

# APPENDIX C

## PLACEMAKING STRATEGY



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# 1. INTRODUCTION TO PLACE

## 1.1 DEFINITION OF PLACEMAKING

Placemaking is a multifaceted approach that considers the lived experience of any environment. It is typically associated with the planning, design and management of places – the interaction between the physical features of landscape (water, topography, vegetation) and human presence (land use, buildings, movement). However, place also holds the intangible: memories, history, tradition and culture all find a manifestation in place and form the identity of a place.

Placemaking in the context of Macquarie Park will take human-centred perceptions of place a step further to integrate with Country and the deep history and culture of Wallumattagal Ngurrangra (places) and Dharug Ngurra (Country). Placemaking in the context of Macquarie Park will also consider public space as defined by the UN: “all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without profit motive. This includes streets, opens paces and public facilities.”<sup>1</sup> It is important to consider place, particularly public places and spaces as a whole, and their relationships to other parts of the urban environment, rather than separate.

The Masterplan has adopted a place-led approach. Placemaking is inherently multi-faceted and considers all aspects of any place, including movement and in this case, the business community. Improving movement, strengthening the business community and creating a stronger connection to Country are all supported by placemaking. Place has its own power and agency that allows it to stitch together the elements of an environment and manifest these through the lived experience of its users.

Placemaking in Macquarie Park is guided by the following:

1. Masterplan vision and objectives
2. Core framework and its guiding principles
3. Protocols of Ngurra
4. The strategic context, informed by international, national and local frameworks and strategies

Macquarie Park will be a place for people, and support its growth as an innovation district into the future.

## 1.2 WHY DOES PLACEMAKING MATTER FOR MACQUARIE PARK?

Macquarie Park is a suburban business park. Like any place, it has its own challenges and opportunities, as well as assets and constraints. While it is a high-performing and nationally significant commercial centre, its constraints and challenges may impact its perception and reputation as a place where business, innovation and collaboration can thrive into the future.

### MACQUARIE PARK'S CRITICAL ROLE FOR SYDNEY

In the 2016 Greater Sydney Regional Plan: A metropolis of three cities, the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) identified Macquarie Park as a health and education precinct. Macquarie Park is also identified as a key strategic centre – one that will help deliver job targets and support the growth of Greater Sydney. With this designation comes expectations and assumptions about the kinds of jobs that need to locate in Macquarie Park that its current form and place identity are not yet prepared for.

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<sup>1</sup> UN-HABITAT 2020, The Global Public Spaces Toolkit.



Macquarie Park is a microcosm of local issues within a wider metropolitan and state context. It is a strategic centre for Greater Sydney and is the 6th largest CBD in Australia. It has more office space than North Sydney and Parramatta. There is still unbuilt capacity for employment floor space within existing planning controls. However, it still has a reputation as a “sprawling business park;” local office workers have expressed the desire for more places to meet, more open spaces, more retail and cultural uses that offer a reason to dwell beyond the 9-5.

Placemaking can create a better experience for people in Macquarie Park and creates better value for the businesses, institutions and communities that all share in it.

## **AN INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEM, A PLACE SOLUTION**

A lack of key infrastructure, like open space, community facilities and libraries, as well as a lack of connection to culture and Country, even while people are working in and living around Macquarie Park creates problems for access, diversity and inclusion. While there has been a recent large investment into public transport connectivity, the lack of an integrated place-based approach to solving movement issues means that congestion is still a problem within and around the Park. Businesses are aware that interaction and collaboration is necessary for innovation, but the urban form has not yet adapted to this shift; buildings are large, intimidating and closed off from the public realm. There is a feeling of insularity and a distinct lack of activity on the ground plane. There is little to do after 5PM. Is this the place of innovation for tomorrow, or even today?

In order for Macquarie Park to fulfil its ambitions and optimise its potential, the problem of place must be addressed. Macquarie Park is home to innovation in research, development and business; however, today, innovation districts around the world demonstrate that place aspects are vital to their success. The lack of governance and leadership to steer the direction of place have resulted in its evolution into the place it is today.

## **SUPPORTING NEW AND EXISTING COMMUNITIES**

Beyond the boundary of the Masterplan, there are existing communities that live in and around the Macquarie Park and North Ryde area. The Herring Road and Lachlan's Line precincts are home to more new residents than ever before. “However, the increase in residential development has not yet appreciably contributed to the area's vibrancy and vitality.” As Macquarie Park's worker and residential communities grow and develop in place, there will be increasing demand and need for services, amenities, social infrastructure, open space and recreation.

Students of the nearby Macquarie University also contribute to the vibrancy and vitality of a place, as well as the spirit of innovation, knowledge generation and collaboration that the business park strives to foster. Student places are expected to grow from 32,500 to 55,000 by 2030. Students will inevitably look to one of the new or existing residential areas in and around Macquarie Park for a place to live and thrive.

Supporting new and existing communities within and around Macquarie Park – this includes workers, residents and students – is crucial to ensuring its evolution from business park to an urban centre that can attract and retain a skilled employee base.



## 2. CONTEXT

### 2.1 PLACE INFLUENCES: ASSETS, PEOPLE AND CATALYSTS

| ASSETS   |  |
|--|--|
| Proximity to natural landscape                               | Macquarie Park is on Wallumattagal Country, characterised by wetlands and south facing slopes looking over Sydney's network of rivers, inlets, bays and harbours. Lane Cove National Park is within 20-minute walk of 60% of Macquarie Park. However, there is not enough open space in the precinct to support active and passive recreation. While Shrimptons Creek and the University campus retain significant canopy cover and provide valuable amenity to the community, significant physical barriers inhibit access to the National Park, Blenheim Park and Santa Rosa Park. |
| A world-class university and innovation hub                  | Since its opening in 1964, the university has been a pioneer in collaboration with industry, business and the public sector and has a strong track record as an innovator in health. The university is also a key business attractor for biomedical research. The university is ranked among the top two percent of universities in the world. Currently, Macquarie University has 44,000 students from more than 100 countries. On the other hand, CSIRO, which has a long history with Macquarie Park, is set to move out of the Ryde LGA in the near future.                      |
| Established anchor businesses                                | Macquarie Park is an established business cluster in the health, education and technology sectors including Astra Zeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Sony, Optus and Foxtel. A number of the world's largest companies, with 12 of the top 100 companies by market capitalisation, have their Australian headquarters located in Macquarie Park.   |
| Improved public transport connectivity                       | The existing rail and bus network, metrofication of the rail line and the proposed bus interchange are significant assets that have increased Macquarie Park's connectivity to support its future growth. The delivery of council's 'fine grain road network' will provide walkable access (10 min) from the three stations to 85% of the park. The existing creek and river corridors are a core element of the existing movement system.   |
| Active and engaged business community                        | Landowners and tier one developers are engaged in major new projects in Macquarie Park of over 100 billion dollars. Alongside its continued office market profile, the large lot sizes provide flexibility to bring new propositions forward. Continued transformation requires private landowners to maintain this commitment to investment in Macquarie Park's future.   |
| High-performing and nationally significant commercial centre | As Australia's largest office market outside of a capital city core with a number of multinationals and global connections, Macquarie Park is a strong contributor to Greater Sydney's Three Cities model. Macquarie Park is located at the intersection of the Eastern Harbour City and the Central River City and performs as a connected centre of innovation and employment. Macquarie Park is 80% as productive as the Sydney CBD in terms of output, home to 180 multinational companies and 200 SMEs, and is the 6th largest CBD (as a measure of GDP) in Australia.          |
| Existing hub for retail and recreation                       | Macquarie Centre is the 2nd largest shopping centre in NSW. Redevelopment plans will include social infrastructure and better integration with transport connectivity and the Macquarie University. The total trade area population is estimated at 705,500 persons, in footfall. Macquarie Centre is also a major draw, not just for Macquarie Park but also for the entire Ryde LGA area. The new library and cultural space within the Centre will draw in more visitors, workers and residents of surrounding communities and the University.                                    |



| PEOPLE               |   |
|----------------------|---|
| The student          | <p><i>“You need knowledge exchange...without knowledge exchange, you don’t have innovation, without innovation, you don’t have new discovery, and without new discovery, you don’t have an area for growth. You need the physical link.”</i></p> <p>Nicholas works within Macquarie University, and is conscious of the role that the physical environment can play in bringing together business and academia. Students in Macquarie University consider convenience to be a big factor in choosing a place to study. In the 2017 Strategic Investigation, all the University students that were interviewed lived in the North and North West suburbs of Sydney.</p>  |
| The entrepreneur     | <p><i>“Being close to a university, it’s kind of inspirational. Even being part of a small conversation between students and staff, you get a kind of vibe on how they interact with each other and how they interact with the system and it all helps.”</i></p> <p>Varant is a start-up owner who lives in the lower North Shore. He hopes to work with Macquarie University, and sought incubator space to be close to a growing community of start-ups.</p>  |
| The café worker      | <p><i>“It’s quite nice. The Council is good. It’s starting to develop a lot, like they started to build apartments and living areas here. So quite convenient. A lot of office people here. It brings up some builders, some workers from construction. So quite good business.”</i></p> <p>Vina is a café worker working as a barista in Macquarie Park. While there is steady peak-time during business hours and latent capacity for growth, there is little competition.</p>  |
| The commuter cyclist | <p><i>“I work here, I don’t live around here, but I think [Lane Cove National] park is fantastic. I can get out of the middle of the day, to get away from work. I know I can cycle here, it’s nice and safe. There are not too many cars. I can cycle 40 minutes straight without stopping. It’s a beautiful environment, trees, plenty of animals around. It’s lovely.”</i></p> <p>Richard is a commuter cyclist working in Macquarie Park. He enjoys the proximity of the National Park to his place of work and recognises the distinct value the location brings to his workday. As an active and health-conscious individual, Richard seeks to make the most of his day and his workplace.</p>  |
| The knowledge worker | <p><i>“We are implementing hydrogen in our motor vehicles and have the only refilling station in Australia. With the introduction of hotels, restaurants, parkland, residential and schools, it’s going to become like a community.”</i></p> <p>Gavin works in Hyundai, one of the many committed multinationals in Macquarie Park. They are representative of innovative industries that invest in skills and form connections to academia, as well as other like-minded companies. To some workers in the Park, there is a perceived lack of public open space, amenities and non-rail transport. To Gavin, Macquarie Park has everything he needs. He considers brand exposure the most important thing – which Hyundai gains from its location on Lane Cove Road.</p> |



| CATALYSTS                         |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Urban resilience                  | Macquarie Park is vulnerable to bushfire conditions and flooding, as well as increased levels of heat, which can adversely affect the natural environment and human comfort. Increased development and renewal requires integrated mitigation.  |
| Changing ways of working          | Companies place greater focus on employee environments, and so do prospective employees. Both are experiencing a shift towards the prioritisation of wellbeing, teamwork, collaboration and increased flexibility, not just in terms of working hours but also location. Networks are crucial to supporting the creation of new ideas and fostering healthy competition; the creation of networks can be supported by spaces to meet and connect. Greater mix of uses and colocation of commercial-supporting uses are redefining what “workplaces” look like globally.   |
| COVID-19                          | The global pandemic COVID-19 has raised crucial questions on the future of commercial areas like Macquarie Park. Will job density decrease as a result of social distancing requirements? Will companies need larger floor plates to accommodate less staff? Will more employees demand greater flexibility in work hours and location following the crisis? Collaboration is fostered through face-to-face interactions; how can Macquarie Park continue to encourage and support innovation and knowledge creation while keeping users safe?  |
| Future industries                 | Global megatrends are bringing radical shifts to established and emerging industries. There is greater emphasis on the nexus of sustainability and technology, and a growing interest in integrating Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices into Western frameworks of work and industry.  |
| Automation and digitisation       | Increased automation and digitisation is likely to impact routine tasks within the service-based economy. Higher skill jobs will be required within more creative industries. This trend highlights the potential impact of reduced job density – which could relate to fewer workers to activate the public realm – and reduced diversity of industries that is needed to create a full business ecosystem.  |
| Healthy built environments        | The focus of healthy planning in Australia has been almost solely concentrated on chronic diseases; however, the global pandemic COVID-19 has revealed the impact that infectious diseases can have on the public realm and vice versa. A city, particularly its public transport, looks drastically different when social distancing measures are in place. Public space planning needs to continue to support the creation of healthy built environments – providing more active travel links, more high-quality open space, greater access to healthy food – while configuring these environments to adapt to the onset of infectious diseases – wider footpaths, access to nature that complies with social distancing and equitable access to health infrastructure. |
| Future transport                  | The three cities in Greater Sydney, and the subsequent transport implications, results in Macquarie Park becoming part of an integrate and connected transport network, which encourages greater diversification of commuting patterns, a larger worker catchment and more opportunity for flexible micromobility.  |
| Quality of competitors            | Competing business parks and other centres with enhanced levels of accessibility, place and brand capital draw communities away from Macquarie Park. The potential impacts of not addressing this catalyst include anchor tenants relocating to other centres, while small businesses and startups continue to clamour for small-to-medium office spaces, which are not currently provided in Macquarie Park at a rate that meets demand. The draft City of Ryde LSPS also identified the planning for the Western Sydney Aerotropolis as a key city-shaping challenge for Macquarie Park; the challenge is to ensure that necessary ongoing investment in the Eastern Economic Corridor is not diverted.   |
| New high streets and town centres | High streets and town centres are not just places to shop. They are places of character and identity, congregation and community. However, the changing face of retail has resulted in a new perspective on these places and the roles they can play in supporting communities. Digital technology, big data, new ways of delivering goods and services, as well as increased colocation of retail with related uses (hotel, food and beverage, light industry and makerspace) have shifted the definition of what anchors a town or neighbourhood.   |
| Housing affordability             | More than 7,450 key worker households in the City of Ryde are in need of affordably priced housing. The average median house price in Sydney now stands at more than 13 times the average annual full-time earnings. For Macquarie Park, the potential impacts of this include a shrinking local labour pool, a lack of housing diversity, which leads to a lack in social diversity.   |



|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| New and emerging precincts     | Residential precedents from Herring Road, Ivanhoe Estate and Lachlan's Line put pressure on land use change through spot rezoning of land previously zoned Commercial only to Mixed Use and High Density Residential. Without balancing market gains against public benefit, this could result in reduced levies and contributions for Council and stifle amenity in the place.   |
| Quality of life in urban areas | Sydney's growth and centres providing incentives to communities and employers will support greater choice on quality of place and experiences. The quality of the urban environment will be a significant differentiator, a lynchpin in the choice where to work, live and play. This can have significant impacts on workforce recruitment and retention, as well as incidental interaction and collaboration. As Macquarie Park evolves from a business park to an urban centre, there is a growing need for services, amenities, retail, entertainment, recreation and community infrastructure that meets the expectations of existing and emerging communities. According to the City of Ryde LSPS, "a diversity of experience and opportunities throughout the precinct needs to be also provided within a placemaking framework." <sup>1</sup> |
| Policy un/certainty            | The lack of a clear steering voice in place governance for Macquarie Park has resulted in decisions that undermine broader aspirations for place and results in ad-hoc, market-driven development over holistic planning. Regulations are seen as a barrier to growth, and planning regimes wax and wane in driving decisions towards public benefit.   |

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<sup>1</sup> City of Ryde 2019, Local Strategic Planning Statement, p. 114



## 2.2 FUTURE VOICES OF MACQUARIE PARK

The change triggered by the Masterplan will and should open up space for new users of the Park. These new occupants and users will cover a wide range of interests, enriching the diversity and resilience of the district. The following narratives are a result of futuring exercises and have not been tested against market segments.



### THE INVESTOR

“I was interested in new innovation hubs around Sydney to invest in new technologies and Macquarie Park is a well-organised precinct with a solid established leadership that was there from the beginning to share the venture. I am happy of being part of this exciting enterprise.”



### THE EXPLORER

“I come to the National Park every month. I have always loved to go trekking. With the new Metro, it is so much easier to get to the Park on weekends when I volunteer with the National Parks & Wildlife Services.”



### THE RESIDENT

“We’ve just rented a place here, with a great view of Shrimpton’s Creek. I work in the CBD, but you can get to the city quickly. My husband works locally and just walks to work. Our daughter has just got a place at the school in Ivanhoe, which means she can just walk and we can sell the car!”



### THE MAKER

“I have a small studio in the lane behind Waterloo Road...it’s part of an affordable housing development and my rent is kept low by me banking time into the community skills fund. I graduated from the Uni five years ago, and now I’m teaching two days a week and employing a graduate programmer as we grow the business.”



### THE WIDER COMMUNITY

“I still live in Epping with my family, but now with the Metro, I take the train rather than drive. I train in the gym at Macquarie Uni and have learnt how to look after plant succulents at the community centre. My friends and I will often head out for dinner after; there is a great bar in the old office building near the station.”



### THE OFFICE WORKER

“I’ve worked in Macquarie Park for 10 years. It used to be more of a traditional office park, and back then it was more difficult for me to convince people to stay and work in the company. Today, the park has much more activity and it is very attractive to new employees.”



## 2.3 PLACE AUDIT

### PLACE AUDIT PROCESS

Place can be measured and assessed for its strengths and weaknesses. The Project for Public Spaces developed The Place Diagram, which summarises the four broad categories that determine the success of public spaces<sup>1</sup>.

The place aspects of Macquarie Park were evaluated and categorised into the four broad categories of Access and linkages, Comfort and image, Uses and activities, and Sociability. The Project for Public Spaces framework poses key questions for evaluating the success (or failure) of places within these four categories. The place audit for the Macquarie Park Strategic Masterplan was conducted on 5 December 2019 from 9:30AM to 11:00AM and 4:30PM to 8:00PM. While the Investigation Area is a specific area, the experience of Macquarie Park as a place extends beyond this boundary. It includes the neighbouring areas of Lachlan's Line and the Herring Road (Macquarie University Precincts) as well as the Macquarie Centre. These areas are included in the place audit to paint a holistic picture of Macquarie Park as a place:

### What Makes a Great Place?

Project  
for Public  
Spaces



<sup>1</sup> Project for Public Spaces, What Makes a Great Place?



USES AND ACTIVITIES

Activities offer a glimpse into what draws people into a place and what motivates them to keep coming back. They are the “basic building blocks of great places.”<sup>1</sup>

LAND USES

Macquarie Park’s activities are dominated by the workforce: go to work, work, then go home.

Within the Investigation Area, there are three land uses: B3 Commercial Core, B7 Business Park and SP2 Infrastructure; though SP2 only represents a small strip of land reserve by the M2. Immediately surrounding the precinct are large swathes of B4 Mixed Use and R4 High Density Residential. Within these zones, there are several other uses: employment, health, education, retail and leisure and recently added housing.

As a key strategic business centre, the main types of activities are going to work and participating in work, going to Macquarie Centre to shop, patronizing retail along Lane Cove Road, as well as some recreation uses in 24-hour gyms. While there is a mix of activities and uses to choose from, work remains the defining activity of Macquarie Park. There is a lack of a sense of activity directly on the street, except for food and beverage establishments along Lane Cove Road. Shopping, going to the cinema or going out to eat are activities that are concentrated in the Macquarie Centre, even if there is a food and beverage offering up and down the Investigation Area.

Many of the buildings have not been designed with activating uses on the ground floor, like cafes, restaurants and shops. The specific activities within buildings – what businesses there are, what is or is not publicly accessible – are not clear or obvious from the ground plane. However, ground floor uses are not totally absent; some buildings have 24-hour gyms and restaurants.

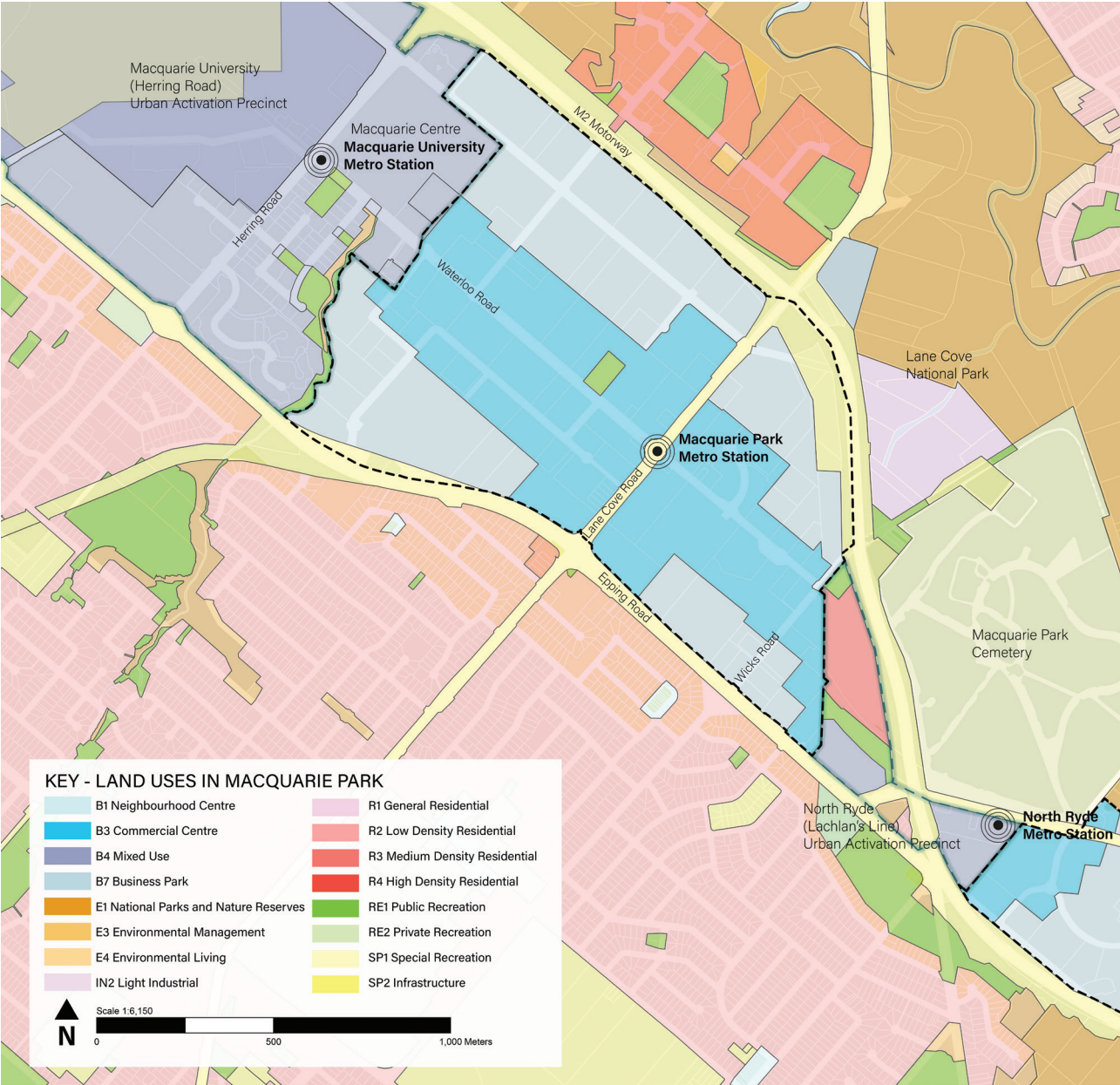


Figure 1 Map of land uses in Macquarie Park (Source: Arup)

1 Project for Public Spaces, What Makes a Great Place?



# CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND NIGHTTIME

The cultural offering in Macquarie Park – retail, entertainment, culture and leisure – is limited.

Proximity to services and leisure amenities, culture or pleasure, are not visible or not accessible within the park. Within the Investigation Area, the nighttime offering is limited in terms of core activities (food, alcohol and entertainment)<sup>1</sup> with majority of establishments concentrated around Lane Cove Road and North Ryde Station.



Core night time uses on Lane Cove Road and near North Ryde Station (Source: Arup)

1 Cred Consulting 2018, City of Ryde Night Time Economy Study.

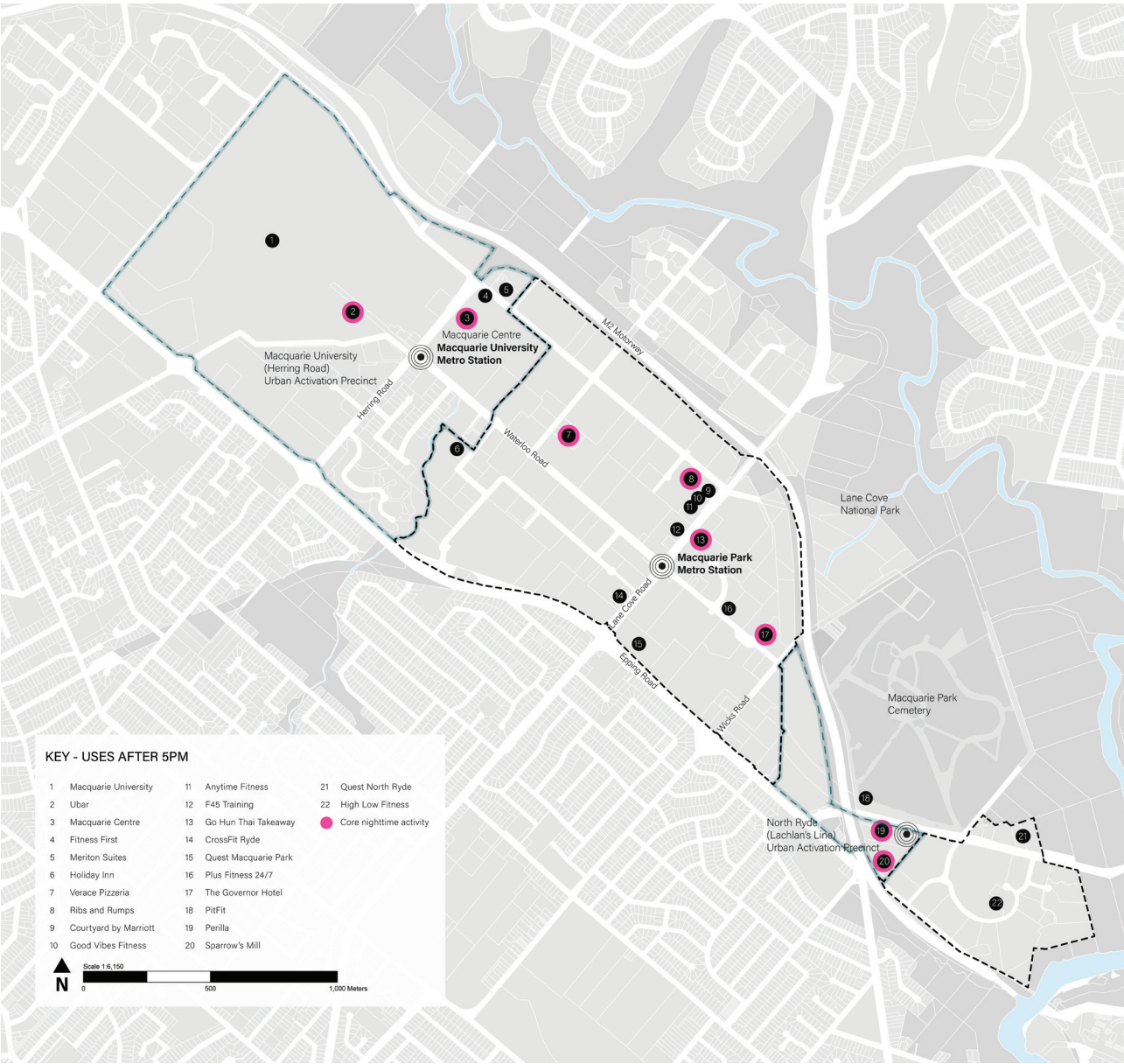


Figure 2 Map of night time uses in Macquarie Park (Source: Arup)



Within the immediate surrounds, Macquarie Centre is a hub for nighttime activity. It is worth noting that in a survey conducted by Cred Consulting for the City of Ryde's Night Time economy study, 63% of respondents visit Macquarie Park at night; however majority do so to visit and shop at Macquarie Centre, which is just outside the Investigation Area<sup>1</sup>. While the asset of the shopping centre is a significant one, users of the Park describe the shopping centre as inward-facing and lacking connection to the southern part of Macquarie Park, which poses a challenge in terms of access<sup>2</sup>.



Macquarie Centre on a Thursday evening (Source: Arup)

<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2</sup> Arup 2018.

## COMMUNITY USES

Within the Investigation Area, there are childcare facilities, medical facilities, a school and an emergency services facility, but there is no library, community hall or facility, and a lack of open space. The lack of social and cultural infrastructure is likely due to the lack of a residential population within the immediate area. Macquarie University has an array of facilities; however, due to growing demand from faculty, staff and students, the use of these facilities is increasingly limited to the use of these groups<sup>3</sup>. The social and cultural infrastructure are mapped in Figure 3 on page 266.

In the immediate surrounds, while new swathes of B4 – Mixed Use and R4 – High Density Residential Areas within Macquarie Park have facilitated the development of new residential areas, the provision of social infrastructure and open space has not kept up. Majority of facilities within the Investigation Area are either childcare facilities or medical centres. There is a surplus of childcare spaces within the Investigation Area, likely servicing parents working in and around the Park, but little else in terms of other community facilities and uses that could support a community<sup>4</sup>. There is no library or community centre within the Investigation Area.

Even while the types of uses and activities that support communities are absent or lacking in Macquarie Park, there are many different groups of people that use the Park from different backgrounds. Most people that use the Park appear to be of working age, with a few younger families and users closer to Macquarie Centre.

<sup>3</sup> Elton Consulting 2020, Macquarie Park Social infrastructure and open space assessment

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.



COMFORT AND IMAGE

BUILT FORM

The Investigation Area covers an area of 340ha and has an undisputable business park character. The prevalent built form in Macquarie Park is synonymous with that of a traditional business park: large plots, with large buildings that have large floor plates set back from the boundary. This typology can result in the lack of a ‘clear front door’ for buildings as entrances to these buildings are often away from the street.

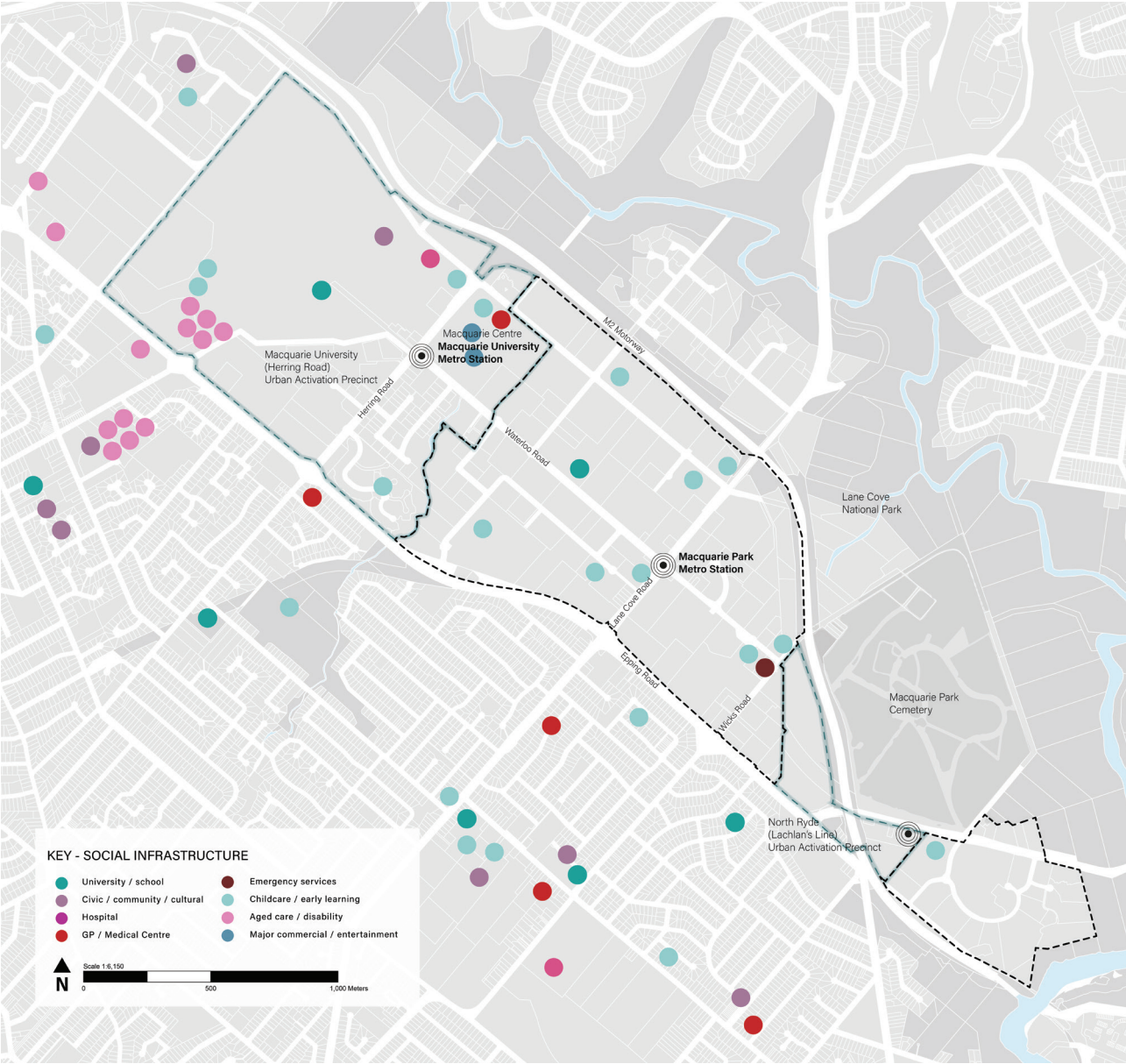


Figure 3 - Social infrastructure in Macquarie Park (Source: Arup)

Images of the prevalent built form in Macquarie Park (Source: Arup)



The scale of the buildings is quite large and dominating in the built environment. Many businesses have been attracted to this type of building due to the large floorplates, but these can often be limiting to walking, cycling and other means of active transport.

Approximately 80% of buildings in Macquarie Park were constructed in the past 10 years. Many workers are attracted to the modern look of these buildings and would like to see some of the older building stock revitalised to boost the area's reputation as a contemporary business district. Some express concern at protecting the old, industrial style of some of the older buildings, which touch upon the area's history as a business park.

Community members have expressed concern at high- and higher-density development within Macquarie Park due to access to sunlight, especially in the rare pockets of open space in and around the area. However, they also support these types of development if they are balanced with what the community needs: housing, open space, community facilities and places to socialise.



The prevalent built form in Macquarie Park (Source: Arup)

## LANDSCAPE AND OPEN SPACE

Macquarie Park is situated right next to the Lane Cove National Park. There are workers and residents who enjoy this proximity; however, the M2 Motorway separates the Park from the National Park. The Motorway can be an intimidating barrier for the community, even if the National Park is only a 20-minute walk from 60% of Macquarie Park. Even with the physical barriers, there are still users of Macquarie Park access the National Park throughout the day, cycling through on their lunch break.

The Riverside Corporate Park, near North Ryde Station, provides access to open space and an expansive tree canopy for workers that work in the area. The topography of the area, sloping downwards towards the Lane Cove River and National Park, provides a sense of separation from the busy road environment of Delhi and Epping Roads. At the other end of the Investigation Area, there is also ample vegetation along Shrimpton's Creek.

The natural landscape within the Investigation Area takes its form most commonly in the leafy canopy that lines its streets. Deep soil zones are common within the Investigation Area<sup>1</sup>. Footpaths are generally lined with planting, providing a slight buffer between the path and the road itself. Planting on curbs and road reserves is also common.

Right: Users accessing the National Park & Riverside Corporate Park (Source: Arup)

<sup>1</sup> Elton Consulting 2020, Macquarie Park Social infrastructure and open space assessment





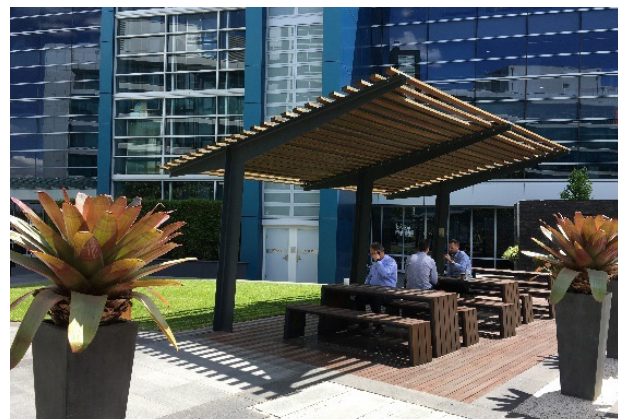
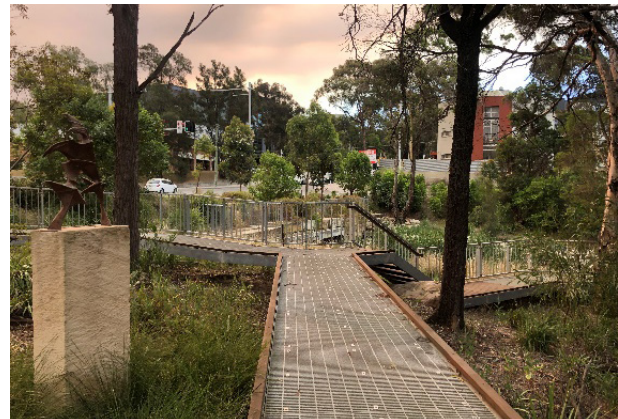
The tree canopy within Macquarie Park and the wider corridor is valued by the community, especially as it extends the bushland look of the National Park into Macquarie Park.

The natural environment is also shown in the lush landscaping in front of buildings; however, these landscaped areas are not made for dwelling. There are no benches for people to sit and they are often fenced off. While there are green, leafy, nature-filled areas within Macquarie Park, they are not designed for people. Public space, which encompasses all publicly accessible spaces, also includes privately-owned public spaces (POPs), which are common throughout the precinct

The topography across the whole precinct is another facet of the natural environment, especially of the four major creeks that once traversed the area. While majority of these creeks are now piped, the topography remains. The undulating peaks and valleys of major roads speak to the impacts of not designing with Country and to the convenience of the private vehicle. Views to adjacent natural assets are also limited by an urban form that has not considered the natural contours of Country.

Publicly accessible spaces in Macquarie Park, like forecourts and landscaped areas in front of buildings, are still mostly privately used. Green open spaces located within the plot of buildings have benches; though these areas are typically reserved for employees of the tenants of these buildings. Commercial tenancies fronting buildings provide publicly accessible seating and amenity.

From top:  
Planting on Waterloo Road, Landscaped, non-publicly-accessible area, Seating areas in front of buildings (Source: Arup)





## SAFETY

The sense of safety in Macquarie Park is impacted by heavy traffic, busy roads and a lack of adequate lighting and activation on streets.

Many workers do not feel safe walking in Macquarie Park, because of the busy roads and lack of pedestrian crossings. The heavy traffic and congestion, especially during rush hour, makes the environment feel hostile towards pedestrians or anyone not in a car.

The lack of activation on the ground plane can also make a place seem safe and unwelcoming. In 2018, Plan International released Free To Be, a research report that covered five cities around the world including Sydney, to understand the experiences of young women and girls in cities<sup>1</sup>. By dropping pins in places that were 'good' or 'bad', the purpose of the research was to explore the perceptions of safety for young women and girls in cities.

In Sydney, 75% of experiences were recorded as 'bad.' These experiences ranged from catcalling to groping and escalate up to sexual assault. In response to these experiences, some respondents either left their place of work or university. 42% of respondents in Sydney identified as students, while 54% were working. The cost of a lack of safety or perception of safety is clear. In Macquarie Park, perceptions of safety are inconsistent. While some experiences in the wider area have been categorised as 'good', these are linked to the University or Macquarie Centre. Within the Investigation Area, majority of experiences are bad and detail a sense of discomfort and fear:



*“Really poorly lit, would not recommend walking here at night. I don't feel safe even riding my bike along here. Path needs to be lit, there is no alternate cycle way either.” – Shrimpton's Creek*

*“Terrible lighting often someone sitting under the bridge. Don't recommend walking through the park at night due to lack of people and lighting.” – Shrimpton's Creek*

Even pins described as 'good' err on the side of caution:

*“I've gone on bushwalks by myself in the Lane Cove National Park and never had any problems – wouldn't go when it's dark though just to be on the safe side.” – M2 Hills Motorway Sydney*

*“Frequently here any time from 9am to midnight and always feel safe – though I never use the carpark as I live nearby so can't speak for that.” – Macquarie Centre*

*“Safe area for walking on your own, although I have been catcalled while jogging.” – Epping Road*

## ACCESS AND LINKAGES

*“Talavera Road is a carpark between five and six... congestion is strangling the park...”*

The history of its development has been heavily influenced by the private vehicle; this has left its mark in more ways than one. The experience on the street (road) is quite unpleasant unless one is in a car. Aside from the challenging topography, pedestrian crossings are few and far between, and walking next to a six-lane road full of cars does not make for a pleasant walking experience.



The road environment in Macquarie Park (Source: Arup)

<sup>1</sup> Plan International and XYX Lab 2018, Free To Be: Sydney



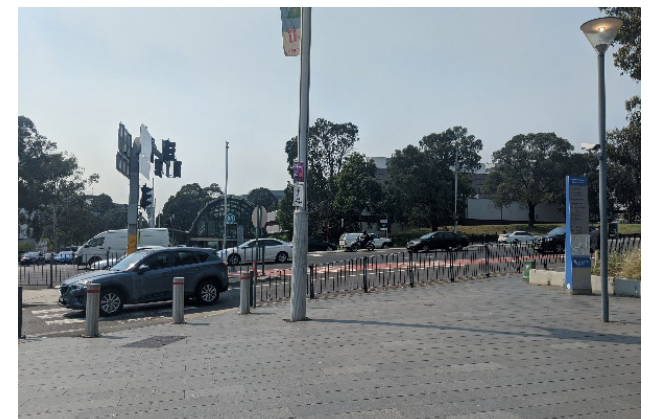
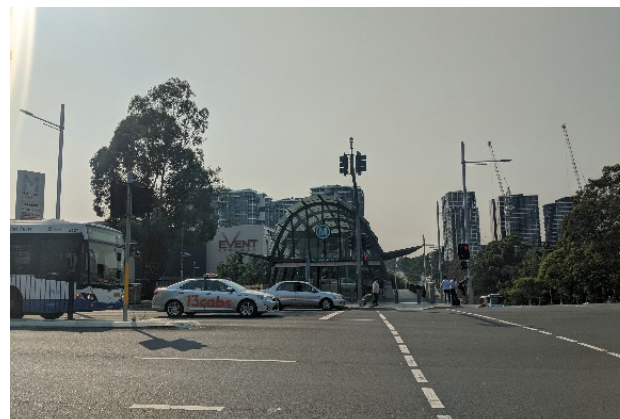
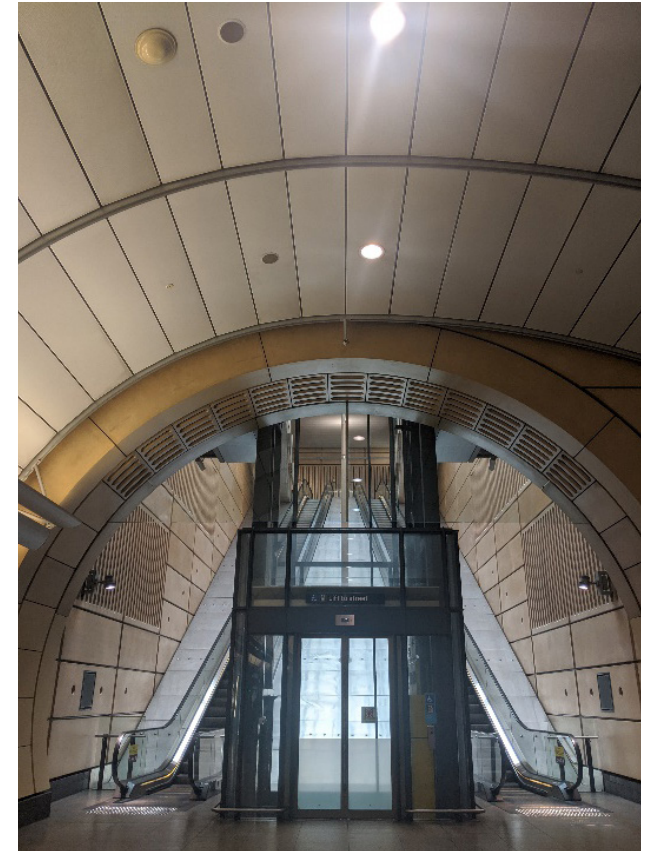
Even with the addition of Sydney Metro – the journey of Macquarie Park to Sydney CBD is now 12 minutes – the perception of Macquarie Park as separate and distant to any of the metropolitan CBDs remains. Travel times to Parramatta, Sydney’s second CBD, are about an hour on average. By private vehicle, travel times range from 20 minutes to one hour. Poor public transport connections between Macquarie Park and adjoining residential areas also make it difficult for the wider community to access the jobs, services and public transport in Macquarie Park.

The major transport interchanges within Macquarie Park lack a real sense of arrival into the area. The journey from deep within the Metro station culminates in an unwelcome ending. Exiting Macquarie University station takes one straight onto Herring Road. Exiting Macquarie Park station and wanting to traverse Waterloo Road is a loss to begin with; pedestrians have to cross a three-point crossing, thus spending more time in an unpleasant place.

The precinct lacks a sense of permeability. Aside from the size of buildings and plots, there is also a lack of ground-level activation and the busy roads that pedestrians traverse. Destinations, like retail, restaurants and entertainment, are spread out through Macquarie Park in an adhoc way, making the pedestrian experience feel disparate and inconsistent.

The lack of connectivity has spurred a response. Major landowners, such as the Goodman’s Network, and businesses like The Governor Hotel provide free shuttle services for users to and from the Metro stations and other points of interest in and around the suburb.

Clockwise from top left:  
Shuttle service sign at the Governor Hotel, Exiting the Metro station, Macquarie Park station exit, Herring Road from Macquarie University Station (Source: Arup)





## **SOCIABILITY**

As an established business park, Macquarie Park is the site of the formation of many networks and relationships that are not yet easily visible from the street level.

Sociability is a difficult aspect to measure in place, but it is an unmistakable feature. It is the glue that holds places together – the people, and their perceptions of place and how they use it.

The Macquarie Park community is made up of many different groups, aside from workers, there are the residents from the nearby communities, the students from Macquarie University and visitors from around Sydney. It is clear that the area is used by many different groups of people. People go about the area in groups, especially in the shopping centre, which is a popular destination for many people in the area. However, people mostly keep to themselves, and there is little evidence of strangers interacting with one another as well as chance encounters.

There are places for people to gather around Macquarie Centre and the outdoor dining areas of the cafes and restaurants up and down Macquarie Park, as well as around North Ryde Station. However, the area is lacking in terms of benches and small pocket parks where people can run into a friend and catch up.

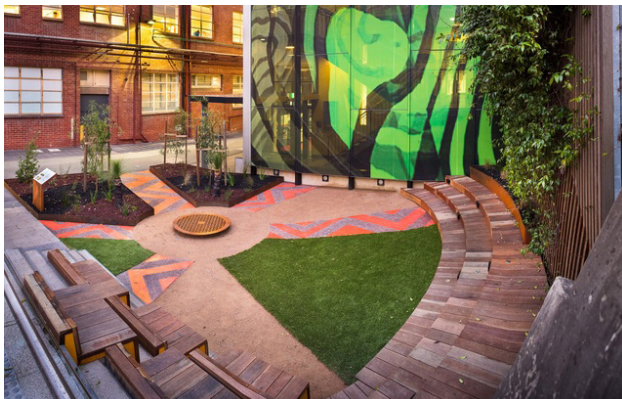


# 3. PLACEMAKING PRINCIPLES

## 3.1 REVEAL COUNTRY AND CULTURE

**Macquarie Park's unique setting within Wallumattagal Country and history as a place of higher learning provides a foundation to build an enriched identity. Placemaking in Macquarie Park will focus on opportunities to be, see and know Wallumattagal Country through nature, culture, programming and activation.**

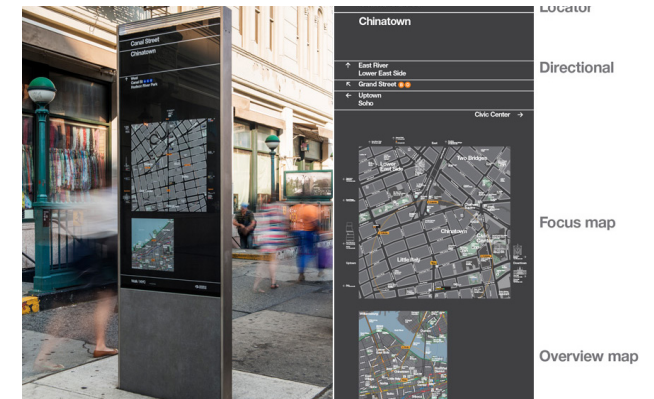
- Instill a clear connection to Dharug Country and Culture throughout the Investigation Area. Roll out the Welcome to Country for visitors, residents and workers with wayfinding, public art and built form that reveals Country. Establish clear guidelines for integrating Country and Culture into the public domain.
- Provide an appropriate and enhanced setting for the area's deep history as a place of higher learning. Provide subsidised incubator spaces for new startups, entrepreneurs and businesses to encourage the formation of networks and relationships, as well as fostering a spirit of competition and collaboration.
- Reconnect Macquarie Park to the natural environment by increasing access to and from the Lane Cove National Park. Reveal the buried Creeks physically and symbolically to strengthen the area's relationship to the whole of Wallumattagal Country. Design with, and not against the area's natural topography.
- Expand the network of different types of all publicly available spaces within Macquarie Park to open up the urban environment. Frame or reveal key views to built and natural assets and the surrounding area with greenery.
- Give Culture the spotlight. Increase knowledge and awareness of Wallumattagal Country and Dharug Culture through public spaces for ceremony, culture, markers and interpretation, placenaming and art. Orient new public domain improvements as a result of development towards framing cultural spaces to ensure that users are aware of them.
- Establish place governance arrangements that facilitate the leadership of traditional custodians and knowledge holders. Encourage stakeholders to actively engage with Wallumattagal Country by collaborating with traditional custodians.



Give Culture the spotlight



An enhanced and appropriate setting for higher learning



Roll out the Welcome mat



## 3.2 REDEFINE THE SUBURBAN

**Changing expectations around work environments signal a need for suburban business parks like Macquarie Park to adapt. But this does not necessarily mean turning the suburban to urban. There must be a focus on breathing new life into places by introducing qualities of urban environments that can improve amenity and liveability for all users and overcome the real challenges the suburban model has posed over the past 70 years. These include better links to public transport, an active ground plane, more public spaces like plazas and through-site-links, and a greater mix of uses and “things to do.”**

- Enhance the pedestrian experience by reducing vehicle movement through Macquarie Park, providing more pedestrian crossings, utilising the Fine Grain Road Network to facilitate more organic movements around the area, and prioritising slow and low movements.
- Utilise any opportunity to integrate more crossing points because of new development.
- Make Macquarie Park a safe haven for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Get Macquarie Park moving by providing stronger links to sustainable transport – shortcuts to the nearest Metro station that can bypass the formal street grid, high-quality bicycle racks at key intersections and interchanges, widened footpaths, increased planting to provide a buffer against heavy traffic.
- Roll out the red carpet for all users. Establish a “clear front door” and an activated ground plane for new developments. Encourage the introduction of ground floor uses in new and existing buildings.
- Make Macquarie Park an 18-hour economy. Extend trading hours of core nighttime uses. Introduce temporary pop-ups near key interchanges after 5PM as a way to activate underutilised spaces. Ensure that visitors, workers and residents have multiple options for activities after 5PM.
- Improve the safety of Macquarie Park by enhancing lighting, signage, activation of the ground plane and of new and existing public spaces to keep eyes on the ground at all times of the day.
- Consider the needs of the growing communities within and around Macquarie Park. Provide new social infrastructure, like library branches and community halls, that can activate the area at all times of the day.



Prioritise slow and low movements



Establish a “clear front door” for Macquarie Park



Develop an 18-hour economy in Macquarie Park



### 3.3 LIFELONG LEARNING

**The presence of Macquarie University, innovation and technology-related businesses have sparked ideas and contributed to Macquarie Park's reputation as a hub for new knowledge creation. It is also a place with a deep history and tradition of exchange and trade. Opportunities for learning should be encouraged at all levels and scales. Places should cultivate a sense of curiosity and empower users to ask questions, seek answers and share knowledge.**

- Strengthen the relationship with Macquarie University. Make this relationship tangible in Macquarie Park with an increased University presence in the form of satellite campuses, incubator spaces for emerging innovators and programmed networking opportunities for students and businesses.
- Make Dharug Culture more visible throughout Macquarie Park. Integrate Dharug language and symbols on signage, wayfinding, building names and public art. Work with traditional custodians and knowledge holders to enliven the public realm with programming, activation and installations.
- Reveal the innovation that happens behind closed doors. Provide subsidised incubator spaces, flexible workspaces and advertising opportunities to interested parties from all industries: business, technology, arts, culture and science.
- Provide a space for homegrown talent to develop, thrive and connect. Increase access to and flexibility of spaces for startups, SMEs and creative industries. Use transitioning or underutilised floorspace to provide temporary workspaces or pilot spaces for new innovations out of Macquarie University and of the local community.
- Encourage built form that opens up the plots of land and connects to the public realm.
- Provide informal meeting spaces in the public realm where new friends and colleagues can run into each other, share their ideas and knowledge. Include meeting spaces in libraries, community halls and in underutilised spaces.



Strengthen the relationship with Macquarie University



Reveal the innovation



Provide informal meeting spaces in the public realm



### 3.4 CULTIVATE THE UNDERGROWTH

**Cultivating the “undergrowth” is about considering the role that small pieces play in the success of urban environments. The growth is in the details – the little things that stitch a place together and support its overall function. Small – movement, business, uses, activities – is beautiful, useful and personal.**

- Implement the Woven Ways and permeate the blocky built form of Macquarie Park. Utilise new developments to provide informal paths through and around buildings that take pedestrians away from major roads and into side streets and laneways. Pilot emerging micromobility transport options at major transport interchanges.
- Consider side streets as an alternative dwelling and gathering space for pedestrians. Encourage dwell time with furniture, greenery and side-street-facing activation from local businesses.
- Take every opportunity to design with Country. Reveal the natural paths that the Creeks once took. Design with, not against the natural topography of Macquarie Park. Integrate paths and side streets that go against the typical grid style of the formal streets and encourage slow, informal movements.
- Enhance lighting and signage within the streets and spaces. Situate a user within Country through wayfinding and bespoke signage.
- Provide a total green experience by completing the urban tree canopy along major roads and intersections in Macquarie Park and to combat the urban heat island effect. Utilise greenery in the design of the public realm that is multifunctional. Introduce planting of native species and encourage the return of biodiversity into Macquarie Park.
- Consider all infrastructure, transport, open space, social and cultural, as part of one network and as an extension of the public realm. Enhance the overall pedestrian experience of Macquarie Park by improving every aspect of a journey from start to finish.
- Introduce temporal differentiation to spaces throughout the day. Activate an underutilised plaza at night with temporary uses and activities to encourage people to dwell after 5pm.
- Encourage collaboration in the development of place. Utilise new developments as opportunities for developers to integrate neighbouring plots or proposals in order to create a more cohesive public domain.



Implement the Woven Ways



Enhance lighting and signage within streets and spaces



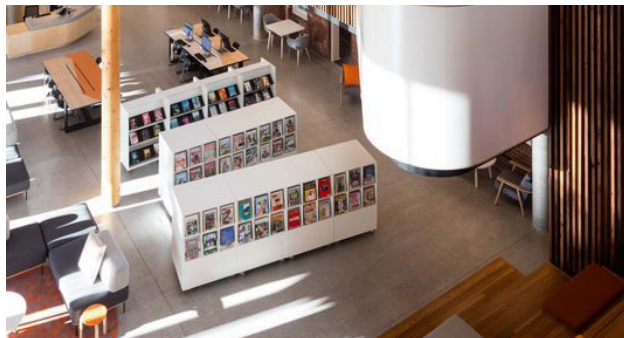
Complete the urban tree canopy



## 3.5 RECONNECTING TO THE MACQUARIE PARK COMMUNITY

**It is crucial to acknowledge what is already there and to focus placemaking initiatives and projects towards building connections between Macquarie Park communities, both in and around the Park. The transformation of Macquarie Park must involve the people that are there today and address their present needs.**

- Set the standards for social infrastructure and open space provision for commercial areas with worker communities. Use these standards to tailor the open space and social infrastructure that may be needed for new and existing communities.
- Provide a diversity of social and cultural infrastructure throughout Macquarie Park. Pilot these new uses around the Metro Stations to cultivate a sense of “arrival” at the Stations or to develop a reputation as a “destination” for pedestrians.
- Introduce longer crossing times for pedestrians. Create slow zones in side streets for a safer, more pleasant walking experience.
- Create connections to and from Macquarie Park that take pedestrians through a comfortable and complete walking environment. Utilise greenery in the design of the public realm that is multifunctional.
- Make places more inviting to stop and dwell through sensitive lighting, greenery and furniture. Encourage alfresco dining and on-street activation for businesses.
- Provide a retail and entertainment offering throughout Macquarie Park that residents and workers can enjoy. Utilise temporary uses, like pop-up outdoor cinemas, markets and carefully curated performances, to build Macquarie Park’s 18-hour economy.
- Utilise the neighbourhoods to provide a distinctive leisure offering throughout the area and reinforce Macquarie Park’s identity as a “place of many places.”
- Bring people into Macquarie Park. Extend active frontages beyond the ground plane. Encourage upper-level uses that are visible from the street to draw attention and invigorate the public realm. Provide social infrastructure, cultural space, dining, retail and temporary uses on the upper levels of buildings in order to draw people into Macquarie Park.



Provide a variety of social and cultural infrastructure



Make places inviting to stop, dwell and enjoy



Reinforce Macquarie Park's identity as a place of many places



# 4. DELIVERING PLACEMAKING AT MACQUARIE PARK

## 4.1 PROJECTS BY NEIGHBOURHOOD

| 1. NGALAWALA (RECIPROCITY) - NORTH PARK  |           |               |                   |
|--|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| DESCRIPTION  | TIMEFRAME | IMPACT        | COMPLEXITY        |
| <p>New high street on Talavera Road</p> <p>Introduce retail uses to form a retail edge that links with the Macquarie Shopping Centre and invigorate Talavera Road and its adjoining sidestreets as a new pedestrian destination</p>  | Medium    | High impact   | High complexity   |
| <p>Blank wall activation on side streets and new streets as part of Fine Grain Road Network</p> <p>Invite people into sidestreets and laneways and turn them into destinations themselves through blank wall activation and temporary laneway activation through installations and public art. Provide moveable seating and shade to encourage dwell time.</p> | Short     | Medium impact | Low complexity    |
| <p>Creekway along the edge of Porter's Creek</p> <p>Create a new walking and cycling link along the edge of the Creek and the edge of the neighbourhood that links to the National Park and to adjacent neighbourhoods. Opportunity to consider Aboriginal edible gardens and employ an aspect of education on Aboriginal knowledge and traditions</p>         | Medium    | High impact   | Medium complexity |
| <p>Mac Park Innovation Caravan</p> <p>A caravan showcasing Macquarie Park opportunities for students, tenants and workers. Focusing on new technologies and the innovation capacity of the park.</p>   | Short     | High impact   | Low complexity    |
| <p>New performance space near Khartoum Road to create a cultural/entertainment link with the Macquarie Shopping Centre and to introduce a core nighttime use</p>   | Medium    | Medium impact | High complexity   |



| 2. BUTBUT (HEART) - WATERLOO PARK  |                |               |  |
|--|----------------|---------------|--|
| DESCRIPTION  | TIMEFRAME      | IMPACT        | COMPLEXITY   |
| <p>Creek-walk through the new open space on the Transport for NSW site</p> <p>Design a pathway through the open space that adheres to the natural creeklines and contours of Country leading to adjacent neighbourhoods and onto the Lane Cove National Park</p>   | Medium         | Medium impact | Low complexity, depending on the design stage of the open space  |
| <p>Network of publicly-accessible spaces adjoining Waterloo Road</p> <p>Redefine Waterloo Road's identity as the spine of Macquarie Park by orienting buildings towards Waterloo Road with a setback that allows for the implementation of publicly accessible business courtyards that serve as a space shared between business, public service and community. The Waterloo Road Masterplan should integrate with these spaces.</p> | Medium to long | High impact   | Medium complexity  |
| <p>Putting the Arts into STEM: integrating arts and culture uses into new Macquarie University Faculty of Engineering Buildings</p> <p>Integrate performance and gallery space into new education spaces for potential arts and cultural uses, as well as a potential showcase area for innovations produced by the Faculty of Engineering</p>   | Medium         | High impact   | Medium complexity  |
| <p>Networked Cycle Hubs</p> <p>Corporate sponsorship of electric cycle hire stations and bikes to be placed at new station hubs. Integrated health and well-being apps developed in collaboration with Macquarie Connect and landowners and integrated wayfinding and signage that points to key natural assets to encourage daytime recreation.</p>   | Short          | Medium impact | Medium complexity, depending on take-up from corporate sponsors. Potential to collaborate with University to develop health and wellbeing applications or community webpage. |
| <p>Outdoor offices</p> <p>Pocket parks with moveable furniture in between buildings and in key sightlines to major destinations to provide users of Macquarie Park with a place out in the open to congregate and collaborate.</p>   | Short          | High impact   | Low complexity   |



| 3. WARAGAL BIRRUNG (EVENING STAR) - SHRIMPTONS QUARTER   |           |               |                   |
|--|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| DESCRIPTION  | TIMEFRAME | IMPACT        | COMPLEXITY        |
| <p>The Optus Theatre</p> <p>A temporary new theatre on the edge of the campus, showcasing digital technologies role in the creative arts. An open performance space for digital music, theatre and installation.</p>   | Short     | High impact   | Medium complexity |
| <p>New incubator and coworking spaces for emerging businesses and startups co-located with social infrastructure</p> <p>Adapt existing buildings to provide flexible spaces for new and emerging businesses and startups. Co-locate with social infrastructure on the upper levels of buildings in order to encourage interaction with the community and students from the University. Potential to co-locate with University study space to encourage students into Macquarie Park.</p>                               | Short     | High impact   | Medium complexity |
| <p>Rooftop and community gardens to engage with the new neighbouring communities</p> <p>Public space for communal use and to enhance community interaction, as well as interactions between business and community. Opportunity to consider Aboriginal edible gardens and employ an aspect of education on Aboriginal knowledge and traditions and to bring biodiversity back into Macquarie Park.</p>   | Medium    | Medium impact | High complexity   |
| <p>Environmental repair, restoration and revelation of Shrimpton's Creek</p> <p>Continue the implementation of the Shrimptons Creek Precinct Activation and improve the health of the Shrimptons Creek Riparian Corridor. Incorporate bushcare initiatives with the local community and local businesses to encourage interaction between the two groups.</p>  | Medium    | High impact   | Low complexity    |
| <p>Creek Line Appreciation</p> <p>New walkway along the Shrimpton's Creek line to serve as focal point for the neighbourhood. The public space will be of use to both business and community and is an opportunity to enhance the local cultural identity. There is opportunity to integrate smaller pocket parks with moveable furniture to be of use to all users as means to dwell and connect. There could be cross-creek walking links and new walking and cycling tracks that draw people towards the Creek.</p> | Medium    | High impact   | Medium complexity |
| <p>Alfresco, waterfront dining facing the Creek</p> <p>Introduction of new food and beverage offerings oriented towards the Creek, opening up access for the new communities of Macquarie Park to enjoy and appreciate their bushland setting</p>  | Short     | High impact   | Low complexity    |



| 4. GARI NAWI (SALTWATER CANOE) - MACQUARIE LIVING STATION   |                 |               |                   |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| DESCRIPTION   | TIMEFRAME       | IMPACT        | COMPLEXITY        |
| <p>Welcome to Country wayfinding and signage</p> <p>While also a project idea for the entire Investigation Area, the sense of arrival and welcome should be deeply felt when exiting Macquarie Park station. The installation of a piece of public art that welcomes all users to Wallumattagal Country is a key aspect of the arrival experience. A potential location for this public art would be at the junction of Waterloo and Lane Cove Roads.</p> | Short           | High impact   | Medium complexity |
| <p>Networked Cycle Hubs</p> <p>Corporate sponsorship of electric cycle hire stations and bikes to be placed at new station hubs. Integrated health and well-being apps developed in collaboration with Macquarie Connect and landowners</p>   | Short           | Medium        | Medium complexity |
| <p>Hydrogen Taxis &amp; Buses</p> <p>Using the Hyundai technology the project proposes the roll out of a hydrogen taxi and bus fleet, linking innovation taking place in Macquarie Park, to the everyday function of moving through the Park.</p>   | Short           | Medium impact | Low complexity    |
| <p>New footbridge for the community</p> <p>Create a footbridge over Lane Cove Road in order to facilitate safer pedestrian movement and overcome this substantial physical barrier and create a connection between Macquarie Park Station and adjacent neighbourhoods</p>   | Long            | High impact   | High complexity   |
| <p>Carefully programmed leasing of businesses adjoining with the Metro Station</p> <p>Introduce cafes, restaurants and new retail near the Metro Station in order to create a buzz around a new centre of activity.</p>   | Medium          | Medium impact | Low complexity    |
| <p>Carpark workspace</p> <p>The delivery of affordable workspace can be integrated into the careful phasing of large sites transformation. The strategy retrofits workspace into under used car park building and incorporates activation of top floors of decked parking, promotes phased occupation of large sites, delivers unique business space offer and the sustainable alternative reuse of buildings</p>   | Short to medium | High impact   | Medium complexity |
| <p>Micromobility pilot sites</p> <p>Test new and innovative technologies in micromobility near the Macquarie Park Metro Station. Partner with Future Transport to pilot new forms of transport, as well as mobile applications and smart city infrastructure.</p>   | Short           | Medium impact | Low complexity    |
| <p>Blank wall activation on side streets and new streets as part of Fine Grain Road Network</p> <p>Invite people into sidestreets and laneways and turn them into destinations themselves through blank wall activation and temporary laneway activation through installations and public art. Provide moveable seating and shade to encourage dwell time.</p>  | Short           | Medium impact | Low complexity    |



| 5. BURBIGAL (MORNING) - PORTER'S CREEK   |           |               |                   |
|--|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| DESCRIPTION  | TIMEFRAME | IMPACT        | COMPLEXITY        |
| <p>Ecological Monitoring Hub</p> <p>Testing new technologies to monitor and study ecological systems in Lane Cove National Park. The hub is an extension of both educational and commercial enterprises to expand their impact on biotechnologies. Incorporate a Greenhouse that showcases native flora and fauna.</p>   | Medium    | High impact   | High complexity   |
| <p>A new open space to connect Macquarie Park with Lane Cove National Park</p> <p>Utilise the strip of land along the M2 motorway to provide new open space and provide a “buffer” between the motorway and the rest of Macquarie Park. Create a new destination that is oriented towards views of the Lane Cove National Park. Situate a new Aboriginal Ranger station within the buffer park</p> | Long      | High impact   | High complexity   |
| Direct walking and cycling links to the Lane Cove National Park that follow the area’s natural topography  | Medium    | High impact   | Medium complexity |
| Welcome to Country or Wallumattagal Country signage viewable from M2 Motorway  | Short     | Medium impact | Low complexity    |
| <p>Creekway along the edge of Porter’s Creek</p> <p>Create a new walking and cycling link along the edge of the Creek and the edge of the neighbourhood that links to the National Park and to adjacent neighbourhoods.</p>  | Medium    | High impact   | Medium complexity |



## 6. GARUNGUL (UNBREAKABLE) - WICKS ROAD SOUTH

| DESCRIPTION  | TIMEFRAME | IMPACT        | COMPLEXITY        |
|--|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| <p>New incubator and coworking spaces for emerging businesses and startups co-located with social infrastructure</p> <p>Adapt existing buildings to provide flexible spaces for new and emerging businesses and startups. Co-locate with social infrastructure on the upper levels of buildings in order to encourage interaction with the community</p>             | Short     | Medium impact | Medium complexity |
| <p>Programming with businesses to encourage lunchtime use of active/recreation spaces</p> <p>Clustering of education and sports and recreation pitches gives an opportunity to build community wellbeing, but not just for the residential community. Increase liveability and amenity benefits for workers in the area while also optimising use of open spaces</p> | Short     | Medium impact | Low complexity    |
| <p>Sporting events incorporating active transport or new micromobility pilots</p> <p>Utilise existing active recreation spaces as the sites for sporting events for schools and businesses in the area. Trial new micromobility transport forms with events like scooter or bike races.</p>  | Short     | Medium impact | Low complexity    |
| <p>Pedestrian and cyclist priority links to North Ryde and Macquarie Park Metro Stations and to Lachlan's Line</p>   | Short     | High impact   | High complexity   |
| <p>Shared knowledge and cultural hub in partnership with schools</p> <p>Opportunity to create a collaborative space among different levels of education (i.e. primary/secondary, tertiary and vocational) within a shared knowledge and cultural hub</p>   | Long      | High impact   | High complexity   |
| <p>A core night time edge</p> <p>Introduce core night time activities such as dining, restaurants and small bars towards the edge of Neighbourhood 7 – Gari Nawi to create a night time entertainment area that can be enjoyed by the adjacent residential communities and the business communities</p>  | Medium    | High impact   | High complexity   |



| 7. NARRAMI BADU-GUMADA (CONNECTING WATER SPIRIT) - NORTH RYDE RIVERSIDE  |                 |               |                   |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| DESCRIPTION  | TIMEFRAME       | IMPACT        | COMPLEXITY        |
| <p>Lane Cove Ferry</p> <p>Create a new point of arrival, an entrance through landscape which connects Sydney Harbour City to the Park via Lane Cove River. Opening up the hidden parts of the National Park and Riverside Park.</p>  | Long            | High impact   | High complexity   |
| <p>Alfresco, waterfront dining facing the Lane Cove River</p> <p>Introduction of new food and beverage offerings oriented towards the River and the Lane Cove National Park, opening up access for the new communities of Macquarie Park to enjoy and appreciate their bushland setting</p>  | Short           | Medium impact | Low complexity    |
| <p>New library branch and community spaces</p> <p>Repurpose the CSIRO building and continue its legacy as a place of knowledge, learning and community by providing necessary social infrastructure for the growing Macquarie Park community as well as potentially necessary infrastructure for the existing business community in the neighbourhood. Satellite library, community spaces and childcare can be provided in underutilised commercial spaces.</p> | Short to medium | Medium impact | Medium complexity |
| <p>Return to the market gardens</p> <p>Community gardens and pop-up market spaces nestled around public open spaces to invite the new community into the neighbourhood and to foster the development of small, sustainable industries like locally grown food, especially native bushfoods.</p>  | Short           | Medium impact | Medium complexity |
| <p>Outdoor offices</p> <p>Pocket parks with moveable furniture in between buildings and in key sightlines to major destinations to provide users of the Lane Cove National Park with a place out in the open to congregate and collaborate.</p>  | Short           | High impact   | Low complexity    |
| <p>Space for Traditional Custodians and Indigenous Ranger programs</p> <p>Adapt existing buildings to provide space for the dissemination of traditional knowledge by Traditional Custodians. Partner with Indigenous Ranger programs (And provide space for them) to educate new and existing communities on bushfire mitigation, protection of threatened species and working with Country</p>   | Medium          | High impact   | Medium complexity |



## 4.2 PROJECTS FOR MACQUARIE PARK

| DESCRIPTION  | TIMEFRAME | IMPACT      | COMPLEXITY        |
|--|-----------|-------------|-------------------|
| <p>Wallumattagal Country and Dharug Culture wayfinding and signage</p> <p>Implement a wayfinding and signage strategy for all of Macquarie Park that uses Dharug language and traditional place names to situate and direct visitors, workers and residents of Macquarie Park. Engage with Traditional Custodians and Indigenous artists. Incorporate the Story of the Black Snapper as a visual and directional motif throughout Macquarie Park.</p>                        | Short     | High impact | Medium complexity |
| <p>Provide space for ceremonies at key open spaces and arrival points into Macquarie Park</p>  | Medium    | High impact | Medium complexity |
| <p>Turn Macquarie Park into an 18-hour economy</p> <p>Implement a night time economy strategy for Macquarie Park. Pilot night time uses such as evening markets, pop-ups, small bars licensing, outdoor performances to encourage people to visit and dwell in Macquarie Park after 5PM.</p>   | Medium    | High impact | High complexity   |
| <p>Celebrate the slow and low</p> <p>Prioritise pedestrian and cyclist movement in side streets by widening footpaths and reducing vehicle speeds to create a safe walking and cycling environment.</p>  | Medium    | High impact | High complexity   |
| <p>Emphasise through-site movements in new developments</p> <p>Introduce permeability into the large blocks and buildings that are synonymous with Macquarie Park's existing built form. Encourage the integration of through-site links in new developments and ensure that they are visible from street-level. Support the introduction of new connections between buildings.</p>  | Medium    | High impact | High complexity   |
| <p>Placenaming strategy</p> <p>Place naming is not only integral to the Macquarie Park Masterplan, it is integral to the lived experience of Country Centered Design. It details how Dharug language will both shape and inform how the Walumattagal can create a connection to Country for people and communities who live, work and visit this culturally rich and dynamic place. Placenaming is detailed in Appendix A - Country Centered Design Framework and Report</p> | Short     | High impact | High complexity   |