



TaylorBrammer

BOURKE HEALTHCARE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DESIGN REPORT
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION



TaylorBrammer

In the spirit of reconciliation, Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today. Our projects reflect this position through the inclusion of Indigenous cultural consultation and design that incorporates the appropriate sensitivities.

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Amendment register

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THE PROJECT

A wide-angle photograph of a river scene. In the foreground on the left, a large, dark, textured tree trunk is partially visible. The river flows from the background towards the right, where it is contained by a concrete dam or weir. The water is a muddy brown color. The right bank of the river is covered in dense green trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

01

The Project

Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects Pty Ltd are engaged by Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (BACHS) to prepare Landscape Architectural designs and advice for the design and construction of the new community health building in Bourke, NSW, Australia.

The Project

The Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (BACHS) is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) which provides primary healthcare services. It is run by the local Aboriginal Community and delivers holistic, comprehensive and culturally appropriate healthcare to the community. BACHS has an existing facility located at 61 Oxley Street, Bourke.

In December 2022 a grant was awarded to BACHS to establish a new Integrated Primary Healthcare Centre in Bourke. A new site on a vacant block has been selected at 88-96 Mitchell Street Bourke on the corner of Tarcoon and Mitchell Street.

This Report

This report will analyse the site, identify design opportunities and outline design proposals for the site to satisfy the client, operational and sustainability requirements of the site.



Map of Australia, showing project location; Source Bureau of Meteorology

The Project

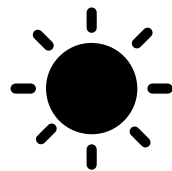
Rainfall



Bourke is identified by The Bureau of Meteorology as a “Dry Inland” environment with the average total rainfall for the area to be 354mm with the average days of rain being 124 for the year.

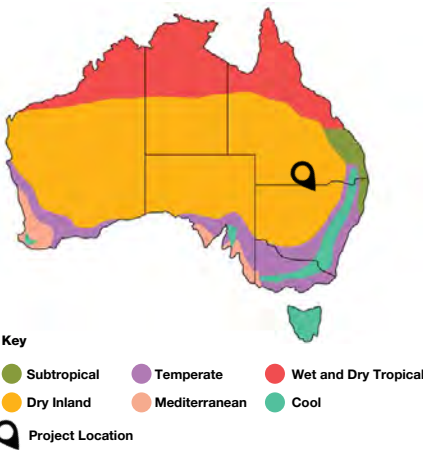
Source Bureau of Meteorology

Temperature



Bourkes average high temperature peaks at 36.3°C during January with the coldest average month being July at 4.6.

Source Bureau of Meteorology



Aerial Image of surrounding areas showing site and surrounding towns; Sourced Nearmap 2024

Local Context

Local Character

The site is located to the east of the town centre and main vehicular thoroughfare ; Mitchell Street and Mitchell Highway. The site is easily accessed by vehicle from the north, east and south via Mitchell and Tarcoon Streets and the existing gravel road to the south. The site has single neighbour adjoining the site comprising of a single storey residential building to the western boundary. Bourke High School is located to the east on Tarcoon Street along with the Bourke District Hospital.

The Darling River is a prominent element in the history of the area and the identity of Bourke, although concealed visually through the construction of weirs for flood protection, it remains a key feature for amenity, swimming, fishing and other cultural and social activities. The “main” street of Oxley street has undergone recent upgrades including traffic calming, pavement and planting upgrades. This along with the Landscape of the recently upgraded Back o’ Bourke Information centre are used as references and will inform the design, selection of planting and materiality of the landscape as appropriate.



Aerial Image of Bourke town centre and site; Sourced Nearmap 2024

Local Context



Darling River and the Bourke Weir; Image Taylor Brammer



Main Street recent upgrade character; Image Taylor Brammer



Back o' Bourke Information centre; Image Taylor Brammer



Back o' Bourke Information centre; Image Taylor Brammer

The Project

Consultation

The design team inspected the site and attended multiple consultation events facilitated by Acorn Projects between the 5-7th of September. The project team held two “Drop in Sessions” at the existing BACHS Clinic on 61 Oxley Street, Bourke during this time and targeted meetings with a variety of community groups and including

- Bourke High School: 34 Tarcoon Street, Bourke
- PCYC
- Bourke District Children’s Services
- Bourke Council
- National Parks
- REDI
- Men’s Shed
- Mount Gundabooka
- Bourke Weir

Common themes throughout the consultation period with a range of stakeholders included:

- A safe relaxing space to me includes Trees, water, rocks and red earth
- Several yarning circles – places for small and large groups to sit and gather
- Fenced area for kids to make supervision easier for parents – good lines of visibility
- Outside consult space for privacy
- Fence made to blend into nature – Gidgi rail fence – strong long lasting local wood
- Incorporate local animals and local language
- There are originally 26 clans – currently only 17 – the tribal council has 9 spare seats to represent the other clans and to hold their place for when they return.
- Happy to see colours like yellows and red incorporated into the gardens.

Input from stakeholders on recommended planting included:

- Quinine Medicinal plant – soak leaves and bathe in them or use on sores
- Dog bush – used for soaking in bath
- Gum leaves – used for smoking ceremonies
- Bush bananas
- Kurrajong – good shade tree and has at least 17 used – make mats, blankets, get water
- Bush tomatoes
- Quandong – seeds can be used for necklaces
- Gumby Gumby tree
- Lilly Pilly
- Emu Bush
- Leopard Wood – grey spotted bark
- Natives like grevilleas – attract birds and insects
- Native sedge plants for weaving
- Wildflowers
- Deter access into spaces through the use of spinifex and dessert plants – spikier varieties



Consultation material ; Sourced Taylor Brammer



Consultation at Bourke High School ; Sourced Acorn-projects



Site walk ; Sourced Acorn-projects



Bourke Weir ; Sourced Acorn-projects

SITE ANALYSIS



02

Site Analysis

Location

The site has a long north facing frontage of over 90m to Mitchell Street with an east facing frontage to Tarcoon Street of approximately 50m. The site is currently covered with grass and sporadic tree covering the site with no buildings currently. The site is open and used as a shortcut by pedestrians walking from the town centre through to Tarcoon Street.



Aerial Image of site; Sourced Nearmap 2024

Site Analysis



Site photo looking north west showing open nature and desire line diagonally in foreground; Image Taylor Brammer



Site photo looking south to vacant land and showing gravel drive to southern boundary ;Image Taylor Brammer



Site photo looking south west showing existing shade trees and gravel drive to southern boundary ;Image Taylor Brammer

Site Analysis

Access

The site is located on Mitchell Street and Tarcoon Street which major vehicle thoroughfare frequented by road trains passing through the town. An existing pedestrian crossing on Mitchell Street provides access to the north-eastern corner of the site, and as a result of the sites vacancy, an informal pedestrian shortcut has been created diagonally across the site from the south-eastern to the north-western corner. A gravel access road extends east to west along the southern boundary, allowing vehicle access to the site and providing rear access to the adjacent residential lots.

- Legend
- Project boundary
 - ← Existing road with heavy vehicle movements
 - ← Existing gravel access road to residential properties
 - ← Existing pedestrian routes



Aerial Image of site; Sourced Nearmap 2024

Site Analysis

Vegetation

The site primarily consists of scattered trees and informal grassy areas, with a range of tree sizes and conditions, as noted in the arborist report. There is minimal understorey vegetation present, and ground cover is predominantly unmanaged grass.

The vegetation includes a mix of remnant native trees, common to the region, along with self-seeded growth. Many trees are large, mature specimens with broad canopies, offering substantial shade. However, some trees show signs of stress or damage, such as exposed roots and broken limbs, particularly near high-traffic areas like paths and buildings. The predominantly native tree species contribute to local biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife. Several of the trees along the site's boundaries create a partial natural screen to define the perimeter.

Legend

Project boundary

Existing trees



Aerial Image of site; Sourced Nearmap 2024

Site Analysis

Topography and landform

The topography is generally flat, with a slight slope towards the interior from the project boundary perimeter. Contours show minimal elevation change, suggesting the area is largely level. Overland water flow moves from the site's edges inward, indicating potential areas of water accumulation within the site, which may require consideration for drainage management. The flat nature of the site, combined with the gentle inward slope, creates an opportunity for efficient surface water management, while maintaining ease of access and construction across the terrain.

Legend

Project boundary

105.20

Existing contour

Overland flow



Aerial Image of site; Sourced Nearmap 2024

Site Analysis

Services

The site features a range of essential services, with the majority concentrated along Mitchell Street and Tarcoon Street. Power poles integrated with lighting and electricity mains, as well as underground communication pits, are positioned along the northern and eastern boundaries, accompanied by associated pits that facilitate access for maintenance and repairs, ensuring the provision of utilities to the surrounding areas. These services are vital to the site’s overall infrastructure and will require careful planning and coordination during the development process to avoid any interference with proposed landscaping, new structures, or other construction activities.

Legend

Project boundary

Underground communication line

Power Pole/ light

Electricity main/ line

Aerial Image of site; Sourced Nearmap 2024

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DESIGN



03

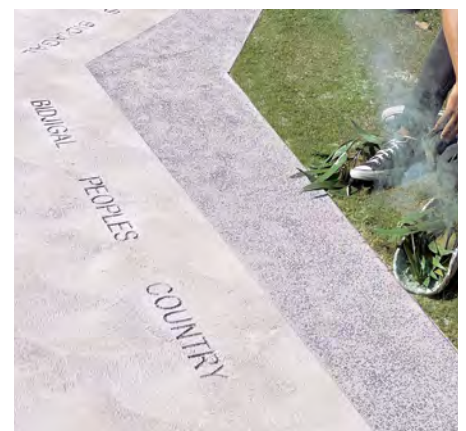
Project Objectives

Project Aims

The primary aim of this project is to transform the site into a cohesive, engaging landscape that serves the needs of both the local community and the environment. By integrating thoughtful design strategies, the project aspires to create a space that is both functional and aesthetically pleasing, fostering a strong sense of place through the use of native vegetation and locally inspired design elements. A key goal is to enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience by retaining existing trees, adding new canopy cover, and introducing a diverse mix of native plant species that support local wildlife and contribute to the health of the ecosystem.

The project also seeks to create a space that invites active and passive recreation, providing calming, restorative areas for social interaction, reflection, and community celebration. By prioritising accessibility and comfort, the design will offer a range of functional spaces, from open lawn for toddlers to varies size for different groups of people, ensuring year-round usability. Moreover, the project aims to honour and incorporate significant Aboriginal cultural values by introducing yarning circles, native medicinal and edible plants, and educational opportunities that celebrate the region's heritage.

Sustainability is at the forefront of this project, with a focus on climate-responsive design and water management through natural landscape drainage systems. The project will incorporate these elements while balancing the practical needs of the community and ensuring minimal disruption to existing services. The landscape will not only serve as a functional green space but as an educational tool, fostering a deeper connection among residents, environment and the respect of local culture and history.



Design Opportunities

The Site

The existing site conditions present a range of opportunities to enhance both its functionality and character. The scattered mature trees across the site provide an immediate opportunity to retain and build upon the existing shade canopy, offering natural cooling and a sense of enclosure. Although some trees show signs of stress, strategic tree management and additional planting can rejuvenate the site and increase biodiversity.

The open grassy areas, while informal, offer flexible space for developing calming, restorative outdoor environments for residents and visitors. The natural topography, with its inward overland water flow, suggests potential for integrated natural landscape drainage system like dry creek bed, allowing the landscape to manage and coordinate with Civil storm-water management system to capture water more effectively.

Opportunity - Retain existing trees and increase shade cover

- Retain existing trees wherever possible
- Add to the existing tree canopy through new planting strategies
- Utilise the naturally occurring planting to embellish the place

Opportunity - Create calm and restorative places for people

- Identify and celebrate the numerous First Nations groups within the area
- Provide yarning circles for people to gather, share and celebrate
- Plant significant native edible and medicinal plants
- Create productive community gardens
- Consider the aspect of open space and comfort levels through natural shade
- Provide functional access to garden spaces
- Create a range of activities externally for users to engage with
- Create an outdoor space that embodies local landscape characteristics, evoking the local sense of place

Opportunity - Integrate the natural patterns of the place

- Provide shade in all external areas through native shade trees
- Create outcomes that are site specific
- Consider the climatic changes of the place and provide shelter in summer and sun in winter
- Provide shelter from prevailing winds
- Utilise the natural topography of the site to focus and store water in ground

Opportunity - Integrate significant Aboriginal recognitions into design

- Integrate the significance of local community groups into the design
- Provide yarning circles for people to gather, share and celebrate
- Plant significant native edible and medicinal plants
- Create productive community gardens



Photo of existing trees on site near southern boundary



Photo of yarning circle made from local stone in Back o' Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre



Photo of local landscape feature in Gundabooka National Park



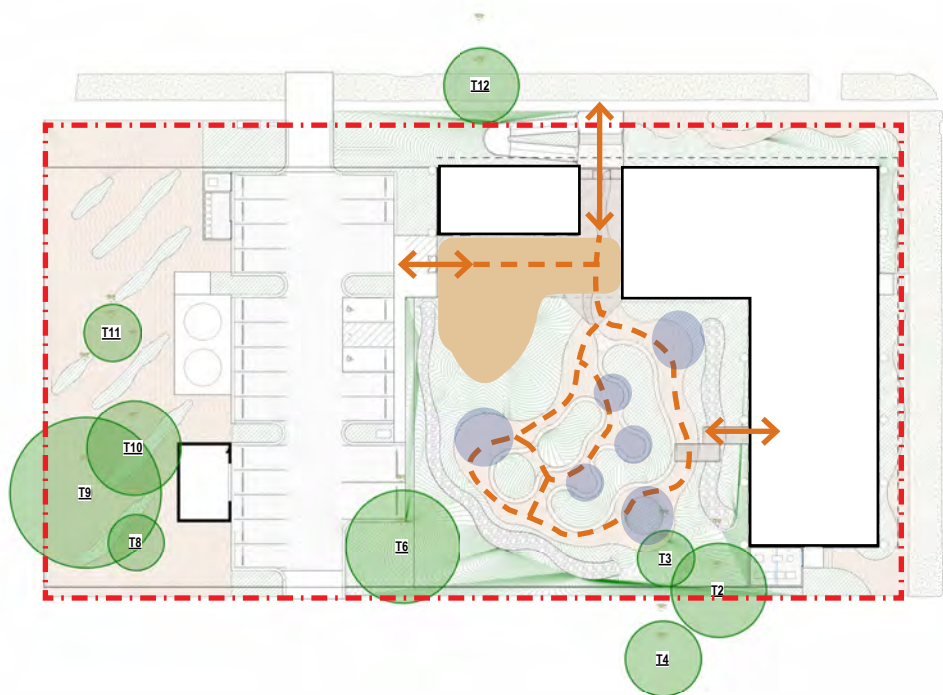
Photo of pattern carving and paving inlay in Back o' Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre

Design Approach

Pedestrian movement

LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Proposed building footprint
- Pedestrian entries
- Pedestrian circulation
- Active function
- Passive / waiting function



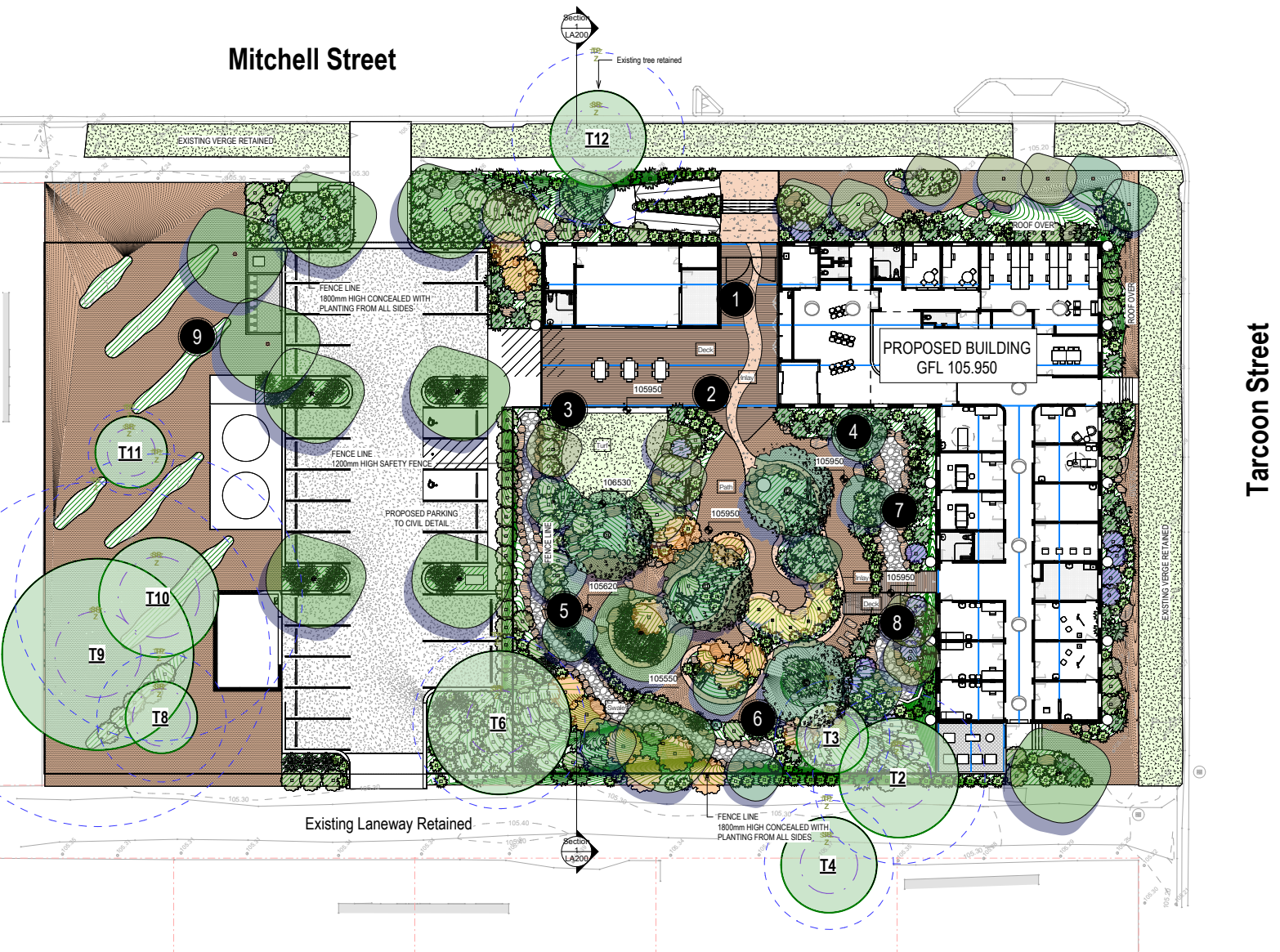
Planting Strategy

LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Proposed building footprint
- Existing tree
- Proposed canopy tree
- Buffer planting
- Sensory garden path



Design Proposal



Design notes

- ➊ Proposed pedestrian entry with welcome gate and threshold paving
- ➋ Paving inlay artwork - celebrating local community groups
- ➌ Shaded breakout area and child's play
- ➍ Seating and waiting areas
- ➎ Yarning circle >8 persons
- ➏ Bush walk with medicinal plants
- ➐ Ephemeral creek bed with feature rocks
- ➑ Timber bridge connection over creek bed
- ➒ Productive community garden

Planting Strategy

Planting communities

The site at Bourke is distinguished by a variety of ecologically significant planting communities, each reflecting the unique characteristics of the region. These include the River Red Gum tall to very tall open forest and woodland wetland, typically found along rivers on floodplains within the Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion. The site also features Coolabah open woodland wetlands with chenopod and grassy ground cover on grey and brown clay floodplains. The Coolabah - River Coobah - Lignum woodland wetland community thrives in areas subject to frequent flooding. The Mitchell Grass grassland - chenopod low open shrub-land adds to the site's rich diversity, flourishing in the semi-arid and arid zones.

INDICATIVE PLANT LIST

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height x Width
TREES		
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River red gum	30 x 15m
<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i>	River box	10 x 8m
<i>Atalaya hemiglauc</i>	Whitewood	8 x 5m
<i>Acacia aneura</i>	Mulga	5 x 3m
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong	12 x 8m
<i>Brachychiton gregorii</i>	Desert kurrajong	12 x 6m
<i>Flindersia maculosa</i>	Leopard wood	15 x 10m
<i>Cornus species</i>	Dogwood	
<i>Canthium oleifolium</i>	Wild lemon	4 x 3m
<i>Capparis mitchellii</i>	Wild Orange	5 x 3m
<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>	Quandong	5 x 3m
<i>Owenia acidula</i>	Emu apple	4 x 3m
<i>Pittosporum Angustifolium</i>	Gumbi Gumbi	4 x 3m
<i>Petalostigma pubescens</i>	Quinine Bush	5 x 3m
SHRUBS		
<i>Amaranthus cruentus</i>	Red amaranth	1 x 1m
<i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i>	Lignum	2 x 2m
<i>Chenopodium nitariaceum</i>	Nitre Goosefoot	2 x 2m
<i>Sclerolaena calcarata</i>	Grey Copperburr	2 x 2m
<i>Atriplex leptocarpa</i>	Bladder Saltbush	1 x 1m
<i>Rhagodia spinescens</i>	Spiny Saltbush	1 x 1m
<i>Eremophila mitchellii</i>	False sandalwood	3 x 2m
<i>Eremophila bignoniiflora</i>	Dogwood	3 x 2m
<i>Eremophila maculata</i>	Spotted emu bush	1 x 1m
<i>Eremophila macgillivrayi</i>	Dog bush	3 x 2m
GROUNDCOVERS		
<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>	Water clover	0.1 x 0.3m
<i>Marsilea drummondii</i>	Nardoo	0.3m x 1.5m
<i>Cyperus concinnus</i>	Slender Sedge	0.2m x 1m
<i>Cyperus victoriensis</i>	Victoria Sedge	0.3m x 1m
GRASSES		
<i>Leichhardtia australis</i>	Curly Mitchell Grass	0.3 x 0.5m
<i>Paspalum jubiflorum</i>	Warrego Summer Grass	0.3 x 0.5m
<i>Leptochloa digitata</i>	Umbrella Cane Grass	0.1 x 0.5m
<i>Astrelia lappacea</i>	Curly Mitchell Grass	0.3 x 0.5m
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	Queensland Bluegrass	0.5 x 0.5m
<i>Sporobolus caroli</i>	Fairy Grass	0.5 x 0.5m
CLIMBERS		
<i>Leichhardtia australis</i>	Bush banana	Up to 4m

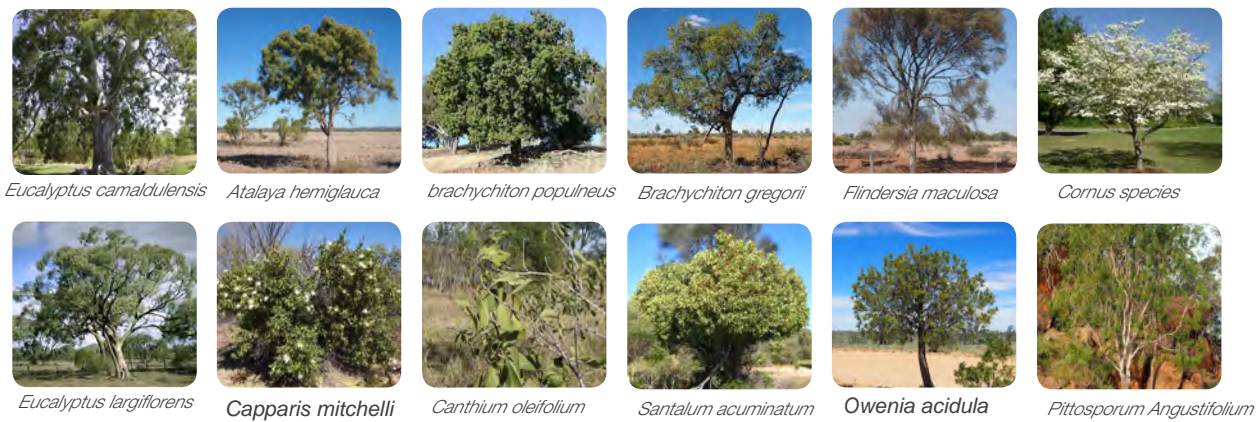


- Coolabah - River Coobah - Lignum woodland wetland of frequently flooded floodplains mainly in the Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion
- Mitchell Grass grassland - chenopod low open shrub-land on floodplains in the semi-arid (hot) and arid zones
- Coolabah open woodland wetland with chenopod/grassy ground cover on grey and brown clay floodplains
- River Red Gum tall to very tall open forest / woodland wetland on rivers on floodplains mainly in the Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion

Planting Strategy

Planting Character

Trees



Shrubs



Groundcovers



Grasses



Climbers

