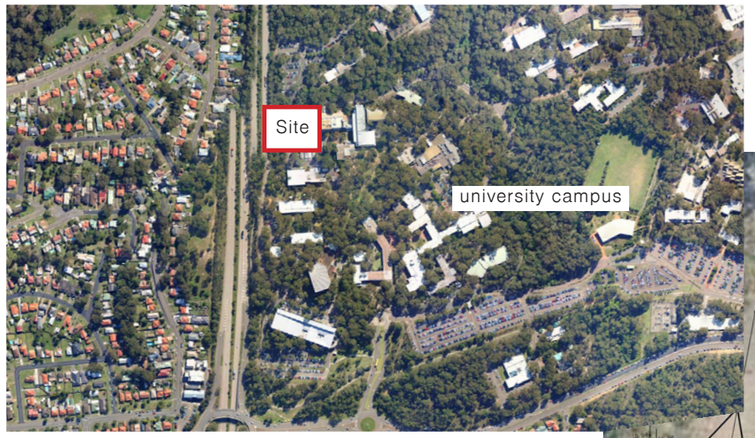
site analysis

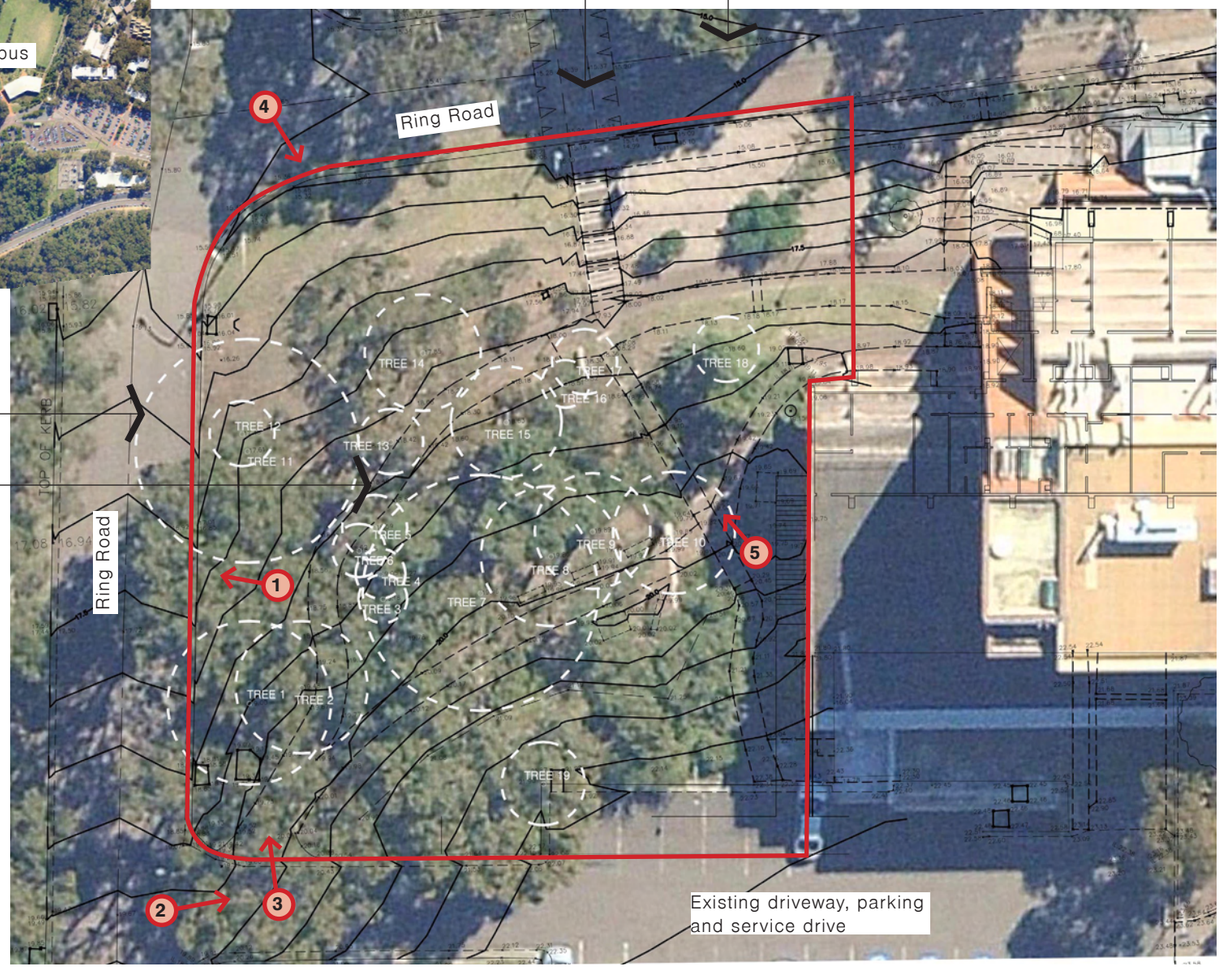
msb west - university of newcastle

01

July 2011



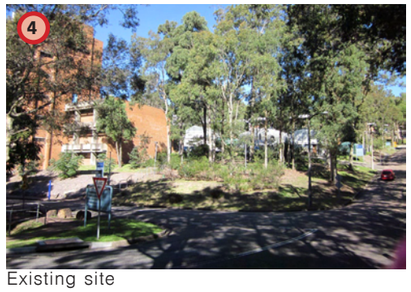
site location



Views to existing highway embankment

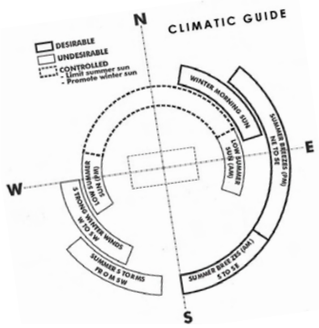
Existing vegetation and views of parking area beyond

Existing site and access drive



Existing site

Views from site to existing creekline and parking north of site



site details:
Callaghan Campus
University of Newcastle
client:
Facilities Management Office
date:
May 2011
job number:
8692.5
scale:
1:250 @ A3
revision:
C

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landscape design report

msb west - university of newcastle

02

July 2011

site – general description

The following landscape design report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Newcastle City Council Development Control Plan 2005.

The subject site is located on Ring Road, within the Callaghan Campus of the University of Newcastle. It is adjacent to the existing Medical Sciences Building and the proposed building will have a connection to the existing one. The existing building occurs on the eastern edge of the site, which is bounded on the remaining sides by a services road to the south and Ring Road to the west and north.

To the west of the site is Hwy 123 which is perched atop an embankment above the site. Across Ring Road, to the north, the land slopes down to a wooded creekline. South of the site are the Biological Sciences glass houses.

Views from the site are generally blocked on all sides. To the south and east, existing buildings block any views from the site. To the west is the highway embankment that is covered by trees. To the north, the canopies of the creekline trees dominate the views, with a small window to a parking area beyond. The views to the north will be taken advantage of in the design of the building and the landscape, which will incorporate terraces facing north.

Currently the site is void of any structures, but contains numerous trees and a pathway running through it.

soil type

The site falls into the Beresfield (be) soil landscape classification, as defined by the Department of Land and Water Conservation (Matthei, L.E, 1995). Generally the soil landscapes comprise moderately deep (<120 cm) sandstone, siltstone and shale on undulating low hills and rises. These soils are characterised by having high acidity and low fertility with high foundation hazards, water erosion hazard especially where soil is exposed and localised waterlogging in low-lying areas.

vegetation

The site contains 19 trees which are *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* species. These all occur within the building footprint and must be removed. Refer to the Arborist Report dated December 2010 for more detailed information.

Outside the site, and across Ring Road to the west and north, are mature woodland trees. These are predominantly *Eucalyptus maculata* with other *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* species occurring within the wooded areas. This vegetation will not be affected by the proposed works.

landscape character and visual amenity

The landscape character of the site and its surrounds are consistent with the 'woodland campus' of the university. To the west and north, the views are predominantly of wooded slopes. Views to the south and east are of existing university buildings and glass houses.

The greatest visual impact will be to the users of Ring Road and occupants of upper floors in nearby university buildings. However, the tall mature trees minimise any negative views with their canopy cover.

proposed landscape works and design objectives

The site is located within the university campus, and as such, the landscape will be in keeping with the character of the campus as a whole.

Planting
The site is set adjacent to native plantings. The landscape design will maximise the use of natives over the majority of the site, where native shrubs and grasses will be used.

Exotic species will be used only to accent the landscape design and complement the building.

Paving materials
The materials proposed for paving are those that occur elsewhere on campus and will strengthen the campus character. Predominantly the design utilises concrete paving that has an exposed aggregate finish. This finish echoes the materials used elsewhere and offers a slip resistant surface to walk on.

The exposed aggregate will be accentuated with the use of a grey sand finish concrete banding to pick up the strong lines of the building and to delineate space. This will also provide a slip resistant surface.

Walls
In keeping with the campus landscape character the walls used in the landscape will be faced with natural stone. The existing stone wall along the northern edge of the site will be retained and echoed in the additional walls.

The walls will also tie the building to the site by using a smooth light grey precast concrete cap that will repeat the lines on the building in the landscape.

Additional elements
The terrace that forms the outdoor space at the north entry will take advantage of the slope and will be cantilevered over the slope. This will be supported by a stone wall that is set back to give the terrace a 'floating' appearance.

An important element of the landscape will be the stairs that lead up to the terrace. The majority of the steps will be concrete similar to the pathways. However the last set of steps leading to the terrace will be unique and made of steel. It will enhance the floating feel of the terrace and provide a unique visual and tactile experience.

Existing campus pathway and wall finishes

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landscape plan

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03

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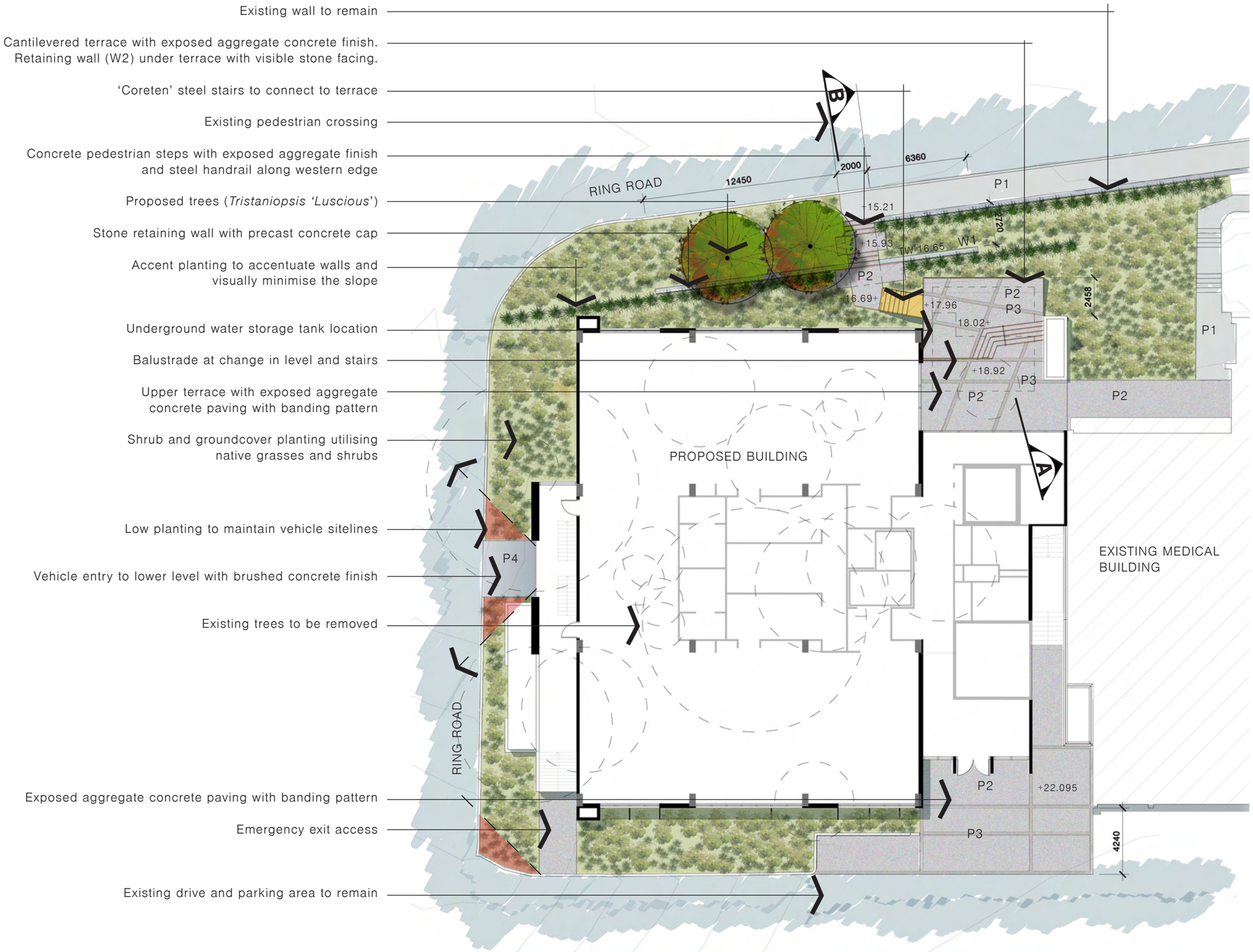

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landscape sections and materials

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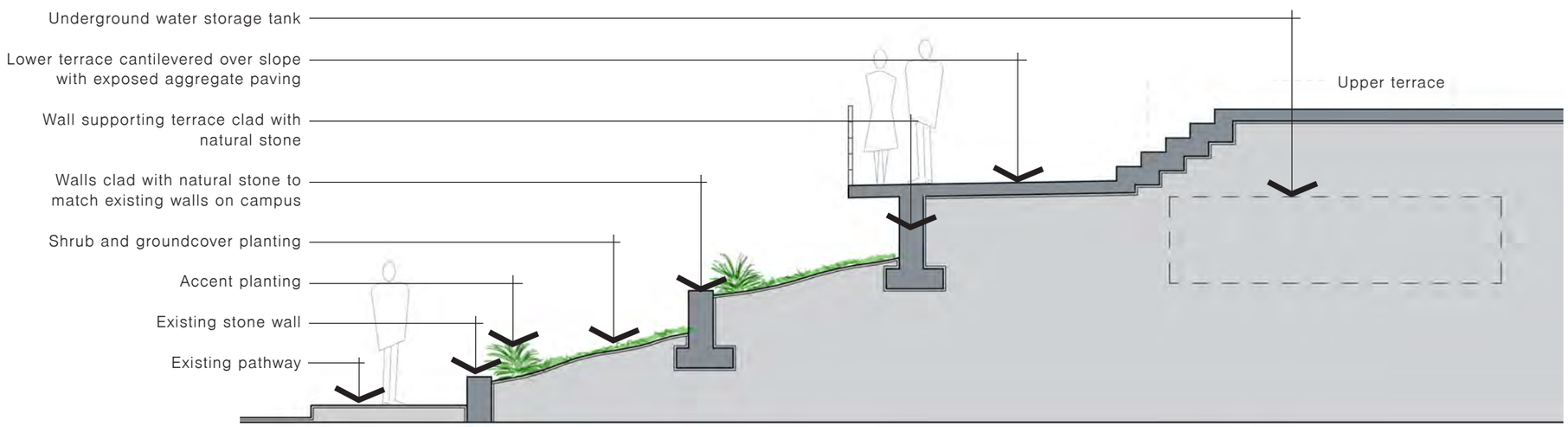
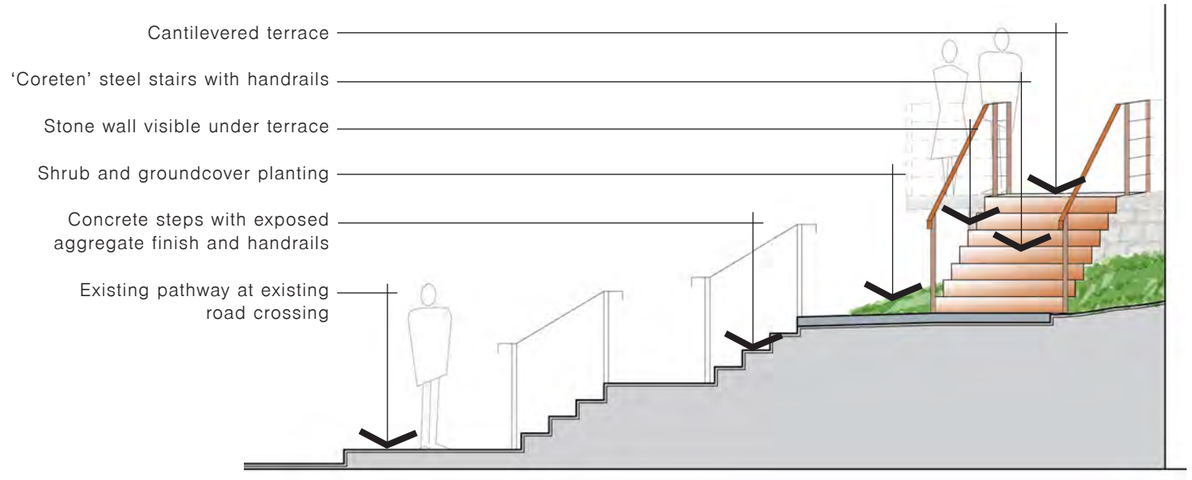


section A



section B

proposed plant schedule

Trees

Tristaniopsos 'Luscious'

Shrubs and Groundcover

Lomandra 'Shara'	
Lomandra 'Tanika'	Matt Rush
Carex appressa	Carex
Ficinea nodosa	Club Rush

Accent Planting

Doryanthes excelsa	Gymea Lilly
Macrozamia communis	Burrawang

proposed material schedule

Paving

P1 Existing grey concrete; exposed aggregate
P2 Exposed aggregate concrete;
Marrangaroo pearl quartz
P3 Grey concrete banding with light sand finish
P4 Grey concrete with brushed finish

Walls

W1 Block wall with natural stone facing
precast concrete cap with smooth finish

W2 Concrete retaining wall with natural stone facing

Exposed aggregate concrete

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