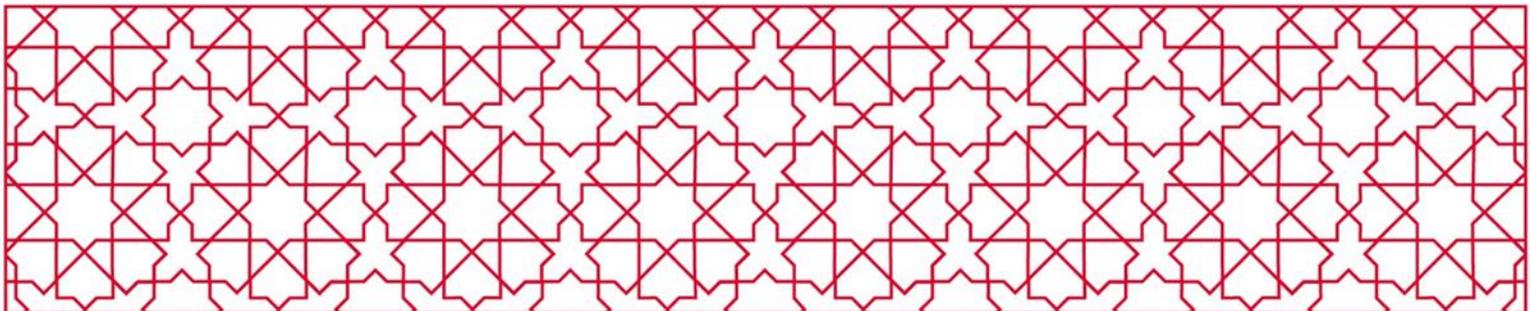


Leisa Prowse
CONSULTING

Somerset Dam Improvement Project

Community Reference Group Meeting 6

February 2026



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1 Introduction

The sixth meeting of the Community Reference Group (CRG) for the Somerset Dam Improvement Project (SDIP) was held on Thursday 26 February 2026. The meeting was held at the Somerset General Store between 3:00pm and 6:00pm, and included a 90 minute site tour of Somerset Dam.

The site tour hosted by Seqwater included taking CRG members across the top of the dam wall and then inside the dam wall into the 'gallery'. Once inside the gallery, CRG members were able to see the sluice gate chambers.

Throughout the site tour, the Seqwater project team explained the mechanics of the dam, and elements of the improvement project. They also discussed the early works being undertaken to support the dam upgrades.

1.1 Workshop purpose

The purpose of the CRG meeting was to provide updates on:

- recent and upcoming communication activities
- the ongoing prioritised legacy project investigation
- the project.

Seqwater's presentation is included at Appendix A.

1.2 Attendees

Meeting 6 was attended by eight CRG members:

- Rosemarie Allan
- Bronwyn Davies
- Bebe Jecis (online)
- David Kenneally
- Tim Mason (online)
- Gary Love
- Don McConnell
- Dale Sinclair.

Apologies were received from Greg Mann.

Vicki Sweedman did not attend the meeting.

The workshop was also attended by eight members of the project team, including:

- two Leisa Prowse Consulting (LPC) representatives
- six Seqwater representatives.

1.3 Welcome

Seqwater welcomed CRG members to the sixth CRG meeting for the SDIP project. The LPC facilitator briefly summarised key points from the Terms of Reference, including:

- Participation in the CRG is voluntary.
- The CRG is not a decision-making group and consensus is not required.
- The CRG aims to represent a diverse range of community viewpoints.
- Members are encouraged to represent their community or stakeholder group's views in the room.
- Members must not speak to the media on behalf of the group without Seqwater's authorisation.

- No proxies will be accepted.
- If you cannot attend a meeting, let Seqwater know that you are an apology.

Seqwater confirmed that no confidential information was going to be presented in this meeting.

As there were two new Seqwater project team members attending the meeting, the LPC facilitator asked everyone to quickly re-introduce themselves. These Seqwater project team members included the technical officer responsible for assessing the feasibility of the legacy projects and a student engineer.

2 Communications update

Seqwater provided updates on upcoming communication and engagement activities for SDIP, including:

- the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) consultation period is likely to be in March or April 2026
- the project team has begun assessing how social impact management elements (previously identified in the Social Impact Management Plan) and associated proposed mitigation actions will be communicated and how they will support the finalisation of the Detailed Business Case (DBC)
- community information sessions are likely to be held at the end of Quarter 1 or through mid- 2026
- the project team has begun developing a promotional video explaining the SDIP project
- preliminary engagement for the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 approval (EPBC) will begin soon
- the next project newsletter will be sent in March 2026.

Seqwater communicated that expressions of interest will be issued for the main Construction partners between March and April 2026. Seqwater will also host an industry briefing session in April 2026 (which is to be confirmed).

There were no questions, concerns or comments from the CRG about the communications update.

3 Legacy project update

Seqwater provided an update on the ongoing assessment of the prioritised legacy projects. This list of prioritised legacy projects was developed by CRG members in Meetings [4](#) and [5](#). The legacy project list includes:

- 1) relocation of memorial (Seqwater has committed to delivering this)
- 2) combination of projects 4, 5, 6 and 14, that is:
 - heritage display
 - kayak launch site
 - upgrades to Somerset Day Park
 - new pedestrian footpaths
- 3) restoration of the dam viewing lookout on Esk-Kilcoy Road (tied third) including:
 - extension of the footpath to the dam viewing lookout
 - Coronation Hall carpark refresh
- 4) kayak launch site (tied third)
- 5) upgrades to the dam viewing lookout on Esk-Kilcoy Road (tied fifth)
- 6) heritage display (tied fifth)
- 7) new pedestrian paths
- 8) Coronation Hall carpark – option B
- 9) tennis court lighting
- 10) new recreation trail: Village to the Spit.

Seqwater communicated that:

- including a kayak launch site at the Somerset Day Park is looking increasingly challenging due to the steep bank terrain and tenure constraints, safety and accessibility requirements design requirements
- combining restoration of the dam viewing lookout with footpath extensions to the lookout and a refresh of the Coronation Hall carpark appears feasible
- Seqwater are currently in conversation with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) about how close to the road the footpath extension can be built and other engineering restrictions that may impact the concept
- Seqwater have added approximately 420 metres (so the combined length of path is now 700 metres) to the possible footpath extension option and could provide some basic works around the path, such as wayfinding signage and heritage plaques or information boards.

Regarding the memorial relocation, a CRG member reminded Seqwater that there are currently only four names included on the plaque despite five fatalities during the construction of the dam. This CRG member shared that they are connected with the family of the deceased worker who could provide their name for inclusion during the memorial relocation. Seqwater emphasised the importance of including all names on the memorial plaque and communicated to the CRG member that they would contact them for more information.

In response to a question about whether any possible legacy project options have been cut following assessment, Seqwater communicated that it is unlikely that, for the purposes of the DBC, further investigations in project ideas beyond the third priority would proceed. Feasibility of each legacy project option will depend on how much funding Seqwater is awarded by the State Government through the project funding approval process.

Seqwater asked the CRG whether removal of the kayak launch site would impact the prioritised order of the legacy projects. Seqwater also asked the CRG what they might like to see the kayak launch site replaced with.

The CRG responded by asking whether there was an existing track connecting the Somerset Day Park to the Stanley River. Seqwater communicated that there was, but that the track was unsuitable to be made into a permanent path due to steepness and vegetation hazards. Using a diagram, Seqwater explained that the development would require narrow switchbacks and stairs that would not be compliant with modern engineering and accessibility good practice for safety in design, would not be suitable to traverse carrying a kayak or kayaks, and would create a potential barrier for people with mobility challenges.

A CRG member asked whether the toilet upgrades (considered as part of the Somerset Day Park upgrade option) could go ahead without the kayak launch site. Seqwater clarified that organisation policy requires all kayak launch sites to be accompanied by toilets. However, upgrades to the public toilet may still go ahead as part of the Somerset Day Park upgrades and that this decision would need to be made at an organisational level to ensure alignment with Seqwater and or local council policy.

A CRG member suggested that the kayak launch site could be replaced with the tennis court lighting. Other CRG members suggested exercise equipment and barbeques.

A CRG member suggested abandoning the kayak launch site and combining legacy project Option 2 with legacy project Option 3. This suggestion received strong support from the CRG members.

Other CRG members noted that the tennis court lighting option may not be as viable on the grounds of maintenance and energy costs, highlighting concern around who would pay for and maintain the new lighting system and noted that there may be alternative funding sources, such as community grants, available for this type of upgrade.

Seqwater asked the CRG members whether toilet upgrades would be necessary in the Somerset Day Park if Options 2 and 3 were combined. A combination of legacy project Options 2 and 3 would enable people to easily walk to the bathroom facilities at Coronation Hall. The CRG responded that toilet upgrades were still desirable as people would not want to walk that far (especially elderly and

children) or interrupt an event being held at the hall (i.e. a wedding). The CRG further noted that the Coronation Hall toilets are closed at 6pm.

Seqwater asked whether the CRG members would like to see pavement connecting the Somerset Day Park carpark to the park facilities. The CRG members responded that they do not think that this would be necessary, and that adding some turf for children to play would be more desirable.

The CRG expressed support for the update to Option 3. The CRG asked whether it would be possible to add a pedestrian crossing to safely link the Somerset General Store to the Somerset Day Park. Seqwater responded that they are currently assessing the possibility of including a pedestrian crossing as part of the footpath extension with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR).

CRG members expressed concern about building a roadside footpath next to the bend on Esk-Kilcoy Road from the lookout into Somerset Dam Village. They commented that an offset board walk would be preferred at this spot but questioned how Seqwater would build here considering the vegetation and gulleys.

Seqwater commented that further investigations were required to determine an alignment adjacent to Esk Kilcoy Road between Albert Street and the Lookout. Alignment would likely 'snake' around significant existing trees to minimise impact on the existing bushland setting particularly for offset board walk sections. In response to a query, Seqwater further communicated that at the two creek/gully crossings, adjacent to the store, there would likely be headwall build-up (of the culverts) to accommodate the path as well as a weld mesh fencing to prevent falls at these locations.

Regarding the Coronation Hall carpark refresh, a CRG member asked about durability and who would take responsibility for mowing the reinforced grass paving system if it were implemented.

Seqwater communicated that the Coronation Hall carpark refresh would be made out of durable and water-resistant polyethylene trafficable pavers. Following conversation with the group, Seqwater communicated that Somerset Regional Council would maintain the grass as they already mow around the hall regularly.

Some CRG members commented on the overall prioritisation that has been undertaken to date and the broader impact that removing the kayak launch point from the 'combined option' should or could be discussed with the CRG before Seqwater makes any in-house decisions about possible alternatives (such as the Coronation Hall carpark refresh). This was noted by Seqwater and a reminder provided by Seqwater to the CRG members that no option is guaranteed and that ultimately investment into legacy projects will be at the discretion of State Government through the DBC process.

4 Project and approvals update

Seqwater provided an update on the 6 month lookahead for the dam upgrade, including that:

- engineering activities are underway to support the DBC, with completion of the DBC expected by mid to second half of 2026
- targeted sites for EPBC Act offsets should be surveyed and documented within six months
- community and stakeholder engagement for the MID will commence in coming months
- continuing to work with a gate manufacturer to support the design process.

Seqwater provided an update on early and enabling work activities, including:

- Seqwater is planning for the next phase of project delivery, including contractor procurement
- geotechnical and dam foundation drainage activities are continuing
- civil design activities for the downstream cofferdam, left bank access track, Esk-Kilcoy Road realignment and interim drainage curtain are continuing
- architectural design for the refurbishment of four of the Seqwater houses is continuing with construction contract procurement due in the coming months.

Seqwater provided an update on geotechnical and upcoming road works, including:

- Seqwater received Road Corridor Permits from TMR for geotechnical investigations on Esk-Kilcoy Road, Wivenhoe-Somerset Road and Stanley Pocket Road to inform future civil works
- investigations and work on Esk-Kilcoy Road commenced on 28 January 2026
- a right bank access track to the dam will begin construction in late February and early March 2026
- a new site entrance construction will begin off Wivenhoe-Somerset Road (adjacent to Stanley River Bridge) from mid-March 2026
- detailed planning is underway for left abutment steep hillside geotechnical investigations
- there will be increased construction traffic on the roads.

Seqwater communicated that they have executed a Cultural Heritage Management Agreement with the Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation (JPAC). Seqwater are also discussing with JPAC about options for a parcel of land downstream from the dam wall.

Seqwater communicated that they are currently waiting for approval from Department of State Development, Infrastructure & Planning (DSDIP) to commence community consultation on the MID.

Seqwater provided an update on the EPBC process, including:

- they are working on environmental offsets to protect local koalas, grey-headed flying fox, black-breasted buttonquails and the brush-tailed rock-wallaby to meet EPBC Act requirements
- they are working on environmental offsets to protect the local Threatened Ecological Communities, including the sub-tropical eucalypt floodplain, to meet EPBC Act requirements
- next steps for the EPBC, which includes submission of preliminary EPBC Act approval documentation to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) by mid-2026
- there will be a consultation process as part of the environmental approvals completed for DCCEEW as per the EPBC Act.

In response to the project and approvals update, a CRG member commented that existing dislodgements along Esk-Kilcoy Road are causing rocks to accumulate on the road. The CRG member inquired whether Seqwater are considering the impact of increased traffic flow on this situation.

Seqwater communicated that they are working with TMR to address a variety of concerns about Esk-Kilcoy Road. Seqwater emphasised that they are investigating an access point to the quarry behind Somerset Dam Village that directly connects with the Somerset Dam site. This would minimise construction traffic through the town and help to manage the environmental impacts of increased traffic.

Seqwater further communicated that they are in conversation with TMR about raising and realigning the road between the Energex power station and dam wall site. This is being informed by geotechnical investigation and will mean there is a whole new construction access road between Somerset Dam and the Energex power station.

A CRG member stated that these considerations are not resolving the broader issues on Esk-Kilcoy Road, particularly as there will still be greater traffic on the road as a whole. This CRG member acknowledged that the broader issues are out of scope for Seqwater.

5 Other business

Seqwater addressed local media commentary expressing concern about the cost and impact of SDIP. Seqwater communicated to the CRG that they would provide an accurate cost estimate in the future as part of the SDIP detailed business case. Seqwater also confirmed that the broader community would be able to provide feedback during consultation during the EPBC and MID processes.

A CRG member asked for greater clarification about water supply and restoration. Seqwater responded that the currently reduced water level (80% temporary full supply level) would be restored (via rainfall) to its previous full supply level (back to original 100% full supply level) following

completion of the upgrade. The dam wall will have greater flood resilience following SDIP completion however the full supply level isn't changing. Seqwater will develop some simple materials to help inform people of the project and its purpose.

Seqwater asked the CRG whether communications are effectively reaching the community. The CRG agreed they were but expressed desire for Seqwater to post information and updates about SDIP more frequently on their social media channels. The CRG members communicated that they wished to share posts in community groups, which Seqwater encouraged.

Seqwater responded that they are happy for all publicly available information to be shared. They further clarified that the only time that the CRG would receive confidential information is during the CRG meetings. Confidential information will always be flagged by the independent facilitator.

The CRG communicated that there will be greater interest in the project as intersection works begin and increased traffic is on the road. This means it would be good to have easily accessible and shareable information. Seqwater responded that there will be Variable Message Boards where works are taking place to inform the community of work times.

6 Meeting close

To close-out the meeting, the LPC facilitator asked CRG members to share their key takeaways from Meeting 6. The key takeaways from this meeting were:

- the legacy projects have been discussed, with the footpath extension legacy option extended to a total length of approximately 700m
- the CRG were given a tour of the Somerset Dam wall and were able to witness the early works areas
- the timing of the project is progressing as it was communicated to community members in 2020
- CRG members are happy with the level of communication being provided by Seqwater about the SDIP.

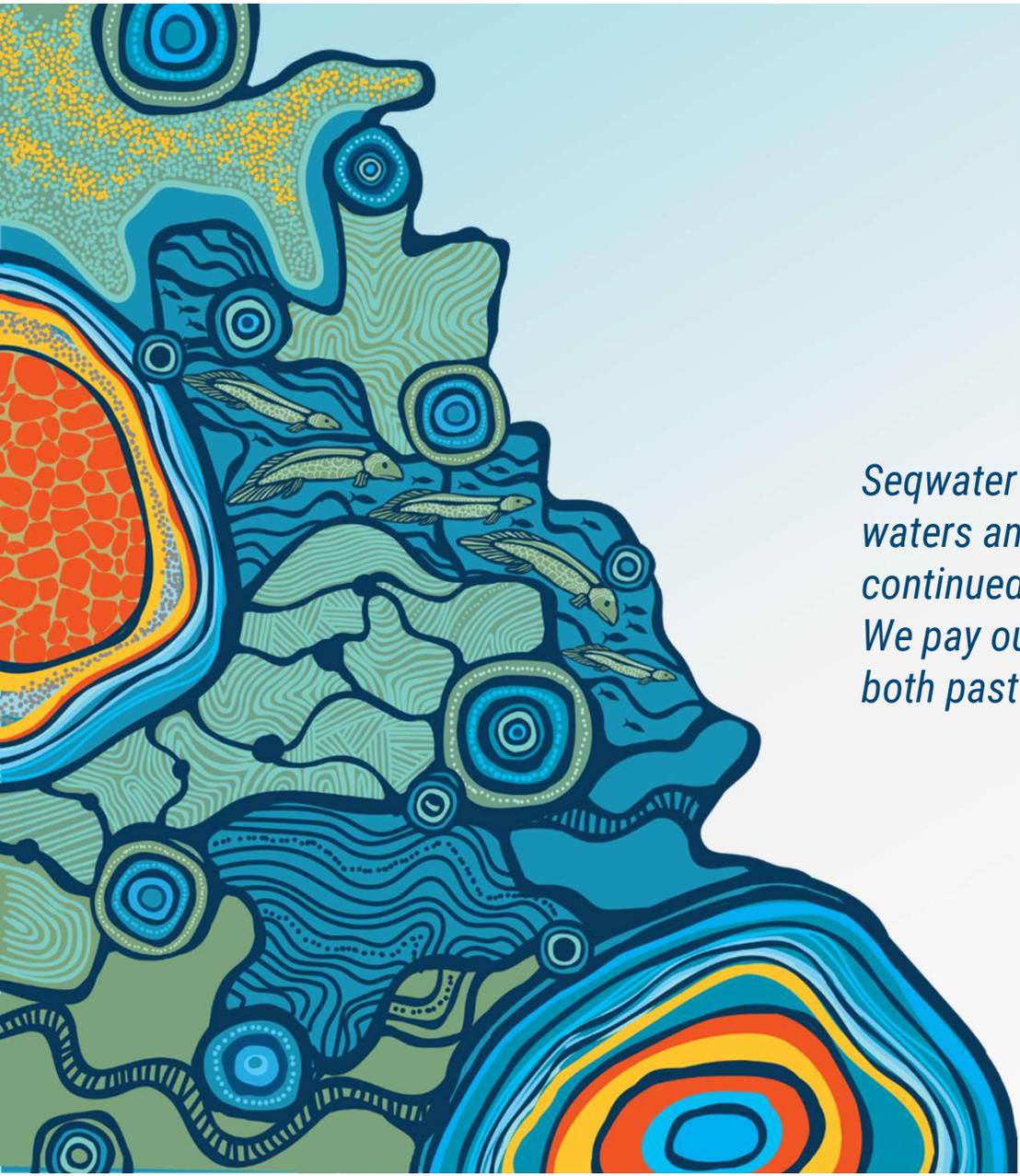
The project team indicated that the next meeting would take place in May 2026.

Appendix A: Presentation

Community Reference Group
Meeting 6

Thursday 26 February 2026





Seqwater acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these waters and surrounding lands and recognises their continued connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to elders both past and present.

Agenda

Item	Details
Somerset Dam site tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project update
Outstanding actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil works schedule• Footpath extension consideration – to be discussed with legacy projects
Communications update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update
Legacy projects update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update
Project and approvals update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other business / discussions within community• Key takeaways• Identified future meeting topics• Next meeting

Communications Update

2026 lookahead



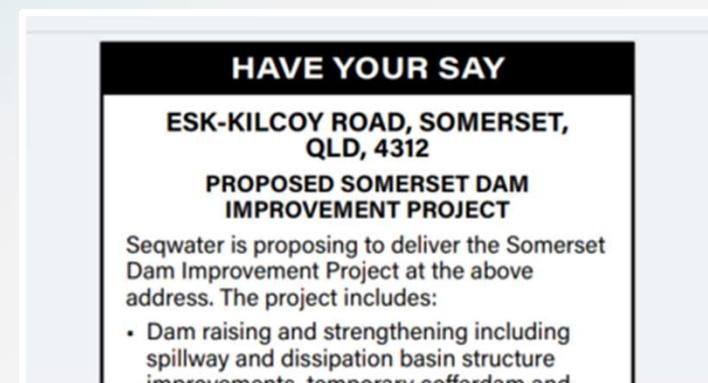
Communications Update

2026 LOOKAHEAD

- MID consultation period (March 2026)
- Support for Detailed Business Case finalisation
 - Role of the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP)
 - *Social Impact Summary*
- Community Information Sessions – likely nearer to end of Q1 (calendar year)
- SDIP promotional video launch
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) – preliminary engagement
- Next project newsletter March 2026

Alliance Contract – Main Upgrade construction

- Expression of interest (EOI) to be issued March/April 2026
- Industry Briefing – planned for April (TBC)



Legacy project update

Outcomes from last CRG meeting(s)

Prioritised list of legacy projects

- 1) Relocation of memorial (assumed by Seqwater)
- 2) Combination of projects 4, 5, 6 and 14
 - Heritage display
 - **Kayak launch site**
 - Upgrades to Somerset Day Park
 - New pedestrian footpaths
- 3) Restore the dam viewing lookout on Esk Kilcoy Road (tied third)
 - Extension of footpath to dam viewing lookout
 - Coronation Hall carpark – refresh
- 4) Kayak launch site (tied third)
- 5) Upgrade the dam viewing lookout on Esk Kilcoy Road (tied fifth)
- 6) Heritage display (tied fifth)
- 7) New pedestrian paths
- 8) Coronation hall carpark – option B
- 9) Tennis Court lighting
- 10) New recreation trail: Village to the Spit



Legacy Projects Ideas



- 1) **Project 12: Relocation of Memorial**
- 2) Combination of Projects 4, 5, 6 and 14
 - Project 4: Heritage Display (Dam related).
 - Project 5: Kayak Launch Site
 - Project 6: Upgrades to day area (Somerset Park)
 - Project 14: New Pedestrian Paths
- 3) Project 1A: Restore Dam Viewing Lookout
 - + Extension of Footpath to dam viewing lookout.
 - + Coronation Hall Carpark – Refresh.
- 4) Project 5: Kayak Launch Site
- 5) Project 1B: Upgrade Dam Viewing Lookout
- 6) Project 4: Heritage Display (Dam related).
- 7) Project 14: New Pedestrian Paths
- 8) Project 16: Coronation Hall Car Park – Option B
- 9) Project 8: Tennis Court Lighting
- 10) Project 3: New Recreation Trail: Village → Spit

Project 12: Relocation of Memorial



Potential Scope:

- Relocate existing Memorial. Dam Wall → Lookout. (to workers who died during construction).
- New plinth at Lookout.
- Refurbish Memorial (if required).
- Ensure all names are captured on plaque.

Potential Limitations/Risks:

- Who will own and maintain asset?



Legacy Projects Ideas



- 1) Project 12: Relocation of Memorial
- 2) **Combination of Projects 4, 5, 6 and 14**
 - Project 4: Heritage Display (Dam related).
 - **Project 5: Kayak Launch Site**
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- 7) Project 14: New Pedestrian Paths
- 8) Project 16: Coronation Hall Car Park – Option B
- 9) Project 8: Tennis Court Lighting
- 10) Project 3: New Recreation Trail: Village → Spit

Project 5: Kayak Launch Site

Initial Assessment:

- Kayak Launch Facility could be possible.

Further Investigation:

- Dedicated Facility has **significant constraints** to overcome.
 - Bank Height and Slope
 - ~10m above Wivenhoe Lake Level (OFSL).
 - Typical slope ~1 in 4 (Somerset Park location).
 - Typical slope ~1 in 3 (anywhere Somerset Park Camp Ground).
 - Alignment
 - Would need to travel along the slope to flatten grade suitable to transport/carry kayak.
 - **Class 1 Track** - requires multiple switch backs to cater for visitors with reduced mobility which are not suitable for kayak transport/carry. No Steps. Very long. No space at Somerset Park.
 - **Class 2/3 Track** - requires multiple switch backs to cater for visitors with a moderate level of fitness. Gradient 1:10 (typical). Steps allowed. ~100m long from top of bank to water. No space at Somerset Park.
 - Kayak Carrying Issues
 - Switchbacks create clashes with vegetation.
 - Stairs likely to be a trip hazard for people carrying kayaks.
 - Steep wet/muddy tracks = slip hazard.

Project 5: Kayak Launch Site (Cont...)

- Flood Resilience

- What level of resilience is required?
- Who maintains after a flood?
- Who pays for repairs after significant flood?

- Locations Explored

- Somerset Park.
 - Direct path (straight down) – too steep.
 - Direct path along slope – no length of bank.
 - Walkway and Stairs – kayak carrying issues.
 - Path with switch backs – kayak carrying issues.
- Somerset Park Camp Ground (multiple sites).
 - Direct path (straight down) – too steep.
 - Direct path along slope – +100m in length.
 - Walkway and Stairs – kayak carrying issues.
 - Path with switch backs – kayak carrying issues.

- Public Access

- Somerset Park.
 - Public Accessible.
- Somerset Park Camp Ground (multiple sites).
 - No public access.
 - Re-configuration of Camp Ground required to allow public access.
 - Potential loss of camp site(s).



Photo 1: Existing Track to River

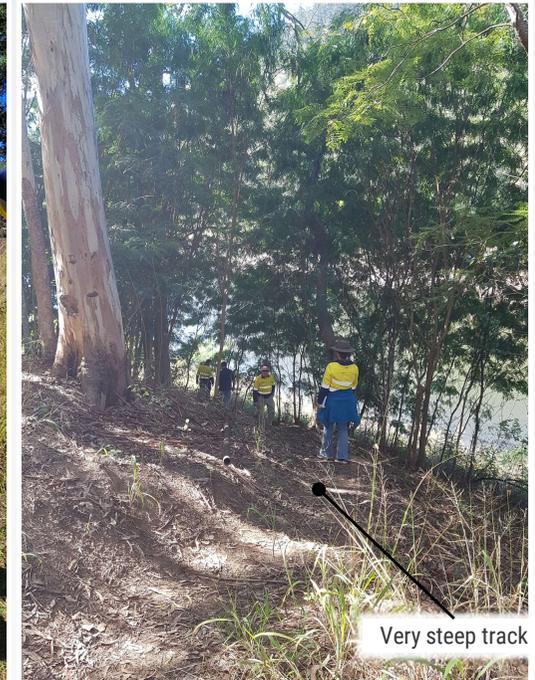
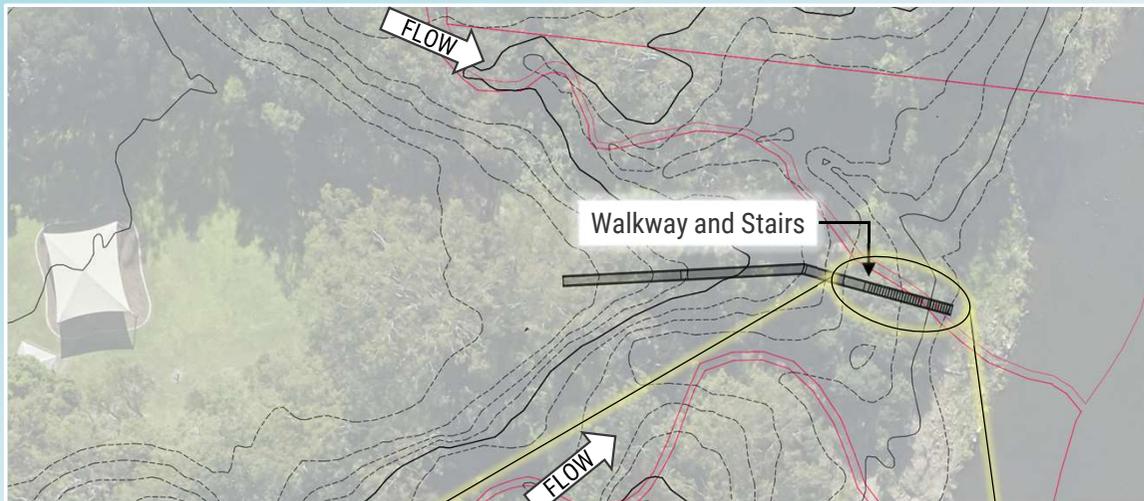
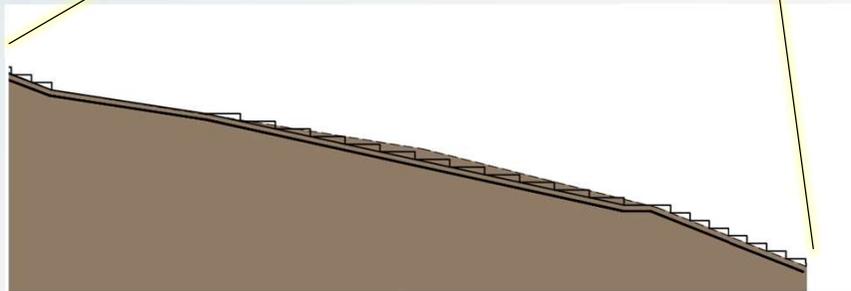


Photo 2: Existing Track to River

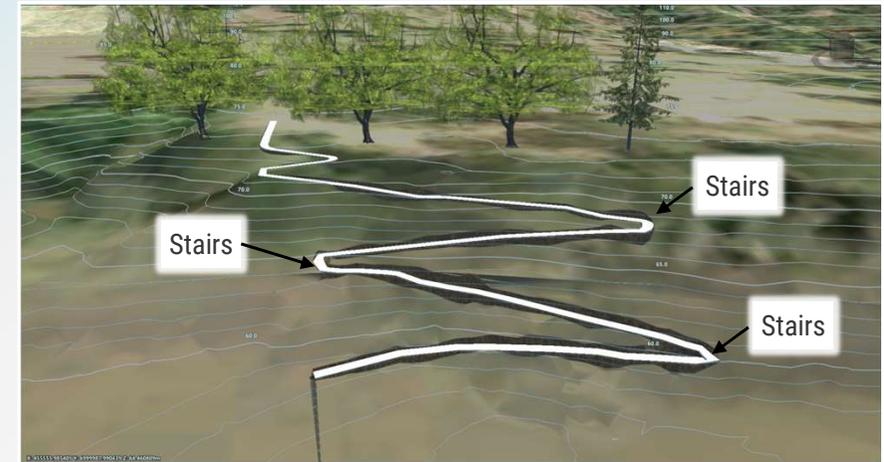
Project 5: Kayak Launch Site (Cont...)



PLAN - SOMERSET PARK



SECTION - SOMERSET PARK



Note: Vegetation on bank not shown.

3D VIEW - CAMP GROUND



Note: Vegetation on bank not shown.

3D VIEW - CAMP GROUND

NOTE: Proof of concept sketches only.

Legacy Projects Ideas



- 1) Project 12: Relocation of Memorial
- 2) Combination of Projects 4, 5, 6 and 14
 - Project 4: Heritage Display (Dam related).
 - Project 5: Kayak Launch Site
 - Project 6: Upgrades to day area (Somerset Park)
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+ Extension of Footpath to dam viewing lookout.
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- 5) Project 1B: Upgrade Dam Viewing Lookout
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- 7) Project 14: New Pedestrian Paths
- 8) Project 16: Coronation Hall Car Park – Option B
- 9) Project 8: Tennis Court Lighting
- 10) Project 3: ~~New Recreation Trail: Village → Spit~~

Project 1A: Restore Dam Viewing Lookout



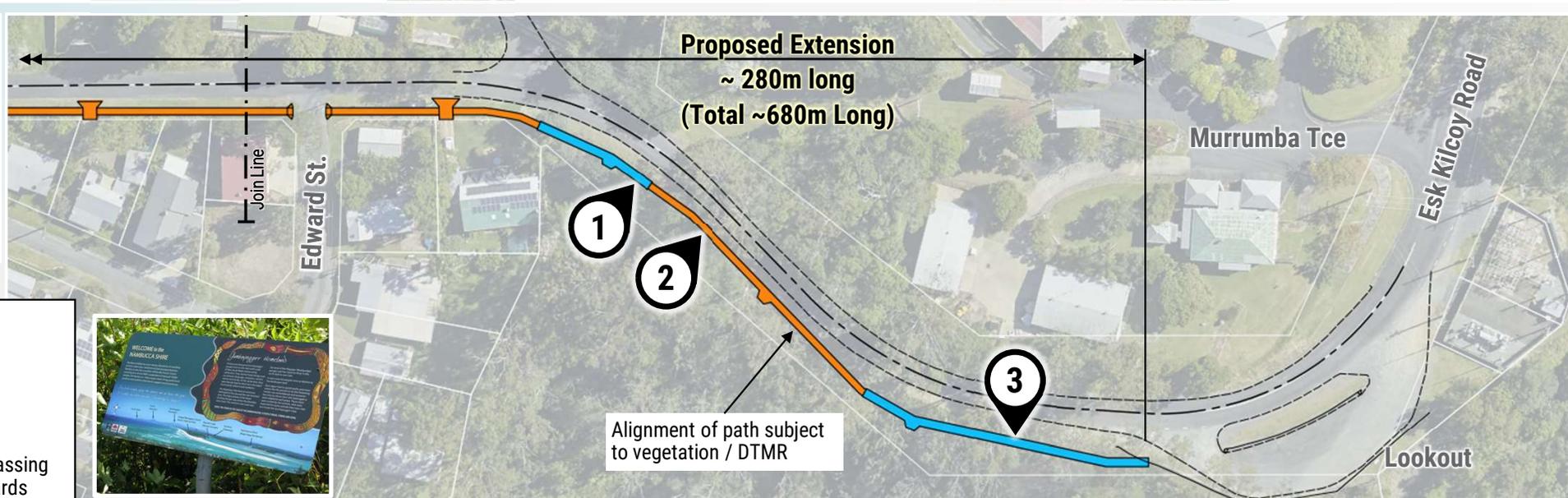
Potential Scope:

- Restore view to dam wall (see below) – **trim trees** and view impeding vegetation.
- Restore **durable parking seal** (material suitable for start stop manoeuvres e.g. AC).
- Low planting landscaping.
- **New education / information boards.**
- Maintain existing entry / exit arrangement and line marking on Esk Kilcoy Road.

Potential Limitations/Risks:

- Small parcel of land to be acquired (State Government owned).
- Native Title.
- Subject to DTMR approval.
- Who will own and maintain asset?

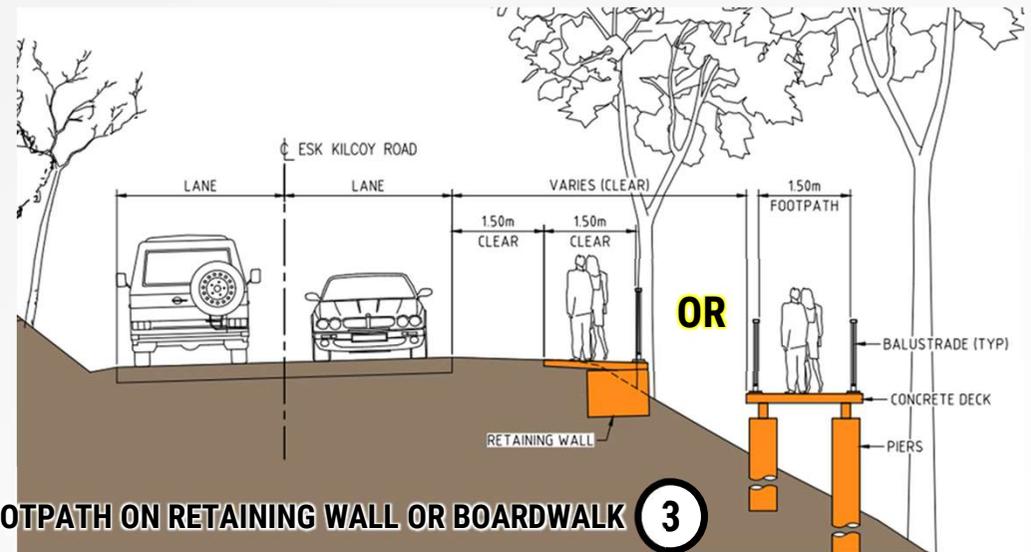
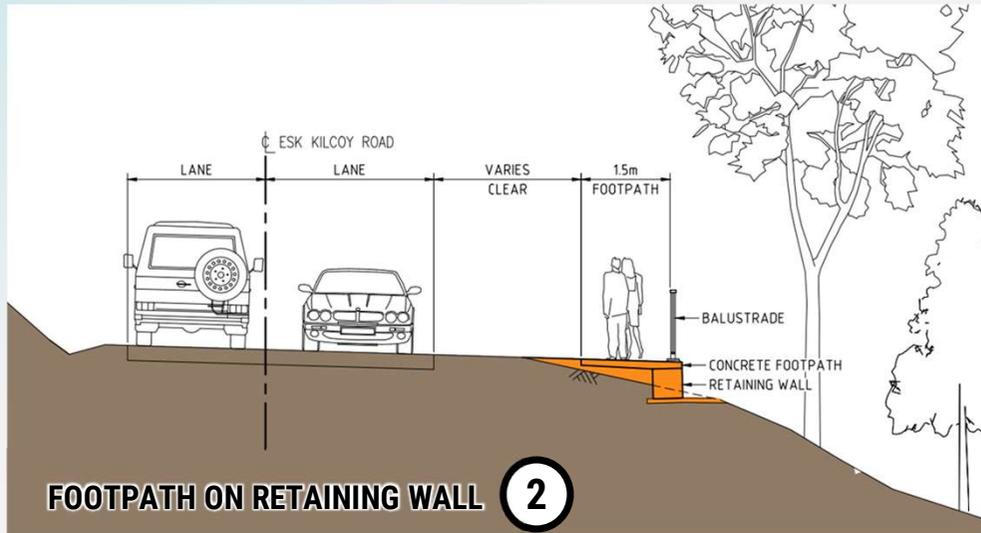
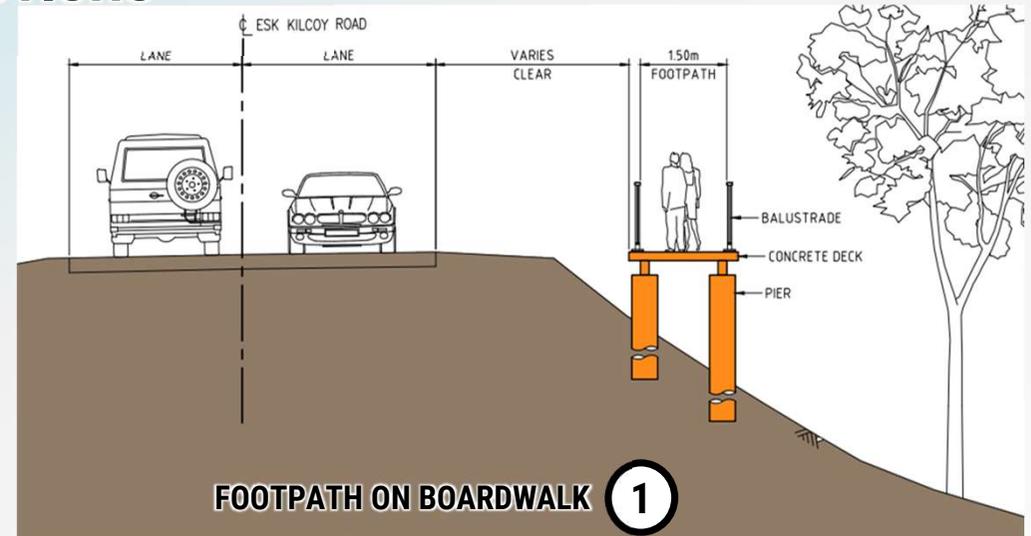
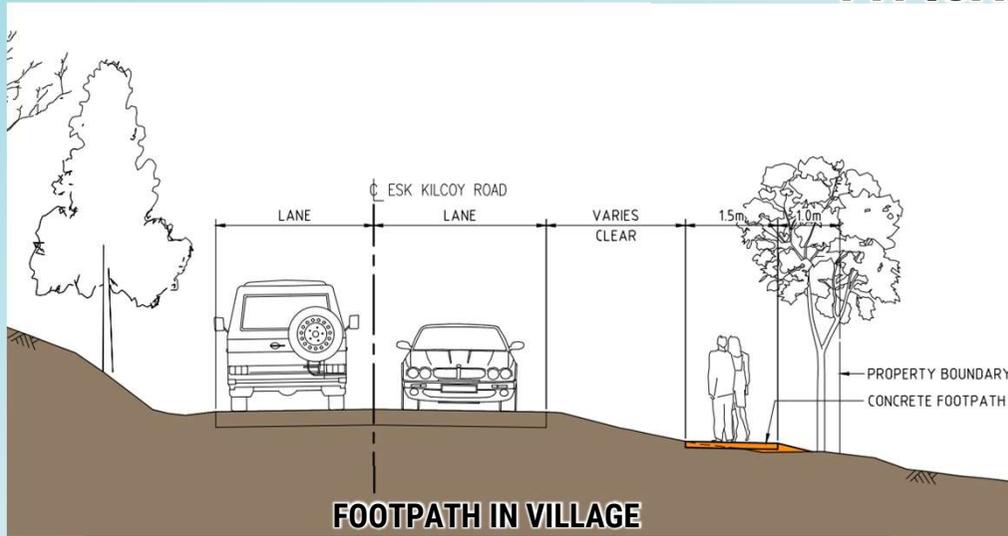
Project + Extension of Footpath to Lookout



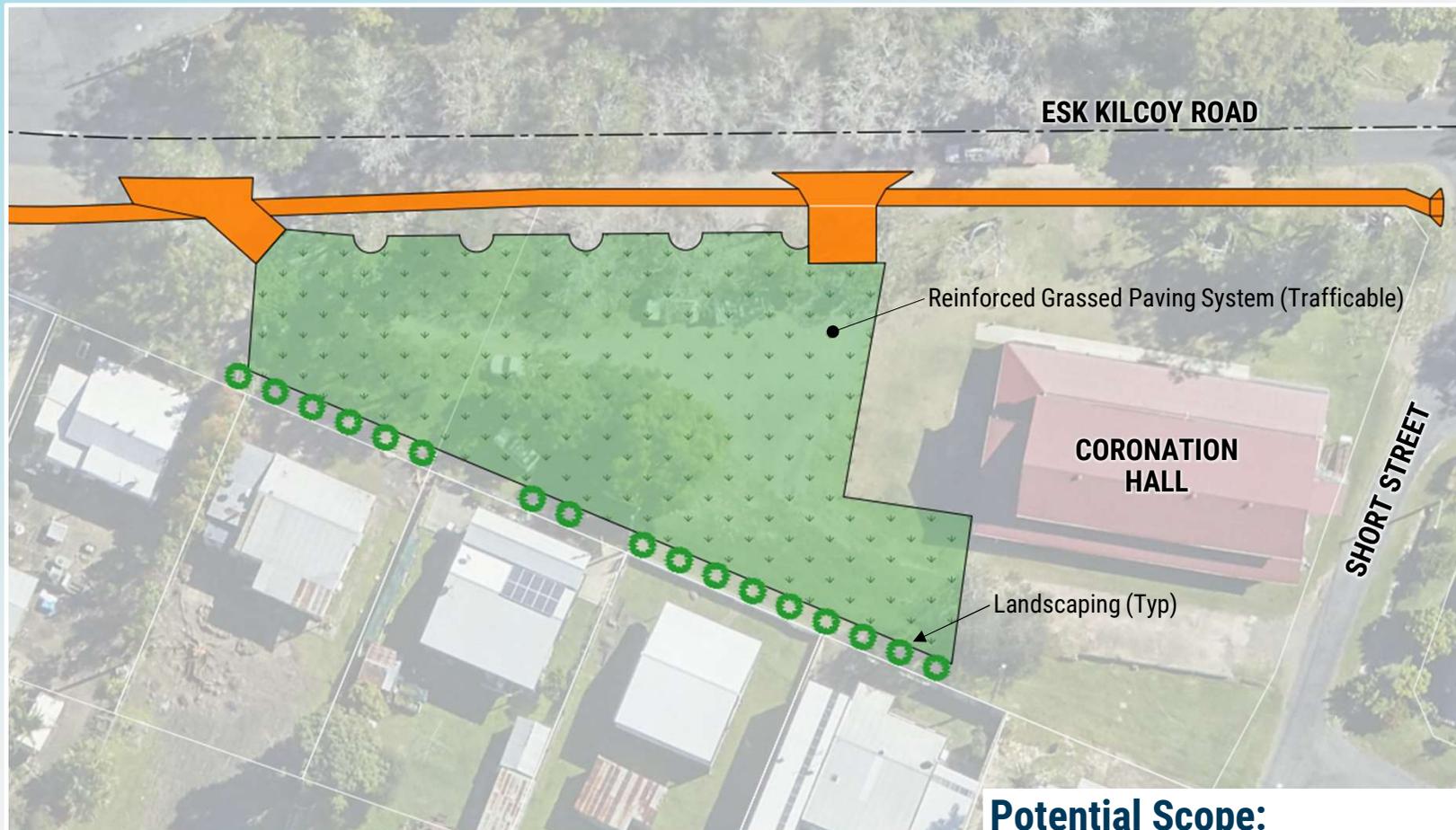
- LEGEND**
- Concrete Footpath
 - Boardwalk
 - Concrete Driveway
 - Path widening for passing and information boards

Project + Extension of Footpath to Lookout (Cont...)

TYPICAL SECTIONS



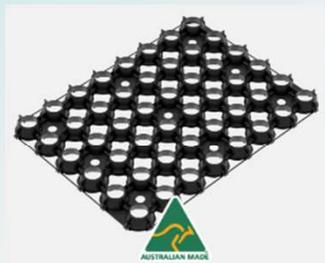
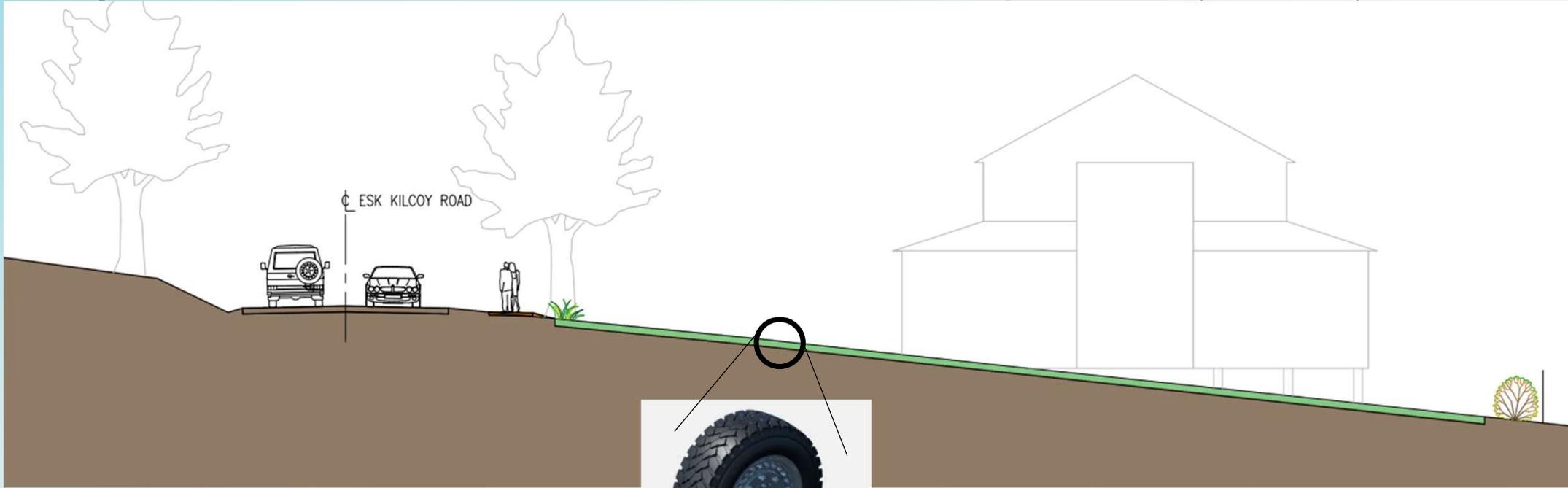
Project 16: Coronation Hall Car Park – Option B



Potential Scope:

- Reinforced Grassed paving system (Trafficable).
- Concrete Driveways.
- Landscaping – General.
- Maintain trees along road (subject to arborist assessment).

Project 16: Coronation Hall Car Park – Option B (Cont...)



TRAFFICABLE PAVER

- Grass and paver infill
- Trafficable Paver
- Bedding layer
- Geotextile
- Base Course
- Geogrid + Geotextile
- Natural Ground



PAVEMENT DETAILS



EXAMPLE FINISHED PRODUCT

Project and approvals update

Somerset Dam Improvement Project

Current and 6-Month Lookahead

DBC activities:

- Complete priority engineering activities for the DBC including cost estimating
- Completion of DBC (targeting mid to second half of 2026)
- Complete reconnaissance survey of targeted sites for environmental (EPBC) offsets and complete documentation for EPBC submission to Commonwealth government
- Ministerial Infrastructure Designation – public and stakeholder consultation process
- Continue to work with gate manufacturer and progress design development

Early and Enabling Works activities:

- Planning for next phase of project delivery, including contractor procurement activities
- Continue geotechnical and dam foundation drainage activities, including the more difficult to access left abutment and right bank investigations
- Continue civil design activities for the downstream cofferdam, left bank access track, Esk Kilcoy Road realignment and interim drainage curtain
- Continue architect design of the Seqwater house refurbishment and prepare tender for construction



Right bank trenching



Barge departs Dec 2025



Right bank terrace works for trenching

Somerset DIP | Site activities

Geotechnical works on roads

- A Road Corridor Permit has been approved by TMR for the planned geotechnical investigations on Esk Kilcoy Road (2 x Test Pits and 3 x Boreholes), Wivenhoe Somerset Road (6x Test Pits) and Stanley Pocket Road (1x Test Pits).
- Works commenced on Esk Kilcoy Road 28 January.
- This is required for future civil works including the realignment of Esk Kilcoy Road, intersection upgrade for the site entrance on the east bank along Wivenhoe Somerset Road and saddle dam works on Stanley Pocket Road.



Upcoming

- This week – Commence construction of access track on right bank of dam to facilitate geotechnical investigations for coffer dam abutment and upgraded dissipator basin training walls
- Mid March 2026 - Commence construction of new site entrance intersection Wivenhoe Somerset Road. Initial activities will include vegetation and tree clearing.
- Detailed planning underway for left abutment steep hillside geotechnical investigations



Jinibara People engagement

- Cultural Heritage Management Agreement with Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation (JPAC) has been agreed and executed.
- Discussions occurring with the Jinibara People regarding possible Indigenous Land Use Agreement to address Native Title for a parcel of land downstream of the dam.



JPAC Visit to Somerset Dam in May 2025

Ministerial Infrastructure Designation

Current focus areas (State Interest Review)

- State Agency engagement occurring in preparation for broader community consultation.
- Key focus areas:
 - Quarry – options selection, environmental impact and management
 - Ecology – design development, mitigation and offset strategies
 - Water Security – in conjunction with consideration of lake operating levels during the dam construction period
 - Traffic – Traffic Impact Assessment, mitigation and management measures

EPBC Approval

Current Focus Areas | Environmental Offsets

- Offsets for koala, grey-headed flying fox, black-breasted button-quail, Threatened Ecological Community (Sub tropical eucalypt floodplain and woodland) and the brush-tailed rock-wallaby are required to meet requirements under the EPBC Act.
- Offset areas commitments and management plans are being put in place for each of these, with recent greatest focus being the brush tail rock-wallaby offset land sourcing.



Next Steps

- **Draft Preliminary Documentation:** issued to DCCEEW in Dec 2025 for initial comment
- Seqwater to arrange **DCCEEW site visit** to brush-tailed rock-wallaby offset sites – targeting first quarter 2026 once sites confirmed
- **Submission of Preliminary Documentation:** currently being prepared, targeting early-mid 2026 submission to DCCEEW



Other business

Other business

Community raised concerns

- Nil

Key takeaways

Next meeting

Thursday May 21st 2026



Thank you

