

A report written and compiled by the
Strathfield Landscape Architecture team

FRESHWATER PARK UPGRADES

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00 Draft	10.03.25	Concept Draft Ammendments	PDF	LO	BM	BM



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 were a clan of the Darug (sometimes spelt Dharug) tribe or language group. They called 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 held a deep connection to the land and landscape of Strathfield, Homebush, Belfield and Greenacre. The bushlands and foreshore areas were their lands, their home and part of the territory they were responsible for.

*Pemulwuy c1801 | The Dictionary of Sydney. (n.d).
<https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/2765>*

SITE ANALYSIS

Freshwater Park is a neighbourhood park that blends with the surrounding residential area, offering recreational opportunities and enhancing local amenities. Its main purpose is to provide safe play areas for children under adult supervision.

Located along the Bay to Bay Cycle and Walkway, part of the park also forms the Strathfield Golf Club. The park sits on land once deemed unsuitable for development due to flooding from the Cooks River, leading developers of the Strathlea Estate in the 1920s to transfer part of it to Council ownership, with additional land acquired later. Dedicated in 1929 and named after William Freshwater, the park has a rich history, including the establishment of the Strathfield Golf Club in 1931 and the creation of a golf course, which expanded to 18 holes by 1934. A portion of the park was preserved as a public space with playgrounds, a cricket wicket, and seating.

Upgrading local amenities is vital to ensuring they remain functional and relevant, providing accessible green spaces and play areas. These upgrades promote physical activity, mental well-being, and foster community engagement, offering spaces for residents and visitors to connect and enjoy.



FRESHWATER PARK: PARKS AND RESERVES



- Park/Reserves
- Freshwater Park
- Cooks River

Freshwater Park in Strathfield is part of a network of parks and reserves that balance urban life with nature. Nearby green spaces enhance it by supporting biodiversity, extending walking and cycling routes, and promoting a healthier community. As a result, Freshwater Park serves as both a peaceful retreat and a key link in the area's outdoor network.

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SITE ANALYSIS

SITE CONDITION

DESIGN FOUNDATION

UPGRADES

SPECIFICATIONS

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

EXISTING SITE CONDITION



EXISTING SITE CONDITION



- a.** Pedestrian and shared bike lane circulating the park
- b.** Seating shelter
- c.** Public BBQ
- d.** Outdoor fitness station
- e.** Bike rack
- f.** Play equipment
- g.** Public seating

Freshwater Park is a well-utilised community space featuring a playground, cycleway, BBQ facilities, shade structures, and mature plantings. While it offers great recreational opportunities, the park lacks cohesion and could benefit from additional planting and thoughtful design to better connect its elements. Enhancing these aspects would create a more inviting and functional space for cyclists, pedestrians, and the wider community.

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EXISTING SITE CONDITION



- a.** Pedestrian and shared bike lane circulating the park
- b.** Seating shelter
- c.** Public BBQ
- d.** Outdoor fitness station
- e.** Bike rack



- 1** SITE ANALYSIS
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DESIGN FOUNDATIONS

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

1.

PRIORITISING NATIVE
BIODIVERSITY



2.

ENSURING SAFETY



3.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY
FOCUSSED



DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Prioritisation of Native Biodiversity: Incorporating native plants and landscaping to create a greener, more sustainable environment while supporting local wildlife.

Safety Features: Designing well-defined spaces with natural barriers and thoughtful layouts to ensure a safe and comfortable experience for all visitors.

Community and Family Focus: Adding seating areas, picnic facilities, and shaded zones to encourage family gatherings and community bonding.



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STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1.** Increasing planting density with native and sensory plants to promote biodiversity and engagement.
- 2.** Installing additional seating, shaded areas, and natural shade with greater tree planting.
- 3.** Upgrading the cohesion of the park, re-positioning furniture and features to better suit the lifestyle of residents.

CONSIDERATIONS

SAFETY	Ensuring all features at the park are safe for use and functional
FUNCTIONALITY	Prioritising functionality with versatile and user-friendly spaces
BIODIVERSITY	Supporting biodiversity through the planting and maintenance of native plant species, these foster engagement with the natural landscape
FLOODING	Addressing future concerns of flooding with dense planting and sustainable drainage
SUN SAFETY	Increasing an already dense tree canopy to provide natural shade for visitors

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UPGRADES

FRESHWATER PARK DEMOLITION PLAN

PROPOSED REMOVALS



LEGEND

- 1. Removal of BBQ and concrete foundation
- 2. Removal and replacement of park furniture
- 3. Relocation of Bike Rack and removal of concrete foundation
- 4. Removal of park furniture

As part of the Freshwater Park Masterplan, select features will be demolished and relocated to improve cohesion and ensure the park is modern, functional, and well-connected. These changes will enhance the overall experience for the community.

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FRESHWATER PARK UPGRADES (SUBJECT TO FUNDING)

PROPOSED DESIGN CHANGES AND ADDITIONS



LEGEND

- a.** Maintenance of existing park shade structures
- b.** Newly planted native tree species
- c.** New BBQ installed aside existing shade shelter
- d.** Public seating facing North and South
- e.** "Stopping station" extension from pathway/cycleway
- f.** Water fountain
- g.** Bike rack moved to be part of stopping station
- h.** Increased native planting
- i.** Coloured concrete to indicate 'zones' and brighten the park

The Freshwater Park Upgrades aims to improve cohesion and connectivity by defining spaces and enhancing usability. It acknowledges the park's role as a key route for cyclists, incorporating a dedicated stopping bay with bike parking for convenience. The plan also includes additional planting to create natural boundaries and proposes relocating the BBQ area next to a shade structure for better accessibility and functionality.

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FRESHWATER PARK UPGRADES

DETAIL PLAN 1. (SUBJECT TO FUNDING)



LEGEND

- a.** Maintenance works on existing park shade shelters
- b.** Newly planted Willow Bottlebrush
- c.** Newly planted Coast Banksia
- d.** Perimeter planting around existing outdoor fitness area
- e.** Concrete steppers to access from existing outdoor fitness equipment through to grassed area
- f.** New BBQ to be aside pre-existing shade shelter
- g.** Water Fountain to be next to BBQ
- h.** Native Planting
- i.** Open grass area
- j.** New park signage

Native plants will be added around the outdoor fitness equipment to enhance the space. Two new native trees near the seating shelter will provide shade and attract birds. A new BBQ will be installed beside the existing shade structure, creating a designated picnic area. While these upgrades improve functionality and aesthetics, much of the lawn will remain for open play. A new park sign at the entrance, surrounded by native plants, will give the park a more established feel.

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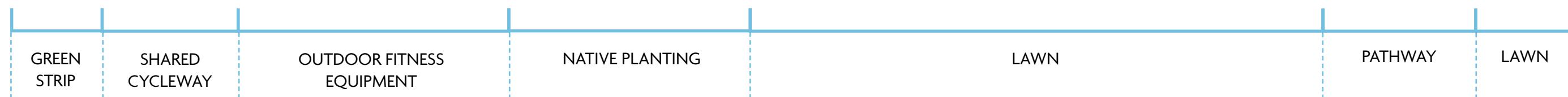
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FRESHWATER PARK MASTERPLAN

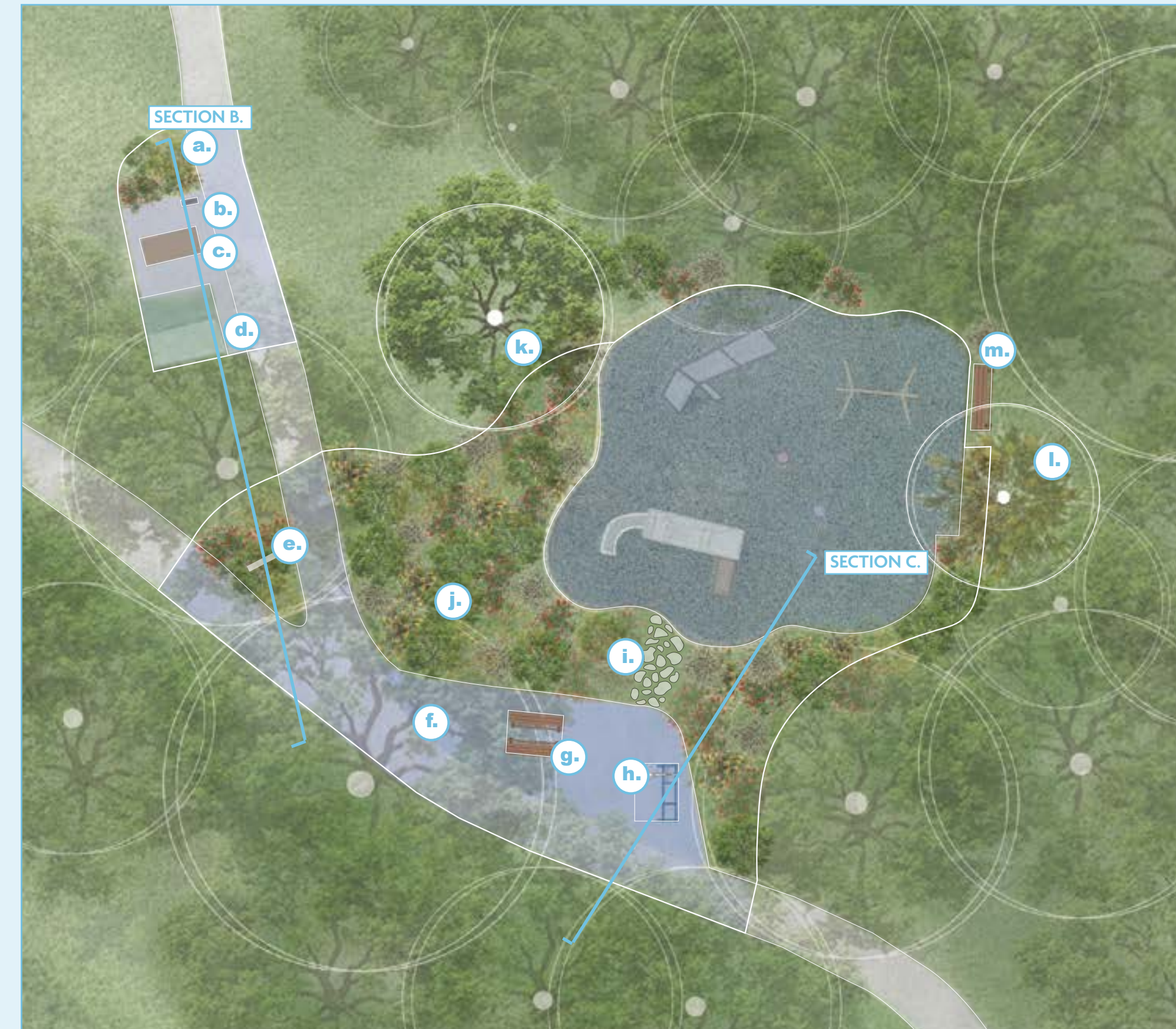
SECTION A.



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FRESHWATER PARK MASTERPLAN

DETAIL PLAN 2.



LEGEND

- a.** Native planting
- b.** Water fountain beside BBQ
- c.** BBQ installed aside pre-existing shade shelter
- d.** Maintenance works on existing park shelter
- e.** New wayfinding signage amongst native planting
- f.** New extension 'Stopping Bay'
- g.** North and South facing park seating
- h.** Bike rack moved to be in extension for parking options
- i.** Concrete steppers through planting to give access to Play equipment
- j.** Native planting around the play equipment and stopping bay
- k.** Newly planted Waterhouisia
- l.** Newly planted Coast Banksia
- m.** New park seating around play equipment

A new stopping bay will extend the shared cycle and walkway, providing bike parking and seating. Native planting and a stepping stone path will connect this space to the play area, enhancing accessibility and visual appeal. The park will also receive new wayfinding signage and updated furniture to improve amenities.

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FRESHWATER PARK MASTERPLAN

SECTION B.



PLANTING GREEN STRIP

SHARED CYCLEWAY

NATIVE PLANTING

LAWN

SHADE SHELTER & BBQ

LAWN

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FRESHWATER PARK MASTERPLAN

SECTION C.



PLANTING GREEN STRIP

SHARED CYCLEWAY

STOPPING BAY EXTENTION

NATIVE PLANTING

PLAY EQUIPMENT

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DETAILS AND SPECIFICATIONS (SUBJECT TO FUNDING)

OUTDOOR BBQ



WATER FOUNTAIN



PARK FURNITURE



PARK SIGNAGE



DETAILS AND SPECIFICATIONS (SUBJECT TO FUNDING)

PLANTING PALETTE

TREES



Coast Banksia
Banksia integrifolia



Willow Bottlebrush
Callistemon salignus



Waterhousia
Syzygium floribundum

SHRUBS



Silky Hakea
Hakea sericea



Goodonya
Goodenia ovata



Spider Flower
Grevillea buxifolia



Vertical Drop Tea Tree
Leptospermum polygalifolium



Australian Indigo
Indigofera australis



Hop Bush
Dodonaea triquetra

GRASSES



Tall Sedge
Carex appressa



Blue Flax Lily
Dianella caerulea



Mat Rush
Lomandra longifolia



Mat Rush
Lomandra longifolia



Andreasens Green
Dichelachne crinita

COVERS



Kidney Weed
Dichondra repens



Sprawling Bluebell
Wahlenbergia gracilis



Native Violet
Viola hederacea



Fan Flower
Scaevola albida

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