

LHS PARKES HOSPITAL LANDSCAPE SSD REPORT



Lachlan Health Service
Together for Better Health
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Executive Summary

This issue of the Landscape Concept Design Report focuses on clarifying the preliminary landscape design principles and design language employed and incorporates comments from the previous draft concept design report.

The report illustrates how key principles and strategy will relate to new landscape spaces within the LHS Parkes Hospital campus and its vision for the future.

- The key strategies/ aspirations include:

- Retention of existing rural landscape character and historical significance.
- A fluidly integrated way finding strategy and landscape design that embodies the local vernacular.
- Introduction of Aboriginal bush tucker and medicinal planting significant to local communities.
- Creating unified social and passive places that harness the power of healing and enrich the life of those who encounter it.

These key strategies and aspirations principles align with the earlier masterplan report, and endeavour to strengthen the decisions already made through consultation by the project team.

Each key landscape space is defined and drawn with direct relationship to the functional brief and a connection to the sites relationship with an existing landscape character, rural location and connection to people. This has been crucial in determining and conceptualising the overall landscape strategy. The river, its banks and the landscapes natural processes or flows all had a substantial impact on the initial design thinking.

Further analysis and implementation of key landscape strategies within the proposed landscape spaces is required to create a specific focus on gaining outdoor access for patients as a form of treatment. This enabling process will engage patients with the landscape design and clarify design thinking in many areas. The report highlights the landscape as a key component in the restorative health and welfare of individual patients and the design should embody the qualities of the surrounding environment.

Design Development will progress concurrently with capital cost analysis to ensure budgets are managed and key deliverables are met.

Deliverable Summary

The landscape design has been prepared to meet the allocated budget while satisfying the functional brief. This has been achieved by incorporating recycled materials, rationalised native planting palette, and staged delivery of landscape components as necessary.

Following initial cost analysis and review of the proposed landscape design, further development will occur to ensure the successful delivery of the project. Ongoing user group consultation will determine the detailed expression of each landscape component and maintain functional appropriateness.

It is the purpose of this Concept Design Report to provide an initial landscape structure for review and comment which will inform the design direction. The development brief will be further refined through a series of Cost Planning Workshops held throughout the design stages. From this, a series of options to provide better efficiencies and reduced cost will be developed.

It is important to understand certain elements of the landscap may be delivered as a component of future works, and not all areas will be provided within this first phase of work. It is anticipated that this first stage will encompass the main entry work, internal forecourts off the reception and carpark, there is potential the peripheral landscape may only be partially delivered.



Design Statement

The LHS Parkes Hospital site offers a series of distinct opportunities and constraints for the landscape planning and design. The proposed redevelopment is situated within active existing LHS Parkes Hospital facilities, making it vital to consider the ongoing future uses of the LHS Parkes Hospital and its patients. Therein the proposed landscape aims to respond to the key objectives of the masterplan proposal, reflect the local character and site surrounds with appropriate consideration to existing/ proposed facilities, and visual aspect especially where it can be attributed to the holistic care and consideration of patients and staff.

The landscape design hinges on creating a legible and inviting place of local character which is unified by the use of aboriginal planting, interpretive symbolism and historical elements. The new and old LHS Parkes Hospital buildings shall focus on a “green heart”, central to all future masterplanning decisions and for this reason it will grow to become a verdant oasis activated by regular uses yet tranquil to those who are in need of respite.

The organisation of the landscape will complement the building, accentuating the sense of arrival, settling the building mass, and maximizing garden vistas through the core of the building and from many moments within its interior. The entry forecourt will be a cool, calm and simple space that breaks the scale of the building through well considered tree planting and screening shrubs. It will offer a place to rest at the entry and provide distinct separation between the building and carpark, augmenting the building entry. It will maximise the use of space available, yet retain flexibility for possible future upgrades, and provide opportunities for connections to the surrounding landscapes through the protection of existing vistas and patient outlook.

Within the building envelope, and beyond the ground floor lobby a central healing garden will be created. The courtyard gardens use the surrounding buildings scale, curtilage and obvious desire lines to create healing places well positioned to receive sunlight throughout the year, ensuring it will remain the green heart of the LHS Parkes Hospital well into the future.

The objectives of the Lachlan Health Services Project, which includes the new build of Parkes Hospital, is to provide contemporary healthcare facilities suited to the current and future needs of the catchment population, and to provide capacity to support the agreed scope of clinical care in an environment that facilitates the delivery of contemporary health services.

Facility function should allow efficient bed utilisation and staffing to better meet the current and future needs of Forbes and the surrounding community.

The scope of the Parkes Hospital project is summarised as follows:

- A new two-storey hospital facility on a new site in Parkes encompassing:
 - Main entrance and drop-off zone;
 - 28-bed inpatient unit;
 - Birthing unit (2 birthing rooms);
 - Emergency Department;
 - Community and Ambulatory Care zone, including 6 chemotherapy chairs and 3 dental chairs;
 - Clinical Support Services, including SSU, Pharmacy; Pathology Laboratory and Medical Imaging; and
 - Non-clinical support services, including a Linen Distribution Centre for the district
- Landscaping;
- On-grade car-parking as required;
- Associated building services infrastructure to support the above;
- Relocating health services to the new facility and decommissioning the existing facility; and
- Provision for potential future development comprising staff accommodation.

Introduction

The purpose of the Concept Design Report is to provide a framework for new build works for a new Regional and associated campus development located at Parkes and Parkes & Parkes. The Masterplan will address key priorities and future development process and strategies. This design principle statement encapsulates information received to date and outcomes of workshops with client / stakeholders and the design team. The principles articulated in this report will be further developed through Concept and schematic Design phases.

Rice Daubney has developed a set of masterplanning aspirations that have been derived from the Functional Brief, subsequent consultation and site analysis. These have been further developed to generate subsets of principles to guide masterplanning and schematic design.

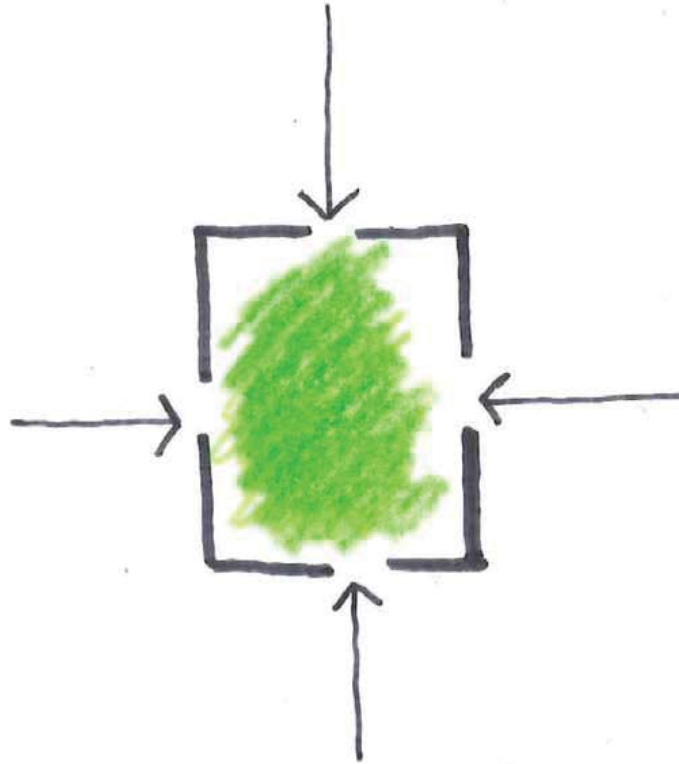
Central to these aspirations is the retention of a strong connection to landscape that instills an awareness of the project's specific 'place'. This informs the LHS Parkes Hospital's siting, optimising its current aspect, and will be a driver in determining an appropriate identity for a regional facility sited in a rural landscape. It generates a strategic landforming response and the implementation of new landscape elements that will develop a framework for the precinct and respond to the site's topography. Blocking and stacking models have been generated around a central connecting spine with a sense of transparency/views and/or physical connections with the external landscape at points along the journey. This aims to connect activity of the new LHS Parkes Hospital precinct with the landscape beyond and imbue the facility with a sense of restfulness and healing.

Each landscape space will highlight the positive existing landscape character that surrounds the LHS Parkes Hospital and continue to build upon the existing local setting. The design will be carefully considered to create a range of different sequences and emotions that define and support the variety of important landscape spaces allowed for in the brief.

Aspirational Principles

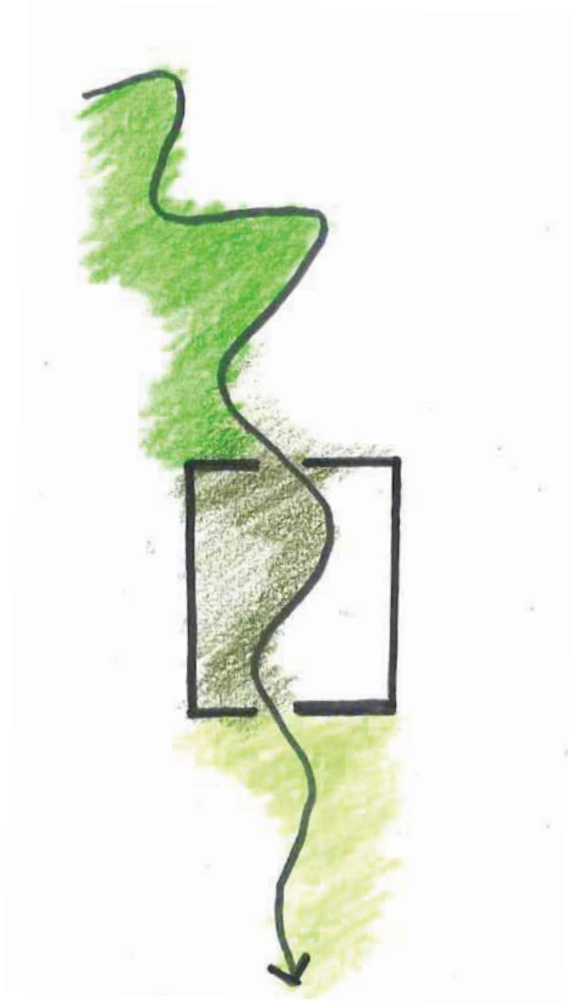
The following aspirational principles have been derived from the Functional Brief, previous design reports and evidence based design criteria that focuses on the holistic care of patients to provide welcome places for respite and rehabilitation.





CREATING A GREEN HEART

Central to the masterplanning for the building is the creation a “green heart”. The heart will be central to the old and new buildings and a place for people to meet and relax. This landscape element shall connect all aspects of the LHS Parkes Hospital, new and old delivering a complete approach and unified hospital precinct. Where possible the landscape should encourage and invigorate existing and new links across the LHS Parkes Hospital campus to lead to the “green heart”.



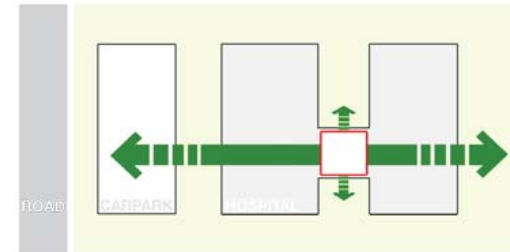
A FLUID LANDSCAPE

The design will respond to the previous diagrams and become fluid expression of landscape, wayfinding and cultural interpretation. The design shall entice visitors at the main entry, flow seamlessly into the lobby and spill out into the central garden. The fluid movement shall be repeated throughout the landscape design to create a continuous landscape to provide small gatherings spaces, therapeutic gardens, verdant and peaceful outlooks and complimentary edge treatment to the buildings and their context.

Concept Diagrams

The following concept diagrams have been developed in response to masterplan, development of the functional brief and aspirational principles. These two diagrams define the approach and are central to all decisions made in considering the landscape design.

Concept Diagrams



LANDSCAPE SPINE

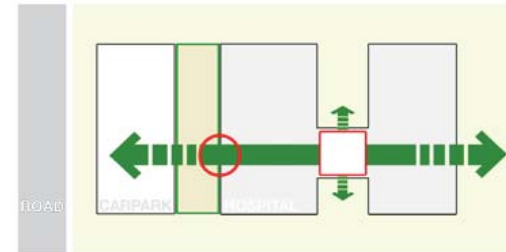
The planning of the new facilities needs to employ a number of overlaying strategies that provide legibility and clarity to enable separation of acuity levels, public / staff patients and goods and services flows yet enabling multiple shared connections between clinical service zones, and between services and departments within these zones and the overall sense of 'community'.

Key to these strategies are clear and intuitive wayfinding and operational and servicing strategies. The landscape design and strategy will enable clear and concise pedestrian movements to and within the LHS Parkes Hospital grounds. These elements and expression of design will be closely coordinated with the signage consultant.

The landscape spine will provide a strong and central hierarchy, highlighting current and future entry points and offering places of passive recreation outside the main LHS Parkes Hospital grounds, especially the 'green core' of the hospital.

Furthermore the use of an integrated/interpretive way finding strategy could promote the local and cultural significance of the Hospital to local visitors and the wider community.

Develop structured landscape spines to align with outdoor open space courtyards, and facilities and to reinforce pedestrian links within the existing campus. Align spines with a culturally appropriate meeting place and or bush tucker garden that provides easy access to the local aboriginal community and a place to reflect with ill relatives.



ENTRY POINTS / FORECOURT

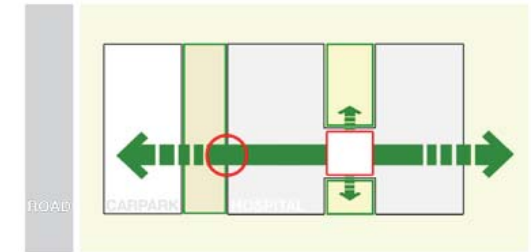
Having only one entry point to the new campus would benefit the arrival process. Wayfinding and environmental graphics should play an important role, indicating the site entry. Principally the design strategy will announce the main LHS Parkes Hospital entry through a sequential and meaningful landscape experience that is inviting, accessible and inclusive.

Enhance and integrate the vehicular and pedestrian entries into the landscape, with the use of soft planting zones that provide structure and places for informal passive respite.

Use a repetition of design language that is carried through the site materially, complementing the architecture, local vernacular and reinforcing safe vehicular pedestrian and circulation. Enhance the entry experience by using landscape form, planting and discreet but legible signage to help orient visitors and staff alike to various areas of the LHS Parkes Hospital campus.

The hospital forecourt offers a public landscape connected to the main entry and also functions as the primary set down/pickup point for the hospital. It is both an integration of the way finding strategy and the material palette to create a destination and enhanced sense of arrival.

The forecourt principally acts as a meeting place proceeding the main entry forecourt, a formal transition between the rural landscape and the healing environment of the hospital. It will provide opportunities for visitor and inpatient connection, staff respite and personal reflection.



COURTYARDS

The external areas present a great opportunity for place-making. If there is a distinguishable characteristic within each courtyard that clearly identifies one from the other, visitors should be able to pick up on these cues as they move along the hospital street and can help inform them during their journey.

External design elements can be brought inside and form part of the internal wayfinding system. The legibility of key architectural and landscaped elements is a prerequisite to understanding the spatial organisation of the building and overall LHS Parkes Hospital campus.

The building form offers opportunities to locate healing gardens through the hospital, providing excellent places for respite and healing. The primary courtyards are nestled between the buildings fingers offering physical connection to the surrounding landscape while maintaining visula links from within the building. Each courtyard is defined by the proposed use and proximity to associated medical departments.

Create a comfortable, clean and calm entry courtyard and front door to the main entry that is a significant meeting place for patients and visitors.

Provide clear views to the landscape beyond, which will be a significant visual cue from various areas within the new LHS Parkes Hospital

Connect and strengthen landscape spaces on the ground level to the various hospital departments.

Build places of respite and healing that will become memorable and enliven an integrated sense of community within the LHS Parkes Hospital.

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Landscape Strategy

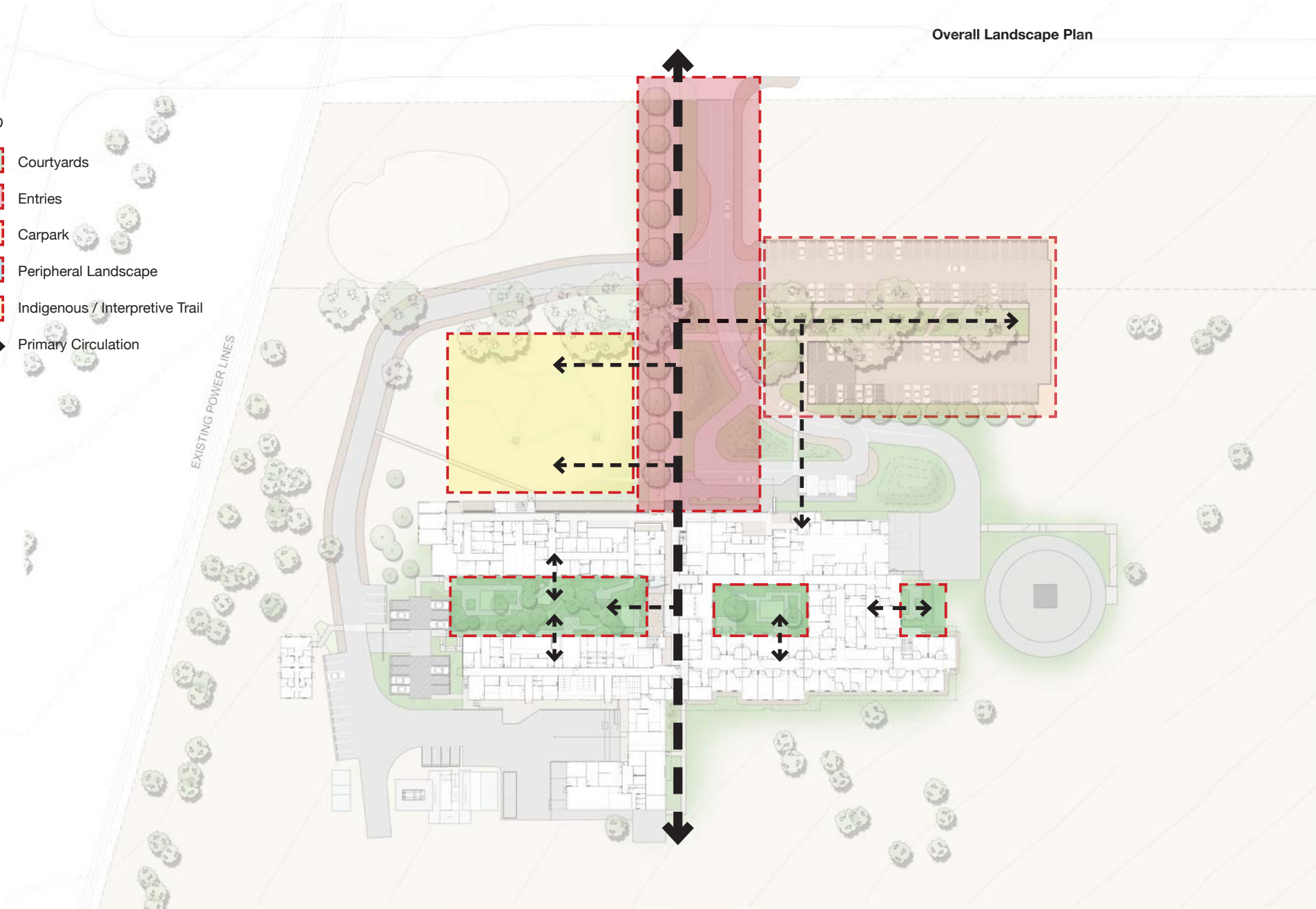
Overall Landscape Plan



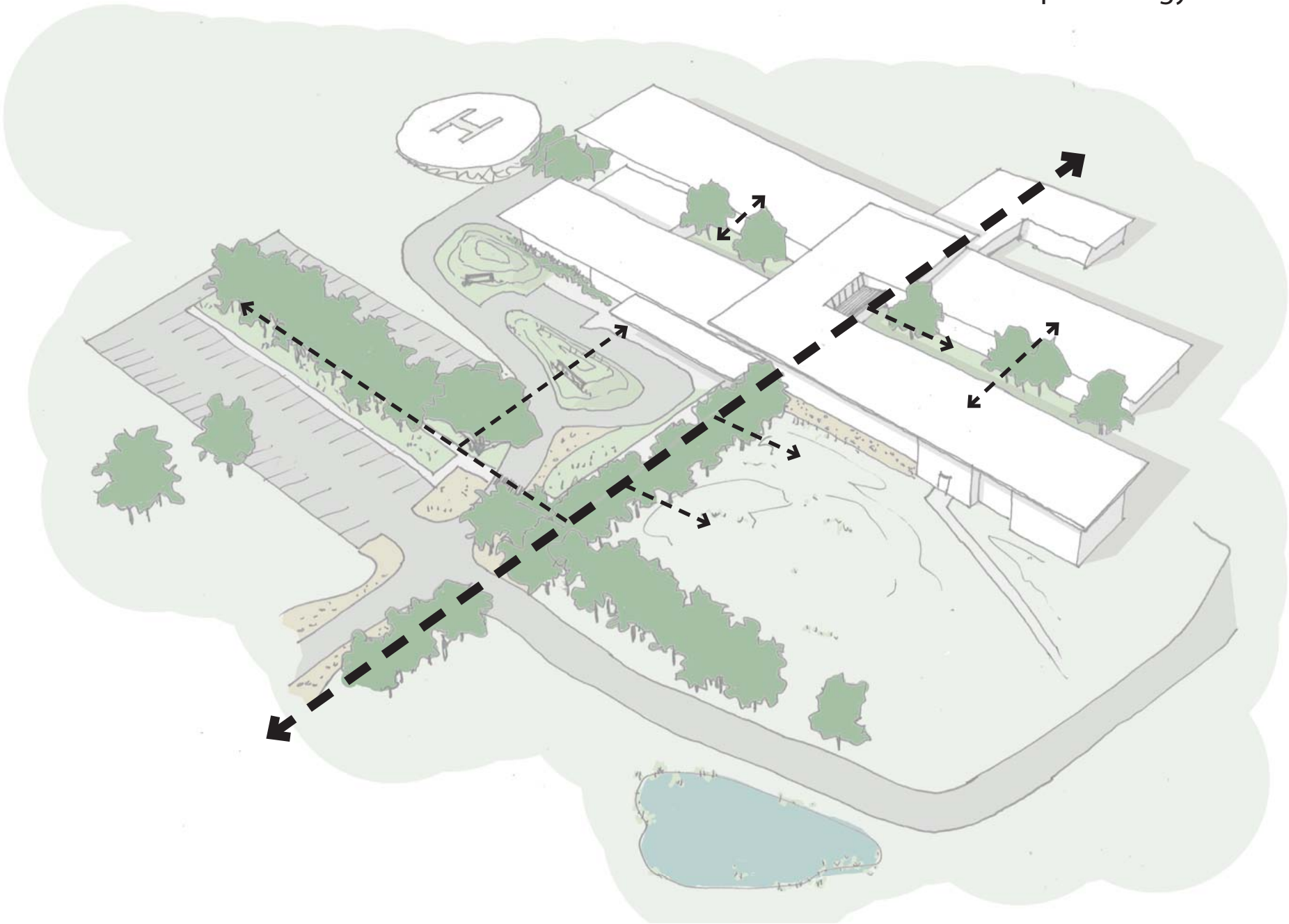
Landscape Strategy

Overall Landscape Plan

- LEGEND
- Courtyards
 - Entries
 - Carpark
 - Peripheral Landscape
 - Indigenous / Interpretive Trail
 - Primary Circulation



Landscape Strategy



Landscape Strategy



Landscape Strategy

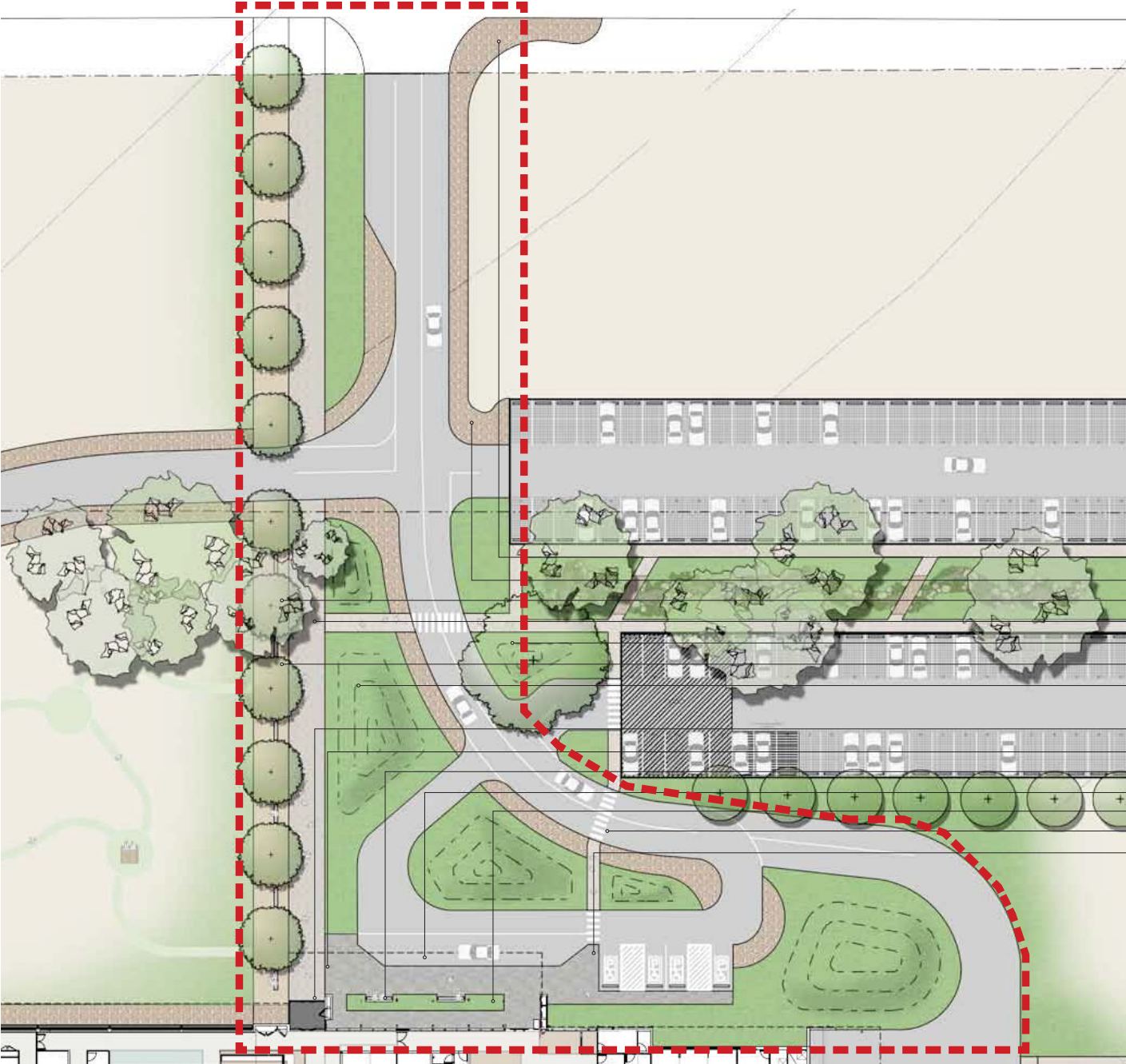
Entries

It is proposed that the LHS Parkes Hospital will incorporate a generous forecourt to the hospital facilitating patient drop off, sheltered seating and the Primary or Main Hospital Entry and the After Hours / Emergency Entry. In collaboration with the Way Finding strategy, the landscape design aims to achieve visual clarity and identification for each entry.

The **Main / Acute Entry** and forecourt garden is to be the primary point of visitor and patient entry, as such, this landscape will be defined and celebrated by a strong visual and material connection to the adjacent parking facilities. Way finding and circulation cues will be considered as part of the landscape character and therefore highlight the obvious desire lines created by the sensible integration of landscape and architecture. The entry forecourt has a simple and refined design palette to ensure the garden reflects its rural setting and residential scale incorporating low maintenance planting, robust surface finishes and iconic tree planting. The pedestrian entry path is clearly identified, allows for uninterrupted travel from both the drop off carpark and long term parking, complemented by soft grass planting which help to reduce the reflective heat in summer and delineate space.

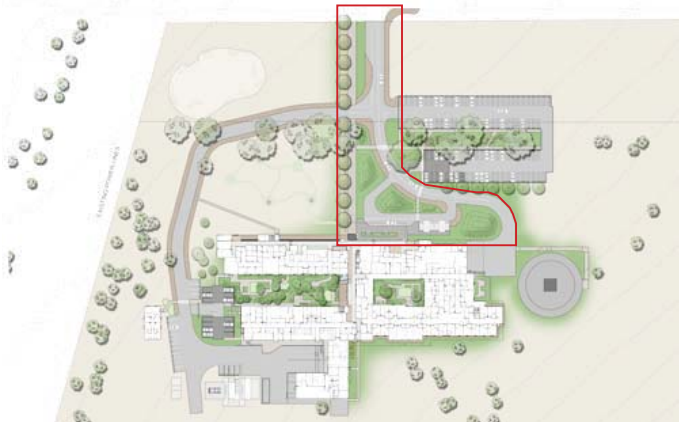
The highlight of the forecourt garden is the generous arrival courtyard and connected entry which will focus on receiving visitors. The garden intends to draw on the existing rural character but formalise through integrated seating elements and paving pattern reflective of the architectural form. Fixed seating will hold the pedestrian path edge and visitors and patients alike will be able to enjoy a comfortable and warm place while a peripheral planting treatment provides visual separation and privacy between the hospital activities and the external activity zone. This is an important welcoming/meeting place and formally defines the hospital entry, landscape and circulation spine.

The **Emergency Entry** design seeks to retain the design language of the entry forecourt while ensuring it is identified as a secondary entrance. This is achieved through integration of carefully considered wayfinding concepts to maximise the visitor and patient experience. Such techniques include delineation through change of surface finish applications to identify the separation of primary and secondary entries, and axial path alignment from the carpark. Complementary to the Main Entry, the Emergency Entry will also incorporate seating.



Landscape Strategy

Entry



- Primary Street Entry Signage location (refer wayfinding consultant)
- Gravel verge treatment to street
- Boulevard Planting treatment
- Axial Pedestrian path to provide primary pedestrian circulation route
- Feature Ficus tree to accent entry and hospital arrival
- Seating and interpretive elements
- Gentle mounding to deter pedestrian 'shortcuts' and separate vehicle and pedestrian circulation.
- Primary / Main Entry
- Identification way finding element
- Fixed seating to drop off zone.
- Drop off pick up bay
- Buffer planting to building to provide privacy
- Secondary pedestrian link (emergency after hours)
- Emergency / Afterhours Entry

Landscape Strategy

Entry



Landscape Strategy

Entry



Landscape Strategy

Entry



Fraxinus raywoodii - Claret Ash
Carpark tree



Eucalyptus scoparia - Flowering Gum
Carpark Tree



Pyrus caleriyana 'chanticleer' - Manchurian Pear
Pedestrian Boulevard



Lophostemon confertus - Brush Box
Central Feature Tree



Prostanthera rotundifolia
Round-leaved Mint Bush



Grevillea buxifolia
Grey Spider Flower



Correa alba
White Correa



Kunzea ambigua
Tick Bush



Rhagodia spinescens
Hedge Saltbush



Rraphiolepis indica
Indian Hawthorn



Pieris floribunda
Mountain Pieris



Dianella caerulea 'Little Jess'
Little Jess Flax Lily



Casuarina glauca 'Cousin it'
River She Oak



Dampiera diversifolia
Kangaroo Lobelia



Daphne odora
Winter Daphne



Senecio Serpens
Blue Chalk Sticks



Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Yellow Buttons



Landscape Strategy

Aboriginal Significance & Symbolism

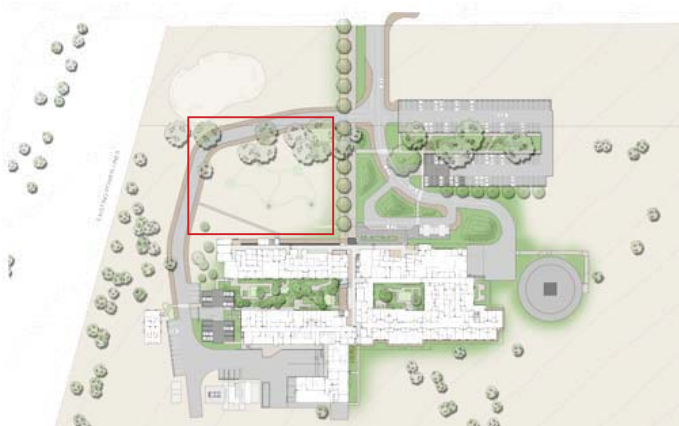
A key component of the planning and design is to enable the delivery of culturally appropriate services to the Aboriginal community, and a welcoming and inclusive design response, which encourages the Aboriginal community to access health services. Further consultation with the local Aboriginal community, representatives and Aboriginal stakeholders will identify specific issues to be included in the Functional Brief under “Culturally Appropriate”. These may include the providing a strong connection to the landscape, provision of specific landscape features and tree plantings, culturally appropriate operational practices, and provision of a healing and bush medicine garden. The design will seek to address intrinsic values of quality, safety, privacy, dignity and respect.

The use of aboriginal symbolism and bush tucker plants may be incorporated into the LHS Parkes Hospital landscape to provide a holistic representation of the indigenous and non - indigenous communities of the local area and wider region. The realisation of this element will evolve through consultation with local indigenous groups to ensure cultural appropriateness is achieved.

The proposed use of such symbolism and indigenous representation within the landscape is a vital component of the overall landscape strategy and therefore will be further developed with those selected community groups during the design development stage.

Landscape Strategy

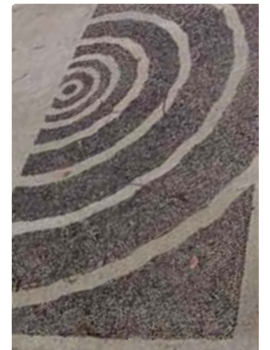
Aboriginal Significance & Symbolism



- Informal mown grass path
- Existing and regenerated native planting
- Ceremonial spaces
- Informal Seating

Landscape Strategy

Aboriginal Significance & Symbolism



Landscape Strategy

Aboriginal Significance & Symbolism



Agonis flexupsa
Willow Myrtle



Gahnia clarkei
Saw Sedge



Prostanthera rotundifolia
Round-leaved Mint Bush



Personia spp.
Geebung



Dianella caerulea 'Little Jess'
Little Jess Flax Lily



Banksia spinulosa var. cunninghamii
Hairpin Banksia



Callistemon viminalis 'Little John'
Weeping Bottlebrush



Carex appressa
Tall Sedge



Leptospermum laevigatum
Coast Tea-Tree



Banksia marginata
Silver Banksia

Landscape Strategy

Car Parks

The primary carpark is located north of the entry forecourt and west of the entry road. The carpark is split to allow for the major pedestrian entry to the hospital. Creating a strong east - west landscape axis for vehicles and north - south axis for pedestrian movement.

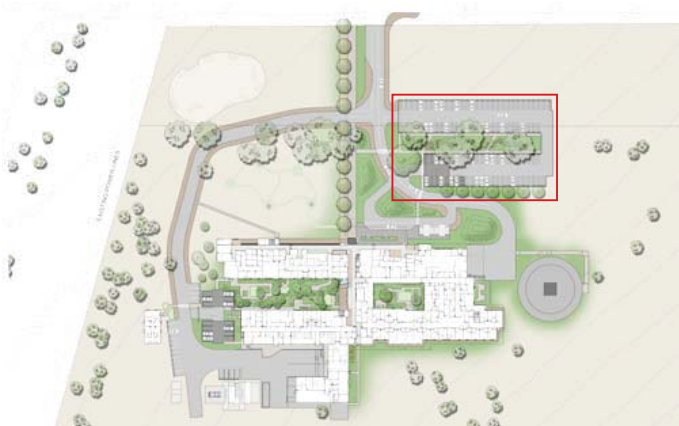
The hospital site is intended to be a primary medical facility for the town of Parkes, so the site must be prepared to accommodate a large population of attendees arriving to the site by car. Therein the parking program needs to be carefully integrated into the overall landscape and site planning of the hospital.

The carpark will be situated within close proximity to the primary entrance in tree-shaded lots with permeable surfaces and bioswales. The carpark shall be naturally integrated into the adjoining landscape to provide seamless transitions between arrival, entry and peripheral landscapes. The landscape treatment shall comprise drought and frost tolerant local native planting to minimise maintenance and incorporate tall clear trunk trees to provide passive shade for vehicles and pedestrians alike.

The pedestrian wayfinding strategy within the carparks is incorporated into the overall material palette of the site, creating an obvious hierarchy for pedestrians and vehicles. Bioswales become a valuable asset in each carpark, providing a vegetative buffer between carparking bays, controlling stormwater collection and also forming a minor pedestrian access links to the central spine and wayfinding strategy.

Landscape Strategy

Car Parks



- Retained and protected existing trees
- Overland flow swale and grass planting
- Primary pedestrian link from car park
- Secondary pedestrian crossing from car park
- Permeable paving to car spaces to maximise stormwater infiltration
- Tree planting to carpark periphery to provide visual separation from car park and ambulance drop off

Landscape Strategy

Car Parks



Landscape Strategy

Car Parks



Fraxinus raywoodii - Claret Ash
Carpark tree



Eucalyptus scoparia - Flowering Gum
Carpark Tree



Baeckea utilis
Mountain Baeckea, Heath Myrtle



Exocarpus stricus
Dwarf Cherry



Grevillea buxifolia
Grey Spider Flower



Hakea microcarpa
Small-fruited Hakea



Indigofera australis
Australian Indigo



Dianella caerulea
Paroo lily, Blue Flax-lily



Banksia spinulosa var. *cunninghamii*
Hairpin Banksia



Callistemon viminalis 'Little John'
Weeping Bottlebrush



Carex appressa
Tall Sedge



Leptospermum laevigatum
Coast Tea-Tree



Banksia marginata
Silver Banksia

Landscape Strategy

Courtyards

A number of healing gardens are spread through the LHS Parkes Hospital, providing excellent places for respite and healing. The primary courtyards are nestled between the buildings fingers offering physical connection to the surrounding landscape while their situation maximise visual links from within the hospital. Each courtyard is defined by the proposed use and proximity to associated departments.

Eastern Courtyard

The eastern courtyard is the primary outdoor space associated with the ADL lounge. The garden is defined and celebrated by a strong visual and material connection to the hospitals internal space and long vistas from within the building to the landscape within. This garden provides dual functions, offering a desireable visual outlook from the internal corridors, and providing an intimate landscape space for patients and to sit, gather and interact. The arrangement of seating areas provides for breakout seating off from the ADL lounge room. An informal walking circuit/path has been integrated allowing patients to travel the course and experience the gardens and sit in designated zones for rest and reflection, while a generous lawn pocket provides an area for patients to gather, interact and absorb the northern sun light.

The courtyard will connect the external landscape with the internal functions through visual permeability. The function of this landscape is to offer an aesthetic and relaxing outlook to patients and staff, while achieving a unified campus identity.

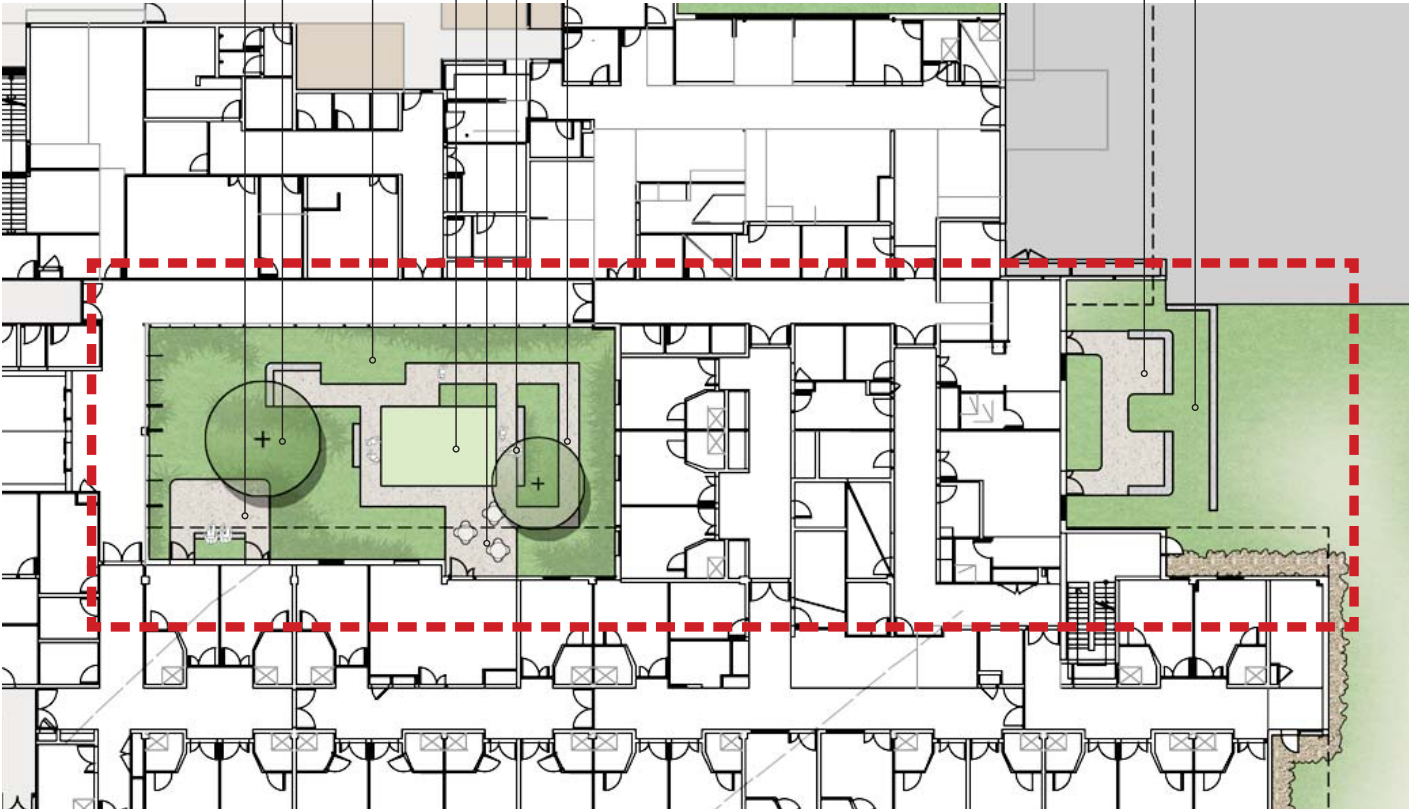
Western Courtyard

The western courtyard is defined by groves of existing mature eucalypts trees and its connection with multiple internal activites including the Staff Room, Gymnasium, waiting room and Paediatric Assessment. The courtyrad is the Hospitals primary outdoor space and physical connection to the surrounding landscape, as such it will capture the vista to the surrounding region dappled by native tree planting, and entice the visitor to walk to the edge of the garden and take respite within the external space. It offers an immediate connection to the landscape, integrating a drift of grasses, shrubs and trees to maximise the feeling of connection with the landscape beyond.

The staff courtyard has a direct and private external space, consisting of goup, private and breakout seating. It also offers passive surveillance over the surrounding garden.

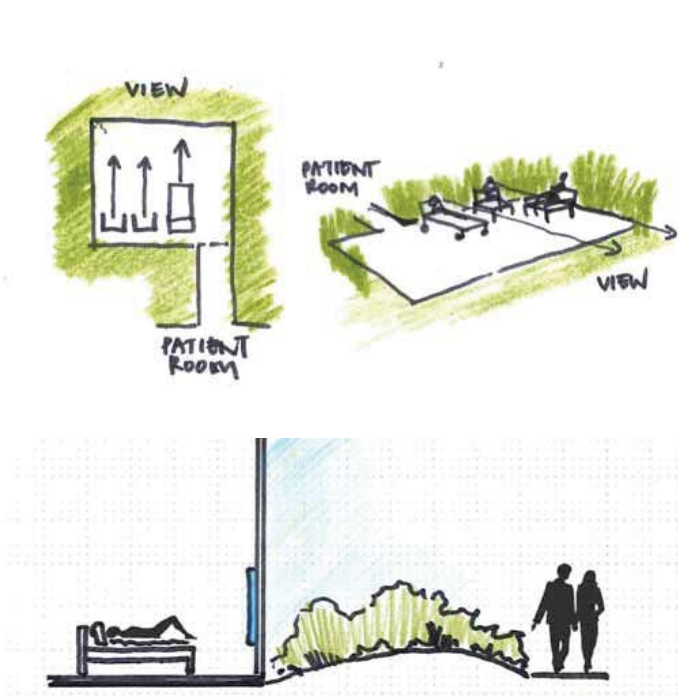
The gymnasium facility is complemented by a functional external space, which incorporates 2 circuit walking paths (large and small) with respite seating, steps, changes in grade and a 30m time trial path. The garden also provides 3 informal outdoor exercise rooms, 2 hard surface and 1 lawn.

- Terraced retaining with privacy, security planting treatment
- External courtyard with intimate outdoor rooms and seating
- Circuit walking path
- Informal seating for respite, reflection and interaction
- Break out seating/dining zone from ADL lounge
- Generous lawn pocked to allow solar access, open the gardens and invite interaction between patients
- Perimeter landscape to provide privacy and aesthetic outlook
- Specimen tree planting
- Private access external courtyard from rooms



Landscape Strategy

Eastern Courtyards



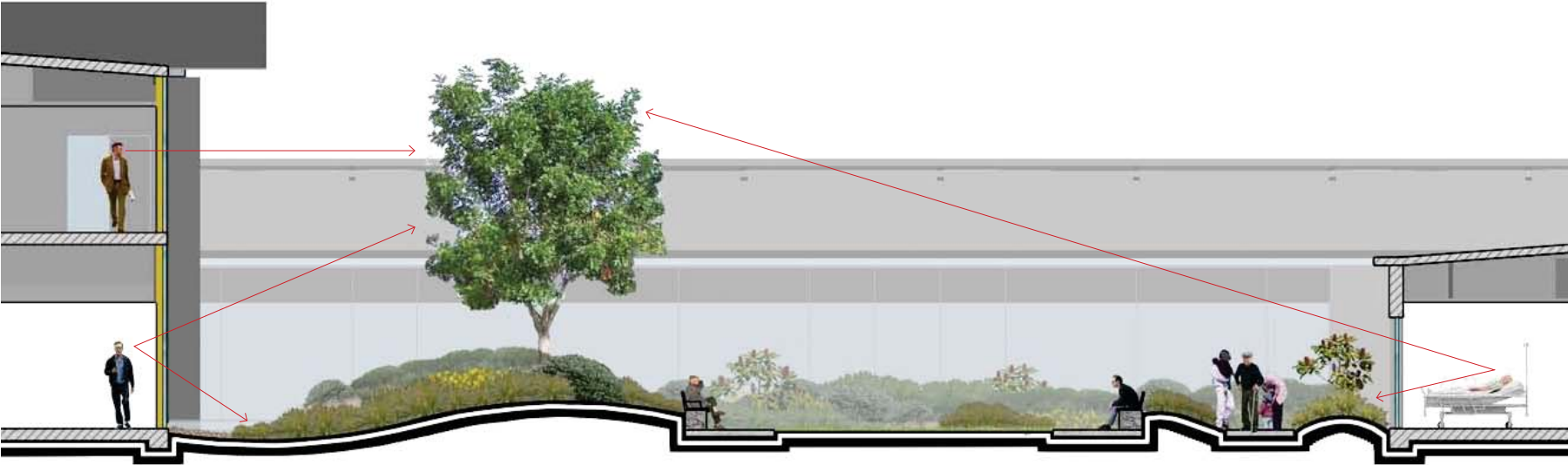
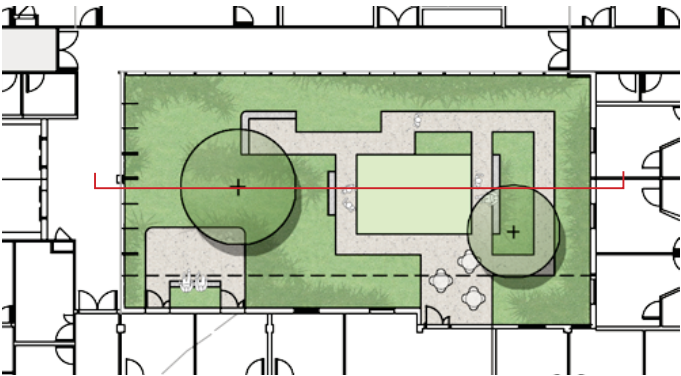
Landscape Strategy

Eastern Courtyard



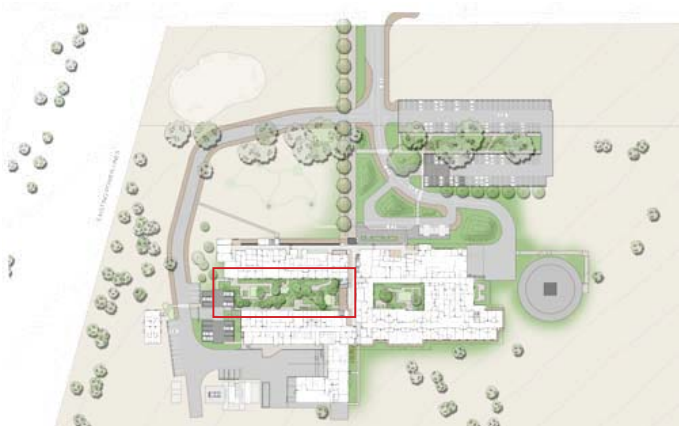
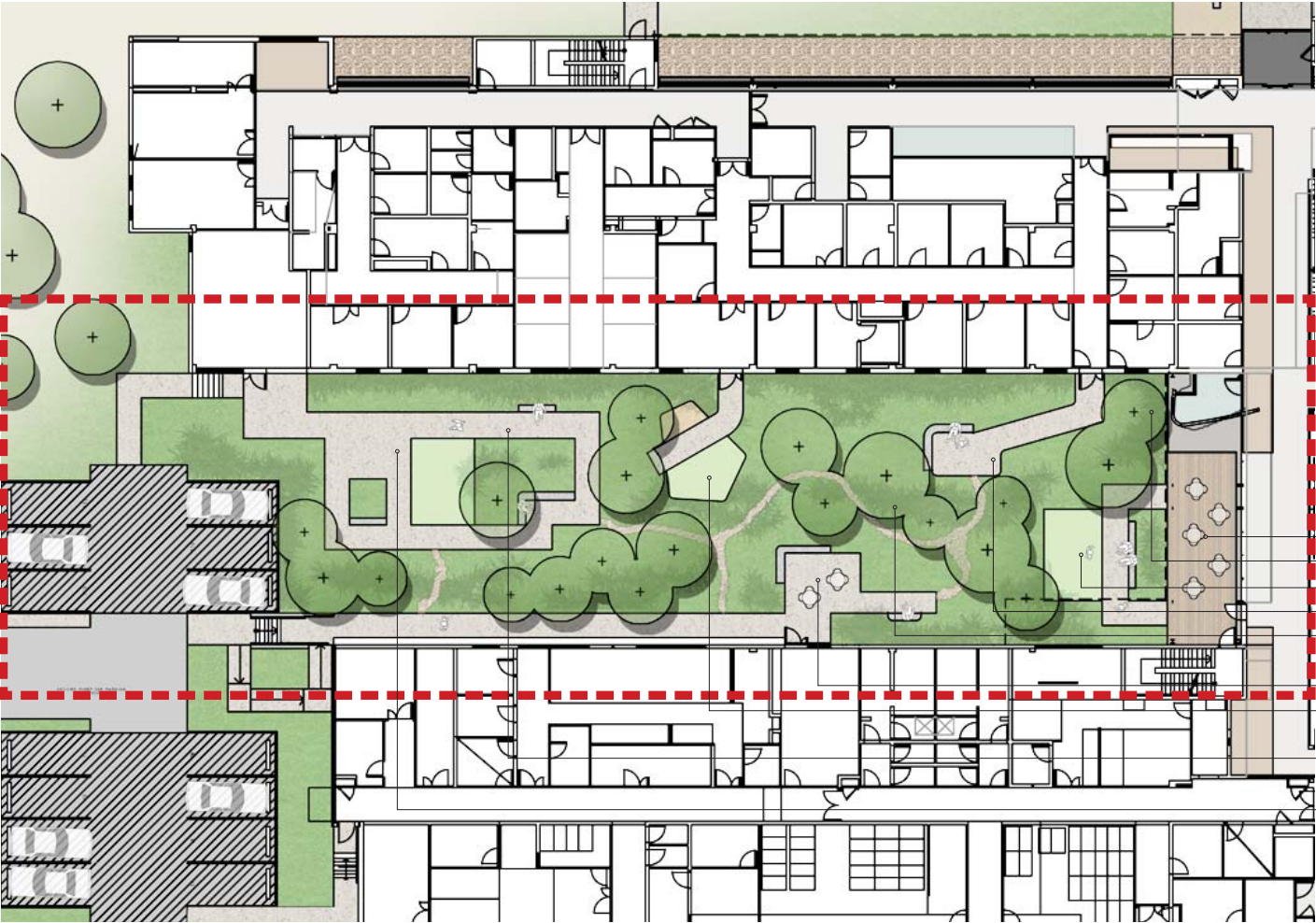
Landscape Strategy

Eastern Courtyard



Landscape Strategy

Western Courtyard



- Sheltered decking accessible from the wait room
- Vegetated buffer to the faith room
- Open lawn and seating off the external 'dining' area
- Outdoor private consult 'room'
- Buffer planting between outdoor activity zones to provide privacy but enable passive surveillance and allow natural overland flow
- Staff break out space with lawn and group or private seating nodes
- Childs play and seating zone accessible from the Pediatric assessment consult room/s.
- Dual circuit walking paths accessible from the gymnasium incorporating steps, ramps, 30m time trial path and respite seating.
- Informal external activity/exercise nodes for therapy.

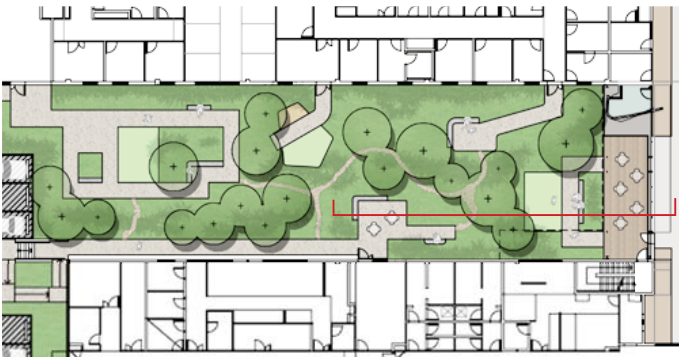
Landscape Strategy

Western Courtyard



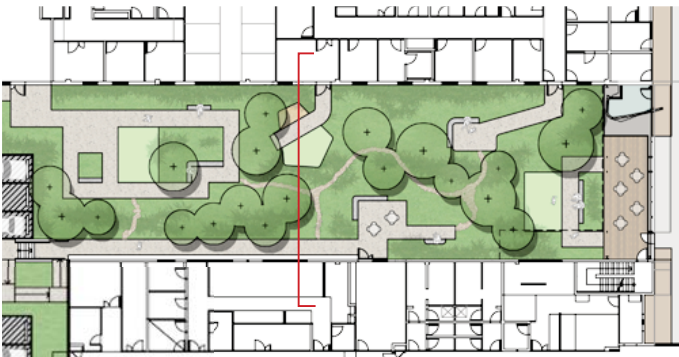
Landscape Strategy

Western Courtyard



Landscape Strategy

Western Courtyard



Landscape Strategy

Courtyards



Largestromia cultivars
Crepe Myrtle



Sapium sebiferum
Chinese Tallowood



Malus suyzam
Crab Apple



Ulmus Parvifolia
Chinese Elm



Melaleuca stypheloides
Prickly Paperbark



Casuarina glauca
Swamp Oak



Michelia spp.
Sweet Michelia



Rhaphiolepis 'Oriental pearl'



Liriope spp.



Monotoca scoparia
Broom-heath



Persoonia spp.
Geebung



Rhagodia spp.



Helichrysum spp.



Sarcococca
Sweet Box



Osmanthus spp.



Lavandula 'Avonview'
Lavender



Exocarpos spp.
Native cherry



Brachychiton populneus
Kurrajong



Landscape Strategy

Planting & Sustainability

The landscape will reflect not only current best practice ecologically sustainable design but will demonstrate innovation in minimising energy consumption for such a facility in a regional rural site. Sustainable solutions, passive and active are likely to be visible on the site, and within the facility, overlaying an educational story about the ongoing interaction of the building systems and its place. In addition, evidence based feasibility studies and regard to recurring maintenance are both key considerations in developing ESD strategies for this site.

The proposed development shall utilise water sensitive design strategies, implemented to enrich the quality of intermediate landscape spaces and provide control to storm water runoff. The water treatment measures may consist of bio-retention swales; rain gardens, bio-retention ponds and rip rap swales. The system aims to incorporate the following objectives;

- Improve storm water quality prior to discharge
- Use on site detention ponds to manage storm water and create interesting landscape form for passive recreation areas.
- Highlight and water sensitive urban design elements within the planting and circulation strategy for the site.

The planting palette for the site will be made up from predominantly native species, especially those that grow locally in around Parkes and Parkes & Parkes and within the local area. The majority of the plants selected will come from the species list as nominated by the development control plan of the local council.

Plants will be selected on their abilities to meet certain criteria to achieve the most desirable result for the development. These include;

- Low maintenance to achieve cost effectiveness in delivery and for the future
- Locally significant
- Culturally significant
- Fauna attracting (flowering, colour, scent)
- Non invasive

Within a health facility there are opportunities to execute active gardens through implementation of medicinal and edible plantings. Potential benefits include engagement of patients, therapeutic benefit (gardening for ADL) and seasonal variation. This concept will be further developed in consultation with user groups.

Landscape Strategy

Irrigation and Rainwater Reuse

The proposed development shall utilise water sensitive design strategies, implemented to enrich the quality of intermediate landscape spaces and provide cost effective measure to sustain the landscape.

It is proposed to harvest the roof rainwater for storage in detention tanks. These tanks shall form a critical component to maintaining aspects of the landscape which may have greater water requirements, such as the heritage landscape, by providing an onsite source of soft water. The availability of this water will be dependant on the seasonal rainfall, in instances of drought, the tanks shall be replenished with an alternate source.

To complement the harvesting of roofwater, stormwater strategies shall be implemented to improve onsite capture of ground water. These strategies may include inclusion of permeable pavements to decrease runoff and improve infiltration, and swales to capture and direct stormwater throughout site prior to discharge.

Landscape Strategy

Capital Cost Analysis

The scale and complexity of the LHS Parkes Hospital site transformation requires a financial landscape strategy based on an analysis which identifies potential capital cost savings and methods to create and sustain a vibrant, accessible hospital grounds. The proposed site requires significant capital and operating funds needed to realise the master plan vision, an is based on the following premises:

- An ongoing maintenance plan of the hospital grounds that considers balancing establishment of the grounds within the first two years and for see's the likely life cycle costs in the future.
- Construction and maintenance procedures of the landscape must be adopted as part of the overall site maintenance strategy
- Opportunities to limit additional capital and operating costs should be pursued by incorporating site grading, using site material(granite), regeneration of existing habitat and the use of local plant species.
- Retain or restore areas of expansive open meadow pastureland and trees to build the fantastic rural character
- Use a material and planting palette of continuing high performance and value that eases the future cost of maintenance

These operating costs and analysis will be refined further as the schematic design program and documentation moves forward.