

Carrington

Greenspace Masterplan

December 2020



Acknowledgment

City of Newcastle acknowledges that we operate on the grounds of the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, and that they are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of dispossession.

CN reiterates its commitment to address disadvantages and attain justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this community.

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"I would love more trees ... I think it's important to return the environment to what has belonged here previously"
– Community member

1 Introduction



There are many beautiful aspects of the area that are worth sharing. The Carrington residents get to enjoy the area and residents and visitors from the wider area can share the beauty of Carrington' - Community member

1.1 Overview

Carrington Overview

There are few neighbourhoods in Newcastle as storied and distinct as Carrington. Long defined by Newcastle Harbour and the industries that have plied it, Carrington is unique but equally representative of a broader Newcastle story. An island built up by ballast, hemmed in by the ships that brought it and for so long hidden beneath their plumes of smoke, Carrington has been influenced by the prosperity and hardship of a working port. Carrington's streets are much altered from the 'sloughs of despond' described by the Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate in 1887. Town centre renewal has given Young Street a fresh face and the restoration of many old

homes and commercial premises has brought the neighbourhood into a new and promising chapter. Locals and visitors alike appreciate that this is a corner of Newcastle where past and present sit comfortably next to each other, interwoven by an active and caring community long known for its resilience and camaraderie.

Now one of Newcastle's most desirable inner-city neighbourhoods, Carrington has undergone significant economic and urban transformation. Despite these changes, Carrington has retained its unique personality and its generous and distinctive open spaces.



Purpose of the Masterplan

Aim

The Carrington Greenspace Masterplan (the Masterplan) aims to develop a cohesive plan of action to improve recreation, amenity and social opportunities for the Carrington community. It is hoped that the Carrington community feels a sense of ownership of the Masterplan and sees opportunities to work together with City of Newcastle (CN) and other land owners to achieve the objectives.

Scope

The Masterplan study area includes all parks, foreshore and adjoining streetscapes that make up Carrington's public domain and open spaces. It also includes the physical, environmental and cultural connections to those places.

While works identified are currently unfunded, having a plan that reflects the needs and priorities of the community may assist in securing funding to deliver specific initiatives.

The Masterplan includes several areas of open space that are not under CN management, specifically foreshore areas under the control of the Port of Newcastle; and Crown lands respectively. It is important to note that while these spaces are important to locals and visitors alike, and that relevant land managers agreed to their inclusion within this plan, City of Newcastle is not responsible for further enhancement of these spaces.

Masterplan objectives

The primary objective of the Greenspace Masterplan is to communicate a vision for Carrington's greenspaces, and set a clear direction for Council and the Carrington community.

Masterplan objectives for Carrington include:

Providing direction for the management and enhancement of Carrington's greenspaces.

Build a public domain resilient to climate change implementing relevant actions from the City of Newcastle's Strategic Position for the Management of Low Lying Area's report 2017.

Providing a holistic planning outcome that is consistent with relevant Council planning schemes.

Celebrate the narrative of Carrington through integrated design initiatives such as public art, cultural meeting places and interpretation

Making recommendations that are realistic and informed by community engagement findings.

Improving access and connections between existing and future greenspaces in Carrington as well as to surrounding areas and active transport networks.

Investigating and recommending a variety of uses for existing parklands to increase visitation and activation.

Considering management of existing trees and strategies for long-term replacement where necessary or desirable.

Considering urban heat island impacts in conjunction with the design of public spaces, in line with CN's overarching objective of a liveable cooler city.

Report structure

Setting the Scene

Background research

Mapping the components

Describing the characteristics

A thorough analysis of the study area was undertaken through site visits, desktop investigation and discussions with Council, community and stakeholders to help gain an in depth understanding of Carrington.

Defining the vision

Community and stakeholder participation

Identifying opportunities and challenges

Setting the vision and principles

Outcomes of the engagement process were collated and prioritised to help identify the challenges, concerns, opportunities and aspirations of the community and stakeholders. This participatory process assisted with the formulation of a vision and set of guiding principles that reflects the community's desires for Carrington.

The Masterplan

Building a Masterplan

Key initiatives

Provides a set of initiatives described by accompanying concept plans, graphics and visualisations.

Delivering the Masterplan

Prioritising initiatives

Implementing strategies

The initiatives are prioritised and mapped out for implementation. Practical solutions are put forward to ensure the Masterplan can be delivered in a staged approach.



Figure 1 Throsby Creek Worimi Artwork along the foreshore

2 Setting the Scene

'The mangroves are incredibly important as part of the estuary ecosystem, shore bird and fish habitat' – Community member

Carrington's mangrove boardwalk

Carrington Greenspace Masterplan 10

2.1 Carrington's story

Pre 1801

Muloobinba

Aboriginal people have always lived in Carrington. Before European arrival, Aboriginal people lived in and around Muloobinba (Newcastle) and the Coquon (Hunter River), under which present-day Carrington would have been partly submerged. Shell middens at Meekarlba (Honeysuckle), close to the first European connections to Carrington, are remnants of communal gatherings which took place in this area.

Whibay Gamba, or Nobbys as it is now commonly known, would have been as important within the natural landscape as it is today. Aboriginal peoples' connectedness to places and communities is linked through their dreaming stories, one of which involves a notorious kangaroo jumping from Tahlbihn Point (Fort Scratchley) to the safety of Whibay Gamba where the thud of his enormous tail would make the land tremble. This is often interpreted as a reference to the area's seismic activity.

Aboriginal people continued to live and gather in the proximity of Carrington after the arrival of Europeans to Newcastle in 1797. As late as 1947 a Mrs. Farnham 'recalled having watched with her father, Aboriginal corroborees in bushland now occupied by St. James Church of England, Wickham'. This church has since been demolished but was for many years located near the Cowper Street Bridge. In the same interview, Mrs Farnham told of how the Aboriginal people "spent much of their day spearing and catching fish with tidal traps in a low lying area between Maryville and Carrington" (NMH and MA, 25 July 1963).

1801 – 1886

Bullock Island

The earliest European record of Carrington is Ensign (Francis) Barrallier's 1801 survey of 'Coal Harbour and Rivers on the Coast of New South Wales', made in the June and July of 1801 by order of Governor Philip Gidley King. Then known as 'Chapman Island', present-day Carrington was shown by Barrallier as an elongated enclave downstream from a series of larger islands that we would now recognise as Kooragang Island.

In later years, the island was known as 'Bullock Island' until it was more formally named 'Carrington' in 1886 after Lord Charles Robert Carrington, Governor of New South Wales (1885 to 1890).

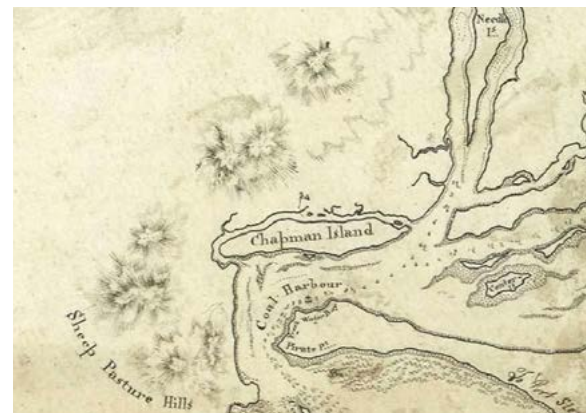


Figure 2 A portion of Barrallier's 1801 map showing Chapman Island (Source: University of Newcastle Cultural Collection)

1886 – 1929

A growing municipality

Throughout the nineteenth-century, most industry in the suburb was concentrated at its southern end, below Cowper Street. A branch line to the Great North railway came across from Hamilton in the 1870s, further stimulating commercial growth in the neighbourhood. At the same time the construction of a hydraulic power station commenced, still standing east of Bourke Street, which was built to operate a crane system for loading coal onto ships. Once machinery had been added to the boiler house in 1879, the power station was the State's first large scale hydraulic power system.

Public buildings were erected in earnest during the last decades of the nineteenth-century, including a public school (1879), 'about the handsomest structure on the island', as well as enough licensed premises to give the hardworking residents of the island options when looking to quench their thirst.

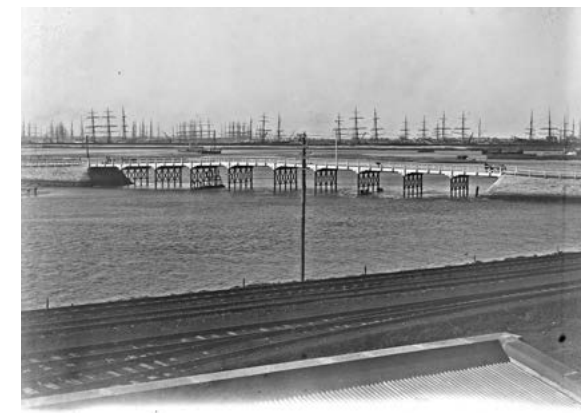


Figure 3 Bullock Island Bridge, date unknown. (Source: University of Newcastle Cultural Collection)

1929 – 1949

'On the brink' and amalgamated

The Depression years were felt hard in Carrington, although public works programs such as a replacement Cowper Street Bridge provided some relief work for the unemployed. Other schemes from this era included the reclamation of swamplands near Robertson Street as well as the laying of the neighbourhood's sewer system. Mr Pat Connolly, Member of the Legislative Assembly, also advised council at this time that the open space on the "great swamp" was to be formally reserved for public recreation.

The Depression years also brought substantial changes in local governance. By 1932 Carrington Council had found itself 'on the brink' and by 1938 it had been amalgamated into 'The City of Greater Newcastle'.

1945-1990



Figure 4 A view of Carrington showing land reclamation works, circa 1930. (Source: Milton Kent collection)

Post WWII

Structural changes in the economy transformed Newcastle after the Second World War. A decline in traditional industries created high unemployment in the city and harbourside suburbs like Carrington were hardest hit. As one of the city's older neighbourhoods, Carrington also experienced urban decay during these decades as its infrastructure and facilities continued to age. By century's end the Cowper Street Bridge was patchy and in a state of disrepair, so too were many of the suburb's historic buildings. Most of Carrington's hotels had closed by 1990 and the condition of the suburb's streets and public spaces was generally poor or deteriorating.

1990 – 2019

Renewal

In 1992 the Honeysuckle Development Corporation secured \$100 million of 'Building Better Cities' funding, an initiative of the Australian Government. As part of the program, parts of Carrington were subject to extensive urban renewal that was intended to better connect the neighbourhood to its waterfront. Significant improvements were made to the waterway and the Cowper Street Bridge was reconstructed. 4 hectares of open space was created and almost 100 residential units were delivered between 1994 and 1997 at Honeysuckle. The scheme also involved the restoration of the original Carrington Council Chambers, now an important facility for the entire Carrington community.

Throughout the 2000s Carrington has retained its popular inner city appeal. The Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan identifies limited residential expansion within Carrington, with the Port and its activities remaining as significant land uses. Low population growth in the suburb is in part due to the flat and low-lying nature of the area being prone to flooding. Flood mitigation measures, such as earth levees and tide gates, have been put in place and/or planned for installation. If sea levels rise above determined horizons such measures however may no longer be effective.

Carrington Aerials

The following aerial photos provide an overview of the growth of Carrington post World War II. It shows the gradual land reclamation and formalising of Throsby Creek edges to create the island suburb we know today.



Figure 5 Bird eye view of Carrington, 1974 (Source: University of Newcastle Living History Collection)



Figure 6 Cowper Street Bridge pre reconstruction on in 1992. (Source: Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation)



Figure 7 1961 Aerial



Figure 8 1902 Tram Route Map Overlaid 2018 Aerial



Figure 9 1944 Aerial

2.2 Carrington's context



Figure 10 1974 Aerial



Figure 11 1986 Aerial



Figure 12 1994 Aerial



Figure 13 2018 Aerial

Site Context

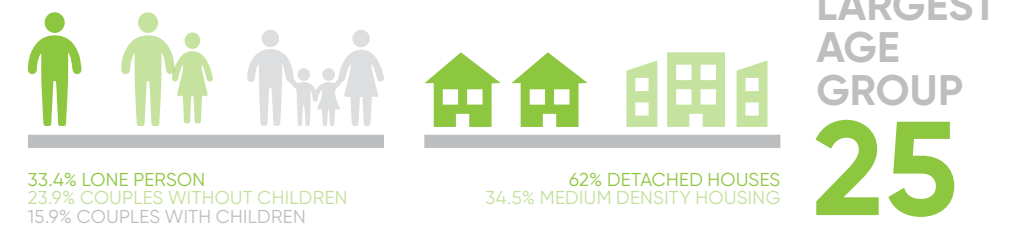
Carrington is an inner-city suburb of Newcastle that is partially surrounded by the Hunter River. The suburb is located within the City of Newcastle local government area (LGA) and subject to the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012. There are two access points or 'gateways' to the suburb, one at the northern end via Elizabeth Street and another across Throsby Creek via the Cowper Street Bridge.

Long defined by Newcastle's working port, Carrington is a comparatively dense suburb that is given structure by a unique street grid that reflects nineteenth-century land holdings.

In recent years the City of Newcastle has invested in Carrington's public domain, working with local businesses and residents on improvements to Young Street that address streetscape, drainage, access and traffic issues. Further town centre renewal will improve walkability in the suburb and will enhance the amenity of Carrington's historic main street environment.

Carrington's proximity to the harbour, coupled with its generous public reserves, has long enticed locals and visitors alike to make use of its parks, ovals and foreshore.

Demographics



Planning Controls

The Newcastle Local Environment Plan (Newcastle LEP 2012) provides the local planning controls for the suburb.

The Newcastle LEP 2012 is supplemented by the Newcastle Development Control Plan (Newcastle DCP 2012). The Newcastle DCP 2012 provides detailed development principles, controls and guidelines that support and elaborate on the provisions set out in the Newcastle LEP 2012.

The key relevant aspects of each of these Plans are outlined in the following section.

Newcastle Local Environment Plan (2012)

The Newcastle LEP 2012 is a legal document that provides rules and standards for uses on land within Carrington. The key controls set out in the LEP that are relevant to the project are summarised in the following.

Acid Sulfate Soils

Acid sulfate soils are typically found in low lying areas near the coast and are classified based on the likelihood they will be present in particular areas and at certain depths (with Class 1 being the most likely and Class 5 being the least).

Throsby Creek is identified as Class 1 acid sulfate soils with the majority of the residential, open space and industrial land identified as Class 2 acid sulfate soils.

Any works carried out on Class 1 or Class 2 land may require management.

Mine Subsidence

The vast majority of the suburb is identified by the Newcastle LEP 2012 as being located within a mine subsidence district (as proclaimed under section 15 of the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1961). A mine district is a land zoning tool administered by Subsidence Advisory NSW (SA NSW) under the Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017 to help protect homes and other structures from potential mine subsidence damage. Districts are

areas where there are potential subsidence risks from underground coal mining that has occurred or may take place in the future. Building and subdivision works within districts are regulated by SA NSW to ensure new homes and structures are built to an appropriate standard that reduces the risk of damage should subsidence occur.

Newcastle Development Control Plan

The Newcastle DCP 2012 sets relevant aims and objectives for Carrington that serve to provide a greater level of detail in support of the provisions set out in the Newcastle LEP 2012.

This includes guidance as to the desired level of growth within residentially zoned areas. The DCP indicates that the majority of residential land within Carrington is identified for limited growth with some moderate growth precincts between Tully Street and Robertson Street in the suburb's west and between Cowper Street, Young Street, Hill Street, Gipps Street and Robertson Street in the east. The land fronting Young Street between Cowper Street South and Forbes Street is also identified as a Business Precinct.

Section 7.04 of the DCP provides guidance for all development that involves new movement networks or modifications to existing movement networks, (including roads, pedestrian or cycle paths). The following overarching objectives for the movement network are provided in this section:

Provide for streets that fulfill their designated functions within the network; accommodate utility services and drainage systems; and create a safe and attractive environment

Encourage walking and cycling

Ensure speed reduction to improve safety

Urban Forest Technical Manual

In support of the Newcastle DCP 2012, City of Newcastle has developed a suite of technical manuals. Of particular relevance to the project is

the Urban Forest Technical Manual 2018 which provides guidance on the management of trees (including shrubs) on both public and private land within the Newcastle Local Government Area.

The manual acknowledges that the urban forest and associated tree canopy across Newcastle provides a range of benefits to the community including shade, micro-climate regulation, air quality, sense of wellbeing, diverse flora and fauna, stormwater management and interception. It also notes that the liveability of the city is greatly improved by having a sustainable tree canopy and greenspaces.

Part B of the Manual provides guidance on the management of trees and shrubs located on public land. It encourages protection of existing trees and appropriate planning (early in the design phase) for new trees.

It also provides guidance on tree species selection with specific direction around species considered to be undesirable in the Newcastle LGA.

Newcastle City Council Strategic Position for the Management of Low Lying Areas of Newcastle (July 2017)

This paper identifies City of Newcastle's strategic position on the management of the low lying suburbs of Carrington, Islington, Wickham and Maryville. The paper provides a basis for CN's future decisions on planning policy and maintenance in relation to sea level changes, flooding and pressures from climate change.

The paper aims to provide cost effective mitigation strategies for managing flood risk and increasing ground water levels, and maintenance of council owned infrastructure e.g. roads and drainage, limiting impact to private properties, establish a plan that is simple and flexible to deal with climate change, identify gaps in information and present a research based, well informed paper for the community and policy makers.

Strategic Planning Context

There are a number of strategic plans and policies that provide context and specific directions relevant to guiding the future development of Carrington. The following plans and policy documents were reviewed and a summary of objectives relevant to Carrington and this study are listed below.

State

Draft Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018 - 2023

The Draft Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Plan (2018) represents the first comprehensive sport and recreation plan for the region. The draft plan aims to provide everyone in the Hunter Region with access to a range of sport and active recreation opportunities.

The key outcomes relevant to Carrington are to facilitate an increase in participation, access, appropriate facilities and regional sporting events.

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

The Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan aims to set our visions and strategies to drive sustainable growth within the region. The overall plan aims to fulfill two overarching outcomes for the region; to create a workforce skilled and ready for the new economy and to enhance environment, amenity and resilience for quality of life. Specifically the plan addresses:

Enhancing blue and green grid and associated urban tree canopy

Improving local access to open space, recreation areas and waterways

Enhancing blue and green grid by implementing green infrastructure outcomes

Cooling Greater Newcastle through greening urban areas, buildings, transport corridors, open spaces and enhancing the urban forest

Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Action Plan

The Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee seeks to enable cooperative leadership from numerous government agencies who have responsibility for the Lower Throsby Creek.

It includes representatives from Hunter Water Corporation, City of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie City Council, Roads and Maritime Services, Hunter Local Land Services, the Port of Newcastle, Hunter TAFE, Port Waratah Coal Services and two community representatives.

The Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan (2019–2024) was developed in consultation with relevant agencies and the community and captures a consolidated vision for Throsby Creek.

Chair:

Member for Newcastle, Mr Tim Crakanthorp MP

Government Agencies:

City of Newcastle (CN)

Hunter Local Land Services (HLLS)

Hunter Water Corporation (Committee Secretariat) (HWC)

Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC)

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)

TAFE NSW (TAFE)

Business, Community and Stakeholder Representatives:

Port of Newcastle

Port Waratah Coal Services

Community representative: Mr John McLeod, Newcastle Rowing Club

Community representative: Mr John Sutton, Tighes Hill Community Group

SOURCE: Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan 2019–2014, <https://yourvoice.hunterwater.com.au/throsby-creek-government-agencies-committee>

Local

Carrington Local Centre

The City of Newcastle's Local Centres Public Domain Program provides guidance for infrastructure renewal works within the local and neighbourhood centres throughout the Newcastle LGA.

The Carrington local centre is one of the first to be renewed in 2018 with works such as the Young Street upgrade already underway. The public domain plan for Carrington has been developed in consultation with local businesses and residents to address streetscape, drainage, access and traffic issues.

City of Newcastle Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

City of Newcastle has developed a new Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). The document will shape our land-use planning priorities to meet community needs and build on our Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan. Our planning priorities will identify the focus of future strategic planning work in Newcastle.

Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan

The Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP 2030) was released in 2018 and outlines the vision for the city. A central tenant of the Newcastle 2030 plan is to facilitate Newcastle's transformation into a smart, liveable and sustainable global city, underpinned by community values.

The four guiding principles identified for achieving the city's vision relevant to Carrington are:

Recognise diverse local community needs and interests

Consider social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights

Consider long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations

Consider principles of ecologically sustainable development

Dogs in Open Space Plan

The draft Dogs in Open Space Plan will guide the provision, improvement and management of dog off leash areas in Newcastle over the next 10 years. The strategy includes dog off leash provisions, enhancing existing off leash areas, fenced dog park opportunities, managing dogs in public places and community education and information.

Newcastle Urban Forest Policy

The City of Newcastle's Urban Forest Policy (adopted in 2008) recognise the value of trees in the urban environment. The policy provides directions for guiding the management of the Newcastle urban forest and emphasises the range of benefits the urban forest provides to the community.

The goals and objectives of the policy which are also applicable to Carrington are focused on:

Recognising the health and well-being benefits of the urban forest

Improving the quality and quantity of the urban forest

Establishing robust planning processes

Improving education and research

Involving the community in managing the urban forest

Newcastle Environmental Management Strategy

The Newcastle Environmental Management Strategy defines how CN aims to meet the challenge of achieving the community's environmental vision for Newcastle, which is expressed within the strategic direction 'Protected and Enhanced Environment' in the Newcastle 2030 community strategic plan (CSP). It includes three core environmental objectives:

1. Greater efficiency in the use of resources;
2. Our unique natural environment is maintained, enhanced and connected; and
3. Environment and climate change risks and impacts are understood and managed.

Parkland and Recreation Strategy

The Parkland and Recreation Strategy has been developed to guide the sustainable provision of parkland and recreation facilities. The strategy is an examination of existing and projected demographic data; an assessment of current supply and future demand; and the identification of opportunities and initiatives for future parkland and recreational facilities and services.

Strategic Sports Plan

CN has developed the draft 10-year Strategic Sports Plan to address future demand and inform the ongoing supply, maintenance and upgrade of sporting infrastructure. As a growing City, we need to ensure that our supply of sporting facilities meets demand. The 10-year plan considers population growth across our City to ensure that we can meet existing and future needs.

2.3 Carrington's urban fabric

European Heritage

Carrington has a rich history that has resulted in a multifaceted and unique suburb. A mix of industrial, residential, community and heritage elements found in the suburb include:

The Carrington Pump House which is currently undergoing restoration works in order to be re-purposed for community use

The double row of mature Canary Island Date palms on Gipps and Hargrave Streets, (Newcastle LEP 2012 Local Heritage item)

The Connolly Park War Memorial Gate

Six former and current hotels

Other buildings such as a range of existing and former community buildings (Public School, Fire Station, Post Office, Council Chambers), a former theatre building, a shop, a former warehouse facade, multiple crane bases, two churches and a number of residences. The majority of these heritage listed buildings are located along Young Street.

Figure 15 Selection of Heritage listed buildings in Carrington including the Council Chambers (top left), Everyone's Theatre (top right), Carrington Club Hotel (bottom left) and the Carrington Pump House (bottom right)



Figure 14 Canary Island Date Palms: Planted down the central medians in 1918 as a memorial to the first world war.

Figure 16 State heritage listed Carrington Pump House which was NSW's first large scale hydraulic power system (Source: State Library of Victoria)



Figure 17 Carrington Urban Fabric Diagram



Character and identity

Carrington's unique character is largely due to its history as a working port town. It was built from a series of low lying mangrove covered islands. The sense of an island is still strong with the suburb bordered by Newcastle Harbour and Throsby Creek with a bridge crossing forming the main entrance into Carrington. Within Carrington there are distinct character zones which are identified as:

Residential

Western foreshore

Sports precinct and

The town centre

The residential area reflects a strong port character with small weatherboard workers cottages along the streets with rear laneways. Within the Town Centre the use of nautical themes in the public domain furniture further emphasises Carrington's port history. The residential built form ranges from historic workers cottages and Victorian terraces to more recent town houses, apartments and detached dwellings. The old and new built form juxtapose considerably in some locations. From a number of the residential streets there are prominent view corridors to the large industrial port elements linking the two distinct land uses that inform the suburb's character.

Carrington's greenspaces also contribute to the identity of the area. The popular western foreshore along Throsby Creek and the sports precinct comprising of Pat Jordan Oval and Connolly Park, provides a 'green' entry to Carrington crossing over Cowper Street bridge.

The Town Centre at the junction of Young and Cowper Street is defined by the wide street and footpaths lined by car parking and large tree planters. The buildings are a mix of old and new with heritage buildings such as the Post Office, the Orient Hotel and St Thomas Anglican Church defining the character.

The street network varies in form from large boulevard style streets to narrow laneways. Setbacks also vary across the suburb. Minor streets and laneways generally have limited to no setbacks, which results in less tree canopy coverage than the larger boulevard streets.



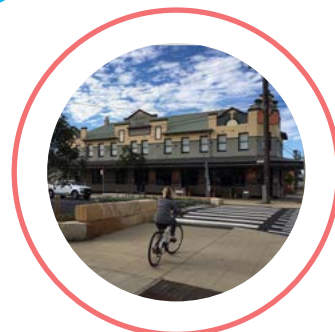
Residential



Western foreshore



Sports precinct



Town centre



Figure 18 Carrington's Character and Land Use Diagram

Street, Pedestrian and Cycle Network

Carrington has two pedestrian and vehicle access points, via Cowper Street Bridge, and Elizabeth Street to the north. Carrington is generally a grid pattern with streets running north-south and east-west.

Carrington's two distinct character zones of the port and the residential area is generally divided by the 4.6m high truck vehicle route running along Elizabeth Street, Darling Street, Bourke Street and Denison Street.

The profile of the main streets is generally consistent and includes the footpath network of concrete paths. There are no footpaths along some narrower streets, laneways and along the street edge of the foreshore park. There is generally a good level of connectivity within the suburb to the west, however, the large north south blocks between Elizabeth Street and Robertson Street limit foreshore accessibility.

The large industrial lots to the east and south largely prevent public foreshore access to the eastern water's edge. However, an exception to this is a port owned pedestrian bridge allowing for informal access to a small park along the eastern foreshore.

Carrington cycle network is connected to a larger network along Throsby Creek, connecting Newcastle City to Newcastle TAFE and beyond. The cycle routes are predominately off- road share paths along the foreshore with an on-road connection to the Carrington town centre.

The City of Newcastle Cycling Strategy identifies future dedicated cycle routes within Carrington.



Figure 19 Existing Road block Bourke/Robertson Streets



Figure 20 Carrington's existing street and bike network

Flooding, inundation and drainage

Flooding and forecast sea level rise will be a major consideration in any redevelopment of the greenspace network, and will be a major determinant of future levels of investment.

According to the 2012 City of Newcastle's Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan and mapping and 2017 Strategic Position for the Management of Low Lying Areas report, Carrington is particularly vulnerable to flooding and inundation due to the low lying nature of the area. Ocean flood inundation generally occurs on roadways and low lying parklands within Carrington with generally low level risk to properties. Figure 27 identifies potential for property damage as a result of various flooding events.

Land zoning

The zones most prominent within this Masterplan are the RE1, E2, E3 and W2 zones (see legend below). The RE1 Public Open Space zone provides most of the open space. The plan also considers R2 zones in relation to road reserves and greening measures. Land along the southern and eastern areas of the suburb, zoned SP1

Special Activities, promoting port and other related land uses that benefit from being located close to port facilities (e.g. maritime industrial, freight and bulk storage premises) is out of scope for this Masterplan.

The Masterplan also acknowledges that future potential sea level rise will make drainage issues more significant as well as increasing groundwater levels.

SOURCE: Newcastle City Wide Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (BMT WBM 2012), Newcastle City Council Strategic Position for the Management of Low Lying Areas of Newcastle (NC, 2017)

The position paper proposes a combination of staged worked including floodgates, pumps and levees to protect Carrington in the event climate change causes sea levels to rise above adopted trigger levels.

These actions, and forecast inundation more generally, will need to be considered in relation to any proposed works within the greenspaces network.

Importantly, the E2 - Environmental Conservation Zone which encapsulates the mangrove zone on Throsby Creek also includes a Grey-headed Flying Fox colony. This camp appeared in 2011 and is listed as having "Status Unclear" in the Grey-headed Flying-fox Management Strategy for the Lower Hunter (GeoLINK 2013). Any impact on this camp site has been considered throughout the Masterplan process.

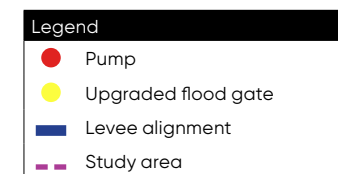


Figure 21 Carrington map of proposed works to mitigate flooding and inundation. (Source: Newcastle City Council Strategic Position for the Management of Low Lying Areas of Newcastle (2017))



Figure 22 Carrington land Zoning

Land Ownership



Figure 23 Carrington Land Ownership

2.4 Carrington's green fabric

Open space distribution

Carrington is well served in terms of open space. It has generous parklands, sports fields, foreshore and waterway access servicing local residents and the broader community.

The foreshore attracts large numbers of people attached to sporting groups such as Newcastle Park Run, Newcastle Rowers, Paddlers, Outriggers, Dragon Boats and learn to sail. The sports precinct comprising of Pat Jordon Oval and Connolly park includes two sports fields, an oval and recently constructed cricket nets. The parks are used for rugby league, cricket, soccer and AFL.

There are four playgrounds located at different parks, all of a local scale. Although the playgrounds are well distributed throughout the community, with the exception of Grahame Park which has recently been upgraded, the remaining play equipment in

other parks is largely dated and requires significant maintenance. There are limited inclusive play opportunities within Carrington. Cowper Street Reserve represents a large grassed median with tree planting that provides amenity and recreational opportunity.

A number of key publicly accessible areas of open space are not under CN management, notably the boat ramp and foreshore, managed directly by Crown Lands, and the park managed by the Port Authority.



Figure 24 Carrington's existing open space distribution

Urban canopy

Carrington has a varied urban street and open space tree canopy, largely driven by the adjacent land uses and open space functions.

The residential streets generally have a generous tree canopy cover creating shaded, leafy streets. Streets with wider verges and central medians have larger tree canopy coverage while narrower streets and laneways rely on trees in the private domain for shade and amenity.

Tree canopy cover in the port land use area is virtually non-existent.

Tree canopy in private lots not shown in the diagram (both residential and industrial) provide additional canopy cover. However, this requires further investigation to identify the extent and overall contribution to the total tree canopy cover for Carrington.



Figure 25 Carrington's greenspaces



Figure 26 Existing street with high canopy cover



Figure 27 Carrington's existing urban canopy

Waterways

The waterways are the key identifiable feature of Carrington. Throsby Creek must be crossed via Cowper Street bridge to enter the island suburb with the northern section of the creek instantly recognisable as a recreational waterway. To the south of Cowper Street bridge the creek forms part of the industrial harbour with hard edges providing birth space for large ships and heavy industry.

The waterways are lined with varying edge typologies such as parkland, beach, mangroves, ballast walls, residential development and port related heavy industry. They hold a significant role in Carrington's economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing.



Figure 28 Public art in the Throsby Creek along the foreshore.



Figure 29 Carrington's existing waterways

Sports facilities

Pat Jordan Oval and Connolly Park are the main sports facilities and form Carrington's sports precinct. The fields cater for AFL, soccer and cricket, with other sports regularly using the fields for training. A brick amenities building on Connolly Park provides storage, toilets, change rooms and canteen facilities for all the sports.

Rowers, paddlers and novice sailors occupy the foreshore adjacent to Pat Jordan Oval. Tennis courts and lawn bowls are situated on the eastern edge of Connolly Park, further emphasising this area as a sports precinct.

The shady tree-lined edges of the sports fields provide comfort and amenity allowing use for recreational activities such as general exercise, socialising and dog walking.



Figure 30 Carrington's Connolly Park



Figure 31 Carrington's existing sports facilities

3 Defining the Vision



3.1 Community Engagement Findings

The Masterplan has been informed by substantial community input, gathered through a series of consultations and engagement activities.

The involvement and input of community and other stakeholders in the development ensures a sense of shared ownership and a joint commitment to its aims.

To ensure community insights were captured, a three phase engagement approach was undertaken.

Phase 1

Place-based design development – asking the community what’s unique or needs changing in Carrington to help build a set of ideas that will protect and enhance places of importance, improve enjoyment and interaction with the open space areas and ensure Carrington continues to be a place where people want to live, visit and recreate. This phase was delivered through community group workshops, stakeholder meetings, online survey and asset mapping and onsite engagement boards.

Phase 2

Design feedback and deliberation – asking the community to confirm what was captured and asking for comment on a selection of initial ideas. This phase was delivered through an open house drop in session and online survey where people were able to rank in order of importance the ideas, provide comments and suggest alternative ideas.

Phase 3

Public Exhibition – The Masterplan was presented to Council and placed on public exhibition for comment in late 2019.

Phase 1 Findings

What Does a Green Space Plan Mean to You?

Theme	Description
Facilities and Amenities	Plan for on water and other sporting facility upgrades
Activities and usage	Allow for a diversity of uses that support co-existence Address population growth in neighbouring areas and impacts on Carrington greenspace Identify places where people can come together and meet and potentially learn
Access and Links	Improve connectivity and accessibility within, and into, Carrington Improved bike and pedestrian access in streets Consider car parking
Other	Outline a coordinated approach that integrates with other agencies Provide a framework for funding

Onsite Boards at Greenspaces

Theme	Count	Description
Facilities and Amenities	51	Infrastructure elements that support comfort. Comments regarding dog park facilities such as bin bag dispensers, water, shade and dog play elements. Comments regarding lighting, especially around the foreshore.
Activities and usage	28	Types of activities that could occur - playground and skate park were mentioned.
Landscape	18	More trees
Green Initiatives	9	Renewable energy and recycling
Access and Linkages	5	Path connections and upgrades



Figure 32 Photos from Phase 1 community group engagement workshops

Phase 2 Findings

The following table summarised the key ideas that were supported during Phase 2 of the engagement. The table has the top twelve ranked in order of level of support.

Principle Ideas		
Theme	Average Support	Description
Landscape	83%	Canopy trees in parks Large trees in our parks are able to provide natural shade. Big canopy trees could be carefully selected to thrive in the unique environmental conditions of Carrington.
		Verge tree planting Additional street tree planting on verges provides shade, habitat and beautifies Carrington's streets. Gaps can be identified where additional tree planting can occur.
Landscape	81%	Median planting Shaded and appealing 'green' streets through street tree planting have many benefits including reducing heat island effects, increased shade and the promotion of wildlife. One option could be the introduction of additional central medians in wide streets with large canopy tree planting (of appropriate varieties).
		Green roof habitats Urban areas such as Carrington have an important role in habitat protection through conservation of existing habitats, promoting green infrastructure such as building green roofs for native birds and animals.
Connectivity	77%	Improve wayfinding Improve the accessibility of Carrington's Streets with new paths and techniques that make it easy to find your way around. Some techniques could include signage, well-structured and connected paths, pavement design, landscaping and iconic landmarks.

3.2 Opportunities and challenges

Based on the community engagement findings, analysis of the physical elements of Carrington and background research, the following list of opportunities and challenges have been developed.

Landscape	
Opportunities	Challenges
Plant appropriate trees throughout the streets and parks to enhance shade, canopy coverage and habitat value	Contaminated soils and high water table will dictate species selection
Use landscaping to complement drainage projects such as rain gardens, bio-filtration swales and basins and screening of engineered stormwater structures	Above and underground utilities in street verges reduces the available space for tree planting and the planting of large canopy species
Verge gardens and median planting to help 'green the streets'	Continual road and infrastructure upgrades will see the removal of large existing trees and the reduction of valuable shade and amenity
Build upon the small pockets of native bushland and tree planting to enhance biodiversity and habitat value	Cost of ongoing maintenance of trees and weed management
Encourage landscaping and planting of trees in the private domain	Rising saline ground water impacting vegetation
Council to take leadership in the promotion of green roofs by installing green roofs on public buildings	
Introduce a tree management and replacement strategy for aging trees or trees being removed for infrastructure upgrades	
Improved rainwater infiltration to assist in managing stormwater system capacity in significant rain events	
Select species tolerant to altered inundation of groundwater levels	
Installation of stormwater infiltration devices in conjunction with mounded tree plantings	

Principle Ideas		
Theme	Average Support	Description
Carrington Story	70%	Strengthen identity of parks Many of the parks in Carrington have a special history. Using techniques like signage, interpretative elements or smart technologies can better communicate the origins of Carrington's parks and their importance to the community.
Facilities	80%	Improved lighting There was strong support for improving pedestrian lighting along popular walking routes and active spaces to extend the time of use and enhance safety.
Resilience	79%	Solar lighting Improved lighting and the use of light play could be achieved using solar power. As a renewable energy, using solar powered lighting in areas such as the foreshore and in local parks and play spaces is an energy saving and ecologically responsible alternative to standard lighting.
Sports Precinct	71%	Upgraded sports facilities An upgrade to the sporting precinct could include; traffic calming measures, war memorial upgrades, skate street, formal parking and seating terrace. An important part of this upgrade could also include improving the sports buildings, clubhouses and storage.

Principle Ideas		
Theme	Average Support	Description
Pocket Parks	69%	Promote community care taking Allow for the community of Carrington to take pride and ownership of their local smaller parks and greenspaces. This idea provides opportunities for the community to tend to the area's gardens and bushland through community or school run bushcare, gardening and park care programs
Foreshore	75%	Protect mangroves and saltmarsh There's opportunity to increase recognition of the value of these areas through education, storytelling and interactive elements.
Foreshore	68%	Foreshore upgrades The vision could include formal parking, waterfront recreation areas with new facilities and an aquatic sports hub.

Connectivity	
Opportunities	Challenges
Improve the connectivity of Carrington to the city and the greater Newcastle area	Closing off streets to direct heavy vehicles through Carrington creates pedestrian and cycle barriers and a disjointed grid pattern
Improve active transport and wayfinding through the streets and open space network	Active heavy rail creates a significant barrier
Improve connections between the parks, sports fields, commercial core and foreshore through upgraded paths, tree planting and consideration of land acquisition to open up direct corridors	Carrington's island nature presents connectivity challenges
Provide lighting to popular recreational trails to increase the usability	Overflow parking is impacting on existing trees and creates parking inefficiencies
Maintain and enhance view corridors	There is a lack of disabled compliant paths and access points throughout Carrington's greenspaces
Provide dda compliant and equitable access throughout carrington greenspaces	
Formalise car parking around greenspaces such as the foreshore, sports fields	
Improved tree canopy along key desire lines	

Parks	
Opportunities	Challenges
Increase activation through programming of small community events	Current lack of seating, shade and park facilities
Provide upgrades to improve facilities that promotes use for all ages and interests	Inequitable access to playgrounds and lack of inclusive play opportunities
Park upgrades to consider how the parks can provide a variety of complementary facilities and uses	Lack of complementary park offerings and facilities amongst the suite of pocket parks
Promote community care taking and ownership of the pocket parks to help ensure they are maintained to a high standard	Lack of knowledge about available pockets parks such as Young Street Reserve and Hollingsworth Reserve
Ensure park facilities are safe, equitable and inclusive	Current lack of facilities and formalised access to the foreshore in the vicinity of the boat ramp
Increase tree canopy coverage	
Consider a formalised dog off-leash dog park for Young Street Reserve or within the foreshore	
Advocate for open space improvements in foreshore areas not managed by City of Newcastle	
Improved recreational use of the foreshore	

Sports Precinct	
Opportunities	Challenges
Promote the use of the fields and surrounding parkland for day and night use with the inclusion of strategically located lights	The over use of the fields and conflicts between sports places stress on the playing surfaces
Better connect Pat Jordan Oval and Connolly Park by converting Fitzroy Street into a slow speed, shared street with safe crossing points	Lack of disabled compliant access throughout the site
Activate the edges of the fields with the inclusion of additional facilities such as a 'skate street', fitness stations, pathways and picnic shelters	Heritage listed memorial gates as an entry to Connolly Park will need to be considered for any proposed upgrade works
Formalise car parking to gain efficiencies and protect the existing trees	Fields are in low lying area and susceptible to flooding
Upgrade amenities buildings to be multi-purpose and cater for the increased female participation in sport	Dragon boat and outrigger clubs use a portion of Pat Jordan Oval for storage
Provide comfortable spectator areas and seating	New cricket nets are unlikely to be relocated in any upgrade works
Utilise large areas of open space for the planting of large canopy trees such as figs	Rising saline groundwater impacting turf and plantings

Foreshore	
Opportunities	Challenges
Establish the Throsby Creek foreshore as the premier open space of Carrington	Land and asset ownership / management of foreshore facilities creates issues of poor maintenance and coordinated upgrade works
Create recreational opportunities with parkland facilities between the boat ramp and rowing club	Access to the beach area by multiple users creates capacity issues and conflicts between user groups
Create a foreshore parkland that is an extension of Pat Jordan Oval	Informal parking area is inefficient and takes up prime waterfront space
Improve access to the water's edge	There is a lack of seating and picnicking areas that creates a comfortable waterfront recreational experience
Upgrade boating facilities and re-locate trailer parking to open up foreshore for recreation	Water quality for swimming in Throsby Creek can be poor at times
Implement measures to capture and manage rubbish entering the Mangroves	Gross pollutants are trapped in the Mangroves, highly visible and difficult to retrieve
Create an aquatic sports hub that has the capacity to attract National and State events	Areas of the foreshore have residential development backing onto the open space areas reducing the amount of natural surveillance and perceived safety
Extend existing shared path to follow the full length of the foreshore	Multiple land managers of the foreshore
Manage shoreline erosion with measures that still maintain access for aquatic sport users	
Consider the eastern foreshore's publicly accessible port land for future upgrades and improved access as an alternative foreshore offering	

3.3 Vision and Principles

Carrington's Story	
Opportunities	Challenges
Celebrate Carrington's history through art and interpretation	Current storytelling, public art and interpretation are not well coordinated and appear ad-hoc
Showcase Worimi and Awabakal stories in places of importance including cultural meeting places for social gatherings, storytelling and education	Ensuring fair representation of the community and historical events
Provide a coordinated art trail through Carrington	
Strengthen the identity of the parks by communicating their origins and importance	
Locate gateway entry features that complement Carrington's identity and help instil the community with a sense of place	
Resilience	
Opportunities	Challenges
Increase tree canopy coverage to mitigate impacts of heat island effects	Increasing temperatures will impact on landscaping and general comfort
Consider options to integrate flood protection measures in the open space areas such as raised pathways	Sea level rise will see more frequent flooding events
Research tree species that will withstand increased temperatures, inundation, salinity and contribute to Newcastle's urban forest targets	Contaminated soils throughout Carrington will impact on level of disturbance associated with any upgrade works
Positive groundwater recharge	Rising saline groundwater
Stormwater retention/harvesting opportunities, in conjunction with redevelopment of open space	

Vision statement

The vision for Carrington greenspaces has been driven by the community and stakeholders and represents the aspirations of the people to see Carrington be the best it can be.

The vision for the Masterplan is to:

Acknowledge and respect the cultural and environmental heritage of Carrington and provide a connected open space network, building upon its unique qualities and identity.

Principles

To support the vision a set of guiding principles have been identified that will inform the decision making process and deliver on the objectives of the Masterplan.

1

Preserving and Enriching the Landscape and Recreation

- Promote high quality urban and landscape design that activates the streets, parks and waterways
- Encourage community caretaking of the parks and gardens
- Establish well connected biodiversity corridors
- Protect, preserve and supplement Carrington's trees to increase canopy cover and habitat value
- Celebrate Carrington's unique park identities and origins
- Through design interventions promote physical activity, socialising and flexible use of the open spaces
- Provide a diverse range of community spaces and recreational facilities
- Increased tree canopy in conjunction with other techniques to reduce urban heat island impacts

2

Improving Access and Connections

Incorporate universal access principles in design interventions and facility upgrades for people of all ages and abilities

Provide safe, legible and DDA compliant access throughout Carrington's greenspaces

Implement a network of enhanced pedestrian and cycle links through Carrington connecting the foreshore, parklands and commercial centre

Improve the pedestrian links from Carrington's street network to greenspaces

Upgrade play facilities to be more inclusive for all ages and abilities

3

Respecting and Celebrating People and History

Provide iconic features representative of Carrington's past, present and future to instill a sense of pride and place

Share knowledge and stories through art, interpretation and meeting places

Provide a place that is welcoming to visitors and a place that people want to explore

Ensure fellow custodians of the 'country' are engaged and encouraged to participate in all ideas and design interventions

Continue to promote and use dual language throughout the public domain and interpretive elements

4

Increasing Safety

Integrate crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles

Maintain and enhance passive surveillance

Encourage day and night time activation of the parks and open spaces to increase visitation and passive surveillance

Ensure popular pedestrian paths are well lit

Provide safe pedestrian and cycle crossing points across main roads to open space areas

Upgrade facilities to relevant Australian standards to mitigate public health and safety risks

Consider slow speed infrastructure options for streets adjacent to parks

5

Building Resilience

Respond to climate change risks such as flooding, increased temperatures and rising groundwater

Creatively approach drainage with Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) to support protection of waterways and foreshore edges

Promote renewable sources of energy for public assets

Embrace smart technologies

Create adaptive spaces in conjunction with defensive techniques in regard to sea level rise and flooding

Promote strategies that reduce the Urban Heat Island effect by increasing tree canopy cover, reducing hard surfaces and promoting green/cool coloured/reflective roofs

Integrate outcomes of the NC strategic position for the management of low lying areas of Newcastle as required

4 The Masterplan



'Preserving historical and unique features should be a priority rather than allowing the features to disappear and be replaced by signage' - Community member

4.1 Overview

The Masterplan is split into six themes, developed through the findings of the community engagement, analysis of the physical elements of Carrington and background research.

Note that the actions identified in the Masterplan are currently unfunded, and will be considered against council's overall priorities for the City. Redevelopment opportunities are conceptual only and will be subject to detailed design.



Landscape



Connectivity



Parks



Foreshore



Sports Precinct



Carrington's Story



- 1 Foreshore
- 2 Jubilee Park
- 3 Connolly Park East
- 4 Sports Precinct
- 5 Cowper St

4.2 The Masterplans

Landscape

Landscape will play an important role in the overall liveability of Carrington (it will help mitigate impacts from climate change). Building a more resilient Carrington to climatic changes such as increased urban heat island. Carrington's landscape character is a leafy suburb nestled amongst heavy industry and surrounded by water. Maintaining and enhancing the landscape character is of high priority and is the basis for the following recommendations.

The following initiatives are guided by the overarching vision and principles, which are identified by the numbered icons below:

- 1 Preserving and enriching the landscape
- 2 Improving access and connections
- 3 Respecting and celebrating people and history
- 4 Increasing safety
- 5 Building resilience

Carrington Wide Opportunities

1.1 Implement Masterplan and develop concept designs for key study areas

- 1 2 3
- 4 5

Site Specific Opportunities

1.2 Undertake tree survey and arborist report in accordance with Council Urban Forest Policy, Street Tree Policy, Stormwater Policy and Newcastle Bio-diversity Strategy.

- 1 5

1.3 Enhance the landscape themes and embellishments of existing pocket park in accordance with Plan of Management

- 1 5



Figure 33 Carrington's Landscape

Connectivity

Although a peninsula, historically Carrington has maintained its connections to the city. Bridges, trams, ferry services and roads have come and gone through the development of Carrington. The Aboriginal groups that relied upon, and were connected to, the mangrove lined mud flats, creeks and river prior to European settlement were displaced.

Maintaining and re-establishing physical, social and emotional connections is a key focus of the following list of recommendations.

The following initiatives are guided by the overarching vision and principles, which are identified by the numbered icons below:

- 1 Preserving and enriching the landscape
- 2 Improving access and connections
- 3 Respecting and celebrating people and history
- 4 Increasing safety
- 5 Building resilience

Carrington Wide Opportunities

- 2.1 Incorporate new street verge paths and upgrade existing to follow the 'Green Grid' network to provide comfortable links throughout Carrington. 1 2
5
- 2.2 Incorporate cycleway on road and off road in accordance with Newcastle Cycleway Strategy and Action Plan. A
2
- 2.3 Undertake a safety and compliance audit of the existing pedestrian lights along popular paths within the open spaces. Investigate lighting options and include minimizing environmental effects for the bat colony. 2 4
- 2.4 Provide a suite of wayfinding measures to help better navigate people around Carrington. These measures could include markers, signs, points of interest, opening up vistas. 2 3
- 2.5 Ensure disability and accessibility compliance in conjunction with public domain works. 2 4

Site Specific Opportunities

- 2.6 Incorporate cycleway on road and off road in accordance with Newcastle Cycleway Strategy and Action Plan and AustRoads Standards. B
2
- 2.7 Investigate opportunities to improve active transport connections between the commercial core, parks, sports precinct and foreshore. C
2
- 2.8 Review pathway network from Carrington to connect with Honeysuckle and Islington. D
2



Figure 34 Carrington's Connectivity

Pocket Parks

The pocket parks of Carrington are unique in character and typology. They each have a slightly different function and are used by the community for different reasons. With small lot developments and limited backyard space, pocket parks play a critical role in providing recreation for all ages and abilities. The key focus of the following recommendations is to ensure the pocket parks provide a complementary suite of functions and experiences and have optimal recreational value.

The following initiatives are guided by the overarching vision and principles, which are identified by the numbered icons below:

- 1 Preserving and enriching the landscape
- 2 Improving access and connections
- 3 Respecting and celebrating people and history
- 4 Increasing safety
- 5 Building resilience

Site Specific Opportunities

Park Street Reserve

Maintain as a small pocket of bushland and implement a weed management strategy.

Incorporate an entry feature as part of a northern gateway entry experience.

Encourage community caretaking of the park through signage, school programs and community groups.

Hollingsford Reserve

Selectively prune / remove vegetation to open up sight lines through the park and include inviting entry points.

Provide shelter and seating to encourage small gatherings.

Encourage community caretaking of the park through signage, school programs and community groups.

Coe Park

Install a suite of new park furniture including table and seat settings, shelter and bin enclosures.

Investigate plantings to increase the structural diversity and attract local wildlife.

Remove play equipment and reinstate with grass or garden bed to reinforce Coe Park as a park for relaxation and quiet reflection.

Upgrade pedestrian paths to DDA requirements with accessible seating along edges.

Install new park lighting.

Grahame Park

Make adjustments to the playground to improve accessibility. The current up-stand kerb and mulch softfall does not allow for equitable access. Refer to the NSW Government Everyone Can Play Guidelines for any future playground upgrades. Install park seating and shelters to cater for larger groups of people.

Investigate pedestrian path lighting within the park.

Investigate water points and drinking fountain.

Jubilee Park

(Refer Concept Plan on Page 65)

Undertake a detail design of Jubilee Park Concept Plan to create an 'urban square' where small-scale temporary markets or pop-up food stalls can be located to improve the vibrancy of the Young Street commercial core. This may include the installation of toilets and large shelters.

Consider the decommissioning of the public art furniture and install a suite of contemporary custom furniture that still reflects Carrington's identity.

Install park lighting.

Cowper Street Reserve

(Refer Concept Plan on Page 69)

Long term consider the reconfiguration of the roads, parking, pedestrian paths, street crossings and landscaping to create an activated space that provides opportunities for temporary and permanent alfresco dining areas or street markets.

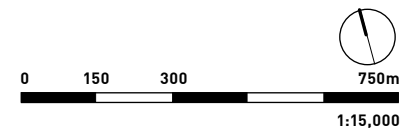
Consider:
Gateway feature that represents Carrington's history and identity and provides a welcoming gesture to visitors.

'Historic walk' along Cowper Street Reserve to entice people to engage with the space and learn about Carrington's unique history.

An 'Avenue of Trees' to enhance amenity and aesthetics of Carrington's main entry and contribute to the urban forest strategy.



Figure 35 Carrington's Parks



Concept – Jubilee Park

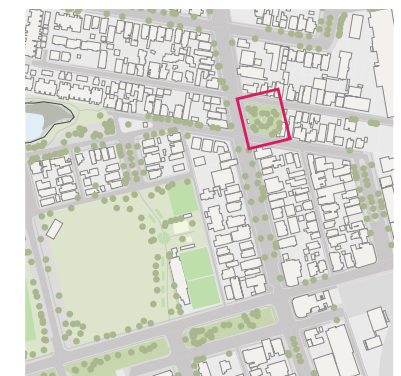
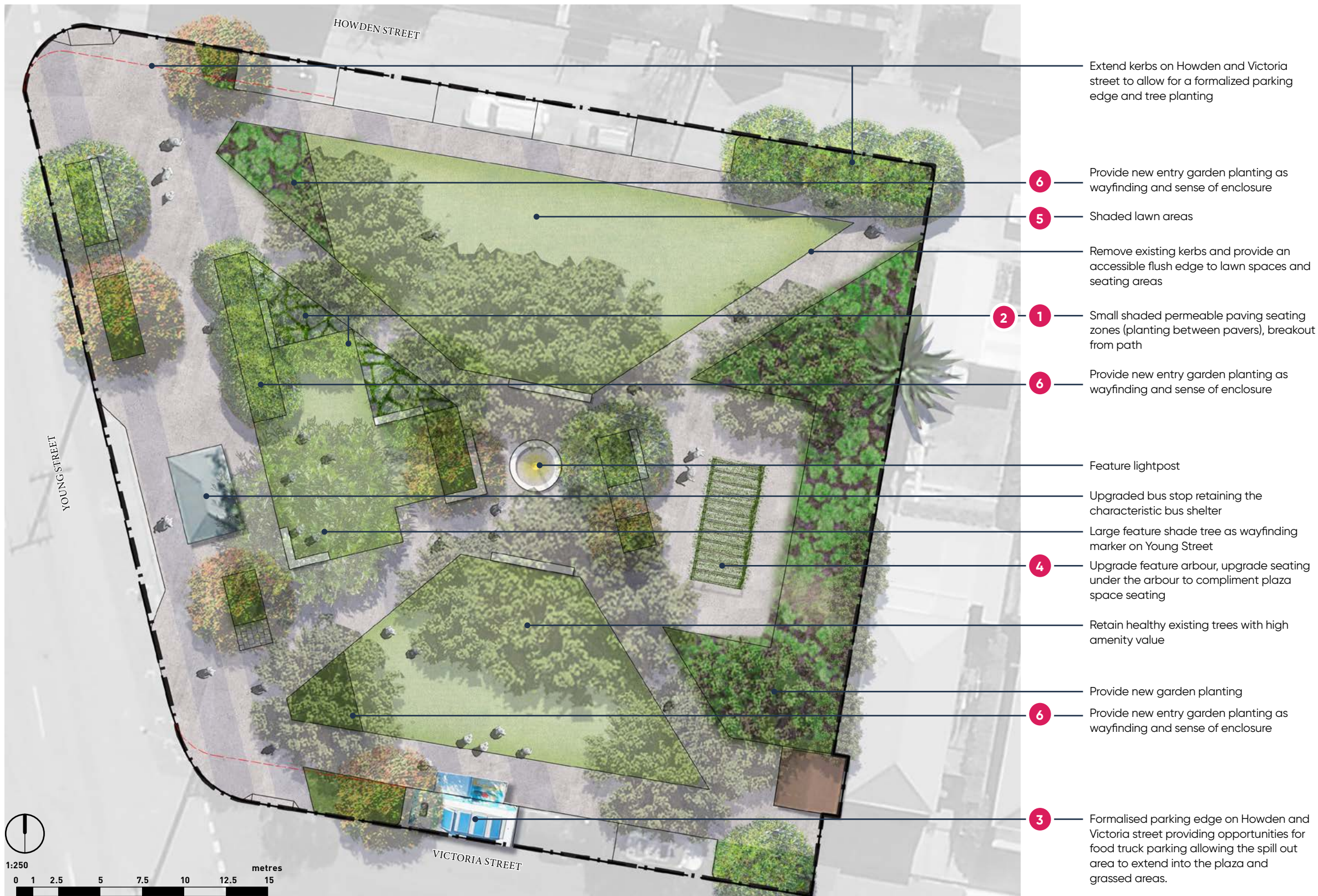
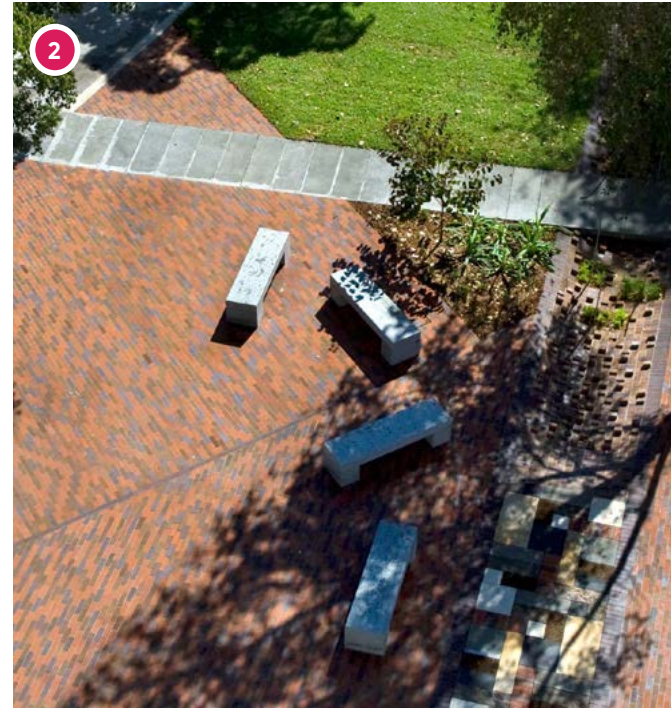


Figure 36 Jubilee Park Concept Plan

Jubilee Park – Character Images



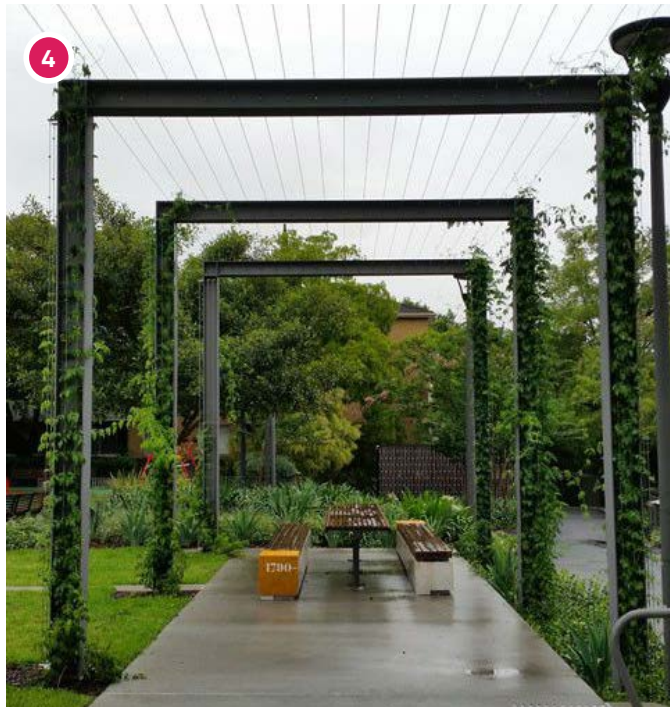
Shaded plaza seating (Centenary Square, Parramatta)



Seating "rooms" off the main path (Balfour Street Park)



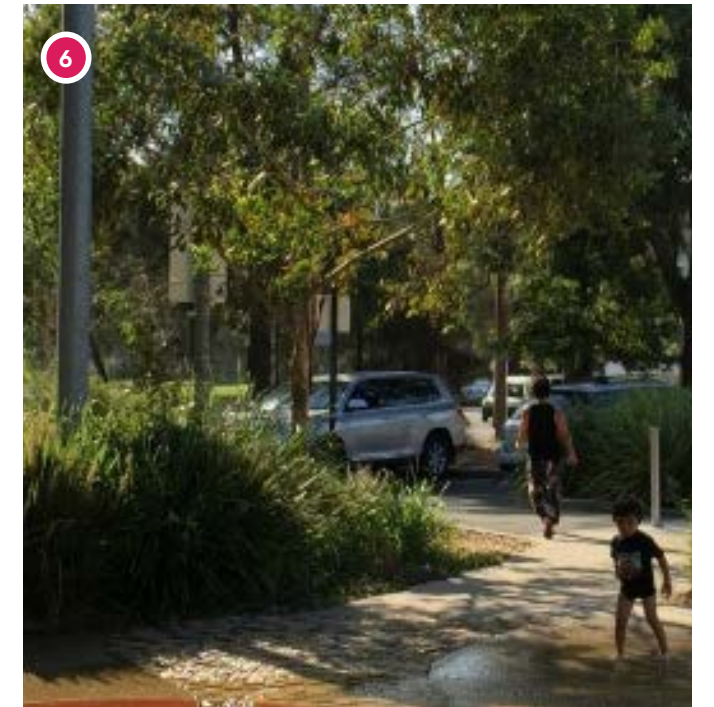
Food truck spill out area



Park feature arbour (Foley Park, Glebe)



Shaded grassy areas for spill out and relaxation (City Square, Melbourne)



Entry gardens as buffer to street (Steel Park, Marrickville)

Cowper Street Reserve - Opportunities and Ideas for the Future

5 Investigate boat trailer parking and car parking protecting trees from damage and encouraging healthy growth.

2 Shaded pedestrian access under an avenue of trees improving amenity.

3 Prominent gateway feature providing welcoming gesture for pedestrians and vehicles entering Carrington.

1 Investigate cycleway along Cowper Street.

4 Alfresco plaza. Paved area with trees providing outdoor eating area for potential future businesses.

5 Formalising Cowper street tree planting, parking bays and narrowing of travel lanes creating a more pleasant pedestrian environment.

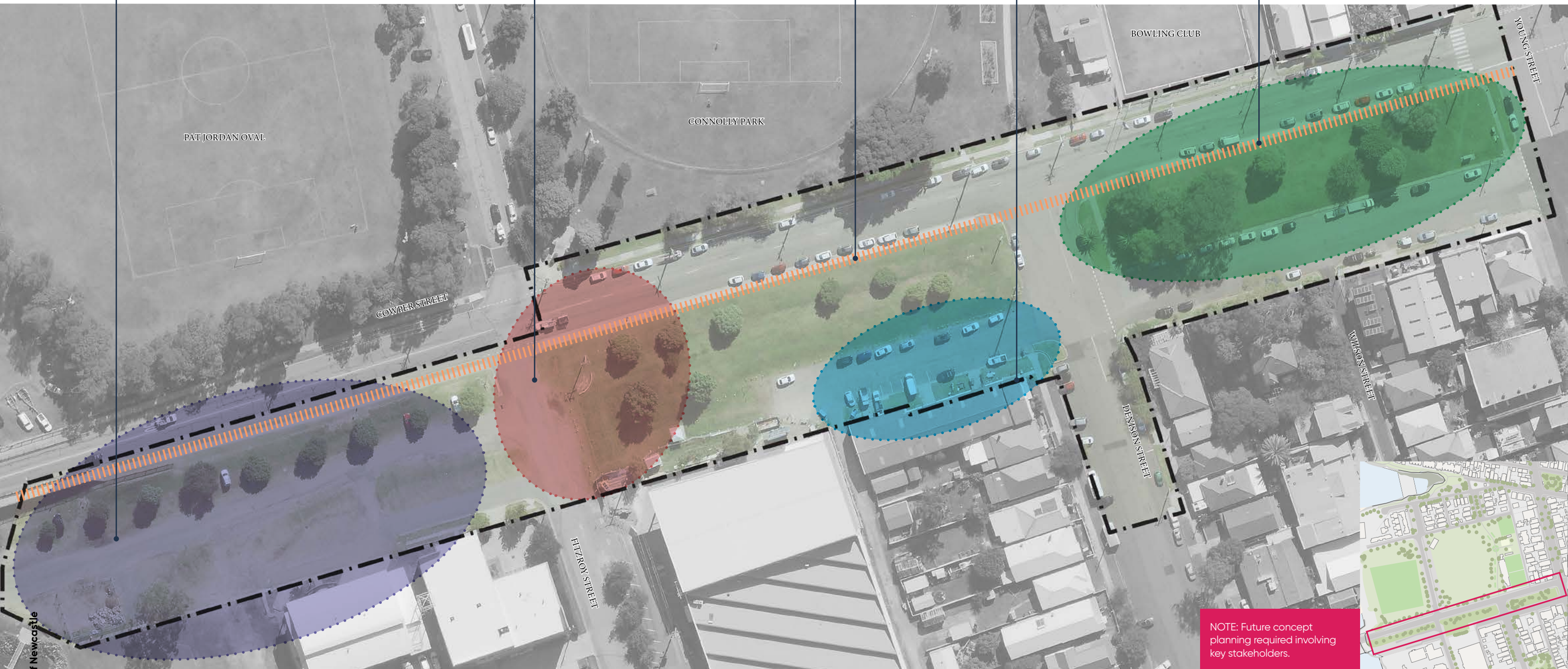
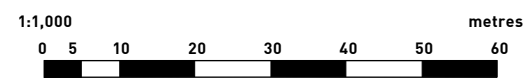


Figure 37 Cowper Street Reserve Opportunities



NOTE: Future concept planning required involving key stakeholders.

Cowper Street Reserve - Character Images



Upgrade to crossing points, streetscape planting and providing consistent approach to public domain upgrades in line with Young Street.



Shaded pedestrian access under an avenue of trees



Pembroke Pines Pavilion gateway sculpture by Brooks Scala Architects (Pembroke Pines, USA)



Alfresco dining plaza (Crows Nest, Sydney)



Formal street parking (Port of Brisbane, Brisbane)

Foreshore

The Foreshore is Carrington's 'jewel'. It is a highly activated, multi-purpose space used by locals, visitors, sporting and social groups. The rowing club facility is the centerpiece for aquatic sports in Newcastle and there are aspirations for Carrington to become Newcastle's premier aquatic sports hub, attracting major events. The foreshore is a popular walking and cycling section of a wider network of paths and loop trails offering pleasant amenity and opportunity to be amongst the mangroves. The listed recommendations are designed to see the foreshore meets its full potential and remains the premium open space and recreational asset for Carrington and the wider community.

The following initiatives are guided by the overarching vision and principles, which are identified by the numbered icons below:

- 1 Preserving and enriching the landscape
- 2 Improving access and connections
- 3 Respecting and celebrating people and history
- 4 Increasing safety
- 5 Building resilience

Site Specific Opportunities

- 3.1 Consolidate the existing network of paths and create a legible hierarchy of paths that connect points of interest along the foreshore and limits conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists
- 3.2 Remove existing play equipment and relocate to more activated and visible location along the foreshore.
- 3.3 Investigate lighting along the full length of path along the foreshore from Cowper Street Bridge in the south to Elizabeth Street roundabout in the north.

Opportunities by others on land not managed by City of Newcastle

- 3.4 Investigate 'aquatic hub' for all aquatic organisations
- 3.5 Investigate potential upgrade to boat launch facility.
- 3.6 Discuss uses or proposed uses on Crown Land site

- (A) 1 2
- (B) 1 2 3 4
- (C) 1 4
- (D) 1 2
- (E) 1 2



Figure 38 Carrington's Foreshore

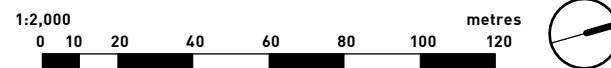
Concept – Foreshore North



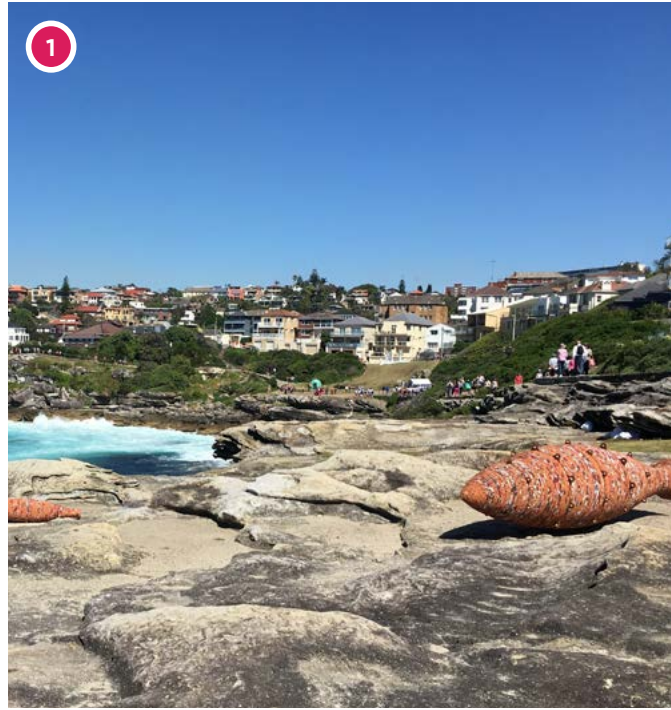
A Refer to City of Newcastle Strategic position for management of low lying areas of Newcastle 2017 report for details of works that will need to be considered in any future development.

NOTE: Detail design of Foreshore North is subject to consultation with various land owners and stakeholders as not all land is under CN management. A proposed cultural meeting place requires further community engagement.

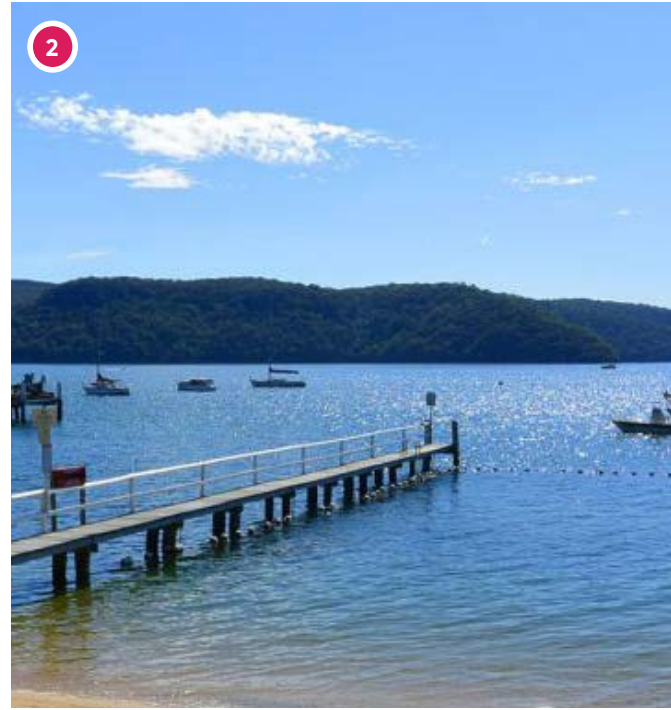
Figure 1 Foreshore North Concept Plan



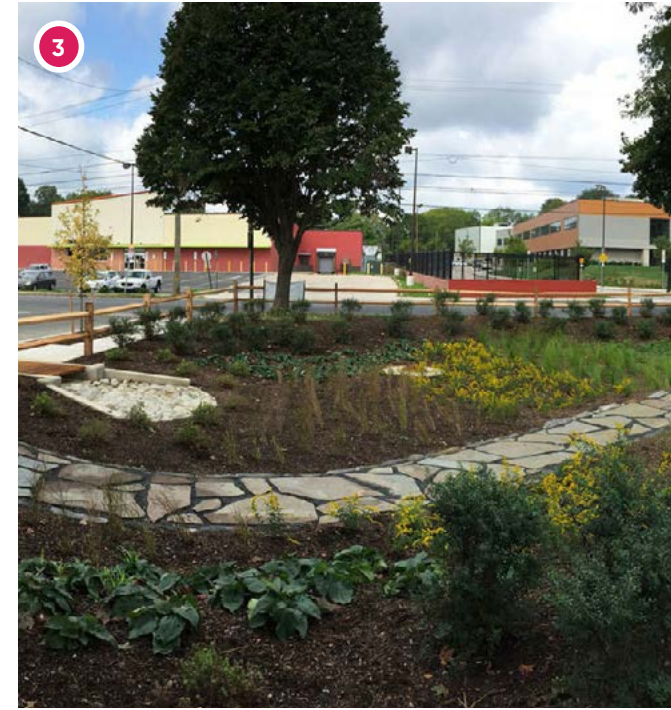
Foreshore North – Character Images



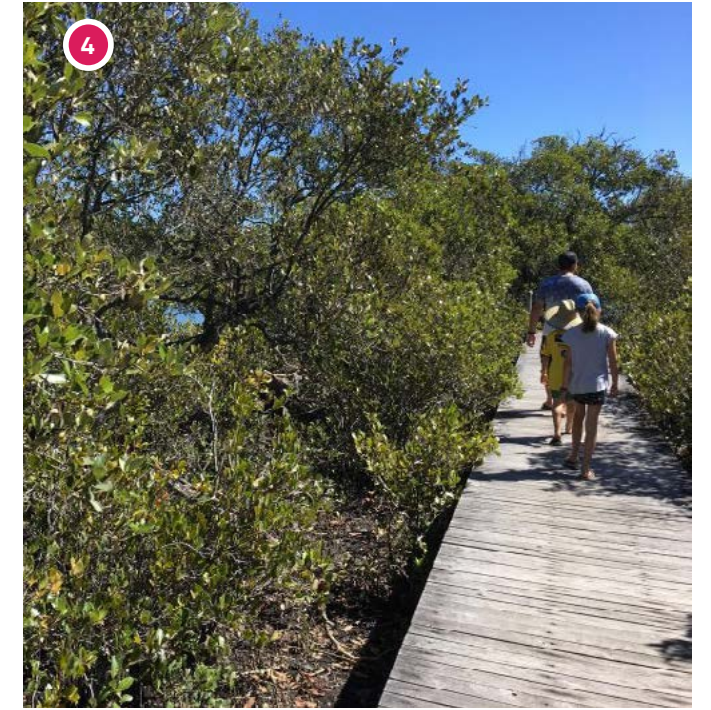
Foreshore art trail along the foreshore walk. (Sculptures by the Sea, 2017)



Recreational wharf (Taylors Wharf, Northern Beaches Council)



Publicly accessible environmental drainage feature. (Washington Lane Rain garden, Philadelphia)



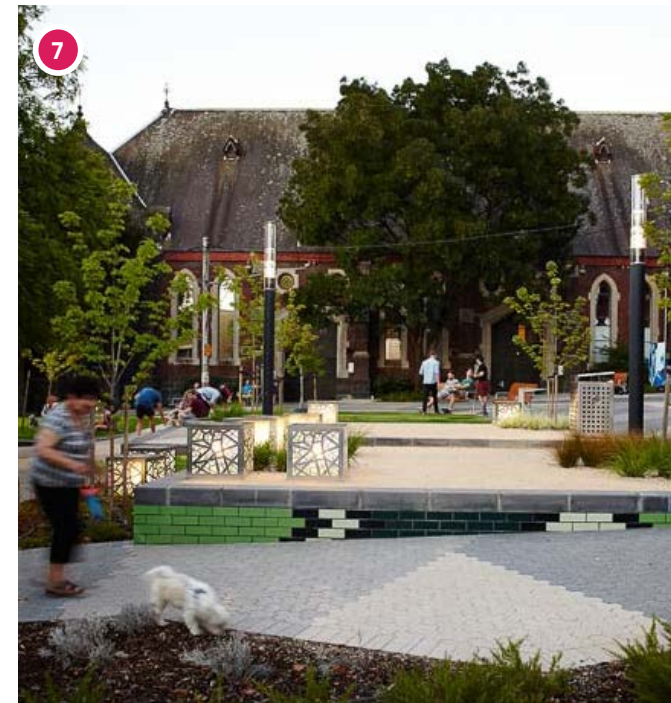
Mangrove Boardwalk (Throsby Creek Walking Loop, Carrington)



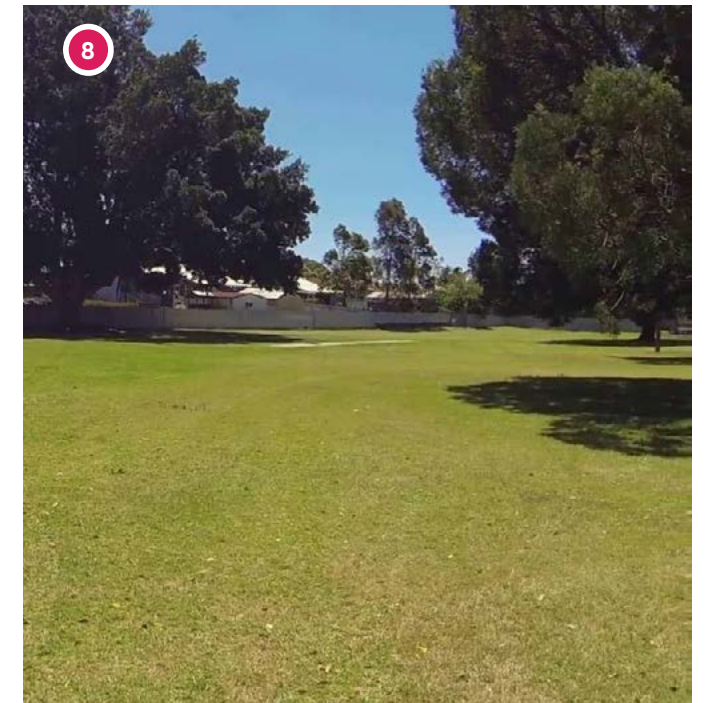
New themed playground (Stevenson Park, Mayfield West)



Cultural meeting place



Community Plaza (Richmond Terrace, Melbourne)



Off leash area (Purdue Park, Mayfield)

Sports precinct

Carrington has long history of sport. The sporting precinct not only caters for sport but is widely used by the community for general recreation.

The adjacent playground and community gardens provide an alternative use and the ovals are often used for dog walking and general exercise.

Supporting facilities are to be equitable and inclusive and cater for all abilities. The following recommendations are designed to uplift the sporting precinct to better serve its users.

Any changes to the lighting amenities at or adjacent the sports precinct will need to take the nearby fruit bat population into consideration.

Any improvements to the Sports Precinct to be in accordance with recommendations within the Strategic Sports Plan.

The following initiatives are guided by the overarching vision and principles, which are identified by the numbered icons below:

- 1 Preserving and enriching the landscape
- 2 Improving access and connections
- 3 Respecting and celebrating people and history
- 4 Increasing safety
- 5 Building resilience

Site Specific Opportunities

4.1 Public amenity building upgraded to meet Australian Standard for Accessibility.



4.2 Install perimeter paths around the sports fields to encourage exercise and a safe environment for children to ride bikes.



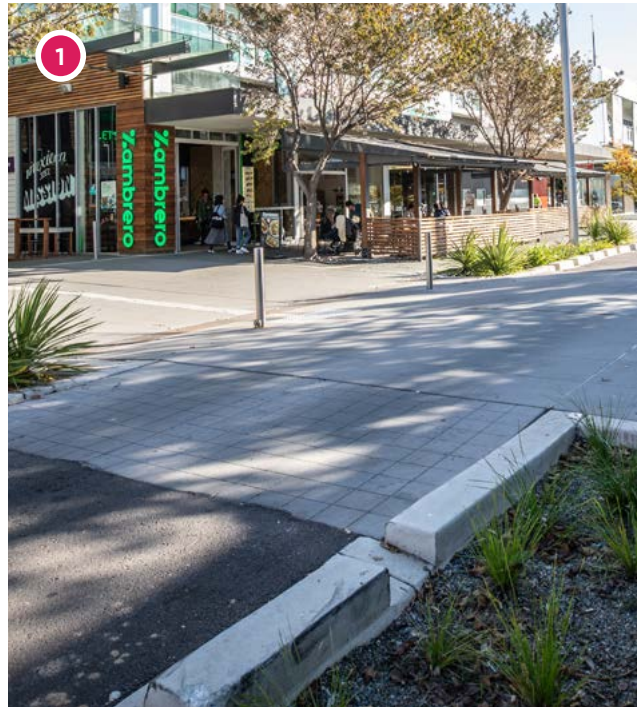
Figure 40 Carrington's Sports Precinct

Concept – Sports Precinct

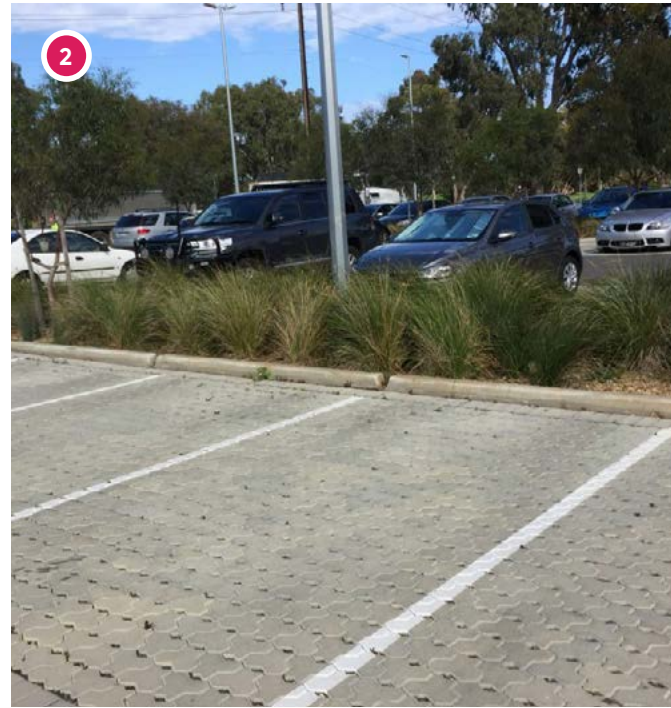


Figure 41 Sports Precinct Concept Plan

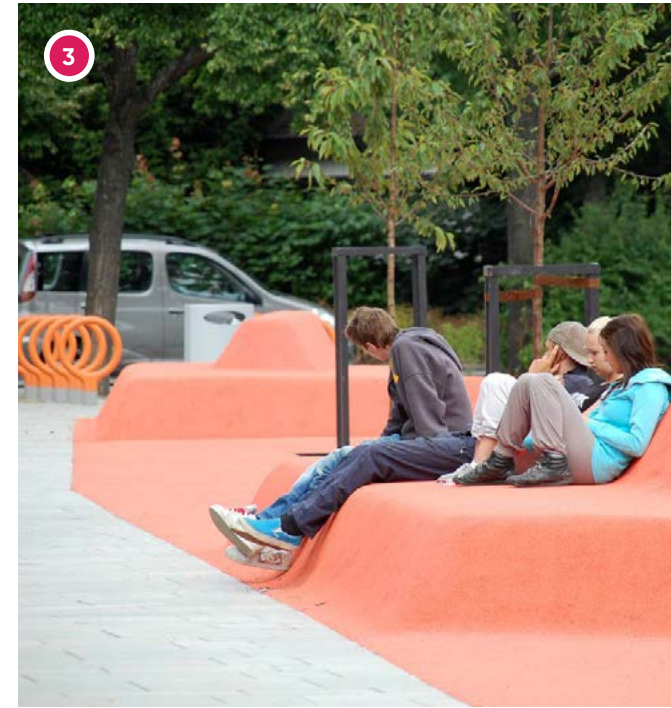
Sports Precinct - Character Images



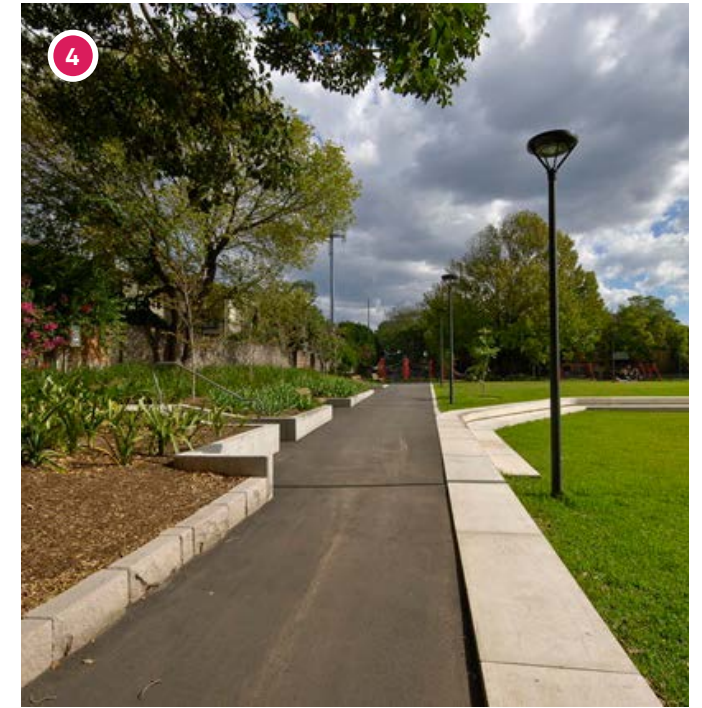
1 Raised crossing threshold (Hibberson St, Gungahlin)



2 Permeable paving parking bays with adjacent rain gardens and tree planting



3 Bespoke seating



4 Concrete and asphalt circulation paths and buffer planting (Foley Park, Glebe)



5 Upgraded amenities building with even area (Rockley Oval, Googong)



6 Combination sports, community garden, playground, passive activation

Carrington's story

Carrington has a unique story to tell. Aboriginal groups have a narrative about their 'country' and culture influenced by the tidal river and low lying mangrove flats that formed a chain of small 'islands' at low tide that is now the location of Carrington.

European settlement of Newcastle built around a convict outpost and the discovery of coal saw the need to create a port facility that would become Carrington. Built by ship ballast and dredging of the harbour Carrington is literally built by layers of rock from all over the world to create the 'island' suburb. From the early days of hardship and struggle to the much loved suburb that is known today, there are numerous stories to be uncovered in creative and thought provoking ways which the following recommendations aim to do.

The following initiatives are guided by the overarching vision and principles, which are identified by the numbered icons below:

- 1 Preserving and enriching the landscape
- 2 Improving access and connections
- 3 Respecting and celebrating people and history
- 4 Increasing safety
- 5 Building resilience

Carrington Wide Opportunities

- 5.1 Carrington 'Art Trail' – Consider an 'Art Trail' that creatively depicts the narrative of Carrington. A
2 3
- 5.2 Develop a signage and wayfinding strategy. 2 3
- 5.8 Working with Worimi and Awabakal communities to undertake a dual language study. 2 3

Site Specific Opportunities

- 5.7 Working with local Aboriginal groups investigate a suitable location and options for a cultural meeting place. 1 3
- 5.6 Install gateway features at the entrance to Carrington that reflects Carrington's unique character and history. B
2

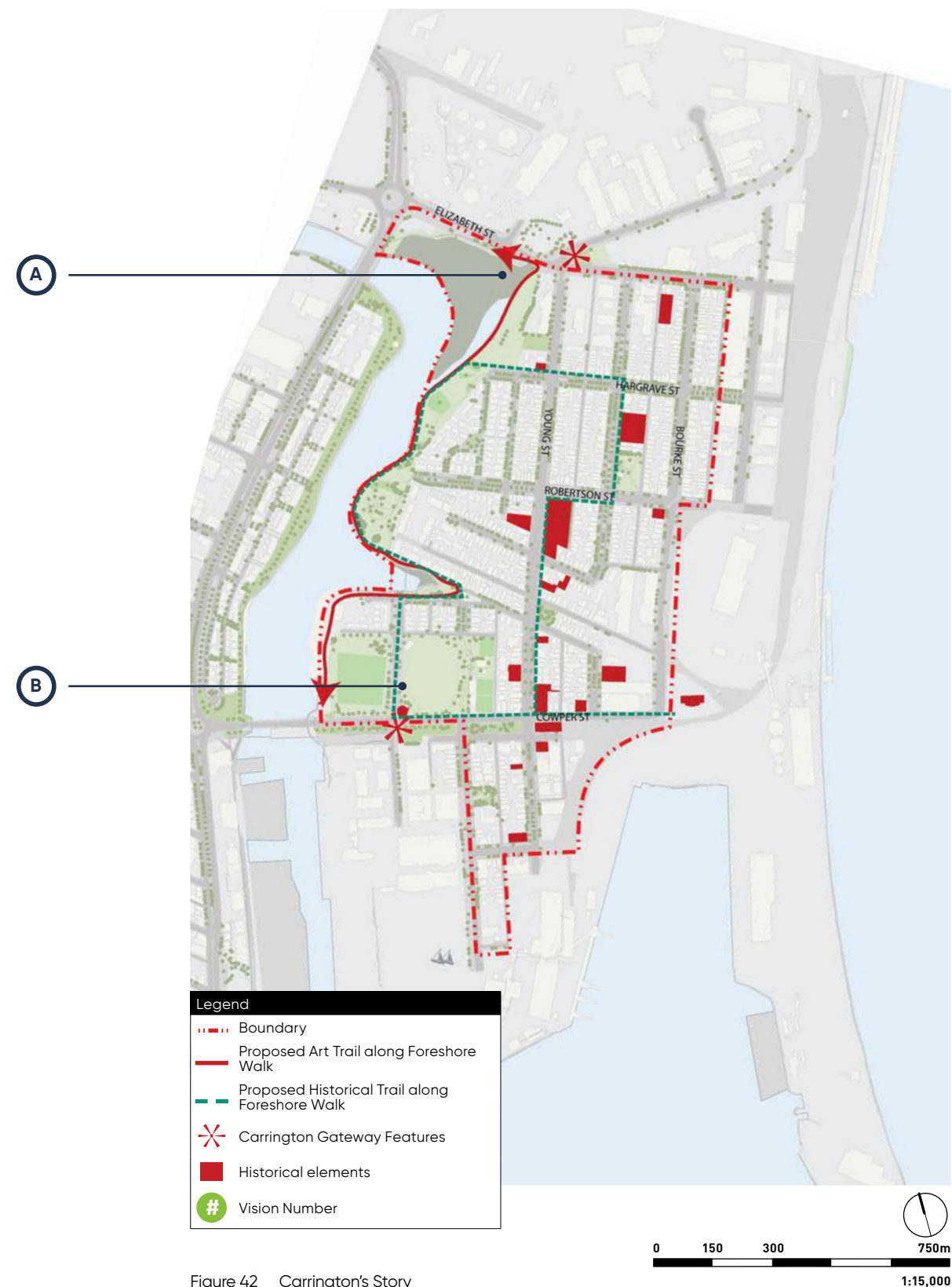


Figure 42 Carrington's Story

5 Delivering the Masterplan



Probably the most important issue affecting Carrington residents presently is the need for improved lighting along our foreshore and entry areas' - Community member

5.1 Priority Projects and Implementation Plan

Landscape			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
1.1	Implement Masterplan and develop concept designs for key study areas	Concept Design	Medium
1.2	Undertake tree survey and arborist report in accordance with Council Urban Forest Policy, Street Tree Policy, Stormwater Policy and Newcastle Bio-diversity Strategy.	Investigation / Research / Assessment	Low
1.3	Enhance the landscape themes and embellishments of existing pocket park in accordance with Plan of Management	Concept/Design Development	Low

Connectivity			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
2.1	Incorporate new street verge paths and upgrade existing to follow the 'Green Grid' network to provide comfortable links throughout Carrington.	Concept/Design Development	High
2.2	Incorporate cycleway on road and off road in accordance with Newcastle Cycleway Strategy and Action Plan and AustRoads standards.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
2.3	Undertake a safety and compliance audit of the existing pedestrian lights along popular paths within the open spaces. Investigate lighting options and include minimising environmental effects for the bat colony.	Strategy Development	High
2.4	Provide a suite of wayfinding measures to help better navigate people around Carrington. These measures could include markers, signs, points of interest, opening up vistas.	Strategy Development	Medium
2.5	Ensure disability and accessibility compliance in conjunction with public domain works.	Strategy Development	High
2.6	Incorporate Low Lying Area Strategy recommendations in to future plans	Concept/Design Development	Low
2.7	Investigate opportunities to improve active transport connections between the commercial core, parks, sports precinct and foreshore.	Strategy Development	Low
2.8	Review pathway network from Carrington to connect with Honeysuckle and Islington	Concept/Design Development	Med

Foreshore			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
3.1	Consolidate the existing network of paths and create a legible hierarchy of paths that accesses points of interest along the foreshore and limits conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
3.2	Upgrade playground in accordance with Council playground works program.	Concept/Design Development	Low
3.3	Investigate lighting along the full length of path along the foreshore from Cowper Street Bridge in the south to Elizabeth Street roundabout in the north.	Concept/Design Development	Low
Opportunities for other agencies and groups on land managed by Port of Newcastle and Crown Lands (Not under CN Management)			
3.4	Investigate 'aquatic hub' for all aquatic organisations	Concept/Design Development	Low
3.5	Investigate potential upgrade to boat launch facility adjacent RMS owned bridge.	Concept/Design Development	Low
3.6	Discuss future uses or proposed uses on Crown Land site	Strategy Development	Low

Sports Precinct			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
4.1	Public amenity building upgraded to meet Australian Standard for Accessibility.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
4.2	Install perimeter paths around the sports fields to encourage exercise and a safe environment for children to ride bikes.	Concept/Design Development	Low

Carrington's Story			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
5.1	Carrington 'Art Trail' – Consider an 'Art Trail' that creatively depicts the narrative of Carrington.	Strategy Development	Low
5.2	Develop a signage and wayfinding strategy	Strategy Development	Medium
5.3	Working with Worimi and Awabakal communities to undertake a dual language study.	Investigation/Research/Assessment	High
5.4	Working with local Aboriginal groups investigate a suitable location and options for a cultural meeting place.	Investigation/Research/Assessment	High
5.5	Install gateway features at the entrance to Carrington that reflects Carrington's unique character and history.	Concept/Design Development	Medium

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