# MERIMBULA BOARDWALK CONCEPT DESIGN





### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of the Shire of Bega, the people of the Yuin-Monaro Nations; the Tadjera-Munji-Djiringanj, Thaua, Bidawahal, Nulliker, and Manaroo, and show our respect to elders past, present and emerging.

Merimbula Lake is known as Merrim-boola, "Big snake; place of two waters or lakes" in the Indigenous language.

### CONCEPT

The Merimbula Boardwalk is a popular short walk that provides a unique experience, connecting visitors to the visual amenity and ecological value of Merimbula Lake and the region.

Located in close proximity to the Merimbula Central Business District, it provides a convenient nature tourism experience that showcases threatened ecological communities, and provides important recreational activities such as walking, running, bird watching, photography, and recreational fishing.

The boardwalk was built in 1997 and since then has seen an increase in use demonstrating its popularity. In 2021, twenty-four years down the track, the boardwalk whilst popular as ever, is showing significant signs of decline and has disproportionately high maintenance costs. The boardwalk has reached the end of its serviceable life, and it requires an upgrade to ensure it continues to provide recreation and tourism activation for our region.

From 19 July to 8 August 2021 Council sought feedback from the community on how people use the boardwalk now and how they would like to use the boardwalk in the future. Key insights from the engagement were used to inform this Draft Concept Design.

The upgrade to the boardwalk focuses on a strong balance between retaining its visual amenity, minimising environmental impacts and meeting increased user demand.

#### 01. A BOARDWALK BUILT TO LAST

The current boardwalk was originally built by Green Corp Trainees in 1997. Since then, sections of the boardwalk have been replaced or substantially repaired over a number of years. The current maintenance regime for the boardwalk involves approximately ten hours of labour per week which is considered substantial. It is proposed that the boardwalk structure is replaced by a more durable structure consisting of central singular steel screw piles which will be designed to endure the coastal and estuarine conditions for many years to come. These will impede less on water flow and allow for more tidal movement below the boardwalk. The boardwalk surface will be constructed from hardwood timber, however in some areas Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) will be used to allow better light penetration through to the saltmarsh underneath.

Beyond 25 to 30 years the timber and FRP decking may require minor repairs or replacement as necessary, however it is proposed that the substructure holding the decking will last approximately 80 to 100 years before requiring any substantial repairs.

### 02. CLOSER CONNECTIONS TO NATURE AND CULTURE

The Merimbula Boardwalk is loved by many for the connection to nature that it provides and consequently it is proposed that the new boardwalk will retain the current alignment. There is an opportunity for Indigenous input and artistic interpretation through signage, furniture, and design or art that will enrich the overall experience and our connection to place. The existing dirt tracks through swamp oak forest are proposed to be formalised to provide an additional experience beyond the boardwalk for those more adventurous types. Additional seating areas are proposed to allow people to step off the track and take it all in without obstructing the main path. The jetty areas are proposed to be enhanced to provide better access to the water for wading, fishing and swimming. Improved information signage is proposed to connect people further to the environment through education and awareness – particularly around areas where the track passes through threatened ecological communities and where people and paws should remain on the track.

#### **03. STRONGER AND SAFER ENTRANCES**

The current boardwalk entry at Market Street gives very little indication where visitors may find the boardwalk, for how long they will be walking and where the public amenities are. The proposed concept focuses on upgrading the experience at the two ends of the boardwalk by improving the information signage, strengthening edge treatments, directing pedestrian movement and separating vehicles from pedestrianised areas. Entry points will be enhanced to provide sufficient size and space for approaching the boardwalk and remove pinch points and conflicts with vehicle traffic.

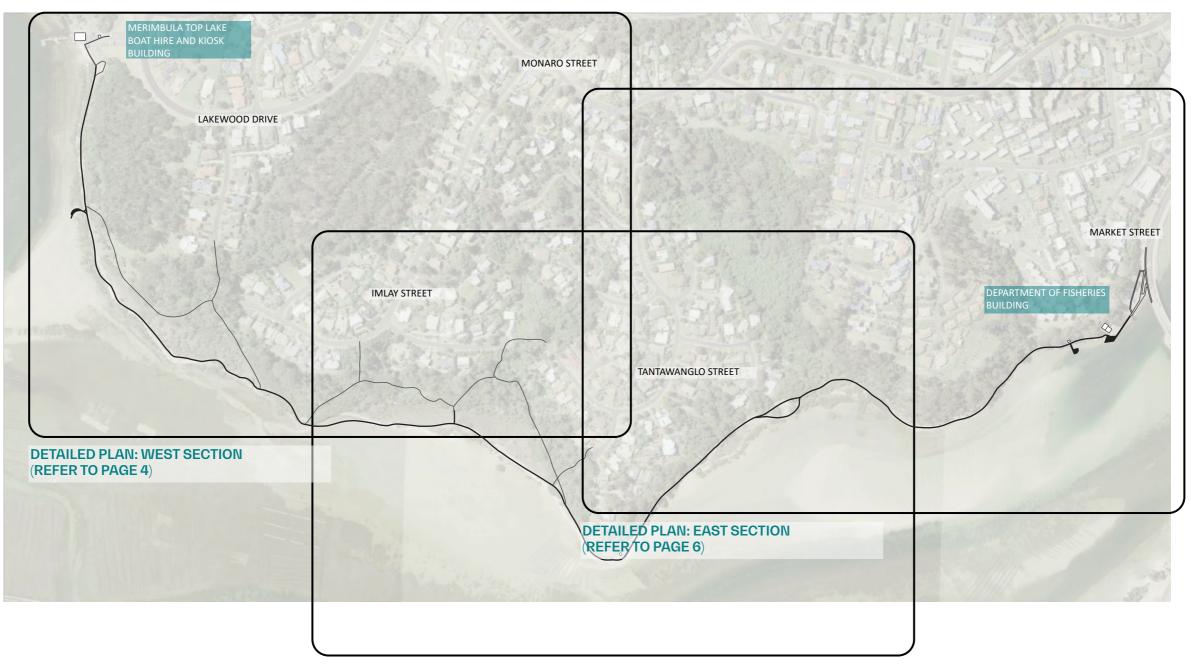
### **04. BETTER ACCESS FOR ALL**

It is proposed that the new boardwalk and foreshore path will be a level trail, free from trip hazards and uneven surfaces, and provide an accessible path of travel along the complete length. It will be simple and intuitive to use and provide a clear direction of travel. Wayfinding will assist those of all abilities to access information about direction and distance to amenities. Signage will be designed with audio descriptions as well as braille. Accessible seating and viewing platforms will be designed into the trail, providing multiple rest spots. Carparking will be improved to provide accessible parking bays and a safe connection of travel to the entry points of the walk.

## MERIMBULA BOARDWALK PROPOSED UPGRADE - LOCALITY PLAN

### **KEY POINTS**

- THE BOARDWALK AND FORESHORE PATH IS PROPOSED TO FOLLOW SAME ALIGNMENT AS EXISTING.
- THE BOARDWALK IS PROPOSED TO BE INCREASED FROM EXISTING 1.5M WIDTH TO 2.0M WIDTH WITH KICK RAIL TO EDGE.
- THE GRAVEL FORESHORE PATH IS PROPOSED TO BE UPGRADED TO A 2.0M WIDE EXPOSED AGGREGATE CONCRETE PATH.
- THE BOARWALK IS TO BE HARDWOOD TIMBER EXCEPT WHEN PASSING THROUGH THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES (TEC) IN WHICH CASE IT IS PROPOSED THAT FIBRE REINFORCED PLASTIC (FRP) MESH WILL BE USED, WHICH WILL ALLOW LIGHT TO PENETRATE TO VEGETATION UNDERNEATH AND MINIMISE IMPACT (CONSISTENT WITH PRELIMINARY ADVICE FROM DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES).
- EXISTING 'BUSH TRACKS' THAT VEER OFF THE MAIN BOARDWALK AND FORESHORE PATH ARE PROPOSED TO BE FORMALISED USING IMPROVED DRAINAGE, GRAVEL, STONE, AND BRIDGING OVER GULLIES/MARSH WHERE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A MUD-FREE/BOG-FREE WALK.



DETAILED PLAN: CENTRAL SECTION (REFER TO PAGE 5)



## MERIMBULA BOARDWALK DETAILED PLAN: WEST SECTION





## MERIMBULA BOARDWALK DETAILED PLAN: CENTRAL SECTION





### MERIMBULA BOARDWALK DETAILED PLAN: EAST SECTION





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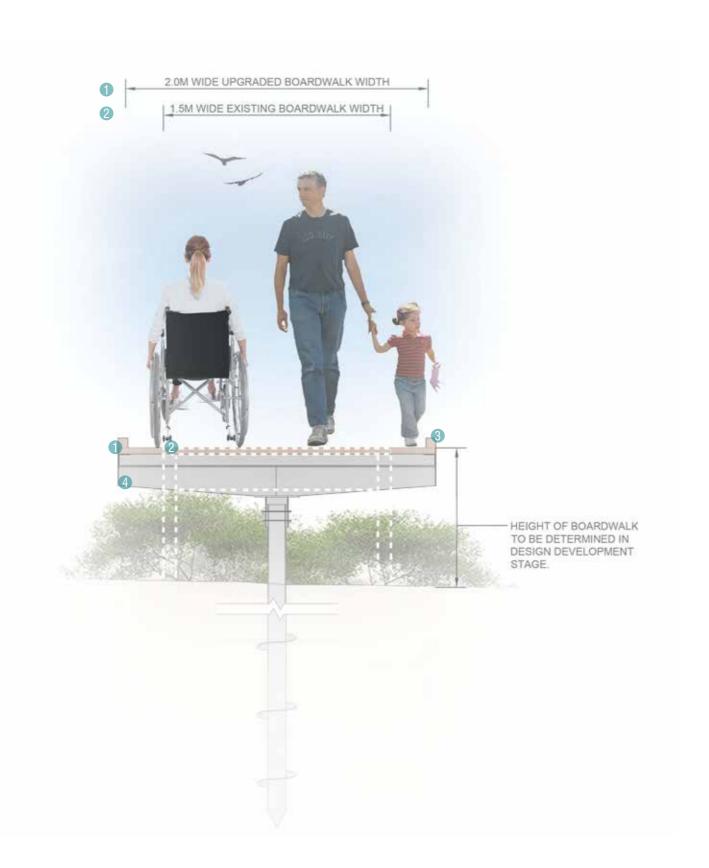
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## MERIMBULA BOARDWALK SECTION: PROPOSED TIMBER BOARDWALK

THE PROPOSED HARDWOOD TIMBER BOARDWALK IS TO BE WIDENED FROM 1.5M TO 2.0M. THIS WILL ALLOW MORE SPACE FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESS, AND A MORE COMFORTABLE WALKING EXPERIENCE.

THE DESIGN IS ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE, AND THE DECKING MATERIAL WILL CHANGE TO FIBRE REINFORCED PLASTIC (FRP) IN AREAS ALONG THE WALK WHERE LIGHT FILTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THE SALTMARSH THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY BELOW.

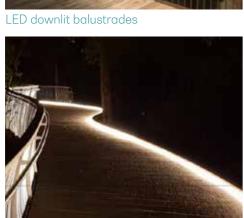
- PROPOSED TIMBER HARDWOOD BOARDWALK
   WIDENENED FROM 1.5M TO 2.0M
- EXISTING TIMBER HARDWOOD BOARDWALK 1.5M WIDE
- 3 TIMBER KICK RAILS
- 4 PROPOSED STEEL STRUCTURE



## SAMPLE ELEMENTS

LIGHTING





LED bottom-lit kickrails



Bollard lit pathways



ACCESS



Boardwalk wider with kick rail and seating nodes off to the side



Accessible water ramp



Regular timber seating nodes



Regular timber jetty offering respite from walking path

#### STRUCTURE AND SURFACE



FRP non slip mesh



Commercial grade hardwood decking



Formalised nature trail



Reflective spaces along path are signalled by change in materiality (FRP to timber)

#### INTERPRETATION



Furniture with interpretation



Wayfinding at entry points



Interpretive signage bollards



Carved timber with cultural signigficance

### **ENVIRONMENT**



Coastal saltmarsh protection



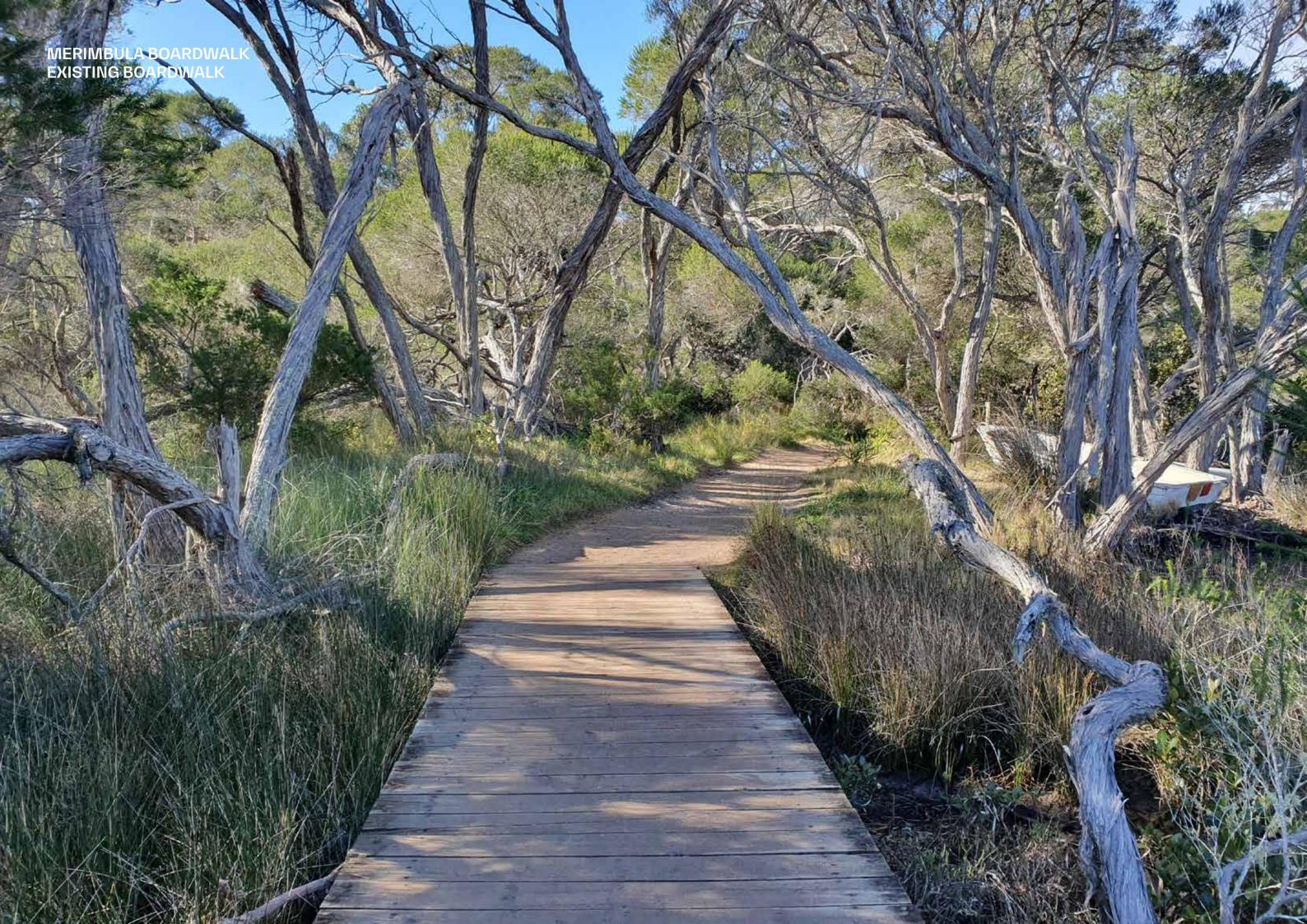
Pathways around remnant mangrove habitat



Swamp Oak Forest protection



Oyster farm lookouts





## MERIMBULA BOARDWALK WEST ENTRY

- 1 PROPOSED PATH LINKING THE MERIMBULA TOP LAKE BOAT HIRE & SUNSET KIOSK AND EXISTING AMENITIES WITH THE BOARDWALK.
- 2 INTERPRETIVE AND INFORMATIVE SIGNAGE TO ENGAGE AND INFORM VISITORS AT THE START OF THEIR JOURNEY.
- 3 REST/MEETING AREA INCLUDING TWO PICNIC TABLES WITH SMALL SHADE SHELTER.
- 4 EXPOSED AGGREGATE CONCRETE PATHWAY, WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIGENOUS INPUT AND ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION TO BE LAID/STENCILLED INTO CONCRETE. VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO CONNECT WITH THE CHARACTER AND STORIES BEHIND MERIMBULA LAKE THROUGH INTERPRETIVE DESIGN/FURTNITURE OR SIGNAGE, WITH AUDIO DESCRIPTIONS, THROUGHOUT THE 2.4KM WALK.
- 5 REVEGETATION ZONE. REMOVAL OF WEED SPECIES AND PLANTING OF NATIVE SPECIES.
- 6 PROPOSED FENCING TO PROTECT SENSITIVE SHORELINE. FENCING TO BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM HEIGHT AND NOT DISTRACT FROM THE SURROUNDINGS.
- EXISTING PUBLIC BOAT RAMP
- 8 POTENTIAL FOR INTERPRETIVE ARTWORK AND PLAY STRUCTURE.







## MERIMBULA BOARDWALK WADING JETTY

EXISTING JETTY IS A POPULAR SPOT AND PROVIDES EXCELLENT VIEWS OF THE SUNSET. CURRENTLY ACCESS TO WATER IS VIA CONCRETE STEPS. THE CONCEPT PROPOSES THAT THIS JETTY LOCATION IS ENHANCED TO PROVIDE IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE WATER FOR WADING VIA A RAMP (NON SLIP 1:14), AND MORE SEATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SITTING AND WATCHING THE SUNSET.

- BOARDWALK WIDENED FROM 1.5M TO 2.0M.
- 2 BOARDWALK FINISHES FLUSH WITH EXPOSED AGGREGATE CONCRETE PATH.
- REFLECTIVE REST SPOT PROVIDES VIEWS OF OYSTER FARMS, MANGROVES AND SUNSETS.
- 4 ACCESSIBLE WHEELCHAIR RAMP TO WATER.
- 5 NON-SLIP MESH LANDING FIBRE REINFORCED PLASTIC (FRP)
- 6 BOARDWALK CONTINUES ALONG CURRENT ALIGNMENT.















## **MERIMBULA BOARDWALK SWIMMING JETTY**

THE EXISTING JETTY IS IN AN EXCELLENT LO-CATION AND IS PERFECT FOR SWIMMING AND FISHING, HOWEVER IT'S GETTING RICKETY AND RUN DOWN. THE CONCEPT PROPOSES TO ENHANCE THIS JETTY TO PROVIDE A WIDER, MORE ACCESSIBLE APPROACH AND LARGER PLATFORM FOR SWIMMING AND FISHING. THE LADDER FOR ENTRY/EXIT IS PROPSOED TO BE RETAINED FOR THOSE WANTING TO SWIM.

- BOARDWALK CONTINUES EAST AND WEST AT 2.0 WIDE.
- PROPOSED BALUSTRADE TO JETTY.
- 3 SUBMERGED BOAT RAILS REMAIN EXPOSED FOR VIEWS FROM JETTY
- 4 ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLE.
- 5 TIMBER SEATING LOOKS OUT TO THE LAKE.
- 6 LADDER PROVIDES ACCESS TO AND FROM WATER.
- LIFEBUOY RING
- 8 POTENTIAL FOR FISH CLEANING STATION





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## MERIMBULA BOARDWALK EAST ENTRY

THE ENTRY FROM MARKET STREET GIVES VERY LITTLE INDICATION WHERE VISITORS MAY FIND THE BOARDWALK, FOR HOW LONG THEY WILL BE WALKING AND WHERE THE PUBLIC AMMENITIES ARE. THE CONCEPT PROPOSES TO IMPROVE THIS ENTRY BY SEPARATING VEHICLES FROM PEDESTRIAN AREAS AND ENHANCING THE ENTRY POINT.

- 1 PROPOSED ENTRY NODE WITH PEDESTRIAN ISLAND PROMOTING SAFE CONNECTION ACROSS MARKET STREET TO MERIMBULA TOWN CENTRE.
- EXPOSED AGGREGATE CONCRETE FOOTPATH AT ACCESSIBLE GRADE DOWN EMBANKMENT TO ALLOW SMOOTH TRANSITION TO BOARDWALK.
- 3 STAIRS PROVIDING DIRECT ACCESS TO BOARDWALK FOR NORTHBOUND WALKERS AND RUNNERS CROSSING THE BRIDGE. WAYFINDING SIGNAGE AT ENTRY.
- 4 EXPOSED AGGREGATE CONCRETE FOOTPATH WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR CULTURAL INTERPRETATION.
- PARKING FORMALISED ALONG WEST SIDE OF ACCESS ROAD, PROVIDING MORE EFFICIENT USE OF OPEN SPACE, ADDITIONAL 10+ PARKING BAYS AND IMPROVING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.
- 6 RETRACTABLE BOLLARDS INDICATE FISHERIES DEPOT ACCESS ROAD ENTRY WHILST STILL ALLOWING ACCESS FOR RECREATIONAL CRAFT SUCH AS KAYAKS.
- DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES DEPOT.
- 8 NEW DECK OFFERS VIEWS ALONG BOARDWALK, INVITES VISITORS TO SEE BEYOND THE DEPOT BUILDING AND MARKS START OF THE WALK.
- SEATING WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR CULTURAL INTERPRETATION INLAID.
- BOATRAMP RETAINED.
- POTENTIAL FOR FISH CLEANING STATION.

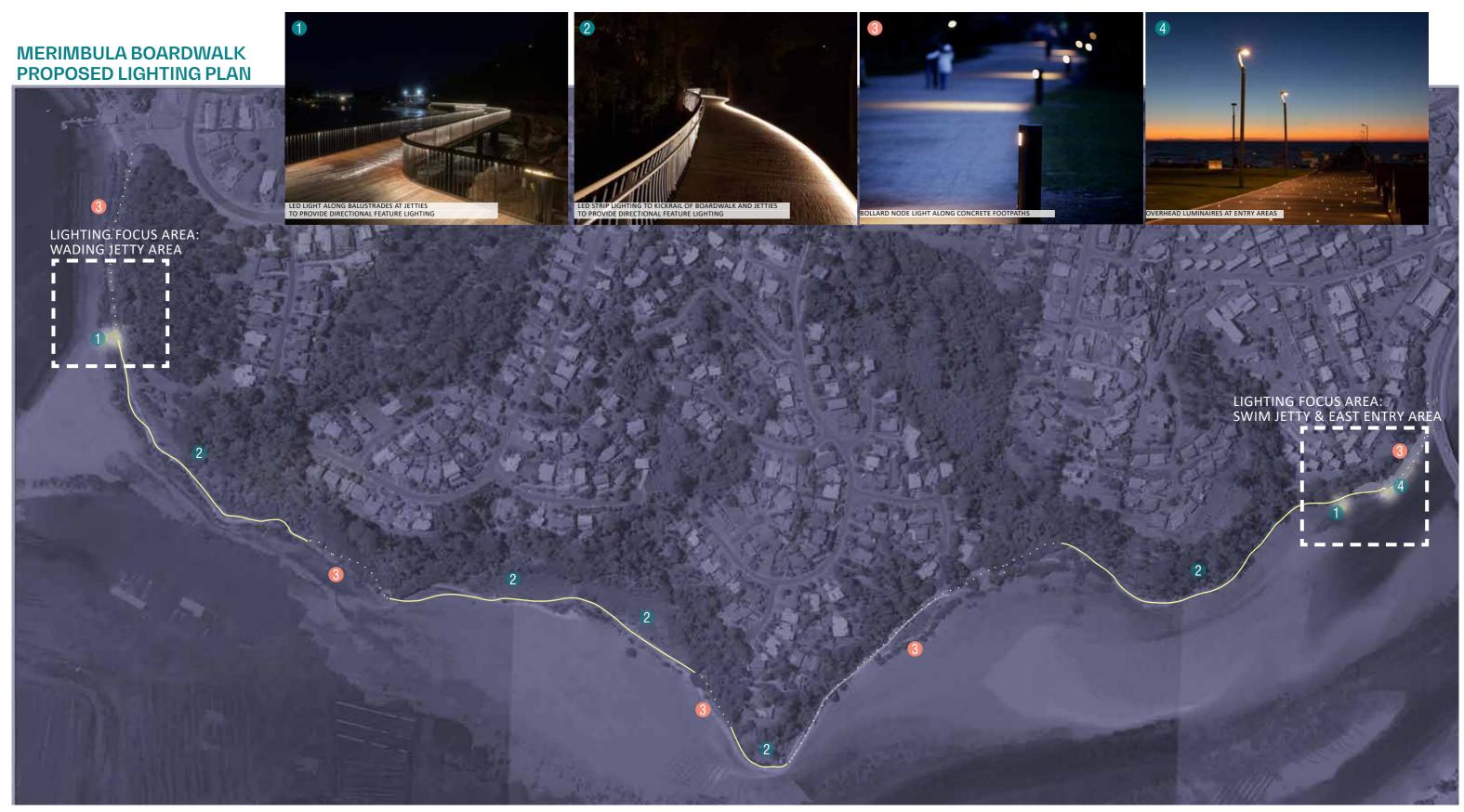














BOLLARD NODE LIGHTING ALONG CONCRETE PATHS

200M (N)



## **MERIMBULA BOARDWALK EAST ENTRY LIGHTING PLAN**

- A ENTRY NODE LIGHTING
  Bollard luminaires light the concrete footpath.
- B JETTY LIGHTING Highly visible and safe. Pedestrian luminaires cast an even wash of light over the jetty, meaning fewer shadow pockets. Glare shielded 4m high poles.
- BOARDWALK LINK LED strip light along boardwalk kick rail to provide directional feature lighting.
- LED STRIP LIGHTING ALONG BOARDWALK KICK RAIL
- ENTRY NODE
- OVERHEAD LUMINAIRES

