

AUSTRALIAN BOTANIC GARDEN MOUNT ANNAN

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Studio Sydney **Report Contact** Α

McGregor Coxall Company



AUSTRALIA Sydney Phone: +61 [0]2 9188 7500 Emoil: sydney@mcgregorcoxall.com Address: Suite 101, lul 1 39 East Esplanade, Manly NSW 2095, Australia.

AUSTRALIA Melbourne Phone: +61 [0]3 9088 6500 Email: melbourne@regorcoxall.com Address: Level 4, 125 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia.

UNITED KINGDOM Bristol Phone: +44 [0]7496 282281 Email: bristol@mcgregorcoxall.con Address: 77 Stokes Croft, Bristol BS1 3RD, United Kingdom.

www.mcgregorcoxall.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Botanic Gardens of Sydney acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the culture, and dreams of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continual relationship with the land, and we recognise the importance of the young people who are our future leaders.



MINISTER'S FOREWORD

With more than 2,500 species of native plants representing all of Australia's major vegetation types, the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is a living collection showcasing the enormous diversity of our country's unique flora.

The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is the largest botanic garden in Australia, and is the flagship campus of the Australian Institute of Botanical Science – home to the National Herbarium of New South Wales and the Australian PlantBank.

This Master Plan sets out the pathway for the Australian Botanic Garden to become one of the world's leading and most sustainable botanic gardens.

This 416-hectare space now has a long-term plan to develop a globally-recognised botanical garden only 20km from Western Sydney International Airport with direct links to strategic centres in Sydney's west.

The Garden will become a key tourism attraction for interstate and international travellers and fulfil the need for more quality green and open space in western Sydney for local people. It will encourage active lifestyles, it will restore biodiversity, and it will improve access to quality recreational areas and environment for families to enjoy.

This Master Plan seeks to build on the important botanical science research and plant collections that are driving effective conservation to ensure the survival of plants, and all life that depends on them.

With conservation, community, and Connection to Country at its heart, the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan Master Plan will enable the ongoing showcasing of Australian flora and First Nations perspectives through protecting, restoring, and displaying native plant species.



The Hon. Paul Scully
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces



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Figure 1: Photo of the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan





1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report describes the vision and Master Plan for the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan (the Garden) to become a world class Botanic Garden and public open space. The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is one of the three botanic gardens within the Botanic Gardens of Sydney, the registered business name of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust constituted under the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980 (NSW).

Building on its legacy, the Garden will become a leader amongst botanical gardens globally. Through protecting, conserving, restoring, and displaying native vegetation in a sustainable manner, the Garden will showcase best practice sustainable design embedded with Australian cultural heritage and First Nations perspectives. This aligns with the NSW Government's priority to champion arts, culture and the creative industries through the expression, and design, of authentic landscapes and places for community to engage on, and with, Country.

Located on Dharawal Country and shared by the Dharug and Gundungurra, the Garden is positioned within southwest Sydney, covering 416 hectares, and falls within the Campbelltown, LGA to the south-east and the Camden LGA to the north-west. The Garden was opened in 1988 as a bicentennial project, providing essential open space to the local and regional community. The previous Master Plan for the Gardens was prepared in 2000 with a subsequent review in 2006, outlining key strategic directions and drivers.

Currently the Garden provides a range of science, horticulture, education, and recreational uses, as well as premier research facilities - the Australian PlantBank and the National Herbarium of New South Wales. A total of 964,910 visitors were recorded in the financial year 2022-2023, with an increase of 26.8% from 2021-2022.

At the heart of this Master Plan lies the undeniable importance of Western Sydney – one of New South Wales' fastest-growing and most vibrant regions, home to 2.73 million people. The Gardens stand as a cornerstone for Western Sydney, playing a pivotal role in providing a Botanic Garden and public space that inspires connection, good health, relaxation and learning. The local resident population alone (Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly, and Liverpool) is projected to grow from 586, 562 in 2021 to 926, 040

people in 2041. An increase of 57.87% according to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure 2024 NSW Population Projections.

The Master Plan must accommodate future users and underpin the Garden's status as an iconic botanic garden, scientific community asset, and regional attractor. In exploring the Garden's current and future opportunities there is scope to reduce reliance on public funding through diversifying current uses and increasing sources of revenue.

The Master Plan achieves the principal objects that are set in the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980 (the Act), which can be summarised as:

- 1) maintaining and improving Trust lands, the National Herbarium of New South Wales and the living collections,
- 2) increasing the study and education of Australian plant life, and
- 3) to encourage the use and enjoyment of Trust lands through educational, historical, cultural, and recreational values.



Figure 3: Photo of the Cumberland Plain Woodland

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2.1 RESTORING COUNTRY

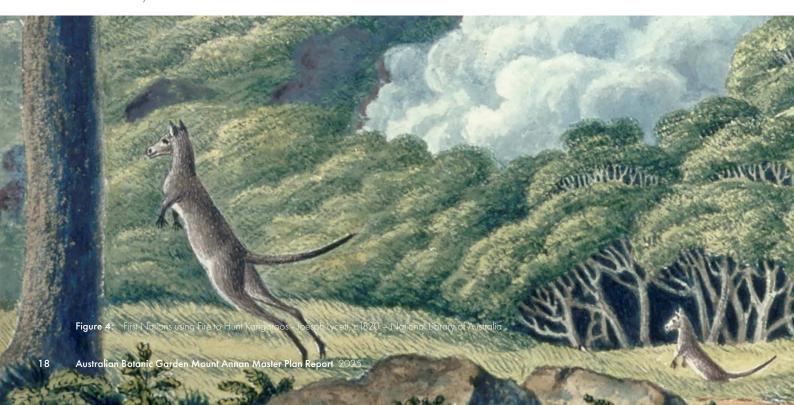
The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan will become an international destination that showcases Australia's Pre-Colonial landscape whilst providing valuable open space for the community.

Dharawal people are the traditional owners and Dharug and Gundungurra as bordering nations who shared and contributed to Country. Celebrating First Nations cultural heritage and traditional land management practices will be an important focus of the future of the Garden and has been consulted on with various First Nations groups and stakeholders.

The vision for the next phase of development at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan (the Garden) is for it to become a world class, international destination that showcases Australia's Pre-Colonial landscape whilst providing valuable open space for community. Celebrating First Nations cultural heritage and traditional land management practices will be an important focus and the key narrative is that Country will slowly be restored providing a glimpse into the unique and ancient botanical landscape of the Cumberland Plain Woodland that used to extensively cover the area.

The Garden will be transformed from a predominately vehicle oriented destination, into Australia's largest botanic garden that exhibits rich native biodiversity and vibrant visitor facilities to equal the great botanic gardens of the world. It will house a botanical research and innovation cluster that unites science with industry. These changes will strengthen the Garden's role in sharing the study of botanical sciences and plant conservation.

The Master Plan proposes a central visitor precinct that maximises value from recent investments in the Australian PlantBank and National Herbarium of New South Wales. The precinct proposes a series of cascading central lakes that are united inside a loop walk shaped in the form of a Coolamon; a drinking vessel. Two 'C' shaped boardwalks flank the lakes representing people seated and yarning alongside the Coolamon.



The Garden will be a diversely Australian place offering Australia's largest living and preserved botanical collection that leads a self-sustaining approach to celebrating community, culture, and best practice environmental management.

The Master Plan not only reflects the Garden's current and continuing use as a botanic garden, it also provides an holistic picture of pre-colonial as well as post-modern botanical study. Through communicating the rich First Nations history of Mount Annan and embedding it within the design, authentic connections to Country will be made. The Master Plan proposes restoring the pre-colonisation vegetation mosaic of woodlands and grasslands as a framework for the Garden's future landscape structure. Additionally, an Australian Native Plants Farm, First Nations Garden and First Nations Cultural Centre is proposed to allow First Nations Australians to gather, share knowledge and practice on Country.

Improved access is planned for, with the closure of internal roads to private vehicles in favour of walking, cycling and

varied modes of electric mobility; creating a pedestrian core at the heart of the site. Connections to two nearby planned rail stations on the east and west will also be made, allowing for more equitable access to and from the Garden for all.

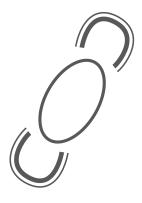
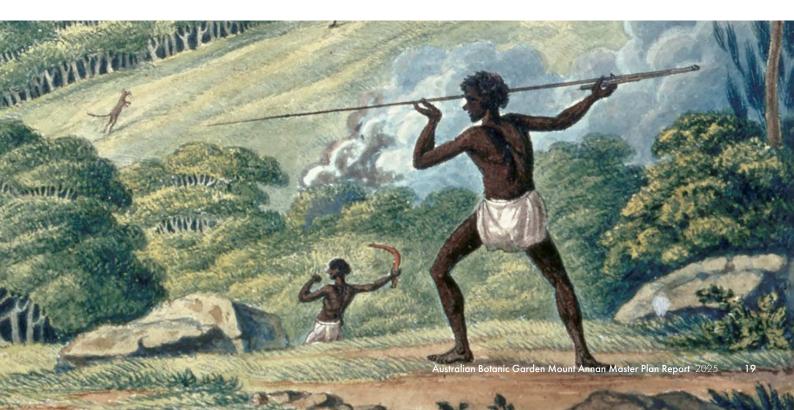


Figure 5: Diagram representing the Coolamon



COUNTRY

The Mount Annan peak and surrounds have always been a place of confluence - one of meeting and coming together which will remain as part of the Master Plan.

The land is full of incredible diversity - a rich tapestry of flora, fauna, water bodies and landform. This rich environment is home to some incredibly significant ecological communities such as the Cumberland Plain Woodland. These communities are a defining element of Country and will be protected and enhanced.

The Botanic Gardens of Sydney will seek to work together with First Nations communities to build upon, and create themed gardens and displays, a First Nations Cultural Centre, First Nations guided tours, and publications to acknowledge the significance of these lands to First Nations people, past and present.

LANGUAGE

Dharawal, Dharug and Gundungurra all have unique languages which should be celebrated and embedded as part of the experience of the Garden. The incorporation of First Nations plant names, totems, and storylines will allow for the education and sharing of language throughout the Garden and the wider community.

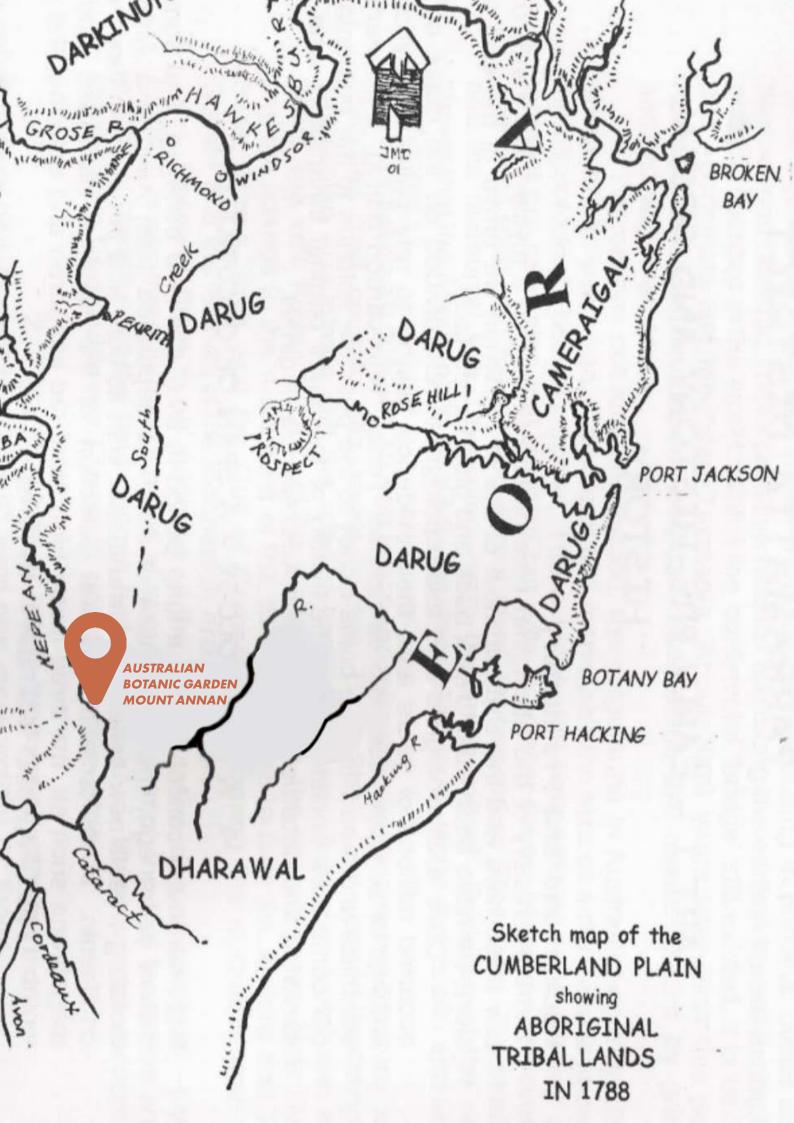
PRACTICE

The First Nations inhabitants traditionally moved between the areas now known as Campbelltown, Liverpool, Camden and Picton, and occasionally as far as Parramatta.

Traditional First Nations society was made up from distinct family groups and extended families. All members had specific responsibilities, based on age and gender. Clan boundaries were well defined, and each clan was responsible for ensuring the well-being of their lands.

First Nations people incorporated many different land management techniques, including the burning off of areas to clear the understory vegetation and promote growth of grasses suited for macropods. They saw themselves as part of the land, not separate from it. These land management practices are supported, and to be incorporated, as part of the Master Plan and the ongoing management of the Garden.





2.2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

SYDNEY SOUTH WEST GREEN GRID

Its location on a planned City-Serving Transport Corridor, which interconnects with the planned train link at both Narellan and Campbelltown-Macarthur, means the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is strategically situated to be highly accessible for national and international visitors originating from the proposed Western Sydney Airport and local visitors from the nearby strategic centres.



Figure 7: Government Architect of NSW Sydney Green Grid, Tyrell Studio 2017

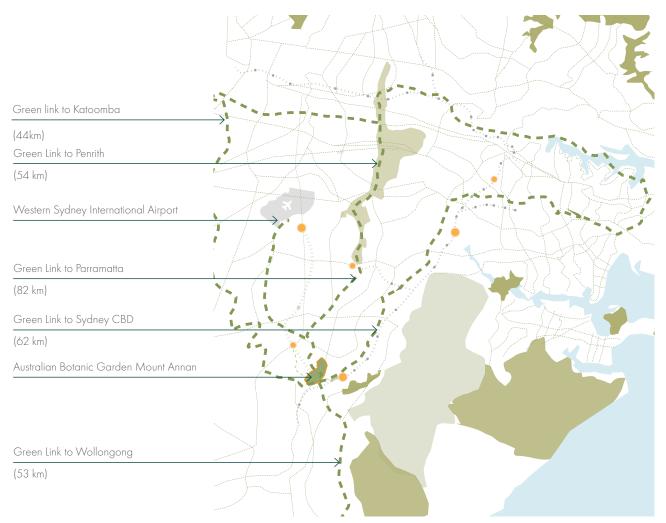


Figure 8: Regional Green Links, Western Sydney Green Grid, Tyrell Studio 2017

WESTERN CITY DISTRICT CONTEXT

The Garden is recognised by the plan as a key asset within the Western District Plan. A multi-modal orientated development with links to both the proposed airport and strategic centres will help to ensure the sustainability and resilience of the site by broadening the appeal of the Garden beyond those with access to cars.

The future transport link between the North West, Western City Airport, South West and Greater Macarthur Growth Areas will provide improved transport options and accessibility.



Figure 9: Local Green Links Government Architect of NSW, Western Sydney Green Grid, Tyrell Studio 2017

THRIVING COMMUNITIES AND PUBLIC SPACES

The Master Plan will significantly enhance the Garden as a much valued and used public space that people can enjoy to connect with each other and nature in a range of ways. It will support NSW Government commitments to people's physical and mental health and promote diverse, cohesive communities and cultural opportunities.

The Master Plan supports NSW's priorities in creating a great public space and facilities that will appeal to tourists and locals, encouraging more people to go out, closer to home.

Figure 10: Precedent - Market Events



NATURE POSITIVE

The implementation of the Garden's Master Plan will provide a strategic opportunity to demonstrate NSW's commitment to a nature positive future and government initiatives that support biodiversity conservation and increased protection of the state's natural environment. Visitors to the Garden will not only be immersed in nature, they will experience globally unique nature experiences and innovation in sustainability.

Practically the Gardens will provide an excellent example of climate resilient ecological restoration and canopy cover in spaces that will host learning, cultural, social and recreational experiences while showcasing NSW's conservation and science.

Figure 11: Photo of Lakeside at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan



2.3 PLACE FRAMEWORK

This Place Framework acts as the brief for the development of the Master Plan. It brings together the answers to key questions regarding the desired future for the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan - the people, the place, the purpose, and the audience.

PLACE



CONNECTION TO COUNTRY - through deep partnerships with First Nations Australians and a commitment to shared learning and training.



HUMAN FOCUSED - destination that is accessible, legible, inclusive and enhances visitors' appreciation of the Garden.



COMMUNAL RECREATION - offered as an essential activity enriching the lives of the people of the Western Parkland City.

PEOPLE



BOTANICAL EXPERIENCE - will be championed in everything we do.



MORE FUNCTIONAL - place that is designed in a way that enables great visitor experiences.



EXEMPLARY - within the local and regional context.

PURPOSE



 $\begin{tabular}{llll} \textbf{COMMERCIALLY VIABLE -} & with more diverse land use and service offerings. \end{tabular}$



SAFER - for staff, visitors and wildlife, across both day and night.

AUDIENCE Globally unique nature experiences International Visitors Authentic community connection to Country Australia Premier outdoor cultural & tourism destination Greater Sydney Most bio-diverse living & preserved collections of native species Academics and Researchers Centre for Eco-Industry Hub and innovation

Business and Government

Figure 12: Place Framework for the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan - Place Partners, 2021



Figure 13: Precedent - First Nations Cultural Practice



3.1 FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

"If we look after Country, it will look after us."

"How are you going to leave my Country better than what it was before?"

Quotes from consultation workshops

UNDERSTANDING COUNTRY

All the elements of the natural world, the earth, the sea and the sky are aspects of the unique relationship that all First Nations people have with the world. These parts all make up the notion of 'Country'.

First Nations people often recall that it was the Spirits that created the world as it is now, all descend from spirits who once lived in the sky. Every aspect of the world we see now was created in response to the needs of those spirits. All features of the natural earth represent parts of the spirit dreaming and are repeated in the dreamings of the people who now inhabit the earth

Just as rocks, trees, rivers, soil, the ocean have a connection to that dreaming so each also has a connection to the totems of the people. Each animal, snake, fish lizard or insect has its totem and they also have a direct connection to their ancestral origins in the sky. Those spirits live on in 'Country' right now.

As part of the ABGMA design process we have engaged in thorough consultation with various First Nations stakeholders which has revealed the importance and sacredness of 'Country'. Their feedback, and input, has shaped the Master Plan most poignantly in the following ways:



Figure 14: Photo of Mount Annan summit



The Earth / Gathering

Ihe earth is often referred to as Mother and everything about it is held in great reverence. The significance of the earth to be managed appropriately through First Nations land management practices was identified as an opportunity, as was the importance of having spaces to gather, yarn, and practice on Country.



Hills & High Places

The hills and high places hold spiritual and practical significance. For the Master Plan, it was identified to not build on the high points and ridgelines, and to keep these areas naturalised and respectful of their form.



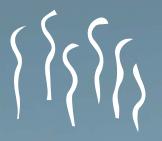
Creeklines / Water

Water is incredibly significant spiritually, as it sustains and promotes life. Water sets the structure of Country in the way it interacts with Earth. It carves Country up and sets the rhythm and flow of how humans experience it. For this reason, the central area of the Garden is proposed to radiate around a central Coolamon Lake that draws people down to a generous body of water.



Cumberland Plain Woodland

The protection and restoration of the Cumberland Plain Woodland was identified of great importance. The Woodland is a cooplace important for giving cover to people and animals as well as resources and food providing a diverse range of habitats that support many species.



Practice / Learn

Learning, educating, and practicing on Country is a fundamental opportunity identified for the Garden. Therefore, a First Nations Cultural Centre with associated classes, workshops, and facilities to promote practicing on Country will be embedded in the Master Plan



The Sky / Stars

The sky and stars, ground cover and place are often associated with the afterlife. Opportunities to engage with the sky and the stars was identified; this is reflected in new night-time programs and opportunities in the Garden.



3.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Stakeholder consultation with various significant and interested parties, ranging from local community groups to Government bodies, was undertaken as part of the Master Plan process. This leadback and input have helped to shape the Master Plan in the following ways:

Keeping What We Love

The design should be reflective of 'place' and keep what the community loves - the unique Western Sydney flora and fauna, as well as celebrating the Garden's living collection.

Quiet places to dwell, already existing events, and community activities must be retained and at the fore of the new Master Plan.

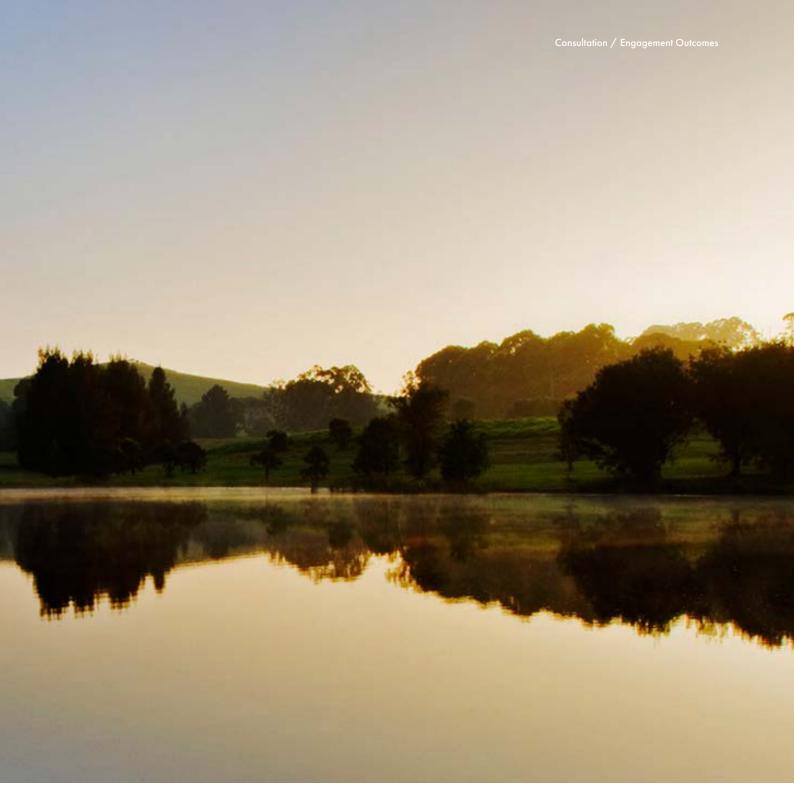
First Nation Opportunities

As part of consultation with various community and stakeholder groups, it was identified that it is of great importance for the Garden to be for everyone. In particular, the design should highlight the strong and deep connection to Country that the First Nations community has with the Garden and surrounds

Protect & Restore Nature

Being environmentally conscious and aware of the significant ecology currently found on site was identified of great importance - in particular the protection of the Cumberland Plain Woodland.

New built form should be considerate of the landscape and topography of the site; seamlessly integrated. Any new built form should also be world leading in terms of sustainable practices.



Education & Learning

The Garden will include a range of education and learning opportunities to build upon First Nations knowledge amongst the community, and more broadly on the importance of Botanical Sciences.

Such opportunities range from formal facilities to informal play spaces for young children, mountain bike trails for adolescent ages, to more meandering quiet reflective spaces for older age groups this Garden will cater for all ages and abilities.

Active & Quiet Spaces

A diversity of programs and activities should be allowed for in the design to cater to a growing community in Western Sydney ranging from quiet picnicking areas to lively event spaces.

It is also noted that this growth in programming within the Garden should be complimentary and considerate of the existing horticultural and scientific elements of the Garden; a focus which is at the core of the Master Plan design.

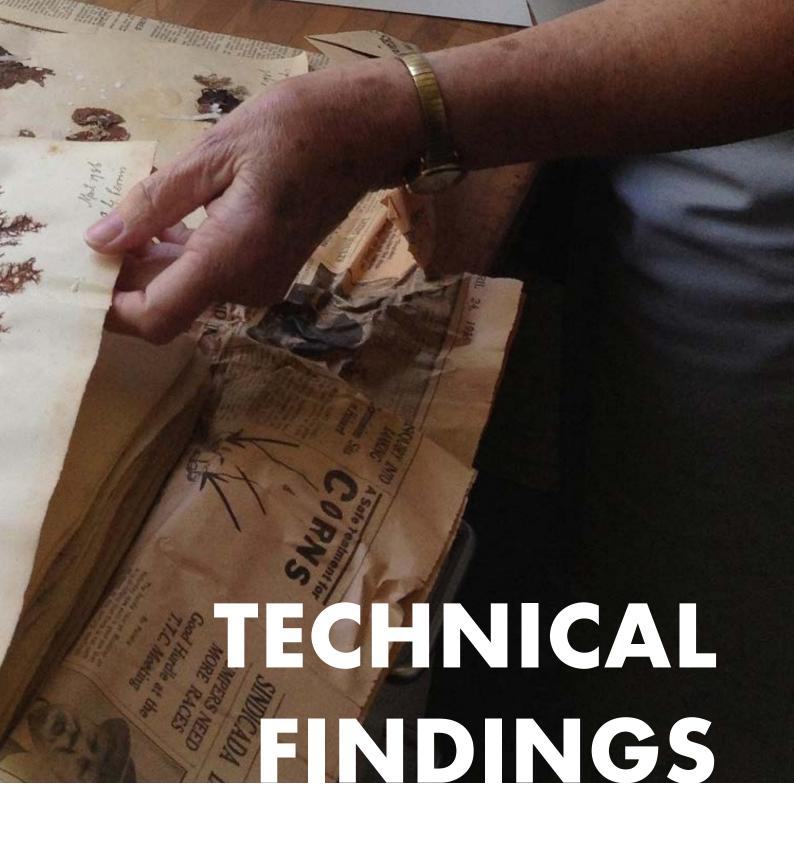
Community Amenity

More amenities and facilities for the community should be allowed for in the Master Plan.

Of note, the need for more seating, toilets, walking trails, education facilities, events, and food and beverage offerings was identified in the consultation process, and seen as fundamentally important for the design of the Garden.

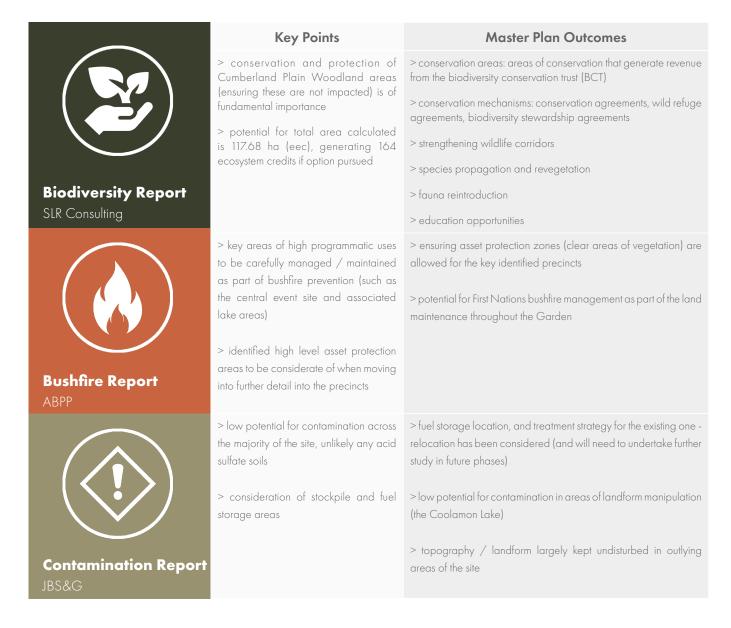


Figure 16: Precedent - National Herbarium of New South Wales Collections



4.1 TECHNICAL FINDINGS INPUTS

A range of technical inputs from various consultants has been provided as part of the design assurances of the Master Plan. These range from biodiversity reports and services reports, to heritage assessments and market analysis. Key inputs from these reports have informed and guided the design of the Master Plan. These are noted in the below table:





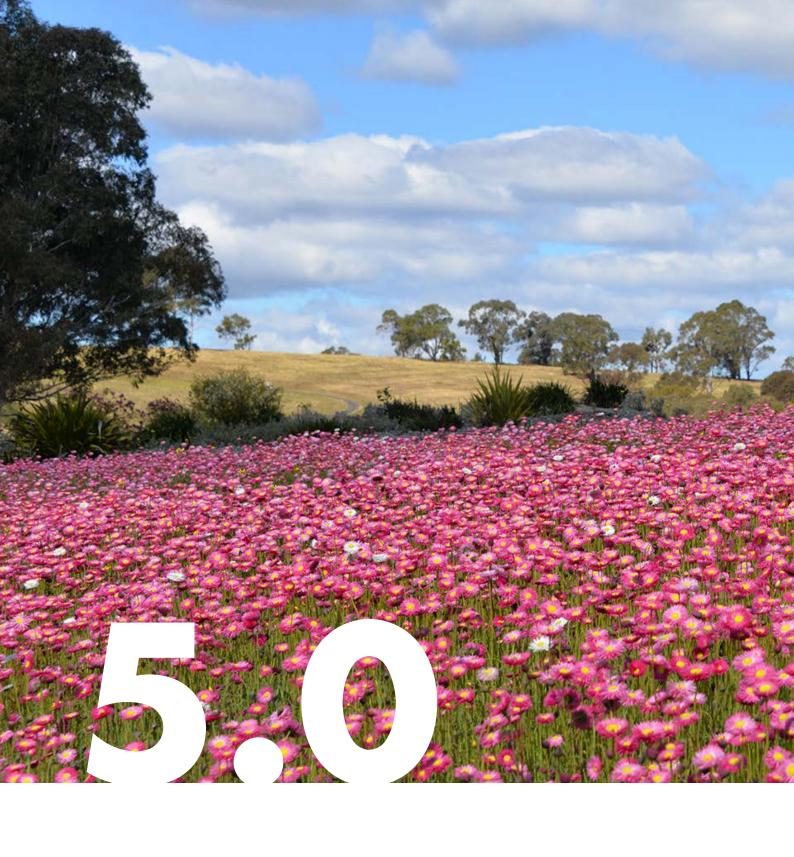


Figure 17: Photo of the Paper Daisy display at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan

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5.1 SIX KEY MOVES

As a result of extensive consultation sessions, discussion and collaboration and from thorough site and market analysis, Six Key Moves have been identified as the underpinning framework to inform the Master Plan moving forward. These are as follows:



WORLD LEADING
BOTANICAL SCIENCES



CONNECTION TO COUNTRY



GLOBALLY UNIQUE NATURE EXPERIENCES



TOURISM & EVENTS



SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION



EASY TO ACCESS AND GET AROUND

5.2 WORLD LEADING BOTANICAL SCIENCES

Building on existing world class facilities (the Australian PlantBank and the National Herbarium of New South Wales) and one of the world's best scientifically documented living collections of Australian plants, new facilities / precincts will be established that provide opportunities for research, learning, conservation, a nature positive future for New South Wales and solutions to global problems.

This Master Plan, and the world leading botanical sciences that the Plan will enable, will support the NSW Government's plan to better protect and restore the natural environment. Biodiversity is in crisis and the work and impacts that will be created from this Master Plan will actively help turn around the loss and restore ecosystems so that current and future generations can prosper.

The Australian PlantBank

The Australian PlantBank, the award-winning home of plant conservation research, germplasm collection and storage in New South Wales, safeguards plants for the future, and provides opportunities for visitors to engage and learn more about Australia's unique flora.

National Herbarium of New South Wales

The National Herbarium of New South Wales houses over 1 million plant specimens. This efficient quarantined facility is vital for continual scientific research for conservation of our natural environment.

Botanical Domes

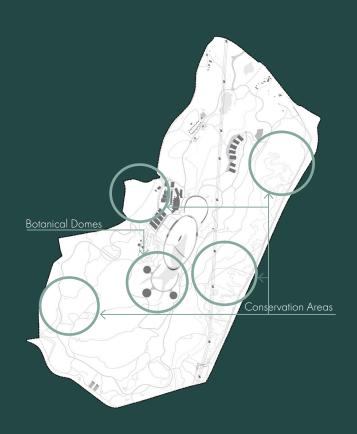
The Botanical Domes will be a key research and visitor destination, offering an immersive opportunity for people to experience the characteristics of Australia's diverse climatic regions and respective plant communities.

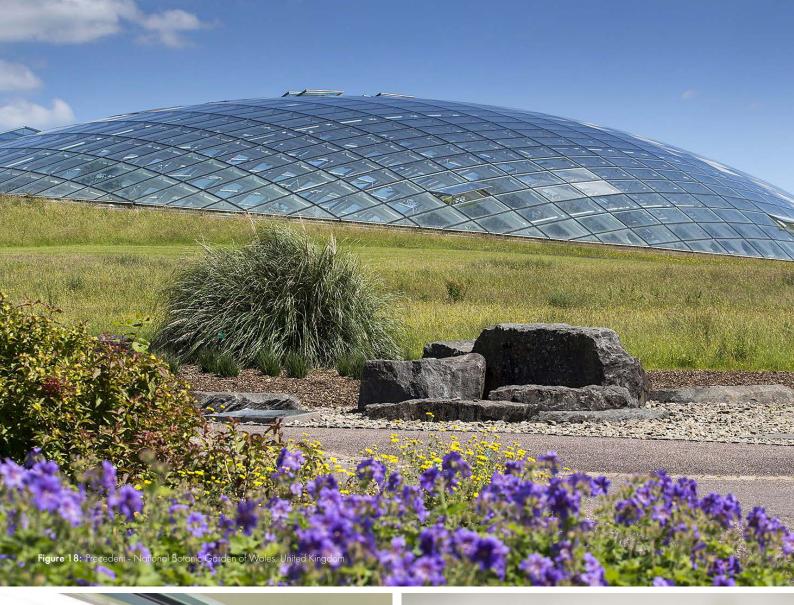
NSW Nature Restoration Nursery

The Conservation Nursery, with adjoining administration building, and a conservation nursery provides opportunities to propagate and grow native plants for the revegetation and restoration of ecological communities.

Conservation Areas

Continued efforts to enhance the conservation of endangered ecological communities and healing Country within the Garden.









5.3 AUTHENTIC CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

Australia has the privilege of having the world's oldest continuous living culture; this presents the opportunity to build meaningful connections to culture and Country through learning and experience.

First Nations Garden and Australian Native Plants Farm

A place to practice on Country - a First Nations Garden that celebrates and showcases native planting, a working Australian Native Plants Farm for produce and cultural resource planting / education.

First Nations Cultural Centre

A First Nations Cultural Centre to share knowledge and provide amenity that facilitates a range of local First Nations community events - such as NAIDOC week celebrations, National Sorry Day events, and other cultural activities.

First Nations Cultural Awareness Programs / Tours

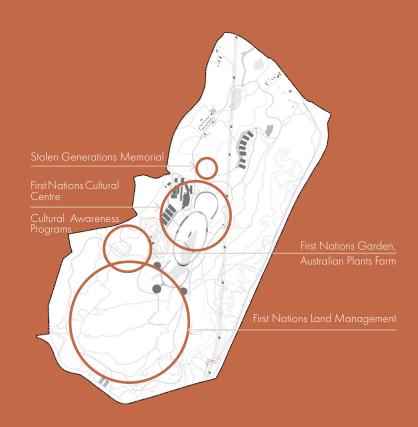
An opportunity for unique cultural sharing that encourages intimate visitor dialogue with First Nations people that connect stories of Country through visual, auditory, and tactile learnings.

First Nations Land Management

Supporting and collaborating so First Nations Land Management can occur throughout areas of the Garden

Stolen Generations Memorial

A quiet, reflective place for all to visit, reflect, and acknowledge the impact of the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.









5.4 GLOBALLY UNIQUE NATURE EXPERIENCES

People are looking more for experiences that connect them to the natural world, Australia has incredibly unique flora and fauna that can be showcased and celebrated here which is not found anywhere else around the world.

Botanical Display Gardens

The Australian Botanic Garden offers visitors the opportunity to engage with over 2000 individual plants via themed gardens across the site.

The Coolamon

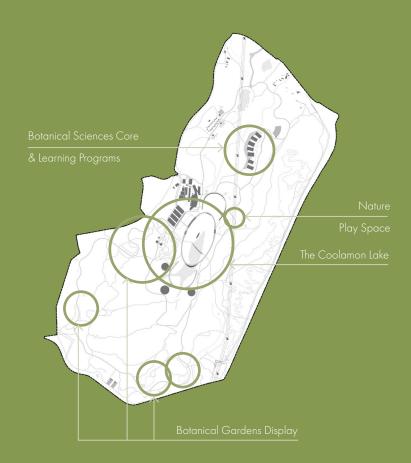
Centring on the meaning 'carrying vessel', the Coolamon will celebrate water as a space for cultural, recreational and spiritual nourishment where visitors can come together and enjoy a range of aquatic offerings.

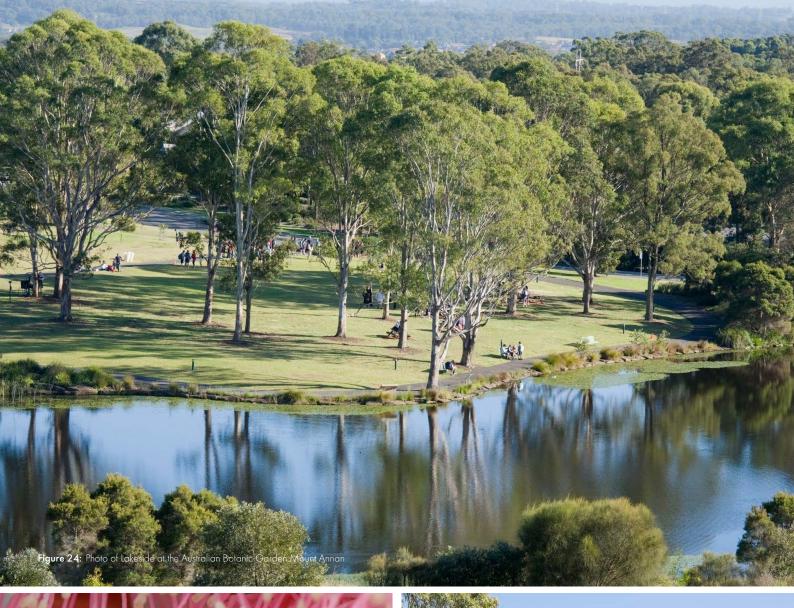
Botanical Sciences Core & Learning Programs

The world leading Botanical Sciences Core and Learning Programs, will offer a space to discover the importance of conservation work and forward leading scientific research.

Nature Play

An opportunity to explore the wonder of nature through physical pursuits, here visitors will be encouraged to run, jump, play, learn and discover the treetops, water, and vegetation of the Garden.









5.5 A PREMIER DESTINATION FOR TOURISM & EVENTS

Western Sydney's rapid growth is leading to an increased demand for quality community space. Creating a premier recreational and cultural offering at the Australian Botanic Garden will make it the preferred venue for social gatherings to large major events.

Community / Social Gatherings

A series of discrete, small gathering spaces will be incorporated throughout the Garden for picnics and a variety of social events.

Festivals / Major Events

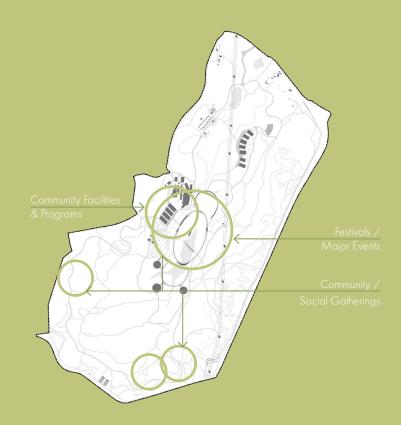
Sitting at the core of public activation will be a grassed amphitheatre for large outdoor events, holding a capacity of several thousand visitors that are drawn to experience open air views.

Community Facilities (Visitor Centre, Cafe, and Restaurants)

The Visitor Centre, caté and restaurants ofter guests numerous ways to be welcomed into the Garden. These facilities will orient visitors to the central precinct of the Garden.

Community Programs (Workshops and Classes)

A wide range of botanic workshops, classes, and guided walking tours that explore the rich heritage of the Garden and the vast display of plant diversity.









5.6 LEADER IN SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION

A holistic, forward-looking approach to sustainable and innovative outcomes; the Australian Botanic Garden will provide new innovative and sustainable facilities, engage with partners to promote environmental research, and educate the wider public on what they can do to stem the impact of global climate problems.

Sustainable / Environmentally Conscious Facilities

All proposed buildings will seek to act on (and mitigate the impact on) climate change, deal with the management of resources, reduce waste and maintenance, work passively to reduce energy consumption, and be designed to use materials and finishes that sit seamlessly with Country.

Eco-Tourism

Taking inspiration from leaders in eco-tourism accommodation, this will be an immersive outdoor experience for visitors to stay 'in style' and explore the Garden with ecological learning outcomes. The built form will be integrated respectfully with the landscape and showcase the Garden in all its beauty.

Eco-Industry Hub

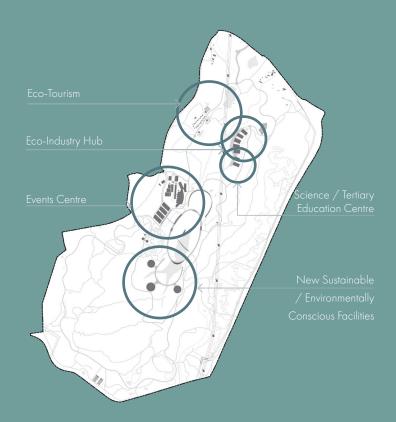
The Eco-Industry Hub will be focused on growing the Botanical and Horticultural Science capability and research capacity of the Garden. This will be achieved through world class facilities and innovative partnerships with industry and educational institutions.

Science / Tertiary Education Centre

Engaging and inspiring students from all ages to work collaboratively through outdoor learning activities, immersive exhibitions, and hands on gardening that challenges students to build on community awareness, sustainable living practices and connects them to First Nations culture.

Events Centre

Internal spaces which allow for industry workshops, partnerships to be formed, and conferences to be held.









5.7 EASY TO ACCESS & GET AROUND

Establishing an outward looking place by strengthening connections into the Garden, increasing permeability across the site, and ensuring equitable access to key facilities and spaces, centred on people not vehicles.

The Coolamon Loop

The Coolamon Loop is of cultural and physical importance, functioning as a central walking path and core events space for the Garden. It links a range of external programs, such as the Botanical Domes, and acts as the heart of the site for people to gather and celebrate.

Exploration Loop

A core pedestrian, bike and E-Vehicle trail which loops the Garden and treads delicately on the land. The trail seeks to link existing paths, connect to Country through embedded narratives, and respect existing ecological communities of vegetation.

E-vehicle hire / Carparks

To accommodate and manage the movement of visitors around the Garden, car parking facilities are integrated in strategic areas largely on the periphery. From here visitors are then transported by E-Vehicles; a sustainable way to travel around the Garden.

Public Vehicular Access Points

Collaboration with Transport for NSW and Campbelltown City and Camden Councils to achieve enhanced access to the Garden through public transport solutions.

Pedestrian Access Points

A variety of pedestrian access points on the periphery of the Garden have been proposed. These seek to tie into existing surrounding green space and draw people into the site with greater permeability.

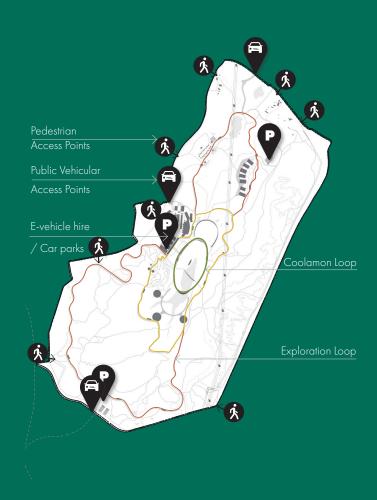










Figure 36: Photo of the Paper Daisy display at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan



6.1 MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

A world-class botanic garden only 20km from Western Sydney International Airport directly supporting the visitor economy of strategic centres including the Macarthur Region, Parramatta, Bradfield, Liverpool and Sydney.

The foundations exist with the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan being a valued open space for the growing local community as well as an internationally significant botanic garden.

The Master Plan framework balances future development that activates the site with the protection and enhancement of Garden's endangered vegetation communities.

The creation of a new visitor core - the lakes precinct - sets up a spatial configuration for the majority of future uses.

- National Herbarium of NSW (existing)
- 2 The Australian PlantBank (existing)
- 3 Conservation Nursery (existing)
- 4 Administration Building
- 5 Operational Depot
- 6 Main Central Parking (P1) 900 Spaces
- 7 Cafe, Visitor Centre and Events Centre
- 8 Public Site Access Southern Entry
- 9 Stolen Generations Memorial (restored)
- 10 Events Lawn
- Botanical Domes
- Australian Display Garden(existing)
- 13 Australian Native Plants Farm & First Nations Cultural Centre
- 14 First Nations Garden
- Exploration Loop Shared (E-vehicle, Pedestrian, Bike)
- Southern Entry Parking (P2) and Visitor Centre 92 Spaces

The visitor core will become a 1.5km loop connecting the main entrance, visitor information, food and beverage offer, Botanical Domes as well as multiple networks that connect to new offerings.

The Master Plan utilises existing road infrastructure and converts the core of the site and perimeter trails into a pedestrian environment. Visitors and staff will park at the new entrance off Mount Annan Drive or at the new proposed Southern entrance. Visitors are encouraged to walk, cycle or travel by E-vehicle across the Garden.

- 17 Cafe and Restaurant
- 18 Mountain Bike Trails
- Eco-Industry Hub, Learning Centre and Tertiary Education Centre and Parking (P3) -157 Spaces
- 20 Feature Plant Gardens (existing)
- 21 Eco-Education
- 22 Eco-Tourism
- 23 Culturally Significant Artefacts (protected)
- 24 Conservation Areas
- 25 Nature Play
- 26 Public Site Access Mount Annan Drive
- 27 Public Site Access Narellan Road
- (i) Information Hub
- 🔅 Exploration Loop
- Public Vehicular Access





Figure 37: Visualisation Render Image - Master Plan



6.2 TOPOGRAPHY



The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan's landscape is deceptively variable - with rolling hills and undulating valleys, there is a diversity of spaces both high and low.

In principle, the Master Plan design seeks to retain the overall topographical character of the Garden and allow for minimal disturbance in the re-design. For instance, the high point and ridgelines will largely be untouched and unchanged - recognising that these are significant cultural markers for First Nations peoples, and indeed the wider community.

The key change to the topography of the site occurs at the core – with the two existing lakes seeking to be formed into one generous lake. The endangered ecological community and constrained site assets will remain unaffected by these works.





6.3 NATURE RESTORATION



The biodiversity of the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland in Western Sydney is among the most threatened in New South Wales and has been identified as a priority for conservation. The native vegetation of this region has been extensively cleared since European settlement with only 12 per cent remaining as intact bushland.

The Cumberland Plain Woodland contains a large body of First Nations cultural heritage. The Master Plan is centred around recovering the pre-colonial mosaic of grassland and woodland to enhance and protect this endangered plant community. In doing so, this mosaic will provide a grounded sense of place and a unique offering of the Australian landscape to international visitors. Key wildlife corridors will be encouraged and protected, and the continual removal of invasive species will occur with the restoration of the pre-colonial vegetated landscape.

The Master Plan will support and enhance NSW and Federal Government's commitments to increasing biodiversity and a nature positive future.





Proposed Vegetation Communities

6.4 HYDROLOGY

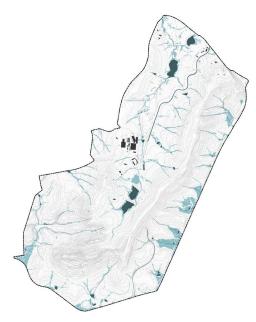


Lakes and waterways are significant focal features of the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. The Cumberland Plain Woodland and waterways have an important ecological link and expanding the network will play a role in restoring ecological health, both are significant cultural marker of Country which must be respected and enhanced.

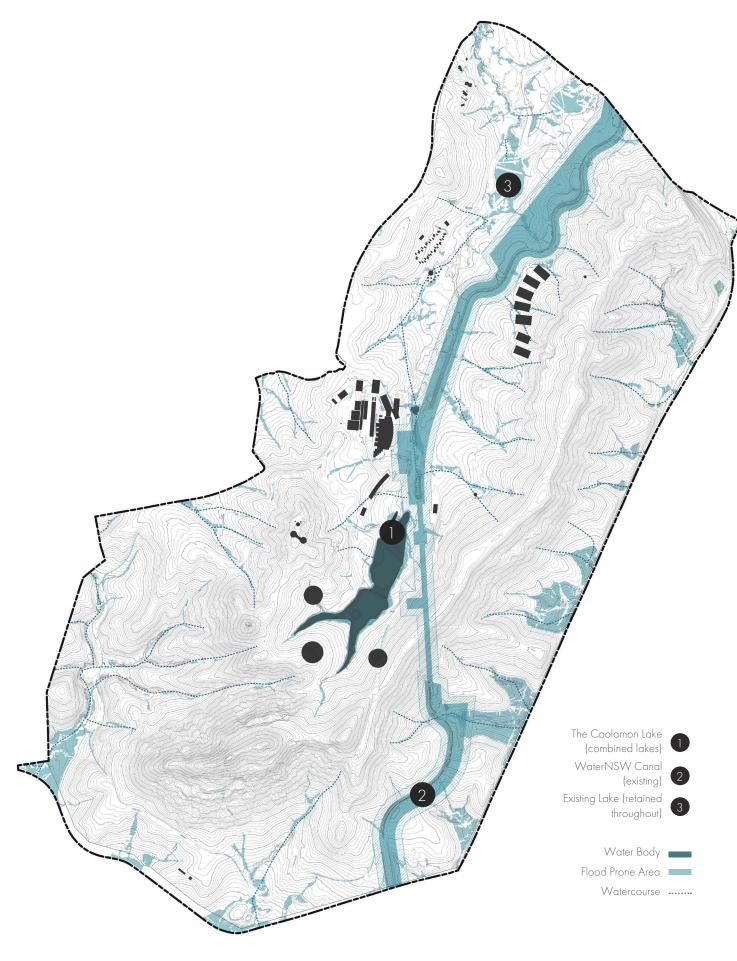
The Coolamon Lake, being the central lake proposed for the Garden, seeks to tie together to two existing lakes into one generous water body - putting Country at the core of the site.

The lake is also proposed to be functional - to allow for some water activities, the potential for a swim site, a floating performance space as well as perform an important living infrastructure role in filtering and storing stormwater in flood events.

The existing WaterNSW canal is protected and retained in this proposal, with the proposed combined lake sitting to the west of the channel and separate to the canal.



Existing Hydrology



Proposed Hydrology

6.5 CIRCULATION & TRANSPORT



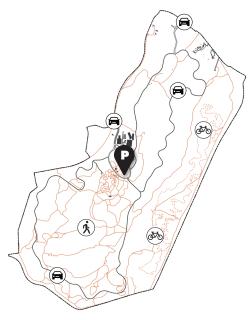
The existing circulation and transport network of the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is highly dependent on private vehicles – the Master Plan seeks to re-orient this.

Pedestrian connections to green space abutting the Garden will be established to allow greater permeability into the site, and the retention and enhancement of existing walking trails and shared path trails throughout the Garden will occur.

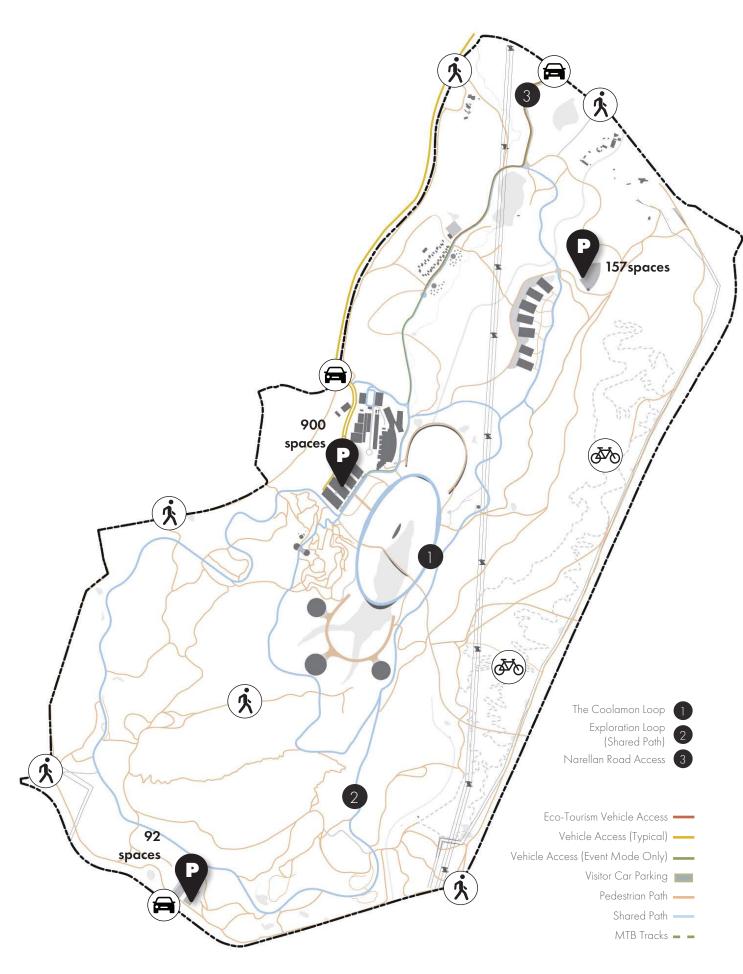
Vehicle entry for visitors will largely occur from Mount Annan Drive, with staff, eco-tourism users and visitors during large events also accessing the site from Narellan Road. There is proposed to be two key parking zones (one with a new entrance to the South, and one at the core of the Garden).

Enhanced public transport to support local visitors and tourists access the garden from the surrounding region and beyond. Public transport and parking hubs would be linked with internal e-vehicle strategic to enable transition from one to the other.

The existing mountain bike trails will be retained and enhanced.



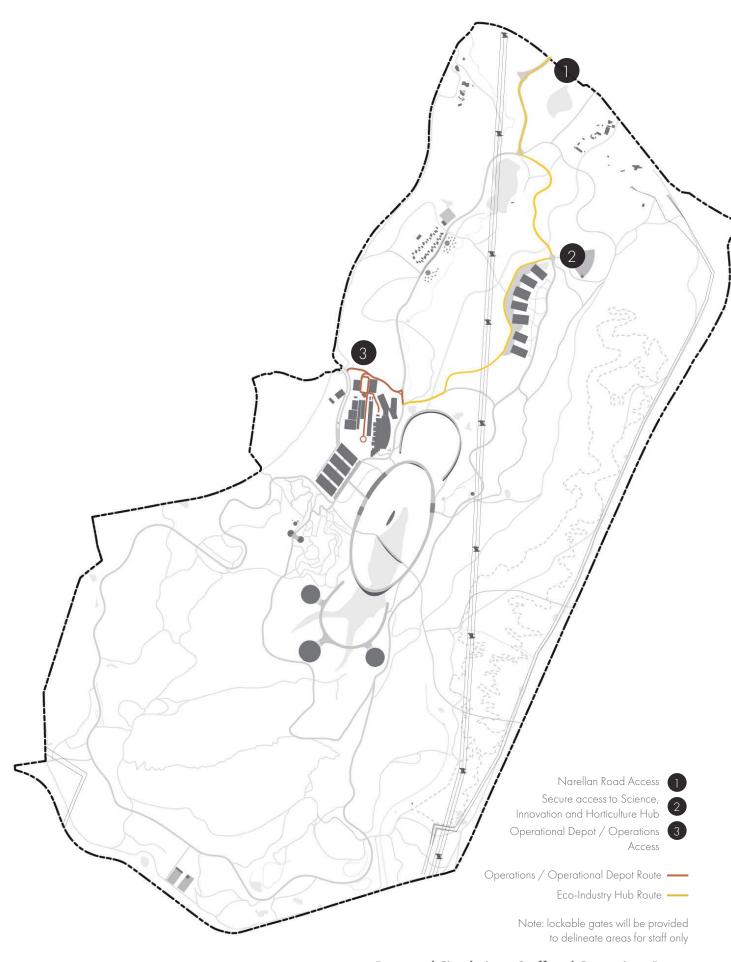
Existing Circulation



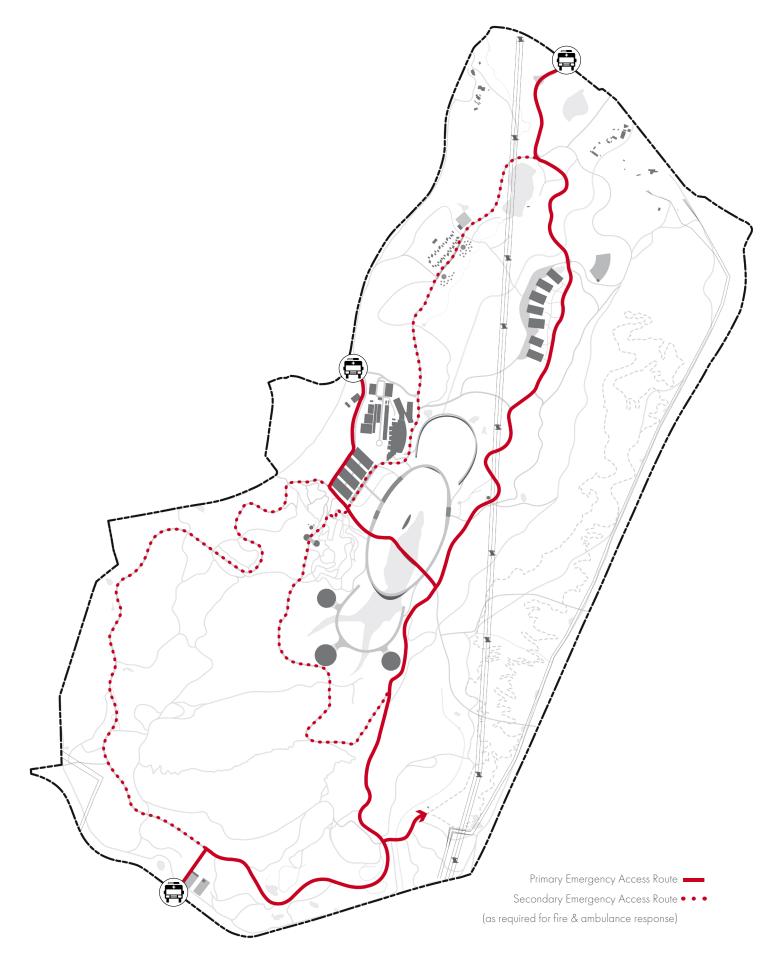
Proposed Circulation - Visitors



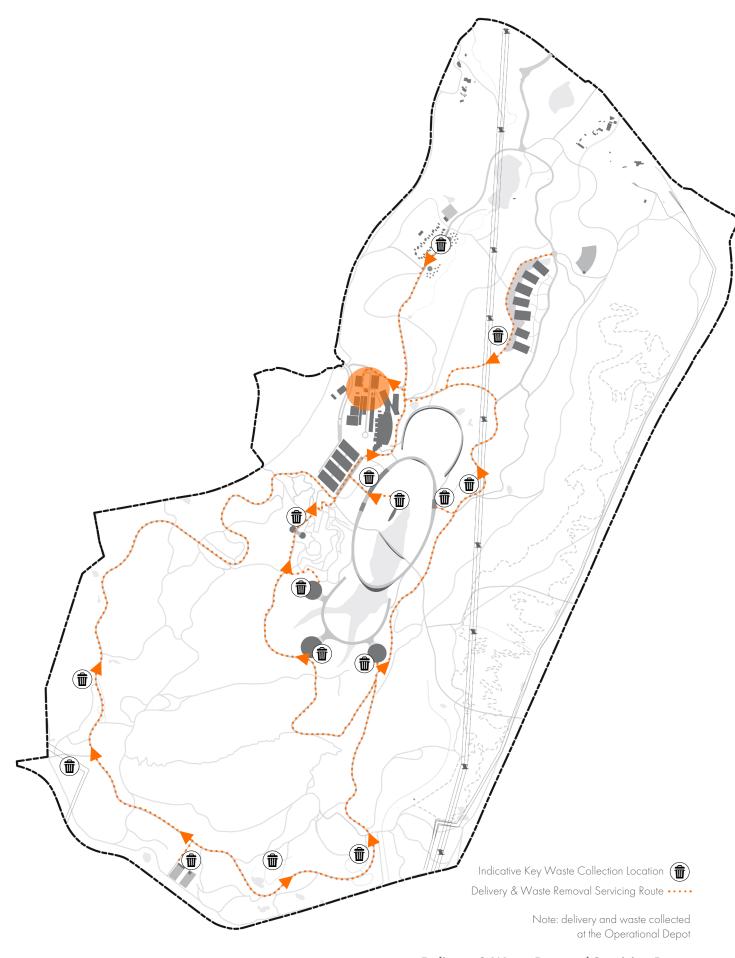
Proposed Circulation - E-Vehicle / Exploration Loop Route



Proposed Circulation - Staff and Operations Route



Emergency Response Route



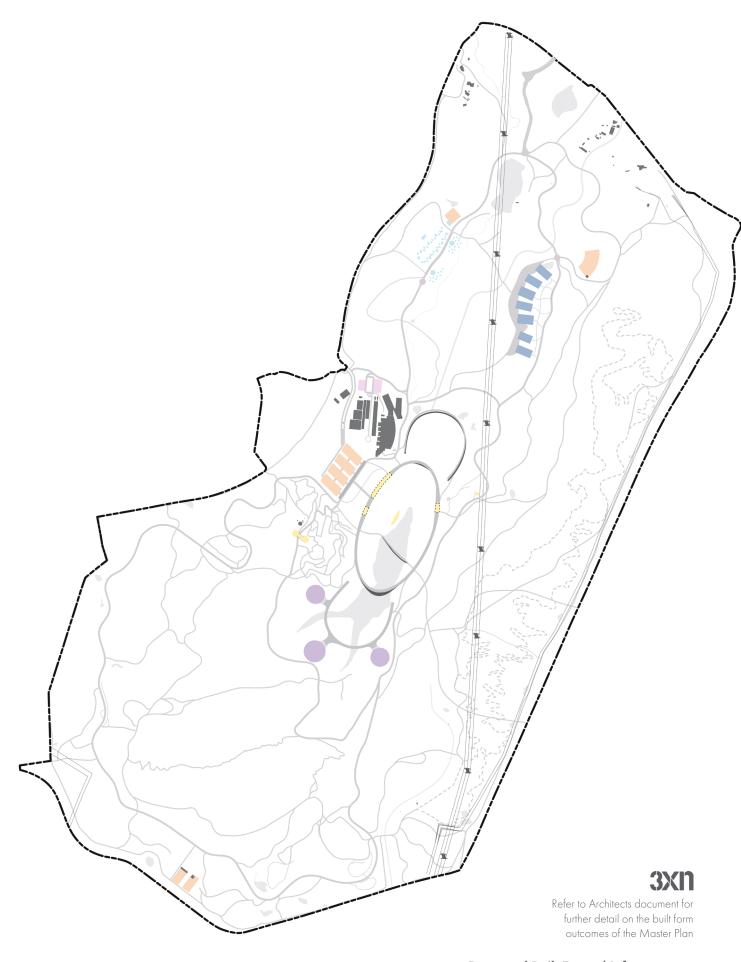
Delivery & Waste Removal Servicing Route

6.6 BUILT FORM / INFRASTRUCTURE



	BUILDING	Master Plan Building Footprint Area (m²)
		Target GFA (m²)
PARKING	MAIN CENTRAL PARKING (P1)	27,000
	SOUTH ENTRY PARKING (P2)	2,800
	SOUTH VISITOR CENTRE (P2)	200
	SOUTH KIOSK (P2)	50
	OVERFLOW / RESEARCH PARKING (P3)	4,800
	TOTAL	34,850
CENTRAL ACTIVITY	VISITOR CENTRE	500
	EVENTS CENTRE	2,000
	FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL CENTRE	500
	RESTAURANT	500
	NATURE PLAY KIOSK	50
	OPEN AIR CINEMA / BANDSHELL	1,000
	CAFÉ	100
	TOTAL	4,650
ADMIN / DEPOT	ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	1,000
	OPERATIONAL DEPOT	1,350
	TOTAL	2,350

BUILDING		Master Plan Building Footprint Area (m²)	
	BUILDING	Target GFA (m²)	
BOTANICAL	BOTANICAL DOME 1	3,000	
	BOTANICAL DOME 2	5,000	
	BOTANICAL DOME 3	2,000	
	TOTAL	10,000	
ш	TERTIARY EDUCATION CENTRE	600	
BOTANIC SCIENCE RESEARCH (NORTH-EAST)	BOTANICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH	2,800	
RESEARCH NORTH-EAST	LEARNING CENTRE	1,000	
RES (NOR	ECO-INDUSTRY HUB	20,000	
m	TOTAL	24,400	
	ECO-RESORT ACCOMMODATION	2,400	
ORT	ECO-RESORT ADMIN BUILDING	300	
RES F-V	ECO-RESORT CARPARK	1,650	
ECO-RESORT (NORTH-WEST)	ECO-RESORT RESTAURANT	200	
NOR.			



Proposed Built Form / Infrastructure

6.7 USER EXPERIENCE



The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan will become a popular destination, attracting numerous visitor groups. The Master Plan framework will cater for the diverse needs of different user groups who will be visiting, staying, and working in the Garden. The proposed programs and circulation networks are carefully integrated into the Master Plan to provide a safe, comfortable, and efficient journey for everyone on a day-to-day basis and during major event mode.

The categories of key user groups are identified as:

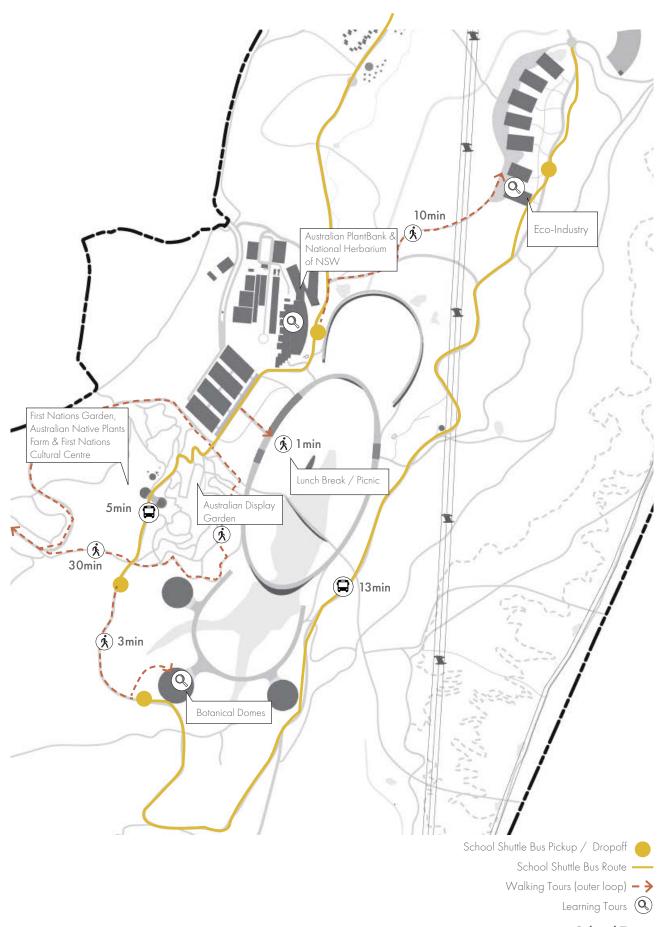
1. Visitors

- Day Visitors
- School Groups
- Families
- Accommodation Guests
- Differently Abled / Seniors
- Mountain Bikers

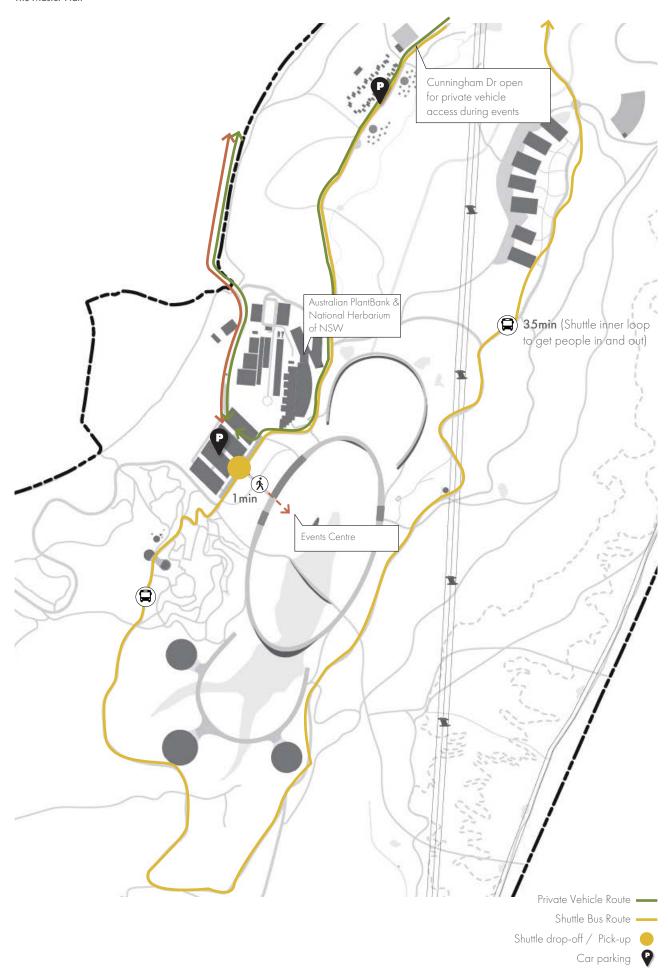
2. Staff

- Research Staff / Administration
- Maintenance / Rangers

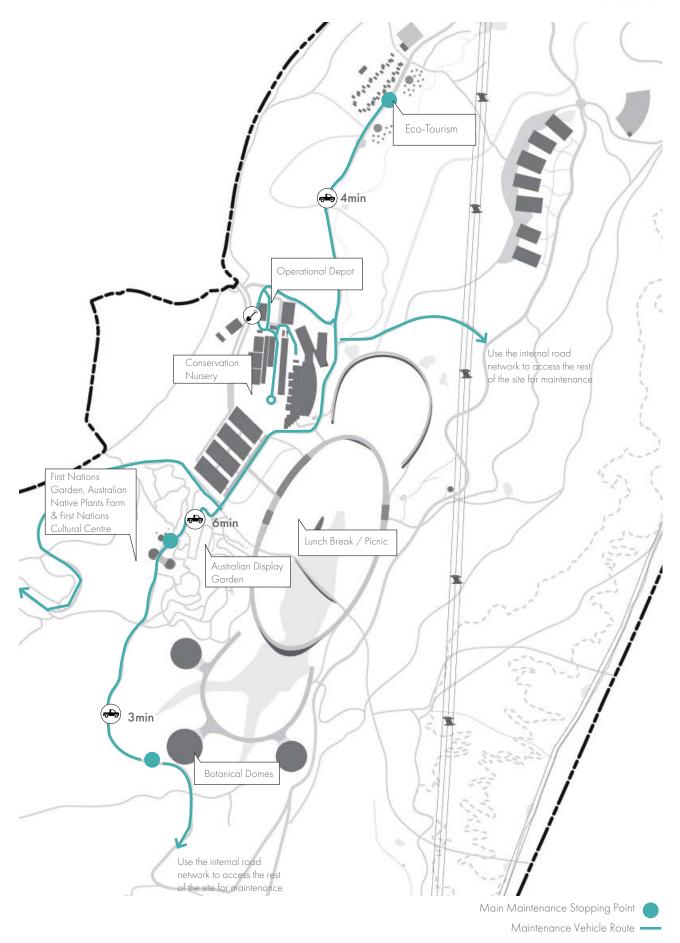
The following diagrams identify the journeys of these user groups in the detail of their movements, transport mode, potential stopping points and the time spent on the journey.



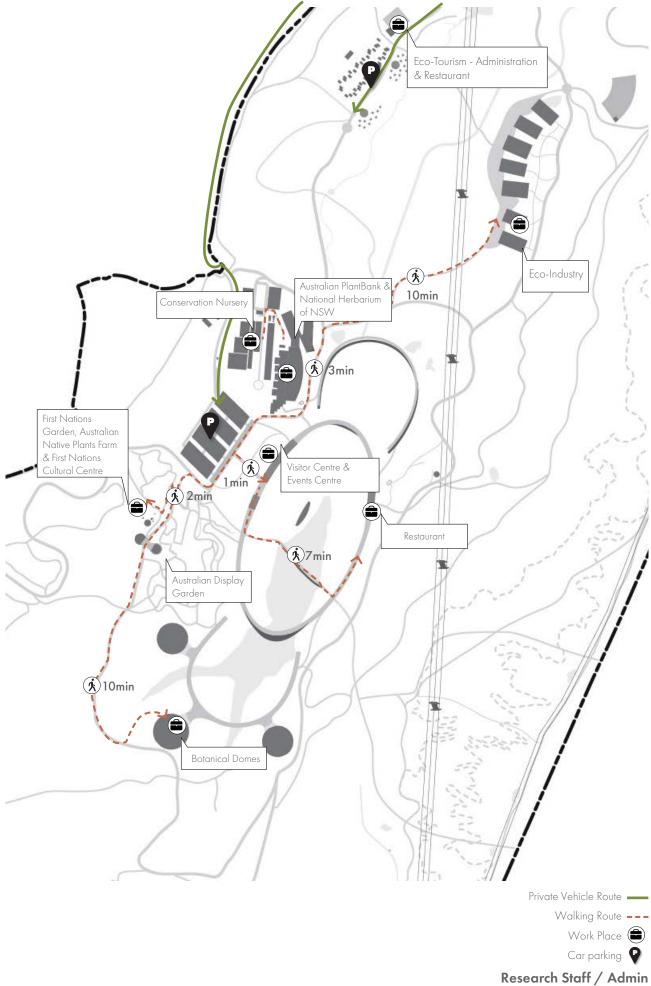
School Tours



Events / Festival



Maintenance / Ranger

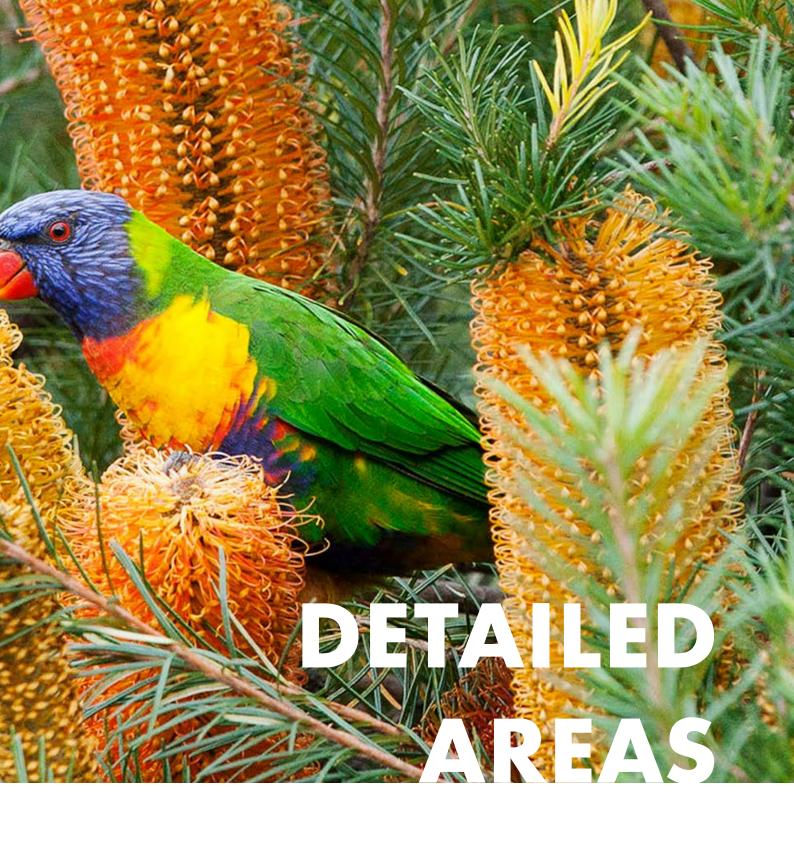




Overnight Access



Figure 44: Photo of the Banksia Garden at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan



7.1 THE COOLAMON

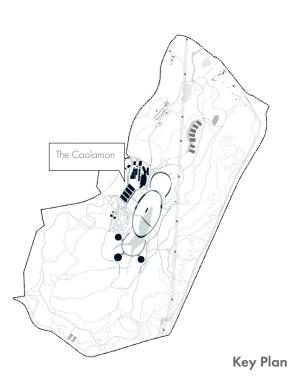
The Coolamon is symbolic of a traditional First Nations vessel and holds the cooling lake waters of the central visitor precinct.

The precinct proposes a series of cascading central lakes that are united inside a loop walk shaped in the form of a First Nations water coolamon, a drinking vessel.

Two 'C' shaped boardwalks flank the Coolamon representing people seated and yarning alongside the lakes. The most northern boardwalk is nestled amongst tree canopies and adjoined by a Nature Play Space - experiencing the landscape from both a high perspective and up close with nature.

The southern boardwalk is activated by a Botanical Dome – with the ability to expand the number of these on the site.

The existing Australian Display Garden is retained, and enhanced, by a complimentary First Nations Garden and Australian Native Plants Farm. These are in close proximity to a new cafe, restaurant, visitor centre and events centre which can be utilised by the community and provide amenity for large events to spill out onto the lawn leading down to the Coolamon Lake at the centre.

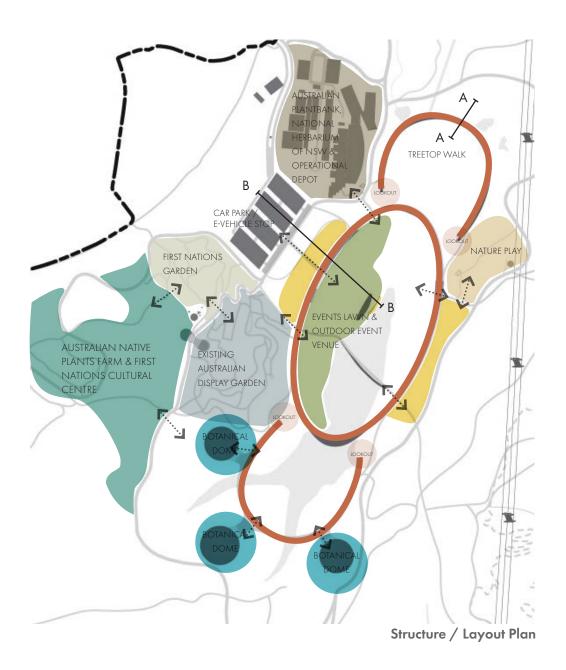


- Events Lawn / Terrace / Open Air Cinema
- Existing Australian Display Garden
- 3 Nature Play Space and Kiosk
- 4 Australian Native Plants Farm & First Nations Cultural Centre
- 5 First Nations Garden
- 6 Botanical Dome
- 7 Car Parking
- 8 Events Centre
- 9 Visitor Centre / Cafe
- Restaurant
- Coolamon Lake with Causeway
- 12 Treetop Walk
- 13 Australian PlantBank & National Herbarium of NSW / Administration Building / Operational Depot
- 14 Coolamon Loop











The existing Australian Display Garden is retained, and enhanced, by a complimentary First Nations Garden and Australian Native Plants Farm. These are in close proximity to a new cafe, restaurant, visitor centre and events centre which can be utilised by the community and provide amenity for large events to spill out onto the lawn leading down to the Coolamon Lake at the centre.

The Coolamon Precinct is a revival and celebration of the Australian landscape. It is the visitor core of the Garden, with many of the key offerings located here or in close proximity. For most visitors, they will enter the site of Mount Annan Drive and park in the P1 car park - accommodating for roughly 900 parking spaces across two levels (one level discretely submerged underground).

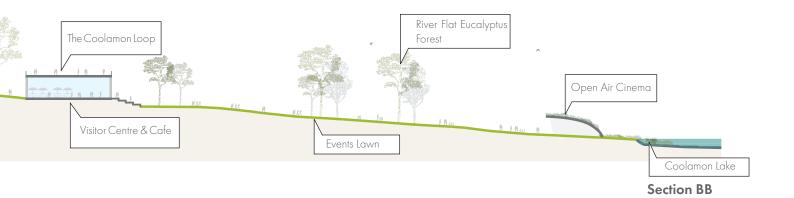
A direct connection to the Coolamon Precinct will be provided through to the Visitor Centre where visitors can gather information about the Garden to comfortably venture out and about with clarity and purpose.

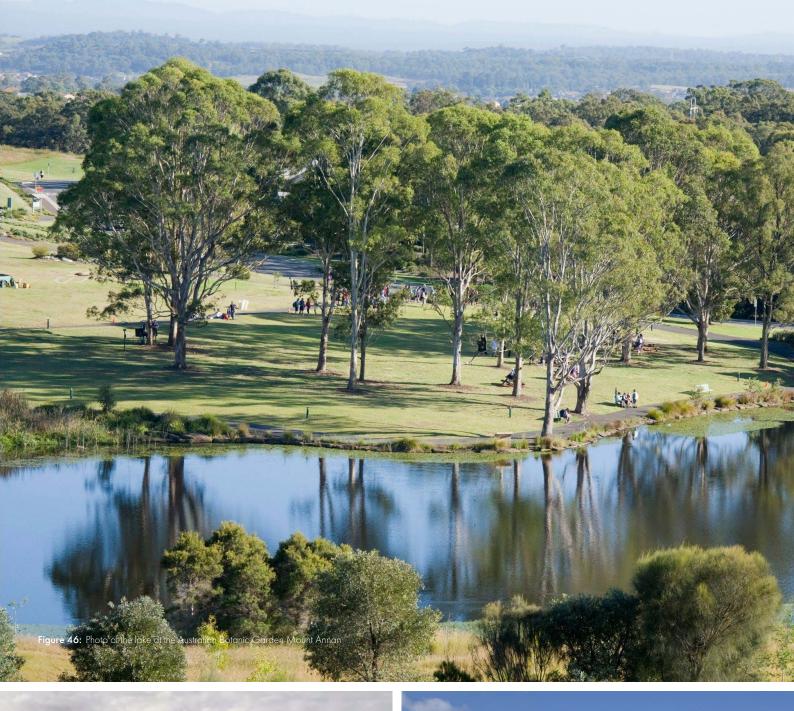
For those venturing around the Coolamon, there is a 1.5km central loop that encompasses the central lake. Off this loop is a series of offerings for everyone - including Botanical Domes that showcase Australian landscapes, the existing Australian Display Garden, a new proposed Australian Native Plants Farm, First Nations Garden and First Nations Cultural Centre. A grand events lawn terraces down and allows one to take in the majestic views to the east, and lastly a Nature Play Space to the west with an associated cafe adjoined by a high end restaurant offering, for those seeking a more bespoke and unique food experience.

These new offerings will provide moments for lively display and activity, whilst allowing for discrete moments of reflection and quietness, and maintaining the overall ambition and purpose of the Garden as what it is - a truly unique and incredible botanic garden.



Section AA















7.2 FIRST NATIONS GARDEN, AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS FARM & FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL CENTRE

Putting Country at the fore - a place where First Nations Peoples can practice on Country, celebrate Country, and share knowledge and resources amongst themselves and the wider community.

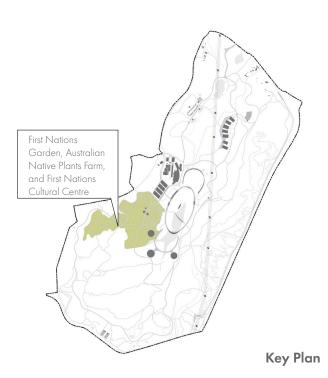
A place to practice on Country - the inclusion of a First Nations Garden will celebrate and showcase native plantings - with particular reference to the six First Nations (Dharawal) seasons to be celebrated and taught to the community.

A working Australian Native Plants Farm for produce and cultural resource planting / education, and an associated First Nations Cultural Centre to share knowledge and provide amenity to the wider community will also exist in

this precinct. These amenities will provide a unique point of difference for the Garden which is centred on place and not found anywhere else.

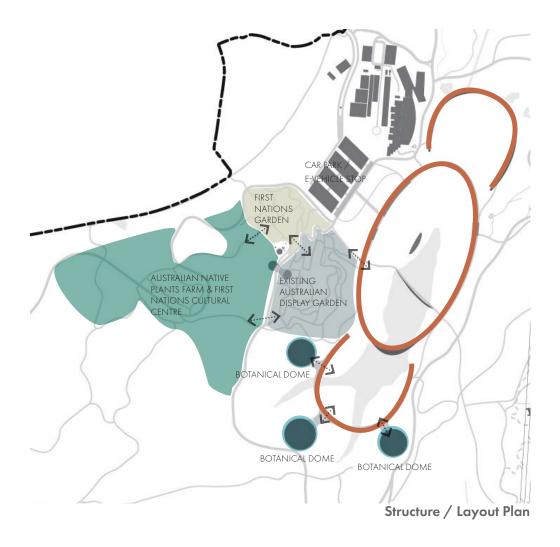
This area will also allow for First Nations Land Management-through cultural burns, yarning circles, ecological restoration, and interactions with water.

This precinct provides the opportunity for intimate visitor dialogue with First Nations people that connect stories of Country through visual, auditory, and tactile learnings.



- Australian Native Plants Farm
- 2 First Nations Cultural Centre
- 3 Australian Display Garden (existing)
- 4 First Nations Garden
- 5 Botanical Dome
- 6 Cumberland Plain Woodland
- 7 Car Parking
- 8 Events Lawn / Terrace / Sound Bowl
- 9 Coolamon Loop
- 10 Raised Walk to the Botanical Dome/s
- Events Centre
- 12 Visitor Centre / Cafe





Shared Knowledge & Feedback Learning **Storing Produce** Seasonal Indicators **CULTURAL** Bush Prepare **NOURISHMENT** Harvest Ground 00 Seasonal **Planting Seed** Indicators Caring for Soil First Nations Opportunities

This precinct builds on the existing Australian Display Garden which will be retained - expanding further to the west with a First Nations Perspective.

An Australian Native Plants Farm will organically grow over time to allow community members to practice and teach on Country. This will be adjoined with a more public facing Australian Native Plants Farm which showcases native plantings and their uses - in particular with reference to the six First Nations (D'harawal) seasons as listed below.

Opportunities for sharing knowledge, land management and preparation, planting and revegetation, harvesting produce and sharing produce will occur in this area.

Burran

January-March
Hot and dry

44

Wiritjiribin
July-August

Cold and windy



Marrai'gang

April-June

Wet becoming cool



Ngoonungi

September-October

Coolbecomingwarm



Burrugin

June-July

Cold and frosty



Parra 'dowee

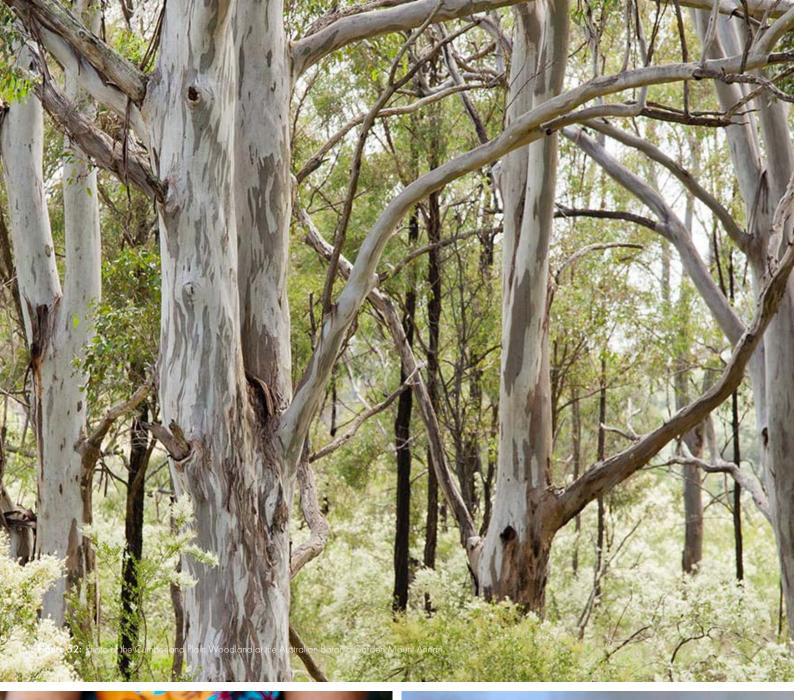
November-December

Warm and wet



D'harawal Seasons Of The Year

D'harawal Seasons - Sourced from Bureau of Meteorology who worked in conjunction with D'harawal Traditional Knowledge-holders.











7.3 ECO-INDUSTRY & ECO-TOURISM HUB

A world leading Eco-Industry Hub that builds upon the existing facilities of the Garden (the Australian PlantBank and National Herbarium of New South Wales) and an environmentally conscious Eco-Tourism Hub.

The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan Master Plan will elevate the opportunity and delivery of education and research to support the repair and regeneration of nature for a nature positive future, as well as increase the communities understanding and involvement in this. New eco-tourism offerings including accommodation and partnerships with universities, training conferences etc will create new audiences. The proposal will include a world class cultural and education centre for conferences and venue hire.

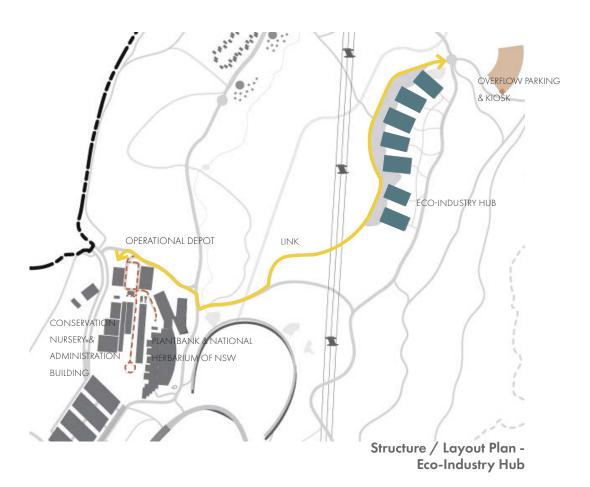
Eco-Tourism will be sophisticated and smart, managing energy, water, and waste with care to provide a visible example of how to live sustainability in the Australian landscape. Retreats that include guided walks and cooking classes using Australian native botanicals will provide a point of difference and will be a key destinational offering for those visiting the area from afar.

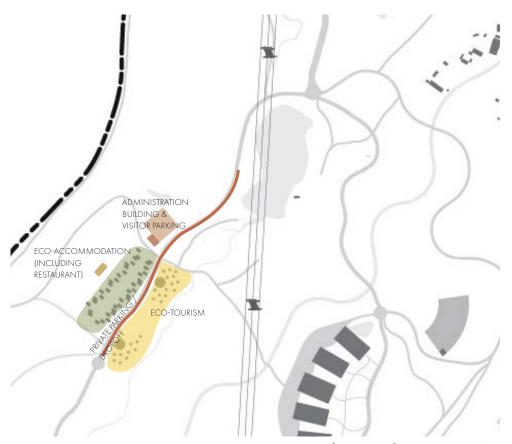
Experienced through environmentally friendly accommodation and an on-site restaurant, the Eco-Tourism Hub will provide a variety of options for a diverse community of users.

- Eco-Industry Hub
- 2 Parking (157 spots)
- 3 Picnic / Garden Nooks for Workers
- 4 Sydney Water Channel (existing)
- 5 Cumberland Plain Woodland
- 6 River Flat Eucalyptus Forest
- 7 Power Lines
- 8 Eco-Accommodation Administration / Arrival Building
- © Eco-Accommodation Restaurant
- Eco-Accommodation Cabins
- Eco-Tourism









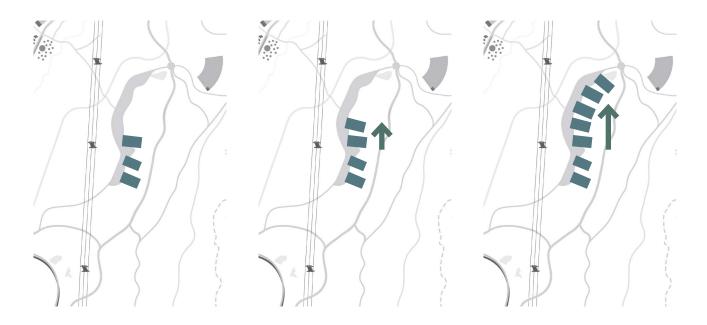
Structure / Layout Plan - Eco-Tourism

The Eco-Industry Hub will contain a variety of seamlessly integrated built form with the landscape to allow for natural growth and progression as industry seeks to be embedded in the Garden and align with the research.

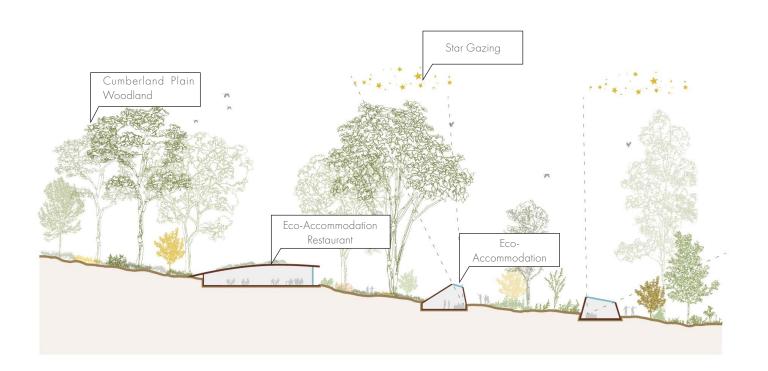
Three initial facilities will be established, being a Tertiary Education Centre, a Botanical Sciences Research and

a Learning Centre. All will be connected and integrated towards the goal of supporting the conservation of nature and inspiring partners and the community to participate.

The Precinct will have its own access road designated for staff and will tie in with the relocated Depot and Administration buildings.



Growth / Staging - Eco-Industry Hub



Typical Section - Eco-Tourism















Figure 64: Photo of The Bee Sculpture Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney



8.1 CONCLUSION

By building on this Master Plan, the Garden will become a leader amongst botanical gardens globally. Through protecting, conserving, restoring, and displaying native vegetation in a sustainable manner, the Garden will showcase best practice sustainable design embedded with Australian cultural heritage and First Nations perspectives.

The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan has become increasingly important as the 'backyard' for a growing number of Sydneysiders, especially residents of Western Sydney. Population growth, new transport infrastructure and greenfield housing, has increased annual visitation to almost 1 million during 2022-2023 and this is projected to double in the next twenty years.

The delivery of this Master Plan will build on the place as an integral site for recreation, celebration, horticulture, and science and the outcomes will support the local community, improve botanical and nature experiences, and creates a global leader among sustainable botanical gardens. In addition, the Garden is a critical public space that both improves amenity and the liveability of Western Sydney life. Through its position the Garden will become an iconic place and asset to the growing community, as well as a key national and international tourist destination.

