

8.0

PUBLIC SPACES AND ACTIVITIES

8.1

THE BOULEVARD

It is important that the whole of the Public Realm is open and that the relationship of the various parts is clear and readily understandable to all visitors. The principal ordering feature of the Public Realm is the Boulevard. It will run from just beyond Hay Street, near the University of Technology bus shelter in the south, all the way north to the boardwalk that edges the harbour, joining all the existing and proposed features of the public open space and the entry features of the new convention and entertainment buildings.

This site-wide connecting street is made of three primary elements:

Pavement

The boulevard pavement material, detailing and scale of space will unify the site and elements along this pedestrian spine in a similar language to that of other significant Sydney pedestrian spaces, such as Martin Place, George Street, Custom House forecourt and East Circular Quay. Made of the predominant Sydney pavement – dark grey granite—the Boulevard will be visually vibrant and a memorable street.

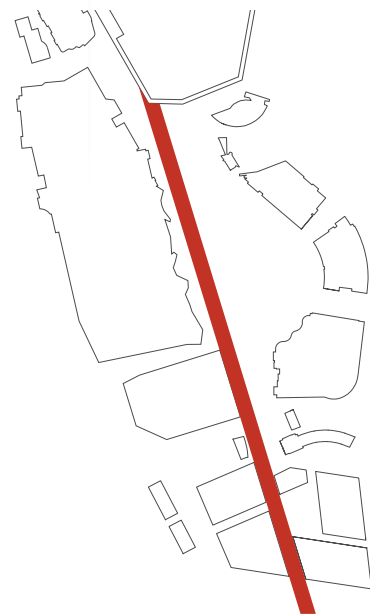
Seating

The Boulevard will be lined with bespoke seating platforms, positioned within the shade of the avenue trees and grouped to relate to key activity spaces, retail zones and amenity facilities along the north-south spine. These seating platforms will combine concrete and natural timbers, colourfully lit at night to reinforce their nature.

Grand Avenue

The last major element will be an avenue of Eucalypts, a grand colonnade of Australian native tree species that will run the length of the boulevard (600 metres), shading the walkway and seating, joining the new major buildings, and providing a distinctive backdrop for the entire public realm.

Combined with lighting, water feature elements and a site-wide art overlay, the Boulevard will create an image, both iconic and photogenic, that will function as the key site organiser and be remembered by those who visit Darling Harbour.



The Boulevard as the site's primary axis



Boulevard looking North

8.2

TUMBALONG PARK

At the northern edge of the Chinese Garden, a main pedestrian path will connect the Boulevard to the buildings and restaurants of Darling Quarter. This path is designed as an extension of the existing formal path that fronts the Darling Quarter buildings. After moving eastward from the Boulevard, it will pass the existing Darling Quarter restaurants, then continue northwesterly past the existing playground beneath the freeway underpass, to the shops, and Imax Theatre before rejoining the Boulevard at the harbour's edge.

Within and to the west of the Darling Quarter path will lie the redesigned and expanded Tumbalong Green Park. The size of the park will be increased from approximately 8,000m² to 11,000m² (refer SK_PP_LA_2067) and its design simplified and flattened to accommodate activities ranging from family picnics and social grass sports to theatrical and major festival congregations. The new park will accommodate crowds of between 7,960 people (sitting) and 27,500 (standing). The park will be an open parkland of grass, with a subtle network of paths and bounded by feature fig trees to its corners. Avenue trees have been purposely excluded from the junction point between the park and the Boulevard to frame views of the park from the conference and exhibition buildings and highlight and elevate these buildings when viewed west from Darling Quarter.

At the south end of the park a raised stage will provide a theatrical and musical venue. Visitors will be able to sit directly on the lawn and on the lower grassed embankments of the exhibition building. Behind the stage a major digital backdrop screen will accommodate a varied program of movies, video art pieces, scenic backgrounds for theatrical performances as well as major sporting events such as the Olympics. It will also be able to display information about upcoming cultural events.

Behind the screen, will be a back-stage facilities building. The stage and park perimeter will also be provided with power for a wide range of light and sound uses.



Passive recreation



Event space



Events in the park

8.3

TERRACED LANDSCAPE AND EVENT DECK

The parkland of Tumbalong Park is to be significantly expanded in terms of both visual greenery and accessible landscape.

Through a series of terraced zones that run the length of the ICC Exhibition Centre, adjacent to the pedestrian Boulevard, the parkland is to be extended through new planted areas, seating spaces, pathways and viewing platforms. These terraces will provide both shade and outlook over Tumbalong Park and will draw the existing qualities of the green open space up to and over the ICC Exhibition facilities.

The Event Deck, atop the ICC Exhibition Centre, is fully accessible from the RL21.5 Pre-function space, Quarry Street and Tumbalong Park and adds further public realm and community uses through planned and unplanned programmed activities. The Event Deck will also have bathroom amenity facilities. Special event mode will occur in this space, with deck capacity allowing room and facilities for functions, exhibitions, outdoor cinema, and both community and private festival activities.



Event deck - New Years



Event deck - Conference



Event deck - Boat show

