

Attendees: **RUG** Anthony, Fiona, Janet, Warren, Ian P and John. **DOC** Shaun.

Following an open invite on the RUG Forum, a meeting was held to discuss the new hut build at the current Iron Gate Hut Site.

### **1. Welcome & Background of the hut discussion**

Shaun gave a brief explanation around the background of the existing hut and its issues.

### **2. Hut positioning**

The huts position was discussed, and it was explained the surrounding area was being looked at as a fresh site. Other positions were being considered to ensure all options were pursued. This was to ensure sunlight, site drainage, surrounding landscape and shelter were evaluated. Due to the topography of the area the hut is within, options are limited to maximise sun exposure.

Shaun explained:

- a. Nearby new sites were considered, one being slightly uphill from the hut on a plateau and the other slightly downstream near the helicopter pad. The current site was also evaluated.
- b. A discussion was held around these sites:
  - i. The plateau site was discussed, and Shaun explained that the site prep for a new build at that site would require a significant amount of tree removal, ground evaluation, and new tracks to/from the site established. There appeared to be minimal benefits from this work to justify moving from the current site.
  - ii. The downstream site was discussed. This site has quite undulating ground and due to the size of the new hut (and extra 1m wider and 2m longer) it would be further tucked into the landscape minimizing sun exposure.
  - iii. The current site was discussed. The current site offered a suitable position if the hut was moved slightly out from the current position and rotated to a north west direction.
    - a) Distance from the riverbank was mentioned. It was agreed that it could not be moved too close due to potential erosion and flooding considerations.
    - b) Bringing the hut out into the open to promote airflow and light exposure would benefit the site. This would be a balance between becoming too close to the river and too close to the rear bank.
    - c) The site would benefit from removing some of the regenerated trees to further promote airflow and some sunlight.
    - d) Considerations were discussed around providing accommodation at the current site while the new hut is being constructed. The estimated build time is 4 weeks. It was agreed camping at the site would be a suitable alternative so long as a sound communications plan was provided to the public.
- c. The meeting agreed that the proposal of the hut with a slight orientation change and built on the current site would be the most suitable area for the new hut.

### **3. Hut design**

The generic 10 bunk hut design was discussed and the following recommendations made:

- a. Maximise clearlite roofing on the verandah to allow natural light,
- b. Consider window locations to provide suitable natural light within the hut,
- c. Install a rear gutter in place of having no rear gutter,

- d. Wrapping the verandah around the south west side of the hut would be a great addition to provide more space for wet gear and provide extra sleeping spaces when the hut is full,
- e. Solid coat hooks and drying racks would be beneficial,
- f. Painting the seats white to make them more visible in low light,
- g. Insect screens were debated between requiring them or not. No conclusion was established.
- h. Checking mattress length to the bunk platform. This is to ensure a suitable area for minor items,
- i. Having a small shelf above the bench for items,
- j. Having access under the deck if items were dropped through the steel grate at the door,
- k. Enclosing a small area at the water tank to provide some shelter within the verandah,

**4. Site prep and considerations**

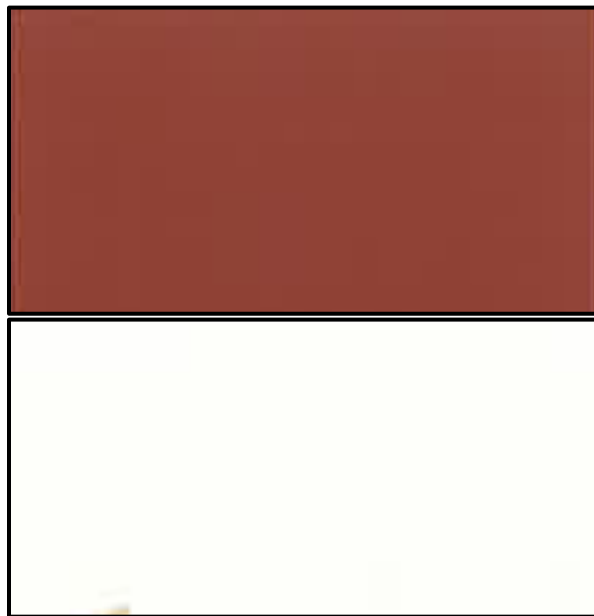
It was discussed that there is potential for some site levelling of the current site. The surrounding regenerated trees may be trimmed prior to the construction commencing.

**5. Build Schedule and contingencies**

Exact timeline details are yet to be confirmed, however a build completion date prior to the end of March is the current target.

**6. Colour Scheme**

The meeting selected Pioneer Red for the Roof and trim colour and Cloud as the wall cladding colour.



ENDS