

CJ ARMS

# BERRBANG BIK TRAIL (1000 STEPS)

LANDSCAPE CONCEPT REPORT  
NOVEMBER 2022



ISSUE SHEET

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With deep gratitude we acknowledge the  
Traditional Custodians, the Wurundjeri People of  
the unceded lands on which we live and work.

We recognise and respect the deep connection of  
First Nations people to Country and we celebrate  
the profound knowledge systems that are  
embedded in Caring for Country.





1.0

# INTRODUCTION

‘Starting in the heart of the Kinglake township at Kinglake Village, the trail has the potential to become a key attractor for regional tourism – complementing the local economy and embracing identified opportunities for new experiences that enhance the local fabric.’

- Berrbang Biik Trail (1000 Steps) Project Vision

Berrbang Biik Trail (1000 Steps) is a proposed 1.7km walking loop that will become a key tourist attraction by filling a gap for shorter, yet challenging walks close to the Kinglake township. The proposed route is highly varied and will cater for a range of interests and abilities.

The trail has been founded as a memorial to the Black Saturday bushfires in recognition of the Kinglake community and its fire fighting volunteers. It will take approximately 1.2 hours to walk.

The trail head will be the new Kinglake Village and from there will traverse farmland, through rich rainforest to the waterfalls and, for the lucky ones, a glimpse of the Superb Lyrebird. Before looping back to the village, the trail will take you to ‘The Balcony’ lookout point, which overlooks Fairy Falls waterfall and has views of the Melbourne skyline.

Trail design caters for a range of interests and abilities. It is gently graded as easily accessible for the first 760m to the forest edge (grades 1 & 2.1). More challenging sections of grade 3 (approximately 280 m) and 4 (around 720 m) take the walker through the forest and to the lookout.

Key features and highlights include:

- An avenue of trees to commemorate the community of volunteers who fought the Black Saturday bushfires.
- ‘The Balcony’ lookout point, which overlooks Fairy Falls with views of the Melbourne skyline.
- Art and cultural elements and information and signage.
- The quarry, smaller falls, and rainforest.
- Opportunities to slow down and listen for the unique calls of the Superb Lyrebird.
- Nodes for picnic, incidental play, and storytelling.



2.0

# SITE CONTEXT

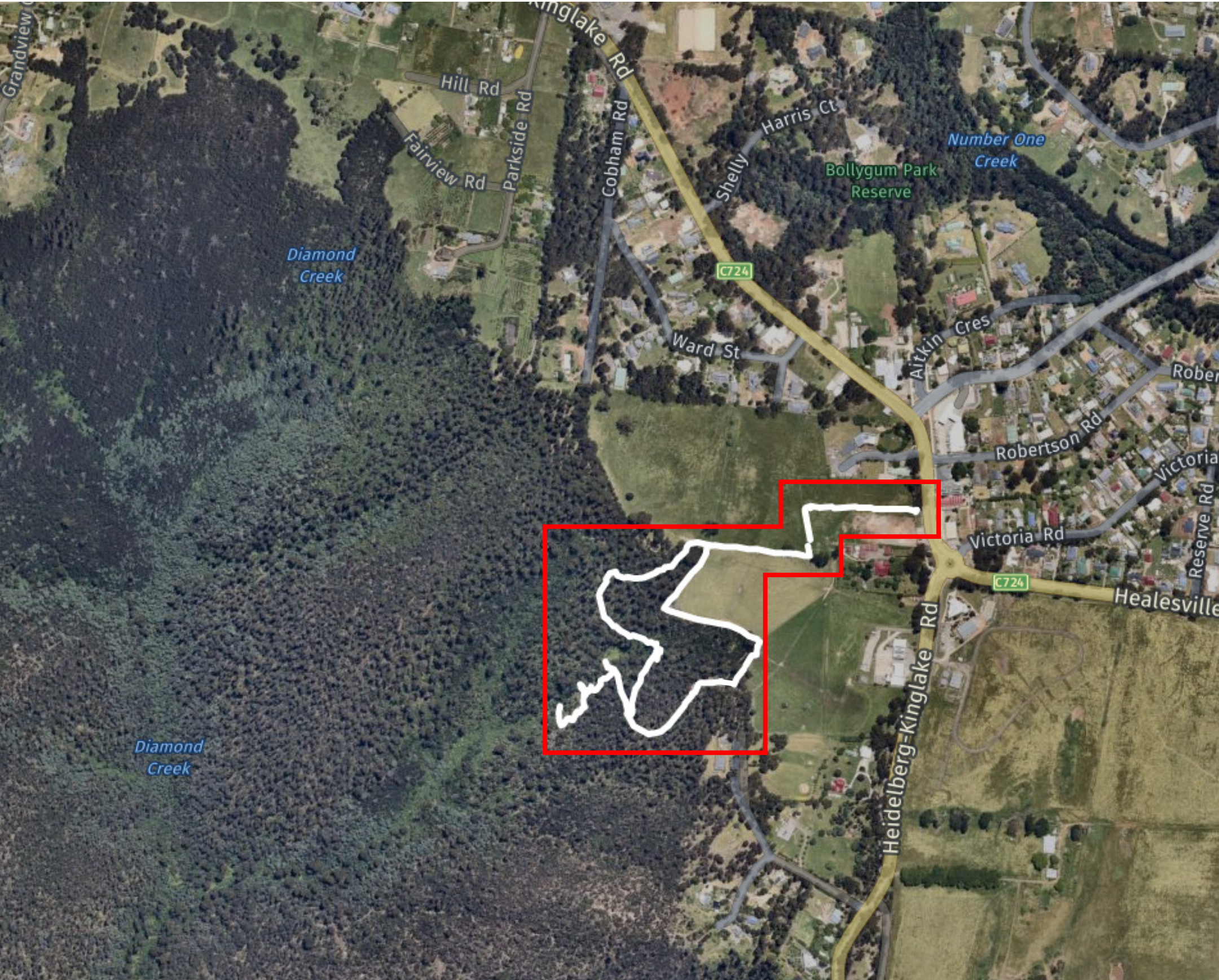
The Berrbang Biik Trail (1000 Steps) starts at the heart of the Kinglake Township and is located on a private rural property on the edge of the Kinglake Ranges.

The Kinglake community and the associated forest was significantly decimated by the Black Saturday bushfires. Since 2009 both the community and the forest have been regenerating and regrowing.

The forest vegetation type can be classified as ‘shrubby foothill’ and ‘damp forest’. It has a dominant canopy of *Eucalyptus ovata*, *Eucalyptus obliqua*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*.

The Kinglake Ranges provides valuable habitat for many native birds, mammals, and reptiles, including the Superb Lyrebird. Kinglake is an integral part of the southwestern extremity of the Superb Lyrebird range and there have been numerous recent sightings of this magnificent bird. Along the trail, the old quarry will be a great spot to slow down and listen for their unique calls.

This project provides the opportunity to reconnect the community directly to the forest and the falls through the proposed Kinglake Village in the centre of Kinglake West.



Proposed Berrbang Biik Trail (1000 Steps)





### 3.0 DESIGN CONCEPT

IMAGE: ACACIA MELANOXYLON, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BLACKWOOD, IN FLOWER

### 3.0 CORE DESIGN PRINCIPLES



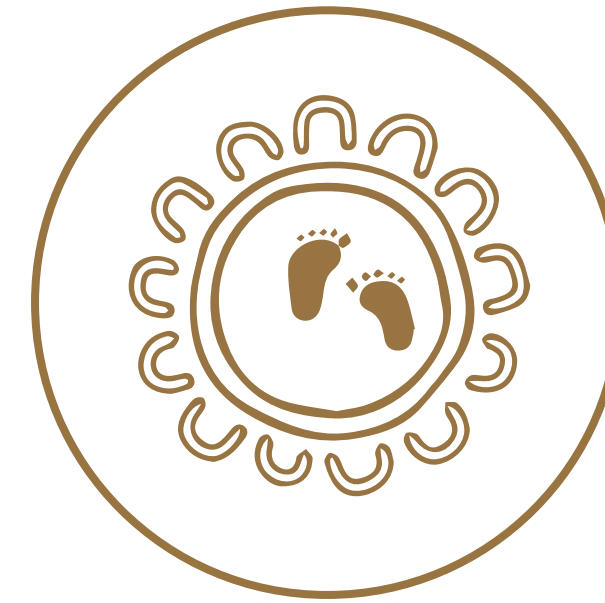
*Water*



*Ecology*



*Community*



*Connection to Country*



3.0

# CORE DESIGN PRINCIPLES

‘A trail that welcomes locals and visitors to discover a new part of the Kinglake Ranges, creating new experiences that respectfully honour and share past experiences.’

– Berrbang Biik Trail (1000 Steps) Project Vision.

## 3.1 WATER

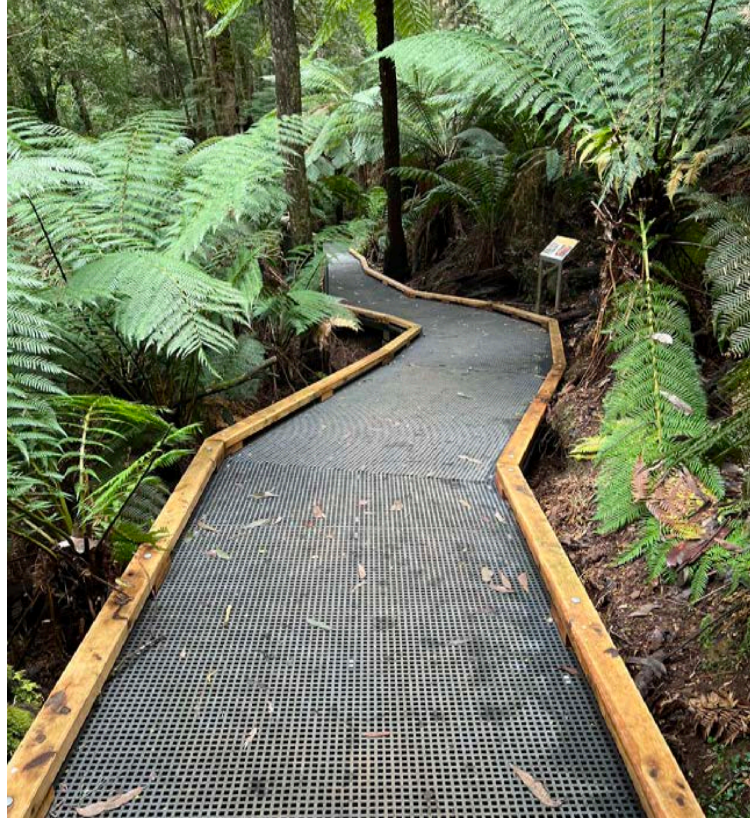
Ground water, spring water and stream water are all key elements that sustain the local environment in the greater Kinglake ranges.

There are numerous perennial streamlines crossing the farmland and into the forest whose confluence sustains the currently little known but beautiful Fairy Falls.

Visitors to the walking trail will cross these streamlines numerous times and will be experience the different ecologies that are created in dry, damp and wet environmental conditions.

The change that comes with seasonal rainfall will be on display and will provide returning visitors with a different experience directly related to the recent climate.

Fairy falls itself is a refreshing destination for all who are able to access it and is a key hero of the Berrbang Biik Trail (1000 Steps).



## 3.2 ECOLOGY

The ecological regeneration that has occurred since the 2009 bushfires has resulted in a unique opportunity for visitors to explore a redeveloping Eucalyptus forest.

Scattered among the regrowth are significant trees that survived the fire including several eucalyptus species: *Eucalyptus ovata*, *Eucalyptus obliqua*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*. It will be essential to minimise the impact that the construction of the trail, and subsequent visitors will have on these older surviving trees.

The Kinglake Ranges provides valuable habitat for many native birds, mammals, and reptiles. Along the trail you might encounter the unique call of the Superb Lyrebird, burrows of a sleeping wombat or marks of a shy echidna foraging for food.

The trail will create opportunities for people to connect, learn and celebrate the local flora and fauna of the Kinglake Ranges.

## 3.3 COMMUNITY

Community is at the heart of the trail. This project provides the opportunity to reconnect the community directly to the forest and Fairy Falls.

The story of Kinglake is an integral part of the design and will be conveyed through a wayfinding and educational strategy dotted along the walking track with information about:

- The significance of Kinglake Ranges for the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri People, and their on-going care for Country.
- The local flora and fauna that call Kinglake Ranges home, including the Superb Lyrebird.
- Historical information about the history of mining in Kinglake, in particular reference to the old quarry that is a part of the trail.
- The ‘Memorial Avenue’, a section of the trail dedicated to the commemoration of the Black Saturday fire, in particular the community volunteers that fought the fire and supported recovery.
- Regeneration and recovery of the Kinglake Ranges Forest after the Black Saturday fire is a key part of this story.

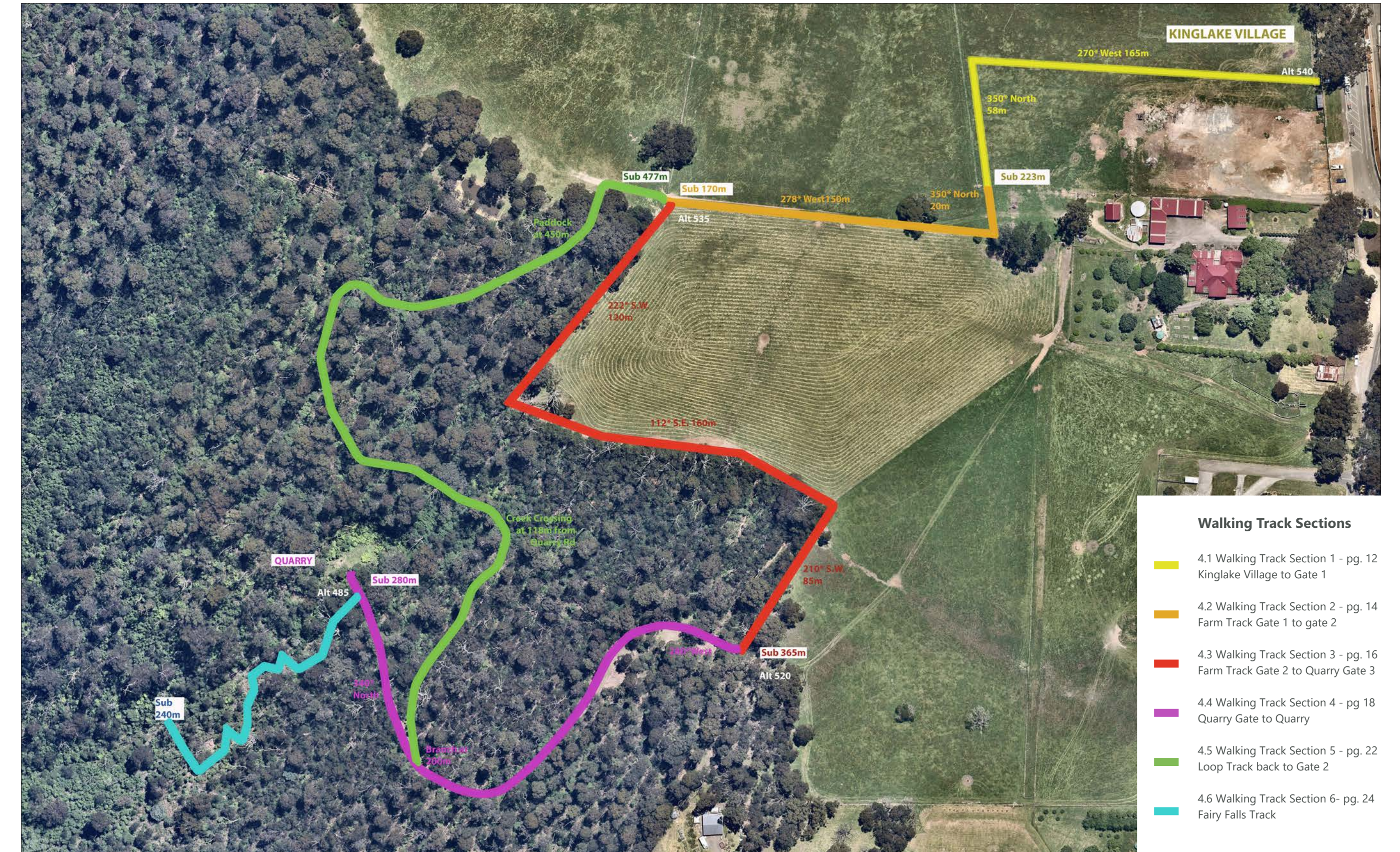




## 4.0 WALKING TRAIL

IMAGE: LYREBIRD SIGHTED ALONG THE KINGLAKE RANGES TRAIL

## 4.0 WALKING TRAIL OVERVIEW





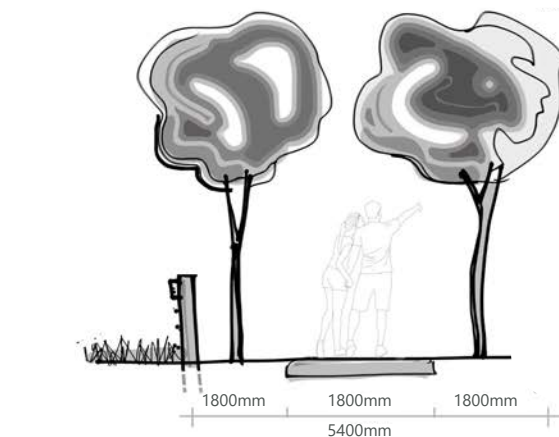
4.1 WALKING TRACK SECTION 1

KINGLAKE VILLAGE TO GATE 1

The walking track begins at the Village Square, taking visitors from the first key meeting point, through the village and to the edge of the township.

Flat and terraced seating areas and picnic facilities will be provided. A significant dead tree that is currently too close to the main road will be relocated here where it can be enjoyed by picnickers and celebrated with culturally significant art.

The view towards the forest is the first invitation of your journey into nature and signage that provides guidance on elements including wayfinding, cultural recognition and education lead you onwards.



1 Relocation of the dead tree on the corner of Whittlesea - Kinglake Rd. and Robertson Rd. Opportunity for a culturally significant art piece.



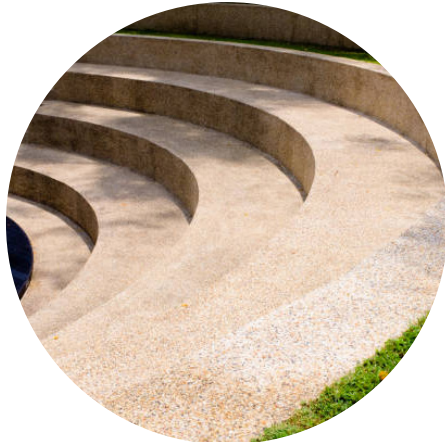
2 Node - The first node of the trail with rest spots and picnic area for trail walkers.



3 Wayfinding, cultural and educational signage marking the beginning of the walking trail.



4 Walking track compacted gravel or concrete path.



5 Terraced amphitheatre for picnic area, events, and incidental play

4.1 WALKING TRACK SECTION 1

KINGLAKE VILLAGE TO GATE 1

Track Section 1 Facts

223 lineal metres of track from Town Square to Gate 1

Concrete & paved paths at 1800mm minimum width. Avenue planting for approx. last 60m of Golden Wattle & Blackwood Wattle either side of path.

Australian Walking Track Grading System – Grade 1 - No bush walking experience required. Flat even surfaces with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for unassisted wheelchair users. Trail Rider Grade – Beginner Operators x2–

Infrastructure

Concrete or compacted gravel path.

Post and rail fencing along east side of the walking track.

Gate one - Village access to walking track section 2.

Accessible ramped access to the start of the walking trail.

Wayfinding & Signage

Wayfinding, cultural and educational signage marking the beginning of the walking trail.

Ecology & Culture

Node: Potential breakout space for rest and cultural interpretation, artistic node and incidental play.

Revegetation and screening of the Kinglake Shopping Centre water services.

Avenue planted with *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood) and *Acacia pycnantha* (golden wattle).

Relocation of the dead tree on the corner of Whittlesea - Kinglake Rd. and Robertson Rd. Opportunity for a culturally significant art piece.



Existing Conditions - dead tree on the corner of Whittlesea - Kinglake Rd. and Robertson Rd.

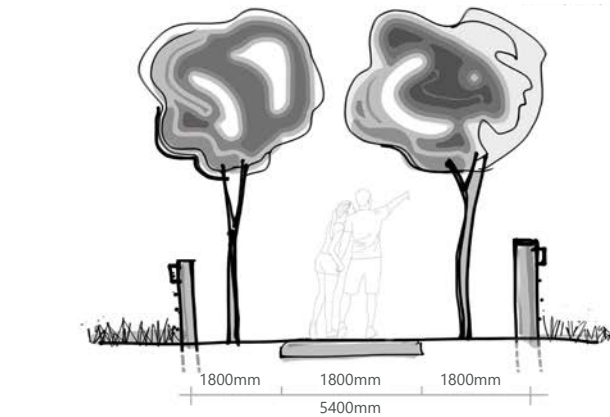


4.2 WALKING TRACK SECTION 2  
FARM TRACK GATE 1 TO GATE 2

The walking trail continues through the neighbouring farm towards the forest. This section of the trail includes a tree-lined avenue in commemoration of the Black Saturday fire, in particular the community volunteers that fought the fire and supported recovery. The avenue of trees is complete with stock fencing to separate people from the farm paddock.

Here we have our first 'stream' crossing in the middle of the paddock that will include a culvert for water and for wildlife movement such as wombats.

A three way gate to allow stock crossings to be managed is provided at the end of this section of track where visitors get their first up-close connection to the forest.



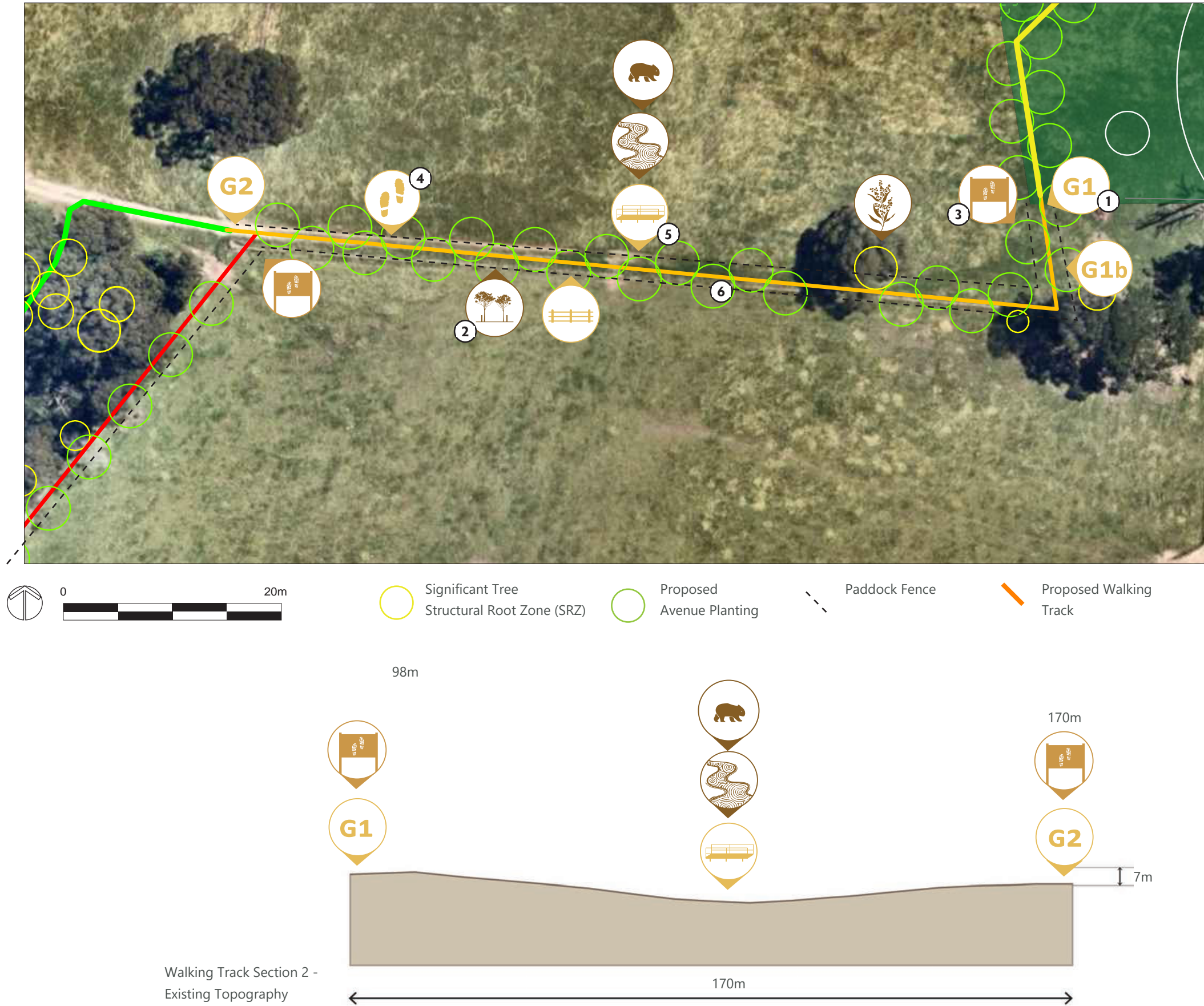
Track Section 2 Facts

170 lineal metres of farm paddock track.

Concrete path or compacted gravel at 1800mm width.  
Post & rail fencing either side of path at total 5400mm width.  
Memorial Avenue planting of Golden Wattle & Blackwood Wattle either side of path.

Australian Walking Track Grading System – Grade 2.1 - No bush walking experience required. Suitable for wheelchair users with some assistance from either a helper or an electric wheelchair. Stairs will be accompanied by a ramp which may or may not be DDA compliant.

Trail Rider Grade – Beginner Operators -



4.2 WALKING TRACK SECTION 2  
FARM TRACK GATE 1 TO GATE 2

Infrastructure

Culvert drains centred at 85m mark along track section 2 for drainage and wombat access. Pedestrian bridging is required.

Post and rail fencing along either side of the walking track and farm paddock.

Gate one - Village access to walking track section 2

x2 gates at 10m along track section 2 - locked cross gates for farmer access to paddocks only.

Three way gate system for pedestrian access to the track and farmer access to paddocks at 170m mark of section 2

Concrete or compacted gravel path.

Wayfinding & Signage

Wayfinding and educational signage

Ecology & Culture

Existing *Acacia melanoxylon* Blackwood

Avenue planted with *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood) and *Acacia pycnantha* (golden wattle).

Drainage channel requiring culvert and/or bridging at 98m mark of section 2.

Wombat holes



3 Wayfinding signage



4 Walking track compacted gravel or concrete path



5 Culvert to include wombat access



6 Post and rail fencing



Existing conditions





4.3 WALKING TRACK SECTION 3  
FARM TRACK GATE 2 TO QUARRY GATE 3

The walk in section 3 continues through the farm paddock, skirting the far eastern edge of the Forest - the stark difference between farmland, urban township and the forest edge is an experience on its own.

Sections of old and surviving tall trees tower overhead with many young thin Eucalypts interspersed between, providing a unique view of the recovering forest.

Here you might hear the first call of the Lyrebird or see evidence of wombat holes. This section ends with an undeniable invitation into the forest at the start of the old quarry road.

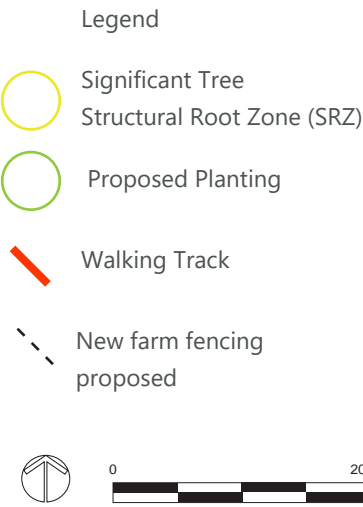
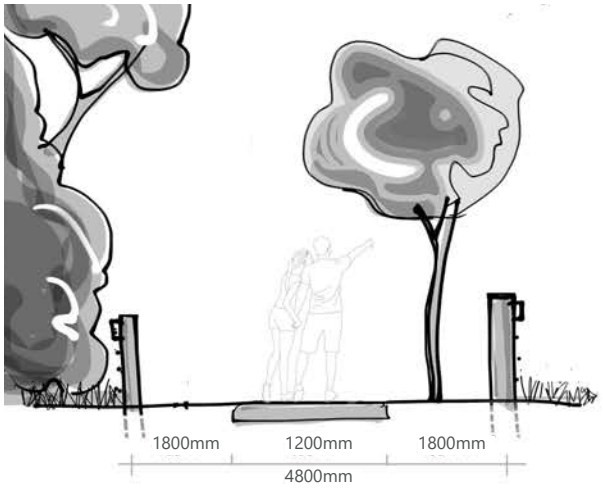
Track Section 3 Facts

365 lineal metres of farm paddock track.  
  
Compacted gravel or concrete path at 1200mm width.  
Post & wire fencing either side of path at total 4800mm width.

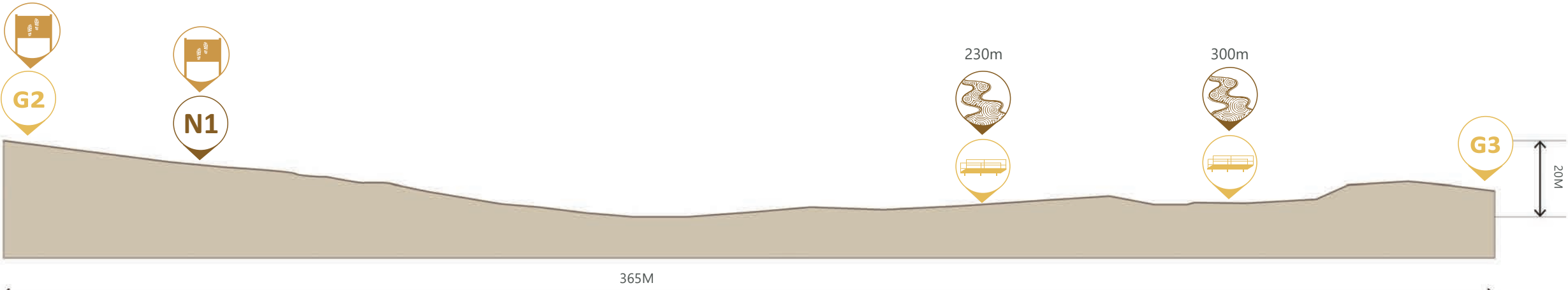
Avenue planting of native specimen trees along outer side of path.

Australian Walking Track Grading System – Grade 2.1 - No bush walking experience required. Suitable for wheelchair users with some assistance from either a helper or an electric wheelchair. Stairs will be accompanied by a ramp which may or may not be DDA compliant.

Trail Rider Grade – Intermediate Operators -



Walking Track Section 3 - Existing Topography



4.3 WALKING TRACK SECTION 3  
FARM TRACK GATE 2 TO QUARRY GATE 3

Infrastructure

FRP composite boardwalk over drainage channel at 230m and 300m marks of track 3. Width 1200mm. Length TBD after further investigation on site.

Proposed new standard post and wire farm fencing x 365 lineal meters of track 3.

Three way gate system for pedestrian access to the track and farmer access to paddocks.

Gate at the end of track 3 (365m mark) and beginning of track 4

Concrete or compacted gravel path and steps.

Wayfinding & Signage

Wayfinding and educational signage

Ecology & Culture

Revegetation of specimen trees within the proposed new fence along track 3.

Node 1: Potential breakout space for rest and cultural interpretation, artistic node and incidental play.

Drainage channel and spring



1 Gate



2 FRP composite walkway



3 Gravel path



4 Opportunity for sculptural element



Existing conditions at gate 2



Existing conditions along track section 3

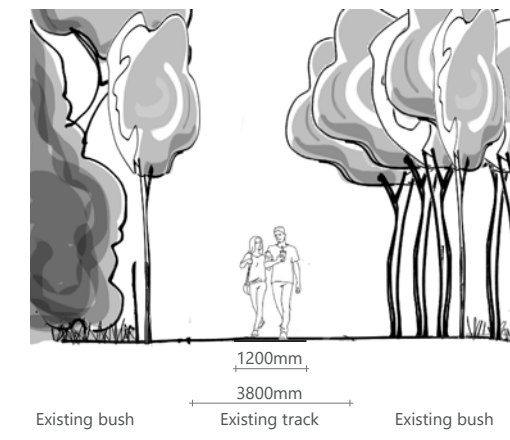


4.4 WALKING TRACK SECTION 4  
QUARRY GATE TO QUARRY

In section 4 of the trail, visitors enter the forest on the old quarry track and immerse themselves in the beauty of the Kinglake Ranges. Here it is sheltered and cool and the forest experience begins.

The old quarry road is a reasonably gentle descent towards the old quarry. There is a breakout space suitable for picnicking and nature play. Various signage elements will be continued through here.

The track will change as the descent continues, crossing the Fairy Falls stream into the quarry, which is a special destination on the trail.



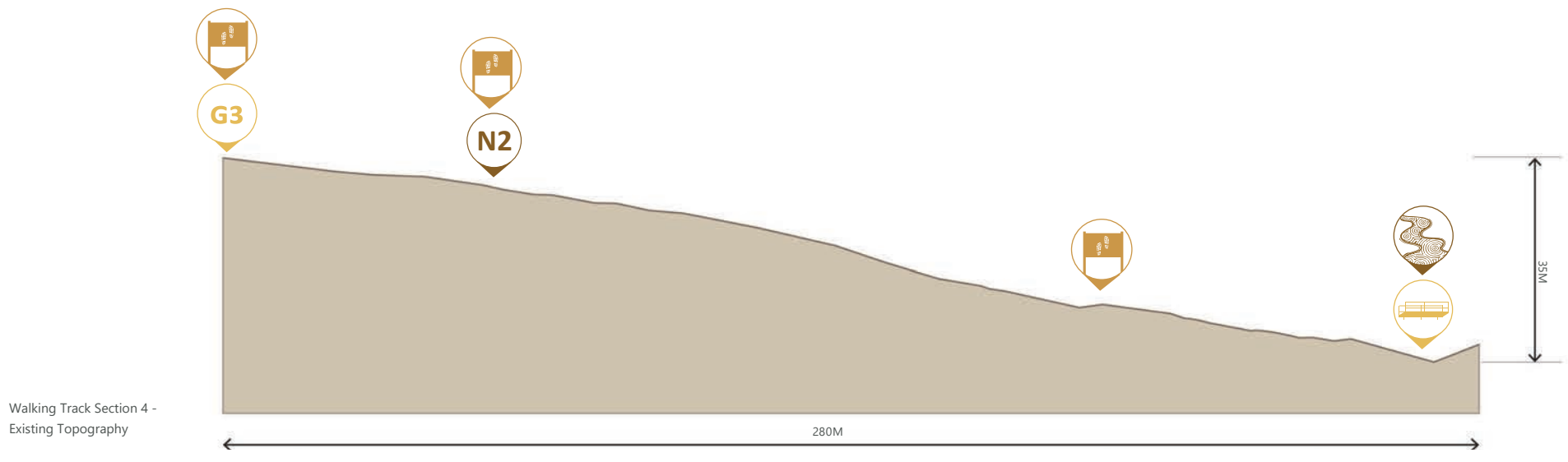
Track Section 4 Facts

280 lineal metres from quarry gate to quarry.

Existing rock road base at 3800mm width. Central compacted gravel or concrete path at 1200mm width may be required. Complimentary EVC indigenous planting could be added.

Australian Walking Track Grading System – Grade 3 – Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bush walking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep sections, a rough surface and steps.

Trail Rider Grade – Intermediate +3-4 Operators Suitable for people with experience on uneven surfaces. Operators may encounter short steep sections. A high level of fitness required.



4.4 WALKING TRACK SECTION 4  
QUARRY GATE TO QUARRY

**Infrastructure**

**G1**

Gate one - Village access to walking track section 2

Concrete or compacted gravel path and steps.

FRP composite boardwalk over drainage channel at entry to quarry (265m-280m approximately). Width 1200mm. Length TBD after further investigation on site.

**Wayfindng & Signage**

Wayfinding and educational signage

**Ecology & Culture**

**N2**

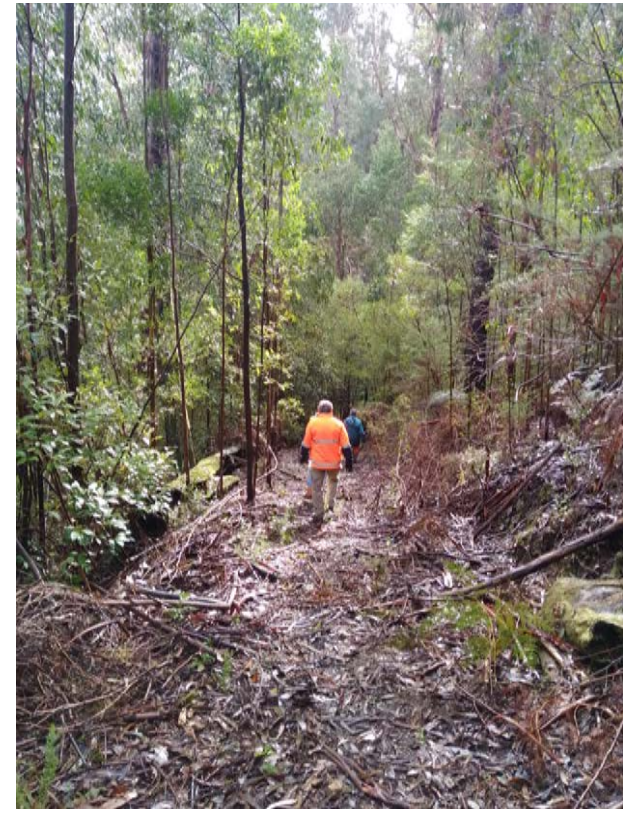
Node 2 : Picnic, nature play and educational signage at clearing in track section 4.

**N3**

Node 3: Quarry to have raised FRP platform. This is the site of the smaller falls.

The fairy falls stream

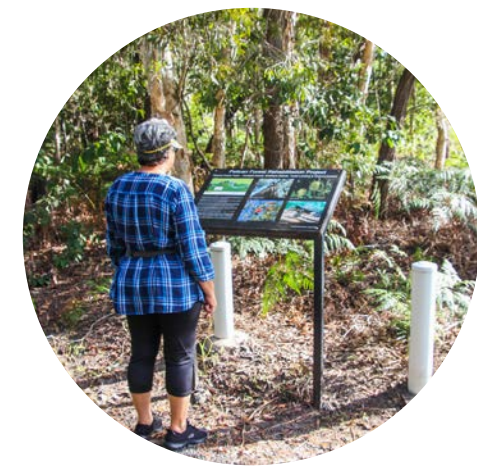
Lyre bird sighting



Existing conditions of Track Section 4 - quarry road



Existing conditions of Track Section 4 - Node 2 clearing



① Wayfinding signage placed at start of different track sections



② Node 2: Nature play opportunities in track clearing



③ Node 2: Picnic area opportunity in track clearing



④ Existing gravel track to be restored and maintained



4.4 WALKING TRACK SECTION 4 CONTINUED

NODE 3 : THE QUARRY



Section 4 of the trail culminates at the quarry. Large tree ferns and impressive rock walls enclose the space and make it a special destination to stop and take in the surroundings.

The burbling of the waterfall and meandering watercourse sustain the lush vegetation in the quarry. Surrounded by the sound of water, the sheer rock cliff and cascading tree ferns you feel truly immersed in the Kinglake Ranges damp forest environment.

The quarry will have a raised FRP composite boardwalk which will make it accessible to walkers and reduce the impact of foot traffic on the ground.

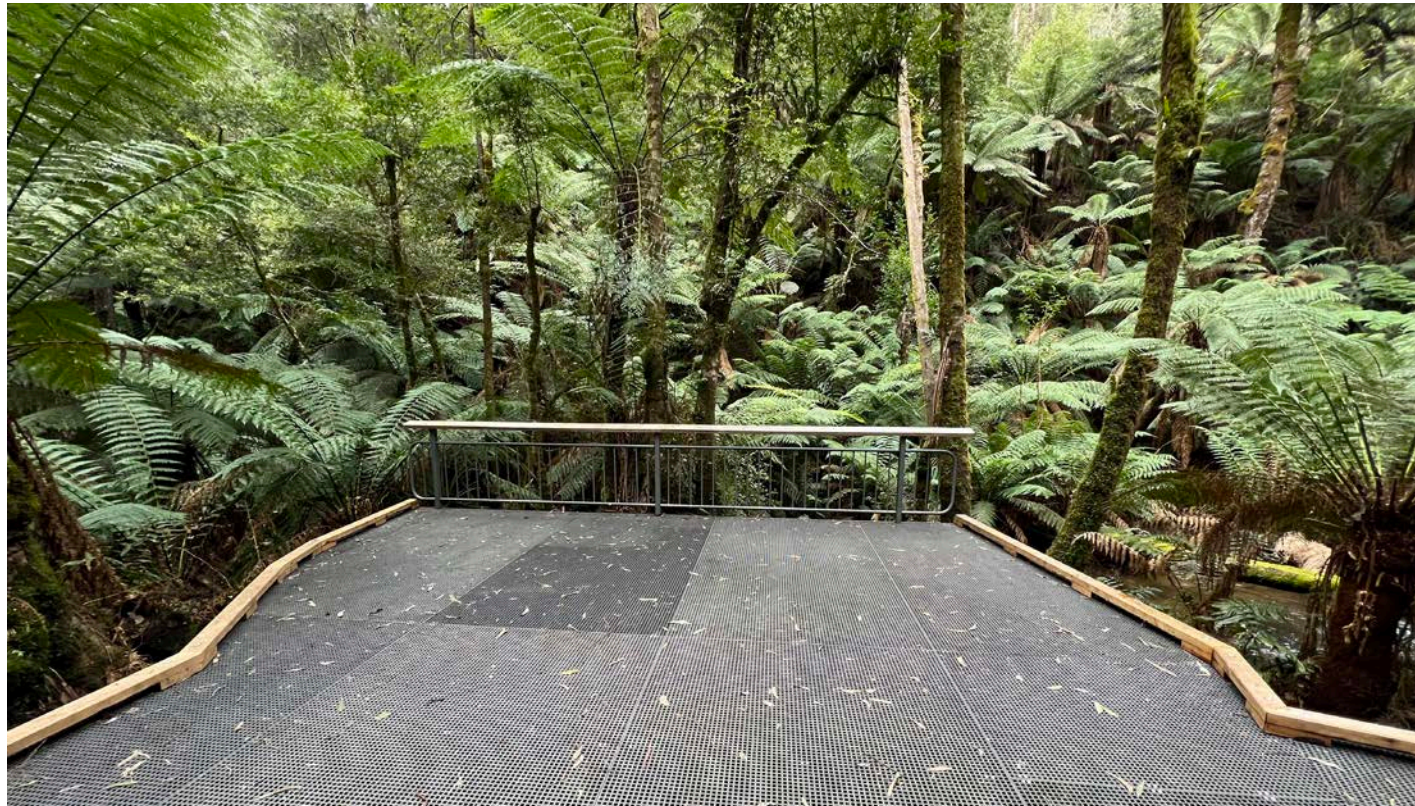
This is a place to dwell, close your eyes and take in the sounds and smells of the forest. This is also a great opportunity to spot a lyrebird if you are lucky.



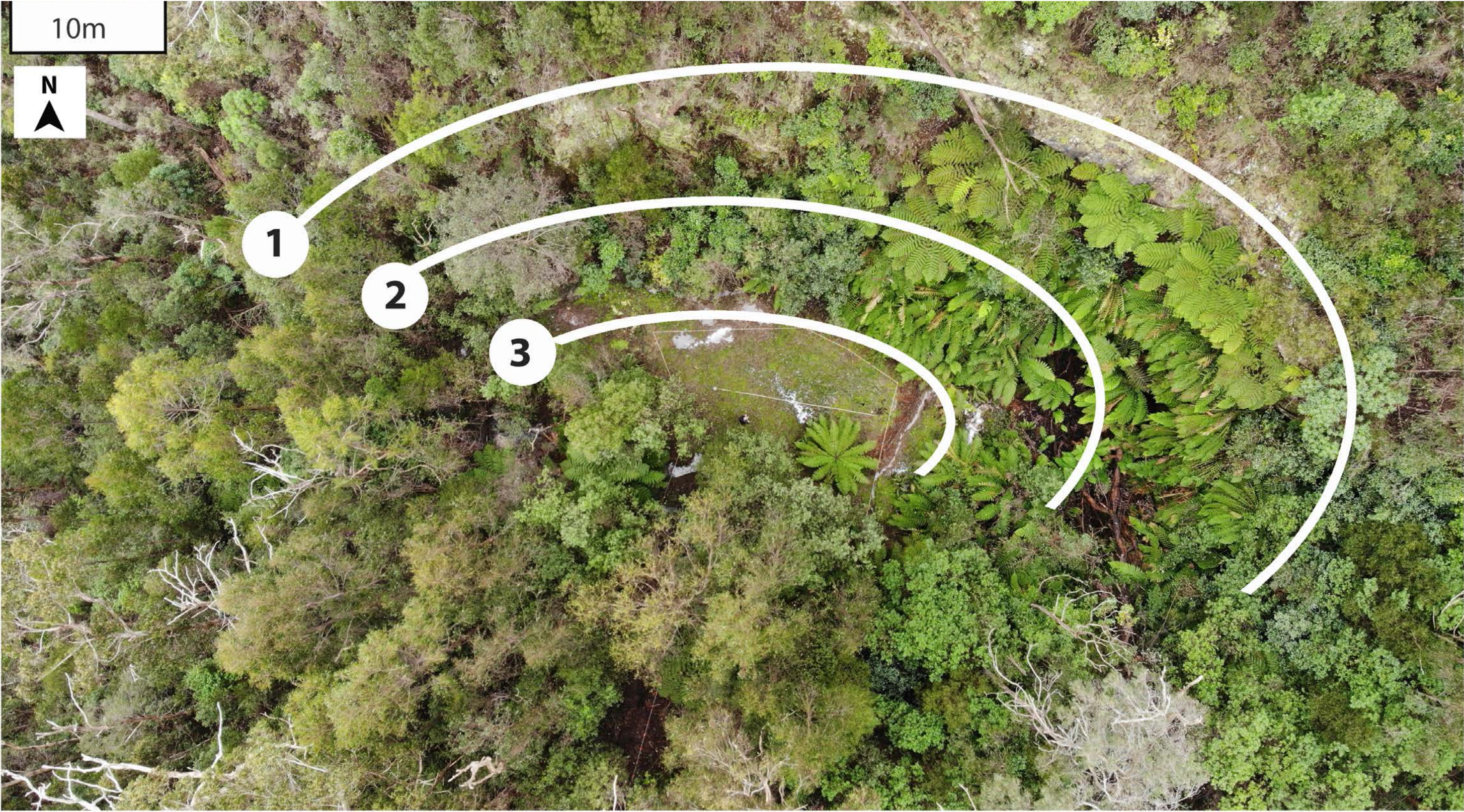
① Smaller waterfall in the quarry



② Existing quarry condition.



③ Proposed FRP composite boardwalk over quarry.



QUARRY AREA Approximations of - 1. Top of quarry face (above 5m high) 2. Toe of quarry face 3. Set-back of 8m from toe of quarry face



4.5 WALKING TRACK SECTION 5  
LOOP TRACK BACK TO GATE 2

This is the fork in the road and the suggested advanced return journey from the steep lookout walk.

Here the trail becomes more adventurous with steeper sections and a stream crossings that is a great photo opportunity.

Glimpses through the vegetation reveal the skyline to the west - an opportunity to see the skyline for those who don't tackle the more advanced final section of the walking track.

The end of this track takes you back to section 2 and the return walk across the paddock and back to the village.

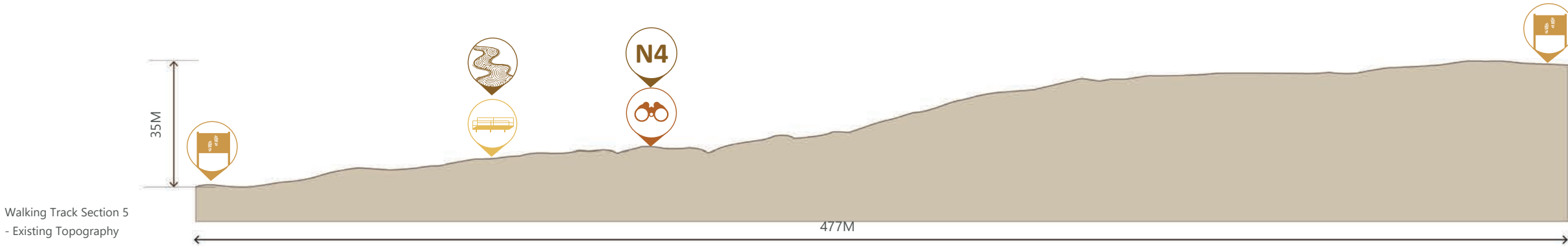
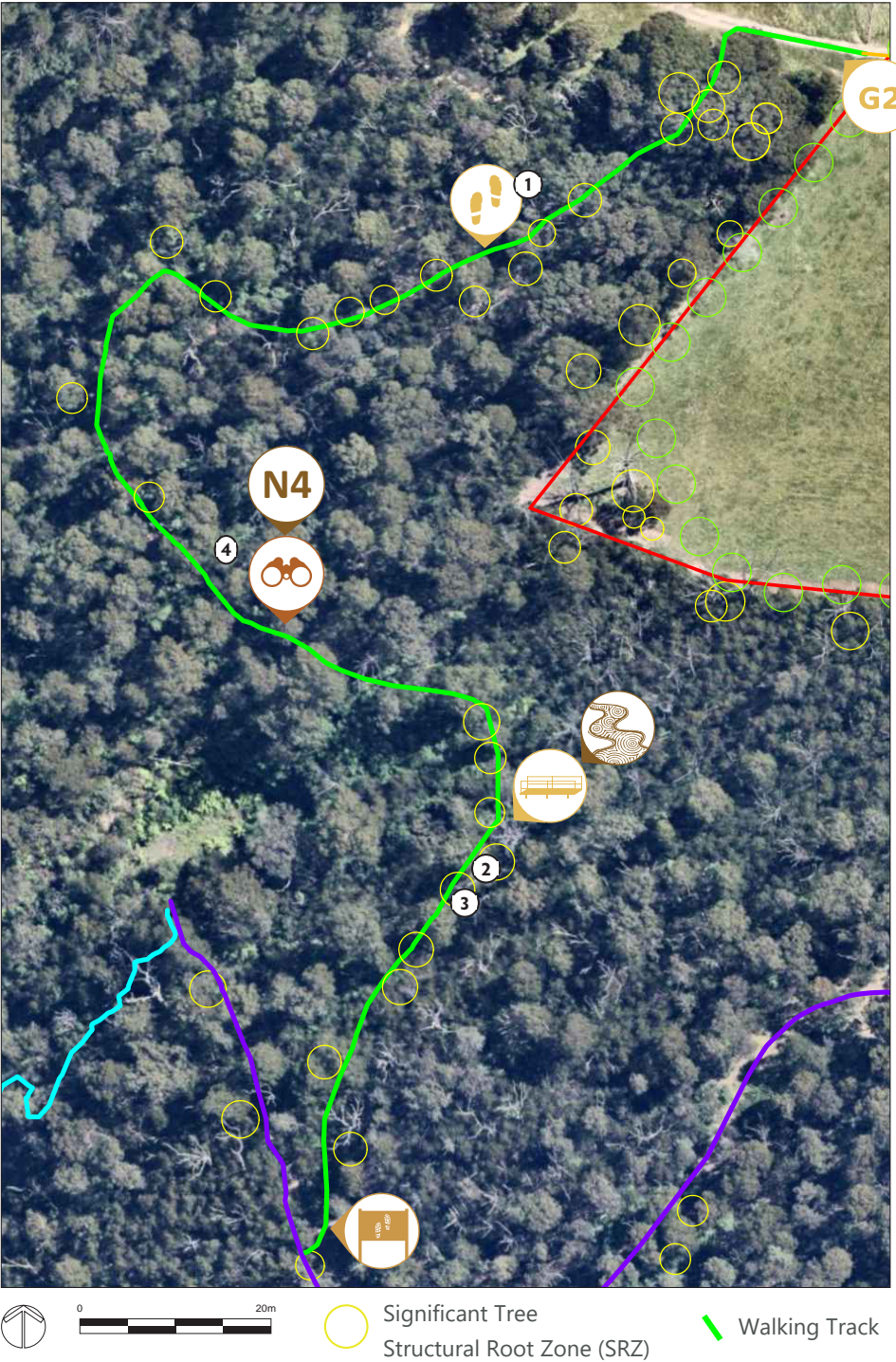
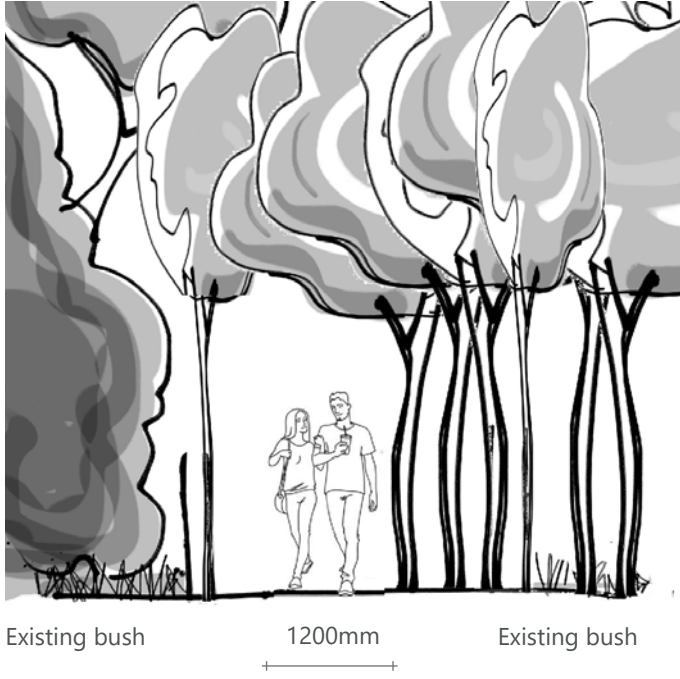
Track Section 5 Facts

Approximately 477 lineal metres of loop track back to gate 2.

Concrete &/or compacted gravel 1200mm width path.  
Boardwalk sections may be required - length to be determined on site. Complimentary EVC indigenous planting could also be added.

Australian Walking Track Grading System – Grade 3 – Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bush walking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep sections, a rough surface and steps.

Trail Rider Grade – ADVANCED +3-4 Operators  
Suitable for people with experience on uneven surfaces. Operators may encounter short steep hills, narrow sections, staircases and sharp bends. A high level of fitness required.



4.5 WALKING TRACK SECTION 5  
LOOP TRACK BACK TO GATE 2

- Infrastructure**
- Three way gate system for pedestrian access to the track and farmer access to paddocks.
- G2**
- Concrete or compacted gravel path and steps.
- FRP composite boardwalk and bridging over stream crossing at 118m to 128m (from quarry road) approximately.  
Boardwalk may be required elsewhere, where the track may impact Structural Root Zones (SRZ) of significant trees.
- Wayfinding & Signage**
- Wayfinding signage for Track Section 5.

- Ecology & Culture**
- Node 4 : Potential rest spot and lookout at 225m mark along track 5.
- N4**
- The fairy falls stream



Existing conditions of Track Section 5 - Potential lookout point



Existing conditions of Track Section 5 - Stream crossing



1 Concrete or compacted gravel path



2 Concrete or compacted gravel path



3 FRP composite boardwalk over water channels or SRZ areas.



4 Overhead canopy



4.6 WALKING TRACK SECTION 6

FAIRY FALLS TRACK

Section 6 takes you through dense forest with its mosses and lichen and rich rainforest ecology. It is for more advanced walkers who are comfortable in steeper and more slippery conditions.

This is the journey to the big reveal - 'The Balcony'. Along the way walkers will get numerous glimpses through the vegetation towards the city skyline with two proposed significant lookout platforms.

From here you can see the city, the waterfalls and the bubbling stream that has cut its way through the forested landscape.

Track Section 6 Technical Information

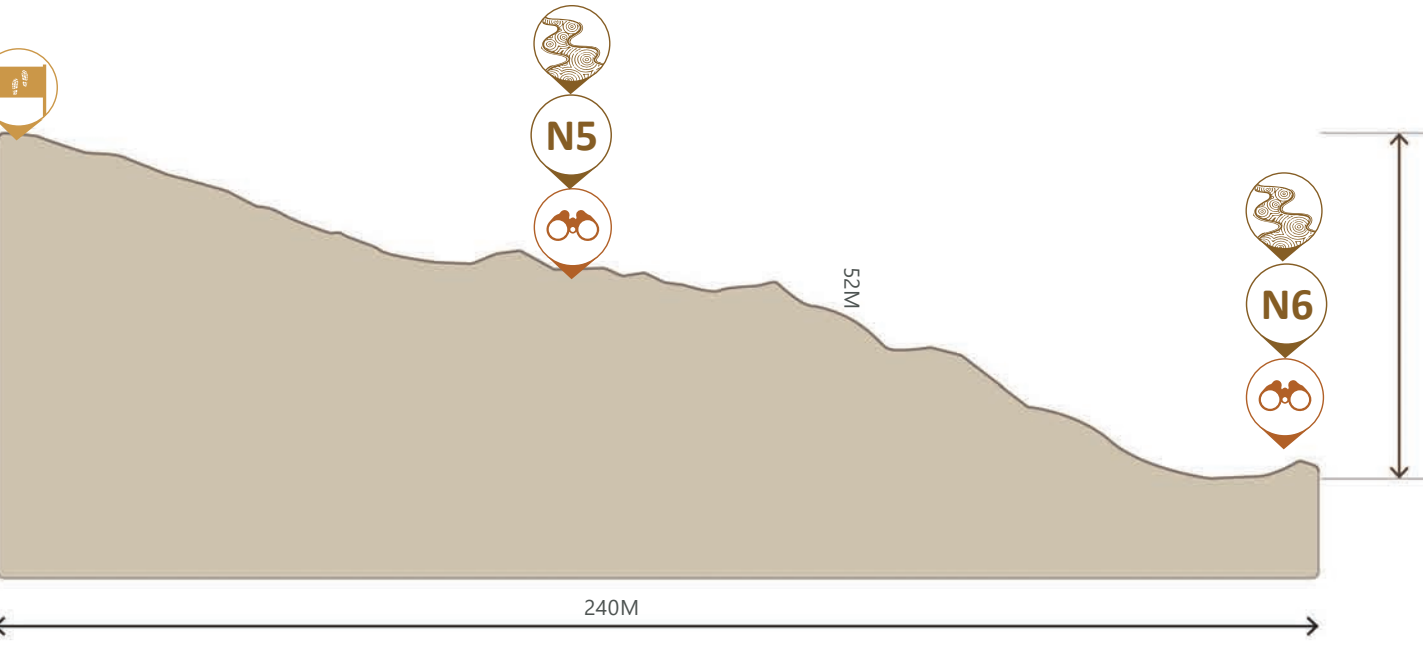
240 lineal metres of rough bush track.

Grade cut stepped track with some compacted gravel sections at 900mm wide. Narrow passing bays at frequent sharp bends required. Handrail of chain &/or wire cable also required for safety. Boardwalk & platform sections at a lower & upper lookout points.

The final viewing platforms dimensions are subject to input from detailed survey, structural and geotechnical engineering, access constraints, logistics and ensuring we minimise the environmental impact of the surrounding areas. As per the trail path construction, no significant trees shall be impacted in the construction of the viewing platforms.

Australian Walking Track Grading System – Grade 4 – Bush walking experience recommended. Track may be long, rough & very steep.

Trail Rider Grade – This section of track is not suitable for Trail Rider.



4.6 WALKING TRACK SECTION 6

FAIRY FALLS TRACK



**Infrastructure**  
Concrete or compacted gravel path and steps.



**Wayfinding & Signage**  
Wayfinding at the start of track 6 - indicating change in track difficulty and direction of trail.

N5

N6



**Ecology & Culture**  
Node 5 : 'The Balcony' viewing platform with views of the Melbourne skyline at 101m mark along track 6.

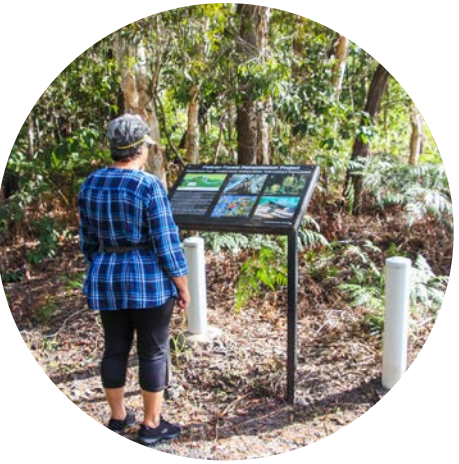
Node 6: Lower Fairy Falls platform at 240m mark along track 6.

Fairy falls waterfall

Look-out spot with views of the valley and the Melbourne skyline.



Existing conditions of Track Section 6



1 Wayfinding signage fo Track Section 6



2 Steel cable safety rails



3 Concrete or compacted gravel stairs



4 Node 6: Lookout platform with views of the Melbourne skyline



5.0  
CONCLUSION

This report has outlined our core principles for the project and has identified the overarching objectives for the landscape design of the Berrbang Biik Trail (1000 Steps).

The landscape Design Principles and key strategies we have developed have culminated in the development of 6 distinct track sections, catering for a range of interests and abilities.

Core Principles of Water, Ecology, Community and Connection to Country will underpin every decision made in the design and construction of the trail. Supporting and celebrating the regeneration of the forest ecology is key to a healthy landscape and a connected community.

The Berrbang Biik Trail (1000 Steps) is a great opportunity to create a loved community asset that celebrates the landscape in which it sits.

This is the beginning of a trail that we are all excited to embark upon.



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