

BASS COAST DINOSAURS TRAIL

Masterplan Community Engagement Report 2021

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the first Australians and recognize they have a unique relationship with the land. We also recognize and that this site is situated on the traditional lands of the Bunurong, members of the Kulin Nation who have lived here for thousands of years. We offer our respect to their elders past and present and through them, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.





Project background

The Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail was envisioned by local prospector and Bunurong Coast Education Officer, Mike Cleeland, building upon the past 40 years of paleontological work in the region. Mike, Professor Pat Vickers-Rich, Tom Rich, Lesley Kool along with over 700 volunteers over four decades have been prospecting and excavating areas of the coastline in Victoria. They have partnered with the university sector, museum sector, Traditional Owners and all tiers of government in pursuit of geological and paleontological scientific goals. Their work has contributed to making the region one of the most significant places in Australia for the uncovering of dinosaur fossils.

Mike's vision for the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail would see a series of installations at selected sites along the coast, evoking the dinosaurs that lived in the region around 125 million years ago. The concept is widely supported by groups and individuals associated with palaeontology in the area.

The Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail peels back the layers of earth, life and time over millennia and re-imagines them in a contemporary setting. The Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail builds upon the ground breaking work, passion and enterprise

of the local community, traditional owners and palaeontologists over the past 40 years. It visibly expresses the sense of wonder, learning and stories in concert with the country that shapes them.

Consisting of creative responses located from San Remo to Inverloch, the trail is a creative, sensory and interactive experience. Curatorial drivers push the artwork beyond the normal dinosaur sculptural depictions and explore the depth of knowledge, science, landscape, imagination and culture through various media and scale. The artworks are complemented by extensive interpretive way finding reflecting the science and values of traditional owners. This is enhanced on site by connecting to a coordinated online platform.

The Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail has multiple stakeholders including Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Bass Coast Shire Council, Parks Victoria, DELWP, Destination Gippsland, Destination Phillip Island, Visit Victoria, Dinosaurs scientific and prospecting community as well as many other business, environmental, cultural and community groups. The local community, general public and visitors are also actively involved.

During the community engagement phase, we spoke to...

Over **60 people** who attended drop in sessions. All were members of local community

With online consultation, **100** people shared their feedback for the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail Masterplan document

Three **targeted consultation sessions** were run, with over 30 community members across Bass Coast, including representatives from historical, arts & culture and natural environment groups.

Science and research – the **Dino Hunters** – have been part of the project development from the beginning and have extended analysis and input on the Masterplan document

Meetings with partners from Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Victoria and DELWP



Project Governance Groups

Project Control Group met four times over six months;

Project Working Group met four times over six months;

Internal Reference Group met four times over six months, with additional smaller catch ups as per area of contributing expertise.



Out in the community...

Workshops

Digging for Meaning

Workshop held on 30 April 2021 discussed social context and history behind the region.

Members invited were previously on the 'Museum Redevelopment Group' that was established in the early stages of masterplanning in 2020.

Organisations in attendance: Dinosaurs Dreaming; Inverloch Shell Museum; Amazon Shipwreck 1863 Incorporated.

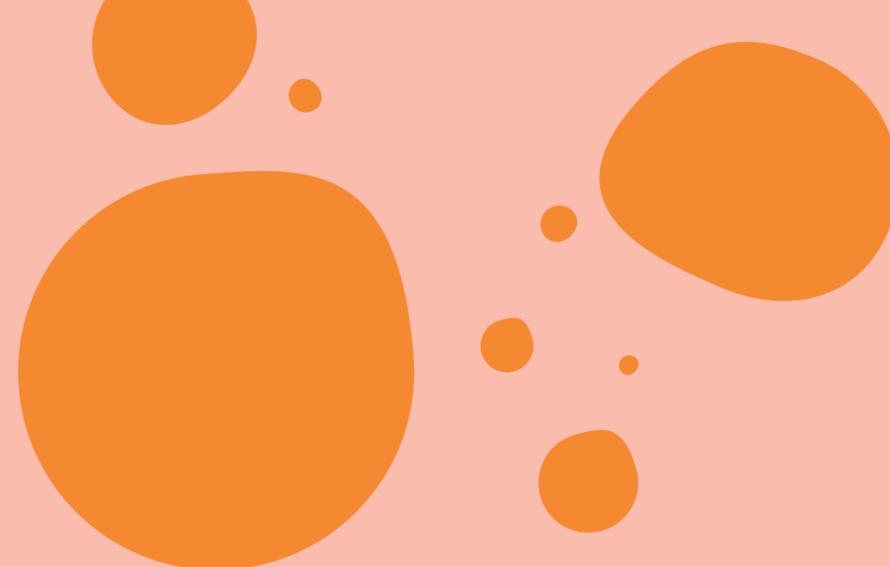
Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail presented the opportunities that lie within the project. In collaboration with Lesley Kool, the values arising from the social context and the people involved in the digging sites were reported. The group was positive about the project and noted the interest in '**international significance**' and the project setting out a **legacy** for the region.

Tread Lightly

Workshop held on 21 May 2021 discussed environmental impact and considerations for the proposed sites.

Organisations in attendance: Friends of Wonthaggi Heathland and Coastal Reserve; Bass Coast Landcare Network; Wonthaggi Seedbank and Nursery.

BCSC presented the project's concept, background, context, and key milestones. Discussed the project's significance with regard to polar dinosaurs, and how scientists and researchers envisage the project as an opportunity to share a message on sustainability and good practice for **safeguarding the natural environment**. The conversations were extensive and included discussion on vegetation and habitat, benefits and constraints of use of boardwalks vs pathway.



Let's Imagine

Workshop held as an activity part of Bass Coast Arts & Culture Committee monthly meeting; primary brief and project presentation on 3 May 2021 and project update with concise Masterplan document presentation along with narrative development on 24 August 2021.

At initial workshop, BCSC presented the project and how it seeks to provide a journey of knowledge and creativity. Amongst the conversations, ideas included **sensory responses**, the unique experience of the project, a treasure hunt with **simulated fossil finding**. Discussion around addressing each of the sites by risk and later on in developing EOI mechanism for artists, that will envisage creativity for ensuring education, environmental and cultural purposes. At second consultation, BCSC presented the draft Masterplan document and conversations

included pressure from potential excessive development and how to seek to disperse/ use the opportunities that arise from the project. Supportive of integration and joint engagement for collaboration within this project and playground re-developments. This group would like to continue to be involved in next stages of project development.

Online Drop in Session

Held on 18 August 2021 for public consultation to hear the community feedback on the Masterplan document.

Attendance was low but provided positive outcome through generated conversation. Member of the South Gippsland Conservation Society had a shared interest in the natural environment and a

local artist was present who has a background in working through similar projects.

Enquiry as to the **sensitivity** of coastal constrained locations (in particular with expected increased visitation arising from YBMCP). Dino Team ensured the team **share** the same concerns and are/will continue to look for the best practice for conservation management, the idea of **disperse** and pointed to the opportunity of electric bus shuttle. Raised that **distance** between sites is something that can emphasise the dispersal of visitors and really **supports** the electric bus shuttle.

Also pointing to the Inverloch site as a great location and definitely shares the interest in the **museum/discovery centre**. BCSC discussed that this is something that will be continued and unpacked in the next phase.

Inverloch Drop in Session

Held on 21 August 2021 for public consultation to hear the community feedback on the masterplan document.

BCSC talked to **26 people**.

Everyone was **really supportive and enthusiastic about** the project proposal. Questions were around the social context and dinosaur significance (even though most were familiar with the Dinosaurs Dreaming activities, so it came to explaining how they fit together). South Gippsland Conservation Society new admin member and member of the Amazon Committee attended and noted their support, as well as eager interest in the museum/discovery centre re-development. Overall, everyone said the project is a **great idea!**

Kilcunda Drop in Session

Held on 21 August 2021 for public consultation to hear the community feedback on the masterplan document.

BCSC talked to **36 people**.

Community members who attended the Kilcunda sessions expressed their **concerns** with proposed examples of the installation for the site in the Masterplan document; they do not support vertical style art, but would be happy with **wayfinding and interpretation** and a creative art response

that is not dismissive of the environment. We discussed the use of the project as an opportunity to advocate for infrastructure that the community has been seeking – such as improve carpark and decrease impact from increased visitation over the past year; possibility of implementing a **civic green area** where the current carpark is.

Additionally, **integration** with the skate and play is fundamental – and opportunities for creative response may lie within those components. Further integration should be envisaged with YBMCP (community at this instance may see ‘too much’ happening in the area that does not address their main concerns with infrastructure for example).

There is a passion for the natural environment. Although the site narrative proposes messages that lie with the environment, sustainable environment messaging should be further explored and proposal would benefit from a clear interpretation and education focus on preserving nature.

Survey

Online survey open from 5 August 2021 – 31 August 2021 (total four weeks).

30 responses were collected.

The average rating for the Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail masterplan was 3.9 out of a total high score of 5.

55.56%
scored 5 (15)

11.11%
scored 4 (3)

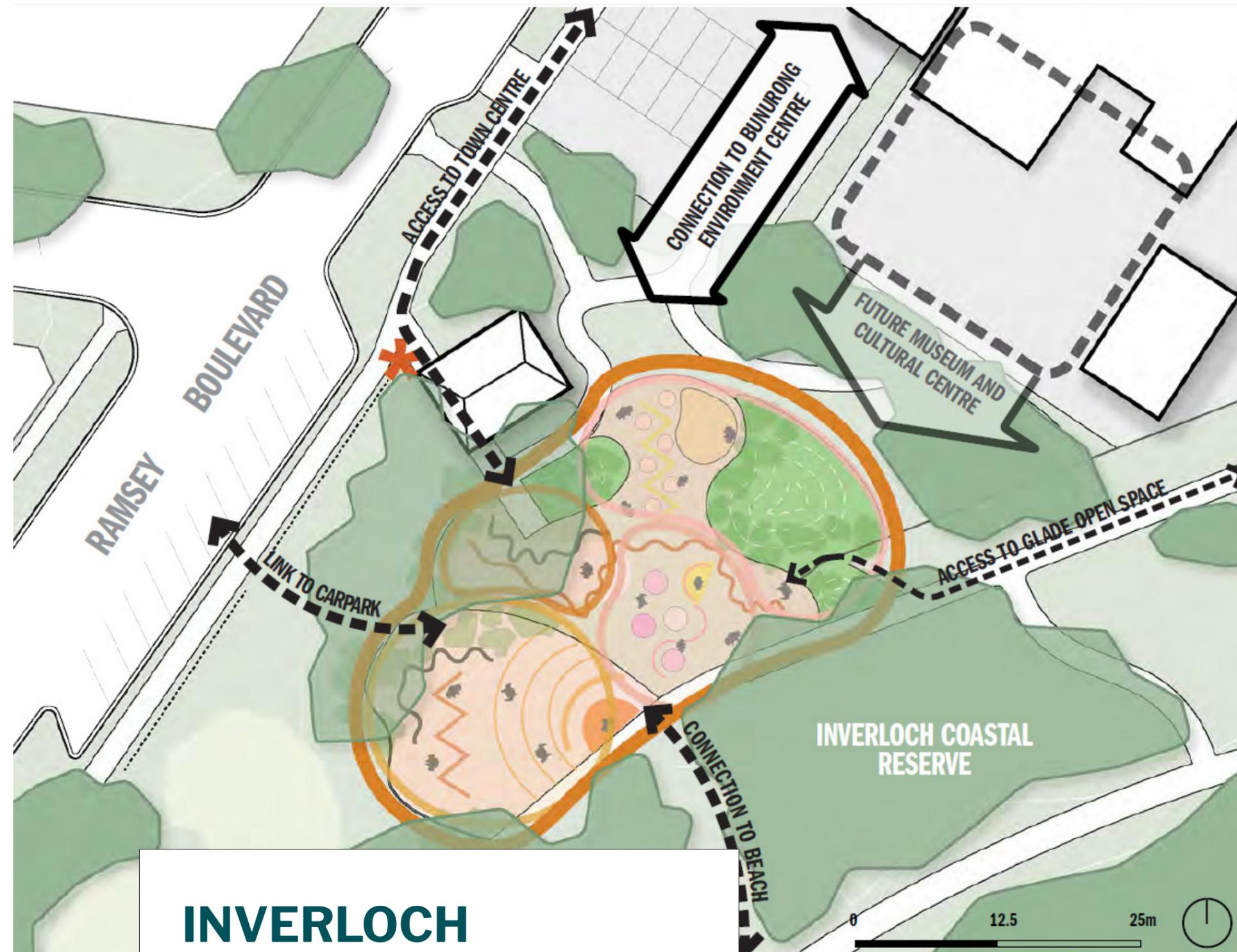
14.81%
scored 1 (4)

7.41%
scored 2 (2)

11.11%
scored 3 (3)



**BASS COAST
DINOSAURS
TRAIL**



INVERLOCH
Science, Art and Imagination

‘Would it be possible to integrate an all-abilities area in the Wyeth-Mcnamara Park?’

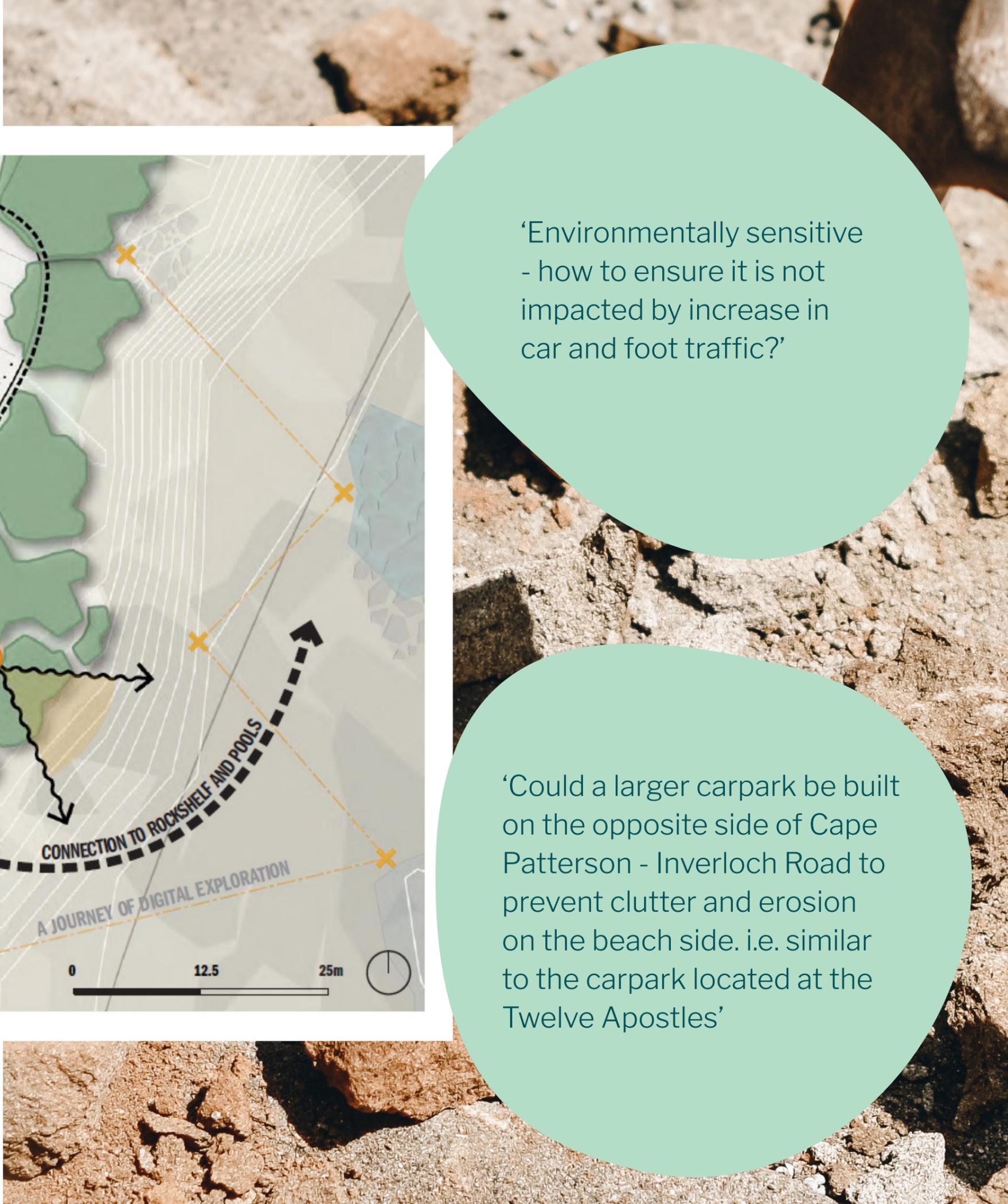
‘Salt may damage the props and site. erosion risk if too close to the water’

‘Theming the area around the current cultural centre is a good idea and will make it more visible and visually appealing’

‘Shelter and picnic facilities pit would be amazing’

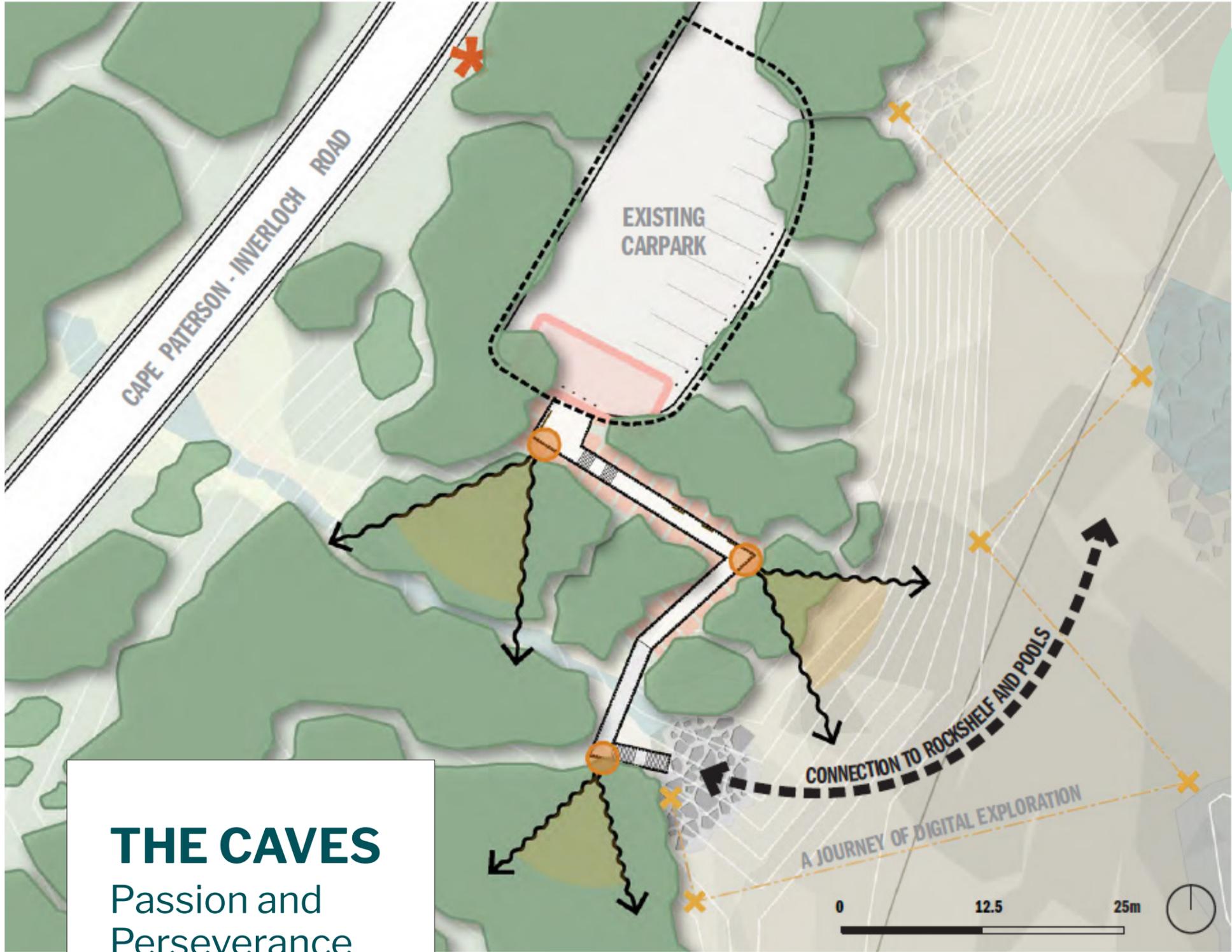
‘I think the ideal opportunity to build a modern museum and cultural centre in Inverloch (at the end of the trail) is being overlooked. The current environment centre is outdated and not appealing. This space could incorporate displays such as Pat Vickers Rich’s dinosaur collection which she is prepared to donate to such a facility, the shell museum, currently housed in the environment centre and artefacts from the Amazon shipwreck. These features build on the history of country from the times of the polar dinosaurs up to the current time’

‘Good site. What will happen to the model of “Koolasuchus Cleelandi” in Wallace Street. Will it be moved or repeated at San Remo? or have an Inverloch treasure hunt to locate it for’



‘Environmentally sensitive - how to ensure it is not impacted by increase in car and foot traffic?’

‘Could a larger carpark be built on the opposite side of Cape Patterson - Inverloch Road to prevent clutter and erosion on the beach side. i.e. similar to the carpark located at the Twelve Apostles’



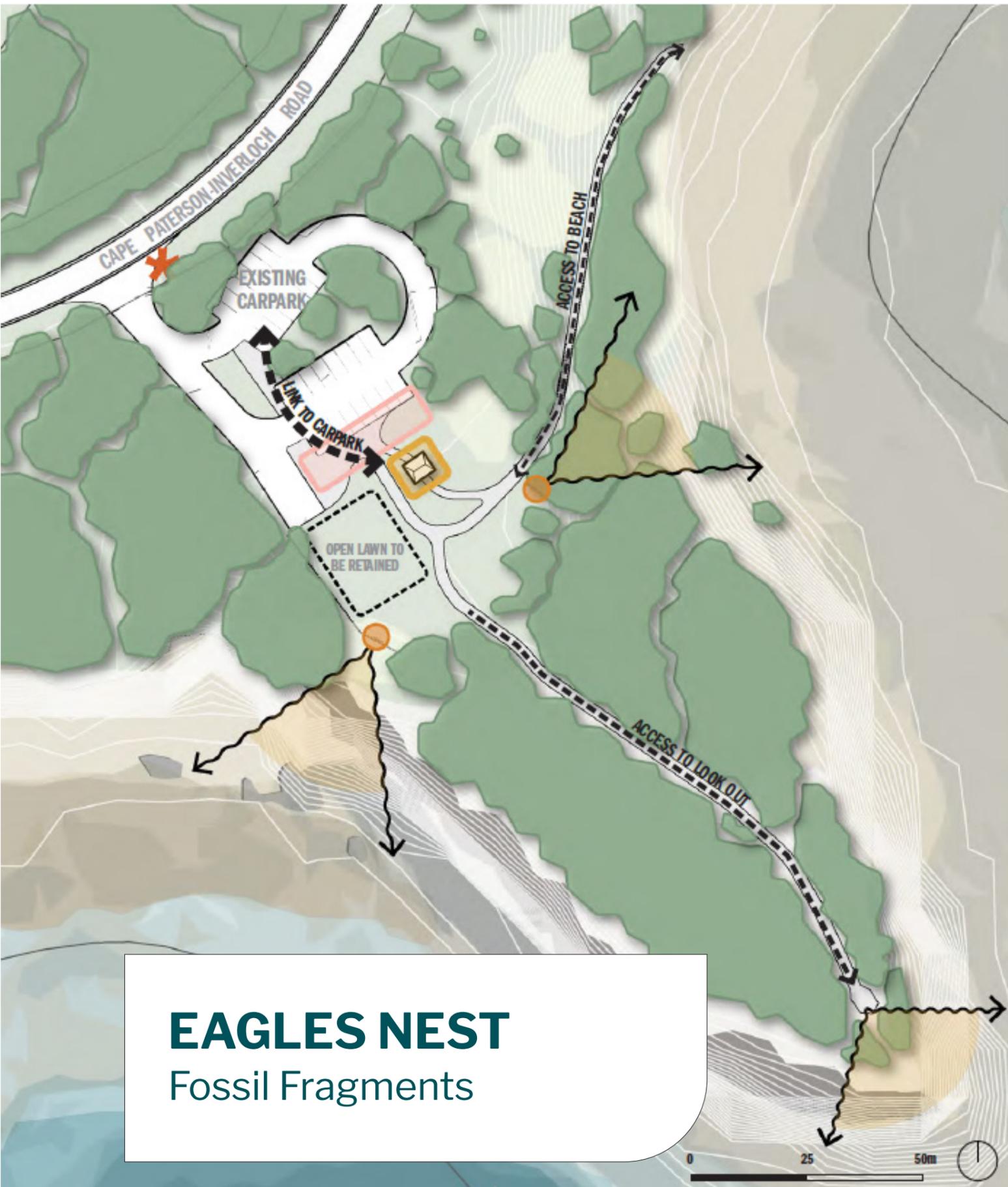
THE CAVES
Passion and Perseverance

‘Great site but no toilet facilities. Information: Qantassaurus Intrepidus was not found in 1994, it was found in February 1996 but the dig principals Tom & Pat Rich were not able to name it until 1999 after searching worldwide for a match’

‘Proposed site appears to be appropriate and the current suggestions regarding infrastructure ok . however, the site does have some limitations and risks. If these are taken into account in the planning it should be fine’

‘I agree that the footprint of visitors to this site needs to be managed so there is minimal physical impact on the physical area. Car-parking is an issue but so is the fragility of the cliff-face. The caves are no longer accessible due to safety concerns’

‘More ferns would be nice’



EAGLES NEST
Fossil Fragments

‘Limiting speed of road vehicles around the rocks and eagles nest should also form part of the plan’

‘Stunning site but no toilet facilities’



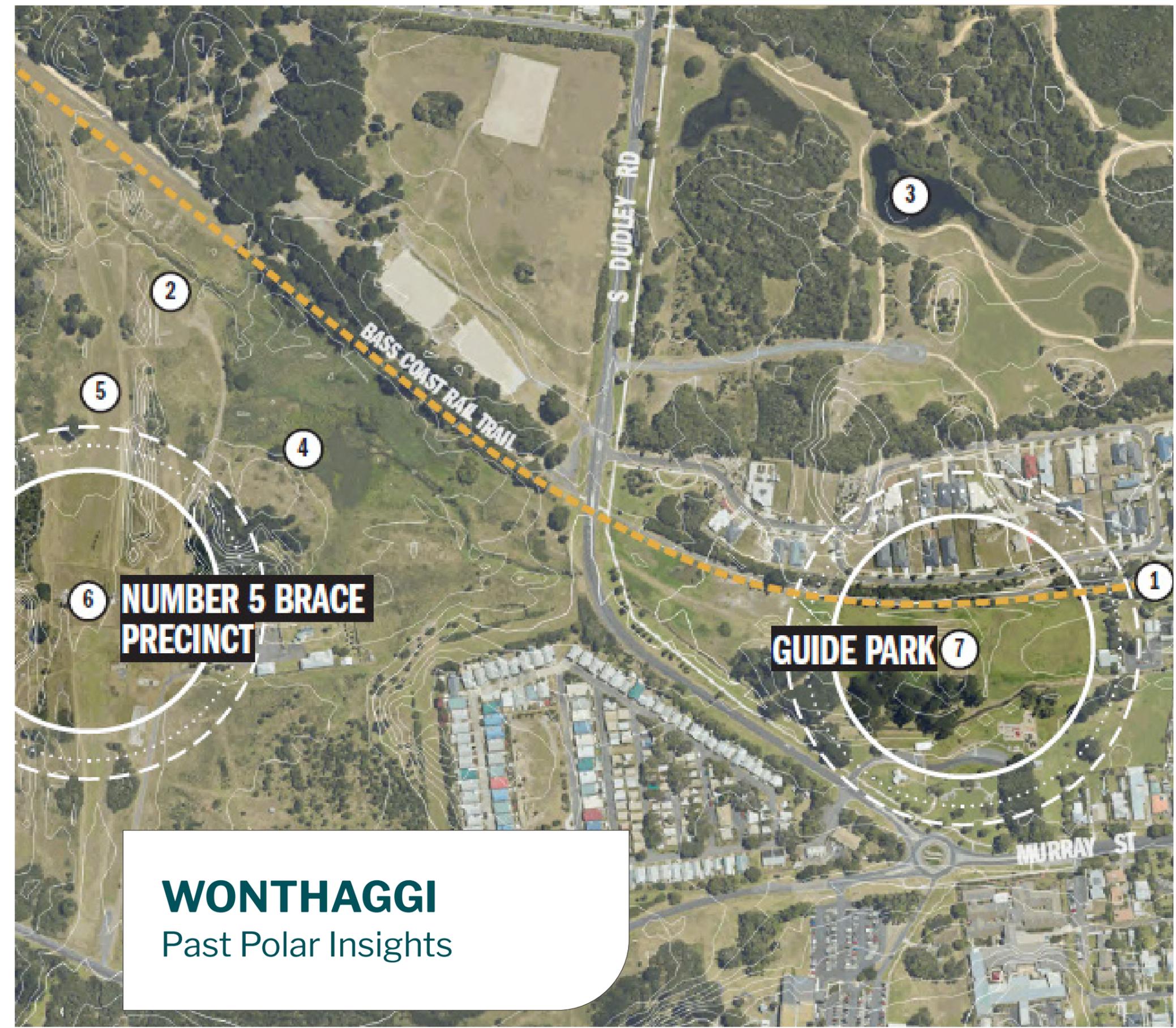
A photograph of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, a person wearing a dark vest and light-colored pants is standing on a rocky shore, looking towards the sea. The middle ground is filled with large, dark grey rocks. In the background, a steep, light-colored cliffside rises, featuring several natural rock formations that resemble dinosaur heads. The sky is clear and blue.

‘Big nests with the stages of life (nest, eggs, hatchlings, teen dinos and adult dinos)’

‘Great idea’

‘Please don’t turn out wild coast into plastic and cement. Can we stand together to do constructive no builds?’

‘Do you envisage the astronomy to be a daytime activity? If it takes place at night, people should be bused in to protect the site’



WONTHAGGI
Past Polar Insights

‘Close to amenities and shops’

‘Full of information. Perfect!’



‘This site has potential if the redevelopment is done intelligently’

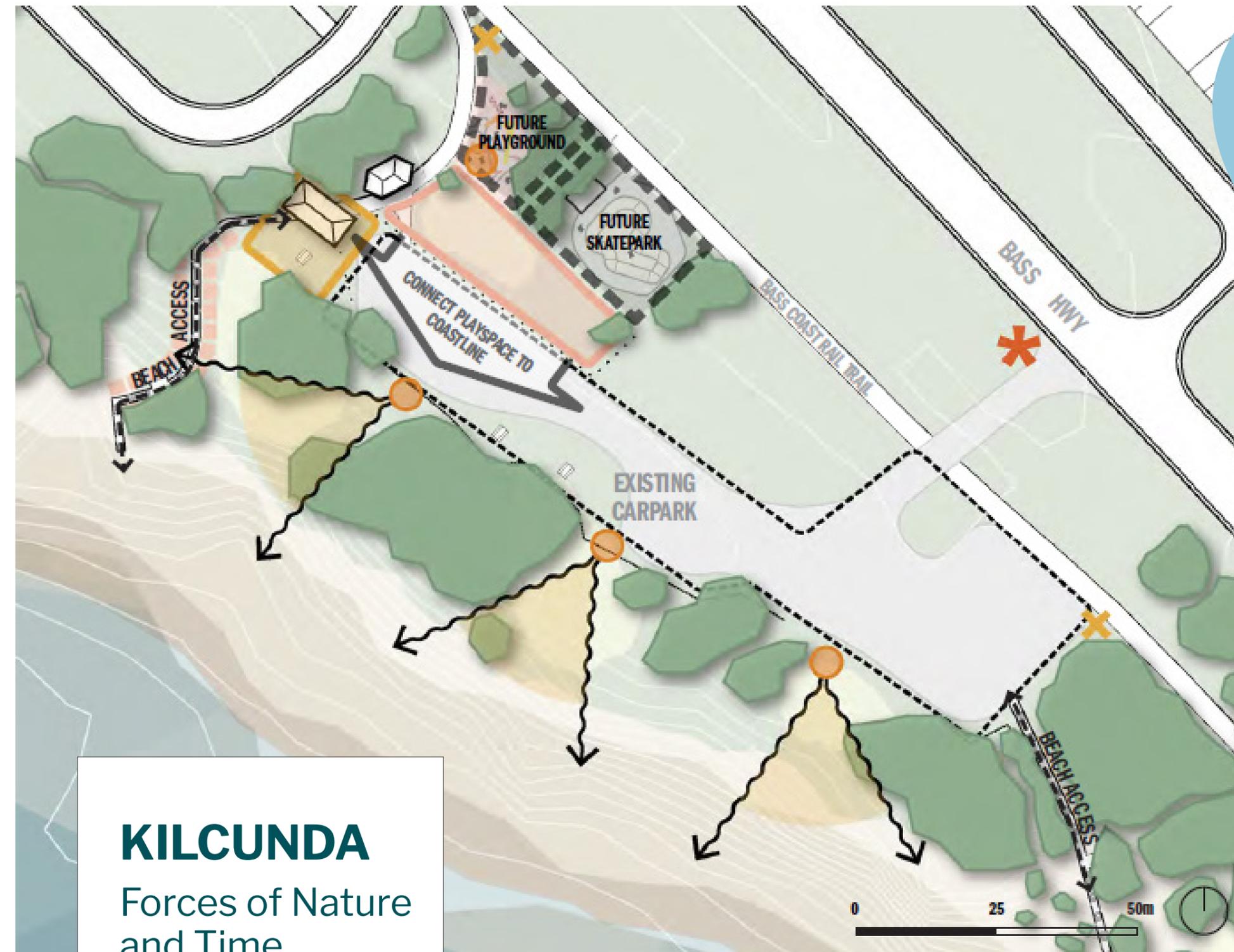
‘Interesting experience’

‘The Gondwana garden approach at this site looks great - interesting and appropriate’

‘A coherent and visible centre to Wonthaggi Historical and Cultural elements is key. The plan is good but appears to lack a clear hub. Connections from Rail Trail and other cycling paths in addition to improving bike path on Cape Paterson and Harmers Haven would help sustainable transport as would an electric shuttle bus at peak times’

KILCUNDA

Forces of Nature
and Time



'I think Kilcunda should be left as is. It's appeal is it's raw and wild beauty. No need for additional sculptures etc'

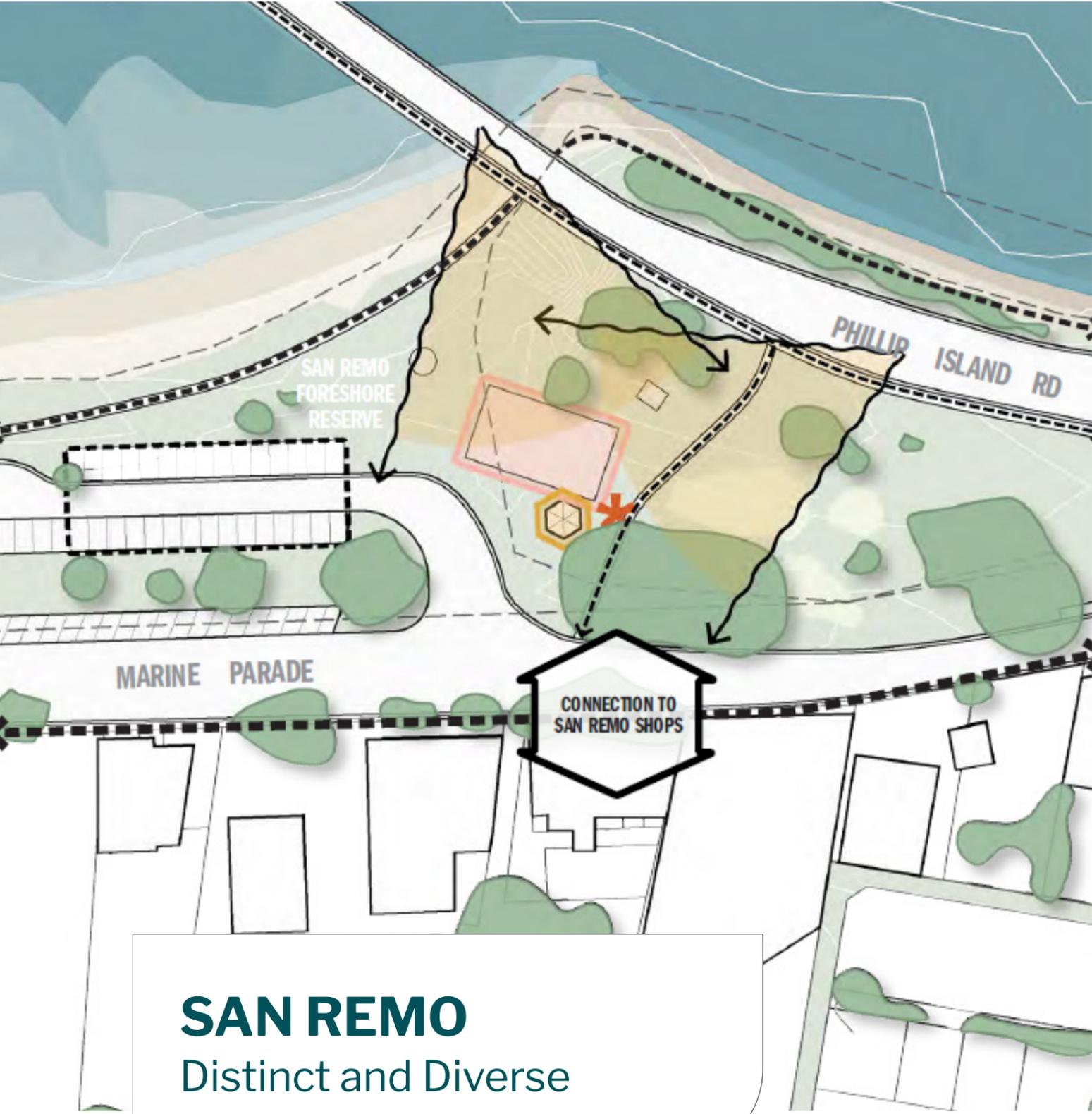
'Kilcunda does not have the infrastructure or services to cope with the increase of tourism that will ensue if this goes ahead as planned. The large sculptures planned would only serve to detract from and spoil the natural beauty of our views'

‘Maybe skip large-scale Kinetic artwork. Those sorts of structures distract from the true beauty of the coast. public art pieces always get ugly quickly (e.g. the structure opposite the pub) skate park is a good idea. Maybe an outdoor public shower above the beach would be a useful inclusion’

‘Proposed site appears to be appropriate and the current suggestions regarding infrastructure ok. However, the site does have some limitations and risks. If these are taken into account in the planning it should be fine’

‘I think this is a waste of Council money. It will see the natural habitat destroyed. Money would be better spent on seeing that the waters in Shelley Beach are looked after. Increasing pollution detergent & otherwise & loss of marine life. Also rocks off the shore have been increasingly stolen’

‘Great spot, connected’



SAN REMO
Distinct and Diverse

‘Love this spot and would work well on the bike trail or bridge’

‘Wonderful’



'Looks appropriate'

'Great proposal'

'No. but any increase to traffic here would require a good management plan'

'I like how the San Remo location is decentralised away from the bridge/ town centre, which can overcrowd'

Summary

Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail - Masterplan Consultation and Engagement 2021

Monthly meetings with stakeholders
and community partners

Three workshops with community
groups for insight

18 August - Online drop in session

Over **30** online surveys completed

1,000 website page viewers

50+ conversations at 2 events:

21 August:

Inverloch drop in session,
Wyeth Mc-Namara Park,
Farmers Market

21 August:

Kilcunda drop in session,
Foreshore carpark

BASS COAST DINOSAURS TRAIL

Thank you

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