

PORT MACQUARIE BASE HOSPITAL

PART 3a LANDSCAPE STATEMENT

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Existing physical setting and context_

The existing Port Macquarie hospital building complex is surrounded by natural bushland to the south, west and north. This consists of woodland reserve (koala habitat) to south and west, and substantial creek line vegetation to north supplemented by well established horticultural plantings in a series of existing detention basins.

The existing main hospital building occupies a generous platform centrally located on a naturally sloping site. It has a heavily vegetated backdrop to the south and open elevated northerly aspect with views from the hospital to the remnant woodland reserve to the south west and mature horticultural plantings to the west.

Beyond the main hospital building to the north, an existing detention basin forms a buffer to the residential development. Substantial and successfully established planting around the detention basin now forms an effective screen to homes in the residential area. The detention basin setting also offers a distinct parkland character and pathway access for staff, patients and visitors to enjoy.

The original hospital car park comprises a well established and maintained amenity landscape. Along the entry/exit driveway areas, mature tree plantings in medians between parking bays integrates the car park space with the natural character of the southern boundary, creating a pleasant, shady and leafy landscape experience.

The main hospital building hinges on an internal street on 2 levels. The north facing external wall of the street is fully glazed allowing extensive views from both levels and a strong connection with the surrounding landscape. The majority of pedestrian movements within the building utilise this internal street which offers maximum natural light and an existing strong connection to the external setting.

1.2 Existing Boundary Vegetation and Asset Protection Zone_

The extent of Asset Protection Zone (APZ) as noted in the Bushfire Threat Advice report prepared by Bushfire and Building consultants is shown on the Landscape site plan. This requires to be managed in accordance with advice from outlined in the Koala Activity Assessment by ERM which notes significant Koala activity across the bushland area.

The APZ adopted along the west boundary is to be 15m with an APZ of 21m to the north and northwest. New trees plantings as recommended in the Koala Activity report will be incorporated in the surrounding plantings.

1.3 Project Proposal Landscape Design Principals_

The proposed landscape design is guided by the following design principles:

- _ Retain and build upon the established successful landscape character
- _ Minimise the impact of the new built development upon the existing landscape setting and ecological communities
- _ Maintain the views and the experience of the landscape setting from within the hospital to surrounding vegetation where possible
- _ Provide external and accessible pedestrian spaces at the building entry points
- _ Retain the car park vegetation to maintain the character of the site

These are acknowledged and achieved through careful consideration of site planning, level design, material selection and plant species consideration.

1.4 Summary of Main Works Landscape Proposals_

In general, the proposed landscape works are split into two packages being:

1. Enabling Works of the car park extension, site stormwater detention and water quality management; and
2. Main Hospital extension surrounds, public external spaces, courtyards and roof terraces.

Landscape Proposals in conjunction with Main Hospital can be summarised as:

- Hospital surrounds appropriate to the setting, required access and functions;
- Boundary treatments to the site to meet bushfire Asset Protection Zone and ecological restrictions;
- Supplement existing koala habitat areas as identified in the ecological report with appropriate koala feed trees;
- Entry sequence for all users – emergency/ visitors/ staff/ services Pedestrian access around and into the building; and
- Internal courtyard space on Level 1, Atrium spill out space on Level 1, Paediatric terrace on Level 3.

1.5 Main Works_

Landscape Design Strategy

The objection of the landscape treatments of the main works is to ensure the proposed building seamlessly ties into the existing landscape character, meets requirements as dictated by the ecological setting, and allows the practical functions of existing hospital to operate unobstructed.

Responds to Context and Setting

With such an established setting it is important that the hospital enjoys its surroundings and vantage point. This bushland setting has a high amenity and ecological value. Landscape proposals respect both these aspects to ensure the building and users –

- acknowledge the significance of existing koala habitat areas across the site,
- enjoy the bushland surrounds from within the hospital,
- capture the opportunity to have views out from inside of bushland and tree canopy
- enjoy the unique sense of place, being immersed in the woodland: and
- use the landscape proposals to seamlessly knit the new facility into the existing setting.

Address Practical Functions

The layout of the external spaces needs to provide a clear and organised sequence of spaces for all users coming to and moving around the hospital. This with consideration of all potential users, be it staff, visitors, emergency or services access and deliveries. Movement around the hospital should be clear and obvious, with access to external spaces for all users available. This could include the use for patient therapy or lunch breaks, group gathering or private reflective moments. These spaces should connect to the larger amenity network of footpaths and beyond, around the larger hospital surroundings.

Ensure the inclusion of accessible spaces

The importance of access to comfortable, inviting, safe useful outdoor spaces is of significant value for all users; staff, patients, visitors, volunteers. The hospital proposal provides 3 new significant external spaces which are:

- 1 - Atrium spill out space
- 2 - Internal courtyard
- 3 - Level 3 paediatric terrace

The considerations for each space and design intent is explained in detail below.

2.0 Accessible External Spaces

Atrium Spill Out_ Considerations_

This space has to achieve a delicate balance between the very public “front face” of the central atrium, with the desire to allow some spill-out into the external area here, and the private bedrooms on the ground floor of the existing hospital.

At the adjoining corridor entry space to the atrium there will be the initial views of the atrium space, allowing for orientation and direction, while also promoting the opportunity to capture a visual connection to the bushland North of the hospital beyond this space.

Sketch layout_

A paved area flows out from the atrium allowing for casual break out space from atrium activities for all. Provision of moveable external tables and chairs will encourage access. Use of a paving material with similar colour and texture to the internal finishes will visually connect the spaces inside to out.

New tree and shrub planting provides an intimate backdrop for this communal space and will also provide privacy and screening for rooms on ground floor.

There will be a connection from this space into the existing pedestrian access and movement routes, while also incorporating connections from fire exit stairs here.

Internal Courtyard_ Considerations_

This space is an opportunity to provide natural light into the centre of the hospital and an indicative link to the “green” surroundings beyond the hospital while being a welcome backdrop for views out of the surrounding rooms.

The central nature of this courtyard means it is important to provide an element of screening across the space between the windows, to give some privacy for users of the surrounding rooms.

Encourage access and practical use of the space with ensuring activities within the staff rooms on ground floor can to spill out and enjoy the courtyard.

Ensure the proposals have a vertical element for the visual benefit of all the levels, plus incorporate a lightly screened ceiling space for those using the courtyard below.

Sketch Layout_

This courtyard is a simple space to be enjoyed as a visual delight and well as have practical usable paved areas and seating areas.

A diagonal line of tall “signature trees” splits the space lengthways. A smaller flowering tree shapes an external gathering space close to the staff rooms.

The use of a textured floorscape provides visual interest. Hard paving blends into low textured planting, this shapes the use of the space and direct access to the locations sympathetic with the ground floor room uses. Benches are arranged to allow for variety of seating options whether in groups and or for individual use.

Roof Terrace_ Considerations_

Continue to reflect the “green connection” to the surroundings. Another chance connect to the natural surroundings, a link to the grand view north and also see glimpses of trees from the internal courtyard below.

With this external space, there is a particular importance of privacy for and from the rooms with windows onto this space. There is also a need to ensure views out from these rooms have the benefit of this location.

A useful and practical outdoor room. A chance to enjoy the whole roof terrace space, in comfort, protected from rain and sun. Create a series of spaces for the diverse user groups here, with strong inside out connection from the communal interior area into the outdoor covered space.

With regard the diverse users of this space, recognise the varied functions of this terrace, and a requirement for maximum flexibility of uses. Potential to direct different activities, ages, groups, individuals who may need separate spaces. From active fun play zones to quieter intimate spots.

Sketch Layout _

The terrace space split into 3 areas with flexible uses. It is a space that is engaging for small children, but not too childish as to alienate older patients or be useful for adult engagement and enjoyment.

The use of interpretive screening elements across the space will provide an element of division and allow spaces for quieter activities. Screens within a planted edge detail will minimise views into adjoining rooms while being arranged with considered plant species to provide a “green” view from the inside.

Use of a “softfall” play surface and artificial turf encourages safe use of the whole space, and provides a point of difference for this child dominated area. A central pathway allows easy wheeled access throughout the terrace.

The introduction of some quirky “play” elements in the space to encourage interpretive play, while ensuring the space is not dominated with play equipment. These elements can be introduced through seating, cubbies, space dividers or simple floor patterns.

Material finishes and colours will be reflective of the internal finishes which further strengthen the inside-out connection.

3.0 Proposed Species_

Across the site the following species are suggested for use.

Hospital Surrounds:

Trees

Corymbia intermedia
Eucalyptus heamastomia
Eucalyptus microcorys
Eucalyptus pilularis
Eucalyptus paniculata
Eucalyptus robusta
Lophostemon confertus

Shrubs

Billardiera scandens
Callistemoni “Little John”
Dianleel caerulea
Grevillea poorinda “royal mantle”
Hibbertis scandens
Phormium tenax

Internal Courtyard Spaces

Trees:

Magnolia cambelii
Magnolia “Star Wars”
Pyrus calleryana

Shrubs:

Asplenium australasicum

Clivia miniata
Cycad revoluta
Hosta "Blue Angel"
Liriope muscari
Philodendron "Xanadu"
Raphis excels
Scaevola albida
Stachys byzantina
Viola hederacea