



STRENGTHENING **DRIVE TOURISM**



Indigenous tourism

A growing sector in Australia, especially in Queensland, where visitors can experience both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Indigenous tourism offers many benefits for the local communities



Revival of cultural heritage and traditions



Employment opportunities and economic outcomes



Increased cross-cultural understanding and respect

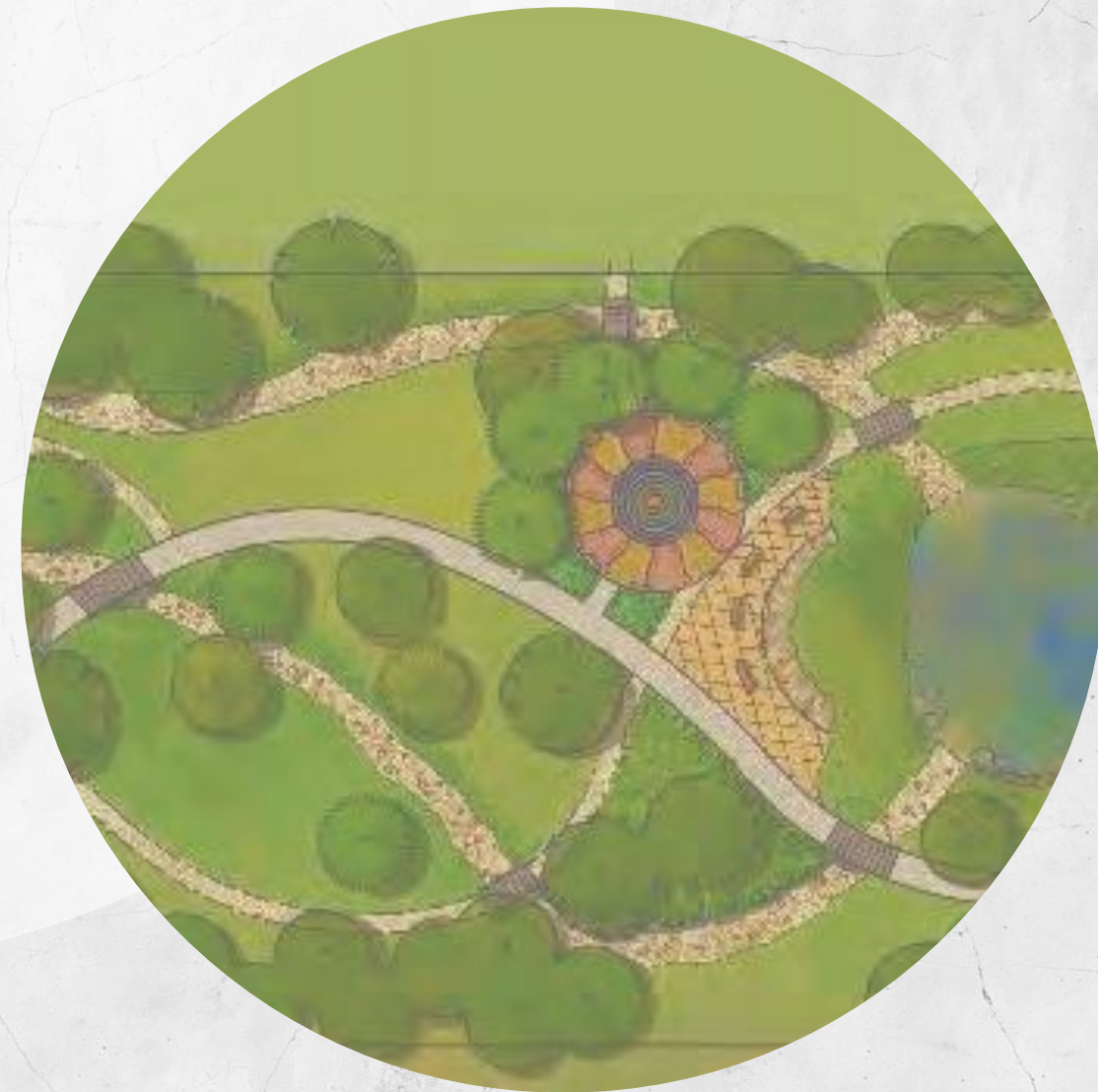


Decrease of stereotypical images and discrimination

Ghungalu Nunee

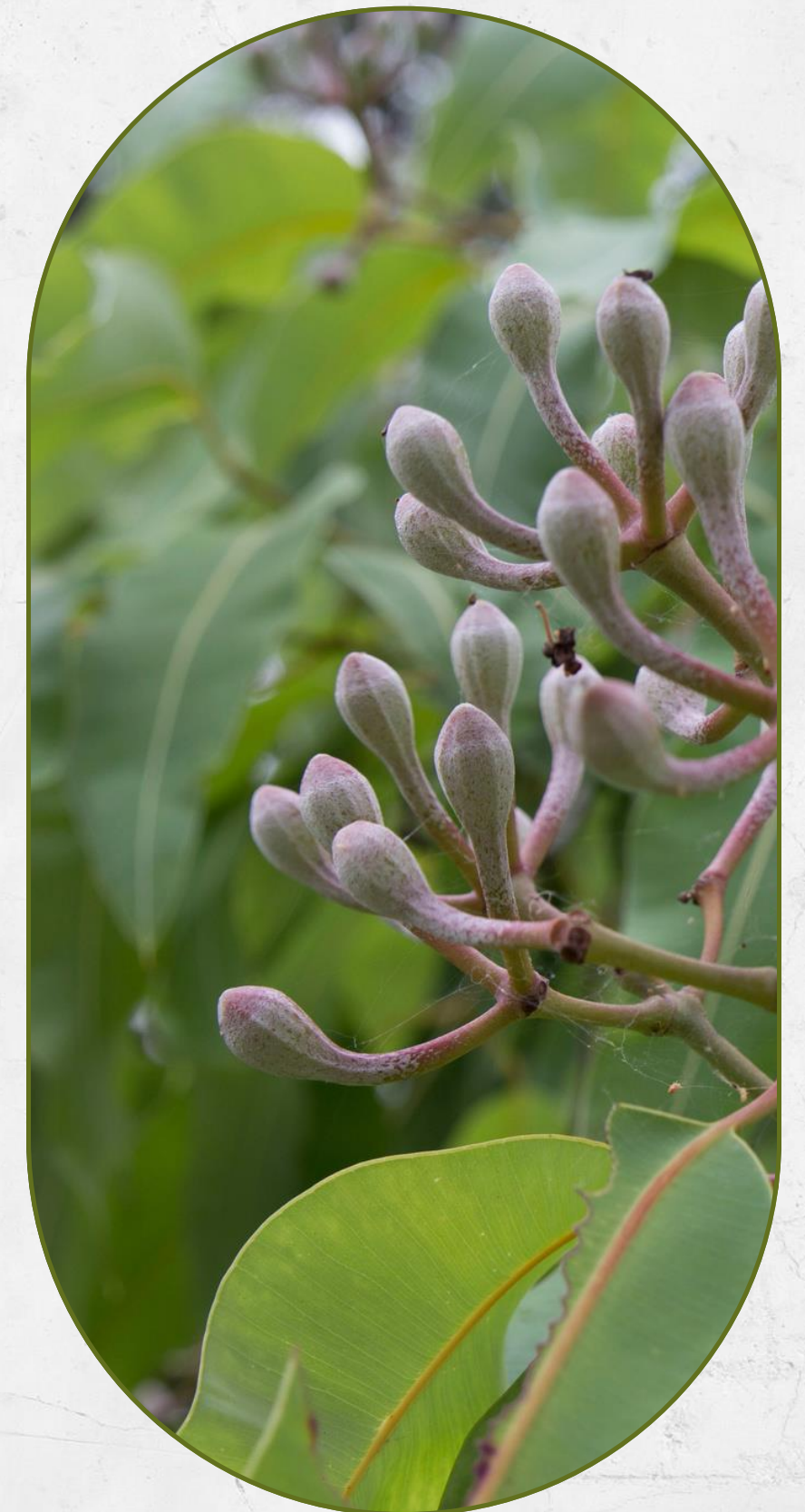
Blackwater

Co-located with the Blackwater International Coal Centre, the new Ghungalu Nunee parkland honours the history and knowledge of the Ghungalu Nation People and their connection to country, including Blackdown. The integrated 'Walking With The Elders Experience' will allow residents and visitors to hear the voices of real Ghungalu Elders. They will guide them through the park describing their experiences and share their knowledge.



The Gardens

Connects you to the unique natural features of the region - Ghungalu Country - its gorges, tablelands, wetlands and bush habitats. Working in partnership with Traditional Custodians, the Ghungalu People, the park design references these landscapes through local natural materials and native plantings that reflect the region's character, identity and climate.



Emerald Regional Botanical Gardens

Emerald

The Emerald Regional Botanic Gardens is the living heart of Emerald. Located along the Nogoa River, lifeblood of the Emerald irrigation area, the 42-hectare site is a treasured, shady oasis for locals and visitors alike.



Background of the garden

The Emerald Regional Botanic Gardens, developed through volunteer efforts, highlight the work of Lawrie and Myra Stanton, who spent two decades researching and cultivating local plants. Opened in 1988, it features diverse areas and has undergone several expansions and upgrades, including repairs after flood damage in 2008 and 2010.



Council's management

Council hopes that the gardens will promote conservation, education, cultural events, social recreation, research, and tourism. Our plan for the gardens is to ensure it is the premier garden space for the region and utilised by the community and tourists to its full potential.



Project Objectives

Incorporate sustainable landscaping practices that preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the site, promoting native flora and fauna that contribute the regions eco-systems.

- **Enhance Community Wellbeing and Identity**
- **Increase Access to Services and Facilities**
- **Promote Cultural and Environmental Awareness**
- **Strengthen Community Bonds and Social Capital**
- **Revitalise Botanical Collections and Infrastructure**
- **Improve Visitor Experience and Accessibility**
- **Support Economic Development and Tourism**
- **Promote Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility**



Council received \$7,000,000 from the Resources Community Infrastructure fund to upgrade paths, trails, new pedestrian bridge and visitor centre. The project is proudly funded by the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund.

Where to from here?



Pathway upgrades

Aging narrow paths replaced with 2.5m wide concrete paths. Western side nearly complete, eastern side starts in the new year.



New pedestrian bridge:

To be built across the Nogoia River, 100m from railway bridge. Construction expected in FY 25/26.



Visitor information centre:

To be built on the eastern side near the Windmill, offering garden info and promoting events.



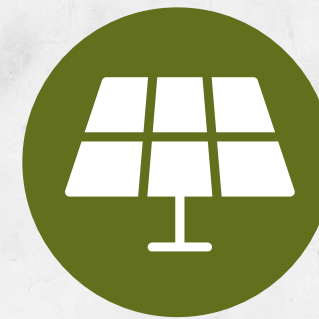
Digital signage:

At garden entrances, providing event details and highlighting significant areas.



Construction

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Solar lighting & signage

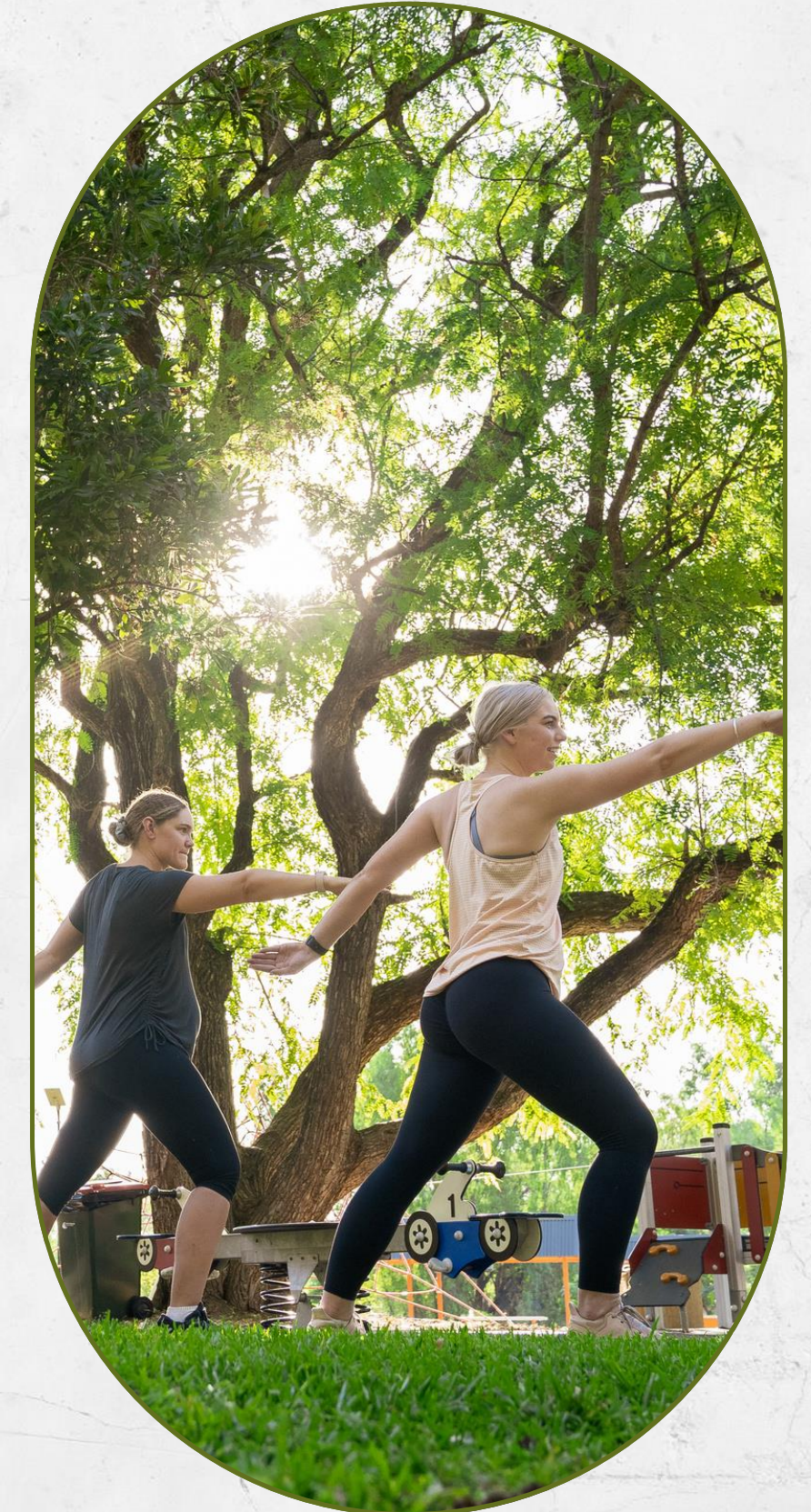
Enhance the garden's visual appeal and extend evening use.



Enhancing Community Engagement & Event Spaces

The gardens are an important venue for Weddings, Funerals, Organised Tourism Function, Events, Fun Runs, Schools excursions and educational experiences.

The improvements will increase the liveability and activity levels of the community, providing them with a space to share with family and friends.



Bedford Weir

Blackwater

The Bedford Weir, located 25 km north of Blackwater on the Mackenzie River, is a popular free camping and recreation area. The area features wood-fired barbecues, a playground, and shaded picnic spots by the river. Popular for boating, skiing, and fishing, it's stocked with Saratoga, Barramundi, and Yellowbelly. The peaceful environment supports diverse wildlife, including wallabies, echidnas, and peacocks. The boat ramp and weir are managed by Sunwater.





Thank you
Questions?