



# WANGANNI DHAYAR LISTEN TO COUNTRY

## DESIGN JAM

TAMWORTH MENTAL HEALTH UNIT



# Agenda



**SWMHIP**  
**Tamworth Mental Health Unit**  
**HNELHD**

## Overview of the project

**Lachlan Falconer-Adams**  
**Project Director**  
**Health Infrastructure**

# TMHU

## Team Update & Introductions

Name	Role	Organisation
Lachlan Falconer-Adams	Project Director	Health Infrastructure
Connie Matthews	Facilities Manager	Hunter New England Local Health District
Yonis Ahmad	Project Manager	RP Infrastructure
Elizabeth Morcos	Architect	Silver Thomas Hanley
Philip Taylor	Architect	Silver Thomas Hanley
James Heron	Landscape Architect	Taylor Brammer
Mitch Roseby	Landscape Architect	Taylor Brammer



# Tamworth MHU

## Project Overview

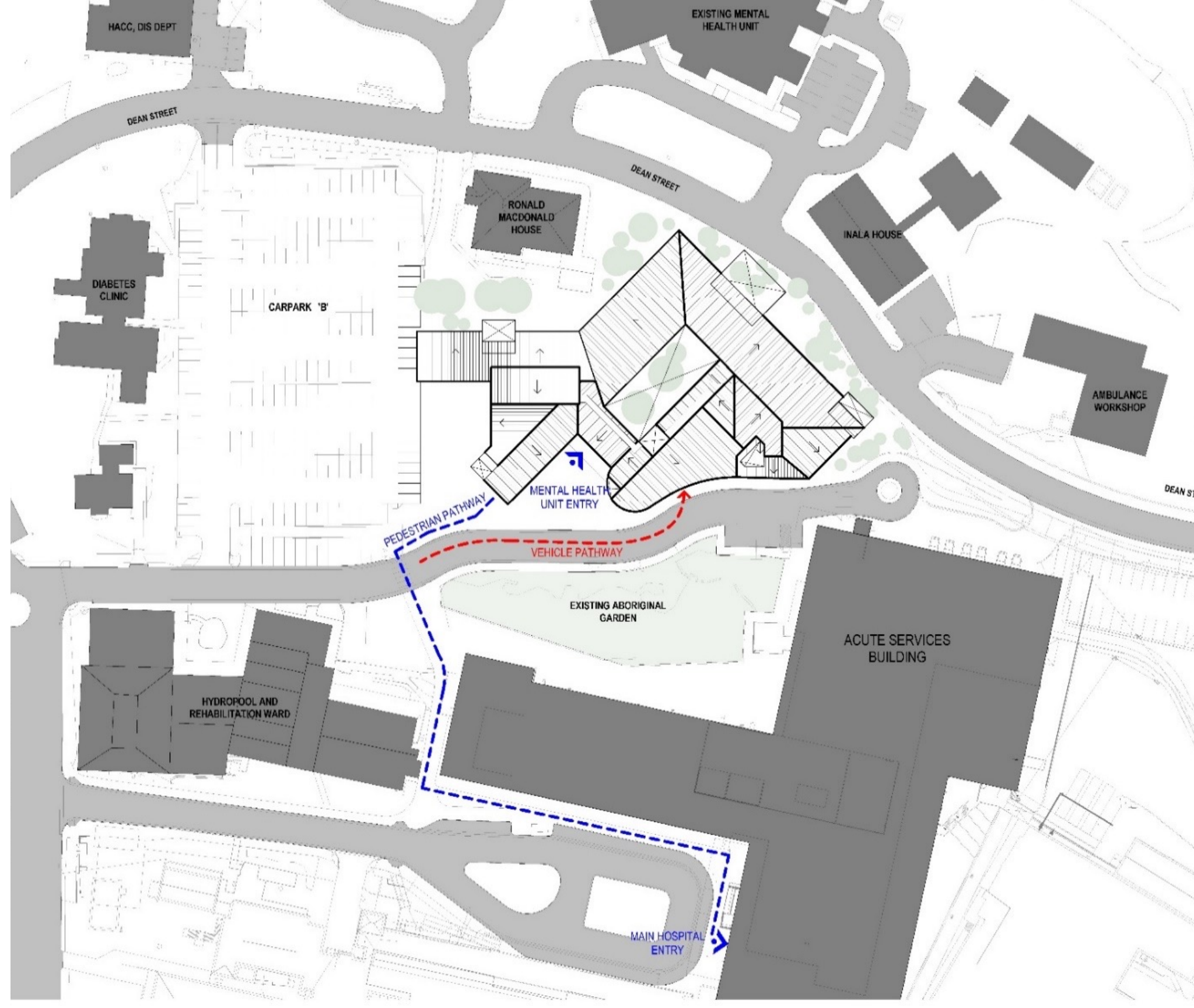
- Relocation of existing unit to increase capacity in the system and support key mental health reforms as part of the State Wide Mental Health Infrastructure Program (SWMHIP)
- Original scope was to deliver 33 beds including 25 Adult beds; 8 Older Persons beds
- In June 2022, the NSW Government announced additional funding to deliver an Adolescent and Community Mental Health service as part of the Tamworth Mental Health Unit (TMHU)
- The new scheme will deliver total 37 beds including 25 Adult beds; 8 Older Persons beds; 4 Adolescent beds and Child & Adolescent Community Mental Health
- The Project will deliver Early Works package for displaced carparking due to the new unit and additional parking for the unit



# Tamworth MHU

## Connecting with Country Opportunities

- Forecourt and connection with existing garden
- Atrium (lightwell)
- External surrounding Main Build landscaping





CHILD & ADOLESCENT  
COMMUNITY HEALTH  
(LEVEL 1)

INPATIENT UNIT (LEVEL 2)

MAIN ENTRY AND  
DROP-OFF

INPATIENT UNIT (LEVEL 2)

LINK TO MAIN HOSPITAL



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION



# MY COUNTRY

Country is Our Mother, Our Teacher, Our Library and Our Kin, She sustains, inspires and surrounds us.

The experience of Country is both individual and collective, both new and familiar.

From her we learn, share and flourish, continuing to care for country is central to our being, our identity.

Country is a responsibility, not a right and it is there for all who respect and cherish her.

Today we may not always be able to see Country instantly, but if we call to her, we can always sense her and again feel her embrace.





# MY COUNTRY

The knowledge of this Ancient Landscape has been collected and nurtured through an oral tradition, through dance, stories, song, and art carefully designed and maintained.

Country is the Codex that unlocks the largest and oldest environmental database in the world, it has millions of authors, rich with wisdom and a story that continues to grow with each new generation.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Often words of acknowledgment are spoken/given to Country. But to know and introduce yourself to Country you must sense and feel its presence, hear its stories, the sounds, the colours, the smells and her spirit.

It is not the words as ritual, but the feeling, the thought that connects us to her and each other, reminding us of our custodial responsibility.





# A TANGIBLE LANDSCAPE FULL OF INTANGIBLE WISDOM

The connection to country, the experience of a cultural landscape brings both mental and physical wellbeing, providing a refuge and safe place to learn and share.



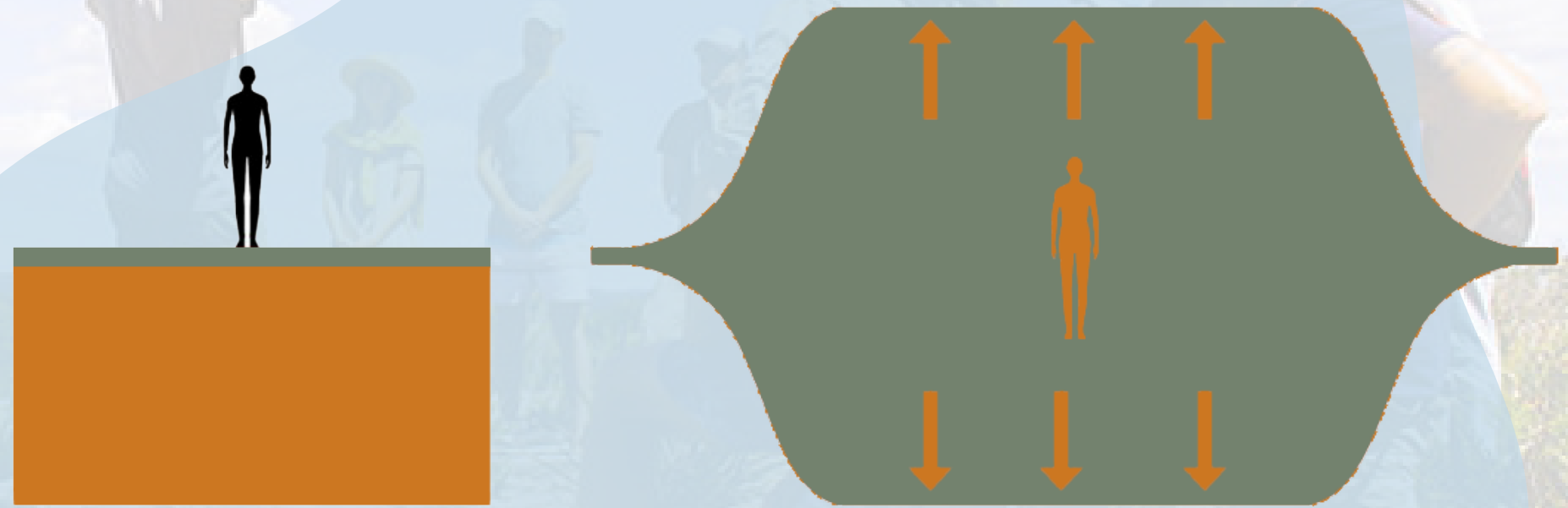


# PEOPLE ON COUNTRY

We inhabit and are inhabited by Country. This project offers an opportunity to celebrate the all-encompassing nature of Country.

It's infinite reach into and across the earth and into the sky.

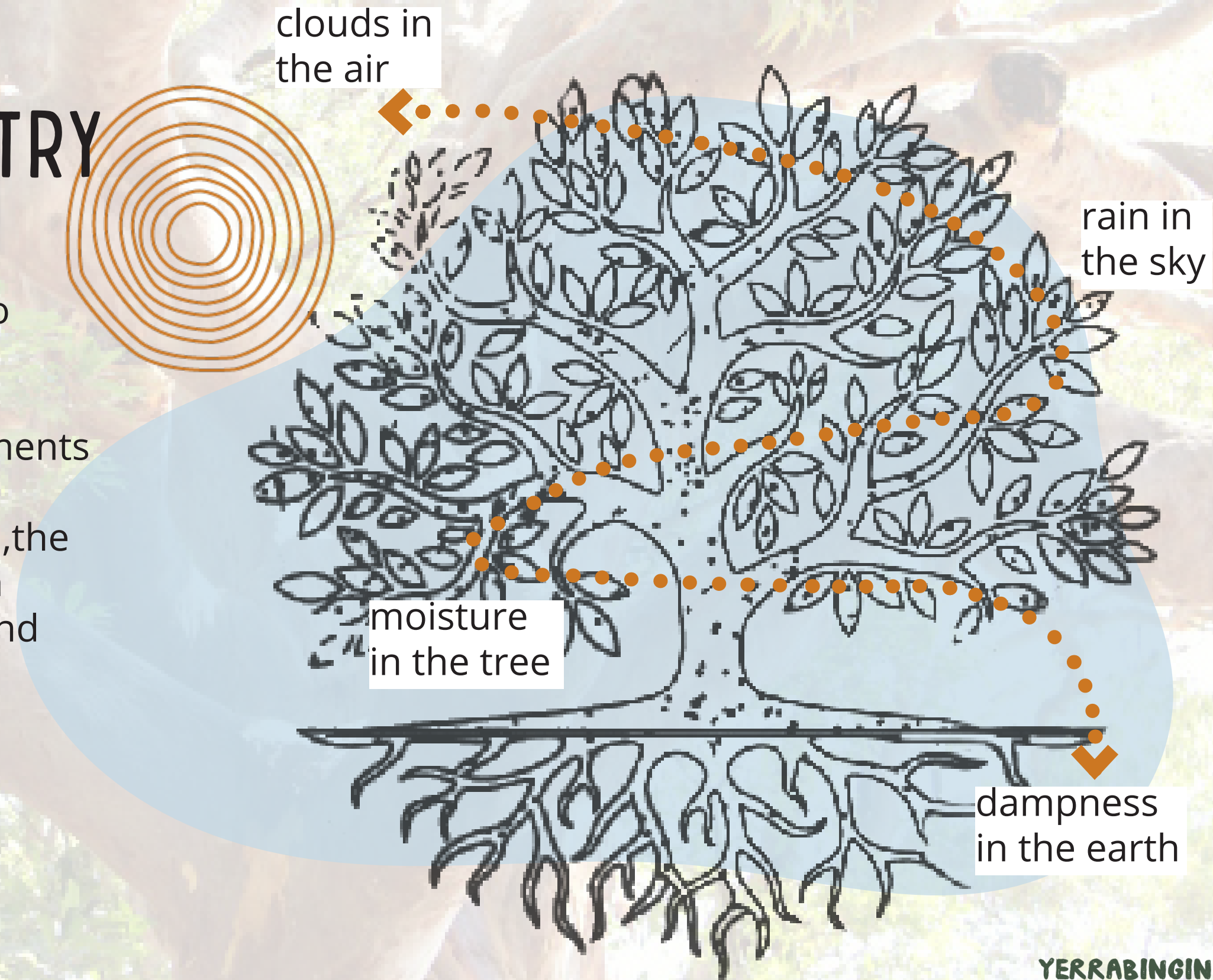
Being connected to Country transcends language and culture, a connected system of action, emotion and experience, as a Custodian of Country.



# MOVE WITH COUNTRY

A core project principle is the invitation and responsibility to move with Country.

Its unique and distinctive elements are connected and open to everyone, a connective tissue, the interstices that flows between Water, Sky, Earth, ourselves and our non Human kin.





# HOW MIGHT WE ?

How might we ensure the new Tamworth Mental Health Unit provides a safe and welcoming environment for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal patients and the wider community?





# BRAINSTORMING BAD IDEAS / GOOD IDEAS

In the next 5 minutes write down as many wonderful ideas you have?

If you run out how about bad ideas?





# SHARING YOUR IDEAS (20 MINS)

In your groups, team members share their ideas, posting them up on the butcher's paper.

Cluster similar or complimentary ideas together.

Next the team must decide what are their top 2 or 3 ideas to go forward with.





# TEAM SKETCHES (20 MINS)

For your ideas also create a story board to explain how you see it working. What will be the outcome for the visitor?

Draw or visualise the features.





# FLOWERS AND FLAMETHROWERS

## (20 MINS)

Each group will select a host, the host will present and pitch their team's sketches.

The remaining team members will split and watch go to one of the other teams.

The visitors have 5 minutes to pose questions for clarifications and give positive feedback on the ideas.

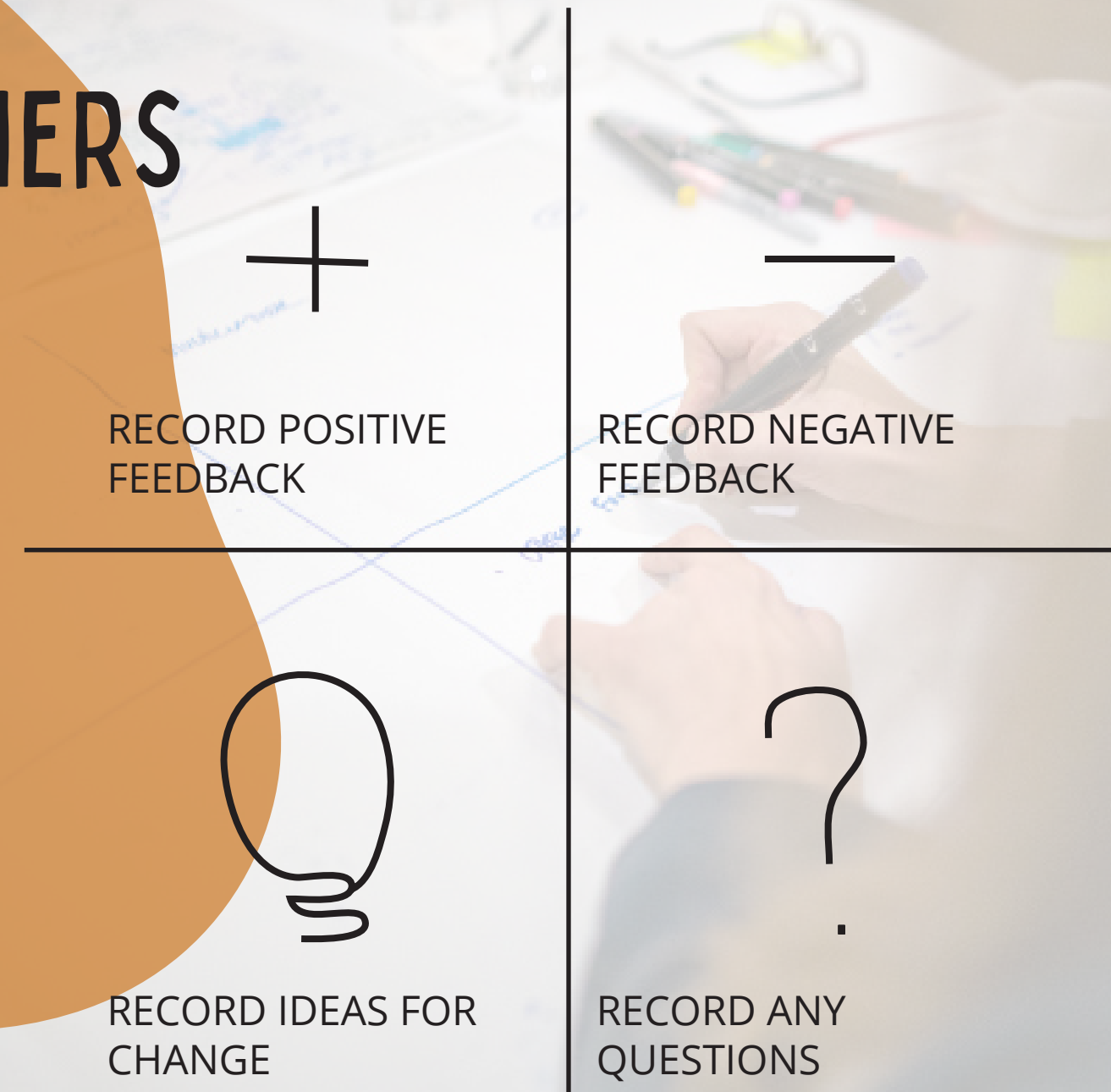




# FLOWERS AND FLAMETHROWERS (20 MINS)

The host in 5 mins outlines the ideas and then silently records feedbacks in a matrix that includes positive and negative feedback, ideas for change or improvement and questions asked.

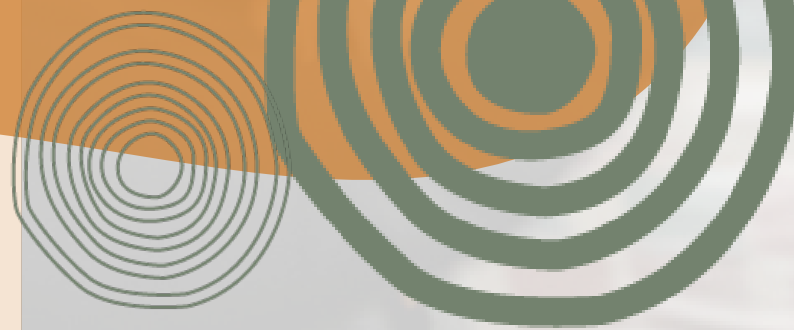
While feedback is being given, the host records feedback on a “feedback grid”: to share with their teams.





# REFLECTION AND REDESIGN (20 MINS)

Redesigning the idea – Teams will discuss the feedback and also the inspiration from other teams' ideas and redesign (if necessary) in preparation to deliver a 5 min pitch to the whole group.



# THE PITCH

How might we ensure the new Tamworth Mental Health Unit provides a safe and welcoming environment for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal patients and the wider community?





# DISCUSSION - KEY THEMES

Which features or ideas stood out?

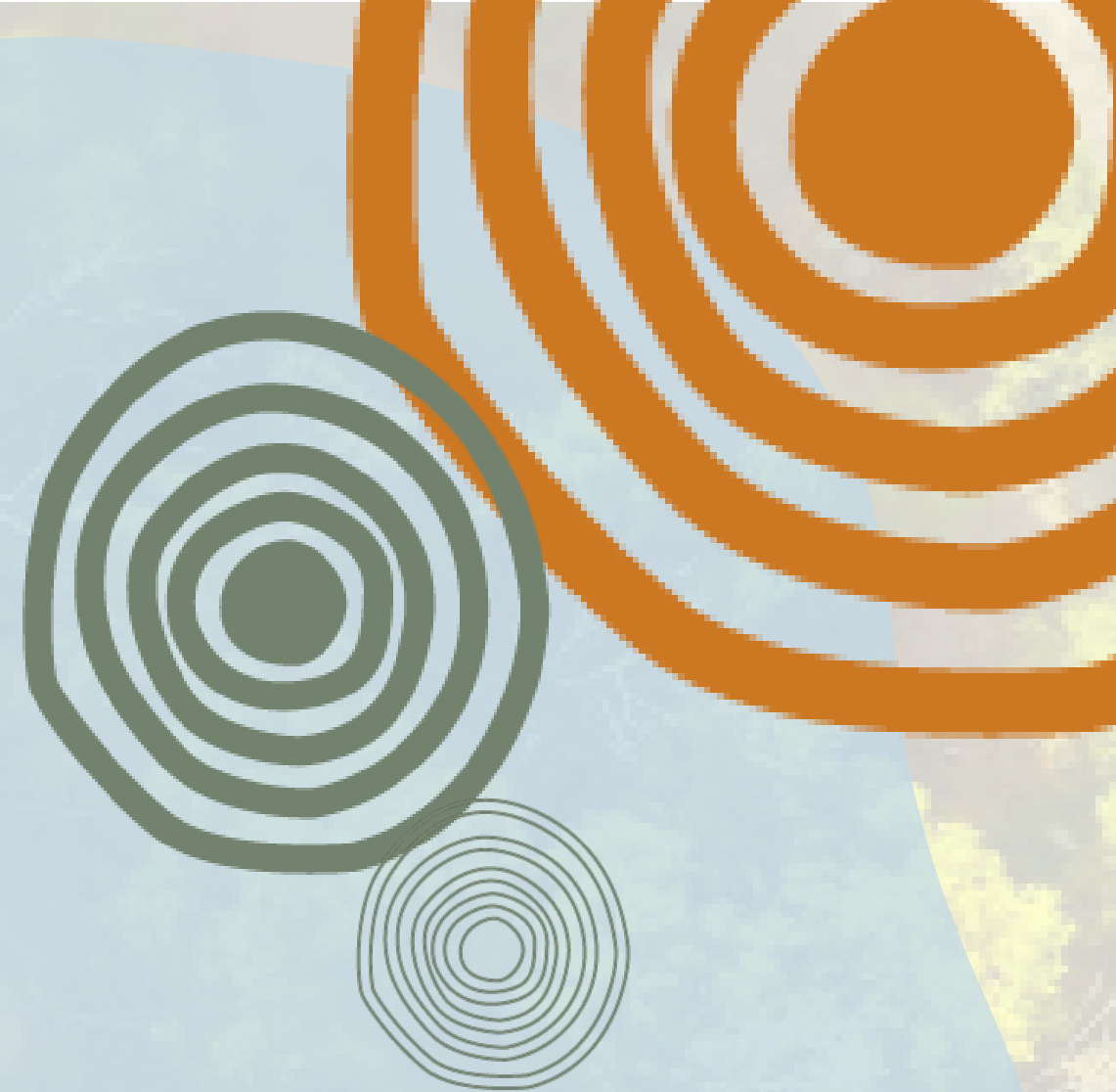
Which are most intriguing and exciting?


What seems most challenging and difficult to achieve?

Where do we see areas that are clear no-go's?

What must-have's are we seeing?

What was a challenge? What conflicts emerged?





"Our culture is embedded in the landscape, and environmental consciousness. Sharing this tacit knowledge and wisdom through a cultural landscape, at this point in time, when our earth is under threat, must be a principal for all of future design approaches."

