

Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 28 February, 2023

Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

Attachments (Under Separate Cover)

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AA22.5 Boongaree Reconciliation Garden - Project Update and Request for Further Concept Design Guidance

HPERM Ref: D22/54726

Department: Community Planning & Projects
Approver: Jane Lewis, Director - City Lifestyles

Attachments: 1. Boongaree - Master Plan [↓](#)
2. Reconciliation Garden - Initial Draft Concept [↓](#)
3. Reconciliation Garden - Draft Concept 2 [↓](#)

Reason for Report

To inform the Aboriginal Advisory Committee on the Boongaree Reconciliation Garden project and request their input and advice into the further development of concept plans for the space.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

1. Are informed of the background and current status of the Boongaree Reconciliation Garden project.
2. Participate in discussion with Council staff and provide advice for the concept design of a Reconciliation Garden at Boongaree.
3. Nominate representatives to include in the project stakeholder group that the committee believes would add cultural value and depth to this project.

Options

1. Accept the recommendation.

Implications: This will allow the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to participate in, and inform the design of the Reconciliation Garden. This will result in a well-planned garden, that is reflective of community values, cultural values and is respectful to the land.

2. Provide alternate recommendation.

Implications: Project scope may be repositioned to accept alternative recommendation based on advisement from the Aboriginal Advisory Group. This may impact the timeline of the project.

Background

Boongaree, previously named Berry Sporting Complex and Berry District Park, is located on North Street in Berry. The site is currently used for various passive and active recreation activities including rugby league, cricket, tennis, netball, skate park, walking, cycling, picnics and timed off-leash dog area, along with the newly opened Rotary Nature Play Park which has already become a popular destination for visitors.

AA22.5

AA23.6 - Attachment 1

Council initially commenced the process of preparing a master plan for Boongaree in 2014, in preparation of the construction of the Berry Bypass by NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council in July 2017, Council resolved to adopt the Boongaree Master Plan and to proceed detailed design of the various stages of the project. Council is currently in the detailed design and construction phase for the subsequent stages at Boongaree.

Upon the adoption of the Boongaree Master Plan, Council staff initiated a naming campaign which, resulted in a majority vote for the renaming of Berry District Park to be changed to Boongaree - Being the original Aboriginal name for the Berry/Broughton Creek area. At Council's Strategy & Assets Committee meeting in July 2018, Council resolved to adopt the name Boongaree.

Boongaree is identified as one of Shoalhaven City Council's Destination Parks within the town of Berry. Boongaree aims to transform the existing local sporting and recreational area into an integrated nature-based youth, family, sports, and recreation facility that provides a gateway attraction to the Shoalhaven Local Government Area.

The Rotary Nature Play Park and Learn to Ride facility formed Stage 1 of the project, which were opened in January 2022.

The anticipated timing of future stages of Boongaree are provided below:

- Stage 2 & 3- Skate Park and Pump track - 22/23
- Stage 4a & 4b – Cricket nets, netball courts, and reconciliation garden - 22/23(a), 23/24(b)
- Stage 5 – Junior fields, drainage, and parking - 22/23
- Stage 6 – Fenced Dog Off-Leash Area - 22/23
- Stage 7 – Senior fields, drainage, and parking - 23/24

Boongaree – Master Plan and Reconciliation Garden

The Boongaree Master Plan nominates the location of the Reconciliation Garden, which is behind the Netball Courts in the Northern area of the reserve. The purpose of the garden is to provide an inspiring space within the parkland for the community to connect with local Aboriginal culture and explore ideas of reconciliation. This site also aims to create a peaceful location for people to visit and relax.

The Reconciliation Garden site covers multiple Asset Custodians, being Council's Environment Team, Assets and Works Team, and Swim Sport and Fitness Team.

A copy of the Boongaree Master Plan is provided as Figure 1 below and in [Attachment 1](#).

AA22.5

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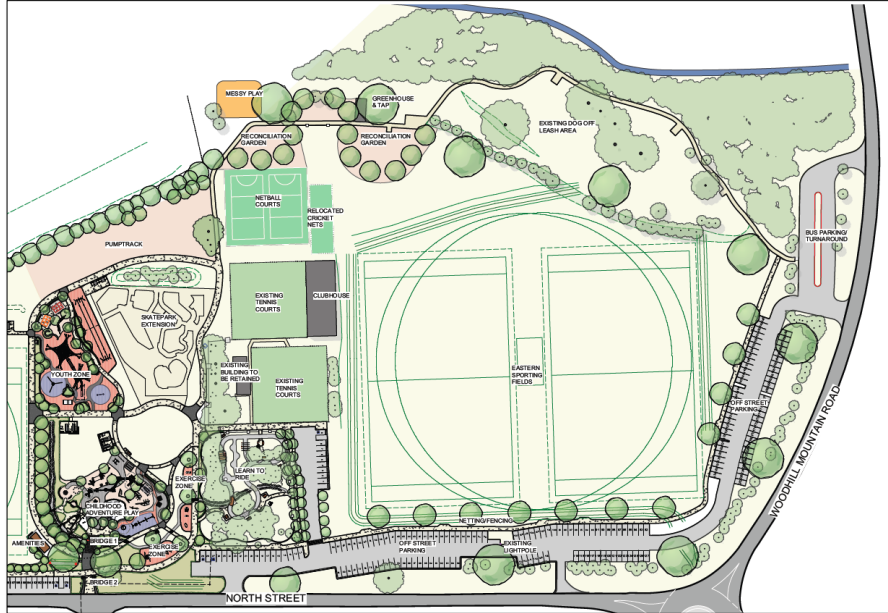


Figure 1 Boongaree Master Plan

Additional area for the Reconciliation Garden has been offered to Council by Berry Landcare and Berry Bushcare, which includes the Northern most area up to the Princes Highway and Woodhill Mountain Road. The location for the smoking circle and the yarning circle is proposed on the Landcare site.

The beginning of the garden will be located behind the netball courts. Directional signage will guide users towards a smoking circle and yarning circle.

An initial draft concept for the Reconciliation Garden was developed prior to community consultation, to encourage discussion and feedback on the concept design. Plans for the initial concept can be viewed below at Figure 2 and in [Attachment 2](#).

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AA23.6 - Attachment 1

