



T.C.L

**LAKE CAROLINE
MASTER PLAN & ACTIVATION STRATEGY**

JUNE 2024



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Melton City Council acknowledges the Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lake Caroline Reserve was developed between 1999 and 2008. The reserve and associated infrastructure remain largely unchanged since their construction. The surrounding residential area has been subject to significant population growth however, increasing the demand for passive recreation and the need to cater to a wide variety of user groups.

The Lake Caroline Master Plan and Activation Strategy will guide the development of the reserve with the long-term aim to transform the Lake Caroline area into a vibrant and inviting community space. The strategy was informed by extensive community and stakeholder consultation. This was undertaken prior to and following development of the draft document. As a result the draft strategy was very well-received indicating that the proposed development aligned closely with community needs and aspirations.

The strategy proposes the creation of public amenities, such as picnic areas, interpretive elements and a playground upgrade. It also highlights opportunities for council and community facilitated events, and private operator activation. Council acknowledges the need for water quality and habitat improvements and the plan prioritises the establishment of high-quality ecological communities and the preservation, protection and promotion of wildlife in the reserve.

The recommendations contained within the strategy include developing a plan for water security, increased urban cooling, improved path lighting and connectivity, and conducting feasibility studies for various initiatives. Improved urban cooling was a recognised need and increased tree planting and maintenance is also a key aim.

The Master Plan outlines a series of project precincts which will be programmed and implemented through a staged funding and delivery approach. This will ensure a cost efficient and coordinated approach to all future works and activation at the lake reserve and will provide oversight of and enable Council to respond to budget allocation and future funding opportunities. These precincts include:

- The Boathouse Lawn, Cafe and Playground
- Cascade & Weir Wetlands Upgrade
- Lake Crossing Bridge & Esplanade
- Ecology Hub
- Lake Street Transformation
- Promenade Parkland Refresh
- Southern Ecology Zone
- Esplanade Greening

LAKE CAROLINE MASTER PLAN



CS War Memorial

Lake Street Shared Zone

Promenade Parkland

Southern Deck & Boat launch

Fountain

Floating Wetlands

Southern Ecology Park

Cascade Wetlands Lookout

New Boathouse Playground

Boathouse Event Lawn

Boathouse Café

Boathouse Pier & Rental

Northern Promenade

The Weir Wetland

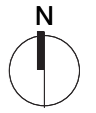
The Lake Crossing Bridge

Esplanade Ecology Hub

Esplanade Trail

The Strand Pocket Park

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Lake Caroline Master Plan and Activation Strategy was commissioned by City of Melton at the end of 2022. It was a response to ongoing feedback from the local community regarding the Lake Reserve Precinct.

Lake Caroline Reserve is one of the most significant open spaces in the Caroline Springs area, and attracts both locals and residents from all around the City of Melton. Lake Caroline is an artificial waterbody, and was created as part of the Delfin Caroline Springs submission in the early 2000s. The reserve is valued for its amenity, generosity of open space and ecological value.

Since the recent COVID-19 Pandemic, a number of regular events and attractions around the lake precinct have ceased to exist, and council and the community are seeking ways to reactivate.

