



# **NORTH PENRITH VILLAGE - STAGE 2A**

## **STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION**

### **THORNTON PARK LANDSCAPE CONCEPT**



**JULY 2012**



# INTRODUCTION

The North Penrith Village site has a remarkable landscape heritage and an abundance of historic cultural elements that are varied in typology and of either regional or local significance. This heritage is of paramount importance in the landscape for the purposes of education and recreation, not only in the daily lives of the local residents, but also in the wider community.

Sensitivity is critical when dealing with historic landscapes, therefore Thornton Park seeks to find a balance, respecting the existing flora and fauna communities while ensuring that the practical, aesthetic and social needs of the residents and community are better realised.

Retention and rehabilitation of the existing remnants of Cumberland Plain Woodland vegetation will be undertaken with care, and the implementation of both supplementary stock and introduced structured planting using the predominant natives, will feature prominently. Creating view corridors to both the heritage listed Thornton Hall and the proposed Smiths Paddock Community Facilities building is seen an integral component to the landscape and urban design philosophy.

The landscape design recognises the need for a range of active and passive recreational uses along with site specific artwork that connects users to the history of the area. Pedestrian and cycle connections also are of primary concern.

The Thornton Park Landscape Design is based on clear landscape design themes and a definitive palette of components that will be identified in this document. This will result in a design that provides cohesion and site / regional identity.





# LOCATION PLAN



SCALE: 1/3000 @ A3  
0 25 50 100m

CASTLEREAGH ROAD

COOMBEWOOD

COREEN AVENUE

## LEGEND

### OPEN SPACE:

- 1 Smiths Paddock / Village Green
- 2 Thornton Park
- 3 Belmore Green
- 4 Howell Park
- 5 The Common
- 6 Waters Edge
- 7 McHenry Place
- 8 Station Square
- 9 Coreen Avenue Entry





## DESIGN INTENT

**This park is situated to the western boundary of the historic Thornton Hall building and within the largest stands of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW) found on the North Penrith Village Development site. The park has been designed to take full advantage of its location on one of the few topographic high points with various view axes to Smiths Paddock and Thornton Hall.**

**The selective removal of no more than three of the existing (CPW) trees is required to open up a view corridor through the remnant vegetation to visually link Thornton Hall to the Smiths Paddock, the Community Facilities building and to the distant mountains.**

**It is intended that this park provides areas for contemplative passive recreation with the opportunity for interpretive public art installations referencing Indigenous and European Heritage.**

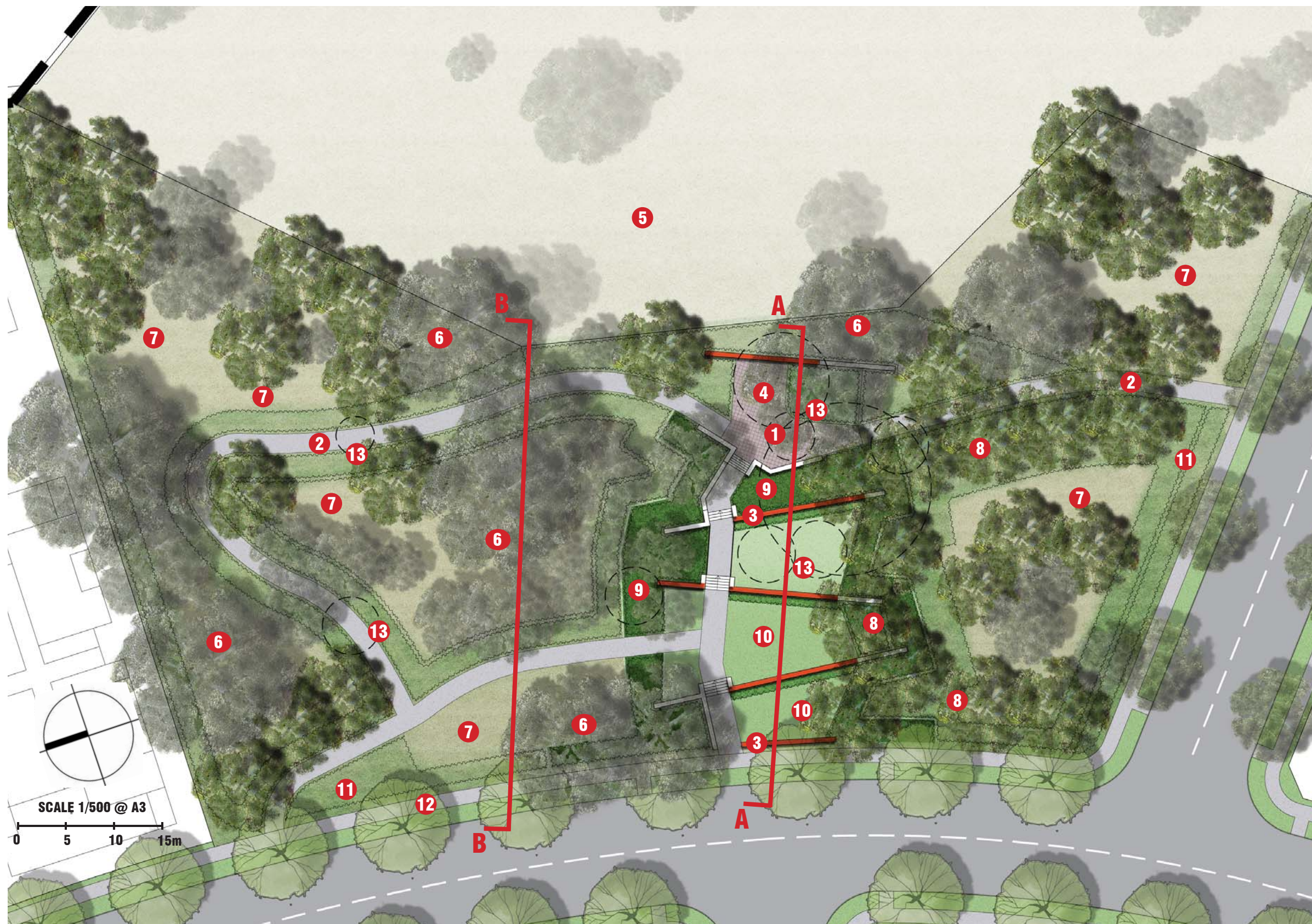
**Access through the park will be via several small flights of stairs that link a series of small elevated turf terraces created by a series of red coloured walls to be developed in conjunction with an artist. Universal access to a hilltop lookout feature plaza is provided via a path that runs parallel with the site contours linking the southern and northern entries of the park.**

**The park will incorporate selected plantings of vibrant low maintenance garden plants that will frame the central terraces and blade walls. Endemic (Cumberland Plain Woodland) and native understory plantings will provide high amenity and increased biodiversity and habitat through significant supplementary tree planting, weed management and bush regeneration.**





# THORNTON PARK CONCEPT PLAN



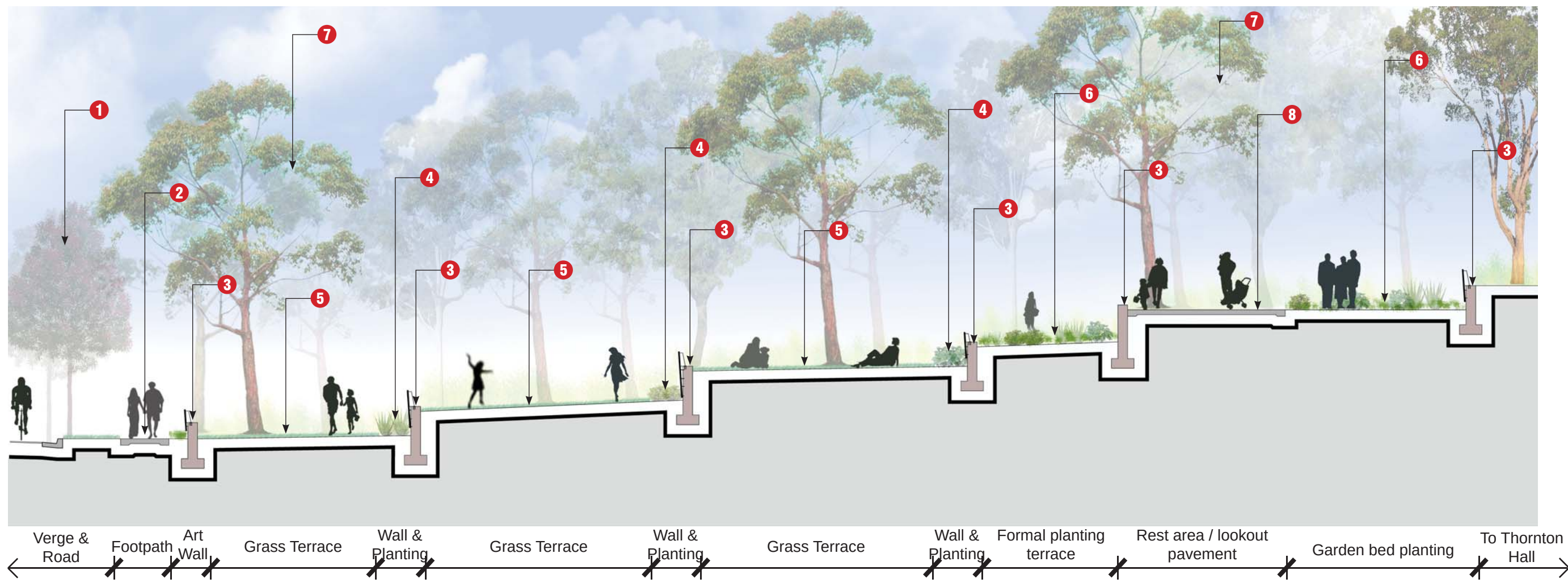
## LEGEND

- 1 Rest area / lookout point
- 2 All access concrete path
- 3 Red/light art walls (by artist)
- 4 Feature bench seating element
- 5 Thornton hall grounds
- 6 Existing cumberland plain woodland (CPW) to be retained
- 7 CPW understory rehabilitation/bush regeneration
- 8 Supplementary CPW tree planting
- 9 Formal understorey planting
- 10 Turf terraces
- 11 Native grasses boarder
- 12 Public Art interpretation of the Speedway within the pavement
- 13 Trees to be removed





# THORNTON PARK SECTION A-A



**SECTION AA**  
**SCALE 1:150 @ A3**

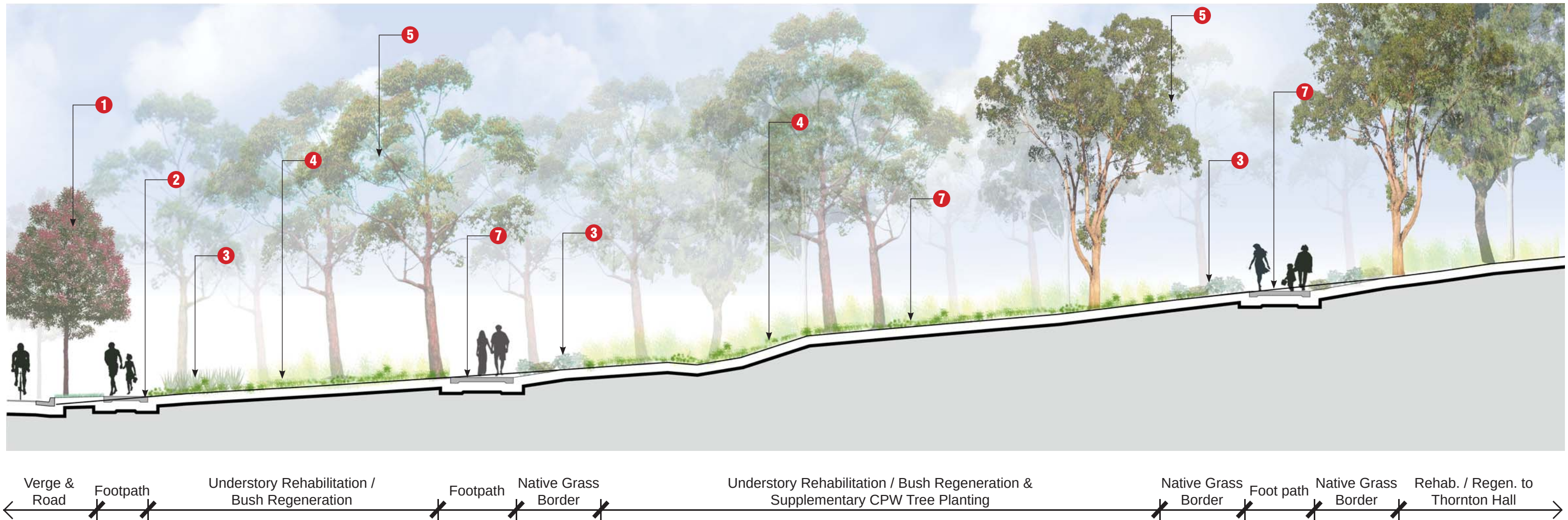
## LEGEND

- |                                                                            |                                                          |                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Street tree planting as per Stage 1 works                         | <b>4</b> Low formal edge planting in front of walls      | <b>7</b> Supplementary planting of Cumberland Plain Woodland tree species                     |
| <b>2</b> Street footpath as per Stage 1 works                              | <b>5</b> Tiered turf terraces                            | <b>8</b> Rest area / lookout point with high quality paving and feature bench seating element |
| <b>3</b> Red coloured art walls to be developed in conjunction with artist | <b>6</b> Garden bed planting of formal species selection |                                                                                               |





# THORNTON PARK SECTION B-B



## SECTION BB

SCALE 1:150 @ A3

### LEGEND

- 1** Street tree planting as per Stage 1 works
- 2** Street footpath as per Stage 1 works
- 3** Border planting of native grasses to path edges
- 4** Rehabilitation / regeneration of existing Cumberland Plain Woodland understory
- 5** Supplementary planting of Cumberland Plain Woodland tree species
- 6** Existing landform / gradients and planting to be retained and protected
- 7** Accessible concrete pathway with a maximum grade of 1:20





## INDICATIVE MATERIALS PALETTE

Thornton Park is regarded as a unique setting within the greater urban fabric of the North Penrith Village Development. Reflecting the site's 'Genus Loci' the landscape design principles will utilise materials to respond to play - through colour, form and shape and repetition to celebrate a sense of place which is in keeping with local character. The materials selected have been carefully considered against the site characteristics and needs of the spaces created to reflect a special sense of identity that is unique to North Penrith Village. The landscape design philosophy and materials selection will reflect, wherever possible, this uniqueness.

It is important the design has a sense of both the formal; that is in keeping with the village centre, the parkland character; as seen throughout the main body of the development site, and the more natural and informal; celebrating the remaining areas of remnant endangered forest communities around Thornton Hall to the east.

The components chosen for use throughout the design comprise, where possible, local materials such as stone, timber (limited due to maintenance requirements), concrete and steel. These shall be used in a variety of ways to reinforce the character of the park or space whilst being practical, low maintenance and cost-effective.

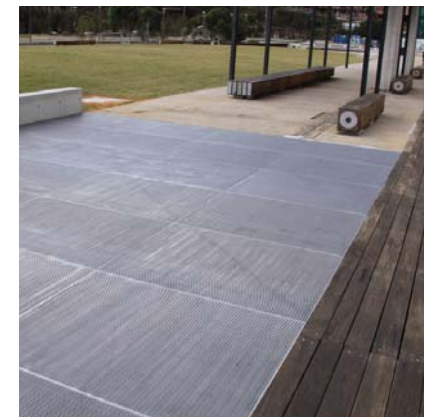
Thornton Park will comprise of a mix of contemporary materials (Off - form concrete walls / in-situ concrete pavements / cor-ten / steel cladding and stainless steel) combined with existing site elements, inspired installations and pockets of natural materials such as sandstone paving / stabilised gravels / timber). In this way the more naturalistic character of the park will be enhanced through sensitive material choices while retaining associations with the overall design aesthetic and related materials utilised through out the remainder of the development. The contrast and juxtaposition of the proposed art walls will provide a memorable cultural experience and will aid in transitioning users from the highly modified suburban development into the remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland.



## MATERIALS STRATEGY

Stone, where utilised, shall be predominantly sandstone that will be laid in coursed linear fashion. Concrete works will be clean lined and pale in colour to enhance contrast. Pavers will be either blue-stone, granite, concrete and porous in function where possible. The timber, where feasible, should be recycled hardwood that turns a silver colour during the weathering process. The steel, depending upon its application, shall be stainless, galvanised or painted. Cor-ten steel may also be used for certain major components through the park. It is intended that these materials in their various forms will provide a unity between different landscape components.

There are also opportunities for bright, idiosyncratic elements proposed through perforated steel cladding to walls. This will provide effective contrast when used in conjunction with the concrete walls and the more neutral stonework.





# STREETSCAPES

The North Penrith Village Streetscape Character will be defined by the selection of tree species which will translate as providing the site with an over arching European Village character whilst accommodating the requirements of council along with the functional needs of pedestrian/cycle and vehicular movements along each of the roads.

The streetscapes are to enhance and reinforce the road hierarchy, through their arrangement, size and species selection. The streets provide green links and view corridors throughout the site, making connections with and between other open spaces.

The design of this section of streetscape near Thornton Park provides an opportunity for planting in a wide central median. The retention of a single Hoop Pine of cultural significance will be reinforced with further Araucaria specimen plantings to the ends of the median. Also within the median, smaller flowering deciduous trees create a formal effect and line up with verge plantings to maximise possible views to the Blue Mountains to the west.

Formal planting of mid-size, deciduous trees will occur within the adjacent street verges to complement streetscapes throughout the development.

The median is to be a low maintenance turf space for use by adjacent residents. Low shrubs and native grasses are proposed for the median ends and the edge against the retaining wall.

Streets are designed to provide an appropriate level of on street parking with priority given to pedestrians and cyclists to provide a pleasant environment to promote walking and social activity.

Some key points:

## Aspect and Views

- Strong visual associations with the significant European historical cultural associations used to define the site.
- Grouped canopy trees provide shade and visual amenity will retaining important views for future residents.
- Strong emphasis to avenue planting with spacings of trees to enable canopies to touch when trees are mature.

## Accessibility

- Continuity of and connectivity to local and recreational paths linking the entire site.

## Materials:

- Footpaths will be robust and will consist mainly of in situ, lightly exposed concrete with areas of porphyry stone setts at key junction points. All driveway cross overs are to be of the same material in order to ensure visual continuity.

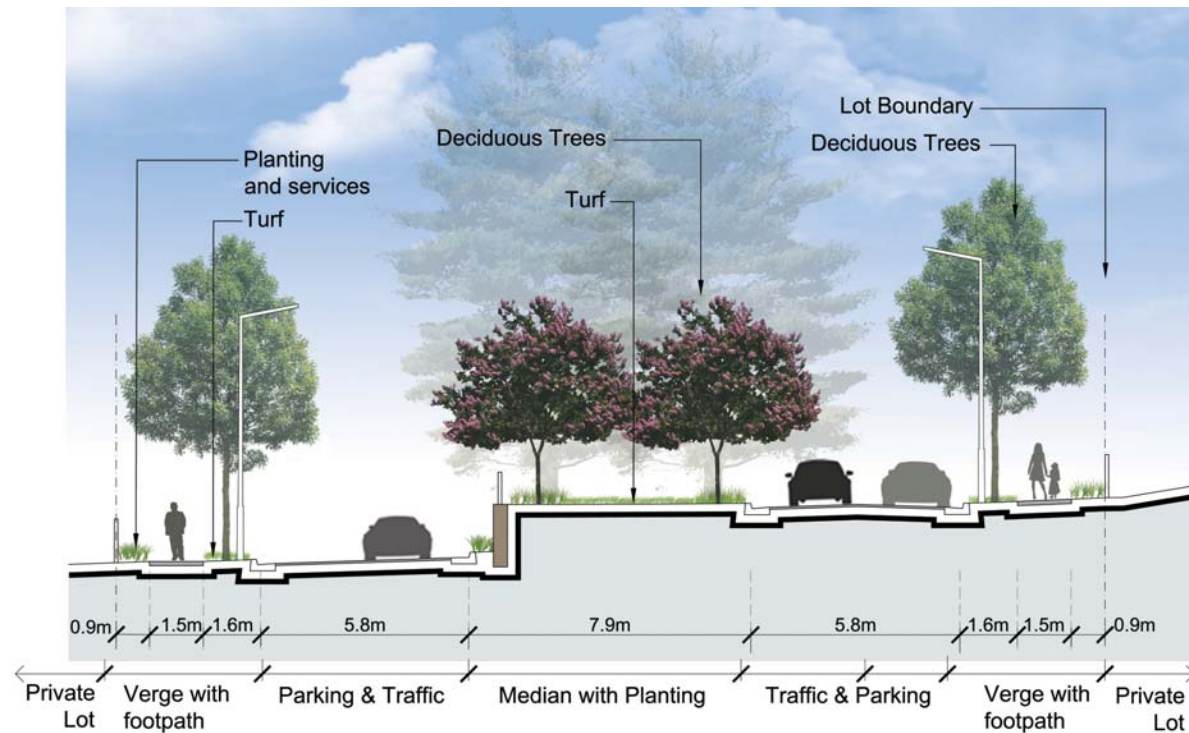
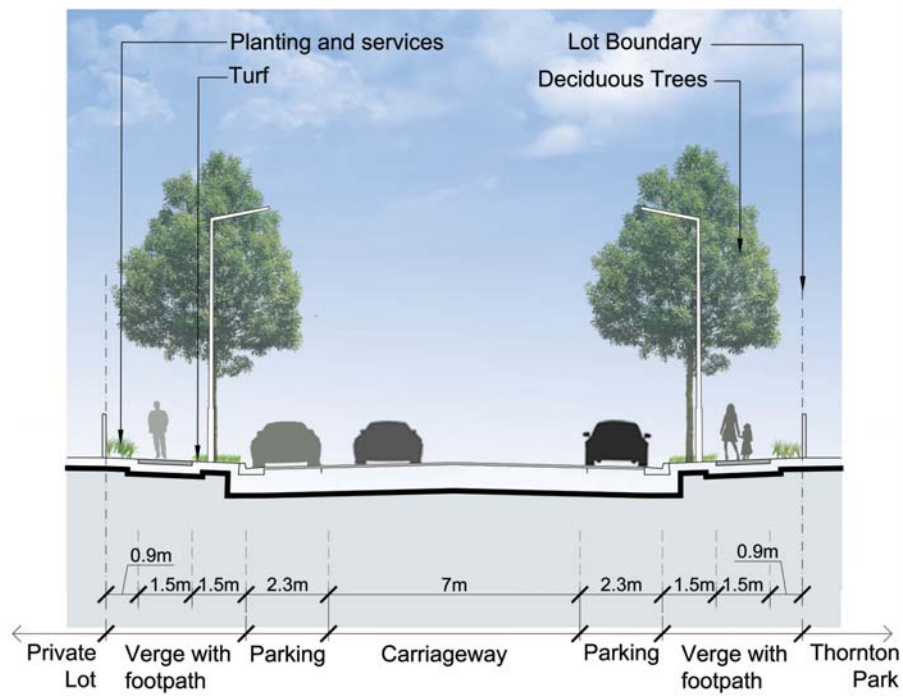
## Plantings:

- Landscaping to all streets is to be maximised with tailored species selection to that of the local and site context. Important views have been considered.
- Culturally and environmentally significant species from the Cumberland Plains Woodland enhance the historic 'sense of place' and character of the site and are to be preserved.
- Low shrub and ground cover planting to median will utilise low maintenance native plant species.





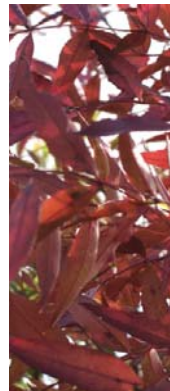
# STREETSCAPE SECTIONS



LOCAL STREET (SECTION A)

LOCAL STREET (SECTION B)

## STREETSCAPE TREE PLANTING



**Fraxinus oxycarpa 'Raywood'**  
Claret Ash

Height: 15m  
Spacings: 10m min.  
Location: Stage 2a - Verges  
on Mountain View Crescent  
Road 20: Local Street (Heri-  
tage)



**Araucaria cunninghamii**  
Hoop Pine

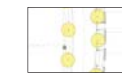
Height: 60m  
Spacings: 10m min.  
Location: Stage 2a - Median  
Ends on Mountain View Cres-  
cent  
Road 20: Local Street (Heri-  
tage)



**Lagerstromia indica:**  
Crepe Myrtle

Height: 6m  
Spacings: 12m  
Location: Stage 2a - Median  
on Mountain View Crescent  
Road 20: Local Street (Heri-  
tage)

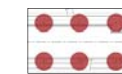
## LEGEND



Stage 1 Streetscape Planting



Thornton Park Planting



*Fraxinus oxycarpa* 'Raywood' - Claret Ash

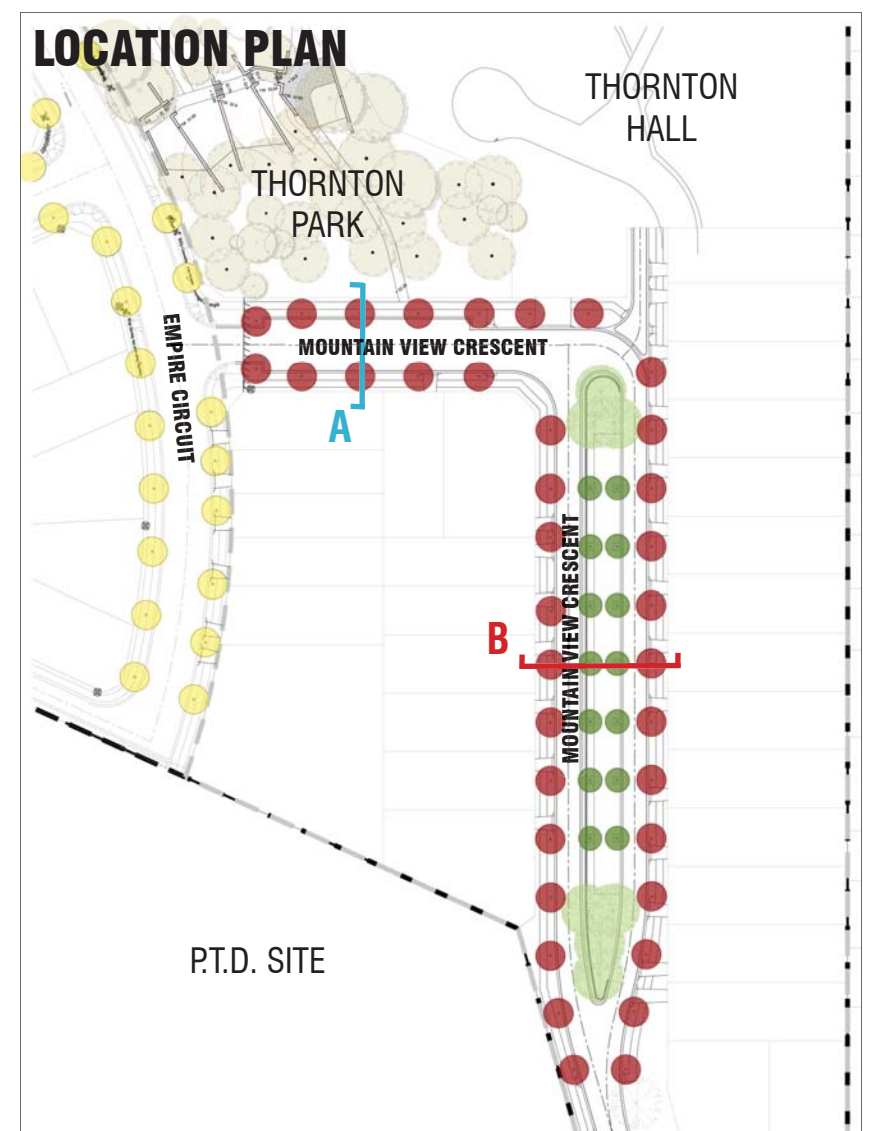


*Lagerstroemia indica* - Crepe Myrtle



*Araucaria cunninghamii* - Hoop Pine

## LOCATION PLAN





# INDICATIVE PLANTING PALETTE - OPEN SPACE

There will be a predominant focus on the appropriate mix of formal and native plant species used through out the site. Overall, a leafy, deciduous character to the streetscapes will aid in the enforcement of a European styled village character. Exotic species will be used in certain specific locations -

- In Streetscapes where Penrith City Council will not accept larger natives;
- Where accent planting is required such as at the entry precincts, pedestrian crossing points and focal points within parks and civic spaces.

A structured approach to the planting design will occur to the more formal open spaces and neighbourhood parks, internal streetscapes and at the median on Mountain View Crescent. Open spaces will be bordered by a hierarchy of formal exotic species and native grasses and ground covers where appropriate to provide a more structured, defined look.

To the eastern boundary of the site and around the Thornton Hall locality the significant existing Cumberland Plain Woodland community will be retained where possible and enhanced via supplementary planting throughout the adjoining parkland. Extensive weed management and rehabilitation through seed collection of remnant native planting will occur throughout Thornton Park to preserve the cultural plantings and to enhance the presence of the indigenous culture found throughout the eastern portion of the site.

| THORNTON PARK FORMAL PLANTING (OPEN SPACE 2) |                                   |                         |        |         |           |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|
| SYM                                          | BOTANICAL NAME                    | COMMON NAME             | HEIGHT | SPACING | POT SIZE  |
| SHRUBS                                       |                                   |                         |        |         |           |
|                                              | Acmena smithii 'Hedgemaster'      | Lilly Pilly             | 1m     | 500mm   | 25L       |
|                                              | Alternanthera dentata             | Ruby Leaf Alternanthera | 1.5m   | 300mm   | 200mm     |
|                                              | Euphorbia characias 'wulfenii'    | Spurge                  | 1.5m   | 3m2     | 5L        |
|                                              | Lavandula dentata                 | French Lavenda          | 1m     | 300mm   | 5L        |
|                                              | Rosmarinus officinalis            | Rosemary                | 1.5m   | 500mm   | 25L       |
|                                              | Syzygium sp.                      | Lilly Pilly             | 3m     | 1.0m    | 25L       |
|                                              | Viburnum odoratissimum            | Sweet Viburnum          | 6m     | 500mm   | 25L       |
|                                              | Westringia 'Wynyabbie Gem'        | Coastal Rosemary        | 1m     | 500mm   | 25L       |
| GRASSES & GROUND COVERS                      |                                   |                         |        |         |           |
|                                              | Cerastium tomentosum'             | Snow in Summer          | 0.3m   | 5/m²    | 150mm     |
|                                              | Dianella 'King Alfred'            | Paroo Lily              | 0.5m   | 7/m²    | 75mm Tube |
|                                              | Dianella 'Silver Streak'          | Paroo Lily              | 0.6m   | 5/m²    | 150mm     |
|                                              | Dietes grandiflora                | Wild Iris               | 0.6m   | 7/m²    | 75mm Tube |
|                                              | Gardenia jasminoides 'Radicans'   | Creeping Gardenia       | 0.5m   | 4m2     | 150mm     |
|                                              | Liriope muscari 'Evergreen Giant' | Turf Lily               | 0.7m   | 5/m²    | 150mm     |
|                                              | Trachelospermum jasminoides       | Star Jasmine            | 0.6m   | 5/m²    | 150m      |

## Shrubs



Acmena smithii  
'Hedgemaster'



Alternanthera dentata  
Ruby Leaf Alternanthera



Euphorbia characias 'Wulfenii'  
Spurge



Lavandula denata  
French Lavender



Rosmarinus officinalis  
Rosemary



Syzygium sp.  
Lilly Pilly



Viburnum odoratissimum  
Sweet Viburnum



Westringia 'Wynyabbie Gem'  
Coastal Rosemary

## Grasses & Ground Covers



Cerastium tormentosum  
Snow in Summer



Dianella 'King Alfred'  
Paroo Lily



Dianella 'Silver Streak'  
Paroo Lily



Dietes grandiflora  
Wild Iris



Gardenia jasminoides 'Radicans'  
Creeping Gardenia



Liriope muscari 'Evergreen Giant'  
Turf Lily



Trachelospermum jasminoides  
Star Jasmine





INDICATIVE PLANTING PALETTE - CPW REVEGETATION

Trees



Eucalyptus moluccana  
Grey Box



Eucalyptus tereticornis  
Forest Red Gum



Shrubs



Acacia parramattensis  
Sydney Green Wattle



Bursaria spinosa  
Blackthorn



Dillwynia sieberi  
Prickly Parrot Pea



Dodonea viscosa  
Sticky Hop Bush



Indigofera australis  
Austral Indigo



Pultenaea microphylla  
Spreading Bush Pea

Grasses & Ground Covers



Austrodanthonia tenuior  
Wallaby Grass



Dianella longifolia  
Smooth Flax Lily



Dichelachne parva  
Plume Grass



Eragrostis leptostachya  
Paddock Lovegrass



Lomandra filiformis  
Mat Rush



Lomandra multiflora  
Mat Rush



Microlaena stipoides  
Weeping Grass



Themeda australis  
Kangaroo Grass

THORNTON PARK CUMBERLAND PLAIN WOODLAND REVEGETATION

| SYM                     | BOTANICAL NAME                      | COMMON NAME         | HEIGHT | SPACING  | POT SIZE   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|----------|------------|
| EVERGREEN TREES         |                                     |                     |        |          |            |
|                         | Eucalyptus moluccana #              | Grey Box            | 20m    | As Shown | 25L        |
|                         | Eucalyptus tereticornis#            | Forest Red Gum      | 20m    | As Shown | 25L        |
| SHRUBS                  |                                     |                     |        |          |            |
|                         | Acacia parramattensis #             | Sydney Green Wattle | 3-4m   | 1m2      | 125x90x90  |
|                         | Bursaria spinosa #                  | Blackthorn          | 3m     | 2m2      | 125x90x90  |
|                         | Davisia ulicifolia #                | Goarse Bitter Pea   | 2m     | 3m2      | 125x90x90  |
|                         | Dillwynia sieberi #                 | Prickly Parrot Pea  | 2m     | 2m2      | 125x90x90  |
|                         | Dodonea viscosa sub. cuneata #      | Sticky Hop Bush     | 3m     | 2m2      | 125x90x90  |
|                         | Indigofera australis #              | Austral Indigo      | 2m     | 2m2      | 125x90x90  |
|                         | Pultenaea microphylla #             | Spreading Bush Pea  | 4m     | 1m2      | 125x90x90  |
| GRASSES & GROUND COVERS |                                     |                     |        |          |            |
|                         | Austrodanthonia tenuior #           | Wallaby Grass       | 0.7m   | 5m2      | 125x50x50  |
|                         | Dianella longifolia #               | Smooth Flax Lily    | 0.5m   | 5m2      | 125x50x50  |
|                         | Dichelachne parva #                 | Plume Grass         | 0.8m   | 5m2      | 125x50x50  |
|                         | Eragrostis leptostachya #           | Paddock Lovegrass   | 0.8m   | 5m2      | 125x50x50  |
|                         | Imperata cylindrica'                | Blady Grass         | 1.0m   | 25%      | 125x125x50 |
|                         | Lomandra filiformis #               | Mat Rush            | 1.0m   | 5m2      | 125x50x50  |
|                         | Lomandra multiflora #               | Mat Rush            | 1.0m   | 5m2      | 125x50x50  |
|                         | Microlaena stipoides var stipoides# | Weeping Grass       | 0.5m   | 7m2      | 125x50x50  |
|                         | Themeda australis #                 | Kangaroo Grass      | 0.7m   | 5m2      | 125x50x50  |

# - Denotes that this stock is to be provinance stock sourced from the local area to maintain the genetic integrity of the threatened native vegetation communities. All species and revegetation works under taken in these zones are to be read in conjunction with the Vegetation Management Plan supplied by the Environmental Consultant





ART WALLS & INTERPRETATION

Red walls artwork

When you are looking at the red walls from the entrance of the park, you will be reading Aboriginal stories of the local landscape which manifests in flood and storm.

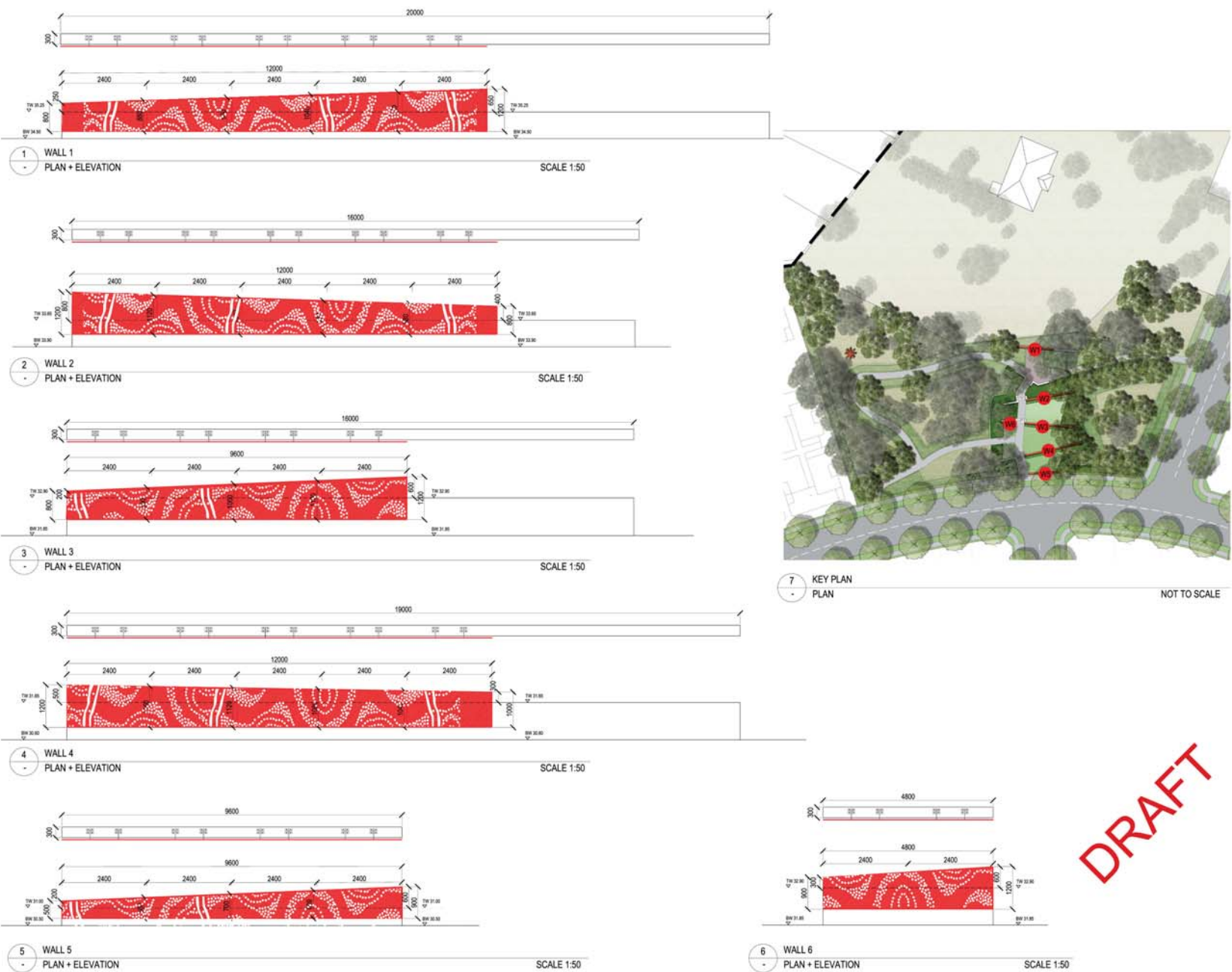
The red walls artwork interprets the stories of the river and mountains from a Darug artist’s perspective. While this precinct celebrates a rich history of sport, spectacles of speed and early flight, the backdrop of river and mountains preoccupy all the Penrith community. From the park the walls contrast powerfully with the Thornton Hall curtilage amplifying the elevation and defining an edge between the contemporary overlay of a new community with its past.

The character of the Penrith community is powerfully reflected by the physical presence of river flow and mountains throwing up clouds and eucalypt blue. The first people also enjoyed the river and journeyed into the mountains. Their stories are important as an acknowledgement of this shared experience and a cross generational embedding of memory.

Entwined with these stories, some of the symbols of the houses such as pressed tin and patterning can be woven into the design.

The Aboriginal artwork will be translated into perforations to be laser or water cut from the walls so that the contrast will be red and a background colour.

The major response to Thornton Park is an Aboriginal layer with a minor layer echoing the skin of the two heritage houses. The extent of the artwork is shown as covering each of the walls but the scale and density of perforations will be determined by the budget and artist input. All perforations will comply with entrapment constraints.



above: indicative red wall elevations



above: examples of other indigenous artworks completed by the artists