

06th of July 2021

NBRS & PARTNERS Pty Ltd
4 Glen Street
Milsons Point
NSW 2061 Australia

LANDSCAPE DESIGN STATEMENT

Dear School Infrastructure,

RE: Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education

A detailed site wide landscape strategy has been developed for the Hawkesbury Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education, Richmond. This design responds to the school's curriculum and unique needs of the school community.

Landscape Design / Strategy

The landscape design for the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education responds to the existing site character, context and the school's curriculum. The design accommodates 325 students through a variety of different sized outdoor spaces that offer shade, seating, informal recreation and learning moments. The design focuses on integrating outdoor learning into the landscape. This is evident through the following landscape spaces/uses.

- Kitchen gardens
- Gardenesque crops
- Technology enterprise
- Indigenous enterprise
- Garden orchards
- Breakout spaces (lawn and foyer areas)

The school's curriculum is set up by the landscape design in a way to provide beneficial outdoor learning spaces. In turn, The landscape will be used within the school's curriculum by providing learning spaces and opportunities revolving around technology, production of food and indigenous culture. This is particularly evident in the Indigenous Enterprise and Technology Enterprise. The school will propagate agricultural plants, maintain and direct future compositions of these spaces.

A robust pallet of materials, furniture and fixtures is selected in order to maintain a rural and robust aesthetic. The following is a summary of the elements selected for this project.

- Concrete plain and coloured
- Pavers porous and decorative
- Timber pergola (hardwood)
- Insitu concrete benches and stools
- Proprietary timber furniture
- Decomposed granite

The planting design for the site is a combination of deciduous/exotic and natives compositions. The exotic species reflect upon the cultural significance of the site and the seasonality of agricultural enterprises. Whilst the native vegetation is sympathetic to the natural systems and connection to the pre-colonised landscape.

Engagement with indigenous consultants has influenced spaces and elements within the landscape design. Indigenous culture and heritage is integrated into the landscape design strategy through native planting that offers foraging/bush tucker opportunities, materiality, art installations and educational moments associated with the language and stories of the Darug people. The Indigenous Enterprise is shaped by this consultation process in which space for ceremonies, natural surface types was informed.

Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

The landscape design meets the following SEARs requirements and is supported with further explanation.

1. *Details the proposed site planting, including location, number and species of planting, heights of trees at maturity and proposed canopy coverage.*
 - a. A detailed planting plan (20417-NBRS-L_SK 012) is submitted alongside this statement which clearly locates tree specimens and planting areas which are accompanied with quantities/sizes.
 - b. Appropriate species have been selected in regards to low maintenance attributes, durability and climatic responses.
 - c. Seasonal change has been integrated into the planting pallet in order to produce comfortable microclimates and maintain a rural aesthetic.
2. *Provides evidence that opportunities to retain significant trees have been explored and/or informs the plan.*
 - a. Native tree / plants species to the south of the development are to be retained
 - b. Casuarina specimens that are not impacted by the development are to be retained (refer to Aboricultural Impact Assessment Report, prepared by Sturt Noble Associates).
 - c. Crepe Mytres not impacted by vehicular crossings are to be retained. The consulting arborist advised the Crepe Mytres could be transplanted. (refer to Aboricultural Impact Assessment Report, prepared by Sturt Noble Associates).
3. *Considers equity and amenity of outdoor play spaces, and the integration with built form, security, shade, topography and existing vegetation.*
 - a. Outdoor play has been addressed through the students having access to a variety of sized spaces with different uses which can be used for play and recreation.
 - b. The key landscape areas are defined by the built form and internal uses. The blocks also compose portions of the security perimeter.
 - c. The sites topography and existing trees have informed key views and sight lines. This has provided opportunities for promenades and seating steps.
4. *Demonstrate how the proposed development would contribute to long term landscape setting in respect of the site and the streetscape.*
 - a. A carefully arranged avenue of trees connect into the existing street grid and provide future opportunity to integrate into the WSU campus.
 - b. The rural character of the Vines Drive streetscape has been maintained by keeping a 10-15m width of turf and retention/transplant of existing Crepe Myrtles.
5. *Demonstrate how the proposed development would mitigate the urban heat island effect and ensure appropriate comfort levels on-site.*
 - a. Hardscape is minimised across the site to areas where circulation and breakout/entry spaces are required.
 - b. Canopy trees have been located to cool large sections of concrete and provide shade along the promenade and other outdoor learning spaces.
The development footprint is approximately 24,000 sqm with a canopy coverage including the orchard of approximately 7,000sqm. This provides a canopy cover of approximately 29%.

- c. Significant tree and groundcover planting occur site wide.
 - d. The architecture provides covered walkways and shade canopies.
- 6. *Demonstrate how the proposed development would contribute to objectives to increase urban tree canopy cover.*
 - a. Tree specimens have been selected to meet the site conditions, microclimate and provide seasonal characteristics where needed. Biodiversity has also been considered by selection of native trees that will establish and develop overtime in succession.
 - b. The dominant selected species is *Eucalyptus tereticornis* which is a large specimen with a spreading canopy. This is to be installed at an advanced size of 200L (20417-NBRS-L_SK 012).

Yours Faithfully
NBRSARCHITECTURE

Jon Kane
Landscape Architect