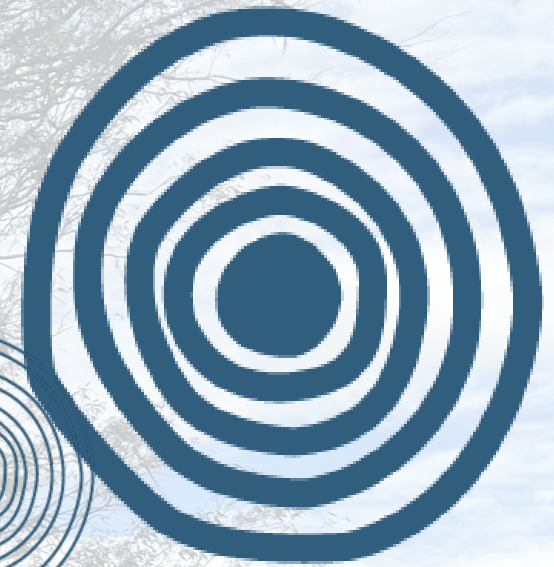


# NORTH APPIN

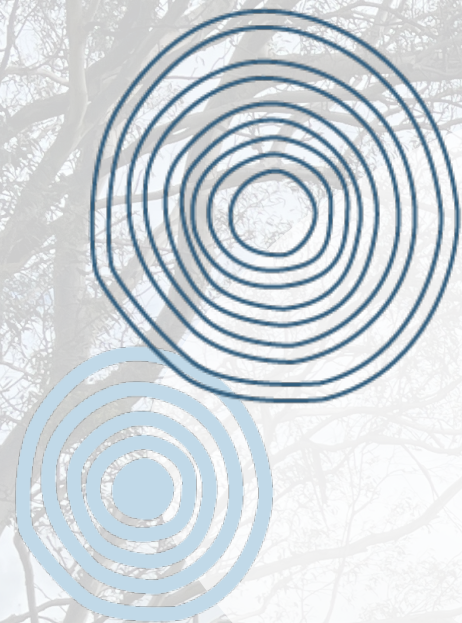
## CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY CONCEPT FRAMEWORK

JUNE 2023



WE ARE YERRABINGIN. WE WALK TOGETHER.  
**YERRABINGIN**





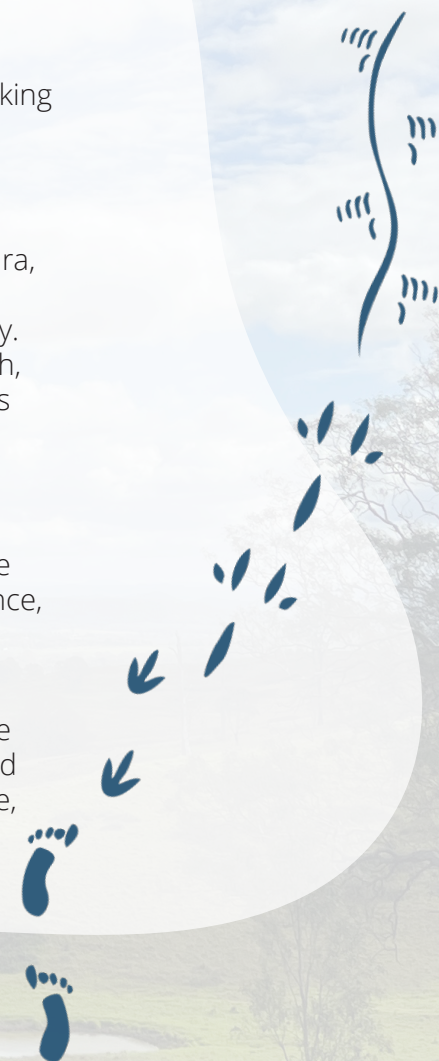
## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge Country, the Cultural Landscape that we are working upon, We acknowledge the custodianship of its people and the privilege and responsibility to Connect with Country.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tharawal, Gandangara, and Dharug and Peoples and their ongoing connection to culture, lands and waters and their valuable contribution to the community. We recognise and acknowledge the surrounding clans to the North, South, East and West whilst honouring and celebrating their Elders past, present and emerging.

We are part of the system of Country, our actions must always be Country positive. Being connected to Country transcends language and culture - a connected system of action, emotion, and experience, as a Custodian of Country.

Importantly, including First Nations knowledge of lands and culture at the onset of a project leads to design responses that are derived from knowledge of landscape variables and bio-cultural knowledge, creating meaning in place-making conceptualisation and function.





# CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY FRAMEWORK

## COUNTRY IS....

Country is our mother, our teacher, our library, our kin it 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 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.

## DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

Utilising the NSWGA Elements of Designing with Country will ensure the environmental and social wellbeing of the site is addressed a way that will provide an enduring legacy for the place and community.

Nature is Country. Caring for Country must guide design interventions. Preservation, restoration and remembering - not replicating the natural landscape and allowing that to inform all future occupation.

Design should support and provide for the local community. Social initiatives must be consciously embedded in the outcomes for the project.

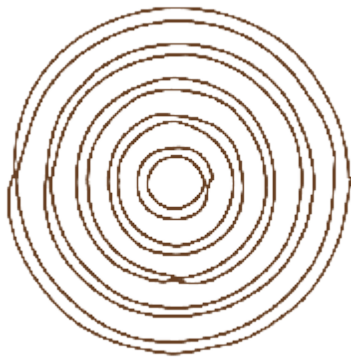
All design should appreciate the local vernacular. Draw upon and be inspired by Country, what has come before, what is required to sustain the future.



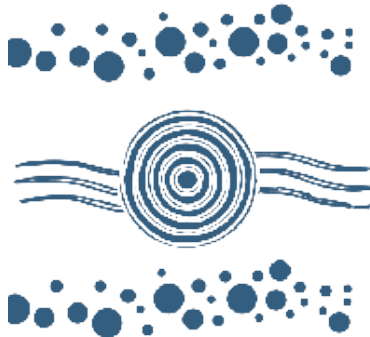
Derived from NSWGA Designing with Country

# ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY

A way to think and learn about Country is to consider Country as made up of a series of interconnected elements: Move with Country, Water Country, Sky Country, Non-Human Kin Country, Deep Country and Wind Country. This allows us to look at different parts of Country and the role they play in an overall system. This framework can help councils to look more closely at Country when starting a new project.



**Move with Country.** At the heart of Country is people and community, where our spirituality is embedded in environmental consciousness. To Move with Country is to be a Custodian of Country. It is where we record and share our knowledge through story, song, dance and art.



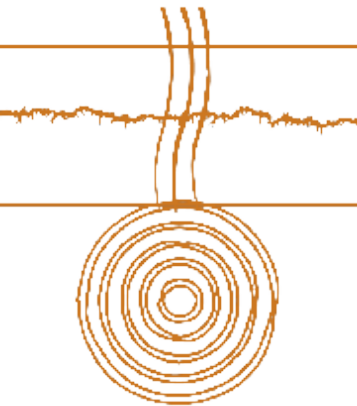
**Water Country** is the connective tissue, the circulatory system, the confluences and paths within and between Country. It is the meeting of salt and fresh water, where one drop forms setting a path through Country, connecting with story and landscape.



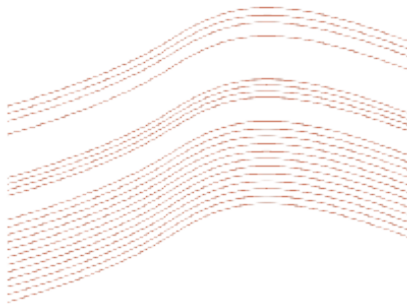
**Sky Country** is a place of spirits and the ancestors and includes knowledge about navigation, the seasons, time and Songlines. It is also an important component of ceremony as it allows engagement with our ancestors and spiritual beings.



**Non-Human Kin Country** fills the senses with colour, smells and sounds. On Country we are surrounded by our kin the animals and plants. This is where we learn about the connection of all living things and our responsibilities and roles within this web of connections.



**Deep Country** is the most Ancient of connections and one that we honour for the many gifts it shares, such as the greenstone axe and the ochres that we paint with. When we dance we are celebrating and honouring the spiritual beings below our feet and their kin in Sky Country, representing the extent and connection of Country.



**Wind Country** carries the messages of seasonal change, the songs and words of our ancestors across Country. It is where the landscape and light vibrates to a rhythm, be it the trees and the grass, or the clouds racing across the sky.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Below outlines community conversations and workshops over the process of the development strategy to date. All community members were remunerated by Yerrabingin for all meetings over the course of the project.



**2022**

Initial consultation with Ingham Property and Yerrabingin to understand the nature of the site



**Dec 2022**

Yerrabingin provide Connecting with Country Landscape Framework for Draft Planning Proposal



**May 2023**

Yerrabingin, Ingham Property and Registered Aboriginal Parties participate in a site visit and ideation session, socialising masterplan progress



**Jan - Apr 2023**

Continuation in building of relationships. Building knowledge around areas of cultural significance to incorporate opportunities through landscape and architectural design



**May - Jun 2023**

Mature Connection with Country framework created - demonstrating ongoing opportunities, education, experience through site and cultural areas of significance highlighted by site visit.



**Jun 2023**

Ingham Property to distribute and apply Connecting with Country Framework to development submission



# ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

This document outlines the engagement process and outcomes synthesized by Yerrabingin for the delivery of an authentic design framework for North Appin Estate. The document recounts the process of collaborative innovation between Ingham Property, Registered Aboriginal Parties, and local First Nations community members. It explains the purpose of our engagement, how the outcomes for creative and culturally sensitive placemaking ideas were reached, and speaks to the Designing with Country Framework.

The key attribute Yerrabingin offers is a focus on empathetic design solutions. Throughout the project, we engaged with different partners, connecting innovation and ideation with the wisdom of our culture. Yerrabingin engages with partners we can learn from and create alongside, resulting in First Nations design narratives that reflect the Country a project takes place on.

Unlike traditional consultation or engagement, Yerrabingin ensures First Nations peoples are active co-designers of the project and a collaborative voice is presented, instead of individuals. Ideation was explored through the lens of design thinking, using collaborative events and tools such as site visits and emailed surveys. The key first step was identifying needs, desires and apprehensions, whilst discussing the opportunities for meaningful engagement for the precinct programs.

Although not all discussion could occur on site the cultural landscape context of the site was maintained at the front of mind during the site visits. The empathetic design approach has commenced at the beginning of the design process, ensuring First Nations cultures are at the core and foundation of this project. The collaboration with the Registered Aboriginal Parties and local Aboriginal community members brought a diversity of knowledge and perception to the design thinking process. The process realised rapid prototypes for broader user testing and reiteration framed by cultural protocols and key project principles. The below sections outline key insights and outcomes from the site visit and recommendations from the community.





# SITE VISIT OUTCOMES

The North Appin masterplan has the opportunity to showcase First Nations cultures throughout the precinct. During the site visit, attendees walked across key locations including the ridgeline and low lying area at the base of the precinct, pausing the take in and discuss elements of Country along the way. Following on from the site visit, attendees received an online survey to record and further explore opportunities on site. The below outlines the questions asked and quotes from participants:

## ATTENDEES:

- Ngambaa Cultural Connections

Wurramay

Bariyan Cultural Connections

Yulay Cultural Services

Gilay Consultants

Woka Aboriginal Corporation

Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services
- Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation

Didge Ngunawal Clan

Butucarbin Aboriginal Corporation

Dharramalin

Kamilaroi Yunkuntjatjara Working Group

Wori Woilya

Mundawarri Heritage Consultants

## WHAT WERE YOUR FAVOURITE FEATURES OF THE SITE?

- "The view, natural landscape"

"The Ridge at the top of the hill looking around on Country seeing the amazing views"

"The existing levels that provided views to other suburbs and areas. As well as the existing vegetation corridors, these provided really strong connections through the site"

"The beautiful landscapes. Especially the view when up above"

"Views from the Ridgeline and knowing that there is a koala habitat area"

"Feel of the land"





# SITE VISIT OUTCOMES

## LOOKING MORE CLOSELY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE KEY AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT ON SITE?

“Nature and landscape animals”

“Aboriginal Language - name of new estate, schools, street names, name of school, park, sports ground and recreational places. Sculptures of Aboriginal Designs, animals around the area, artefacts found, Aboriginal Art, bush tucker, planted with knowledge of a plaque at the bottom within the garden”

“Aboriginal Language - name of new estate, schools, street signs, sports grounds, recreational places”  
“Connecting with the existing vegetation corridors, focusing the development around these existing natural features”

“Engagement and of Aboriginal people is a step forward. A long overdue movement. Due to our long history and culture we want to help maintain our environment, our country. As we are proven to be the best at sustainability, by our long existence of living with nature, not against nature, which is often the case as the environment and native animals have often been overlooked despite what is suppose to be the case. Cultural engagement is good for environmental protection and conservation and us. We get to be part of protecting our Mother Earth by participating via engagement. We partake in sharing our thoughts, our knowledge and our history. We are also being validated for our knowledge, our wisdom, our heritage; this is good for everyone. We include our history and heritage, our existence, by imparting our ancestral history and knowledge as per our discussions and ways to incorporate our culture. I believe it gives us acknowledgement, like they do to any other famous or infamous persons. Our history should be included. So this is a pathway I hope that continues. I believe It helps with acceptance of Aboriginal people within our diverse society. Which I believe helps us move forward. I hope Non indigenous people have a better understanding if they see how our ancestors lived, if they are taught about our culture, by the means we have discussed in workshops and site surveys. I believe it helps with respect to Aboriginal, as it shows there's more to Indigenous people than all we see in the negative press. I think this engagement is a way to move forward, as we are validated as the individuals we are. And long term this validation is what is needed to help bring us together as equals.”





# SITE VISIT OUTCOMES

“Naming of the estate in language Existing Ridgeline The creek lines Recreation and sporting parks”

“Bushfoods, herbs, fish etc - Community Cultural Centre – to educate the wider community and our younger generation - Keep waterways open along creek lines - Native plants for wildlife - Name tracks and pathways after local Indigenous Elders - Protect Koala Corridor on site”

## DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE MASTERPLAN, IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

“Maintain the habitats for the animals, koalas etc.”

“The waterways to stay and widen the area and for exercising or bicycle tracks, trees and reserve for Wildlife on Country”

"Over development, in terms of large dwellings on small lot sizes. Have the potential to control this early on, would like any residents / commercial opportunities here to feel rural and be sympathetic to Country, including having lots with sufficient outdoor space and connections to shared open spaces"

“My main concern would be roadways as it’s quite hilly and steep. So access to these estates is one concern. Another is reassurance that native animals will be safe from the traffic coming and going. I know part of it is for them, but animals will be animals. Of course more about the waterways being kept clean. So I really hope for a very good safe haven for them. And clean water. It’s such a beautiful location"

"Disturbance of koala corridor, major impacts to Ousedale and Mallaty Creeks. Removal of old growth trees"





# SITE VISIT OUTCOMES

## PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL IDEAS, FEEDBACK, OR QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE SITE BELOW:

- "I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Ingham's and Yerrabingin for giving us the opportunity to walk on Country, acknowledging and visualizing the future plans. I would like to be involved in any future meetings and walks on Country as we have knowledge and connection to the project and surrounding areas"
- "Would really like to see how the site can be used from an education / signage perspective and encourage telling the history of the site in its entirety. As well as providing sufficient open spaces for residents and the local fauna to live in. Would be great to see this development to set the standard for how these residential areas CAN look if designing with Country from the beginning. (for example, not looking like spring farm, wilton green).
- "Native animals protection - Roadways - Waterways - Sustainable society -Types of homes (environmentally sustainable) - Size of blocks (distance between homes) - Bike tracks -Natural areas for a bike ride & picnic"
- "My main concern would be roadways as it's quite hilly and steep. So access to these estates is one concern. Another is reassurance that native animals will be safe from the traffic coming and going. I know part of it is for them, but animals will be animals. Of course more about the waterways being kept clean. So I really hope for a very good safe haven for them. And clean water. It's such a beautiful location"
- "Naming of streets, parks in language Street poles to include designs of native wildlife shapes etc School to include yarning circle-play area Local language incorporated in sporting team names and community building Seeing from the air the estate could have a cultural design element to it Parks to include large rocks with plaques to provide local information and cultural design shapes (e.g. animals) Homes to include a facade and paint colour scheme that enhances the landscape As this is a large scale development there should be further consultation in stages to maintain active involvement with the RAPS There should also be a 3D presentation of the RAP ideas along with Yerrabingin to get a visual of how things might look as the design progresses "
- Bushfoods, herbs, fish etc - Community Cultural Centre – to educate the wider community and our younger generation - Keep waterways open along creek lines - Native plants for wildlife - Name tracks and pathways after local Indigenous Elders - Protect Koala Corridor on site"





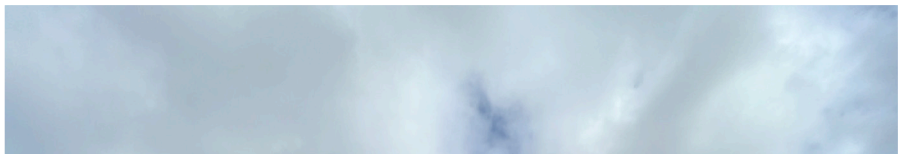
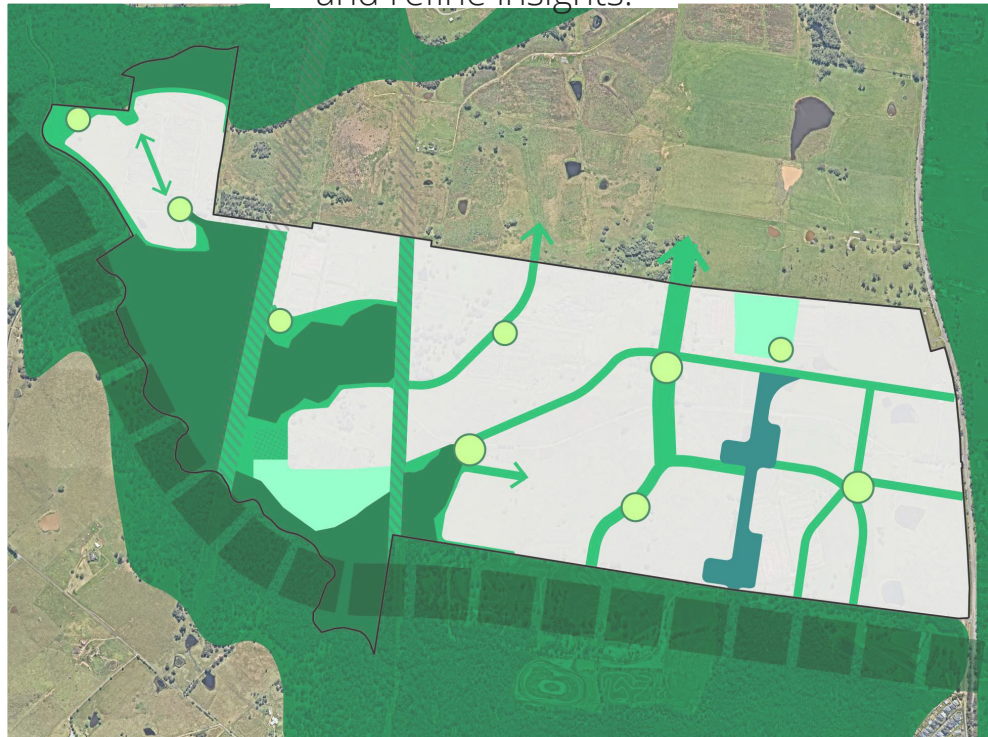
# SITE VISIT

17.05.23



Pushing for the widest possible range of ideas.

Converging to combine and refine insights.



Walking and talking on Country, discussing opportunities and elements of Country across site.



Divergent styles of thinking.





# SITE VISIT KEY THEMES



## WILDLIFE COMMUNITY

North Appin is home to a diverse wildlife community that must be acknowledged and protected.

Ecosystem services and non human kin inclusion is also important in the broader contextual connections to the site.



## CULTURAL KNOWLEDGES

Embedding cultural way of knowing and doing across the masterplan to create a thriving and welcoming environment for all.

The building and landscape should read as one as blend into the surrounding environment and context



## PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY

Consider ongoing educational and social enterprise opportunities within site through signage, wayfinding, and communal activations.

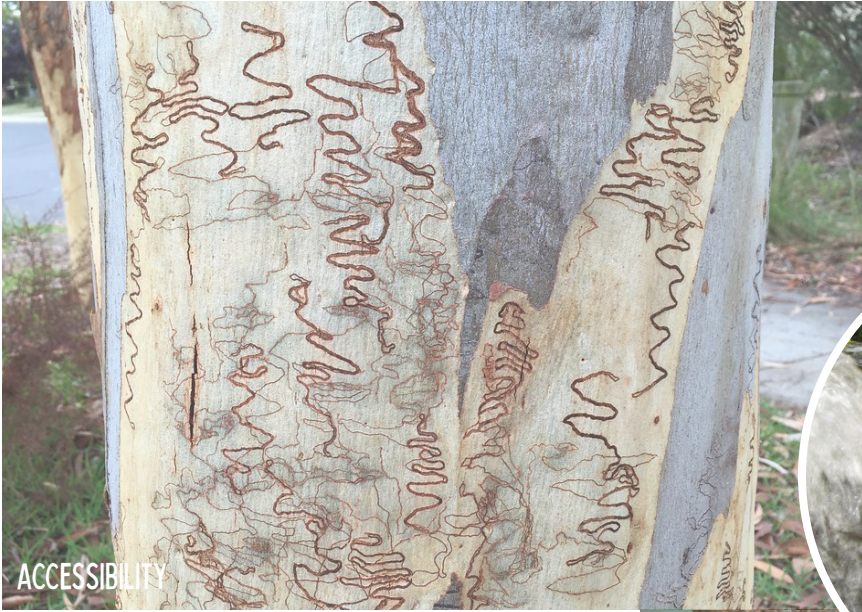
Create spaces and places for residents to enjoy and engage with Country.



# WILDLIFE COMMUNITY

The North Appin masterplan has the opportunity to be an inclusive space where Country is showcased and experienced.

Inclusive of non human kin and their role in healing Country. Supporting ecosystems and broader ecological movements. Sounds of local kin using the space broadens an individuals connection to Country also.



"Due to our long history and culture, we want to maintain our environment, our Country...Our long existence of living with nature, not against it."



Providing different spaces within the landscape and architecture for interaction between residents and non-human kin. Highlight and showcase aspect and views from ridgeline, facilitating meaningful connections to Country. This can be explored through connecting pathways, appropriate signage and a consideration of materials and textures used.





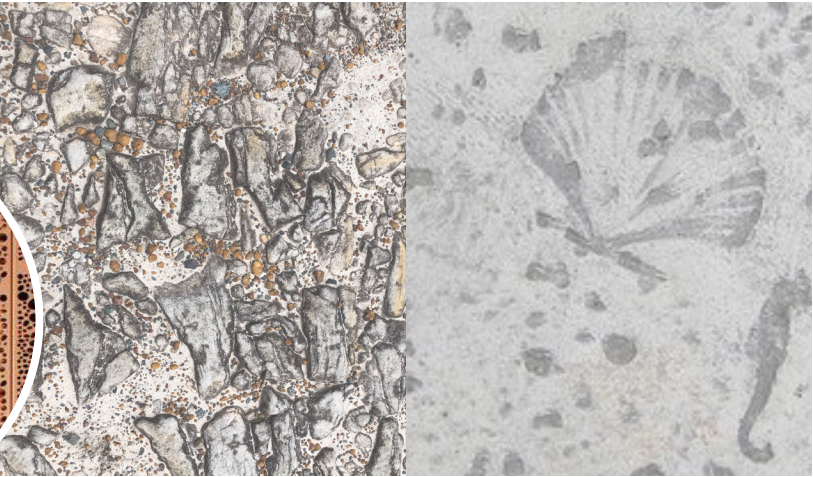
# CULTURAL KNOWLEDGES

Cultural knowledges including landcare practices, local traditions, and understanding of surrounding significant sites, can be further explored and embedded into the masterplan.

Nurturing genuine relationships with the community to create positive outcomes for land and people.



"We partake in sharing our thoughts, our knowledge and our history. We are also being validated for our knowledge, our wisdom, our heritage; this is good for everyone. We include our history and heritage, our existence, by imparting our ancestral history and knowledge as per our discussions and ways to incorporate our culture."





# A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY

The North Appin masterplan is a place of opportunity whereby Country can act as an interactive lens, referencing textures, shapes and images inspired from the natural environment.

Interaction fostered by wayfinding and signage throughout the site further deepens connections to place. Referencing local fauna (through use of tracks, textures and colours) and culturally significant elements such as astronomical movements, surrounding engravings, water and ecology.



Consider additional educational and social opportunities across the site in connection to future schools:

“Naming of streets, parks in language Street poles to include designs of native wildlife shapes etc School to include yarning circle-play area Local language incorporated in sporting team names and community building Seeing from the air the estate could have a cultural design element to it Parks to include large rocks with plaques to provide local information and cultural design shapes”



“How the site can be used from an education / signage perspective and encourage telling the history of the site in its entirety. As well as providing sufficient open spaces for residents and the local fauna to live in.”





# LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

**Landscape Typologies:**

**CONSERVATION & OPEN SPACE**

1. CPCP Adjoining significant vegetation

2. Koala Corridor

3. Linear Parks, Green Links and Green Spaces

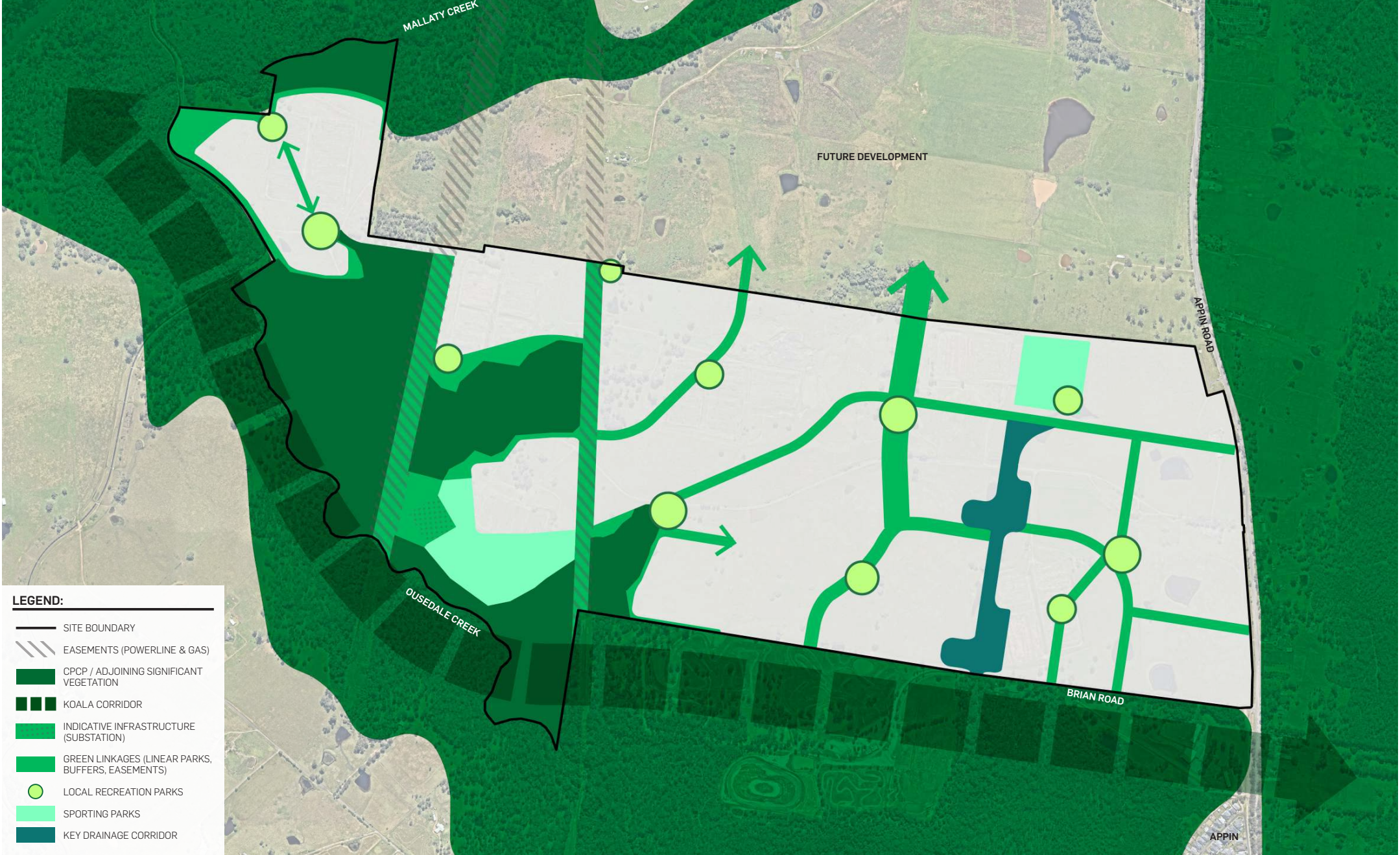
4. Local Parks

5. Sporting Parks

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

1. Easements (Powerline & Gas)

2. Key Drainage Corridor





# CONSERVATION AND OPENSOURCE

Consideration and open space is the primary asset for this green-fields development. By drawing upon the existing natural assets (vegetation, waterways, landform etc), the addition of new open space and increased environmental space will only enhance the connection to Country.

## CPCP ADJOINING SIGNIFICANT VEGETATION



- Support ecosystems and broader ecological movements
- Provide opportunities for interaction with nature
- Ensure non-human kin can thrive in healthy habitats



- Provide opportunities for the community to participate in landcare utilising traditional knowledge of vegetation management



- Consider educational opportunities within an endemic landscape which can teach people of all ages
- Wayfinding and signage strategies that celebrate country

## KOALA CORRIDOR



- Facilitate the protection of an important movement corridor for non-human kin
- Create opportunities for observation without disturbance



- Provide opportunities for the community to participate in habitat creation through planting and landcare initiatives.



- Encourage education through information, activities and signage around Koala's and the importance of their conservation.



## LINEAR PARKS, GREEN LINKS AND GREENSPACES



- Create considered landscape settings for sports park that promote biodiversity along edges and promote visual connection to nature
- Locate recreational activities away from conservations areas



- Explore opportunities with the community for appropriate naming of parks
- Provide spectator areas with covered seating for communities to come together



- Create opportunities for a range of uses and facilities to create inclusive and varied functions



Sport and recreation landscape opportunities



Ecological (Koala Habitat) - Cumberland Plain Landscape








CPCP Adjoining Significant Vegetation



# CONSERVATION AND OPENSOURCE

## LINEAR PARKS, GREEN LINKS AND GREENSPACES

-  Consider location and extent of tree planting for habitat creation and human comfort while maintaining views across the site
-  Create diverse vegetation structures through considered planting strategies
-  Explore opportunities with the community for appropriate naming of parks that connect the site
-  Integrate stories and allow for story-telling to occur in gathering points
-  Create landmarks at vantage points along the ridge to promote connection to the wider landscape and aid in orientation on Country








Landscapes for humans and non-human kin



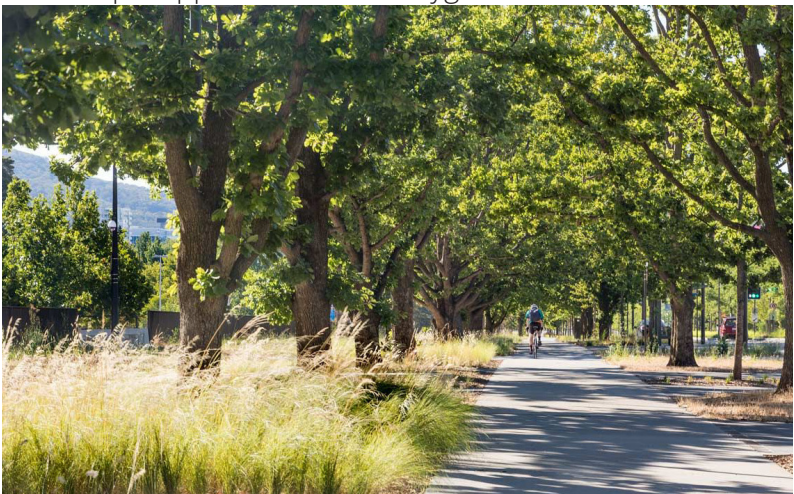
Landscape Opportunities for Playgrounds

## LOCAL PARKS

-  Promote connection to Country by employing principles of nature play
-  Create diverse vegetation structures through considered planting strategies
-  Consider the integration of education on Dharawal Country in nature playgrounds using elements of the surrounding Country to create tactile and lasting experiences
-  Integrate stories and allow for story-telling to occur in gathering points
-  Provide space for community to inhabit and use the space for cultural opportunities



Nature playgrounds



Canopy cover along green links



# INFRASTRUCTURE

## EASEMENTS



- Utilise easements as pollinator and wildlife corridors using dense low level planting where tree planting is not possible
- Encourage use by wildlife through habitat and foraging planting



- Explore opportunities to utilise easements for productive low level landscapes for the community with a focus on native foods
- Consider integration of walking paths and activity nodes where appropriate



- Allow easements to function as view corridors to help with orientation within the larger landscape



Low level planting areas



Creek as Landscape Opportunities



Landscape Opportunities for drainage corridors

## KEY DRAINAGE CORRIDORS



- Stormwater retention and treatment on site through rain gardens, swales and detention basins to improve the water quality before returning to the natural system within Country
- Areas of open water to attract wildlife and create sanctuaries for both non-human kin and humans



- Explore educational opportunities around the importance of protecting natural waterways in urban areas



- Provide space for community to inhabit and use the space for cultural opportunities



Landscape Opportunities for Easements



# STREETS AND LOTS

## STREETS



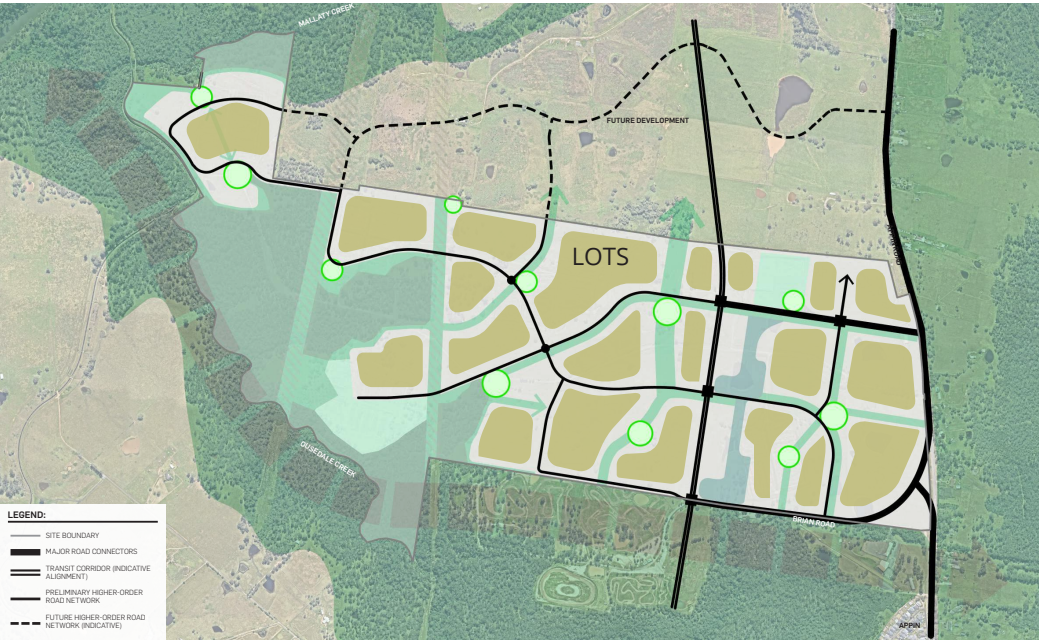
- Diverse street verge planting for thermal comfort and habitat creation
- Reduce site stormwater runoff with integrated WSUDs along roads and parking
- Improve water quality as it feeds into natural water system



- Explore opportunities with the community for appropriate naming of streets that connect the site and neighbouring context
- Integrate stories within wayfinding and signage along movement routes



- Provide opportunities for rest points along pathways that take advantage of views and create inclusive pedestrian environments



Landscape Opportunities for Lots



Greenroof planting within Lots



Greening opportunities along major roads



Integrated WSUDs along streets

## LOTS



- Promote opportunities for planting within lots with access to a native plant nursery
- Promote connected tree canopies between lots and streets
- Promote permeability of hardstand areas to reduce stormwater runoff



- Create opportunities for community gardens to bring people together
- Provide education on the benefits of native planting within private gardens



- Utilise roofs for planting which provides benefits of insulation, water retention and habitat or food for non-human kin.