

CARRINGTON (ONEBYGAMBA)

GREENSPACE MASTER PLAN
Prepared for the City of Newcastle



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

Prepared for



Consultant Team



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City of Newcastle and AECOM acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and waters, the Awabakal People. We pay respect to knowledge holders and community members of the land and acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past, present and future

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

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



Figure 1. Cowper Street Bridge crossing Throsby Creek

1.1 OVERVIEW

CARRINGTON OVERVIEW

There are few neighbourhoods in Newcastle as storied and distinct as Carrington. Long defined by Newcastle Harbour and the industries that have plied it, Carrington is unique but equally representative of a broader Newcastle story. An island built up by ballast, hemmed in by the ships that brought it and for so long hidden beneath their plumes of smoke, Carrington has been influenced by the prosperity and hardship of a working port. Carrington's streets are much altered from the 'sloughs of despond' described by the Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate in 1887. Town centre renewal has given Young Street a fresh face and the restoration of many old homes and commercial premises has brought the neighbourhood into a new and promising chapter. Locals and visitors alike appreciate that this is a corner of Newcastle where past and present sit comfortably next to each other, interwoven by an active and caring community long known for its resilience and camaraderie.

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



PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

The study area for this master plan comprises the greenspaces that form the public domain of Carrington, principally the parks, foreshore and adjoining road reserves. The aim is to develop a cohesive plan for achieving a complimentary variety of recreation, amenity and social opportunities for the Carrington community. The master plan also explores enhancing connectivity of the greenspaces more broadly. These greenspace connections include how they relate to identity, 'Country', culture, the past and future, biodiversity, recreation and transport networks.

Strong linkages between existing parklands, waterways and street networks celebrate and showcase Carrington's unique history, Aboriginal culture and aspirations of the local community. The master plan considers the following deciding factors to guide the ideas and pathway for future development that will enhance the current parkland offerings and connections in Carrington:

- relevant Council policies and strategic plans
- aspirations of the community and stakeholders
- site opportunities and challenges

It is hoped that the Carrington community feels a sense of ownership of the master plan and sees opportunities to work together with City of Newcastle (CN) and other land owners to achieve its aims. The master plan lays out the framework for site improvement opportunities in relation to Carrington's greenspaces, and while works identified are currently unfunded, having a plan that is built upon the needs and priorities of the community may assist in securing funding to deliver specific initiatives.

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

REPORT STRUCTURE

SETTING THE SCENE

- background research
- mapping the components
- describing the characteristics

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

DEFINING THE VISION

- community and stakeholder participation
- identifying opportunities and challenges
- setting the vision and principles

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

THE MASTER PLAN

- building a master plan
- key initiatives

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

DELIVERING THE MASTER PLAN

- prioritising initiatives
- implementing strategies

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

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Greenspace Master Plan is to communicate a vision for Carrington's greenspaces, and set a clear direction for Council and the Carrington community. The master plan is a tangible response to the community's desire to live in a place that is connected both physically and culturally and seeks to build upon its unique natural and urban fabric.

Master plan objectives for Carrington include:

- providing direction for the management and enhancement of Carrington's environmental assets
- integrating measures into the public domain to build resilience and awareness of climate change through relevant actions from the City of Newcastle's Strategic Position for the management of low lying area's report 2017
- providing a holistic planning outcome that is consistent with relevant Council planning schemes
- speaking to the narrative of Carrington through integrated design initiatives such as public art, cultural meeting places and interpretation
- making recommendations that are realistic and informed by community engagement findings
- improving access and connections between existing and future greenspaces in Carrington as well as to surrounding areas and active transport networks
- investigating and recommending a variety of uses for existing parklands to increase visitation and activation
- considering management of existing trees and strategies for long-term replacement where necessary or desirable
- considering urban heat island impacts in conjunction with the design of public spaces, in line with CN's overarching objective of a liveable cooler city



Figure 2. Throsby Creek Worimi Artwork along the foreshore

2.0 SETTING THE SCENE

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

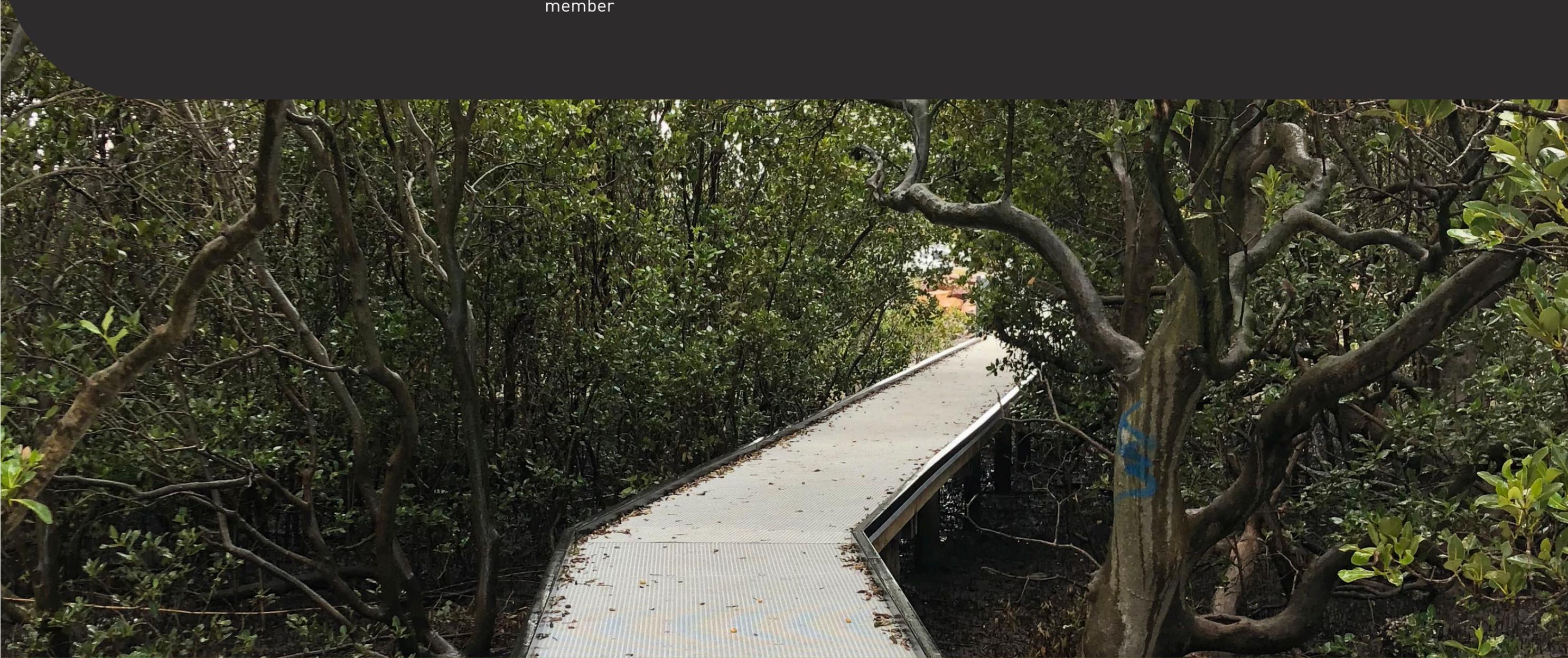


Figure 3. Carrington's mangrove boardwalk

2.1 CARRINGTON'S STORY

Sources: Journal of Australian Tramway Museums, April 1985 Issue 217, and 'History of Carrington' by Edward (Ted) Coulin

Pre 1801

1801 - 1886

1886 - 1929

1929 - 1949

1945-1990

1990 - 2019

MULOOBINBA

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

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

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



Figure 4. A portion of Barrallier's 1801 map showing Chapman Island [Source: University of Newcastle Cultural Collection]

BULLOCK ISLAND

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

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

A GROWING MUNICIPALITY

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

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

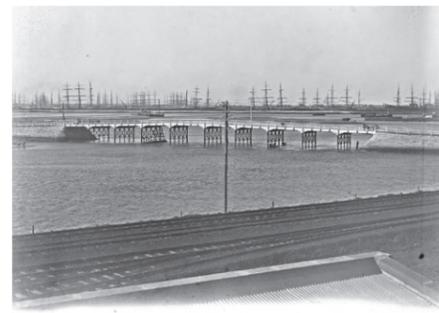


Figure 5. Bullock Island Bridge, date unknown. [Source: University of Newcastle Cultural Collection]

'ON THE BRINK' AND AMALGAMATED

The Depression years were felt hard in Carrington, although public works programs such as a replacement Cowper Street Bridge provided some relief work for the unemployed. Other schemes from this era included the reclamation of swamplands near Robertson Street as well as the laying of the neighbourhood's sewer system. Mr Pat Connolly, Member of the Legislative Assembly, also advised council at this time that the open space on the "great swamp" was to be formally reserved for public recreation. For his efforts, Pat Connolly is now appropriately remembered. The Depression years also brought substantial changes in local governance. By 1932 Carrington Council had found itself 'on the brink' and by 1938 it had been amalgamated into 'The City of Greater Newcastle'.



Figure 6. A view of Carrington showing land reclamation works, circa 1930. [Source: Milton Kent collection]

POST WWII

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



Figure 7. Bird eye view of Carrington, 1974 [Source: University of Newcastle Living History Collection]

RENEWAL

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

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



Figure 8. Cowper Street Bridge pre reconstruction on in 1992. [Source: Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation]

CARRINGTON AERIALS

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



Figure 9. 1944 Aerial



Figure 10. 1961 Aerial



Figure 11. 1974 Aerial



Figure 12. 1986 Aerial



Figure 13. 1994 Aerial



Figure 14. 2018 Aerial



Figure 15. 1902 Tram Route Map Overlaid 2018 Aerial

2.2 CARRINGTON'S CONTEXT

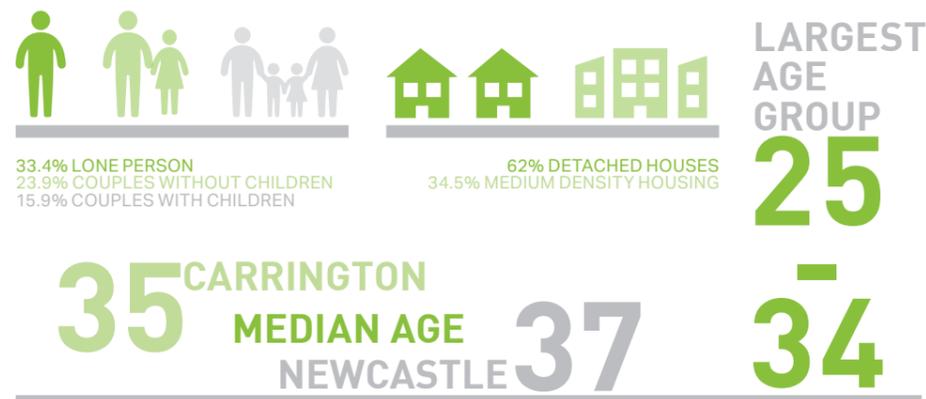
SITE CONTEXT

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

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

In recent years the City of Newcastle has invested in Carrington's public domain, working with local businesses and residents on improvements to Young Street that address streetscape, drainage, access and traffic issues. Further town centre renewal will improve walkability in the suburb and will enhance the amenity of Carrington's historic main street environment. Carrington's proximity to the harbour, coupled with its generous public reserves, has long enticed locals and visitors alike to make use of its parks, ovals and foreshore.

Demographics



PLANNING CONTROLS

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

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

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

Newcastle Local Environment Plan (2012)

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

Acid Sulfate Soils

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

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

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

Mine Subsidence

The vast majority of the suburb is identified by the Newcastle LEP 2012 as being located within a mine subsidence district (as proclaimed under section 15 of the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1961). A mine district is a land zoning tool administered by Subsidence Advisory NSW (SA NSW) under the Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017 to help protect homes and other structures from potential mine subsidence damage. Districts are areas where there are potential subsidence risks from underground coal mining that has occurred or may take place in the future. Building and subdivision works within districts are regulated by SA NSW to ensure new homes and structures are built to an appropriate standard that reduces the risk of damage should subsidence occur.

Newcastle Development Control Plan

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

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

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

- provide for streets that fulfill their designated functions within the network; accommodate utility services and drainage systems; and create a safe and attractive environment
- encourage walking and cycling
- ensure speed reduction to improve safety

Urban Forest Technical Manual

In support of the Newcastle DCP 2012, City of Newcastle has developed a suite of technical manuals. Of particular relevance to the project is the Urban Forest Technical Manual 2018 which provides guidance on the management of trees (including shrubs) on both public and private land within the Newcastle Local Government Area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.0 DEFINING THE VISION

'The suburb and city need more big trees for shade and character' - Community member



Figure 16. Jubilee Park, Carrington

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTEXT

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

STATE

Draft Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018 - 2023

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

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

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

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

- enhancing blue and green grid and associated urban tree canopy
- improving local access to open space, recreation areas and waterways
- enhancing blue and green grid by implementing green infrastructure outcomes
- cooling Greater Newcastle through greening urban areas, buildings, transport corridors, open spaces and enhancing the urban forest

Throsby Creek catchment Agencies Action Plan

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

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

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

Chair: Member for Newcastle, Mr Tim Crakanthorp MP

Government Agencies:

- City of Newcastle (CN)
- Hunter Local Land Services (HLLS)
- Hunter Water Corporation (Committee Secretariat) (HWC)
- Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC)

- Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)
- TAFE NSW (TAFE)

Business, Community and Stakeholder Representatives:

- Port of Newcastle
- Port Waratah Coal Services
- Community representative: Mr John McLeod, Newcastle Rowing Club
- Community representative: Mr John Sutton, Tighes Hill Community Group

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

LOCAL

Carrington Local Centre

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

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

City of Newcastle Local Planning Strategy

The Local Planning Strategy 2015 (LPS 2015) is a land use strategy for the City of Newcastle which aims to guide the future growth and development of the City.

Objectives that directly relate to Carrington include:

- maintain and improve the local character of Carrington's architecture and streetscapes
- improve the viability of the commercial area
- develop transport routes to minimise impacts of port traffic on residential and mixed use parts of Carrington
- encourage development to reflect the character and heritage of the area
- maintain and enhance the recreation reserve along the Throsby Creek Foreshore
- enhance the entrance to Carrington along Cowper Street by improved landscaping

Dogs in Open Space Plan

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

Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan

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

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

Recognise diverse local community needs and interests

- consider social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights
- consider long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations
- consider principles of ecologically sustainable development

Newcastle Urban Forest Policy

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

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

- recognising the health and well-being benefits of the urban forest
- improving the quality and quantity of the urban forest
- establishing robust planning processes
- improving education and research
- involving the community in managing the urban forest

Newcastle Environmental Management Strategy

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

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

Parkland and Recreation Strategy

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

3.1 CARRINGTON'S URBAN FABRIC

HERITAGE

EUROPEAN

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

- the Carrington Pump House which is currently undergoing restoration works in order to be re-purposed for community use
- the double row of mature Canary Island Date palms on Gipps and Hargrave Streets, (Newcastle LEP 2012 Local Heritage item)
- the Connolly Park War Memorial Gate
- six former and current hotels
- other buildings such as a range of existing and former community buildings (Public School, Fire Station, Post Office, Council Chambers), a former theatre building, a shop, a former warehouse facade, multiple crane bases, two churches and a number of residences. The majority of these heritage listed buildings are located along Young Street

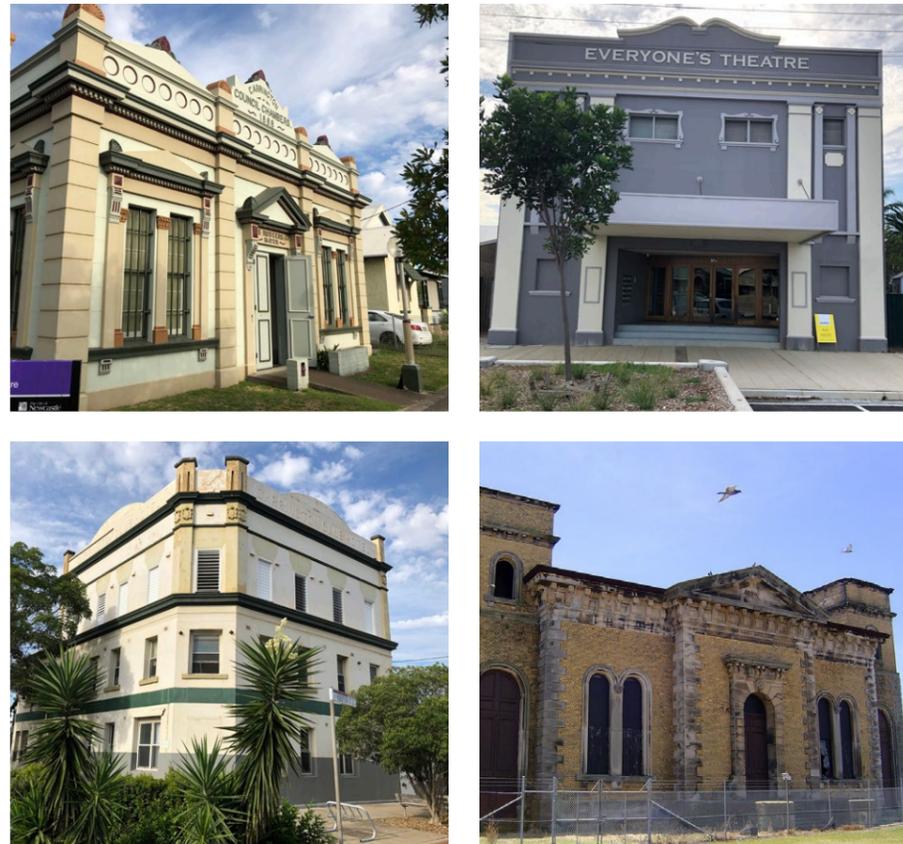


Figure 20. Selection of Heritage listed buildings in Carrington including the Council Chambers (top left), Everyone's Theatre (top right), Carrington Club Hotel (bottom left) and the Carrington Pump House (bottom right)



Figure 18. Canary Island Date Palms: Planted down the central medians in 1918 as a memorial to the first world war.



Figure 17. State heritage listed Carrington Pump House which was NSW's first large scale hydraulic power system (Source: State Library of Victoria)



Figure 19. Carrington Urban Fabric Diagram



CHARACTER AND IDENTITY

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

- residential
- western foreshore
- sports precinct and
- the town centre

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

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

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

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



RESIDENTIAL



WESTERN FORESHORE



SPORTS PRECINCT



TOWN CENTRE



Figure 21. Carrington's Character and Land Use Diagram

STREET, PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE NETWORK

Carrington has two pedestrian and vehicle access points, via Cowper Street Bridge, and Elizabeth Street to the north. Carrington is generally a grid pattern with streets running north-south and east-west. Carrington's two distinct character zones of the port and the residential area is generally divided by the 4.6m high truck vehicle route running along Elizabeth Street, Darling Street, Bourke Street and Denison Street. The profile of the main streets is generally consistent and includes the footpath network of concrete paths. There are no footpaths along some narrower streets, laneways and along the street edge of the foreshore park. There is generally a good level of connectivity within the suburb to the west, however, the large north south blocks between Elizabeth Street and Robertson Street do present a moderate barrier to foreshore accessibility. The large industrial lots to the east and south largely prevent public foreshore access to the eastern water's edge. However, an exception to this is a port owned pedestrian bridge allowing for informal access to a small park along the eastern foreshore. Carrington cycle network is connected to a larger network along Throsby Creek, connecting Newcastle City to Newcastle TAFE and beyond. The cycle routes are predominately off- road share paths along the foreshore with an on-road connection to the Carrington town centre. The City of Newcastle Cycling Strategy identifies future dedicated cycle routes within Carrington.



Figure 23. Existing Road block Bourke/Robertson Streets

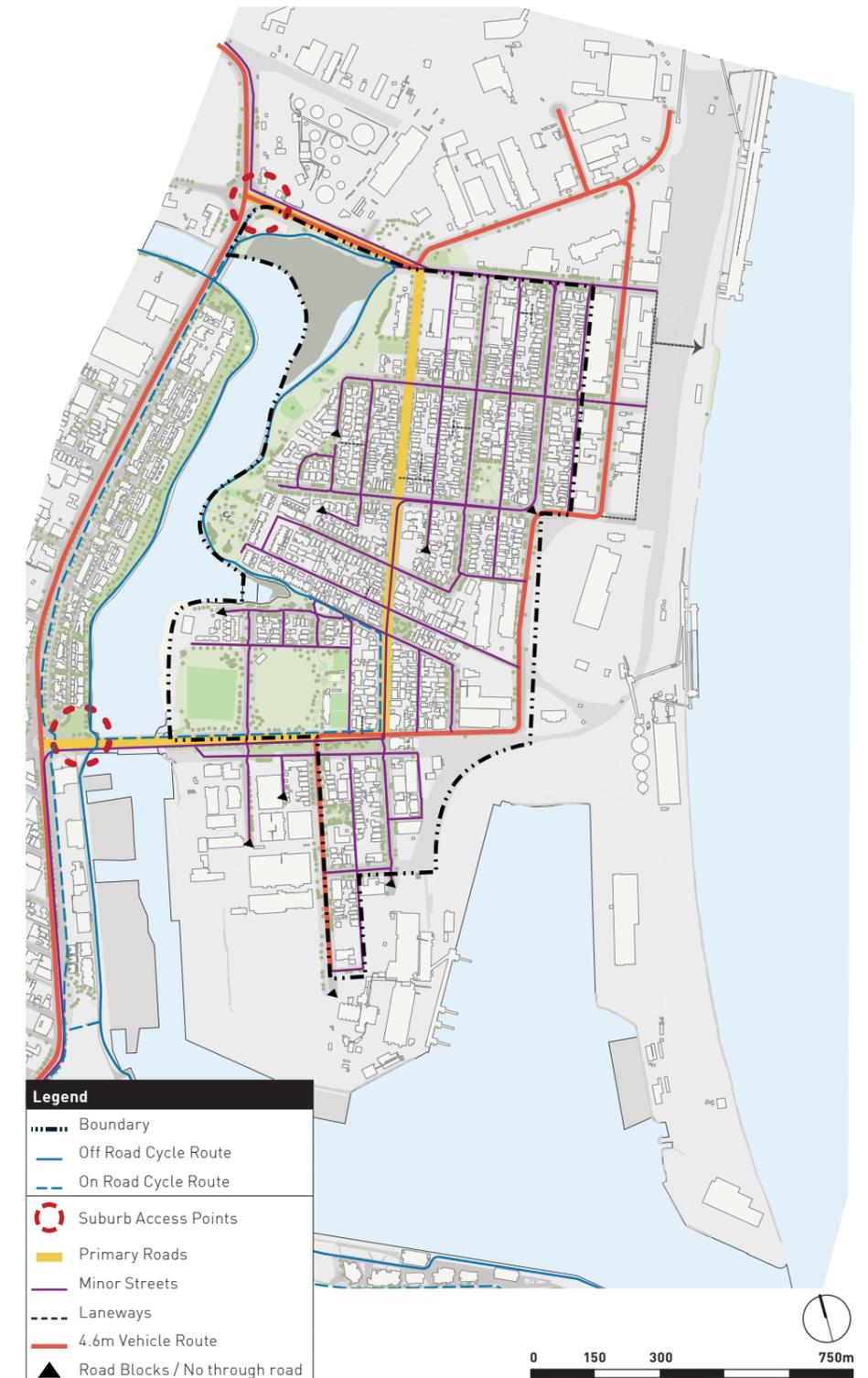


Figure 22. Carrington's existing street and bike network

FLOODING, INUNDATION AND DRAINAGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

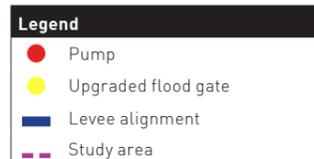


Figure 24. Carrington map of proposed works to mitigate flooding and inundation. (Source: Newcastle City Council Strategic Position for the Management of Low Lying Areas of Newcastle (2017))

LAND ZONING

The zones most prominent within this masterplan are the RE1, E2, E3 and W2 zones (see legend below). The RE1 Public Open Space zone provides most of the open space. The plan also considers R2 zones in relation to road reserves and greening measures. Land along the southern and eastern areas of the suburb, zoned SP1 Special Activities, promoting port and other related land uses that benefit from being located close to port facilities (e.g. maritime industrial, freight and bulk storage premises) is out of scope for this masterplan.

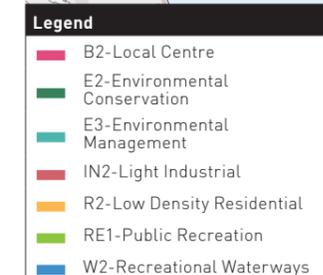
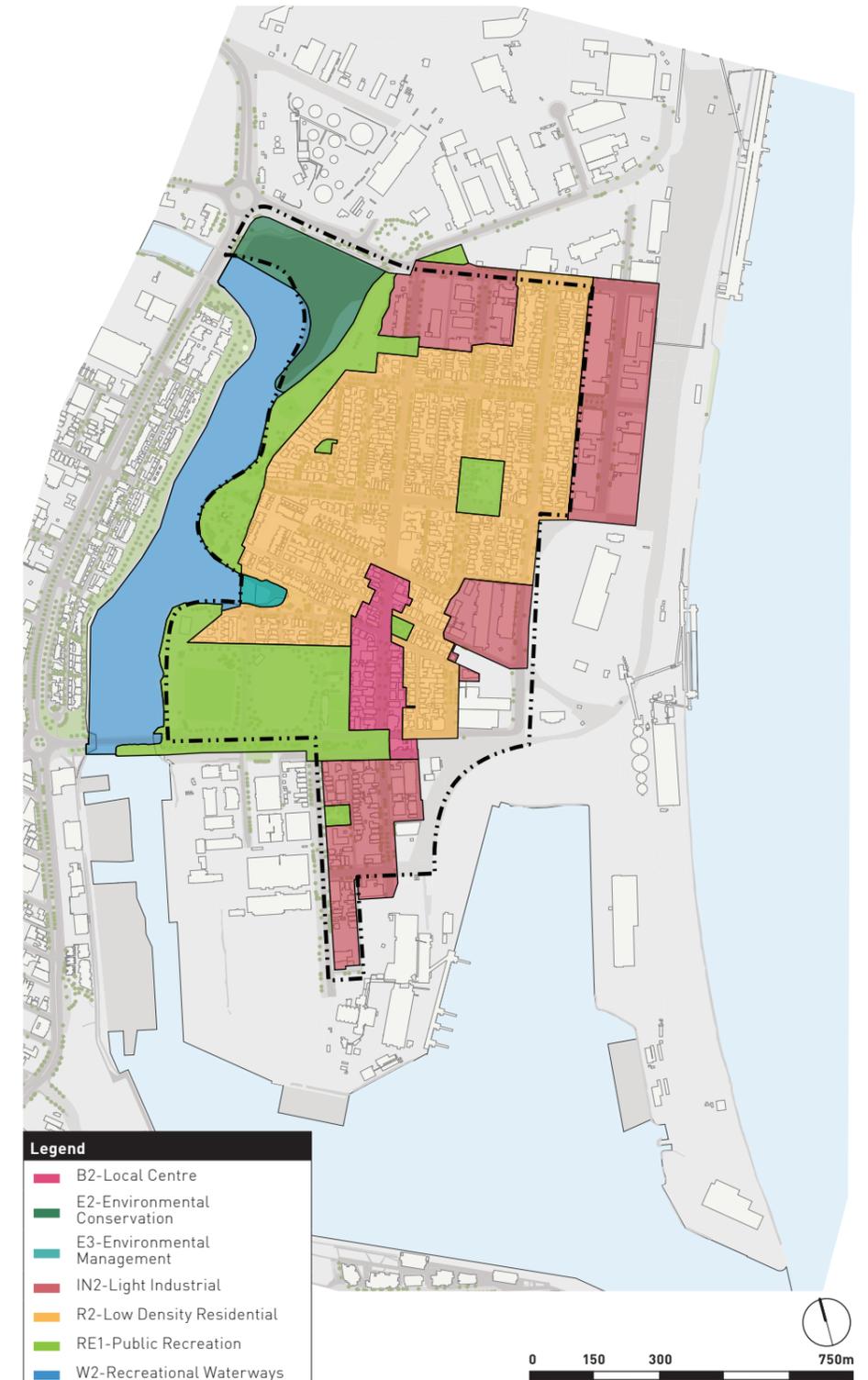


Figure 25. Carrington land Zoning

3.2 CARRINGTON'S GREEN FABRIC

OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION

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

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

There are four playgrounds located at different parks, all of a local scale. Although the playgrounds are well distributed throughout the community, with the exception of Grahame Park which has recently been upgraded, the remaining play equipment in other parks is largely dated and requires significant maintenance. There are limited inclusive play opportunities within Carrington. Cowper Street Reserve represents a large grassed median with tree planting that provides amenity and recreational opportunity. A number of key publicly accessible areas of open space are not under CN management, notably the boat ramp and foreshore, managed directly by Crown Lands, and the park managed by the Port Authority.

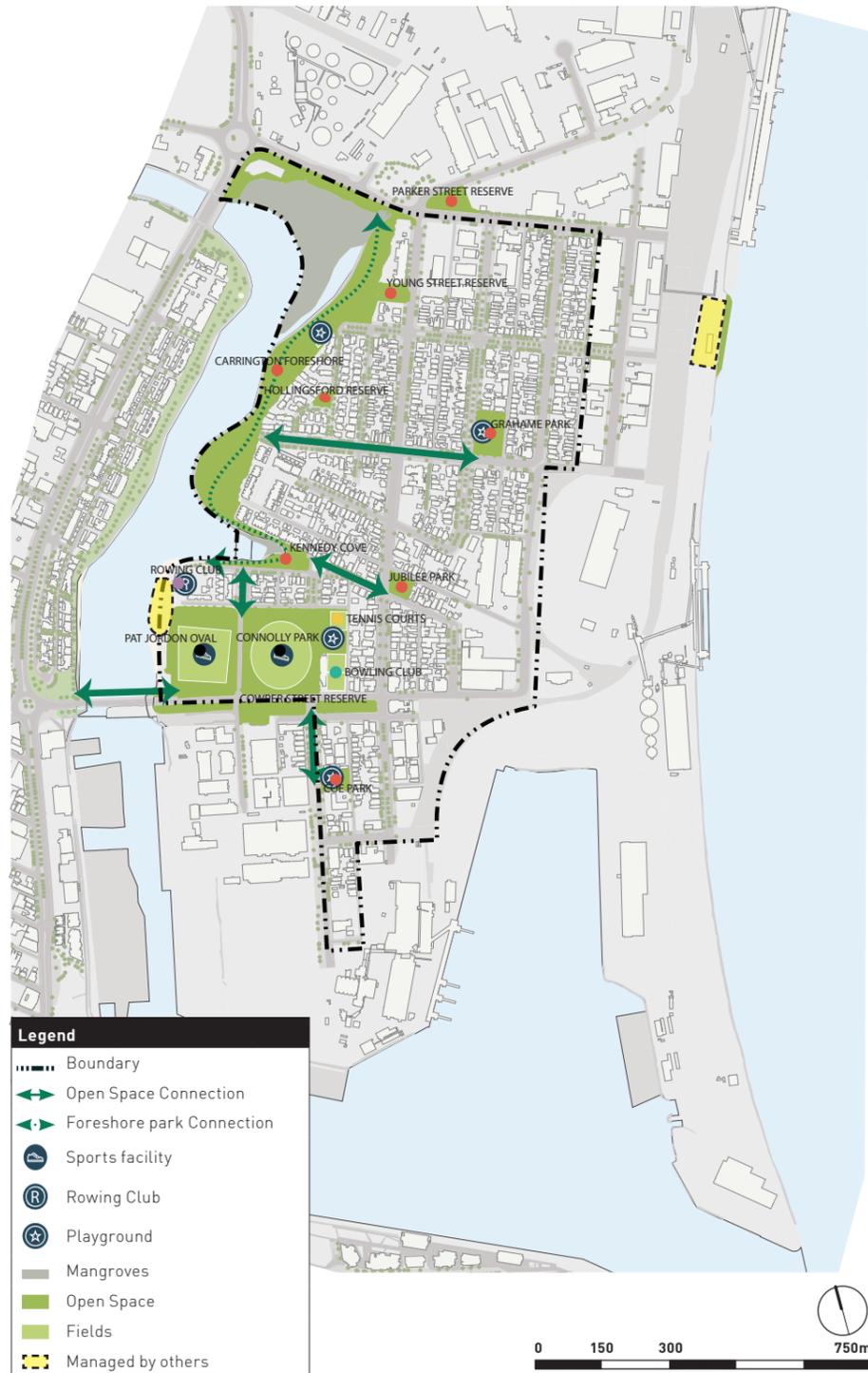


Figure 27. Carrington's existing open space distribution

URBAN CANOPY

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

The residential streets generally have a generous tree canopy cover creating shaded, leafy streets. Streets with wider verges and central medians have larger tree canopy coverage while narrower streets and laneways rely on trees in the private domain for shade and amenity. Tree canopy cover in the port land use area is virtually non-existent. Tree canopy in private lots not shown in the diagram (both residential and industrial) provide additional canopy cover. However, this requires further investigation to identify the extent and overall contribution to the total tree canopy cover for Carrington.



Figure 26. Carrington's greenspaces



Figure 28. Existing street with high canopy cover



Figure 29. Carrington's existing urban canopy

WATERWAYS

The waterways are the key identifiable feature of Carrington. Throsby Creek must be crossed via Cowper Street bridge to enter the island suburb with the northern section of the creek instantly recognisable as a recreational waterway. To the south of Cowper Street bridge the creek forms part of the industrial harbour with hard edges providing birth space for large ships and heavy industry. The waterways are lined with varying edge typologies such as parkland, beach, mangroves, ballast walls, residential development and port related heavy industry. They hold a significant role in Carrington's economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing.



Figure 30. Public art in the Throsby Creek along the foreshore.



Figure 31. Carrington's existing waterways

SPORTS FACILITIES

Pat Jordan Oval and Connolly Park are the main sports facilities and form Carrington's sports precinct. The fields cater for AFL, soccer and cricket, with other sports regularly using the fields for training. A brick amenities building on Connolly Park provides storage, toilets, change rooms and canteen facilities for all the sports. Rowers, paddlers and novice sailors occupy the foreshore adjacent to Pat Jordan Oval. Tennis courts and lawn bowls are situated on the eastern edge of Connolly Park, further emphasising this area as a sports precinct. Comfort and amenity is provided by the shady tree-lined edges of the sports fields suitable for recreational activities such as general exercise, socialising and dog walking.



Figure 32. Carrington's Connolly Park

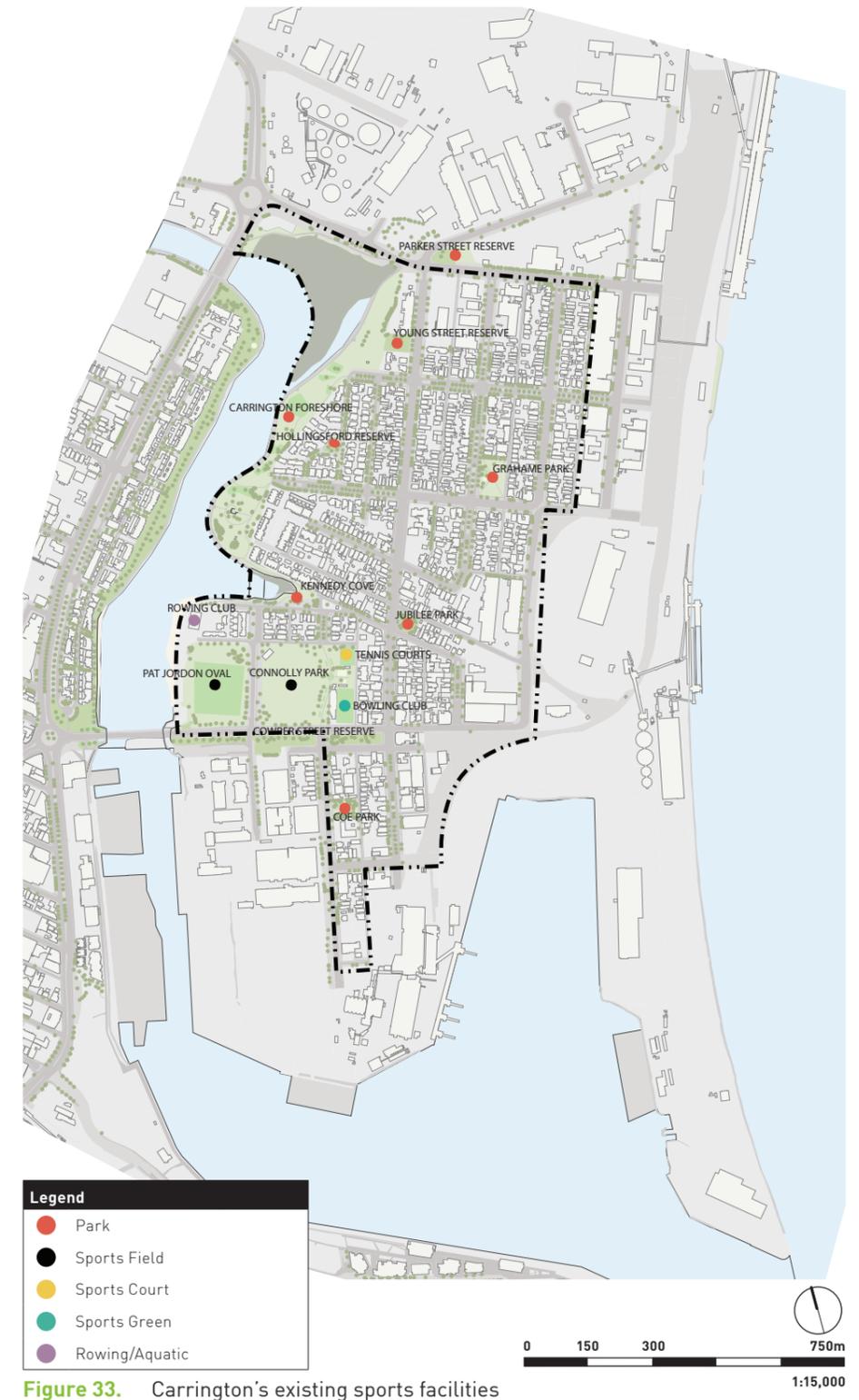


Figure 33. Carrington's existing sports facilities

3.3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

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

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

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

PHASE 1

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

PHASE 2;

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

PHASE

Public Exhibition – The master plan will be presented to Council and placed on public exhibition for comment in late 2019.

PHASE 1 FINDINGS

WHAT DOES A GREEN SPACE PLAN MEAN TO YOU?	
THEME	DESCRIPTION
Facilities and Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plan for on water and other sporting facility upgrades
Activities and usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> allow for a diversity of uses that support co-existence address population growth in neighbouring areas and impacts on Carrington greenspace identify places where people can come together and meet and potentially learn
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> include wildlife habitat and ecological connections secure usable open spaces
Access and Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved connectivity and accessibility within, and into, Carrington improved bike and pedestrian streetscapes car parking
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> outline a coordinated approach that integrates with other agencies provide a framework for funding

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

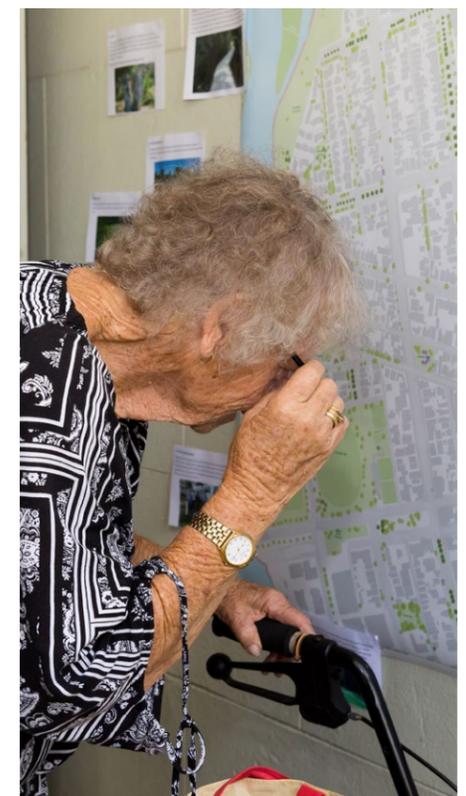


Figure 34. Photos from Phase 1 community group engagement workshops

PHASE 2 FINDINGS

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

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

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

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

3.4 MAPPING OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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

Landscape		Connectivity		Parks	
OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plant appropriate trees throughout the streets and parks to enhance shade, canopy coverage and habitat value use landscaping to complement drainage projects such as rain gardens, bio-filtration swales and basins and screening of engineered stormwater structures verge gardens and median planting to help 'green the streets' build upon the small pockets of native bushland and tree planting to enhance biodiversity and habitat value encourage landscaping and planting of trees in the private domain council to take leadership in the promotion of green roofs by installing green roofs on public buildings introduce a tree management and replacement strategy for aging trees or trees being removed for infrastructure upgrades improved rainwater infiltration to positively recharge groundwater select species tolerant to altered inundation of groundwater levels installation of stormwater infiltration devices in conjunction with mounded tree plantings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contaminated soils and high water table will dictate species selection above and underground utilities in street verges reduces the available space for tree planting and the planting of large canopy species continual road and infrastructure upgrades will see the removal of large existing trees and the reduction of valuable shade and amenity cost of ongoing maintenance of trees and weed management rising saline ground water impacting vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve the connectivity of Carrington to the city and the greater Newcastle area improve active transport and wayfinding through the streets and open space network improve connections between the parks, sports fields, commercial core and foreshore through upgraded paths, tree planting and consideration of land acquisition to open up direct corridors provide lighting to popular recreational trails to increase the usability maintain and enhance view corridors provide DDA compliant and equitable access throughout Carrington greenspaces formalise car parking around greenspaces such as the foreshore, sports fields improved tree canopy along key desire lines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> closing off streets to direct heavy vehicles through Carrington creates pedestrian and cycle barriers and a disjointed grid pattern active heavy rail creates a significant barrier Carrington's island nature presents connectivity challenges overflow parking is impacting on existing trees and creates parking inefficiencies there is a lack of disabled compliant paths and access points throughout Carrington's greenspaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase activation through programming of small community events provide upgrades to improve facilities that promotes use for all ages and interests park upgrades to consider how the parks can provide a variety of complementary facilities and uses promote community caretaking and ownership of the pocket parks to help ensure they are maintained to a high standard ensure park facilities are safe, equitable and inclusive increase tree canopy coverage consider a formalised dog off-leash dog park for Young Street Reserve or within the foreshore advocate for open space improvements in foreshore areas not managed by City of Newcastle improved recreational use of the foreshore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> current lack of seating, shade and park facilities inequitable access to playgrounds and lack of inclusive play opportunities lack of complementary park offerings and facilities amongst the suite of pocket parks lack of knowledge about available pockets parks such as Young Street Reserve and Hollingsworth Reserve current lack of facilities and formalised access to the foreshore in the vicinity of the boat ramp

Sports Precinct	
OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the use of the fields and surrounding parkland for day and night use with the inclusion of strategically located lights • better connect Pat Jordan Oval and Connolly Park by converting Fitzroy Street into a slow speed, shared street with safe crossing points • activate the edges of the fields with the inclusion of additional facilities such as a 'skate street', fitness stations, pathways and picnic shelters • formalise car parking to gain efficiencies and protect the existing trees • upgrade amenities buildings to be multi-purpose and cater for the increased female participation in sport • provide comfortable spectator areas and seating • utilise large areas of open space for the planting of large canopy trees such as figs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the over use of the fields and conflicts between sports places stress on the playing surfaces • lack of disabled compliant access throughout the site • heritage listed memorial gates as an entry to Connolly Park will need to be considered for any proposed upgrade works • fields are in low lying area and susceptible to flooding • dragon boat and outrigger clubs use a portion of Pat Jordan oval for storage • new cricket nets are unlikely to be relocated in any upgrade works • rising saline groundwater impacting turf and plantings

Foreshore	
OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish the Throsby Creek foreshore as the premier open space of Carrington • create recreational opportunities with parkland facilities between the boat ramp and rowing club • create a foreshore parkland that is an extension of Pat Jordan Oval • improve access to the water's edge • upgrade boating facilities and re-locate trailer parking to open up foreshore for recreation • implement measures to capture and manage rubbish entering the Mangroves • create an aquatic sports hub that has the capacity to attract National and State events • extend existing shared path to follow the full length of the foreshore • manage shoreline erosion with measures that still maintain access for aquatic sport users • consider the eastern foreshore's publicly accessible port land for future upgrades and improved access as an alternative foreshore offering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land and asset ownership / management of foreshore facilities creates issues of poor maintenance and coordinated upgrade works • access to the beach area by multiple users creates capacity issues and conflicts between user groups • informal parking area is inefficient and takes up prime waterfront space • there is a lack of seating and picnicking areas that creates a comfortable waterfront recreational experience • water quality for swimming in Throsby Creek can be poor at times • gross pollutants are trapped in the Mangroves, highly visible and difficult to retrieve • areas of the foreshore have residential development backing onto the open space areas reducing the amount of natural surveillance and perceived safety • multiple land managers of the foreshore

Carrington's Story	
OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • celebrate Carrington's history through art and interpretation • showcase Worimi and Awabakal stories in places of importance including cultural meeting places for social gatherings, storytelling and education • provide a coordinated art trail through Carrington • strengthen the identity of the parks by communicating their origins and importance • locate gateway entry features that complement Carrington's identity and help instill the community with a sense of place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current storytelling, public art and interpretation are not well coordinated and appear ad-hoc • ensuring fair representation of the community and historical events

Resilience	
OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase tree canopy coverage to mitigate impacts of heat island effects • consider options to integrate flood protection measures in the open space areas such as raised pathways • research tree species that will withstand increased temperatures, inundation, salinity and contribute to Newcastle's urban forest targets • positive groundwater recharge • stormwater retention/harvesting opportunities, in conjunction with redevelopment of open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing temperatures will impact on landscaping and general comfort • sea level rise will see more frequent flooding events • contaminated soils throughout Carrington will impact on level of disturbance associated with any upgrade works • rising saline groundwater

3.5 VISION AND PRINCIPLES

VISION STATEMENT

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

The vision for the master plan is to:

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

PRINCIPLES

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

1

Preserving and Enriching the Landscape and Recreation

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

2

Improving Access and Connections

- incorporate universal access principles in design interventions and facility upgrades for people of all ages and abilities
- provide safe, legible and DDA compliant access throughout Carrington's greenspaces
- implement a network of enhanced pedestrian and cycle links through Carrington connecting the foreshore, parklands and commercial centre
- improve the pedestrian permeability of Carrington's street network to greenspaces
- upgrade play facilities to be more inclusive for all ages and abilities

3

Respecting and Celebrating People and History

- provide iconic features representative of Carrington's past, present and future to instill a sense of pride and place
- share knowledge and stories through art, interpretation and meeting places
- provide a place that is welcoming to visitors and a place that people want to explore
- ensure Worimi and fellow custodians of the 'country' are engaged and encouraged to participate in all ideas and design interventions
- continue to promote and use dual language throughout the public domain and interpretive elements

4

Increasing Safety

- integrate crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles
- maintain and enhance passive surveillance
- encourage day and night time activation of the parks and open spaces to increase visitation and passive surveillance
- ensure popular pedestrian paths are well lit
- provide safe pedestrian and cycle crossing points across main roads to open space areas
- upgrade facilities to relevant Australian standards to mitigate public health and safety risks
- consider slow speed infrastructure options for streets adjacent to parks

5

Building Resilience

- respond to climate change risks such as flooding, increased temperatures and rising groundwater
- creatively approach drainage with Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) to support protection of waterways and foreshore edges
- promote renewable sources of energy for public assets
- embrace smart technologies
- create adaptive spaces in conjunction with defensive techniques in regard to sea level rise and flooding
- promote strategies that reduce the Urban Heat Island effect by increasing tree canopy cover, reducing hard surfaces and promoting green/cool coloured/reflective roofs
- integrate outcomes of the NCC strategic position for the management of low lying areas of Newcastle as required

4.0 THE MASTER PLAN

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



Figure 35. Grahame Park, Carrington

4.1 OVERVIEW

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

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



Landscape



Connectivity



Parks



Foreshore



Sports Precinct



Carrington's Story



Figure 36. Carrington overall combined concept plans

4.2 THE THEMES

LANDSCAPE

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

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

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

CARRINGTON WIDE OPPORTUNITIES

- 1.1 Analysis of canopy cover within Carrington as part of the future city wide assessment of trees. 1 5
- 1.2 Identify tree canopy targets and species suitable to future climatic conditions and existing soil and ground water profiles. 1 5
- 1.3 Undertake a drainage assessment to ascertain opportunities to implement WSUD measures such as rain gardens, bio-filtration swales and basins in the streets, parks and storm water drainage outlets. 1 5
- 1.4 Consider a 'Green Grid' network of trees and gardens in the streets and parks. Locate large canopy trees on wide streets that have the capacity to accommodate space for root zones. This could include the introduction of central medians and planting of trees in parking lanes. Narrow streets shall have small canopy. 1 5
- 1.5 Promote the planting of trees in the private domain by providing incentives and educational material about the importance of trees in our city in regard to overall liveability and health. 1 5

SITE SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES

- 1.6 Seek opportunities to co-locate water infiltration devices to assist the success of tree plantings. 1 5
- 1.7 Consider preemptive installation of mounding in conjunction with tree planting. 1 5
- 1.8 Consider installation of green roofs and vertical gardens on existing and future public buildings such as sports amenities buildings, bus shelters, toilets and commercial properties. 1 5



Figure 37. Carrington’s Landscape

CONNECTIVITY

Although a peninsula, historically Carrington has maintained its connections to the city. Bridges, trams, ferry services and roads have come and gone through the development of Carrington. The Aboriginal groups that relied upon, and were connected to, the mangrove lined mud flats, creeks and river prior to European settlement were displaced. Maintaining and re-establishing physical, social and emotional connections is a key focus of the following list of recommendations. The following initiatives are guided by the overarching vision and principles, which are identified by the numbered icons below:

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

CARRINGTON WIDE OPPORTUNITIES

2.1 Incorporate new street verge paths and upgrade existing to follow the 'Green Grid' network to provide comfortable links throughout Carrington. **1 2 5**

2.2 Install a combination of on road and off road cycle paths that link points of interest throughout Carrington. The network of paths is to connect with existing and proposed cycleways for the city as outlined in City of Newcastle cycle strategy. **2**

2.3 Undertake a safety and compliance audit of the existing pedestrian lights along popular paths within the open spaces. Install pedestrian lights along the foreshore paths to enable night time use of a popular loop trail. **2 4**

2.4 Provide a suite of wayfinding measures to help better navigate people around Carrington. These measures could include markers, signs, points of interest, opening up vistas. **2 3**

2.5 Ensure disability and accessibility compliance in conjunction with public domain works. **2 4**

SITE SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES

2.6 Upgrade the existing path to a formal shared pathway. Consider pre-emptive installation of levee in conjunction with works. **2**

2.7 Investigate opportunities to improve active transport connections between the commercial core, parks, sports precinct and foreshore. **2**

2.8 Create a connection from Bathers Way into Carrington as a continuation of the popular beach to city walk. **2**



Figure 38. Carrington's Connectivity

POCKET PARKS

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

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

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

SITE SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES

Parker Street Reserve

- 3.1 Maintain as a small pocket of bushland and implement a weed management strategy.
- 3.2 Incorporate a feature as part of a northern gateway entry experience.
- 3.3 Encourage community caretaking of the park through signage, school programs and community groups.

1 3

Hollingsford Reserve

- 3.4 Selectively prune / remove vegetation to open up sight lines through the park and include inviting entry points.
- 3.5 Provide shelter and seating to encourage small gatherings.
- 3.6 Encourage community caretaking of the park through signage, school programs and community groups.

1 2 4

Coe Park

- 3.7 Install a suite of new park furniture including table and seat settings, shelter and bin enclosures.
- 3.8 Investigate plantings to increase the structural diversity and attract local wildlife.
- 3.9 Remove play equipment and reinstate with grass or garden bed to reinforce Coe Park as a park for relaxation and quiet reflection.
- 3.10 Upgrade pedestrian path to a widened DDA compliant path with accessible seating along it's edges.
- 3.11 Install new park lighting

1 2 4

Grahae Park

- 3.12 Make adjustments to the playground to improve accessibility. The current upstand kerb and mulch softfall does not allow for equitable access. Refer to the NSW Government Everyone Can Play Guidelines for any future playground upgrades. Install park seating and shelters to cater for larger groups of people.
- 3.13 Plant trees to increase canopy cover, contributing to the urban forest and providing shaded places to recreate.
- 3.14 Install pedestrian path lighting along the internal paths.
- 3.15 Provide water points and drinking fountain.

1 4

Jubilee Park

(Refer Concept Plan on Page 31)

- 3.16 Undertake a detail design of Jubilee Park Concept Plan to create an 'urban square' where small-scale temporary markets or pop-up food stalls can be located to improve the vibrancy of the Young Street commercial core. This may include the installation of toilets and large shelters.
- 3.17 Consider the decommissioning of the public art furniture and install a suite of contemporary custom furniture that still reflects Carrington's identity.
- 3.18 Install park lighting.

1 2 3 4

Cowper Street Reserve

(Refer Concept Plan on Page 32)

- 3.19 Long term consider the reconfiguration of the roads, parking, pedestrian paths, street crossings and landscaping to create an activated space that provides opportunities for temporary and permanent alfresco dining areas or street markets.
- Consider:
- 3.20 Gateway feature that represents Carrington's history and identity and provides a welcoming gesture to visitors.
- 3.21 'Historic walk' along Cowper Street Reserve to entice people to engage with the space and learn about Carrington's unique history.
- 3.22 An 'Avenue of Trees' to enhance amenity and aesthetics of Carrington's main entry and contribute to the urban forest strategy.

1 2 3 4



Figure 39. Carrington's Parks

CONCEPT IDEA 1 - JUBILEE PARK



- Extend kerbs on Howden and Victoria street to allow for a formalized parking edge and tree planting
- 5 Shaded lawn areas
- Remove existing kerbs and provide an accessible flush edge to lawn spaces and seating areas
- 1 Create plaza zones with feature paving, seating and tree planting
- 2 6 Flexible paved urban plaza space with shade trees, suitable for small scale markets or performers.
- Feature lightpost
- Upgraded bus stop retaining the characteristic bus shelter
- 4 Upgrade feature arbour, upgrade seating under the arbour to compliment plaza space seating
- Retain healthy existing trees with high amenity value
- Provide new garden planting
- 3 Formalised parking edge on Howden and Victoria street providing opportunities for food truck parking allowing the spill out area to extend into the plaza and grassed areas.

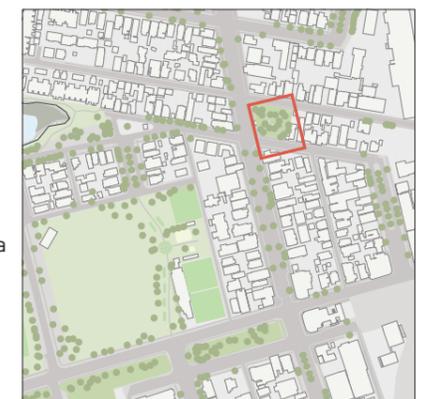


Figure 40. Jubilee Park Concept Plan
30

JUBILEE PARK PRECEDENTS



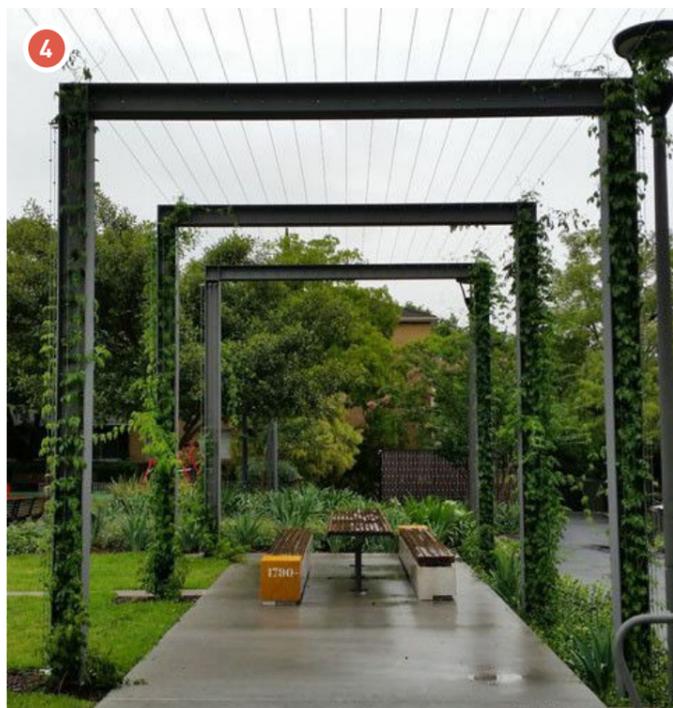
Shaded plaza seating (Centenary Square, Parramatta)



Small market space (Centenary Square, Parramatta)



Food truck spill out area



Park feature arbour (Foley Park, Glebe)



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



Flexible plaza space (Centenary Square, Parramatta)

COWPER STREET RESERVE - OPPORTUNITIES AND IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

1 New formalised boat trailer parking and car parking protecting trees from damage and encouraging healthy growth.

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

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

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

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



Figure 41. Cowper Street Reserve Opportunities
32

IDEAS TO CONSIDER FOR COWPER STREET RESERVE



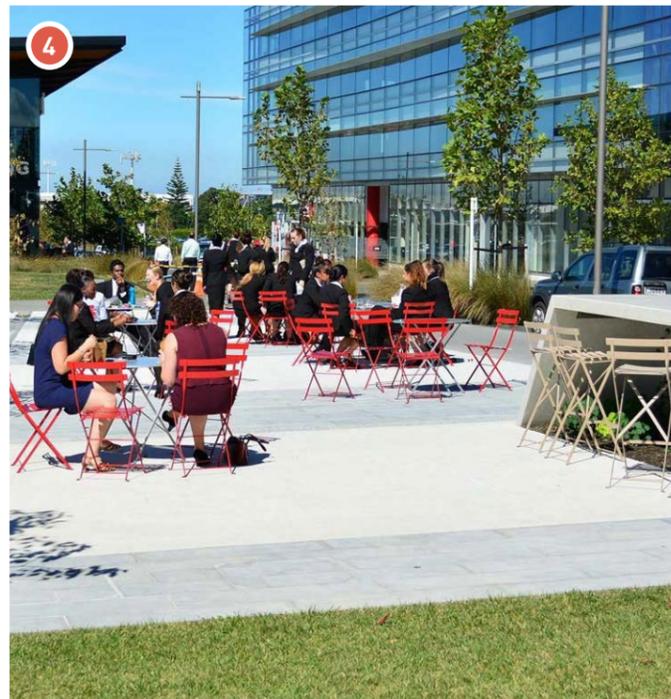
1 Formal car park with tree planting, line marking and wheel stops



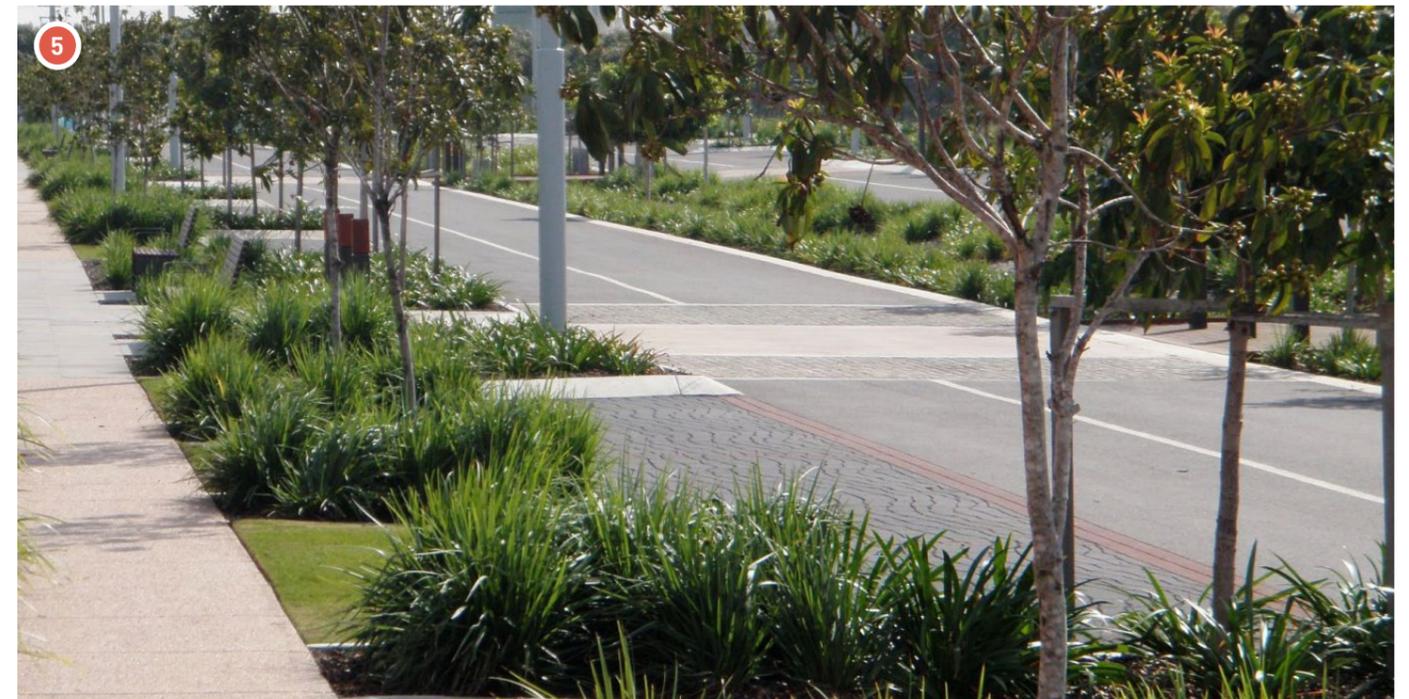
2 Shaded pedestrian access under an avenue of trees



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



4 Alfresco dining plaza (Te Kaitaka Plaza, New Zealand)



5 Formal street parking (Port of Brisbane, Brisbane)

FORESHORE

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

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

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

SITE SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 Consolidate the existing network of paths and create a legible hierarchy of paths that accesses points of interest along the foreshore and limits conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists.

1 2

4.2 Implement measures to protect the mangroves from rubbish becoming entrapped

1 5

4.3 Install a fenced off-leash dog park extending from Young Street Reserve to the foreshore.

1 2 4

4.4 Remove existing play equipment and relocate to more activated and visible location along the foreshore. Locations could include adjacent to the cultural meeting place or near the aquatic hub.

1 2 3 4

4.5 Provide lighting along the full length of path along the foreshore from Cowper Street Bridge in the south to Elizabeth Street roundabout in the north.

1 4

OPPORTUNITIES BY OTHERS ON LAND NOT MANAGED BY CITY OF NEWCASTLE

4.6 Work closely with the rowers and paddlers organisations to design an 'aquatic hub' that improves the experience for local competition, training and recreational users accessing Throsby Creek and the facilities. Upgrades should be to a standard where the hub is accredited to hold state and national title events.

1 2

4.7 Redesign space between Pat Jordan Oval and Throsby Creek beach to create a water-edge park including a waterplay space, picnic shelters, BBQs, tree planting, infrastructure for food vans, shaded grass seating areas, disabled beach access, formalised parking, toilets and connections to the aquatic hub and Pat Jordan Oval. Upgrades are subject to future consultation and management with land owners and stakeholders.

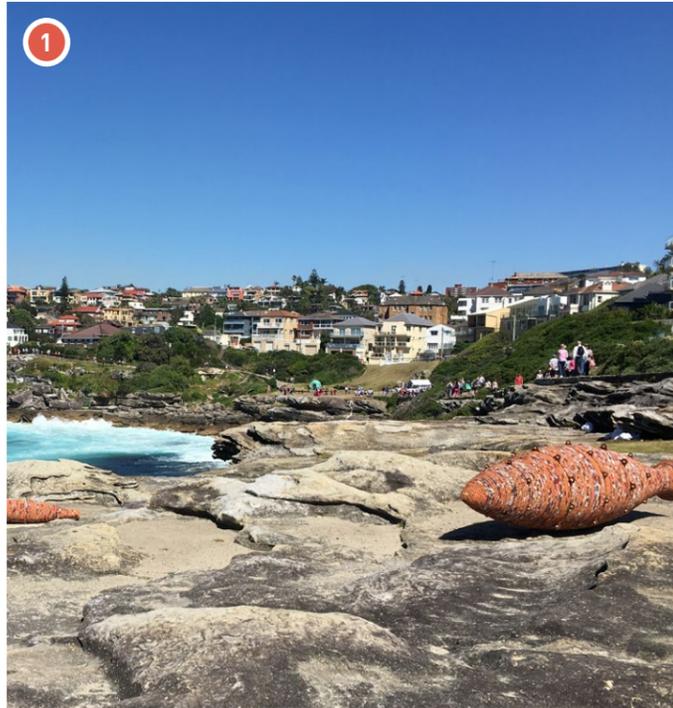
1 2

4.8 Upgrade boat launching facilities to include a floating pontoon, dedicated boat preparation / wash down area and improved boat trailer parking area.

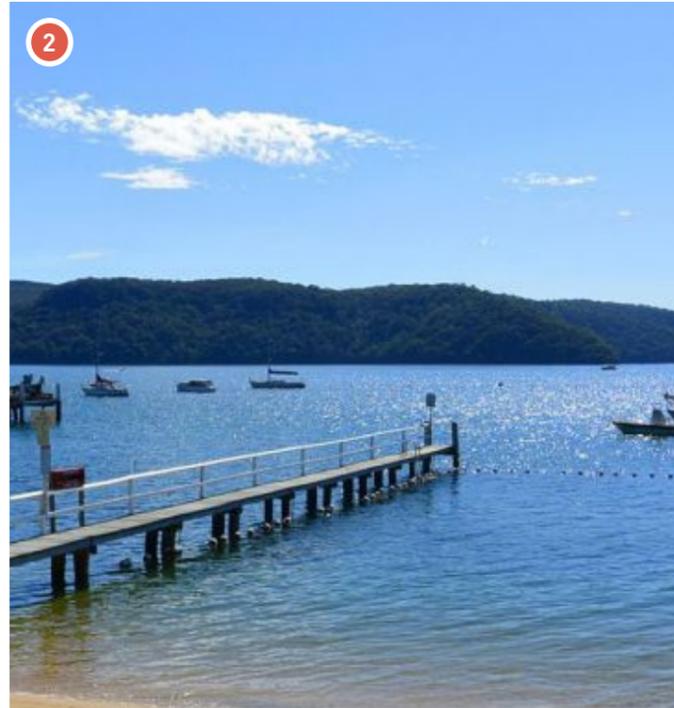
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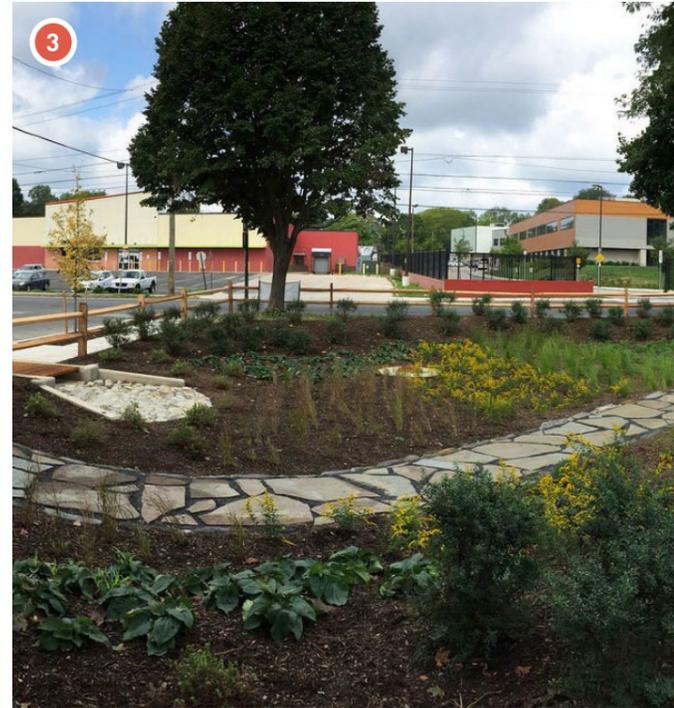
Figure 42. Carrington's Foreshore



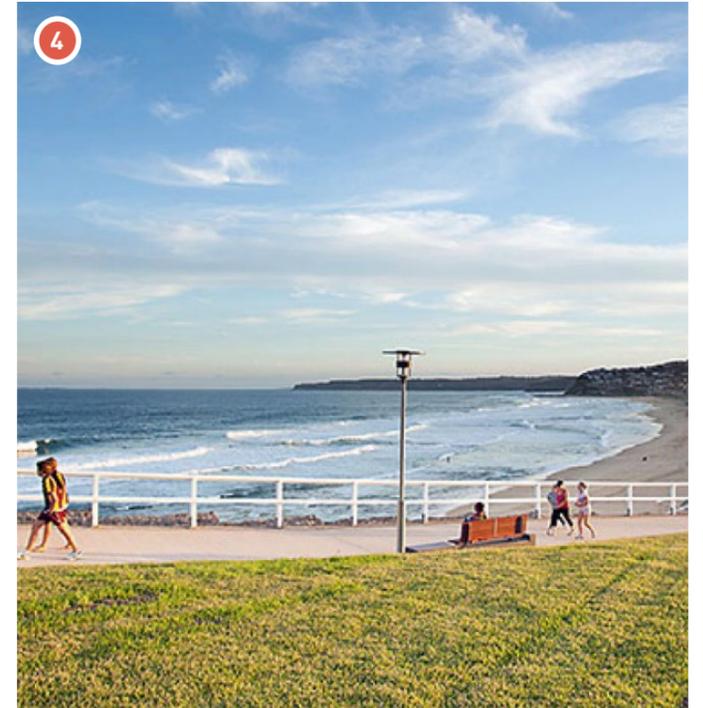
1 Foreshore art trail along the foreshore walk. (Sculptures by the Sea, 2017)



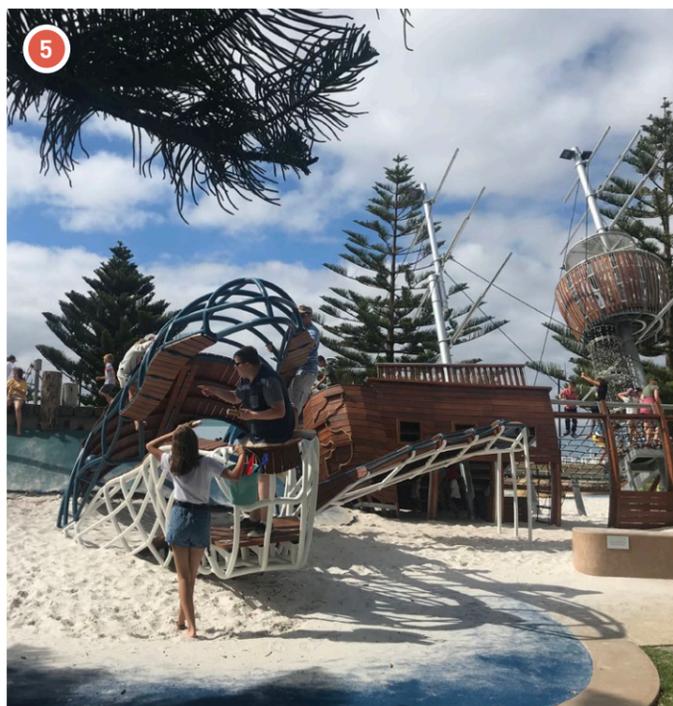
2 Recreational wharf (Taylors Wharf, Northern Beaches Council)



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



4 Sealed share-path with seating, lighting and other amenities (Bathers Way)



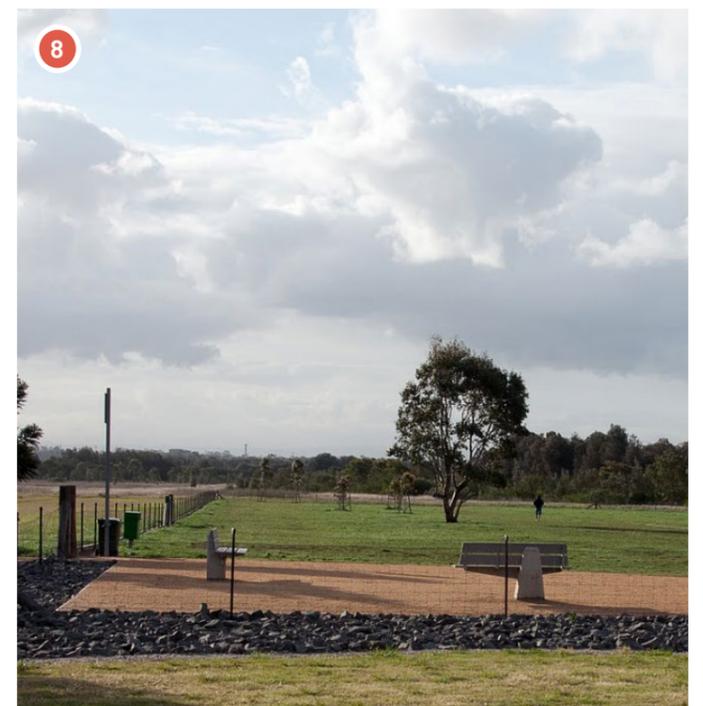
5 New themed playground (Bussleton Playground, WA)



6 Cultural meeting place



7 Community Plaza (Richmond Terrace, Melbourne)



8 Fenced dog off leash area (Bungarribee, Sydney)

SPORTS PRECINCT

Carrington has long history of sport. The sporting precinct not only caters for sport but is widely used by the community for general recreation. The adjacent playground and community gardens provide an alternative use and the ovals are often used for dog walking and general exercise. Supporting facilities are to be equitable and inclusive and cater for all abilities. The following recommendations are designed to uplift the sporting precinct to better serve its users.

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

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

SITE SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES

Refer to Sports Precinct Concept on next page for following initiatives:

5.1 Upgrade amenities building in Connolly Park to be disabled accessible and gender equitable. The amenities building should be upgraded to enable co-location of all sports using the facilities and provide space for alternative operations such as functions.

1 2

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

1 2 4

5.3 Reduce the width of Fitzroy Street, install formalised parking, landscaping and put in measures to slow down vehicles to create a 'shared street' environment that better connects Pat Jordan Oval and Connolly Park, creating a cohesive sporting precinct.

1 2 4

5.4 Incorporate a 'skate street' space along the edge of Connolly Park. The 'skate street' will be a paved urban plaza style space with low key skateable furniture and walls. Picnic shelters and seating offer a place for parents or carers to supervise younger participants. The 'skate street' will be designed as a flexible space not purely dedicated to skating.

1

5.5 Upgrade the War Memorial Gates to create an evocative entry into Connolly Park and a space where ceremonies can be held safely and comfortably.

1 3



5.6 Upgrade the playground to be an all-inclusive play space adhering to the NSW Government Everyone Can Play Guidelines including the provision of closely located car parking, supporting amenities and a range of play experiences for all ages and abilities.

1 2 4

5.7 Install spectator view / seating areas around the perimeter of Pat Jordan Oval and Connolly Park.

1

Legend

- Boundary
- Sports Precinct Parks
- Fitzroy Street Concept
- # Principle Number

Figure 44. Carrington's Sports Precinct

0 150 300 750m

1:15,000

CONCEPT IDEA 3 - SPORTS PRECINCT

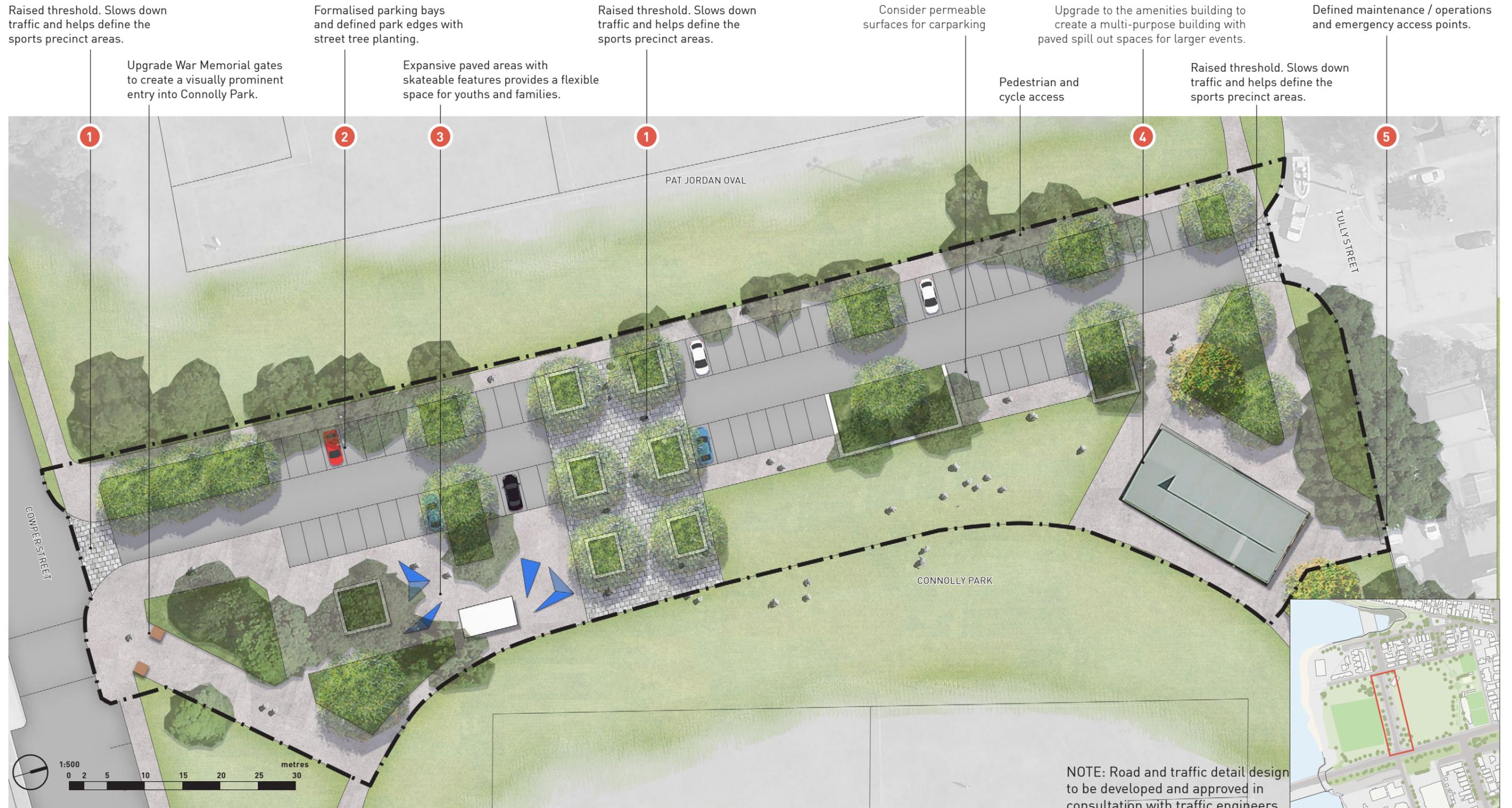
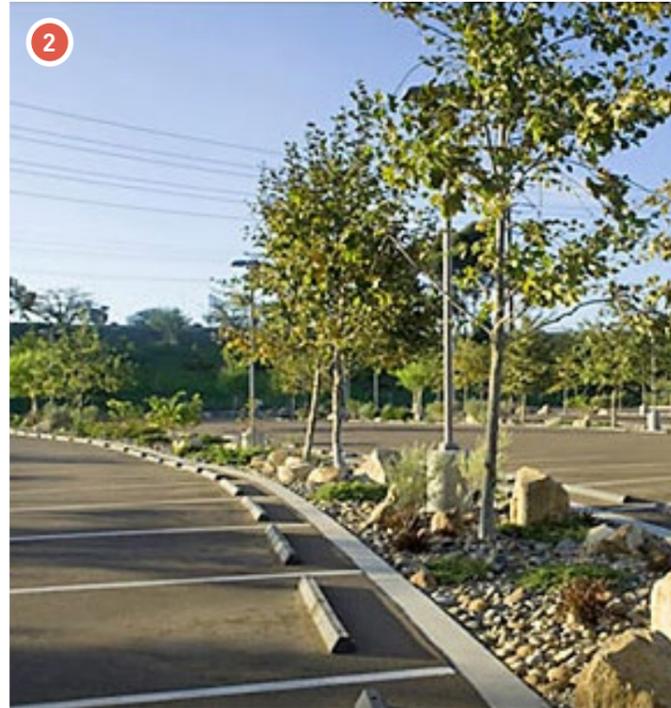


Figure 45. Sports Precinct Concept Plan
38



1 Raised crossing threshold



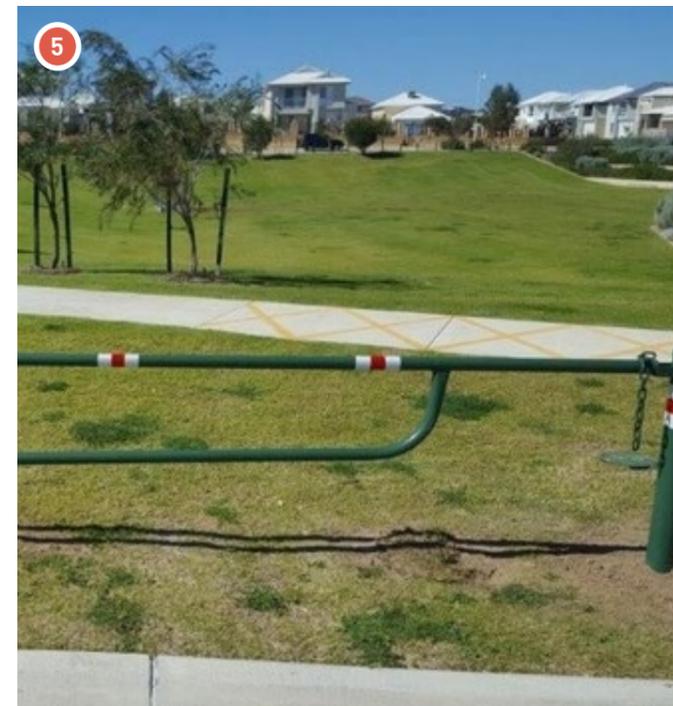
2 Formal carparking bays with tree planting



3 Skate street area (Charlotte Ammundsens Square, Copenhagen)



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



5 Maintenance/operations and emergency access.

CARRINGTON'S STORY

Carrington has a unique story to tell. Aboriginal groups have a narrative about their 'country' and culture influenced by the tidal river and low lying mangrove flats that formed a chain of small 'islands' at low tide that is now the location of Carrington. European settlement of Newcastle built around a convict outpost and the discovery of coal saw the need to create a port facility that would become Carrington. Built by ship ballast and dredging of the harbour Carrington is literally built by layers of rock from all over the world to create the 'island' suburb. From the early days of hardship and struggle to the much loved suburb that is known today, there are numerous stories to be uncovered in creative and thought provoking ways which the following recommendations aim to do.

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

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

CARRINGTON WIDE OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 Carrington 'Art Trail' – Consider an 'Art Trail' that creatively depicts the narrative of Carrington. Work closely with the community to determine the important stories to be told as well as engage and encourage local artists to participate.

2 3

6.2 In conjunction with the above art trail provide an interpretative overlay through signage, markers, highlight prominent historical landmarks, etc.

2 3

6.3 Working with Worimi and Awabakal communities to undertake a dual language study to ensure all interpretive elements and signs incorporate the local language and stories.

2 3

SITE SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES

6.4 Working with local Aboriginal groups investigate a suitable location and options for a cultural meeting place to enable the continuation of culture and education to ensure visitors to Country have a greater understanding of the land they are visiting.

1 3

6.5 Install gateway features at the entrance to Carrington that reflects Carrington's unique character and history. The features should be able to be appreciated from passing vehicles and pedestrians. The gateway features form part of a Cowper Street historical walk that could depict people and events that have shaped Carrington.

2 3

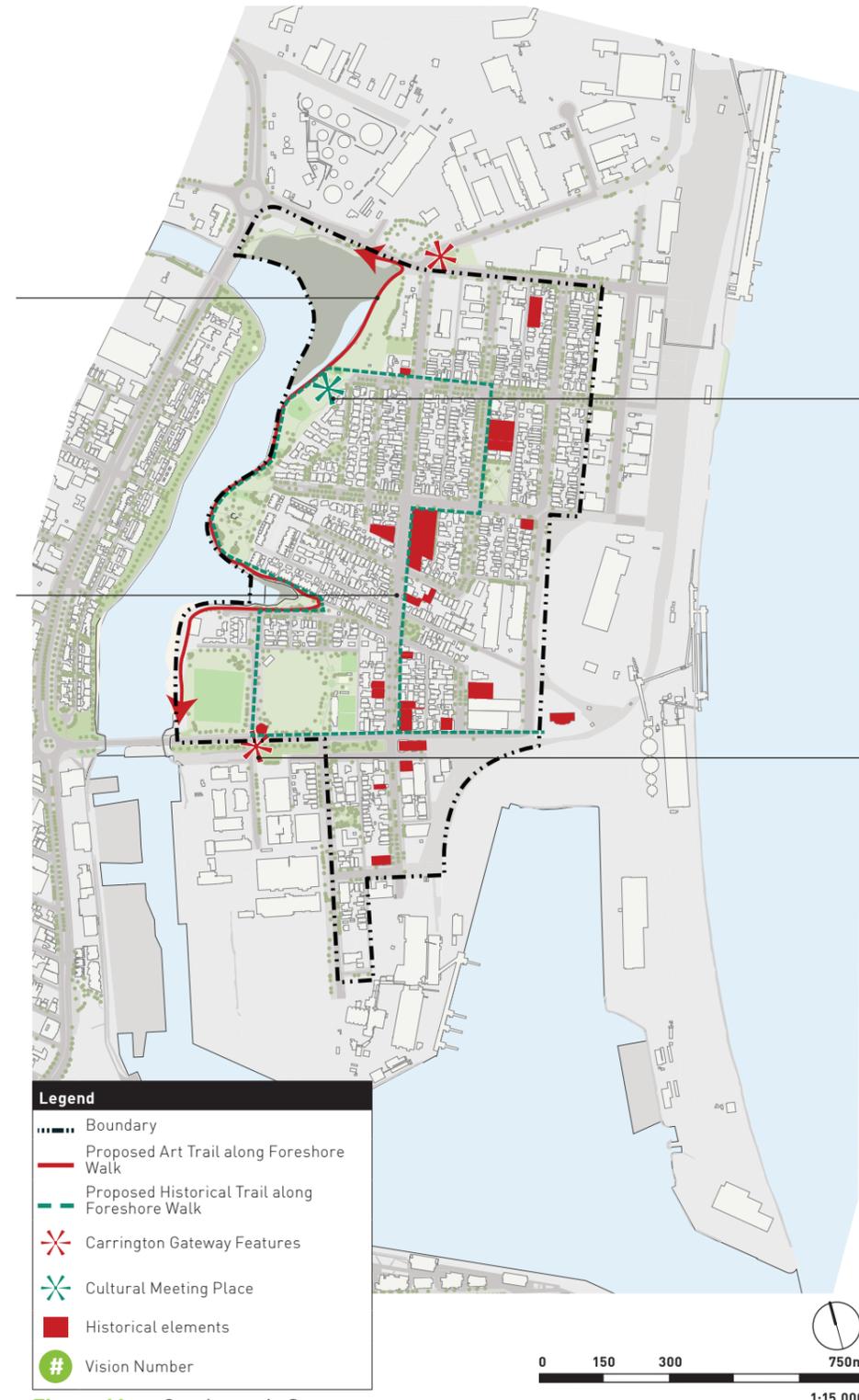


Figure 46. Carrington's Story

5.0 DELIVERING THE MASTERPLAN

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



Figure 47. Googong Rockley Oval

5.1 PRIORITY PROJECTS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

LANDSCAPE			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
1.1	Analysis of canopy cover within Carrington as part of the future city wide assessment of trees.	Investigation/ Research/ Assessment	High
1.2	Identify tree canopy targets and species suitable to future climatic conditions and existing soil and ground water profiles.	Strategy Development	High
1.3	Undertake a drainage assessment to ascertain opportunities to implement WSUD measures such as rain gardens, bio-filtration swales and basins in the streets, parks and storm water drainage outlets.	Investigation/ Research/ Assessment	Medium
1.4	Consider a 'Green Grid' network of trees and gardens in the streets and parks. Locate large canopy trees on wide streets that have the capacity to accommodate space for root zones. This could include the introduction of central medians and planting of trees in parking lanes. Narrow streets shall have small canopy.	Strategy Development	Medium
1.5	Promote the planting of trees in the private domain by providing incentives and educational material about the importance of trees in our city in regard to overall liveability and health.	Promote Community Contribution	High
1.6	Seek opportunities to co-locate water infiltration devices to assist the success of tree plantings.	Investigation/ Research/ Assessment	High
1.7	Consider preemptive installation of mounding in conjunction with tree planting.	Concept/Design Development	High
1.8	Consider installation of green roofs and vertical gardens on existing and future public buildings such as sports amenities buildings, bus shelters, toilets and commercial properties.	Concept/Design Development	Low

CONNECTIVITY			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
2.1	Incorporate new street verge paths and upgrade existing to follow the 'Green Grid' network to provide comfortable links throughout Carrington.	Concept/Design Development	High
2.2	Install a combination of on road and off road cycle paths that link points of interest throughout Carrington. The network of paths is to connect with existing and proposed cycleways for the city as outlined in City of Newcastle cycle strategy.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
2.3	Undertake a safety and compliance audit of the existing pedestrian lights along popular paths within the open spaces. Install pedestrian lights along the foreshore paths to enable night time use of a popular loop trail.	Strategy Development	High
2.4	Provide a suite of wayfinding measures to help better navigate people around Carrington. These measures could include markers, signs, points of interest, opening up vistas.	Strategy Development	Medium
2.5	Ensure disability and accessibility compliance in conjunction with public domain works.	Strategy Development	High
2.6	Upgrade the existing path to a formal shared pathway. Consider pre-emptive installation of levee in conjunction with works.	Concept/Design Development	High
2.7	Investigate opportunities to improve active transport connections between the commercial core, parks, sports precinct and foreshore.	Strategy Development	Low
2.8	Create a connection from Bathers Way into Carrington as a continuation of the popular beach to city walk.	Concept/Design Development	Low

POCKET PARKS			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
Parker Street Reserve			
3.1	Maintain as a small pocket of bushland and implement a weed management strategy.	Strategy Development	High
3.2	Incorporate a feature as part of a northern gateway entry experience.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
3.3	Encourage community caretaking of the park through signage, school programs and community groups.	Promote Community Contribution	High
Hollingsford Reserve			
3.4	Selectively prune / remove vegetation to open up sight lines through the park and include inviting entry points.	Strategy Development	High
3.5	Provide shelter and seating to encourage small gatherings.	Concept/Design Development	High
3.6	Encourage community caretaking of the park through signage, school programs and community groups.	Promote Community Contribution	High
Coe Park			
3.7	Install a suite of new park furniture including table and seat settings, shelter and bin enclosures.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
3.8	Selectively thin out the existing Casuarinas and install flowering understory planting to retain and attract birdlife.	Concept/Design Development	High
3.9	Remove play equipment and reinstate with grass or garden bed to reinforce Coe Park as a park for relaxation and quiet reflection.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
3.10	Upgrade pedestrian path to a widened DDA compliant path with accessible seating along it's edges.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
3.11	Install new park lighting	Concept/Design Development	High

POCKET PARKS			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
Grahame Park			
3.12	Make adjustments to the playground to improve accessibility. The current upstand kerb and mulch softfall does not allow for equitable access. Refer to the NSW Government Everyone Can Play Guidelines for any future playground upgrades.	Concept/Design Development	High
3.13	Install park seating and shelters to cater for larger groups of people.	Concept/Design Development	High
3.14	Plant trees to increase canopy cover, contributing to the urban forest and providing shaded places to recreate.	Concept/Design Development	High
3.15	Install pedestrian path lighting along the internal paths.	Concept/Design Development	High
3.16	Provide water points and drinking fountain.	Concept/Design Development	High
Jubilee Park			
3.17	Undertake a detail design of Jubilee Park Concept Plan to create an 'urban square' where small-scale temporary markets or pop-up food stalls can be located to improve the vibrancy of the Young Street commercial core. This may include the installation of toilets and large shelters.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
3.18	Consider the decommissioning of the public art furniture and install a suite of contemporary custom furniture that still reflects Carrington's identity.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
3.14	Install park lighting.	Concept/Design Development	High
Cowper Street Reserve			
3.19	Long term consider the reconfiguration of the roads, parking, pedestrian paths, street crossings and landscaping to create an activated space that provides opportunities for temporary and permanent alfresco dining areas or street markets.	Concept/Design Development	Low
3.20	Gateway feature that represents Carrington's history and identity and provides a welcoming gesture to visitors.	Concept/Design Development	Low
3.21	'Historic walk' along Cowper Street Reserve to entice people to engage with the space and learn about Carrington's unique history.	Concept/Design Development	Low
3.22	An 'Avenue of Trees' to enhance amenity and aesthetics of Carrington's main entry and contribute to the urban forest strategy.	Concept/Design Development	Low

FORESHORE			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
4.1	Consolidate the existing network of paths and create a legible hierarchy of paths that accesses points of interest along the foreshore and limits conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
4.2	Implement measures to protect the mangroves from rubbish becoming entrapped	Strategy Development	High
4.3	Install a fenced off-leash dog park extending from Young Street Reserve to the foreshore.	Concept/Design Development	High
4.4	Remove existing play equipment and relocate to more activated and visible location along the foreshore. Locations could include adjacent to the cultural meeting place or near the aquatic hub.	Concept/Design Development	High
4.5	Provide lighting along the full length of path along the foreshore from Cowper Street Bridge in the south to Elizabeth Street roundabout in the north.	Concept/Design Development	High
Opportunities for other agencies and groups on land managed by Port of Newcastle and Crown Lands (Not under CN Management)			
4.6	Work closely with the rowers and paddlers organisations to design an 'aquatic hub' that improves the experience for local competition, training and recreational users accessing Throsby Creek and the facilities. Upgrades should be to a standard where the hub is accredited to hold state and national title events.	Concept/Design Development	Low
4.7	Redesign space between Pat Jordan Oval and Throsby Creek beach to create a water-edge park including a waterplay space, picnic shelters, BBQs, tree planting, infrastructure for food vans, shaded grass seating areas, disabled beach access, formalised parking, toilets and connections to the aquatic hub and Pat Jordan Oval. Upgrades are subject to future consultation and management with land owners and stakeholders.	Concept/Design Development	Low
4.8	Upgrade boat launching facilities to include a floating pontoon, dedicated boat preparation / wash down area and improved boat trailer parking area.	Concept/Design Development	Medium

SPORTS PRECINCT			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
5.1	Upgrade amenities building in Connolly Park to be disabled accessible and gender equitable. The amenities building should be upgraded to enable co-location of all sports using the facilities and provide space for alternative operations such as functions.	Concept/Design Development	High
5.2	Install perimeter paths around the sports fields to encourage exercise and a safe environment for children to ride bikes.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
5.3	Reduce the width of Fitzroy Street, install formalised parking, landscaping and put in measures to slow down vehicles to create a 'shared street' environment that better connects Pat Jordan Oval and Connolly Park, creating a cohesive sporting precinct.	Concept/Design Development	Low
5.4	Incorporate a 'skate street' space along the edge of Connolly Park. The 'skate street' will be a paved urban plaza style space with low key skateable furniture and walls. Picnic shelters and seating offer a place for parents or carers to supervise younger participants. The 'skate street' will be designed as a flexible space not purely dedicated to skating.	Concept/Design Development	Low
5.5	Upgrade the War Memorial Gates to create an evocative entry into Connolly Park and a space where ceremonies can be held safely and comfortably.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
5.6	Upgrade the playground to be an all-inclusive play space adhering to the NSW Government Everyone Can Play Guidelines including the provision of closely located car parking, supporting amenities and a range of play experiences for all ages and abilities.	Concept/Design Development	Medium
5.7	Install spectator view / seating areas around the perimeter of Pat Jordan Oval and Connolly Park.	Concept/Design Development	Low

CARRINGTON'S STORY			
Item	Initiative	Action	Priority
6.1	Carrington 'Art Trail' – Consider an 'Art Trail' that creatively depicts the narrative of Carrington. Work closely with the community to determine the important stories to be told as well as engage and encourage local artists to participate.	Strategy Development	Medium
6.2	In conjunction with the above art trail provide an interpretative overlay through signage, markers, highlight prominent historical landmarks, etc.	Strategy Development	Medium
6.3	Working with Worimi and Awabakal communities to undertake a dual language study to ensure all interpretive elements and signs incorporate the local language and stories.	Investigation/ Research/ Assessment	High
6.4	Working with local Aboriginal groups investigate a suitable location and options for a cultural meeting place to enable the continuation of culture and education to ensure visitors to Country have a greater understanding of the land they are visiting.	Investigation/ Research/ Assessment	High
6.5	Install gateway features at the entrance to Carrington that reflects Carrington's unique character and history. The features should be able to be appreciated from passing vehicles and pedestrians. The gateway features form part of a Cowper Street historical walk that could depict people and events that have shaped Carrington.	Concept/Design Development	Medium

