



Marrickville Timberryards by RTL Co.

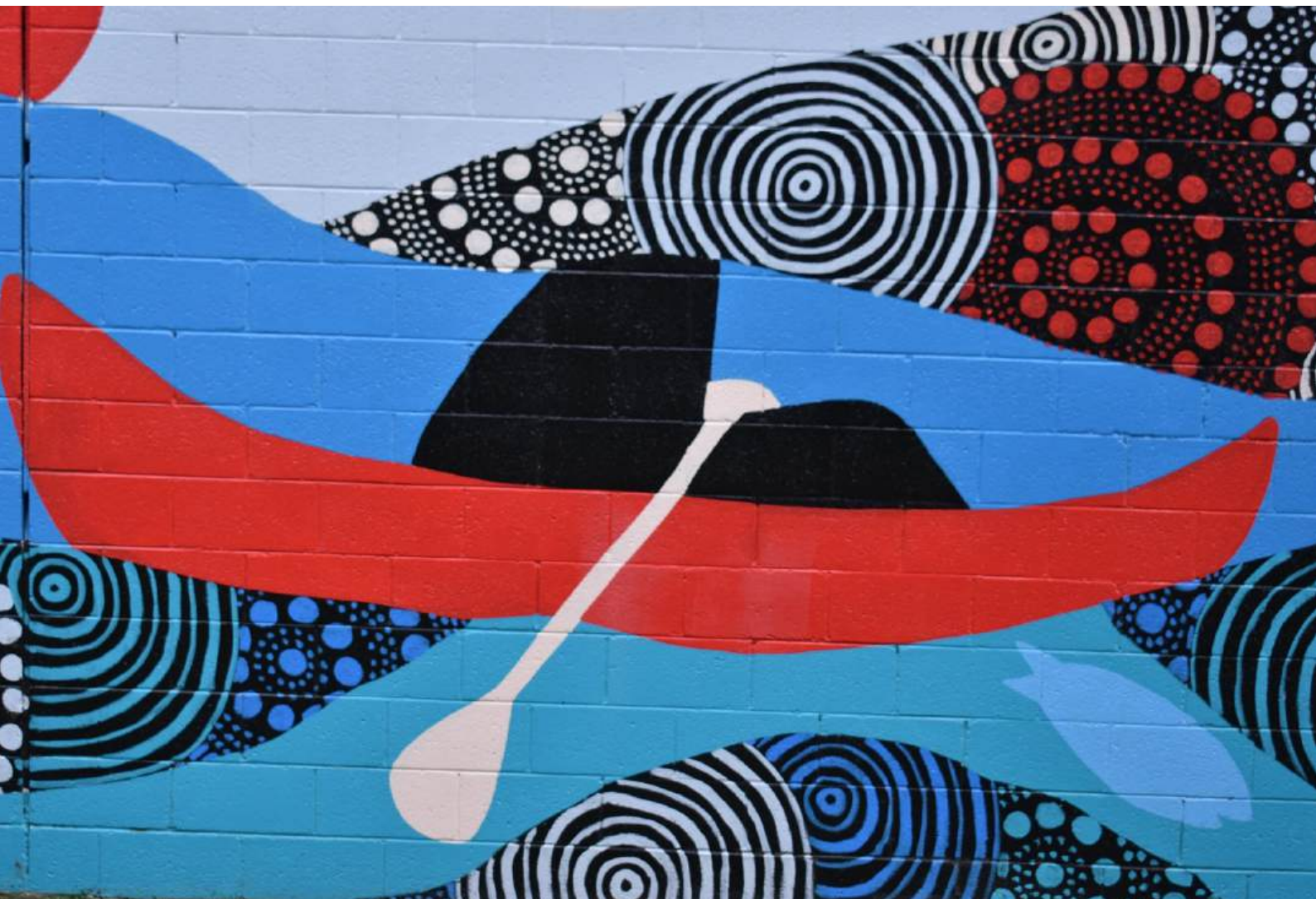
Engagement Outcomes Report

19 December 2024

Acknowledgement of Country

RTL Co. and the project team acknowledges the Gadigal and Wangal people as the Traditional Custodians of the Gadigal Wangal landscape to which this document applies.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



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1. Executive Summary

This Engagement Outcomes Report documents the community engagement program conducted by JOC Consulting on behalf of Varsity Assets Management Pty Ltd on behalf of RTL Investments 2 as trustee for RTL Marrickville Property Trust ('RTL Co.') to support the preparation of a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the *Timberyards* proposal.

The engagement activities conducted from July to December 2024, aimed to ensure that members of the Marrickville community and other stakeholders had the opportunity to understand and provide input on the proposal prior to submission of the SSDA. The engagement approach has designed to meet the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI or the Department) Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and aligns with the principles outlined in the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (the Guidelines) whilst considering the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum.

This stage of the project is considered as early-engagement, with feedback and ideas shared with the project team to respond to any issues and concerns raised by community members.

In total, **over 2,074 people** were made aware of the proposed development through a letterbox drop to nearby residents and businesses, a project website and direct email and phone approaches to key stakeholders. The project team engaged directly with **over 262 people** through face-to-face and online methods.

1.1 Engagement approach

An inclusive and multi-channel engagement approach was designed to inform the community about the project and gather feedback on the proposed development prior to SSDA lodgement. The breadth and reach of the of the engagement activities exceeded the Inner West Council's notification requirements providing ample opportunities for the community to meaningfully engage with the project.



First Nations Engagement

Connecting With Country consultant Yerrabingin held two in-person sessions with a group of local First Nations community to discuss the Country-led principles of the project and ways it could learn from, respond to and incorporate Country



Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings held with key stakeholders including local community members, businesses, and schools; Local Government including Grayndler Electorate Office, Inner West Council's Mayor, Councillors, Planning team, and technical staff; NSW government agencies including Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), Transport for NSW (TfNSW), and Government Architects NSW (GANSW) State Design Review Panel (SDRP).



Project webpage

A dedicated webpage providing detailed project information and engagement opportunities to keep the community informed and involved throughout the SSDA application process.



Notification letters

Printed letters were distributed to nearby residents and businesses within a 150m radius of the site to inform the community about the proposed development and engagement opportunities.



Drop-in sessions

Two four-hour drop-in sessions and one informal session were held on-site at the *Timberyards* showroom. These sessions provided the community with information about the proposed development, allowed them to meet the project team, and ask questions while the project team captured any feedback.



Frontline engagement

Ongoing operation of 1800 hotline (9am-5pm, Monday-Friday) and a project email inbox for comments and enquiries about the project and engagement activities.



Online survey

An online survey to inform the Social Impact Assessment was hosted on the project webpage and included in the notification letter promoting engagement activities.

1.2 Feedback

In general, people were supportive of the precinct vision and proposed design. The key themes raised by people who participated in the community engagement process were:

- **Build-To-Rent:** there was an education piece on the new 'build-to-rent' model of development and its differences to a traditional 'build-to-sell' model which is typical of most other developments.
- **Local Character:** Community members emphasised the importance of maintaining Marrickville's unique character, raising queries about design integrity and neighbourhood aesthetics.
- **Housing Mix and Diversity:** Community members asked questions about the housing mix with the focus for a diverse range of housing options to complement the existing suburb demographic. Survey participants identified that housing stock, diversity and increased affordability were likely positive changes resultant of the proposed development.
- **Affordable housing:** The survey highlighted community interest in delivering more housing near transport and generally identified the delivery of new dwellings with a substantial affordable housing allocation as a social benefit of the proposal.
- **Traffic and Parking Management:** Participants cited potential congestion and parking challenges as concerns, with requests for traffic calming measures and enhanced public transport access. They would like to see more on-site parking to manage demand or initiatives to help reduce car dependency.
- **Building Height and Privacy:** The community are receptive to discussions around increases to building heights beyond the DCP, in order to achieve the proposed level of communal and open space within the development. Feedback highlighted the need to balance development with the local context, ensuring privacy and solar access for existing residents.
- **Design and Amenity:** Several people expressed positive comments about urban regeneration in the area and the community benefit it can afford. Survey participants identified additional business opportunities, community spaces and enhanced walkability and accessibility were identified as positive foreseen changes resultant of the proposed development.

1.3 Next steps

Once RTL Co. has lodged the SSDA, it will be assessed and placed on public exhibition for further feedback. Only if the SSDA is approved will the project move to the detailed design phase.



Round 1 Community Consultation (COMPLETE): RTL Co. prioritised early community consultation to gather initial feedback, ensuring community perspectives are considered from the outset of the project.



SSDA Preparation (CURRENT): RTL Co. is preparing the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) report, incorporating findings from community consultations and commissioned technical studies to support the assessment process.



SSDA Assessment: Once submitted, the application will be considered by the NSW Government in conjunction with key stakeholders, including Inner West Council, and placed on public exhibition for feedback.



Detailed Design and Construction Documentation

Phase: Pending the SSDA assessment outcome, the project will progress to detailed design and construction documentation phase if approved.



Construction: Following this, the project will move into the Construction phase and likely open in stages to provide access to the residents and community.

2. Introduction

This Engagement Outcomes Report has been prepared on behalf of Varsity Assets Management Pty Ltd (Developer) on behalf of RTL Investments 2 Pty Ltd as trustee for RTL Marrickville Property Trust ('RTL Co.') (the Applicant) to support a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the proposed *Timberyards* development.

This Engagement Report summarises the approach to community engagement and the outcomes from activities undertaken to date. It has been prepared to address the *Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements* (SEARs) issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) as identified in the table below. It complies with the NSW Government Department of Planning and Environment's *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* and documents how the needs and priorities identified through the engagement process have been considered.

2.1 Compliance with SEARs

The relevant Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and how they have been addressed are indicated in the table below.

Issue No. and Item	Issue and Assessment Requirements	Section of this Report
26. Engagement	Detail engagement undertaken and demonstrate how it was consistent with the <i>Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects</i> . Detail how issues raised and feedback provided have been considered and responded to in the project. In particular, applicants must consult with:	2.3 and 2.4
	The relevant Department assessment team.	2.6 and 3.5
	Any relevant local Councils.	2.6 and 3.5
	Any relevant Agencies.	2.6 and 3.5
	The Community	2.6 and 3.1,3.2,3.3
	If the development would have required an approval or authorisation under another Act but for the application of s4.41 of the EP&A Act or requires an approval or authorisation under another Act to be applied consistently by s4.42 of the EP&A Act, the agency relevant to that approval or authorisation.	N/A

This report includes:

- A description of the proposed development
- A table to show compliance with Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)
- An overview of the engagement approach and objectives
- A summary of the key stakeholders targeted who may have an interest in the proposed development
- Details of the communication and engagement activities undertaken
- A summary of the engagement outcomes, key themes raised by the community and key stakeholders and how they have been considered by the Project team.
- Next steps to support continuous engagement about the proposed development

2.2 Project Description

The SSDA (SSD-76927247) seeks consent for a diverse rental housing precinct comprising build-to-rent (BTR), co-living and affordable housing. The precinct development comprises seven buildings ranging from eight to thirteen storeys, with open space that includes a pocket park, through site links and communal open spaces.

Specifically, consent is sought for the following:

- Site preparation (including remediation), demolition and bulk excavation for basement parking;
- Residential accommodation (shop top housing, residential flat buildings and mixed use buildings) that includes BTR, co-living and affordable housing;
- Retail premises on the ground floor within the MU1 zoned land and extending up to 25m into the R4 zoned land;
- Publicly accessible recreation area (pocket park) and through site links;
- Neighbourhood shop (within the R4 zoned land);
- Associated landscaping and public domain works; and
- Augmentation of, and connection to, existing utilities as required.

A detailed description of the proposal is provided in the Environmental Impact assessment (EIS) by Ethos Urban. The development is declared State Significant by virtue of being a BTR development on land in Greater Sydney with an Estimated Development Cost (EDC) of greater than \$50 million, with the

tenanted component representing greater than 60% of the EDC (Schedule 1, *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*).

The site and its immediate surrounds are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: the site



The SSDA seeks approval for the following development features:

- Seven buildings, ranging from eight to thirteen storeys
- Approximately 1,188 'for-rent' apartments including 115 affordable for-rent apartments.
- 2,890 square metres of indoor amenity, including a unique creative hub for community-led programmes
- 2,394 square metres of lively retail venues and commercial spaces including co-work areas
- 10,207 square metres of publicly accessible open space, including street-level landscaping that connects with Country, and incorporates pocket parks, laneways and courtyards
- Public art delivered through our RTL Co. Partnerships Platform will bring colour and diversity to *The Timberyards* in collaboration with local and leading artists, designers and creators
- A range of parking for residents and retailers (279 parking bays)

An indicative Precinct Plan of the of the proposal is shown in Figure 2

Figure 2: Precinct Plan



2.3 Engagement Approach

This section outlines the engagement approach undertaken by JOC Consulting as part of the SSDA application. The methodology was designed to adhere to the Department's *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* as well as the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum for engagement.

Our approach recognises the value of purposeful, targeted, and inclusive engagement. JOC Consulting has extensive experience in community and stakeholder engagement, ensuring all voices are heard and considered to meet local needs. Our approach aligns with best-practice community development principles, ensuring project outcomes are impactful, sustainable, and contribute to community wellbeing.

2.4 Engagement objectives

RTL Co. is committed to early engagement that is genuine, targeted and meaningful. The below engagement objectives were identified by JOC Consulting and RTL Co:

- Inform the community about the proposed development including the precinct vision and proposed community benefits
- Provide transparent information and regular project updates
- To facilitate an open and transparent engagement process that provides meaningful opportunities for the community to provide feedback about the proposed development
- Respond to concerns raised by the community and document all feedback.
- Present outcomes from the engagement in a format that demonstrates consistency with DPHI's *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* to satisfy the SEARs and SSDA obligations.

2.5 Target stakeholders

This section provides an overview of the key stakeholders that were engaged during the early consultation period.

Stakeholder group	Rationale	Engagement method
Local community		
Local residents	- Community members who live in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development whose daily lives will be impacted by the project - May have concerns about the project - construction and operational phase - May be interested in the future living, employment and recreation opportunities the precinct will offer - May be interested in staying informed about changes to the neighbourhood	- Notification letter - Drop-in sessions - Project webpage
Local business and landowners		
Wider community		
Wider Inner West stakeholders	- Broader community who may visit Marrickville and have an interest in the future living, employment and recreation opportunities the precinct may offer - Broader community who may have concerns about the project - construction and operational phase	- Drop-in sessions - Project webpage
Local Marrickville Arts Community	- Creative community who may be concerned about changes to the neighbourhood and the loss of space for creative use - Creative community who may be interested in the creative spaces and amenity that may be available in the precinct	- Drop-in sessions - Project webpage
Relevant agencies and organisations		
First Nations Community	- Have a genuine country-led approach to the precinct design and Connecting with Country - Build relationships with local First Nations community - Engage with Local Aboriginal Land Councils and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to understand interests relating to the development	RTL Co and the project team conducted targeted meetings
Local Government Agencies	- Involve Local Government agencies (including the Mayor, Councillors, Planning and Technical Staff) to: - Support the long-term delivery objectives of the project relating to local community - Enable the agencies to have input to the form of the proposal prior to lodgement; - Provide a thorough understanding of the project particulars.	RTL Co and the project team conducted targeted meetings

NSW State Government Agencies	• Enable Government agencies involved in the assessment process to: ○ Support the long-term delivery objectives of the project relating to the broader community ○ Enable the agencies to have input to the form of the proposal prior to lodgement;	• RTL Co. and the project team conducted targeted meetings
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2.6 Engagement Activities

The engagement activities undertaken during this project are listed in the table below.

Method	Stakeholder	Description	Reach / response	How engagement informed the project
Communications				
Notification letter (Inform)	Local residents, Local businesses	Letter to local residents and local businesses that included key information about the project and opportunities to provide feedback. Distributed to letterboxes within a 150m radius of the site.	Approx. 464 distributed.	Ensured that residents to the site are aware of the project and have the opportunity to attend an event and provide feedback
Project Website - https://marrickvilletimberyards.com.au/ (Inform)	All	A comprehensive website that included key information the project, opportunities to provide feedback and frequently asked questions (FAQs) was published at the start of the engagement program.	1,562 page views	Provided detail on the proposed development and opportunities to provide feedback through the various engagement activities. It will stay live to provide updates as the project progresses.
		Engagement activities – community		
1800 Phone Line (Involve)	All	Set up a 1800 hotline (active Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm) to capture feedback and enquiries from community members throughout the engagement program.	2 phone calls	Provided a forum for community members to speak to a member of the project team to ask questions and provide feedback.

Project Email account (Involve)	All	Set up a project email address to capture feedback and enquiries from community members throughout the engagement program.	4 emails	Provided a forum for community members to speak to a member of the project team to ask questions and provide feedback.
Online Survey (Involve)	All	An online Social Impact Assessment (SIA) survey was managed by social planning consultants, Ethos Urban to capture feedback about the proposed development.	147 responses	Provide a forum for community to provide feedback on the positive and negative impacts of the proposed development and their level of support for it.
2 x Community Drop-In Sessions (Involve)	Local community, All	On 4 th November 2024 and 7 th November 2024, hosted 2 x 4 hour Drop-in sessions and 1 x informal feedback session for community members to learn about the project, meet the project team, provide feedback on key topics, and ask questions.	61 attendees	Provided a welcoming forum for community members to be able to find out more about the project and provide feedback.
Engagement activities – local businesses				
RTL Co-led Consultation	Bourke Street Bakery	On Q1 2024, held early discussions with Bourke Street Bakery on about returning to the development after completion.	-	Garnered interest from Bourke Street Bakery to return to the development once complete.
	Marrickville Public School	On 6 December 2024, met in-person with Marrickville Public School to present the project and discuss any particulars.	-	Opened discussions with the school to get any early feedback on the development and process.
	Local businesses	Engaged in direct dialogue and emails with 199 Victoria Road, 203	-	Provided a forum for local businesses to provide input about their experiences in the area and

		Victoria Road, 109-119 Sydenham Road to discuss the project.		important aspects of character that contribute to the culture.
	Messina (Marrickville), Double Roasters (Victoria Rd)	On 4 th November 2024 and 7 th November 2024, engaged with two local businesses, Messina and Double Roasters, to explain the project and procure catering for the two community drop-in sessions.	-	Enabled prominent local businesses to discuss the project and engage early.
Engagement activities – creative community				
Experiential Walk	Little Majestic Red Rattler Offbeat Collective Danias Timber	On 30 July 2024, the project team met with some of the key creatives and businesses in the Marrickville community including Little Majestic, Red Rattler, Faversham Lane Secret Street Art, and Offbeat Collective, to look at a well-known neighbourhood through the lens of designers and city-makers, understand the urban form and materiality of the area, appreciate existing enterprise and community anchors, and connect with the stories and themes of the place. Inform the design principles and intent.	-	Attended by RTL Co and the project design team including first nations consultant, three built-form architects, public domain architect, and landscape architect – this enabled a greater appreciation and understanding of the local character, community and enterprise and informed the design principles.
Engagement activities – First Nations community				
Smoking Ceremony	First Nations	On 24 July 2024, held a Smoking Ceremony on the existing Timberyards site run by First Nations group with the design team to	-	Set the tone for a genuine country-led project approach.

		commence the project kick-off briefing.		
In-person Meeting	First Nations Community	On 17 September 2024, the first Collaborative Workshop was held with First Nations Community members representatives from RTL co and the design team including Architects (Turner, Architecture AND, Tribe), public domain architect (Aileen Sage) and landscape architects (Arcadia) to discuss the project and opportunities to acknowledge Country. On 25 October 2024, a second Collaborative Workshop was held with First Nations Community members and the same project team representatives to present an updated design and seek feedback.	24 members	Informed the First Nations community of the project and the project team of areas and opportunities to acknowledge Country.
Email & Site Visit	Local Aboriginal Land Council	On 4 September 2024 a site visit with Local Aboriginal Land Council and AMAC Archaeology as part of the ACHAR process. No comments were made.	-	Enabled LALC to walk the site and understand the current land use, and provide opportunity to comment.
Email	Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)	On 24 September, an email was sent to all RAPs with information about the project prepared by AMAC Archaeology as part of the ACHAR (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report) process asking for feedback within a 28 day statutory period. After this time, the RAPs had provided no comments.	-	Enabled engagement with RAPs to understand any cultural and heritage significance attached to the site.

Engagement activities – relevant government agencies				
In-person Meeting	Inner West Council Mayor	On 9 October 2024, presented the development opportunity to Inner West Council's Mayor.	-	Allowed early feedback from the Mayor as to what the Council and its constituents needed from a new development.
In-person Meeting	Inner West Council Councillors	On 15 October 2024, presented to Councillors about the project and significance to the community.	-	Provided opportunity to discuss the project and hear Councillors' thoughts about how it could contribute to the LGA.
In-person Meeting	Inner West Council Councillors	On 24 October 2024, presented to Councillors about the project and significance to the community.	-	Provided opportunity to discuss the project and hear Councillors' thoughts about how it could contribute to the LGA.
In-person Meeting	Grayndler's Electorate Office	On 11 November 2024, presented the opportunity to the Grayndler's Electorate Office.	-	Discussed and answered specific questions posed by representatives of the local community.
Emails and In-person Meeting	Inner West Council Technical Teams	Exchanged emails with Inner West Council's technical teams for Waste and Arboriculture. On 23 August 2024, waste consultant MRA met with Council's Waste team including Acting Resource Recover Officer for Apartments and Resource Recovery Planning Manager for a preliminary high-level discussion.	-	Enabled Council's technical teams to get an initial understanding and feedback to incorporate prior to lodgement.

		On 30 October 2024, MRA met again with Council's Waste team to discuss project specifics. On 22 November 2024, RTL co and the project team presented to the Council's technical teams about development particulars for Planning, Traffic and parking, and Flood and civil.		
Meeting and Emails	Inner West Council Contributions Team	On 18 December 2024, met with IWC's contributions team to discuss the draft Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA).	-	Opened discussions about the draft contributions and works in kind offered to benefit the public.
Email	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)	On 23 February 2024, met with State Government's Planning Team to provide an overview of the opportunity. On 6 March 2024, met with DPHI again to provide an overview including the application of in-fill affordable housing bonus to Sydenham Road and Farr Street.	-	Early engagement with the State's assessment team to provide insight and get feedback and in-principle support for application of infill affordable housing.
Meeting	Transport for NSW (TfNSW)	On 9 April 2024, traffic consultant Ason Group discussed the Victoria Road widening with TfNSW's Strategy Planning section and explained it was not required. On 17 May 2024, RTL Co presented the updated development opportunity to TfNSW regarding the Victoria Road and Sydenham Road intersection upgrade no longer being	-	Helped clarify how the Victoria Road and Sydenham Road intersection upgrades in land zoned SP2 are no longer required.

		required and obtained in-principle support.		
Online Meeting	NSW DPHI Contributions Team	On 3 April 2024, met with DPHI to review the existing State Planning Agreement (SPA). On 18 April 2024, met with State Government's contributions team to discuss the draft State Planning Agreement (SPA) and its connection to the SP2 road widening. On 17 May 2024, RTL Co presented the updated development opportunity to TfNSW and DPHI regarding the Victoria Road and Sydenham Road intersection upgrade no longer being required and obtained in-principle support. On 27 June 2024, RTL co met with DPHI to present the letter of offer to vary the SVPA and provided the letter on 28 June 2024.	-	Early discussions with the aim of reaching agreement prior to lodgement.
In-person Meeting	Government Architects NSW (GANSW)	On 4 September 2024, met with Government Architects NSW's State Design Review Panel (SDRP) to present the project, answer questions and seek feedback. On 17 October 2024, met for the second time with the SDRP and presented an updated scheme to show progress and incorporation of feedback.	-	GANSW provided valuable feedback on the project and urban design, with support for items of the project including its vision, higher density, non-gated public precinct, reduced car parking and architectural development.

In-person Meeting & Email	City West Housing	In Q2 2024, RTL co had initial meetings with Community Housing Provider (CHP) City West Housing to present the development and discuss involvement to manage the Affordable Housing component. On 12 November 2024, met at City West Housing's office to provide an update of the project and Affordable Housing (115 apartments) and seek in-principle support. On 4 December 2024, met again to discuss the project changes to better suit CHP management Emails back and forth to understand CHP requirements and amendments for support.	-	Allowed the nominated CHP to provide feedback on the allocation of Affordable Housing within the precinct and support to manage it.
Engagement activities – service providers				
Email & Site Visit	Sydney Water	Engaged on the project as part of the Infrastructure Delivery, Management and Staging Plan. On 30 July 2024 made Pressure and Flow Inquiries . On 4 September 2024 Sydney Water surveyors undertook a site visit. On 10 December 2024 lodged a feasibility application with Sydney Water.	-	Allowed a better understanding of the project technical details.
Email	NBN Co	BYDA request to understand existing provision to the site.	-	Understand the existing NBN Co cabling and pits in the site.

Email	Telstra	BYDA request to understand existing provision to the site.	-	Understand the existing Telstra cabling and pits in the site.
Email	Optus	BYDA request to understand existing provision to the site.	-	Understand the existing Optus cabling and pits in the site.
Email	Jemena	BYDA request to understand existing provision to the site.	-	No gas is proposed in the development, but this provides an understanding of existing service to be removed.
Reporting				
Engagement Outcomes Report	All	A detailed summary of the engagement activities and outcomes.	N/A	Identified key themes of interest by the community and stakeholders to help inform the planning, design, and construction process.

3. Engagement Outcomes

This section details the key themes and feedback received from the community and key stakeholders and how the project team has responded.

3.1 Community Drop in Sessions

A total of **61 people** attended two community drop-in sessions and one informal feedback session held at an on-site showroom located at 169 Victoria Road Marrickville. The Drop-in sessions were held on Monday 4 November and Thursday 7 November 2024, between 4pm-8pm to allow ample time for the community to attend around other commitments.

Attendees typically stayed for 15-20 minutes, and all had the opportunity to speak to the project team including the RTL Co team, Lead Architects, Landscape Architects, First Nations consultants, Town Planners, Social Impact team and Community Engagement consultants.

Several members of the community who attended the drop-in sessions were supportive of RTL Co's vision for *The Timberyards* and the build-to-rent approach. Most appreciated that the area had previously been rezoned for high density development, however, not all community members were aware of this change and the differences between a build-to-rent and build-to-sell development. Key queries were focused on impacts on nearby infrastructure, parking and traffic management, construction impacts and building height impacting character and solar access.



“I’m comforted by these images. If it actually looks like the CGI images, that’s a good thing.”

– Community member

“It will be a good thing for urban amenity.”

– Community member

““I’m not against high density living but there’s not enough infrastructure here like roads and schools” .”

– Community member

“Too large. You’re changing the character of the place - that’s the problem.”

– Community member



The table below outlines the key issues that were raised during the drop-in sessions and response from project team:

Topic	Feedback	Response / Action
Parking and traffic	Some queries were raised about impacts on street parking availability and provision of parking in the development.	- The project will reduce the number of driveways on the boundary and provide more on-street parking in lieu of these, as well as creating a renewed streetscape. - The total number of car spaces allocated on-site is 279 including 22 carshare options for residents, which is calculated from the Build-to-Rent planning controls as identified in the Housing SEPP. - The project is different from a typical Build-to-Sell development, which would require more parking. Instead, as a Build-to-Rent project, green travel is promoted through highly accessible public transport and carshare opportunities. - The project site has great access to public transport as it is located 850 m from Sydenham station and Metro, and close to bus stops along Victoria Road. This allows residents to access public transport and carshare in place of owning a car themselves.
	Interest in the location of the proposed vehicle access to underground parking on site.	There are two separate areas for access to parking. Residential parking will be accessed from Farr Street and underground. Whereas retail parking will only be accessed off Mitchell Street and will be on-ground. This has been a

		design outcome to simplify the parking arrangement for the two purposes and a safety-in-design solution.
	Concerns about traffic congestion during construction and after, particularly on Victoria Road and Sydenham Road.	- A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) including traffic modelling has been undertaken to determine the potential traffic impacts of the project. - A Construction Traffic Management Plan has been included in the TIA which addresses the traffic impact during construction. Noting the existing site is an active timberyard with multiple vehicles entering and exiting each day, the traffic is not envisaged to change significantly. - The project would contribute less to traffic congestion compared to a typical build-to-sell project, given the build-to-rent model promotes green travel through public transport, bicycles and car share.
Building height, overshadowing and privacy	Queries about heights impacting solar access and overshadowing Wicks Park and apartments.	Building heights range from eight to thirteen storeys. The taller buildings located centrally within the site do not exceed the number of storeys anticipated in the Development Control Plan (DCP) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP). The additional storeys to the perimeter of the site facilitate delivery of affordable housing and have been comprehensively tested against a compliant scheme to determine that there is no additional unacceptable adverse bulk, overshadowing and privacy impact (refer to clause 4.6 Variation Request).

		Winter sun is maintained to Wicks Park, which is consistent with the planning control requirements.
	Nearby residents queried the provision of privacy from the view of the new units.	- Slim buildings have been created (18.6m) to maximise building separation (up to 44m) for privacy between buildings. - The architectural team has designed buildings with articulation and form highly considerate of view lines and maximisation of privacy.
Housing types	Queries about the mix of housing offerings and the high percentage of studio apartments in the proposal.	- The proposed development makes a significant contribution to Inner West Council's 5-year housing target set by DPHI to address the National Housing Accord, and the critical shortage of housing facing the State. Those particularly affected by housing affordability are younger generations seeking to find housing close to employment. - The larger quantum of diverse dwelling types offered in the project are fit for purpose and appropriately respond to this demand. This housing solution will provide for a mix of price points and level of amenity in the market, that can cater to a mix of occupiers and household preferences, including more affluent professionals, through to lower income segments of the market. - The new build-to-rent model provides diversity in housing typologies with access to amenity, utility (carshare, share zones on each floor, communal spaces), and apartments which can be rented fully furnished or unfurnished. This is an

		affordable solution for people to 'opt-in' to services that suit their lifestyle. Marrickville presently provides a higher proportion of larger type dwellings in the form of terraces, townhouses and detached dwellings. This is largely inaccessible to the growing renter population. The proposed development seeks to respond to the demographic and future demand profile and balance existing housing stock with diverse housing types.
Building design and quality	Positive feedback about some elements of the design, notably the retention of the warehouse roof frame, the rooftop gardens and the proposed use of recycled materials.	- The project team is very excited about the opportunity to retain the existing warehouse structure as a key element of the precinct and an important central space for residents and the community to gather in future. - The team is targeting 4 Star Green Star and the reduced carbon emissions, with a focus on using recycled materials where possible.
	Keen interest in the finished construction quality and design integrity.	- Leading Sydney architecture practice Turner Studio, alongside Architecture AND, Tribe Studio, Aileen Sage, Arcadia Landscape Architects, Matthew Pullinger were engaged to lead the design of the precinct. - RTL Co. is a build-to-rent developer, who will deliver, manage and operate all-inclusive living solutions and mixed-use precincts to provide for-rent housing to the community. As RTL Co will own and rent the apartments, it is in the best interest of the developer to produce a high-quality outcome. The detail of the design and

		quality RTL Co. aims to achieve is outlined in the Design Report.
Planning context	Interest in how the proposal complies with height limits, floor space ratio and how the floor space bonus that is permissible for provision of affordable housing will be applied to the development.	- The proposal is fully compliant with the Floor Space Ratio (FSR) development control (including the affordable housing FSR uplift). Importantly, the proposed FSR does not reach the maximum permissible. - Building heights range from eight to thirteen storeys. The taller buildings located centrally within the site do not exceed the number of storeys anticipated in the DCP and LEP. The additional storeys to the perimeter of the site facilitate delivery of affordable housing and have been comprehensively tested against a compliant scheme to determine that there is no additional unacceptable adverse bulk, overshadowing and privacy impact (refer to clause 4.6 Variation Request).
Impacts on local business and retail	Concerns about impact on nearby businesses during the construction phase and competition for existing businesses once operational	- Impact to nearby businesses and residents will be mitigated through typical construction practices such as specific working hours, suppression of dust and noise, and open lines of communication in the form of notices of upcoming works and direct contact numbers. - The proposed retail and commercial uses will aim to complement the existing local businesses. Some of the existing tenants on the site may also return once the development is completed. - A Creative Hub space has also been included in the development to accommodate local artists and maintain the local Marrickville character.

Construction	• Interest in the construction timeline and phasing.	• A Staging Plan and high-level program has been prepared with the SSDA. • Each 'stage' identified in the Staging Plan will be developed concurrently.
	• Concerns about noise and dust during the construction phase and a desire for mitigation measures.	• Noise and dust mitigation measures will be undertaken as per standard construction procedures. Community members will be able to contact site managers throughout.
	• Concerns about construction vehicles and road closures.	• A preliminary Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared with the SSDA. • Notices to surrounding residents and businesses will be provided in advance and clear lines of communication will be available.
Communal space design	• Interest and positive comment about the rooftop gardens and size of communal spaces.	• The proposed urban structure provides a variety of landscape and communal open space area at ground level and rooftops beyond Apartment Design Guideline (ADG) minimum requirements. • The proposed development will include 10,207 square metres of public open spaces and gardens accessible to all members of the community.
Neighbourhood Character	• Concerns about heights changing the character of the area.	• The area was rezoned in 2017 and the proposed development is aligned with what was approved. It is a unique opportunity to provide additional housing in a constrained suburb by transforming the existing light-industrial but retaining some of the key character traits.
	• Interest in retaining the existing elements on the site.	• The development aims to retain and incorporate elements of the existing site's and Marrickville's character with overt items such as retention of

		the existing warehouse structure and the use of recycled and reconstituted building materials, but also with subtle architectural details such as the saw-tooth rooftops inherent in warehouses in industrial areas around the site.
Active transport	Query about the car share facilities and how many will be provided.	Carshare for residents-only will be provided along with bicycle and car parks. The development is targeting to have 22 carshare spaces available to residents.



Image Credits: JOC Consulting, Community Drop-In Session at Marrickville Timberyards Showroom

3.2 Online Survey

An online Social Impact Assessment (SIA) survey was managed by social planning consultants, Ethos Urban to capture feedback about the proposed development. The Survey was promoted via the notification letter, project website and on QR codes at the Community Drop-In sessions. A total of 147 members of the community participated in the survey.

The survey was designed to capture the community's level of support for the proposed development, identify what positive and negative changes people think are likely to result from the proposed development and also identify any suggestions for how negative changes could be reduced or managed. The below is an excerpt from Ethos Urban's Social Impact Assessment Report but has also been included here as it is relevant to community engagement outcomes.

The below summary outlines the survey findings:

- **Demographics:** The age of respondents predominantly ranged between 25-54 years of age, with the largest group of respondents aged between 35-44 (n=53).

- **Community values:** When asked what respondents valued about Marrickville, a resounding response was the suburb's community and culture, including its unique character and diversity. Other frequent responses included Marrickville's variety of services spanning retail, entertainment and dining; and its accessibility including walkability and connectivity.
- **Support for increasing affordable housing and housing diversity:** There was a near even split between respondents who agreed (n= 44) and disagreed (n=50) that Marrickville needs to increase the amount of affordable housing and housing diversity. Of those who agreed, many noted that expensive rent is hindering the ability for existing residents to stay in Marrickville, risking the loss of the suburb's diversity and culture.
- **Perceived positive changes** Respondents identified that housing stock, diversity and increased affordability were likely positive changes resultant of the proposed development. Additional business opportunities, community spaces and enhanced walkability and accessibility were also identified as positive foreseen changes.
- **Perceived negative changes:** Respondents who identified negative changes from the proposed development predominantly identified impacts from built form (e.g. overshadowing, density); traffic and congestion; and pressure on infrastructure and services. Impacts to the character and diversity of the area were also identified as negative changes.
- **Suggestions for managing negative changes:** Decreasing built form; increasing car parking provisions and active and public transport accessibility; and ensuring affordable housing were the key suggestions identified by respondents to reduce and managing negative changes.
- **Support for the proposal:** Support of the proposal varied across respondents, with 47 respondents supporting the development and 85 opposing the development. 14 respondents were neutral towards the development.

3.3 1800 Number and Email Enquiries findings

A total of six enquiries (four emails and two hotline calls) were received throughout the engagement period. Overall, these were questions from the community about the planning pathway and status of the application. All enquiries were responded to by the project team including a link to the project webpage and available engagement opportunities.

The table below outlines the queries raised:

#	Channel	Issue	Detail	Project team response
1	1800 hotline	Local awareness of the proposal	Community member was concerned that Council wasn't	Advised that the SSDA is in pre-lodgement and RTL Co. are prioritising early consultation. Advised that RTL Co. is engaging

#	Channel	Issue	Detail	Project team response
			aware of the proposal	with Inner West Council throughout the process.
2	1800 hotline	Interest in character	Local Heritage Consultant expressing interest in providing professional services	Identified areas of interest in relation to retaining parts of the site and offered a meeting with the development team to discuss.
3	Project inbox	Interest in further details about precinct plans	Request for materials used at community drop-in sessions	Advised that a full suite of plans and design will be available for viewing by the public as part of the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) and there will be an opportunity to provide feedback via the formal submission process. Also offered a meeting with the development team to discuss any concerns.
4	Project inbox	Interest in character	Local Heritage Consultant (who also called the 1800 number) expressing an interest in providing professional services	Identified areas of interest in relation to retaining parts of the site and offered a meeting with the development team to discuss.
3	Project inbox	Impact on surrounding residents	Community member wanted to know the impact on surrounding residents and how these would be mitigated	Explained that RTL Co. are committed to working with council and the local community to minimise disruption and that a comprehensive traffic management plan will manage the flow of pedestrian and vehicle movements for the construction phase.
4	Project inbox	Housing types and affordability	Community member asked about the types of housing, particularly affordable housing for families	Advised that apartment types will range from studio apartments to three-bedroom and multiple bathroom homes that meet the needs of families. Explained that the housing types will accommodate young workers, families, single-person households and downsizers among many other demographics.

3.4 Local and creative businesses

Stakeholder	Organisation	Detail	Outcome
Local Businesses	Bourke Street Bakery, Messina and Double Roasters	On 4 th November 2024 and 7 th November 2024, engaged with prominent local businesses to explain the project and procure catering for the two community drop-in sessions.	Partnering with and complementing local businesses is important for the community and RTL co. This complementary approach should be carried over to the future retail tenancy mix.
Creative Businesses	Little Majestic, Red Rattler, Faversham Lane Secret Street Art, and Offbeat Collective	On 30 July 2024, the project team met with some of the key creatives and businesses in Marickville to look at a well-known neighbourhood through the lens of designers and city-makers, understand the urban form and materiality of the area, appreciate existing enterprise and community anchors, and connect with the stories and themes of the place. inform the design principles and intent.	From consultation with the community, local business and government, RTL Co has included space for a Creative Hub which will be provided to the Artist community rent-free. This also responds to the feedback to keep the character of Marrickville.

3.5 Connecting with Country Engagement

In October 2024, Aboriginal-owned design studio, Yerrabingin conducted two Connecting with Country collaborative design workshops with members of the local Aboriginal community and the project and design team. A summary of the workshop outcomes taken from their Report. Refer to Appendix D for the Connecting with Country workshop report.

These outcomes represent the transformative journey facilitated through the collaborative workshop, summarise the collected data into high level opportunities for further interrogation and collaboration by the project team, and integrate the central opportunities from the How Might We question.

These outcomes should inform, develop, and advance concepts in the design process moving forward. The overarching goal of this process is to foster creative and culturally sensitive placemaking, grounding the project in empathetic design solutions driven by community input whilst centring Country.

Key ideas that emerged from the workshop include:

Fostering Connections:

- Between residents and also with the surrounding community.
- Create physical connections within the site and recognising desire lines across and outside the site. Embedding a sense of custodianship for this place.
- Opportunities to provide connections across different cultures and with a multi-generational lens.
- Create good relationships and platforms for Indigenous artists and creatives

Greening and Endemic Landscapes

- Strong emphasis on greening and the importance of landscape, with specific examples of including endemic planting with cultural significance and edible planting.
- Native medicinal plants for human treatment
- Interactive, edible gardens for public and residents

Water

- Recognising and revealing the way water moves through the site, and across Country.
- The sites significance in its proximity to Cooks River and the way water moved through this area pre colonisation.
- Water having an important role for cooling and relaxation for residents.

Education

- Education was an interesting theme identified by all three groups, with an innovative approach to what a residential building/s can provide for residents and the broader community.
- Participants identified spaces for education and opportunities for learning and sharing about Country and culture, but also incorporating and celebrating the

3.6 Relevant Agencies and Organisations

The following relevant agencies and organisations were engaged through the process of developing the proposal. The below table outlines the key outcomes.

Stakeholder	Organisation	Detail	Outcome
First Nations Community	Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)	Communication undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). On 18 July 2024 letters were sent to the appropriate agencies for the local area in order to establish a list of possible stakeholders. This included Inner West Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, National Native Title Tribunal, NTSCORP, Heritage NSW, Office of Registrar. A list of RAPs was formed based on responses. On 18 July 2024, a notice was advertised in the Daily Telegraph with registration closed 2 August 2024, asking for interested parties to come forward. There were no additional RAPs added to the list. On 5 August 2024, an email and letter were sent to all 62 stakeholders who appeared on the list of any agency. Following this, eight parties registered for involvement with the project. On 20 August 2024, emails were sent to the eight RAPs with the draft ACHAR methodology for review and comment. Following the 28-day statutory period, two responses were received supporting the methodology.	No elements of social, historical or aesthetic cultural heritage significance specifically linked to the study site has been identified or shared during the stages of Aboriginal Consultation. The development has been assessed as having nil-low potential for intact soils containing Aboriginal archaeological and cultural significance. Additional heritage mitigation activities are not considered necessary in advance of the development works. Consultation with the RAPs should continue throughout each phase of the development,

Stakeholder	Organisation	Detail	Outcome
		On 24 September 2024, the draft ACHAR was sent to the RAPs for review and comment. On 22 October 2024, of the eight RAPs, one response was received supporting the ACHAR.	
Local Government Agencies	Inner West Council	All levels of Council were consulted about the project throughout the preparation of the SSDA. On 9 October 2024, RTL co met with the Council's Mayor, General Manager and Director of Planning to brief them of the project. On 15 October 2024, RTL co met with the Council's Strategic Planning Team to provide an overview of the project. On 24 October 2024, RTL co met with 13 of the Council's Councillors as well as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Planning team to provide insight to the development and vision. On 30 October 2024, the project team met with Council's waste team to present the strategy and seek feedback. On 22 November 2024, the project team met with Council's technical teams (planning, traffic and parking, and flooding and stormwater) to present the strategy and seek feedback.	The Council developed an understanding of the project, its vision, and how it contributes to the area. The RTL co team and project team gained insight into Council's priorities for the LGA and its constituents. The project team considered Council's queries and feedback and amended the design where practicable in response for the SSDA submission.
Infrastructure Agencies	Sydney Water	Contacted via the Water Services Coordinator (WSC) to determine requirements around sewer and water connection, and feasibility application.	Feedback was considered and incorporated to the design as part of the SSDA submission.

Stakeholder	Organisation	Detail	Outcome
		Contacted via hydraulic services consultant, ADP, for the pressure and flow test as part of the infrastructure report.	Continued communications will be part of the next stages.
	Ausgrid	Contacted by the electrical services consultant, JHA, as part of the infrastructure report.	
	NBN Co	Contacted by the communications services consultant as part of the infrastructure report.	
NSW Government Agencies	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)	On 23 February 2024, RTL co and members of the project team met with DPHI and introduced the project at its early conception. On 6 March 2024, RTL co met with DPHI for a project overview including the application of in-fill affordable housing bonus to Sydenham Road and Farr Street. On 3 April 2024, 18 April 2024, 17 May 2024, RTL co met with DPHI and TfNSW to review the State Voluntary Planning Agreement (SVPA). On 27 June 2024, RTL co met with DPHI to present the letter of offer to vary the SVPA and provided the letter on 28 June 2024.	In consultation with DPHI as the assessing authority and in response to feedback and the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared for lodgement.
	Transport for NSW (TfNSW)	On 17 May 2024, following recommendation from DPHI, RTL co met with DPHI and TfNSW to review the State Voluntary Planning Agreement (SVPA). TfNSW was contacted on numerous occasions via traffic consultant Ason Group to discuss the project.	The SVPA letter of offer has been prepared following TfNSW's in-principle support that the road widening is no longer required. The Transport Accessibility and Impact Assessment (TAIA) has been prepared incorporating feedback, responding to DCP and TfNSW requirements, and

Stakeholder	Organisation	Detail	Outcome
			providing a Green Travel Plan and Construction Traffic Management Plan.
	Government Architects NSW (GANSW)	On 4 September 2024, the project team met with GANSW as part of the State Design Review Panel (SDRP) #1. This was to present the early concept and seek feedback. On 17 October 2024, the project team again met with GANSW for SDRP #2 to present the progress of the design, showing how feedback had been heard and incorporated, and to seek further feedback.	GANSW provided feedback on the items presented at SDRP #1 and supported: ▪ Single ownership of the site in perpetuity ▪ Higher density housing in this location ▪ Highly capable design teams ▪ Vision for the project ▪ Proposed inclusion of high-performance facades ▪ Strategy of offering something new to Marrickville not competing with existing small business offerings ▪ Having a non-gated and fully public precinct. GANSW provided further feedback on items presented at SDRP#2 and supported: ▪ Changes to the car parking and reducing footprint of basement ▪ Changes to the public realm and through-site link ▪ Direction of the architectural development. GANSW recommended to have another meeting SDRP #3 post-lodgement to continue review.

4 Conclusion and Next Steps

This Engagement Outcomes Report provides a comprehensive overview of the engagement activities and communication methods undertaken to inform and consult with the community and key stakeholders regarding the Timberyards proposal ahead of the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) lodgement.

JOC Consulting, on behalf of RTL Co., has implemented a strategy to inform and engage local residents and businesses ensuring transparency and meaningful community input throughout the process.

The feedback received has highlighted key community concerns and priorities, including traffic and parking management, building height and character preservation, and housing diversity. The project team has considered this feedback and responded to these issues.

RTL Co. will continue to provide opportunities for local residents, landowners, businesses, and key agencies to make enquiries about the project.

The SSDA will be publicly exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, providing further opportunities for stakeholders to submit feedback through the formal submission process.

Appendix A: Notification Letter

MARRICKVILLE TIMBERYARDS

IMPORTANT – DATE CHANGE FOR DROP IN SESSION **AND NEW SESSION ADDED**

Hey Neighbour,

Delighted to say hello and introduce you to a new project in the community, The Timberyards. We wanted you to be the first to know we are preparing to lodge a State Significant Development Application (SSDA). We're thrilled to be joining Marrickville's vibrant community and would love to hear from you to collaborate in creating even more magic together. Our aspirations for the proposal are to give additional housing, in a walkable mixed-use precinct with more greenery and easy access. The site is located within the boundaries of Victoria Road, Sydenham Road, Farr Street, and Mitchell Street and known as the Marrickville Timberyards.

The proposal includes:

- A range of rental accommodation including affordable and Build-to-Rent housing
- Retail and office spaces
- Various publicly accessible outdoor open spaces and landscaping
- New community spaces
- Underground parking

Our vision for the Marrickville Timberyards is to create versatile and secure rental housing options for our community designed by Australia's best and local teams, be highly accessible and include thoughtful amenities and community spaces true to Marrickville's unique creative spirit.

We want to hear from you

The Timberyards is committed to consulting with our neighbours throughout the project. Join us to learn more about our plans, share your thoughts on important issues, and ask any questions you may have, meet the team and grab some snacks.

The below sessions are all opportunities to provide feedback on the designs and proposal:

Drop-in Information Sessions

Join us at an on-site drop-in session to find out more about the project and share your feedback in person.

Session 1: Monday 4th November 2024

Session 2: Thursday 7th November 2024

Time: Drop in anytime between 4pm and 8pm to speak to the team

Location: 169 Victoria Road, Marrickville NSW 2204



Online Survey

As part of the SSDA, we will prepare a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) to help understand how projects impact the local community and stakeholders. To support the preparation of the SIA, we welcome you to complete this short survey, available at the QR link below. The survey closes on Friday 8 November.



The site

Project location

We hope to see you at the information session soon or alternatively contact our team via email any time or phone Monday - Friday, 9-5pm.



info@rtlco.com.au



1800 979 657

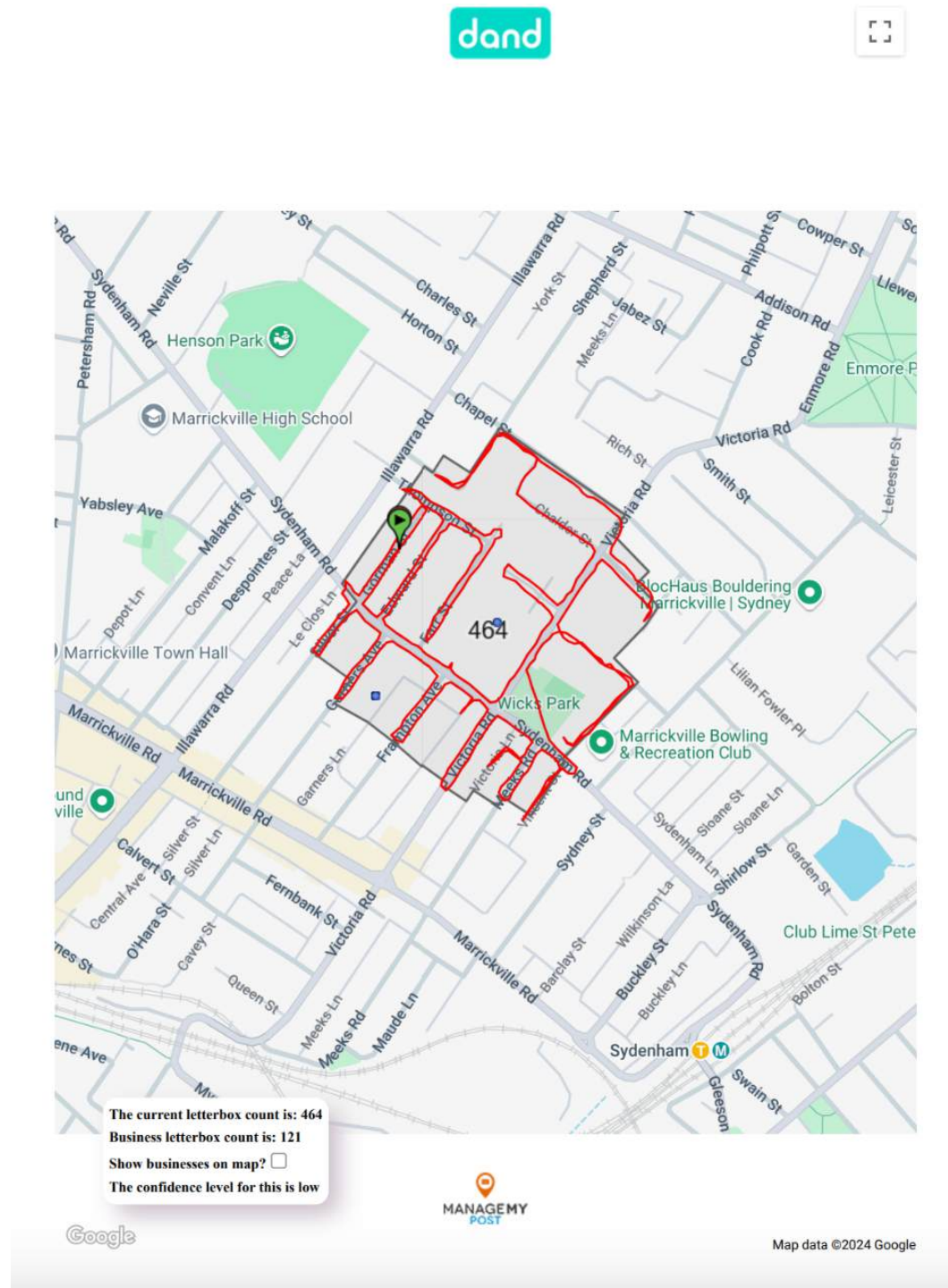
We've also set up a website to keep you up-to-date and enable you to submit any feedback via an online form.



www.marrickvilletimberyards.com.au

Appendix B: Letterbox Drop Radius

The minimum letter drop radius required by Inner West Council (Council) is 75m. The letter box drop was to a radius of 150m, double that required by Council.



Appendix C: Project Webpage



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Rent to Live Co.?	+
Who leads Rent to Live Co. and what are the company credentials in terms of previous projects of this scale?	+
What is Rent to Live Co.'s vision for the Marrickville Timberyards?	+
Where is the Marrickville Timberyards located?	+
What is the precinct size?	+
Why Marrickville and why now?	+
What is the development status of the Marrickville Timberyards?	+
When will the Marrickville Timberyards be developed?	+
What are the key phases in the development process?	+
Why is the development application considered a State Significant Development (SSD)?	+
How will RTL Co. translate the unique context of Marrickville into the Marrickville Timberyards development?	+
Can the public provide feedback on the SSDA?	+
What will the development provide?	+

What is the significance of this new precinct?	+
What are the benefits to community of the Marrickville Timberyards?	+
How is it different to other residential and commercial mixed-use precincts in the area?	+
What housing types will be included?	+
How many people will live at the Marrickville Timberyards in the future?	+
What public amenities and open spaces will be included in the development?	+

What connectivity and Infrastructure will support this expansion?	+
What are the key design principles?	+
How will this development be different to other large-scale housing developments?	+
Does the proposal consider sustainability?	+
How is Rent to Live Co. working with local Government and residents to ensure the ongoing development is a 'win, win' and to minimise disruptive noise?	+
How Will Traffic Be Managed?	+

Drop in sessions

The Timberyards is committed to consulting with our neighbours throughout the project. Join us to learn more about our plans, share your thoughts on important issues, and ask any questions you may have, meet the team and grab some snacks.

The below sessions are all opportunities to provide feedback on the designs and proposal. Join us to find out more and share your feedback in person.

Date: Monday 4th November 2024

Date: Thursday 7th November 2024

Time: Drop in anytime between 4pm and 8pm to speak to the team.

Directions

Visit our showroom at **169 Victoria Rd, Marrickville NSW 2204.**

Direct me:



**LOVE
WHERE
WE
LIVE**





**HEY
THERE
NEIGH
BOUR**

We want to hear from you.

HEY THERE NEIGHBOUR!

We believe in building communities together.

We're excited about our new development in Marrickville and will keep you up to date with any news on this site.

Got thoughts, ideas, suggestions? Your feedback is invaluable to us as we create a space that benefits both residents and the wider community.

[Stay in touch for updates.](#)

Tel: [1800 979 657](tel:1800-979-657)
Email: info@artico.com.au
**169 Victoria Rd
Marrickville NSW 2204**



Appendix D: Yerrabingin, Connecting with Country Collaborative Design Workshop's Report



MARRICKVILLE TIMBER YARDS

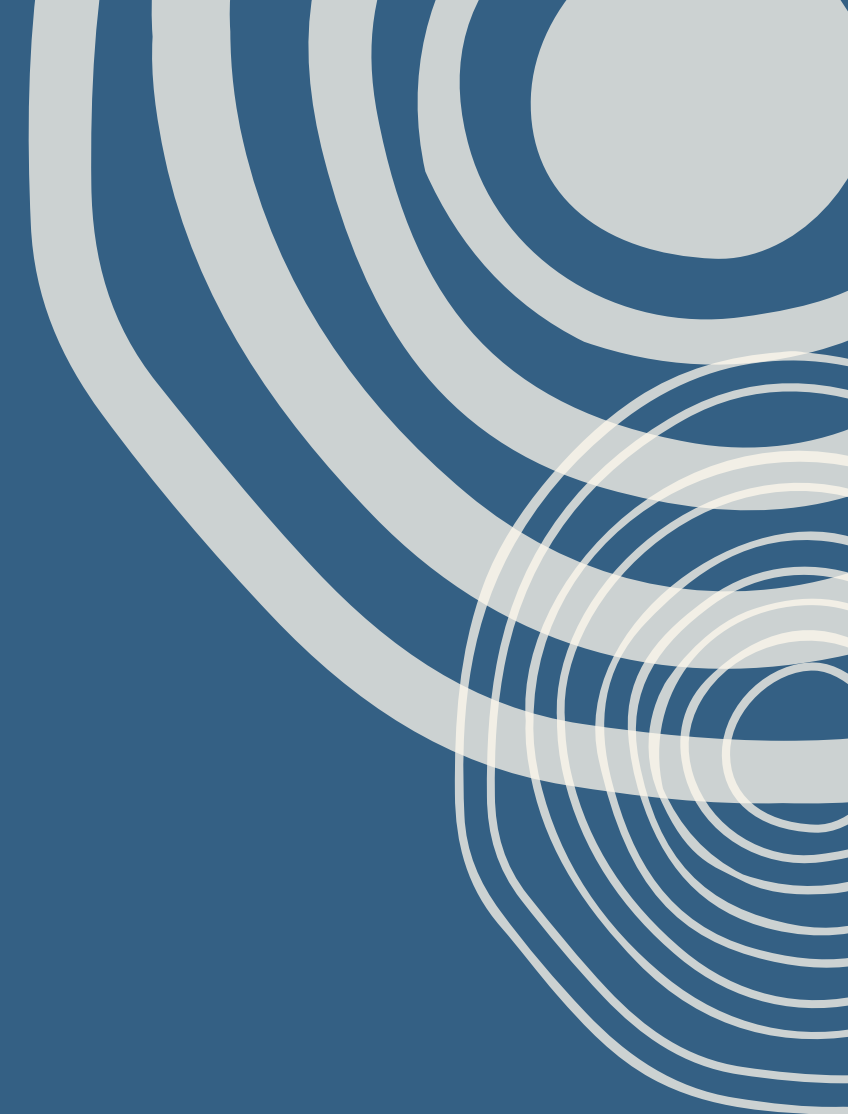
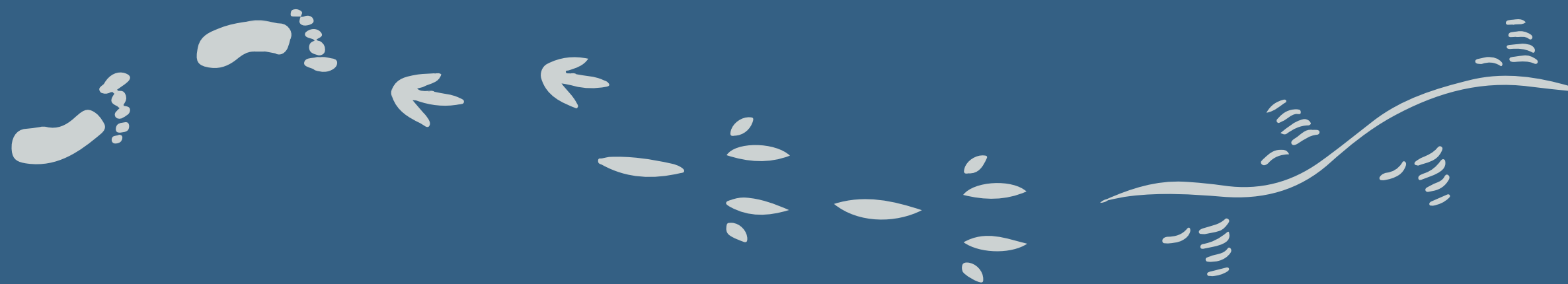
CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY
COLLABORATIVE DESIGN WORKSHOP | OCTOBER 2024



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this document may contain voices, images, names of people who have passed away.

We acknowledge the Cultural Landscape that we are working upon, and the Cadigal people as the Traditional Custodians of the Country where the Marrickville Timber Yards 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 respects to many others who have custodial obligations for Country who have been connected to Cadigal Country for many generations, including their Elders past, present and emerging.



Yerrabingin is an Aboriginal owned design studio. At the core of our work is custodianship and care for Country. Our expertise encompasses Designing with Country, landscape architecture and urban design. We are recognised for our collaborative design approach, bringing together cultural knowledge and sustainable design solutions. We walk together to amplify the powerful language of Country for the betterment of our collective future.

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, and honouring the wisdom and kinship of all cultures, captured through the lens of custodianship.



Figure.1 - Workshop Site Walk | Yerrabingin

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AUTHORSHIP

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.

This report includes reproduction of words and descriptions in historic quotes written in the past that may be confronting and would be considered inappropriate today.

Permission to publish the graphic materials from archival collections and previous publications has not been obtained as part of this study. 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.

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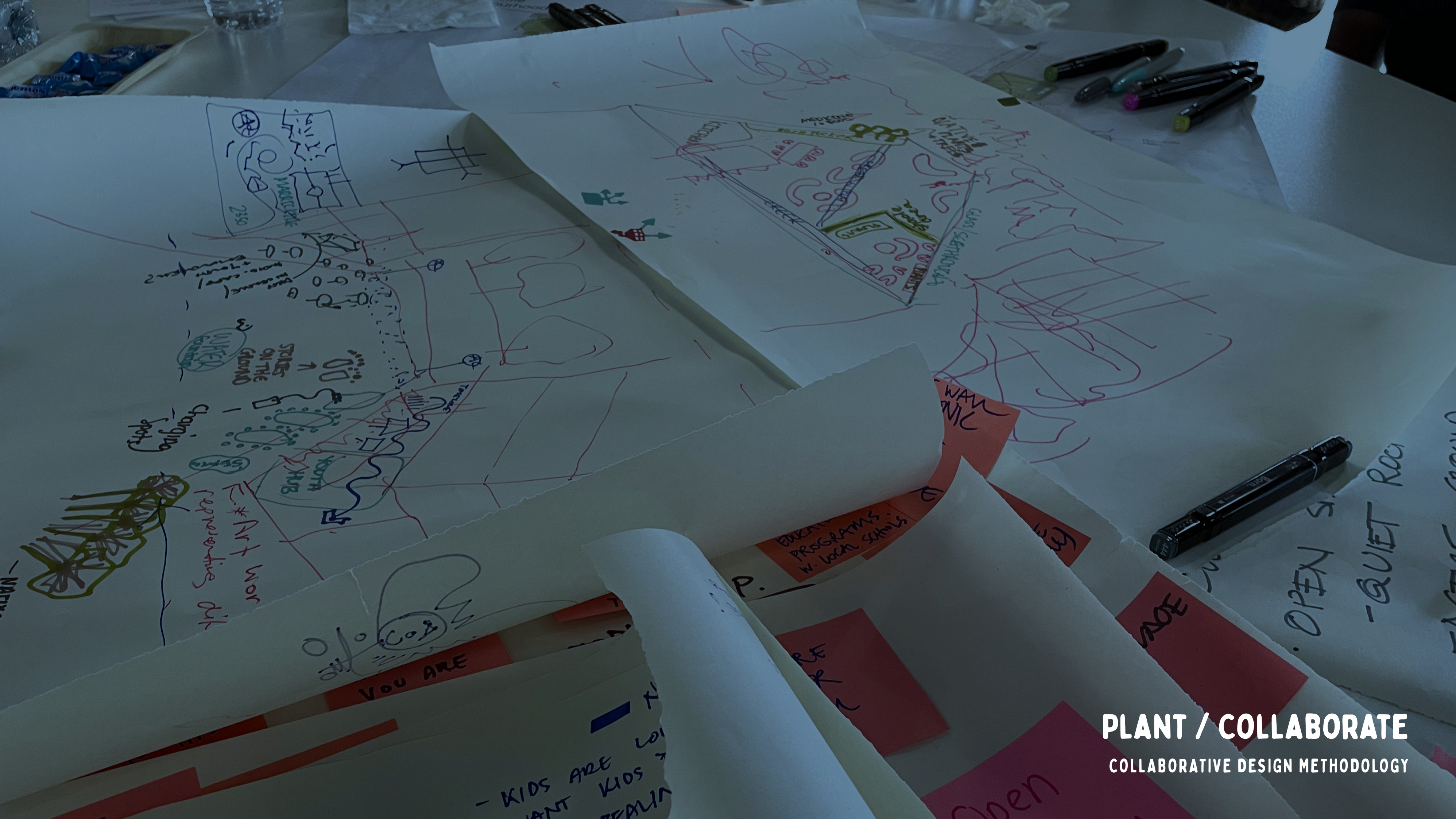
GLOSSARY

Key Words and Terms

To better understand key terms referenced throughout the report, please consult the glossary.

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.
- **Built Environment:** Understood as distinct from the natural environment. It includes all aspects of our surroundings made by people. The built environment encompasses cities and towns, neighbourhoods, parks, roads, buildings, infrastructure, and utilities like water and electricity.
- **Country:** Country includes Earth, Waters, Sky and our Non-human Kin. It encompasses tangible and intangible aspects, knowledge and cultural practices, belonging and identity, well-being and relationships. People are inhabited by Country and Country inhabits us.
- **Design:** Design is both a process and an outcome - a way of thinking and a result of making. It involves a combination of creativity and problem-solving skills to generate ideas and concepts, followed by a systematic and often iterative process to develop those ideas into a tangible form.
- **Engagement:** A consultation process, for example, community engagement whereby a particular group is engaged to gather their input in relation to a proposal, challenge, or outcome.
- **First Nations:** Is an encompassing term that acknowledges the diversity of Aboriginal Communities, while also communicating that sovereignty was never ceded. This term is growing in preference for First Nations Australians but may also be interchanged with Aboriginal and Indigenous in this report.
- **Knowledge:** Aboriginal knowledge comes from different nations and family groups. Knowledge is multifaceted and may incorporate many different views. It encompasses the information and skills that people accumulate over time, enabling them to comprehend the world, make informed decisions, and solve problems.
- **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 a 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



PLANT / COLLABORATE
COLLABORATIVE DESIGN METHODOLOGY

YERRABINGIN COLLABORATIVE DESIGN METHODOLOGY

Our Design Process

Our design methodology is informed by components of design thinking, user-centred design and Connecting with Country design disciplines to create our Country-focused, collaborative design approach.

Country-focused

What sets us apart from conventional built environment design is our recognition of the interconnection of Country with human activity and our imperative to consider the needs of Country in the design solution. Empathetic observation and consideration of Country is central to our approach.

The outcome of our Country-focused approach is that Country is designed for and cared for, allowing Country to care and provide for future generations.

Collaborative

Inspired by the natural processes of fostering and sustaining life on Country, our design methodology follows a cyclical, collaborative process: we collect, plant, nourish and tend.

Design Methodology Stages

Collect - First, we collect by empathising with our project partners and with Country. We gather ideas, inspiration, facts, desires, research and limitations. This occurs in the discovery and ‘How Might We’ session.

Plant - After understanding the design challenge, we plant. Collaborative design workshops involve First Nations peoples and the wider team involved to generate diverse and innovative design solutions.

Nourish - Following the collaborative design sessions, we nourish through iteration. We share the collaborative outcomes to develop design solutions and concepts further based on feedback.

Tend - Finally, we tend to our creation. We tend by ensuring that the partnerships and outcomes created are sustainable and have ongoing positive outcomes for Country and communities.

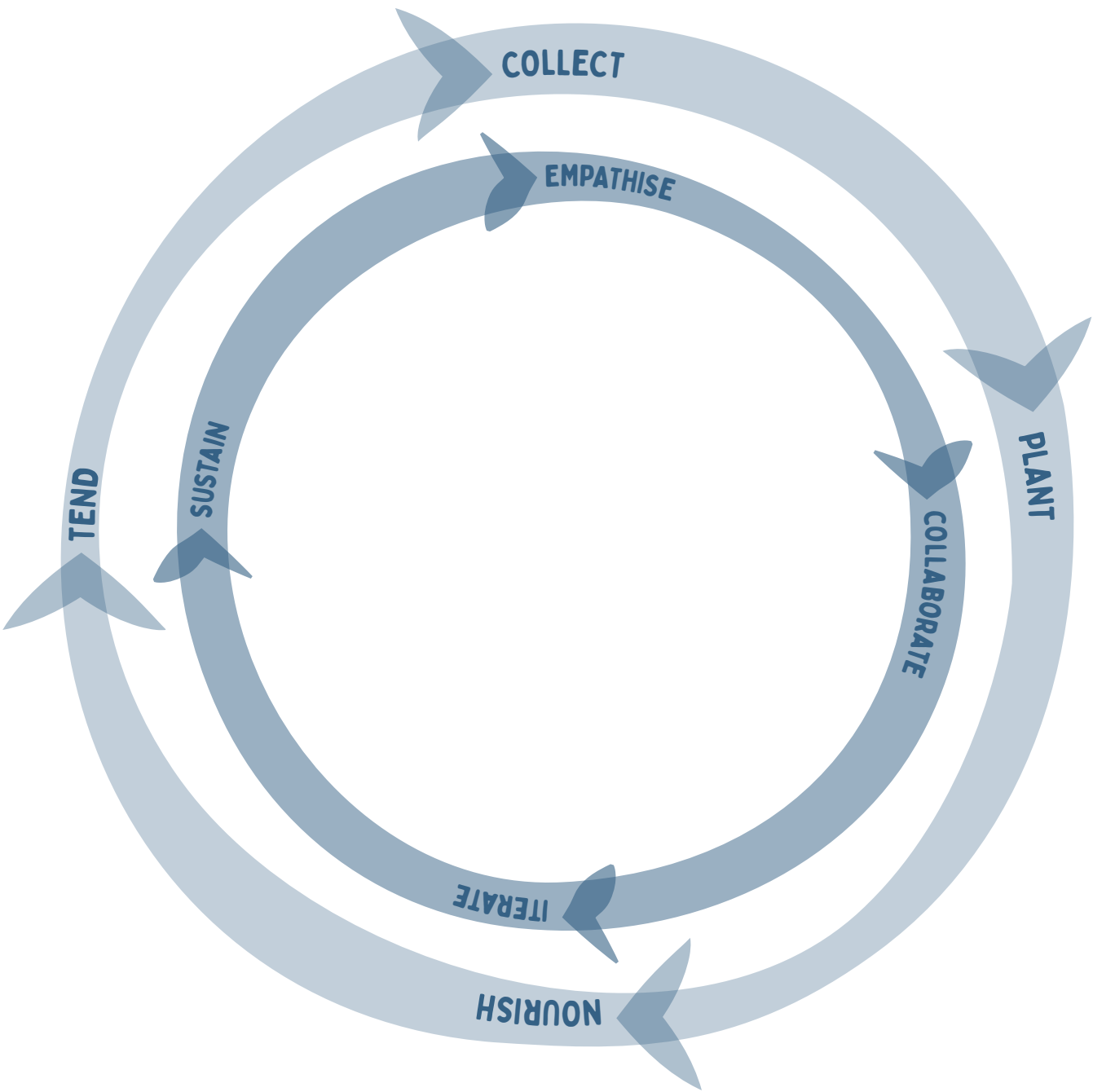


Figure.2 - Methodology Process | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE DESIGN

How Might We Session

This workshop encourages the client and design team to spark early ideas, it also allows us to learn about the aims of the project and familiarise the group with the Connecting with Country process. A series of reflective and future focussed questions were asked to encourage the team to empathise with Country and explore possible impacts, connections and value areas.

Responses noted the need to restore dignity and equity in the context of renting in Sydney. Themes relating to individuality and the ability to personalise were deemed important by the team as ways to customise private and communal spaces to suit longer term rental occupancy.

A cost consciousness proposal

Keeping the build as cost conscious as possible was also stressed to make the project a viable success for residents, lending itself to ‘economical beauty’ and ‘clever’ set of design principles. The theme of economy also extended to the idea of a shared, closed economy where resources may be pooled and democratised.

An exceptionally creative community

The fact that Marrickville is an exceptionally creative neighbourhood intermixed with a light-medium

industry that has forged a very proud community and unique character was also highlighted. Gentrification was mentioned as a phenomenon that threatens this established community, with rising rent forcing people further out of the city. As such, responses also highlighted the need to offer equitable creative spaces and affordable rental solutions. It was also stressed that the development should be people driven, flexible and adaptable for future iterations of community and belonging.

Regenerating ecological value

Intent relating to the need to regenerate ecological networks within Marrickville was also raised, understanding that the suburb’s in connected tree canopy, non human kin habitat/resources and nature based design solutions was poorly integrated.

The “How Might We?” statement for the project was generated: *How Might We foster Marrickville’s creative community in ways that encourage custodianship, support Country and create interconnected ecosystems?*

This ‘How Might We’ statement is used to steer the ideological development of the project.



Figure.3 - Collaborative work in How Might We Session| Yerrabingin

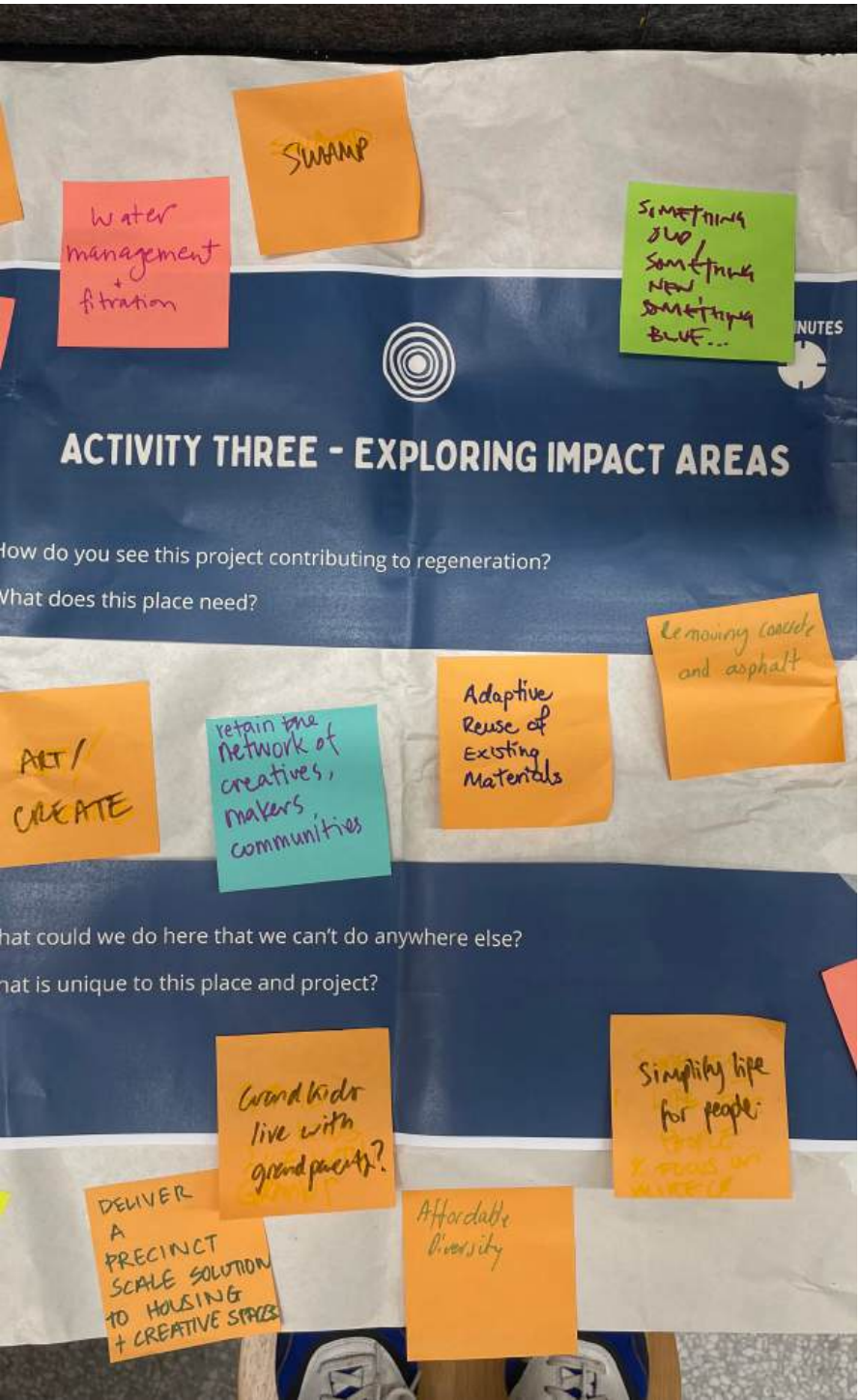


Figure.4 - Individual notes from respondents | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE DESIGN

Collaborative Workshop - Site Walk

The Walk on Country was completed as part of the Collaborative Workshop. We visited the project site with the project team and Community members to understand the context of the site, the needs of Country in this place, and to get to know each other.

Community and the project team walked from the workshop venue at the Sydney Portugal Club on Marrickville Road north towards the Timber Yards site. We paused at the Northern corner of Wicks Park on Victoria Road to talk about the site extent and get a sense of the contextual surrounds. The group then back tracked to Sydenham Road and walked north-west along Sydenham Road to the western corner of the site at the Farr Street intersection. The site walk was extremely beneficial for community members to understand the extent of the site and a helpful reminder for the whole team of the context and fine grain of the Marrickville context



Figure.6 - Walk on Country, Sydney Street | Yerrabingin
Figure.7 - Walk on Country, cnr Sydenham and Farr Street | Yerrabingin



Figure.5 - Walk on Country, Victoria Road | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE DESIGN

Collaborative Workshop - Overview

The collaborative design workshop brings together the knowledge and minds of people from all walks of life; the local Aboriginal community, Yerrabingin team and the design / project team and client.

Together, we workshop design ideas for the site and explore many possibilities and opportunities, ultimately this combination of knowledge will create new and innovative ideas which will be carried through into the project development.

To Begin

In breakout groups, participants are asked to respond the the “How Might We?” question and write down what Custodianship, Country and Interconnected Ecosystems mean to them.

Brainstorming

Participants are asked to write down as many ideas as they can about the project. Participants are encouraged to include both positive and negative ideas as they can bring guiding principles forward.

Sharing Ideas

After the brainstorming rapid ideation, participants talk through their ideas with their group. They then begin to cluster similar or complementary ideas together under the Yerrabingin pillars of Innovation, Custodianship, Regeneration and Legacy. These clusters then begin to generate common themes. As a team they then pick and decide on the top two to three themes to go forward with into the next exercise.

Team Sketches

With the themes as a prompt, team members can describe their ideas and how they see them meet the requirements of the “How Might We?” question. Ideas can be sketched and to show the evolution of the idea, empathising with the user’s perspective.

Flowers and Flame-throwers

One to two members of each group are nominated to be a presenter. The presenter has five minutes to outline the team’s ideas to the rest of the group. During the presentation, everyone else will silently record feedback in a matrix that includes positive and negative feedback, ideas for change and questions asked. The host does not engage with the audience and will take the information back to their teams to discuss.

Redesigning the Idea

The group discuss feedback and also the inspiration from other teams. They then have the opportunity to redesign (if necessary) elements of their ideas. They then prepare to deliver a five minute pitch to the whole group.

The Pitch

Each group is given a maximum of five minutes to present their refined ideas to everyone. These are recorded to ensure all key themes, features and narratives are captured.



Figure.8 - Collaborative Workshop individual notes | Yerrabingin
Figure.9 - Collaborative Workshop group iterations | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP DATA

Activity 1 - To Begin

In breakout groups, participants are asked to consider the main parts within the How Might We question, and write down at least three associated points of what these mean to you in five minutes.

This could include how they look, feel or sound

Group 1

Custodianship:

- Places that people feel safe
- Street lighting
- Sharing of the knowledge
- Naming the building after scenery –Outside / in what trees have formed outside

Country

- Native plants
- Greenery within the space
- Tree canopy
- Green internally and externally
- Water theme – serenity

- Distraction from busy environment
- Community Garden
- Edible Produce
- 5 Corners plants
- Pig face plants
- Plants native to the area – grab the colours from them to create a palette and make themes of the buildings
- Create a multicultural space

Interconnected Ecosystems

- Multicultural knowledge
- Recreational area
- Quiet area
- QR Codes signage and intergeneration

Group 2

Custodianship

- Listen and learning about country
- Allow residents to create or contribute eg. Community gardens
- Ongoing community engagement
- Incorporation of significant local spaces / Stories in design
- Connect community – old people, youth and disabled
- Quiet places and easy pathways
- Regular festivals, markets, gatherings – Support black business
- Art to speak to history of area – local commission from Aboriginal artists
- Escape solitude
- Celebrate caring for country – the stories
- Local community facilities and community art, regular art exhibitions with local artists
- Local community facilities
- Public art

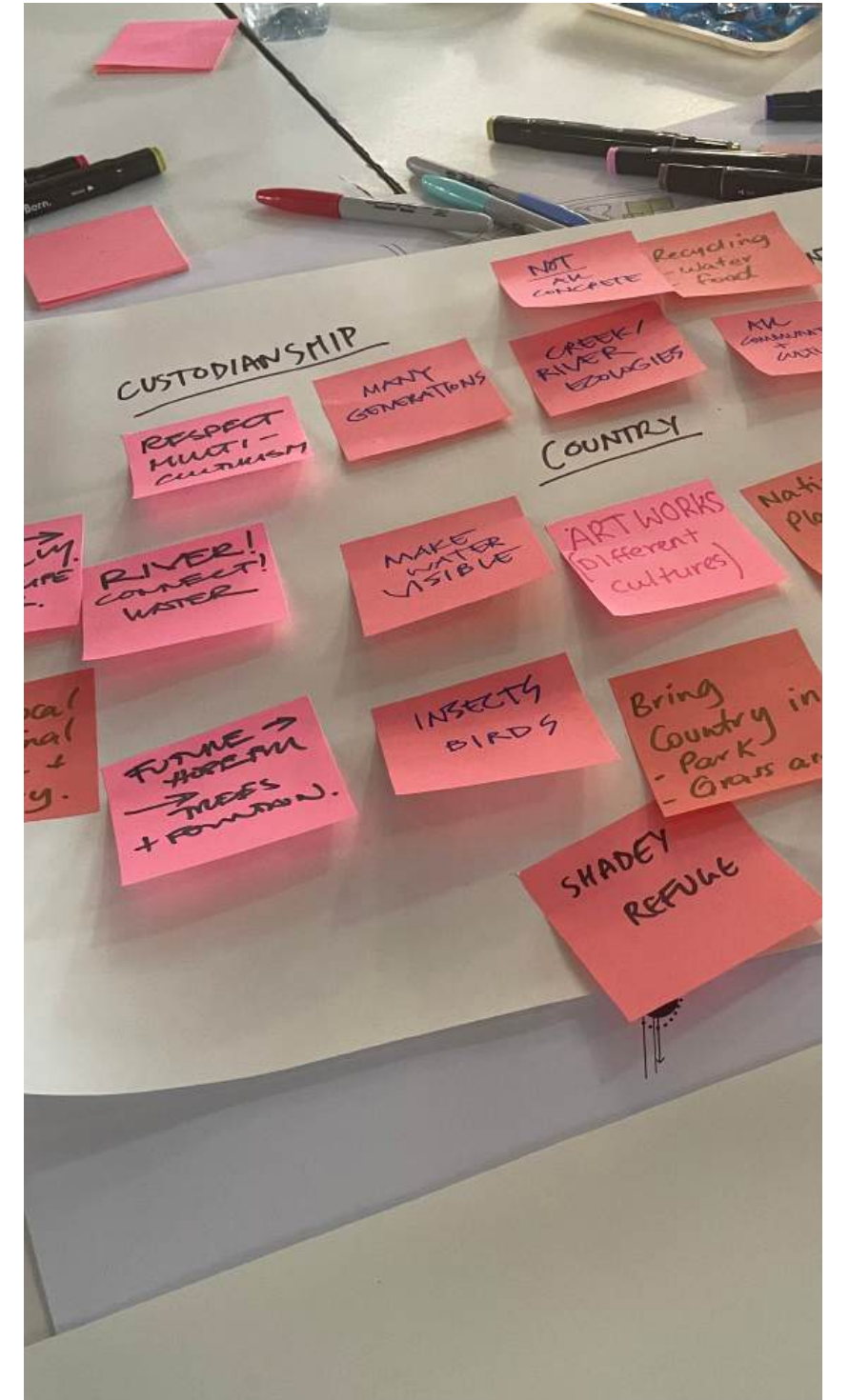


Figure.10 - Activity 1 | Yerrabingin



Figure.11 - Collaborative Workshop - Project Introduction | Yerrabingin

Country

- Engage with first nations artist as part of public art
- Community garden – bush focused workshops
- Engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at schools
- Ecology landscape
- Native species
- Wicks park
- Cooks river
- Community contents
- Community garden
- Seasonality – shade in summer sun in winter
- Smells and aroma such as flowers
- Regular community meetings
- Housing commission
- Celebrate timber trees on site
- Tell stories through the design and allow community to discover

- Have free spaces for local artists to use book for events
- Space to sit and spend time and appreciate
- Make space for making together workshops and educating factors
- Make space for formal and informal gatherings
- Country is all around
- Have diverse representation in tenants Residential and retail
- Community Governance for communal spaces

Interconnected Ecosystems

- Regenerative ecologies
- Legacy celebrate stories of those who have lived here for years
- Non human spaces
- Motion running whether
- Celebrate the water swamp story
- Tools, skills access removing barriers

- Provide access connection to its different areas and ground planes and sky
- Renew the ecology of the site and urban oasis
- Animal habitat – birds, bees, bats, lizards
- Sounds, breeze through trees
- Motion moving clouds
- Native garden
- Water celebration landscape / native species
- Plain water design
- Events
- Senior diversity, youth consultancy operation of the space (nation species)
- First Nations local designers
- River / water ecology
- Running water
- Engage more broadly with Marrickville creatives
- Creative wayfinding and signage
- Landscape design with native plants

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP DATA

Activity 2 and 3 - Brainstorming and Sharing Ideas

In groups, participants brainstormed, writing down as many ideas as they could for this site, whilst keeping the ‘How MIght We’ question in mind.

The following prompts were considered in the participant’s responses:

- *How could we encourage imagination, creativity and connectivity?*
- *How could this place create deep connections and supportive ecosystems?*
- *What are the unique opportunities specific to this site and it’s use?*
- *What could allow Country, Community and culture to thrive here now and for future generations?*

From here, participants created four categories: Innovation, Custodianship, Regeneration & Legacy. They took turns sharing their ideas and collectively decided which category each idea best fits.

Finally, as a team, they collectively identified and prioritised their strongest ideas and category/s to move forward with into the next activity.

Group 1

Innovation

- Screens for digital art / advertisements / notices
- Texture of bricks, recycled, staggered bricks to bring industrial – nature
- Multi generational play – giant chess, sports etc. Shown on out door cinema style area
- Sandstone, logs for natural seating areas
- Speakers in communal spaces, background noises/ music etc.
- Use trees / gardens / hedges instead of fencing
- QR Codes in gardens
- Common areas
- Wind flow through big pipes to make music
- Safe places for families & women to walk / pass through
- Incorporating timber to pay homage to the timberyards and its history
- We could do something that makes Marrickville Unique

- Bottom is communal then at the top could have a rooftop garden shaped as an art piece so planes flying over and trains are able to identify the space
- Multiple entry points – easy access
- Misting used on the plants

Custodianship

- 7 different buildings each having their own identities
- Communal areas – more personalized / private areas for residents e.g rooftop
- What can you see from air ? Train? Colour / gardens
- Community gardens that residents & guests / visitors can look after, traditional herbs – plant things people can eat
- Aboriginal employment opportunities – indigiGrow
- People need to take ownership – it has to be inviting
- Colours could be ochre and rustic
- Free graffiti wall – Warehouse wall a different artist

Regeneration

- Cultural Garden
- Trees for the air / sitting reading / studying etc.
- Sandstone, tree stumps for natural seating / rest areas
- Planting on different levels not ust garden beds
- Plants that purify the air
- Certain things being planted that make people think of different times of year – summer / Christmas etc.
- Calming scented plants like lavender jasmine
- Using nature to embrace culture
- Trees invite birds – create new environment water creates calm
- Wayfinding using plants and lighting
- Lighting – water feature and serenity

Legacy

- Community involved in planting of trees – my grandparent / family member planted that tree.
Community involvement
- When I think of Marrickville I think of colour
- There’s a lot of creative people who live there
- Bring the sense of Lapa to Marrickville
- Time to work together and find out about all culture
- Subtle hedging - don't block the streets outside – making it visible

Group 2

Innovation

- Intentional active street frontages/ fine grain walkability
- Loop into local educational opportunities
- Firepits
- Communal rooftop space
- ‘Not too bougie’.

Custodianship

- Country-minded facilities management.
- Supporting spaces for community.
- Graffiti spot
- Represent First Nations histories so visitors can learn.
- Update local community e.g. timing
- First Nations opportunities-art ,enterprise,
- Connectivity “ Educational library”. Precinct as sensory.
- Open and inviting to the community (super public)
- Targets youth and elderly and takes in consideration everyone

Regeneration

- Vertical garden
- Water/rain garden
- Native planting like edible and medicinal.
- Non-human kin thoughts around the area.

Legacy

- Multi-generational and diversity for long term residents.
- Acknowledge the rich history of the site such as urban, seasons and Australia
- Before today.
- Wayfinding/ Storytelling- Ground place, every day.
- Continuation of history of Marrickville. “living classroom” about others place and people.



Figure.14 - Activity 3 | Yerrabingin

Group 3
Innovation

- Sound of water – relaxing
- Communal kitchen
- Outdoor chargers for phones
- Different types of spaces – seating
- Light, natural light and in all rooms
- Communal Gardens
- Especially bathrooms
- Lighting – night time use
- Use local language
- Water is peaceful
- Especially bathrooms
- Whole place can be a learning

Custodianship

- What Country you are on
- Places for education and fun

- Teaching space schools
- Place of belonging
- Keep it open for public
- Opportunities for youth – all schools in the area

Regeneration

- Balcony's with place for plants and to sit
- Shelter from wind and rain
- Places to eat together
- Shade bbq
- Rooftop views and breeze
- Bring the park
- Basketball and grass footy

Legacy

- All generations
- PCYC drop in centre for kids to hang out
- Acknowledgement of Country

- Walking timeline
- Inclusive
- Shops and convenience
- Learning legacy
- Acknowledge Country at thresholds – sign, material, art
- Marrickville history
- Equity, kids, old and women
- Culture: Indigenous, islander, Italian
- Open space
- Quiet rooftop
- Active Ground
- Shortcuts
- Follow footsteps in the ground
- No ugly buildings
- Language



Figure.15 - Activity 3 | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP DATA

Activity 4 - Team Sketches

Using their strongest ideas, participants created a visual to express and convey them. This was done through a combination of drawing on the blank paper and using the context map.

During their discussions, participants considered the following:

- *How can we illustrate the outcomes for the users, Kin and Country?*
- *How can we create strong visuals to engage and inspire others with our design?*
- *What visual journey do we want to take the viewers on to emphasise the significance of our teams ideas?*



Figure.16 - Activity 4, Group 2 Sketch | Yerrabingin
Figure.17 - Activity 4, Group 3 Sketch | Yerrabingin



Figure.18 - Activity 4, Group 1 Sketch | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP DATA

Activity 5 and 6 - Flowers & Flame Throwers and Reflection & Redesign

Each group selected 2 hosts to present and their team’s sketches. The remaining group members split between the other 2 groups to hear their pitches.

Visitors will have 5 minutes to ask questions for clarification and provide positive feedback on the ideas while the hosts remain silent.

The scribe records the feedback in a matrix of positive feedback, negative feedback, ideas for change and any questions to share back to their group when they come together to direct a process of reflection and redesign of the group’s sketch. The participants who heard from other groups also shared what they learnt of the other designs.

Group 1

Positive

- I like the recycled materials
- I love the birds eye view
- Acknowledging & celebrating the planes
- I like the native plants
- Visibility
- Colour Palette

Questions

- Low or dim lighting
- Where will sandstone be?
- What plants will be at the rooftop?
- Who will maintain it?

Ideas of change

- The stage could be used for events - multicultural
- Have native and mixed cultured plants for their food
- Put medicinal plants too

Group 2

Positive

- Native planting
- Generational of local natives
- Living classroom was positive
- Urban history known (murals in the laneways, 2up in the back lanes)
- Great ideas
- Connection across the site

Negative

- Fire pit safety

Ideas for change

- Education on different nationalities?
- Everyone feels welcomed/ multicultural
- Visibility of community space
- Designing a safe family and elderly access space
- Site setup for future generations

- Self-managed space.
- Local Aboriginal language presented on site. Example of toilet name in language.

Questions

- What is the strongest ideas?
- Safety of the site?
- What is the visibility from site at night?
- What languages to be used throughout the site?
- Family space? Who are we targeting?
- Community governance?

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP DATA

Activity 5 and 6 - Flowers & Flame Throwers and Reflection & Redesign

Group 3

Positive

- Ground plane sounds amazing
- Like the 2 spaces, quiet on roof vs busy ground
- Changing statues will be really popular
- Free wifi
- I want to live here
- Like no ugly buildings
- Like the fresh air & light

Negative

- Kids are loud, does everyone way kids there all the time?
- All looks amazing but could be ruined by ugly buildings

Ideas for change

- The buildings have to be designed around public domain
- Still create private space for residents

- Think about permeability to school
- Artwork to follow through the site
- Inter Generational family uses
- Older sibling looking after young kids until parents get home
- An alternatives for teens to shopping centres

Questions

- Is the ground plane public & roof private
- How do you navigate conflicts between residents and public
- How does the Greek feel?
- What happens in the creek ? play ? birds? Fish ?
- What about lighting ?
- Is this going to attract scooters and skateboards

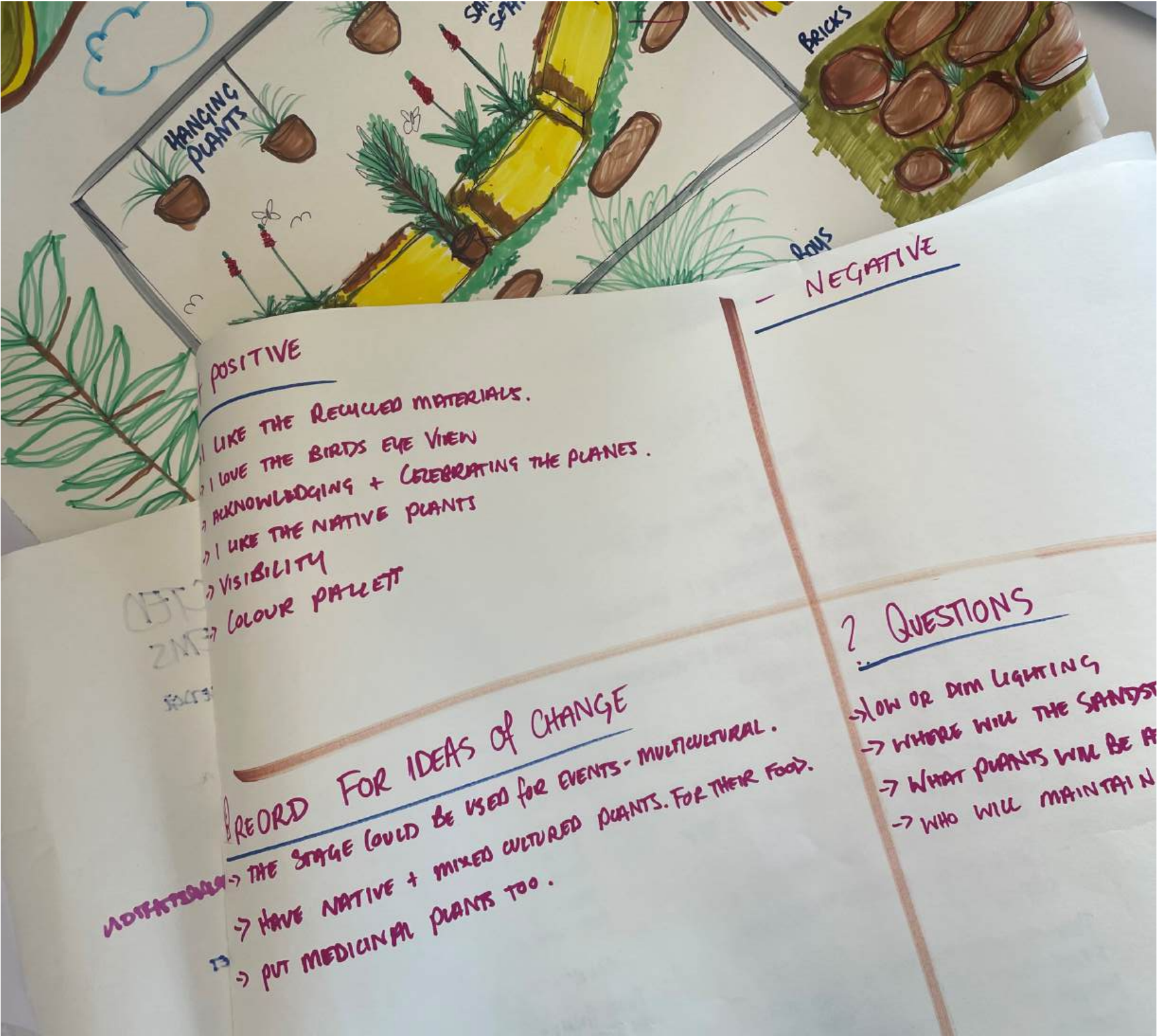


Figure.19 - Flowers and Flame Throwers feedback matrix | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP DATA

Activity 7 - The Pitch

After reflecting on the feedback from the Flowers and Flame Throwers activity, and refining their design, each team presented their drawings and key ideas to the whole group.

Group 1

“So the name that we was **Bringing Country Back Home**, the concept came from growing up in La Perouse and being surrounded by the Bush and the beach and just open spaces and having that childhood. So what we really wanted to do was **make the building feel really organic**. We also wanted to **incorporate the industrial aspect** of it, considering it is in Marrickville.

So we’ve come up with the rooftop garden, so that’ll be accessible for tenants. But that also incorporates our **native plants** and stuff like that that the residents will have access to. But what we also thought was with the high plane traffic and the trains and everything like that, you’re going to get a clear view of the building, so we wanted it to stand out like a sore thumb, but in a good way. We wanted to incorporate a lot of natural plants, **a lot of greenery**. And then from a bird’s eye view, we wanted **the rooftop garden to look like an art piece** itself.

We wanted an **edible garden**, so you can get food, and grow your own if you want. We also thought about **lighting** as well, considering it’s going to be pretty high traffic and it’s also residential. We didn’t want too much light, but we wanted enough, so it felt like a **safe space**. So we thought about low lighting, with sensors, so as you are walking through the pathway itself would light up, we thought about **reusing bricks and timber** and bringing that back into the building.

We thought about **sandstones** like that. In La Perouse a lot of our coastal cliffs are sandstone, so we wanted to bring that back in and maybe use that as a form of seating. We’ve also thought about **wind flow** and not so much fencing. We wanted to minimize fencing so we thought about using plants cut off certain parts of the communal area and we also wanted to create a **seating area**. So we thought about maybe a three tiered sort of stadium seating, but having that with the stones and then the natural grass.

And colours, we wanted it to be bright, but we also thought about like plants, native plants from this area. We wanted to **bring those colours into the buildings**, into the seven buildings, and then also potentially have them

named after the plant itself. And an **interactive garden** for the kids and residents.

We wanted to bring in some of our berry trees, lemon trees, and have a QR code which would also translate it into the **local language**, just relaxing recreational area for elderly and people with children. We also thought

about purifying the air as well, considering we’re here in the metro, so we would use our plants to purify the air and also for **sensory experiences**, for example the scent of, say, lemon myrtle or like fingerlimes and stuff like that are pretty prominent. So walking through and also getting that scent.”



Figure.20 - Group 1 ‘The Pitch’ | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP DATA

Activity 7 - The Pitch

Group 2

“So how we approached it, when looking at the site. We kind of focus on the site where it’s located in Marrickville, in the neighbourhood. It’s context and working through how we can **connect the site to the community**, to Marrickville, connect it to Country and kind of acknowledge and celebrate and integrate all the parts of Community and Country

Working through the options there are kind of two themes. One, which is **community** and two is the **ecology** and the landscape. So with community, there’s a lot of discussion around ensuring that the area is diverse and **caters for the diverse community** that surrounded it and how you promote that and encourage access and diversity across the site. So talking about the kind of retail frontage and then a **really active zone** that we have, making that really attractive but also diverse, a whole range of people that it attracts means that it’s focused point on the site and then kind of **draws you in across the site**.

And then in terms of community and communal spaces, we had discussions around having a really strong focus in the middle of the site and how **community spaces** can be used to encourage **First Nations people and**

events to be used at certain stages throughout the years or certain periods, just to find a way to draw that back into the centre of the site. We had a lot of discussion around **storytelling** within the site to **tie to significant areas and features around Marrickville and Country**. Uncle Ray mentioned near the metro there used to be an old soft drink company, Shelley’s?, if that’s the right name. So you can just have a little homage to that within the site, points to it and a little story and that kind of concept around bringing the site and connecting it further around.

A lot of discussion around in terms of a **diverse site, catering for the elderly, engaging with the youth**. So talking about engaging with the youth in the early stages, they can be involved and provide input and learn and understand how the new areas is going to fit in and incorporate them.

That’s the other thing that Uncle Ray said, what if it was a classroom, so switch the whole precinct instead of a residential precinct, it could be an **educational precinct**. And then if you’re going to decide what can you learn from the smell of the trees, what you learn how the paths are ambling or winding, the rivers coming through and what you learned about the community spaces and how these are set up to work with the community and educate the

community. And the urban context around and the story to how this little laneways across the site that have these little **microclimates** is talking about how there is an area where people gather to play 2up and that kind of like close knit community feel whether you celebrate that within, the larger site or precinct.

The ecology we looked at holistically and talked about what type of vegetation and **native species** surround

and then bringing that in and tie it to the broader area and celebrating the kind of **natural water streams** and the feature of the site. Not necessarily that there’s a direct connection, but the Cook River is running down below further off the page and that kind of lineage and connection. And similarly, the **landscape on site is a key feature**, how it connects around the site, making sure that it runs through to Wicks Park And again, **connecting to the broader community**.”

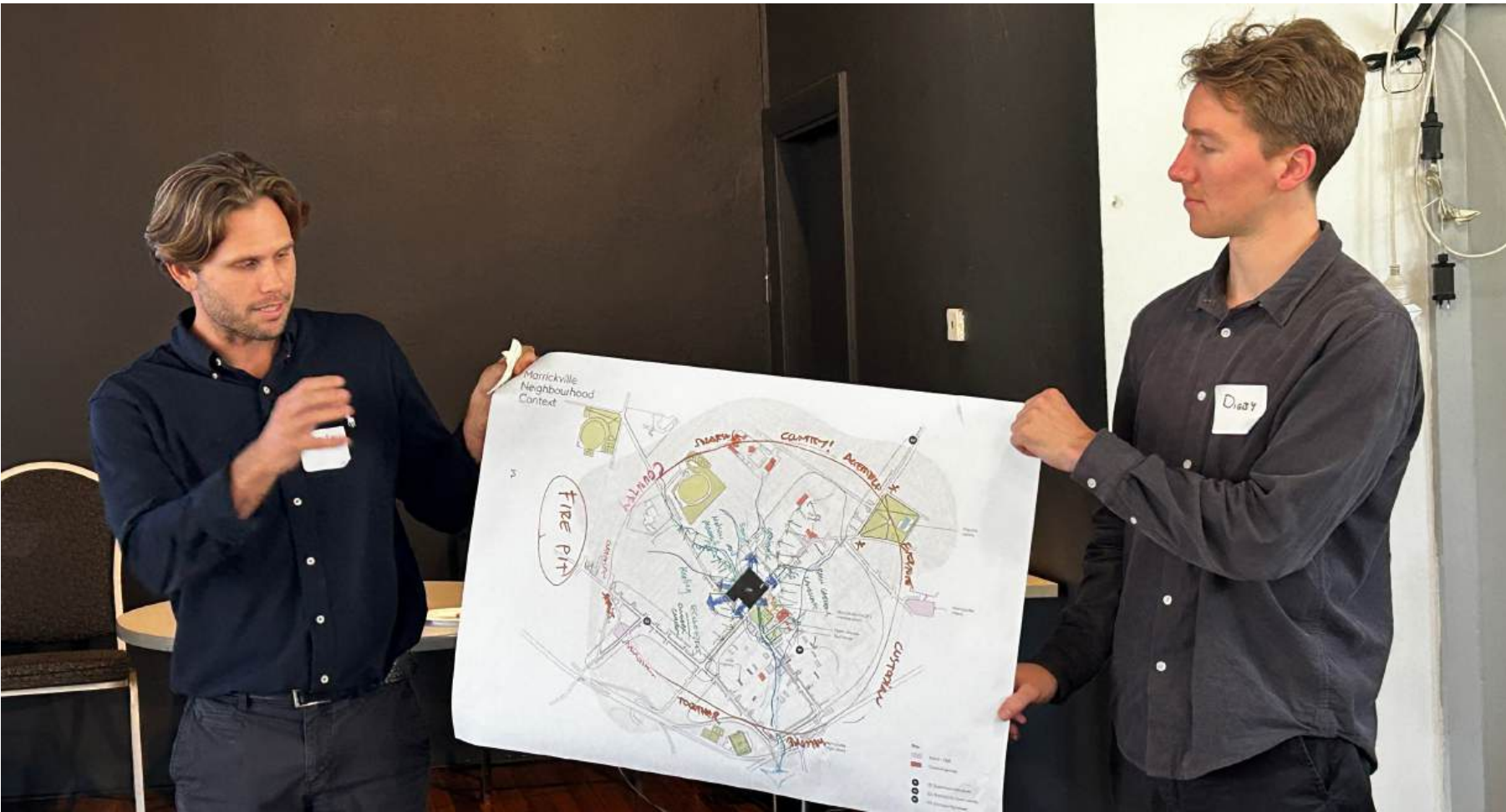


Figure.21 - Group 2 ‘The Pitch’ | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP DATA

Activity 7 - The Pitch

Group 3

“So there is a shortcut for the kids in school, so they can get to the park or Marrickville Metro. And when they walk through, there will be stories on the ground, artworks, timelines showing how Marrickville was over the years and what has changed.

And then have an artwork that gives you a sense of belonging, like the Marrickville postcode Aboriginal flag, and other **cultural art**. There are a lot of different cultures, very multicultural suburb, something to represent all the Cultures that live in this area.

Then there is an **Indigenous run cafe**. with seating, and then a **youth hub with a safe space**, a place that you can go, like a library, so you can educate yourselves or just relax. Or a space with computers or PlayStation where I could do their homework and tables with like charging spots for the kids or adults.

There is a timeline with photos, **local history of the area**. There’s also a lot of people know, lot of history. And then like back in the 1950s, 60, 70s, the artwork can be with **all different cultures** when you walk through. We thought the more you had cultural stuff and people to be

able to learn about the history of the area, it helps us like our young ones to respect the place as well and teaching our kids to, you know, respect where they are and respect Country and respect the space.

The **multicultural art**, is done by artists from that culture. Use local Aboriginal **language**. So for the toilets and other places around the building, and it’s a way of people to learn the, you know, Aboriginal culture and language using local Aboriginal language to name different areas of the site, buildings, toilets.

With the **learning hub**, a place for people to come and also learn history, culture, a library, a place where the schools or local schools can come to as well to learn about the Local area. So space for our kids to learn.

We also have the rooftop. Down the bottom it can get really busy, it’s going to attract a lot of people, probably noisy. This is more like a **relax space** of the building for the residents. There’s chairs, a kitchen, a creek running like a water feature. And then **native plants**, so if a kid gets a sting or something, they can grab something from the garden and put it on, lots of stuff they can interact with.

We want to make it all glass so it is see-through so you can **see out** and have a good view of the city. There are some different sort of spaces for these spaces which is like a shady spot where you can just sit and relax. Then there’s a kitchen table where everyone can have a feed and **interact with each other**, then other spaces where you can **sit by yourself** kind of blocked off.

So you feel like you’re **surrounded by nature on a rooftop** as well so you have a space where you can sit around native plants and you have the water feature there too, so you can **hear the water trickling down**. So it’s a relaxing place where someone can go. A lot of people come out in wheel chairs that are on their own. So have furniture they can use with their chairs, **inclusive for everybody**.”



Figure.22 - Group 3 ‘The Pitch’ | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP DATA

Workshop Outcomes

These outcomes represent the transformative journey facilitated through the collaborative workshop, summarise the collected data into high level opportunities for further interrogation and collaboration by the project team, and integrate the central opportunities from the How Might We question.

These outcomes should inform, develop, and advance concepts in the design process moving forward.

The overarching goal of this process is to foster creative and culturally sensitive placemaking, grounding the project in empathetic design solutions driven by community input whilst centring Country.

Key ideas that emerged from the workshop include:

Fostering Connections

- Between residents and also with the surrounding community.
- Create physical connections within the site and recognising desire lines across and outside the site.
- Embedding a sense of custodianship for this place.

- Opportunities to provide connections across different cultures and with a multi-generational lens.
- Create good relationships and platforms for Indigenous artists and creatives

Greening and Endemic Landscapes

- Strong emphasis on greening and the importance of landscape, with specific examples of including endemic planting with cultural significance and edible planting.
- Native medicinal plants for human treatment
- Interactive, edible gardens for public and residents

Water

- Recognising and revealing the way water moves through the site, and across Country.
- The sites significance in it's proximity to Cooks River and the way water moved through this area pre colonisation.
- Water having an important role for cooling and relaxation for residents.

Education

- Education was an interesting theme identified by all three groups, with an innovative approach to what a residential building/s can provide for residents and the broader community.
- Participants identified spaces for education and opportunities for learning and sharing about Country and culture, but also incorporating and celebrating the hyper local context of Marrickville with it's multicultural history.
- Using local Indigenous language for naming of things on site

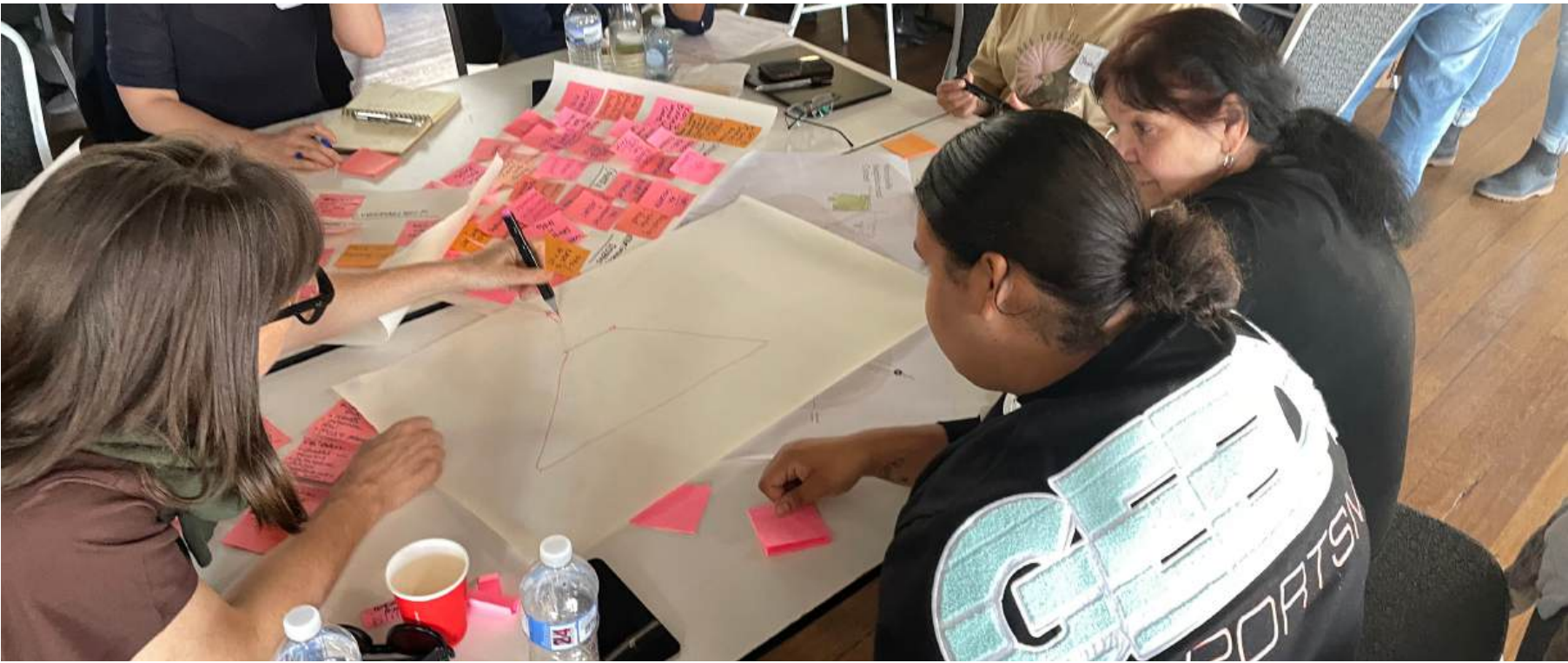


Figure.23 - Collaborative Workshop | Yerrabingin

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WE ARE YERRABINGIN. WE WALK TOGETHER.

