

A NEW PLACE FOR H♥MEBUSH

ISMAY RESERVE SOUTH & 20A PARRAMATTA ROAD MASTERPLAN



A report written and compiled by the Strathfield Council Landscape Architecture team

▼ Powells Creek is a popular passive recreation route for walkers, joggers, and cyclists in Homebush, providing direct connection to 20A Parramatta Road

Document Title		A New Place for Homebush: Ismay Reserve South & 20A Parramatta Road Masterplan				
Revision	Date	Description	Format	Prepared	Checked	Approved
1	12/11/2025	Draft Masterplan - Concept	PDF	LO	BM	HL, CED
2	01/02/2026	Draft Masterplan - Amended	PDF	LO	BM	HL, CED
3	24/03/2026	Draft Masterplan - Exhibition	PDF	LO	BM	HL, CED

Copyright for this document remains vested with Strathfield Municipal Council and design and process shall remain the intellectual property of Strathfield Municipal Council.



CONTENTS

Report compiled by:

Ben Michel, Landscape Architect

Laura O'Connell, Graduate Landscape Architect

RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS	IV
MAYOR'S MESSAGE	VI
GM'S MESSAGE	VIII
PART A: OVERVIEW	01 - 10
PART B: PRECEDENT STUDY	11 - 18
PART C: INITIAL IDEAS	19 - 32
PART D: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK	33 - 38
PART E: VISION AND STRATEGY	39 - 50
PART F: MASTERPLAN IMPLEMENTATION	51 - 66





THE WANGAL PEOPLE

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which Council is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

The Wangal are a clan of the Darug (sometimes spelt Dharug) tribe or language group. They call themselves the Eora, meaning 'the people'. The Wangal clan's territory is thought to have originally extended from Darling Harbour, around the Balmain Peninsula (including Goat Island (called Me-mel or Memill) almost to Parramatta in the west, the Parramatta River formed the northern boundary although it is uncertain how far south their land extended. The Wangal are believed to have occupied the area for over 20,000 years.

Strathfield Council is part of the traditional lands of the Wangal clan, one of the 29 tribes of the Eora nation.

The Wangal people inhabited what is now known as Strathfield Council for thousands of years prior to European settlement. The Wangal people hold a deep connection to the land and landscape of Strathfield, Strathfield South, Homebush, Homebush West, and Greenacre - all of which are suburbs within the modern-day boundary of Strathfield Council. These bushland and foreshore areas were their lands, their home and part of the territory they were responsible for.

▼ The Cooks River is a recreational lifeline for the residents of Strathfield Council and provides connection to Homebush





MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Our open spaces are the heart of community life in Strathfield, places where people come together, connect with nature, and feel a sense of belonging. The transformation of 20A Parramatta Road, Homebush, represents an important step in shaping a more liveable, connected, and sustainable future for our growing community.

As new residents move into the area, this project will provide much-needed greenspace that supports recreation, relaxation, and everyday connection. Strategically positioned between Homebush Station, Parramatta Road, and surrounding residential areas, the park will form an essential link between our transport hubs and the wider green corridor along Powell's Creek. By creating safe and direct pedestrian connections, the design encourages active lifestyles and makes daily movement, whether walking to the station, meeting friends, or spending time outdoors, easier and more enjoyable.

This initiative is about more than just improving a park. It is about strengthening the social and environmental fabric of our community. Designed with the rhythm of local life in mind, 20A Parramatta Road will become a welcoming, inclusive, and well-connected destination that reflects the values and aspirations of Strathfield's residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Cai".

Cr Benjamin Cai

Mayor

Strathfield Municipal Council

▼ Parramatta Road is a challenging thoroughfare for urban design, yet contains significant heritage, culture, and links to green space networks





GM'S MESSAGE

Strathfield Council is committed to creating a greener, more connected, and liveable future for our growing community. The transformation of 20A Parramatta Road, Homebush, represents an important step toward this goal, turning a constrained and underutilised parcel of land into a vibrant, accessible, and inclusive urban park.

Strategically positioned within the emerging Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) precinct, this project will strengthen east-west connectivity through the introduction of new pedestrian links and a bridge across Powells Creek, uniting surrounding neighbourhoods with Homebush Station and key open spaces.

As our community continues to evolve, this project lays the foundation for a high-quality public domain that supports active recreation, social connection, and environmental wellbeing. 20A Parramatta Road will become not only a local destination but a shared space that reflects the aspirations and identity of the Homebush community.

Michael Mamo
General Manager
Strathfield Municipal Council

PART A OVERVIEW

The transformation of 20A Parramatta Road, Homebush, forms a key part of Council's broader ambition to enhance local amenity, accessibility, and open space provision. Strategically positioned between Parramatta Road, Powell Creek, and the Homebush rail line, the site presents both complex challenges and significant opportunities. As part of the emerging Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) precinct, the project will unlock the site's potential as a vital public open space and pedestrian link.

Building on the modest facilities of Ismay Reserve South, the proposal will expand the reserve into a larger, better-connected and more inclusive park. Shaded areas, landscape buffers, and improved spatial definition will help mitigate exposure to Parramatta Road, creating a more comfortable, greener, and inviting setting.

As Homebush experiences rapid change through high-density residential growth and the arrival of the North Strathfield Metro, the demand for quality green space is intensifying. The project will not only provide essential recreation and amenity for the expanding population but will also reinforce the broader green corridor that includes Ismay and Arnotts Reserves to the north. By enhancing connectivity, amenity, and tree canopy, the transformation of 20A Parramatta Road will significantly strengthen the liveability, resilience, and identity of the evolving Homebush precinct.



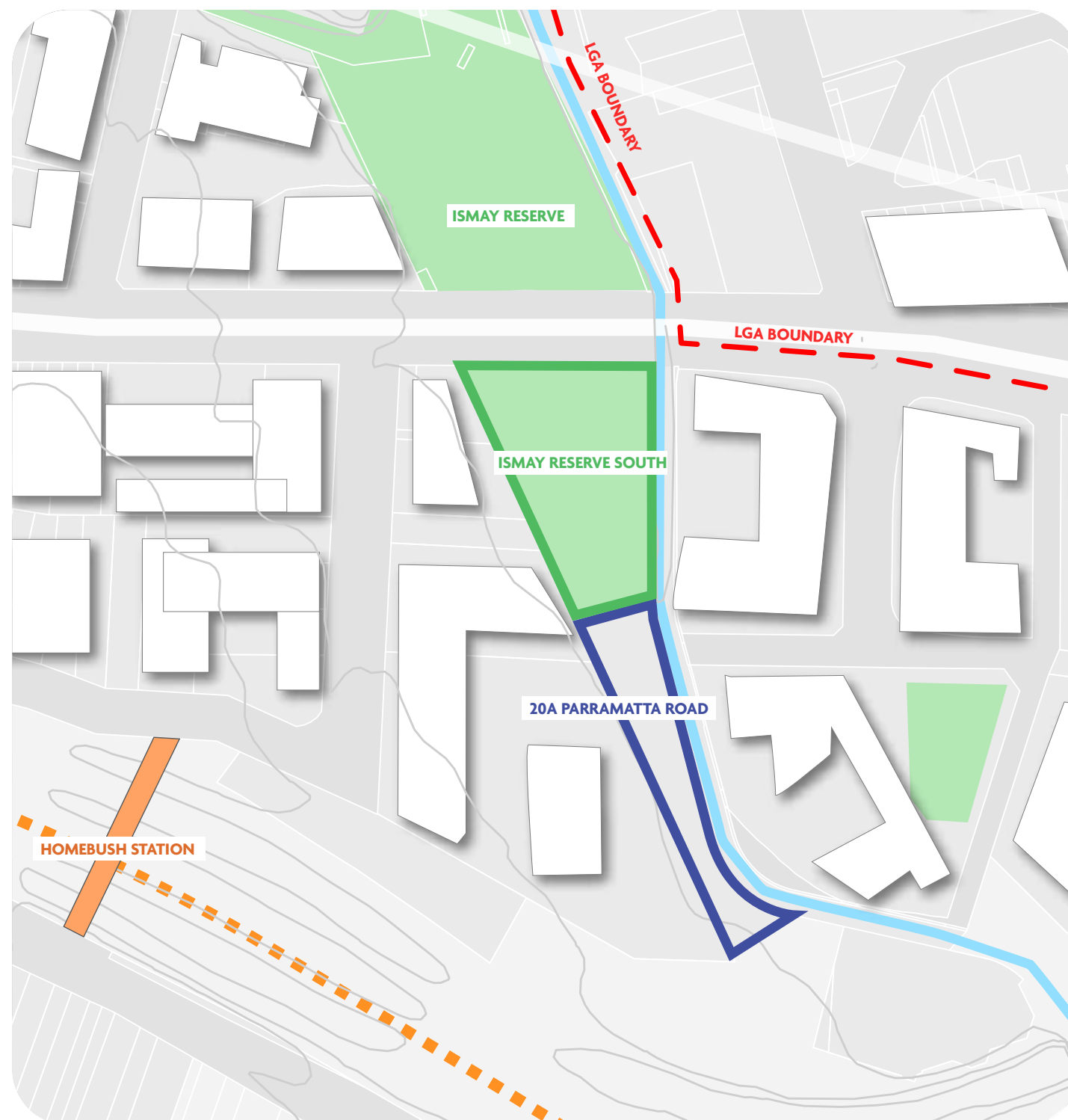
▲ A view of the site, 20A Parramatta Road, looking towards Parramatta Road

SITE ANALYSIS

CONTEXT

The site at 20A Parramatta Road, Homebush sits within a mixed-use pocket surrounded by medium- and high-density residential areas, positioning it as a transitional site with the potential to serve a broader community catchment. The area is strongly defined by surrounding infrastructure, including Parramatta Road, adjacent rail corridors, and Powell Creek, placing the site at the intersection of multiple transport and planning contexts. While close to key destinations such as Homebush Station and Ismay Reserve, access is constrained by physical barriers, resulting in poor permeability and reliance on Parramatta Road as the sole formal entry despite its limited pedestrian amenity. Indirect walking routes significantly extend travel times to nearby destinations, highlighting a disconnect between distance and accessibility and underscoring the need for improved, legible pedestrian connections to integrate the site into the wider movement network.

Tree canopy coverage across surrounding lot boundaries is generally low, particularly within mixed-use and infrastructure zones, with most lots falling below 20% canopy cover. In contrast, higher canopy levels are concentrated within established open spaces such as Ismay and Arnotts Reserves. This disparity highlights the opportunity for the site to contribute to improved urban greening, shade, and environmental quality as part of future development and public realm improvements.



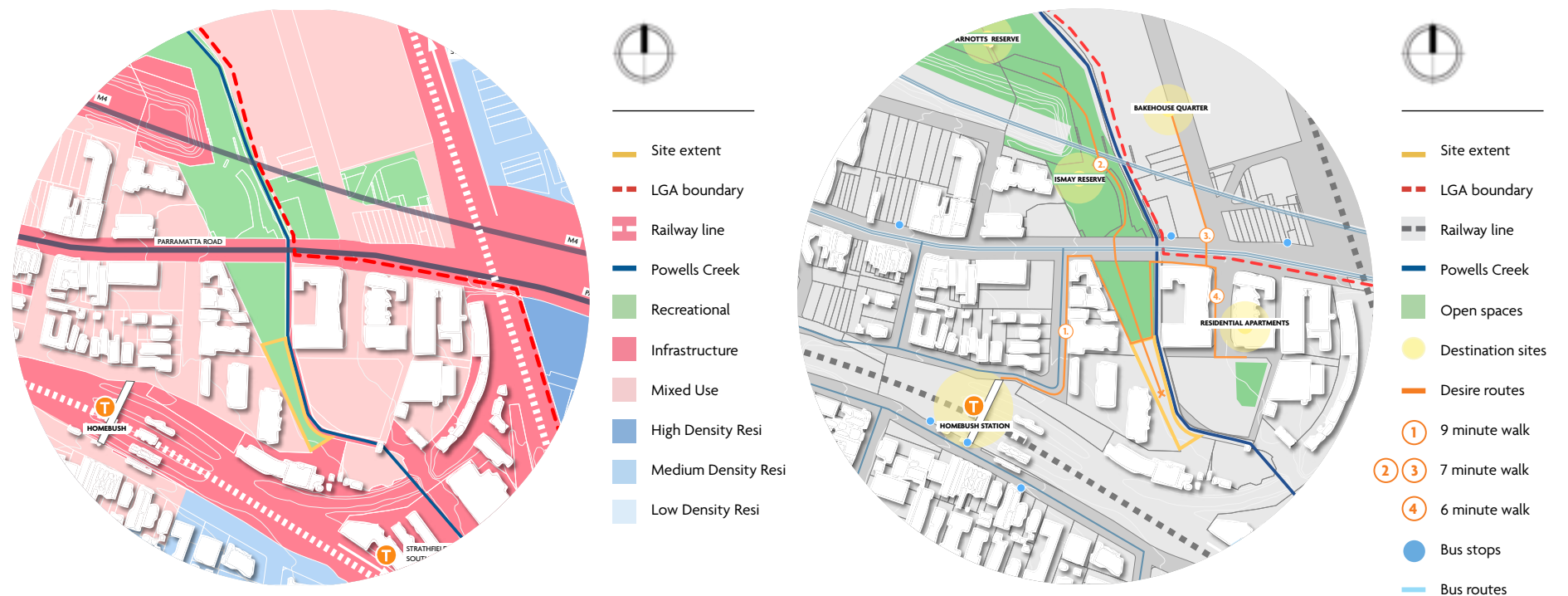
VEGETATION

Existing tree canopy across the broader area is uneven and generally limited, with most vegetation concentrated along street corridors and within larger reserves such as Ismay and Arnotts Reserves. Ismay Reserve South currently contains minimal tree cover and limited shade, presenting a clear opportunity for canopy expansion as the park is extended. Prioritising long-term shade planting will be critical to improving comfort, urban cooling, and recreational quality within an otherwise low-canopy urban context.



LAND USE & ACCESS

Under the Homebush Transport-Oriented Development framework, the area is planned to accommodate increased density, improved pedestrian and cycle connectivity, and an expanded open space network linked to nearby transport hubs. For the site, this positions the park as emerging green infrastructure within a densifying precinct, with increased demand for accessible, connected open space and a growing role in supporting amenity, movement, and environmental resilience.



▼ The site contains remnants of significant Eucalyptus trees, forming a tall and attractive canopy

A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

04

GEOLOGY & HYDROLOGY

The site sits on the transitional edge between Ashfield Shale and disturbed terrain associated with the canalised Powell Creek, within a generally flat landscape typical of the Strathfield area. Historically, these conditions supported tall open forest and woodland, though most native vegetation has been cleared through urbanisation. While Powell Creek itself does not flood, surrounding infrastructure corridors and road networks, particularly near Parramatta Road and rail lines, are subject to flood risk due to flat topography and urban runoff.



EXISTING CHARACTER

The existing site presents a highly uncoordinated material palette. Ground surfaces range from concrete pedestrian paths and open lawn areas to patches of weed growth, scattered debris, and remnants of dead vegetation. Leftover construction materials contribute to a sense of neglect. One of the most visually prominent features is the inconsistent fencing along the western edge, where adjacent residential properties form a patchwork of heights, styles, and materials. Surface treatments are similarly varied, with graffiti visible in parts and a sandstone element marking one of the park entrances.



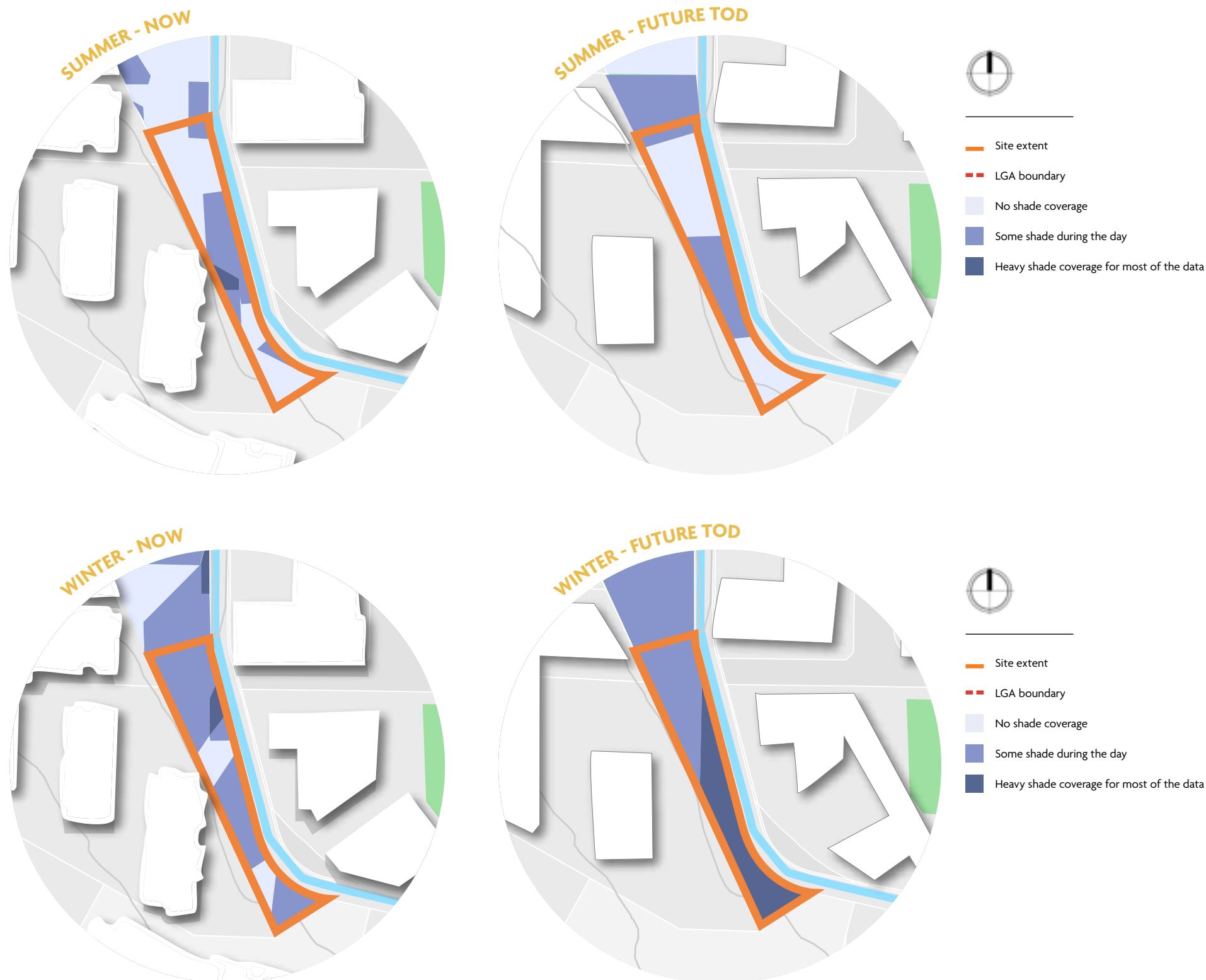
SUN & SHADE

Under existing conditions, the site experiences high levels of summer sun exposure, with minimal shade across the park, particularly at midday, resulting in elevated heat and low comfort.

The TOD scenario introduces increased afternoon shading from taller western buildings, reducing heat exposure in key areas. While overall sun patterns remain similar, the additional shade presents opportunities to improve summer comfort through aligned tree planting, shaded seating, and cooler surface treatments.

In winter, current conditions allow limited but valuable sun access, with small sunlit areas, particularly to the northwest, supporting passive warmth. Under the TOD scenario, increased building height and density significantly reduce winter solar access, with longer shadows leaving much of the site in shade for most of the day.

This highlights the need to protect remaining sunlit areas and incorporate design measures that support thermal comfort and year-round usability.



B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

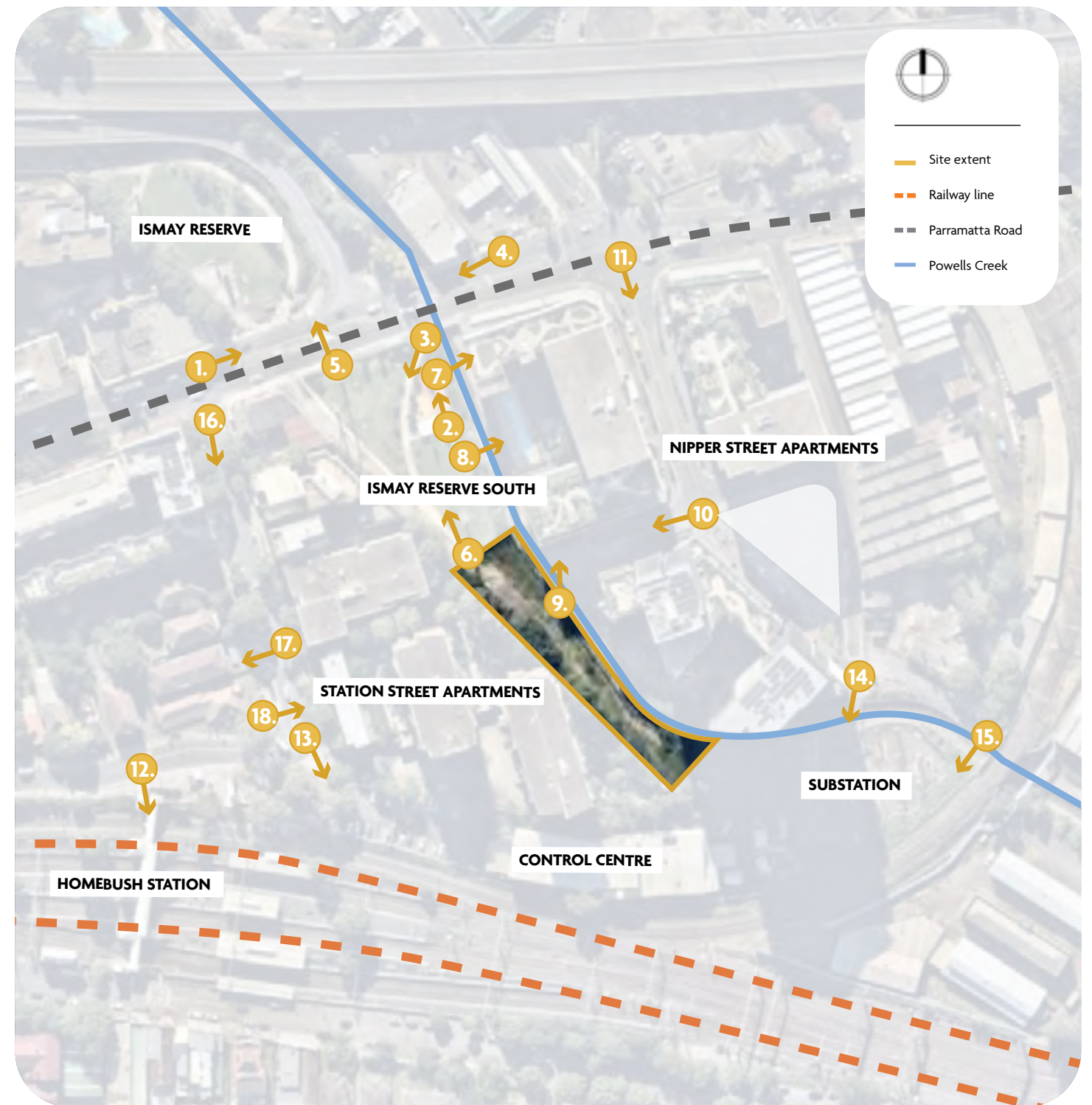
E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

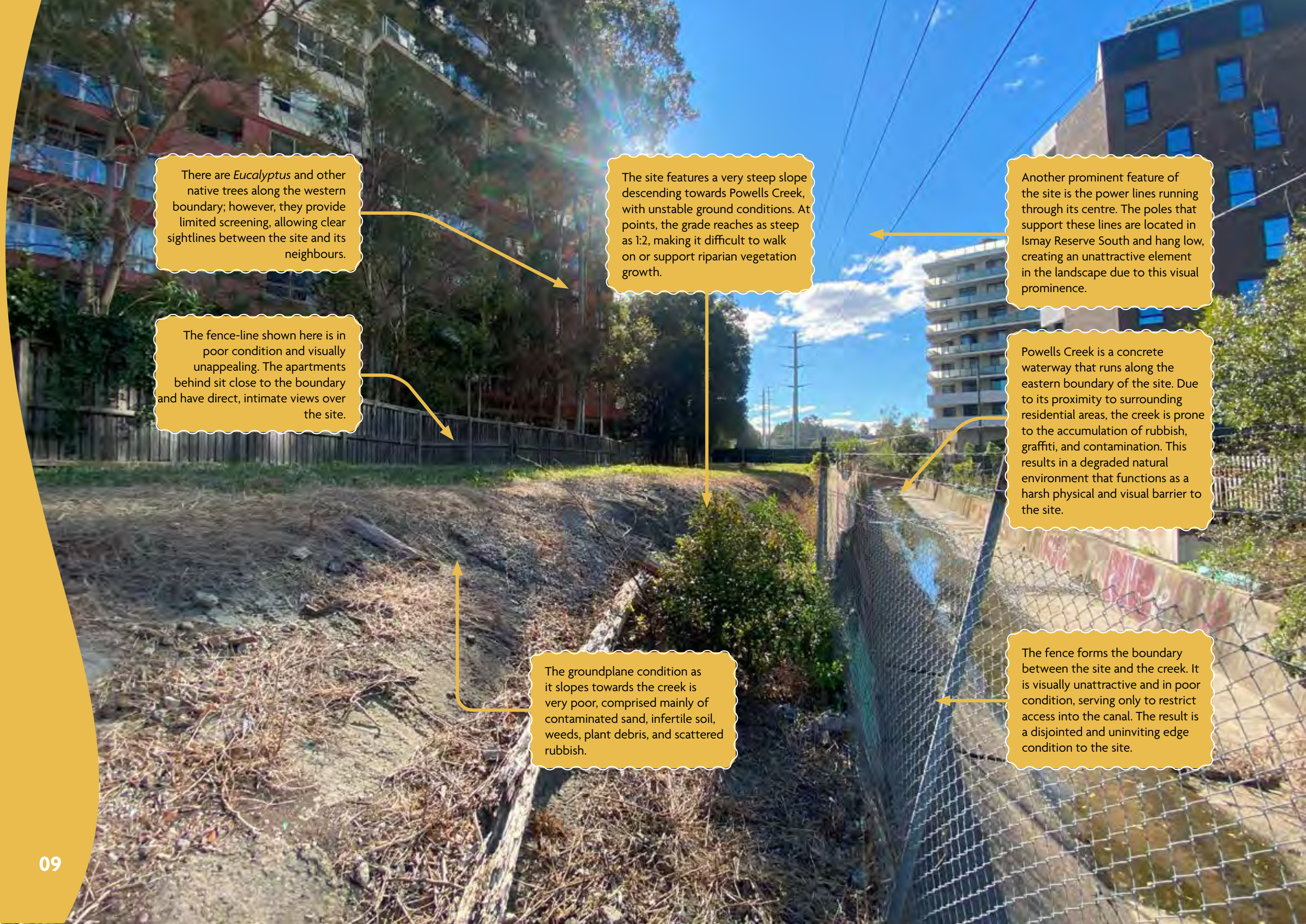


EXISTING ELEMENTS & FACILITIES

20A Parramatta Road faces a number of site-specific challenges that must inform future design. The land slopes steeply down to Powells Creek and has a history of mixed uses, resulting in areas of contaminated soil and significant weed infestations, particularly to the south. The site sits in stark contrast to surrounding high-density residential buildings, with close fence lines and little privacy for either residents or park users. The space is underutilised and disconnected, though the planned pedestrian link to Homebush Station presents a key opportunity to activate the southern end. Design responses will need to address these environmental and spatial constraints while enhancing access, safety, and amenity for the wider community.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ① Western entrance | ⑪ Current fence dividing sites |
| ② Heritage Facade and Graffiti | ⑫ Gravel debris groundcover |
| ③ Telecommunication Smart Poles | ⑬ Proposed bridge location |
| ④ Existing planting along park border | ⑭ Current western fence-line |
| ⑤ Eastern entrance | ⑮ Camphor laurel trees |
| ⑥ Existing tree planting | ⑯ Residential proximity to site |
| ⑦ Playground | ⑰ Steep slope toward Creek |
| ⑧ Border planting along Powell Creek | ⑱ Residential building towering over site |
| ⑨ Open grassed area | ⑲ Weed infestation |
| ⑩ Telecommunications Smartpole | ⑳ End of site, south boundary |





There are *Eucalyptus* and other native trees along the western boundary; however, they provide limited screening, allowing clear sightlines between the site and its neighbours.

The site features a very steep slope descending towards Powells Creek, with unstable ground conditions. At points, the grade reaches as steep as 1:2, making it difficult to walk on or support riparian vegetation growth.

Another prominent feature of the site is the power lines running through its centre. The poles that support these lines are located in Ismay Reserve South and hang low, creating an unattractive element in the landscape due to this visual prominence.

The fence-line shown here is in poor condition and visually unappealing. The apartments behind sit close to the boundary and have direct, intimate views over the site.

Powells Creek is a concrete waterway that runs along the eastern boundary of the site. Due to its proximity to surrounding residential areas, the creek is prone to the accumulation of rubbish, graffiti, and contamination. This results in a degraded natural environment that functions as a harsh physical and visual barrier to the site.

The groundplane condition as it slopes towards the creek is very poor, comprised mainly of contaminated sand, infertile soil, weeds, plant debris, and scattered rubbish.

The fence forms the boundary between the site and the creek. It is visually unattractive and in poor condition, serving only to restrict access into the canal. The result is a disjointed and uninviting edge condition to the site.

Another row of apartments continues along the site's western boundary, with balconies that overlook the parkland area

Ismay Reserve South is equipped with existing lighting that illuminates the area during early morning and late evening hours - an important feature for ensuring safety.

Existing power poles on site support large overhead wires which are in the process of being removed and the remaining poles decorated with public art installations. This is a welcomed development as the poles currently clutter the space, lack functional contribution, and visually disrupt the overall design.

The playground and seating shelter, located in the north-east corner of Ismay Reserve South, have recently been upgraded with shade sails. This area is the most actively used section of the park, providing a welcoming space for children's play and comfortable outdoor seating under shade for residents and visitors alike.

An asphalt strip forms an informal road that extends across the space. The strip serves a practical purpose, providing vehicle access and has the potential to support uses such as market stalls and food carts

Much of Ismay Reserve South consists of open grassy areas, offering potential for various recreational uses. However, due to the site's exposure and overall lack of visual and functional appeal, it is rarely activated and would benefit from improvement to become a more purposeful and inviting space.

There are currently two pathways that enter and exit the reserve, converging at the southern end of the park at the boundary of 20A. At present, these pathways provide no connection to anywhere else.

PART B PRECEDENT STUDY

Precedent studies are an effective method to understand the site-specific opportunities and constraints for Ismay Reserve South and 20A Parramatta Road. Looking abroad and within Australia, many other sites with similar contexts have successfully been realised. These contexts include thin land parcels, surrounding high density, intense demand for open space, and challenging existing conditions such as contamination, poor water quality, and eroded soils.

This chapter identifies three precedents from overseas which have demonstrated that such challenges can be overcome with outstanding results for the community. While looking for similar challenges, the precedent study was also a useful tool to examine the design elements these sites included so that similar interventions can be considered for Ismay Reserve South and 20A Parramatta Road.

Two of the precedents are from the United States, and one is from Belgium. Each offer distinct learning experiences for our site. These learning experiences will be applied to the concept design for Ismay Reserve South and 20A Parramatta Road which will then be presented to the community and tabled at a Council meeting. The precedent studies will be continuously referred back to in order to gain perspective about the direction of the design.



▲ Large remnant *Camphor laurel* trees line the boundary of the site in areas, providing significant shade and privacy

WHY A STUDY?

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING FROM OTHERS

Design should never be conducted in a silo - good design should always look to others for inspiration, support, and learning. When design is conducted in a 'silo', meaning to be isolated from others, mistakes which have occurred before can be repeated and the best possible outcomes for the community are often not achieved.

Design is an international system, people from across the world often want many different things in our parks and gardens but there are many commonalities we share regardless of where we are from or how we are raised. This is typically about quality access to green, clean spaces with shade and beautiful trees, clean air, fresh water, and a place where we can go for peace and relaxation - whichever form that takes for each person. Therefore, learning from other projects is vital to enrich landscape design. We can look to countries and cities with similar cultures and contexts to Australia and Sydney, and on the micro-level - Homebush, to apply knowledge to the design for 20A Parramatta Road and Ismay Reserve South.



▲ A view of Powells Creek as it runs through the site, looking towards the adjacent Columbia Lane development

A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

12

RICARDO LARA PARK

LYNWOOD, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

Ricardo Lara Park is a lively urban park spanning more than 5 acres of former vacant lots along a freeway embankment, transformed into a mile-long linear space serving the neighbouring communities. While the park is much longer than 20a Parramatta Road, it offers a useful comparison as both are narrow, linear sites where the challenge lies in maximising use within a confined width. The park is segmented by cross streets into five blocks, each with a distinct program - such as dog parks, fitness stations, playgrounds, and community gardens. This intensive layering of functions ensures that no space is left underused; every section is purposefully designed to support the daily needs and lifestyles of the surrounding community. The park is bordered on one side by a pedestrian walkway with a steep slope and on the other by a busy road, creating a stark and often harsh contrast to the recreational activities offered within. This condition is particularly relevant to 20a Parramatta Road, where careful design and planting will be essential in ensuring the space remains appealing despite its proximity to heavy traffic. At Ricardo Lara Park, trees and planting are used to block views and create visual barriers, while programs such as dog parks, playgrounds, and active recreation areas are chosen because they do not rely on the peace and tranquility of more traditional park landscapes. The success of this park lies in its ability to attract people through its diverse functions and strong community focus. It thrives because it responds directly to the needs and lifestyles of local residents. Similarly, 20a Parramatta Road will sit within a dense urban environment where pressure on open space is high. For it to succeed, the site must not only provide a thoroughfare but also function as a valued destination - designed specifically to meet the expectations and quality-of-life needs of its surrounding community.





A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

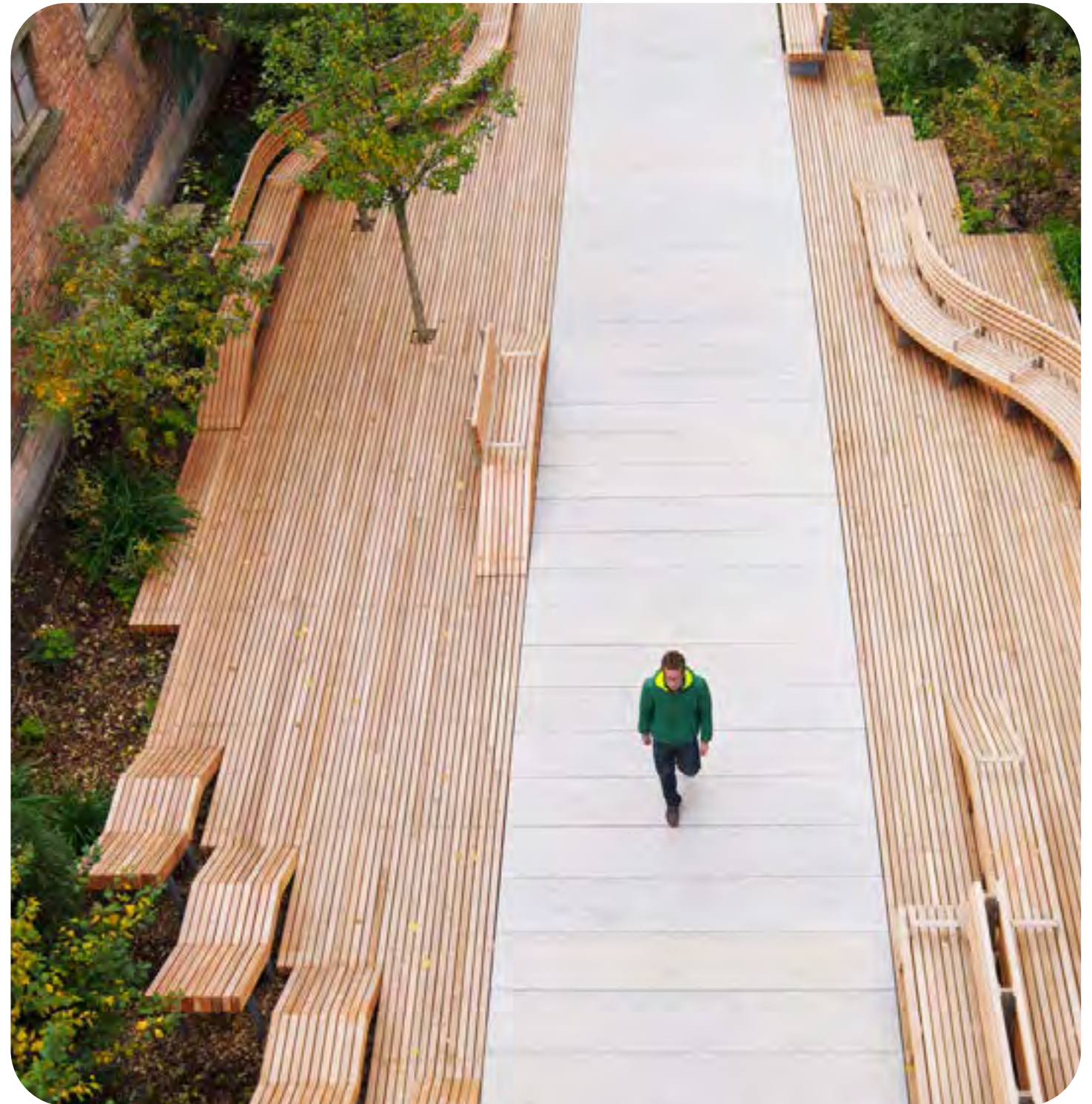
STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

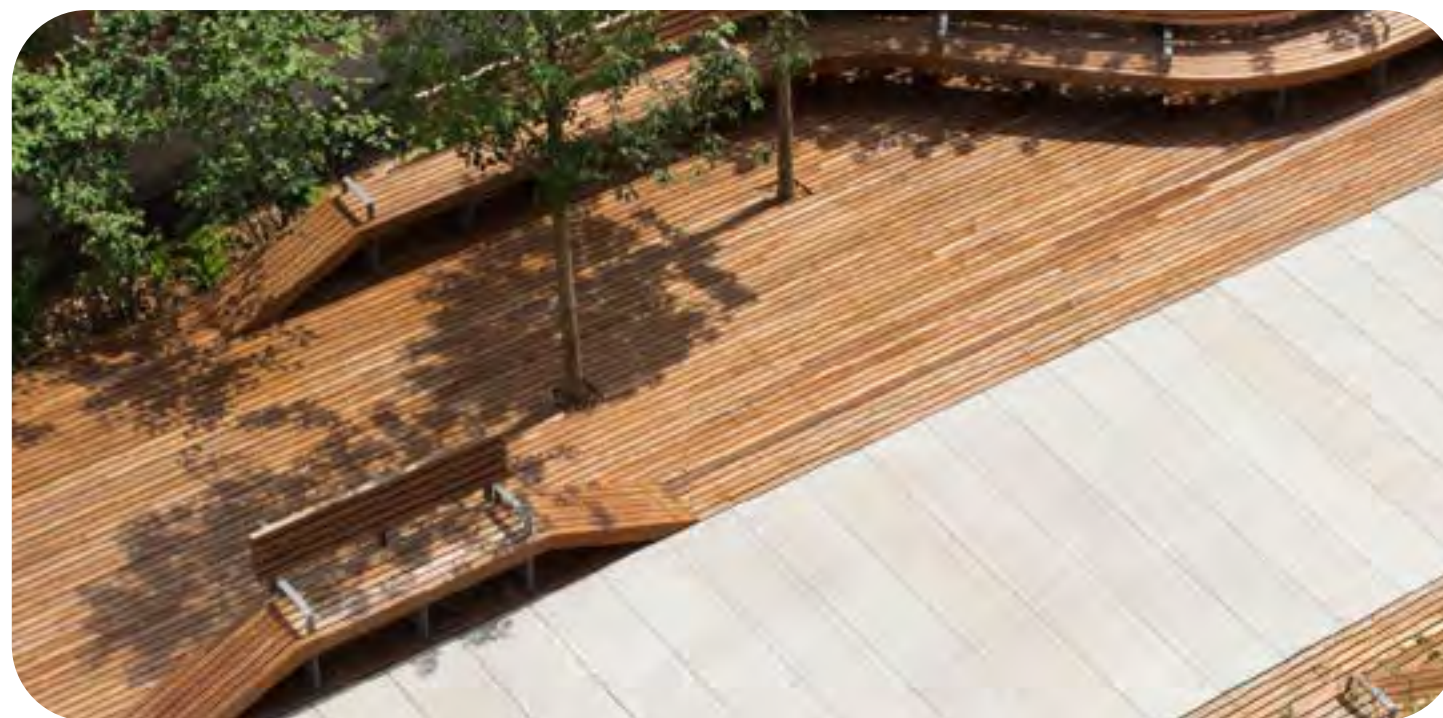
14

PARC DE LA SENNE

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

This project, located in the heart of the Masui district above the covered River Senne, is a network of vegetation and connections that demonstrates how thoughtful design can transform a confined urban space. The park achieves cohesion by blending built features with intuitive planting, creating a balanced and welcoming environment. Materiality plays a central role in its appeal: the decking structure introduces an innovative, contemporary character while integrating lifestyle elements such as seating areas and community corners that encourage people to gather. The surrounding vegetation contrasts beautifully with the built elements, resulting in a “cool,” inviting space that attracts a wide range of visitors. For 20A Parramatta Road, this project is particularly relevant as it, too, is a linear park enclosed by apartment buildings and the urban fabric. The way this park negotiates limited space, balancing natural elements with human activity, offers valuable lessons. It highlights how decking and material choices can shape the atmosphere of a place while also extending and redefining the boundaries of the ground plane. This framework is set within a landscape of dense planting and tree canopy, creating a rich natural backdrop. A particularly striking detail is the way trees grow directly through the decking, serving both as a design feature and as a powerful statement about the integration of nature to enhance human experience. The decking itself extends the active space, offering a valuable precedent for 20a Parramatta Road, where a cantilevered platform could be proposed to widen the project’s footprint and enable a more generous central thoroughfare. This project feels self-contained and distinctive due to its detailing and design quality. It stands as a strong example of what an intervention could look like in 20A Parramatta Road, showcasing how approaches can reimagine limited urban space.





A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

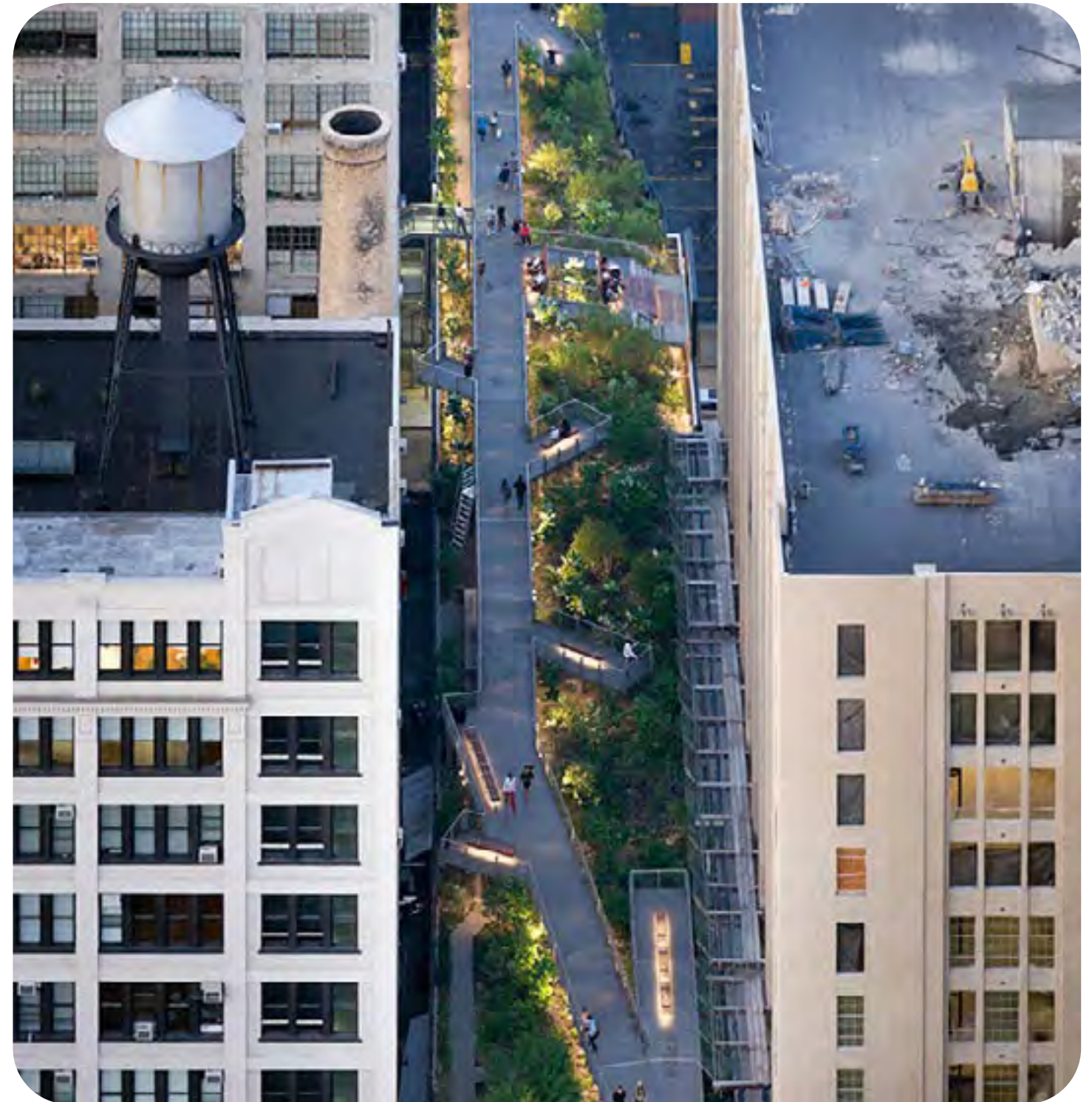
STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

16

THE HIGH LINE

NEW YORK CITY, UNITED STATES

The New York City High Line is one of the most renowned examples of a linear urban park, created by repurposing an abandoned elevated rail line into a public green space. Its design balances active pedestrian circulation with areas for slower-paced recreation, layering movement, rest, and planting within a narrow, elevated corridor. The High Line is celebrated not only for its bold re-use of infrastructure but also for its ability to create an immersive experience within a confined and highly urbanised setting. For 20A Parramatta Road, the High Line sets an important precedent. Like the High Line, the site exists within a dense, built-up environment and will be under pressure to function as both a thoroughfare and a destination. Its success lies in creating a sense of escape without disconnecting from the surrounding city, a balance that will be vital at 20a, where noise, density, and the urban edge must be softened through design. 20a Parramatta Road, like the High Line, is a linear and narrow site, meaning the success of the park will largely depend on how circulation and programming are organised. The High Line demonstrates that thoughtful sequencing of spaces creates a focused and engaging experience for individuals. For 20A, this precedent highlights the importance of choreographing circulation routes alongside strategically placed programs, ensuring the park functions as more than just a thoroughfare, but as a series of meaningful experiences within a tight footprint. Materiality and planting also play a crucial role in shaping the experience of a narrow, linear park. This contrast between robust urban materials and lush vegetation creates both durability and delight, grounding the park in its city context while offering relief from it. For 20a Parramatta Road, materiality can similarly define circulation and program areas, while planting can provide shade, visual screening from the road, and moments of respite.





A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

18

PART C

INITIAL IDEAS

The masterplanning process for 20A Parramatta Road began once a detailed survey of the site was completed, providing accurate information about the land and its characteristics. With this foundation, concept design brainstorming could commence, guided by a process of sketching on trace paper to test ideas and explore possibilities.

This phase involved mapping out key components such as pathways, recreation programming, and facilities, with multiple iterations drawn to balance function and community needs. Central to the sketches was the consideration of safety, access, and circulation - ensuring pathways were not only effective but also reflective of how the community would use the space. One fundamental design move was the consideration of a bridge connection from Nipper Street in the east across Powell Creek, transforming the park from a one-way access point into a thoroughfare that links residents with Homebush, while improving safety and accessibility. Importantly, the wellness and recreational strategy prepared by Strathfield Council informed the design approach, identifying the types of spaces and facilities the community values. This ensured the masterplan accommodated both active and passive uses, spaces for play, rest, calm, and versatility. The park's linear and narrow form meant that circulation and access became the structural backbone of the design, shaping all subsequent decisions about programming and spatial arrangement.

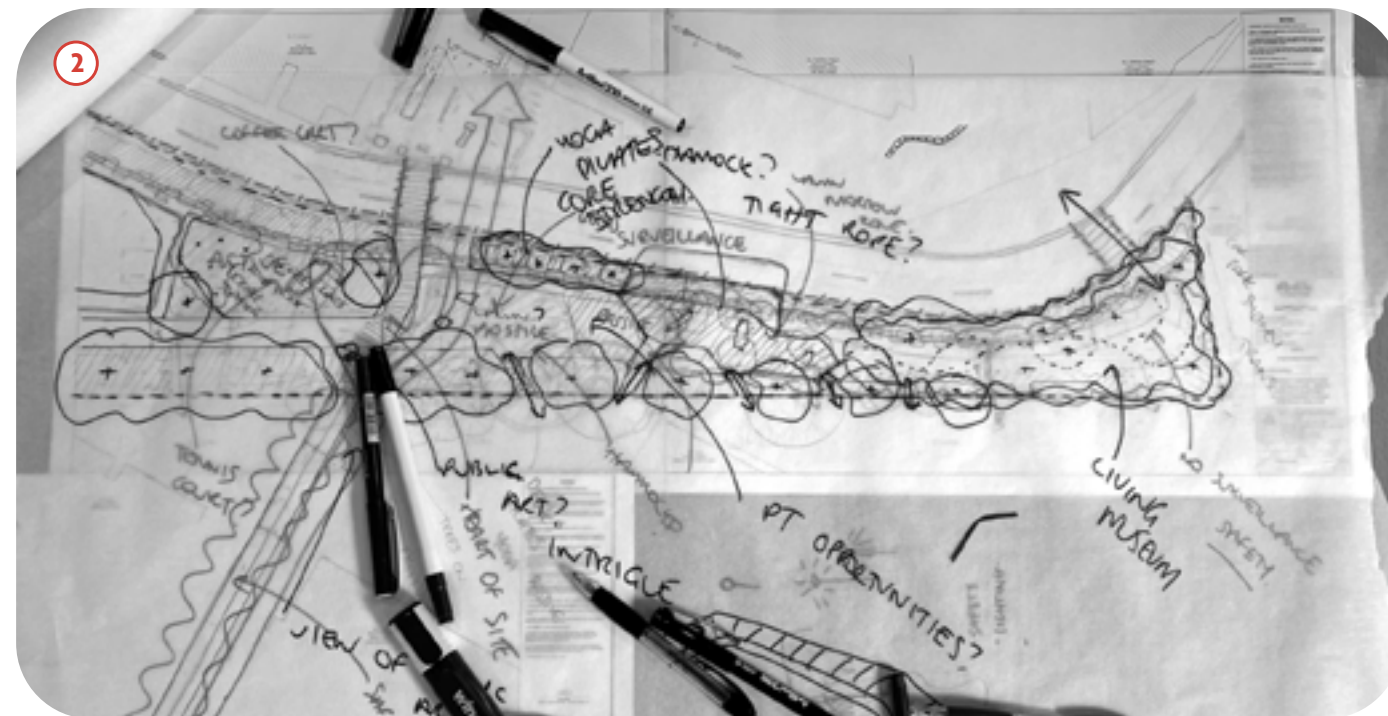
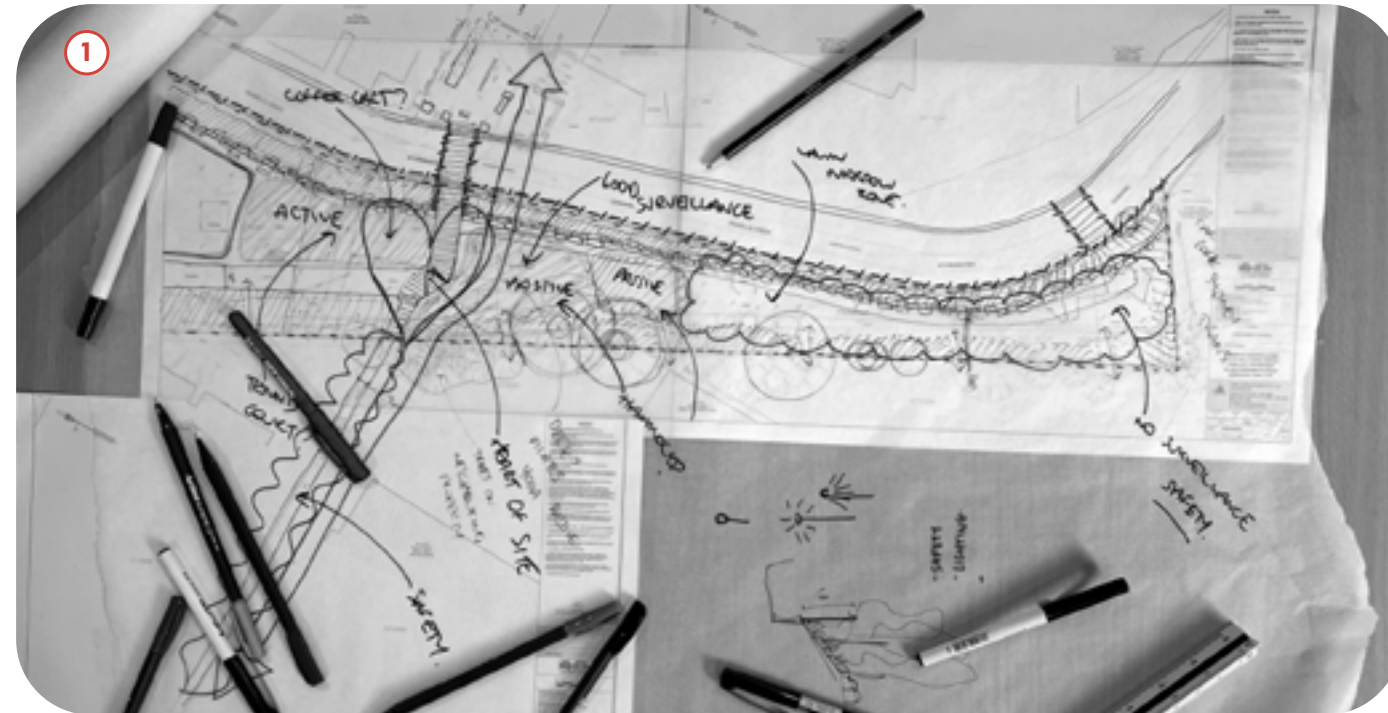


▲ Inconsistent property fencing runs along the edge of the site, providing an unattractive and stark interface to the park

THE ITERATIVE PROCESS

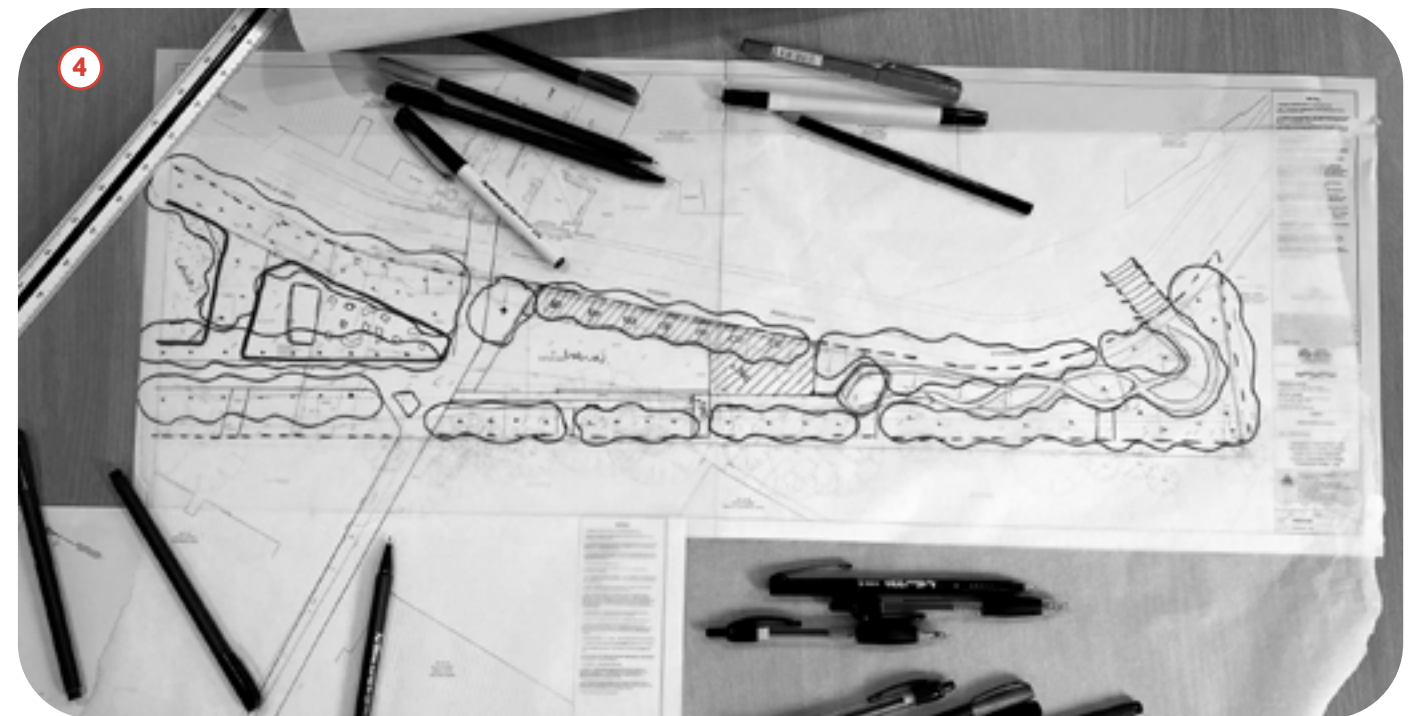
SKETCHING & TESTING IDEAS

The initial concept plan brings together the site analysis, precedents, and overarching vision for 20A Parramatta Road into a single illustrative diagram. Its purpose is to begin translating these ideas into a tangible project, with clear intent, guidance, and emerging physical qualities. While still high-level, the plan uses a simple diagrammatic approach to define the park as a series of zones of intention. These include both existing spaces within Ismay Reserve South and proposed areas that form part of the broader park masterplan. In some instances, existing elements are reinterpreted or combined - for example, the seating and BBQ areas are consolidated to create a more clearly defined community gathering space. The concept plan is guided by a set of key themes that shape both the spatial diagram and the intended function of each area. These themes include lawn spaces that support versatility and informal community use; play spaces that build on the existing playground at Ismay Reserve South; and passive community spaces designed for picnics, supervision, and everyday social activity supported by urban infrastructure.



FINESSING THE DETAILS

A central hybrid space, referred to as the Junction, accommodates both leisure and movement, functioning as a place to enjoy the park while also acting as a key thoroughfare for residents commuting to destinations such as Homebush Station. The Deck Retreat provides an elevated setting that offers separation from busier areas and opportunities for relaxation or flexible activation. The Wander Garden responds to the park's irregular geometry, prioritising ecological planting, biodiversity, and movement through landscape rather than occupation. Finally, the Green Fringe uses planting as a strategy for safety, screening, noise mitigation, and visual amenity throughout the park. Together, these themes form the foundational framework of the concept plan. While preliminary, they begin to articulate how the park's intentions will be realised on the ground, ensuring the design responds to both current conditions and the evolving needs of the surrounding community.



▼ Powells Creek appears dirty, vandalised, and generally unattractive - a challenging interface to the park

A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

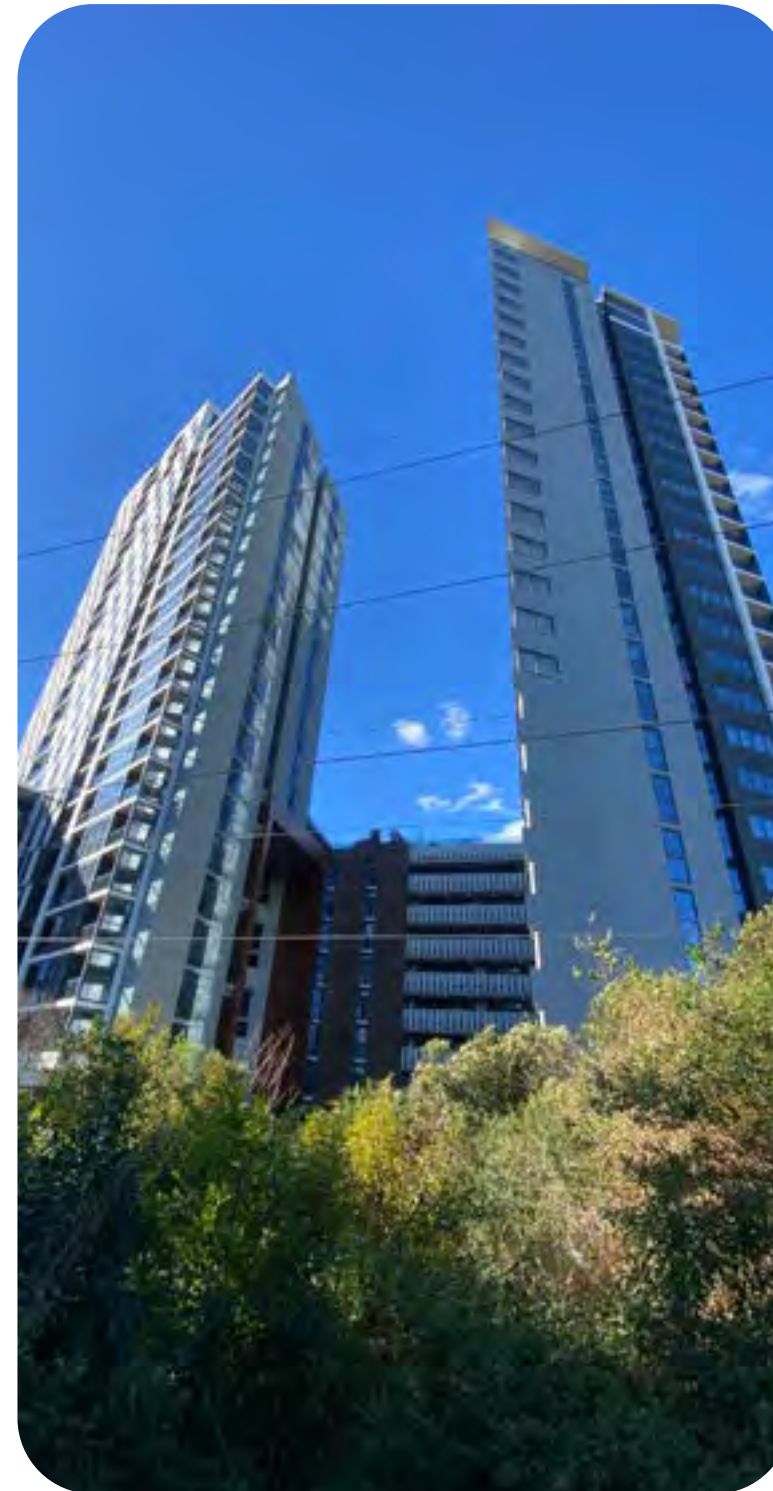
22

CONCEPT PLAN

PRELIMINARY IDEAS FOR THE SITE

After the sketch iterations, a coherent concept plan was created digitally to showcase the main moves and ideas for the community. These main ideas were presented in the form of bubbles on a plan, calling out and identifying spatially where items would be placed at a very high, initial brainstorming level.

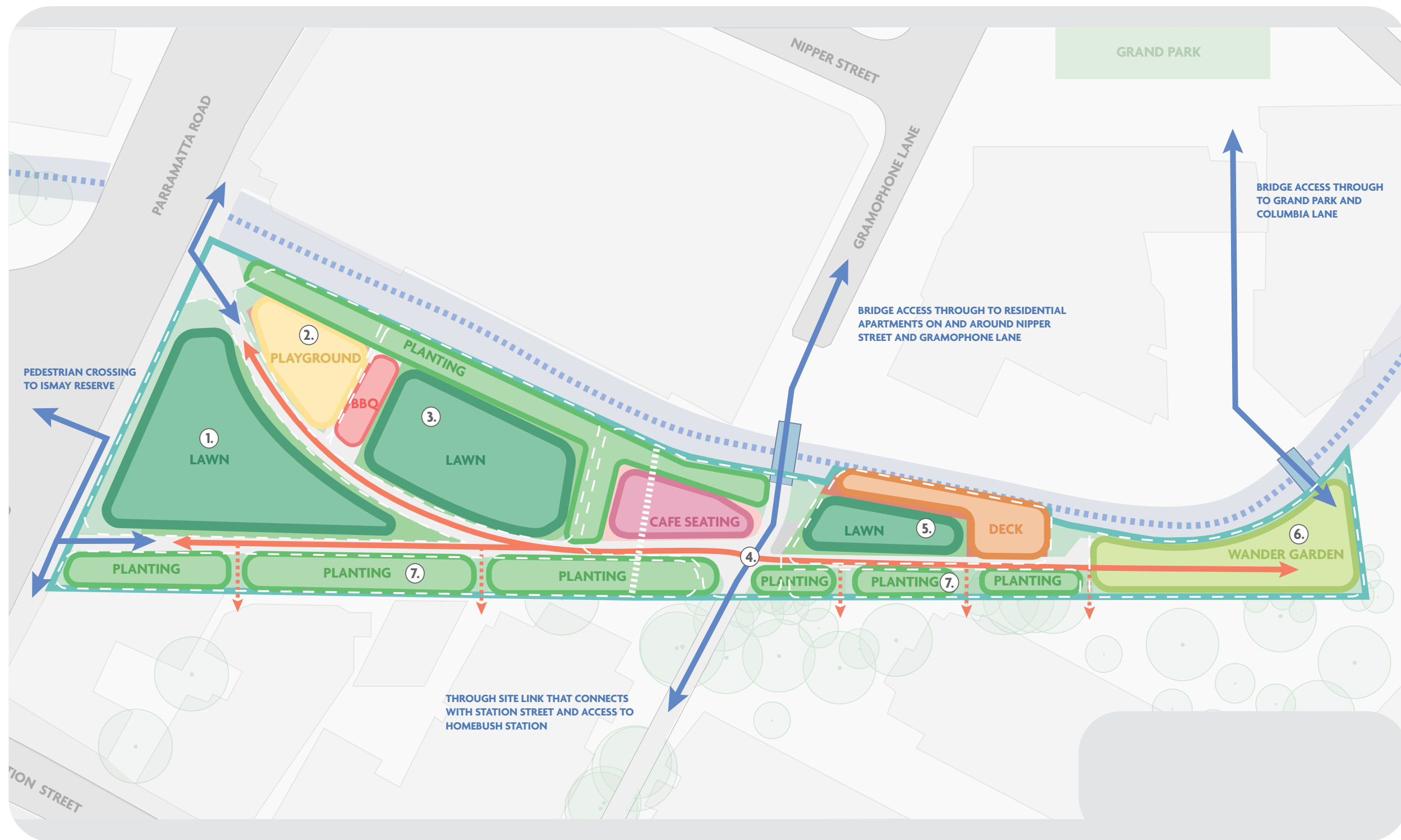
The concept plan was then presented to the community. Due to the high level nature of the plan, it was easy to discuss ideas and present options without considering detail items which can de-rail a concept design and is more appropriate later on during finalisation stages. Most important was to discuss the 'big moves' about restructuring the site and identifying opportunities for better spatial arrangements given the site's size constraints and narrow width. In the larger part of the site in Ismay Reserve South, lawn spaces were identified as the most appropriate use given the size requirements for such spaces and the availability of natural sunlight. As the site got narrower towards 20A Parramatta Road, different options were considered such as seating areas, garden zones, spaces of planting, and raised areas.



▲ Towers from Columbia Lane frame the park

- ① Green spaces
- ② Play spaces
- ③ Passive spaces
- ④ 'The Junction' - activation space
- ⑤ 'The Retreat' - relaxation space
- ⑥ 'The Wander Garden' - educational space
- ⑦ Park edges
- Powells Creek
- Public routes
- Private routes
- Main entrance and exit points





A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

GREEN SPACES

Green spaces are envisioned as a generous, open grassed space designed to support a wide range of informal and community-focused activities. Intentionally kept largely undefined, it encourages flexible use - accommodating everything from casual play and relaxation to social gatherings, picnics, and larger community events. Ample sunlight, particularly during the warmer months, contributes to a bright and active atmosphere, while pockets of tree planting provide comfort and shade without compromising the openness of the space. Drawing inspiration from successful urban lawns such as those found in Hyde Park, The Lawn prioritises versatility and everyday usability, offering a simple, traversable landscape that supports both active and passive recreation. The integration of public art opportunities and surrounding planting adds visual interest and cultural value, reinforcing The Lawn's role as a vibrant, adaptable space that responds to the evolving needs of the community.



PLAY SPACES

The playground at 20A Parramatta Road plays an essential role in supporting the local community, particularly the many young families living in nearby high-density housing. As one of the first features encountered when entering the park from Parramatta Road, it creates an immediate sense of welcome and vibrancy. Only a few years old, the space is well-equipped with diverse play elements and enhanced by a recently installed shade sail, ensuring comfort and usability throughout the year. More than just a play area, the playground acts as an extension of the backyard for surrounding residents, offering children a safe and engaging place to play independently or with friends, while also providing parents and carers with a natural gathering point. It is a highly valued social space that fosters connection, community interaction, and outdoor enjoyment, which is why it will be retained as part of the park's future design.



A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

26

PASSIVE SPACES

Directly opposite the playground in Ismay Reserve South is a grassed area with a shelter, seating, and BBQ facilities, functioning as a natural extension of the play space. This picnic area acts as a central gathering point where families and community members can relax, eat, and socialise while remaining visually connected to the playground. Its purpose remains unchanged, continuing to encourage family activity and interaction, but will be strengthened through the addition of platform benches and further planting.

These provide alternative seating options that not only create more opportunities for people to meet and share meals but also extend a consistent design language by continuing the decking motif, which is present in the 'retreat'. Together, these elements complement the existing BBQ facilities and reinforce the space as a welcoming hub for connection and outdoor dining.

These images begin to convey Council's vision for the space as a welcoming place for community gathering and socialising. It is designed with facilities that support picnics, barbecues, family outings, and outdoor enjoyment, creating a versatile setting that can be appreciated by people of all ages and backgrounds.



‘THE JUNCTION’

The Junction is the heart of the park at 20a Parramatta Road – the point where all main pathways converge and where daily movement and community life meet. Designed as the park’s most significant space, The Junction plays a vital role in connecting residents with key destinations. A proposed pedestrian bridge across Powell Creek will link Gramophone Lane with Station Street, creating a direct route to Homebush Station and transforming the park into a highly pedestrianised thoroughfare.

Anticipated to be the busiest area within the park, The Junction has been carefully planned to balance movement with moments of pause. A dedicated space for a coffee cart and seating invites passersby to stop, rest, and socialise, while strong wayfinding and the potential for integrated artwork will reinforce both orientation and identity. With opportunities to celebrate the heritage of Powell Creek through design motifs, The Junction is envisioned as both a practical hub and a place of gathering – a landmark moment in the journey through the park.

The key design features of The Junction include the intersection of the park’s main pathways, where generous concrete spaces are provided to accommodate high foot traffic, alongside an area set aside for a coffee cart and seating.



A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

28

‘THE RETREAT’

The Retreat is envisioned as a calm, versatile space, offering a balance to the park’s busier and more active zones. Transitioning away from the playgrounds and high-traffic pathways, this area invites slower, more reflective use – a place for yoga, tai chi, reading, or simply existing in the landscape. The design combines an open lawn for relaxation with a timber deck that wraps around and extends over Powells Creek, subtly expanding the park’s boundaries while drawing the character of the creek into the experience. Trees grow through openings in the deck, creating shaded pockets for rest, while the shift in materiality signals a change in pace and atmosphere. Together, the grassed and decked areas form a contemporary communal setting – not just another lawn, but a distinctive place for nearby residents to gather, unwind, and enjoy moments of quiet connection. These precedent images are intended to illustrate the kind of atmosphere and design qualities being explored for the space. While 20A Parramatta Road does not offer the same scale or aesthetic richness as the examples shown, the concept of timber decking wrapping along the edge to create seating opportunities is highly relevant. On a fine day, The Retreat provides residents with the chance to practise yoga, enjoy gentle exercise, or simply take time outdoors close to home. It is envisioned as a slower, more reflective gathering space – a calm pocket within the park where the community can pause, relax, and enjoy a different type of outdoor experience.



‘THE WANDER GARDEN’

The southern end of 20A Parramatta Rd is constrained by the sharp bend of Powell Creek, steep slopes, and limited space, making it unsuitable for formal or programmed activities. Rather than forcing structured use, this area is best treated as a zone of ecological renewal. Dense, layered native planting can enhance habitat and biodiversity while forming a richly vegetated garden space intended for movement rather than gathering.

Precedent examples of native Australian gardens demonstrate the effectiveness of clear pathways running through or alongside dense planting. This approach creates visual richness, provides screening, and offers an engaging and safe experience for pedestrians. The same intent applies at 20A Parramatta Road: to establish a simple, self-sustaining native garden that requires minimal maintenance while allowing people to move comfortably through a planted landscape that balances ecological value with everyday usability.



A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

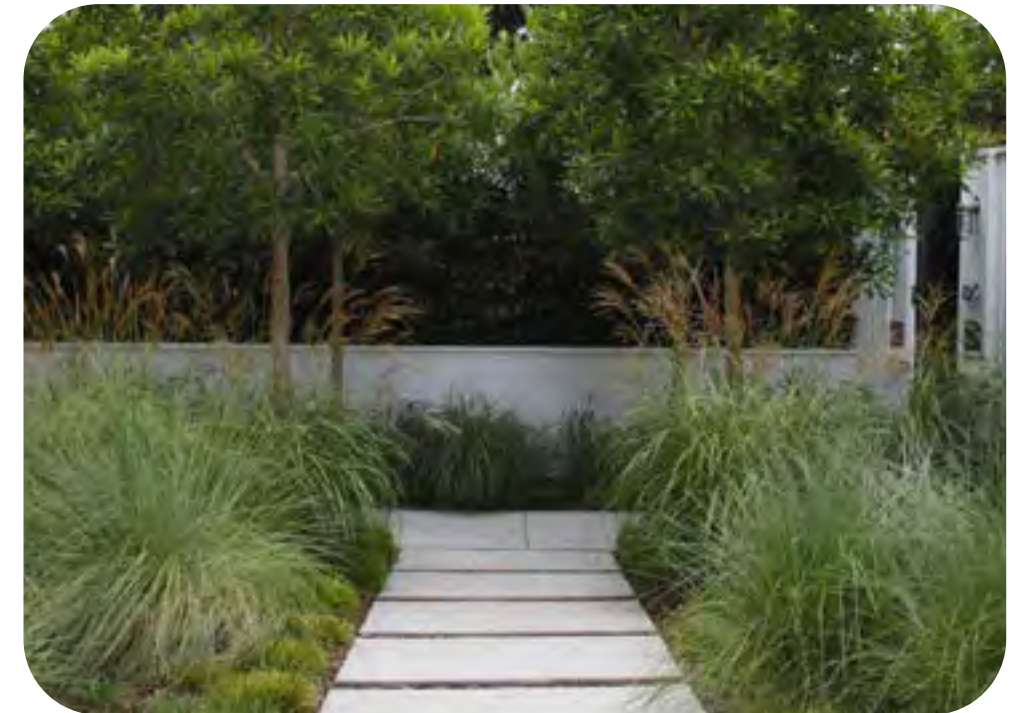
MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

PARK EDGES

The green fringe is a simple and effective strategy that uses dense layers of shrubs, trees, and grasses along the park's edges to provide screening, privacy, and a sense of security. This vegetated buffer reduces visual exposure for nearby residents while helping the park feel more enclosed and distinct from surrounding buildings.

Beyond screening, the green fringe strengthens the park's ecological value by improving soil health, supporting habitat, and expanding the tree canopy, contributing to long-term resilience and climate benefits. The result is a park experience that feels immersive and separated from adjacent development.

The planting establishes a strong, mature character while respecting existing site conditions, including boundary fences and private access points. Precedent imagery demonstrates the desired density and structure of the planting. By using predominantly Australian native species, the landscape can remain hardy, low-maintenance, and self-sustaining, with seasonal variation in colour and texture adding visual interest and reinforcing a distinctly Australian character.



▼ Large and diverse canopy exist within the adjacent private properties, providing shade and visual aesthetics

A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

32

PART D COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Community consultation was undertaken in early December 2025. A large corflute display was set up to communicate the high-level intentions for the park, supported by precedent imagery illustrating how these ideas might translate on the ground. This format encouraged open and meaningful conversations about what residents liked, what they did not, and what they felt was missing from the proposal.

Consultation was strategically located at Homebush Station, allowing engagement with residents passing through as part of their daily routines, particularly those travelling to and from school pick-ups and living within walking distance of the site. This approach proved valuable, as many participants shared personal knowledge and anecdotes about the area that helped inform the design process. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with strong support for the extension of Ismay Reserve South and a clear desire for increased open space, particularly to the south of Parramatta Road. The consultation process successfully reached a diverse range of community members, including school-aged children and residents whose properties directly adjoin the site, ensuring a broad spectrum of perspectives was captured.



▲ Laura O'Connell from Strathfield Council seen talking to community members about the concept plan proposal

WHAT WE WERE TOLD

THE GOOD, BAD, AND THE UGLY

A lot of feedback revolved around a desire to improve the crossing experience between the park and Arnotts Reserve, Allen Street Reserve, and Ismay Reserve to the north. It was frequently expressed that the connection to these spaces involved crossing Parramatta Road which is unpleasant, noisy, and potentially dangerous. Parramatta Road is a state road (owned by the NSW Government), and therefore an intervention such as a bridge would be a very large project requiring state government endorsement, well beyond the scope of this park masterplan. However, Council notes the feedback and understands the concerns of the community, and interventions can be considered under future grant opportunities or other state-led interventions to Parramatta Road. Another large component of feedback was about providing more shade in the park through structures over recreation areas and natural canopy from trees. This feedback is welcomed by Council and will be included in the revised version of the masterplan for the site. The pop-up cafe and commercial activation idea was supported by all community members who engaged in the consultation process. This shows that there is a desire to provide a small, food and beverage commercial service in the park.



▲ Community members gather at Homebush Station to discuss the concept plan proposal

SNAPSHOT OF FEEDBACK

I like the masterplan, I was wondering what was going to happen to this bit of land. It is good to see that Council is doing something about it now. I like the idea for a pop-up cafe and the bridge connection over the creek would make our lives a lot easier. I also would like a bridge over Parramatta Road at some point, maybe this can be considered in the masterplan as well.



The bridge over the creek must happen, the connection to Homebush Station is so important.



It would be good to consider a connection over Parramatta Road, such as a bridge.



More landscaping and trees are needed in this site. It is very dirty and contaminated. I would like to see it become a beautiful lush park.

More nature and greenery is needed in this area. It is noisy and smelly from the creek and Parramatta Road.

I would use this park for fitness and a space to go outside, as I live in a small apartment.

A lot of school kids walk from Homebush through the train station and into this area. A focus on providing activities for children in this park would be essential. Something more than the existing playground.



TABLE OF FEEDBACK

Positive feedback	Constructive feedback
The garden idea is great and needed, an opportunity for community to grow herbs would be nice	More options for water play in the masterplan are needed
I like that there are lots of spaces for sitting and chatting in the masterplan	A learn to drive track or similar would be good for children
The connection of the park to Mason Park Wetlands and further is great	More trees in the masterplan are needed, large species for shade
Improved access into the park is good and much needed	Water play like fountains such as Darling Harbour is needed
I like the different options for play, important for older children and teens	There needs to be more covered spaces for shade in the masterplan
The cafe and commercial activation idea is great	More shade is required
The walking pathway is great for mums	Fencing or other type of blocking is needed along Parramatta Road
The garden area is a nice idea	Bike facilities like racks and wider pathways for passing safely is needed
	The existing playground is too small and needs more options for older kids to run and exercise
	The electricity lines overhead are concerning and look unsafe, they should be removed
	More crossing options over Parramatta Road are needed, it is dangerous. A bridge should be built.
	A large barrier is needed to the creek to stop people dumping rubbish in it
	I don't want any more noise in the area, the park should be left alone
	I don't like the decking idea, it looks dangerous for children
	There needs to be more parking, how will people access the park?
	Parramatta Road floods when it rains heavily, it's impossible to walk on the pathway without being splashed
	There needs to be more safety measures in the park so children can be let out to play
	Parramatta Road is very bright, no more lights should be added into the park
	Crossing Parramatta Road is dangerous and unpleasant, it's hard to get to the rest of Ismay Reserve

WHAT WE WILL DO NOW

FEEDBACK THEMES

Improved crossing experience at Parramatta Road to provide better and safer connection to Arnotts Reserve, Allen Street Reserve, and Ismay Reserve in the north

More places for older children and teens to enjoy recreational activities and play

A community garden or other type of garden area where people can relax and engage in nature

Pop-up cafe or other type of commercial activation

Visual and physical barriers to Parramatta Road and Powells Creek for safety and aesthetics

Water play in the park to provide places for families and children and anyone else to cool off on hot days

More shaded areas in the park through more trees and structures over congregational areas and places of recreation

FEEDBACK ACTION

The feedback themes shown summarise the main points of interest that were expressed during community consultation. Approximately 7 themes emerged, centering around a desire to create a park which is comfortable, safe, aesthetic, and has a diverse range of offerings. All themes have been considered in the revision of the masterplan following consultation.

The garden was supported by the majority of community members engaged in consultation. While the masterplan did not specify the garden as a 'community garden' where herbs and vegetables can be grown, this will be considered by Council as a potential use for the space as well. Water play was mentioned frequently as an important intervention which should be considered in the park, with references made to similar installations in Darling Harbour as being an ideal precedent. Council is committed to improving the livelihoods of the community, which includes combatting heat in our parks and open spaces. Water play is one of many interventions that can be explored to achieve this - and water play will be considered as an option for this site pending feasibility through matters such as cost, installation logistics, and freshwater supply.

More places for older children and teenagers was mentioned as being important too, which is a matter Council supports under its Recreation and Wellness Strategy and will include in the revised version of the masterplan. Lastly, visual and physical barriers to Parramatta Road and Powells Creek were mentioned as being needed to improve the look of the park, as well as improving safety. Council understands this notion and will explore options for improving the visual aesthetics of the park while maintaining the ecological function of the creek and pedestrian access to Parramatta Road.

PART E

VISION AND STRATEGY

Strathfield Council's vision for 20A Parramatta Road is to transform the site into a vibrant, inclusive, and well-connected community hub that responds to the evolving needs of the growing Homebush population. As an extension of Ismay Reserve South, the park will not only enhance existing green space but also deliver improved connectivity, accessibility, and amenity, ensuring it becomes an integral part of the wider open space network.

This space is envisioned as the “backyard” for surrounding residents, particularly those living in high-density housing, providing opportunities for play, exercise, relaxation, and community gathering. By improving existing facilities and introducing diverse programming, the park will support a wide range of uses—from family outings and children's play to dog walking, casual meetings, events, and moments of rest in a safe, welcoming environment.

At its heart, the project seeks to foster connection: connection between people, nature, and the broader community. Through thoughtful design, enhanced access, and a commitment to inclusivity, 20a Parramatta Road will evolve into a recreational hub that supports healthy, active lifestyles, strengthens social bonds, and provides a much-needed green refuge for all.



▲ Ben Michel from Strathfield Council seen talking to community members about the concept plan proposal

THE VISION

A new park for Homebush, a place which fosters connection between neighbours and a touch of nature in a densely populated precinct. An unlocked backyard for thousands of people, a shared space designed for passive use and versatile activity.

A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

40

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT



STRATHFIELD 2040

Strathfield Council's Community Strategic Plan 2040 was created from a strong foundation of engagement, research, and analysis. The Plan represents the Strathfield community's long term vision for the future of the LGA, and identifies community priorities and sets out goals and strategies for their achievement. Some of the priority areas under the Plan include connectivity, community wellbeing, liveable neighbourhoods, and future growth. The proposed improvements to 20A Parramatta Road outlined in this report directly address these priority areas. Most particularly, connectivity is a major component of the masterplan with an ambition to improve access into the park as well as through to Homebush Station - providing a new form of connectivity for thousands of residents in the Columbia Lane precinct.

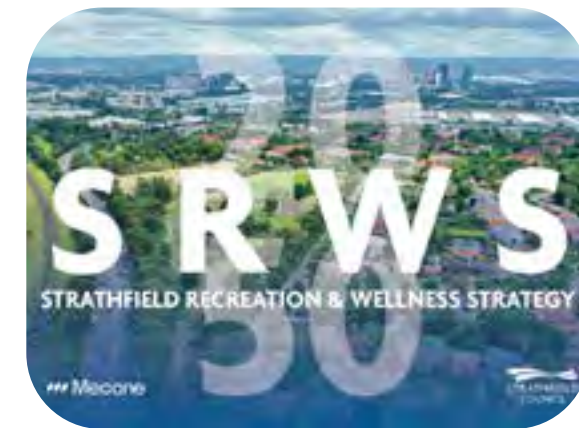


POWELLS CREEK CORRIDOR POM

The Powells Creek Corridor Land Plan of Management (PoM) is a seminal governing document which guides Council's decision making for interventions in 20A Parramatta Road, which is covered by the PoM. A PoM is a strategic document that guides the use, development, and maintenance of Council-owned or managed public land.

The masterplan as it evolves will regularly check-in with the PoM to ensure compliance with its discretions for permitted uses in 20A Parramatta Road. To date and at the time of publishing, the masterplan is in compliance with the PoM and has been regularly referred to during concept design. As the masterplan undertakes detailed design at a later date, the PoM will continue to serve as a useful guiding tool helping to shape the design of the park.

STRATHFIELD RECREATION & WELLNESS STRATEGY

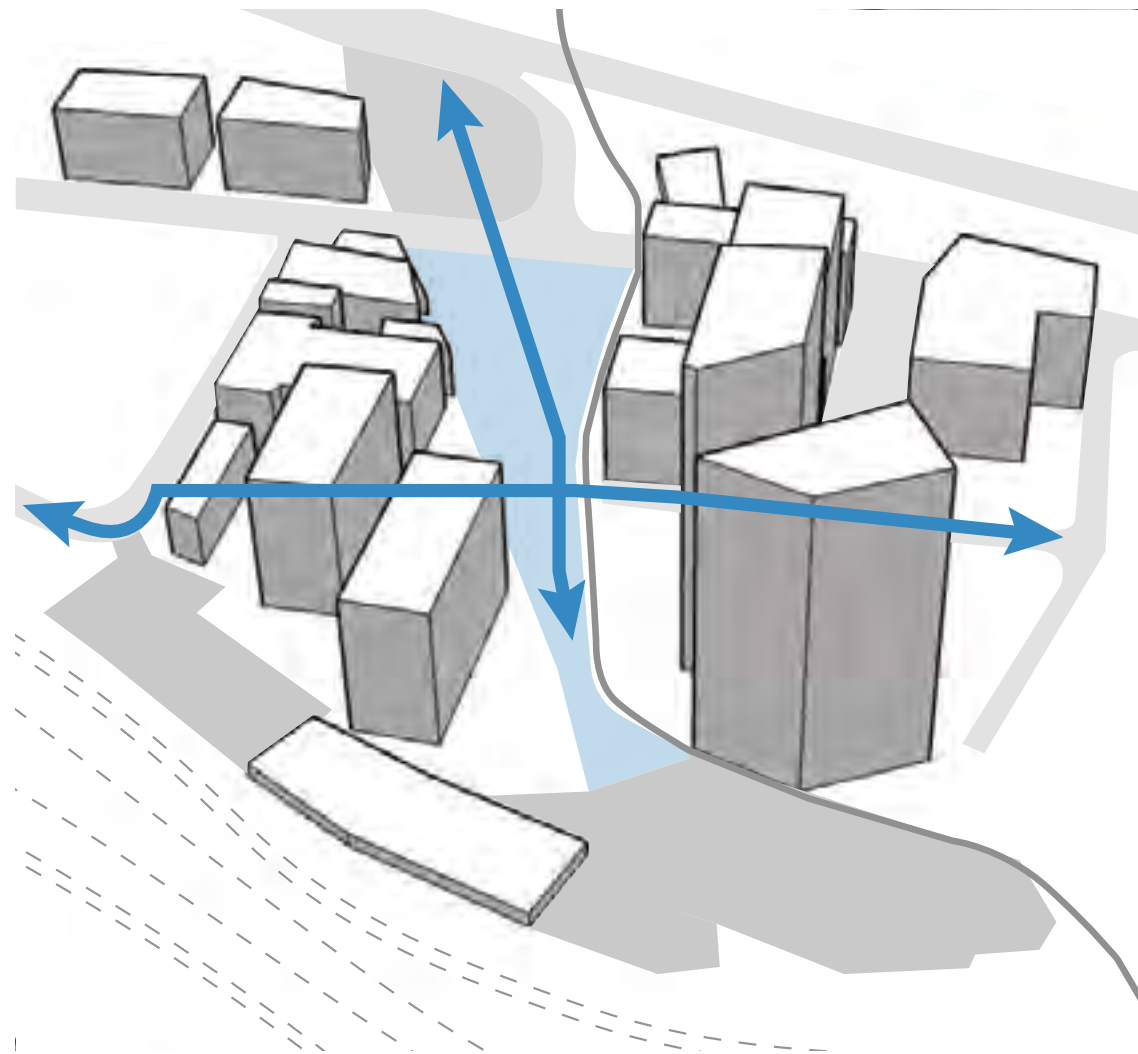


The Strathfield Recreation and Wellness Strategy (SRWS) identifies focus areas of investment in passive and active forms of recreation. The focus areas are based upon research using benchmarking data, as well as qualitative data informed by consultation where community provided feedback on recreation in Strathfield and areas for improvement. Two of the most important findings of the SRWS related to 20A Parramatta Road include:

- Encouraging commercial activation, which has inspired the incorporation of coffee and café culture into the park to create a lively and inviting community atmosphere.
- Providing space for unprogrammed and informal recreation, ensuring versatility and freedom of use for all age groups

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

IMPROVE ACCESS INTO THE SITE

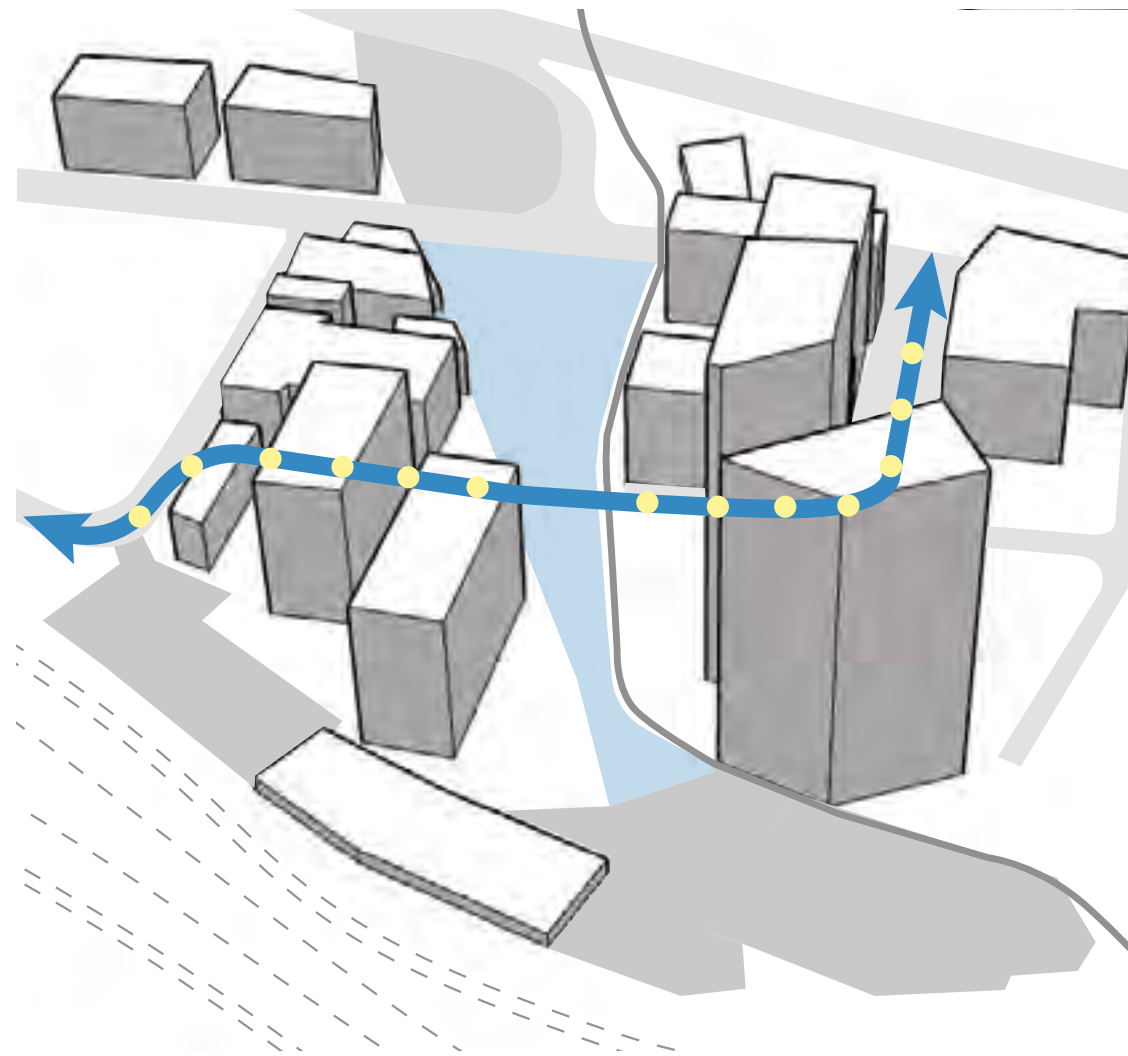


Improving access into the site will focus on breaking down existing barriers by introducing direct, safe, and legible pedestrian connections—including a new bridge across Powells Creek—and establishing clear links to Homebush Station, Parramatta Road, and the broader network of green spaces such as Ismay and Arnotts Reserves.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Design through-site links from Parramatta Road and the Columbia Lane precinct into the park and through to Homebush Station
2. Improve the connection from surrounding residential areas into the park by exploring options of access directly from private property
3. Unify the site by integrating the amenities in the existing playground area within the masterplan for the entire park

ENHANCE SAFETY PERCEPTION THROUGH IMPROVED LIGHTING AND WAYFINDING

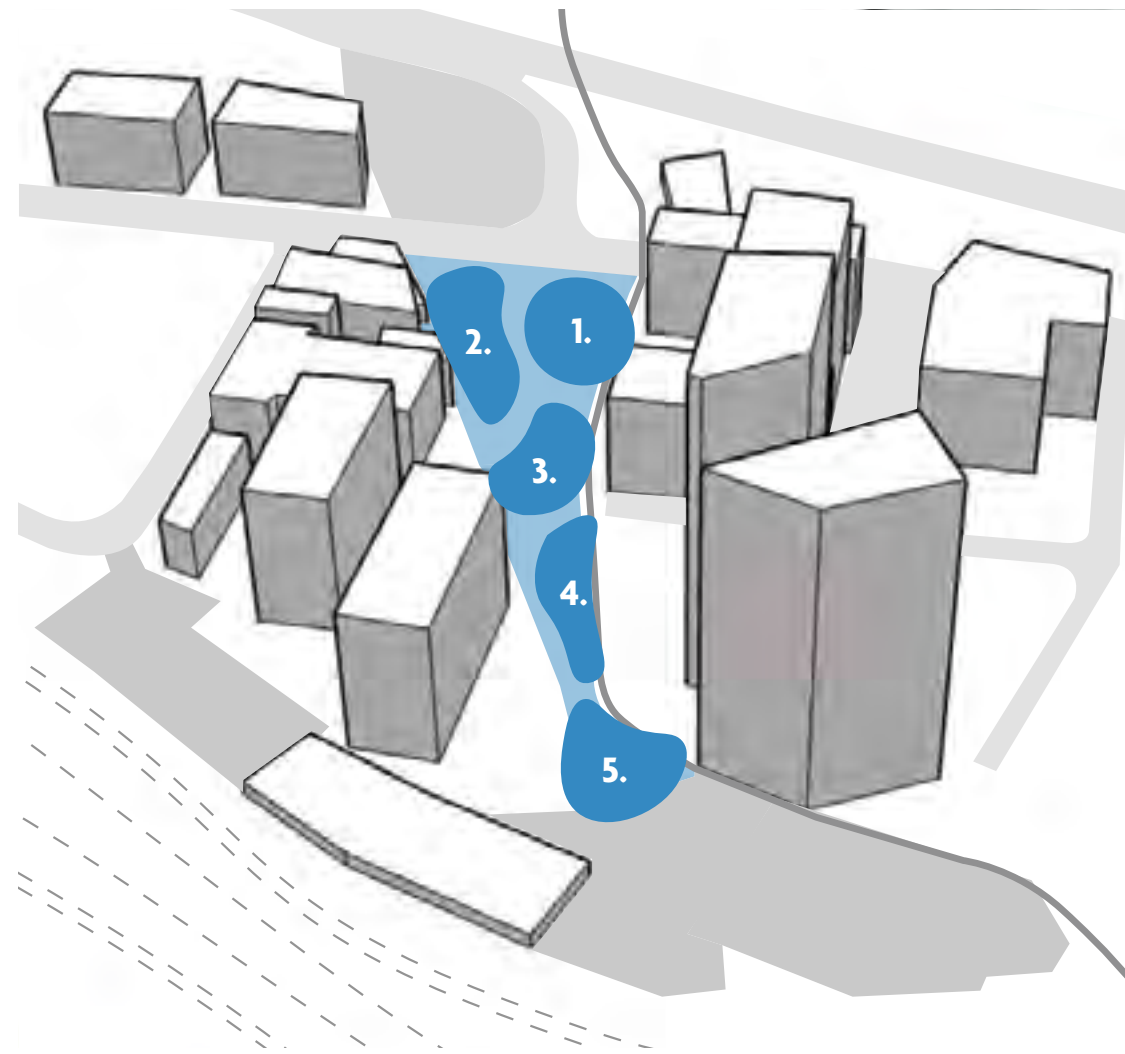


Enhancing safety within the park will be achieved through the integration of improved lighting, clear and intuitive wayfinding, and thoughtfully designed spaces that balance visibility with a sense of privacy. These measures will foster a more comfortable and secure environment, encouraging greater use of the site during both day and evening hours while strengthening community confidence in the space.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Provide greater lighting with better spill technology to high foot traffic areas, satisfying the perception of safety for visitors while balancing light pollution concerns from surrounding homes
2. Install an integrated and consistent wayfinding system within the park and surrounding areas, providing accurate information on distances to areas of interest, particularly Homebush Station

CONSIDER PROGRAMMING FOR THE FUTURE CONTEXT OF THE SITE

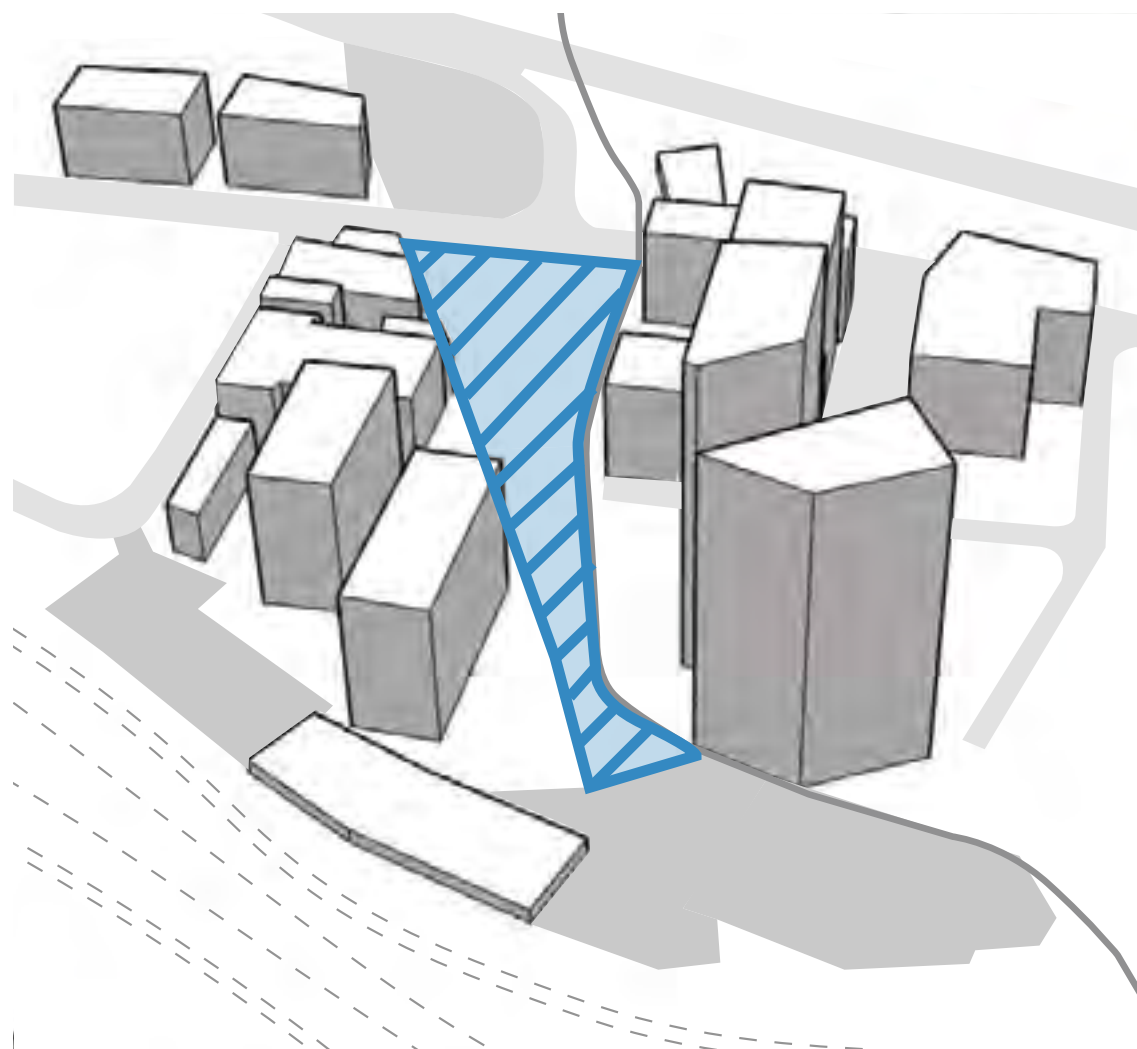


Considered programming will ensure the park responds directly to the future needs of the community shaped by the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) precinct. By introducing flexible, multi-purpose spaces and facilities, the site will adapt to the pressures of high-density living, providing residents with opportunities for recreation, events, and everyday use that complement the lifestyle of a growing urban population.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Understand holistically the relationship between the site and the surrounding residential area subject to increased density under Homebush TOD. Ensure the site is equipped to accommodate larger volumes of people in the future for longer hours.
2. Integrate the site within the wider network of green links, particularly towards the Powells Creek corridor to the north.
3. Design for walkability to transport hubs, with a considered approach providing meaningful on foot connections to Homebush Train Station to the south and the eventual North Strathfield Metro Station to the north.

RESTORE THE HEALTH OF THE SITE, FOCUSING ON IMPROVING SOIL CONDITIONS

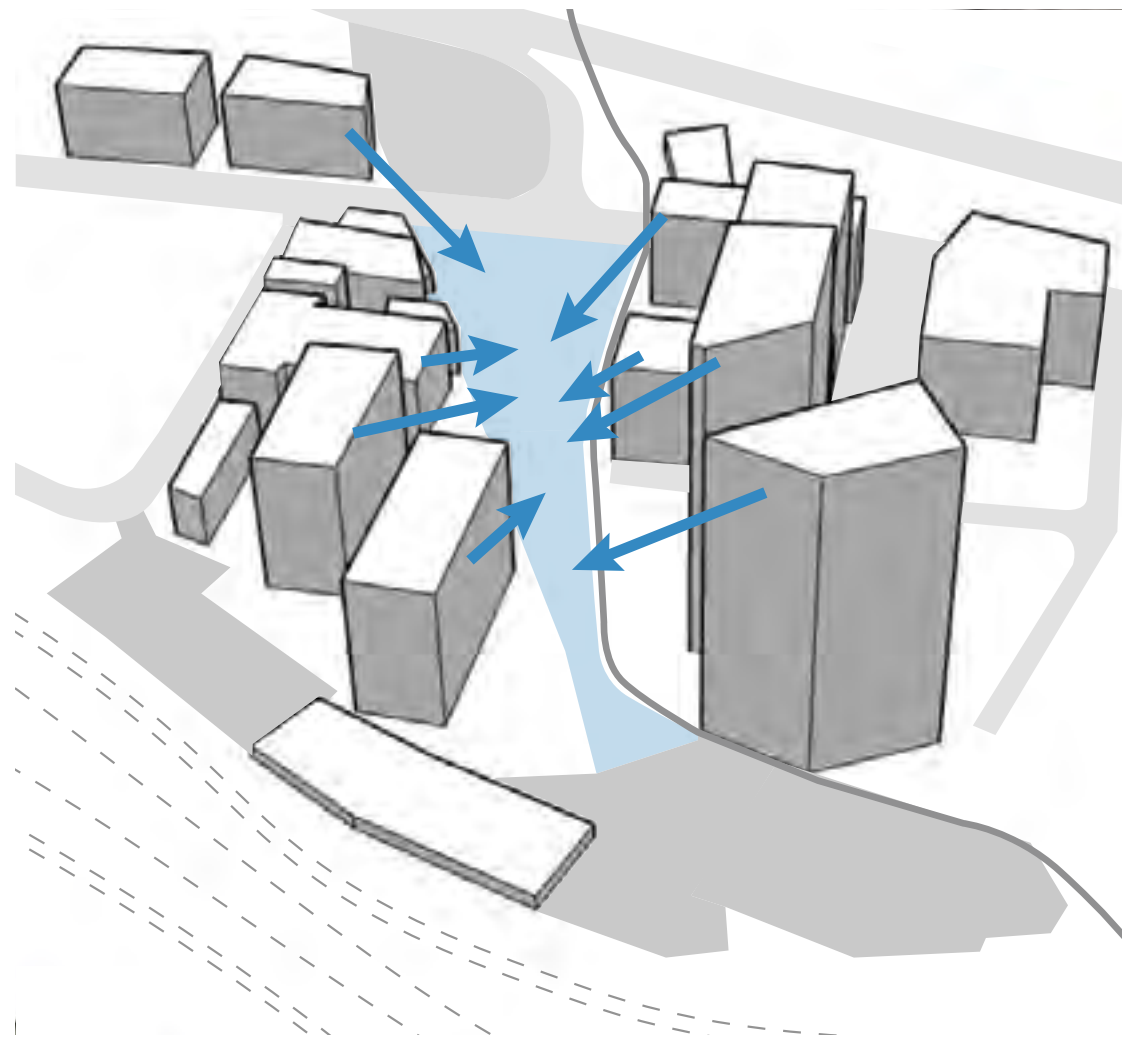


Restoring the ecological health of the site will be achieved through improving soil and ground conditions, allowing for stronger vegetation growth, greater tree canopy, and the reintroduction of native planting. These measures will help repair past environmental impacts, enhance biodiversity, and create a more resilient and sustainable landscape.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Thoroughly investigate the soil conditions of the site and commit to remediation where needed, prioritising safety and the health of visitors to the park.
2. Dedicate sections of the site to new planting opportunities, providing multi-decade benefits to soil quality and providing rich layered organic matter in the park.

RESPOND TO THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF THE IMMEDIATE COMMUNITY

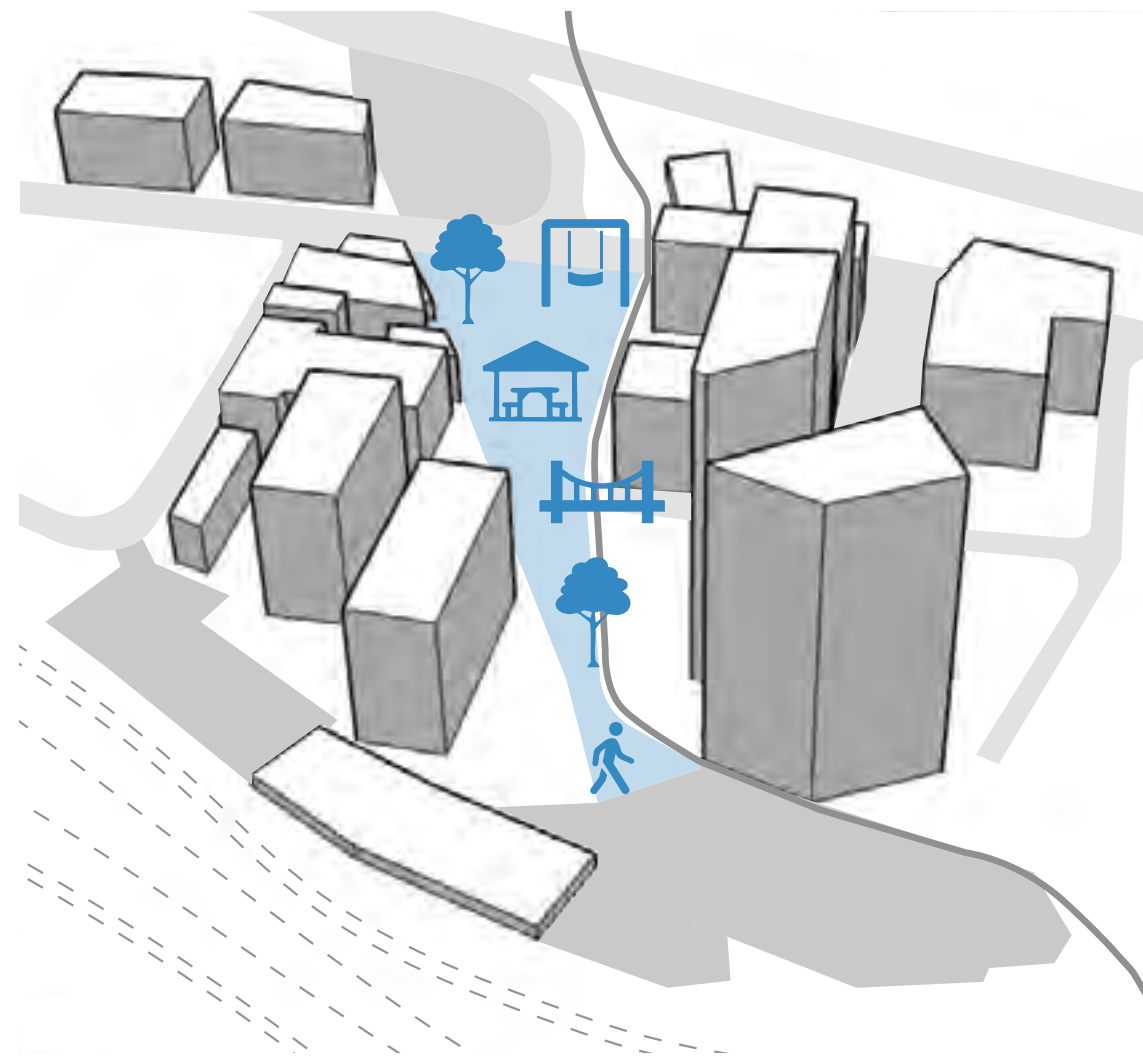


The design will be responsive to the diverse needs of the immediate community by providing a balance of active and passive spaces, inclusive play and recreation opportunities, and flexible areas that can adapt to different ages, cultures, and lifestyles. This ensures the park becomes a welcoming and meaningful space for all who live nearby.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Utilise the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan and the Strathfield Recreation and Wellness Strategy to inform the site design, providing only meaningful and targeted additions that will have a genuine positive impact for the community.
2. Change the perspective of the site from a park to a 'community backyard' for residents, a space for the surrounding families and individuals to use at their leisure and when they want. Provide a strong focus on access to the site, considering public-private interfaces to the site and exploring options for direct access from neighbouring properties.

ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH MEANINGFUL FORMS OF RECREATION



The park will be activated through the addition of diverse recreational opportunities—including play, exercise, and social spaces—addressing the needs of residents, many of whom lack private backyards, and creating a vibrant, engaging destination for the local community.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Prioritise the site as a space of passive recreation, allowing visitors to use the space as they wish and providing areas that are not dedicated to specific forms of structured recreation. Ensure spaces remain clutter free and versatile for passive activities such as picnicking, reading, yoga, and personal individual and group fitness.
2. Ensure spaces are inclusive to the best of the site's ability, providing step-free access to areas of interest and utilising pathway materials which are accessible and easy to be navigated. Where constrained, DDA expertise will be consulted to offer alternate solutions to access.
3. Employ a future-focussed lens to the provision of recreation, utilising the findings of the Strathfield Recreation and Wellness Strategy to provide interventions which will cater for the future surrounding population.

▼ Canopy trees in adjacent private properties have a positive impact on the site and must be protected

A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

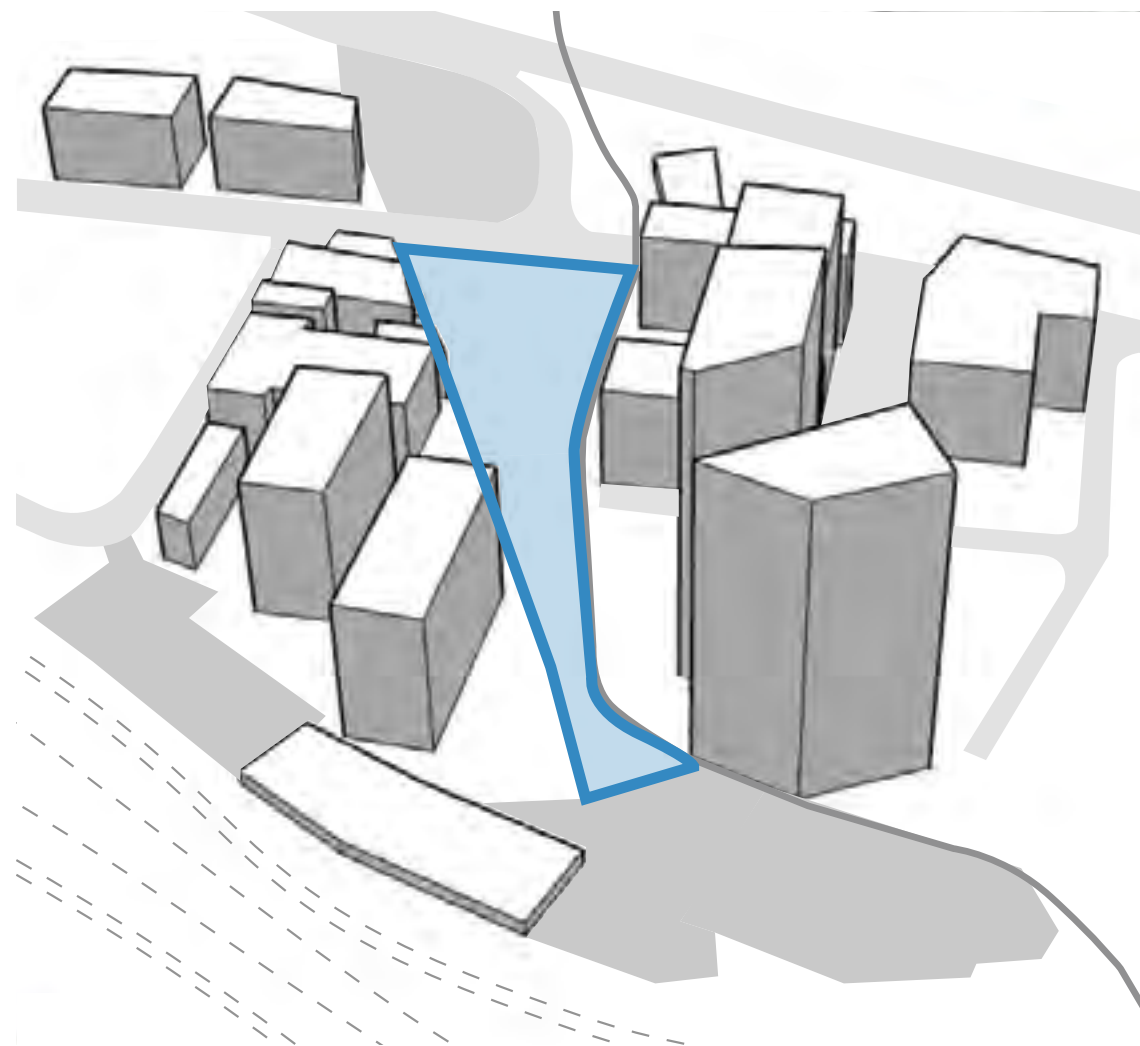
F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLEMENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

48

UNIFY THE SITE INTO A SINGLE AND COHESIVE PARK

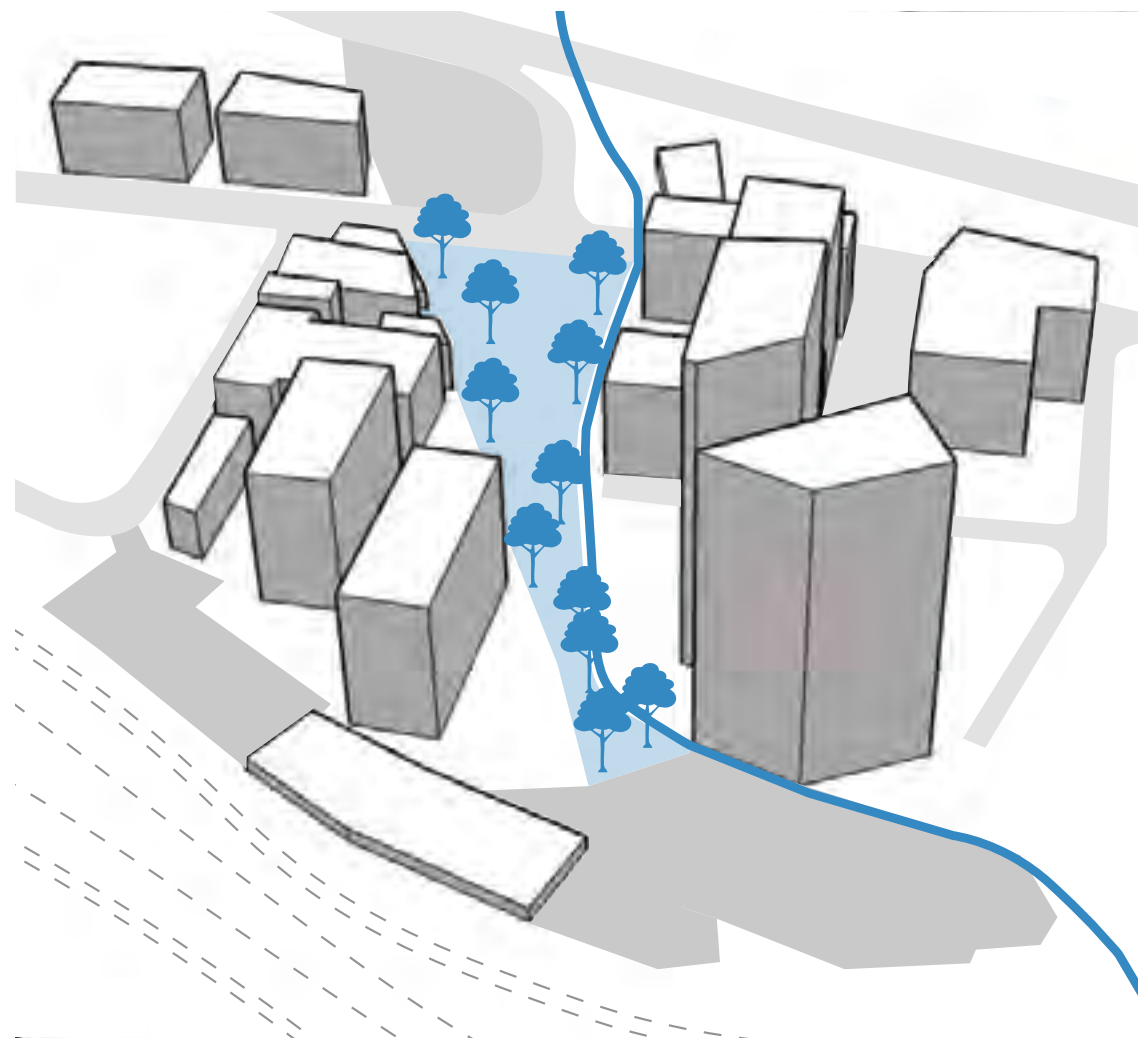


The design will unify the site into a single, cohesive urban park by connecting existing and new open spaces, creating consistent pathways, and establishing a clear visual and functional identity. This will transform the area into a well-organised, legible, and welcoming green space for the community.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Consider existing provisions in Ismay Reserve South to ensure the design for 20A Parramatta Road is consistent and not mis-matched with the existing character of the reserve.
2. Compliment the existing provisions of the site with additional interventions that fill meaningful gaps in recreation and wellness activities, focussing on providing more activity without duplicating existing infrastructure.

STRENGTHEN SITE BIODIVERSITY THROUGH INTENSIVE CANOPY PLANTING



The design will strengthen site biodiversity and enhance the Powells Creek green corridor by incorporating a diverse mix of trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. This approach will support habitat creation, improve ecological resilience, and reinforce the connectivity of the surrounding natural landscape.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Install thick canopy vegetation along borders of the site to provide a meaningful contribution to shade within the park as the sun travels from east to west. As well as shade, canopy will provide more meaningful urban habitat for important and protected wildlife such as birds, insects, and small mammals.
2. Provide canopy in targeted areas of the park for the provision of shade and aesthetic beauty, focussing on areas of recreation such as play spaces and congregation zones. Consider tree species for specific uses, with deciduous species a potential consideration for ornamental value and evergreen, native species for continuous, year-round shade.

PART F MASTERPLAN IMPLEMEN TATION

The final chapter of this report outlines the revised masterplan for Ismay Reserve South and 20A Parramatta Road following the community consultation outcomes. The masterplan is presented in a visualised plan, with detailed areas, cross-sections, and a perspective render provided to expand upon the main elements of the design for better understanding.

The revised masterplan is ambitious and takes into account, where possible, the desires of the community which were expressed during consultation. All elements of the masterplan are subject to a detailed costing review and investigation regarding feasibility in terms of soil conditions, constructability, and ongoing community feedback. The report acknowledges, however, that the majority of design items proposed are common and fairly simplistic elements which should be achievable such as areas of hardstand concrete and paving, planted areas, outdoor gym equipment, canopy structures, and turf. More complicated items will be reviewed and assessed as the masterplan begins implementation.

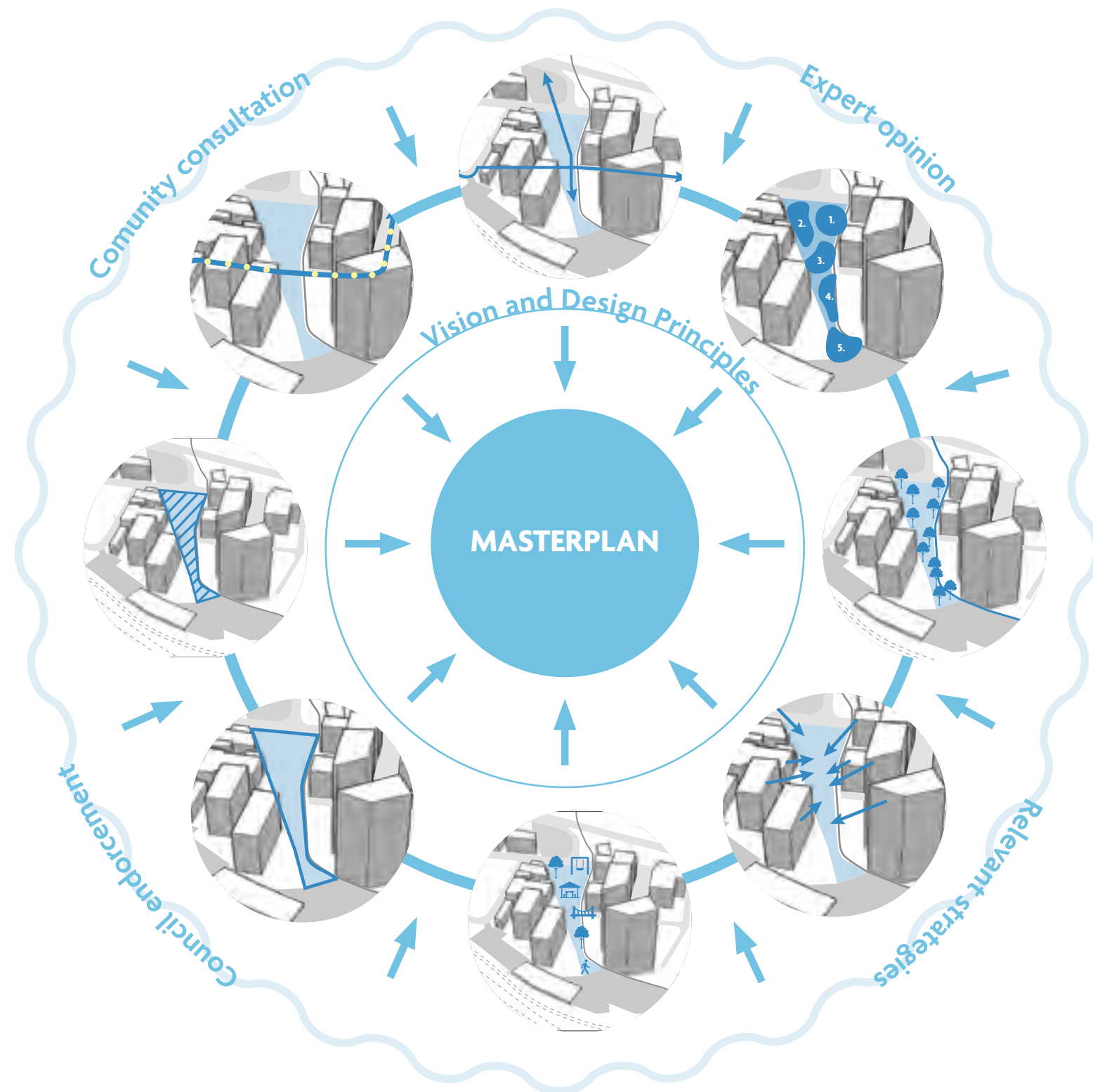


▲ 20A Parramatta Road is a very narrow slice of land with significant steep slopes towards Powells Creek

CONSOLIDATION

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

The diagram to the right displays how the content of the report and it's subsequent stages directly influence the outcome of the masterplan. Starting with the outer layer, a range of activities have helped form the Council vision for the site and the eight design principles. These activities include community consultation, Councillor engagement through meetings and workshops, reviewing of related strategies, and the opinion of landscape architects and other skilled professionals at Council. The middle layer is then the design vision and principles which then influence the core of the project - the masterplan. As the vision and principles are formed by these outer layer activities, this correlation to the masterplan ensures all information is consolidated in the final masterplan so that input from everyone involved is carried through.



A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN IMPLEMENTATION

THE MASTERPLAN

OUR PLAN FOR THE SITE

The final masterplan captures the feedback of the community and provides more detail about proposed items and site structuring. Starting from the Parramatta Road side of the site, a new generous wide planted area is proposed to the road with dense tree planting to improve the visual impact. A new pathway is proposed adjacent to the planted area within the park to provide an alternative route for pedestrians, noting feedback about water splash issues. The playground is proposed to remain the same with potential small interventions to the existing BBQ and seating area to improve the look and comfort of the space. A new outdoor gym space is proposed adjacent to the BBQ and seating area, with state-of-the-art fitness equipment and a large structural canopy shelter provided for shade. Two refurbished large lawn spaces are proposed in this area to provide for flexible use. A new hardstand area with movable seating and a space for pop-up activation, such as coffee carts or food trucks, is provided near the middle of the park and adjacent to this seating area. Canopy options, such as a structure or shade sails, is proposed for the seating area to improve comfort during the day time. A new bridge is proposed to cross Powells Creek - perhaps the biggest intervention proposed in the masterplan. This will require extensive investigation and approvals with relevant authorising bodies. The bridge will be the most costly intervention, but it is crucial - as identified by the community, Council, and expert opinion. Providing this bridge connection will allow residents living in the adjacent development to access the park, and ultimately, Homebush Station by negotiated access through a Council-owned pathway that sits within the developments along Station Street but is currently closed off. Towards the end of the park, a new raised 'deck' area is considered with integrated palm tree plantings and a soft texture provided to the ground plane for passive recreation. Lastly, a 'wander garden' is proposed at the end of the site with winding pathways and educational signage about vibrant, colourful plant species.



▲ Large, luscious plant overhanging a property boundary

- ① Retained main entrance to park
- ② Retained vehicle entrance to site
- ③ Retained open grassy areas
- ④ Retained playground with shade
- ⑤ Retained seating area with BBQ
- ⑥ New path adjacent to Parramatta Road
- ⑦ New planted buffer to Parramatta Road
- ⑧ New outdoor gym with shade
- ⑨ New planted areas with increased trees
- ⑩ New shaded play area, possible water element pending budget
- ⑪ New shade structure with seating
- ⑫ New area for commercial pop-ups
- ⑬ New pathway through to Station Street
- ⑭ New bridge over Powells Creek
- ⑮ New flexible space for passive recreation
- ⑯ New sun 'deck' area with palm trees
- ⑰ New junction space, possible public art
- ⑱ New wander garden with diverse plantings
- ⑲ New park edge condition for neighbouring properties along Station Street





DETAIL AREA 1

- ① Retained main entrance to park
- ② Retained vehicle entrance to site
- ③ Retained open grassy areas
- ④ Retained playground with shade
- ⑤ Retained seating area with BBQ
- ⑥ New path adjacent to Parramatta Road
- ⑦ New planted buffer to Parramatta Road
- ⑧ New outdoor gym with shade
- ⑨ New planted areas with increased trees
- ⑩ New shaded play area, possible water element pending budget
- ⑪ New shade structure with seating
- ⑲ New park edge condition for neighbouring properties along Station Street



DETAIL AREA 2

- ⑫ New area for commercial pop-ups
- ⑬ New pathway through to Station Street
- ⑭ New bridge over Powells Creek
- ⑮ New flexible space for passive recreation
- ⑯ New sun 'deck' area with palm trees
- ⑰ New junction space, possible public art
- ⑱ New wander garden with diverse plantings
- ⑲ New park edge condition for neighbouring properties along Station Street



A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLE-
MENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

56

SECTION - 'THE WANDER GARDEN'

LEGEND

1. Mixture of indigenous and exotic plants which spark intrigue for their beauty and seasonality, as well as providing educational purposes
2. Dense canopy cover for urban habitat of animals and shade for visitors
3. Natural-feel pathway meandering through the garden, with rest spots and places to ponder
4. Secure fence to canal edge, existing embankment re-graded and made safer
5. Private property fence boundary, park-edge style fence with lower height and consistent palisade treatment - subject to negotiations and agreement by owners corporations.
6. Direct access for neighbouring residents - subject to negotiations and agreement by owners corporations

KEY PLAN



SECTION - 'THE RETREAT'



LEGEND

1. Raised sun deck with in-built loungers designed for passive use such as reading, napping, and listening - safety barrier provided to canal edge
2. Palm trees planted within sun deck area and extending to soil below to provide shade and a 'get-away' feel
3. Sandy area for passive, flexible use by children, families and individuals - activities such as playing, yoga, and ball games
4. Private property fence boundary, park-edge style fence with lower height and consistent palisade treatment - subject to negotiations and agreement by owners corporations
5. Direct access for neighbouring residents - subject to negotiations and agreement by owners corporations

KEY PLAN



SECTION - COMMERCIAL POP-UP SPACE AND INTERACTIVE PLAY

LEGEND

1. Interactive play space, ideally water play to respond to community feedback, although subject to feasibility
2. Covered outdoor seating area adjacent to pop-up commercial space, provision of fixed tables and chairs for eating and drinking
3. Pop-up commercial space allocated for bump-in, bump-out businesses such as coffee carts, food trucks, or a market stall
4. Alfresco space for moveable tables and chairs
5. Connection to bridge leading to Columbia Lane
6. Sun deck area and sandy space for passive recreation, within eye-distance of commercial space for parents to supervise children while enjoying coffee or food

KEY PLAN





SECTION - OUTDOOR GYM AND COMMUNAL BBQ SPACE

LEGEND

1. Private property fence boundary, park-edge style fence with lower height and consistent palisade treatment - subject to negotiations and agreement by owners corporations.
2. Direct access for neighbouring residents - subject to negotiations and agreement by owners corporations
3. Covered outdoor gym space with various types of bodyweight equipment, colourful softfall surface
4. Main park pathway leading passing through the space
5. Existing covered park playground left unchanged
6. Existing covered outdoor dining space with embellishments to the BBQ, seating areas, and additional furniture

KEY PLAN





A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

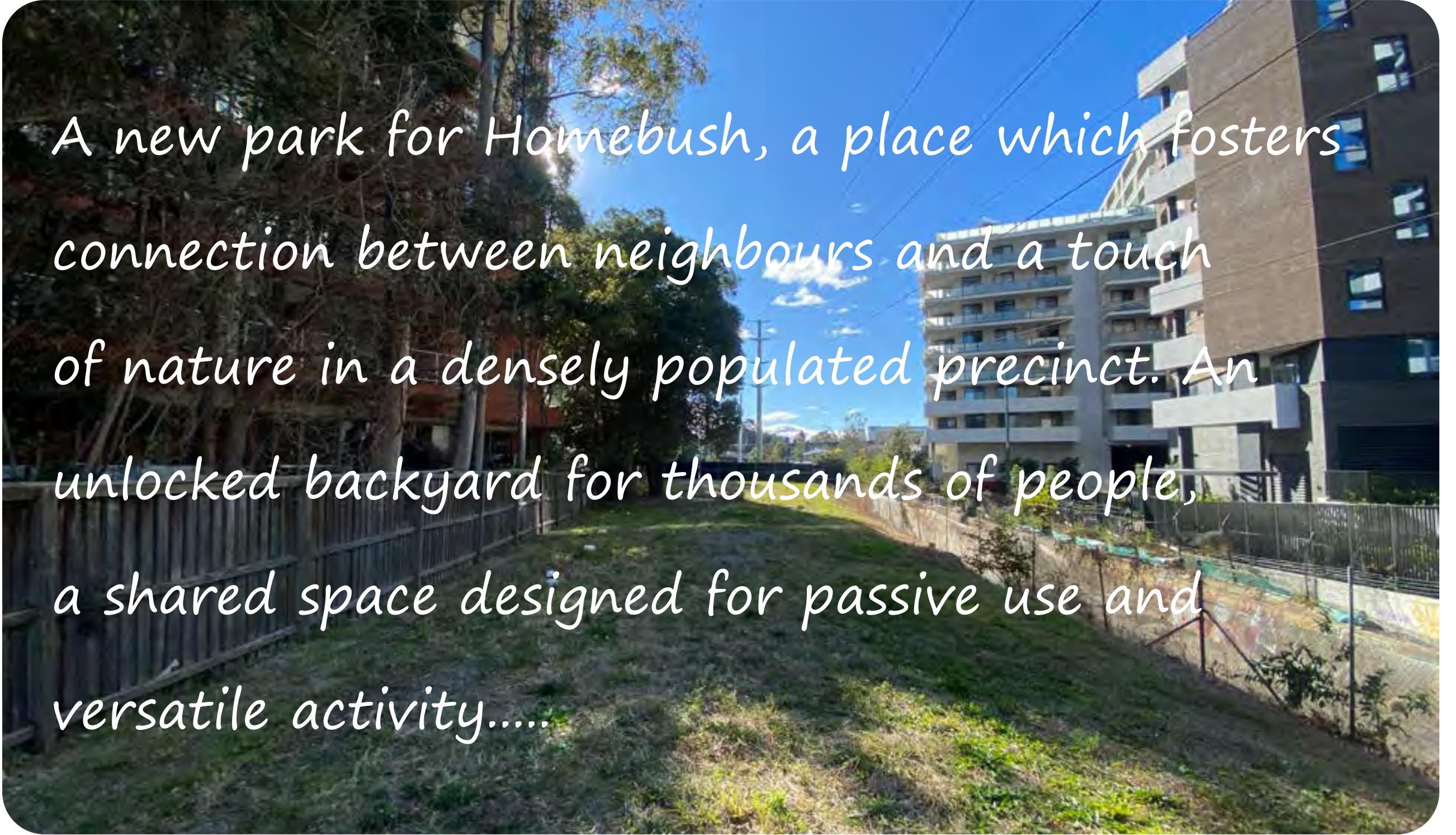
E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLE-
MENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

A photograph showing a grassy area, likely a shared backyard or park space, bordered by a wooden fence on the left and a modern, multi-story apartment building on the right. The area is surrounded by trees and has a clear blue sky in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, cursive font.

A new park for Homebush, a place which fosters connection between neighbours and a touch of nature in a densely populated precinct. An unlocked backyard for thousands of people, a shared space designed for passive use and versatile activity.....



Indicative perspective only to showcase design intent.
Design may be subject to change.

A

OVERVIEW

B

PRECEDENT
STUDY

C

INITIAL IDEAS

D

COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

E

VISION AND
STRATEGY

F

MASTERPLAN
IMPLE-
MENTATION

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

64

FUTURE STEPS

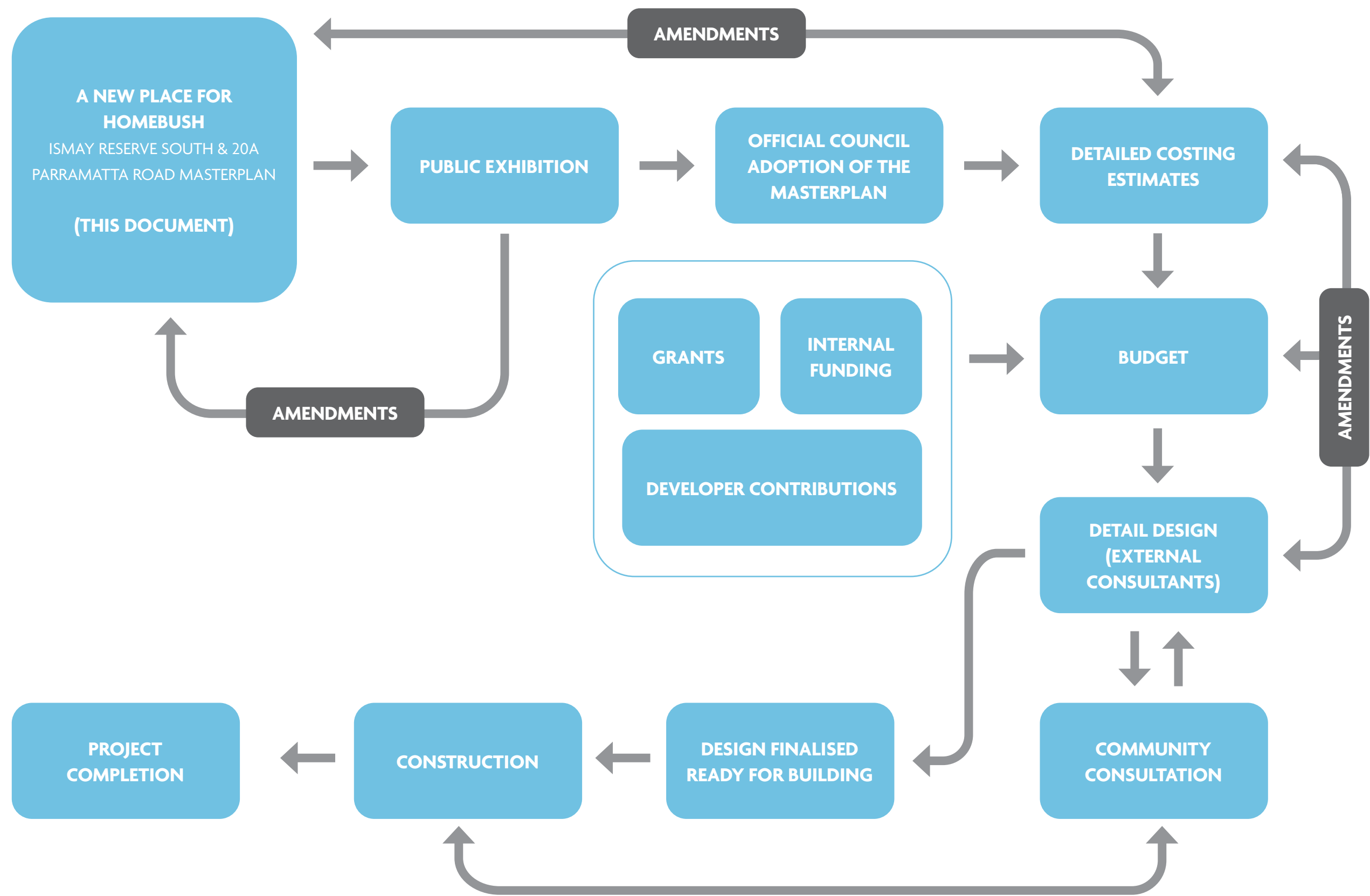
SO, WHAT NOW?

The revised, final masterplan will be exhibited on Council's website for comments from the community. Following this exhibition period, any comments received by Council will be reported to a Council meeting for consideration and further design amendments.

Once amendments (if necessary) are completed, the design will be officially adopted by Strathfield Council. This step will recognise Council's support for the masterplan and commitment to its delivery. Once adopted, the masterplan will proceed into a new phase where detailed costing will be completed by an external consultant to determine the budget for the project and, likely, value engineering to remove or modify elements to fit within the designated budget. Other sources of income, such as from grants and developer contributions, will be considered and actively pursued to ensure that the masterplan in its entirety can be achieved. An external consultant will then be procured to deliver detailed design documentation based on the masterplan. During detail design, ongoing community consultation will occur to ensure the design remains fit for purpose and in accordance with the masterplan's vision and principles. Further value engineering will likely be needed during detail design, however the main ambition of design elements will try to remain the same but cost cutting measures in terms of material selection and added extras may need to be considered. Once the detailed design is finalised, construction can begin following a procurement process and then the project can be completed.



▲ The soil quality on the site of 20A Parramatta Road is likely to be very poor and contaminated, requiring remediation efforts



A NEW PLACE FOR H♥MEBUSH

ISMAY RESERVE SOUTH & 20A PARRAMATTA ROAD MASTERPLAN



A report written and compiled by the Strathfield Council Landscape Architecture team