Q&As – Currumbin Eco-Parkland

Consultation

Q: Why is Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) consulting on the Currumbin Eco-Parkland?

A: Now that the site has been acquired, the Queensland Government is seeking feedback from the community on the proposed use, and prioritisation of investment, for the parkland.

The 148-hectare parkland site is a unique opportunity for recreational purposes, the preservation and rehabilitation of sensitive environmental communities, and the protection of koala habitats and local fauna.

It is anticipated that, like other such parklands, the Currumbin Eco-Parkland will evolve over time and may take up to 10-15 years to develop the site for its intended purpose.

Accordingly, it's important to understand the expectations and priorities of the community to ensure we get it right and deliver the things the community most want to see.

To obtain this feedback the Queensland Government has prepared an options plan for the Currumbin Eco-Parkland to illicit responses from the community.

Due to the significance of this project, the consultation process with the community will be ongoing to enable the project to respond to and evolve with community usage and requirements.

Q: What is the options plan of Currumbin Eco-Parkland?

A: An options plan for the Currumbin Eco-Parkland has been prepared based on consideration of the site constraints and opportunities, and a preliminary understanding of what the community would like to see in the parkland.

This is the starting point to creating a detailed master plan to guide future development and staging of the Currumbin Eco-Parkland.

Q: What information is EDQ seeking?

A: EDQ is seeking initial public feedback on an options plan for the Currumbin Eco-Parkland. This will inform the development of the master plan, and the delivery prioritisation of preferred uses.

Due to the significance of this project, the consultation process with the community will be ongoing to enable the project to respond to and evolve with community usage and requirements over time.

Q: As a community member how can I get involved?

A: Community members can provide their feedback using a variety of methods:

- By providing comments on the options plan on the Currumbin Eco-Parkland HYS page https://haveyoursay.dsdilgp.qld.gov.au/currumbin-eco-parkland
- By completing a survey on the Currumbin Eco-Parkland HYS page https://haveyoursay.dsdilgp.qld.gov.au/currumbin-eco-parkland/survey_tools/what-are-your-thoughts
- By adding a question to the Q&A section on the HYS page on the Currumbin Eco-Parkland HYS page https://haveyoursay.dsdilgp.qld.gov.au/currumbin-eco-parkland/qanda
- By registering to participate in consultation forums that will be scheduled based on community interest, in February and March 2022.

Q: How does the interactive options plan work?

A: Use the arrows to scroll up/down and sideways, and you have the option to download details about the uses on the plan. Click anywhere in the document to add a comment.

You can make more than one comment and pin your comments to a particular section of the interactive options plan.

Q: How will my comments be used?

A: EDQ is seeking initial public feedback on an options plan for the Currumbin Eco-Parkland. This will inform the development of the masterplan, and the delivery prioritisation of preferred uses

Q: When does this process close?

A: We are asking interested parties to register their interest on the Have your say page to participate in consultation forums to be scheduled for February and March 2022. The consultation forums will finish on 31 March 2022.

Q: How else can I get involved?

A: Please register your interest on our Have Your Say page which can be found at: https://haveyoursay.dsdilgp.qld.gov.au/currumbin-eco-parkland to keep updated on future consultation opportunities.

Q: What future consultation processes are planned for Currumbin Eco-Parkland?

A: Due to the significance of this project, the consultation process with the community will be ongoing to enable the project to respond to and evolve with community usage and requirements.

Please register your interest on our Have Your Say page which can be found at: https://haveyoursay.dsdilgp.qld.gov.au/currumbin-eco-parkland to keep updated on future consultation opportunities.

General

Q: What was the election commitment made by the Palaszczuk government in October 2020?

A: The election commitment provided that the new 148-hectare parkland would be one of the largest eco-parks in Australia and could feature:

- sporting and recreational elements for family and community enjoyment
- protections for local koala habitats, including fodder eucalypt plantation
- opportunities for rehabilitation and appreciation of the natural environment through eco-tourism
- nature based recreational trails through 46ha of blackbutt forest.

Q: Why has the site been identified for the Currumbin Eco-Parkland opportunity?

A: The election commitment was in response to a submission from the 'Friends of Currumbin', a local community group, who had identified the site for its significance, and potential for environmental preservation and community use.

Further, land parcels of this size on the Gold Coast that can be utilised for recreational purposes, the preservation and rehabilitation of sensitive environmental communities, and the protection of koala habitats and local fauna, are scarce.

Q: When did the Queensland Government acquire (purchase) the 148 hectares of land?

A: The land was acquired on Tuesday 30 November 2021.

Q: When can people visit the eco-parkland?

A: Now that the land has been acquired, EDQ will begin planning initial infrastructure to create public access, such as an entry road, carpark and basic amenities and facilities. It is hoped these initial works can begin in 2022.

Visitors are welcome to visit the site and enjoy it for walking and passive recreational purposes.

However, for the safety of visitors more active uses are prohibited pending consultation and future plans for the site, including ensuring that the site is safe for intended uses.

Q: Have you consulted with the traditional owners of this site?

A: Traditional owners will be consulted during the community consultation process. Everyone will have an opportunity to have their say on the future of the Currumbin Eco-Parkland.

Q: What are some examples of other eco-parklands?

There are notable examples of iconic landscape destinations within rural or immersive landscape settings. Parallels may be drawn to locations such as:

- Daisy Hill Conservation Park, Daisy Hill
- Oxley Creek Common

Stakeholder and community consultation will help inform a master plan for the eco-parkland, which can be delivered over time. Examples of eco-parklands which have evolved over time include Thunderbird Park, Mount Tamborine and Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne, Wellington, NZ.

Q: Why was EDQ tasked with delivering the election commitment?

A: EDQ is a unique government agency combining property development, innovation and activation strategies with specialist planning and infrastructure functions to create places and investment opportunities.

EDQ has a long history of holding and managing State owned assets while they transition to their ultimate use.

Q: Who will be responsible for the Currumbin Eco-Parkland in the long-term?

A: The Minister for Economic Development Queensland will be initially responsible for the eco-parkland while the Queensland Government works with state agencies and the City of Gold Coast to identify long-term arrangements for the site.

Q: Does the site flood?

A: Yes, some areas of the site flood in large rain events. Initial infrastructure will be designed to mitigate flood impacts on roads and carparks and so people can exit the eco-park safely.

Q: How long will it take to deliver the eco-parkland in its entirety?

A: It is anticipated that the Currumbin Eco-Parkland project may take up to 10-15 years to deliver, depending on the final masterplan outcomes. This timeframe would enable the project to respond to and evolve with community usage and requirements.

Q: What is the proposed mix of uses on the site?

A: An options plan with various uses is available for comment by the community. This feedback will be used to refine and develop the masterplan for the parkland.

Q: Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary has requested support and funding for new Koala rehabilitation accommodation and koala fodder tree plantation land at the eco-parkland. Is this going to occur?

A: These uses will be considered in the master planning process.

Q: What is the State doing about the Coolamon property?

A: The Coolamon property, located on Tomewin Mountain Road, Currumbin Valley, is owned by the Department of Environment and Science (DES). Coolamon was historically owned by a private landowner, who gifted the property and the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary to the National Trust of Queensland who have used the site for wildlife rehabilitation and a community picnic ground.

DES is currently reviewing options for the future management of the site.