Proposed Upgrades

3.0 PROPOSED UPGRADES

The carpark site is limited by the physical constraints of the surrounding hillside, and creeks on two sides. Consequently, it cannot be expanded. It is, therefore, necessary to explore other options to work within the existing footprint.

The rationale to address this is to:

- Create a bus set-down on the entry road external to the carpark
- Re-linemark the carpark to maximise the number of parks
- Increase the turn-over of the carpark by offering a visitor experience closer to the carpark
- Increase the turn-over of the carpark by introducing a number of short stay parks (say 1 hour)

1. Additional parking
2. New Entry/Gateway to the Park
3. Pedestrian Connectivity across the Carpark
4. Extension of Toilet Block to incorporate changing rooms
5. New boardwalk to accommodate less able visitors and allow them to experience the creek
6. Replace old shelters and furniture
7. Improve Statutory and Information signage
Proposed Upgrades

Additional Parking

1. Additional Parking
It is proposed that the existing drainage swale on the approach side of the entry road be filled (over a new pipe and culvert underground stormwater system). This will allow tour buses to set down their passengers without entering the carpark, and wait for them with clear sight lines to the entrance.

The existing entry feature would be removed, and a new direct, all weather path would be constructed to the entry.

New Entry

2. New Entry/Gateway to the Park
Create a new arrival experience to The Crystal Cascades Park that is more in keeping with the status of the asset. This would include:

a. New pitched stone feature walls in locally sourced stone.
b. Bespoke, lockable cast iron feature gates – with separate pedestrian and vehicular gates to allow for improved security outside of opening hours.
c. A naturally paved gathering space for groups complete with welcome and informative signage about the site.
d. Relocation (and refurbishment) of the existing entry sign to new arrival court.
e. Stone pitched rails to the existing bridge capable of withstanding a storm event, but still of high visual quality.
3. Pedestrian connectivity across the carpark

Two paths will be created within the entry carpark, with the entry gates as the obvious, visual pivot point.

As suggested above, a formal, all-weather, paved path will be constructed along the visual axis from the bus park to the entrance.

A second pathway will be created in a direct sight line from the entry gate to the amenities. This path will be created with an applied treatment to the existing road surface.
Toilet Block Upgrade

4. Extension of Toilet Block
The existing toilet block is still functional. The pitched skillion roof had architectural merit at the time of construction, and is still an asset worthwhile of retention.

Consequently, options were explored.

As the concept design shows, it is recommended that the facility is rejuvenated and extended, with a changing room added on either side of the existing building. This will give patrons the option of changing in a purpose built changing room, independent of having to change in a toilet. As the building is in a quite a sheltered location, glass bricks have been included in the façade to permit as much natural light into the changing rooms as possible.
Proposed Upgrades

New boardwalk

5. New boardwalk

In order to enhance the visitor experience, accommodate less able visitors and allow them to experience the creek, it is suggested that a boardwalk to a lookout platform closer to the carpark would be of great benefit to the park.

Much in the same style as the new boardwalk at Babinda Boulders, a boardwalk to a look-out platform immediately inside the gates would allow visitors to experience the creek without the walk up the hill to the falls. This may be an excellent option for those who are pressed for time, or are not as able to make the trek up the hill.

The opportunity to experience the park closer to the entry would have the additional benefit of shorter stays and, therefore, greater turnover in the carpark.