



# LAKE AWOONGA

## Riverston Bay Marine Zone Proposal

### What has happened so far to lead to the marine zone proposal?

Lake Awoonga is recognised in the Gladstone region as a valued and active community recreation destination. The Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) recognises the community's connection with the place, and has sought to identify potential areas for improved community access and interaction. The Lake Awoonga precinct is located just outside the Gladstone township and provides a unique waterfront recreation precinct for the community to enjoy. The dam is utilised for swimming, fishing and all sorts of motorised and non-motorised recreational activities.

GAWB has developed the Lake Awoonga Recreational Strategy in conjunction with GAWB's Community Consultative Forum. This Recreational Strategy has set out several initiatives which are aimed at upgrading/maintaining existing recreational facilities at Lake Awoonga, as well as opportunities for new recreational facilities. As a follow up to the Recreational Strategy, GAWB has now finalised their Lake Awoonga Recreational Area Master Plan, which will provide the framework for consistent planning, development, delivery and resource allocation to implement the Recreational Strategy.

### What is being proposed?

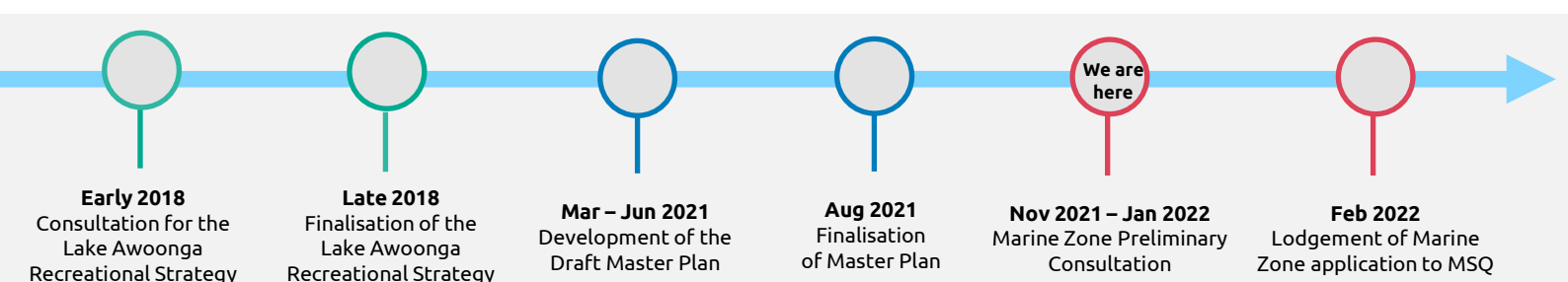
GAWB proposes to convert the existing 6 knot area around Riverston Parkland to a marine zone, which would exclude public use of motorised watercrafts in the area. The area that is the subject of the proposal is illustrated in the image on the following page.

The purpose of creating this marine zone is in response to balancing the amenity experience and safety of different user groups. This proposal will consolidate this area as the first choice for families and users who wish to use the water for general recreation. The proposal has been informed by the Recreation Strategy that was prepared in consultation with the Community Consultative Forum.

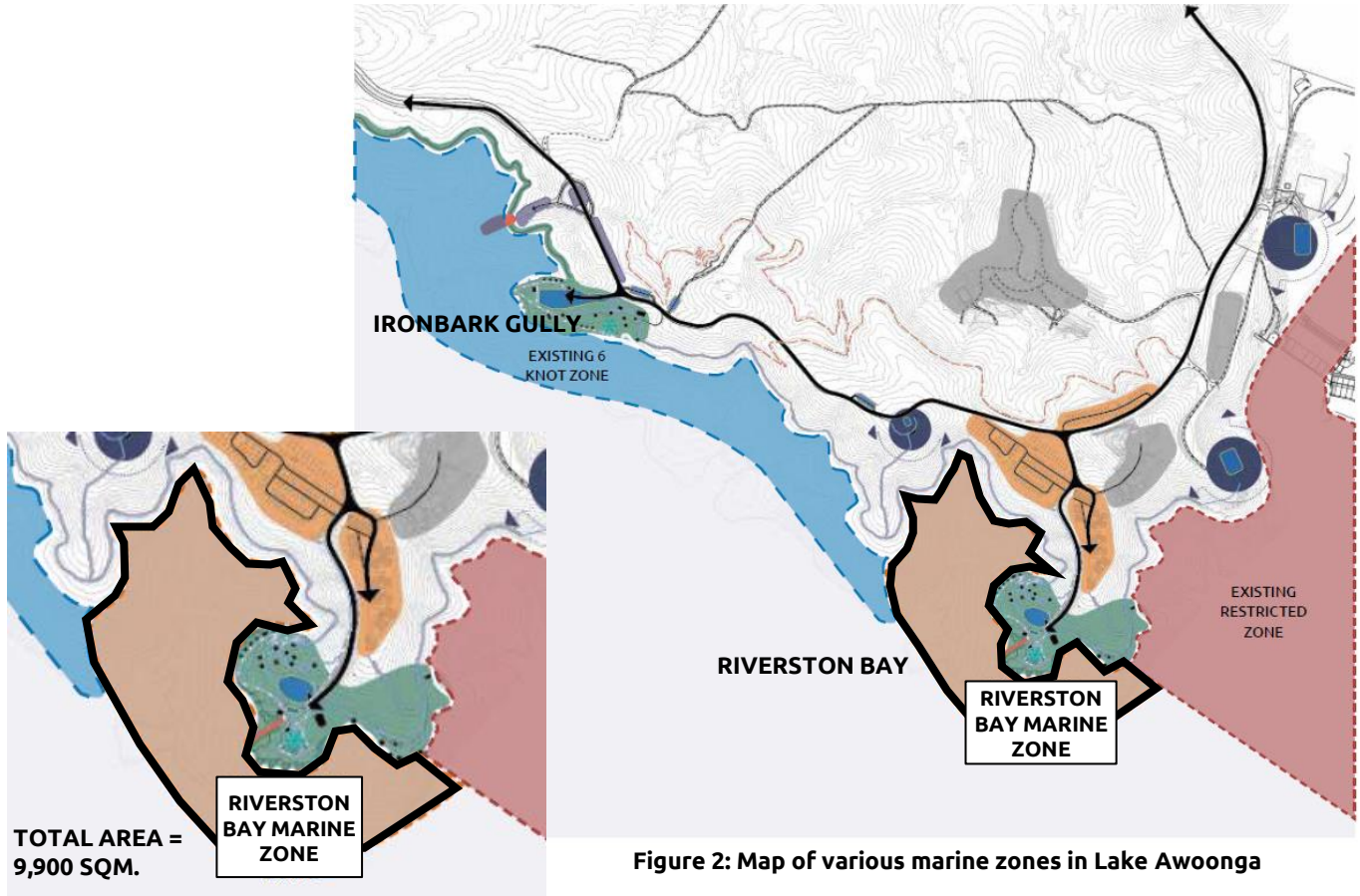
It should be noted that under the proposal, access to the existing boat ramp for emergency services and GAWB personnel in emergency situations will still be allowed.

The location of the proposed marine zone is considered the most appropriate due to the location of the existing facilities to provide safe and functional access for non-motorised watercraft activities.

To ensure there is limited impact to those utilising the Riverston area and a high level of safety is maintained, a new loading pontoon is to be constructed at Ironbark Gully alongside the existing boat ramp further to the northwest.







**Figure 1: Map of proposed Riverston Bay Marine Zone**

**Figure 2: Map of various marine zones in Lake Awoonga**

## What will be permitted and not permitted under the proposed zone?

The marine zone will still allow the area to be utilised for swimming, kayaking and paddleboarding, as well as other activities that don't involve a motorised watercraft.

All forms of motorised watercraft, such as motored boats and jet skis, will not be permitted within the zone.

Access will be permitted for emergency services and GAWB personnel in emergency situations.

## What happens next?

Once the preliminary consultation period is complete on 6 January 2022, all submissions will be reviewed and compiled as part of the marine zone application to Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ). As illustrated in the timeline on the previous page, it is anticipated that GAWB will submit the application to MSQ early next year (2022), once consultation is complete.

## Have your say!

The Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) is inviting comments on the marine zone proposal.

The proposal may be viewed online at the Gladstone Area Water Board website at <https://www.gawb.qld.gov.au/>.

Written submissions on the proposal may be made to:

Email: [landteam@gawb.qld.gov.au](mailto:landteam@gawb.qld.gov.au)

OR

Post: Gladstone Area Water Board, PO Box 466, Gladstone, QLD, 4680.

The closing date for receipt of written submissions is **6 January 2022**.