



Ballarat Golf Club – Golf Course Enhancement Plan

RESPECT FOR LAND | RESPECT FOR CULTURE | RESPECT FOR THE GAME

Introduction

The landscape setting is fundamental to the presentation and enjoyment of the game. Whilst the golfers appreciation and enjoyment of the landscape may be at a subconscious level we as landscape / golf architects consciously apply a rigor to the landscape design process to establish a clear and logical strategy to maximize the benefits of the landscape installation.

The Ballarat Golf Club (BGC) as part of the clubs long term vision have identified the need to enhance the existing landscape, with the support from Thomson Perrett Golf Course Architects. The original vision was for the course to play through a landscape (reminiscent to **Royal Adelaide**). The similarities with the large pines in combination with the native local indigenous plants made for a perfect scenario for the BGC. The landscape at present has not reached it's full potential and to not maximize the local flora and fauna would do a dis service to the BGC. The course it self always presents and plays well, but without the enhanced backdrops, boundary planting, improved plant species and the rationalization of the cart paths the course will not evolve sufficiently.

The BGC is one of the best courses in regional Victoria and with the clubs desire for sustained success we are pleased to offer our services. The BGC sits within a temperate climate zone with extremely cold wet winters contrasting to hot dry summer's. The palette of plants selected will be consistent around the course and our plan will be to use local indigenous plants.

This document outlines the general approach to landscaping the course and includes recommendations on a hole by hole basis. It is proposed to introduce a "distinctive" landscape character types or plant associations through which the golf will be played. This will increase the interest of the individual holes and make them more memorable.

We propose the following landscape plant associations that will occur through the course.

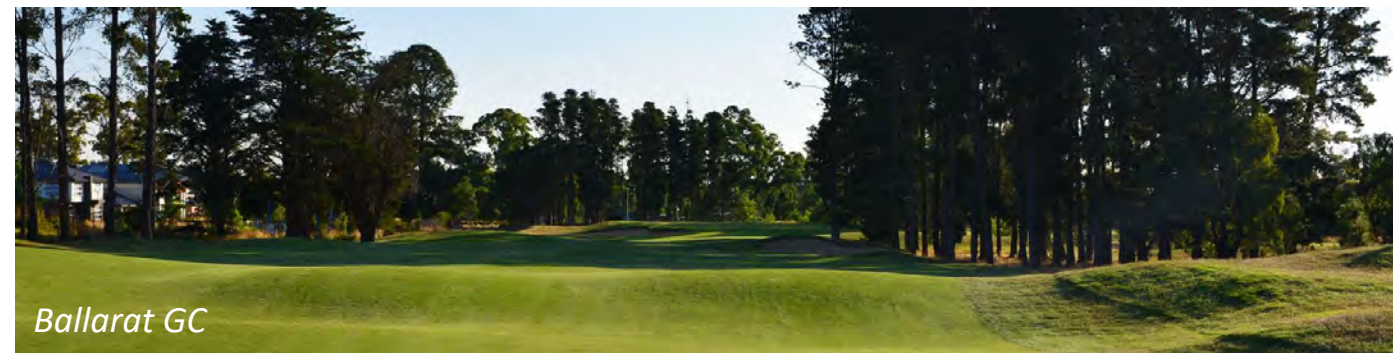
1. Boundary Planting
2. Backdrop
3. Landscape of Tees
4. Wetland Planting
5. Enhancement of existing landscape

BGC, will set a high standard regarding it's landscape, complimenting the already well respected community landscapes within the region. The landscape will not only form a key ingredient in enhancing the game and the enjoyment of golf, providing a balance of nature and the man made environment, giving refuge and sanctuary for numerous habitats and plant species but ultimately, delivering a memorable experience to golfers and visitors.

The photo's on the following page demonstrate the similarities between the BGC and the Royal Adelaide Golf Club, which has been our vision.

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Similar characteristics between the Ballarat GC and Royal Adelaide GC



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Introduction

Along with the **Landscape Plan** the BGC have asked Thomson Perrett to also assess the following areas.

- Grassing policy
- Greens
- Bunkers edges
- Cart Paths
- Speed of play
- Irrigation
- 45,000 approx rounds per year.
- Driving Range

As with any top quality golf course, all aspects of the golf course need to blend seamlessly and compliment the course. Our aim is to reduce the amount of rough cutting and unwanted extra maintenance the club currently incurs while giving the golfer greater room to play their game. As responsible golf architects we must factor in the irrigation parameters and the overall water usage. Over **irrigation** can have implications on the golf course and landscape which cause greater use of chemicals for weed eradication if not planned comprehensively.

We have been extremely pleased with the quality of the **greens, tees, fairways** and **bunkers** over the initial years and the BGC. However the bunker edges have been a source of frustration to members, golf architects and the ground staff. The binding of the bunker edge is critical to the bunker face and lip. Without this consolidation, the bunker edge will suffer due to the hydrophobic nature of the soil. The ground staff over the last 6-12 months have started making progress around the course ensuring the edges improve and are far more appealing and playable. Internally the bunkers always present and play as they should.

Currently the **fairway** footprint is approximately 10.7ha. Our planning in conjunction with the landscape plan and the consideration of the irrigation system is to open the course where practical and give the golfer more room to play from the short grass. We envisage by taking a holistic view of the golf course the fairway footprint will increase some 30% to around 15ha. This will please the majority of golfers and will help speed up play. Speed of play and long grass has been one of the biggest issues facing many clubs over the last summer period in the south east of Australia. BGC sits on a relatively flat piece of land and with little distance from greens to tees, there is little doubt that rounds consisting of play under 4hrs is achievable. Royal Adelaide have a recently opened their landing areas and have reduced their playing time to 3.45hrs. All players are expected to be finished within this time frame. This approach has been very positive and seen greater patronage within the clubhouse.

Introduction

The clubs desire to rationalise the **cart path** system around the course is quite a challenge. We have taken the opportunity to eradicate some paths and will formalise a system that is far more formal and is bordered where practical with plants. At present many of the crushed rock paths have grown from 2m tracks out to 4-6m wide cart paths. As the paths have got wider the landscape edging has got weaker. Again the cart path system must co exist with the golf and landscape.

The ability of the cart path system will give the ground staff team options to minimise wear on the course. With close to **45,000 rounds** of golf played per annum the club needs flexibility to move golfers away from compacted areas and allow the turf to prosper. Heavy wear areas may require concrete pathing, but our desire is to minimise the paths to a maximum width of 2.5m. We also see the opportunity to provide either grass or mulch paths for the players who choose to walk. These paths will allow staff to spread the wear and tear around green complexes.

The driving range at Ballarat GC provides a great practice facility to the club and its members. The club is looking to expand its membership base and seeking an increased patronage from junior golfers. A practice bunker has been planned to be built on the eastern end of the driving range. Some minor earthworks will be required and the opportunity also arises to increase the size of the chipping area within the practice facility.

In assessing the course, Thomson Perrett strongly believe that the course has great opportunity to enhance an already excellent course. The key to reaching the goals of the club is consistency across all areas of the course.

In Summary

- Increased short grass and playing areas – 10.7ha currently to 15ha of short grass
- Extended fairways, reducing carry ways from the tee
- Expanded landing area widths
- Continue bunker improvements
- Rationalised cart path system
- Increased planting within areas that are out of play
- Maintenance reduction of rough cutting



Course Master Plan

LEGEND

- Fair Way and Tees
- Greens
- Sand Bunkers
- Water Sources/wetlands
- Closed Landscape
- Low Plantings
- Wetlands Plantings
- Fescue
- Car Path



Turf Footprint

- 23ha

Fairways

- 15ha
(Extra 3.7ha of fairway)

Greens

- 1.2ha

Tees

- 1ha

Rough

- 5.8ha

Turf Footprint



Irrigation Plan

Irrigation

- Fairway width
- Usage 90 meg
- Unwanted weeds
- Mounding



Cart Path

- Concrete in high wear areas.
- 2.5m Max Width
- Alternative from crushed rock
- Maintenance track
- Walking paths

Cart Path



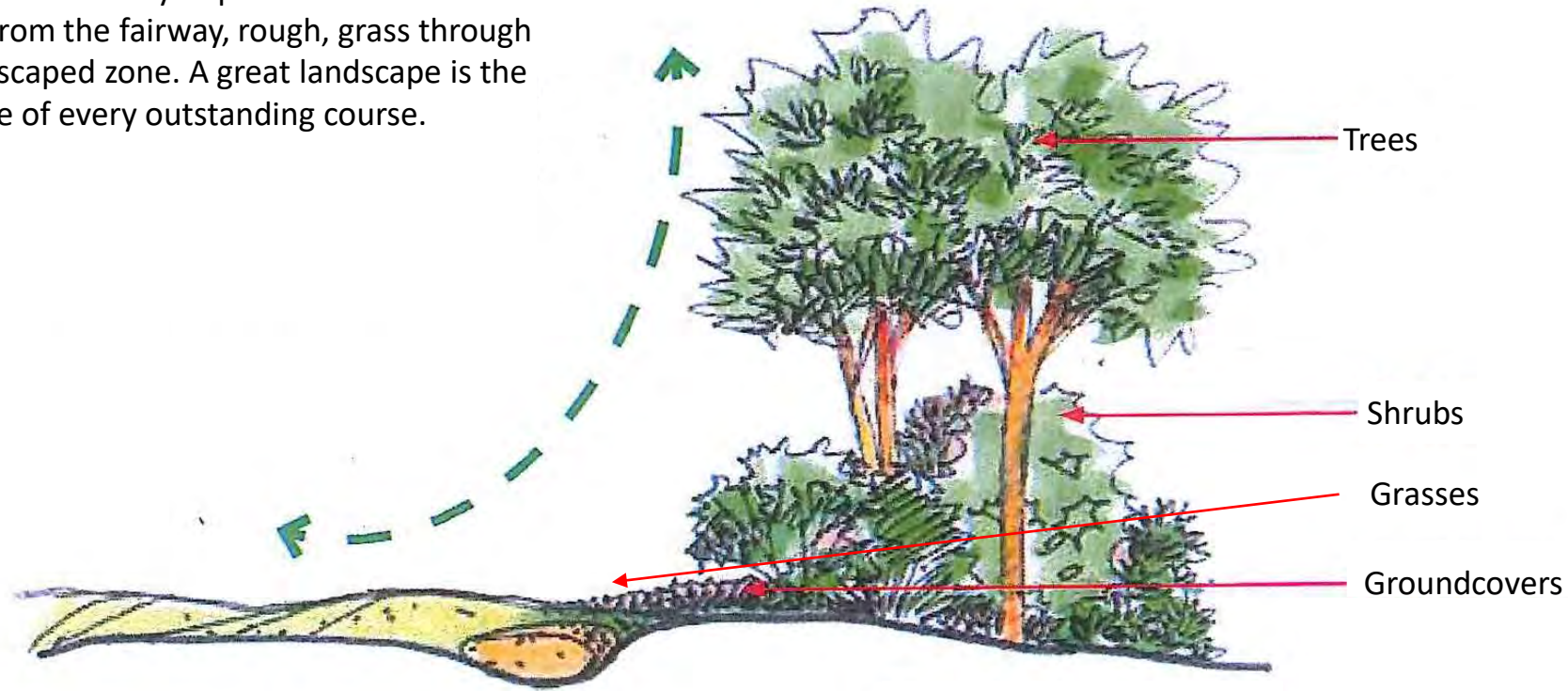
Landscape Coverage

Landscape

- Boundary Planting
- Backdrop Planting
- Internal Planting
- Low Planting
- Wetland Planting

Plant Hierarchy

Planting with the appropriate plant association will provide a hierarchy of plants which makes the transition from the fairway, rough, grass through to the landscaped zone. A great landscape is the cornerstone of every outstanding course.



Hierarchy Planting Concept.

Turf Layering

Royal Birkdale (Venue - 2017 Open Championship) shows a great example of the layering and transition from fair ground to foul ground. The picture below illustrates the mowing patterns and parameters of which the Ballarat Golf Club is following



13



6



12

Index and Features



F1 – First Cut Rough – transition from fairway to rough grass. This area will be approximately one to two runs around the fairway. The first cut will follow the lower areas of the land that requires maintenance, usually these areas are on the outer reaches of irrigation.

F2 – Second Cut Rough – transition grass from first cut – generally to the outer area of the assessed playing spaces, in play mounding or transition to wetlands areas.

F2 - Fescue grass supporting bunker face. These areas will be maintained as the **2nd cut** of rough. The current restoration works are improving the natural look, bunker lip and playability of the bunkers.

The mounding around the “in play” areas of the course will be maintained in the same manner.

Dotted Line – Existing fairway



11



6

F3 - Fescue grass – mounding.

A good example of the mounding and transition grasses behind the 6th and 11th green. The lower areas of the mound is maintained while the higher areas have a natural look giving the green a natural transition to the backdrop planting and out of play areas. These areas require minimal maintenance and help frame the holes.

Index and Features



Closed Landscape – Boundary Planting, Backdrop Planting, Internal Planting
Trees, Shrubs, Grasses, Ground Covers.
Plants selected and availability determined from Ballarat Wild Plants.
Generally out of play areas and minimal maintenance.



Low Planting - Fescue grass – Native Grasses – Ground Covers
Plants selected and availability determined from Ballarat Wild Plants.
Generally out of play areas and minimal maintenance.

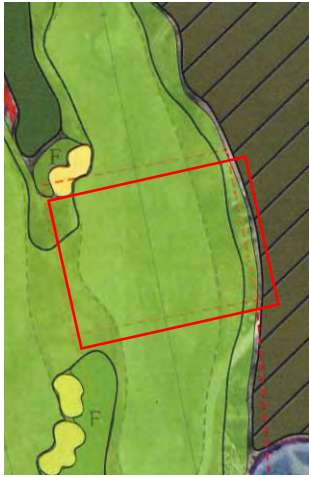


Wetland Planting – selected areas with the majority of plants within the red stakes



Cart path – clean turf edge to cart path,
Path width 2.5m maximum.
Consider concrete for high wear areas.

Index and Features



Increase – size of landing area.

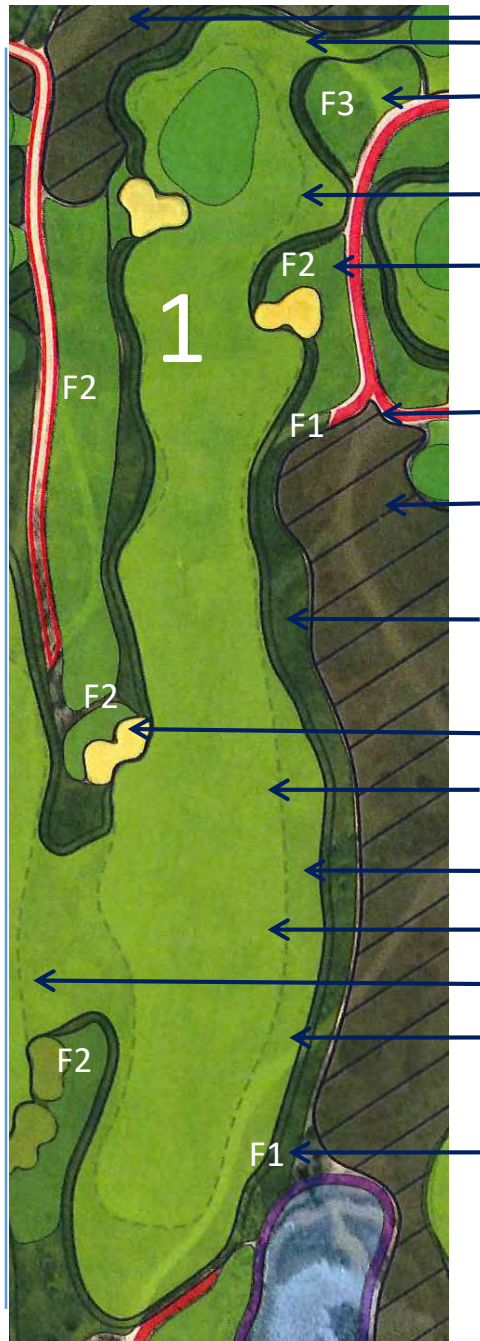
Fairway widths will be expanded and extended.

At present the current fairways cover 10.7ha, our plan is to increase the fairway footprint to 15ha.



Carries to be either a couch grass or fescue mix - depending on soil type, irrigation, shade or golfer traffic. These areas will be managed as first or second cut depending on the turf management requirements at the time.

Hole
1



Closed Landscape - Backdrop Planting - Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses
Grass walking path to second tee

F3 - Fescue grass – natural looking mounding.

Extend short grass around the green

F2 - Fescue grass supporting bunker face

F1 – First Cut

Closed Landscape – Internal Planting –
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

F2 – Second Cut

F2 - Fescue grass supporting bunker face

Existing Fairway – Dotted line

Expand fairway width – compliment irrigation and mounding

Increase – size of landing area

Connect 1st and 18th fairways

Minimize mound heights where applicable

F1 – First Cut

Hole
1

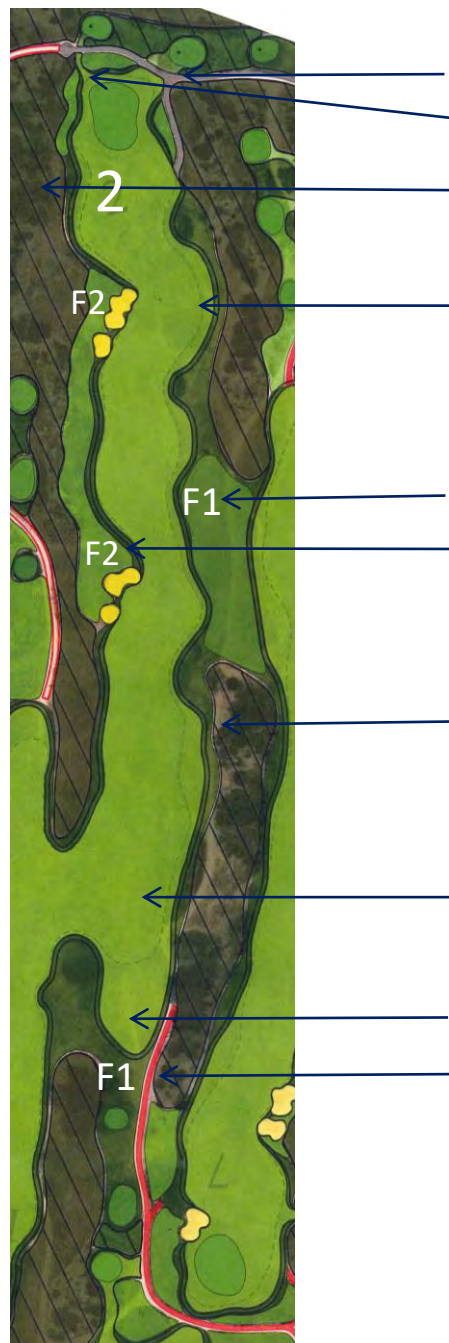


Hole

1



Hole
2



Extend short grass around the green, minor mound required
Grass walking path to second tee

Closed Landscape – Boundary Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

F1 - Connect Rough

F2 - Fescue grass supporting bunker faces

F3 – Fescue grass will be left in out of play areas.

Closed Landscape – Internal Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs

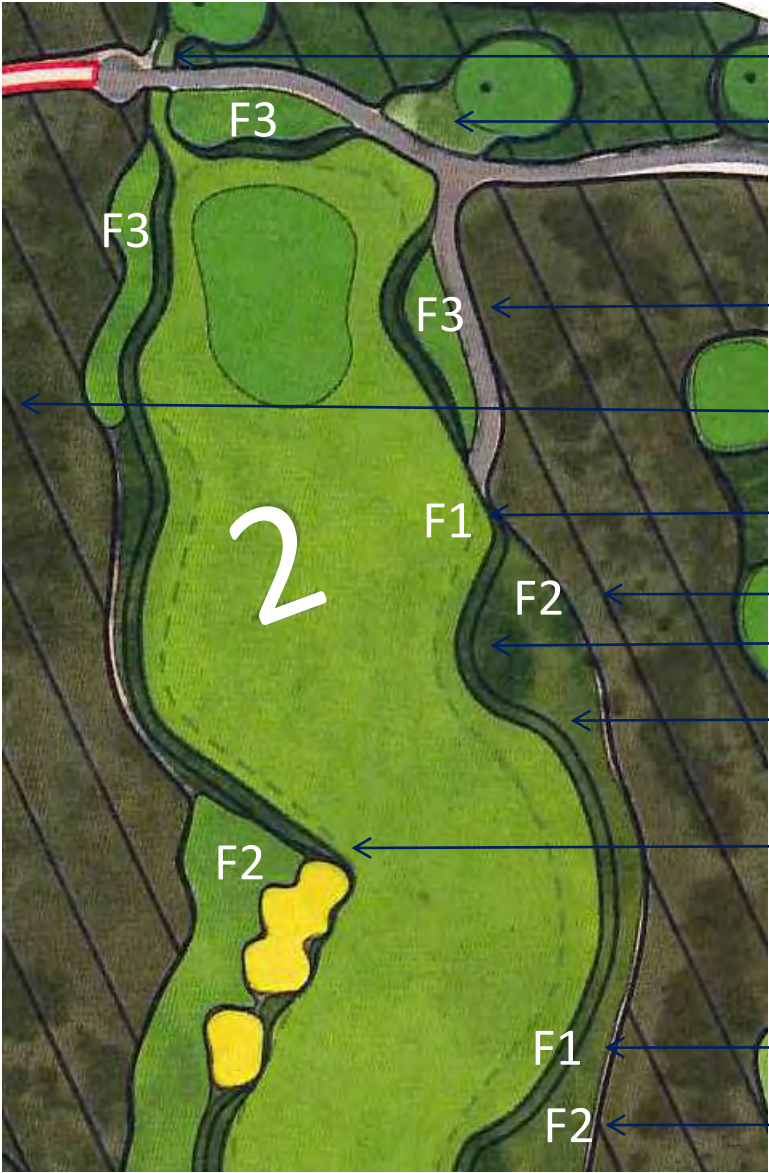
Expand fairway width – compliment irrigation and mounding

Increase – size of landing area

Extend fairway

F1 - Carry way – couch grass

Hole
2



Grass walking path to second tee

Extend short grass around the green, minor mounding required

F3 - Fescue grass – natural looking mounding

Closed Landscape – Boundary Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs Grasses and Groundcovers

F1 – First Cut

F2 – Second Cut

Existing Fairway – Dotted line

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

F2 - Fescue grass supporting bunker faces while transitioning to closed landscape

F1 – First Cut

F2 – Second Cut

Hole
3

Closed Landscape –
Backdrop Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

Re surface cart path
Extend short grass
around the green

F2 - Fescue grass –
supporting bunker face

Closed Landscape –
Boundary Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

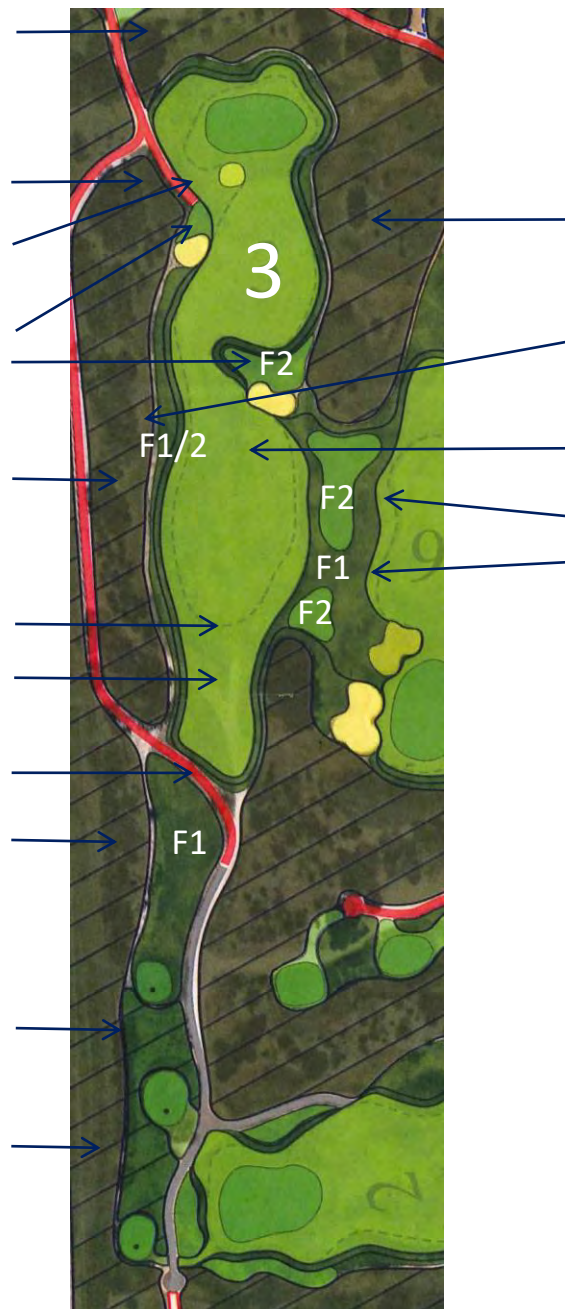
Existing Fairway –
Dotted line

Extend fairway
Re route cart path

F1 - Carry way –
couch grass

Low Planting –
Native Grasses

Closed Landscape –
Boundary Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses



Closed Landscape – Internal Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

F2 – Second Cut
F1 – First Cut

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

F2 – Second Cut
F1 – First Cut



Hole
4

Wetland Planting –
inside red stakes

Low Planting –
Native Grasses

F2 – Second Cut

Wetland Planting –
inside red stakes

Extend fairway

F1 - Carry Way –
fescue grasses

Closed Landscape –
Boundary Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and
Grasses

Toilet Block – and path

F3 - Fescue grass – natural looking mounding

Re surface cart path - concrete

F2 - Fescue grass supporting bunker face

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding
Increase – size of landing area

F1 – First Cut. Keep lone pine tree and add another.

Existing Fairway – Dotted line

Closed Landscape – Internal Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

Re route cart path

Hole
5

Wetland Planting –
inside red stakes

F1 – First Cut

F2 – Second Cut

F3 - Fescue grass -
supporting bunker face

F3 - Fescue grass -
supporting bunker face

Wetland Planting –
inside red stakes

F1 – First Cut

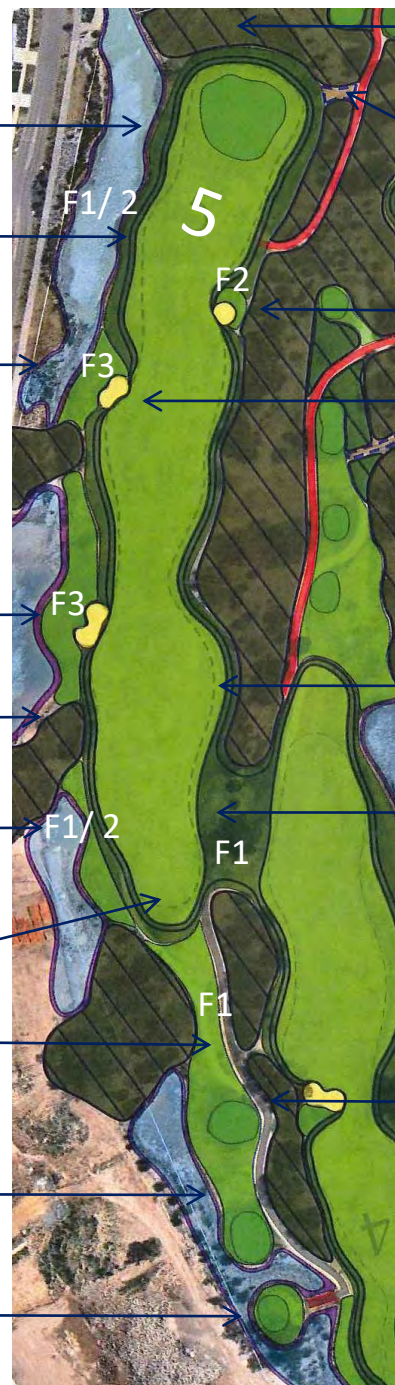
F2 – Second Cut

Extend fairway

F1 - Carry Way –
fescue grass

Wetland Planting –
inside red stakes

Re align – back tee



Closed Landscape - Backdrop Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

Walking Path

F2 - Fescue grass supporting bunker face

Expand fairway width – compliment irrigation and mounding

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding
Increase – size of landing area

F1 – First Cut. Keep lone pine tree and add another.

Re route cart path

Hole
6

Extend - short grass
around the green,
address large grate.

Closed Landscape –
Boundary Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and
Grasses

Wetland Planting –
inside red stakes

F2 - Fescue grass -
supporting waters
edge

Extend fairway

Re align path.

F1 - Carry way –
couch grass

Closed Landscape –
Boundary Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and
Grasses



Closed Landscape - Backdrop Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

F3 - Fescue grass – Natural looking mounds

F2 - Fescue grass – Second Cut

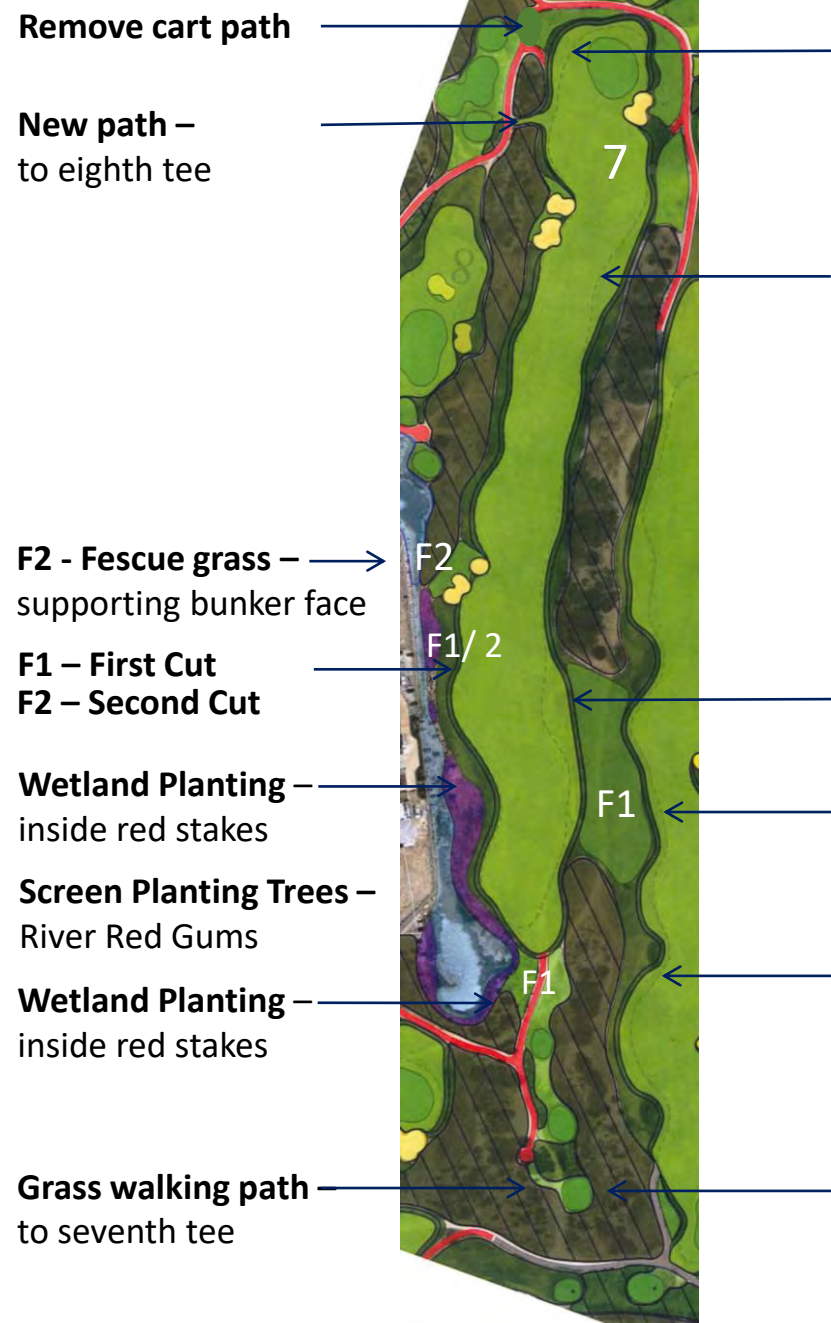
F1 - First Cut

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

F2 - Fescue grass – Second Cut

Closed Landscape – Internal Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

Hole
7



Extend short grass around the green, minor mounding required

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

Increase – size of 2nd landing area

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

Increase – size of landing area

F1 - Connect Rough

F1 - Carry way – fescue or couch grass

Re Align – back tee approximately 5metres.

Hole
8

Walking path to
ninth tee

Extend fairway

Low Planting –
Native Grasses

Walking path to
eighth tee



F3 - Fescue grass – Natural looking mounds

Expand - short grass around the green

Existing Fairway – Dotted line

Increase – size of landing area

F1 - First Cut

F2 – Second Cut

Remove vegetation that obscures view of right half of hole

Extend tee - ideally 600m2 for short par 3's

Hole
9

F1 - First Cut
F2 - Second Cut

Wetland Planting
inside red stakes

F1 - First Cut
F2 - Second Cut

Wetland Planting
inside red stakes

Wetland Planting
inside red stakes

Low Planting -
Native Grasses



Closed Landscape - Backdrop Planting: Pine Trees

Extend - short grass around the green

Reduce - concrete cart path too close to playing area.

Closed Landscape - Internal Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

F2 - Fescue grass - supporting bunker face

Expand fairway width - to extent of irrigation and mounding
Increase - size of landing area

Existing Fairway - Dotted line
Extend fairway

Grass walking path - to eleventh tee

Extend short grass around the green,
minor mounding required

F2 - Fescue grass - mounding

**F2 - Fescue grass –
supporting bunker face**

Closed Landscape – Boundary
Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

Connect fairway

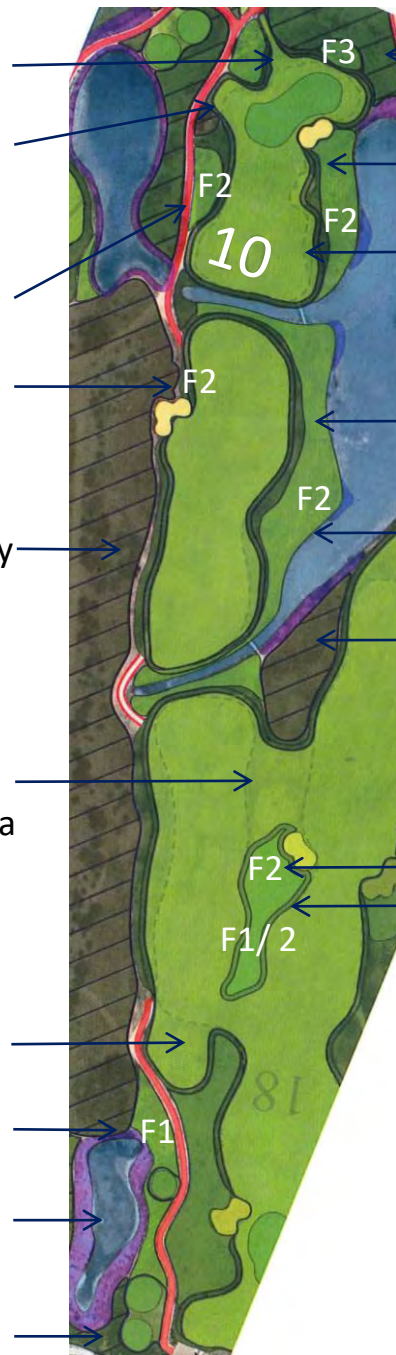
Increase – size of landing area

Extend fairway

F1 - Carry Way –
fescue grasses

Wetland Planting – inside red stakes

Low Planting – Native Grasses



F3 - Fescue grass – Natural looking mounds

Remove bunker – expand fairway

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

F2 - Fescue grass - supporting waters edge

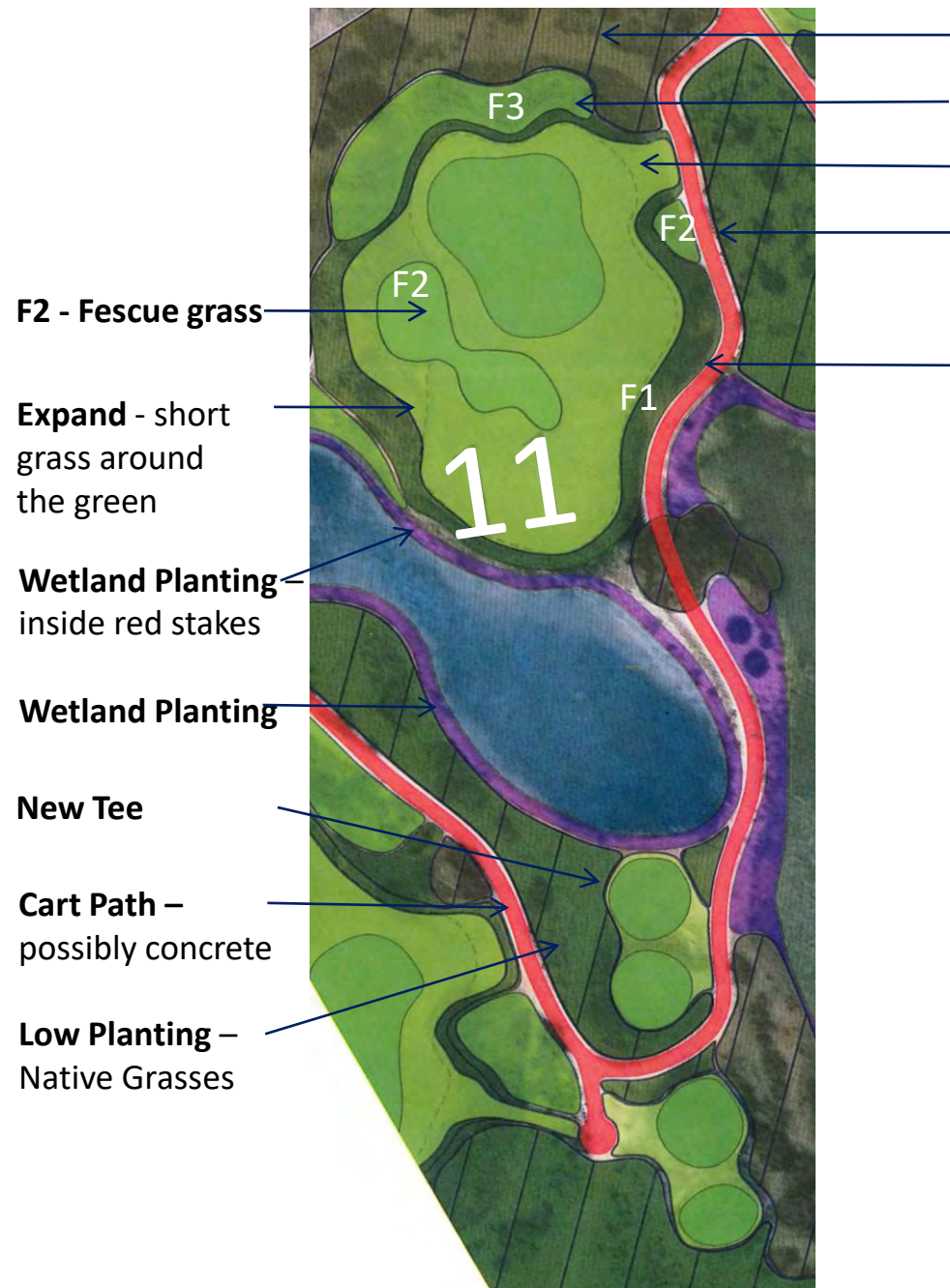
Wetland Planting – inside red stakes

Closed Landscape – Internal Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

F2 - Fescue grass – supporting bunker face
F1 - First Cut
F2 – Second Cut

Hole by Hole Recommendations

Hole 10



- Closed Landscape** - Backdrop Planting: Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses
- F3 - Fescue grass** - Natural looking mounds
- Extend** - short grass around the green
- F2 - Fescue grass** - mounding
- F1 - First Cut**

Hole by Hole Recommendations

Hole
11

Landscape Restoration View



Hole

11

Hole
12

F2 - Fescue grass –
mounding

Extend – short
grass around
the green to cart
path

Closed Landscape –
Boundary Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and
Grasses

Extend fairway

F1 Carry way –
couch grass

Low Planting –
Native Grasses

Cart Path –
possible concrete



Grass walking path - to thirteenth tee

F3 - Fescue grass – Natural looking mounds

F2 - Fescue grass - mounding

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding
Increase – size of landing area

Wetland Planting –
inside red stakes

F2 - Fescue grass

Wetland Planting –
inside red stakes

Hole
13

F3 - Fescue grass –
Natural looking
mounds

F2 - Fescue grass –
supporting bunker
face

Closed Landscape –
Boundary Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and
Grasses

Extend fairway

Low Planting –
Native Grasses



Closed Landscape - Backdrop Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

Grass walking paths -
to fourteenth tee

F2 - Fescue grass - mounding

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

Closed Landscape – Internal Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs

F2 - Fescue grass –
supporting bunker face

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

Increase – size of landing area

F1 – First Cut - between fairways

F2 - Fescue grass – mounding

F1 - Carry way – couch grass, open view on right side

Hole
14

F1 - Fescue grass –
leave eucalyptus

Closed Landscape –
Internal Planting:
Shrubs

Expand fairway
width – to extent
of irrigation and
mounding

F1 – First Cut
F2 – Second Cut

Increase –
size of landing area

Extend fairway

F1 - Carry Way –
fescue grasses

Grass walking paths - to fifteenth tee

Re route cart path

Reduce Bunker size

F2 - Fescue grass – supporting bunker face

Closed Landscape – Internal Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs

F1 – First Cut - between fairways

F2 - Fescue grass – supporting bunker face

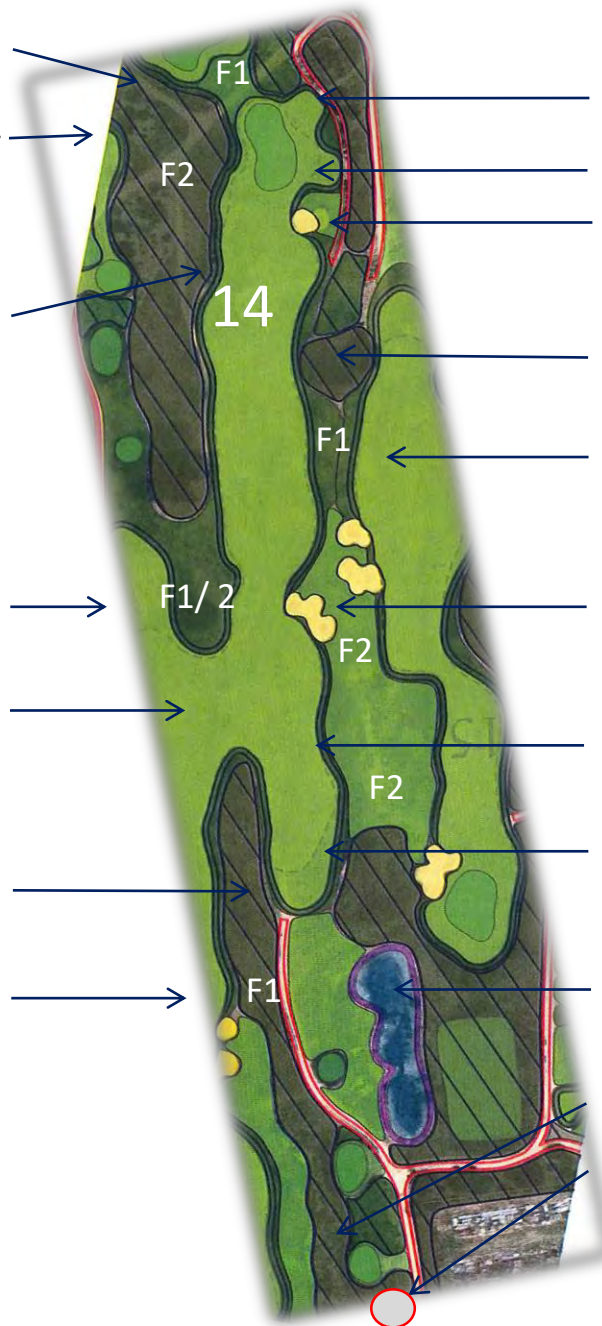
Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

Existing Fairway – Dotted line

Wetland Planting – inside red stakes

Low Planting - Native Grasses

Cart Path – turning circle just past teeing area, landscape out.



F3 - Fescue grass –
Natural looking
mounds

Closed Landscape –
Internal Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs

Existing Fairway –
Dotted line

Expand –
fairway width

F1 – First Cut

Minimize –
mound heights

Walking Track

Closed Landscape - Backdrop Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

F2 - Fescue grass

F2 - Fescue grass – supporting bunker face

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding

Increase – size of landing area

F1 – First Cut - between fairways

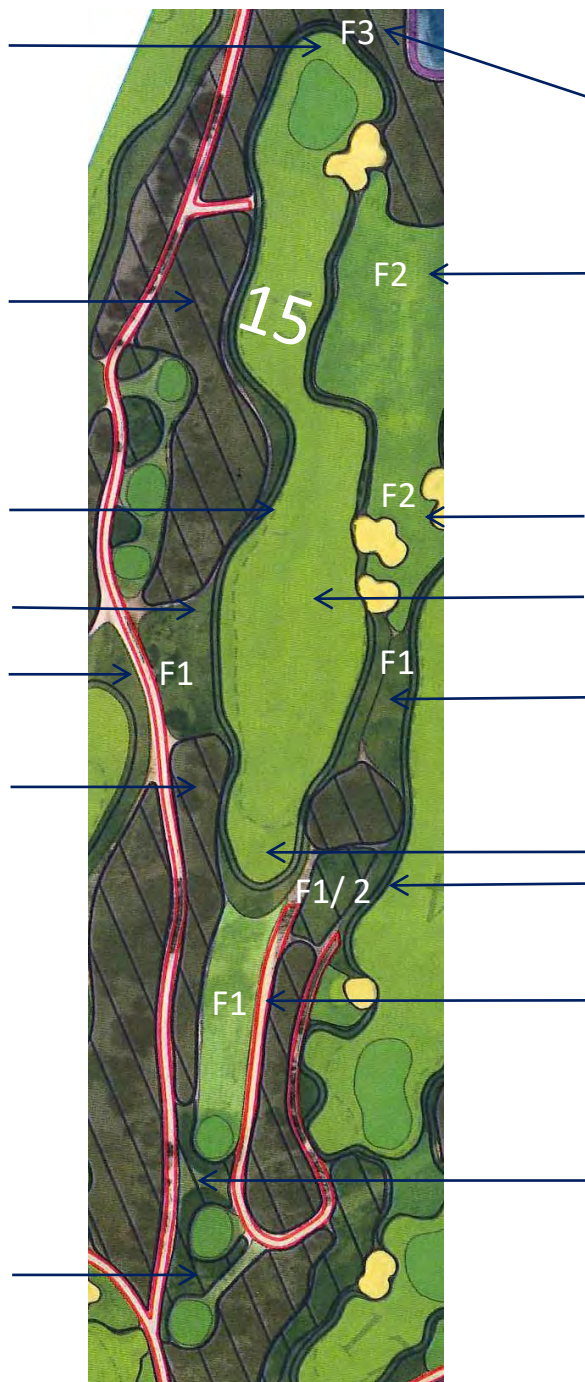
Extend fairway

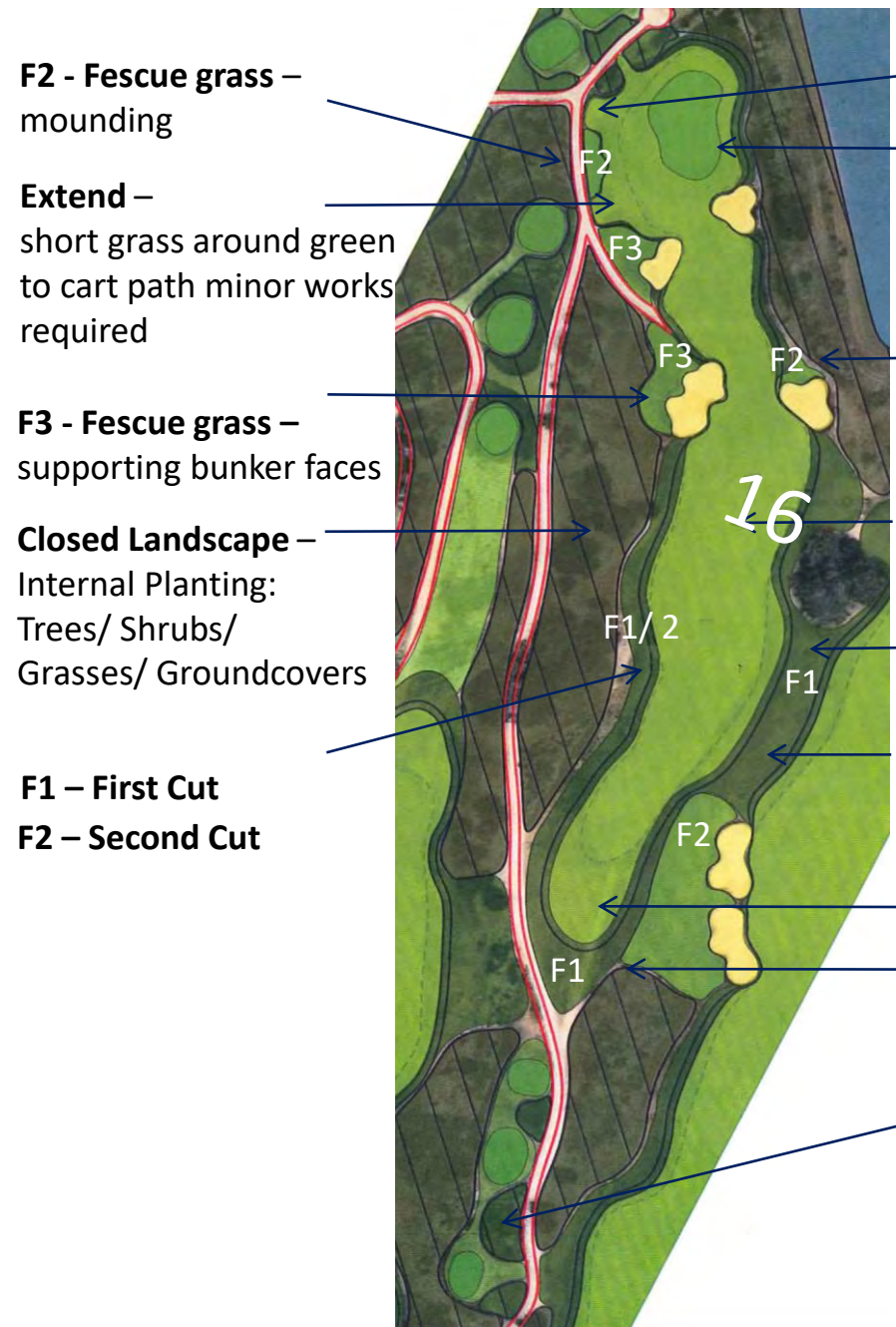
F1 – First Cut

F2 – Second Cut

F1 - Carry way – couch grass

Low Planting - Native Grasses





Grass walking paths - to seventeenth tee

Closed Landscape –
Internal Planting: Shrubs variety, add color

F2 - Fescue grass – supporting bunker faces

Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding
Increase – size of landing area

F1 – First Cut - between fairways

F2 - Fescue grass – supporting bunker faces

Extend fairway

Carry Way - couch

Low Planting - Native Grasses

Hole
17

F2 - Fescue grass –
leave eucalyptus
tree

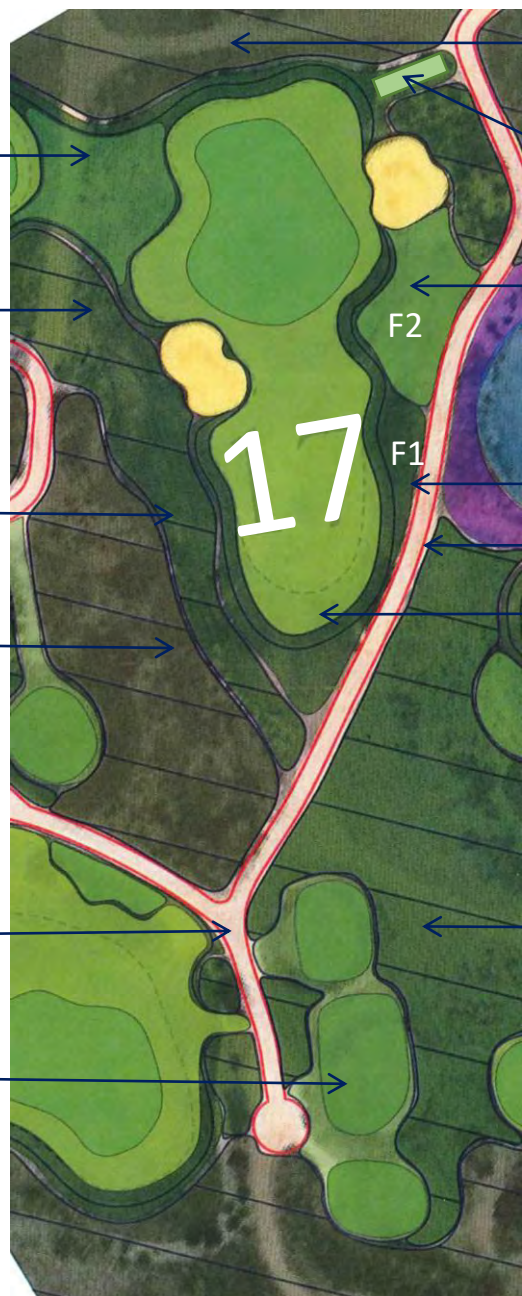
Low Planting –
Native Grasses

Review –
eucalypts trees

Closed Landscape –
Internal Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs/
Grasses/
Groundcovers

Cart Path –
possibly concrete

Re Align –
both tees may
move
approximately
5metres. Consider
future growth of
trees



Closed Landscape - Backdrop Planting:
Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

Grass walking paths -
to eighteenth tee

F2 - Fescue grass

F1 – First Cut

Review – eucalypts trees

Extend fairway

Low Planting - Native Grasses

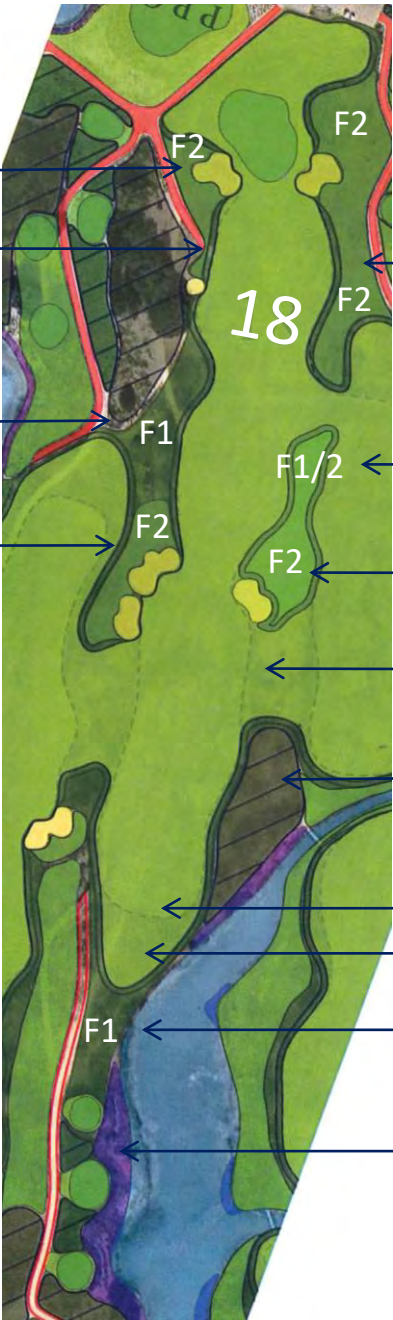
Hole
18

F2 - Fescue grass

F1 – First Cut

**F1 – First Cut –
between fairways**

**F2 - Fescue grass –
supporting bunker
faces**



F2 - Fescue grass

**F1 – First Cut
F2 – Second Cut**

F2 - Fescue grass – supporting bunker faces

Connect fairway
Expand fairway width – to extent of irrigation and mounding
Increase – size of landing area

Closed Landscape – Internal Planting: River Red Gums

Existing Fairway – Dotted line
Extend fairway

F1 - Carry Way – fescue grasses

Wetland Planting – inside red stakes

DR

Closed Landscape –
Internal Planting –
Trees/ Shrubs and
Grasses.
Provide a landscape
buffer between
water and driving
range.

Low Planting – Native Grasses

Closed Landscape –
Internal Planting - Trees/ Shrubs and Grasses

New - Practice Fairway Bunker

Extend short grass around practice chipping green

Implementation Strategy

Holes 1, 10, 18, 11

Holes 2, 7

Holes 3, 6

Holes 12



Ideally we would like to start within close proximity of the clubhouse. Each stage should be fully completed before moving on. By grouping the holes we have a better chance of balancing the work - eliminating great amounts of wastage, double handling and interference of golfers enjoying their game. The boundary and backdrop landscape planting will be on going.

Proposed Staging

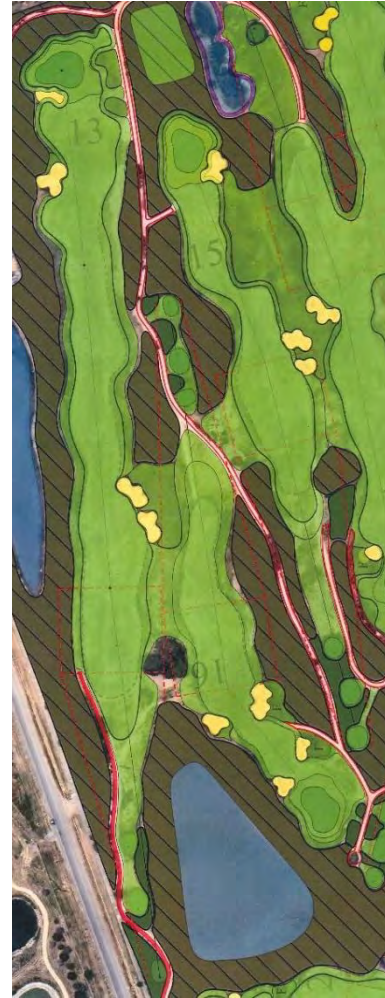
Holes 4, 5



Hole 8, 9 and DR



Holes 13, 16



Holes 14, 15, 17



Plant Selection – Trees

- Boundary planting
- Green Backdrops
- Out of play areas
- Between fairways
- Close to wet areas



Eucalyptus camaldulensis – River Redgum



Allocasurina vertillata – Drooping she-oak



Pinus canariensis – Canary Island Pine



Eucalyptus melliodora



Eucalyptus goniacalyx



Eucalyptus dives – Broad leaf Peppermint

Plant Selection – Shrubs

- Boundary planting
- Green Backdrops
- Out of play areas
- Between greens and the next tee
- Back of mounding



Leptospermum continentale



Leptospermum lanigerum



Leptospermum myrsinoides



Leptospermum obovatum



Banksia marginata



Bursaria spinosa

Plant Selection – Grasses

- Green Backdrops
- Transition areas from rough to landscape
- Out of play areas
- Alongside cart paths
- Around tees
- Back of mounding
- Wetland edges
- Reduce rough cutting areas



Juncus spp. – Rushes



Carex appressa – Tall sedge



Poa spp – Tussock grasses



Dianella revoulta – Black anther Flax lily



Stipa spp. – Spear grasses



Lomandra longifolia - Lomandra



Themeda triandra – Kangaroo grass

Plant Selection – Ground Covers

- Green Backdrops
- Transition areas from rough to landscape
- Out of play areas
- Around tees
- Back of mounding
- Wetland edges
- Reduce rough cutting areas



ozothamnus obcordatus



ozothamnus ferrugineus



Leptorrhynchos spp. - Buttons



Chrysocephalum spp. – Common Everlastings



Bulbine bulbosa – Bulbine Lily



Burcharia umbellate - Milkmaids



Calocephalus spp. – Beauty heads

Thomson Perrett, wishes to thank the Ballarat Golf Club for engaging our firm to conduct the review of the golf course, course features and landscape. The process has been very thorough and we believe that the members will embrace the subtle improvements to the course and landscape. We have spent a lot of time assessing the course and we now look forward to getting our hands dirty and getting on with the task.

Many thanks to Jeff Powell and his dedicated team – their passion, professionalism and dedication for the courses improvement is outstanding. Turf Managers and their staff rarely get praise, but the team at BGC do a first class job.

Also to David Wallis and Gil Fryatt - their knowledge, understanding and passion for the course has been a great assistance.

The course leadership and support from Michael Phillips and John King has been welcomed and appreciated.

The staff at the BGC are always friendly, welcoming and the coffee is always outstanding!!

The Ballarat Golf Club has an excellent golf course and with the additional works pending, we will see the club and the course improve again.