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A Vision for Mt Coot-tha Quarry



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 ACN 665 894 039
 ABN 16 665 894 039

praxstudio.com.au
 prax@praxstudio.com.au

Brisbane Studio:
 Level 4, Bowman House
 276 Edward Street
 Brisbane, QLD, 4000

Mailing Address:
 PO Box 486 Clayfield QLD, 4011

Telephone:
 07 3191 4814
 0410 570 057

Nominated Architect Stephen Pratt
 NSWARB No. 10328
 BOAQLD No. 5853

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Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to present this vision for the transformation of the Mt Coot-Tha Quarry precinct. This is a once in a generation opportunity to deliver a vibrant new public space for Brisbane befitting our status as a New World City.

We imagine a future in which a deep scar is healed in one of Brisbane's most sacred and beloved natural environments while creating an iconic new place to visit that attracts people from all over the world, helping to make Brisbane a leading destination in the Asia Pacific Region for major events and global tourism.

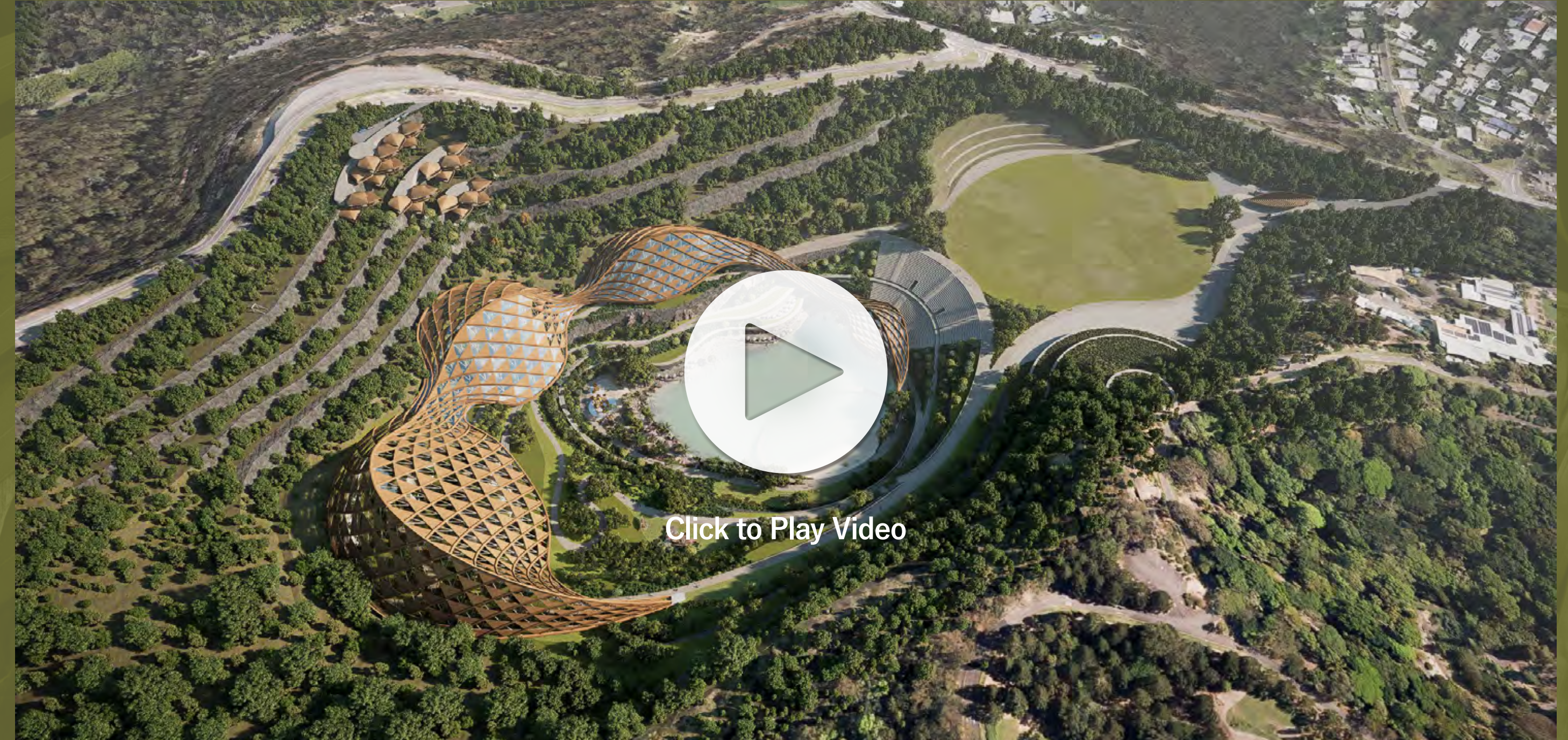
This is a vision for Mt Coot-Tha that is open, green, accessible and both inspired by and deeply connected to its rich First Nations heritage while reflecting the contemporary and innovative spirit for which Brisbane and Australia are known around the world.

Who We Are

PRAX Studio is a Brisbane-based Architecture and Urban Design studio specialising in commercial, residential and mixed-use projects. We bring a pragmatic and commercially minded approach to each commission and deliver innovative, contextual and beautiful solutions that consistently exceed our clients' expectations.

Our approach to design is based on the belief that open and genuine collaboration with clients is the key to a project's success. Every site is different, every project brief is different and every client's measure of success is different so we don't believe in imposing architectural ideas for their own sake. We believe each project brings unique opportunities and deserves to be considered with a fresh perspective.

We believe that good design can and should be practical and useful as well as beautiful. It should deliver an outcome that is sustainable and appropriate to its place and time. It should always seek to turn constraints into opportunities and to extract maximum value from every site and project.



Inspired by Country

In the shadow of Mt Coot-tha, where the ancient whispers of the Jagera and Turrbal people still echo through the rustling leaves, we find ourselves embraced by the sacred essence of this majestic land. Here, amidst the towering gums and the fragrant blossoms of the bush, we are drawn into a timeless dance of connection - a dance that binds us to the vibrant tapestry of Australia's unique biodiversity.

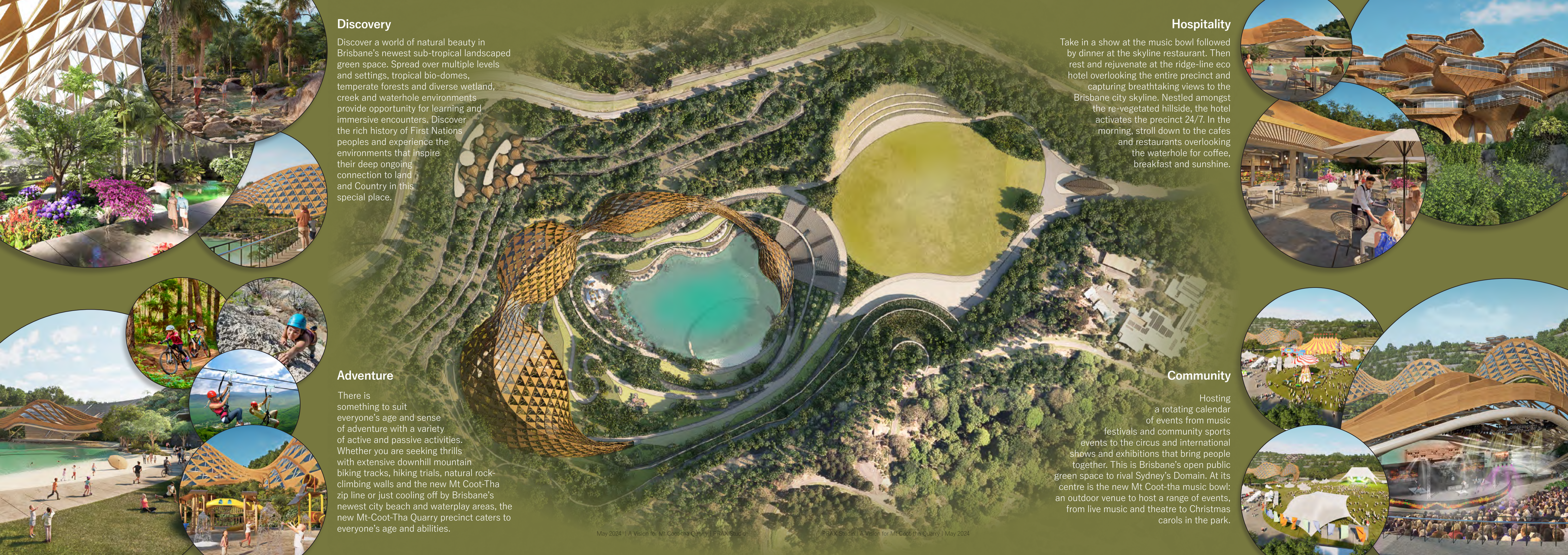
In the warmth of the sun-kissed breezes, we find adventure beckoning us to explore the wild spaces nestled within our bustling metropolis, where every corner holds the promise of discovery and wonder. In this sacred dance with nature, we find not only adventure but a shared journey of discovery and welcoming hospitality, where the threads of community intertwine with nature binding us ever closer to the pulse of the land and each other.



Mt Coot-tha derives its name from the Aboriginal word 'ku-ta' which means honey. This was an area where the Aboriginal people collected honey from the stingless bee which is native to the area. In recognition of this, our vision evokes honeycomb like structures with a waterhole forming the central focus around which all life and activity revolves.

Perched on the ridge line overlooking the site, structures take their inspiration from the eucalyptus leaf, as an acknowledgement and reflection on Mt Coot-tha's past as "one tree hill" after the European settlers removed all but one large eucalyptus tree from the summit.

Our vision is for a seamless, organic interconnection between built structures and the natural environment, delivering opportunities for community gathering, exploration, discovery and memory building.



Discovery

Discover a world of natural beauty in Brisbane's newest sub-tropical landscaped green space. Spread over multiple levels and settings, tropical bio-domes, temperate forests and diverse wetland, creek and waterhole environments provide opportunity for learning and immersive encounters. Discover the rich history of First Nations peoples and experience the environments that inspire their deep ongoing connection to land and Country in this special place.

Adventure

There is something to suit everyone's age and sense of adventure with a variety of active and passive activities. Whether you are seeking thrills with extensive downhill mountain biking tracks, hiking trails, natural rock-climbing walls and the new Mt Coot-Tha zip line or just cooling off by Brisbane's newest city beach and waterplay areas, the new Mt-Coot-Tha Quarry precinct caters to everyone's age and abilities.

Hospitality

Take in a show at the music bowl followed by dinner at the skyline restaurant. Then rest and rejuvenate at the ridge-line eco hotel overlooking the entire precinct and capturing breathtaking views to the Brisbane city skyline. Nestled amongst the re-vegetated hillside, the hotel activates the precinct 24/7. In the morning, stroll down to the cafes and restaurants overlooking the waterhole for coffee, breakfast and sunshine.

Community

Hosting a rotating calendar of events from music festivals and community sports events to the circus and international shows and exhibitions that bring people together. This is Brisbane's open public green space to rival Sydney's Domain. At its centre is the new Mt Coot-tha music bowl: an outdoor venue to host a range of events, from live music and theatre to Christmas carols in the park.

Master Plan Precincts

1. Arrival

Main entry to the site from Mt Coot-Tha Road including a public transport terminal shelter, ride sharing porte-cochere, public amenities and vehicular access control and security.

2. The Event Lawn

The main outdoor event space measuring 300m x 200m, capable of hosting large scale outdoor events such as music festivals. Similar in scale and range of potential uses as Sydney's Domain.

3. Operations and Management

Centralised park management, administration, services and security, featuring a pedestrian link to the Botanic Gardens and undercover loading and parking.

4. Central Precinct

The heart of the Mt Coot-Tha Quarry Precinct, taking maximum advantage of the unique geometry of the former Quarry pit. Including a range of active and passive recreation areas, a new landmark music bowl, The Hive - a series of interlinked bio-domes showcasing natural vegetation and ecosystems, multiple water-play experiences and food and beverage offerings all arranged around an iconic central waterhole.

5. Southern Slope

Native bush regeneration area featuring rock climbing walls and bush walking trails along the former quarry berms.

6. Western Slope

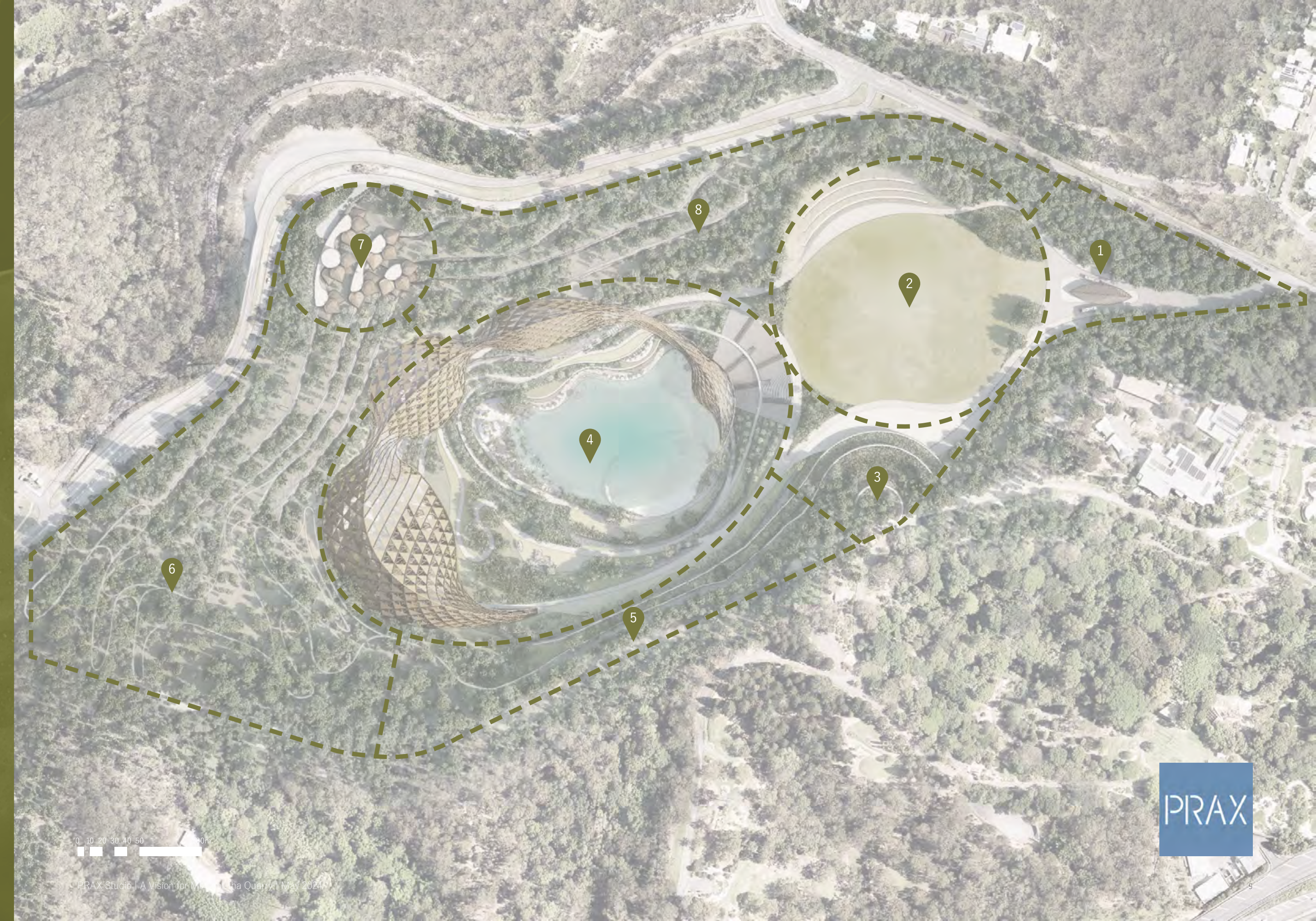
Active adventure and discovery among a native bush regeneration area including a network of mountain biking paths, hiking trails and the top of the new Mt Coot-Tha Zip Line.

7. Ridgeline Eco Hotel

A signature hotel perched on the ridge line overlooking the precinct with sweeping panoramic views of the city skyline beyond. The boutique eco-hotel will promote activation of the site and provide passive surveillance. Its design is inspired by the eucalyptus leaf and complements it's tree-top setting.

8. Northern Slope

Native bush regeneration area featuring rock climbing walls and bush walking trails along the former quarry berms overlooking the precinct below.



Master Plan Detail

Arrival

1. Main entry and vehicular access from Mount Coot-Tha Road
2. Public transport terminal and car share porte cochere
3. Vehicular and on-site parking entry
4. Pedestrian arrival and orientation

Southern Slope

29. Passive recreation and BBQ shelters
30. Rock-climbing and walking trails along quarry berms
31. Native bush regeneration area

The Event Lawn

5. The Mt Coot-Tha Event Lawn
6. Landscaped terrace seating
7. On-grade parking and driveway
8. Hard-paved event bump-in space

Western Slope

32. Pedestrian site access and connection to council parking area
33. Mountain-biking paths
34. Bush walking trails
35. Top of Mt Coot-Tha zip-line

Operations and Management

9. Loading and parking entry
10. Park operations, services and management building
11. Pedestrian gatehouse link to Botanic Gardens

Ridgeline Eco Hotel

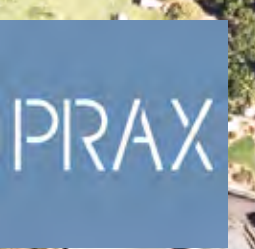
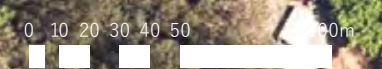
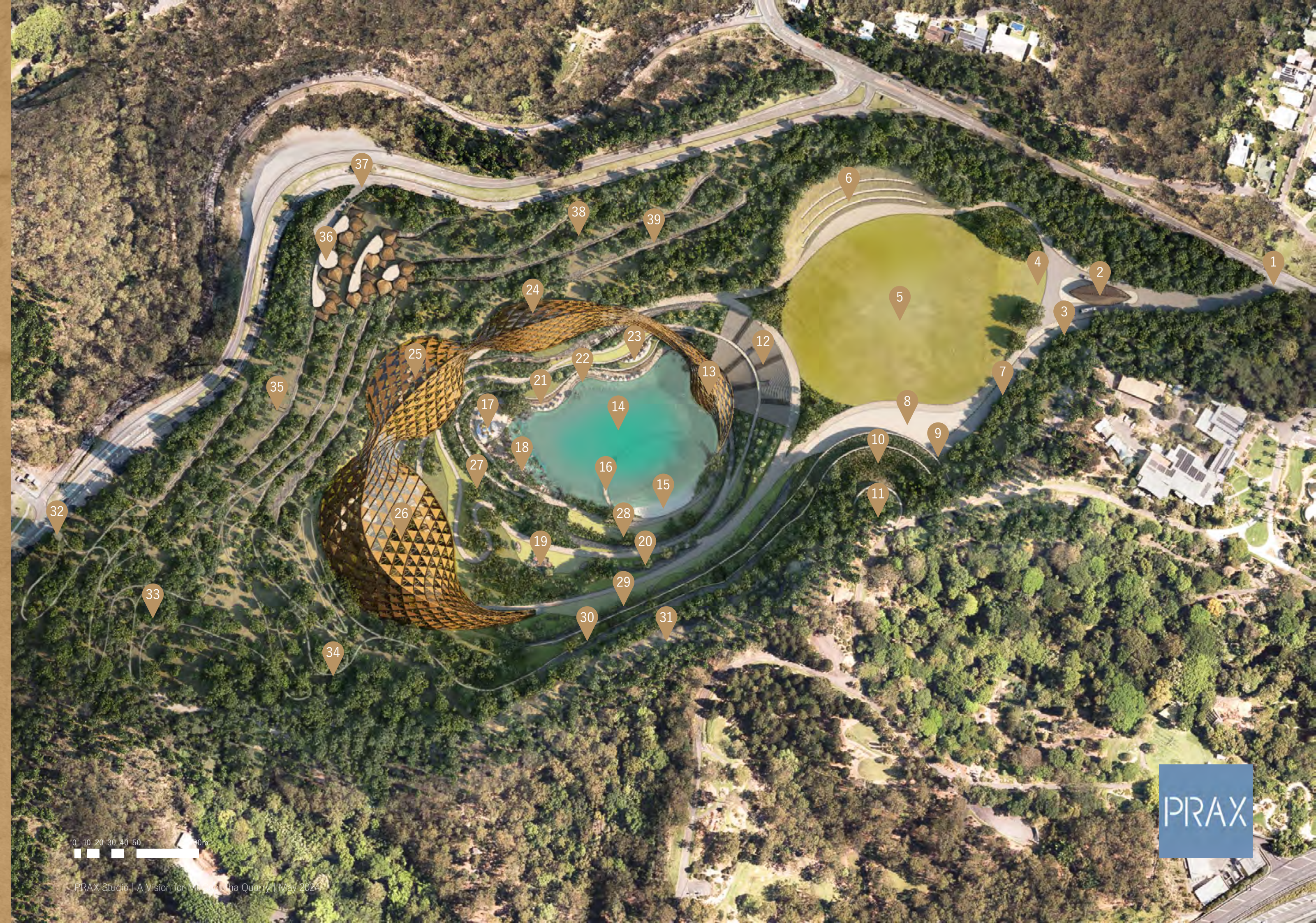
36. Eco Hotel and Resort
37. Vehicular entry from Scenic Drive

Northern Slope

38. Native bush regeneration area
39. Bush walking trails along quarry berms

Central Precinct

12. The Mt Coot-Tha Music Bowl
13. Open-air theatre stage
14. The Waterhole
15. The Beach
16. Accessible ramp
17. Active water-play
18. Discovery gully water-play
19. Adventure playground
20. Passive recreation and BBQ shelters
21. Refreshments and casual dining
22. Water steps
23. Restaurants and conference venue
24. First Nations Cultural Centre
25. Temperate bio-dome
26. Tropical bio-dome
27. Landscaped sub-tropical gardens
28. Base of Mt Coot-Tha zip line



The Music Bowl

The centrepiece of the quarry precinct is the new Mt-Coot-Tha Music Bowl. Taking advantage of the steeply sloping walls of the old quarry pit, a hole in the ground is transformed into a world-class outdoor amphitheatre capable of hosting live music and theatre for an audience of up to three thousand. The semi-circular bowl is ideally proportioned to give every seat an unobstructed view of the stage area while creating a sense of intimacy for both small and large events. The Music Bowl will take its place amongst Brisbane's most iconic tourist destinations, creating unforgettable cultural and community experiences under the stars.



The Hive

Circumscribing the Central Precinct is The Hive, a reference to the First Nations people's history of collecting honey from the site, re-interpreted as series of interconnected domes which enclose a variety of functions and internal environments. From the orientation and arrival area to Brisbane's new First Nations Cultural Centre, the interconnected spaces take visitors on a journey of discovery through the natural world and Brisbane's unique place within it, culminating in the tropical bi-dome – a vast greenhouse enclosing two hectares of space built into the western wall of the old quarry.



The Event Lawn

Brisbane now has an open public community space to rival Sydney's Domain. Covering an area of 5 hectares of accessible space, the Event Lawn is capable of hosting a year-round calendar of events including music festivals, community sports events, the circus, moonlight cinema, Christmas carols and international shows and exhibitions. The space is serviced by a new public transport terminal at the entry to the site and the adjacent Operations and Management building which provides public amenities, security, loading, ticketing and food and beverage service. This space brings people together, building connected communities by creating an inclusive, flexible and accessible entertainment precinct that can deliver everything from a humble family picnic to a raging music festival.



Water Play Wonderland

The new Mt-Coot-Tha Quarry precinct delivers a diverse range of water-based recreation experiences. As in traditional and contemporary Australian life, it is centred around the Waterhole, an inviting and fully accessible swimming hole. Here, visitors can relax at the beach and its extensive adjacent green spaces before discovering the creek and its lush and deeply shaded rockpools. From there, the more adventurous can explore the active waterplay area before winding down at the water steps with a cool drink.



Choose Your Own Adventure

The central precinct of the Mt-Coot-Tha Quarry covers an area of approximately 9 hectares and in addition to the many and varied opportunities for active recreation on offer there is a wide range of more passive activities within the landscaped campus. Take a sunrise jog around the park's extensive network of accessible pathways followed by a game of soccer with the kids and an afternoon barbeque at one of the many public dining shelters. Or bring a book and sunbake on one of the landscaped terraces overlooking the waterhole before an afternoon hike through the native bush regeneration area up the western slope before jumping on the new Mt Coot-Tha zip-line to return to the beach for an afternoon swim.



World-Class Hospitality

Surrounding the Waterhole, relax and experience the friendly service and mouthwatering choices of a diverse range of food and beverage options. Start with coffee overlooking the waterplay area and water steps and move on to lunch at the water's edge café, after enjoying a morning of adventure and discovery. In the evening, perhaps after a show at the Music Bowl, find a table at one of the restaurants elevated above the boardwalk and watch the sun set behind Mt Coot-Tha with a glass of wine. And for those who want to extend their stay, book a room at the ridgeline Eco-Hotel overlooking the entire precinct with the glittering lights of Brisbane's skyline beyond.





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