

MARRICKVILLE TIMBERYARDS

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

CWC DESIGN REPORT - FINAL | NOVEMBER 2024

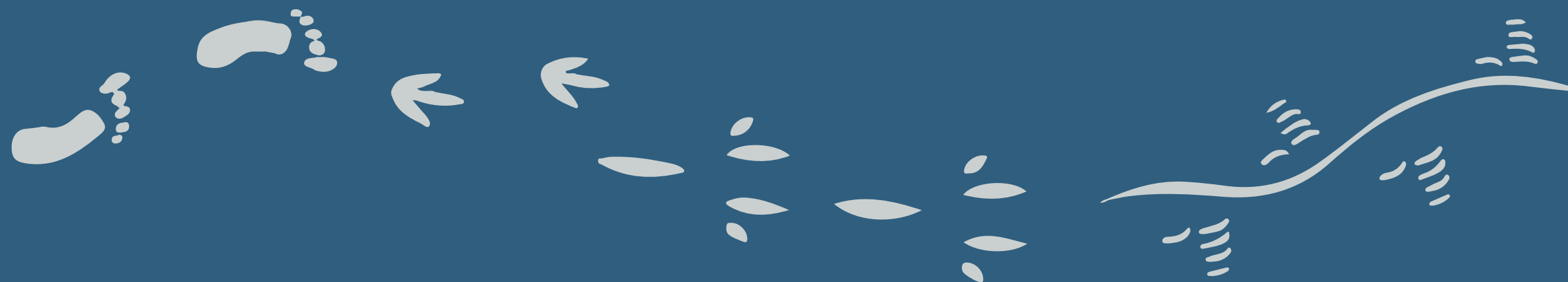
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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this document may contain voices, images, names of people who have passed away.

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 well-being 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 - Aerial photo of site location | Nearmap

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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. In the case of this report, Cadigal is spelt as such. However, it should be noted that others may reference this same group by alternative spellings, including Gadigal.

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.



Figure.2 - Image reflecting wetland condition that may have formed part of Marrickville (Cadigal County) today | Viktor Berezin.

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 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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document has been created by Yerrabingin for Marrickville Timberyards project. It builds on the findings of the Contextual Analysis, Collaborative Design workshops, our Community Feedback session and presents the integration of our design recommendations into the work of the Design Team, across Landscape, Architecture and Planning.

The document has been developed by Yerrabingin following our Collaborative Design process, in partnership with Tribe, Turner, Architecture AND, Arcadia, Aileen Sage, Artelier Ten and Aboriginal community members through the Walk on Country and Collaborative Workshops and meetings. The purpose of this document is to share the findings and design recommendations from our collaborative design process.

The opening section provides an introduction to how we understand Country and what Country means to us. We then introduce the Connecting with Country Framework created by the Government Architect New South Wales and the outcomes that can be used to guide this project.

The second section addresses the context of the site within the wider Cadigal cultural landscape, including mapping important values across the site and presenting high level cultural values collected as part of early consultation.

The third section firstly recounts our design method - Wanggani Dhayar - and then shares a summary of each step in the process, including the Walk on Country, How Might We workshop and the Design Jam. For each engagement, we include a description of the engagement and a summary of the findings.

In the fourth section, our Vision for Marrickville Timberyards takes shape. We explore the Community Driven Design Principles developed following the Collaborative Design sessions - Connect to Cadigal Country, Designing for Kin, Enterprise Opportunities, and Cultural Practice. We discuss how each Principle could be activated at the site.

In the fifth section of the report, Community Feedback session data is summarised and themed to guide consultant progress towards SSDA submission. This in addition to all collaborative workshop data formulates the final action/opportunities for the project.

Finally we chart and summarise next steps on the way to project stage completion, wherein final consultant documentation is reviwed and submitted for SSDA.



Figure.3 - Figure 3. Melaleuca grove at Centennial Parklands, Taylor Coyne.



CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY DESIGN

INTRODUCTION TO CWC DESIGN

Beginning with Country

*Country is our mother, our teacher,
our library and our kin; it sustains
us, inspires us and surrounds us. The
experience of Country is both individual
and collective, both new and familiar.
From her we learn, share and flourish.
Continuing to care for Country is central
to our being and our identity.*

Christian Hampson, Yerrabingin

Country reaches into and across the earth and into the sky. The unique and distinctive elements of Country are connected, and open to everyone. They are the connective tissue, the interstices, the flow between Water, Earth, Sky, our Non-Human Kin, and ourselves. In this way, we are part of the system of Country and have a responsibility to future generations. Our actions must always be Country positive.

Country-centric

We inhabit and are inhabited by Country. To inhabit Country and connect with Country is to be grounded in the landscape and to practice the cultural knowledge stored within it. This encourages physical and emotional well-being for people and Country.

The innate symbiosis of being connected to Country moves us into being Eco or Country centric, rather than being Human centric. This connection and position in relation to Country is a central component of Aboriginal people’s ideology. It is a cultural value that places humans within the ecological and landscape system, not as dominators but as caretakers and custodians. This function requires constant interaction and observation, being tuned in to reactive requirements and response.

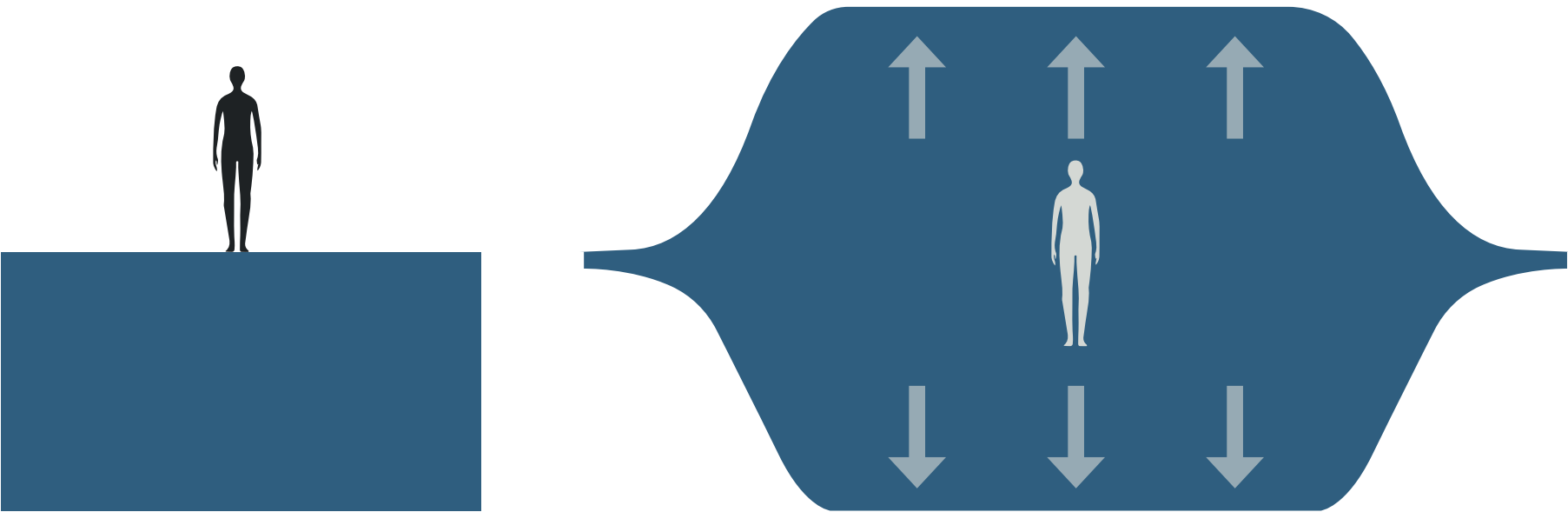


Figure.4 - We inhabit and are inhabited by Country | Yerrabingin

GANSW CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY FRAMEWORK

Policy Context

In 2023 the Government Architect New South Wales released the Connecting with Country Framework to guide Designing with Country projects in NSW. The Framework covers several areas of Designing with Country work, including:

Practices for taking a Country-focused approach:

Combining traditional cultural knowledge and practices with a behavioural science approach to create a system of Communing with Country / Thinking, Sensing Country / Feeling, and Being on Country / Behaving to guide projects. The image to the right illustrates this relationship.

Guidance on design considerations:

Considering the project scale to determine what design considerations should be factored into decision making and design. For this project precinct scale, therefore we are taking a holistic perspective.

Outcomes for Country:

The Framework describes five Outcomes for Country to help project teams focus on their commitment to Country. The outcomes are: Healthy Country, Healthy Community, Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage, Cultural Competency and Better Places.

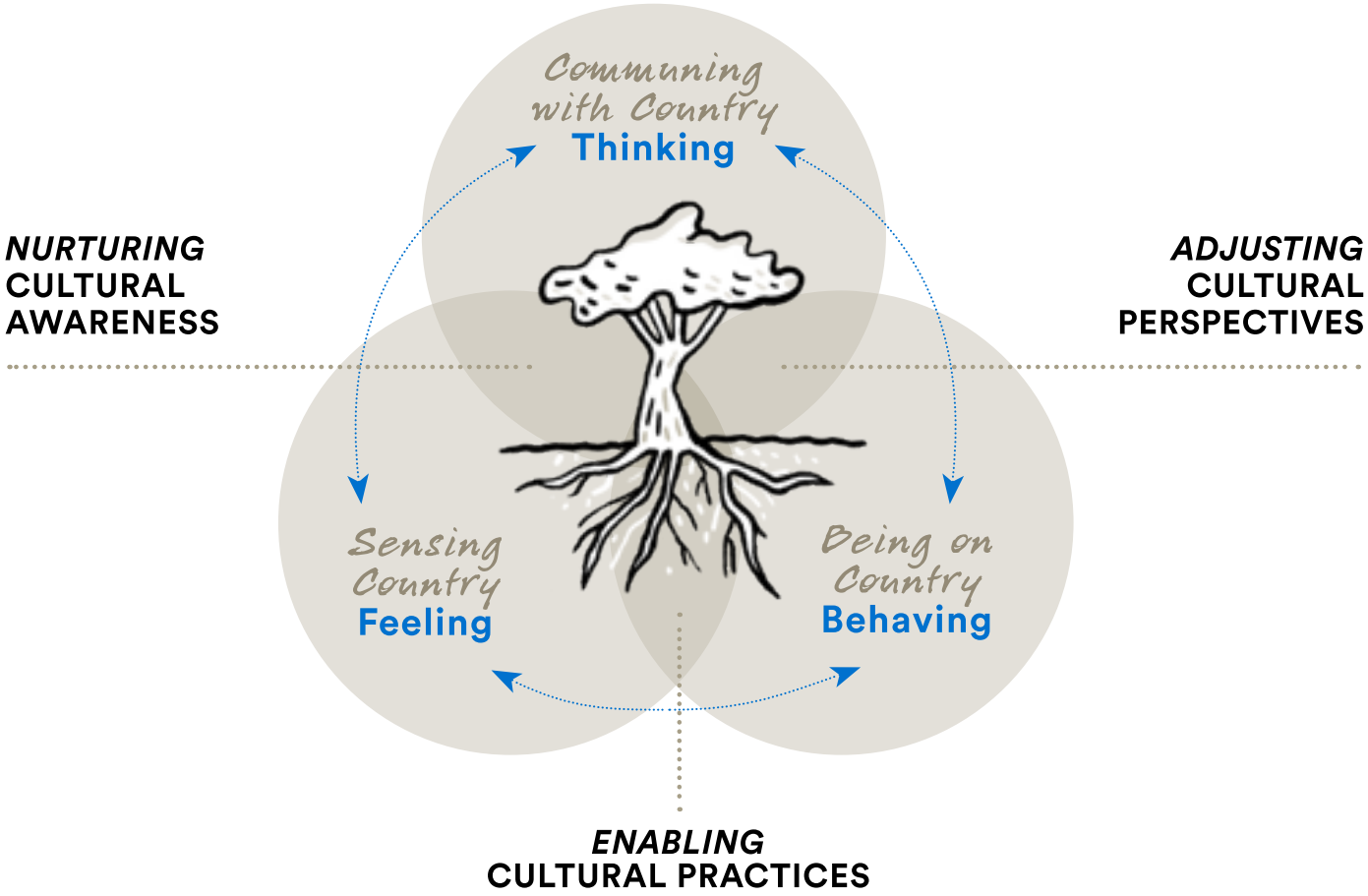


Figure.5 - Combining cultural practice and behavioral change systems | GANSW

YERRABINGIN PILLARS

What guides our work

Yerrabingin has four pillars that guide our work. The pillars link together our values, Country, culture, professional practice, and cultural practice.

Each pillar is one part of the larger task of caring for Country. Together they contribute to a holistic commitment to care and design for Country. The pillars are Custodianship, Innovation, Legacy and Regeneration. The Marrickville Timberyards project offers an opportunity to work with the regeneration pillar -

 *Innovation*

 *Custodianship*

 *Regeneration*

 *Legacy*

Innovation

We are a transformative force for change. We draw on ancient wisdom, guided by ecological kinship, to share the powerful voice of Country and disrupt conventional systems and perceptions. Inspired by Country, we take a holistic view, centring creativity, adaptation and reciprocity. Our work propels us towards a collective future that considers the life of all kin.

Regeneration

We deeply understand the connections between all things and work towards balance. We overcome limitations in conventional design thinking by centring the needs of Country and all kin. We create places for people to experience the many ways Country sustains and holds them, to connect them with their role in the system of their place. Learning from Country, we take a long-term view, with the knowledge that health and healing will come, given the right conditions of care.

Custodianship

We are custodians of Country. We draw on cultural knowledge to advocate and care for Country. It is our responsibility to improve the health of Country and our diverse communities through our work. In our role as designers, we listen deeply to the needs of Country and walk together with our partners to foster connection. Country benefits and grows in our care.

Legacy

Our works sits at the intersection of culture and design. We are industry leaders in collaborative design, bringing together First Nations communities and built environment professionals for an enduring conversation. By introducing people to Country, we transform the experience of belonging and connection to place in Australia. We show people that if we care for Country, she will care for us in return. Healthy Country and connected communities are our legacy.

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.

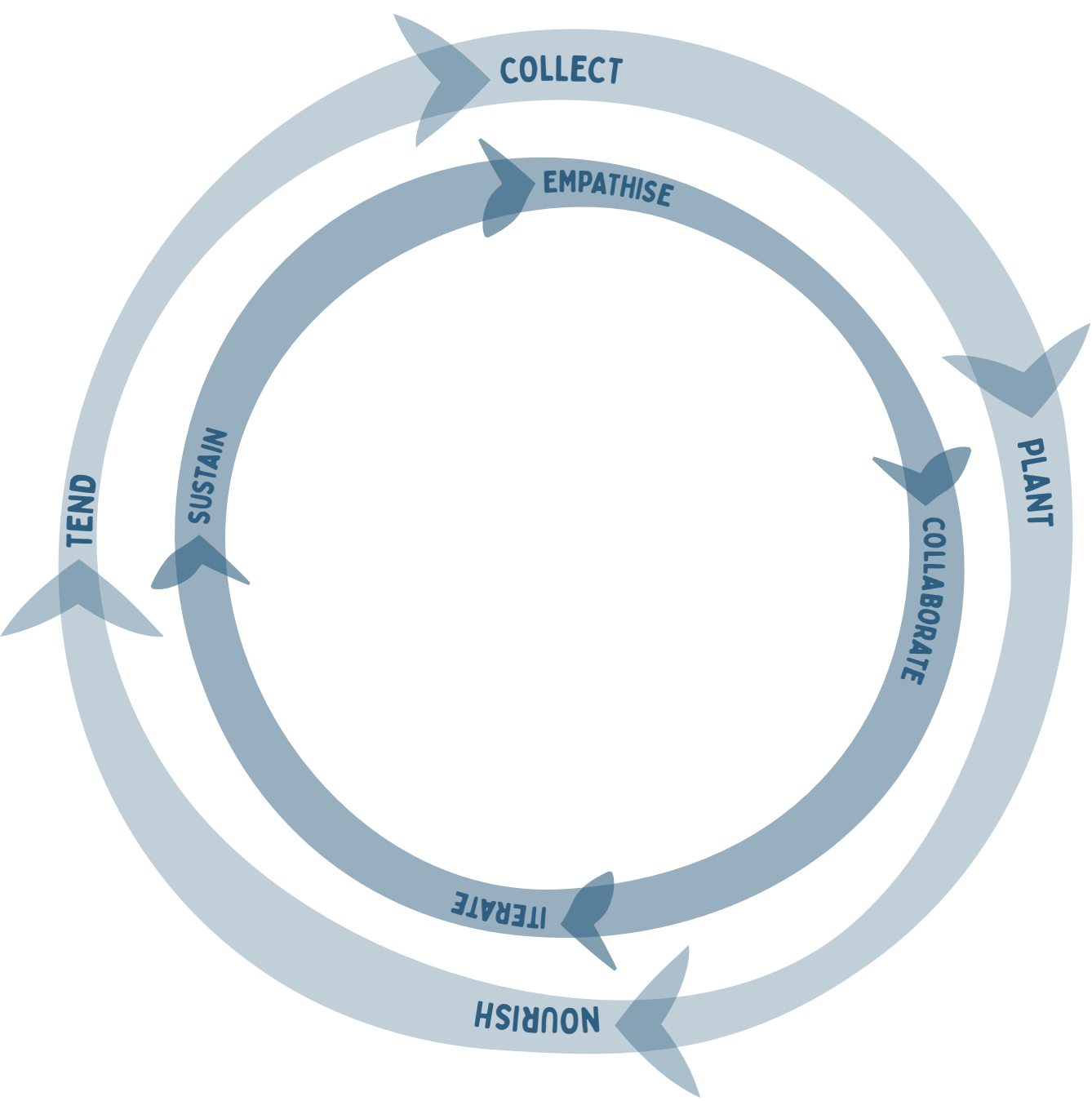


Figure.6 - Methodology Process | Yerrabingin



COLLECT / EMPATHISE
CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

Project Overview

The site is known as the ‘Timberyards’, located in Marrickville within the Inner West Local Government Area (LGA). The site comprises 39 lots with legal identification listed in the table below, and has a total area of 22,564m2 (excluding the Victoria Road widening land, presently within the site boundary). The site is located within Precinct 47: Victoria Road in the Marrickville Development Control Plan 2011 (MDCP 2011).

The site is primarily contained in the Timberyards sub-precinct of Precinct 47, with the lots fronting Victoria Road falling within the Victoria Road Corridor sub-precinct.

The site is approximately 700m walking distance to the newly opened Sydenham Metro Station, with 7-minute travel time to the Sydney CBD.

The site currently comprises primarily industrial and light industrial uses, with residential dwellings to a minor portion of the site on Farr Street (western boundary) and Victoria Road (eastern boundary). The site also has frontage to Sydenham Road to the south and Mitchell Street to the north (and encompassing a small lane off Mitchell Street).



Figure.7 - Image | The project team gathering outside the MTY site for the Collaborative Workshop, by Yerrabingin.

CADIGAL COUNTRY

Place in Country

The development site on Victoria Road, Marrickville is located on Cadigal Country, which covers much of the central Sydney area, extending from South Head to Darling Harbour (Muir 2013) and down to the Cooks River, which the Cadigal peoples shared with neighbouring Wangal, Bediagal and Gameygal and Gweagal peoples.

The name Cadigal, comes from comes from the Cadigal term for a species of grass tree, Cadi (Botanic Gardens 2024), ‘Gal’ means people, so ‘Cadigal’ translates to the people from Cadi.

The suburb of Marrickville is known as Bulanaming to the traditional custodians of the land (Meadar 2008). Marrickville is also noted as significant to the Bidigal people (Castrique 2018) as well as the Wangal peoples (Smart 2021), which underscores the communal, sharing nature of Aboriginal peoples of Country who find ownership to be a foreign concept.

Coastal Sydney has experience significant changes over the few past centuries, with the rise and recession of ocean levels. The southern part of Marrickville was, until the arrival of Europeans, a vast wetland, fed by several creeks and estuaries, including the Gumbramorra Creek. Rich in biodiversity, Bulanaming offered unique resources to the Gadigal peoples who seasonally returned to the site.

Much of the clay that was once found in Marrickville was pillaged by European brick makers. This caused further disruption to the land, transforming the once thriving wetland into a bustling industrial precinct. When there was no usable clay left, the brick pits were abandoned to fill with water. The dangerous, unpleasant blemishes on the landscape were ultimately filled in and converted into parkland; many of the parks in present day Marrickville have been constructed on former brickworks (Meadar 2008).



Figure.8 - Image | Closed Standsure Brick works | Marrickville Heritage



Figure.9 - Image | The ‘Grass tree’ -an iconic Cadigal plant species

YERRABINGIN PILLAR

Site Specific Opportunities

The initial *Deep Place in Country Report* identified regeneration as the most appropriate Yerrabingin pillar for the project. Marrickville has experienced exceptional change since the arrival of European settlers to the Sydney Basin. Today, the suburb no longer resembles the resource rich wilderness that once flourished on the floodplains.

While the heavily urbanised planning of this area prevents a replication of this original delicate ecosystem, there is great opportunity within the site to establish and sustain a regenerative environmental design that may enrich the ecology and well-being of kin and non-human kin.

Avenues for regeneration were suggested with the *Deep Place in Country* report and includes the following:

Marrickville was built over a swamp (Gumbramorra Swamp), as a result Marrickville is vulnerable in major flooding events. As such it is crucial for this site to integrate a water sensitive strategy that ensures the ongoing preservation and maintenance of the

development for many years. Natural approaches to flood mitigation such as vegetated swales, rain gardens and a high degree of permeable surfaces are all recommended as strategies to not only attenuate flood impacts but also enrich biodiversity value of site. Building and associated structures should also enable water flow through the site.

The seasonal abundance of water on site can also be framed positively as a resource for collection and re-use throughout the landscape and buildings. The featuring of water can also be a means to speak to the wetland history of site as a celebration of water and its associated environments.

Endemic and native planting offer opportunities to diversify the flora of Marrickville and better serve native wildlife. For Indigenous people, plant cycles also highlight connections with other ecological seasonal changes and contribute to the regeneration of Aboriginal ways of seeing and experiencing Country.



Figure.10 - Image |Hasset Park in Canberra by Jane Irwin Landscape Architects



COLLABORATIVE DESIGN METHODOLOGY

Process and Progress

As described above in the introduction to Yerrabingin’s Collaborative Design Methodology, our design process is made up of four stages, Collect / Empathise, Plant / Collaborate, Nourish / Iterate and Tend / Sustain. Each project is unique, and we tailor our design approach within each of the four stages for each project.

Our Progress

We have completed the Collect / Empathise and Plant / Collaborate stages and we are now working on the Nourish / Iterate stage.

- Workshop 1 - ‘How Might We’
- Report 1 - Deep Place In Country Report
- SDRP 1
- Workshop 2 - Collaborative Design Workshop
- Report 2 - Deep Collaborative Workshop Report
- SDRP 2
- Report 3 - Draft Connecting with Country Design Report
- Workshop 3 - Community feedback Session
- Report 3 - Final Connecting with Country Design Report
- SSDA Submission



Figure.12 - Image | Smoking ceremony held on site for project inception meeting, Yerrabingin
Figure.13 - Image | Project team walking Marrickville laneway pre ‘How Might We?’ workshop



Figure.11 - Image | Collaborative Design Workshop group discussions

HOW MIGHT WE?

Our Design Challenge

In the How Might We Session, we worked with the project team to learn as much as we could about the aims of the project and to introduce the design team to our process.

We created the following How Might We statement for the project:

How Might We foster Marrickville's creative community in ways that encourage custodianship, support Country and create interconnected ecosystems?

We use the How Might We statement to understand the design team's thoughts on the project users, impact, connection and value. By gaining as much information as we can from the beginning, we aim to ensure that we can direct the project more accurately and generate more impact. We use the How Might We statement to define our design challenge.

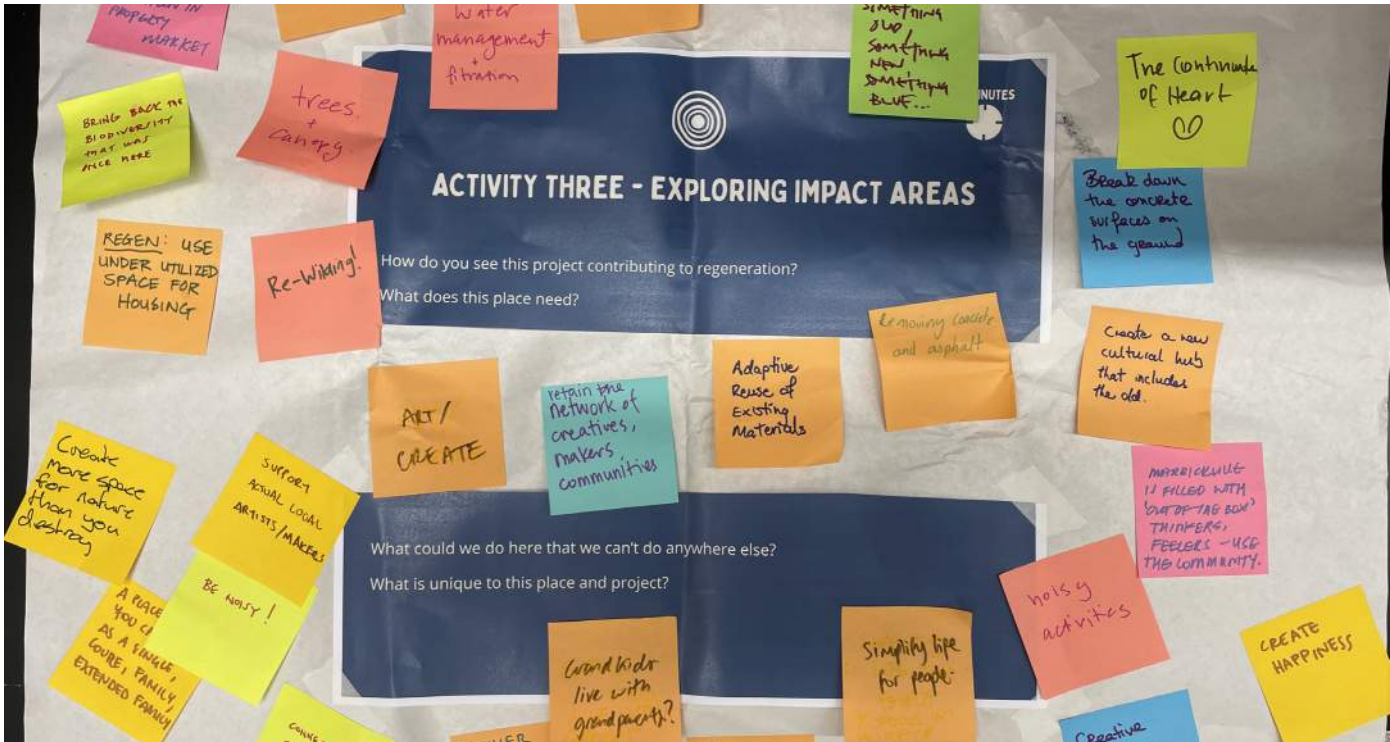
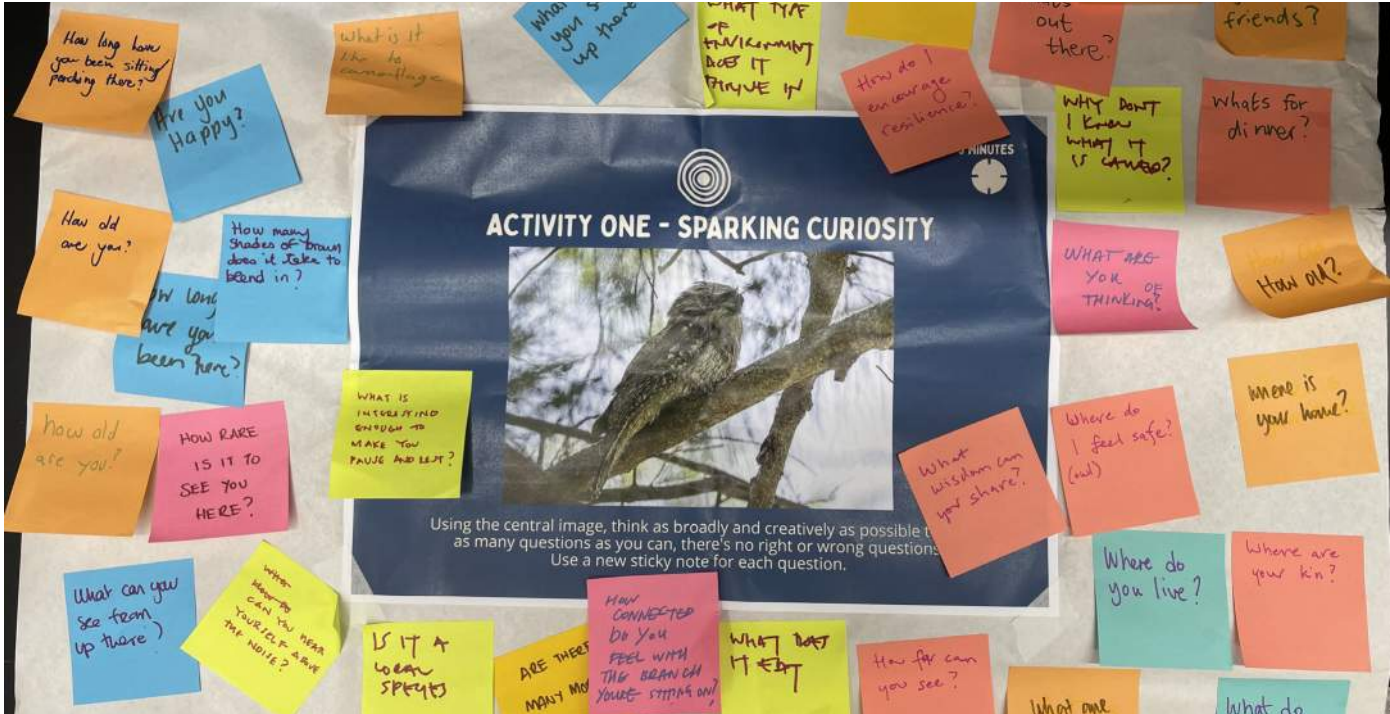


Figure.14 - Collection of images from the 'How Might We?' workshop | Yerrabingin

WALK ON COUNTRY

Listening to Country

The Walk on Country was completed as part of our Collect stage. We visited the site of the project 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.

The Walk on Country took place on the same day, prior to the ‘How Might We?’ workshop. This was the project team’s first official opportunity to walk around Marrickville and the fringes of site to appreciate the unique social, cultural and environmental state of the area.

The unique features of Country were spoken of in reference to The Cooks River and its significance to local Aboriginal people. Notably, the importance of water in this landscape, through which sustenance was possible within Gumbramorra swamp (current day Marrickille).

As evidenced along the walk, Marrickville has undergone a significant urban transformation with little consideration given to pedestrian accessibility, tree canopy coverage and connection of green civic spaces.

A number of local Marrickville businesses were visited to build a picture of the creative network which Marrickville proudly fosters. It was noted that a significant portion of these creative businesses and performance spaces are impacted by rising rental prices and new residential developments in the area.

The project team was struck by the ‘hidden gems’ that were contained in tucked away Marrickville lane ways, not immediately obvious to passers by. These community centred sites offer places for creation, production and performance, all which feed into the unique social ecosystem of Marrickville.



Figure.15 - Collection of images from the Walk on Country | Yerrabingin

COLLABORATIVE DESIGN WORKSHOP

Discussion and Findings

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 workshopped design ideas for the site and explored many possibilities and opportunities. The outcomes that emerged represent the transformative journey facilitated through the collaborative workshop.

A summary of the collected data is synthesised to form a set of high level opportunities for further interrogation and collaboration by the project team. These outcomes should inform, develop, and advance concepts in the design process moving forward.

Key ideas that emerged from the workshop include:

The need to recognise and reveal the way **water** moves through the site, and across Country given the sites proximity to Cooks River and the way water moved through this area pre colonisation. As such, water should play an important role for cooling and relaxation for residents and visitors.

Education was a 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.

Fostering Connections was also deemed important socially between residents but also between residents and the surrounding community. Physical connections within the site and recognising desire lines were also highlighted.

Incorporating **Greening and Endemic Landscapes** was seen as interactive opportunity for people to directly engage with plants and act as an educational platform.



Figure.16 - Image | Collaborative Design Workshop in action | Yerrabingin





NOURISH / ITERATE
IDEATION DEVELOPMENT

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Elements of Country Exploration

This section elaborates on and explores how the planned development interacts with the elements of Country. Zones related to the presence of the elements and their meaning have been identified to the right.

- 

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

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

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

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

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

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

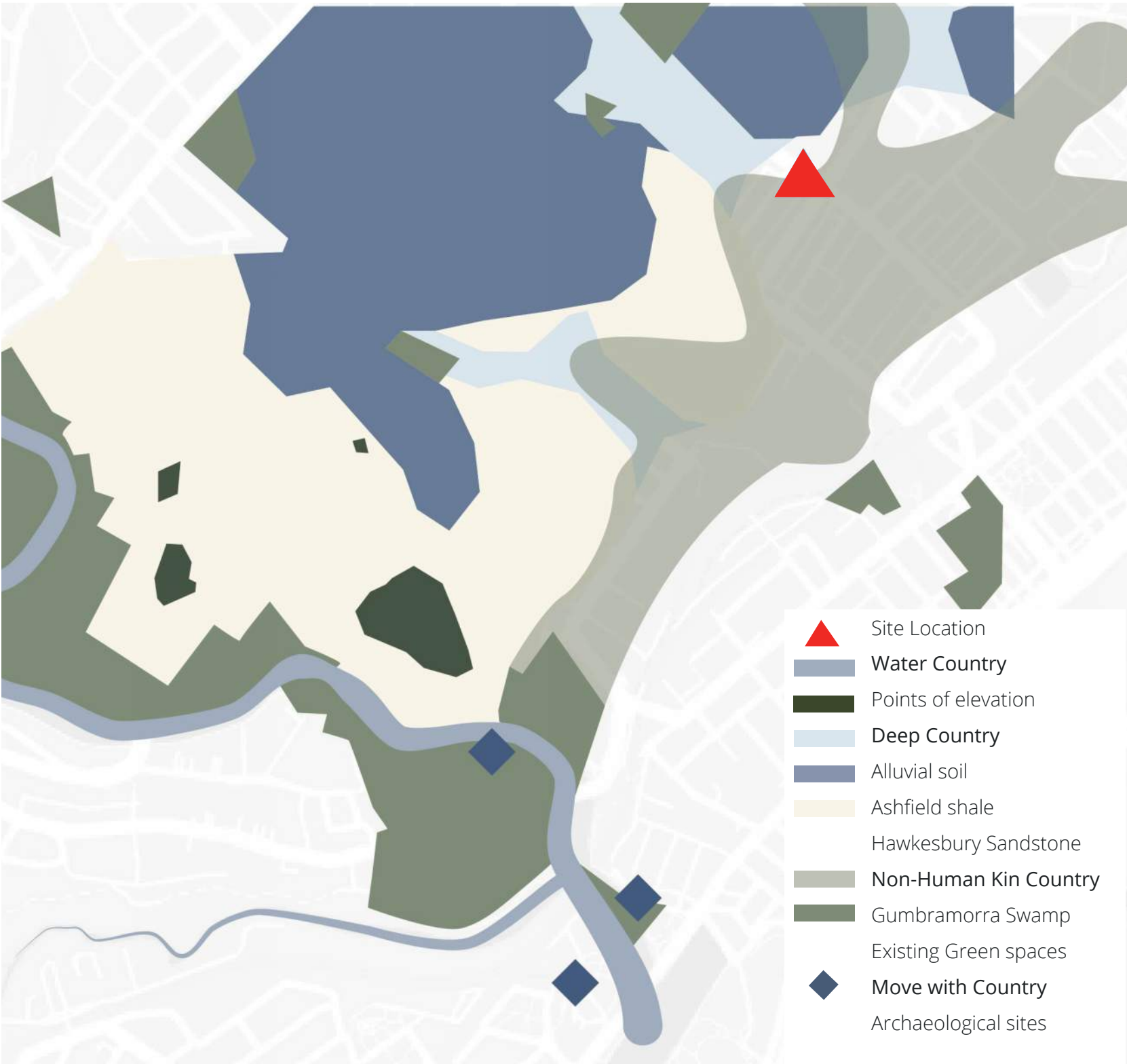


Figure.17 - Elements of Country overlaid with proposed development site, Yerrabingin

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Custodianship for generations

The design development to date for the Connecting with Country design has integrated the findings from the place analysis and Collaborative Design Workshops into four key Connecting with Country opportunities for the Marrickville Timberyards project:

Custodian for Generations, Water Collection, Treatment and Flow, Material Reuse and Adaptation and Connectivity and Care.

Developing a custodianship model during the design process will build relationships within the local community and with the design and development team that can continue into the future operation of the site.

Opportunity

- Developing a reference group focused on custodianship to operate through out the design process
- Partnerships with local creative groups and organisations
- Ongoing care and maintenance led by Indigenous led/ owned companies
- Subsidised spaces for Indigenous people to produce, share and exhibit art and products

Answering the How Might We

This opportunity speaks to the custodianship element of the How Might We question. By developing a governance or custodianship model that includes First Nations community members to advise on ways that the community can be involved in the design and future operation of the site in the design stage will build relationships and trial options for how First Nations community members and organisations can be involved in the operation of the site into the future.

Yerrabingin Pillars

Developing a custodianship model during the design process will build relationships within the local community and with the design and development team that can continue into the future operation of the site.

Element of Country

Move with Country



Figure.18 - Image | Wildflower - an indigenous owned social enterprise based in Redfern, Sydney
Figure.20 - Image | Cooks River Alliance - Wurridjal Festival activity workshop
Figure.19 - Image | Weaving workshop, Sydney

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Water Collection, Treatment and Flow

This opportunity speaks to the custodianship and interconnected ecosystems elements within the How Might We question. By considering and caring for how water moves through and interacts with other elements within the development and wider area, we can ensure that water is able to contribute sustenance to non-human kin and flow in a way that is sustainable and supportive for surrounding areas, reducing the potential for flooding events and transporting and storing water in the landscape in ways that are healthy for kin and Country.

Opportunity

- Feature water on site in a celebratory way that speaks to the site's ecological past as Gumbramorra swamp.
- Embed a site specific water sensitive strategy that seeks to collect, cleanse and re-use water on site where possible.
- Draw on remnant ecological community vegetation species that will support a water sensitive strategy.

Answering the How Might We

Enacting good custodianship in the treatment of water as it returns to the Cooks River.

Yerrabingin Pillars

Water is a key element of regenerative design and should be for this project given the site's swamp history, ongoing flood issues and need to conserve water.

Element of Country

Water Country, Deep Country



Figure.21 - Image | Green wall with native Australian plant species that uses grey water

Figure.23 - Image | Casuarina cunninghamiana tree

Figure.22 - Image | Paving that responds to water dynamically | Aileen Sage

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Material Reuse and Adaptation

This opportunity speaks to the support for Country and interconnected ecosystems aspects of the How Might We question. By focusing on re-using and adapting existing local materials, the development can reduce the impact on the environment by reducing the need for new material manufacture and transport. Locally sourced materials will also support the creation of a strong local character for the development. Drawing on local materials and trades or craft people to re purpose existing materials will support an healthy commercial and cultural system locally.

Opportunity

- Salvage and re-use materials from site and or local sites in innovative ways that extends material life cycles and promotes a circular material economy.
- Consider how materials may acknowledge and convey multiple layers of history as they are significant to Indigenous people.
- Embed materials throughout site that positively contribute to non-human kin habitat and resource supply.

Answering the How Might We

Innovatively re use materials to promote a closed material ecosystem and hyper-local character.

Yerrabingin Pillars

Well chosen materials positively contribute to the legacy of the project over time, continually regenerating new possibilities for materials.

Element of Country

Deep Country, Move with Country



Figure.24 - Image | Quarried sandstone logs - natural geology of the Cadigal area

Figure.25 - Image | Human made bee habitat from timber hardwood

Figure.26 - Image | Local recycled timber company in Marrickville | Wastewood

Figure.27 - Image | Crushed materials re purposed within Harold Park | Yerrabingin

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Connectivity and Care

This opportunity relates to the custodianship, support for Country and interconnected ecosystems elements of the How Might We question. By focusing on the types of interactions between people and non-human kin (plants and animals) in the new development and wider area, we can explore the interconnections and interdependent relationships. E.g. trees provide shade for people and habitat for animals. Water provides sustenance for humans and plants. Designing in a way that recognises and supports these interconnected relationships helps to prioritise the needs of Country, which in turn supports a healthy environment and community.

Opportunity

- Connect the local existing and emerging creative network throughout this new community in the form of partnerships, platforms and spaces
- Foster nurturing relationships between people (kin) and also non-human kin
- Significantly improve the way finding and pedestrian experience of Marrickville by way of topography and view creation across site and beyond site

Answering the How Might We

Fostering a network of Community and strengthening the connection between kin and non-human kin.

Yerrabingin Pillars

Creating platforms for good custodianship that supports Community and the greater urban ecosystem.

Element of Country

Move with Country , Non Human Kin, Sky Country



Figure.28 - Image | Tawny frogmouth owl photographed along Cooks River, Marrickville
Figure.30 - Image | Spine 3 (radiancy) 2018 by Dale Harding | The University of Sydney
Figure.29 - Image | Metal inlay example, Pirrama Park, Sydney

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Opportunities Across the Site

This plan includes all the proposed Connecting with Country opportunities presented in the above pages mapped onto the proposed site plan.

-  Custodianship for generations
-  Water Collection, Treatment and Flow
-  Material Reuse and Adaptation
-  Connectivity and Care



Figure.31 - Image | Base Plan of current scheme with opportunities overlaid



TEND / SUSTAIN

TOWARD FINAL DESIGN - MARRICKVILLE TIMBERYARDS

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SESSION

Process

The design development progress was shared with Community at our Community Feedback session on October 25th, 2024. The session was attended by Indigenous Community members from the Collaborative Workshop as well as representatives from each of the consulting companies including RTLco, Turner, Architecture AND, Tribe, Aileen Sage and Arcadia.

In the session, Yerrabingin presented project updates and what themes had emerged from the Collaborative Workshop. Consultants then presented their project progress to the group, highlighting what had been incorporated from the Collaborative Workshop.

Specific feedback was sought for the four key opportunity areas on site being:

- Custodianship for Generations
- Water Collection, Treatment and Flow
- Material Reuse and Adaptation
- Connectivity and Care

Feedback captured in the session included post it notes and recorded conversations which captured Community reactions and general endorsement of key parts of the project proposal.

Based on this feedback, the consultant team have been able to progress with ideas relating to the key opportunity areas, such as water celebration and collection, improving access to Sky Country in the built form and exploring how custodianship can be promoted through planting and social programs.

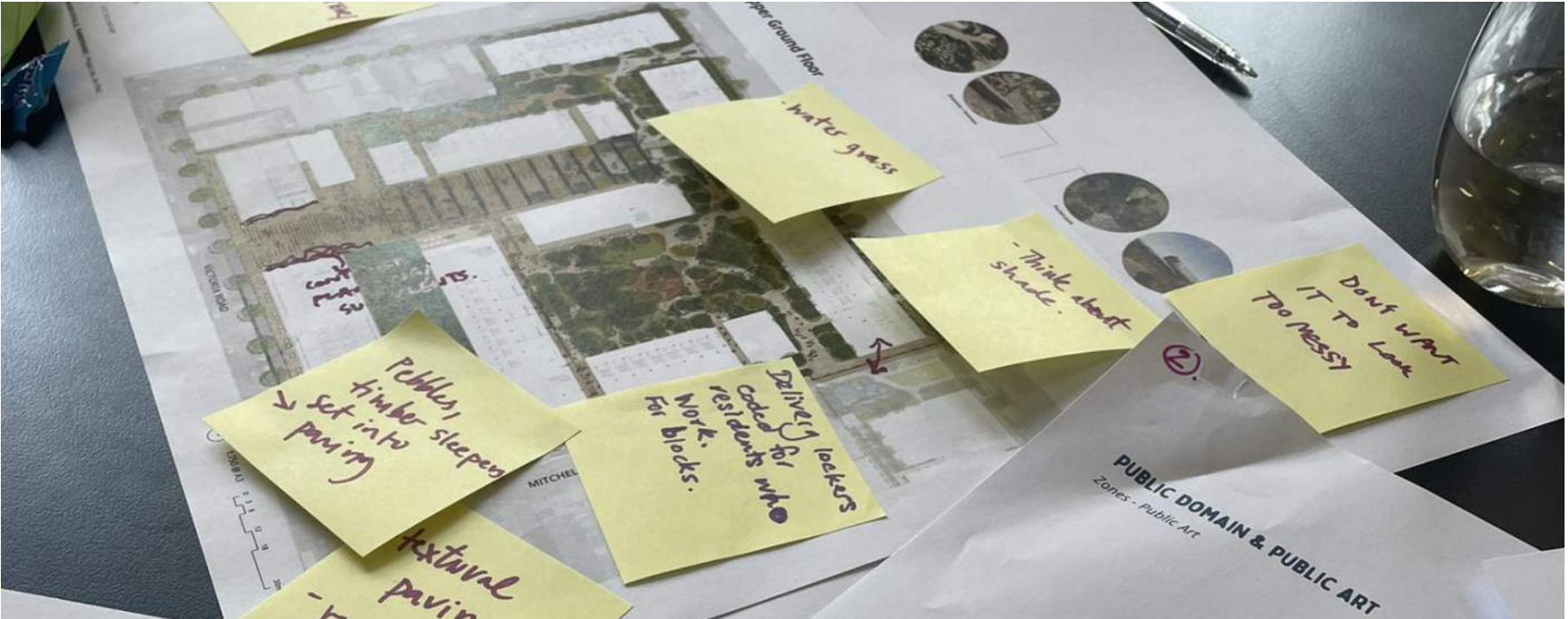


Figure.32 - Image | Community Feedback session I Yerrabingin.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SESSION

Discussion and Findings

Architectural Feedback:

Building names could be named after timbers “Jarrah” etc.

“Everything is very Marrickville”

Timber railway sleepers- use in stoops, steps

Architecture Building A

- Like the angle on busy roads

Architecture building B

- Dark Ochre building, Light ochre building
- Building Contrast
- Like the red colour
- Lighter building better than darker

Architecture building C

- Details that stand out
- Low maintenance materials or materials that people want to look after
- No Grey buildings
- Glamorous. Like this one because of green

Architecture Building F

- Frosted glass, coloured glass
- Like the bright blue/bright colours

Landscape and Public Domain Feedback:

Art

- Needs to be welcoming
- Multicultural and catering to many cultures
- Must be local artists or have very strong ties with local community
- Woodstone- boomerang shape, burn wood design

Planting and Insects

- Contrast planting/ succulents
- Water grass
- Endemic and native palette needed
- Drawing in different birds and plants based on those species
- Olives trees and mixed with trees (all different cultures of Marrickville) should be represented here
- Bushtucker planting
- ‘Not finished on day one. Want it established over time’
- Native bees are super important

Water

- Recycled water important
- Water super cleansing and calming seeing water.
- Rain gardens – clean water
- Ponds you need to be careful with ‘Mozzies’, kids, stagnant water. The more people who have input, the more ownership overtime

Materials / Structures

- So many things made with timber
- Making together- public maker space
- Recycled timber- Burn patterns into it soldering
- Bench seats- burn stories (men to do this burning)
- Sandstone water and plants are homely
- Hardwood best as it lasts the longest
- Mix of wooden and stone benches.
- Pebbles, timber sleepers. Set into paving.
- Texture paving-round patterns
- Like the retained structure
- Feel the rain- mix op shelter/exposed
- Signage way finding moments in landscape

- Free Wifi in open learning spaces
- Think about shade and all weather protection to main metal structure
- Delivery lockers coded for residence who work for blocks
- Disability consideration- tables, ramps to create a kind experience

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY OPPORTUNITIES / ACTIONS

Custodianship for Generations

This section presents our finalised Connecting with Country Opportunities / Actions, incorporating all feedback discussed in the above two sections and following further development on the ideas presented in the draft report to elaborate on the design opportunities.

The finalised Connecting with Country Opportunities / Actions include:

- Developing a reference group focused on custodianship to operate throughout the design process.
- Partnering with local creative groups and organisations.
- Ongoing care and maintenance led by Indigenous led/ owned companies.
- Offering subsidised spaces for Indigenous people to produce, share and exhibit art and products.



Figure.33 - Image | Native Seed Collection

Figure.34 - Image | Cooks River Alliance Working Group | Cooks River Alliance.

Figure.35 - Image | Inner West Creative Trail Artists

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY OPPORTUNITIES / ACTIONS

Custodianship for Generations

This opportunity speaks to the custodianship element of the How Might We question. This governance or custodianship model includes First Nations community members to advise on ways that the community can be involved in the design and future operation of the site in the design stage.

This will build relationships and establish systems for how First Nations community members and organisations can be involved in the operation of the site seasonally and into the future.

These custodianship models should aim to establish reciprocal relationships of knowledge and goods exchange in ways that enrich Community and all visitors/ residents of site.



CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY OPPORTUNITIES / ACTIONS

Water Collection, Treatment and Flow

Country Opportunities / Actions include:

- Featuring water on site in artistic and celebratory ways that speaks to the site’s ecological past as Gumbramorra swamp.
- Embedding a water sensitive strategy that collects, cleanses and re-uses water on site.
- Integrating endemic and native vegetation that will support the water sensitive strategy and non-human kin.
- Allowing water to safely pool and linger on site as a means to embrace water and contribute to precinct cooling.



Figure.37 - Image | Water that celebrates art - Sydney Park by Studio TCS works
Figure.36 - Image | Permeable Paving



Figure.38 - Image | Tree pit with water collection structure

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY OPPORTUNITIES / ACTIONS

Water Collection, Treatment and Flow

This opportunity speaks to the ecological element of the How Might We question. Enacting good custodianship in the treatment of water as it returns to the Cooks River will in turn contribute positively to local ecological networks. It is vital that the precinct consider itself as part of an ecological web that extends beyond the borders of Marrickville.

Water is a key element of regenerative design that can promote healthy plant growth, non-human kin resource creation and healing/calm for people within the public domain. Water is significant to the site’s history as Gumbramorra swamp, and should therefore express the unique history of this site in ways such as planting, textures/materials, colour and general wayfinding.

Water management is also key to ongoing flood issues and should be managed sensitively in the public domain to conserve and safely guide it through site.



CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY OPPORTUNITIES / ACTIONS

Material Re-Use and Adaptation

Country Opportunities / Actions include:

- Salvaging and re-using materials from site and or local sites in innovative ways that extends material life cycles and promotes a circular material economy.
- Creating structures with components that can be disassembled should they need to be re-used or changed for new uses over time.
- Choosing materials that acknowledge and convey multiple layers of history that tell a story of past layering of the site.
- Incorporating materials throughout site that positively contribute to non-human kin habitat and resource supply (those that can break down and house non-human kin).



Figure.40 - Image | Recycled steel frame structures
Figure.39 - Image | Brick recycling and creative re-use



Figure.41 - Image | Timber Sculpture

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY OPPORTUNITIES / ACTIONS

Material Re-Use and Adaptation

This opportunity speaks to the support for Country and interconnected ecosystems aspects of the How Might We question. By focusing on re-using and adapting existing local materials, the development can reduce the amount of waste lost to forging the new precinct, enhance site character and give it a unique identity.

Marrickville is a particularly creative and industrious suburb with many local businesses that are capable of transforming materials and having ongoing partnerships with the precinct. These businesses could also run educational workshops and up-skill residents.

Locally sourced materials will also support a healthy commercial and cultural system locally, with minimal material manufacture and transport costs.



CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY OPPORTUNITIES / ACTIONS

Connectivity and Care

Country Opportunities / Actions include:

- Fostering nurturing relationships between people (kin) and also non-human kin through community gardens and interactive plant areas that encourage residents and members of the public to get involved (plant, weed, forage) and learn.
- Creating a hierarchy of movement through the precinct that allows for public permeability and greater public amenity through Marrickville.
- Connecting to significant views beyond site (sky Country connection) through building orientation.
- Physically linking and improving access to key sites such as the school and Wicks Park / Victoria and Sydenham Road (Metro/Train Station) direction.



Figure.43 - Image | Linking schools to site as an education piece
Figure.42 - Image | Round Table Melbourne event



Figure.44 - Image | Nesting boxes for birds and or possums

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY OPPORTUNITIES / ACTIONS

Connectivity and Care

This opportunity relates to the custodianship, support for Country and interconnected ecosystems elements of the How Might We question. By focusing on the types of interactions between people and non-human kin (plants and animals) in the new development and wider area, we can explore the interconnections and interdependent relationships.

Designing in a way that recognises and supports these interconnected relationships helps to prioritise the needs of Country, which in turn supports a healthy environment and community.

The precinct can foster a network of community that demonstrate good stewardship of Country, looking after it and being nurtured by it, making this part of their daily lives.



CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY DESIGN

Answering the How Might We Question

The Connecting with Country opportunities presented in the preceding pages together form the answer to our How Might We question which is:

How Might We foster Marrickville’s creative community in ways that encourage custodianship, support Country and create interconnected ecosystems?

This aspirational question is achievable via the four key opportunity/action areas of: Custodianship for generations, Water Collection, Treatment and Flow, Material Reuse and Adaptation and Connectivity and Care.

Custodianship for generations sets the systems and governance for Community led enterprise and partnerships that will deeply enrich Community relationships with the precinct as well as for residents and visitors. This ensures that the evolution of this precinct remains relevant and sustaining for Community into the future.

Water collection, treatment and flow supports the need to interconnect Sydney’s ecosystems, recognising that this precinct is part of a delicate web of systems, wherein water is deeply important. The precinct is part of the Cook’s River catchment, a delicate fresh water system that must be protected. Water sensitive urban strategies on site will support

the return of cleaner water to this catchment and use design elements such as materiality and appropriate endemic and or native planting to achieve this.

Material reuse offers opportunity to Marrickville’s intensely creative community to seek partnerships with the precinct, with spaces for fabrication, demonstrations and interaction for the community. This is a social-economic ecosystem that will support local business and job creation in ways that may keep creative industry within Marrickville.

Connectivity and care will be achieved through the encouragement of non-human kin interaction with the elements as well as plants, animals, birds and insects. This translates to the maintenance of views to sky and sun where appropriate, hands on community planting days and educational signage and or workshops on local ecologies.



Figure.45 - Image | Marrickville creative trails tour | All Events.

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY DESIGN

Answering the How Might We Question

The plan based diagram to the right demonstrates the locations the identified action/opportunity areas can occur within the precinct.

Custodianship for generations

- 1. Developing a reference group focused on custodianship to operate throughout the design process (not shown on plan).
- 2. Partnering with local creative groups and organisations (not shown on plan).
- 3. Ongoing care and maintenance led by Indigenous led/ owned companies.
- 4. Offering subsidised spaces for Indigenous people to produce, share and exhibit art and products.

Water Collection, Treatment and Flow

- 1. Featuring water on site in artistic and celebratory ways that speaks to the site’s ecological past as Gumbramorra swamp.
- 2. Embedding a water sensitive strategy that collects, cleanses and re-uses water on site (not shown on plan).
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- 4. Allowing water to safely pool and linger on site as a means to embrace water and contribute to precinct cooling.

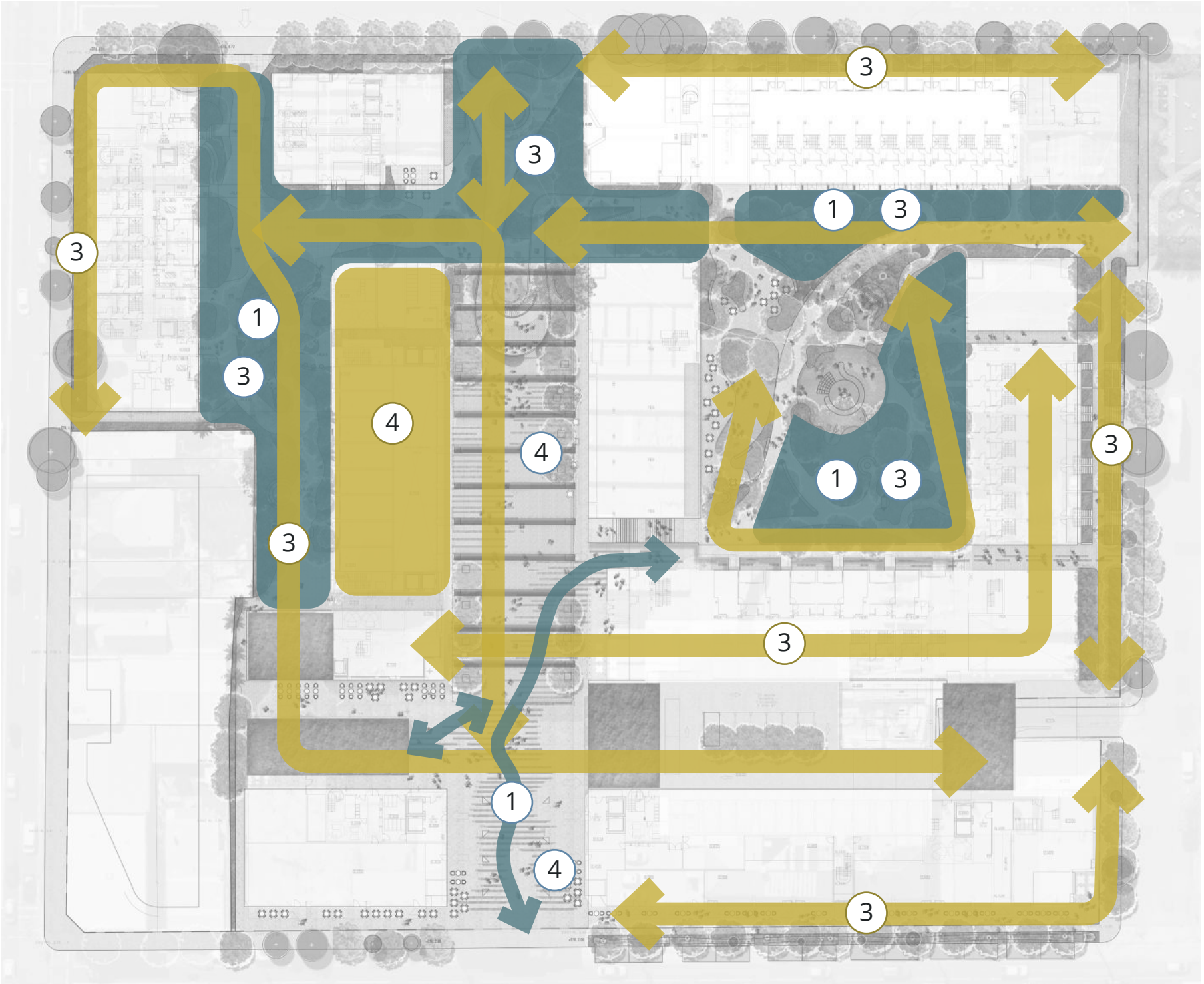


Figure.46 - Image |Arcadia Landscape Architecture ground floor masterplan with opportunities overlaid.

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY DESIGN

Answering the How Might We Question

The plan based diagram to the right demonstrates the locations the identified action/opportunity areas can occur within the precinct.

Material Reuse and Adaptation

- 1. Salvaging and re-using materials from site and or local sites in innovative ways that extends material life cycles and promotes a circular material economy.
- 2. Creating structures with components that can be disassembled should they need to be re-used or changed for new uses over time (not shown on plan).
- 3. Choosing materials that acknowledge and convey multiple layers of history that tell a story of past layering of the site.
- 4. Incorporating materials throughout site that positively contribute to non-human kin habitat and resource supply (those that can break down and house non-human kin).

Connectivity and Care

- 1. Fostering nurturing relationships between people (kin) and also non-human kin through community gardens and interactive plant areas that encourage residents and members of the public to get involved (plant, weed, forage) and learn.
- 2. Creating a hierarchy of movement through the precinct that allows for public permeability and greater public amenity through Marrickville. Physically linking and improving access to key sites such as the school and Wicks Park / Victoria and Sydenham Road (Metro/ Train Station) direction.
- 3. Connecting to significant views beyond site (sky Country connection) through building orientation.

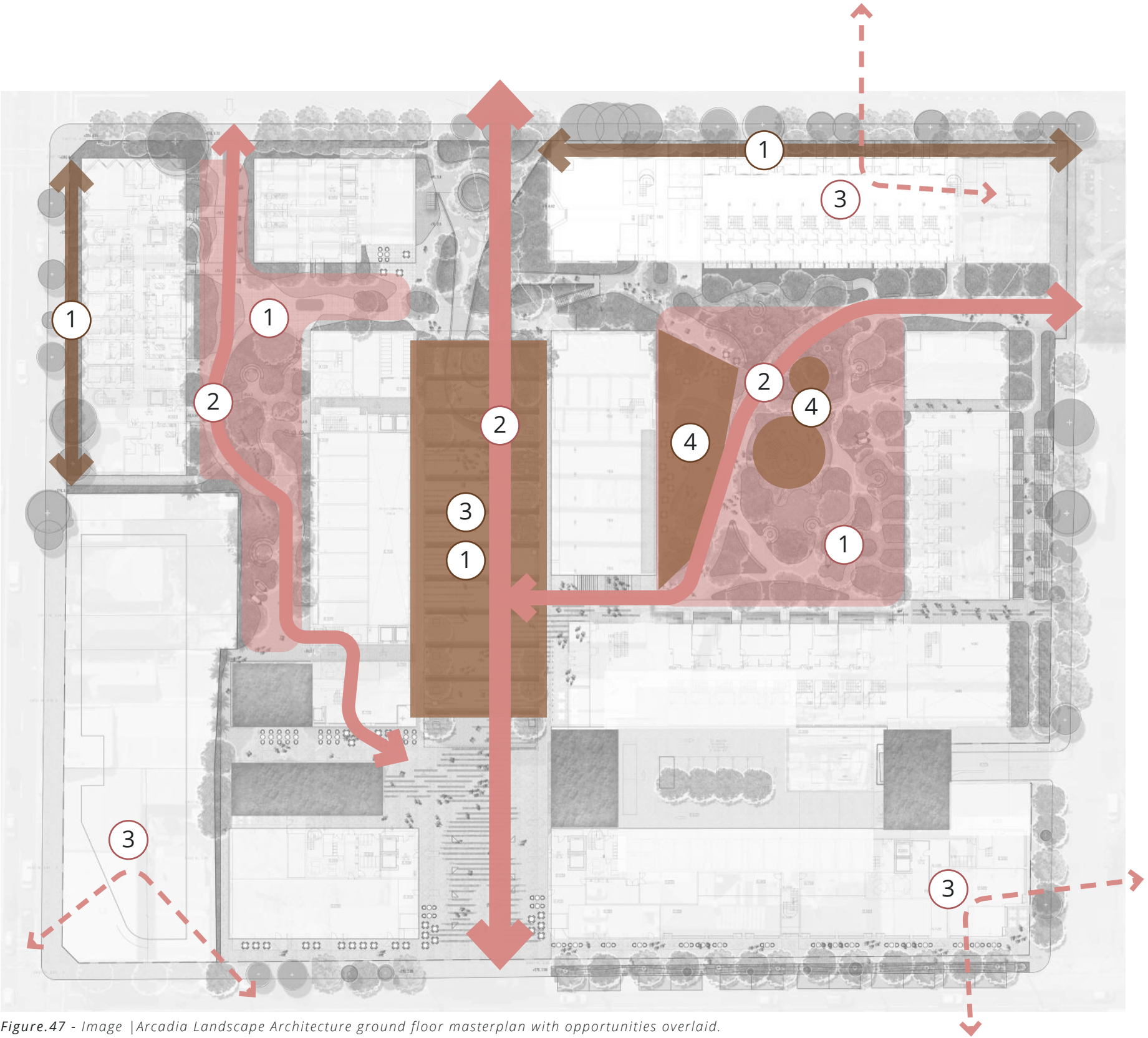


Figure.47 - Image |Arcadia Landscape Architecture ground floor masterplan with opportunities overlaid.

GANSW CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES

Outcomes for Country

The GANSW Connecting with Country Framework provides practical indicators of success for project teams working within the built environment. The Outcomes for Country (listed right) seek to better the health of Country which ultimately determines all other outcomes.

The outcomes should be revisited holistically and continuously throughout the design process, reviewed during construction and as ongoing maintenance and objectives beyond the project's completion.

1. Healthy Country

- Healthy ecology
- Physical form of Country remains recognisable and restored where possible.

2. Healthy Community

- Strong cultural identity, connected to place and Community.
- Partnership and enterprise opportunities for Community.

- Employment Opportunities
- Cultural Safety by way of implementing a reference group to guide precinct development.

2. Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

- Regenerating the layers of Country that have been ignored at this place (water, vegetation).

Cultural Competency

- Implementing a governance or custodianship model includes First Nations community members.
- Tapping into existing and new relationships and establish systems for how First Nations community members and organisations can be involved in the operation of the site.

Better Places

- Shaping a place that significantly enhances the public amenity and biodiversity of Marrickville while tying into the suburb's unique history and character.



Figure.48 - Image | Grass Tree - Endemic to Cadigal Country | Climate Watch Australia.

PROJECT LEGACY

Future of Connecting with Country at Marrickville Timberyards

We have followed our Collaborative Design process to first define our design challenge, and then with the project team and Aboriginal community members, worked together to develop a solution to our challenge in the form of an answer to our How Might We Question as shared above.

At the beginning of the process, Yerrabingin identified the opportunity to explore bringing the regeneration pillar into the design solution, and our process has focused on developing design solutions that will achieve long term outcomes for regeneration at the project site.

Together, the action/opportunity areas of Custodianship for generations, Water Collection, Treatment and Flow, Material Reuse and Adaptation and Connectivity and Care will contribute to bringing this pillar to life at the site in the short term, and into the future.



Figure.49 - Image of the project site (existing) with snips of proposed design.

COLLABORATIVE DESIGN METHODOLOGY

Steps to Completion

The Connecting with Country design opportunities shared in this report summarise all our process stages towards answering the How Might We statement and ultimately SSDA submission.

The Connecting with Country opportunities proposed and detailed in this document have been compared against the GANSW Connecting with Country Framework Outcomes for Country and meet the framework criteria.

We have received feedback from the project team and Community, which has been incorporated into our final Connecting with Country design solutions. If necessary, we will complete an assessment of our Connecting with Country design solutions for this project against the GANSW Connecting with Country Framework Outcomes for Country.

We will support the consultant team by reviewing final documentation and report content to ensure that Connecting with Country opportunities and aspirations are in alignment.



Figure.50 - Image | Yerrabingin process stages diagram

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WE ARE YERRABINGIN. WE WALK TOGETHER.