

Public Art Strategy

Doran Drive, Castle Hill Showground



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The author of this Strategy wishes to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Hills District, the Darug people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Public Art Strategy addresses the requirements of the Concept Application No. SSD- 9653, and provides strategic direction for public art in Doran Drive Plaza, Castle Hill. The Strategy has been developed in accordance with the following documents, among others:

- The Hills Local Environmental Plan 2019 - Section 9.4 (L)
- Hills Showground Station Precinct – Heritage Interpretation Strategy (GML Heritage)
- Sydney Metro Northwest Places Public Art Guidelines
- Hills Showground Station Precinct: Urban Design Guidelines (Cox/Oculus)

The Strategy provides a background analysis including policy review, site description and cultural context. From this broad analysis, thematic threads have been developed that have guided the development of a public art proposal for Doran Drive Plaza.

The Sydney Metro Northwest Places Public Art Guidelines, in Section 2.1.2 - Procurement Strategies, note that artwork with a smaller budget may not warrant the time and resources required to undertake an open Expression of Interest, in which case a suitably qualified artist could be engaged or sourced via an invited Expression of Interest process. As the budget for public art for Doran Drive Plaza is relatively low at \$700,000, this Public Art Strategy proposes the direct engagement of renowned Australian artist, Jennifer Turpin, to create a permanent public artwork for this site.

The artist has already worked closely with public art curator Christiane Statham in the development of this Strategy, which represents an innovative approach to the collaborative planning of public art. Artist and curator have also developed ideas in close collaboration with Deicorp and Urbis, to provide a strategic and practical approach, and to design a specific public art brief for Doran Drive Plaza, and one that is interwoven with landscaping, wayfinding and precinct built form.

Jennifer Turpin, working in collaboration with Michaelie Crawford as part of Turpin Crawford Studio, and with McGregor Westlake Architecture (MWA) and

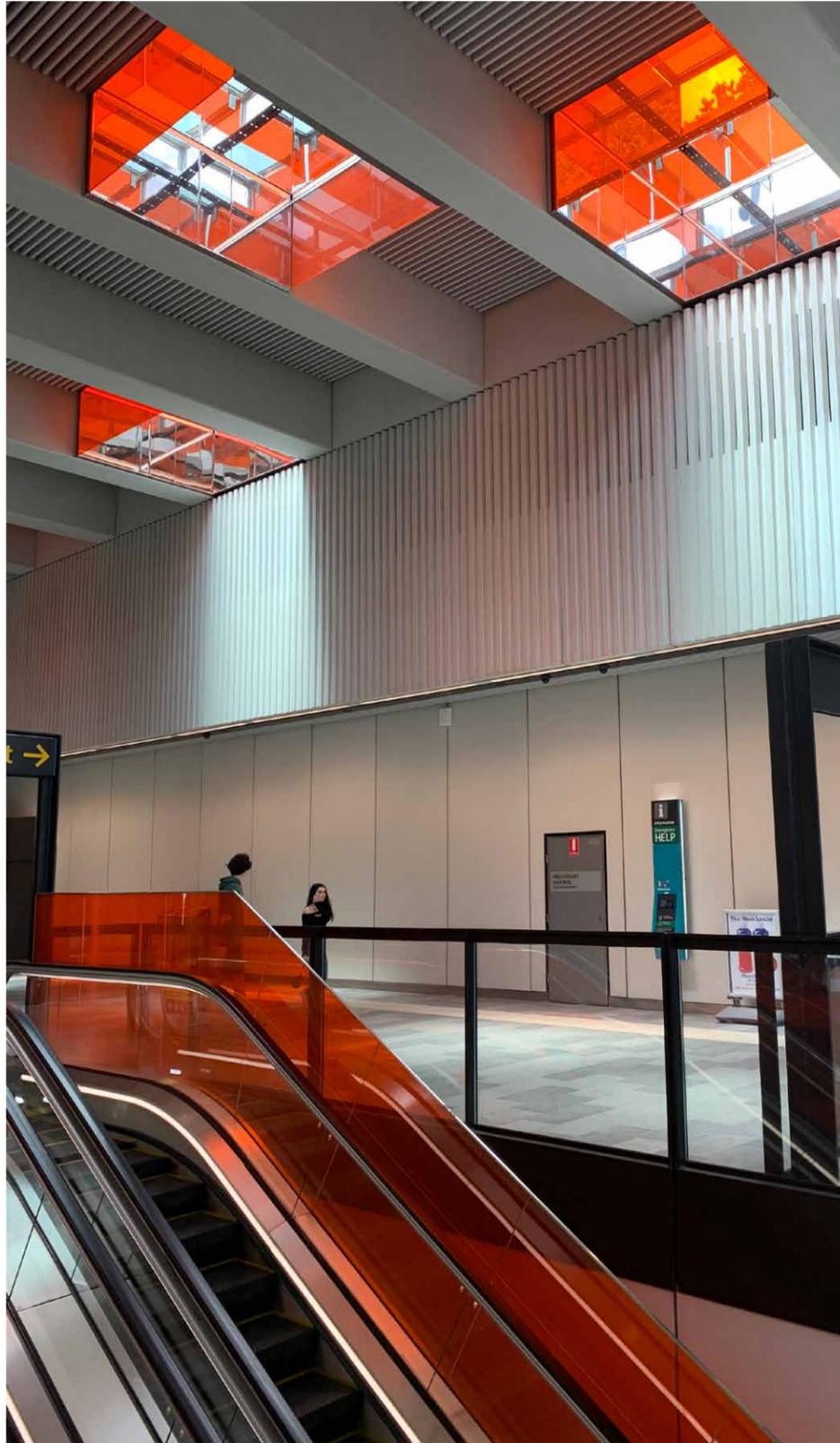
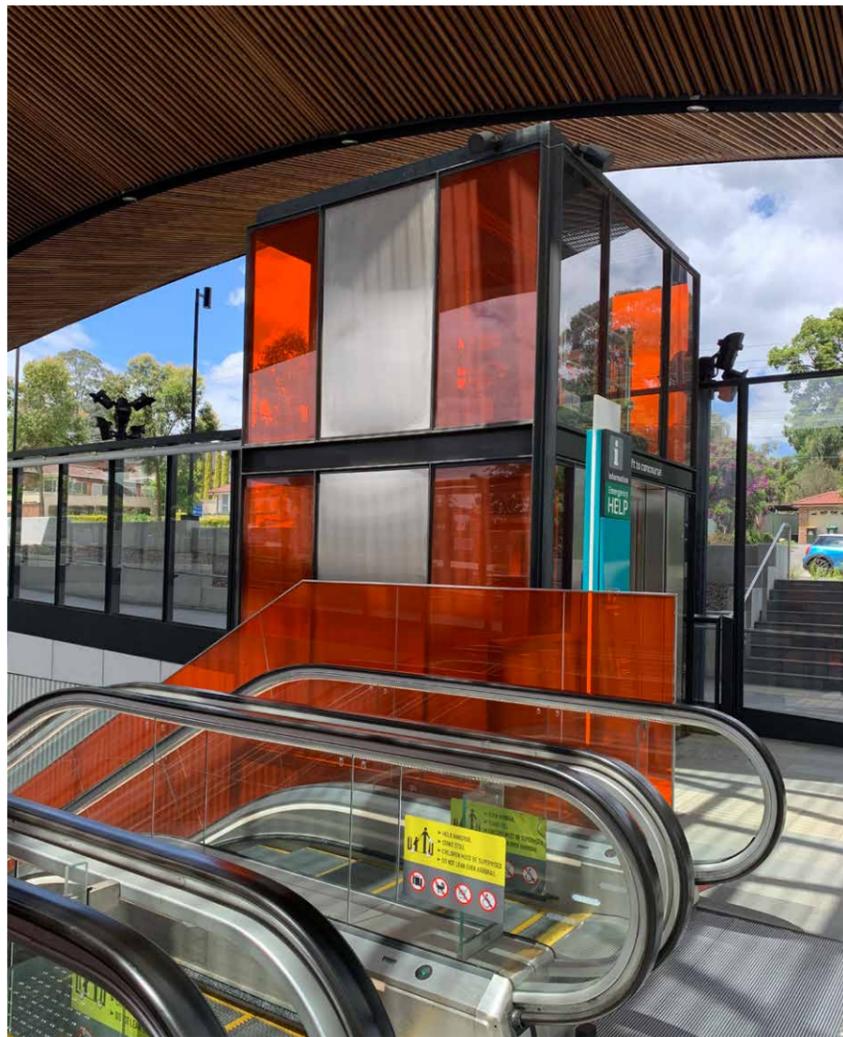
Hassell Studio, developed the Public Art Strategy, *Light Line Social Square* for the Sydney Metro Northwest (SMNW). That document proposed a line-wide, station-specific public art project integrated into the architecture, landscape and program of the station public domains and platforms.

The *Light Line Social Square* Public Art Strategy resulted in an embedded artwork of the same name, designed by Turpin Crawford Studio in collaboration with Hassell and MWA, which is now embedded across all eight stations of the Sydney Metro Northwest. The artwork, taking the form of coloured glazing, street furniture, plantings, paving and mist installations, seeks to fuse the experience of time, environment and community through the integration of structure, light, colour, material and technology. Each of the eight stations has a designated colour palette: in the case of the Showground station, the colour is an orange/red spectrum referencing the agricultural produce and citrus fruit grown in the area in years past.

The public artwork proposed by this Public Art Strategy is a natural extension of *Light Line Social Square*. Seeking to bring a memorable, innovative and playful spirit to Doran Drive Plaza, the artwork will reference the colour scheme of Hills Showground station and extend the *Light Line Social Square* themes of site-specificity, the rhythms of the everyday, and environmental care.

The artwork will give expression to the cultural and environmental context of the Doran Drive precinct. Its scale will command a strong public presence and speak to the broader community of the beauty, function and sustainable use of harvested water. The work will change in response to weather and climatic conditions, and will provide a focal point for the precinct. Changing natural light and rainfall throughout the seasons will be reflected in the artwork's water flow and the brightness and angle of coloured shadows on the ground beneath the artwork. The innovative artwork will embrace new and sustainable technologies, and water-sensitive design.

This Strategy also proposes an ongoing creative event program to showcase the work of local cultural and environmental groups to the broader community, extending and embracing the curatorial concept and themes of this Public Art Strategy.

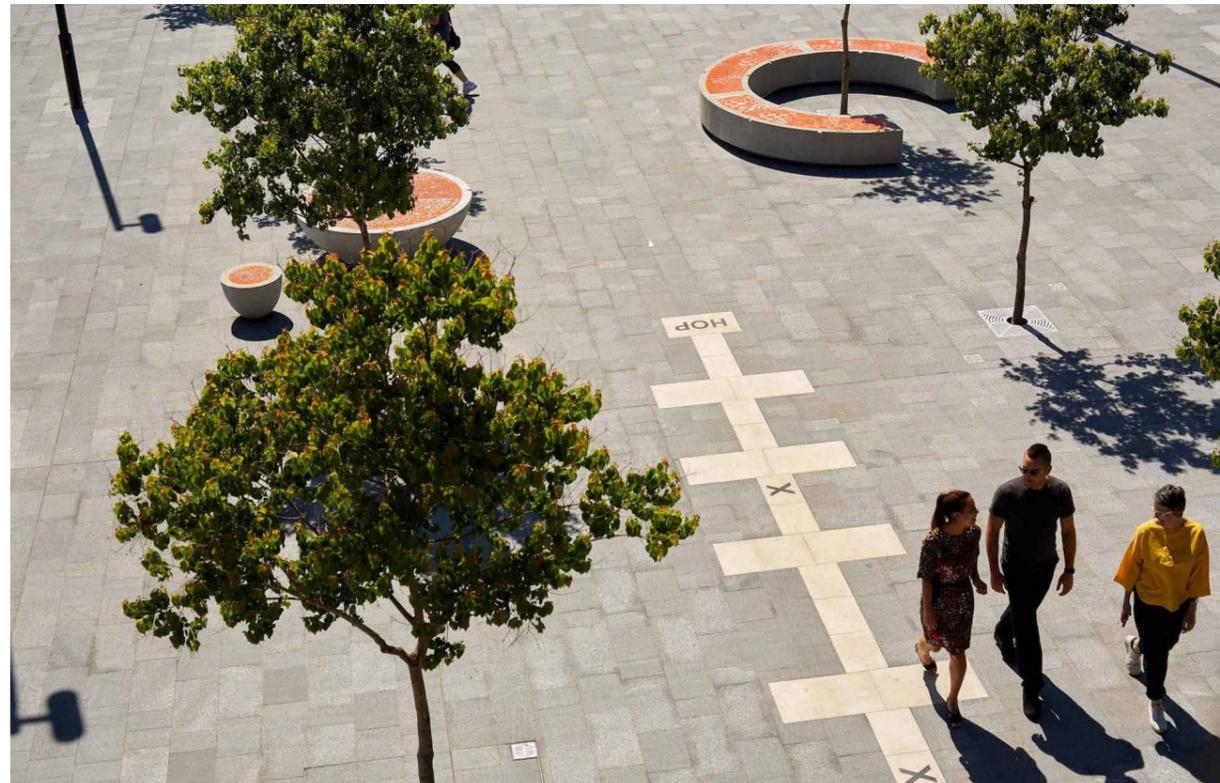


Light Line Social Square - Hills Showground Station - Turpin Crawford Studio

SITE DESCRIPTION

Doran Drive Plaza is part of the Hills Showground precinct, and is located next to Hills Showground Sydney Metro station, approximately 30km from the Sydney CBD. The site is also close to Cattai Creek and the historic Castle Hill Showground. This well-connected area will become a vibrant and liveable new local centre, featuring open civic spaces, commercial spaces and a mix of housing choices to meet the needs of people of different ages.

The Showground Station Precinct was announced by the NSW Government in 2014. The precinct is one of a number of Priority Precincts along the North West Rail Link (now Sydney Metro Northwest). The Hills Showground Station Precinct is included in the Global Economic Corridor, which connects the North West Growth Centre to the Sydney CBD, Macquarie Park, Chatswood, St Leonards and North Sydney.



Hills Showground station public domain

The culturally significant Castle Hill Showground will bring an active and ever-changing atmosphere to the neighbourhood surrounding Doran Drive Plaza. Visitors to the Showground will pass through the Plaza site, and use its facilities and civic spaces. The Showground has been in use since the late 1800s, and its programs include the annual Castle Hill Agricultural Show and Orange Blossom Festival, along with horse shows, community and corporate events.

To the north of the site is Fred Caterson Bushland Reserve, a large green space and sports facility covering a total of 58 hectares. The Reserve features sports fields, tennis and basketball courts, a BMX track and other cycle paths. It also contains precious remnant bushland along the Cattai Creek, and is home to many important plant and animal species.

Cattai Creek is a precious green space that will in future provide opportunities for active and passive recreation for residents, workers and visitors to the Hills Showground area. The creek is a catchment that spans Cattai in the Hawkesbury to Castle Hill. It represents an important green corridor for both human and animal life. The Hills Shire Council is undertaking a master planning process for the creek corridor, to establish a range of green links that will connect new urban centres such as the Doran Drive precinct to the creek and provide maximum amenity for the existing and future community of the area. Pathways will connect new urban areas and provide car-free transport options to connect to and from Hills Showground station.

SITE HISTORY

The Castle Hill Show evolved in the late 1800s from earlier sports and agricultural contests on the site. In 1891, the Show officially opened on its present site, on land granted to the Show Society for the site of a permanent showground. The Showground was furnished with amenities such as a timber pavilion, stables and tracks, and fencing and tree plantings soon followed.

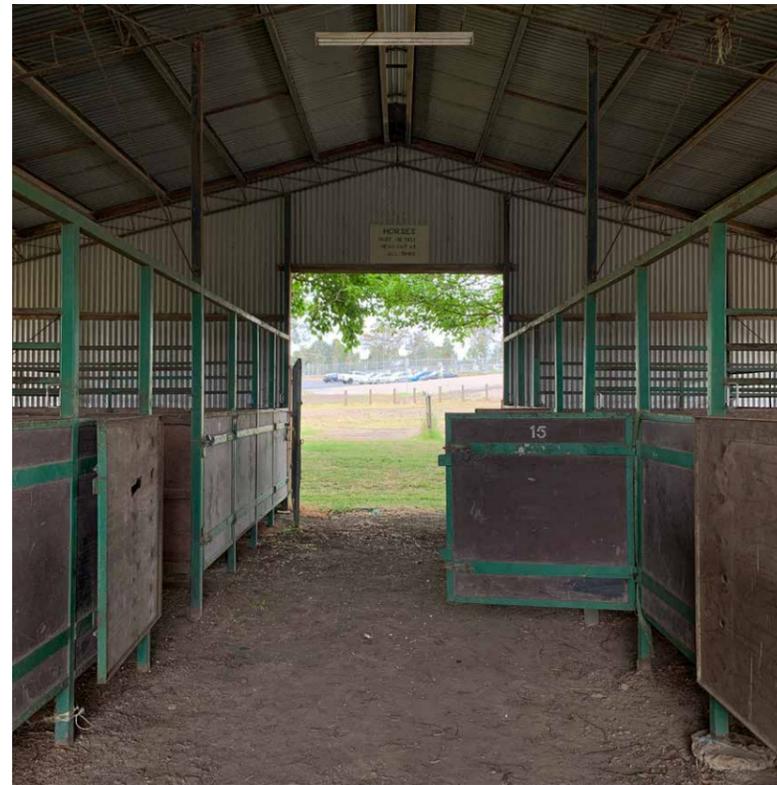
The Show was a major community event. Producers from far and wide came to the Show to take part in its many exhibitions and competitions. There were competitions in horse jumping and trotting, and prizes for the best produce and animals. Women's participation in the equestrian events was particularly high. From the 1940s the Castle Hill Show had the reputation of being second only to the Royal Easter Show as a major agricultural event for Sydney.

The Doran Drive Precinct, sited in the Hills Showground Station Precinct, will complement the future recreational and cultural uses of the Showground by bringing new audiences and participants to events and activities. Doran Drive Plaza will be a new civic space, a place of respite between the Showground and transport connections: a place to sit and rest, to eat and to connect with place.

Doran Drive recognises the name of a road which previously existed in this location and was named after a highly respected Council ganger from the outdoor staff. The connections of the local Castle Hill community to their green spaces and natural environment are strong.



Students from local high schools wash and prepare cattle for the Junior Cattle section at the 130th Annual Castle Hill Show, Castle Hill Showground, New South Wales, 5 March 2016 / photograph by Louise Whelan (SLNSW)



Site surrounds

CULTURAL CONTEXT

The Hills District has a high level of community involvement in arts and culture, particularly in the performing arts. Schools and community groups regularly access the cultural infrastructure of the area.

Cultural activity in the Hills District includes:

- performing arts
- visual arts
- music and music education
- history and heritage
- libraries and literature
- cultural and community celebrations

The agricultural history of the area is a key heritage theme, and one that is regularly interpreted through cultural events. For example, the history of

orchards and fruit-growing in the area is celebrated in the annual Orange Blossom festival, which takes place at the Castle Hill Showground annually. Tens of thousands of people attend the one-day festival, which features pop-up markets, public speaking competitions, pet shows, a senior's dance, a bonsai exhibition and plant sale, BMX competitions, classic car and bike displays, an art show, and other stalls and displays.

Castle Hill is on the northern periphery of the Cumberland Plain, and was part of the Cumberland Plain woodlands. These were the lands of the Bediagal, Tugagal and Boorobirronggal people. The Aboriginal people of this area depended on the small animals, insects and edible roots that were found on the Cumberland Plan, and also ate mullet from the creeks. Weapons and tools were made from stalks of grass trees, timber, or tree roots tipped with stone and bone.



Orange Blossom Festival Parade in Castle Hill c. 1983



Orange Blossom Festival Parade, 2018 - Image: Red Square Media



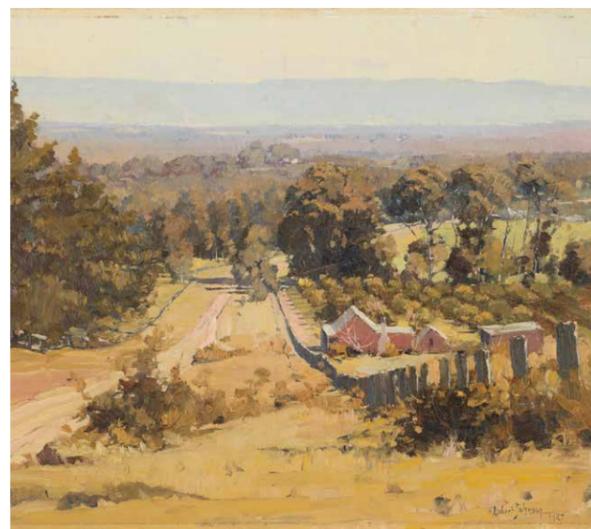
Orange Blossom Festival Volunteers, 2018 - Image: Red Square Media

Following the arrival of British colonists, the Aboriginal groups of the Castle Hill region experienced severe trauma and disruption, due to disease, land seizures and colonial violence. A famous figure of Aboriginal resistance was Bediagal man Pemulwuy, who led resistance efforts from the Castle Hill region throughout the 1790s.

Aboriginal people adapted to the colonial context over time, and continued to live through the Cumberland Plain despite efforts of assimilation and control. Castle Hill is represented by one of the strongest Aboriginal communities in Sydney, the Deerubbin Aboriginal Land Council, who have maintained their cultural knowledge and connections to Country.

In the early 1800s, the area began to develop as a farming and agricultural centre for Sydney. In 1804, a convict rebellion took place on the 35,000 acre government farm that had been declared by Governor King. Irish convicts made a stand in Rouse Hill, before the ensuing battle resulted in their defeat and capture.

Throughout the 19th century, the area developed into a fruit-growing region, and by the 1890s the Castle Hill district was home to many orchards, small farms and houses. Oranges became a staple crop of the area, and market gardens became common with the arrival of European migrants in the early 20th century and again after World War II. The Showground became a centre for agricultural and horse shows, and has retained its character as the surrounding development has evolved. In 2013, the Hills Entertainment Centre was demolished to make way for Showground Station.



Vineyard, Castle Hill, 1927 / by Robert Johnson (SLNSW)



Howard Auto Cultivators [rotary hoes], Castle Hill (SLNSW)



Cattai Creek surrounds

POLICY FRAMEWORK

In developing this strategy, extensive consideration has been given to how it is informed by a number of related plans and guidelines for the area's development. These documents are summarised below, with aims and objectives highlighted that were pertinent during the evolution of the curatorial concept and themes for Doran Drive Plaza.

Sydney Metro Northwest Places – Public Art Guidelines

Landcom's intention is to build a sense of place and community over the development of the eight precincts that make up the Sydney Metro Northwest Places (SMNWP). The Vision of this document is:

To incorporate artworks that build the unique story of each place, encourage social connections, and bring life to public spaces. Artworks should be contemporary, memorable, bold and innovative, in order to inspire, invigorate and announce these precincts as places for people to live, connect and grow.

The objectives for public art in the SMNWP precincts are:

- To create unique, world-class place experiences that are inviting and vibrant
- To generate and attribute social and economic value to precincts and places
- To engage diverse communities and artists in a shared creative dialogue
- To transform spaces during development into attractive, multi-use destinations

The Sydney Metro Northwest Place Public Art Guidelines describe a thematic network for public art in the SMNWP - a network that expresses the connections we have to the things that we value in our lives, including the relationships we develop with people, places and the environment, and the mutual effects we have on each other. This concept of a network, and in particular its key themes *Human and Environment, Art and Community, and Existing and New*, have inspired the evolution of the curatorial themes for this Strategic document.

Castle Hill Showground – Master Plan

In August 2020, the Hills Shire Council adopted the Castle Hill Showground Master Plan, a thirty-year vision for the future of the Showground. This Masterplan will guide the creation of a new 15-hectare entertainment and recreational hub for Sydney's northwest. The Showground site is predicted to become the key civic and recreational space for the new Showground precinct, which will be home to approximately 20,000 residents.

The Master Plan, created by McGregor Coxall with Elton, HillPDA and MbM, describes the Showground becoming a place full of adventure and activity. Local community provided input during the development of the Master Plan, and this community feedback is reflected in the proposed social infrastructure. The framework that will guide the implementation of the Master Plan is commercially viable, and will be supported by collaborating architects CHROFI and project engineers Cardno. The outcomes of the plan, to be delivered over the next 30 years, include new areas for existing and future community events, shaded and walkable connections from the Metro station to the Showground, destinations and activities for a wide range of existing and future users, regional parklands, community sport facilities, and community and cultural infrastructure.

The Vision of the Master Plan is to:

- celebrate the historic value of the Showground
- support the emerging community through a diverse range of activities
- establish the Showground precinct as a vibrant regional destination
- become a main point of interest along the Northwest Metro Line
- create an economically viable precinct through day and night time offering
- leverage the regional parkland setting and in particular, Cattai Creek

The Showground area will be defined through six key areas, which include the Arena, the Promenade, the Village, the Icon, the Terraces and the Paddocks. These redefined green spaces will become a network of public space,

supporting both human life and the biodiversity of the area, providing green corridors and connections to the creek. The proposed artwork and plantings for Doran Drive Plaza will support the functionality and redesign of these key areas.

Hills Showground Station Precinct – Interpretation Strategy – GML Heritage

Landcom engaged GML Heritage to prepare a Heritage Interpretation Strategy (HIS) for the proposed redevelopment of the Hills Showground Station Precinct. The site covered by the report is part of the Showground Station Precinct and consists of the land immediately surrounding the Showground Metro Station. The Strategy provides a snapshot of the site's history and heritage from pre-colonial times to the present, and contains four key themes, which provide a structure for ordering and connecting the site's natural and cultural values.

The themes are:

Theme 1: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and History

Theme 2: Resistance and Rebellion

Theme 3: Agriculture and Orchardring

Theme 4: Pride in the Hills.

The two themes that have been incorporated into the curatorial approach for this Public Art Strategy are *Agriculture and Orchardring*, and *Pride in the Hills*. These two themes touch on, respectively, the site's history in growing produce and connections with nature, and the prevalence of social gatherings and strength of community participation in the area.

Hills Showground Station Precinct – Urban Design Report and Urban Design Guidelines

The Hills Showground Station Precinct – Urban Design Report and Guidelines were key documents in developing the Public Art Strategy and form the foundation for the cultural and environmental approach of the proposed public art project.

The Project Vision of the Urban Design Report is:

The Hills Showground Station Precinct will be a thriving local mixed-use centre; a walkable, lively place enhanced by strong connections to world class transport and the cultural and recreational destination of Castle Hill Showground. The precinct will provide diverse housing for different generations and lifestyles, framed by green open spaces that encourage connectivity, and will celebrate its views over Cattai Creek and the wider Garden Shire.

The Urban Design Report, written by Cox and Oculus, evokes a lively new neighbourhood, one that will attract new residents and workers to the area through the diversity of its amenities, transport options, recreational spaces and cultural offer.

The development objectives include the promotion of investment in public art and the public realm (under Value), an objective which has led directly to the development of this innovative Public Art Strategy. By providing an iconic public art centrepiece for the Hills Showground Precinct, this development objective will be partly fulfilled, and the precinct will demonstrate its commitment to a valued public realm from the commencement of the project.

Another development objective – Place – describes a celebration of water movement, aspect and topography of the site, which this Public Art Strategy addresses through a water-based artwork, as described in later sections of this document. The Public Domain Strategy contained in the Urban Design Report also suggests that water be utilised within the public domain.

The Urban Design Report also refers to “public art trees” at the station entrance and forecourt (*Sapium sebiferum* – commonly known as Chinese Tallow) that are part of the *Light Line Social Square* artwork for the Sydney Metro Northwest, by Turpin Crawford Studio in collaboration with Hassell and McGregor Westlake. This Public Art Strategy includes recommendations for further plantings of trees and shrubs to connect to Light Line Social Square and to extend the proposed public artwork for Doran Drive Plaza through companion planting.

The Urban Design Report also contains a Public Art and Interpretation Strategy, which builds upon the Hills Showground Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Heritage Impact Statement and the Hills Showground Precinct Interpretation

Strategy (GML, 2019) and is further developed with the Guidelines. These documents distil the information and themes of the GML documents into practical directions for the heritage interpretation and public art in the precinct. The four key themes of the GML Interpretation Strategy (*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, Resistance and Rebellion, Agriculture and Orchard* and *Pride in the Hills*) are to be expressed through four Devices, the third of which is Public Art/Murals.

The Guidelines state that the interpretative content and public art for the precinct will be guided by the Sydney Metro Northwest Place Public Art Guidelines, and refer to the key thematic network for public art in the SMNWP as a network that expresses the connections we have to the things that we value in our lives, including the relationships we develop with people, places and the environment, and the mutual effects we have on each other. The connection between places, people and animals, and how these relationships can change and grow, is key to the proposed public art project.

Cultural Action Plan for the Sydney Hills

The Hills Shire Council has supported cultural and creative activities for many years. Council has played the role of supporter of the industry, as well as facilitator of cultural and creative events, and now recognises an opportunity to assist the growth of the visitor economy through event tourism.

The demographic statistics of the Hills provide an insight into the cultural habits and preferences of its residents. Many family-oriented events and activities are run in the area, along with outdoor events, performance and theatre, and community festivals. The community is diverse, with cultural backgrounds including British, Chinese, Italian, Indian, German, Korean and Lebanese. More than 29% of people in the Hills speak a language other than English at home, and of these languages, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Arabic and Hindi are the most common.

The Cultural Action Plan states that the possibility of a multipurpose facility is being considered in the context of the master planning for the Showground site. The facility, described as The Icon in the Hills Showground Master Plan, could cater for a variety of uses including conferences, tradeshows, concerts seating up to 3,000 people, sports events and indoor show arenas. Doran

Drive Plaza would be on the threshold of this facility, and a main thoroughfare between the facility and the Showground station. Visitors to the facility would potentially use Doran Drive Plaza as a place to eat, rest and connect with each other before or after their visit to the Showground.

The Hills LEP 2019

The Hills Local Environmental Plan 2019 (THLEP), in Part 5, Clause 5.10 (1), describes relevant objectives for heritage conservation in relation to:

- The environmental heritage of the Hills
- The heritage significance of heritage items and areas in association with fabric, settings and views
- Archaeological sites
- Aboriginal objects and places of significance

The Doran Drive site does not contain any heritage items listed in Schedule 5 of THLEP but is located in the vicinity of significant heritage items, and valuable natural resources including Cattai Creek and Fred Caterson Reserve, along with the Showground itself which is of natural and cultural value.

Part 9, Clause 9.4, of THLEP includes the following objectives, among others, for the development control plan for this precinct that are addressed by the public art proposal put forward by this Strategy:

- design principles drawn from an analysis of the site and its context,
- distribution of land uses, including open space (its function and landscaping) and environment protection areas,
- encouraging sustainable transport, including increased use of public transport, walking and cycling, road access and the circulation network and car parking provision, including integrated options to reduce car use,
- identification and conservation of native flora and fauna habitat and habitat corridors on the site, including any threatened species, populations or ecological communities,
- the application of the principles of ecologically sustainable development,
- opportunities to apply integrated natural water-cycle design and integrated renewable energy design,
- the incorporation of high-quality public art into the fabric of buildings in the

public domain or other publicly accessible areas.
The scope of the permanent public art project detailed in the following sections includes aspects that positively engage with the above requirements.

Hills Future 2036 – Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Hills Future 2036 - Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) was endorsed by the Council in October 2019. The LSPS will support future planning decisions as well as drive future land use planning and how population is managed, along with housing and economic growth in the Hills. Through setting out planning priorities and related actions, the LSPS will guide the future development of the entire Hills District.

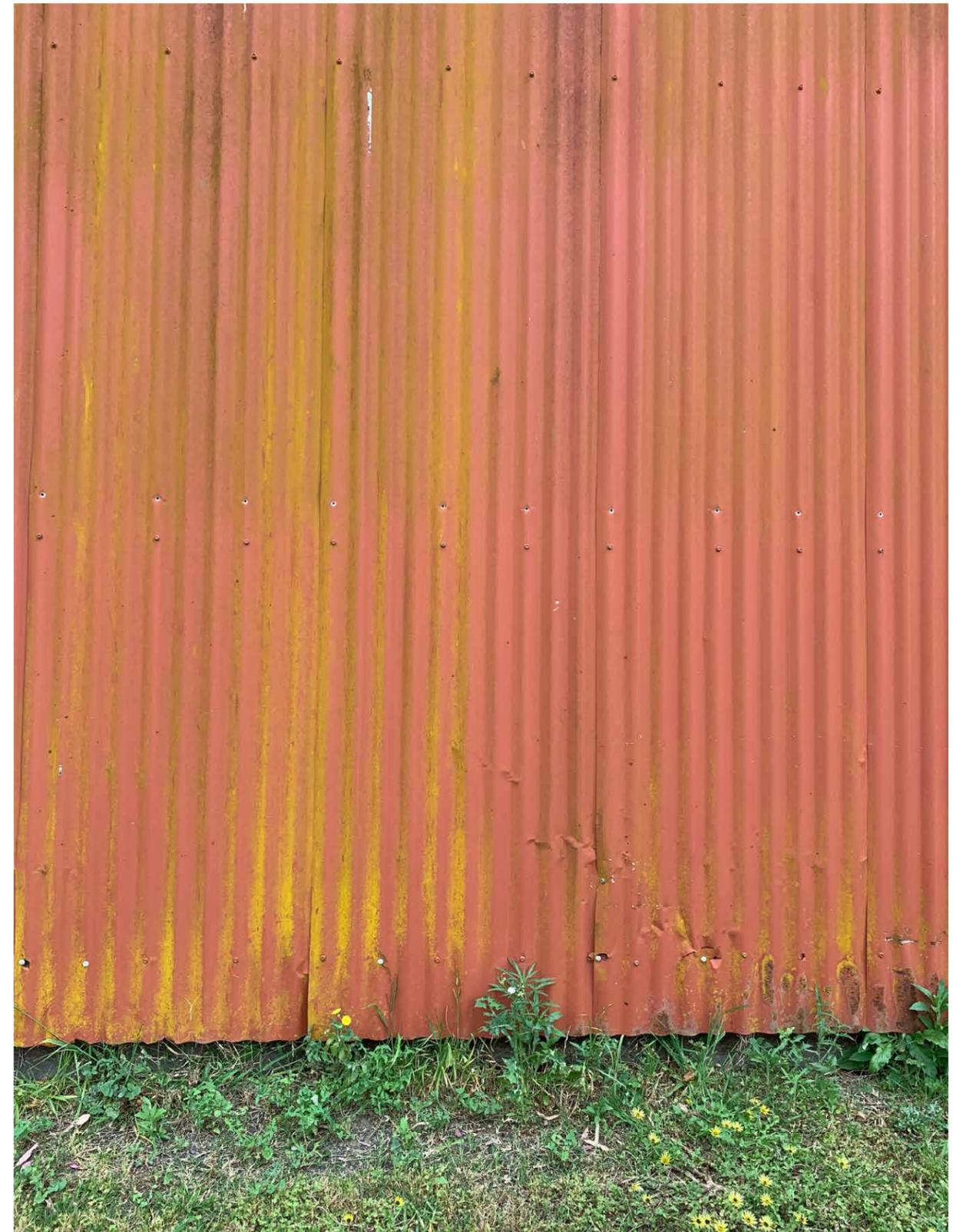
As a document that describes the changes to come, it provides an insight into the transformation of this part of Sydney. By 2036, the population of the Hills District will grow by 80%. The Statement sets out plans to support these new communities, particularly along public transport routes, with more local employment, more active transport routes and high-quality living environments.

The LSPS describes Castle Hill as one of the ‘anchor’ strategic centres that will accommodate the bulk of jobs in the Shire, in particular more ‘knowledge-intensive’ jobs. The thriving night life in Castle Hill will also offer residents and visitors places to socialise and dine. Public transport, along with walking and cycling tracks, will provide safe and convenient journeys.

The five key themes of the LSPS that form the basis of the vision for the Hills are:

- a vibrant community and prosperous economy
- shaping growth
- delivering and maintaining infrastructure
- valuing our surroundings
- proactive leadership.

Public art in the Doran Drive Plaza will not only support the creation of a vibrant community space, but will inspire residents and visitors to value the Hills District surroundings.



Original Hills Showground structure (detail)

CURATORIAL THEMES

The above reports, strategies and guidelines express many common objectives and themes. There are repeated mentions of connections to the natural world, connections between people and place, the connection to Cattai Creek, and physical connections to transport and to the wider Hills District and to Sydney more broadly.

A curatorial approach entails distilling these common aims into themes that will guide the selected artist Jennifer Turpin, and potentially other artists in future, in the development of site-responsive and site-specific artworks. For this project, the curatorial concept is:

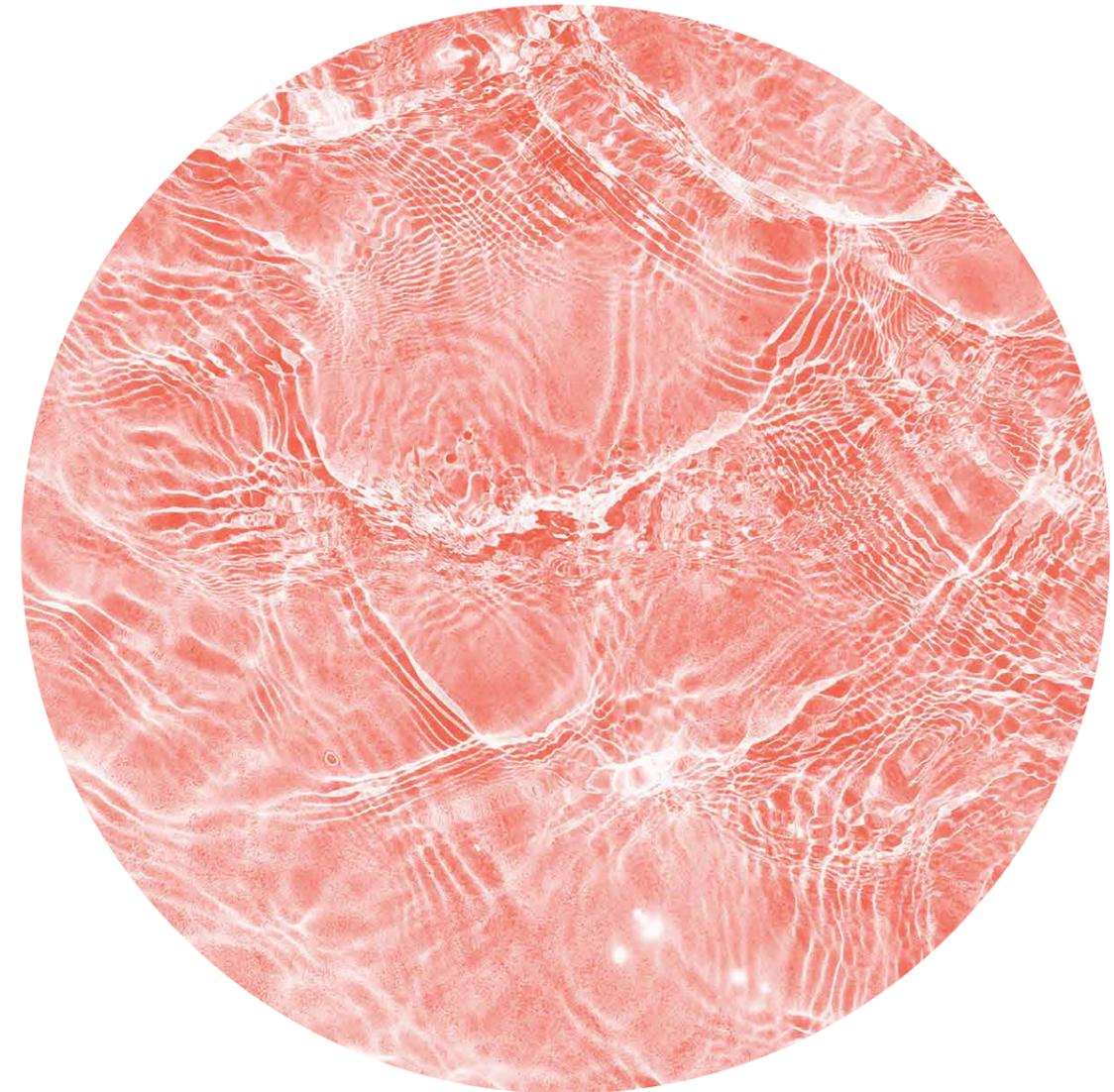
Water Connects Us

This concept refers to the element of water being integral to all life, and being the element that connects us all to each other. We have water within us, and between us. Humans and animals and plants depend on water for our survival, and for our peace of mind.

The sight and sound of water flowing in the civic space at the heart of Doran Drive Plaza will create a serene heart for the precinct, a place around which people and birds can gather, supported and shaded by plants and trees. Water, in the form of a fountain, will also refer to nearby Cattai Creek, reminding people that they live and work in the vicinity of an ancient waterway.

The themes that support and extend this curatorial concept are:

- a place for people and for animals
- shared spaces
- sound, sight and sensuality
- an urban oasis
- connecting to nature through form and function
- placing the needs and behaviours of birds at the centre of design thinking
- sustainability and water reuse



PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY

This Strategy proposes a foundational artwork that responds to the above curatorial concept and themes. Such an artwork will bring new life to the Doran Drive Plaza and draw connections between people and nature. It will engage diverse communities of people and other species, and offer opportunities for further thematic programming of temporary events and cultural offerings around environmental and sustainability themes. The artwork will be innovative and memorable, and will provide a living, changing and vibrant feature for Doran Drive Plaza.

The fountain will directly address the importance of water in all of our lives, and the potential for water reuse to be integrated into the fabric of our civic spaces. It will express a generosity towards all life, and invite us to consider a broader idea of community – one that is expanded to include the other forms of life with whom we share our urban spaces.

A tiered water fountain could refer in its form to classical ideals of fountains in town squares and piazzas, whilst also embodying a more contemporary and innovative form in its design. A fountain set in a central location in Doran Drive Plaza could mitigate the urban heat island effect in the hotter months, and have a cooling effect through the sight and sound of flowing water, and via the companion plantings providing shade and colour.

The fountain will merge the forms of classical tiered fountain and a bird bath, forming an ambitious and playful water sculpture that offers residents and visitors a direct connection to the native life of the area. Local birds will visit the fountain, giving residents and visitors a new perspective on the life that surrounds them. People will be engaged with the lifestyle of birds, their everyday routines, relationships and rhythms.

Visitors will not come into direct contact with the water which will flow overhead and not be accessible at ground level. Their experience of the artwork will be visual and spatial. Bird behaviour research, to be undertaken during design development, will ensure the water artwork attracts native and smaller birds.

The colour palette for both fountain and plantings will be the orange and reds of the *Light Line Social Square* artwork embedded in the Showground station and its immediate surrounds. The colour scheme for the Showground station draws upon the recent agricultural history of the region. The geometry of the orchard groves, and the colours of fresh produce, are translated into the grid of the station landscapes, and the signature colours of orange and red. These colours are also the most visible spectrum to birds, and should be utilised in the fountain design and the plant selection for Doran Drive Plaza.

Light Line Social Square orchestrates an interplay of colour and light, expressed over time. It is immersive and dynamic - continuously changing throughout the day, according to the light and weather conditions, and over the seasons, across the year. The proposed fountain for birds will similarly provide an ever-changing and dynamic feature, which will extend the reach of *Light Line Social Square* out from the station and into the world of birds and people. The fountain will be a living art, which will add memorable and joyful cadence to life in our wonderful city, whilst acknowledging our shared existence with birds.

Companion plantings will support the function of the fountain, by providing shelter and food for local bird life, and will also echo the colour palette of the work. Sensitive lighting of the artwork could also support its use by birds and its visual impact at night time. There is also the potential for the dishes of the proposed fountain to be translucent or transparent, and coloured within the palette guidelines, allowing coloured shadows to play on the ground plane, animated by rippling water surface and bird movements.

Art and nature will be in constant dialogue with each other, supporting residents and visitors to Doran Drive Plaza, both human and animal, into the future.

PROGRAMMING

This Public Art Strategy, and in particular its curatorial themes, can also be used to guide activations and the programming of temporary public art and events in the precinct in the future. The bird fountain and its surrounding bird-focused planting scheme will create a positive and engaging environmental good news story, which can be told in simple and varied ways through art projects, community events and school tours.

Merging art, science, landscape design and engineering, the artwork will be an example of collaborative contemporary design. By embedding public art in the fabric of Doran Drive Plaza, a commitment to sustainability principles and water-sensitive design can be expressed. These themes could be further explored by artists and makers in various programs, including, for example:

- Art-science talks, exhibitions and events
- A meeting point for bird-watching tours in Fred Caterson Reserve and along Cattai Creek
- Busking and live music

- Education talks on art, science and design
- A gathering place for community groups
- These programs could be arranged through the project's community facilitator, Hills Community Aid

Satellite programs to connect to events taking place at the Showground would also be a possibility, to extend the reach of those festivals and events, and offer a quieter, smaller-scale space for related programs.

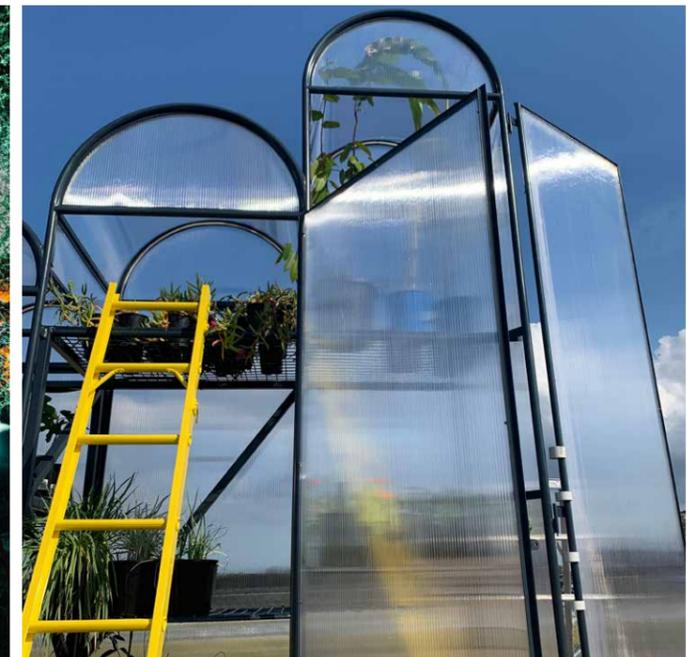
Many contemporary artists across Sydney, and all over the world, are exploring themes of sustainability, environmental awareness and thinking about new ways to consider our relationship with the natural world. This artwork would be a beacon of hope, envisaging a more empathetic and generous way of being in the world, and stimulating programming that brings people together to reimagine our collective future.



Murobond by Nicole Monks, 2020 - Image Samantha Mackie



Mark Anderson, Feather Dervish, New Zealand Festival, 2016 - Image Nicola Easterby

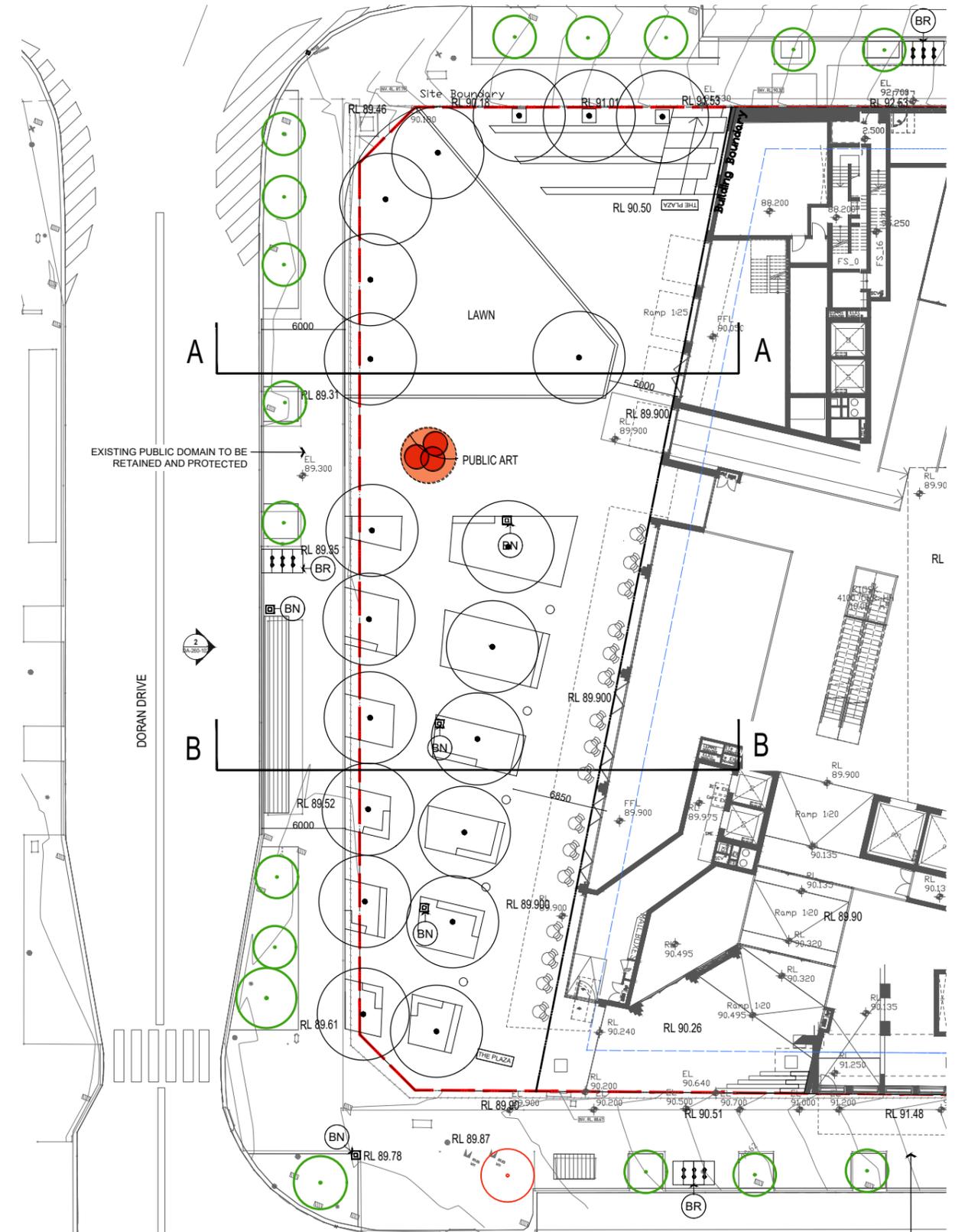


The Plant Library by Lauren Brincat, 2019, Rouse Hill, NSW. Co-commissioned by C3West on behalf of the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Landcom

ARTWORK LOCATION

The water-based artwork will be located in a central position within Doran Drive Plaza, with clear sightlines from the Metro station and from Doran Drive itself. This positioning will allow the artwork to be the heart of the open, public space of the plaza, where it will express an active and playful approach to urban design. Bringing nature into the centre of the plaza and welcoming residents and visitors on their daily or new journeys, the fountain will express an openness to humans and animals, with all species also supported by native trees and plants in the vicinity of the artwork. The water will only be able to be physically accessed by birds, but will be heard, felt and seen by people in the Plaza.

The water artwork is embedded in the overall park design and the treatment of the lawn edge to the north of the water artwork will encourage people to linger, sit and observe, whilst allowing the high foot traffic to continue to flow on the southern side of the artwork.



Location Diagram

MATERIALS AND MAINTENANCE

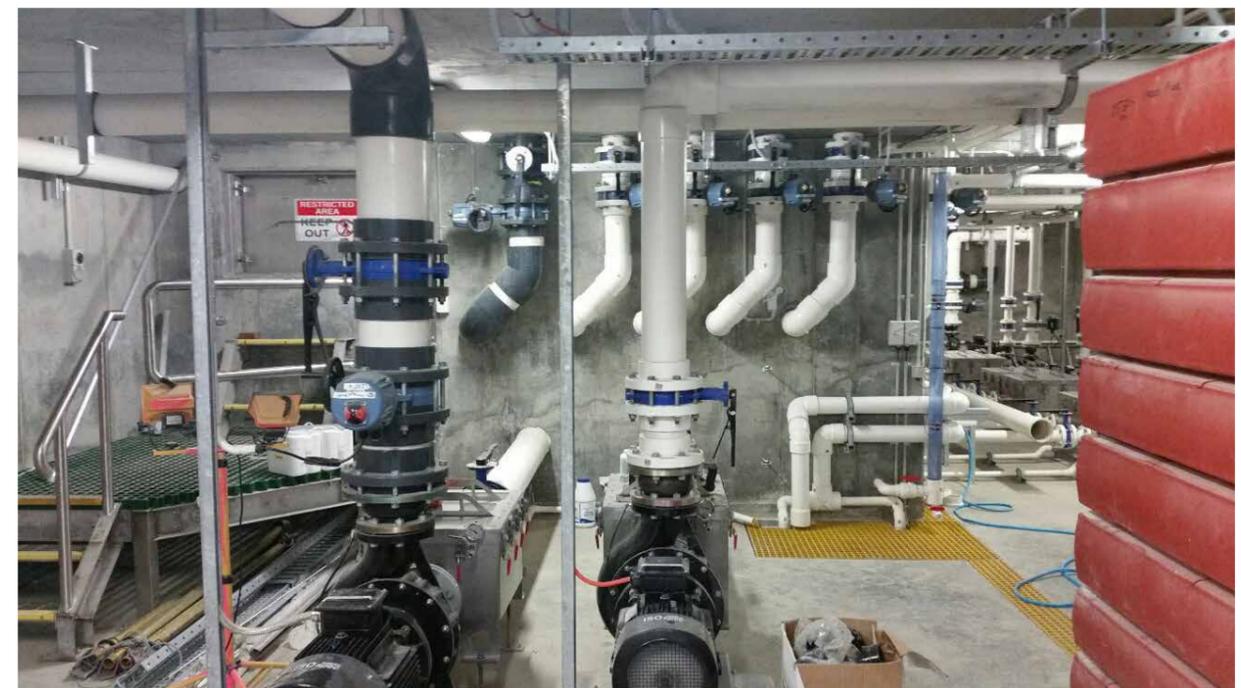
The fountain will be created by the artist Jennifer Turpin. Working closely with a water feature designer / hydraulic engineer, the artist will design the fountain with self-cleaning mechanisms in the dishes, and in a plant room located in the car park beneath Doran Drive Plaza. The plant room will contain a holding tank for the fountain, and filtration equipment. The source water used will be stored rainwater, treated and sanitised using filters and via high pressure Ultraviolet (UV) treatment within the plant room. It will be continually recirculated and treated to high standards.

The water will be treated using a filter, and then a high-pressure UV treatment to kill live organisms and break up complex compounds. The maintenance schedule will ensure healthy water for the birds. Humans will have no access to the water used in the fountain above head height.

Regular maintenance will be a necessity for the longevity of the systems used, and the water quality will need to be sufficient to support birds and their needs for drinking and bathing. There is the potential to create a truly sustainable water artwork through the integration of solar-powered pumps, using solar energy captured on site. These innovative and sustainable systems could be a feature for Doran Drive Plaza and the whole area.

Materials to be used will be selected through detailed design development, in the next stages, in collaboration with structural, materials and hydraulic engineers. The use of the latest materials will be explored, including new technologies in perspex and acrylic. As mentioned above, there is the potential for some or all of the fountain to be transparent or translucent, allowing for a play of light and the motion of birds and water to be seen on the ground plane of the Plaza.

Maintenance and engineering requirements have been considered by the design and developer team during the evolution of this Public Art Strategy, and will be defined further during detailed design development.



SPECIES

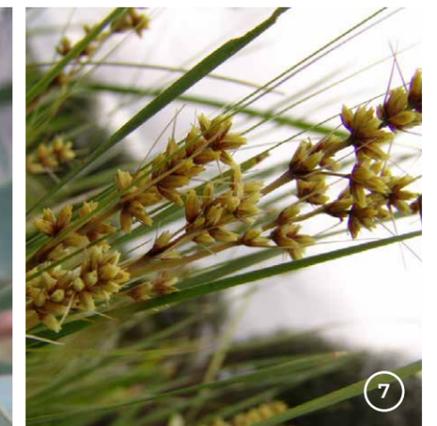
Plants

This public artwork will be comprised not only of the fountain itself, but also of supporting plant species that will encourage activation of the work by local bird life. The birds will require a range of different-sized trees and shrubs, to provide food, shelter and protection whilst accessing the waters of the fountain.

The species listed below also work within the proposed colour palette for the Plaza of orange and red, which is both highly visible to birds and extends the colour scheme of Showground station. Some of the plant species listed below are classified as endangered or threatened in New South Wales, and their appearance in the Plaza will also inspire future environmental events and cultural programs to celebrate their significance and the need to protect them.

Suggested species are:

- Hairy Geebung (*Persoonia hirsuta*) – Rare or Threatened Australian Plant (National Significance)
- River Mat Rush (*Lomandra fluviatilis*) - Rare or Threatened Australian Plant (National Significance)
- Grevillea Honey Gem (*Grevillea banksia* x *Grevillea pteridifolia*)
- Grevillea Sandra Gordon (*Grevillea sessilis* and *Grevillea pteridifolia*)
- Red Flowering Gum (*Corymbia ficifolia*)
- Diamond Leaf Pittosporum (*Auranticarpia rhombifolia*)
- Eucalyptus Cattai (*Eucalyptus* sp. *Cattai*) – Critically Endangered local Eucalypt
- Illawarra flame tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*)
- Dusky coral pea (*Kennedia rubicunda*)



1. Red Flowering Gum, 2. Grevillea Sandra Gordon, 3. Hairy Geebung, 4. Grevillea Honey Gem, 5. Diamond Leaf Pittosporum, 6. Eucalyptus Cattai, 7. River Mat Rush

Birds

Research has been undertaken in the development of this Strategy into the local birds who will use the fountain and their behaviours. There are a number of local bird-watching and environmental community groups active in the area, including the Cattai Hills Environment Network, BirdLife Australia and the Fred Caterson Landcare Group. These stakeholders kindly provided resources and insights into local bird habits and populations.

Local bird species include:

- Regent Honeyeater
- Lewin's Honeyeater
- Crested Shrike Tit
- Turquoise Parrot
- Swift Parrot
- Powerful Owl
- Glossy Black Cockatoo
- Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
- Glossy Black Cockatoo
- Yellow Tailed Cockatoo
- Bookbook Owl
- Superb Fairy Wren
- Barred Finches
- Crimson Rosellas
- Eastern Rosellas
- Musk Lorikeet
- Scaly Breasted Lorikeet
- Little Lorikeet
- Rainbow Lorikeet
- Golden Whistler
- Yellow Thornbill
- Straited Thornbill
- Spotted Pardalote
- Little Wattlebird
- Eastern Spinebill



1. Crested Shrike Tit, 2. Powerful Owls, 3. Crimson Rosella, 4. Glossy Black Cockatoo, 5. Swift Parrot, 6. Regent Honeyeater, 7. Turquoise Parrot



1. Barred Finch, 2. Lewin's Honeyeater, 3. Laughing Kookaburra, 4. Little Wattlebird, 5. Spotted Pardalote, 6. Pied Currawong, 7. Grey Fantail, 8. Sacred Kingfisher, 9. Musk Lorikeet, 10. Yellow Tailed Cockatoo, 11. Yellow Thornbill, 12. Golden Whistler, 13. Scaly Breasted Lorikeet, 14. Rufous Whistler, 15. Satin Bowerbird

- Satin Bowerbird
- King Parrot
- Little Corella
- Long Billed Corella
- Sacred Kingfisher
- Pacific Koel
- Laughing Kookaburra
- Dollarbird
- Common Bronzewing
- White-Throated Treecreeper
- Pied Currawong
- Grey Butcherbird
- Red Browed Finch
- Eastern Whipbird
- Grey Fantail
- Rufous Whistler

These birds have all been observed in nearby Fred Caterson Reserve. Many of these birds face significant challenges, and their presence in the vicinity of the Hills Showground development sites is a major environmental asset.

The fountain will be designed with input from local bird experts, including the above groups. Plantings in the vicinity of the artwork will need to be dense, providing both food sources and sites for retreat and surveillance. Native grasses such as Mat Rush at the margins of public spaces and near the fountain will offer safe spaces for smaller birds, and medium-sized flowering shrubs such as Grevilleas can provide both food and shelter.

Birds of all shapes and sizes will access the water of the fountain, throughout the year and throughout the day and night. The fountain will provide a precious, dependable resource for local birds, a connection to Cattai Creek and a place where birds can rest, bathe and drink.

The fountain design will incorporate the requirements of birds in terms of water depth, pausing places and landing zones. Birds - like humans - need food, shelter, water, family and friends. These basic needs will be considered in all stages of the artwork design.



Bird watching at Fred Caterson Reserve, 2020

METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology for the permanent public artwork for Doran Drive Plaza is that this Strategy is approved and provided to the nominated artist, Jennifer Turpin, as an Artist Brief, to be used in the next stage of detailed design development.

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