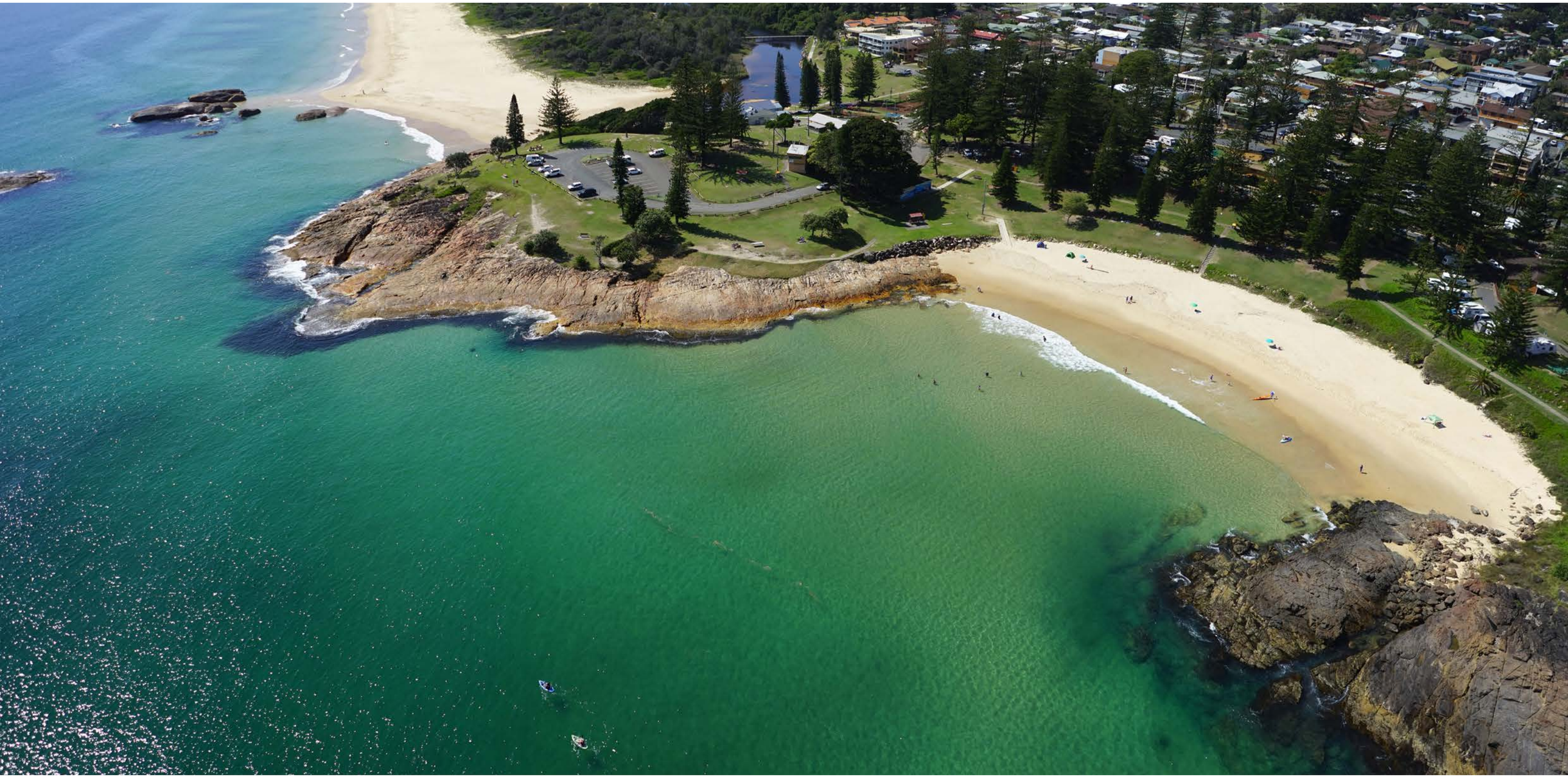
HORSESHOE BAY- COASTAL WALKWAY EXTENSION_LANDSCAPE CONCEPT



KEMPSEY Shire Council

PLUMMER & SMITH
landscape architecture / art / design
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1
PROJECT CONTEXT

The Site

Part **1**

The Coastal Pedestrian Walkway Extension

Part **2**

Horseshoe Bay Master Plan



VISION FOR THE COASTAL WALKWAY

Provide a coastal walkway that facilitates environmental experience and appreciation

OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate Reserve and walkway use while mitigating erosion and environmental degradation
- To provide equitable access to key locations
- To provide experiences of both environmental exposure and shelter
- To maintain and promote a character of simplicity
- To ensure designs and materials are robust enough to withstand coastal exposure
- To celebrate informal and natural character where-ever possible
- To rationalise access and associated infrastructure such as furniture
- To avoid barriers where-ever possible and to retain a sense of free flowing visual and physical access
- To provide discreet but connected viewing locations

2
SITE ANALYSIS























Existing Vegetation

The site has fairly extensive existing vegetation. There are several key moments created by existing vegetation:

A- the fig that denotes the town centre entry point to the reserve

B- the avenue of Norfolk Island Pines defining the ridgeline

C- the enormous fig that dominates the transition between Horseshoe Bay and Monument Point

D- the Lord Howe Island Hibiscus trees defining two terraces and silhouetted against the Bay

E- the cluster of vegetation providing a rare moment of shleter

F- the Banksias providing scale and shade on the north east tip of Monument Point

G- the forest stand of Cupaniopsis anarcardioides that has been sculpted by the winds

The predominant species existing on the site include:

1- Araucaria heterophylla (Norfolk Island Pine)

2- Araucaria columnaris (Cook Pine)

3- Ficus macrophylla (Moreton Bay Fig)

4- Lagunaria patersonia (Lord Howe Island Hibiscus)

5- Cupaniopsis anarcardioides (Tuckeroo)

6- Banksia integrifolia (Coastal Banksia)

7- Pandanus pedunculatus (Coastal Screw Pine)

8- Hibiscus tiliaceus (Cottonwood)

9- Casuarina sp.

10- Eucalypt sp.

11- Palm sp.

12- Camphor laurel



Elements / Fixtures

The site is defined by an ad-hoc approach to the siting of infrastructure including:

Shelters

Seats

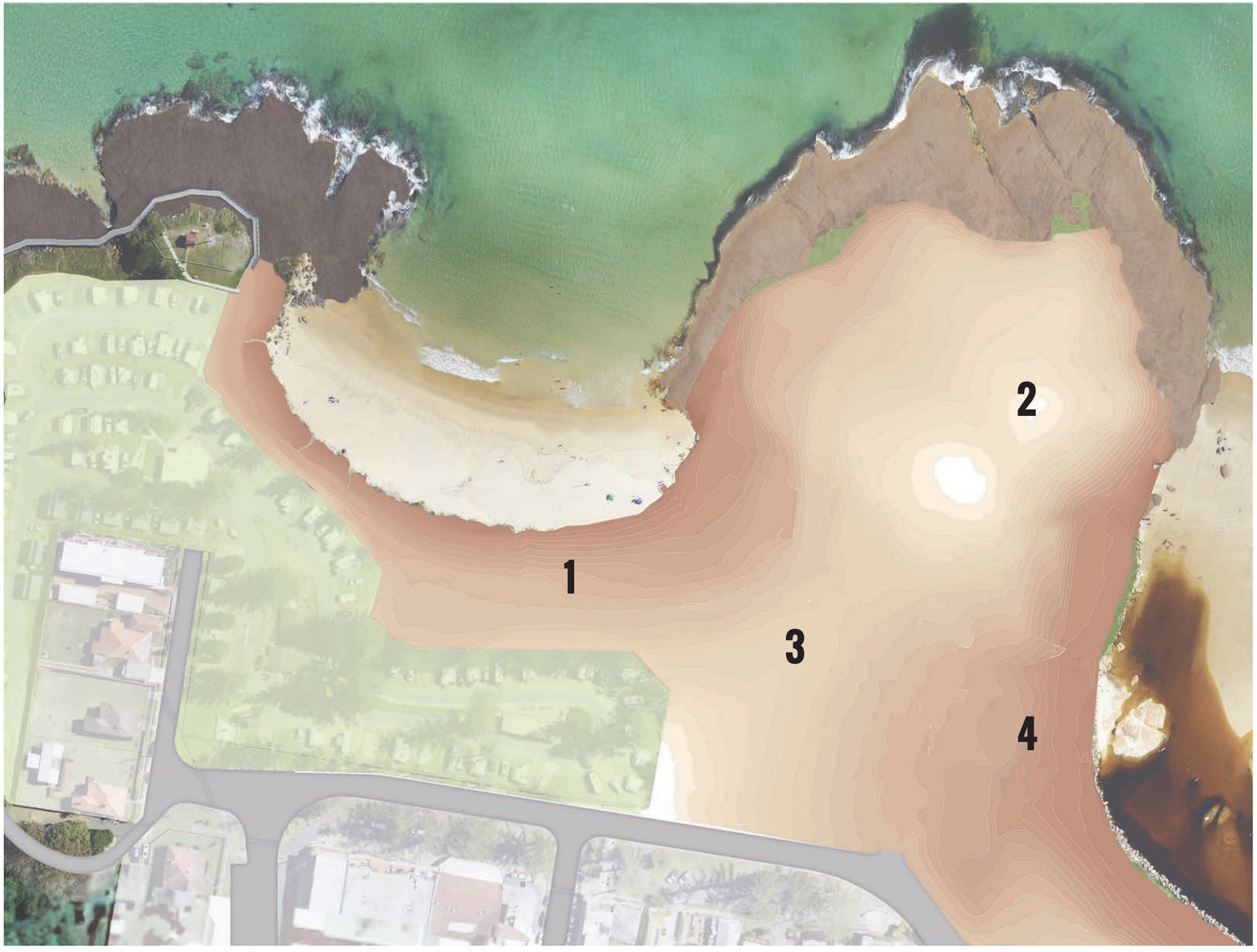


Topograhpy

A significant part of the site experience is based around topography- areas of high ground prospect, banks providing shelter and division of space etc. The adjacent map shows the 0.5 metre contours surveyed across the site.

The site is defined by several key topographic experiences:

1- the Horseshoe Bay amphitheater
2- Monument Point high ground
3- the ridgeline heading towards the town centre
4- the Saltwater Creek amphitheatre



Pedestrian Movement

The site is defined by an ad-hoc approach to circulation paths. A number of the existing paths are in poor condition and do not follow desire lines.

Denotes the primary walking routes where no path currently exists

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Denotes minor tracks



Areas of erosion

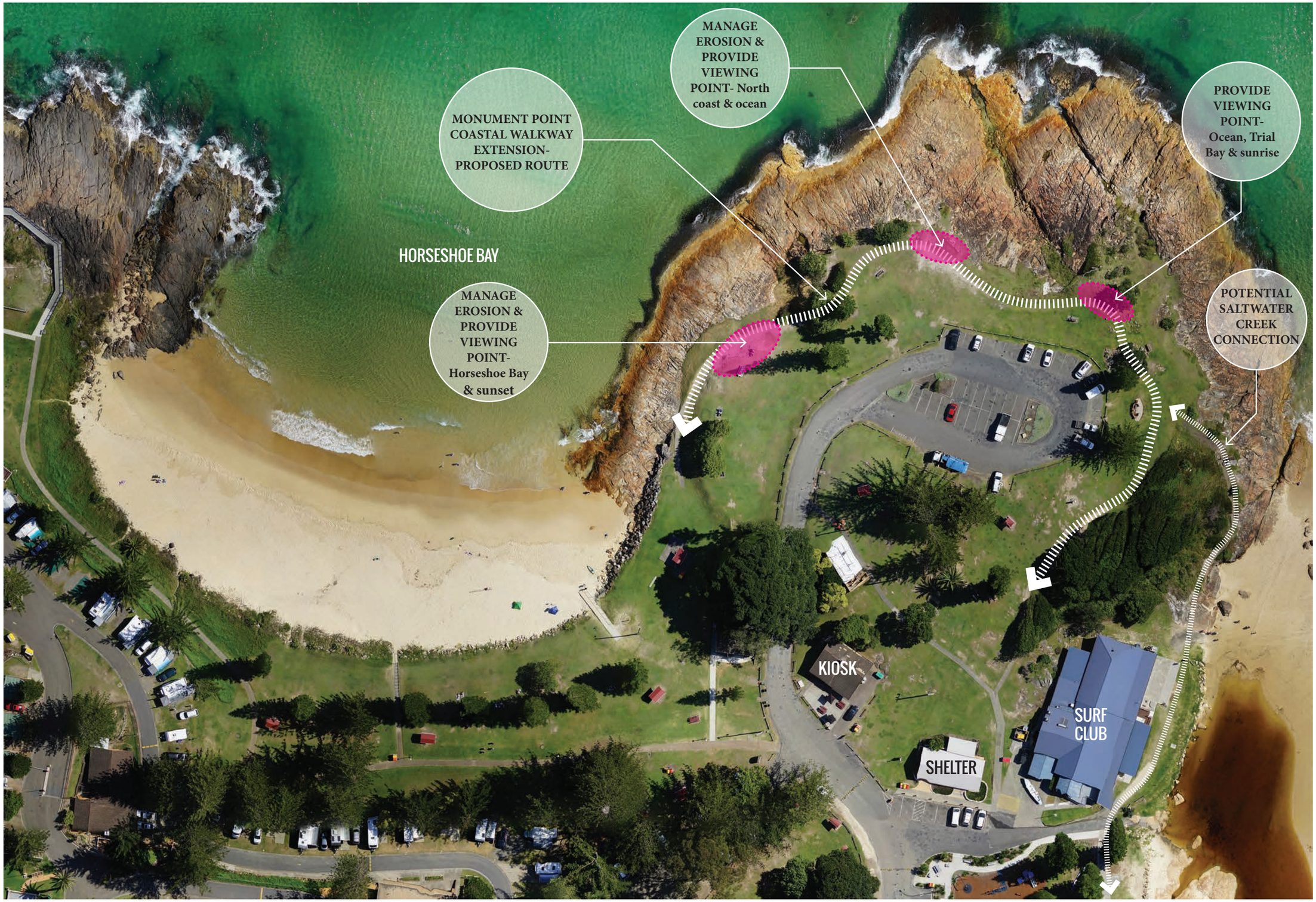
Erosion resulting from walking routes and gathering

Erosion resulting from environmental factors



3
DESIGN STRATEGIES

Walkway and Key Viewing Locations



Landscape Flow

One of the key design strategies is to maintain and, where possible, enhance landscape flows. Through walkway placement and potential future car parking adjustments there is an opportunity to maintain open landscape space flow from the Horseshoe Bay amphitheater all the way around Monument Point. A considered and consolidated approach to the locations of infrastructure and embellishments will assist with this. There is also an opportunity to enhance a sense of natural landscape and headland areas- both in protecting existing zones and proposing addidtional natural spaces.



Open space / parkland

Natural areas

Positioning park infrastructure along shaded edges

Circulation, Access and Park Zones

Capitalise on the character of existing landscape zones.

Provide circulation and access to key locations, inlcuding the beach and the primary viewing location



Flat grass terrace

Grass bank areas

Pedestrian entry space under existing fig

Key outlook locations

Accessibility paths

Circulation paths

Beach Character

Remarkably, for such a small beach, Horseshoe Bay beach arguably has two character zones. The eastern end of the beach is closely linked to the parkland character of the Reserve, while the western end has a more natural character with its edges dominated by plants and sandy, rock mazes.

Design interventions will seek to maintain this character

Parkland character

Natural character



4
DESIGN

Design- guided by the site and existing use

Existing path connecting to Point Briner walkway

Signs of erosion and failure in bank edge- will require management into the future

Existing ramp to beach not compliant

Significant wear and erosion from walking and gathering

Vegetation and topography create a small area of shelter

Erosion indicates rock access location

Erosion and worn path to Saltwater Creek, Surf Club and Trail Bay



Walkway Route



Walkway and Embellishments

1. BOARDWALK CONNECTION
2. BEACH ACCESS PATH (ACCESSIBLE)
3. SEATING / GATHERING
4. INFORMAL ACCESS
5. MAIN VIEWING TERRACE



Monument Point Walkway

1. SEAT AGAINST BANK (BEACH VIEWS)
2. SEATING / GATHERING (HORSESHOE BAY AND SUNSET)
3. INFORMAL ACCESS
4. SEAT
5. MINOR VIEWING TERRACE (NORTH COAST AND OCEAN)
6. MAIN VIEWING TERRACE (NORTH COAST, OCEAN, TRIAL BAY, AND SUNRISE)
7. BOARDWALK CONNECTION TO SALTWATER CREEK



Main Viewing Terrace



Extended path width to accommodate seating edge

2 metre wide concrete path

Stone seat with timber backrest and wheelchair space either side

Proposed new tree to provide shade to seat

Coastline directional marker point and viewing terrace milling space- allows people to pause without impeding path flows

Stone seat with timber backrest and wheelchair space either side

Stone paving transitioning to stone outcrops of the headland

Timber terrace at same level as the path

Step down terrace to existing ground provides a double seating edge overlooking Trial Bay

Views















Monument Point- existing



Monument Point- proposed walkway extension

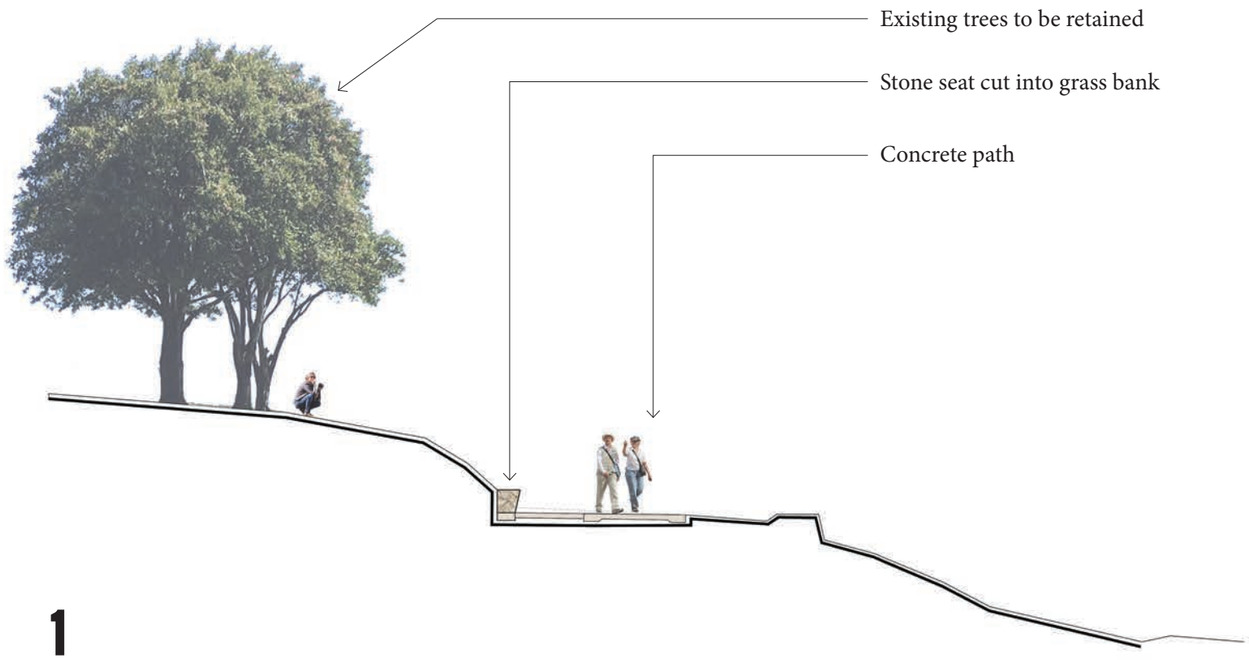




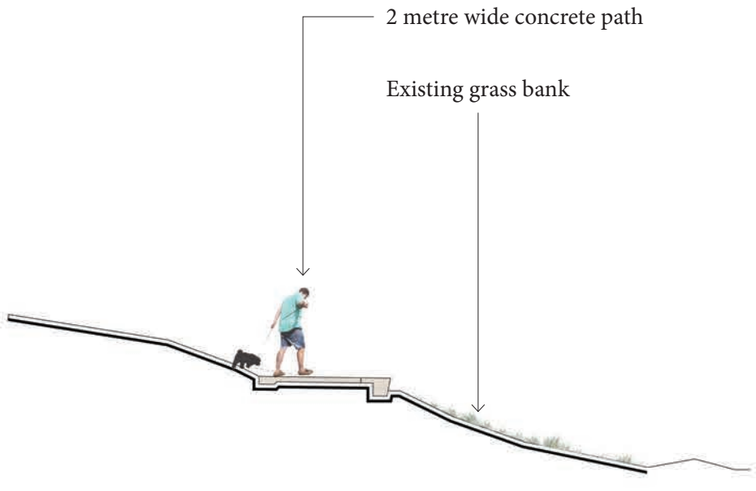
Sections- Location References



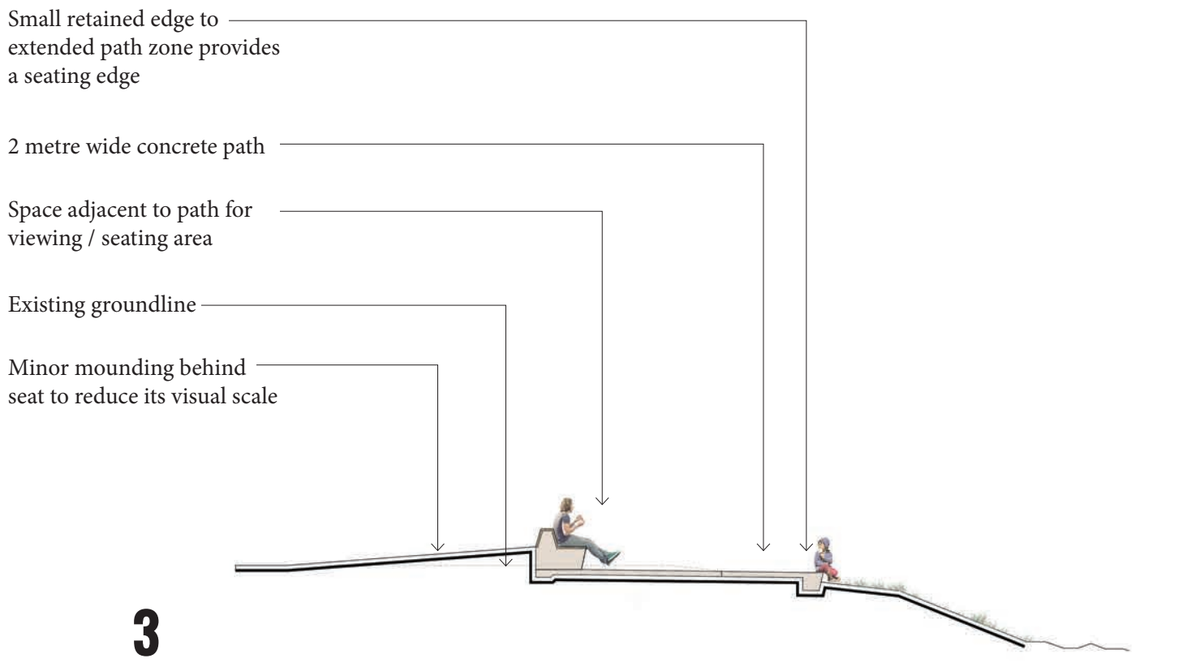
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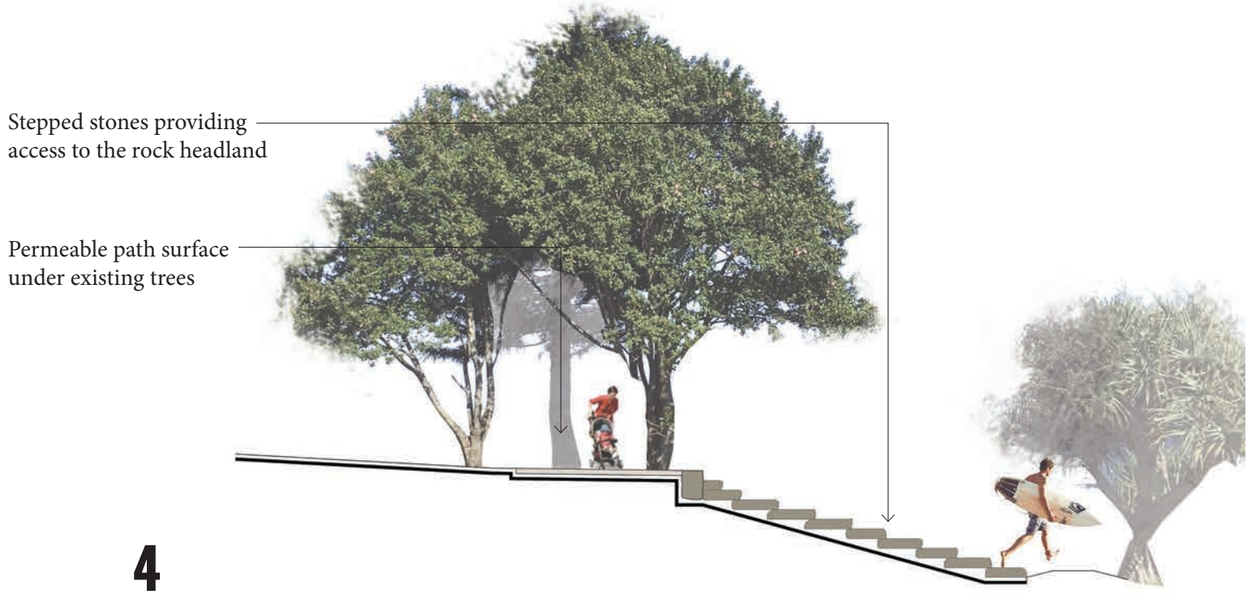
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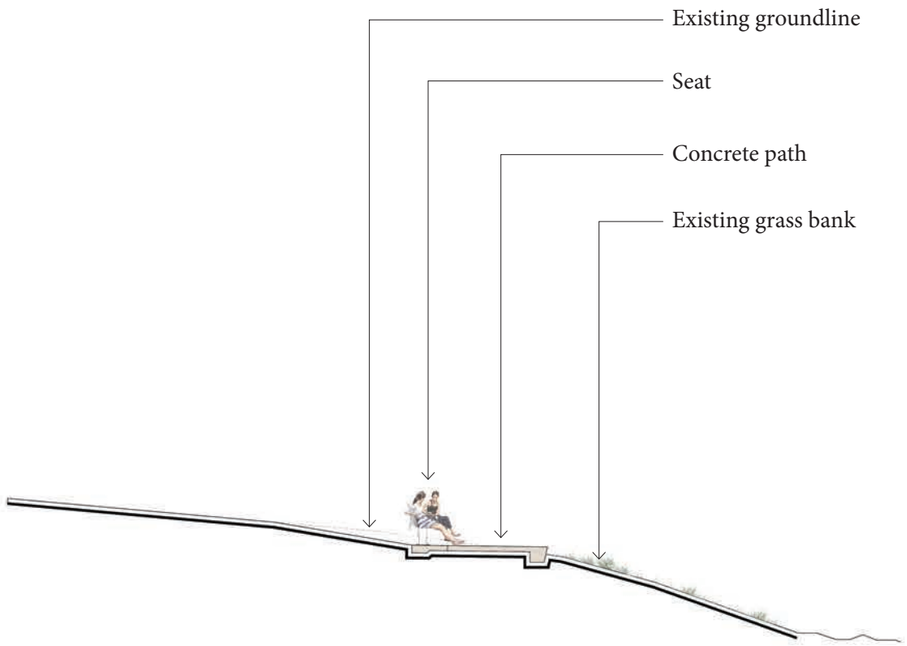
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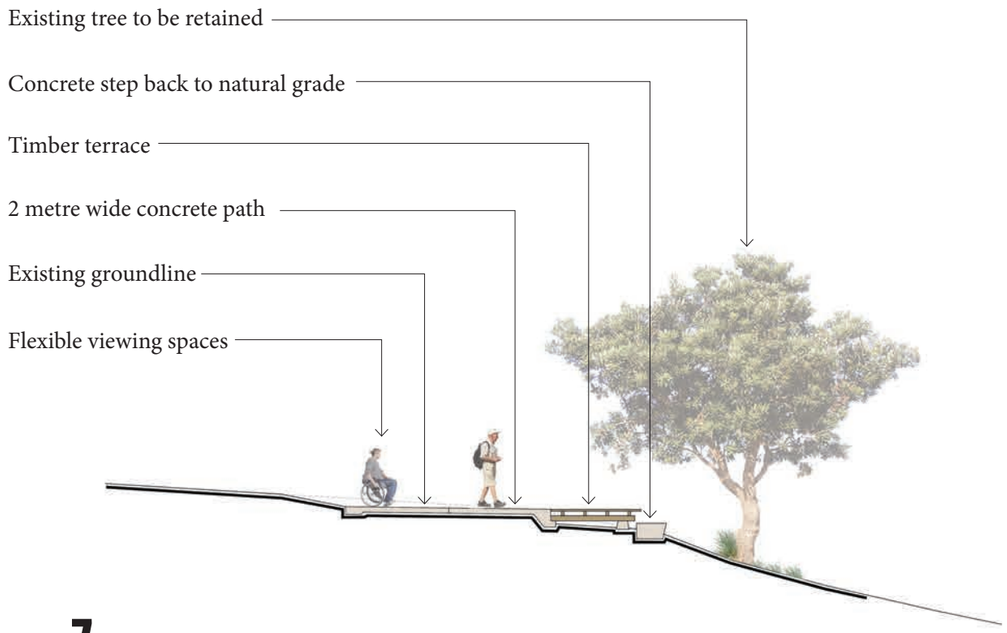
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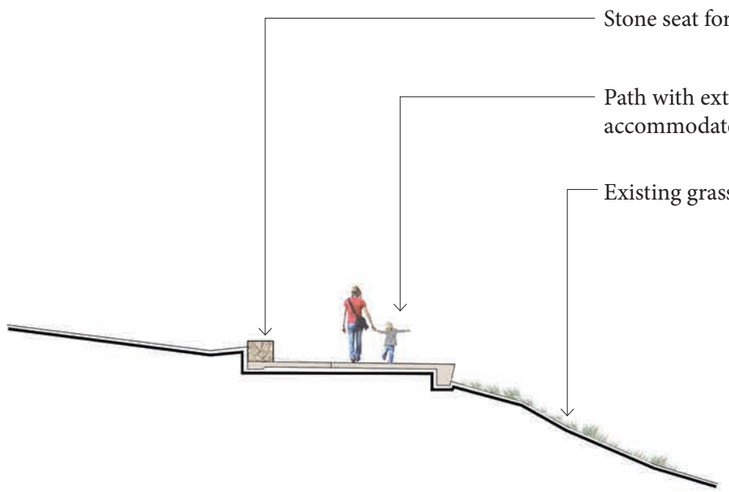
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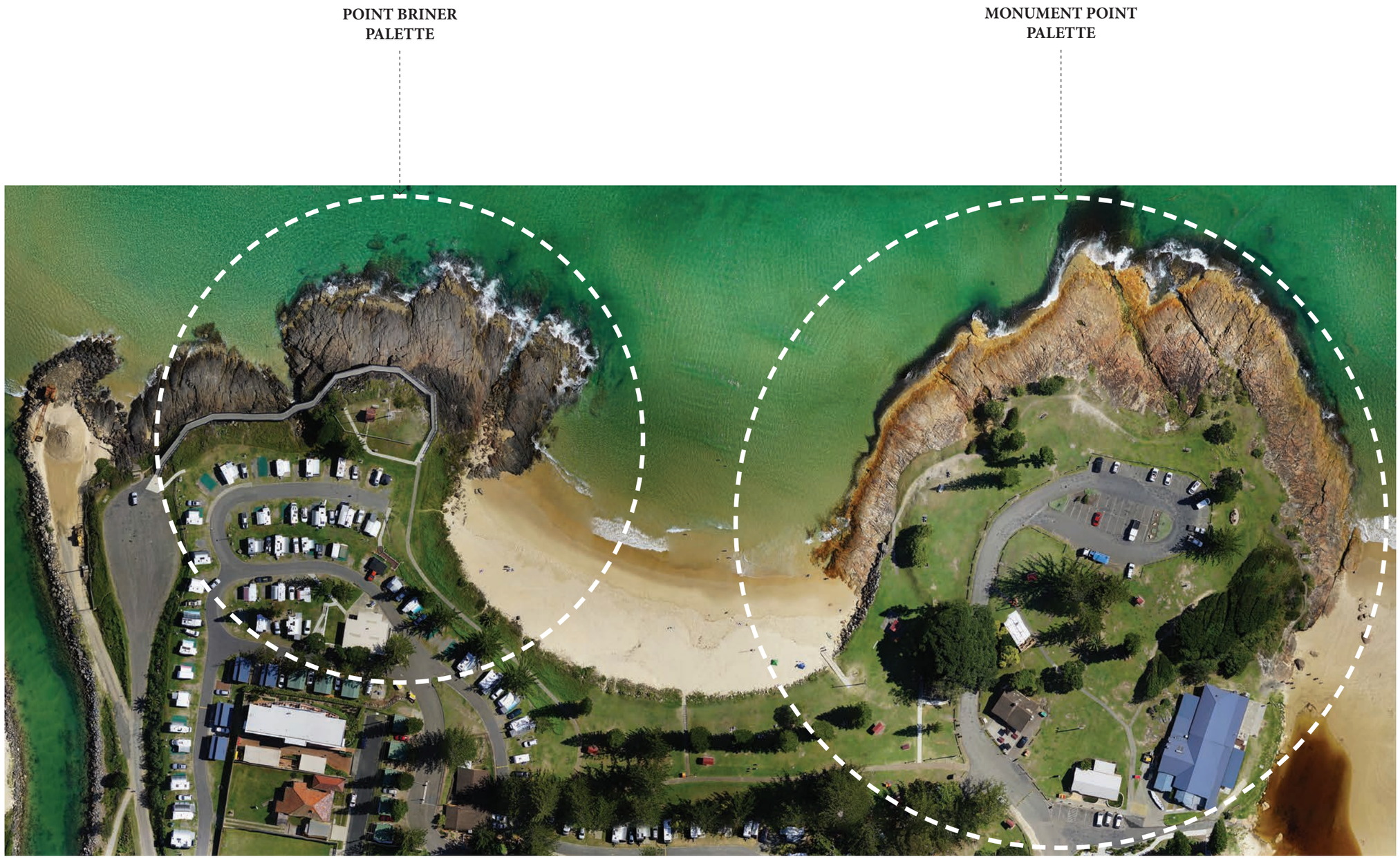


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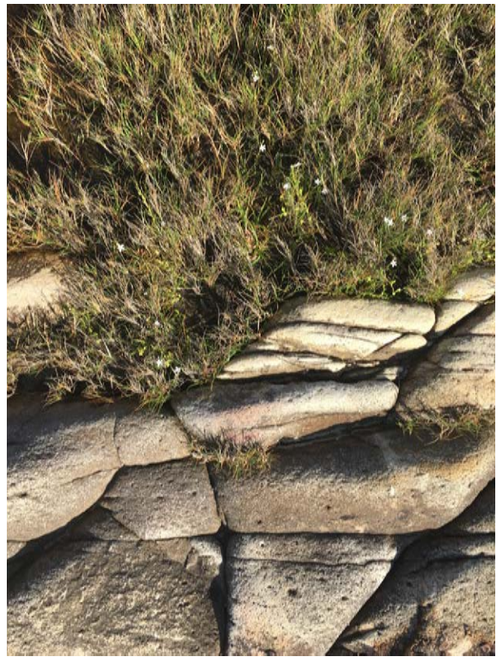
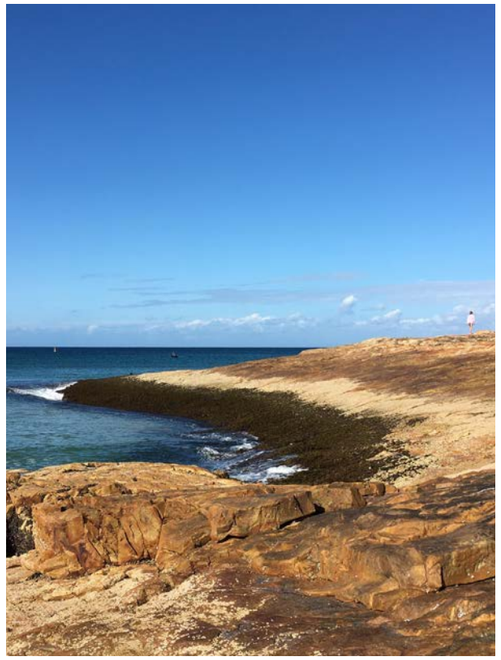
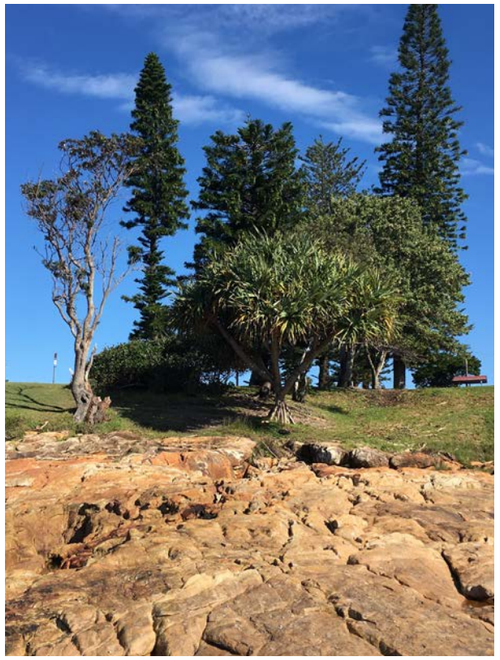
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MATERIAL PALETTE

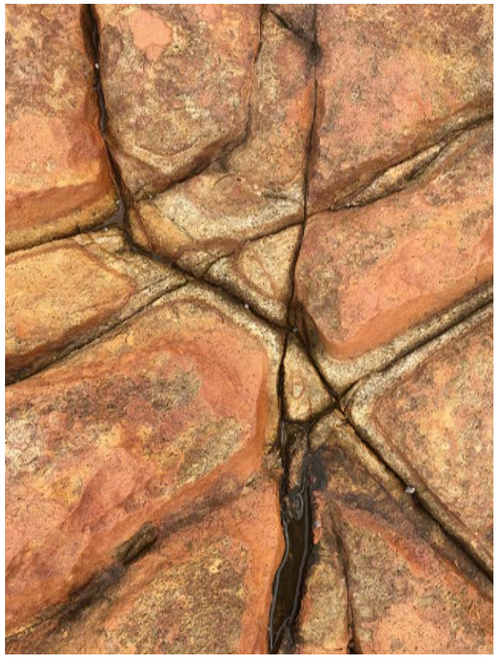
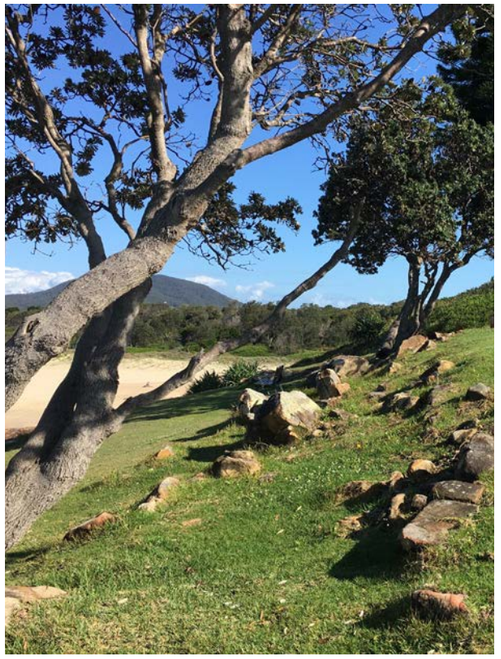
Site textures / Material references



Site textures- Monument Point

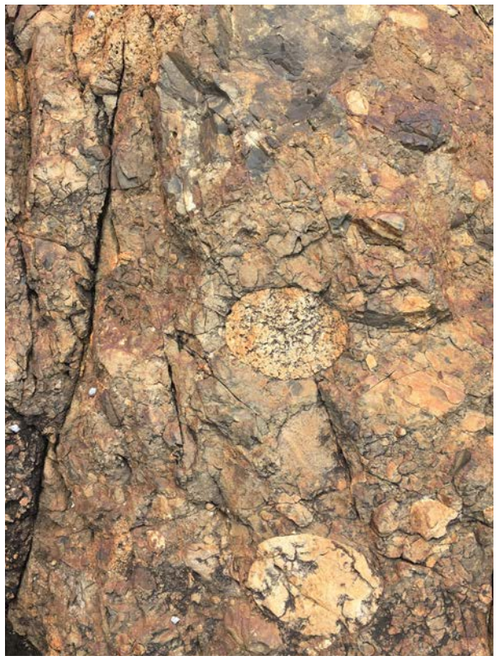
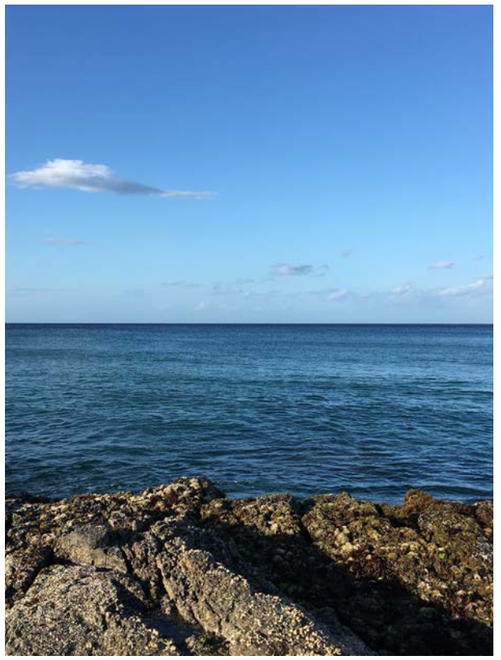
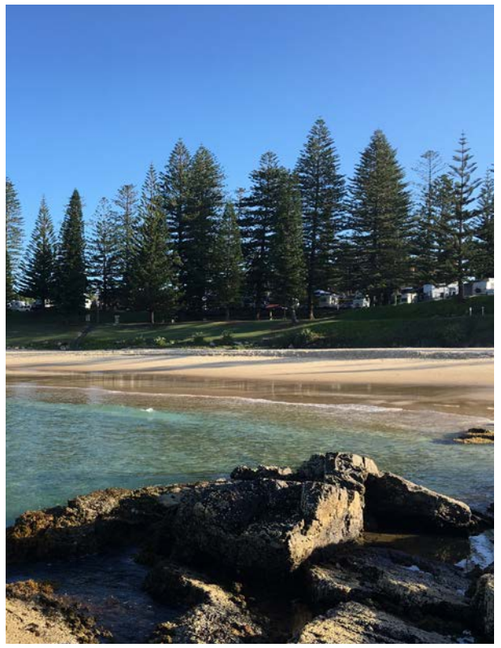




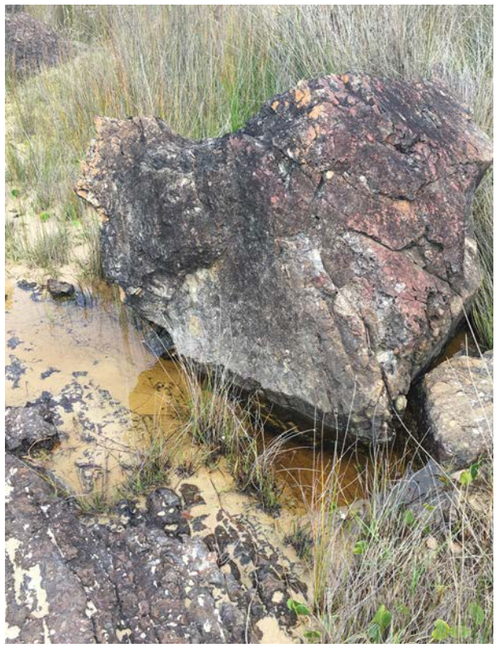


Site textures- Point Briner
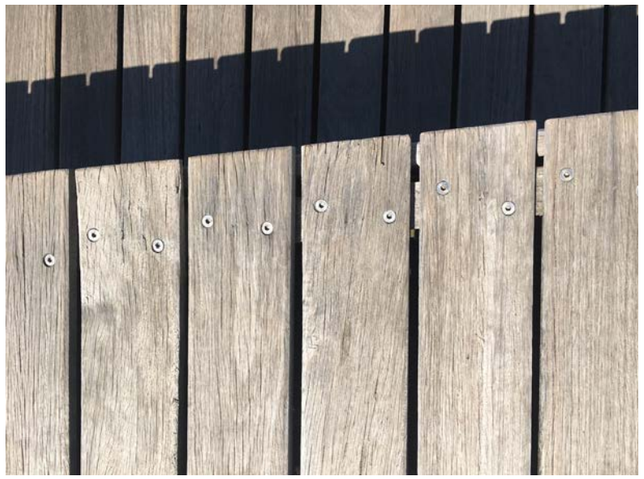


References



Where possible designing solutions that do not intrude on natural views and vistas



Use materials that compliment site and age with grace



Path edge retaining that doubles as a seating edge



Where possible avoid barriers on paths



Seats set back from the path flow



Subtle variations in finishes to define space and use

References



Use materials that compliment natural environment



Neutral tones and hard wearing materials



Use materials that compliment natural environment



Use materials that compliment natural environment



Permeable surfaces under existing trees



Subtle variations in finishes to define space and use



Simple and versatile materials and design