

RTLP Wayfinding

Wayfinding is a high priority due to the lack of navigational aids, lack of differentiation between decision points and plethora of path choices.

One possible option is to use the Dutch signage system for the River Torrens Linear Path. Dutch authorities sign three levels of routes/networks:

- Long-distance routes
- Local routes
- Bicycle node network.

The node network system would have excellent applicability to the River Torrens Linear Path. Instead of signage based on name or branding, this approach numbers junctions (decision points) along a route as 'nodes', with neighbouring nodes indicated by an arrow pointing the direction and number of the neighbour. Some node locations also provide overview maps as an aid to navigation – these could also be available on-line. Once a route is decided upon, a simple list of node numbers can be used for navigation.



This system is ideally suited to the River Torrens Linear Path, with nodes and arrows painted on the path in the first instance. We suggest that a main Linear Path be designated and the node numbers on this route highlighted with a different treatment e.g. circled with a dashed line.

The advantages of this system are:

- The node numbers are easy to read and follow at speed. Having highlighted numbers on the main route provides immediately intuitive guidance, as an approach of simply following the highlighted numbers will keep you on the main route. For other routes, a list of numbers (as shown above) or simple directions (“Stay on the main path, turn right at 60”) provide robust and easily remembered navigational cues.
- Painting node numbers is cheap, easy, simple and fast to roll out. The system could be upgraded to signs on posts, again relatively simply and cheaply. Glow-in-the-dark materials, or a solar LED cateye/bollard/etc installed nearby, would make signage readable at night at little additional cost – helped by the very little information required to use the system.
- New nodes can be easily added to the system, supporting incremental roll-out and network growth. As the node signs hold very little information, they are small and inexpensive to produce, install and replace as nodes are added.
- Directions to nodes from adjoining streets would highlight the presence of the Linear Path.
- Council branding is limited to maps and map-based signs, hence doesn’t confuse or compromise the navigational value. The utility of the system isn’t based on whether someone else has identified a particular destination as being worthy of directional signage.
- Path users can design their own routes and easily follow these. To develop a fun-run circuit or other route using the Linear Path, bodies such as councils, local businesses, schools, clubs, etc don’t have to name, brand and separately sign these, but simply produce brochures showing node numbers. Nor do overlapping routes require overlapping signage as all are based on the same node numbers.

Local routes signage should be used as an overlay to indicate nearby services, e.g. shops, bike stores, Council offices. This should be a given set of destinations, as per other wayfinding guidance.

Another option is to develop a clear signage strategy showing a beach to hills route supported with local signage to destinations/locations/connections.