



5 LANDS COASTAL WALKWAY

MASTERPLAN REPORT - PART A

Prepared for Gosford City Council
March 2012



TERRIGAL NORTH AVOCA AVOCA COPACABANA MACMASTERS BEACH

Adopted 7 February 2012

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Prepared by The Design Partnership for Gosford City Council

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CONTENTS

PART A: ANALYSIS + VISION

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION
- 2.0 SCOPE OF WORK
- 3.0 HISTORY
 - 3.1 History of the Coastline
 - 3.2 History of the Walk
- 4.0 PROPOSED ROUTES
- 5.0 ANALYSIS
 - 5.1 Sensory Analysis
 - 5.2 Movement + Access Analysis
 - 5.3 Land Use Analysis
 - 5.4 Flora and Fauna Analysis
 - 5.5 Heritage Analysis
- 6.0 CHARACTER OF THE 5 LANDS
 - 6.1 Macmasters Beach
 - 6.2 Copacabana
 - 6.3 Avoca
 - 6.4 North Avoca
 - 6.5 Terrigal
- 7.0 THE PREFERRED ROUTE
- 8.0 OPPORTUNITIES, CONSTRAINTS + RECOMMENDATIONS
- 9.0 VISION FOR THE 5 LANDS COASTAL WALKWAY
- 10.0 DOCUMENT REFERENCES
- 11.0 PHOTOGRAPHY REFERENCES



Photo 1: Dramatic cliffs and broad sandy beaches characterise the coastline.



Photo 2: Typical beach access way. (Macmasters Beach)



Photo 3: Windswept vegetation clinging to the cliff face.



Photo 4: *Gazania tomentosum* colonise the sand dunes at North Avoca.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Andrews Neil Urban Design Group (UDG) has been engaged by Gosford City Council (GCC) to prepare an overall Masterplan and associated report for the project known as The 5 Lands Coastal Walk. These works are part of an undertaking by GCC to provide a permanent walking trail that connects the five coastal communities of Macmasters Beach, Copacabana, Avoca Beach, North Avoca and Terrigal on the New South Wales Central Coast.

The need for a permanent walkway arose out of a community and Council initiative to hold an annual event of cultural and spiritual activities along a 10.5 kilometre coastal walkway between Macmasters Beach and Terrigal. This event is referred to in the report as the 5 Lands Walk Event. On the day of the event each of the 5 Lands (Macmasters Beach, Copacabana, Avoca, North Avoca and Terrigal) hosts a range of activities which showcases their community and culture. The first event took place in 2006 and since this time it has continued to grow.

The increasing popularity of the 5 Lands Walk Event has highlighted the need to create a permanent coastal walkway that is accessible to walkers year round. It is anticipated that the Five Lands Walk Event will utilise much of this route for the annual cultural event however road closures will still be required due to the large numbers that attend the event.

The existing route currently follows an informal trail along coastal beaches, bushland and urban streets. GCC has identified that the route requires greater definition, which will provide users with accessible tracks, trails, walkways, viewing platforms and associated infrastructure.

During the preliminary works of the project, the community and stakeholders have been consulted and their experience of the existing walk will help guide the development of the Masterplan. Central Coast Tourism is also part of the consultancy process as the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway and Event has significant tourism potential for the area.

This report has been prepared to understand the site and its history, establish objectives and principles for the 5 Lands Coastal Walk to result in best practice outcomes.

Part A of this report contains information on the history of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway and Event; analysis, opportunities, constraints and recommendations for the preferred final route and associated infrastructure.

Part B of this report contains the Concept Masterplan, proposed staging of works and suggested funding opportunities.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

The 5 Lands Coastal Walkway is considered in this report as a permanent trail accessible to walkers year round. The 5 Lands Walk Event refers to the single day cultural event.

The scope of work includes:

- Consulting with the community and stakeholders.
- Preparation of an overall Concept Masterplan for the entire walk.
- Detailed concepts for each of the 5 Lands.

To support the development of the Concept Masterplan the following background reports have been prepared.

- *A Flora and Fauna Report; Constraints Analysis* has been prepared by Coast Ecology (November 2010).
- *An Aboriginal and Historical Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* has been produced by AHMS (March 2011).



Photo 5: Cockrone Lagoon at Macmasters Beach.



Photo 6: Early morning walk along Macmasters Beach.



Photo 7: Rugged cliffs and wind swept vegetation around Winney Bay.



Photo 8: Three bluff points identified by Cook on his 1770 voyage along the east coast.

3.0 HISTORY

3.1 HISTORY OF THE COASTLINE

Aboriginal History

Prior to European settlement, the Brisbane Waters area appears to have been part of either *Guringai* or *Darkinjung* traditional land and a number of the current place names in the area including Tudibaring, Cockrone, Kurrawyba and Terrigal are thought to be derived from Aboriginal place names (AHMS, 2011).

Accounts from early British settlers provide some insight into the lives of traditional Aboriginal people and indicate that indigenous Australians depended heavily on the environment in which they lived, utilising the resources available in their local area for food, shelter and ceremonial purposes. The coastal landscape provided a source of marine foods and the sandstone rock overhangs provided natural shelter.

The traditional life of Aboriginal people was impacted by the arrival of Europeans in the early 19th century. Disease and settlement of traditional lands saw a decrease in population with the remaining Aboriginal people displaced from their traditional lands and forced to live on the urban fringes of white society (AHMS, 2011).

The Aboriginal population of the Gosford Local Government Area includes people with traditional connections to the local area, as well as people with connections to other parts of Australia. Local Aboriginal groups and individuals have been involved in the development of the 5 Lands Walk Event, ensuring that Aboriginal heritage and contemporary culture are integral parts of the annual event (AHMS, 2011).

Non-Indigenous History

The coastline was named Cape Three Points by Captain James Cook on his 1770 voyage after three prominent bluffs he identified protruding into the ocean. First Point is a headland at Copacabana, Second Point is located at Mourawaring Point at the southern end of Macmasters Beach and Third Point, now known as Bombi Point, is located south of Little Beach.

European settlers began to arrive in the Gosford region in the early 1820's. Many of the first residents were small scale farmers and timber cutters, however income was also derived from the production of lime from shell middens. The population was small and dispersed prior to the construction of a rail link connecting the region to Sydney in 1887 and the Pacific Highway in 1930, after which development accelerated (AHMS, 2011).

By the early twentieth century the region was becoming increasingly popular as a tourist destination, particularly with Sydneysiders who were attracted to the beaches, fishing and sightseeing opportunities on offer. Holiday houses and guest houses were constructed along the coast, particularly around Terrigal. More permanent residences followed and the coastal communities developed as residential centres, initially concentrated at Terrigal but later expanding along the coast to the south.

Today, the coastal communities through which the walk passes are established residential suburbs although between these built up areas are a number of reserves and beaches which remain relatively undeveloped. The historical relaxed holiday character remains and the area continues to be a popular holiday destination.



Photo 9: Early morning start at Macmasters Beach



Photo 11: Avoca Beach as a temporal open air art gallery.



Photo 10: North Avoca Kites.



Photo 12: A diverse cultural program is held on the day of the annual 5 Lands Walk Event.

3.2 HISTORY OF THE WALK

Connecting people to people and people to place

The 5 Lands Walk Event is an annual community based, multicultural, physical and spiritual event which is held annually close to the winter solstice. The walk connects the five beachside communities of Macmasters Beach, Copacabana, Avoca Beach, North Avoca and Terrigal along a 10.5 kilometre walking route.

The 5 Lands Walk Event was developed by Gosford City Council and since the inaugural walk on 24 June 2006, the program continues to grow to become a major cultural event and attraction on the Central Coast. Commencing at Macmasters Beach, the walk traverses the coastal landscape, through differing types of views, vistas and landforms, culminating at the well known landmark of the Skillion at Terrigal.

These natural experiences are complemented by a diverse cultural program during the 5 Lands Walk Event. Different activities are held at each of the 5 Lands, including Aboriginal ceremonies, cultural performances, whale watching, music, song, dance, kite flying, art, food and photography. This provides a foundation for each land to showcase the diverse cultural offerings of the communities of the area.

The event embraces the many facets of Aboriginal beliefs, customs, culture, art and spirituality in which participants gain an experience and appreciation of the Central Coast's local Aboriginal community. A growing number of schools, surf clubs, ethnic communities, business and arts communities also contribute to events on the day of the walk.

The event is managed by *5 Lands Walk Inc*, a not-for-profit organisation made up of representatives from Gosford City Council, members of the Aboriginal community, Central Coast Tourism, a marketing and promotion specialist and a representative from each of the 5 Lands communities. Each land also has its own organising committee, who coordinate activities and events for their own local community.

Funding for the event currently includes an annual grant from Gosford City Council, and sponsorships, however it is proposed that the event be self supporting in the near future. Volunteers from participating communities provide support and enable participants to experience the walk without bringing their wallet on the day.

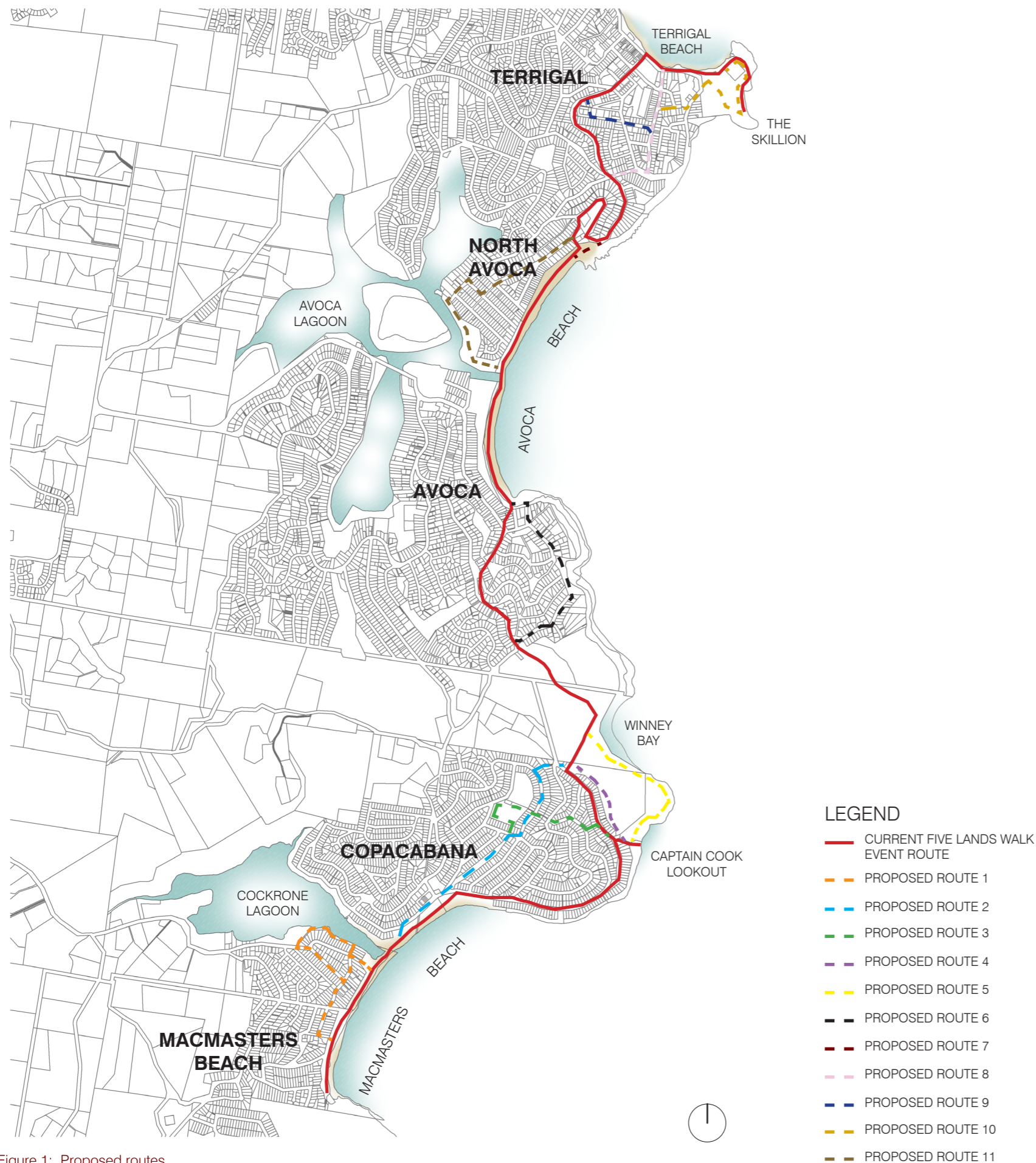


Figure 1: Proposed routes

4.0 PROPOSED ROUTES

The existing route of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway can be walked in either direction between Macmasters Beach and Terrigal. The route utilised on the day of the 5 Lands Walk Event is illustrated in Figure 1. This route follows roads, beaches, informal bush trails and footpaths.

A number of alternative routes have been proposed in various areas along the walk with the objective of providing a safe, scenic and permanent coastal walkway that can be experienced in sections or as a whole. Where on-road sections are necessary the routes chosen generally have low-taffic volumes, however road closures will still be required on the day of the 5 Lands Walk Event due to the large number of participants. Figure 1 illustrates the existing route and the various options under consideration as alternative sections.

Proposed Route 1 climbs the headland above Macmasters Beach then follows Tudibaring Parade towards Cockrone Lagoon. An optional route follows the southern edge of Cockrone Lagoon. This route provides an accessible path during high tide when the waves crash against the base of the cliff. This route requires a new path and steps to and on the headland. The rest of the route either utilises existing infrastructure or is under construction / design development, such as the Cockrone Lagoon Walkway Circuit.

Proposed Route 2 commences at Copacabana Surf Club and follows an existing drainage corridor between Del Rio Drive, Ensenada Road and Del Mar Drive, then continues in a northerly direction, along Del Mar Drive then up to the bend of Oceano Street and Del Monte Place. This route requires the upgrade of the drainage corridor to improve its aesthetic appeal and provide a footpath. The drainage corridor section of the route will be integrated into the preferred southern end of routes 2 & 3.

Proposed Route 3 goes into bushland adjoining Susan Fahey Park, then veers to the right and follows Vista Avenue before connecting with Del Monte Place on the ridgeline. This route is an alternative to the second leg of route 2. This route is primarily existing with the exception of a new path near the primary school and new steps to navigate between blocks.

Proposed Route 4 follows an existing informal bush trail at the rear of residential properties between Captain Cook Lookout and the public reserve on Del Monte Place. This corridor is an Asset Protection Zone.

Proposed Route 5 hugs the cliff headland between Captain Cook Lookout and Winney Bay. This route is an existing beaten track which traverses through coastal bushland and has become significantly overgrown. This route of the walk is generally not visible to urban settlements.

Proposed Route 6 commences at the Avoca water tower and curves around Endeavour Drive before descending to Avoca Beach down an existing steep informal bush trail that connects the road 'terraces'.

Proposed Route 7 climbs the cliff side from the beach at North Avoca and connects to Coast Road. This would require a new track to provide a physical separation between pedestrians and private dwellings.

Proposed Route 8 follows the Scenic Highway from the Tramway Road intersection before turning into Ash Street towards Terrigal Esplanade.

Proposed Route 9 diverts off Ash Street, along Henley Avenue and Auld Street, entering Terrigal via Kurrawyba Avenue.

Proposed Route 10 turns right off Ash Street into Maroomba Road, emerging on the Scenic Highway then circles the Haven in an anticlockwise direction.

Proposed Route 11 follows the north-eastern edge of Lagoon Avoca to Tramway Road, then turns down Ocean Street and follows Elgata Avenue to Tarun Road.

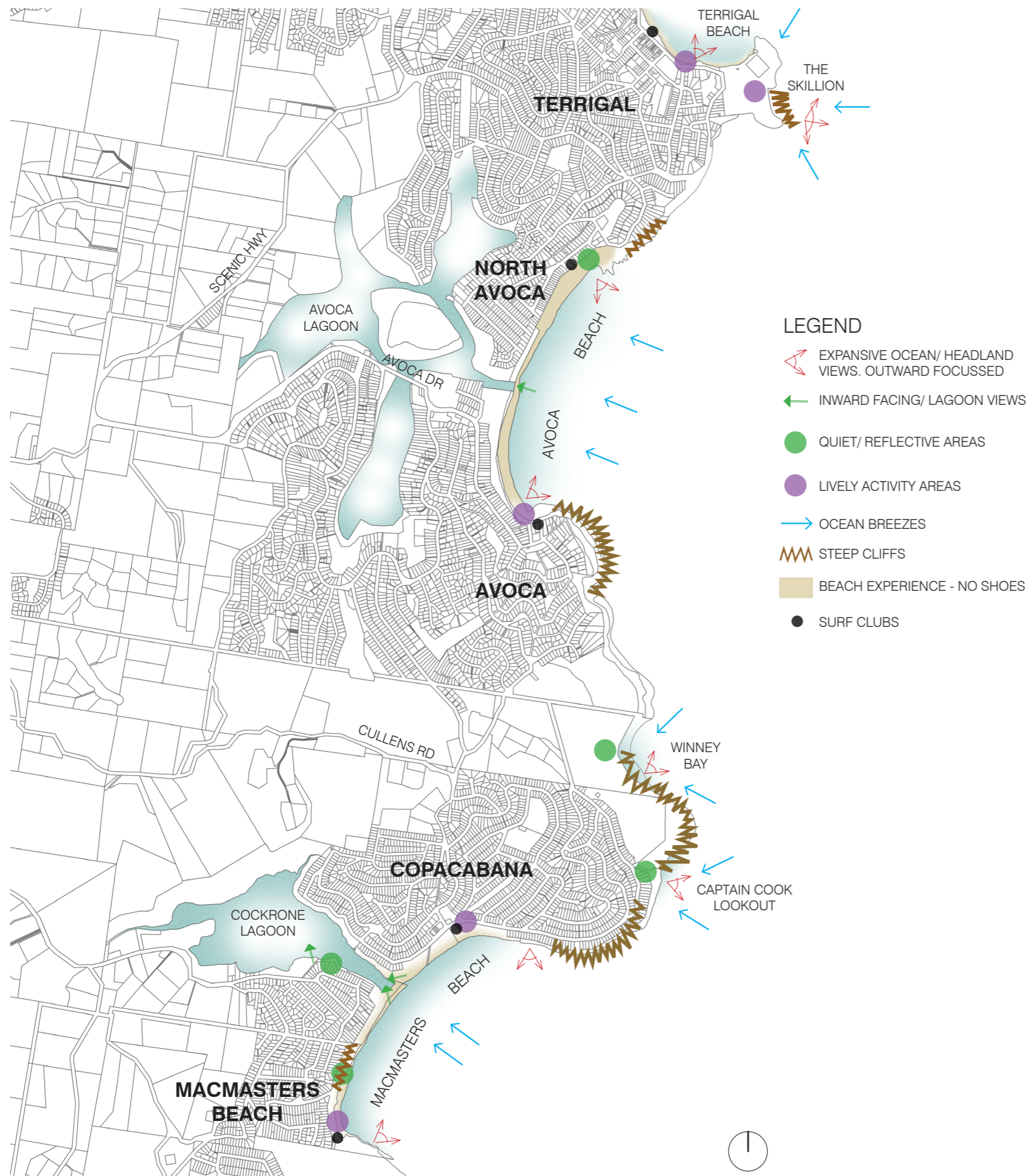


Figure 2: Sensory analysis

5.0 ANALYSIS

5.1 SENSORY ANALYSIS

To experience the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway is to experience the land and its people, their culture, beliefs and relationship to the landscape. While the journey will be unique for each walker the following analysis identifies some of the sensory experiences to be found along the way.

SEE

The 5 Lands Coastal Walkway follows a highly scenic coastal route with ocean views stretching to the horizon. Whilst the visual landscape is dominated by breathtaking views of the Tasman Sea, the sweeping beaches and dramatic headlands, there are also opportunities to experience unique coastal ecosystems and vibrant urban environments.

As the seasons change, migrating whales visit the waters off the coastline and are regularly sighted from the headlands, as are dolphins, birds and other wildlife.

The walk never ventures too far away from the coastline and the coast becomes a valuable navigation tool. The Skillion at Terrigal is the final destination of the 5 Lands Walk Event and this landmark is visible at several points along the way giving walkers a sense of connectivity and anticipation.

Upon arrival in each of the beachside communities the nature of the walk changes to a more urban experience. The beaches support a thriving social culture of surfers, swimmers and walkers with cafes and restaurants lining the foreshore at Terrigal, Avoca and Copacabana.

In the steeper locations of the walk including Winney Bay, we spend a vast amount of time looking at our shoes as we make our way through these more adventurous areas while flatter sections provide an opportunity to lift the eyes and enjoy the native flora and fauna and surrounding views.

HEAR

As the walk moves along the coastline a chorus of different sounds help to connect people to place.

Walkers may be drawn to the beach by the sound of rhythmic drumming or pause along their journey to listen to the wind as it comes off the ocean. When meandering along the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway, the sound of the ocean is an almost continual backdrop providing a resonating whoosh and thump as waves hit the beach or cliff face.

When walking through the clifftop vegetation, wind plays a symphony of sounds as it moves through the leaves and branches and the cry of birds diving and sailing on the wind provides a strong sense of the surrounding environment.

In contrast to the quiet areas found along the coastline, the hum of daily life in the urban environment, including people talking, cars passing and the clinking of glasses in cafes indicate a more urban landscape.





Photo 13: Each land offers a variety of dining options.



Photo 14: Crowds gather for cultural performances.



Photo 15: Cultural events along the journey.



Photo 16: Feeling the sand under foot at Macmasters Beach.

TOUCH

Wind, sand, stone, water and native vegetation are all part of the tactile experience of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway.

One of the pleasures of walking in a coastal environment is feeling the uneven surface of the ground beneath the feet, directing the walker's attention to the textural landscape immediately surrounding them.

Long sandy beaches provide a 'shoes off' experience and there are multiple opportunities to walk down to the ocean to cool tired feet in the waves or run your fingers through the sand while taking a rest stop on the beach.

The sun and wind on the skin provides warmth and cooling that varies in intensity depending on the season and the weather. As the trail passes through a variety of exposed and protected landscapes, walkers have the opportunity to experience the heating and cooling effects of different micro climates along the journey.

The rocky marine platforms at Winney Bay, Avoca and North Avoca are perfect places to explore the little rock pools that fill and empty with the fluctuating tides. Here, walkers can reach out and touch the exposed sandstone cliffs that have weathered to a coarse finish over thousands of years.

SMELL

The sense of smell evokes memory in a way that no other sense can and is an important contributor to connecting people to place. The distinctive smells of the coast are a familiar scent for local people living in these beachside communities, a heady mixture of sand, seaweed and the ocean. The 5 Lands Coastal Walkway is a powerful olfactory experience for walkers.

Along the journey walkers will experience fragrant Eucalypt blossoms, salt laden breezes drifting off the ocean and the mouthwatering smell of fish and chips from local takeaway outlets. Walking through residential areas the smells of freshly mown lawns and barbecues are a common summertime experience however the salty brine of the ocean is pervasive even during the colder winter months.

TASTE

Each of the 5 Lands has a selection of dining experiences on offer, be it the hot chips with salt which tastes like the ocean and creamy ice cream from the local takeaway store or an al-fresco meal overlooking the ocean. There are many opportunities along the walk to stop for a meal or snack. Terrigal and Avoca offer a variety of substantial cafes and restaurants while Macmasters, Copacabana and North Avoca have a range of takeaway and cafe options.

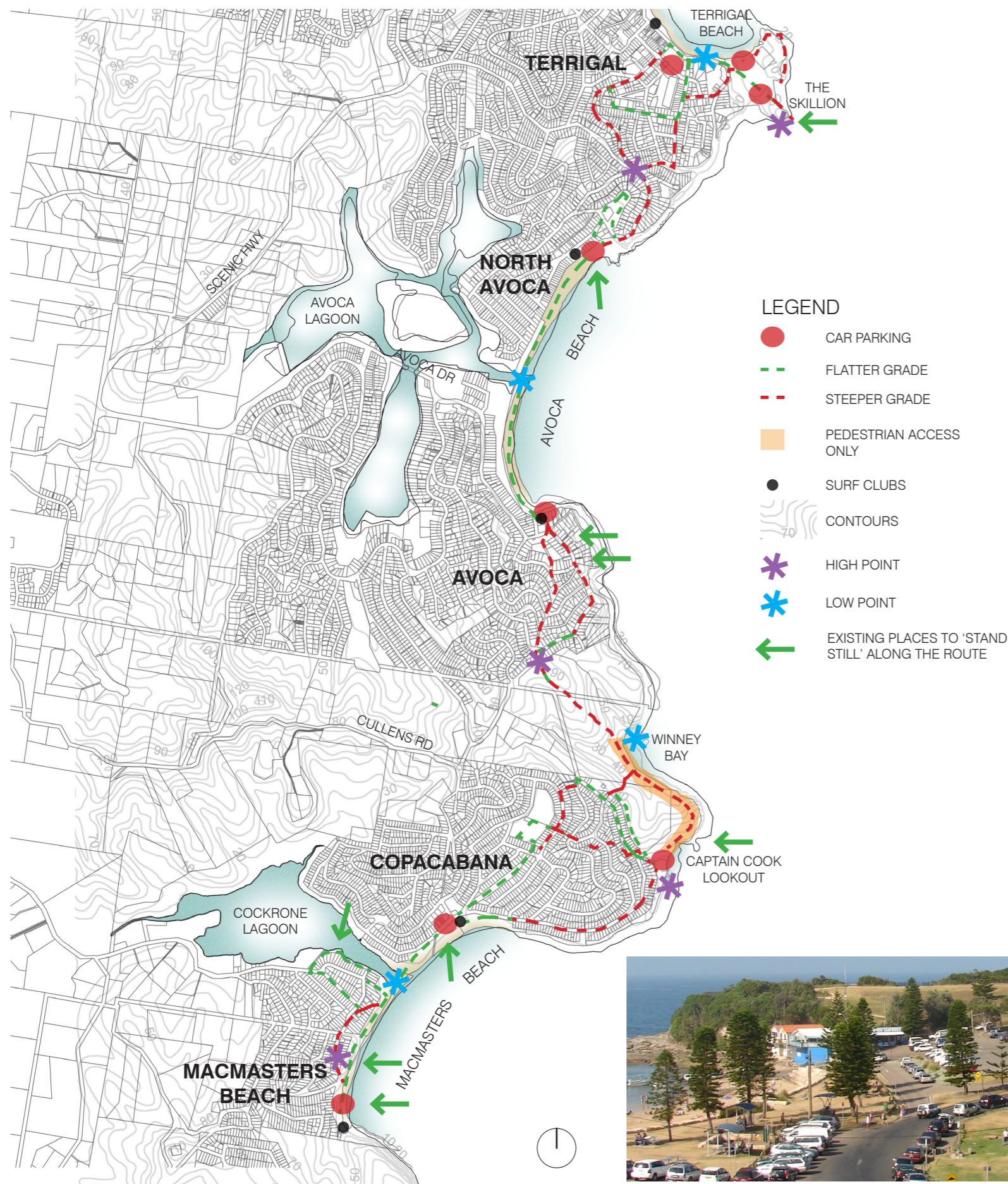


Figure 3: Movement and access analysis



Photo 17: Car parking facilities at Terrigal Haven.

5.2 MOVEMENT AND ACCESS

Walking is all about movement. The way the body experiences changes in terrain, the quickening of breath walking up a steep slope, the rhythmic pattern of placing one foot in front of the next. The analysis below considers movement along the walk and the identifies rest and access points that exist along the way.

MOVEMENT

The 5 Lands Coastal Walkway can be traversed in either direction, however the annual cultural event begins at Macmasters Beach and moves in a northerly direction towards Terrigal. There is an existing path network around the Haven and the Skillion which can be integrated into the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway.

The topography of the coastline varies as it follows roadways, beaches, bush trails and footpaths, ranging from flat sections along the beaches and foreshores to more strenuous climbs up, and down, rocky headlands.

Some sections of the route, such as at Macmasters Beach and Copacabana are informal trails and will require formalised paths. In bushland areas many of the informal trails are already in place although many are ill-defined and suffer from erosion. Urban areas such as Terrigal generally have an established path network which can be utilised in the final route.

Captain Cook Lookout at Copacabana and The Skillion at Terrigal are the primary existing lookouts although a number of rest areas and park benches can be found at various locations along the proposed routes.

Movement is also about the moments when we stop. The contrast between standing still and walking. Strong emphasis needs to be made in the places where we stop, take a breath, take in the view or an informative sign. Existing places of rest are shown in Figure 3 and new places are identified in the recommendations. sections of this report.

ACCESS

The majority of the walk is easily accessible by car however some of the proposed routes follow areas of the coastline where vehicle access is restricted. The headland between Captain Cook Lookout and Winney Bay is only accessible on foot and only emergency and services vehicles have access to the section between Cape Three Points Road and Winney Bay.

Car parking is available at each of the lands and at Captain Cook Lookout. The surf clubs are established hubs and have good existing access and car parking facilities. The upgrade to a permanent walkway will provide the opportunity to improve disabled access facilities at key points such as Captain Cook Lookout.

The 5 Lands Coastal Walkway is accessible to all members of the community with a reasonable fitness level. The walk may be completed in sections or done in its entirety. The proposed routes offer a variety of grades for different fitness levels and there are opportunities to improve universal access points at key areas such as at Captain Cook Lookout.

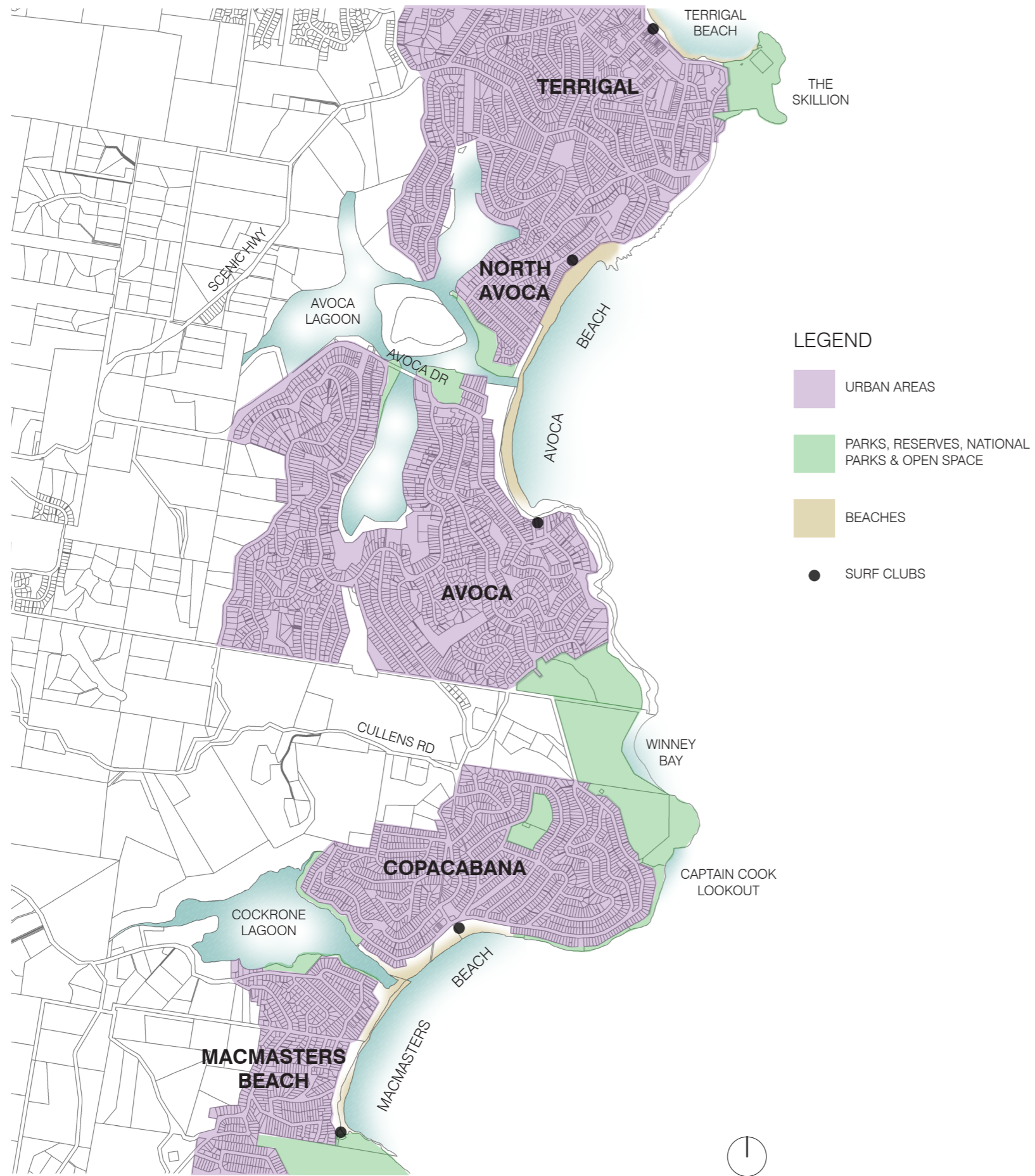


Figure 4: Land use analysis

5.3 LAND USE

The 5 Lands in the study area are residential coastal villages separated by beaches, headlands, rural landholdings and coastal lagoons. The edges are often blurred between urban areas and open space. Urban landscaping has sought to soften the transition and in many cases there is little or no differentiation between public and private realms. This can potentially become an issue in areas where large numbers of people will be walking.

Based on a desk top study of aerial photography, Gosford Local Government Area Zoning and ground truthing along the proposed 5 Lands Coastal Walkway route, it is noted that there are a mix of land uses within each individual land. Below is a summary of the current land uses along the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway.

Macmasters

The Macmasters route of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway traverses a mix of Zone No. 2(a) Residential, Zone No. 5(a) Special Uses and Zone No. 6(a) Open Space (Recreation). Housing types are typically low density detached housing with a variety of setbacks.

Copacabana

The Copacabana route of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway traverses through a mix of Zone No. 2(a) Residential, Zone No. 5(a) Special Uses and Zone No. 6(a) Open Space (Recreation) and Zone No. 7(e). This includes low density detached residential housing with mixed front setbacks. Small neighbourhood centre comprising some retail and commercial. The headland between Captain Cook Lookout and Winney Bay is the largest area unencumbered by urban development.

Avoca

The Avoca route of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway traverses through a mix of Zone No. 2(a) Residential, Zone and Zone No. 6(a) Open Space (Recreation) and Zone No. 7(e). Mix of low density residential and medium density duplexes, townhouses and apartment blocks. Higher retail and commercial setbacks from the beach and the coastal walk.

North Avoca

The North Avoca route of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway traverses through a mix of Zone No. 2(a) Residential, Zone and Zone No. 6(a) Open Space (Recreation) Zone No. 6(d) Open Space (Regional). Low density detached residential, large setbacks with scattered medium density.

Terrigal

The Terrigal route of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway traverses through a mix of Zone No. 2(a) Residential, Zone No. 6(a) Open Space (Recreation). Mix of low density residential and medium density duplexes, townhouses and apartment blocks. Higher retail and commercial setbacks from the beach and the coastal walk. The public open space around the Haven and Skillion represent an important public asset which provides significant opportunities for the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway. A Plan of Management and Masterplan have already been prepared for this area.



Photo 18: Typical beach cottage at North Avoca Beach.

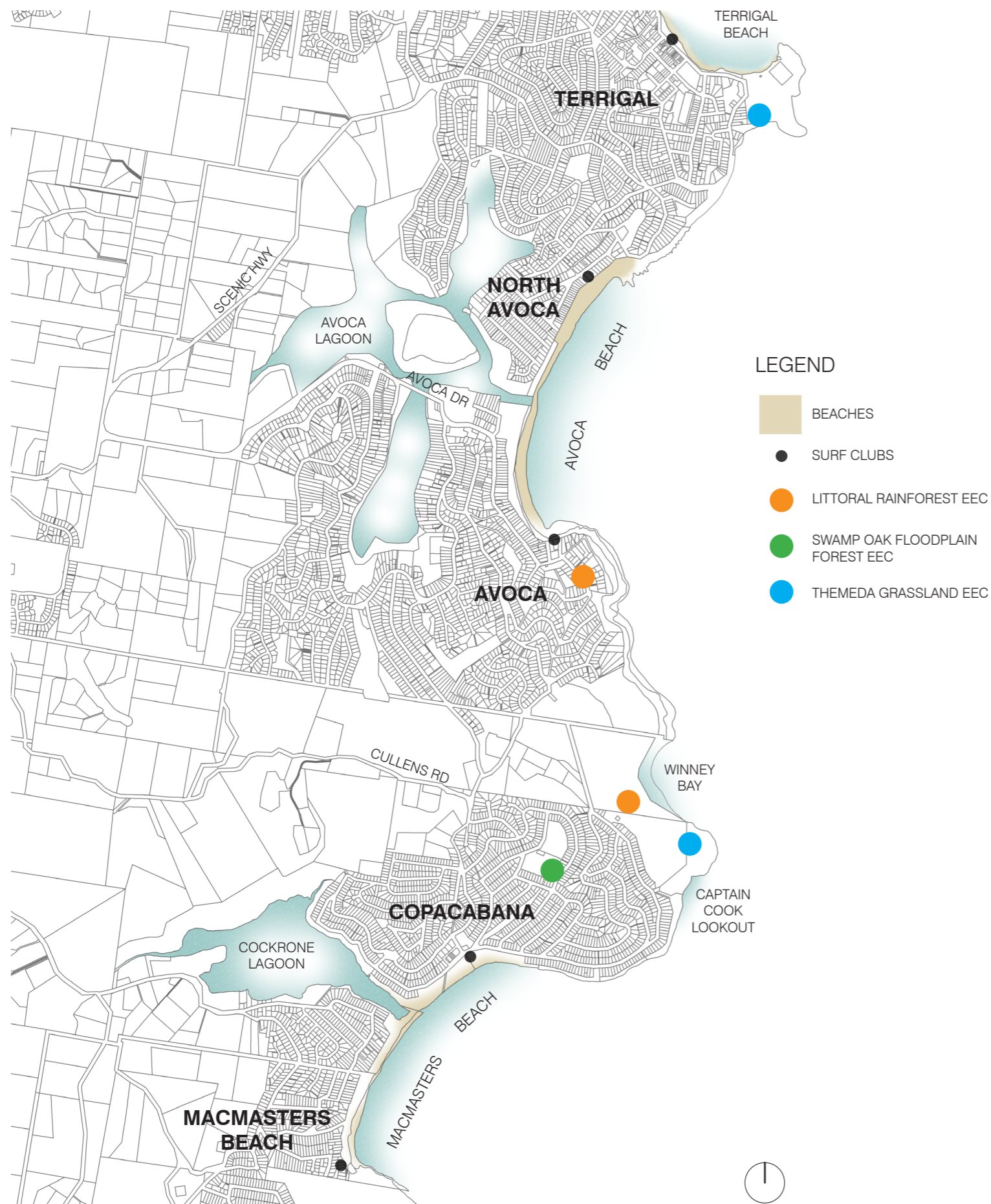


Figure 5: Flora and fauna analysis

5.4 FLORA AND FAUNA

Flora and fauna investigations were undertaken by *Coast Ecology* along the proposed routes of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway which encompassed residential areas, beaches, lagoons, drainage lines, areas of native vegetation and areas of disturbed vegetation. For the purpose of the investigation, the proposed routes of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway and a 20 metre buffer either side of the centre line of the proposed routes defined the study area. (*Coast Ecology*, Nov 2010).

Nine broad vegetation communities were recorded during field surveys undertaken within the study area, as listed below:

- **Allocasuarina Shrubland** - The upper stratum is dominated by *Allocasuarina distyla*.
- **Bangalay Forest** - The Bangalay Forest is dominated by *Eucalyptus botryoides* in the upper canopy, with some *Allocasuarina littoralis*.
- **Broad-leaved White Mahogany / Grey Ironbark Forest** - is dominated by *Eucalyptus umbra* and *Eucalyptus paniculata* ssp. *paniculata*, along with occurrences of *Gioa semiglauc* and *Syncarpia glomulifera*.
- **Blackbutt / Grey Gum Forest** - This community is dominated by *Eucalyptus pilularis* and *Eucalyptus punctata* with some *Eucalyptus paniculata* subsp. *paniculata*, *Eucalyptus umbra*, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* and *Syncarpia glomulifera* also occurring in the upper stratum.
- **Rainforest** - The dominant canopy species include *Eucalyptus botryoides*, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, *Ficus coronate* and *Scolopia braunii*.
- **Coastal Banksia Scrub** - This community occurs along the foredunes and is dominated by *Banksia integrifolia* subsp. *integrifolia* and *Acacia longifolia* along with occurrences of *Casuarina glauca*, *Carpobrotus glaucescens*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Pelargonium austral*, *Rhagodia candolleana* subsp. *candolleana*, *Spinifex sericeus* and *Tetragonia tetragonioides*.
- **Themeda Grassland** - occurs in a small patch along Winney Bay cliff top and generally consists of *Themeda australis*.
- **Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest** - The dominant canopy species include *Eucalyptus botryoides*, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, *Ficus coronate* and *Scolopia braunii*.
- **Turpentine Forest** - This community is dominated by *Syncarpia glomulifera* in the canopy along with *Eucalyptus crebra* and patches of *Casuarina glauca*.
- **Disturbed Vegetation** - occurs in a number of areas along the 5 Lands Coastal Walk.

Three areas that potentially contain Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) identified by the Ecological Assessment include:

- Occurrences of Littoral Rainforest in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) listed on the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. This community occurs in two locations along the route, along an informal track between Fairscene Crescent and Ascot Avenue, Avoca and around an existing timber bridge crossing in the gully near Winney Bay.
- Occurrences of Themeda Grassland on seacliffs and coastal headlands in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) listed on the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. A small amount of this community occurs on the headland between Winney Bay and Captain Cook Lookout.
- Occurrences of Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) listed on the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. This community occurs in a pocket of land next to Susan Fahey Park at Copacabana.

No threatened flora or fauna species were recorded during surveys however the study area is considered to provide potential habitat for 5 threatened flora species and 24 threatened fauna species listed pursuant to the NSW Threatened Species Conservation (TSC) Act 1995 and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999. Refer to the Flora and Fauna report prepared by *Coast Ecology* for further information.

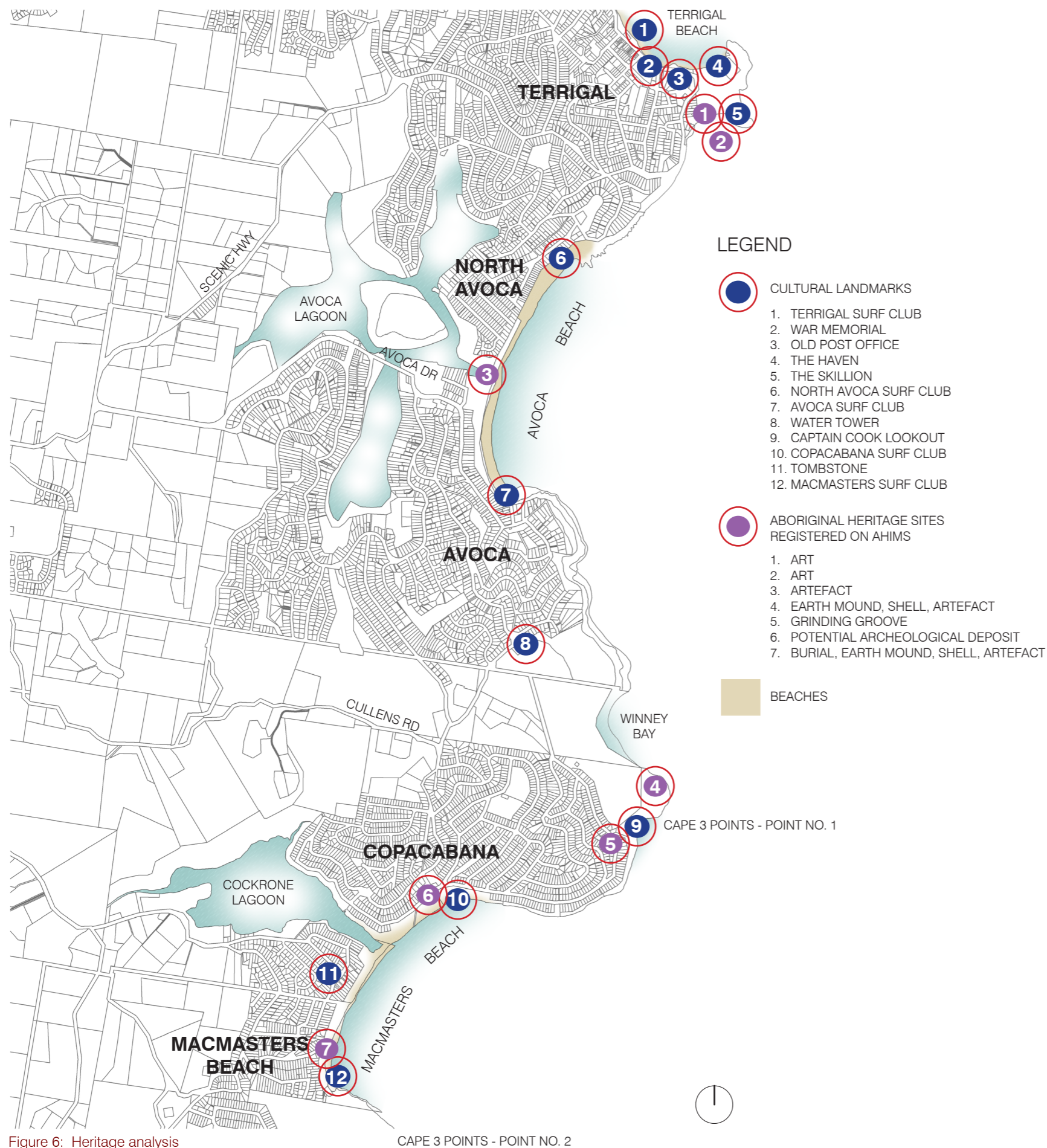


Figure 6: Heritage analysis

CAPE 3 POINTS - POINT NO. 2

5.5 HERITAGE

Archeological and Heritage Management Solutions (AHMS) prepared an *Aboriginal & Historical Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Assessment* (2011) and undertook site investigations at key sites along the existing and proposed routes of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway. A number of cultural landmarks and Indigenous heritage sites have been identified as part of the investigations.

Following are the potential Non-Indigenous heritage items that have been identified along the route of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway:

- Terrigal Haven, Potential historical archaeological relics.
- Old Post Office, 4 Ash Street, Terrigal: Heritage listing in Gosford Draft Local Environment Plan 2009 (DLEP).
- War Memorial, Terrigal Beach Foreshore, The Esplanade, Heritage listing in Gosford DLEP.
- Grave of Allan Macmaster, Corribeg Reserve, Tudibaring Parade, Macmasters Beach, Heritage listing in Gosford DLEP, Potential historical archaeological relics.

The *Aboriginal & Historical Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Assessment* prepared by AHMS (2011) identified that in general the route passes through heavily disturbed or previously developed areas and the potential for the preservation of archeological materials was low. The following Indigenous heritage items have been identified in the Draft Assessment however none of the items identified as having high archeological and cultural value will be impacted by the existing or proposed route of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway.

- Burial. One burial site is known to exist on Macmasters Beach. The documentary evidence suggesting this area was an Aboriginal burial ground (e.g.... Strom, 1985, p. 12 as cited in AHMS, 2011) indicates that further burials may exist.
- Grinding groove. Grinding grooves are generally located on rock platforms adjacent to or within creeks and along sheltered coastline. Suitable locations in the vicinity of the study area may include parts of the rock platforms around the headlands, and possible platforms exposed along the creeks in the area behind Winney Bay. Although grinding grooves have been recorded at Tudibaring Head, it is not clear when these were located, as the site-card recording notes that the grooves could not be found.
- Potential archaeological deposit (PAD). PADs may be located within the dune areas behind the beaches, as with the registered PAD at the northern end of Copacabana Beach. Areas of PAD can also be expected on level areas adjacent to fresh water.
- Shell Middens can be expected, particularly on and in the vicinity of the headlands, where shellfish could be collected. Artefacts may also be present in these deposits. Burials may occur in association with middens, as with the known site on Macmasters Beach.



Photo 19: Tombstone at Macmasters Beach



Photo 20: Avoca Beach



Figure 7: Macmasters Beach character

LEGEND

- CURRENT FIVE LANDS WALK EVENT ROUTE
- - - PROPOSED ROUTE 1



Photo 21: Looking north along Macmasters Beach



Photo 22: Arbour located at Macmasters Beach



Photo 25: View south towards Point No. 2 - Mourawaring Point



Photo 23: Corribeg Reserve and drainage corridor



Photo 24: Existing Cockrone Lagoon rest area

6.0 CHARACTER OF THE 5 LANDS

6.1 MACMASTERS BEACH

Strolling along the sand at Macmasters Beach in the hazy light of morning it is easy to lose track of time and become absorbed in the landscape and surrounding activities. The vision of early morning surfers paddling into the waves or the silhouette of fisherman carefully making their way over the rocks is a common sight in this tranquil coastal village.

Macmasters Beach is a community of about 1000 residents comprised of families, retirees and holiday makers. Nature is a focal point for those who live there and life is strongly connected to the beach, the lagoon and the adjoining Bouddi National Park. A number of residents enjoy expansive ocean views and most are able to walk to the beach or lagoon from their homes.

Driving to the town along the Scenic Road, through leafy streets and rural properties it feels a world away from the hustle and bustle of city life. The majority of streets do not follow a formal grid, but wind around the terrain in an organic response to the hilly topography.

A mix of quaint holiday cottages and modern beach houses, adorned with deck chairs and barbecues, are typical of the relaxed coastal character of Macmasters Beach. The built form is primarily single or double story detached dwellings constructed of brick, timber or weatherboard. Buildings tend to nestle into the landscape amongst mature trees with native and exotic shrubs and grasses. Macmasters Beach contains a number of hidden surprises for walkers including an arbour walk set into the bushland on the cliffside and quite reflective areas around the lagoon and foreshore parks.

The surf club at the southern end of the beach is busy on weekends as beachgoers wander up the stairs to the cafe or wash sand from their feet under the beachside shower.

This is the official start of the 5 Lands Walk Event.



Figure 8: Copacabana character

6.2 COPACABANA

Separated from Macmasters Beach by Cockrone Lagoon, Copacabana is a relaxed beachside suburb with a population of around 2600 people. The suburb is set in a natural amphitheatre with the ocean as the main attraction and is reached via a short winding drive through small rural landholdings before the landscape opens up and the ocean glistens on the horizon. A strong beach culture is evident and there is excellent visibility of the ocean from the houses built into the hillside surrounding the beach.

The surf club and local shops have become a focal point for community activities as Copacabana is a popular surfing and swimming beach. In contrast to the activity around the beachfront the residential streets have a casual, unhurried atmosphere which epitomises the relaxed coastal way of life.

A secret pocket of bushland near the primary school (Proposed Route 3) contains an Endangered Ecological Community with great educational potential for the local community. Existing bush trails and a network of paths can be found in Susan Fahey Park adjacent to this pretty wooded area.

High on the headland above Copacabana the Captain Cook Lookout provides excellent views out to sea. This lookout provides basic interpretive information about Cook's voyage along the east coast of Australia in 1770 during which he identified three prominent bluffs extending into the ocean. This is the first point of the 3 Points. Captain Cook Lookout currently has picnic tables and a viewing platform but the lookout is now in need of an upgrade.

From Captain Cook Lookout the headland slopes down to a smaller bay north of Copacabana, known as Winney Bay. Winney Bay is a sheltered, rocky cove with an ocean sewage discharge point. For this reason swimming and fishing in the area are discouraged and there is no public vehicular access, however the bay itself is an ideal rest area for walkers.

On the day of the 5 Lands Walk Event, Copacabana welcomes walkers with a festive party atmosphere and stories about whale dreaming and migration.



Photo 26: Copacabana Beach



Photo 27: Captain Cook Lookout



Photo 28: View of Winney Bay



Photo 29: Winney Bay rock platforms



Figure 9: Avoca Beach character

6.3 AVOCA

Avoca is bordered to the north by Bulbararing Lagoon, to the west by Saltwater Creek and to the east by the ocean. This lively beachside suburb is a favourite destination for holiday makers due to its relaxed lifestyle and attractions such as the historic picture theatre, surf club, cafes, restaurants, children's rock pool and public reserves. Monthly produce markets attract large crowds to Hunter Park adjacent to the surf club, and the children's playground is a well used community facility.

Approximately 4000 people live in Avoca. They form part of a vibrant, eclectic community of families, professionals, artists and retirees who enjoy the relaxed social environment of this suburb.

Avoca has two main public activity areas, the area around the surf club and the thoroughfare along the main street with its associated recreational and retail services. These areas form the focus of community and recreation activities in Avoca in conjunction with the beach which serves as the cornerstone of the public domain.

Avoca features an irregular topography comprising hills, spurs, gullies and headlands. A water tower on Cape Three Points Road is a well known wayfinding landmark for local residents. The established streets feature a mixture of architectural styles which contribute to the stylish feel of the suburb. Housing types include a mix of older style weekenders, medium density apartments, caravan parks and contemporary beach houses. Houses are built into the steep hillside terrain to capture panoramic ocean views while along the foreshore many dwellings directly front the beach. As traditional cottages make way for modern family homes the character of Avoca has become increasingly more sophisticated yet the relaxed beach culture remains strong.

The 5 Lands Coastal Walkway descends existing stairs down a relatively steep hillside into Avoca before walkers come to the surf club and cafes at the southern end of Avoca Beach. There are excellent views along the beach towards North Avoca and walkers have a clear image of where the walk continues along the beach, passing the mouth of Avoca Lagoon, before entering North Avoca.



Photo 30: Water tower



Photo 31: Endeavour Drive

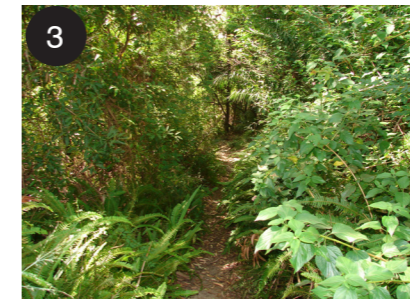


Photo 32: Existing informal bush trails



Photo 33: Avoca Beach



Figure 10: North Avoca character

6.4 NORTH AVOCA

Residents of North Avoca enjoy a relaxed, informal lifestyle which is strongly focused on outdoor recreation and beach activities. The suburb has a distinctly residential character supported by a small number of shops and cafes around the surf club. As with the other lands the surf club has become a focal point for community activities. During the summer months the beach is crowded with young nippers and their families learning important beach skills and improving their fitness on the golden sands while surfers are a common sight at any time of the year.

North Avoca is separated from Terrigal by the Scenic Highway and from Avoca by Bulbararing Lagoon. As vehicular access between Avoca and North Avoca requires a circuitous journey around the lagoon the beach is an important pedestrian link.

The main road into Avoca was historically used to transport timber from North Avoca to a mill in Terrigal via tram and is today known as Tramway Road. Tramway is a relatively steep and narrow road leading to the beach and surf club.

Houses are built into the hillsides that rise up steeply from the beach or on the hilly slopes around Bulbararing Lagoon. In recent decades many of the original timber cottages have made way for modern family homes, increasing property prices and positioning the area is a popular destination for tourists seeking a relaxed and leisurely holiday.



Photo 34: Surfers at North Avoca



Photo 35: Headland at North Avoca



Photo 36: Coast Road

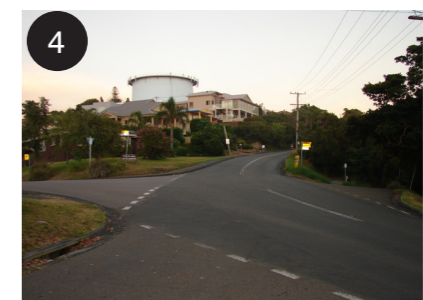


Photo 37: Tramway Rd/Scenic Highway intersection



Figure 11: Terrigal character

6.5 TERRIGAL

Terrigal is substantially more urban than the other Lands, boasting boutique retail and dining facilities, hotels, a primary and high school, sporting fields, a boat ramp and an active nightlife. Terrigal locals enjoy the relaxed, yet cosmopolitan lifestyle of their suburb, centred around the beach, the lagoon and the Esplanade.

Terrigal has long been a showpiece for the Central Coast's relaxed beachside way of life, attracting tourists from Sydney and beyond for over 100 years. This coastal community is one of the Central Coasts best known and most popular holiday destinations offering a range of holiday apartments, hotels and beach house accommodation to cater for holiday makers visiting the region.

Terrigal has a vibrant, social culture yet manages to retain a relaxed and informal character. The beach is a popular meeting place and it is a common sight to see people jogging, walking the dog, fire twirling, picnicking or enjoying an alfresco meal at the local restaurants along the beachfront at any time of the day or night. Regular events such as markets and food and wine festivals attract significant crowds.

The hilly terrain provides excellent views of the ocean, particular around the edges of the distinctive 'bowl shape' which cradles the beach and Esplanade. A line of mature Norfolk Island Pines stand sentinel along the Esplanade and are a significant landscape feature along the foreshore.

Terrigal Haven and The Skillion are prominent geographic landmarks which provide much used open space for the community. The Skillion is a steep headland protruding into the ocean. At its foot is The Haven, a popular sports field and launch spot for diving and fishing activities.

Terrigal is the final destination in the 5 Lands Walk Event. It provides a warm welcome for tired walkers and the opportunity to celebrate the experience of having completed the journey.



Photo 38: Ash Street



Photo 39: Terrigal Surf Club



Photo 40: The Haven

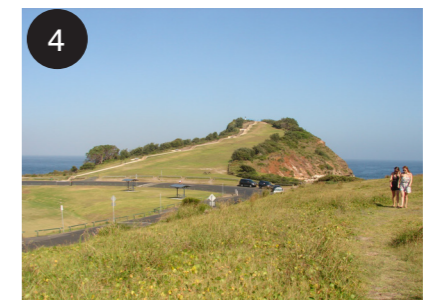


Photo 41: Terrigal Skillion

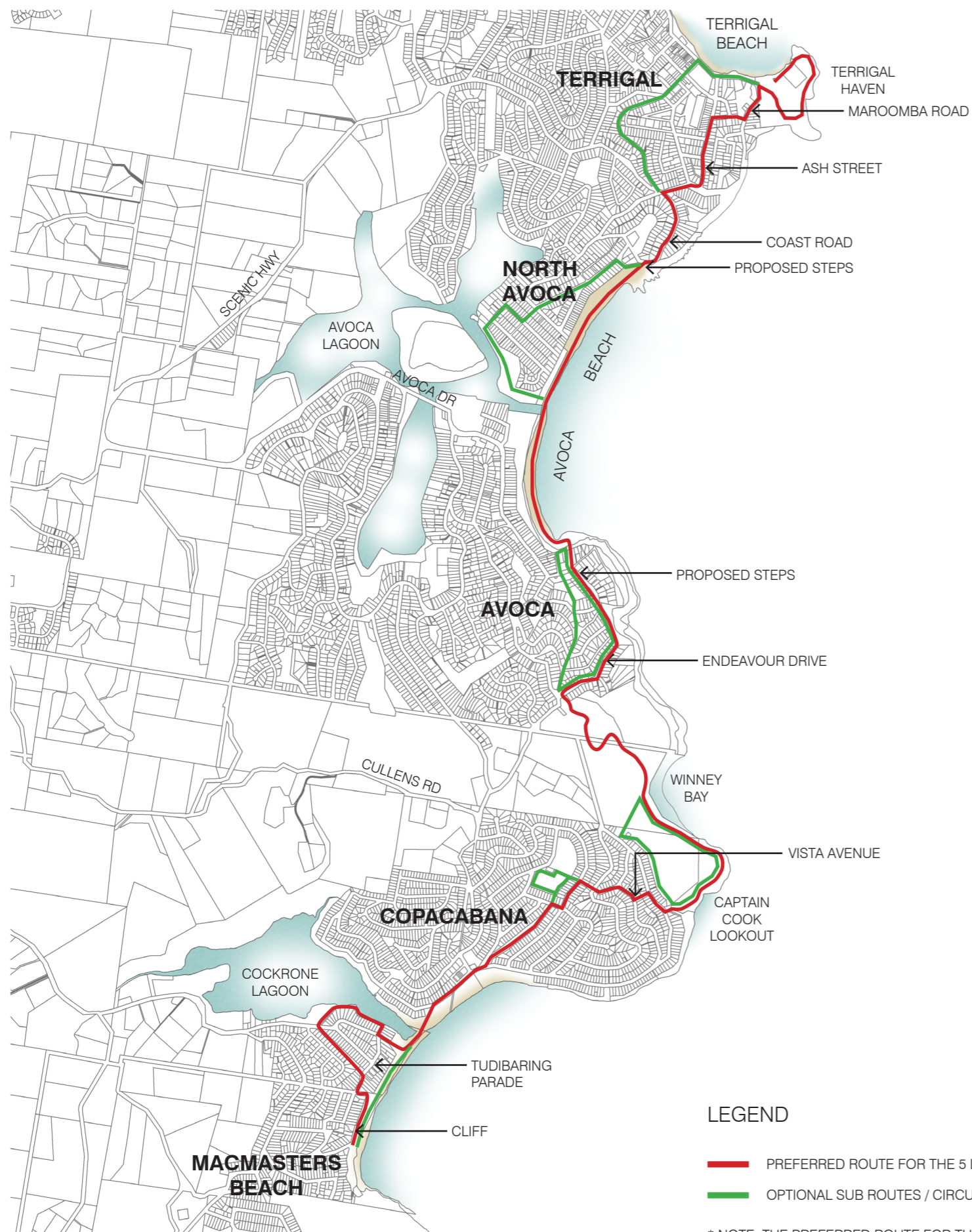


Figure 12: The preferred route

LEGEND

- PREFERRED ROUTE FOR THE 5 LANDS COASTAL WALKWAY
- OPTIONAL SUB ROUTES / CIRCUITS

* NOTE: THE PREFERRED ROUTE FOR THE 5 LANDS WALK EVENT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE ORGANISERS AND IS SUBJECT TO COUNCIL SPECIAL EVENT APPROVAL.

7.0 THE PREFERRED 5 LANDS COASTAL WALKWAY

The preferred route has been selected based on site visits, consultation with Gosford City Council, consideration of community feedback, environmental and heritage reports which have been prepared to inform the Masterplan and an analysis of the opportunities and constraints of each proposed route.

The preferred route offers the following advantages:

- A variety of terrains for varying fitness levels.
- Maximises the opportunity for ocean and lagoon views and maintains a strong connection to the coastline.
- Avoids busy major roads where possible.
- Improves connectivity for existing residents.
- Takes walkers on a journey through ever changing landscapes.
- Acknowledges the unique qualities of each individual land and provides opportunities for the local community to become involved in their area and 'make it their own'.
- Enhance community understanding about the culture and history of where they live and the relationships between the 5 Lands.
- Easily breaks down into sub circuit routes for concentrated activity.

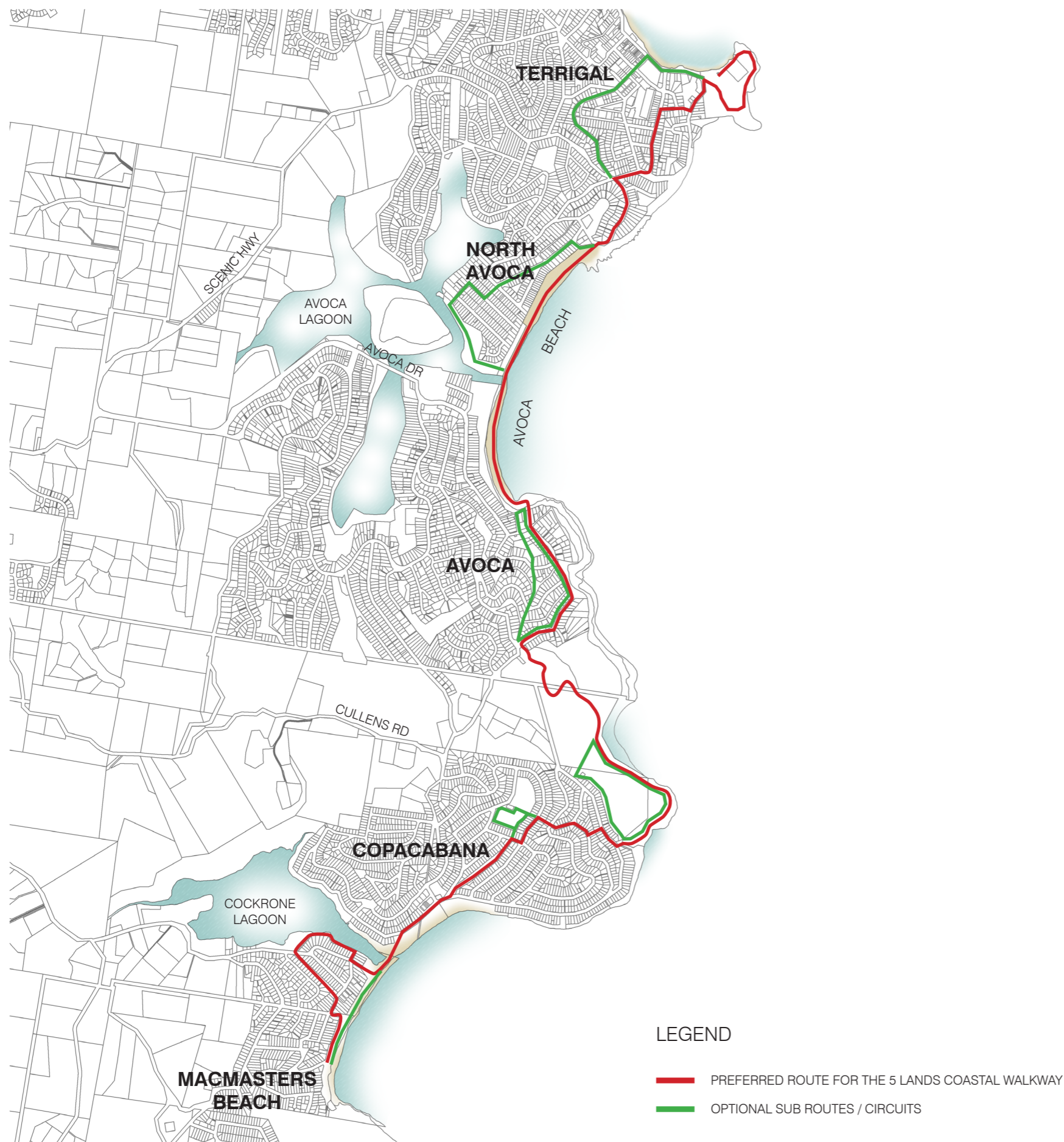


Figure 13: Recommendations for the entire walk

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 THE ENTIRE 5 LANDS COASTAL WALKWAY

The recommendations below relate to the entire 5 Lands Coastal Walkway. Specific recommendations for each land are identified on the following pages.

- Identify clear start and finish points.
- Clearly signpost the route and provide distance markers at key junctions.
- Identify trackheads at each land to ensure the walk may be undertaken in individual sections.
- Utilise symbols that are internationally recognisable to accommodate international walkers.
- Provide difficulty rating of the individual tracks.
- Promote public access along a continuous permanent walkway.
- Keep the trail off busy roads where possible.
- Maintain the 'natural' integrity of trails through bushland sections.
- Improve key intersections for pedestrian safety.
- Develop a hierarchy of paths that relate to the environment through which they pass.
- Provide multi-use spaces suitable for the community to gather and participate in cultural activities.
- Construction of the final route should avoid impacting any known or discovered Aboriginal heritage objects, sites or places that have potential Aboriginal heritage or cultural values.
- Integrate public art into the walks infrastructure including lookouts, staircases, furniture, signage and wayfinding markers.
- Design spaces which encourage interaction and discussion.
- Investigate opportunities to expand the cultural program to other times of the year by identifying themes for each land that artists can respond to.
- Promote connections to other walks in the area including the Coastal Walk through Bouddi National Park.
- Investigate future connections to coastal walking trails in the Gosford and Wyong region and beyond.
- Provide disabled access to Captain Cook Lookout and its associated picnic areas.
- Select materials that are durable, require minimal maintenance and survive bushfires etc.
- Select materials that contribute to the character of each of the 5 Lands.
- Investigate the opportunity to develop a smart phone application that contains downloadable information about the walk. This may include information such as:
 - Interpretive information.
 - Educational information.
 - Personal stories from local residents.
 - Local poetry.
 - Whale watch alerts.
 - Star gazing.
 - Accommodation, event and attraction information.
 - Specific information about the 5 Lands.
 - Emergency information, i.e. bushfire alerts, accident information etc.
- Include optional information on side trails in literature about the 5 Lands Coastal Walk. These routes do not form part of the main route but offer interesting variations to the main trail. Upgrades to these routes can be undertaken at a later stage if required.
- Promote opportunities for tourism by investigating walking and accommodation packages.
- Upgrade existing tracks where erosion is an issue.



Figure 14: Recommendations for Macmasters Beach

8.1 MACMASTERS BEACH

8.1.1 OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity to clearly identify the start of the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway using markers and signage.
- Excellent ocean views from the cliffs above Macmasters Beach. Opportunity to provide a discrete rest area and lookout in a small clearing along the cliff edge.
- Opportunity to provide a range of options for differing fitness levels.
- Excellent views of Cockrone Lagoon from the beach and lagoon edge.
- Existing toilet facilities available for walkers in the park on Marine Parade.

8.1.2 CONSTRAINTS

- Pedestrian access along the beach is restricted when the mouth of Cockrone Lagoon is open.
- Existing property boundaries along the clifftop of Tudibaring Parade are close to the cliff edge, leaving only a narrow width for a new walkway. Some properties have encroached into public domain creating privacy issues which will require resolution.
- Limited parking available, particularly during the summer months.

8.1.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Clearly identify the official start of the walk at the bush reserve on the corner of Gerda Road and Marine Parade. Provide international signage that clearly identifies the presence of the cliff and other potential hazards.
- 2 Resolve and clarify boundaries of properties on Tudibaring Parade and establish distinct paths that maximise privacy to existing dwellings (where practical).
- 3 Provide a viewpoint and discrete rest area atop the cliff walk overlooking the ocean.
- 4 Minor embellishment of Corribeg Reserve is recommended.
- 5 Integrate trail along drainage easement with Cockrone Lagoon Foreshore Walkway (works proposed and underway by Gosford City Council).

LEGEND

- PREFERRED PRIMARY ROUTE
 - Includes sections along the cliff above Macmasters Beach and around Cockrone Lagoon.
- OPTIONAL SUB ROUTES / CIRCUITS
COCKRONE LAGOON CIRCUIT
- MACMASTERS BEACH SURF CLUB
- ▲ POTENTIAL VIEWPOINT/LOOKOUT
- EXISTING DRAINAGE CORRIDOR

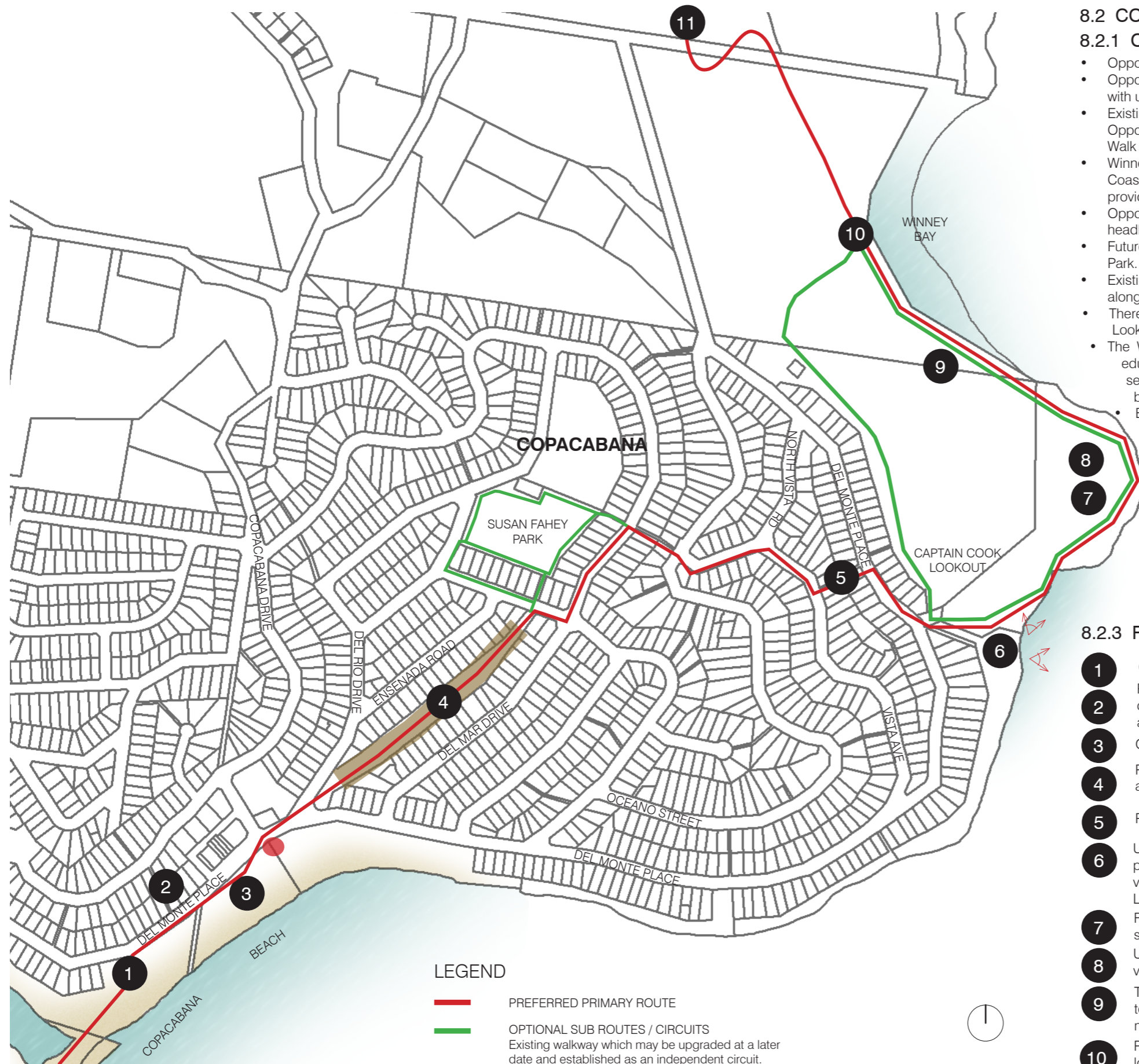


Figure 15: Recommendations for Copacabana

8.2 COPACABANA

8.2.1 OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity to upgrade existing drainage corridor in conjunction with a new pathway.
- Opportunity to upgrade Captain Cook Lookout and car park as a key viewing area with universal access and improved car parking facilities.
- Existing grass clearing near Winney Bay has the potential to become a rest area. Opportunity to promote the walk as connected to the Bouddi National Park Coastal Walk for hikers seeking a longer journey.
- Winney Bay represents the most remote and peaceful location along the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway. Public vehicular access is not available although a service road provides access for maintenance vehicles.
- Opportunity to rehabilitate weed infested areas along the drainage corridor and headland.
- Future opportunity to direct walk through EEC bushland adjacent to Susan Fahey Park.
- Existing areas of unique, intact native vegetation with high aesthetic appeal occur along the headland.
- There is an opportunity to emphasise the natural vegetation between Captain Cook Lookout and Endeavour Drive.
- The Winney Bay/Captain Cook Lookout loop has the potential to become an educational circuit highlighting changes to the landscape since European settlement. Infrastructure between Captain Cook Lookout and Winney Bay should be kept simple and discrete.
- Existing public toilet facilities available for walkers at the surf club.

8.2.2 CONSTRAINTS

- Steep ascent from the beach to Captain Cook Lookout. New staircases would be required.
- Large sections of bush on the headland around Captain Cook Lookout are weed infested.
- Captain Cook Lookout is tired and requires an upgrade.
- Winney Bay is an ocean sewage outlet and swimming and fishing are not recommended.
- Sections of Themeda Grassland on Seacliffs EEC occur along on the headland however an existing track reduces the need to clear this EEC.

8.2.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Clearly identify the threshold into Copacabana when leaving Macmasters.
- 2 Provide clear directional signage between Del Monte Place and the drainage corridor (New signage to compliment existing signage around the foreshore and Copacabana shops).
- 3 Opportunity to upgrade the whale watching platform near the surf club.
- 4 Provide walkway along the existing drainage corridor between Del Mar Drive and Ensenada Road.
- 5 Proposed new staircase between Vista Avenue and Del Monte Place.
- 6 Upgrade Captain Cook Lookout as a key viewpoint with interpretive signage, picnic benches, disabled access and car and coach parking. Provide a second viewing platform looking north, east of the existing car park at Captain Cook Lookout.
- 7 Reinforce headland as the first of Captain Cook's 3 points through interpretive signage.
- 8 Undertake rehabilitation of Bitou Bush infested areas in conjunction with volunteer organisations such as Land Care & Bushcare.
- 9 The gradient and the surface of the path encourages walkers to focus their eyes to their feet. Insert 'markers' in situ that tells them to look up at appropriate moments to observe views, art or vegetation.
- 10 Provide a rest area / picnic area at Winney Bay. Promote this as part of a longer hiking trail connected to Bouddi National Park and beyond. Opportunity to establish Winney Bay loop as a history circuit for educational purposes, exploring the changes that have occurred to the land since Captain Cook first sailed past the headland in 1770.
- 11 Clearly identify the threshold into Avoca when leaving Copacabana.



8.3 AVOCA

8.3.1 OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity to upgrade Hunter Park as a key activity area adjacent to the surf club.
- Opportunity to maintain a connection to the ocean by routing the walk along Endeavour Drive.
- Opportunity to improve pedestrian connectivity to the beach for residents.
- The water tank is a key wayfinding landmark marking the transition into the third land - Avoca.
- Opportunity to provide 'view corridors' at the top of the stairs from Endeavour Drive and reinforce connection with the ocean.
- Opportunity to explore permanent and temporary art locations to reinforce a strong sense of place.
- Existing public toilets available for walkers in Avoca Drive adjacent to the surf club.
- Avoca Beach Southern Foreshore Masterplan addresses future works including improved access, reserve enhancement, improved disabled access which will benefit users of the walkway.

8.3.2 CONSTRAINTS

- Steep descent into Avoca from the base of Endeavour Drive. Staircases would be required at several points.
- Existing track through bushland below Endeavour Drive is unstable and difficult to access in areas.
- Mouth of lagoon restricts access when open.

8.3.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Utilise the water tank as a way-finding marker integrated into the signage/interpretation strategy. Consider establishing a carpark for improved access to Winney Bay. Establish this point as a clear threshold between Copacabana and Avoca.
- 2 Direct walkers along Endeavour Drive to maintain a visual connection with the coastline.
- 3 Install staircases as required in steeper sections of walkway below Endeavour Drive. Opportunity to rehabilitate weed infested areas.
- 4 Upgrade Hunter Park with improved shade and seating, consistent with the Avoca Beach Southern Foreshore Masterplan.



LEGEND

- PREFERRED PRIMARY ROUTE
- OPTIONAL SUB ROUTES / CIRCUITS
- AVOCA BEACH SURF CLUB



Figure 16: Recommendations for Avoca



8.4 NORTH AVOCA

8.4.1 OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity to replace the existing informal beach access pathway that runs close to the apartment blocks on the bend of Coast Road.
- Existing public toilets available for walkers at North Avoca Surf Club

8.4.2 CONSTRAINTS

- Steep uphill sections along Coast Road.
- The five way intersection at the top of Tramway Road poses difficulties for pedestrian crossing.

8.4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Allow the Lagoon to act as a natural threshold between Avoca and North Avoca.
- 2 Provide a staircase from the end of the beach to Coast Road.
- 3 Provide traffic slowing measures at the intersection at the top of Tramway Road (in consultation with Council).
- 4 Establish a clear threshold between North Avoca and Terrigal at the Tramway intersection.

Figure 17: Recommendations for North Avoca



Figure 18: Recommendations for Terrigal

8.5 TERRIGAL

8.5.1 OPPORTUNITIES

- Terrigal is a fitting destination to end the 5 Lands Walk Event. The Haven and the Skillion are prominent local landmarks that clearly signify a sense of arrival.
- Integrate walkway into the new landscape works recently completed in The Haven.
- Existing public toilets available for walkers at Terrigal Haven and Terrigal Beach

8.5.2 CONSTRAINTS

- Space to build new footpaths is limited along sections of the Scenic Highway where the walk is proposed to go.

8.5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Establish a clear threshold between North Avoca and Terrigal at the Tramway Road intersection as noted on the North Avoca recommendations.
- 2 Upgrade footpath along the Scenic Highway and provide a crossing point to improve pedestrian safety.
- 3 Provide a pedestrian refuge on the Scenic Highway to improve pedestrian safety.
- 4 Establish a clear trackhead and signage at Terrigal Haven.
- 5 Proposed official end of the 5 Lands Walk Event. Provide clear indication of start / end of the walk.
- 6 Recommendations to be incorporated with the Gosford City Council's prepared Terrigal Haven Plan of Management.

LEGEND

- PREFERRED PRIMARY ROUTE
- PROPOSED OPTIONAL ROUTE
- TERRIGAL SURF CLUB

9.0 VISION FOR THE 5 LANDS COASTAL WALKWAY

'Connecting People to People and People to Place'

To experience the 5 Lands Coastal Walkway is to experience the land and its people, their culture, beliefs and relationship to the landscape.

The 5 Lands Coastal Walkway will be a continuous, permanent walkway through five coastal communities. It may be undertaken in sections or in its entirety. It is a walkway that enables you to experience the culture, character, history and landscape of the Central Coast.

The 5 Lands Coastal Walkway will promote tourism in the area and create a solid base for the annual event to grow. The pathway will provide a physical foundation for cultural and spiritual events hosted by the communities throughout the year and especially on the day of the annual 5 Lands Walk Event. The walkway will promote public access and improve pedestrian connectivity between the 5 Lands, showcasing the five communities and their unique way of life.



Photo 42: Community activities at Macmasters Beach.



Photo 43: Cultural activities on the day of the 5 Lands Walk.



10.0 DOCUMENT REFERENCES

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