The design explores how the Lake Mulwala landscape changes from natural to modified...

From the Murray and Ovens River systems of red gum forest and wetlands to the landscape of irrigated agriculture characterised by controlled water systems and weir, lakes and channels at Mulwala. The lake's history, ecology and its importance in supporting the food production economy are possible themes for interpretive and detail landscape elements.

**INSPIRATION**

The Crooked Bridge

The Everglades Meandering wetlands and billabongs with high ecological values.

Central Region Hard edge to the water and iconic red gum trunks which provide important habitat.

Main Basin Modified landscape of bridges, weir and channels.

**CONTEXT**

The study found:

- While 95% of the vegetated lake area is comprised of native species, this is not the case for the lake's edge, which is extensively modified by human activity. Only 1% of the lake's edge is vegetated, almost entirely with exotic species (99%).
- In the western Main Basin region, the Everglades, the lake's edge is not vegetated.
- In the Central Lake region, riparian vegetation is relatively healthy in a large area of vegetation, including red gum forest, and the Everglades region but ecological value declines from east to west;
- In the Main Basin at the western end of the lake, the river's source and at the eastern end, exotic tree species such as mostly of mature River Red Gums surround areas. The zone consists due to human-induced activity in most of the lake consists of a narrow strip. This strip, known as the riparian zone, has an ongoing monitoring program.

**THEMES FOR EXPLORATION**

A constructed landscape: Lake Mulwala today. The Murray and Ovens Rivers drain into the man-made lake. Water is diverted into the Mulwala and Yarrawonga channels and back into the Murray downstream of the weir. Source: sixmaps.

**POSSIBLE FUTURE STAGE**

**LAKE EDGE PLANTING**

**EXISTING DESTINATION**

**FUTURE LOCATION**

**FUTURE CONNECTION**

**POSSIBLE LOCATION**

**POSSIBLE FUTURE JETTY**

**POSSIBLE FUTURE STRUCTURE PLANTING**

**POSSIBLE FUTURE LAKE EDGE PLANTING**

**SITE BOUNDARY**

**EXISTENCE OF WORK FOR STAGE 1 (THIS PROJECT)**

**LEGEND**

Managing water for food production and river health.

Conserving and protecting biodiversity.

History of Lake Mulwala including saw-milling and construction of the channels, weir and lake.

**THEMING**

The design of play space is inspired by the form of Lake Mulwala, and how the landscape character of the lake changes from natural to engineered from east to west.

The proposed mooring inlet and existing native trees reference the meandering watercourse and red gum forest of the Everglades. The main path takes inspiration from the original river path through the lake.

The forms of key iconic elements such as the bridge, weir and channels are referenced in play and other built elements.

Three distinct use zones are proposed. The younger children's play space, including toilets and new picnic area, is fenced providing a secure and stress-free space for little ones and carers.

The older children's play space is part of the broader park landscape and is extended to the more natural setting of the mooring inlet, existing red gum and secondary picnic area.

**PROGRAM AND CIRCULATION**

Fenced younger children's play. Focus on sensory experiences, nature and discovery.

Older children's play. Focus on challenging and unique play experiences.

Unstructured nature play experiences.

Key feature.

Main path.

Secondary path.

Gate.
**ALL-ABILITIES ADVENTURE PLAY SPACE AT PURTLE PARK MULWALA**

**DRAFT LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN**

**TODDLER PLAY.**
Rockers/ springers and in sand sensory experiences. Nature play at a scale for little ones.

**FENCED PLAY AREA**
Embankment slide to side of mound and climbing equipment.

**WATER PLAY.**
Pumps, weirs and other elements for children to connect to the water.

**VERTICAL PLAY.**
Musical instruments and sensory play items to be incorporated into the playground wall.

**BASKET SWING.**

**THE PELICAN NEST & HIDE AWAY FRAMES**

**FLYING FOX.**

**BALANCE PLAY**

**NATURE PLAY**
Quiet places to discover

**MOORING INLET**

**THE CROOKED BRIDGE.**
Hero element consisting of two towers connected by an enclosed rope bridge and including a slide.

**SPINNER.**
(Behind Tree)

**ROPE PLAY.**

**WATER PLAY.**
Pumps, weirs and other elements for children to connect to the water.

**VERTICAL PLAY.**
Musical instruments and sensory play items to be incorporated into the playground wall.

**BASKET SWING.**

**THE PELICAN NEST & HIDE AWAY FRAMES**

**FLYING FOX.**

**BALANCE PLAY**

**NATURE PLAY**
Quiet places to discover

**MOORING INLET**

**EXISTING BBQ SHELTER**

**LAKE MULWALA**

**RUBBER SOFTFALL MOUND CLIMBING EQUIPMENT**

**EMBANKMENT SLIDE**

**TODDLER PLAY.**

**WATER PLAY.**

**RUBBER SOFTFALL MOUND ORGANIC SOFTFALL PLANTING**

**REFERENCE IMAGE - HIDE AWAY FRAMES**

**REFERENCE IMAGE - INFORMAL NATURE PLAY**

**REFERENCE IMAGE - BALANCE**
ALL-ABILITIES ADVENTURE PLAY SPACE AT PURTLE PARK MULWALA
DRAFT LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN

MATERIALS

INSPIRATION

TREES TRUNK FOREST / FENCES

TOILET

SHELTER AND FENCE ARE INTEGRAL OPEN VIEWS TO WATER.

BUILT FORM

COLOURED EXPOSED CONCRETE

ACCESSIBLE PATHS

SOFT FALL TYPES

MOORING INLET NATURAL EDGE TREATMENT

SURFACE FINISHES

BULoke FOREST

SILVER WATTLE

POA

RIVER BOTTLEBRUSH

STYLISED LOCAL PLANTINGS

Raw timber uprights evoke the red gums forest and wetland within the Everglades and the drowned trunks within the Central Region.