BRISBANE CITY

BRISBANE Sustainability AGENCY



Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision

2026-2046

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Image disclaimer

Artists impressions are highly conceptual and may be AI assisted. They describe general intents for the locations shown. The outcomes are not necessarily representative of specific future improvements. Further planning, technical studies, consultation and approvals will be required in order to determine final uses and physical outcomes.

Acknowledgement of Country

Brisbane Sustainability Agency acknowledges this Country and its Traditional Custodians. We acknowledge and respect the spiritual relationship between Traditional Custodians and this Country, which has inspired language, songs, dances, lore and dreaming stories over many thousands of years. We pay our respects to the Elders, those who have passed into the dreaming; those here today; those of tomorrow. May we continue to peacefully walk together in gratitude, respect and kindness in caring for this Country and one another.

Lord Mayor’s message

From its sweeping city views to its winding trails, Mt Coot-tha has been part of Brisbane’s story for generations.

It’s where we escape the hustle and bustle, connect with nature and enjoy some of the best natural experiences our city has to offer.

As Brisbane grows, we have an opportunity to write an exciting new chapter for Mt Coot-tha, preserving everything that makes it special while creating even more for residents to see and do.

That’s what our draft Mt Coot-tha Vision is all about.

It’s a 20-year vision to protect the natural beauty of this iconic destination, breathe new life into much-loved spaces and create new experiences for future generations to enjoy.

Importantly, the community is at the heart of this vision.

More than 4,800 pieces of feedback from residents and stakeholders have helped shape the draft, highlighting what people love about Mt Coot-tha and what they’d like to see in the future.

This Vision brings those ideas together, from better walking and cycling connections to improved visitor facilities and more opportunities to explore and enjoy the outdoors.

By working with Brisbane Sustainability Agency, we’re planning for the future while ensuring Mt Coot-tha’s extraordinary natural environment remains at the heart of everything we do.

Now we want the community to help shape what happens next.

I encourage everyone who loves Mt Coot-tha to explore the draft Vision and have their say.

Together, we can preserve what makes Mt Coot-tha so special today, while creating an even better destination for Brisbane families to enjoy tomorrow.



LORD MAYOR
Adrian Schrinner



Brisbane Sustainability Agency message

Brisbane Sustainability Agency is proud to be entrusted by Brisbane City Council with developing and delivering a long-term Vision for Mt Coot-tha.

Mt Coot-tha is one of Brisbane's most significant environmental, cultural and recreational destinations. Developing this draft Vision has required a detailed understanding of Mt Coot-tha, its many users and stakeholders, and the values that make it so important to Brisbane.

Community and stakeholder engagement has been central to this work. Contributions from residents, visitors, Traditional Custodians, community groups, recreation users, landowners and operators have helped shape a draft Vision that reflects both what people value about Mt Coot-tha today, and aspirations for its future.

The draft Vision builds on decades of planning, conservation, investment and community effort. This is not a plan to reinvent Mt Coot-tha. This draft Vision aims to protect and enhance what makes this place special, renew the destinations people already know and love, strengthen connections between them, and carefully focus future opportunities within existing developed and operational areas. While the future transformation of the Quarry and television network sites are key opportunities, the Vision identifies tangible initiatives that can be progressed in the short to medium term.

The release of this draft Vision is an opportunity to test, refine and strengthen the ideas presented in this document. We encourage everyone with an interest in Mt Coot-tha to share their views so the final Vision reflects a broad range of perspectives and provides a strong framework for the future.

We thank everyone who has contributed to this work and look forward to continuing the conversation as we shape the next chapter of Mt Coot-tha together.



Tracy Melenewycz
Chief Executive Officer



Nigel Chamier AM
Board Chair

About Brisbane Sustainability Agency

Brisbane Sustainability Agency is Council's sustainability agency, established to help create a more sustainable, liveable and resilient Brisbane.

Brisbane Sustainability Agency leads strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and place-based initiatives that balance environmental stewardship, community aspirations and long-term outcomes. This includes delivering major environmental programs such as the Oxley Creek Transformation and Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative, which focus on restoring ecosystems, increasing biodiversity, enhancing environmental resilience and strengthening community connection with nature.

As the lead organisation for the Mt Coot-tha Vision, Brisbane Sustainability Agency has brought together community input, technical investigations, previous planning and sustainability principles to develop a long-term framework for the precinct and will continue to work with Council, Traditional Custodians, community organisations, volunteers and key stakeholders to support the ongoing planning, stewardship and delivery of the Vision.

About the draft Vision

We want to protect what people love about Mt Coot-tha while planning for future generations.

The draft Mt Coot-tha Vision sets a 20-year direction for one of Brisbane's most significant natural, cultural and recreational landscapes. Developed by Brisbane Sustainability Agency on behalf of Brisbane City Council, it draws on existing planning, technical investigations and community and stakeholder input to guide the long-term evolution of Mt Coot-tha.

The project area

Mt Coot-tha brings together a diverse range of natural areas, recreation and visitor destinations. For the purposes of this Vision, the project area covers more than 1,700 hectares and is structured around five key areas, each with a distinct role and character.

Mt Coot-tha Forest Reserve

Comprising the Mt Coot-tha and Gold Creek Reserves, the Mt Coot-tha Forest Reserve covers approximately 1,600 hectares, making up around 90% of the project area and includes the trail network and picnic areas.

Summit Lookout

One of Brisbane's best-known visitor destinations, providing panoramic views across the city and surrounding landscape.

Botanic Gardens

Located at the base of the mountain, home to the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha, Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium and the Queensland Herbarium.

Mt Coot-tha Quarry

A 26-hectare operational quarry and associated infrastructure at the base of Mt Coot-tha.

Network Sites

Established television and broadcasting facilities and towers located at prominent high points and ridgelines across Mt Coot-tha.

Building on strong foundations

Decades of Council planning and investment, conservation and strong community involvement provide an important foundation for Mt Coot-tha's future. *Our Shared Vision Mt Coot-tha 2030* established an important direction, informed by community aspirations for protecting its natural environment, while supporting recreation, learning and access. As that Vision approaches the end of its timeframe, there is an opportunity to build on this work and look ahead.

Existing plans and strategies, including the *Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha Master Plan 2018* and *Mt Coot-tha Reserve Mountain Bike Concept Plan 2023*, will continue to guide individual destinations and experiences.

This Vision brings together existing plans, projects and future opportunities through a coordinated approach to Mt Coot-tha's long-term future, ensuring decisions are considered in the context of the broader precinct rather than as stand-alone projects.

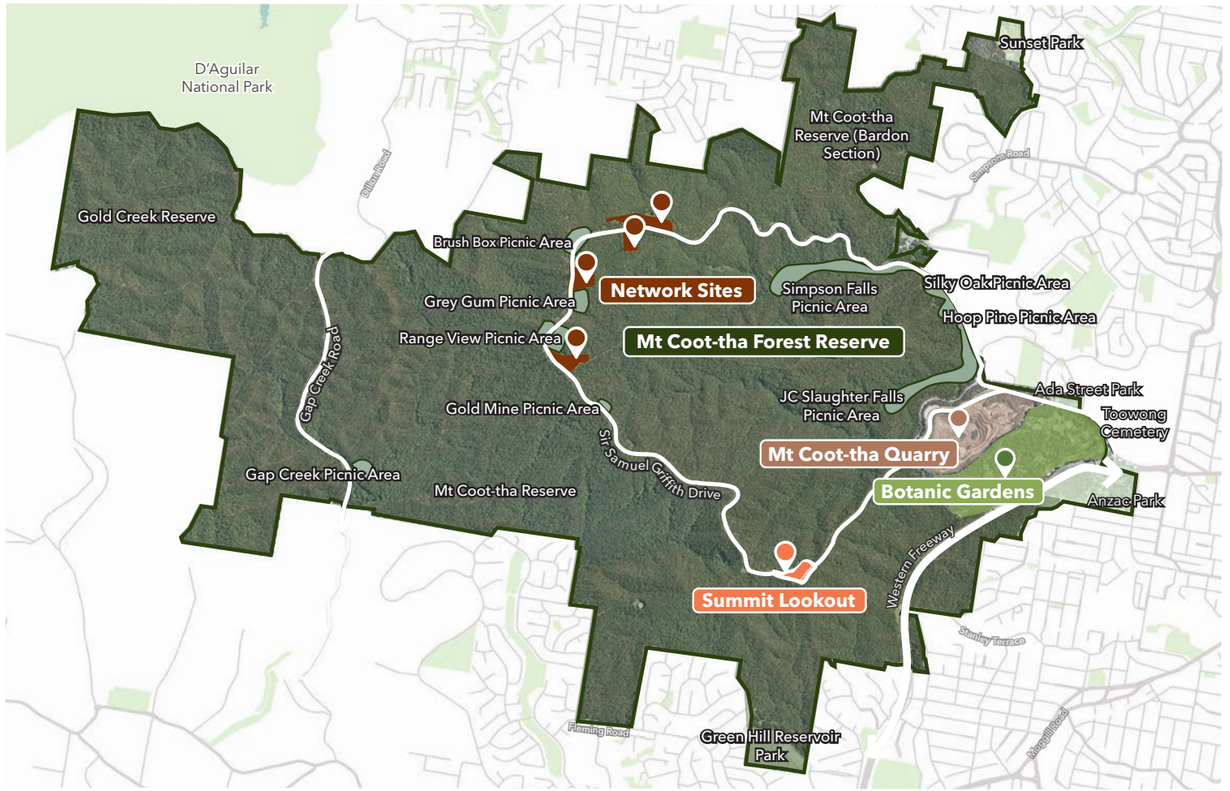
A long-term direction

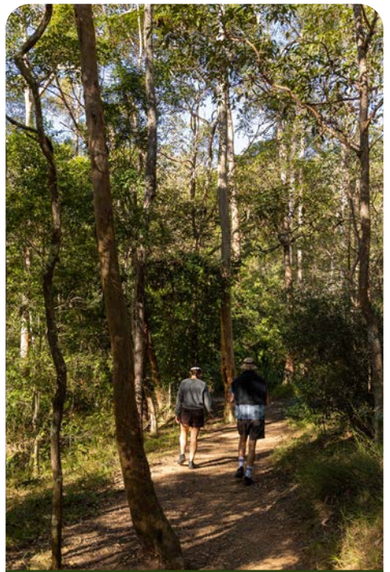
The Vision is strategic in scope. It is not a detailed master plan, a funded program of works or a statutory planning document. Initiatives identified in the draft Vision are at different stages of planning and development. Some build on existing plans and programs, while others are longer-term opportunities that will require further investigation, funding, approvals and community engagement.

The Vision does not replace Council's ongoing management, maintenance, conservation, asset renewal or programmed works. Instead, it provides a long-term framework to guide the major opportunities and directions that will help protect what people value most about Mt Coot-tha while planning for its future.

This draft has been prepared for community and stakeholder feedback. Concept plans and artist impressions show possible future outcomes and are not final designs. Feedback will help test, refine and shape the final Vision.

Mt Coot-tha Project Area





Mt Coot-tha Forest Reserve



Summit Lookout



Mt Coot-tha Quarry



Botanic Gardens



Network Sites

About Mt Coot-tha

Mt Coot-tha through time

A landscape rich in stories, heritage and connection to Country.

An enduring cultural landscape

Mt Coot-tha is part of a living cultural landscape with enduring significance for First Nations peoples. Long before the development of modern Brisbane, First Nations peoples held connections with this landscape that have continued through periods of change. These connections extend across generations and remain part of an ongoing cultural connection to Country today. This history is reflected in the name Mt Coot-tha, with the word 'Kuta' associated with the abundance of wild or native stingless bee hives that existed on the mountain and commonly interpreted as meaning 'place of wild honey'[1].

From reserve to protected landscape

Mt Coot-tha's more recent documented history reflects an evolving relationship between Brisbane and the mountain. In 1880, One Tree Hill was formally set aside as a Recreation Reserve for public recreation, health and enjoyment. Over time, further areas were protected and managed for public use, helping shape the extensive natural landscape, recreation spaces and destinations experienced today. For generations, people have been drawn to Mt Coot-tha to enjoy fresh air, nature and expansive views, valuing it as a place of respite and escape from city life close to Brisbane's centre.

> *"We citizens of today are deeply indebted to the foresight of the men who in 1880 reserved 1,800 acres at Mt Coot-tha for the people."*
>
> Lord Mayor William Jolly, 1929

A place that has evolved with Brisbane

Across more than a century, Mt Coot-tha has continued to adapt to the needs of a growing city. Conservation, recreation, quarrying, military use, science, education, broadcasting and community use have all contributed to its history. The Summit Lookout, Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha, Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium and other destinations reflect different periods in this evolution and continue to contribute to how people experience Mt Coot-tha today.

Protecting and understanding our heritage

Mt Coot-tha's heritage encompasses natural, cultural, social and built values. The Queensland Heritage Register recognises the significance of Mt Coot-tha Forest and the Mt Coot-tha Lookout and Kiosk, while places such as the Richard Randall Art Studio contribute to the area's history and identity. Understanding these layers of history helps inform how Mt Coot-tha is cared for, renewed and experienced into the future.

1. Museum of Brisbane, Sunday Stories: Mount Coot-tha Lookout and Kiosk.



For more than 60,000 years

Connection to Country

First Nations peoples maintain a deep connection to Country.

1823

Colonisation

First European observations and ascent.

1839

One Tree Hill

Surveyor James Warner and his team cleared the top of the mountain of all trees except one large eucalypt tree.

1873

Timber reserve

Declared as a timber reserve for railway construction.

1880

Public reserve

Gazetted as a public park for the recreation, health and enjoyment of Brisbane's residents.

1882

Royal visit

Duke of Clarence and Prince George (later King George V) visit and commemorative fig trees are planted.

1883

Mt Coot-tha naming

Official name change from One Tree Hill to Mt Coot-tha.

1884

First road

Access road constructed to the Summit.

1890

Gold mining and quarrying

Gold was prospected and mined until 1950, while quarrying commenced in around 1895.

Early 1900s

Lookout and Kiosk

Established in 1902, with a larger kiosk constructed in 1918, forming the foundation of the present structure.

1920s

Reserve expansion

The reserve is expanded with additional lots acquired under Lord Mayor William Jolly.

1930s

Tourist destination

Growing popularity drives improved access and visitor facilities.

1940s

Militarisation

Mt Coot-tha is used by the US Navy as an ordnance depot during WWII.

1950s

Summit Lookout

Major landscaping and redevelopment creates the Summit Lookout that we know today.

1960s

Television broadcasting

Transmission towers and infrastructure established.

1970s

Botanic Gardens

Opens in 1976.

Planetarium

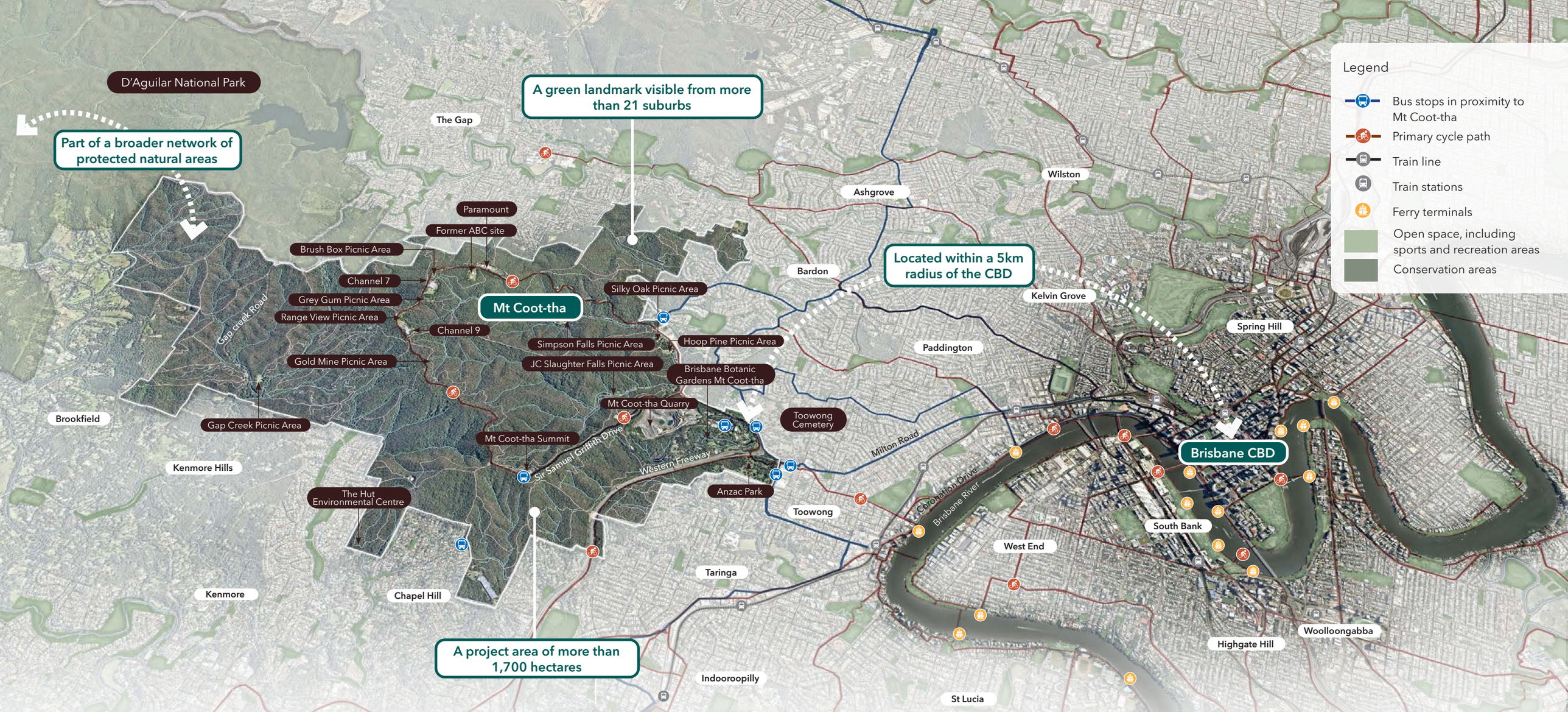
Opens in 1978.

2007

Richard Randall Art Studio

Relocated to the Botanic Gardens from South Brisbane.

Historical images courtesy of the Museum of Brisbane, State Library of Queensland, Queensland State Archives and Brisbane City Council Archives.



A defining Brisbane landmark

A natural landscape within Brisbane's urban environment.

Located five kilometres from Brisbane's CBD, Mt Coot-tha occupies a unique position between the urban environment and natural landscape. Rising 287 metres above sea level, Mt Coot-tha forms the eastern extent of the Taylor Range and is part of a broader network of protected natural areas extending into D'Aguilar National Park.

With more than 1,600 hectares of bushland, waterways and wildlife habitat, Mt Coot-tha is Brisbane's largest conservation reserve and an essential part of the city's open space network. Its natural areas support biodiversity, ecological connectivity and environmental resilience, contributing to the health and liveability of Brisbane.

Few capital cities offer a natural destination of this scale so close to their city centre. Mt Coot-tha attracts more than one million visitors each year, providing access to nature, recreation and some of Brisbane's best-known visitor destinations.

Visible from more than 21 suburbs, Mt Coot-tha's ridgelines and bushland form a defining green backdrop to Brisbane and are a familiar part of the city's landscape and identity.

As Brisbane grows, Mt Coot-tha will remain an important natural retreat close to the city and an enduring part of Brisbane's identity and lifestyle.

How Mt Coot-tha compares in size



Brisbane’s largest conservation reserve

A place of biodiversity, habitat connectivity and environmental resilience.



450+
native plant species



370+
wildlife species



74 km
of high ecological value waterways



90%+
of the reserve is mapped koala habitat

Biodiversity and habitat

Mt Coot-tha is recognised for its high ecological values, with extensive areas of remnant vegetation supporting regional ecosystems protected under state and local planning frameworks. Its ridges, slopes, waterways and sheltered gullies create a diverse range of habitats, with vegetation ranging from open eucalypt forests and woodlands across much of the landscape to riparian vegetation and vine thickets in more sheltered areas. More than 450 native plant species and over 370 wildlife species have been recorded. The forest provides habitat for threatened species, including koalas, greater gliders, powerful owls and tusked frogs, making Mt Coot-tha one of Brisbane’s most important biodiverse areas.



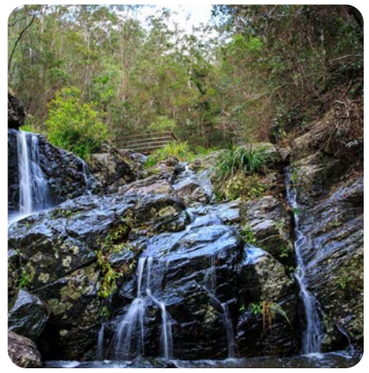
Connected landscapes

Mt Coot-tha forms part of a regionally significant network of connected habitats extending from Brisbane’s urban bushland into the protected landscapes of D’Aguilar National Park. These biodiversity corridors support the movement of wildlife, maintain ecological connectivity and strengthen the resilience of ecosystems across the region. As one of the largest conservation areas in metropolitan Brisbane, Mt Coot-tha plays an important role in maintaining landscape-scale connections and protecting nature close to the city.



Waterways and catchments

Mt Coot-tha forms the headwaters of several creek systems and contains an extensive network of waterways and gullies, including Gap Creek and tributaries of Ithaca Creek. These waterways provide important habitat, support ecological processes and form part of the broader network of catchments that ultimately connect with the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay. Protecting waterway health, managing erosion, stormwater and water quality are important to the long-term environmental health and resilience of Mt Coot-tha and surrounding catchments.



Environmental resilience

Mt Coot-tha provides significant environmental benefits beyond its boundaries, contributing to a cooler, healthier and more resilient Brisbane. Its extensive vegetation helps moderate urban temperatures, improve air quality and provide opportunities for people to connect with nature. Dense vegetation and steep terrain also contribute to bushfire risk, requiring ongoing management to protect natural areas and surrounding communities.



Learning and discovery

A place to explore, learn and better understand the natural world.

200,000+
plants in the Botanic Gardens living collection

900,000+
plant specimens in the Queensland Herbarium collection

Thousands
of school students participating in education programs each year

50
years of inspiring astronomy and botanical learning

Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha

Australia's largest subtropical botanic garden, the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha spans 56 hectares and showcases over 200,000 plants from around the world. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2026, its living collections support plant conservation, science, research and education while providing opportunities for visitors to discover the diversity of plant life. Unique attractions, including the Bonsai House and Tropical Display Dome, provide opportunities to explore plants and connect with nature.



Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium

One of Brisbane's most loved educational attractions, the Planetarium, named after early astronomer Sir Thomas Brisbane, inspires curiosity about space, science and discovery. Featuring the Cosmic Skydome, observatory, sundial courtyard and interactive displays, it offers immersive experiences that make astronomy engaging for all ages. As the region's only planetarium, it plays an important role in education, helping thousands of students each year explore astronomy through curriculum-aligned learning programs.



Queensland Herbarium

The Queensland Herbarium is the state's centre for scientific research and information on Queensland's ecosystems and species of plants, fungi, algae and animals. Its collection of more than 900,000 plant specimens, gathered over 150 years, provides a record of Queensland's biodiversity and continues to inform conservation, research and environmental management. The Herbarium plays a vital role in understanding and conserving Queensland's unique ecosystems.



Richard Randall Art Studio

Located within the Gardens, the Richard Randall Art Studio is a heritage-listed gallery originally built in South Brisbane around 1900 as the residence and studio of artist Richard John Randall. It was later relocated to the Gardens and now operates as a community venue hosting exhibitions, workshops and programs by local artists. Richard Randall is recognised as a pioneer of Brisbane's early art scene and his heritage-listed studio preserves an important part of the city's cultural history.



Mt Coot-tha Library and Auditorium

The Mt Coot-tha Library houses nationally significant collections focused on botany, horticulture and landscape design. The adjacent Auditorium hosts exhibitions, events, public programs and community learning opportunities. Together, they create a hub that supports learning, research and community engagement centred on plants, horticulture and the environment.



Recreation and wellbeing

A place to be active, unwind and connect with nature.



25km
of mountain bike tracks



74
different trails to explore



9
picnic areas



90km+
of tracks and trails

Summit Lookout

The Summit Lookout is one of Brisbane's best-known destinations, long valued for its panoramic views across the city, Moreton Bay and surrounding ranges. The heritage-listed Mt Coot-tha Lookout and Kiosk reflect the site's long history as a public lookout and recreation destination, while the restaurant and café provide places to dine, relax and enjoy the views.



Tracks and trails

Mt Coot-tha supports an extensive network of tracks and trails catering for a broad range of uses including walking, cycling, trail running and horse riding. Covering more than 90 kilometres, the trail network connects visitors to bushland landscapes, lookouts and picnic areas throughout the reserve. Trails range from easy and accessible routes, to more challenging experiences, supporting visitors with different abilities, interests and levels of experience.



Picnic areas and recreation destinations

Mt Coot-tha's nine picnic areas provide places to gather, relax and spend time in nature, with shady spaces, open lawns and connections to the surrounding trail network. Popular destinations such as JC Slaughter Falls, Simpson Falls and Gap Creek offer different settings for picnicking, recreation and exploring the natural environment. Nearby parks and recreation areas, including Anzac Park, Green Hill Reservoir Park and Sunset Park, provide connections between Mt Coot-tha and surrounding neighbourhoods.



Cycling and scenic routes

Sir Samuel Griffith Drive is one of Brisbane's most recognised recreational road cycling routes. Following the ridgelines and slopes of Mt Coot-tha, it provides access to a range of destinations and recreational experiences. Its combination of scenic views, natural surroundings and challenging climbs attracts cyclists from across the city.



Outdoor events

Mt Coot-tha plays an important role in Brisbane's outdoor recreation culture, regularly hosting trail running, cycling and mountain biking events. From community activities to major endurance events, these activities bring people together and encourage an active lifestyle.



Community stewardship and care

A place shaped by generations of care, stewardship and community involvement.

100+
Botanic Gardens guides and volunteers

6
bushcare groups within Mt Coot-tha

3
catchment groups active in the Mt Coot-tha area

Traditional Custodians

For thousands of generations, Mt Coot-tha has been a place of connection to Country and cultural significance. Traditional Custodians continue to share knowledge, strengthen understanding of Country and contribute to the ongoing stewardship of Mt Coot-tha and its landscapes.



Guides and welcomers

More than 100 dedicated volunteers support visitors to the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha through guided walks, interpretation and visitor information services. For almost four decades, volunteers have helped people discover the Gardens' unique collections, stories and significance, creating richer visitor experiences.



Bushcare and habitat restoration

Community members contribute thousands of volunteer hours each year to activities such as habitat restoration, native planting, weed management, wildlife monitoring and citizen science programs. These efforts support biodiversity, improve ecosystem health and help protect the environmental values that define Mt Coot-tha.



Trail care

The Mt Coot-tha Trail Care program is a community-led program that unites passionate volunteers in supporting the monitoring, care and maintenance of the authorised mountain bike trail network, helping ensure trails remain safe, sustainable and enjoyable.



Community advocacy and education

Community organisations, such as The Hut Environmental and Community Association, play an important role in protecting and promoting Mt Coot-tha. Through advocacy, environmental education, community engagement and conservation initiatives, these organisations help foster a deeper understanding of Mt Coot-tha's values while strengthening community connection to place.



Planning for Mt Coot-tha's future

Why a long-term Vision matters

Brisbane is changing. Population growth and increasing urban density are placing greater importance on access to large natural areas that support biodiversity, recreation, wellbeing and climate resilience. Community needs around accessibility, sustainability and the quality of public spaces are also evolving.

For Mt Coot-tha, growing visitation, ageing facilities, environmental pressures and significant long-term opportunities reinforce the need to plan ahead while protecting what makes this place special.

A long-term Vision provides a shared direction for responding to these challenges and opportunities, helping coordinate planning, investment and future projects across Mt Coot-tha. By considering the area as a whole, it supports a more integrated approach than would be possible through individual projects alone.

Protect the natural environment

Mt Coot-tha's natural areas face ongoing pressures from invasive species, erosion, informal trails, bushfire, increasing use and a changing climate. These pressures can affect habitat, waterways and the ecological connections that support biodiversity. Maintaining the health and resilience of Mt Coot-tha will require a long-term approach to ensure conservation, restoration and management are effective, coordinated and sustained over time.



Renew ageing assets

Many of Mt Coot-tha's best-known destinations and facilities were established decades ago and require renewal. The Summit Lookout, key facilities within the Gardens, Planetarium, picnic areas and supporting infrastructure require change that considers accessibility, safety, functionality and the qualities that people already value. A clear vision will guide this renewal, ensuring improvements are prioritised and aligned with community values.



Improve access and connection

While Mt Coot-tha is close to central Brisbane, some areas are difficult to reach without a private vehicle, connections between destinations are not always clear and parking is limited at busy times. Over the next 20 years, changing transport options, technology and expectations around accessibility will influence how people get to and move around Mt Coot-tha. Long-term planning is essential to ensure access improvements are coordinated, intuitive and future focused.



Plan for the Quarry's future

The rehabilitation of the Quarry presents a significant long-term opportunity. As quarrying eventually concludes, its future will need to be considered well in advance. Its scale, modified landscape and location beside the Gardens create a unique set of considerations for rehabilitation, access, future use and its relationship with the wider Mt Coot-tha area. Planning ahead will help ensure future opportunities are carefully considered and integrated with the broader vision for Mt Coot-tha.



Building the Vision together

Developing a Vision shaped by community knowledge, stakeholder expertise and a shared commitment to Mt Coot-tha's future.

Community and stakeholder engagement has been central to the development of this Vision. The extensive engagement program was designed to understand the many different ways people value, experience and use Mt Coot-tha, identify priorities for the future and ensure a broad range of perspectives were considered.

More than 4,800 contributions were received through surveys, workshops, presentations, meetings and targeted engagement activities. This included residents, visitors, volunteers, community organisations, environmental groups, recreation users, educators, young people, precinct partners, businesses, researchers and government stakeholders. Together, these contributions provided valuable local knowledge and specialist expertise that helped shape this Vision.

4,800+

contributions helped shape the Mt Coot-tha Vision

Quarry Visioning Project

769

Ideas shared

Mt Coot-tha Visitor Survey

3,526

Individual responses

Youth Survey

348

Responses from people aged 16-25

Community Reference Group Workshops

54

Attendees from 40 organisations

Young Professionals Workshop

45

Attendees from 26 organisations

Youth Workshop

66

Students in Years 10-11

"it's an incredible urban oasis and green space so close to the CBD."

"Better signage for walking trails."

"I like Mt Coot-tha for its green space that is largely untouched and a genuine nature reserve."



What we heard shaped the Vision

Community engagement identified a clear set of priorities to guide the future of Mt Coot-tha. While individual perspectives varied throughout discussions, several common themes emerged across the engagement process.

Nature comes first

Strong support and advocacy was shown for conservation, habitat restoration, weed management and the protection of green space.

Build on what is already loved

The Summit, Botanic Gardens, Planetarium, trails and picnic areas are well-loved and some areas need upgrading.

Celebrating culture and heritage

There was strong support for recognising First Nations culture and more opportunities to learn about the stories that have shaped Mt Coot-tha over time.

Enhancing the experiences

People expressed a desire for practical improvements that make Mt Coot-tha more comfortable and enjoyable for all users.

A balanced approach to future opportunities

Feedback highlighted the role of modified areas, such as the Quarry and network sites, in accommodating tourism opportunities while protecting more environmentally sensitive landscapes.

Better access and connections

Improving how people access Mt Coot-tha and move around the area easily and safely was a key priority.

A place for everyone

People want Mt Coot-tha to be safe, welcoming and accessible, with facilities and experiences that support people of all ages and abilities.

Nature and wellbeing

People reinforced the importance of Mt Coot-tha as a place to escape the city, connect with nature and spend time with family, friends and community.

"More offerings for kids, better playgrounds, more choices at the Planetarium, more environmental education."

"More public transport options, more frequently."

"The Summit also really needs an upgrade with some more seating and shade, it's very dated for such a significant location."

The Vision

Vision

“Mt Coot-tha will remain an iconic Brisbane landmark, valued for its unique environmental and cultural significance. As Brisbane grows, it will continue to be a place that connects people to nature close to the city.”

Our approach

With a blend of protected landscapes, established sites and areas that are ready to evolve, Mt Coot-tha requires a tailored approach that directs change where it is appropriate, while protecting what people value most.

Protect

Protect Mt Coot-tha’s environmental, cultural, heritage and landscape values.

Renew

Renew and improve existing destinations, facilities and connections so they continue to meet community needs.

Transform

Transform already built on areas to unlock future opportunities for community benefit.

Goals

Our Shared Vision Mt Coot-tha 2030 established themes and goals that provided a shared direction for the future of Mt Coot-tha. Building on this foundation, the goals have been refined through recent community and stakeholder engagement to reflect current priorities, emerging opportunities and the long-term planning considerations of Mt Coot-tha. The five goals describe what we want to achieve and will guide future planning and actions across Mt Coot-tha.

Celebrate Mt Coot-tha as a Brisbane icon



Mt Coot-tha is a much-loved part of Brisbane's identity and lifestyle.

- The natural character, views and heritage of Mt Coot-tha are celebrated and protected.
- Valued destinations continue to attract and inspire residents and visitors.
- Experiences at Mt Coot-tha reflect and reinforce Brisbane's unique identity.
- Mt Coot-tha remains a defining green backdrop to Brisbane and one of the city's most recognisable landmarks.

Protect and restore the natural environment



Mt Coot-tha's bushland, waterways, biodiversity and wildlife habitat are healthy, connected and resilient.

- Biodiversity and habitat are protected and restored.
- Waterways and ecological connections are strengthened.
- The natural environment is more resilient to future pressures and a changing climate.
- Traditional Custodians, community groups and volunteers are supported to help care for Mt Coot-tha.

Support recreation and wellbeing



Mt Coot-tha provides diverse ways for people to be active, spend time outdoors and connect with nature.

- People of all ages, abilities and interests can enjoy a range of recreation experiences.
- Trails, picnic areas and destinations support active lifestyles and wellbeing.
- Recreation is balanced with the protection of natural and cultural values.
- Public access and connection with nature remain central to the Mt Coot-tha experience.

Strengthen learning, culture and discovery



Mt Coot-tha inspires curiosity, learning and discovery through nature, science and culture.

- The Botanic Gardens, Planetarium, Queensland Herbarium and future destinations continue to support conservation, science and education.
- Traditional Custodian knowledge, culture and Connection to Country are recognised and reflected throughout Mt Coot-tha.
- Mt Coot-tha's natural, cultural and historical stories are brought to life.

Create a connected, accessible and welcoming place



Mt Coot-tha is easy to get to, navigate and enjoy for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

- Public transport, walking and cycling provide more ways to access Mt Coot-tha.
- Destinations are better connected and easier to move between.
- Accessibility, wayfinding and visitor information support a welcoming experience.

Future Vision map

The map shows how the Vision could be realised across Mt Coot-tha, highlighting the key places and opportunities explored in the following sections.

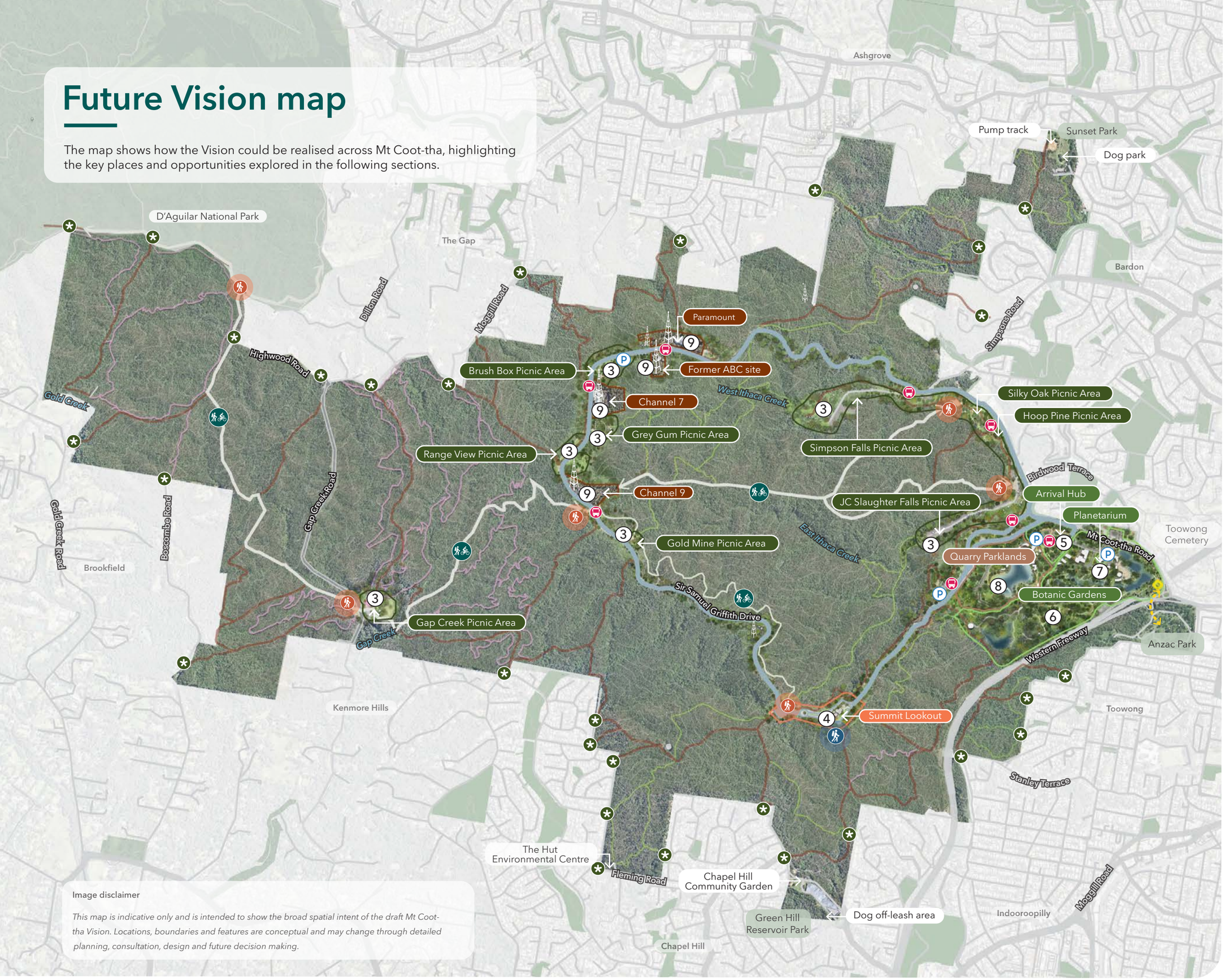


Image disclaimer

This map is indicative only and is intended to show the broad spatial intent of the draft Mt Coot-tha Vision. Locations, boundaries and features are conceptual and may change through detailed planning, consultation, design and future decision making.

Legend

- Shared tracks
- Mountain bike tracks
- Walking tracks
- Trail access points
- Communications tower

Mt Coot-tha Forest Reserve

1. Protect and restore the natural environment
2. Elevate the trail experience
3. Renew picnic areas

Summit Lookout

4. Revitalise the Summit

Botanic Gardens

5. Establish a Mt Coot-tha Arrival Hub
6. Enhance the Botanic Gardens
7. Upgrade the Planetarium

Quarry Parklands

8. Transform the Quarry

Network Sites

9. Reuse of existing network sites

Mt Coot-tha wide initiatives

- Scenic route, cycling and safety improvements
- Potential public transport stops
- Optimise existing parking and/or provide additional parking
- Signature trailhead and wayfinding upgrades
- Proposed scenic trail
- Proposed long distance trail linkages
- Proposed new Botanic Gardens pedestrian entry

Protect and restore the natural environment

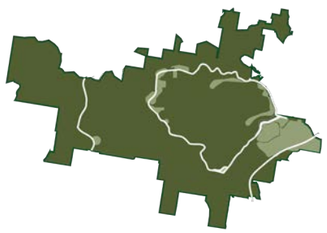
A biodiverse landscape that protects habitat and supports healthy ecosystems.

Covering around 90% of the project area, the Mt Coot-tha Forest Reserve is central to Mt Coot-tha's environmental significance and is the primary focus for conservation and restoration. Invasive species, erosion, informal trails, bushfire and increasing use continue to place pressure on its ecological health. Restoration and ongoing management will help strengthen resilience, while carefully managing recreation and access to protect sensitive areas and environmental and cultural values.

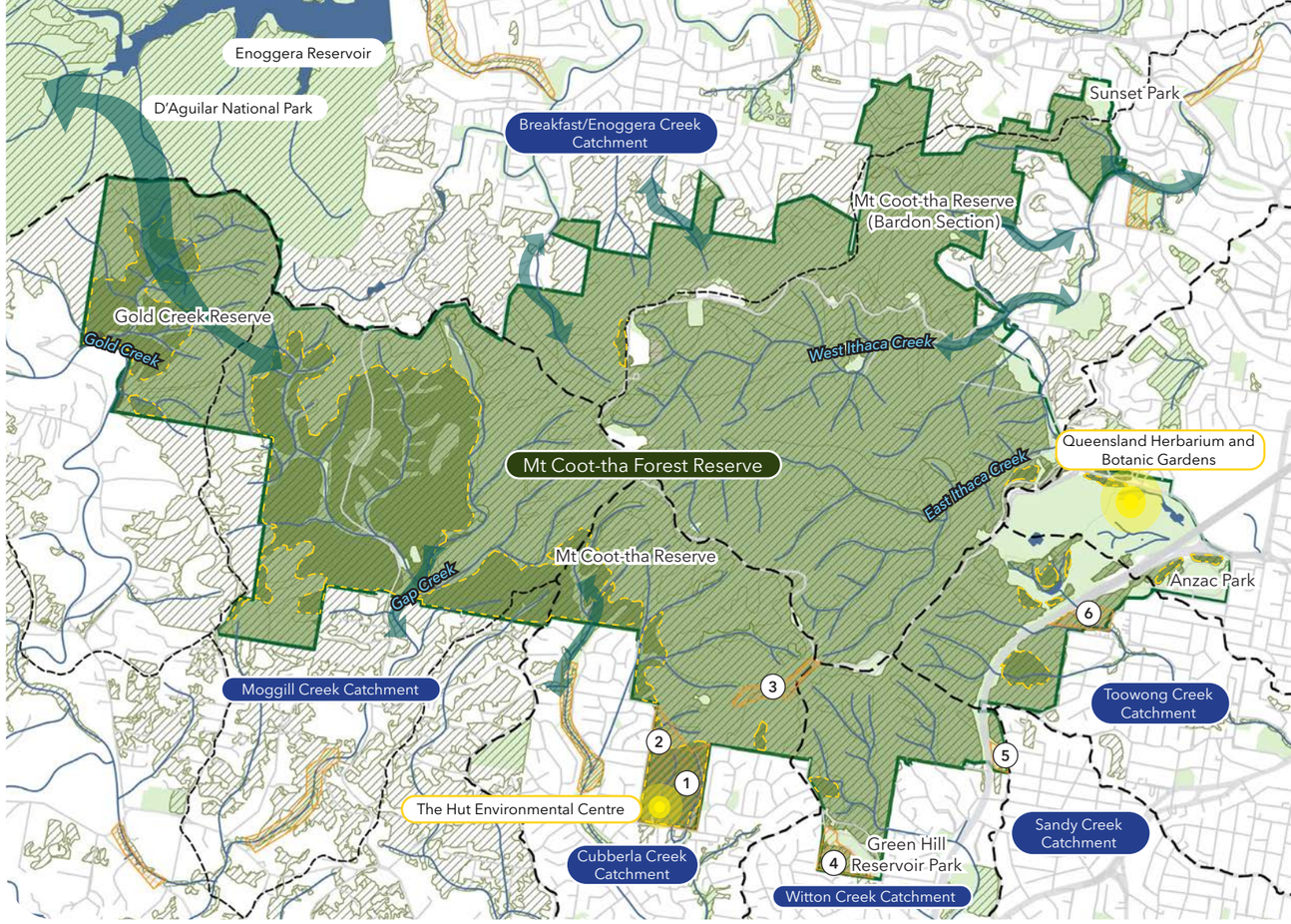
Key initiatives

- Establish baseline ecological information and long-term monitoring programs to identify priorities, track environmental condition and support adaptive management.
- Prepare and implement a restoration strategy across Mt Coot-tha to guide habitat rehabilitation, manage weeds and invasive pests, control erosion and support long-term ecological restoration.
- Coordinate restoration across the reserve, building on Council's existing conservation and bushfire management programs and the work of bushcare groups and volunteers to focus restoration where it will have the greatest environmental benefit.
- Undertake targeted control of key weed species, such as Ochna and Cat's Claw Creeper.
- Protect threatened species and their habitat through ongoing monitoring and targeted conservation action.
- Explore opportunities to strengthen ecological connections between Mt Coot-tha and surrounding natural areas.
- Restore waterways, gullies and riparian areas to improve ecological health and water quality.
- Manage recreation to protect environmental and cultural values, including directing use to appropriate trails and rehabilitating unauthorised trails and degraded areas.
- Strengthen resilience to climate-related impacts through ongoing management, restoration and adaptation measures.
- Support continued long-term stewardship through Traditional Custodian involvement, bushcare activities, citizen science, wildlife monitoring, trail care programs and volunteering.
- Expand nature interpretation and environmental education to foster understanding of local ecology, biodiversity and conservation.

Location plan







Legend

- Creeks/waterways
- Parks/open space
- Natural/regulated vegetation
- Natural/regulated vegetation (of concern)
- Koala habitat
- Ecological links
- Environmental and research centres
- Bushcare group site
- Catchment boundaries

Bushcare Groups

1. The Hut Bushland Care Group
2. Wandering Weeders
3. Butterfly Bushcare Group
4. Green Hill Regenerators
5. Toowong Creek Roving Rehabilitators
6. Goldsbrough Street Bushcare Group



Elevate the trail experience

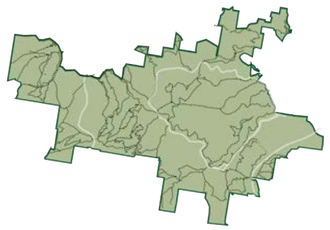
One of Brisbane's most extensive trail networks, supporting diverse recreation opportunities and connecting people with nature.

Mt Coot-tha's trail network provides opportunities to walk, ride, run and explore more than 90 kilometres of trails. Increasing use, informal trails, variable conditions and unclear wayfinding can make parts of the network difficult to navigate and place pressure on surrounding natural areas. Future improvements will make the network safer and easier to explore while retaining the diversity of experiences, levels of challenge and natural setting people value.

Key initiatives

- Strengthen popular trail connections between key destinations, including the Summit Track and Spotted Gum Trail, supported by a clear hierarchy of trailheads and entry points that provide supporting facilities like drinking fountains.
- Improve visitor information through coordinated signage and digital navigation, including clear trail directions, classifications and difficulty ratings to help people choose routes suited to their ability, experience and visit time.
- Improve trail safety through design and management, clear wayfinding, emergency information and well-defined entry points.
- Support safe and respectful shared use through appropriate trail design, signage and management of interactions between trail users.
- Continue implementation of the *Mt Coot-tha Reserve Mountain Bike Concept Plan*, supporting riders of different ages, abilities and experience levels.
- Strengthen Gap Creek as a gateway to mountain biking and trail-based recreation, with connections to the western reaches of Mt Coot-tha and the broader D'Aguilar National Park.
- Expand accessible and inclusive trail experiences where terrain and environmental conditions allow.
- Encourage the delivery of guided walks, rides and other low-impact experiences.
- Continue proactive trail management, including rehabilitating informal tracks and trails and incorporating appropriate routes into the formal network where suitable.
- Strengthen regional trail connections, including planning for a long distance walking and cycling trail into D'Aguilar National Park.

Location plan

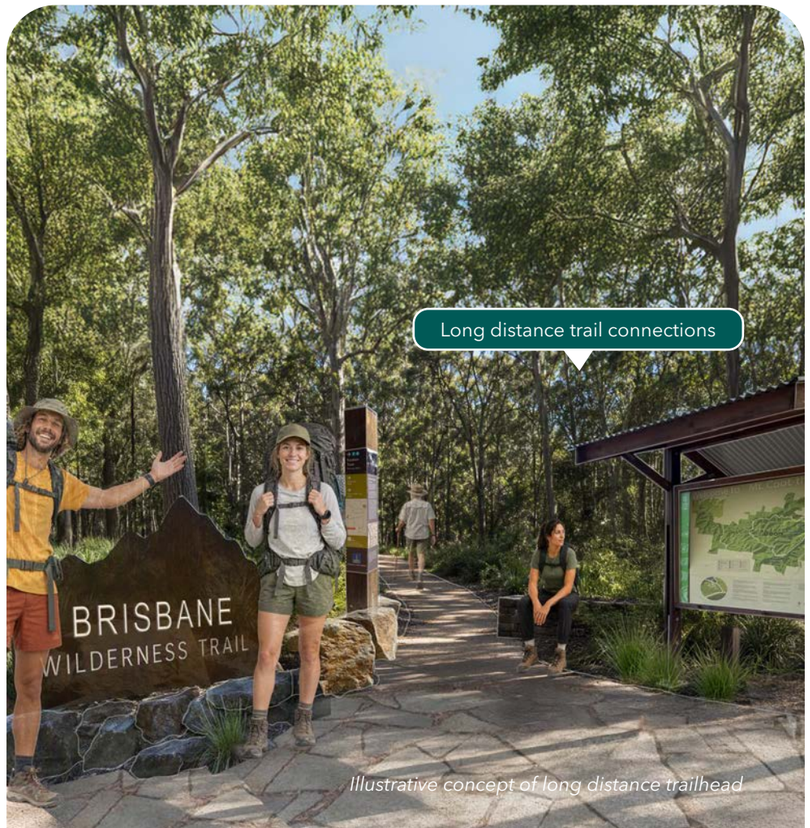


Timing





Illustrative concept of trail network improvements



Illustrative concept of long distance trailhead



Mt Coot-tha Reserve Mountain Bike Concept Plan

Council developed the *Mt Coot-tha Reserve Mountain Bike Concept Plan* in 2023 to guide new and improved mountain bike tracks, connections and supporting facilities. Opportunities will be progressed through Council's annual rolling program. Protecting environmental and cultural heritage values will remain a priority through future planning and design.

Renew picnic areas

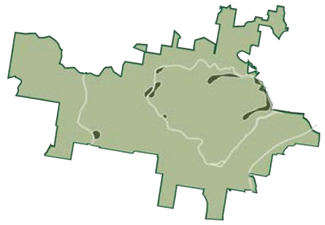
Welcoming places for families, friends and visitors to relax, explore and connect with nature.

Mt Coot-tha's picnic areas are some of the precinct's most loved and accessible places for recreation, from family gatherings and trail-based activities to quiet enjoyment of nature. As facilities age and use increases, picnic areas will be renewed to improve accessibility, comfort and recreation opportunities, while retaining their natural character.

Key initiatives

- Renew picnic areas and supporting infrastructure where required, including paths, seating, shade, shelters and amenities to improve accessibility and ensure they continue to meet visitor needs.
- Expand nature play opportunities at popular destinations such as JC Slaughter Falls, Simpson Falls and Gap Creek Picnic Area.
- Upgrade Grey Gum Picnic Area as an accessible bushland destination, demonstrating best-practice inclusive design.
- Strengthen Gap Creek Picnic Area as a recreation hub, with improved facilities for bike riders, including delivery of the Gap Creek skills track.
- Improve access, parking, orientation and wayfinding and strengthen connections between picnic areas, trails and nearby destinations to help people explore more of Mt Coot-tha.
- Include interpretation, storytelling and discovery experiences in picnic area upgrades to help visitors learn about Mt Coot-tha's natural, cultural and historical stories.
- Enhance selected ridgeline picnic and recreation areas, such as Range View Picnic Area, with sensitively located lookouts that celebrate views across the surrounding landscape.
- Explore complementary services, such as sustainable coffee carts and food trucks, that support visitors and recreation users.

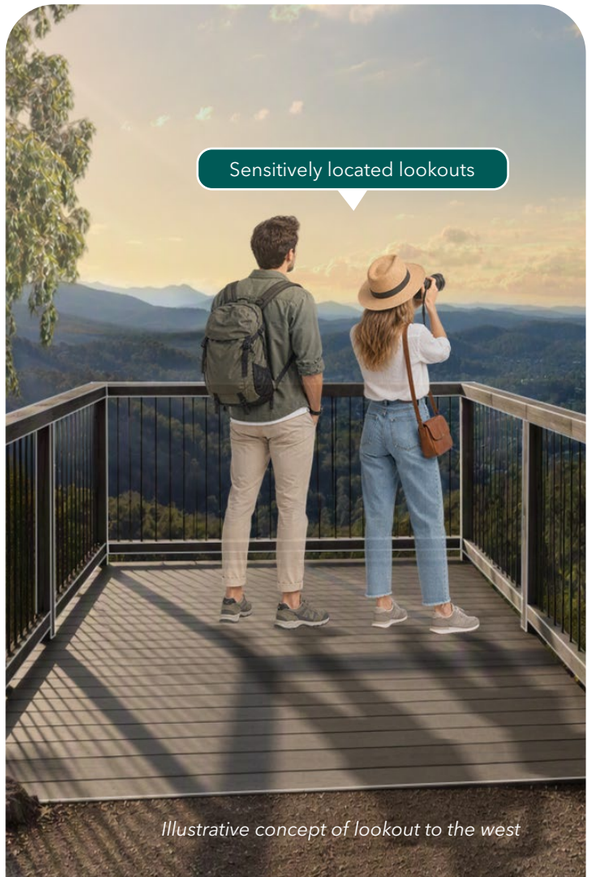
Location plan



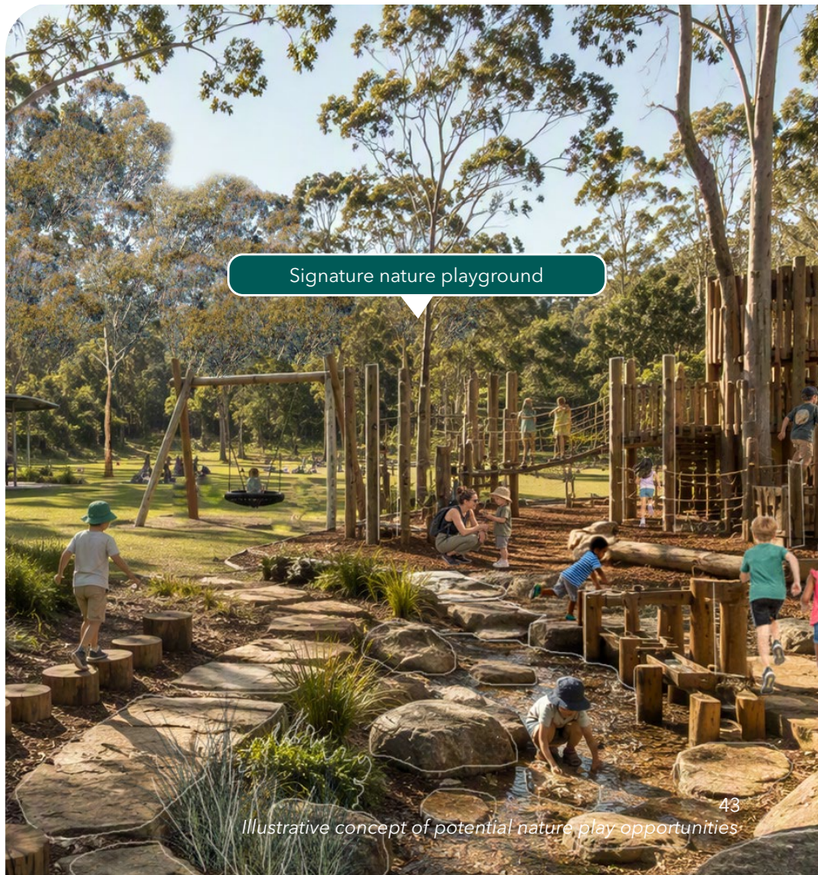




Illustrative concept of potential picnic area upgrades



Illustrative concept of lookout to the west



Illustrative concept of potential nature play opportunities

Revitalise the Summit

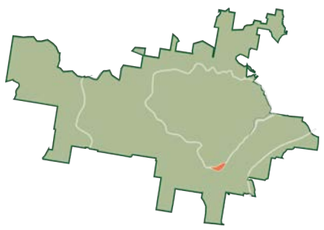
A renewed lookout destination that celebrates Brisbane's iconic views, while enhancing the visitor experience and respecting its heritage significance.

The Summit is one of Brisbane's most recognised and visited destinations. It is a place where people gather with family and friends, celebrate milestones, welcome visitors and experience Brisbane from above. Ageing facilities, limited shade, accessibility challenges and poor pedestrian connections create opportunities to renew the Summit and improve arrival and visitor amenities, while protecting its heritage character, landscape setting and iconic views.

Key initiatives

- Create an enhanced arrival experience, with an upgraded entry plaza to better reflect the significance of the Summit as one of Brisbane's iconic landmarks.
- Improve accessibility, including delivery of a new best-practice public amenities building.
- Renew the lookout platform through improved shade, seating and visitor information.
- Strengthen the Summit's identity through interpretation, public art and a distinctive sense of place.
- Enhance the existing lawn area to support picnicking, relaxation and scenic viewing.
- Improve access, parking, drop-off and pedestrian circulation, coordinated with broader public transport planning.
- Advocate for improvements to the café with the leaseholder to strengthen its role as part of the Summit experience.
- Enhance the site with complementary visitor services, which could include a local artisan gift store that reflects the character of Mt Coot-tha and Brisbane.
- Establish a short accessible scenic trail, including elevated experiences, that connects visitors with nature and the surrounding landscape.
- Support events and activities that are appropriate to the Summit and its landscape and heritage setting.

Location plan

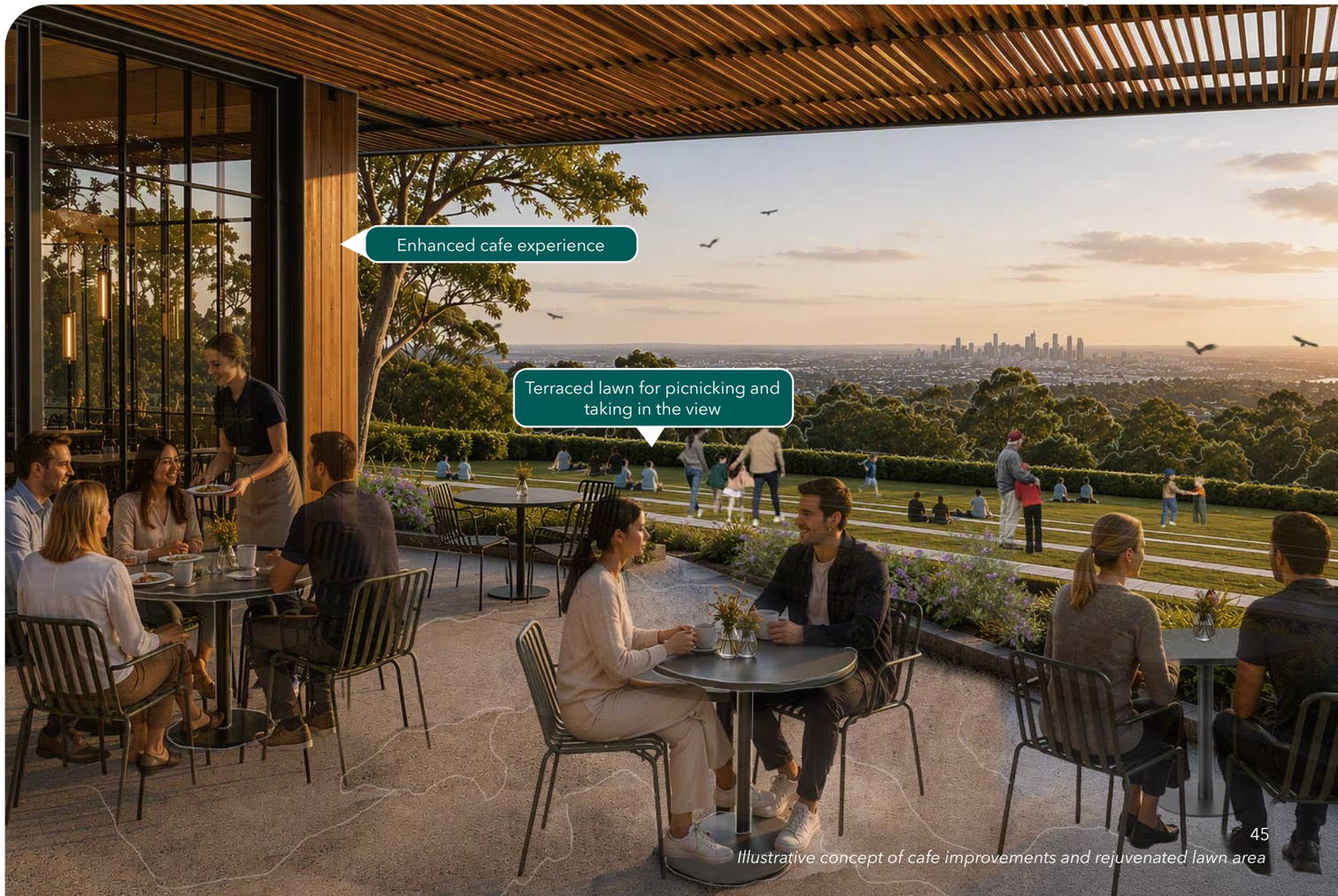


Timing





Illustrative concept of Summit Lookout arrival plaza and entry upgrades



Illustrative concept of cafe improvements and rejuvenated lawn area



Illustrative concept of Mt Coot-tha Arrival Hub

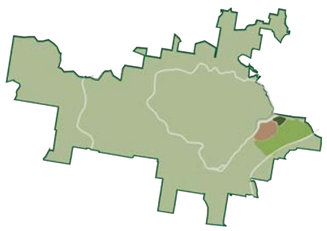
Establish a Mt Coot-tha Arrival Hub

A welcoming front door to Mt Coot-tha that improves arrival, orientation and connections.

Mt Coot-tha currently lacks a clear and coordinated point of arrival, with fragmented parking, limited public transport access and no central place for visitors to orient themselves. The Arrival Hub provides an opportunity to create a more welcoming gateway, making it easier to arrive, find your way and explore Mt Coot-tha.

Located between the Botanic Gardens and future Quarry Parklands, the Arrival Hub could accommodate parking and connect with public transport, future shuttle services, walking and cycling routes, helping reduce parking pressure at individual destinations and making it easier to move around Mt Coot-tha without relying on a car.

Location plan



Timing



Key initiatives

- Plan the Arrival Hub as the main gateway to Mt Coot-tha, coordinated with future planning for the Botanic Gardens and Quarry.
- Create a distinctive arrival experience that reflects Mt Coot-tha's environmental, cultural and landscape character.
- Provide clear orientation and wayfinding to help visitors navigate Mt Coot-tha and discover its destinations.
- Explore opportunities for a Visitor and Discovery Centre where people can learn about Mt Coot-tha's environment, history, culture and experiences.
- Provide accessible and inclusive arrival facilities and amenities that support visitors of different ages, abilities and mobility needs.
- Create clear and direct connections between the Botanic Gardens, future Quarry Parklands and surrounding destinations across Mt Coot-tha.
- Create a well-connected transport hub that brings together public transport, walking, cycling, accessible drop-off areas and provision for future shuttle connections.
- Support opportunities for people to park once and access multiple destinations by walking, cycling or future shuttle services, helping reduce parking pressure at individual destinations.
- Support opportunities for Traditional Custodians to share knowledge, stories and Connection to Country through the arrival experience.

Enhance the Botanic Gardens

A world-class destination for conservation, science and discovery.

The Botanic Gardens is one of Mt Coot-tha's most important destinations. Its living collections are at the heart of its purpose as a botanic garden, supporting plant conservation, research, education and public enjoyment. The Queensland Herbarium, library and other learning facilities further strengthen its role in understanding and conserving plant diversity.

The *Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha Master Plan 2018* will continue to guide the evolution of the Gardens. This Vision highlights selected priorities that reinforce its core botanic role, renew major attractions, improve arrival and accessibility and plan connections with the Arrival Hub, future Quarry Parklands and wider Mt Coot-tha area.

Key initiatives

Improve arrival, access and orientation

- Create a welcoming arrival to the Gardens through reconfigured parking, better pedestrian connections, improved entry spaces and subtropical planting.
- Improve the visibility and legibility of key building entrances, making it easier to locate the Visitor Information Centre, Planetarium, Queensland Herbarium, library and auditorium.
- Explore opportunities for new pedestrian entrances that help create more accessible connections to surrounding destinations, including Anzac Park and active transport networks.
- Improve accessibility, wayfinding and visitor information, making it easier for people of all ages and abilities to explore and discover plant collections and attractions.

Renew landmark attractions and create new visitor experiences

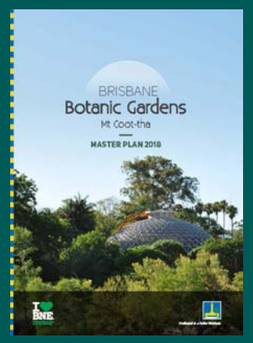
- Revitalise the Tropical Display Dome and Cacti House as contemporary, immersive destinations that celebrate their unique plant collections.
- Explore a signature treetop walk and enhanced lookout experience connecting the Australian, African and South American collections, with elevated views to the city, supported by improved accessibility and complementary visitor facilities.
- Create opportunities for a children's garden, nature play and sensory experiences that encourage people of all ages to connect with the natural world.
- Introduce a curated gift and souvenir shop featuring locally made products inspired by the Gardens, Brisbane's distinctive flora and Mt Coot-tha.
- Support events, programs and experiences that complement the botanic purpose, with a focus on plants, conservation, horticulture and environmental learning.

Showcase Australian plants and stories

- Showcase the diversity of Australian flora through enhanced collections, accessible paths, lookouts, boardwalks and immersive experiences, supported by interpretation and storytelling.



Illustrative concept of revitalised Tropical Display Dome



Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha Master Plan 2018

The *Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha Master Plan 2018* establishes a long-term vision and strategic framework to guide the future growth, renewal and enhancement of the Gardens. Shaped through extensive community and stakeholder engagement, the plan recognises the Gardens as one of Brisbane's premier destinations for conservation, learning and recreation. The Master Plan identifies a series of interconnected precincts and provides a framework for future investment in visitor experiences, plant collections, education, scientific research and supporting infrastructure.

Botanic Gardens



Illustrative concept of renewed Restaurant and Function Centre

Key initiatives (continued)

Create a contemporary botanic dining experience

- Facilitate an Expression of Interest to attract a long-term operator to renew and enhance the Restaurant and Function Centre, strengthening its connection with the surrounding landscape and supporting a mix of casual and destination dining, takeaway, functions and events.

Elevate learning and discovery

- Promote the breadth of learning, cultural and scientific experiences across the Gardens, Queensland Herbarium, Planetarium, library, auditorium and Richard Randall Art Studio through coordinated programs, interpretation and visitor information.
- Enhance the library, auditorium and education facilities as an Education and Research Hub for schools, researchers, volunteers and visitors, supporting a broader range of learning programs and events through flexible indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Enhance the Richard Randall Art Studio to support exhibitions and community use.

Strengthen conservation and horticulture

- Strengthen the resilience of the living collections through climate-adapted collections, seed banking, water security, sustainable practices and the long-term care of rare and significant plants, helping to protect botanical collections during periods of drought, flood and other climate extremes.
- Support the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and volunteer guides and welcomers, including opportunities for a nursery and propagation space, plant sales, horticulture and promotion of guided experiences that strengthen community involvement in the Gardens.

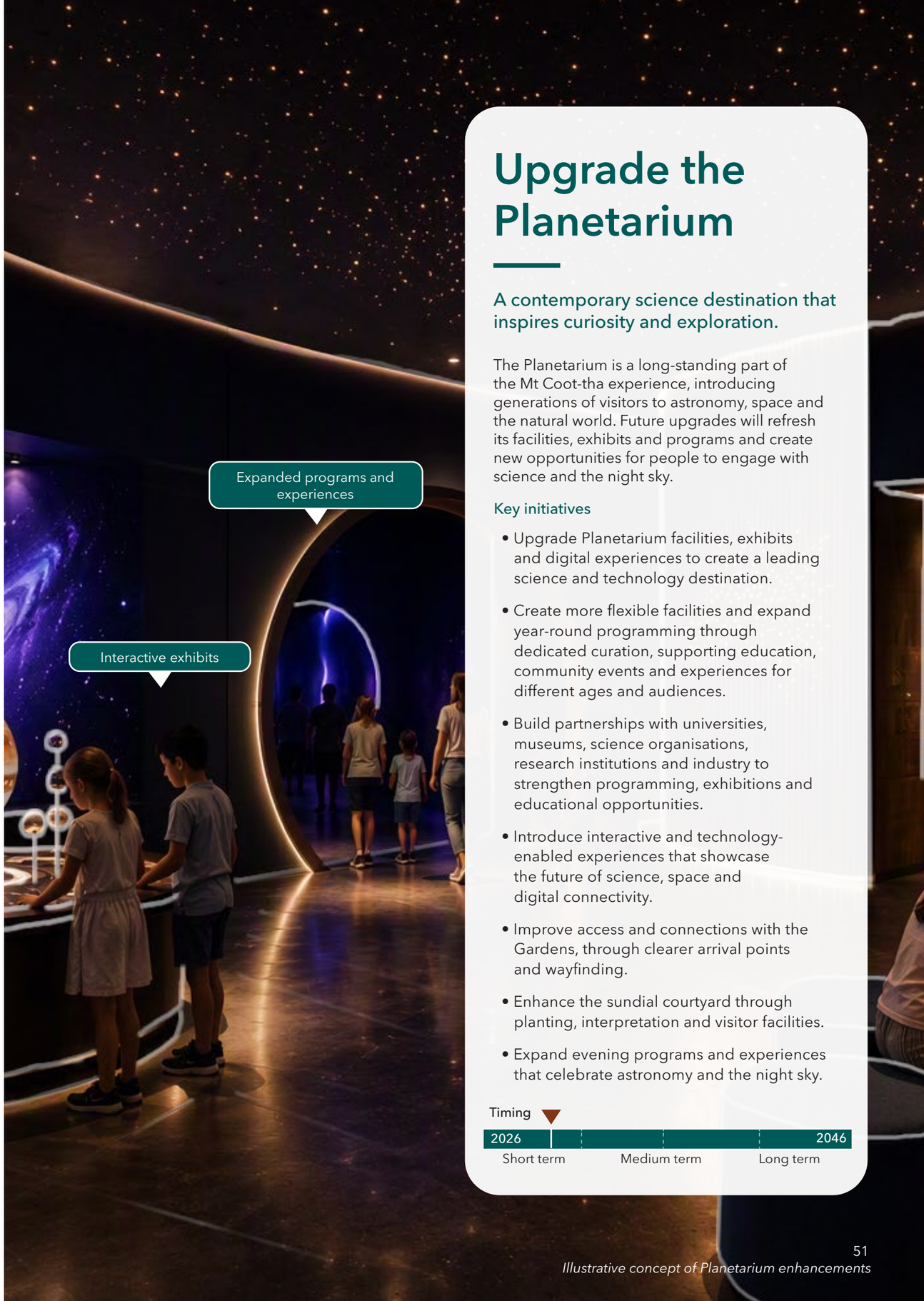
Location plan



Timing

2026 — 2046

Short term | Medium term | Long term



Upgrade the Planetarium

A contemporary science destination that inspires curiosity and exploration.

The Planetarium is a long-standing part of the Mt Coot-tha experience, introducing generations of visitors to astronomy, space and the natural world. Future upgrades will refresh its facilities, exhibits and programs and create new opportunities for people to engage with science and the night sky.

Key initiatives

- Upgrade Planetarium facilities, exhibits and digital experiences to create a leading science and technology destination.
- Create more flexible facilities and expand year-round programming through dedicated curation, supporting education, community events and experiences for different ages and audiences.
- Build partnerships with universities, museums, science organisations, research institutions and industry to strengthen programming, exhibitions and educational opportunities.
- Introduce interactive and technology-enabled experiences that showcase the future of science, space and digital connectivity.
- Improve access and connections with the Gardens, through clearer arrival points and wayfinding.
- Enhance the sundial courtyard through planting, interpretation and visitor facilities.
- Expand evening programs and experiences that celebrate astronomy and the night sky.

Timing

2026 — 2046

Short term | Medium term | Long term

Illustrative concept of Planetarium enhancements



Transform the Quarry

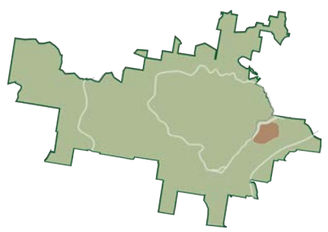
A long-term opportunity to plan for a significant new parkland for Brisbane.

The Mt Coot-tha Quarry has supported Brisbane's growth for more than a century and remains an important operational asset. As quarrying approaches its final stages, the 26-hectare industrial site presents a rare opportunity to create a significant new parkland. Its scale, location and distinctive landform provide a unique setting for a landmark destination.

The site's transition to the Quarry Parklands could broaden the range of activities available across Mt Coot-tha, with potential for recreation, learning, culture, community use and visitor experiences that respond to the Quarry's distinctive character. Planning for the Quarry Parklands will consider its relationship with the Botanic Gardens, including connections, shared visitor facilities and complementary uses across both areas. Environmental restoration, public access and lasting community benefit will be central to the site's long-term transition from an operational quarry to parkland.

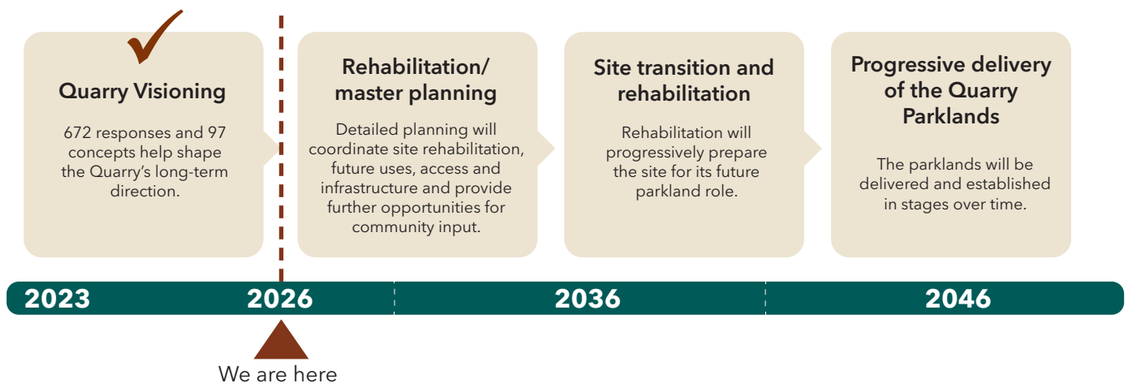
In 2023–24, the community was invited to share ideas for the future of the Quarry. A total of 769 ideas were received, providing a basis for future planning.

Location plan



Planning for the future: a staged approach

Planning for the future Quarry Parklands must begin well before operations cease, ensuring opportunities are carefully considered, community informed and ready to progress as the site approaches its transition phase. Future uses will be shaped through a rehabilitation plan and detailed master planning and subject to rehabilitation requirements, technical investigations, environmental constraints, funding availability and future approvals.



Reuse potential of network sites

Support the adaptive reuse of existing television and broadcast sites.

The network sites are an important part of Brisbane's broadcasting and communications infrastructure. These sites are privately owned or subject to long-term lease arrangements, and their future will depend on operational needs, landowner intentions and broader industry change.

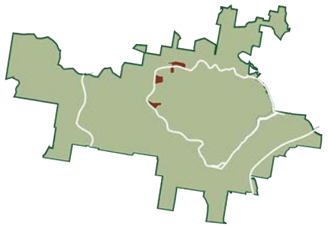
Over time, changing technologies and operational needs may create opportunities for these sites to evolve. As existing developed areas, they could support adaptive reuse without expanding into surrounding natural areas. Some network operators have indicated an interest in relocating from Mt Coot-tha in the near future, creating potential opportunities for market-led reuse.

Future uses could include complementary cultural, recreational, educational, wellness or tourism uses that make use of existing developed footprints and deliver community and economic benefits. Any change would need to respond sensitively to Mt Coot-tha's scenic values, landscape character and environmental significance.

Key initiatives

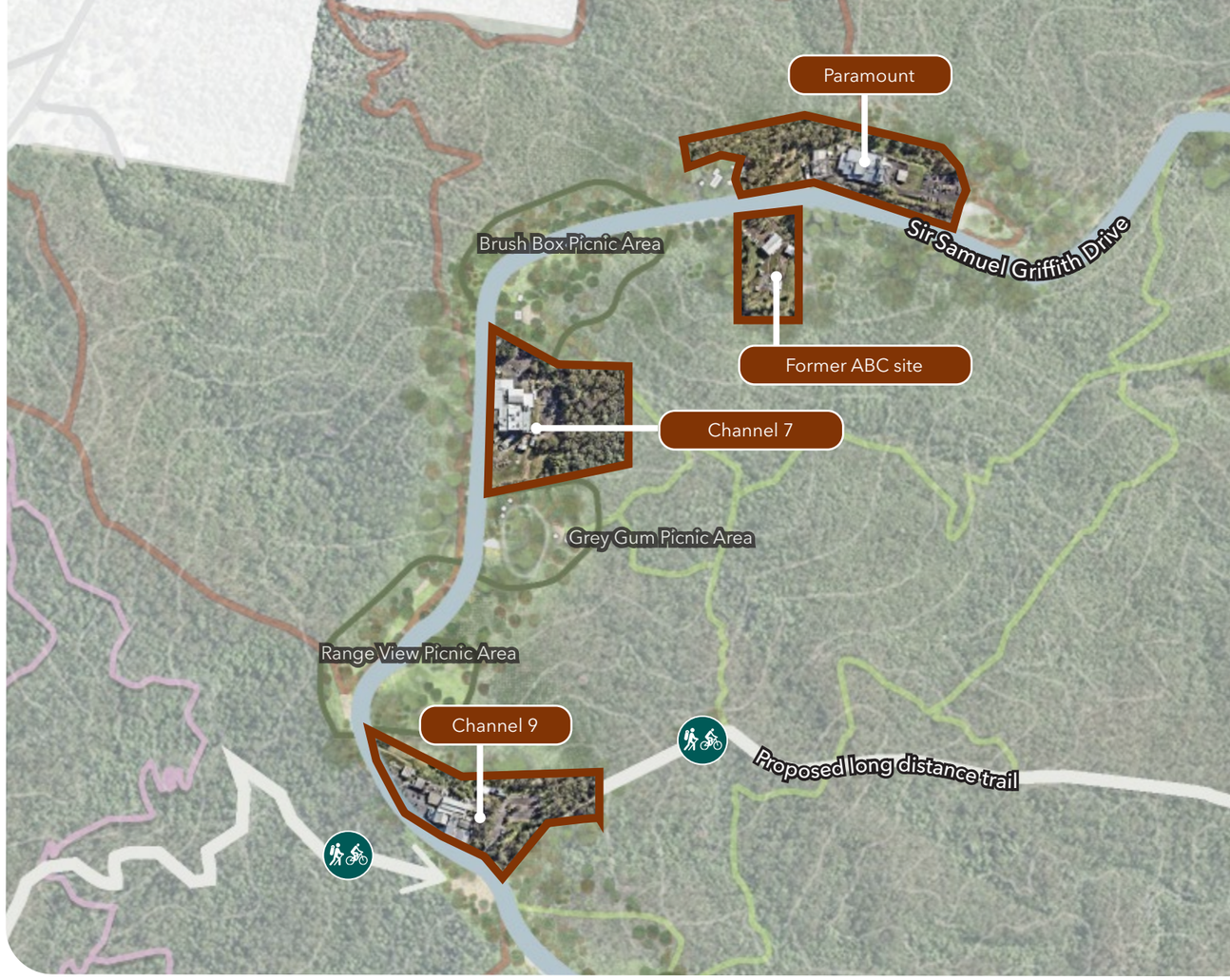
- Engage with the networks and other stakeholders to understand long-term site requirements and explore opportunities that align with the Mt Coot-tha Vision.
- Encourage the adaptive use and renewal of site footprints where opportunities arise, supporting a broader mix of community, cultural, educational, recreational, tourism and wellbeing outcomes.
- Explore opportunities to celebrate the history and contribution of broadcasting and communications at Mt Coot-tha through interpretation, education and visitor experiences.
- Support opportunities for the adaptive reuse of redundant towers as distinctive Mt Coot-tha landmarks.
- Support investment and innovation that enhances public value and contributes to Mt Coot-tha's evolution as a leading nature, culture, learning and visitor destination.

Location plan





Note: References to potential adaptive reuse, tourism, cultural, educational, recreational or community uses associated with the network sites are illustrative only and are included to inform long-term strategic discussion. The sites are not owned or controlled by Council and remain subject to private ownership, leasehold interests and ongoing operational requirements. Any future change in use would require separate investigations, consultation, commercial agreements and relevant statutory approvals.





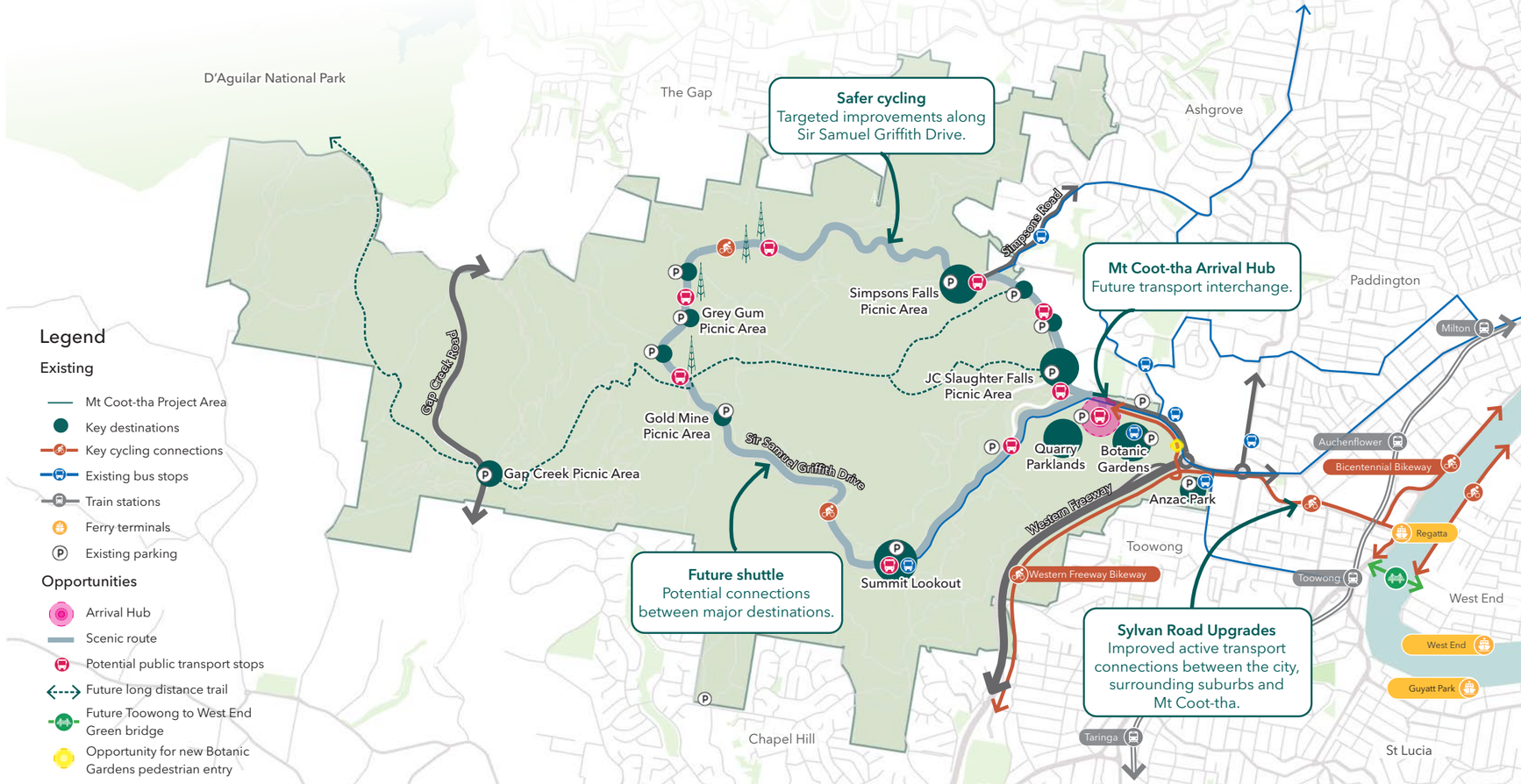
Movement and access

Making it easier to get to and move around Mt Coot-tha.

As Brisbane grows and visitation increases, providing safer, more accessible and sustainable ways to reach and explore Mt Coot-tha will become increasingly important.

Sir Samuel Griffith Drive forms a distinctive scenic route around Mt Coot-tha, connecting the Summit Lookout, picnic areas, trailheads and network sites. The proposed Arrival Hub provides a further opportunity to improve how people arrive, connect and explore the wider precinct.

Public transport, walking, cycling, parking and future shuttle services will be planned as part of an integrated movement network that responds to different access needs and the environmental sensitivities of Mt Coot-tha.





Getting to Mt Coot-tha

- Advocate for better public transport connections between the city, surrounding suburbs and transport hubs, including Toowong Station and Regatta Ferry Terminal.
- Investigate additional public transport stops to improve access to key destinations, picnic areas and trailheads where appropriate.
- Improve walking and cycling links to surrounding neighbourhoods and Brisbane's active transport network, including connections via Toowong and the Sylvan Road corridor.
- Improve parking and accessible drop-off, making better use of existing capacity and reducing pressure at key destinations.
- Retain the former Legacy Way construction car park and Ada Street car park as strategic overflow parking for events and peak visitation, with their longer-term role considered through future Quarry and Botanic Gardens planning.
- Consider electric vehicle charging and emerging transport technologies as part of future parking and transport upgrades.

Moving around Mt Coot-tha

- Enhance the existing scenic route along Sir Samuel Griffith Drive and Scenic Drive, improving safety and connections between key destinations.
- Improve cycling safety along Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, with a focus on the section between Simpsons Road and the Paramount site, including investigating one-way vehicle sections where these could provide safer separation for cyclists while maintaining access.
- Investigate future low-emission shuttle services connecting the Arrival Hub and key destinations, including bicycle-carrying capacity where practical.
- Investigate dedicated bike shuttle services to key trail destinations, including Gap Creek, to improve access, reduce parking pressure at trailheads and support more sustainable recreation access.
- Improve wayfinding and supporting walking and cycling infrastructure to help people move safely between destinations, trailheads and arrival points.

Community and connection

Strengthening connection to place, culture and community across Mt Coot-tha.

A number of initiatives apply across Mt Coot-tha, helping create a more inclusive, welcoming and connected experience. These initiatives support cultural recognition, community participation, accessibility, storytelling and a consistent design across destinations.

First Nations Recognition and Connection to Country

The Mt Coot-tha Vision recognises and celebrates the enduring connection of Traditional Custodians to Country. Working in partnership with Traditional Custodians, opportunities for cultural learning, storytelling, interpretation and engagement will be incorporated throughout the planning and management of Mt Coot-tha.

Culture, community and events

The Botanic Gardens, future Quarry Parklands, Summit and other key destinations will support a diverse program of events, activities and experiences that encourage people to connect with Mt Coot-tha throughout the year. Building on existing programs and activities, the Vision supports opportunities for people of all ages to explore, learn and connect with Mt Coot-tha in different ways. Public art, temporary installations and creative interpretation may also be incorporated across Mt Coot-tha to share stories of place, culture and nature, enriching the visitor experience and strengthening community connection.

Accessibility and safety

Improvements and upgrades to amenities, accessible infrastructure, visitor information and safety measures will make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy Mt Coot-tha. A consistent approach to accessibility and visitor comfort will support safe and enjoyable experiences across Mt Coot-tha.

While the mountain's topography will continue to shape how some areas are experienced, opportunities will be pursued to improve access and create more inclusive ways for people to enjoy the bushland, destinations and experiences that make Mt Coot-tha unique.

Identity, interpretation and visitor information

A clear and consistent approach to visual identity, design, materials, furniture, signage, interpretation and visitor information will strengthen Mt Coot-tha's identity and make it easier to navigate and explore. An interpretation program will reveal stories of the natural world and Brisbane's evolving relationship with Mt Coot-tha, creating deeper connections between people and place. Brisbane's native floral emblem, the Brisbane Wattle, could also be celebrated through planting, interpretation and seasonal displays.

Promotion and awareness

A coordinated approach to visitor information and promotion will build awareness of Mt Coot-tha's diverse natural areas, destinations and experiences. Optimising digital technology to provide improved and timely information will encourage people to explore more and support responsible visitation.

Digital connectivity

Digital connectivity will make it easier for people to plan, navigate and experience Mt Coot-tha through improved wayfinding, visitor information and interpretation. Digital tools can also support safety and provide better information on transport, trails, facilities, events and changing conditions. Visitor monitoring and data can help understand how people move through and use the precinct, supporting future planning and management.













Sustainability

A commitment to protecting, enhancing and sustaining Mt Coot-tha for future generations.

As one of Brisbane's most important natural assets, Mt Coot-tha has an important role to play in delivering the aspirations of *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable*. Sustainability is embedded throughout the Vision, guiding decisions about conservation, biodiversity, climate resilience, transport, design, operations and future investment.

Biodiversity and ecological health

The long-term health of Mt Coot-tha's bushland, waterways, wildlife habitat and ecological corridors remains fundamental to the Vision. Conservation, restoration and environmental stewardship will guide future decision-making, helping strengthen biodiversity, improve ecosystem resilience and support healthy natural systems.

Sustainable design and materials

Future projects will seek to incorporate sustainable design principles that respond to Mt Coot-tha's unique natural setting. This includes the use of durable materials, climate-responsive design, low-impact infrastructure and approaches that minimise resource consumption and environmental impact over time. Planning for bushfire, heat, extreme weather and water availability will help ensure buildings, amenities and public spaces remain safe, resilient and adaptable over time.

Adaptive reuse and existing footprints

A key sustainability principle of the Vision is making the best use of existing assets, infrastructure and previously modified areas. Focusing future opportunities within established locations will help protect surrounding natural values.

Sustainable access and movement

The Vision seeks to encourage more sustainable travel choices by strengthening walking, cycling, public transport and future shuttle connections. Supporting lower-impact travel can help reduce vehicle emissions and pressure on roads and parking areas and support a more sustainable transport network over time.

Innovation and leadership

Mt Coot-tha provides opportunities to demonstrate leadership in sustainable planning, environmental management, education and nature-based tourism. Mt Coot-tha can become a living example of how conservation, recreation, learning and community outcomes can work together to create long-term benefits.

Community wellbeing and economic resilience

Mt Coot-tha contributes to Brisbane's liveability, wellbeing and identity by providing opportunities for recreation, learning, culture, tourism and connection with nature. The Vision seeks to strengthen these benefits by supporting inclusive community experiences, encouraging active lifestyles, attracting visitors and investment, and ensuring facilities and destinations remain relevant and sustainable over the long term.

Delivering the Vision

Delivery approach

A shared commitment to protecting, enhancing and sustaining Mt Coot-tha for future generations.

Partnerships and funding

Delivering the Vision will require a combination of funding sources, including Council investment, government grants, philanthropy, sponsorship and market-led proposals.

Where suitable, complementary opportunities such as hospitality, recreation and nature-based experiences may also support community outcomes and visitor services, provided they contribute to Mt Coot-tha's long-term sustainability and protection. Revenue generated through these activities should contribute to the ongoing conservation, renewal and enhancement of Mt Coot-tha.

Major opportunities, such as the future Quarry Parklands, will require new partnership and investment models to be considered as part of planning, delivery and ongoing operation.

Stewardship and advocacy

The long-term success of the Vision depends not only on investment in infrastructure and environmental restoration, but also on the people and organisations that care for Mt Coot-tha. Traditional Custodians, volunteers, community organisations, researchers, educators and visitors all play an important role in protecting and enhancing Mt Coot-tha. Brisbane Sustainability Agency will act as steward of the Mt Coot-tha Vision on behalf of Brisbane City Council, guiding its implementation, advocacy and evolution over time.

Short-term initiatives

The initial focus for delivery will be on renewing and improving existing destinations, facilities and experiences. Priorities such as improvements to the Summit Lookout, Tropical Display Dome renewal, Planetarium upgrades, trail improvements and accessibility respond directly to community feedback and can be planned for short-term delivery.



Philanthropic support

Brisbane Sustainability Agency is establishing a dedicated not-for-profit philanthropic fund to support environmental, education and conservation initiatives across Brisbane's natural environment. Leveraging Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, the fund will provide a vehicle to attract donations, bequests, grants and philanthropic partnerships that complement Council investment and other funding sources.

For Mt Coot-tha, the fund provides an opportunity to attract additional funding for conservation, education, research, environmental restoration and Botanic Gardens initiatives aligned with the Vision. It can also help accelerate priority projects and support the people and organisations caring for and enriching Mt Coot-tha through volunteering and community stewardship programs.

Indicative delivery timeframes

Key initiatives	Short term 0-5 years	Medium term 5-15 years	Long term 15-20 years
Mt Coot-tha Forest Reserve			
Baseline ecological data and environmental monitoring	●	●	●
Restoration strategy	●		
Staged delivery of restoration outcomes	●	●	●
Trail network			
Trail network upgrades, including trailheads, interpretive signage and wayfinding	●	●	
Regional trail connections into D'Aguilar National Park	●	●	
Picnic Areas			
Gap Creek Picnic Area upgrades, including new skills course	●		
New nature play opportunities at key picnic areas	●	●	
Grey Gum Picnic Area upgrade as a best-practice accessible bushland experience	●		
Renew picnic areas to improve amenities, parking and visitor information	●	●	●
Summit Lookout			
Summit arrival and lookout platform improvements	●		
Accessible scenic trail and signature trailheads	●	●	
Café and visitor experience enhancements	●	●	
Botanic Gardens			
Arrival, access and orientation improvements	●		
Tropical Display Dome and Cacti House revitalisation	●		
Restaurant and Function Centre renewal	●		
Education and Research Hub		●	●
Children's garden, treetop walk and lookout experience		●	
Richard Randall Art Studio enhancement	●		
Planetarium			
Planetarium upgrades	●	●	
Mt Coot-tha Arrival Hub			
Arrival Hub planning and delivery		●	●
Quarry Parklands			
Quarry rehabilitation and master planning, including community consultation	●	●	
Progressive rehabilitation works		●	●
Quarry Parklands delivery			●
Network Sites			
Reuse of network sites as they become available (third party delivered)	●	●	●
Access, Movement and Arrival			
Access, movement, safety and parking planning	●		
Public transport improvements and introduction of shuttle service	●	●	●
Walking, cycling and trail connection improvements	●	●	●
Sir Samuel Griffith Drive safety, cycling and visitor experience improvements	●	●	●
Brisbane Wattle 'green and gold scenic route'	●		
Mt Coot-tha wide initiatives			
First Nations recognition and ongoing collaboration	●	●	●
Digital experience and mobile accessibility	●	●	●
Partnerships, funding attraction and collaboration	●	●	●
Activation, promotion and events	●	●	●
Not-for-profit fund to support projects, conservation and community programs	●	●	●

Have your say

Your feedback, ideas and thoughts are important. You can have your say on the draft Mt Coot-tha Vision and help shape the future of this much-loved place. Your feedback will help refine the Vision and ensure Mt Coot-tha continues to reflect the values and aspirations of the Brisbane community.

All feedback received through the consultation process will be carefully considered alongside future planning and stakeholder engagement. The draft Vision will then be refined and finalised, with the final Mt Coot-tha Vision anticipated to be released in mid-2027.

To have your say, please visit sustainablebrisbane.com.au/mtcoot-tha.

Late 2026

Draft Mt Coot-tha

Vision released for public review and feedback.

Early 2027

Review

Public feedback and refinement of the Vision.

Mid 2027

Finalised

Final Mt Coot-tha Vision released.

Image courtesy of BEDA



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Sustainability
AGENCY

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