

THOMSON RIVER MASTER PLAN NEWSLETTER

EDITION 1 - MAY 2020

WHAT IS THE THOMSON RIVER MASTER PLAN?

The Longreach Regional Council is embarking on a major project, the Thomson River Master Plan, to explore the future potential of a section of the Thomson River. The project provides a rare opportunity to plan out the future of a most loved and valuable natural asset.

Mapping out the potential for the precinct in a master plan will help guide Council, the community, and industry in making strategic decisions that further enhance the value of the river and connect it to the Longreach community. The master plan has two key objectives:

- Provide new and improved recreational activities for the local community; and
- Attract more visitors to Longreach by enhancing the tourism potential of the river.

Central to the master plan considerations will be ensuring the river can be managed in a way that respects its environmental value and long term sustainability.

The master plan seeks to create a more accessible and enhanced tourism and leisure precinct along the riverbank of the Thomson River. Potential outcomes of the project are better nature walk paths, enhanced access to the river for swimmers, more picnic and public toilet areas, as well as a variety of camping options.

MASTER PLAN OUTCOMES



Increased Investment
in Longreach's
Tourism Sector



Enhanced Social and
Leisure Assets



Revitalised
Riverfront

WHAT AREA IS INCLUDED IN THE MASTER PLAN?

The Thomson River Master Plan precinct extends 12 kilometres along the Thomson River from the Fairmount Weir in the north east to the Town Weir in the south west.

The primary focus of the master plan will be the 4km stretch of the river from Apex Park towards Fairmont Weir (the area shown in dark green below).

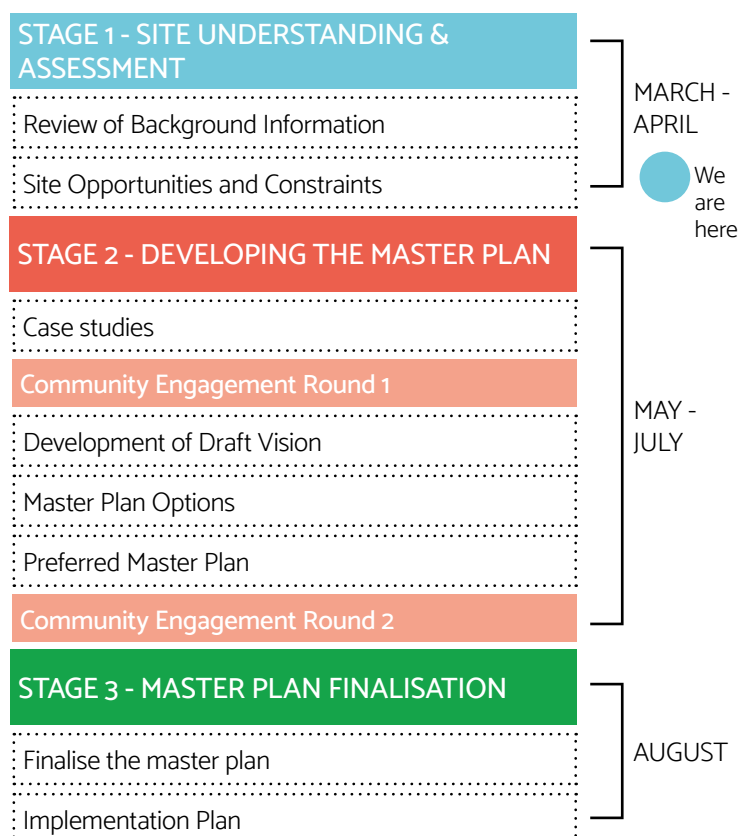


HOW IS THE MASTER PLAN BEING PREPARED?

Longreach Regional Council has appointed planning and design company Urbis to assist Council developing the Thomson River Master Plan. The project commenced in March 2020. The project is broken into three stages:

- Site Understanding and Assessment: develop and understanding of the precinct, the community and potential opportunities and constraints.
- Developing the Master Plan: provide a shortlist of case studies for master plan inspiration, undertake a visioning exercise and begin drafting the master plan / strategies.
- Master Plan Finalisation: Finalise the master plan, prepare an implementation plan and present findings to Council for endorsement.

It is expected a draft master plan will be available for public comment by during the third quarter of 2020.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Longreach Regional Council will be hosting a range of engagement activities during May 2020 to talk with the community and various stakeholders about the project. Newsletters similar to this will be sent out to the community to notify them of changes, with additional information being available on Council's website.

Due to Covid-19, community information sessions and meetings will no longer be face-to-face and instead, engagement activities will be done via video conferencing, online surveys and phone interviews.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

If you would like to participate in the Thomson River Master Plan or provide feedback on the project, please refer to Council's website. You can also contact Longreach Regional Council at the below contact details:

Office of the Mayor & CEO:

P: 07 4658 4111

E: assist@longreach.qld.gov.au



Longreach Regional Council
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka