## SCENTRE GROUP

14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## Architectural Intent

Response to Dean Wooding's email dated 3 February 2017 seeking further details regarding the treatment of the service vehicle ramp.

## Scentre Group Design Response:

Following the creation of Scentre Group in July 2014, all areas of the business have been challenged to consider how we can better deliver our company purpose, "creating extraordinary places, connecting and enriching communities". With this in mind, the Cynthia St and Northcott Drive corner entry has been redesign to invite and welcome patrons to the centre. The curved metal screenings with landscape climbers acts as a strong identifiable access point whilst shielding much of the loading dock from view. The proposed low height gabion wall with 'Kotara' lettering pays homage to the Hunter region whilst creating a sense of arrival for patrons to the centre. We proposed to maintain much of the existing vegetation along Northcott Drive. The climbers and lower level planting builds additional layers of texture and depth to the space. The batten and planting continues along Northcott Drive to create a consistent visual connection whilst improving the vehicle exit and entry/exit pedestrian experience.

The different layers of the external facades will be treated with slight variations of proprietary fibre cement claddings. Scentre Group has investigated the use of Equitone as it provides a visually interesting contemporary look whilst working well with the existing, more industrial finish. The intension is to play with surfaces and tones. The base façade is then layered with permeable and warm architectural and landscape elements to provide depth and softer touching points.

Following the email from Dean, the proposed metal battens have been extended to cover part of the ramp upturn to create a portal, further accentuating the hospitality gateway feel of this access point. The updated perspectives of 'View 1' and 'View 2' outline the architectural intent to create an integrated façade experience that transitions along Northcott Drive. The continuation of the battens will allow for the green climbers to the northern side of the exit to continue to grow onto the ramp, extending the treatment of the corner façade. Group GSA landscaping has confirmed that the proposed climbers in this area can grow up to 8-15m in height. Given the height of the current proposed structure is 7m in total, a lush, organic, green gateway is achievable. The introduction of the metal battens to the southern side of the exit will complement the proposed landscaping, of 7 x 200L Tristaniopsis Laurina 'Luscious' trees and 1-2m high shrubs.

The service vehicle ramp surface will transition along Northcott Drive. The surface of the recessive ramp concrete upturn behind the battens will be flat, whereas the balance (towards Park Ave) will have a textured finish. The textures ramp is to be painted a warm colour to complement the metal screens, together forming a layered backdrop to the heavily planted streetscape of Northcott Drive.

Together the combination of materials and planting will be visually appealing whilst not overpowering the surrounding environment.



Owner and Operator of **Westfield** in Australia and New Zealand

## View 1:



View 2:

