



 BALARINJI | OCULUS

Redmond Place

Connecting with Country framework ANONYMISED

06/05/2024

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

Through consultation with the locally connected Aboriginal community, five key design themes were identified for integration into the Redmond Place project.

The following section provides recommendations for how each theme might be integrated. A co-design process was used to construct these recommendations. They draw from responses from the local Aboriginal community during stakeholder consultations, a close analysis of GANSW's *Connecting with Country Framework*, and desktop research of the Aboriginal history of the site.

Summaries and quotes are included to provide project teams with specific and detailed comments and knowledge from the locally connected Aboriginal community. Along with the recommended actions, design integration opportunities are outlined so that teams can envisage how the actions can be realised in the built form of the precinct. Socio-economic outcomes for each theme are provided to illustrate the positive impacts of these actions and integrations.

Project teams can use the responses presented here to understand the Country and narrative of this specific site and take practical steps to implement connecting with Country principles into the project.



**SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE
HOUSING**



CREATING COMMUNITY



**RESTORING RESOURCE
PLACES**



GAANHA-BULA



SHARED IDENTITY

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.1 Safe and Accessible Housing



Safe and accessible housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People was identified as a priority by consultation participants in Orange. Community highlighted that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have access to secure housing, they are able to thrive in other areas of their lives, including education, employment, health, personal relationships and cultural practice.

Housing is a holistic issue and community members emphasised the opportunity available to project team to accomplish a variety of positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People living in Orange, as well as the community's willingness to collaborate to achieve success.

Participants talked to the specific needs of their community, stating the importance of a variety of dwelling types, the ability to personalise one's space, accessibility and designing within the systems of Country.

If we're looking at change in the future, when we're talking about the health of our people, we should never exclude housing.

- Wiradjuri Knowledge Holder

Because our people keep telling us, if they're in a safe house, they're ok to get health checks, they're ok to get kids to school, to get a job themselves. So our people, we talk about resilience, but we don't create those opportunities for our people to be resilient.

- Wiradjuri knowledge holder

Well there's a shortage of housing. There's overdevelopment, but that's because people are buying houses and moving into other place, but they aren't servicing the population they already have in Orange. And especially the Aboriginal people.

- Wiradjuri Elder

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4.1 Safe and Accessible Housing

DESIGNATED HOUSING FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

The Redmond Place development has provisioned 20% of dwellings to be allocated for the use as Affordable Housing. Affordable Housing is defined as being available for people at a capped rate of 30% of household income, and is available to anyone who meets the eligibility criteria. Affordable Housing is aimed to cater for people on very low – moderate incomes. The delivery of Affordable Housing can be facilitated through a partnership with Community Housing Providers.

Throughout the consultation process, participants made reference to the 2022–2024 NSW Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap, specifically Socio-Economic Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need. The 2022–2024 NSW Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap was adopted and published by the NSW Government and supported by several Aboriginal peak body organisations across the state.

Community suggested the Redmond Place development was an excellent opportunity for Landcom, as the NSW Government land and property developer, to consider targets outlined in the Implementation Plan so to achieve positive outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Orange, including building the capacity of the community-controlled sector.

Socio-Economic Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need	Key Action Area 1: The supply of regionally informed housing is increased, as is the capacity of community-controlled sector to deliver housing to Aboriginal communities.
	Key Action Area 2: There is an improved understanding of suitable housing for Aboriginal people, and crowding is addressed from a culturally safe perspective.
	Key Action Area 3: Housing options are flexible to support Aboriginal mobility.
	Key Action Area 4: The Aboriginal Community Housing Provider (ACHP) sector is strengthened.
	Key Action Area 5: There are strong asset management and maintenance responses applied to improve the quality of housing for Aboriginal communities.

Socio-Economic Outcome 9 with Key Action Areas 1–5 as presented in the Priority Reforms, Socio-Economic Outcomes and Key Action Areas table of the 2022–2024 NSW Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap (NSW Aboriginal Affairs, 2022, p.9)

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4.1 Safe and Accessible Housing

DESIGNATED HOUSING FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

Representatives from the Orange Aboriginal Medical Service highlighted the holistic nature of health and well being and the impact stable housing has as a contributing factor in the health and wellbeing of a person. Given the Orange Aboriginal Medical Service's proximity to the site, Balarinji recognises the significance of their contributions and ongoing involvement in the project.

If it's employment, they've got to have good health to be able to get employment, they've got to have good education. Money comes in the door paying the bills, giving their kids opportunities to play sports, dance, music, art, whatever.

- Wiradjuri knowledge holder



04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.1 Safe and Accessible Housing

DIVERSE HOUSING OPTIONS

Community recommended the implementation of different housing types, relevant to the needs of future residents. The Orange Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and Orange community more broadly, is home to a variety of demographics.

The project team could consider single parent households, multi-generation households, elderly people, young families and couples.

Overcrowding was identified as an issue by consultation participants, who said there needed to be a mixture of small dwellings and larger, three to four bedroom dwellings.



Images: Precedents depicting a variety of different housing types, ranging from apartment blocks to town houses and bungalows. Examples depict the use of natural materials and private spaces such as balconies, patios and garden beds.

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.1 Safe and Accessible Housing

EVENLY DISTRIBUTED SOCIAL HOUSING

Community requested the implementation of social housing. Should this request prove successful, they asked for social housing be distributed throughout the Redmond Place development as opposed to grouped together. There was concern this would contribute to the reinforcement of low socio-economic stigma, causing alienation and disharmony within the community. Moreover participants did not want to create environments that could foster anti-social behaviour.

This was a topic that came up in nearly every consultation session.

So we need to blend in social and affordable housing. It's something that needs to be considered.

- Wiradjuri Elder

I do I think, don't just lump everybody in the same area, I think you're creating a problem that we already have [...] Yeah don't have them all clumped in one part of it, all over different parts of it.

- Wiradjuri Elder

They had this decentralisation of housing, here in Orange. Where they were building unit types, within the lower socioeconomic area of Orange. And bringing a demographic that was struggling with life, placed them all together because they said we didn't want to scatter them throughout town, all it did was make more problems because the houses they built were not fit for purpose.

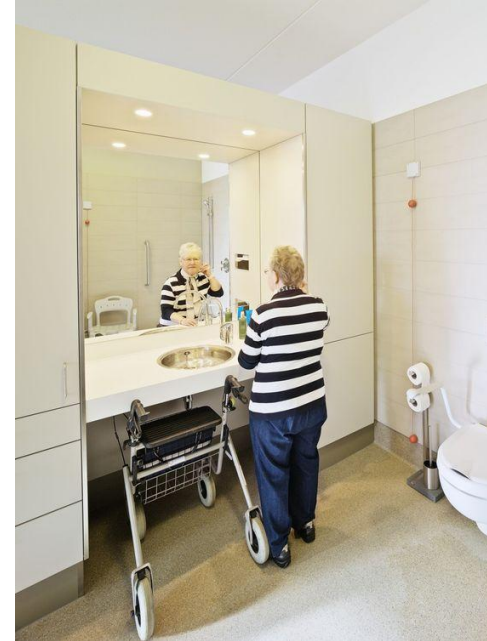
- Wiradjuri knowledge holder

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.1 Safe and Accessible Housing

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility extends beyond dwelling types. The project team should also consider the functionality of dwelling interiors and ensure they cater to elderly people and, people with disabilities. This could include the use of ramps, placing bedrooms on the ground floor, employing curved walls and lowering benchtops.



Images: Examples of ramps, lowered bench tops and space for mobility aids.

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4.1 Safe and Accessible Housing

ABILITY TO PERSONALISE

In order for housing to be safe and inviting, residents need to feel able to personalise their space to make it their own. Redmond Place should foster a sense of home and community belonging, versus temporary accommodation.

Bringing the outside in is one way of doing this. Elements of nature juxtapose the harshness of the built environment, creating a welcoming environment. Residents can have their own pot plants or balcony gardens, customising their space and contributing to a shared atmosphere. Moreover, gathering areas located in the blur between inside and outside, as well as in view of other residences, provide a safe place for youth to foster independence whilst remaining supervised.

Residents painting their own space could be considered to promoting a sense of ownership and pride in their home.



Images: Precedents demonstrating light filled and open shared spaces within an apartment complex. There are lots of plants, showing how residents could be encouraged to personalise their space.

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4.1 Safe and Accessible Housing

CONSIDER THE SYSTEMS OF COUNTRY

Individual dwellings should be designed with the systems of Country in mind. During the cooler months, skylights, windows and courtyards provide an opportunity to capture the warmth of the sun, reducing the carbon footprint and energy bills of residents. In the warmer months, enable breezes to move through the space, provide exterior shade or shutters and utilise colours and materials that provide insulation or reflect heat.



Image: Designing for natural sunlight, saving on electricity.



Image: Shade structures and natural materials to keep the heat out when necessary.



Image: A green rooftop that provides cool insulation in the summer months, as well as a communal space for residents only.

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.2 Creating community



Creating a strong sense of community in a new housing development promotes well-being, cooperation, and a feeling of belonging. It's an essential aspect of building thriving neighborhoods where residents feel truly at home.

For Indigenous people, Country is what provides belonging and purpose. The project team is in a position to value add to Redmond Place by designing with Country and incorporating cultural values into its function.

This can be done through creating spaces for cultural practice, ensuring ongoing programming, partnering with community organisations and integrating Indigenous design elements into public amenities.

This will increase a sense wellbeing amongst residents, fostering trust, ownership, connection and cooperations.

Yindyamarra is Wiradjuri philosophy of dignity and respect.

- Wiradjuri Elder

Have a meeting place where people feel safe and comfortable to go there. It becomes a part of what Redmond Place is, not just another housing development.

- Wiradjuri knowledge holder

The ability for Community access, not just from 9-5 but having access to Community centres afterwards, kids will get bored because there is nothing for them to do and we don't want to bring this narrative into this new development.

- Wiradjuri knowledge holder

Making it a safe community, because over there would be one major concern, and that would be safety and to create safety is having that ownership by having those murals, those street names, that are reflected of people that everybody knows their names

- Community knowledge holder

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.2 Creating community

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Participants requested the inclusion of a community centre in the Redmond Place development. This would provide a space for people to gather and for local community organisations to utilise for ongoing programming. The space could draw inspiration from traditional Wiradjuri structures, such as gunyahs and include contemporary interpretations of yarning circles.

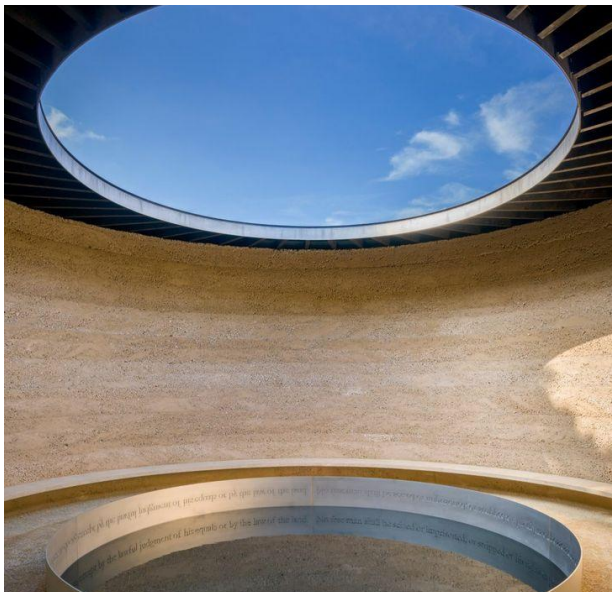


Image: A potential community centre feature that opens to the sky, allowing for cultural teaching moments. This precedent in particular speaks to Water Country's mirroring of Sky Country.



Images: Gunyah Manu by this mob as part of the Collective Movements exhibition at Monash University. An example of traditional housing integrated into a contemporary, interactive setting.

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.2 Creating community

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Community expressed a need for both indoor and outdoor facilities to accommodate the varying seasons. A structure that enables views to the sky would assist storytelling and the transfer of knowledge regarding Sky Country within the First Nations, and broader community. The stories of Sky Country were a great source of pride for consultation participants.

A gathering space for Aboriginal people, especially people from Orange, is better suited indoors. And you have an outdoor area for when it's summertime.

- Wiradjuri knowledge holder



Image: A precedent sourced from a community centre in Mongolia. The close, inset, circular seating responds to Country by allowing people to keep warm.

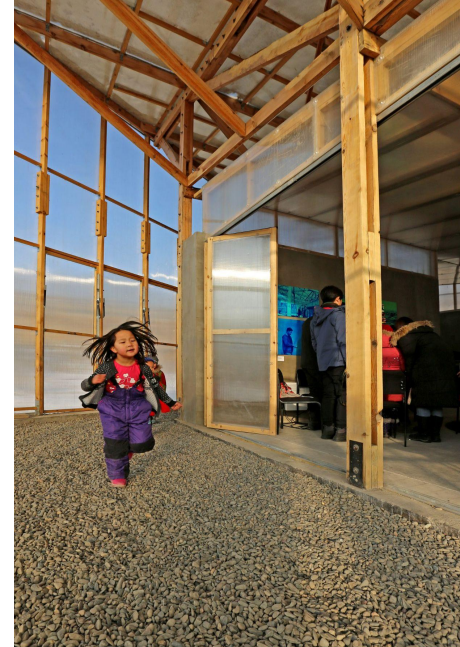


Image: The same community centre in Mongolia, blurring the lines between inside and outside.

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4.2 Creating community

YOUTH AND PLAY SPACES

Participants expressed a desire for several shared facilities throughout the Redmond Place development. They emphasised the need for the development to be a destination place. This can be achieved through amenities targeted towards children, youth and families, such as sports facilities and engaging play spaces.

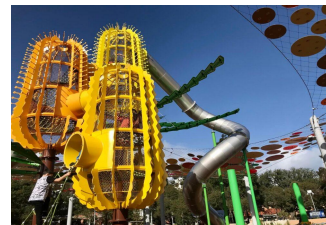
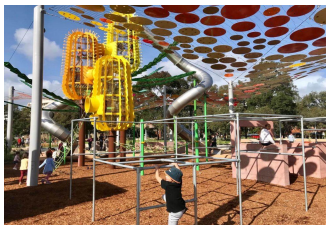
That's the one thing we lack in Orange, is a recreational areas for our youth and our young people. Something the council is going to have to tackle. Because we have a high youth crime [...] because there's a lack of facilities.

- Wiradjuri Elder



Images: A skate facility that runs adjacent to a walking path. The route could reflect the path of a river or dreaming track. Its proximity to the path means users are included in the space and not othered, promoting positive behaviours.

A playground located in Western Australia, inspired by the native plants of that Country and their cultural uses. The shade structures have been used to tell the local sky stories.



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4.2 Creating community

COMMUNITY AMENITIES

In addition to youth spaces, community recommended general amenities such as shade structures, barbecues, seating areas and a yarning circle. They highlighted the importance of having somewhere for residents to go and to gather comfortably for private events or broader community programming.

Culturally, community wanted a yarning circle with a fire pit to be able to promote cultural teachings and wellbeing, noting the mindfulness outcomes that occurred as a result of coming together around a fire.

Elders wanted the opportunity to pass down knowledge, including the meaning behind yarning circles and the implications they had on systems of governance.

All the schools work together under AECG now so there is an ideal opportunity to have education and learning in a residential environment [...] you usually have to go and access Country away and it becomes problematic. So if you can have an area for that, that would be a great opportunity.

- Wiradjuri knowledge holder



Image: A shade structure with cultural motifs etched into it, Sky Country peering through the negative space.



Image: Seating surrounded by bush foods and medicine plants, inspiring spontaneous moments of cultural sharing/curiosity.

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4.2 Creating community

LIGHTING

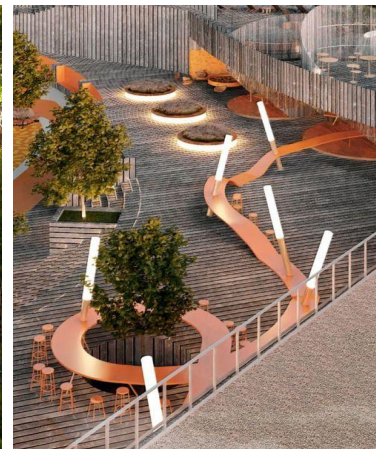
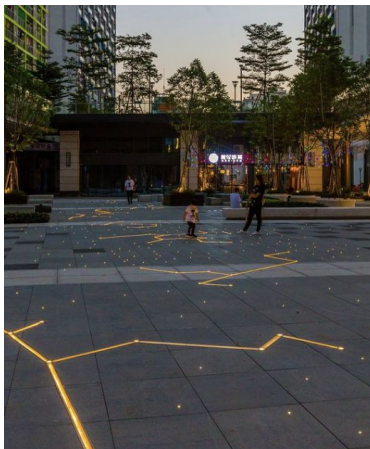
Community expressed a desire for purposeful and large quantities of lighting throughout the development. This, coupled with wide footpaths and speed bumps, would make for a pedestrian friendly place to live.

Lighting could be incorporated into Redmond Place in a variety of different ways, including ground level, mid level and high above, experimenting with different colours and effects. A carefully curated lighting plan will make Redmond Place a safe suburb to be at all hours of the day. It will increase and diversify activation in the area, contributing to its identity as a destination place.

The Orange Aboriginal community are incredibly proud of their cultural sky stories. The different constellations and their associated stories could be incorporated into the ground plane lighting.

The big thing I noticed when growing up is the dim lightening, the lighting was sparse, especially if you looked to other areas, so you want sufficient lightening that keeps it walkable at night and you don't have any dead spots.

- Wiradjuri knowledge holder



Not only safe walking pedestrian crossings, but also speed humps too. Because over that way there, there are certain individuals who like to speed around and we want to make sure that the community are safe over there.

- Community knowledge holder

If you create wide footpaths, they will walk. I live out at north Orange and you will see them walking all the time. Every morning and every night you will see people walking

- Community Elder

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.3 Restoring Resource Places



Water is life. It is not just an environmental landmark but an important part of Country, culture and community.

The Redmond Place development site is fortunate to include naturally occurring wetland spaces and underground streams.

Prior to colonisation, these areas would have been teeming with life, providing rich habitat for a variety of plants and animals and offering abundance of resources to nearby Wiradjuri people or other groups travelling through Country for ceremony.

Water and its associated resources are a unique point of difference for Redmond Place. Water could be assigned value, celebrated and managed accordingly. Endemic planting could be utilised to foster traditional ecosystems, supporting the revitalisation of cultural practice through women's and healing spaces, support for Indigenous businesses and contemporary food production.

There is the kangaroo grass which would be the wheat that was made to make bread. We have the oldest cuisine on the face of the planet. We were the first ones to make bread, unfortunate for the ones who thought the Egyptians were.

These components are really attached to Orange, because it was through Major Thomas Mitchell and Yurinigh, which was a Wiradjuri warrior, it was on that expedition to Queensland, leaving from out here, that Thomas Mitchell's writing actually said that he saw the naked women and they were grinding up the Kangaroo grass to make a flatbread, and the area that was located around was just between North Moree and Walgett.

- Community knowledge holder

Everything is interconnected. So you need to put the right thing in the right place. And you don't just think about the plant, you think about everything that's associated with it. Whether it's birds, bush food, we needed that to be there, because you had 500 people come and visit for ceremony.

- Wiradjuri Elder

Be mindful of any creekways or waterways that run through. Even though they've been disturbed now by the urban areas. When we do get a lot of rain you can't stop the natural flow of water, so they'll just take up into those little creeks again.

- Wiradjuri Elder

The kangaroo grass has cultural significance to women. That's what they gave us, the food source, the staple, the bread. It would be good to include that in the area and promote that story somehow and keep it inline with any creek lines.

- Wiradjuri Elder

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.3 Restoring Resource Places

ENDEMIC PLANTING

Participants highlighted the importance of utilising endemic species within the planting schedule. There was concern that, although native planting is becoming more popular, the wrong types of native plants could be chosen for this space. Community stated that plants should be from Wiradjuri Country and suited for the soil type of each area of the site. They recommended researching early colonial imagery and botanical records to understand what Country would have looked like.

Choosing the right plants would see the return of totemic animals and cultural practice, resulting in a significant impact on the surrounding area.

From Lithgow to Dubbo, this is called Central West grassy box woodlands. When you get to Dubbo, it changes. All yellow-box, ironbark, stringybark, Kangaroo grass, wallaby grass all would've been growing. – Wiradjuri Knowledge Holder

If you can find some photos, from the old days when it was a natural landscape. Or what was around in the area, my suggestion would be to put that in, it's nice to have all those natives, but if they don't come from that landscape, then they're not compatible with the soils [...] now that they've gone native, they're putting the wrong natives in the wrong places. – Wiradjuri Elder

Image: "Macquarie River and the Bathurst Plains, c.1816" by John William Lewin [1770–1819]. [n.d.]. The State Library of New South Wales. printshop.sl.nsw.gov.au/macquarie-river-and-the-bathurst-plains-c-1816/



04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.3 Restoring Resource Places

CELEBRATE WATER ON SITE

Water and wetlands make up a large part of the project area . This provides the design team with several opportunities to celebrate water and its cultural significance on site. Community noted the lack of natural, large scale water bodies contributed to limited entertainment for young people in the area. A solution could be to incorporate designated water play spaces throughout the site. Alternatively, more informal forms of water play can be curated by enabling connection to pond areas. These areas could also be used as cultural teaching spaces. Detention basins and stormwater drains should utilise endemic species to prevent run off, give clean water back to Country and provide aesthetic beauty by juxtaposing hard surfaces.



Image: An interactive water feature inspired by the form of bullrush. This has aesthetic value when activated by water during the warmer months, but also as a stand alone during the cooler months. A piece like this could be used to celebrate a species such as Kangaroo grass.



Image: A storm water garden, creating an intriguing walking route that changes with the systems of Country.

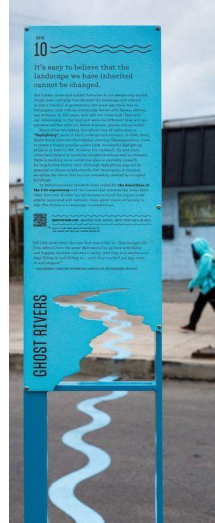


Image: A wayfinding or public display example that could be used to highlight the underground rivers/streams that run through Orange.



Image: A cultural resource workshop.

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.3 Restoring Resource Places

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Traditionally, wetland spaces were women’s areas, brimming with bushfoods and medicine plants. Given the proximity of Remond Place to the Orange Aboriginal Medical Service and the natural occurrence of water onsite, the development presents an opportunity to embrace a healing narrative through traditional resources. In addition to a bushfood garden, the development should consider the implementation of a general community garden, encouraging community buy in and positive health outcomes.



Cultural gardens or the meeting and gathering places. Having native gardens, they’re attractive to all people. We’ve got community vegetable gardens. You do it in a place, if we’re talking about reducing burden and stress on our people, you could dedicate an area there just so people could grow their own vegetables. That brings community together. And guess what? It also builds empowerment and ownership – so they will protect it, they wouldn’t let people destroy it. It’s owned by the community in Redmond Place. When you give them something that’s theirs, that they value, that can support them – change happens.

- Wiradjuri knowledge holder

Images: Elders participating in a smoking ceremony

Examples of community gardens.

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.3 Restoring Resource Places

TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Due to colonial land uses, such as grazing, many Aboriginal artefacts have been destroyed or gradually buried underground.

The construction process can sometimes unearth cultural heritage items that were not visible on the surface. Salvage efforts should be undertaken to ensure valuable artefacts and associated cultural knowledge are preserved.

During construction, sites with cultural significance can be disturbed or destroyed. Salvage efforts ensure that valuable artefacts and knowledge are preserved, as well as demonstrate respect for Aboriginal people and their connection to Country.

Salvage efforts and surveys are an active step developers can take to demonstrate their commitment to cultural preservation.

Landcom should consider a cultural salvage for the Redmond Place development, noting capacity building opportunities within the community, as well as gender sensitivities.



Once you disturb you never know what you're gonna get. And if they're building a housing estate they're gonna go deep, there's gonna be a lot of trucks and spoil dumps and everything else that goes along with this kind of development, and because everything is going to be flattened down and disturbed a lot of stuff will be under.

- Wiradjuri Elder

Getting some women out to do a women's survey, is really important because we always get overlooked. Especially important women's areas and birthing sites and other things out on that landscape.

- Wiradjuri Elder

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.4 Gaanha-Bula



For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, heritage is not limited to old buildings, but it is an integral part of their identity. Significant landscape features, such as Gaanha-bula or Mount Canobolas, reflect thousands of years of continuous connection with Country and everything within it. Physical features, stone tools, rock engravings and oral histories associated with Gaanha-bula provide evidence of its cultural values. These include the site being a men's initiation area, corroboree ground, ceremony and camp site.

The Wiradjuri name, Gaanha-bula, translates to 'two shoulders', reflecting the two prominent peaks, Old Man Canobolas and Young Man Canobolas. The dreaming of Gaanha-bula involves three feuding brothers and the consequences of breaking lore [Yindyamarra]. Mount Canobolas remains spiritually significant today, with traditional practices like fire burns and possum fur cloak-making reflecting an ongoing connection to *Gaanha-bula*, and the land around it.

I'd like to see views to Gaanha-bula, to be inclusive. I'd like to see the natural landscape with native trees, plants and grasses.

- Wiradjuri Elder

For the boys initiation, to men, it has been identified up at the top of the hill, after thousands and thousands of years of being unknown, a community member has actually finally put the sign up there, so that's beautiful. And that was last year, it was unveiled in July-August.

- Community knowledge holder

So with more and more of those places identified, the better outcome we will have. Because that is an education side of it, having those signs up there.

- Community knowledge holder

I would keep it really general. And just focus on Mount Conobolas and [a Wiradjuri Elder's] story. In terms of the Country. And the line of sight from up there it sees everything, all the way around.

- Wiradjuri Elder

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.4 Gaanha-bula

SITELINES

Owing to the site's proximity to Gaanha-bula and the significant role it plays in local dreaming and ceremony, sitelines to the mountain could be maximised and maintained. Multi-level dwellings offer excellent opportunities for views to Gaanha-bula via the inclusion of balconies and large windows. Residents and visitors can be encouraged to engage in a moment of quiet or mindfulness through viewing portals or creative seating options, directing their line of site to Gaanha-bula. Circular options are reminiscent of ring trees found in the area. Ring trees served the cultural purpose of creating a window to direct the eye to important features within the landscape and frequently align with ceremonial sites. By implementing contemporary interpretations of the above, we are continuing and raising awareness of an ancient practice that still exists on Country today.

The line of sight is really important too. Having that line of sight. And when the different travel routes, different people come in from different mobs, and they intersect within that mountain.
– Wiradjuri Elder



Image: Viewing portal example.

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.4 Gaanha-bula

MEN'S CULTURAL TRACK

Community not only acknowledged Gaanha-bula as a men's site, but also a wider track that travelled through Orange and around the broader countryside. The project team were asked to be considerate of how the development interacted with the track.

The route could be mapped in partnership with community, with the knowledge being returned to them and represented in design through shade structures, walking paths, flooring patternation or even masterplan layout.

So there is a Wiradjuri men's ceremonial line that cuts through this Country. It goes all the way around Wiradjuri, so it comes from where we come from up to Murrumbidgee, out near Gundagai, and swing all the way over central west, and then back down to Hay, and then it comes back around again. So it's a pretty big men's line. But that's really significant for the Orange area because anything that impacts over here will have an impact on that one.

- Wiradjuri Elder



Image: The traditional men's line can be represented subtly in the development through winding shade structures, walking paths or roads more broadly within the masterplan.

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.5 Shared Identity



Aboriginal identity encompasses not only individual self-awareness but also collective memory, ancestral connections, and a rich tapestry of traditions.

Language is one of these traditions. By preserving and revitalising Aboriginal languages, we honor their wisdom and connection to place.

Key figures, such as elders, leaders, and activists deserve celebration through monuments and public art. These visual markers challenge dominant narratives and promote healing.

Representation matters, and incorporating Aboriginal identity into street names and public spaces fosters understanding and inclusivity. It reshapes our urban landscape, inviting all community members to appreciate the richness of Wiradjuri culture and contribute to a more empathetic society .

There have been many great things in our community from an Aboriginal perspective and we do have great Elder leaders but there is no legacy or no connection for Aboriginal people to look up to these people. If we created street names after people, they will ask who these people are and what is that about. And then we have a younger generation with something to strive for. I really want to see that incorporated into the fabric of Orange.

- Wiradjuri knowledge holder

It's a way to teach language on Country too, the more language we use. You could engage the Wiradjuri community to actually do that. Then put that language back on Country so people learn it. That would be a workshop in itself.

- Wiradjuri Elder

The biggest thing from where I sit is Identity. They've lost their Aboriginal identity. So this is where I feel Elders can play a very important role but just sharing stories to give them pride and respect in their Aboriginality.

- Wiradjuri Elder

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.5 Shared Identity

LANGUAGE

Language is a vessel for culture, history, and worldview. For Indigenous communities, language is repository of ancient wisdom, stories, and kinship ties. Through the everyday use of Wiradjuri language by the broader community, we honor the resilience and endurance of Wiradjuri people and culture.

This can be done by incorporating Wiradjuri language into street signs or wayfinding. Bold executions communicate a statement of pride and encourage uptake.

Native plants used throughout the development can be accompanied by educational signage, including QR codes that describe native plant use, traditional names and pronunciation. Country has missed the sound of language. It is powerful to have a Traditional Custodian speak it aloud via a phone speaker and then repeated by new learners.

Similarly, language can be incorporated into play. An interactive speaker can teach young children keywords that have inspired the playground's form. Children are open minded and traditional languages offer an alternative view of the world they can take into adulthood.



Image: Bold examples of street naming and plant information panels



Image: A Dharawal language wheel located in a playground at Shoalhaven Heads.

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.5 Shared Identity

KEY FIGURES

Participants were enthusiastic about celebrating key figures and leaders from the Aboriginal community, both past and present. Community members felt there was a significant colonial legacy in Orange and they did not feel represented by current statues, street names or memorials.

By creating new monuments that celebrate Indigenous resilience, resistance, and achievements, these one-sided stories are challenged and a seed of pride is planted, of which the entire community is invited to foster.

Murals were suggested as a way of creating beautiful places that would remain graffiti due to community ownership and respect for the families living there.

Elders acknowledged that the celebration of their achievements would encourage respect from younger generations and provide them with something to aspire to.

I reckon if you do naming after some of the elders, the young ones will look and see your name and then they will respect you. - Community Elder

Murals is a definite. To have that ownership up there and our local artists, that will provide pride, community connection and ownership too. Must get that down as ownership. - Community knowledge holder



Image: Public art, including murals as a means of celebrating key figures in the Indigenous community of Orange



Image: Light displays or living monuments, such as the above by Craig Walsh to celebrate Elders in the community and encourage community to pause and appreciate the elements of Country

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.5 Shared Identity

YURANIGH

Yuranigh was an Aboriginal man from the Molong district, approximately 33km northwest of Orange. In 1885, he accompanied Sir Thomas Mitchell on his expedition from Boree to Central Queensland.

In his diary, Mitchell described Yuranigh as his “guide, counsellor and friend” and praises Yuranigh’s ability to locate water and promote diplomacy between expedition members and local Aboriginal people, whose lands they passed through.

Today Yuranigh is remembered as a significant Wiradjuri leader, but one whose actions influenced the dispossession of other Aboriginal peoples. His grave is the only example of a combined European and traditional burial site.

Yuranigh’s burial site, and the practice of carved trees, is something incredibly unique to Orange and Wiradjuri Country more generally. The form of scar trees can inspire public art pieces throughout Redmond Place, referencing Yuranigh’s nearby gravesite. Respectful promotion of this story raises cultural awareness and creates a multifaceted sense of identity for residents.



Images: Different materials and how they can be utilised to represent and pay tribute to the scar trees located at Yuranigh’s gravesite. Examples include wooden carvings, ceramics and painted trees.

The higher up you were in your mob, the mob trees you’d get and carvings. If you were down here, you’d just get a burial and that’s it. But because he [Yuranigh] was up there, he got carvings. And that’s his personal carvings, that’s his signature.

– Wiradjuri Knowledge Holder

Yuranigh was Mitchell’s guide, he took him all the way to Queensland and he wouldn’t allow him more than an arms length away. He trusted him.

– Wiradjuri Elder

04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.5 Shared Identity

CONCEPT IDEATION

The project team from Balarinji felt inspired by their time on Wiradjuri Country, we were especially honoured to walk Country with Wiradjuri Knowledge Holder. They took us to Yuranigh's grave and showed us how the scar trees surrounding Yuranigh's burial site were closing over, explaining:

When the scar closes up, that means the spirit goes back up to the great river in the sky.

- Wiradjuri Knowledge Holder

Balarinji discussed a lighting installation that reflects the unique cultural heritage values of Yuranigh's grave and captures the beautiful interconnectedness of land, water and sky. A scar tree that glows from its scar at night contributes to curated lighting and a feeling of safety, but also provides an ancient pillar, or landmark within the Redmond Place development. This could be central to a gathering place and be utilised for cultural teaching. It is multi-layered in the knowledge it provides, it can be appreciated at face value, whilst offering deeper cultural insights for those who know.

Images: A precedent showcasing the intent behind the scar tree light installation. Reflective pieces highlighting the interconnectedness between sky and water.



04 | Key design themes and recommendations

4.5 Shared Identity

THE ABORIGINAL FAMILY RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

The Aboriginal Family Resettlement Scheme, which was administered by the New South Wales (NSW) Government between 1972 and 1986, aimed to assist Aboriginal families in Western NSW by encouraging them to move to larger regional centres like Orange. The rationale behind this relocation was the belief that housing and job opportunities would be better in these larger centres. As a result, Orange today is home to Aboriginal people from various areas of Western NSW.

This is a significant component of Orange's contemporary history and has contributed to the stories of many Elders living in Orange today. A stakeholder spoke of meeting other Aboriginal people in Robertson Park in the early years of the resettlement scheme. It is where community would come together.

Prior to colonisation, Blackman's swamp ran through the area now known as Orange, including Robertson Park. This area has had an identity grounded in gathering since time immemorial. This could be celebrated in the design of Redmond Place, continuing this beautiful tradition for generations to come.

Possible design actions include education plaques on the resettlement scheme, referencing Robertson Park and the resettlement scheme as part of the community centre and incorporating the Blackman's swamp narrative into the wetlands space.

So Blackmans swamp was actually called that because the blackfellas used to gather there. And so that is quite significant to the Wiradjuri people too. It winds its way and then disappears under the main street of Orange, and underneath Robertson Park, so underneath Robertson Park you've got a whole river. - Community knowledge holder

There are so many wonderful people that would bring such an ownership and such a pride to our community. Because these people were brought here to work and then stayed here. Having that would be wow. It brings tears to my eyes, because I've known all these people, I've been a part of their lives then see them passing and now working closely with their family on moving Orange forward as them being the founders and the benchmark people. - Community knowledge holder



Images: Examples of nature play environments

05 | Broader project considerations

5.1 Socio-economic Outcomes and Impacts

EMPLOYMENT	CAPACITY BUILDING	OTHER
<p>The Redmond Place Development presents the following employment opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage consulting (pre-construction) • Heritage salvaging (during and post construction) • Construction companies • Landscaping companies, during construction and on an ongoing basis • Cultural tour guides 	<p>The Redmond Place Development presents the following capacity building opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase capacity of the Aboriginal Community Housing Provider sector • Increase capacity of female community members in the heritage space. 	<p>The Redmond Place Development presents the following opportunities to facilitate and strengthen existing organisations/initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Orange Aboriginal Medical service is the closest medical provider to Redmond Place and is available for non-Indigenous clients • There are several existing cultural programs in Orange, the Redmond Place Development can assist these programs by providing community spaces and cultural resources (such as traditional plants) for them to draw upon for program delivery and educational purposes. • Similarly, the above can be applied to private cultural tourism businesses.

Balarinji recommends ongoing consultation with the priority stakeholders provided. They are well connected and have a strong understanding of relevant policies and processes.



Thank you

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