
5.6 Hickson Park

VISION

Hickson Park is one of the significant spaces that will set this part of Barangaroo apart from the rest of the development. It will become the largest green open space in this part of the harbour and offer a variety of new opportunities for pause, and to linger, in the contrasting urban context. The park will play an important role in the network of urban parks throughout the city, another green refuge in the journey from Circular Quay, over Observatory Hill, down the escarpment to Barangaroo and then to the water's edge. In addition to a city wide contribution the park will have a distinctive contribution to the setting and character of the future Residential Towers and an important visual and physical connection of the future Barangaroo Central parklands. It is to be a destination in its own right, offering a genuine new public place to support the needs of a new community of residents, workers and tourists. There will be approximately 11,000m² of public space in the park alone (excluding the Strada and the R4A porte cochere). The majority of the park will become a large open lawn and will provide new opportunities for gathering and passive recreation.

The park will reflect the desire for a landscape respite in an urban context and for it to reinforce the changing urban-to-natural character of this edge of the city. Generous, large scale tree planting will define this space as primarily a passive green space for nearby residents and workers in the precinct. It has therefore been developed – quite deliberately – as an integrated collection of three distinctive spaces that aim to provide a quieter, calmer space than the more active Watermans Cove and Wulugul Walk. The composition of the park generally includes the following three main areas.

Active Edges

A generous footpath that surrounds the area around the future Residential Towers. The edges of the park allow for flexible pedestrian access and connections to the other key spaces within Barangaroo. The surrounding edges of the park therefore become

harder spaces that also capture the space between the buildings and the Strada so that they facilitate the various adjacent lobby entries and cafes.

Tree Belt

An Informal belt of trees arranged to mitigate the down draft of wind produced by the towers but also to provide a variety of areas to sit in the shade and planting. This belt of trees is the environmental filter. It is a climate moderator. It visually filters views of surrounding buildings and provides shelter and amenity.

Suncatcher Lawn

The park opens out to the north facing into an expansive lawn. This is the sitting in the sun/semi shade lounging spaces. The open lawn captures the large scale of the park and provides the canvas for a wide range of active activities.

A key overarching objective is to ensure that the park is demonstrably public and welcoming in its nature, offering appropriate amenity for all users. Large expected pedestrian visitation will create a demand for public seating particularly on weekday lunchtimes and early evenings, this has become a key consideration for the park design.

The Park will be developed to respond to the following key principles.

- To provide excellent visual and legible connections with all of the surrounding streetscapes
- To define the main park entries with magnificent tree planting and clear, accessible pathways to facilitate key movement corridors
- To prioritise a pedestrian route along building edges and downplay the significance of paths within the Park
- To provide informally planted large trees around the periphery of the lawn that mitigate scale and respond to the varying degrees of sun and shade

- To define a clear sequence of spatial character from the building edges and outwards to the open lawn, generally to support the following.
- Definition of various seating options to define a clear strategy for furniture that forms a kit of parts so that is distinctly related to the overall materials and furniture strategy
- To provide a large green expanse to calm the adjacent urban context
- To define a character that provides clear definition to, but that integrates with city, street and park
- To facilitate clear cross views, below tree canopies and above low shrub parking, from the adjacent ground floor levels of the adjacent Residential buildings to encourage a continuous urban park setting and character.
- Provision of a large, open, flexible lawn space that is visible from all parts of the adjacent public realm.

ANNOUNCING PARK GATEWAYS

There are several key entries to the park, perhaps the most significant is the large open “plaza like” connection with Watermans Quay and the entrance to International Tower 1. One deliberate design decision has been to make these entrances as visible and identifiable as possible, primarily through the placement of large individual fig tree specimens. Furthermore we envisage that these entries may also become places to meet at key times in the day. The park entry from Watermans Quay is therefore dominated by a large sandstone raised planter; the tree is envisaged to announce a key entry, mitigate scale and provide a distinctive change in character to the city and park threshold. The raised seat allows people to use this space as a “place” and gives them the opportunity to sit under the shade of the tree to grab a quick bite or to meet a friend. The surrounding street levels (including the existing level on Hickson



Road) necessitate short ramps up to the level of the Residential Tower lobbies and the park. This again provides for these walls to become informal sitting points and places to meet.

AMENITIES BUILDING AND STORAGE

The design of the park has been co-ordinated so that it can accommodate a future amenities building, public toilet and storage facility of around 75m2 in the south eastern corner of the park. It is intended that this facility is developed so that it feels inherently public and that it has a strong relationship to the park. The location of the building assists to extend the urban edge and colonnade provided by the façade of the R3 tower. It will also facilitate the transition of the change in level from Hickson Road to the lobby of the tower.

The detailed design of the amenities building will be subject to a future competitive process that will be managed with the BDA.

EVENTS OVERLAY

The park will play an important role in both the local community and city event calendar, as well as providing a regional and international attraction. The open lawn provides a distinct zone, or separate zones if required, within the park that can be programmed for specific uses and revenue opportunities. These events could be wide and varied and could be programmed to link with activities at the Reserve and along Wulugul Walk. We envisage that casual events and activities in the park will also evolve naturally, without the need for specific planning. For example we can see that it will become a key destination for fitness groups before and during working hours all throughout the week.

PHYSICAL PARAMETERS

Hickson Park is bound by Hickson Road to the east, the new development of Barangaroo Central to the north and Barangaroo Avenue to the west. Hickson Park is approximately 9000m2 including the areas around the various future residential towers. A particularly important consideration of this brief is the relationship to the surrounding buildings and streetscapes and the resultant levels and grades within the park. The open lawn cannot be completely flat but it has been designed to be a flat as possible with minimum grades to permit adequate drainage and interface to the surrounding streetscapes. In the extreme this level change is approximately 900mm in for the interface with the existing level of Hickson Road. The level change is less in the terms of the interface with Barangaroo Avenue in the west. This however does result in very gently sloping lawns up into the heart of the park from these two key street interfaces.

PUBLIC DOMAIN CHARACTER

Hickson Park is to be designed to be contemporary expression of international park design incorporating distinct spaces within the park that define memorable moments. In particular these will be provided by the mix of intimate, individual and group seating opportunities between shrub planting and under tree canopies. One of the main contributors to its overarching character will be the generous tree belt planting that will define a more delicate fringe to the new Residential Towers at ground level. They will provide shaded walkways and meeting places. The park is a passive “pause” in the hustle and bustle of the city, which we see as a large canvas that will be defined by its adjacent community and how they embrace its flexibility and use it throughout all times of the day.

The design of the park shall.

- Have special places to gather at key entries
- Be adaptive, versatile and welcoming
- Play host to magnificent large scale tree planting
- Have beautiful hardscape details complemented by rich planting and delicate foliage
- Allow key views beneath the tree belt canopies to expose its scale
- Create a series of different spaces within the park

MATERIALS AND FURNITURE

The proposed materiality and furniture palette within the park is deliberately different from the City of Sydney paving and furniture palette in the streets. The selection of the materials and furniture has been inspired by the beautiful existing materials that are already in place in Barangaroo Reserve. Porphyry paving will define the main hard material for the ground plane, including the Strada. The interface between the porphyry and Austral black granite paving will be required to be beautifully detailed so that it assists to provide a successful transition between these two spaces. Sandstone is proposed to be used in the park in the form of large solids blocks, taking reference again from Barangaroo Reserve, for the edges and low seating walls. The park seats also use solid sandstone blocks in reference to the sitting terraces that are proposed for the edge of Wulugul Walk. These are proposed to be crafted into seats of different sizes so that they facilitate sitting in small groups or individually. Timber and brass will be used in selected locations to ensure that there is adequate seating provision for people requiring arm rests.

The Barangaroo Bench will become a key place in the tree belt. It is envisaged as two long tables and associated seating in a small glade within the trees. It will provide the opportunity for both large group and individual seating and will become one of the key places to meet in the park. It may also become a

place to integrate art or to recite historic stories of the place. The Barangaroo bench showcase sandstone en masse and express some of its original qualities that are exposed elsewhere along the foreshore. We envisage a special piece of sandstone with extraordinary colour veins that may be highlighted by park lighting at night. Detailing of the bench, in particular its edges with brass re enforces that these two materials from key parts of the material in Barangaroo South 1A and Central and draw them together at the space at the heart of the overall development.

The final form and materiality of the Barangaroo Bench is still subject to design development

Other park furniture has been kept to a minimum however it does include regularly spaced bins, with recycling facilities, and a water bubbler.

USES

Hickson Park will be visited, and be considered part of home, to many. It must be designed to accommodate the general public, workers, residents and visitors freely using the public domain in a variety of ways and quantities. Due to its size Hickson Park could play host to events, however some more regular activities are likely to include : Small lunch-time concerts, book reading/library hour, community club uses such as Tai Chi, temporary retail activation, eating lunch under the trees, reading, lying on the grass, people watching, pop up exhibitions, and various fitness activities and camps

The southern edge of the park will have residential lobbies fronting it as well as active café frontages. Cyclists will be discouraged from riding through the park however adequate cycle parking will be provided for at all significant park entries along Hickson Road and Barangaroo Avenue.

BASEMENT SLABS

A large portion of the park is proposed to be constructed over the basements for the Residential Towers and Crown Hotel. The northern section of

the park is proposed over existing ground. Given the aspiration to provide large scale trees in the park, and around the tree belt in particular, the soil profile will be required to support sufficient depth, nutrients, root volume and drainage. The basement slabs are proposed to finish at different levels and will all be constructed with falls to distribute water appropriately.

DEEP SOIL ZONE

A large deep soil zone of 3000mm has been provided to facilitate the growth of mature trees. A minimum of 1200mm soil depth is proposed for tree planting areas over slab, this will increase to a minimum of 1500mm for all of the proposed large Fig tree planting. However, where open lawn is proposed it is not necessary to provide this amount of soil depth, for these areas a void former will be installed to allow for the provisions of sufficient soil depth for turf.

ORIENTATION AND CLIMATE

The park must be a pleasant and usable environment during both good and adverse weather conditions, summer and winter and at all times of the day. Hickson Park is exposed to the north and east. It is protected from south westerly winds by the residential buildings framing it’s southern edge. However, these tall buildings will create areas of wind turbulence at their base and this is proposed to be addressed through the provision of the tree planting in the tree belt. The configuration of the buildings around the park will also create a degree of wind funnelling between individual podium spaces. The gaps between R4A and R4B and at the southern end of the Strada require tree planting to be placed to mitigate the effects of wind. Similarly the Barangaroo Avenue edge to the park needs to be designed to protect the park from south- west quadrant winter winds and rain, intermittent hot summer westerlies and hot, late afternoon summer sun. In Sydney these elements can be severe and pose a significant challenge to creating places that are comfortable throughout the year, and at various times of the day.

Modelling indicates that the parks exposure to the sun and shade is highly changeable for different parts of the

day and different parts of the year. A key objective is to provide spaces that are “cool and shady in summer, warm and sunny in winter”.

RESIDENTIAL AMENITY AND SAFETY

The surrounding Residential Towers are comprised of high quality residential apartments above the podium levels. The park will undoubtedly become a focal part of the lifestyle of its future community but at the same time we have developed the park design to carefully incorporate the following.

- Public lighting that provides a degree of safety but that also avoids light spill to the residential apartments.
- An extensive tree canopy, close to the building, to mediate noise spill from the restaurants and cafes at on the ground floor.

Day time and night-time safety and security will to be considered and integrated into the design through application of CPTED principles – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, and will include strategies relating to clear sightlines, lighting, plant species selection and location and avoidance of blind corners. Security CCTV will be provided as well as infrastructure capability to monitor people movement flows and utilisation of place.

PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT AND CAPACITY

Although Hickson Park will be a destination in itself, it is also a pathway for pedestrians to move from the southern portion of the precinct to the Crown Hotel, Barangaroo Central and Barangaroo Reserve. The majority of pedestrian movements are expected to occur at the pathway between the residential buildings R4 and R5, particularly during weekday lunch time periods.

Pedestrian flow analysis has been undertaken to analyse origin, destination and movement characteristics of the peak population located within Barangaroo South (Barangaroo Precinct Demand Study – Arup 2016). This analysis takes into account all forms of journey to

work, all access routes to and through the site and the mix of uses located both in the surrounding area and expected on the site itself. Most pedestrian movement into Hickson Park is expected to be through the pathways between residential buildings R4b and R5. More than 2,500 pedestrian movements are expected during the lunch time peak 2 hour period. During a major event, population numbers are expected to increase from the expected baseline. During an event such as New Year’s Eve, the total expected people movements is approximately 3,500 through Hickson Park (from 6pm to 1am). Specific management regimes will be implemented during these relatively rare occurrences and it is therefore not intended that design of the public realm be based on these possible events.

TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONS

Within the park connection to free Wi-Fi will be provided. This will require Wi-Fi access points, distributed recharge power outlets and computing device friendly furniture. A clear wayfinding strategy that directs the public to other locations at Barangaroo South will be provided and will match the design of that already implemented in Stage 1A. To accommodate periodic special events and pop-up retail, the park will be provided with power and data cabinets to support ad-hoc curated use of the space.

KEY SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Public domain sustainability initiatives specific to Hickson Park that are appropriate for the character of the park include the provision of.
- Two bin types that encourage recycling of selected waste
- High quality stone pavers that provide low levels of maintenance and ease of cleaning
- Generous evergreen street tree planting to provide shaded walkways
- Informatics and way-finding signage
- Bicycle parking provisions at designated cycle stands at key park entries
- Public safety through application of CPTED principles



Hickson Park
view South East along
tree belt towards
signature Fig tree



HICKSON PARK MASTERPLAN

- Development application boundary
- Barangaroo South 1B boundary
- Development application by others
(Works not in public domain scope)
- Awning over

- 1 Hickson Road
- 2 Existing Hickson Road street trees
- 3 *Ficus sp.* signature tree planting
- 4 City of Sydney granite paving
- 5 Porphyry paving
- 6 R4A Porte cochere
- 7 Barangaroo Avenue
- 8 Temporary vehicle turnaround
- 9 Amenities and park storage building



HICKSON PARK EAST ENTRY DETAIL PLAN

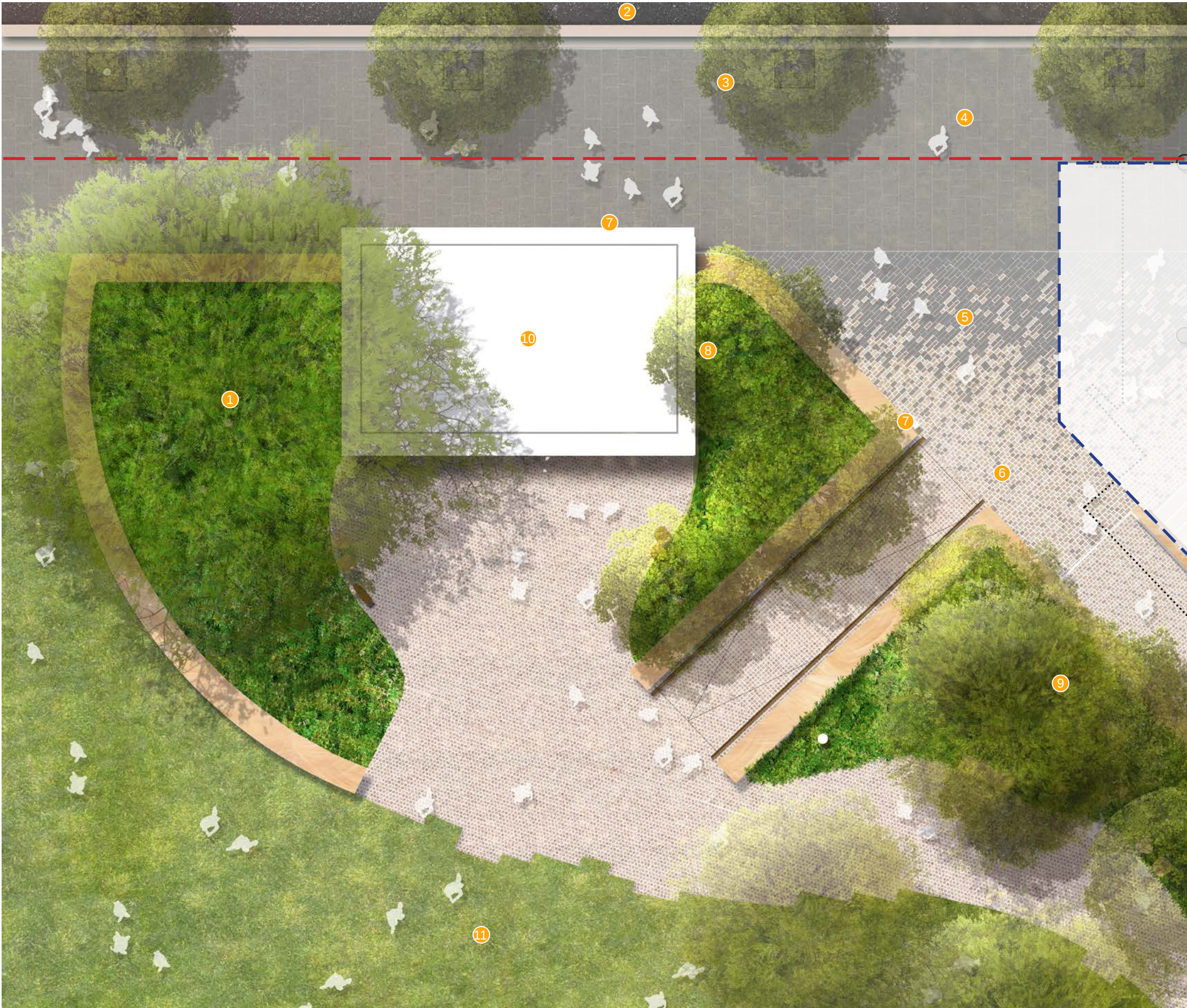
- - - Development application boundary
- - - Development application by others
(Works not in public domain scope)
- Awning over

- 1 *Ficus sp.* signature tree planting
- 2 Hickson Road
- 3 Hickson Road existing fig tree planting
- 4 City of Sydney granite paving
- 5 City and park transition paving
- 6 Porphyry paving
- 7 Precinct signage - refer signage pack
- 8 Sandstone park entry wall
- 9 Wind mitigation tree planting
- 10 Amenities and park storage building
- 11 Hickson Park



KEY PLAN

1:150



HICKSON PARK EAST ENTRY DETAIL PLAN

- Development application boundary
- Development application by others
(Works not in public domain scope)
- Awning over

- 1 Hickson Road
- 2 City of Sydney granite paving
- 3 City and park transition paving
- 4 Porphyry paving
- 5 City of Sydney standard bike rack
- 6 Precinct signage - refer signage pack
- 7 Park sandstone boundary edge
- 8 Hickson Park entry ramp
- 9 Hickson Park bin
- 10 Hickson Park water bubbler
- 11 Fern garden
- 12 Sandstone block furniture
- 13 Hickson Park
- 14 Ramp up to park and building ground level
- 15 Bronze handrail
- 16 Amenities and park storage building
- 17 Hickson Park pole top light



KEY PLAN 1:150



HICKSON PARK SOUTH ENTRY DETAIL PLAN

- Development application by others
(Works not in public domain scope)
- Awning over

- 1 *Ficus sp.* signature tree planting
- 2 Wind mitigation tree planting
- 3 Porphyry paving
- 4 Ramp to park
- 5 Low sandstone boundary edge
- 6 Tree belt planting
- 7 Residential building water feature
- 8 Hickson Park



KEY PLAN 1:150



HICKSON PARK SOUTH ENTRY DETAIL PLAN

- Development application by others
(Works not in public domain scope)
- Awning over

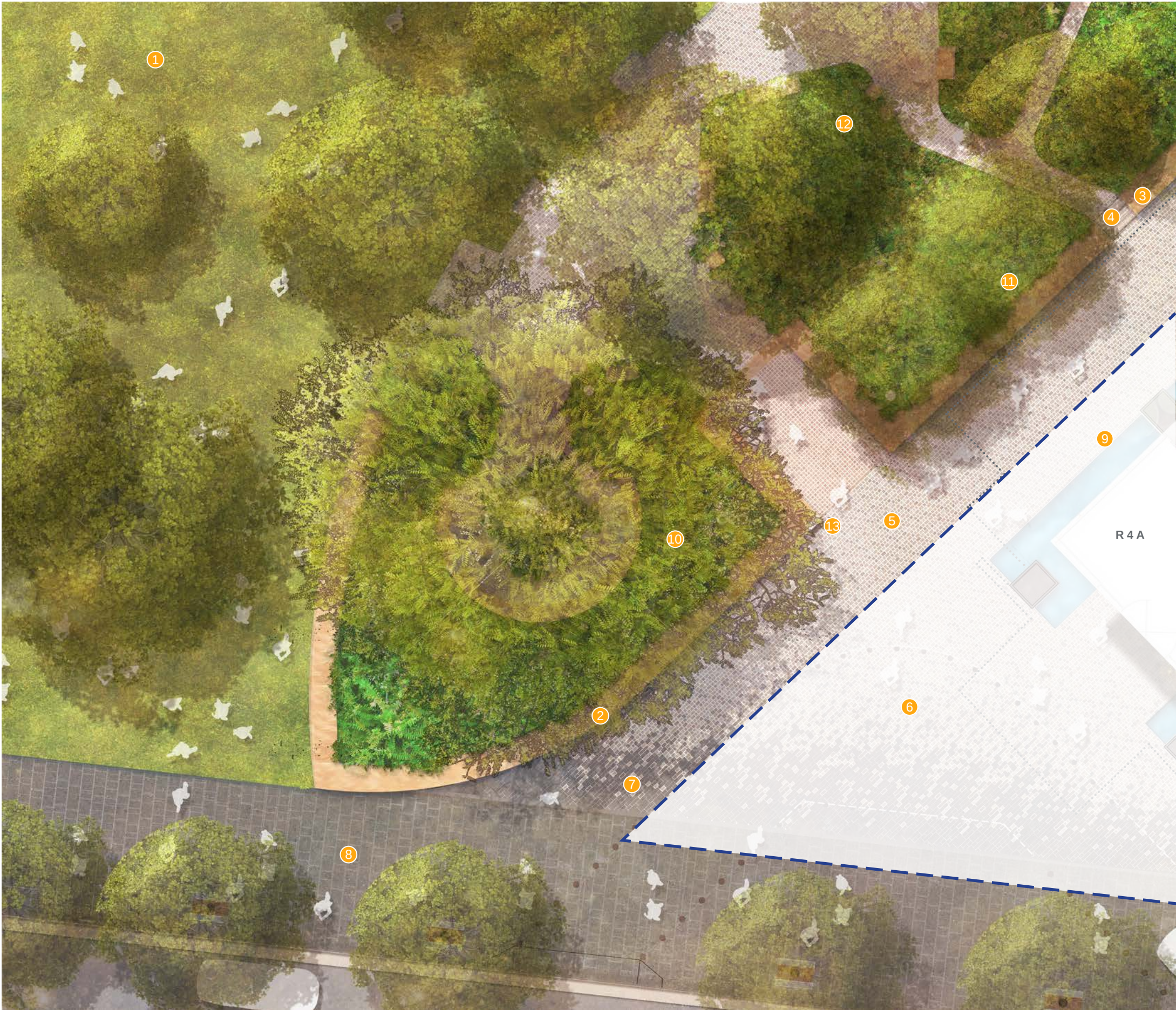
- 1 Hickson Park lawn
- 2 Porphyry paving
- 3 Fern garden
- 4 Raised Sandstone "Fig" seat
- 5 Lawn and porphyry edge transition
- 6 Porphyry detail paving
- 7 Hickson park sandstone seats
- 8 Hickson Park bin
- 9 Understorey planting
- 10 Barangaroo Bench
- 11 Stairs to park
- 12 Bronze tree grate
- 13 Hickson Park pole top light



HICKSON PARK WEST ENTRY DETAIL PLAN

- Development application by others
(Works not in public domain scope)
- Awning over

- 1 Hickson Park lawn
- 2 Low sandstone raised planter/seating wall
- 3 Low sandstone park edge
- 4 Park entry stairs
- 5 Porphyry paving
- 6 R4A Porte cochere
- 7 City to park transitional paving
- 8 City of Sydney granite paving
- 9 R4A Water feature
- 10 *Ficus sp.* signature tree
- 11 Wind mitigation tree plating
- 12 Tree belt park planting
- 13 Precinct signage - refer signage pack
- 14 Hickson Park pole top light



HICKSON PARK WEST ENTRY DETAIL PLAN

- Development application by others
(Works not in public domain scope)
- Awning over

- 1 Hickson Park lawn
- 2 Porphyry paving
- 3 R4A Porte cochere
- 4 City of Sydney granite paving
- 5 Porte cochere paving markers
- 6 Fern garden
- 7 Sandstone "Fig" seat
- 8 Lawn and porphyry edge transition
- 9 Porphyry detail paving
- 10 Hickson park sandstone seats
- 11 Hickson Park bin
- 12 Fig tree understorey planting
- 13 Precinct signage - refer signage pack
- 14 Hickson Park pole top light
- 15 Port cochere cross over approved under One Sydney development application



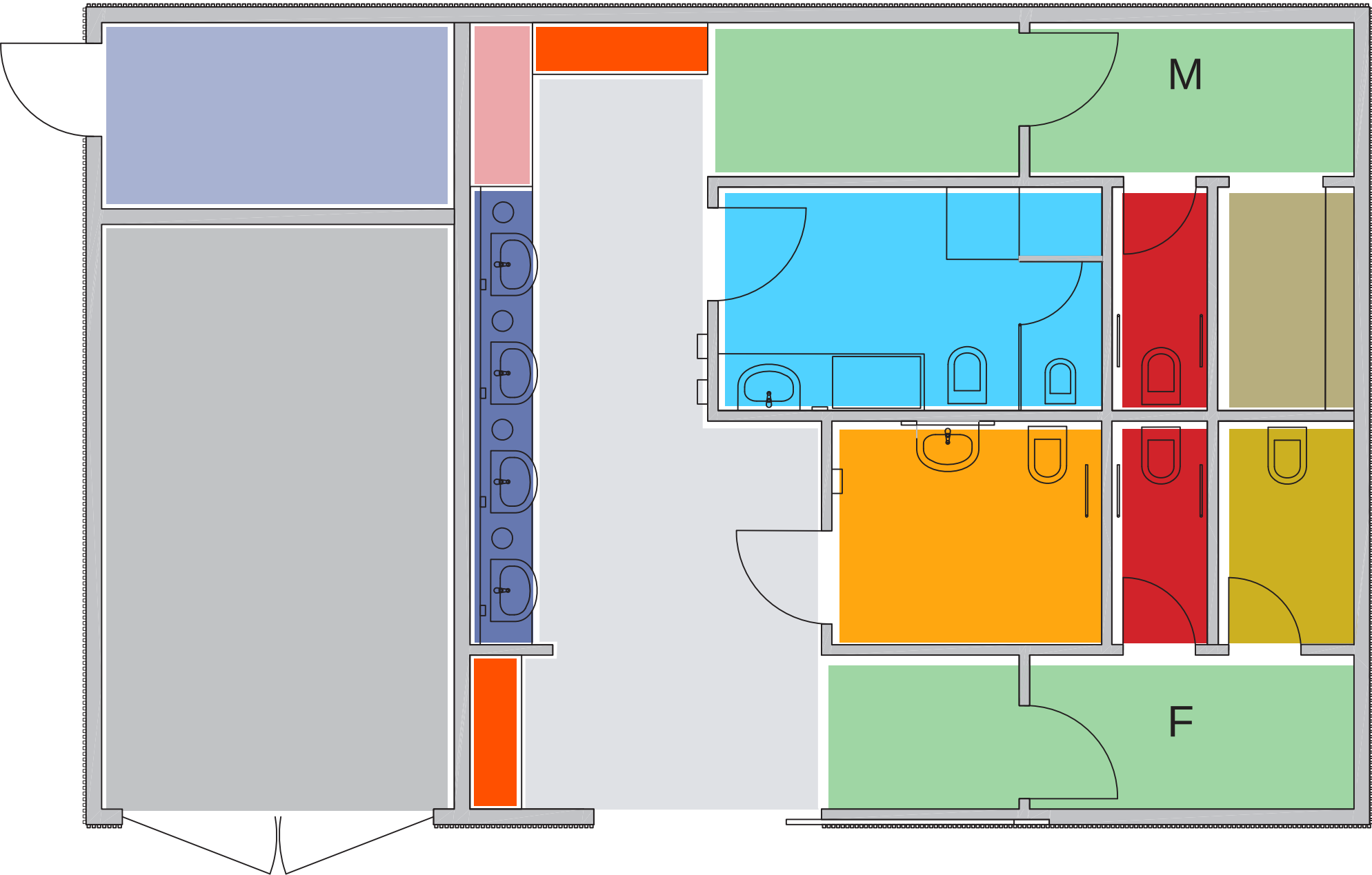
HICKSON PARK AMENITIES AND STORAGE BUILDING

A small amenities block of approximately 100m2 has been located at the edge of the Park along the boundary with Hickson Road. This location is the least intrusive to the Park and also helps define the main Park entry from Hickson Road. We have included a preliminary layout and area schedule for the building which also includes an area for miscellaneous storage. It is envisaged that this could be used to store any temporary seating that may be used from time to time at the edges of the tree belt or under the shade of the trees on the fringes of the Park.

The final amenities block design will be the subject of a competitive process but a number of important principles have been established in the design of the Park so that it can be integrated into the landscape. These should be used as part of a subsequent detailed brief for prospective designers and include the following.

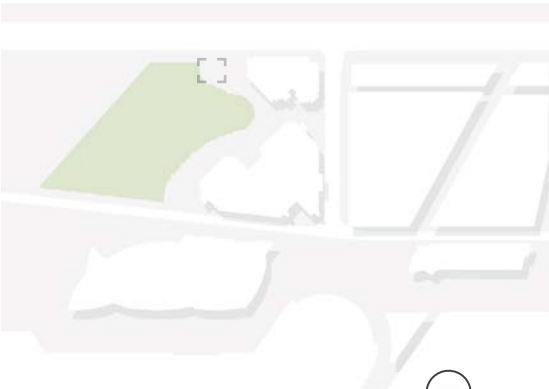
- The Amenities block should feel that it is part of the Park rather than associated with the adjacent residential towers.
- The entry and front facade of the building should be visible to, and address, the Park.
- The Hickson Road facade should align with the edge of the adjacent R5 facade to assist in defining the street edge.
- The building should assist in mitigating the level change from Hickson Road to the Park.
- The Hickson Road facade of the building should incorporate future digital signage.
- Careful consideration should be given to the design of the roof of the building given that it will be looked down upon from all of the future residential apartments.

- Hickson Park Storage room - 19m2
- Storage cupboard - 6m2
- Open basin area for 4 people
- Sink vanity bench
- Waiting bench
- Communal area - 15.2m2
- Male and female toilet lobby -16.8m2
- Disabled toilet - 5.6m2
- Parents room - 8m2
- Assisted toilet - 2m2 each
- Urinal trough 4 person - 2.8m2
- Standard toilet - 2.8m2



HICKSON PARK AMENITIES AND STORAGE BUILDING

- 1 Hickson Park storage room
- 2 Extended sink vanity
- 3 Waiting bench
- 4 Male toilets entry
- 5 4 person urinal
- 6 Assisted male toilet
- 7 Play pen area with interactive wall
- 8 Push chair parking area
- 9 Toddler toilet
- 10 Parents room
- 11 Baby change station, with sink, sanitary wipes, waste disposal and power point
- 12 Communal basin for 4 people
- 13 Unisex disabled toilet
- 14 Assisted female toilet
- 15 Standard female toilet
- 16 Female toilet entry
- 17 Storage cupboard
- 18 Concealed sliding timber screen door
- 19 Amenities block entry



KEY PLAN



1:50

Hickson Park
view from end of
Strada

