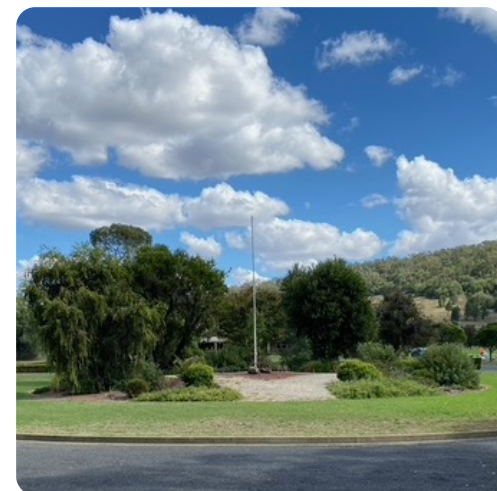




Gunnedah Memorial Park Cemetery Master Plan

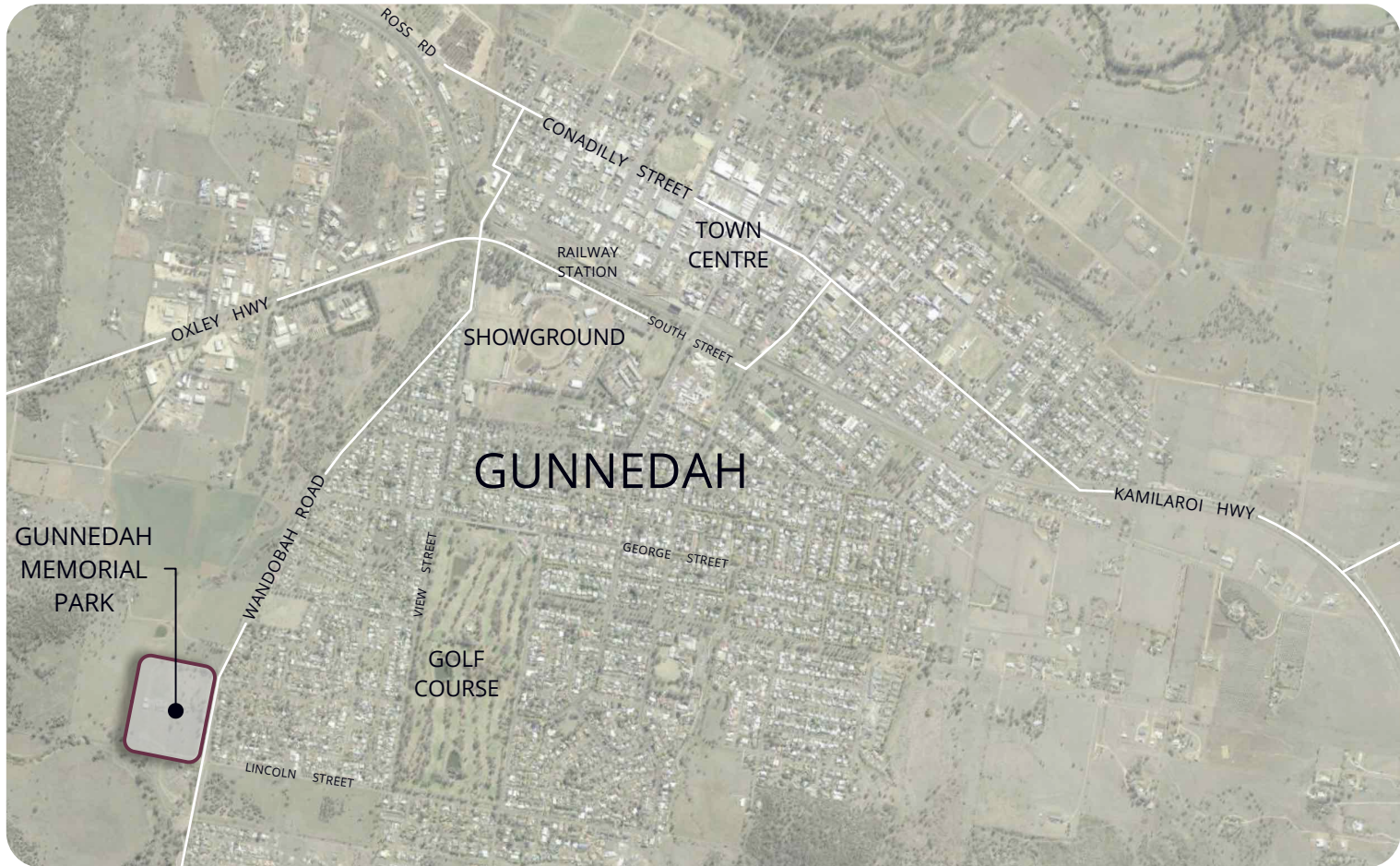
DRAWING SCHEDULE

01 Title Sheet	06 Signage Plan
02 Overview	07 Detail Plan 1
03 Consultation Summary	08 Detail Plan 2
04 Existing Site Plan	09 Detail Plan 3
05 Master Plan	10 Schedule and Images



PROJECT CONTEXT

This Master Plan builds on previous planning and development of the Gunnedah Memorial Park to provide a long-term approach to its future development. The Memorial Park is located on Wandobah Road to the south-west of the Gunnedah CBD.



Site Locality Plan

MASTER PLAN VISION

“
To establish the Gunnedah Memorial Park as a safe, respectful and well-maintained facility that meets the community's interment needs.
 ”

OBJECTIVES

- 1 To provide a long-term direction for the planning and development of the Memorial Park
- 2 To meet the Gunnedah community's burial and ashes interment needs well into the future
- 3 To establish a strong sense of place within the Memorial Park, commensurate with the importance of the site for its visitors
- 4 To ensure an effective balance between facility quality and ongoing costs of maintenance
- 5 To manage environmental attributes of the site, including stormwater, flood and vegetation enhancement

Signage and wayfinding

The Master Plan identifies key locations where the main site and directional signage should be located, including at the site entry and main internal intersection. In addition to these, more specific directional signage will be provided to enable visitors to locate specific sites. Examples of these are provided right.



Maintenance

Outcomes of this Master Plan are cognisant that the cemetery is a 'forever' space. Decisions about the cemetery now will dictate Council's ongoing perpetual maintenance costs. Consistent with consultation outcomes and as an effective long-term maintenance direction, native planting and lawn beam burial areas are prominent features of the Master Plan.



Fencing and access

Whilst the existing cemetery fencing is in reasonable condition, longer-term replacement should integrate with the broader Wandobah Road 'post and rail' style fencing, as shown. This should be repositioned to the west of the adjoining shared path. Should safety and security needs require it, future consideration may also be given to restricting vehicle access (but not pedestrian access) outside sunlight hours.

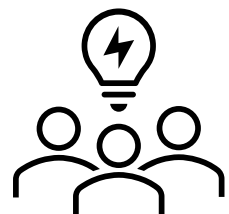


CONSULTATION

Gunnedah Shire Council recognises the importance of the Gunnedah Memorial Park as a social and cultural space, including the need for its ongoing planning to meet future needs.

In preparing the Master Plan, the following consultation activities were undertaken:

Stakeholder meetings



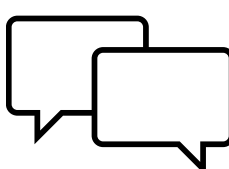
Held with the on-site funeral director, the cemetery maintenance team, as well as various Council operational teams.

Online community survey



Available from 12 to 28 June, the survey was promoted through Council's media channels and received 89 responses.

Public exhibition



The draft Master Plan will be exhibited and feedback received will be considered in finalising outcomes.

SURVEY OUTCOMES

The online community survey sought to identify key community needs for future planning of Gunnedah Memorial Park.

Respondents to the survey were:

- Generally female, representing 73% of all respondents,
- Young adults aged 21 to 45 years (40%) or older adults aged 46 to 65 years (45%) with a smaller number of younger and older respondees, and
- Live in Gunnedah (80%) and/or have family members in the cemetery (70%) highlighting a high level of local and emotional interest in the facility.

What's most important about the future?

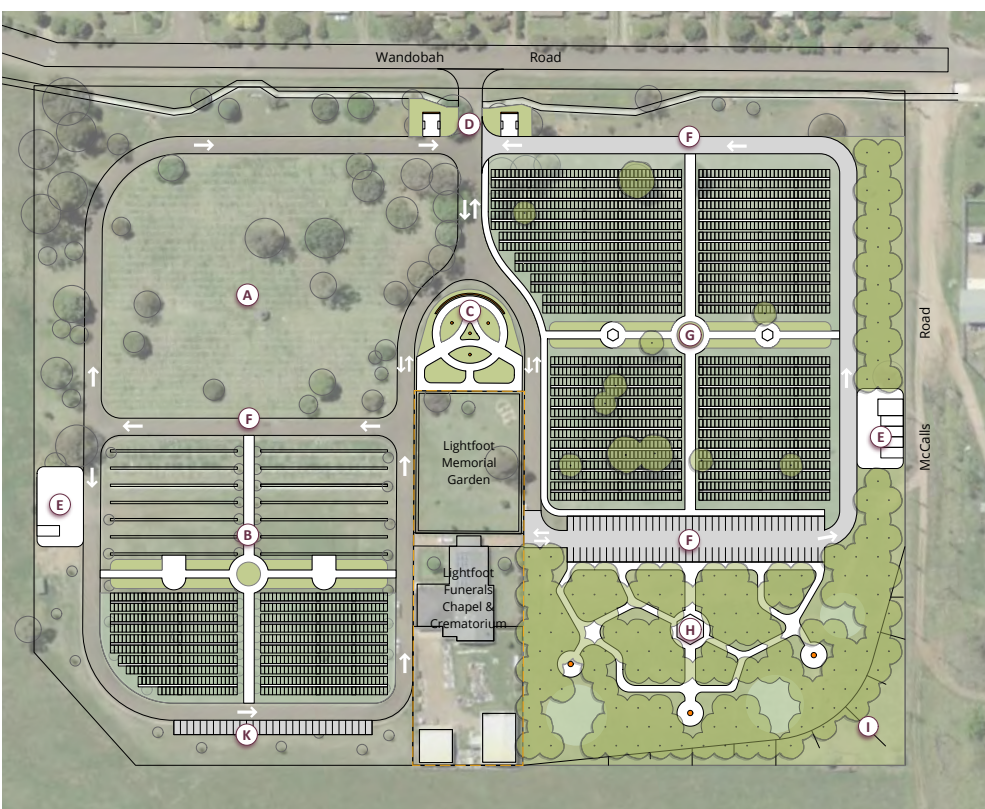
The five most important aspects of future planning for the Memorial Park were identified by survey respondents as being:

- Good access, such as pathways, particularly for older people
- Ensuring that the cemetery is safe and secure
- Having places for cremated remains to be interred
- Having beautifully maintained gardens
- A naturally beautiful environment using native plants and trees

Ongoing maintenance and upkeep were also regularly identified in written responses as another particularly important aspect of the cemetery.

Which preliminary concept is preferred?

Two preliminary design options for Gunnedah Memorial Park were identified in the community survey. 62% of respondents preferred the second of the two options (shown below), which contained lawn style cemetery combined with partial natural area to the west.



Combined with the outcomes of the broader survey, this concept has led the Master Plan design.

What design elements were important?

The survey asked a series of questions about the look and feel of the cemetery, otherwise known as design elements that can be incorporated into future plans. Outcomes of these questions identified:

Natural elements with a sense of formality



A desire for future portions to be developed with more formal tree planting along roads, but with some treed surrounds (e.g. screening the sub-station) and occasional trees within burial areas.

More natural memorialisation options



A preference for bushwalk and native style memorial gardens, whilst also retaining walls and more traditional memorialisation areas such as those provided by Lightfoot Funerals.

Allowing for natural burials in the long-term



With increasing interest amongst communities in natural burial, the 40% expressing interest now is likely grow. This also correlates with bush-walk style memorial facilities.

“ Provide a highly accessible site, including pathways for elderly access ”

“ Keep up the high quality of existing maintenance ”

“ Have high-quality maintenance with well-established gardens and formal tree avenues ”

“ Provide for burial and interment of cremated remains within natural and native planting areas ”

“ Ensure a safe and secure site ”

“ Work with the existing facilities provided by Lightfoot Funerals ”



Consultation Summary



July 2024



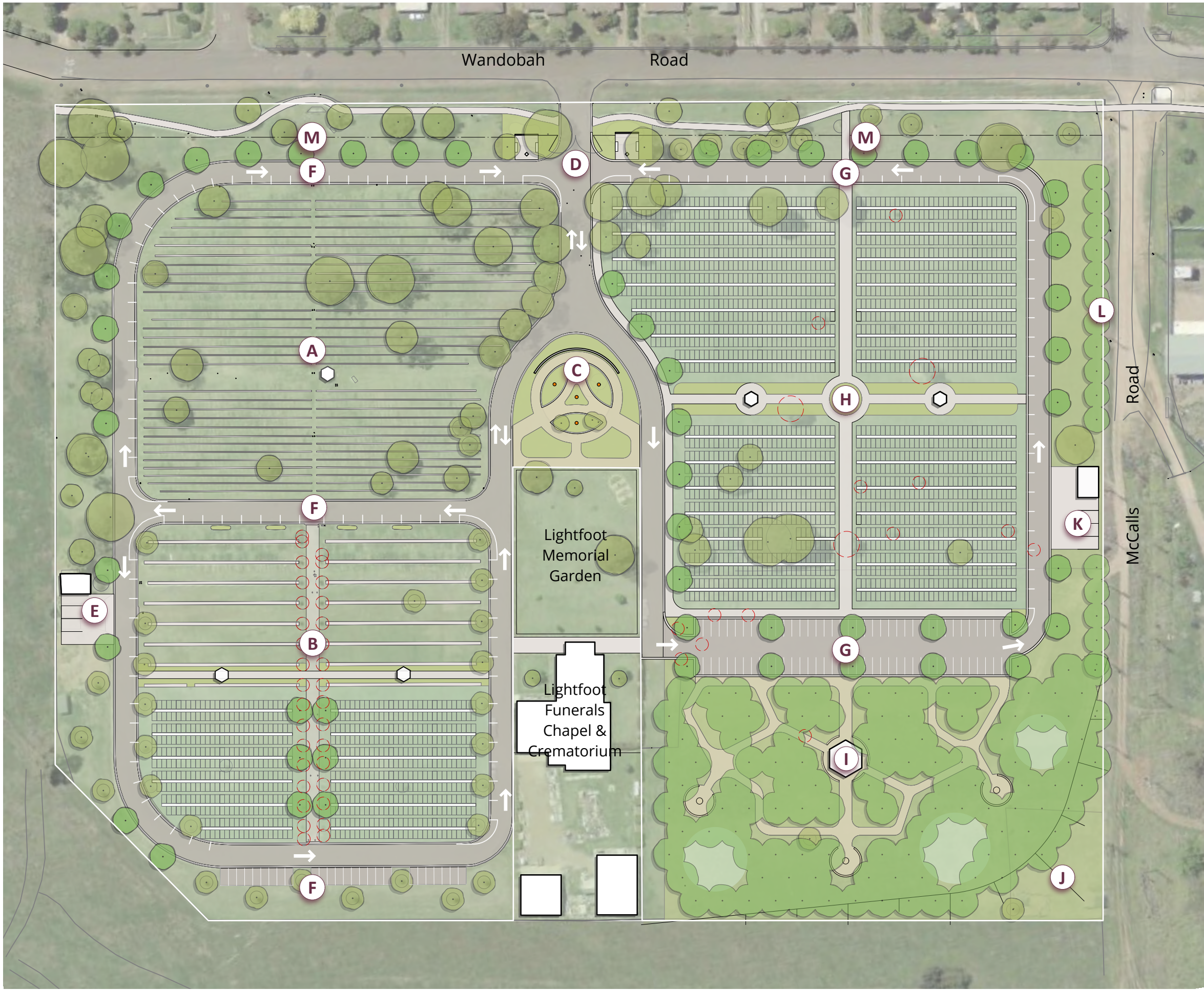
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Gunnedah Memorial Park Master Plan

CEMETERY AREA OVERVIEW

- A. Cemetery Portion A**
Developed as a non-denominational cemetery area with grass level 'in-ground' plaques.
- B. Cemetery Portion C**
Developed as a non-denominational cemetery area with concrete lawn beams. Also includes a central exotic tree avenue that is encroaching on vehicle access and two gazebo shelters.
- C. Lightfoot Funerals**
Chapel and crematorium within the cemetery area. Purchased freehold in 2016, with service area to immediate west (Lot 10 DP882314).
- D. Memorial garden area**
Area owned by Lighfoot Funerals, but used as semi-public memorial garden area.
- E. Central Circular Garden & Flagpole**
- F. Site Entrance**
Vehicle entry from Wandobah Road flanked by two signage walls with columbarium use on the internal side of each wall.
- G. Future Cemetery Expansion Area**
Known as Portion B, with frontage to Wandobah Road and currently maintained as open grasslands.
- H. Future Cemetery Expansion Area**
Known as Portion D, located to the south-west of the site and adjoining private land to the west. Includes area known to retain surface water in north-west section. Also provides services access to Lighfoot Funerals.
- I. Waterways**
Identified on topographic mapping for the area as tributaries that continue to the north-west to join to Blackjack Creek and the Namoi River.
- J. Flooding & Drainage**
Potential for impact from flood mitigation to divert overland flow from east away from site and into Blackjack Creek during flooding events.
- K. Electrical Substation**
Visually prominent to the south.
- L. Council Cemetery Works Depot**
Consisting of two material bays and a storage shed.
- M. Shared Path**
Concrete shared path along Wandobah Road within the site and boundary fencing.





OVERVIEW

SHORT TERM (1-10 YEARS)

- A. Cemetery Portion A**
Retained and protected as a non-denominational cemetery area with grass level 'in-ground' plaques.
- B. Cemetery Portion C**
Continued development as a non-denominational area with concrete lawn beams. Tree avenue removed and replaced with east-west thoroughfare and service vehicle access. Accessible north-south path installed to connect existing gazebos. Potential for associated memorial gardens if required.
- C. Memorial Circular Garden**
Provide accessible pathways around existing garden areas and expand gardens to the west to create a potential memorial garden space (possibly for servicemen and women). Opportunity to also include seating, four flag poles, and a new curved wall on the eastern side. Refer detail plan.
- D. Site Entrance**
Improve access and quality of columbarium wall area with new paved reflection spaces, memorial totems, seats and garden. Includes gated vehicle entry if required. Refer detail plan.
- E. Existing Council Cemetery Works Depot**
Additional storage bay and sealed surface.
- F. Existing Road Layout**
Existing roadways changed to one-way loops as indicated to improve safety and legibility for circulation and on-street parallel parking. Also includes formalised parking bays at western end.

LONG TERM (10+ YEARS)

- G. Expansion Area Road**
New roadway loop in expansion area around perimeter and linking to existing roads. Includes formalised parking area at western end (size to be determined).
- H. Future Cemetery Expansion Area**
Portion B, developed primarily as a concrete lawn beam non-denominational area. Also includes sealed east-west thoroughfare for service vehicle access and an accessible north-south path with gazebos and potential memorial gardens.
- I. Native Memorial Gardens and Large Shelter**
Portion D revegetated with native trees and understory planting to form a memorial garden space with native character. Includes walking trails, memorial spaces, reflective seating areas, locations for natural burials, and a large central shelter.
- J. Flooding & Drainage Mitigation**
Potential levee or other mitigation works in south-western corner of site to divert overland flow away from site and into Blackjack Creek during flooding events.
- K. New Council Cemetery Works Depot**
Depot relocated to south side once expansion area is developing.
- L. Screen Planting to Southern Boundary**
- M. Boundary Fencing**
Relocate front fencing to west of path with type matching broader open space area to the north. Include pedestrian access on south side as indicated. Rural fencing to other boundaries replaced over time as required.

BURIAL PLOT NUMBERS

Existing Northern Cemetery Area

Portion C: Additional 728 plots

Future Cemetery Expansion Area

Portion B: 2070 Plots

Total: 2672 Plots (plot size 1.5 x 3m)



Master Plan



July 2024

Scale 1:1200@A3



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**Gunnedah Memorial Park
Master Plan**



LEGEND

A MAJOR ENTRY SIGN
Retained or new steel signage mounted on walls



B DIRECTIONAL WAYFINDING SIGN
Freestanding blade sign located at key locations. Includes precinct information and wayfinding map.



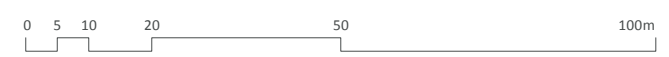
C POLE TOP SIGNS
Finger signs mounted to new or existing poles. Located primarily at road intersections.



D ROW INDICATORS FOR LAWN BEAMS
Low plaque or bollard identifying lawn beam rows. Located at ends of each concrete beam.



Signage Plan



July 2024

Scale 1:1200@A3

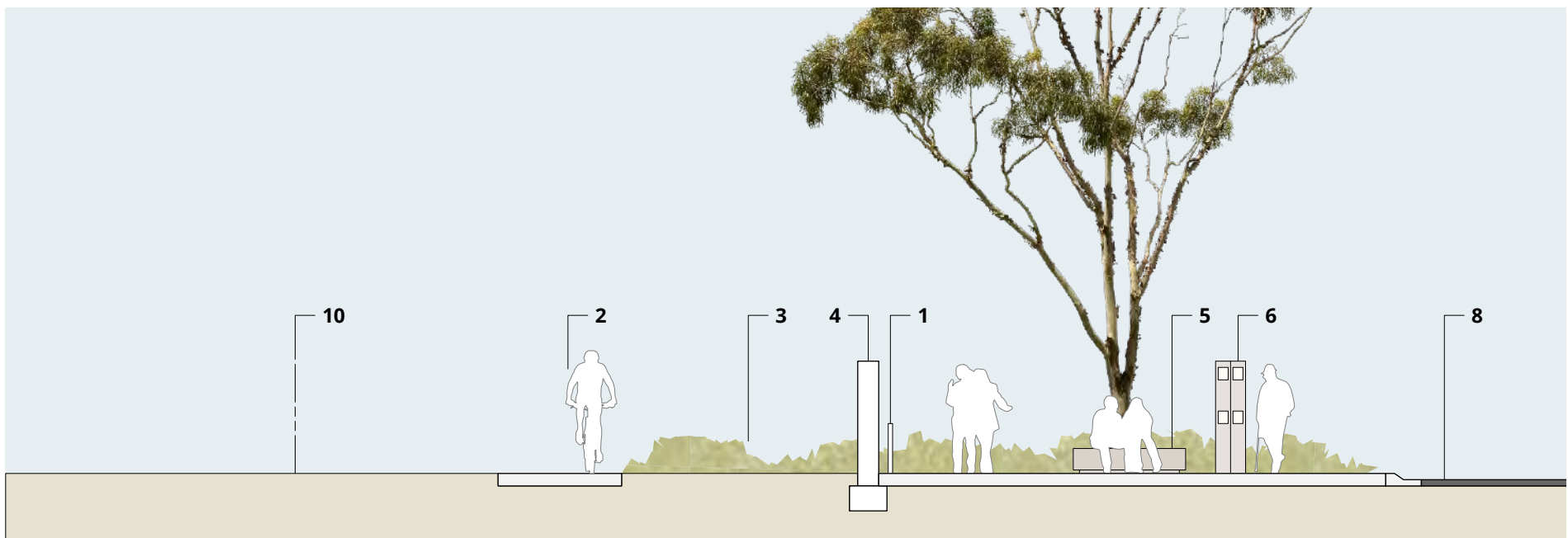


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Gunnedah Memorial Park
Master Plan



DETAIL PLAN 1: SITE ENTRANCE scale 1:200



SECTION A: SITE ENTRANCE scale 1:100

CHARACTER IMAGES



NOTES:

- 1. New post and rail entry fence. Refer Image A
- 2. Existing shared path.
- 3. New entry plant bed with existing trees retained.
- 4. Existing entry / columbarium wall. Refer Image B
- 5. New pavement and seating. Refer Image C
- 6. New columbarium totem. Refer Image D
- 7. Existing entry road.
- 8. Proposed future loop road.
- 9. Possible future fencing and gate if required.
- 10. Property boundary



Detail Plan 1

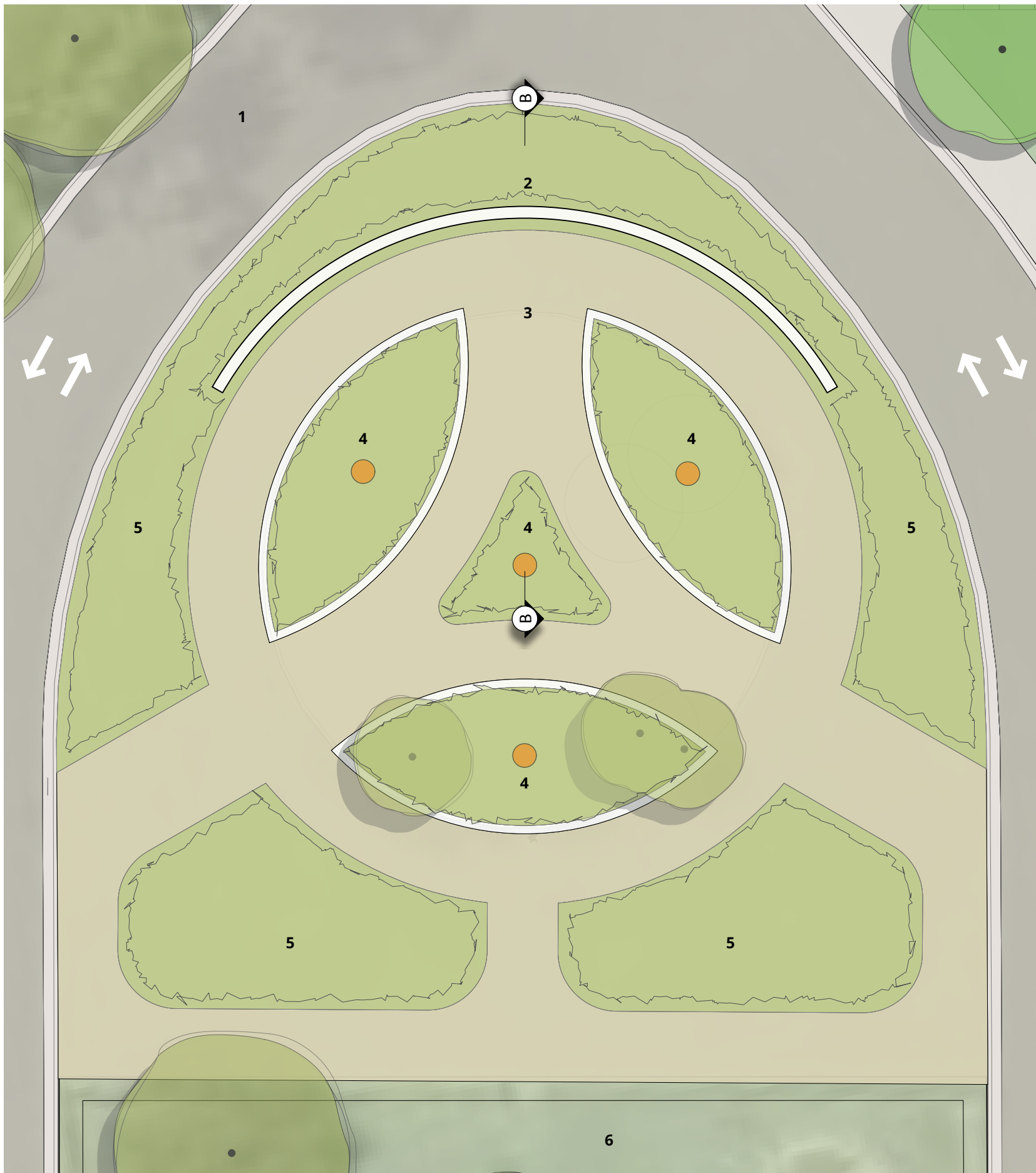


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Scale as shown



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Gunnedah Memorial Park
Master Plan



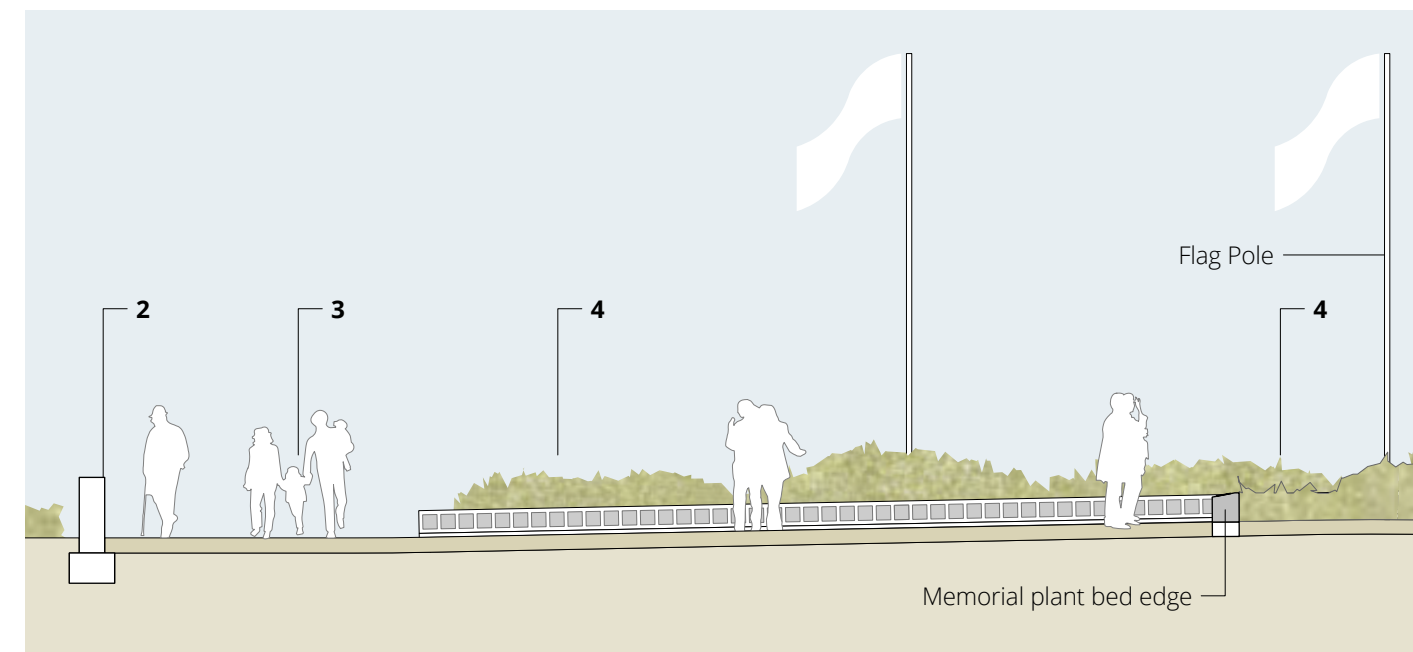
DETAIL PLAN 2: MEMORIAL CIRCULAR GARDEN scale 1:200

CHARACTER IMAGES



NOTES:

- 1. Existing roadway with new directional linemarking.
- 2. Curved masonry wall matching entry with possible cemetery signage on external side. Refer Image A.
- 3. Existing gravel paths expanded. Refer existing Image B.
- 4. Existing plant beds upgraded with memorial edges and additional flagpoles installed. Possibly for servicemen and women. Refer Image C.
- 5. New plant beds. Refer Image D.
- 6. Lightfoot memorial garden area retained.



SECTION B: MEMORIAL CIRCULAR GARDEN scale 1:100



Detail Plan 2

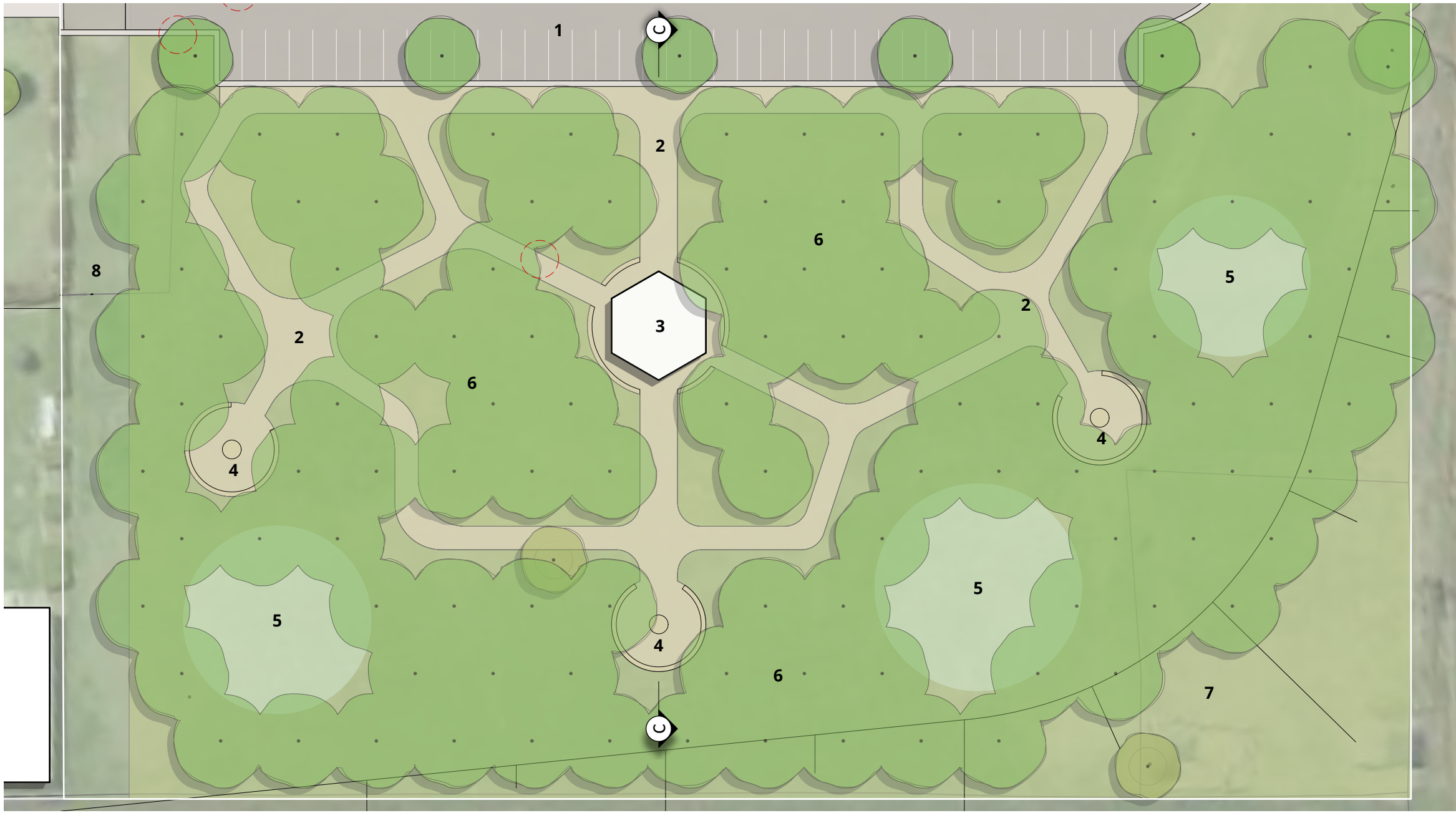


July 2024
Scale as shown



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Gunnedah Memorial Park
Master Plan



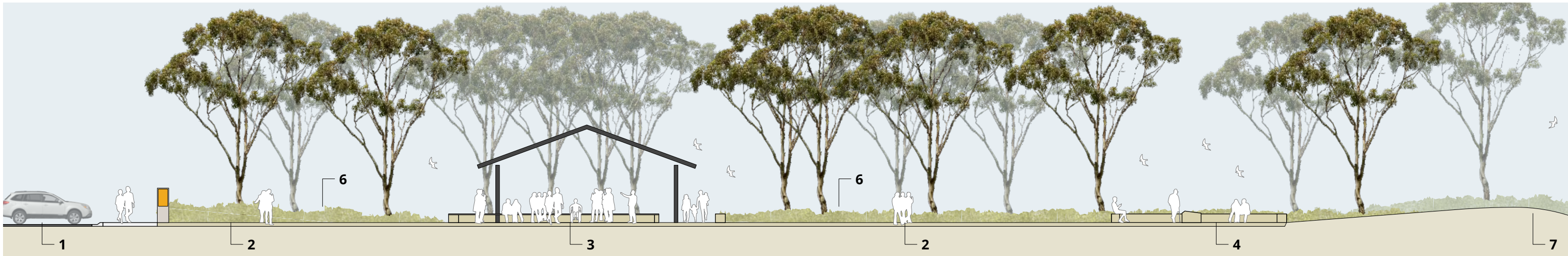
CHARACTER IMAGES



NOTES:

1. New car park at west end of one way perimeter road.
2. Pathways through native gardens with memorial rocks or similar along garden edges. Refer Image A.
3. Large central shelter with perimeter seating. Refer Image B.
4. Reflective seating nodes with memorial elements. Refer Image C.
5. Areas for natural burial revegetated as burials occur (subject to demand). Refer Image D.
6. Native tree and understory planting.
7. Potential levee or other mitigation works to divert overland flow away from site during flooding events.
8. Allowance made for ongoing service vehicle access to Lightfoot's property.

DETAIL PLAN 3: NATIVE MEMORIAL GARDENS (Portion D) scale 1:500



SECTION C: NATIVE MEMORIAL GARDENS scale 1:200



Detail Plan 3



July 2024
Scale 1:500 @A3



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Gunnedah Memorial Park
Master Plan

SUGGESTED PLANT SPECIES

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE (H x W)
TREES		
Acer buergeranum	Trident Maple	9 x 7
Callistemon salignus	Willow bottlebrush	10 x 5
Fraxinus griffithii	Evergreen ash	8 x 5
Lagerstroemia indica	Crepe myrtle	5 x 4
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River red gum	20 x 10
Eucalyptus melliodora	Yellow box	15 x 10
Eucalyptus nicholii	Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint	12 x 10
Eucalyptus sideroxylon	Mugga Ironbark	15 x 8
SHRUBS		
Buxus microphylla	Japanese Box	1 x 1
Grevillea rosmarinifolia	Grevillea	1 x 1
Murraya paniculata	mock orange	3 x 3
Rhagodia spinescens 'Silver Border'	Creeping Salt Bush	1 x 2
GROUNDCOVERS		
Myoporum parvifolium	Creeping boobialla	0.3 x 2
Hardenbergia violacea	Purple Coral Pea	0.1 x 1
Scaevola humilis	Purple fusion	0.2 x 1.5
Viola betonicifolia	Showey Violet	0.15 x 0.7
GRASSES		
Dianella caerulea	Blue Flax Lily	0.8 x 0.8
Lomandra longifolia	Mat Rush	1 x 1
Lomandra hystrix	River Mat Rush	0.6 x 0.6
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass	0.6 x 0.6

TREE IMAGES



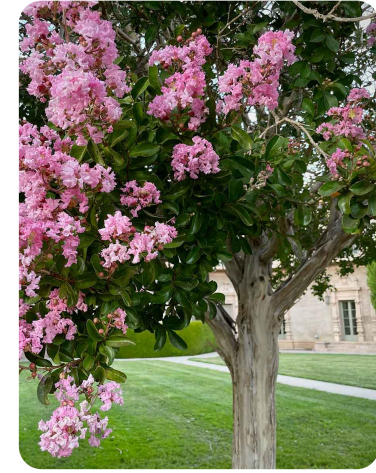
Acer buergeranum



Callistemon salignus



Fraxinus griffithii



Lagerstroemia indica



Eucalyptus camaldulensis



Eucalyptus melliodora



Eucalyptus nicholii



Eucalyptus sideroxylon

UNDERSTOREY IMAGES



Buxus microphylla



Grevillea rosmarinifolia



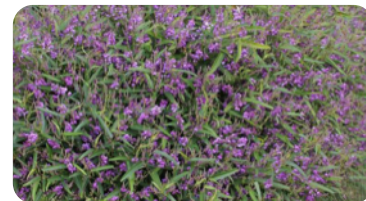
Murraya paniculata



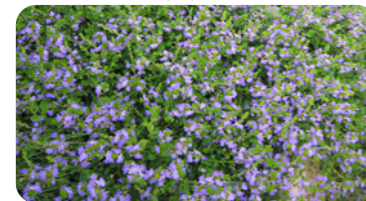
Rhagodia spinescens



Myoporum parvifolium



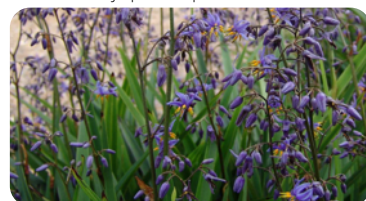
Hardenbergia violacea



Scaevola humilis



Viola betonicifolia



Dianella caerulea



Lomandra longifolia



Lomandra hystrix



Themeda triandra

NOTE: ALL TREE SPECIES SELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL'S 'STREET TREE STRATEGY - Risk Management Procedures Selection, Planting, Placement, Maintenance Of Trees And Removal Program'