

THE SERPENTINE and PIONEER MEMORIAL PARK

THE RATIONALE

To create a broader foreshore parkland that encompasses The Serpentine foreshore and Pioneer Memorial Park, a precinct that is:

- pedestrian friendly;
- connected to a broader park network;
- provides for a variety of recreational uses and for the needs of park users;
- respectful of the natural environment; and
- enhances the current uses of this popular location.

THE PROPOSALS

Create a broader park with a focus on people not cars

The focus is on linking Pioneer Memorial Park and The Serpentine foreshore to create a broader useable recreation space. Pioneer Memorial Park is under utilised but has a wealth of assets with beautiful established park trees, elevated views to the Richmond River and North Creek, open space and an engaging historical element.

The Serpentine foreshore is very popular, but has congested car parking, no toilets and limited infrastructure. There are a variety of beach accesses and some areas are weed infested.

It is proposed a new car park is established on the eastern side of Pioneer Memorial Park and that this car park has a two way access either end. This would facilitate better movement of vehicles through the area in the search for an available car park. The location of the car park would be away from the focus of pedestrian activity.

The current vehicular use of Park Street divides the park from the foreshore. Parking here is inadequate and is compacting tree roots. The steep banks are eroding. It is proposed Park Street is dedicated to pedestrians only and the existing exposed banks are stabilised with new planting. The closure of this vehicular route creates a large area of unified parkland with vehicular movement and parking largely kept to the park edge.

The existing car parking along The Serpentine would be for disabled car parking. A new feature road pavement at the commencement of the one way traffic on The Serpentine would denote the road as a ‘slow speed’ vehicle zone.

Pioneer Park and The Serpentine could be connected to Shaws Bay via an underpass or pedestrian crossing on Hill Street close to Compton Drive.

Enliven Pioneer Memorial Park

A new path and crossing to Hill Street would provide a connection from Shaws Bay to Pioneer Memorial Park. This would encourage visitation to what it a beautiful, elevated area of shaded parkland.

It is proposed this park be embellished to add to the recreational value of The Serpentine. It is proposed a nature based play area be located under the existing established trees and the area between here and The Serpentine becomes an open grassed area for picnics and play. The play facilities should be accessible to all children and should incorporate connecting paths and play items suitable to a range of abilities. The lack of toilets at The Serpentine is an issue that sees the informal use of the dunes for toileting or people trying to cross the busy road to gain access to the toilets at Brighton Street. It is proposed a new toilet block be ‘tucked’ into the bottom of the slope so as to not impede views.

Encouraging use of Pioneer Park will provide opportunities for the gravestone memorial to become a historical feature. Proposed upgrades to the park could enable improved historical interpretation opportunities.



Enhance The Serpentine as a family waterfront play area

The Serpentine foreshore is popular as a natural recreational area. Upgrades should maintain the family orientated character of this place. Proposals seek to accommodate the popularity of the location and to build upon its character. It is proposed The Serpentine is a low speed zone with a wide paved esplanade incorporating seating, shade trees, low planting and a number of beach showers.

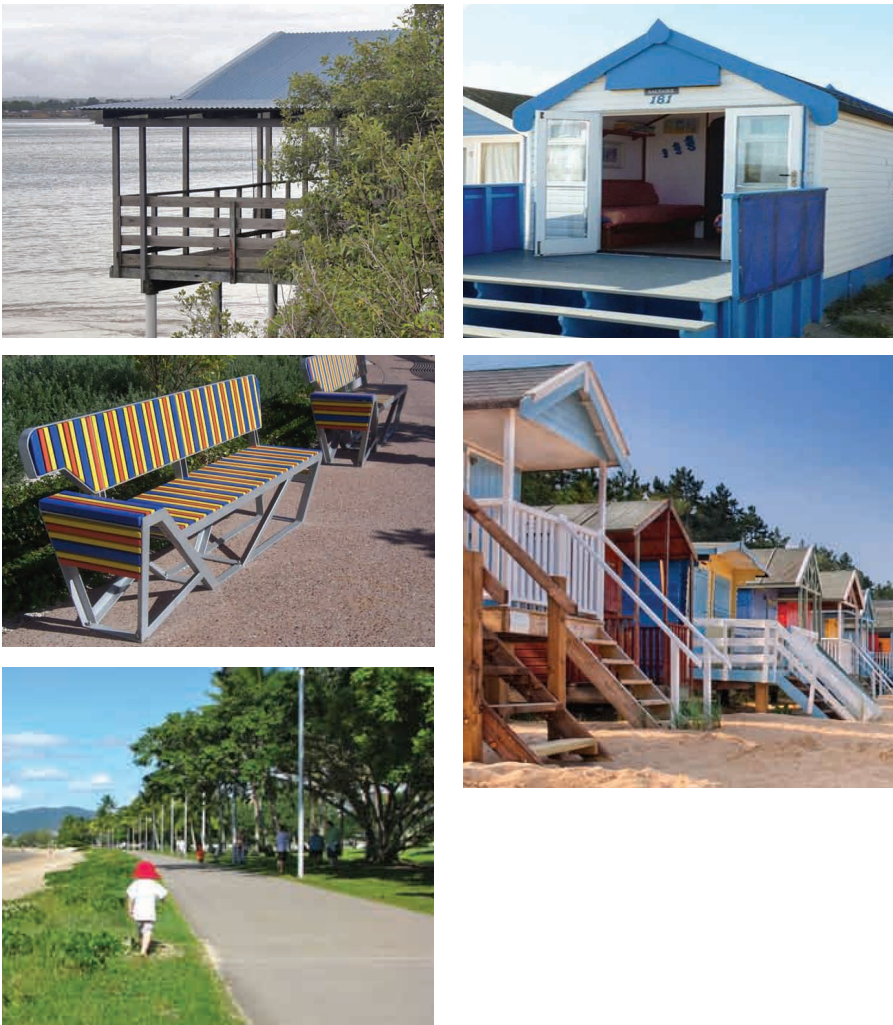
It is proposed a small number of ‘beach shack’ themed shade structures be incorporated along the water front to reflect the history of the site. In the 1930s a number of beach shacks existed at this location and were used by families holidaying. These structures could be linked to the esplanade by timber decking and could include seating and broad timber steps to the beach. Between the structures, grassed

areas would extend down to the beach. The intention would be to maintain the relaxed, holidaying character whilst introducing some new infrastructure that would enhance the area and provide all sorts of ways for people to enjoy the setting.

Interpretive signage at the esplanade could describe the site’s history. Photographs provided by Keith Galloway to Ballina Shire Council show some beautiful images of his family at play and their beach shack home. It is poignant to see that the use of the place by families has remained largely unchanged over time.

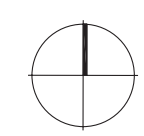
It is proposed the existing car parking on The Serpentine be set aside for disabled parking and that a ramped access be provided to the beach. Beach accesses should be rationalised so that only a number of accessed are maintained. These should be clearly defined so that other areas are allowed to regenerate.

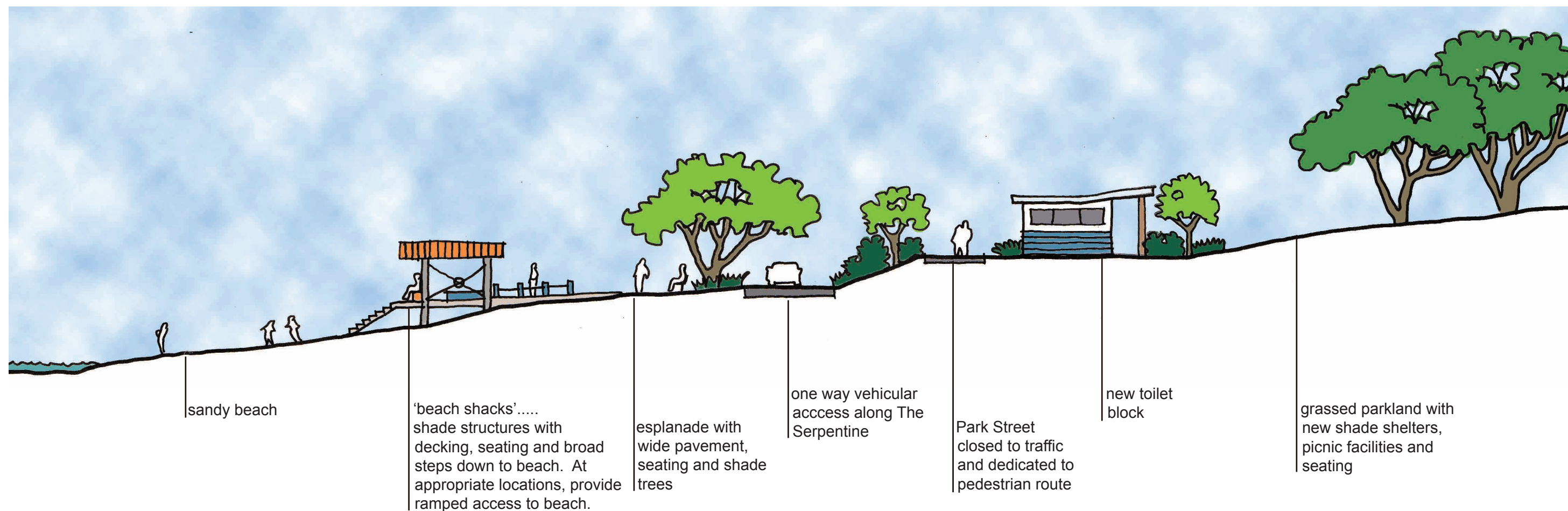
A weeding program should be adopted for the foreshore and degraded areas should be revegetated with indigenous coastal species. Additional tree planting would provide more shade to the foreshore.





- ① provide 2 way traffic to and from new car park
- ② Park Street to be pedestrian access only. Replace with 2 way access into new car park
- ③ new car park away from pedestrian movement and recreational areas
- ④ the location of the headstone walls, and the site of the old cemetery, could become the focus of a historical precinct
- ⑤ new nature based play elements sited under fig trees
- ⑥ pedestrian path connecting parks
- ⑦ picnic area with shelters, picnic settings and seats
- ⑧ new toilet block
- ⑨ Park Street as pedestrian connection, stabilise banks with native planting
- ⑩ new wide pavement with decorative elements
- ⑪ disabled parking with ramped access to beach. This infrastructure to be supported by other accessibility provisions including rails, disabled toilets, tactile paving and sand wheelchair storage
- ⑫ 'beach shack' shelters with seating and broad steps to beach
- ⑬ formalise car park, protect Norfolk Island Pine with broad garden area
- ⑭ renovate toilet block and remove 'enclosed'/disused picnic facilities
- ⑮ provide broad esplanade to waterfront with seating walls, furniture, shade trees and new wide stepped accesses to beach
- ⑯ new shelters, shade trees, picnic settings and seating
- ⑰ possible future underpass or pedestrian crossing to Hill Street
- ⑱ provide lighting in locations suited to night time use such as paths, the foreshore and picnic areas





A THE SERPENTINE and PIONEER MEMORIAL PARK



THE SERPENTINE PROPOSED 'BEACH SHACKS' and ESPLANADE



PIONEER MEMORIAL PARK PROPOSED NATURE PLAY AREA