



Legend

Bitumen paving	Street planting
Gravel paving	Wetland
Footpath	Visitor facility
Timber decking	
Grass	
Vegetation	

Introduction:

The existing approach into Lakes Entrance from the Melbourne direction is dramatic with the Princes Highway winding through a vegetated hillside and emerging with an elevated view over the town and Cunningham Arm. Road intersections, buildings, gateway signs and lookouts on the approach are without exception, of poor design, and significantly detract from a very special arrival experience. Visitors are encouraged to stop and take in the elevated views but the opportunities are limited creating unsafe road conditions and discouraging the stop.

This new concept aims to create a new gateway landscape to replace inept viewing infrastructure and signs. The design will encourage visitors to safely stop and view the entrance and surrounding lakes and town. The design also provides for safe pedestrian movement in this key location. It also can accommodate new commercial space that could provide activity for the area and income to help offset development costs.

Elements to the design include:

- 1 Town entry roundabout**
A new large roundabout is suggested to enable rearrangement of access roads and encourage tourist visits to the lookout area. The centre of the roundabout could be recessed with a small wetland developed to process road storm water.
- 2 Sculptural skywalk**
A new pedestrian overpass will form a gateway to Lakes Entrance. It should be designed to replace all the existing entrance signage and lookout infrastructure. It would be illuminated to have a special presence at night. Taking advantage of the slopes it will provide a natural pathway across the highway providing elevated views of the lake system. This new boardwalk and overpass needs to be lightweight and of high design quality because of its significant location. Ramps should extend sufficiently to accommodate direct disabled access from both ends.
- 3 New residential and lookout entry road**
The new roundabout will enable the creation of a landscaped boulevard style access road with associated parking spaces that enables direct visitor access to a new elevated viewing facility at the point of the ridge. This location will enable views directly to the entrance and it will also encapsulate the lake system and the town.
- 4 Visitor facilities**
Existing communications facilities will be incorporated in a new building structure that could have café and other commercial and/or interpretive facilities. It could become a must visit destination for tourists passing through and a regular destination for locals.
- 5 New path to water edge**
Subject to further investigation a graded path to connect directly to the water edge path is suggested.

