

15 December 2023



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

City of Gold Coast Mayor, Tom Tate
Via Email: mayor@goldcoast.qld.gov.au
Cc via email: Tim Baker, City of Gold Coast CEO,
Cr Daphne McDonald Div 13,
Cr Gail Oneill Div 14,
Sally Stannard, A/Director General, Transport and Main Roads
Andrew Wheeler, TMR Gold Coast,
Chris Derksema, Gold Coast Waterways Authority

Dear Mayor Tate,

Re: Currumbin Estuary

The Queensland Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) appreciates the opportunity to make comment regarding the Currumbin Estuary. We see this as an opportunity to advocate for a precinct scale masterplan to fully realise the potential of the Currumbin Estuary as a natural and community asset.

AILA is the peak national body for Landscape Architecture. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship. With our members, we anticipate and develop a leading position on issues of concern in the industry.

As you are aware the Currumbin Estuary represents one of the treasured natural assets of the City, and has been subject to many individual projects over recent years including the current Palm Beach Aquatic Centre, upgrade of Duringan Street Pathways and the planned upgrade of the Alley Training Wall, Beree Badalla Boardwalk and the Oceanway, to name a few. The State Government are also planning upgrades associated with the M1, The Currumbin Creek Active Transport Bridge and the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 Planning. In the estuary, Gold Coast Waterways have also been undertaking extensive planning work towards a Waterways Place strategy, addressing the popularity of the waterways. We have illustrated several projects on the attached sheets to illustrate the complex interplay of different bodies attempting to resolve the complex spatial and planning issues around Currumbin Estuary as discrete projects.



We have also attached an overlay which illustrates the comparative scale of the broader Estuary landscape with the footprint of the Greenheart, which has been through various iterations over the past 10-15 years. One of our members posed a question to you in your Post Budget Briefing presentation to the Southern Chamber of Commerce, at Currumbin Estuary on 27 July 2023, in which you acknowledged your positive support. ALA and the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) recently held a walking tour around the Estuary which was very well attended and led to extensive topical discussion.



GREENHEART MASTERPLAN - ROBINA

CURRUMBIN ESTUARY

The scale of the entire Estuary landscape setting encompassing: Currumbin Beach; Currumbin Ridge; the Estuary and its associated public open spaces, PBC High and Pool Complex, is not dissimilar to the scale of the City's Greenheart, currently in planning stages as a major open space asset.

We urge the City of Gold Coast to take the lead on delivering a holistic masterplan of the Currumbin Estuary. In conclusion, as a principal contributor, the City of Gold Coast is poised to collaborate closely with fellow

stakeholders and the local community to develop a comprehensive masterplan for this vital, widely cherished, yet intricate public space. We propose integrating this project into the 2024/5 budget. Such a strategic move would enable a holistic and well-informed planning process for all initiatives surrounding the Estuary. This approach is pivotal to achieving world-class results, befitting our city's esteemed global reputation.

We would welcome any further opportunities to discuss this project. Please contact Melanie West, AILA Queensland Chapter Manager on 0417 666 622 or melanie.west@aila.org.au

Yours sincerely,



Tessa Leggo
Queensland Chapter President
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects