



Prepared by:



Western Edge Growth Management + Engagement Framework

**ACT Government | EPSDD
19 December 2023**

Final



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters across Australia - particularly the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians of the ACT and surrounding region - and pay our respect to Elders, past and present.

We deeply respect the continued connection to Country of Australian First Nations Peoples through stories of place, culture and caring for the natural environment. We recognise + celebrate Australian First Nations peoples as part of the oldest living culture - the original storytellers, planners, designers - who continue to care for Country, culture and community. We acknowledge the contemporary stories of displacement, the truth telling and reconciliation needed for healing.

We are committed to listen, learn and walk alongside as we plan with communities for equitable, sustainable, generous and connected places and communities.

View of the Canberra region with Mount Majura in the foreground, from Old Joe Hill, Gooroyarroo Nature Reserve, Ngunnawal, Ngunnawal and Ngambri country.

*Image: Steve Bittinger
Source: National Museum of Australia (nma.gov.au)*

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Part 1: Introduction

“Sustainable growth depends on the careful balancing of our need for more homes with environment, heritage, planning, transport and infrastructure considerations”

*- Mick Gentleman MLA,
Minister for Planning and Land Management
(June 2022)*

Canberra’s population is expected to reach 784,000 by 2060. Together with development in the established parts of Canberra, the remaining greenfield areas will potentially contribute to meeting the demands of a growing population, including providing homes, employment and local services, into the future.

The Draft Western Edge Growth Management and Engagement Framework sets the broad strategic planning and engagement framework by which future land use, design and engagement decisions can be assessed against to achieve a balanced and responsive approach to growth within this area of the ACT.

The Investigation Area

The Western Edge Investigation Area is identified in the ACT Planning Strategy 2018. The Study Area for this project covers a slightly broader area, aligning at its extent with property boundaries. The Study Area is primarily within the district of Stromlo but also extends into the Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Belconnen districts.

The Study Area is approximately 9,800 hectares and is generally bounded by the Murrumbidgee River to the west and south and existing suburban development to the east and north. Figure 1 [over the page] illustrates the Study Area in relation to the outline of the WEIA as identified in the Planning Strategy.

It is expected that this study area will be refined as further planning investigations are undertaken and planning and government priorities are confirmed. The current study area is a starting point to define the area identified as the Western Edge Investigation Area.

A detailed background review of previous studies and current ACT Government policy has been undertaken to inform the development of this draft growth management and engagement strategy.

Framework Approach

The Draft Western Edge Growth Management and Engagement Framework has been developed based on the key themes and outcomes of the background analysis and discussions with key ESPDD and ACT Government staff.

This document and approach reflects the work undertaken to date and aims to provide further guidance and a refinement of the scope of future planning investigations.

The draft Framework has considered and collated:

- ACT Government priorities and aspirations;
- existing policy and legislation directions;
- valued attributes of the Western Edge area that the community have expressed through previous engagement; and
- planning investigations that have identified the environmental, spatial, social and cultural opportunities and constraints within the existing Western Edge Investigation Area.

The draft Framework is structured in four parts:



What 'growth management' means in the Western Edge context

A vision for Canberra is *"to be a sustainable, competitive and equitable city that respects Canberra's unique legacy as a city in the landscape and the National Capital, while being responsive to the future and resilient to change"*¹.

Nowhere in Canberra is this vision most relevant than for the Western Edge. The ACT Government and community both acknowledge that with more people living and working in Canberra, future growth needs to be accommodated, but without compromising the valued characteristics and assets that are important to Canberra as a place, its local community and its role as our national capital.

The recently prepared ACT Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Guide provides a starting point to define what future growth and growth management of the Western Edge Investigation Area might be. We know that this area of the ACT has significant landscape features, with the Molonglo River and Mount Stromlo as well as a diversity of habitats and biodiversity.

As the planning investigations progress for the WEIA, it presents an opportunity to think about how we plan and design with Country as well as embedding the principles of biodiversity sensitive urban design and biophilic design as the foundation for the future growth.

How we plan and design for future growth in the Western Edge should aim to be more than business as usual. It should aim to be an exemplar of a more contemporary definition of sustainability - being culturally responsive and sensitive, environmentally connected, where we are part of a larger ecosystem and plan with and not over, socially supportive and economically responsible.

This will ensure that the future growth and management of the urban environments are responsive, adaptable and support health and wellbeing for our place and all living things.

Urriara East Picnic Area on Murrumbidgee River



Lower Molonglo Nature Reserve



Existing Cotter Road, through WEIA.

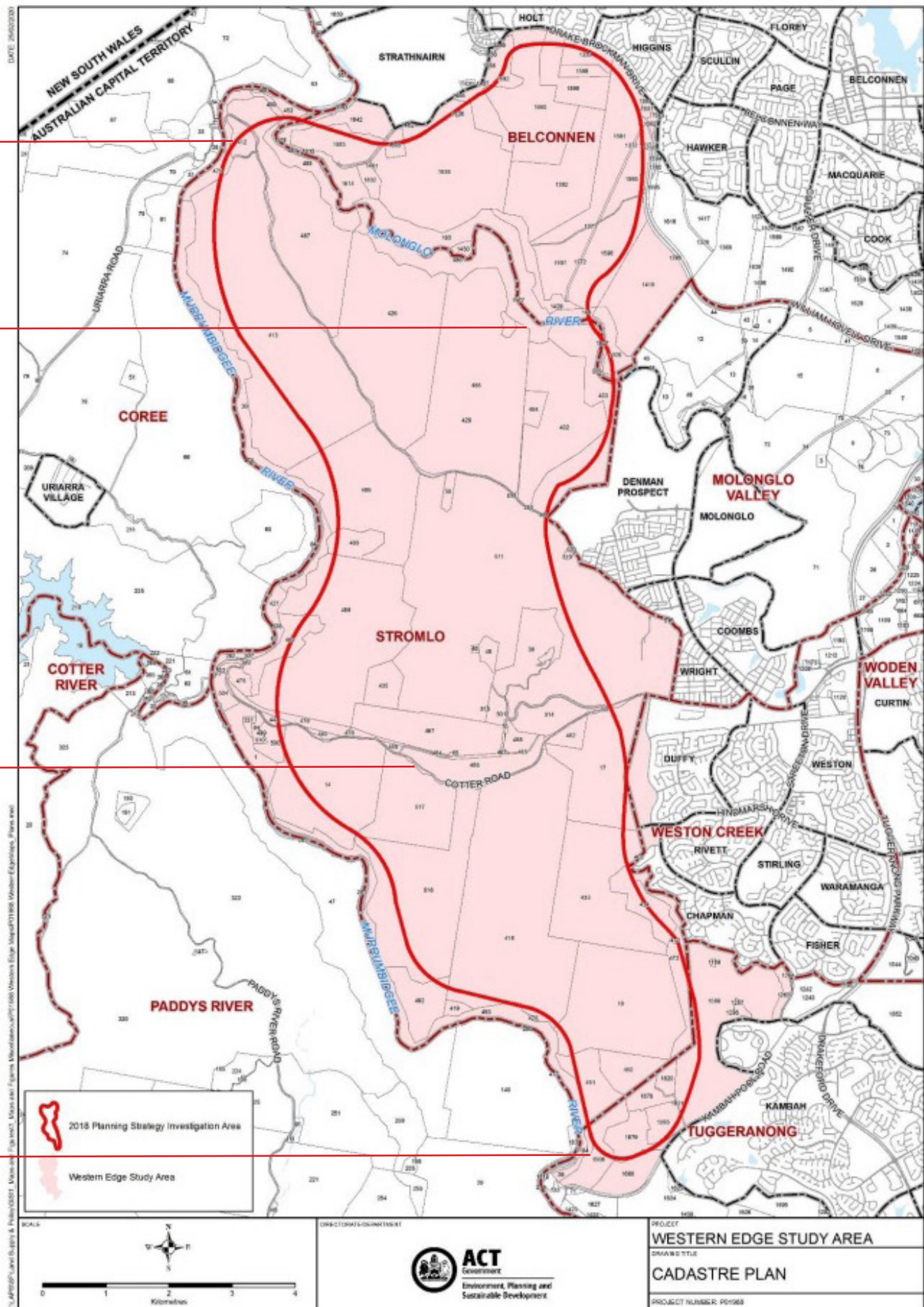


Kambah Pool Reserve



[sources: Visit ACT Government | Canberra Website
Google Maps]

Figure 1: Study Area: Western Edge Investigation Area
[source: ACT Government]



Policy Context

The following provides an overview of the policy context that is the foundation of the Western Edge Investigation Area Growth Management and Engagement Strategy. In order to establish the planning principles for the Study Area the existing policy and governance context as well as current best practice principles need to be considered.

International Policy | United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide a framework within the global context to help ensure local planning aligns with international best practice in sustainability. The goals enable planning around social, economic and environmental concerns, which are shown in Figure 2. The United Nations approach provides guidance on where to focus efforts toward a sustainable future.

There is a strong emphasis on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from development and mitigating the effects of climate change, to the extent that planning can drive and influence outcomes, and building resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather events such as bushfire risk, flooding and urban heat island effect.

National Policy | Creating Places for People

An urban design protocol for Australian Cities - Australian Government

Creating Places for People is a collaborative commitment to world class best practice urban design in Australia.

The development of the Protocol was a commitment of the National Urban Policy and also responds to the Council of Australian Governments' agreement to encourage world class urban design. It is referenced in sustainability rating tools, including Green Star – Communities (Green Building Council of Australia) and Infrastructure Sustainability (Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia).

The Protocol provides a framework to identify, implement, measure and improve best practice in urban design. It establishes twelve principles for quality urban places, being:

Place – productivity + sustainability

- Enhancing – enhances local economy, environment and community
- Connected – connects physically and socially
- Diverse – diversity of options and experiences
- Enduring – sustainable, enduring and resilient

Figure 2: UN Sustainability Development Goals
[Source: The United Nations]



People – liveability

- Comfortable – comfortable and welcoming
- Vibrant – vibrant, with people around
- Safe – feels safe
- Walkable – enjoyable and easy to walk and bicycle around

Leadership and governance

- Works within the planning, physical and social context
- Engagement – engages with stakeholders
- Excellence – excellence, innovation and collaboration
- Custodianship – considers custodianship, management and maintenance over time

Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 and National Capital Plan

The National Capital Plan (NCP) secures the Australian Government's continuing interest in ensuring that 'Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance', as set out in section 9 of the Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land management) Act 1988.

The purpose of the NCP is to ensure that whilst the Commonwealth's interests are protected they aren't involved in matters that should be the prerogative of the Canberra community. The object of the NCP is 'to ensure that Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance'.

The Plan sets out principles that give effect to this objective and provides the framework for the planning and policy directions. These principles must be considered in the planning of Canberra and are binding to both the Commonwealth and Territory Governments.

Local Policy | ACT Planning Framework

There is a hierarchy of planning principles embedded in the ACT planning framework, which comprises:

- National Capital Plan - Statement of Planning Principles
- The Planning Act 2023 - Principles of Good Planning and Principles of Good Consultation
- Planning Strategy 2018 - Strategic Directions
- District Strategies – Planning and Design Objectives

Planning Act 2023 (2022)

The *Planning Act 2023* (the Act) represents a shift away from a rules-based approach to an outcome focussed planning system. It promotes and facilitates ecologically sustainable development and provides a greater opportunity for community participation in planning processes.

The Act introduces two new key planning principles, being 'principles of good planning' and 'principles of good consultation'. The principles of good planning must be considered when developing planning strategies, plans and policies. The principles of good planning are:

- Activation and liveability
- High quality design
- Integrated delivery
- Investment facilitation
- Long term focus
- Urban regeneration
- Sustainability and resilience
- Natural Environment Conservation

ACT Planning Strategy

The Planning Strategy sets out the long term planning policy and goals to promote sustainable development of the ACT, consistent with the social, environmental and economic aspirations of the people.

The vision of the Planning Strategy is to be a sustainable, competitive and equitable city that respects Canberra as a city in the landscape and the National Capital, while being responsive to the future and resilient to change.

The vision is underpinned by five related themes (policy areas), which are accompanied by strategic directions and actions. Along with the principles of good planning, the Strategy themes and strategic directions are the basis for the development of this framework.

Compact and Efficient City

- Grow mostly within our urban footprint or in areas close to our footprint
- Maintain environmental values
- Use infrastructure effectively to support an efficient, sustainable and liveable city

Diverse Canberra

- Celebrate our culture, uniqueness and difference
- Be innovative and contribute to diversity
- Support a city structure that strengthens our economy, and the economy of the region

Sustainable and resilient Territory

- Adapt to a changing climate and establish resilience in our built forms, infrastructure and natural assets
- Look after natural resources
- Support the transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2045

Liveable Canberra

- Create cohesive communities through good design, amenity and connectivity
- Be socially and culturally inclusive
- Support housing diversity for greater choice

Accessible Canberra

- Provide equitable access to all that the city has to offer
- Include more options to move around in a connected and fair city
- Better integrate land use and transport planning

The Planning Strategy identifies the Western Edge as an area for investigation for potential future urban growth. This is based on preliminary high-level assessment of ACT-wide opportunities for growth, examining location, physical attributes and infrastructure.

ACT Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Guide 2023

The ACT's wildlife and natural assets and habitats are increasingly at risk of further degradation, fragmentation, and loss in the face of climate change and urban development to meet the needs of a growing city with both urban consolidation and sustainability targets.

The Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Guide (BSUD Guide) provides guidance on biodiversity and ecological design matters and is critical in supporting the design and assessment processes, particularly those planning provisions that are less prescriptive and leave more room for interpretation and innovation.

In the District Strategies, the Blue-Green Network identifies two major targets to enable biodiversity, nature reserves, open space, water elements and cultural heritage elements to be protected and provide the setting for a city 'in the landscape' and the BSUD Guide will also assist in achieving these targets.

The BSUD guide applies to planning, design and approval processes for development of sites in future urban areas and in non urban zones and is therefore applicable to the Western Edge Investigation Area."

District Strategies

The District Strategies provide long term planning policy and goals for a defined district, consistent with the Planning Strategy. They establish the strategic policy and spatial framework to guide and manage desired future planning outcomes responsive to the characteristics specific to the district.

District Strategy - identifies areas of potential future land use change and provides guidance on the expected character and development of those areas.

District Policy - sets out specific planning requirements, where tailored policies are required to deliver the desired development outcomes.

District Strategies have been prepared for all nine districts in the ACT including districts adjacent to the Study Area, being Molonglo Valley, Weston Creek and Belconnen.

Five big drivers have been identified for all District Strategies and are used to guide district planning. These are supported by planning and design objectives. These five big drivers are:.

- Blue-green network
- Economic access and opportunity across the city
- Strategic movement to support city growth
- Sustainable neighbourhoods
- Inclusive centres and communities

Territory Plan

The Territory Plan is the statutory planning instrument guiding planning and development in the ACT. The Statement of Strategic Directions includes further planning principles to guide sustainable development. 'A new Territory Plan was tabled by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 12th September 2023. This will support the implementation of the Planning Act 2023.'

ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25

The ACT Climate Change Strategy sets out the ACT Government's response to the declaration, in May 2019, of a state of climate emergency. It outlines actions to meet the ACT's legislated emissions reduction target of 50-60% by 2025 and a pathway for achieving net zero emissions by 2045.

This will require investment in zero emissions infrastructure, sustainable urban design and a substantial shift in travel habits from private car use towards active travel and public transport.

ACT Transport Strategy 2020

The ACT Transport Strategy sets out the ACT Government's approach to achieving flexible, reliable and sustainable options for Canberrans to make their journeys. It also provides a framework for planning and investment in transport over the next 20 years. It describes how government will deliver connected public transport, high quality environments for walking and cycling and a road network that allows people and goods to be moved safely and reliably across the city.

ACT Infrastructure Plan

The ACT Infrastructure Plan provides a framework for how the ACT Government will build new and renew established infrastructure to cater for a city of 500,000 people. The plan is a comprehensive, multi-decade plan detailing over \$14 billion worth of infrastructure investments. The focus of the plan is on health, education, transport and community services.

ACT Economic Development Priorities 2022–2025

The priorities for economic development post-COVID include for Canberra to be a city that gives you back time, delivers a net zero city and focusses on knowledge-based economic growth.

The Chief Minister's Statement of Ambition includes building on Canberra's strength as the knowledge capital and continuing Canberra's track record in innovation and entrepreneurship. The three missions underpinning the strategy include a focus on developing innovation precincts to attract talent, and facilitating investment in key industries including space, cyber, security, defence, renewables, and advanced technologies.

ACT Wellbeing Framework

The ACT Wellbeing Framework states that 'having the opportunity and ability to lead lives of personal and community value – with qualities such as good health, time to enjoy the things in life that matter, in an environment that promotes personal growth – are at the heart of wellbeing.'

Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan

The Canberra Living Infrastructure Plan sets a vision to become better prepared for and more resilient to climate change by ensuring we plan, design, construct and manage the city in a way that values, incorporates and protects natural assets.

Climate vulnerability can be reduced by using living infrastructure options such as increased mature tree cover and permeable surfaces to counter the urban heat island effect and protect existing natural assets.

ACT Water Strategy 2014–44

The ACT Water Strategy sets out how the ACT Government will manage the Territory's water resources to meet urban and environmental needs as well as regional responsibilities. It aims to deliver security of water supply, improved water quality and catchment health, and a 'water smart' community through catchment management, stormwater and flood management, water supply and services, water for the environment, recreational water use and public health.

ACT's Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23

The ACT Nature Conservation Strategy sets out a vision for biodiversity rich, resilient landscapes stretching from the inner city to the mountains, where well-functioning ecosystems can meet the needs of people and the environment, including creation of appropriate urban open space and nature reserves, retention and restoration of natural hydrology, and creation of a blue-green grid (which will also enhance urban cooling).

ACT Housing Strategy 2018

The ACT Housing Strategy establishes policy interventions to meet the Territory's diverse and changing housing needs and provide a sustainable supply of housing for households at all income levels. The Housing Strategy sets an objective to provide new land and housing development opportunities so that demand can continue to be met.

Canberra Region Local Food Strategy (previously Food and Fibre Strategy)

The Strategy identifies that 15% of the ACT is farmland and is already zoned to permit agriculture therefore there is no need to dramatically expand land for food growing. It should be noted that ACT Government land use investigation projects such as Eastern Broadacre and Western Edge lie within broadacre land use zoning, rural land use zoning and other zoning. These land use zones permit a wide variety of uses other than agriculture and in some cases may be subject to future change.

Part 2:
**Planning
Principles**

The Western Edge Planning Principles ('Planning Principles') articulate a desirable planning and place outcomes.

They are the guide by which policy priorities and future planning investigations are framed and appropriate matters considered in making planning decisions.

The existing principles and directions outlined in the ACT Planning Framework and relevant strategies are the foundation by which the Planning Principles have been established for the WEIA.

The planning principles are supported by a series of considerations that act as prompts to thinking about the form of growth and design of potential urban areas.

The Western Edge will ...

Principle

1

Be planned with biodiversity sensitive urban design and designing with Country principles.

Principle

2

Be a net zero carbon community that is resilient and adaptable.

Principle

3

Provide adequate infrastructure to encourage social wellbeing and inclusion.

Principle

4

Provide a connected, sustainable transport network, prioritising active travel options.

Principle

5

Be planned + designed to reflect and support how we work, live, and participate in our local communities.

Principle

1

The Western Edge is planned with biodiversity sensitive urban design and designing with Country principles.

Draft District Strategy Drivers: Blue-Green Grid | Sustainable neighbourhoods

How this planning principle could be implemented:

Outcome	Action(s)	Relevant Planning Strategy Themes
Supporting culturally rich communities + a Connection to Country	- Protect and celebrate Aboriginal cultural heritage and other heritage values - Plan and design with Country, including incorporating the objectives and practices set out in 'Caring for Dhawura Ngunnawal' the ACT natural resources plan 2022-2042.	Diverse Sustainable + Resilient Liveable
Protect and support natural environment values, including biodiversity and waterways	- Restore and protect existing blue and green network - Integrate formal and informal conservation areas - Manage the impact of urban development on Matters of National Environmental Significance - Biodiversity protection areas that are of sufficient size, shape and connectivity to sustain their biodiversity values in the longer term - Provide sustainable habitat as part of an integrated open space network - Improve waterway health by managing stormwater and impact on waterways through the use of water sensitive urban design and protecting riparian areas in terms of vegetation, slope and restoration opportunities	Compact + Efficient Sustainable + Resilient
Enhance the benefits of the blue-green grid beyond the environmental factors.	Plan and design blue-green network to: - Improved community health and wellbeing - Placemaking and local identity - Opportunities for recreation, active travel, education, biodiversity, flood management, stormwater quality and treatment, ecological restoration and tree canopy - Opportunities for human movement where compatible with conservation, biodiversity and heritage	Sustainable + Resilient Liveable
Natural attributes part of the network of green spaces and infrastructure	- Enhance key natural areas, such as Casuarina Sands, as recreation destinations - Provide sustainable habitat as part of an integrated open space network - The National Capital Open Space System and river corridors as a visual backdrop is enhanced and establishes the landscape setting for the Western Edge	Compact + Efficient Diverse Sustainable + Resilient Liveable Accessible

Outcome	Action(s)	Relevant Planning Strategy Themes
Respect environmental values and protect and reinforce the physical features that distinguish the area to create communities of high amenity and a strong local identity	• Landscape features e.g. ridgelines, hilltops, waterway corridors, views, and areas of special environmental and heritage significance, contribute to local character and amenity and should be optimised in planning new communities • Improve waterway health by managing stormwater and impact on waterways through WSUD and Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design principles • Incorporate special planning and design controls, such as biodiversity sensitive and climate wise urban design to prevent gradual erosion of landscape values and to respond to local character	Compact + Efficient Sustainable + Resilient Liveable
Design and development that responds to local context as its foundation to build new places and are balanced with the natural surroundings.	• Celebrate and plan/design with the natural attributes of the Western Edge • Where culturally appropriate, actively identify and protect natural and cultural heritage • Design with and create harmony between built form and landscape • Ensure that the design of the Western Edge and its places consider the objectives of the ACT Urban Forest Strategy 2021-2045, in particular contribute to the ACT's target of 30% canopy cover across the urban footprint as a minimum. • Highlight and protect existing vistas and views • Protect the night sky from light pollution particularly within the Mount Stromlo Observatory light spill areas	Sustainable + Resilient Liveable

Principle

2

The Western Edge will be a net zero carbon community that is resilient and adaptable.

Draft District Strategy Drivers: Sustainable neighbourhoods

How this planning principle could be implemented:

Outcome	Action(s)	Relevant Planning Strategy Themes
Land use and infrastructure supports best practice zero carbon communities	- Focus on living locally and planning for infrastructure that can adapt to a changing climate, by providing safe, sustainable and productive water resources (integrated water management) with reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services and sustainable waste management - Create energy efficient urban environments supported by living infrastructure to manage urban heat island effect e.g. urban greening/tree canopy cover. - Inclusion of new types of infrastructure to support zero carbon communities, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, battery storage and considered design outcomes.	Compact + Efficient Sustainable + Resilient
Improve outcomes for the whole water cycle through integrated water cycle management	- Water supply, stormwater management and sewage treatment should be planned as an integrated system. - Planning for urban development should take account of the increased likelihood of storm events and reduce and delay stormwater runoff from developed areas. Consideration to be provided on modelling flow regimes to determine potential impact and required mitigation measures. - Best practice quality standards for stormwater runoff including consideration of existing and possible future limits on impervious surfaces to reduce runoff and treatment locations to reduce impact on environment - Servicing should consider provision of treated recycled water and harvested stormwater to reduce potable water use/demand - Appropriate buffer around noise or odour emitting infrastructure	Compact + Efficient Sustainable + Resilient
Planning and design should incorporate circular city principles supporting innovation and limit uses of resources.	- Build in Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) solutions to minimise food and organic material waste - Consider opportunities for localised recycling depots considering the needs for both residential and commercial uses - Incorporate the principles and priorities of the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan into the planning and design of the Western Edge.	Compact + Efficient Sustainable + Resilient

Outcome	Action(s)	Relevant Planning Strategy Themes
Provide for compact, efficient and sustainable land use	• Use land efficiently to optimise capacity and reduce the need for additional greenfield land for urban development • Ensure the effective use of available land by supporting a diversity uses in places of appropriate size and density. This compact design approach also supports efficient provision of regional and local infrastructure and services • Land required for community purposes is planned to allow for multiple purposes where possible • Local neighbourhoods provide a diversity of housing choices to meet a wide range of needs and lifestyles and include social, affordable and 'missing middle' housing • Locate density with amenity in and around centres and close to public transport and parks	Compact + Efficient Liveable Accessible
Urban structure supports resilience and community wellbeing	• Incorporate contemporary urban design practice to create vital, safe and inclusive communities with high quality, durable and adaptive design, which enhances amenity and local character • Incorporate innovative use of public land for community or environmental purposes such as local food production and heat sinks • Neighbourhoods are resilient and adaptable to a changing climate, incorporating: – Risk mitigation of natural hazards e.g. flood and bushfire management – Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) – Infrastructure to support zero carbon transition – design responses to address urban heat island effect and drought conditions – climate-wise/biodiversity sensitive urban design and materials	Sustainable + Resilient Liveable

Principle

3

The Western Edge provides adequate infrastructure to support social wellbeing and inclusion.

Draft District Strategy Drivers: Inclusive centres and communities

Outcome	Action(s)	Relevant Planning Strategy Themes
Plan a well designed urban structure that provides a sense of place and has desirable locations to live, work and play	- Each neighbourhood has a local centre accessible to as many residents as possible within easy walking distance, which acts as the focal point and social heart of the community - Centres are in appropriate locations and mixed-use to support local liveability - The urban structure allows transport to connect people to employment, economic and education opportunities and to health care, shops, services, leisure and recreation facilities	Diverse Liveable Accessible
Meet the social and cultural needs of community	- A range of supporting facilities are provided in conjunction with centres, corresponding with their position in the centres hierarchy, e.g. a local primary school and early learning childhood centre, local health services, aged care accommodation, community meeting spaces, public and recreational spaces and a good level of shops and services at local and group centres - Integrated planning of active and passive open space takes advantage of opportunities to use land for multiple purposes and contribute to sustainability e.g. protects environmental, heritage, landscape and drainage values and provides for the recreation needs of the community including the Bicentennial National Trail - A diversity of well located open spaces that meets the needs of new communities including district active open space, local parks, walking and cycling paths and tracks	Diverse Liveable Accessible
Local neighbourhoods provide a diversity of housing choices to meet a wide range of needs and lifestyles including social and affordable housing	Diversity of affordable housing/living, housing for the 'missing middle', social and public housing to meet the needs of community	Diverse Liveable Accessible

Outcome	Action(s)	Relevant Planning Strategy Themes
Co-locate and provide safe interfaces between infrastructure corridors and adjacent land uses	• Co-locate land uses such as social infrastructure, open spaces with higher residential densities and mixed-use centres, in order to facilitate increased liveability, and building of social capital • Provide a convenient cycling and walking network with high levels of pedestrian amenity, connectivity, continuity and permeability • Consider the impact major infrastructure corridors and installations pose in relation to cross movement, amenity and support strong community connections	Compact + Efficient Sustainable + Resilient Liveable Accessible

Principle

4

The Western Edge will provide a connected, sustainable transport network, prioritising active travel options.

Draft District Strategy Drivers: Strategic movement to support city growth

Outcome	Action(s)	Relevant Planning Strategy Themes
Provide a permeable, legible and functional urban structure of streets to support a range of transport options that are safe and easy to access	- The urban structure allows transport to connect people to employment, economic and education opportunities, health care, shops, services and leisure and recreation facilities - Co-locate land uses capable of generating significant public transport patronage levels, such as higher residential densities and mixed-use centres, in order to facilitate combined purpose trips and support the provision of efficient public transport	Diverse Liveable Accessible
Provide strategic and complementary public transport, walking and cycling networks to promote efficient patterns of living and thus efficient provision of infrastructure	- Provide a comprehensive local bus network with links to high frequency services providing rapid connections to key destinations - Provide a comprehensive, legible and safe on and off road commuter cycling network - Provide a convenient cycling and walking network with high levels of pedestrian amenity, connectivity, continuity and permeability. - Provide infrastructure such as bike storage and parking, end of trip facilities and bike repair stations, to encourage active travel.	Compact + Efficient Sustainable + Resilient Liveable Accessible
Land use is supported by infrastructure and development is staged to ensure efficient and orderly provision of infrastructure and services	Priority will be given to facilitating urban development and infrastructure provision for areas that: - Form logical and contiguous extensions of existing urban areas - Will enable the staged extension of infrastructure in a way that minimises the real cost of infrastructure provision - Are not subject to major constraints or uncertainties that may delay development - Are of a size that is likely to result in a substantial and predictable housing yield	Compact + Efficient Accessible

Principle

5

The Western Edge will be planned + designed to reflect and support how we work, live, and participate in our local communities.

Draft District Strategy Drivers: Economic access and opportunities

Outcome	Action(s)	Relevant Planning Strategy Themes
Better access to economic opportunities closer to home	- Centres are in appropriate locations and mixed-use to support local liveability and productivity - Provide employment opportunities locally in the form of local retailing, education, community services, health services, aged care facilities, home based businesses, working from home and other non retailing jobs in and around centres - Provide centres in accordance with the established hierarchy of centres - Centres are serviced by local bus routes and accessible by walking and cycling - Future planning and design aims to reduce the need for major infrastructure investment and self-sufficient development models and partnerships are explored.	Compact + Efficient Diverse Sustainable + Resilient Liveable Accessible
Centres that are high quality, well designed with a sense of place and are desirable locations to live, work and play	- Provide contemporary centres that attract people through mixed-use, diversity of building forms, size, type and affordability - Support public and active travel and public domain with high amenity in centres - Higher order services and facilities requiring a larger catchment (such as shopping, employment and community facilities - secondary schools, regional health facilities and sporting fields) are located in the future Molonglo Town Centre, Tuggeranong Town Centre and Weston Creek Group Centre and are easily accessed by public transport, cycling and by car.	Compact + Efficient Diverse Liveable Accessible
Create places that provide a mix of uses that support productivity, liveability and a place to live and work	- A range of supporting facilities are provided in conjunction with centres, corresponding with their position in the centres hierarchy, e.g. a local primary school and Early learning childhood centre, local health services, aged care accommodation, community meeting spaces, public and recreational spaces and a good level of shops and services at local and group centres - Land required for community and commercial purposes is planned to allow for multiple purposes, where possible - Consider opportunities for live/work spaces, co-working spaces, maker spaces and shared work spaces providing opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurship.	Compact + Efficient Diverse Liveable

Part 3: Growth Considerations

This section of the report looks at land use options for the Study Area with a view to identifying potential future urban areas where further investigation for urban development should be prioritised.

The Study Area has been divided into five discrete clusters the same as those identified in the Capability and Suitability Assessment (SMEC 2023).

The following tables provide a summary of the key characteristics of each cluster with a brief commentary on the land use options and potential to accommodate growth.

Central Molonglo	
Area	1,240 hectares
Zoning	Predominantly NUZ 3 Hills, Ridges and Buffer Areas, NUZ4 River Corridor and small areas of NUZ1 Broadacre in the north. Lower Molonglo Valley Water Quality Control Centre located in western corner with associated odour buffer zone.
Ecological	Significant environmental values in relation to individual species, communities and regional habitat connectivity.
Heritage	Kama Nature Reserve contains Aboriginal Places and is listed for its natural heritage values. The curtilage extends beyond the nature reserve to the north west. Old Weetangera Cemetery was listed for its age, location, composition, burials and intact nature. There is potential heritage in response to community views at Lands End, the former location of the Weetangera Methodist Church.
Road Access	Readily serviceable by Drake-Brockman, William Hovell and Stockdill Drives on the northern, eastern and western boundaries respectively.
Servicing	Readily serviceable by utility networks at the edge of the area and cost considered low to moderate. 330kv and 132kV electricity transmission lines traverse the area. Integration or relocation of these lines would be a moderate cost. The bulk watermain traverses the eastern part of the site and could be relocated but would be costly. The Molonglo Valley Interceptor Sewer runs along the southern boundary to the Lower Molonglo Valley Water Quality Control Centre. Lower Molonglo Valley Water Quality Control Centre buffer zone – notionally 2.4km radius, consistent with buffer zone applied to the north.
Slope	Predominantly flat (<10% gradient)
Soils	Predominantly Burra and a small section of Williamsdale.
Visual	Areas to the north toward Drake-Brockman and William Hovell Drives are of moderate scenic value.
Waterways	Bounded by Molonglo River to the south with associated tributaries and creeks.
Bushfire	Large parts around the periphery are classified as high bushfire risk, with only some parts in the centre rates as low risk.
Central Molonglo Land Use Options + Recommendation	
Despite the serviceability of the area and the areas of relatively flat land which are conducive to developable land, the ACT Government in 2008, in considering the Territory Plan Variation for Molonglo and Weston Creek, removed Central Molonglo in perpetuity from being considered as a future urban area due to its ecological significance. The Territory Plan was amended to reflect this and only three small areas of land are available for non urban uses (NUZ1 Broadacre) on the northern boundary. It is noted that these areas are relatively small and are coincident with the Lower Molonglo Valley Water Quality Control Centre buffer zone and Superb Parrot breeding areas and are therefore unlikely to be suitable for development. Retain current uses and land use zones.	

West Molonglo	
Area	1,785 hectares
Zoning	Predominantly Designated Area under National Capital Plan, associated with Mount Stromlo Observatory and the University of Canberra Stromlo Forest Park. NUZ Hills, Ridges and Buffer Areas on the flanks of Mount Stromlo and NUZ4 River Corridor. There is a small area of NUZ2 Rural to the west of Mount Stromlo.
Ecological	Environmental values in relation to individual species, communities and regional habitat connectivity, particularly from Mount Stromlo to the Murrumbidgee River.
Heritage	Mount Stromlo Observatory Precinct listed under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999. Cultural Areas and Aboriginal Places are/may be present.
Road Access	Cotter and Uriarra Roads services the area. Cotter Road would require upgrading to support any urban development in the areas.
Servicing	No sewer services available to the area and would require a crossing of the Molonglo River and series of micro tunnels to provide. 330kV and 132kV electricity transmission lines and bulk water traverse the area.
Slope	Predominantly flat (<10% gradient) in the western area with other areas <20%.
Soils	Predominantly Burra with some Campbell variant C.
Visual	Low scenic value scores in the western area reaching to very high scenic value scores for the eastern face of Mount Stromlo.
Waterways	Bounded by Murrumbidgee River to the west with associated tributaries and creeks.
Bushfire	Predominantly low bushfire risk, with higher risk hazard towards the east. Emergency access potentially a concern without north-south connectivity.

West Molonglo Land Use Options + Recommendation

The bulk of the area is a Designated Area or zoned NUZ3 or NUZ4 and therefore not available for future urban development. Retain current uses and land use zones. The small area of land zoned NUZ2 in the western section and adjacent the Cotter Road may have potential for future urban development. Given its isolated location and relatively small size it should be considered in the context of potential development in the Bulgar Creek cluster.

Uriarra	
Area	1,798 hectares
Zoning	Predominantly NUZ2 Rural with NUZ Hills, Ridges and Buffer Areas, and NUZ4 River Corridor. Lower Molonglo Valley Water Quality Control Centre located to the north in Central Molonglo with associated odour buffer zone.
Ecological	Significant environmental values in relation to individual species, communities and regional habitat connectivity, particularly between the two rivers.
Heritage	Travelling Stock Route nominated as a heritage place. Cultural Areas and Aboriginal Places are/may be present. Huntly listed as a representative element of the rural setting of the National Capital. The Specific Requirements of the heritage listing require Huntly to be preserved as a rural property and maintained predominantly as a grazing property and for other uses consistent with a rural property. The garden is to be maintained according to the design of Mr John Gale and all features intrinsic to the significance of the place are to be conserved and appropriately maintained.
Road Access	Uriarra Road is the only road that services the area and would require upgrading. Holborrow Avenue could be extended and an additional crossing of the Molonglo River would likely be required for servicing and additional road access, at considerable cost.
Servicing	Water supply is available with trunk network extension. Sewer servicing would require significant investment with a potential tunnel through Uriarra Ridge and a sewer bridge across Molonglo Rivers, with pump station or inverted siphon at the river to direct sewage to the Lower Molonglo Valley Water Quality Control Centre. 330kV and 132kV electricity transmission lines and bulk water traverse the area. The transmission lines could be relocated but this would be expensive.
Slope	Predominantly flat (<10% gradient)
Soils	Predominantly Burra with some rock outcrops.
Visual	Views into the area are largely blocked by topography. Elevated views of the area are available from within from Uriarra Road.
Waterways	Bounded by Molonglo River to the north and Murrumbidgee River to the west with associated tributaries and creeks.
Bushfire	Predominantly low bushfire risk, with higher risk hazard along river corridors.

Uriarra Land Use Options + Recommendation

Huntly encompasses the entirety of the Uriarra cluster, with the exception of Rural Block 428 District of Stromlo, and can't be developed for urban purposes. Rural Block 428 is not suitable for urban development on its own as it is relatively small, isolated from nearby urban development, expensive to service and has potential ecological significance. **Retain current uses and land use zones.**

Bulgar Creek	
Area	1,500 hectares
Zoning	Designated Area under National Capital Plan along the ridgeline to the east. The rest of the area is predominantly NUZ2 Rural and NUZ4 River Corridor. A light limitation zone applies associated with Mount Stromlo Observatory.
Ecological	Environmental values in relation to individual species, communities and regional habitat connectivity.
Heritage	Greenhills Ruin is listed as an example of a stone homestead of an earlier selector that is now endangered and which contributes to an understanding of the ACT's cultural history. Cultural Areas and Aboriginal Places are/may be present.
Road Access	Cotter Road services the area. Cotter Road would require upgrading to support any urban development in the area and existing roads in Weston Creek would require extension i.e. Hindmarsh Drive and potentially connectors to Eucumbene Drive.
Servicing	Services could be available through the augmentation of existing services in adjacent residential areas in Weston Creek. Sewer servicing would require a western interceptor sewer above the Murrumbidgee River or through a separate sewer pump station discharging to new trunk sewers in Weston Creek and the Tuggeranong Sewer Tunnel. 330kV and 132kV electricity transmission lines traverse the area and bulk water main runs along the northern side of Cotter Road. The transmission lines could be relocated but would be expensive. This cluster is considered to be the most cost effective to service due to the proximity to trunk infrastructure in Weston Creek.
Slope	Predominantly flat (<10% gradient) in the western area with other areas <20%.
Soils	Predominantly Burra with some Campbell variant C.
Visual	Moderate to very high scenic value scores.
Waterways	Bounded by Murrumbidgee River to the west with associated tributaries and creeks.
Bushfire	Predominantly low bushfire risk, with higher risk hazard associated with areas of existing bushland and the river corridor.
Bulgar Creek Land Use Options + Recommendation	
Bulgar Creek is relatively flat and neighbours an existing urban development in Weston Creek. It has reasonable access to the Weston Creek Group Centre, the future Molonglo Group Centre, schools, community facilities and public transport and the ACT road network. If the capacity of existing infrastructure permits, there may be the potential to readily extend existing utility services from the adjoining suburbs into this site. The potentially developable area in West Molonglo should be incorporated into this cluster to enable its assessment as part of a larger potential future urban area. The suitability of the area for urban development is still subject to further assessment to clarify the extent of ecological and heritage values and a range of studies in relation to housing, community, social, employment and transport needs to determine an appropriate range of land uses and location/connections. The area appears suitable for urban development, however, it is noted that further work may also include an environmental assessment such as a Strategic Assessment to be undertaken under the provisions of the EPBC Act or other ACT environmental assessment requirements.	

Kambah	
Area	688 hectares
Zoning	Designated Area under National Capital Plan along the ridgeline to the east, which includes the nature reserves of Cooleman Ridge and Mcquoids Hill. This is supported by small areas of NUZ Hills, Ridges and Buffer in the southern area around a small area of development in Kambah. The rest of the area is predominantly NUZ2 Rural and NUZ4 River Corridor.
Ecological	Environmental values in relation to individual species, communities and regional habitat connectivity.
Heritage	Cultural Conservation Area and Old Growth Eucalyptus trees. Cultural Areas and Aboriginal Places are/ may be present.
Road Access	Kambah Pool Road on southern boundary and potentially extension of Sulwood Drive and road connections from Bulgar Creek cluster if it is developed providing a north south route. Kambah Pool Road would require upgrading to support any urban development in the area.
Servicing	Services could be available through the augmentation of existing services in adjacent residential areas in Kambah and Weston Creek and the Bulgar Creek cluster if it is developed. 330kV and 132kV electricity transmission lines traverse the area.
Slope	Predominantly flat (<10% gradient) with some areas associated with waterways with slopes <20%.
Soils	Predominantly Williamsdale and some Burra.
Visual	Predominately low scenic value scores with some areas of moderate to high scenic value scores.
Waterways	Bounded by Murrumbidgee River to the west with associated tributaries and creeks.
Bushfire	Predominantly low bushfire risk, with higher risk hazard associated with areas of existing bushland and the river corridor.
Kambah Land Use Options + Recommendation	
Kambah neighbours existing urban development in Kambah and has reasonable access to the Kambah Group Centre and Tuggeranong Town Centre, schools, community facilities and public transport and the ACT road network. If the capacity of existing infrastructure permits, there may be the potential to readily extend existing utility services from the adjoining suburb into this site. The area is relatively flat which suits urban development. The suitability of the area for urban development is still subject to further assessment to clarify the extent of ecological and heritage values and a range of studies relation to housing, community, social, employment and transport needs to determine an appropriate range of land uses and location/connections. The area appears suitable for urban development pending further investigations.	

Based on the review of planning investigations completed to date and further planning analysis, it is considered that Central Molonglo, Uriarra and the majority of the West Molonglo areas are not suitable for future urban development.

The Bulgar Creek, Kambah and a small portion of West Molonglo (adjacent to Cotter Road) areas, based on the review and analysis undertaken for this stage of work are recommended for further planning investigation.

This recommendation is based on the range of characteristics that could be suitable for future urban development which is aligned to the planning principles outlined in the previous section of this report.

The following spatial analysis and plans illustrate and suggest options for the Bulgar Creek-Kambah areas

Bulgar Creek-Kambah Potential Future Area

Whilst the land use option analysis above indicates the potential for urban development in Bulgar Creek-Kambah it is noted that the suitability of this area for urban development is still subject to further assessment to clarify the extent of ecological and heritage values. (See Map 1, page 27).

A range of studies in relation to housing, community, social and employment needs and transport network is needed to determine an appropriate range of land uses, location/connections and appropriate design response.

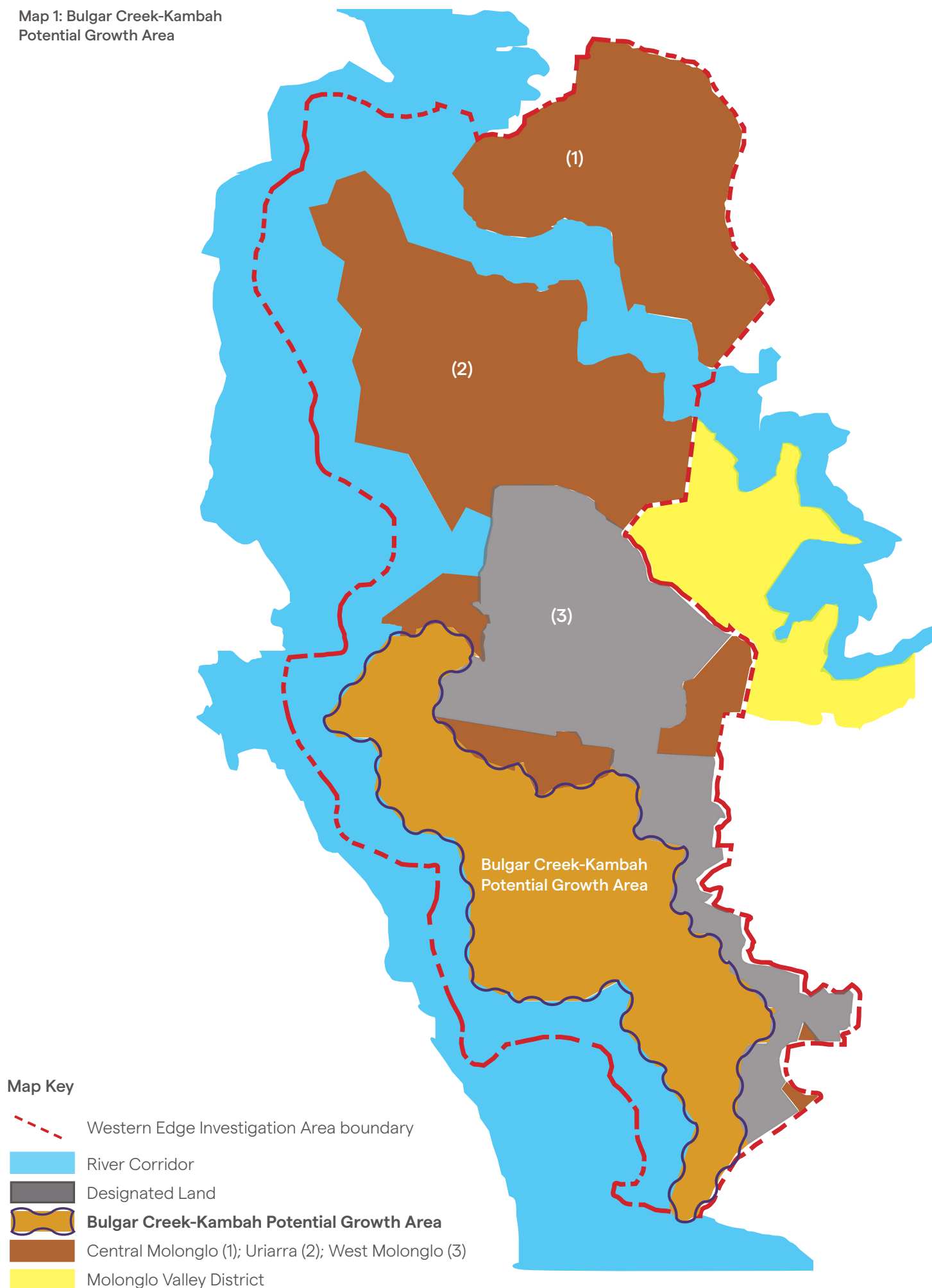
Further work may also include an environmental assessment such as a Strategic Assessment to be undertaken under the provisions of the EPBC Act or other ACT environmental assessment requirements.

Landscape

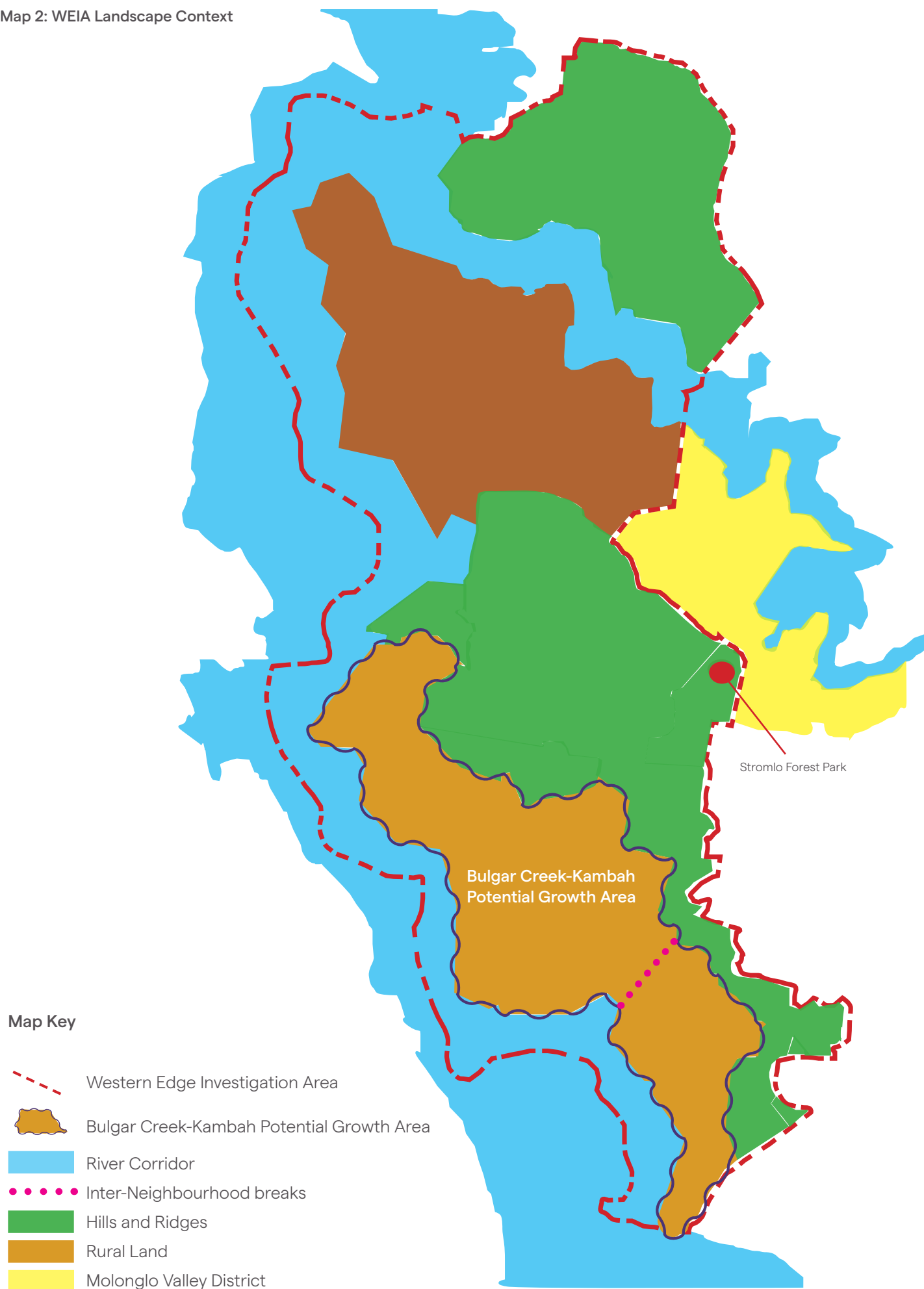
The existing landscape is characterised by rural land, hills and waterways (See Map 2, page 28). The key landscape features that form the broader setting for future urban development include:

- Views to and from hills and ridges that flank Bulgar Creek-Kambah in all directions, including those outside Bulgar Creek-Kambah such as Bullen Range across the Murrumbidgee River and Mount Stromlo
- Distant views to Brindabella Mountains
- Inter-district breaks to urban development e.g. between Weston Creek and Tuggeranong and Bulgar Creek-Kambah, and inter-neighbourhood breaks to future urban development afforded by areas of core habitat and biodiversity corridors
- Utilisation of natural drainage system to create a network of open spaces and habitat corridors with appropriate WSUD to reduce flashiness of storm flows, sediment and nutrient loads whilst minimising impact on riparian values
- Gravity fed infrastructure provision and location.
- Riparian protection of rare and threatened plants, aquatic and fish and threatened fauna habitat.

Map 1: Bulgar Creek-Kambah
Potential Growth Area



Map 2: WEIA Landscape Context



Open Space

The open space network is grounded in the National Capital Open Space System (NCOSS) and river corridor. The NCOSS forms the eastern boundary of Bulgar Creek-Kambah and comprises the hills and ridges separating the area from Weston Creek and Tuggeranong and includes the Canberra University Stromlo Forest Park. (See Map 2, page 28)

This provides for nature based passive open space opportunities as well as potential for off road active transport routes connecting with key destinations outside Bulgar Creek-Kambah, including district level open space and recreation.

Local neighbourhood open space requirements will be determined through the structure planning process and will be based on community needs. These facilities should integrate with the NCOSS and river corridor as well as utilise opportunities presented through the drainage system.

Geotechnical and Hydrogeology

A preliminary geotechnical and hydrogeological assessment indicated limitation to development due to slopes and soil characteristics and potential for erosion, landslip, flooding and waterlogging. These areas are largely coincident with the Murrumbidgee River Corridor and land zoned NUZ3 Hills, Ridges and Buffer or are Designated Areas and therefore not available for development. There are some small pockets of these soils that are outside these land use zones and development should be avoided in these areas.

Areas identified as Williamsdale soils, which is the predominant soil type in Bulgar Creek-Kambah present few constraints to urban development, as concerns relating to waterlogging and soil creep, appropriate effluent and surface water disposal can be appropriately managed in the future engineering subdivision design.

Air Quality

Preliminary infrastructure investigations indicate the possibility that sewer servicing may require a western interceptor sewer above the Murrumbidgee River. Odour from any vent stacks will need to be considered and appropriately mitigated.

Hydrology

The Murrumbidgee River forms the western boundary to Bulgar Creek-Kambah and various tributaries traverse the area. Challenges for development include:

- Hydrological constraints (salinity, erosion, stream fragility, terrain slope suitability).
- Water quality and flow regimes.
- Social and community values associated with waterways particularly related to visual amenity and recreation. Increased visitation due to urbanisation may impact visual amenity of water resources and growth in visitation for recreation which could result in deterioration of vegetation, soil compaction, threats and pressure on wildlife, pollution of waterways and erosion.

Opportunities associated with urban development may include:

- Ecological restoration and management – opportunities for riparian revegetation projects to improve ecological function and amenity.
- WSUD to manage stormwater quality and quantity (including flash storm flows) and stormwater harvesting and improved flow management. This may include location of infrastructure outside the river corridor and managing flows down the escarpments and into the Murrumbidgee River to avoid erosion and turbidity in the river.
- Location of sewer infrastructure outside the river corridor, to the extent possible.
- Integrated open space network associated with waterways. Opportunity exists to focus recreation within the Murrumbidgee River corridor to designated walking tracks and destinations.

Biodiversity

Significant biodiversity values exist in Bulgar Creek-Kambah (see Map 3, page 31), including:

- The presence of Critically Endangered Natural Temperate Grassland (NTG) occurring in the northern part of the site.
- Presence of Box Gum Woodland, including potential Critically Endangered Blakely's Red Gum-Yellow Box Grassy Woodland, throughout the study area.
- Threatened flora species were recorded in the WEIA, predominantly clustered around river corridors and identified as Austral Toadflax, Hoary Sunray, Murrumbidgee Bossiaea, Pale Pomaderris, and Small Purple Pea.
- Habitat for threatened Gang-gang Cockatoo, Superb Parrot and Little Eagle is also present, mostly in the central part of the WEIA.
- Habitat for the endangered Rosenberg's Monitor and vulnerable Pink Tailed Worm Lizard (PTWL) were also identified throughout the site. Due to the presence of surface rock throughout the WEIA, PTWL is expected to be reasonably widespread however further survey is required to confirm the quality of habitat.
- Potential for threatened Striped Legless Lizard habitat, requiring further targeted surveys to confirm.
- Potential threatened Golden Sun Moth and Perunga Grasshopper, however further targeted surveys are recommended
- Potential for Spotted-tailed Quoll and noted sightings in the ACT Wildlife Atlas of Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, Grey-headed Flying-fox and Koala.
- Potential and confirmed habitat for threatened aquatic species including Murray River Crayfish, Macquarie Perch, Murray Cod and Trout Cod within the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo River systems.

The Study Area is likely to hold both local and regional importance for habitat connectivity and significant corridors may include:

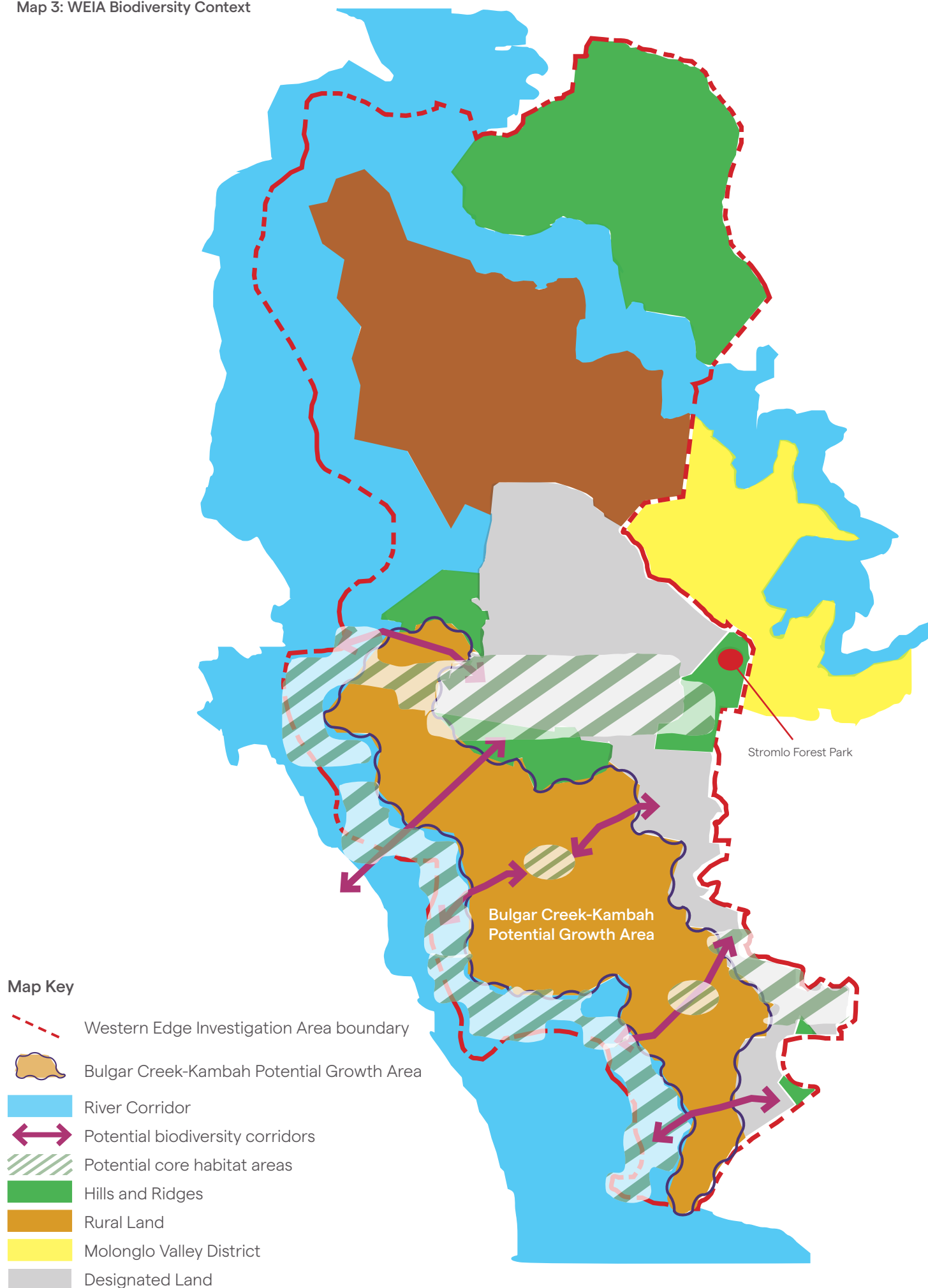
- Murrumbidgee River corridor
- Area around McQuoid's Hill Nature Reserve
- South-west and north-west of Mount Stromlo

Some of these areas are already protected in existing Nature Reserves or by existing land use zones.

Further work needs to be undertaken to assess areas that have not been surveyed or have been inadequately covered in terms of extant or condition so as to determine the extent of habitat and potential habitat and habitat linkages.

Further work may also include an environmental assessment such as a Strategic Assessment to be undertaken under the provisions of the EPBC Act or other ACT environmental assessment requirements.

Map 3: WEIA Biodiversity Context



Sustainable Neighbourhoods and Inclusive Communities and Centres

Residential areas

Bulgar Creek-Kambah is grounded in its local context being the landscape elements and areas of special environmental significance. This provides the basis for landscape sensitive, place based outcomes that provide an immediate local identity for new communities.

Th neighbourhoods are to be of sufficient size and configuration to support a local centre as the heart of the community and provide for a mix of types and densities of housing as well as a range of services and jobs.

Consideration should be given to the relocation of high voltage electricity transmission lines to improve amenity and provide opportunity for a physically connected urban structure. Where this is not possible careful attention will need to be paid to the provision of connections between these communities where they straddle the infrastructure. This is also the case where communities may straddle, or be separated by, the bulk water supply main or an arterial road.

The neighbourhoods will adjoin or be near areas of biodiversity conservation e.g core habitat or habitat corridors and should be designed so as to be sensitive to their values and integrate these features into the character of the neighbourhood through biosensitive urban design principles.

The urban structure should be of sufficient size and configuration to provide appropriate bushfire management to new developments and adjoining existing communities.'

Employment

The urban structure should support the ability for Bulgar Creek-Kambah to provide local jobs close to home. This can be in the form of high amenity local neighbourhoods that support work from home or in local centres that focus as the heart of the community. Good active transport options to nearby existing and proposed Group and Town Centres will also provide opportunities to access jobs close to home. (see Map 4, page 33)

The existing Kambah Group Centre is located within 5km of Western Edge Investigation Area. Duffy, Rivett and Chapman Local Centre are also located, west of the Weston Creek Group Centre, and in close proximity of investigation area boundary. Future centre locations within the Western Edge Investigation area will need to consider the wider network of centres.

Strategic Movement Network

Public Transport

Development is to be supported by extension of existing bus services providing district and local services to facilitate access to jobs, education, health facilities and community facilities within and without the area.

Higher density residential development and centres are focused on bus route and nodes to increase potential public transport patronage. (see Map 5, page 34)

Cycling and Walking

Cycling and walking routes are to be provided on and off road. The off road network can utilise the open space network and link with interdistrict routes within the river corridor and NCOSS.

Arterial Road Networks

The arterial road network will require upgrading and expansion to facilitate urban development in Bulgar Creek-Kambah. This will include:

- Cotter Road, Hindmarsh Drive, Sulwood Drive to provide east west connectivity
- Kambah Pool Road to provide connection to the south.

Supporting Infrastructure

330kV and 132kV high voltage electricity transmission infrastructure traverses Bulgar Creek-Kambah. This will need to be either relocated or protected with an appropriate easement.

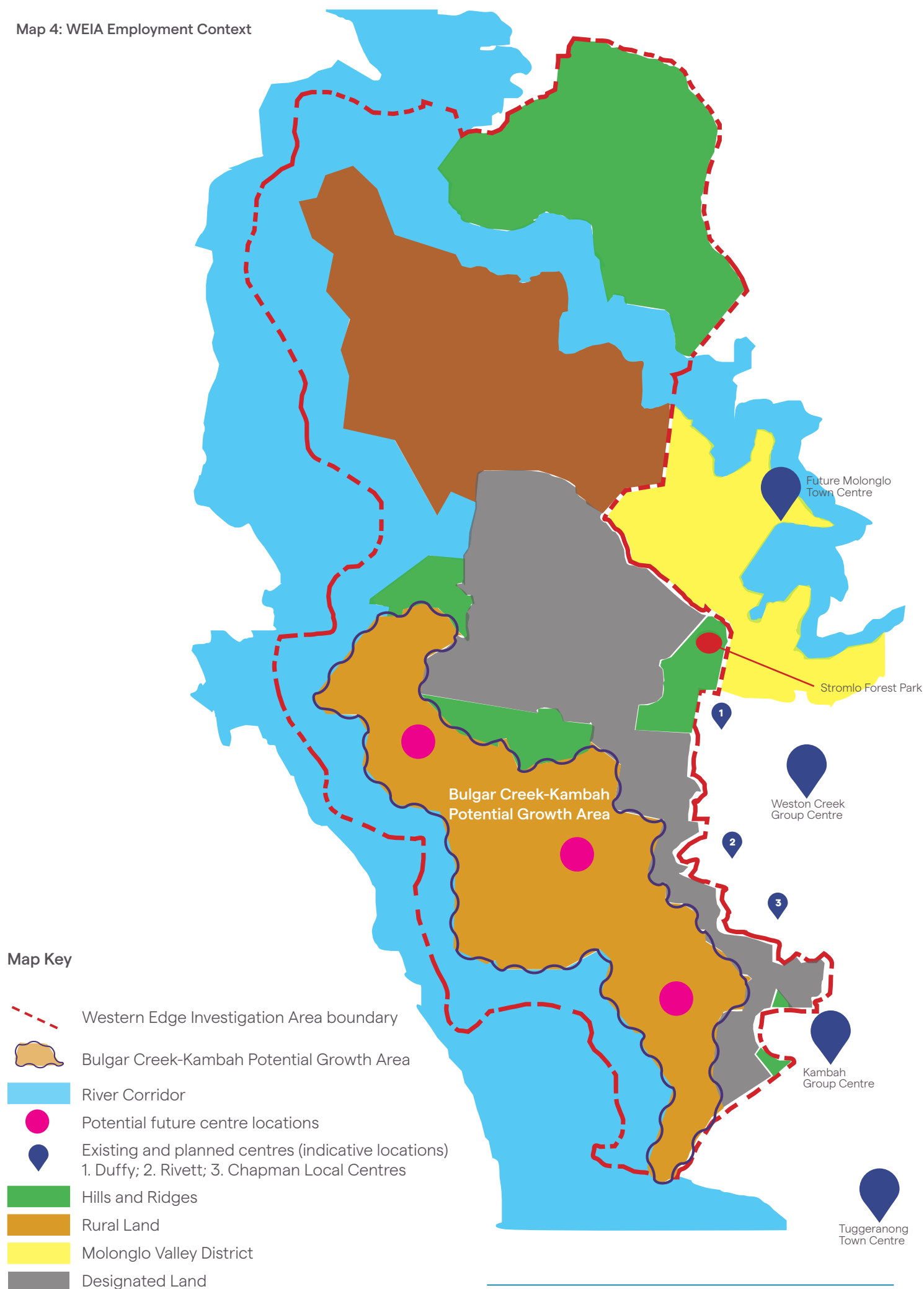
ICON Water's bulk water supply pipeline from the Cotter dam to Mount Stromlo Water Treatment Plant will also require protection and any development on the northern side of Cotter Road will need to pay careful attention to the provision of connections between communities straddling this infrastructure.

Services could be available through the augmentation of existing services in adjacent residential areas in Weston Creek.

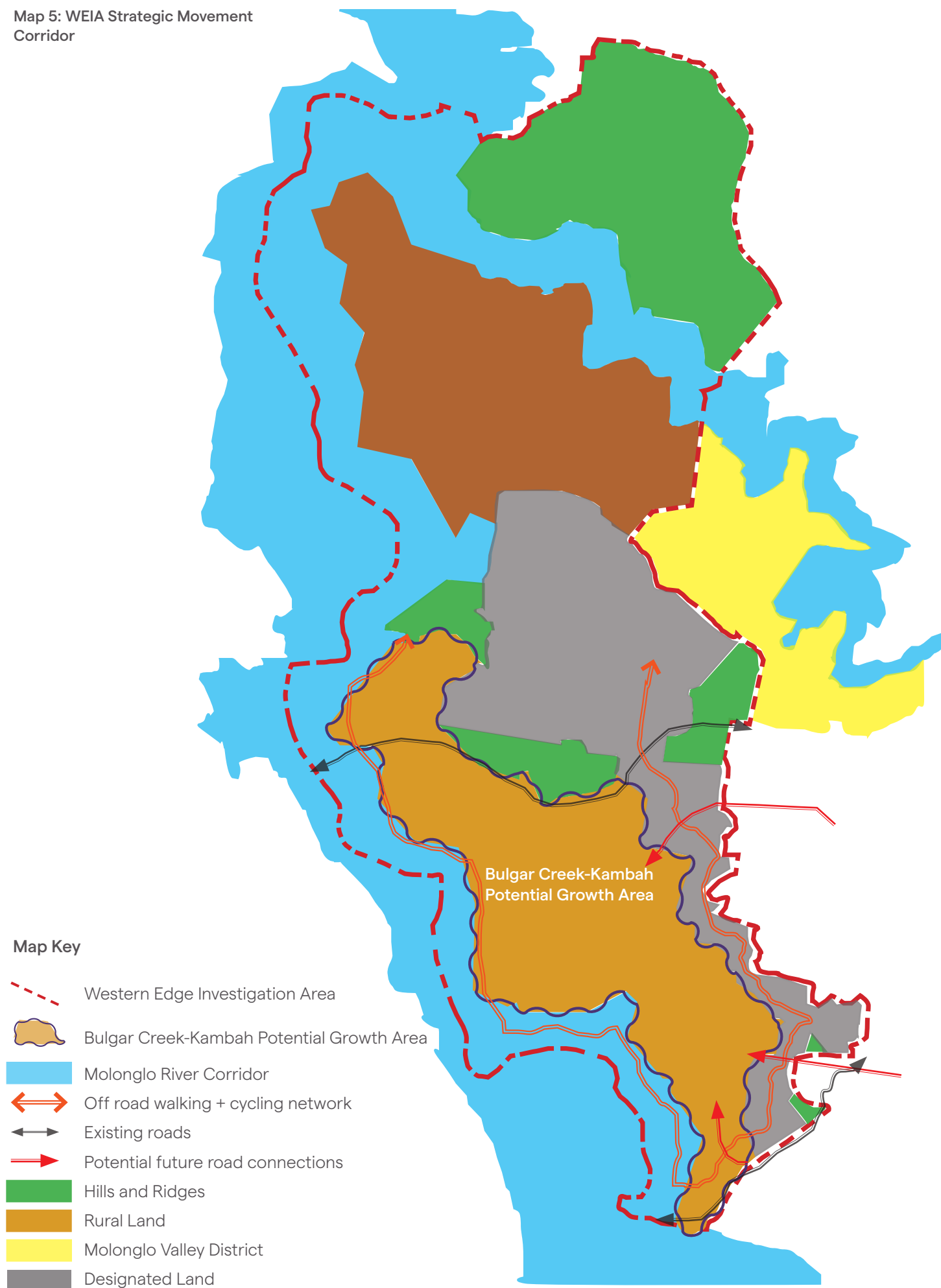
Sewer servicing would require a western interceptor sewer above the Murrumbidgee River or through a separate sewer pump station discharging to new trunk sewers in Weston Creek and the Tuggeranong Sewer Tunnel.

Map 6, page 35 illustrates the possible locations and all the supporting infrastructure.

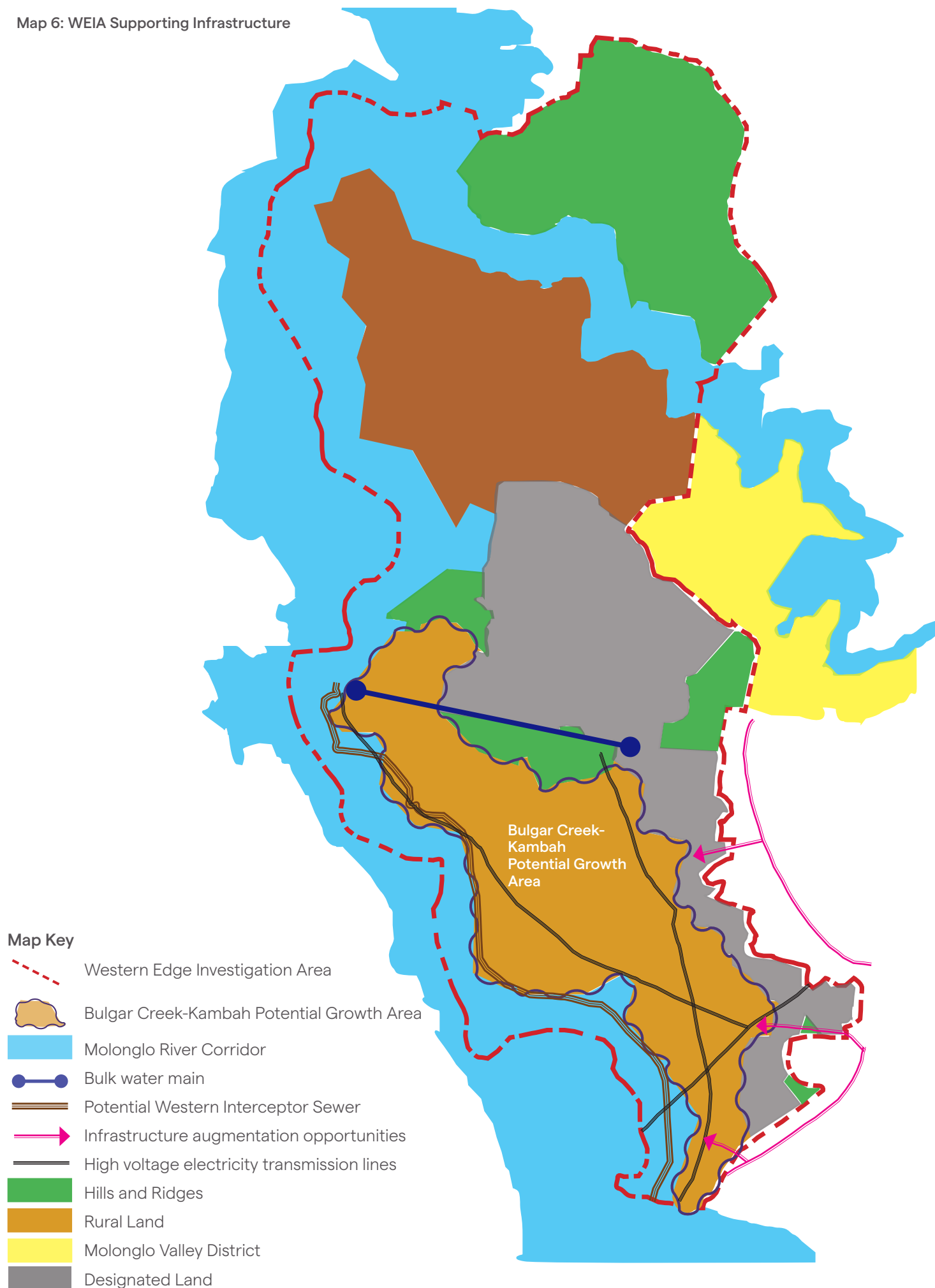
Map 4: WEIA Employment Context



Map 5: WEIA Strategic Movement Corridor



Map 6: WEIA Supporting Infrastructure



Growth Management Recommendations + Implementation

While the land use option analysis indicates the potential for urban development in Bulgar Creek-Kambah it is noted that the suitability of this area for urban development is still subject to further assessment.

Spatial + planning recommendations to guide the future planning and decisions about possible land use options for the Bulgar Creek-Kambah Area include:

- Suitability for urban development and the broad form of development that is appropriate for each area.
- Areas of high environmental or landscape value that must be protected from development.
- The urban structure should be of sufficient size and configuration to provide appropriate bushfire management to new developments and adjoining existing communities.
- Locations suitable for job-creating activities.
- The provision of an integrated open space network which will provide for the future amenity and recreation needs of communities and also play a vital role in preserving natural features/character, heritage, sustaining biodiversity and healthy waterways in an urban environment.
- The transport infrastructure required to support urban development to enable easy and convenient access jobs and services and have a range of transport choices. The spatial analysis and plans identify a mix of options for further investigation such as future arterial roads, active travel.
- Infrastructure networks including, in particular, the water and sewage infrastructure required to enable development.

Possible priority actions to progress the planning of the Western Edge Investigation Area and support effective decision making include:

- A range of studies relating to housing, community, social and employment needs and transport network is needed to determine an appropriate range of land uses, location/connections and appropriate design response.
- Further work may also include an environmental assessment such as a Strategic Assessment to be undertaken under the provisions of the EPBC Act or other environmental requirements.
- The area is likely to hold both local and regional importance for habitat connectivity and significant corridors. Further work needs to be undertaken to assess areas that have not been surveyed or have been inadequately covered in terms of extant or condition so as to determine the extent of habitat and potential habitat and habitat linkages.
- Further consideration of the hydrological constraints (salinity, erosion, stream fragility, terrain slope suitability), water quality and flow regimes and the limitation to development due to slopes and soil characteristics and potential for erosion, landslip, flooding and waterlogging.



Uriarra Loop/Crossing
Source: ACT Parks and Conservation Service

Part 4: Engagement Strategy

This section provides an overview of principles of good planning, best practice approaches and considerations to deliver inclusive engagement for the planning and design of the Western Edge.

Principles of good consultation

Under the *ACT Planning Act 2023*, Part 2.2, Section 11 outlines the principles of good consultation that support the planning system to be effective, efficient, accessible and enabling.

These principles are criteria to planning in the ACT to be outcomes focused and one that provides space for genuine community participation and have formed the basis for the WEIA engagement approach.

Principles of good consultation

The ACT Planning Act 2023, defines good consultation as being:

Accessible: when information provided as part of the consultation, and processes for consultation, are easy to access and are presented in a variety of ways to accommodate different stakeholders.

Balanced: when it is undertaken in a way that facilitates and encourages constructive responses from a wide range of stakeholders and when community views are considered together with the views of other stakeholders.

Inclusive: when it is undertaken in a way that aims to engage all stakeholders affected by the subject of the consultation.

Meaningful: when information provided as part of the consultation is adequate to ensure all stakeholders understand the subject of, and issues relating to, the consultation and can give informed responses. The process genuinely seeks community feedback; and community views are genuinely considered and incorporated into final decisions.

Resourced: when the processes are appropriately supported, taking into account the significance, complexity and likely impact of the subject of the consultation.

Respectful: when it is collaborative, genuine and courteous towards all views expressed.

Timely: when it is undertaken at an appropriate time in the planning process; it is undertaken in a way that considers the needs of stakeholders and facilitates participation; and it allows sufficient time for stakeholders to engage with other members of their group or organisation to form a collective decision. For example, consultation should consider holiday periods or other ACT Government consultations.

Transparent: when information provided as part of the consultation and processes for consultation are clear and observable. That planning decisions are made openly; and government and proponents provide reasons for decisions, including how community views have been taken into account.

Understandable: when clarity about the overall objective of the consultation is provided and when specific issues on which stakeholders are being consulted and what is not open to consultation or change is also clear. It should also be accurate, written in plain language and presented clearly.

The engagement approach for the WEIA will seek to implement these principles into the development of the strategy. The articulation of purpose and what tools are proposed to ensure that it is effectively delivered will enable genuine participation in the development of the strategic planning framework and the 'on the ground' implementation.

Inclusive Engagement

The ACT community are not a homogeneous group. There are various communities which can be defined by their geographical location, their age, culture, identity, gender, or they can be communities of interest. The communities that make up the ACT are diverse and therefore, for the planning and policies to reflect this diversity, the design and implementation of engagement processes should actively seek diverse participation.

Engagement should never be a ‘tick the box exercise’. It should be a genuine process where people feel valued and their contributions are respected by government.

To demonstrate this value, activities must be adequately resourced with sufficient time, space, funding, and information. The government’s intentions and expectations and also the expectations of participants, including about time frames and continuity of communication, information and feedback, must be clearly understood and acknowledged.

Throughout the different stages of the planning and design of the Western Edge, we will not always agree. However, creating lasting and balanced impact requires there to be mutual understanding, openness, and respect to build a productive partnership between the ACT Government, stakeholders and the ACT community.

Providing a space for a diversity of voices and co-designing practical approaches to implement changes are the elements that engagement must be built on and will significantly contribute to making informed and transparent decisions about the future growth of the Western Edge

We acknowledge that there is an existing network of stakeholders, community organisations and advocacy groups that are invested in the future of the Western Edge and are trusted by their communities. We consider that the existing community and government advisory groups, and the existing community network is our starting point for conversations to commence.

Engagement Stages for the Western Edge Investigation Area Planning + Design



Reframing the language of engagement to build genuine and respectful partnerships in the future growth of the Western Edge.

This strategic engagement approach demonstrates the ACT Government's commitment to deliver on the principles of good consultation to support long term positive outcomes.

How and when we engage will respond to who the community is and how it is changing, the project staging and scale of impacts. We will be empathic to the impacts of change and acknowledge that this will be experienced differently by individuals.

The table opposite illustrates how the principles of good consultation guide how we may plan, design, show up, act and deliver the engagement as the planning for the Western Edge Investigation Area progresses.

Previous engagement discussions and local knowledge enables a glimpse into what attributes about the Western Edge are important and the values of the wider ACT community. Together, they help to identify the drivers, risks and opportunities that will continually shape the engagement and governance approach.

Drivers...

influencing + shaping community perceptions, + project responses. They also influence how + when we engage with community and partners. To engage with purpose, we must value all inputs and consider the project through multiple lenses' and ensure that there is understanding to ensure informed participation and respectful discussion about issues, values and ideas.

- Opposition to the expansion of the urban footprint of the ACT
- The Western Edge is a highly valued natural landscape with some community groups already expressing concerns about the potential loss of environmental values within this area
- Community acknowledges that additional housing is needed in the ACT to support the growing population.

Risks...

impacting the community, project and the engagement process. The impacts will vary across the life of the project and be experienced differently. Building trust, being inclusive, balanced, transparent and respectful are the building blocks to minimising risk.

- Lack of community trust in the process and reliability of baseline data that informs decisions
- Poor and uncoordinated communication leading to confusion and community feeling a lack of clarity and anxiety about future built form of the area.

Opportunities....

arising from meaningful, well resourced and accessible engagement will significantly contribute to cultivating lasting relationships and effective partnerships. This will result in robust decision making and planning outcomes that can create a place that sits comfortably within its natural and cultural surroundings and supports future communities to be connected, inclusive and thriving.

- Increased collaboration between government agencies, local organisations and the community can deliver meaningful, productive relationships.
- Building local skills, expertise and capacity to strengthen self determination for individuals and collectively as a community
- Exploration and delivery of different and leading planning and design outcomes such as biodiversity sensitive urban design, new housing typologies etc.

Principles <i>[what guides us]</i>	Actions <i>[how we deliver]</i>	Outcome <i>[what we aim to achieve]</i>
 Accessible	• Easy to understand and accessible information is provided. • Engagement activities are easy to access • Information is presented in a variety of ways to accommodate different stakeholders.	Adequately resourced engagement program that builds trust in the planning decisions, confidence to participate in the process that leads to ownership of local communities of the project.
 Balanced	• Multiple opportunities to participate are provided • Acknowledge the varying impacts - both short and long term- that people will experience with the changes that this project will have on the community and that this will fluctuate across the life of the project.	The planning and design of the Western Edge has been shaped by various viewpoints and a diversity of voices.
 Inclusive	• Words and language enable the community to feel safe and comfortable • Approach engagement with curiosity, listen with an open mind and be empathetic towards people.	Everyone's voice and experience is valued and heard - whether from community, government, a project partner, local organisations or community groups.
 Meaningful	• Clearly define and articulate when we are engaging, the intent and how information will be used and what outcomes we are seeking. • Demonstrate to the community how their insights, ideas, issues and feedback has been incorporated into the planning and design considerations.	The planning and design of the Western Edge is a genuine collaboration with community and stakeholders.
 Resourced + Timely	• Plan & coordinate engagement to be targeted and timely to minimise fatigue and be responsive to the issues and scale of impact. • Be proactive and be committed to building long term relationships, not just to tick a box	Adequately resourced engagement program that builds trust in the planning decisions, confidence to participate in the process that leads to ownership of local communities of the project.
 Respectful	• Be honest and establish clear expectations • Value all the different perspectives and experiences that each person brings and acknowledges that no one has all the answers.	We may not always agree, but building mutual understanding and being able to discuss, debate and share information to explore ideas and identify opportunities is critical.
 Transparent	• Provide regular reporting to community about issues, opportunities and ideas. • Accurately record feedback, seek endorsement for key documents and report back to community • Establish a clear governance framework that supports community involvement in the development of the project.	Risks to the project and our relationship with the community and stakeholder are minimised.
 Understandable	• Understand that people engage and communicate in different ways, so we will provide different opportunities to be involved. • Provide information that is concise, in plain language, being mindful of culture, age, ability and language.	Participants are informed and provided the knowledge that allows them to confidently contribute to the planning and design of the Western Edge, even if they don't have specific expertise.

Part 5: Engagement Implementation Guidance

This section provides some high level guidance to implement the engagement strategy for to support the future planning and design of the Western Edge. It is expected that an individual engagement planning process will be undertaken for specific phases and engagement activities throughout the process.

Guided by the Principles of Good Consultation, how we plan, design, show up, act and deliver the engagement, acknowledging the impacts of change will be experienced differently by individuals at different stages of planning and development.

Value can be demonstrated through the adequate resourcing of activities with sufficient time, space, funding, information and clear communication about the government's expectations and intentions. Expectations of participants, including time frames and continuity of communication, information and feedback also need to be understood.

Considerations for Effective Engagement

To ensure that engagement is inclusive, the design and delivery of engagement approaches and use of engagement tools should consider:

- whether people have been adequately informed about the process and their role and if they have the ability to decline involvement.
- whether the engagement tools and activities provide people with a sense of belonging and ownership and if people clearly know what will happen with their contribution/input.
- activities that provide opportunities for building active and supportive working relationships between different members of the community - especially across cultural groups, and intergenerational relationships.
- activities that include ongoing critical analysis of experiences, actions taken and outcomes as well as including mechanisms for monitoring, accountability and feedback, both above the engagement process and the project.
- options for participation that are sensitive to availability, commitments, language, skills, culture, financial resources, access to transport.
- mechanisms to address any issues of power imbalance between individuals or groups within your audience.
- that the engagement process is sensitive to the inherent difference in experience, status, power, control, knowledge of resources and language.
- issues of confidentiality and anonymity, especially with children and young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, people from the LGBTIQ+ community, and people from vulnerable communities.
- whether or not you have presumed what people can or cannot do or what they do and do not know already or understand. This is of particular importance when engaging with young people, older people, culturally diverse communities, people with disability, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

1. Knowing your Communities

(Stakeholder Mapping)

Common research methods to identify who should be engaged, and for connecting people to impacts, include stakeholder mapping, stakeholder matrices, values mapping, and issues mapping.

The stakeholder mapping is something that should be done for all individual engagement processes and be kept up to date that the planning and design of the WEIA progresses

Thorough stakeholder mapping and aligning this with the most effective methodology is essential, as it is the foundation of an effective engagement approach. The matrix used to categorise stakeholders has divided them into six groups:

Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory:

Elected representatives (political or cultural leaders); government directorates, elected or community based advisory bodies

Non Government Organisations + Agencies:

Non government institutions and organisations that deliver local services, and/or are public policy advocates include educational and research institutions, local service providers, peak and professional associations.

Advocacy Organisations: Local community councils, professional advocacy groups and peak associations (economic, environmental, social); nongovernmental organisations (NGOs); cultural leaders and recognised representative bodies; religious authorities and/or recognised representative bodies.

Community Interest Groups + Organisations:

Smaller, locally based or issue/interest specific groups. Usually volunteer-led and focused around a single issue and/or interest. These groups could be environmental, community, cultural, recreation, sporting, social and/or economic/business interests/issues.

Affected Communities: could be residents of areas affected by the project, representatives of affected people, local landowners and local businesses.

Wider ACT Community: individuals that are not directly affected by the project, or are not members of a specific community group or advocacy organisation but are part of a broader community of interest.

2. Being across the issues

(Issues Evaluation)

The past, present and future discussions and decisions of a proposed project and the area, and any similar experiences people in the locality have had, including change prior to, or created by, the project's planning assessment; how people reacted to early discussions; how these discussions and other experiences affected the broader community; and the traditional Aboriginal use of the place, recent history of the place and people and any ongoing traumas.

The analysis of media coverage and the local politics of the project and individual issues is important to consider as to the sensitive nature and how best to proceed with the engagement. Negative or misleading media coverage can mean that participants may come to the engagement activities with preconceived ideas, especially at the early stages of a project.

Where the social locality is demographically, socially and/or culturally diverse, or where some groups may be more affected than others, disaggregate data to illustrate these differences. If these differences are negligible or irrelevant, data may be aggregated.

Mapping and aligning both the stakeholders and issues allows to identify those communities which may potentially be disproportionately impacted or who greater efforts to work with them may be needed.

3. Engagement isn't a one size fits all

(Diverse of engagement tools + methods)

It is important to consider the needs of all communities across the ACT, and that there may be groups requiring specific consideration. This can be due to the sensitivity of engaging with these groups or the recognition that these groups may not have had (past and ongoing) agency or equal representation when it comes to participation in planning and decision making.

Therefore, knowing your communities and having the right practitioners and community members to support the engagement process is important to show respect and create a space that people feel safe to contribute.

Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples¹

'Cultural safety is everybody's business'

Respectful and meaningful relationships can be built by sharing knowledge. It takes genuine efforts to build intercultural understanding and trust. To hear and learn from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples takes time. Ensure you have allowed enough time to meet with stakeholders and be open to share and listen deeply.

It is important to remember that like any other cultural group, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities are culturally diverse.

There are many Nations, Traditional Owners, languages, kinships, and ways of living. Building relationships with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander stakeholders requires rapport building, and taking time to learn about the person, organisation, and Community.

The human rights of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people must be recognised, respected and upheld. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides a framework of best practice for engagement.

To engage in culturally appropriate practices, practitioners must develop proficiency in cultural awareness, cultural safety procedures and cross-cultural engagement practices. This is part of mapping realistic Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander stakeholder engagement goals and needs to begin at the earliest stage of the project.

Having the engagement process led by an Aboriginal engagement specialist or another person that is culturally appropriate will help to ensure that cultural protocols and recognition are incorporated into the process and ethical and legal requirements met. Incorporate tailored sessions that support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander stakeholders to speak up and share knowledge about their Country, heritage, culture, community, and the project.

Some basic strategies can be implemented include:

- Know the Country the session is being facilitated on.
- Learn how to perform an Acknowledgment of Country.
- Through sharing knowledge write down additional stakeholder names that are suggested. This is a method of expanding the stakeholder list that will enable you to speak to the appropriate peoples, this method is called the 'Koori grapevine'.
- Sharing knowledge can be one on one, or in a group.

Cultural and intellectual property rights for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples include their right to:

- Own, control and protect their cultural and intellectual property in accordance with the principle of self-determination.
- Be recognised as the custodians and interpreters of their culture and oversee how their stories and information is presented.
- Allow or deny the use of their cultural and intellectual property according to customary law.
- Maintain the privacy of their knowledge and other cultural practices.
- Control the recording, sharing, and storing of records which hold their cultural knowledge, skills and customs, expressions, images, and language(s) intrinsic to their cultural identity.
- Be fully and properly acknowledged for sharing their heritage,
- Be remunerated for sharing their knowledge and expertise, and
- ACT Government should include appropriate recognition and cultural intellectual property principles and protections when undertaking consultancies and/or procurement for projects within the Western Edge Investigation Area.

1. NSW Government (2022) 'Movement & Place Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Engagement' Transport for NSW

Engagement with Young People²

Young people are best placed to suggest solutions to government about the issues that affect them and their communities. Young people have a range of experiences, thoughts, ideas and perspectives that can enrich decision making processes and policy/project outcomes.

Engagement with young people goes beyond giving them a voice. It is about ensuring young people are valued and that their contribution is respected, considered and acted upon. The benefits of engaging young people in a meaningful way is that they:

- feel valued by their community;
- can express their needs and ideas;
- build increased confidence to participate in their communities and in decision making processes; and
- increase their knowledge about government and non-government processes and the ways in which they can influence the decision making processes that impact on them.

We often talk about ‘young people’ and ‘adults’ as polarised opposites. But it is important to remember that when we describe ‘young people’ usually this is defined as people aged 12 to 25 years of age. This means that those who are 18 to 25 are legal adults themselves but still face many of the same challenges, barriers and issues of those under 18.

Therefore, it is important the engagement process and information provided consider the different age groups you will be working with and the differing needs of each age cohort.

Importantly, if you are engaging with young people under 18 years of age then your engagement must comply with ACT legislation and in particular The Children and Young People Act 2008 which is the legislative instrument for the provision of care and protection for children and young people in the ACT. It is always good practice for employees that are working with or engaging with children and young people to have a working with children check.

The Office of Youth Engagement delivers the Youth InterACT Strategy by, supporting and encouraging young people’s contribution to consultations on issues that affect them. The Office is actively involved in coordinating and supporting strategic government projects and policies that promote young Canberrans participation and engagement. The Office is located within the Inclusion and Participation Division.

Engagement with people from culturally diverse backgrounds³

Multicultural communities make significant social, cultural and economic contributions to the success of the ACT. Like all social and cultural groups, multicultural communities have diverse needs that traditional communications do not always meet.

However, the main reasons why engagement with culturally diverse groups is not done effectively is usually due to the lack of resources, experience or capacity in engaging with culturally diverse communities. Previously failed attempts can result in a belief that the issue was not of interest or there was no need in culturally diverse communities.

Delivering successful engagement with culturally diverse communities not only benefits the design, delivery and use of programs or services, it also establishes relationships that can bear fruit over the medium to long term.

Investing in quality translations, culturally appropriate messages and images that are accessible by diverse communities ensures people feel invited to the discussion. Many NGOs employ culturally diverse and multilingual staff with strong grassroots connections to communities and are often at the coalface of issues affecting CaLD communities.

Given the role of multicultural and ethno-specific organisations in many communities, it is important to understand how to access them and engage with them. Some common barriers to people from diverse cultural backgrounds engaging with government can include:

- Not being used to the invitation to voice an opinion, especially to a government authority
- Limited knowledge about decision making processes and/or lack of trust in authority or government structures

² SA Government (nd) ‘Better Together: A Practical Guide to Effective Engagement with Young People’

³ Multicultural NSW (nd) ‘Tools and Resources for Multicultural Planning Engagement’ <https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/resources/tools-and-resources-for-multicultural-planning-engagement/>

WA Government (2014) Engaging Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

- Low English proficiency and/or poor literacy skills
- For young people from culturally diverse backgrounds, it could be the difficulty of getting parental permission to participate
- Avoidance of potential discrimination such as racism
- Feelings of dislocation and isolation from traditional cultures and practices
- Experiences of past trauma and torture which can introduce physical and mental health issues

Some ways to overcome these barriers include:

- Identify and understand key community leaders and influencers who can help to increase understanding and grow better knowledge.
- Engaging with people in the places and community settings they are comfortable in - at local shops, cultural events, religious structures and sporting events. If you can, meet them where they live, work, and gather rather than expecting them to come to you.

4. Areas of Influence

(Acknowledging the various scales and magnitude of impact)

Stakeholder mapping can be undertaken in various ways. One of those is provides a geo-spatial understanding of the areas impacted by the project and the level of engagement according to each zone.

The Study Area is primarily within the district of Stromlo but also extends into the Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Belconnen districts, generally bounded by the Murrumbidgee River to the west and south and existing suburban development to the east and north.

The Western Edge Investigation Area engagement approach has defined the following geospatial engagement zones (see Figure 7), which would be reviewed as the project progresses and the investigation area is refined.

The engagement zones for the early stages of investigation could be:

Zone 1: is the closest to the project site and will frequently impact stakeholders. This could include stakeholders such as the rural land holders and Mt Stromlo Observatory (ANU), and University of Canberra Stromlo (UC Stromlo).

Zone 2: is the adjoining areas where stakeholders often deal with the project. Impacts are not as significant as in Zone 1, but they are still important.

Zone 3: 'stakeholders' interactions' with the project are limited or restricted to a specific project phase.

5. Asking the right questions

(Understanding what is valued and important)

Our individual experiences of a place, community interactive, connections and life in general influence how we see the world around us, what aspects we value and what is important.

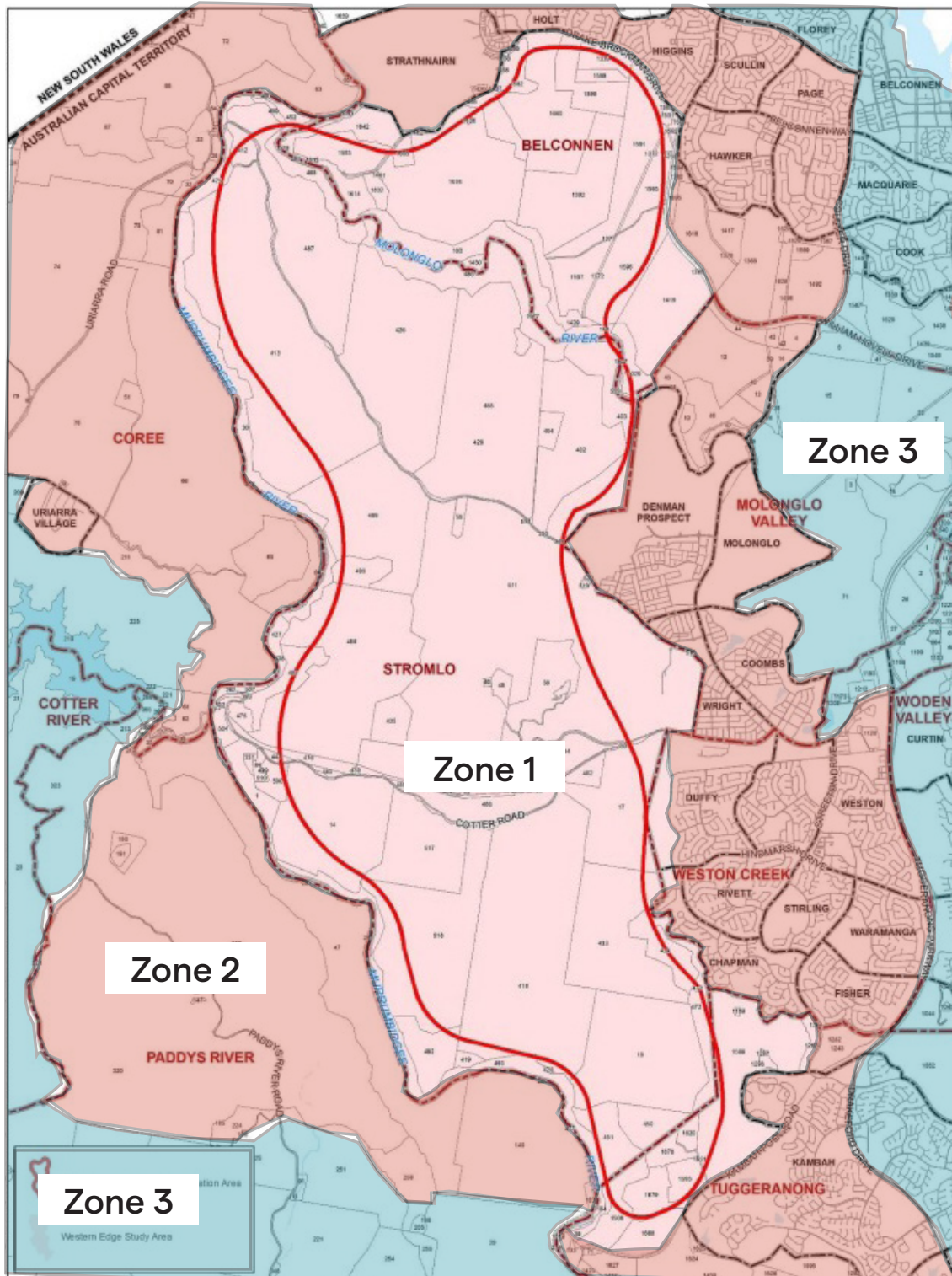
This is not the same for everyone and effective engagement should seek to reveal the various aspect of a place and/or community that are considered valuable and important.

Rather than asking generic open ended questions about what this place would look like in 30 years, questions about what aspects of place and the community do people value and why.

Providing adequate information to communities and stakeholders will also lead to more informed questions. Through the review of previous engagement undertaken for the District Strategies, it is clear that the ACT community understand and acknowledge that more housing is required to support a growing population. By combining this knowledge with questions about values, the future planning can understand the trade offs that communities may be willing to accept and those aspects that they are not.

'Go-Along and walk' with local community members to experience first-hand the important features and aspects of a place, the stories, how they use the built and natural environment and identify the potential disruptions to these resulting from the project. Use jargon free language that communities will understand which will help build confidence and support meaningful participation in discussions and decisions about the project.

Figure 7: Potential areas of influence for the Western Edge Investigation Area.



Key Moves: Potential Priority Engagement Activity Recommendations for the Western Edge Investigation Area.

The ACT Government (ESPDD) have a professional engagement and communications team that are across the most up to date and relevant tools and method to deliver effective engagement. This team should be the first point of contact when planning any future engagement process to support the planning and design for the Western Edge Investigation Area.

The consideration of the engagement approach and activities should be confirmed through a detailed engagement planning process for each individual stage of engagement.

In choosing the most appropriate approach, the decision about the types of activities to be delivered should be:

- Aligned to the purpose of the engagement and whether this can be achieved by the chosen activities.
- Supported with adequate and appropriate information to ensure participants are aware, informed and feel welcome/invited to contribute to the process
- Responsive to the stakeholder and issues mapping appropriate to the stage/scale of the project,
- Mindful and considerate of the sensitivity of the issues

The follow two key moves are suggested as priority engagement activities that enable the community and affected stakeholders to be part of the planning and design process from the beginning of the project. The also allows for ESPDD to consider particular issues and be proactive in working through solutions with community members and representatives of key local organisations.

The two ideas merely serve to illustrate what is possible to deliver on the principle for good engagement and the intentions of the engagement strategy for the Western Edge as the planning progresses.

KEY MOVE:

Western Edge Community Planning Panel

Engagement principles this key move delivers on:



Objective:

To ensure that the ACT Government's commitment to good engagement is demonstrated at the start of the project. The establishment of the Western Edge Community Planning Panel enables a diversity of viewpoints and voices to participate in the design, planning, and growth of the place.

Community working alongside ESPDD and other partners, in making decisions that affect planning and design of the Western Edge is critical to building trust and demonstrate a commitment to equitable representation in all aspects of the project, increased transparency and being inclusive.

Decisions that are made through an intersectional lens, will contribute to building a more inclusive place and nurturing a community that know they have a valued role in the future of a place they highly value.

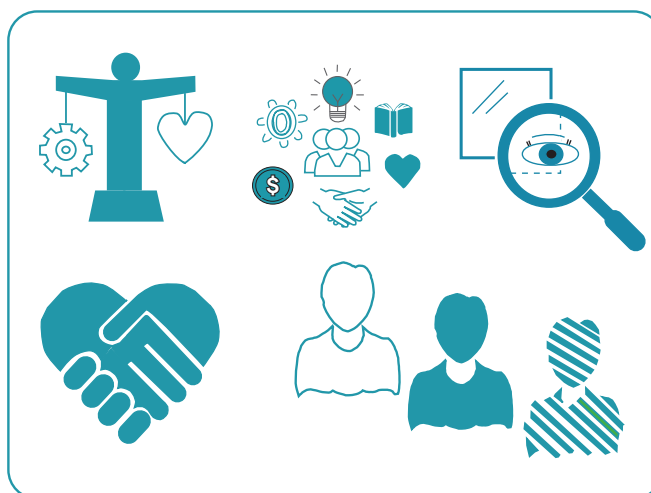
Implementation and Resourcing Recommendations:

- The community panel would be run and guided by established and sound governance principles to ensure there is transparency, accountability, and appropriate representation of interests with community representation as a constant.
- Membership would be a fixed term may evolve though the different phases (e.g., inclusion of construction partners during construction phase). All community members on the panel would be provided with training and up skill as well as be paid for their time and contribute
- A full time funded position would be required to effectively deliver this key move to manage the group and the secretariat function required. Partnerships with other ACT Government agencies could result in a shared funding arrangement.
- Payment to panel members for their time as well as the required leadership and skills training for members need to be costed into the implementation costs.
- Additional items such as venue hire, catering, expert consultant fees, and other discretionary costs (ie. travel) should also be factored in as a reoccurring annual operational budget item.

KEY MOVE:

Western Edge Advisory Groups

Engagement principles this key move delivers on:



Objective:

It is acknowledged that specific cultural groups and social cohorts that may not have easy access to participation require the creation of a deliberative space to explore issues and ideas specific to their communities which will help to build a more inclusive place.

It is challenging for one Community Advisory Group to represent all facets of a community. By identifying contextual places themes and/issues that may be important or of a sensitive nature, an appropriate representation of community and technical expertise can be harnessed to deliberate and provide appropriate and diverse representations to the ACT Government.

The purpose of these groups is to provide a short term focused exploration about an issue raised by government, the community, and stakeholders or to provide advice on the delivery of specific elements pertaining to the planning, design or development of the Western Edge.

Implementation and Resourcing Recommendations:

- First Nations Advisory Group would have a direct connection to and represent the existing groups across the ACT.
- The advisory group for young people could be set up as a partnership with the Youth Advisory Council or the ACT Youth Coalition and provide experience for young people in fulfilling the secretariat roles
- The advisory groups would provide recommendations and request through the ESPDD project team and it would also be at the discretion of ESPDD to delegate authority to these groups for decisions that directly affect their communities, if appropriate.
- Guided by established and sound governance principles (ie. a Terms of Reference) to ensure there is transparency, accountability, and appropriate representation of interests with a combination of community representation and subject matter experts.
- A full time funded position would be required to effectively deliver this key move giving the logistical and management requirements. Partnerships with appropriate community organisations and other ACT Government agencies could result in a shared funding arrangement.
- Additional items such as venue hire, catering, expert consultant fees, and a stipend for advisory group members for the time that attend and prepare for meetings should also be factored in.

Appendix 1: **Additional Engagement Guidance**

Preliminary Stakeholder Mapping + General
Engagement Tools

Preliminary Stakeholder Mapping for future Western Edge Investigation Area Engagement.

The following provides a preliminary stakeholder mapping exercise undertaken as part of the preparation of the draft framework. This list is not exhaustive and should be considered as a way to provide some context and illustrate an example of the type of organisations that would fall into each of the broad categories outlined in Part 5 of this Draft Framework.

The consideration of key stakeholders should be done for all individual engagement processes and be kept up to date throughout the planning for the Western Edge.

Organisation	Stakeholder Group	Notes
Elected Officials	Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory Elected representatives	Electorates of Brindabella; Ginninderra and Murrumbidgee. Relevant Ministers
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body	Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory Elected representatives	The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT a strong democratically elected voice. The seven members are elected to represent the interests and aspirations of the local Indigenous community.
United Ngunnawal Elders Council	Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory Advisory Group First Nations	Aboriginal body providing advice to the ACT Government in relation to heritage and connection to land matters for the Ngunnawal people. The Council is made up of representatives nominated by each of the Ngunnawal family groups. The Council meets up to four times a year in Canberra.
Youth Advisory Council (YAC)	Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory Advisory Group Young People	YAC provides advice on youth issues to the Minister, giving young people a voice in the ACT Government. YAC is made up of 15 members who are all young people aged between 12 and 25 years (inclusive) at the time of their appointment
ACT Disability Reference Group	Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory Advisory Group Disability	The advisory group which works to ensure the ACT Government is aware of the issues which affect people with disability in the ACT. It also advises the ACT Government on ways to be a more inclusive community for people with disability. Members of the Reference Group draw on their own experience and their broader engagement with people with disability, as their carers and service providers to provide that advice.
ACT Multicultural Advisory Council	Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory Advisory Group CaLD	Multicultural Advisory Council gives culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans opportunities to take leading roles in participation and consultation on issues that affect their lives. The Council is a link between members of Canberra's culturally diverse communities, the ACT Government and the wider community. It provides advice to the Minister to raise awareness of the aspirations, needs and concerns of culturally diverse communities, within government and the community.
ACT Government Directorates	Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory	Various
National Capital Authority	Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory	
ACT Conservation Council	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Environment	The Conservation Council ACT Region is a not for profit, non-government peak body that represents more than 40 member environmental groups. They work to protect the environment of the Canberra region for future generations through advocacy, campaigning and community engagement.
Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee	Non Government Organisations + Agencies First Nations Environment	An advisory group that provides the ACT Government with Ngunnawal ecological knowledge in land management to support culturally appropriate decision making,
Buru Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation	Non Government Organisations + Agencies RAO First Nations	A declared Representative Aboriginal Organisation (RAO), it was established as a NFP to meet the changes in legislation at all levels of Government that requires Aboriginal people to be consulted about their Culture. It also imparts knowledge about Aboriginal culture and practices to build a better community awareness to ensure that the cultural heritage of the Ngunnawal people would be protected and conserved for future generations.

Organisation	Stakeholder Group	Notes
King Brown Tribal Group	Non Government Organisations + Agencies RAO First Nations	A declared Representative Aboriginal Organisation (RAO)
Mirrabee	Non Government Organisations + Agencies RAO First Nations	A declared Representative Aboriginal Organisation (RAO)
Ngarigu Currawong Clan	Non Government Organisations + Agencies RAO First Nations	A declared Representative Aboriginal Organisation (RAO)
Belconnen Community Council	Advocacy organisations local community council	A volunteer-led community organisation that aims to foster Belconnen's community identity, to facilitate community consultation, and to be a strong voice for the community.
Weston Creek Community Council	Advocacy organisations local community council	A forum for residents to convey concerns to government. It is non-party political group and lobbies government and bureaucrats for services and facilities for the residents of Weston Creek on behalf of residents.
Molonglo Valley Community Forum	Advocacy organisations local community council	Formed in 2020, this non-political and secular group aims to preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Molonglo Valley and its community.
Tuggeranong Community Council	Advocacy organisations local community council	The Council is a non political, peak organisation with members from a wide range of residents, in the Tuggeranong Valley. Membership is open to all residents living in Tuggeranong or persons running a business in Tuggeranong as well as individuals who live in the Tuggeranong area.
ACT Scientific Committee	Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory Statutory Advisory Body	A statutory expert body appointed by the Minister for the Environment under the Nature Conservation Act 2014. Members of the ACT Scientific Committee have expertise in biodiversity and/or ecology, conservation science and conservation management.
ACT Heritage Council	Government Authorities, Agencies + Advisory Statutory Advisory Body	An independent, statutory body responsible for a range of provisions under the Heritage Act 2004. The Council comprises 9 members - 3 public representatives one each representing the Aboriginal community, the community, and the property ownership, management, and development sector and 6 experts in architecture, archaeology, history, landscape architecture, Aboriginal history, Aboriginal culture, engineering, town planning, urban design, nature.
Greater Canberra	Advocacy organisations Housing	A community advocacy group committed to affordable and high-quality housing in Canberra and better planning policy can create a more liveable city.. Members are a mix of renters and homeowners, at different stages of life and levels of wealth, and come from a variety of backgrounds and professions. Members also come from many political parties.
Pedal Power	Advocacy organisations Peak Body Transport	Canberra's largest cycling organisation, Pedal Power represents around 6,000 members, and our team of paid staff is supported by hundreds of volunteers. The vision is for Canberra to become the cycling capital of Australia.
Australian National University (ANU)	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Educational + research Institutions	
University of Canberra (UC)	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Educational + research Institutions	

Organisation	Stakeholder Group	Notes
Canberra Institute of Technology	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Educational + research Institutions	
ACT Outdoor Education Association	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Professional Association Education	The peak body representing Outdoor Educators in the ACT region. Provides members with ongoing access to professional development, lobbying of Governments and statutory authorities such as NSWNP
ACT Rural Landholders Association	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Rural	The ACT Rural Landholders' Association is the peak body for primary producers in the Territory. The association exists to support our members – the current custodians of the Territory's rural lands – that produce food and fibre and look after nature on land and water.
Planning Institute of Australia ACT/NSW Division	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Professional Association Built Environment	PIA is the national body representing planning and the planning profession, serving and guiding thousands of planning professionals in their role of creating better communities.
Institute of Architects ACT Chapter	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Professional Association Built Environment	AIA is the peak body for architecture committed to demonstrating the value of architecture to the public whilst strengthening our profession and the practice of architecture. Dedicated to improving our built environment and the communities we call home by promoting quality, responsible, sustainable design and advocating on behalf of the profession for the benefit of all Australians.
Institute of Landscape Architects ACT Chapter	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Professional Association Built Environment	As the peak body for Landscape Architecture in Australia since 1966, AILA represents members' interests at the very highest levels. In this, we are governed by an elected board of directors who receive strategic support from our state chapters.
Community Housing Industry Association	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Professional Association Housing	CHIA is the peak industry body for the Australian community housing industry, which provides one in five of Australia's social housing properties, complementing public housing. CHIA undertakes research, policy development and advocacy in relation to social and affordable housing issues.
ACT Shelter	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Housing	Provides strategic advice and advocacy, consults and represents the community on housing policy issues that affect people with no, or on low to moderate incomes. This includes people who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness.
Data61 Canberra City	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Technology	With more than 1,100 staff, including 400+ resident PhD students, we're Australia's leading digital research powerhouse. We have the research capabilities, intellectual property, collaboration programs and global outlook to unleash our digital and data-driven potential.
Property Council of Australia ACT	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Property Development	
Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) - ACT/NSW	Advocacy Organisation Peak Body Property Development	
Real Estate Institute ACT	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Property Development	Provides administration support to the real estate industry.
Canberra Business Chamber	Advocacy Organisation Peak Body Business	Member based, non-government association for retailers in the ACT and region. Provides support and advice on the full range of issues involved in operating a retail business.
Tuggeranong and Regional Business Forum	Advocacy Organisation Peak Body Business	Forum for local businesses to connect, share ideas, identify barriers to growth and development, articulate solutions and relay these to the appropriate bodies. Encourages government and private sector investment and re-investment. Develops relationships with other local peak business bodies and community groups. Coordinates community development in aspects including the arts, transport, education, tourism, transport, medical and other scientific discovery.

Organisation	Stakeholder Group	Notes
Landcare ACT	Advocacy Organisation Peak Body Environment	An umbrella group who help support and promote the over 60 community groups who help look after urban parklands, countryside, nature reserves and waterways. Landcare ACT has linkages to the National Landcare Network and resources have been provided through the national network to engage volunteers in fire recovery.
National Parks Association of the ACT	Advocacy Organisation Environment	Conservation group promoting National Parks and the protection of fauna and flora, scenery, natural features and cultural heritage in the ACT.
Friends of Grasslands (FoG)	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Environment	FOG look to conserve grasslands through hands-on projects, working parties, advocacy and education work. Members of the Friends of Grasslands have a high level of expertise in grassland ecosystems preservation and management.
Canberra Orchid Society	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Environment	
Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG)	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Environment	COG is a group of keen bird watchers and carry out a number of bird monitoring programs to better understand bird populations across the ACT.
Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Network	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Environment	A key organisation for networking, learning and discussing natural resource management issues and activities across the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment. The UMCN provides a strong connection between community groups and government bodies
Canberra Astronomical Society	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Scientific	CAS is committed to promoting cooperation between amateur and professional astronomers and has active public outreach and education programs. CAS undertakes astronomy outreach in the local community, and works with the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics (RSAA) at the Mt. Stromlo Observatory
Friends of Mount Stromlo	Affected Communities Community Interest Groups + Organisations Recreation	Friends of Mt Stromlo is a place for people who love the outdoors and who use this wonderful facility that is, Mt Stromlo. Be it for bike riding, hiking, running, horse riding or anything else you can do at this Mt in the middle of Canberra.
Canberra Off-Road Cyclists (CORC)	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Recreation	CORC is the largest mountain bike club in Australia. CORC affiliated with Mountain Bike Australia in 1999 as an MTBA Foundation Club. Offers a variety of competitive and social activities for riders of all ages and abilities. The club runs about 70 racing events each year, including, the Australian 24hour Mountain Bike Championships.
Canberra Bushwalking Club	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Recreation	With over 400 members, this group founded in 1961 provides a group for people interested in bushwalking, canoeing, canyoning, caving, conservation work parties, cross-country skiing, cycling, geocaching, and liloing.
ACT Equestrian Association	Advocacy organisations Community Interest Groups + Organisations Recreation	ACTEA was established in 1970 as an umbrella organisation to represent all equestrians in Canberra. ACTEA represents 20 affiliated groups such as pony clubs, showjumping, trail riding, dressage, horse trials and endurance. Aims include to Promote the development of equestrian facilities in the ACT; and encourage the support of equestrian activities by the Commonwealth and ACT Government and other persons and organisations.
Families ACT	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Young People	Peak body supporting organisations working with children, young people and families in the ACT and surrounding region. Provides information, sector development and advocacy for members and a proactive voice to government on relevant local and regional issues.
Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation (Gugan Gulwan)	Community Interest Groups + Organisation Service Providers Young People First Nations	Established and Incorporated under the Aboriginal Councils Act 1976 on 17 August 1992. It was created to support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families in the ACT and surrounding regions to thrive and succeed.

Organisation	Stakeholder Group	Notes
Council on the Ageing (ACT)	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Older People	COTA ACT informs and influences Federal, State and Local Government, the business sector and the general community to deliver better outcomes for people aged 50 and over. We regularly undertake research to seek the views of our members. We ask "what concerns an older person?"
ACT Council of Community Services	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Service Providers Community	Peak representative body for not for profit organisations, disadvantaged and low income citizens of the ACT. Part of the national COSS network. Promotes equitable socioeconomic policies and supports the development of a well resourced, cohesive and sustainable community sector. Offers advice, information and resources to community organisations.
Volunteering ACT	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Community	VolunteeringACT is the peak body for volunteering and community information services. We are volunteering experts in the Canberra Region and represent and support volunteerism, to promote its potential and growth for the common good, and to respond to the many opportunities and challenges created by such a diverse activity.
Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA)	Community Interest Groups + Organisation Advocacy Disability	Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA) is a national peak body for Disability Advocacy Services - it does not provide direct services to the community.
Deaf ACT	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Disability	Providing sports, advocacy and recreational to the deaf and hard of hearing in Canberra and the surrounding area. It promotes the recognition and acceptance of methods of communication preferred by Deaf people and aims to foster pride in the Deaf community, its language and its culture.
Canberra Blind Society	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Disability	A NFP organisation and provides information, services and assistance to people who are blind or have a vision impairment in Canberra and the local region. Provides a safe and welcoming environment through programs, community engagement and social events.
National Heart Foundation ACT Division	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Health	The Heart Foundation advocates to government and industry to improve heart health in Australia. Focuses on physical activity, the built environment, healthy eating and being smoke-free.
National Council of Women ACT Inc	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Gender	Committed to a single goal; equal opportunity for women. A private, non-profit organisation that represents a cross section of womens' organisations from across Canberra. Initiatives to advance the status of women and to promote change.
A Gender Agenda	Community Interest Groups + Organisations LGBTIQ+ Gender	Supports the goals and needs of the intersex, transgender and gender diverse communities of Canberra and the surrounding region. Through education, advocacy, peer support and professional networks we connect people to each other and build off the wisdom of collective experiences.
Diversity ACT	Community Interest Groups + Organisations LGBTIQ+	A community based, registered charity, run by volunteers that provides a service hub, social worker, support networks, groups and community resources to assist the LGBTIQ+ community of the ACT region.
Canberra Inclusive Partnership	Community Interest Groups + Organisations LGBTIQ+	This partnerships is made up of lead organisations in Canberra working with the LGBTIQ+ communities and linking people with other relevant services.
Meridian	Community Interest Groups + Organisations LGBTIQ+	The Consortium is a partnership of four agencies brought together by the common goal of ensuring health, wellbeing, access, social inclusion and equity within the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) community. The Consortium is a robust, inclusive partnership of four Canberra based community organisations, working together to support our communities.
Queer Youth Together	Community Interest Groups + Organisations LGBTIQ+ Young people	Queer Youth Together (or QyouT pronounced "cute") is a program for young people (age 12 to 24) within the sexuality and gender diverse community. It provides a safe space for community connection, learning, mindfulness and fun.
Black Rainbow	Community Interest Groups + Organisations LGBTIQ+ First Nations	Black Rainbow is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Sistergirl and Brotherboy (LGBQTI+SB) organisation in the pursuit of positive health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lesbian LGBQTI+SB*

Organisation	Stakeholder Group	Notes
Communities at Work	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Service Provider Children Young People	Canberra's largest not-for-profit community organisation and the largest provider of Early Education and Care services,
Scouts Camp Cottermouth	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Service Provider Children Young People	Camp Cottermouth is Scouts ACT's camping, training and accommodation centre and is located within the WEIA. The Kangaroo Flat campground has a large number of sites in addition to the cabin accommodation, training and conference facilities, and camping for individual Scout formations or other youth development organisations.
Canberra PCYC	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Service Provider Children Young People	Canberra PCYC is empowering our young stars through a range of programs—sports, arts, education, and leadership training.
Woden Youth Centre	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Service Provider Young People	
Belconnen Youth Centre	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Service Provider Young People	
YMCA Canberra	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Service Provider Children Young People	YWCA Canberra is a feminist not-for-profit organisation that has provided community services and has represented women's issues in Canberra since 1929. The key areas of work are children's services, community development, housing, youth engagement, education and training and advocacy.
YWCA Canberra Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Service Provider Children Young People First Nations	Mura is a traditional Ngunnawal word meaning 'pathway' is part of the local community and plays an important role in providing pathways for community members to engage in social, cultural, recreational and educational activities within the community.
ACT Youth Coalition	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Young People	A peak youth affairs body that undertakes policy development, sector development, research and evaluation, advocacy and representation activities to improve outcomes for young people and their families. Responsible for representing and promoting the rights, interests and wellbeing of the estimated 78,000 young Canberrans aged 12-25 years and those who work with them.
Multicultural Association of Canberra	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Advocacy CaLD	The Multicultural Association of Canberra (MAC) is a non-profit organisation that aims to promote cultural diversity and inclusiveness in the ACT. The organisation is made up of a diverse group of volunteers from different cultural backgrounds who provide support, information, and resources to people from CaLD communities.
Multicultural Hub Canberra	Community Interest Groups + Organisations Service Provider CaLD	Multicultural Hub Canberra is a leading provider of services to the Canberra community. They support migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to access the resources they need to thrive in our city, and to feel connected to their community.
Multicultural Youth Services	Community Interest Groups + Organisations CaLD Young People	Part of the Multicultural Hub Canberra, the programs acknowledge the strengths and challenges of young people and are developed and delivered in consultation with young people themselves.
Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF)	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Advocacy CaLD	The CMCF is a peak body representing more than 100 ethnic and associated community organisations in the Australian Capital Territory and its surrounding area. Represents the needs and aspirations of the diverse communities of the ACT, providing strong leadership, cohesion and accountability and advocacy services. Promotes common interests and articulates the purpose and direction of the multicultural community.
ScreenACT	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Advocacy Arts	Supports the growth of the local screen industry and provides assistance to emerging and established industry members and visiting productions to find a location and production support from the local industry..
Craft ACT	Non Government Organisations + Agencies Peak Body Arts	Craft and Design Centre is a NFP organisation which supports artists, craft practitioners, designers and makers at every stage of their careers. We promote and celebrate excellence and innovation in contemporary craft, in the retail space, exhibitions, events and membership program.

Overview of Engagement Tools

The following provides an overview of some of the established community engagement tools and approaches that can be utilised for future community engagement. This list is generic in order to illustrate a diversity of tools that can be utilised and is by no means

The International Association for Public Participation is the peak body for Their Community Engagement Model is a recognised and established model for effective community engagement (See Figure 8).

They also have a framework which is commonly used - IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation - to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The table below illustrates this spectrum.

Increasing impact on the decision					
	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public Participation Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
Promise to Public	We will keep you informed	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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Organisation Leads Organisation Acts	Organisations lead engagement and seek input to shape the policies, projects and services for which they are responsible. This is a familiar and traditional approach to policy development, project management and service delivery. Engagement is used to both inform the community about the proposed policy, project or propositions and to provide some input to the shape or execution of the policy, project or proposition. Final decision making sits with the organisation and its governors and the organisation is responsible for its action.
Organisation Leads Community Acts	Organisations can lead the conversation with communities and individuals take responsibility for action.
Community Leads Organisation Acts	A community leads in this profile to identify, highlight and propose the action required to solve a problem or take an opportunity. To achieve the desired action requires the response of a focal organisation. The community alone cannot achieve the desired result and therefore advocates to motivate the organisation to act.
Community Leads Community Acts	Communities can lead the conversation and have responsibility for the action. Communities in a range of areas, from sport and recreation to community well-being, environmental action and education, are able to support, design, resource and deliver their own programs, services and activities. Community organisations and NGO's need to engage with community members to gather support, build understanding and commitment and to deliver the session.
Shared Leadership And Action	Leadership and actions can be shared, where communities and organisations participate and contribute to the decisions, and also lead and take responsibility for action towards the outcomes. This collaborative arrangement shared decision making, management and responsibility for delivery required to meet shared outcomes.

Figure 8: IAP2 Community Engagement Model
(source: IAP2)

Engagement Tools + Activities

1. Co-Design or Human Centred Design Approach¹

Co-design enables a wide range of people and stakeholders to contribute to understanding the nature of a problem and make a creative contribution to formulating the problem's solution. This is a participatory approach in which the community and/or representatives of affected stakeholder groups are part of the solutions/policy development. This approach is also at times referred to as design thinking.

Co-design involves thinking through policy and service challenges from a customer or citizen's perspective. Stakeholders and communities affected by the policy are involved in its design.

The process of development is iterative (rather than confirming everything up front). This allows the process of learning to influence design. The policy developer's role is seen as being more like facilitators, rather than creators or experts.

The participants collectively draft criteria for the project's success and identify the potential challenge to be solved from a particular perspective and help to make a decision about the relevance of a design-led approach.

Participants are identified, often those affected or impacted by a policy. Policy advisors facilitate a workshop or series of workshops usually with multi-disciplinary teams from relevant parts of government, citizens, and other relevant stakeholders.

Where appropriate, the government team will work with stakeholders to:

- frame the issue and evaluate what further information is needed
- explore lived experiences and key issues
- imagine the opportunities and brainstorm, scope and assess options
- test their risks and costs with prototypes and piloting initiatives.

Figure9 illustrates the co design engagement approach.

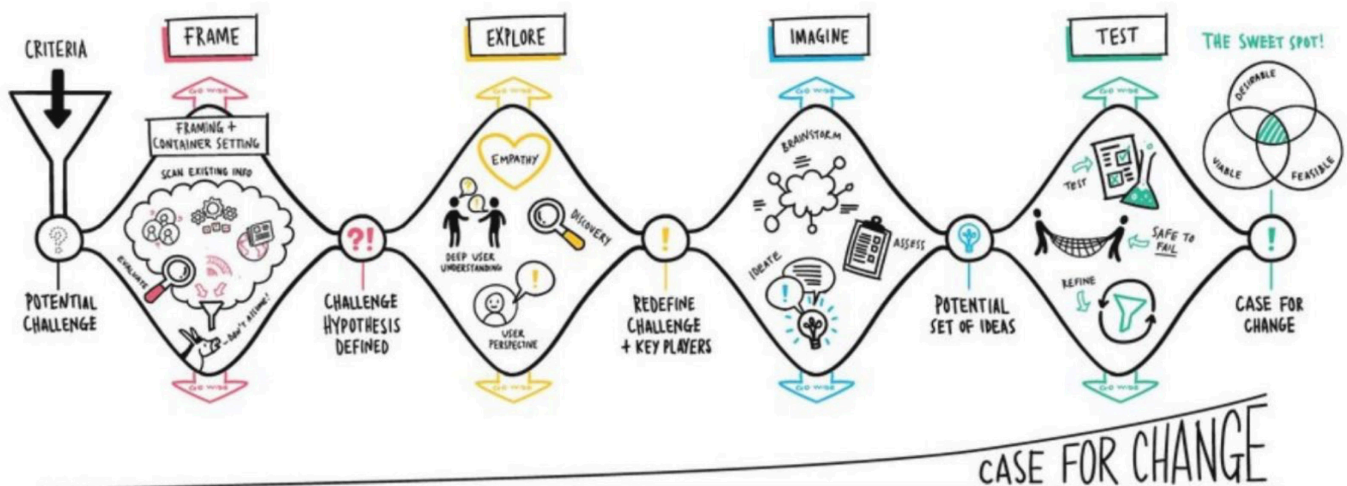


Figure 9: Co-Design/Human Centred Design/Design Thinking process
(source: Auckland Co-Design Lab)

1. Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (2023) "Selecting Methods for Community Engagement" The Policy Project

2. Tools to inform about the project, an issue, process, or changes to policy + place.

The following tools are commonly used when it is necessary to provide information about a project, issue, process, change and seek initial feedback to inform the policy, planning and/or design development.

These tools are also commonly used to when a policy, plan or design has already been developed and feedback on a predetermined position/idea is needed. It is important to be clear with stakeholders about the level of influence and change that their input will have on the outcome of the project. As uncertainty may result in unmet expectations and greater risk to the project outcomes. It is suggested that these tools are not used when dealing with issues that are controversial and sensitive or projects proposing significant change.

Public meetings

Public meetings and drop-in sessions are a great way to engage with the community and learn about the community's needs. These meetings can be open to anyone who wants to attend, or they can be invite-only. While this activity allows the provision of information to a large audience, it may also only attract a limited cross section of the community. The primary purpose is providing information rather than receiving as there is limited opportunity for community members to be heard or provide feedback in a comfortable environment.

For contentious issue, this activity is not appropriate as it doesn't allow for in depth discussions and can easily create significant conflict when community feels they have not had an opportunity to provide their feedback.

Drop In Information Sessions/ Open Days

Involves the provision at a central location of displays, printed information and project team representatives to answer questions or discuss issues within an informal, and less structured environment. This type of activity enables the public to participate at a time convenient to them, obtain information, have a chat, engage at their own pace and even to participate anonymously.

The more informal nature of the activities and being able to have a discussion at a pace suitable to the participant enables a more calm two way conversation about issues, even those that are more contentious.

The ability for one-on-one also provides opportunity to correct misinformation via direct contact with communities of interest and individual and can help to minimise risk to the project.

This type of activity is more likely to meet the information and interaction needs of community members who are not attracted to typical and large public meetings. However, community members may come along expecting a more formal presentation or workshop setting.

However, these sessions are staff intensive and relies on strong communication and interpersonal skills. Participation is not guaranteed or easy to predict and may not attract target audiences instead only be attended by residents that are meeting regulars.

Community briefings/presentations.

The provision of presentations to, and interaction with key stakeholder groups builds a relationship with those who may be significantly affected by the project or have a particular expertise or hold knowledge. Addresses to community groups may be a very useful technique to disseminate information and solicit feedback on a particular project/initiative/issue.

Groups with an identifiable interest and relevance can be targeted and reached. This type of activity is relatively easy to organise, cost effective and provides information directly to people that usually have a large network and community connections.

Peak bodies, advocacy groups, local community organisations, service clubs, churches, men's sheds etc. are most commonly interested in presentations on relevant topics. These briefings/presentations also give the project team the opportunity to reflect, evaluate and adjust messages and explore new working relationships.

Webinar

A webinar is an interactive online event where a group of participants can listen to a speaker who delivers a presentation or seminar by sharing their remote screen. The organiser of a web-based webinar can also conduct interactive polls and Q&A sessions to keep the audience engaged.

This activity is cost effective and enables remote participation with people in a space that they are most comfortable. However, for older communities, remote and rural communities and communities with highly levels of disadvantage, webinars may not be accessible due to poor or no internet connection or limited technology knowledge.

Telephone information hotline

Comprises the use of the telephone to provide and/or solicit information on a particular issue/initiative/concern. Service is personally manned or through the use of an answering service.

Use of this tool provides easy access for community members. It offers an inexpensive and simple device for publicity, information and public input and is a convenient and direct way people can access information about the project. However, this activity is for information giving only and provides no opportunities to interact with community on issues.

Engagement Idea Boards

Involves the design and printing of large display boards through to post card size cards which provide community members with the opportunity to submit ideas or responses to a particular issue or question. Ideal for distribution through community spaces' like local coffee shops or libraries or as an additional response outlet at other engagement activities.

These activities can include 'dotmocracy' boards, survey and poll style questions, post-it note ideas walls, 'big idea' cards etc.

This type of activity is fun and easy for all ages to participate. It can generate many ideas or responses in a single session and taps into individual creativity and ideas. However, it only allows for limited two-way exchange of ideas, and in most cases little to no opportunity to statistically measure agreement on particular responses or ideas.

Vox Pops or Photovoice

Vox Pops or photovoice aims to add a visual element to engagement processes. It is a process where community members record information and express ideas, priorities, issues and concerns through photography or short video interviews.

Vox pops, comes from Latin meaning 'voice of the people'. A vox pop is a short video made up of clips taken from interviews with members of the public. Video's investigate public opinion towards widely known topics, issues and plans and are commonly used as a market research tool. These videos can be on-the-street style, to in-home interviews and mobile video diaries. Traditionally, they refer to an on-the-street intercept interview.

For photovoice, participants photograph their choices, suggestions and/or decisions which are then mounted as a photographic exhibition (with a one-line statement) to stimulate wider community conversation.

These activities are interactive and creative. They provide a pictorial evidence of community issues and is an alternative means of expression which may help include those who are more visual.

Participants are not required to commit a significant amount of time to be involved and is effective to gain the thoughts and ideas of particularly communities of interest such as young people, people with children or caring duties and people who are generally time poor.

Given the visual nature of the engagement activities, the results can easily be used in the media (print/television/interactive technologies) and with the widespread use of mobile phones and digital camera, very easy for people to engage.

The limitation of these type of activities is that is only provides a snapshot of an area or issue from which further discussion will likely be needed. There is also minimal opportunities for a two-way conversation. It also may minimise the participation of older people or people who are not tech savvy as well as people that, for many reasons may require their identity to be protected.

Surveys

Surveying is both a communication channel and an important data collection tool, whereby participants are asked to self-report their experiences or opinions via a questionnaire. Many organisations conduct regular surveys (ie. annual) to gauge the needs of communities and track the changes over time.

A survey questionnaire can be mailed-out, completed as street intercepts, compiled through face to face interviews, completed over the telephone, or increasingly, completed on the internet. This can be in the form of an open online community, with an open conversation through a web page or using a specific platform or survey software.

Surveying may involve blanket, random or selected distribution. Questionnaires ensure that exactly the same questions are presented to each person surveyed, and this helps with the reliability of the results. There are companies that specialise in survey design and delivery and can provide surveys that provide a representative sample of the population. While this type of survey is statistically robust, it is also expensive to deliver.

Surveys are less personal than interviewing, however their anonymity can encourage more honest answers. While they enable the gathering of consistent and specific information, there is no opportunities for follow ups to specific answers and to dig deeper into the issues, idea or solution offered.

Surveys are useful to reach participants who live in remote locations, those who have disability, are unable to attend a workshop or online meeting or are not comfortable these sorts of settings. Online surveys can generate a contact database and are relatively cost effective. In person or intercept surveys are limited to a specific time and place and are staff intensive, while online and telephone surveys allow people to participate at a time that is convenient to them.

Tapping into existing communication methods

These are the standard tools in the community engagement toolbox and some of the most traditional and effective methods. In the 'digital first' world, something on paper can be very powerful and important particularly if you have a elderly or ageing population. Various communication methods include:

- **Website:** general or set up a project specific website. Can also set up a community-based blog or link to various social media channels.
- **Printed Information:** can include fact sheets, brochures, newsletters, media advertising, letterbox drops, position papers, media release, flyers, postcards etc. Such information needs to inform, excite, encourage interest and solicit response. Can be directly mailed or conducted electronically through emails or via SMS.

While this communication method is relatively straightforward, and can inform large numbers of people, it is not targeted and the information being read and understood is not guaranteed. It also relies on a baseline reading ability of the border community. It is suggested that printed information be provided in multiple languages and also ways for people with visual impairment to also access information. It should also be used with a variety of other, more interactive techniques.

- **Hard copy + eNewsletters:** use this to send out fortnightly communications/updates – include user feedback and create call to actions
- **Newspaper advertisement or advertorial:** use of media through either paid advertising or use of editorial and interviews. Advertising can be used for information dissemination and/or solicitation of feedback through a clip out coupon. Securing free media is either via news release distribution or securing interview opportunities (print, radio or television)

- **Social Media:** organisations can also use social media to engage with their stakeholders. By creating a Facebook page, Instagram or TikTok account, they can provide updates on the progress of the project or advertise upcoming events.

Providing a 'social media pack' for local community organisations to inform their members. This pack could include social media tiles, FAQ's, project and event information. This allows for a wider reach and information is provided by organisations that have the trust of its members.

- **Information Displays:** intended to provide project information and raise awareness about particular issues. Displays can be interactive, and can be used as part of a forum, workshop, exhibition, conference or other event. Sites involving a static display may be located at shopping centres, government offices, libraries, community/neighbourhood centres, schools, childcare centres etc.
- **Events:** setting up displays or stalls at community days, events and festivals provides the opportunity to build the profile of the project and/or organisation to the broader public. It enables interaction with community members that may not have ordinarily been interested or attracted to a workshop or other activity.

3. Interactive sessions that involve the community in planning and policy development.

The most commonly use engagement activity that enables more interactive sessions, discussions and solutions/ideas development are community and/or stakeholder workshops. However, there are a range of techniques that are used effectively in a workshop setting as well as other activities that can involve the community in the planning and development of places and policy.

Workshops²

Designed to generate 'group' discussion and debate, workshops are a useful method to bring together stakeholders with different values. A workshop is best used when there is a specific focus/issue and a need to generate solutions. Workshop can be delivered in multiple ways - in person, online, or in place as a 'walkshop'.

Workshops can deliver a report, opinions, suggestions or plans that have been collaboratively developed and agreed to by all participants, on an issue or proposal.

2. Bank of I.D.E.A.S & ABC Learning Sites (nd) 'Practical techniques and tools for engaging communities'

There are a variety of participatory group techniques that can be used in the workshop process; including:

- **Brainstorming** :A method for developing creative options to a specific problem, issue or scenario. Participants come up with as many deliberately unusual solutions as possible and by pushing the ideas as far as possible.

During the brainstorming session there is no criticism of ideas. Once this has been done the results of the brainstorming session can be analysed and the best solutions can be explored. Brainstorming is particularly useful for generating lots of ideas in a short period; encouraging lateral and creative thinking; expanding, 'piggy backing' or 'leapfrogging' on the ideas of others; helping participants to temporarily suspend judgement or criticism; and helping shy individuals to participate more effectively.
- **Fishbowl**: represents an inner group of participants in a roundtable format involved in a decision- making process that is 'witnessed' by a larger group who have the opportunity for input and questioning
- **Mind Mapping**: developed by Tony Buzan, it is an effective method of notetaking and useful for the generation of ideas by associations. Mind maps help organise information. To make a mind map, one starts in the centre of the page with the main idea, and works outward in all directions, producing a growing and organised structure composed of key words and key images.
- **Nominal group technique**: a group process involving problem identification, solution generation, and decision making. It can be used in groups who want to make their decision quickly but want everyone's opinions taken into account (as opposed to traditional voting, where only the largest group is considered).

The method of tallying is the difference. Firstly, every member of the group gives their view of the solution, with a short explanation. Then, duplicate solutions are eliminated from the list of all solutions, and the members proceed to rank the solutions, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and so on.

- **Force Field analysis**: a technique devised by Kurt Lewin that looks at the factors (forces) that influence a situation. It looks at forces that are either driving movement toward a goal (helping forces) or blocking movement toward a goal (hindering forces). The tool is useful for making decisions by analysing the forces for and against a change, and for communicating the reasoning behind one's decision.
- **Values clarification exercise**: Values answer the question of why people do what they do and guide our actions towards the things we believe are good in some way or another. Value clarification exercises/games help to explore these values, beliefs, motivations and choices within the group context. Very helpful in prioritising e.g. dot democracy activity.
- **Visioning**: use of gaming and imagination techniques to develop preferred future scenarios, followed by the steps to make them happen.
- **Backcasting**: a method of analysing alternative futures and how desirable futures can be attained. It involves working backward from a desired future endpoint or set of goals to the present to determine the physical feasibility of a particular future and the measures required to reach that end point. End- points are usually chosen for a future of 25 to 50 years.

Focus Groups

Focus groups are a more intimate way to engage with a group of people and get their views on a particular issue, theme or project. They are smaller than workshops and is a structured group conversation-based interview situation. Focus groups are used to gather information focused on a particular topic/ issue. A facilitator conducts a 'group interview' gaining a comprehensive range of views from a small group of people (5-12 persons). A focus group may be conducted to gain opinions and views and/or generate ideas. Focus group discussions typically start broad and progressively focus the discussion on to a single question or point.

This activity allows an in-depth focus on a specific issue and through discussions can reveal subtle variations in community member views. The smaller group environment may generate different dynamics and allowing other issues and topics to be discussed and can often provide deeper insights into complex issues than interviews or larger workshops.

One-one-One/Stakeholder interviews

Involves a conversation with individuals who have a stake or interest in the issue/project. Conversations can occur in people's homes, work places, project office or community meeting locations e.g. local coffee shop. Door knocking initiative to businesses within a street regarding future street improvements is an example of an intercept interview, while one-on-one interviews are usually with invited and targeted key stakeholders.

Citizens' Panels/ Jury³

A Citizens' Jury is an innovative means of involving everyday people in the process of government decision-making. Citizen juries can be used to broker a conflict, or to provide a transparent and non-aligned viewpoint providing a transparent participatory process which can be seen to be independent and credible.

It provides a public democracy mechanism – a highly visible form of participation by which citizen jurors simply bring to the situation their own knowledge and personal experience. The Jury provides the opportunity to add to that knowledge and to exchange ideas with their fellow citizens. The result is a collective one, in which each juror has a valuable contribution to make.

Panels involving a couple of thousand stakeholders that represent their local communities are surveyed throughout the year by phone, post or even online. As the panels are held with the same people, it's possible to identify changes over time.

As the name suggests, in essence, a Citizens' Jury is a group of everyday people chosen by democratic lottery convened to consider a given topic and provide a response or recommendation to the governing body. In Australia and around the world, these juries have increasingly become recognised for their capacity to deliver outcomes that are trusted by the broader community.

Citizens' Juries work because they can convey to the wider community that citizens like them are being given complete access to information, are studying detailed evidence, and hearing from subject-matter experts of their own choosing.

Delivering this engagement activity however requires strong organisational support and commitment - both of time and financial resources - as the timeframe often requires six months to engage jury, hire facilitator, put together briefing or background papers

Community Liaison Group

Involves the formation of a local reference group comprising selected community members due to their expertise or interest in a topic. Groups are usually formed with a specific purpose and mandate to provide broad based input and advice, and usually over the long term (in contrast to focus groups). Ideally groups should be less than 12 people and no more than 15.

Involvement is open to a wide range of people and it is a cost-effective way to test ideas and options as its purpose is to build a two-way exchange.

Community Liaison Groups also help to build community commitment and ownership. They provide opportunities for exploring alternative strategies and building on commonalities and alliances as well as a detailed analysis of project issues, timelines and deliverables and a focus on the outcomes.

Participants gain an understanding of other perspectives leading toward an accepted and potentially agreed integrated outcome. The group is usually restricted to advisory role, and lacks any decision-making ability.

This activity is also resource intensive, requiring the provision of a staff resource to act in a secretariat role and a payment to participant for their time is common practice. While the membership can be defined by an endorsed terms of reference, depending on the final make up, it may not be representative of all interests and its success is dependent of effective leadership, structured meetings and providing participants with information and resources to add value.

Enquiry By Design⁴

An Enquiry by Design is an intensive planning and design session where community members, designers and others collaborate on a vision for their community development. It provides a forum for ideas and offers the unique advantage of giving immediate feedback to the designers.

Similar in procedure to a Charrette, the Enquiry-by-Design method is used in more specific instances of urban design such as single-sight redevelopment. Enquiry-by-Design is used in cases where an urban redevelopment project is thought to have positive, regenerative effects on the community

3. New Democracy What is a Citizens' Jury' www.newdemocracy.com.au/what-is-a-citizens-jury/

4. Enquiry By Design [participedia.net/method/4639]

The method used to select participants can vary from case to case and is primarily determined by the scope of the project and the level of actual or anticipated contention among stakeholders. Importantly, it allows everyone who participates to be a mutual author of the eventual plans, designs and actions. Usually occurs over a period from two or four days to two weeks long.

The engagement method allows the participation of various technical experts and community to explore local insight of the future and design options and in turn involvement can open up horizons for community members to imagine and visualise possibilities.

It is an excellent option when people need to cut across boundaries and work on a large, collaborative project and allows for input at a number of points in the process. Importantly, the process an exercise of transparency, where information is shared between the design professionals and the stakeholders of a project area.

By involving stakeholders, with the technical staff, this activity helps to builds commitment to implement plans and actions- ‘people support what they help to create’, can achieve unexpected outcomes, new energized community efforts and community creativity - provides joint problem solving and creative thinking and contributes to building stronger community capacity, local leadership and partnerships.

It should be noted that while this activity is collaborative and an effective engagement method, it is also time and cost intensive as it requires appropriate technical support, the process usually lasts anywhere from 2–14 days and time must be given to provide for reflection and refinement of plans and policy outcomes.

Participatory Budgeting⁵

This engagement method is another form of deliberative democracy. It is a process of democratic deliberation and decision- making, in which ordinary people decide how to allocate part of a public budget.

Participatory budgeting allows community members to identify, discuss, and prioritise public spending projects, and gives them the power to make real decisions about how money is spent. Participatory budgeting processes are typically designed to involve those left out of traditional methods of public engagement.

The often-cited best example of the engagement method being applied is the city government of Porto Alegre in Brazil. It convenes neighbourhood, regional and city-wide assemblies, with over 50,000 citizens participating, in which participants identify spending priorities. Since the practice was established, a range of improvements in governance, wellbeing and citizen engagement have been achieved, with an increase from 75 to 99% of homes having running water and the number of public schools almost tripling.

This participatory method aims to improve representation in participative processes by engaging a cross section of the community. It provides a transparent participatory process which can be seen to be independent and credible and enables citizens to develop a deep understanding of the funding decisions and funding arrangements.

Planning for Real⁶

Planning for Real is an engagement process centred on a 3-D model of a local area. Participants use the model to comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the place, and make suggestions of how they would like to see their community develop.

To begin the process the scale model is constructed by people living within the local community – this is often a task that a local school may take on. This creates a sense of ownership over the process and means the model can benefit from local knowledge.

This method offers community residents a ‘voice’ to bring about an improvement to their own neighbourhood or community. Community members via the 3D model of their neighbourhood/community; can construct their community vision by placing suggestion cards on the three-dimensional model, then sorting and prioritising the suggestions. The model is made so that it can be moved from venue to venue, allowing more people to participate.

The intended outcome of this technique is to deliver a design or plan that incorporates community ideas, needs and issues and that will therefore be more acceptable and useful to the community. It also aims to give the community a sense of ownership through the highly visual, ‘hands-on’ and participatory activity which results in a plan that may also incorporate elements of ongoing community involvement and monitoring.

5. UK Local Government Association ‘Participatory Budgeting’
www.local.gov.uk/topics

6. Involve UK ‘Methods: Planning for Real’
<https://involve.org.uk/resource/planning-real>

Planning for Real is especially useful for community planning, neighbourhood regeneration. It is a method that supports communities to identify issues in their neighbourhoods and work together, and in partnership with decision makers, to think about how to change or improve their neighbourhood. It also has appeal for those who are more visual/tactile in their approach and can help bridge language barriers in multicultural communities.

Planning for Real is also often used to build local community capacity and promote social cohesion. There is evidence that people who have been involved in these projects go on to play a more active role in community life.

Participatory GIS⁷

Participatory GIS (Geographic Information Systems) is a social learning tool that uses visual representations to aid facilitation.

GIS is used as a tool to capture, store, analyse and present data that is linked to a location. Participatory GIS takes this idea and uses it to engage people in particular issues. It uses digital maps, satellite imagery, sketch maps, and others to help involvement and awareness on a local level.

This type of engagement method creates a new perspective for local stakeholders. The visual aspect is easily engaging and its is adaptable for different social and cultural environments.

7. *Involve UK Methods: Participatory GIS*
<https://involve.org.uk/resource/participatory-gis>

