

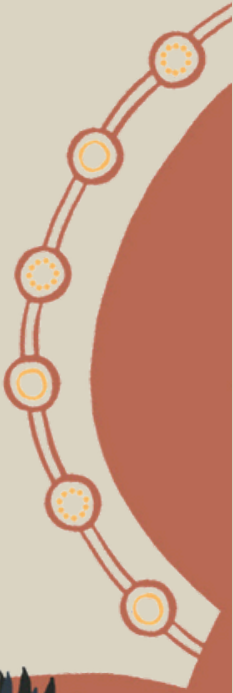


Design Themes & Considerations Report

Central Coast Quarter - Stage 2

(Darkinjung Country)

November 2025



Acknowledgement of Country

Ngurra Advisory acknowledges the Darkinjung people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this project is located.

We pay our deepest respects to Darkinjung Elders past and present, and recognise their enduring connection to this Country, its lands, waters, skies, and stories.

We acknowledge that this Country was never ceded. It always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

We extend our gratitude to the Darkinjung Knowledge Holders, and community members who have generously shared their cultural knowledge, insights, and aspirations throughout this project. Their guidance has been instrumental in shaping a culturally responsive and grounded vision for the Central Coast Quarter redevelopment.

Ngurra Advisory is committed to supporting genuine partnerships with Traditional Custodians and ensuring Aboriginal culture is respectfully embedded throughout the planning, design, and delivery of projects on Country.

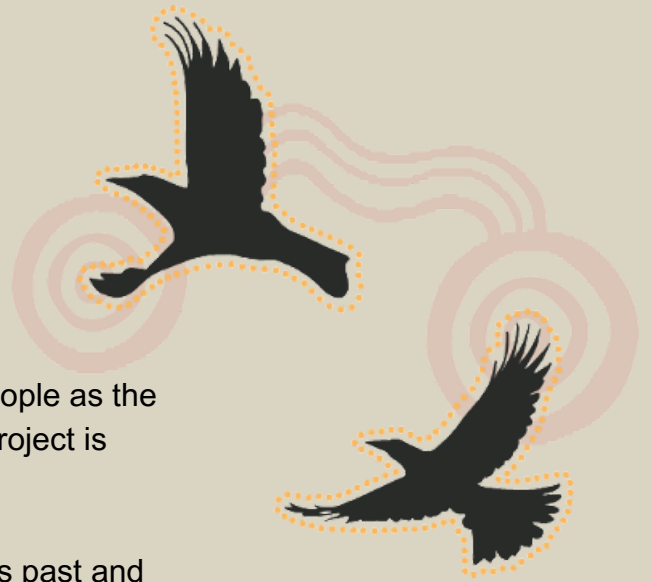
Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property Rights

We aim to work respectfully with First Nations people and communities to protect the rights of Culture and Country.

This framework has been informed by engagement through discussions with selected stakeholders.

While this work is the copyright of Ngurra Advisory, it is important to note that any Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property (ICIP) rights remain with those Indigenous peoples or groups from whom it originates.

ICIP refers to the rights that Indigenous people's have, and want to have, to protect their traditional knowledge, resources, knowledge systems, arts and culture



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Disclaimer:

The information contained in this report is specific to the Central Coast Quarter project located on Darkinjung Country.

It has been developed in response to the unique characteristics, cultural context, and circumstances of this site. This report must not be reproduced, relied upon, or applied to any other project or location without appropriate review and adaptation by Ngurra Advisory and the Traditional Custodians, Elders, and Knowledge Holders who have contributed to the consultation process for this project.

Introduction

The Central Coast Quarter development in Gosford, located within the Central Coast Local Government Area, represents a landmark mixed-use urban renewal project that seeks to transform a prominent waterfront site into a vibrant, connected, and culturally respectful precinct. Sitting at the heart of one of NSW's most dynamic coastal regions, the project responds to the area's economic and residential growth while maintaining sensitivity to the environmental, cultural, and landscape values of this place.

While parts of the Gosford cityscape have evolved significantly over time, this Country remains part of a living cultural landscape of enduring significance. The surrounding waterways, ridgelines, and tidal zones continue to hold meaning for the Darkinjung people, the recognised Traditional Custodians of this area. These places form part of broader cultural systems, interconnected stories, responsibilities, and knowledge that link people to place across generations.

This project acknowledges that Country is alive, storied, and interconnected. By recognising the layers of cultural identity and ancestral connection that exist within this site, the Central Coast Quarter can emerge as a development that honours the past while shaping a more respectful, inclusive, and culturally grounded future.

As cultural consultants, Ngurra Advisory has been engaged by Urban Property Group to act as a trusted conduit between the project team and the Darkinjung Traditional Custodians. Our role is to ensure that Aboriginal voices are embedded meaningfully throughout the project, guiding design thinking, shaping landscape character, informing place-based strategies, and upholding the cultural integrity of this land.

Through the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) process and future implementation phases, the project is committed to embedding the principles of Connecting with Country. This includes ensuring that planning, design, and delivery outcomes reflect the cultural, ecological, and spiritual values of the Darkinjung people, fostering a place that supports healing, visibility, and connection for future generations.

Brisbane Water, the estuarine system that wraps around Gosford, has long supported Aboriginal communities, offering food, trade, movement, and ceremonial connection. Its flows and rhythms form part of a broader story, one that continues to shape Darkinjung identity, belonging, and care for Country.



Introduction

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to identify and articulate the key cultural design themes and considerations that will inform the planning, architecture, landscape, and public domain design of the Central Coast Quarter development in Gosford.

Grounded in the principles of Connecting with Country, this report adopts a Country-led approach to design, ensuring that Darkinjung cultural values, stories, and knowledge systems are embedded from the outset. It reflects the early cultural insights and aspirations shared through engagement with Darkinjung Traditional Custodians, Elders, and Knowledge Holders, positioning these perspectives as central to the project's planning and design response.

This report aims to support the project team in achieving outcomes that are:

- **Culturally informed** – reflecting the stories, values, and living culture of Darkinjung Country, including the enduring significance of Brisbane Water and the broader saltwater landscape.
- **Place-responsive** – shaped by the unique environmental, cultural, and historical context of Gosford, including its waterways, coastal edges, and cultural corridors.

- **Collaborative** – developed through respectful engagement and partnership with Darkinjung Knowledge Holders and Community Members, ensuring cultural voices guide design decisions across all phases of the project.
- **Enduring** – contributing to a legacy of cultural connection, community wellbeing, ecological care, and authentic expressions of Darkinjung identity in place.

Ultimately, this report seeks to ensure that Country is not only acknowledged, but actively leads and informs the design and delivery process, shaping how people live, move, gather, and connect within the Central Coast Quarter precinct, both now and into the future.

About This Country

The Central Coast region sits on the unceded lands of the Darkinjung people, the recognised Traditional Custodians of this Country. The Gosford area forms part of a rich and dynamic saltwater landscape, shaped by Brisbane Water, its surrounding ridgelines, tidal flats, creeks, and estuarine systems. These waterways are more than physical features, they are part of a living cultural network that holds deep ancestral, spiritual, and ecological significance.

Country in this region is alive with story, knowledge, and responsibility. Brisbane Water and its connected systems have long served as places of nourishment, ceremony, movement, and trade. The surrounding landscape carries evidence of long-standing occupation and cultural practice, including shell middens, grinding grooves, rock engravings, trees of significance. These trees, which were carefully marked and used by Aboriginal people to create canoes, tools, and shelters, stand as powerful indicators of continuous occupation, cultural practice, and relationship with place.

Among these cultural markers is a significant engraving of a wallaby, which Custodians have shared as part of a broader teaching about journeying through Country with care, travelling lightly, taking only what is needed, and respecting the rhythm of place. This story speaks to the enduring principle of Caring for Country, the responsibility to live in balance with the environment and ensure that Country is left in a better state for future generations.

Despite the impacts of urbanisation, development, and time, this remains a living cultural landscape. The responsibilities held by the Darkinjung People and Knowledge Holders continue to guide how Country is understood, cared for, and spoken for. Within this context, the Central Coast Quarter project presents a meaningful opportunity to centre Darkinjung stories, elevate cultural knowledge, and embed long-held values into the design and planning of place.

Importantly, this also creates space to facilitate ongoing involvement of Darkinjung Custodians, Knowledge Holders and Community Members throughout the life of the project, from early engagement through to design implementation, public domain expression, and long-term cultural stewardship.



Learning About Country

As part of the early phases of cultural engagement, a series of Learning About Country and Reconnection to Country activities have been undertaken with a Darkinjung Cultural Custodian to support the project team's understanding of the values, stories, and responsibilities that continue to shape this part of Darkinjung Country.

These activities were facilitated by Ngurra Advisory in partnership with Cultural Custodian Tim Selwyn of Girri Girra Aboriginal Experiences, a respected Darkinjung Knowledge Holder. The sessions have provided valuable insights into the cultural significance of the site and surrounding landscape and are helping to inform a culturally responsive design approach for the Central Coast Quarter development.

Cultural Immersion

Reconnection to Country & Welcome with Project Team 19 October 2025

On 19 October 2025, Ngurra Advisory team members Amy Barnes and Matt Morrison were formally welcomed onto Darkinjung Country by Cultural Custodian Tim Selwyn of Girri Girra Aboriginal Experiences.

This session provided an important opportunity for the Ngurra team to engage directly with cultural protocols and perspectives prior to broader project engagement. Tim Selwyn shared knowledge about the significance of the estuarine systems, coastal ridgelines, and saltwater connections that define the Gosford landscape, and emphasised the importance of walking gently through Country.

Through stories, guidance, and place-based teachings, the session laid the foundation for a culturally grounded approach to the project. It reinforced that any design process on Country must begin with respect, presence, and deep listening, and that Ngurra's role throughout the project will be shaped by ongoing learning from Traditional Custodians about Darkinjung Country, its stories, and its responsibilities.

Walk on Country with Project Team 5 November 2025

A dedicated Walk on Country was held with Tim Selwyn and members of the project team. This immersive, place-based session allowed the team to experience Country firsthand, observing local ecologies, listening to stories tied to land and water, and learning about significant places and ongoing cultural practices.

The walk reinforced the significance of Brisbane Water as a saltwater cultural system, the presence of ancient sites such as grinding grooves and engraving sites, and the ways in which Aboriginal presence remains deeply embedded in the landscape, through language, plant knowledge, and seasonal patterns.

Key cultural teachings shared during this session included the importance of journeying through Country with care, as represented in the story of the wallaby engraving, and the principle of leaving Country in a better state than it was found, a responsibility that underpins Darkinjung approaches to Caring for Country.

Learning About Country

Follow-up Engagements and Validation

One-on-One Cultural Advisory Session 29 October 2025

Following the initial Walk on Country and welcome session, Ngurra Advisory held a dedicated one-on-one session with Cultural Custodian Tim Selwyn to explore in more depth the cultural narratives, responsibilities, and opportunities for integration into the Central Coast Quarter project.

This session focused on identifying key cultural values that could meaningfully guide both landscape and built form design, and discussed the importance of embedding cultural layers beyond surface-level symbolism. Tim shared further insights into saltwater systems, seasonal knowledge, plant use, and interpretive approaches that honour Country while also supporting education, healing, and cultural visibility in public spaces.

Key opportunities discussed included:

- Embedding stories connected to movement, journeying, and responsibility within pedestrian corridors and wayfinding
- Referencing traditional plant knowledge through landscaping palettes and interpretive signage
- Emphasising ongoing cultural presence rather than historical references only

The discussion also confirmed the importance of ongoing relationships between Traditional and Cultural Custodians and the design team across future phases of the project, beyond the SSSA milestone.

Upcoming Report Validation Session 12 December 2025

A Validation Meeting is scheduled with Tim Selwyn for 12 December 2025 to review the draft Design Themes and Considerations Report in full.

The purpose of this session is to:

- Ensure that the report accurately reflects the cultural values, teachings, and priorities shared to date
- Confirm that all cultural content is authentic, respectful, and appropriately framed from a Traditional Custodian perspective
- Provide an opportunity for Tim to suggest any revisions, clarifications, or additions before the report is finalised and submitted
- Seek endorsement of the cultural design direction that will inform architectural, landscape, and public domain design responses

This session marks a key milestone in maintaining cultural integrity and community accountability, and ensures that the engagement to date is closed the right way, with validation from Custodians before public or planning submission.

Learning About Country

What We Learnt About Darkinjung Country

Through time spent on Country with Tim Selwyn of Girri Girra Aboriginal Experiences, the Ngurra Advisory team and project collaborators had the opportunity to walk, observe, and engage in meaningful conversations about the cultural and ecological character of Darkinjung Country. These engagements focused particularly on the saltwater and estuarine landscapes surrounding Brisbane Water, Staples Lookout, and Bouddi National Park.

Tim emphasised that Country is not just land or scenery, it is a living being with memory, spirit, and knowledge. It teaches through changes in season, movement of species, shifts in weather, and the quiet stories carried in stone, wind, and water. Designing with Country requires deep listening, care, and a commitment to reciprocity, giving back more than what is taken.

Cultural Learnings and Observations from Country

Country Teaches Through Change

One of the central teachings shared by Tim was that “things change when Country changes.” This means that movement in the wind, flowering of plants like the mountain devil, or the arrival of butterflies are not incidental, they are part of a long-held system of observation that guides how people relate to place. Country provides cues for ceremony, harvesting, and rest. When we pay attention, Country tells us what it needs.

Animals as Cultural and Ecological Teachers

While on Country, several species were observed, including kookaburras, black cockatoos, king parrots, brush turkeys, butterflies, dragonflies, and bees. Tim also shared the broader cultural and ecological significance of species such as eagles, wallabies, kangaroos, brush tail possums, and whales, many of which were not physically seen during the walk, but are known indicators of seasonal change, water quality, ecological health, and cultural continuity.

Each animal holds meaning. Dragonflies signal water quality and transitions; black cockatoos are associated with resilience and spiritual presence; whales reflect deep saltwater connection and the power of long-distance movement through ancestral waters.

Landforms, Rock Walls, and Embedded Story

At locations such as Bouddi National Park, rockfaces, escarpments, and vegetation growing from cracks in stone hold cultural memory. Tim spoke about engraved stories, such as one depicting a wallaby, which shares a powerful message about travelling lightly, taking only what is needed, and walking respectfully through Country. These places offer reminders that cultural presence is etched into the land, not always visible but always felt.

Learning About Country

Sky Country and Staples Lookout

At Staples Point, the team witnessed a quiet sunrise, reinforcing the connection between sky, water, and light. Tim shared the importance of recognising these daily and seasonal transitions as part of Sky Country, an often overlooked aspect of cultural design. Architecture and landscape can respond to this by embracing natural light, prevailing winds, and sun orientation to bring rhythm and energy flow into the built environment.

Brisbane Water and Water-beings

Brisbane Water is more than a geographic feature, it is a cultural and ecological lifeline. It holds stories, connects communities, and supports marine species that serve as seasonal indicators. Water is a being in its own right, and must be treated with care and respect. From rain gardens to naturalised swales and riparian planting, the design approach must protect the health of these waters and respond to their movement and memory.

Critical Concerns

Impacts of previous development

Tim reflected on the long-term environmental and cultural impacts of development across the Central Coast region. These include altered waterways, loss of vegetation, disrupted ecological cycles, and changes that have reduced access to healthy Country.

Country Treated as a Backdrop

A key concern raised was the way Country is often treated as a passive setting or constraint, something to build around, rather than a living system with identity, memory, and authority. This mindset risks diminishing deep connections between Aboriginal people and the estuarine, coastal, and ridgeline systems that define this part of Darkinjung Country.

Representation and Cultural Authority

Tim clarified that cultural decisions, interpretation, and naming must be guided by the appropriate Aboriginal voices with direct connection to this place. There was a strong emphasis on the importance of cultural validation being led by local Aboriginal educators and knowledge holders, not assumed representatives. This ensures that Aboriginal culture is represented with accuracy, integrity, and cultural safety.

Cultural and Site Insights

Darkinjung Country Context

This part of Darkinjung Country is defined by saltwater systems, bushland ridgelines, sandstone escarpments, and estuarine ecologies. These landscapes hold knowledge related to fishing, gathering, navigation, seasonal change, and ceremonial practices that continue today. The area around Bouddi National Park, which means heart, reflects deep emotional and cultural attachment to place.

Learning About Country

Cultural Storylines and Ecological Relationships

Time on Country with Tim Selwyn offered insights into the cultural and ecological importance of this landscape. Brisbane Water, for example, is a living being that supports life, connects people, and holds ancestral memory. Tim described how species, landforms, and natural systems carry teachings, and shared the importance of allowing these systems to guide how we plan, design, and build.

Animals as Ecological and Cultural Teachers

While on Country, the team observed kookaburras, black cockatoos, king parrots, brush turkeys, dragonflies, butterflies, and bees. Tim also spoke about the significance of other species including eagles, kangaroos, wallabies, whales, and brush tail possums as important indicators of seasonal movement, water health, and changes in Country.

These species are not just fauna, they are messengers, teachers, and story-carriers.

Waterways as Lifeblood

Brisbane Water and its connected estuarine systems are central to cultural identity and community health. These waterways guide movement, mark seasonal change, and provide food, story, and spiritual connection. Tim shared how water quality, flow, and edge condition all impact the ability for Aboriginal people to maintain relationship with Country.

Guidance & Reflections

Country-Led Engagement Approach

Walking on Country, observing light, water, movement, and life directly informed the team's understanding of place. Rather than relying on distant references, the project team experienced firsthand the systems and stories that define this landscape.

This emphasised the importance of ongoing learning from local Aboriginal educators, not one-off consultation.

Development Principles

Cultural guidance shared through the process has reinforced that development on Darkinjung Country must prioritise:

- Reciprocity — giving back to Country, not just mitigating impact
- Cultural safety — ensuring respectful representation and validation
- Restoration over compensation — replanting, habitat repair, ecological connection
- Ongoing Aboriginal involvement — during and after construction
- Visibility of Aboriginal identity and values
- Use of existing, natural, and repurposed materials - wherever possible

Learning About Country

Healing and Restoration

There is a clear need to heal disturbed ecosystems, restore tree canopy, replant riparian edges, and return habitats for birds, insects, and aquatic life. Restoring ecological balance is not separate from cultural care, it is part of it.

Stewardship and Long-Term Partnerships

There is strong interest in exploring long-term partnerships that allow Aboriginal people to remain involved in caring for Country beyond the life of the SSDA.

This may include:

- Biodiversity offsets
- Interpretive planning
- Cultural education and employment programs

Built Environment & Architecture

Designing for Cultural Safety and Wellbeing

Built form should reflect care for both physical and cultural wellbeing, by offering:

- Spaces that feel welcoming, open, and safe
- Integration of natural materials, light, and airflow
- Community facilities that are accessible and multipurpose
- Opportunities to repurpose structures for cultural or community use

Materials and Textures

Materials should reflect the natural palette of Darkinjung Country, stone, timber, ochres, soil tones, and textures that speak to place.

Connection to Light, Air, and Water

Design should maintain strong sensory and visual relationships to:

- Brisbane Water and surrounding estuaries
- Green corridors and existing tree canopy
- Sky Country, sun, wind, and seasonal change

Naming and Language

Place-naming and signage should offer opportunities to embed Darkinjung language, with validation and guidance from cultural representatives. Names can reflect local species, plant life, water systems, and ecological patterns.

Landscape Considerations

Keeping Country Green and Breathing

Landscape design should support:

- Endemic native planting
- Preservation and reuse of mature trees

Supporting Animal and Bird Life

Design must accommodate and enhance habitat for:

- Birds
- Pollinators
- Nocturnal species and small mammals
- Inclusion of wildlife-sensitive lighting, planted corridors, and habitat nodes is critical.

Learning About Country

Restoring Water Systems

Water-sensitive design should support:

- Rain gardens and biofiltration integrated into plazas, building interfaces, and forecourts to manage stormwater naturally
- Wetland rehabilitation within landscaped setbacks or communal open space to support ecology and visual amenity
- Integrated waterway management informed by cultural knowledge, recognising water as a living system with story, memory, and responsibility

Wayfinding & Public Art

Symbolic Signage

Motifs, forms, and path design may reflect:

- River movement
- Ecological rhythms
- Behaviour of species
- Storylines and teaching places

Public Art

Darkinjung-led art installations can reflect:

- Saltwater connections and marine life
- Cycles of resilience and regeneration
- Interplay between land, sky, and water

Digital and Interpretive Storytelling

Interpretation may include:

- QR codes or audio stories
- Ecological and seasonal knowledge
- Darkinjung language and place names
- Memories and histories tied to the landscape

This supports cultural visibility, learning, and deeper community connection with place.



Design Themes

Drawing on the teachings, reflections, and cultural priorities shared by Darkinjung Cultural Custodians, the following design themes provide a framework for embedding Country-led principles throughout the planning, landscape, architecture, and public domain design.

These themes recognise the deep cultural, ecological, and historical significance of this part of Darkinjung Country and guide the project toward outcomes grounded in respect, stewardship, ecological care, and cultural continuity.

The four design themes are:

1. Country with Memory and Responsibility
2. Saltwater Systems and Estuarine Knowledge
3. Seasonal Indicators, Animals and Ecological Storytelling
4. Cultural Continuity and Community Wellbeing

Each theme is explored on the following pages, offering practical guidance for how they can be expressed across the site, from built form and landscape design to cultural interpretation, materiality, and ecological restoration.

Together, they form a roadmap for designing with, for, and alongside Country, ensuring that Darkinjung presence, knowledge, and story remain embedded across the life of the project.



Design Themes

Design Theme 1: Country with Memory and Responsibility

Recognising Country as Living, Storied, and Sacred

Concept

Country is not a backdrop or a resource, it is a living system with memory, responsibility, and spirit. This theme acknowledges Darkinjung Country as layered with ancestral presence, ecological story, and cultural teachings. Engravings, scar trees, grinding grooves, and local landmarks, like those found throughout Gosford and Bouddi National Park, confirm long-standing relationships between people, place, and story.

This theme affirms that all development must honour Country's past, protect its present, and contribute positively to its future.

Design Elements

- Cultural markers, engravings, and interpreted stories integrated into landscape and built form (e.g. kangaroo journey stories, scar trees, grinding grooves).
- Use of raw textures, carved surfaces, and ochre tones to express Country's memory through touch and form.
- Interpretive storytelling via digital or tactile mediums, supporting ongoing learning and cultural respect.
- Quiet gathering spaces or reflection zones acknowledging the unceded nature of Country and its deep histories.

Purpose

To honour the living memory of Country and its ongoing significance to Darkinjung people. This theme invites visitors to slow down, connect, and understand that every part of the site holds meaning, story, and responsibility.



Design Themes

Design Theme 2:

Saltwater Systems and Estuarine Knowledge

Waterways Shaping Identity, Movement, and Connection

Concept

The Gosford region is shaped by Brisbane Water and its tidal, estuarine systems. These waters are not simply physical features, they are carriers of cultural knowledge, seasonal rhythms, and food sources. Stories shared on Country reflect the significance of water animals, mangroves, and tidal flows in guiding movement, trade, and ceremony.

This theme celebrates the life-giving nature of saltwater and the responsibilities it places on us to listen, learn, and care.

Design Elements

- Pavement patterns, seating forms, and façade details that reflect tidal movement, ripples, and estuarine textures.
- Sculptural references to water animals (e.g. whales, mullet, eels) as seasonal markers and storyholders.
- Water-sensitive urban design features (e.g. biofiltration, rain gardens) that support visual, ecological, and cultural connections to water.
- Interpretive elements that explain traditional relationships to tidal cycles, harvesting practices, and water quality indicators.

Purpose

To embed the presence and knowledge of water across the site, acknowledging its central role in sustaining life, culture, and ecological wellbeing on Darkinjung Country



Design Themes

Design Theme 3:

Seasonal Indicators, Animals, and Ecological Storytelling

Reading Country Through Seasons, Movement, and Change

Concept

Country communicates through birds, insects, plant flowering, and the movement of animals. While on Country, species such as kookaburras, dragonflies, bees, butterflies, brush turkeys, and black cockatoos were observed. Cultural insights also referenced species like whales, eagles, king parrots, and wallabies as part of ecological teaching.

This theme embraces the concept that Country teaches through observation, and design can help people listen.

Design Elements

- Species-inspired wayfinding, sculptural forms, or lighting elements (e.g. wingspans, flight paths, insect trails).
- Seasonal planting palettes that reflect local flowering, food, and pollination cycles.
- Public art and interpretation that share Darkinjung ecological knowledge, including seasonal change and environmental responsibilities.
- Habitat-supportive planting and lighting strategies that respond to native species and promote coexistence.

Purpose

To encourage people to slow down, notice, and learn from the signs of Country. This theme highlights that every species has a role, and every role is a guide to care.



Design Themes

Design Theme 4:

Cultural Continuity and Community Wellbeing

Supporting Ongoing Connection, Storytelling, and Presence

Concept

Design must support the continued practice of culture, not just acknowledge its history. This includes space for gathering, storytelling, art-making, education, and quiet reflection. Cultural wellbeing is also shaped by access to healthy Country, visibility of identity, and opportunities for Darkinjung people to remain present in design, care, and interpretation.

This theme embeds cultural safety and continuity into the public domain, landscape, and architecture.

Design Elements

- Flexible community and cultural spaces for yarning, gathering, teaching, and events.
- Use of Darkinjung language (with permission) across public areas and interpretive features.
- Pathways that reflect movement, journeying, or connection across Country.
- Inclusion of Elders and Knowledge Holders in long-term site stewardship roles.

Purpose

To ensure the Central Coast Quarter is a place where Darkinjung presence, knowledge, and leadership remain visible and active, now and into the future.



Next Steps



Validation Workshop with Project Team

A dedicated Validation Workshop will be convened in January or February 2026 with the project team to review how Darkinjung cultural values and priorities have been embedded into both the built form and architectural design of the development.

This session will:

- Critically assess the integration of cultural design themes within architecture, landscape, and the built environment.
- Ensure that cultural insights shared by Darkinjung Cultural Custodians and Knowledge Holders are meaningfully reflected in design outcomes.
- Provide clear direction for refinement prior to finalisation of concept and detailed design stages.
- Strengthen the cultural integrity of the project by identifying opportunities for further alignment with Country-led design principles.

This validation process ensures that cultural integration is not symbolic but woven through the physical and spatial experience of the development.

Connecting with Country Framework

Following the Reconnection to Country session, Walk on Country, Cultural Integration Workshop, and Validation Workshop, all insights and cultural directions will be consolidated into a Connecting with Country Framework.

This Framework will:

- Translate cultural values into practical design principles and spatial strategies.
- Guide the project team through concept design, detailed design, construction, and long-term operations.
- Provide a shared understanding of cultural priorities across disciplines and delivery partners.
- Maintain visibility and leadership of Darkinjung knowledge throughout the full project lifecycle.

Next Steps

Cultural Immersion & Art Session

As part of the development of the Connecting with Country Framework, a Cultural Immersion and Art Session will be held in collaboration with Girri Girra, providing the project team with a deeper connection to Darkinjung Country, stories, and creative practice.

This session will include:

- Time spent learning from Girri Girra's cultural educators and artists, exploring the relationship between art, Country, and storytelling.
- Shared food and conversation catered by Plate Events and Catering, supporting cultural exchange in a relaxed, communal setting.
- Early exploration of potential cultural art elements and motifs that may inform public domain, wayfinding, or interpretive design opportunities.

This immersive experience strengthens the cultural grounding of the team and ensures creative decisions are shaped by Darkinjung cultural perspectives.





Gratitude and Thanks

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Darkinjung Cultural Custodians, Elders, and Knowledge Holders who have generously shared their time, knowledge, and cultural guidance throughout this process. Your stories, reflections, and deep connection to Country have been invaluable in shaping a vision for this project that is grounded in cultural values and local identity.

We look forward to seeing this project evolve in a way that honours the cultural teachings and histories you have entrusted to us, ensuring they remain embedded throughout planning, design, delivery, and the long-term life of the site.



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