

Westmead Hospital Redevelopment: Landscape Design Statement

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The Westmead Hospital Multi-Deck car park provides a significant opportunity to improve both the Hospital's built infrastructure and its landscape setting through the design of building entrances, streets, car parks, parkland and other landscape spaces. The design will obtain a high standard of design excellence by responding to the site's natural heritage, its vegetation character, and by providing a contemporary, safe and functional environment.

A feature of the multi-deck car park redevelopment will be the creation of a central pedestrian spine linking the north of the site and new car parks to the Building Entrance.

The spine will be a high quality pedestrian walkway, generous in scale and heavily landscaped. The 8-12 meter wide connection will include a main pathway, a tree avenue, low feature planting and lawn areas. Lighting and seating will also be provided at regular intervals along the edges of the spine.

The Hospital's western streetscape frontages, Darcy Road and Institute Road, will be reinforced with native tree and groundcover planting. The Darcy Road and Institute Road entrances will be treated as gateway points to assist drivers, pedestrians and cyclists to clearly recognize the entrances to the multi-deck car park. New signage and feature tree planting will be incorporated into the entrance designs to help the public easily find their way onto the Hospital grounds. New footpaths and lighting will provide a safe and convenient environment. A new pedestrian entrance and pathway located just south of the Institute Road emergency vehicle egress will connect Darcy Road to the multi-deck car park. Additionally landscape mounding, natural pathways and seating elements within the parkland area will offer amenity and quiet spaces for passive recreation, whilst offering a strong landscape buffer to the building and roads.

The park will be a flexible multipurpose space with an important role of through-route from Darcy Road to the wider green network. Passive recreation needs of staff and visitors will be met through a clear and simple design resolution which includes open flexible lawn area, 1.5m high berms and environmental ecology. These will be located in order to achieve the best solar access through winter and summer shade. To this end, trees will form an important microclimatic influence and deciduous trees may be more suitable in some locations.

The park will be integrated into the surrounding site in a way that emphasizes the sites character, provides strong visual and physical links from Darcy and Institute Road's and retains and protects the existing vegetation, helping celebrate the parks remnant and inherent qualities. CPTED and safety by design has been incorporated into all aspects of the design with clear sightlines, lighting to the park and pathways an integral component of the design and vegetation which adds to the sites character without compromising the safety of the pedestrians throughout the site.

Native planting and carefully considered surface finishes will provide habitat and texture, local character and a connection to the sites surrounding local community and wider qualities. Tree planting will respond to the surrounding development heights and will be legible and connect safely and cohesively to the multi-deck Planting will be a striking feature of the park and bind various facilities into one cohesive place.

The proposal Hospital redevelopment includes an on-grade car park for visitors and staff. The car parks will be located to the east of the existing Dental Administration Buildings and north of the multi-deck car park. The design of the car park will consider a range of issues including: vehicle and pedestrian access; personal safety; wayfinding; shade and comfort; and storm water runoff. The visual appearance of the car park is also important as it will form part of the visitor arrival experience and be heavily overlooked from adjacent hospital buildings. Planting areas within and around the car park will provide the opportunity for Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) solutions. Storm water runoff could be collected and cleansed in raingardens containing local vegetation species.

A new Institute Road emergency vehicle egress will be located at the Darcy Road and Institute Road intersection. This road will not be accessible to the public and therefore no gateway landscape treatment is proposed at this location. However, there is opportunity for new tree, shrub and groundcover planting which will contribute toward a more attractive streetscape interface.

A new pedestrian entrance and pathway located just south of the Institute Road emergency vehicle egress will connect Darcy Road to the multi-deck building entrance. This pathway will be lit, signposted and lined by a pedestrian-scale tree avenue.