

SECTION C

GILGAN DRA

C.1 ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS



1.1 Focus Area 1: Town Centre Precinct

GROUP DISCUSSION ON BUSINESS CASE PROJECT

There are two key themes in Gilgandra: stories and infrastructure. Participants want to appropriately promote the town through its stories - Gilgandra has always been a meeting place where different Aboriginal communities came for sharing. The town is deeply connected to the river system, the fauna and the flora. These stories can be passed on through educative and technological experiences, particularly for younger generations. Gilgandra's story lines are carried through generations - participants noted a strong need to share this ongoing cultural and heritage connection with the world. There are substantial recordings of Gilgandra history, intertwined with its Aboriginal connection, that can be leveraged for education-based tourism.

KEY IDEAS Stories and Infrastructure

WHAT WE HEARD

- Need to consider families and kids when planning for the future, as well as maintenance and operational needs
- Integrate community members to share their stories, value and network to contribute to the project and collaborate between the three Shires
- Increased parking provision as well as walkability
- Encourage a diverse business mix

WHAT DID WE LEARN THAT PROVIDES FURTHER REFINEMENT TO THIS FOCUS AREA?

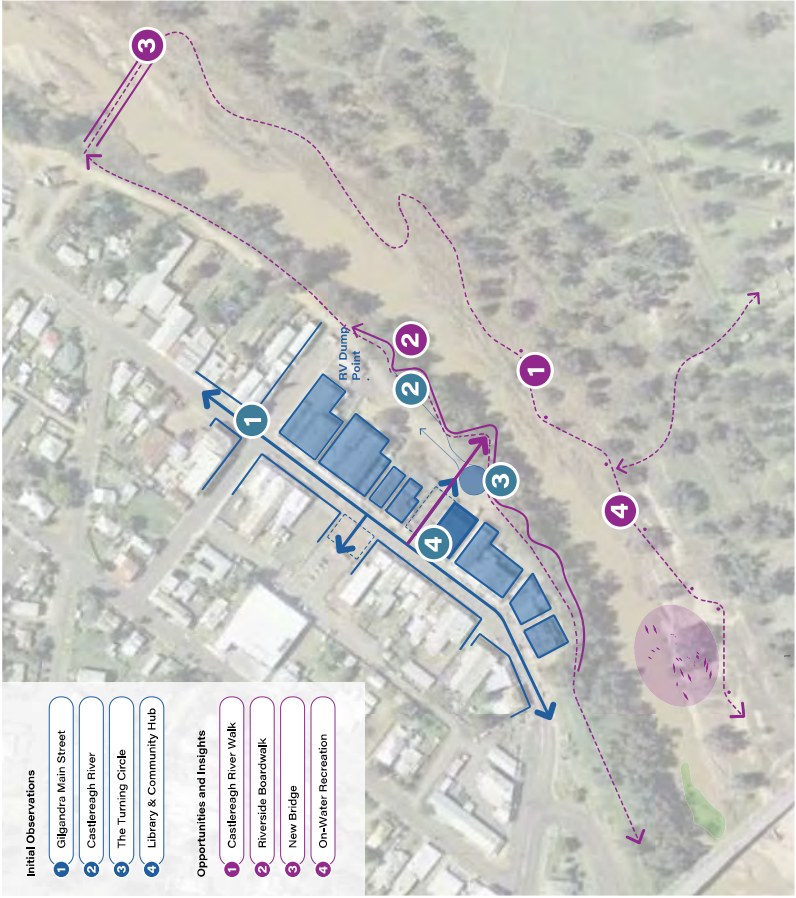
- That there would be value in moving the proposed river crossing in the town centre to be at Court St to better enhance the length of the potential loop created
- That the accessible beach area of the river is located closer to the Jack Renshaw Bridge
- That the viewing platform and boardwalk needs to provide clear link along the foreshore towards Jack Renshaw Bridge

WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO SEE IN THE FUTURE

- See economic opportunities in the CBD, ability for business to 'turn around', connection points between spend and activations
- Leverage key investments in the areas including laneways project, two plazas, GIL Library Hub and upcoming Miller st (main) beautification projects.
- Bird watching
- Showcase the beautiful trees, particularly the River Gumtree which is 500 years old
- Photography exhibitions
- The GIL Library Hub
- Expanding the sandy area near the river for kids activities to take place
- Promoting Gilgandra as a place of reconnection to the Australian cultural heritage
- Drone river footage
- CBD activation, that is generated by visitors and locals
- Accessibility to the water with trails

WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO

- Water activities in the river - fishing, kayaking
- Farm experiences
- Differentiated kids activities
- Education-based tourism
- Share local history, particularly the strong connection to Aboriginal communities, to younger generations, not only as place promotion but to further strengthen the information transfer of the local history and heritage.
- NAIDOC celebrations, supporting and promotion Aboriginal businesses
- Walking and cycling tracks along the riverside



1.2 Gilgandra Focus Area 2: Cultural & Heritage Precinct

GROUP DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIC MASTERPLANNING PROJECT

The expanding Coo-ee Cultural Precinct presents an exciting opportunity for Gilgandra's tourism growth, catering to families, cultural and event visitors. By aligning with this cultural hub, Gilgandra can shift from a mere stopover to a vibrant destination. This not only attracts local and regional visitors but also broadens its appeal, increasing visitor numbers and enhancing the town's economy and cultural vibrancy. Further enhancing physical infrastructure improvements within this Gilgandra Cultural Precinct invites exploration of its unique blend of nature, river walks, heritage, art, and events, fostering a deep connection and engagement within the area and extending visitors stays.

KEY IDEAS

WHAT WE HEARD

- Emphasising agriculture and Agri-tourism leveraging Gilgandra's agricultural industry as a central element of the tourism strategy. Ideas for promoting different seasons of agriculture, exploring agri-tourism opportunities, creating playground that are themed
- Promoting the river's natural attributes, considering regenerative practices for river health, and creating a wide track for walking and riding along the river, providing opportunities to venture into nature.
- Art, Culture, and Dark Sky Promotion: promoting arts and culture within Gilgandra. This included integrating infrastructure with art, promoting the "dark sky" and emus in the sky story, and creating sensory experiences for children in naturalised playgrounds.
- Art and culture were seen as important elements in attracting tourists and enhancing the visitor experience
- Ideas included the connections to the Gilgandra Museum walkway and machinery/play.

WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO SEE IN THE FUTURE

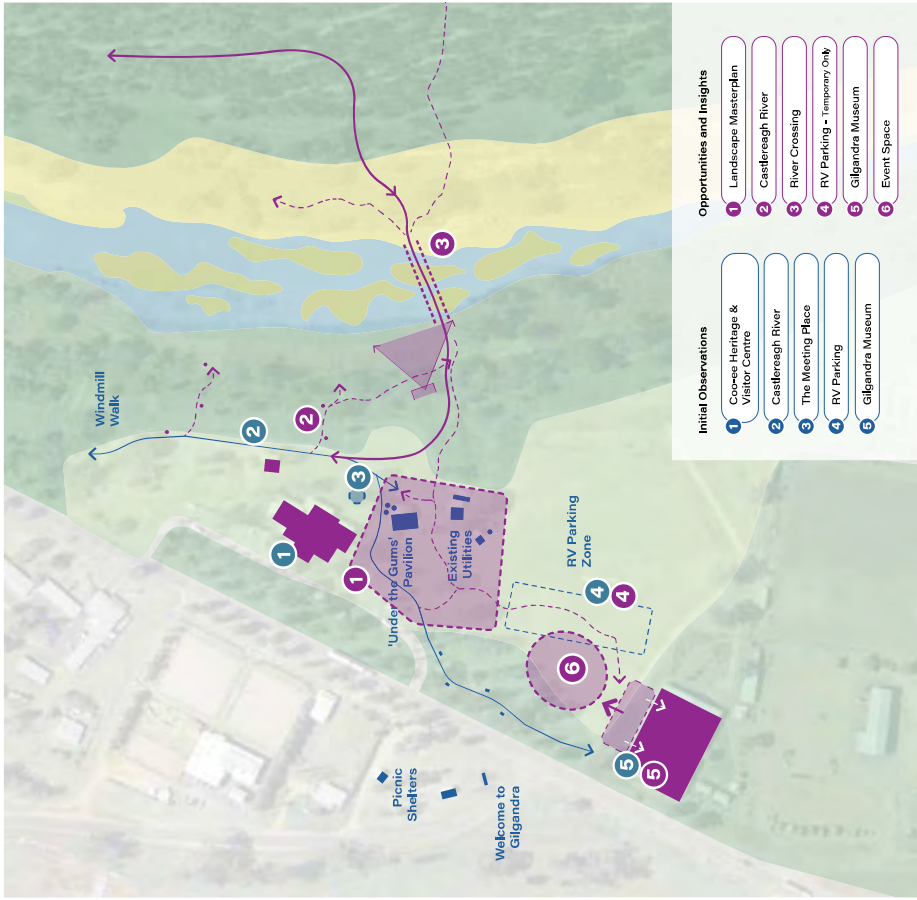
- Wayfinding and signage that showcase the history, heritage, and traditions of Gilgandra and the Castlereagh River
- Introduction of an agricultural playground for visitors.
- Upgrade to the events amenities
- The Gilgandra Museum integrated into the space
- Open green space

WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO

- Create a nature-based agricultural playground
- Integrate the history and natural landscape through an interpretive walk

WHAT DID WE LEARN THAT PROVIDES FURTHER REFINEMENT TO THIS FOCUS AREA?

- That there is a need for the walking and cycle path to be accessible for all users for the full loop from Coo-ee Cultural Precinct to the Windmill Walk and into the town centre
- That there are well known Australian poems and songs that could be introduced in the wayfinding signage and an upgraded play space
- That there needs to be consideration to additional landscaping and pathway network between the Gilgandra Museum, the proposed river walk and the Windmill Walk



1.3 Gilgandra Visitor Profile

During engagement we asked for insights regarding the visitor profiles from participants:

VISITOR PROFILE:

Truck stops and Caravan parks:
the tourism market has a high percentage of passing trade with variable visitation numbers

ARE THEY USUALLY:



WHERE DO THEY USUALLY COME FROM?

Regional NSW

Visitors doing the North/South (or reverse) trip from QLD/VIC

WHAT DO THEY TYPICALLY DO DURING THEIR STAY?



AT WHAT TIME DO PEOPLE USUALLY COME?

DAYTIME ACTIVITIES

*Insights provided by consulting with local businesses, accommodation providers and event organisers.

1.4 Gilgandra Cultural Precinct Vision and three key themes

1. COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

- Highlighting the town's vibrant community spirit through stories
- Recognising local heroes and community leaders
- Fostering community-driven projects and initiatives that encourage ownership

2. ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Expanding the local economy with a diverse business offering
- Implementing environmental conservation and protection measures that showcase the unique fauna and flora
- Encouraging eco-friendly business practices

3. INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Upgrading local infrastructure to meet modern standards
- Encouraging residents to participate in town development
- Ensuring all community segments have a voice
- Enhance river connection with the town centre

4. COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION

- Building a collaborative relationship with the council
- Ensuring the community's needs are prioritised
- Working together on town development and conservation projects

5. TOURISM AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Promoting Gilgandra's unique attractions
- Capitalising on the town's cultural and historical significance
- Collaborating with nearby towns to boost regional tourism

1.5 Tooraweenah Community Workshop SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

- Geotrail
- Emu Farm
- The local community is friendly and welcoming to tourists and visitors
- Pub provision
- Caravans and camping
- Warrumungles, accommodation, town services and groceries
- Easter show, endurance ride
- Proximity and accessibility to Warrumbungle National Park

WEAKNESSES

- Poor mobile phone coverage
- Need for improved infrastructure provision, particularly regarding public amenity such as public toilets
- Lack of seasonal events

OPPORTUNITIES

- Build on existing events which already hold a reputation, such as the fly-ins in May and September, as well as Easter
- Car rally's and vintage car exhibitions
- Dirt and motor bike trails
- Promote the geo-trails through events as Treasure Hunts and improved accessibility

THREATS

- The region was highly impacted in recent years by a sequence of threat: the Covid-19 pandemic, the mice plague and extreme drought



3.4.2 Tooraweenah Community Workshop See and Do

WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO SEE IN THE FUTURE

- Improve signage, particularly directing people in Gilgandra from surrounding towns and within the National Park
- Marketing strategies that include digital elements such as QR codes with updated information
- Increased amenity and link to Warrumbungles

WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO

- Pet-friendly trails that allow animals on bikes
- Emu Hunts for experience-based tourism
- Historic walks and bushwalking
- Trail run/rides, stay, refuel

1.6 Tooraweenah Community Workshop Key Themes

1. COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

- Promoting Tooraweenah's unique identity
- Recognising the role of volunteers in the community
- Strengthening local social groups and events
- Easter Show and Endurance Ride

2. ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Strengthening local businesses and trade
- Diversifying the town's economic base
- Addressing environmental challenges, such as droughts and bushfires
- Promote the proximity to Warrumbungle National Park, local accommodation, town services and groceries

3. INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Revitalising local landmarks and public spaces
- Promoting inclusive community planning and decision-making
- Increased amenity, signage and links to Warrumbungle National Park

4. COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION

- Establishing clearer communication channels with the council
- Council support for local initiatives
- Collaborating on infrastructure projects and environmental conservation

5. TOURISM AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Capitalising on Tooraweenah's historical and cultural significance
- Developing local attractions and promoting tourism
- Collaborating with regional stakeholders to boost tourism

C.2

KEY FINDINGS

2.1 Updating and Refocusing the Infrastructure Projects to align with Council, Community and Stakeholder Input

These brief summary points reflect the feedback from local stakeholders in Gilgandra and Tooraweenah Village provide guidance for refining infrastructure focus areas:

Town Centre and River Crossing Design

- Reevaluate the design of the town centre viewing platform and the potential river crossing connection.
- Explore the possibility of relocating the river crossing further north to align with the northern section of the town centre, considering the reduced elevation and potential for an at-grade crossing.
- Take into account the location of powerlines and stormwater outlets during planning.

River Health and Conservation

- Recognise the critical importance of maintaining and enhancing the health of the river, emphasising its ecological significance.
- Relocation of the town beach to under the existing Jack Renshaw Bridge taking advantage of access and shade.

Cultural Inclusivity and First Nations Identity

- Promote cultural inclusivity and initiatives that celebrate the contributions of First Nations people.

Promotion of Primary Industries and Rural Strength

- Emphasise the promotion of primary industries, showcasing Gilgandra's rural strength and heritage.
- Explore strategies to effectively present the museum and rural strengths to the public within Focus Area 2.

Enhancement of Public Spaces

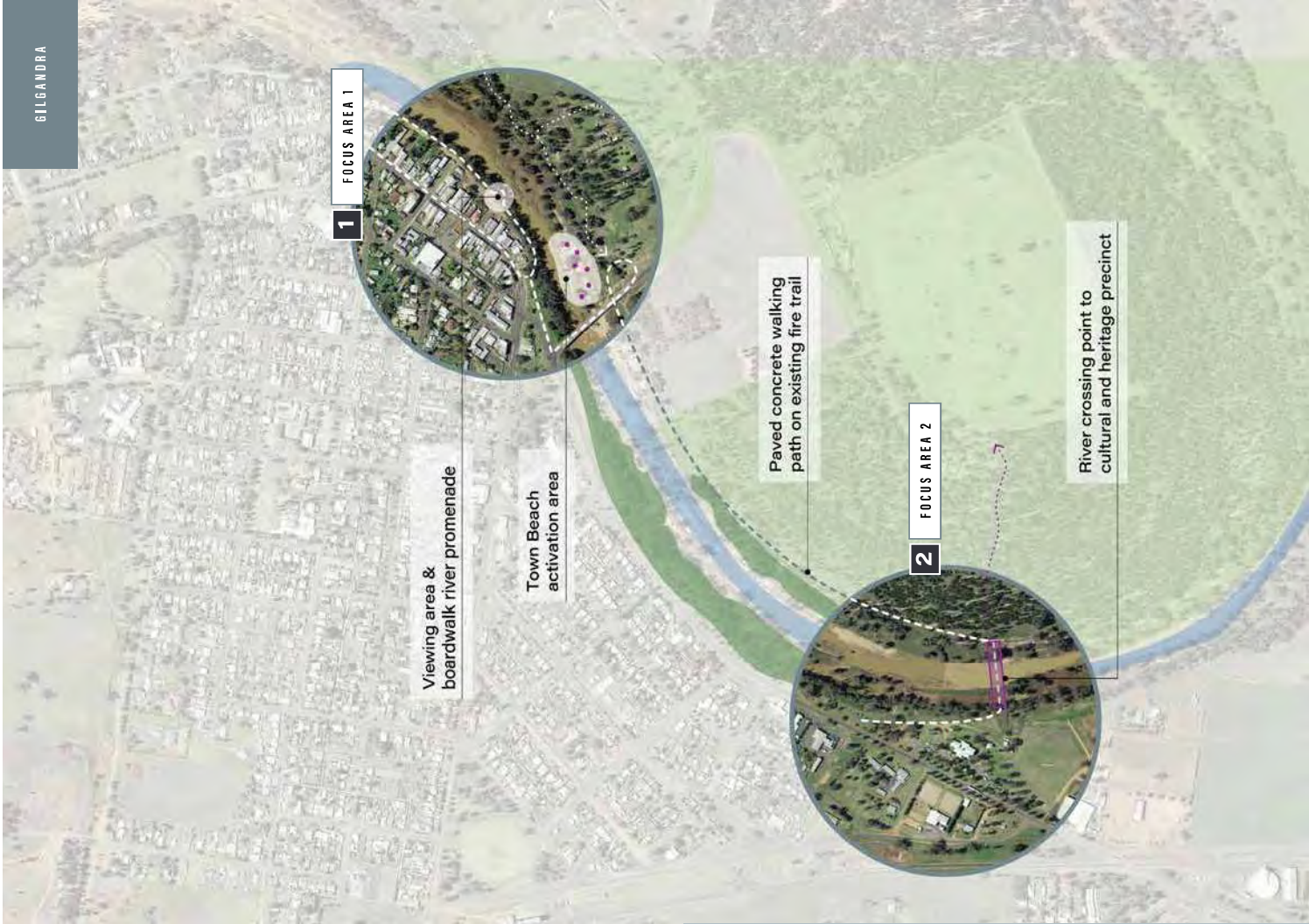
- Support the development of an approx 5km of existing fire trail (dirt track) at grade all access walking track that will facilitate creating a loop walk from river crossing to river crossing connecting Focus Area 1 and 2, this will encourage access to the reserve park and racecourse area, to encourage greater public utilisation.
- Maximise the potential of these public spaces for community engagement and recreation.

Regional Collaboration and Identity

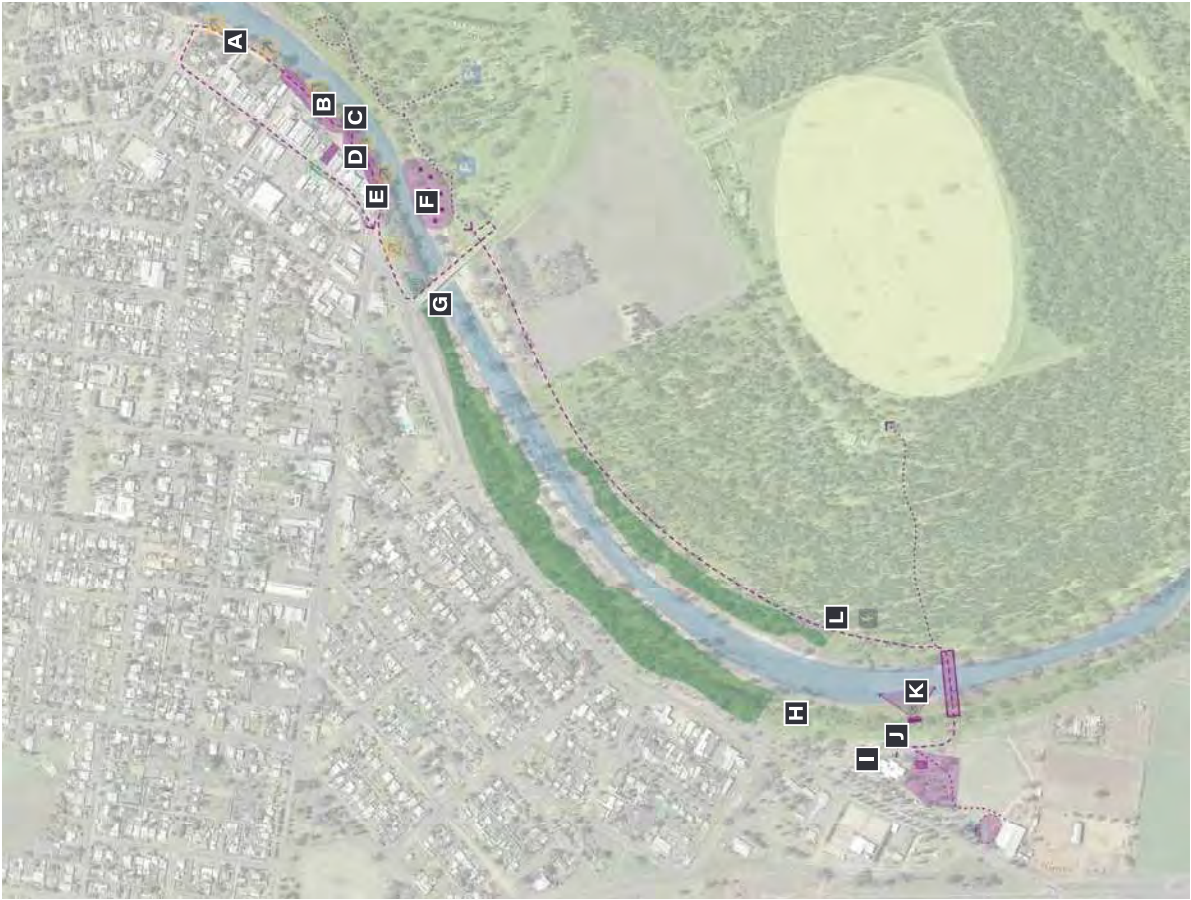
- Advocate for a united front among the three shires, fostering a sense of strong regional identity and offerings that collectively benefit the communities.

Tooraweenah Village Engagement Summary

Opportunities to leverage aviation events, promote natural attractions, the Tooraweenah Showground and the proximity to Warrumbungle National Park. As part of the Strategic Marketing Program - Tooraweenah Village seeks to develop digital tools and improve communication with council, while adventure biking and EV charging offer growth prospects. Attention to road naming, signage, and navigation is vital, along with expanding initiatives like a Local Village Walk, exploring geo-caching opportunities and providing local business support to promote tourism and the wider region.



2.2 Focus Area 1 & 2: Gilgandra Business Case Project
2.2.1 Existing Conditions Town Centre Precinct



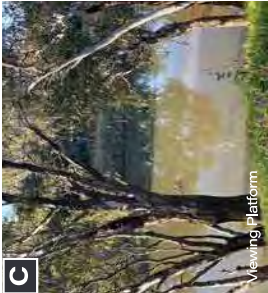
SECTION C / GILGANDRA



Along the riverfront



Turning circle area



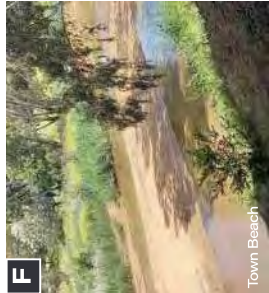
Viewing Platform



Boardwalk area



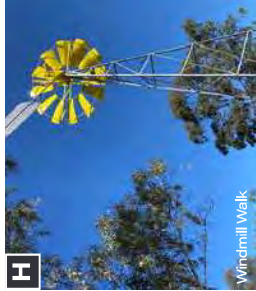
River view towards Hwy Bridge



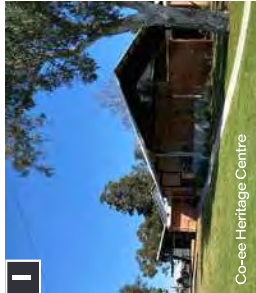
Town Beach



Loop on opposite side



Windmill Walk



Co-ee Heritage Centre



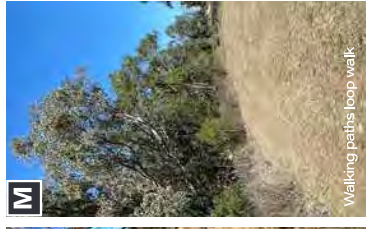
Meeting Place Option



Viewing Platform



River Crossing



Walking paths loop walk

2.2.2 Town Centre Precinct Updates

