

ARCADIA

**Arcscott House**  
**Belconnen, Block 42, Section 65**  
Landscape Concept

Prepared for University of Canberra  
In association with Cox Architecture and Purdons  
June 2025

**We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live and work. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past, present and emerging whose knowledge and wisdom has and will ensure the continuation of cultures and traditional practices.**

<b>Rev A</b>	<b>Issued 25th May 2025</b>	<b>Landscape Concept Draft</b>
<b>Rev B</b>	<b>Issued 30th May 2025</b>	<b>Landscape Concept Final</b>
<b>Rev C</b>	<b>Issued 5th June 2025</b>	<b>Landscape Concept Final Update</b>

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# Executive Summary

Arcadia has been engaged as the landscape architect for the redevelopment of Block 42 Section 65 Belconnen, formerly home to Arscott House. The site sits on the edge of the Belconnen Town Centre and offers a significant opportunity to shape a connected, resilient, and community-focused mixed-use precinct.

The proposal seeks to support the transition from Community Facility Zone (CFZ) to Mixed Use Zone (CZ5), with the landscape strategy playing a critical role in delivering accessible public spaces, enhancing biodiversity, and connecting people to the broader Belconnen context.

The 10,378m<sup>2</sup> site is highly connected to key destinations, including transport routes, education facilities, and natural open spaces. The proposed public realm will stitch into this network with new pedestrian and cycle links, activated frontages, and a landscape corridor that brings amenity, ecology, and identity into the heart of the site. evolving identity.

The landscape scope explores opportunities across:

**Site Analysis & Design Principles:** celebrating the site's proximity to town centre amenities, enhancing biodiversity, and enabling park-like edges that support future community use.

**Structure Planning:** identifying key zones such as a potential university plaza, green buffers, and civic interface opportunities along Aikman Drive and Belconnen Boulevard.

**Circulation Planning:** shaping intuitive movement networks that support social connection and permeability.

**Look & Feel:** proposing a layered material and planting palette that reflects local character, integrates rooftop and undercroft environments, and strengthens ecological values through a central biodiversity corridor.

**Masterplanning:** presenting a unified vision for the public domain that supports mixed-use outcomes and long-term adaptability.

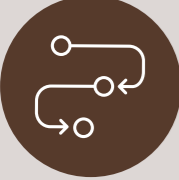
Through this approach, the landscape plays an integral role in shaping a bold, future-ready precinct that reflects Belconnen's growing community and evolving identity.


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# Key Site Opportunities + Principles


The Arcscott House site presents a unique opportunity to create a highly connected, green and people-focused public realm that strengthens the identity of the Belconnen Town Centre. The landscape vision draws from the site's ecological edges, parkland context, and strong movement networks to create an inclusive, accessible and biodiverse public domain.


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**Connected & Permeable**  
Prioritise pedestrian and cycle links between UC, Lake Ginninderra and the Town Centre.
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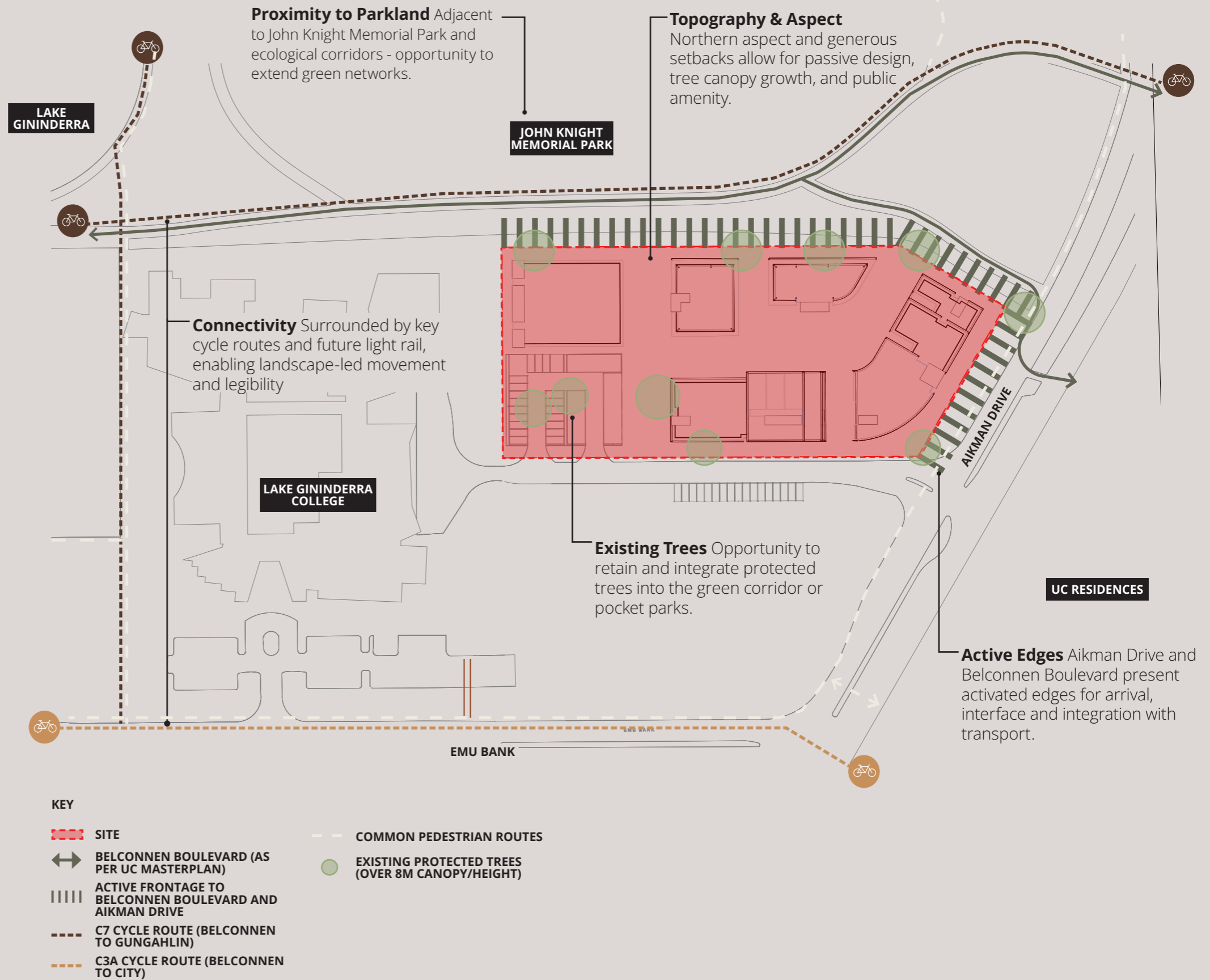
**Park-Integrated Living**  
Leverage proximity to John Knight Memorial Park through soft transitions, framed views, and biodiversity edges.
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**Community Activation**  
Integrate flexible, inclusive outdoor areas near the community zone to encourage gathering, programming, and daily use.
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**Biodiversity Corridors**  
Extend existing ecological corridors through the site via planting, deep soil zones, and habitat-supportive design.
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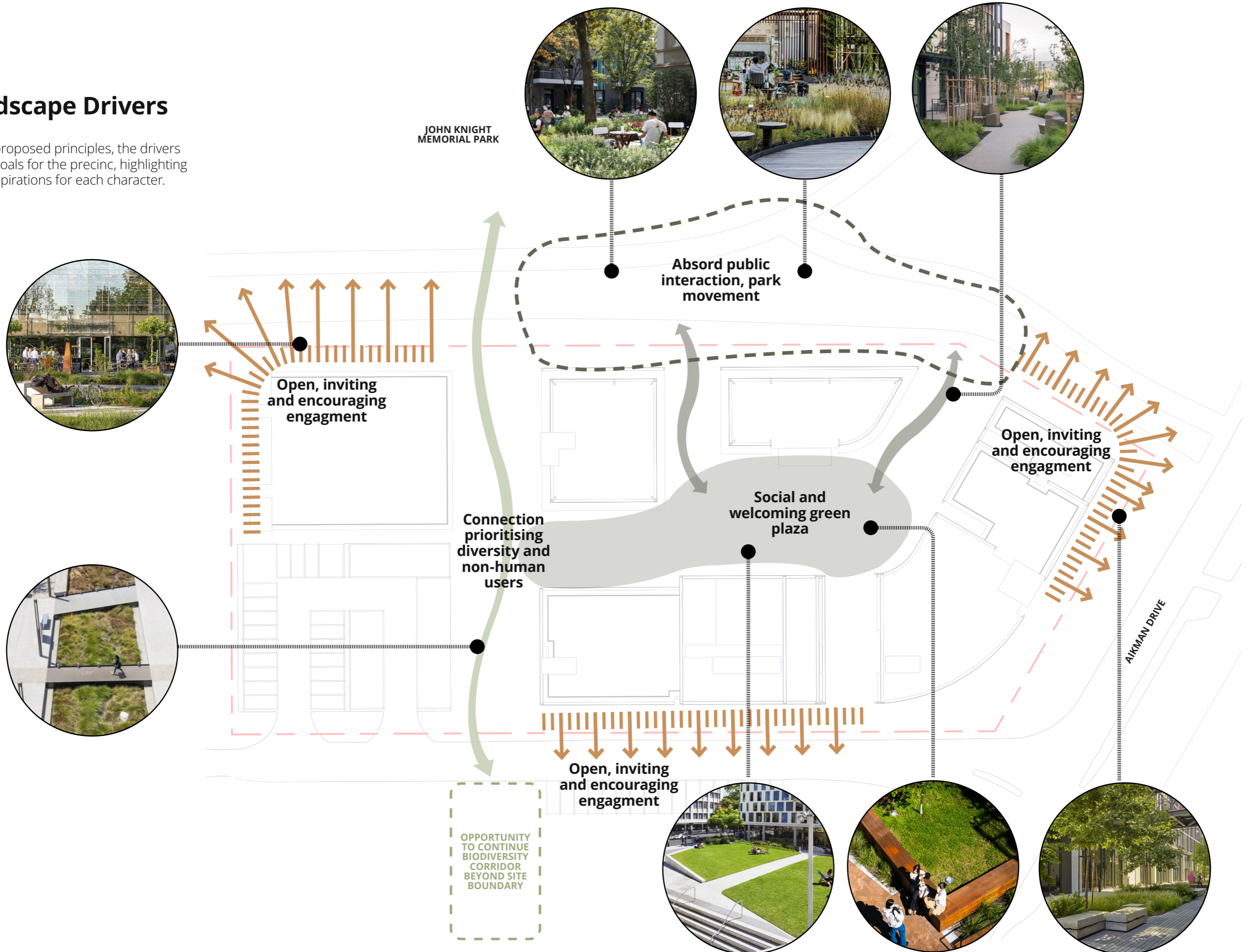
**Climate-Responsive**  
Orientate spaces for shade and shelter, use planting to mitigate heat, and promote passive cooling.
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**Landscape Character**  
Define zones using a consistent but adaptive palette of planting and materiality, informed by Belconnen's evolving identity.



# Key Landscape Drivers

Building on the proposed principles, the drivers identify the key goals for the precinct, highlighting the intent and aspirations for each character.



# Structure Planning Landscape Framework

JOHN KNIGHT  
MEMORIAL PARK

The landscape structure plan establishes a cohesive framework of green corridors, civic spaces and active interfaces that support the architectural intent and enable a connected, liveable and ecologically responsive precinct. Landscape elements define key zones, transitions, and connections to the broader Belconnen context.

## Biodiversity Corridor

A planted spine running through the site, extending existing ecological values and providing a continuous landscape experience. Includes potential for tree retention and deep soil zones.

## Plaza Interface

A hardscape-focused civic threshold that links to UC and invites student and staff use, blending soft and hard edges for activation.

## Community Hub Interface

A flexible green space or forecourt zone that supports future community infrastructure, events or informal use.

## Aikman Drive Green Edge

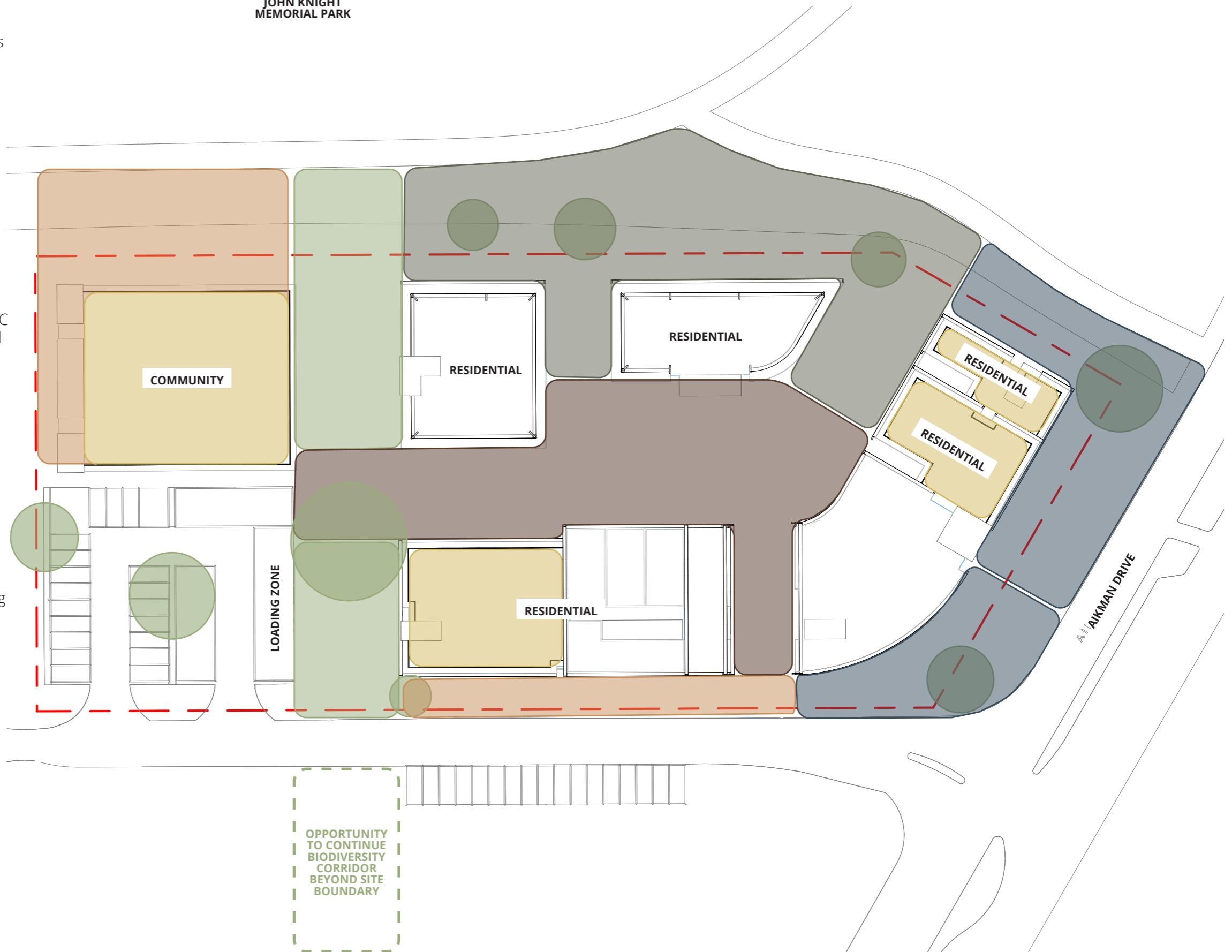
The site's public 'face' - a generous landscaped frontage with layered planting, street trees, and a welcoming address to the town centre.

## Belconnen Boulevard Interface

Active edge with landscape buffers, feature planting and potential retail spill-out zones. Opportunity to create an urban boulevard feel.

## Communal Rooftop Spaces

Elevated open spaces for residents that support social interaction, urban greening, and long views across Belconnen. Planting and surface treatments are designed for comfort, resilience, and seasonal interest.



# Structure Planning Landscape Framework



BELCONNEN BOULEVARD INTERFACE



AIKMAN DRIVE GREEN EDGE



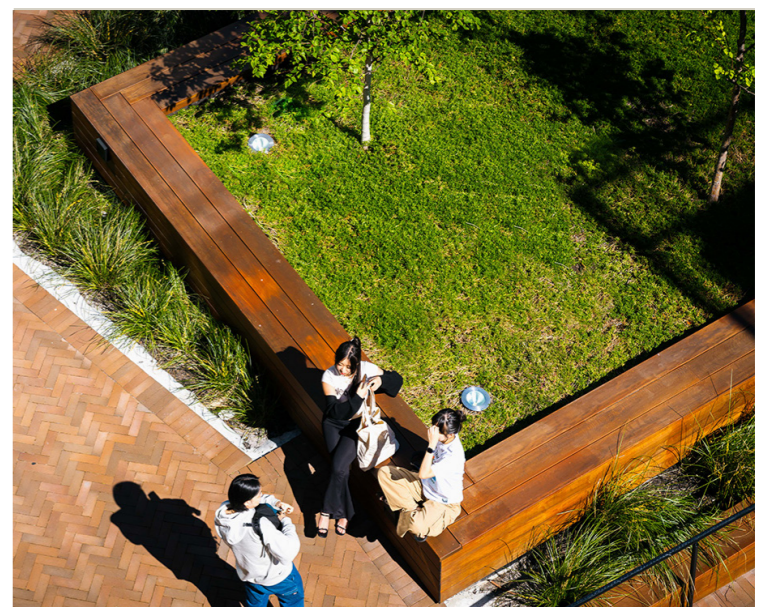
BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR



UNIVERSITY PLAZA INTERFACE



COMMUNAL ROOFTOP SPACES



# Concept Masterplan

JOHN KNIGHT PARK

COMMUNITY BUILDING

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

LAKE GINNINDERRA COLLEGE

AIKMAN DRIVE

# Character Plan



COMMUNITY BUILDING

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

## Look and Feel Hardscape

**Clean, defined and structured hardscape elements using colours and materials closely linked to the precinct surrounds...**

The overall materials character proposed for the development aims to express the unique characteristics of the site. Priority will be given to materials of local provenance, visibly grounding the mixed use precinct in its connection to the surrounding parklands and lake that defines the sites landscape environs.

In addition, the materials and finishes will be:

- / Locally sourced and sustainable
- / Smooth and even to allow for total mobile accessibility
- / Durable and long lasting
- / Low maintenance
- / Where possible, have high SRI (solar reflectance index) value to mitigate heat island effect

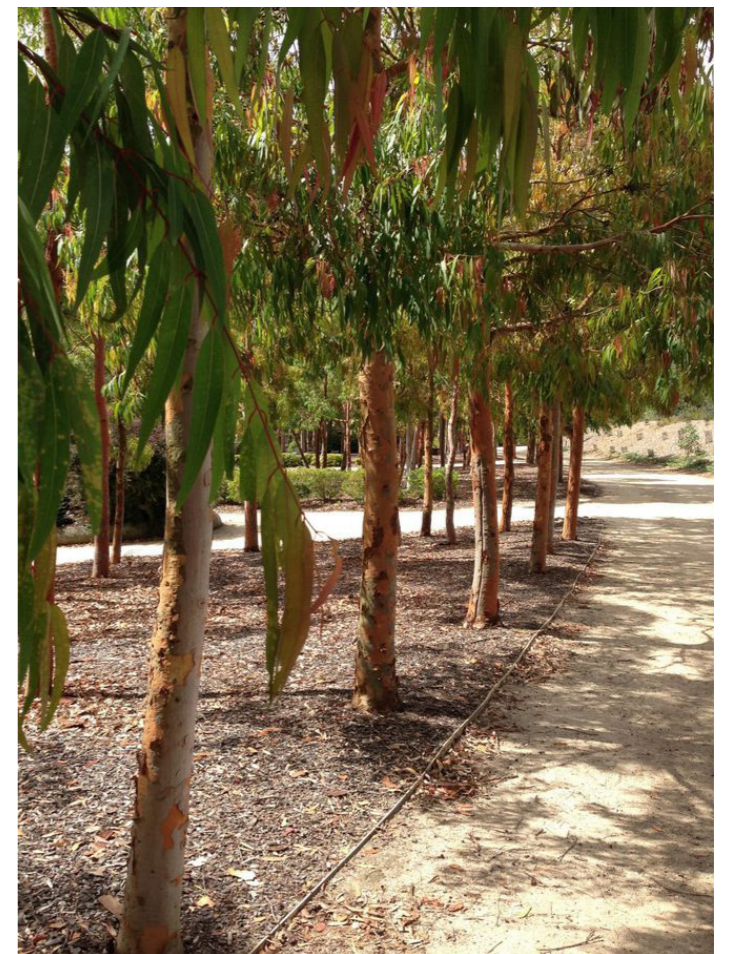
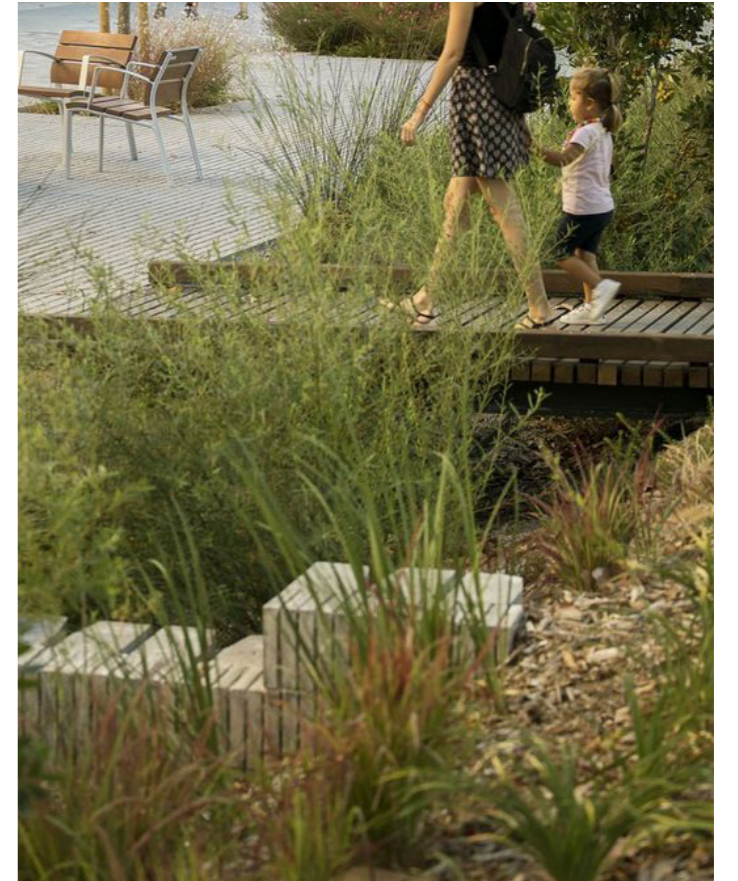
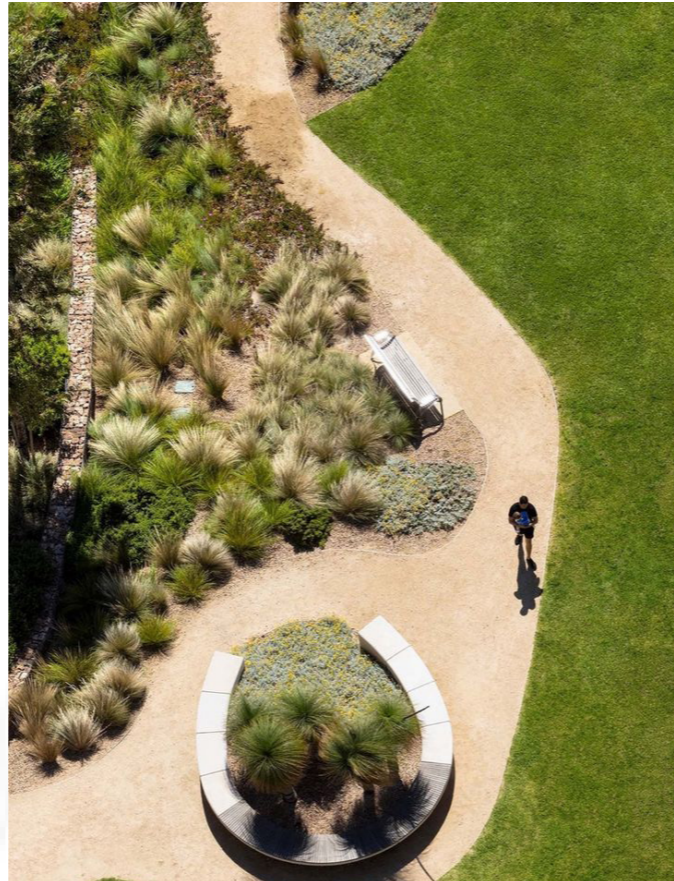


## Look and Feel Softscape

**The proposed planting scheme and softscape approach for the precinct would aim to build on the sites surrounding character, that being the native parklands of John Knight Park and the in development University Park.**

The softscape interventions and planting will endeavour to be:

- / Easy to maintain soft landscaping
- / Plants that require minimal water and will generate 'cooler' green spaces, which in turn assist in transforming the urban heat island effect
- / Biodiverse native planting providing habitat and year long food sources for pollinators
- / Level grass areas for flexible use
- / Use of native evergreen tree planting to provide visual interest, define areas, highlight views and provide shade
- / Natural site related elements such as fallen logs and boulder groupings to provide habitat for local fauna and flora



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