



DUMBLEYUNG LAKE TRAIL MASTER PLAN

2025

Prepared by Common Ground Trails Pty Ltd for the Shire of Dumbleyung



Acknowledgements

The authors of the Lake Dumbleyung Trail Master Plan respectfully acknowledge that this land on which we live and work is Noongar Country, and that the Noongar people are the traditional custodians who have a rich social, spiritual and historical connection to this country, which is as strong today, as it was in the past.

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Common Ground Trails Pty Ltd and its employees are not qualified to provide legal, medical or financial advice. Accordingly, detailed information in this regard will require additional professional consultation in order to adequately manage and maintain the facilities and reduce risk.

Revision	Description	Date
A	Draft Trail Master Plan for Client Review	31/12/2024
B	Final Draft Trail Master Plan for client and stakeholder review	31/01/2025



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1.0 Introduction

Dumbleyung Lake is one of the largest permanent inland lakes in south west WA, offering an important refuge for waterbirds and remnants of once widespread woodland the lake also has a rich social and cultural history. Shaped by seasonality of water flow the Lake offers a unique ecology intertwined with stories of human connection and influence. Recognising this unique landscape setting, the Shire of Dumbleyung is seeking to further develop the Lake as a destination for tourism. This Trail Master Plan aims to reveal and protect the unique and special qualities of Dumbleyung Lake and promote connection to Country and a sense of stewardship for visitors and locals.

The preparation of the Trails Master Plan has involved review of the numerous plans, studies and proposals prepared for the Lake and in regards to trail development over recent years. This process has also involved consultation with locals, key stakeholders and Traditional Custodians and is complimented by broad scale analysis of the site, visitor profile and current recreation trends. The recommendations outlined in this Trails Master Plan provide the foundation for progression of trail development in line with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural industries Trail Development Series.



Exploring the Lake edge

2.0 Context

2.1 Location

Dumbleyung is located in the Western Australian wheatbelt 265km south east of Perth. Dumbleyung Lake sits just outside of town and is key natural attraction holding many significant environmental, cultural and social values. The focus of this trails master plan is the Lake and potential connections to town. There is currently two key access points to the Lake – along Kersley Drive on the north side and Dare Drive on the south.



MAP 1 - Dumbleyung Lake in the context of the South West

2.2 Planning context

There are a number of key strategic documents that have informed this project. These are outlined in Table 1.



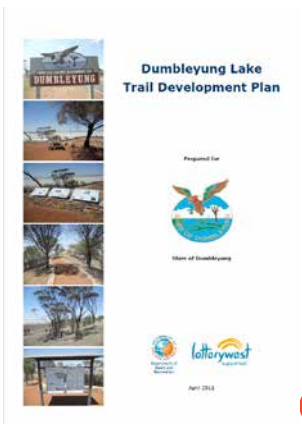
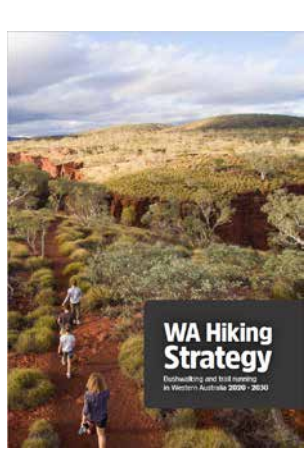
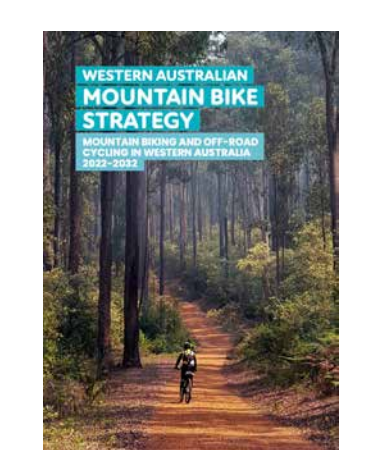

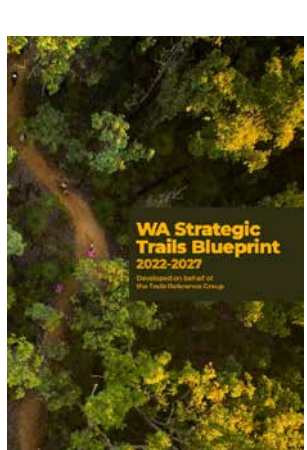

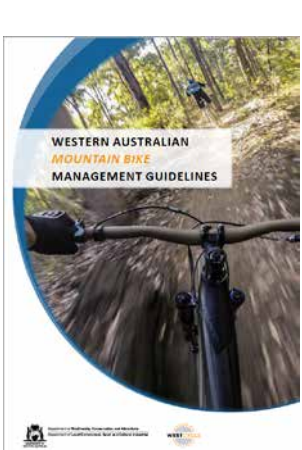
			<p>Local strategies and plans</p>
			<p>State wide strategies</p>
			<p>Overarching planning documents</p>

Table 1: Relevant document review

Document	Summary	Relevant Actions
Local Strategies		
Shire of Dumbleyung Destination Development Plan 2022	The plan outlines key destination development sites for the Shire of Dumbleyung with intention to provide enhanced facilities for locals and encourage visitors to spend one or two nights. Dumbleyung lake is identified as priority with the site being referenced as Precinct 1.	Trail opportunities outlined include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking running and family friendly cycle trails and circuits, possibly with bird hides and picnic destinations; • Kayak circuits with beach destinations and paddler support facilities; • Indigenous cultural experience opportunities in recognition of the Lake being a major meeting, ceremonial and cultural place for Aboriginal people; • Interpretation projects including signage, landscape artworks, light-scape artworks and guided experiences; • Enhanced camping facilities to provide a range of overnight stay options; • Improved links to the Dumbleyung townsite, including better signage and a beautified and cyclable route; • The development of Dumbleyung Lake as an internationally recognised 'Dark Sky' site (of which there are only 19 currently across the globe).
Shire of Dumbleyung Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032	The community plan aspires to move Dumbleyung and its economy a quantum leap forward and includes a one page plan. It's broken up into industry areas with Dumbleyung Lake listed under Industry 4: Tourism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore complete whole of lake access to provide a total visitor experience; • Walking/bike riding link back into Dumbleyung townsite (Dumbleyung is located circa 10kms from the lake); • Create day and overnight trip opportunities for visitors looking for a range of experiences.
Dumbleyung Lake Trail Development Plan 2011	The aim of this plan was to provide detailed information about construction requirements for a trail (or trails) at Dumbleyung Lake.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the majority of trail users are seeking short walks (ie. less than 2 hours), the development of trail opportunities in the Dumbleyung Lake environment should focus on short trails to cater for this market; • While detailed investigations were not undertaken the plan notes that a trail around the lake is not considered feasible due to costly build (related to narrow foreshore, fluctuating water level and areas of steep rocky terrain) and limited market appeal; • Two trails are recommended: a short walk (2.3km one way) on the northern foreshore (from the existing car park and return); and a shorter circuit walk (1.8km) on the peninsula known as Cooran Hill on the southern side of the lake encompassing magnificent panoramic views out over the lake and its surrounding landscape; • The walk trails proposed for Dumbleyung Lake are an opportunity to tell more human stories of the importance of the lake to the Dumbleyung community.

Document	Summary	Relevant Actions
Regional Strategies/Policy		
2020 Wheatbelt Tourism Strategy	Outlines a strategy and targets to increase the value of the tourism sector for the Wheatbelt region.	Dumbleyung Lake Nature Reserve is noted as a bio-diversity hotspot within the region with natural value appeal for tourism.
Wheatbelt Region Parks and Reserves Management Plan 2021	Outlines the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions approach to Parks and Reserve management in the Wheatbelt Region.	Nine wetlands in the Wheatbelt Region are identified as nationally significant including Dumbleyung Lake. The Plan notes Dumbleyung Lake Nature Reserve as a possible site for recreation facility development associated with lake access.
State trail based strategies		
Western Australian Strategic Trails Blueprint 2022 – 2027	An overarching guide for consistent and coordinated planning, development and management of quality trails and trail experiences throughout the State. It outlines a vision, guiding principles, strategic directions and actions for consideration across the State by government, landholders, trail managers, trail organisations, tourism operators and the community.	Outlines the significant benefits of outdoor recreation, and tracks and trails through natural environments are key to creating lifelong connections with outdoor recreation. Highlights investment in trails as integral to the journeys that outdoor activities take users on and re-enforces that well-planned and well-designed tracks and trails provide access, attract visitors, reduce environmental damage and encourage uptake in outdoor recreation.
Western Australian Trail Development Series	Provides best practice guidance covering the trail development process, community consultation, multi-criteria decision analysis and checklists and templates, to assist groups developing a trail project to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow a standardised process • Consider all issues and approvals • Develop an approach to gather support from the local community and relevant government agencies. 	Acknowledges the social, economic and environmental values associated with recreational trails and the need to understand and consider these values throughout the Trail Development Process. Outlines the eight stage Trail Development Process for developing trails in Western Australia.
Western Australian Mountain Bike Management Guidelines 2019	Provides guidelines for development and management of mountain bike trails in WA. Aspires to be adopted by all land managers.	Outlines guidelines for the management of mountain bike trails.
WA Cycle Tourism Strategy	This strategy identifies four priority areas that require consideration and development to support the growth of cycle tourism in Western Australia, investing in the industry, marketing and events, and delivering a great riding experience.	Identifies three types of cycle tourists, recreation, events and touring and that the travel behaviors of cycle tourists indicate they are a highly valuable visitor market due to their propensity to stay longer, travel outside of urban centres and spend more.

Document	Summary	Relevant Actions
Western Australian Mountain Bike Strategy – Mountain Biking and Off Road Cycling in WA 2022-2032	<p>The purpose of this Strategy is to provide an updated strategic direction for mountain biking in Western Australia outlining strategies and recommendations under five focus areas.</p>	<p>Recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master planning to identify and prioritise locations for mountain biking trails • Mountain bike trail developments are strategically coordinated by applying the significance hierarchy • Applying the eight stage Trail Development process to trail developments • Foster and encourage community engagement and involvement at commencement of planning for mountain bike trail developments • Establish governance models addressing management and maintenance • Determine costs of ongoing management and maintenance upfront to ensure included in trail business model • Actively support Local Government to overcome barriers to develop urban trails, pump tracks and skills park improving accessibility to mountain bike experiences • Encourage new mountain bike trail developments to cater for a variety of user riding preferences with an emphasis on trails for beginners and families • Review and continue to improve long distance off-road cycling trails • Support Local Government to identify and develop transport and recreation trails such as gravel trails and trails that connect to mountain bike trails • Continue to develop iconic and unique mountain bike experiences that capitalise on the diversity and unique features of West Australian landscape • Support the appropriate development of Aboriginal cultural experiences within the WA mountain bike experience
WA Hiking Strategy – Bushwalking and Trail Running in Western Australia 2020-2030	<p>Provides a strategic direction bushwalking and trail running in Western Australia. Addresses existing challenges and provides guidance and structure for decision makers, land managers, trail planners and the community. Advises on infrastructure and facilities, trail classifications, code of conduct, management and governance. It seeks to maximise the opportunity for all Western Australians and visitors to benefit from access to an appropriate range of hiking experiences and will guide the sustainable development of hiking activities and associated trails' infrastructure.</p>	<p>Outlines the health, social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits of bushwalking and trail running and strategies to maximise participation outcomes, grow the visitor economy, for sustainable trail development and maintenance and effective governance and advocacy.</p>

3.0 Situation analysis

3.1 Environmental and cultural heritage values

Dumbleyung Lake is located in the Southern Wheatbelt, an area of generally subdued relief - largely a plateau with ranges of low hills. The lake itself forms part of a linked chain of low lying saline wetlands and salt lakes along the Coblinine River system, which only flow after heavy winter rain. Noted as a wetland of national significance the lake is an important drought refuge for waterbirds and supports pockets of remnant vegetation now classed as threatened ecological communities. Dumbleyung Lake is fringed by low open forest which in areas has succumbed to rising salinity and today presents as stands of dead trees with and understory of samphire scrub. In areas above the high water mark the forest provides pockets of shelter, with sedgeland covering the understorey.



View over agriculture towards Lake with fringe of remnant forest



Stand of dead trees on the shoreline



Samphire vegetation in Woolkabin Gully



Granite outcropping



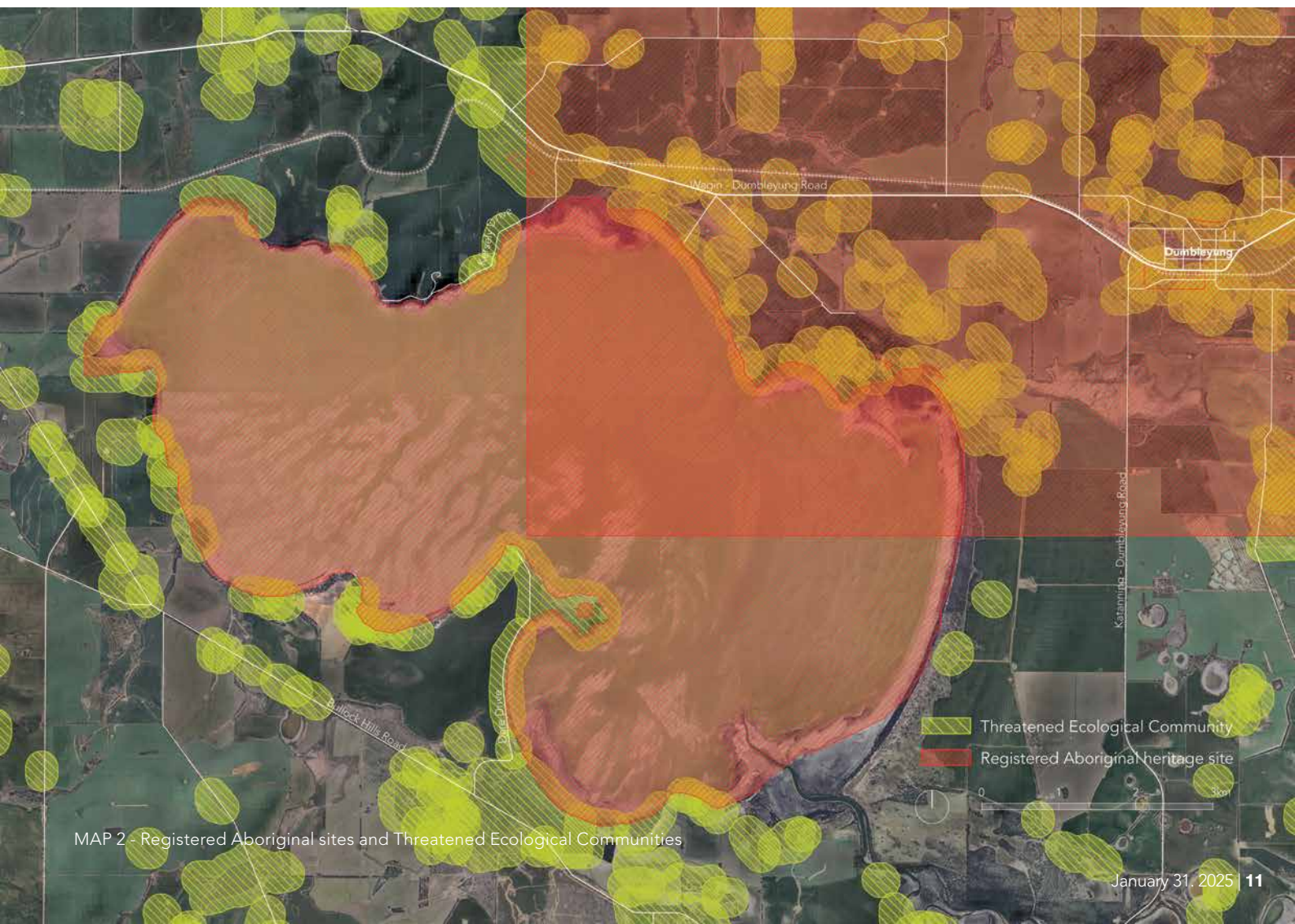
Pocket of remnant forest

The traditional owners of the area are the Noongar peoples. The chain of lakes which Dumbleyung Lake is part of are believed by Noongar people to have formed by the Waugal and form part of a significant dreaming trail that extends from the south coast near Augusta to the Great Victoria Desert country to the north east. Noongar people have a rich and intimate connection with the country within the project area which includes knowledge of, rights to, and responsibility for sites of significance and a desire to protect and celebrate their culture and heritage values. Sites of significance for Noongar people relate to mythological and dreaming stories as well as resource rich areas and pathways through the landscape. The Lake is registered as a site of mythological significance and there are also registered sites of significance relating to burial sites in the vicinity.

Wuddi Cultural Tours is a local Dumbleyung based Aboriginal tourism business that offers authentic heritage and cultural experiences including bushfood tastings and walking tours.

Early European settlement in the region dates back to 1875 with the granting of grazing leases. Dumbleyung Lake is a treasured place for the community as a recreation hub particularly when the lake is full, with the Sailing Club and Ski Club providing lake access. Donald Campbell's world water speed record in his boat 'Bluebird' in 1964 is also an important layer in the area's history. This event holds particular significance for the local community and is a drawcard for visitors with commemorative plaques at the Lake and replicas of the boat and information displays in town.

Trail users are often drawn to trails seeking immersive nature based and cultural heritage experiences. Dumbleyung Lake offers natural and cultural values that have potential for engaging trail experiences which provide a connection to local stories.



MAP 2 - Registered Aboriginal sites and Threatened Ecological Communities

3.2 Existing trails and facilities

There are currently two key public access points to the Lake which provide access to visitor sites including the Sailing Club, Pussy Cat Hill Lookout and the Water Ski Club.

- The Sailing Club is accessed via Kersley Drive from Wagin-Dumbleyung Road and features a large shelter, boat ramp toilet and picnic tables on the edge of the lake.
- A lookout point and short trail is located on Kersley Drive offering some interpretation signage and a lookout over the lake through the trees.
- Pussy Cat Hill lookout is accessed off Kersley Drive and is located on private property with the access road and lookout kindly open to public by the land owners. From the lookout visitors are treated to views across the lake and surrounding landscape.
- The Ski Club is accessed from the south via Dare Road and features a small building, a small shelter, toilets and a boat ramp.

Trail offering in the broader context includes the Wait Jen Trail along Parkeyerring Lake near Wagin, this 10.5km point to point trail offers a meandering day walk along the lake edge with interpretation signs along the way.



Kersley Drive Lookout Point



Sailing club



Ski Club



Entry to Pussy Cat Hill off Kersley Drive

3.3 Tenure

Dumbleyung Lake itself largely falls with the Dumbleyung Lake Nature Reserve managed by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions. Nature reserves are set aside for the conservation of flora and fauna due to their high conservation. Walk trails within nature reserve may be considered but are unlikely to be approved unless they are primarily intended to provide opportunity to interpret the conservation values. Mountain bike (MTB) trails are unlikely to be approved unless they are proposed to be contained within existing disturbed areas such as roads or tracks. The Wheatbelt Parks Management Plan identifies Dumbleyung Lake as a high priority for recreation development and promotion.

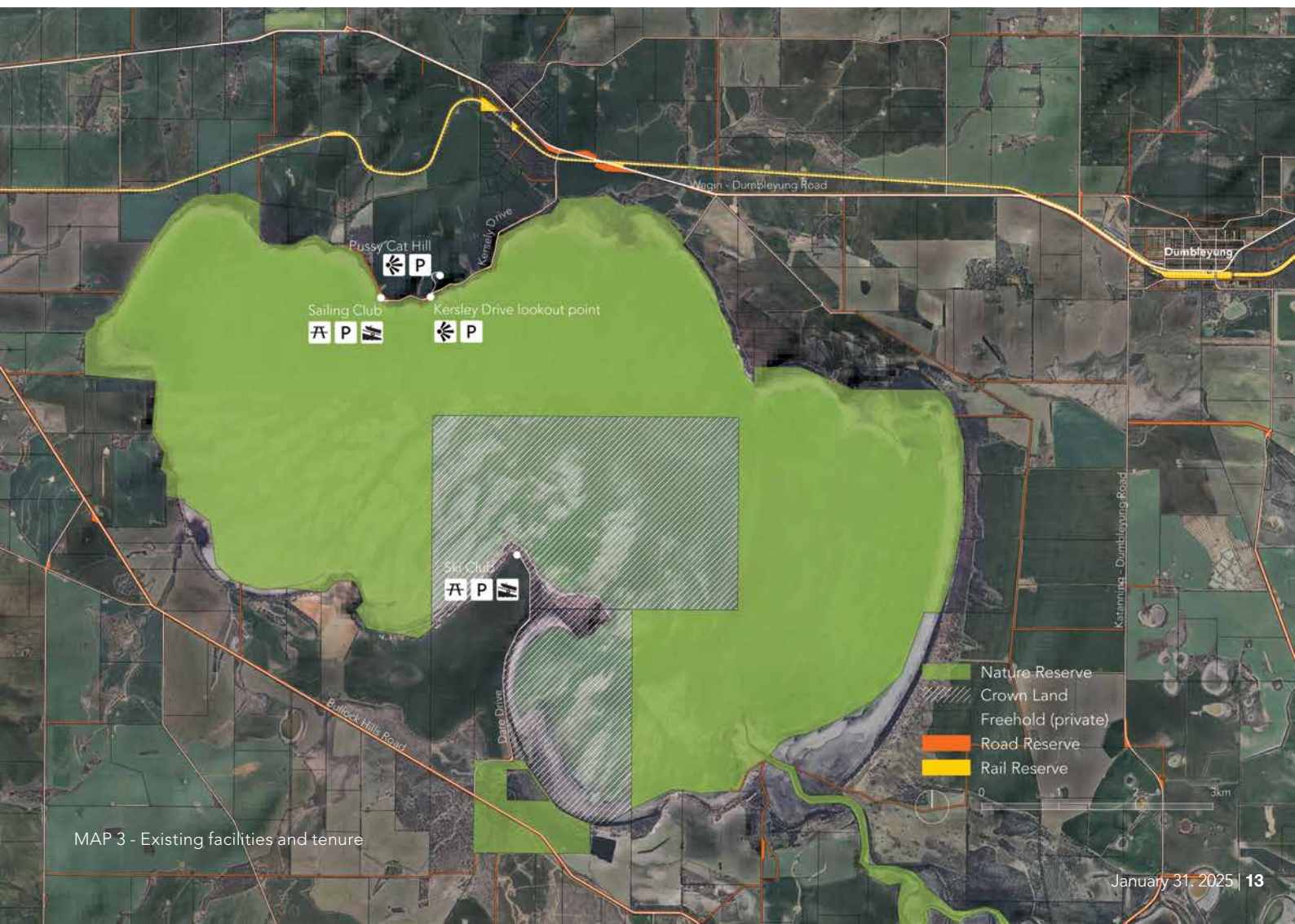
Parcels of Crown Land along Dare Drive encompassing Cooran Hill are managed by the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH). DPLH generally don't develop or manage recreation assets, the Shire will need investigate licence or lease arrangements in order to develop trails in these parcels. Lot 15779 is also earmarked for for transfer to the Noongar Land Estate as part of the South West Native Title Settlement.

Consultation with private property owners around the Lake was undertaken in development of this master plan, level of support for trails traversing along the lake edge within private property varied, with some supportive and others not. Concerns raised included trespass, fires, legal liability and disturbance of privacy.

The Nature Reserve encompasses a narrow (between 30-150m) strip of the lake edge for approximately 63% of the circumference. Crown land parcels encompass 15% and private land encompasses 22%.

Dumbleyung Lake sits within two local government areas– Shire of Dumbleyung and the Shire of Wagin. The Shire of Wagin are supportive of trails at Dumbleyung Lake however are prioritising existing trails within their local government area including the Wait Jen Trail.

The varied tenure within the project area and multiple stakeholders will present significant challenges for trail development, in particular responsibilities for implementation and ongoing management.



MAP 3 - Existing facilities and tenure

3.4 Terrain

The terrain presented at Dumbleyung Lake offers a number of opportunities and constraints in regards to trail development:

Seasonal inundation and fluctuating water levels – while often dry for consecutive years the lake will flood during seasons of high rainfall. Development of trails accessible at all times is therefore restricted to above the high water mark. During dry times the salt flats present an enticing landscape to explore, with the lake bed becoming solid enough to walk on.

Several drainage lines flow into and out of the lake. The Coblinine River is the main inlet at the south eastern end of the lake and is approximately 70m wide at its fullest. The river outlet (at the western end of the Lake and other drainage channels including Woolkabin and Boolandalling Gullies) present as wide and generally shallow. Crossing the Coblinine River inlet presents a significant constraint being wide and difficult to access making bridge construction potentially difficult and expensive. The boggy and marshy nature of the other drainage lines also presents challenges in regards to suitable soils for construction of sustainable trail.

The profile of the shoreline varies with areas of steep and rocky terrain giving way to sandy and muddy soils closer to the water edge. The vegetation changes throughout the profile as well. The steep rocky areas offer potential to get higher in the landscape and take advantage of view points, the lower lying areas offer opportunity to vary the trail experience through traversing different environments. The variance in soil type and narrow shoreline environment will make sustainable trail construction challenging and expensive.

3.5 Landscape Character

Landscape character forms a critical part of the trail user experience with layers of natural and cultural history framing opportunity for experiences unique to a place. Dumbleyung Lake offers wide open landscape features long views and is dominated by agricultural land use. Pockets of remnant vegetation stand at the edge of fields, along drainage lines and clustered around features such as granite outcrops and the lake edge. On a micro scale the lake edge offers a diversity of experience shaped by the ecological processes and ephemeral nature of the waterflow. Rocky shoreline gives way to sandy soils and samphire flats, in low water levels salt flats extend out into the lake. The stands of dead trees also tell the story of land use change leading to increased salinity and the flow on effects for the broader landscape. Significant Aboriginal and European Cultural Heritage values and stories are layered throughout the landscape offering potential for trail experiences to offer interpretation and story telling, fostering a deeper connection with place. MAP 4 outlines the distinctive features within the project area that have potential to attract trail users.



3.6 Visitation and visitor profiles

The region currently is predominantly a self-drive destination, with most travelling to the region for a holiday or to visit friends or relatives and a number passing through the region on the Perth to Esperance road trip route. The two primary markets visiting the area that pose the greatest potential and return on investment for trail development are:

Day Trippers

- Live within close proximity so will likely undertake multiple trips into the region on an ongoing basis
- Have family and friend connections in the region
- Are sport and adventure enthusiasts and enjoy nature-based activities.

Short Breaks / Weekenders

- Live within the Perth metropolitan, South West or Great Southern regions
- Will be attracted to camping facilities in the region, which can link to trail and trail networks
- Enjoy food and beverage experiences
- Have family and friend connections in the region.

Based on this understanding of the visitor market to the region the following implications for trail offerings should be considered;

Diverse Trail Options - to cater to both the short-term holidaymakers and the long-stay visitors (those visiting family and friends), there should be a mix of trail offerings. While intense activities like hiking and mountain biking are appealing to some, the primary focus should be on developing and promoting trails that offer scenic, leisurely experiences. This aligns with the interests of long-stay visitors who are likely seeking relaxing and enjoyable short outdoor experiences rather than high-adrenaline multi day activities.

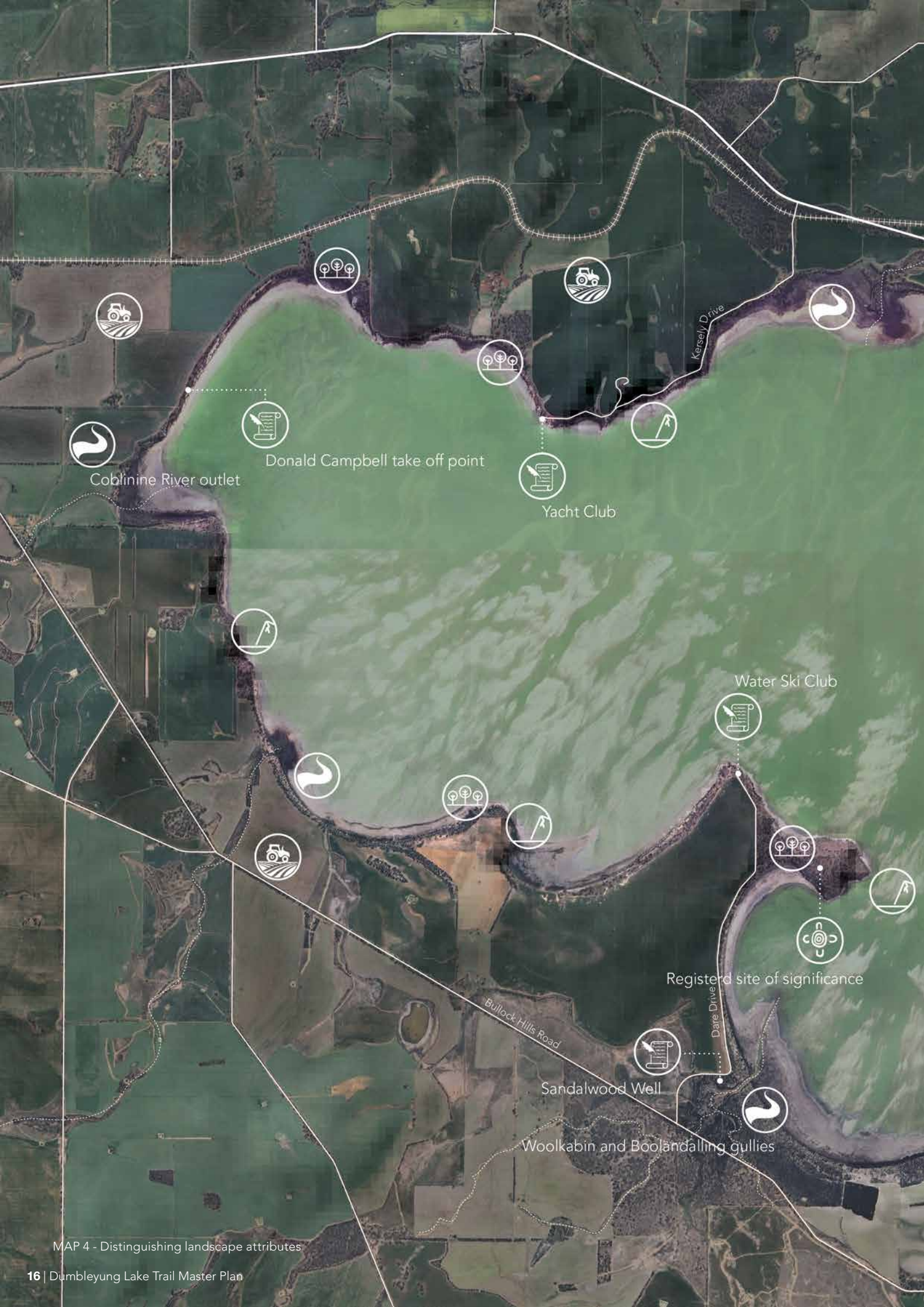
Scenic and Accessible Trails - emphasising trails that showcase the natural beauty of Lake Dumbleyung and are accessible to a broad audience, including families and less experienced trail users, would enhance the appeal of the area as a place to visit. Trails with scenic views and easy-to-navigate paths will be attractive to those looking for a pleasant, low-intensity outdoor experience.

Enhanced Visitor Experience - offer amenities and facilities that enhance the short-break experience, such as well-marked trails, rest areas, scenic spots and opportunity for engagement in local cultural heritage. Ensure that trails are linked to food and beverage options, such as in town or picnic areas. Design trails that cater to families and groups, with features such as easy loops, scenic viewpoints, and safe, enjoyable paths for children and non-adventurous participants.

Camping and Trail Integration - develop trails that are easily accessible from camping sites, integrating them into the broader outdoor experience. Provide clear information on trails that are close to or connected with camping areas.

Community Engagement - engaging local communities in the development and promotion of trails can be beneficial. Since residents play a significant role in driving tourism activity, involving them in trail design and maintenance can ensure that the offerings meet the needs of both locals and visitors. Create opportunities for day trippers to engage with local events or community-driven trail activities. This could involve local volunteer groups or special trail events that align with their interests.

Marketing and Promotion - tailoring marketing efforts to highlight the scenic and leisurely aspects of the trails can attract both long-stay and short-term visitors. Promotional materials should emphasise the relaxing and family-friendly nature of the trails, appealing to those who prioritise visiting friends and family while also enjoying local natural attractions. Wuddi Cultural Tours will also appeal to the identified target markets, strategic bolstering of marketing and promotion of this experience will attract visitors.



Coblinine River outlet

Donald Campbell take off point

Yacht Club

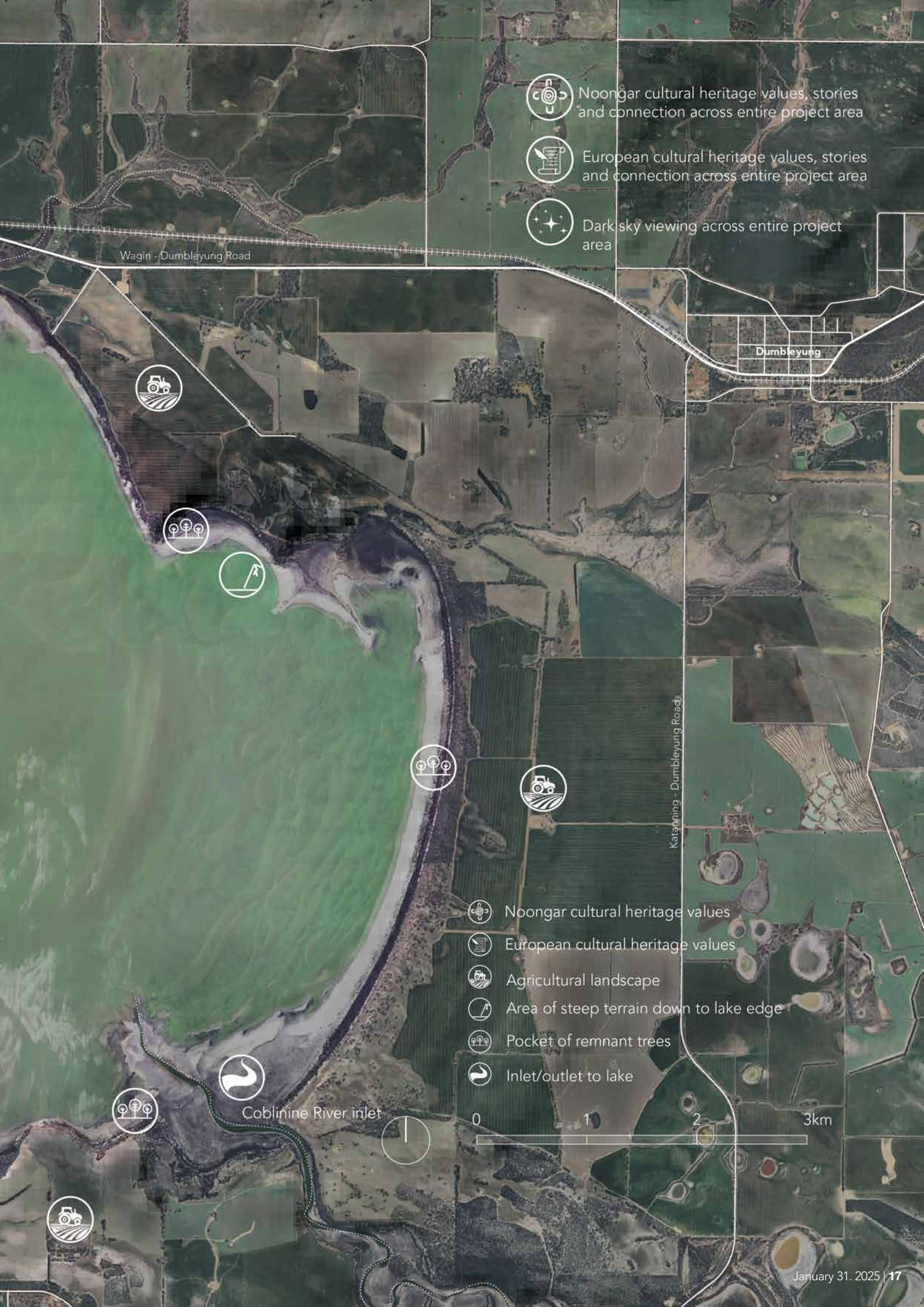
Water Ski Club

Registered site of significance

Sandalwood Well

Woolkabin and Boolandalling gullies

MAP 4 - Distinguishing landscape attributes



Noongar cultural heritage values, stories and connection across entire project area



European cultural heritage values, stories and connection across entire project area



Dark sky viewing across entire project area

Wagin - Dumbleyung Road

Dumbleyung



Katanning - Dumbleyung Road



Noongar cultural heritage values



European cultural heritage values



Agricultural landscape



Area of steep terrain down to lake edge



Pocket of remnant trees



Inlet/outlet to lake



Coblinine River inlet



3.0 Trails Vision

3.1 Vision

The Shire of Dumbleyung is working towards establishing Dumbleyung and Lake Dumbleyung as a destination. Celebrating and activating Lake Dumbleyung has been identified as a key transformational project which will help in achieving this vision.

With this overarching vision in mind, the vision for trails is:

Trails at Lake Dumbleyung will offer world class, accessible experiences which showcase the layers of history evident and distinctive features of the unique landscape. Trails will provide a low impact and immersive means to explore the Lake and its values.



View from Pussy Cat Hill

3.2 Guiding principles

The three key principles which should guide development of trails experiences are:

Exceptional experiences

Trails will be easy to get to, captivating and memorable. Trail alignments and interpretation opportunities should reveal the stories contained within the landscape – Aboriginal and European cultural heritage, environmental values offering opportunity for connection to place.

Stewardship

The natural, cultural, landscape and other significant values surrounding Lake Dumbleyung will be protected through the use of best practice design, planning, management and interpretation, that will result in greater community appreciation, stewardship and advocacy for the area and its values.

Benefits for locals and the Wheatbelt Region

Trail experiences at Lake Dumbleyung will support tourism in the Shire of Dumbleyung and the broader region through offering of unique and complimentary trail experiences. Accessible and immersive nature-based experiences will offer potential for individuals and groups to engage with the values of the area and entice longer stays and repeat visits. The trail network will provide demonstrable economic benefit to the local community and the region by supporting a wide range of investment opportunities for tourism, complementary services and infrastructure.



4.0 Trails Master Plan

The proposed trails aim to offer diverse and unique trail experiences, appealing to a broad range of trail users in line with the identified target market (day trippers and shortbreak/weekenders). To achieve this, interpretation of values will be a central principle in the curation of experiences and the trails will be designed and constructed in tune with the characteristics and diversity evident in the landscape. Existing access points from Kersley Drive and Dare Drive as well as existing infrastructure including lookouts and picnic areas have been used as a key structural base for the trail offer. Key proposals are outlined below and located on MAP 5, 6 and 7.

Interpret the natural and cultural values of the landscape

Master Plan item 1

The many cultural stories and existing ecologies of Dumbleyung Lake provide ideal opportunities to interpret the values of the region. The understanding of these values through education, interpretation and immersion not only enhances the visitor experience, but provides a foundation for the appreciation of the immense value and nurtures awareness and therefore stewardship. Trails provide opportunity to traverse the landscape and tell the many and varied stories contained within. A suite of interpretation approaches, and strategies is recommended including signage, online information and resources, augmented and virtual reality, audio tours, artworks, sculpture, guided and self guided tours. Opportunities to reveal stories should be realised across all trails within the network.

Establish a range of accommodation options

Master Plan item 2

Establish a range of accommodation options, building on the current offer within town with options on the lake edge including camping and roofed options. Recommended options to explore include provision of a formal campground managed by the Shire on Crown Reserve at Cooran Hill and encouraging private land owners to investigate provision of camping and roofed accommodation options as a business opportunity. Examples of accommodation offering on private land for consideration include Lake Towerrinning Lakeside Camping, HipCamp, Tiny cabins or purpose designed and built higher end offerings.

Shared use trail link from Dumbleyung to the Sailing Club

8km  Class 2/3 walk  Easy mountain bike

Master Plan item 3

Creating a shared use trail link from town will provide a recreation offer for locals and encourage visitors to park in town reducing pressure on facilities at the Lake and encouraging longer stays. This trail will be in the road reserve on the southern side of Wagin – Dumbleyung Road, with the possibility of utilising some small sections of the railway reserve. Once at Kersley Drive the trail is proposed on the southern side, staying high in the lake edge profile to ensure constructability and provision of intermittent views over the Lake.

Shared use trail from Sailing club to Donald Campbell launch point

5km  Class 2/3 walk  Easy mountain bike

Master Plan item 4

From the Sailing Club a shared use trail is proposed to link around the edge of the Lake to take in pockets of remnant forest and the point on the Lake where Donald Campbell took off from in his world record breaking attempt. The trail is proposed to stay high in the lake edge profile close to the boundary of the Nature Reserve for constructability and opportunity to interpret the natural and cultural values of the landscape.

Shoreline walk trail

4.8km  Class 4/5 walk

Master Plan item 5

As an optional return route for walkers it is proposed to waymark a class 4/5 trail on the lake shore. This trail will not offer a formalised or constructed surface and only be accessible when the lake isn't full. This alignment will provide opportunity for walkers to be immersed in the samphire scrub and shoreline ecologies, with opportunity to learn about the fragile ecosystems, impacts of salinity and habitat values. This will provide a 10km loop from the Sailing Club.

Detailed location, alignment, and design will be determined such that environmental, cultural, historical and social impacts are minimised, while the layers of stories within the landscape are celebrated. Trail sustainability will be an important consideration for all trails planned as part of the network. Sustainable trails are those which are likely to have a lower environmental impact, experience reduced instances of unforeseen accidents, and require minimal on-going maintenance.

Trails will be planned, designed and constructed according to best practice principles with regard to environmental and cultural heritage values protection. The result will be a diverse, robust, and low impact trail network. As per the Trail Development Series (DLGSC, 2019) with completion of this master plan the next step in the process is Trail Framework development and Site Assessment. The Trail Framework development is critical in regards to establishing the governance and management model for each trail and will inform the planning, design and delivery process. Given the proposed trails are within Nature Reserve, Crown Land, Road Reserve parcels, private land the Shire will need to work with DBCA, DPLH, Main Roads WA and private land owners to seek support for trail development and determine the most appropriate management and governance model.

Once the Trail Framework is agreed upon the next step is Site Assessment which involves detailed assessment of the project area for use in determining concept trail alignments. Site assessment will include cultural heritage assessment, dieback assessment and ecological assessments. Design of trails will aim to minimise impacts to native vegetation and cultural heritage with trail alignment micro sited during detailed design phase to avoid sensitive vegetation and any cultural heritage sites uncovered in corridor assessments.

Upgrades to existing facilities are proposed in order to ensure these locations function appropriately as trailheads for visitors. The Sailing Club and Ski Club locations require upgrades to toilet facilities and carparking, these sites and the Kersley Drive lookout will require trailhead signage to allow visitors to orient themselves and choose a trail appropriate to their ability.

Cooran Hill shared use trail

6.1km  Class 2/3 walk  Easy mountain bike

Master Plan item 6

Starting from the proposed formal camp ground on Cooran Hill this proposed shared use trail provides a loop on Cooran Hill and takes users south to Woolkabin Gully, past a well from the Sandalwood Cutting days and north to the Ski Club. The trail is proposed to stay high in the lake edge profile close for constructability.

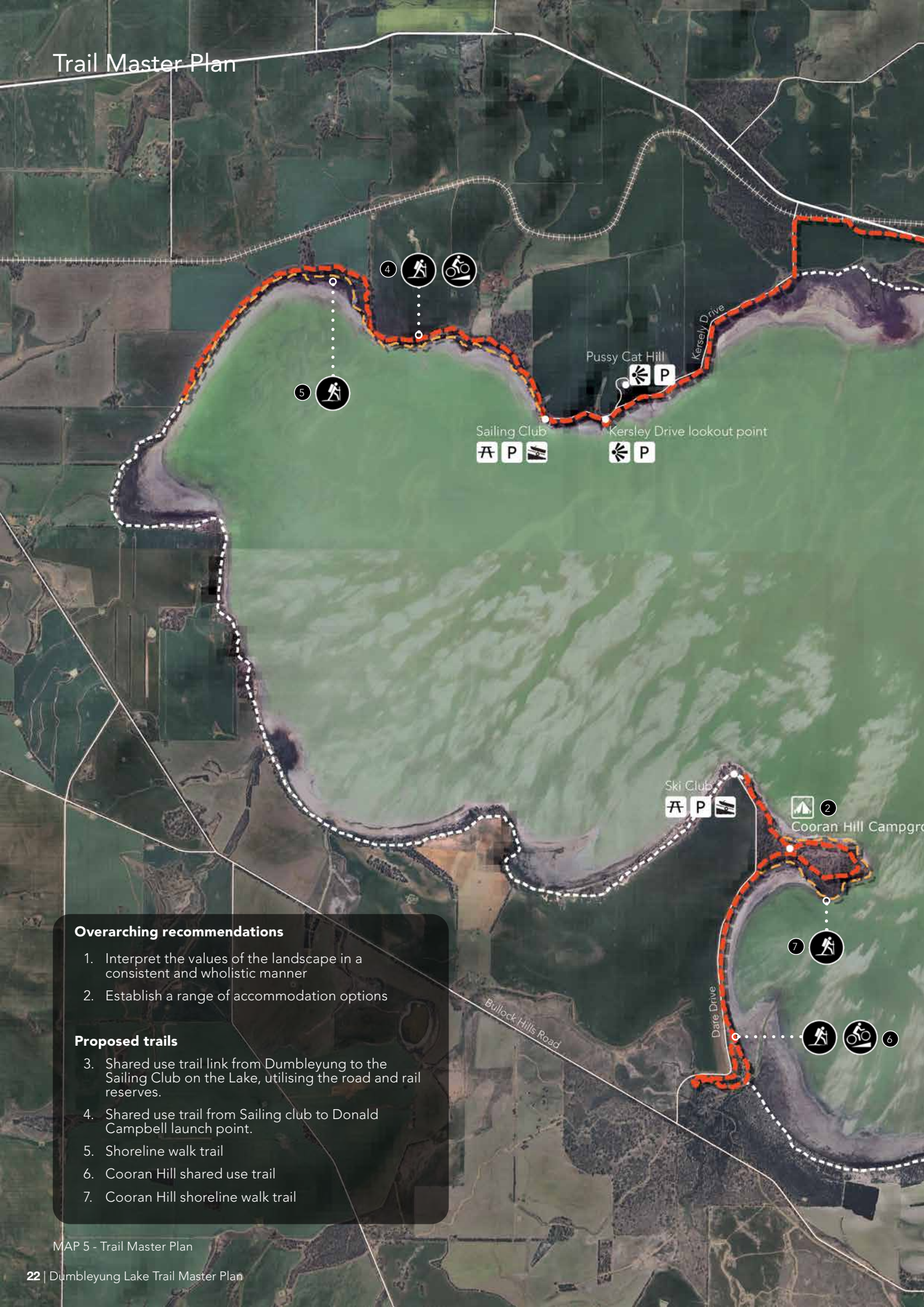
Cooran Hill shoreline walk trail

2.3km  Class 4/5 walk

Master Plan item 7

As an optional loop route for walkers it is proposed to waymark a class 4/5 trail on the lake shore. This trail will not offer a formalised or constructed surface and only be accessible when the lake isn't full. This alignment will provide opportunity for walkers to be immersed in the samphire scrub and shoreline ecologies, with opportunity to learn about the fragile ecosystems, impacts of salinity and habitat values.

Trail Master Plan

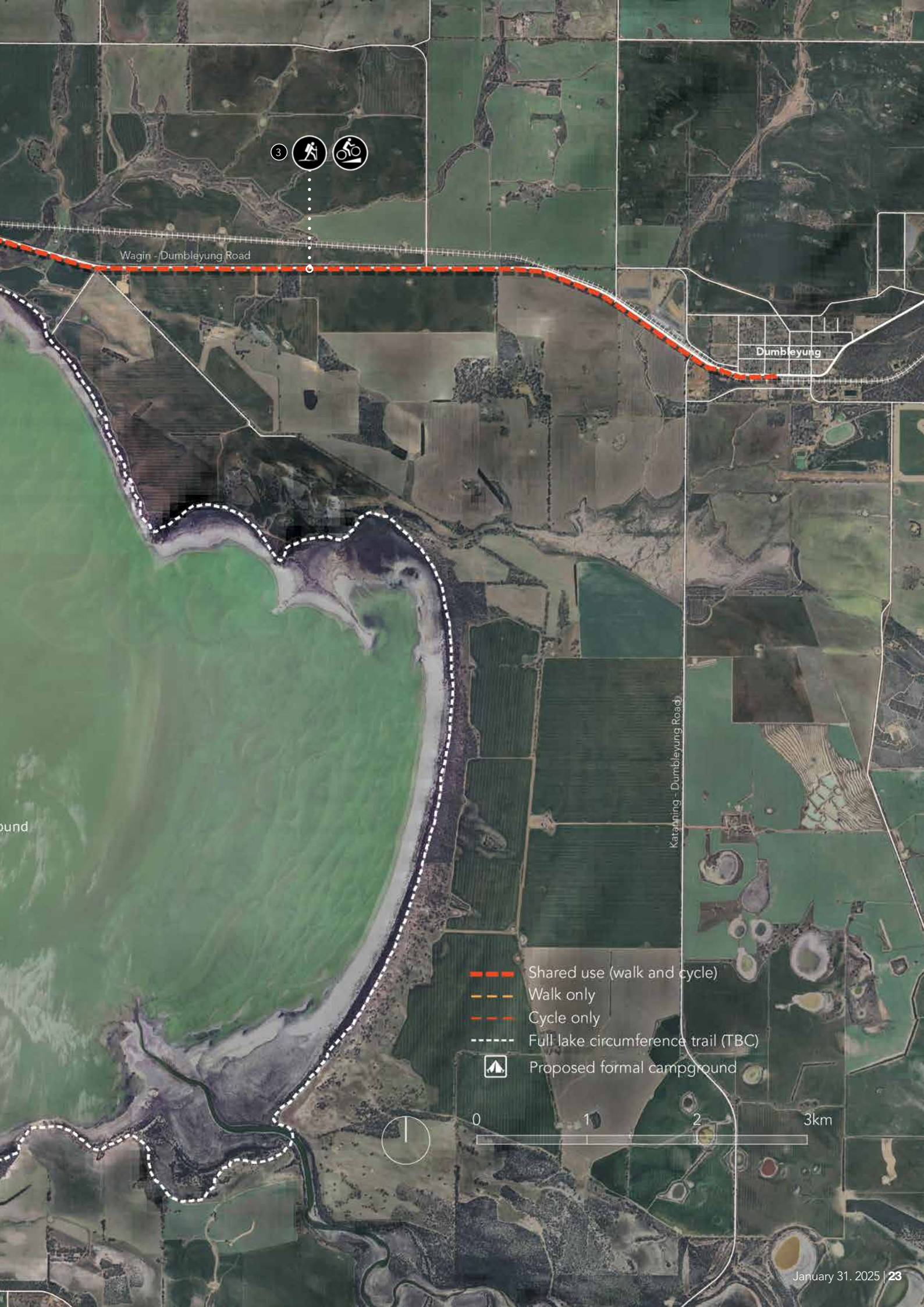


Overarching recommendations

1. Interpret the values of the landscape in a consistent and wholistic manner
2. Establish a range of accommodation options

Proposed trails






3. Shared use trail link from Dumbleyung to the Sailing Club on the Lake, utilising the road and rail reserves.
4. Shared use trail from Sailing club to Donald Campbell launch point.
5. Shoreline walk trail
6. Cooran Hill shared use trail
7. Cooran Hill shoreline walk trail



Wagin - Dumbleyung Road

Dumbleyung

Katapining - Dumbleyung Road

-  Shared use (walk and cycle)
-  Walk only
-  Cycle only
-  Full lake circumference trail (TBC)
-  Proposed formal campground

0 1 2 3km





MAP 6 - Trail Master Plan - detail



Pussy Cat Hill



Sailing Club



Kersley Drive lookout point



Shared use (walk and cycle)

Walk only

Cycle only

0 200 400 600m





⚖ P 🏠
Ski Club

🏠 ②
Cooran Hill Campground

Date Drive

🚶 🚲 ⑥

⑦ 🚶

- Shared use (walk and cycle)
- Walk only
- 🏠 Proposed formal campground

0 200 400 600m



Bullodg Hills Road
Woolkabin Gully

MAP 7 - Trail Master Plan - detail

Full Lake circumference trail

A trail around the full circumference of Lake Dumbleyung has been suggested as an opportunity since 2002, with the vision for a shared use multi day experience. Previous studies (2011 Trail Development Plan) and this current study note significant constraints relating to development of a full lake circumference trail. Constraints include narrow foreshore, fluctuating water levels, areas of steep rocky terrain, tenure complexities and limited market appeal for a trail of this distance.

The shorter trail experiences outlined in this Master Plan will appeal to a wider visitor market and are more achievable in regards to overcoming the constraints identified. These proposals will still support other activation initiatives outlined in the Shire of Dumbleyung Destination Development Plan such as interpretation projects, AR/VR experiences and events. Successful implementation of shorter trails and establishment of accommodation options on the lake is a logical first step towards the possibility of a full lake circumference trail.

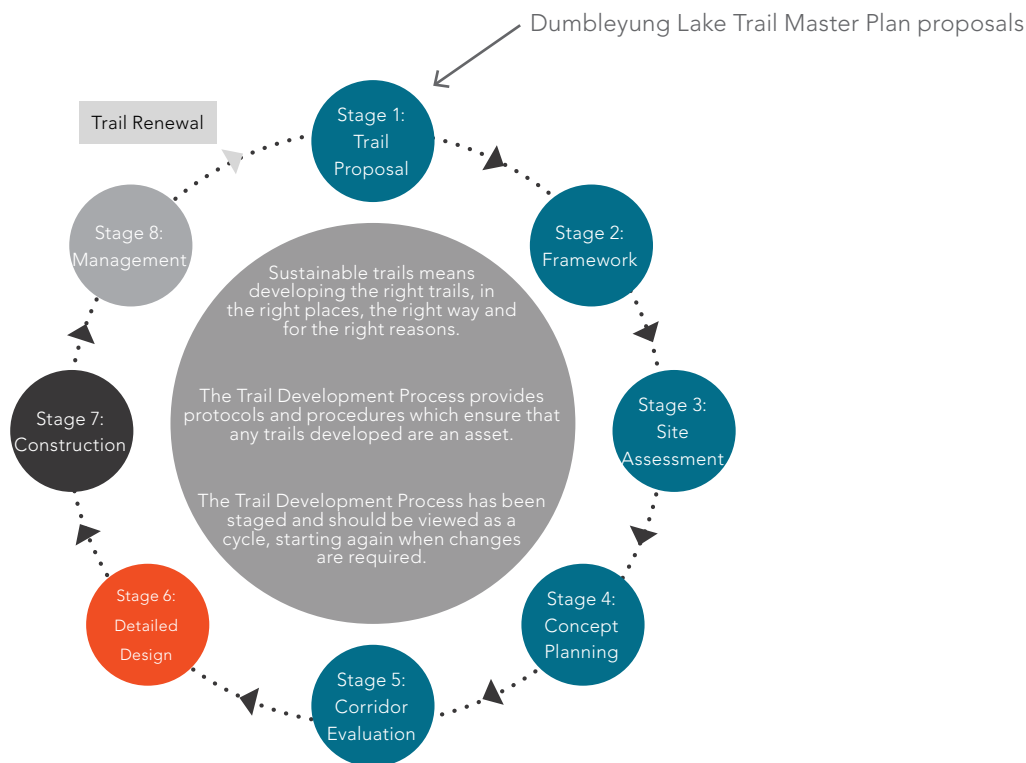


View from Pussy Cat Hill (Image credit: www.visitdumbleyungshire.com/view/lake-dumbleyung)

5.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations provide guidance on next steps for implementation of the proposals outlined in this Dumbleyung Lake Trails Master Plan.

Area	Action	Responsible agencies/ stakeholders	Timeframe	
Trail development and delivery	1.1	Progress proposals through the trail development process (refer to Figure 1). The next steps are establishing a Trail Framework to guide management, planning, design and implementation of each proposal (Master Plan items 3 to 8), followed by the site assessment phase.	Shire of Dumbleyung	Short - medium
	1.2	Work with various stakeholders in gathering information and stories regarding Aboriginal and European cultural heritage and engage interpretation specialists to summarise and present information accordingly. (Master Plan item 1)	Shire of Dumbleyung, Noongar locals, local community	Short
	1.3	Upgrade Sailing Club and Ski Club toilet and car parking facilities.	Shire of Dumbleyung	Medium
	1.4	Work with DBCA, DPLH and Noongar Boodja Trustee to resolve tenure constraints in the Cooran Hill area in regards to establishing a formal campground and trails. Options to explore include lease, license or vesting these parcels with the Shire to enable the Shire of Dumbleyung to proceed with implementation and management of proposals. (Master Plan item 2)	Shire of Dumbleyung, DPLH, DBCA	Medium
	1.5	Ensure appropriate engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders is undertaken in all stages of trail development, consistent with the relevant legislation, DBCA policy requirements, the WA Strategic Trails Blueprint and the South West Native Title Settlement. (Master Plan item, 2, 7 and 8)	All	Ongoing
	1.6	Identify Federal and State Government grant funding and advocacy opportunities to elicit support for construction costs to develop the trail proposals.	Shire of Dumbleyung	Short - medium
Governance	2.1	Establish a Dumbleyung Lake Trails Committee with representatives from the Shire of Dumbleyung, Shire of Wagin, DBCA, Noongar Traditional Custodians, Main Roads WA and other key stakeholders.	Shire of Dumbleyung	Short
	2.2	Determine preferred/ most suitable governance model for each trail as appropriate to each trail location and as part of the establishment of the Trail Framework.	Shire of Dumbleyung, DBCA	Short
Management	3.1	Investigate development or adoption of a volunteer program involving local clubs and community organisations to assist with the ongoing management and maintenance of trails. Formalise roles and responsibilities and ensure the program is accessible, well promoted, coordinated and adequately resourced.	Shire of Dumbleyung	Medium
	3.2	Record and analyse trail usage data and market visitation for all implemented trail facilities.	Shire of Dumbleyung	Long
Partnerships	4.1	Identify opportunities to create public-private partnerships to deliver services and infrastructure to support trail experiences and trail users, and deliver workshops on the economic, business and community opportunities and benefits.	Shire of Dumbleyung	Medium
	4.2	Investigate the opportunity for a partnership for LGA management of trails on DBCA estate.	Shire of Dumbleyung, DBCA	Short
	4.3	Encourage and support new trail business opportunities and identified gaps in service provision. Explore opportunities for further development of Aboriginal enterprise and interpretation through Wuddi Cultural Tours.	Shire of Dumbleyung	Short



	STAGE	OUTCOME
PLANNING	1. PROPOSAL Dumbleyung Lake Trail Master Plan proposals	The trail development is either supported in principle for trail development, or is not supported due to environmental, social or cultural constraints. The purpose of the proposal could be to identify suitable areas for consideration.
	2. FRAMEWORK	A project outline, developed by project steering group (stakeholders), including: project objectives, project management model, stakeholder roles, target market, requirements, standards, execution, and ongoing trail management model.
	3. SITE ASSESSMENT	Undertake a broad scale study of the area and identify constraints, soil types, vegetation etc.
	4. CONCEPT PLANNING	Identify opportunities and conceptual trail plan including broad trail corridors and infrastructure requirements.
	5. CORRIDOR EVALUATION	Detailed assessment of trail corridors for use in determining the final trail alignment.
	6. DETAILED DESIGN	Detailed trail design produced and physically flagged in the field, including: trail classifications, technical trail features (TTFs), construction types and specifications.
CONSTRUCTION	7. CONSTRUCTION	Trail is constructed in line with the detailed design.
MANAGEMENT	8. MANAGEMENT	Management plan implemented detailing maintenance and monitoring requirements.

DESKTOP

FIELD

Figure 1 - Trail development process (DLGSC, Trail Development Series, 2019)

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