



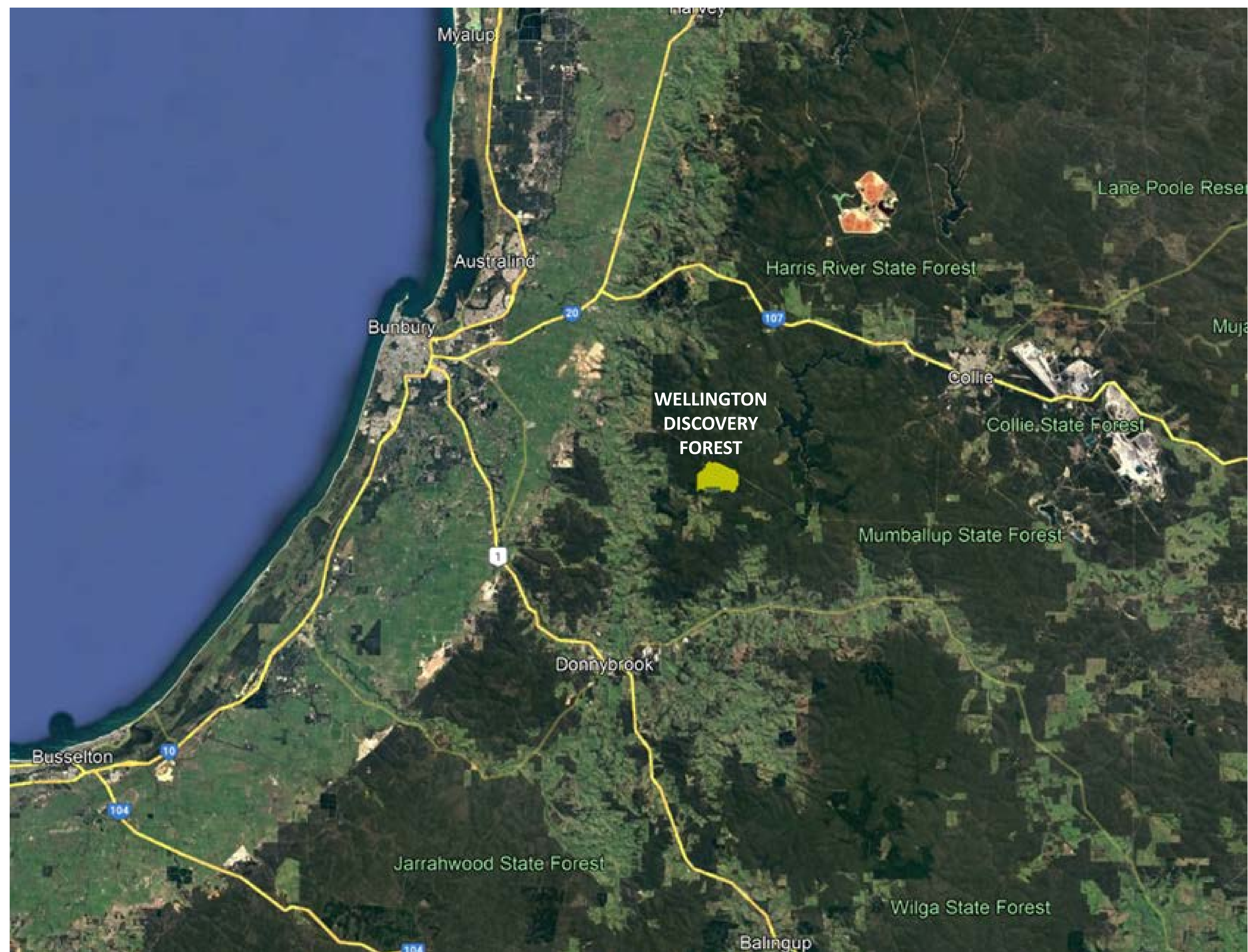
Wellington Discovery Forest

CONNECT - LEARN - DISCOVER



Southwest Timber Hub
Ferguson Valley Marketing Inc
Friends of Wellington Discovery Forest
Forest Products Commission
Leschenault Timber Club
Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions

30 MAY 2022



Wellington National Park Expansion

Located in the heart of the Bunbury Geographe region, the Wellington National Park has recently been expanded by over 7,000 hectares. The expanded Wellington National Park now covers 25,000 hectares, protecting high quality jarrah and marri forest and important habitat for a range of threatened and priority species.

The park attracts over 273,000 visitors annually and its expansion will provide additional opportunities for recreation, including mountain biking, bushwalking, camping, cultural education and adventure activities.

The Wellington Discovery Forest (WDF) is ideally located between both halves of the Wellington National Park and could act as a natural gateway to visitors to the park. It is also located half way between the growing tourism areas of Collie and the Ferguson Valley within the Bunbury Geographe area (BunGeo).

BunGeo Region

The Bunbury Geographe region is situated 180 kilometres south of Perth in Australia's South West. It takes in the City of Bunbury and the Shires of Dardanup, Harvey, Collie, Donnybrook-Balingup and Boyup Brook.

World-class natural attractions, vibrant cafes, sensational food and wine, endless beaches, untouched forest, and a mass of excellent accommodation options make it the perfect destination.

Collie Tourism Town

Collie tourism has seen huge growth in recent years, there has been a 77% increase of visitors to the Collie Visitor Centre between March and September 2021.

The combination of the expanded Wellington National Park and the improved trail network provides opportunity for Collie to become a recognised 'trail town' - with quality trails, outdoor experiences, facilities and services such as accommodation, hospitality, visitor information and more.

The first stages of works to improve facilities at Wellington Dam are also underway to better cater for growing visitation, including a re-alignment of Wellington Dam Road and the construction of expanded parking facilities, mural viewing points and a new kiosk building.

With major projects being funded to assist Collie to transition from a Coal town to a vibrant tourism hub, the WDF is ideally located to encourage people to use the rest of the national park and visit the amazing community of Collie.



The Ferguson Valley

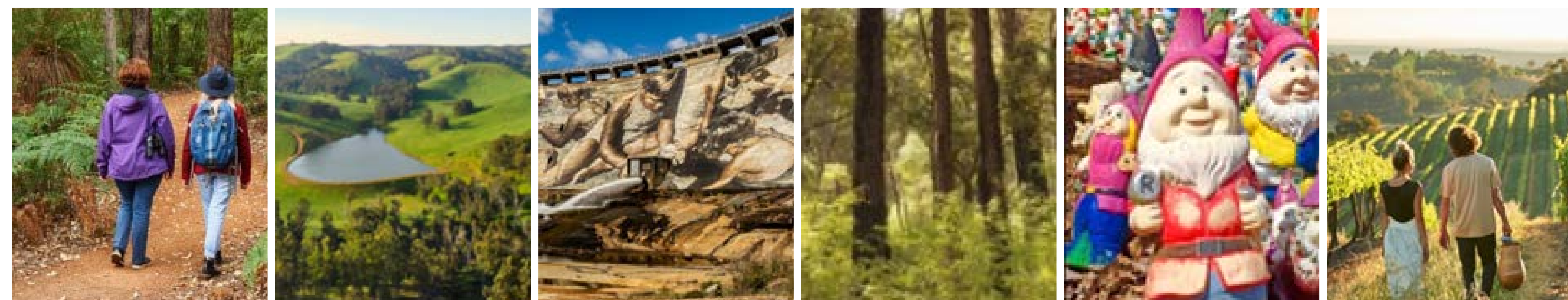
The Ferguson Valley is a regional tourism hotspot. “The Jewel in Bun Geo Crown’

Located just inland from Bunbury Western Australia. The valley district is home to a wide variety of towns, landscapes and natural attractions.

Extending from the edge of the coastal strip through the rural hinterland and into tracts of natural bushland- the valley has been a drawcard for successive generations of people.

As generations have migrated to and through the valley the districts history has evolved and been enriched. From a long area of indigenous habitation and land use, through to early forestry settlement extending to a variety of modern day uses, the valley has changed and grown.

Today the valley offers a long and interesting history generating a wide range of tourism opportunities and experiences ready to be capitalised upon. Right in the middle of the Ferguson Valley is the Wellington Discovery Forest which is located between rural farm land and wineries and the districts amazing jarrah forests. The Wellington Discovery Forest is perfectly placed to significantly enhance the valleys tourism offering by encapsulating a concise history of the valleys history and its colourful community in one central location.



Wellington Discovery Forest

Nature History Tourism Culture Education Science & Research Learning Connection



CONNECTION
Community, meaning, wellbeing, place & belonging.

NATURE
Appreciation, preservation & protection.

HISTORY
Recognition, evolution & transition.



LEARNING
Results applied for environmental, social & community benefit.



TOURISM
Access, enjoyment experience & economy.



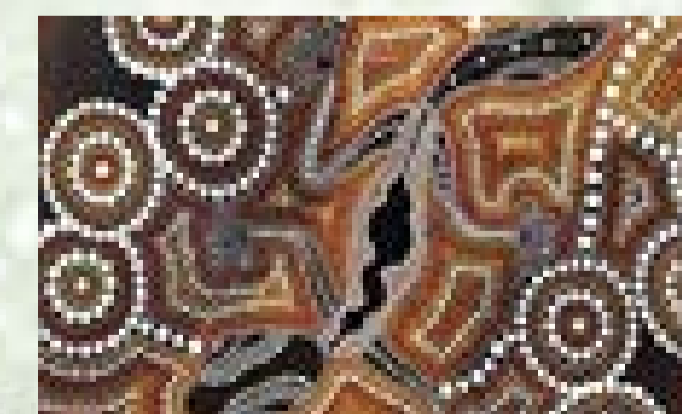
SCIENCE & RESEARCH
Study, mapping, monitoring & recording for future practical application.

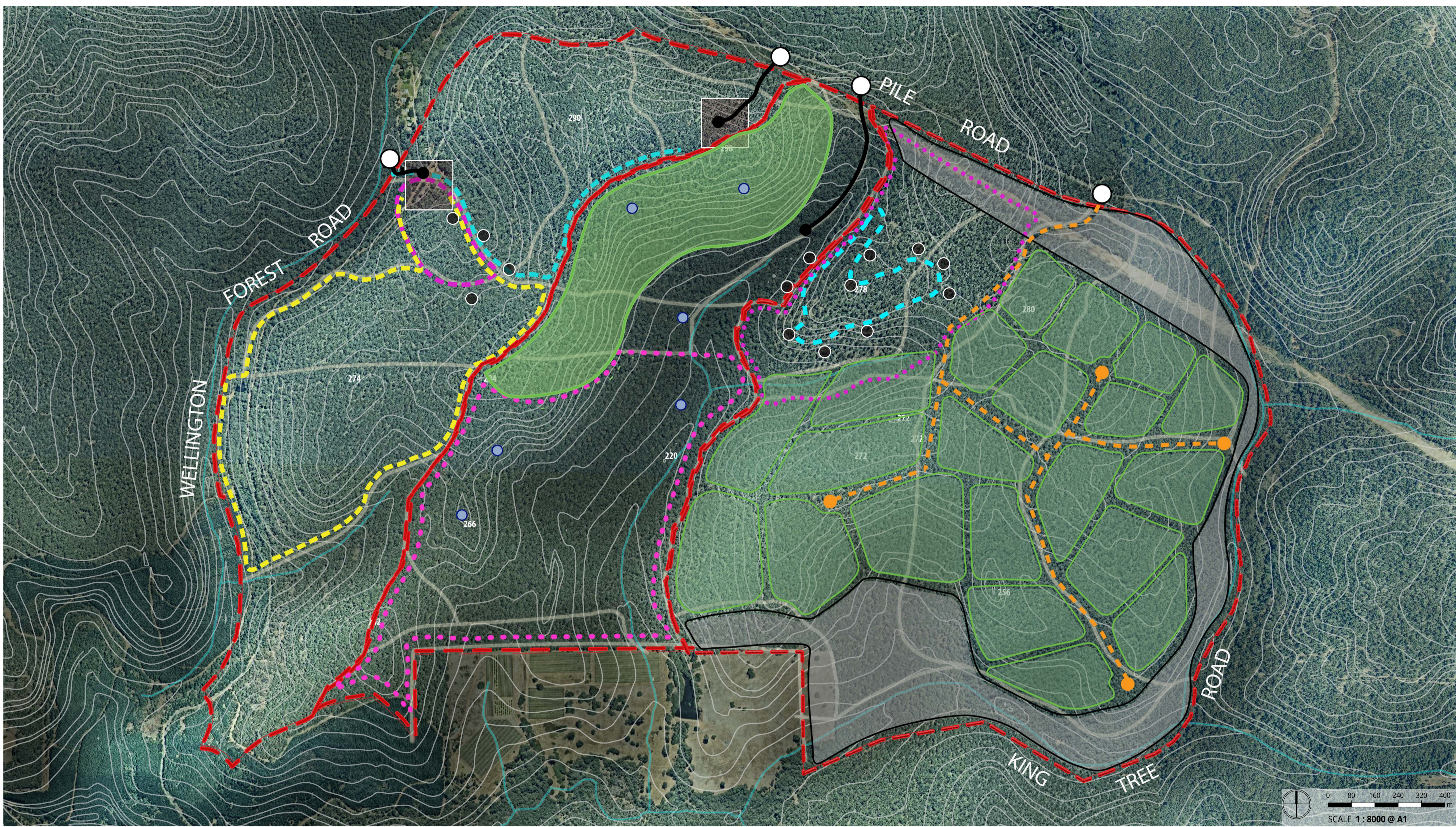


EDUCATION
Outdoor interaction, interpretation, training, accuracy & knowledge



CULTURE
Interpretation expression & communication.



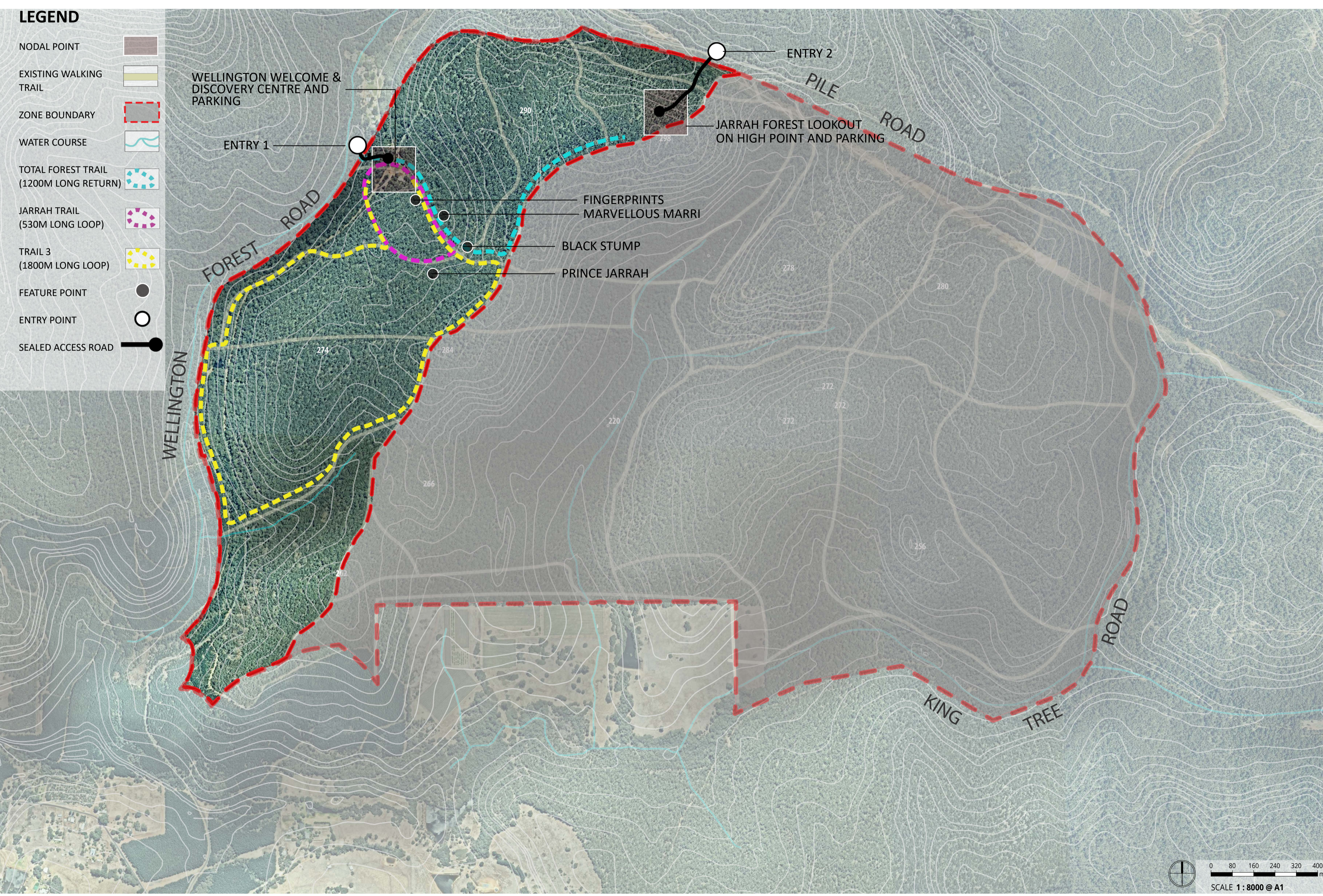


THE MASTERPLAN
The Wellington discovery forest upgrade will expand ecotourism and recreation options in the southwest. It will focus on nature and will do this in an eco-friendly way and shall expand visitors knowledge, interaction and appreciation for Western Australia's unique jarrah forests.

The Wellington discovery forest upgrade will deliver a number of tourism and community themes and benefits:

- It will cater for visitors of all ages and abilities and provide a range of facilities catering for a wide range of interests. It will provide visitors with reliable information in between memorable moments of interest, joy, natural wonder, reflection and tranquility.
- It will access and highlight the unique nature of Western Australia's jarrah forest ecosystem and its natural checks and balances.
- It will strongly support the southwest regions targeted and expanding ecofriendly natural ethos, image and lifestyle by providing a cohesive and important addition to the regions local tourism offering.
- It will outline human interaction with jarrah forests through aboriginal themes and stories, colonial uses, recent modern uses and future opportunities and in particular the transition of human uses and the evolution of attitudes over time.
- It will provide various defined zones for targeted uses and users in support of communication, education, research and science.
- It will focus messaging and proposed works on the use of recycled and upcycled materials, sustainable practices and renewable resources.
- Increase community awareness and support for the discovery forest and with embedded opportunities for potential revenue sources.



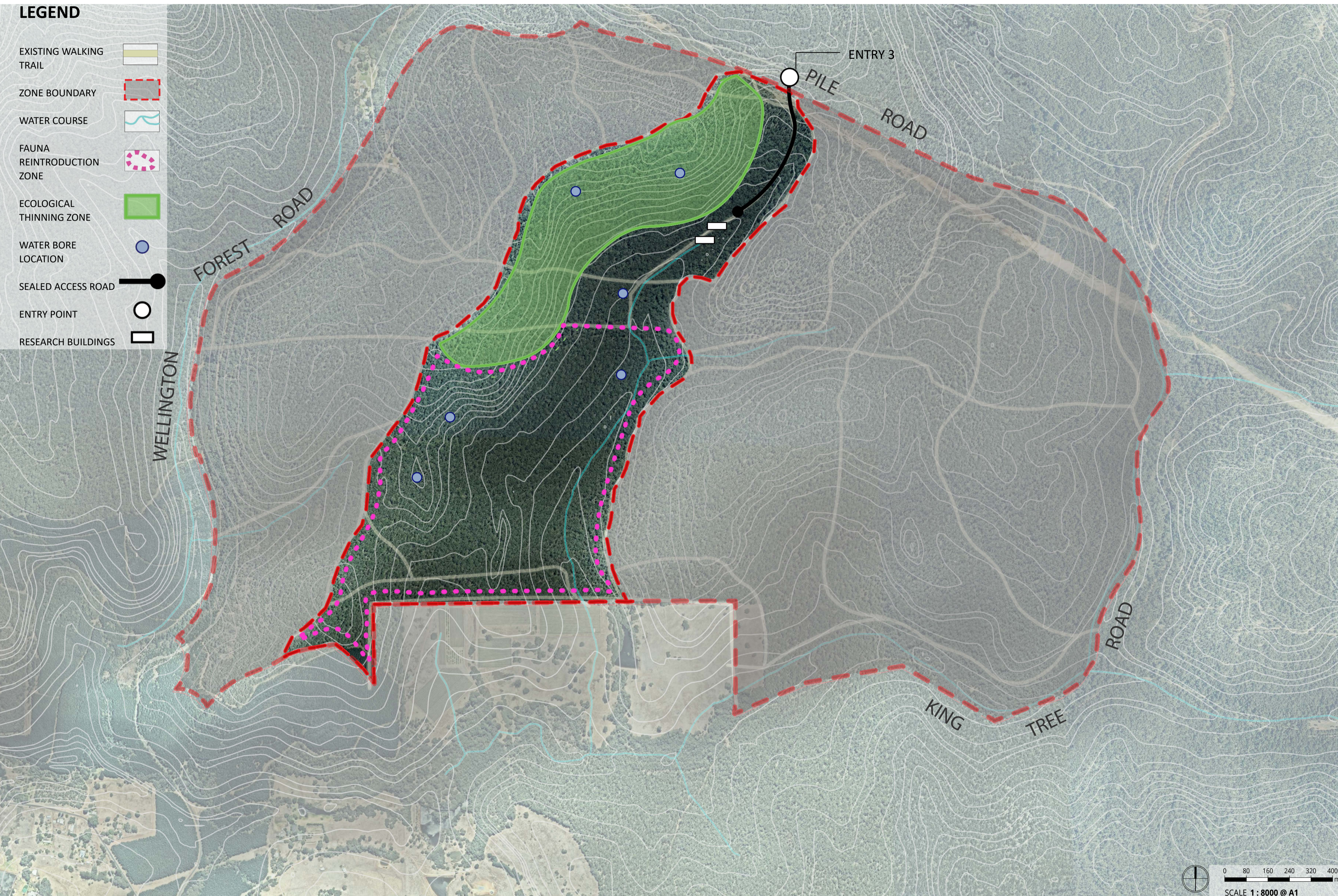


AIMS & BENEFITS

- a) Safely immerse visitors in the jarrah forest under and above the canopy and among the plants and animals that make the forest their home.
- b) Provide iconic tourism elements and experiences to attract visitors to the jarrah forest as a platform for sharing further information and knowledge.
- c) Describe and display the jarrah forest ecosystem and how it naturally functions and to provide for either visitor self-guided or organised guided walks and talks.
- d) Convey educational and informative context to visitors about past human impacts, decisions and activities affecting the forest in order to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the forests value.

PROPOSED STAGED INCLUSIONS

1. An expansion to and modernization of the existing visitor welcome centre and eco education facility and its immediate precinct. This will include a new fauna and taxidermy display, a series of covered accessible outdoor education areas suitable for different group sizes, interactive education displays, expanded carpark, expanded and targeted informative signage, launch points for self guided and guided walks.
2. Upgraded and well maintained walking trails through the forest that provide universal access for all visitors.
3. A range of modern diverse interpretive and educational elements and displays focused on human interaction with the jarrah forest, in particular the transition through:
 - a. aboriginal spiritual and cultural connection and sustenance uses,
 - b. colonial forestry uses, methods and past attitudes,
 - c. recent forestry practices extending to ecotourism benefits and modern attitudes,
 - d. the role of the discovery forest now and into the future.
4. A series seating rest points at key locations and spacings along the trails to cater for various user abilities and periodic shelters to provide locations for guided tour talks and weather respite.
5. A forest themed sculptural art trail to be located along select walking tracks. This will employ local and indigenous artists in the creation of informative, educational, attractive and interactive elements that are inspired by and curated for the jarrah forest.
6. An iconic forest tall lookout structure that extends above the canopy and looks over the local district. This will be a key element in the promotion of the discovery forest inspired by the Valley of the Giants tree top walk in Denmark WA.
7. Possible forest logging steam train rail loop for visitors to traverse the forest in a historic manner.



AIMS & BENEFITS

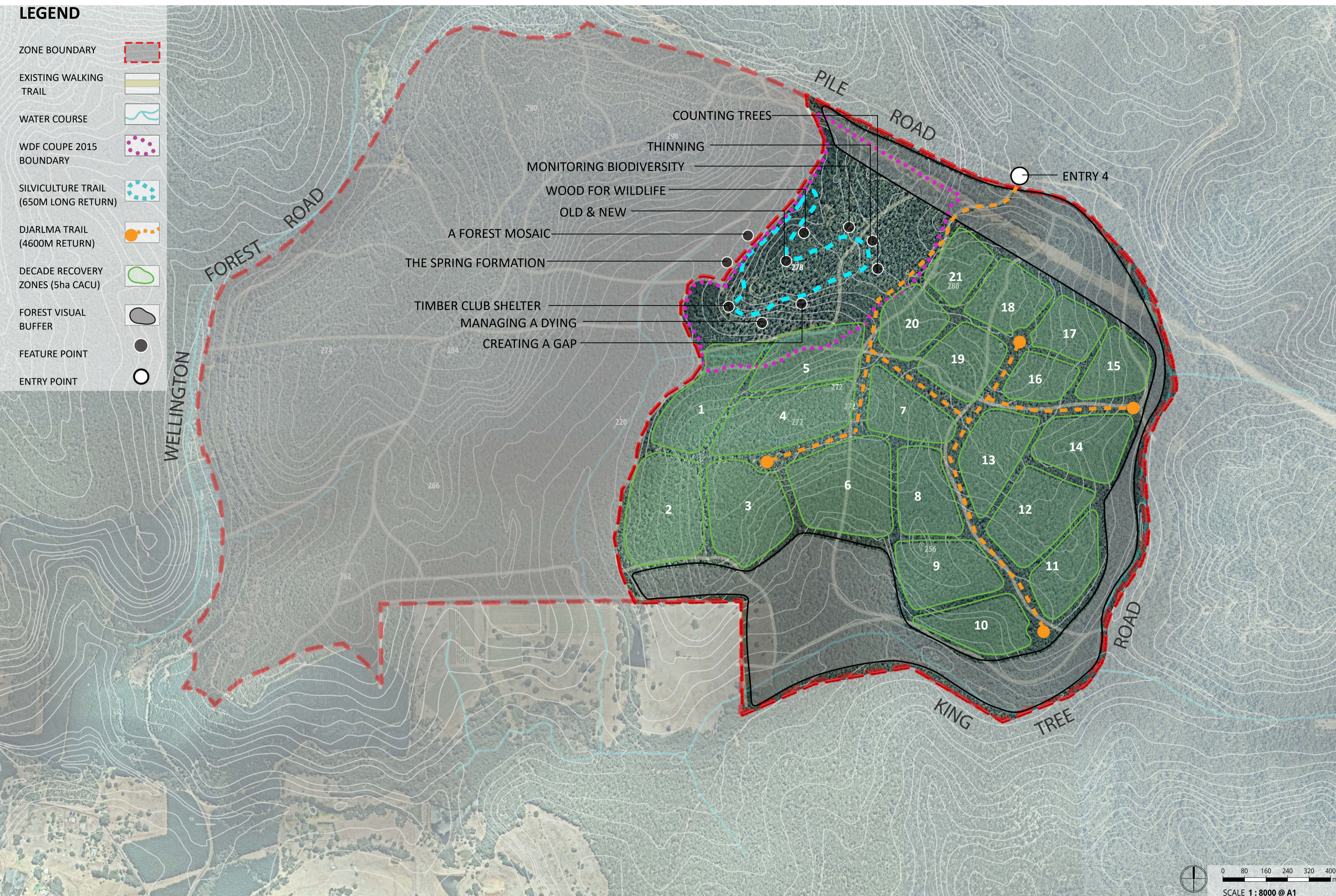
- Creates a precinct for partnerships with dedicated professional natural systems research and a variety of tailored educational uses encompassing primary and high schools, TAFE's and universities. This will serve the dual purpose of strengthening the role of the existing Forest Research Management Committee.
- A particular focus is proposed to be centered on
 - Documenting Western Australia's jarrah forest natural ecosystem.
 - The effects of a drying climate on the jarrah forests and the natural ecosystem and to test methods to mitigate adverse environmental and social impacts.
 - Bushfire impacts and management in a forest setting. This will feed into broader mitigation and management strategies applicable to State planning, land management and emergency service authorities serving southwest communities.
- Promotes the expansion of citizen science approach to public information and learning.
- Creates a managed location of controlled study and experimentation separate from external influences to avoid contamination of approved studies and their outcomes and results
- Information sharing from the research zone back to the ecology zone.

PROPOSED STAGED INCLUSIONS

- Allocated defined areas of jarrah forest dedicated to continuous and ongoing research extending over years. Select forest plots will be ecologically modified to differing degrees and timelines to create and measure change over time. This may involve the same institutions
- visiting annually over an extended period or a variety of institutions in one off liaison as rotated over time. Research topics may include:
 - fire patterns and forest recovery and restoration,
 - native fauna resilience and repopulation,
 - forest diseases and their management and controls,
 - feral species management and controls,
 - carbon capture, CO2 removal and oxygen creation quantum's
 - soil management, and improvement,
 - water management and the effects of a drying climate.
- The creation of furnished meeting rooms, science labs, outdoor areas and furnishing, carparking and associated facilities that are suitably fitted out to contain and allow scientific work to be reasonably carried out inclusive of storage facilities for various user groups.
- The creation of outdoor shelters at defined locations to cater for outdoor research tasks.
- Dedicated and controlled fauna reintroduction sites for select native species as part of targeted research and studies informing future reintroduction strategies and practices.

FOREST MANAGEMENT ZONE 3

The management zone demonstrates and charts the jarrah forests response to disturbance over time.



AIMS & BENEFITS

- Create a visual example of the jarrah forests regrowth response to harvesting over time to inform and improve modern forestry and revegetation practices.
- Provide the opportunity to monitor and track the rate and extent of the forests response to disturbance over time.

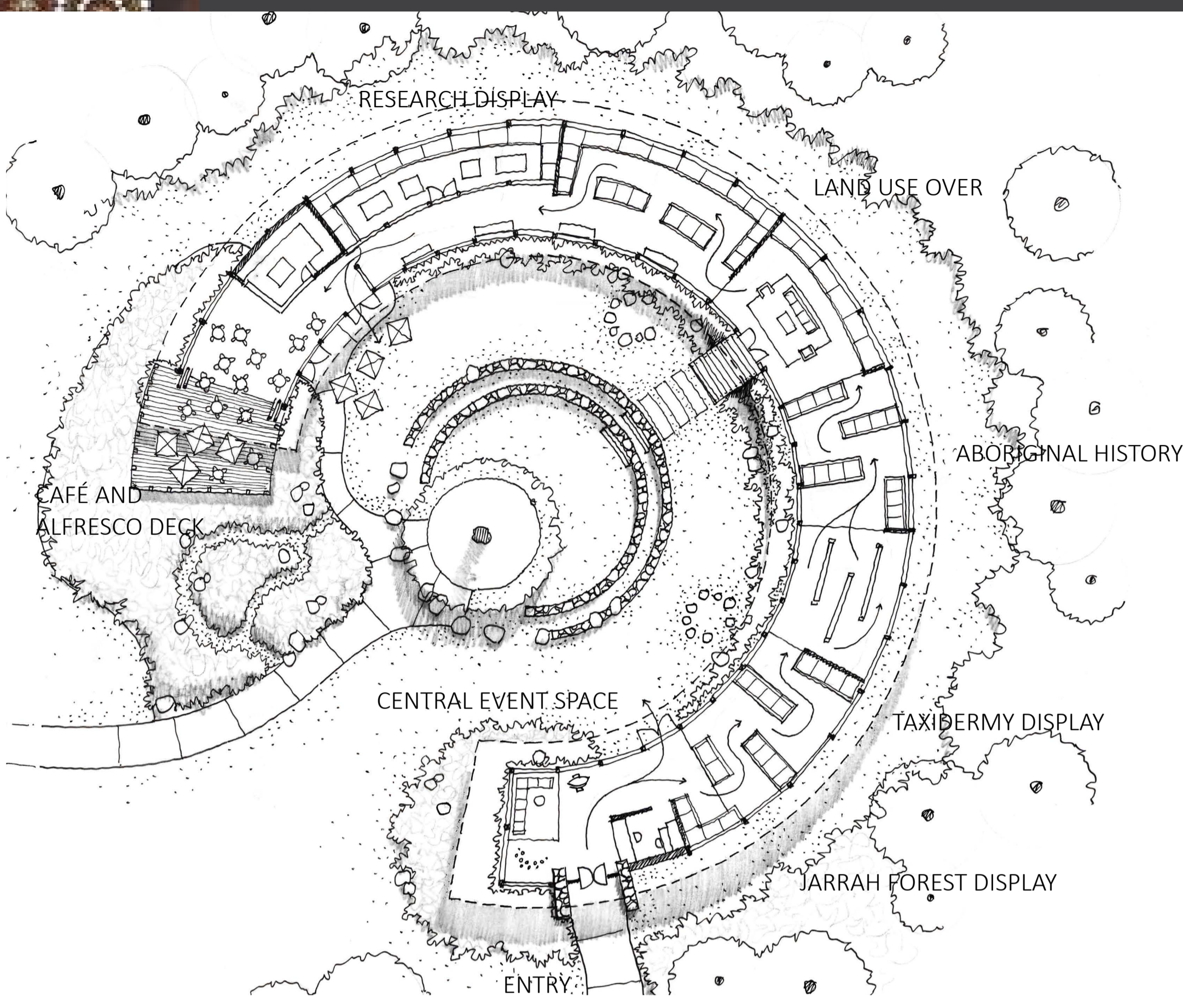
PROPOSED STAGED INCLUSIONS

- Upgraded and well maintained walking trails through the forest that provide universal access for all visitors.
- The creation of staged modifications to the existing already managed jarrah forest to create individual zones of regrowth that can be studied, mapped and monitored over time. It is proposed that 20 individual 10ha plots be created at 10 year intervals to ultimately provide incremental pattern of 200 years of regrowth culminating in a mature jarrah forest ecosystem.

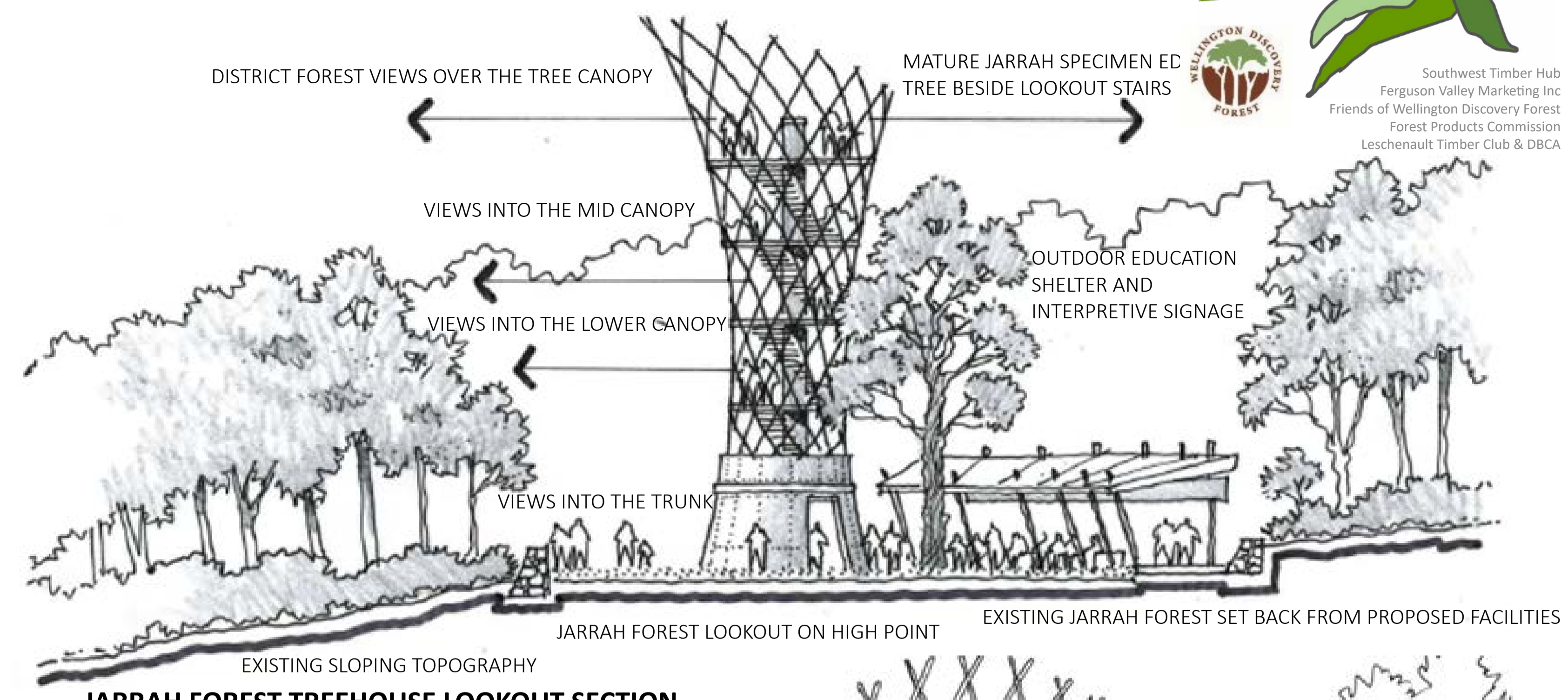
WELLINGTON DISCOVERY FOREST IMAGERY



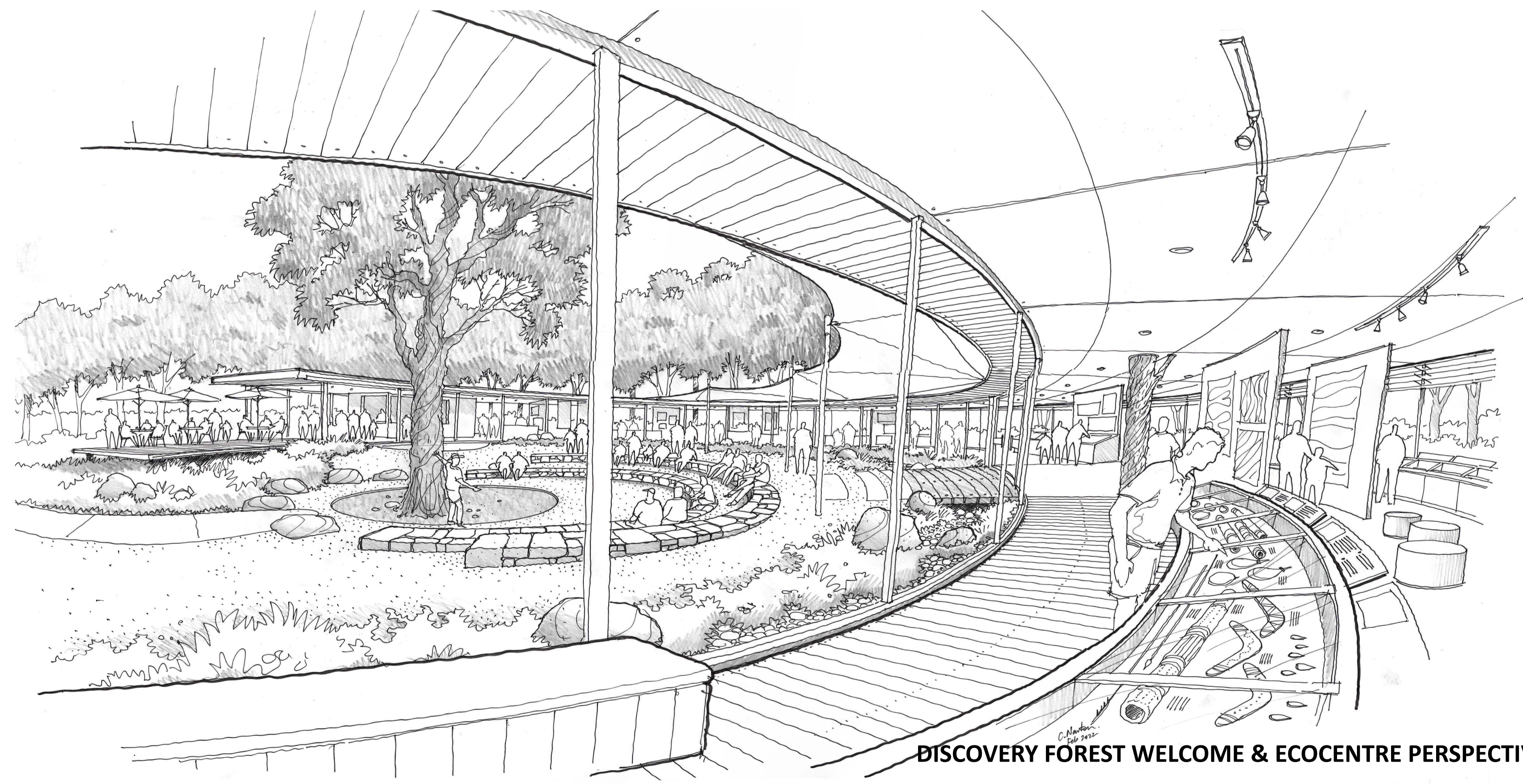
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DISCOVERY FOREST WELCOME & ECOCENTRE PLAN



JARRAH FOREST TREEHOUSE LOOKOUT SECTION



DISCOVERY FOREST WELCOME & ECOCENTRE PERSPECTIVE



JARRAH FOREST TREEHOUSE LOOKOUT PERSPECTIVE

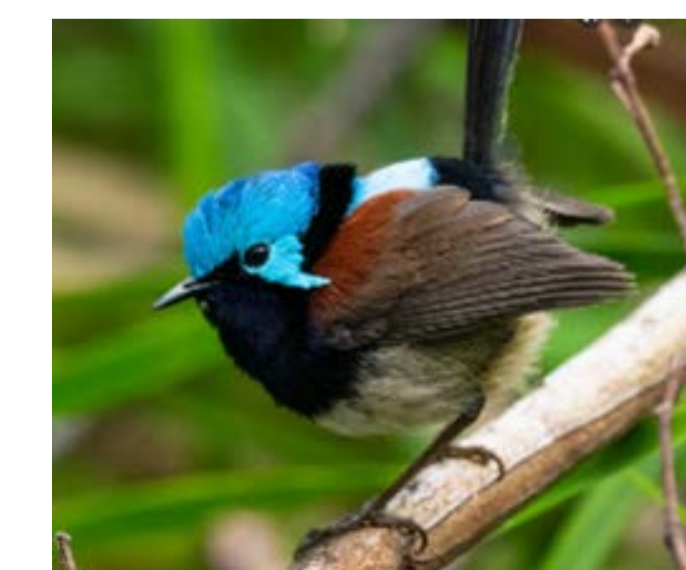
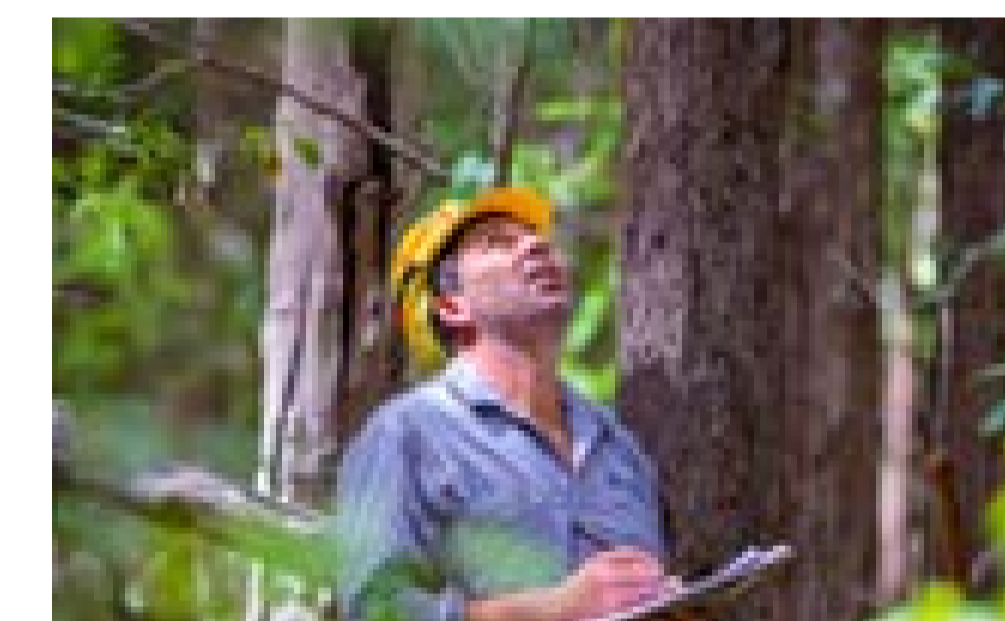
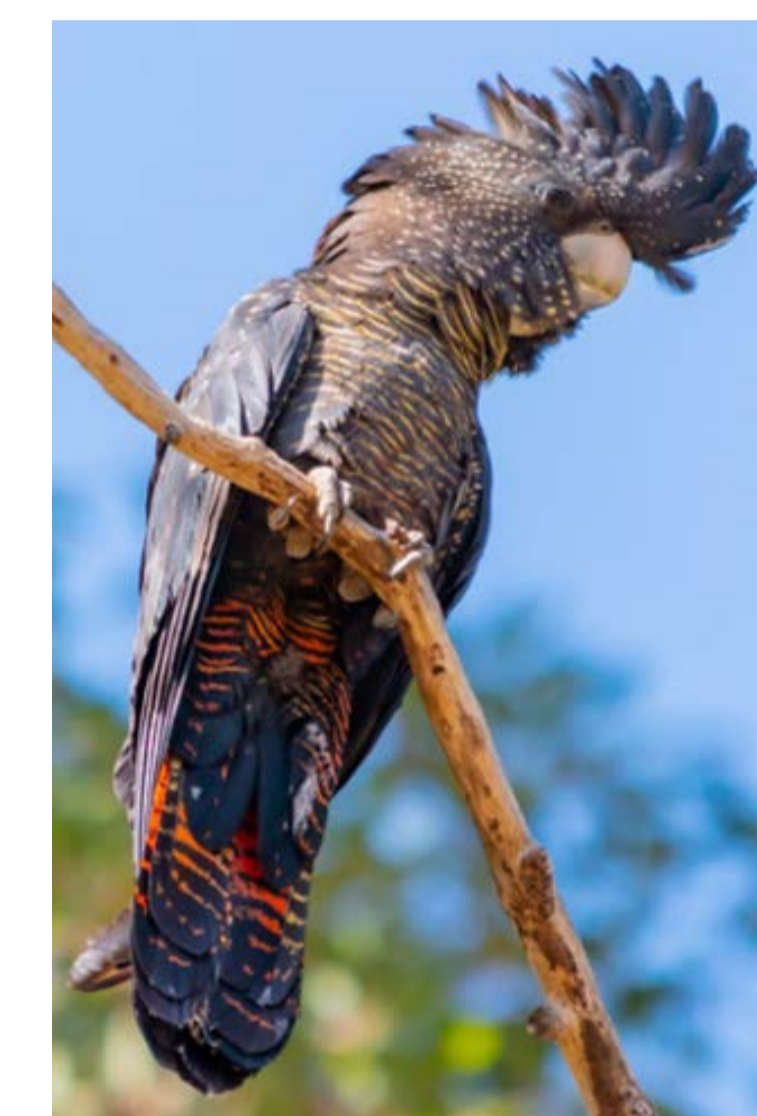
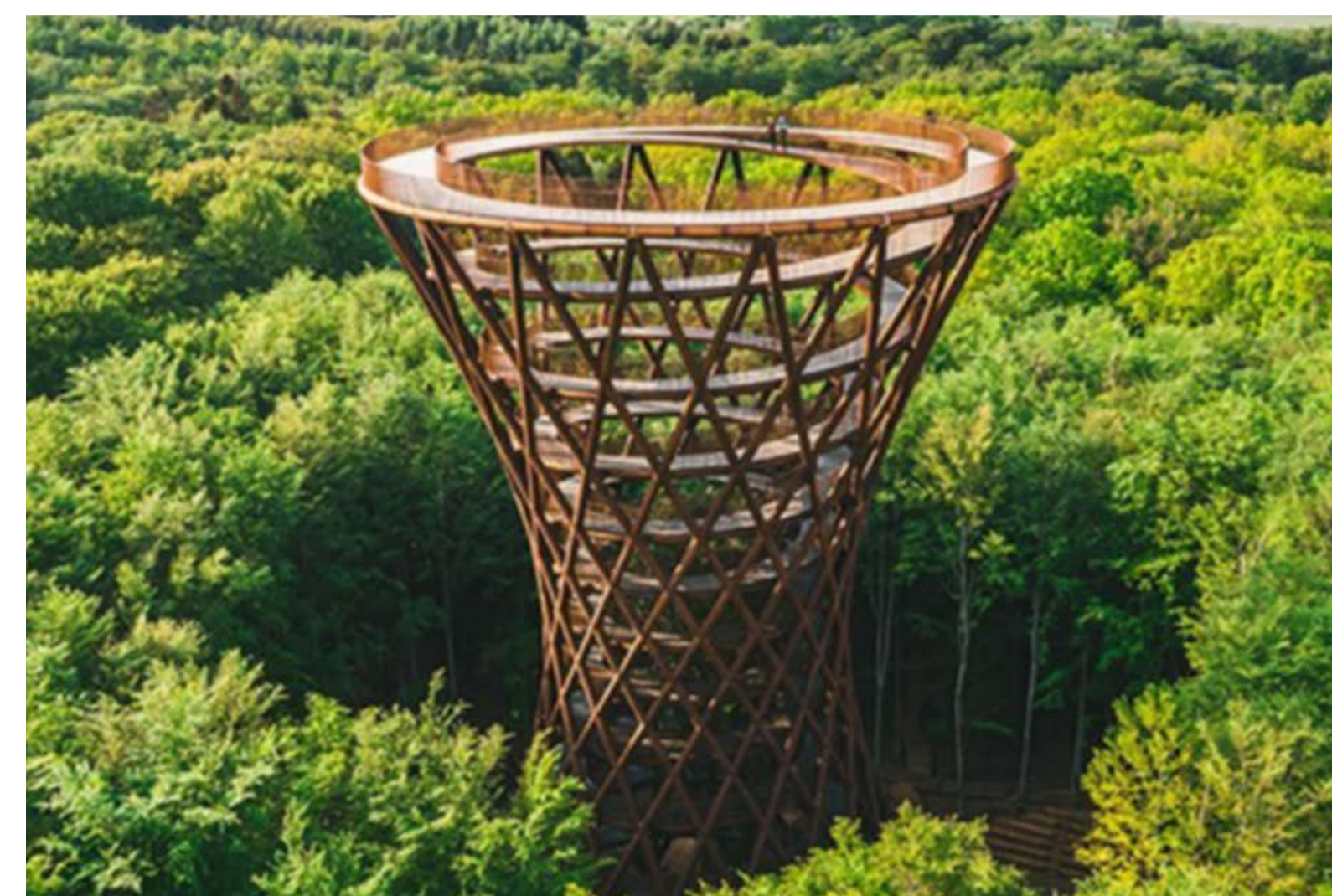
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Nature History Tourism Culture Education Science & Research Learning Connection



Date: MAY 2022
Drawing: WDF-SK-08 Rev C

DISCOVERY FOREST PRECEDENT IMAGERY



Wellington Discovery Forest

Nature History Tourism Culture Education Science & Research Learning Connection

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ASSOCIATES

Date: MAY 2022
Drawing: WDF-SK-09 Rev C