

1.1 Cunnamulla - Landscape, Sky, Water

Introduction

The vast landscape of the Australian outback is celebrated the world over.

For the urban traveller there is an extraordinary experience of space – of distant views and big skies.

There is an even greater contrast for the international traveller – incredible sunrises and sunsets that throw long uninterrupted shadows and highlight the subtle features and details of a landscape that can otherwise seem so flat. As the sun drops, the night sky dominates and the quiet of nature takes over.

The extraordinary opportunity to relax into the ancient waters of the artesian basin, naturally heated underground and enriched with minerals, combined with the incredible landscape of the outback is a truly unique one.

The project imagines not only connecting with the immediate natural surroundings of the site but also immersing the visitor in the wider landscape.

Turning toward the river and pushing through the trees, the bather can indulge in the rising steam of the pool whilst surrounded by the quiet flow of the Warrego river, relaxing as the sun sets over the distant horizon.





Immersive
landscape.

1.1 Cunnamulla - Landscape, Sky, Water

Landscape

From the landscape above, and below, we are infatuated by the scale, and the richness of the natural landscapes surrounding Cunnamulla. It's about the sweeping plains, the movement of water, the colour, and the culture.

Our site, oriented to the north opens onto the river, pushing out between the trees toward the great open landscape. The building, in a simple formal gesture embraces the landscape beyond.

The summer and winter solstice are the longest and shortest days of the year., providing spectacular views throughout the sky, and across the landscape. The orientation of the hot springs, and river walk, captures these significant opportunities.

As a part of the history for the artesian basin, Noorama is identified on the map, as the first drilled bore into the artesian basin in 1887.

To incorporate this part of history, a marking is identified amongst the hot springs creating a symbol for the direction of the summer, and winter solstice, and the Noorama.

Mar Equinox: 20.03.2020 13:49 AEST

Jun Solstice: 21.06.2020 07:43 AEST

Sep Equinox: 22.09.2020 23:30 AEST

Dec Solstice: 21.12.2020 20:02 AEST

Declination: 12.968°



1.1 Cunnamulla - Landscape, Sky, Water

Water

The Great Artesian Basin

Australia's Great Artesian basin, is one of the largest underground freshwater resources in the world, and is a vital to our Australian life. The basin spans across 1.7million square kilometres, with a capacity to hold 64,9000 million ML of fresh artesian water. The sense of scale is significantly large. It has enabled Aboriginal, Torres Strait islander people, and communities to have cultural, social, and spiritual connections with the springs, that are brought to life by the great artesian basin. As part of the concept proposal, it is important to appreciate the nature and history of the artesian basin, the local bores, the sweeping plains, the landscape, and the experience of the natural springs sourced from our very own basin.

Australian Government - Department of Agriculture, Water, & the Environment.

- Legend**
- The Great Artesian Basin
 - Cunnamulla

Global Scale - The Great Artesian Basin comparison



1.2 Masterplan

Site

Nature's landscape offers us enough to remove us from our urban existence. It offers wild stands of trees, self generated without interference, and open bodies of water.

The natural landscape offers visitors new places of discovery without agenda – meandering pathways, clambering hillsides, birdsong, uncontrolled plant regeneration, wildlife spotting.

The site is all this without adding building or program. A project in this place must be quiet enough to allow the curious traveller to engage with nature.



Cunnamulla Hot Springs and Riverwalk Masterplan

Legend

- ① Hot-spring Precinct
- ② Outdoor Deck Area
- ③ Outdoor Stage
- ④ Fitness and Well-being Lawn
- ⑤ Relaxation Area / Picnic Lawn
- ⑥ Courtyard
- ⑦ River-walk
- ⑧ BOH Service Access - Site Deliveries
- ⑨ Rejuvenation of courtyard
- ⑩ Existing Hall
- ⑪ Existing Museum & Information Hall
- ⑫ New Public Carpark
- ⑬ Existing Play Equipment
- ⑭ Caravan Parking
- ⑮ Court House
- ⑯ Police Station
- ⑰ Post Office
- ⑱ Bridge
- ⑲ Cafe
- ⑳ Precinct Signage
- ㉑ Cunnamulla Fella Sculpture
- ㉒ Relocate existing overhead powerlines

1:1000 0 10 20 30



1.2 Masterplan

Cunnamulla Big Sky Hot Springs and Wellness Centre

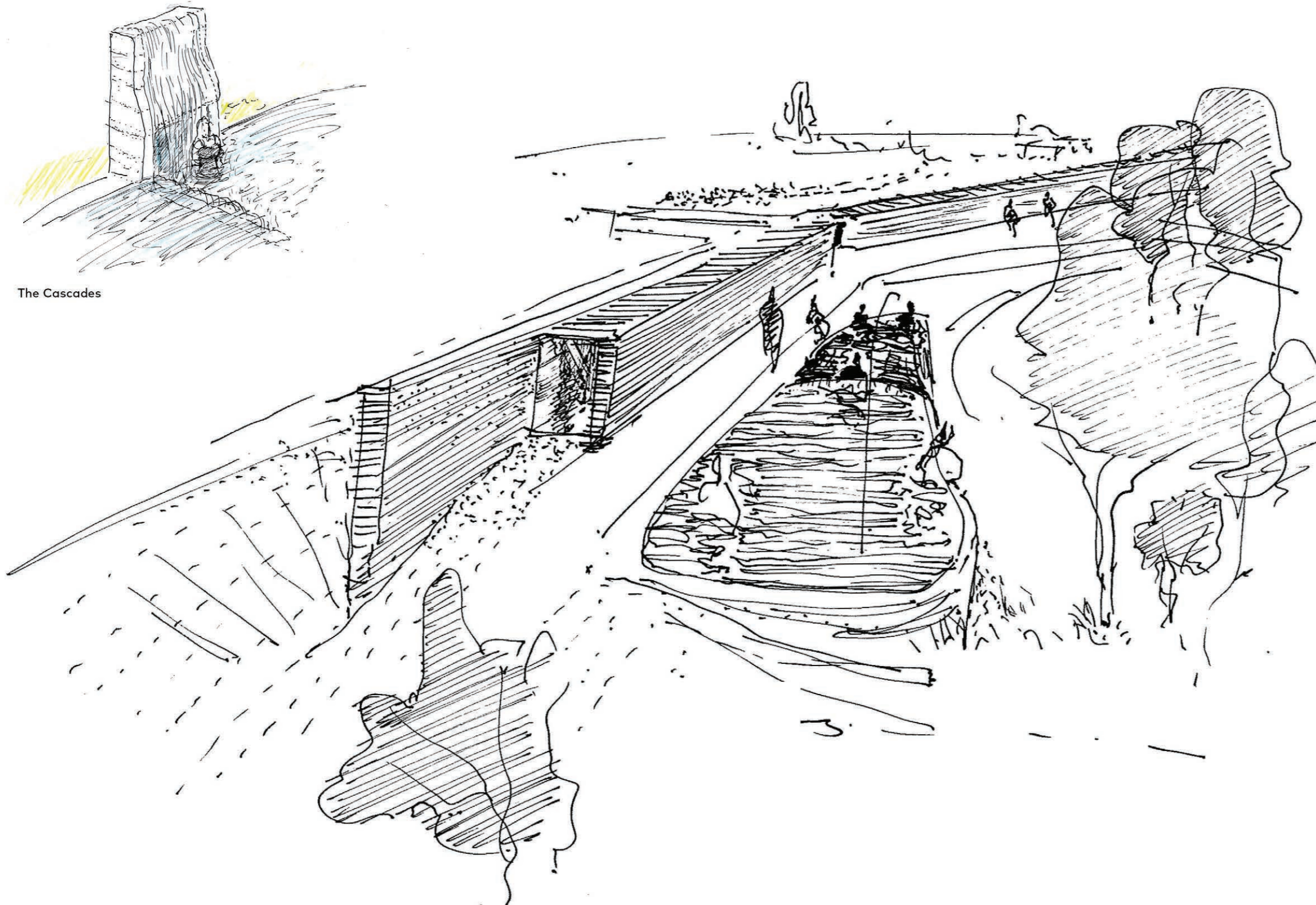
Legend

- ① Entry Reception and Office
- ② Male Amenities & Change Room
- ③ Female Amenities & Change Room
- ④ Therapy Spa
- ⑤ Sauna Room
- ⑥ Steam Room
- ⑦ Light Pool with overhead oculus
- ⑧ Quiet Pool / Therapy Pool
- ⑨ Main Pool
- ⑩ Seating and Signage
- ⑪ Sun Terrace
- ⑫ Hot Pool
- ⑬ Open Air Showers
- ⑭ Upper Cascade Pool
- ⑮ Lower Cascade Pool

1:200 0 2 4 6



Wellness Centre



The Cascades

- Open air showers for visitors to conclude their bathing experience, providing them an opportunity to cool-down prior to dressing and emerging back into the world ready for the next leg of their journey.
- The Cascades draws the artesian water high into the air to tumble down into the main pool creating a cascade to sit under. The water is naturally cooled as it falls.
- A hot pool, for the brave. For an extra vigorous experience, move from the cooler pool into the hot pool.
- The wellness centre includes massage rooms, sauna, steam room and a therapy pool. Therapy pool - quiet echoes - under roof but outside with framed views of the surrounding vegetation and river.
- Connected with the wellness centre is the fitness and wellbeing lawn where yoga classes are held early mornings before finishing the session with a soak in the artesian springs baths.
- Light pool with roof oculus - track the light of the sun as it passes over the building. After the sun goes down, experience the quiet of the darkened room, steam lifting off the water as the milky way moves silently across the sky.
- The business case suggests 2 sessions per day – morning and afternoon sessions. We would also propose an evening session providing an opportunity for visitors to bathe under the stars. This would be of particular interest for visitors wanting to enjoy the winter solstice – to watch the milky way as the first light comes up over the horizon.

Walls that embrace the landscape

1.3 Site Studies and Concept Sketches

Riverwalk Masterplan

The Riverwalk along the banks of the Warrego river, navigates through the existing landscape, capturing key views and resting points. Enjoying the stillness of what Cunnamulla has to offer.



Legend

- ① Stage 2 Future Pontoon
- ② Water Activities
- ③ Potential Riverwalk Cafe
- ④ Riverwalk Viewing Platforms
- ⑤ Elevated Platforms for Distant Views

1:1000 0 10 20 30