

# **Annexure E:**

## Connecting with Country Technical Report

# YERRABINGIN

## SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK

### Connecting with Country Technical Report

PREPARED BY:  
YERRABINGIN

FOR:  
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK AUTHORITY



WE ARE YERRABINGIN.  
WE WALK TOGETHER.

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*We acknowledge Country, the Cultural Landscape that we are working upon,  
We acknowledge the custodianship of its people and the privilege and responsibility to  
Connect with Country.*

We are guided by the inspiration of Country, the stories and knowledge a place contains and gift us. We acknowledge its contribution to wellbeing both mental and physical, providing a refuge and safe place to learn and share.

Our Vision is that sensing and caring for Country is something that transcends cultural differences and highlights the many values that are similar across the cultures of our contemporary communities. Supporting a socially inclusive, resilient, and innovative community based on, honouring the wisdom and kinship of all cultures, captured through the lens of custodianship.

Yerrabingin brings a focus on solutions through empathetic design, our company seeks a diversity of partnerships, connecting ideation with the wisdom of our culture. Custodial allies to connect and innovate with and to reciprocate knowledge with. Centred on a cultural approach to collaboration and a responsibility to bring Australian First Nations design narratives to the Australian natural and built landscape.

***Christian Hampson – Director and CEO***



# SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK MASTER PLAN 2050

Sydney Olympic Park is transforming into a thriving suburb strategically located in the centre of Greater Sydney. It is a suburb that benefits from diverse land uses, proximity to Sydney and Parramatta central business districts, and is of national significance, all of which have played an important role in its evolution since hosting the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As the 640-hectare site continues to evolve into vibrant neighbourhoods, it will reconnect with its Wangal roots and extensive natural assets to provide a meaningful connection to Country.

The Sydney Olympic Park 2050 Vision & Strategy (the Vision) was released in June 2022 and serves as a roadmap to inform decision-making for the next three decades. Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2050 (Master Plan 2050) is the next stage of strategic planning for Sydney Olympic Park. Master Plan 2050 will ensure a coordinated, long-term development plan is prepared for the whole precinct.

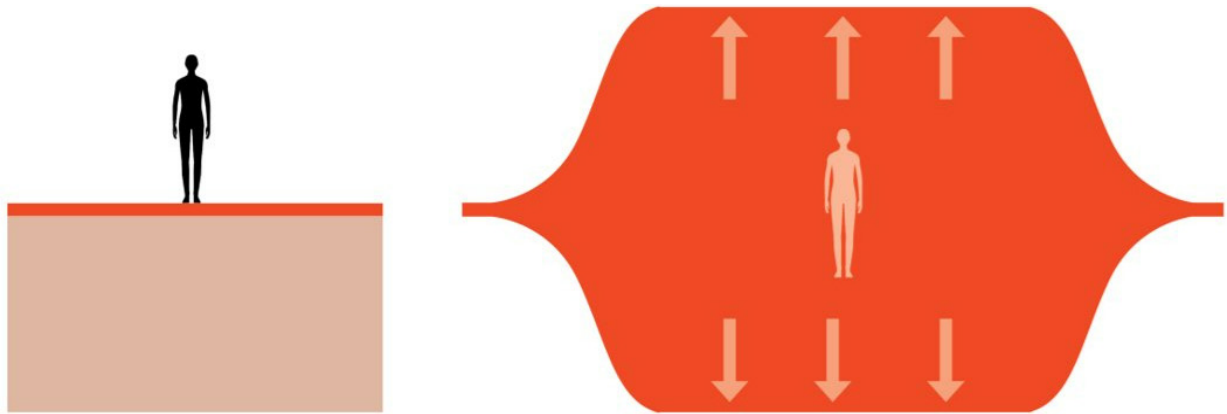
The most recent iterations of a master plan for Sydney Olympic Park were completed in 2018 and 2021, to support the delivery of Sydney Metro West. Building upon the Vision, Master Plan 2050 considers Sydney Olympic Park holistically, seeking opportunities to integrate thinking about the parklands and urban core together, enhancing its role in Greater Sydney.

The Vision articulates an aspiration to position Sydney Olympic Park as Sydney's Green Beating Heart: a place energised with everyday life, Country-first, nature positive and where Sydney comes to play.

In 2050, Sydney Olympic Park will be a complex, layered suburb offering a rich and varied range of experiences. Many will live and work here, and others will visit for events, diverse attractions, or everyday retail and entertainment. Master Plan 2050 aims to balance certainty with flexibility enabling Sydney Olympic Park's future to be resilient, dynamic and able to leverage future opportunities and technologies not yet known.

# 1. BACKGROUND

## Beginning with Country



We inhabit and are inhabited by Country. This master plan project offers an opportunity to celebrate the all-encompassing nature of Country. Its infinite reach into and across the earth and into the sky. She guides and nurtures us and is the inspiration and repository of knowledge. Being connected to Country transcends language and culture, a connected system of action, emotion, and experience, as a Custodian of Country.

Its unique and distinctive elements are connected and open to everyone, a connective tissue, the interstices that flows between Water, Sky, Earth, us and our Non-Human Kin. We are part of the system of Country, our actions must always be Country positive, the path, health and spirit of water is integral to all life and Cultural practice and at its center is the river, a living being.

All actions flow into it and all life flows out of it, this is true of all Elements of Country and if considered collectively in our actions. We are an element of Country, within it and it is our responsibility to future generations.

To connect with Country is to be grounded in the landscape and to practice the cultural knowledge stored within it. This encourages physical and emotional wellbeing. In order to maintain this connection, it is imperative that Country contains endemic food and medicinal species, cultural resources, as well as keystone species and their habitats.

Everyone can feel connected to Country. Being connected to Country transcends language and culture, it is an interlaced system of action, emotion and experience. It highlights the many values that are similar across the cultures of our contemporary communities. This innate symbiosis of being connected and integrated moves us into being eco centric rather than human centric, this functionality has been a long component of Aboriginal people's ideology, a cultural value that places us in the ecological and landscape system, not as dominators but as caretakers and custodians. This function requires constant interactions and observation, being tuned to reactive requirements and response.

Being connected to Country transcends language and culture, it is an interlaced system of action, emotion and experience. It highlights the many values that are similar across the cultures of our contemporary communities. Everyone can feel connected to Country.

Caring for and becoming a Custodian of Country means forming a strong relationship with all elements of Country that is based on respect, obligation and reciprocity. In order to create and maintain interconnection, it is imperative that Country contains endemic food and medicinal species, cultural resources, as well as keystone species and their habitats. These interdependent systems and relationships provide a framework for holistic infrastructure design, meaningful environmental policies and land management practices that are adaptive and regenerative.

Importantly, including First Nations knowledge of lands and culture at the onset of a project leads to design responses that are derived from knowledge of landscape variables and bio-cultural knowledge, creating meaning in placemaking conceptualisation and function.

Caring for and becoming a Custodian of Country means forming a strong relationship with the land that is based on respect, obligation and reciprocity.

These interdependent systems and relationships provide a framework for holistic infrastructure design, meaningful environmental policies and land management practices that are adaptive and regenerative. Importantly, including First Nations knowledge of lands and culture at the onset of a project leads to design responses that are derived from place, creating meaning in placemaking conceptualisation and function.

Connecting to Country supports a socially inclusive, resilient, and innovative community that cherishes the wisdom and kinship of all cultures, captured through the lens of custodianship, creating wellbeing for all.

# Wangal Country - Context for development

*"He always believed the resilience and spirit will live on in the land and the people... The land will rebirth... He always believed mob will come back... He's such a believer in the spirit of the land."*

- Stephen Page's unbroken songs

Wangal Country is a meeting of saltwater and freshwater Country. It comprises of the land along the southern shore of the Parramatta river and harbour to Tumbalong (Darling Harbour). It is the home of the Wangal People who occupied this land utilising the abundant resources with reciprocity - only taking what they needed to sustain their people and the environment..

The landscape of Wangal Country consisted of fresh water creeks that ran from the ridges and peninsulas into the bays along the river. Wangal Country was typified by

estuarine mudflats and marshes, covered and revealed by the tides of the River. The mouth of the creeks there would have been tidally influenced flats and extensive areas of mangroves.

Since colonisation, the natural ecology of the shoreline has been dramatically altered. Quarrying of stone shorelines, the 'reclamation' of estuaries and marshes and canalisation of creeks has impacted the reach of tides and water movement through the landscape and in turn modified the environmental systems of the area.

Despite the changes in access to Country and to the landscape of the Sydney region, the cultural and spiritual connection of Aboriginal people to Wangal Country remains. There is a continuing culture, spirituality, community and connection to Country. This connection to Country encompasses tangible places and things such as the harbour, shorelines, creeks, plants and animals and built landscapes, as well as intangible aspects such as language, stories, belief, songs and memories.

Opportunities to acknowledge, celebrate and repair this Connection to Country must be at the forefront of new development.



A view in upper part of Port Jackson when the fish was shot, 1788. Mitchell Library - Homebush Bay

# Elements of Country, Exploring the Wangal Narrative

*“Country as made up of a series of interconnected elements that come together to form the environmental, cultural and social system of a place. To design with Country is to design with the elements of Country.”*

- Yerrabingin

Wangal Country is Water Country. The shorelines and waterways were significant places for Wangal people, as places to collect food and resources, to travel across and learn about Country.

“Children grew up on the water from their youngest days, and the swell of the waves and rocking nowie must have been just as familiar to them as the solidity of the earth or their mothers’ heartbeat” (Karskens, G. 2014)

While water is dominant on Wangal Country, all elements are significant; together comprising an overarching image of Country.

The spiritual beings below our feet (Deep Country) and their kin above (Sky Country and all elements in between, represent the extent and connection of all elements of Country. Spirituality is embedded in a shared consciousness and care for the elements of Country.

Designing with Country and Caring for Country will be achieved by addressing the needs of each element.

## Elements of Wangal Country:



### Move with Country:

Enduring custodianship of Country through knowledge sharing and record keeping through story, song, dance and art.



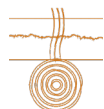
### Non-Human Kin Country:

Country is comprised of our kin: the animals and plants. We celebrate the connection of all living things and the intricate responsibilities within this web of connections.



### Water Country:

Water is the connective tissue, the circulatory system, the confluences and paths within and between Country. The meeting of salt and fresh water.



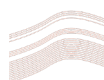
### Deep Country:

The most Ancient of connections and one that we honour for the many gifts it shares, the tools we create and the others we use to paint.



### Sky Country:

This is place of spirits and the ancestors. It holds knowledge of navigation, the seasons, time and Songlines. It allows engagement with our ancestors and spiritual beings.



### Wind Country:

Wind carries the messages of the seasons, the songs and words of our ancestors across Country. The landscape and light vibrates to a rhythm; the trees, the grass, and the clouds racing across the sky.

## Elements of Country for SOPA 2050

### Move with Country

Create safe, community spaces for performance, gathering and knowledge sharing.

### Non-Human Kin Country

Restore and protect threatened species. Regenerate natural landscapes to support regeneration of endangered communities.

### Water Country

Repair damaged water systems. Celebrate and bring awareness of water through the precinct as a culturally significant feature

### Deep Country

Use of local geology within built environment. Use of art and other cultural practices to demonstrate the connections between the earth and all other systems.

### Sky Country

Encourage story telling within the built environment. Preserve view lines and celebrate the presence of the sky within all future developments.

### Wind Country

Use of plant species to highlight change in seasons. Promote a collective environmental consciousness by highlighting impact of climate.

# Connecting with Country, Caring for Country

*“For much of the past two hundred years, there has been a dis-connection from Wangal Country. This Vision and Strategy seeks to reconnect with Country and embed it in all aspects of the process.”*

- Yerrabingin

Planning for Sydney Olympic Park's evolution over the coming decades requires a concerted effort to re-connect with Wangal Country and to regenerate the elements of Country to result in a thriving, whole-of-place, ecosystem.

First Nations culture is embedded in the landscape, and environmental consciousness of a place. Allowing this

knowledge and wisdom at this point in time, when our earth and wellbeing is under threat, must be a principle for all future design approaches.

The Sydney Olympics in 2000 left an environmental legacy on this place with an (at the time) innovative focus on ecological restoration. Moving forward, there must be a push for ongoing innovation in the form of regeneration and reciprocity not only reparation. In this context, regeneration extends beyond the ecological to encompass social, cultural and economic facets of the place, and will allow Sydney Olympic Park to thrive into the future.

Successfully re-connecting with Wangal Country requires a reciprocal relationship between those who live work and visit the place, as well as those who invest, develop and activate the future Sydney Olympic Park and Wangal Country on which it lies. The process of development and evolution of Sydney Olympic Park must be grounded in the aspiration to respect, restore and regenerate Wangal Country.

Reconnecting with Wangal Country becomes a golden thread that runs through this Master Plan. It is built on the following aspect of Connecting with Country:

## Moving from sustaining to regenerating

Move from a position of 'sustaining' towards an Indigenous lens of 'regenerating' is a mindset shift that embraces the challenge to restore rather than simply maintain landscapes and ecosystems. It provides a framework to implement landscape-related policies and landscape-management strategies that are diverse and adaptive. It is founded upon a regenerative planning paradigm that places culture, social, climate and environmental needs at the heart of decision-making

Diversity in the provisions within the master plan will be key to facilitate regenerations as diversity creates room for recovery within planning structures.

## Reciprocity

Reciprocity is the exchange of goods, services and ideas with others for mutual benefit. This may be person to person, business to business or between people and the environment. From a First Nations perspective, the concept of reciprocity is based on a deep understanding of how the environment exists and regenerates itself - and in turn, our relationship to and with it.

Reciprocity is epitomised by the saying "If we care for Country, the Country will care for us."

## Adaptive capacity for change

Country is dynamic and resilient with immense capacity and adaptability to change. Country has sustained Indigenous cultures for many generations with the people of the Country acting as custodians or caretakers of place. Country is now under stress and needs help to begin the process of repair and regeneration.

The social and cultural systems of the Wangal (and all First Nations) People place Country at the heart of all things. The notion is not to be separate to Country, but that Country is part of us and we are part of Country. Working with Country will allow for considered change in the way we will interact, live and work in Sydney Olympic Park into the future.

# Connecting with Country Framework

## COUNTRY IS....

Country is our mother, our teacher, our library, our kin it sustains inspires and surrounds us. The experience of Country is both individual and collective, both new and familiar. From her we learn, share and flourish, continuing to care for country is central to our being, our identity.

Country is a responsibility, not a right and is there for all who respect and cherish her. Today we may not always be able to see country instantly, but if we call to her, we can always sense her and again feel her embrace.

## DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

Utilising the NSWGA Elements of Designing with Country will ensure the environmental and social wellbeing of the site is addressed a way that will provide an enduring legacy for the place and community.

Nature is Country. Caring for Country must guide design interventions. Preservation, restoration and remembering - not replicating the natural landscape and allowing that to inform all future occupation.

Design should support and provide for the local community. Social initiatives must be consciously embedded in the outcomes for the project.

All design should appreciate the local vernacular. Draw upon and be inspired by Country, what has come before, what is required to sustain the future.



# 2. SOPA CONTEXT

## Vision Principles and Place Pillars for Country

### The Vision

The Vision outlines what Sydney Olympic Park will be in 2050. It draws together the aspirations outlined within the Place Pillars and Strategic Directions.

### Place Pillars

The place pillars reflect the DNA of Sydney Olympic Park and the foundations from which everything is built upon. The pillars act as values - the lens through which all decision-making will be made as Sydney Olympic Park progresses toward its vision.

### Strategic Directions

Ten Strategic Directions will shape the future of Sydney Olympic Park. These strategic directions leverage Sydney Olympic Park's natural and built features, its engaged community and unique governance.

These Strategic Directions are supported by a series of actions that provide guidance to realise the vision.

**Sydney Olympic Park is  
Sydney's beating green heart**

### Country

Respect and care for Wangal Country

### Dynamic

A place that adapts to changing needs

### Thriving

A regenerative exemplar



## COUNTRY

(Respect and care of Country)



Sydney Olympic Park has, for millennia, been a place for people to come and gather. A place of connection.

A deep respect and care for Country will ensure the culture of the Wangal is told, celebrated and honoured, with learning at its core.

Authentic and sustained engagement with First Nations Elders will continue to tell the story of the Place, and co-curate the evolution of Sydney Olympic Park with respect and honour of its history.

Relationships within Sydney Olympic Park are reciprocal, with a focus on enabling mutual benefit and sharing of opportunities and people living in harmony with nature.

## DYNAMIC

(A place that adapts to changing needs)



Sydney Olympic Park is a complex place, with many uses and experiences.

It will be resilient in the face of change, adapting to the future needs of Sydney, whilst accommodating long term opportunities and temporal events.

It will be multi-use, with no building or place offering just one thing. Buildings, neighbourhoods and spaces are designed to be flexible and multi-functional, supporting the diversity of uses and people.

It will be a highly accessible and inclusive place that creates a strong sense of welcome and belonging for all communities.

## THRIVING

(A regenerative exemplar)



Sydney Olympic Park innovated in sustainability in the year 2000. Sustainability will continue to be the backbone, as we evolve to a regenerative, carbon and nature positive place.

Urban regeneration takes the next step, as we transition towards a more mature and complex place, where economic diversification, social cohesion and environmental outcomes are balanced.




A true innovator in sustainability governance, systems and operations, Sydney Olympic Park will be the benchmark for a cool, green, healthy and thriving environment, providing benefit to our community and ecosystem and extending this benefit to surrounding neighbourhoods.





# Metro - Connecting with Country Approach

A Connecting to Country approach has been developed as part of the Sydney Olympic Park Metro Project. As this sits within the Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan area, it is important to consider the recommendations of this work and ensure it dovetails with the Master Plan Connecting with Country Framework.

4 themes have been identified with a number of Place Principles and Objectives that relate to each theme.

This work will be considered along with the Design Jam findings and outcomes to ensure a holistic approach to CWC is achieved. Ultimately, the objective for the Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan is to provide an overarching approach to Country that can provide a framework for all developments at all scales. It will provide specificity and detail to ensure individual development sites have direction clarity for how to address Country within their projects.

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY THEMES	BULIMA Connect to Country		
	MADUTJI Interconnectedness		
	ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS*	IDENTITY	EQUITY
	PLACE PRINCIPLES	MOBILITY	
			
	<b>A Meaningful and Iconic Precinct that Celebrates Country</b>	<b>Equitable and Inclusive for All</b>	<b>Comfortable and Connected Spaces</b>
	<b>PLACE OBJECTIVES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate a strong thematic connection with Country and unique design elements to create a sense of place</li> <li>Enhance views of sky and connection with water</li> <li>Celebrate views of heritage assets</li> <li>Integrate public art in a variety of forms and mediums suitable to specific locations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a public domain that is friendly across all age groups</li> <li>People and activity are to be prioritised at grade</li> <li>Public spaces are to allow for continuous accessible paths of travel for those with disabilities to move without barriers</li> <li>SOPAs Access and inclusion guidelines considered in all design and construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People of all ages and abilities can easily and comfortably move around in both event mode and every day mode</li> <li>Precinct Streets A and C (see Appendix 1) will provide a focus of pedestrian energy with traffic-calmed shared pedestrian and vehicle environment</li> <li>Mid-block connections should be provided to ensure pedestrian connections exist at least every 100m</li> <li>Clear and logical access is provided to the Metro Station, bus stops and bus interchanges, as well as surrounding destinations including Bicentennial Park</li> </ul>

TUCOERAH Gather		WALAMA Adapt	
URBANITY	WELLNESS	GREENING	RESILIENCE
			
<b>A Thriving, Loveable Precinct</b>	<b>Healthy Streets and Places</b>	<b>Urban Canopy and Green Infrastructure</b>	<b>A Regenerative and Resilient Precinct</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Urban Park and Miluni Plaza will become the public heart of the Central Precinct</li> <li>Shared streets and pedestrian laneways will contribute to the vibrancy of the precinct</li> <li>Podium heights and/or where buildings engage directly with the ground must demonstrate an appropriate human scale</li> <li>Clear wayfinding and signage to guide people safely throughout the precinct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Streets and places will provide thermal comfort and wind mitigation through canopy cover, awnings, and plantings</li> <li>Create easily accessible and clear connections with Bicentennial Park</li> <li>Create opportunities for people to connect with water</li> <li>Enhance social connection by providing a range of comfortable places to sit, stay or relax</li> <li>Provide distinct spaces for social gatherings and programming for celebrations and events</li> <li>Integrate security measures into design where possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green infrastructure that creates viable, connected ecosystems of locally native species</li> <li>25-30% canopy cover should be provided across the Study Area through a variety of opportunities including vertical greening and green roofs where appropriate</li> <li>A diversity of native species should be planted including trees and other plants of varying heights, and canopy coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOPAs 6 Star Green Star Communities rating will be maintained and enhanced through water and energy efficiency, reduced waste and climate adaptation</li> <li>Biophilic design will be integrated to create a place for regeneration, well being and connection between people and the natural environment</li> <li>Develop the Study Area as a 'Cool Zone' in response to Urban Heat Island and a trend toward a hotter, dryer climate</li> <li>The selection of materials and resources should incorporate re-use and recycling as a first priority</li> <li>SOPAs Environmental Guidelines (2021 Review) and targets should be adopted for all public domain projects</li> </ul>



## BULIMA

### CONNECT TO COUNTRY

Bulima is Spirit Country and the stories of local Lore that explain the importance of connecting to and respecting the spirit of Country.



## WALAMA

### ADAPT

Walama is a change in direction and the sophisticated and reflexive adaptations that are required for survival in constantly changing and evolving environments.



## TUCOERAH

### GATHER

Tucora describes many diverse elements gathering and coming together to create a cohesive and productive environment that nurtures new life and ideas.



## MADUTJI

### INTERCONNECTEDNESS

Madutji explains connections, unions and the concept that all things are interrelated, no one thing exists on its own but instead, all things rely on each other for survival and protection.

# 3. PRECINCT OPPORTUNITIES

## Regenerative design with an Indigenous Cultural Lens

The master plan development must be embedded in a regenerative design framework led by Country positive principles.

Current planning systems result in a 'form' being imposed on a landscape resulting in disturbance or destruction of natural systems. Watersheds are disrupted and ecosystem needs diminished. A Country first approach will put nature first - and then apply good design and engineering to define form. Doing so ensures that natural systems and passive design form the basis of community design and that human infrastructure works with, rather than against, nature. Built form is to be a product of a systematic process rather than a driver of it.

It also is an opportunity to install fundamental components of Indigenous culture to the built environment to achieve environmentally sustainable, culturally appropriate, practical and aesthetically pleasing built environments. These principles will set SOPA up for a resilient and regenerative future.

Key principles of Country Positive, Regenerative design include:

1. Self-sufficiency and Self Sustaining
2. Food and Planting Diversity
3. Human Systems and Cultural Landscapes
4. Land Administration and Governance
5. Designing Future Cities - Use of Technology and Future Technology

### 1. SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SELF SUSTAINING:

A large factor in Indigenous land management and sustainability is self-sufficiency and use of self-sustaining constructs. Historically, considerations were made in relation to micro climate and livability . Careful consideration of natural conditions such as sun direction, prevailing winds, food availability, cultivation opportunities and water and storage are a key function of a Country Positive design solution.

The sensible use and collection of energy is a large component of Aboriginal epistemology and contributes to self-sufficiency and self-sustainability. Moving beyond the Green star to a cultural star - moving beyond the standard sustainability to regenerative context through application of a cultural lens will provide an opportunity to set the bar for all development within Sydney Olympic Park.

The benchmark for development has shifted. Being sustainable is no longer the goal it is the base line, and regeneration is the aspiration. We must deepen our expectation of the built environment to merely be sustainable and go beyond to instill and support regenerative processes.



## 2. Food and Diversity Gardens:

Another large factor of Aboriginal bio-cultural diversity is food systems. Much of Australia was ecologically farmed, meaning food production took place sustainably without affecting the ecological processes or habitats of other species. In considering this concept in design it means considering food products in the landscape (i.e.; plant selection for streetscape, landscaping, residential lists for personal gardens, local produce and green space with food gardens, specific bush tucker gardens). To allow a thriving food system all the right ecological attributes need to be in place and functioning (i.e.; pollinators, water sources, micro-climates, soil conditions). Another key factor in design is the changing conditions due to human induced climate change, exploration of the Predicted climate issues for western Sydney and the site is a component of the foundational assessment for future life.

- Natural hazard assessment
- Watershed / Water movement (restoration and manipulation of the drainage and water flow) to assist with species. Includes the use of grasses (themedra, lomandra near riparian to slow and filter water runoff and alleviate some of the high nutrient loads
- Reciprocity to Country by support and leadership in making Parramatta River a living entity (person-hood)
- Species list and densities (planting schedules)

- Wildlife risk assessment included in this
- Food pollinator corridors and open space nodes (wildflowers)
- Species list and habitats including the heights of the species – suggest we make clusters of compatible species
- Novel ecology - interchanging species
- Cultural monitoring - (possibility of seasonal calendars for species, harvesting and cycles, seasonality and resource availability)
- Consideration of cultural attributes in regeneration
- Climate change and species selections
- Nurturing and facilitation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and EEC and individual species (TS) and their wellbeing

Showcasing country and reciprocity – teaching area and cultural use are for the people of Sydney to gather materials etc. Promoting Australian native plants, especially those, endemic to Sydney, wildflowers in full bloom and events designed to enhance people's appreciation of seasonality, time, interactions and flora. The initiative has been prompted by demands from domestic and international visitors for authentic Aboriginal cultural experiences and cultural landscape immersion.

## 3. HUMAN SYSTEMS AND THE CULTURAL



## LANDSCAPE:

The objective of place-making is 'Sense of Place' – essential for community wellbeing and feelings of emotional connection. In practice place making is not only concerned about physical tactile and aesthetic quality – but how those elements enhance the psychological 'sensing' of place. Biophilic Design shares this desire to build psychological factors into design with a focus on Health & Wellbeing through connection with nature. Our approach to Place making will put nature and people first, then urban form – not the other way around.

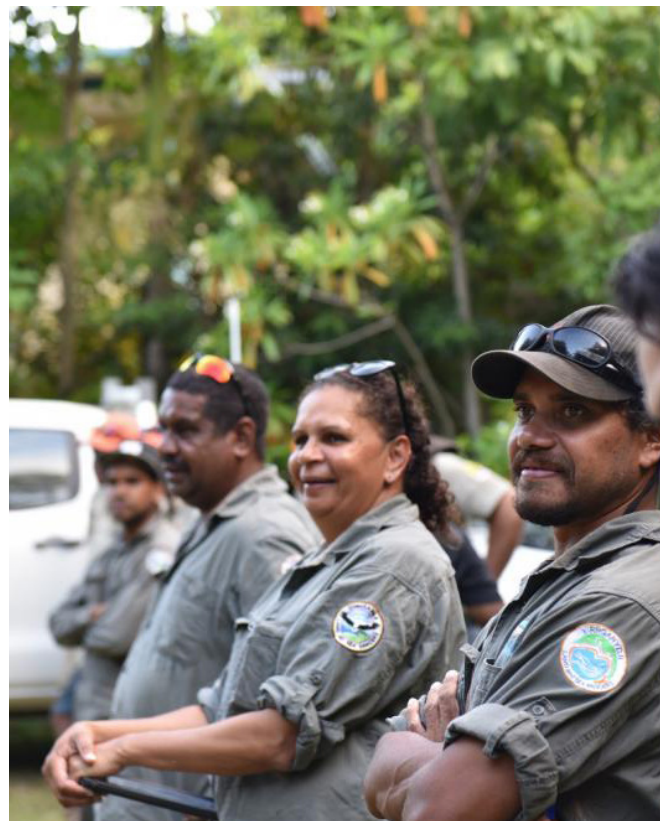
- Acknowledge and incorporate Aboriginal cultural elements into the design. Protect and expand the ecology of the area as a key design objective
- Cultural Designed Nature Spaces
- Sydney Olympic Park has the potential to build on its sustainability legacy and be a world-class exemplar for environmental sustainability, innovation and education. Sydney Olympic Park could serve as an education hub for a range of expertise including sustainability, sport, First Nations culture, film and television. Stakeholders suggested Sydney Olympic Park could be a living lab for continuous learning, innovation, adaptation and resilience



## 4. LAND ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE:

Green space community governance systems based on indigenous ideology in management, providing access to country for cultural maintenance and application of Traditional knowledge systems (TEK). Custodianship / reciprocity model - development contribution i.e. levy for Aboriginal community land management.

Design and promotion of infrastructure that allows residents to connect and relate, to utilize and to love this forms the foundations of governance through custodianship and appreciation, education.



## 5. DESIGNING FUTURE CITIES - USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND FUTURE TECHNOLOGY:

Aboriginal culture has a long timescale of innovation and technology, different perspectives and world view brings diversity to design and planning. The advantage is allowing space for this mindset to come into the 21st century and not locking Aboriginal ideology in the past.

A key to understanding the role of Indigenous lead sustainability in society is understanding the evolving relationship of people to land and how these relationships and the land administration system provides a framework with the infrastructure to implement land-related policies and land management strategies that are adaptive and sustainable. This includes a regenerative planning paradigm that places, culture, climate and ecosystem needs as the primary nucleus of sustainability. The development of an administration system based on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and Cultural Adaptive Management (CAM) is now warranted.

The application of Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS) has been applied in the context of scientific research (TEK, IEK, IK), Indigenous knowledge preservation, intergenerational knowledge transfer and continuing cultural practice. The use of TKS has the potential to extend further and into new realms of integrated design in the application of architecture, construction, planning, urban design and

local capacity building (building local knowledge and strengthening local governance and organization), as most indigenous adaption principles are embedded in local knowledge, sustainable livelihoods and community-based innovation (Nakashima et al). These principles have value in both the components of initial design of the urban landscape and in the design of community governance objectives, principles and policies. These applications are in line with the notions of, different ways of knowing, thinking and being producing solutions to the uncertainty of future challenges in climate change and sustainability.



By integrating traditional knowledge practices in worldview and consciousness to recalibrate our future. Succession in making the next generation more aware, eco centric, and with intelligence in holistic solution solving. Indigenous frameworks tend to be more fluid and organic, by not being locked and focused in narrow perspective with the inability to adjust and adapt.



# A Connecting with Country Future for Sydney Olympic Park

Indigenous, regenerative design principles will help support a resilient future for SOPA. Objectives are outlined below.

	A COMMUNITY-FOCUSED FUTURE	A RESILIENT FUTURE	A BIODIVERSITY AND REGENERATION-FOCUSED FUTURE
			
POTENTIAL INTERVENTION/S	Native Botanical Garden Community participation and engagement	Water Systems and Flow - Water sensitive urban design A Metropolitan refuge and resilience hub	Indigenous Sustainability Lens Native farm for food security and food sovereignty within the precinct
GOVERNANCE	Local, State/National/International	Local	Local/State
OBJECTIVES AND MASTER PLAN OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living data base</li> <li>• The place becomes the data base through reciprocity</li> <li>• Social educational hub within site - encourages school groups, residents, cultural pec</li> <li>• A place of knowledge sharing and partnering around resilience and production (Royal Agricultural Society)</li> <li>• Facilitate through the arts, TEK, ecology, science, building with the gardens attached</li> <li>• Facilitates employment micro economy recirculation of green waste</li> <li>• Cultural practitioners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural water pools and water/creek line through site</li> <li>• Promotes connection of community and facilitates climate through micro climactic conditions, places to connect and habitat for kin /species</li> <li>• Also allows residents to be custodians and caretakers for the pools and water course</li> <li>• Capturing water from green roofs and reticulation systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Going beyond current interpretations of sustainable and sustainability</li> <li>• Building narratives and knowledge exchange learning from landscape and expansion</li> <li>• Accessibility for cultural renewal and continuing activities</li> <li>• Incorporating TEK into landscape management and design</li> </ul>

	A SPORT, EVENTS AND CULTURAL DESTINATION FUTURE	A BUSINESS ATTRACTION AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT-FOCUSED FUTURE
		
POTENTIAL INTERVENTION/S	<p>National Indigenous Music Festival</p> <p>Hosting indigenous sporting events</p>	<p>New Understanding of ecological economics</p> <p>Social enterprise initiatives</p> <p>Training and education on site</p>
GOVERNANCE	Local, State/National/International	Local, State/National/International
OBJECTIVES AND MASTER PLAN OUTCOMES	<p>Aboriginal Burning man - celebrates fire and renewal of the Xanthorias of the Sydney area</p> <p>Re-connecting cultural sharing and experience 'bringing in the regional context to Sports programs</p> <p>Country centered agricultural show (native foods)</p> <p>Platform for upcoming Indigenous Artists</p>	<p>Country centered enterprises</p> <p>Building platforms for capacity and expansion of Aboriginal ventures</p> <p>Future innovative business - TEK</p> <p>Country centered agricultural show (native foods)</p> <p>Country centered agricultural show (native foods)</p>

# Design Jam - 8th December 2022

Although not all discussion could occur on site, the cultural landscape context of the site was maintained at the front of mind during the Design Jams. The empathetic design approach commenced at the beginning of the design process, ensuring that Wangal culture is at the core and foundation of the project. The collaboration with the local Aboriginal community and a multidisciplinary design team brought a diversity of knowledge and perception to the design thinking process. The process realised rapid prototypes for broader user testing and reiteration framed by cultural protocols and key project principles. The below sections of the report outline key insights and outcomes from the process to date and the recommendations for the project.



# Wanggani Dhayar - Listen to Country

The Wanggani Dhayar process is fluid, with reiteration and organic formation of the design throughout. The below graphic represents the stages of the Wanggani Dhayar design process, including framing the design, identifying the audience/users, the Design Jam, logic and assumption testing, cultural checking, and sharing the solution through the pitch.



The first stage of the design process, Framing the design, is all about bringing clarity and focus to the design space. The goal of the first stage is to craft a meaningful and actionable challenge statement – this is what we call a point-of-view or ‘How might we’ question. The ‘How might we’ question posed to Design Jam participants for this session was: How might we create an inspirational experience of Country for visitors?

The first stage is about sense-making. It results in your point-of-view (POV): the explicit expression of the challenge. It involves considering the needs of the future users/audience, the opportunities offered, and the problems encountered. The first stage is also an endeavour to synthesise findings into insights. The below image summaries the steps involved in the design process.

# "How Might We?"

## BRAINSTORMING

In your breakout groups, spend five minutes writing down as many ideas as you can onto your Jam Board that meet the challenge of "How Might We?". We ask that you also include bad ideas as they can bring action guiding principles forward.

## SHARING IDEAS

After five minutes, talk your ideas through with your team and cluster similar or complementary ideas together. As a team, pick the top two or three ideas to go forward with.

## TEAM SKETCHES

With the themes as a prompt, team members can describe their ideas and how they see them meeting the "How Might We?" question. Ideas can be sketched to show the evolution of the idea, empathising with the user's perspective.

## FLOWERS AND FLAMETHROWERS

Nominate one team member to be a presenter. The presenter has five minutes to outline the team's ideas to the rest of the group. During the presentation, everyone else will silently record feedback in a matrix that includes positive and negative feedback, ideas for change and questions asked. The host does not engage with the audience and will take the information back to their teams to discuss.

## REDESIGNING THE IDEA

Teams discuss feedback and also the inspiration from other teams' and redesign (if necessary) and prepare to deliver a five minute pitch to the whole group.

## THE PITCH

Each team is given a maximum of five minutes to present their refined ideas to the group. These will be recorded to ensure all key themes, features and narratives are recorded.

## DISCUSSION AND SILENT CRITIQUE

Time for silent critique, everyone is given the chance to vote for their favourite idea, not from their team. Consider some reflective questions such as:

- Which features of ideas stood out?
- Which are most intriguing and exciting?
- What seems most challenging and difficult to achieve?
- Where do we see areas that are clear no-gos?
- What must-haves are we seeing?
- What was a challenge? What conflicts emerged?



## Outcomes - Key Themes



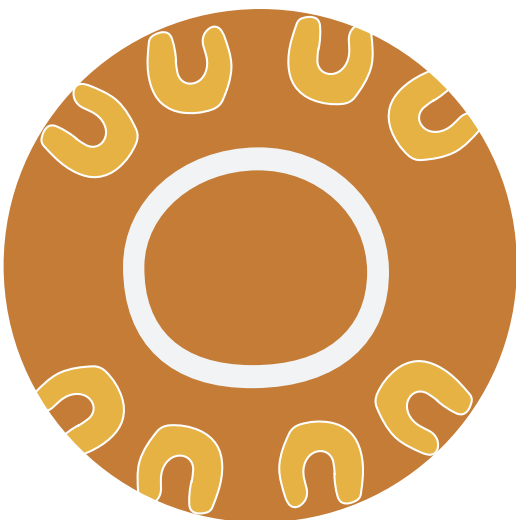
### MOVEMENT OF WATER

- An emphasis on reconnecting people to the river.
- The use of sustainable systems throughout the site. Creating a connected system of
- Sustainable elements that can help the site give back to Country.
- Healing the river to be at the forefront of any design thinking.



### GREEN HEART

- A focus on the connective tissue that will link different parts of the site, as well as connecting to surrounding areas.
- Scattered community gardens throughout the master plan for people to use and contribute to will create a sense of community throughout.
- An emphasis on creating a connection to nature for users of the space.
- Greening the city center through improving green corridor connections, proposing more trees and garden beds on the ground plane.
- The inclusion of edible and medicinal plant species for users of the site to both use and learn from.



### CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

- Creating a welcoming space that is for the whole of the community.
- Incorporating local stories and narratives into the design to educate people that come to site.
- The use of Indigenous language in naming and way-finding.
- Acknowledging recent history and important people from the area. From historical people to contemporary people such as sports people or significant community members.
- Affordable housing for Aboriginal people on site.
- Expansion of the Murama healing space throughout the master plan. Expanding on the outdoor educational rooms and creating connection throughout so people can learn about the environment and be inspired by Country.

# 5. PRECINCT OPPORTUNITIES

The previous section looked at the opportunities to connect to Country through design interventions on a whole site scale across Sydney Olympic Park. The whole site is vast and varied in terms of character across the different Precincts which have been divided into Urban and Parklands typologies. This section looks to apply a set of design objectives and opportunities within each Precinct in relation to the three themes; Movement of Water, Green Heart and Cultural Connections. These design objectives can then be applied to individual development briefs for lots within the Precincts. The aim is to provide high level designing with Country advice which can be referred back to as measures of success.

Please note any new pathways and boardwalks will take into consideration ecological sensitivity of water environments and seek a balance between allowing access and protecting ecologies.

Diagrams are stylised and convey an overarching approach to Connecting with Country within the precincts. Actual design outcomes to achieve these objectives and opportunities are to be explored in detail within each individual development within the Master Plan area.



## MOVEMENT OF WATER



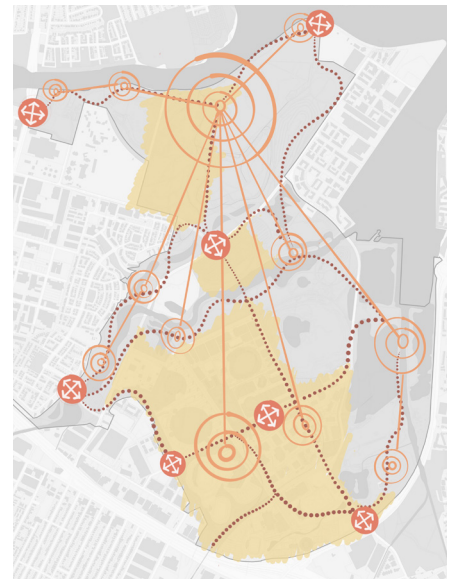
- Improving and increasing connected natural water systems throughout the site
- Naturalise waterway edges and where possible reverse land reclamation
- Integrating Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems to capture and clean storm water before feeding into the water system
- Create pathways, access points and educational interpretation for people to connect to waterways

## GREEN HEART



- Connect urban and natural spaces across the site by integrating planting and ecological function across spaces
- Allowing the natural vegetation to permeate through and soften the urban spaces with greenery
- Increasing tree canopy cover particularly along major pedestrian and cycling routes through the site
- Creating a diverse set of areas within green spaces that allow for a range of use experiences

## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS



- Creating welcoming spaces at key gateways into the site with information and way finding to the connected cultural sites
- Opportunities to connect cultural sites through narratives and stories along the movement routes.
- Providing opportunities for healing and gathering spaces close to the water and natural spaces
- Integration of storytelling in the Badu Mangroves

# 6. ACTIONS AND DIRECTIONS

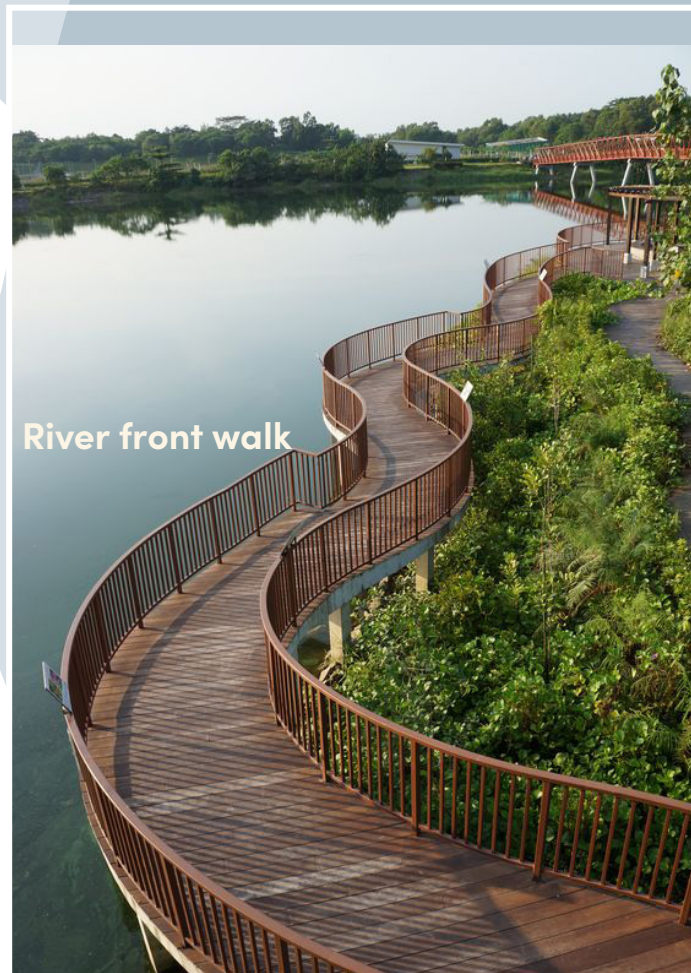
## Movement of Water

A key move of the Master Plan is to re-introduce water ecosystems into the park to heal and restore it's natural environments. The importance of the Burramatta (Parramatta River) should be celebrated throughout the site by providing opportunities for the community and visitors to interact with the water with elements that provide access to the water such as board walks and waterside seating areas. These elements would open up possibilities for interactive educational experiences while walking through the natural landscapes and ecosystems that are connected to the waterways.

The Master Plan should look to create a connected water system that will improve the health of the existing waterways which feed into the Burramatta (Parramatta river). This would ensure that the proposed design interventions that look to heal the river by showcasing the importance of looking after the natural water systems. Integrating sustainable urban drainage systems would help relieve storm water systems while cleaning the water that moves over the land and eventually into the ground or waterways. This can include design interventions such as rain-gardens, bioswales, permeable paving and decorative water channels.



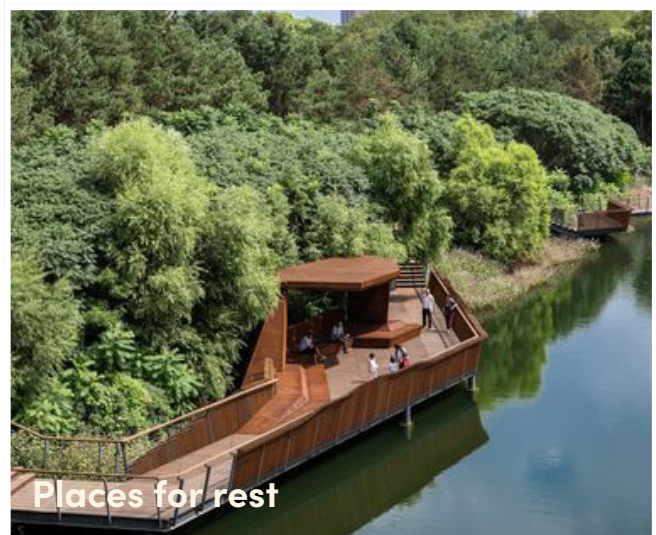
Permeable materials  
for movement



River front walk



Viewing platforms



Places for rest



Rain gardens



Water interpretation



Water play



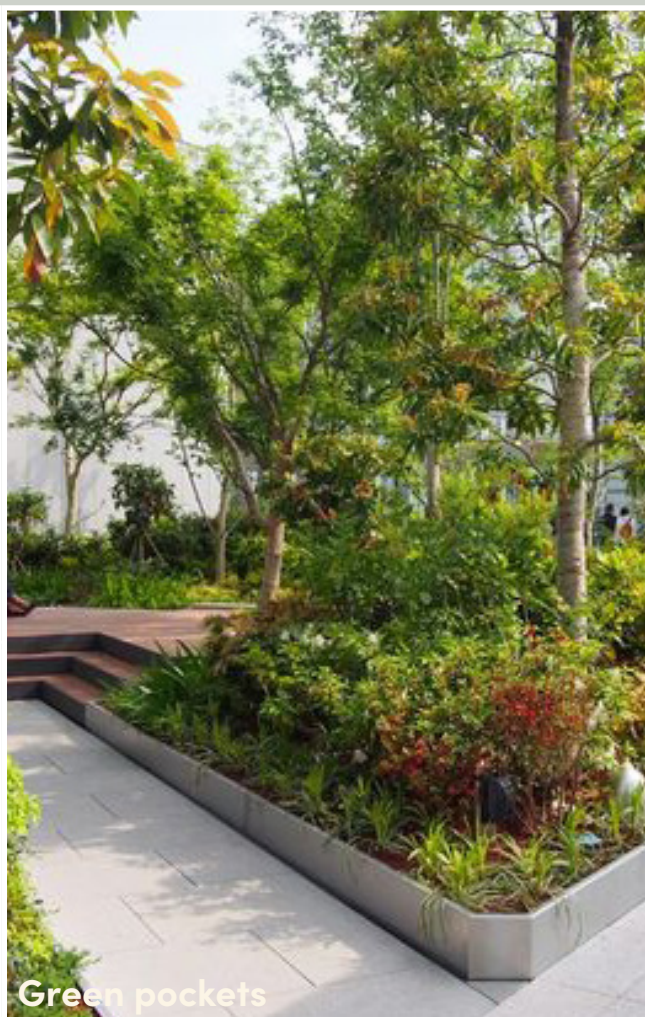
Understanding the importance of water to all life systems including humans could encourage future custodianship of the water and land. Bringing life to spaces with elements such as water play and interpretation could foster connections to water for children and adults alike. Sustainable water re-use and capture throughout the park could be showcased through information and educational tools.

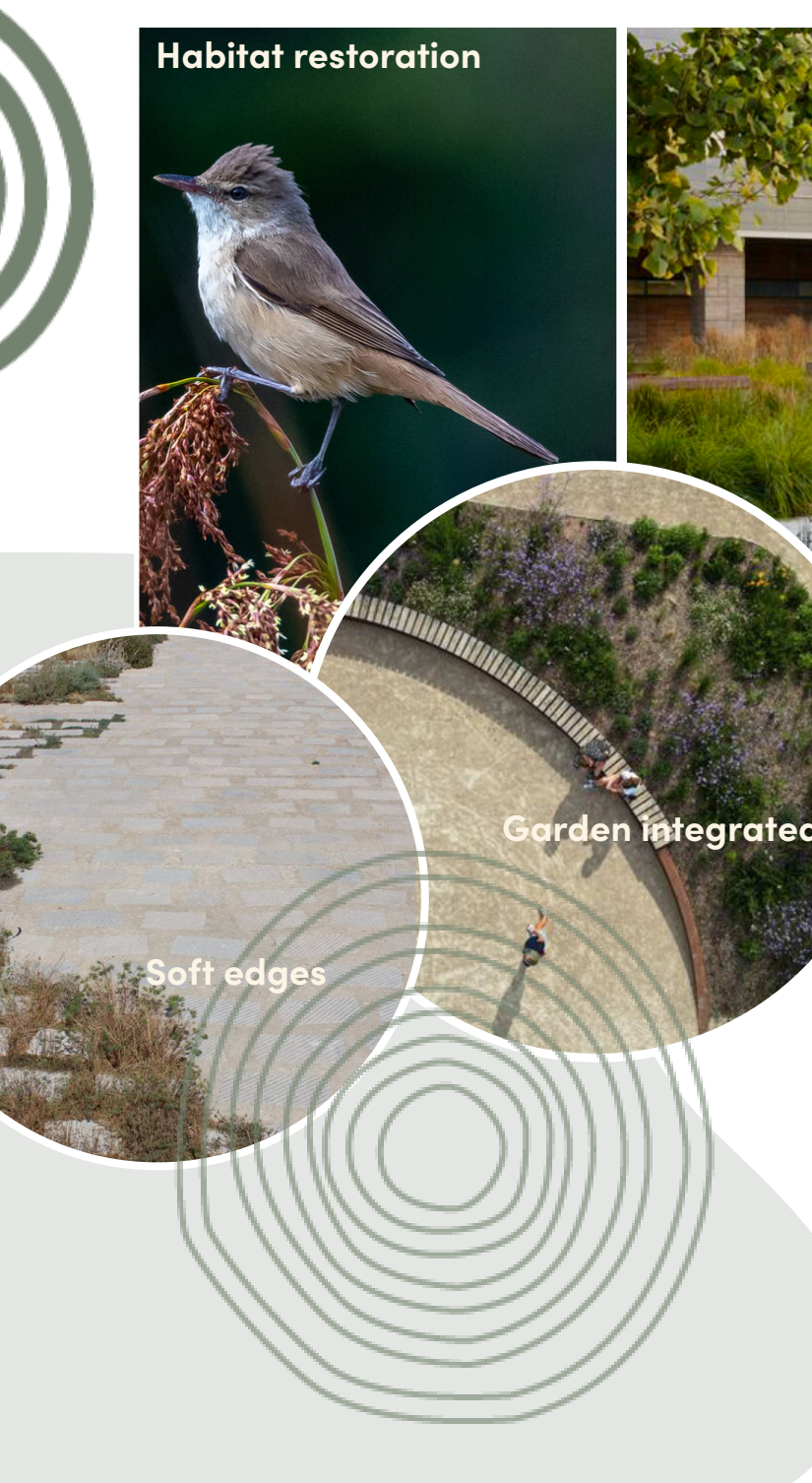
## Green Heart

The park in it's current form consists of harsh hardscaped urban areas, natural environments and open parkland. An integral part of the Master Plan should be to create a synergy between the open space typologies by blurring the edges and allowing greenery and nature to permeate between the spaces. Strategies of improving urban ecologies will soften the urban center and connect out to the natural spaces throughout the park.

Increasing canopy cover will strengthen the green network by providing comfortable connections to all parts of the site. The act of improving the outdoor micro climate for humans will also improve the habitat opportunities for non-human kin and allow both to co-exist in a park full of life.

Plant species choice and diversity should be carefully considered to include culturally and ecologically significant plants that will strengthen the value and meaning of the natural and urban environments.

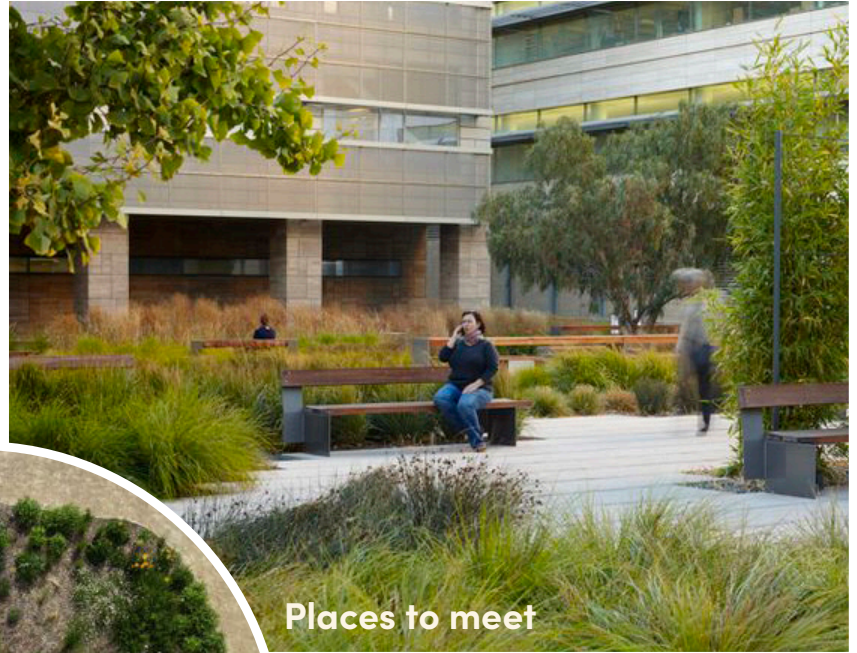




**Habitat restoration**



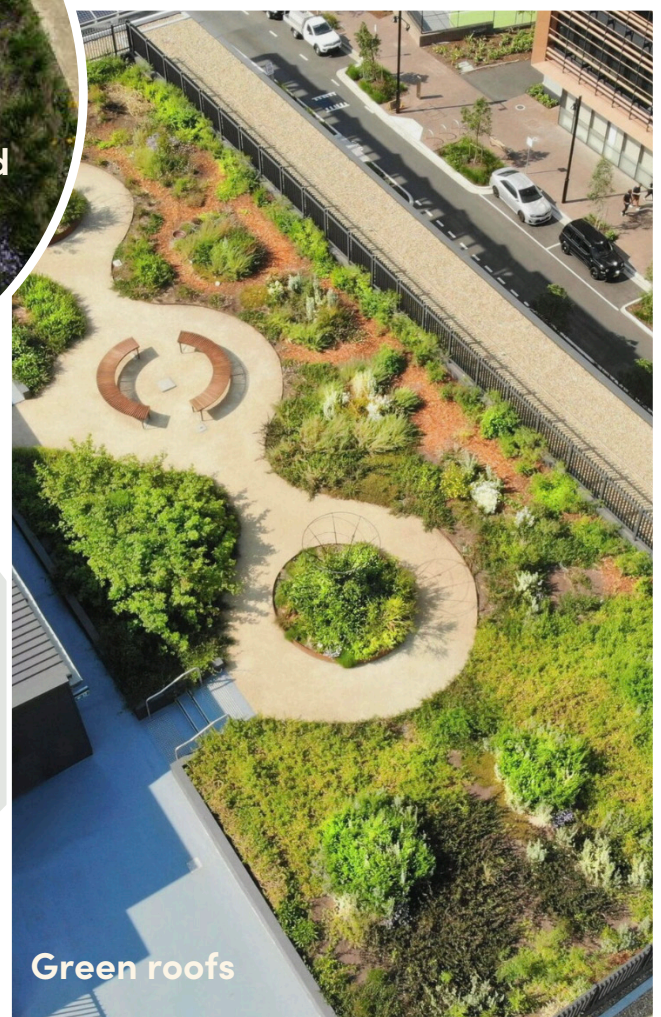
**Places to meet**



**Garden integrated**



**Soft edges**



**Green roofs**

Urban greening can extend beyond the ground plane and be integrated onto and within the built form through interventions such as green roofs and facade planting. Outdoor spaces can also provide community amenity through community gardens and spaces for refuge.

## Cultural Connections

The connection to Wangal Country should begin with the provision of welcoming spaces at all major gateways into the site. These can serve as landmark places that provide information and way-finding to connect to key cultural spaces within the site. Considered movement routes that connect these spaces provide opportunity for integrating language, narratives and story-telling.

The expansion of the existing Murama Healing Space should link to additional cultural spaces that can function as outdoor educational rooms. These would increase opportunities for connecting with the unique environment and learn from Country on Country.





Bush tucker and medicinal plants to be incorporated in the plant schedule for public foraging and education. Allowing for the local community residents to access traditional native foods and become caretakers.

The Master Plan should look to further integrate Aboriginal people into the site through provision of appropriate amenities and affordable housing.



# 7. PRECINCT SPECIFIC APPROACH

## Urban Centre



### MOVEMENT OF WATER

- Create connected and visible stormwater networks for a healthier water system
- Integrate WSUDs along roads and streets where possible
- Reduce water run-off with permeable paving surfaces



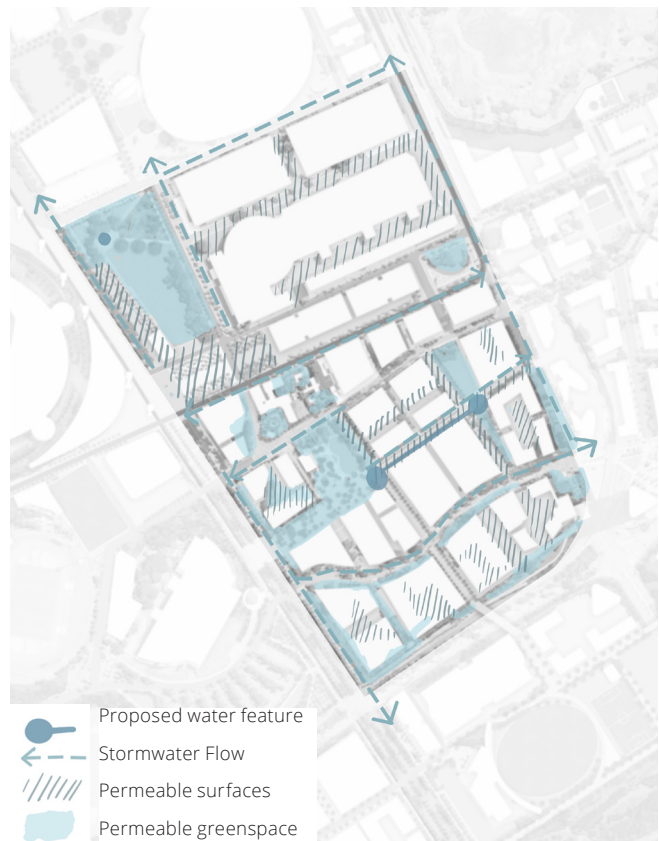
### GREEN HEART

- Increase planting opportunities with diverse road verge planting
- Create a connected canopy and greenspace network
- Integrate greenroof and facade planting to built form
- Create a diverse set of green open spaces for a range of user experiences



### CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

- Create welcoming entry points with opportunities for acknowledging Country and setting the scene of the precinct
- Provide clear wayfinding signage and use of landmarks for orientation
- Enhance visual and physical connections to adjacent cultural places.



# Eastern Neighbourhood



## MOVEMENT OF WATER

- Integrate WSUDs along roads and streets to clean water before feeding into the natural systems
- Reduce water run-off with permeable paving surfaces
- Create pathways and access points connecting to the adjacent estuarine ecosystems



## GREEN HEART

- Increase planting opportunities with diverse road verge planting for ecological functions
- Create connected tree canopies along major pedestrian routes reducing the urban heat island effect
- Explore greening opportunities within lots to create a diverse set of green spaces for all users



## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

- Create welcoming entry points that connect through the precinct and beyond
- Provide clear wayfinding signage and use of landmarks for orientation
- Enhance visual and physical connections to adjacent cultural places.



# Southern Neighbourhood



## MOVEMENT OF WATER

- Integrate WSUDs along roads and streets where possible
- Reduce water run-off with permeable paving surfaces
- Ensure water is captured and cleaned before connecting into creek system



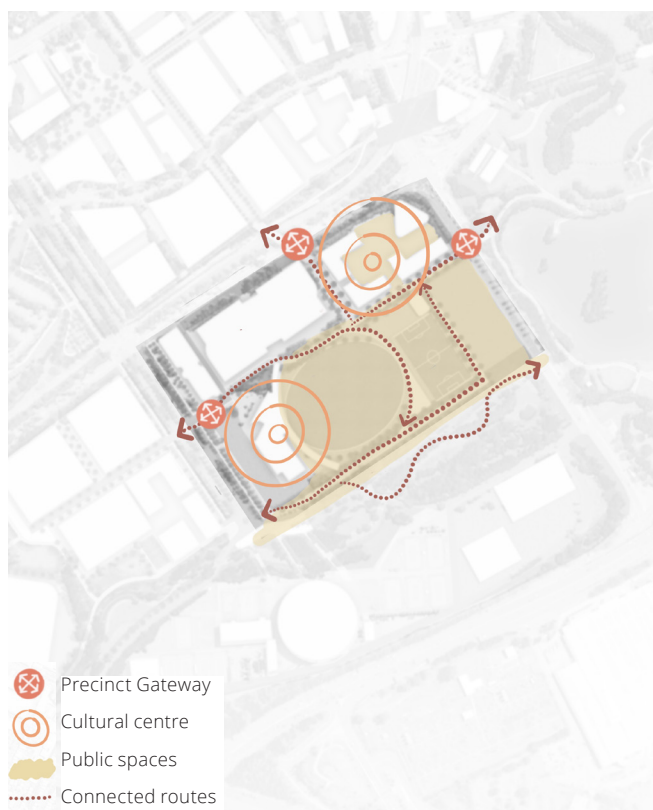
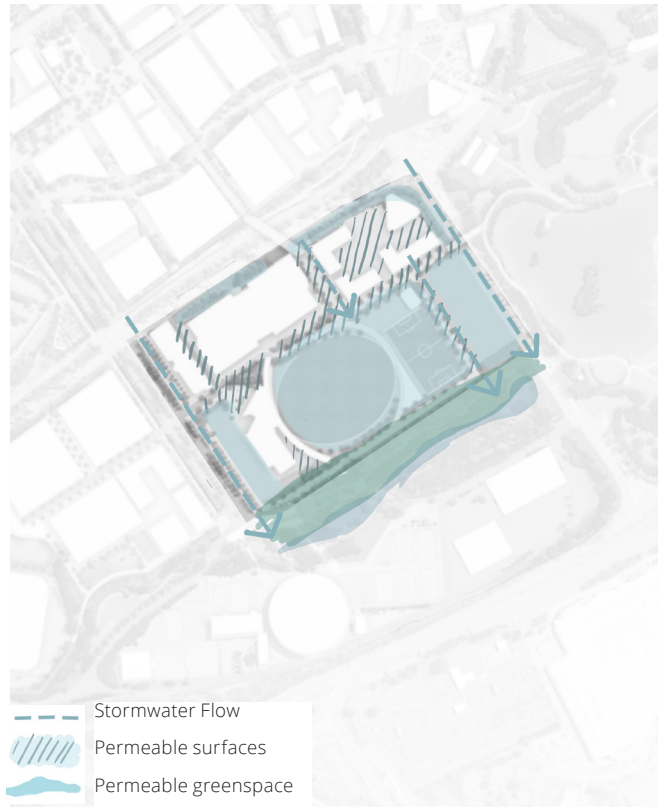
## GREEN HEART

- Increase planting opportunities with diverse road verge planting
- Increasing tree canopy cover along streets for improved pedestrian experience



## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

- Create welcoming entry points with opportunities for wayfinding and storytelling
- Promote connection between cultural places and outdoor spaces with opportunities for custodianship
- Enhance visual and physical connections to adjacent cultural places.



# Haslams Neighbourhood



## MOVEMENT OF WATER

- Integrate WSUDs along roads and streets where possible
- Reduce water run-off with permeable paving surfaces
- Create pathways and access points connecting to the adjacent creek



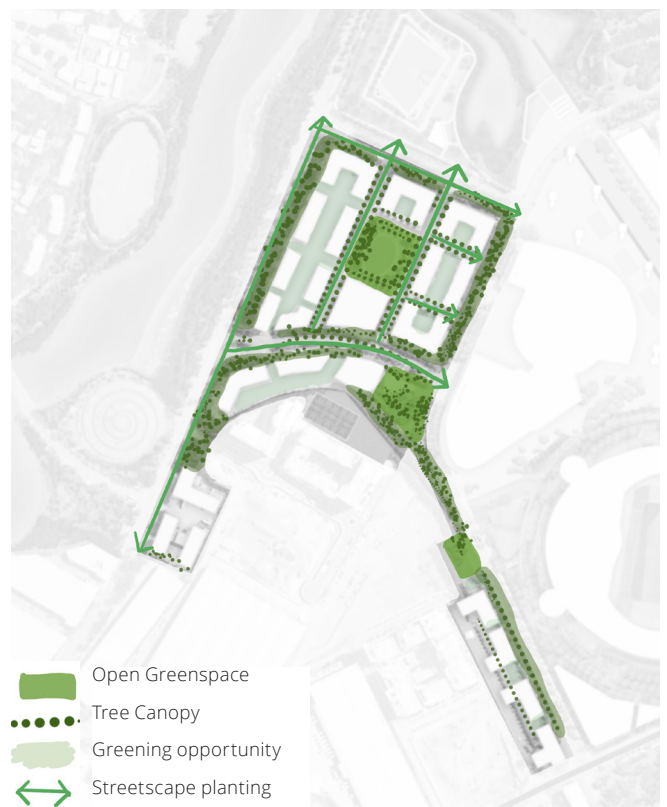
## GREEN HEART

- Increase planting opportunities with diverse road verge planting
- Increasing tree canopy cover along streets for improved pedestrian experience



## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

- Create welcoming entry points with opportunities for wayfinding and storytelling
- Create cultural opportunities in communal open spaces
- Connect the precinct to the adjoining creek and natural spaces with pathways



# Sport and Civic



## MOVEMENT OF WATER

- Improve storm water quality as it connects into the creekline
- Integrate WSUDs along roads and streets
- Reduce water run-off with permeable paving surfaces



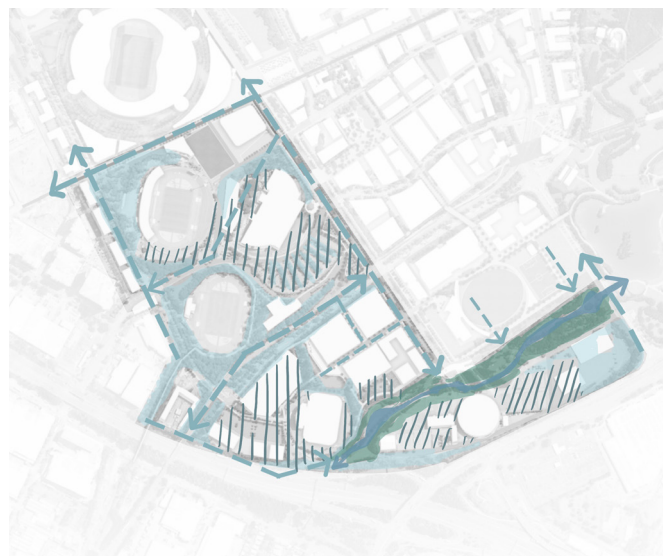
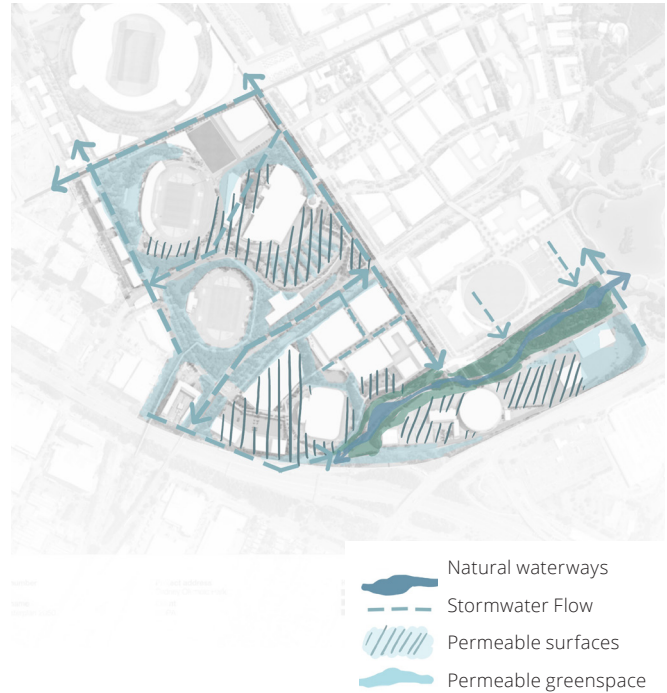
## GREEN HEART

- Increase planting opportunities with diverse road verge planting
- Create a connected canopy and greenspace network
- Enhance creekline with appropriate native planting



## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

- Create connected entry points at either end of the creek with a connected pathway
- Provide clear wayfinding signage and use of landmarks for orientation
- Enhance visual and physical connections to adjacent cultural places



# Stadia Precinct



## MOVEMENT OF WATER

- Integrate WSUDs along roads and streets where possible
- Reduce water run-off with permeable paving surfaces
- Explore opportunities for water for microclimate cooling effect



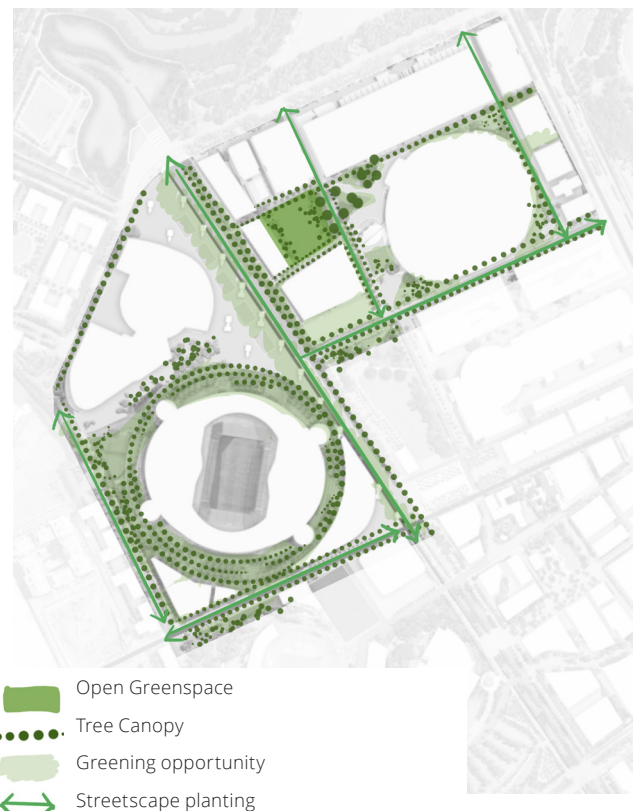
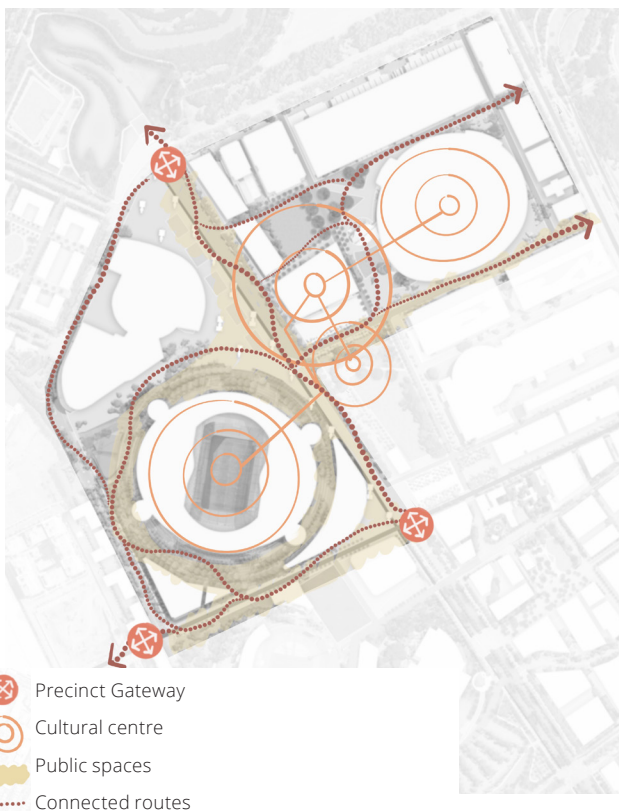
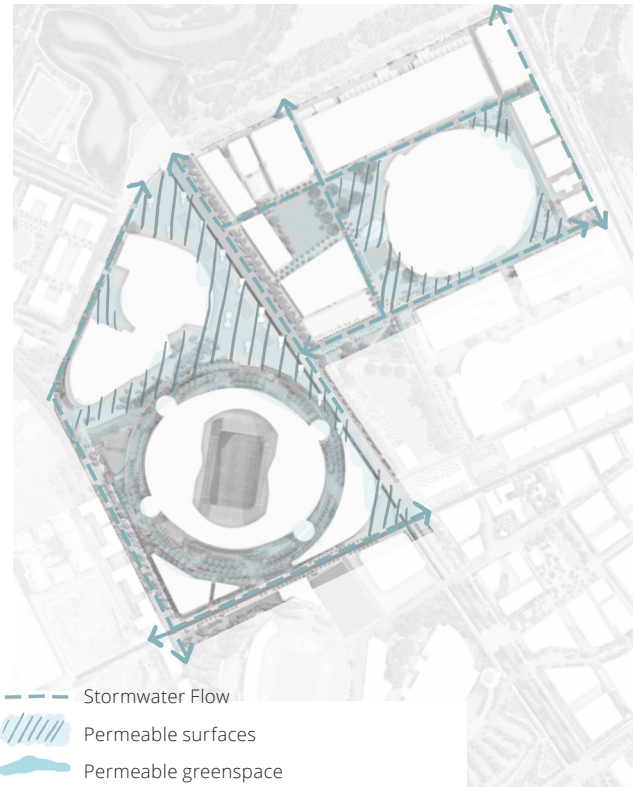
## GREEN HEART

- Increase planting opportunities with diverse road verge planting
- Increasing tree canopy cover while allowing for clear pedestrian movement



## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

- Create welcoming entry points with opportunities for acknowledging Country and setting the scene of the precinct
- Provide clear wayfinding signage and use of landmarks for orientation
- Enhance visual and physical connections to adjacent cultural places.



# Riverfront Park



## MOVEMENT OF WATER

- Enhance and protect existing waterways and wetland areas, promoting educational opportunities
- Integrate WSUDs along roads and streets to improve water quality before feeding into the natural systems
- Naturalise Parramatta River's edge to promote connection to water



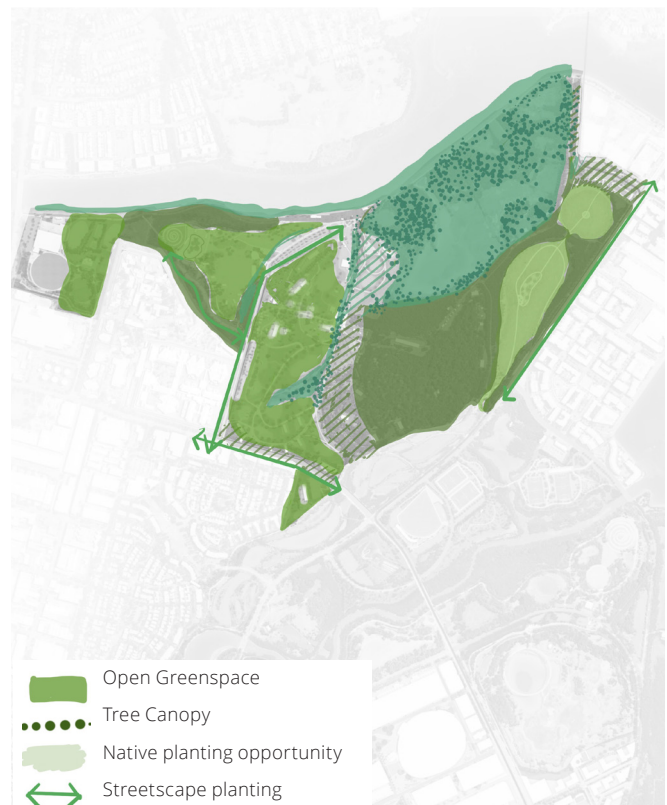
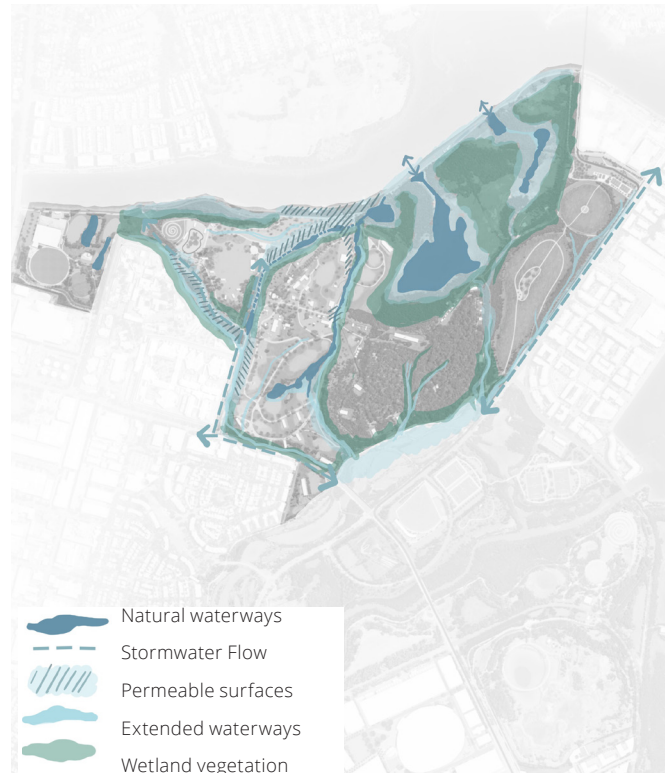
## GREEN HEART

- Enhance the natural vegetation with management and supplementary planting
- Create a diverse mix of ecologies and habitats for non-human kin
- Increase tree canopy cover and diversity



## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

- Opportunities for community to be involved in bushcare of the nature reserve
- Provide clear wayfinding signage and use of landmarks for orientation
- Enhance visual and physical connections to adjacent cultural places.



# Haslams Eco-park



## MOVEMENT OF WATER

- Protect ecological waterways
- Reduce water run-off with permeable paving surfaces
- Explore educational opportunities along natural waterways



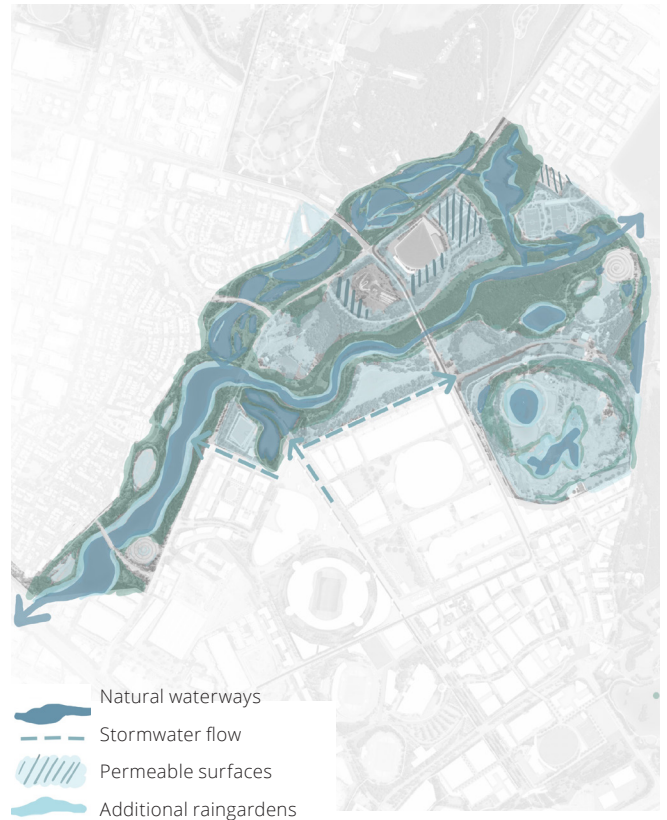
## GREEN HEART

- Enhance vegetation with endemic plant species for increased diversity
- Increasing tree canopy cover where appropriate with a mix of species suited to place



## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

- Create welcoming entry points with opportunities for acknowledging Country and setting the scene of the precinct
- Creating connected pathways through the natural spaces and along waterways
- Enhance visual and physical connections to adjacent cultural places.



# Bicentennial



## MOVEMENT OF WATER

- Enhance the visitor experience of the unique ecological environment
- Explore educational opportunities within the mangroves to understand the importance of the ecosystem



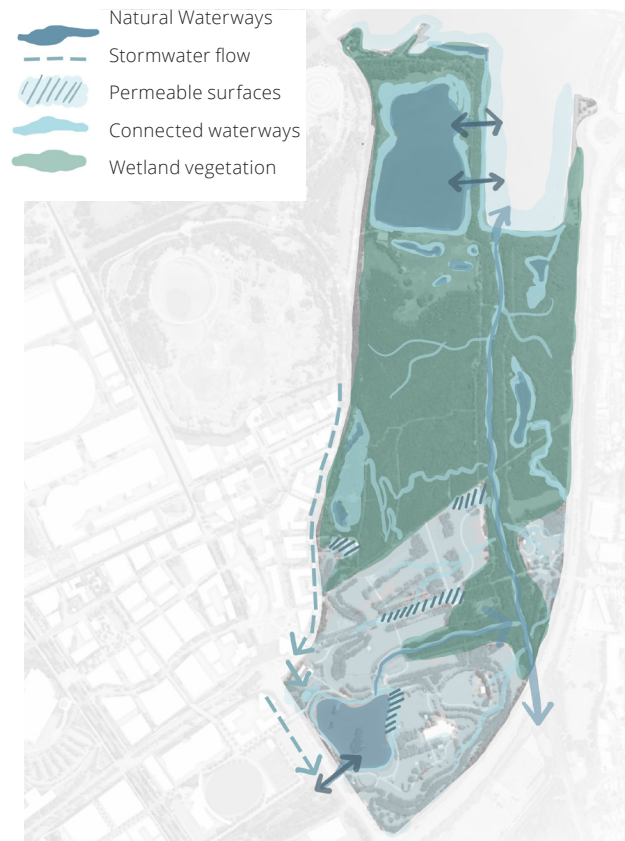
## GREEN HEART

- Protect and enhance mangrove ecosystem
- Increase planting diversity within the open greenspace areas
- Increasing tree canopy cover where appropriate with a mix of species suited to place



## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS


- Create welcoming entry points with clear wayfinding and opportunities for storytelling
- Creating connected pathways through the natural spaces and along waterways
- Enhance visual and physical connections to adjacent cultural places



- ⊗ Precinct Gateway
- ⊙ Cultural centre
- ☀ Public spaces
- ⋯ Connected routes



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