

NINDIGULLY TOWN MASTERPLAN

Balonne Shire Council



DRAFT

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Figure 01. - Front Cover - Moonie River weir at Nindigully (Image by Rounsefell Design).

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This Town Masterplan Report was developed with the support of the Queensland Government.

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Acknowledgement of Country

McGregor Coxall acknowledges Australia's First Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the unceded lands on which we shape our environment. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land where these projects are situated, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We recognise the deep connection of First Peoples to Country and celebrate their profound knowledge systems, which remain central to the health and prosperity of the landscapes and waterways we enjoy today.



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1.0 Introduction

1.1. Scope and Purpose

The Nindigully Town Masterplan presented within this report has been produced in consultation with the local community and Balonne Shire Council. The scope of the masterplan considers a study area to capture a clear understanding of the potential improvements and upgrades for the site.

The masterplan's purpose is to identify possible improvements and collate them into a cohesive conceptual plan that can be utilised to guide priority projects over the next few decades. This report identifies possible implementation funding streams for Council or the community to support delivery of priority projects.

The following objectives provide an over arching guide for development of the masterplan.

1.2. Project Objectives

Objective 1	Objective 2
Identify, ingrain and prioritise community-inspired township improvements with a 20-year implementation timeframe.	Recommend priority projects to enable Council to identify appropriate, staged funding options.
Objective 3	Objective 4
Undertake an equitable community engagement process which considers incorporation of community ideas into the proposed masterplan outcomes (subject to Council budgets).	Integrate the Sports Ground area into the overall township to encourage shared maintenance responsibilities, improve the sports facilities and amenity for all users.
Objective 5	
Identify tourism-related improvements for the township to accommodate all user types (for daily operations and large events), strengthen local user amenity, and rationalise Council management and maintenance needs.	

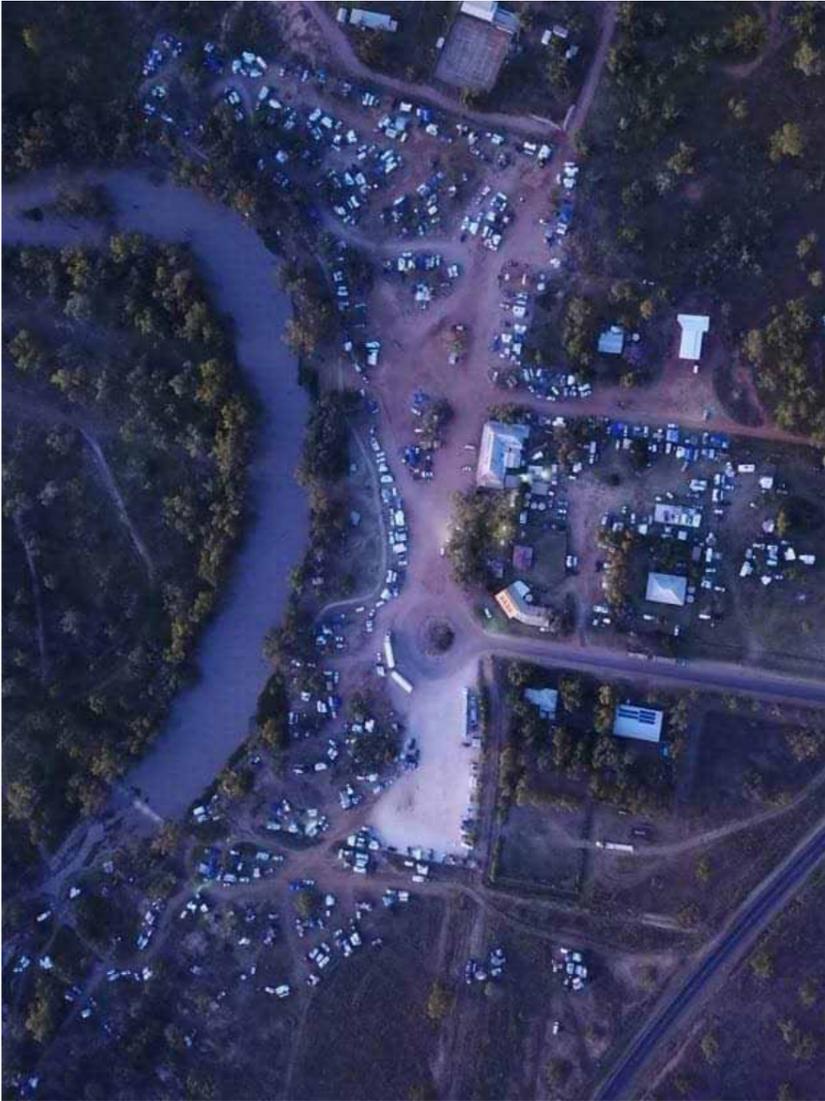


Figure 02. - Nindigully and surrounding free camping area at peak demand (Arthur Vandelay).

1.3. Regional and Site Context

Nindigully or 'The Gully' is a township located on the bank of the Moonie River with five houses and sport/ community facilities. Despite its small size, the town fills with visitors during significant annual calendar events such as the yearly Pig Races charity fundraiser and Country Music Festival. Nindigully is located within the Balonne Shire and is located half an hour drive south-east of St George and is just over 5.5 hours drive inland of Brisbane. The Moonie River flows for only around one third of the year and is otherwise a series of disconnected billabongs. The Moonie River Catchment is located in the North Murray Darling Basin.

The town is known for the 'Nindigully Pub', established in 1864 and contending for the position of Queensland's oldest continuously licensed pub. The Nindigully Tourist and Visitor Area offers free camping along the Moonie River, located right outside the pub's front door. The permanent population of residents in Nindigully is only 9 people, however, each year Nindigully Pub's famous Pig Races are held, attracting increasingly larger crowds to the small town. The Pig Races form an important event in the calendar and provides generous support for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Legend

-  Site
-  Highway / major road
-  Major water courses
-  Remnant vegetation
-  State owned native forest (defined forest area)
-  Floodplain assessment
-  Pasture land
-  Primary stock route
-  Secondary stock route

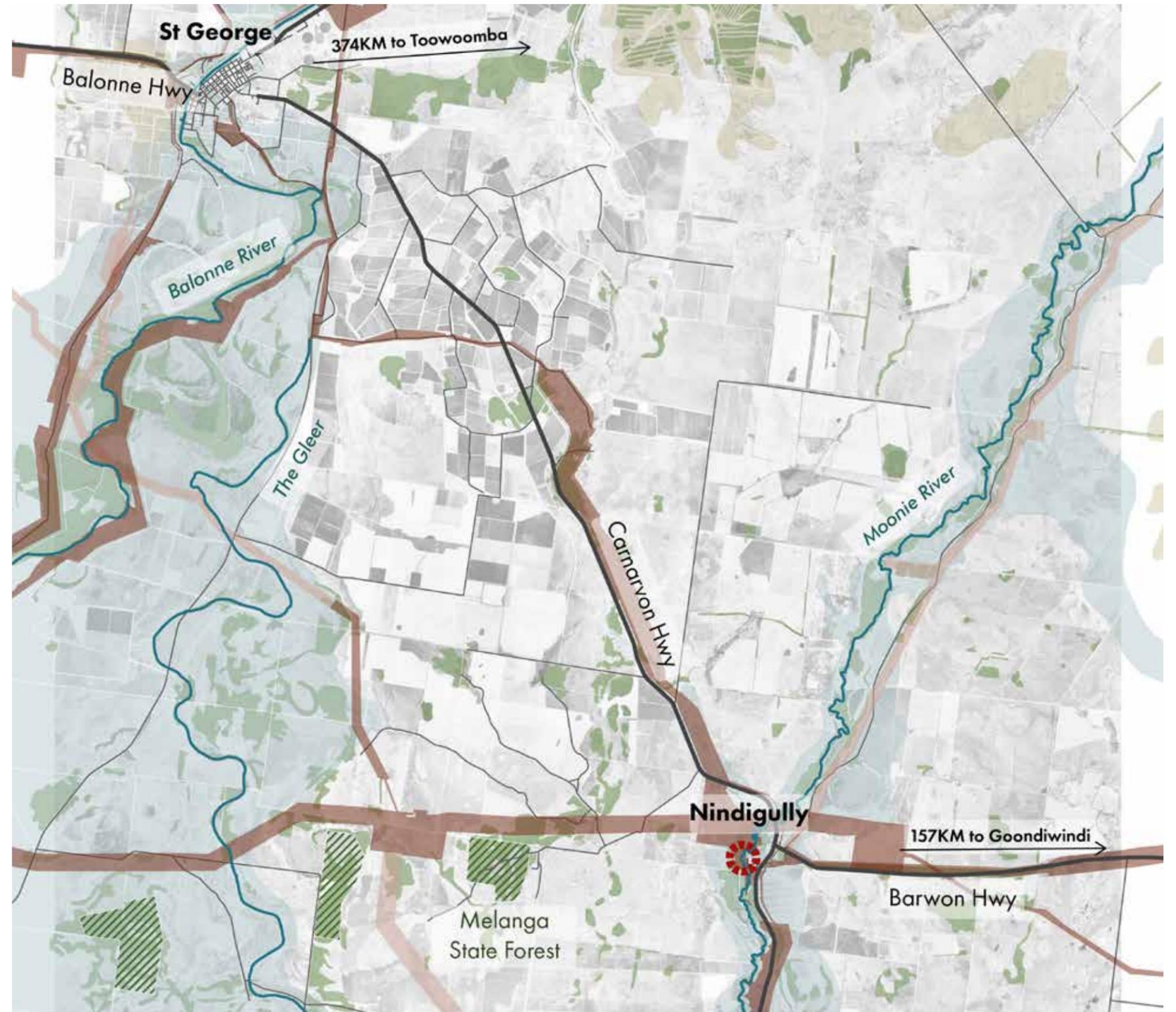


Figure 03. - Nindigully Regional Context Plan



Figure 04. - Nindigully Site Context Plan

Legend

 Project study area



Figure 05. - Moonie River riverbank and table settings at Nindigully (McGregor Coxall).



Figure 06. - Nindigully Pub (Outback Queensland).

1.4. Engagement and Consultation Summary

Community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken prior to starting masterplanning for the Nindigully Town Masterplan Project. The community engagement process gave the local community two opportunities to input into the town masterplan project as it progressed, as shown in the diagram at right. This consultation included an initial 'information gathering' process prior to starting the masterplanning process. Another opportunity for the community will be provided mid-February 2025 to comment on the Draft Masterplan prior to it being finalised and endorsed by Council.

The key stakeholders for the engagement were identified as:

- The local Nindigully residents and surrounding community
- The Nindigully Pub publican and staff (sole business in the township)
- Nindigully Sports Community / Community Groups
- Balonne Shire Council Officers
- Visitors staying in Nindigully as part of individual travel or organised events

Council sought initial feedback from the local community and sporting groups on what their aspirations and ideas were, and to identify key issues and the main priorities for the township. Relevant Council Officers were also consulted as part of this process. An on-line and hard copy survey was also released for a period of nearly five weeks (due to it running over the Christmas / New Year break period).

Feedback from the initial consultation was then used to develop a Draft Masterplan. This will be taken to the community for their feedback and comment, which will be taken into consideration to guide the development of the Final Masterplan for adoption by Council.

Initial Engagement

Initial engagement activities included:

- Identifying the local residents, community groups and key stakeholders with whom to engage
- Undertaking preliminary mapping and identification of key town features prior to attending an in-person meeting in town

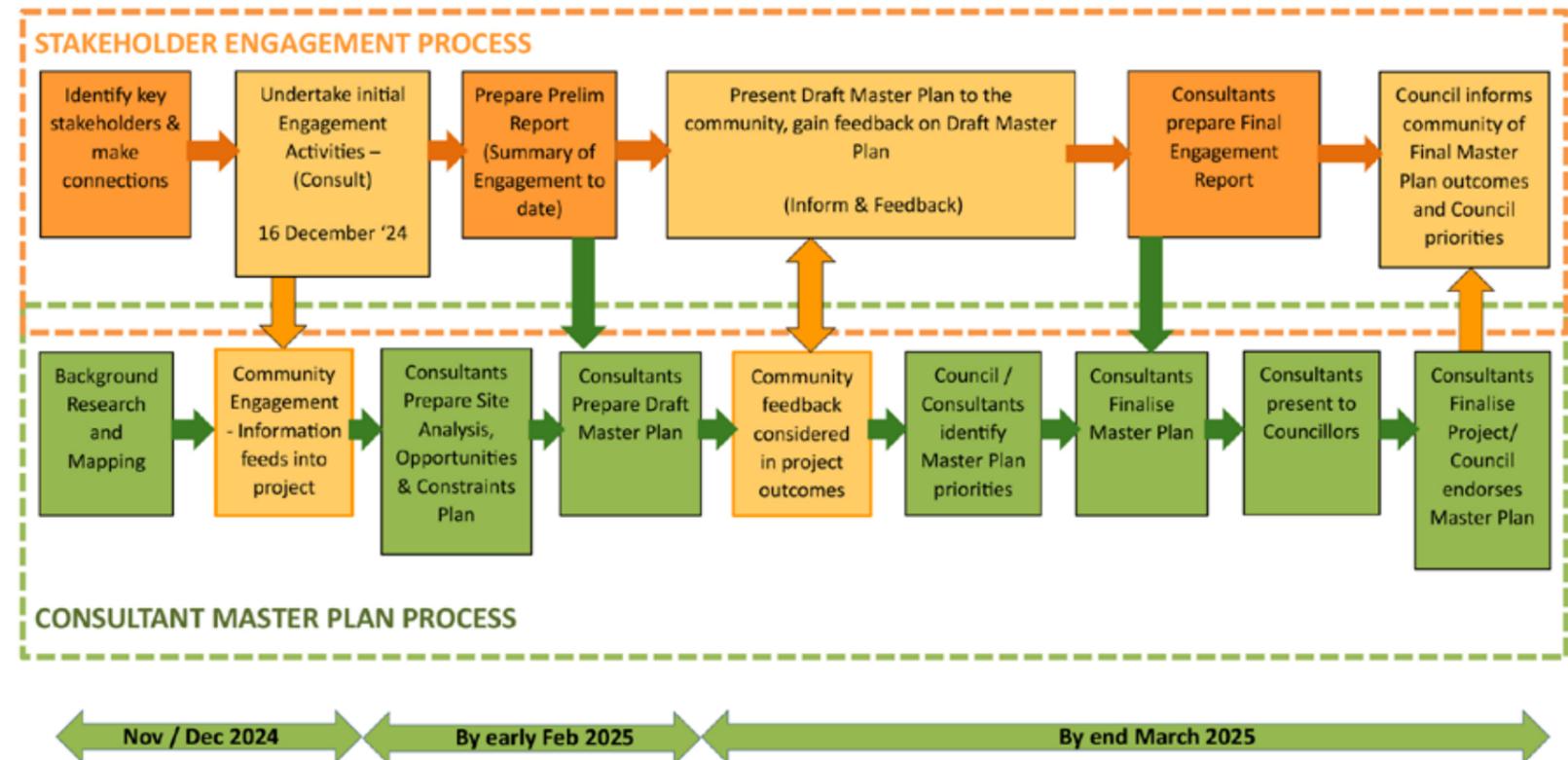


Figure 07. - Community engagement and masterplan process (Rounsefell Design).

- Notifying the community about the upcoming consultation and survey via Council's Facebook pages and the Balonne Bulletin
- Undertaking a 2-hour in-person community engagement session in Nindigully Pub
- Undertaking individual in-person consultation with other Nindigully residents not able to make it to the meeting, including with Mayor O'Toole, and Councillors Fuhrmeister and Scriven
- Undertake other individual engagement with other residents via phone
- Release of an on-line and hardcopy Have your Say survey via the BSC website, for people to complete, asking questions about aspirations and ideas for the town masterplan, with the survey open for nearly five weeks

- Individual in-person meetings with relevant BSC Council Officers, including the Manager Assets and Projects, Senior Town Supervisor and the Waste Co-ordinator.

Due to the initial engagement being undertaken in summer (off-peak for tourism), there were no tourists staying in the campground to enable participation from this sector at the 16 December 2024 open community engagement session. Broader direct engagement with external event organisers and other tourism interest/ user groups (such as birdwatchers, events (e.g. Shitbox Rally) organisers, caravanning groups etc.) has not been undertaken.

The Initial in-person Engagement Sessions were undertaken on Monday 16 December 2024. The purpose of the meetings was to:

- Meet the local residents and key stakeholders
- Identify the community aspirations and issues
- For the project team and Council to familiarise themselves with and understand the current physical Nindigully township layout, relationship of different elements to each other, and issues ‘on the ground’

One individual resident meeting was undertaken in person as well as an open community meeting from 3pm-5pm at the Nindigully Pub.

After this engagement the draft masterplan was developed, which will be discussed at another open forum at the Nindigully Pub to be held on 3pm – 5pm on Monday 17 February 2025. After this feedback, the final masterplan will be finalised with Council officers, for adoption by Council.

Summary of Initial Engagement Findings

A summary of key findings from the survey outcomes and initial engagement includes:

- Five local residents of Nindigully and surrounds were able to attend the initial in-person engagement sessions A total of sixteen survey responses were received
- The majority of survey respondents lived in Nindigully
- The majority of respondents would like to see more walking paths , extending in both directions along the river and/or across the river
- The majority of respondents (locals) do not use the free camping area (73%)
- The key attractors for people are the location (uniqueness) , the river and environment (peace, tranquillity, birdlife, quiet fishing without motorised craft), the pub (events, history), the community facilities and events (campdraft grounds, community hall) and the people (good people, strong community spirit, working together to provide facilities all can enjoy)

Additional activities suggested include:

- Cater to 8 to 14yr old age group;
- A fairly strong desire for a playground not inside the pub (6 respondents/ 37.5%), including potentially a safe, nature play style playground with shade
- Improved connectivity with more walking tracks
- investigate potential for access/ path across river - about a third of respondents wanted to see a bridge rebuilt to provide better connectivity
- Burr-free turfed area (would require irrigation) as a kick-about area
- Install multi-use sport area for handball/ basketball / cricket nets/ tennis (investigate existing court area for this purpose)
- Additional social activities to attract locals back to town as well as visitors e.g. Ladies’ lunches, markets
- Return of motorcycle activities across the river (shire-wide tourism benefit)
- Exercise equipment along river trail
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Free (electric) BBQs able to be used in fire season (would need to be above flood level)
- Jetties for fishing
- A place for exercise classes (used to have Zumba)
- Trail for horse riding

Most people interact and use the Moonie River for fishing and camping, canoeing and birdwatching. Respondents feel very strongly that the river is the lifeblood of the town for locals and tourism.

About a third of respondents have strong concerns about future water security, the river ongoing siltation, weir maintenance and height to enable better water retention.



Figure 08. - Community Engagement Nindigully Style (BSC).



Figure 09. - Open Community Meeting at Nindigully Pub (BSC).

- There are ongoing issues with large numbers of people at events (e.g. 2024 Pig Races attendance was about 650 people but usually about 1000 attendees) organised by both the pub and individually heavily impacting the site with detrimental outcomes for the environment, town amenity, local resident use after events and cleanup costs borne by Council
- Council is currently not made aware of expected event numbers so cannot plan for event impacts
- Visitor user behaviour issues – e.g. cutting of trees for firewood is an issue
- Install signage to guide visitors about appropriate behaviour and areas accessible for residents only (e.g. Need 'no camping' sign on Hocking St – people block residential access when crowded)

Community needs Council support to:

- Better maintain sport and other facilities used by the community
- Better fund the community/ sport facilities so they can be used more (limited volunteers)
- Provide access for workshops and courses, especially for women

Communications

- There was a desire to improve the Telstra tower/ communications
- Request for Council to request Australia Post to recognise Nindigully and provide a separate postcode (as per Daymar and Weengallon) as issues with deliveries and wayfinding for tourism due to current "via Thallon" status / association with their postcode



Figure 013. - Lack of clarity in township site, functional uses, and wayfinding (Rounsefell Design).



Figure 014. - Equitable parking and access is needed into the pub (Rounsefell Design).



Figure 015. - Site impacts from uncontrolled vehicle access and inadequate surface treatments for the type of use (Rounsefell Design).



Figure 016. - Riverside recreational facilities impacted by flooding (Rounsefell Design).



Figure 017. - Site impacts and rubbish left by campers after the pig races (BSC).



Figure 018. - Site impacts and rubbish left by campers after the pig races (BSC).



Figure 019. - Nindigully Drone Footage (Skyshots Photography)

2.0 Analysis

2.1. Literature Review

To build an informed perspective and enable the robust development of the masterplan, the following documents and sources were reviewed for their relevance to the scope of this project and the key items are outlined below.

Explore St George Region Tourism - Nindigully

- Nindigully Pub - established in 1864 and host to several annual events including the Pig Races which result in large donations to charity.
- Paperback Hero film prop - recently restored for the 20th anniversary of the film, the Boomerangs mark the location of the 1999 film set.
- The Gully Walk - a 500m river walkway with historical interpretive signage.

Balonne Tourism and Events Strategy 2025

- Peak visitor season: Winter
- Most visitors numbers from South East Queensland
- Key Visitor Demographic: Grey Nomads 65+ years old
- Caravan as most popular accommodation type
- Benchmarking Recommendations:
 - Existing infrastructure to support tourism and event growth and increased visitation with minimal impact to residents.
 - Develop experiences on the river that tell the story of the indigenous people, the river system, the night skies, the irrigation systems, the fish and wildlife found along the river systems.
- Highlighted potential experiences:
 - Rivers: providing an oasis experience with all day activation at sunrise, sunset, and evenings to encourage overnight/multi-day stays.
 - Inland fishing: The Inland Fishing Capital of Queensland with potential to develop iconic attractions that promote the river systems.
 - Australian Native Wildlife: Develop interpretative displays for local fauna to provide in depth of the Balonne Story for visitors.
 - Indigenous Culture: Develop and integrate First Nations stories and culture into the towns experiences.
 - History and Heritage: Promote an educational experience for the towns history by providing an authentic visitor experience.

Previously adopted masterplans across Balonne Shire Council

Consistent evolvment of style guides for colour, planting, materials, and furniture to create a site responsive reflection of Nindigully's local character.

Balonne Shire Council Planning Scheme 2024

Balonne's vision is to create connected, innovative communities, where economies are strong, and opportunities are abundant. The vision is supported by five key themes of which the following three themes have direct relevance to this project's scope:

- Community: Pursuit of active and healthy lifestyles where cultures, traditions and the arts are celebrated, including the provision of safe and welcoming spaces to connect, engage and learn.
- Environment: To enhance, protect and sustain the environment, ensuring a triple bottom line approach of balancing social and economic needs with environmental goals.
- Infrastructure and Planning: Effective town planning and infrastructure design to support the Shire's needs with a focus on visionary planning to suit changing needs into the future.

The key strategic intent of the planning scheme is to promote prosperity in a way that retains character; keeps the community safe from natural hazards, emissions and hazardous activities; respects and cares for the environment and heritage, and makes best use of infrastructure. The following sections of the planning scheme have direct relevance to this project:

- 3.2.1.2 Tourism; 3.2.2 Supporting rural and small-town living; 3.2.3 Avoiding the impacts of natural and other hazards; 3.2.3.1 Flooding; 3.2.3.2 Bushfire; 3.2.4 Safeguarding our environment and heritage; 3.2.4.1 Waterways; 3.2.4.2 Biodiversity; and 3.2.4.3 Cultural Heritage

Maranoa Sport and Recreation Strategy

- Collective sport and recreation assets and services to be optimised.
- Place making arts, culture and heritage, economic development and tourism strategies need to be integrated with sports and recreation facilities and services provision.

Bureau of Meteorology Data

- Combining Whyenbah (site: 44154) rainfall averages with predicted changes indicates an increase in rainfall across the wet season, and a decline in rainfall during the dry season over the next 50+ years.
- Combining Bollon (Mary St) (site: 44010) temperature averages with predicted changes indicates an increase in temperature across both the dry and wet seasons over the next 50+ years.

Importance of Climate Resilience

The below graphs highlight that in the future, Nindigully will move towards a hotter temperature, with periods of more varied rainfall. Under certain emission scenarios, the climate in the Balonne Shire is predicted to become similar to Longreach by 2090. Climate resilience is the ability to adapt to environmental changes, such as extreme weather events. Integrating resilient and nature based solutions, such as integrated water management, native planting palettes, and increased tree canopy can mitigate these effects.

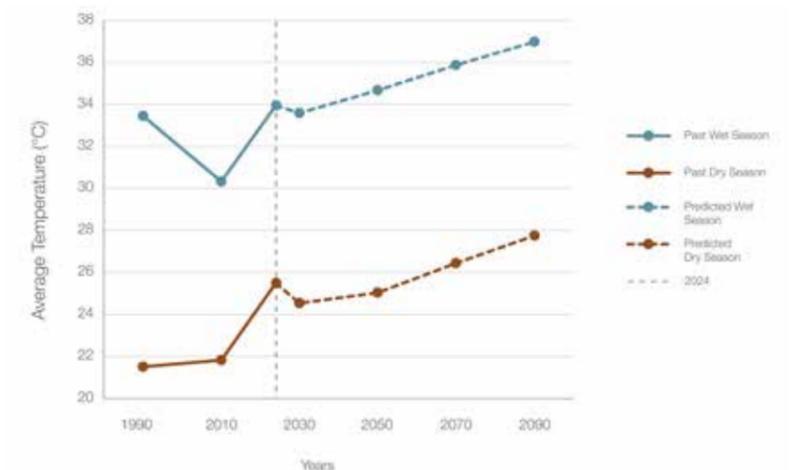


Figure 020. - Predicted temperature increase (past data sourced from BOM, Bollon (Mary St) Station; prediction data sourced from Queensland Future Climate Dashboard for Balonne Shire).

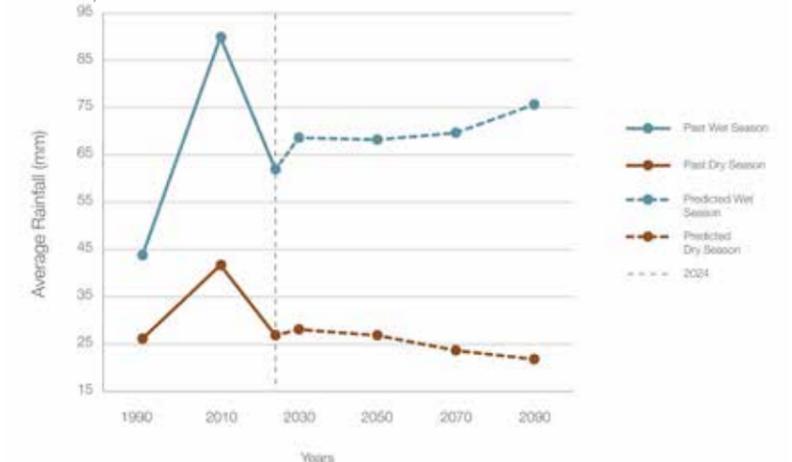


Figure 021. - Predicted rainfall changes (past data sources from BOM, Whyenbah Station; prediction data sourced from Queensland Future Climate Dashboard for Balonne Shire).

2.2. Spatial Mapping: Contextual Relationships

Zoning



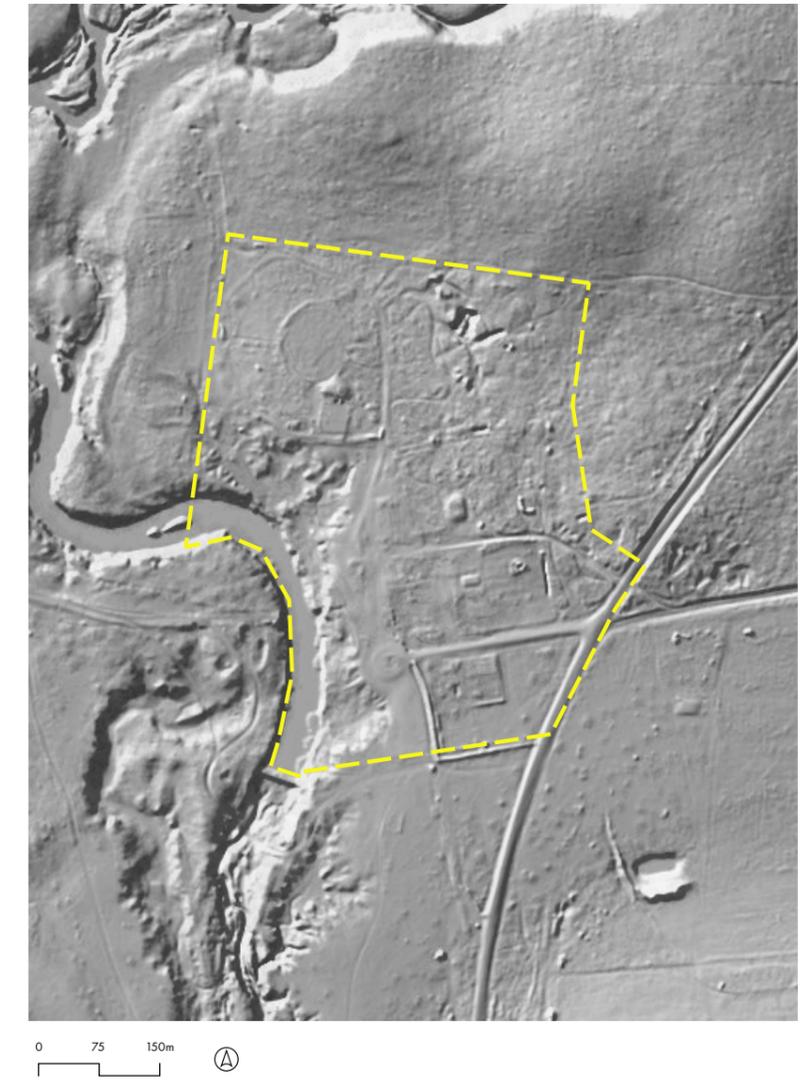
Identifying ownership of Nindigully's land parcels enables the identification of which parts of the township can be managed, and eventually improved, by Council, and which are privately, or state government, owned. Further coordination with Council is required to understand the nuances of land tenure, lease, and management in Nindigully.

Flooding



This mapping shows the Nindigully townships relationship to the floodplain, and confirms the low lying nature of the town. Further flood analysis and mapping would be beneficial in understanding the nuanced levels of flooding across each of the seasons. In particular, accurate and comprehensive data for the daily and weekly changes to the Moonie River, including the frequency of inundation of the areas adjacent to the riverbank that is mentioned by locals would allow for a directly responsive design and appropriate design approach.

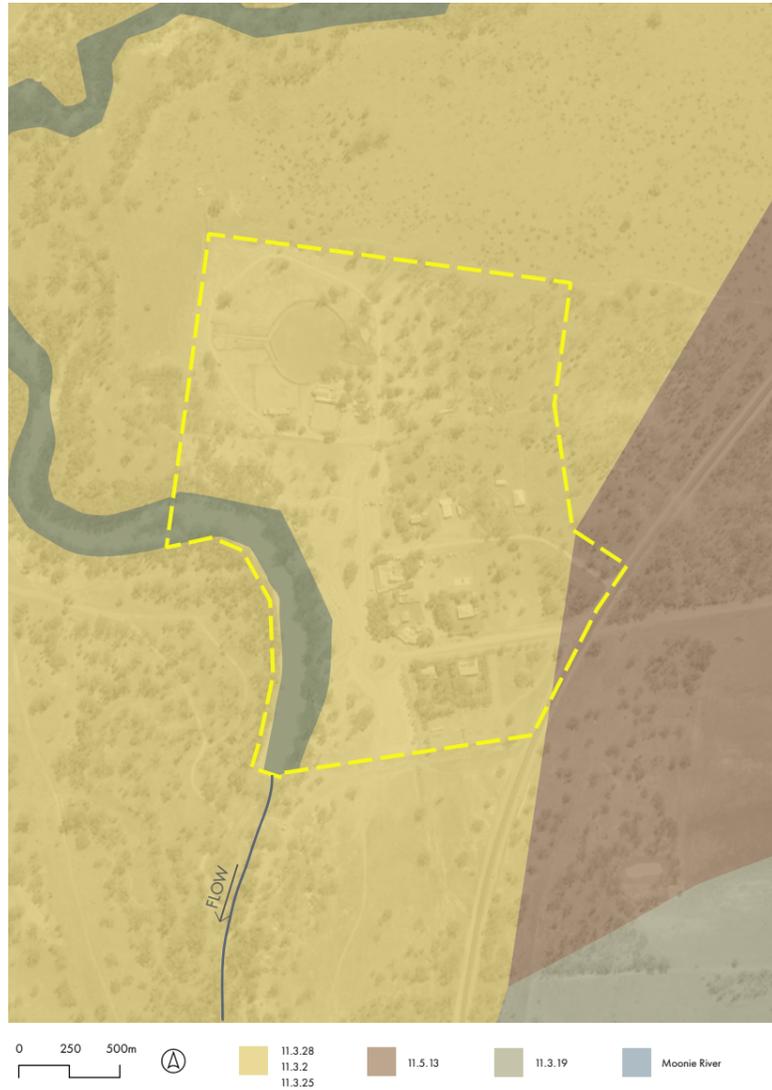
Topography



This hill shade analysis map confirms the relatively flat nature of the site that is expected with consideration the flood mapping analysis (shown left). However, it begins to extract a increase nuance in understanding of how the areas directly surrounding the Moonie River are impacted by water flows, in particular, the channelling and rilling caused by extensive, and uncontrolled, erosion over long periods of time.

2.3. Spatial Mapping: Existing Site Features and Assets

Preclear Regional Ecosystems



11.3.25: *Eucalyptus tereticornis* or *E. camaldulensis* woodland fringing drainage lines (of concern).

11.3.28: *Eucalyptus coolabah* +/- *Casuarina cristata* woodland on alluvial plains (of concern).

11.3.2: *Eucalyptus populnea* woodland on alluvial plains (of concern).

11.5.13: *Eucalyptus populnea* +/- *Acacia aneura* +/- *E. melanophloia* woodland on Cainozoic sand plains and/or remnant surfaces (of concern).

Preclear Broad Vegetation Groups

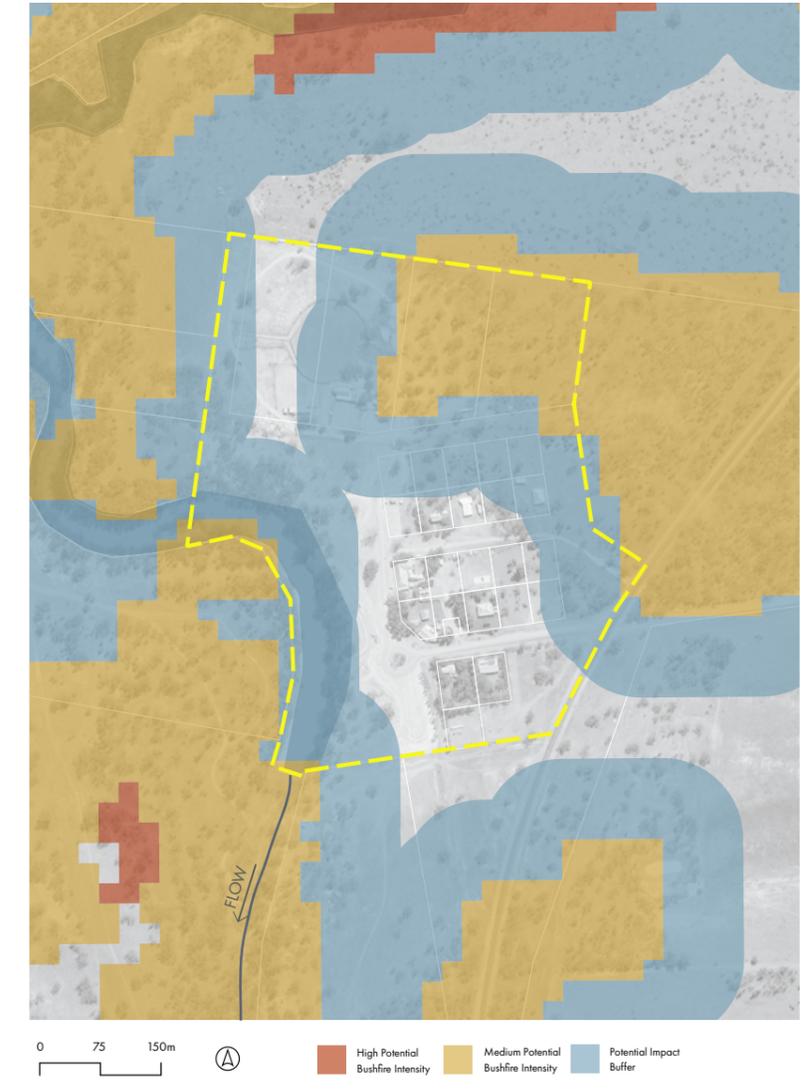


16a: Open forests and woodlands dominated by *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (river red gum) (or *E. tereticornis* (blue gum)) and/or *E. coolabah* (coolibah) (or *E. microtheca* (coolibah)) fringing drainage lines.

16c: Woodlands and open woodlands dominated by *Eucalyptus coolabah* (coolibah) or *E. microtheca* (coolibah) or *E. largiflorens* (black box) or *E. tereticornis* (blue gum) or *E. chlorophylla* on floodplains.

17a: Woodlands dominated by *Eucalyptus populnea* (poplar box) (or *E. brownii* (Reid River box)) on alluvium, sand plains and footslopes of hills and ranges.

Fire Risk



This high level bushfire analysis mapping indicates a potential risk to Nindigully that may warrant further bushfire analysis and reviews in the future as the climate changes. Particularly, as the objectives of this masterplan, and other Balonne Council schemes, promote increased amounts of planting that will need to be managed and maintained appropriately.

2.4. Visual Assessment on Site



Figure 022. - Flooding of the Moonie River inundating picnic tables and existing footpaths (Image by McGregor Coxall).



Figure 023. - Area beneath existing trees considered to be the camping hotspot. Signs of erosion caused by vehicles on soft and wet exposed earth (Image by Rounsefell Design).



Figure 024. - Large areas of exposed earth without shade or protection for the sun/heat (Image by Rounsefell Design).



Figure 025. - Low lying existing footpath covered in silt from recent overland flow of rainfall and/or flooding (Image by Rounsefell Design).



Figure 026. - Extensive rutting and erosion caused by vehicles on soft and wet exposed earth (Image by McGregor Coxall).



Figure 027. - Imbalanced, one-sided, entry road experience (Image by McGregor Coxall).



Figure 028. - Large areas of exposed earth adjacent to the river subject to heavy erosion (Image by Rounsefell Design).



Figure 029. - Extensive rilling caused by uncontrolled overland flow over extended periods of time (Left image by Rounsefell Design. Right image by McGregor Coxall).



Figure 030. - Existing furniture exposed to frequent inundation exaggerating maintenance and life expectancy issues (Image by McGregor Coxall).



Figure 031. - Insufficient stormwater piping beneath raised pathways causing flow issues and adding to existing erosion issues (Image by Rounsefell Design).



Figure 032. - Bollards intentionally removed by vandals to gain unwarranted access to the riverbank (Images by McGregor Coxall).



Figure 033. - Old, rusted out, barbeques (Image by McGregor Coxall).

2.5. Spatial Mapping: Opportunities and Constraints

Opportunities



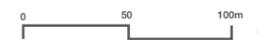
Figure 034. - Opportunities Plan

Constraints



-  Bus stop in centre of roundabout
-  Increasing river width
-  Unwanted street camping - management and signage required
-  Exposed landform and erosion
-  General lack of shade
-  Anecdotal frequent inundation zone
-  Historic grave site

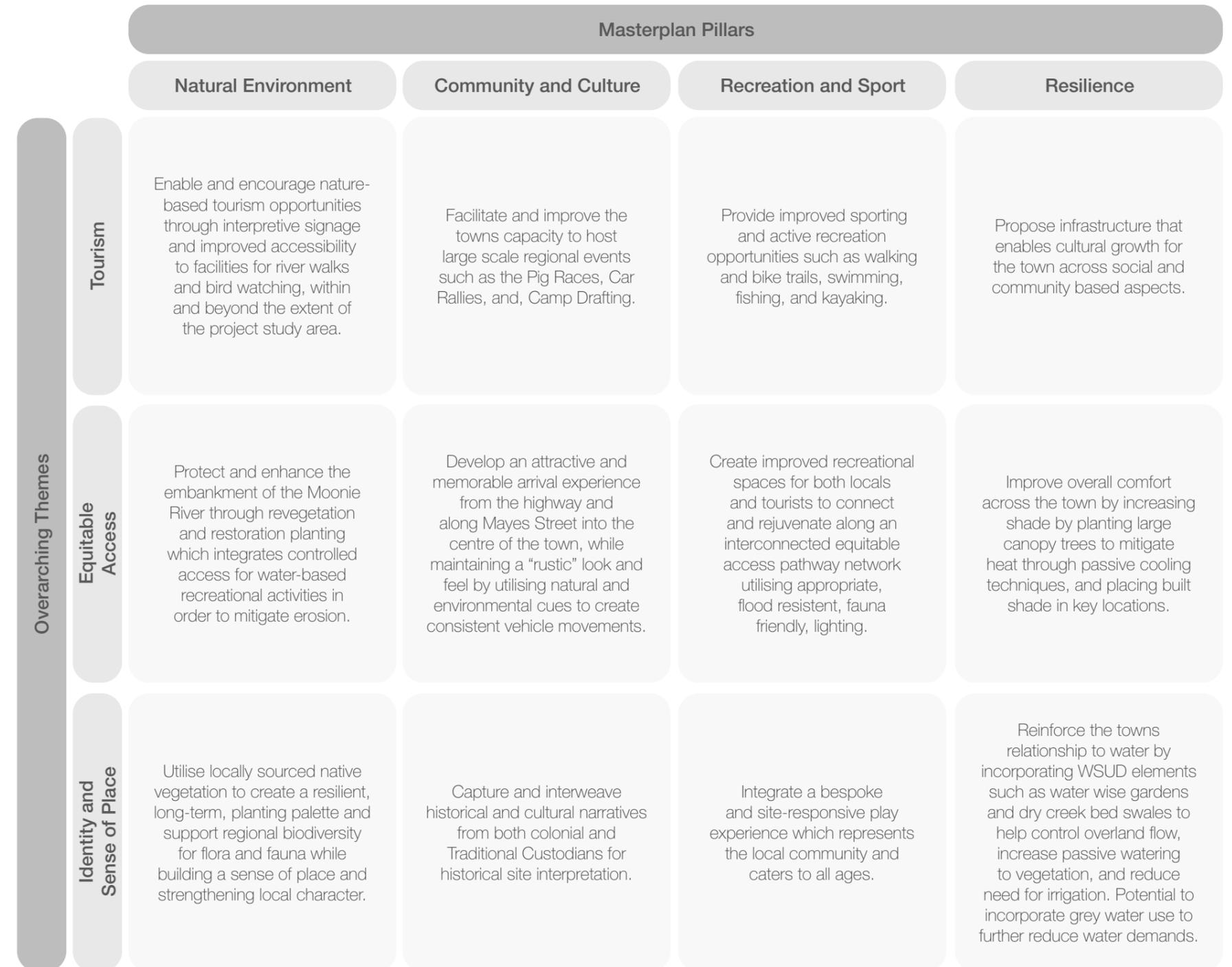
Figure 035. - Constraints Plan



3.0 Masterplan Visioning

3.1. Masterplan Pillars and Initiatives

Four masterplan pillars have been developed from analysis and community consultation and provide a framework for guiding decision making for the design and development of the masterplan, the realisation of the illustrative masterplan, and the refinement of the style guides. These pillars have been broken down into 12 initiatives spread across three overarching themes, communicating aspirations and potential development for the next 20 years.



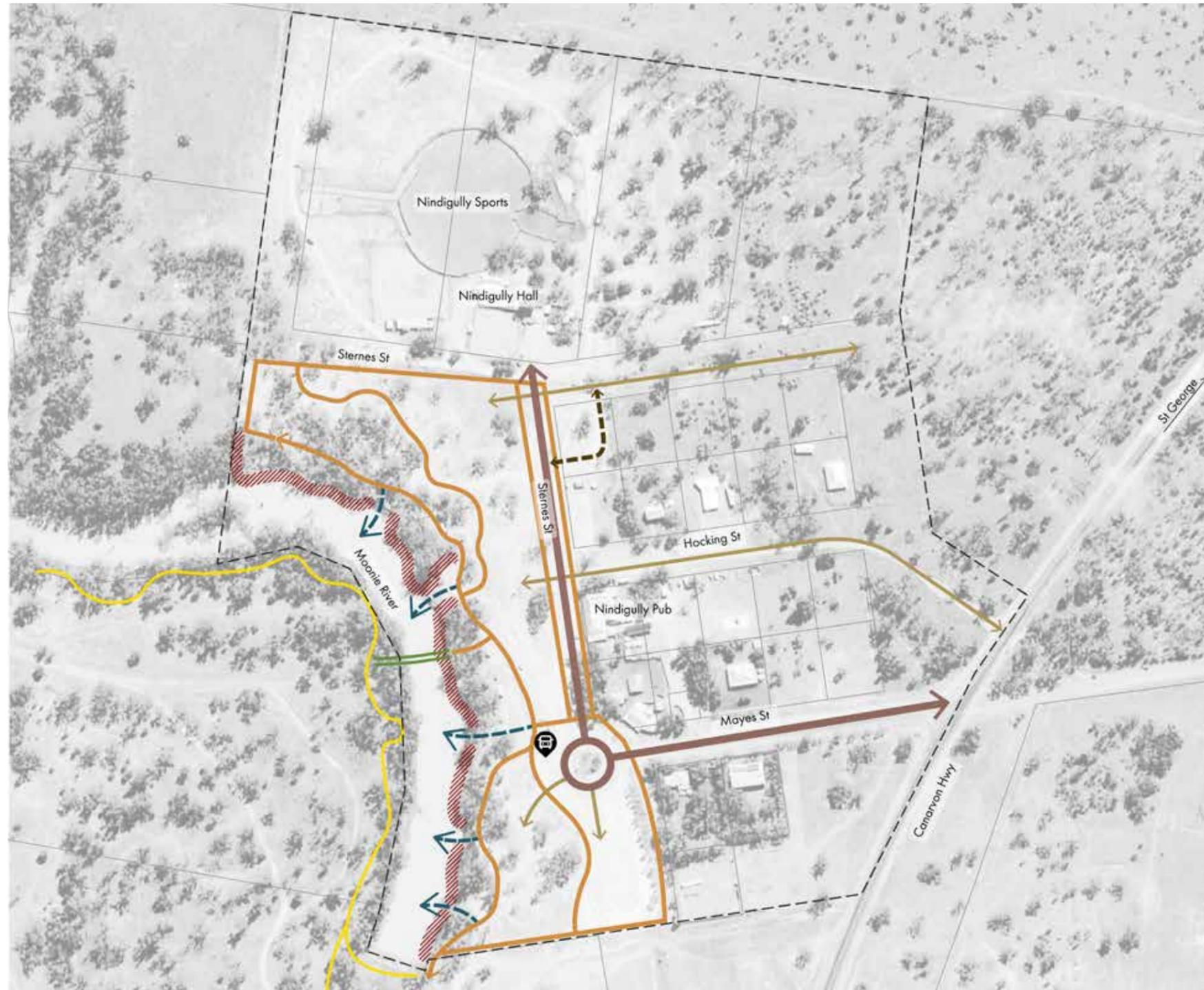
3.2. Masterplan Spatial Principles

The masterplan's pillars and initiatives have been translated into a series of spatial principles and form the foundation for the conceptual development of the illustrative masterplan.

Figure 036. - Masterplan pillars and initiatives.

3.3. Spatial Mapping: Spatial Principles

Movement and Accessibility



- Develop a main street look and feel to encourage primary and secondary vehicle movement corridors while mitigating erosion caused by vehicles on exposed surfaces.
- Maintain and improve primary pedestrian movement along the river's edge while enabling equitable access to the town's key assets and features.
- Provide controlled access to the river at key locations to protect the river's edge and mitigate erosion.

- ↔ Primary vehicle movement
- ↔ Secondary vehicle movement
- Dump point access driveway
- ↔ Pedestrian movement
- - - Potential river access for water based activities such as fishing, swimming, kayaking etc
- ▨ Access restrictions to the riverbank
- Potential future river walk
- Potential future pedestrian bridge at old Cobb and Co crossing
- 🚌 Potential new location for bus stop to improve safety and accessibility

Figure 037. - Spatial Principle: Movement and Accessibility



Zones and Interfaces



- Allow for vehicular parking that suits a variety of vehicle types including standard and long vehicles, and road trains.
- Improve the amenity of the free camping area.
- Protect and enhance the rivers edge with appropriate revegetation and rehabilitation strategies.

- Formalise Sterne St to act as the town's Main Street, featuring a straight road that anchors existing and future infrastructure
- Streetscape upgrades to Mayes St to improve the arrival/entry experience
- Truck parking
- Free camping area with additional tree and understory planting
- Potential location for riverside park
- Area of frequent inundation
- Protection of riverbank
- BSC Land: Potential to upgrade amenity and functionality of these spaces for the community

Figure 038. - Spatial Principle: Zones and Interfaces

4.0 Concept Masterplan

- ① Potential to upgrade sports ground including the camp draft facilities (with support from Council). Needs further community input to understand desired improvements and potential upgrades
- ② Formalise Sternes St with generous rural width and character, avenue tree planting, and equitable access footpaths
- ③ Potential gravel or deco walking trails on western bank of Moonie River to provide connections to longer recreational walks, additional fishing or swimming locations, or, adventure style activities such as motorcross, mountain biking, and horse trail riding - subject to future feasibility studies, Council budgets, and government authority approvals
- ④ Potential pedestrian only bridge access across Moonie River in location of / to replace old bridge crossing - subject to future feasibility studies, Council budgets, and government authority approvals
- ⑤ Riverside Park
- ⑥ Avenue of tree planting on both sides of Mayes Street to improve entry experience by providing gateway transition into the town centre
- ⑦ Large tree species planted at semi-regular intervals in the approach to mark the arrival of the Nindigully turn-off - subject to future available water supply, TMR review and approval, Council budgets, and other government authority approvals

-  Existing Trees
-  Proposed Trees





1. Main street look and feel potential for Sternes Street.



2. Large boulders with planting and trees to mitigate vehicle access.



3. Potential fauna-friendly lighting along pathways.



4. Bird watching hide made with natural materials.



5. Entry avenue experience potential for Mayes Street.



6. Small nature play playground.



7. Designated access to the riverbank for fishing or swimming.

Figure 040. - Nindigully Masterplan - Character Imagery (1. Brett Holman. 2. Blacktown City Council. 3. Alis Choi. 4. GHD. 5. Lehmannw. 6. McGregor Coxall. 7. Nick.)



- ① Potential to upgrade sports ground including the camp draft facilities (with support from Council) - subject to further community input to understand desired improvements and potential upgrades
- ② Formalise Sternes St with generous rural width and character, avenue tree planting, and equitable access footpaths
- ④ Potential pedestrian only bridge access across Moonie River in location of / to replace old bridge crossing - subject to future feasibility studies, Council budgets, and government authority approvals
- ⑥ Avenue of tree planting on both sides of Mayes Street to improve entry experience by providing gateway transition into the town centre
- ⑦ Large tree species planted at semi-regular intervals in the approach to mark the arrival of the Nindigully turn-off - subject to future feasibility studies, Council budgets, and government authority approvals
- ⑧ Upgrade tennis courts to multi-purpose courts catering for a wider range of activities including: netball; basketball; tennis; and futsal; with potential for cricket nets to be built adjacent. Potential for these to be shaded for extended day time use, and lit to enable night time use - subject to future feasibility studies, Council budgets, and government authority approvals
- ⑨ Proposed, equitable access, coloured concrete footpath with new interpretive signage. Footpath to be raised where required to be above the regular flood height. Final location subject to detailed design of final camping area layout
- ⑩ Potential to provide buffer planting to the perimeter of the camp ground to formally delineate extent of free camping area
- ⑪ Upgraded road to connect to existing driveway into sports ground. Potential to realign gate with proposed road for easier access
- ⑫ Clearly defined planting areas to surround and protect existing trees encouraging understory growth and mitigating erosion
- ⑬ Retained camping area; to be graded and raised where possible around existing trees to mitigate risk of bogged vehicles
- ⑭ Potential location for a communal fire pit
- ⑮ Raised camping area; to be raised, re-levelled, and graded with compacted gravel to be above regular flood height mitigating erosion and risk of bogged vehicles
- ⑯ Proposed coloured concrete footpaths along Sternes St to reinforce avenue look and feel of main street while providing equitable access to key town facilities
- ⑰ Gravel access driveway for easy access to the dump point
- ⑱ Understory planting buffer with irregular trees and large boulders to stop vehicles accessing the river's edge. Stone steppers to be installed to enable pedestrian movement
- ⑲ Looping graded gravel road to provide clear movement corridors for vehicles and delineate camping areas
- ⑳ Standard length and long vehicle parallel parking
- ㉑ Avenue street tree and understory planting to provide visual separation to Nindigully main street and the public camping area. Installation of large boulders (or similar) is critical to prevent informal vehicle movement

Figure 041. - Nindigully Illustrative Masterplan - North

- 22 Existing concrete footpath upgraded to provide equitable access with retained and new interpretive signage. Footpath to be raised where required to be above the regular flood height
- 23 Existing amenities block with toilet and dump point
- 24 Picnic shelter with table setting only
- 25 Designated long vehicle 90 degree parking
- 26 Bank rehabilitation/revegetation planting to stabilise embankments, mitigate erosion, and restrict access to the rivers edge
- 27 Potential location for dedicated water-side bird watching hide-out
- 28 Designated fishing spot with potential for small jetty and fish cleaning station
- 29 Upgraded roads to transition to existing dirt roads where required
- 30 Designated standard length vehicle 90 degree parking
- 31 Existing pump houses to be screened with planting
- 32 Potential location for future nature play or loose-parts playground
- 33 Existing boomerangs surrounded by low feature planting
- 34 Picnic shelter with electric BBQ and table setting
- 35 Enlarged roundabout centre to enable feature planting
- 36 Retained gravel area for truck parking and overnight stops
- 37 Designated coloured concrete, equitable access path, to enjoy the scenic amenity of the weir
- 38 Proposed bus stop location to improve safety and accessibility
- 39 Designated river swimming location with jetty access to mitigate erosion to riverbank - subject to future feasibility studies and government authority approvals
- 40 Potential helicopter landing zone - subject to future feasibility studies and government authority approvals
- 41 Potential to add additional fencing to mitigate unwarranted vehicle access to the south.
- 42 Potential to improve existing fencing to mitigate risk of vandalism / removal of the fence.



Figure 042. - Nindigully Illustrative Masterplan - South

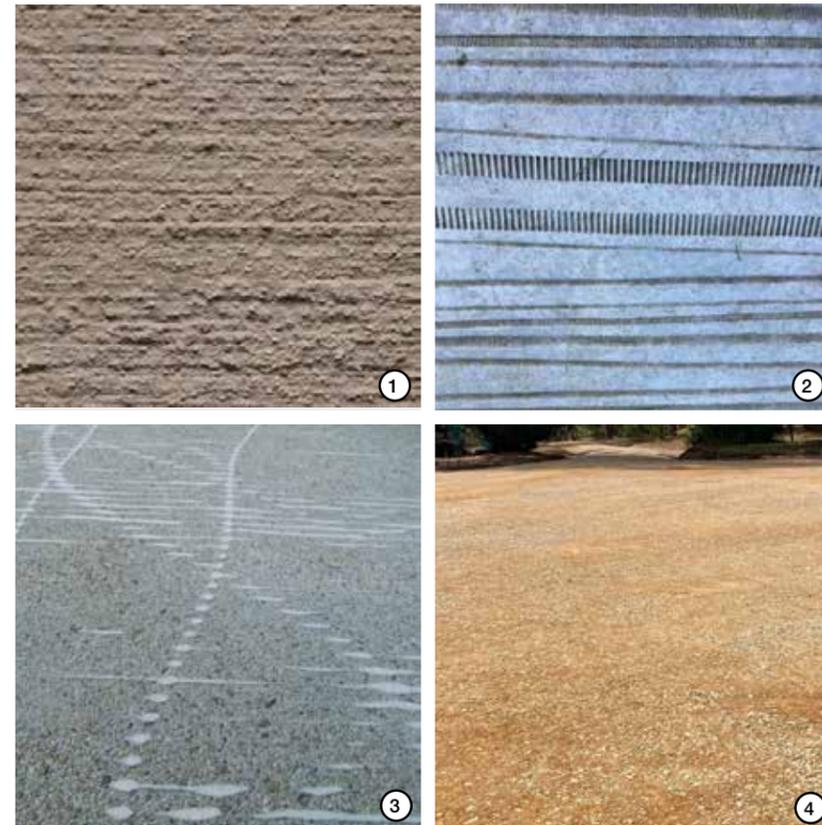
5.0 Style Guides

5.1. Materials, Finishes, and, Colour Palettes

The Materials and Finishes will form a common language across the town, creating a consistent and identifiable character. Materiality should convey a quality and resilience which reflects an aspiration for the long-term benefit of Nindigully. The design and language of the palette must be underpinned by the following principles:

- **Let the landscape speak:** colours and materials must not overpower or detract from the landscape amenity of the site. These aspect of landscape offer a materiality found within or akin to the natural surrounds, and a colour palette that complements the natural environment.
- **Simple, honest, and robust materials:** avoid applied finishes, claddings, and other ‘on trend’ finishes that can quickly become dated or discontinued or damaged and need replacing.
- **Respond to the landscape identity:** provide small moments of unique variation in material, texture, or colour in contribution to creating environments that are reflective of the intended character, ecology, and environment.
- **Local materials with local identity:** the palette should consist of simple, natural, and local materials that are sustainable, robust, have a long-term design life, and be easily procured and repaired. Consideration must be given to the end of life of these materials, the value or properties they will hold and how they can contribute to a circular economy. Recycled materials should be used where possible and consideration given to how on-site materials can be used within the design.

Surfaces

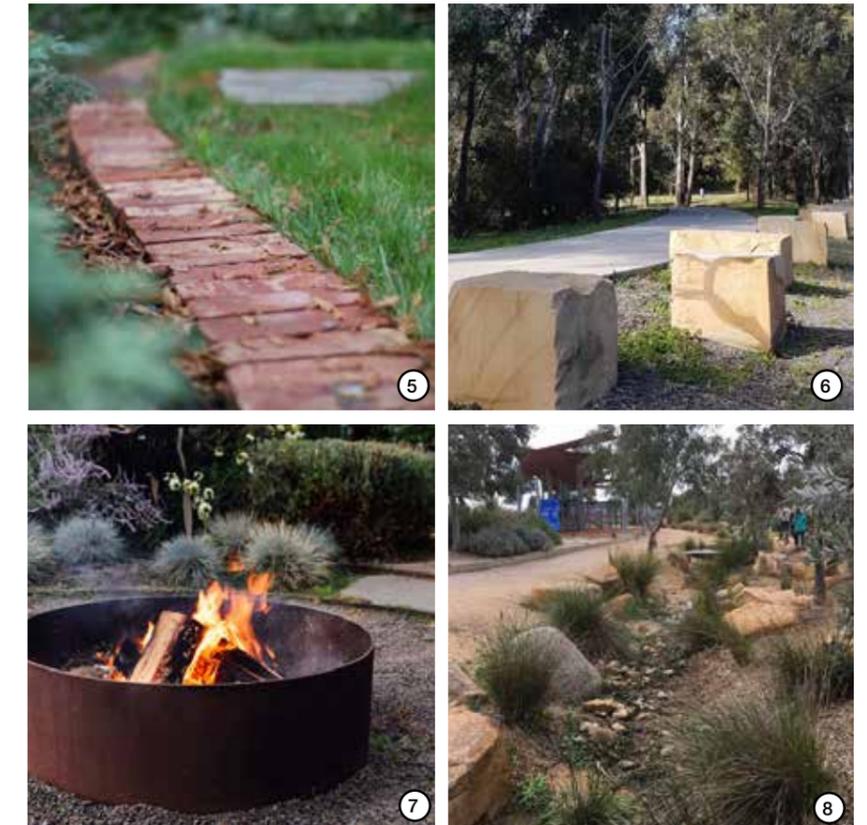


Legend

1. Broom finished coloured concrete for general pathways. Colour selection to be of muted tones responsive to the rustic feel of the Nindigully landscape. Colour shown: Linseed from Boral’s Colori Range.
2. Stamped pattern finish at key transition points or intersections.
3. Stencilled water blast finish to signify features or areas of interest.
4. Light coloured, compacted road gravels for vehicle movement areas. Colour shown: Tuscan.

Figure 043. - Surfaces Materials Palette (1. Boral, 2. McGregor Coxall, 3. City of Charles Sturt, 4. The Driveway Man).

Elements



Legend

5. Recycled brick edging to clearly delineate surface treatments.
6. Natural stone blocks, or boulders, to mitigate vehicle movement and replace existing bollards.
7. Contemporary communal fire places.
8. Utilise dry creek beds to handle overland flow and mitigate overland flow causing rilling erosion.

Figure 044. - Elements Materials Palette (5. Dowie Designs, 6. Astra Street Furniture, 7. McGregor Coxall, 8. LILLY Online Magazine).

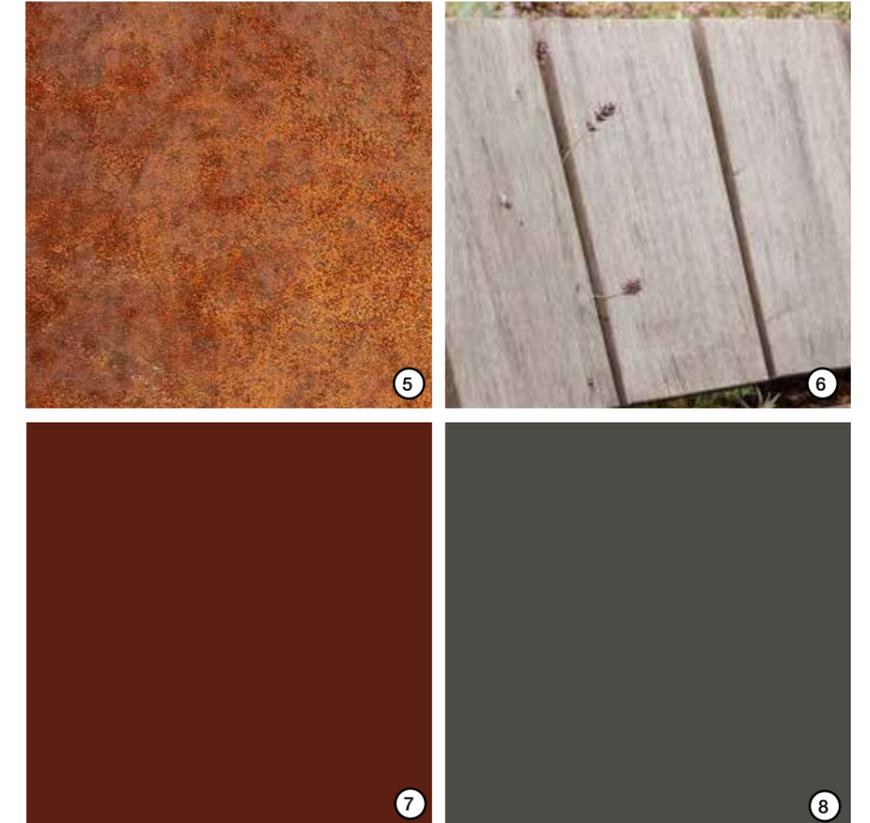
Signage



Play



Colours and Textures



Legend

- 1. Entry Signage, reflective of a rustic character, for the corner of Canarvon Highway and Mayes Street.
- 2. Interpretative signage.

Legend

- 3 & 4. Small nature-play playground with loose-parts play opportunities.

Legend

- 5. Coreten Steel
- 6. Natural finish hardwood timber (dressed all round)
- 7. Dulux: Manor Red
- 8. Dulux: Woodland Grey

Figure 045. - Signage Character Imagery (1. Design Communications, 2. The Interpretive Design Company).

Figure 046. - Play Character Imagery (3. McGregor Coxall, 4. McGregor Coxall).

Figure 047. - Colours and Textures Materials Palette.

5.2. Furniture and Structures Palette

The design, selection, and detailing of the furniture and structures should build upon and complement the materials and finishes palette. Doing so will form a common language across the township, creating a consistent and identifiable character for Nindigully. The execution of this process should convey a quality and resilience which reflects Nindigully's rural and rustic character while maintaining an approach that is low maintenance and suitable for the environmental conditions of the region.

This page showcases indicative and preliminary character images for the project. Finalisation of palettes are to be undertaken prior to detailed design and delivery of the respective elements, as they are subject to Council approval and budgets.

Shelters



Legend

1 & 2. Landmark Sherbrooke Series shelters.

Note: All timber to be natural finish and not painted. All roof sheeting to be Dulux Manor Red.

Seats, Benches, and Tables



Legend

3. Streetlife Rough & Ready Balancer Benches.

4. Streetlife Rough & Ready 10 Benches.

5. Streetlife Drifter Picknickset.

6. QPWS Standard Table with chunky timbers and robust fixings.

Note: All timber to be natural finish and not painted. All steel framing to be Coreten finish.

Figure 048. - Shelter Character Imagery (1. Landmark, 2. Landmark).

Figure 049. - Seats, Benches, and Tables Character Imagery (3. Streetlife, 4. Streetlife, 5. Streetlife, 6. Rounsefell Design).

Bins and Bollards



Legend

1. Landmark Avenue Range with woodland grey 2PAC painted frame. Battens to be replaced with aluminum sheet to match frame. Locations to be confirmed in future phases of the project in coordination with Council. Existing bins with lock posts to be replaced with bin housings to maintain consistency with new furniture palette.

2. Streetlife large and robust hardwood bollards with a coreten steel core.

Figure 050. - Bins and Bollards Character Imagery (1. Landmark, 2. Streetlife).

Fish Cleaning Table/Shelter



Legend

3 & 4. Landmark Anglesea Series shelter with materials and finishes to match picnic shelters. Roof and water taps subject to location and service availability

Figure 051. - Fish Cleaning Table Character Imagery (3. Landmark, 4. Landmark).

Barbeques



Legend

5 & 6. GX Outdoors (Grillex) Edge Range electric BBQs with materials and finishes to match bin housings.

Figure 052. - Barbeque Character Imagery (5. GX Outdoors, 6. GX Outdoors).

5.3. Planting Palette

The planting palette is a celebration of the unique character and natural environment of Nindigully. The selection and design of the planting will form a critical role in creating a consistent and identifiable character for the town. The species selection of the palette has been underpinned but the following principles:

- **Reinforce the landscape identity:** species selection must support and reinforce the town's character to assist with legibility of place and authentically ground the landscape in its geographic, climatic, and ecological location. Species have been predominantly extracted from Regional Ecosystem lists or respond to long term resilience.
- **Let the landscape speak:** the majority of species must not overpower or detract from the landscape amenity of the site. These aspects of landscape amenity range from large scale elements (views to buildings and across paddocks) to the small scale (flowering of accent species or the flowing river).
- **Ecological connectivity:** connect ecologies and habitat within the site and to the surrounding area. Prioritising endemic flora and fauna is important when considering the development of flora species lists. Targeting species through the provision of suitable ecosystems, habitats, and habitat features is a step towards conserving and promoting these species into the future.

The planting palette was informed by research across a variety of sources:

- WildNet Records: Queensland Government (Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation)
- Regional Ecosystems: Queensland Government
- WetlandInfo : Queensland Government
- 'Grow What Where': Australian Plant Study Group
- 'Plant Identification in the Arid Zone': Jenny Milson

Note: Some of the proposed plant species will need permanent access to water or regular watering and should not be installed without permanent irrigation being installed as well.

Planting Palette Character Images



Alectryon oleifolius



Atalaya hemiglauca



Casuarina cristata



Eucalyptus crebra



Alstonia constricta



Brachychiton rupestris



Corymbia clarksonia



Eucalyptus melanophloia



Angophora melanoxylon



Cassia brewsteri



Eucalyptus conica



Eucalyptus populnea

Figure 053. - Planting Palette

Planting Palette Character Images



Geijera parviflora



Melaleuca viminalis



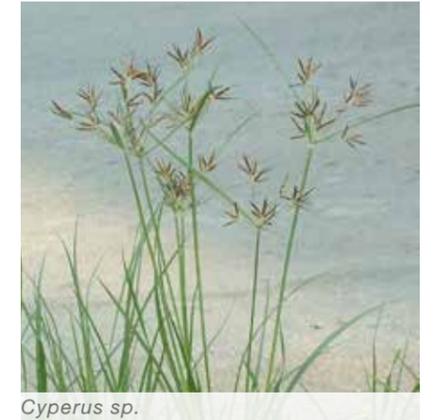
Astrebla lappacea



Bulbine spp.



Cheilanthes sieberi



Cyperus sp.



Melaleuca bracteata



Nauclea orientalis



Austrostipa blakei



Calostemma luteum



Commelina sp.



Dichondra repens sp.



Melaleuca leucadendra



Aristida spp.



Brachyscome sp.



Carex sp.



Crinum sp.



Duma florulenta

Figure 054. - Planting Palette

Planting Palette Character Images



Einadia sp.



Eremophila mitchellii



Hoya australis subsp. Australis



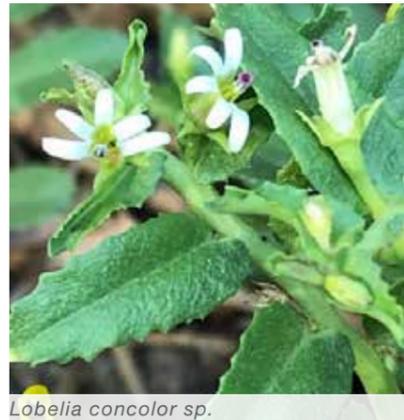
Jasminum sp.



Eleocharis spp.



Goodenia fascicularis



Lobelia concolor sp.



Oplismenus aemulus



Enchylaena tomentosa var. tomentosa



Heteropogon contortus



Isotoma axillaris sp.



Parsonsia straminea

Figure 055. - Planting Palette

5.4. Nindigully Master Planting Palette

TREES				
Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Height	Mature Width	Growth Habit
<i>Alectryon oleifolius</i>	Western Rosewood	9m	1.8-3m	Shrub / Tree
<i>Alstonia constricta</i>	Quinine Bush	12m	6-8m	Tree
<i>Angophora melanoxylon</i>	Coolabah Apple	15m	8-12m	Tree
<i>Atalaya hemiglauc</i>	Whitewood	6-10m	6-8m	Tree
<i>Brachychiton rupestris</i>	Queensland Bottle Tree	12-15m	6-8m	Tree
<i>Cassia brewsteri</i>	Leichhardt Bean	30m	3-5m	Tree
<i>Casuarina cristata</i>	Belah	10-20m	6-10m	Tree
<i>Corymbia clarksonia</i>	Grey Bloodwood	15m	8-10m	Tree
<i>Eucalyptus conica</i>	Fuzzy Box	20m	4-6m	Tree
<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>	Narrow-leaved ironbark	35m	6-8m	Tree
<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i>	Silver-Leaved Ironbark	20-25m	8-12m	Tree
<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i>	Bimble Box	20m	10-15m	Tree
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Wilga	15m	7m	Tree
<i>Melaleuca bracteata</i>	Black Tea Tree	15m	4-6m	Tree
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	Weeping Paperbark	20m	8-12m	Tree
<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i>	Weeping bottlebrush	18m	6-10m	Tree
<i>Nauclea orientalis</i>	Leichhardt Tree	10-18m	8-12m	Tree

UNDERSTOREY				
Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Height	Mature Width	Growth Habit
Grass				
<i>Aristida</i> spp.	Threeawn	0.3-1m	0.3-0.6m	Grass
<i>Astrebla lappacea</i>	Curly Mitchell Grass	0.9m	0.3-0.5m	Grass
<i>Austrostipa blakei</i>	Blake's Spear Grass	0.9-1.5m	0.3-0.6m	Grass and Sedge
<i>Bothriochloa decipiens</i>	Pitted Bluegrass	1m	0.3-0.6m	Grass
<i>Cymbopogon</i> spp.	Lemongrass	1-2m	0.5-1m	Grass
<i>Cyperus</i> sp.	Sedges	0.3-0.6m	0.3-0.9m	Grass and Sedge
<i>Eleocharis</i> spp.	Spike-rush	0.3-0.9m	0.3-0.6m	Grass and Sedge
<i>Heteropogon contortus</i>	Black speargrass	1.5m	0.3-0.5m	Grass
<i>Oplismenus aemulus</i>	Creeping Beard Grass	0.3m	0.5-1m	Grass
Groundcover				
<i>Brachyscome</i> sp.	Swan river daisies	0.3-0.45m	0.3-0.45m	Groundcover
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Sedges	0.3-0.9m	0.3-0.6m	Groundcover
<i>Commelina</i> sp.	Dayflower	0.3-0.45m	0.3-0.6m	Groundcover
<i>Dichondra repens</i> sp.	Kidney weed	0.25-0.5m	0.6-0.9m	Groundcover
<i>Eremophila</i> spp.	Emu bush	0.3m	1m	Groundcover
<i>Goodenia fascicularis</i>	Cluster goodenia	0.3-0.6m	0.3-0.6m	Groundcover
<i>lobelia concolor</i> sp.	Blue Lobelia	0.3-0.6m	0.3-0.45m	Groundcover
<i>Isotoma axillaris</i> sp.	Rock lily	0.3-0.45m	0.45-0.6m	Groundcover
<i>Rhodanthe</i> spp.	Paper daisies	0.3-0.6m	0.3-0.45m	Groundcover
<i>Scarvola spinescens</i>	Blue fan-flower	0.3-0.45m	0.45-0.6m	Groundcover
<i>Vittadinia</i> spp.	Bladder daisies	0.3-0.6m	0.3-0.45m	Groundcover
Shrub				
<i>Duma florulenta</i>	Tangled Lignum	2.5m	2m	Shrub
<i>Einadia</i> sp.	Coastal saltbush	0.3-0.6m	0.6-0.9m	Shrub
<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i>	Cotton-bush	0.3-0.9m	0.6-1.2m	Shrub
<i>Eremophila mitchellii</i>	Bastard Sandalwood	2-6m	0.9-1.8m	Shrub / Tree
<i>Jasminum</i> sp.	Jasmines	0.9-3m	0.9-1.5m	Shrub
<i>Leiolaena brevicompta</i>	Plains Plover-Daisy	0.3-0.6m	0.6-0.9m	Shrub
Vine				
<i>Hoya australis</i> subsp. <i>Australis</i>	Australian wax flower	3-6m	0.9-1.5m	Vine
<i>Parsonia straminea</i>	Sand vine	4.5-9m	0.9-1.8m	Vine
Fern				
<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>	Narrow Rock-fern	0.2-0.4m	0.3-0.6m	Fern
Perennials				
<i>Bulbine</i> spp.	Bulbine Lily	0.6m	0.6-1m	Herbaceous perennials
<i>Calostemma luteum</i>	Yellow Garland-Lily	0.5m	0.45m	Clumping perennial
<i>Crinum</i> sp.	Spider lilies	0.6-1.2m	0.45-0.9m	Perennial
<i>Wahlenbergia</i> sp.	Australian Bluebell	0.3-0.6m	0.3-0.45m	Herbaceous perennials

6.0 Next Steps

6.1. Considerations and Recommendations

While this masterplan report provides an overall spatial arrangement and conceptual framework for the development and improvement of Nindigully, there are further considerations that need to be made prior to the delivery of detailed design packages. The below sections begin to explain these considerations by outlining what should be incorporated into future phases of work by the teams who lead delivery and implementation.

Traditional Custodians Engagement

A cultural engagement framework should be established prior to the commencement of the next phase. The engagement framework will need to be created in consultation with Traditional Custodians to ensure cultural inclusivity and cultural safety is embedded into the framework structure.

An Aboriginal Reference Group made up of Traditional Custodians should be established to review work to date and guide the implementation of the masterplan and co-design phases.

Ecological investigations

Flora and fauna assessment be undertaken prior to detailed design phase to establish ecological and biodiversity goals and objectives as well as target species and assess the viability of conserving and introducing new ecosystems to the site.

Water Allocation and Irrigation

As part of the detailed design of Nindigully, a review of the shire water wide allocation needs to be considered to confirm the feasibility of proposed outcomes that require additional Council managed water sources, such as: irrigation to planting areas or new public amenities for showers and toilets. A review of this nature would enable Council to understand if reactivation of their river pump in Nindigully is a feasible option, which would be the determining factor for the planning of irrigation footprints.

Consultant Engagement

The proposed upgrades and improvements to Nindigully contained within this masterplan report are subject to detailed design will need to be reviewed and refined by additional consultants to ensure the successful delivery of the project. The below, non-exhaustive, list highlights some key items that need to be reviewed and by which discipline.

- **Engineering**
 - Review of the proposed free camping areas to confirm accessibility, arrangement, and, layout of individual caravan sites.
 - Review of the proposed roads and vehicle movement zones to confirm widths, turning circles, and structural integrity of proposed finishes are viable for the anticipated vehicle types.
 - Review of the proposed re-levelling and regrading to ensure proper treatments and stabilisation methods are followed.
- **Surveying**
 - A detailed review and assessment of existing site features, above and under ground, to enable the accurate design of future stages. In particular, locating existing trees to confirm accurate extents of work for proposed treatments, such as earthworks and footpaths.
- **Flood Mapping**
 - Review and analysis of the flood related behaviours of the site to properly understand and design for flood events across differing time scales and inundation levels.

Event Management Planning

Many of the constraints and opportunities highlighted within this report could be better solved through proactive event management such as utilisation of 'bump in/bump out' facilities rather than the installation of permanent facilities which have a larger capital cost and an ongoing maintenance cost.

We would recommend engaging an event coordinator / event management consultant to assist in setting up the processes and procedures for Council to manage the site in the future, in particular, for large annual events.

Overflow camping areas

Considering the capacity demand of the town during peak events and tourism seasons, it would be recommended that Council undertake additional investigations to understand and develop areas for 'potential overflow camping.' Whether this is to the south as highlighted during community consultation, or in coordination with the sports ground community to provide paid camping during peak times with economic benefits.

6.2. Potential Funding Opportunities

Identified Funding Streams	Potential Alignment with the Nindigully Masterplan
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Australian Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Upgrades to roads and streets including street tree planting – Upgrades to footpaths providing equitable access – Improvements to vehicle parking – Construction of new community infrastructure such as shelters
Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP) (Australian Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Upgrades to roads and streets including street tree planting – Upgrades to footpaths providing equitable access – Installation of planting areas, including understory and trees – Upgrades to the sports ground facilities – Improvements to the camping area including levelling and regrading – Creation of public open spaces such as the Riverside Park – Installation of the pedestrian bridge across the Moonie River – Construction of walking trails – Improvements to vehicle parking – Construction of new community infrastructure such as jetties, shelters, and picnic facilities
Stronger Communities Programme (Australian Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Upgrades to the sports ground facilities – Construction of new community infrastructure such as jetties, shelters, and picnic facilities
2024-2028 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP) (Queensland Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Upgrades to roads and streets including street tree planting – Upgrades to footpaths providing equitable access – Installation of planting areas, including understory and trees – Upgrades to the sports ground facilities – Improvements to the camping area including levelling and regrading – Creation of public open spaces such as the Riverside Park – Construction of walking trails – Improvements to vehicle parking – Construction of new community infrastructure such as jetties, shelters, and picnic facilities
Building Bush Tourism Program (Queensland Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Upgrades to roads and streets including street tree planting – Upgrades to footpaths providing equitable access – Installation of planting areas, including understory and trees – Improvements to the camping area including levelling and regrading – Creation of public open spaces such as the Riverside Park – Installation of the pedestrian bridge across the Moonie River – Construction of walking trails – Improvements to vehicle parking – Construction of new community infrastructure such as jetties, shelters, and picnic facilities

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