

RAILWAY SQUARE LANDSCAPE CONCEPT



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1
Project Context



1 Project Context

Overview

The purpose of this document is to provide a vision and a plan for Railway Square. This Concept, following community and Council approval, forms the framework for future detailed design and construction works within the park.

Project Context

This project follows on from the Byron Bay Town Centre Master Plan which established a high level vision for the town centre of Byron Bay. The Masterplan process included extensive community consultation and established a high level strategic vision for the town centre.

The Site

Railway Square is a traditional meeting place within the town centre of Byron Bay.

The park's connection to both the centre of town, the Railway Station, the bus stop on Jonson Street, the Visitor Centre, and the Community Centre has meant that the park is both a prominent 'gateway' space within the town centre for visitors and also a valued public space for the local community.

For generations children have played in the park and its trees, and people have rested in a quiet place close to the street- enjoying the shade in summer and the sunshine in winter.

The park has also been used as a gathering place for community events and demonstrations and for temporary market events such as the Byron Artisans Market.

Current Condition

Over more recent times some of these uses have reduced as a result of factors such as the termination of train services in 2004 and the disuse of the Station building, the dilapidation of park infrastructure, and the dilapidation of areas adjacent to the park including car park areas and buildings. A series of minor works within the park, and in particular along the Jonson Street edge, have also resulted in the park being dislocated from the street.

As a result the park's role as a welcoming and generous piece of public space at the gateway to the town centre has significantly diminished.

History

The site of Railway Square is of historical significance in the town. The Byron Bay Town Centre Master Plan identified Railway Square as the 'heritage heart' of the town.

The site is adjacent to, and part of, a heritage precinct centred around the remaining rail infrastructure. Heritage specialists have been consulted during the design process. This heritage value was considered throughout the design process to ensure history is valued and celebrated. This heritage value does not just relate to buildings but, importantly, also to open space, environment, and culture.

Byron Bay is the traditional land of the Arakwal people, one of the tribes of the Bundjalung nation.

Cavanbah- or meeting place- was the Arakwal name for Byron Bay- it being the meeting place for the northern and southern tribes of the Bundjalung nation.

Community Engagement

As previously noted- there was significant community consultation undertaken by the Byron Bay Town Centre Master Plan team. The outcomes of that consultation have provided valuable information for the initiation of this project.

Focused consultation has been undertaken to refine the community's needs and expectations for Railway Square. In the design phase of this project commenced with a design workshop involving community members. Participants in this workshop included the community representatives that make up the Master Plan Leadership Team and several key stakeholders.

Throughout the design process several key stakeholder groups have also been consulted including Arakwal representatives, representatives of the various markets taking place on and nearby the site, and Byron Community Centre representatives.

Draft design presentations have been made to stakeholders and community representatives with some modifications being made to the design as a result.



Image: the Byron Bay Train Station entry with Railway Park on the right



Image: space for community gatherings

VISION FOR RAILWAY SQUARE

A central public space in the town where the community can connect with each other and their town- a meeting place

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the park is a key community meeting place in the town centre;
- A town square and arrival point that supports the diverse needs of both the local and tourist community (BBTCMP);
- Increase the amenity of park edges and make it easy for people to enter the park;
- Retain and enhance community identity through design and treatments such as public art;
- Retain the key site features and incorporate them as centre pieces of the park;
- Improve visual and physical access into and across the park;
- Encourage social interactions and incorporate the streetscape into the park and vice-versa;
- Ensure the park enables gathering space for events and demonstrations;
- Facilitate multi generational use with improved furniture and access, and improved play opportunities;
- Provide flexible spaces for impromptu performances and community events;
- Increase the amenity of park edges and make it easy for people to enter the park

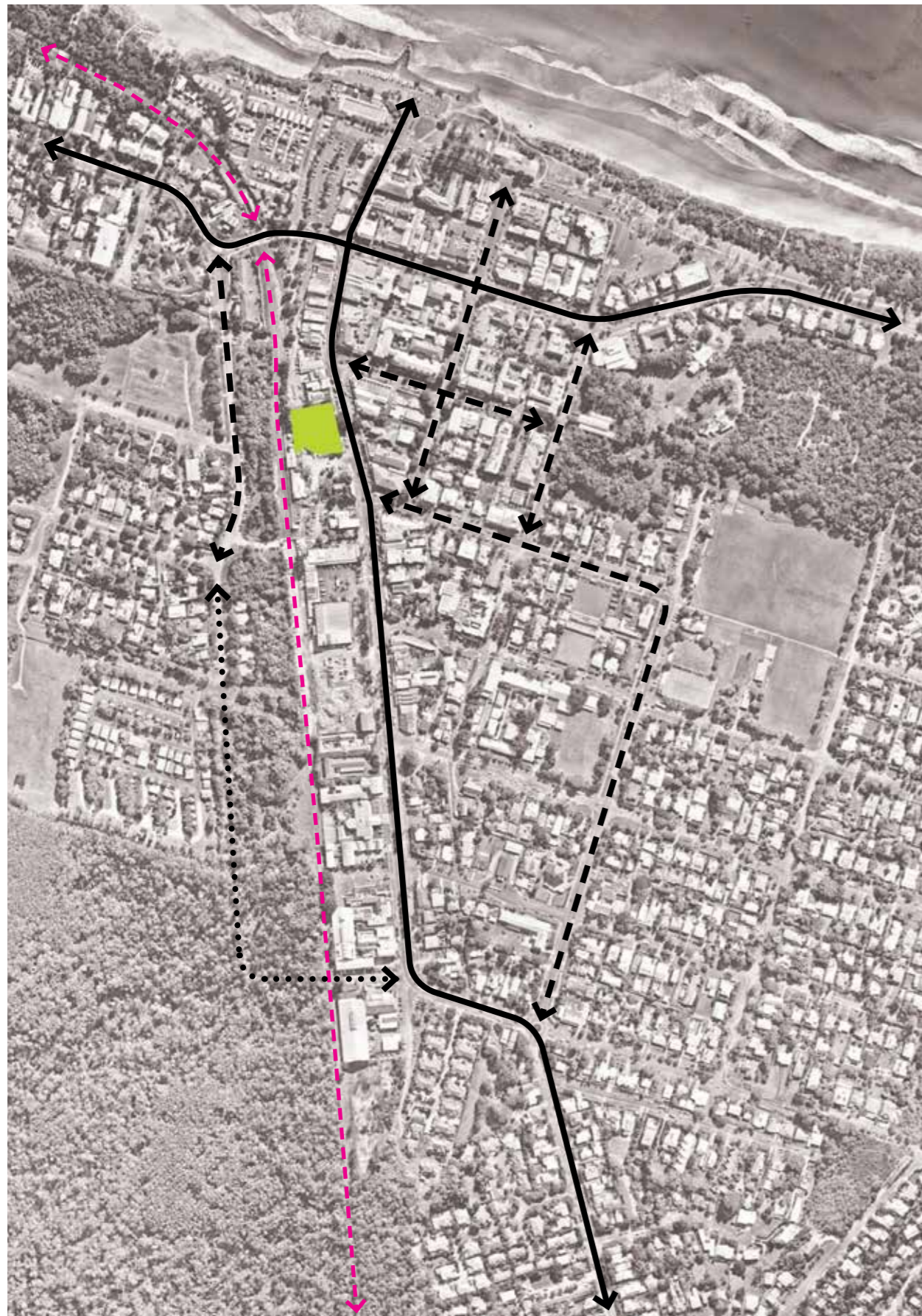


2
Site Analysis

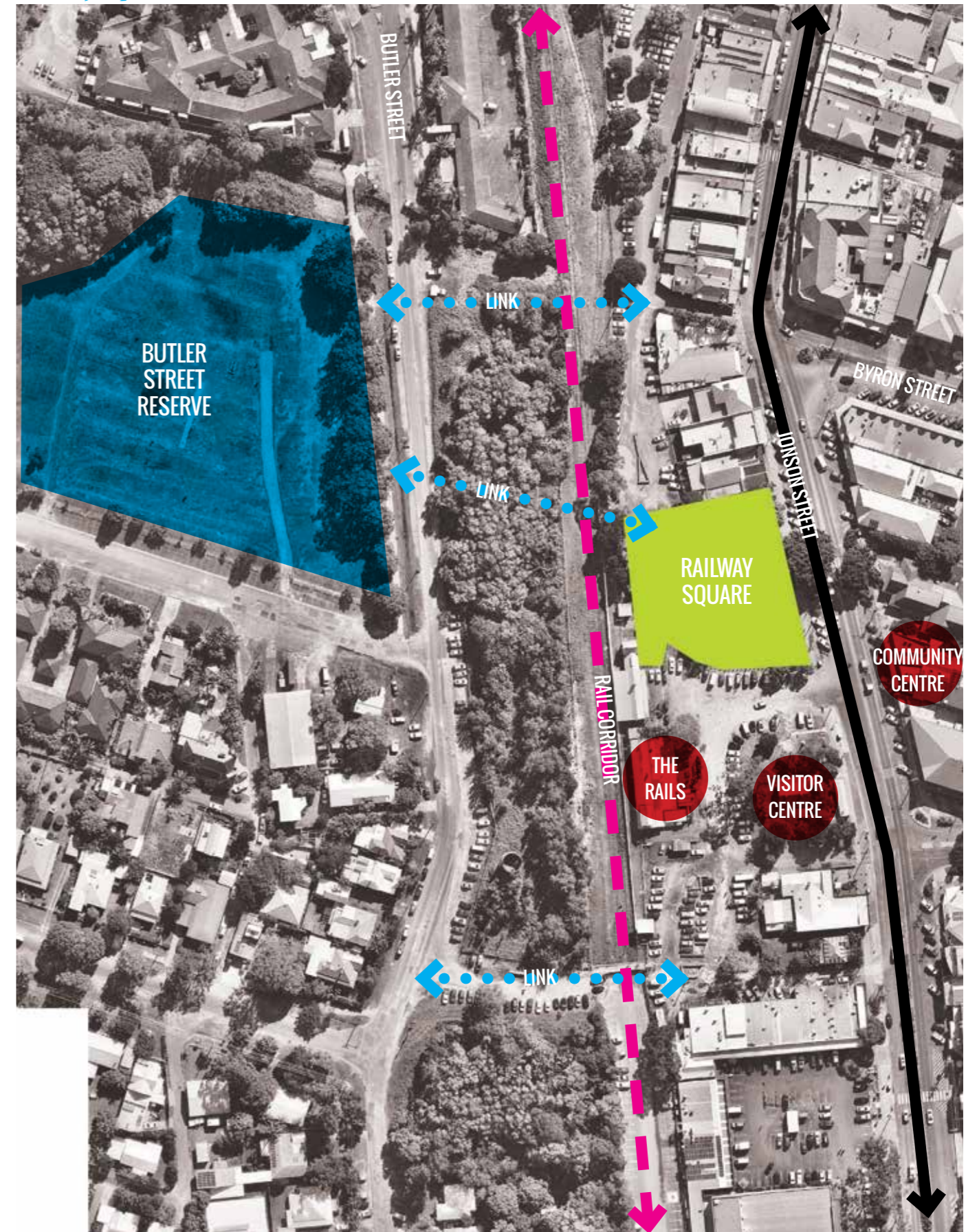


2 Site Analysis

A Central Public Space for the Town- A MEETING PLACE

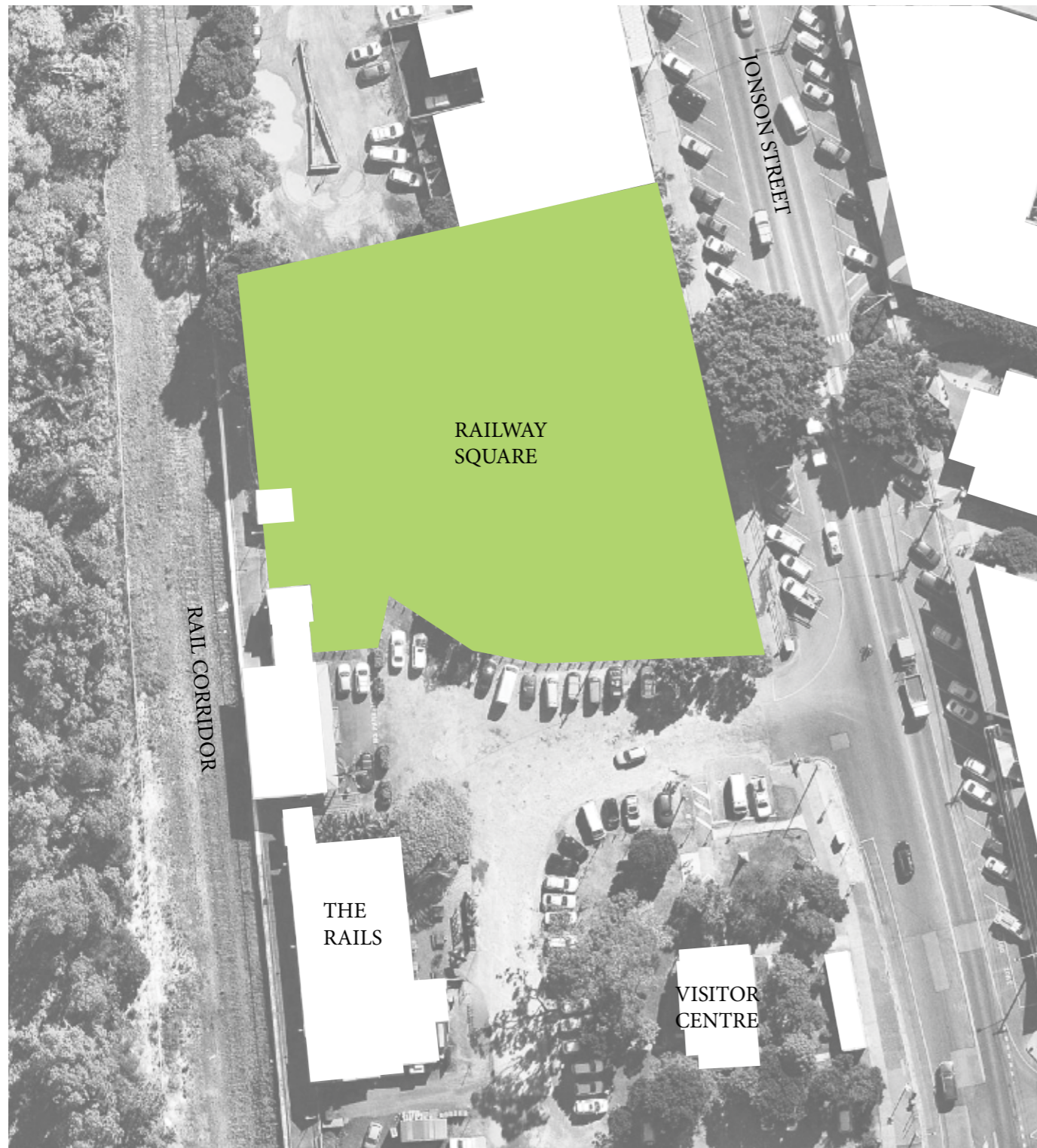


Railway Square and Context



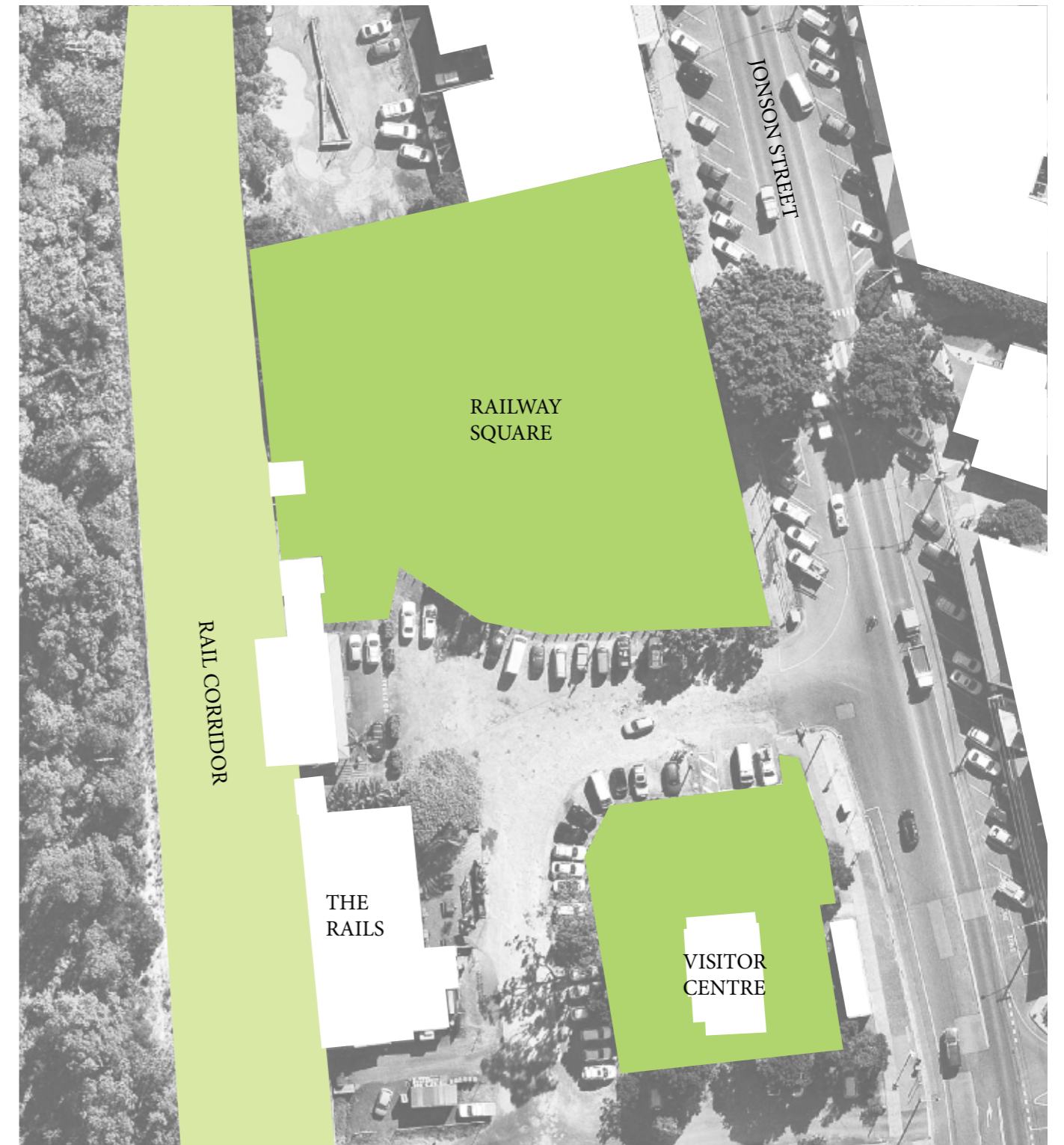
2 Site Analysis

Project Site



The existing Railway Park (Railway Square)

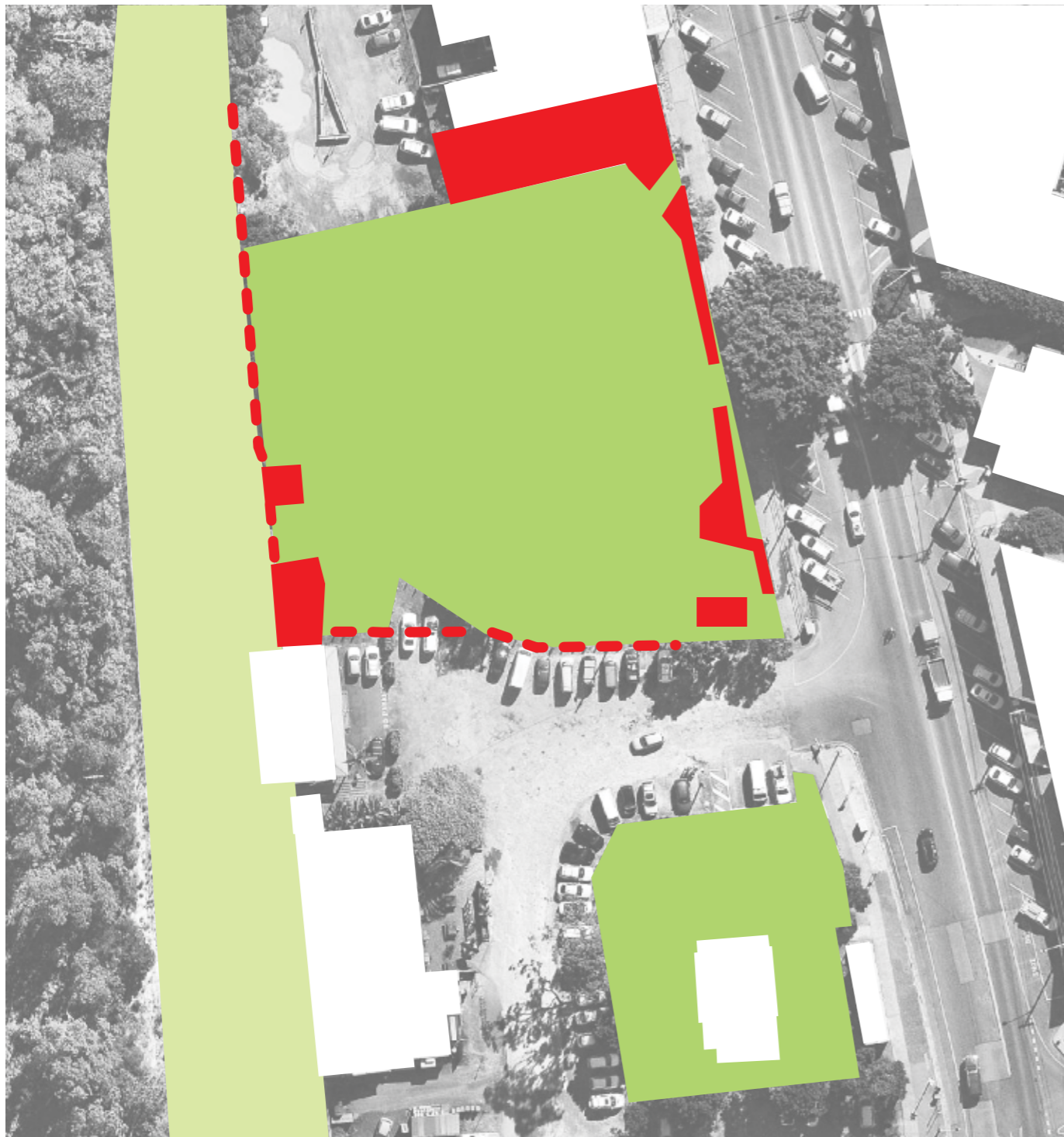
Associated Sites



Railway Square, the rail corridor and the adjacent public space associated with the Visitor Centre. The Visitor Centre is currently isolated from the park due to the scale of the existing car park and car park entry

2 Site Analysis

Existing Barriers



Existing barriers (shown in red) negatively impacting permeable pedestrian flow into and across the park. Barriers include fences, raised edge garden beds, dense planting, buildings, toilet block, cars and bollards

Existing Vegetation



Existing vegetation- trees marked with a X are probable removals (to be confirmed in detailed phases)

Pedestrian Movement- Primary



Primary pedestrian flow (shown in blue) through and past Railway Square

Pedestrian Movement- Secondary



Primary (blue) and secondary (black) pedestrian paths through the park

2 Site Analysis

Elements / Fixtures



Existing features (shown in pink) within the park. Features include playground, environment centre structure, picnic tables, public telephones, drinking fountain, bins, security cameras

2 Site Analysis

Existing Conditions



Jonson Street edge- barriers block the street from the park



North east corner of the park- a narrow and unwelcoming entry with limited visual connection across the park



Jonson Street edge- barriers block the street from the park



Existing playground- under utilised and not integrated with existing natural features



Existing central trees



Existing Melaleucas on the western edge of the park



Cars form a barrier to the southern edge of the park



View from centre of park looking towards Jonson Street and the toilet block



Northern edge of the park currently has poor amenity and limited passive surveillance



3
Design Strategies



3 Design Strategies

Potential Park Increase (South)



A rationalisation (and potential reduction) of car parking would enable the park to extend south- this provides the significant benefit of a public forecourt space to the future community functions within the existing Country Link building

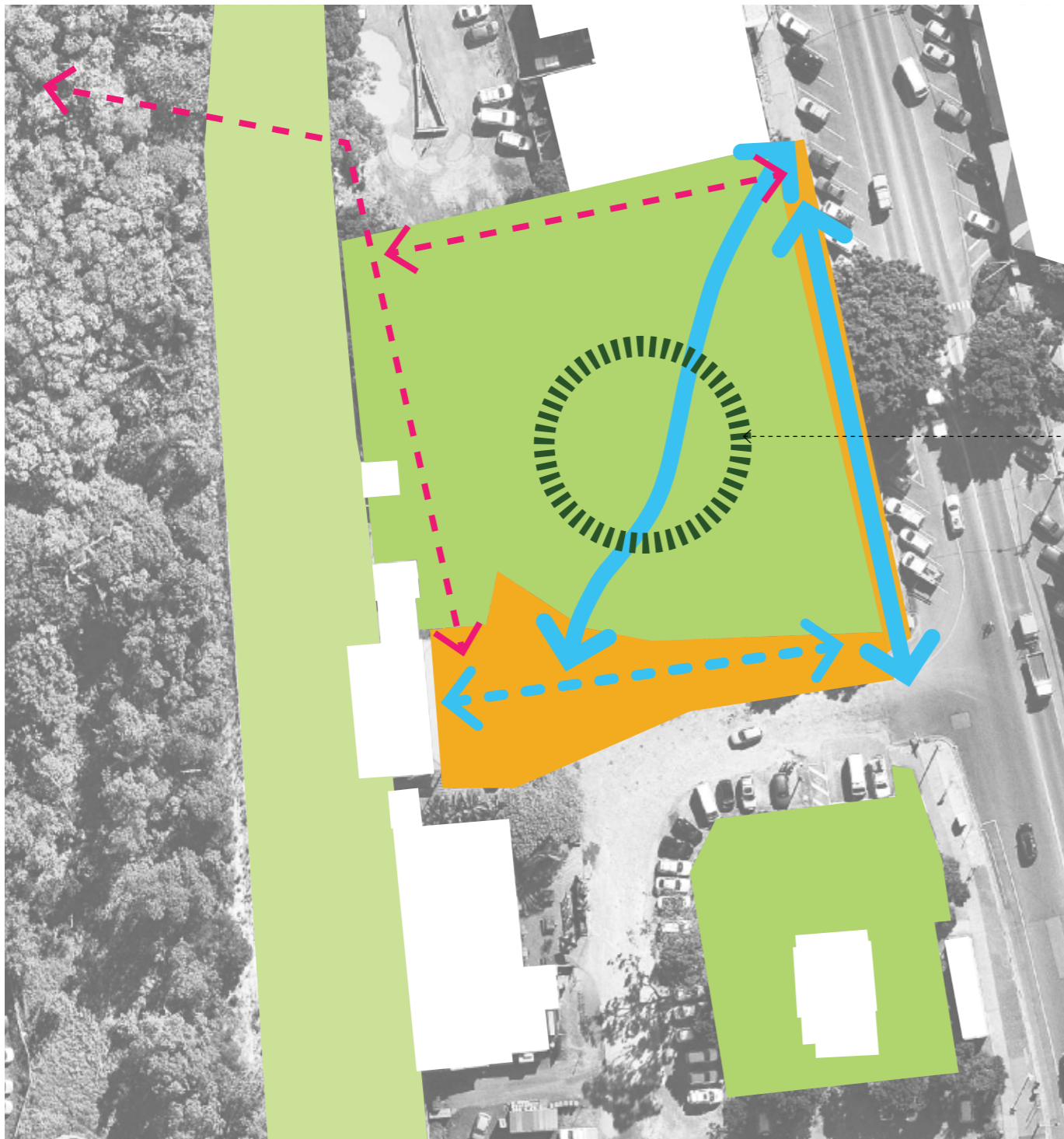
Notional Park Increase (East)



Removing (or reducing) the barriers (garden beds, toilet, and public telephones) along the Jonson Street park boundary would enable a notional park increase- extending the park to the kerb and encouraging people into the space

3 Design Strategies

New Linkages



Extension of the park south enables a direct public space link from Jonson Street to the County Link building. Potential links across the rail corridor from Butler Street provide the opportunity to activate to edges of the park (west and north) that currently suffer from poor passive surveillance

Rejuvenating Existing Elements



The existing Hibiscus tiliaceus at the centre of the park has the potential to provide a natural, character filled feature at the centre of the park. The tree(s) has significant potential as a play and gathering feature and provide much needed shade in the summer months.

3 Design Strategies

Hibiscus tiliaceus

The existing Cottonwoods (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) in the middle of the park will become the focal point of a central built element. This element will be an inward and outward facing feature that allows for play and gathering. This element will interact with the existing tree- moving through, over and around the horizontal trunks and branches



3 Design Strategies

WELCOME



Entry points and park forecourts- ensuring people are encouraged to come into the park

COMMUNITY



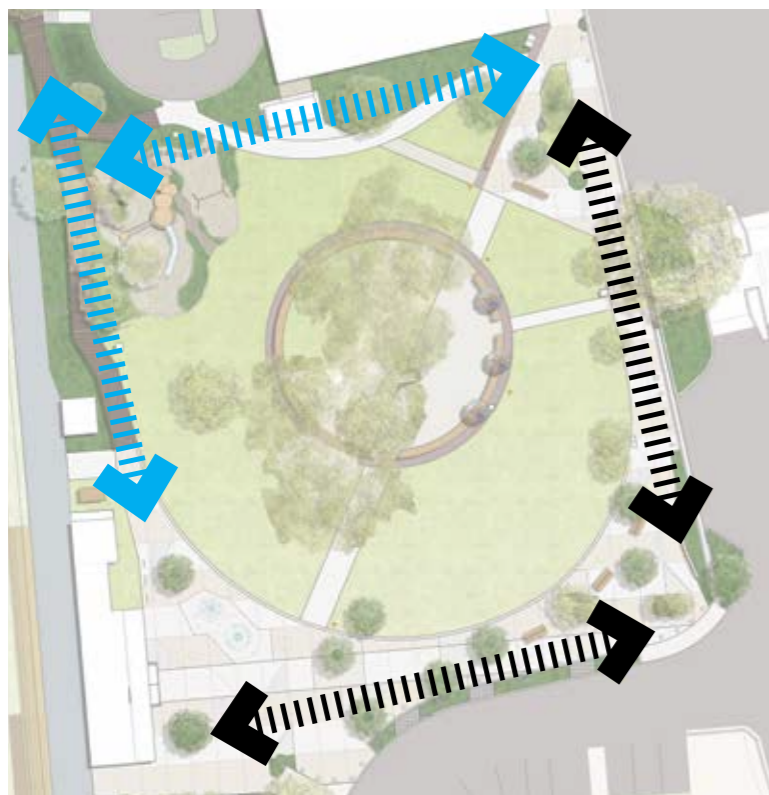
Key community gathering spaces for temporary events and demonstrations- ensuring the park maintains its historic and important role as a community gathering and meeting place

PLAY



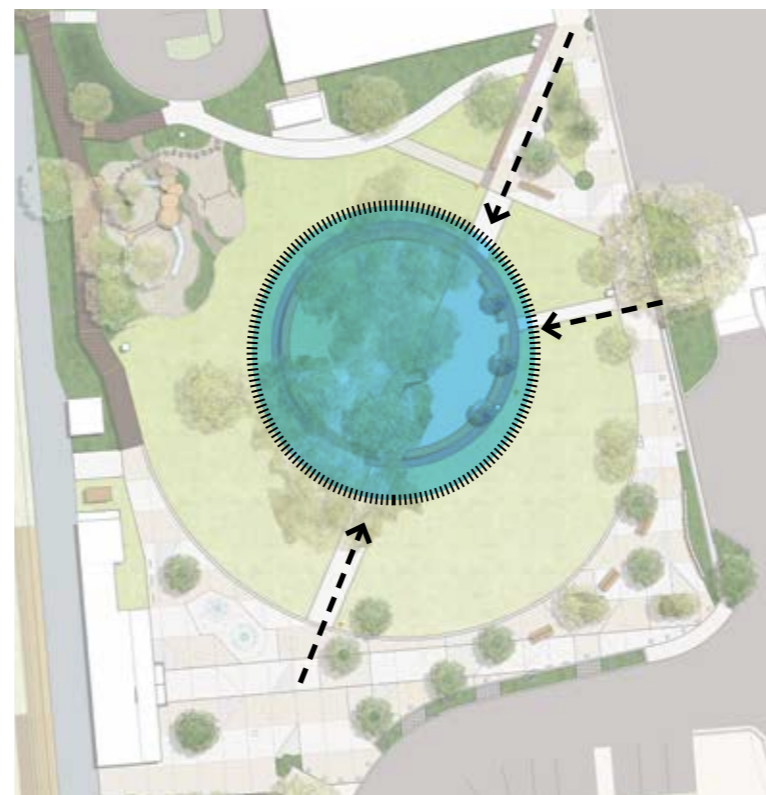
Nature play, discovery garden areas, and water feature- providing amenity for families and enabling connection between park users and the park environment

ACTIVATED EDGES



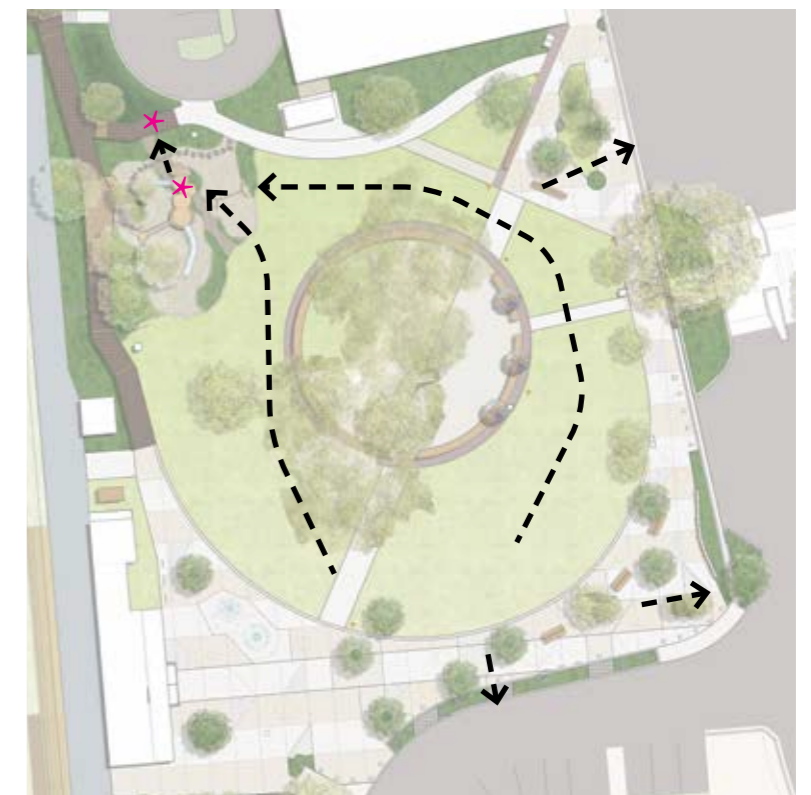
Activated and permeable edges to improve connectivity, access, and passive surveillance across the whole park. Extending the park to Jonson Street in the east and the Rail corridor in the west

CENTRAL FEATURE



Central feature capitalising on the existing Cottonwood trees as a park asset- drawing people to the centre of the park

MANAGING WATER / DRAINAGE



Drainage- improved drainage of low lying areas of the park- gardens that can withstand periodic inundation and new stormwater drainage introduced



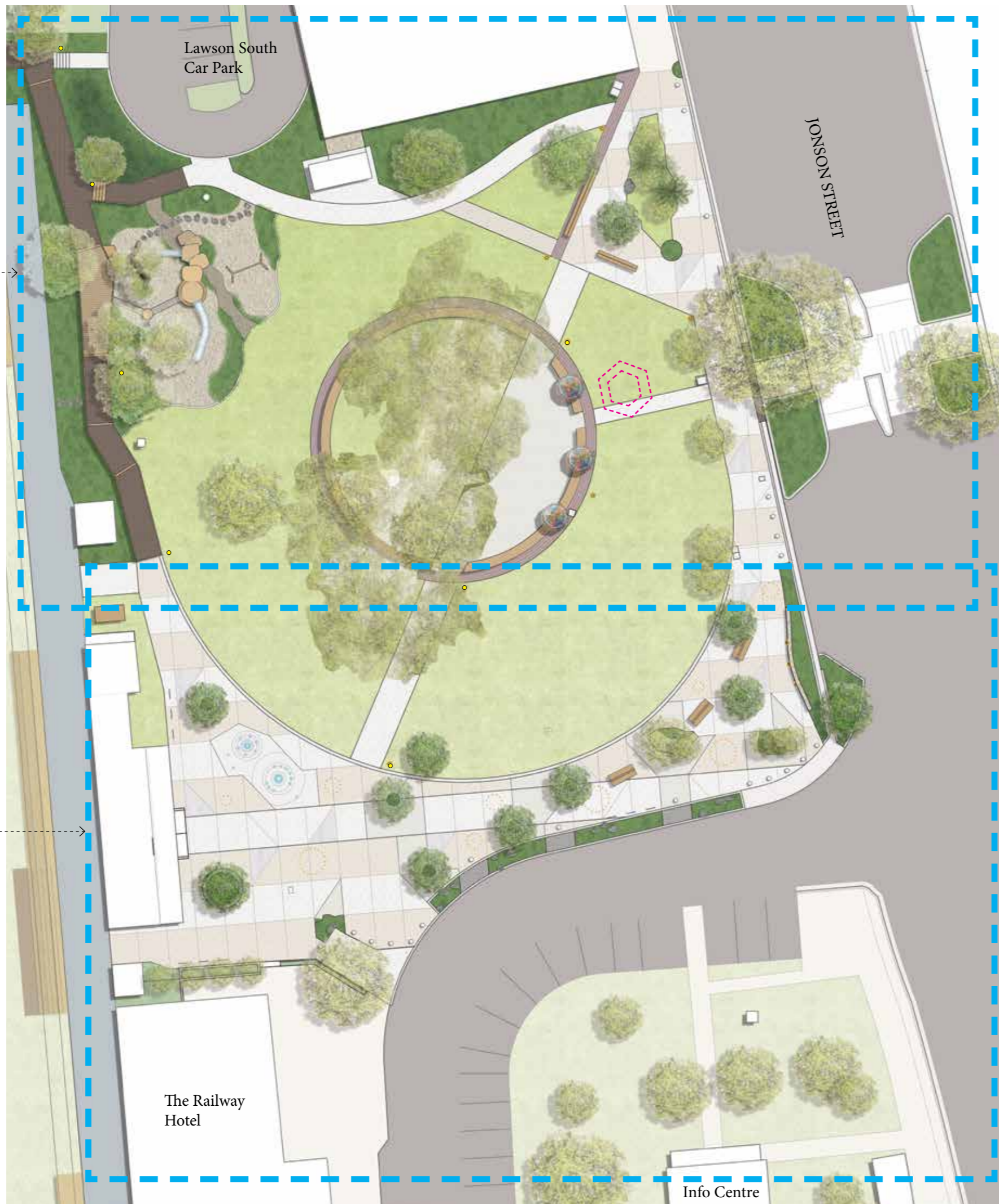
4
Design






4 Design

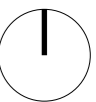
REFER PAGE 23 →

REFER PAGE 24 →



KEY

-  Hardstand areas- consistent finishes through the plaza and along Jonson Street footpath
-  Custom seating elements- broad bench seats using recycled timber
-  Turf
-  New planting areas utilising locally native species- see plant palette
-  New trees
-  Central built element- capturing the trees as the central space
-  Boardwalk link paths
-  Existing trees to be retained
-  Rubber softfall to slide element
-  Informal gravel paths and planting
-  Pole mounted lights referencing historic rail station lights. Refer to lighting section
-  Timber seat with backrest- refer to furniture palette
-  Play platform and lookout tower
-  Rock stepping stones through garden and drainage areas
-  Picnic table and stools



0 1 2 5



Example play tower



A play circuit



Elements ramping over trunks



Shaded hardstand areas



NOTES

1. Existing figs on Jonson Street provide a feature to the street and the park- a town centre entry moment
2. A pocket park on the street- activating the street as well as the park- welcoming people into the park
3. Seats and tables in a garden setting improving the amenity of the northern edge of the park
4. Existing park toilet block relocated to the northern west entry area of the park. Ensures toilet is close to play area users and improves the visual and physical flow into the park from the south- see page 22 for alternative location
5. Paths connecting to critical east-west links through town
6. Shared zone / path through Lawson Street South car park
7. Central feature area- existing trees and nature play (night lighting)
8. Central built feature providing play and gathering opportunities
9. Linking path through the centre of the park
10. Plaza space as a forecourt to the 'social enterprise' building
11. A flexible hardstand plaza space running the full length of the southern edge of the park. Reduces car parking and provides space for movement, gathering, impromptu performance, temporary events
12. Permeable paving area to a high use area of the park- promotes gathering while maintaining tree health
13. Car park entry narrowed and turned into a shared zone to improve pedestrian amenity
14. New seating areas improve park amenity. Seating areas and the associated southern edge of the park, combined with topography, create an informal amphitheatre space within the park
15. New planting areas provide amenity to street and footpath
16. Eastern edge of park opened up to extend the park to the kerb
17. Public telephones reduced (2 removed)
18. Existing Rotunda (Byron Environment Centre)- consultation required regarding potential relocation within the park



Example play features



Informal paths and planting



Coastal planting



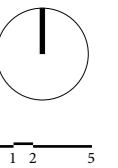
Planting punctuating hardstand



PLAN SHOWN WITHOUT TREES TO CLEARLY SHOW GROUND TREATMENTS

NOTES

1. Enhance existing street planting
2. Provide planting and amenity close to seating areas
3. Stabilisation and amenity planting to bank areas
4. Informal gravel paths and planted garden areas
5. Garden and discovery elements
6. Planting areas punctuate hardstand areas- provide ground plane amenity and space for shade trees
7. Sand softfall and informal planting as part of the nature play area associated with the existing Cottonwood trees
8. New street planting areas- potential to incorporate rain gardens for improved stormwater infiltration and treatment
9. Planting areas associated with the relocated toilet block to include climbing plants for the establishment of a planted arbour
10. Existing raised garden beds along the eastern edge of the park to be removed to create a permeable park edge to the street
11. Permeable paving to high use area- protects tree health
12. New lighting along central path and western boardwalk path
13. Memorial totem to be retained
14. Play elements- platforms, net bridges, and slide
15. Timber seats with backrest- see furniture palette
16. Picnic table and chair settings
17. Central timber feature element
18. Water play area
19. Existing Rotunda (Byron Environment Centre)- consultation required regarding potential relocation within the park





4 Design


Land Ownership and Toilet Block Relocation Options




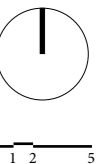
KEY

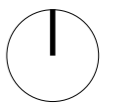
-  Area denoting Council owned land within Railway Square
-  Area denoting land owned by the Country Rail Infrastructure Authority

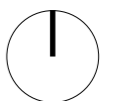
TOILET RELOCATION OPTIONS

-  **1** Proposed Location
 - Positives:
 - Close to park users
 - Located on Council owned land
 - Negatives:
 - Potential CPTED / passive surveillance concerns
 - Low lying area of the park-management of levels and drainage required

-  **2** Alternate Location
 - Positives:
 - High level of passive surveillance
 - Convenient to park and Visitor Centre
 - Negatives:
 - Close to heritage buildings
 - Negotiation with private lease holder required
 - Immediately adjacent to footpath
 - Disconnected from park users








4 Design

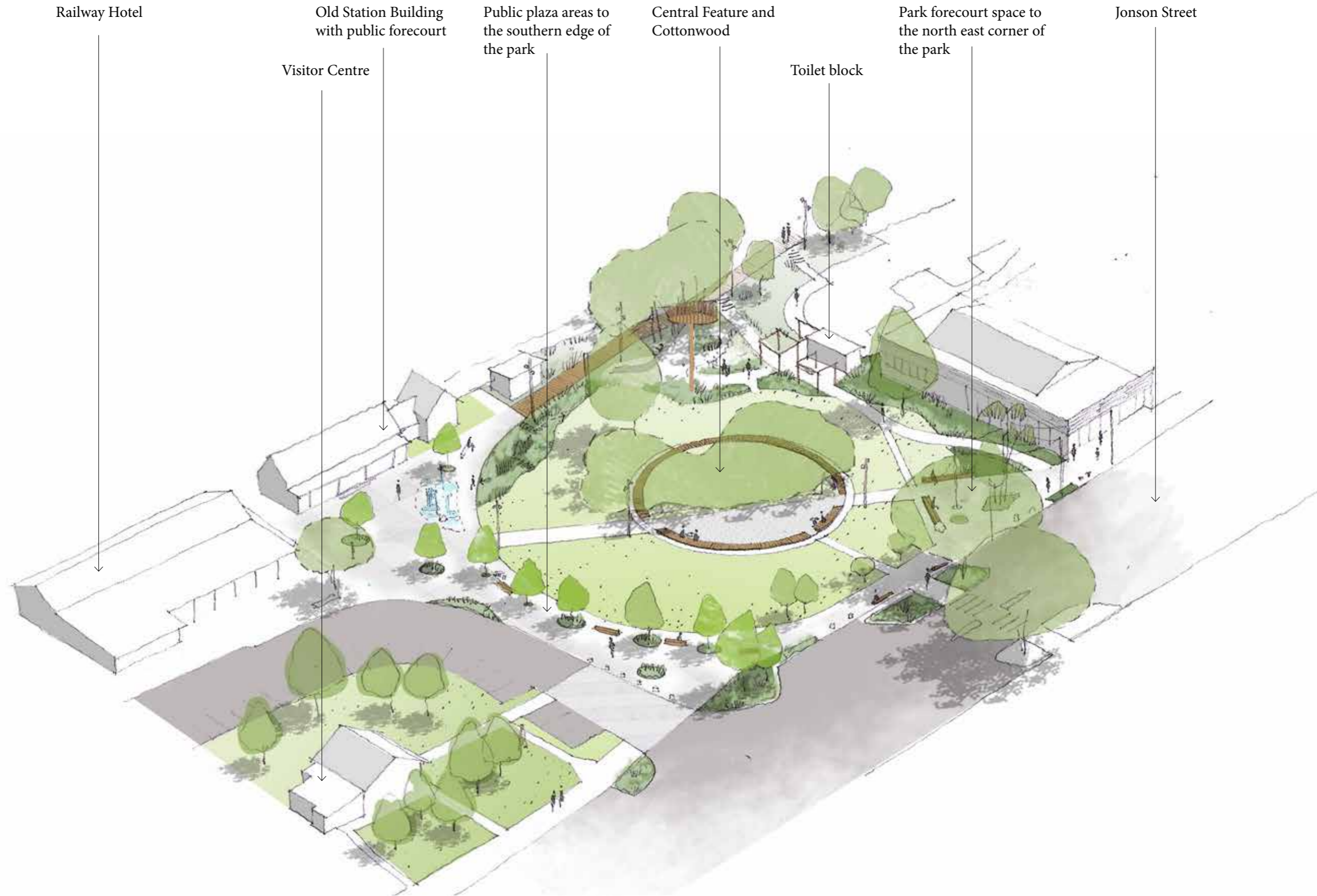
Park Infrastructure



- KEY
- Ee** Existing electrical locations
 - Ep** Proposed additional electrical supply locations
 - PM** Parking meter locations
 - D** Drinking fountain
 - Bin** Bins (resource recovery)
 - BR(3)** Bike racks- (number in each location in brackets)
 - +** New drainage pit locations
 - T** Telephone boxes- existing wi-fi double telephone retained- two stand alone phones removed
 - Si** Park signage locations
 - Se** New sewer connections required for proposed toilet relocation
 - *** Pole mounted light locations- refer to lighting plan for additional lighting information relating to pavement lighting and catenary/festoon lighting
 - TV** CCTV locations
 -  Location of existing Rotunda- consultation required regarding potential relocation within the park

4 Design

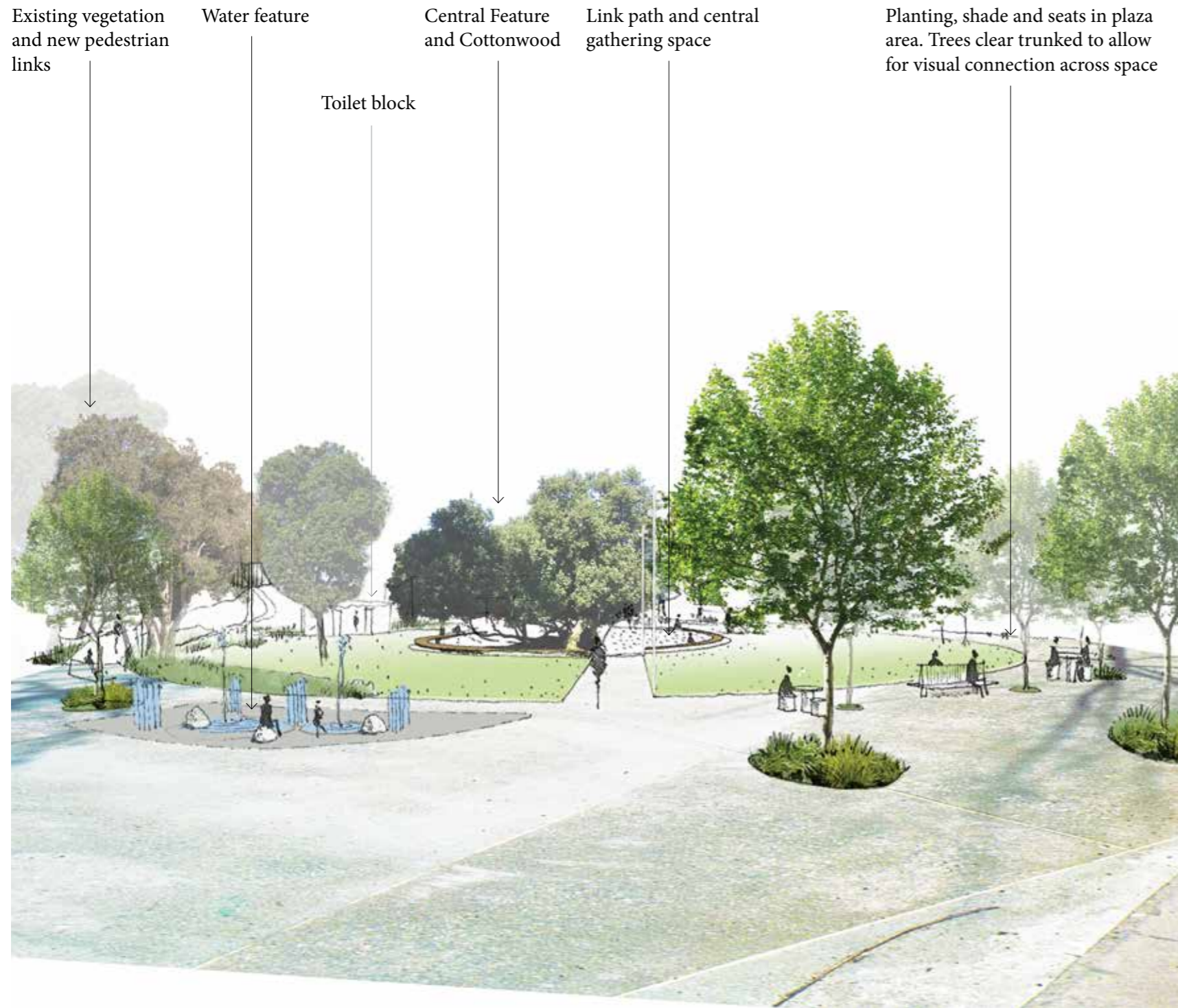
Indicative Perspectives



BIRDS EYE VIEW- looking across the park from the south east

4 Design

Indicative Perspectives



PERSPECTIVE- looking across the park from the south west end of the public plaza

Flexible Use in the Park and on the Street

Small picnic setting and gathering spaces are proposed in various areas of the park. These provide space for resting with a view of the park, spaces for social interaction.

Meeting places.



4 Design

Indicative Perspectives



PERSPECTIVE- entering the park from the north west corner

4 Design

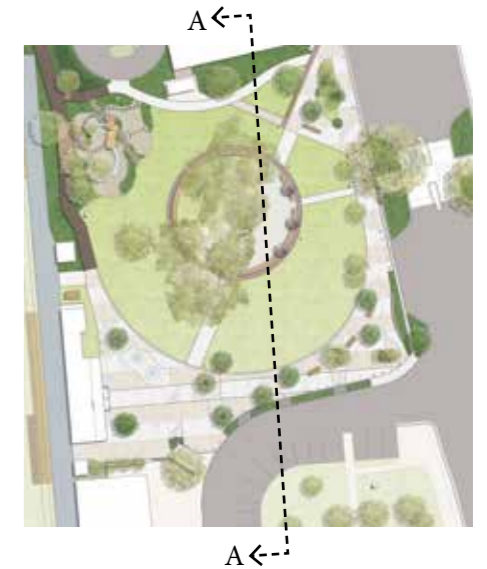
Indicative Perspectives



PERSPECTIVE- looking along the Jonson Street edge from under the existing fig tree- park forecourt space

4 Design

Indicative Sections



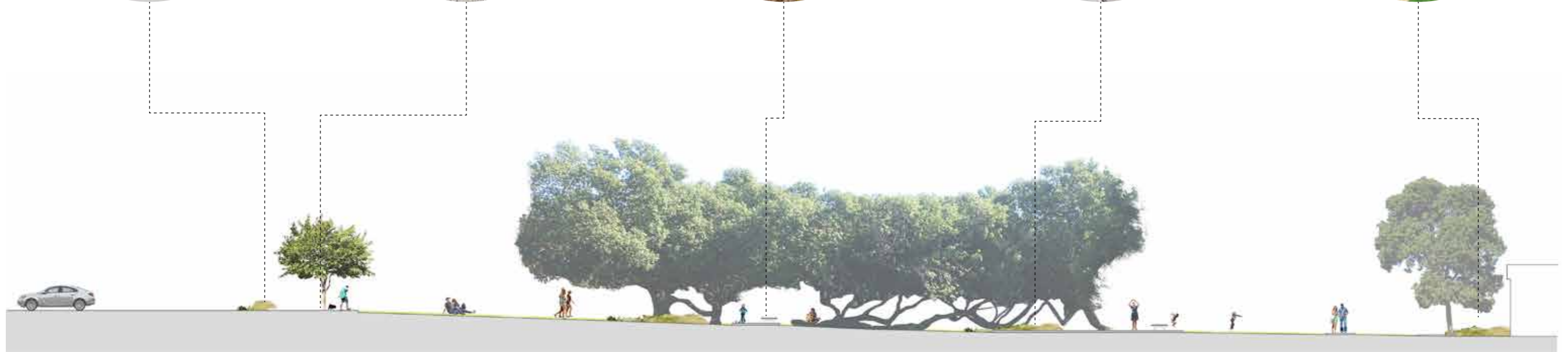
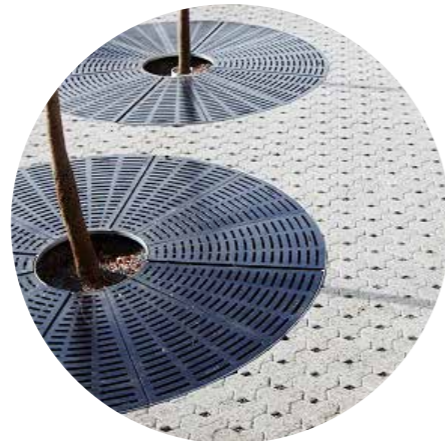
Shaded hardstand areas provide pleasant paths and gathering areas

Tree grates in hardstand areas (when trees not in planting areas)- grates form part of the design palette

Potential climbing elements associated with the central tree play area- allows for climbing that limits impact on the tree

Permeable pavement used in hardstand areas associated with existing trees to encourage at source infiltration and tree health

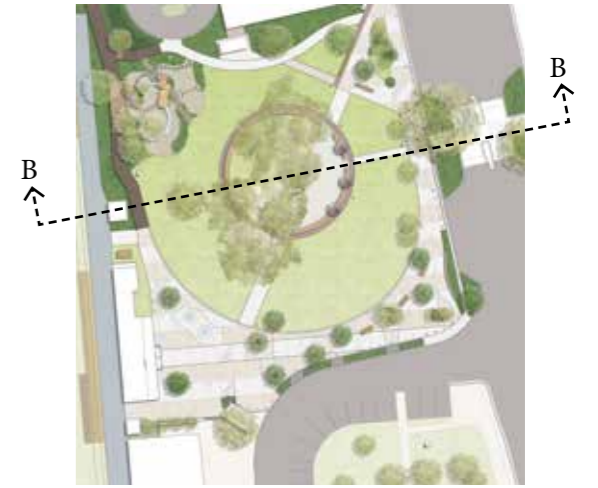
Garden areas, seating and a permeable architectural edge improve passive surveillance along the northern edge of the park



PARK CROSS SECTION A

4 Design

Indicative Sections



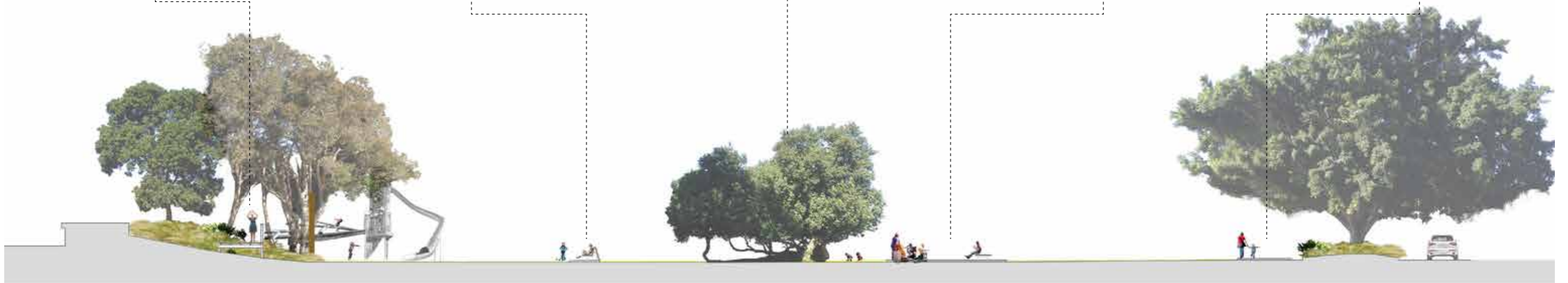
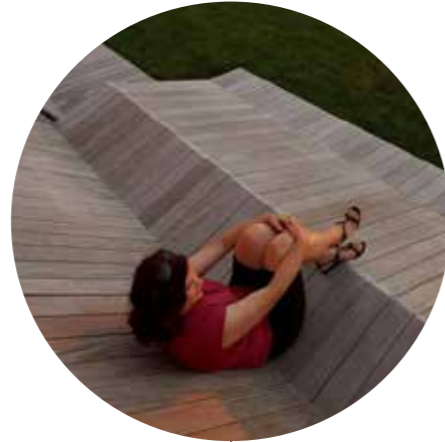
Linking boardwalk path passing through existing vegetation- connects to east-west links through town

Furniture / play element that provides a range of uses and creates a 'stage' around the park's central feature

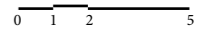
Nature play and engagement at the heart of the park

Spaces provided for impromptu performance and gathering

Capitalising on existing assets such as the Jonson Street fig trees and improving street amenity- park to extend to the kerb



PARK CROSS SECTION B





5
Play & Natural Engagement

5 Play and Natural Engagement

Play and engagement with nature are important components of the design. As outlined in the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan, the park should support 'family, leisure and recreation'. A key potential is for it to be a public space in the middle of town where users can engage directly with nature- climb and sit in a tree, enter the park under the canopy of mature existing trees.

Central Gathering Element and Tree

The central feature of the park is the existing Cottonwood Tree. This tree will in turn become the feature and centre of the park's main built feature- a flexible element that provides gathering and performance opportunities, seating, play, climbing, canopy and sky gazing.

The element is proposed to be steel frame and timber clad. Timber will be hardwood selected for external durability. The 'silvering off' over time is the optimum result for the timber to ensure it is in keeping with the robust nature of adjacent rail elements.



5 Play and Natural Engagement

Play

The play elements in the park will be associated with nature where-ever possible.

Refer to the images on the right for a series of example play images.

Play is proposed to include:

Simple balancing and climbing elements under the shade of existing trees.

Small discovery paths through gardens.

Small bridges and stepping stones associated with drainage features.

Climbing elements to lookout towers with a prospect of the park...then a slide back into the garden.



5 Play and Natural Engagement

Water Play Activation

There is potential for a water play or 'water fountain field' element to become a feature within the park.

A cooling and playful element within the hardstand plaza zone of the park. This feature can also combine with lighting for night time activation.

'Pop jet' fountains (small)

Water (temporary) 'puddle' areas with large pop jet fountain

Misters and pop jets

Feature boulders



Reference image for surface textures in the water feature area



Examples of water play





6
Lighting





7 Lighting


Indicative Lighting Zones



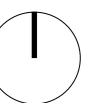
KEY

 Areas to be lit with pole mounted lighting- lighting elements to reference historical Railway Station lighting

 Areas to be lit with a combination of pavement uplights (small) and catenary / festoon lighting

 Central tree and feature to be lit with a combination of small uplights and under seat strip lighting

NOTE: Where possible warm lighting to be used. Exact elements to be decided during design development and detailed design phases



0 1 2 5

7 Lighting

Lighting Palette



Examples of catenary / festoon lighting



Examples of catenary / festoon lighting (Ronstan)



Example of festoon lighting



Example of in-pavement lighting



Example of pole mounted lighting



Historic station photo showing lights



Example of potential customised lighting



Example of potential pole mounted lighting (we-ef)



7

Material Palette

8 Material Palette

Precedents / References / Materials / Furniture



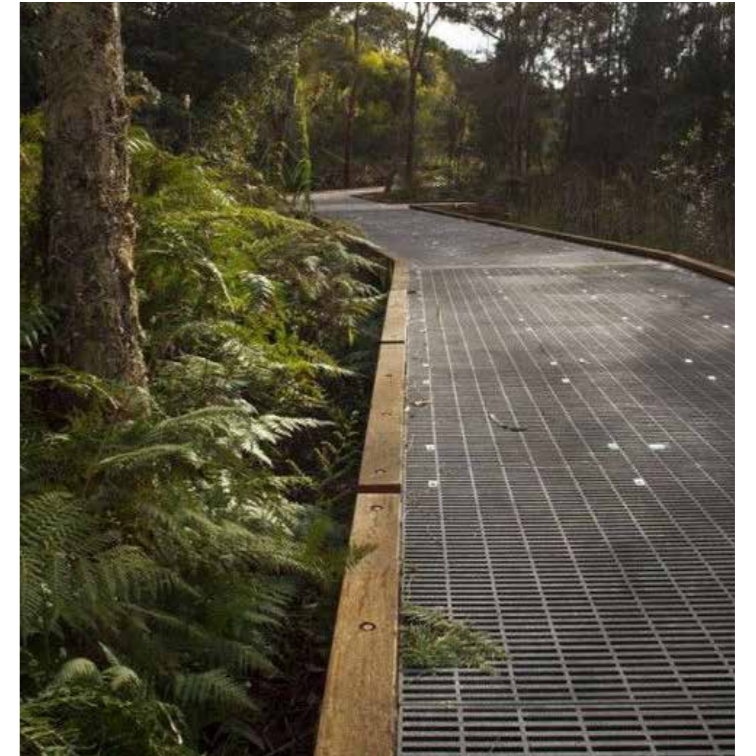
Example of climbing screen arbour associated with new toilet block location (Bark Architects- Noosa Junction)



Example of climbing plants (Twohill and James)



Planting areas within hardstand areas- small native gardens increasing park biodiversity



Example of low maintenance boardwalk material



Granite stools / bollards: Round 'Scoop' | UAP Supply



Timber bench seats (custom recycled timber seats)



Bike racks: Bicycle Hitch Rail Fixed | Arrow Alpha, Street Furniture Australia



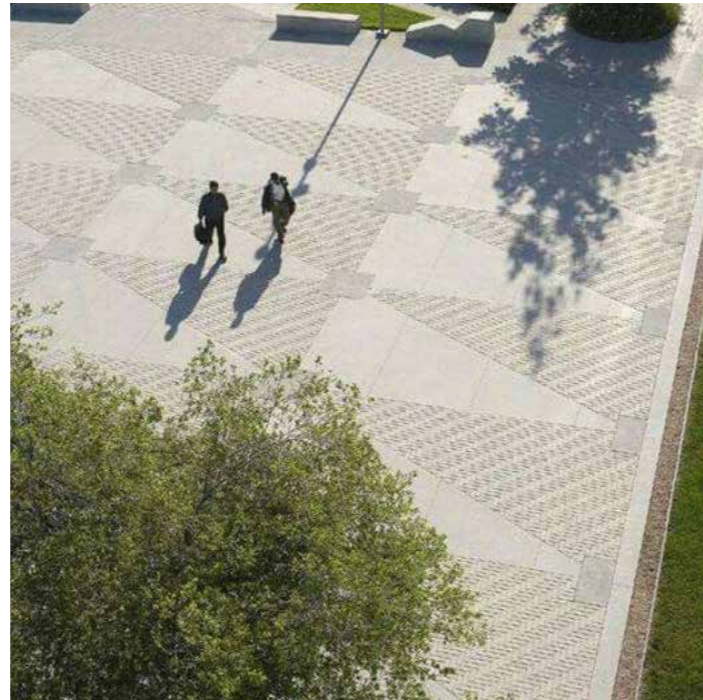
Example of custom seating

8 Material Palette

Precedents / References / Materials / Furniture



Permeable surfaces proposed for several garden areas that combine planting and seating / gathering



Example of simple patterning of hard surfaces



Material combinations with planting



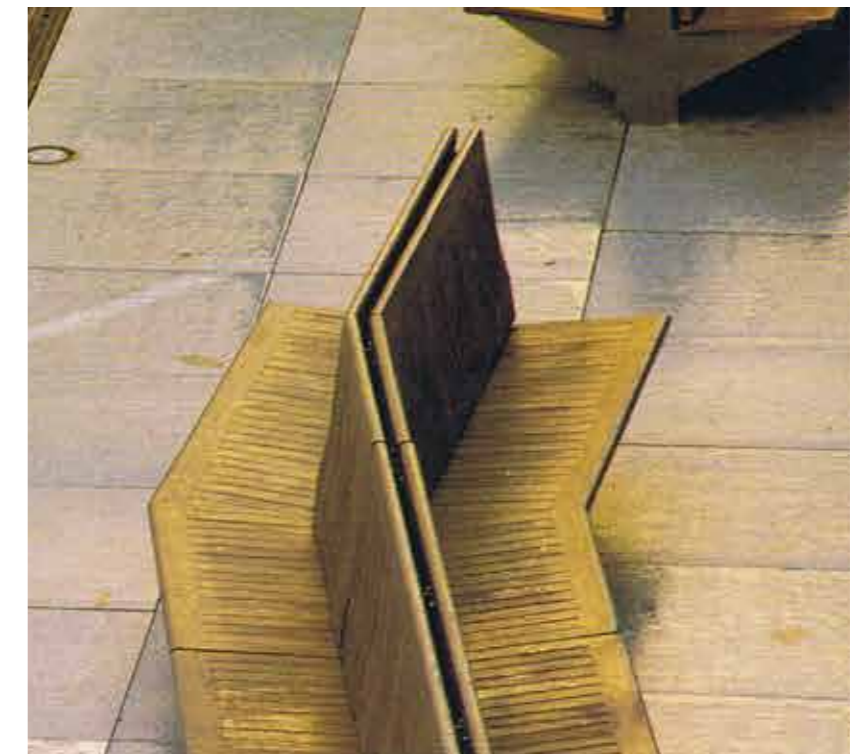
Boulders in hardstand and planting areas- objects for perching on, for kids to climb on...



Brick paving- feature pavement for circuit / apron to central circle timber element



Subtle variations in hard surface areas provide patterning without dominating aesthetics



Example of dual direction seating with backrest. Similar methods are proposed for the curved seating along the southern edge of the park



8
Plant Palette

9 Plant Palette

RAILWAY SQUARE- Plant Palette

Code	Botanical Name	Common Name
TREES		
n *ARC cun	* <i>ARCHONTOPHOENIX cunninghamiana</i>	Bangalow Palm
*BAN int	* <i>BANKSIA integrifolia</i>	Coastal Banksia
n *CUP ana	* <i>CUPANIOPSIS anacardioides</i>	Tuckeroo
n *ELA ret	* <i>ELAEOCARPUS reticulatus</i>	Blueberry Ash
*MEL qui	* <i>MELALEUCA quinquenervia</i>	Paperbark
n *RAN fit	* <i>RANDIA fitzilani</i>	Native Gardenia
n *SYZ moo	* <i>SYZYGIVM moorei</i>	Coolamon
c *TRI lau L	* <i>TRISTANIOPSIS laurina Luscius</i>	Water Gum
SHRUBS / FEATURE PLANTS		
n ASP aus	<i>ASPLENIUM australasicum</i>	Birds Nest Fern
c BAE MT	<i>BAECKEA Mount Tozer</i>	Mt Tozer
n BAE vir D	<i>BAECKEA virgata Dwarf</i>	Twiggy Myrtle
n BOR het	<i>BORONIA heterophylla</i>	Red Boronia
n COR str	<i>CORDYLINAE stricta</i>	Palm Lily
n CYA coo	<i>CYATHEA cooperi</i>	Tree Fern
n DIC ant	<i>DICKSONIA antarctica</i>	Tree Fern
n LEP per	<i>LEPIDOZAMIA peroffskyana</i>	Burrawang
n LEP pol	<i>LEPTOSPERMUM polygalifolium</i>	Myrtle
n PHI myo	<i>PHILOTHECA myoporoides</i>	Wax Flower
GROUNDCOVERS / CLIMBERS / GRASSES		
n CAR gla	<i>CARPOBROTUS glaucescens</i>	Pig Face
e CHO fra	<i>CHOEMORPHA fragrans</i>	Climbing Frangipani
n CRI ped	<i>CRINUM pedunculatum</i>	Swamp Lily
n DIA cae	<i>DIANELLA caerulea</i>	Flax Lily
n DIA con	<i>DIANELLA congesta</i>	Flax Lily
n DIC rep	<i>DICHONDRA repens</i>	Kidney Weed
n DOO asp	<i>DOODIA aspera</i>	Rasp Fern
n FIC nod	<i>FICINIA nodosa</i>	Knobby Club Rush
e FIC pum	<i>FICUS pumila</i>	Climbing Fig
n HOY aus	<i>HOYA australis</i>	Waxvine
n LOM hys	<i>LOMANDRA hystrix</i>	Mat rush
c LOM LT	<i>LOMANDRA Liime Tuff</i>	Lomandra
c LOM ver	<i>LOMANDRA verday</i>	Mat rush
n MYO ell	<i>MYOPORUM ellipticum</i>	Coastal boobialla
n MYO par	<i>MYOPORUM parvifolium</i>	Creeping Boobialla
n PRA ped	<i>PRATIA pedunculata</i>	Pratia
n SCA aem	<i>SCAEVOLA aemula</i>	Dune Fanflower
n VIO hed	<i>VIOLA hederacea</i>	Native Violet
n WES fru M	<i>Westrigia fruticosa Mundi</i>	Coatsal Rosmary
n WES fru N	<i>WESTRINGIA fruticosa Naringa</i>	Coatsal Rosmary
e ZOY ten	<i>ZOYSIA tenuifolia</i>	Zoysia

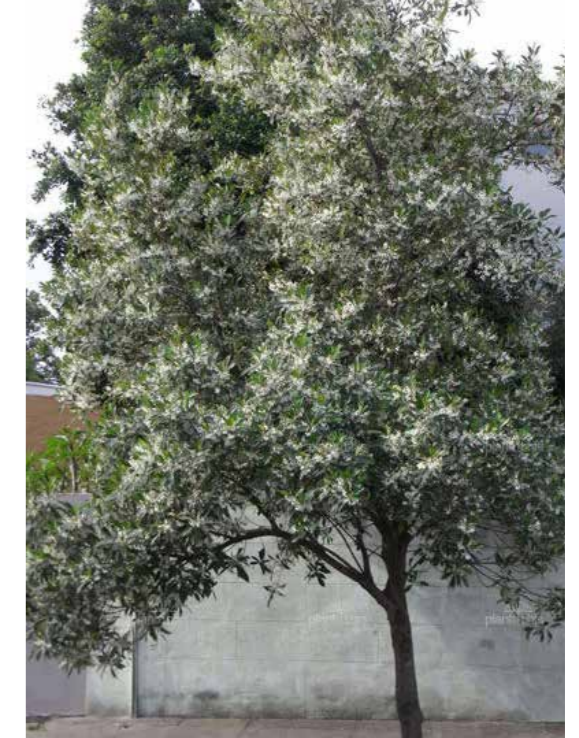
Trees



BANKSIA integrifolia
Coastal Banksia



CUPANIOPSIS anacardioides
Tuckeroo



ELAEOCARPUS reticulatus
Blueberry Ash



MELALEUCA quinquenervia
Paperbark



RANDIA fitzilani
Native Gardenia



TRISTANIOPSIS

9 Plant Palette

Shrubs and Feature Plants



ASPLENIUM australasicum Birds Nest Fern



BAECKEA Mount Tozer Flowering shrub



CORDYLINE stricta Palm Lily



CYATHEA cooperi Tree Fern



ERIOSTEMON myoporoides Wax Flower



BAECKEA virgata Dwarf



XANTHORRHOEA glauca Grass Tree

Groundcovers, Climbers and Grasses



DIANELLA caerulea Flax Lily



CARPOBROTUS glaucescens Pig Face



CHOEMORPHA fragrans Climbing Frangipani



CRINUM pedunculatum Swamp Lily



DIANELLA congesta Coastal Flax Lily

9 Plant Palette

Groundcovers, Climbers and Grasses



DOODIA aspera
Rasp Fern



FICINIA nodosa
Knobby Club Rush



FICUS pumila
Climbing Fig



HOYA australis
Waxvine



LOMANDRA hystrix
Mat rush



LOMANDRA verday
Mat rush



MYOPORUM ellipticum
Coastal boobialla



MYOPORUM parvifolium Creep-
ing Boobialla



VIOLA hederacea
Native Violet



SCAEVOLA aemula
Dune Fanflower



ZOYSIA tenuifolia



PRATIA pedunculata



WESTRINGIA fruticosa Mundi



WESTRINGIA fruticosa Naringa



DICHONDRA repens
Kidney Weed



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