

**South East Regional Hospital  
Bega  
NSW**

**Landscape Strategy and Design Statement  
Stage One Planning Application**

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## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

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### South East Regional Hospital - Bega

This Landscape Statement shall be read in conjunction with The Landscape Master Plan (LS-D-001) and all other consultant plans.

The South East Regional Hospital site offers a series of distinct opportunities and constraints for the landscape planning and design. Situated directly adjacent to the south side of the Bega River, the site falls partially within the flood zone, impacting upon building constraints and presenting opportunities for site specific landscape responses. Therein the proposed landscape aims to reflect the local character, and site surrounds with appropriate consideration to existing vegetation, slope and visual aspect, especially where it can be attributed to the holistic care and consideration of patients and staff.

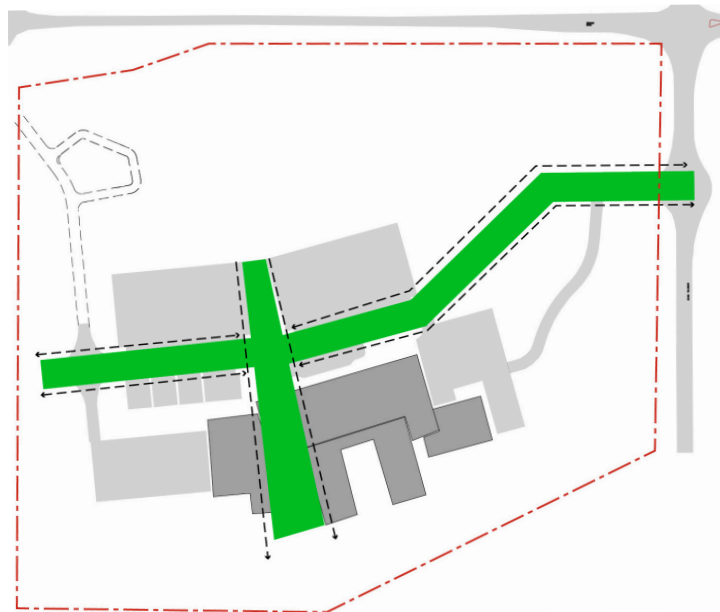
The landscape design hinges on a number of strong principles. These principles, formed through a combination of site and design analysis illustrates that the sites relationship with an existing landscape character and rural location is key in determining and conceptualising the overall landscape strategy. Principles include; the preservation of existing rural pasture land and trees, creation of landscape spines to augment building, integrated wayfinding, the use of aboriginal bush tucker planting and interpretive symbolism and water sensitive urban design principles combine to develop an ecologically and culturally responsible design for the site. Pastureland will be complemented through introduction of low maintenance native species that assist the storm water management plan with the aim to offset future costs. A balance between the utilisation of the existing landscape character as an asset and maintenance cost will be achieved.

The layout of the Landscape Master Plan will complement the building, accentuating the sense of arrival, settling the building mass, and maximizing vistas. The entry road will create a green avenue, and provide distinct separation between the building and car park, augmenting the building entry. It will maximise the existing natural buffer to Tathra Rd and future developments opposite and around the site, integrate car parking into the landscape and retain flexibility for possible future expansion, and provide opportunities for future connections to the River and Bega town centre.

Within the building envelope a series of connected, fully accessible healing gardens provide excellent places for respite and healing. The primary courtyards are nestled between the buildings fingers offering physical connection to the surrounding landscape, while an elevated position will maximise visual links to the river and valley beyond.

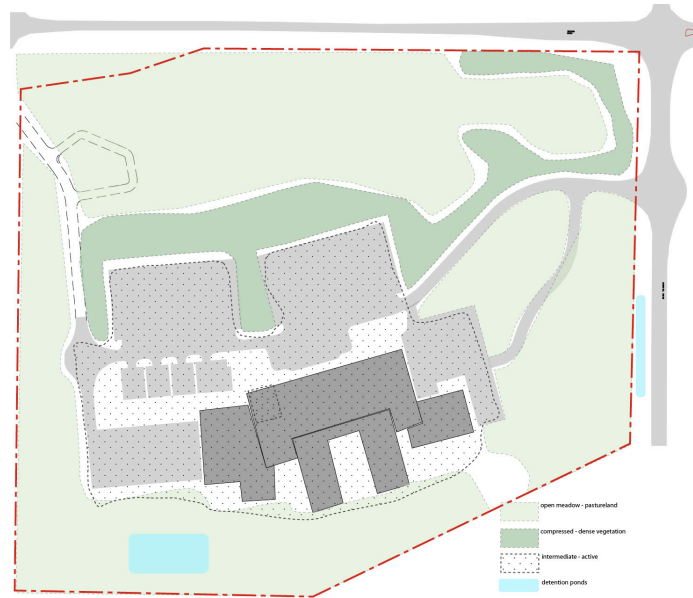
### ***Landscape Strategy Principles***

The landscape strategy and principles are crucial to the landscape design response for the site, explaining the primary purpose of the landscape spaces around the building.



### ***Landscape Spines***

A strong landscape spine creates a central hierarchy and way finding element throughout the site, concentrating circulation through the clever and repetitive use of local tree and shrub species. The implementation of the landscape spines sets up a set of strong design principles that enable a visual appealing landscape character to develop around the entire site and ensure a well structured approach to possible future development.



### ***Landscape Character and Sequence***

The design responds to the existing pasture land site by continuing to build upon the quality of rural setting by which the hospital is surrounded. The experience of the landscape unfolds upon entering the site and is carefully considered to create a range of different sequences that define and support the variety of important landscape spaces provided. The site will be defined by three separate landscape typologies.

**Open Meadow**– Existing pasture land and trees defined by the meadow and a gently sloping landform that offers opportunities for passive recreation and future development

**Compressed** – Dense planting to create a sense of protection and to offer a counterpoint to the open meadow.

**Intermediate** – Public domain and courtyards characterised by structured landscape that defines more intimate spaces for respite and pedestrian circulation.



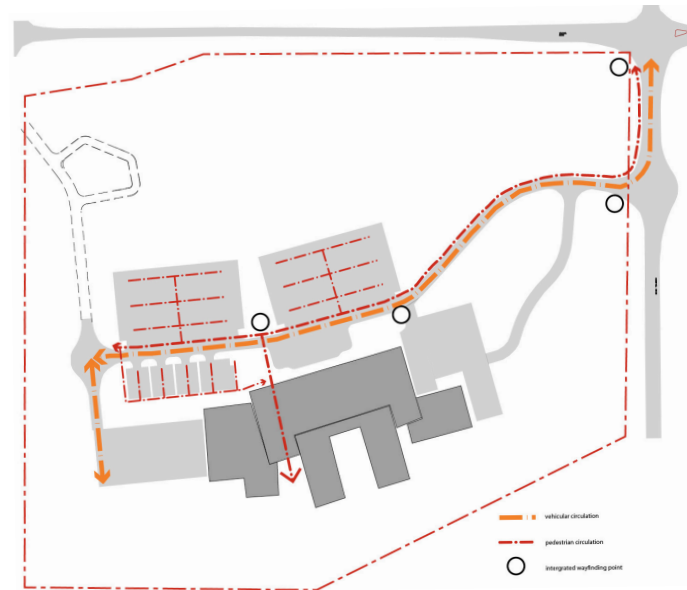
### ***Tree Removal and Retention***

As the existing groves of trees and grasses draw toward the proposed buildings, the landscape is compressed and compacted, becoming a dense vegetated mass as it slices between the buildings before spilling once more into the building forecourt and once again diluting as it encroaches the carpark.

The design reflects the local character, and site surrounds with appropriate consideration to existing vegetation. A central street is developed as the principle circulation spine for the site, a boulevard tree planting approach accentuates the sense of arrival and creates a single wayfinding element. The entry road will create a green avenue and provide a distinct separation between the building and carpark, augmenting the building entry.

The incorporation of tree planting integrates the car parking as a dynamic component of the landscape, and is complemented by mass perimeter planting providing a natural buffer to Tathra Road. This buffer bleeds into the existing pasture landscape, retaining the natural character and rural identity of the site, while providing opportunities for possible future expansion.

The habitat value of the retained pasture landscapes to the north and south of the site will be increased through the spot planting of locally indigenous tree species. This initiative will increase the fauna biodiversity of the site while offsetting the loss of habitat attributed to the removal of trees elsewhere on site. The trees will be located to capture desired view lines and maximise vistas of the surrounding landscape and river.



### ***Circulation and Wayfinding***

Announce the main hospital entries via a sequence of walls or landscape mounds that are incorporated into the overall site wayfinding strategy.

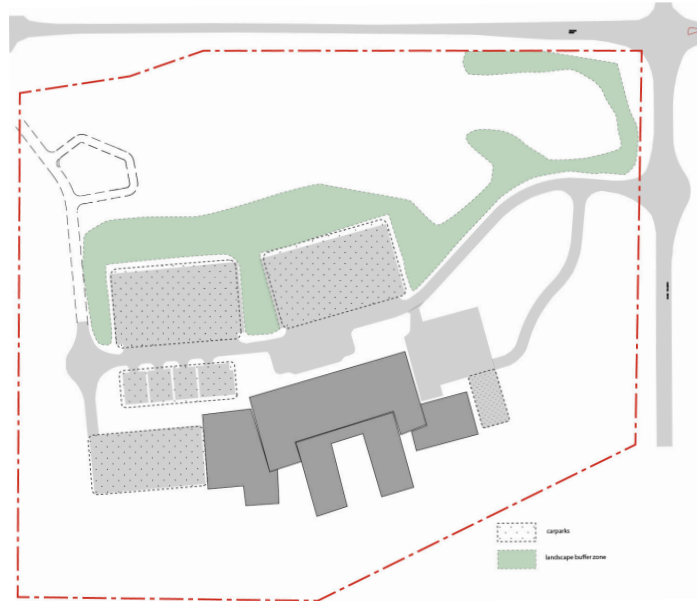
Use a repetition of design language that is carried through the site materially, complementing the architecture and reinforcing vehicular pedestrian and circulation.

Integrate the vehicular spine road into the landscape, using curvilinear geometry to follow or cut the contours creating a dramatic yet slow pedestrian friendly environment.

Enhance the entry experience by using landscape form, planting and discreet but legible signage to help orient visitors and staff alike to various areas of the hospital.

Use of varied materials on roads and pathways to help orient visitors within the hospital, further highlighting wayfinding through signage and signature design.

Coordinate and plan for the implementation and operation of possible future roads, paths and carparks to align with future development opportunities.

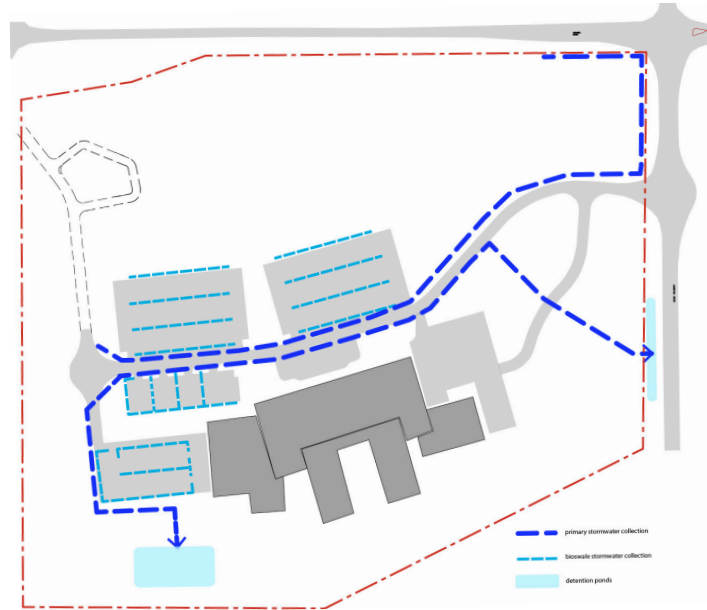


### **Carparks**

Parking will be distributed throughout the hospital in tree-shaded lots with permeable surfaces and bioswales. The two major public carparks are located west of the central circulation spine. These two carparks split to allow for the major pedestrian entry to the hospital. Creating a strong east - west landscape axis that carries through the hospital and beyond.

The hospital site is intended to be a major regional facility so the site must be prepared to accommodate a large population of attendees arriving to the site by car. Therein the parking program needs to be carefully integrated into the overall landscape and site planning of the hospital.

The pedestrian wayfinding strategy within the carparks is incorporated into the overall material palette of the site, creating an obvious hierarchy for pedestrians and vehicles. Bioswales become a valuable asset in each carpark, providing a vegetative buffer between car parking bays, controlling storm water collection and also forming a minor pedestrian access links to the central spine and wayfinding strategy.



### **Water Sensitive Urban Design - WSUD**

The proposed design uses water sensitive design strategies, implemented to enrich the quality of intermediate landscape spaces and provide control to storm water run-off. The water treatment measures consist of bio-retention swales; rain gardens, two bio-retention ponds and granite rip rap swales using site stone. The system proposed aims to incorporate the following objectives;

Improve storm water quality prior to discharge

Use on site detention ponds to manage storm water and create interesting landscape form for passive recreation areas.

Highlight and water sensitive urban design elements within the planting and circulation strategy for the site.

## **Landscape Precincts**

The primary Landscape Precincts of the South East Regional Hospital can be divided as follows;

- **Main Vehicular Entry - Approach to the Hospital**
- **Emergency Entry**
- **Hospital Forecourt and Aboriginal Bush Tucker Garden**
- **Hospital Forecourt Garden**
- **Healing Gardens, Public, Mobility and Mental Health.**

### **Main Vehicular Entry - Approach to the Hospital**

The main hospital entry is defined and announced by a strong visual and material connection to the immediate and surrounding landscape. The first in a series of repeated wayfinding and circulation cues would be obvious from the new Tathra rd. roundabout that links the hospital to the existing road network. Here the land slopes away up the hill to a mixture of new and existing *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, loosely scattered to add to the existing character. A swale of granite stone and boulders recovered from the site are formed in a sweeping gesture across the entry, forged to form an entry wall and signage. The swale of site stone continues to weave its way through the site along the main spine. It immediately connects to the landscape of large existing trees beyond and provides a visual cue for further wayfinding and signage that identify various entry points. This strong gesture intends to link the arrival from the main road all the way to the front door. A tree-lined spine (*Tristaniopsis laurina*) also forms part of this gesture. Opening up to the right of the driver, the trees shroud the car parks from the drivers view, sweeping past valley views as the front edge of the hospital comes into focus as one moves further along the tree lined approach. The trees, planted in the stone swale and parallel with the pedestrian/cycle share way create a strong landscape gesture that ties together principles of water sensitive design and a hierarchy of pedestrian movement as it continues through to the car parks. The repeated use of stone offers a subtle yet recognisable treatment across the site and builds landscape language and planting style not only at the entry but also throughout the hospital grounds.

### **Emergency Entry**

The emergency entry, like the main entry is highlighted by a gesture of sweeping site stone. The sweep crosses the entry for ambulance vehicles augmenting it through a material change. A stand of large Eucalyptus trees tightly planted within low rolling grassy mounds is positioned to focus the visitor's attention on the entry opening within the building facade. The mounds create a loose structure around the first of a series of meeting places to hospital entries. It also provides a low protective buffer to the occupants of the meeting place landscape. The pedestrian is given preference to create a safe and inclusive environment. This is demonstrated through a raised crossing to footpaths between the car park and emergency entry and small accessible bridges across bio-swales. The design intends to link pedestrian movement from the rear of the car park all the way to the front door.

### **Hospital Forecourt and Aboriginal Bush Tucker Garden**

The hospital forecourt offers a public landscape connected to the main entry and also functions as the primary set down/pickup point for the hospital. It is both an integration of the wayfinding strategy and the material palette to create a destination and enhanced sense of arrival.

The forecourt principally acts as a meeting place preceding the main entry forecourt, a formal transition between the rural landscape and the healing environment of the hospital. It will provide opportunities for visitor and inpatient connection, staff respite and personal reflection. The space has been opened out to main path so it can function as an inclusive place amongst a stand of large native trees, shrubs and grasses with medicinal properties. Large marker trees, *Eucalyptus sp.* either side of the road and close to meeting places are used to signify it's importance to the driver as they approach. Again the pedestrian is given preference with a raised crossing connecting either side of the road and concentrating movement to a strong singular axis. The axis, through a sequential experience, effectively connects both sides of the hospital landscape in one gesture.

To the south of the landscape axis a path will connect the adjacent car parks and main entry in an interpretive aboriginal bush tucker garden walk. The path runs through a loosely planted area of bush tucker and medicinal plants. Through subtle interpretive signage visitors will be able to learn about the medicinal properties and benefits of specific plants.

Towards the end of the path are stairs that climb the batter to the back of the car parks. It takes the user to another generous meeting place of large granite floaters set within large trees and a mixture of aboriginal bush tucker plants. This place be a quieter sitting area and will capture great views over the hospital building to the valley and mountains below.

### **Hospital Forecourt Garden**

The main entry and forecourt garden is defined and celebrated by a strong visual and material connection to landscape and long vistas through the building and over the Bega River. Wayfinding and circulation cues are considered as part of the landscape character and therefore highlight the obvious desire lines created by the sensible integration of landscape and architecture.

The highlight of the forecourt garden is the generous arrival courtyard and connected lobby which will focus receiving visitors and the expansive views towards the valley below. The garden intends to draw on the existing rural character but formalise the space with a single deciduous tree, *Fraxinus raywood* (Claret Ash). The tree will be planted on an open lawn with great access to sunlight and connection to the proposed café. Loose café style furniture will hold the lawn edge and visitors and patients alike will be able to enjoy a comfortable and warm place. This is an important welcoming/meeting place and formally defines the hospital entry, landscape and circulation spine from east to west.

### ***Healing Gardens – Public Courtyard***

The Public Courtyard is the primary outdoor space on the lower level. It will capture the vista to the mountains beyond, and entice the visitor to walk to the edge of the garden and take respite on generous seating spaces, which feel connected to the space below. It offers a variety of seating areas within massed mounded planting, shaped to create privacy to bedrooms yet maximise the feeling of connection to the landscape beyond. The left side of the courtyard is intentionally uncluttered and free of trees. This will enhance the sense of transparency towards the vista, especially from the entry lobby and atrium stair. A generous breakout area is given under a double story undercroft. Social seating is shaped into mounded planting to create a sense of enclosure and engage with the internal waiting areas for patients.

The planting of grasses, shrubs and shade trees tightens in the centre of the garden to provide some separation between the undercroft spaces and accentuate the expression of the unfolding landscape beyond. Stands of large shade trees that encroach into the paving from the right side of the courtyard assist create this unfolding/transparent expression. Social seating is provided under the shade trees in a carved out space within mounded planting. Users will sit with a focus on the views beyond and medium level shrub screening will ensure bedrooms are kept quiet and private. To the edge the boundary between courtyard and meadow landscape will be somewhat blurred as the meadow pasture or turf is pulled from below to make open lawn areas with comfortable timber seating that takes advantage of the view beyond. The user will be able to sit well above a landscape below of scattered trees, meadow pasture and grazing cattle.

### ***Healing Gardens – Mobility Courtyard***

The Mobility Courtyard will be primarily for patient care. Offering a variety of integrated therapy zones for patient rehabilitation linked to a circuit path, designed to incorporate changes in surface treatment and level differences to assist staff with mobility training.

A large open area with seating to the forecourt is accessible from the main entry and address the need for fire egress from stairs at either side. An open lawn space to the right side is linked to the in patient gym in the sub-acute wing. A therapy station of a simple step platform and training handrails will be on a path of variable surface changes. All designed to test a patient's recovery whilst being materially integrated into the design and landscape.

A stand of large trees in the centre of the garden will offer shade to these activity areas at different times of the day. Paths cut through mounded planted to access visitor lounges and dining spaces for patients. The main path is connected to another two therapy stations, one designed for open inclusive training surrounded by open lawn space and the other within a mass of shrubs and grasses to offer some privacy. All therapy stations are intended for in-frequent use during the day therefore shall be dual purpose as social seating and a spot for quiet respite for

patients and visitors alike.

A discreet ramp amongst meadow grasses and boulders will link the courtyard to the area below, acting as the main fire egress to the north- east side of the hospital. It will also allow access to maintenance equipment like boom lifts to access the building facade for maintenance.

### ***Healing Gardens – Mental Health Courtyards***

The Mental Health Courtyards will be domestic in nature, offering a comforting place of respite that takes full advantage of the access to sunlight and hopeful views beyond. Quiet places to sit and open space areas for patient activity will be provided to each separate space. The level of patients care varies across the various courtyards and this will affect the likely material make up of each space.

The larger courtyard space will be predominately be soft open space with seating for respite or social activity. Aligned to maximise views beyond and tucked into densely planted gardens that screen bedroom windows. Patients and family members will have private access from the two palliative care bedrooms also share an area of the space. An open, semi private, sun filled area, with seating that takes in the hopeful views. This area will be a quiet area for respite, with the possibility to create a secure space if required.

Breakout spaces that adjoin lounge and dining areas will be undercover and have comfortable lounge or fixed furniture on a timber deck or verandah. This will add to the domestic quality of each courtyard whilst also giving the patients an outdoor space in inclement weather. Vegetable or herb gardens will be incorporated into the planting design to provide therapy and fragrance within each courtyard.

### ***Conclusion and Recommendations***

The sites landscape is clarified through the use of strong design principles and language. It is recommended that each landscape principle be employed as it directly impacts key landscape precincts within the South East Regional Hospital campus. The key methods including the preservation of existing rural pasture land and trees, creation of landscape spines to augment building, integrated wayfinding, the use of aboriginal bush tucker planting and interpretive symbolism, water sensitive urban design and the use of site specific materials all work to align and strengthen the development of the hospital site, now and into the future.

The principles aim to gradually improve areas benefiting from the landscape treatment whilst creating a strong landscape vision enabling the hospital site to develop within and around the existing landscape over time.

Yours faithfully,



**Tim Fowler**  
**Senior Landscape Architect**  
**360°**