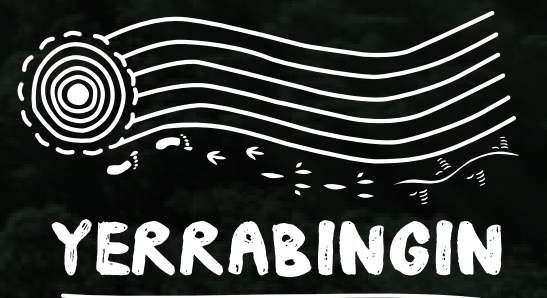



TUMBI UMBI RETIREMENT LIVING

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

FRAMEWORK REPORT | JANUARY 2024





We acknowledge Darkinjung Country, the Cultural Landscape that we are working upon, and the Darkinjung people as the traditional owners of the Country where the Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living project is located.

We acknowledge all First Nations people and their ongoing connection to culture, lands and waters and their valuable contribution to the community. We recognise, acknowledge, and extend our respect to many others who have custodial obligations for Country and have been connected to this land for many generations, including their Elders past, present and emerging.

We are guided by the inspiration of Country, the stories and knowledge a place contains and gifts us. We acknowledge its contribution to wellbeing both mental and physical, providing a refuge and safe place to learn and share.

Our Vision is that sensing and caring for Country is something that transcends cultural differences and highlights the many values that are similar across the cultures of our contemporary communities. Supporting a socially inclusive, resilient, and innovative community based on, honouring the wisdom and kinship of all cultures, captured through the lens of custodianship.

Yerrabingin brings a focus on solutions through empathetic design, our company seeks a diversity of partnerships, connecting ideation with the wisdom of our culture. Custodial allies to connect and innovate with and to reciprocate knowledge with. Centered on a cultural approach to collaboration and a responsibility to bring Australian First Nations design narratives to the Australian natural and built landscape.



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AUTHORSHIP

This Designing with Country Framework Report has been created by Yerrabingin for Pariter.

At Yerrabingin, we acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians and ancestors of the lands we walk across.

The terms First Nations, Indigenous and Aboriginal are used interchangeably throughout this report. When referring to a specific group or individual, nation or language group names are used.

Permission to publish the graphic materials from archival collections and previous publications has not been obtained as part of this process. Permission should be sought from copyright holders if the report is published with the graphic material or the graphic material is used for other purposes.

LIMITATIONS

This report is the culmination of our extensive program that has deeply engaged and explored this projects opportunities. This Framework Report is the summation of our program to date and seeks to inform how can design with Country to create an authentic and meaningful outcome.

DISCLAIMER

This document is a design framework and has the potential to evolve and change as we gain a better understanding of the site during design formulation and project delivery.

The Government Architect NSW (GANSW) Connecting with Country Framework has been referenced along with Yerrabingin’s design methodology and implementation of the Elements of Country.

GLOSSARY

The Designing with Country Framework for the Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living Project draws from a range of concepts, ideas, and visualisations. To better understand key terms referenced throughout the Framework, please consul the glosaary below.

Many of the following terms derive from the GANSW (2023) Connecting with Country Framework.

Aboriginal Community: Within the context of Sydney, the Aboriginal Community refers to a range of peoples that often include - Traditional Custodians, Knowledge Holders, Elders, RAPs (Registered Aboriginal Parties), LALC (Land Councils), and local Aboriginal members of the community. Also referred to as Community.

Built Environment: The constructed environment, understood as distinct from the natural environment. It includes all aspects of our surroundings made by people. The built environment includes cities and towns, neighbourhoods, parks, roads, buildings, infrastructure, and utilities like water and electricity.

Country: Country includes Earth, Waters, and Sky. it encompasses tangible and intangible aspects, knowledges and cultural practices, belonging and identity, wellbeing and relationships. People are part of Country.

Design: Design is both a process and an outcome - a way of thinking and a result of making.

Engagement: A consultation process, for example, community engagement whereby a particular group is engaged to gather their input in relations to a proposal, challenge, or outcome.

First Nations: Is an encompassing term that acknowledges the diversity of Aboriginal Communities, whilst also, communicating that sovereignty was never ceded. This term is growing in preference fir First Nations Australians but may also be interchanged with Aboriginal in this report.

Knowledges: Knowledges (as plural) recognises that Aboriginal knowledge comes from different nations and family groups. Knowledge (singular) is multifaceted and may incorporate many different views.

Peoples: Peoples is used in plural to reference First Nations peoples, recognising that there are many nations and family groups.

Place: A social and physical concept, a physical setting, point, or area in space conceived and designated by people and communities. In this sense, place can describe different scales of the built environment, for example, a town is a place and building can be a place.

Practices: Practice or cultural practice refers to the various customs, traditions, rituals, behaviours and activities that are collectively shared and passed down within a specific cultural group, serving as a means of expressing identity, values, beliefs and social cohesion.

Social Enterprise: Businesses guided by social purpose. They exist to benefit the public community, and environment rather than just shareholders and owners, reinvesting most of their profits for a greater purpose.

Sustainable: relates to the endurance of systems, buildings, spaces and processes - their ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level, which contributes positively to environmental, economic and social outcomes.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living

The Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living project will see an area of the Mingara Masterplan developed into a retirement village with the vision of making “a significant contribution to the quality of community life”.

The development is part of the larger Mingara Masterplan and is located adjacent to the Mingara Recreation Club, previously known as ‘The Berkley Vale Sports Complex’. A motion was passed by the members in 1972 to rename the complex to Mingara, translating to ‘the good spirit that controls the clouds’ with no dialect or community consultation noted (Mingara n.d.).

The transformation is based around seven design principles, with key notes to include sun-lit communal landscape courtyards and gardens, include a variety of outdoor spaces for residents to utilise and also to maximise distance views to the backdrop of Western Hills (Marchese Partners 2023).

The integral design principles for the development are:

- *Legibility*
- *Distinctiveness*
- *Individual Choice*
- *Accessibility*
- *Safety*
- *Familiarity*
- *Connectivity*

As part of the project, Pariter have engaged Yerrabingin to lead the Designing with Country component of the project. This report outlines the Connecting with Country process undertaken by Yerrabingin.





CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

What is Country?

Country is all encompassing. Everywhere we go, we are within the connected system of Country. Everything we do impacts everything around us, and everything that happens around us, influences us. Country is often misunderstood as just the ground we stand on, but it's so much more. It can be thought of as a reciprocal series of interconnected elements that reaches deep into the earth, and all the way into the sky.

Our knowledge is stored within the landscape and nurtured through an oral tradition, through dance, stories, song, and art, carefully designed and maintained. The natural cycles of Country inform our lore, telling us when it is the right time to engage with certain species and how to look after Country. In return, Country looks after us, providing refuge, comfort and wellbeing, both physically and mentally.

“Country is a responsibility, not a right and it is there for all who respect and cherish her.

Today we may not always be able to see Country instantly, but if we call to her, we can always sense her and again feel her embrace.”

- Christian Hampson, CEO Yerrabingin



CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

Inhabited by Country

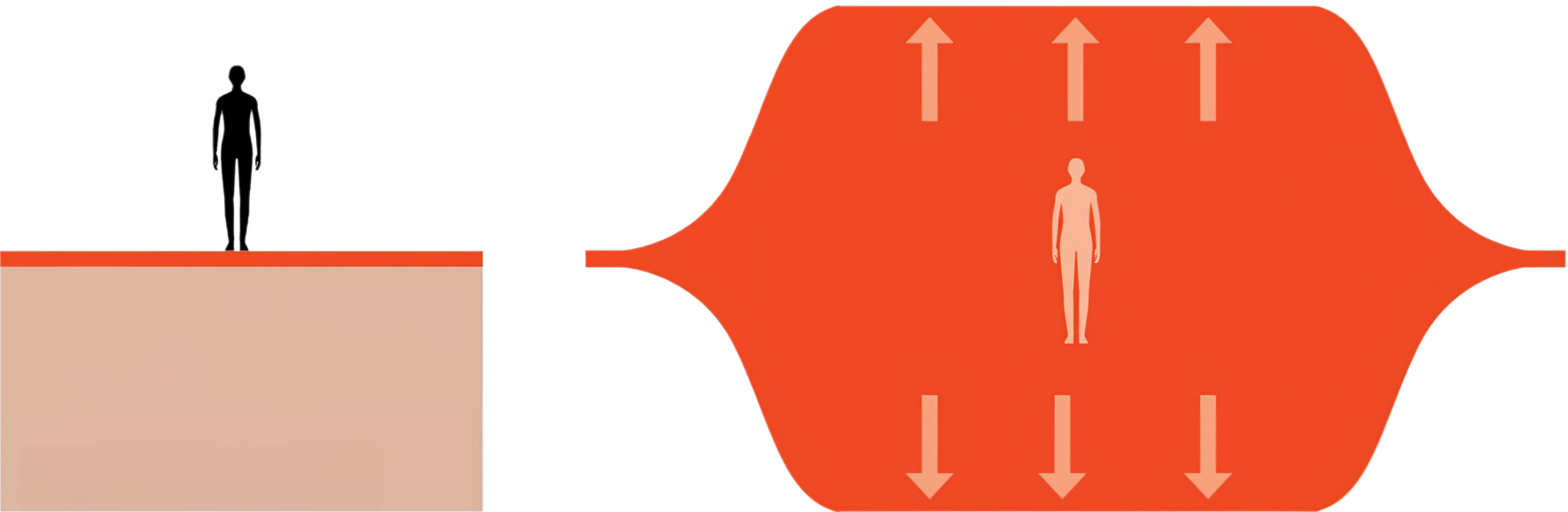
We inhabit and are inhabited by Country. The Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living Project offers the opportunity to celebrate the all-encompassing nature of Country. Its infinite reach into and across the earth and into the sky. She guides and nurtures us and is the inspiration and repository of knowledge.

Its unique and distinctive elements are connected and open to everyone. A connective tissue, the interstices that flows between water, sky, earth, us and our non-human kin. We are part of the system of Country, our actions must always be Country positive.

The innate symbiosis of being connected and integrated moves us into being eco-centric rather than human-centric. This functionality has been a long component of First Nations people’s ideology, a cultural value that places us in the ecological and landscape system, not as dominators but as caretakers and custodians. This function requires constant interactions and observation, being turned to reactive requirements and response.

“Often Country is thought about as this thin line that we stand on, but this isn’t the case. Country reaches all the way up into the stars and down deep into the earth. We are not ‘on Country’, we are within and part of the system of Country.”

- Christian Hampson, CEO Yerrabingin



We inhabit and are inhabited by Country

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

Beginning with Country

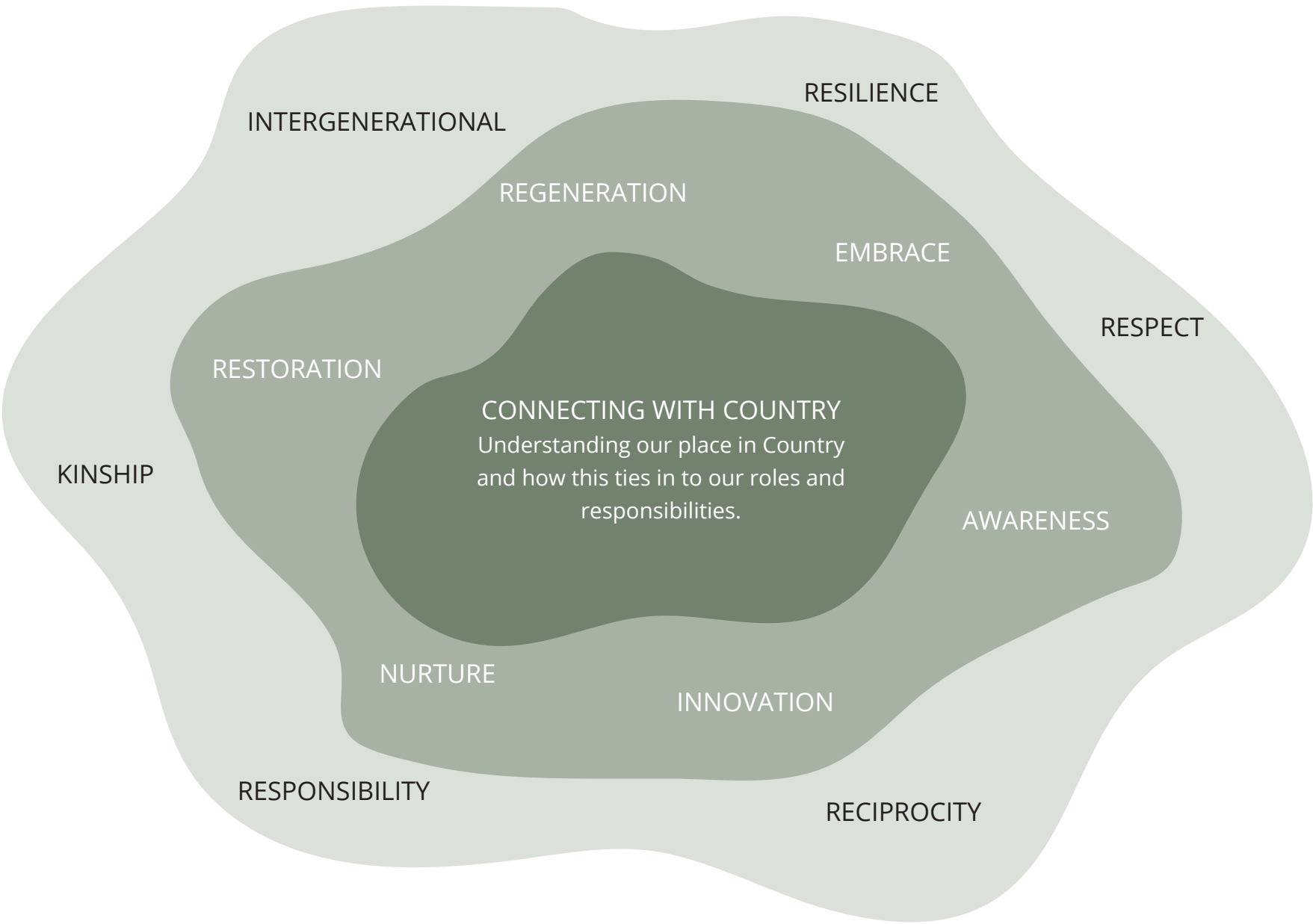
Being connected to Country transcends language and culture. It is an interlaced system of action, emotion and experience. It highlights the many values that are similar across the cultures of our contemporary communities. Everyone can feel connected to Country.

Caring for and becoming a Custodian of Country means forming a strong relationship with all elements of Country that is based on respect, obligation and reciprocity. In order to create and maintain interconnection, it is imperative that Country contains endemic food and medicinal species, cultural resources, as well as keystone species and their habitats. These interdependent systems and relationships provide a framework for holistic infrastructure design, meaningful environmental policies and land management practices that are adaptive and regenerative.

Importantly, including First Nations knowledge of lands and culture at the onset of a project leads to design responses that are derived from knowledge of landscape variables and bio-cultural knowledge, creating meaning in placemaking conceptualisation and function.

These interdependent systems and relationships provide a framework for holistic infrastructure design, meaningful environmental policies and land management practices that are adaptive and regenerative. Importantly, including First Nations knowledge of lands and culture at the onset of a project leads to design responses that are derived from place, creating meaning in placemaking conceptualisation and function.

Connecting to Country supports a socially inclusive, resilient, and innovative community that cherishes the wisdom and kinship of all cultures, captured through the lens of custodianship, creating wellbeing for all.



CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

Designing with Country

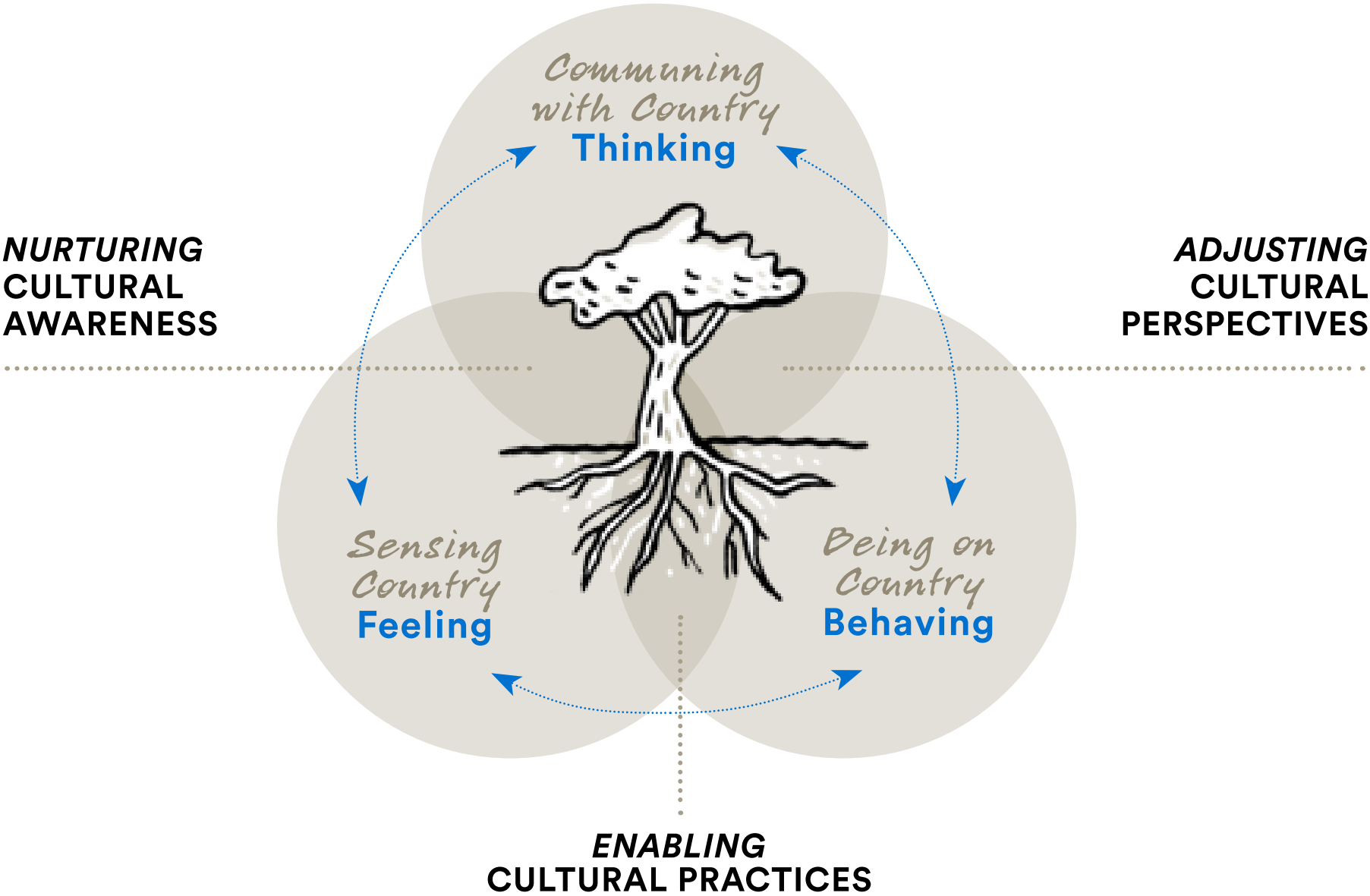
Country is our mother, our teacher, our library and our kin, it sustains, inspires and surrounds us. The experience of Country is both individual and collective, both new and familiar. From her we learn, share and flourish, continuing to care for country is central to our being, our identity. Country is a responsibility, not a right and is there for all who respect and cherish her. Today we may not always be able to see country instantly, but if we call to her, we can always sense her and again feel her embrace.

Utilising the Government Architects NSW Connecting with Country Framework will ensure the environmental and social wellbeing of the site is addressed in a way that will provide an enduring legacy for the place and community. Nature is Country. Caring for Country must guide design interventions. Preservation, restoration and remembering - not replicating the natural landscape and allowing that to inform all future occupation.

Design should support and provide for the local community. Social initiatives must be consciously embedded in the outcomes for the project. All design should appreciate the local vernacular. Draw upon and be inspired by Country, what has come before, what is required to sustain the future.

“If people and their needs are at the ‘centre’ of design considerations, the landscape and nature are reduced to second-order priorities. If design and planning processes consider natural systems that include people, animals, resources and plants equally - similar to an Aboriginal world view - this could make a significant contribution to a more sustainable future.”

- GANSW, Connecting with Country Framework, 2023, p.23





CONTEXTUAL UNDERSTANDING

CONTEXTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Darkinjung Country

Tumbi Umbi sits within Darkinjung Country which covers a diverse and rich area within the Central Coast. The Darkinjung traditional boundaries reach from the Pacific Ocean in the east to the McDonald River, Wollombi and Mount Yengo in the west, Lake Macquarie in the north and to the Hawkesbury River in the south (Darkinjung Aboriginal Land Council 2020).

For thousands of years, the Darkinjung have maintained a deep and enduring relationship with their Country, encompassing both inland and coastal areas. This profound connection is evident by the presence of 2,985 Aboriginal sites within this area. These sites are intricately intertwined with their dreamtime stories, songlines, ceremonies and culture. These sites not only illuminate the interconnected relationship that the Darkinjung hold with their human, non-human and more than human kin, but also encapsulate a wealth of information about their life before colonisation (Darkinjung Aboriginal Land Council 2020).

Whilst colonisation commenced when the British arrived in 1788, the Central Coast area remained untouched by colonial settlement for a considerable period. Initial exploratory voyages took place within the first six weeks of their arrival and then the area was left in isolation until the late 1820's (Allen 2021). As the British eventually encroached upon Darkinjung Country, a series of violent outbreaks, disease spread, disruptive impacts on Country and the stealing of land followed. The devastating smallpox epidemic, which decimated a large amount of the population in southeast Australia, also extended to Darkinjung Country, resulting in far-reaching and widespread fatalities throughout the community.



CONTEXTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Research Narratives

Culture is not static, it is lived, dynamic and evolving. It is what we do, say, think, and how we live. Through design and art, culture is created and celebrated. The narratives and storylines that are chosen to be communicated through design, public art and interpretation can create new meanings and reinforce existing meanings for a place.

The narratives and storylines developed for the Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living site have been synthesised based on the information about the region discussed above. In relation to the Connecting with Country Framework, these narratives developed in our Research Report contributed to the ‘Form’ stage of the project.

In this stage, in regard to developing narratives and storylines to guide the design, the Research Report focused on examining:

- What is the story of the place?
- What is the history of the site?
- What are the needs of the place?
- What is the purpose if this place?



Plenty of Water

Water is not only a nurturer of environments and ecosystems, but an impactor of cultural vitality and resilience. Darkinjung Country has been shaped, navigated, nourished and energised by Water Country, fostering thriving ecosystems, ecologies and carrying profound spiritual significance entwined with Darkinjung stories. These water bodies are grounded in cultural beliefs, social practices, and spirituality.



Ngura Archives

Darkinjung Country is rich, diverse, and expansive, presenting a tapestry of varying landscapes which nurture a wide range of vegetation communities, water bodies and support diverse fauna. The extensive number of cultural sites highlights the deep spiritual, ceremonial and cultural ties that the Darkinjung have with Country.



Traversing Country

People and Country are deeply intertwined, tending to one means tending for the other. It's a reciprocal relationship where Country provides for us, and in turn, we nurture and provide for it. The land formation of Darkinjung Country has created many sandstone plateaus and escarpments, which provide ideal camp locations for the Darkinjung. These were nestled and tucked within towering trees which created optimal living conditions within all seasons.

CONTEXTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Elements of Country

A way to think and learn about Country is to consider Country as made up of a series of interconnected elements: Move with Country, Non-Human Kin Country, Water Country, Deep Country, Sky Country and Wind Country. This allows us to look at different parts of Country and the role they play in an overall system.

Caring for Country is acknowledging these elements, their place within Country and the processes they are involved in. The Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living Project offers an opportunity to celebrate these elements and their contribution to the all-encompassing nature of Country.

“Country as made up of a series of interconnected elements that come together to form the environmental, cultural and social system of a place. To design with Country is to design with the elements of Country.”

- Yerrabingin

Elements of Country:



Move with Country:

Enduring custodianship of Country through knowledge sharing and record keeping through story, song, dance and art.



Non-Human Kin Country:

Country is comprised of our kin: the plants and animals. We celebrate the connection of all living things and the intricate responsibilities within this web of connections.



Water Country:

Water is the connective tissue, the circulatory system, the confluences and paths within and between Country. The meeting of salt and fresh water.



Deep Country:

The most ancient of connections and one that we honour for the many gifts it shares, the tools we create and the ochres we use to paint.



Sky Country:

This is a place of spirits and the ancestors. It holds knowledge of navigation, the seasons, time and Songlines. It allows engagement with our ancestors and spiritual beings.



Wind Country:

Wind carries the message of the seasons, the songs and words of our ancestors across Country. The landscape and light vibrates to a rhythm; the trees, the grass, and the clouds racing across the sky.

Elements for Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living:

Move with Country:

Creating safe and welcoming communal spaces for people to come together, share knowledge, celebrate culture, and experience Country.

Non-Human Kin Country:

Reinvigorating endemic vegetation to support the ecological role of native animals and insects.

Water Country:

Celebrating the importance of water on the site by incorporating water throughout and creating spaces for people to connect with and appreciate the waterway adjacent to the site.

Deep Country:

Creating connections to and acknowledging the unique natural landforms that surround the site, and celebrating the natural geology by incorporating locally sourced materials in the built form.

Sky Country:

Preserving view lines and creating spaces that allow people to physically connect to the sky as well as encouraging storytelling across the site.

Wind Country:

The use of plants to highlight seasonal change, and by considering the environmental and climate impacts of the project through the design.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Community Engagement Overview

This section of the report outlines the community engagement process and outcomes synthesised by Yerrabingin for the delivery of an authentic and meaningful design approach for the Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living project. It recounts the collaborative design process between Mingara Leisure Group, Pariter, Urbis, Marchese Partners, Taylor Brammer, Yerrabingin, and members of the local First Nations community. It explains the purpose of the design methodology and how the outcomes for creative and culturally sensitive placemaking were reached.

The key attribute Yerrabingin offers is a focus on empathetic design solutions. Throughout the process, we engaged with different partners, connecting innovation and ideation with the wisdom of our cultures.

Yerrabingin engages with people we can learn from and create alongside, resulting in First Nations narratives that reflect the Country the project takes place on. Unlike traditional consultation or engagement, Yerrabingin ensures First Nations peoples are active co-designers of the project, fostering the collective voice of the community.

For the development of the Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living project, ideation was explored through the lens of design thinking and using collaborative events such as a Walk on Country, Design Jam and Community Feedback Session.

Although not all discussion could occur on site, the cultural landscape and context of Darkinjung Country was maintained at the front mind during community engagement. The empathetic design approach ensured that First Nations cultures remain at the core and foundation of the project. The collaboration with the First Nations community members and multidisciplinary design team brought a diversity of ideas and knowledges to the design thinking process. The community engagement identified key insights, recommendations and areas of opportunity for the project.

Three key themes emerged from this collaborative approach. These themes seek to provide a basis for cultural care, celebration and well-being in Tumbi Umbi.

- Respecting Water Flows
- Informed by Country
- Caring For and Learning From our Elders



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Wanggani Dhayar - Listen to Country Proccess

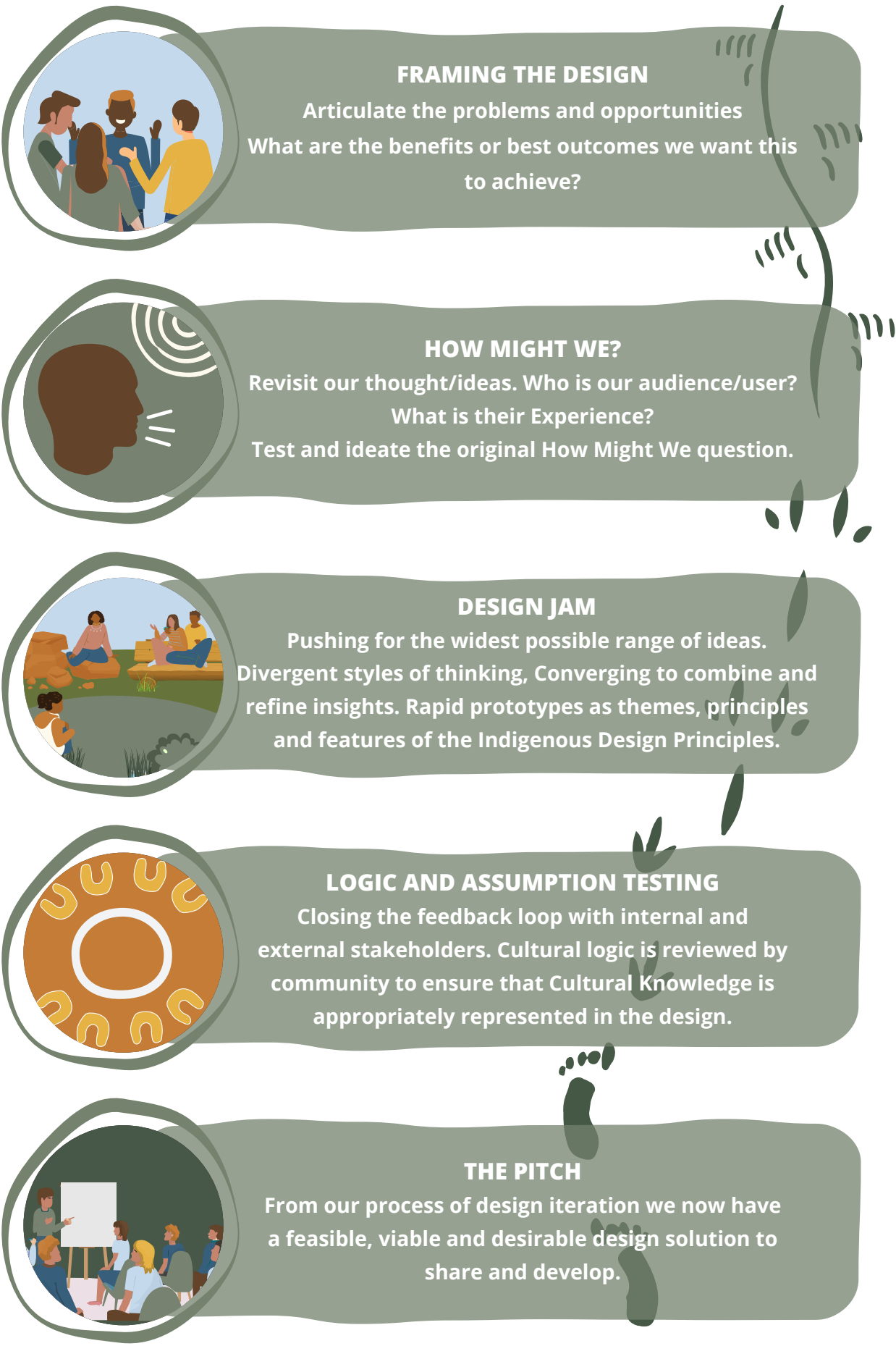
This section of the report recounts the community engagement process completed in the development of this Framework. It should be noted that community members who participated in meetings and workshops were remunerated for their time and expertise. The Wanggani Dhayar (Listen to Country) design methodology developed by Yerrabingin is aligned with the principles outlined in the GANSW Connecting with Country framework. The process was used by Yerrabingin in co-designing options to incorporate Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the site into the design. The process is fluid, with reiteration and organic formation of the design throughout.

The graphic to the right represents the stages of the Wanggani Dhayar process, including framing the design, identifying the audience/users, the Design Jam, logic and assumption testing, cultural checking and sharing the solution through the pitch.

This process has been used to inform and review all design decisions for the project.

“Our culture is embedded in the landscape, and environmental consciousness. Sharing this tacit knowledge and wisdom through a cultural landscape, at this point in time when our Earth is under threat, must be a principal for future design approaches.”

- Christian Hampson, CEO Yerrabingin



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Walk on Country

August 29, 2023

Beginning with a Walk on Country, the project team and local First Nations community members are able to see the extent of the site and talk through initial conceptual ideas. Here everybody is able to introduce themselves and their aspirations for the project. During this time, the community members are able to ask questions and discuss potential concerns.

The Walk on Country is also an opportunity to get a sense of scale and see the surrounding environment and landscape, highlighting where key points of activation may occur. Allowing time to be with Country, the project team and community are able to visualise the potential experiences across the site.

Being able to walk the site is crucial to the engagement process. It allows all attendees to physically experience and connect to the site, and ensures that local First Nations community members are provided with ample opportunities to contribute their ideas, as well as a chance to get a further understanding and feel for the intangible elements of the site, and how much the project may impact this.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Design Jam

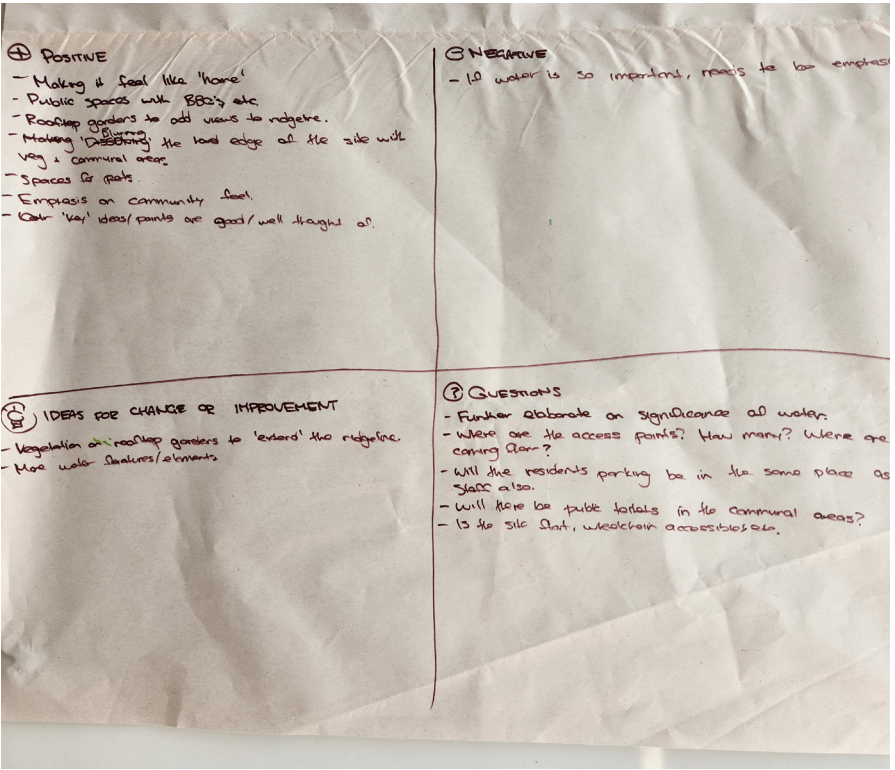
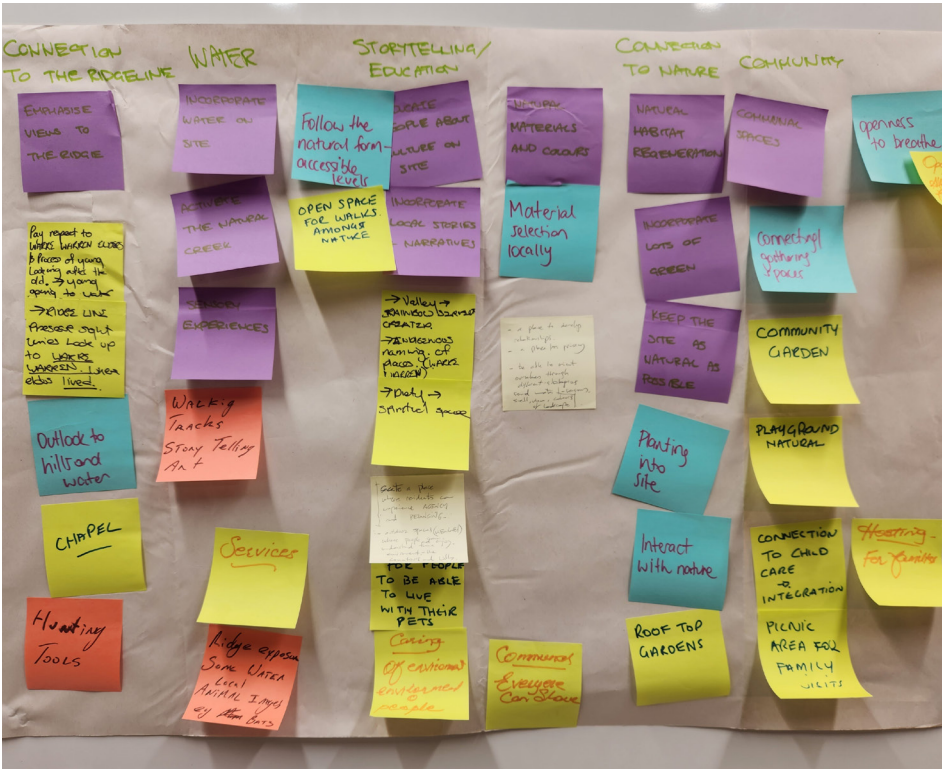
August 29, 2023

The Design Jam brings together divergent styles of thinking by working in small groups consisting of a mix of local First Nations community members, the Project Team, and often the client. This results in innovative design solutions inspired by Country to be integrated throughout the site.

The first stage of the Wanggani Dhayar process, ‘Framing the Design’, is about bringing clarity and focus to the design space. The goal of this stage is to craft a meaningful and actionable challenge for the project. This results in the creation of what we call a point-of-view or ‘How might we’ question for the Design Jam in which the conversation revolves around.

The ‘How might we’ question posed at the Tumbi Umbi Retirement Living Design Jam was: **“How might we design retirement living to benefit both residents and Country?”**

This sets the scene for the workshop. Yerrabingin facilitates several sessions throughout the day that look to provoke thought and inspire collaborative design discussions.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

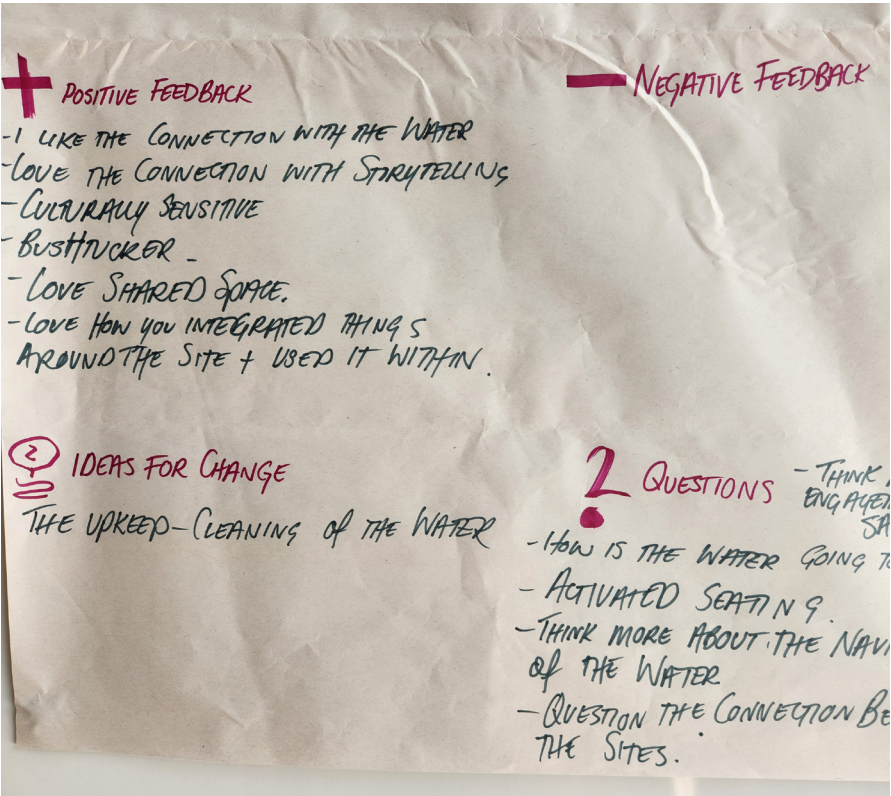
Design Jam Outcomes

Following the Design Jam, the Yerrabingin team systematically compiles data obtained during the session, identifying and extracting the key outcomes and discussion points. Afterward, the data is structured to formulate themes and project considerations, as detailed in the Report.

The key outcomes and discussions from the session were:

- An emphasis on creating a strong connection to the ridgeline.
- Acknowledge and celebrate the Darkinjung history of the area.
- Celebrating the significance of water by incorporating it in elements throughout the site.
- Design a place that can create and nurture a sense of community.
- Incorporating Indigenous language in naming and wayfinding.
- Design in conjunction with the natural landscape.
- Naturalise the site with greenery to diminish the ‘built feel’ of the development.
- Revitalise and activate the watercourse on site.
- Create outdoor spaces for residents to experience and connect to the natural landscape.

- Celebrate Tumbi Umbi as a place of ‘plenty of water’, and acknowledge the site being originally a hunting ground.
- Educate residents on site about First Nations culture.
- Use natural colours and materials associated with the landscape.
- Allow greenery into and up the buildings.
- Create a place that is welcoming and inviting for people of all backgrounds and cultures.
- Develop a strong and functional relationship with the existing recreation club.
- Design spaces for families to come together on site, and nature/water play elements that reference the landscape for kids.
- Acknowledge significant stories of the area, e.g. Warre Warren, and how this can influence designing for aged care residents.
- Green spaces throughout the site with different functions/identities. Formal v informal, communal v individual spaces.
- Create a ‘Welcome moment’ for where people arrive at the site.
- Design spaces that allow for a strong connection to Sky Country, e.g. rooftop gardens, skylights, openings in built form and vegetation.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Key Designing with Country Themes

Through the Design Jam process and in consideration of the initial contextual understanding, Yerrabingin have developed three overarching Designing with Country themes.

Informed by discussions between First Nations community members and the project team, these key themes seek to incorporate the community's input into a larger set of principles which relate directly to the site.

In relation to the Connecting with Country Framework, these key themes look to encompass the five outcomes of success (Healthy Country, Healthy community, Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage, Cultural competency and Better Places) in varying degrees across the project.

“For much of the past two hundred years, there has been a disconnection from Darkinjung Country. This Vision and Strategy seeks to reconnect with Country and embed it in all aspects of the process.”
- Yerrabingin



Respecting Water Flows

The Darkinjung people have been deeply connected to water in this area for tens of thousands of years. The Tuggerah lakes estuary has been shaped by a rich and vibrant history that began with the knowledge and management of the local waterways by the Darkinjung peoples. This knowledge needs to be reflected and celebrated in this proposal through design interventions both internally and externally.



Informed by Country

Country comes first always. The geology which runs deep into the ground, the surrounding ridgelines and topography influences the design elements. The colours and forms which come from the endemic vegetation and surrounding environment inspires the colours, textures and elements within the design. Everything is inspired from and/or showcasing the elements of Country.



Caring For and Learning From our Elders

The elders in the community are storytellers, they share stories and knowledge to educate listeners of their peoples. Ensuring there are culturally safe spaces for these conversations to occur is so important for this project. Learning about the Country that you are living on creates another level of appreciation, understanding and connection.

COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Respecting Water Flows

The design should draw from its context to create a project that works with and is embedded in the landscape. It should encourage people to engage with and appreciate their surroundings by working with the natural forms and elements of the site.

There are several design opportunities to celebrate and reference the sites connection to Tuggerah lake and the swamplands:

- Creating experiences along the water bodies to create a connection for users in the space.
- Incorporation of raingardens and WSUD to clean the water from the streets, bring it through the site and into the water system.
- Celebrate the importance of water to Darkinjung people by incorporating water elements and interpretive pieces throughout the site.
- Creating a sensory walk to connect residents to the natural creekscape in the surrounding environment.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Respecting Water Flows

Sustainable Systems

Establishing eco-friendly rain gardens throughout the site to effectively channel rainwater into the nearby creek system while promoting sustainable water collection and recycling.

Engaging the Senses

Creating an experience for people making their way through the site. Pathways, nodes, misting, soundscapes, seasonal planting, habitat planting to see and hear local non human kin.

Activating Natural Systems

Enhancing connectivity to the neighbouring water body by extending existing features and incorporating bio-filtration planting to naturally purify the water, thereby restoring it to a more ecological and naturalised state.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Informed by Country

Darkinjung people have lived in harmony with Country for generations, thriving off of a symbiotic relationship that has been lost over the years. This project has the opportunity to re-ignite this relationship by creating an environment which allows people to engage with and once again appreciate Country.

The design should celebrate the diverse ecologies and geologies that exist to give the area its uniquely beautiful identity. This can be done by allowing the context to inform elements of the design to allow users to experience and feel grounded within Country on site.

There are several design opportunities to incorporate Country positive design throughout the site. Some examples include:

- Designing in conjunction with the natural form and contouring of the site.
- Incorporating native vegetation throughout the site.
- Designing with natural forms, colours and textures that reference the landscape.
- Using greenery and organic forms to soften the design.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Informed by Country

Extending the Ridgeline

Blending the buildings into the ridgeline sitting in the background by having balconys with cascading plants. This will create a connection between the buildings and the landscape below / beyond.



Blurring the Edges

The boundary edges are to blend into the landscape beyond, ensuring it feels part of the landscape and not separated, to allow residents to explore beyond the site and connect with Country.



Reflecting the Landscape

Endemic and native planting throughout the landscape to create a bio-diverse system and ensure habitat is created for non human kin. Understanding the conditions of the site and topography to create a successful planting strategy that reflects the surrounding environment.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Caring For and Learning From our Elders

The design should be centred around benefiting users as well as the health and wellbeing of Country. Creating a positive bond that extends far beyond the boundaries of the site, promoting health Country throughout the region.

There should be an emphasis on spaces that allow for both formal and informal education nodes for conversation and learning to occur in. Creating spaces for the elders to be comfortable in, participate in and contribute to are all things that are to be incorporated into this design.

Some examples include:

- Creating communal gardens with native edible and medicinal species.
- Interpretive design elements that tell stories of the area.
- Communal spaces for people to come together and be amongst nature.
- Spaces for reflection and connection to Sky Country.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Caring For and Learning From our Elders

Sharing Stories

Providing smaller nodes within the landscape for the sharing of stories. Culturally safe spaces for elders to come and tell their stories in a comfortable space.



Coming Together

Larger gathering nodes throughout the landscape and beyond. Creating a space for residents and visitors to come together for events, family gatherings, weekend barbecues, etc.



Knowledge Trail

A connected trail with wayfinding elements and knowledge points to create an educational piece that people can follow along and learn from. This can be expanded to the creek and throughout the gathering nodes.



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Community Feedback Session

November 6, 2023

Following the Design Jam and Connecting with Country Concepts Report, Yerrabingin facilitated a Community Feedback Session as a chance to re-engage with the First Nations community members that attended the Design Jam, and any that couldn't make it but wanted to be involved in the process.

Referring to the logic and assumption testing portion of the Wanggani Dhayar methodology, the Community Feedback Session presented an opportunity for the project team to logic check their ideas by seeing if the community agreed with how the initial conversations were interpreted and if they are happy with the direction of the project.

During the session, the group looked to explore the design developments to date in order to identify areas of further opportunity or concern.

Below outlines the key points and outcomes that were raised on the day:

- The community were overall happy with the approach, and that their voices were heard and considered.

- Liked how the building considered and worked with the natural landscape.
- Liked the emphasis on preserving views and a physical connection to the ridgeline by reducing the size of the built form.
- Happy with the celebration of water throughout the site.
- Really liked the amount of greenery and open space throughout the design.
- Will there be any further engagement for the project, and when might this happen?
- Really liked the idea of the 'welcome' moment on site, and thought it was a good opportunity to educate people about the history of the place.
- Thought there should be a communal native bush food garden on site where people could also learn about the cultural significance and uses of the plants.
- To use the small nodes and walkways around the site to create a connected story of the place.
- The community were really on board with the incorporation and placement of communal spaces.
- A large emphasis on lighting and safety elements throughout.
- Liked the play elements and diverse spaces for families to gather.





DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

GANSW Outcomes for Country

The GANSW Connecting with Country Framework provides project teams with five outcomes that act as indicators of success for a Country-centred approach. These outcomes should be revisited continuously throughout the design process, reviewed at project completion and as ongoing maintenance and objectives for the project.



1. Healthy Country

- Healthy ecology
- The physical form of Country remains recognisable and restored where possible



2. Healthy Community

- Strong cultural identity, connected to place and community
- Cultural safety
- Relief for Aboriginal communities who are fatigued by the workload imposed on them by project teams seeking their advice on Country
- Training (Spatial design skills for community, financial supports including scholarships for built environment)
- Employment opportunities



3. Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage

- Aboriginal cultural advisers guiding project teams and clients to better connect with Aboriginal community
- Project teams and processes for project delivery respect ICIP
- Access to Country is provided
- Aboriginal language and place names are used



4. Cultural Competency

- Ongoing cultural awareness training develops skills and competency in delivering Country-centred design projects



5. Better Places

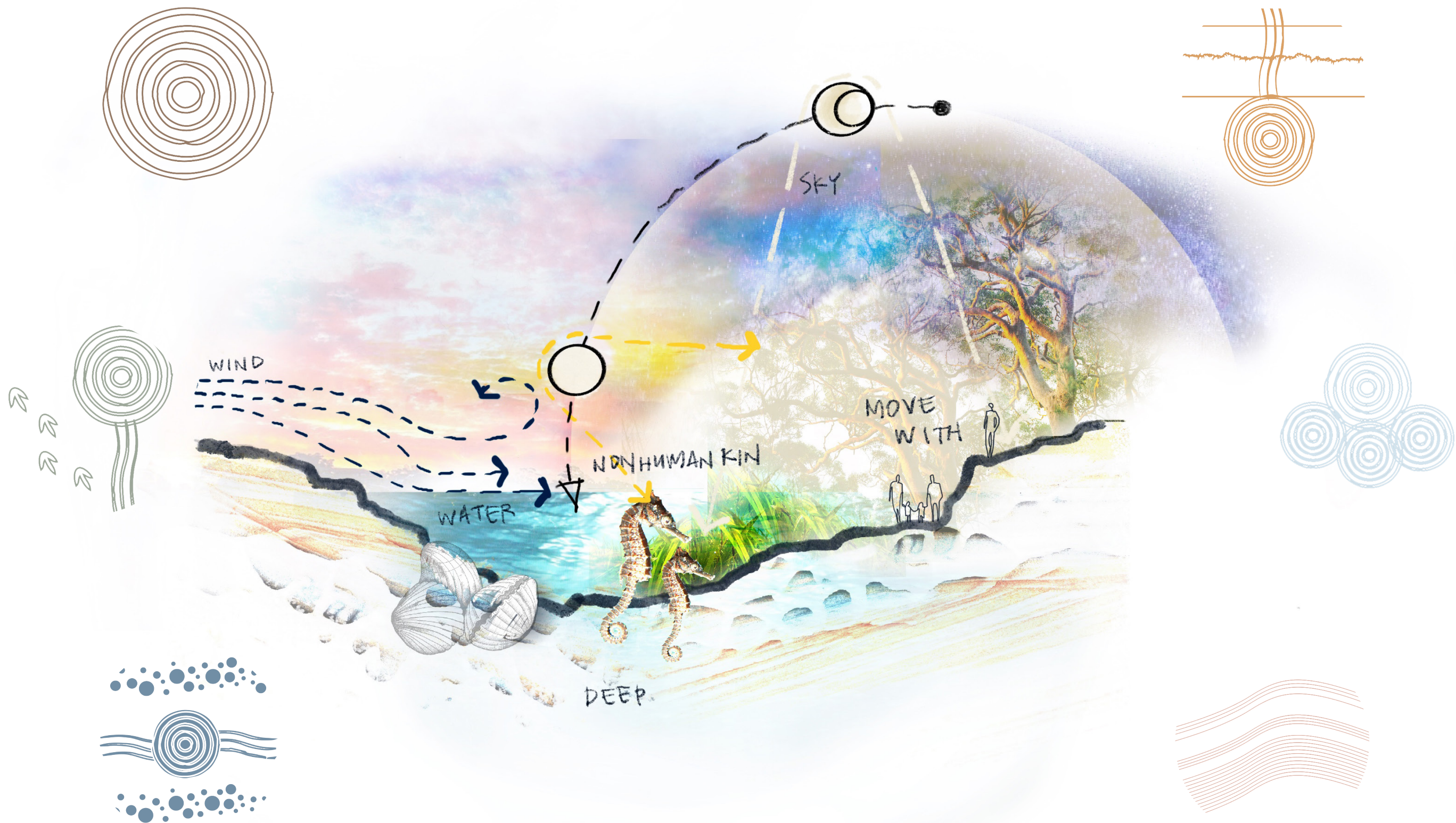
- Planning and design projects create places that are connected with Country
- Planning and design outcomes support living cultural practices
- Original landscapes are repaired and restored

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

Designing with the Elements of Country

This section of the report analyses the site through the lens of Yerrabingin’s Elements of Country to identify opportunities that exist on site to connect with each element in a way that adds to the overall experience of the project.

Each element has also been tested against the project’s Key Designing with Country Themes as well as the GANSW Outcomes for Country to identify how the project can align with each of them in a way that is meaningful and can benefit both users of the space and Country.



DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

Move with Country



At the heart of Country is people and community. To move with Country is to be a custodian of Country; we inhabit and are inhabited by Country and must care for her.

Focusing on people allows for the development of a community that is respectful, in tune with Country and spiritually well. People are what create atmospheres and encounters that are genuine. This development can contribute to this through spaces for education, Aboriginal / cultural enterprise development, ongoing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people and autonomous decision making mechanisms.

- Develop a community respectful and in tune with Country.
- Create spaces for education and cultural enterprise development.
- Provide ongoing employment opportunities for First Nations people.



Education opportunities



Spaces for people to connect with Country



Spaces for ceremony

Key Designing with Country Themes:

Respecting Water Flows



- Creating spaces for people to be close to and interact with water across the site.
- Designing spaces that encourage people to acknowledge and develop a custodial connection to the natural waterways on site.

Informed by Country



- Creating a place where people can experience the natural forms and elements of Country.
- Designing spaces that encourage people to interact with the natural elements of the landscape.

Caring For and Learning From our Elders



- Designing spaces for cultural practice and community events.
- Designing with sensitivity to significant cultural places on and around the site.

GANSW Outcomes for Country:

Healthy Country



The project should look to encourage people to connect to and develop a further appreciation for and respectful connections to Country.

Healthy Community



The project should be a place where First Nations people feel safe, respected, and supported in how they express their cultural identity.

Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



The project should protect and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the site by encouraging people to learn about and engage with culture.

Cultural Competency



The project should look to encourage people to build cultural awareness by learning about and developing a better understanding and appreciation of Country First Nations culture.

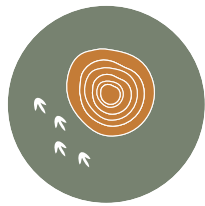
Better Places



The project should support ongoing opportunities for on-Country cultural tours, ceremony, and sourcing Indigenous food and materials.

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

Non-Human Kin Country



We are surrounded by our kin, the animals and plants on Country. It is our responsibility to care and nurture our kin to ensure their viability, ecological systems and connections are continued. We must learn and appreciate the connection of all living things and the roles they have within Country.

Non human kin fills the senses with colour, smell, sounds and intuition. As people we are drawn to these elements within an environment, it fills our experience with life outside of our own.

- Acknowledge and care for the animals and plants on Country.
- Recognise our responsibility to nurture and ensure the viability of non-human kin.
- Provide opportunity for sensory experiences provided by non-human kin.



Biofiltration planting



Incorprating endemic planting schemes



Educational wayfinding elements

Key Designing with Country Themes:

Respecting Water Flows



- Restoring natural waterways to support the reinvigoration of aquatic wildlife.
- Incorporating endemic flora to naturally filter and improve waterway health and referencing endemic flora and fauna in art and wayfinding elements across the site.

Informed by Country



- Incorporating endemic vegetation to support the sites biodiversity and improve its ecological health.
- Referencing the natural ecotonal palette of colours, patterns and textures of in the design.

Caring For and Learning From our Elders



- Designing spaces that allow people to perform cultural practice and custodial roles.
- Referencing local stories about native flora and fauna in design and wayfinding elements.

GANSW Outcomes for Country:

Healthy Country



The project should look to restore and improve the natural habitat health for endemic flora and fauna.

Healthy Community



The project should encourage people to engage with and form a symbiotic relationship with endemic flora and fauna.

Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



The project should celebrate the cultural history and heritage of the site by referencing cultural uses of the site and local keystone species in the design.

Cultural Competency



The project should look to encourage people to build cultural awareness by learning about and engaging with the cultural uses and roles of endemic flora and fauna.

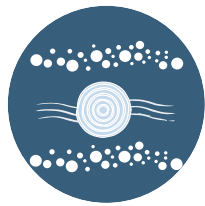
Better Places



The project should connect with the broader landscape and ecosystem to improve the overall experience for people on site.

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

Water Country



Water gives us life, it sustains and nourishes us. Water is guided in and out of spaces by topography and what is placed in water travels with water. We need to care for and protect our waterways and dams because they are sustaining the land and non human kin living there.

The on site water storage system needs to be thoughtfully designed. Rainwater from roofs can be stored for drinking, land management and storm water coming off streets can be treated and re used also before entering the creek system. Misting on hot summers days along streets and in nodes can create enjoyable micro climates for people using the space and use the recycled water on site.

- Recognise water as essential for life.
- Design a thoughtful on-site water storage system.
- Store rainwater for drinking and land management.
- Treat and reuse stormwater before entering the creek system.
- Create enjoyable microclimates to cool off in summer.



Creek naturalisation



Interpretive wayfinding elements



Educational design elements

Key Designing with Country Themes:

Respecting Water Flows



- Restoring and naturalising existing waterways on site.
- Designing spaces that allow for and encourage people to experience and connect with the natural waterway on site.
- Implementing biofiltration and water saving practices across the site.

Informed by Country



- Referencing the natural form and colours of surrounding waterways in the design.
- Considering surrounding waters when deciding on building placement and orientation.
- Design built form to maximise the collection and reuse of rain water.

Caring For and Learning From our Elders



- Referencing the cultural uses and knowledges associated with surrounding waterways in the design.
- Creating spaces for storytelling and conteplation adjacent to water.

GANSW Outcomes for Country:

Healthy Country



The project should look to restore and improve the health of existing waterways on and around the site.

Healthy Community



The project should encourage people to engage and connect with water and natural waterways on site.

Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



The project should celebrate the cultural history of the site by referencing cultural uses and knowledges associated with the natural waterways surrounding the site.

Cultural Competency



The project should look to encourage poeple to develop a custodial connection to water and waterways across the site.

Better Places



The project should incorporate water and connect with natural waterways to improve the overall experience for people on site.

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

Deep Country



Deep Country goes beyond the surface of the ground; it's layers upon layers of spiritual and geological history. When we dance we are celebrating and honouring the spiritual beings below our feet and the many gifts it shares, such as the greenstone axe and the ochres that we paint with.

Country's connection goes from deep into the ground to high above the clouds, it's a system which works together so seamlessly. Rain comes down from the sky and is absorbed by the ground which is then used by trees and plants for nutrients before evaporating back into the sky to continue its cycle. We need to care and nurture the ground we build on to ensure these processes still occur successfully across the site.

- Recognise Deep Country as layers of spiritual, geological and historical connections to showcase and celebrate.
- Care and nurture the ground to maintain ecological processes.
- Provide wayfinding opportunities to connect with local stories.



Naturally sourced and sustainable materials



Materials that reflect the geology



Storytelling through materiality

Key Designing with Country Themes:

Respecting Water Flows



- Designing in conjunction with natural forms and waterways in and around the site.
- Limiting hardscapes to maximise water circulation and improve soil health on site.
- Limiting earth works to reduce runoff into nature waterways.

Informed by Country



- Using materials with appropriate thermal properties for the local climate.
- Referencing forms of the natural landscape in the design.
- Using materials from or in close proximity to the site where possible.

Caring For and Learning From our Elders



- Creating spaces that allow people to connect with natural land features.
- Referencing cultural knowledges associated with the geological context in the design.

GANSW Outcomes for Country:

Healthy Country



The project should look to limit the displacement of geological material and improve soil health on site.

Healthy Community



The project should reference and connect with significant surrounding land features to improve the overall experience for people on site.

Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



The project should celebrate the cultural history of the site by referencing cultural uses and knowledges associated with the geological context.

Cultural Competency



The project should look to encourage people to build cultural awareness by learning about the cultural uses and custodial roles associated with the geological context.

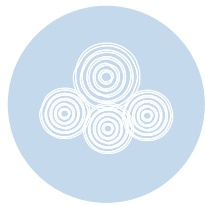
Better Places



Where possible, the project should use locally sourced and sustainable building materials to have relationship with and belong to the Country its located.

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

Sky Country



Sky is a place of spirits, ancestors and knowledge. It tells us about navigation, the seasons, weather, time and Songlines. The sky is a spiritual and ecological clock guiding the other elements through their processes and functions.

Sky creates ephemeral shadows and patterns as they dance along the ground during the day, it enhances sensory experiences and creates enjoyable environments. The night sky tells stories, helps navigates us around Country and is a place for our ancestors. To be able to experience both day and night sky is important!

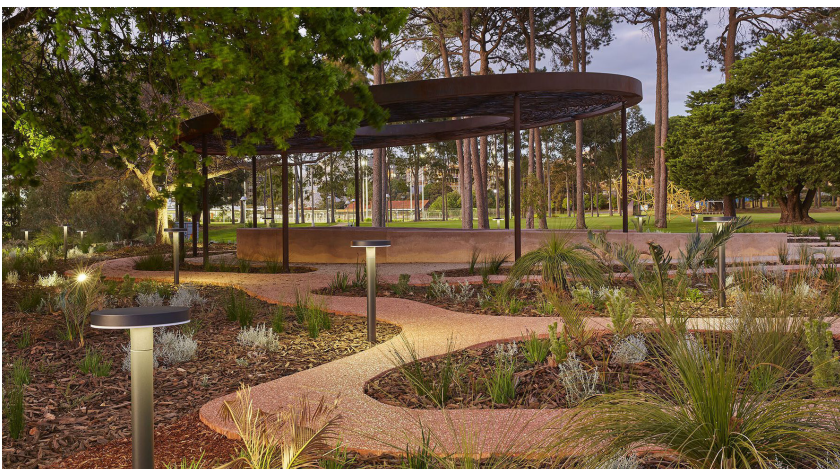
- Understand the sky’s role in navigation, seasons, weather and time.
- Utilise the ephemeral shadows and patterns created by the sky during the day.
- Foster an environment where both day and night sky experiences are important.



Shadowplay elements



Reflective materials



Places for storytelling

Key Designing with Country Themes:

Respecting Water Flows



- Using the reflection of water across the site to improve residents connection to sky.
- Designing in consideration of natural variable water levels and flows.

Informed by Country



- Limiting light pollution to reduce impacts on physical connection to night sky.
- Using reflective materials to improve the physical connection to sky.
- Using passive solar design where possible to reduce the requirement for mechanical heating and cooling.

Caring For and Learning From our Elders



- Creating spaces that allow people to physically connect to sky.
- Considering the shading impact that built form can have on public open space.

GANSW Outcomes for Country:

Healthy Country



The project should look to preserve a strong connection to sky by limiting light pollution and preserving view lines.

Healthy Community



The project should encourage people to develop a strong physical connection to Sky Country.

Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



The project should celebrate the significance of Sky Country to First Nations people by referencing cultural stories and knowledges associated with sky in the design.

Cultural Competency



The project should look to encourage people to build cultural awareness by learning about the significance of Sky Country to First Nations people.

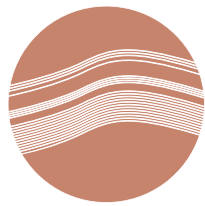
Better Places



The project should maximise a connection to Sky Country to improve the overall experience for people on site.

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

Wind Country



Wind creates natural, environmental and spiritual movement. It carries messages of seasonal change, the songs and words of our ancestors across Country. The rhythm that sweeps through creates a sensory experience which in turn enhances the overall experience of a space. The smells of flora are carried through, along with the cool air directing you around the space. Wind is also a form of pollination, dispersing seeds across the land to encourage birth and growth.

Wind is something we can feel but cannot see. It's rhythm varies and to be able to see its patterns would enhance the overall experience. It's an element of wayfinding and creates a sensory experience, guiding people with its sounds.

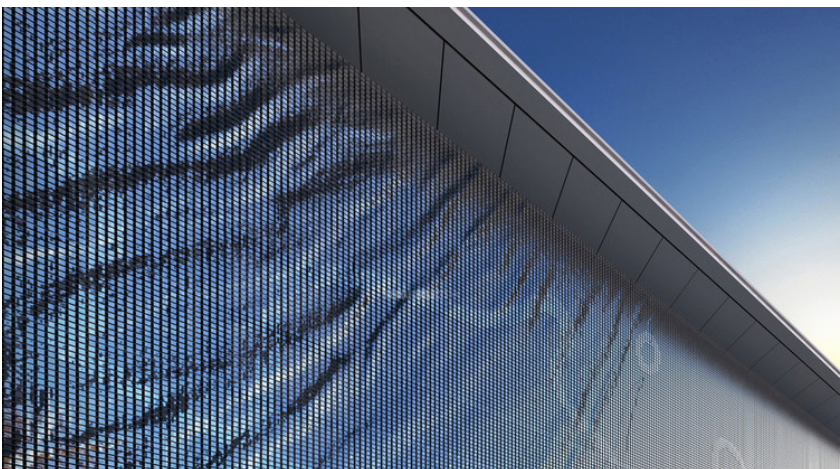
- Enhance sensory experiences with the rhythm and smells carried by the wind.
- Consider wind as a form of pollination, dispersing seeds for birth and growth.
- Acknowledge wind as an element of wayfinding, guiding people with its sounds.



Sensory gardens



Wind inspired textures and patternation



Reactive facade elements

Key Designing with Country Themes:

Informed by Country



- Designing built form and public spaces in consideration of dominant wind patterns.
- Incorporating sensory design elements that are reactive to wind.
- Referencing the natural movement of wind in textural finishes.

Caring For and Learning From our Elders



- Designing spaces that benefit from the natural cooling and ventilation benefits of wind.
- Referencing cultural knowledges associated with seasonality and weather patterns in the design.

GANSW Outcomes for Country:

Healthy Country



The project should look to work with the natural weather patterns and wind movement on site.

Healthy Community



The project should consider dominant wind patterns when designing communal spaces on site.

Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



The project should celebrate the dynamic nature of the site by referencing cultural knowledges associated with seasonality and weather patterns in the design.

Cultural Competency



The project should look to educate people about the significance of seasonality, and the impact that it had on cultural life on site.

Better Places



The project should harness the natural benefits of wind such as cooling and ventilation to improve the overall experience for people on site.



A VISION FOR TUMBI UMBI RETIREMENT LIVING

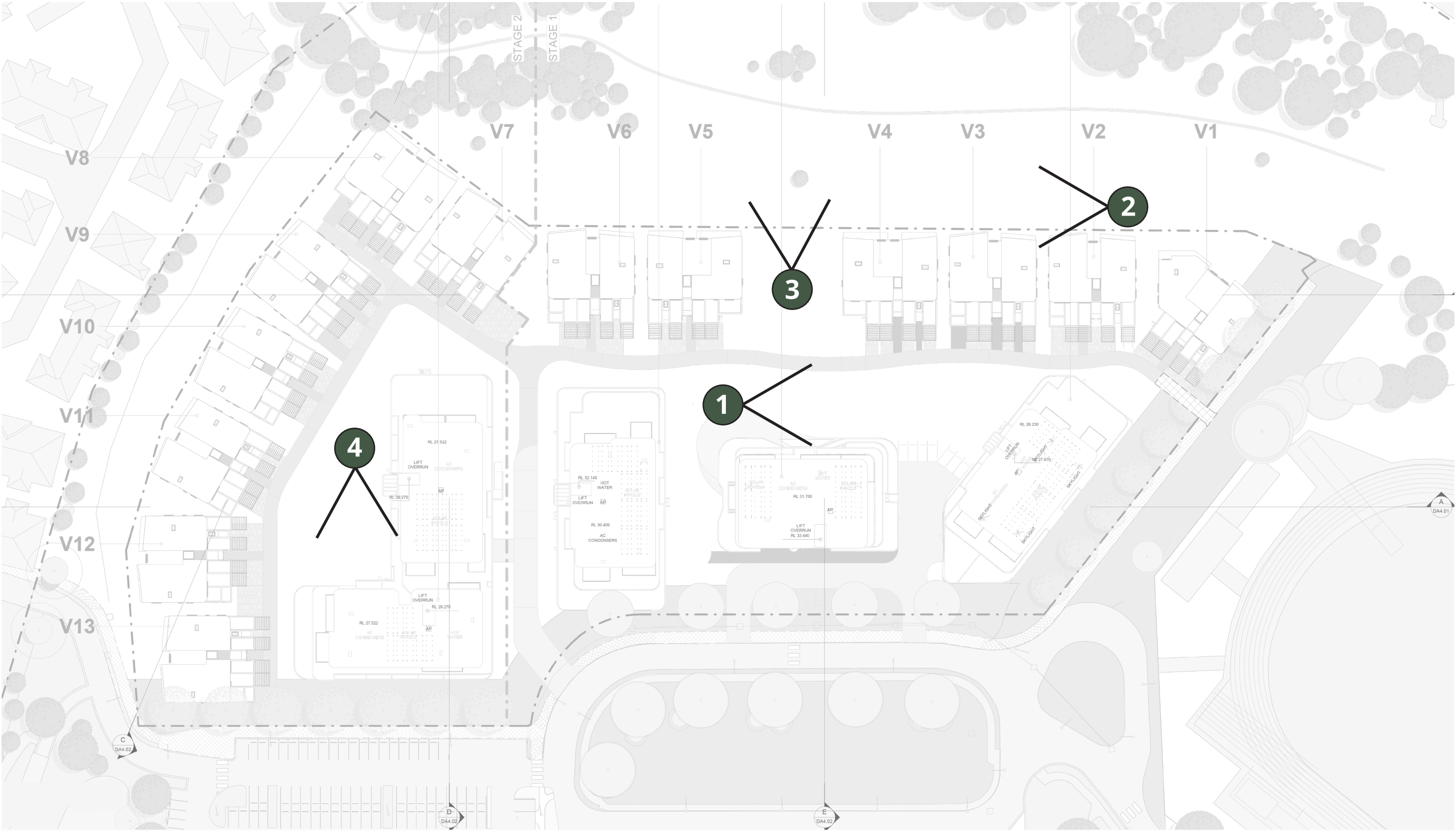
A VISION FOR TUMBI UMBI RETIREMENT LIVING

Key Designing with Country Opportunities

The spaces below have been identified as opportunities where elements of Designing with Country can be incorporated into the project. Each point is an example of how this Designing with Country process can inform and lead to meaningful and successful design for the project.

The Key Opportunities identified in the map to the right are:

- 1 - Communal Open Space
- 2 - Creekside Walk
- 3 - Reflection Node
- 4 - Secondary Communal Open Space



A VISION FOR TUMBI UMBI RETIREMENT LIVING

Communal Lawn

The Communal Lawn provides the opportunity to create a space that encourages people to come together for a collective experience of Country.

Some examples of Designing with Country opportunities include:



Respecting Water Flows

- Incorporating biofiltration gardens with native plants to naturally capture and clean rainwater for reuse.
- Sensory water elements and features.



Informed by Country

- Interpretive wayfinding elements that reference the colour and form of the natural waterways.
- Endemic planting throughout.



Caring For and Learning From our Elders

- Open spaces to allow for a physical connection to sky.
- Spaces for communal events/people to come together.
- Interpretive design elements that celebrate the cultural history of the site.



A VISION FOR TUMBI UMBI RETIREMENT LIVING

Creekside Walk

This part of the site provides an opportunity for people to experience the creek adjacent to the site.

Some examples of Designing with Country opportunities include:



Respecting Water Flows

- Naturalise the creek.
- Creating a path that follows and allows people to get close to the water.
- Designing spaces along the creek for residents to stop and enjoy the water.



Informed by Country

- Incorporate colours and textures that reference the natural landscape.
- Utilise endemic aromatic planting to add to the sensory experience of the walk.



Caring For and Learning From our Elders

- Incorporate educational pieces to create a connected story along the walk.
- Spaces for people to stop and chat.



A VISION FOR TUMBI UMBI RETIREMENT LIVING

Reflection Node

Reflection nodes provide residents a sense of escape from the larger communal areas of the development for a moment of reflection and a more personal experience of Country.

Some examples of Designing with Country opportunities include:



Respecting Water Flows

- A focus on views of the creek.
- Sensory elements such as installations with running water.



Informed by Country

- Dense endemic vegetation as screening to create a quiet, private space.
- Highlight views to the ridgeline.
- Incorporate colours and textures that reference the natural landscape.



Caring For and Learning From our Elders

- A space for residents to reflect personally or have deep conversations amongst nature.
- Storytelling elements.



A VISION FOR TUMBI UMBI RETIREMENT LIVING

Secondary Communal Space

This space provides another opportunity for families or residents to come together and interact with the natural elements of the site.

Some examples of Designing with Country opportunities include:



Respecting Water Flows

- Waterplay elements for kids.
- Limit hardscapes to reduce water pooling and evaporation.



Informed by Country

- Textures and patternation that reference the landscape in built form and wayfinding elements.
- Use native vegetation to screen the buildings and provide a sense of escapism.



Caring For and Learning From our Elders

- Provide shelters for people to come together.
- Communal bush food garden with native edible and medicinal plants.



NEXT STEPS - WE WALK TOGETHER

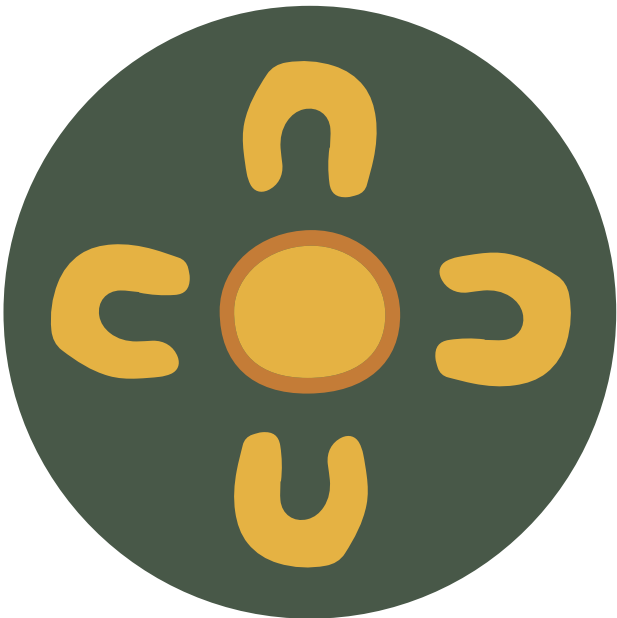


NEXT STEPS

Ongoing Opportunities

Continued Community Engagement

Continue consultation with community throughout the entire project all the way through to construction and beyond completion.



Detailed Design

The detail design stage needs to include local First Nations artists and community to discuss the art and design strategies for different elements of the project.



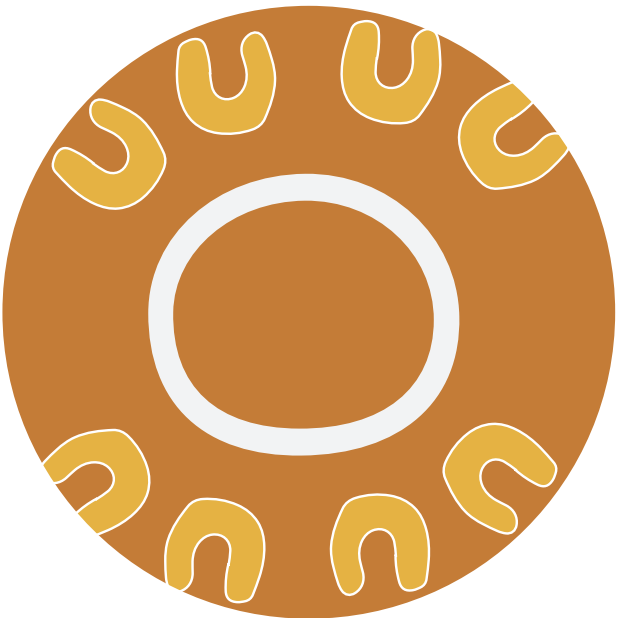
Language Workshops

Any potential use of traditional language needs to be consulted with the appropriate First Nations knowledge holders. Language workshops are recommended and should take place sooner rather than later if things like buildings, streets, parks etc. are wanting to be named.



Wayfinding / Branding

Wayfinding and branding can be work-shopped with local artists to ensure the best outcome is being made. The projects branding should be discussed with community.



CLOSING ASPIRATIONS

Stories and elements framed through a cultural lens afford designers an opportunity to engage with their craft in a way that is connected and related to a sites location, its history and future. Water, wind, sky, and our non-human kin are considered to be vital stakeholders and caretakers of the design. They provide the basis for care and well-being of country and each other. We care for country and it cares for us.

Through culturally informed designs, inclusive engagement, and a commitment to learning from our elders, we aim to cultivate not just a place to live, but a living connection to the essence of Country. Tumbi Umbi is a place where healthy ecosystems, vibrant communities, and cultural heritage thrive together. Our vision is a place that reflects the richness of these landscapes. This village can be a place where residents can be immersed in Country, where they can learn and care for it gently while it in turn does for them.





WE ARE YERRABINGIN. WE WALK TOGETHER.