



**ORARA VALLEY**

# FIRE to FLOURISH



MONASH  
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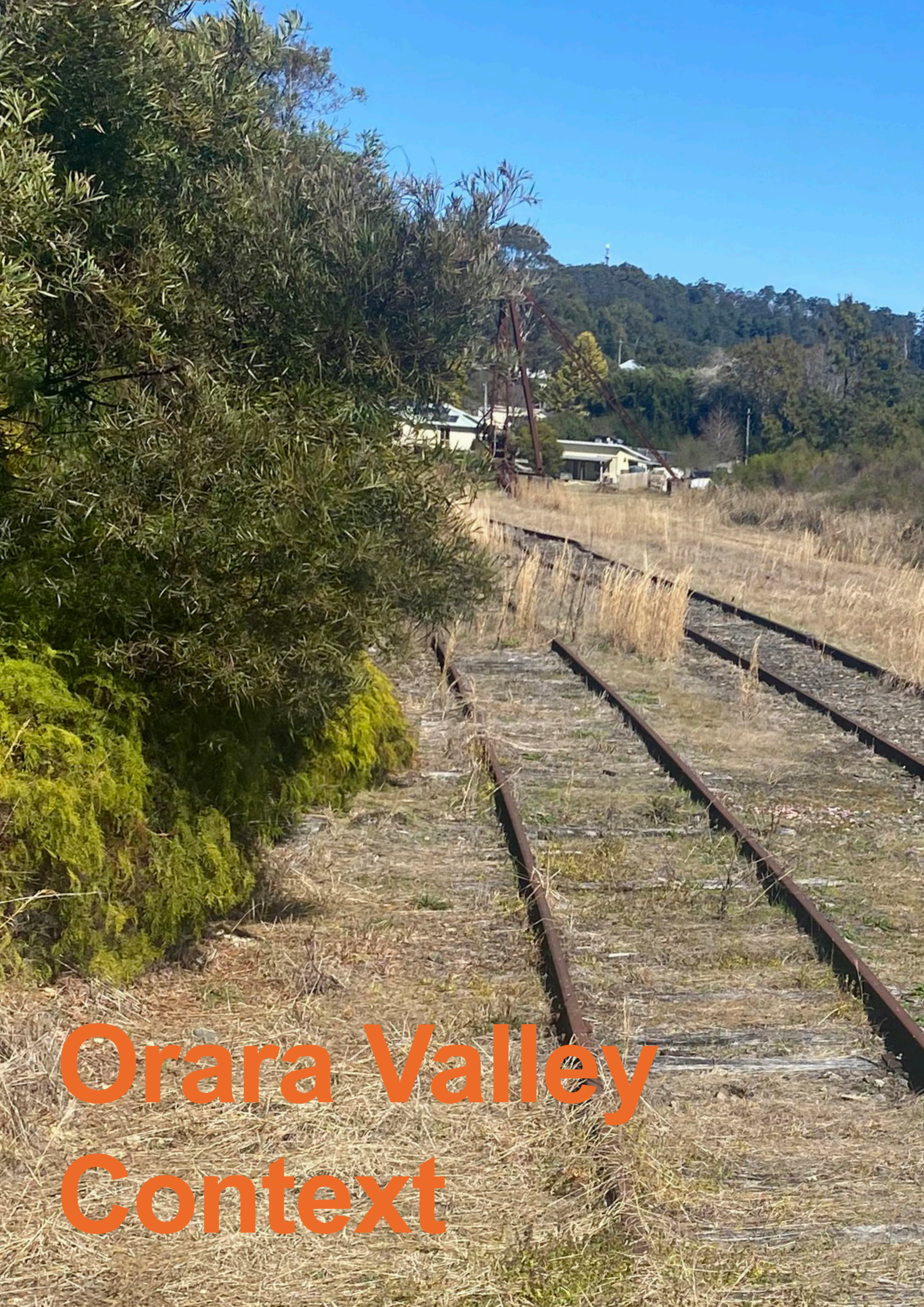
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# Orara Valley Context

# 5.1



# 5.1.1 Gumbaynggirr History in Orara Valley

## Timeline

### Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century

1788 - Before European Settlement



Believed to be the descendants of the first human migrations of Africa, arrived on the a continent, tens of thousands of years ago.<sup>1</sup>

**4000 BCE**

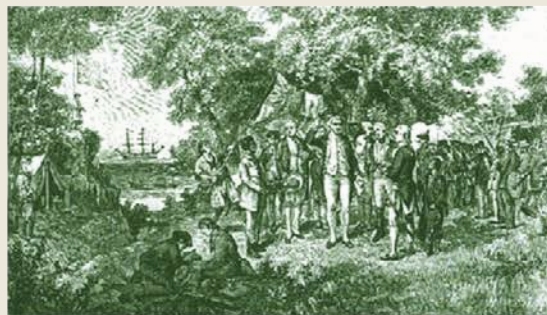
**1838**

The Myall Creek Massacre – a group of European settlers brutally murders Aboriginal men, women, and children in NSW



**1840s**

European settlers establish farming and logging operations in the Glenreagh area, leading to increased conflict with the Gumbaynggirr people



Arrival of European explorers and settlers in Australia, begins to impact the Gumbaynggirr people's traditional way of life.

**1788**

Land dispossession – resulting in violence and displacement of Indigenous communities in the region

**1850s**

Figure 4.1 Aboriginal History Timeline

## Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

The Gumbaynggirr people forcefully removed from their traditional lands and relocated to missions – reserves as part of government policies aimed at assimilation

## 1967

Referendum to include Indigenous Australians in the national census a significant step toward recognizing their rights and contributions

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Revitalization and preservation Gumbaynggirr language and culture, gain momentum with educational programs, cultural events, and the acknowledgement of past injustices

The Gumbaynggirr people in Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour continue to maintain their cultural practices, often in secret to avoid prosecution

## Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century



The Aboriginal Land Rights Act – to empower Indigenous communities

## 1983

Gumbaynggirr continue to assert theue cultural identity, maintain connection to the land, and work towards reconciliation, and recognition of the heritage

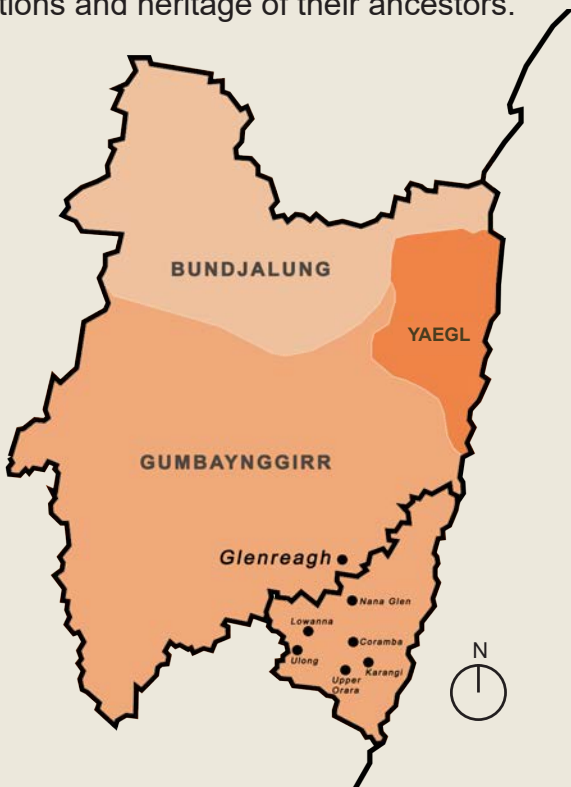
## Present Day

## Gumbaynggirr land

Gumbaynggirr life is rooted in a rich and enduring cultural heritage in the Coffs Harbour region of New South Wales, Australia. The Gumbaynggirr people have a deep connection to their traditional lands, which have sustained them for thousands of years.

Despite the significant challenges posed by European colonization, including dispossession and the disruption of their traditional lifestyles, Gumbaynggirr people have maintained a resilient cultural identity. Efforts to preserve and revitalize their language, art, music, dance, and traditional knowledge are ongoing.

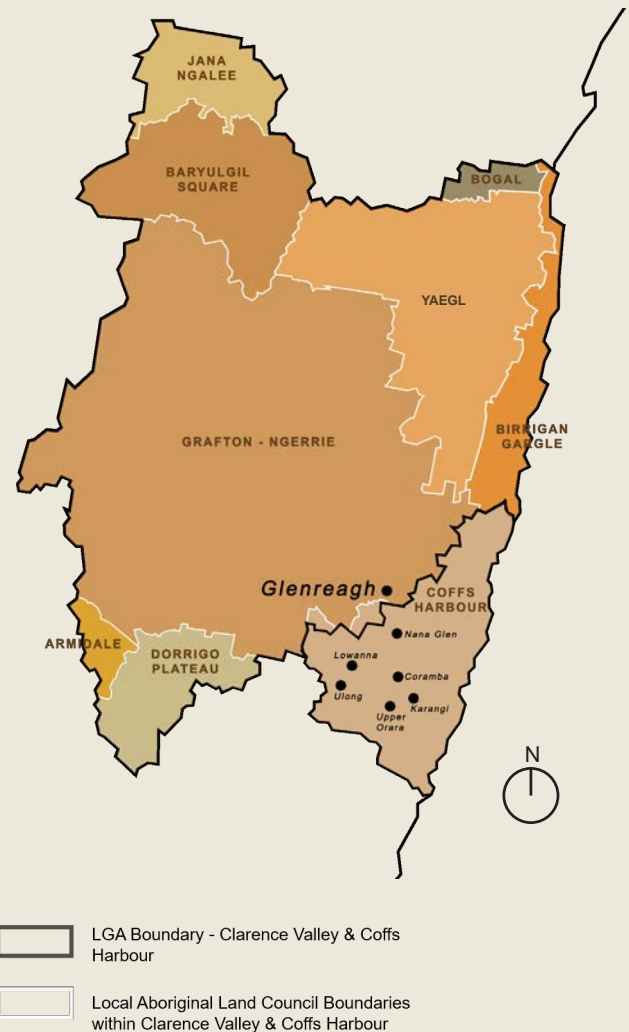
There is a growing emphasis on reconciliation, recognition of Indigenous rights, and respect for the Gumbaynggirr people’s cultural contributions. Gumbaynggirr life, like that of many Indigenous groups, continues to evolve as they navigate the complexities of the modern world while preserving the deep traditions and heritage of their ancestors.



**Figure 4. 3** Gumbaynggirr Country Boundary. Made by Mohana.

## Local Land Council

The Grafton Ngerrie Land Council is a pivotal organization responsible for protecting and managing the land, culture, and heritage of the Gumbaynggirr people. It focuses on land management, cultural preservation, economic development, land rights and native title negotiations, education and training, advocacy, and community engagement. By fulfilling these roles, the council supports the Gumbaynggirr community’s well-being, preserves their rich cultural heritage, and advocates for their rights and interests while ensuring sustainable land use and resource management within Gumbaynggirr Country.



**Figure 4. 2** Local Council Boundary. Made by Mohana.

## Indigenous Population

Of the Orara Valley, Coramba stands out with an exceptionally young Indigenous population, with a median age of 14. This likely reflects a higher birth rate and the presence of many families with children, which could influence the village’s educational and community development needs. Conversely, Ulong presents a contrasting picture with the highest median age of Indigenous people at 42, potentially representing a population in the workforce or with young families.

This demographic can be attributed to factors such as out-migration of younger residents in search of employment opportunities and limited economic activity in the area. Gender disparities are also apparent in some villages, particularly Glenreagh and Nana Glen, where there are significantly more females than males among the Indigenous populations.

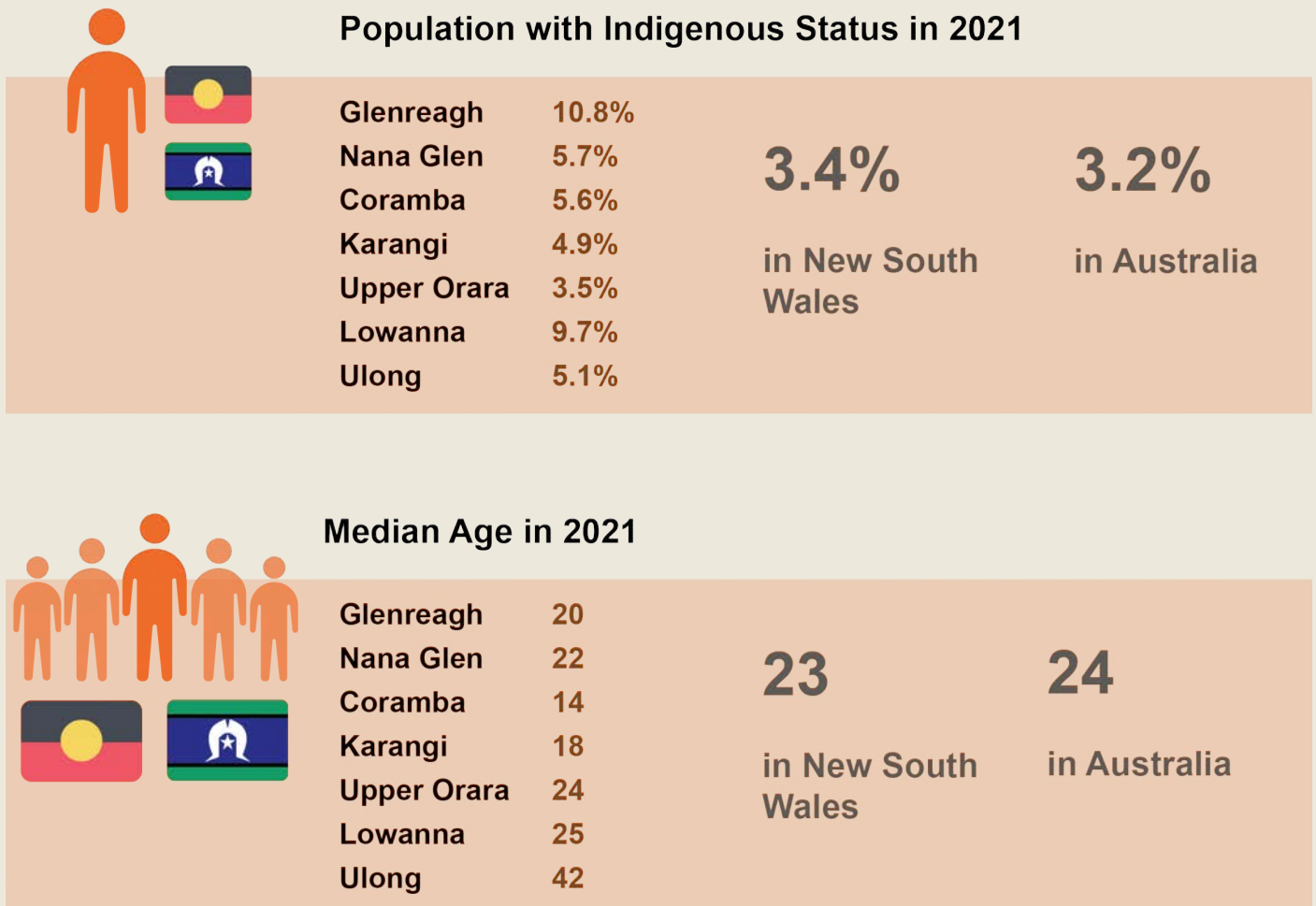


Figure 4.4 Indigenous Demographics. Made by Mohana.

# 5.1.2 Orara Valley Stories

## Timeline

**4000 BCE**

Gumbaynggirr are the traditional owners of the land between Red Rock to Nambucca Heads and inland to Grafton, Guyra and Nymboida.<sup>1</sup>

**1845**

The 'Massacre at Orara River' by the coast troopers.<sup>2</sup>



**1866**

The first six selectors in the Orara Valley.<sup>3</sup>



European settlement in Coramba

**1850**

European settlers established farms in Glenreagh and Nana Glen

**1830s**

Nana Glen or Ngarlaa takes shape as a small farming community

**1890**

1. Woolgoolga Heritage Walk, "Gumbaynggirr Heritage," accessed October 05, 2023, <https://www.woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org/woolgoolga-heritage-walk/2-1-gumbaynggirr-heritage>.

2. "Orara River - Clarence River: Teaching for Change," Clarence River: Teaching for Change, accessed October 05, 2023, <https://clarencriver.teachingforchange.edu.au/orarariver>.

Figure 4.5 Orara Valley History Timeline. Made by Mohana.

## 1896

The first license for a hotel in Glenreagh was granted, and was located at a different site further up the street.<sup>4</sup>



*Gillett family on the verandah of Glenreagh's first hotel. Clarrie on the horse, Minnie, Kate and John.*

## 1905

Nana Glen school is established

## 1915

Official Opening of Glenreagh Mountain Railway

Coramba Public School was established

## 1901

Orara Shire is officially established, encompassing the Orara Valley, serving as the local government authority for the region.

## 1906

Ulong Public school is established

## 1920

3. "Pioneer Orara Valley Clan Remember Family History," Daily Telegraph, accessed October 05, 2023, <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/coffs-harbour/pioneer-orara-valley-clan-remember-family-history/news-story/aa4ac7c0b8a1f2c3da54c72e67afe78f>.

4. "About Us," The Golden Dog, accessed October 05, 2023, <http://www.thegoldendog.com.au/about/>.

## Timeline

### 1924

Glenreagh to Dorrigo line was officially open.<sup>6</sup>

#### GLENREAGH-DORRIGO LINE.

SYDNEY, Wednesday.—The section of the North Coast railway from Glenreagh to Dorrigo has not yet been commenced, and indignation is consequently expressed. The construction of that portion of the line will occupy two years and a half from the date of commencement.

### Three Floods In Month

GLENREAGH, Friday.—The Orara River at Glenreagh was in flood for the third time since June 23.

On Wednesday the river at Glenreagh traffic bridge rose to 15½ feet, and heavy rain over night caused the river to reach flood level, 25½ feet, at 9 a.m. on the Thursday.

Rain continued throughout the day, but not hard enough to cause any further rise.

A severe electric storm struck the town at 10.45 a.m. Thursday, but fortunately little rain fell.

#### HOMES EVACUATED.

Several residents expressed concern, and four homes were evacuated before dark. These people were caught during the high flood in June, and decided to leave home while there was plenty of time.

Other families were packed up ready to move if the river came up higher, and trucks and ferries were asked to be prepared to act quickly.

The position improved during the night. The rain ceased, and to-day was the first the day for several weeks.

#### DANGER PASSED.

The river height this morning had dropped to 22 feet, and if no further rains fall within the next few days, the flood danger will have gone.

All roads from Glenreagh are impassable, and will remain closed for several days.

Work on the Dorrigo line has been at a standstill, and Main Roads employees who will work on the traffic bridge at Glenreagh, have been unable to make a start. It is expected that the rain will delay the completion of

Ulong gains recognition for its natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities.

The Upper Orara Hall is constructed.<sup>7</sup>



Bushfires: the sawmill was destroyed, the damage was estimated as between five and six thousand pounds.<sup>5</sup>



Main street of Glenreagh taking shape



### 1921

### 1950

The 'new' pub was officially opened and called "The Golden Dog Hotel". The Pub burnt down for a 2nd time in June 1991. The current building was built back up on top.

### 1945

5. Glenreagh Museum, Facebook page, accessed October 05, 2023, <https://www.facebook.com/GlenreaghMuseum/>.

6. "History of the Glenreagh to Dorrigo Line," Glenreagh Mountain Railway, accessed October 05, 2023, <https://gmr.org.au/history-of-the-glenreagh-to-dorrigo-line/>.

Figure 4. 6 Orara Valley History Timeline. Made by Mohana.

**Proposal For Pool At Glenreagh**  
**GLENREAGH**—A meeting convened by the trustees of the Recreation Ground Committee to discuss proposals for building a swimming pool at Glenreagh, held on the banks of the Orara, was well attended.  
 The meeting proposed to construct the pool to Olympic specifications, and a deputation has been appointed to approach Dorrigo Shire to ask for its approval and assistance in the venture.  
 A finance committee of 15 was nominated and a meeting of this committee will be held to elect officers and discuss finance.  
 The proposed swimming pool will be constructed of reinforced concrete, above flood level and the water supplied by an electrical pumping system.  
 Offers of assistance have been already received. Mr. G. Russ has volunteered to do the excavation with his bulldozer and Mr. H. Wright to assist in clearing the site of timber.

**1972**

The Glenreagh to Coffs Harbour railway line eventually closed to passenger services in 1972 and ceased all operations in 1989

**2019**

The devastating 2019-20 bushfire - worst recorded in the history for New South Wales.



June 1950 - A view of the Glenreagh Railway Station and the flooded Orara River spreading over the flats to the west of the station. Note the floodwaters reaching the western boundary of the railway station yard and coming up to the Sherwood Creek Road railroad crossing.<sup>8</sup>



**1901**



The first timber festival was held.

**2005**

GMR operations suspended

**2008**

7. "Image of Honour Roll of Orara Soldiers in Upper Orara Hall," Coffs Harbour City Council Digital Archive, accessed July 6, 2023, <https://coffs.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/65990#idx136062>.

8. The Big Flood Glenreagh 1950: Stories of Heroism and Survival, ThriftBooks, <https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/the-big-flood-glenreagh-1950-stories-of-heroism-and-survival/38753399/#edition=66652141&idq=56511367>

# 5.1.3 Spaces and Places



## GLENREAGH

Total Population: 1,005  
Male: 49.9%  
Female: 50.1%  
Median age: 39



## LOWANNA

Total Population: 359  
Male: 53.3%  
Female: 46.7%  
Median age: 51

CLARENCE VALLEY (LGA)

ORARA VALLEY

COFFS HARBOUR (LGA)

TASMAN SEA

## ULONG

Total Population: 215  
Male: 55.5%  
Female: 44.5%  
Median age: 48



## Clarence Valley LGA

Total Population: 54,115  
Male: 50%  
Female: 50%  
Median age: 49

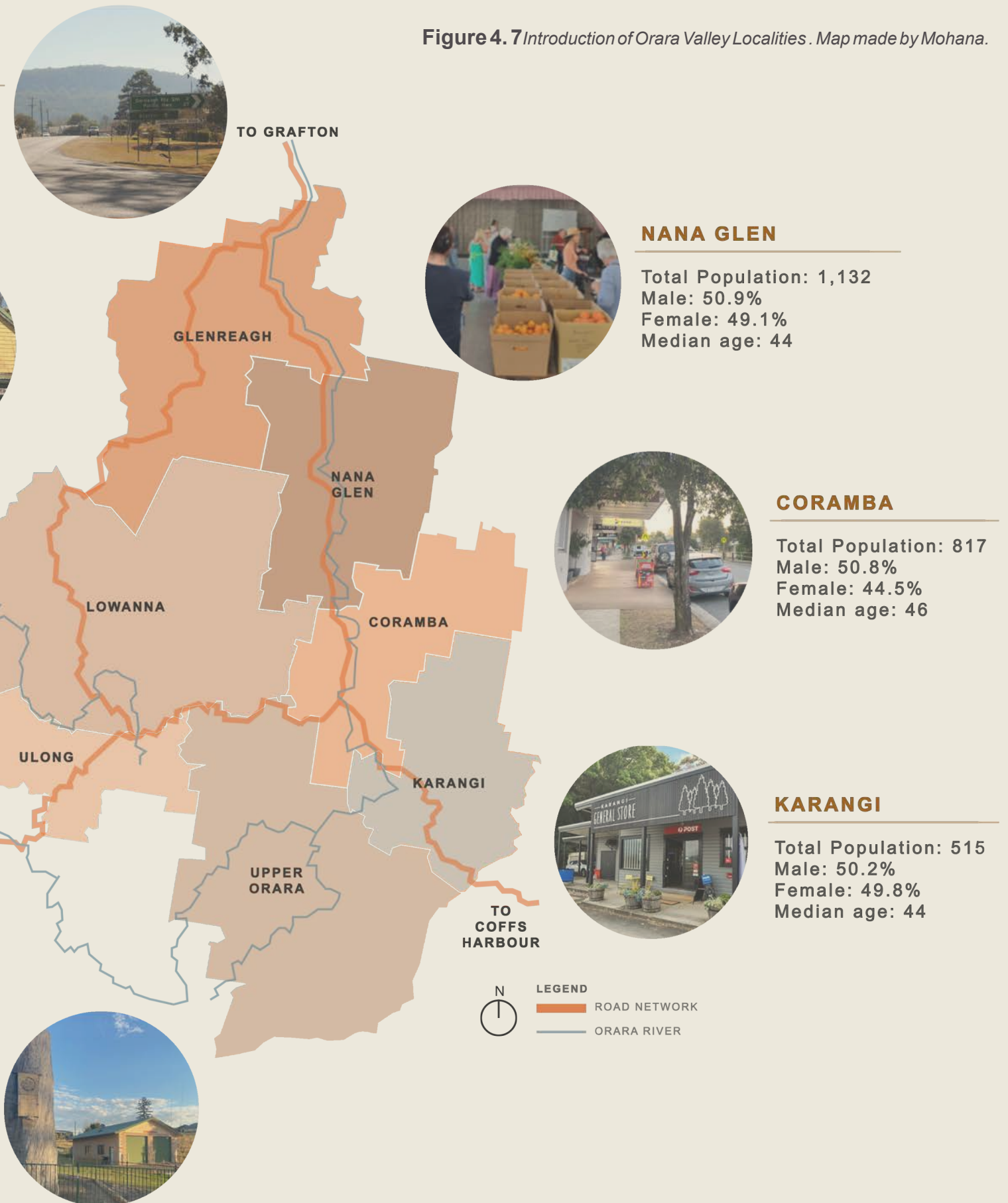
## Coffs Harbour LGA

Total Population: 78,759  
Male: 48.3%  
Female: 51.7%  
Median age: 44

## UPPER ORARA

Total Population: 863  
Male: 50.8%  
Female: 49.2%  
Median age: 45

Figure 4.7 Introduction of Orara Valley Localities . Map made by Mohana.



## Connectivity

Orara Way - a primary spine, linking the major villages of Coffs Harbour and Grafton - is not only vital for daily commuting but also serves as a key conduit for the transportation of goods, services, and agricultural products, supporting the region's economic activities.

Coramba Road - stemming from the Orara Way, is another vital artery that ensures easy access for the residents of Coramba and the surrounding areas to the larger road network. It also caters to tourists and visitors exploring the picturesque valley, bolstering the local economy.

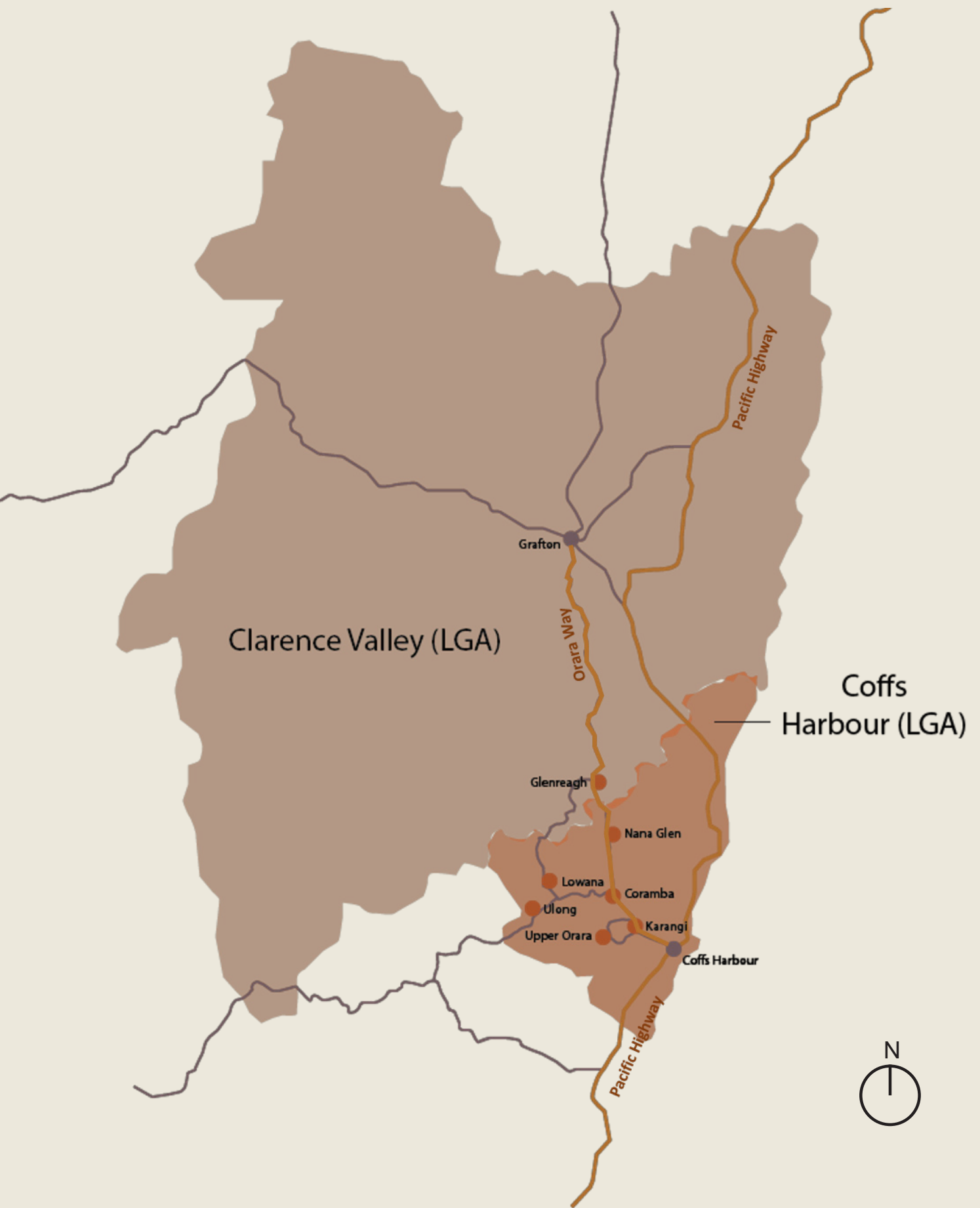
Furthermore, the Pacific Highway, a major national thoroughfare that intersects with the Orara Way, enhances the valley's connectivity by providing access to major cities and regions along Australia's eastern seaboard.



Figure 4.8 Coramba Road, Glenreagh

## Proximity

COMMUNITIES	DISTANCE TO COFFS HARBOUR (by road)	DISTANCE TO GRAFTON (by road)
GLENREAGH	34 min ( <b>37.0 km</b> ) via Orara Way and Coramba Rd	38 min ( <b>47.2 km</b> ) via Orara Way
NANA GLEN	28 min ( <b>26.9 km</b> ) via Orara Way and Coramba Rd	47 min ( <b>59.4 km</b> ) via Orara Way
CORAMBA	18 min ( <b>15.4 km</b> ) via Coramba Rd	54 min ( <b>68.7 km</b> ) via Orara Way
KARANGI	13 min ( <b>10.0 km</b> ) via Coramba Rd	1 hr ( <b>74.2 km</b> ) via Orara Way
UPPER ORARA	17 min ( <b>13.2 km</b> ) via Mount Browne Rd and Coramba Rd	1 hr 7 min ( <b>81.9 km</b> ) via Orara Way
LOWANNA	40 min ( <b>34.6 km</b> ) via Eastern Dorrigo Way and Coramba Rd	1h 8m ( <b>73.1km</b> ) – Via Orara Way
ULONG	42 min ( <b>36.5 km</b> ) via Eastern Dorrigo Way and Coramba Rd	1 hr 17 min ( <b>88.6 km</b> ) via Orara Way



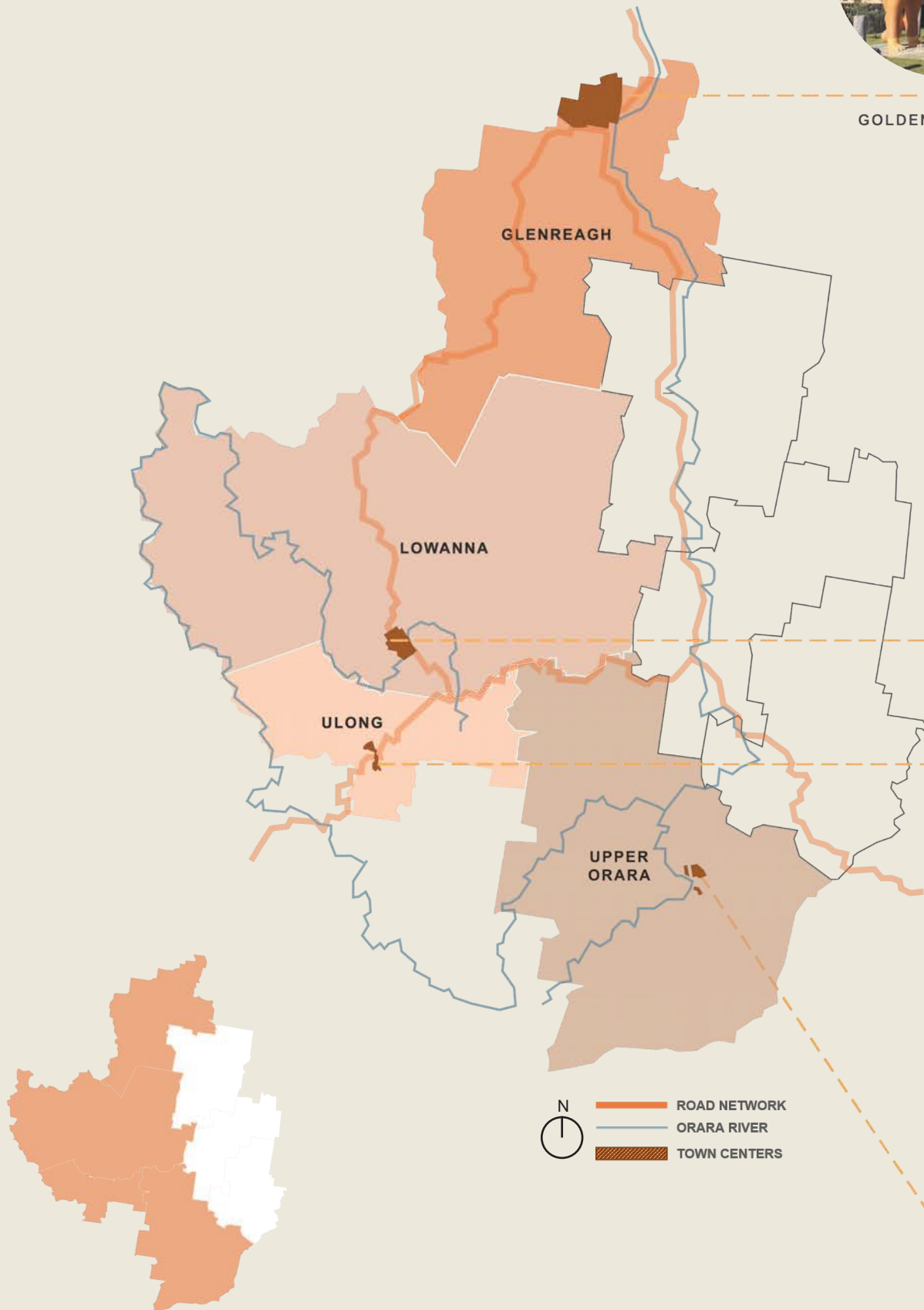
**Figure 4.9** *Connectivities to Grafton & Coffs Harbour. Map made by Jenny.*

# Villages in Orara Valley



GOLDEN DOG HOTEL

I think its one of the  
can go, as far as a  
if you are looking for  
somewhere to stay  
Valley.  
- Resident of Glenr



KEY PLAN



RECREATION RESERVE & SPORTS CENTER



COMMUNITY TENNIS COURT



SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL



GLENREAGH MOUNTAIN RAILWAY

If the GMR runs then the town prospers- Ross, Resident of Glenreagh

places you camper goes or in Orara eagh



LOWANNA RAILWAY STATION



LOWANNA GENERAL STORE & POST OFFICE



LOWANNA PUBLIC SCHOOL



ULONG PUBLIC SCHOOL



EASTERN DORRIGO COMMUNITY HALL



UPPER ORARA HALL



UPPER ORARA PUBLIC SCHOOL



FRIDAY CREEK RETREAT

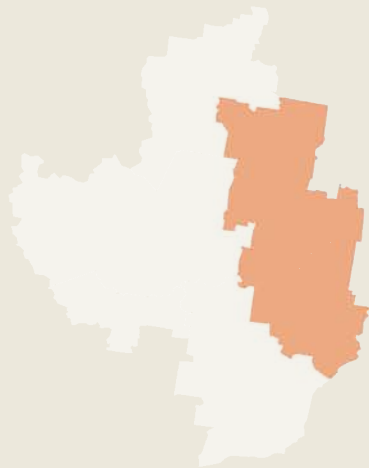
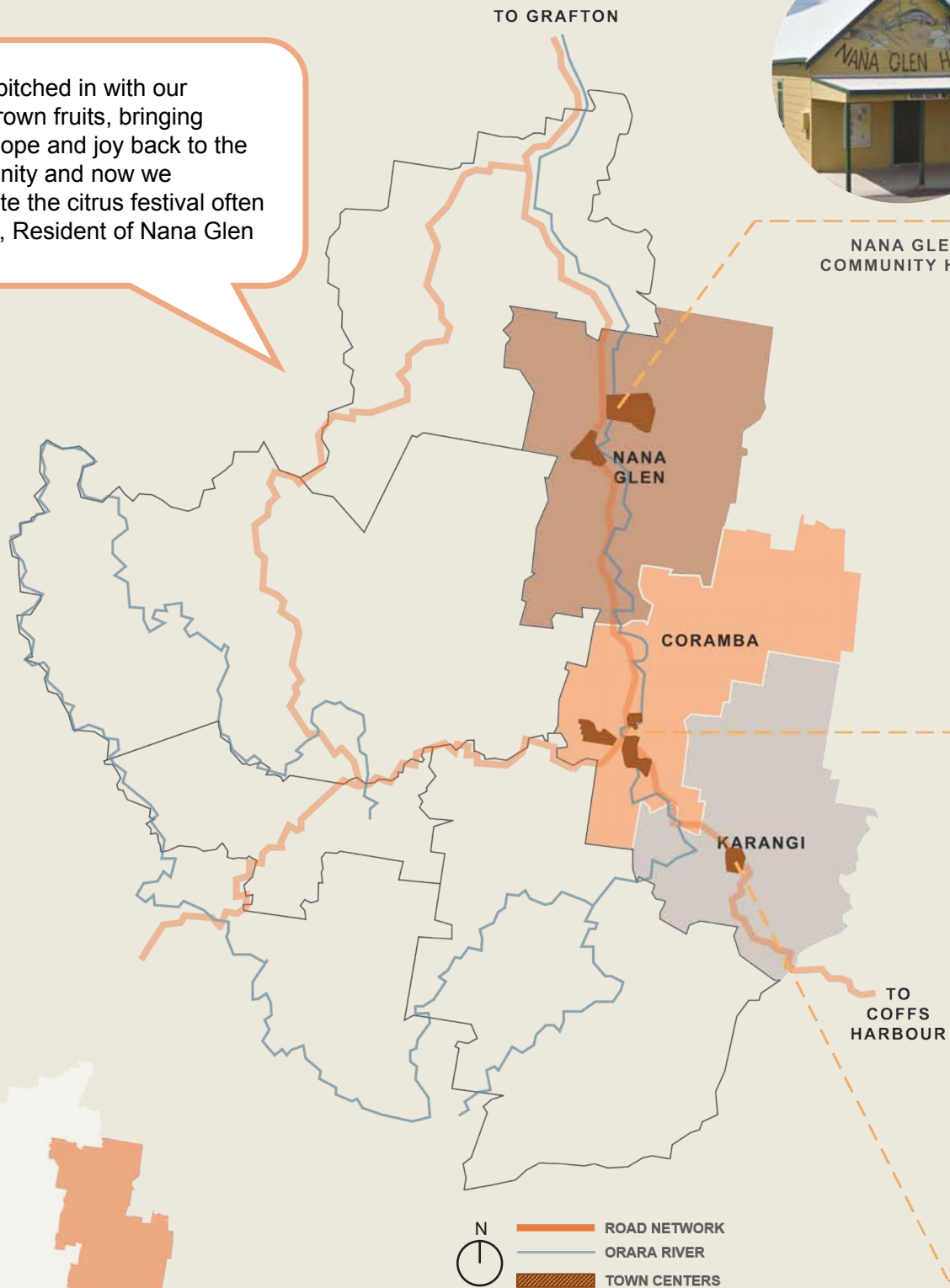
Figure 4. 10 Community Spaces of Orara Valley. Made by Mohana.

## Villages in Orara Valley

We all pitched in with our homegrown fruits, bringing some hope and joy back to the community and now we celebrate the citrus festival often - Heine, Resident of Nana Glen



NANA GLEN COMMUNITY HALL



KEY PLAN



NANA GLEN SPORTS,  
RECREATION &  
EQUESTRIAN CENTER



ARCHIE HUNTER  
MEMORIAL PARK



ORARA VALLEY  
COMMUNITY POOL



IDLE-IN CAFE



CORAMBA SPORTS &  
RECREATION FIELD



CORAMBA COMMUNITY  
HALL



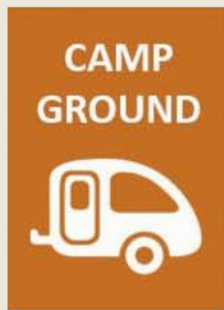
NSW RFS



CORAMBA PUBLIC  
SCHOOL



COFFS HARBOUR  
LAWN CEMETRY



VALLEYSTAY CAMP  
GROUND



KARANGI PUBLIC  
SCHOOL

Figure 4.11 Community Spaces of Orara Valley. Made by Mohana.

# 5.1.4 People and Communities

## Timber Stories of Orara Valley

### Early Settlement and Timber Extraction

The timber industry in the Orara Valley can be traced back to the mid-nineteenth century when European settlers first arrived in the area. The rich forests of the region dominated by various species of eucalyptus, and hardwood trees were an attractive resource for the burgeoning colony. Timber was a vital component for building infrastructure, from homes to railways, and it was in high demand.

One of the defining features of early timber extraction in this region was the close association with the Orara River. Timber logs were floated down the river, which provided a natural conduit for moving timber from the forested hills to the coastal areas and beyond. This reliance on the river for transportation was a major factor in the growth of the timber industry, as it significantly reduced the cost and effort required to move timber to markets and distribution points.

### Sawmills and the Pioneers

The establishment of sawmills was the first significant step in harnessing the vast timber resources of the region. Early pioneers in the area recognized the economic potential and began setting up small, often family-owned mills. The timber was primarily used for local construction and transportation needs. These sawmills were often small-scale operations, with the machinery powered by waterwheels or steam engines. Indigenous communities contributed as a valuable labor force, drawing on their deep understanding of the local environment. They shared traditional knowledge that influenced responsible logging practices and advocated for sustainable forestry. Additionally, the timber industry provided economic opportunities, allowing Indigenous communities to maintain their cultural practices and traditions while participating in the changing economy.

### Expansion and the Railway

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw significant growth in the timber industry in Glenreagh. One of the key factors in this expansion was the arrival of the railway in the region. The Glenreagh to Dorrigo railway line, completed in 1924, opened up new opportunities for the transport of timber from the valley to larger markets.

### Logging Practices and Environmental Impact

The rapid expansion of the timber industry had both positive and negative consequences. It contributed to the economic development of the region and provided employment opportunities, and also had a significant environmental impact. Clear-cutting practices in which entire forests were felled, led to soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and changes in the local landscape.

### Modern Era and Sustainable Forestry

In recent decades, the timber industry in Glenreagh has evolved to emphasize sustainable forestry practices. Regulations and guidelines were put in place to protect the natural environment, and efforts were made to rehabilitate logged areas. This shift towards sustainability has helped preserve the unique biodiversity of the region.

### Present Day

Timber milling continues to be an important industry in Glenreagh and the Orara Valley, contributing to the local economy and a source of livelihood for the community. The region's rich history of timber milling has left a lasting legacy, shaping the landscape and the culture of the area. It serves as a reminder of the importance of balancing economic development with environmental stewardship in resource-dependent communities.



**Figure 4. 12** Main street of Glenreagh. Source: <https://www.facebook.com/GlenreaghMuseum/>

*\*The team of William Darke moving part of a blackbutt log from the farm known as 'Old Pub'. With trucks being used to move logs and timber from one place to another, the early days involved using teams of bullocks to achieve this result. It took 3 loads to remove the entire log. This photo was taken in the main street of Glenreagh with the School of Arts building on the right and Mary Gordon's Refreshment shop on the left.*

## Glenreagh Timber Festival

The Glenreagh Timber Festival is deeply intertwined with the local communities of the Orara Valley region, reinforcing its importance. The festival stimulates the local economy by attracting visitors and supporting local businesses while fostering community unity and pride. It serves as a cultural touchstone, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity among residents. The festival often relies on the participation and contributions of local volunteers, artists, craftspeople, and businesses, further strengthening community ties and providing economic opportunities. Through collaborative efforts, the festival celebrates the region's history and heritage, while also showcasing the resilience and creativity of the local population. It's a reflection of the shared pride and dedication of the community, making it a vital and unifying event that highlights the strong bond between the festival and its local communities.



**Figure 4. 13** Glenreagh Timber Festival - Wood chopping. Source: <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/glenreagh-timber-festival-wood-chopping/image-gallery/ead7ac88cde79253bd6406ef9f48a00?page=1>

## Population

Glenreagh and Nana Glen experienced steady increases, while Karangi had a decline in population. This variation states that factors such as local economic opportunities, housing availability are influencing population changes. The median age of the populations is generally higher than the national average, with median age in the 40s or early 50s - result of younger residents leaving for urban centers in search of employment and educational opportunities. Coramba and Lowanna, in particular, experienced relatively modest population growth.

Ulong has a declining population - due to limited economic opportunities, a lack of amenities, or the migration of younger residents to larger towns or cities - highlights the challenges faced by some smaller rural communities in maintaining their population levels.





### Population Growth

	2011	2016	2021
Glenreagh	862	900	1,005
Nana Glen	1,033	1,055	1,132
Coramba	786	810	817
Karangi	535	586	515
Upper Orara	723	814	863
Lowanna	323	362	359
Ulong	264	233	215



### Median Age in 2021

	2011	2016	2021
Glenreagh	862	39	38
Nana Glen	1,033	(Overall)	(Overall)
Coramba	786		
Karangi	535		
Upper Orara	723	in New South	in Australia
Lowanna	323	Wales	
Ulong	264		



### Population Using English Only At Home in 2021

	2011	2016	2021
Glenreagh	83.9%	67.6%	72%
Nana Glen	91.5%	(Overall)	(Overall)
Coramba	90.9%		
Karangi	92.2%		
Upper Orara	83.7%	in New South	in Australia
Lowanna	79.4%	Wales	
Ulong	83.3%		

Figure 4. 14 Population Data. Made by Mohana. Source: ABS

## Socioeconomics

The comparison of median household incomes across these towns reveals notable disparities. Karangi having the highest income at \$1,899 per week, while Lowanna has the lowest at \$820 per week. Lowanna, despite its lower income, experienced modest population growth, suggesting that affordability plays a role in attracting residents.



### Median Household Weekly Income in 2021

Glenreagh	\$1,384	<b>\$1,829</b> in New South Wales	<b>\$1,746</b> in Australia
Nana Glen	\$1,540		
Coramba	\$1,625		
Karangi	\$1,899		
Upper Orara	\$1,739		
Lowanna	\$820		
Ulong	\$974		



### Population in Labour Force in 2021

Glenreagh	52.3%	<b>58.7%</b> in New South Wales	<b>61.1%</b> in Australia
Nana Glen	62.2%		
Coramba	62.5%		
Karangi	61.7%		
Upper Orara	57.6%		
Lowanna	45.1%		
Ulong	41.2%		

Figure 4. 15 Socio Economic Data. Made by Mohana. Source: ABS

## Homeownership and Rent

Conversely, Coramba’s relatively high income did not translate into significant population growth, indicating the importance of considering various factors beyond income alone in understanding population dynamics. Ultimately, these insights highlight the complex interplay of income and other factors in shaping the demographic trends of these towns.



### Homeownership Rate in 2021

Glenreagh	83.1%
Nana Glen	82.6%
Coramba	83.2%
Karang	82.9%
Upper Orara	76.5%
Lowanna	79.2%
Ulong	81.2%

**64%**

in New South  
Wales

**66%**

in Australia



### Median Rent in 2021

Glenreagh	\$330
Nana Glen	\$350
Coramba	\$400
Karang	\$310
Upper Orara	\$350
Lowanna	\$300
Ulong	\$275

**\$420**

in New South  
Wales

**\$375**

in Australia

Figure 4. 16 Homeownership Rate and Median Rent. Made by Mohana. Source: ABS

# 5.1.5 Impacts and Challenges of Disasters

## Bushfire

The bushfire impact area was concentrated in the Northern part of Orara Valley. The 2019-20 bushfire season in New South Wales (NSW) was the most severe on record. Exceptionally high temperatures and prolonged drought had left the region highly susceptible to fires. The fires exacerbated by these conditions, ravaged the state, resulting in 26 fatalities, 2,448 homes destroyed, and 5.5 million hectares of land burnt. The impact on communities, farmers, businesses, wildlife, and the environment was unparalleled. Therefore, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and other agencies faced unprecedented challenges, dealing with an unusually prolonged and intense bushfire season marked by erratic fire behaviour and an unprecedented number of fire-triggered thunderstorms.


Between October and December 2019, the local government area was directly impacted by three bushfires, the Mount Browne, Eastbank and Liberation Trail fires. In particular, the fast burning Liberation Trail fire which posed an extreme risk to many Coffs Harbour communities, most notably the Nana Glen/Orara Valley community which was devastated by the out of control fire on November 12, directly affecting 47 properties.


The Bushfire Recovery Action Plan 2020-2022 summarises Council's response to the bushfire crisis and outlines the recovery process for bushfire affected residents, the Orara Valley community and the broader local government area. The new plan provides an overview of the funding allocations, outcomes expected and the status of planned activities and recovery programs including community and social recovery, business and tourism recovery, environmental recovery, and infrastructure recovery.



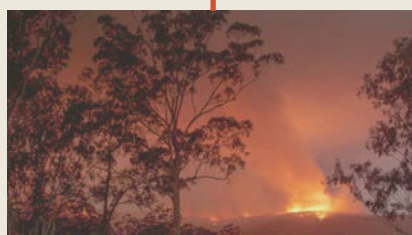
During an 8-day period starting on 1 August 114 bush and grass fires burned through 9,500 ha (23,000 acres) of the Clarence Valley and Kempsey local government areas.




2014-2015 

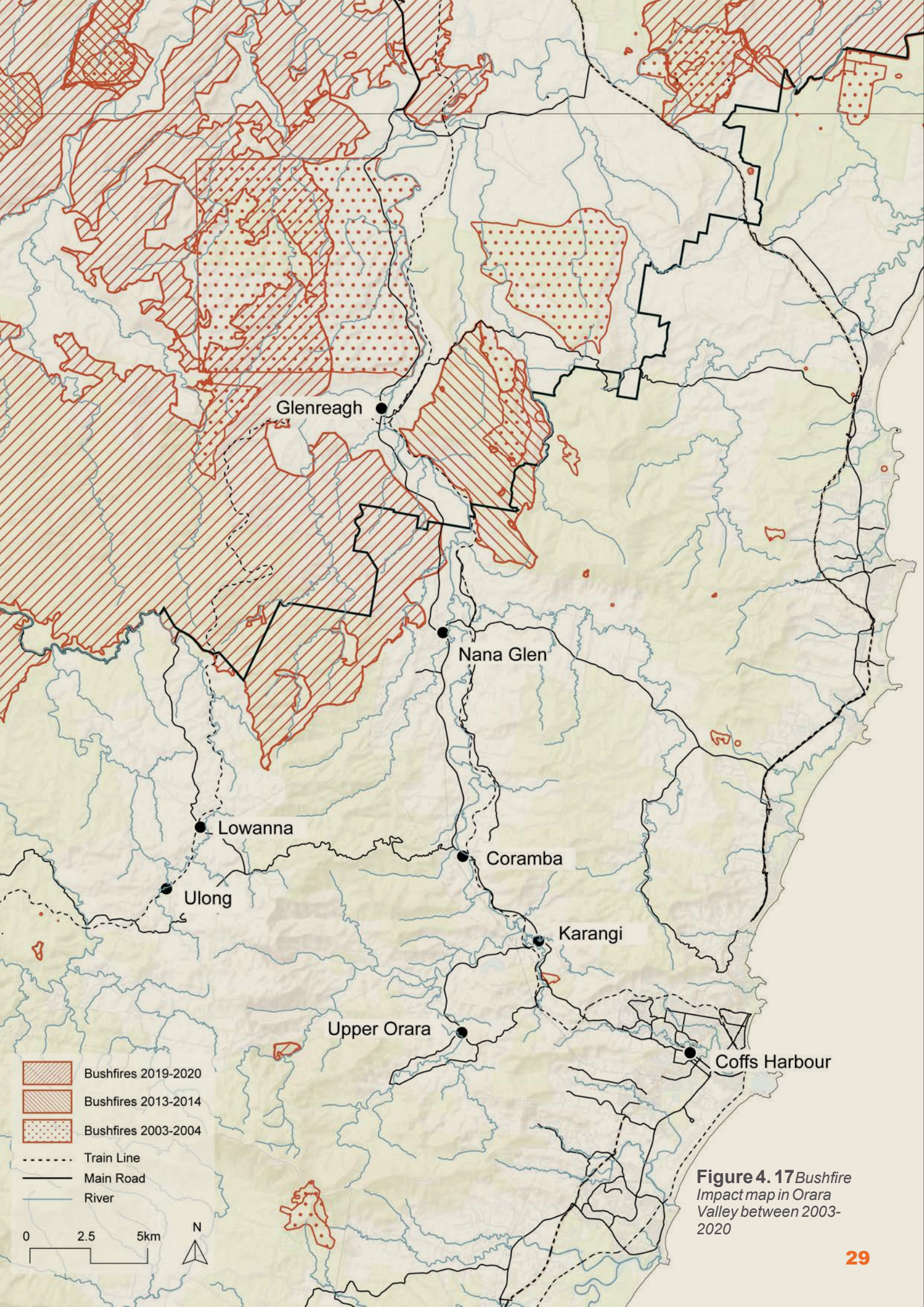
2003-2004 

Between 2003 and 2004, the RFS declared localised State of Emergencies across various places in New South Wales for 151 consecutive days during the bushfire season.



2019-2020 

The fire wiped out homes in the nearby villages of Nana Glen and came within inches of properties in Glenreagh. The inferno covered 150,000 hectares with large swathes of bushland reduced to ash.



**Figure 4.17** Bushfire Impact map in Orara Valley between 2003-2020

## Flooding

Compared to bushfires, flooding events have had greater impact on the Orara Valley. The Orara River and Bucca Creek catchments are located to the west of Coffs Harbour on the NSW Mid-North Coast. The Orara Valley faces challenges due to flooding, with both the Orara Way and the Grafton to Coffs Harbour railway line running along the banks of the Orara River. The catchment area extends to Glenreagh covering 544 km<sup>2</sup>, with the Orara River stretching 55 km. Floodwaters can rise rapidly, isolating communities and properties and causing evacuations due to inundated houses. Recovery and relief efforts are essential for managing the aftermath of such flooding events.

Several villages in Orara Valley such as Glenreagh, Nana Glen, Coramba, Karangi, and Upper Orara are susceptible to riverine flooding from the Orara River, Tallawudjah Creek catchments, and overland flooding. During flooding events, a number of key roads are cut off by flood waters. Floodwaters have been known to rise quickly and isolate communities and properties. While flood peaks can recede equally quickly, properties can sometimes remain isolated for several days. Many houses in the villages can be inundated in flood events necessitating evacuations.



Freight train 4BM4 derailed due to a track washaway caused by heavy rainfall near Nana Glen in New South Wales.

2021

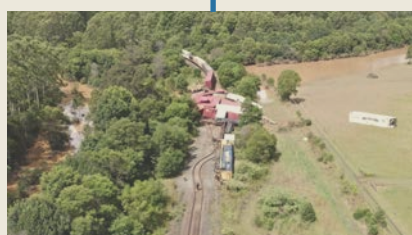


2022

Flooding at the Bluff Bridge crossing in Glenreagh cut off the traffic and Glenreagh became isolated.

2013

The Bureau of Meteorology issued a major flood warning for the Clarence Valley, and a moderate flood warning for the Orara River. Thousands of people were ordered to evacuate.





Glenreagh

Nana Glen

Lowanna

Coramba

Ulong

Karangi

Upper Orara

Coffs Harbour

Legend:

- Peak Flood Level
- Main Road
- Train Line
- River

Scale: 0 2.5 5km

N

**Figure 4.18** Peak flood level map. Map made by Andrew.

# 5.1.6 Planning Context

## Clarence Valley

### Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) outlines the course for land use planning in the Clarence Valley over the next two decades. It encompasses priorities aimed at managing growth, safeguarding the environment, and preserving the unique character of our areas. These priorities are accompanied by a set of actions that the Council will collaboratively undertake with the community to realize our vision. The LSPS is designed to align with the North Coast Regional Plan and support the implementation of our Community Strategic Plan, “Our Clarence 2027,” as well as various other Council strategies and plans.

### Rural Lands Strategy 2022

The Rural Lands Strategy outlines a framework for managing rural land development in the Clarence Valley up to the year 2041, spanning a 20-year period. Its purpose is to proactively address a range of concerns, including land-use conflicts and sustainability, while considering social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors. The study area includes all land currently zoned under the Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011, encompassing RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape, RU3 Forestry, C2 Environmental Conservation, and C3 Environmental Management zones. These zones cover approximately 75% of the Clarence Valley’s total land area, with about 69% designated as rural zones and an additional 6% as conservation zones, making the region’s extensive rural lands relatively unique along the east coast of NSW.

### Disaster Resilience Framework 2021

The Disaster Resilience Framework serves as a comprehensive guide for Clarence Valley Council’s organization-wide commitment to actively enhance disaster risk reduction and resilience across infrastructure, business, and the community. The primary goal is to minimize the losses and disruptions caused by natural disasters in the Clarence Valley Local Government Area (LGA). This involves informing the Council about identified risks to develop risk mitigation proposals and integrating the Clarence Valley LGA Climate Change Impact Assessment report into strategic planning. The ultimate objective is to reduce the impacts of natural disasters on both the Council and the communities it serves. Implementing this framework will play a pivotal role in shaping future strategic decisions and planning within the Clarence Valley Council.

### Glenreagh Floodplain Risk Plan 2018

This document illustrates the flood situation and damages that happened in Glenreagh and provides recommended floodplain management measures, funding information, and implementations. Flood-prone land planning in New South Wales is the responsibility of local government, with Clarence Valley Council taking the lead. The state government offers policy and technical support. The Flood Prone Land Policy and Floodplain Development Manual (NSW, 2005) guide floodplain management. The policy aims to reduce flood impact in existing developed areas through various measures, including mitigation works and development controls. It also focuses on minimizing flood losses in new development areas through ecologically sensitive planning. The process often results in the creation and implementation of a Floodplain Management Plan, formalizing flood risk management for areas like Glenreagh.

## Local Flood Plan 2023

This plan serves the purpose of outlining the collaborative arrangements among multiple agencies for effectively managing flood-related emergencies within the Clarence Valley Council Local Government Area (LGA). The scope of the plan covers the entire LGA, including principal towns, villages, rivers, and creeks. The Clarence Valley Council area falls under the NSW SES North Eastern Zone and is part of the North Coast Emergency Management Region. The plan encompasses all stages of emergency management, including prevention, preparation, response, and initial recovery, specifically for flooding. It defines a flood as

high water levels that breach natural or artificial banks, including overland flooding from drainage and coastal inundation. Coastal erosion and tsunami emergency management are handled separately in state plans. The primary objectives for flood emergency management in NSW are focused on preserving lives, operating flood warning systems, providing community information and warnings, coordinating evacuations, safeguarding critical infrastructure and community spaces, protecting residential properties, supporting financial sustainability, and conserving environmental, cultural, biodiversity, and social values.

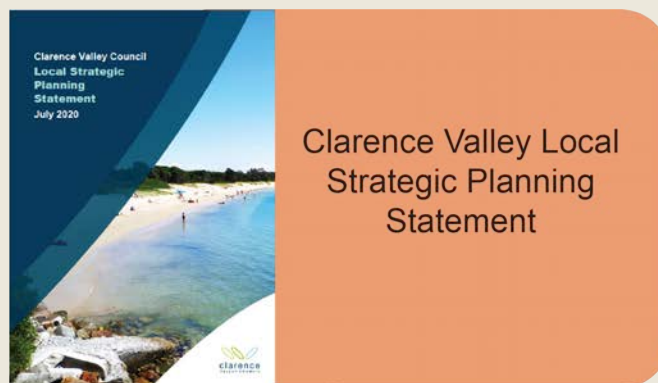


Figure 4. 19 Relevant planning documents in disaster management and resilience of Clarence Valley. Made by Jenny.

## Coffs Harbour

### Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

The Coffs Harbour Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020 is under Section 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. It is a 20-year land use strategic plan that provides visions to guide the Council's planning decisions.

In the strategy, Nana Glen, Coramba, Karangi, Ulong and Lowanna are all categorised as "Hinterland Village", which means the local character statements will be prepared across the LGA. Moreover, Nana Glen, Coramba, Ulong and Lowanna are "Business centres", which means over the next 20 years, most business centres will have sufficient capacity to accommodate future demand for retail floor space and commercial office space.



**Figure 4.20** Context of proximity of Coffs Harbour in relation to nearby communities. Source: Coffs Harbour Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

### Development Control Plan 2015

The Coffs Harbour Development Control Plan (DCP) 2015 has been developed in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000. Its purpose is to implement the goals of the Coffs Harbour Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013 and to facilitate development permitted by this LEP while aligning with the objectives of land use zones outlined in the LEP. According to section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the consent authority must consider the relevant provisions of this DCP when evaluating development applications within the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area (LGA).

### Heritage Strategy 2021 - 2024

Coffs Harbour City Council's Local Planning section crafted this Heritage Strategy, following Office of Environment and heritage (OEH) guidelines and insights from the Heritage Council's "Recommendations for local council heritage management." The strategy aligns with various local and community plans, including the MyCoffs Community Strategic Plan and the Coffs Harbour Cultural Policy. It also integrates feedback from the Museum's heritage collection and draws on the Coffs Coast Tourism Strategic Plan 2020 for insights on Aboriginal heritage and culture. The council has a history of heritage advisory programs and has previously updated its strategy. This version guides heritage management for the next three years (2021-2024) and prioritizes OEH's best practices for local council heritage management.

## Climate Change Policy

The City of Coffs Harbour is committed to addressing climate change's impact on the community and environment. This policy focuses on reducing the city's carbon footprint and aiding community efforts in climate action. It emphasizes adapting city services for climate resilience and cooperation with the community to enhance resilience. The city aligns its position with prominent local government bodies, like ALGA, Local Government Professionals Australia, and LGNSW. This policy outlines the city's response to climate change.

## Floodplain Development and Management Policy

This policy's purpose is to manage flood risk in the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area (LGA) through the establishment of Floodplain Risk Management Plans and procedures for Flood Prone Land development. It aims to align with state guidelines, primarily focusing on reducing the impact of flooding on property owners and occupants while complying with NSW Government requirements. The desired outcomes include minimizing flooding-related risks and their effects on development, as well as providing clear development guidelines for Flood Prone Land.

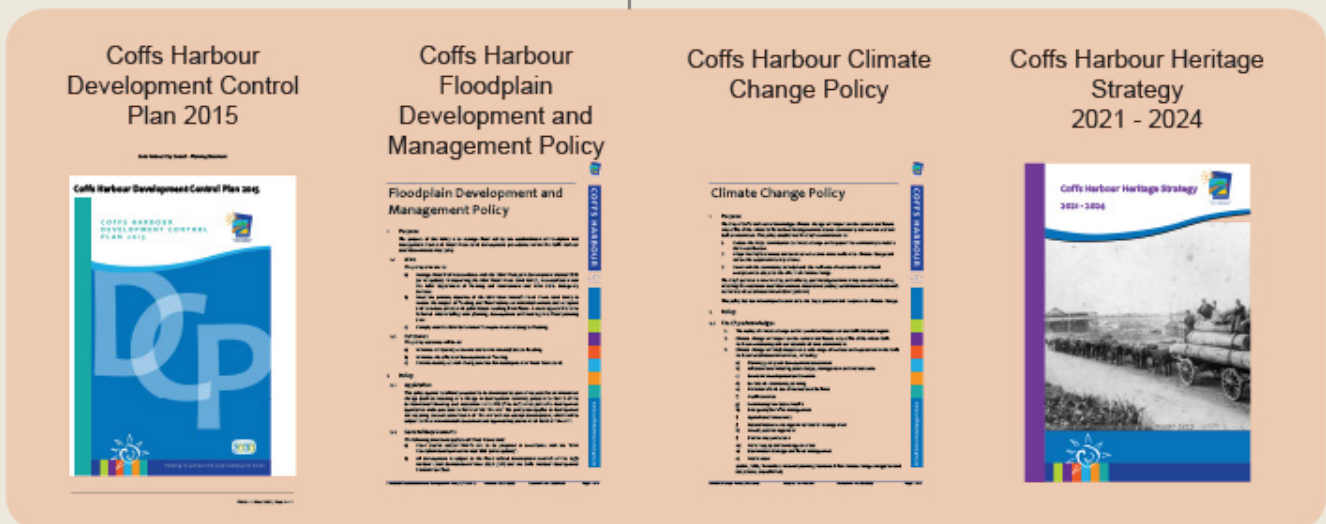
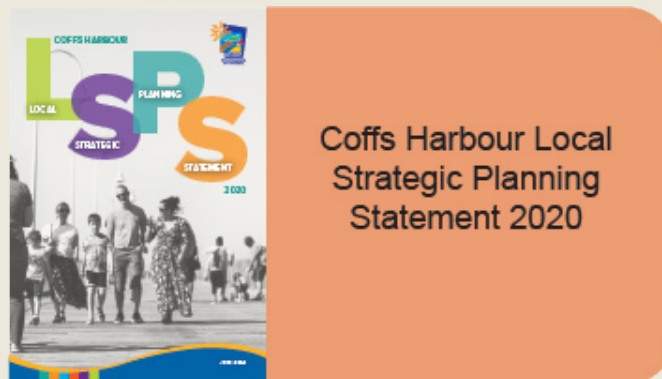


Figure 4. 21 Relevant planning documents in disaster management and resilience of Coffs Harbour. Made by Jenny.

# 5.1.7 The Glenreagh Context

## Land Uses

In this section, the information will focus on Glenreagh village. According to Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011 (current version for 18 August 2023 to date), the projects that needed permission without consent, permission with consent, and prohibited development.

A standard planning proposal refers to any one or more of the proposed LEP amendment types:

1. To change the land use zone where the proposal is consistent with the objectives identified in the LEP for that proposed zone
2. Relates to altering the principal development standards of the LEP
3. Relates to the addition of a permissible land use or uses and/or any conditional arrangements under Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses of the LEP
4. Consistent with an endorsed District/Regional Strategic Plan and/or LSPS  
Relating to classification or reclassification of public land through the LEP

### E1 Local Centre

The objectives of E1 zoning include providing retail, business, and community services to meet local needs, encouraging local economic development and job opportunities, promoting mixed-use development with residential and ground-floor business services, supporting central business districts in key villages, minimizing conflicts with adjacent zones, and sustaining neighborhood centers with compatible commercial premises.

### Zone R2 Low Density Residential

The main goal of R2 zoning is to address the housing requirements of the community within a low-density residential setting while also allowing for additional land uses that offer essential facilities and services to meet the everyday needs of residents.

### RE1 Public Recreation

The key objectives of RE1 zoning involve facilitating the use of land for public open spaces and recreational activities. This includes offering diverse recreational settings, activities, and compatible land uses. The focus is on preserving and improving the natural environment to enhance its recreational potential.

### W1 Natural Waterways

The primary goals of W1 zoning are to safeguard the ecological and scenic qualities of natural waterways, ensuring that development does not harm these natural values. This includes providing for sustainable fishing industries and recreational fishing while also protecting the riparian lands adjacent to natural waterways.

### RU2 Rural Landscape

The primary objectives of RU2 zoning are to promote sustainable primary industry production through the preservation and improvement of natural resources. Additionally, it seeks to uphold the rural landscape's distinctive character and accommodate various compatible land uses, emphasizing extensive agriculture. The plan aims to allocate land for less intensive agricultural practices, prevent scattered rural settlements, minimize conflicts between different land uses within the zone and with adjacent zones, and ensure that development does not unreasonably strain public services or facilities. Finally, it focuses on safeguarding development from the adverse impacts of environmental hazards.

**Figure 4. 22** *Glenreagh land use map. Made by Jenny.*

RU2

TALLAWUDJAH CREEK RD

RE1

R2

E1

RE1

RE1

RE1

W1

37

-  E1: Local Centre
-  R2: Low Density Residential
-  RE1: Public Recreation
-  W1: Natural Waterways
-  RU2: Rural Landscape
-  Additional Controls: Height of Buildings (HOB)

RU2



## Heritage Provision

Local heritage in NSW is protected under the NSW Heritage Act 1977 and the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979. Locally significant heritage is 'listed' in Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011 (Clarence Valley LEP 2011). Apart from singular heritage elements, Heritage conservation zones encompass numerous historically significant town and village core areas distinguished by their remarkable assemblages of period structures. These heritage elements and conservation zones can be found in Schedule 5 of the Clarence Valley LEP 2011, which affords legal acknowledgment and safeguarding of the heritage significance inherent in these locations.

Heritage listing allows modifications as long as they respect the place's heritage values. Preserving heritage is best achieved through continuous use and proper maintenance. Prior consent is essential for any work, including tree removal, fencing, exterior alterations, and building demolition, in heritage areas under the Clarence Valley LEP 2011.

Maintenance and minor works can be approved by submitting a no-fee Minor Works and Maintenance application. However, prior to commencing the work, it's necessary to obtain written confirmation from the Council, ensuring that the proposed work pertains to maintenance or is of a minor nature. This confirmation should also establish that the work will not negatively impact the heritage item or the heritage conservation area's significance.

### Heritage Items

Any changes made to the structure of these buildings or their surroundings require permission and approval from the council. The council also regulates the surrounding landscape in some cases.

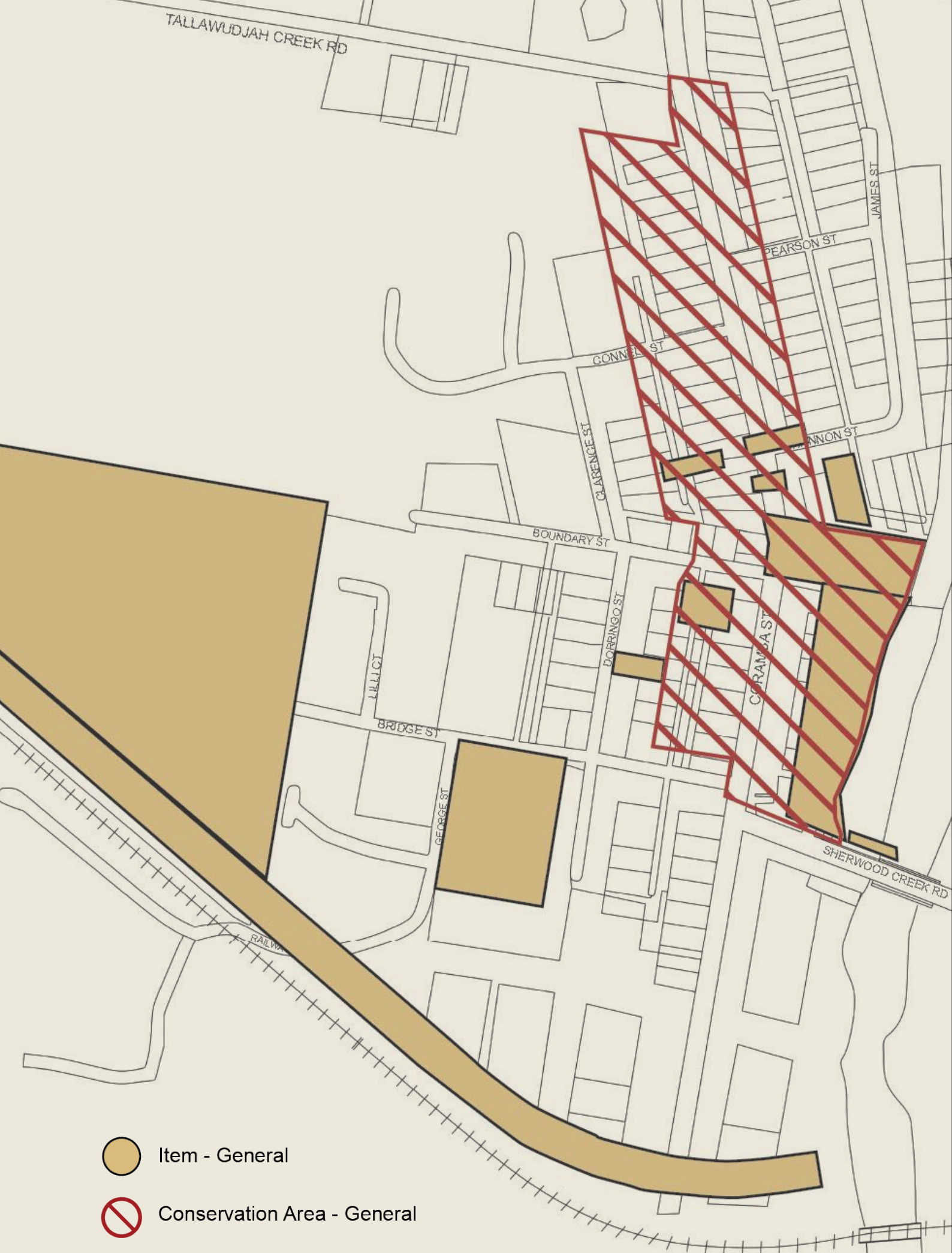
### Heritage Conservation Areas

The main street in Glenreagh is covered by Heritage Conservation Area. For any development in a Heritage Conservation Area, a Development Application must be submitted to demonstrate how the proposed development aligns with the general character of the area.

### Aboriginal Heritage

The Clarence Valley is traditionally cared for by the Bundjalang, Gumbaynggirr, and Yaegl people, who have passed down their Aboriginal heritage through stories, myths, and in the generational care of land, water and cultural objects. This heritage is legally protected by the Heritage Act 1977 and the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Aboriginal sites encompass a range of features like shell middens, rock art, and burial sites. A cautious approach is needed when working on these sites. The NSW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHMIS) contains records of such sites, and consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Council is mandatory when identifying an Aboriginal site.

**Figure 4. 23** *Glenreagh heritage control map. Made by Jenny.*



Item - General



Conservation Area - General

# 5.1.8 Strengths and Challenges

## Disaster and Emergency

Orara Valley has established a proactive community resilience team, bolstered by the support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Moreover, recent years have witnessed a significant emphasis on strategic plans, regulatory frameworks, and disaster studies at the local level. These initiatives serve as valuable resources, offering guidance to local communities in their efforts to effectively manage and respond to disasters. On the other hand, the most serious issue that has to be solved is natural disasters such as traffic being halted due to floods, improving the emergency system operation, and resilience and recovery. During disasters, the residents need more effective equipment and supplies to communicate with outsiders and protect themselves at the same time, especially when electricity is down or roads are cut off. Additionally, each village needs an evacuation plan to minimise the loss of lives and properties.

## Community Connection

There are many valuable and iconic historical and cultural community spaces in the area that could be revitalized and put to good use in Orara Valley. It is important to preserve and revitalize these assets through effective maintenance and management. Furthermore, the residents of Orara Valley are strongly engaged in building a sense of community. By building on the foundation of community-led action, the development of the community can also improve disaster resilience. To better respond to disasters, the seven villages need to be more closely connected. Overcoming any obstacles to foster community involvement and unite community members for a shared purpose is essential.

### Strengths

### Challenges

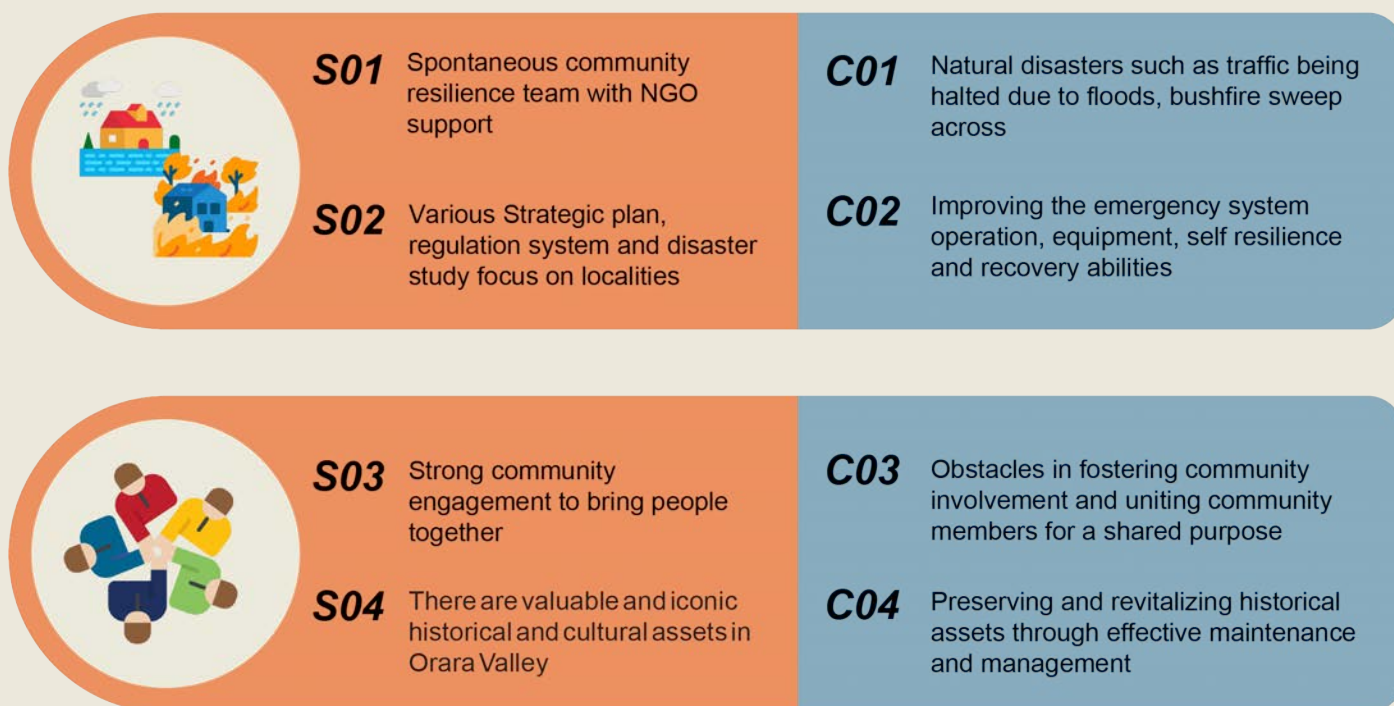


Figure 4. 24 Strengths and Challenges. Made by Jenny.





# What Orara Valley Wants

# 5.2



# 5.2.1 The Glenreagh Workshop

## The Brief

The co-creation workshop in Glenreagh delved into what people from the diverse Orara Valley villages identify as meaningful spaces and places in their localities. By exploring this, a way was paved for aligning community needs with spaces and places that hold significance.

This was achieved by creating a series of workshop activities that established the residents as experts of their own context, encouraging them to identify existing qualities of Glenreagh and Orara Valley and ideating on a future vision for the community.

These findings informed the basis of this Orara Valley strategic placemaking framework. This includes a vision for the area whilst also acting as a catalyst to develop action projects that will enrich the locality's "everyday resilience", alongside strengthening its ability to respond to fire and flood.

## Workshop Intentions

The workshop, in a series of stages, aimed to build a vivid picture of what Glenreagh and the Orara Valley mean to its residents, identifying key spaces and places and their attributes. This was conducted by engaging in a collaborative exploration of the locale with an emphasis on connectivity through the lens of community, access, movement and country. The residents shared key insights and collective experiences while building a deeper connection with the community.

## Walkable Precincts

This site visit component also introduced the idea of Glenreagh being a walkable precinct by exploring the different use cases for all the spaces, places and services in between while walking through the area. These visits were curated through the following thematics:

- 1) Main street:** police station, general store, post office & bakery
- 2) Education:** preschool, primary school & recreation reserved
- 3) Recreation:** tennis court, pool & jetty
- 4) Nature/ transport:** river & bridge

## Co-Creation

### Key Questions

After visiting the sites and collating key findings, attributes and values the residents participated in three 10-minute rapid-fire co-creation workshops that used the following leading questions that aligned with the workshop's intentions.

- What are your ideas for better connections in Glenreagh?, or Orara Valley?
- What are ideas for adapting existing spaces, places, programs and services?
- What are ideas for new spaces, places, programs and services?



## Activities, Tools & Intentions

How can placemaking help the community identify important places and spaces that cater to diverse needs?

### Stage 1

#### Exploring Spaces and Places

Engaging in a collaborative exploration, through walking and photo mapping, of the locale, connections and alongside its residents, gaining insights, and sharing experiences while building a deeper connection with the community.

- What are the key features of this walk?
- How do you use these spaces and routes?
- What are the barriers or constraints to make these ideas come to life?



### Stage 2

#### Mapping the Walking Route

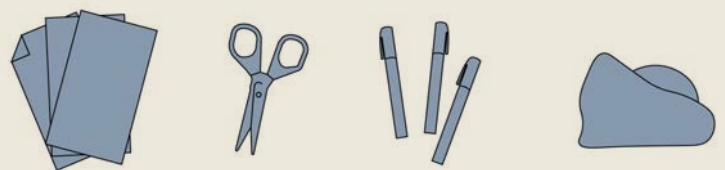
Every group was tasked with pinning space & place icons onto the map, and these icons were interconnected using fabric strings.



### Stage 3

#### Reimagining your Spaces and Places

Based on icons in mapping task we used leading questions to do 10 minute rapid fire co-creation workshops, to design an outcome for the community within the workshop environment.



### Stage 4

#### Creating priorities

Participants prioritised projects based on the outcomes of Stage 3, each group provided 3 proposals.



Figure 5.24 Workshop Diagram. Made by Andrew.



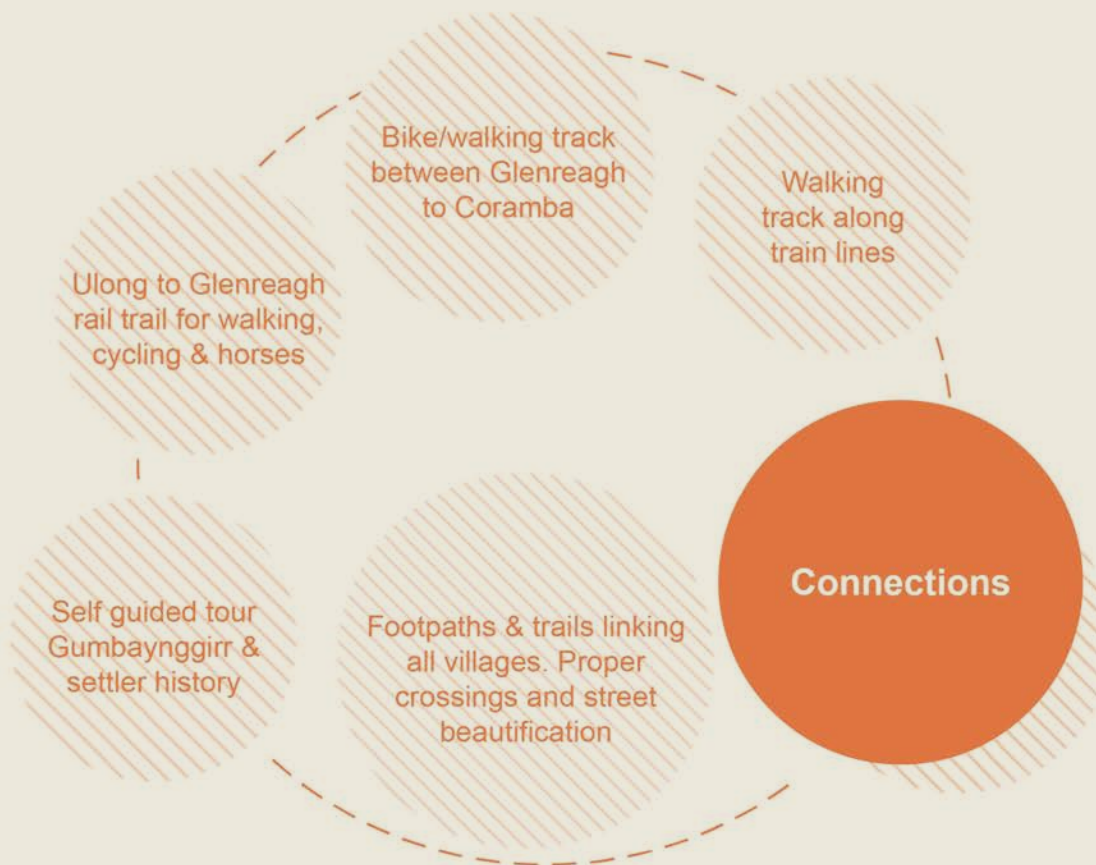
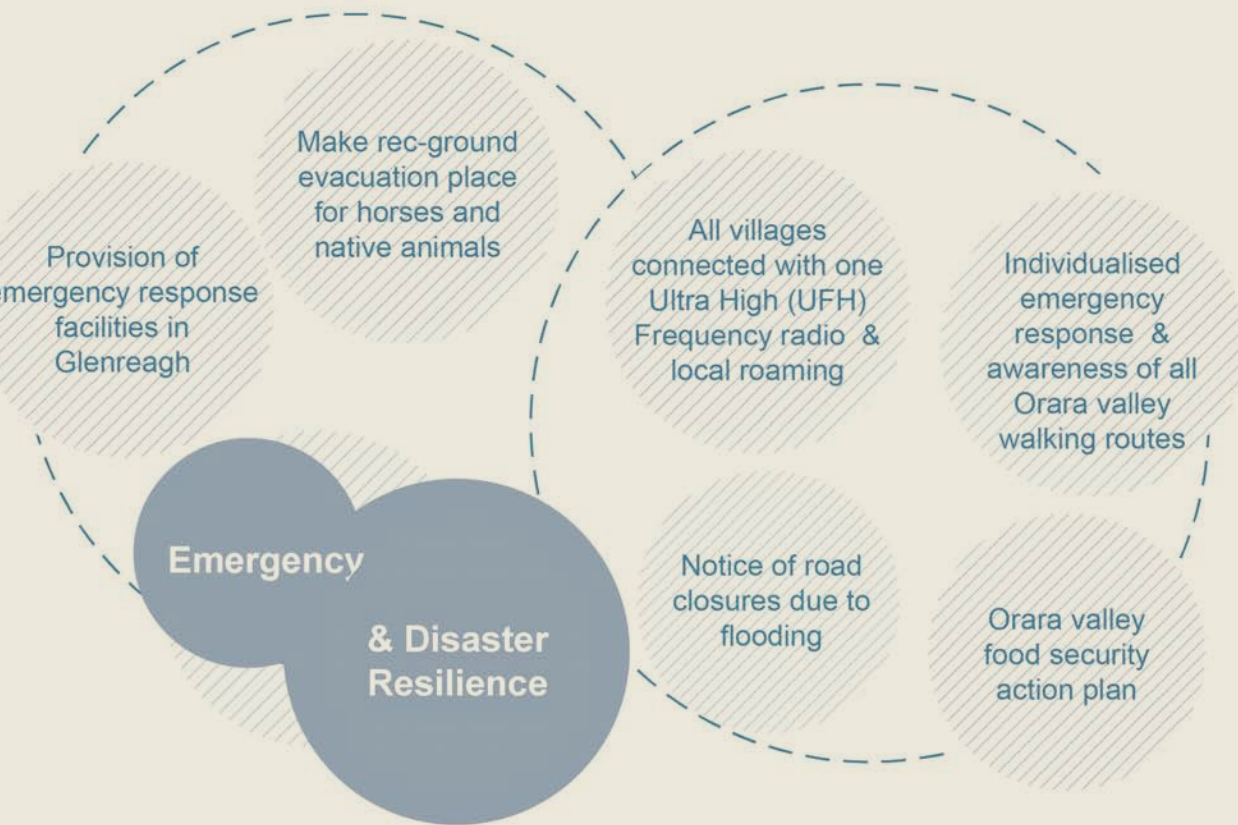
# 5.2.2 Glenreagh & Orara Valley Prioritisation



## Participant quote

“We certainly could have agreed with some of the other ones that have already come up. So they were the same line of thinking.”

Figure 5.25 Glenreagh & Orara Valley Prioritisation. Made by Andrew.



# 5.2.3 Workshop Findings

## Overarching Themes

### Enhancing Public Spaces

- Pedestrian friendly pathways
- Green Infrastructure
- Spaces for community sharing

### Strengthening Social Connections and Wellbeing

- Enhance shared community spaces
- Encourage community participation
- Build social resilience

### Fostering Community Engagement Reimagining your Spaces and Places

- Community organisations
- Resident-led initiatives
- Collaborative decisions making

### Improving the Physical Environment

- Mediating erosion on the river banks
- Planting native shady trees
- Connecting places by walking and cycling tracks





## Place-based Data

### Icons and Themes

The icons placed on the map of Glenreagh were quantified in occurrence, categorised into themes and placed according to their location. Each occurrence of these icons by theme increases the radius of the circles by 5mm. This diagram quickly conveys what community spaces have a diversity of attributes, and what are the key community spaces within Glenreagh.

### Precincts

The clustering of these icons contributed to the formation of three precinct areas, The Main Street, River Side and Rec-Ground Precinct.

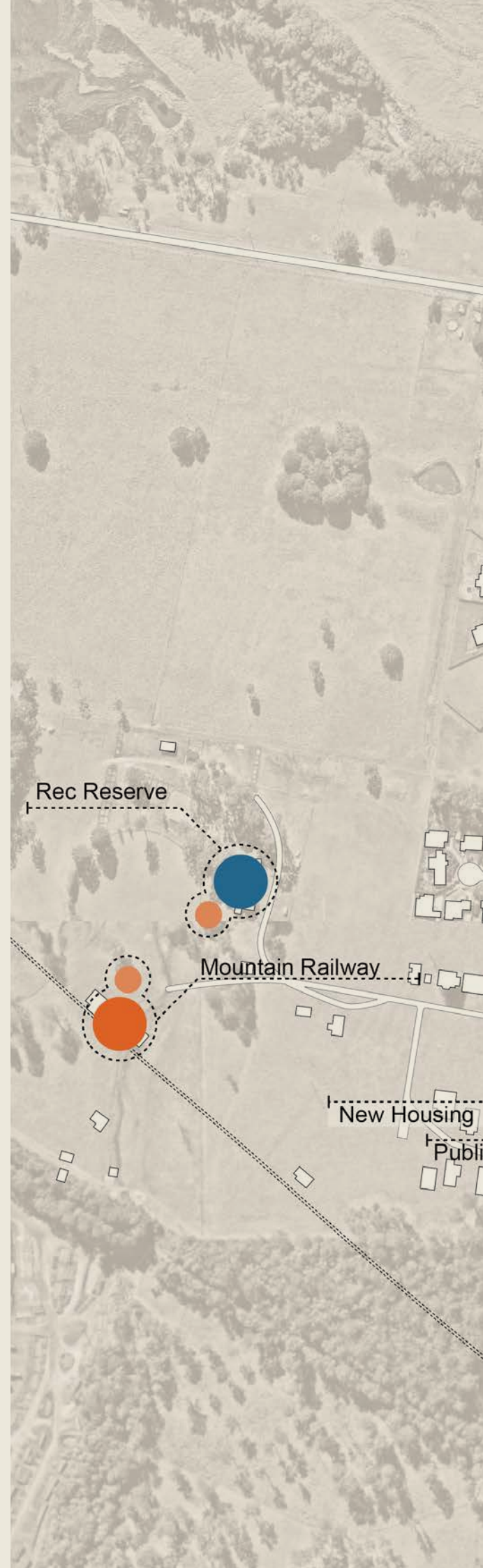
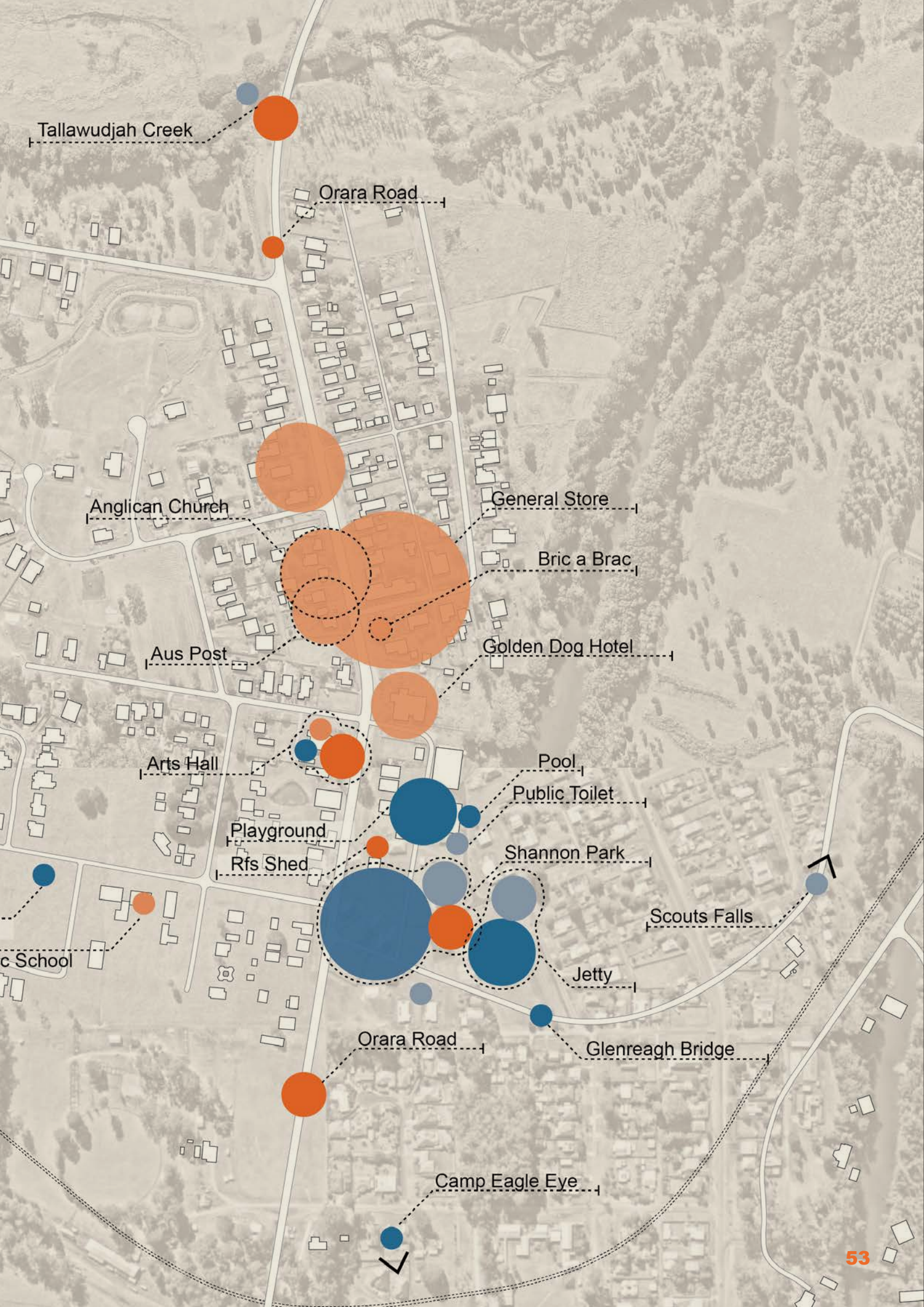


Figure 5.26 Placed-based data analysis. Made by Andrew.



Tallawudjah Creek

Orara Road

Anglican Church

General Store

Bric a Brac

Aus Post

Golden Dog Hotel

Arts Hall

Pool

Public Toilet

Playground

Rfs Shed

Shannon Park

Scouts Falls

c School

Jetty

Orara Road

Glenreagh Bridge

Camp Eagle Eye

# Glenreagh Recreation Ground Precinct

## Places & Spaces

## Icons

Glenreagh Rec-Ground

Glenreagh Mountain  
Railway

Railway Line to Dorrigo

Old Train Station

Kings Park Equestrian

Bed

Tree

Sports

Train

Bike

Camera

Tree

Knife & Fork

First Aid

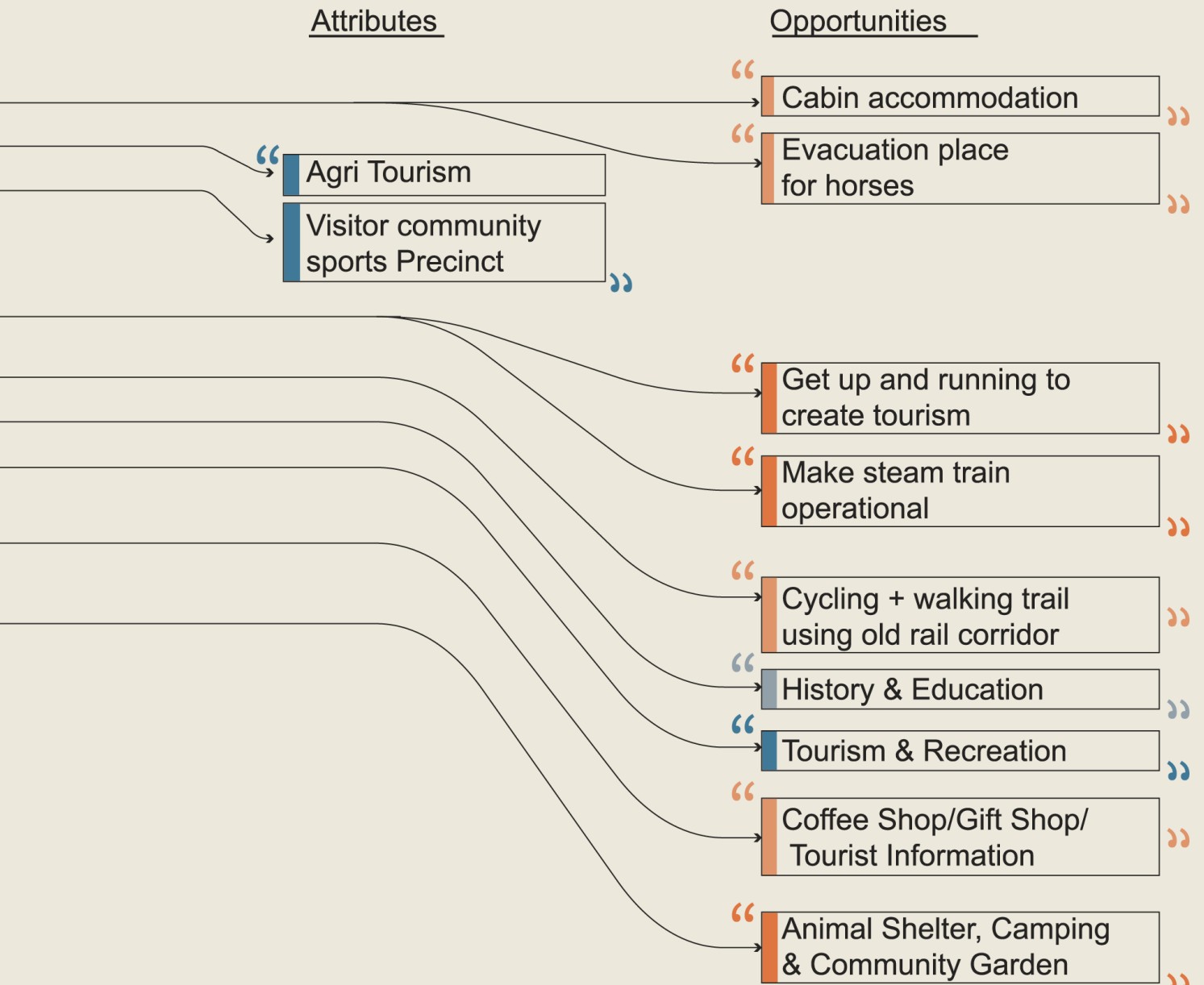
Outdoor Amenity

Transportation and infrastructure

Spaces

Places

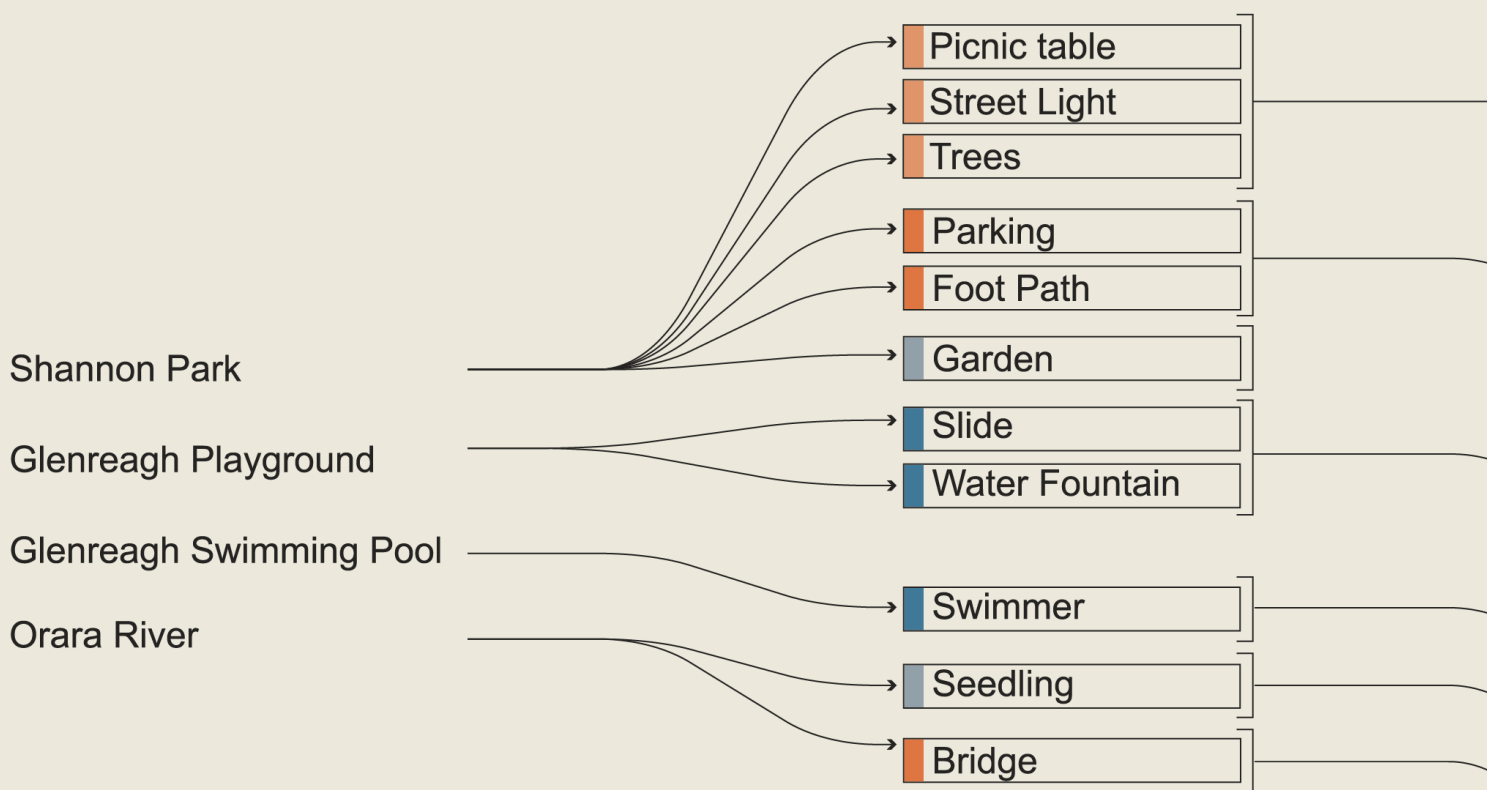
Figure 5.27 Workshop finding of Glenreagh Recreation Ground Precinct. Made by Andrew.



# Glenreagh Recreation Ground Precinct

## Places & Spaces

## Icons



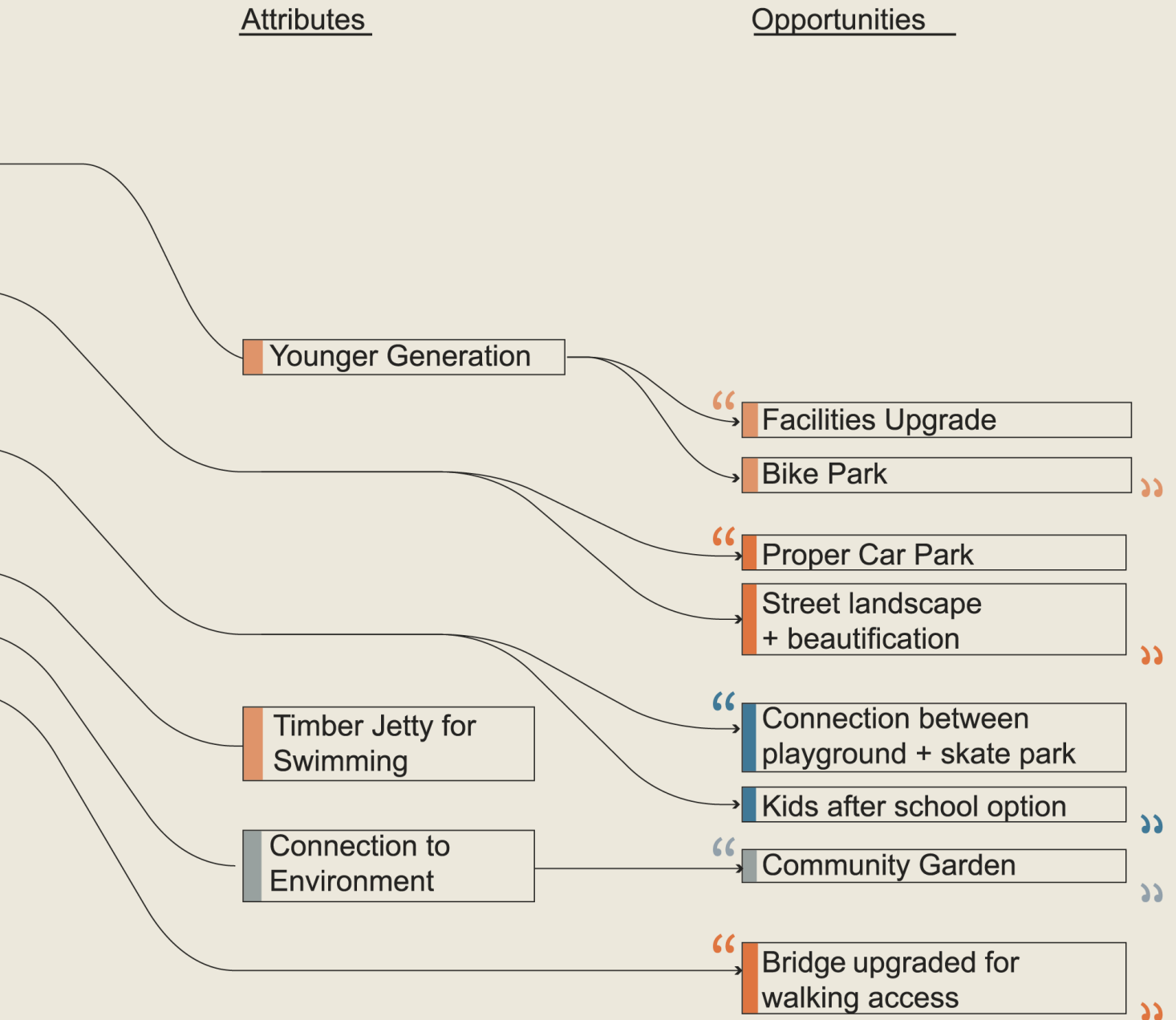
Outdoor Amenity

Transportation and infrastructure

Spaces

Places

Figure 5.28 Workshop finding of Glenreagh Recreation Ground Precinct. Made by Andrew.



# Glenreagh Main Street Precinct

## Places & Spaces

## Icons

Glenreagh Bakery

Knife & Fork

Glenreagh Anglican Church

Prayer

Glenreagh Post Office

Mail

Glenreagh General Store

Fuel

School of Arts Hall

Coffee Cup

Golden Dog Hotel

Shopping Trolley

Coramba Street/Orara Way

Bed

Wifi

Hospital

Evacuation

Accessible chair

Bed

Shop

Bridge

Track

Bike

CBD

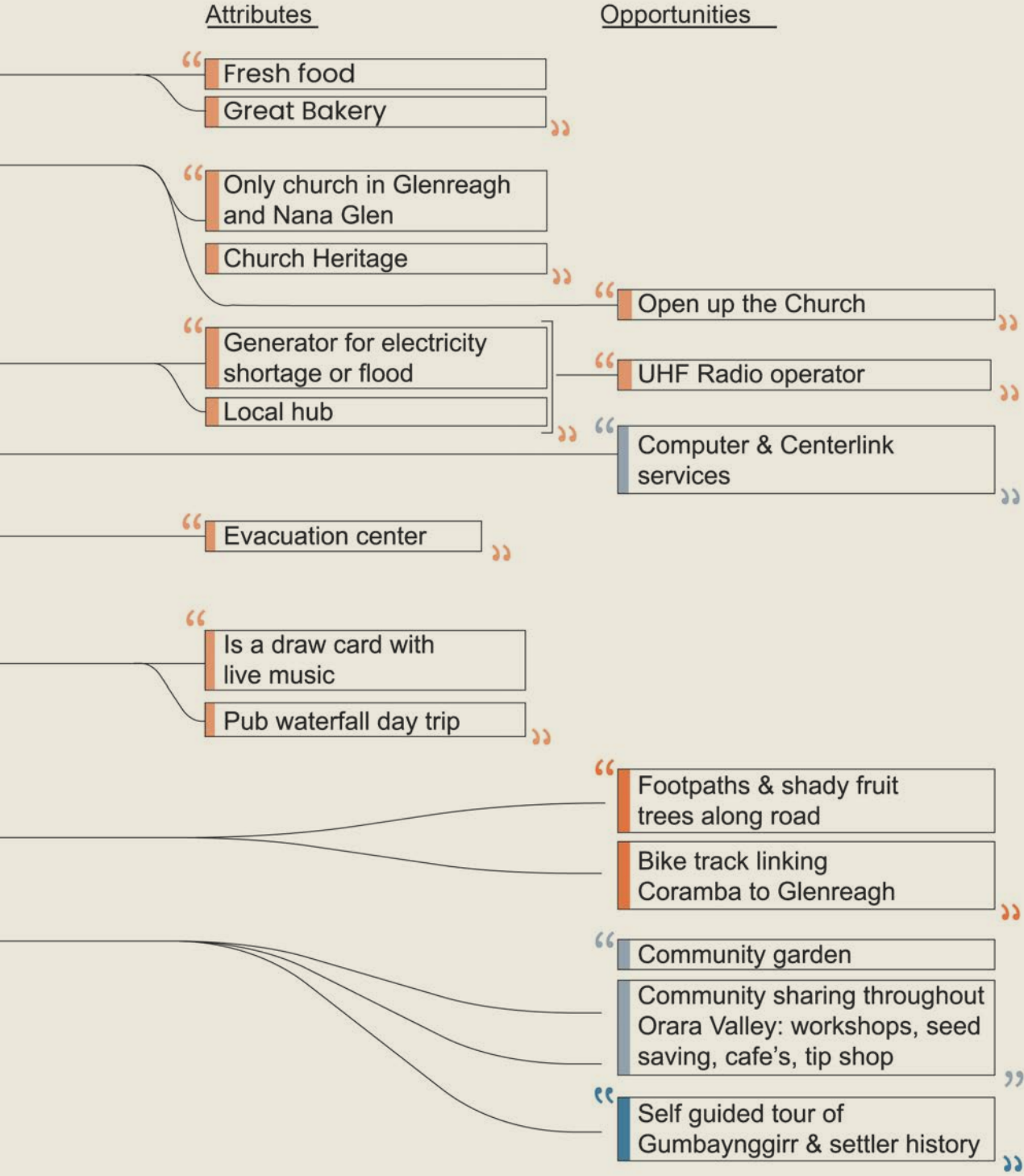
Outdoor Amenity

Transportation and infrastructure

Spaces

Places

**Figure 5.29** Workshop finding of Glenreagh Main Street Precinct. Made by Andrew.



# 5.2.4 Participants & Further Consultation

## Identifying Participants

### Recruitment

The participants were recruited mainly through social media, with Facebook groups being the main medium for communication throughout the localities within the Orara Valley. Leaflets were also distributed throughout every community within the Valley, targeting popular cafes, general stores and community halls. Local events were also key for promoting the workshop, namely the Glenreagh Timber Festival and Nana Glen's Citrus Festival.

### Demographics

The workshop consisted of 35 participants from around the Orara Valley. All of the participants were randomly split into 5 groups at the beginning of the workshop as they walked in to split potential pre-formed groups. Around 40 per cent of participants were male and 60 per cent female, all of whom were mature adults except for one adolescent.

### Community Groups

There was a large turnout from community groups across the valley including the Country Womens Association, Landcare Nana Glen, Food Share Nana Glen, The Men's Shed Glenreagh, The Lions Club, Glenreagh Heart Start, The Glenreagh Mountain Railway Association and the Anglican Church Nana Glen.

### Limitations

The main limitation was attendance or engagement from certain community demographics, leading to incomplete representation of diverse perspectives and needs.

## Further Engagement

Further engagement of the key demographics listed below is required to create a more holistic picture of how to build resilience and placemake in the Orara Valley

### Youth & Young Children

By involving more youth, you're investing in the long-term sustainability of the community, as their input can help create solutions that resonate with future generations. Placemaking workshops run through the local school program would work well, as we have learnt from the schools workshops in Blicks and Nymboida.

### Families

Families represent a key demographic, and their input ensures that the framework considers the needs of parents, children, and caregivers alike.

### Community Groups

Most of the participants are actively involved in community initiatives throughout the valley. The involvement of residents outside these groups is critical to capturing unheard opinions and avoiding preconceived ideas within the co-creation workshop.

### First Nations

Including Indigenous perspectives would ensure that the strategic framework aligns with their cultural values, practices, and land stewardship.

### Conclusions

Hearing from these demographics is essential for ensuring that community development plans are holistic, inclusive, and effective. It promotes social cohesion, innovation, and equitable access to resources and opportunities, ultimately leading to more resilient and vibrant communities.





# Orara Valley's Vision

# 5.3



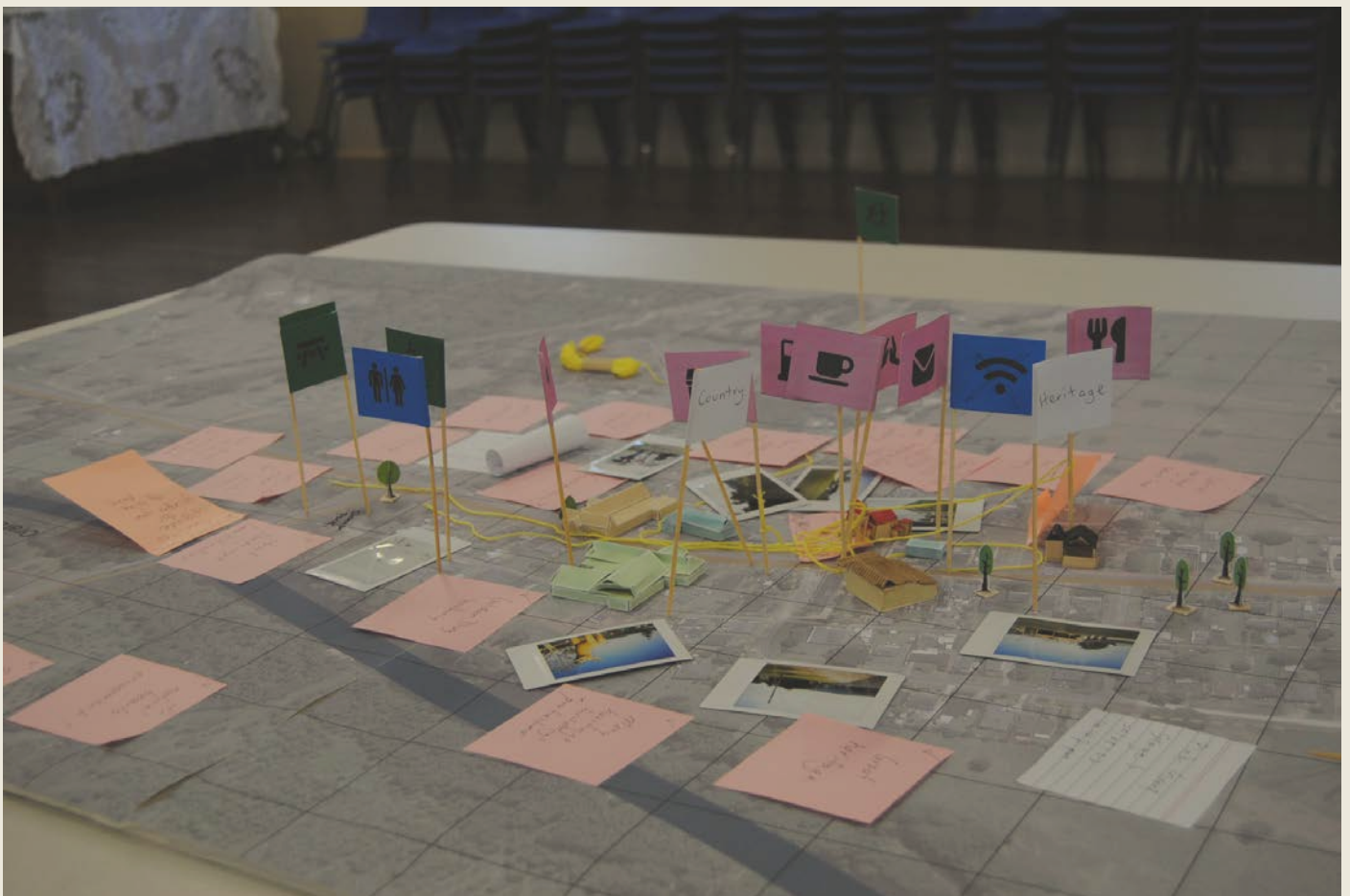
# 5.3.1 Workshop Data

## Key Outcomes of the Data

Through synthesizing the data collected through the workshop in Glenreagh, all of the outcomes suggested by the community relate to spaces, places, transport and infrastructure, and outdoor activities.

With a mix of both Glenreagh locals and the broader Orara Valley communities who were present at the workshop, the diagram shown relates specific outcomes to those who suggested them. It shows that all groups have various suggestions, and there was a consensus on ideas shown by overlapping ideas spread throughout the groups.

The data was used to inform the vision for the Orara Valley based on what they are looking for in changes and adaptations to their community.



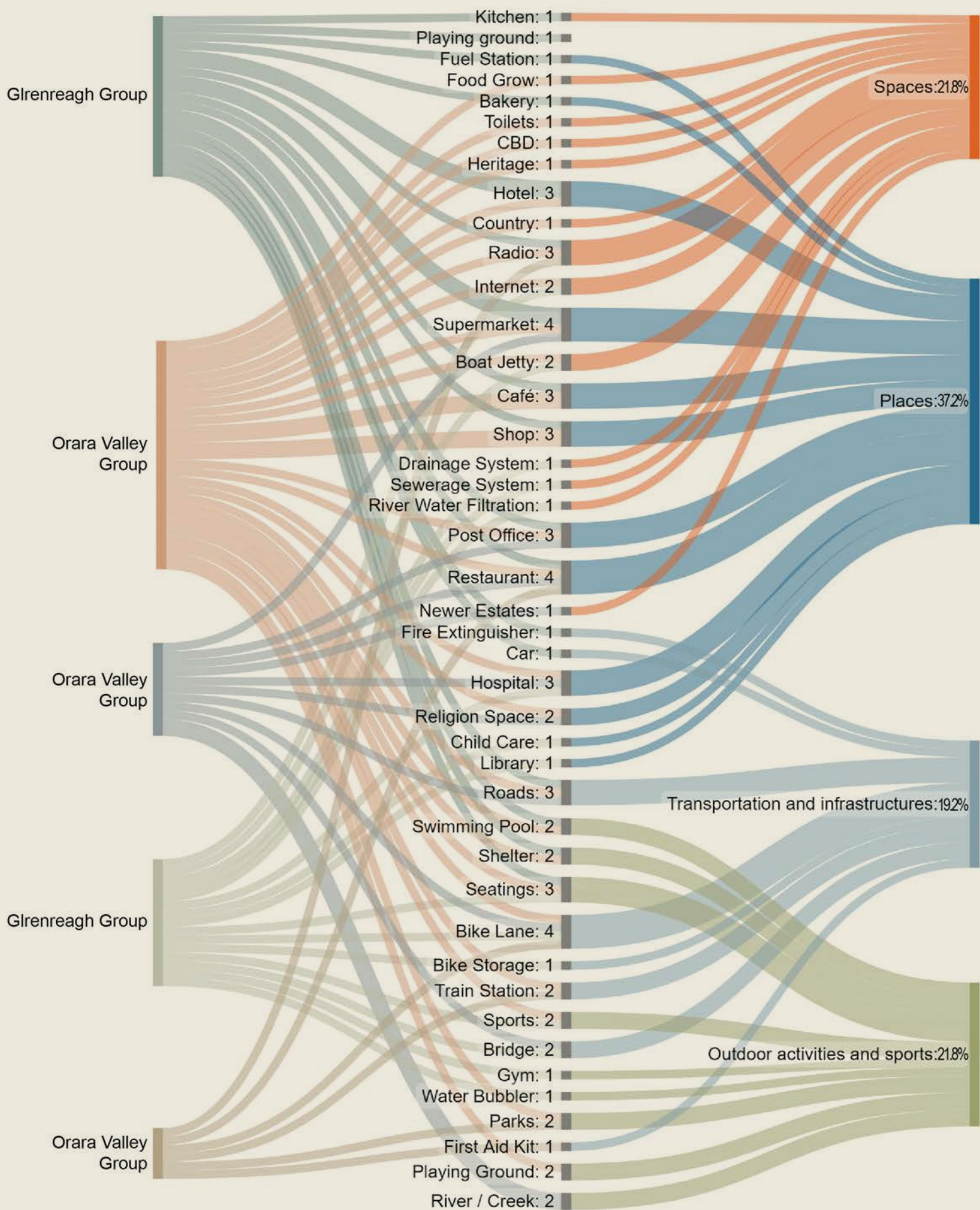


Figure 6.30 Workshop findings by flags categories. Made by Jenny.

# 5.3.2 Orara Valley's Vision Statement

## Ideas, Themes, and Aspirations

The Orara Valley strategic placemaking framework aims to embody a holistic approach to disaster resilience through the lens of Connection and Country. Connection is about increasing the physical connectivity of villages to the greater Orara Valley, providing dynamic and fit-for-purpose spaces to support grassroots organisations, delivering responsive networks for information sharing and building social capital. The concept of Country explores the creation of safe, accessible, and vibrant spaces to experience and care for the natural environment, also creating a platform for exploring and integrating Indigenous

knowledge. Glenreagh is the testing grounds to catalyse various initiatives, focusing on three key community precincts; the main street, riverside and rec ground, that share commonalities with villages across the Orara Valley. The initiatives are designed around community needs day-to-day and during crisis, hence are described in two modes; "every day" and "resilience".

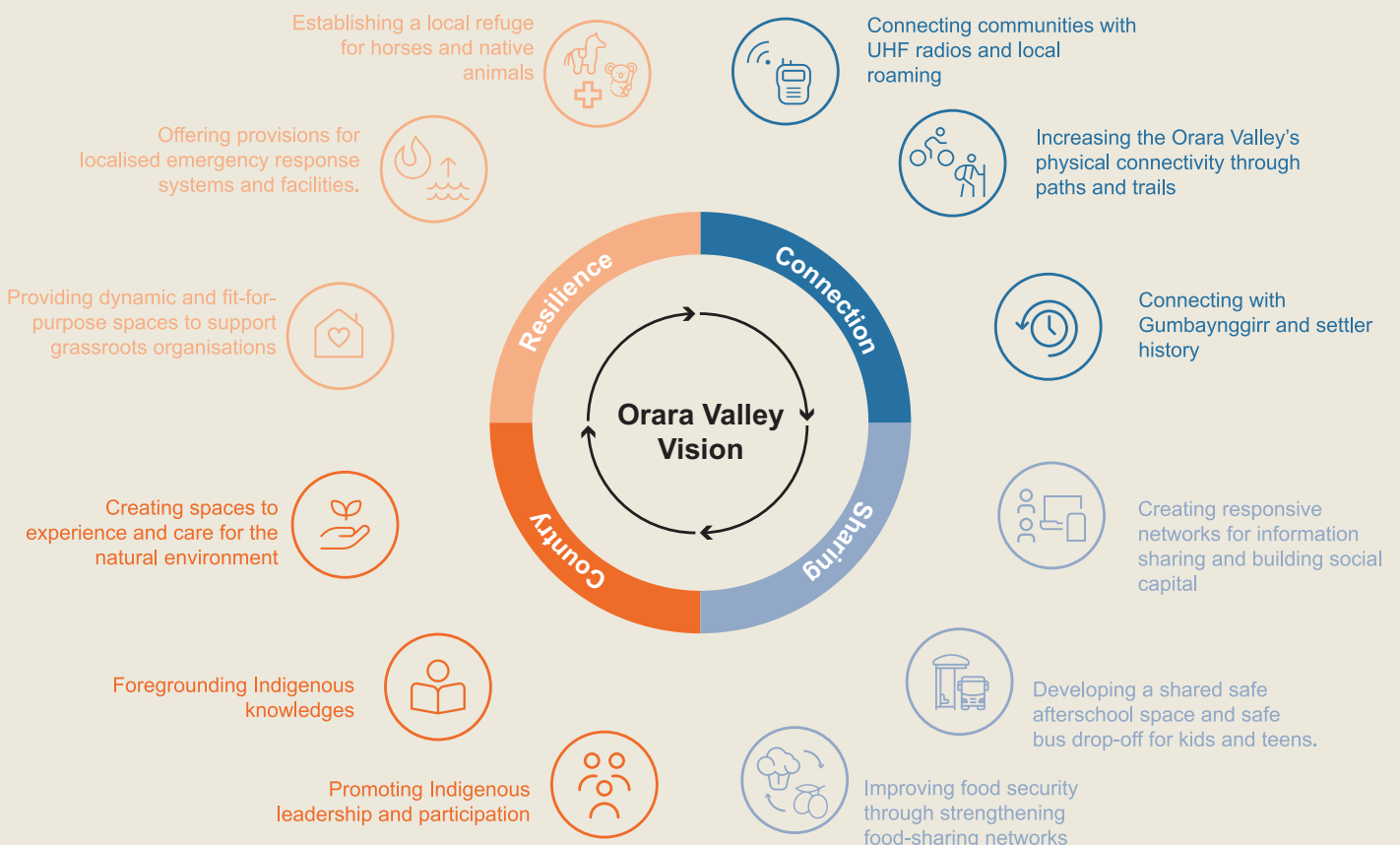


Figure 6.31 Orara Valley vision. Made by Andrew.



# 5.3.3 Strategies

## Mission statements

### Mission 1.0

The revival of Glenreagh Mountain Railway as a rail trail responds to a range of key themes that came out of the workshop. It seeks to increase the connectivity between Glenreagh, Lowanna and Ulong and retain and repair the heritage value of the train stations along the track. The heritage train stations will be revived by hosting new programs that illustrate and convey the story of the railway, whilst capturing Indigenous histories. These stations could also be leased out to local businesses and assist with wayfinding across the trail.

The Glenreagh recreation ground's upgrade to the equestrian facilities demonstrates how these spaces across the Orara can be adapted to enhance their everyday use cases and disaster resilience. The upgrades will help host special interest groups, provide long-term amenities for horses and native animals, and become a central point of coordination during disaster events. This runs in tandem with activating the Glenreagh Mountain Railway Museum by creating a richer interface between it and the recreation ground in addition to establishing it as a gateway to the rail trail itself. Furthermore, the addition of accommodation in the recreation ground not only can attract more tourists to the surrounding towns but also act as temporary accommodation in disaster scenarios.

### Mission 2.0

A theme brought out in the workshop was the idea of food security within the Orara Valley villages. Food security measures

were spoken about in relation to flooding cutting of the villages and needing to get food into people when roads are too dangerous to cross, and for everyday measures when the cost of living crisis causes rent prices to outweigh the ability to buy food. This need can be integrated into hall programs to support the community, especially the most vulnerable, to afford and have access to food. The community hall can operate as a food resource center and communication hub in emergency. The aim of this mission is to encourage community recovery and food resilience for all Orara Valley villages.

### Mission 3.0

Reviving the park is a fundamental objective for the welfare of the neighbourhood. The renovated area offers a secure environment for recreational activities and become a kid and family safety zone. The goal is to guarantee that children have a space set aside for play and exploration, encouraging movement, education and wholesome growth. Families feel more secure when they have access to well-maintained cooking facilities, interactive play spaces, communal areas and upgraded safety features. This project strengthens ties within the community by acting as the hub for recreation and interaction. The revitalised park turns into a communal area that not only puts children's safety first but also promotes a vibrant and cohesive neighbourhood that families can enjoy, even during times of crisis.



0-5<sup>years</sup>

5-10<sup>years</sup>

10+<sup>years</sup>

pink	pink	pink	pink
orange	green		blue
blue	green	blue	
pink	green	pink	
yellow	yellow	yellow	



# Actions

# 5.4



# Action 1.0

## Project Overview

### Recreation Ground

The Glenreagh recreation ground's upgrade to the equestrian facilities demonstrates how these spaces across the Orara Valley can be adapted to enhance their everyday use cases and disaster resilience.

#### Everyday Mode

The rec-ground's everyday mode aims to strengthen its connectivity to the wider Orara Valley through the railway to Dorrigo and enrich its role as an events and tourism hub.

#### Resilience Mode

Its disaster resilience capability comes from re-appropriating the assets and spaces for resource sharing, providing shelter and operating a refuge for people and animals across the valley.

### Rail Trail

The revival of Glenreagh Mountain Railway as a rail trail responds to a range of key themes that came out of the workshop. It seeks to increase the connectivity between Glenreagh, Lowanna and Ulong and to retain and repair the heritage value of the train stations along the track.

### Community Workshop Responses

- Make the rec-ground a visitor/ community sports complex
- Create provisions for emergency response facilities in Glenreagh
- Make the rec-ground an evacuation place for horses
- Old railway stations could be used as a coffee shop/ gift shop/ tourist information
- Create cycling and walking trails using the old rail corridor

### Key Challenges

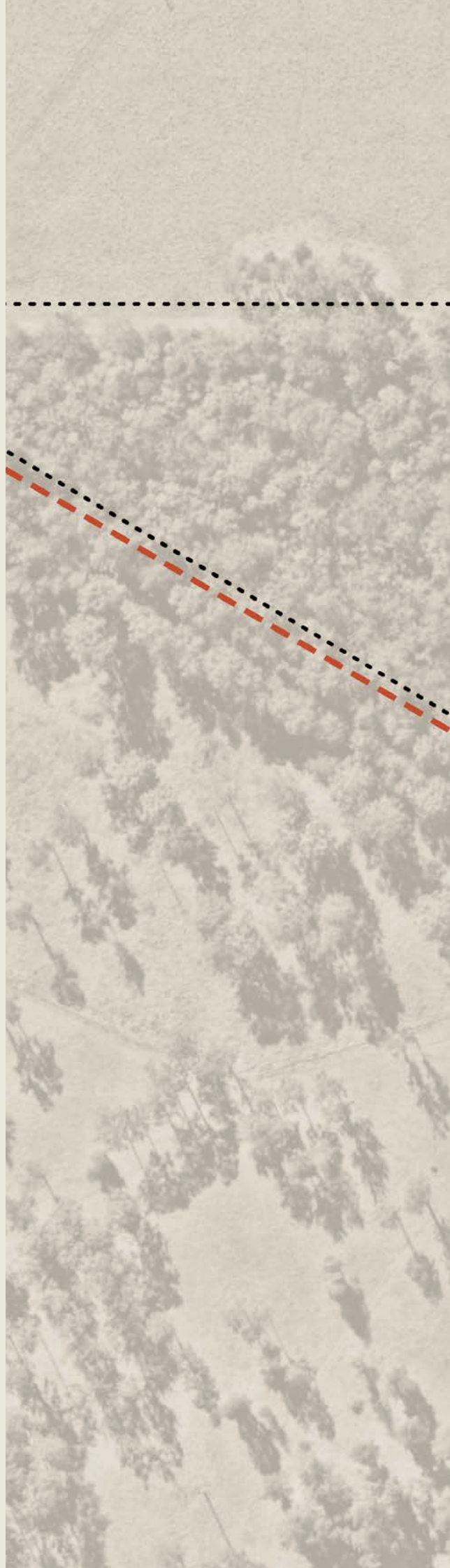
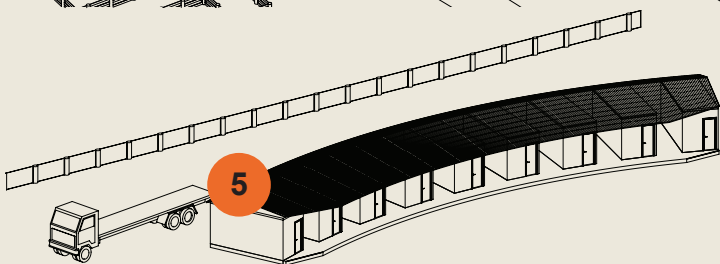
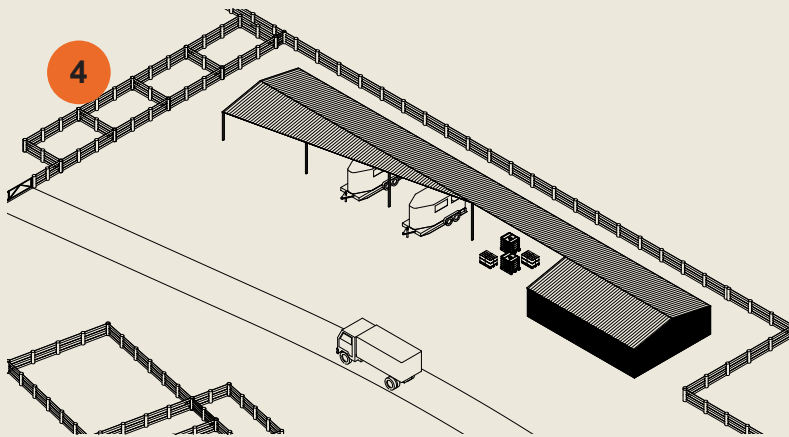
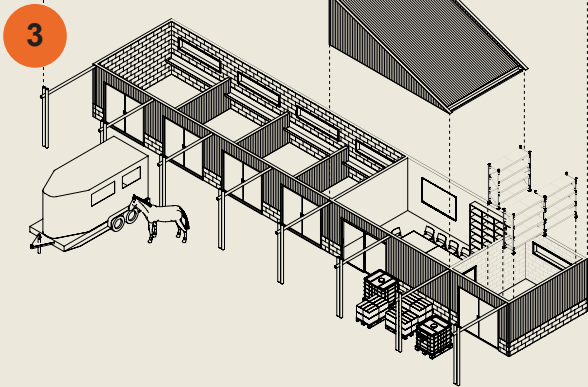
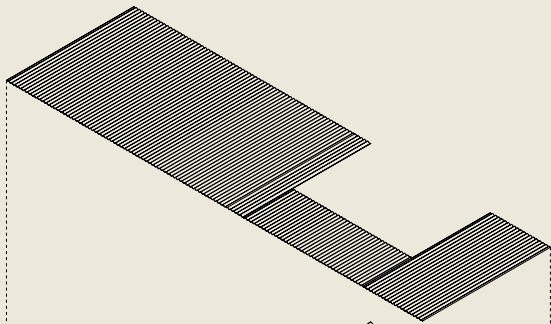
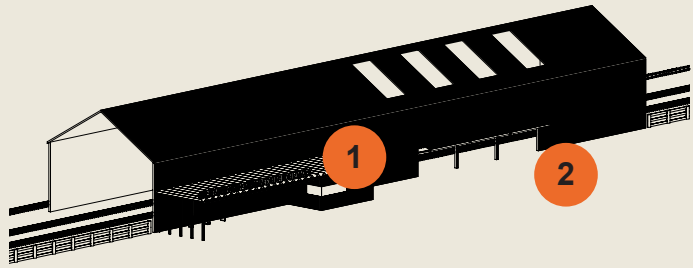
- Historical overlays of existing buildings
- Rail trail upkeep and restoration

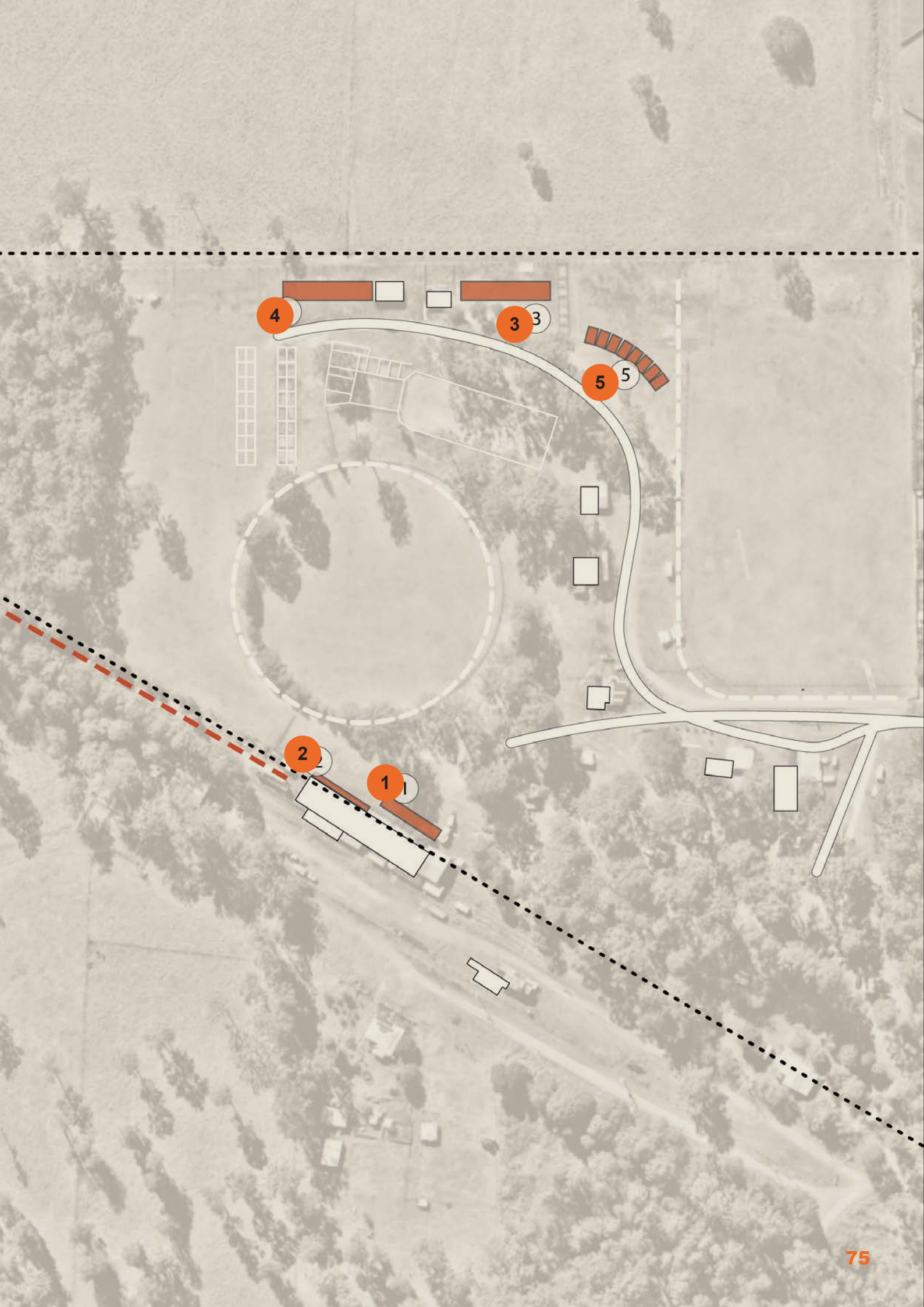




# Rec- Ground

## Glenreach Recreation Reserve Precinct





# Proposals

## Action 1.1

The rec-ground upgrades to the equestrian facilities aim to enhance the everyday functioning of the grounds whilst readying it for disaster scenarios. Given that it is sited above the flood plain it can become a central point of organisation for coordinating and resourcing a holistic response to disaster.

### Theme

Everyday Mode & Resilience Mode

### Scope

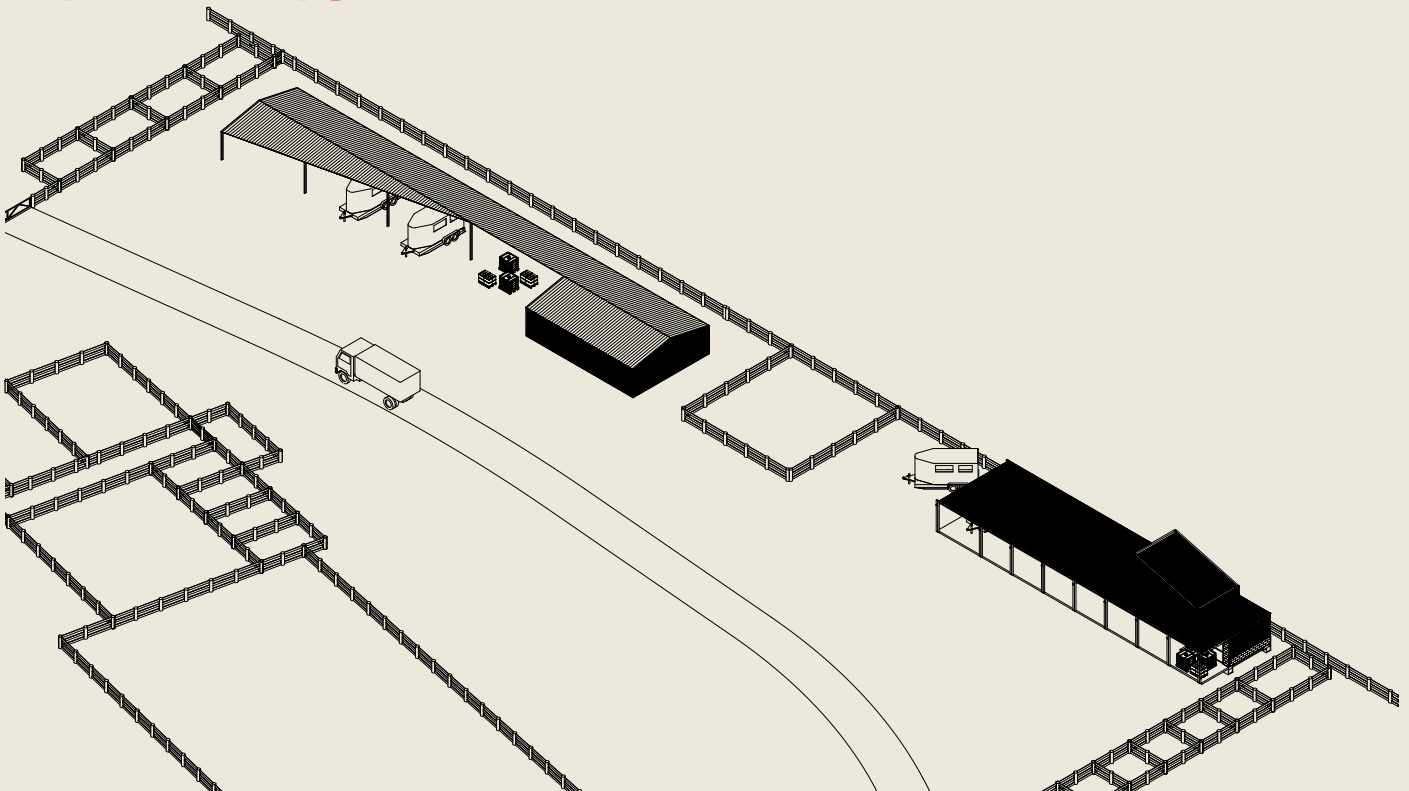
- Adaptable stables for long-term care of horses and native animals
- A central meeting space for educational programs, events and coordination
- Extending the roofline of the existing pony club sheds for additional storage of resources for disaster events and additional shading for horses

**“5-10 Years: Evacuation area in Orara Valley for Horses & cabin accommodation”**

**“Equestrian Centre: Animal shelter, camping, community garden!”**

**“Link to recground and rail-link. GMR up and running/ Tallowood to create tourism”**

## Equestrian Upgrade Axo

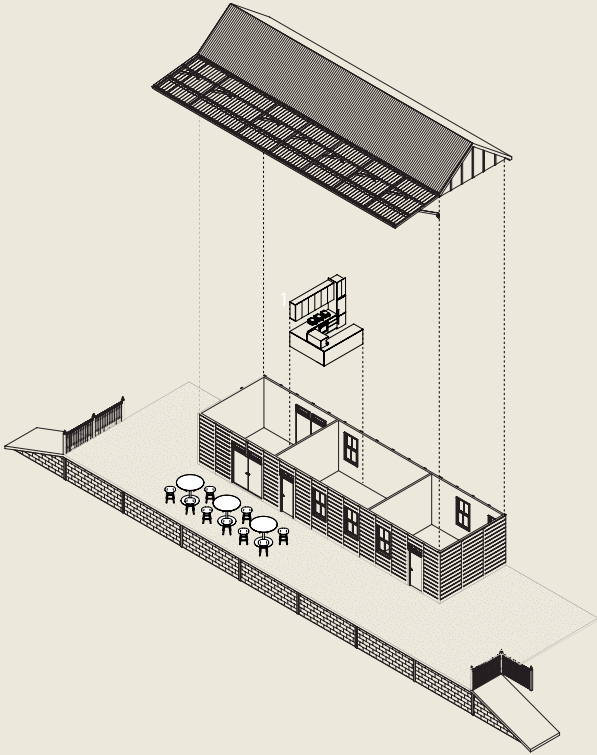




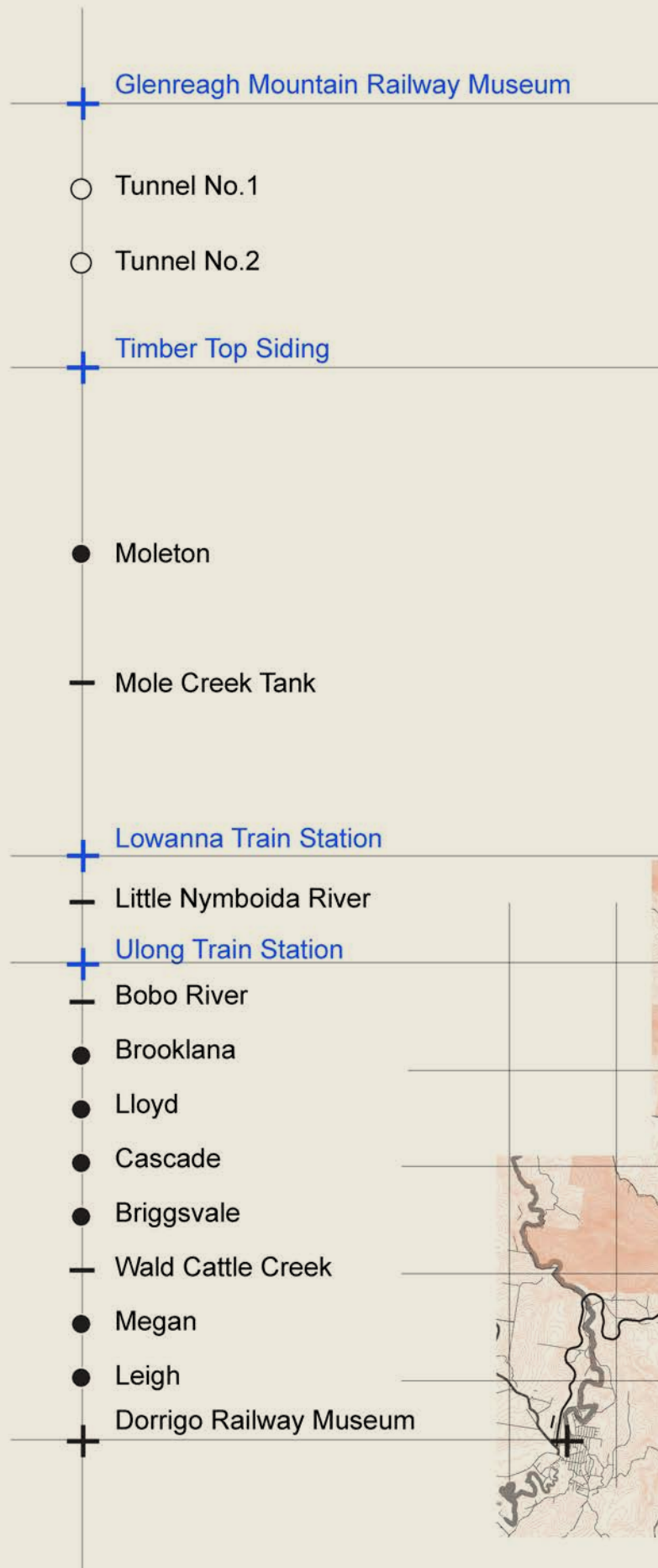
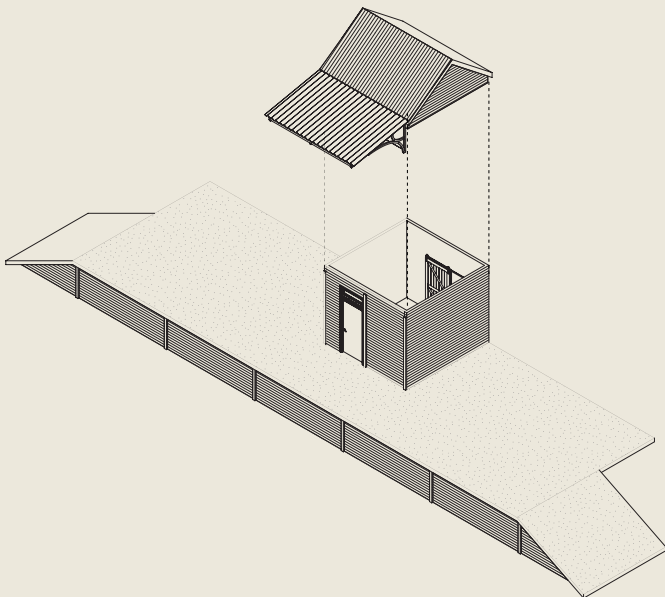
# Rail Trail

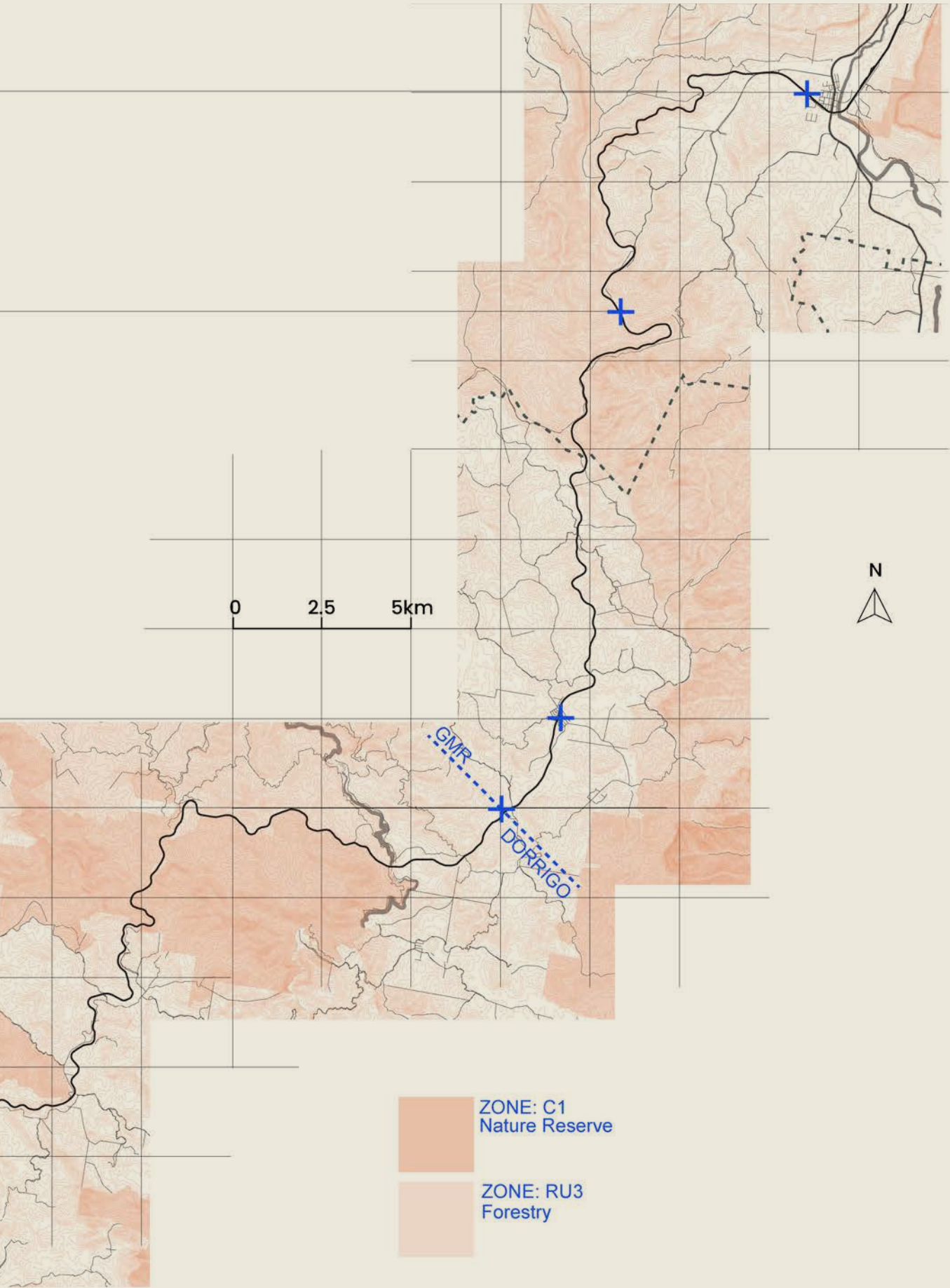
## The Glenreagh Mountain Railway to Dorrigo

### Lowanna Train Station



### Ulong Train Station





# Proposals

## Action 1.2

The rail trail aims to link the towns of Glenreagh, Lowanna and Ulong whilst restoring heritage railways to host educational programs, overnight camping, and facilitating local businesses and community groups.

### Theme

Connectivity and heritage

### Scope

- Restoration of key railway infrastructure and train stations
- Provisions for camping platforms, water tanks and drop toilets across the trail
- Wayfinding and historic artefacts and stories to be displayed in heritage sites
- Facilities for the storage of bikes and personal belongings
- Spaces leased out to local businesses

**“In 1-5 Years: Ulong to Glenreagh rail trail walking, cycling and horses”**

**“Why I joined is because if the [rail trail] grows than the town grows and everyone gets a share”**

**“The old carriage station should be a coffee shop or something. I mean its just as cute as a button”**

## Timber Top Station





# Action 2.0

## Project Overview

Glenreagh Community Hall Redesign aims to meet food security needs and give open access to resources in resilience and everyday modes.

The Orara Valley communities have identified that they become isolated and cut off during times of disaster. In response to this, the community would like to see more focus on food security locally. 67% of participants in the workshop mentioned that a community garden for food security is something they would like for their communities. For this project proposal, the Glenreagh School of Arts Hall will be used as the case study building to make alterations to offer better food security and open access to these resources during resilience and everyday modes.

Through the final prioritisation workshop task, 75% of the participants identified they would like to see developments to the connectedness of the villages through street upgrades such as foot & bike paths, trees and transport. These developments would focus on the local communities shared spaces and how to get them to meet the communities needs and wants.

## Key Challenges

- Historical overlays to existing buildings
- High traffic main street with road trains passing through often
- Roads become flooded and blocked off communities

## Community Workshop Responses

“The communication hub, would have a radio operator”

“Footpaths & shady fruit trees along road”

“Community Garden”

“Community sharing throughout Orara Valley: workshops, seed saving, cafe’s, tip shop”

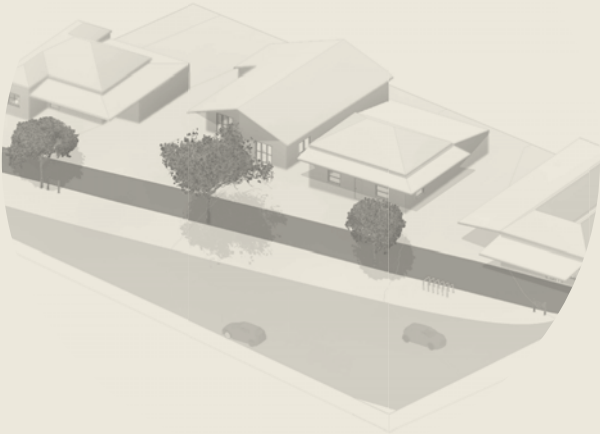
“Self guided tour of Gumbaynggirr & settler history”



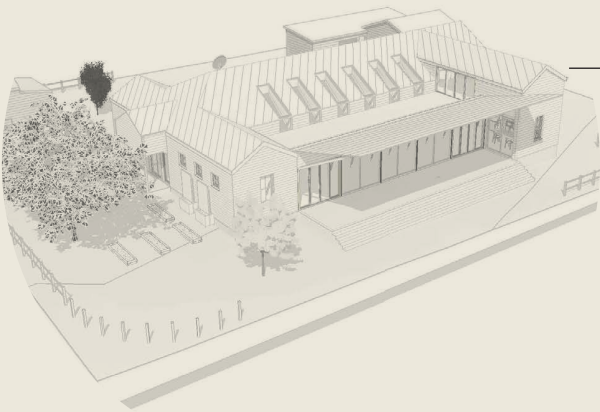


# Main Street

## Glenreach Main Street Precinct



Main Street Facility Upgrade



Glenreagh Community Hall Redesign





2



Main Street Development



Access



Walking & Bike track

1

Community Hall Redesign

2

Main Street Facilities

# Proposals

## Action 2.1

Community Hall Redesign aims to meet food security needs and give open access to resources in resilience and everyday modes.

### Theme

Everyday Mode & Resilience Mode

### Scope

- Upgrade storage for emergency resources
- Sign location of storage and how to access
- Community garden
- Upgrade kitchen facilities
- Give open access to facilities to the school, community groups and the village in emergency situations
- Upgrade bathroom facilities
- Signpost open days and times for Post Office museum
- Build outdoor sheltered areas connected to main hall spaces
- Re-clad walls with glazing for more daylight into hall and visibility out of the hall.

**“The communication hub, would have a radio operator”**

**“Community sharing throughout Orara Valley: workshops, seed saving, cafe’s, tip shop”**





# Proposals

## Action 2.2

Upgrade the curb appeal of the main street through shady fruit trees, foot paths and a tourism walking trail. The development of public spaces will be used to include Indigenous stories and histories both in the self-guided tour and through native fruit planting.

### Theme

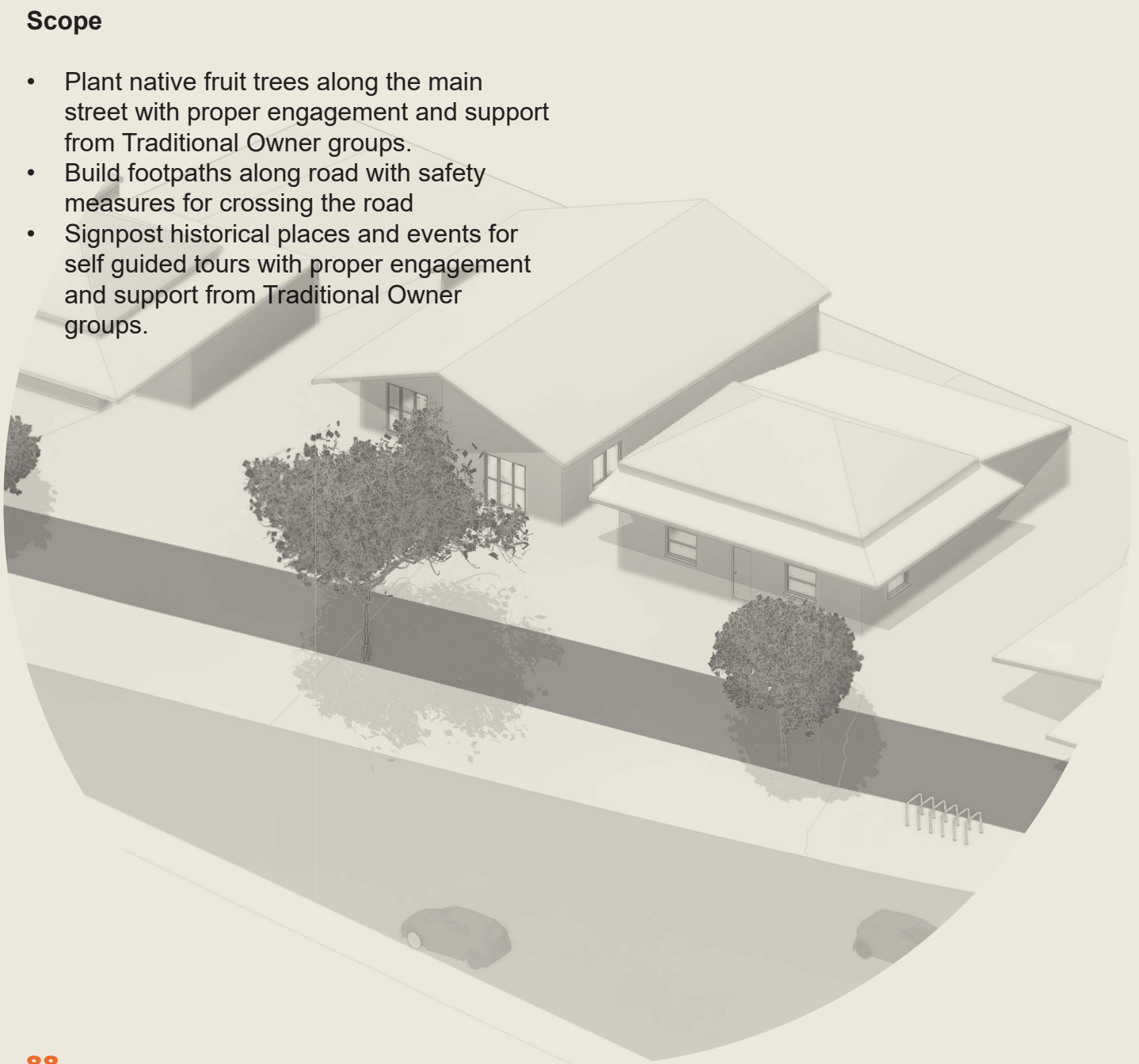
Everyday Mode

### Scope

- Plant native fruit trees along the main street with proper engagement and support from Traditional Owner groups.
- Build footpaths along road with safety measures for crossing the road
- Signpost historical places and events for self guided tours with proper engagement and support from Traditional Owner groups.

**“Footpaths & shady fruit trees along road”**

**“Self guided tour of Gumbaynggirr & settler history”**





POLICE

# Proposals

## Project Overview

Glenreagh community aims to provide recreational, green, and educational facilities for local people and youngsters. The park may benefit families, individuals, and the community as a whole. Shannon Park in the future, can seek to foster environmental awareness, and community engagement through various upgrades to the existing environment. Patrons include individuals of all ages, households, and the general public. This project intends to create a secure and covered location for children to wait for school buses, through a recreational community park and bus stop. This initiative addresses two critical issues: student transportation and recreation.

### Key Challenges

- Selecting an ideal site for a bus stop.
- Creating a park and bus stop that can accommodate all age groups and activities.

### Community Workshop Responses

The workshop collected community input about their ideas for Shannon Park, and incorporated their preferences into design and execution strategies. Community emphasised the need for a safe waiting space for children due to environmental and physical concerns. A neighbourhood park with a safe, yet engaging school bus stop was seen to promote, a youth-centred upgrade to the existing park.





# Shannon Park

## Action 3.1 Glenreagh Shannon Park and Bus stop

### Theme

The Glenreagh bus stop proposal supports the transportation of students to other regions for school. The bus currently pickup and drops off students off road but the stopping area is without boundary and fences.

### Scope

The designated bus area can be improved so it can safely pick up and drop off students. The adjacent footpath requires boundaries and a safe passage for pedestrians and young students. The bus stop along with adjacent area should have proper lighting, signage and fences off the street. This proposal can be replicated across the Orara Valley villages such that the entire school bus network is supported by this proposal.

“Safer bus drop off area”

“Safer footpath for the children to walk around”

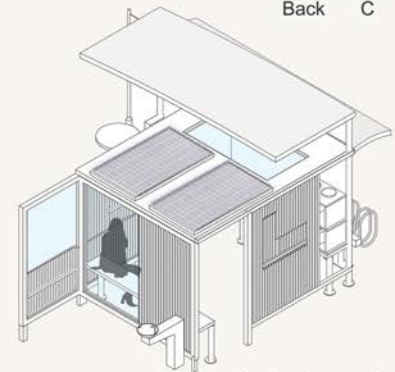
Operatable Wall System Bus Shelter



A - Enclose wall



B - Enclose wall



C - Enclose wall



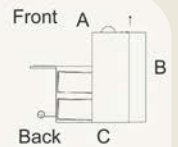
A - Open wall



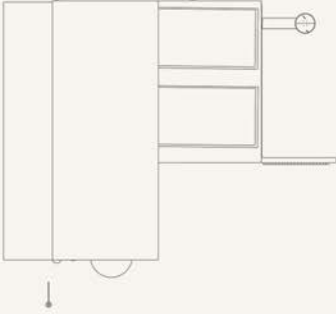
B - Open wall



C - Open wall



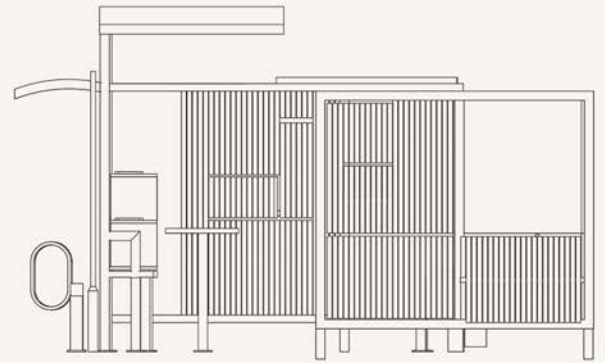
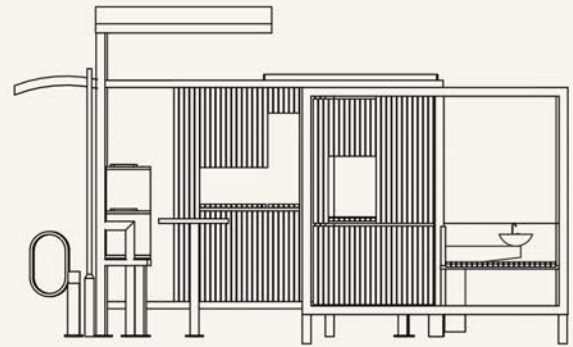
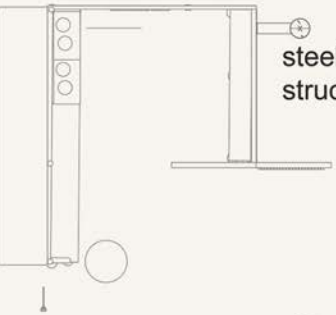
Stainless Steel Sheet



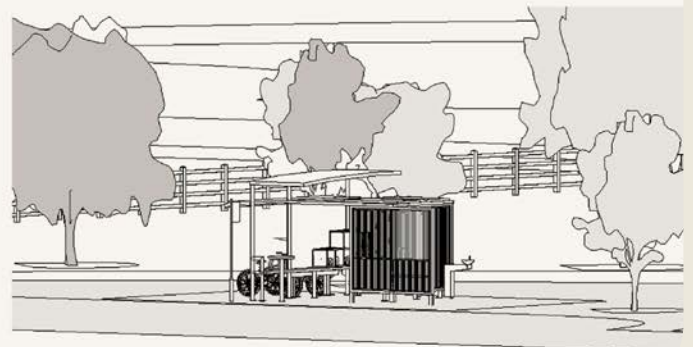
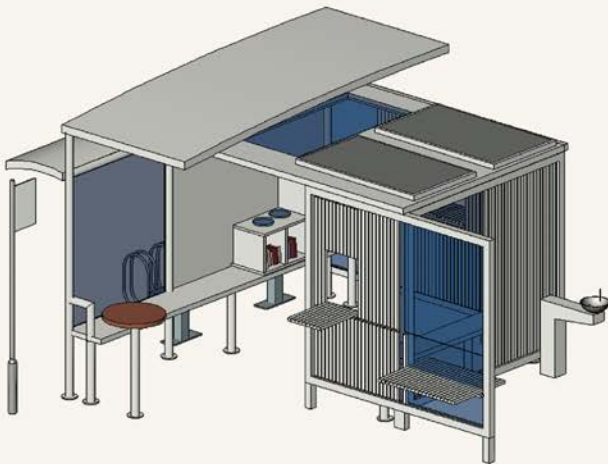
Solar Panel



steel / aluminium structure



Operable partial wall



## Action 3.2 Shannon Park Facilities

The Shannon Park BBQ and the picnic area provided comfortable environment for socializing and gathering with the Family during school holiday or weekends.

### Theme

The BBQ and the picnic area enhance the park visually and encourage the visitor used the park frequently.

### Scope

BBQ stove are broken need to replace and seating bench area are wore off, need to be repaired. The park are need more shading area.

**“More shade in the park “**

**“Reactivate the park”**







# Implementation

# 5.5



# 5.5.1 Implementation

## What is it?

This section, we will discuss various approaches and opportunities for implementing the action projects outlined in the previous chapter. Instead of a single course of action, various pathways are suggested, as these initiatives are still in their early stages, and specific projects have not yet secured funding. Several place-making strategies can be employed, such as providing grants, facilitating self-build initiatives, engaging in collaborative construction efforts, and taking governance actions.

The Matrix of Implementation in subsequent pages provides the community with guidelines and decision-making possibilities for each of the previously listed action projects. The following documents may support some of the Implementation pathways and should be read in conjunction with relevant action project plans.

## Key policy documentation

### **Glenreagh: A town of Promise by Elizabeth Webb**

This book looks at historical strategic actions that have taken place in the Glenreagh, Tallawudjah and Sherwood districts. The book references historical events relating to Glenreagh's main street development and controls relating to gable roofs and appearance. It also looks at the historical development and planning of the Glenreagh to Dorrigo railway line, which the government has previously invested in.

### **Clarence Valley community land, Crown Reserves and other Public Places; Generic plan of Management 2014 - 2023 Strategic & Economic Planning Clarence Valley Council**

Due to some of the action projects being located on crown or public land, this document looks at some of the considerations the sites may require to be developed on.

### **Neighborhood Safer Places NSW Rural Fire Services**

Every development in a fire risk area is required to build in such a way that is responsible for fire management. The document looks at key legislation, performance criteria and building needs to meet in the NSW area, such as maintaining a safe distance from dense bush land to reduce radiant heat from a bush fire.

### **Yandarra shifting camp together - A guide for Aboriginal Cultural Awareness & Engagement**

For all projects on Gumbaynggirr land, this document should be referenced on how to carry out Traditional Owner engagement.

<sup>1</sup> "Aboriginal Culture." Accessed October 10, 2023. <https://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/About-our-city/Aboriginal-culture>.



# 5.5.2 Stakeholder Involvement

Apart from the community workshop, our team listened to community stakeholders, collaborators, and governance partners' who are critical in the pathway towards implementation of the previous action projects. Figure 4.32 shows valuable ideas, solutions, outcomes or approaches proposed by the stakeholders we have engaged with to date.

## Participants

Including State Government, Clarence Valley LGAMayor / Dep Mayor, Clarence Valley Council, Coordinator Emergency Management & Resilience Clarence Valley Council, Coordinator Open Spaces, Dorrigo Land Council, Dorrigo National Parks, Coffs Harbour Forest Corp NSW, Vinnies, Rural Adversity Mental Health Program. Creative Recovery Network & creative first aid, Red Cross CRT, F2F Team, Orara Valley Resilience Hub Stakeholders, Coordinator Emergency Management & Resilience CV Council, Orara Valley Progress Association, Glenreagh Heart Start Inc., Orara Anglican Ministry, Neighbourhood Care Network.

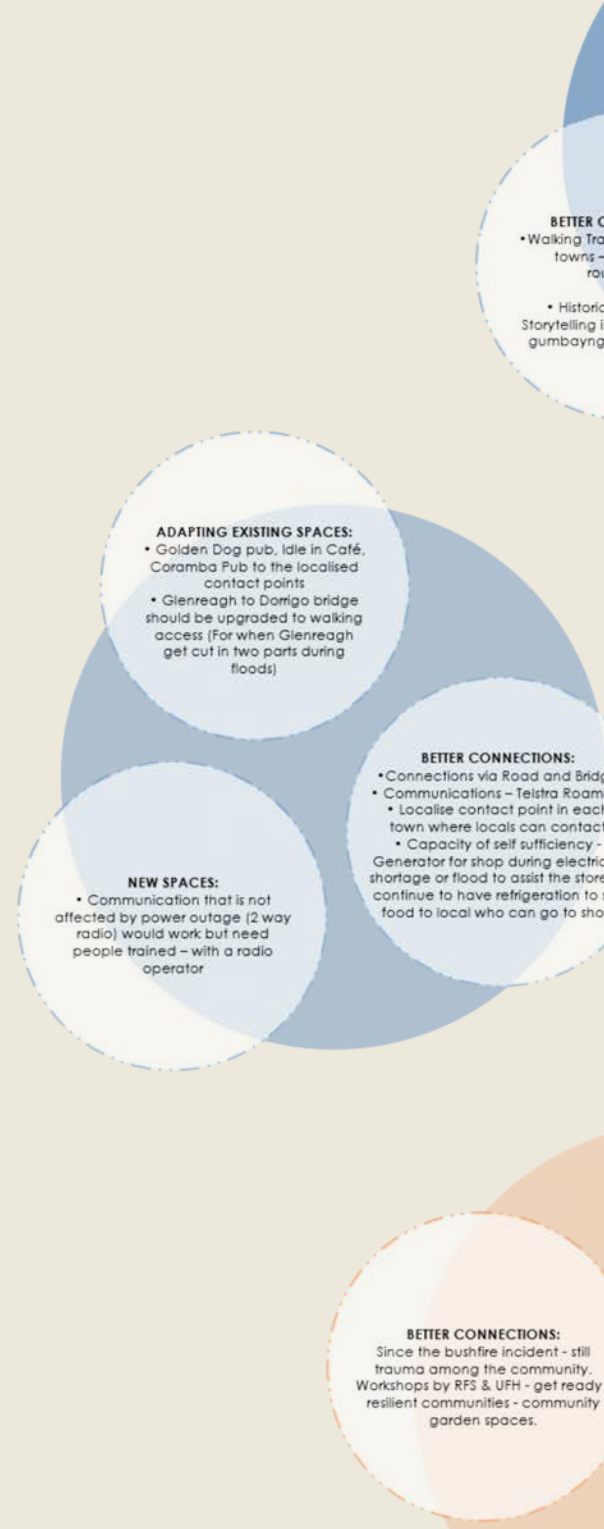


Figure 4. 32 Key outcomes from stakeholders. Made by Mohana.

**ADAPTING EXISTING SPACES:**

- Road crossing
- Signages
- Food security – small scale agriculture
- More walking trails in all towns
- Edible Street trees
- Pump train – Nana Glen

**NEW SPACES:**

- Play group – intergenerational
- Safe places for toddlers to play.
- Scout facility camp, eagle eye
- Nana Glen food collective, food swap events – community building
- Tourist trail, scenic drive
- Multi court, Footy oval/cricket ground – Nana Glen – Toilets unsafe, Ground is good
- Woolgoolga Footy field – 30mins

**CONNECTIONS:**

- Cycle/footpath – link all
- Along scenic route (river).

- Guided walk – indigenous settler – gyir place names

**3 KEY OUTCOMES:**

- Connective tracks and foot paths between Orara Valley
- Communication systems in disaster and for general communication
- Council to listen more to needs and implement what communities really want

- Community Garden
- Community Hub for visiting Services
- Mountain Bike trails – clubs
- Swimming club
- More involvement with Government service eg: "Lite"
- Service NSW Bus
- Travelling Library
- Council meet + greet to discuss local issues
- Grant application workshops.
- Visitor / Community / Sport Complex in Recreational precinct (Pool / park)
- After school Program / place for teens

- Pathways to connect recreational facilities
- Safeguard our resources
- Garden Boxes for herbs : Community can help themselves.
- Shelter for donations fresh produce
- Shelters for donation for clothing, pet items.
- Water station for children and 'agro'
- Resting spot with shade for elderly + young Childrens
- Free Historical bus ride
- Bus service Coff – Nana – Glenreagh- Grafton

**BETTER CONNECTIONS:**

- Phone service/ integrated website, transport community
- Cycling/ walking trail on old rail corridor from Glenreagh to Lowanna/ Ulong for recreation tourism

**NEW SPACES:**

- Community website linking all business, charity, information etc. E.g. list your interests i.e. horse riding and you will be informed of events

**ADAPTING EXISTING SPACES**

- Effective communication is required across council areas.
- Lack of connection between communities - friction.
- Adapting natural environment
- Coramba markets
- Bus swap shuttle streamline
- Community groups - resilience officers - many organisers

**ADAPTING EXISTING SPACES:**

- King park equestrian- agritourism, community gathering space, animal refuge
- Connecting & community for accommodation, codes, steam train, connecting communities

**NEW SPACES:**

- Public transport for the community
- Land care in Glenreagh - erosion along the river - threat to the trees.
- Community garden

## 5.5.3 Matrix of Implementation

Action	Description	Planning & Statutory Controls	Building Compliance and Codes
<b>1.1</b> Rail Trail Gateway and Wayfinding	Captures the history of the railway to Dorrigo and Connects the trail to the GMR.	Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203	N/A
<b>1.2</b> Lowanna and Ulong Heritage train station restoration	Activates the heritage train stations by refurbishing and fitting them out for community engagement.	Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011 Coffs Harbour Local Environmental Plan 2013 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203 Heritage Act 1977 No 136	C4.3 New development near heritage buildings and in heritage conservation areas should be sympathetic in design and should not detract from the existing streetscape character.
<b>1.3</b> Equestrian Facilities Upgrade and Refuge	New stables, storage spaces and training rooms. Can be used as animal refuge and resource sharing facility during emergencies.	Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011 Clarence Valley Disaster Resilience Framework 2021	C. General development controls D. Floodplain management controls
<b>1.4</b> Rec-Ground Accommodation	Permanent accommodation that can provide the reserve with additional income and double as short term housing for emergencies.	Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011	D. Floodplain management controls I6.5. Road width characteristics F2.1. Calculation of Parking Credit and Debit L. Controls for Backpackers' Accommodation
<b>2.1</b> Glenreagh Community Hall Redesign	The redesign aims to meet food security needs and give open access to resources in resilience and everyday modes.	Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011	C. General development controls
<b>2.2</b> Pedestrian facilities on main street	Upgrade the curb appeal of the main street through shady fruit trees, foot paths and a tourism walking trail.	Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011	I6.6 Road widths to accommodate services S11.4 Native Fauna road strike
<b>3.1</b> Implementing safety measure bus stop	Enhancing safer bus stops with shelters, clear signage, Safe zone	Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011	SEPP 66 Integration of land use & transport
<b>3.2</b> Glenreagh Shannon park	Enhancing the park with new shade structures and repaired cooking amenities.	Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2011	

<b>Traditional Owner Engagement</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
National Parks and Wildlife Service Baryulgil Square Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)	Rail trails Australia Glenreagh Mountain Railway Crown Lands Act 1989 and Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Act 1989	Heritage Assistance Grants 2023 Transport Heritage Grants Program	\$\$\$\$
Coffs Harbour & District Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)	Crown Lands Act 1989 and Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Act 1989	Heritage Assistance Grants 2023 <sup>3</sup> Transport Heritage Grants Program <sup>4</sup>	\$\$
		Wildlife Heroes grants	\$\$
Coffs Harbour & District Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) <sup>5</sup>		Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program	\$\$\$
Coffs Harbour & District Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) <sup>5</sup>	Clarence Valley: Rural Lands Strategy Background Paper	Food Futures: Council Resources Clarence Valley Food Inc Heritage Assistance Grants 2023 <sup>3</sup> Community Initiatives Program grants	\$\$
Coffs Harbour & District Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) <sup>5</sup>	Clarence Valley Council	Streets as Shared Spaces Program	\$\$\$
	Clarence Valley Council	Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme (CPTIGS)	\$\$
Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority Baryulgil Square Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) <sup>2</sup>	Clarence Valley Council	Community Initiatives Program grants <sup>9</sup>	\$\$