

# Bridgewater Loddon River Foreshore Project - Landscape Concept Plan

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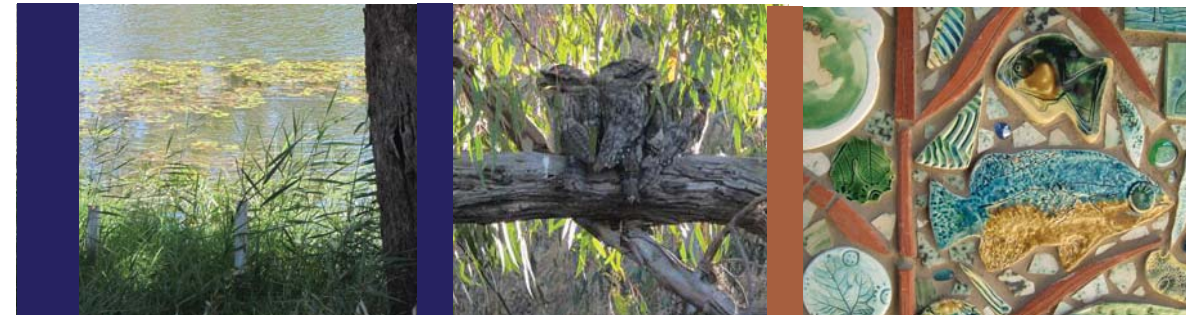
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6 Detail 1 - Proposed Shelter

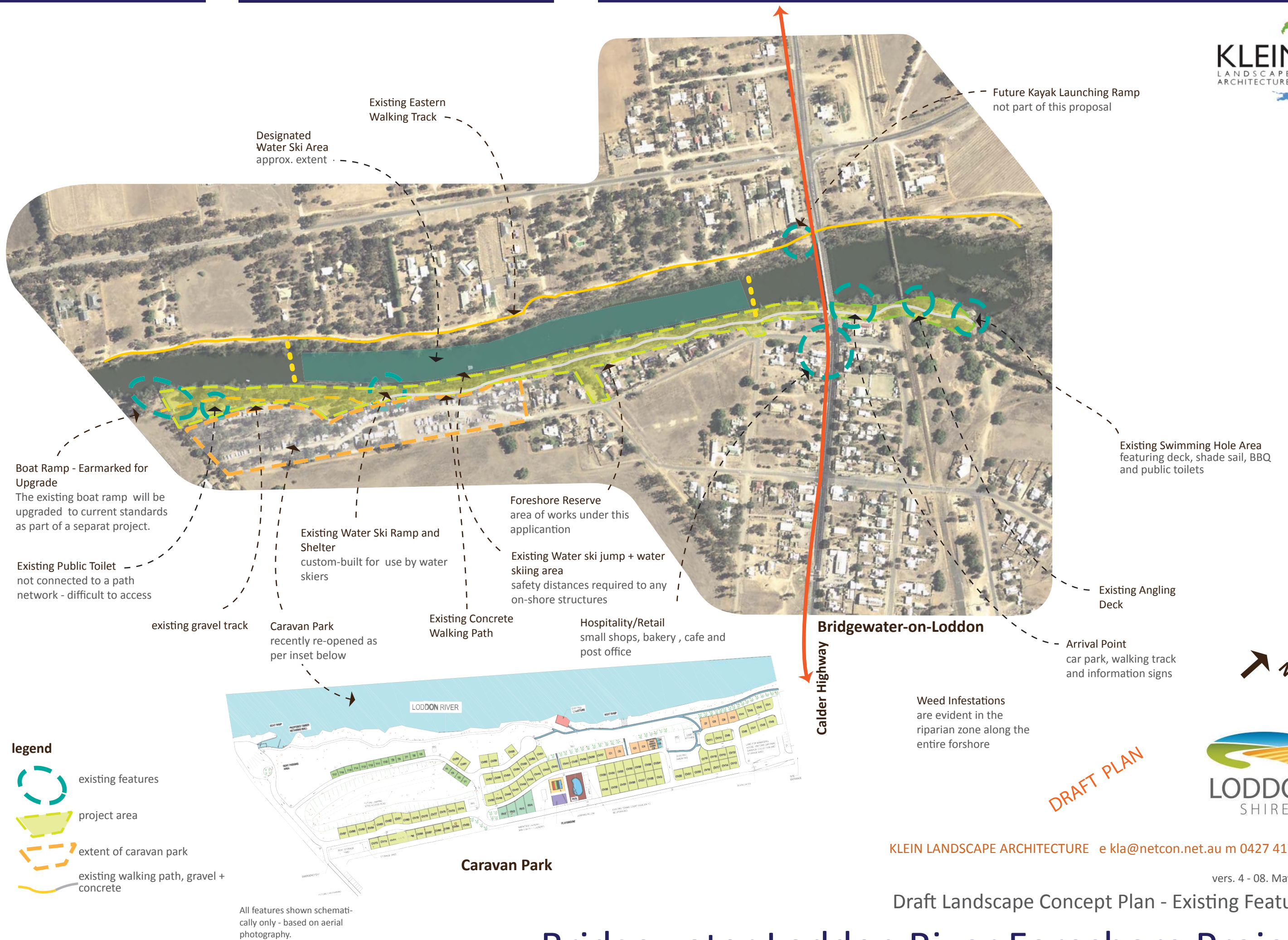
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# DESIGN OBJECTIVES

## Celebrating the Loddon River

The Loddon River is one of the three tributaries to the Murray River in the Loddon Mallee region. Its importance to the area is reflected in its role as a name giving feature to the region and the town of Bridgewater-on-Loddon. Heightened in its importance by the Central Victorian dry and warm summer climate, the foreshore park in Bridgewater is one of the very few locations where the river can be accessed by the public from the convenience of a town. Located between the popular caravan park and the water's edge, the foreshore park presents an opportunity to celebrate the Loddon River.

## An Invitation to Discover

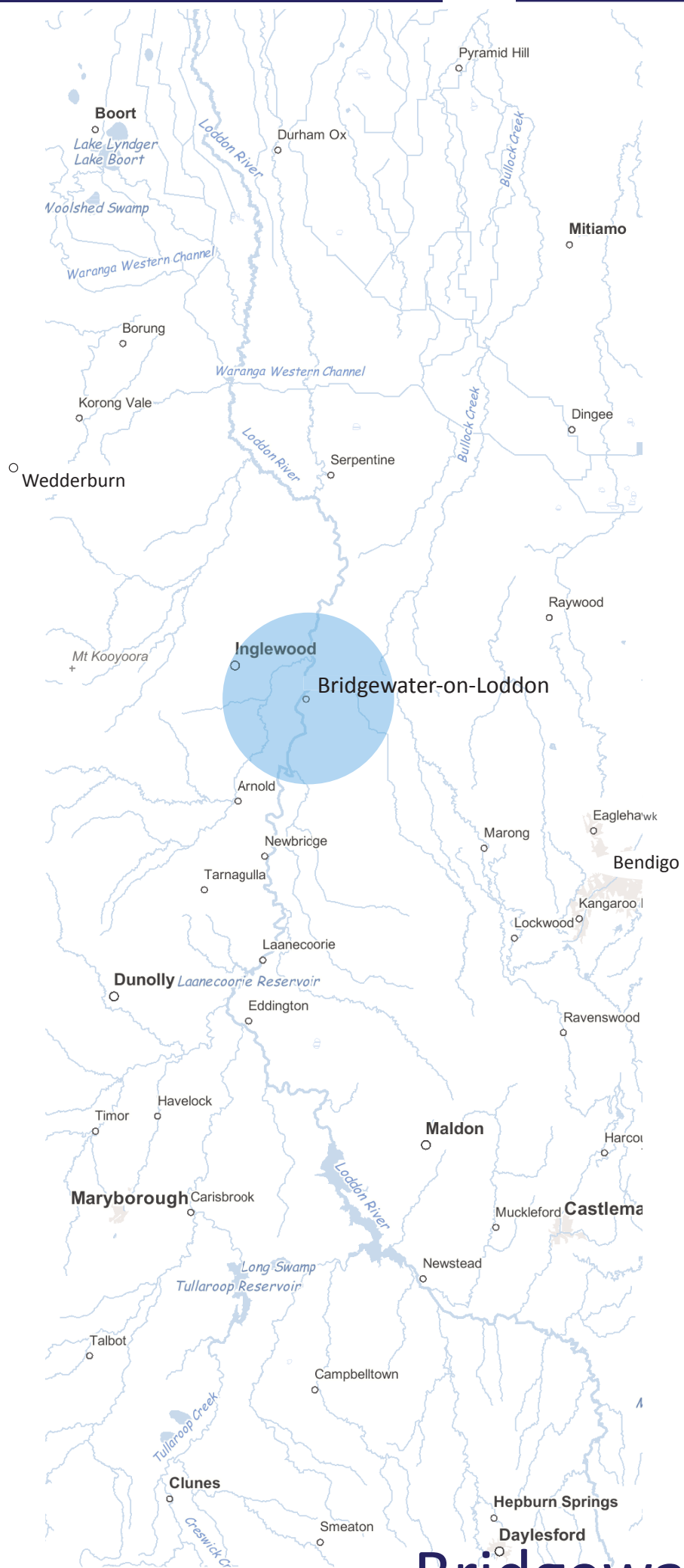
In its very nature the foreshore park is of a linear shape. Starting at the bridge of the Midland Highway visitors can stroll along the foreshore and follow the slightly winding path in either direction. The majestic existing river red gum trees form a one-sided corridor, guiding visitors along the river's bank to explore what lies behind the next bend.

## Creating Connections

The appreciation of a natural asset and its inclusion into a sense of local identity rely on accessibility to and familiarity with that particular feature. The more convenient it is for visitors to the area to experience the refreshing Loddon riverside up close, the easier it will be for them to form a connection and support the protection of the unique river environment. Repeat visits will contribute to a stable local hospitality economy.

## Helping to Learn and Understand

The river represents a connection through the layers of time. Shaped by geomorphic forces of the pre-historic past, it was a landmark and life-line for Aboriginal people and early settlers. Modern times saw the inclusion of irrigation works and the rise of water sports. Flora and Fauna can still be readily observed. The Loddon River's history provides a rich source for various forms of interpretation along the foreshore.



# DESIGN PRINCIPLES

## Variety of Experience

The design aims to create a series of spaces with varying characters. The proposed new park infrastructure will provide opportunities for quiet contemplation, nature observation, angling, viewing of water ski activities and taking a refreshing dip at the proposed splash area. The foreshore park will also be an inviting place for family gatherings, picnics and BBQs in the unique natural setting of the Loddon River.

## Creating Access

Currently most areas and infrastructure are only accessible for capable people that are steady on their feet. One design principle will be to improve accessibility for a wider range of visitors. From young families with prams, to older people with mobility aids or wheelchair users – access will be improved to broaden the range of visitor that can access and thus enjoy the river.

## Creating Sustainable Infrastructure

Some areas will be upgraded to increase the ease of maintenance. New infrastructure will be built to a sturdy standard to a sustainable level of maintenance.



Image: Bendigo Advertiser

# INTERPRETATION THEMES

Interpretation in form of art or signage should be included at key locations.

The following themes provide extensive material for interpretation:

- Geology
- Aboriginal History
- Early Settlement
- Contemporary Development
- Flora and Fauna

*“The River is our reason for being here; it is our greatest asset; we must repay it by taking care of its environment. ...”*

Quotation from 2004 Bridgewater Community Plan

DRAFT PLAN

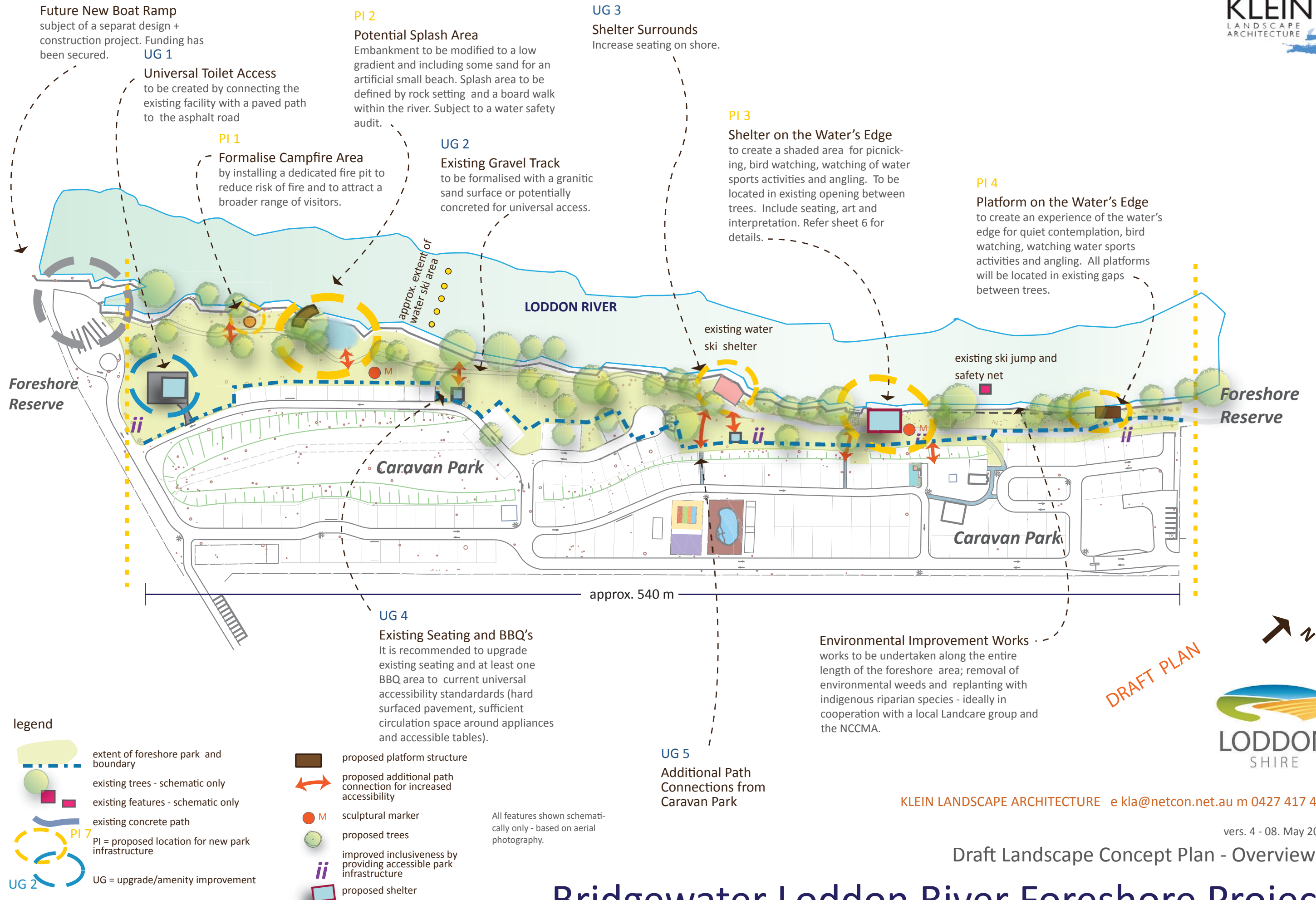


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Draft Landscape Concept - Design Objectives, Principles and Themes

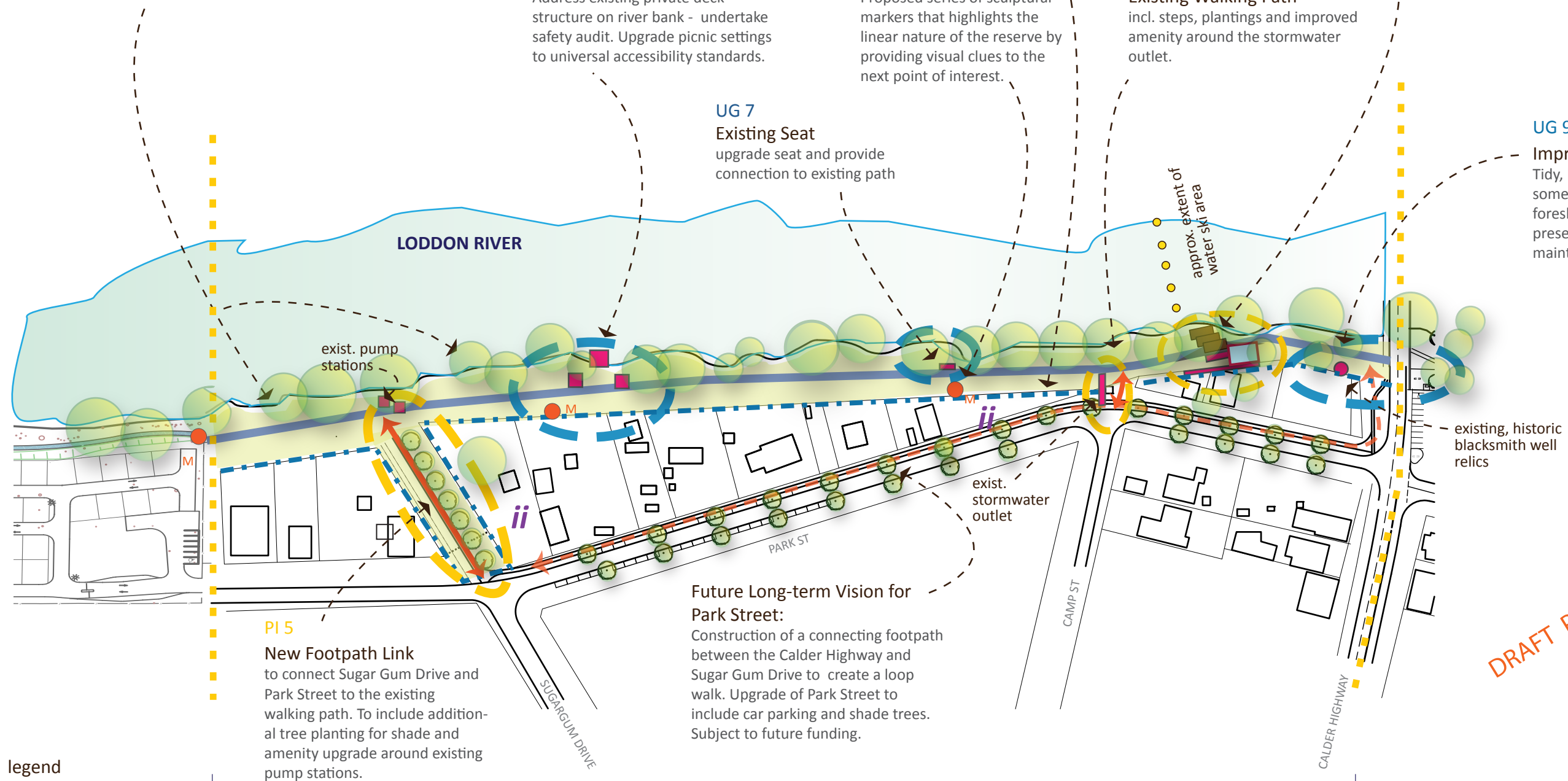
# Bridgewater Loddon River Foreshore Project



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**Environmental Improvement Works**  
to be undertaken along the entire length of the foreshore area; removal of environmental weeds and replanting with indigenous riparian species - ideally in cooperation with a local Landcare group and the NCCMA



**legend**

- extent of foreshore park and boundary
- existing trees - schematic only
- existing features - schematic only
- existing concrete path
- PI = proposed location for new park infrastructure
- UG = upgrade/amenity improvement

- proposed platform structure
- proposed additional path connection for increased accessibility
- sculptural marker
- proposed trees
- improved inclusiveness by providing accessible park infrastructure
- proposed shelter

approx. 500 m

All features shown schematically only - based on aerial photography.

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Draft Landscape Concept Plan - Overview 2

# Bridgewater Loddon River Foreshore Project



legend

- extent of foreshore park and boundary
- existing trees - schematic only
- existing features - schematic only
- existing concrete path
- PI 7 = proposed location for new park infrastructure
- UG 2 = upgrade/amenity improvement

- proposed platform structure
- proposed additional path connection for increased accessibility
- M = sculptural marker
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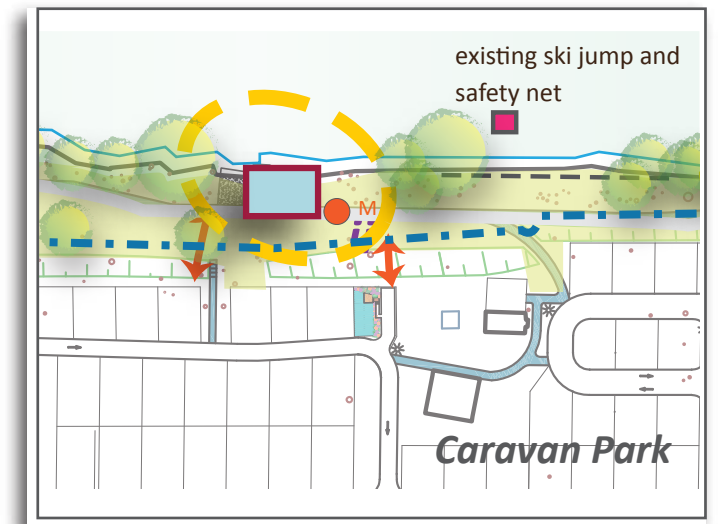
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Draft Landscape Concept Plan - Overview 3

# Bridgewater Loddon River Foreshore Project



Photo showing the proposed location



PI 3- Shelter on the Water's Edge

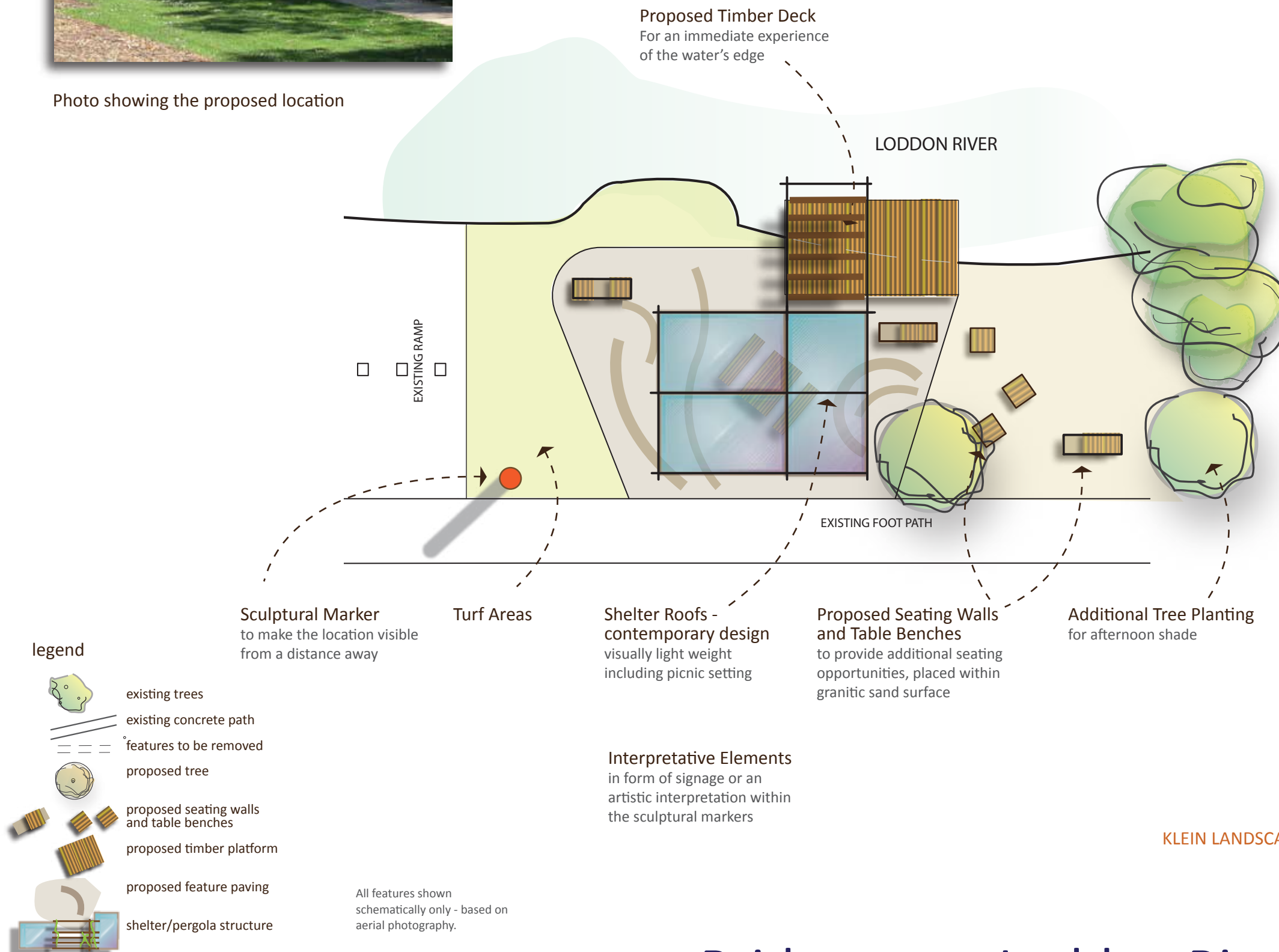
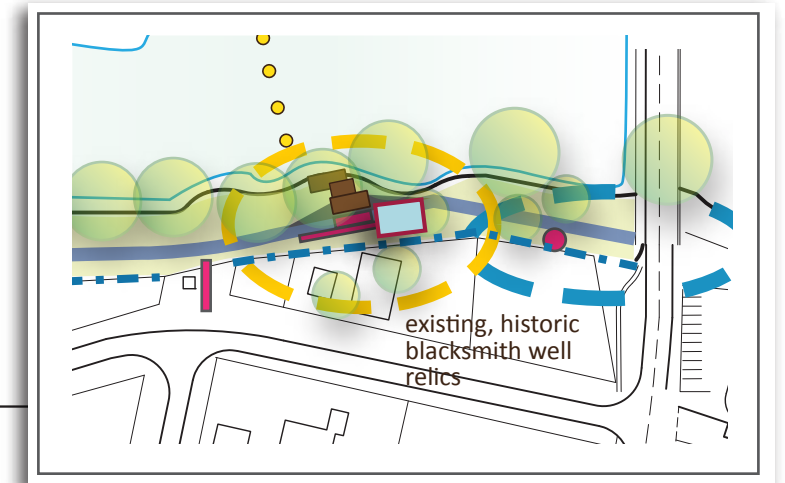


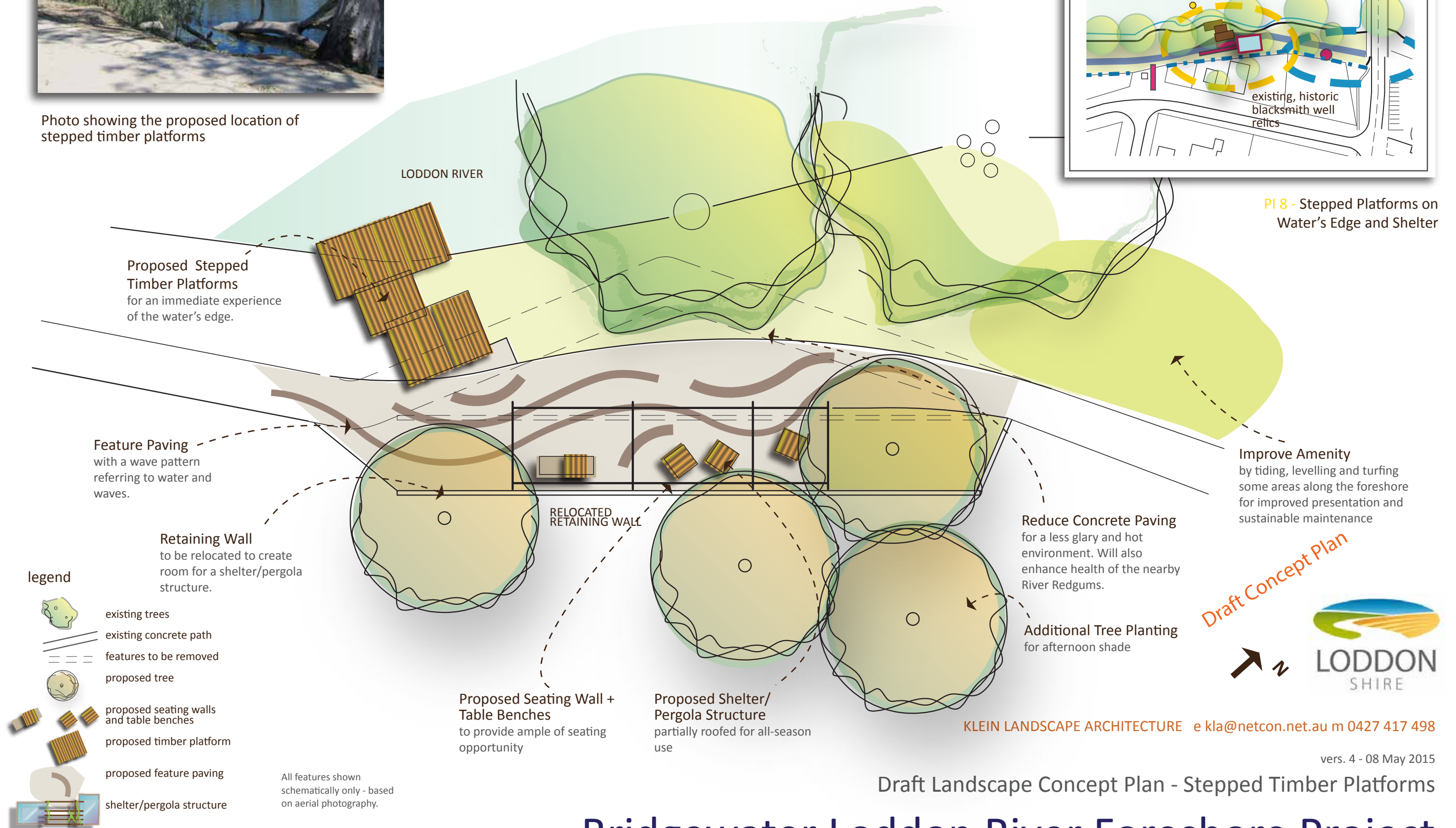




Photo showing the proposed location of stepped timber platforms



PI 8 - Stepped Platforms on Water's Edge and Shelter



Draft Landscape Concept Plan - Stepped Timber Platforms

# Bridgewater Loddon River Foreshore Project



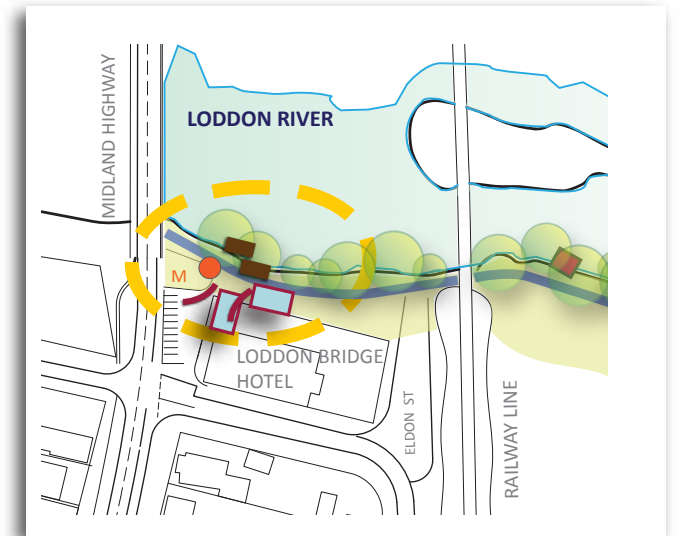


Photo showing the view from the car park entry towards the proposed location of the River Arrival Point

**Sculptural Markers**  
as a landmark visible from the highway

**Open View to River**  
Trim lower branches of mature River Red Gums to open up views onto the Loddon River.

**Proposed Steps and Timber Platforms**  
for access to the water's edge



PI 9 - River Arrival Point

**Cluster of Seating**  
to invite people stopping for a picnic with views onto the river.

### River Arrival Point

The River Arrival Point is intending to give a glimpse of the Loddon River from the highway and the hotel car park, thus enticing visitors to explore the river banks and the foreshore park a bit further. Measures include re-arrangement of signage, opening up of the view towards the river, a cluster of shaded seating and free public wi-fi to invite people to stay for a break.

**Signage**  
Review location of hotel advertising and various public signage not to distract from river view.

**Entry Planting**  
Replace tall shrubs with low groundcover plantings.

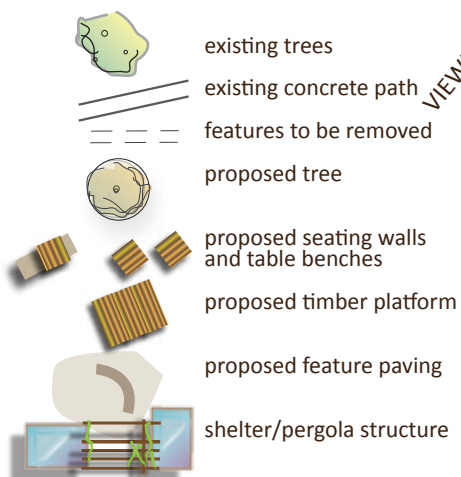
**Feature Seat**  
to define entry and guide views towards the river.  
Hardwood panels on concrete.

**Feature Paving**  
with a wave pattern referring to water and waves.

**Free Public Wi-Fi**  
within the area and the vicinity of the River Arrival Point.



### Legend



**Disabled Car Park**  
Move across to row of existing car parks to free up northern side.

**Proposed Seating Wall + Table Benches**  
to provide ample of seating opportunity

**Proposed Shelter/ Pergola Structures**  
Partially roofed for all-season use - structures should not distract from view towards the river.

**Additional Tree Plantings**  
for shade. Careful placement behind the building required to keep views onto river open.

HOTEL BUILDING

All features shown schematically only - based on aerial photography.

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Draft Landscape Concept Plan - River Arrival Point

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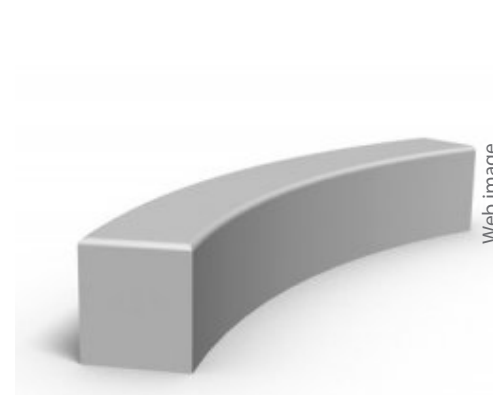


Web image

sculptural markers - opportunity for artistic interpretation



Image: Fleetwood Urban



Web image

curved concrete bench seat



Image: K. Klein

Table Bench



Web image

concrete seating wall with timber slats



Web image

experience of the river from timber platforms



Image: Fleetwood Urban



Image: GR Design



Web image



Image: Landmark Shelters

lightweight, modular shelters and pergolas



Image: Fleetwood Urban



Image: Fleetwood Urban

Draft Concept Plan



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Draft Landscape Concept Plan - Precedent Images

All images are intended to illustrate the design intent. All moral rights remain with the respective designers.

Final designs will vary from the above.

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