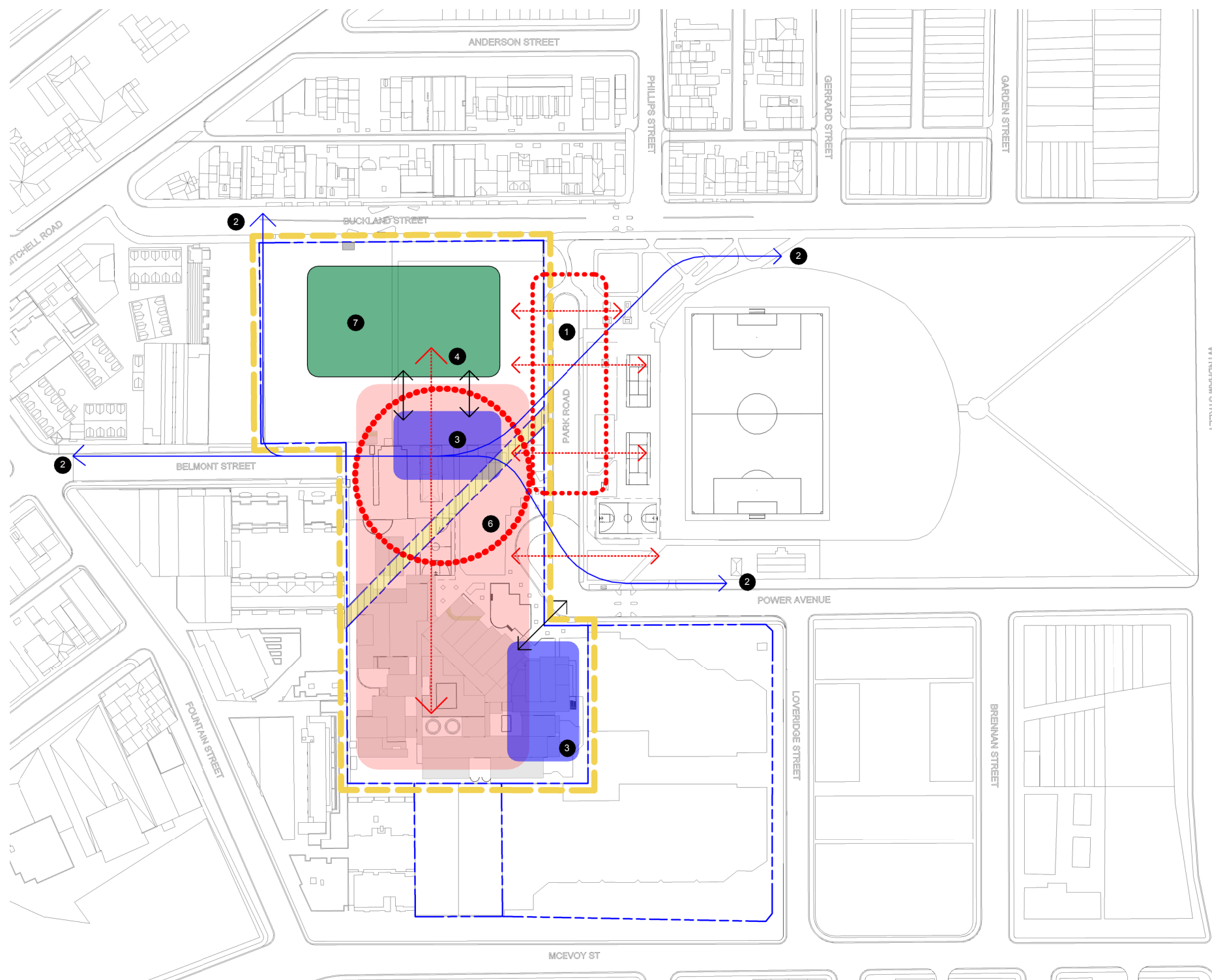


3 Site Opportunities

The site for the redevelopment of Alexandria Park Community School is well suited to ongoing educational use and is located in the heart of a growing residential precinct. The site is physically connected to a major urban park and is surrounded by street with mature trees that provide a pleasant and friendly environment for education. The sites is also very close to the proposed new Waterloo Metro station and is well served by public busses. With this in mind, there are several opportunities that have been considered in the site planning of the new school:

1. Fostering a greater connection between the park and the school. This key concept for the project not only underpins the educational aims of the project but also is a key urban design and landscape principle. By locating new buildings in such a way that the open space of the school is physically and visually connected to the park, the school, community and the wider community of Alexandria gain a larger sense of open space.
2. Creation of a true Community Hub. Supporting the community nature of the school, the site planning considers the location of a community hub that is both an outdoor precinct connected to the park but also bounded by key facilities that are public or semi public in nature. The Community Centre, The Library and specialist school spaces for food technology, performance and sport are all located to activate a community hub that is real and tangible.
3. Consolidation of all open space areas in the school to maximise usability. It is critical that the new development does not lead to pockets of the site that are small and unable to be supervised, thus the creation of a consolidated approach to built elements and the creation of an integrated internal access strategy through the length of the site is critical. This ultimately leads to a careful zoning of uses that allows public access to key facilities.
4. Consideration of through site links and public access. This is a desirable outcome and will also support an enhanced public connection to the school. However the operational needs of the school and the overlay of security mean that a universal solution is not possible. This will require careful management and design consideration to ensure all stakeholders requirements are addressed.
5. Landscape design considers the opportunities that would arise from a unified approach to the school site and the park. The ability to interpret the former creek lines and wetlands of the wider precinct will give a richness to the connection of the school to its place and will tap into the stories of the indigenous community and make an authentic and lasting relationship between school and place.
6. Consideration of the nature of Park Road. While not part of this application, the project design has considered the potential future opportunities that may arise should Park Road be partially closed and the road reserve become part of Alexandria Park. This will see a greater blurring of the boundaries of the open space of the park and school and allow for a truly integrated approach to the park and community school.



OPPORTUNITIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Foster greater connection between park and school | 4 Enhance school integration across site |
| 2 Consider additional through site links | 5 Consider opportunity for interpretation of former creek |
| 3 Foster greater community connections in a community hub | 6 Create true public community hub |