

An aerial photograph of a vast landscape, likely a valley or plain, with a mix of brown and green fields, some buildings, and a winding river or road. The sky is a clear, deep blue with a few wispy clouds. A large, semi-transparent green diagonal shape covers the bottom-left portion of the image, serving as a background for the text.

2022

Merrimu Open Space Assessment

 Ethos
Urban **HATCH** | RobertsDay

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Contents

1.0	Introduction	
1.1	Context	5
1.2	The Site	6

2.0	Background	
2.1	Benefits of Open Space	11
2.2	Open Space Hierarchy	12
2.3	Existing Open Space	13
2.4	Strategic Document Review	15
2.5	Site Analysis and Constraints	22

3.0	Open Space Strategy	
3.1	Vision & Principles	26
3.2	Merrimu Concept Masterplan	28
3.3	Land Budget	30
3.4	Passive Open Space	32
3.5	Active Open Space	45

A	Appendix	55
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An aerial photograph of a vast rural landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by a patchwork of green and brown agricultural fields, separated by thin lines of trees and roads. In the distance, a small town or village is visible, characterized by a dense cluster of buildings. The sky is a clear, pale blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall tone of the image is a soft, muted green, suggesting a natural and serene environment.

01

Introduction

1.1 Context

Purpose of this assessment

The Open Space Strategy provides a framework for priorities and key decisions relating to the future provision of open spaces that will cater for the future Merrimu community.

This document incorporates an assessment of the key open spaces that will be provided across the Merrimu Precinct. This includes sport grounds (including fields, pitches, courts and associated infrastructure), parks for family and social recreation, playgrounds, shared trails, and conservation reserves.

The designation of future open spaces outlined within this strategy will be critical to the successful development of the Merrimu precinct, and ensuring appropriate levels of amenity for future residents and visitors.



1.2 The Site

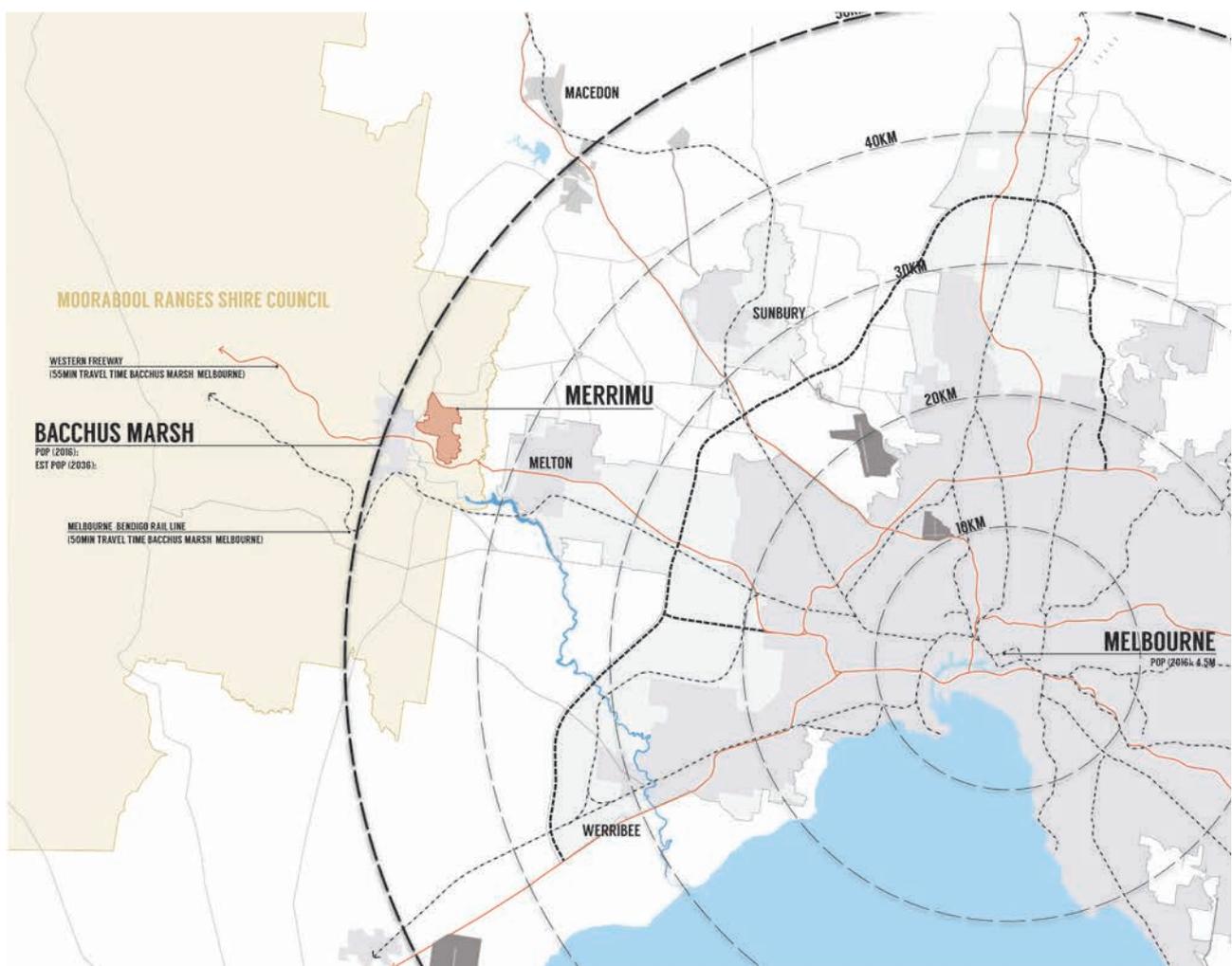
Regional Context

The Merrimu precinct is located on the eastern edge of Moorabool Shire, just outside of the Bacchus Marsh township. It is approximately 45km from the Melbourne CBD and enjoys high levels of connectivity, with travel times up to 55 and 50 minutes by road and rail respectively.

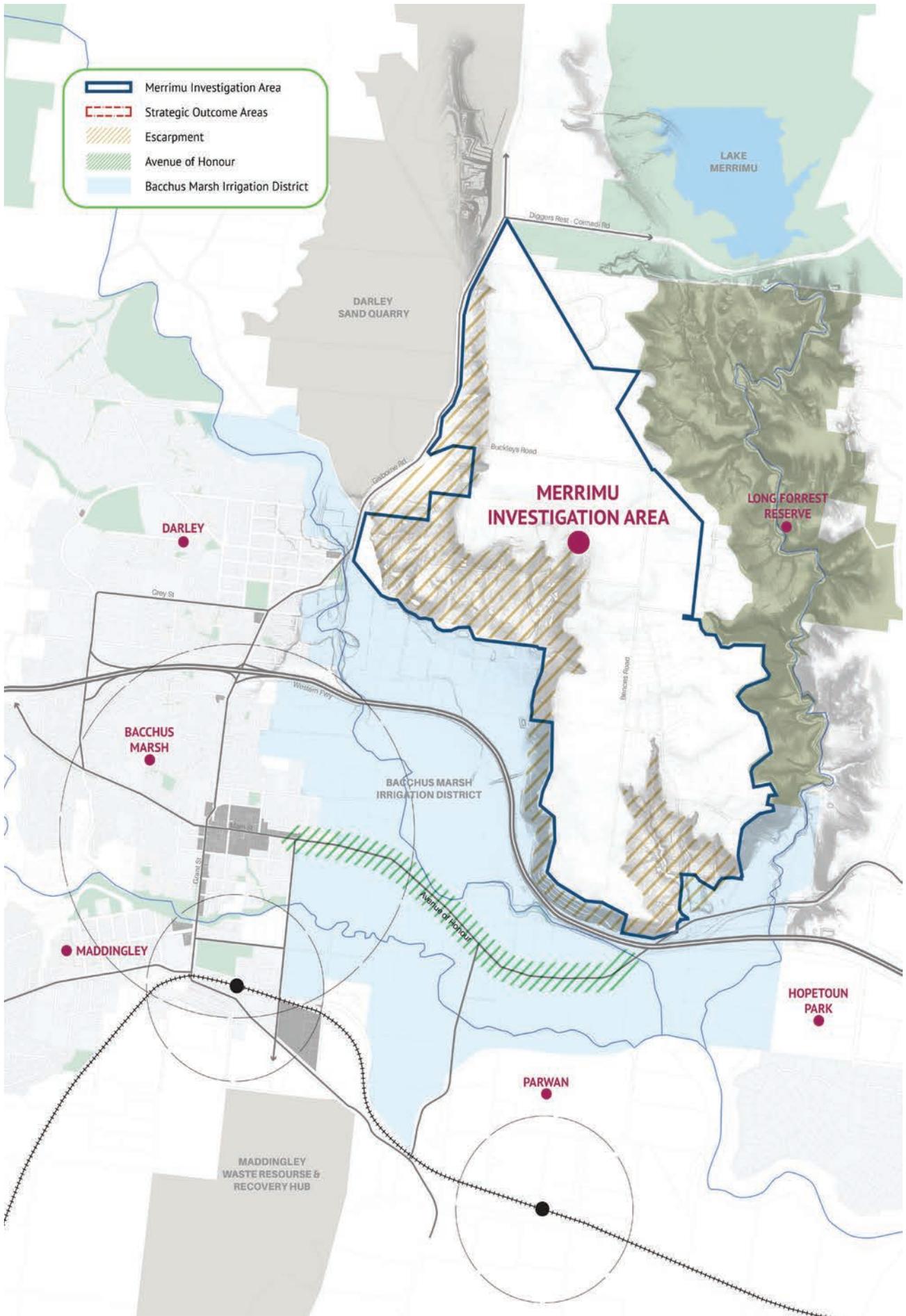
The precinct also features easy access to all of metropolitan Melbourne's major airports including Tullamarine, Essendon and Avalon. Also within proximity to the precinct are

many of Melbourne's national innovation and employment clusters, including Sunshine, Parkville, Monash and Latrobe.

This strategically positioned location ensures that the Merrimu Precinct benefits from all of the services, amenities and opportunities located across the city while maintaining it's unique country feel.



01 Regional Context Map



02 District Context Map

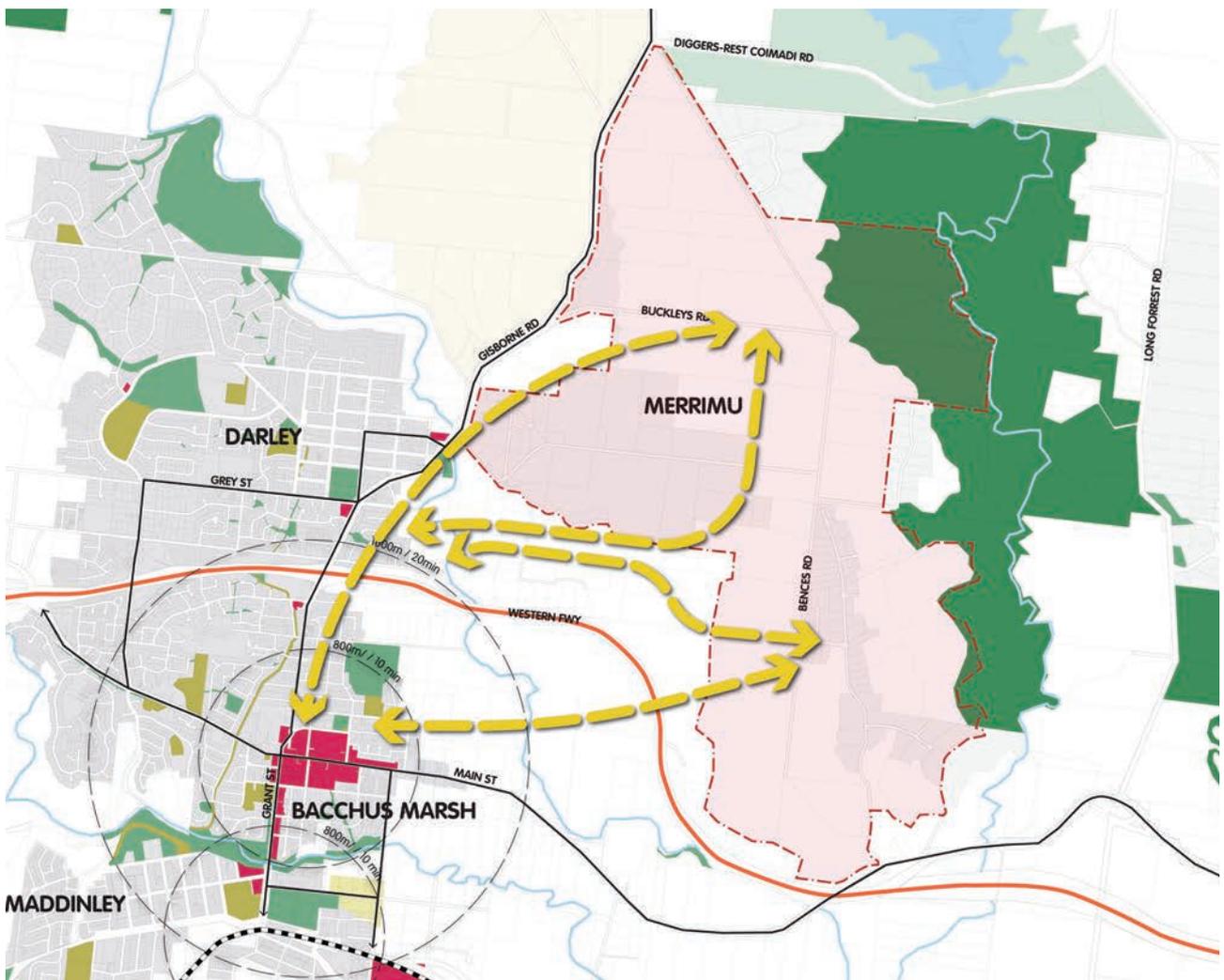
Local Context

The Merrimu Precinct sits along the north-eastern edge of the Bacchus Marsh Township. Set atop a steep escarpment and bound by the Western Freeway, the precinct encompasses a large area of cleared agricultural land. Further east, the precinct is bordered by the Long Forest.

Other areas of environmental significance located within proximity to the precinct include Bacchus Marsh's Avenue of Honour, which features a stand of Canadian Elms stretching 3km along Bacchus Marsh Road and Main Street.

The precinct enjoys direct access to Bacchus Marsh and Darley via the Western Freeway and Gisborne Road, with a travel time of approximately 10 minutes from the centre of the precinct.

A number of existing open spaces and sporting facilities are located within the Bacchus Marsh township and include the Maddingley Park Reserve, Masons Lane Reserve and Darley Park.



03 Local Context Map



Context of Scale

The Merrimu Precinct incorporates over 900 hectares of rural, agricultural land that is strategically located between Bacchus Marsh and the wider metropolitan Melbourne region.

As depicted in the figure below, the Merrimu Precinct transposed into an urban setting would encompass the entirety of Melbourne's central city as well as inner ring suburbs including South Melbourne, and Parkville.

This highlights the significance of the precinct in terms of its potential capacity for future development, and for the opportunity to provide significant open space and sporting facilities to the local and regional community.

04 Context of Scale Map - Melbourne

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape, showing a patchwork of green and brown fields, a small town in the distance, and a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The image has a teal-green color overlay.

02

Background

2.1 Benefits of Open Space

The benefits of open space are far reaching and provide for much more than just places to engage in sporting activities. They contribute to a sense of place, health and well-being, social, economic and environmental benefits.

Social Benefits

- Build a sense of community
- Provide places for social interaction
- Contribute to collective efficacy or social capital
- Provide places to rest, unwind and escape from the urban environment
- Create opportunity to connect with nature
- Reduce stress and depression and improve general well-being
- Allow participation in organised sports and informal exercise
- Increase physical activity and health (including reduced obesity)
- Act as informal meeting places
- Provide space for organised events and festivals
- Improve community cohesion and social ties
- Encourage people to spend time in the fresh air and sunlight
- Encourage children's active play

Economic Benefits

- Design nature into the urban environment
- Enhance productivity
- Increase property values
- Reduced health costs
- Provide tourism value
- Create visitor destination points
- Provide educational opportunities

Environmental Benefits

- Design nature into the urban environment
- Maintain and improve natural ecosystems and habitat diversity
- Protect natural resources for future generations
- Improve air quality
- Increase permeable surfaces to aid natural drainage
- Manage storm-water by retaining and slowing water flow
- Allow spaces for large canopy trees to provide shade
- Create habitat for native fauna
- Reduce noise levels and lower pollution

Other Benefits

- Create and strengthen local character and identity
- Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander cultural heritage values
- Provide places for artistic performance and permanent and temporary exhibitions
- Potentially reduce crime
- Improve food security (community gardens)
- Encourage volunteer contributions ('friends of parks')
- Create opportunities for aesthetic and sensory enjoyment

2.2 Open Space Hierarchy

For the purpose of this assessment, open space is defined as publicly owned land that is readily available to the community for the purposes of recreation, nature conservation and passive outdoor enjoyment.

The proposed open spaces for Merrimu are generally reflective of the requirements of Clause 56.05-2 Public open space provision objectives, Standard C13 of the Moorabool Planning Scheme.

The total area of open space land is only one of several key determining factors to establish an open space area's place in the hierarchy. The Victorian State Government planning practice note (PNN70) recommends classification based on the following factors:

- **Catchment** – where people come from to use the park e.g. local walking or regional destination.
- **Function** – important value or purpose of the park. E.g. a sports ground, a swimming beach, a conservation park or historic Botanic garden.
- **Landscape setting type** – the experience and the character of the space e.g. indigenous vegetation and natural geomorphological features or formal garden designs, manicured lawns etc. type (the environment the open space sits in).

The Growth Areas Authority, Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines, 2013, also identifies the importance of the quality of open spaces including the function, distribution, community needs and existing open space within the vicinity of the precinct.



Waterways & Drainage

Drainage assets and water course's minimise impacts on existing environmental values and is a critical aspect to the functioning of open spaces and flood management.



Regional

15 - 50+ hectares
Within 5km of home or work
5min drive, 15-20min bike ride



District

5 - 15+ hectares
2km safe walking distance
10-15min walk, 5 min bike ride
Example: Maddingley Park



Neighbourhood

1 - 5 hectares
500-800m safe walking distance
10 min walk
Example: Federation Park



Local

0.2 - 1 hectares
300-400m safe walking distance
5 min walk
Example: Lidgett Street Reserve



Linear/Link/Buffer

Varied in size
Located where appropriate
Connectivity between streets & open space or amenity buffers
Example: Federation Park Green Link



Conservation Function

Whilst the entire open space network contributes to environment and biodiversity, some open spaces have a crucial conservation function which acts as another layer to their role in the hierarchy.

2.3 Existing Open Space

Existing open spaces located close to the Merrimu precinct are depicted in detail in the map overpage. A summary of the most significant spaces and environmental features is outlined below.

General Distribution

There is an abundance of both active and passive open spaces located across the Bacchus Marsh and Darley townships. These spaces are generally evenly distributed between the two townships, with higher order spaces located nearer to town centres. The most significant open space, Maddingley Park is also located adjacent to Bacchus Marsh train station.

Passive Open Spaces

Passive open spaces within the nearby townships are also prevalent, and function predominantly as walking/cycling links and environmental reserves. These spaces include Maddingley Water Reserve, Federation Park and other smaller spaces alongside the Werribee and Lerderderg Rivers.

Active Open Spaces

Key active open spaces that provide access to sporting fields, gym equipment and other active uses include Masons Lane Reserve, Darley Park and the southern end of Cairnes Drive Park. These spaces are also distributed evenly across both Bacchus Marsh and Darley.

More significant open spaces include Maddingley Park, which plays an important role as a district level open space. This district open space features a number of additional facilities that benefit the wider region, including cricket and other sporting grounds, walking tracks, playgrounds and picnic and BBQ areas.

Environmental Features

The Merrimu precinct sits atop a steep escarpment bound by the Western Freeway, within a clearing of flat, agricultural and rural land. The escarpment stretches from the Lerderderg State Park in the north, down to the level banks of the Werribee River. Due to the steep incline along the escarpment, it should not be considered as a usable open space.

Immediately bordering the Merrimu precinct to the east is the Long Forest. The long Forest is defined by densely planted Rocky Chenopod Woodland. This vegetation class consists mostly of Box Ironbark Forests and dry woodlands. The Long Forest ends at the boundary of the Merrimu precinct, opening out into the clay soils and grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.

2.4 Strategic Document Review

The following analysis provides a summary of the relevant strategic documents, which will inform the Merrimu Open Space Assessment:



Bacchus Marsh & Ballan - Open Space Framework 2041, Draft 2019

The Bacchus Marsh & Ballan Open Space Framework 2041 provides an overarching vision and strategic direction for public open space planning. It seeks to provide a range of open spaces that cater to varying activities through a connected green network.

The Framework reviewed the existing open space and identified gaps and opportunities in provision and seeks to provide guidance for the future planning and management of open space, including improved accessibility.

The Framework considers current needs and provides a forecast of future needs within the urban areas of Bacchus Marsh, Darley, Maddingley and Ballan and outlines an Implementation Plan identifying actions, timeline, partners and estimated costs.

Specifically the Open Space Framework identifies:

- A projected under supply of the following organised sport requirements in 2041 in Bacchus Marsh & surrounds:

Sport	Expected Facility Provision 2041	Assessed Under Supply
AFL Football	5 ovals	-2 ovals
Cricket	7 ovals	-2 ovals
Soccer	6 pitch	-1 pitch

Table 1 – Open Space Supply (Bacchus Marsh & Ballan OS Framework)

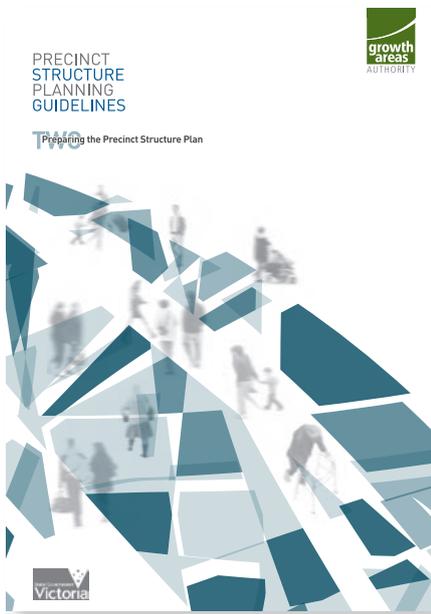
- A projected under supply of the following organised sport requirements in 2041 in Ballan:

Sport	Expected Facility Provision 2041	Assessed Under Supply
AFL Football	1 ovals	-0.3 ovals
Cricket	1 ovals	-0.7 ovals
Soccer	0 pitch	-1.2 pitch

Table 2 – Open Space Supply (Bacchus Marsh & Ballan OS Framework)

- The above supply assessments are taken from the draft Community Infrastructure Framework, which advises monitoring of demand and participation once the new ovals and soccer pitches at the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve and Underbank have been operational for at least 2 years, and to await planning for Merrimu and Parwan, before planning for new ovals. No new ovals will be developed in rural areas.

*At the completion of this report the Open Space Framework is at the Final Draft stage.



Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines, Part Two - Preparing the Precinct Structure Plan - Growth Areas Authority, Revised 2013

Part 2 of the Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines explain how to prepare a Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) to meet the Government’s objectives for growth area communities. The aim is to standardise the format and process for preparing a PSP, while facilitating innovative and flexible outcomes.

Specifically, *Element Five - Open Space and Natural Systems* identifies ten design responses that should be included in the Precinct Structure Plan to ensure an integrated open space network.

In general design responses should address:

- Qualitative and quantitative open spaces
- Protection, management and enhancement of natural and cultural attributes
- Quality, distribution and function
- Accessibility
- Efficiency
- Design and inclusion of encumbered land
- Size and efficiencies of retarding basins
- Community safety and passive surveillance

- Net community development and sustainable development
- Consideration of climate change and extreme weather events

The Guidelines note that the design responses should be demonstrated by including the following outputs:

- An **open space plan** - showing active and passive open space within the precinct and the integration of different open space types (including encumbered land)
- An **open space table** - demonstrating: use (active or passive), character, function, size, scale, use of encumbered land and explanations of how open space will be managed
- A **concept plan** - for active open space areas that provides a preliminary indication of the spatial configuration of sporting facilities.

In general the Precinct Structure Plan Open Space Strategy should respond to the following standards:

Standard	
S1	Provision of quality, well distributed, multi functional open spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local parks within 400m safe walking distance of at least 95% of all dwellings • Active open space within 1km of 95% of all dwellings • Linear parks and trails, most often located along waterways and linked to vegetation corridors
S2	10% of the net developable area as total public open space, of which 6% is active open space. Residential precincts should contain active indoor recreation facilities that are co-located and/or share space with schools and integrated community facilities.
S3	In major employment areas, approximately 2% of net developable area as public open space

Table 3 – Open Space Standards (Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines)

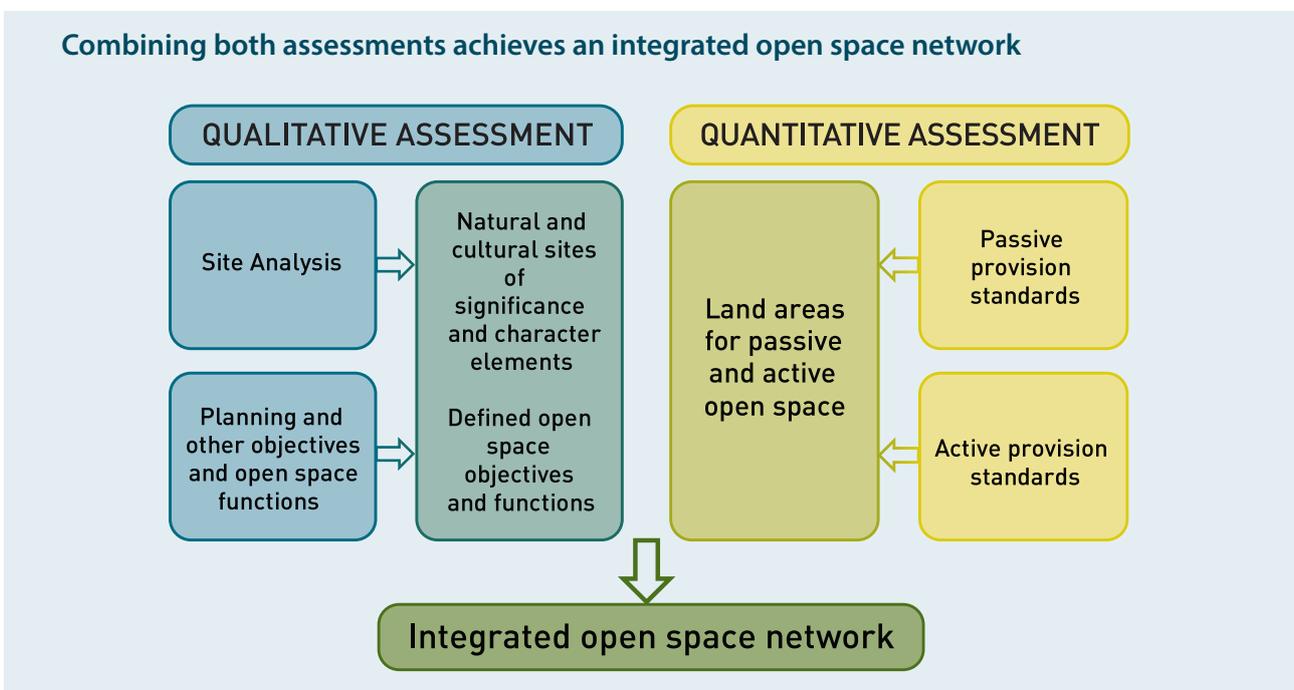
S4	<p>The network of local and district parks should be efficiently designed to maximise the integration and sharing of space with publicly accessible encumbered land.</p> <p>Encumbered land usually includes land retained for drainage, electricity, biodiversity and cultural heritage purposes.</p>
S5	<p>Active open spaces should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of an appropriate size, i.e. sufficient to incorporate two football/ cricket ovals (generally at least 8ha) • Located on flat land
S6	Maximise passive surveillance
S7	Open space network is combined with techniques for managing urban run-off and biodiversity

The Guidelines note the key principles for open space design is not just about quantity, but places an emphasis on quality of these spaces.

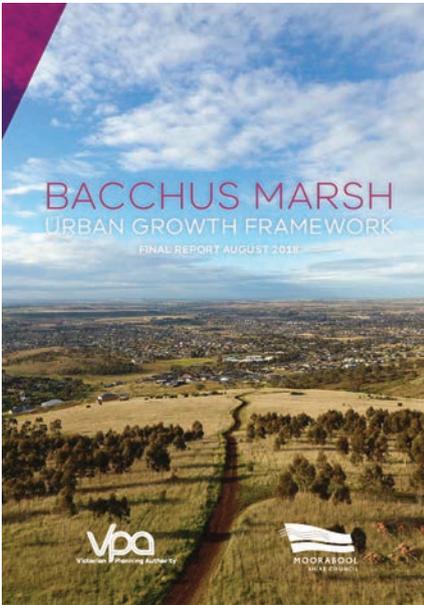
The quantitative assessment considers function, distribution, community needs and existing or planned open space.

The qualitative assessment involves taking into account physical features such as topography, native vegetation, cultural heritage and drainage reserves and the integration of these into the broader open space network. It also considers the quality of existing or planned open space within the vicinity of the precinct.

*For a complete and detailed list of Standards see *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines, Part Two - Preparing the Precinct Structure Plan - Growth Areas Authority*.



07 Integrated Open Space Assessment Strategy. Source: *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines, Part Two - Preparing the Precinct Structure Plan - Growth Areas Authority*.



Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework, 2018

The Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework (UGF) seeks to implement a strategy guide future housing, employment, road and transport networks, rail corridors, local services and open spaces for the growing communities in and around Bacchus Marsh.

The vision set out by the UGF is focused around the following key target areas:

- Identification of strategic outcome areas that are clear of development constraints
- Planning for new employment and activity areas
- Identification of high-level infrastructure needs
- Protection of agricultural land and other natural and built environmental values.

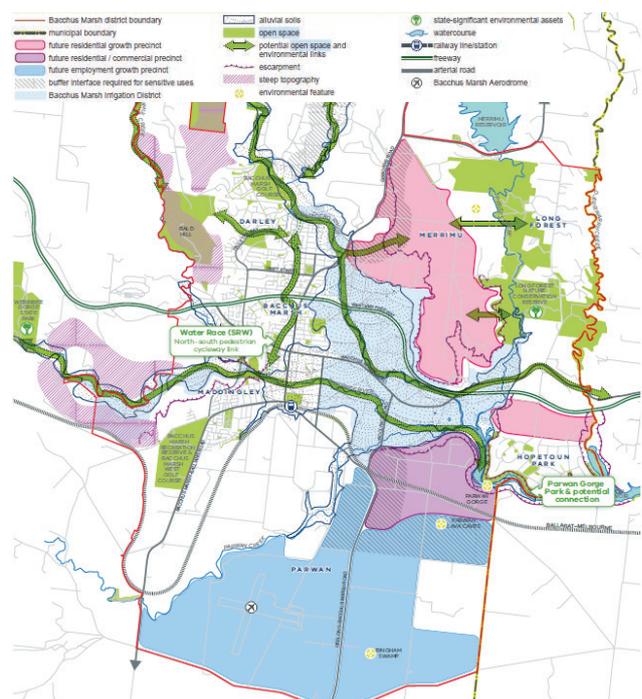
Key environmental objectives set out within the UGF that relate to open space include the need to protect waterway corridors, ensuring their function and biodiversity in order to add to the strategic open space network. The existing open space network must be integrated through

Also of relevance to this strategy are the open space needs identified within the UGF. Recreational and open space needs identified up to the year 2014 are outlined in the table below.

Additionally, the UGF notes that an indoor aquatic facility will become a potential priority when the catchment population exceeds 50,000 residents.

Open Space Type	Requirement
Cricket Ovals	4
AFL Ovals	5
Soccer Fields	4 (including district level facility)
Netball Courts	5
Basketball Courts	7
Minor Sports	Various, including table tennis, futsal and badminton

Table 4 – Open Space Requirements (Bacchus Marsh UGF)





20 Minute Neighbourhood, 2017

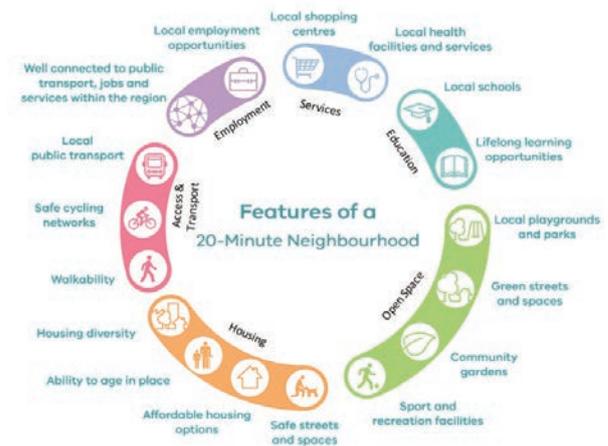
The 20 Minute Neighbourhood concept is based on enabling residents to 'live locally' by promoting opportunities to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk, cycle, or public transport trip from their home. A 20-minute neighbourhood can create a more cohesive and inclusive community with a vibrant local economy— reducing social exclusion, improving health and wellbeing, promoting a sense of place, reducing travel costs and traffic congestion, and reducing carbon emissions, objectives which support sustainable growth for Merrimu.

The concept provides a robust framework to assess and discuss the needs of the townships and the infrastructure, facilities, and services that may be required, to guide Merrimu's growth over the coming decades.

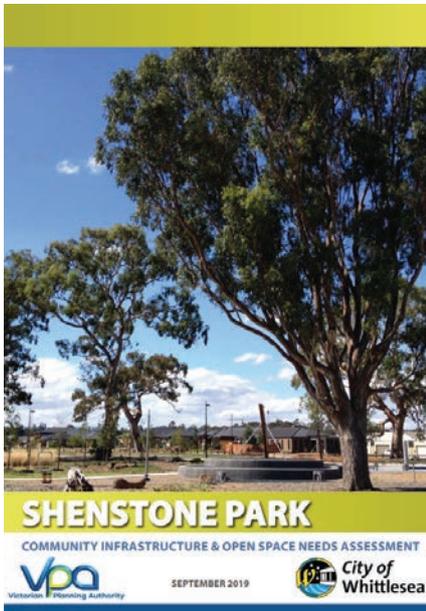
The figure opposite demonstrates the key elements needed to 'live locally'. Importantly, this includes open space provision as one of the key features of a successful 20 minute neighbourhood.

Key components of open space integral to the concept include:

- Local parks and playgrounds
- Green streets and spaces
- Community gardens
- Sport and recreation facilities



Future development within the Merrimu precinct must ensure an adequate provision of open space at all levels, including regional, district and local, to ensure the successful application of the 20 Minute Neighbourhood principles.



Shenstone Park Community Infrastructure & Open Space Needs Assessment, 2019

The Shenstone Park Precinct is located within Donnybrook, in the City of Whittlesea. The Community Infrastructure and Open Space Needs Assessment examines key opportunities and constraints for community facility and open space infrastructure provision within the precinct.

Key opportunities include:

- Transition of land uses from grazing and industrial land, to urban and residential uses that include opportunity for open space provision
- Colocation of compatible uses, including the provision of new open spaces in conjunction with other community facilities such as schools and community hubs.

Importantly, the assessment notes that open space provision within growth area precincts needs to be equitably distributed across the precinct in order to maximise access by the local community. The PSP and ICP deliver, as a development obligation, local space of up to 10% of residential net developable area; generally this is divided into 4% of the residential NDA for local parks and 6% of the residential NDA for

local sports reserves but can be tailored to suit local requirements and conditions. The proposed breakdown of open space within the precinct is approximately 4.44% for local parks and 4.36% for reserves.

In assessment includes the following findings relating to demand for open spaces:

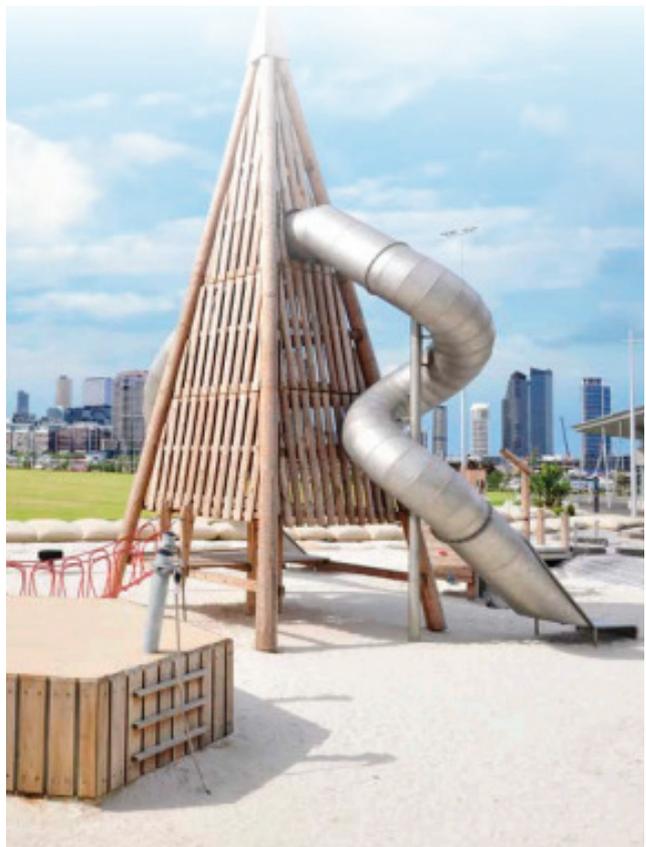
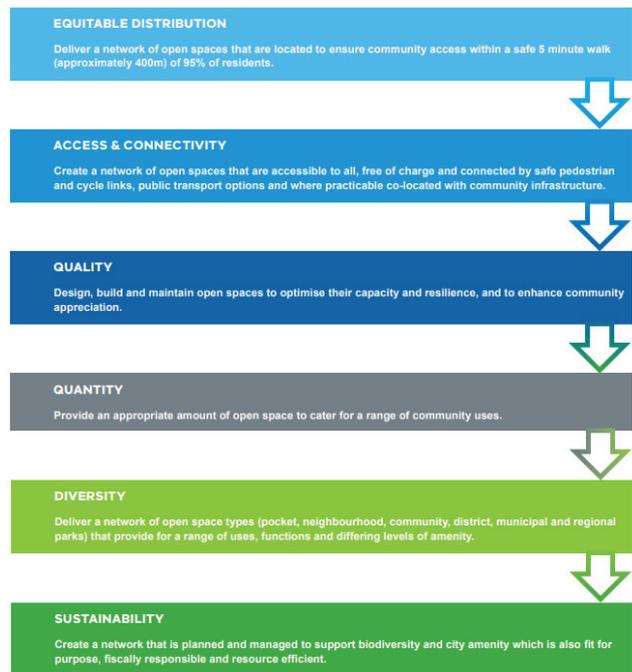
- **Local Parks:** 11.58 hectares of land is set aside for local parks at varying sizes across the residential and employment areas of the PSP area, and have been placed systematically to minimise walking distances exceeding 400m. A number of open space reserves are proposed to abut significant remnant vegetation, and historical features to connect people to the landscape and heritage features, whilst some other open space reserves are proposed to be co-located with active open space reserves and drainage assets to connect and make practical use of infrastructure assets.
- **Sports Fields:** The assessment indicates that a total of 8 hectares is to be provided within the precinct. These spaces should cater for a range of outdoor sports including netball, AFL, soccer, cricket and tennis.
- **Indoor Recreation Centre:** Growth area benchmarks trigger the need for one publicly provided indoor recreation centre. Opportunities should be explored to co-locate an indoor recreation centre with other education and community facilities.



Metropolitan Open Space Network - Provision and Distribution, 2017

This document sets out a number of key principals relating to both the provision and distribution of open spaces across metropolitan Melbourne. These principals have been identified in order to guide assessment of open space and to prioritise any potential interventions. The principles include:

- **Equitable Distribution:** Ensuring the spatial location of open spaces within reach of all members of the community
- **Access & Connectivity:** Creating a network of open spaces that are accessible via safe bicycle and pedestrian links
- **Quality:** Designing and building open spaces to optimise capacity and resilience
- **Quantity:** Delivering an appropriate amount of open space to cater for all kinds of community uses
- **Diversity:** Delivering a number of different open spaces including local, pocket, neighbourhood, district and regional open spaces
- **Sustainability:** Creation of a planned and well managed network that supports biodiversity and enhances resource efficiency.



2.5 Site Analysis and Constraints

Due to its size of over 900 hectares, the Merrimu precinct offers significant potential for the development of new active and passive open spaces that would benefit both the local and wider community. The site is however constrained by a number of environmental features, the details of which are outlined below.

Western Escarpment and Long Forest

The steep escarpment to the west and Long Forest to the east of the precinct create natural boundaries to the Merrimu precinct. While slope of land and existing vegetation will largely prevent development within these locations, new dwellings and open spaces should consider the implementation of appropriate buffers to ensure the ongoing protection of these environmental features.

Topography and Break of Slope

The majority of land within the precinct is located on top of the plateau above the break of slope to the west, south and east. This land is largely flat and well suited to residential development. The break of slope line has been generated through extensive slope analysis and generally represents the boundary of the developable area. The location and design of open space will respond to these natural features and will provide outlook to the surrounding landscape.

Bushfire Buffers

Indicative bushfire buffers have been generated through analyses of slope and vegetation conditions along the periphery of the developable area. These buffers will ensure dwellings are appropriately setback and protected from bushfire risk. The calculation of buffers has considered the location of open space areas within the buffer areas. The provision of emergency vehicle access tracks and the implementation of appropriate management practices for the open space within the buffers will play an important roll in ongoing bushfire risk mitigation.

Existing Ecological Vegetation Classes

The site is also constrained in part by remnant vegetation in certain locations. EVCs including grassy woodlands, plains grassland and rocky

chenopod woodland are present in portions of the precinct, as identified in the site constraint map overpage.

Endangered Flora and Fauna

Ecological assessments completed in December 2017 revealed the existence of a number of endangered species including the Spint Rice Flower and Golden Sun Moth. These species are generally located in areas of greater vegetation coverage to the east of the precinct, bordering Long Forest.

Drainage Assets and Water Course

As identified in the constraints map overpage, there are a number of indicative drainage reservoir locations across the precinct that would require specific consideration as part of any future open space development. Integration of these areas into the open space areas will add significant value and diversity to the open space character.

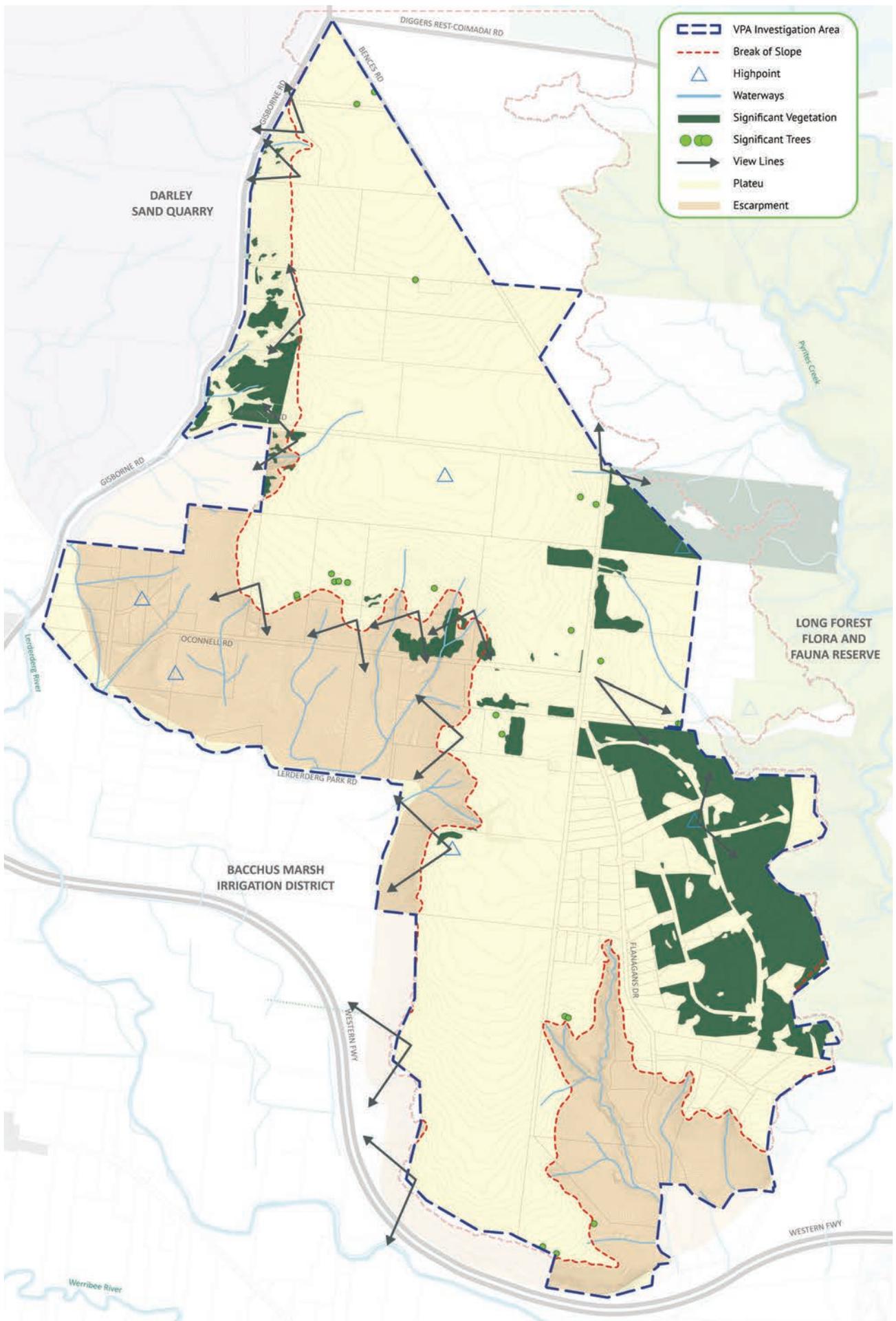
Cultural Heritage Areas

Aboriginal and Historic Heritage Assessments

(AHHA) have been completed for the entire precinct. Additionally Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMP) have are under preparation for significant portions of the developable area. These studies have identifies select areas of cultural heritage sensitivity which are largely located below the break of slope along the west and south east of the precinct. The location design of open space will need to appropriately protect these areas.

Existing Views

The precinct elevation position provides excellent view to the south east and west. Vantage points within the precinct provide views to large areas of state park and open space adjacent to the precinct as well as the agricultural land and Avenue of Honour to the south , Bacchus Marsh Township to the south east and select views of Melbourne CBD to the southwest. These existing views will add significant value to the character of the open and space the precinct more broadly. Open space areas should be designed to protect and enhance these views and the connection they provide to the surrounding area.



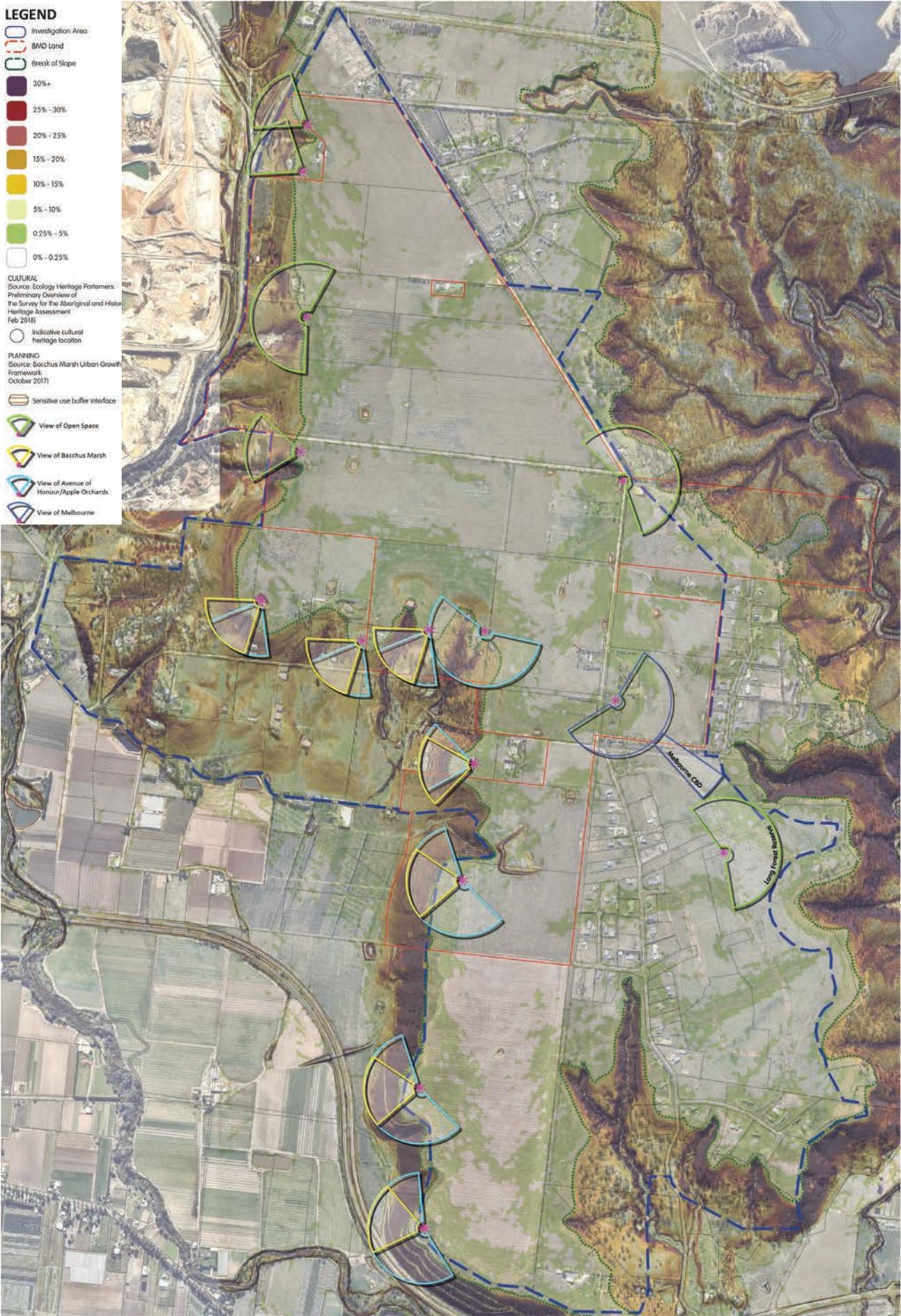
08 Site Analysis

LEGEND

- Investigation Area
- BMD Land
- Break of Slope
- 30%+
- 25% - 30%
- 20% - 25%
- 15% - 20%
- 10% - 15%
- 5% - 10%
- 0.25% - 5%
- 0% - 0.25%

CULTURAL
 Source: Ecology Heritage Partners: Preliminary Overview of the Survey for the Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment (Feb 2018)
 Indicative cultural heritage location

PLANNING
 Source: Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework (October 2017)
 Sensitive use buffer interface
 View of Open Space
 View of Bacchus Marsh
 View of Avenue of Honour/Apple Orchards
 View of Melbourne



09 Site Constraints

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape, showing a mix of green fields, brownish agricultural land, and a small town or village in the distance. The sky is a clear, light blue with some wispy clouds. The overall tone is a soft, muted green.

03 Open Space Strategy

3.1 Vision & Principles

Merrimu Vision Pillars



Distinct Place Character

A unique, peri-urban community with a distinct sense of place that blends modern urban living with the amenity of a rural lifestyle.



Local and Liveable

Resident's daily needs are accommodated within walking distance of home providing opportunities for people to interact and immerse themselves in the local lifestyle.



Connected

A network of paths and off-street trails encourage people to walk and cycle, immersed in both the urban and natural areas.



Healthy and Active

An urban development that supports and encourages community physical and mental wellbeing through active lifestyles, access to green spaces and civic life.



Housing Choice

Neighbourhoods that offer a wide range of housing choices to meet the needs of a diverse community through all life stages.

Green Network Visioning Principles



Connectivity

Create a sense of connection and place through views to landscape



Green Links

Escarpment edge skyline park creating a linear green space and active transport link



Food and Social Networks

Access to free food and social networks through network of community gardens & urban farms



Linked

A network of paths and off-street trails providing connections into Long Forest through the urban and natural environment.

3.2 Merrimu Concept Masterplan

Overview

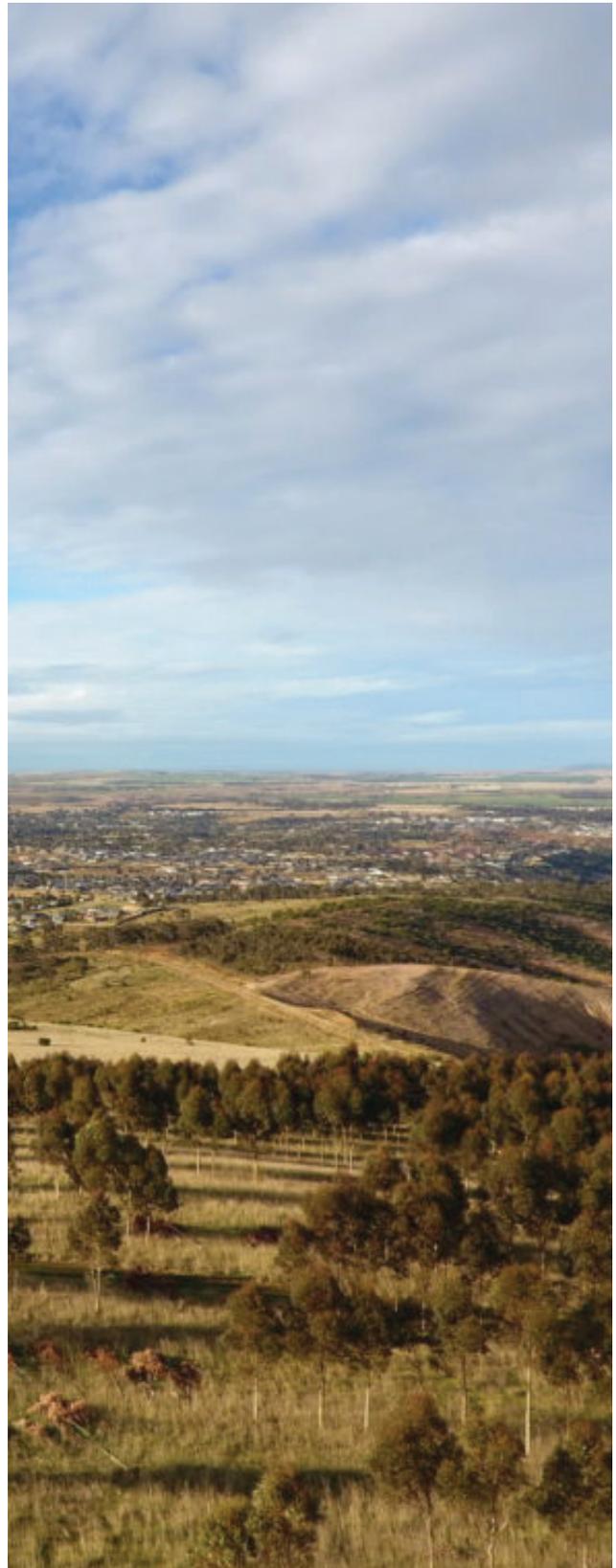
The Merrimu concept masterplan has been developed to respond to the site's attributes and constraints. The future urban area is located above the escarpments and is focussed around two distinct town centres, one in the north and one in the south of the precinct.

The town centres will provide a focus of commercial and community services and be integrated with varied dwellings types and densities. Active Open Space and Schools are located to support the town centre areas without detracting from their primary purpose.

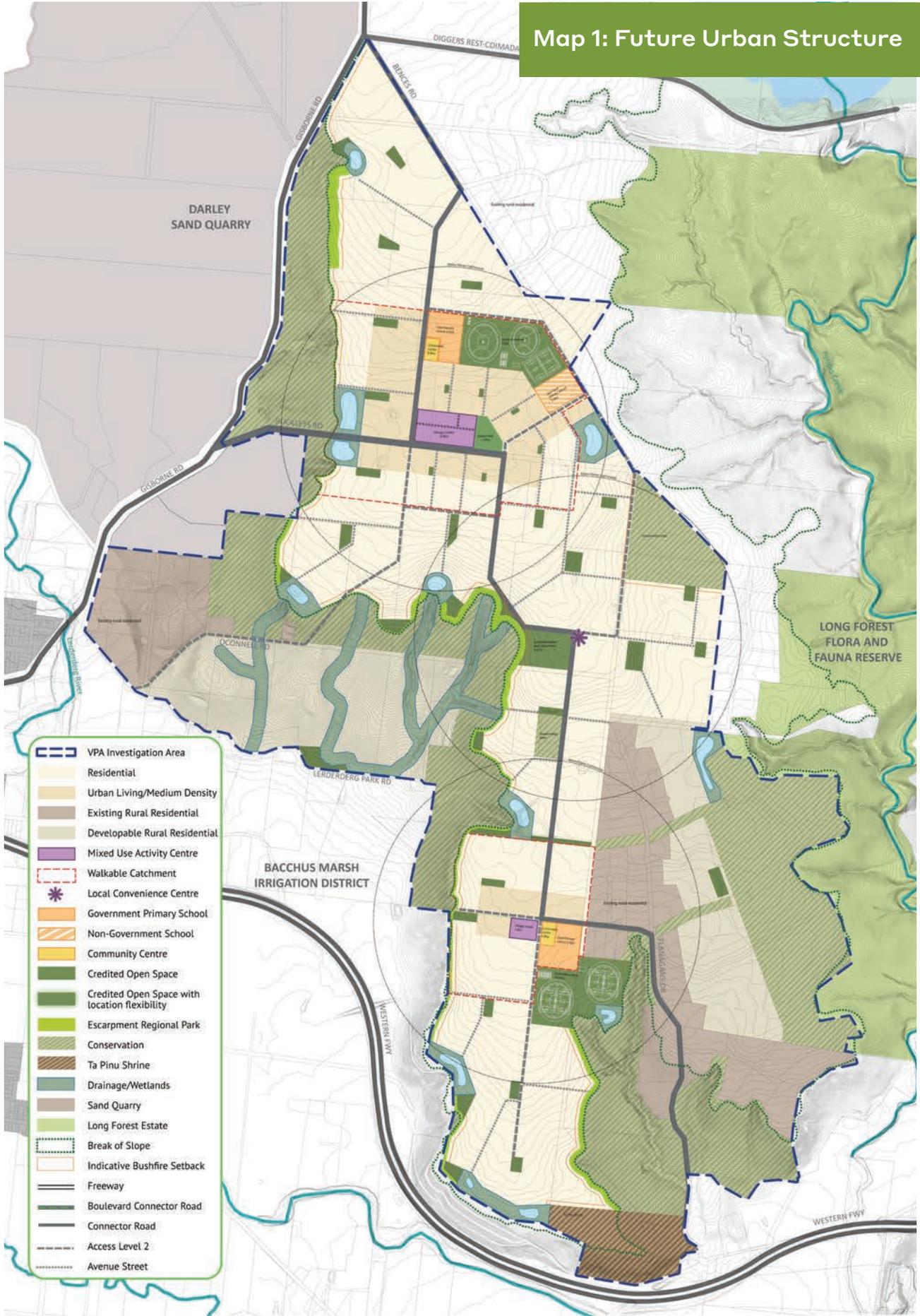
Access to the precinct will utilise the existing road network with Buckleys Road providing the primary access through an upgrade to a boulevard treatment. Bences Road and Flanagans Drive provide secondary access from the north and south while avoiding a through route to minimise external traffic impacts. The road hierarchy and typology has been designed to preserve the area's country feel and provide high quality streetscapes and varied dwelling presentation to the public realm. Walking and cycling networks will provide safe and convenient routes through the precinct

The masterplan has sought to protect areas of ecological and cultural significance and enhance benefits provided by the unique topographic features of the area. Lot orientation and open space adjacent to the escarpments will capture views to the surrounding landscapes and greatly contribute to the area's character.

The Future Urban Structure is shown on Map 1 overpage.



Map 1: Future Urban Structure



3.3 Land Budget

Land Budget

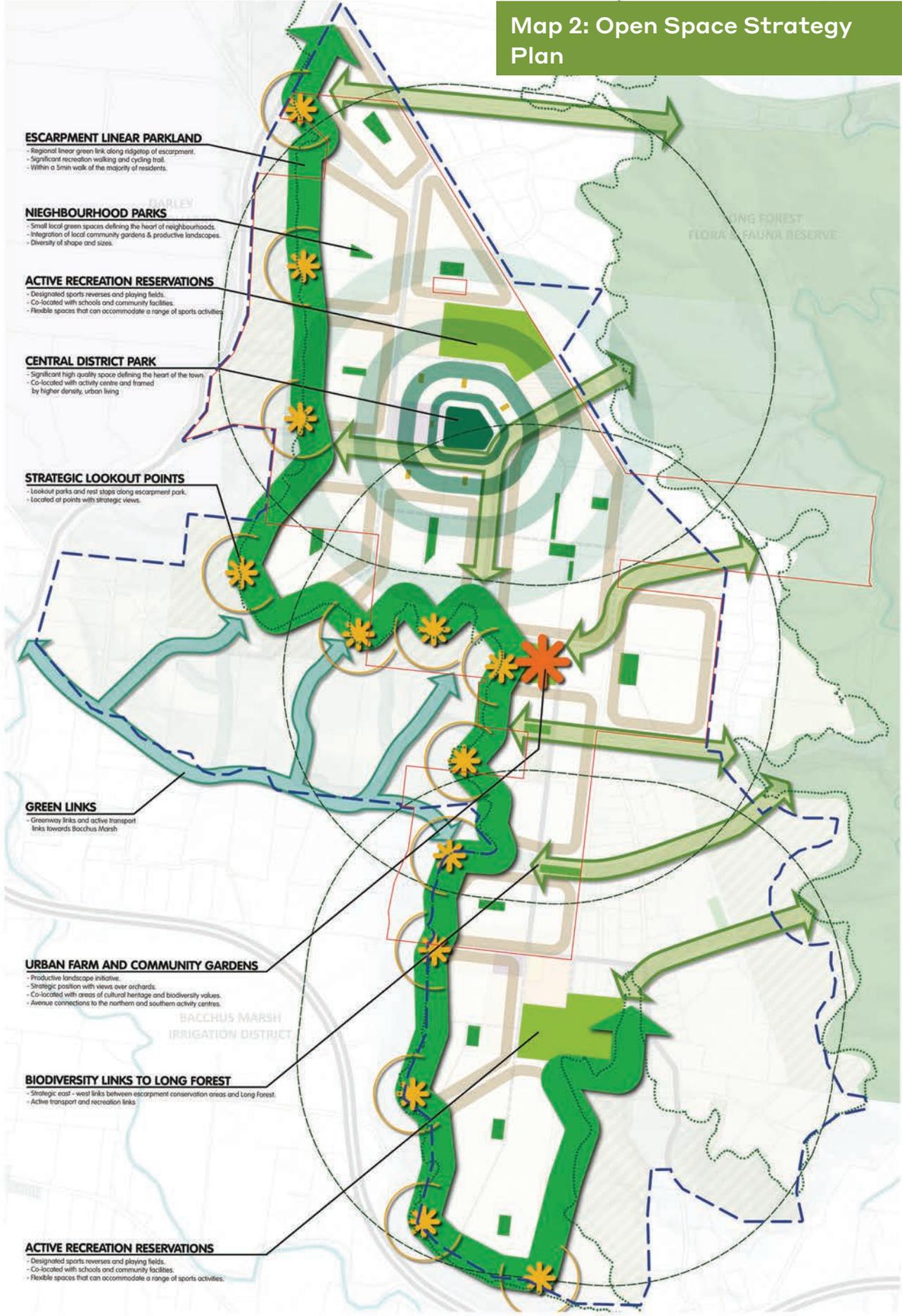
The open space land budget is set out in Table 1 below. Of the total net developable area, uncredited open space and credited open space account for 64% and 11% respectively. Uncredited open spaces consist predominantly of conservation areas, drainage reservations and regional parklands. Credited open space includes active recreation facilities including organised sports, an urban farm and local parks.



Description	Hectares	% of NDA
Total Precinct Areas (HA)	1,016.12	
OPEN SPACE		
UNCREDITED OPEN SPACE		
Waterway and Drainage Reserve	52.22	10.1%
Escarpment Regional Parklands	14.82	2.9%
Conservation Areas	246.13	47.7%
SUB TOTAL UNCREDITED OPEN SPACE	313.17	60.7%
CREDITED OPEN SPACE		
Active Recreation - Organised Sports	24.00	5.8%
Active Recreation - Urban Farm	4.00	1%
Local Parks	17.50	4%
Local Parks - Rural	2.00	0.4%
SUB TOTAL CREDITED OPEN SPACE	47.50	11.4%
Ta'Pinu Shrine	18.57	3.6%
Existing Rural Residential open sapce	100.73	19.5%
SUB TOTAL EXISTING OPEN SPACE	119.31	23.1%

Table 5 – Open Space Land Budget

Map 2: Open Space Strategy Plan



3.4 Passive Open Space

Passive open spaces within the Merrimu precinct consist of land set aside predominantly for the purposes of conservation, drainage and response to other environmental features. Passive open spaces are generally constrained from being developed for formal recreation and instead provide for other purposes such as gardens, linear corridors, and reserves.

Encumbered Open Space

Within the Merrimu precinct, a significant amount of land is considered to be encumbered open space. This is largely due to the environmental features of the precinct, including steep escarpments and water corridors. Other constraints including bushfire safety buffers also contribute to the high amount of encumbered open space within the precinct. These spaces make up for almost 50% of the entire precinct and are fixed in place, meaning that open space provision within the precinct will be set around this.

Drivers for Distribution and Location

As passive open space play an important role in establishing high levels of amenity within the Merrimu precinct, it is critical that they are strategically distributed. Linear open spaces that enhance walkability catchments are placed along key north-south and east-west corridors, ensuring high levels of accessibility. Other spaces such as local parks are distributed based on a catchment that ensures all future residents are within a short walking distance of an open space.

Quantity and Quality

Passive open spaces within the Merrimu precinct will be designed to ensure that high level service standards are met. This includes the ability to provide amenity to residents through appropriate seating, shading and night-time lighting. High quality passive open spaces within the Merrimu precinct will also support biodiversity and habitat links, while being resource-efficient, sustainable and resilient to climate change.

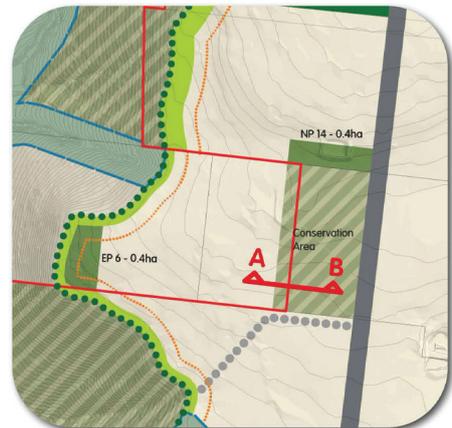
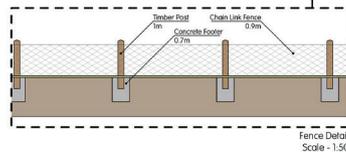
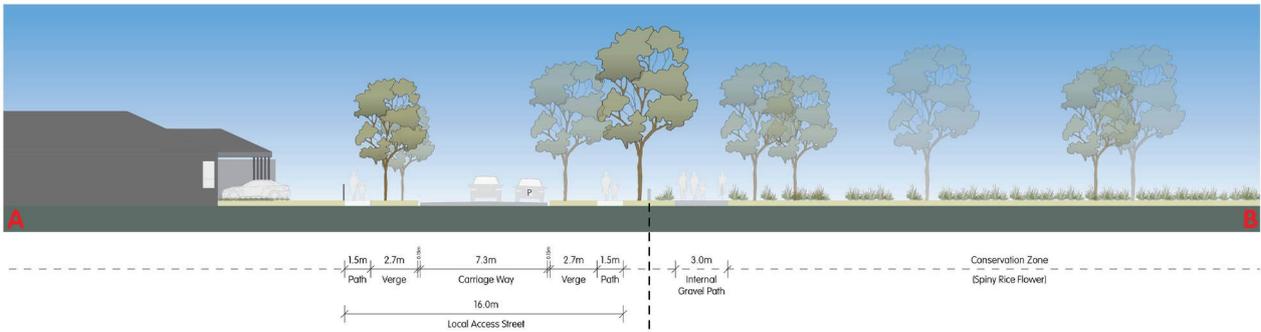
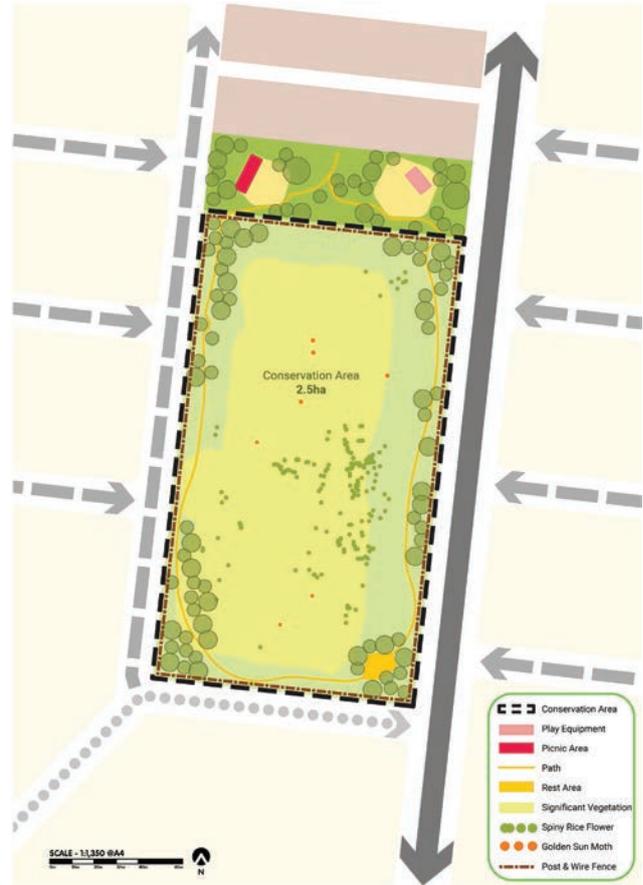


Conservation Areas

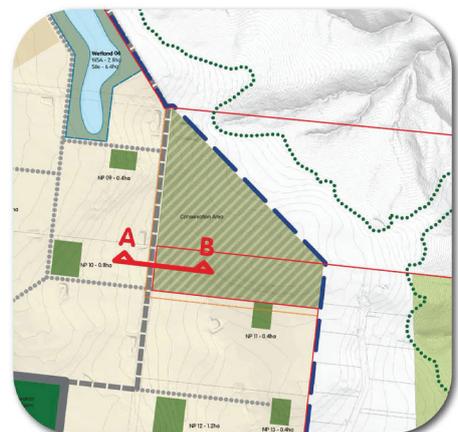
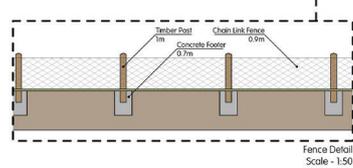
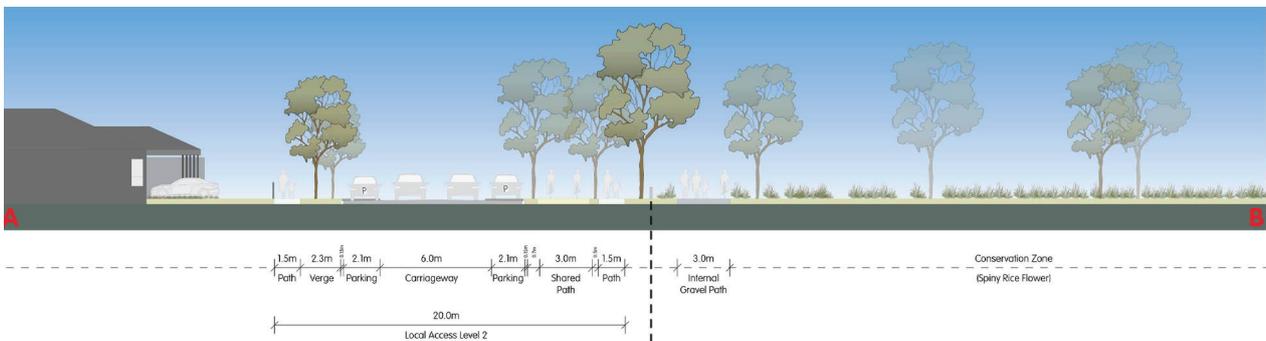
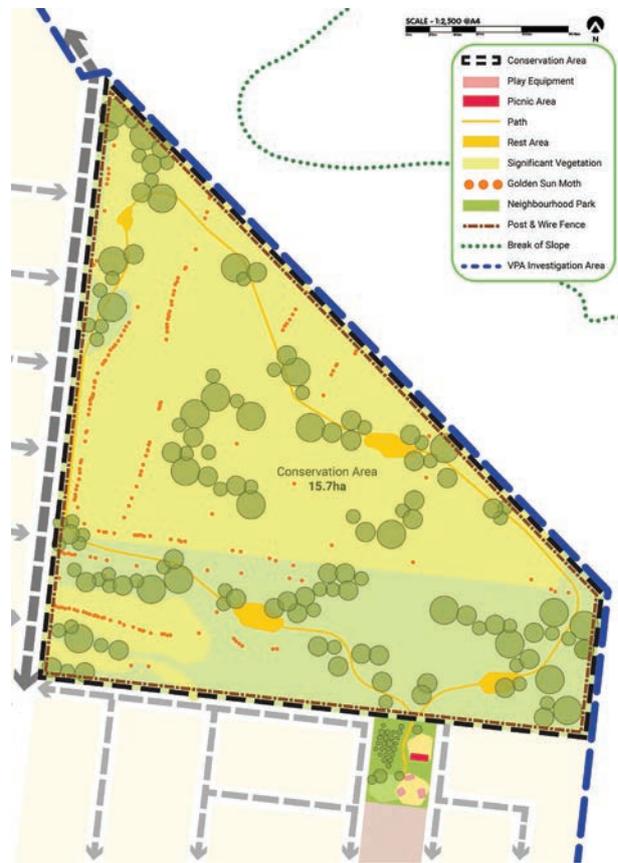
The Merrimu precinct will establish permanently protected areas as part of future development to protect existing flora and fauna including the endangered Spint Rice Flower and the Golden Sun Moth.

Establishing significant conservation areas within the precinct will ensure a greater diversity of habitat types, support important populations of endangered species, and promote habitat connectivity across the conservation area.

Post and wire fences located along the perimeter of each conservation area will serve as an important buffer between the future community at Merrimu and the endangered species within. This will ensure that the impacts of adjacent land uses and other activities are minimised.



Conservation areas within the precinct will include public pathways and rest areas to encourage future residents to engage with the space while ensuring that significant populations of Golden Sun Moth or areas of Spiny Rice Flower remain isolated.



Linking Streets

The Merrimu open space concept plan incorporates designated green linking streets, connecting key open spaces across the precinct.

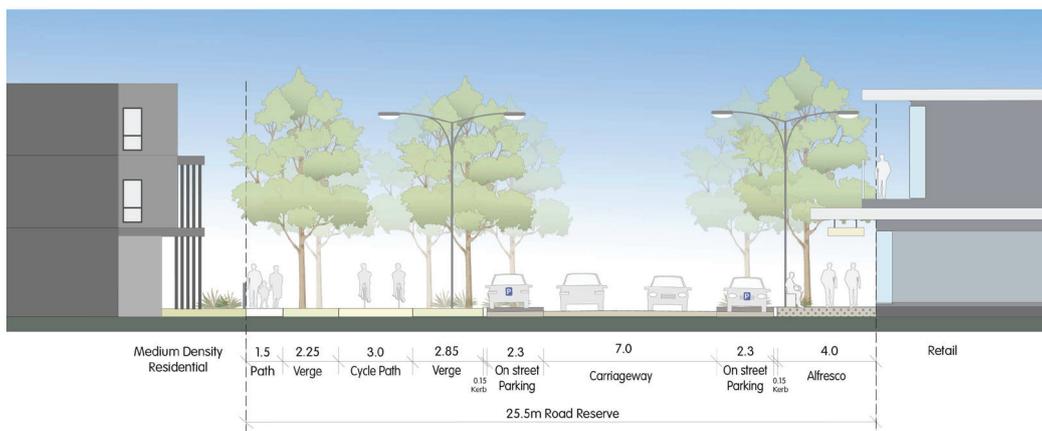
Linking streets incorporate greater levels of landscaping and vegetation coverage than typical local streets.

Active transport opportunities are significantly increased on linking streets, with dedicated pedestrian and cycling paths allowing for safe travel across the precinct.

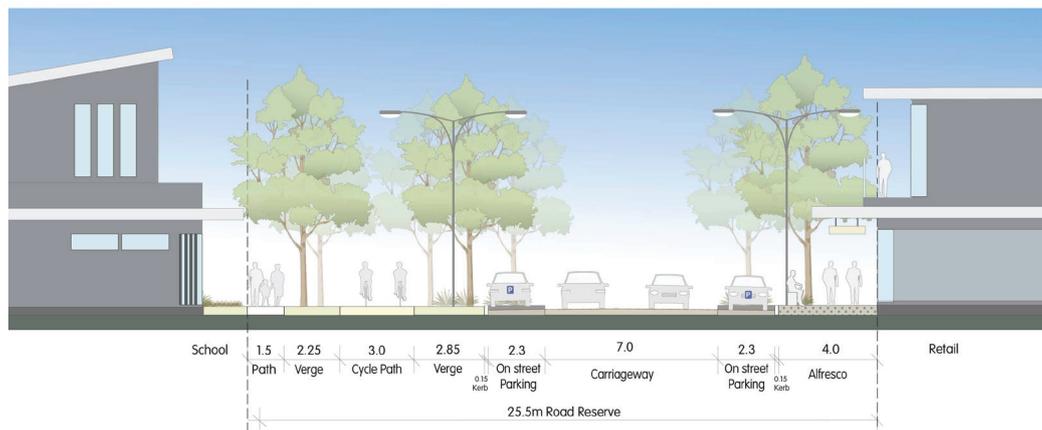
Canopy trees are accommodated within street verges, providing protection from the sun for pedestrians and serving as a barrier between vehicles and cyclists.

Indicative cross sections for key linking streets are shown below and overpage.

Connector Road - Activity Centre



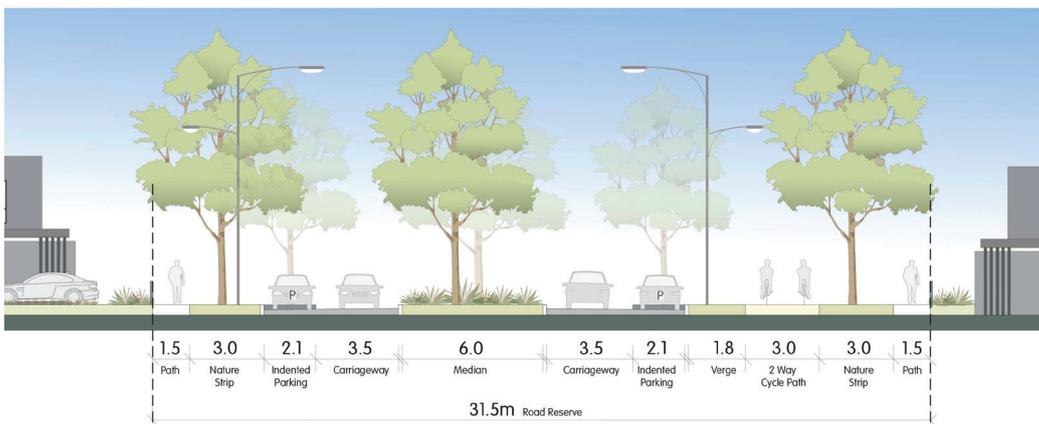
Connector Road - Activity Centre & School



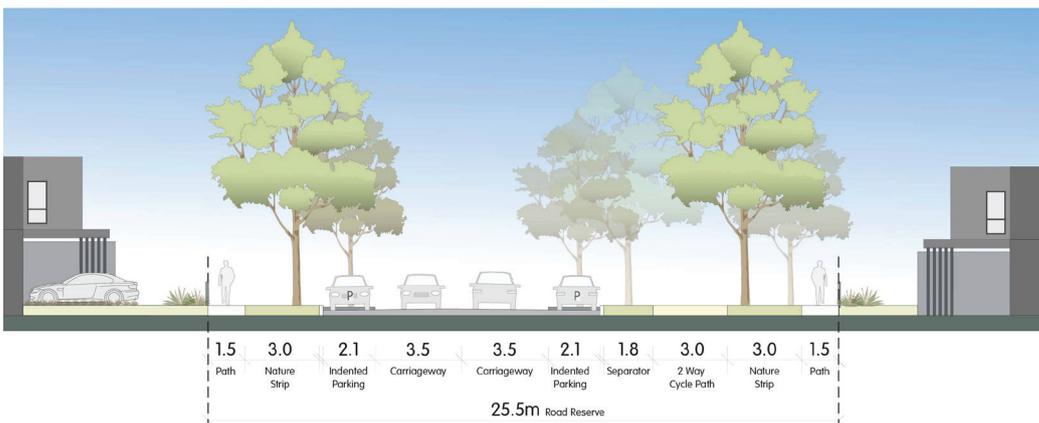
Town Centre Shared Street



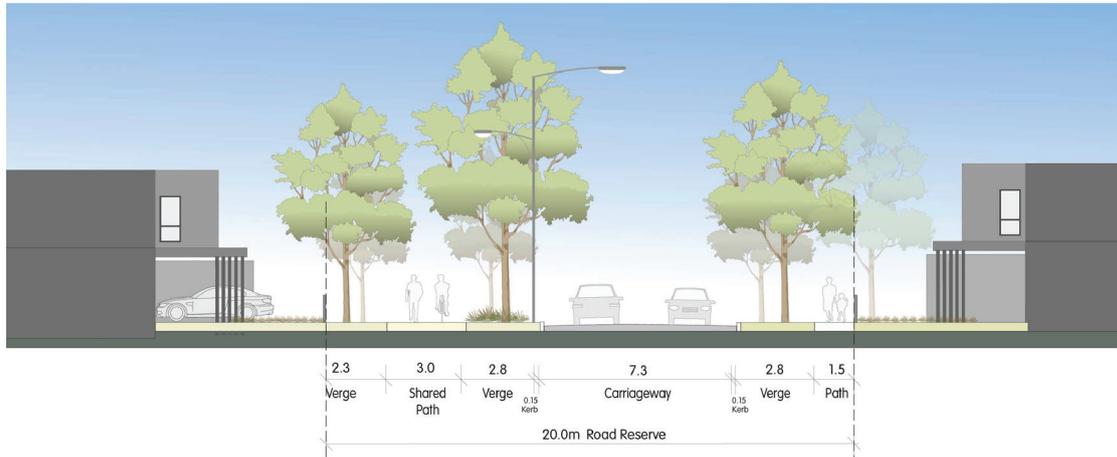
Entry Boulevard



Connector Road



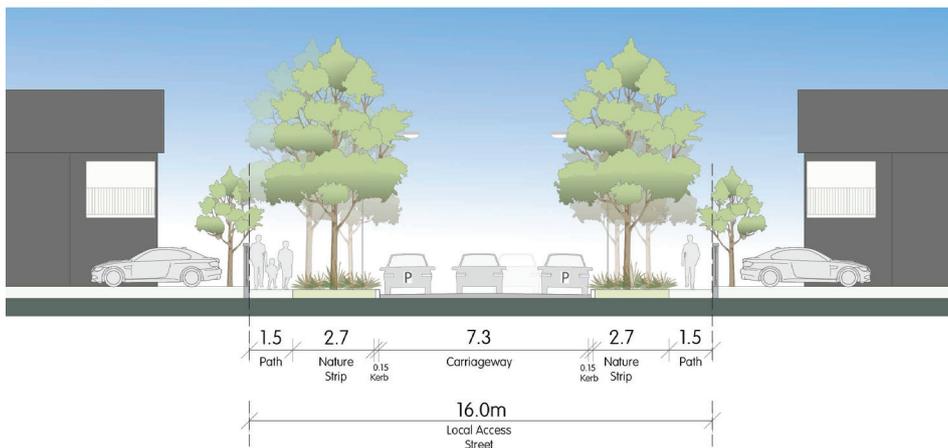
Access Level 2



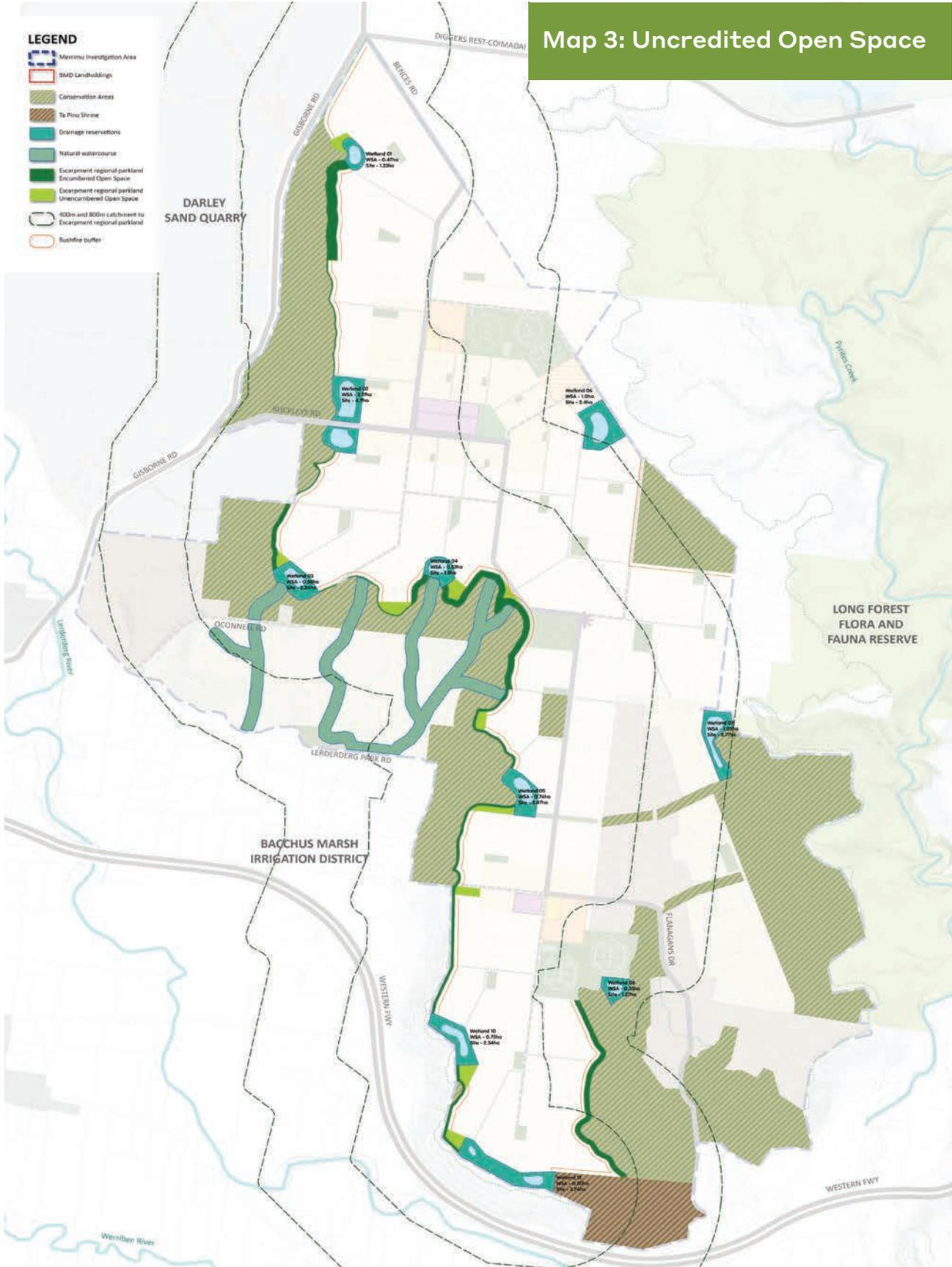
Local Access (Rear Loaded)



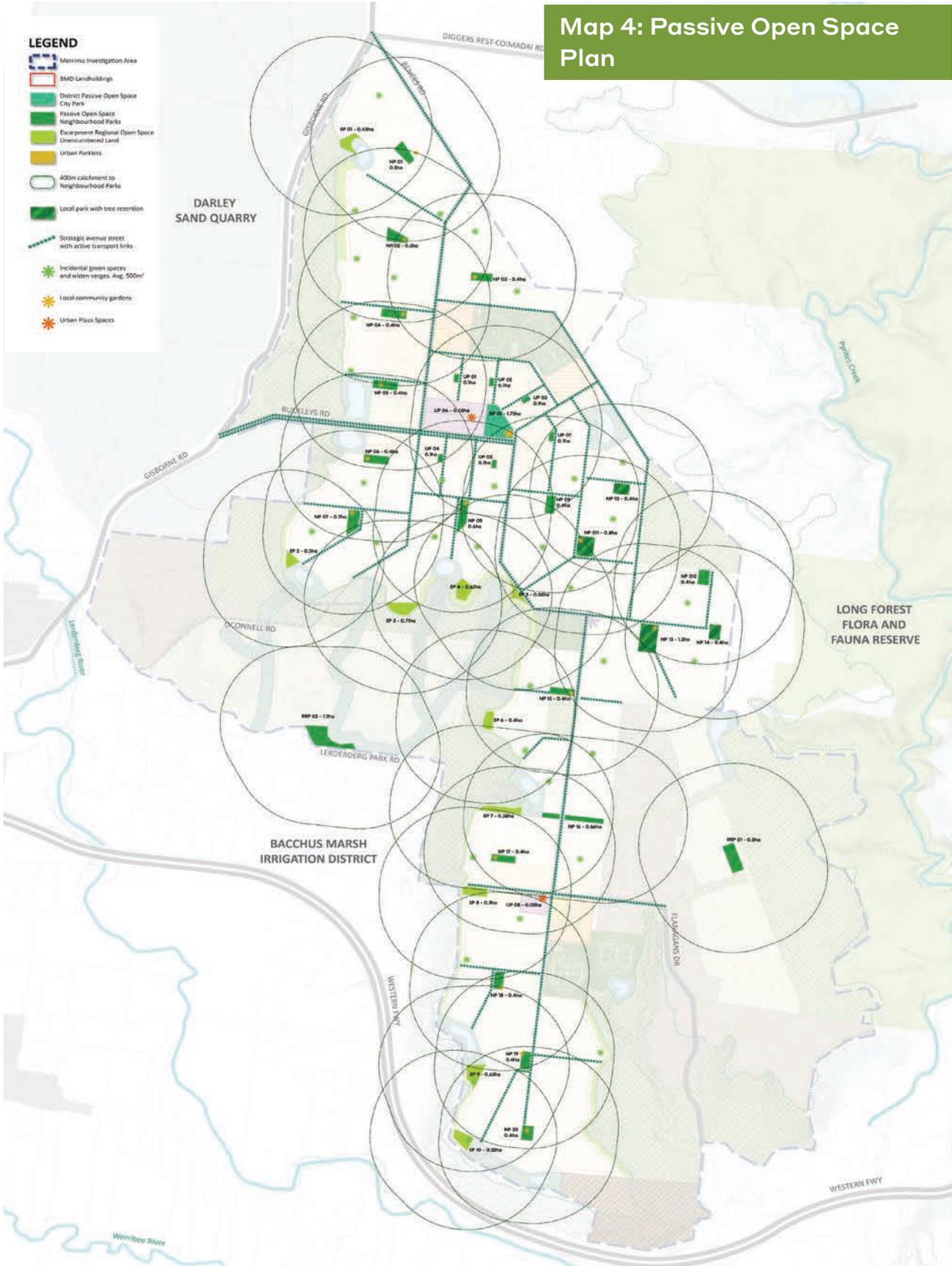
Local Access (Front Loaded)



Map 3: Uncredited Open Space



Map 4: Passive Open Space Plan



Passive Open Space Catalogue

The following table outlines the Area, Type and Attributes of existing open spaces within the Merrimu Precinct.

Space ID	Area	Type	Attributes
DP 01	1.75ha	District Level Park	Activated parkland adjoining medium density areas. Higher order landscape design, amenity and maintenance.
NP 01	0.5ha	Neighbourhood park	Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood. Elongated shape to maximise overlooking and amenity for MD housing. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds. Informal open space and urban forest. Small community gardens.
NP 02	0.5ha	Local park	Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood. Elongated shape to maximise overlooking and amenity for MD housing. Picnic shelters and playgrounds. Informal open space and urban forest. Small community gardens.
NP 03	0.4ha	Neighbourhood park	Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds. Informal open space and urban forest. Small community gardens. x
NP 04	0.4ha	Local park	Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood. Elongated shape to maximise overlooking and amenity for MD housing. Picnic shelters and playgrounds. Informal open space and urban forest. Small community gardens.
NP 05	0.4ha	Local park	Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood. Elongated shape to maximise overlooking and amenity for MD housing. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds. Informal open space and urban forest. Small community gardens.

Space ID	Area	Type	Attributes
NP 06	0.4ha	Local park	<p>Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood.</p> <p>Elongated shape to maximise overlooking and amenity for MD housing.</p> <p>BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p> <p>Small community gardens.</p>
NP 07	0.6ha	Neighbourhood park	<p>Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood.</p> <p>Elongated shape to maximise overlooking and amenity for MD housing.</p> <p>BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p> <p>Small community gardens.</p>
NP 08	0.6ha	Local park	<p>Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood.</p> <p>Elongated shape to maximise overlooking and amenity for MD housing.</p> <p>Picnic shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p> <p>Small community gardens.</p>
NP 09	0.4ha	Local park	<p>Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood.</p> <p>Picnic shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p> <p>Small community gardens.</p>
NP 10	0.4ha	Local park and tree reservation	<p>Located to retain existing established trees</p> <p>Interface with wetlands adding useable opens space.</p> <p>Picnic shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p>
NP 11	0.8ha	Local park and tree reservation	<p>Located to retain existing established trees.</p> <p>Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood.</p> <p>BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p> <p>Small community gardens.</p>

Space ID	Area	Type	Attributes
NP 12	0.4ha	Neighbourhood park	<p>Located to retain existing established trees. Elevated position.</p> <p>Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood.</p> <p>BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p> <p>Small community gardens.</p>
NP 13	1.2ha	Local park and tree reservation	<p>Located to retain existing established trees</p> <p>Interface with wetlands adding useable opens space.</p> <p>Picnic shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p>
NP 14	0.4ha	Local park and tree reservation	<p>Located to retain existing established trees</p> <p>Interface with wetlands adding useable opens space.</p> <p>Picnic shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p>
NP 15	0.4ha	Local park	<p>Interface with conservation area adding useable opens space.</p> <p>Picnic shelters and playgrounds, informal open space and urban forest.</p> <p>Small community gardens.</p>
NP 16	0.66ha	Green-way link	<p>Linear green-way and bio-diversity link.</p> <p>Interface with wetlands.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p>
NP 17	0.4ha	Neighbourhood park	<p>Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood.</p> <p>BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p> <p>Small community gardens.</p>
NP 18	0.4ha	Neighbourhood park	<p>Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood.</p> <p>BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p> <p>Small community gardens.</p>
NP 19	0.4ha	Neighbourhood park	<p>Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood.</p> <p>BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.</p> <p>Informal open space and urban forest.</p> <p>Small community gardens.</p>

Space ID	Area	Type	Attributes
NP 20	0.4ha	Neighbourhood park	Passive open space & gardens defining the heart of local neighbourhood. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds. Informal open space and urban forest. Small community gardens.
UP 01	0.10ha	Pocket park / Urban Space	Local pocket park and plaza space. Urban amenity to support medium density areas
UP 02	0.10ha	Pocket park / Urban Space	Local pocket park and plaza space. Urban amenity to support medium density areas
UP 03	0.10ha	Pocket park / Urban Space	Local pocket park and plaza space. Urban amenity to support medium density areas
UP 04	0.10ha	Pocket park / Urban Space	Local pocket park and plaza space. Urban amenity to support medium density areas
UP 05	0.10ha	Pocket park / Urban Space	Local pocket park and plaza space. Urban amenity to support medium density areas
UP 06	0.05ha	Town Square	Central activated civic urban space
UP 07	0.10ha	Pocket park / Urban Space	Local pocket park and plaza space. Urban amenity to support medium density areas
EP 01	0.45ha	Escarpment park	Strategic location on escarpment with views. Interface with wetlands and fire buffer spaces adding usable space. Picnic shelters and playgrounds.
EP 02	0.3ha	Escarpment park	Interface with wetlands and fire buffer spaces adding usable space. Picnic shelters and playgrounds. Strategic open space on entry road. Interim urban farm site

Space ID	Area	Type	Attributes
EP 03	0.71ha	Escarpment park	Strategic location on escarpment with views. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.
EP 04	0.62ha	Escarpment park	Strategic location on escarpment with views. Interface with wetlands and fire buffer spaces adding usable space.
EP 05	0.26ha	Escarpment park	Strategic location on escarpment with views. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.
EP 06	0.4ha	Escarpment park	Strategic location on escarpment with views. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.
EP 07	0.58ha	Escarpment park	Strategic location on escarpment with views. Interface with wetlands and fire buffer spaces adding usable space. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.
EP 08	0.5ha	Escarpment park	Strategic location on escarpment with views. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.
EP 09	0.65ha	Escarpment park	Strategic location on escarpment with views. Interface with wetlands and fire buffer spaces adding usable space. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.
EP 10	0.58ha	Escarpment park	Strategic location on escarpment with views. BBQ areas, shelters and playgrounds.
RRP 01	0.8ha	Rural Residential park	Local parkland within rural residential areas Bushland character
RRP 02	1.2ha	Rural Residential park	Local parkland within rural residential areas Bushland character Located on creek corridor.

3.5 Active Open Space

Active open spaces within the Merrimu precinct consist of formal sports reserves and an urban farm. Active open spaces generally provide additional amenity to users including sporting fields, pavilions, change rooms.

Community Needs

Provision of high quality active open spaces will allow for individuals, families and groups to meet their social needs, maximise their potential and enhance community wellbeing.

The Merrimu precinct will include a diversity of active open spaces that will meet the needs of the future community. Formal sports reserves will feature full size and junior sports ovals to cater for all age groups. High levels of accessibility will ensure that spaces are easy to traverse, while supporting infrastructure including sports pavilions and playgrounds will provide for additional uses.

Distribution

Active open spaces have been distributed in a north-south orientation and located centrally within the precinct. This pattern of distribution ensures that the majority of future dwellings will be located within 1km of a sports reserve or urban farm.

Each sports reserve has been strategically co-located with future non-government schools and community facilities. This approach ensures the highest levels of accessibility and integration between critical community infrastructure assets, and ensures equitable distribution across the precinct.

Quantity and Quality

Active open spaces within the Merrimu precinct will be designed to ensure that high level service standards are met. This includes the ability to provide amenity to residents through appropriate seating, shading and night-time lighting. High quality active open spaces within the Merrimu precinct will also be resource-efficient, sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Urban Farm

The future urban farm will seek to reconnect the community with how and where their food is grown, providing opportunities for residents to participate and learn by cultivating the orchards and other agricultural spaces.

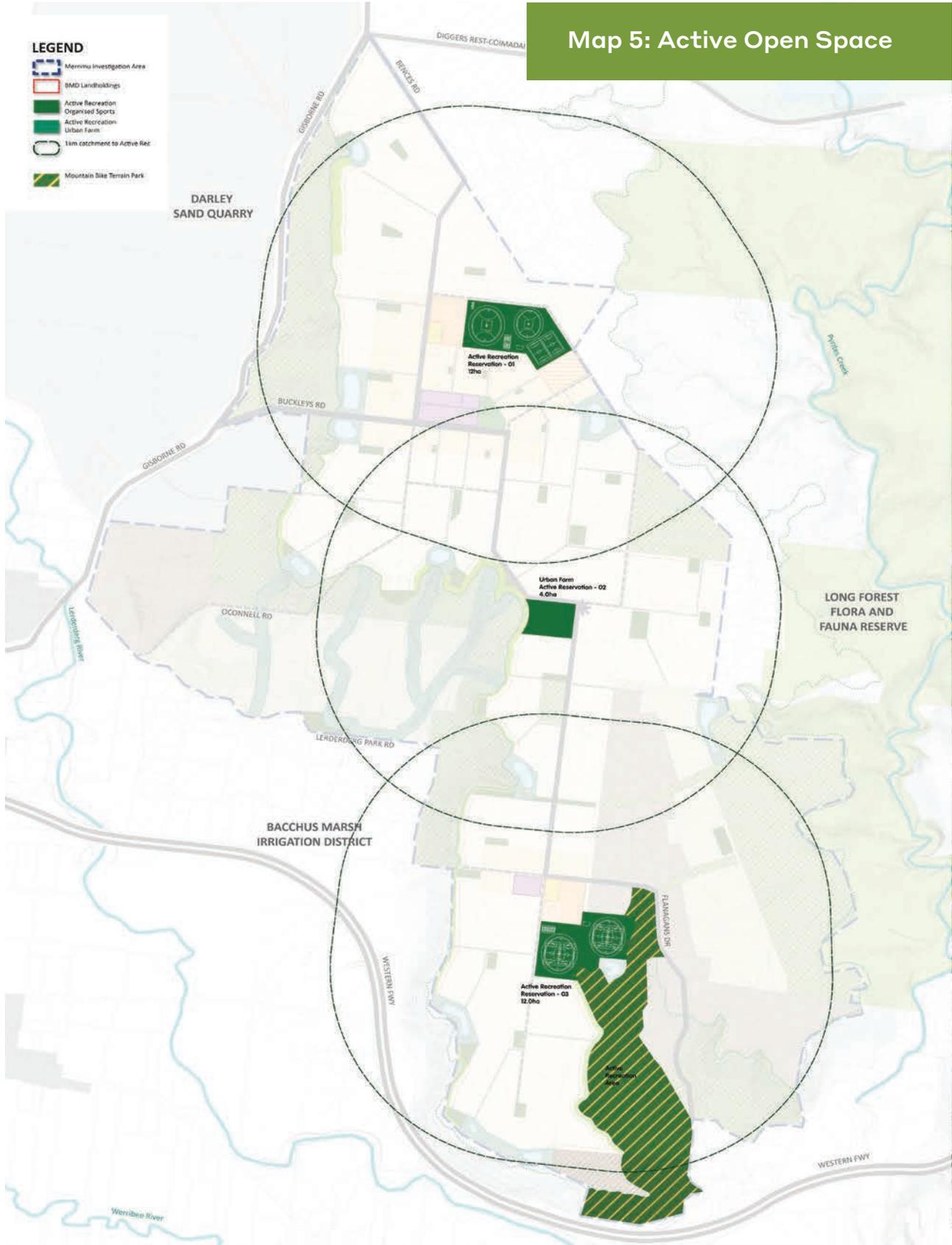
Other key opportunities of the urban farm include the ability to sell produce to local cafes and restaurants, providing an additional income generator for the farm.

Provision of workshops and educational events within the space will provide a critical focal point for community life, and an opportunity for residents to gain a greater understanding of urban agriculture.

There is also opportunity to incorporate native Indigenous planting throughout the space to strengthen future resilience and connection to the land.



Map 5: Active Open Space



Active Open Space Catalogue

The following table outlines the Area, Type and Attributes of existing active open spaces within the Merrimu Precinct.

Space ID	Area	Type	Attributes
Active Rec 01	12ha	Sports Reservation	Formal Sport Reservation Direct interface with schools Access Level 2 Road Access Urban interfaces and overlooking - 2 x AFL ovals, 1 full size, 1 junior - 2 x cricket ovals including 1 double pitch oval - 2 x soccer pitch - 4 x tennis courts - Skate park - Pavilion and car parking - Playgrounds and informal open space areas
Active Rec 02	4.0ha	Urban Farm and community gardens	Community permaculture centre and urban farm Allotment gardens Education centre Food markets
Active Rec 03	12.0ha	Sports Reservation	Formal Sport Reservation Direct interface with schools Access Level 2 Road Access Sensitive interface to existing rural res Bushland setting and edges, existing trees retained - 1 x full AFL oval. - 1 x cricket oval - 3 x soccer pitch - 4 x tennis courts - BMX park - Pavilion and car parking - Playgrounds and informal open space areas

Active Recreation Concept Designs

The following section outlines the proposed concept designs for each of the three active open space within the precinct. Each concept design is based around the urban setting, accessibility and sporting facilities.

Active Recreation 01

Urban Setting

- 12ha district sport reservation for formal club sports.
- Co-located with schools, school frontage to open space maximised.
- Adjacent the medium density urban core surrounding the activity centre. increased overlooking and activation.

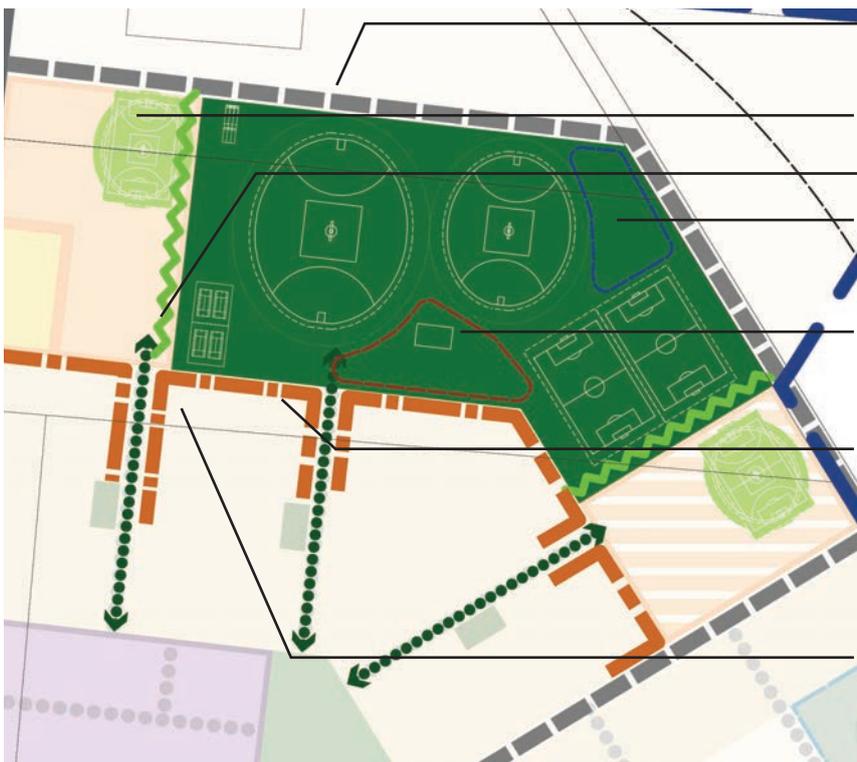
Accessibility

- Street frontages to three sides.
- Principal street frontage a bus capable Access Level 2 Street with embayed parking including bus parking.
- Strategic pedestrian priority links between schools, active recreation reservations and the mixed use activity centre.
- Cycle path connections

Sport Facilities

- Flexible spaces for a wide range of sporting uses.
- Central active zone with pavilions, car parking and other supporting community uses.
- Base Case - 2 x AFL ovals, 1 full size, 1 junior, 2 x cricket ovals including 1 double pitch oval, 2 x full size soccer pitch, 4 x tennis courts, 3 x Cricket Nets.

Concept Design



Access level 2 street frontage with bus access and parking.

Co-location of schools sports infrastructure

Direct interface with schools.

Flexible space for other active uses, potential skate park.

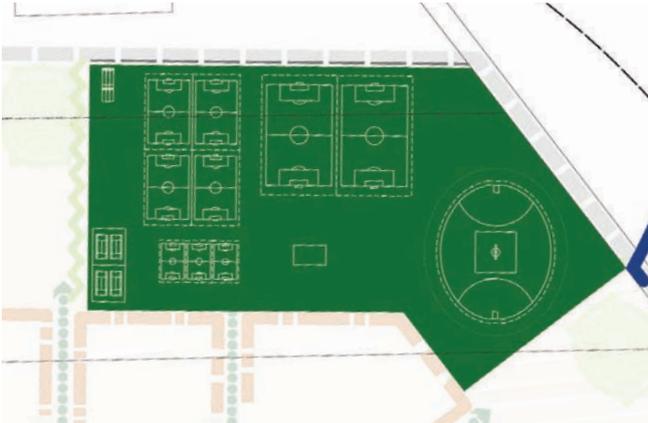
Central active core with pavilion, parking areas and other community uses.

Strategic pedestrian priority links between schools, active recreation reservations and the mixed use activity centre.

Medium density interface and overlooking of the open space.

Potential Alternative Arrangements

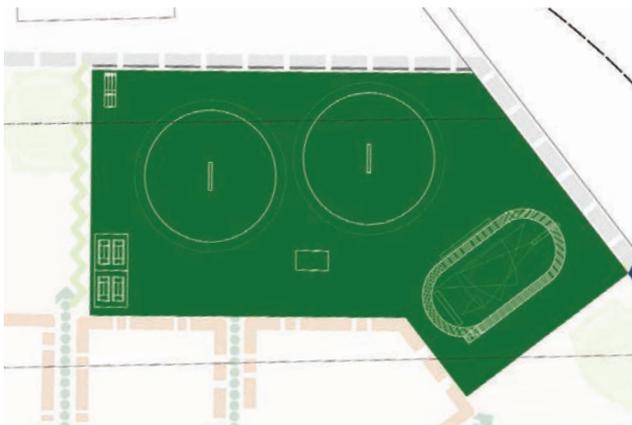
Junior Clubs



Option for increased rectangular pitches including

- 2 x senior full size soccer,
- 4 x under 12 pitches
- 3 x under 8's
- 1 x junior / general AFL pitch

Summer Sports



Potential summer sports marking including

- 2 x full size cricket ovals
- Athletics track and field for schools sports events.
- Opportunity for Lacrosse and Hockey

Active Recreation 02

Urban Farm

The urban farm is located centrally within the precinct and is 4 hectares in total area. The urban farm provides for a number of agricultural opportunities including orchards, ponds and garden sheds. In addition, an educational facility is located within the north-eastern corner of the farm. This facility will provide an opportunity for the community to develop agricultural skills and improve environmental awareness.

The centrally placed urban farm will connect the community to sustainable food production, reconnect with the earth and teach skills and knowledge as residents get their hands dirty. The farm precinct will provide the community with a beautiful mix of fruit trees and raised garden beds, indigenous plant gardens, worm farms, laying hens, bee hives, a propagation area and educational facilities including an outdoor classroom.

In the raised garden beds and orchards, residents from the very young to the older community can build their knowledge of growing fresh and healthy food, learn the rewards of seed saving and propagation, celebrate the harvest and share food. The compost and worm farms will enable residents to learn about turning food and garden scraps into compost to build precious, nutrient rich soil.

The urban farm provides space for community members to grow food for their families and retain cultural food growing practices as well as open, beautiful and friendly spaces for community gardeners and visitors to gather, learn and garden. The urban farm can also support a community supported agriculture scheme where residents can pay for their vegetables at the start of the season, and receive fresh produce every week of the season. Cultivating crops this way allows residents to have input into growing vegetables they like to eat and still involves residents who may not want to get their hands dirty! Whatever level of involvement, Merrimu urban farm will support residents to have strong connections to local

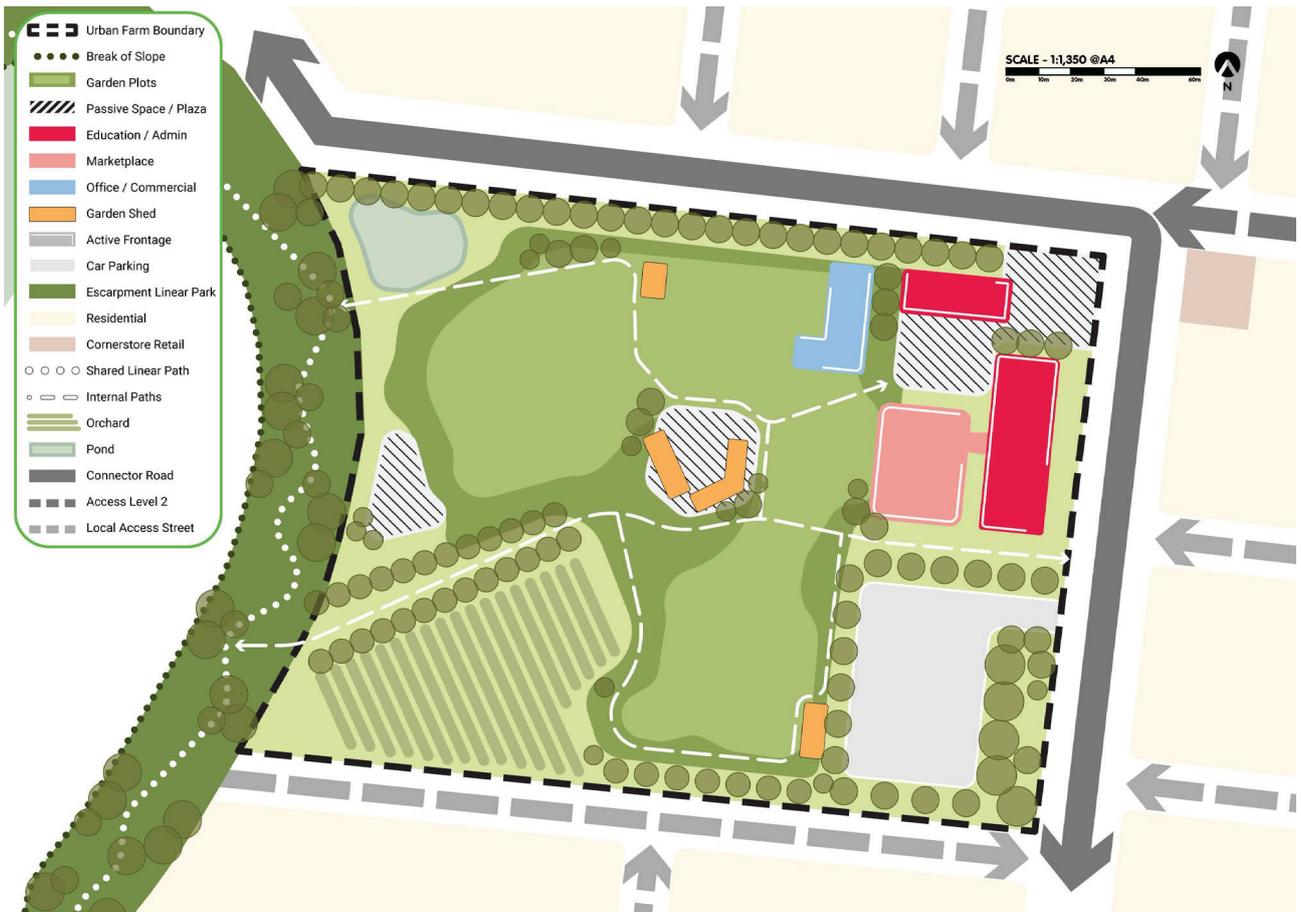
food production, build life skills and knowledge, make intergenerational and intercultural community connections, and engage in activities that promote health and wellbeing.

The educational facilities will play a key role in educating people about the role of localised urban food growing, inspiring families to participate in activities at the farm as well as grow food in their own residential gardens. These facilities including an outdoor classroom will cater for learners of all ages and provide opportunities to hear from local farmers and learn about sustainable land management and cultural knowledge in collaboration with Traditional Owners.

Merrimu urban farm can develop a 'farm gate' accessible to the wider community to visit on farm gate days, and purchase items such as fresh produce, worm tea, jams and chutneys made from farm harvest, and participate in workshops on urban farming. The 'farm gate' could expand into a 'farmers market' providing local and regional farmers and producers employment and opportunities to promote their sustainable food products and craft alongside the Merrimu growers.

The urban farm is central to the 20-minute neighbourhood and to living locally in a sustainable, resilient way. Growing food gives people the ability and confidence to meet many of their daily fresh foods needs within a walking distance from home.

Urban Farm Concept Design



Active Recreation 03

Urban Setting

- Strategic location overlooking Flanagans Drive Gully creating a bushland setting for Active Rec.
- Sensitive interface and transition from Rural residential to urban neighbourhoods.
- Direct interface to school.

Accessibility

- Principal street frontage a bus capable Access Level 2 Street with embayed parking including bus parking.
- Strategic access from existing Bences Road reservation.
- Strategic links from Regional Escarpment Linear Parklands

Sport Facilities

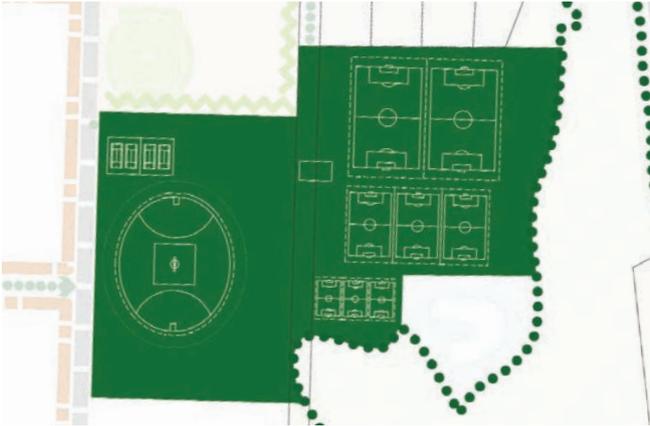
- Flexible spaces for a wide range of sporting uses.
- Central active zone with pavilions, car parking and other supporting community uses.
- Base Case - 1 x Full size AFL oval, 1 x cricket ovals, 3 x full size soccer pitch, 4 x tennis courts, 3 x Cricket Nets.

Concept Design



Potential Alternative Arrangements

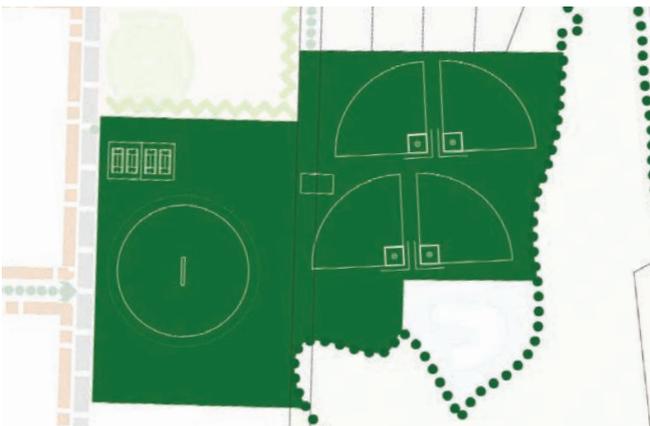
Junior Clubs



Option for increased rectangular pitches including

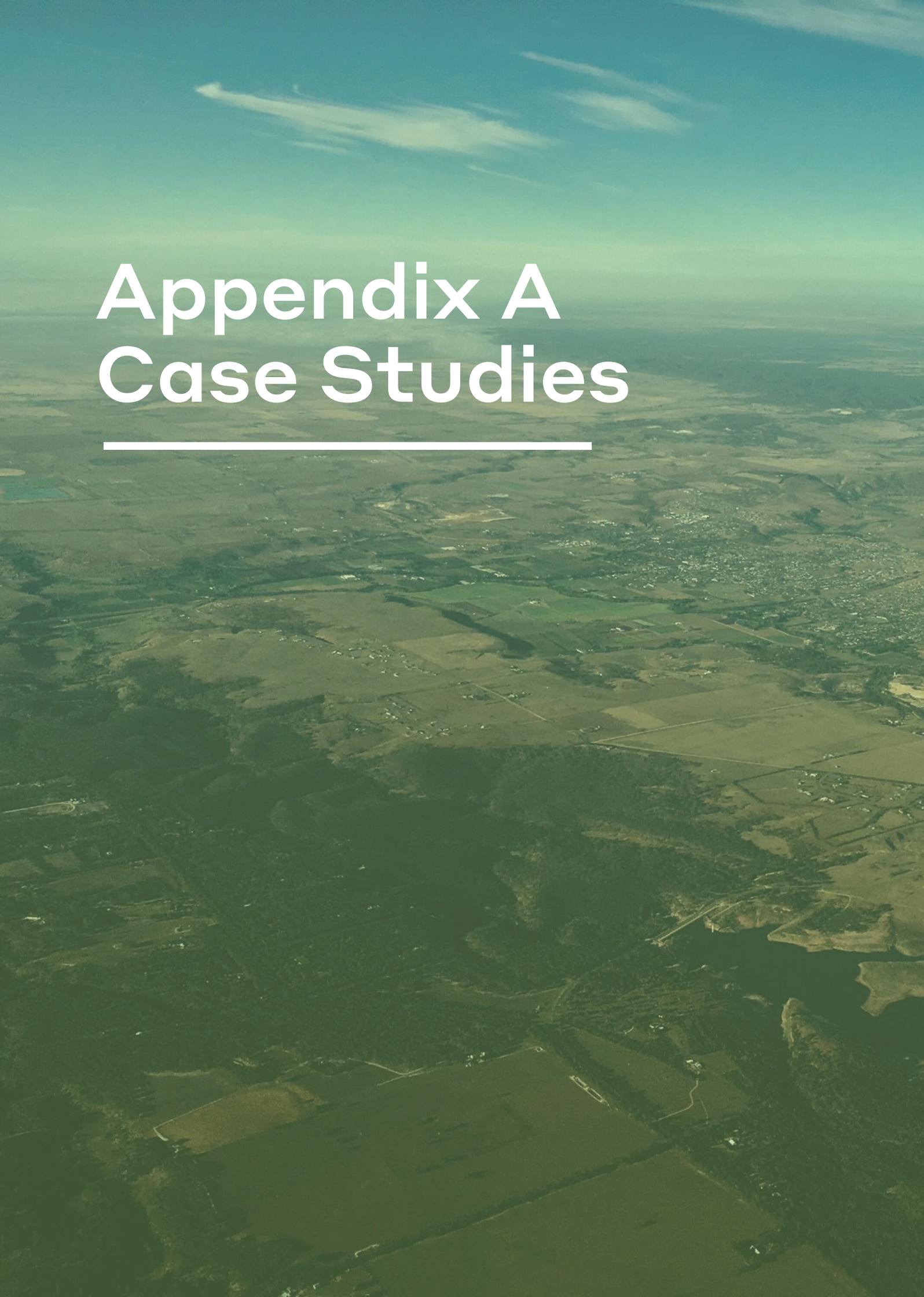
- 2 x senior full size soccer,
- 3 x under 12 pitches
- 4 x under 8's
- 1 x junior / general AFL pitch

Summer Sports



Potential summer sports marking including

- 1 x full size cricket ovals
- 4 x soft ball pitches

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by large, rectangular agricultural fields in various shades of green and brown. A network of roads and small clusters of buildings are scattered throughout the fields. In the distance, a larger town or city is visible, characterized by a dense concentration of buildings and a more complex street pattern. The sky is a clear, pale blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall scene is a vast, open rural area.

Appendix A Case Studies

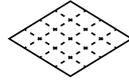
Ashcroft Park

Australis Drive,
Williams Landing
VIC

Melways Ref: 203 8H



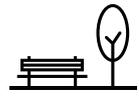
Location
Williams Landing



Area
1.2ha



Interfaces
Conventional + Medium
Density Residential



Features
- Basketball Court
- Playground
- BBQ/Picnic Area



Key Findings

- The park defines the heart of a compact neighbourhood and is a central meeting place for the community.
- The irregular shape and elongated nature of the park increases the passive surveillance and overlooking of the park.
- It is connected by a number of strategic streets, with sightlines that enhance the walkable access to the space.
- A cycle path traverses through the site, connecting up with other sections of the pathway network outside of the park.
- It has been designed with different age groups in mind, with particular provisions in place for teens and young adults, for example the basketball court and pavillion.
- The bespoke play equipment and pavillion design is a reference to the former use of the site as an airfield.

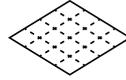


Wireless Park

Woodlea Development
Wireless Drive, Aintree
VIC
Melways Ref: 355 A6



Location
Aintree



Area
0.7ha



Interfaces
Conventional + Medium
Density Residential



Features
- Playground
- Dog Park
- Picnic Area



Key Findings

- The irregular shape of the park wraps around two sides of a superlot intended for future medium density development.
- The park will act as an extension of the private open space of the dwellings within this future superlot.
- The park will experience a high level of passive surveillance from occupants moving within and around this future development site.
- There is also increased potential for passive surveillance from windows of these future dwelling which may overlook the park.
- The features of the park attract different groups within the community for example, the dog park attracts pet owners whilst the playground entices children and young families.
- The playground has been designed with a variety of different play equipment pieces to cater to children of all ages, such as climbing equipment for older children and tunnels and slides for younger children.



Mimosa Way Green Link

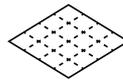
Mimosa Way,
Burnside Heights

VIC

Melways Ref: 356 J11 & K11



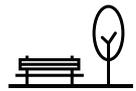
Location
Burnside Heights



Area
0.5ha



Interfaces
- Conventional Residential



Features
- Informal open spaces



Key Findings

- There is a sense of interconnectedness between the spaces which make up this park, given the use of pathways to connect the spaces.
- The park has been placed in close proximity to other community facilities. It is approximately 250 metres from both a local sports reserve and a school.
- The park provides the local community with a more private outdoor space, compared to the larger reserves in the area.
- The park will be a safe place for the community to occupy given passive surveillance opportunities from both vehicle movement in the area and a result of the number of dwellings which front the park.
- The separation of each section of land which makes up the park, allows for the community to spread out across the different spaces.

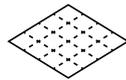


Contempo Park

Contempo Boulevard,
Wollert
VIC
Melways Ref: 388 J12



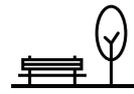
Location
Wollert



Area
0.8ha



Interfaces
Conventional + Medium
Density Residential



Features
- Exercise Equipment
- Multipurpose Court
- BBQ/Picnic Area



Key Findings

- Contempo Park promotes health and fitness within the community through the incorporation of exercise equipment throughout the park.
- Pedestrian access to the park is clear through the pathways provided into the park, along its different frontages.
- Rear loaded development along the northern boundary, has a direct frontage to the park, promoting a high level of connection between housing and open space, instead of housing turning its back to this space.

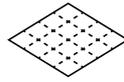


Newhaven Drive Park

Newhaven Drive,
Williams Landing
VIC
Melways Ref: 203 J9



Location
Williams Landing



Area
0.35ha



Interfaces
Conventional + Medium
Density Residential



Features
- Covered seating area
- Walking loop



Key Findings

- Although the size of this park is small, it has been able to integrate a walking path which loops around the perimeter of the park, promoting walking as a form of exercise.
- The walking loop also encourages social interactions within the community as people meet to circle this park together.
- There are uninterrupted sightlines to the park from numerous surrounding streets.

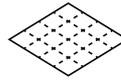


The Avenue Linear Park

The Avenue,
Caroline Springs
VIC
Melways Ref: 356 G8



Location
Caroline Springs



Area
0.25ha



Interfaces
- Grassland Reserve
- Conventional Residential



Features
- Neighbourhood park



Key Findings

- Intimate neighbourhood park for local residents.

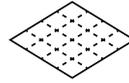


Bellis Circuit Linear Reserve

Bellis Circuit,
Botanic Ridge
VIC
Melways Ref: 137 B2, C1 & D1



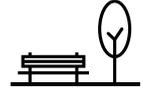
Location
Botanic Ridge



Area
2.4ha



Interfaces
Conventional Residential



Features
- Shared path
- Playground



Key Findings

- The pathway which runs through the linear reserve, promotes a sense of connection and is a feature which unifies different parts of this local neighbourhood.
- The park features a pedestrian / cycle path which extends beyond the boundaries of the site and links with the existing surrounding pathway network.

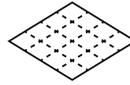


Treetops Park

Bendoc Street,
Wollert
VIC
Melways Ref: 388 H12



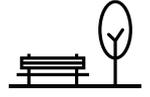
Location
Wollert



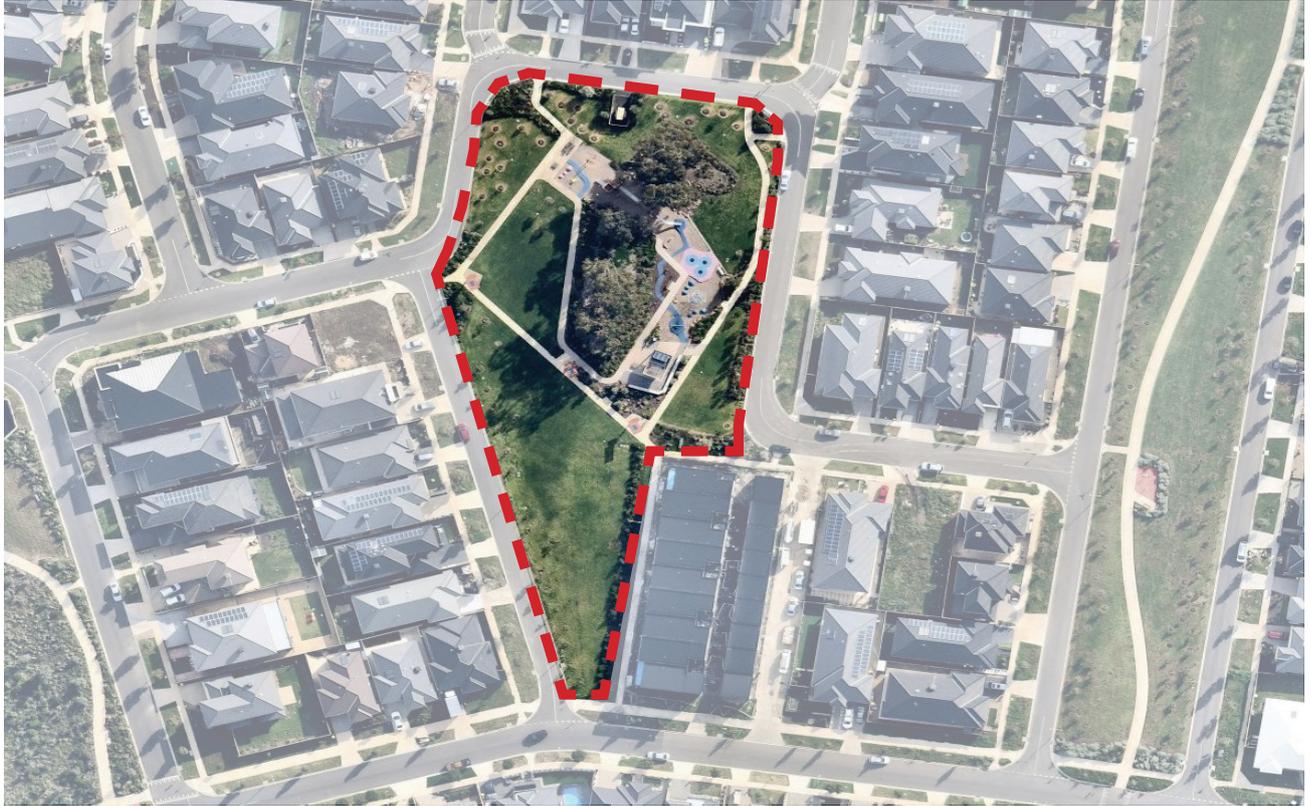
Area
0.7ha



Interfaces
Conventional + Medium
Density Residential



Features
- Playground
- Sheltered
BBQ/ Picnic
Area



Key Findings

- State of the art playground makes the park a destination within the local area for young families with children.
- There are uninterrupted sightlines to the park from surrounding streets.

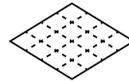


Yarraville Community Gardens

Court Street,
Yarraville
VIC
Melways Ref: 41 H9



Location
Yarraville



Area
0.56ha



Interfaces
Conventional
Residential,
Parklands + Creek



Features
-Wide range of
planter beds
-Event Space



Key Findings

- A place for community to come together, and create a vibrant, healthy, attractive, and chemical free garden.
- Yarraville Community Garden is a friendly place where people can relax, learn, garden and get together with friends.
- Yarraville Community Garden hosts year-round events, community workshops, sales, and lunches.

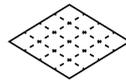


Avondale Heights Community Gardens

22 River Dr, Avondale Heights, VIC
Melways Ref: 27 C3



Location
Avondale Heights



Area
0.56ha



Interfaces
Surrounded by conventional residential



Features
-Membership System
-Visitors Programs
-Community Integration



Key Findings

- To make use of public land by providing access to all resident so they can experience the joys and health benefits of gardening, following organic and sustainable principles.
- The not for profit community group was started March 2010 and has grown to over 50 members.
- Membership is open to all residents of Moonee Valley.

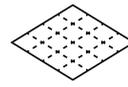


Warrandyte Community Gardens

22 River Dr, Avondale Heights, VIC
Melways Ref: 23 D12



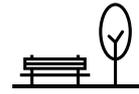
Location
Warrandyte



Area
0.1ha



Interfaces
On the banks of the Yarra, interfacing residential lots



Features
-Membership System
-Monthly Events
-Festival Participation



Key Findings

- Gardeners pay a \$20 joining fee and then a \$10 annual rental due in October each year.
- Working bees are held once a month on Sunday mornings. All plotholders are required to attend a minimum of three per year or carry out some other tasks in lieu.
- The group participates in the Warrandyte Festival every March with a stall selling jams, chutneys and plants to raise money for the garden.



ETHOS
URBAN

HATCH | RobertsDay