



# ACCESSIBLE FISHING PLATFORM AND PARK FACILITIES, YAMBA CASE STUDY

In 2005 Clarence Valley Council installed a new accessible fishing platform, pathway, accessible shelters and toilets as part of the Ford Park and Calypso Reserve Plan of Management.

The open space unit of Ford Park was recognised as an under utilised area that had great potential for improved recreation due to its close proximity to the Clarence River and Yamba town centre. While it was important to retain an open area as a visual link to Yamba Bay and Hickey Island, there was an opportunity to increase the usage and amenity of the reserve for all by providing an inviting and accessible place for people with disability including an accessible fishing platform, pathway and picnic shelters as well as accessible toilets and parking within close proximity to these features.

## Inclusive and accessible features

- Fishing platform and wharf provides for access opportunities to the water and to the reserve
- Wharf provides access to and from the ferry wharf for people with a range of abilities
- Low grade concrete walking track extends from the eastern to the western end of Ford Park
- Picnic facilities and toilets appropriate for disability access
- Children's playground and exercise equipment design for a range of abilities.
- Accessible parking within close proximity to these features.



*Photo: Accessible fishing platform at Ford Park Yamba*



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## Key learnings

- Appropriately placed footpaths alleviate many barriers to accessing park, recreation and sporting areas.
- Location of toilets that meet accessibility standards are essential.
- Incorporation of accessibility in parklands will increase physical access independence and feelings of inclusion.
- The location of recreation activities and events influences whether people with disability can participate.
- These facilities open up the opportunity for independence and feelings of inclusion through sports and recreation participation.

## Outcomes

- The low grade concrete walking track is frequently used by the community.
- The reserve is used by people out for a walk, fishing from the retaining wall, waiting for the ferry or relaxing and enjoying the open space, natural features or the river views.
- Ford Park is a reserve that is now more highly utilised by the community including monthly markets due to its location adjacent to the Clarence River and close to the centre of Yamba.

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