

# SCH STAGE 1 / CCCC

## PUBLIC DOMAIN & LANDSCAPE

### RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS REPORT

SSD-10831778  
14 September 2021  
APPENDIX No. 01

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PREPARED BY	AW
APPROVED BY	KL

**ASPECT Studios acknowledges the traditional owners of the land we work on and travel through and we pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.**

We acknowledge Country and pay our respects to the Bidjigal (Bedegal) and Gadigal people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands of the Randwick LGA.

We recognise their continued connection to Country and that this connection can be seen through stories of place and cultural practices such as art, songs, dances, storytelling and caring for the natural and cultural landscape of the area.

We acknowledge all the people, Indigenous and migrant, who contributed stories that we have incorporated into this document. We thank them for the knowledge of the broader Eora nation and the links of their stories to Randwick.

# Executive Summary

This report has been prepared by ASPECT Studios as an addendum to SSD 10831778 landscape report for the Sydney Children's Hospital Stage 1 / Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre building.

The report has been compiled to respond to the design-related submissions received by DPIE (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) during the public exhibition of the SCH1/CCCC.

## Design Change Register

Design Changes	Location
A realigned landscape to create a min. 5m wide pedestrian path connection to the wider precinct master plan, and respoding to the GRUM principles	Between SCH1/CCCC and IASB buildings
Additional landscape treatment to top of car park ramp	Car park ramp to B2

DPIE - Department of Planning, Industry & Environment Comment:

Canopy Cover and Landscape Plans

Consideration should be given to improving tree canopy cover, noting the proposal falls short of minimum 25 per cent recommended within the NSW Government Architect’s Draft Greener Places Design Guide. Any comparisons against the ‘existing’ canopy coverage to justify the proposed canopy cover should be based on an assessment of the canopy cover of the previous residential use of the site, prior to clearing of the site. Consideration should be given to opportunities to providing more or larger trees at the ground plane through improved soil depth and volumes for on-structure plantings and through more detailed consideration of opportunities and limitations of plantings above and around the stormwater culvert.

Response:

The design for the public realm and landscape for the SCH1/CCCC has been shaped through a series of precinct-wide principles, developed with the adjacent project teams of IASB and UNSW HTH. These have created an urban outcome that is safe, permeable and legible, culturally-significant, comfortable and engaging, and driven by the users of the place.

The design team has also worked closely with the client and architectural teams to understand the building programming constraints, particularly regarding the requirements of the B1 level emergency department and ambulance bay. This has lead to significant challenges in providing required soil volumes and set downs to meet the 25% requirement of tree canopy coverage. This coupled with existing underground stormwater constraints has lead to the landscape outcomes of a maximum possible canopy coverage of 15.5% within the site whilst also balancing the key precinct principle of maintaining clear, open and intuitive wayfinding.

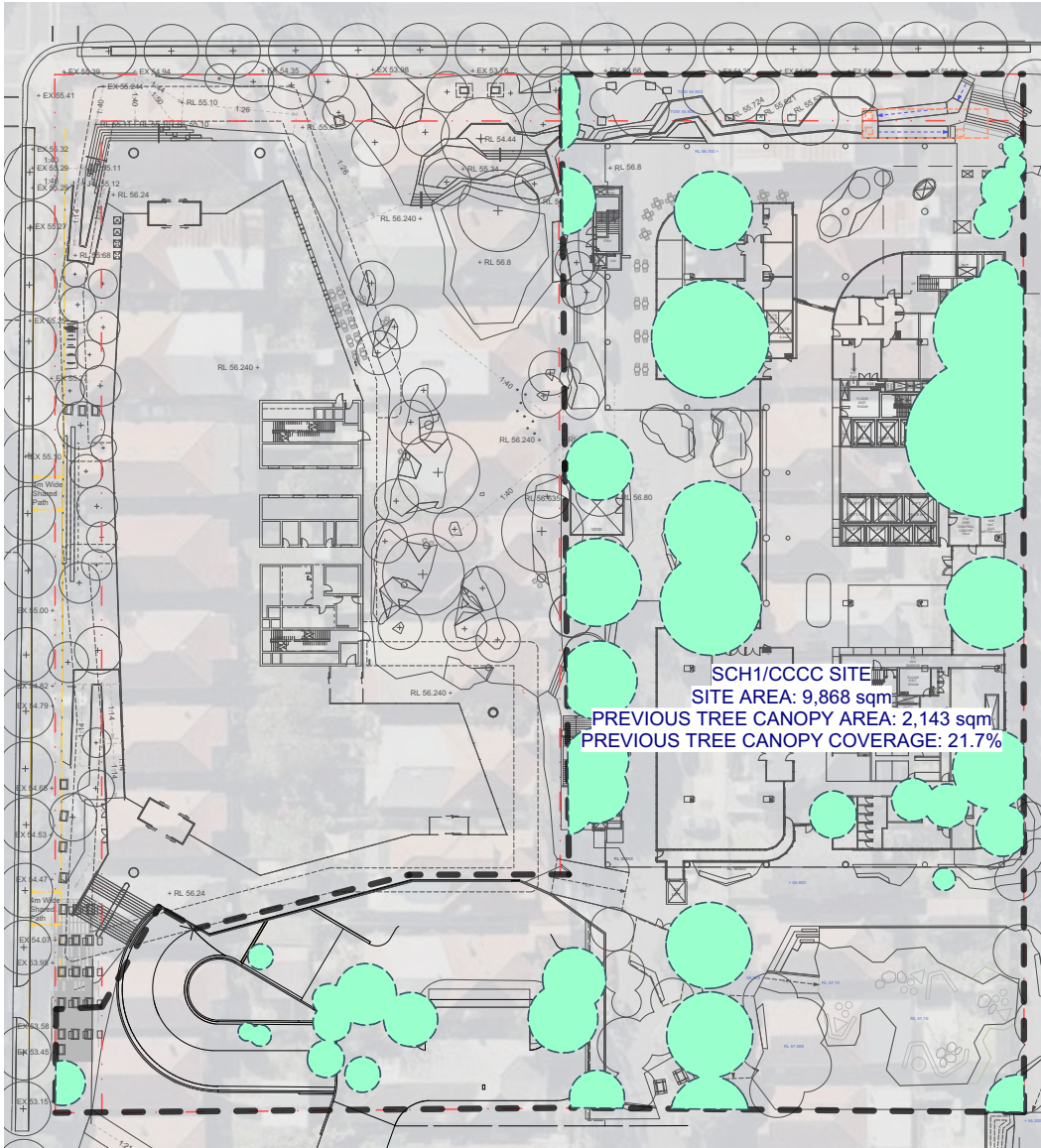
Randwick City Council Comment:

Sustainability

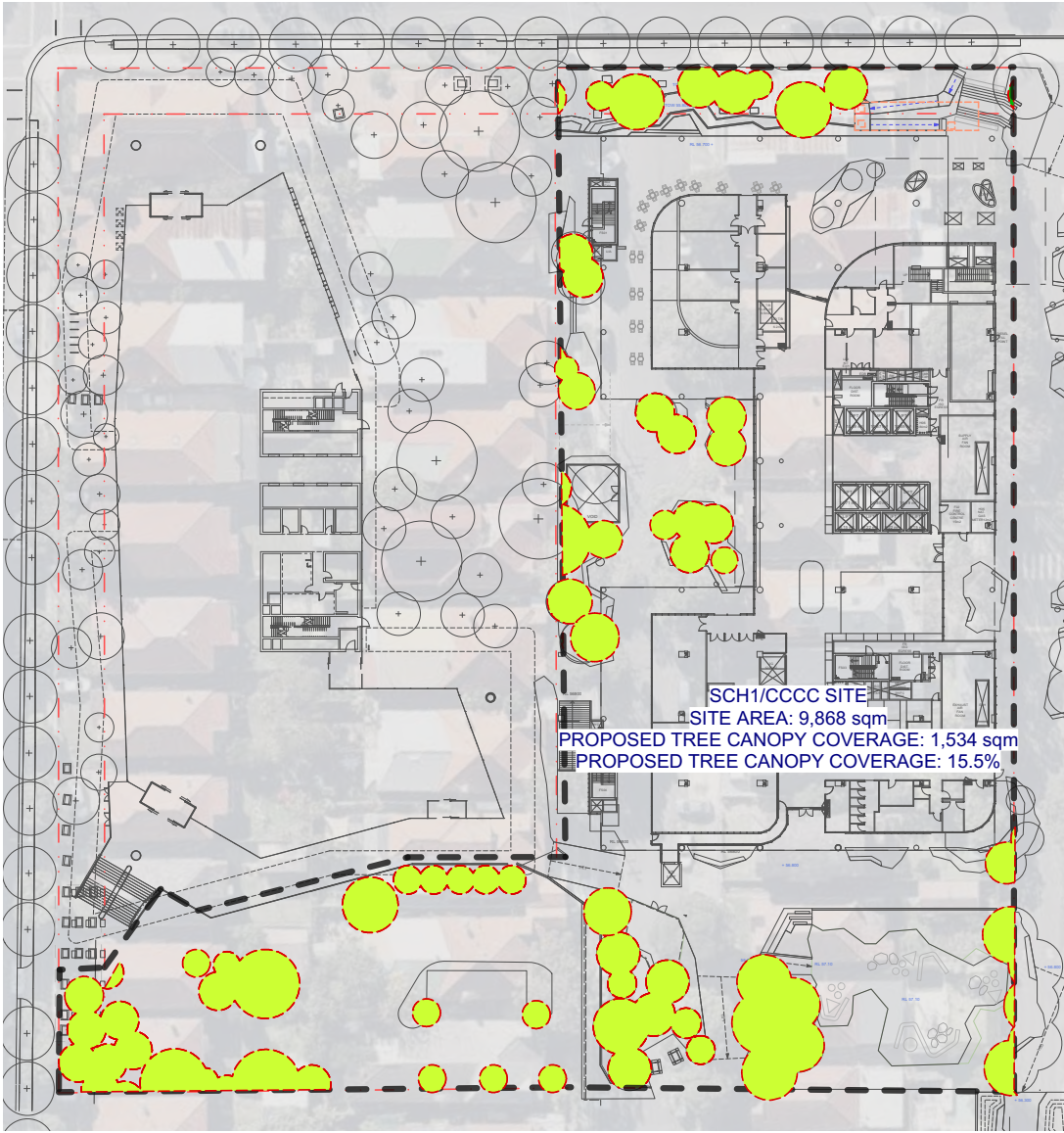
It is noted that the proposal includes a 15.5 percent site canopy cover. This canopy target is well below the minimum 25 percent tree canopy cover outlined in the Urban Tree Canopy Guide within the NSW Government Architect’s Draft Greener Places Design Guide. The Draft Design Guide is recommended for use by State and Local Governments and industry to increase tree canopy across Greater Sydney. The proposed site canopy cover should be increased.

Response:

The design team has undertaken a review of the tree calculation including increasing the tree canopy coverage. The site is constrained due to the building footprint and basement below, limiting the ability to increase tree canopy coverage whilst maintaining pedestrian paths, clear and intuitive wayfinding, and building egress.



Previous Canopy Cover



Proposed Canopy Cover



DPIE - Department of Planning, Industry & Environment Comment:

Canopy Cover and Landscape Plans

Visualisations indicate landscaping to upper levels terraces and utilisation of podium roof areas for landscaping but no details are provided on the landscape plans. Landscape plans should be updated to include these areas and demonstrate provision of high quality outdoor spaces for occupants of the building and to assist with offsetting any shortfall in tree canopy cover.

Response:

The design team has included additional reference to the upper level terraces for levels 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8, including the landscape plans as part of the updated landscape drawings. These series of accessible and inaccessible landscape spaces provides opportunities for patients, staff and visitors to experience the biophilic benefits of being in contact with plants and natural systems on a day-to-day basis.

This also includes a developed facade planter approach between levels 5 & 8 to create a green outlook both from within the buildings and viewlines from the public plaza.

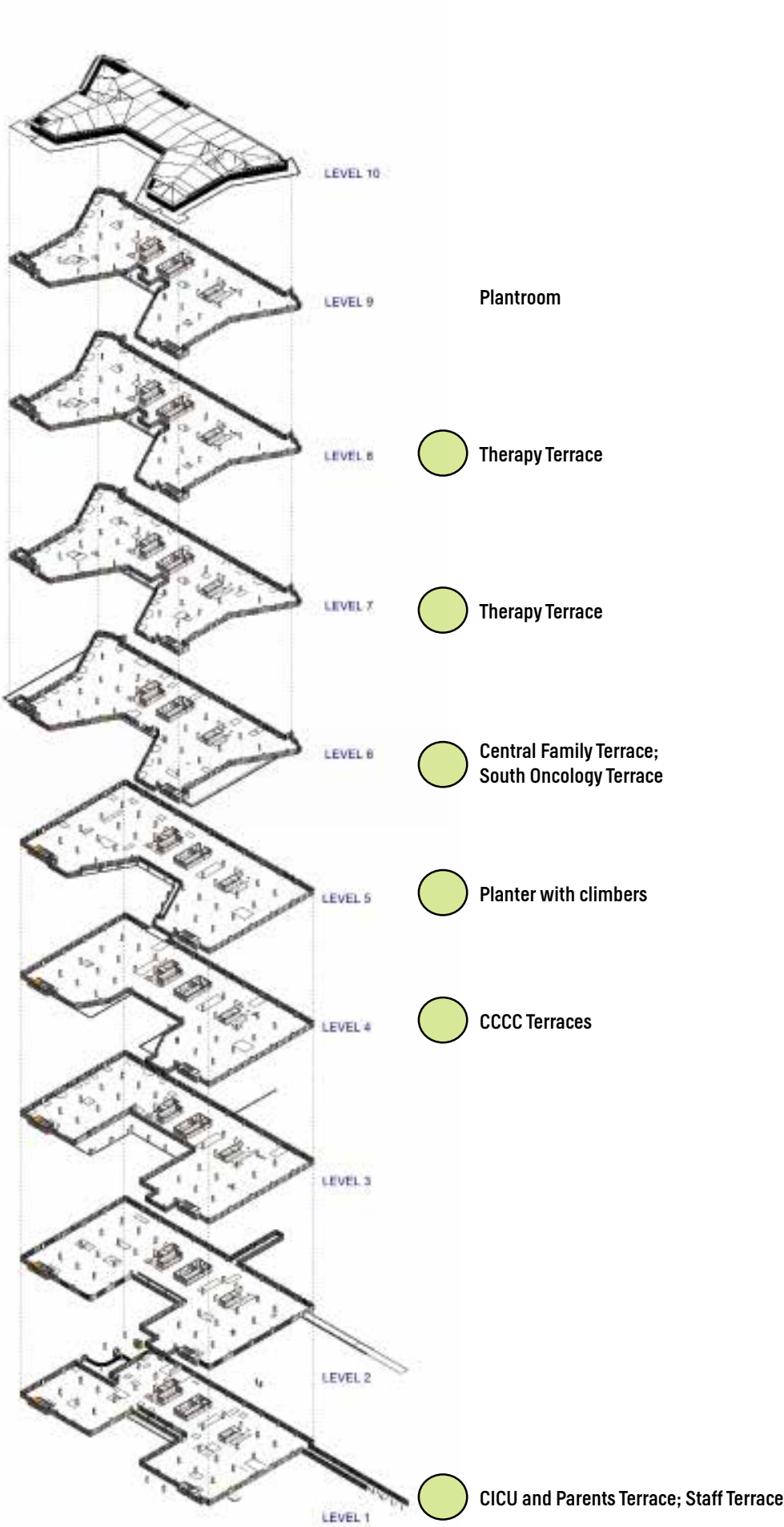
Randwick City Council Comment:

Landscaping and deep soil provision

Further landscape detail is required for the proposed roof level and upper level terraces as the building form steps back. The podium roof areas should be utilised to provide outdoor landscaped terraces areas for patients, visitors and workers where possible.

Response:

The design team has updated the outdoor terraces to illustrate extent and use of these spaces. This includes a series of accessible and inaccessible spaces that allow for patient, staff, and visitor respite, engagement and enjoyment and will be developed further during DD stage.



Note: A green courtyard is proposed for level B01

**DPIE - Department of Planning, Industry & Environment Comment:***Canopy Cover and Landscape Plans*

Consideration should be given to the design and layout of the landscaped area to the south of the building to create a more legible and direct east-west pedestrian connection between Hospital Road and Botany Street having regard to the alignment of the connection on the HTH site.

**Response:**

The east-west connection has been reviewed as part of the precinct-wide strategy and the landscape approach has been revised to include a min. 5m DDA-compliant and accessible pedestrian path from Hospital Rd, to the stairs and ramp on the HTH site.

This is continuing to be developed as part of the future master plan for the precinct to ensure this connects to the future East-West connection across the campus.

**Randwick City Council Comment:***Pedestrian Connectivity - East West Pedestrian Link*

The proposed plans provide a constrained, confusing, and poorly articulated podium-level east-west route from the Botany Street footpath via the UNSW HTH building south podium to the Hospital Road shared path. It is recommended that the generous width connection proposed along the south edge of the UNSW HTH building is continued to ensure a direct and seamless connection to deliver a coordinated pedestrian route from Botany Street through to Hospital Road, and in the future, continuing east through the RHC.

**Response:**

The design team has reviewed the design to ensure a generous east-west connection is provided. This was investigated at both the southern and northern existing connection between Hospital Rd and Botany St. A 5m wide path has been created to the south of the SCH1/CCCC building, and the landscape shaped to ensure viewlines from the existing Ainsworth Building to the HTH are clear and open. This new connection provides a DDA-compliant path that is also separated from vehicular movements.





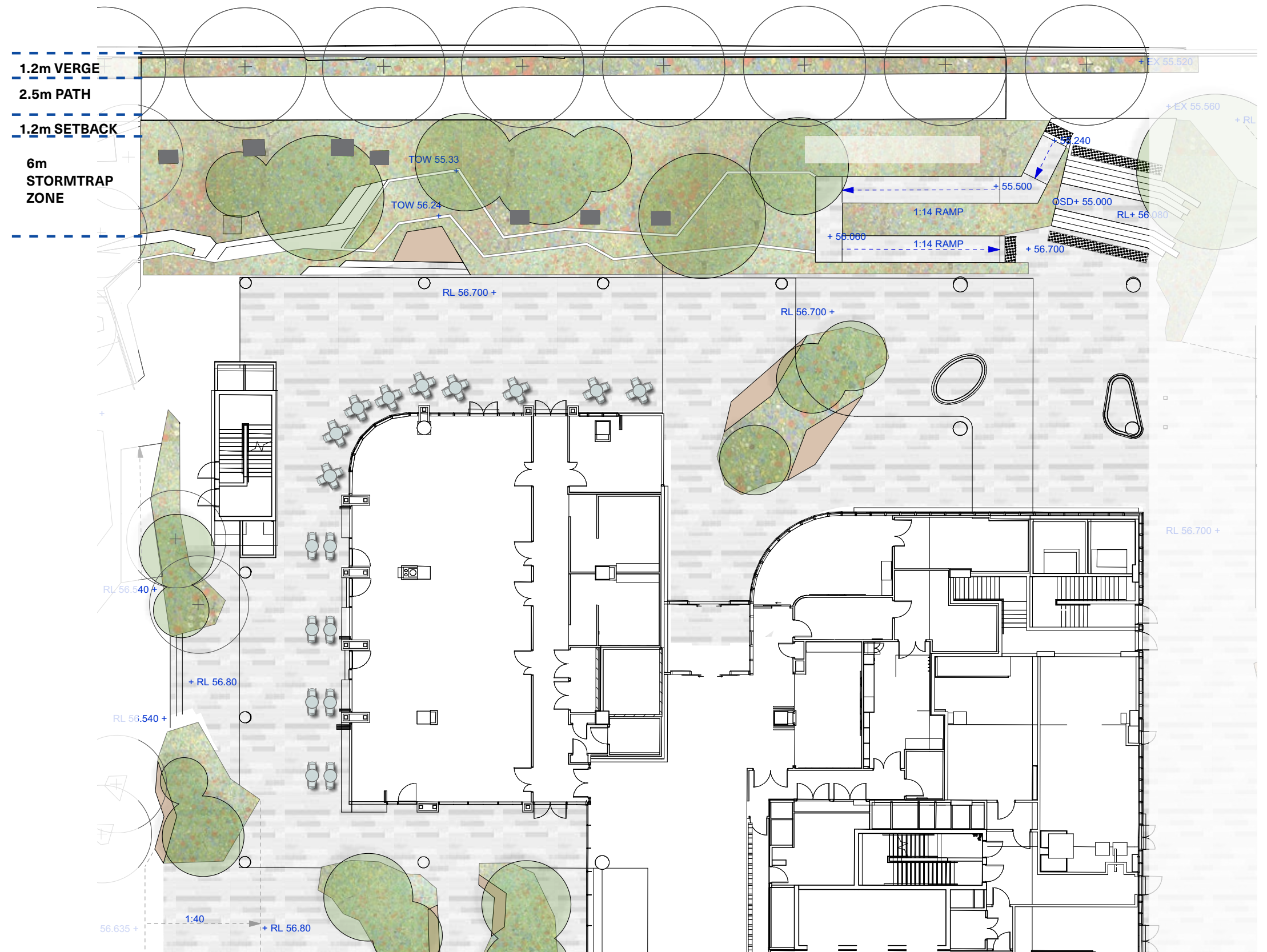
**Randwick City Council Comment:***Pedestrian Connectivity - High Street Footpath*

The proposed pedestrian footpath along High Street is approximately 2.5m wide with a nature strip of approximately 1-1.2m. Council requires a minimum footpath width of 4.5 metres to provide for the increased density of new development and to cater for projected increased pedestrian movement along High Street, including movements generated by patronage. It is understood that flooding constraints have informed the design of the footpath and landscaping along High Street, however widening of the footpath width in this location should be further investigated.

**Response:**

The proposed High Street footpath design consisting of a 2.5m wide pavement and landscaping buffer of 1-1.2m responds to a number of physical and engineering constraints within the footprint of the project. The design incorporates the existing built stormwater infrastructure including raised pits along the High Street frontage of the site that are designed to accommodate significant flood events. The current design provides a landscape buffer ensuring physical separation between pedestrians on the footpath and the stormwater infrastructure to reduce the risk of conflict. The overall landscape design provides for compliant grading whilst incorporating a flood mitigation wall and significant changes in height between the existing footpath and the proposed plaza.

The proposed footpath design for High Street is consistent with the proposed solution for the adjacent UNSW HTH building and other sections of High Street in the immediate vicinity.



DPIE - Department of Planning, Industry & Environment Comment:

Canopy Cover and Landscape Plans

Update the planting schedule on the landscape plans to provide the mature height and width of each proposed tree, as well as the number of each of the proposed trees to be planted.

Response:

The planting plan has been updated to reflect this information. Final plant selection is subject to liaison with stakeholders and assessment of allergy considerations by the SCHN team.

Trees						
	Botanical Name	Common Name	Pot Size	Origin	Mature Size (H x W)	Quantity
LA	Livistona australis	Cabbage Tree Palm	min 8m trunk length, mature palms approx. 400L	Native	20 x 6m	7
ER	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	400L	Native	9 x 4m	10
DA	Dicksonia antarctica	Soft Tree Fern	min 4m trunk length, mature tree ferns approx. 200L	Native	3-8 x 2-5m	4
AC	Angophora costata	Sydney Red Gum	400L	Native	20 x 12m	5
BE	Banksia ericifolia x spinulosa	Banksia 'Giant Candles'	200L	Native	4 x 3m	5
BI	Banksia integrifolia	Coastal Banksia	400L	Native	15 x 6m	10
BS	Banksia serrata	Saw tooth Banksia	400L	Native	10 x 5m	7
LL	Leptospermum laevigatum	Coastal Tea Tree	100L	Native	4 x 3m	7
TL	Tristaniopsis laurina	Tristania	400L	Native	7-12 x 5m	5
Wf	Waterhousia floribunda	Lilly Pilly	400L	Native	10 x 7m	4







**Randwick City Council Comment:**

*Landscaping and deep soil provision*

*The north facing ground level plaza and the overall landscape and planting themes are generally supported. However the location of the proposed deep soil zones above a stormwater culvert along High Street and in the leftover areas around vehicular ramps to the south of the HTH building are unsatisfactory outcomes and do not satisfy the intent of deep soil provisions, which are to provide consolidated landscaped areas that people can enjoy that allow large trees to prosper. Further, areas with structures underneath, including culverts are not considered to be deep soil zones.*

**Response:**

The existing stormwater infrastructure, coupled with the building infrastructure, provide limited opportunity for deep soil on site. The design team understands the opportunities of deep soil but also recognise that tree planting over the culvert is possible due to depths

**Randwick City Council Comment:**

*Landscaping and deep soil provision*

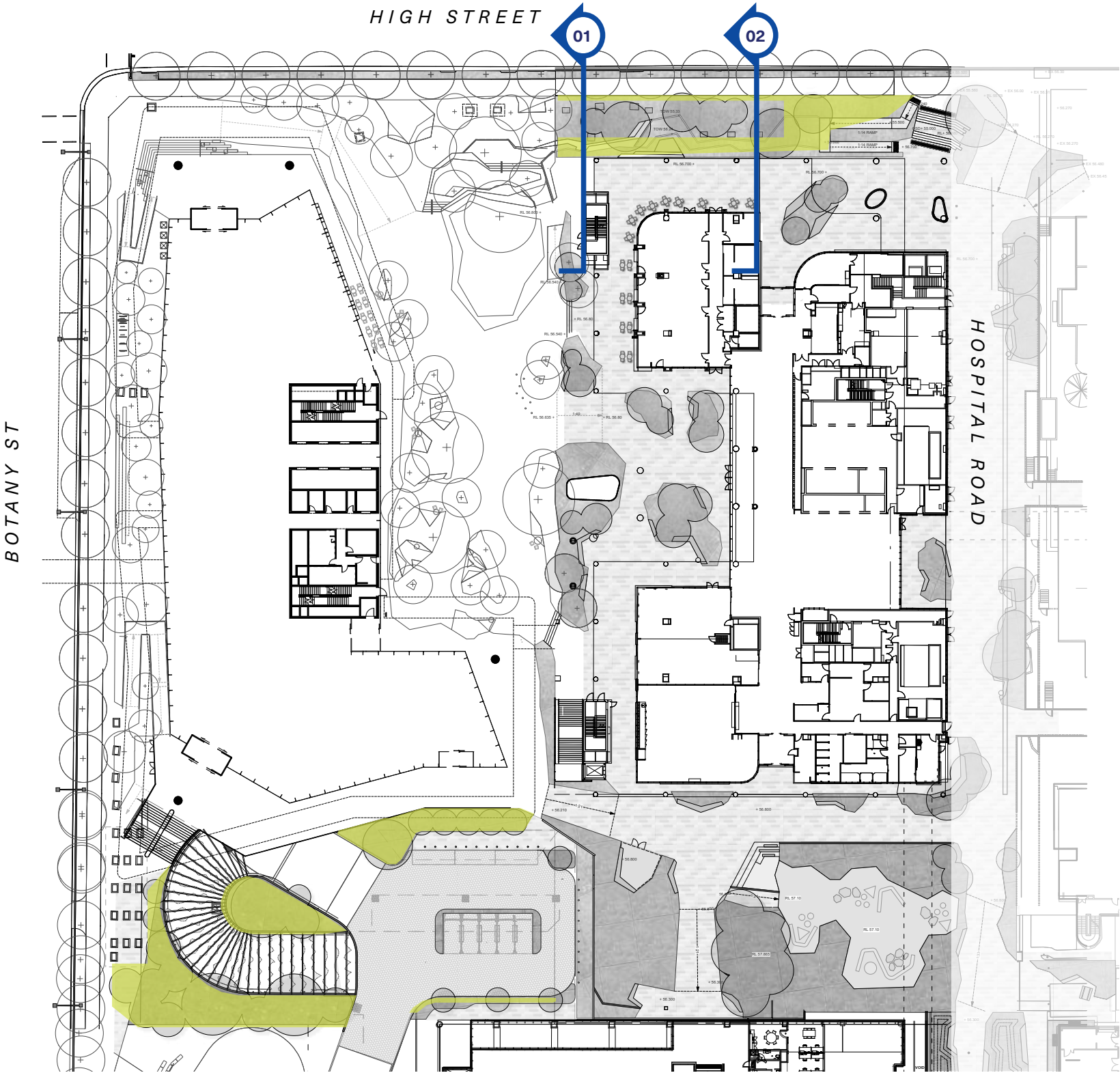
*Significant benefit would be realised if deep soil areas were provided in the plaza. This would permit larger trees to be planted to provide shade and contribute to tree canopy requirements. It is also noted that one of the larger trees proposed in the child play area would not be possible due to the low clearance of the pedestrian bridge that crosses over the play area.*

**Response:**

The hospital site is constrained by the building function, particularly with the B1 emergency department below, to provide significant deep soil within the ground floor plaza. The design team will ensure that adequate soil volume, equal to the guidelines provided in the Apartment Design Guide, NSW Planning 2015, and the City of Sydney Landscape Code, 2016.

KEY

SCH1/CCCC deep soil





### DPIE - Department of Planning, Industry & Environment Comment:

#### Amenity of Children's Play Area

The Department is concerned the children's play area will be heavily overshadowed and visually enclosed by surrounding built forms. The provision of an attractive outdoor space for patients of the Children's Hospital is considered an important aspect of the amenity of the building. Therefore, provide further details, visualisations and hourly solar access studies (incorporating shadowing from the proposed HTH) to demonstrate how a high level of amenity would be achieved to the proposed space. If a high level of amenity is not achieved, consideration should be given to supplementing this play space with additional attractive and safe open space for patients such as utilising the podium roof to create additional open space for patients.

#### Response:

The public realm has been designed to integrate informal play opportunities through all elements of the site. This includes benches, plants, lighting and public art. The design also includes a series of upper level terraces that provide play experiences for patients whilst also catering for increased solar access. (Refer to the architectural report for further information on solar access.)

During the design development stage the space will be shaped to provide opportunities for engaging and diverse experiences to occur for ages 0-18 years, as well as families and caregivers. The design team is also working with Yerrabingin and engaging with local indigenous communities, both elders and children, to develop opportunities for this space to become meaningful and playful, and respond directly to the outcomes of the community.



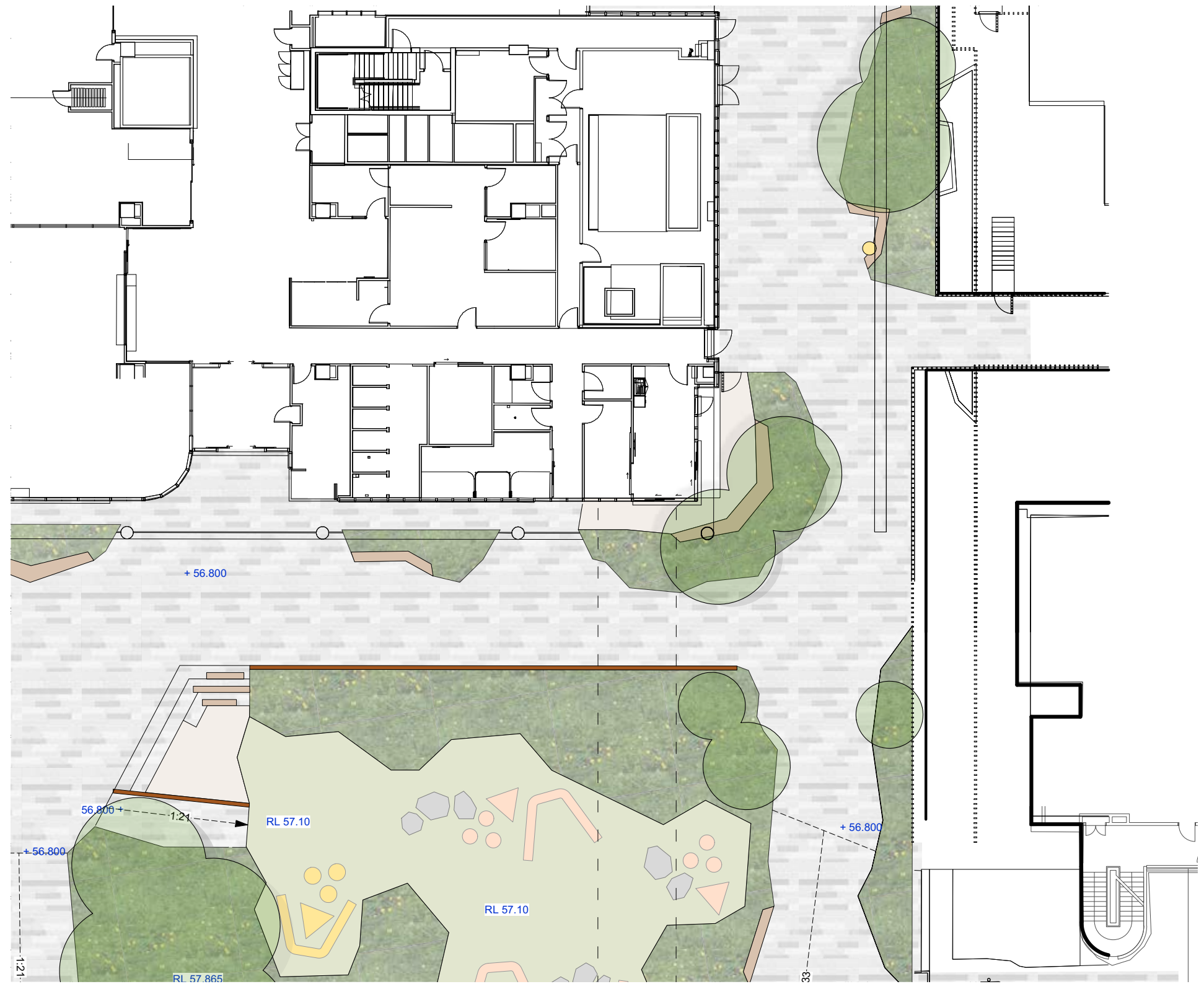
**Randwick City Council Comment:**

*Landscaping and deep soil provision*

*The small curved planter bed at the southeast corner of the building within the gathering space garden lacks gravitas and appears too weak to establish a true and enduring sense of place.*

**Response:**

This planter bed has been provided to contain and screen an external ground level terrace defined for indigenous family and community uses. This reflects the internal building use and is designed to provide privacy whilst also utilising culturally significant plants and forms. This will further be developed in collaboration with Yerrabingin and their cultural strategy and will include an integrated public art piece for the screen. The design has also been developed in collaboration with the SCHN Indigenous Health Unit.





**Randwick City Council Comment:**

*Landscaping and deep soil provision*

*The indicative street trees and pavement level planting along the Botany Street and High Street frontages within Councils road reserve currently have a formal generic character. In contrast, the landscaping for the SCH1 and CCCC site is inspired by the coastal dune system. A coordinated landscape outcome that picks up some of the sand dune planting themes along this section of the High Street streetscape would be beneficial. Council recommends coordination between Randwick City Council's Public Domain team and the proposals Landscape Architect moving forward.*

**Response:**

The design team would welcome this approach of a consistent, and site-specific native plant palette for the precinct public domain, and are happy to coordinate with Council to discuss this.

**Randwick City Council Comment:**

*Sustainability*

*It is noted that the water efficient fixtures/ fittings are yet to be specified. Council recommends these include sensors to control use and minimise water wastage.*

**Response:**

The design team will review this as part of the DD stage, investigating the option of a subsurface / below mulch drip irrigation.

**Randwick City Council Comment:**

*Sustainability*

*Council supports the use of passive irrigation of garden beds through grading and wicking beds and is interested to see the location of the proposed wicking garden beds as these could be utilised on a rooftop landscaped area.*

**Response:**

The design team has investigated wicking beds and are looking to implement these as part of the design development investigation to rooftop terraces and pots where applicable.

**ASPECT Studios**