

# Bathers Way

Public Domain Plan August 2012





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# Contents

How do we improve our coast?	1
Overall Plan	12
Merewether Beach	13
Dixon Park	17
Bar Beach	21
Memorial Drive	25
King Edward Park	29
Newcastle Beach	33
Nobbys Beach	37



Bar Beach



# How do we improve our Coast?

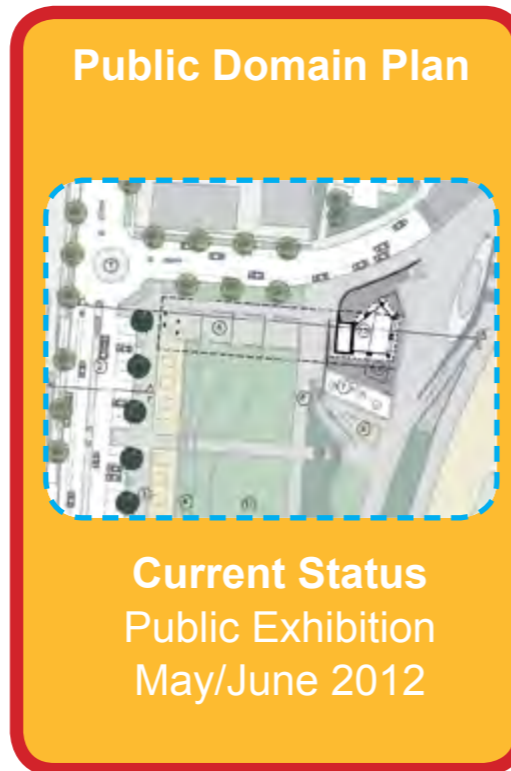
Strategic Plan



Master Plan



Public Domain Plan



Detail Design  
+ Construction  
Drawings



- Delivery is dependant on securing funding.
- Project will be staged to align with other Council projects.
- Timeframe for detail design and construction documentation is typically 12 months.

Construction



- Timeframe for construction varies based on size and complexity of project stage.
- Typically between 6 and 24 months.

Community Benefit



## Our Strategic Directions

Connected City

Protected and Enhanced Environment

Vibrant and Activated Public Places

Caring and Inclusive Community

Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment

Smart and Innovative City

Open and Collaborative Leadership



# Connected City

In 2030 our transport networks and services will be well connected and convenient. Walking, cycling and public transport will be viable options for getting around the city (Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan).



Bar Beach

# Vibrant and Activated Public Places

In 2030 we will be a city of great public places and neighbourhoods promoting people's health, happiness and wellbeing (Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan).



Bar Beach



30 Minute Bike Ride

20 Minute Bike Ride

30 Minute Walk

10 Minute Bike Ride

20 Minute Walk

10 Minute Walk

Merewether Beach

Dixon Park

Bar Beach

Newcastle Beach

Nobbys Beach

THE BATHERS WAY

## Where is the Bathers Way?

The **Bathers Way** links Newcastle's beaches from Merewether Ocean Baths to Nobbys Beach. It is 6km long and is only a short walk or ride away for many locals. The **Bathers Way** also forms part of the Great North Walk which continues from Merewether Ocean Baths to Sydney.



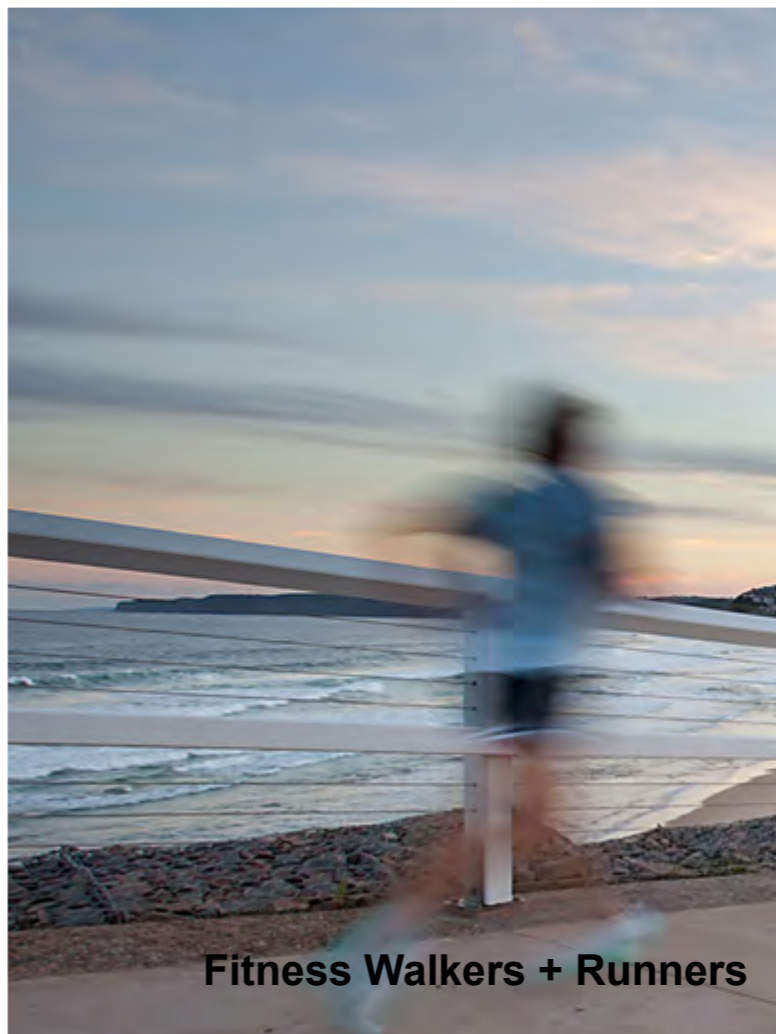
# Who Uses The Bathers Way?

Over two million people visit our beaches each year. We use our beaches and the **Bathers Way** all year round for many different activities. Up to 500 people an hour currently use the **Bathers Way** in some locations.

Through feedback received at Council, the community has said that walking and socialising are their favourite leisure activities. This is confirmed by counts of the **Bathers Way**. Improvements are proposed to cater for everyone and make the most of our coast.



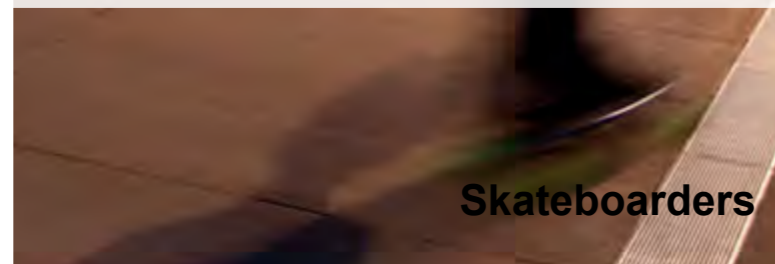
Puppy Dogs (+ walkers)



Fitness Walkers + Runners



Recreational Walkers



Skateboarders



Families



Cyclists



Cafe Crowd



Whale Watchers



Kids on Bikes + Scooters



Surfers



Mobility Impaired



Swimmers





Bar Beach

## What do we have now?

### The Bathers Way

The **Bathers Way** is the coastal walk from Merewether Ocean Baths to Nobbys Beach. It is popular with walkers, joggers, cyclists and sightseers, with over 500 people an hour using the path in some locations.

## What you have told Council?

### We Love Our Coast

Through feedback on the Newcastle Coastal Revitalisation Masterplan the community has said improving the **Bathers Way** is a high priority, including -

- increased path width and continuity;
- additional shade and seating; and
- upgraded pedestrian and cycle access.

## What is Proposed?

### Making the most of our Coast

This Public Domain Plan proposes that the **Bathers Way** be upgraded to provide comfortable pedestrian and cycle access for diverse recreational uses along our beautiful coast, including -

- wider shared pathways;
- more shade and seating; and
- viewing areas.

This Public Domain Plan delivers part of the Newcastle Coastal Revitalisation Masterplan. The design allows for the future delivery of other parts of the masterplan which will be addressed in their own Public Domain Plans.





# Objectives

## Community Vision

Contribute to the delivery of the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan.

## Accessible

Improve access for pedestrians and cyclists.

## Active Lifestyles

Provide facilities which encourage active and healthy lifestyles.

## Comfortable Spaces

Provide comfortable spaces to spend time on the coast and improve the enjoyment of views.

## Sensitive Design

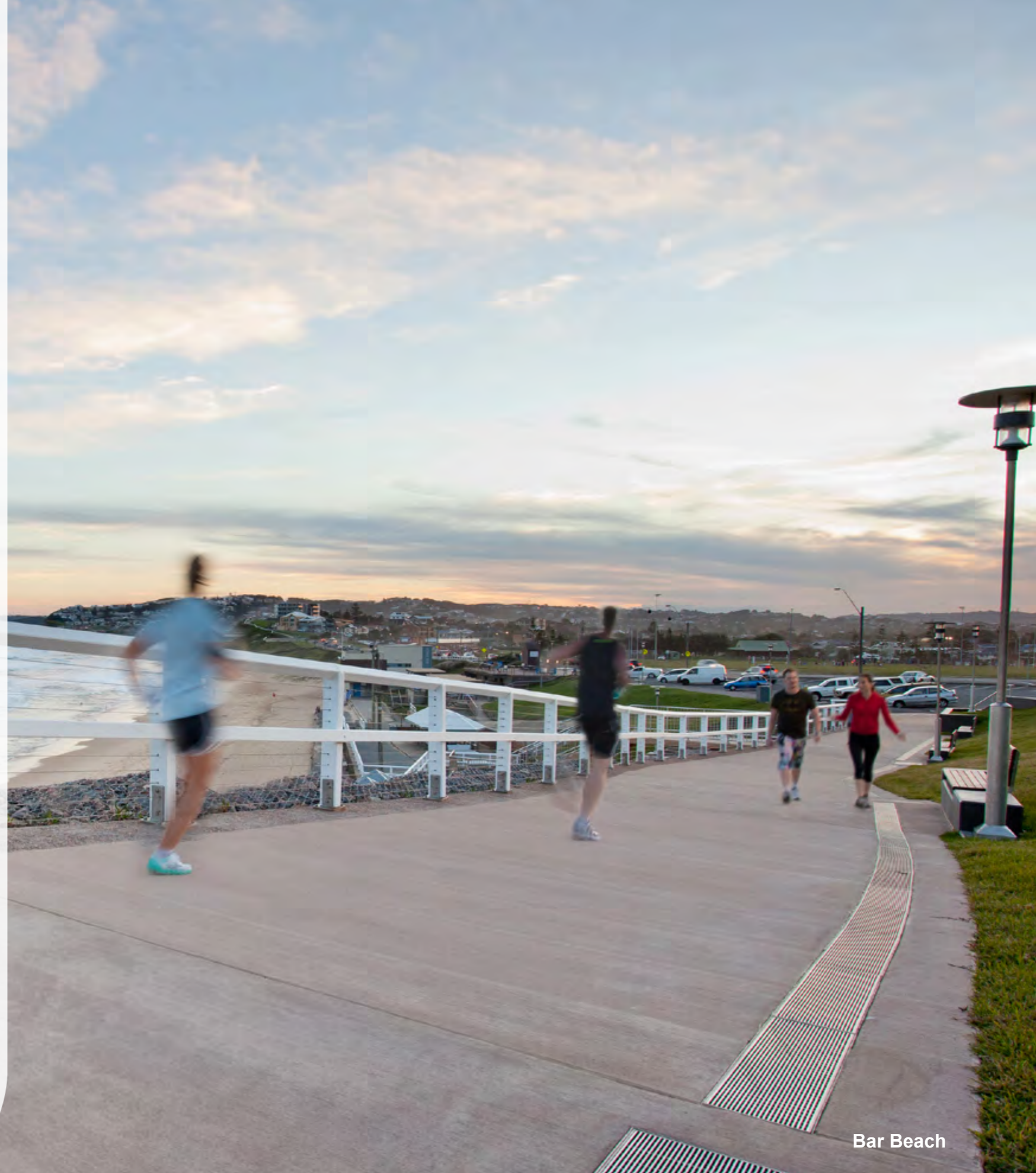
Ensure all elements are sensitively designed to complement the natural and built heritage of the coast.

## Economic Growth

Provide facilities which meet the expectations of both locals and visitors.

## Achievable Delivery

Reuse existing assets, minimise engineering and coordinate with other Council projects for achievable project delivery.



Bar Beach



## Pathway Width

### Space for Everyone

Wide shared pathways which cater for pedestrians, joggers, dog walkers, slow speed cyclists, and children on bikes and scooters, are already successful locally. The Fernleigh Track shows the demand for these facilities and the need for shared pathways to be wide enough to accommodate a range of users.

### What is Proposed?

The **Bathers Way** be upgraded to a shared pathway with a minimum width of 4 metres, including -

- additional width where viewing and gathering occurs;
- improved access where possible; and
- retention of on road access for fast cyclists.



Honeysuckle Foreshore



## Shade, Seating and Viewing

### Making the most of our Coast

We love our coast for its natural beauty. Currently there are limited opportunities for the comfortable enjoyment of views.

### What is Proposed?

The **Bathers Way** be upgraded with new facilities at key locations including -

- bench seats, picnic tables and seating walls;
- bicycle racks, bins, drinking fountains and barbecues;
- interpretive signage and lighting;
- shade trees and shade structures; and
- viewing platforms.

Exact locations and tree species to be determined in detail design.



Bar Beach



# Signage and Interpretation

## Telling our Stories

The **Bathers Way** experience will include local stories of Aboriginal cultural heritage, European settlement, heritage bathing, surfing, flora, fauna and geology.

## What is Proposed?

All signage be upgraded as part of the **Bathers Way** works including -

- the integration of signage into pathways, walls and fencing where appropriate; and
- the coordinated inclusion of behavioural, directional and interpretive information as necessary.

Signage design to be determined in detail design.



Benchmarking, Hamilton Foreshore Brisbane



# Benchmarking

## Meeting Expectations

Our waterfront is one of our most popular assets. Nationally a very high standard of public domain is provided in many waterfront precincts, both urban and regional. The **Bathers Way** aspires to the following exemplary waterfronts as benchmarks -

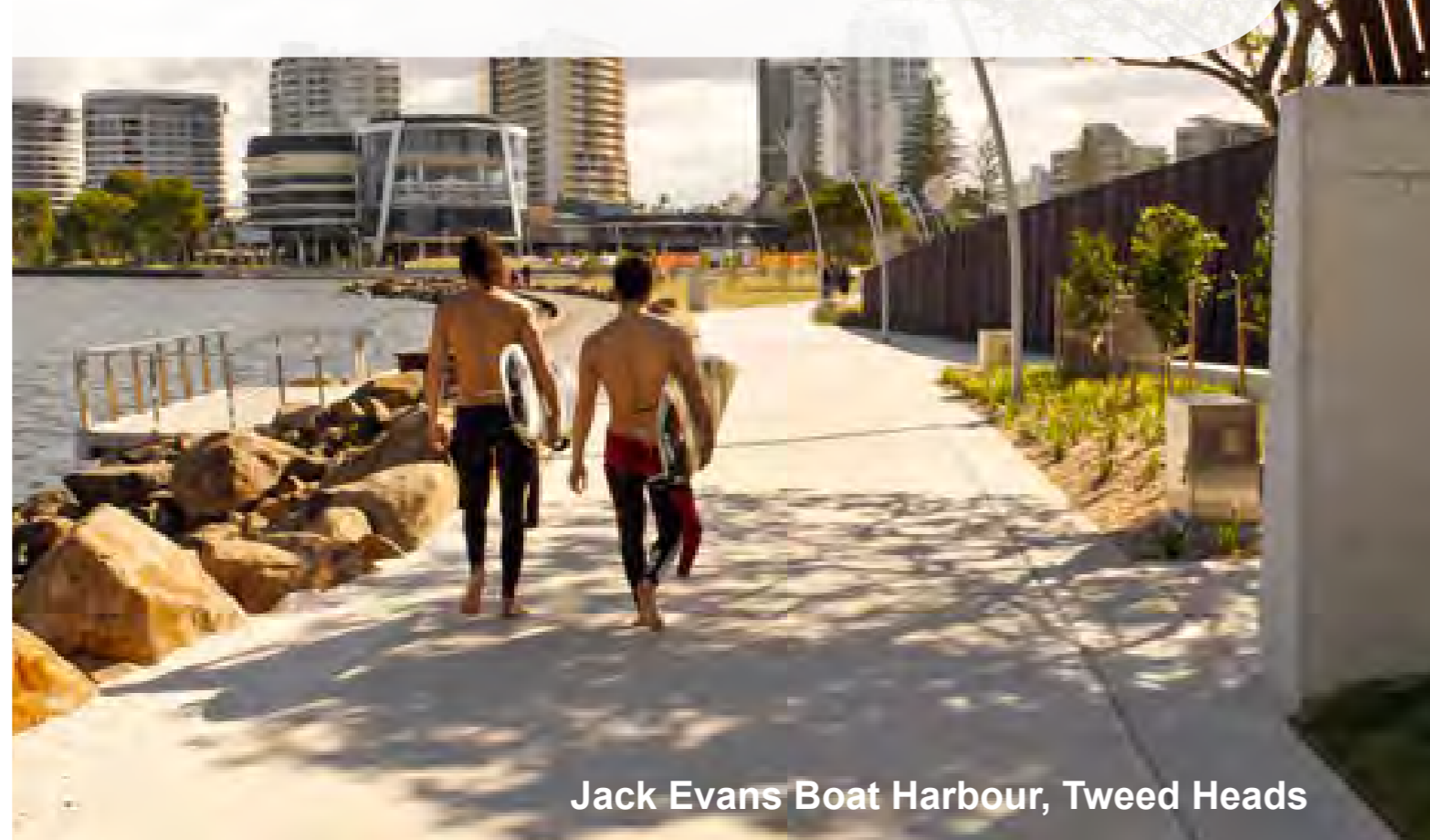
- Jack Evans Boat Harbour, Tweed Heads
- Moreton Bay Foreshore
- Elwood Foreshore, Melbourne
- South Bank, Brisbane
- St Kilda Foreshore, Melbourne
- Regatta Walk, Lake Macquarie
- Bulcock Beach, Caloundra



Moreton Bay Foreshore



Elwood Foreshore, Melbourne



Jack Evans Boat Harbour, Tweed Heads



South Bank, Brisbane



St Kilda Foreshore, Melbourne



Regatta Walk, Lake Macquarie



Bulcock Beach, Caloundra





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**Key**

- THE BATHERS WAY  
Shared Pathway
- NEW SHADE, SEATING AND VIEWING
- EXISTING PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY  
To be retained



PLAN  
Not to scale



# Merewether Beach

## What do we have now?

- Up to 500 people an hour using the path
- Public Domain improvements currently underway
- Very narrow paths connecting busy cafes
- Popular meeting and gathering location
- National Surfing Reserve attracting surfers and spectators
- High volumes of fitness activities
- Part of, and connection to the Great North Walk



Surf House, Merewether Beach





## Key

### THE BATHERS WAY

Shared Pathway

### NEW SHADE

Trees or Shelters

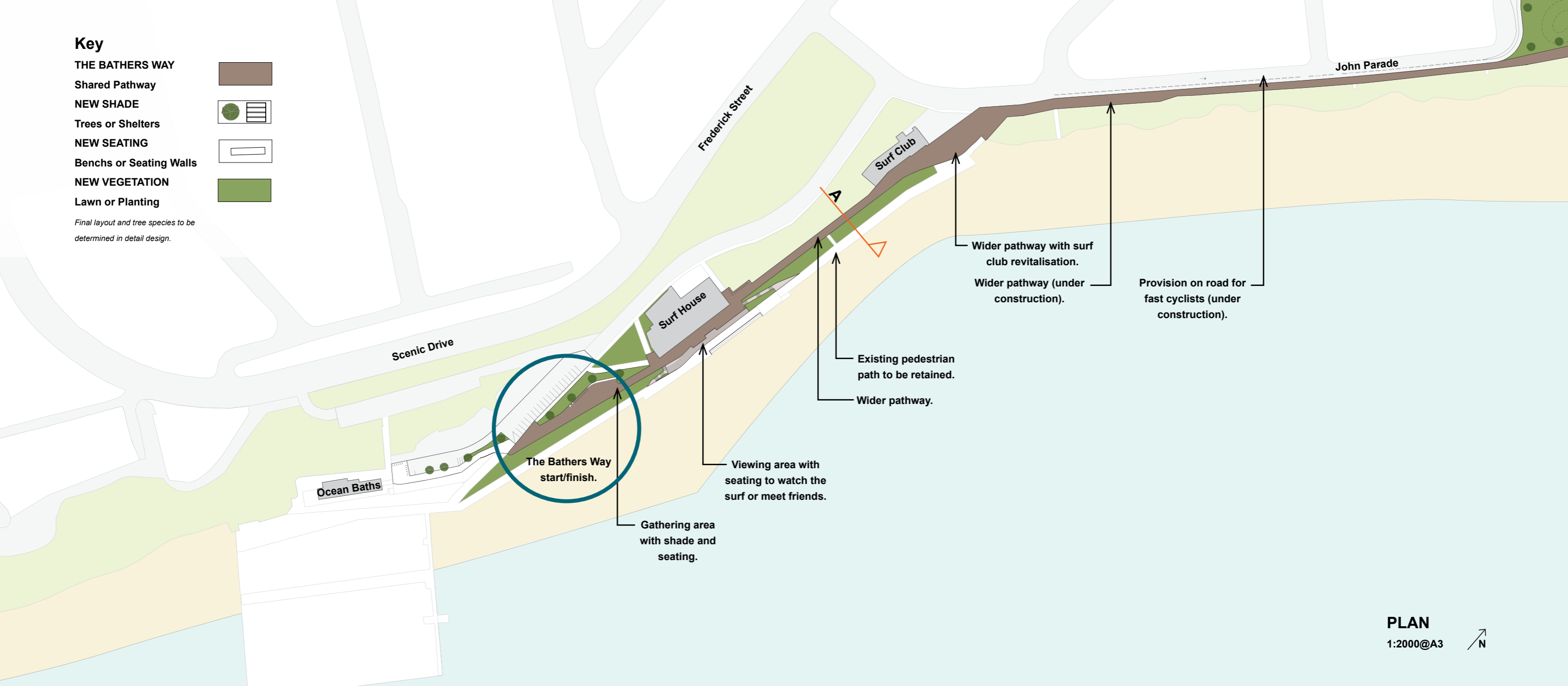
### NEW SEATING

Benches or Seating Walls

### NEW VEGETATION

Lawn or Planting

*Final layout and tree species to be determined in detail design.*



PLAN

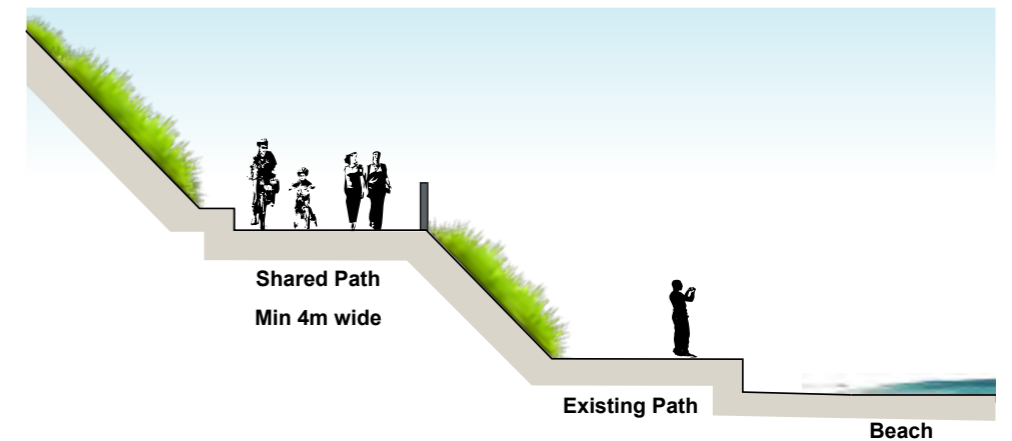
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# Merewether Beach

## What is proposed?

- The start/finish of the Bathers Way with space to gather
- More seating in busy eating/viewing areas
- Wider pathways
- Improved access to lower pathway



SECTION A

Not to scale



# The Bathers Way - Merewether Beach



Artist Impression - gathering area at the start/finish of the Bathers Way





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# Dixon Park

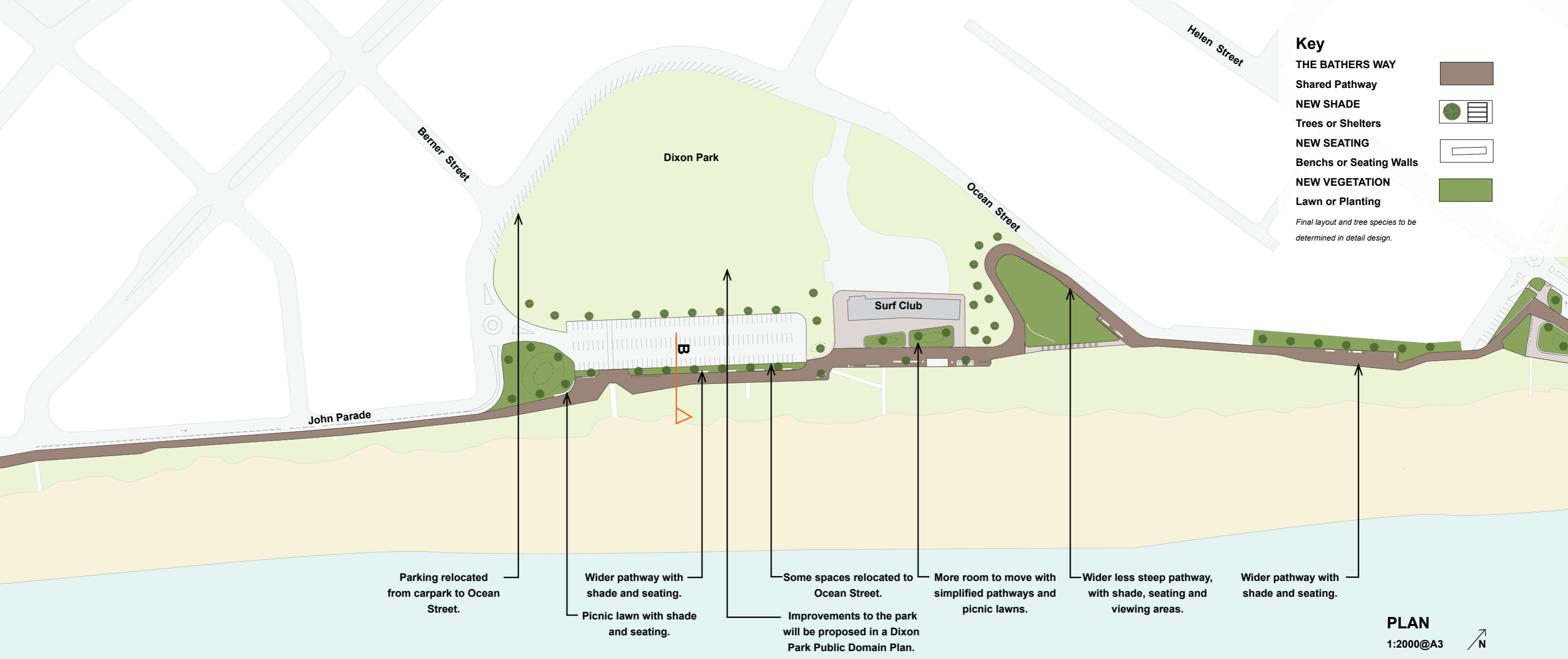
## What do we have now?

- Up to 480 people an hour using the path
- High volumes of fitness activities
- Surf watching
- Limited facilities to enjoy views
- Steep, busy and narrow pathways
- Hang gliding



Dixon Park

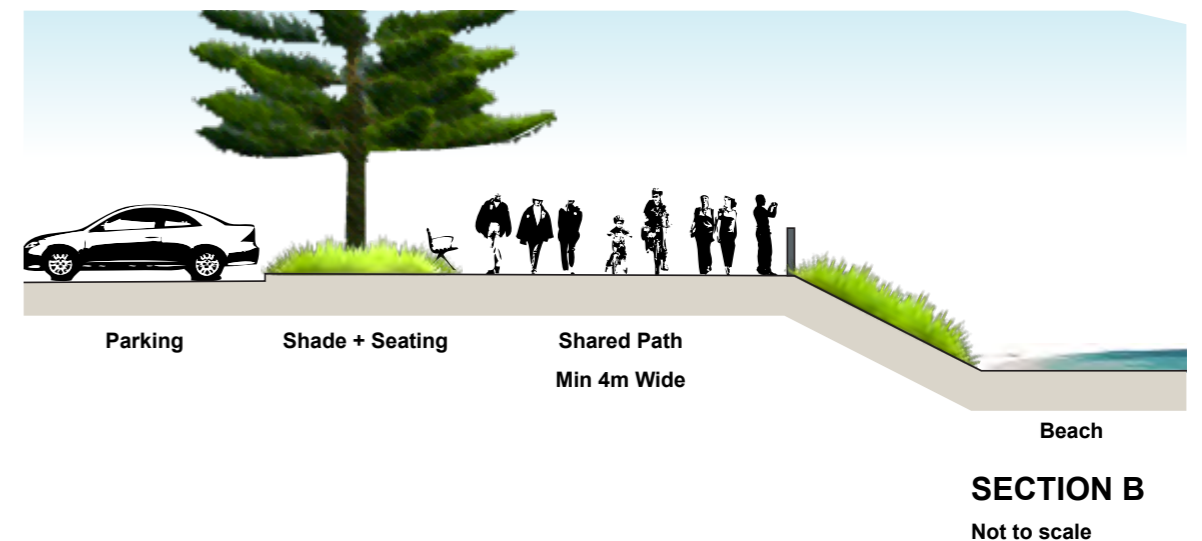




# Dixon Park

## What is proposed?

- More room to move with simplified pathways
- Safer, less steep pathway
- Wider pathway for large volumes of fitness activities
- Picnic lawns and seating areas



# The Bathers Way - Dixon Park



Artist Impression - looking south from Dixon Park SLSC





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# Bar Beach

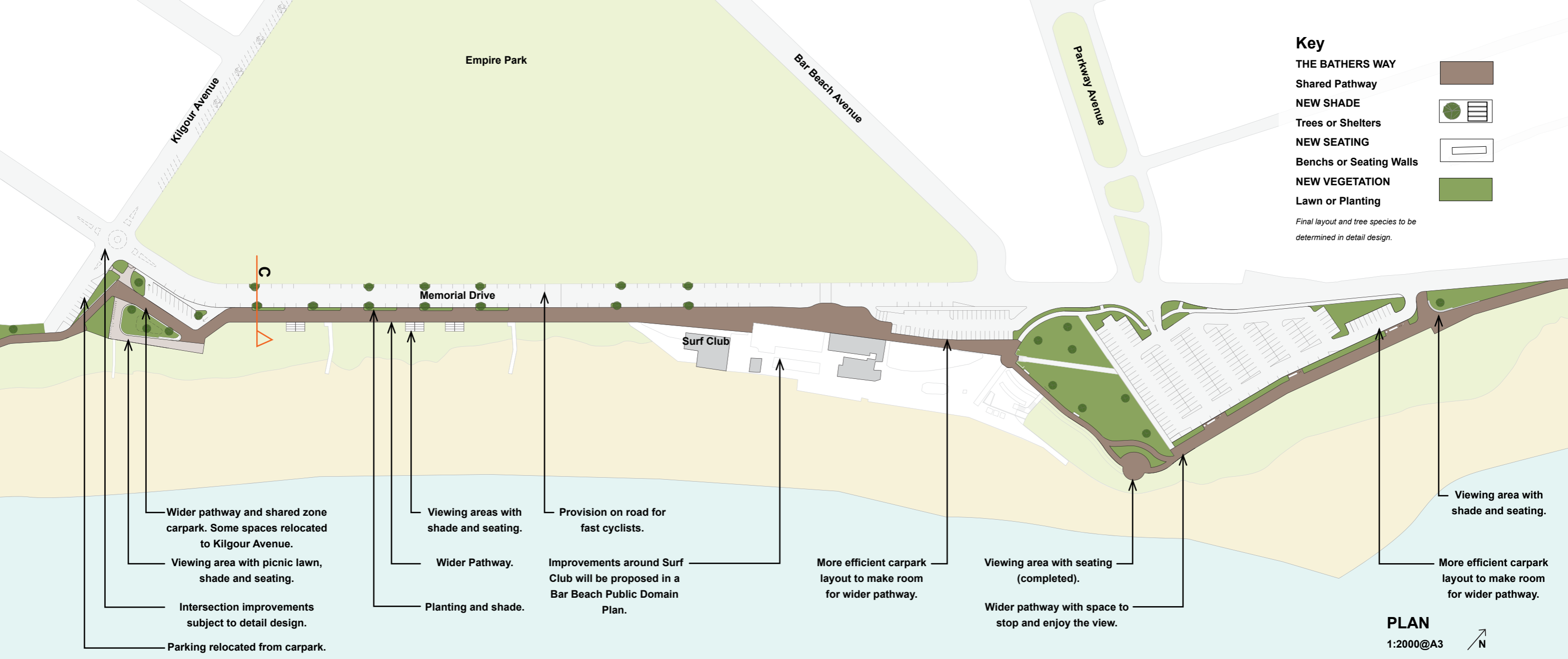
## What do we have now?

- Up to 480 people an hour using the path
- Surf and whale watching
- High volumes of fitness activities
- Unpleasant and unsafe carpark crossings
- Limited facilities to enjoy views



Kilgour Avenue Carpark, Bar Beach

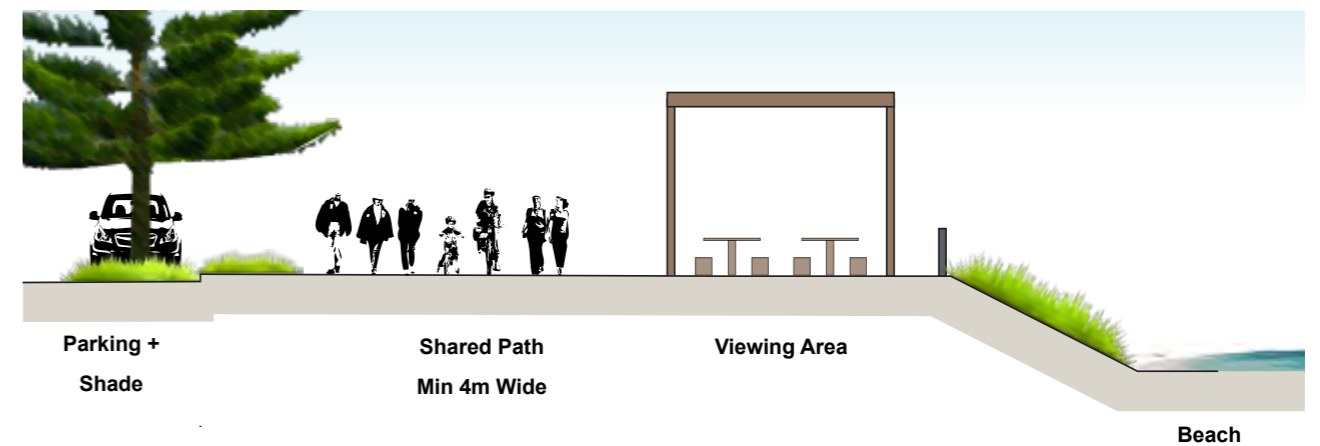




# Bar Beach

## What is proposed?

- Wider pathway for large volumes of fitness activities
- More comfortable viewing areas with shade and seating
- Picnic lawn with ocean views
- More efficient carpark layouts



# The Bathers Way - Bar Beach



Artist Impression - looking north at Kilgour Avenue carpark





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# Memorial Drive

## What do we have now?

- Up to 260 people an hour using the path
- Limited facilities to enjoy views
- Whale watching
- Hang gliding
- Coastal and city views
- High volumes of fitness activities



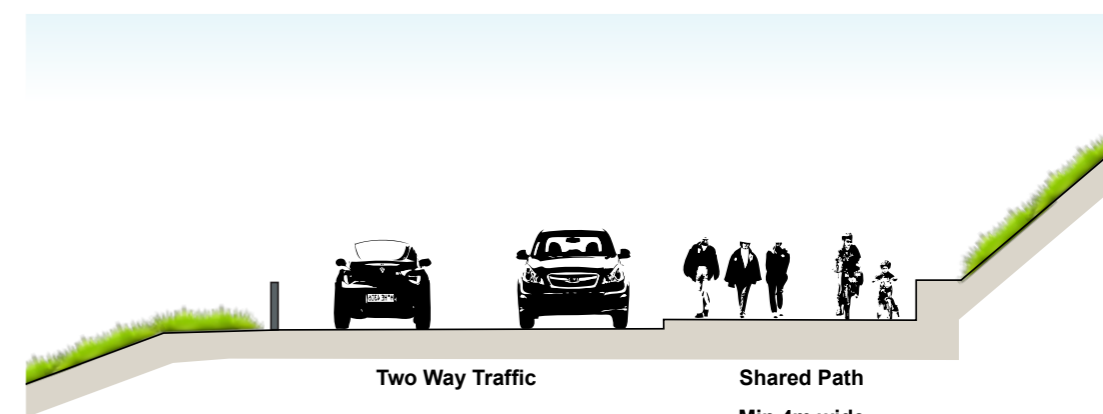
Whale Watching, Strzelecki Lookout



# Memorial Drive

## What is proposed?

- Safer, wider pathway along Memorial Drive
- More comfortable viewing area with shade and seating at Strzelecki Lookout



**SECTION D**  
Not to scale



# The Bathers Way - Memorial Drive



Artist Impression - looking south on Memorial Drive





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# King Edward Park

## What do we have now?

- Up to 160 people an hour using the path
- Very popular multi-use park
- Whale watching
- Limited facilities to enjoy views
- Poor pedestrian and cyclist access through park



Whale Watching, King Edward Park

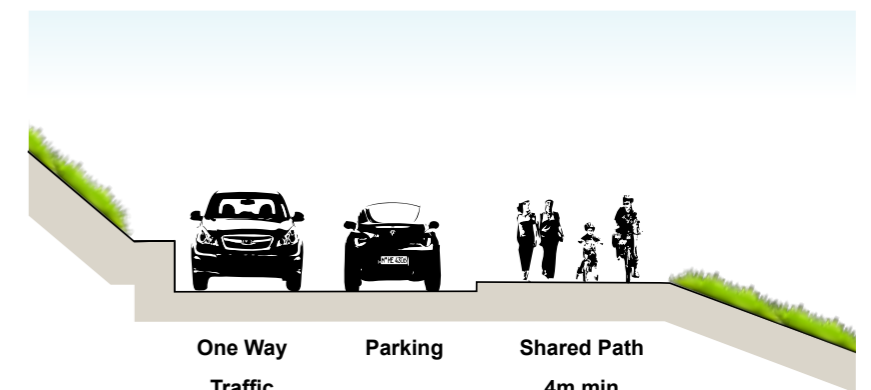




# King Edward Park

## What is proposed?

- Access improved through the park for all users, particularly children on bicycles and scooters
- More comfortable viewing areas with shade and seating.
- Reuse and upgrade of existing pathways



**SECTION E**  
Not to scale



# The Bathers Way - King Edward Park



Artist Impression - looking north from new viewing area



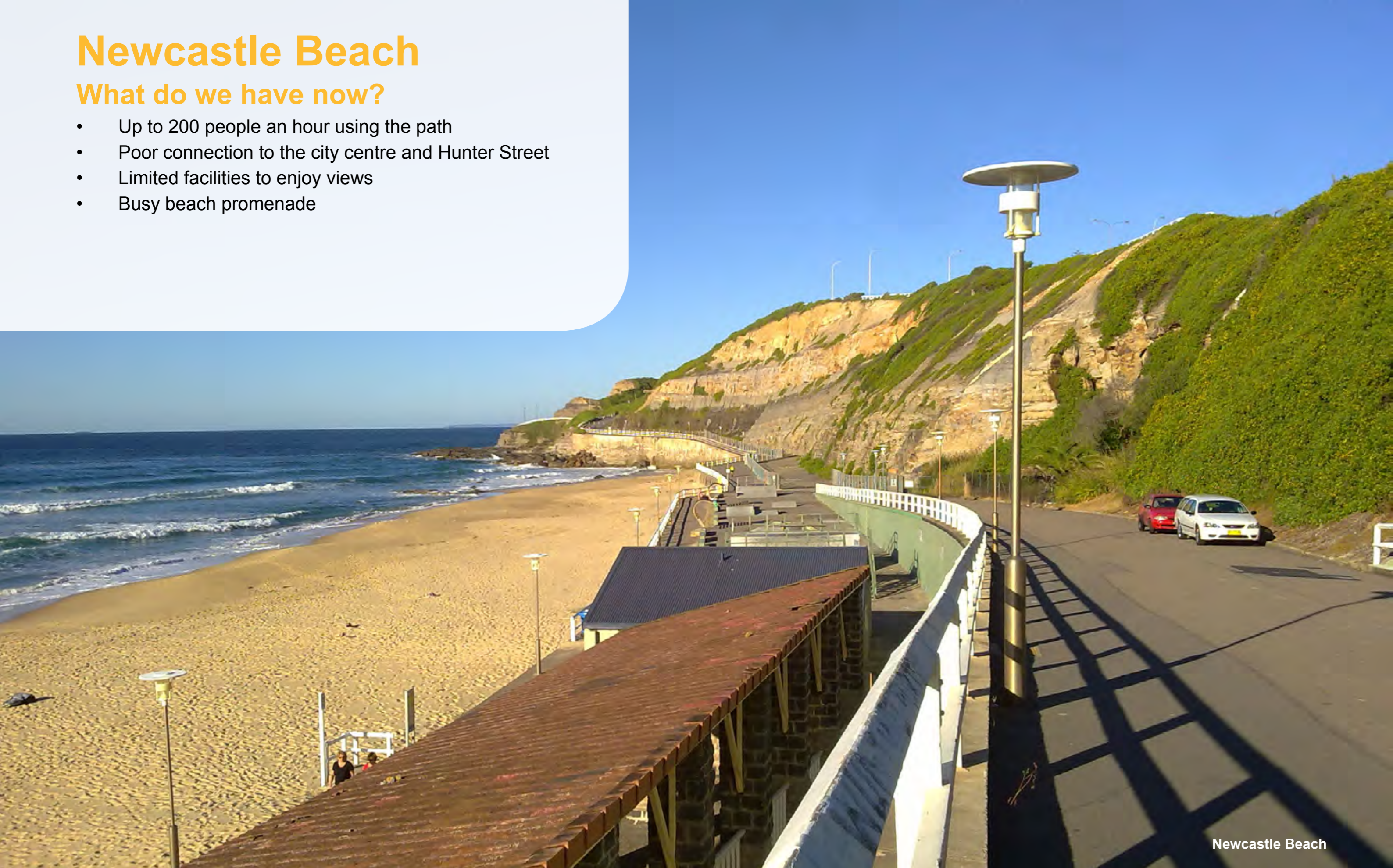


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# Newcastle Beach

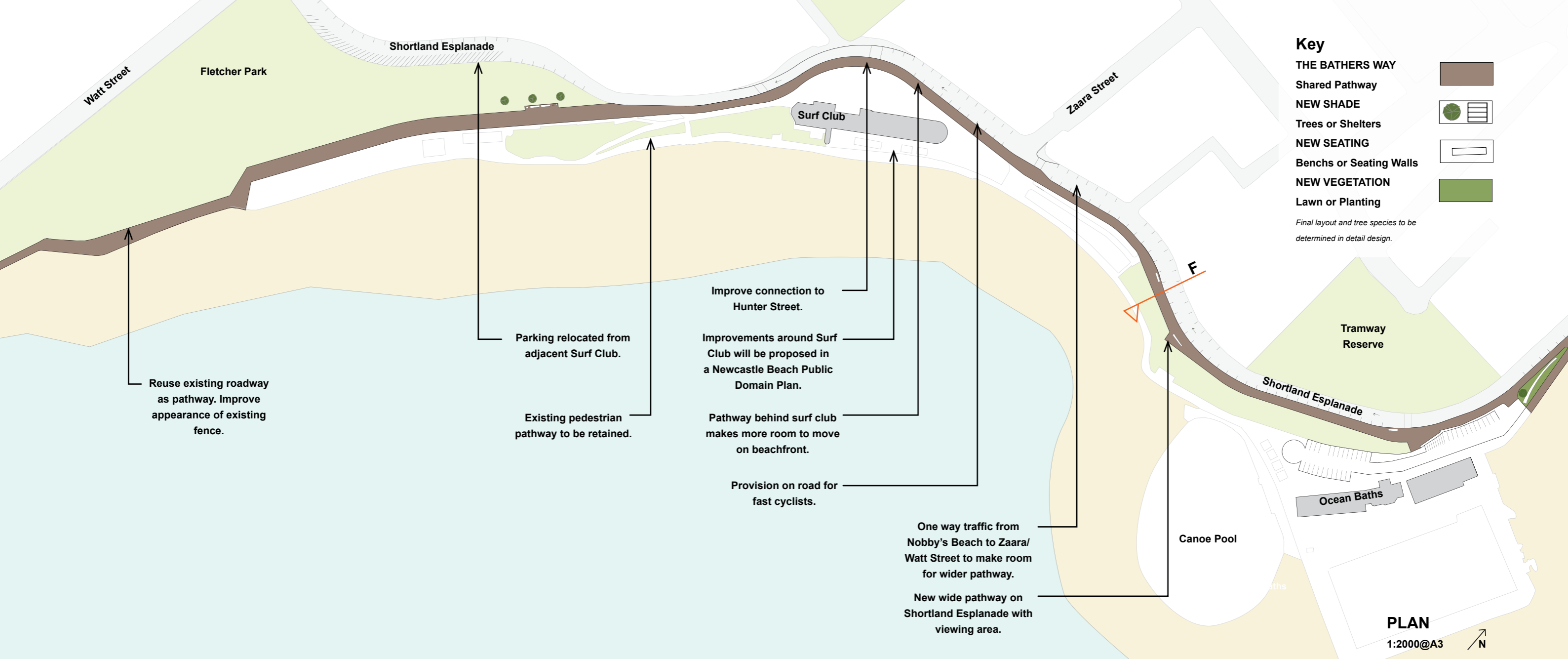
## What do we have now?

- Up to 200 people an hour using the path
- Poor connection to the city centre and Hunter Street
- Limited facilities to enjoy views
- Busy beach promenade



Newcastle Beach





Reuse existing roadway as pathway. Improve appearance of existing fence.

Parking relocated from adjacent Surf Club.

Existing pedestrian pathway to be retained.

Improve connection to Hunter Street.

Improvements around Surf Club will be proposed in a Newcastle Beach Public Domain Plan.

Pathway behind surf club makes more room to move on beachfront.

Provision on road for fast cyclists.

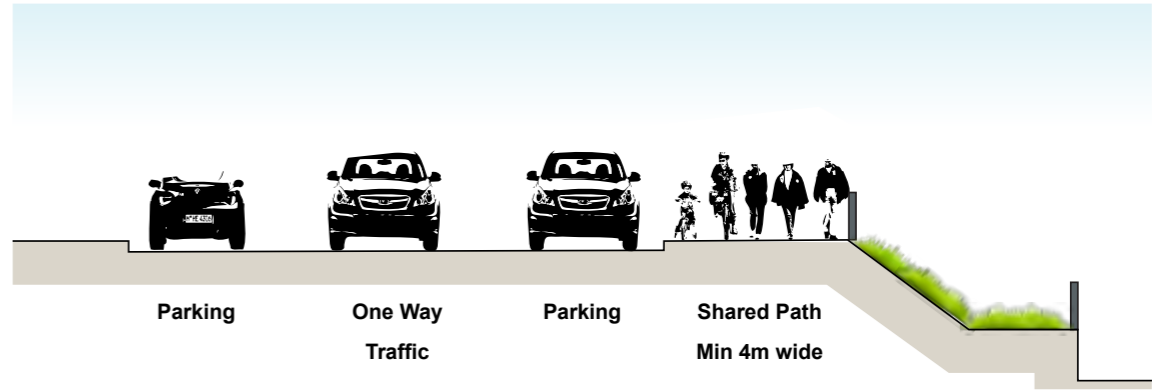
One way traffic from Nobby's Beach to Zaara/Watt Street to make room for wider pathway.

New wide pathway on Shortland Esplanade with viewing area.

# Newcastle Beach

## What is proposed?

- New wide shared pathway on Shortland Esplanade to take advantage of views
- Reuse and upgrade of existing pathways
- Improved connection to the city centre and Hunter Street



**SECTION F**  
Not to scale



# The Bathers Way - Newcastle Beach



Artist Impression - looking south over Newcastle Beach





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# Nobbys Beach

## What do we have now?

- Up to 200 people an hour using the path
- Family friendly beach
- Limited facilities
- Extremely narrow path on Shortland Esplanade
- Poor connections to breakwall



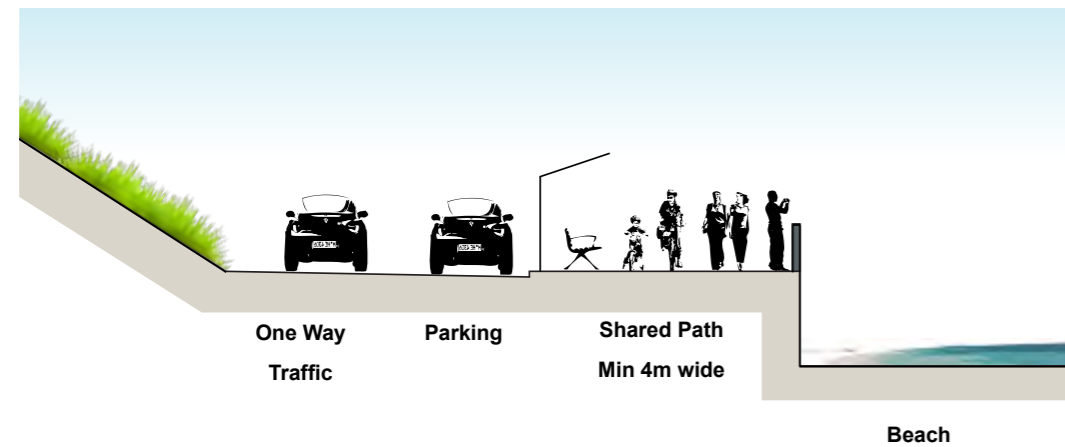
Nobbys Beach



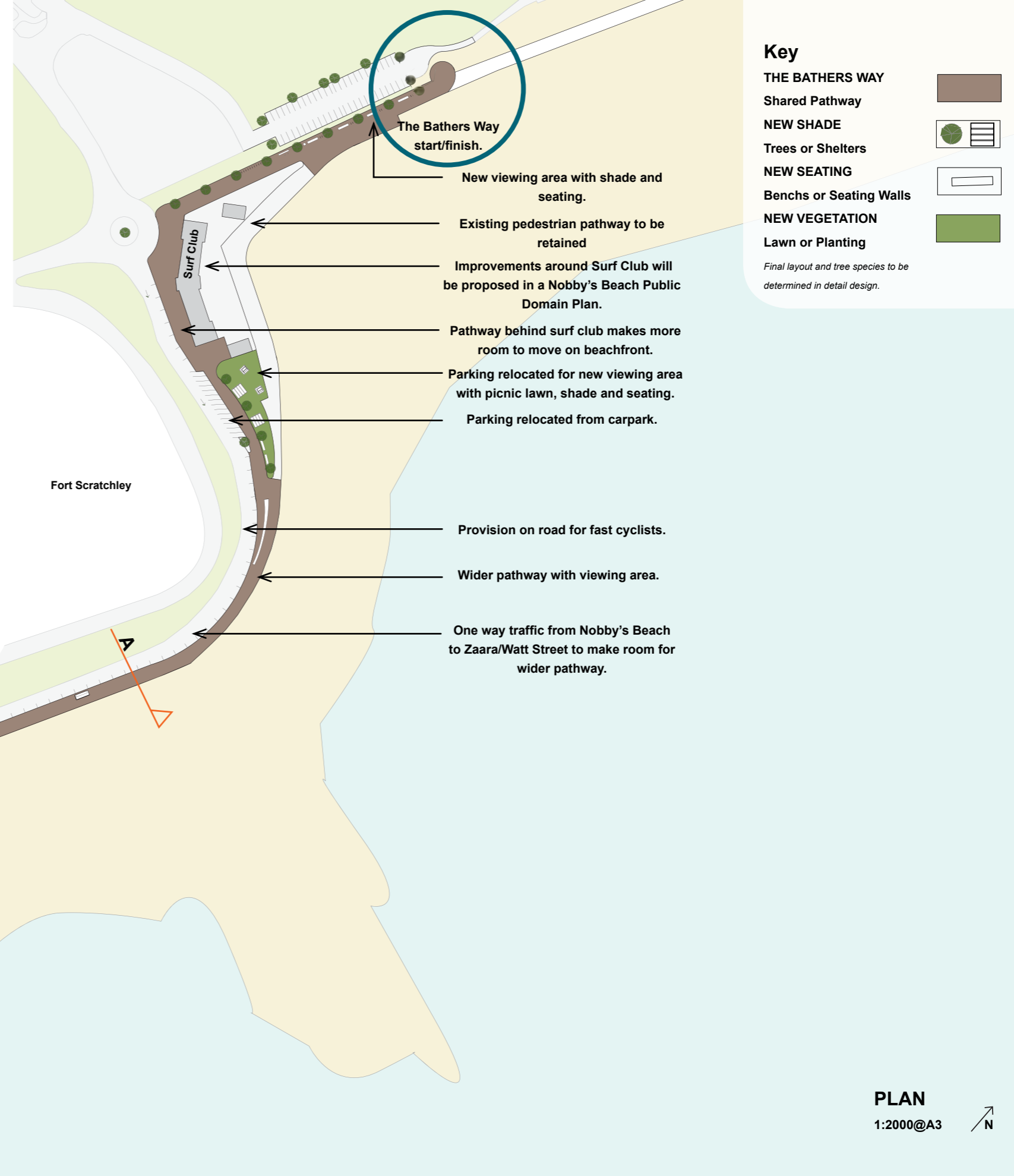
# Nobbys Beach

## What is proposed?

- New wide shared pathway on Shortland Esplanade to take advantage of views
- New viewing areas including picnic lawns, shade and seating



**SECTION G**  
Not to scale



**PLAN**  
1:2000@A3



# The Bathers Way - Nobbys Beach



Artist Impression - looking north on Shortland Esplanade





Bar Beach





Bar Beach

