

Option 3. Viewing Platforms

Option 3 is an all-abilities access viewing platform located in walking distance from the carpark and raised so that ocean views are achieved.

\$100,00 will not be enough to complete this project, but will suffice for concept, approvals (native vegetation, aboriginal heritage, planning etc) and design. It would be subject to successful external grant funding and would need to be a three-year project, once it gets the go ahead in principle. A boardwalk and viewing platform would cost in order of \$400,000 to \$800,000 to move from concept to constructed facility.

Six Viewing Platform options were considered, listed as options 3A to 3F below.



Figure 1. Seven Viewing Platform Options

Option 3A. Boardwalk and viewing platform at beach

A concept was developed previously, which includes a boardwalk along the existing walking path to the beach and beach platform west of the dune system, on the beach. This option was scrutinized by the working group.

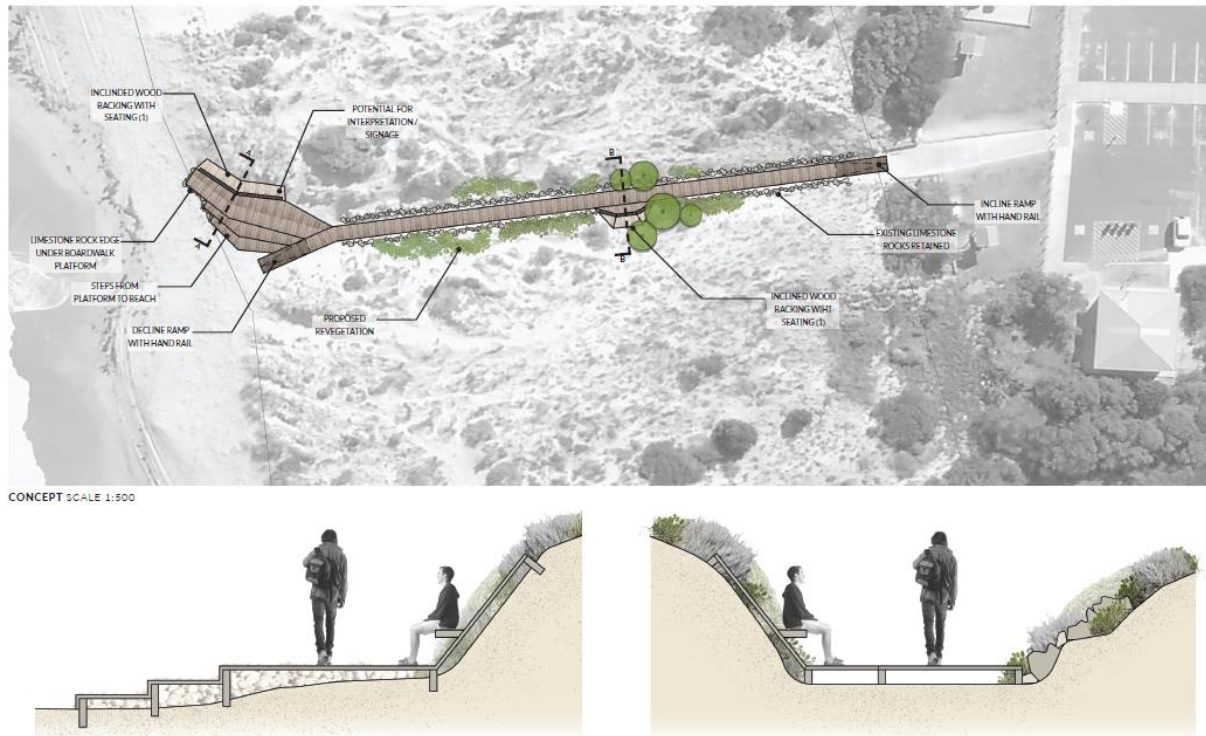


Figure 2. Boardwalk and Beach Platform Option

Advantages

- Proximity to the beach provides excellent ocean views.
- The viewing platform provides a destination.

Disadvantages

- Infrastructure damage is very likely to occur due to storm surge, waves and high tides, as exhibited in the 2022 winter.
- Long term coastal erosion risk is high. The past 50 years have seen a significant accretion of Preston Beach, meaning it has been getting wider. With climate change impacts and rising sea levels this is forecast to reverse to a point where the beach starts to deplete, putting the platform and boardwalk at risk in the medium and long terms.
- Maintenance issues. The path from the trail to the beach is currently maintained annually by removing the built-up sand in the small valley that forms the path from the carpark to the beach. This is presently done with small loader type equipment. A permanent structure may lead to difficulties in clearing the sand from the path.