



## **6.5 e Walking Track Design Report Ella Bay**



# Ella Bay Integrated Resort Proposal

## SEIS Submission Response

### Walking Tracks Design Report





# Contents

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Ella Bay Walking Track Map .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Rainforest &amp; Indigenous National Park Tracks .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Conservation and Education Tracks .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Nature Tracks.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Other Tracks .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Reference .....</b>	<b>9</b>



## Introduction

A major environmental element of the Ella Bay experience will be in providing the opportunity for visitors and residents to experience the unique location surrounded by the tropical rainforest and Coral Sea coast will be via a defined walking tracks network. This report briefly identifies the proposed locations, concept and design for these walking tracks and pathways for the Ella Bay Development plan.

*“Walks have also been promoted recently by government as an ideal way to preserve and promote aspects of Australia’s natural and cultural heritage” (WTMA 2001).*

The walking tracks have been chosen to create minimal disturbances to environment and showcase the diverse Ella Bay vegetations and natural qualities. A well developed and managed walking track network will be important to facilitate education and preservation of Ella Bay natural environment.

The walking track location map (refer to figure 1.1) illustrates the proposed walking tracks descriptions and classifications based on the “Track Classification System” by WTMA (2001) and document “*Walking Strategies (2001)*” by the Wet Tropics Management Authority. The tracks are grouped as per their location area and general purpose. The track network is designed to provide a continuous circuit around the perimeter of the Ella Bay Development site. This will provide the opportunity for visitors and walkers to match their walking requirements and suitability. It also assists Ella Bay management in ease and proper environmental care and maintenance for the tracks and surrounding area. The illustrated paths on the map are currently only indicative as further primary and secondary research and surveying will be required.

# Ella Bay Walking Track Map

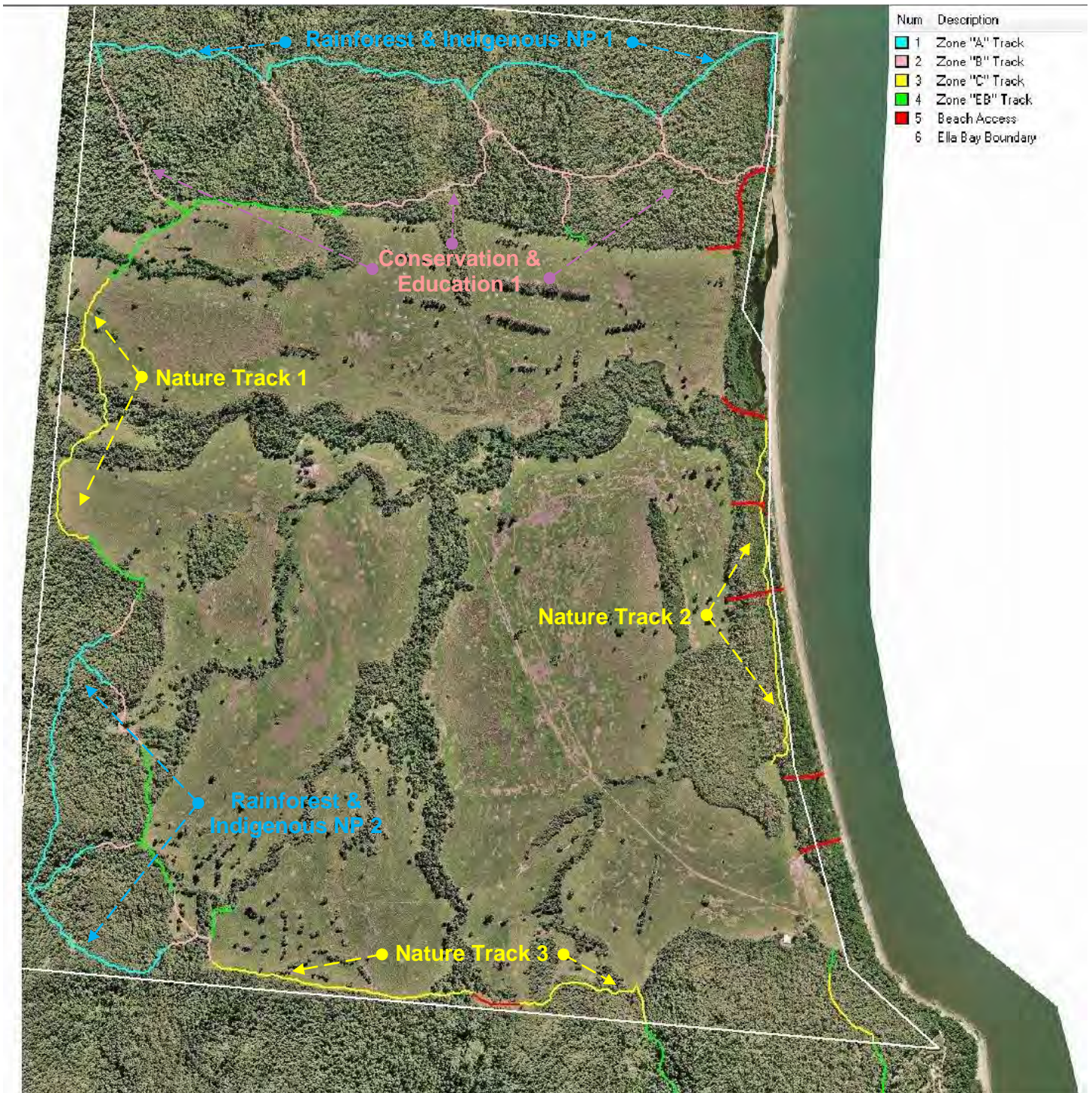


Figure 1.1 Ella Bay Walking Track Map



## Rainforest & Indigenous National Park Tracks

Track name	Rainforest & Indigenous National Park Track 1 <i>(marked in blue)</i>	Rainforest & Indigenous National Park Track 2 <i>(marked in blue)</i>
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The Rainforest & Indigenous National Park walking tracks will be designed to take visitors and walkers into a unique tropical rainforest and swamp forest area to the north of Ella Bay property. The walks will be designed to maximise visitor experience, education and environmental conservation through field research and indigenous consultation. This walking track will be located within the area which will be transferred to National Parks; however as part of the proposed Ella Bay Walking Tracks Network and Strategy all management, maintenance and inspection will be performed by the Proponent to best environmental practices.	
<b>Track classification and service standards</b>	Marked Route	Marked Route
<b>Track formation &amp; surface</b>	Vegetation disturbance will be limited to hand pruning if required. Path will meander to minimise erosion impact, however minor stabilisation may be required on friable soils. May be required to build minor log bridges over swamp areas and water courses.	Vegetation disturbance will be limited to hand pruning if required. Path will meander to minimise erosion impact, however minor stabilisation may be required on friable soils.
<b>Track width (approx)</b>	Approx 750 – 500 mm	Approx 750 – 500 mm
<b>Gradient/steps</b>	Mostly unmodified surfaces, changes to surface only if necessary for soil stabilisation or swamp areas and water crossings. Mostly natural gradient, steps provided using natural environment if necessary.	Mostly unmodified surfaces, changes to surface only if necessary for further soil stabilisation. Mostly natural gradient, steps provided using natural environment if necessary.
<b>Signs</b>	Limited information and education signs for visitors and management.	Limited information and education signs for visitors and management.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Very limited infrastructure. If provided, where needed due to environmental issues or walker safety.	Very limited infrastructure. If provided, where needed due to environmental issues or walker safety.
<b>Campsites</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Vegetation clearing</b>	Hand pruning vegetation to path width only.	Hand pruning vegetation to path width only.
<b>Desired monitoring frequency</b>	Infrequent inspections by management staff/rangers. Procedure and plan will be developed.	Infrequent inspections by management staff/rangers. Procedure and plan will be developed.



Track name	Rainforest & Indigenous National Park Track 1 <i>(marked in blue)</i>	Rainforest & Indigenous National Park Track 2 <i>(marked in blue)</i>
<b>Safety and risk management</b>	Suit fit walkers. Safety plans will be created. Emergency points/locations will be incorporated to the walk.	Suit fit walkers. Safety plans will be created. Emergency points/locations will be incorporated to the walk.
<b>Maintenance style</b>	Foot patrol by rangers. Removal of debris will be by hand.	Foot patrol by rangers. Removal of debris will be by hand.
<b>Biophysical (natural) setting</b>	Natural setting. Not close to roads.	Natural setting. Not close to roads.
<b>Social setting</b>	Minimal interaction and encounters with other visitors/walkers.	Minimal interaction and encounters with other visitors/walkers.
<b>Managerial setting</b>	Low managerial presence, monitoring and maintenance. Route markers and information signs kept to a minimal.	Low managerial presence, monitoring and maintenance. Route markers and information signs kept to a minimal.
<b>Distance</b>	3,000 metres approx	2,500 metres approx
<b>Distance Time</b>	5 hours approx	4 hours approx



## Conservation and Education Tracks

Track name	Conservation and Education Track 1 (marked in pink)
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The Conservation and Education walking track will be located within the Nature Conservation buffer zone to the north of the proposed Ella Bay property. This walking track will be made up of various smaller paths South-North and East-West connecting Ella Bay to the Rainforest & Indigenous Walking Track 1 to the north and to other paths within the Nature Conservation zone. Walkers and visitors will experience tropical rainforest and swamp areas which are unique to the Wet Tropics environment. These tracks will also be used to feature environmental and indigenous education programs.
<b>Track classification and service standards</b>	Graded Track
<b>Track formation &amp; surface</b>	Hand pruning and cleaning only to vegetation for path identification and path width. Path will be distinct path and may incorporate erosion control stabilisation. Some hardened surface may be used in some areas. May require minor log bridges or crossings structures over swamp areas or water crossings.
<b>Track width (approx)</b>	1,500 – 500 mm
<b>Gradient/steps</b>	Natural and hard surface steps will be used where necessary along hill sections.
<b>Signs</b>	Signs and track markers will be used for information, safety and education.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Some infrastructure provided for environmental and visitor safety. Educational learning infrastructure may also be provided. Toilet and amenities will be provided at track start point of track within Ella Bay property.
<b>Campsites</b>	N/A
<b>Vegetation clearing</b>	Hand pruning vegetation to path width only. Path markers designed to be very visible. Fallen vegetation and regrowth will be cleared by regular inspections.
<b>Desired monitoring frequency</b>	Regular inspections by management staff/rangers. Procedure and plan will be developed.
<b>Safety and risk management</b>	Suit most visitor walkers. Safety plans will be created. Emergency points/locations will be incorporated to the walk.
<b>Maintenance style</b>	Foot patrol by rangers, machinery and small service vehicles used where appropriate.
<b>Biophysical (natural) setting</b>	Natural setting. Only near roads at beginning of track path.
<b>Social setting</b>	Moderate interaction and encounters with other visitors/walkers.





Track name	Conservation and Education Track 1 (marked in pink)
<b>Managerial setting</b>	Medium to high managerial presence, monitoring and maintenance. Route markers and information signs used within path.
<b>Distance</b>	3,800 metres approx
<b>Distance Time</b>	5 hours approx



## Nature Tracks

Track name	Nature Track 1 (marked in yellow)	Nature Track 2 (marked in yellow)	Nature Track 3 (marked in yellow)
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Nature Track 1 will be the path connecting the northern walking tracks to the western Rainforest & Indigenous National Park Track 2 via the western boundary of the property. The location has been specifically chosen to traverse areas where future revegetation will take place as part of Ella Bay's flora conservation and fauna corridors. This path will cross established vegetation at three (3) water crossings points, where low impact pedestrian crossings will be placed.	Nature Track 2 will be the path which will showcase the eastern beach dunal swale system to visitors at Ella Bay. This walking track will be unique as the path will be between the swamp swale system and the Ella Bay beach. This path will traverse through open clear understory. This area will also feature extensive rehabilitation and revegetation of pond apple and Singapore daisy.	Nature Track 3 will be the path connecting the western walking tracks to the east of the property and Little Cove via the southern boundary of the property. The location has been specifically chosen to traverse areas where future revegetation will take place. This path will cross established vegetation water crossings points, where low impact pedestrian crossings will be placed.
<b>Track classification and service standards</b>	Rough Track	Rough Track	Rough Track
<b>Track formation &amp; surface</b>	Pruning of vegetation width for path identification. Track will have distinct path to prevent visitor access to other areas. Soil stabilisation where required for erosion control.	Minimal vegetation pruning, only to path width and identification. Track will have distinct path to prevent visitor access to other areas. Minor soil stabilisation where required for erosion control.	Pruning of vegetation width for path identification. Track will have distinct path to prevent visitor access to other areas. Soil stabilisation where required for erosion control.
<b>Track width (approx)</b>	1,500 - 1,000 mm	+/- 1,000 mm	1,500 - 1,000 mm
<b>Gradient/steps</b>	Gradual elevation hills. Steps may be necessary near creek crossings.	Flat – no steps necessary	Gradual elevation hills. Steps may be necessary near creek crossings.
<b>Signs</b>	Some signs and track markers will be used for information, safety and education.	Minimal signs and track markers. If used will be used for information, safety and education.	Some signs and track markers will be used for information, safety and education.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Some infrastructure provided for environmental and visitor safety. Educational infrastructure may also be provided.	Limited infrastructure provided for environmental and visitor safety and education.	Some infrastructure provided for environmental and visitor safety. Educational infrastructure may also be



			provided.
<b>Campsites</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Vegetation clearing</b>	Hand vegetation clearing. Most sections of track will be within to be revegetated areas as currently is grass or weeds. Fallen vegetation will be cleared by hand during inspections.	Minimal hand vegetation clearing. Mainly pruning vegetation at path width. Fallen vegetation will be cleared by hand during inspections.	Hand vegetation clearing. Most sections of track will be within to be revegetated areas as currently is grass or weeds. Fallen vegetation will be cleared by hand during inspections.
<b>Desired monitoring frequency</b>	Scheduled inspections by management staff/rangers. Procedure and plan will be developed.	Frequent inspections by management staff/rangers.	Scheduled inspections by management staff/rangers. Procedure and plan will be developed.
<b>Safety and risk management</b>	Suit fit walkers. Safety plans will be created. Emergency points/locations will be incorporated to the walk.	Suit fit walkers. Safety plans will be created. Emergency points/locations will be incorporated to the walk.	Suit fit walkers. Safety plans will be created. Emergency points/locations will be incorporated to the walk.
<b>Maintenance style</b>	Foot patrol by rangers, machinery and small service vehicles used where appropriate.	Foot patrol by rangers.	Foot patrol by rangers, machinery and small service vehicles used where appropriate.
<b>Biophysical (natural) setting</b>	Natural and revegetated setting. At some locations near roads or bikeways.	Natural setting. Not close to roads.	Natural and revegetated setting. At some locations near roads or bikeways.
<b>Social setting</b>	Minimal interaction and encounters with other visitors/walkers.	Moderate interaction and encounters with other visitors/walkers due to connecting beach access points.	Minimal interaction and encounters with other visitors/walkers.
<b>Managerial setting</b>	Low managerial presence, monitoring and maintenance. Route markers and information signs kept to a minimal.	Medium to high managerial presence, monitoring and maintenance due to environmental protection. Low impact route markers and information signs used within path.	Low managerial presence, monitoring and maintenance. Route markers and information signs kept to a minimal.
<b>Distance</b>	1,500 metres approx	1,000 metres approx	1,500 metres approx
<b>Distance Time</b>	2 hours approx	1 hour approx	2 hours approx



## Other Tracks

Other walking paths will be part of the walking track network; these have not been identified in this report as they will be either connecting paths or low impact pathways within the Ella Bay property.

## Reference

WTMA. (2001). Wet Tropics Walking Strategy. Cairns: Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA).