ZONE 01 - THE UNDERPASS

A unique spatial experience heightened by art and installations

ZONE 1 - THE UNDERPASS

Context

Zone 1 marks the beginning of Gardiners Creek Trail, which sits at the confluence of the Birrarung (Yarra River) and KooyongKoot (Gardiners Creek).

The zone is distinguished as an underpass running along the length of the Monash Freeway and is predominantly suspended above KooyongKoot, creating a unique user experience.

There is a dominant presence of engineered infrastructure and a disconnect to KooyongKoot that sits directly adjacent.

The freeway infrastructure in conjunction with the current configuration of the shared path poses concerns around safety relating to lighting, passive surveillance and the capacity to leave the path.







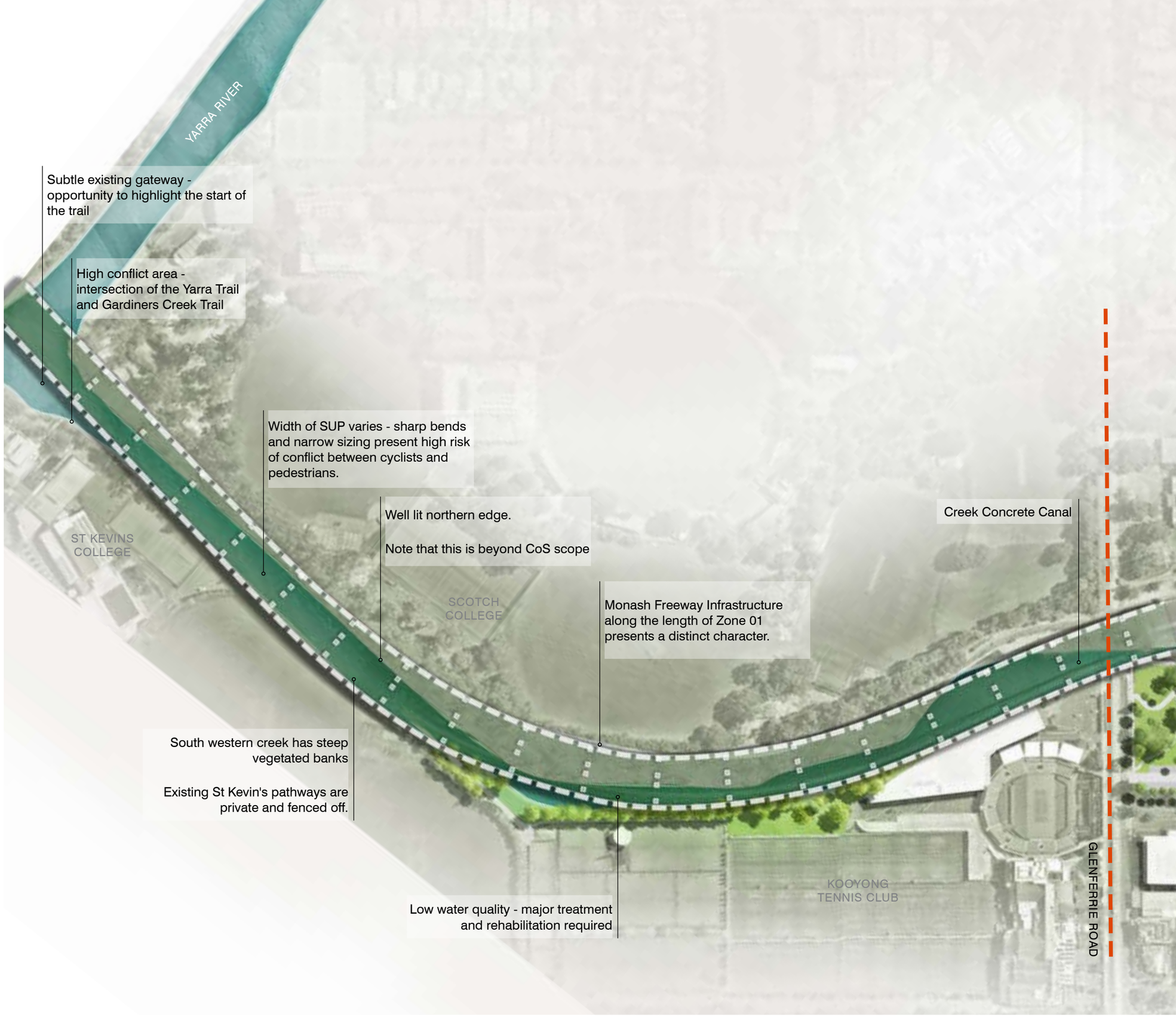


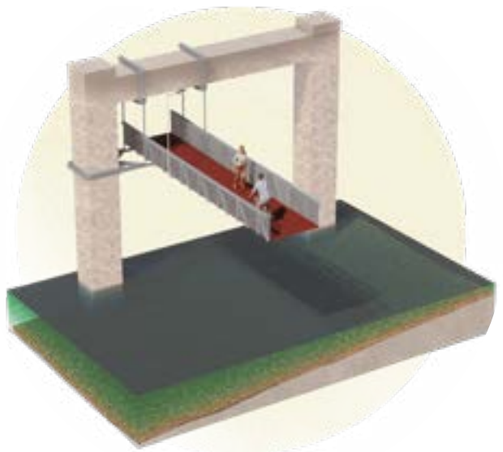




ZONE 01
Existing Context Plan

1:2500 @ A3





Existing SUP Trail Typology

T.C.L

ZONE 01
Overall Concept Plan

1:2000 @ A3

Objectives

The area beneath the Monash Freeway has opportunity for upgrades to increase the width and amenity of the Shared User Path.

Key opportunities for Advocacy have been identified as follows:

A1. Advocate to the Victorian Government for localised Shared User Path (SUP) bridge widening and break out space with seating and signage to celebrate the cultural and environmental significance of the creek's confluence, and Stonnington Council entry.

A2. Advocate to the Victorian Government to increase access and connectivity to the Gardiners Creek Trail by investigating potential new link to St Kevins College.

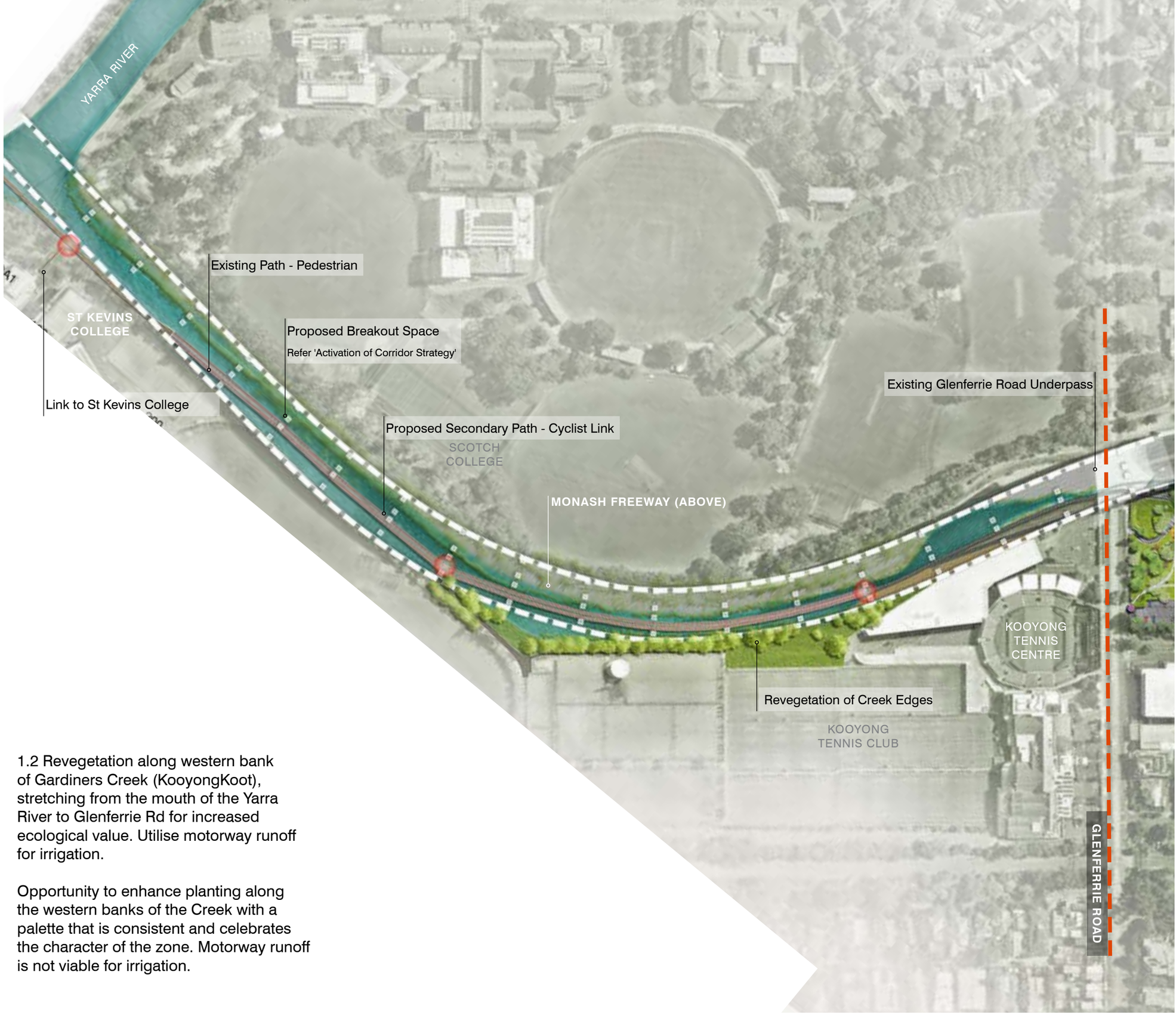
A4. Advocate to the Victorian Government to use structural columns and undercroft for public art to create a unique experience for users.

A7. Advocate to the Victorian Government to upgrade the existing suspended shared user path to create separate pedestrian and cyclist paths with improved lighting for safety and break out/rest stops to increase usability and enhance cyclist and pedestrian safety.

A8. Advocate to Melbourne Water for the removal and naturalisation of concrete canal.

1.2 Revegetation along western bank of Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot), stretching from the mouth of the Yarra River to Glenferrie Rd for increased ecological value. Utilise motorway runoff for irrigation.

Opportunity to enhance planting along the western banks of the Creek with a palette that is consistent and celebrates the character of the zone. Motorway runoff is not viable for irrigation.



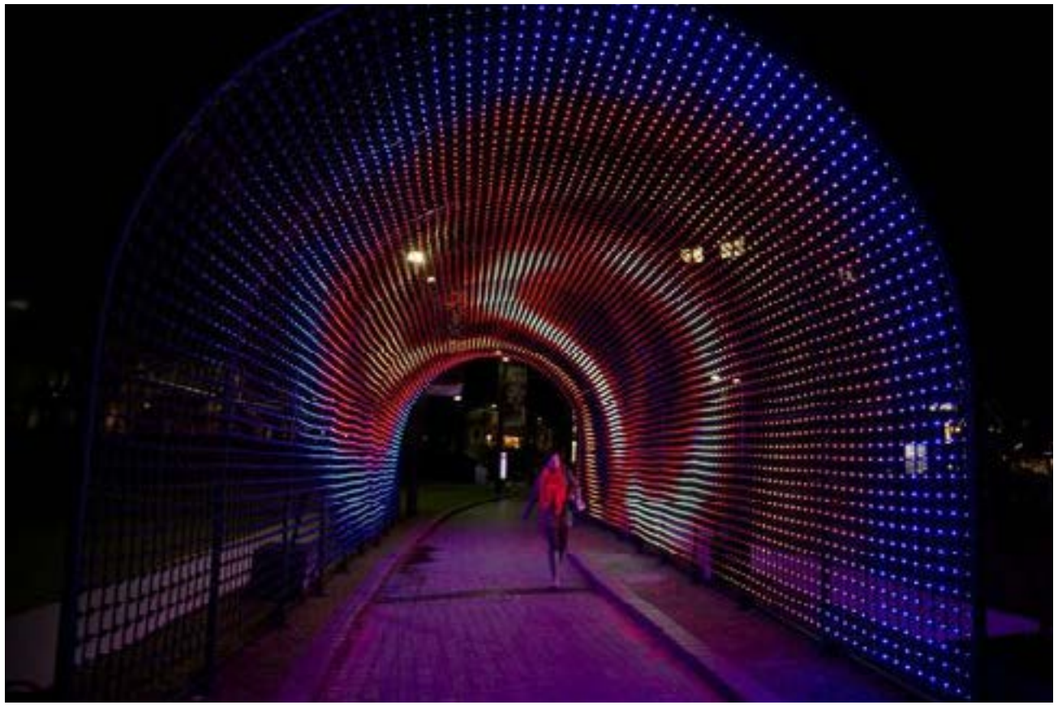
Character

The proposed character for the 850m of SUP beneath the freeway is a suspended, generous, safe and accessible covered pathway for pedestrians and cyclists, that is activated by art and lighting installations, with curated pause points.

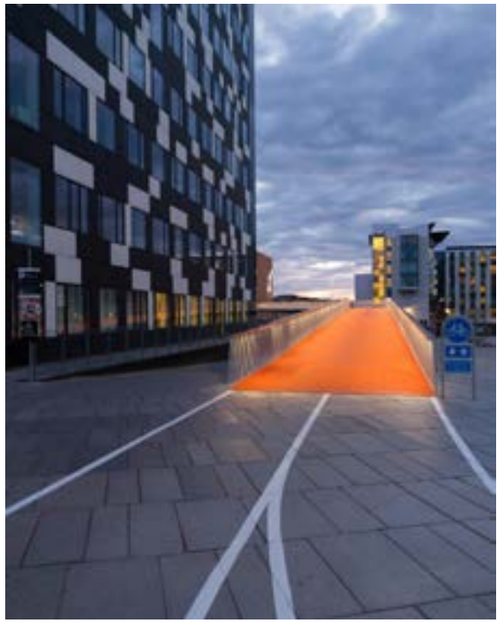
As part of the overall vision and intent to 'daylight' the story of KooyongKoot, the broad canvas of the underside of the freeway presents opportunities for temporal, permanent or constantly evolving installations of art, light and sound to respond to the creek: express it's past, reflect on the current condition or imagine a better future.

Carefully considered placement of 'pause points' will allow users to safely stop on the pathway sheltered from the weather, and experience this part of KooyongKoot. The embankments should be revegetated, and provide meaningful habitat and buffer zones to the adjacent school properties.

At the confluence of The Birrarung and KooyongKoot, Zone 1 has the potential to revive the spirit and prosperity of the river beneath the Monash Freeway whilst providing safe and active passage. This section of path can be transformed into an extraordinary place to connect to the waterway.







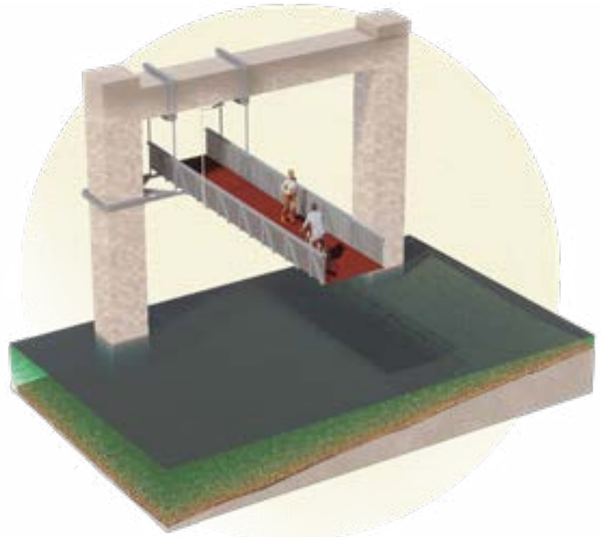
Activation of the Corridor

addressing scope items A1, A4 and A7

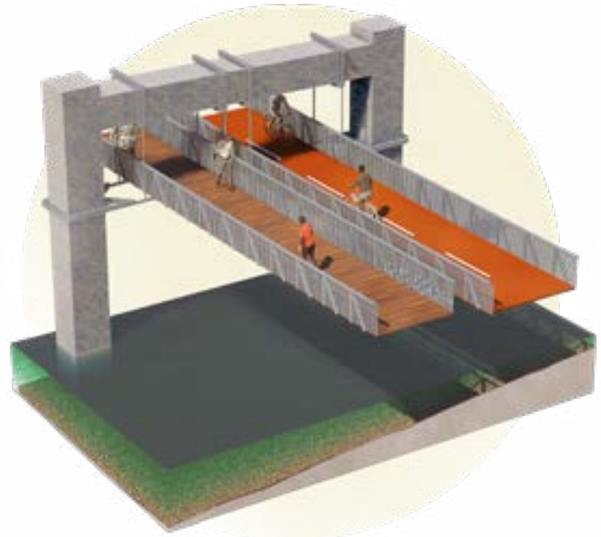
Existing structural columns and under croft of the Monash Freeway provide unique opportunity to project and transform infrastructure into public art. Public art can expressed via sculpture, light installations and projections. These installations on the underside of the Monash Freeway provide a loaded context, making space for important discussions about the role of our waterways and their future.

This concept advocates for the duplication of the shared user path in zone 01, lending to a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists. Duplication provides an opportunity for these initiatives to respond to the current safety concerns, design responses aim to increase passive surveillance, areas to occupy and dwell with opportunity for celebration and interpretation of the unique condition that the infrastructure of this zone presents.

Further information required in relation to breakout spaces- more rational is needed to be able to advocate for a design move like this.



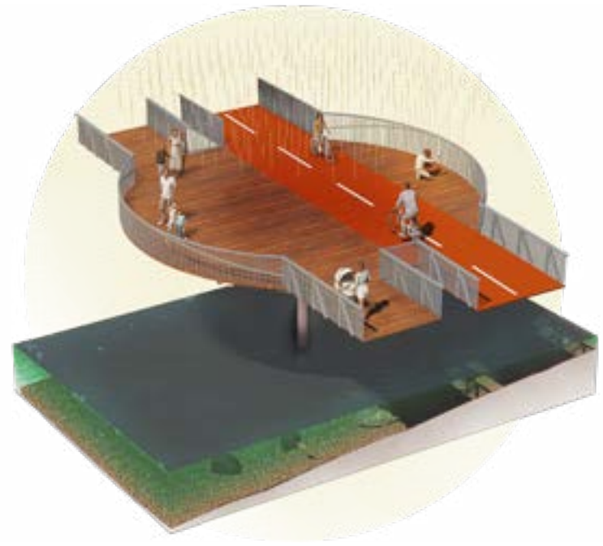
Existing



Proposed duplication

This proposal builds upon advocacy pieces below:

- A4 Advocate to the Victorian Government to use structural columns and undercroft for public art to create a unique experience for users
- **A7 Advocate to the Victorian Government to upgrade the existing suspended shared user path to create separate pedestrian and cyclist paths with improved lighting for** safety and break out/rest stops to increase usability and enhance cyclist and pedestrian safety.



Proposed breakout space

Revegetation Strategy

addressing scope items 1.2 and A8

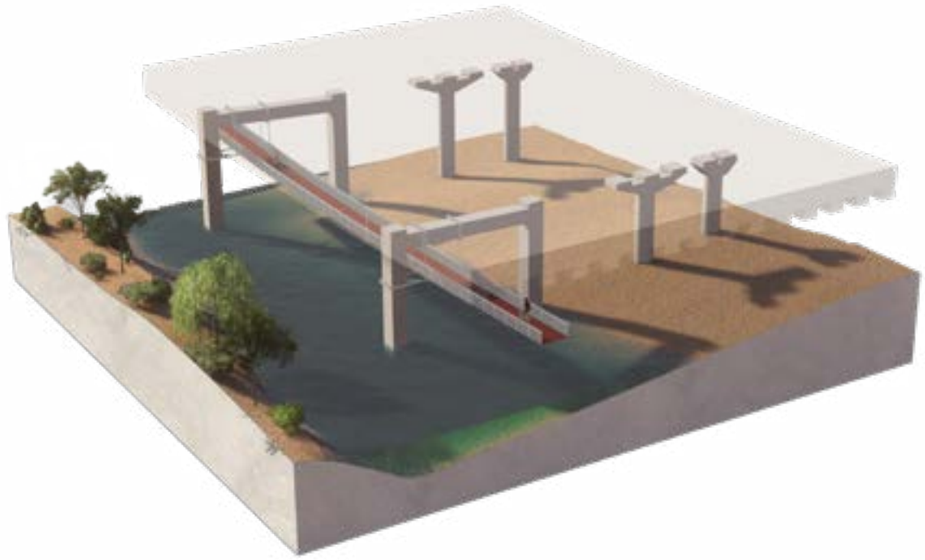
Existing vegetation of Zone 01 sits within a unique condition, in which infrastructure provides large amounts of shade to the creeks edge.

These highly modified conditions suggest that opposed to re-instating native vegetation, a mix of native plants which respond well to shade and periodic inundation will be specified. Refer to the Water health mix in the planting strategy.

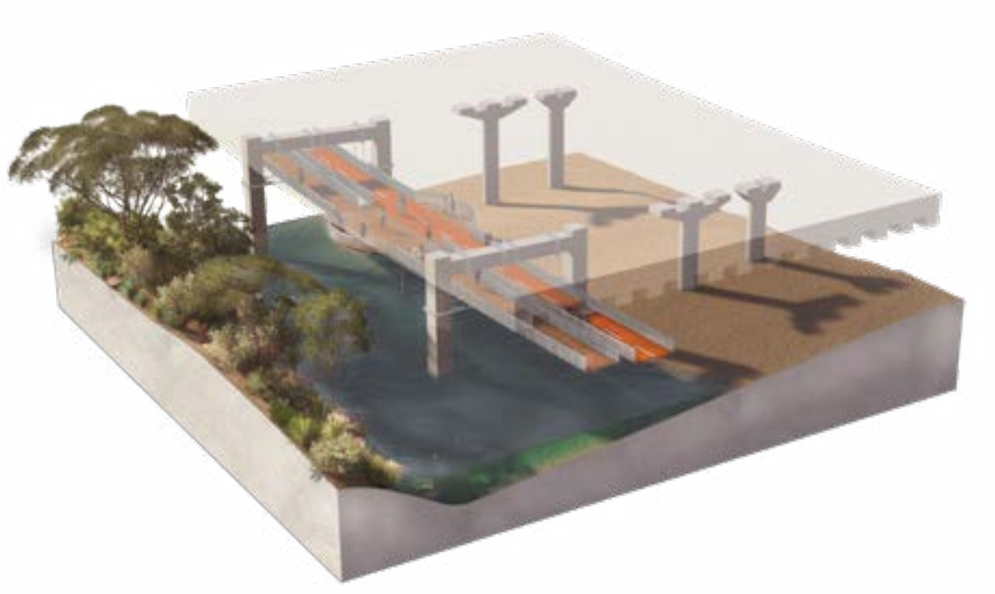
The majority of zone 01 will require reconstruction: full profile construction required - from soil to plants

- A8 Advocate to Melbourne Water for the removal and naturalisation of concrete canal





Existing Condition



Proposed reconstruction