

SOPA Site 4B

Landscape Design Statement

The intent of the Landscape Design for SOPA Site 4B is to create a green, legible and public through site link between two new town centre developments (Site 4A and 4B). The space provides shade, opportunities for seating and an integrated public art program. The public through site link connects Herb Elliot Avenue to Australia Avenue.

This vegetated through site link will encourage a pedestrian connection between the Railway Station, the Abattoir Heritage Precinct and the Sydney Aquatic Centre and will strengthen the campus character of the strip of buildings to the south of the Sydney Olympic Park Railway Station of the Sydney Olympic Park town centre precinct.

The general arrangement of the design is based on the retention of four existing *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box) which form a part of an avenue planting which lined the stock route to the former abattoir.

Each of the four trees are surrounded by a large garden bed which strengthens their vigour, and provides a low level green overlay to the site. One new Brush box is proposed to the south-eastern end to strengthen the group and the former arc. New trees of *Toona sinensis* (Chinese Toona) are proposed to reinforce the line of the existing *Lophostemon confertus* on each side of the through side connection and emphasise the link to the Historical garden on Herb Elliot Avenue.

The *Toona sinensis* has a light spreading habit which will form an “umbrella” canopy allowing filtered shade in summer and views along the through site link.

Existing and new trees and garden beds are set back from the Site 4B building and form a clearly defined through site link.

These decorative planting beds are planted with a selection of species which display some of the characteristics of the garden beds in the Maiden Gardens (former Abattoir) located opposite on Herb Elliot Avenue, predominately gardenesque, shade loving perennials. The planting proposed; *Alpinia caerulea*, *Aspidistra spp.*, *Asplenium australasicum*, *Canna ssp.*, *Clivea spp.*, *Cordyline spp.*, *Ctenanth spp.e*, *Doryanthes palmeri*, Lillies and *Trachelospermum jasminoides* is designed to thrive in the relatively shaded condition of the through site link.

Planting beds of the same size are spread through the space to create a strong sequence, viewing the garden by wandering through it.

The ground surface of the public domain will match with SOPA's UEDM Design guidelines paving strategy. Concrete unit pavers will be extended into the public through site link to achieve SOPA's desired continuity across the ground plane. Decorative steel edges and strip drains enforce a diagonal rhythm and enhance a visual connection between Sites 4A and 4B with a continuation into the buildings atrium. The garden beds are anchored to these diagonal lines.

Benches are clearly and rationally distributed along the garden bed edges and a large sculptured bench forms a backdrop to the space providing shaded seating.

Existing Streetscape conditions:

The site is located between Olympic Boulevard and Herb Elliot Avenue, within the urban core of Sydney Olympic Park. Herb Elliot Avenue currently consists of *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gum) which are located in gravel mulch within a grass verge.

Where the building addresses Herb Elliot Avenue 4 existing street trees are to be removed to clarify the buildings address. Existing asphalt pavement material is to be retained along the length of the site.

On Olympic Boulevard the existing street trees and pavements are to be retained. Pavers are to be continued between the existing *Araucaria cunninghamiana* (Hoop Pine) in accordance with the UEDM.

Streetscape proposal:

In accordance with the Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2006 two new roads are proposed to the eastern and southern boundary of the new development. These roads create a secondary frontage to the proposed building. The design of the streetscape will follow SOPA's UEDM guidelines.

Art proposal:

A site specific public art overlay is proposed for this site.

The art overlay is to fit seamlessly into the infrastructure of the link, reinforcing the landscape design and amplifying the character of the 'lane way' space.

A detailed brief for the Public Art has been prepared by SOPA and will be used to underpin the design of the artworks.