



**WOOMBAH**

# FIRE to FLOURISH



MONASH  
University

MONASH  
ART  
DESIGN &  
ARCHITECTURE

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Woombah Park

# Woombah Context

4.1



# 4.1.1 Yaegl Country

## Yaegl People and Community

Woombah is in Yaegl Country. The Yaegl people inhabit the land spanning from Black Rock south of Evans Head to Red Rock in the south, and from the coast through to Swan Creek.<sup>1</sup> There are important sites for the Yaegl people along the Clarence River and its mouth, as well as other coastal and inland areas.<sup>2</sup> The Woombah Midden, situated on the riverbank of Clarence River, is a place where the Aboriginal women came to have shellfish. These places are traditional gathering places for the community, where community members come together for culturally significant events, sharing and passing on culture, traditions and history.

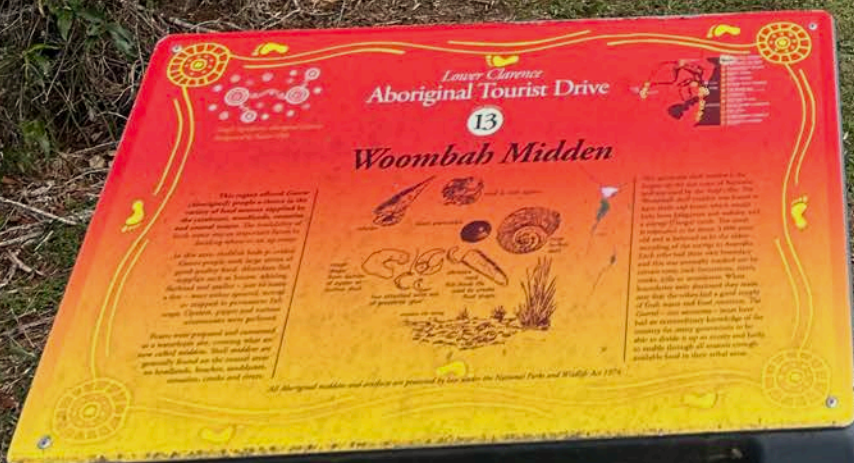
## Colonial Time

Since the arrival of European settlers in the late 18th century, permanent change occurred in the region that caused the disruption of Aboriginal life, culminating in the systematic occupation of land and large-scale displacement of Yaegl People from their traditional gathering places.<sup>3</sup> Violence accompanied the occupation of white settlement, where Colonial Frontier Massacres frequently occurred between 1788 and 1930 across the valley.<sup>4</sup> The fertile lands in the area made it attractive for settlers to permanently inhabit the area, which led to agricultural development and accompanying European diseases, compounding the devastating decline of Aboriginal populations.<sup>5</sup> The Yaegl people were pushed into fringe dwellings<sup>6</sup> and as recorded from the community placemaking workshops, some Aboriginal groups were allocated to Missions in Maclean and Yamba.

Figure 4.1.1 Woombah in Yaegl Country



Figure 4.1.2 Woombah Midden



## Recognising Yaegl's Cultural Significance

Yaegl people's connection to Country remains strong and is evident by their active presence among the wider community and through engagement during the placemaking workshops in Woombah. There is beginning to be an understanding of the importance of celebration and recognition of Aboriginal connection to Country across Australia.<sup>7</sup>

Native Title rights to the Yaegl People were legally recognised by the Federal Court on June 25, 2015 and August 31, 2017.<sup>8</sup> The Native Title covers land and waters across the North Coast of NSW, encompassing estuarine waters of the Clarence River in and around Yamba and Iluka, as well as in areas between Woody Head and Wooli in the North and South extending inland to (but excluding) Ulmarra. Local organisations, government agencies, and community groups have worked together to promote reconciliation, cultural preservation, and collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.<sup>9</sup>

The recognition and importance of cultural awareness across Clarence Valley and the Woombah Locality is deeply embedded within this Strategic Placemaking Framework. Continued engagement with Yaegl, Bundjalung and Gumbaynggirr communities will be paramount in the success of this document and its recommendations.

Figure 4.1.3 Caring for Country, Yamba Museum



**Caring for Country**  
© Frances Belle Parker (Yaegl) 2023

This mural represents my deep respect and love for the environment.

The green symbolises growth, abundance and renewal and it offers healing, peace, and calm within the space.

The blues represent our waterways from our river Birrinba to the sea, and how they connect our land.

The leaves are symbolic of traditional healing methods while the blossoms represent new life.

The museum and local community are represented by the round shape in the centre.

The various markings in the background represent the paths that humans have taken through this landscape.

They are a reminder that we must respect and protect the land we walk upon.

# Cultural Sites and Boundaries

Yaegl  
Council



Woombah

1

Clarence River

Ashby

8

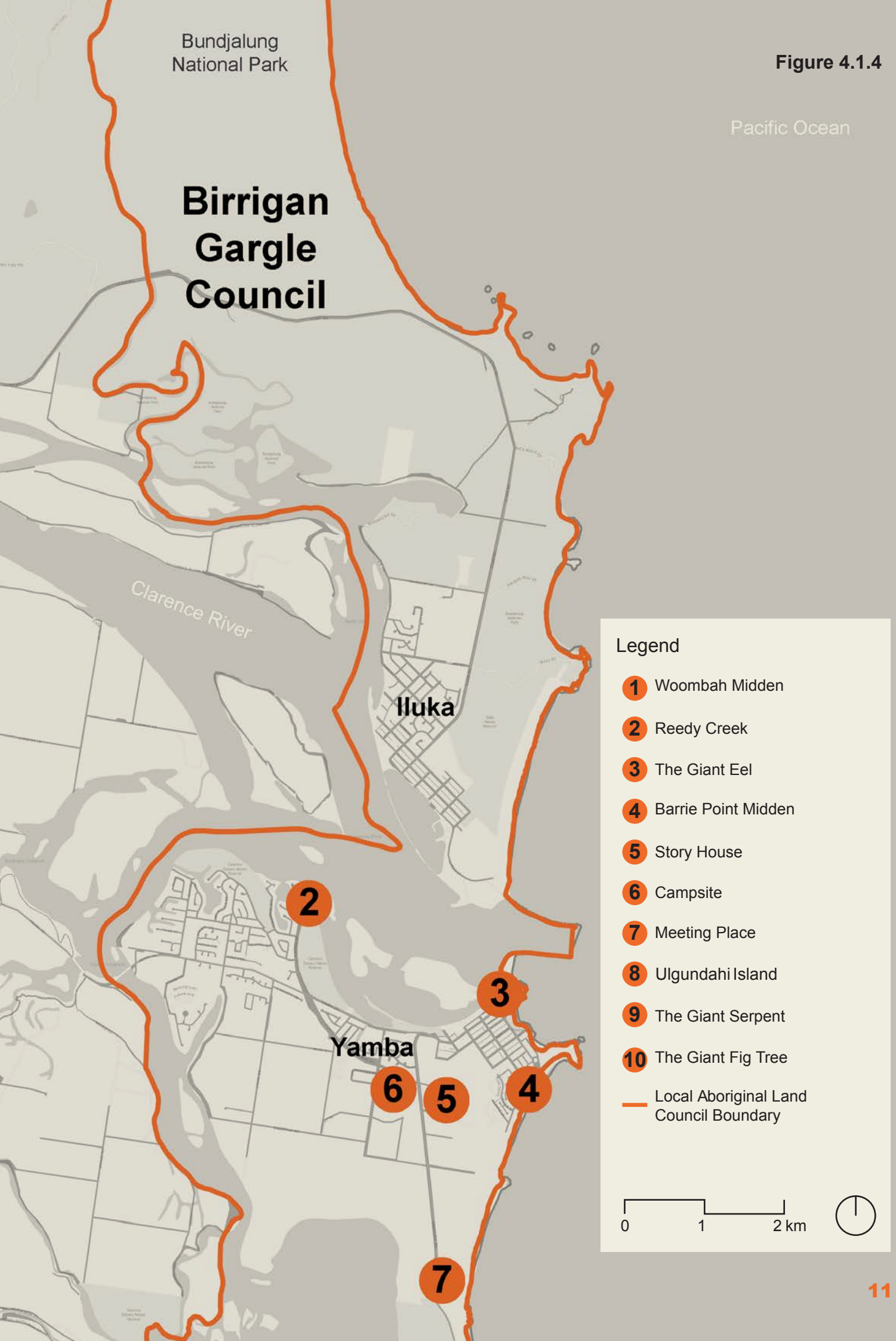
9

Maclean

10

10

Figure 4.1.4



Bundjalung  
National Park

Pacific Ocean

# Birrigan Gargle Council

Clarence River

Iluka

Yamba

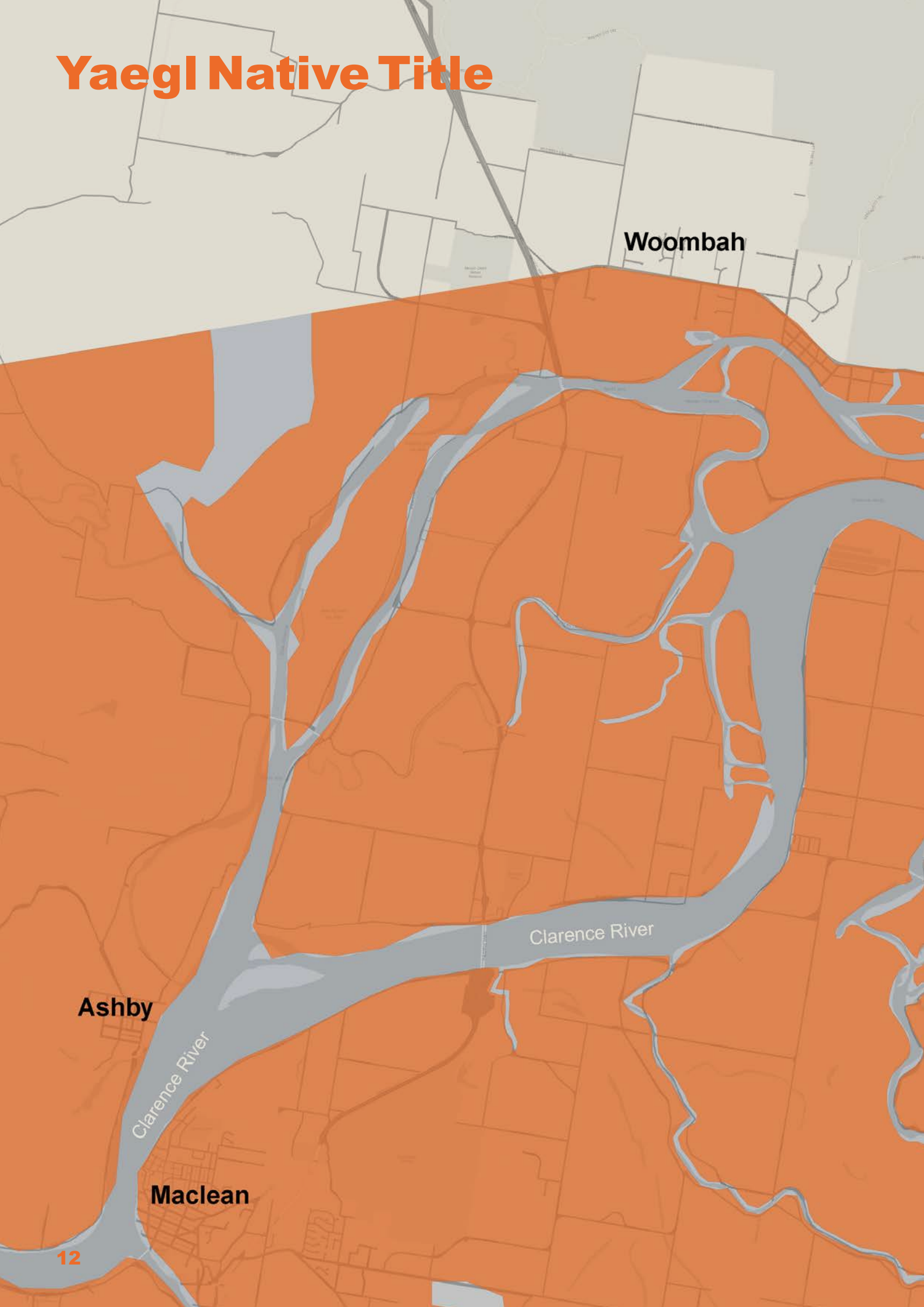
## Legend

- 1 Woombah Midden
- 2 Reedy Creek
- 3 The Giant Eel
- 4 Barrie Point Midden
- 5 Story House
- 6 Campsite
- 7 Meeting Place
- 8 Ulgundahi Island
- 9 The Giant Serpent
- 10 The Giant Fig Tree
- Local Aboriginal Land Council Boundary

0 1 2 km



# Yaegl Native Title



**Woombah**

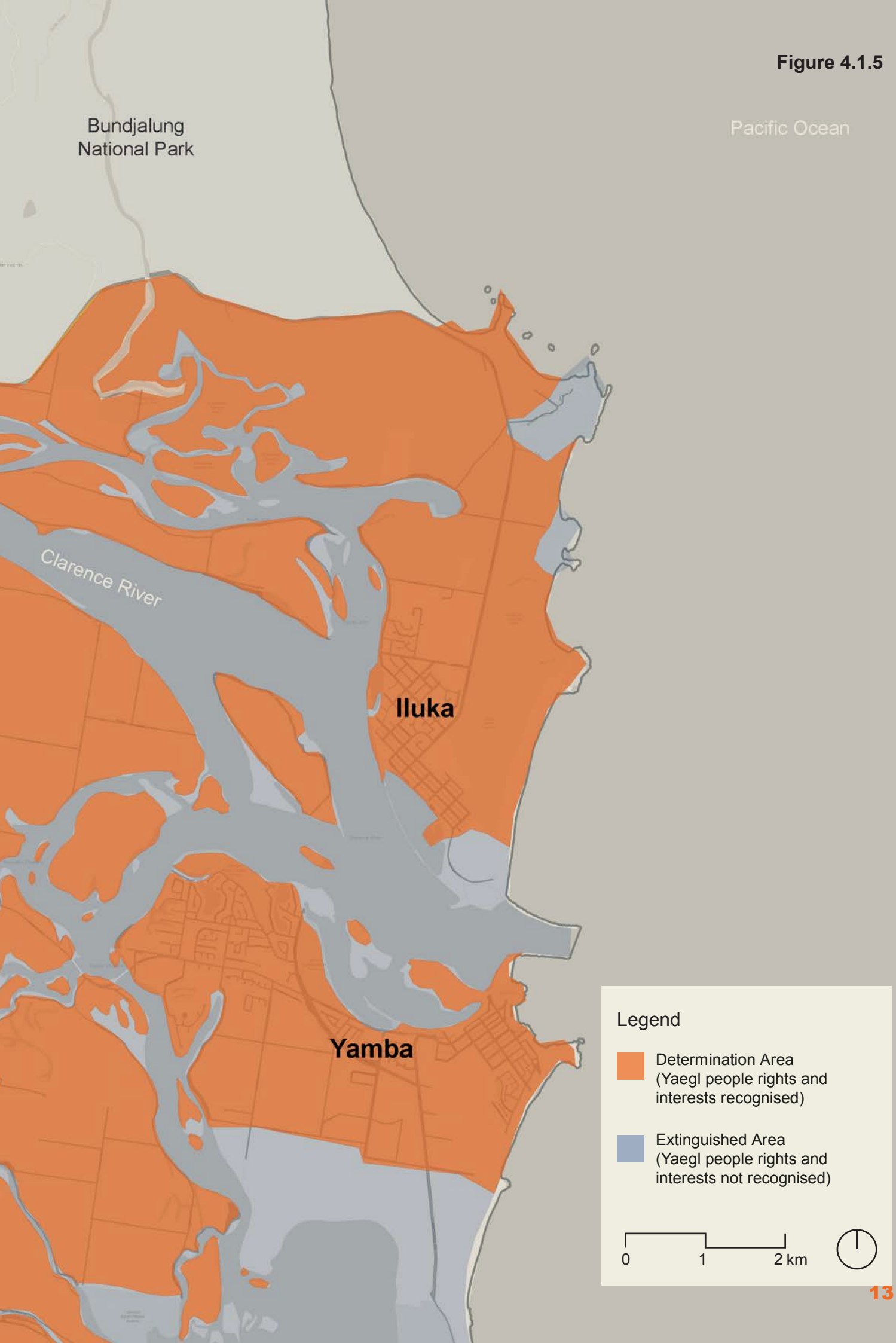
**Ashby**

Clarence River

**Maclean**

Clarence River

Figure 4.1.5



# 4.1.2 Spaces and Places

## Woombah and Its Surroundings

### Connectivity and Accessibility

Woombah is isolated in its geographical location due to limited transport access into and out of the area (Figure 4.1.7). This access is achieved via Iluka Road leading from Pacific Highway, which links to Ballina about 80 km to its north and Grafton about 65 km to its south. Fire trails are to the north of the existing residential area connecting to the Bundjalung National Park.

As observed, limited shops and services are found in Woombah, and people need to commute to surrounding towns for their daily needs and activities. Although there is a bus route serving the community between Iluka to Maclean, only limited services are provided in the morning and evening.<sup>10</sup> Moreover, footpaths and cycling paths are only present to a limited extent along Iluka Road. Due to the limited access to public transport services, there is a heavy dependency on private motorcar usage. This has implications on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists which is compounded by the lack of pedestrian infrastructure and the limited 50km/h zones throughout the region.

### Biodiversity and Ecological Significance

Woombah sits at the lower stream of the Clarence River in the Clarence Moreton Basin, where sediments are brought through the Clarence River from the Great Dividing Range from the east to the Pacific Ocean to the west.<sup>11</sup> This forms coastal floodplains and river islands in the river mouth areas, featuring rich natural resources, landscapes and fertile soil, nurturing wildlife and agricultural productions.

Notably, the Bundjalung National Park and Nature Reserve, that sits directly adjacent to Woombah to the North, contains various landscapes such as forests, shrublands, heathlands, and sedgeland.<sup>12</sup> The Iluka Nature Reserve to the further east is a world heritage rainforest under the UNESCO World-Heritage-Listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.<sup>13</sup> Figure 4.1.8 shows the location of the natural assets adjacent to Woombah.

Biodiversity-wise, there are over 140 animal species in Bundjalung National Park, while 144 bird species were spotted in Iluka Nature Reserve (Figure 4.1.6). Both areas are also the hotspots of Koalas and Black-striped Wallabies.<sup>14</sup>

However, it is situated in between dense vegetation to the north and proximity to the river to the south, Woombah is inherently vulnerable to bushfire and flood hazards. Moreover, Woombah is ecologically sensitive due to its significant biodiversity value (Figure 4.1.9). Considerate actions should be taken in building disaster resilience between wildlife, their habitats and human settlements in Woombah. This also aligns with the framework's principle of embracing Indigenous Knowledge on the co-existence of ecosystem thinking on the 'Human-Nature' relationship.

**Figure 4.1.6** Animal species found in the Bundjalung National Park and the surroundings



Australian Pelican



White-Bellied Sea Eagle



Grey-Headed Flying-Fox



Koala



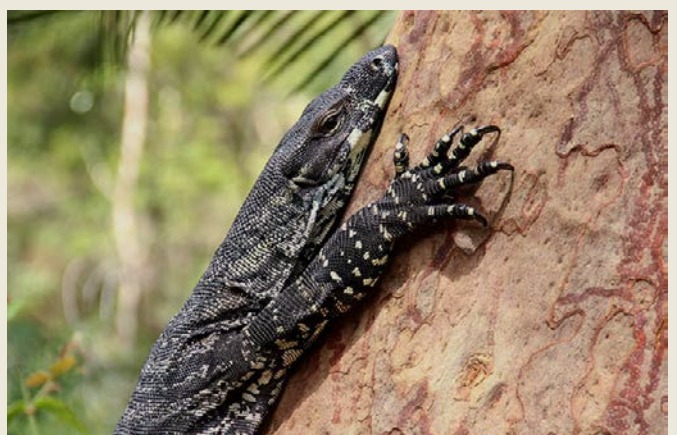
Coastal Emu



Black-Striped Wallaby



Peron's Tree Frog



Lace Monitor

# Connectivity



To Ballina  
Pacific Highway

Mororo Firetrail

Woombah West Firetrail

Woombah East Firetrail

Woombah

Iluka Road

WARREGAN ISLAND

WARREGAN ISLAND

Clarence River

Yamba Road

Ashby

River Road

Pacific Highway

Maclean

To Grafton

Figure 4.1.7



# Natural Assets

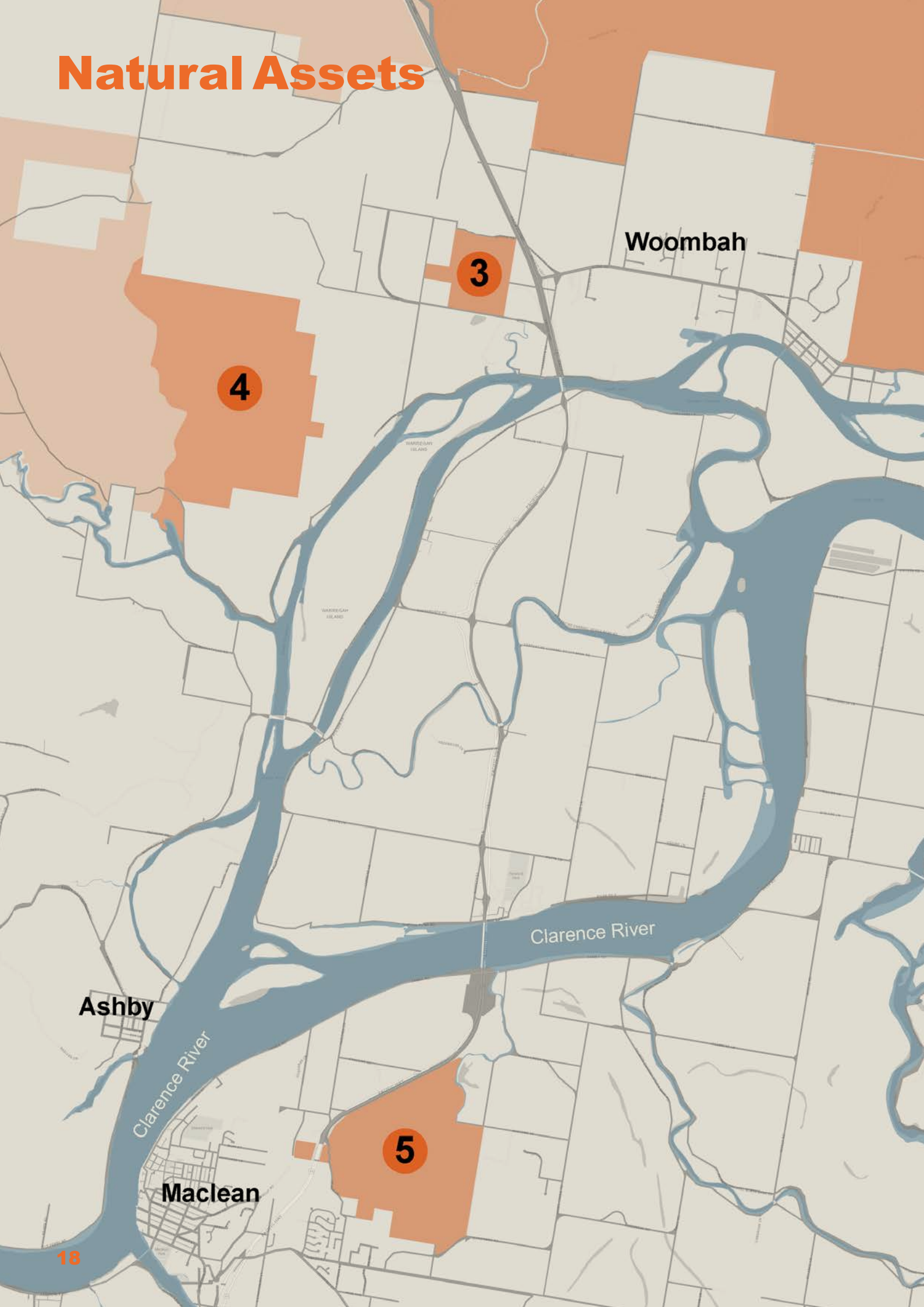
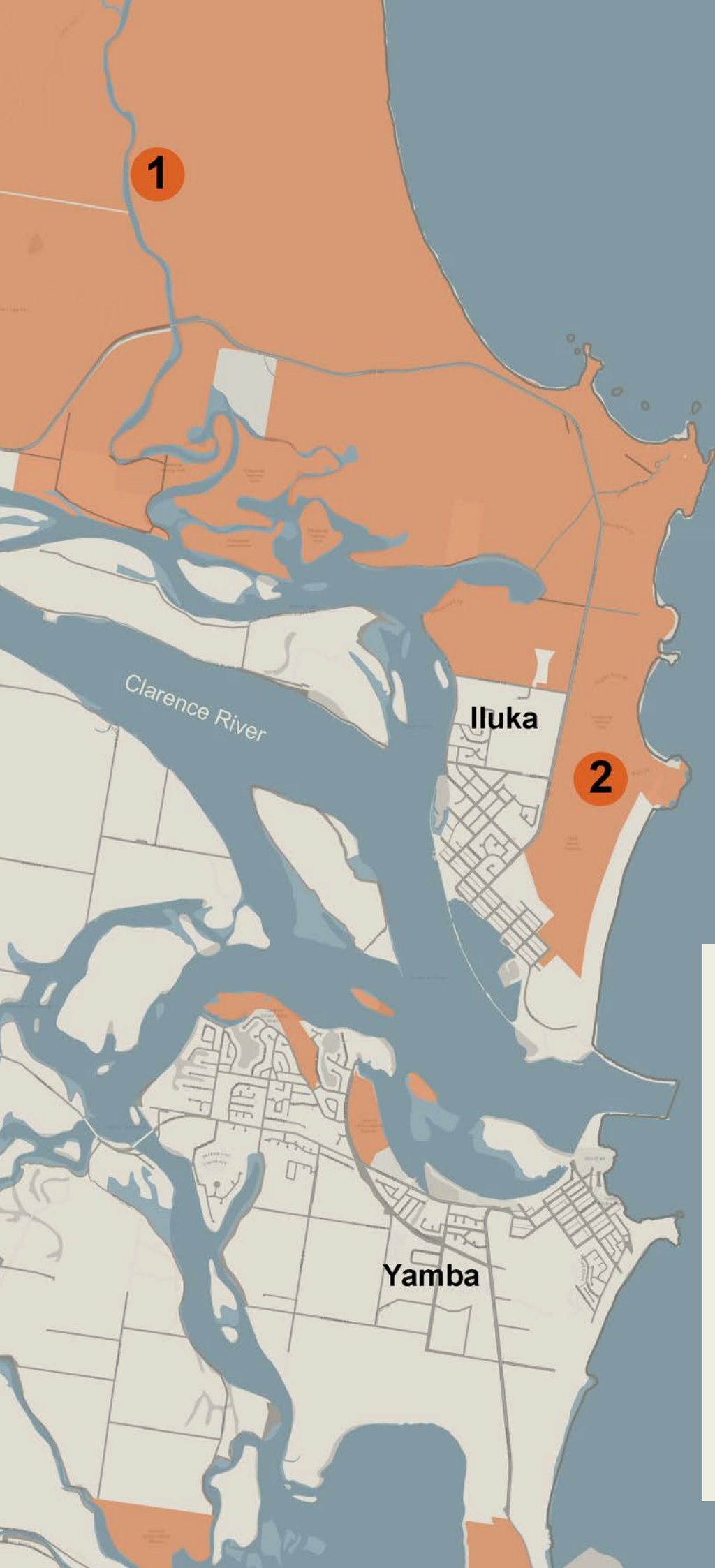


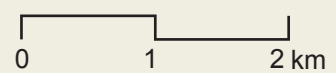
Figure 4.1.8

Pacific Ocean



Legend

- 1** Bundjalung National Park
- 2** Iluka Nature Reserve
- 3** Mororo Nature Reserve
- 4** Chatsworth Hill Nature Reserve
- 5** Yaegl Park
-  National Park
-  State Forest
-  Water body



# Biodiversity and Ecology



Woombah

3

4

Clarence River

Ashby

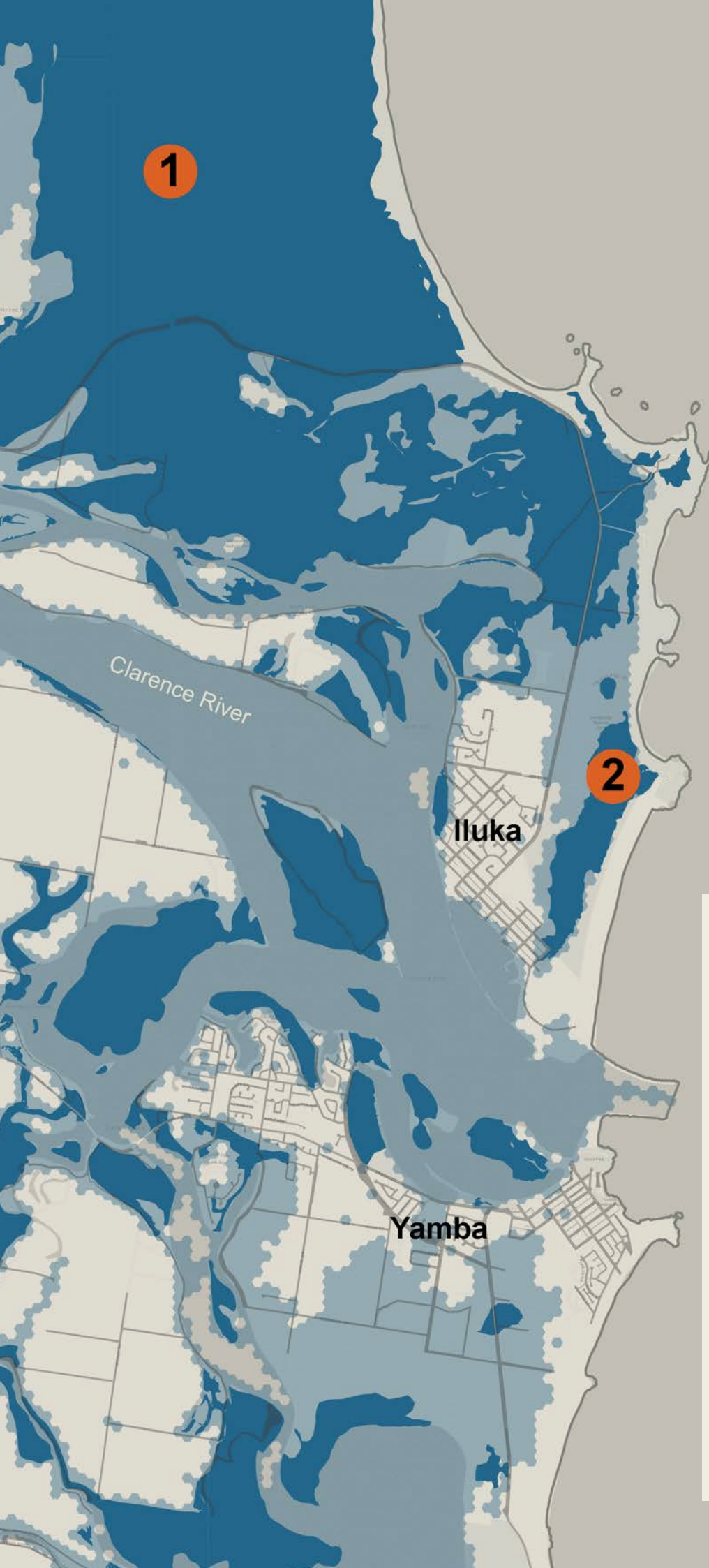
Clarence River

Maclean


5

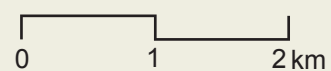
Figure 4.1.9

Pacific Ocean



Legend

- 1 Bundjalung National Park
- 2 Iluka Nature Reserve
- 3 Mororo Nature Reserve
- 4 Chatsworth Hill Nature Reserve
- 5 Yaegl Park
-  High Biodiversity Value  
(Biodiversity value refers to richness of species in the area)
-  High Ecological Value  
(Ecological value refers to the richness of species diversity, the distinctiveness, and naturalness of the habitats)



# 4.1.3 People and Community

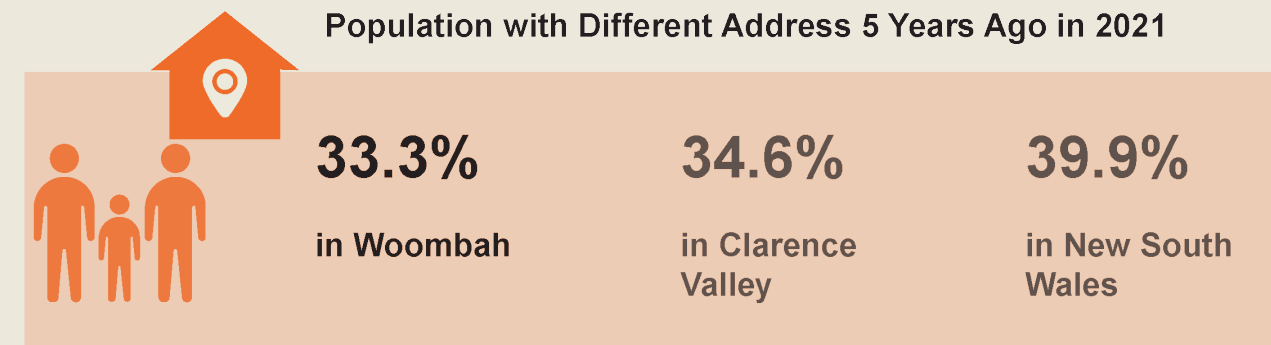
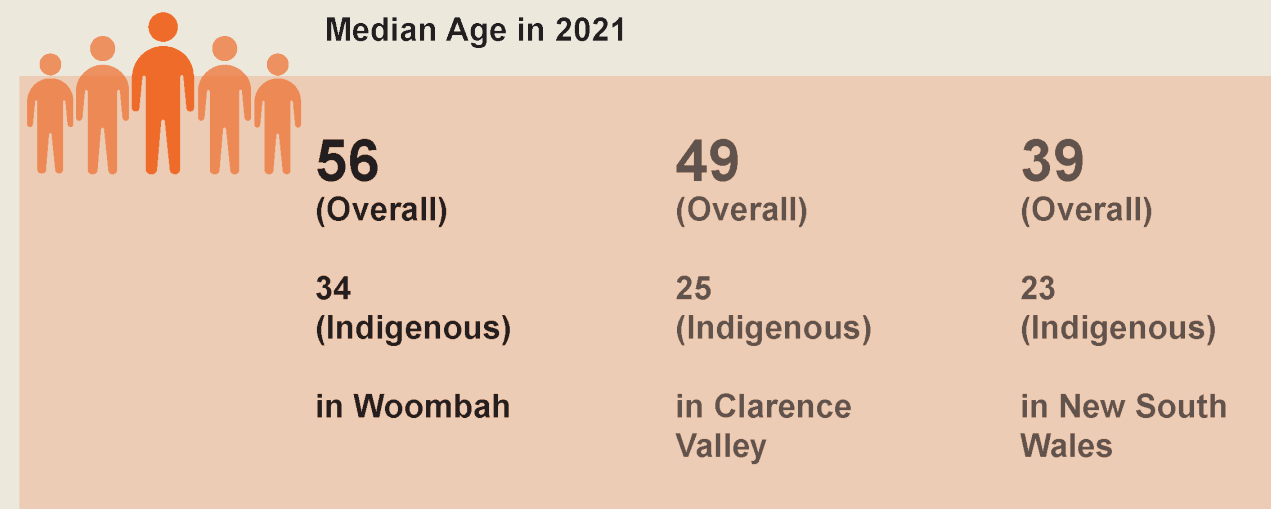
## Woombah's Community Profile

It is inspiring to hear that Woombah has shown resilience in the face of various disasters and a pandemic. Resilience is a critical quality for communities to have in order to withstand and recover from challenging situations. The stories shared by community members and the media can provide valuable insights into the strength and determination of the people in Woombah. Data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) can also provide important information to assess the resilience of a community.

## Relatively Aged Community but a Growing Population

Noted from the median age of Woombah, people living in Woombah are relatively older than people in Clarence Valley and NSW. However, it is not reflected in the Indigenous population, noting this might be skewed due to the small population of people with Indigenous status in Woombah. As heard from anecdotal evidence from the workshop, new young families and artists are moving into Woombah. This is also shown in the population growth from 745 in 2011 to 965 in 2021, and 33.3% of Woombians lived at a different address 5 years ago in 2021.<sup>15</sup> This population trend could also be evidenced by housing affordability in Woombah, which will be discussed in the later section.

Figure 4.1.10 Population and Migration



## Cultural Identity

Due to the colonial period when the first groups of English, Irish and Scottish settlers took land away and displaced Indigenous people, Woombah is mostly inhabited by people with European ancestry. This is contrasted with the Indigenous population being only 3.4%.<sup>16</sup> According to the Clarence Valley Aboriginal Heritage Study, by the start of the twenty-first century, English had become the most common language spoken at home, with only a few Aboriginal people in Clarence Valley LGA able to speak an Indigenous language fluently.<sup>17</sup> This is evident in Woombah where the whole Indigenous population only speak English at home (Figure 4.1.11 refers). Thinking alternatively, this could be a strength in disaster emergencies and resilience planning as there is no language barrier in communication.

Despite this, Yaegl people's connection to Country remains strong as evidenced by their active presence among the wider community and through engagement during the placemaking workshops in Woombah.



Woombah's Ancestry in 2021 (other than Ausalian)

**45.4%**

English

**12.5%**

Irish

**11.6%**

Scottish



Population with Indigenous Status in 2021

**3.4%**

in Woombah

**8.1%**

in Clarence Valley

**3.4%**

in New South Wales



Population Using English Only At Home in 2021

**89.4%**  
(Overall)

100%  
(Indigenous)

in Woombah

**88.8%**  
(Overall)

85.2%  
(Indigenous)

in Clarence Valley

**67.6%**  
(Overall)

93.2%  
(Indigenous)

in New South Wales

## Socio-Economically Vulnerable

Woombah has an IRSD score of 926, indicating that its residents are generally experiencing more disadvantage than those in Clarence Valley and NSW under disaster (Figure 4.1.12).

Woombah's disadvantage is further evident in the following statistics. The population of Woombians in the labour force is significantly lower than Clarence Valley and NSW, because of the dominant retiree-aged community. Meanwhile, there is a higher unemployment rate and a lower median household income compared to Clarence Valley and NSW (Figure 4.1.12).

To reduce the impacts felt by the community during disasters, it is crucial that local and government efforts are made to boost employment, education, and economic activity for both the wider community and the disproportionately affected Indigenous communities that make up the area.

*Note:*

*The ABS created Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), a product that rates Australian regions based on their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage, based on data from the population and housing census, which is conducted every five years.<sup>18</sup>*

*The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is a socio-economic indicator that compiles data on the social and economic circumstances of individuals and families in a given area.<sup>19</sup> The scores are normalised to a distribution with a standard deviation of 100 and an average of 1000, then a percentile number depending on the result is assigned. A low score indicates a generally bigger disadvantage.<sup>20</sup>*



SEIFA Index (IRSD) in 2021

**926**

in Woombah  
(SA1 Level -  
10401108212)

**940**

in Clarence  
Valley

**982**

in New South  
Wales



Population in Labour Force in 2021

**38.7%**

in Woombah

**46.4%**

in Clarence  
Valley

**58.7%**

in New South  
Wales



Unemployment Rate in 2021

**7.2%**  
(Overall)

10%  
(Indigenous)

in Woombah

**6.2%**  
(Overall)

13.8%  
(Indigenous)

in Clarence  
Valley

**4.9%**  
(Overall)

9.8%  
(Indigenous)

in New South  
Wales



Median Household Weekly Income in 2021

**\$953**

in Woombah

**\$1,123**

in Clarence  
Valley

**\$1,829**

in New South  
Wales

## Housing

Given the increasing population moving into Woombah, housing security and affordability will be a concern of socio-economic vulnerability regarding disaster resilience. Woombah has a relatively high homeownership rate, which means the large majority of the population want to stay in the area (Figure 4.1.13). Together with aged households, this implies that the community is vulnerable to disasters with a high risk of loss of property and lives.

Nevertheless, the housing in Woombah is comparatively more affordable than in Clarence Valley and NSW. As heard from the community during the workshop, surrounding areas such as Iluka and Yamba have much higher rental prices, and Woombah offers more affordable housing options, making it an attractive choice for people of various age groups. This is explained by the Clarence Valley Local Strategic Planning Statement in the next section, in which Iluka and Yamba will have economic activities and housing opportunities (Figure 4.1.16). Although a higher rate of renter households in Woombah have rent payments greater than 30% of household income in 2021, only a small group of the population are renting in Woombah (Figure 4.1.13). The median rent in Woombah is also lower than Clarence Valley and NSW.

To make sure Woombah has secure and long-term housing, as well as a high level of emergency accommodation available for those who need it in times of disaster, it is also crucial to building community resilience.

Homeownership Rate in 2021



**83.8%**

in Woombah

**73%**

in Clarence Valley

**64%**

in New South Wales

Population in renting in 2021



**11.8%**

in Woombah

**25.4%**

in Clarence Valley

**31.8%**

in New South Wales

Median Rent in 2021



**\$293**

in Woombah

**\$310**

in Clarence Valley

**\$420**

in New South Wales

Renter Households with Rent Payments Greater Than 30% of Household Income in 2021



**43.5%**

in Woombah

**43.4%**

in Clarence Valley

**35.5%**

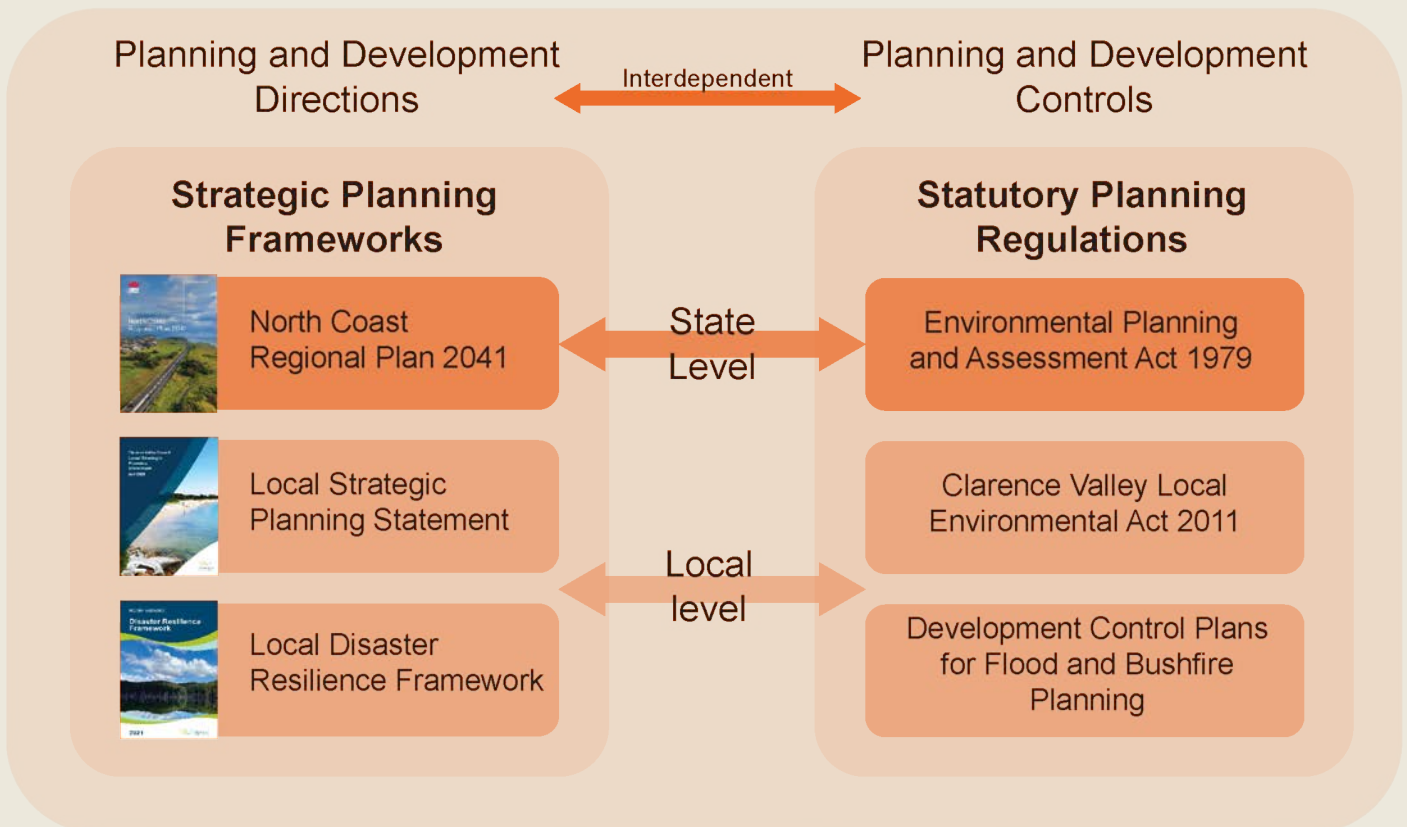
in New South Wales

# 4.1.4 Planning Matters

## NSW Planning System

The planning system in NSW contains two key components, the strategic planning directions and local planning controls. The strategic planning directions give outcomes or targets for the development of an area to achieve several policies such as affordable housing provision, important farmland management, and tourism attraction. On the other hand, the Local Planning Controls monitor the development scale and restrict certain types of land use or development happening in an area, which are regarded as incompatible or inappropriate. Figure 4.1.14 shows a brief overview of the existing planning system in NSW which is also applicable to Clarence Valley and the Woombah area.

Figure 4.1.14 Planning System Overview



## Planning Context in Woombah

### Strategic Planning Policies

According to the North Coast Regional Plan<sup>21</sup> and LSPS<sup>22</sup>, Woombah is not highlighted for any new development recommendations while the nearby towns such as Maclean and Yamba will be the future centres of new housing and employment (Figure 4.1.14). The lack of future earmarked development in Woombah is largely due to the disaster-prone planning overlays in Woombah. As reflected in Figures 4.1.18 and 4.1.19, land in Woombah is heavily restricted by the bushfire-prone land to its north and flood-prone area to its south.

### Planning Regulations and Considerations

Referring to the Land Use Zoning in Figure 4.1.17, most of the areas in Woombah are “Rural 1 Zone - Primary Production” and “Residential 5 Zone - Large Residential Lot”. The Bundjalung National Park is in the “Conservation 1 Zone - National Parks and Nature Reserve”. The Woombah Park is the only “Recreation 1 Zone - Public Recreation”, which is also a Crown Reserve. Uses such as ‘Community facilities’ and ‘Recreation areas’ in those zones would require a development permit from the Council.

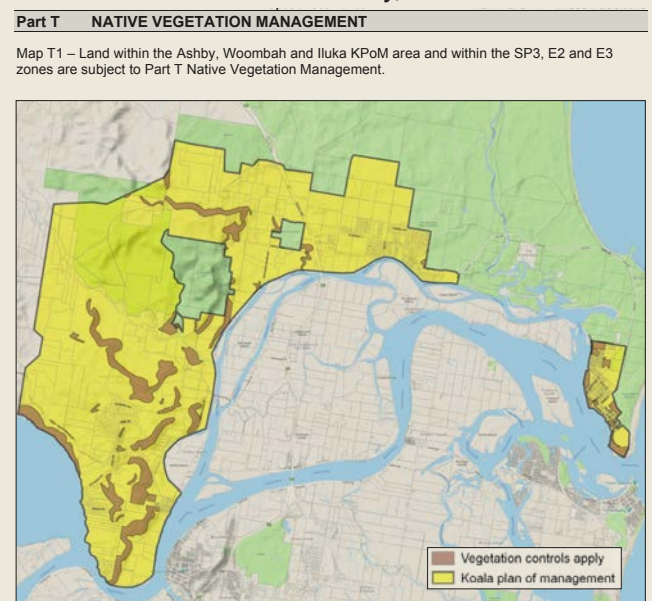
Due to the disaster-prone nature of Woombah, according to the Development Control Plans for Residential Zones<sup>23</sup> and for Development in Environmental Protection, Recreation and Special Use Zones<sup>24</sup>, special controls for bushfire prone land, floodplain management and biodiversity and habitat protection should be examined for any new development. For instance, as stated in Part C23 of the Development Control Plan for Development in Environmental Protection, Recreation and Special Use Zones<sup>25</sup>, any development

on Bushfire Prone Land requires an Asset Protection Zone between a fire hazard and an asset, which must follow bushfire legislation and guidelines and be included in the development footprint. Details of fire and flood resilient requirements should refer to Planning For Bushfire Protection 2019<sup>26</sup> issued by the NSW Rural Fire Services and the Considering Flooding in Land Use Planning 2021<sup>27</sup> issued by the NSW Government.

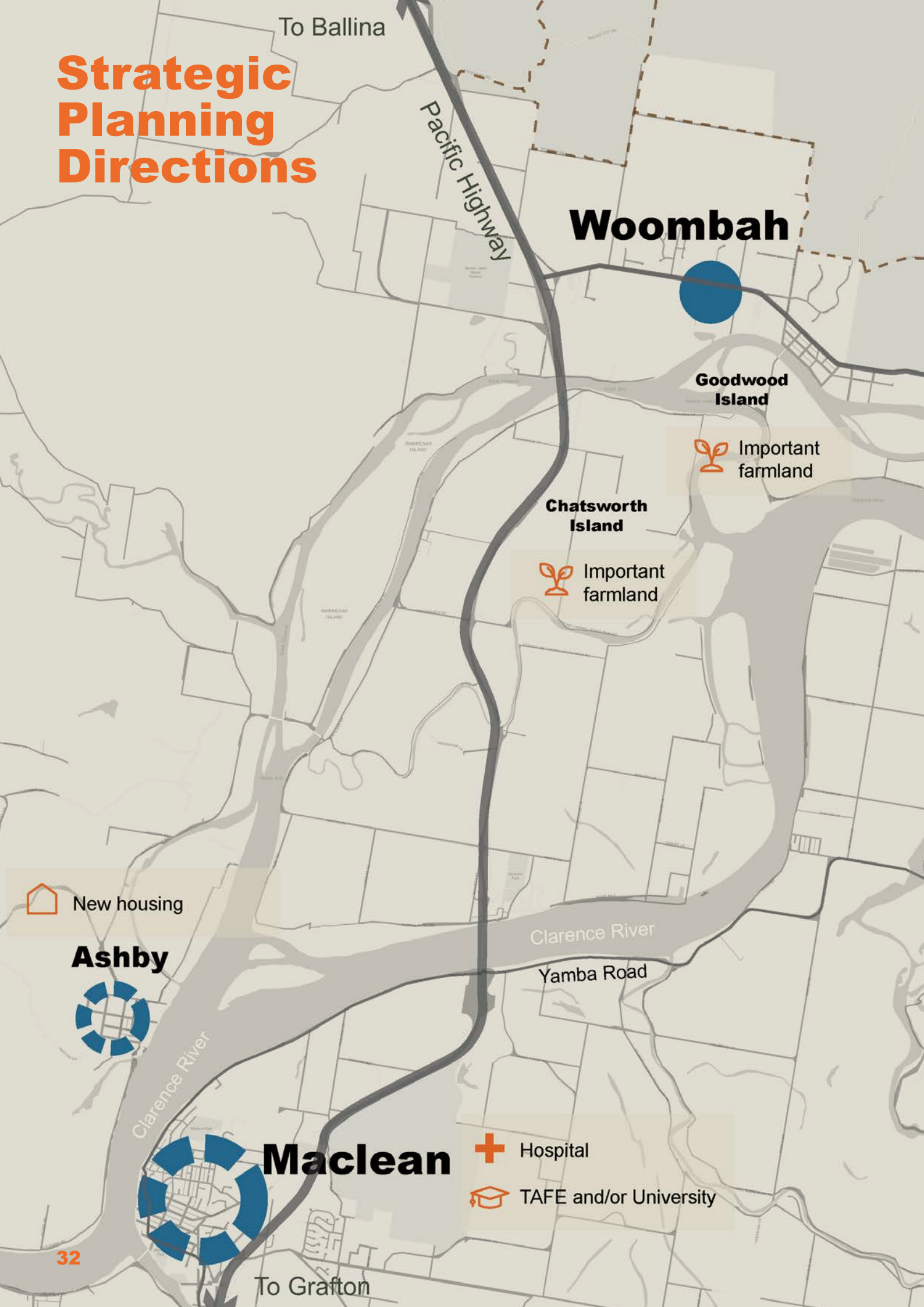
On the other hand, due to the biodiversity and ecological sensitivity of Woombah, planning controls such as the Biodiversity Conservation Land (Figure 4.1.19) and the Koala Plan of Management for Ashby, Woombah and Iluka<sup>28</sup> (Figure 4.1.15) also need to be considered when new developments arise.

It is advised that relevant technical assessments of new development proposals should also be prepared by technical consultants and submitted to the Council and relevant authorities for approval.

**Figure 4.1.15** Koala Plan of Management - Ashby, Woombah and Iluka



# Strategic Planning Directions




To Ballina

Pacific Highway


**Woombah**

**Goodwood Island**

 Important farmland

**Chatsworth Island**

 Important farmland


 New housing

**Ashby**

Clarence River

Yamba Road

**Macleans**

 Hospital

 TAFE and/or University

32

To Grafton

Figure 4.1.16

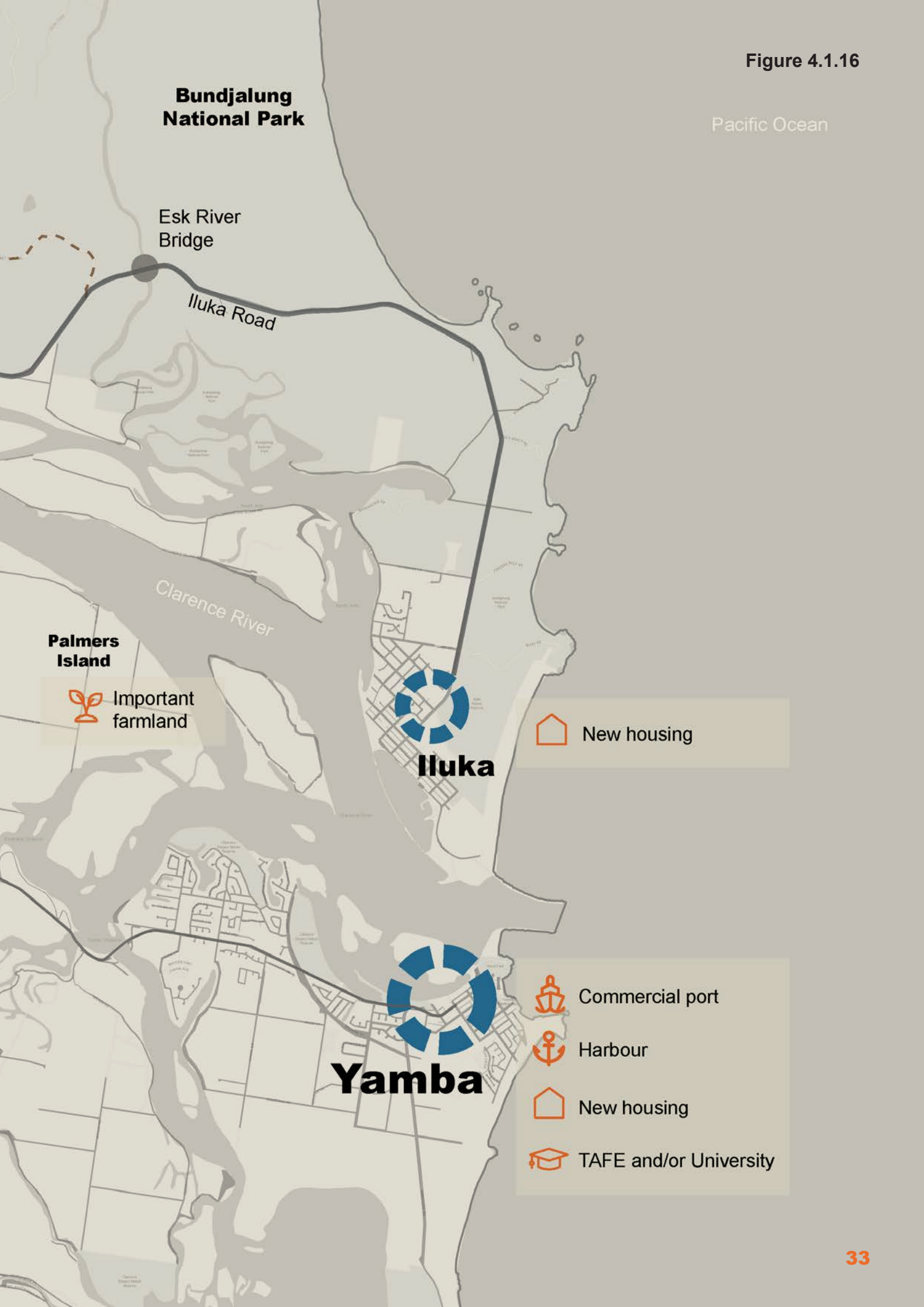




Figure 4.1.17



# Fire and Flood Planning

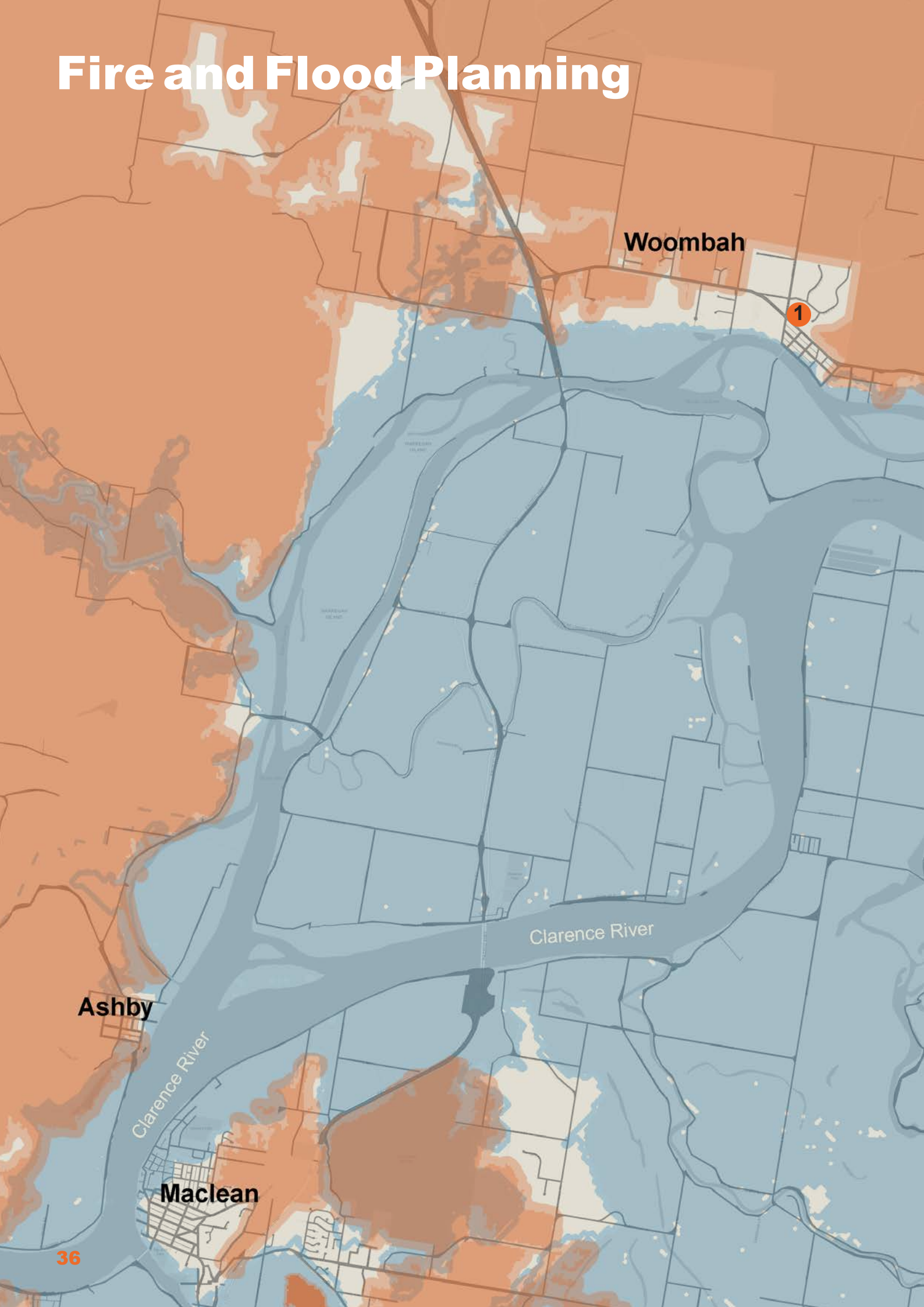
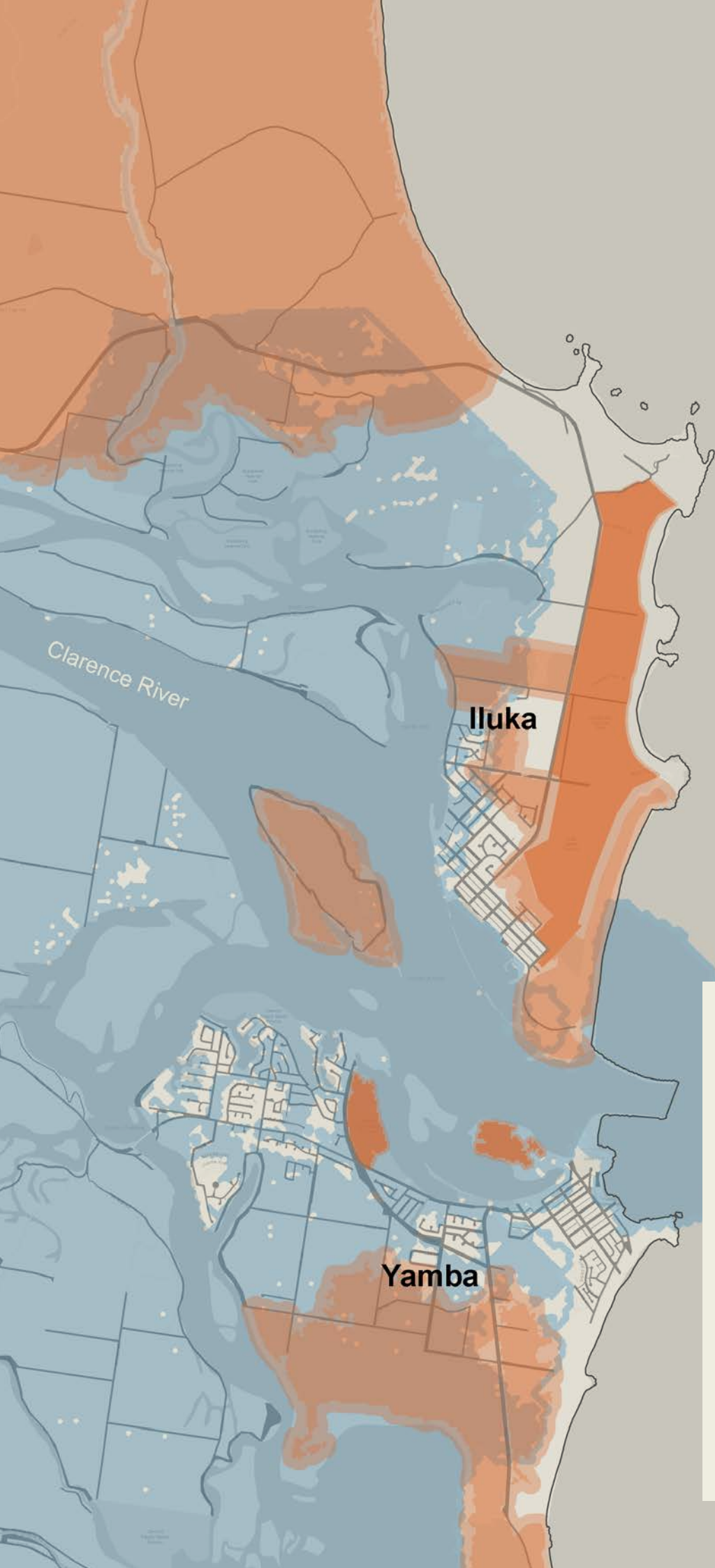


Figure 4.1.18

Pacific Ocean



Legend

-  Woombah Park
-  Bushfire Prone Land - Vegetation Buffer
-  Bushfire Prone Land - Vegetation Category 1
-  Bushfire Prone Land - Vegetation Category 2
-  Flood Planning Area

0 1 2 km



# Fire and Flood Planning

## Woombah Close Up

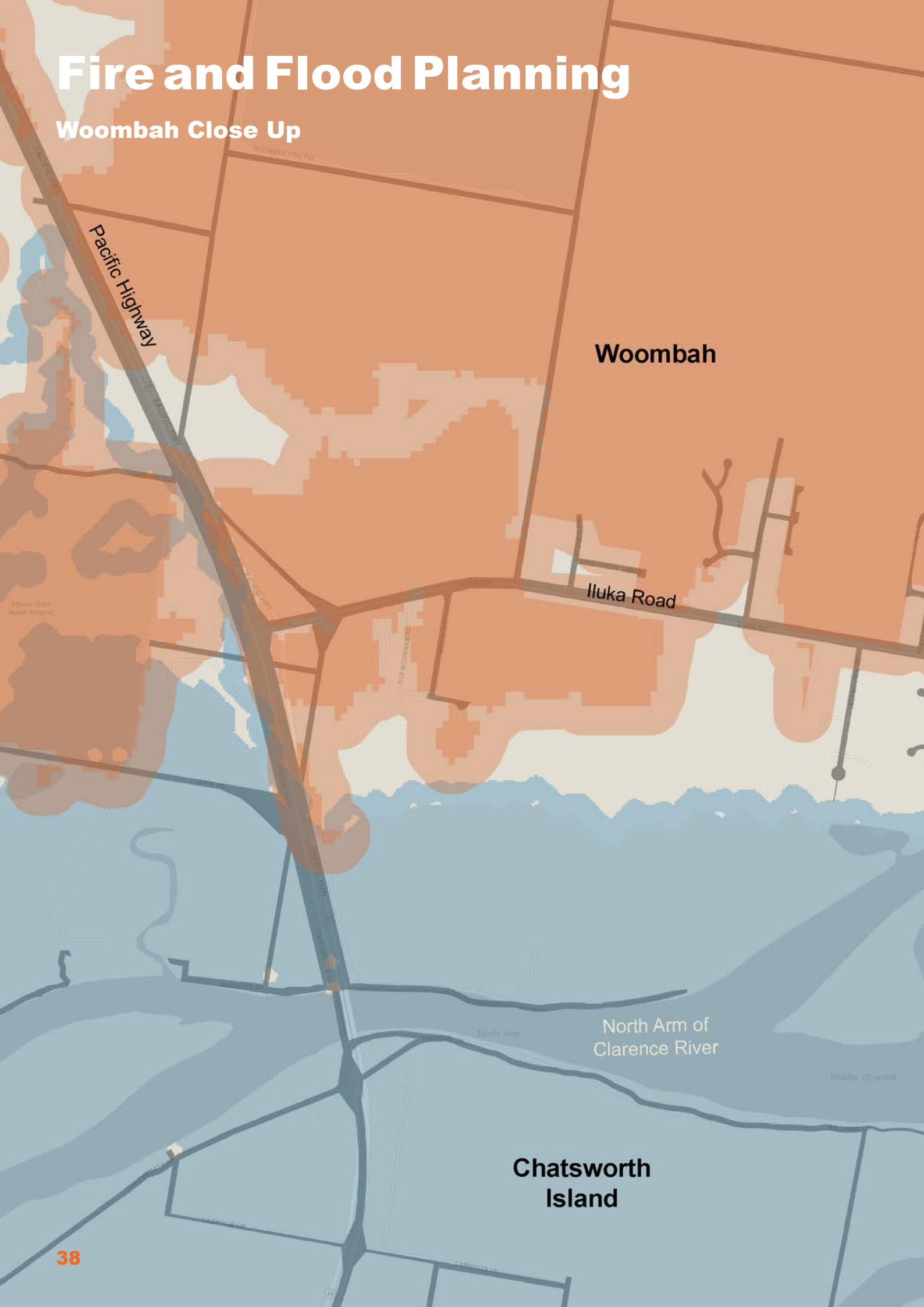


Figure 4.1.19



Bundjalung  
National Park

Goodwood  
Island

1

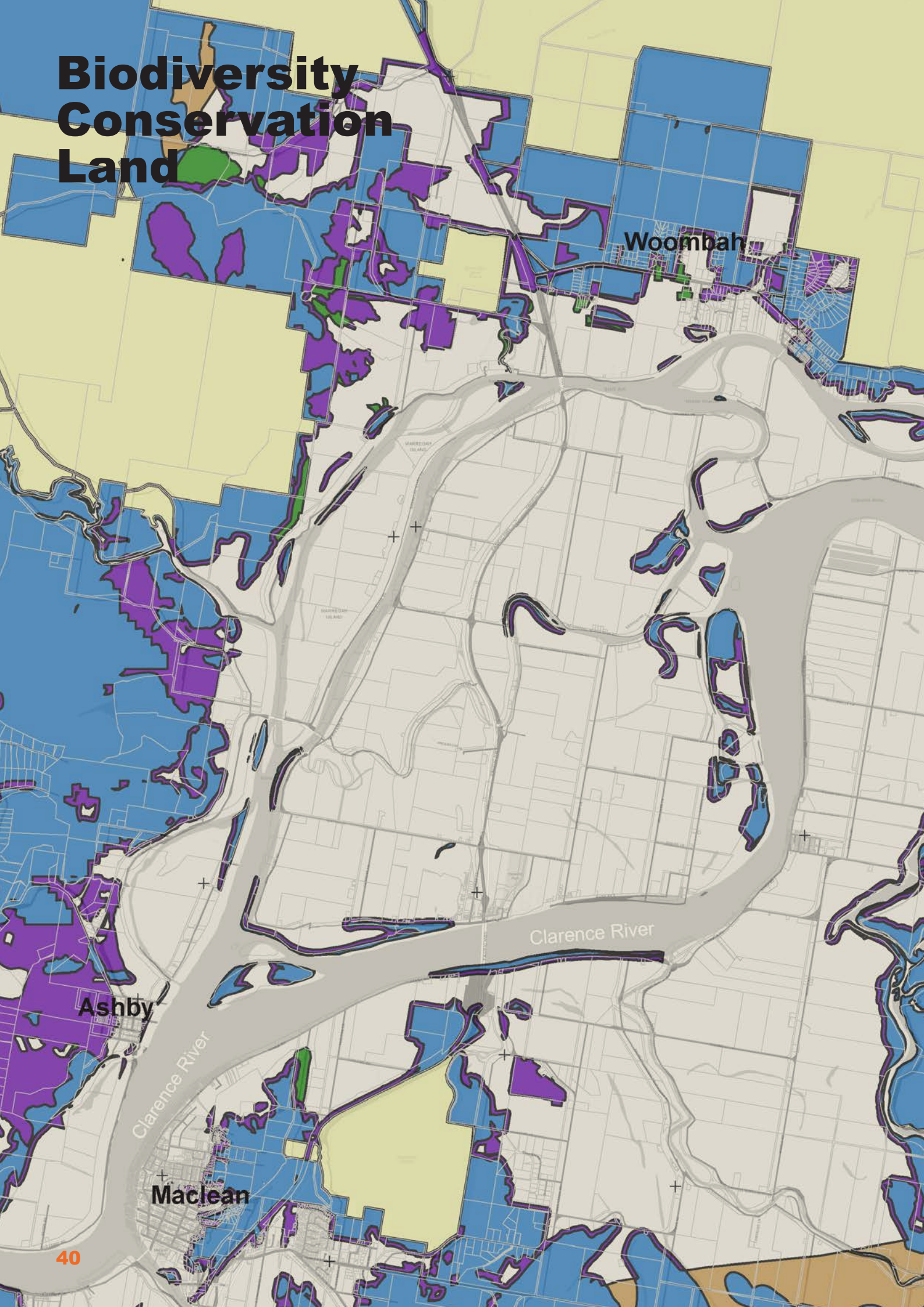
Legend

-  Woombah Park
-  Bushfire Prone Land -  
Vegetation Buffer
-  Bushfire Prone Land -  
Vegetation Category 1
-  Flood Planning Area

0 250 500 m



# Biodiversity Conservation Land



Woombah

Ashby

Maclean

Clarence River

Clarence River

Figure 4.1.20



Bundjalung National Park

Pacific Ocean

Clarence River

Iluka

Yamba

Legend

- Local
- Regional
- Regional Cleared Corridor
- State
- State Cleared Corridor
- State DECC & Forest NSW Estate

0 1 2 km



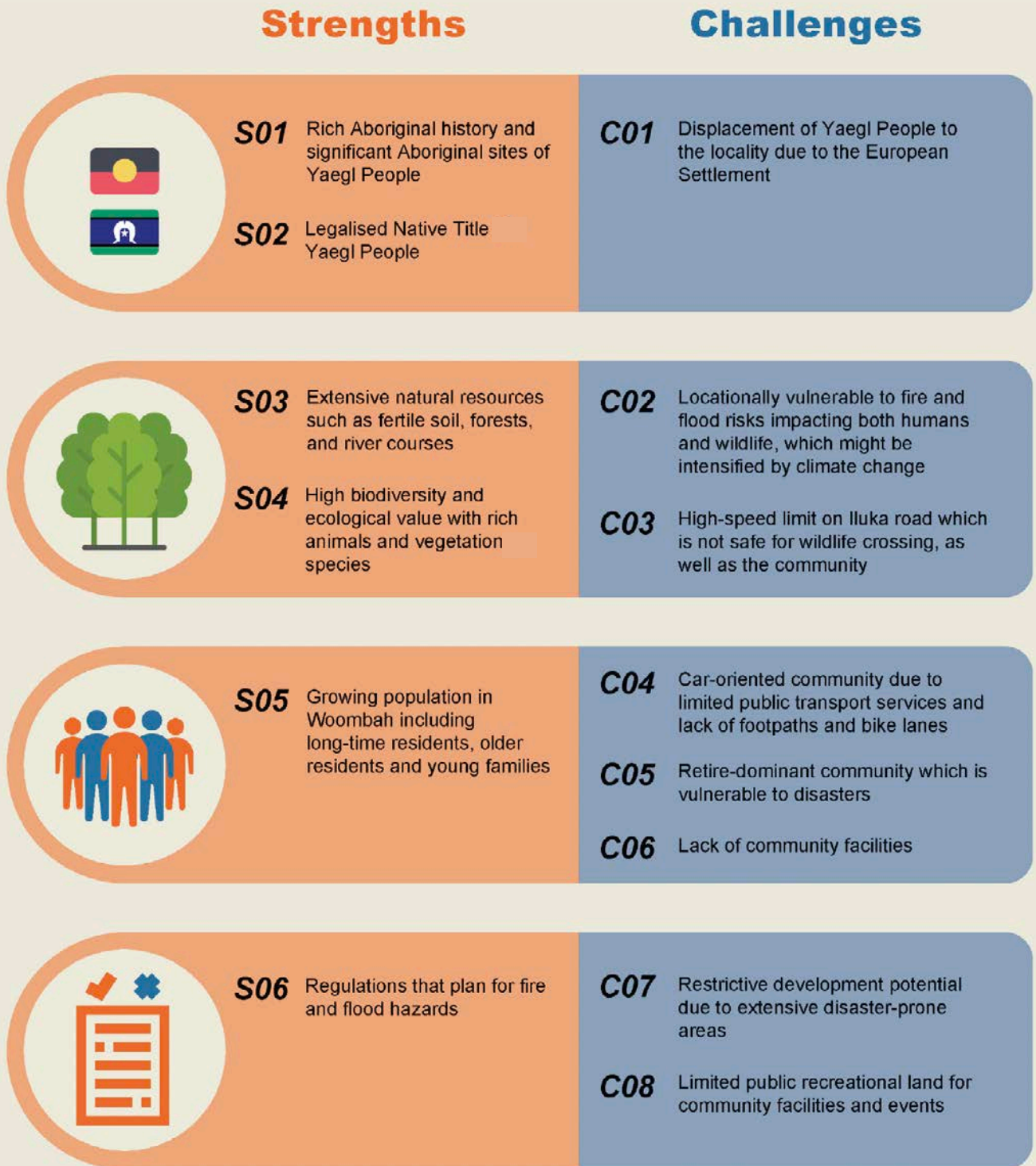
## 4.1.5 What Matters in Woombah?

Drawing on the findings from the previous sections, the strengths and challenges could be divided into four aspects (Figure 4.1.21):

- First Nations History and Cultural Heritage
- Environment and Assets
- Community
- Planning Policies and Regulations

This summary of understanding Woombah from physical, social, cultural and planning perspectives could help to identify the opportunities and constraints or limitations for any new development in Woombah in the later chapters. It also provides general guidance on how the development approach should take place in Woombah without impacting the environment and community.

**Figure 4.1.21** Summary of the Strengths and Challenges in Woombah Context





# What Woombah Wants

# 4.2



# 4.2.1 Experiences and Challenges of Disasters in Woombah

## From 2019 to 2022

### Bushfire and Flood Hazards

Woombah was one of the communities in Clarence Valley most severely impacted by the 2019/20 Bushfires (Figure 4.2.1), followed by the 2022 Flooding alongside COVID-19. It is noteworthy that Woombah has been continuously subjected to fire hazards (Figure 4.2.4).

Tracing back to the climate history in 2019/20, the rainfall was below average while the temperature was above average which exacerbated the fire hazards at that time. As shown in Figures 4.2.4 to 4.2.6, Woombah has been affected by various fire events over time, especially near the Bundjalung National Park.

Unfortunately, Woombah was affected by the flood in 2021/22, when the rainfall was above average (Figure 4.2.2). Although the flood extent did not severely impact Woombah, it blocked the road connection from Woombah to the surrounding towns as revealed in Figure 4.2.7.

### Impact of Climate Change

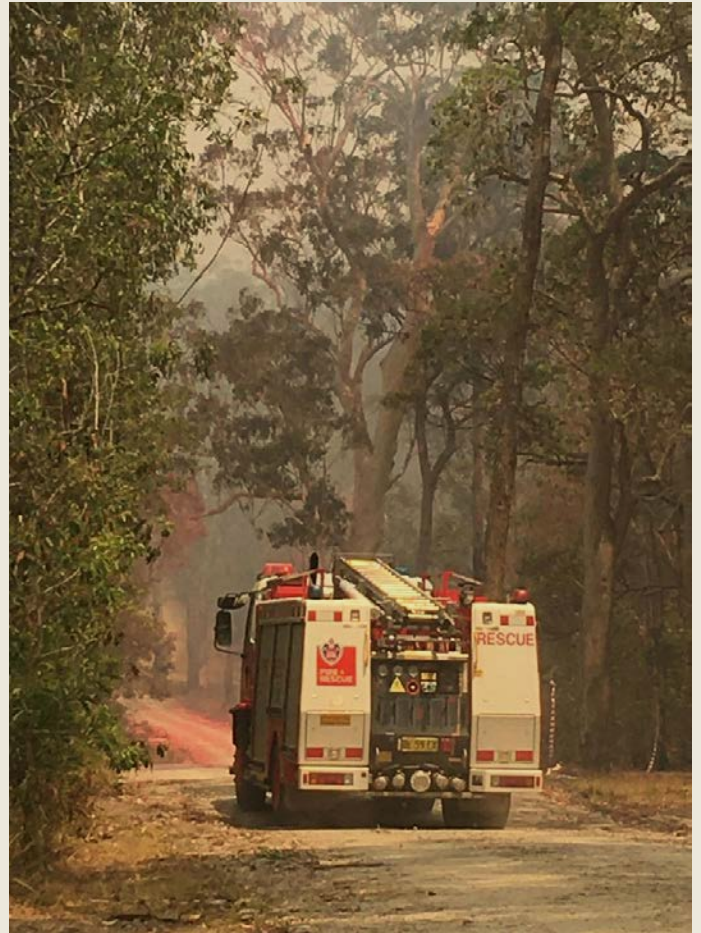
According to the North Coast Climate Change Snapshot, it is anticipated that more fire and flood weather in the area due to climate change.<sup>29</sup> Figure 4.2.8 shows the level of climate risk in Woombah regarding bushfire and flood risk. This implies that Woombah would be suffering from more frequent and uncertain extreme weather causing floods and fires. Hence, this framework intends to build community-oriented disaster resilience in Woombah through community placemaking processes which will be discussed in the later section.

### Local Learning from the Disasters

Woombians' experiences in the two traumatic disasters were recorded by Resilient Clarence (Figure 4.2.3). By learning from the Woombians' experience in disasters, one of the aspirations of the community is to be better equipped for disaster resilience via strengthening community bonding (Figure 4.2.3).

To better understand what Woombians want in the locality in disaster resilience, the following sections give details of what has been done in Woombah and its surrounding areas, and the placemaking workshop conducted in Woombah Park in August 2023.

**Figure 4.2.1** 2019/20 Bushfire in Woombah Context



## Rainfall Below Average in 2019 but Above Average in 2020 to 2022

2019



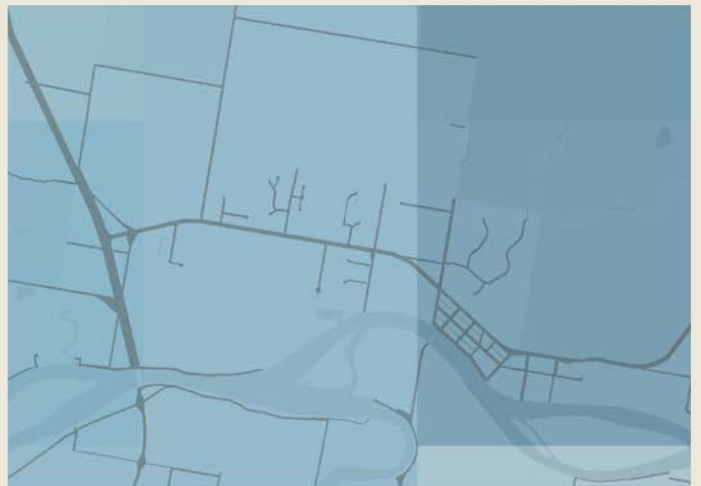
2020



2021



2022



### Legend for Rainfall Maps

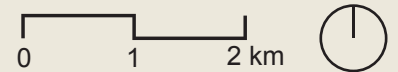
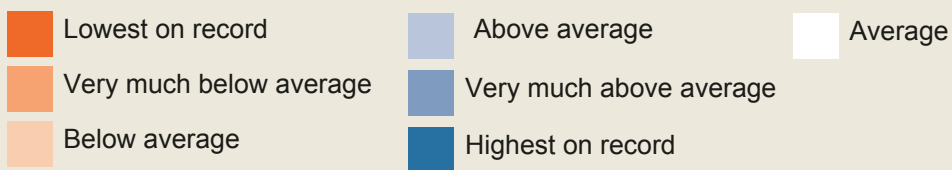


Figure 4.2.2 Climate Pattern between 2019 and 2022

### Increased Average Temperature Over The Years

2019

2020



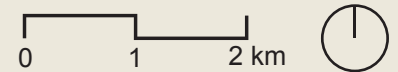
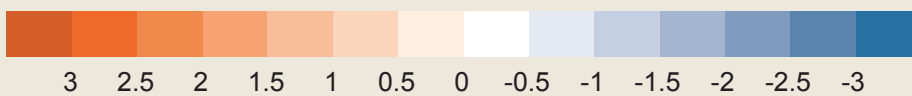
2021

2022



#### Legend for Temperature Maps

12-monthly mean temperature anomaly °C



# RESILIENT CLARENCE



**Jason**  
**Woombah RFS Captain**

“This fire started a long long way away from Woombah... And it was slowly creeping here for where I work is up in Woodburn ... **It was really something that I’d never experienced before** ... it really came within 200 meters of home... **a lot closer to a lot of other homes in Woombah**...it was a really challenging week for us as a community...”



Malabugilmah

ulgil



**Robyn**  
**Woombah Resident**

“**The 2019 fire was my third fire**... And so when I saw Bora Ridge start, I was actually driving past... I did start telling people... Other people were saying well, what do you expect me to do about it? When I spoke to an old RFS firefighter... “nothing to worry about... We’ve got five fire trails and all of that and not one had ever burnt. It won’t get anywhere near Woombah” ... So the day the fire crossed New Italy... It took two hours ... **I was surrounded by 360 degrees and eight hours of continual fighting**... I’m actually dying... **I don’t know what the solution is, except education and sharing your story.**”



**Vicky**  
**Woombah Resident**

“Although **it didn’t actually flood here**, it flooded down there, it flooded over there. **We couldn’t get out... no one could get in.** So we were kind of isolated here for about 10 days... I think we couldn’t get in or out and so those kinds of things do **bring people together**, people have **to support each other**..... We had amazing people just appearing... There were people just camped along the road in their cars and for two weeks... community members would appear all the time with pre-made hot meals and say here I have food for you, which is just amazing... **that’s real community bonding that tends to only come out during disasters...**”

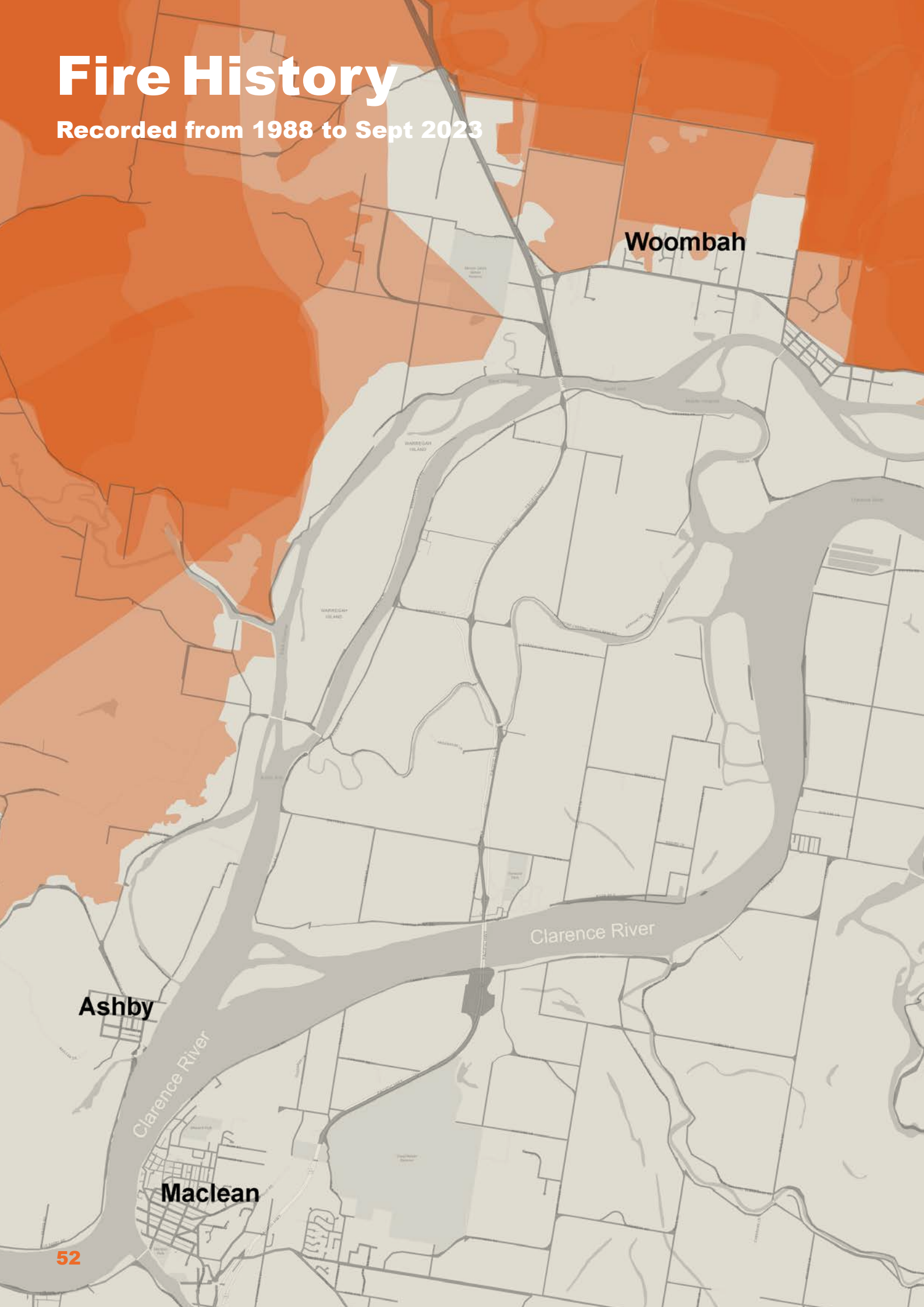


**Kirra**  
**Woombah Resident**

“We’re very **disconnected** from the Community like even after such a traumatic event happened. We went straight into another really hard disconnecting event through COVID -19 and people **didn’t really get to get that support from everybody around ...**”

# Fire History

Recorded from 1988 to Sept 2023



**Woombah**

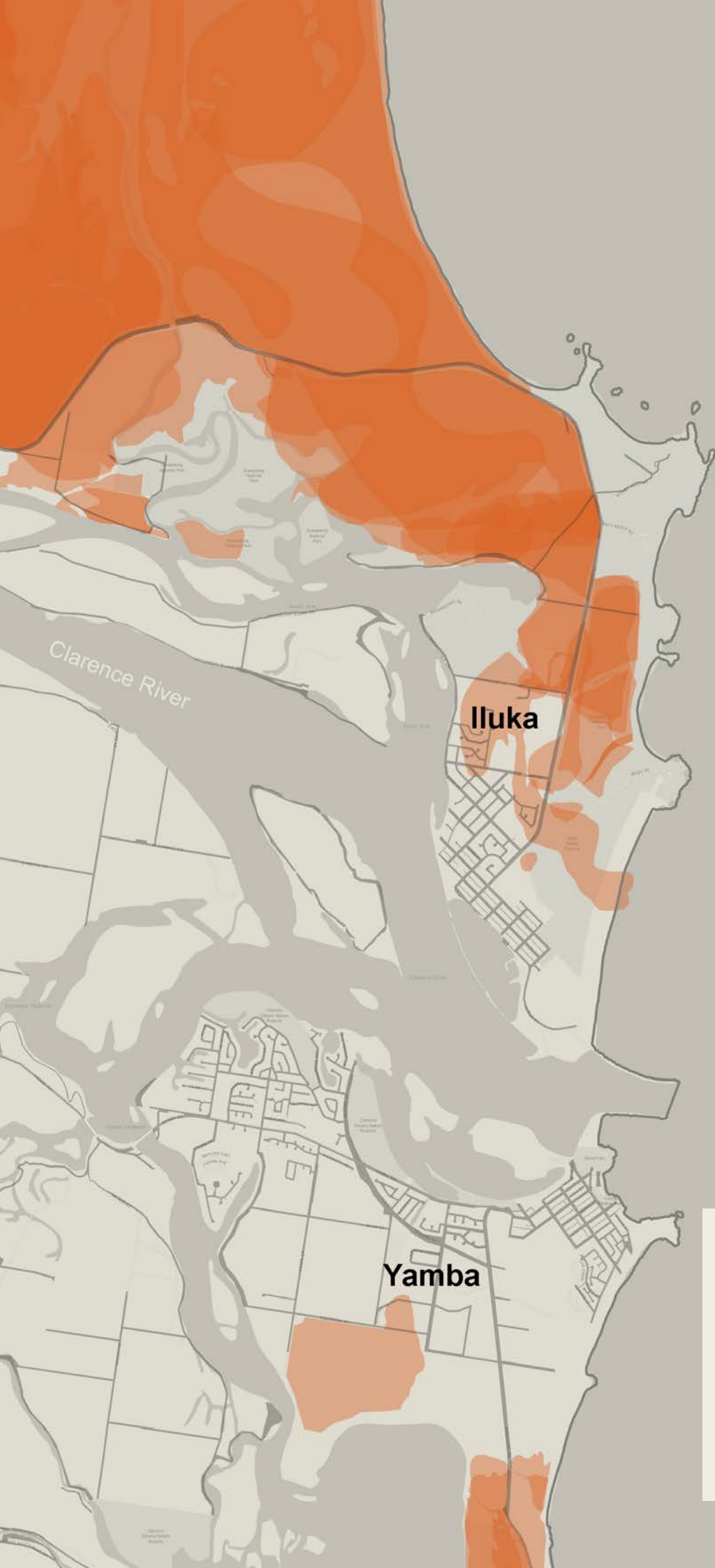
**Ashby**

**Maclean**


Clarence River

Figure 4.2.4

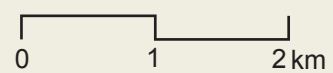
Pacific Ocean



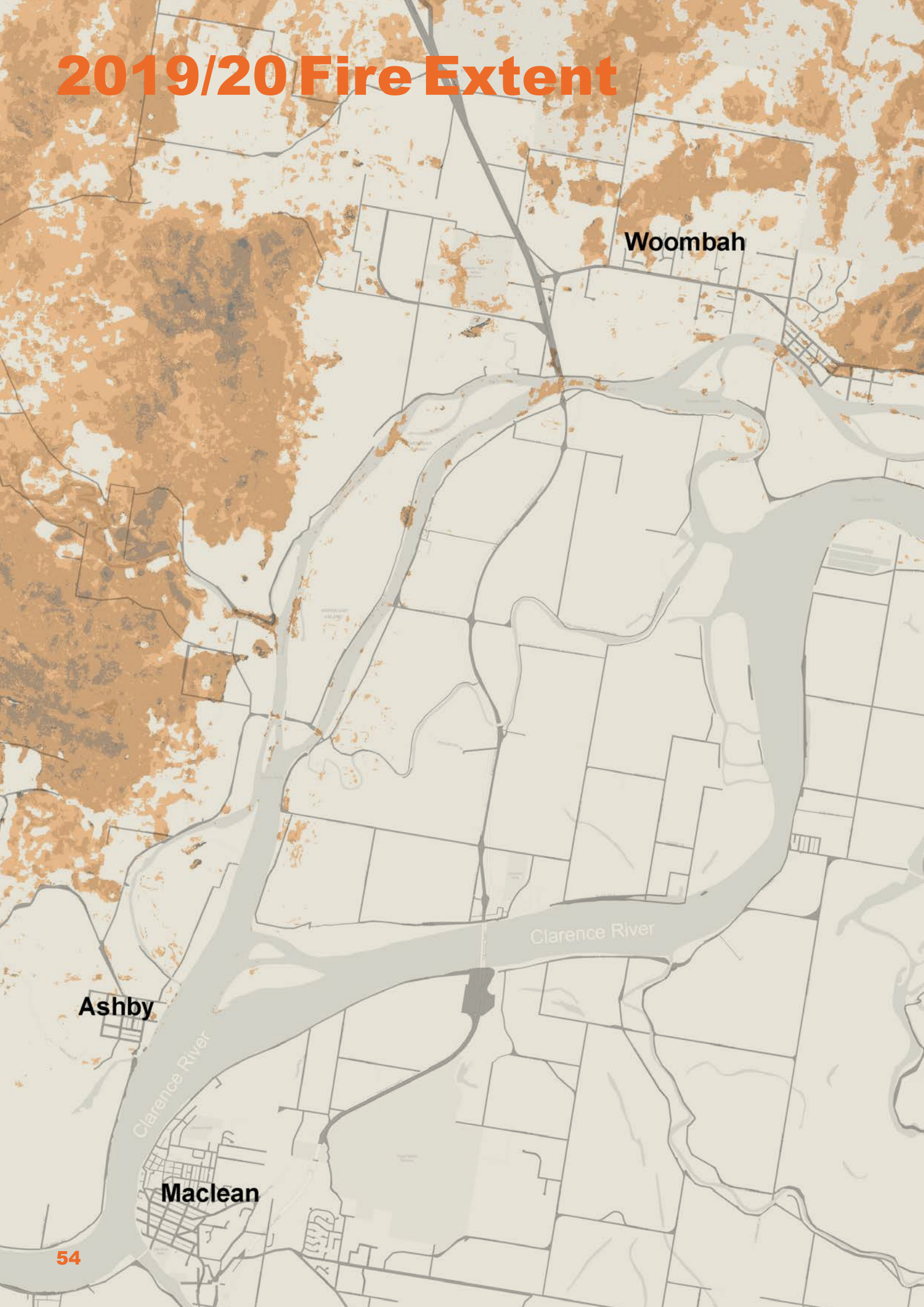
Legend

 Fire records from 1988 to Oct 2023

(The darker the colour, the more the number of fire events.)



# 2019/20 Fire Extent



Woombah

Ashby

Maclean

Clarence River

Clarence River

Figure 4.2.5



# 2019/20 Fire Extent

## Woombah Close Up

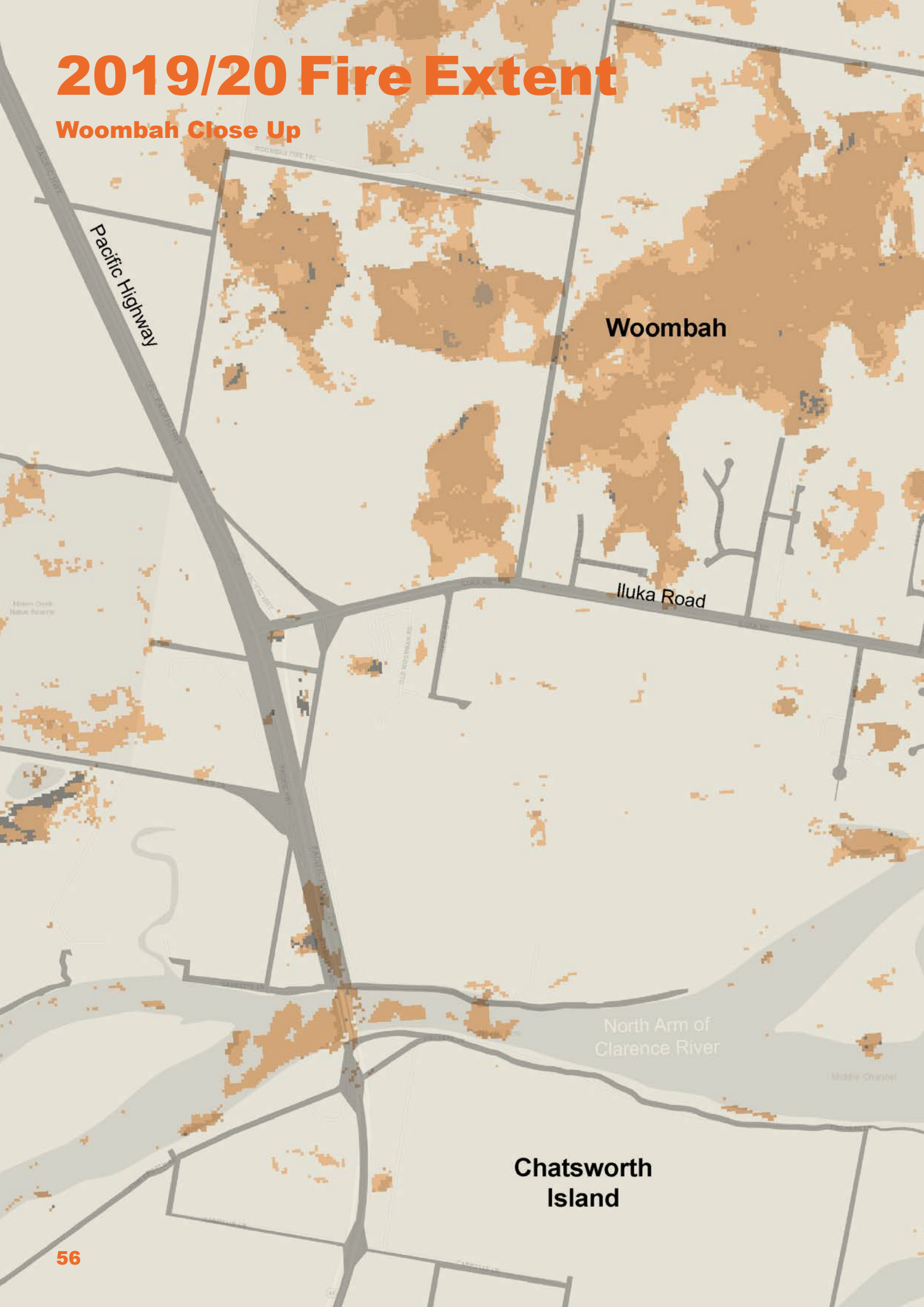


Figure 4.2.6



Bundjalung  
National Park

WOOMBAH EAST FIRE

1

Goodwood  
Island

Legend

1 Woombah Park

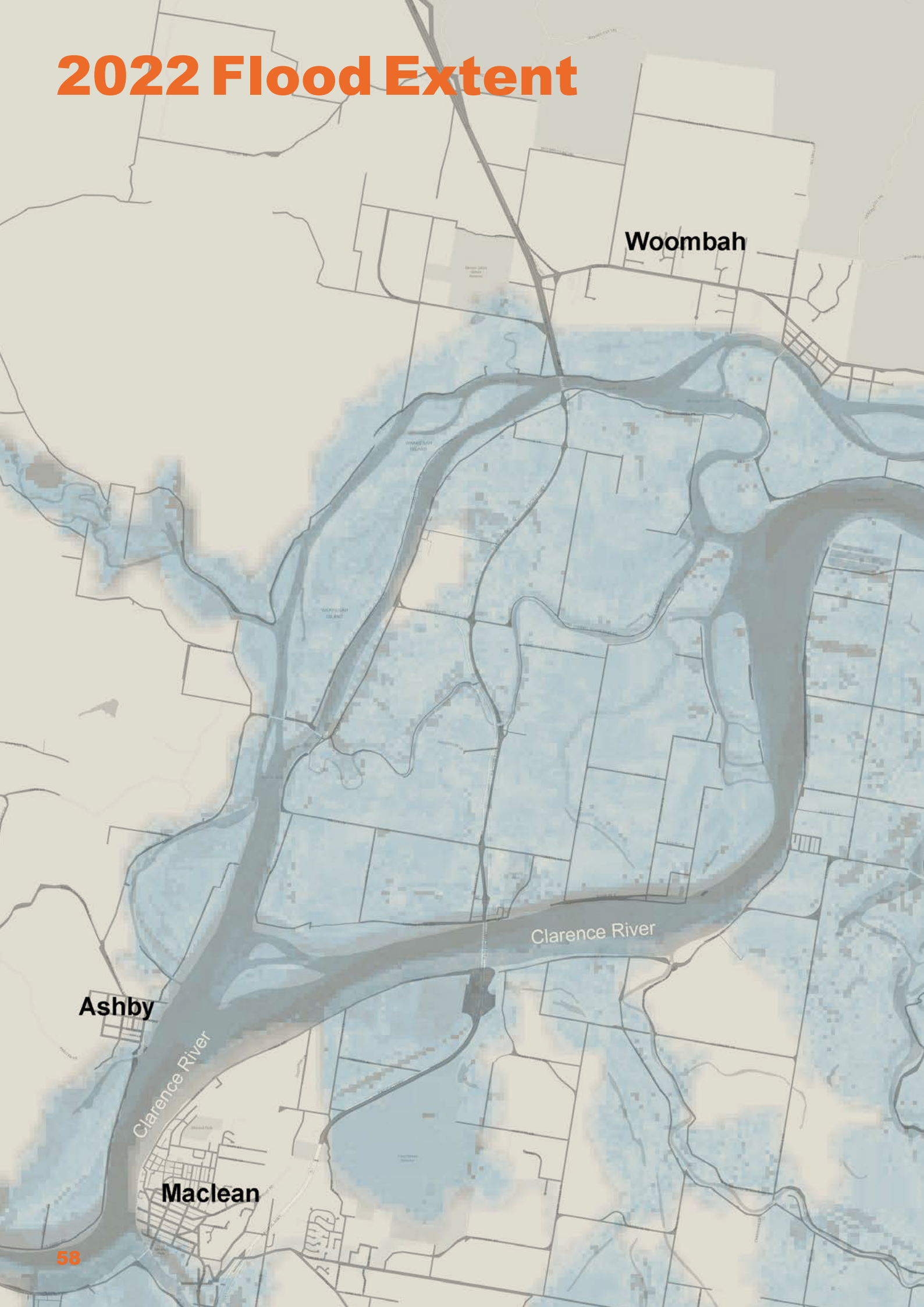
Fire Extent and Severity

(The darker the colour,  
the more severity of the  
fire events.)

0 250 500 m



# 2022 Flood Extent



Woombah

Clarence River

Ashby

Clarence River


Maclean

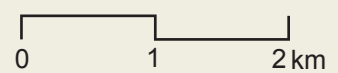
Figure 4.2.7

Pacific Ocean



Legend

-  2022 Flood Extent  
(The darker the colour, the higher the flood level.)



## Bushfire Risk (Based on High Emission Scenario)

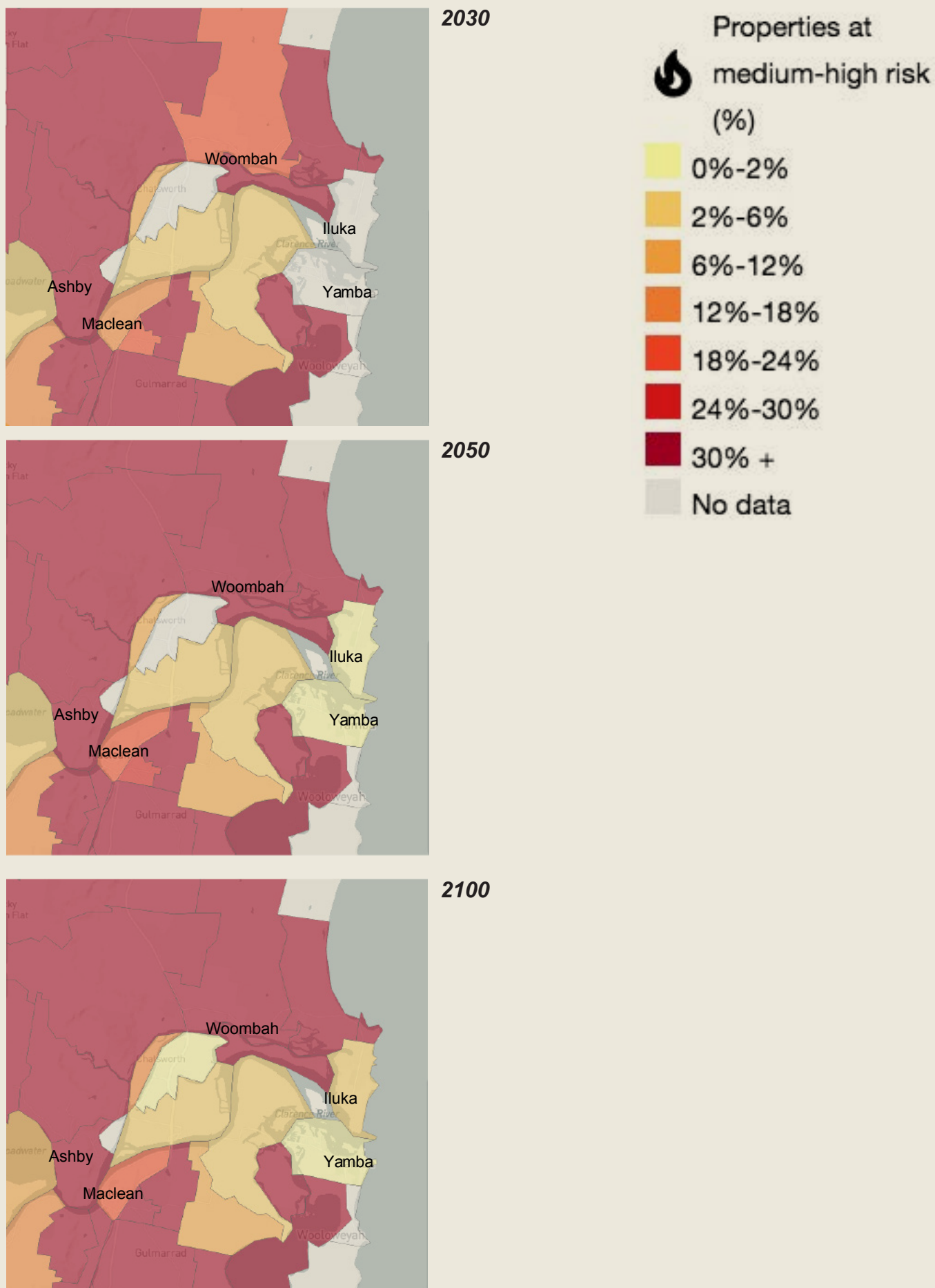
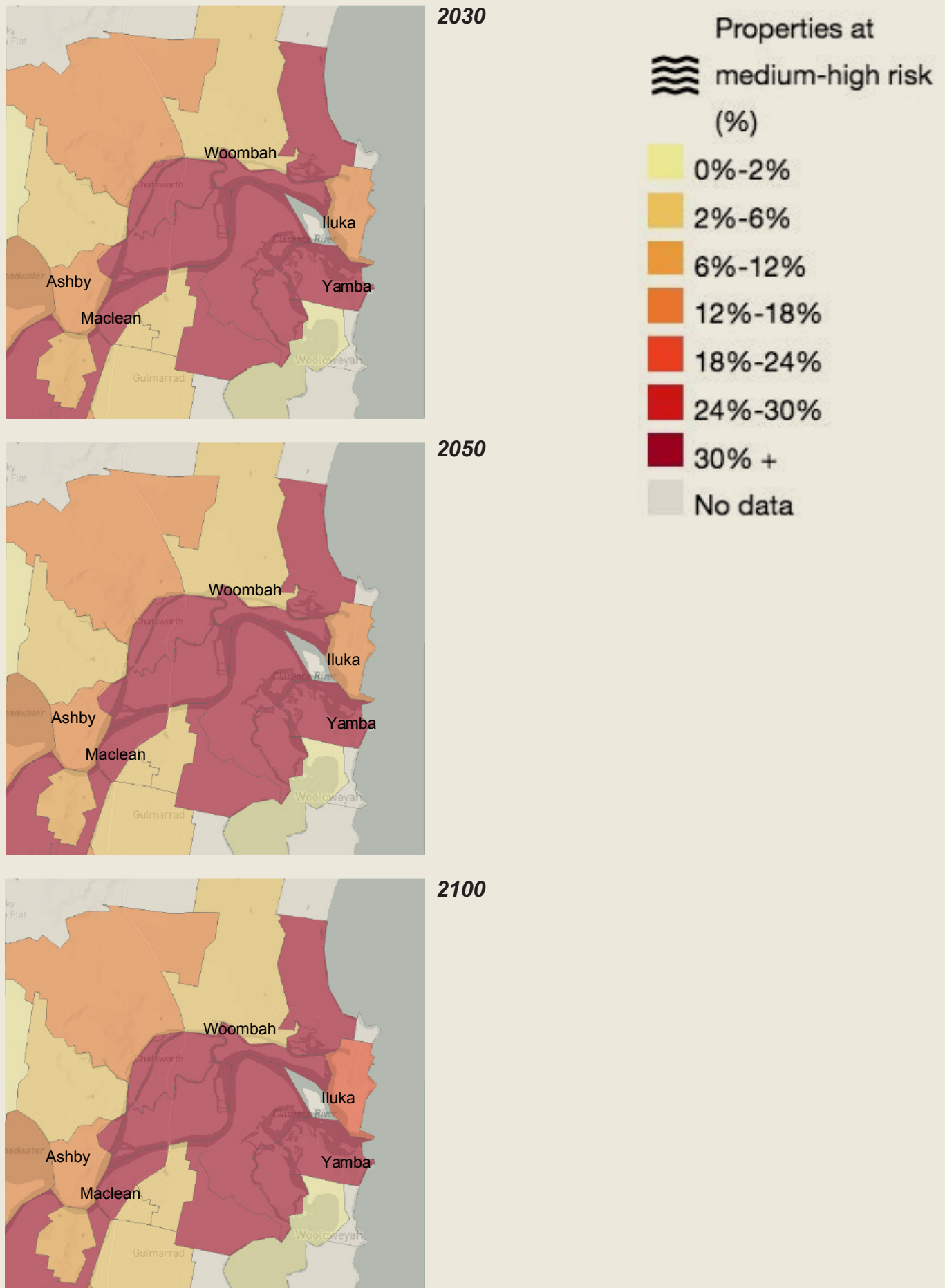


Figure 4.2.8 Climate Risk of Bushfire and Flood in Woombah and Its Surroundings

## Riverine Flood Risk (Based on High Emission Scenario)



## 4.2.2 Community-Oriented Disaster Resilience

### What has been done in Woombah?

#### Woombah Community

The community of Woombah has taken proactive steps to enhance disaster resilience by establishing a community garden. This initiative reflects a forward-thinking approach to community development, recognising the importance of sustainable practices and local self-sufficiency in the face of potential disasters.

The Woombah Community Garden, created by the Woombah Residents Association (WRA), serves as an expression of resilience, fostering a sense of unity and preparedness within the community. By cultivating a shared space for gardening and communal activities, residents are not only contributing to local food security but also building social bonds that are crucial in times of crisis.<sup>30</sup>

*“We are grateful for the support from Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) and The Yulgilbar Foundation, and proud of the workshop activities and virtual resources that have built organisational capacity in the WRA’s Wellness Community Garden and increased awareness and engagement in environmental sustainability initiatives in our community.”*

*Berri Brown  
Woombah Residents Associations (WRA)*

Figure 4.2.9 Woombah Community Garden



## Resilient Clarence

Woombah actively engaged in the Resilient Clarence Project, an outreach program initiated by the Clarence Valley Council to enhance disaster resilience. The project aimed to document and strengthen community resilience in the aftermath of the 2019-2020 bushfires.<sup>31</sup> As part of this initiative, an art roadshow traversed various bushfire-affected communities, including Woombah, facilitating the collection of stories from more than 100 contributors.<sup>32</sup>

Woombah's involvement in the Resilient Clarence Project contributed to a collaborative digital map that weaves together narratives of loss, survival, and resilience.<sup>33</sup> The community actively participated in sharing personal stories, fostering a sense of unity and strength. The digital map, encompassing multimedia elements such as videos and audio pods, provides a comprehensive overview of the local impact on the environment, threatened species, and the ongoing regeneration of the landscape.<sup>34</sup>

The project's conclusion was marked by a celebratory event at Grafton Regional Gallery in November, where community leaders connected and fortified relationships.<sup>35</sup> This networking opportunity not only celebrated the achievements of the project but also facilitated ongoing collaboration between neighbouring communities.

**Figure 4.2.10** Resilient Clarence Gallery Event in 2022



## Fire to Flourish

The Woombah placemaking project is a community-driven initiative that marks a transition from bushfire recovery to disaster preparedness in Woombah. Community engagement is a key priority in the project, and processes include (Figure 4.2.12):

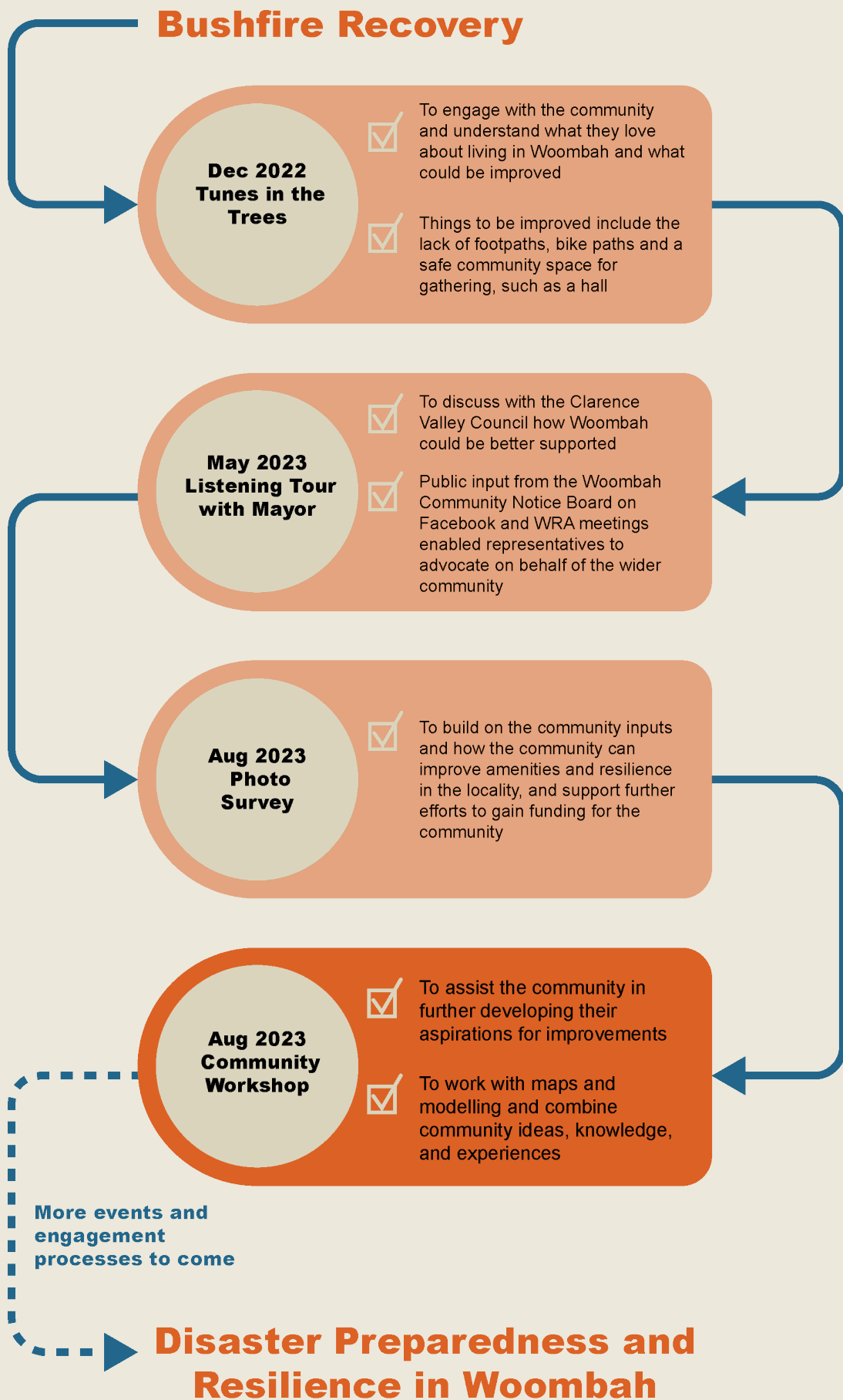
- Tunes in the Trees in December 2022, organised by the WRA with support from Resilient Clarence and Fire to Flourish.
- A listening tour in May 2023, where residents engaged with Clarence Valley Mayor Ian Tiley and Councillors at the Woombah Community Garden.
- A photo survey in August 2023, initiated by Fire to Flourish where residents submitted three images showcasing what they love about Woombah and highlighting their concerns.
- Further developing on local people's aspirations, a placemaking workshop was also held in August 2023, which will be discussed in the later section.

There have been continuous engagement processes between Fire to Flourish, the Woombah community, and the Yaegl Community.

Figure 4.2.11 *Tunes in the Trees in 2022*



Figure 4.2.12 Key Engagement Processes towards the placemaking project in Woombah



CLARENCE VALLEY  
**FIRE to FLOURISH**  
 Strength through community-led action

Fire to Flourish exists to enable communities to strengthen their resilience to disaster

for more info:

gunbaunggir  
 baunggir  
 waagay

Artworks by:  
 Frances Belle-Parker (Yaegl)  
 Cinnamon Jarrett (Gumbayngirr)  
 Kim Healey (Bundjalung)



**Woombah  
 wants a HALL!**



Figure 4.2.13 Community Engagement in Tunes in the Trees in 2022



## Building on current community initiatives

According to the Rural Fire Services, there are only several Neighbourhood Safer Places during fire hazards (Figure 4.2.16). To further explore other options in disaster emergencies and preparedness, building upon community initiatives leverages the existing resources and past successes to create a more connected and thriving environment. By examining the surrounding places and community facilities, Woombians are interested in exploring ICOPE and Ashby Community Hall, to build on current community initiatives.

### Iluka Community Organisation Planning for Emergencies (ICOPE) Inc

ICOPE plays a role in both disaster emergencies and community projects and events. It was formed in September 2022 by 15 Iluka residents concerned about the isolation Iluka had experienced during past fires and floods, particularly the 2022 floods.<sup>36</sup> Their mission is to empower and educate their community to proactively prepare for and effectively respond to emergencies, while fostering a strong sense of connectedness and resilience.<sup>37</sup> They strive to create a safer and more prepared community through collaborative efforts and innovative solutions.<sup>38</sup>

During a disaster, ICOPE serves as a central communication hub during emergencies. They broadcast updates, evacuation procedures, and emergency contact details to residents.<sup>39</sup> A network of dedicated volunteers work in collaboration with local authorities, emergency services, and government agencies to assist with evacuations during disasters and help coordinate resources and logistics within the community.<sup>40</sup> This

partnership is essential for effective disaster response.

After a disaster, ICOPE is involved in organising cleanup and rebuilding projects. It plays a role in long-term recovery efforts, where it assists in developing evacuation plans in areas prone to bushfires or floods.<sup>41</sup> Additionally, they offer disaster preparedness training and educational programs to community members.<sup>42</sup> They are able to continuously assess and adapt its disaster response strategies based on the lessons learned from previous emergencies.<sup>43</sup>

**Figure 4.2.14** Community Events hold by ICOPE



## Ashby Community Hall

Ashby Community Hall represents a self-built, community-led idea for a community facility. It provides a place for residents to come together during times of need, such as in emergencies or disasters, contributing to community resilience.<sup>44</sup> It can also host a wide range of events making it a hub for various social and cultural activities.<sup>45</sup>

In terms of management, it is locally owned and operated. This means that decisions about the hall's use, scheduling, and rules are made by community members, ensuring that it aligns with the specific needs and preferences of the people it serves.<sup>46</sup> It also demonstrates the community's empowerment and self-reliance. Residents came together and actively participated in the planning, construction, and maintenance of the hall, thereby fostering a strong sense of community pride.<sup>47</sup> Moreover, since the hall is situated on the Crown Reserve, it is run by volunteers who fall under the title of NSW Crown Land Managers.<sup>48</sup>

Financially speaking, community-led initiatives often seek cost-effective solutions for building and maintaining facilities. This can help keep operational costs low, making the facility sustainable in the long term. The hall has a volunteer-run market held on the third Sunday of each month, with proceeds paying for the upkeep of the park.<sup>49</sup>

Figure 4.2.15 Ashby Community Hall



# Neighbourhood Safer Places



Figure 4.2.16

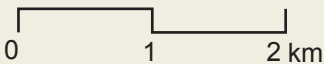


Pacific Ocean

Legend

- 1 Bimbimbi Caraven Park
- 2 Charlie Ryan Memorial Park
- 3 Iluka Community Hall
- 4 Chatsworth Island Hall
- 5 Old Ferry Approach
- 6 Maclean Showground

*Note: Neighbourhood Safer Places are a place of last resort during a bush fire emergency.*



# 4.2.3 Woombah Placemaking Workshop

## Workshop Brief

A Community Placemaking Workshop was held on August 20th, 2023 in Woombah Park by community leads of the Fire to Flourish program and Monash University students of the Master of Urban Planning and Design and Master of Architecture.

The workshop incorporated survey results, ensuring that community input guides the planning process.

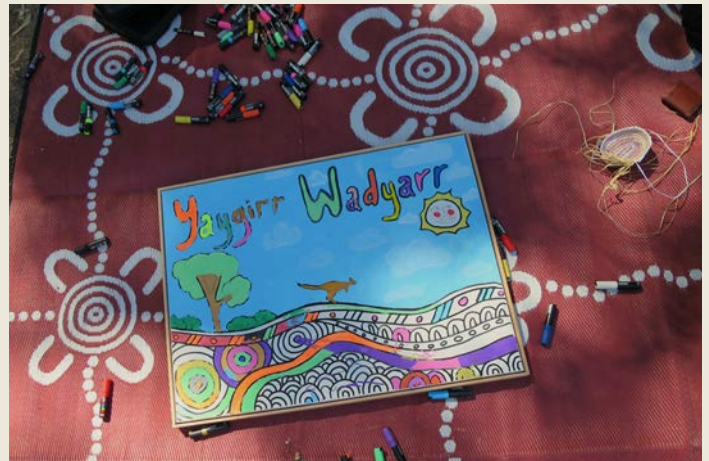
A special thanks to Mudyala for preparing and holding the children's activities alongside the workshop, as well as offering valuable insights about what Yaegl community want.

## Purpose

The workshop was designed to encourage participants to share their needs and visions, prioritise their ideas and think forward on their aspirations for Woombah.

The workshop activities assisted participants in visualising their thoughts and in developing a collective idea by bringing up negotiations and discussions into focus themes.

**Figure 4.2.17** Children's Activity  
Alongside the Workshop in Woombah Park



Activity 01

Figure 4.2.18 Woombah Community Workshop



Activity 02



Activity 03



Activity 04



## Designing the Workshop

The workshop design processes follow the “what, where and how” approach (Figure 4.2.19). In preparation for the workshop, there were several discussions between the Community Team and students.

Figure 4.2.19 Workshop Design

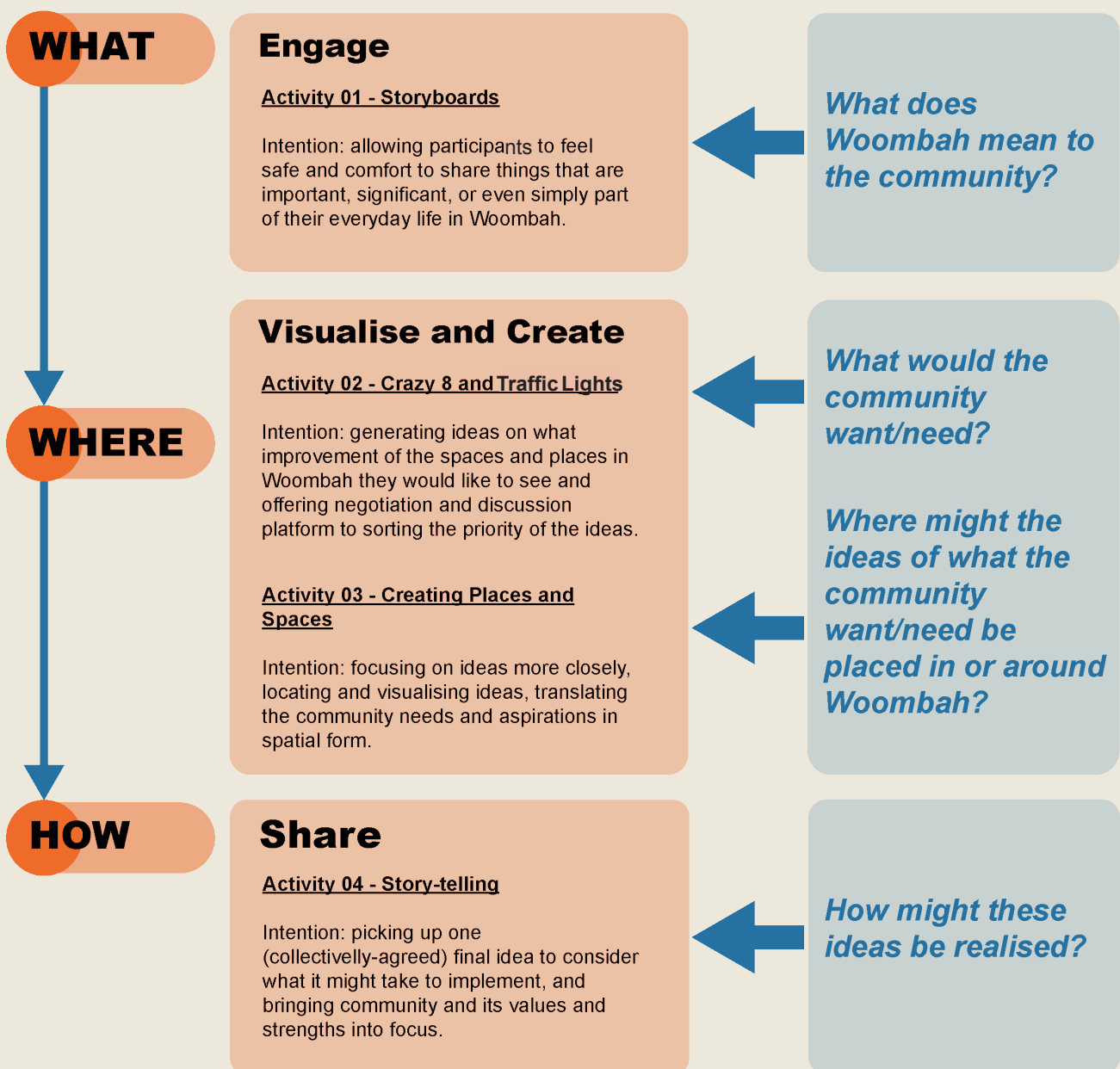


Figure 4.2.20 Working Processes in the Workshop

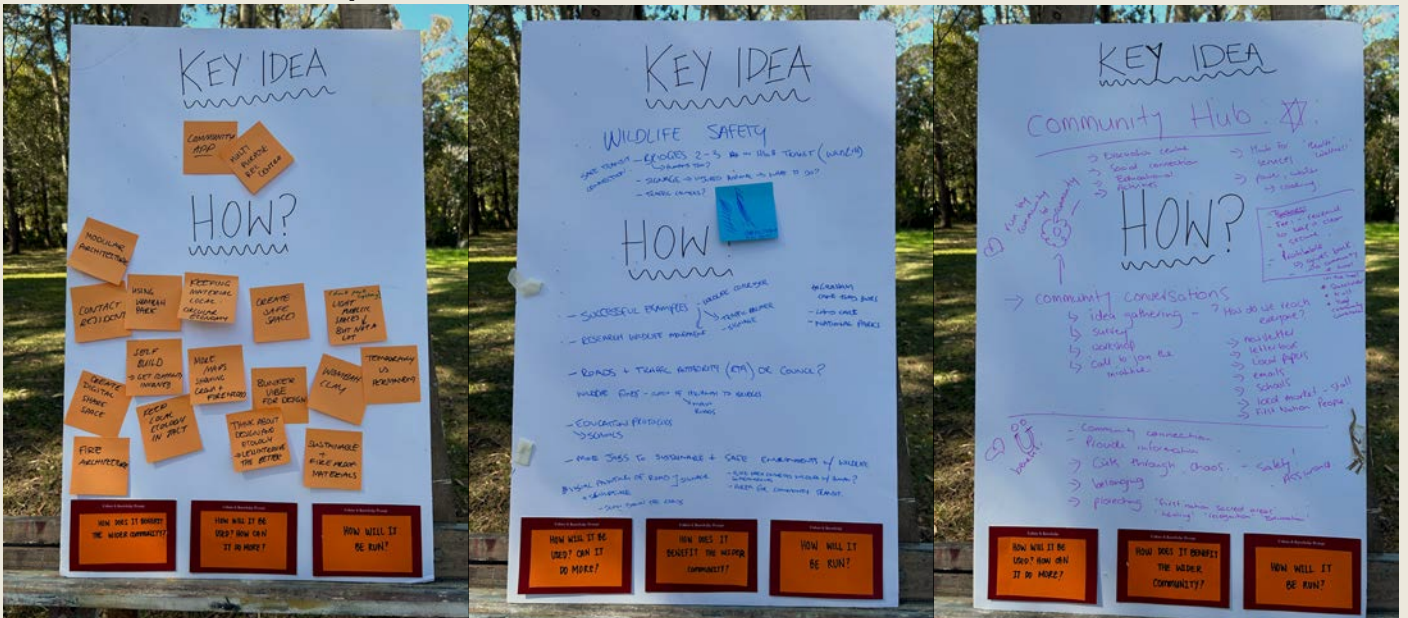
1. What are the ideas?



2. Where to place the ideas?



3. How to further develop the ideas?



## Key Findings

'Community Hub' is a key collective idea highlighted among participants during the workshop. Participants explained that the 'Community Hub' intends to be multi-functional, providing shared resources facilities and gathering space, particularly for disaster resilience.

Other complementary ideas that came out of the workshop include strategies to further improve access and experiences of the hub. During the final group discussion in the workshop, participants also expressed their interest in the community-led and self-build initiative for the hub.

The workshop also helped to map out how Woombians are connected to places and spaces such as Maclean, Iluka, Yamba and the wider regions for social and daily needs.

Figure 4.2.21 Community Aspiration of Community Hub



# Woombians' Significant Places and Spaces



To Ballina

- Wildlife
- Community Garden
- Playground
- Bush walk
- Midden
- Rowing

## Woombah

Goodwood Island

Education facilities x1

Chatsworth Island

Ashby Hall

## Ashby

Education facilities x1

Clarence River

Yamba Road

Bowling club

Hospital

Hillcrest Mission

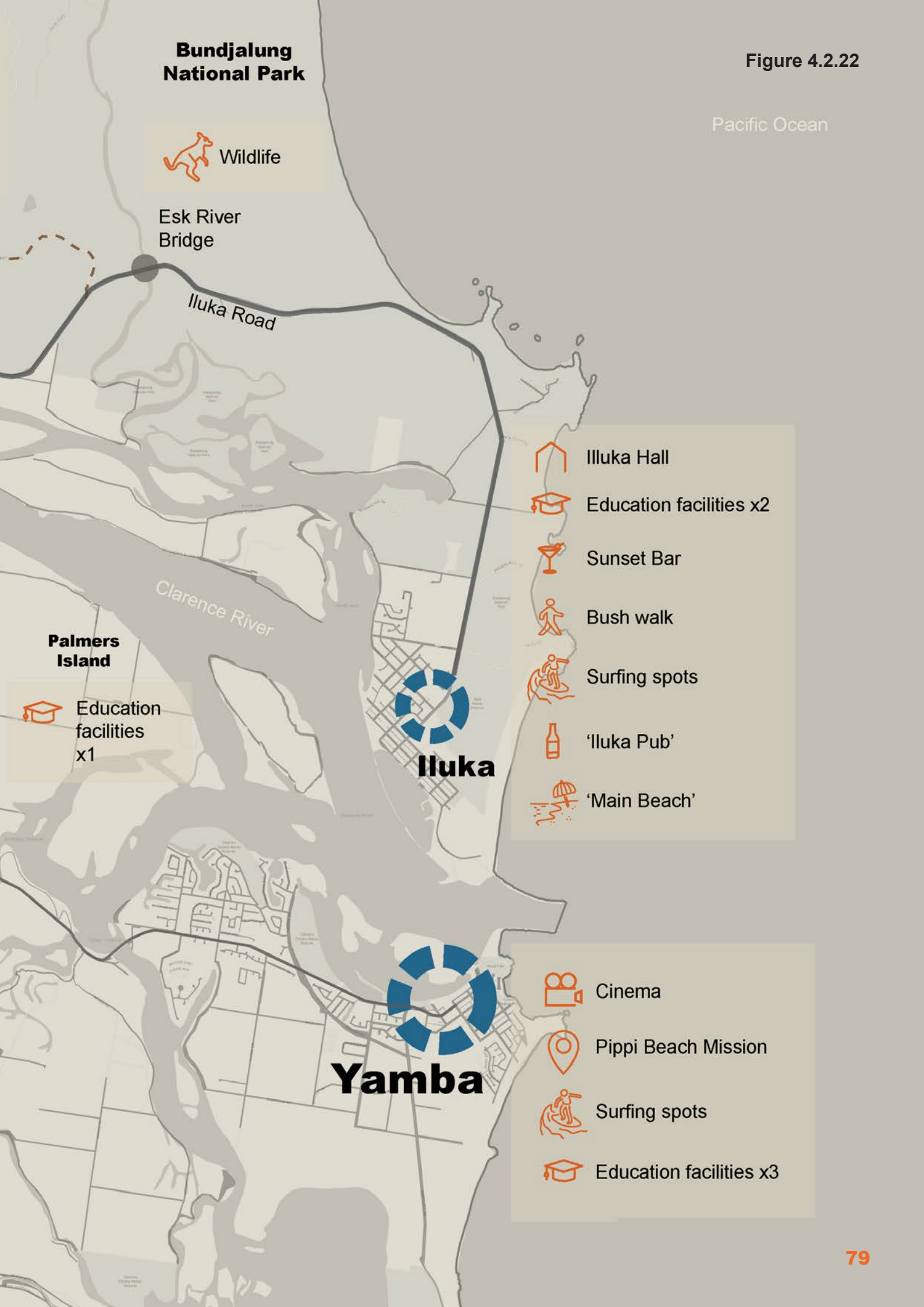
Education facilities x6

## Maclean

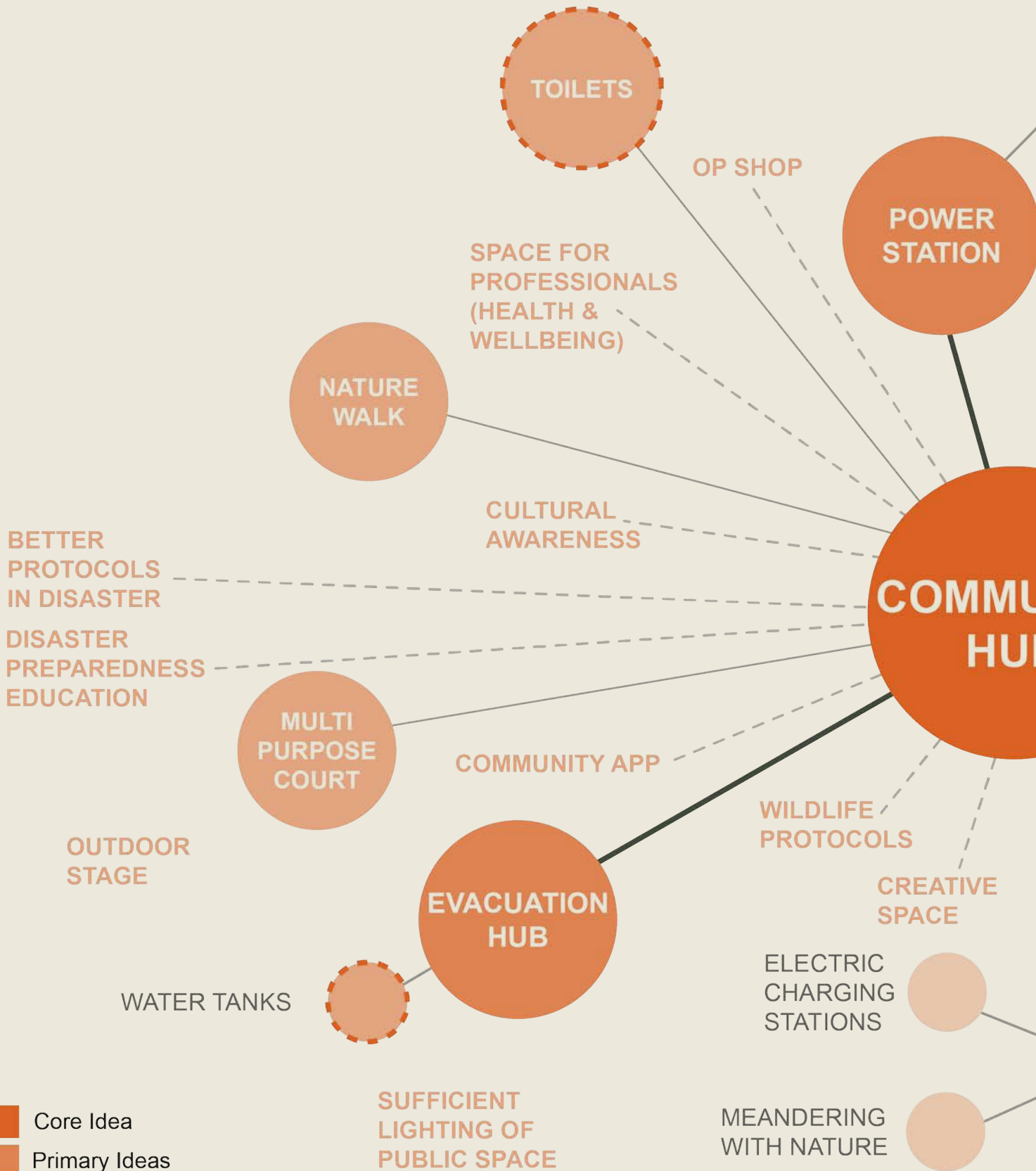
78

To Grafton Major Hospital

Figure 4.2.22

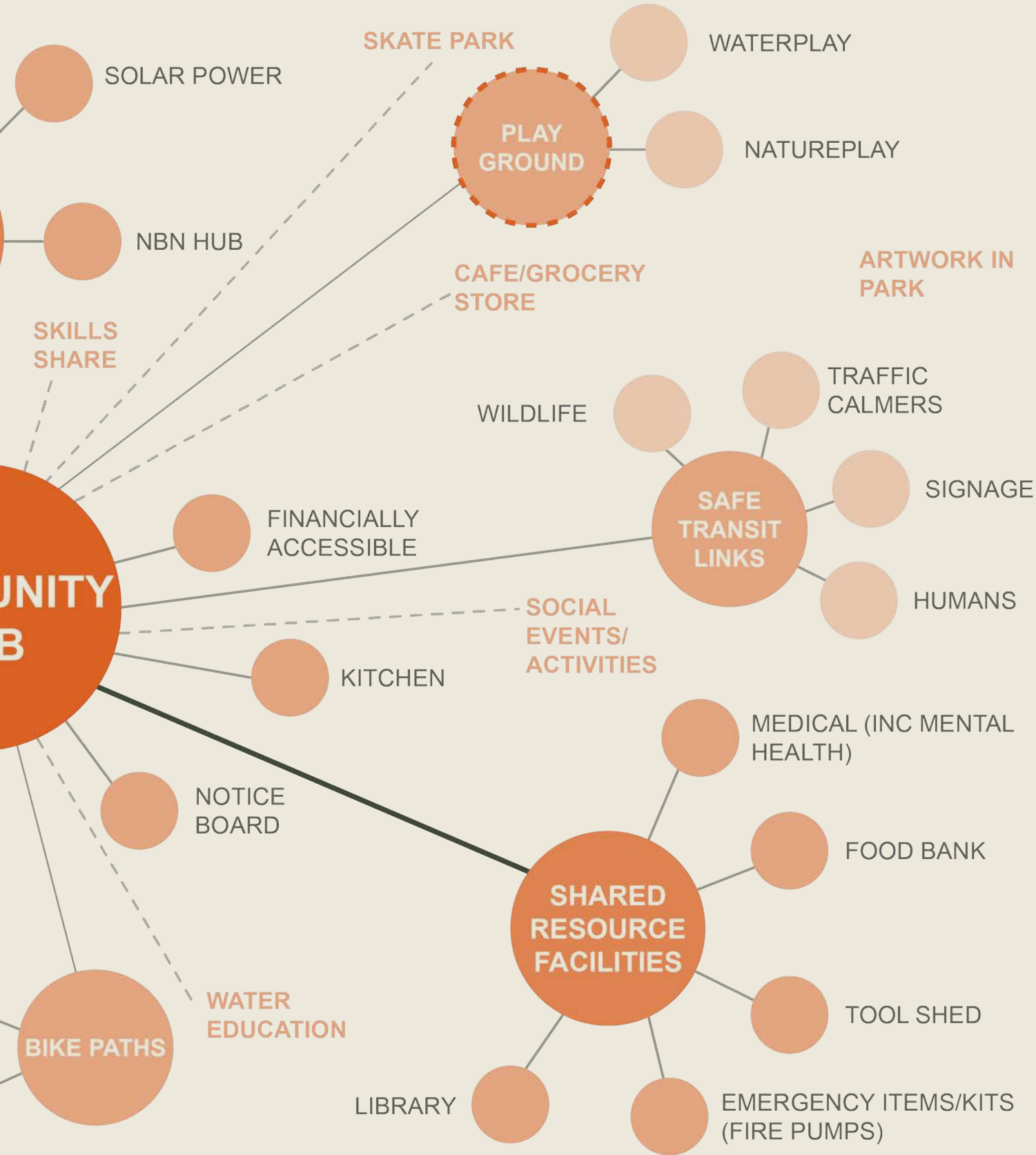


# Woombians' Ideas



- Core Idea
- Primary Ideas
- Complementary Ideas
- Additional Ideas/Notes
- Existing Infrastructure, Improvements Needed
- XX Related Activities/Ideas

Figure 4.2.23



## 4.2.4 What has been learnt from Woombians?

By gathering the ideas and vision that arose from the placemaking workshop, the following table begins to unpack the possible opportunities and their corresponding limitations.

Chapters 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 will further unpack these ideas in greater detail and include recommendations for future development towards implementation.

It is important to note that further analysis of these listed aspirations will need to occur in order to understand the specific limitations and hurdles that stand in the way of bringing these ideas to fruition.

Figure 4.2.24 Summary of Opportunities and Limitations



## Opportunities



## Limitations

<p><b>O01</b> Enhance Aboriginal cultural awareness in Woombah via community education and paying respect to their cultural heritage</p>	<p><b>L01</b> It requires careful engagement with the Local Aboriginal Land Council and communities to take the lead in educating about cultural protocols.</p>
<p><b>O02</b> Be better equipped for disaster resilience via adaptive building design, pre-event planning, risk management and evacuation plan</p>	<p><b>L02</b> This requires a high level of involvement in community members in the engagement process.</p>
<p><b>O03</b> Develop a multi-functional community hub for gathering and connection in order to build up social capital in relation to emergency response and actions during disasters</p>	<p><b>L03</b> Development is not recommended to be built in disaster-prone areas to reduce the risk of loss of lives and properties due to fire and flood hazards.</p>
<p><b>O04</b> Initiate community-led and self-build projects with granted funding under the Fire to Flourish program</p>	<p><b>L04</b> Further research on how to apply self-build mechanisms in community projects and their feasibility based on relevant planning and building regulations is needed.</p>
<p><b>O05</b> Introduce green transport facilities such as footpaths and bike paths for intra-community mobility</p>	<p><b>L05</b> This should be led from a top-down approach by the state or local government level. Further discussion and investigations with the Council is needed.</p>
<p><b>O06</b> Refine the current car speed limit along Iluka Road and provide proper signage for both pedestrian and animal crossing</p>	
<p><b>O07</b> Better utilise the space and make use of natural resources/materials to meet the community's needs and aspirations on social infrastructure</p>	<p><b>L06</b> Further investigation on the feasibility of public recreational use on private land and relevant regulations is needed. Council should be also involved to resolve the needs of local social infrastructure.</p>



# Vision for Woombah

# 4.3



# 4.3.1 The Vision

The combined findings from the community workshop and previous site analysis have been synthesised into a cohesive vision for Woombians moving towards disaster resilience. It embraces the three key themes uncovered in the workshop ('Education', 'Connection' and 'Safety and Security') moving Woombah towards the community that Woombians want to be. It also relates to two of the primary strategies of the framework, engaging First Nations communities and bringing the community together to build community disaster resilience.

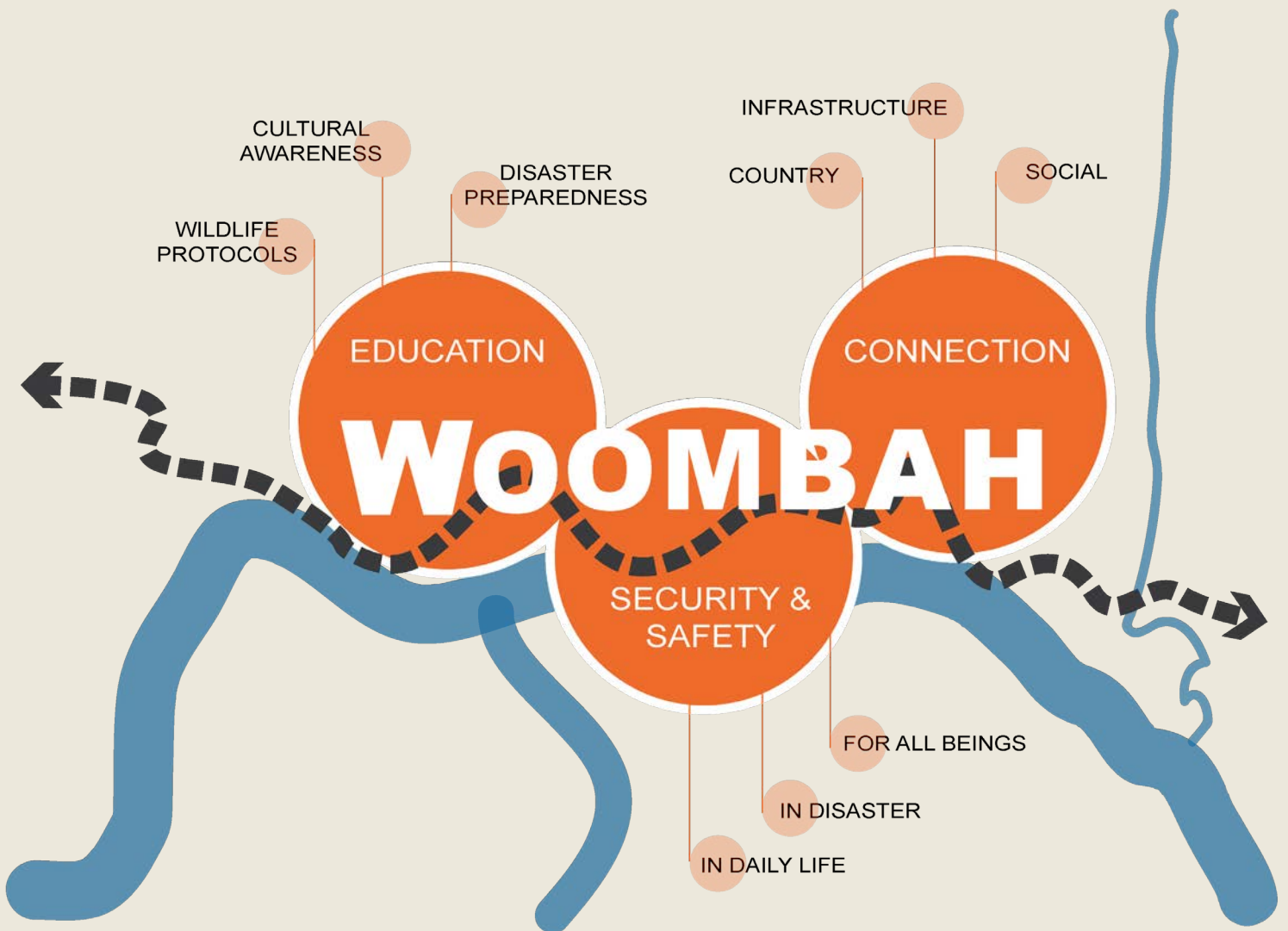
To translate the meaning of each theme into actual actions, the framework introduces three missions in achieving the themes. These themes and missions would guide the designs of the Actions in Chapter 4.4. There will also be opportunities for development to formulate a collectively agreed community vision through further engagement processes.

Figure 4.3.1 Workshop Activities for Envisioning Woombah



Figure 4.3.2 Vision Diagram

***“Woombah will have strong community bonds and resilience through building human-nature connections.”***



# 4.3.2 Themes and Missions

## Connection

The first mission is to enhance community communication and engagement, and facilitate consultation with relevant stakeholders. It focuses on the topics of physical connectivity of the locality, and the connection of nature and Country, which arose from the workshop.

## Infrastructure and Accessibility

The first aspect highlights the importance of well-planned infrastructure to provide accessible utilities and amenities. This involves sustainable urban development with a focus on green energy, active mobility, and effective communication, ensuring that community members can easily access essential services and shared spaces.

## Connection to Nature

The second aspect emphasises the importance of a strong connection between humans and the natural environment. It promotes initiatives that foster a harmonious relationship between the community and the natural world. These initiatives encourage ecological awareness, conservation efforts, and sustainable practices, which benefit the well-being of both residents and the surrounding ecosystem.

## Social Bonds and Trust

The third aspect of a social nature, is about nurturing a sense of belonging, community bonding, and trust. This involves initiatives that strengthen social ties among community members, creating a supportive and inclusive environment where individuals feel connected, valued, and secure. The goal is to enhance the overall well-being of the community through trust and a shared sense of purpose.

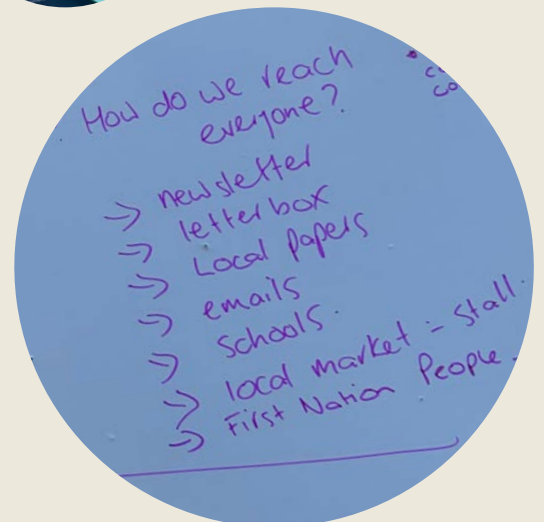
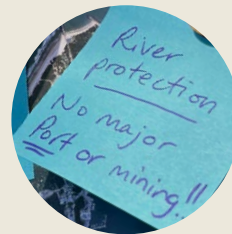
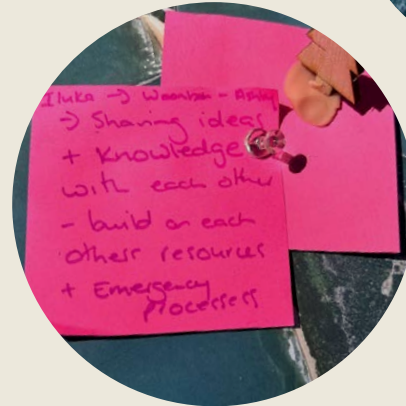
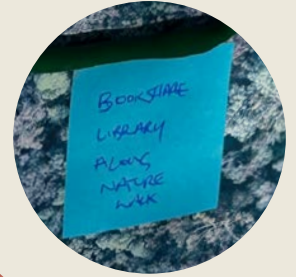
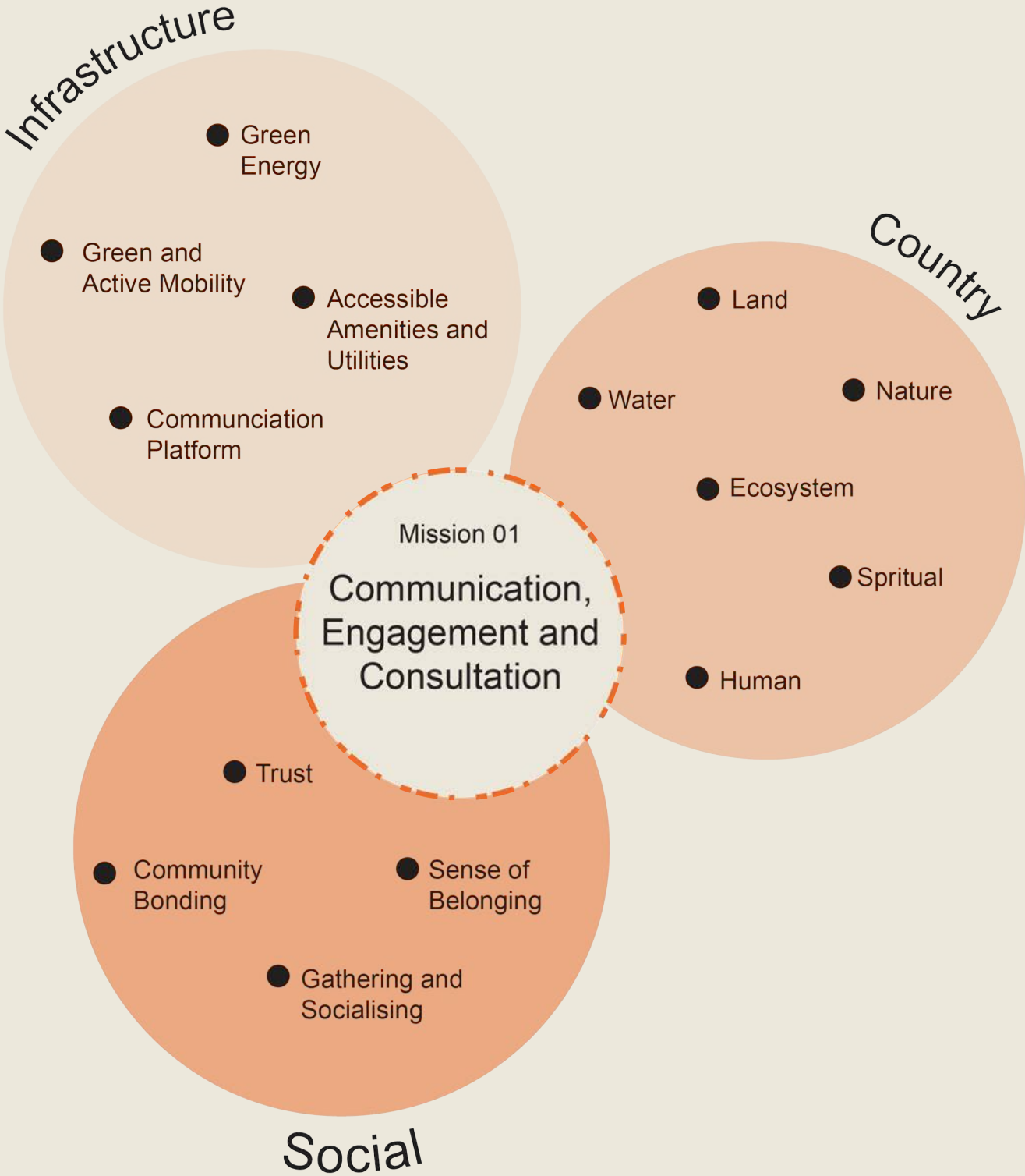


Figure 4.3.3 Theme and Mission 01



## Safety and Security

The second mission is to foster disaster risk reduction and provide training for the community members. It also connects to three concerns discussed in the workshop.

### Daily Life Safety and Security

The first aspect focuses on ensuring safety and security in daily life. It underscores the importance of water, social cohesion, and essential resource security. This includes measures to secure necessary resources for community well-being, such as reliable water sources, social unity, and accessibility, including road safety, to enhance overall community safety.

### Disaster Response

The second aspect is dedicated to disaster response, stressing the significance of preparedness and swift action during emergencies. It involves initiatives related to emergency supplies, shelters, rescue operations, and efficient resource distribution. The aim is to enhance the community's resilience and its capacity to respond effectively in times of crisis.

### Community Resilience and Sustainability

The third aspect broadens the focus to long-term sustainability and environmental stewardship. It highlights the importance of responsible land management, wildlife safety, river protection, natural conservation, and water education. The goal is to create a resilient and ecologically aware community capable of withstanding environmental challenges while contributing to the preservation of natural resources.

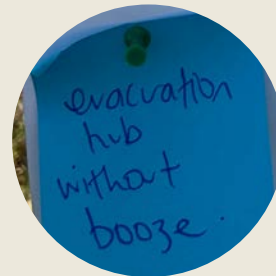
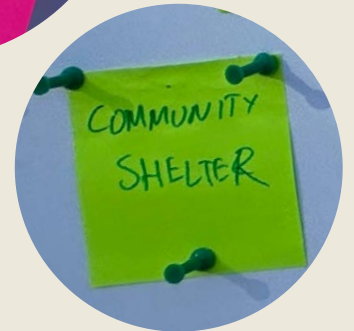
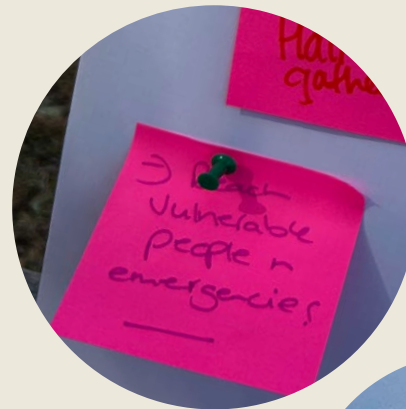
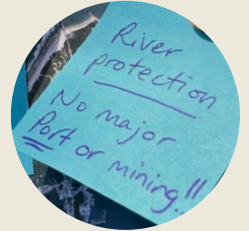


Figure 4.3.4 Theme and Mission 02



## Education

The final mission centres on leadership, empowerment, and management within the community context. It highlights three essential aspects that were talked about throughout the workshop.

### Wildlife Protocols and Conservation

The first aspect emphasizes the establishment of wildlife protocols, including the creation of wildlife corridors, ecological biodiversity conservation, and fostering a harmonious relationship between humans and nature. Sustainability is a key focus, aiming to strike a balance that supports the conservation of diverse ecosystems and harmonious coexistence between communities and these environments.

### Cultural Awareness

The second aspect underscores the importance of cultural awareness, with a focus on protocols that promote respect, learning, listening, acknowledgment, and the practice of cultural traditions within the community. Fostering cultural awareness aims to empower individuals to embrace and celebrate the rich diversity of their heritage, creating a more inclusive and culturally vibrant community.

### Disaster Preparedness

The third aspect revolves around disaster preparedness and advocates for the establishment of comprehensive protocols covering resilience, recovery, emergency responses, and actions, as well as mitigation and adaptation strategies. By integrating education on disaster preparedness, the goal is to equip the community with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively navigate and recover from various challenges, ensuring a more resilient and proactive community.

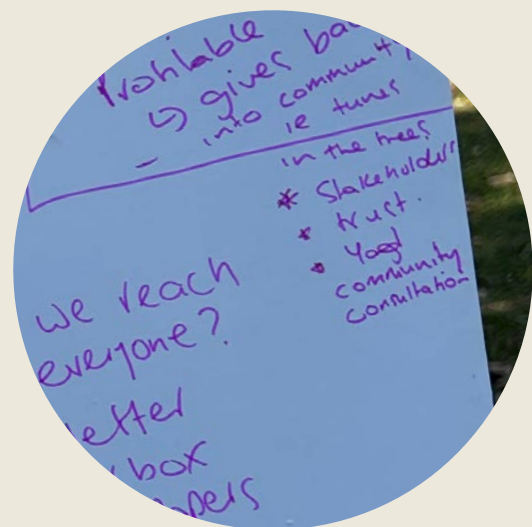
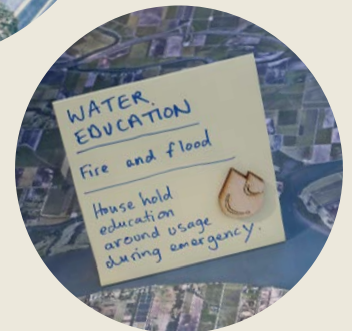
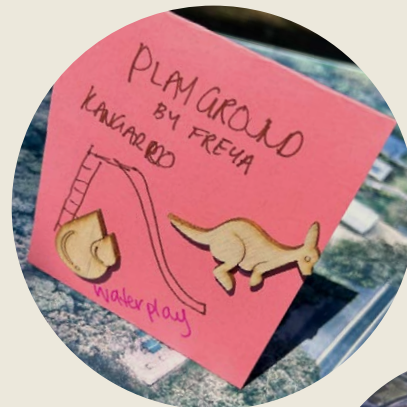
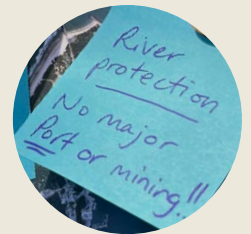


Figure 4.3.5 Theme and Mission 03





# Actions

# 4.4



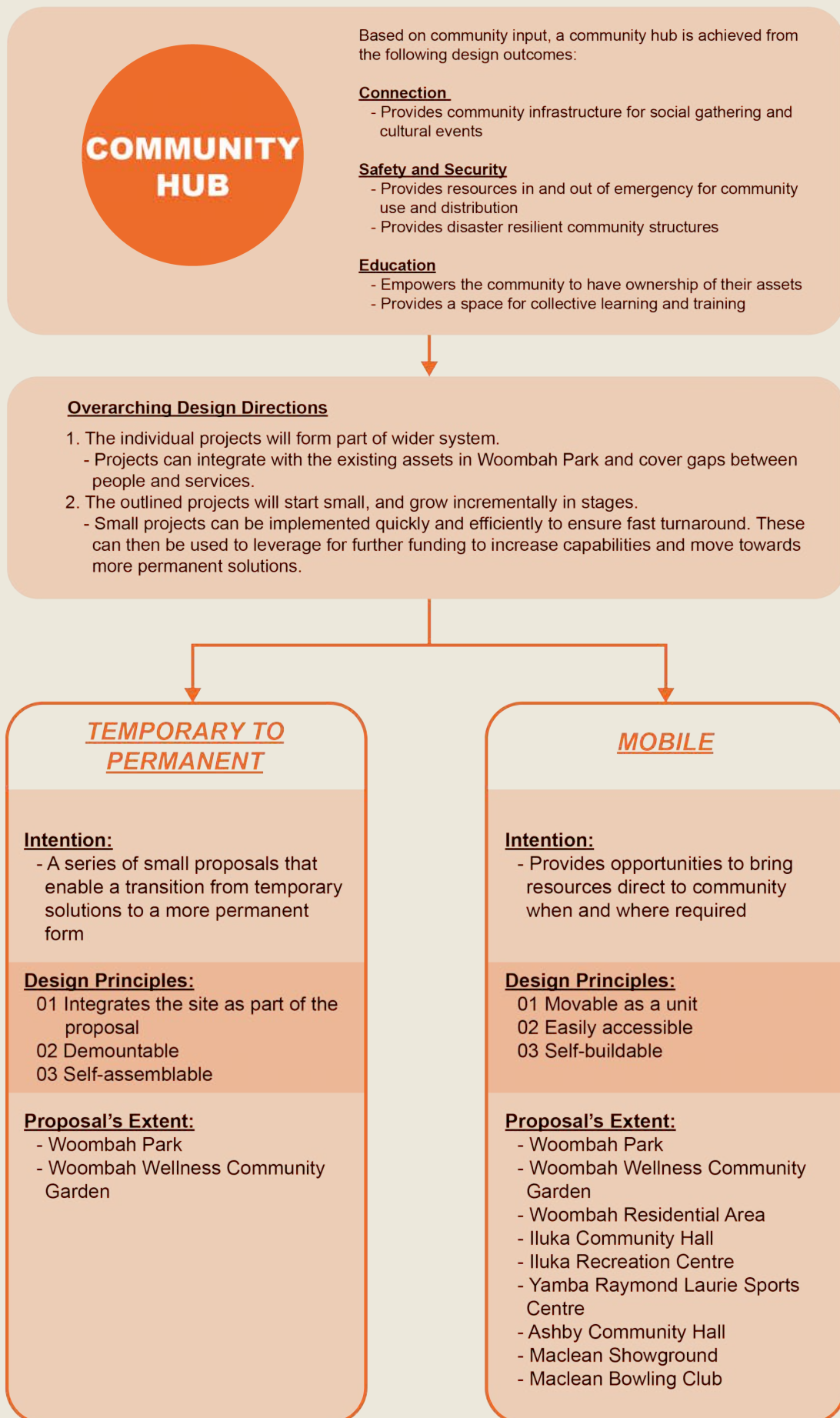
## 4.4.1 Design Strategies

Based on workshop findings, a key outcome is the desire for a 'Community Hub', that provides for a range of activities like an evacuation centre and a place to share resources. Having such a place will enhance the community's capabilities to prepare, manage and mitigate possible disasters, ultimately enriching the community's sense of agency and security.

Referencing the community-led establishment of the community wellness garden in Woombah, there is an opportunity to enable Woombians to think, design and work creatively and collaboratively through these proposals.

Given the disaster-prone nature of Woombah (Figure 4.1.18), additional permanent structures are not currently supported by the Council. However, voices from the community are still important to consider. Therefore, two design approaches towards a community hub have been developed, which are small architectural proposals and upgrade works, ensuring the community vision can be achieved (Figure 4.4.1).

**Figure 4.4.1** Design Strategies for the Actions



# 4.4.2 Project Extents

## Woombah Park



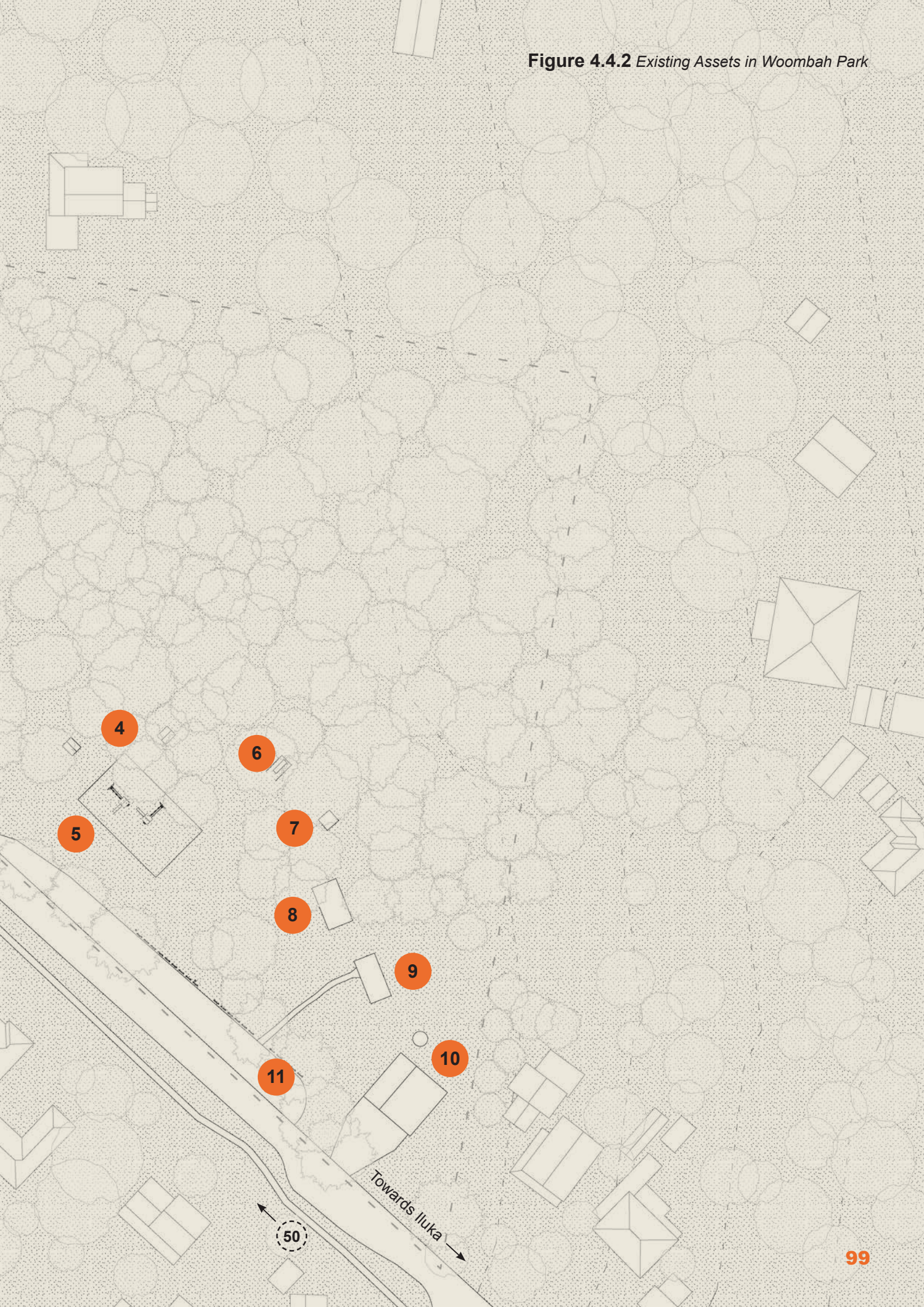
### Existing Assets

- 1 Bus Stop/Shelter
- 2 Gathering Circle
- 3 Wellness Community Garden
- 4 Sheltered Picnic Tables
- 5 Playground
- 6 Cricket Pitch
- 7 Storage Shed
- 8 Sheltered BBQ Area
- 9 Toilet Block (x2 Toilets)
- 10 RFS Shed + Rainwater Tank
- 11 Car Park
- 12 Pedestrian Footpath

Existing footpath extends along Iluka Road between Ibis Close and Short Street. This also currently functions as a shared bike path.

A shared road bike path currently exists along Iluka Road from Woody Head Road down to Iluka.

**Figure 4.4.2** Existing Assets in Woombah Park



# Hosted Activities

1



Oz Green Workshop 2022

2



Planting produce in the Wellness Community Garden for produce sharing

3



Tunes in the Trees Music Festival 2022

4



Woombah Markets 2023

5

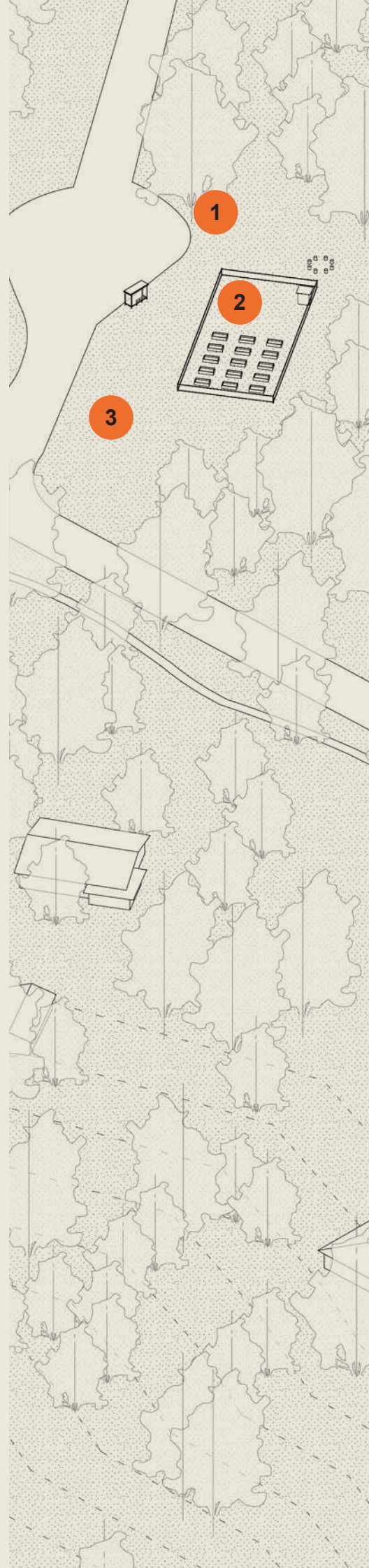


Community Garden Seed bomb Workshop 2021

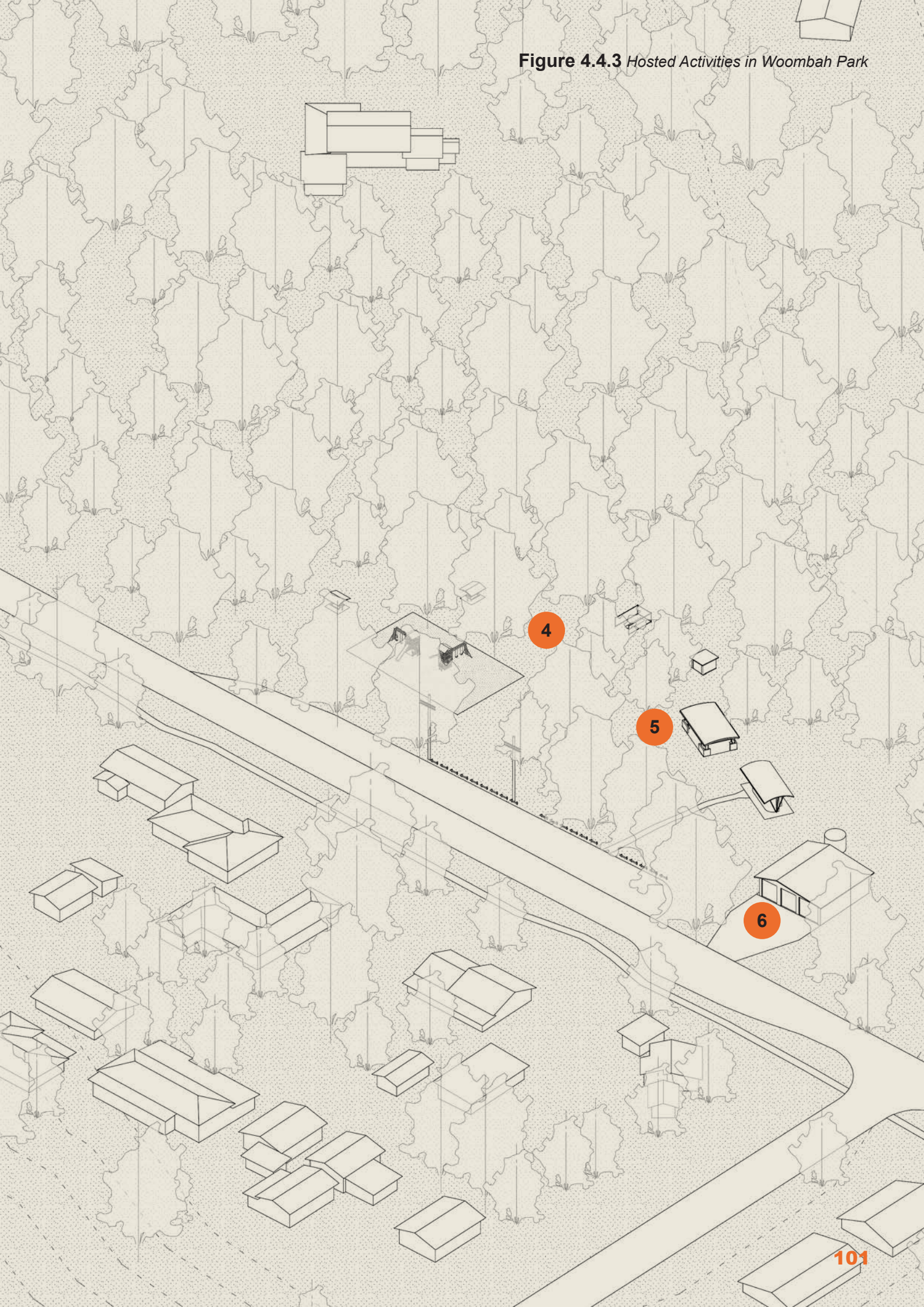
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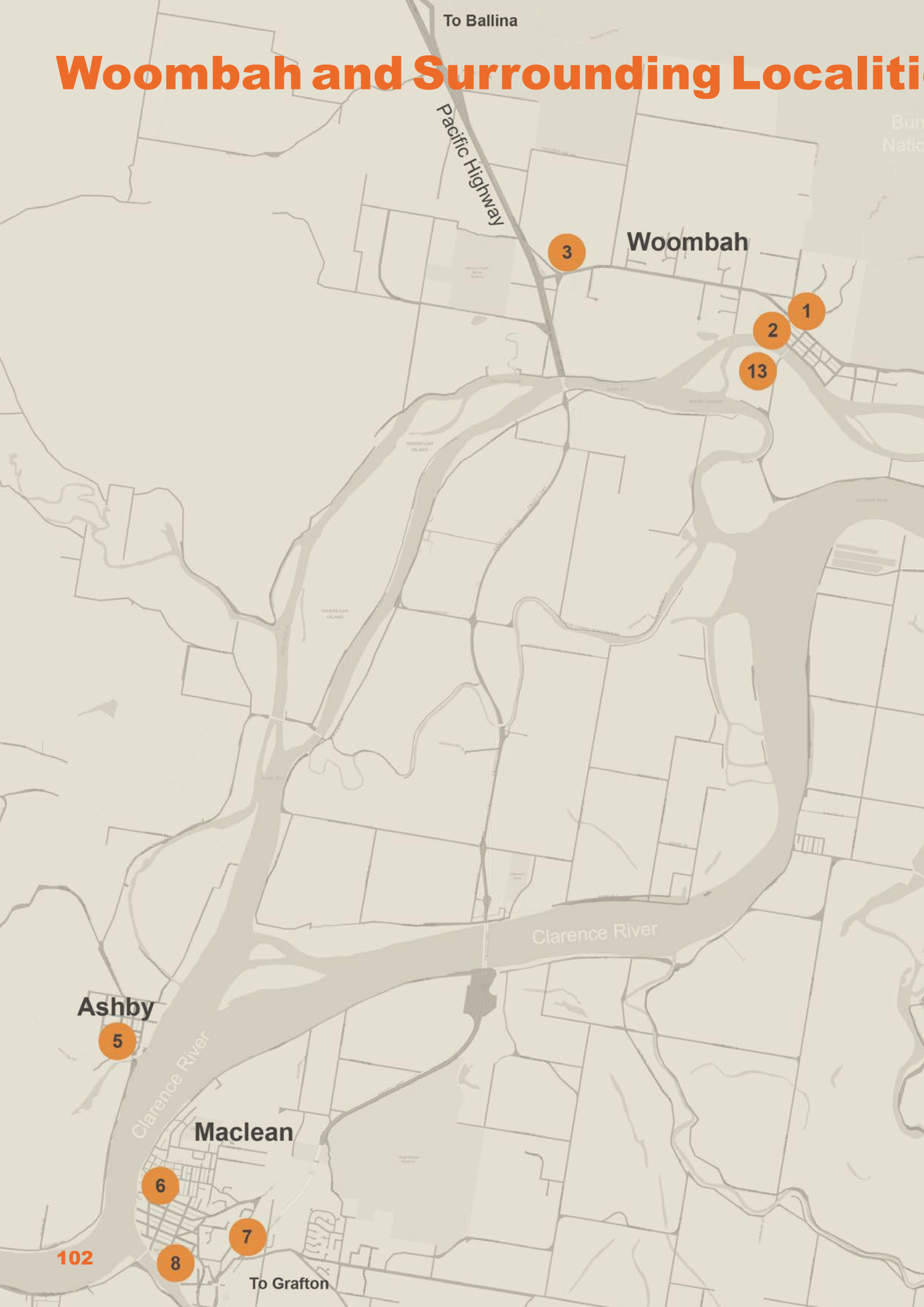
Woombah Rural Fire Brigade Team 2022



**Figure 4.4.3** Hosted Activities in Woombah Park



# Woombah and Surrounding Localities



To Ballina

Pacific Highway

Woombah

Bun  
Natio

3

1

2

13

WARREGAN ISLAND

WARREGAN ISLAND

Clarence River

Ashby

5

Maclean

6

7

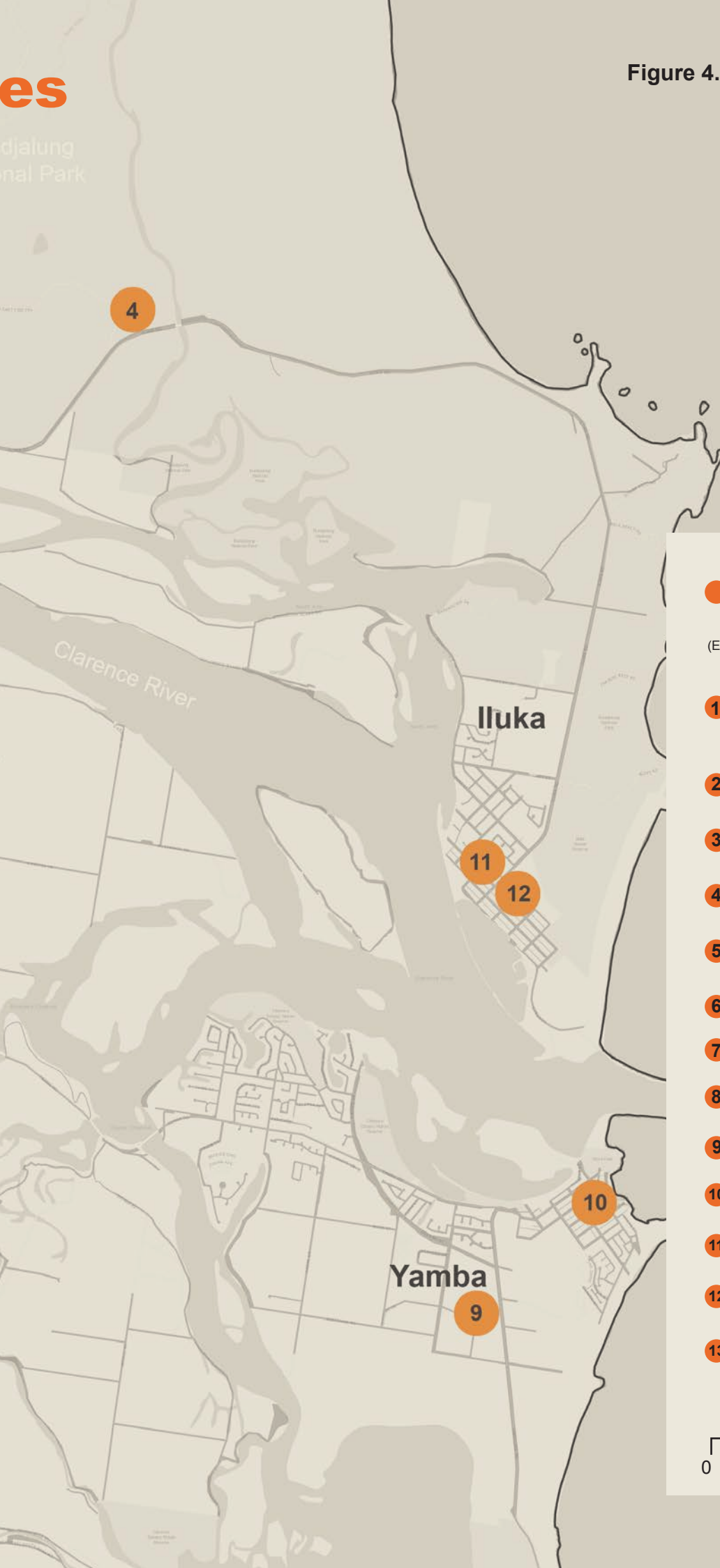
8

102

To Grafton

Figure 4.4.4 Extents of Mobile Project Proposal

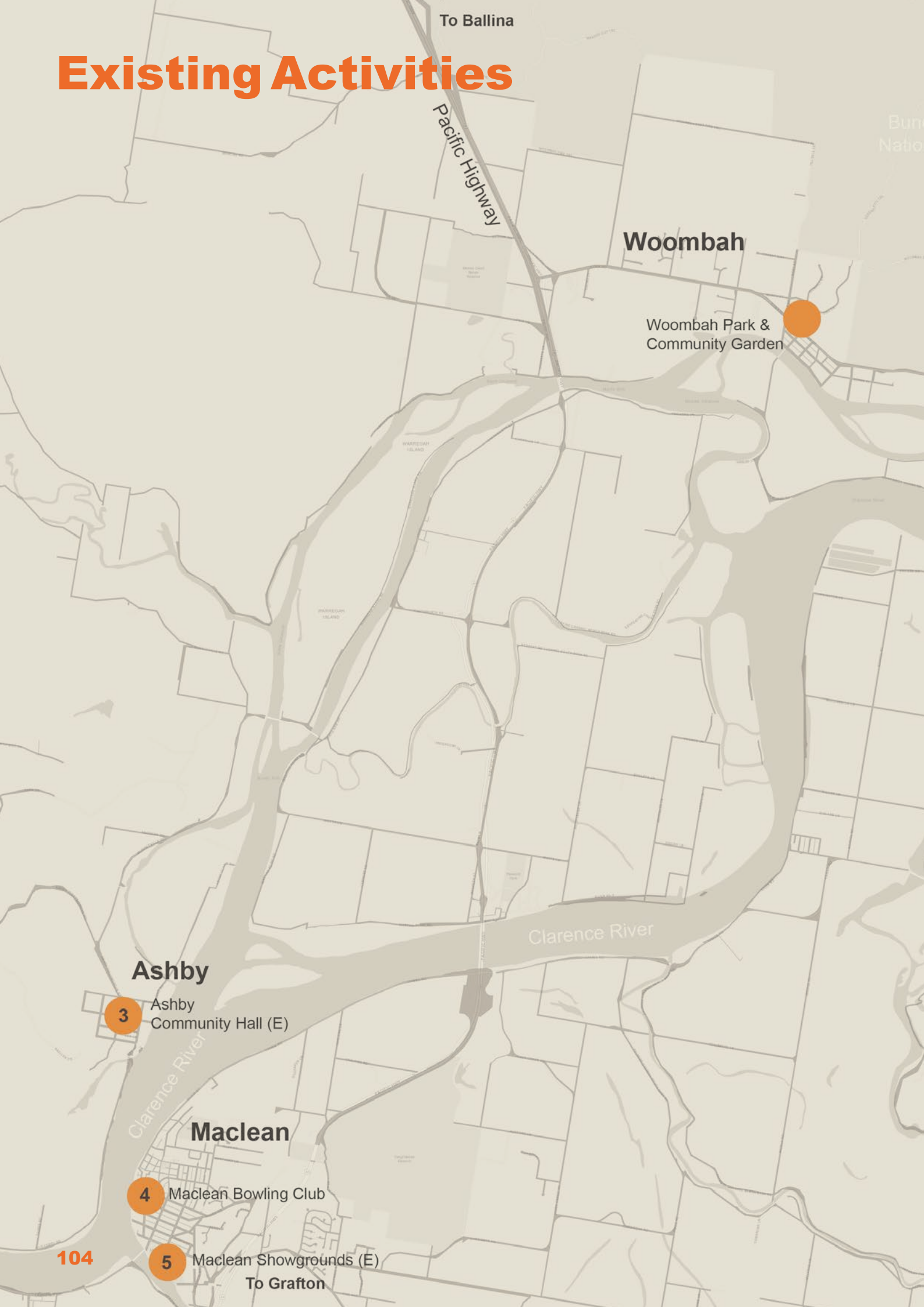
Pacific Ocean



- Points of Interest
- (E) Evacuation Point
- 1 Woombah Park & Community Garden (E).
- 2 Woombah Midden.
- 3 Koala Crossing.
- 4 Kangaroo Crossing Signage.
- 5 Ashby Community Hall (E).
- 6 Maclean Bowling Club.
- 7 Former Hillcrest Mission Site.
- 8 Maclean Showgrounds (E).
- 9 Raymond Laurie Sports Centre.
- 10 Yamba Cinemas.
- 11 Iluka ICOPE/Community Hall (E).
- 12 Iluka Recreation Centre (E).
- 13 Goodwood Island (E).



# Existing Activities



**Figure 4.4.5 Existing Activities in Surrounding Localities**



● Points of Interest

(E) Evacuation Point

- 1 • Seasonal locality festivities.
- Festival of Small Halls 2022.
- Music Performances.

2 Iluka Markets

- 3 • Community Markets
- Environment Education
- Weekly sports and wellness programs
- Private functions

- 4 • Market Night
- Eat The Street Festival
- Music & Cultural Performances

- 5 • Maclean Show
- Equestrian events
- Outdoor Performances

0 12 km



# 4.4.3 Master Plan

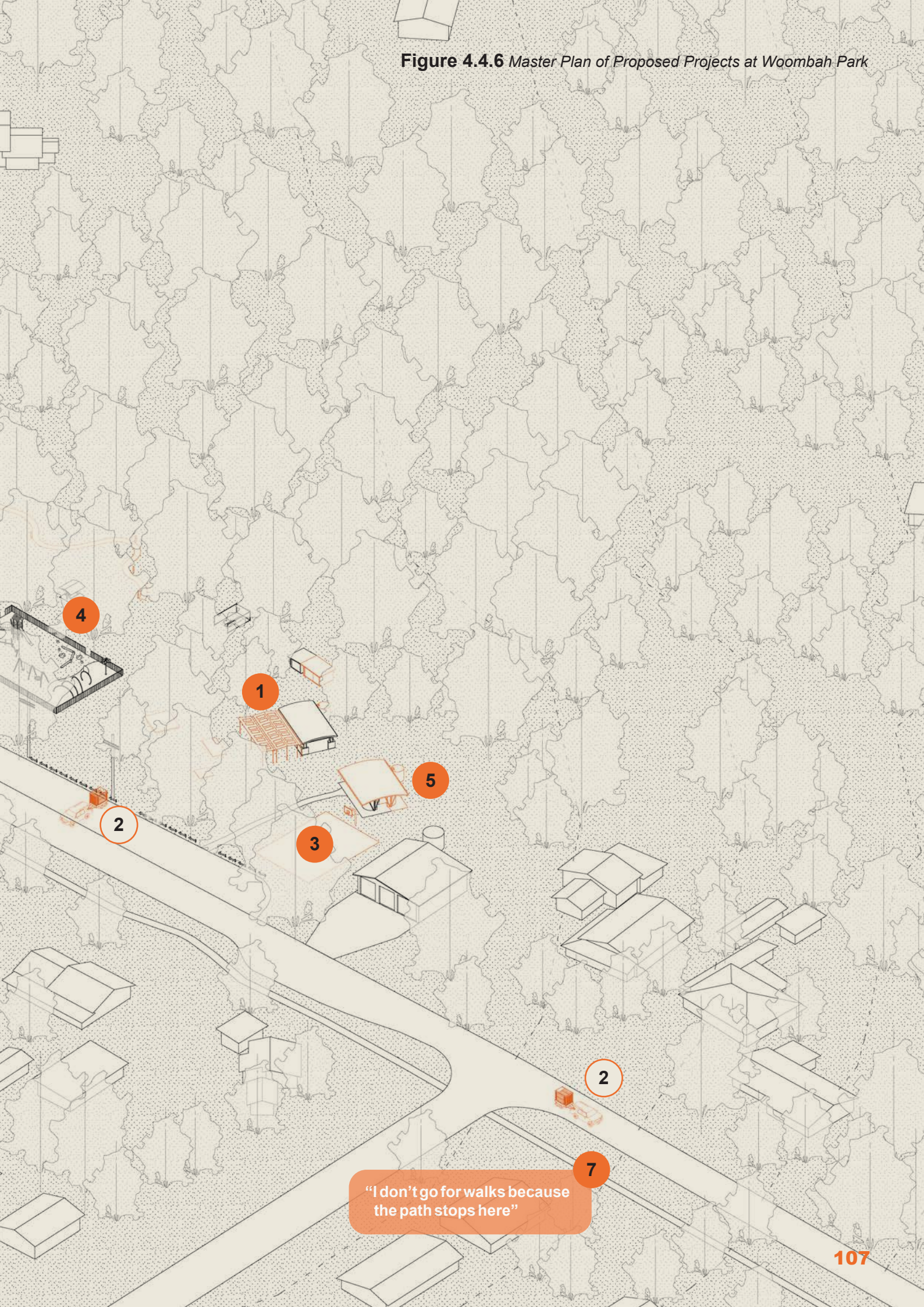


## Legend

- 1** Project 1: Temporary to Permanent
- 2** Project 2: Mobile
- 3** Multipurpose Court
- 4** Playground Upgrades
- 5** Toilet Facilities Upgrades
- 6** Guided Nature Walk (Indicative)
- 7** Foot/Bike Path Improvements

Note: all proposals are subject to further discussion and engagement with community and LALC

Figure 4.4.6 Master Plan of Proposed Projects at Woombah Park



"I don't go for walks because the path stops here"

## Community App

In addition to built proposals, the workshop revealed a desire for a community app as an extension of a 'Community Hub' (Figure 4.4.7). This enables the community to connect beyond the physical environment, creating deeper social bonds through a digital platform for knowledge and resource sharing.

In emergency, the app would serve as a noticeboard for community members who have resources to share or capacity to lend a hand, as well as those in need.

Figure 4.4.7 Quotes from the Placemaking Workshop

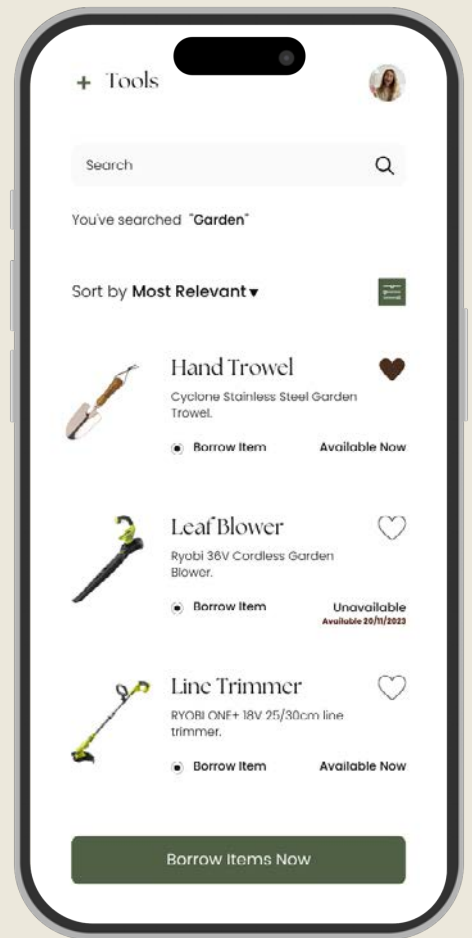
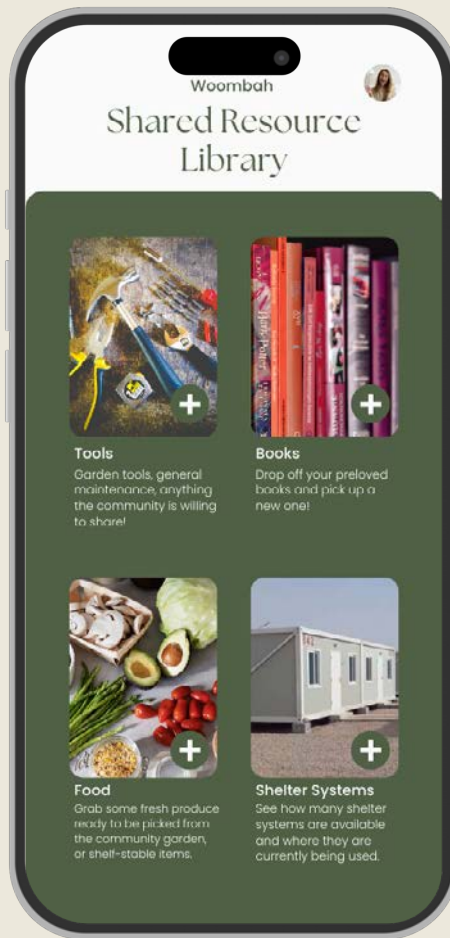
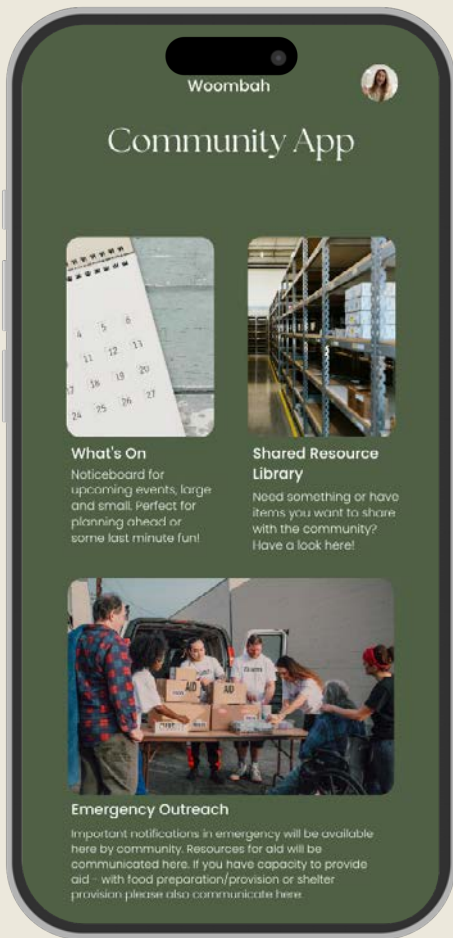
**“You can have a little space that’s about the produce share, a space for car ride share, a space for events that we’ve got going on”**

**“Having an app as a community post board would be really great”**

**“It would be great to have somewhere to post jobs and opportunities for the area”**

**“Create digital share space”**

Figure 4.4.8 Woombah Community App Mock Ups



# 4.4.4 Key Projects

## Project 1: Towards Permanence

### Project Overview

This proposal enhances the existing amenity in Woombah Park to provide the function of a community hall by pairing small-scale alterations and additions to existing structures with a new shelter system.

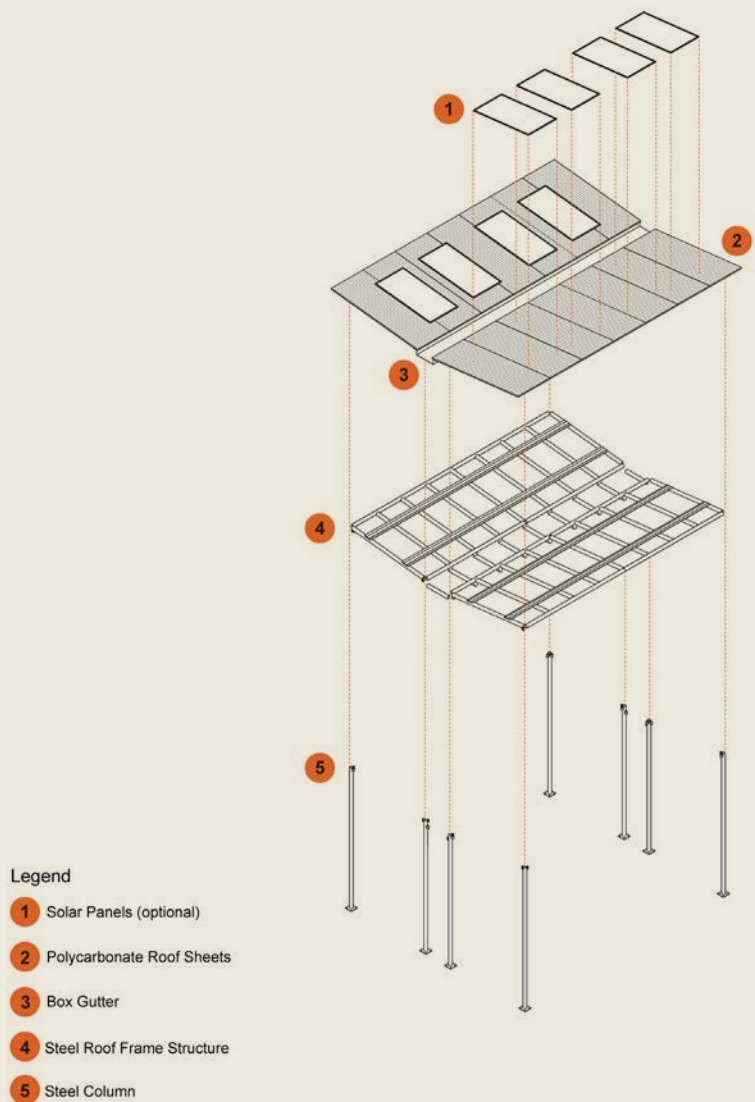
The shelter system is designed to be simple enough to be assembled by anyone when required. It can be assembled as a free standing structure across the site or be attached to the existing BBQ shelter, enabling an extension of sheltered space increasing its capacity for people to self organise.

Key additions to the BBQ Shelter reflect specific needs expressed by community members during the placemaking workshop. This includes water security, a food preparation space and an enclosed room for services such as rural doctor visits.

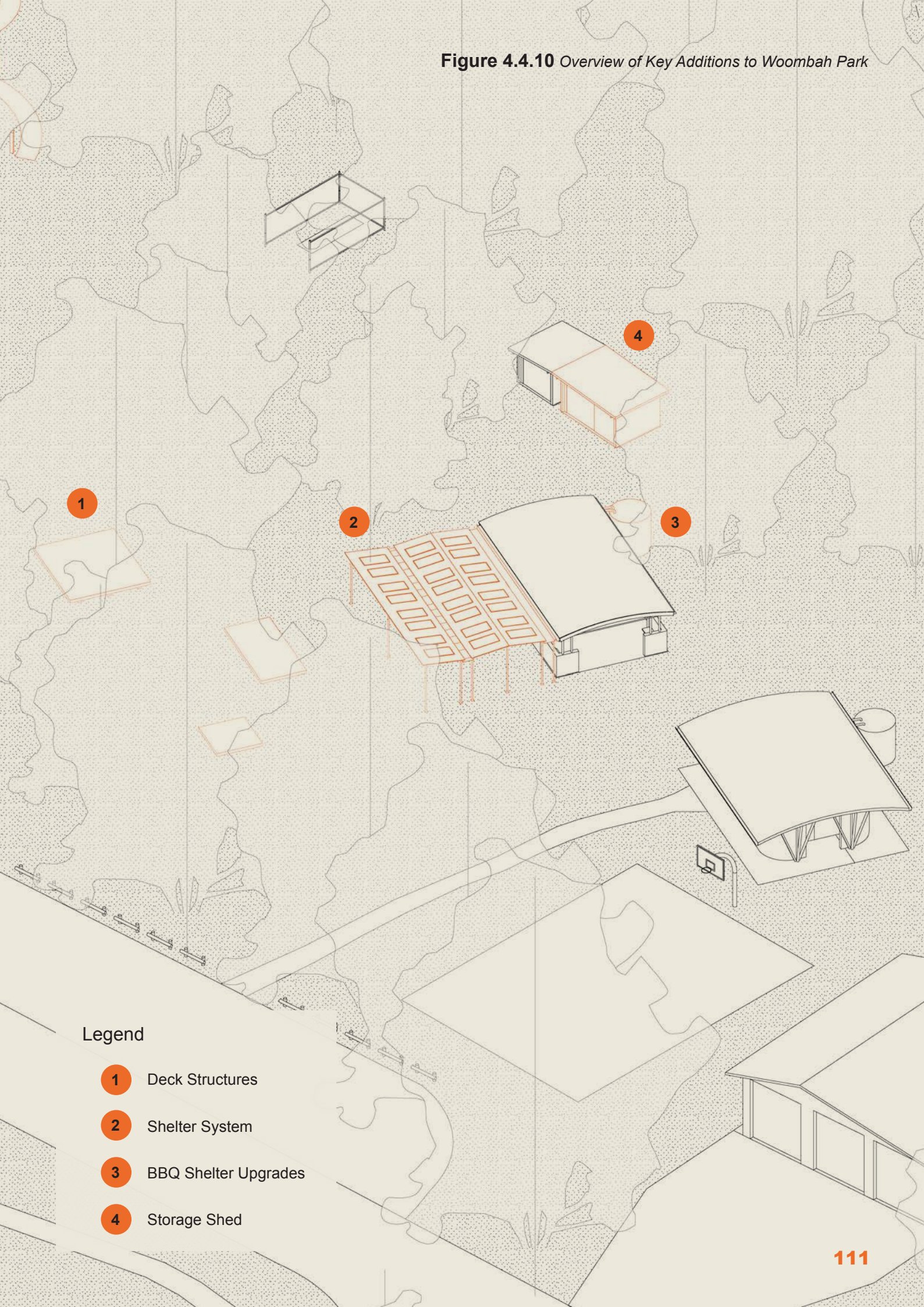
Expansion of storage space is also provided next to the existing storage shed allowing communal access to the shelter system. This will also function as a shared resource library housing a power generator, shelf-stable food pantry, emergency kits and wildlife car rescue kits.

New low level deck structures provide the basis of a floor underneath the shelter with the ability to expand and be added to over time. These also provide additional seating opportunities in various sizes in close proximity to the playground.

Figure 4.4.9 Components of the Shelter System



**Figure 4.4.10** Overview of Key Additions to Woombah Park



**Legend**

- 1** Deck Structures
- 2** Shelter System
- 3** BBQ Shelter Upgrades
- 4** Storage Shed

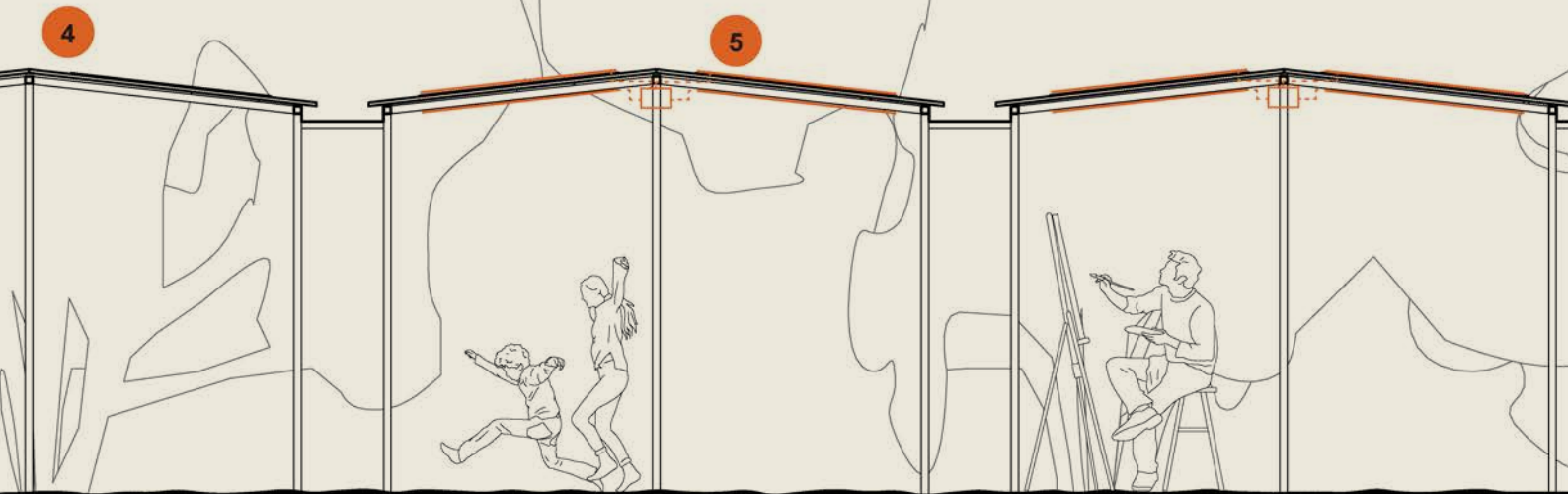
# Towards Permanence

## New Connections

“Accessibility to water...”

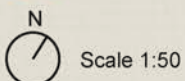
“... a shelter”

“So there’s shelter, it’s got, you know, our power banks, our water being able to cook for the local community ... resources, education, knowledge”



### Proposed Additions/Alterations

- 1 Rainwater Collection System
- 2 Shadecloth 'Curtain'
- 3 Kitchenette – Sink + Cabinets
- 4 Shelter System – Add On
- 5 Solar Powered System (for lights)

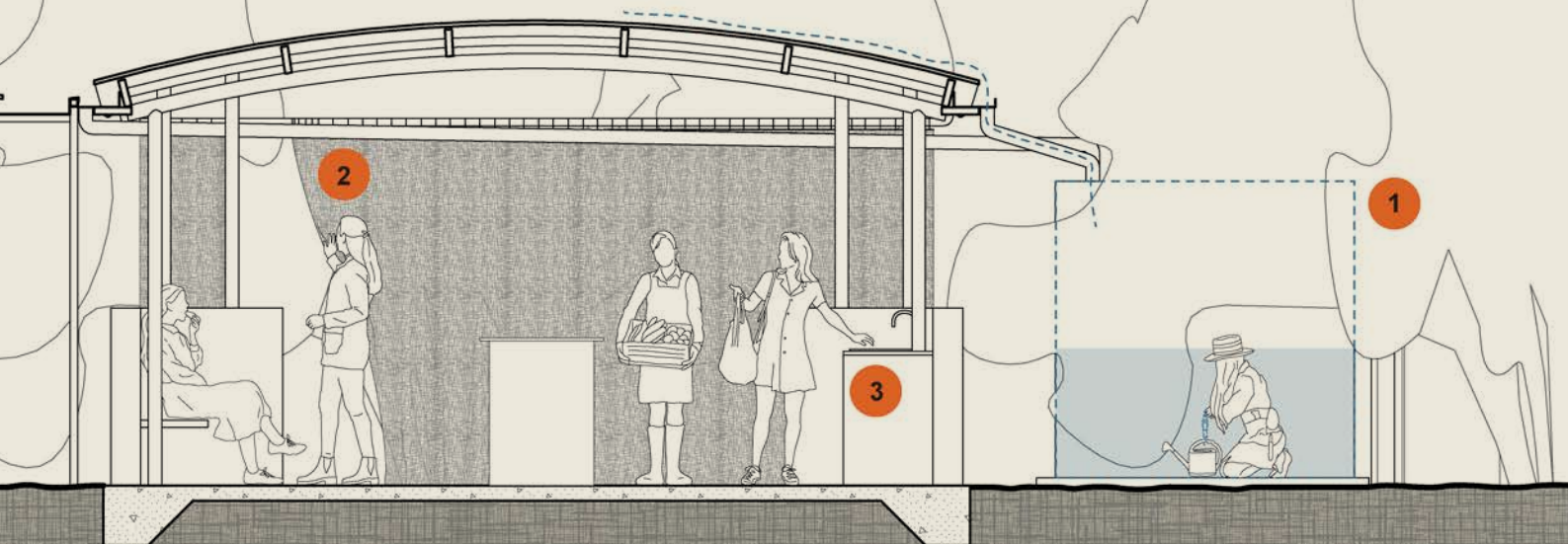


**Figure 4.4.11** Shelter System Connection with BBQ Shelter

“...doesn't sound like a community hall to me if you have to pay for the space”

“We just need a shelter... a doctor could come once a month if he had somewhere for him to come”

“A kitchen, a community kitchen”



# Towards Permanence

## In Emergency

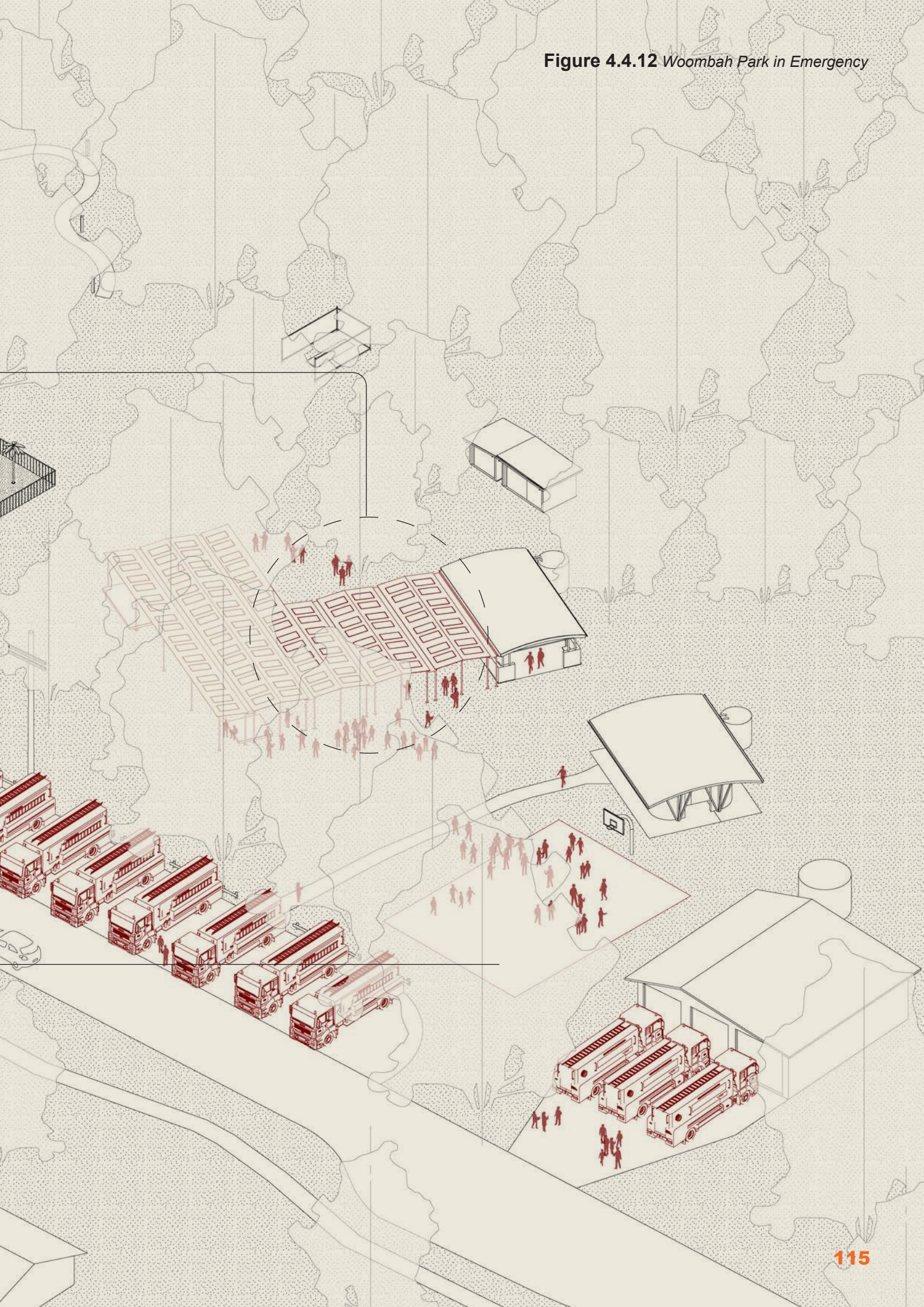


Multiple Bays of the Proposed Shelter System Combined for a Larger Sheltered Area, linked with BBQ shelter increasing its capacity for people to self organise



New Multi-Purpose Court Area, in emergency this can function as an assembly area

Figure 4.4.12 Woombah Park in Emergency



# A Mobile Approach

## Project 2: Woombah Life Box

### Project Overview

The Woombah Life Box is a series of mobile modules that manifest different functions of a typical community hall. The programs of these modules have emerged from findings derived from the placemaking workshops that occurred at the beginning of semester with community members of Woombah, NSW.

Activation during disaster situations is equally critical to the practical outcomes of the community's needs with this design. The shelving system allows for the storage of essential emergency supplies.

Existing programs can also be easily repurposed to the demands of evacuation procedures.

The Mobile Kitchen can be mobilised to evacuation points to provide amenities to prepare and distribute food. The Learning Kiosk provides storage and pantries for essential emergency and food bank supplies and can be converted to a redistribution centre. The Community Hub holds medical supplies and equipment, as well as providing dedicated amenities to be quickly converted to a health clinic.

### Activation Strategies

Restrictive existing planning regulations and Woombah's location in the heart of bushfire and flood prone areas has led to the proposal being self-contained and easily moveable in modular form.

As separate units, they can adapt to the changing social ecosystem that currently exists between Woombah and the surrounding localities.

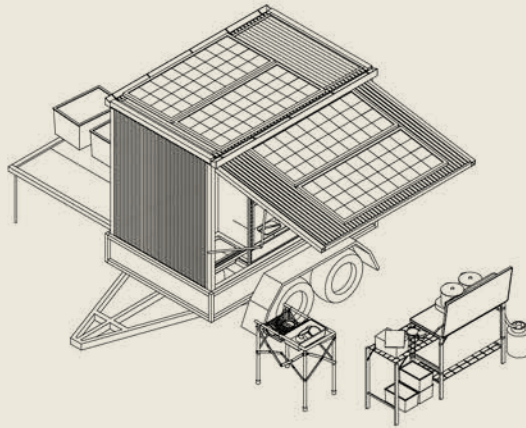
Various community activities such as music events and workshops already occur at the community garden and park. The mobile units are intended to further add to these experiences by providing essential amenities and additional activities. Additionally, the mobile units can be transported to other localities to provide amenities and support for community events.

The Learning Kiosk enables resilience education to be more widespread and accessible throughout the different localities. The Mobile Kitchen provides a practical and low-cost option as a community amenity for Woombah. The versatility of the Community Hub provides a performance space and facilities for a community health clinic for Woombians and other locals.

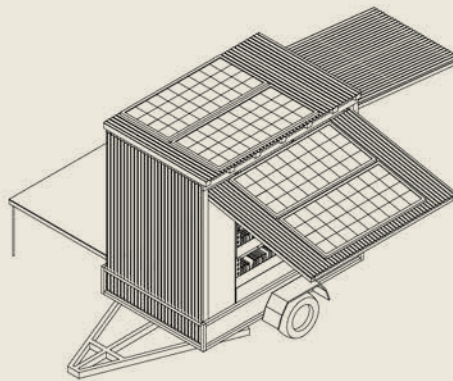
### During Emergencies & Evacuations

During times of disaster emergencies and evacuations, the mobile units can be dispatched along evacuation routes on the highway or to designated evacuation points. In these instances, they can provide essential amenities to provide food, healthcare and distribute emergency supplies.

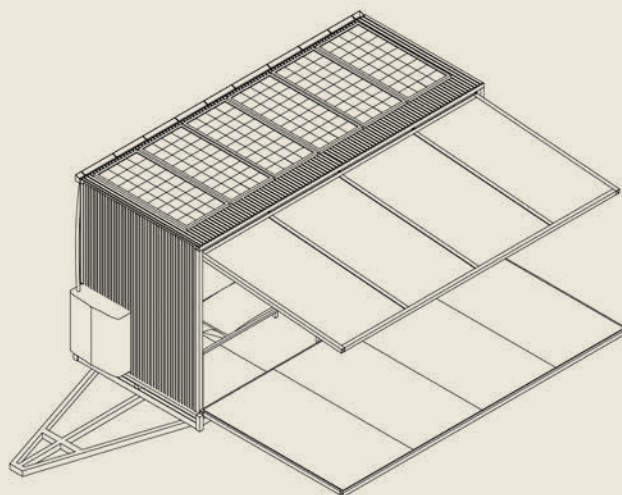
1 Security: Mobile Kitchen



2 Education: Learning Kiosk



3 Connection: Community Hub



To Ballina

# Woombah Life Box

## Activation Strategies

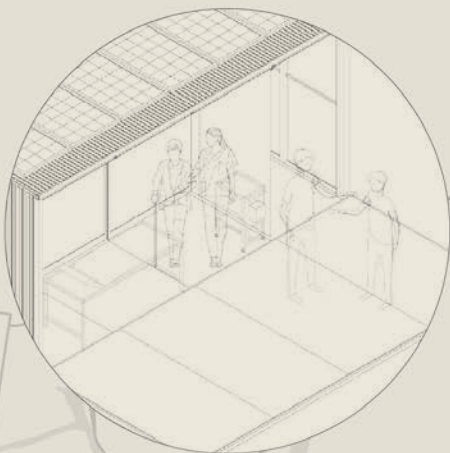
Bun Natio

Pacific Highway

Woombah

Woombah Park & Community Garden

Goodwood Island (E)



Pop-Up Clinic at Woombah Park.



Clarence River

Ashby

Ashby Community Hall (E)

Maclean

Maclean Bowling Club

Maclean Showgrounds (E)

To Grafton



Mobile Kitchen set up at evacuation points.

**Figure 4.4.14** Woombah Life Box Deployment Locations



# Woombah Life Box

## Evacuation Procedures Iluka Recreation Centre



1 Preparing meals for evacuees.

2 Distributing essential items.

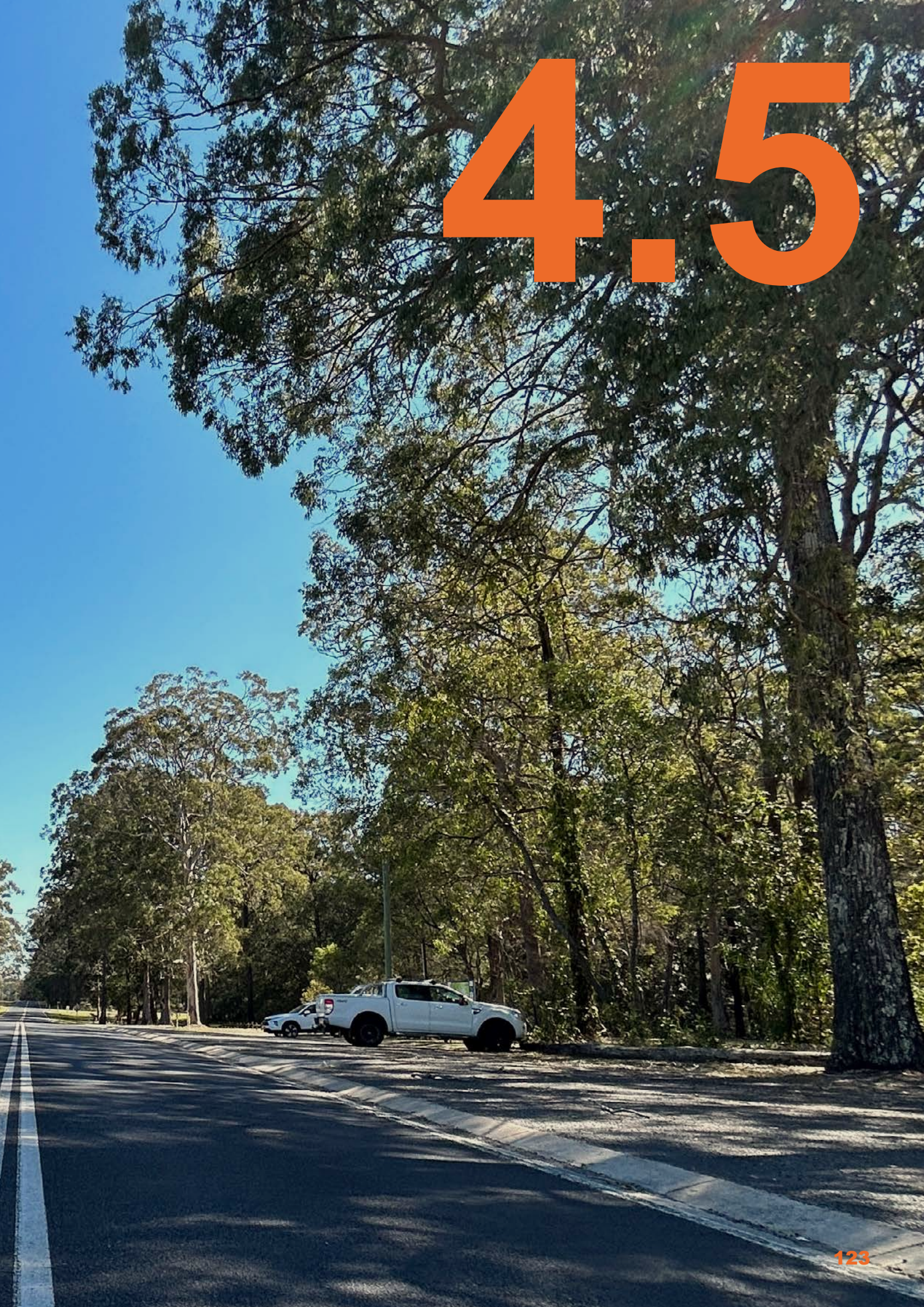
Figure 4.4.15 Woombah Life Box in Emergency





# Implementation

# 4.5



# 4.5.1 Implementation Matrix

## Project 1: Towards Permanence

Action	1.1 BBQ Shelter Upgrades	1.2 New deck
Description	Improvements to allow temporary enclosure when required and installation of a rainwater collection system	Installing low level deck structures in the area between playground and BBQ shelter
Planning Considerations	The projects fall within the RE1 zone and Crown Land, subject to building Height Restriction of 9m. Any development on the Crown Land should be submitted to Council for consideration.	
Building Requirements	Construction approval may be required by NSW Department of Planning and Environment and NSW Rural Fire Service as development sits on Crown Land <sup>50</sup> .	
Further Engagement	Yaegl Council (LALC) Woombah Community through Woombah Residents Association (WRA)	
Responsible Body	Clarence Valley Council	WRA
Potential Funding Source	Fire to Flourish	
Estimated Cost	\$	\$\$\$

### 1.3 New Shed

Install new shed to expand storage next to existing shed

### 1.4 One Bay

Prototype Shelter System - 1 Bay

### 1.5 Multiple Bays

Scale Shelter System - multiple bays as required

The project fall within the RE1 zone and Crown Land, subject to building Height Restriction of 9m. Any development on the Crown Land should be submitted to Council for consideration.

Construction approval may be required by NSW Department of Planning and Environment and NSW Rural Fire Service as development sits on Crown Land<sup>53</sup>.

Comply with National Construction Code (NCC) with consideration to temporary structure requirements as outlined in Part I5 where used as an entertainment venue<sup>51</sup>. Construction approval may be required by NSW Department of Planning and Environment and NSW Rural Fire Service as development sits on Crown Land<sup>52</sup>.

Yaegl Council (LALC)  
Woombah Community through WRA

WRA

Fire to Flourish

\$

\$\$

\$\$\$

## Complementary Projects of Project 1

Action	1.a Multipurpose Court	1.b Playground Upgrades
Description	Addition of a multipurpose court located between the RFS shed and the toilet block	Update and improve the existing playground facilities (subject to detail from the Clarence Valley Council)
Planning Considerations	Council is currently inviting public comments on the playground upgrades. According to the latest Clarence Magazine v05 <sup>54</sup> , there will be \$250K granting for the Woombah Playground Upgrade in the 2023/24 capital works snapshot.	
Building Requirements	Construction approval may be required by NSW Department of Planning and Environment and NSW Rural Fire Service as development sits on Crown Land <sup>55</sup> .	
Further Engagement	Yaegl Council (LALC) Woombah Community through WRA	
Responsible Body	Clarence Valley Council	
Funding Source	Clarence Valley Council	
Estimated Cost	\$\$\$	\$\$\$

### 1.c Toilet Facilities Upgrades

### 1.d Guided Nature Walk Proposal

Expanding capacity to 4  
- Installing gutters to roof  
- Installing rainwater tank behind

Introducing a bush walk experience to the residents and visitors connecting the playground area of Woombah Park to the Wellness Community Garden

Council is currently inviting public comments on the playground upgrades. According to the latest Clarence Magazine v05<sup>56</sup>, there will be \$250K granting for the Woombah Playground Upgrade in the 2023/24 capital works snapshot.

Construction approval may be required by NSW Department of Planning and Environment and NSW Rural Fire Service as development sits on Crown Land<sup>57</sup>.

Yaegl Council (LALC)  
Woombah Community through WRA

Clarence Valley Council

Yaegl Council (LALC)  
WRA

Clarence Valley Council

\$\$\$

\$\$

## Project 2: Woombah Life Box

Action	2.1 Mobile Kitchen
Description	Self-contained mobile unit on 8x5 Heavy Duty Steel Tandem Box Trailer, with solar power collection and battery system, and rainwater collection and storage system. Basic kitchen and food preparation amenities. Storage spaces for kitchen equipment and items for food bank.
Planning Considerations	NA
Building Requirements	Comply with National Construction Code (NCC) with consideration to temporary structure requirements as outlined in Part I5 where used as an entertainment venue <sup>58</sup> .
Further Engagement	Yaegl Council (LALC) Woombah Community through Woombah Residents Association (WRA)
Responsible Body	WRA
Funding Source	Fire to Flourish
Estimated Cost	\$

## 2.2 Mobile Learning Kiosk

Self-contained mobile unit on 8x5 Heavy Duty Steel Tandem Box Trailer with solar power collection and battery system, and rainwater collection and storage system. Shelving and storage for books. Storage spaces for evacuation/emergency items.

## 2.3 Mobile Community Hub

Self-contained mobile unit on 16x6.6 Heavy Duty Steel Car Trailer, with solar power collection and battery system, and rainwater collection and storage system. Can be used as a medical clinic - storage system for essential medical equipment and items. Also intended to be used as a stage for community events - storage system for items used for community events.

NA

Comply with National Construction Code (NCC) with consideration to temporary structure requirements as outlined in Part I5 where used as an entertainment venue<sup>59</sup>.

Yaegl Council (LALC)  
Woombah Community through WRA

WRA

Fire to Flourish

\$

\$

## Complementary Projects of Project 2

Action	2.a Painting the Mobile Units	2.b Trailer Docking Stations with Powered Site
<b>Description</b>	Local Artist/s to paint/create murals on the mobile units to enable them to have a distinct local identity and visually recognisable.	Located at Woombah Community Garden and Park, and other Evacuation sites - Iluka Community Hall, Iluka Recreation Centre, Ashby Hall and Maclean Showgrounds. Marked site connected to power grid. Paved area suitable for annex. Small decking area to easily access mobile units.
<b>Planning Considerations</b>	NA	
<b>Building Requirements</b>	NA	Comply with National Construction Code (NCC) as required
<b>Further Engagement</b>	Yaegl Council (LALC) Woombah Community through Woombah Residents Association (WRA)	
<b>Responsible Body</b>	WRA	
<b>Funding Source</b>	Fire to Flourish	
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$	\$\$

## 2.c Rainwater Collection Unit

Located at Woombah Community Garden and Park sites. 5000L Rainwater Tank connected to a rainwater catchment unit and filtration system. This system can then be connected to the mobile units if stationed on the same site.

NA

Comply with National Construction Code (NCC) as required

Yaegl Council (LALC)  
Woombah Community through WRA

WRA

Fire to Flourish

\$

## 2.d 3x Utility Vehicles

Purchase of 3x utility vehicles, intended for the transportation of the mobile trailers/units. Each utility vehicle will also be equipped with roadside assistance and maintenance equipment for the mobile trailers/units.

NA

NA

Clarence Valley Council

\$\$\$

## Project 3: Footpath and Bike Lane Improvements

<b>Action</b>	<b>3.1 Reducing speed limits along Iluka Road</b>
<b>Description</b>	Investigation on the possibility of lowering the speed limit from the existing range of 50km/h and 80km/h to 20km/h when passing through the residential portion, as well as wildlife crossing zones. Also, redesign the existing crossing signs.
<b>Planning Considerations</b>	Opportunities arise from the Road Safety Program. <sup>60</sup> A \$1.5M granting for the program will involve widening the existing shoulders and clearing zones at critical locations along Iluka Road from Woombah to Iluka in the 2023/24 capital works snapshot. <sup>61</sup>
<b>Building Requirements</b>	NA
<b>Further Engagement</b>	Woombah Community through WRA
<b>Responsible Body</b>	Clarence Valley Council Transport for NSW
<b>Funding Source</b>	Clarence Valley Council
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$\$\$

### 3.2 Expanding Footpath and Bike paths along Iluka Road

To refine recommendations identified from Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan 2015<sup>62</sup> and Bicycle Plan 2015<sup>63</sup> as there are already identified needs for footpath extension to the residential area and Woombah Park connecting to Iluka Road, as well as the coastline cycling path along Iluka Road.

Opportunities also arise from the LGA-wise Footpath Program<sup>64</sup> and Road Safety Program<sup>65</sup>. There will be \$1.56M and \$1.5M granting for the programs respectively in the 2023/24 capital works snapshot.<sup>66</sup>

NA

Yaegl Council (LALC)  
Woombah Community through WRA

Clarence Valley Council

Clarence Valley Council

\$\$\$\$

## Project 4: Community App

Action	4.1 Community App
Description	Develop a mobile application for community information-sharing. It could provide a platform for disaster information and notification of community events for Woombians.
Planning Considerations	NA
Building Requirements	NA
Further Engagement	Woombah Community through WRA
Responsible Body	WRA
Funding Source	Fire to Flourish/WRA
Estimated Cost	\$

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# Endnotes

- 1 McSwan L. E. H., and Switzer., M. (2006). A Thematic History of Maclean Shire Volume 2 - Community Based Heritage Study. Access on 31 August 2023. Retrieved from: [https://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/community/files/heritage/maclean\\_thematic\\_history\\_small-1.pdf](https://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/community/files/heritage/maclean_thematic_history_small-1.pdf)
- 2 McSwan L. E. H., and Switzer., M. (2006). A Thematic History of Maclean Shire Volume 2 - Community Based Heritage Study. Access on 31 August 2023. Retrieved from: [https://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/community/files/heritage/maclean\\_thematic\\_history\\_small-1.pdf](https://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/community/files/heritage/maclean_thematic_history_small-1.pdf)
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- 4 Ryan, L., Richards, J., Pascoe, W., Debenham, J., Gilbert, S., Anders, R J., Brown, M., Smith, R., Price, D., Newly, J. (2018) Colonial Frontier Massacres in Eastern Australia 1788 to 1930. Vol. 2.1. Newcastle, University of Newcastle. <https://c21ch.newcastle.edu.au/colonialmassacres/introduction.php>
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