Education**

Nita Education runs between five and ten school group sessions every year at the reserve and is keen to have a place within the reserve where people can sit, yarn and experience Country and culture.



Site one Waterworks Reserve.

### **ISSUES**

### **Access**

- Safe access for all is restricted at the reserve entrance.
- Traffic management and the road network within the reserve.
- Improved management of parking.
- Safe access for all types of mobility and devices through the reserve.

### **Cultural Heritage Values**

- Interpretation of Aboriginal heritage values and the broader history of invasion is needed.
- Coordinated protection and management of the Waterworks as part of the Mountain Water Supply System.
- Need to undertake ongoing review of background documents such conservation management plans and guidelines.

### **Tracks & Trails**

- Better off-road connectivity needed for walking, running and riding through the reserve.
- An improved track and trail network would provide linkages to the broader trail network, into neighbouring suburbs and to kunanyi/Mt Wellington.

### **Natural values**

 Protection and management of biodiversity values including large trees, and small marsupials and birds.

### Interpretation

- Interpretation of the cultural and historic heritage and natural values of the reserve is needed.
- Review of the aged visitor interpretation at the Receiving House is needed.
- Wayfinding/interpretation at the entrance or high use visitor zones.
- Coordinated design of interpretation aligned with Mountain Water Supply System Design Guidelines.

### **Facilities**

- Visitor infrastructure needs to be replaced and/or upgraded.
- Regular collection of visitor data.
- Need more sheltered and accessible barbecue sites. The two bookable sites are often booked out.
- Toilets need to be upgraded, including for accessible public toilets. There also needs to be an assessment of waste management.
- Need for a focused visitor hub that would cater for larger numbers of visitors.
- Improved management of parking and traffic flow is needed.
- Rock walls built decades ago are deteriorating and need to be replaced.
- Facilities to cater for larger recreational and social events, for example trail running, small musical concerts and cultural events.
- Potential for a commercial hospitality business at the old Crib Room.

Waterworks Reserve Master Plan 2024





### THE VISION

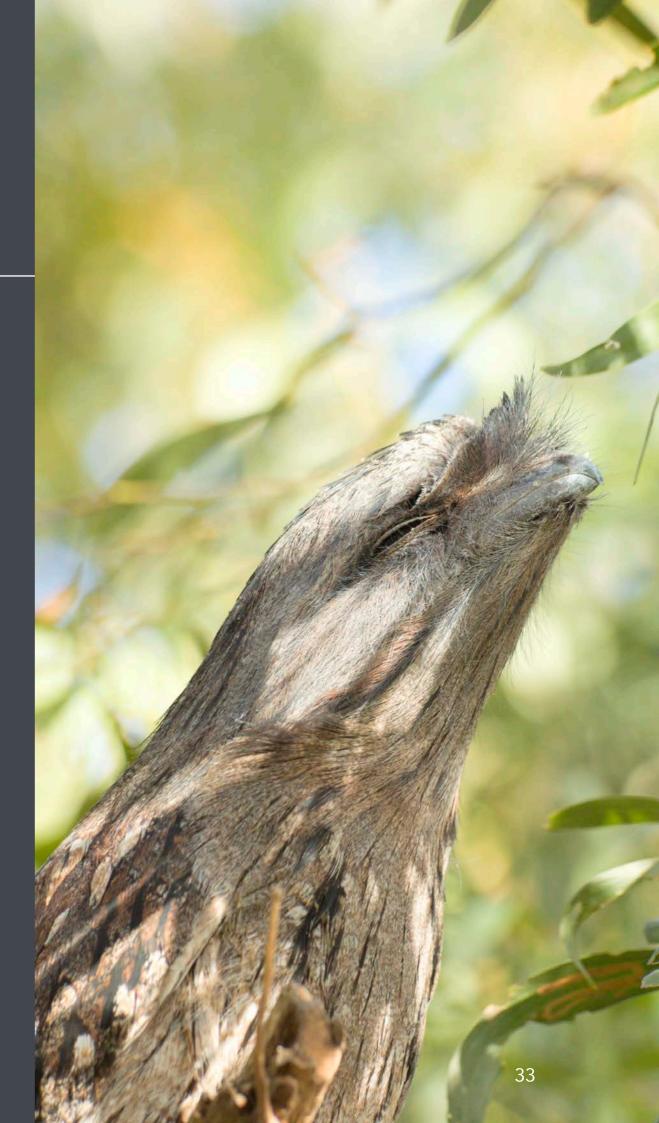
Waterworks Reserve shall be a peaceful bushland retreat that provides seclusion and natural experiences. A place for the community and families to gather and celebrate immersed in nature and beauty. A place to enjoy, explore and connect with the mountain. It shall be a place to connect and commune with nature, Country and its more recent history as part of the Hobart Mountain Water Supply System.

### THE PRINCIPLES

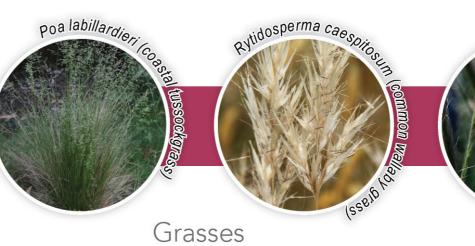
Supporting the vision are principles to guide the Waterworks Reserve management and development over the next ten to twenty years.

- 1. Connection to Country and Aboriginal history through key sites and experiences making it a place for healing and repair.
- 2. Maintain the ambience and beautiful landscape of the reserve.
- 3. Development should not result in the loss of natural and cultural heritage values.
- 4. Access for all (from the entrance to the reserve's southern extent).
- 5. Provision of varied active recreational activities consistent with reserve values that connects to neighbouring suburbs, reserves and the mountain, kunanyi/Mt Wellington.

- 6. Picnic facilities will provide comfort and enhance visitor enjoyment of the picturesque landscape and natural environment.
- 7. The tree canopy will be protected and enhanced as a key element of Waterworks Reserve's landscape and biodiversity values.
- 8. A collaborative management framework will be established and maintained between TasWater and the City of Hobart to protect both utility and reserve values.
- 9. Commercial activities should align with reserve values and enhance the visitor experience.









Tufting plants



Plant range for landscaping and rehabilitation within the reserve



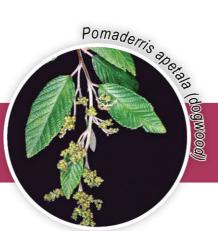




















Medium shrubs

Eucalyptus Ovals





PROPOSED PLANTING PALETTE Figure 6

Trees

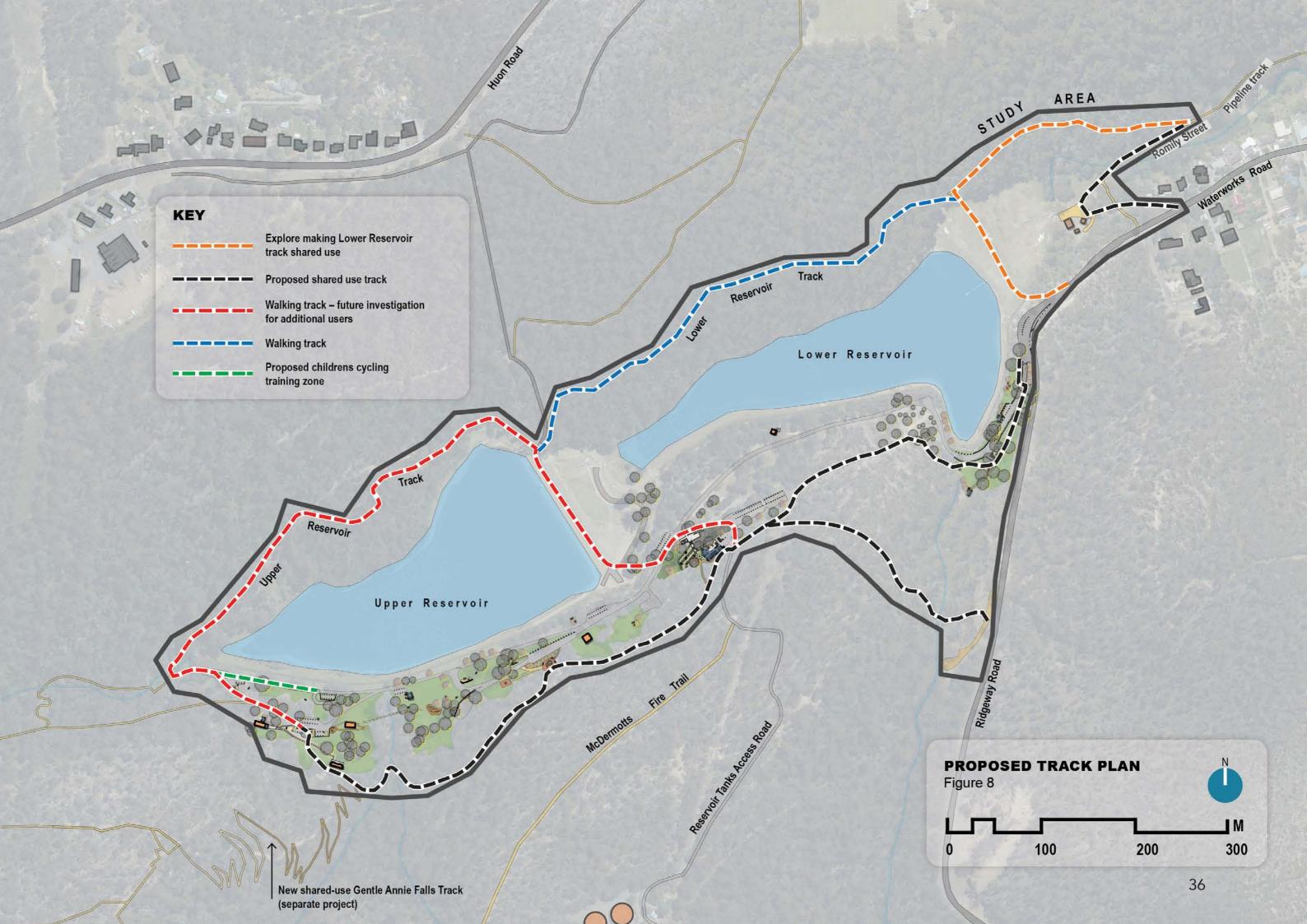
### Natural, bush inspired playscapes

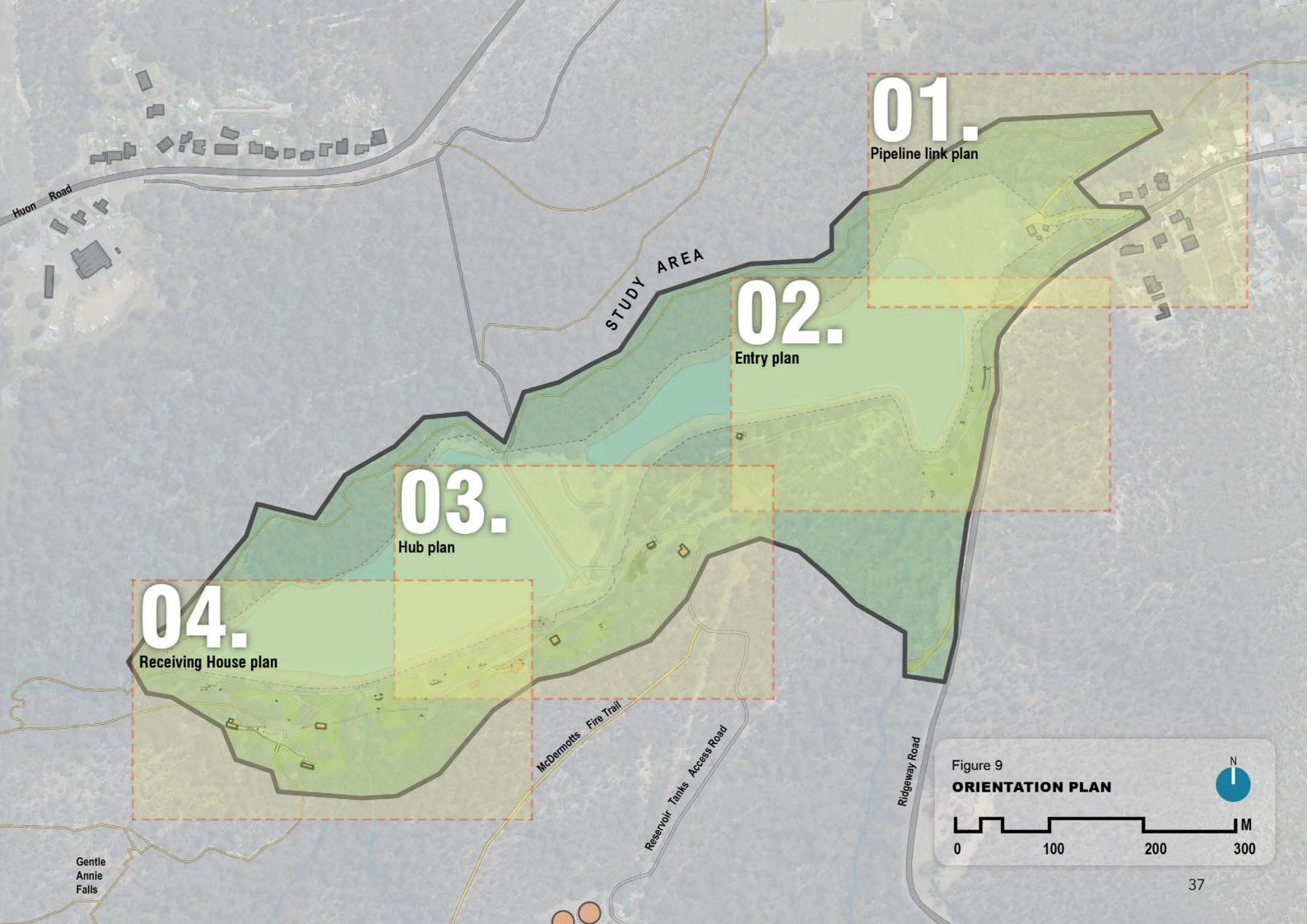




## **DESIGN EXAMPLES AND MONTAGES**Figure 7

Waterworks Reserve Master Plan 2024



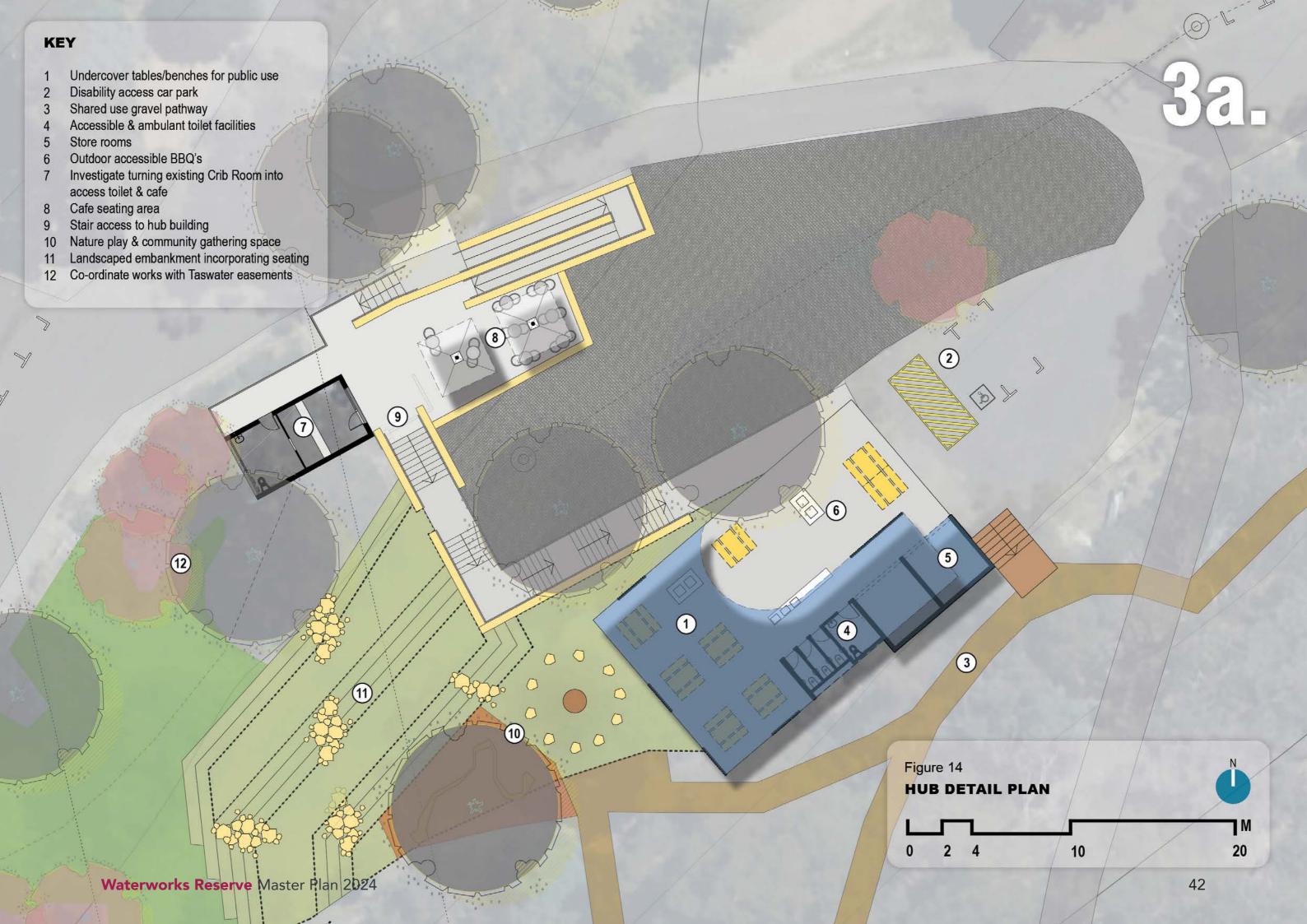




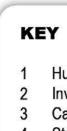






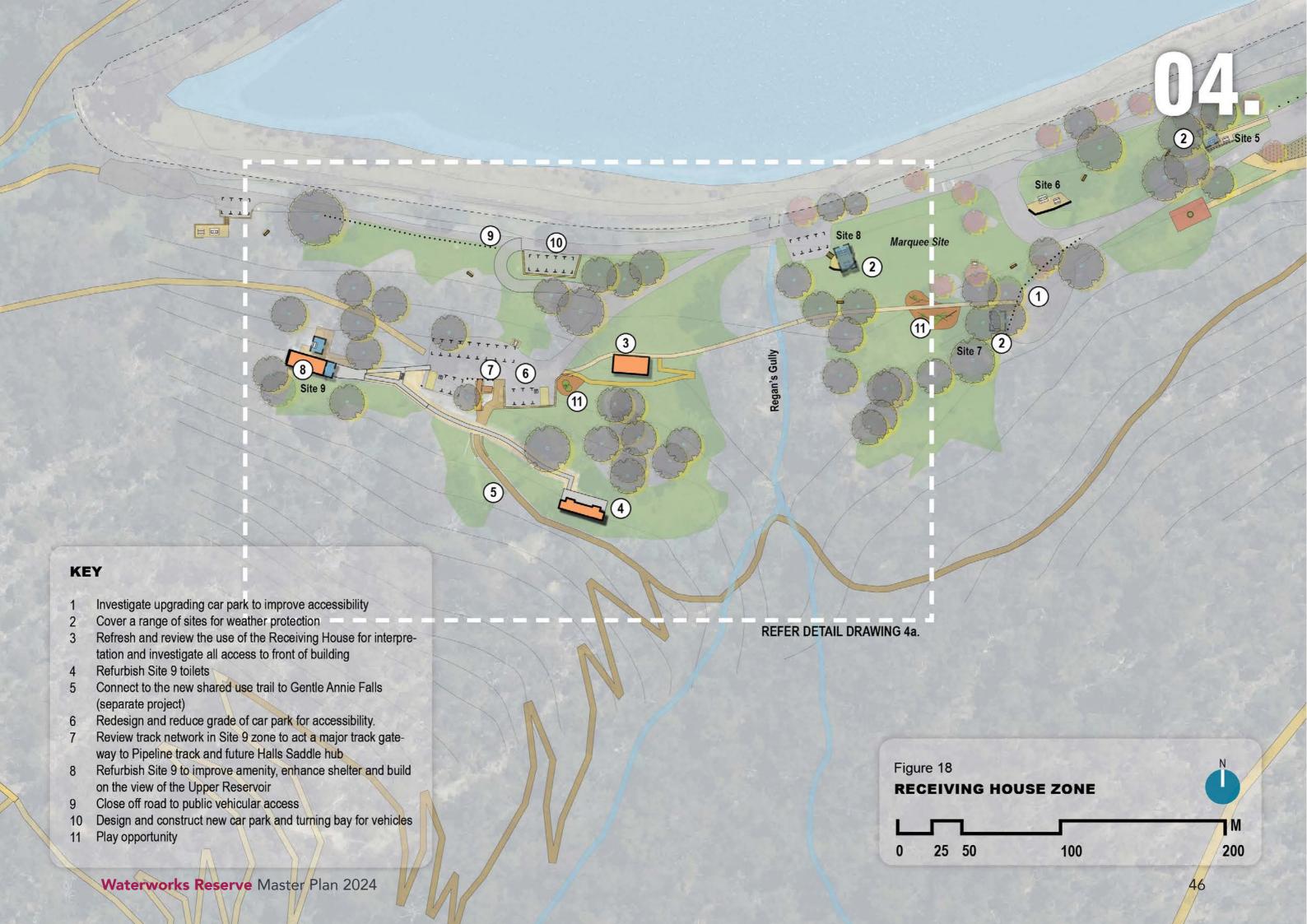














#### **ABORIGINAL CONTEXT**

The timeless values of this place



kunanyi/Mt Wellington



timtumilli minyunya/River Derwent



A living active history

#### **COLONIAL CONTEXT**

Mountain huts of Tasmania



Du Cane Hut



Dixon's Kingdom Hut



Old Pelion Hut

#### LOCAL CONTEXT

Waterworks & Wellington Park history



Valve House



Receiving House



Fern Tree Bower

#### **CONCEPTUAL CONTEXT**

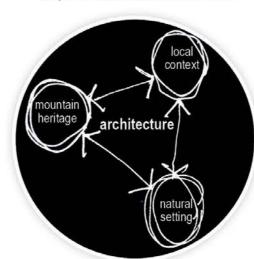
To acknowledge place



The forest as a screen



Respect embedded stonework



Conceptual framework

#### **ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPTS**

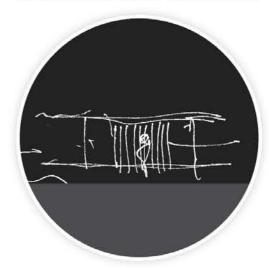
A response to context



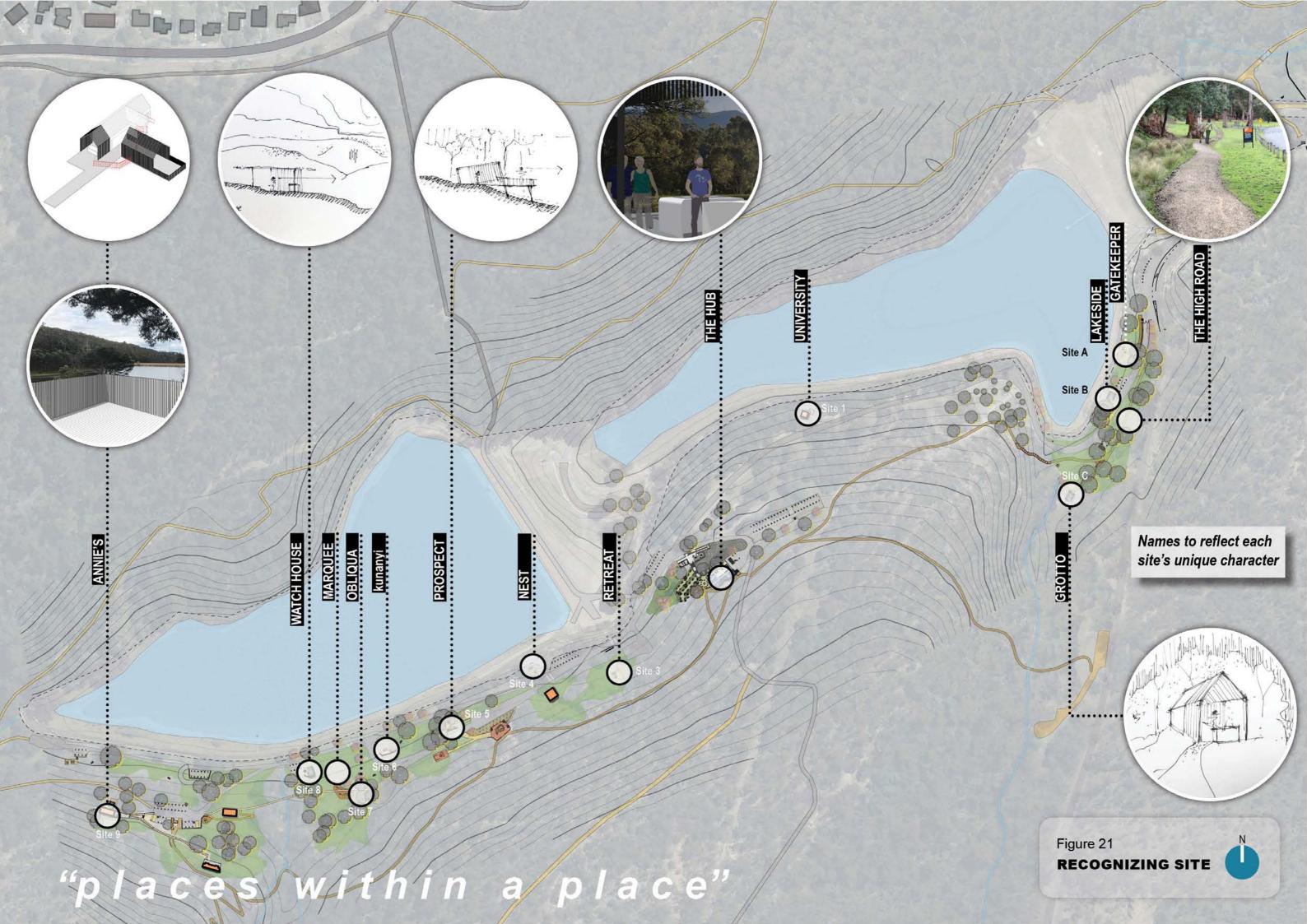
Huts for sharing stories

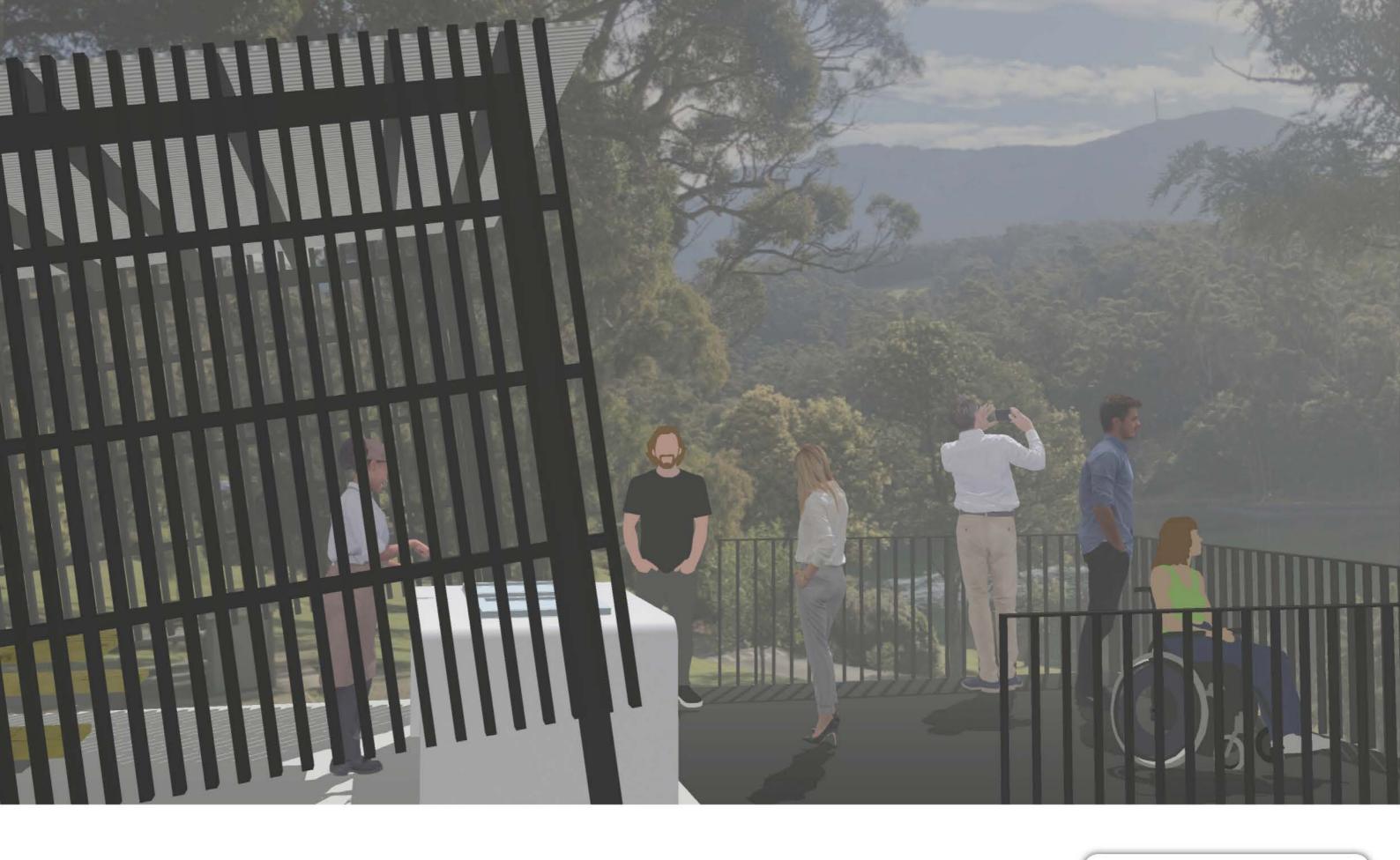


Shelter from the sun / wind and rain



Hut as refuge





"places within a place"

Figure 22

SITE NAME: 'PROSPECT'



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

WATERWORKS RESERVE MASTER PLAN		PRIORITY
Visitor experience		
Shelters and picnic sites		
1	Design and construct a new visitor hub located centrally in the reserve that includes shelter, barbecues, accessible toilets and a nearby car park that can accommodate up to 70 people.	LONG TERM
2	The new visitor hub will provide a base for the City of Hobart's Bush Adventures program.	LONG TERM
3	Investigate improved options to increase the use of marquee site and improve its drainage to make it more amenable for use throughout the year.	MEDIUM TERM
4	Design and install shelters for picnic sites B, C, 5, 7 and 8. Stage and program works over a number of years.	SHORT & MEDIUM TERM
5	Upgrade three picnic sites (C, 5, 7) to be Disability Discrimination Act compliant. Site 9 and the new visitor hub should provide access to nearby toilets.	SHORT & MEDIUM TERM
6	Retain Site 1 subject to a building condition assessment. The assessment will consider the site's safety, condition, access and retention and its importance as a building that marks it as a City of Hobart/University School of Architecture collaboration.	SHORT TERM
7	Refurbish Site 9 to improve its amenity for users, enhance shelter and views of the Upper Reservoir, without damaging nearby trees.	MEDIUM TO LONG TERM
8	Nomenclature of picnic sites to be changed from numerical and alphabetical identification system to site specific names.	MEDIUM TERM
9	Review and introduce a contemporary booking system for the covered barbecue sites that is simple to use and provides all essential information.	SHORT TERM

WATERWORKS RESERVE MASTER PLAN		PRIORITY
10	Any new or replaced infrastructure such as paths and shelters should be designed to:	
	have a natural aesthetic	
	use natural materials	ONGOING
	blend in with the landscape as much as feasible.	
Public toilets		
11	Investigate options for the future of the toilets located near Site 4 that evaluates the visitor service and viability of the current wastewater treatment system. Refurbish and upgrade these toilets if they are to be retained.	SHORT & MEDIUM TERM
12	Refurbish and upgrade Site 9 toilets.	MEDIUM TERM
Play experiences		
13	Design and install four to five nature-based play opportunities to provide a range of play experiences for children throughout the reserve.	SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM
Interpretation and wayfinding		
14	Develop a contemporary interpretation and wayfinding plan for the reserve. The plan is to:	
	<ul> <li>promote and tell the story of the natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage values through a range of mediums including performance, art, signage and installations</li> </ul>	SHORT TERM
	<ul> <li>review the 1990s interpretation display in the Receiving House (see Recommendation 44)</li> </ul>	MEDIUM TERM
	<ul> <li>provide more widely available messaging and wayfinding throughout the reserve via a range of mediums</li> </ul>	ONGOING

WATERWORKS RESERVE MASTER PLAN		PRIORITY
	be informed and guided by the Mountain Water Supply System Design Guidelines (2014) as a design framework      include a large scale entrance wayfinding and interpretation panel at the reserve	ONGOING
	<ul> <li>include a large-scale entrance wayfinding and interpretation panel at the reserve entrance.</li> </ul>	SHORT TERM
Commercial activities		
15	Investigate the reuse and redevelopment of the old 'crib-room' for commercial use as a café or bike hire facility. If a permanent facility is not feasible, investigate weekend and/or seasonal use of the reserve by a food van/coffee cart.	LONG TERM
16	Continue to encourage use of the reserve as a base for commercial events consistent with the core principles of the reserve.	ONGOING
17	Investigate provision of commercial use, for example a café or bike hire on a temporary, trial basis via a food van/coffee cart (or similar) to test viability and determine appopriateness.  This should help inform potential use of the old 'crib room' (refer recommendation 15).	SHORT TERM
Visitor data		
18	Collect and analyse qualitative and quantitative visitor data through biennial surveys and other mechanisms to inform reserve management.	ONGOING
Waste management		
19	Make Waterworks Reserve a carry-in, carry-out area with all rubbish bins to be phased out, including monitoring at each stage to assess the outcomes and determine appropriateness. This will be accompanied by a marketing campaign directing visitors to take rubbish home to help stop bins attracting feral cats that predate on small wildlife. Options will be considered for potential food and beverage services, such as daily waste removal by the operator.	SHORT TERM

WATERWORKS RESERVE MASTER PLAN		PRIORITY
Landscaping		
20	Develop and implement a landscape plan that identifies:	
	<ul> <li>reserve areas for low scale, low maintenance, Tasmanian local native plantings (eg new picnic shelter, main entrance, new car parks)</li> </ul>	SHORT TERM
	areas for renewal (eg plant removal to open up view lines)	
	locations for tree planting.	
21	Apply the following landscaping and planting principles:	
	low maintenance	
	low intervention	ONGOING
	• local native species	
	<ul> <li>low scale and form when tree replacement is not required.</li> </ul>	
22	Continue to irrigate lawn areas currently irrigated, with no expansion. Irrigation systems are to be maintained annually.	ONGOING
Improving access		
Entrance		
23	Upgrade the main reserve entrance to allow for universal access at all hours while maintaining current restricted vehicle access.	SHORT TERM
24	Upgrade lower reservoir entrance to allow for universal access.	MEDIUM TERM

VATERWORKS RESERVE MASTER PLAN		PRIORITY
Tracks and trails		
25	Develop a shared use trail that extends the length of the reserve from the main entrance to Site 9 that will provide an off-road route for walkers and riders with the design to prioritise safety for all users.	SHORT TERM
26	Future investigation of converting the Upper Resorvoir Track to shared use will be subject to further design investigation and community consultation to determine viability.	LONG TERM
27	Maintain the Lower Reservoir Track for walking and running, upgrading the surface where there are obvious tripping hazards.	ONGOING
28	Investigate options for a shared use track that connects the Romilly Street Pipeline Track to the Waterworks Reserve main entrance.	MEDIUM TERM
29	Review the trail network in the Site 9 zone to allow for it to act as a major trail gateway to the Pipeline Track and future Halls Saddle visitor hub, subject to the availability of parking to be determined by the Traffic Plan (refer recommendation 32).	SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM
30	Investigate the alignment and construction of a new shared use track to connect the upper car park off Ridgeway Road to the new visitor hub and broader trail network.	MEDIUM TERM
31	Investigate locating a bike wash down and hygiene facility within the reserve that can be easily accessed by riders to help limit the spread of weeds and diseases. Potential locations must consider the amenity of other users.	SHORT TERM

WATERWORKS RESERVE MASTER PLAN		PRIORITY
Parking, traffic management and road safety		
32	Design and implement a traffic plan that will improve traffic flow and allow safe, shared access in the reserve that includes a new turning area at the western end of the reserve road beneath Site 9, the provision of additional parking spaces and allows a mini-bus to turn around.	SHORT TERM
33	Upgrade the main entrance car park outside of the reserve to make it safe and to clearly distinguish it from road traffic, provide coach parking and safe access through the main reserve entrance.	SHORT TERM
34	Activate and upgrade the small car park accessed from Ridgeway Road above the main entrance.	MEDIUM TERM
35	Upgrade the car park next to Site 7 to improve accessibility and line marking.	MEDIUM TERM
36	Improve the accessibility of the Site 9 car park.	MEDIUM TERM
37	Close off the main reserve road to public vehicle access west of the proposed new turn-around to improve safety of park users, allow learner bike riding in this area and to improve the health and protection of three large and mature stringybark trees ( <i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i> ) next to Site 10 and directly above the road.	SHORT TERM
38	Prohibit coaches from entering the reserve and investigate restricting mini-buses to no further than the new visitor hub.	SHORT TERM
39	Reduce reserve car speed throughout the reserve to 20km/h.	SHORT TERM
40	Develop traffic calming to improve the safety of the reserve road system for shared use.	SHORT TERM
41	New hard, impermeable surfaces such as asphalt should be minimised while meeting any access and maintenance requirements.	ONGOING

WATERWORKS RESERVE MASTER PLAN		PRIORITY
Cultural heritage values		
42	Engage with Tasmanian Aboriginal people to identify locations and interventions to acknowledge Country and promote awareness about Aboriginal history, Country and cultural practices in the reserve.	ONGOING
43	Ensure all new capital and asset management works do not degrade Aboriginal heritage values of the Waterworks Reserve.	ONGOING
44	Ensure all new capital and asset management works do not degrade the state-listed historic heritage values of the Waterworks Reserve.	ONGOING
45	Consult the Mountain Water Supply Heritage Working Group regarding management and interventions in relation to Waterworks heritage features.	ONGOING
Receiving House		
46	Attend to the conservation, maintenance and safety of the Receiving House as a high priority. This includes action to be taken on the drainage and aeration around the building foundations, repointing of sandstone blockwork, and bringing natural light and ventilation into the interior of building.	SHORT TERM
47	The 1990s interpretation display written by Richard Flanagan and designed by Lynda Warner be refreshed and reviewed with a view to honouring its content and history but contemporising the key messages and bringing some elements outside to a larger audience.	MEDIUM TERM

WATERWORKS RESERVE MASTER PLAN		PRIORITY
Natural values		
48	Impact on natural values for development of facilities is to be minimised.	ONGOING
49	Develop and implement a feral cat management program with the key objective to keep the Waterworks Reserve feral cat free.	SHORT TERM
50	Ensure environmental weeds are minimised within the reserve with cooperative management and removal controls by both the City of Hobart and TasWater.	ONGOING
Trees		
51	Prepare and implement an arboriculture management plan for trees located within the park land setting of the reserve.	SHORT TERM
52	Tree replacement will be in accordance with the arboriculture and landscape plans.	ONGOING
53	Gently remove the bitumen road surface on the section of road proposed for closure west of Site 10 to facilitate improved health of the three significant stringybarks overhanging the road.	SHORT TERM
54	A thick layer of clean mulch is to be applied to the sloped informal path extending from Site 9 to Site 10 to cover the exposed roots and facilitate improved health of the large and old stringybarks in this location.	SHORT TERM
55	All efforts should be made to retain large reserve trees unless considered dangerous. Any proposed tree removal must be in accordance with the City of Hobart Street Tree Strategy tree removal policy accompanied by a tree assessment undertaken by a qualified arboriculture professional and arboriculture management plan for the reserve.	ONGOING

## WATERWORKS RESERVE MASTER PLAN

**PRIORITY** 

# Drinking water infrastructure management

56

Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TasWater regarding joint management of reserve assets within the Waterworks Reserve. The MOU to include:

- TasWater to maintain access through the reserve.
- Upgrade park assets that are in TasWater ownership including the need to replace and make safe the fence surrounding the Upper and Lower Reservoirs; cleaning of the TasWater tanks above the proposed new visitor hub and maintenance of heritage assets.
- Management of environmental weeds within TasWater fenced title boundaries of the Upper and Lower Reservoirs, and management and retention of native vegetation, in particular large trees, if not posing a threat to TasWater assets.
- Management of visitor access through the TasWater lots.
- Financial contributions towards implementing the MOU.

SHORT TERM

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