The rivers and lakes in Indigo Shire are spectacular natural places that provide a range of recreation opportunities for the local community and visitors to the region.

Residents and visitors use the region’s lakes and waterways for water-based activities including swimming, fishing, canoe and kayaking, rowing, water skiing and boating. The surrounding banks and catchments are used for camping, walking and running, bike riding, picnicking and playing, reflection and nature appreciation.

This mix of recreation uses across a network of lakes and waterways promotes the natural environment and beautiful landscapes within our townships and region. These special places are highly valued by residents and visitors and are substantial lifestyle and tourism assets.

Management of these areas involves the shire, state government agencies and community groups and varies across sites in terms of complexity and legislation or local laws managing use.

Indigo Shire Council with support from the state government, has engaged Otium Planning Group to prepare a Lakes and Waterways Activation Plan that explores how to encourage greater recreation use and tourism benefit across these locations.
The Discussion Paper identifies the challenges and opportunities for activating lakes and waterways. It summarises the results of the first round of engagement and the issues and challenges for the Activation Plan. The Discussion Paper follows an extensive background research, site audit and engagement process across key stakeholder groups from recreation users, peak sport and recreation bodies, tourism bodies and land manager.

Indigo Shire is seeking feedback from the community and other stakeholders in response to this Discussion Paper.

Have Your Say
Indigo Shire encourages key stakeholder groups from recreation users, peak sport and recreation bodies, tourism bodies and land manager together with community groups, individuals and businesses to make a submission on this Discussion Paper. They can respond to all, some or just one of the questions it asks.

Submissions can be made via email or on-line survey and can be submitted via the Indigo Shire engagement webpage: <weblink>.

Submissions are sought by <date>.

Next Steps
The Project Team will consider submissions to this Discussion Paper.

A Draft Report will be developed that reports on the research and engagement findings. It will propose strategic directions for the Council consideration in March 2020. A public exhibition and review period will follow Council endorsement of the Draft Report.
### Key Sites
The lakes and waterways identified for consideration in the Activation Plan include:

#### TOWNSHIP LAKES AND WATERWAYS
- Lake Sambell (Beechworth).
- Woolshed Falls (Beechworth).
- Allans Flat (Dredge Hole).
- Lake King (Rutherglen).
- Lake Anderson (Chiltern).
- Spring Ditch Reserve (Stanley).
- A possible future area on the Kiewa River (near Kiewa).

#### REGIONAL DESTINATIONS
- Huon Reserve (Lake Hume).
- Lake Moodemere (Wahgunyah).
- Willows Recreation and Camping Reserve (Wahgunyah).
- Lake Kerferd (Beechworth).

#### BUSH CAMPING AND REMOTE LOCATIONS
- Police Paddock Reserve (Rutherglen).
- Granthams Bend (Wahgunyah).
- Lower Ovens Game Reserve.
Who is Involved in Management?
The lakes and waterways in the shire and the recreation activity that occurs involve range of resource managers including:

- Indigo Shire Council
- Parks Victoria
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- NE Catchment Management Authority
- Goulburn Murray Water
- VicRoads
- Private Landowners
- Community Groups.

Recreation at Lakes and Waterways in Indigo Shire
Indigo Shire’s lakes and waterways are used for a wide range of recreation and tourism activities, including:

- Paddle based water sports including rowing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting and canoe polo.
- Motorboat activities including fishing in boat, general boating, jet skiing and water skiing.
- Swimming and water play.
- Fishing from the bank.
- Camping.
- Walking, bush walking and trail running.
- Cycling activities including rail trail and mountain bike riding.
- Picnicking / BBQ.
- Nature appreciation and bird watching.
- Field and games sports – in designated hunting areas, identified on government produced hunting maps.

The NE Socio-Economic Value of Recreational Water Study shows our lakes and waterways in the North East region attract a high number of users each year. Across the 19 sites selected, 363,399 visitors were recorded. 71,827 were local active participants (people using water for fishing, swimming, skiing, kayaking) and 56,705 were local passive participants (people engaged in activities on the foreshore or trails such as walking, cycling and jogging).

The study found that 77.98% of recreation users of lakes and waterways participated in physical activity for over 4 hours, well above the recommended health guidelines.

Peak periods of use were in the hotter months, with the North East region a popular summer destination, particularly for intrastate and interstate domestic visitors.

Boating, fishing, hunting and camping are popular reasons why people visit Indigo Shire’s lakes and waterways. Peak periods of visitation are in the summer. There are a number of camp sites. Some of the popular camping sites are Granthams Bend Camping Area, Willows Recreation and Camping Reserve and Huon Reserve.
**Sport and Recreation Groups**

There are a number of sport and recreation groups that use the lakes and waterways in Indigo Shire, all of which are growing. Key groups are:

- **Albury Wodonga Triathlon Club.** The club has 175 members and host about 40 participants each fortnight at Allans Flat (Dredge Hole).
- **Three registered rowing clubs in the region.** These are: Rutherglen Lakes Rowing, Wahgunyah Rowing Club, Corowa Rowing Club). The clubs have about 200 rowers and host a State-wide rowing regatta that attracts 1,100 entries, 3,000 seats (participants) and 10,000 to 12,000 spectators to Lake Moodemere annually in January.
- **Three registered canoe and kayak clubs in the region.** These are North East Canoe Club, Mitta Mitta Canoe Club (Albury) and Yarrawonga Mulwala Canoe Club (Yarrawonga). There are a number of self-guided or guided canoeing and kayaking trails in the Ovens and Murray Rivers. Lake Moodemere is also a popular and safe place for beginners to canoe and kayak in Indigo Shire.
- **VRFish** have 838,000 registered members in Victoria with many members using the lakes and waterways in Indigo Shire. Fishing clubs in Indigo Shire include Yackandandah Fishing Club that hosts competitions at Allans Flat (Dredge Hole) that attracts about 60 fishers to each event; and Block Dog Creek Fishing Club with 26 fishers that use Lake Anderson, Lake Hume, Ovens River and the Murray River.
- **Water skiing** is a popular recreation activity on the Murray River, Lake Moodemere and Allans Flat (Dredge Hole). The Lake Moodemere Slalom Classic is held in February each year, attracting Australia’s best water-skiers to the region. The race is a lead up event to Moomba.
- **The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia** represents 28,000 members that hunt. Members hunt ducks during the open season (March to June) as well as utilise areas for camping and fishing all year round. Hunting is allowed at designated areas including State Game Reserves and areas of public land including the Lower Ovens Game Reserve and in designated wetlands and billabongs along the Murray River.
- **Outdoors Victoria** represent educators from primary and secondary schools and outdoor providers in outdoor activities. Major users of Indigo Shire’s lake and waterways include Outdoor Education Group, Latrobe University, Wodonga TAFE and Goulburn Ovens TAFE.
- **A number of tourism and outdoor education providers** use the lakes and waterways. These providers support outdoor recreation courses, school camps and group tours.
- **Lake Moodemere** is a safe and inviting place to learn how to row, canoe or kayak.

The regatta has been held for over 100 years and attracts 1100 entries and 10,000 to 12,000 people each year. This has grown to be one of the most popular rowing regattas in Victoria and generates a positive social, tourism and economic return to the region. Rowing Victoria advocates for the event stating that the regatta couldn’t be replaced if it was lost. Therefore, ensuring water is retained in the Lake to maintain the recreation and tourism value is a priority.
The Five Challenges

Analysis of the issues and opportunities involved in activating the Shire’s lakes and waterways has identified five key challenges.

1. **CHALLENGE 1: ACTIVATION**
   Increasing recreational use through provision of programs and activities that encourage more people to be active on and around lakes and waterways.

2. **CHALLENGE 2: INFRASTRUCTURE**
   Providing appropriate facilities and access infrastructure to enable greater recreation and tourism use.

3. **CHALLENGE 3: MANAGEMENT**
   Developing an approach for managing activity and investing in recreation that integrates the needs of multiple land managers and user groups.

4. **CHALLENGE 4: AWARENESS**
   Developing a coordinated approach to marketing and information that promotes the recreation opportunities available, the values of each location, and reinforces the differences in allowable use.

5. **CHALLENGE 5: SUSTAINABILITY**
   Ensuring that recreation use is managed sustainably across a diversity of sites and managing agencies.
Increasing recreational use through provision of programs and activities that encourage more people to be active on and around lakes and waterways.

Overview
A key goal for council is to encourage a healthy, connected and active community. Lakes and waterways enable residents and visitors to be active. Encouraging physical activity such as walking and cycling; nature-based recreation such as bushwalking and camping and on water activity activities such as swimming, fishing and boating, will contribute significantly to that goal.

Demographic analysis for the Shire indicates:
• An ageing population which will increase the need for accessible infrastructure and appropriate programs
• A continuing high proportion of youth in the community who are likely to be regular users
• Underemployment and economic disadvantage which means no-cost outdoor and active recreation will be increasingly important to support physical and mental health and social connection.
• Rising levels of obesity, physical inactivity and lifestyle related disease. Programs that encourage people to use lakes and waterway will be a critical part in addressing this growing issue.

The community survey conducted earlier this year received 107 responses and found:
• The top five activities at our lakes and waterways were walking; swimming, picnicking, nature appreciation and paddle sports.
• The most popular lakes and waterways were Lake Sambell; Woolshed Falls; Beechworth Gorge; Murray River; and Lake Moodemere.
• Key barriers to participation on lakes and waterways were: being too busy and time poor; poor environmental conditions; don’t know what is available; poor or lack of infrastructure.
• The following would encourage participation on lakes and waterways:
  - Education excursions;
  - Boating / kayaking / rafting / stand up paddle board hire
  - Guided activities such as paddle tours; bushwalking tours or fishing tours
  - Organised group activities.

Organised sport and recreation groups raised the following issues:
• Complexity of application and approval processes for obtaining a license, hosting an event or improving infrastructure on lakes and waterways. In addition, there were often multiple agencies involved and no coordination between them. Suggestions included:
  - Streamline the process to a single application (and fee)
  - Enable a local coordinator or peak body to process approvals
  - Extend permit duration for up to 5 years
• Need to coordinate between user groups to minimise conflict but encourage participation growth.

CHALLENGE 1: ACTIVATION
Future Directions

- Provide programs and activities that encourage people to use lakes and waterways.
- Make it easier for people to try new activities and connect with clubs and groups using these resources.
- Encourage more events that increase awareness and expose residents and potential visitors to the range of destinations and opportunities available.
- Ensure that increasing use is supported with appropriate infrastructure and information so that the values of each site are protected.

Getting There

The ideas to the right have emerged for consideration:

IDEA 1: Partner with local health agencies to develop a “green prescription” system that encourages nature based and outdoor recreation (such as “forest bathing” programs). Connect the health sector to clubs and other activity providers and information on lakes and waterways so prescriptions can be specific to where patients live.

IDEA 2: Streamline the use permit or event approval process across Land Managers and approval agencies and advocate for a single integrated process. As part of this increase the duration of permits or simplify renewal processes.

IDEA 3: Consider delegating some approval/permit process to a peak body or local coordinator.

IDEA 4: Partner with local education professionals and agencies to develop a range of resources to encourage local kindergartens, childcare centres, libraries, primary and secondary schools and outdoor education providers to use the lakes and waterways for nature play, nature-based recreation and outdoor based education. Consider identifying a few key locations to be developed as “outdoor classrooms”.

IDEA 5: Partner with Traditional Owners to recognise cultural values and stories and to develop programs and resources that encourage use and understanding.

IDEA 6: Facilitate community events including outdoor cinema, markets, etc.

IDEA 7: Support the development of local social walking groups around the township lakes to encourage new participants and address some of the social issues that may prevent people from being active.

IDEA 8: Support competitive and participation level (e.g. Parkrun) sporting events on and around lakes and waterways.
Allans Flat (Dredge Hole)
Providing appropriate facilities and access infrastructure to enable greater recreation and tourism use.

**Overview**
Providing appropriate infrastructure to support recreation use is a key strategy to encourage more recreation use and to protect the land, lakes and waterways being used. In some cases the setting for recreation is one of an undeveloped highly natural area where infrastructure should be minimised and only include essential feature to protect the site and make users aware of any site rules. In other cases, such as “township lakes” a high level of infrastructure is needed to enable the range of activities and multiple user groups that access the lake and surrounds for a diverse range of activities.

A site audit of infrastructure supporting recreation identified the following considerations:
- While there is a diversity of activities available, many of the non-township sites had limited or ageing infrastructure supporting use.
- The “township” lakes were the most heavily used and generally well developed to support different active uses.
- Many sites connect to walking trails that also connect to townships or regional trails.

Key stakeholders recognised that there has been little coordination between land managers and stakeholders. There is general support for a more integrated and strategic approach.

Community and stakeholder engagement identified some suggested priorities and considerations for improved infrastructure:
- Lake Moodemere: for a new club room for the rowing clubs that use the lake. This project is funded and will be constructed in the next six months.
- Goulburn Murray Water on behalf of the Sunday Creek Management Committee and Parks Victoria are proposing a reconfigured irrigation scheme to improve environmental conditions. For the users it is important that the design enables the lake's water levels to be maintained at a minimum level for recreation values.
- Allans Flat (Dredge Hole) is a popular location under community management that has been used for swimming, fishing and Triathlon. The old mining dredge is also of high heritage significance. The facilities and access infrastructure is very aged and there community concerns regarding water quality in the lake.
- The following general improvements should be considered at most sites:
  - improved walking and biking trails;
  - provision of toilets;
  - more access to public open space along waterways.
- Lake King, Lake Sambell, Lake Anderson and Yackandandah Lake (Allans Flat) were identified as key township assets. There should be a plan for regular refurbishment of infrastructure at these locations and improvements based on a master plan.
- The master planning and subsequent improvements to Lake King was identified as a good example.
- There is support for a potential new site on the Kiewa River to service the townships of Kiewa and Tangambalanga who currently do not have a waterside recreation area.

**CHALLENGE 2: INFRASTRUCTURE**
**Future Directions**

- Ensure that infrastructure provided to support recreation is appropriate for the site and facilitates sustainable use.
- Ensure that infrastructure is maintained and replaced in a timely manner and that planning involves all stakeholders.

**Getting There**

The ideas to the right have emerged for consideration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDEA</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Diversify and improve the quality of recreation and tourism infrastructure at Township Lakes and Waterways to make these major destination places for communities and visitors. Priorities include boat ramps and fishing platforms; large play spaces, picnic facilities and accessible walking/fitness trails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Develop agreed provision standards for different settings that ensure sufficient infrastructure to support recreation use, such as the need for public toilets at high visitor use locations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Develop and install a suite of interpretive and wayfinding signage, information and maps across all lakes and waterway types.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Develop a number of canoe and kayaking trails providing access points and guidance information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Designate “swimming only” areas to increase safety where there are multiple on-water users.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Develop infrastructure that supports club activities such as storage, meeting and change spaces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Develop forward plans for investment that can take advantage of funding opportunities as they emerge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Use trail and path networks to connect lakes and waterways to townships and increase the range of opportunities for users.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Developing an approach for managing activity and investing in recreation that integrates the needs of multiple land managers and user groups.

Overview

Along with Indigo Shire there are also a number of state agencies involved in managing the multiple sites in the shire and the activities that occur. It can be difficult for users to understand the differences between various sites and what is allowed or prohibited. In some cases, there are issues with unlawful access to water bodies within controlled areas or private land which creates safety issues for the managers and users. The management of recreation activity is also complex with on-water activities covered by different legislation to activity on adjacent land areas. This also means that powers to enforce rules or address unlawful or dangerous behaviour can be fragmented.

Parks Victoria manage several of the recreation lakes and waterways in Indigo Shire. The parks and reserves under the Parks Victoria estate in the North East region are managed under the River Red Gum Management Plan.

Indigo Shire’s primary responsibilities are in managing the lakes within the urban townships including Lake Sambell, Lake King and Lake Anderson.

Victoria’s water allocation framework takes a whole-of-system water management approach and considers all water resources (surface water and groundwater) for both consumptive and environmental purposes at all phases of the water cycle. Like surface water, groundwater is allocated for commercial and irrigation purposes under licensing arrangements set out under the Act.

There have been efforts to develop a strategic approach to management of the social, economic and environmental values and issues on lakes and waterways across land managers. The most recent are the River Red Gum Management Plan and North East Regional Catchment Strategy. These plans were informed by an evidence base and extensive consultation with stakeholders and they support a partnership approach in responding to issues and opportunities.

Land management issues identified during the research and engagement stages of the project include:

- Preventing environmental damage from recreation use.
- Ensuring public safety in activity management and site management.
- Managing access to rivers sustainably.
- Irregular water levels.
- Waste dumping and other environmental threats such as pests and weeds (especially aquatic weeds).
- Unlawful activity including illegal camping.
- Climate change impacts to ecosystems, water level and quality.

Increasing recreational use of lakes and waterways has to be managed with appropriate infrastructure and activity controls so that the scale and intensity of any increases does not damage the values of the location. Community and stakeholders raised a key concern around the number of users in the summer peaks and particularly managing on-water activity.

A number of strategies to address activity management issues may be needed including:

- Improving coordination between managing agencies.
- Better information for and education of users and potential users.
- Managing organised use (such as sporting events) via permits.
- Improving infrastructure to encourage and support use.
- Working with community groups to provide activities.
- Additional staff such as rangers or local laws officers.
- Develop consistent and integrated approaches to managing activity - including enforcement.
**Future Directions**

- Developing a shared vision and strategy with all land and water managers to guide recreation use and investment in expanding recreation opportunity.
- Improving communication and coordination with user groups and stakeholders.
- Agreeing on shared approaches to dealing with activity management issues such as overuse/overcrowding at some sites in peak times.

**Getting There**

The ideas to the right have emerged for consideration:

**IDEA 1**

Establish a coordination group for the region which involves all land and water managers and key stakeholder groups such as tourism, Traditional owners and sporting groups.

**IDEA 2**

Develop a regional awareness and education plan so there are consistent messages and information about use of areas. This could include better identification of site managers and corresponding rules around use.

**IDEA 3**

Council to support community groups in liaising with Land Managers (including Parks Victoria and North East Catchment Authority) to progress the delivery of projects and master plans on lakes and waterways and to collectively manage risks to users e.g. Lake Moodemere.

**IDEA 4**

Partner with land managers in monitoring and maintaining the condition of visitor sites, access roads and tracks to maintain recreation values, address erosion, ensure safe use and to minimise the impact on significant landscapes and environs. As part of this develop a shared approach to maintenance activities with contributions from all partners and possibly user groups.

**IDEA 5**

Coordinate with New South Wales agencies and Federation Council to develop a consistent approach to managing access to and recreational use of the Murray on both sides of the river. This should include shared strategies for issues such as managing waste, weeds and pests.

**IDEA 6**

Develop a consistent approach across Land Managers for traffic management on lakes and waterways in the summer peak period.
Developing a coordinated approach to marketing and information that promotes the recreation opportunities available, the values of each location, and reinforces the differences in allowable use.

Overview
A key strategic driver for the project is to promote tourism and support the local economy. Lakes and waterways are an important part of the tourism product in Indigo Shire and the recreation opportunities they provide contribute significantly to the “liveability” of the shire.

The tourism market in the Indigo Shire is around 850,000 visitors annually (Indigo Tourism Strategy, 2018) and is projected to grow to 1.2 million visitors by 2023. Expanding the activities and opportunities available will support this growth and continue to attract visitors. With a predicted increase in use of Indigo Shire’s lakes and waterways there is a subsequent need to ensure both adequate facilities and information availability so visitors can plan their trips as well as be aware of what is provided at various sites and what activities are allowed.

Indigo Shire’s lakes and waterways offer a place for visitors to connect with nature and engage in a range of outdoor recreation activities. For residents, the numerous sites and especially those close to or within townships, provide essential space for recreation. A key element at all sites is the natural environment and beauty of the landscapes. These, along with the historical and cultural aspects of the sites are key values to be protected while encouraging use. Encouraging use is also an opportunity to encourage respect for a site’s values.

However, the shire’s lakes and waterways are managed according to a range of intents, legislation and mixed uses. The River Red Gum Park Management Plan 2018 identifies a full list of recreation activities and whether they are allowed or not across National, State and Regional Parks, Nature Conservation Reserves, Natural Feature Reserves, State Game Reserve and Historic Areas and Reserves. These parks are managed by Parks Victoria and future promotional material should reference this categorisation.

There is poor wayfinding and interpretive signage at some lakes and waterways. Education and awareness of site values, promotion of destination and experience, and opportunities to tell the stories of each site, all add value to the experience and improve visitor satisfaction and behaviour.

In summary the key issues are:
• Residents and visitors to the shire need more information on what destinations and activities are available and what is allowed at each site.
• On site information and interpretation of values could be improved at the more remote (non-township sites).
• Adding value to a site through interpreting environmental and cultural values improves the experience and can improve visitor behaviour.
• Adventure education and adventure recreation providers are a significant user group and promoting a network of lakes and waterways together with trails e.g. canoe trails, will encourage greater activation by these providers.

Challenge 4: Awareness
**Future Directions**

- Widely accessible information on the locations and recreation activities available.
- A coordinated approach to promoting recreation and tourism experiences (at lakes and waterways) to residents and visitors.
- Integration of key messages on allowed uses at each site and on sustainable use.

**Getting There**

The ideas to the right have emerged for consideration:

**IDEA 1** Collaborate with the various land managers to develop an integrated marketing and information strategy that promotes lakes and waterways.

**IDEA 2** Develop promotional material in conjunction with Tourism agencies and tour operators to offer nature-based recreation tourism products on lakes and waterways that target different visitor types e.g. identify and promote sites and experiences that will attract the nature appreciation and bird watcher and tailored tour operator experiences.

**IDEA 3** Enhance cultural heritage visitor and tourism experiences with improved park visitor information and interpretive elements and, in conjunction with Traditional Owners and others, develop services such as history and culture tours.

**IDEA 4** Explore the use of smartphone technology to deliver wayfinding, site information and interpretive experiences to visitors. The emerging field of AR (augmented reality) would offer a highly flexible and engaging platform for information delivery.

**IDEA 5** Engage with peak recreation groups like Outdoors Victoria, Rowing Victoria, VR Fish and Canoe Victoria annually to develop a program of events and support the sustainable access to lakes and waterways for organised activities and education programs.
Springditch Reserve
Ensuring that recreation use is managed sustainably across a diversity of sites and managing agencies.

Overview

While a key aim of this study is to investigate ways to encourage greater use of the region’s lakes and waterways, it is equally important for this to occur sustainably. This means protecting the social, environment and cultural values of each site. Protecting the environmental and cultural values along Indigo Shire’s lakes and waterways is a fundamental obligation of land managers.

The lakes and waterways in the region support a range of land and water-based habitats. Some habitats are significant for their vegetation communities or wildlife. Activating these sites for recreation should protect these values and build on the growing demand for residents and visitors to experience natural habitats and the fauna supported there. Birdwatching trails, hides and tours are one example how of sustainable recreation and how it can promote conservation.

Most of the lakes and waterways are culturally significant in particular, along the Murray River and the connecting lakes with some containing scar trees, artefact scatters, quarry sites, grinding grooves and fish traps. Protecting these sites is a priority, however there is also an opportunity to celebrate these features and educate users and visitors about Aboriginal culture and history of use on the lakes and waterways.

Waste management and pollution is a particular concern for land managers in both Victoria and New South Wales. Exploring different ways to manage waste, including strategies to encourage users to take their rubbish with them, is a priority. Parks Victoria encourage a ‘carry in carry out’ approach. Moira Shire Council and Campaspe Shire Council have recently trialled a township approach where rubbish is accepted no matter what side of the boundary they come from.

Many of the current recreation areas have been in use for along time and there is a legacy of community expectation for both access and the activities allowed. Along with legacy comes site use impacts which may be increasingly unsustainable with a changing climate or creating a cumulative degradation of the area. Activating for recreation creates a need to manage use in a way that protects the landscape. Issues such as bank erosion, site degradation, water quality, dispersal of pest and weed species, and impacts on habitats need to be considered. Future proposals for activation and infrastructure improvements should seek to reduce and minimise the impacts of use. Combining site strategies with information and education can change behaviour and assist in reducing impacts without the need for additional infrastructure.

In addition, planning for the future means mitigating for the impact of climate change. This can mean increased risk of fires, less water in lakes and rivers and risks from extreme weather including floods. This has implications for infrastructure as well as educating users.

Conversely many users value the low level of development at some sites and do not want more infrastructure. They appreciate the “bush camping” setting but acknowledge there are issues with site degradation, access to water and that some users do not “do the right thing”.

There are a number of local Land Care groups in Indigo Shire that partner with Land Managers on revegetation projects. Their contribution to maintaining the environmental and cultural values of Indigo Shire’s lakes and waterways is valuable and the support of these groups important for the health of the waterways.

One of the great strengths of the shire’s mix of lakes and waterways is the ability to provide substantial diversity. This diversity includes both a range of settings as well as a range of activities. The community values the diversity and does not expect to be able to do everything at every site.
**Future Directions**
- A shared approach with land managers on the range of recreation opportunities to be provided and the sites that can support these activities sustainably.
- Strategies to activate lakes and waterways include education and information programs to promote sustainable use.

**Getting There**

IDEA 1
Work with Land Managers to agree on the range of activities that can be supported at each site and promote this information widely.

IDEA 2
Agree with all land managers priority improvements that are needed to improve sustainable use at each site and adopt a set of regional priorities.

IDEA 3
Partner with local interest groups and land managers in developing master plans at key lakes and waterway sites and approaching State and Federal Government for funding to improve lakes and waterways infrastructure and environs.

IDEA 4
Develop partnerships between Land Managers and local Land Care groups in the restoration and management of lakes and waterways environs and to improve water quality and access.

IDEA 5
Develop an education/information program to improve on site behaviour of users, particularly at the bush camping and more remote sites. For rubbish this may include information on where the nearest skip or rubbish bin is located. Similarly, with caravans and similar the nearest dump point should be promoted in site information.