

SS DICKY CALOUNDRA QUEENSLAND WRECK INTERPRETATION PLAN



The *Dicky*, May 1960, Margaret Clarkson, sunshinecoastplaces.com.au

Prepared for

Sunshine Coast Regional Council

on behalf of

Cosmos Archaeology Pty Ltd

3-D Projects

April 2015



REPORT REGISTER		
Issue	Description	Date
1	<i>SS Dicky Caloundra Queensland Draft Wreck Interpretation Plan</i>	10 March 2015
2	<i>SS Dicky Caloundra Queensland Final Wreck Interpretation Plan</i>	24 April 2015

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1 INTRODUCTION

Project Brief

In September 2014 Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC) commissioned Cosmos Archaeology and 3D Projects to develop a Wreck Interpretation Plan (WIP) as part of the *SS Dicky* relocation project. SCRC's brief for the WIP comprised the following requirements:

Development of Wreck Interpretation Plan (engaging and educational interpretative works) to be located in public open space adjacent to the current resting place of the wreck (Dicky Beach).

- *Can the components already held by council be re-incorporated into a display (propeller/previous structural parts).*
- *Development of the design of interpretive signage and other key display elements.*
- *Consideration of public art elements being incorporated into the interpretive works.*
- *Incorporation of existing relics into interpretive display.*

Scope of Report

Further to SCRC's brief, this Wreck Interpretation Plan (WIP) incorporates on-site assessment, liaison with Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC) and research undertaken to date. It has been prepared in light of the client's preference for the 'Cut and No Cover' option in dealing with the wreck removal. The WIP presents proposed themes, content, design concepts and provisional cost estimates (not a requirement of the brief) for three alternative interpretive installations located within the Dicky Beach Park which has been nominated by SCRC as the preferred site for future interpretive works.

The intention of the WIP is to provide the necessary level of information on the proposed interpretive works to enable the SCRC and Queensland Department of Environment & Heritage Protection to review and approve a preferred option prior to commissioning full design and content development of the nominated works during future stages.

The challenge ahead is to design an installation that is an effective piece of interpretation that is powerful in its own right whilst sitting comfortably within the landscape. The ambition is to create a poignant public artwork that ensures the *SS Dicky* retains its place as a Sunshine Coast icon.

Recommendations

3D Projects submitted the Draft Wreck Interpretation Plan on 10 March 2015 and presented the WIP to Sunshine Coast Regional Council and project stakeholders on 12 March 2015. SCRC have subsequently provided written feedback on the Draft WIP, the key points of which are summarised as follows:

- Option 1 installation supported as preferred approach.
- Option 1 installation to be modified in mass and layout.
- Pedestrian path may pass through Option 1 installation.
- Consider alternative landscaping treatments within Option 1 installation.
- Consider incorporating QR code and telescopes in Option 1 installation.
- Consider modifying or deleting Dicky Beach Installation.
- Dicky Beach Park and facilities to be redesigned and upgraded - *Dicky* Interpretation to be integrated into revamped park design.

Further to SCRC's feedback, 3DP have prepared a revised version of the preferred Option 1 'Ghost in the Sea' installation (Option 1A) which is presented in Design Concept Drawings 10-12 below. Option 1A incorporates revised elements confirmed by SCRC on 23 April namely:

- Reduction in mass/quantity of blocks, but occupying the entire footprint to ensure *Dicky* size/shape is defined (3DP to determine)
- Retain *Dicky* footprint position as per Option 1.
- Re-route existing path so pedestrians may pass through installation.

SCRC's other above-listed items for consideration and further design revisions to Option 1A are beyond the scope of this WIP and will need to be addressed in future project development stages. As such it is recommended that SCRC prepare a project brief and engage a design team to undertake the next stage of design development, followed by design documentation, and coordination of fabrication and installation of their preferred interpretation scheme and inclusions. This WIP should be included as part of the briefing documentation.

It is also recommended that wherever possible SCRC determine their design, landscaping and facilities requirements for Dicky Beach Park in order that design development of the preferred interpretation scheme can be integrated into the park upgrade works.

2 REVIEW

SS Dicky Chronology

- The SS *Dicky* was a 31 x 6.5 metre 225 tonne iron steamship launched in Germany 1883.
- By May 1886 it was trading in Australian waters as a general cargo vessel.
- Registered in Brisbane to Brydon, Jones & Co, registered British Merchant Ship 88841.
- 1886-93 *Dicky* carried general cargoes including timber, coal, passengers, horses, dynamite, pearl shell, mail, equipment, tallow and hides between ports of Queensland, Northern Territory and northern Western Australia.
- The *Dicky* encountered a severe cyclone on 4th February 1893 en route from Fitzroy River Rockhampton to Brisbane and was deliberately beached by Captain Beattie to avoid hitting rocks off Moffat Beach at 10.35am.
- Seamen R Millican and H Kattney secured a lifeline to shore and all the crew were rescued.
- Captain Beattie remained on board overnight and attempted to re-float the *Dicky* using bullock teams during the following days but was unsuccessful.
- Ultimately 4 unsuccessful attempts to re-float the *Dicky* were made before finally salvaging ships supplies and equipment in February 1894.
- On 29 March 1893 Marine Board of Queensland ruled *Dicky* was wrecked due to negligent navigation and suspended Captain John Beattie's certificate for 3 months.
- In 1963 the propeller was relocated to a memorial cairn at Dicky Beach Park.
- 1893+ progressive erosion and destruction of the wreck through wave action, cyclones, scavenging and removal of elements. *Dicky* develops status as Sunshine Coast landmark.
- Archaeological investigation, reporting and stabilisation treatment applied to wreck during 2006.
- January 2013 Cyclone Oswald severely damaged wreck prompting decision to investigate relocation of wreck.
- Archaeological test excavation conducted in April 2014 to inform proposed wreck relocation.

Significance of the Dicky

The significance assessment presented in Cosmos Archaeology's *Heritage Impact Statement* of February 2015 underlines the *Dicky's* value as a Sunshine Coast landmark in particular, and highlights its beach setting and wrecked form as key ingredients of the *Dicky's* social significance. This WIP acknowledges these main attributes, and attempts to explore and present them through the interpretive works proposed herein.

The significance of the S.S. Dicky lies in its excellent ability to convey the story and meaning of shipwreck through its present form and context as well as provide some illumination on iron shipbuilding technology and life aboard a late 19th century cargo vessel. It is a much loved and perhaps even revered cultural landmark of the Sunshine Coast. (Cosmos Archaeology, *Heritage Impact Statement*, February 2015)

SS Dicky Wreck Site

At the time of inspection in September 2014 very little of the *Dicky* was exposed above sand excepting the stern post and the central section of the starboard hull and framing, however, other substantial hull and framing remains lie buried in the sand. The removal of a selection of these more substantial, robust and evocative items is recommended in order to carry out required stabilisation and preparation treatments prior to mounting as part of the proposed interpretive works.

Despite the minimal skeletal remains of the *Dicky*, it was apparent during the site inspection that the wreck still commands considerable interest from beach goers. Recent reports in the Sunshine Coast media also attest to the strong community attachment to the *Dicky* wreck.

Why has this rather fragmentary and historically inconsequential shipwreck become an icon of the Sunshine Coast? We suggest that it is not because it is an historic ship, but because it is an historic shipwreck. It is an enduring anomaly along the otherwise natural coastline which has made it a focal point for curious bathers, strollers and photographers for 122 years. The wreck is ever changing through deterioration, exposure and alternating environmental conditions. As a rusting skeleton it has an almost organic quality to it which is striking and beautiful against its marine backdrop.

Given the wreck's position in the intertidal zone is a key ingredient in its iconic quality we need to be mindful that we cannot simply relocate the wreck fragments to a land-based site and recreate the same effect. Rather, in relocating components of the wreck to the designated Dicky Beach Park and erecting new structures we need to make it clear through the *Dicky* installation's design, materials and arrangement that it is an interpretation of the wreck, its environment and it's story - not the wreck itself.

Dicky Beach Park

SCRC have nominated Dicky Beach Park as the preferred site for the primary interpretive works. The park is bordered to the south by the Dicky Beach carpark and to the north and west by the Dicky Beach Caravan Park. Dicky Beach Park measures approximately 45mx50m at its widest dimensions and is traversed by a meandering pedestrian path through its centre and along its western perimeter. It has a generally level turf surface that contains a number of mature and semi-mature trees dotted throughout.

Dicky Beach Park is considered a suitable site for the proposed interpretive works. It has close proximity to the beach and ocean, is centrally located, has good pedestrian and vehicular accessibility and affords a view across the beach to the *Dicky* Wreck site.

There are some limitations, however, which will influence the approach to the interpretive works. The park is only just large enough to accommodate a 'structure' at the same scale as the original *Dicky* and would require the removal or relocation of some trees in any case. The central pedestrian pathway may need to be re-routed to accommodate the interpretive works and the landscaping and infrastructure throughout the park may require upgrading. Another important consideration is the maintenance of clear and open views through the park from the Dicky Beach Caravan Park and the northern and southern approaches.



Dicky Wreck & Dicky Beach Park

1-6 General views of Dicky Wreck

7-8 Dicky Beach Park

9-10 View of wreck site from Dicky Beach Park



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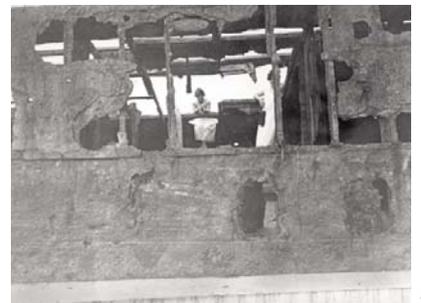
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Sample Dicky Relics & Archival Images

- 1-2 Dicky model & cable coil, Dicky Beach Surf Club collection
- 3 Dicky propeller, Dicky Beach Park
- 4-5 Dicky hull elements, SCC depot
- 6 Dicky mast sections, Landsborough Museum
- 7-8 Views of Dicky 1930s, Sunshine Coast Libraries
- 9-10 Views of Dicky 1920s, John Oxley Library

Off-site Artefacts

The following items were recently examined by the project team or identified in consultation with Landsborough Museum personnel, and are under consideration for inclusion in the proposed on-site interpretive works and permanent/temporary exhibition. A number of other small objects are likely to exist in private collections which might be identified via advertising through local media.

- 2 x sections of the *Dicky's* cedar masts - Landsborough Museum
- 2 x brass portholes - Landsborough Museum
- Scale model of *Dicky* - Dicky Beach Surf Club
- Coil of *Dicky's* cable - Dicky Beach Surf Club
- Propeller of *Dicky* & brass signage plaque - Dicky Beach Park
- Miscellaneous hull elements - SCRC Depot

Archival Material

The Sunshine Coast Libraries and John Oxley Library hold the principal collections of historic photographs documenting the *Dicky* from the time of its wreckage in 1893 onward. The other important archival resource are shipping news reports in newspapers dating 1886-93 which shed information on the *Dicky's* cargo, crew and travels - a sample of which is set out below in section 3. These are readily accessible on-line on The National Library of Australia Trove website.

3 INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

Themes & Stories

It is proposed that the interpretive storyline for the *Dicky*, whether on-site works, off-site exhibition, print or digital interpretation, takes up as a minimum the three principal themes or chapters in the *Dicky's* life provisionally titled - *Trading*, *Wrecked* and *Relocation*. Within each of the chapters a range of sub-themes can be explored which reveals the relevant facts, figures and stories in the life of the *Dicky* as outlined below.

Trading

- *Dicky* specifications & origins
- Australian trading history
- Ports visited
- Cargo carried
- Crew

Wrecked

- Wreckage by cyclone on 4 February 1893
- Rescue of crew
- Re-floating attempts & salvage
- Local landmark & icon

Relocation

- Exposure & deterioration
- Conservation attempts
- Archaeological recording, removal & reburial
- Relocation of wreck elements for conservation & display

Sample Interpretive Content

Dicky Crew list when Wrecked February 1893

- John Summers Beattie - Captain
- James Watson - Mate
- M Paul - Engineer
- Walsh - Fireman
- J Ricca - Fireman
- Rissbrook - Lamptrimmer
- R Millican - Seaman
- H Kattney - Seaman
- James Spence

Key Dates

- 1883 *Dicky* Launched
- 1893 *Dicky* Wrecked during cyclone
- 2013 *Dicky* wreck damaged by cyclone
- 2015 *Dicky* relocated & buried

Sample Cargo Carried 1886-92

- Coal
- Timber
- Pearl shell
- People
- Horses
- Equipment
- Mail
- Dynamite
- Tallow
- Hides

Sample Ports Visited 1886-92

- Singapore
- Brisbane
- Fitzroy River, Rockhampton
- King Sound, Derby
- Bloomfield River, Cape Tribulation
- Cambridge Gulf, Wyndham
- Hong Kong
- Darwin

Onsite Interpretation

Dicky Beach Park Installation

Option 1 - Ghost in the Sea

This installation creates the illusion of ocean swells, displays salvaged relics of the *Dicky*, and interprets the *Dicky's* scale and history.

This option comprises a 1:1 scale footprint of the *Dicky* wreck outline (27.5mx6.5m) sited in the centre of *Dicky* Beach Park in the same orientation as the wreck site. The footprint has an external galvanised steel edge around the perimeter and is in-filled with coarse basalt gravel or similar local stone.

Within the footprint is a mosaic of pre-cast concrete blocks 500mm² of varying heights arranged to create the three-dimensional form of ocean swells in reference to the waves that have washed over the *Dicky* for some 122 years. The top faces of some of the blocks are impressed with key dates and texts which interpret core aspects of the *Dicky's* history - these can be read as visitors traverse the blocks which double as stepping stones to explore the installation. Dedicated metal signage elements to be fixed to selected blocks which display historic photographs of the *Dicky* and summarises its working life, wreckage and relocation.

It is proposed that a number of large and evocative iron remnants of the *Dicky's* hull, bow, stern post and the propeller are salvaged, conserved and suspended on concrete columns in their correct positions within the wreck footprint which reveals something of the extent of the *Dicky's* decomposition whilst presenting the sculptural qualities of the *Dicky's* rusted skeleton. Spotlighting to be installed to create dramatic night-time illumination.

The existing pedestrian path through the centre of the park will need to be re-routed around the eastern extent of the installation and re-turfing/re-landscaping of the park should be considered.



Option 1 - Sample Landscape, Text & Signage Treatments

- 1 Coarse gravel bed, National Arboretum, Canberra
- 2 Ship interpretive sculpture, Brays Bay Reserve, Homebush
- 3 Vitreous enamel signage, St Partick's Cemetery, Parramatta
- 4 Wharf 'block' artwork, Venice Italy
- 5 Text cast in concrete, ANU, Canberra





1



2



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**Sample Dicky Relics for
Option 1 Park Installation &
Beach Installations**

- 1 Propeller, Dicky Beach Park
- 2 Hull element, Dicky wreck site
- 3 Dicky frameß section, SCC
Depot
- 4 Stern post, Dicky wreck site



4

Option 1A (Design Concept Drawings 10-12) is a revised version of Option 1, albeit with a reduced massing of concrete blocks and the pathway re-routed through the centre of the installation. Otherwise, it is identical in intent, size, position and content. Option 1A was developed in line with amendments requested by SCRC and is presented as SCRC's preferred interpretation scheme.

Option 2 - Ghost in the Forest

This installation creates the illusion of the *Dicky's* form before it was wrecked and recalls the *Dicky's* cargoes, size and history. It also symbolises the original coastal forest of the region.

This option comprises a 27.5mx7.8m rectangular level pad sited in the centre of Dicky Beach Park. The pad has an external galvanised steel edge around the perimeter and is in-filled with coarse basalt gravel or similar local stone as above.

Squared hardwood timber posts of variable lengths between 3.2-7m are positioned vertically throughout the rectangular gravel pad at regular 1m spacings to create a hardwood forest effect - symbolic of both the timber cargoes carried by the *Dicky* and the coastal forests prevalent in the region at the time of the *Dicky's* wreckage.

A 1:1 scale, three-dimensional rendering of the *Dicky's* original shape and volume is captured by applying a durable paint finish (or similar) to the faces of the timber poles which enables visitors to see the *Dicky's* ghost from different vantage points across the park.

The faces of some of the timber posts are routed with key dates and texts which interpret core aspects of the *Dicky's* history - these can be discovered as visitors explore the installation up close. Metal signage elements incorporated into the faces of the timber posts display historic photographs of the *Dicky* and summarise its working life, wreckage and relocation. Spotlighting to be installed to create dramatic night time illumination.

The existing pedestrian path through the centre of the park will need to be re-routed around the eastern extent of the installation and re-turfing/re-landscaping of the park should be considered.

Dicky Beach Installation - Grave of the *Dicky*

A prominent columnar 'grave' marker approximately 4-m high is proposed next to the bow of the buried *Dicky* wreck which is clearly visible from the installation at Dicky Beach Park. The marker could either be constructed of pre-cast concrete or squared hardwood to match the nominated Dicky Beach Park Installation option, with an evocative original relic of the *Dicky* (propeller, hull section, stern post) suspended sculpture-like at top of the grave marker. A simple 'grave' text to be impressed/routed to the marker face outlining the *Dicky's* life, death and burial as below.

SS Dicky
Built Germany 1883
Wrecked by cyclone 1893
Buried Dicky Beach 2015



1



2



3

Option 2 - Sample Landscape, Text & Signage Treatments

- 1 Hardwood jetty remnants, Rapid Bay, SA
- 2 Text-engraved hardwood & photo-anodised signage panels, Fishways interpretive artworks, Parramatta
- 3 Basalt pebble sample, Phillip Island, VIC
- 4 Text-engraved hardwood posts, Edge of the Trees sculpture, Museum of Sydney



4

Durability & Maintenance

The proposed site installations employ extremely durable materials - concrete, hardwood, basalt gravel, galvanised steel and vitreous enamel signage or similar. These are considered suitable for long term use in the site's coastal environment and offer good resilience to damage and vandalism in the public domain. Mindful the installation will be adjacent to the SCRC skatepark, the design and arrangement of options 1 and 2 offer no opportunity for riding skateboards thus eliminating potential skate-related damage.

Maintenance-wise the proposed installations may require occasional replacement of metal signage elements, but these can be designed for easy and inexpensive replacement. In the event that selected iron elements from the *Dicky* are displayed these will likely require periodic application of an anti-corrosion agent as recommended by the nominated materials conservator. Otherwise the installations should only require periodic cleaning.

The proposed installations fit within the existing turf surface of the surrounding park landscape to ensure the park can be easily mowed. However, an alternative low-maintenance landscaping treatment may be determined in consultation with the SCRC and nominated landscape architect.

Remote Interpretation Exhibition

A small exhibition displaying moveable *Dicky* relics and drawing on historic and contemporary photographs and footage is proposed that could be assembled as either a permanent/temporary exhibition or travelling display staged at local museums, galleries, libraries and other suitable public venues.

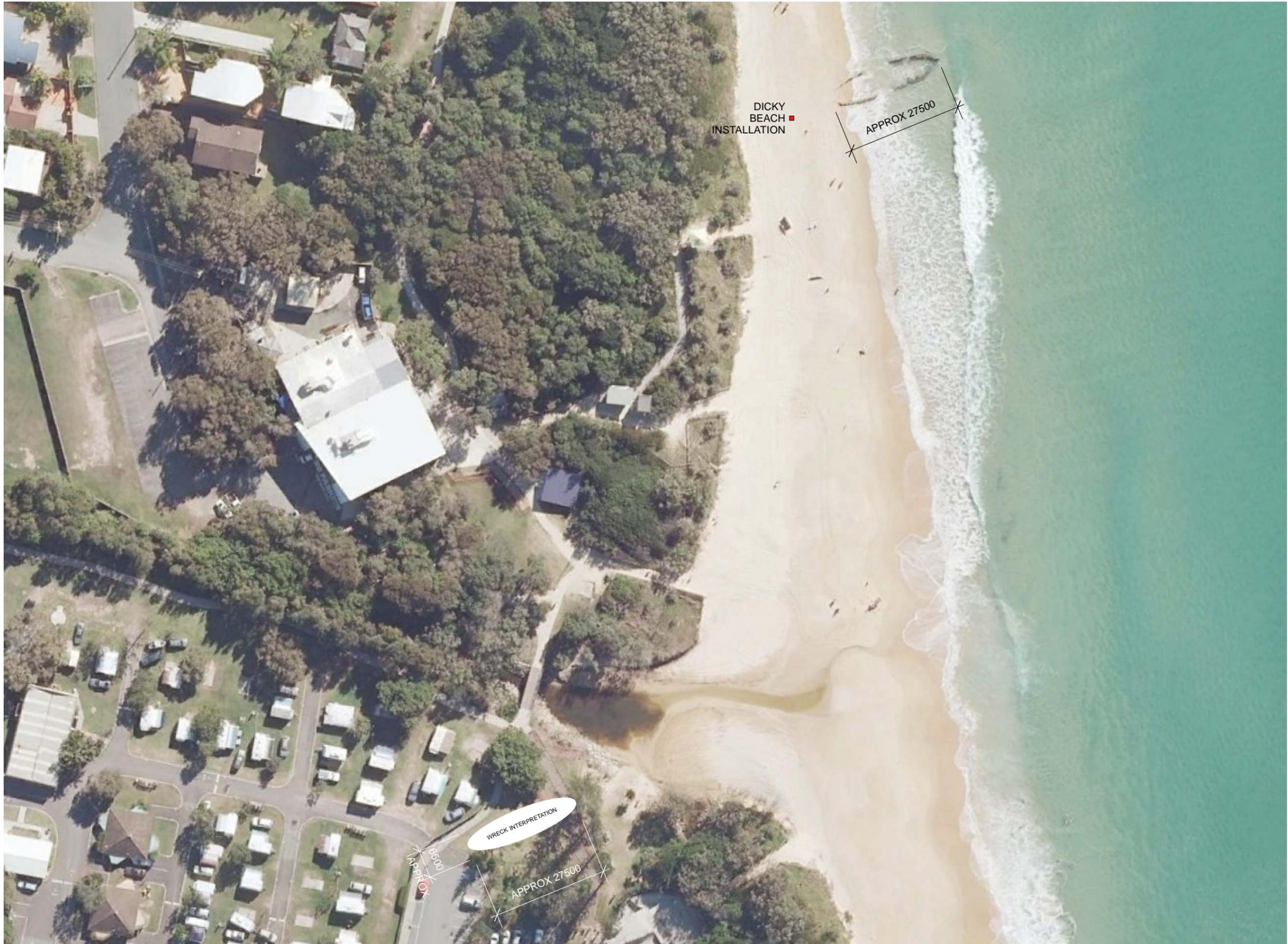
This exercise would require either loan to or transfer of ownership to SCRC of all relevant *Dicky* objects. Known items include the ships cable and *Dicky* scale model held by Dicky Beach Surf Club, and the brass porthole and timber mast section held by Landsborough Museum. Some additional items including the 1963 cairn plaque in Dicky Beach Park, *Dicky* relics held in the SCRC storage area or salvaged from the wreck should also be considered for inclusion.

Design concepts for the exhibition are outside the scope of this report, however, it is estimated a modest exhibition could be developed over a 2-month timeframe for approximately \$50,000 inclusive of fees, construction and installation.

Digital & Print Interpretation

Based on the indicative themes and content outlined above, an A5 format flyer and dedicated web microsite/webpage are proposed for interpretation and project information accessible by a larger and broader audience. This interpretive media could also present and promote the proposed interpretive installation at Dicky Beach Park.

It is estimated the flyer and microsite/webpage could be developed over a 2-month timeframe for approximately \$20,000 inclusive of fees, development and printing.



DICKY BEACH AREA PLAN



3D 3 - D Projects

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PROJECT

SS Dicky - Wreck Interpretation Plan
for Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Caloundra QLD

DRAWING

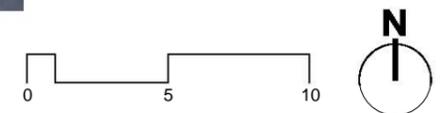
WRECK INTERPRETATION
DICKY BEACH AREA PLAN

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DICKY BEACH PARK PLAN



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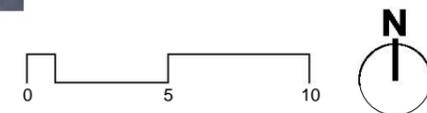
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**WRECK INTERPRETATION
LOCATION PLAN**

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OPTION 1 INTERPRETATION PLAN

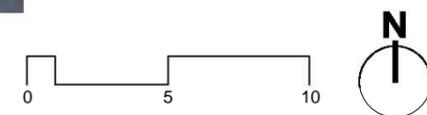


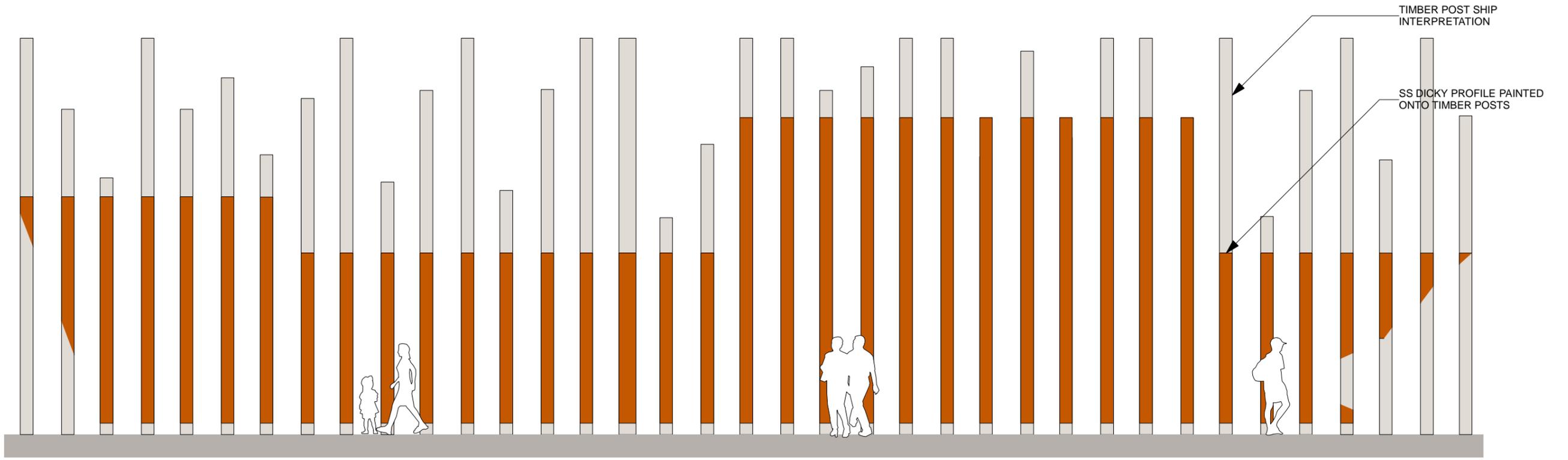


OPTION 1 PERSPECTIVES

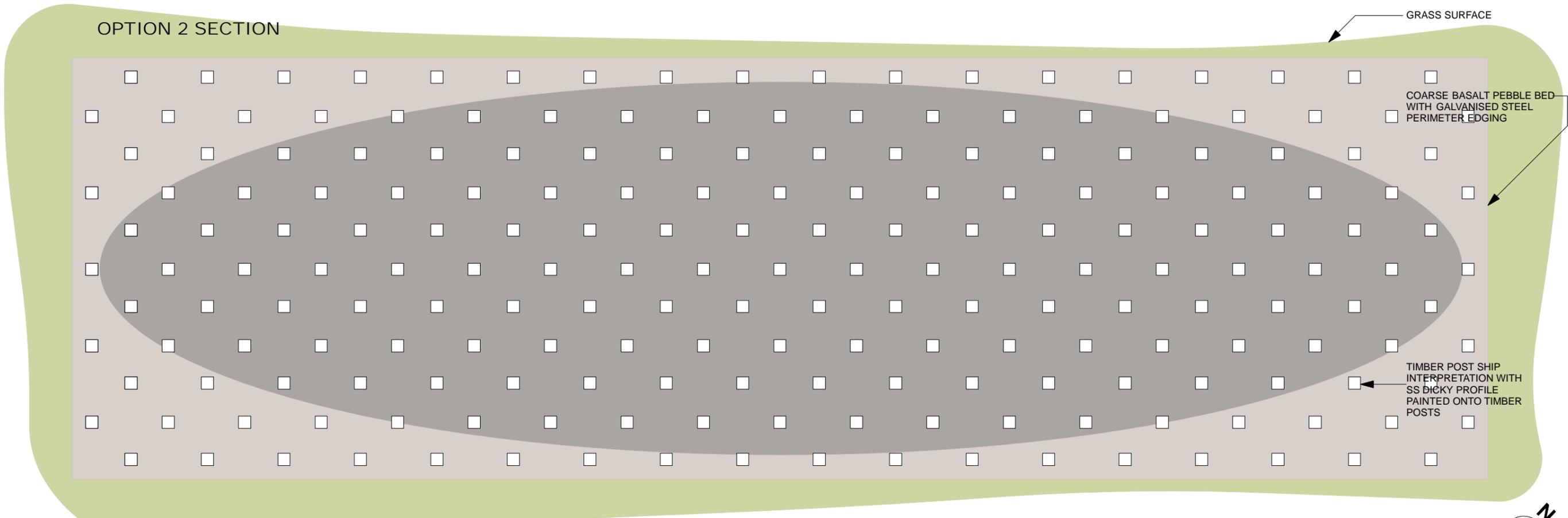


OPTION 2 INTERPRETATION PLAN

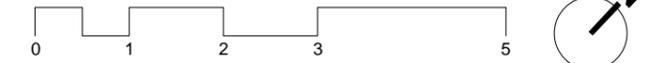




OPTION 2 SECTION



OPTION 2 INTERPRETATION PLAN



3D 3 - D Projects

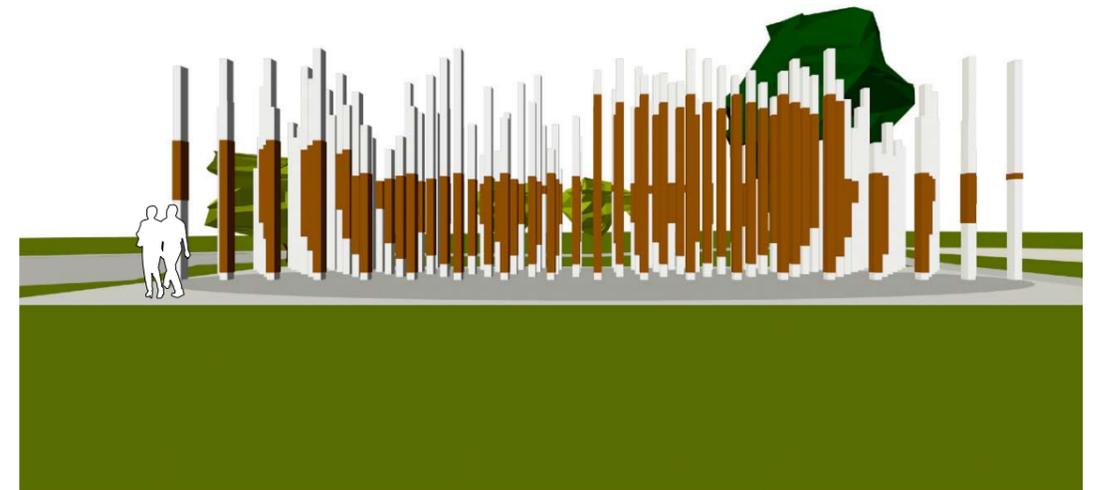
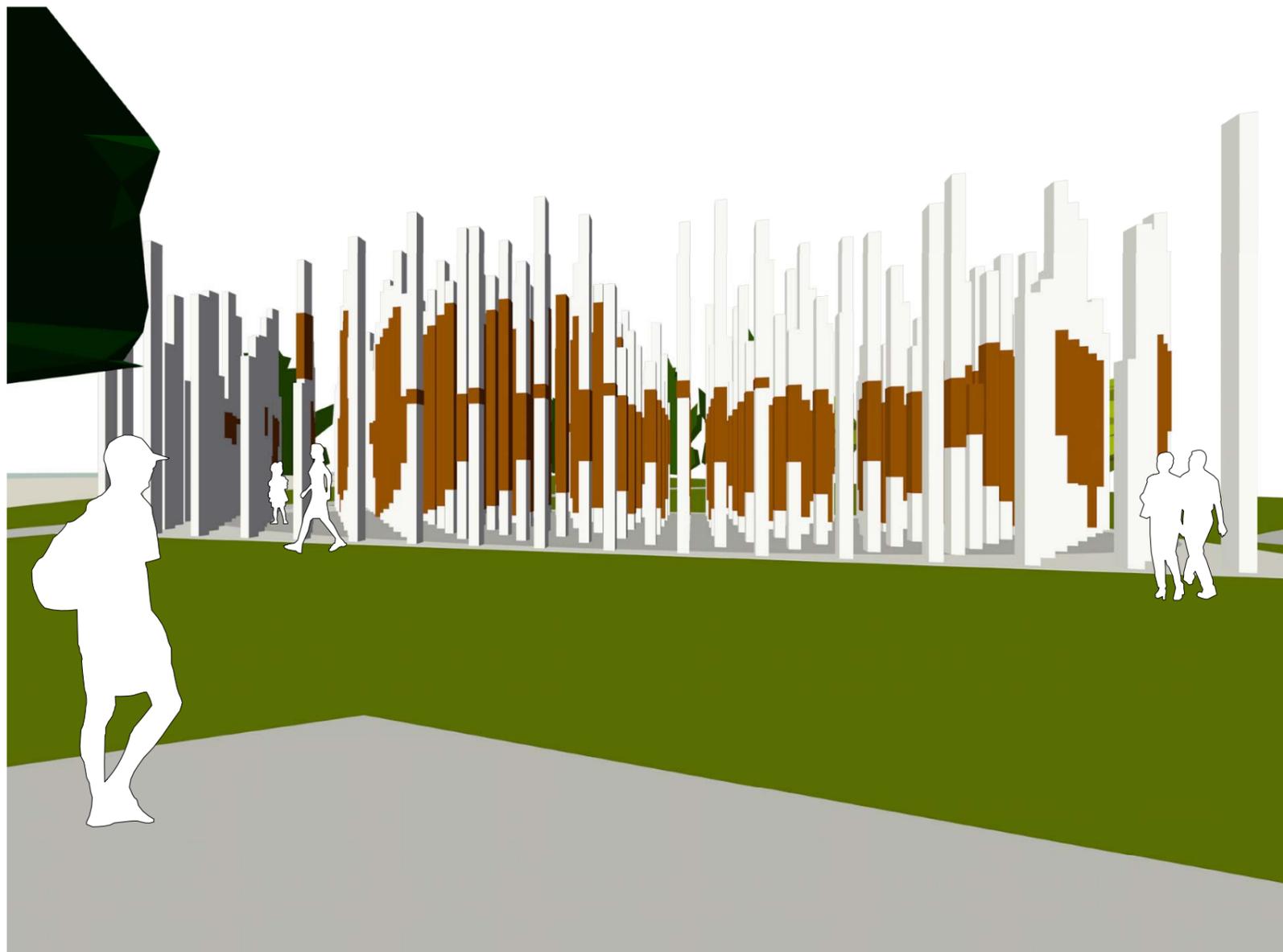
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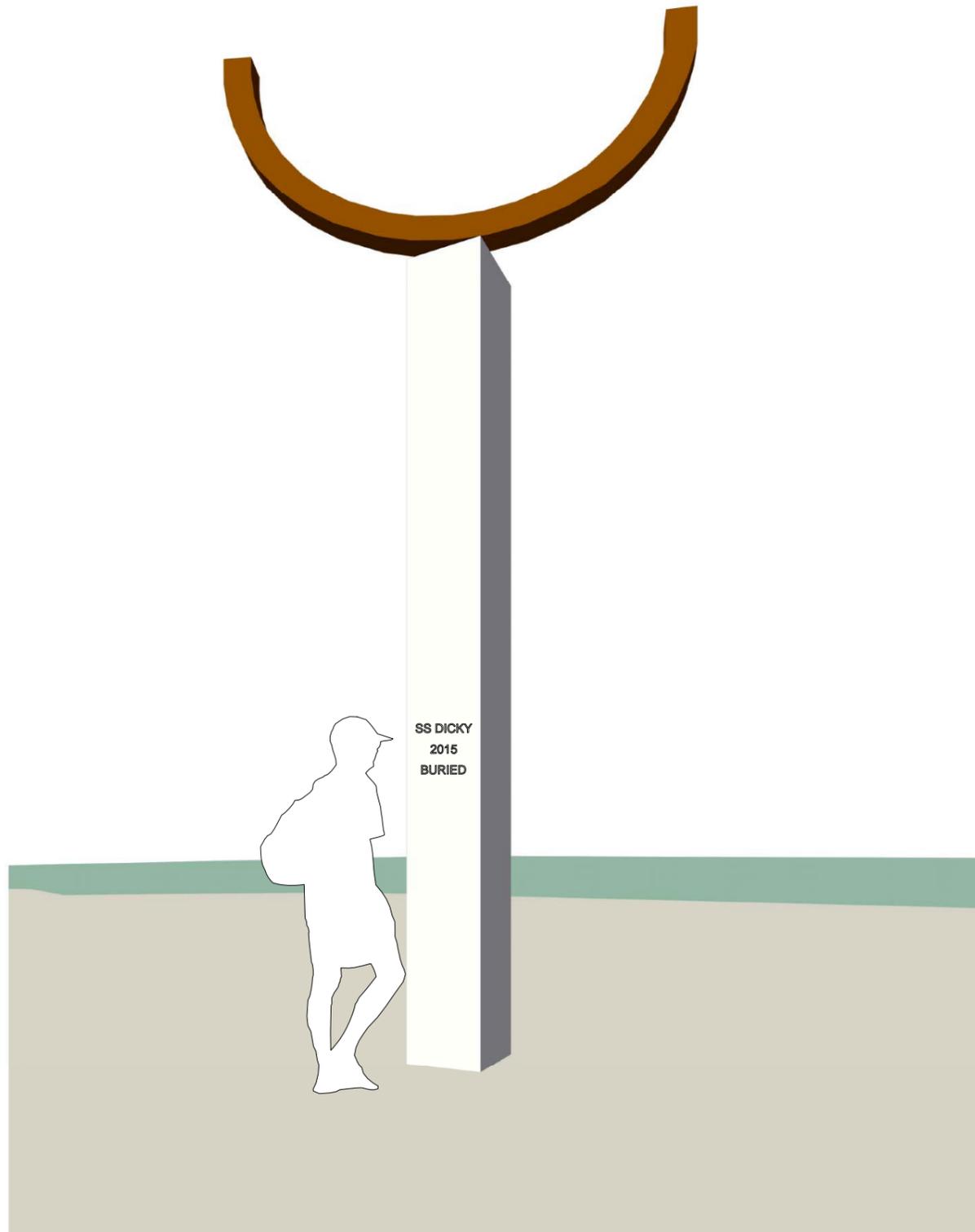
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SS Dicky - Wreck Interpretation Plan
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OPTION 2 INTERPRETATION PLAN

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OPTION 2 PERSPECTIVES



DICKY BEACH INSTALLATION PERSPECTIVE

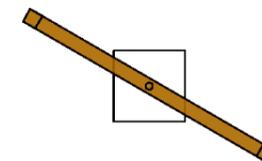


ELEVATION 1

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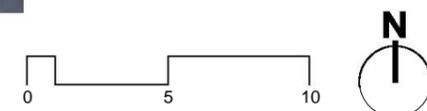
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PLAN





OPTION 1A INTERPRETATION PLAN



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PROJECT

SS Dicky - Wreck Interpretation Plan
for Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Caloundra QLD

DRAWING

**WRECK INTERPRETATION
OPTION 1A**

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OPTION 1A PERSPECTIVES

4 IMPLEMENTATION

Provisional Cost Estimates

Onsite Interpretation		
Dicky Beach Park Installations		
Option 1 - Ghost in the Sea	estimate	\$300,000
Option 1A - Ghost in the Sea	estimate	\$210,000
Option 2 - Ghost in the Forest	estimate	\$300,000
Wreck Conservation & Preparation		TBA
Landscaping upgrade		TBA
Dicky Beach Installation		
Dicky Grave Marker	estimate	\$30,000
Wreck Conservation & Preparation		TBA
Sub Total		\$240,000-330,000
Remote Interpretation		
Exhibition	estimate	\$50,000
Dicky Flyer - A5 fold down format	10,000 units	\$10,000
Dicky Microsite/Webpage	estimate	\$10,000
Sub Total		\$70,000
Project Total		\$310,000-400,000
¹ Cost estimates include allowance for professional fees		
² Quantity Surveyor to review cost estimates		
³ Installation components can be staged/ revised to meet available budget		

5 REFERENCES

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