

Queens Park Reserve, Lorne

MASTER PLAN

2015 – 2020



Great Ocean Road
Coast Committee Inc

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) use master plans to identify management priorities and provide strategic direction for the use and development of GORCC-managed Crown land. Master plans provide direction consistent with the *GORCC Coastal Management Plan 2013* (GORCC's overarching strategic plan) but with a local focus, listing objectives and proposals related to specific issues and reserve values.

Queens Park Reserve is part of the 37 kilometres of coastal Crown land managed by the Committee between Torquay and Lorne. The reserve is bounded on the coastal side by the Great Ocean Road and on the inland side by the St George River, Lorne's residential edge and bushland managed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The reserve has a unique character resulting from its dense forest, steep slopes and spectacular sea views. Its main visitor and recreational site is Teddy's Lookout, located on the southern end of the reserve's central ridge. The reserve's natural and scenic values combined with proximity to town make it one of Lorne's most accessible and rewarding bushwalking precincts – a role the park has fulfilled for over a century.

This master plan identifies environmental, cultural and social assets of Queens Park Reserve, and identifies strategic actions for their effective management.

2. VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1. Vision statement

The vision provides a statement for the preferred long term future of Queens Park Reserve. The vision statement aligns with the objectives associated with each key proposal, and has guided development of the master plan. The vision was created in conjunction with the community aspirations of Queens Park Reserve, and is:

To emphasise the natural beauty and recreational value of Queens Park Reserve through improved amenity and functionality, recognition of historical and cultural values and removal of environmental weeds. This will be achieved through protecting, enhancing and promoting natural, cultural and social heritage values within the reserve, and by creating awareness of, and appreciation for, the recreational opportunities it presents.

2.2. Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles are based on the vision statement for the reserve, and frame and direct master plan objectives and actions:

1. Improve and maintain the quality of visitor facilities to enhance visitor experiences, and bring the quality of visitor facilities and services into line with the reserve's natural values.
2. Improve accessibility throughout the reserve and provide better links to town and the nearby Point Grey precinct.
3. Upgrade key central pathways and provide more access for people with limited mobility.
4. Promote walking as a positive way to enjoy the reserve and ensure walking in Queens Park Reserve remains one of Lorne's favourite pastimes, for both locals and visitors.
5. Improve and expand visitor information and interpretation to improve visitors understanding of recreation opportunities and their appreciation of natural and cultural heritage values.

6. Prioritise control of environmental weeds to gradually restore native vegetation and habitat values, while continuing to support the work of environmental volunteers group, the Friends of Queens Park.
7. Protect the reserve's natural values by minimising visitor impacts and the visual impact of facilities.
8. Maintain the reserve's 'bushy' characteristics and cultural heritage values through use of natural materials like stone and hardwood.

3. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

3.1. *The project area*

Queens Park Reserve is bounded by the Great Ocean Road, Hird Street, Armytage Street, Charles Street, Francis Street, Parks Victoria managed bushland and the St George River. The park is 44 hectares in size.

Queens Park Caravan Park (QPCP) and the Point Grey precinct adjoin the Queens Park Reserve. Point Grey has its own approved master plan, while QPCP is currently undergoing a master planning process. This document recognises that the QPCP and Point Grey Precinct must be considered in the development of this Queens Park Reserve Master Plan, particularly due to the linked walking track network and management of adjacent environmental values.

The project area is depicted on Map 1.

3.2. *Prior planning and design*

Many of the existing Queens Park Reserve visitor facilities have been developed on an ad hoc needs basis. This has also been the case for formalisation of previously informal recreation and tourism focal points.

The *Lorne Coastal Action Plan 1998* considered Queens Park Reserve but proposed only improved pedestrian links between Teddy's Lookout and the Pier, St George River and the Caravan Park.

GORCC's *Native Vegetation and Weed Action Plan 2015* (NVWAP) provides broad conservation direction, while more detailed vegetation conservation strategies are provided in the *Queens Park Weed Management Plan and Vegetation Quality Assessment 2012*.

The GORCC CMP identifies priorities and provides direction for the sustainable management of the coast. The key issues, objectives and strategies in this master plan are consistent with the CMP, and apply the CMP's direction at a local scale. In turn, the CMP aligns with the actions and objectives set out in the *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014* (VCS).

The development of a master plan for Queens Park Reserve is listed as an action in the CMP.

3.3. *Wider planning context*

This plan sits within the context of a number of state, regional and local plans and strategies. They include the VCS, the *Great Ocean Road Regional Strategy* (DSE 2004), the *Great Ocean Road Landscape Character Assessment Study* (DSE 2003) and the Surf Coast Shire Planning Scheme, which includes a township strategy for Aireys Inlet to Eastern View in the Municipal Strategic Statement (Clause 21.13).

The VCS underpins the vision, key proposals and objectives of this plan. It contains a hierarchy of principles, which states that decision makers' priorities should be to:

1. Ensure the protection of significant environmental and cultural values;
2. Undertake integrated planning and provide clear direction for the future;
3. Ensure the sustainable use of natural coastal resources, and

4. When the above principles have been met, ensure development on the coast is located within existing, modified and resilient environments where the demand for development is evident and any impacts can be managed sustainably.

3.4. Bushfire Management

Under the Victorian Planning Scheme, Queens Park Reserve is located in a Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ). This zone contains a Bushfire Management Overlay and is therefore subject to permit conditions for certain activities.

DELWP are responsible for bushfire management on public land, and their *Fire Operations Plan 2013/14 – 2014/15* identifies fire prevention and preparedness work areas for the Barwon South West. The *Fire Operations Plan* identified St George, adjacent to Queens Park Reserve, as a potential planned burn area in 2014-2017 to 'develop fuel reduced areas of sufficient width and continuity to reduce the spread of bushfire and provide protection to Lorne'. Parks Victoria are the delegated land manager beyond the northern boundary of Queens Park Reserve and may conduct additional fuel reduction works to complement DELWP's planned burn regime.

GORCC will continue to work with DELWP, Parks Victoria, the Country Fire Authority and volunteer group Friends of Queens Park to ensure best bushfire management practices are effectively implemented in both Queens Park Reserve and its surrounds. This includes reducing the fire risk through fuel reduction and conservation works in the reserve and adjacent residential areas, including woody weed removal, slashing, mowing and clearing.

Additionally, *under the Residential Tenancies Act 1997*, GORCC are responsible for providing an Emergency Evacuation Plan and Fire Management Plan for its directly managed caravan parks in Torquay and Lorne. This applies to the adjacent Queens Park Caravan Park.

3.5. Climate change

Over the medium to long term, the potential impacts of climate change pose a serious threat to the GORCC managed coast. The location of Queens Park Reserve and its high density vegetation, combined with above average temperatures and more storm events, may result in increased bushfire and safety risks. The GORCC *Coastal Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Project (2012)* recommends the development of management strategies to adapt to predicted climate change impacts and associated risks. This document will assist development of a monitoring program and management strategies that respond to relevant climate change challenges.

GORCC will continue to be guided by recommendations of the VCS for climate change adaptation strategies.

3.6. Consultation

This plan has been developed in close consultation with the Friends of Queens Park. GORCC has collaborated with the volunteer group for many years, mainly regarding conservation activities, but also in restoring the Tramway Track and reviewing the reserve's visitor facilities. GORCC would like to acknowledge and thank the Friends of Queens Park for their collaboration in development of this master plan, as well as their past and future contributions to Queens Park.

The Lorne Historical Society provided feedback to several key issues covered in the plan, and Lorne Visitor Information Centre staff have assisted in the review and planning of walking tracks and other visitor facilities.

Over a seven week period during January/February 2015, community consultation was conducted on the draft Queens Park Reserve Master Plan. Input and feedback was sought from other stakeholder groups, local

residents and holiday visitors. In total, seven surveys were completed and five submissions were made. Three responses were made on behalf of a group or organisation representing a number of members.

There were some strong areas of contention and opposition for several proposals, particularly the location of Teddy's lookout, replacement of the picnic shelter and gravelling of the George Street entry track. Following further targeted consultation with community members, these elements were modified. The full consultation report and its findings is available on the GORCC website www.gorcc.com.au, and a summary of the key changes made following community consultation presented in Appendix C.

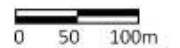


QUEENS PARK MASTER PLAN PROJECT AREA & EXISTING CONDITIONS

WALKING TRACKS

FIREBREAKS / MANAGEMENT TRACKS

LOOKOUTS



Map 1: Project area and existing conditions

4. SUMMARY OF KEY PROPOSALS

The following key proposals are identified as the most important areas to be addressed in this master plan. Actions associated with these proposals fall under relevant key issues and objectives, which are discussed in greater detail below (Section 5).

Protect the ridge

The central ridge is the backbone of the Park and provides a distinct entry experience. Unconstrained vehicle access following fuel reduction works has led to vegetation loss and erosion. This master plan seeks to confine vehicles to the road and rehabilitate the denuded roadside landscape. The walking tracks along the ridge will be defined to reduce off-track impacts and provide a more suitable experience for visitors entering the reserve on foot. Fenced infrastructure compounds will be screened.

Redevelop recreation areas

The Teddy's Lookout recreation site will be upgraded to retain its modest scale and 'bush' character, with works focussing on provision of high quality visitor experiences. The lookout itself was recently rebuilt after it was destroyed by fire, and now provides an access ramp suitable for people with disabilities. The picnic and information shelters will be retained in the short term, and improvements that reflect original character of the site will be made in the long term. Overall, modifications will better meet visitor needs, offer access to people with disabilities and compliment the surrounding landscape.

High quality walking opportunities

Existing walking tracks that are in good condition will be retained and combined with realigned, new sections of track. This will ensure the reserve offers a wide range of high quality, short walks; all of which are categorised under the Australian Walking Track Grading System (DSE, 2010). Easy, accessible walks around the top of the ridge will be complemented by more primitive and physically challenging walks deeper into the bush. Improved links to the Lorne Pier (within the Point Grey Precinct) and along George Street will encourage visitors to access Queens Park Reserve on foot rather than by car.

Interpretation material, natural and cultural heritage experiences

The reserve's walking tracks will offer insights into Lorne's natural and cultural heritage via interpretive infrastructure. Nature and history themes will be developed to link in and complement the historical Tramway track. Interpretative material, track information that highlights the walking network, directional signs and historical information will enhance user's experience of the reserve.

The existing information shelter will undergo some small-scale upgrades, providing an interpretation hub that contains all the reserve's recreational and historical information.

Local materials: celebrating timber and stone

New structures will incorporate local materials to respect the current landscape, while recognising pioneering days when the area was originally developed. Hardwood timber structures, stone steps and pavements will link the built environment with the surrounding natural environment.

5. KEY ISSUES & OBJECTIVES

5.1. Biodiversity conservation

Queens Park Reserve contains several native vegetation communities that have been highly modified by dense infestations of weeds, particularly Boneseed and Sweet Pittosporum (NVWAP, 2015). These weeds pose a significant threat to native vegetation; however, a sustained partnership between GORCC's conservation team and volunteer group Friends of Queens Park is reducing the impact of weeds and gradually improving native vegetation cover and condition.

Conservation activities in Queens Park Reserve are guided by GORCC's NVWAP, *Environment and Land Management Plan* (ELMP, 2006) and *Queens Park Weed Management Plan and Vegetation Quality Assessment* (2012). The latter document is specific to the reserve and provides high quality information on vegetation condition and weed issues, and detailed weed management recommendations. The plan sets out a coordinated approach to conservation management between GORCC and volunteers across GORCC's entire management area. It also makes management recommendations specific to Queens Park Reserve and highlights areas of weed infestation.

Queens Park Reserve is home to many native animals, including threatened owl species and iconic species like echidnas, koalas and kangaroos. The park offers good opportunities for visitors to walk in high quality habitat while observing native animals.

Asset Protection Zones (APZ) are established as a buffer between a bushfire hazard (i.e. vegetation) and buildings, and aim to protect human life, property and highly valued assets. Recent fuel reduction works, conducted by DELWP and Parks Victoria in the APZ along both sides of George Street, have altered the ridge-top landscape by removing mid-story vegetation. This has resulted in a parkland type landscape with large trees and a mostly intact ground story. The APZ works have stimulated environmental weed growth and left the area open to vehicles and associated degradation.

The current practice of slashing in the APZ is hindering natural regeneration of trees, which in the long term will leave no young trees to replace senescing trees along the top of the ridge.

The St George River estuary borders the study area and is in near-pristine condition. Trampling of streamside vegetation by fishermen is one threat to estuary values; however, these impacts are considered to be within acceptable limits and no action beyond monitoring is proposed at present.

5.1.1. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to gradually restore native vegetation cover and condition through environmental weed control.
2. Maintain high quality fauna habitat.
3. Provide nature based tourism, recreation and interpretation experiences for visitors that enrich visitor experiences and foster community involvement in biodiversity conservation.
4. Achieve the above objectives in partnership with local environmental groups, particularly the Friends of Queens Park.



Image 1a: Gang gang cockatoos



Image 1b: Montpellier broom weed regrowing prolifically in Asset Protection Zone

5.2. Cultural heritage conservation

The study area contains no known Aboriginal sites, however there are registered Aboriginal sites at the St George River mouth and Point Grey. It is possible that undiscovered Aboriginal sites exist in Queens Park Reserve. All such sites are protected under Victoria's *Aboriginal Heritage Act (2002)*. Recommendations for risk management related to cultural heritage, during site works are contained in GORCC's *Cultural Heritage Conservation Manual (CHM, 2012)*.

Queens Park Reserve forms part of the Great Ocean Road landscape listed on the Register of the National Estate. At a smaller scale, the remnants of timber tramways, including the former tramway now occupied by the Tramway Track, are important remnants from Lorne's first industry. Teddy's Lookout also has heritage value as a viewing and bushwalking site. The Teddy's Lookout shelter has significance as a typical mid-20th century picnic shelter, although it does not meet current accessibility standards and is not well suited to its bushland setting. The St George River flat was the site of a Great Ocean Road construction workers camp.

Bushwalking around Lorne is an activity that has been widely enjoyed throughout Lorne's history. Interpretation material will highlight this historical activity, as well as those described above.

5.2.1. CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

1. Conserve Aboriginal heritage sites in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2002) and GORCC's CHM in partnership with Aboriginal representative bodies.
2. Broaden and improve heritage interpretation material to enhance the reserve's status as a place to experience Lorne's cultural heritage.
3. In replacing/upgrading visitor facilities, use designs, materials, colours, scale and textures that celebrate the reserve's natural landscape and bush heritage, with prominent use of local stone, native hardwoods and materials that minimise visual impact and emphasise the reserve's natural context.



Image 2: Great Ocean Road construction camp at St George River, 1930s

5.3. Aesthetic character and sense of place

The reserve has a relatively undeveloped character and natural sense of place. Because of its topography the reserve offers visitors a vivid contrast between coastal exposure and sea views (seaward of the ridge) and a more sheltered, bushy experience (landward of the ridge). The reserve's walking tracks support this diversity by offering access to all parts of the reserve – seaside, riverside, sheltered southern slopes, top of the ridge and shrubby, rocky coastal slopes.

The reserve's visitor facilities have a rustic appeal, however many are rundown and their basic standard is at odds with the reserve's accessibility and visitor expectations. Additionally, degradation from vehicle access in the APZ along the ridge detracts from an otherwise enjoyable arrival along the tapering ridge.

In the busier central zone along the ridge and around the car park, better visitor information and signage, higher quality facilities, and more defined tracks would send a clear message to visitors that the area is highly valued, well cared for and open for all to enjoy.

In the central ridge area, APZ works have degraded the area's visual impact by exposing communications and Barwon Water installations. There are opportunities to reduce the visual impact of these installations through new screening, painting or modification of fences.

5.3.1. AESTHETIC CHARACTER OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain the low-key character of facilities while improving design, construction and maintenance standards.
2. Minimise 'sign pollution' by culling superfluous signs and improving sign design and interpretation material.
3. Confine vehicles to roads and walkers to tracks along the central ridge to prevent ongoing degradation of the ridge top landscape.

4. Work with other agencies, including DELWP and Barwon Water, to manage the APZ, particularly to control environmental weeds and prevent degradation through vehicle access.

5.4. Visitor facilities and services

The reserve is a relatively popular visitor destination (in comparison to other sites along the Great Ocean Road) particularly because of its proximity to the Lorne township and the Great Ocean Road touring route.

However, links to town are not well developed, limiting visitor's awareness of the reserve and their ability to walk to it. There are also opportunities to better link the ridge with Point Grey Precinct, the QPCP and St George River.

The reserve's topography limits access for people with disabilities, but the main car park and Teddy's Lookout area is relatively flat and accessible. Prior to finalisation of this plan, Teddy's Lookout was destroyed by fire and its redevelopment improved access for people with disabilities. Improving the pathway from the car park to the lookout will further facilitate this access.

The reserve's walking tracks vary widely in standard¹ and quality. There is also wide variation in the effectiveness and standard of directional signs. In places, walking tracks fail to meet appropriate access, safety and sustainability standards, generally due to overly steep historic alignments, such as old fire breaks. Track realignments will improve the walking track network; however, State Government requirements for the removal of native vegetation must be considered.

An associated issue with the reserve's walking tracks is a lack of track hierarchy. GORCC have established a clear hierarchy and track difficulty rating to enhance the legibility of the track network. See Appendix B.

During preparation of this master plan, the need for a toilet in the Teddy's Lookout area has been considered and discussed with a number of stakeholders. Pollution from toileting was identified as a key problem in the area, and a toilet may therefore be required. Additionally, this plan's focus on improved visitor facilities, information and interpretation implies longer stays by users, which may increase demand for a toilet. Provision of a toilet is seen as highly likely within this master plan's lifetime, thus a toilet is listed amongst the following proposals.

5.4.1. VISITOR FACILITIES AND SERVICES OBJECTIVES

1. Improve the quality of visitor experiences through better facility design and maintenance. Improve visitor information, signage and interpretation with 'low key' material that is suitable within the bush setting.
2. Improve pedestrian accessibility and links to the Lorne Pier, St George River, QPCP and town centre, to increase pedestrian use of Queens Park Reserve and offer more welcoming, higher quality walking experiences.
3. Improve access for people with disabilities in the car park and Teddy's Lookout area.
4. Promote recreation opportunities within the reserve to increase visitor awareness and enjoyment of the area.
5. Manage walking tracks in accordance with AS 2156 to provide consistent, 'quality assured' walking experiences and better track information for visitors.
6. Offer a range of trail standards, including easy access (Class 1 and 2) trails as well as more primitive, physically challenging trails (Class 3 and 4).

¹ The Committee uses the Australian Standard for Walking Tracks (AS 2156) to guide walking track classification, construction standards and signage. AS 2156 includes 6 track classes, of which Class 1 to Class 4 are relevant to Queens Park. Class 1 tracks are the most developed and accessible while Class 4 tracks are more primitive and challenging.

7. Minimise visitor impacts on natural and landscape values by providing appropriate visitor facilities and restricting or discouraging visitor access to vulnerable areas.



Image 3: Visitors at Teddy's Lookout.

5.5. Road access and parking

George Street provides the main road access to Queens Park Reserve, with parking provided at Teddy's Lookout and along the ridge top roadside. Limited parking is also available off the Great Ocean Road at St George River, beside Hird Street and along Charles Street. Parking capacity is considered adequate for the current and anticipated level of visitation and profile of the reserve, but the St George River parking area functions poorly and at times creates dangerous situations for drivers and pedestrians.

Unconstrained vehicle access off George Street resulting from APZ work is damaging vegetation and soils. There is an opportunity in this area to modify existing roadside swale drains as a subtle way of preventing vehicle access into roadside parkland. The road verge between drains can be bollarded and existing small roadside parking area can be redeveloped to offer trailhead parking.

The reserve is not well sign posted from central Lorne, either for pedestrians or drivers. There is an opportunity to improve directional signage to help visitors find and enjoy the park.

5.5.1. ROAD ACCESS AND PARKING OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain high standard road access by maintaining the sealed road and car park.
2. Prevent unauthorised vehicle access to APZ areas off George St to protect the ridge-top landscape.
3. Improve the definition and presentation of parking areas to enhance their functionality and provide a more welcoming experience for visitors.

5.6. Interpretation and visitor information

Heritage interpretation is used to provide insights on places or features which, without interpretation, would remain hidden. Visitor information includes signs, information shelters, publications and other media to welcome visitors and help them orientate themselves, navigate tracks and understand regulations and recreation opportunities.

Two standout interpretation opportunities at Queens Park Reserve are additional cultural heritage interpretation and new natural heritage interpretation. The reserve offers outstanding opportunities to experience and learn about Lorne's lowland forest and animals. It also offers insights into Lorne's early timber industry via the Tramway Track, but the historic theme can be extended to cover stories of early holidaying, promenading, exploring and the construction of the Great Ocean Road (focusing on the St George River construction camp).

The information shelter at Teddy's Lookout car park provides a good basic standard of visitor information. An updated structure and associated content can provide an information hub, with entry, orientation and directional signs on the road and track to support the content. The Friends of Queens Park noticeboard will remain and be incorporated within the information shelter, so the group can continue to post news items and promote their activities.

5.6.1. INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR INFORMATION OBJECTIVES

1. Provide high quality, well designed interpretation that reflects the area's special values and supports the other objectives of the master plan.
2. Focus on cultural and natural heritage themes that suit the reserve's key values, are 'low-key' and complement existing interpretation and nearby heritage features.

6. MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS

Master plan proposals are presented in the following tables and have been categorised around the six priority issues outline above. Key proposals are also represented on maps.

The following proposals have been prioritised as high, medium or low, and assigned an action timeframe of short (1-2 years), medium (3-4 years), long (5 years) or ongoing.

A priority rating and timeframe was determined for each action by evaluating the urgency for it to be addressed, considering prerequisite actions to enable a logical sequence of works within the management framework, and incorporating financial estimates to enable a viable implementation plan. The Friends of Queens Park also provided significant input into assigning priority ratings.

6.1. Biodiversity conservation

Number	Proposal	Priority	Time frame
1	Continue to implement the 2012 Weed Management Plan, in partnership with volunteers including Friends of Queens Park and LorneCare, and develop a rehabilitation/management plan specifically for the George Street verge area.	High	Ongoing
2	Develop nature based recreation and interpretation facilities.	High	Ongoing
3	Continue to monitor impacts from off-track walking and streamside fishing and take action to mitigate impacts if required.	Medium	Medium
4	Continue to work with DELWP to control weeds in APZ areas.	High	Ongoing
5	Continue to seek extra conservation resources to meet the above objectives.	High	Ongoing

6.2. Cultural heritage conservation

Number	Proposal	Priority	Time frame
6	Maintain the Tramway Track as a high quality interpretive walk and cultural tourism asset.	High	Ongoing
7	Enhance the Tramway Track's historic and natural character by replacing timber steps with stone steps, maintaining interpretive signs and removing environmental weeds.	Medium	Medium
8	In upgrading the information shelter and other visitor information, incorporate interpretation and imagery of historic bushwalking and exploring activities, to complement the industrial/economic theme of the Tramway Track and broaden cultural heritage interpretation.	Low	Long
9	Where appropriate, interpret local place names (e.g. <i>Teddy's Lookout</i>) to add interest to visitor experiences, and preserve historic names and social themes. Introduce names for new or unnamed facilities and tracks, in consultation with the local community and Lorne Historical Society.	Medium	Medium
10	Remove existing treated pine steps and replace with local Otway sandstone steps to AS Class 2 standard.	Medium	Medium

6.3. Aesthetic character

Number	Proposal	Priority	Time frame
11	Maintain the low-key character of facilities while improving design, construction and maintenance standards (see Appendix A: design guidelines).	Medium	Ongoing
12	Use local materials when redeveloping facilities.	Medium	Ongoing

6.4. Recreational facility and service

Number	Proposal	Priority	Time frame
13	Develop a new link between the Tramway Track and Teddy's Lookout car park via QPCP (to be AS Class 3 and feature stone steps).	Medium	Medium
14	Retain the current picnic shelter. In the long term, conduct modifications that retain the original aesthetic character of the shelter. Improvements and modifications to be conducted in consultation with local community and Lorne Historical Society.	Medium	Long
15	Provide a rubbish bin at the current picnic shelter.	High	Short
16	Remove the current information shelter and incorporate visitor information and interpretation into the modified picnic shelter (Please note a detailed design will be provided and consultation conducted when this action is implemented).	Medium	Long
17	In the short term at Teddy's Lookout, construct small cement-stabilised gravel viewing area to provide viewing opportunities for people with disabilities.	Completed	Completed
18	Continue to monitor demand for a toilet in the Teddy's Lookout area, including monitoring of pollution from toileting in the bush, and provide a toilet if required. The preferred toilet is a single compostable toilet. The preferred site is the north-west corner of the main parking area.	Medium	Ongoing
19	Establish new 2.5m wide gravel walking track along existing 5m wide firebreak between Charles St and Teddy's Lookout car park and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertake minor works along the caravan park firebreak track to Teddy's Lookout to improve water runoff. - Improve the track surface where required to meet AS Class 3 standards. This track will also continue to provide management/fire vehicle access. - Ongoing removal of priority environmental weeds like Sweet Pittosporum along this track to provide intermittent sea views. 	Medium	Medium
20	Construct new AS Class 3 link between Tramway Track and firebreak track via Hird St and Caravan Park roads, including several sets of stone steps (to similar standard as existing steps at road crossing). Track marker signage to be used around caravan park periphery to mark route.	Medium	Medium
21	Construct new walking track along Charles St to AS Class 3, providing off road link between existing tracks.	Medium	Medium

22	Resurface link from Tramway Track to Point Grey.	Medium	Long
23	Upgrade the track west of the Teddy's Lookout car park from AS Class 3 to AS Class 2, including gravel surfacing and removal of obstacles. Investigate track naming and interpretation options.	Medium	Medium
24	In consultation with the Lorne community, seek a new name for Teddy's Lookout Lower Landing. Replace treated pine steps with mortared stone steps and gravel surface the access track.	Medium	Medium
25	On the riverside track, undertake minor work to mitigate puddling but retain historic formation. Improve signage at track intersections including directional, distance and standards information.	High	Medium
26	Realign track and install stone steps and drainage on the walking track linking 'Artist's Lookout' to St George River, to provide a more sustainable and enjoyable track with better drainage and mitigate risks relating to steep gradients.	High	Medium
27	Refurbish steps to Shelly Beach.	Medium	Medium
28	At the main walking track parallel to George Street, install clearer directional signage to provide better track definition, greater accessibility for people with impaired mobility and a more welcoming experience for people accessing the Teddy's Lookout area on foot from Lorne or the Francis Street end of the reserve.	High	Medium
29	Classify all new and old tracks in accordance with AS 2156 and maintain tracks according to their classification.	Medium	Ongoing
30	Increase track maintenance frequency and effort to ensure tracks remain safe, sustainable and enjoyable to use.	High	Ongoing

6.5. Road access and parking

Number	Proposal	Priority	Time frame
31	Maintain the existing sealed road and car park as the main access way for vehicles. Modify car park with pavement cutting and 'H' barriers to improve definition and use available space more efficiently.	Medium	Medium
32	Undertake minor modifications (pavement saw-cutting and installation of barriers) to improve the definition of parking spaces in the Teddy's Lookout car park.	Medium	Medium
33	Reinstate and formalise the small trailhead parking area on the southern side of George St.	Medium	Medium
34	Improve the informal Hird Street trailhead parking area by improving drainage, installing a directional sign for walkers, installing matting along the grassy road verge and extending path links to and past the parking area.	Low	Long
35	Advocate to VicRoads to formalise the St George River roadside parking area, maintaining its current scale but improving its functionality and safety. Liaise with VicRoads to investigate pedestrian safety options at St George River.	High	Short

36	Use a combination of heavy hardwood bollards and vegetated drainage swales to prevent vehicle access off George St. Install removable bollards to facilitate management access to firebreaks.	High	Completed
37	At George St verge install hardwood bollards and enlarge roadside swale drains to prevent vehicle access into APZ and resulting soil and vegetation damage.	High	Completed

6.6. Interpretation and Visitor Information

Number	Proposal	Priority	Time frame
38	Liaise with the Lorne Historical Society, Friends of Queens Park and LorneCare when developing signage and interpretative material for Queens Park Reserve.	High	Short
39	Develop new 'Nature Trail' interpretation in association with improvements to the main ridge-top loop track to provide visitors with a high standard, highly accessible interpretive trail (e.g. a nature-themed version of the Tramway Track).	Medium	Medium
40	Develop new interpretation material for the proposed combined information and picnic shelter, introducing the main interpretive themes of natural and cultural heritage.	Low	Long
41	Leave Teddy's Lookout free of interpretation to preserve its simplicity and let the view speak for itself.	High	Ongoing
42	Liaise with the Lorne community to assist in provision of information on the history of Teddy's Lookout.	High	Short
43	Develop a Queens Park Reserve brochure focusing on walking trails. Work with Lorne Visitor Information Centre to assess demand.	High	Short
44	Improve orientation and directional signs in line with the sign plan and Walking Trail Class Symbols (Appendix B).	High	Short
45	Continue to use the existing typeface (Queens Park Reserve entry signs on George St) as a distinctive 'period' typeface for new entry and directional signs.	High	Ongoing
46	Provide a directional map at St George River, the George Street entrance and other appropriate locations as required, detailing all walks, their distances and links in the area and further afield.	High	Short
47	Provide 'no camping' and 'no bushfire' signage at St George River.	High	Short



Image 4: Tramway track interpretation adds value to the track.

7. MAPS

See following pages.



EXISTING WALKING TRACKS
 FIREBREAKS / MANAGEMENT TRACKS
 NEW WALKING TRACKS
 LOOKOUTS
 PARKING

0 50 100m
 NORTH

Map 2
QUEENS PARK MASTER PLAN
MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS

- 1 TOILET: continue to monitor demand for toilet and pollution from bush toileting. Provision of a toilet is considered likely within plan lifetime (2015-2020). Proposed facility is a single cubicle unisex low-flush toilet, AS 1428 compliant (disabled accessible).
- 2 Replace existing information shelter with new information/interpretation panels incorporated into proposed new picnic shelter (see below) as shelter's west wall.
- 3 Replace existing picnic shelter with new shelter designed to minimise view obstruction and better suit surrounding landscape, featuring hardwood timbers and stone with steel skillion roof. Floor to be level with surrounding ground and provide access for people with disabilities.
- 4 Upgrade path from AS Class 3 to AS Class 1 standard (e.g. with cement-stabilised Lilydale Toppings) providing wheelchair access to end of ridge and in longer term to Teddy's Lookout (see below).
- 5 In short term, construct small cement-stabilised gravel viewing area to provide viewing opportunities for people with disabilities.
- 6 In longer term, redevelop Teddy's Lookout slightly further back on the crest of the ridge to provide similar viewing opportunities, access for people with disabilities and a reduced visual impact when viewed

EXISTING STEPS: remove existing treated pine steps and replace with local Otway Sandstone steps to A.S. Class 2 standard.


EXISTING LOOKOUT: maintain lookout, investigate options to improve on the name Teddy's Lookout 'Lower Landing'.




EXISTING FIREBREAK TRACK: upgrade to provide high quality link between Teddy's Lookout and Hird St, Pt Grey, caravan park and Tramway Track.

EXISTING TRACK: upgrade from AS Class 3 to AS Class 2 including gravel surfacing and removal of obstacles. Investigate loop track naming and interpretation options.

 EXISTING WALKING TRACKS

 FIREBREAKS / MANAGEMENT TRACKS

 NEW WALKING TRACKS

 STEPS

 PARKING



 0 50 100m

Map 3

QUEENS PARK MASTER PLAN TEDDY'S LOOKOUT DETAILED PLAN

TRAMWAY TRACK: resurface existing track, improve maintenance

EXISTING STEPS: refurbish steps to Shelly Beach

EXISTING STEPS: refurbish steps to provide better link between caravan park and firebreak and Charles St tracks

FIREBREAK TRACK: establish new 2.5m wide gravel walking track/management track along existing 5m wide firebreak between Charles St and Teddys Lookout carpark. Remove Pittosporum and other environmental weeds along track.

NEW LINK: formalise link for walkers between Charles St and Hird St via lower tier of caravan park using track marker signage, including construction of one new stairway.

HIRD ST CAR PARK: harden existing informal parking area by installing grass reinforcement matting and post and rail barriers.

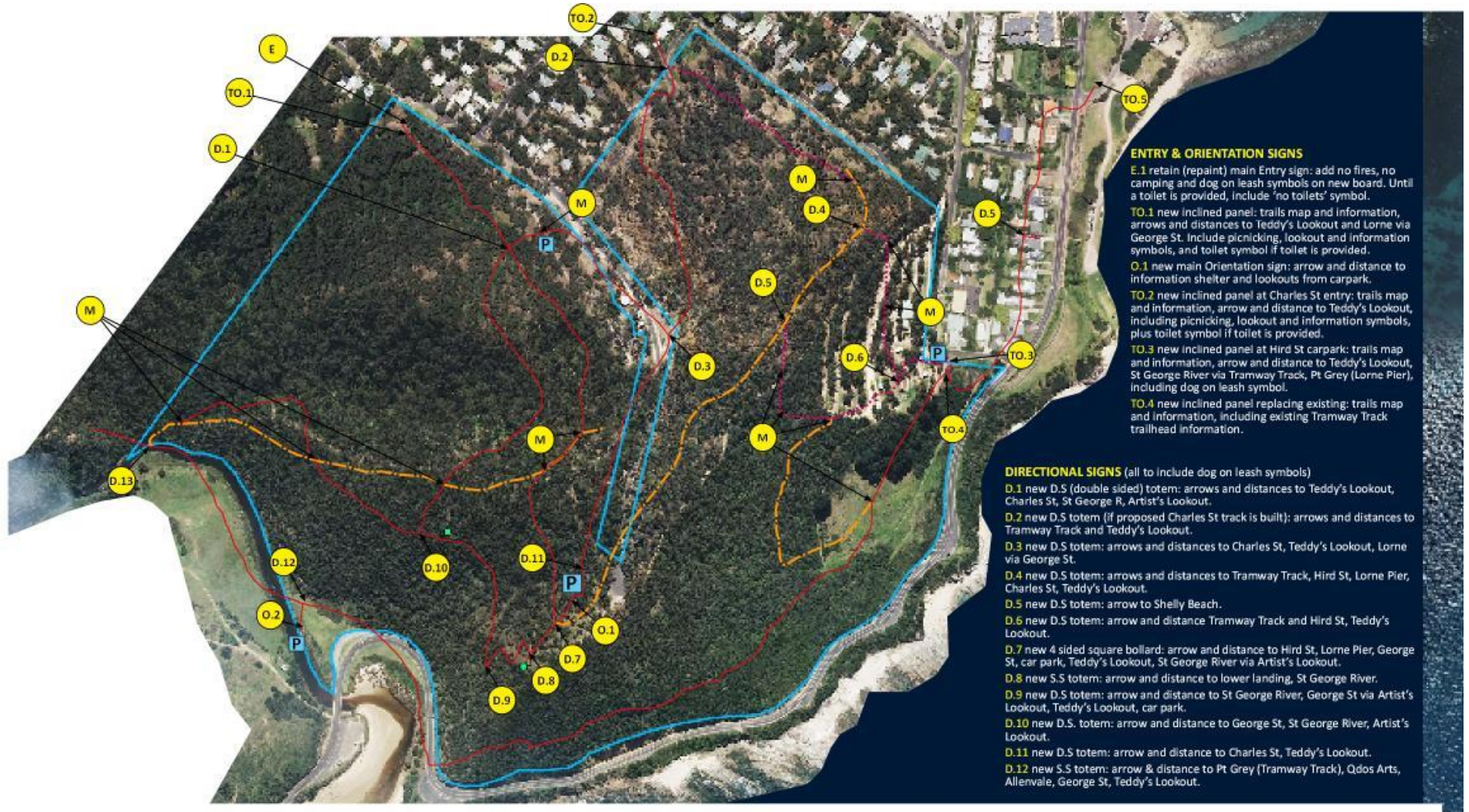
HIRD ST PATH LINK: construct new A.S. Class 3 link between Tramway Track and firebreak track via Hird St roadside and Caravan Park roads, including several sets of stone steps (similar standard as existing steps at road crossing). Track marker signage to be used around Caravan Park periphery to mark route.



Map 4

QUEENS PARK MASTER PLAN HIRD STREET DETAILED PLAN





QUEENS PARK MASTER PLAN SIGN PLAN

Map 5

- TRACK MARKER WITH ARROW
Basic wayfinding marker for walkers
- ORIENTATION SIGN
Orientation information for visitors in vehicles
- DIRECTIONAL SIGN
Directional information for walkers
- TRACK ORIENTATION SIGN
Track overview and directional information for walkers
- ENTRY SIGN
Main entry sign on roadside
- EXISTING WALKING TRACKS
- FIREBREAKS / MANAGEMENT TRACKS
- NEW WALKING TRACKS
- LOOKOUTS



8. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: DESIGN GUIDELINES

The following images are examples of desired characteristics of facilities listed in the master plan including stone steps, signs, vehicle barriers and structures.



Image 5: Stone steps on the Tramway Track.

The master plan proposes widespread use of stone steps like these. The steps are designed to meet 'Class 3' standard (A.S. 2156), to suit the landscape and give visitors an idea of the standard of facilities and level of challenge they will face further along the track. On Class 2 tracks, stone steps may be mortared, wider and more consistent with 'normal' steps in their proportions.



Image 6: Thin, dark coloured railings minimise visual impact, while hardwood timbers suit the tone of the bush.



Image 7: Timber post and rail barriers ('H' barriers) prevent vehicle encroachment and help define parking bays without line marking.



Image 8: Examples of trailhead information and directional signage with directional information, distances and symbols.

APPENDIX B: WALKING CLASS TRAIL SYMBOLS

A series of walking track class symbols has been developed by the Committee to guide for the level of difficulty of a walking trail. Colours have been used to emphasise the difficulty level; for example, red is the most difficult (Figure 1). When these symbols are used on a sign, the whole series is displayed with the relevant class highlighted in colour and increased in size for easy comprehension (Figure 2).



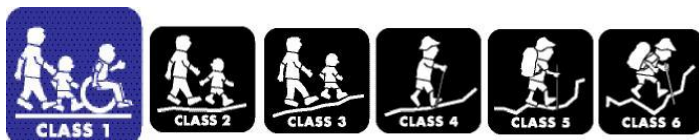
Figure 1: Colour coding of walking class symbols.



Figure 2: Example of Class 3 walking trail series.

The pictures below depict walking track classes (A.S 2156) 1 to 4 and their associated trail class symbols.

Class 1



Class 2



Class 3



Class 4



APPENDIX C: KEY CHANGES TO FINAL PLAN

Feedback received through the community consultation period helped determine the following key changes for inclusion in the final master plan.

Relevant report section	Community feedback	Key change or inclusion	Additional information and comments
6. Master plan overview	<i>What is lacking in the proposals is a definitive statement as to the order of priorities. What are the costings and how is it to be financed? What is the time schedule? – Friends of Queens Park</i>	Provide more information on the determination of priorities (i.e. how priorities were identified as high, medium or low) and their timeframe.	
6.1 Biodiversity conservation proposals	<i>We think a logical starting point is the parking arrangements on the George Street verge together with revegetation of this despoiled area. This will need a detailed site plan and heavy machinery work carried out by GORCC at the outset. Permit me to suggest that perhaps Gary White and Rod Goring, who are known to each other, might meet on site to work out the best practical solution. Volunteers could follow up with planting and general light work. - Friends of Queens Park.</i>	Add Action: ‘Work with Friends of Queens Park Reserve to create a vegetation rehabilitation and management plan for the George Street verge area’.	This additional action strengthens community partnerships by addressing the most important environmental issues identified by the Friends of Queens Park.
6.4 Recreational facility and service proposals	<i>We would like greater clarification as to the relocation of the viewing platform. We think the current site provides spectacular views and is appropriately located. Moving the platform back would impact upon the stones at the top of the descent to the platform. We are opposed to the naming of the lower lookout. – Friends of Queens Park.</i>	Remove Action ‘Redevelop Teddy’s Lookout slightly further back on the crest of the ridge...’	Community consultation highlighted lack of support for moving and redeveloping Teddy’s Lookout further up the ridge. Following the consultation period, a fire at Teddy’s Lookout caused significant damage and a complete rebuild was required. The lookout is now disability access appropriate (as per Action 16) and its original position has been maintained. Relocation of the lookout further down the ridge was deemed unnecessary in the long term.

	<p><i>Members of the Society are aware of the problems of illegal camping at the site and the use of the bush/tracks as a toilet. We believe that the situation should be monitored and if there is a need for a toilet then a composting toilet would be the preferred alternative. Whatever the solution we believe daily or regular maintenance by GORCC staff is essential. Bins are also a must. – Lorne Historical Society.</i></p>	<p>Include action: ‘Provide a rubbish bin at the current picnic shelter’.</p>	<p>Rubbish (including rubbish from toileting) was identified as a key issue. Provision of a bin at the picnic shelter is appropriate, in line with monitoring rubbish and identifying the need for a composting toilet (long term).</p>
	<p><i>Gravel unnecessary. – Individual submission.</i></p> <p><i>We are in general agreement with what is proposed, noting that gravelling of the George Street entry track has now been removed... - Friends of Queens Park.</i></p>	<p>Remove part of Action 28 related to gravelling of the George Street entry track.</p>	<p>The Friends of Queens Park strongly oppose gravelling of the entry track, believing it to be an unnecessary, inappropriate action that will harden and detract from the natural environment. This view was expressed as a formal submission and in several conversations between the Friends group and the project manager.</p>
<p>6.5 Road access and parking</p>	<p><i>Upgrading entry to the Park by fencing off degraded area, landscaping, revegetating and designating parking spots is mandatory. – Individual submission.</i></p>	<p>Change Action 33: ‘Reinstate and formalise the small trailhead parking area’.</p>	<p>The addition of ‘formalise’ addresses community feedback.</p>
	<p><i>Vic Roads should be contacted to reduce speed limit to a safer level (currently 50). – Individual submission.</i></p> <p><i>You describe parking difficulties on GOR as "awkward" and say you will liaise with VicRoads .However the elephant in the room continues to be ignored. – Individual submission.</i></p> <p><i>Parking and access to the car park at the start of Tramway track at St George River needs to be reviewed and redesigned due to road safety issues. – Individual submission.</i></p>	<p>Change Action 35 to: ‘Advocate to VicRoads for formalising...’ and expand to include ‘Liaise with VicRoads to investigate pedestrian safety options at St George River’. Allocate as high priority.</p>	<p>Community consultation called for a firmer GORCC position and allocation of a high priority.</p> <p>As the plan seeks to increase promotion and improve access to Queens Park Reserve walking trails, this may result in increased access at St George River. Pedestrian safety should be addressed as a consequence of increased access.</p>

	Verbal feedback received from the Friends of Queens Park.	Change Action 36: 'Use a combination of heavy hardwood bollards and vegetated drainage swales to prevent vehicle access off George St...' to 'high' priority and 'short' timeframe.	As outlined above, along with overall biodiversity conservation and weed control works, the Friends of Queens Park consider this issue to be one of the most important highlighted in the draft master plan. Continuous vehicle access has caused this area to be significantly degraded and denuded of vegetation.
5.6 and 6.6 Interpretation and Visitor Information Proposals	<i>It is our opinion that the Teddy's Lookout precinct should be developed in a way that protects its natural beauty, but provides sensible improvements for the visitors. For example, improved tracks with low-key appropriate signage. Signs should be as low-key as is practicable, but having the information, easily accessible and understood. – Lorne Historical Society.</i>	Highlight the simple, 'low-key' nature of signage (directional and interpretative) in objectives (Section 4.6). Expand Action 38 to include: 'liaise with the Lorne Historical Society, Friends of Queens Park and LorneCare when developing signage for Queens Park Reserve'.	This point is touched on in the draft plan but required further emphasis.
	<i>Better directional signage mapping on the ground; not just for the Queens Park walks but also linking with the Parks Vic walks (e.g. through to Allenvale and Lorne town). The on ground info only really shows the walks around Queens Park, but a lot of people utilise these walks as a link to further inland. For example I get a lot of people confused when they come out at George River who are looking to go to the tramway track or phantom falls. Therefore a larger on ground map with a bigger km radius at key locations is needed; Teddy's lookout and St George River. E.g. at Teddys lookout, should have a cross promotion; e.g. did you know there is 10 waterfalls in 10kms. – Submission made on behalf of the Lorne Visitor Information Centre.</i>	Include action: 'Provide a directional map at St George River, and other appropriate locations as required, detailing all walks, their distances and links in the area and further afield'.	This inclusion was recommended to highlight the importance of establishing links to other walking opportunities and areas nearby.
	<i>We naturally wish to contribute heritage information and materials. For example, information about the Indigenous people (The Gadubanud), the role</i>	Include action: 'Liaise with the Lorne community to provide interpretative	

	<i>the area played in the Second World War as a site for aircraft and shipping spotters, and the three stories about the naming of Teddy's Lookout. – Lorne Historical Society.</i>	information regarding the history of Teddy's Lookout'.	
	<i>We appreciate the work carried out by GORCC and hope that action can now be taken to at least making a start on the George Street verge. This is of even greater importance for fire prevention as it is within the APZ where at present would be campers have easy vehicle access. Additional signage, especially "no camping no fires" is mandatory. – The Friends of Queens Park.</i>	Include action: 'Provide 'no camping' and 'no bushfire' signage at St George River'.	