



# **VICTORIA PARK DUBBO**

## **Rehabilitation Master Plan 2 0 1 1**

**LANDPLAN**

landscape architects

2101101 December 2011





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## VICTORIA PARK, DUBBO Rehabilitation

2101101

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This report describes the review process carried out leading to the recommendations for the progressive rehabilitation, upgrading and management of Victoria Park. The brief required that the historic values and original Victorian character of the Park be considered as a basic intent of the replanning process.

The process is carried out in two sections - the first phase will consider the overall parkland and the second phase focus in more detail on the Rotary Pond water precinct – the tasks for the phases include:

### Victoria Park Generally

- Review available historic data and records;
- Prepare a base plan from available data provided by Council;
- Assess the site to identify the opportunities and constraints through a comparison of the original site planning with the current situation;
- Review the existing major tree specimens, avenues and groves to determine their historic, cultural, botanic significance as well as apparent health; (it is expected that the Council arborist would be involved in the assessment process);
- Review the existing built elements to determine their historic and cultural relevance and broad apparent condition; (detail structural assessment would be by others)
- Prepare recommendations and determine a strategy for appropriate actions to rehabilitate and augment the natural and built elements of the parkland to suit current community expectations;

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### Rotary Pond Water Precinct

- Review available historic data and records;
- Prepare a base plan from available data provided by Council;
- Assess the site to identify the opportunities and constraints influencing the restoration of a water feature similar to the original design;
- Prepare schematic design documents to describe and illustrate the proposed restoration concept;
- Prepare specific recommendations to function as a brief for the future detail planning and design of the precinct.

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### 1. Executive Summary

The client brief required that the historic values and original Victorian character of the Park be considered as a basic intent of the rehabilitation planning process.

**Precinct Zones:** The form of the park can be divided into nine differing major zones, each incorporating a specific structure (or structures), each developed with specific character and function - collectively these zones create the overall site ambience.

To maintain visual and aesthetic continuity and consistency to assist visitor appreciation of the Park, it is important that these precincts have strong visual and functional inter-relationships. Desirably these should be established through a coordinated family of botanic elements as well as constructed elements and materials.

- 1. Cenotaph Precinct:** It is important that this precinct remains, for ceremonial purposes, as an extensive semicircular area of open lawn with appropriate shade trees to complement and maintain the visual importance of the avenues that generate from the Cenotaph.
- 2. Darling & Talbragar Corner:** It is important that this precinct is upgraded to accentuate its functional importance as a Park entry with appropriate rationalisation of gardens and shade trees to complement and maintain the visual importance of the avenues that generate from the precinct.
- 3. Rotary Pond or “Duck Pond”:** Rehabilitation of the pond through removal of the islands, reconfiguration of the ‘hard’ edges and rationalisation of the surrounding vegetation is the first priority.
- 4. Cottage Precinct:** It is important to investigate the possibility of changing the use of the cottage from child care to a specialised restaurant and kiosk that will provide a specialised element that will attract more patrons to Victoria Park.
- 5. Rose Garden:** Provide a garden focus for the Park with year round excellence and attraction through following traditional rose garden layouts and management by introducing surrounding geometric parterre box *Buxus* hedges together with integrated annuals and perennials.
- 6. New Annual & Perennial Gardens Precinct:** Plan a formal geometric arrangement of gardens for annuals and perennials to accentuate the visual relationship between Park and DRTCC so as to establish a colourful focal point and draw attention to Victoria Park as Darling Street and the footpath is traversed.
- 7. Talbragar Forecourt:** It is important to enhance the visual prominence of this entry with appropriate park and garden elements to complement the visual importance of the major

North South Avenue. Maintain the visual significance of the end focal points - the Cenotaph to the south and Railway buildings to the north.

8. **Recreation Shade Sail Court:** Maintain the integrity and contemporary character of the courtyard to act together with the Playground as a foil to the more traditional elements elsewhere in Victoria Park.
9. **Livvi's Place Playground Precinct:** Maintain the integrity and open character of the surrounding precinct to compliment the playground opportunities through facilitating related group activities and providing facilities for supervising carers.

**Park Entry Locations:** Pedestrian access to the park is through eight locations each with a differing character and function. It is important that each of these be suitably upgraded to accentuate the importance of Victoria Park and to provide information and directions encouraging greater public use of the Park. Vehicle access is available from Victoria Lane along the eastern boundary.

- a. Cenotaph Gate – Darling & Church Streets
- b. Darling Street DRTCC Crossover
- c. North West Corner – Darling & Talbragar Streets
- d. Talbragar Gate
- e. North East Gate – Victoria Lane
- f. East Central Gate – Victoria Lane
- g. Pond Gate – Victoria Lane to Church & Gipps Street
- h. South Side Gate – Victoria Lane to Wingewarra Street

**Darling Street DRTCC Crossover:** Develop a new street crossover opposite the DRTCC defined by the twin Livistona palms to function as an entrance to Victoria Park though the proposed Annual and Perennial Gardens precinct.

**Victoria Lane Pond Gate:** Consideration to be given to the removal of section of the southern building as well as the adjacent tree and hedge species to open up the visual relationships with the Pond precinct. Extend the East West Avenue from the Pond Gate between the sports fields to Gipps Street and create a new eastern gateway to Victoria Park.

**Circulation:** Victoria Park is accessed along eight principal pathways each with a differing character, construction materials and function. There are three primary avenues which establish the formal geometry of the Park; the others although important functionally are secondary in terms of their aesthetic relevance. It is important that each of these be appropriately upgraded to accentuate the importance of Victoria Park and to assist circulation and encourage increased use of the Park.

**Existing Vegetation Assessment:** The trees planted throughout Victoria Park from 1871 have been established initially as an integral component of the Victorian character of the Park to create

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the significant avenues complimented by the scattered specimen shade trees. Over the ensuing years, replacements and new plantings have not always continued the original design intent resulting in a dilution of the overall character and form. In addition some specimens have reached or are rapidly approaching over maturity and consideration has to be given to their continuing management and ultimate replacement.

The vegetation classification analysis drawing of the existing specimens illustrates that there is a comprehensive mix of evergreen and deciduous species throughout the park. Similarly the proportion of Australian native species and exotic species is well balanced. The specimen mix of more than 60 species conforms to the Victorian philosophy for parkland of an appropriate mix of species from many world regions.

**Avenue Character and Rehabilitation:** The shade trees forming the principal avenues to be rationalised as follows:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Avenue 1</b> | East West Avenue<br>Hoop Pine <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> – retain existing  |
| <b>Avenue 2</b> | North East Diagonal Avenue<br>Scarlet Oak <i>Quercus coccinea</i> – new avenue species   |
| <b>Avenue 3</b> | North South Avenue<br>Linden Tree <i>Tilia cordata</i> – replace with <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> once these specimens have reached over maturity |
| <b>Avenue 4</b> | Darling Street Boundary<br>Canary Island Palm <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> – retain existing   |
| <b>Avenue 5</b> | South East Diagonal Avenue<br>Tulip Tree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> – replaces <i>Grevillea robusta</i> by approx. 2020                        |
| <b>Avenue 6</b> | Talbragar Street Boundary<br>Cabbage Tree Palm <i>Livistona australis</i> – retain existing  |
| <b>Avenue 7</b> | Pool & Playground Meander<br>Flame Tree <i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i> - new avenue species   |
| <b>Avenue 8</b> | Eastern Boundary<br>Native Frangipani <i>Hymenosporum flavum</i> - new avenue species  |

Grevillea robusta to remain following comments received from the public exhibition of the VPRM. WSC13/64

Avenue 5

**General Shade Trees Rehabilitation:** There are numerous species of specimen trees used in the areas between the avenues which reflect the Victorian concept of ‘using a menagerie of plants from around the world; plantings rich in texture and colour; planted for showiness and uniqueness of individual plants’.

Detail assessment of the species mix of the general trees indicates that there are some anomalies that should desirably be modified to enhance the character of the immediate area and the park generally.

In several areas, recent plantings have introduced trees that on maturity will produce overcrowded conditions with extensive canopy cover that will reduce the exposure to sun with consequent problems for effective lawn cover. It is recommended that these specimens be removed as soon as practicable.

**Garden Areas:** There are numerous species of feature plants, shrubs, covers, annuals and perennials used throughout Victoria Park which reflect the Victorian concept of *'using a menagerie of plants from around the world; forms and varieties with unusual texture or colour; shrubs not planted for the overall aesthetics of a grouping but for the showiness and uniqueness of individual plants'*.

Generally the mix of established shrubs and covers conforms to this philosophy. It is important that the future management of the Park continues to provide the diversity that currently exists where the selection of species is generally related to the differing characters and microclimates of the various precincts.

**Existing Built Structures Assessment:** Victoria Park has developed over the years with a range of structures and furniture that does not always relate to the traditional Victorian character of the original layout and design. It is important that each of these elements be appropriately upgraded to accentuate the importance of Victoria Park and to assist specific functional issues and encourage increased use of the Park. The principal structures are described as follows:

It is recommended that a standard manual of landscape components, park furniture, signage, lighting and associated elements be established to guide the continuing future development of Victoria Park to ensure the original design philosophy is observed.

**Rotary Pond Water Precinct:** The brief requires the development of a planning strategy to progressively rehabilitate the Rotary Ponds Precinct of Victoria Park taking into consideration the initially intended design character of traditional Victorian era parkland.

Several early photographs of the precinct reveal that the ponds initially presented a 'naturalistic' character with visually 'soft' edges enhanced by surrounding tree, shrub and cover vegetation. The central fountain was the principal focal element and was viewed from around the pond perimeter.

There are three interconnected ponds spanning across the east west avenue which have become less visually significant, since their initial establishment in 1897, due to the development of 'islands' in the north and south ponds.

The traditional fountain located on the centre line of the east west avenue axis is the focus of the central pond. However the aesthetic quality of the fountain has been severely compromised by time. Similarly vegetation has developed substantially and has been inappropriately augmented resulting in further reduction in the aesthetic values of the precinct and the once visual dominance of the water.

The principal design issues for the pond rehabilitation design concept include:

- The avenue trees along the east west avenue, *Araucaria cunninghamii* Hoop Pine, to be extended beyond the Ponds to the east.
- Retain the basic form of the ponds but geometrically rationalise the shape so as to increase the visual qualities of the water body in close views as the surrounding area is traversed.
- Remove the 'islands' to open up the visual expanse of water.
- Transplant existing palms to complete the avenue along Talbragar Street boundary.
- The islands were basically intended to function as wildlife refuges and habitat but this is not functioning well and is visually negative.
- Relocate the wildlife habitat to the edges of the north and south ponds and enclose it by fences.
- Rationalise and integrate the grass mounds on the immediate east side of the Ponds to form the proposed wildlife forest along the pond edge south of the east west avenue.
- Rationalise the existing pathway system to suit desire lines as the Park is traversed.
- Establish a boardwalk to cross the pond defining and separating the northern and central sections. This will provide a more direct access route east – west and importantly allow ease of viewing of the aquatic and wetland margin plants.
- Locate a shelter on the south pond to function as an interpretive centre, for relaxation and observation and also as a stage for performance related to the adjacent western lawns.



## 2. Site Assessment

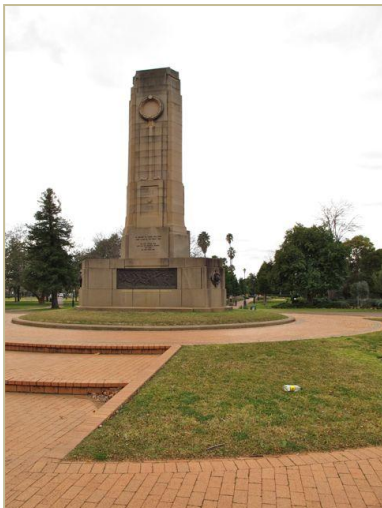
Following the public exhibition of the VPRMP Council resolved the following:

"Acknowledge pre European Aboriginal occupation and use of the site that is now referred to as Victoria Park through appropriate interpretative means, and the development of this interpretation be undertaken with input of the Dubbo Aboriginal Working Party". WSC13/64

Victoria Park was gazetted in 1871, the central fountain added to the 'Duck Pond' in 1897 and the War Memorial erected in 1926; since then a series of ad hoc developments have compromised the initial design philosophy of the Park. The original form of the Park has been largely retained but it is evident that a number of elements have been added, some enhanced and others possibly removed. Consequently the original strong Victorian character of the Park has been modified through some inappropriate decisions.

In order to understand the current character and composition of Victoria Park and its historic, botanic, horticultural, functional and aesthetic qualities the site has been assessed and classified into a series of components. Each of these have been individually assessed to determine a series of recommendations to guide the planning for the progressive rehabilitation process.

*The number references in brackets in the following text relate to those shown on the Principal Elements Assessment - drawing 1*



### 2.1. Precinct Zones

The form of the park can be divided into nine differing major zones, each incorporating a specific structure (or structures), each developed with specific character and function - collectively these zones create the overall site ambience. To maintain visual and aesthetic continuity and consistency to assist visitor appreciation of the Park, it is important that these precincts have strong visual and functional inter-relationships. Desirably these should be established through a coordinated family of botanic elements as well as constructed elements and materials.

In the continuing rehabilitation of the Park it is important that each of these precincts be suitably augmented and or upgraded to re-establish and accentuate the original Victorian heritage and community importance of Victoria Park. The assessment process has considered each of these precincts and has resulted in the following observations and recommendations.

*The number references in brackets in the following text relate to those shown on the Principal Elements Assessment - drawing 1*

#### 2.1.1. Cenotaph Precinct (A)

The Cenotaph is the principal visual element of the Park, located on the extended centreline of Church Street which continues as a visual axis and pathway directly across the Park to the east. The Cenotaph is the focus of three pathways and their related avenues – the East West Avenue (1); North East Diagonal Avenue (2); North South Avenue (3). A fourth avenue along the Darling Street boundary (4) meets the precinct at a tangent.

The Cenotaph is formally surrounded by concentric paving bands, gardens and lawns. The Cenotaph Gate (a) at the Darling Street boundary is defined by commemorative gates, pillars and a chain fence to mark the main pedestrian entry to Victoria Park.

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A second smaller monument is located centrally at the commencement of the North South Avenue.



### *RECOMMENDATION*

*It is important that this precinct remains as an extensive semicircular area of open space lawn with appropriate shade trees to complement and maintain the visual importance of the avenues that generate from the Cenotaph.*

*It may be necessary to remove some existing specimens to ensure that the space does not become over cluttered as the trees mature and the leaf canopy provides too much shade for successful lawn cover.*

### 2.1.2. North West Corner Precinct (B)

The corner of Darling Street and Talbragar Street is the second major entry (c) to the Park; the precinct is defined by a series of stone walls, gardens and pavements. It is the generating point of four avenues - South East Diagonal Avenue (5); Pool and Playground Meander (7); as well as the tangential avenues along the Darling Street (4) and Talbragar Street (6) boundaries.



### *RECOMMENDATION*

*It is important that this precinct is upgraded to accentuate its functional importance as an entry with appropriate rationalisation of gardens and shade trees to complement and maintain the visual importance of the avenues that generate from the precinct.*

### 2.1.3. Rotary Pond (Queens Lake) Precinct (C)

*Refer to the section 5 & detail planning drawings*

The Rotary Pond and its surrounds is as visually important as the Cenotaph and provides the most diverse and interesting precinct of Victoria Park. The East West Avenue (1) continues from the Cenotaph along the extended centreline of Church Street, visually dissects the pond and continues through the Pond Gate (f) beyond the Park to the eastern sports fields. The Pond, the associated trees and gardens provide an asymmetric organic focal element, the counterpoint to the Cenotaph memorial at the western end. There are no other formal axes or avenues that directly relate to this precinct.



The precinct is physically and visually contained around its perimeter by the buildings, hedges and gardens; the northern side of the east west axis is primarily groves of trees, gardens and structures; the southern side is largely open lawn areas with scattered older and more recent shade trees and picnic furniture.



### *Pond Rehabilitation*

Photographs of the pond in its original configuration reveal that its design was a much more 'natural' character with irregular planted edges and wider expanses of water over which the central fountain could be viewed. Apparently some year's later two islands were introduced, one to each end of the pond and planted

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with palms and other vegetation. The result is that the once extensive area of water has been substantially reduced both physically and visually to leave only a narrow curving channel. Removal of the islands would allow restoration of the original expanse of water and substantially increase its visual dominance as a major element of Victoria Park.

### *Structures & Pathways*

The precinct contains three building structures which have a major visual and functional influence on the character and aesthetics of the area - Orchid House; Orchid Meeting Room, store, kitchen, change room and toilets; Cacti House. The configuration of the meandering pathways around both sides of the Pond provides an indirect and confusing access to the buildings and to the park entrances (e & f).

The East West Avenue (1) commences between the two Orchid Houses but the configuration of buildings, trees and hedges substantially reduces the visual significance of the entrance (g) experience. Rationalisation of these elements would enable a more significant entrance to the Park to be developed. (A proposed new clubhouse is planned in Victoria Park 3 and this may allow the existing toilets & change rooms to be removed.)

The East Central Gate (f) has a much stronger aesthetic established by brick pillars, fence, gates and hedges that relate to the Orchid House entry forecourt. It is of similar style and age to the entry gates on the western side of the pond precinct. From this forecourt the path (7) commences and meanders across the Park providing access to the Playground and then the DALC swimming pool. Consequently this gate is currently the more significant of the two that serve this precinct.

### *RECOMMENDATION*

*It is important that this precinct is upgraded to accentuate its importance as a major Park focus and point of interest.*

*Rehabilitation of the pond through removal of the islands, reconfiguration of the 'hard' edges and rationalisation of the surrounding vegetation is the first priority.*

*Revising the pathway circulation pattern to emphasise the axial nature of the corridor and the relationship to the buildings and entrances is similarly important.*

*Rationalise the trees and furniture of the surrounding areas of lawn to integrate with the enhanced pond environs and incorporate an intimate performance area related to a large pond side shelter.*

### 2.1.4. Cottage Precinct (D)

The original Colleen Montgomery Cottage now functions as a child care centre. This important Federation style building is the central focus in views from all directions in the surrounding precinct. Consequently it has an important role as one of the major elements of Victoria Park. Unfortunately over the years extensions have been added which are architecturally inappropriate and compromise its aesthetic values.

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The building is surrounded by remnants of Victorian gardens, gazebo and seating, most notably a formal fountain and hedges. The building is screened by dense vegetation to the south and east which effectively divides it from the Pond Precinct.

The building precinct is basically bounded three avenues - to the south by East West (1), the north by North East Diagonal (2) and the west by South East Diagonal. Each of these routes provides excellent views to the Cottage and the remnant gardens.

### RECOMMENDATION

*It is important to investigate the possibility of changing the use of the cottage to a specialised restaurant and kiosk that will provide a specialised element that will attract more patrons to Victoria Park.*

*Rehabilitation and expansion of the surrounding gardens to recreate an appropriately related Federation theme will complement the proposed restaurant; the provision of outdoor dining areas would be desirable.*



### 2.1.5. Rose Garden (E)

The Rose Garden was established to commemorate the visit to Dubbo by Queen Elizabeth II in 1954. The focus of the radial gardens is a stone obelisk that was unveiled by the Queen.

The Rose Garden is bounded to the south by the North East Diagonal Avenue (2), to the west by the North South Avenue (3) and to the north by the Pool and Playground Meander (7). All of these pathways provide excellent views inviting closer inspection of the Rose Garden.

Many of the specimens in the Rose Garden are over mature and others have died or were otherwise removed. The whole garden is lack lustre and requires appropriate rehabilitation and revitalisation.

### RECOMMENDATION

*Reference to traditional rose garden layouts and management with surrounding geometric parterre box hedges also using integrated annuals and perennials will provide a garden focus with year round excellence and attraction.*



### 2.1.6. Annual & Perennial Gardens (F)

The forecourt to the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre (DRTCC), an important community venue, is across Darling Street basically opposite the twin *Livistona australis* specimen palms located within the lengthy boundary avenue of *Phoenix canariensis*. These palms flank the informal, basically triangular, open lawn area extending into the Park from the street boundary to the intersection of the North South Avenue (3) and the South East Diagonal Avenue (5). The opportunity exists to use these twin specimen palms as a 'gateway' to frame a view corridor between the DRTCC and Victoria Park. To emphasise and define

this view, establish a formal layout of gardens for the display of annual and perennial bedding plants. Investigate the construction of a pedestrian street crossing planned to encourage each-way access across Darling Street linking the Park with the DRTCC.

### *RECOMMENDATION*

*Plan a formal geometric arrangement of gardens for annuals and perennials to accentuate the visual relationship between Park and DRTCC so as to establish a colourful focal point and draw attention to Victoria Park as Darling Street and the footpath is traversed.*



### 2.1.7. Talbragar Forecourt (G)

The North South Avenue (3) is visually the strongest axial corridor which extends from the Cenotaph through the Park to the entry gate at Talbragar Street (d). The corridor visually continues across the street to focus on the railway station heritage building complex. The Talbragar Street boundary is defined by commemorative gates, pillars and chain fence to define the entry to Victoria Park. This important entry should be enhanced by appropriate rehabilitation of the existing elements.



The Pool and Playground Meander pathway (7) crosses the corridor to provide access to the Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre (DALC) swimming pool and beyond. The close visual and physical relationships with the buildings, entrance pathways and the off street carpark are effectively strong components which are integral elements of the Talbragar Forecourt. However these two elements partially detract from the overall aesthetic of this northern section of the North South Avenue (3).

### *RECOMMENDATION*

*It is important to enhance the visual prominence of this entry with appropriate park and garden elements to complement the visual importance of the major North South Avenue. Maintain the visual significance of the end focal points - the Cenotaph to the south and Railway buildings to the north.*

*Ensure consideration is given to the appropriate functional and visual relationships of access to the DALC complex and carpark to ensure that the significance of the overall Talbragar Forecourt is not compromised.*



### 2.1.8. Recreation Shade Court (H)

The Pool and Playground Meander pathway (7) is the central access through the Recreation Shade Court. The area is an innovative courtyard of exercise equipment, seating, pergolas and shade sails closely associated with the perimeter fence of the swimming pool. The area has several significant shade trees and a buffer of mixed species screening the pool fence. The courtyard provides direct visual and physical access to the Rose Garden and the pathways also focuses on the playground to the eastern side of the Park.

### *RECOMMENDATION*

*Maintain the integrity and contemporary character of the courtyard to act together with the Playground as a foil to the more traditional elements elsewhere in Victoria Park.*



### 2.1.9. Playground Precinct (I)

The Playground precinct is a recent addition to Victoria Park with a strong contemporary character that provides a specific attraction to the younger generations and their parents. The precinct also contains a public toilet building which is relatively well located and unobtrusive. Consideration could be given to upgrading the facility to conform with current access & safety standards and also improving its visual integration. The precinct is bounded to the north by the North East Diagonal Avenue (2) while the Pool and Playground Meander pathway (7) traverses the southern side.

### *RECOMMENDATION*

*Maintain the integrity and open character of the surrounding precinct to compliment the playground opportunities through facilitating related group activities and providing facilities for supervising carers.*

## 2.2. Park Entry Locations

Pedestrian access to the park is through eight locations each with a differing character and function. It is important that each of these be suitably upgraded to accentuate the importance of Victoria Park and to provide information and directions for encouraging the use of the Park. Vehicle access is available from Victoria Lane along the eastern boundary.

Five of the park entries are located as integral elements of the various principal precincts and particular details have been included in the relative description contained in section 2.1. The remaining three entries provide access to general areas of the Park and are discussed in this section.

*The number references in brackets in the following text relate to those shown on the Principal Elements Assessment - drawing 1*

### 2.2.1. Cenotaph Gate (a) - Darling & Church Streets



This is the principal and formal or ceremonial entrance to Victoria Park. The Darling Street park boundary is defined by commemorative gates, pillars and a chain fence to mark the main entry to Victoria Park. This gate is seen from the west along the centreline of Church Street; the axis continues to the east across the park as the East West Avenue (1).

#### RECOMMENDATION

*It is important that this gate maintains its significance as the main ceremonial entry to Victoria Park.*

### 2.2.2. DRTCC Crossover (b) - Darling Street



The DRTCC on the opposite side of Darling Street provides the opportunity to provide a physical road crossing and visual link to Victoria Park through a special layout of gardens for the display of annuals and perennials. This entry would not be a formal gateway but rather the opportunity to traverse the formal gardens along paved pathways and lawns.

#### RECOMMENDATION

*Develop a new street crossover opposite the DRTCC related to the twin Livistona palms to function as an entrance to Victoria Park though the proposed Annual and Perennial Gardens precinct.*

### 2.2.3. North West Corner (c) - Darling & Talbragar Streets



The corner of Darling Street and Talbragar Street is the second major entry area to the Park defined by a series of stone walls, gardens and pavements. The area requires to be upgraded to enhance the arrival experience and appropriately define it as one of the four main entries to the Park.

#### RECOMMENDATION

*Rehabilitate the entry forecourt to integrate with the existing pedestrian street crossovers, incorporate appropriate signage, pavements, trees, gardens, and furniture. Accentuate its functional importance as an entry by complementing and maintaining the visual importance of the avenues that generate from the precinct.*

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### 2.2.4. Talbragar Gate (d)

The North South Axis Avenue (1) extends from the Cenotaph and terminates at the entry gate across Talbragar Street. The Talbragar Street boundary is defined by commemorative gates, pillars and a chain fence to mark the entry to Victoria Park.

#### *RECOMMENDATION*

*It is important to maintain the visual prominence of this entry with appropriate treatment to complement and maintain the visual importance of the major North South Avenue.*



### 2.2.5. North East Gate (e) - Victoria Lane north

The sporting fields and facilities to the east of Victoria Park are served by this entrance which provides direct access to the Playground and DALC swimming pool then throughout the Park along the North East Diagonal Avenue (2). It is proposed to establish a secondary avenue along this pathway which leads directly to the Cenotaph. Currently the entry area is not particularly well defined as a Park entrance, although the adjacent areas are used for parking.

#### *RECOMMENDATION*

*It is important to address the visual amenity of this entry and enhance the view to the end focal point of the Cenotaph through rationalising the tree species along the North East Diagonal Avenue.*



### 2.2.6. East Central Gate (f) - Victoria Lane

The sporting fields and facilities to the east of Victoria Park are served by this entrance. It is the eastern end of the Pool & Playground Meander (7) pathway which continues to the North West Corner (c). This entry also provides access to the Orchid and Cacti Houses and to the Rotary Pond precinct and then throughout the Park along the East West Avenue (1). Currently the entry area is defined by gates, brick walls, hedges and gardens which define the Park entrance. The adjacent road and field areas are used for parking.

#### *RECOMMENDATION*

*It is important to address the visual amenity of this entry and enhance the space as an integral component of the redevelopment of the Rotary Pond Precinct.*



### 2.2.7. Pond Gate (g) - Victoria Lane to Church & Gipps Streets

The sporting fields and facilities to the east of Victoria Park are served by this entrance. It is the eastern extent of the East West Avenue (1). The axis continues across Victoria Lane through the traffic island garden and between the sports fields to continue the Church Street axis.

The opportunity exists to extend the formal East West pathway (1) and the avenue planting of *Araucaria cunninghamii* Hoop Pine between the sports ovals to the intersection of Church and Gipps Street. Create a comparable entry gate at this location as the eastern gateway to Victoria Park



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Extended avenue to Gipps Street

This entry provides direct access to the Rotary Pond (C) precinct and then throughout the Park along various walkways. Currently the entry area is not particularly well defined as a Park entrance, although the adjacent areas are used for parking.

### *RECOMMENDATION*

*It is important to address the visual amenity of this entry and enhance the space as an integral component of the redevelopment of the Rotary Pond Precinct. Consideration to be given to the removal of section of the southern building as well as the tree and hedge species to open up the visual relationships with the precinct.*

*Extend the East West Avenue between the sports fields to the Church and Gipps Street intersection and create a new eastern entry gateway to Victoria Park.*



2.2.8. South Side Gate (h) - *Victoria Lane to Wingewarra Street*  
Access from Wingewarra Street, the Western Plains Cultural Centre and the sporting fields to the south of Victoria Park are served by this entrance. It is the southern end of the South East Diagonal Avenue (5) extending from the North West Corner (c).

This entry provides access to the Rotary Pond (C) precinct and then throughout the Park along various walkways. Currently the entry area is not particularly well defined as a Park entrance, although the adjacent road areas are used for parking.

### *RECOMMENDATION*

*It is important to address the visual amenity of this entry and enhance the space as an integral component of the redevelopment of the Rotary Pond Precinct.*

### 2.3. Circulation

Victoria Park is accessed along eight principal pathways each with a differing character, construction materials and function. There are three primary avenues which establish the formal geometry of the Park; the others although important functionally are secondary in terms of their aesthetic relevance. It is important that each of these be appropriately upgraded to accentuate the importance of Victoria Park and to assist circulation and encourage increased use of the Park.

*The number references in brackets in the following text relate to those shown on the Principal Elements Assessment - drawing 1*

#### 2.3.1. East West Avenue (1) – a primary avenue



This path is constructed of concrete unit pavers in a warm brown. It is important to maintain this character as one of the four primary avenues. The avenue is defined by juvenile Hoop Pines along most of its length.

This path commences at the Cenotaph Precinct (A) but is interrupted by the Rotary Pond. In this precinct this path divides to meander around the pools providing indirect access to the entry areas (g & f). The redevelopment of the Pond Precinct will replan the circulation to provide more direct but interesting access through the precinct.

#### 2.3.2. North East Diagonal Avenue (2) – a secondary avenue



This axial path commences at acute angle from the Cenotaph paving diverting around an existing tree, and then continues diagonally across the park to the North East Gate (e). There are several significant trees along the route but there is no definite formal avenue which is desirable in order to accentuate the corridor.

This path is constructed of concrete unit pavers in a warm brown. In the short term this surface to be retained however it is desirable to change the surface to a more sympathetic material. The surface has to withstand traverse by skateboards, bikes etc as this is a major link between the CBD via Church Street and the skatepark.

#### 2.3.3. North South Avenue (3) – a primary avenue



This avenue is the most prominent of those on site due largely to the width of the walkway and the mature shade trees *Jacaranda mimosaeifolia* that provide the overhead canopy.

The walkway is surfaced by compacted decomposed granite which provides an excellent surface reminiscent of the Victorian era parks of England and Europe. This surface width accentuates the view to the Cenotaph and provides opportunity for introducing appropriate elements for seating and promenade. It is important to maintain the character of the corridor once the large over-mature trees need to be replaced.

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### 2.3.4. Darling Street Boundary (4) – a secondary avenue

The standard council concrete footpath along Darling Street is defined by a linear avenue of distinctive palms *Phoenix canariensis* extending parallel to the site boundary. This is an excellent selection for a distinctive specimen with a tall erect trunk and spherical head of feather fronds.

Two *Livistona australis* palms interrupt the avenue but it is suggested that they be retained insitu to define the proposed zone of annual and perennial gardens – refer to clause 2.3.6.



### 2.3.5. South East Diagonal Avenue (5) – a primary avenue

This is a significant avenue that links the North West Corner (c) to the South Side Gate (h) crossing the other two primary avenues. These three axial avenues create the strong triangular geometric layout that extends to the site perimeter at five of the most important entry areas (a, c, d, g & h). The avenue is currently defined by over mature *Grevillea robusta* Silky Oak trees.

This path is constructed of concrete unit pavers in a warm brown. In the short term this surface to be retained however it is desirable to change the surface to a more sympathetic material.



### 2.3.6. Pool & Playground Meander (7) – a secondary avenue

This pathway commences at the North West Corner (c) and meanders to the DALC swimming pool forecourt across the North South Avenue (3) through a mixed grove of shade trees. It recommences at the North South Avenue to meander past the Recreation Shade Court (H), Rose Garden (E) and Playground (I) to the East Central Entry (f). There is no distinctive association of shade tree species along the route.

The pathway has a variety of surfaces from concrete to pavers. Desirably the pavement material should be replaced with an appropriate material and the tree species along the corridor should be coordinated to reinforce the importance of this secondary circulation route



### 2.3.7. Talbragar Street Boundary (6) – a secondary avenue

The standard council concrete footpath along Talbragar Street is defined by a linear avenue of distinctive palms *Livistona australis* extending parallel to the site Boundary. This is a distinctive specimen with a tall erect trunk and spherical head of palmate fronds.

The missing specimens of *Livistona australis* palms should be replaced by specimens transplanted from the islands in the Rotary Ponds (C) refer to clause 2.3.3

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### 2.3.8. Eastern Boundary (8) – a secondary avenue

There is no formal footpath along Victoria Lane on the eastern side of the Park except for a section of concrete footpath associated with the Orchid House and Orchid Meeting Rooms, Store and Toilets. There is no continuous street tree along this boundary except for a short avenue of Native Frangipani *Hymenosporum flavum* in the Playground buffer.

It is important to establish the continuous footpath along the boundary to provide for access to the three entry areas located along the corridor from the adjacent roadside parking areas.

### 3. Existing Vegetation Assessment

#### 3.1. Victorian Parkland Design Qualities

The brief requires the development of a planning strategy to progressively restore Victoria Park to its initially intended design character of Victorian parkland. Consequently some related research has been done to assist in defining the criteria for assessment of the existing and selection of additional tree species. The following comments reproduced from various sources give an indication of the basic design qualities & intent followed in that era.

- *The Victorians took gardening into another dimension, the modern form of landscaping, producing truly creative designs using a menagerie of plants from around the world.*
- *Exterior plantings are rich in texture and colour that, to our eyes, may seem garish, with trees and flowerbeds randomly dotting an expanse of lawn.*
- *Trees and shrubs, including the new weeping and contorted forms and varieties with unusual texture or colour are all planted as specimens.*
- *Shrubs were planted so that each one would stand on its own rather than blending together. A variety of plants were chosen for uniqueness in blossom, shape or variety.*
- *The point was not the overall aesthetics of a grouping but the showiness and uniqueness of individual plants. The goal seemed to be to find that special specimen that no other could find.*

The trees planted throughout Victoria Park have been established initially as an integral component of the Victorian character of the Park to create the significant avenues complimented by the scattered specimen shade trees. Over the ensuing years, replacements and new plantings have not always continued the original design intent resulting in a dilution of the overall character and form. In addition some specimens have reached or are rapidly approaching over maturity and consideration has to be given to their continuing management and ultimate replacement.

Each of the trees has been generally assessed to identify the principal qualities that contribute to the current aesthetic character of Victoria Park. It is important that a qualified arborist investigates the specimens more fully to identify specific health and management issues. The assessment process adopted a classification system of seven categories to rate the trees:

- Mature specimen – healthy
- Mature specimen – aged and or unhealthy
- Juvenile specimen – healthy
- Juvenile specimen – misshapen
- Unique / heritage specimen
- Requires arborist / tree surgery
- Remove or replace specimen

Refer to the Existing Vegetation Quality Assessment - drawing 2 which defines the location and status of each major specimen tree using these categories. The number references in brackets in the following text relate to those shown on this drawing.

### 3.2. Existing Tree Schedules

The existing trees have been located and identified by Council staff and documented by superimposing relative numbers over the aerial photo of the site. The species schedule has been analysed to group the specimens by tree type and these have been graphically located and represented on the *Existing Vegetation Species Assessment* - drawing 3

*Australian native specimens are identified by an asterisk \**  
*Reference numbers are from the Victoria Park Tree Canopy Identification Plan*

#### EVERGREEN TREES

1	*Acmena smithii
5	Arbutus unedo
10	*Callistemon salignus
11	*Callistemon viminalis
12	Calodendrum capense
14	*Casuarina cunninghamiana
19	Ceratonia siliqua
21	Cinnamomum camphora
25	*Eucalyptus sp.
26	*Eucalyptus microcorys
27	*Eucalyptus scoparia
28	*Eucalyptus sideroxylon
29	*Eucalyptus sp
30	*Eucalyptus torelliana
33	*Geijera salicifolia
35	*Grevillea robusta
37	*Hymenosporum flavum
47	Magnolia grandiflora
46	Magnolia Little Gem
48	*Melaleuca styphelioides
50	Nerium oleander
51	Olea europaea

#### DECIDUOUS TREES

2	Acer negundo
6	*Brachychiton bidwillii
7	*Brachychiton populneus
13	Carya Illinoensis

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16	<i>Celtis australis</i>
17	<i>Celtis</i> sp
18	<i>Celtis australis</i>
22	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>
31	<i>Fraxinus griffithii</i>
32	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia raywoodii</i>
34	<i>Ginko biloba</i>
38	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>
39	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>
40	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
41	<i>Ligustrum</i> sp.
42	<i>Ligustrum</i> sp.
43	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
44	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
49	* <i>Melia azedarach</i>
55	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>
56	<i>Platanus x hybrida</i>
58	<i>Populus alba</i>
59	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
62	<i>Prunus persica</i>
60	<i>Prunus</i> sp
61	<i>Prunus</i> sp Cherry
63	<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>
64	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
66	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>
67	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>
68	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>
71	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>
72	<i>Ulmus procera</i>

### CONIFER

3	* <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>
4	* <i>Araucaria hetrophylla</i>
15	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>
20	<i>Chamaecyparis</i> sp
53	<i>Pinus pinea</i>
54	<i>Pinus</i> sp.
57	* <i>Podocarpus elatus</i>
69	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
70	<i>Thuja orientalis</i>

### **PALMS & PALM LIKE**

8	Butia capitata
23	Cycad sp
24	Dracena sp
45	*Livistona australis
52	Phoenix canariensis
73	Washingtonia filifera

### **SHRUBS**

9	Buxus japonica
36	Lonicera sp Honey Suckle
65	Rosa sp

### **Interpretation**

The vegetation classification analysis drawing of the existing specimens illustrates that there is a comprehensive mix of evergreen and deciduous species throughout the park. Similarly the proportion of Australian native species and exotic species is well balanced.

The specimen mix of more than 60 species conforms to the Victorian philosophy for parkland of an appropriate mix of species from many world regions.

*Refer to section 3.3 Avenue Character and Rehabilitation for suggested procedures to rationalise and manage the shade trees in the principal avenues.*

*Refer to section 3.4 General Trees Rehabilitation for suggested procedures to rationalise and manage the shade trees in the areas between the principal avenues.*



### 3.3. Avenue Character and Rehabilitation



**Principal Avenue one:** the East West Avenue (Cenotaph thru the Duck Pond) is dominantly planted with Hoop Pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* with mixed species beyond the Duck Ponds - *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Acmena smithii*, *Callistemon viminalis*, *Eucalyptus torrelliana*, *Thuja orientalis*;

*Design Theme:*

This existing species will develop to create a tall erect avenue with a strong formal evergreen conifer character.

*Species recommendation:*

Specimens in the Hoop Pine section are of reasonable quality and should be retained. The mixed section beyond the Duck Pond should be revised to complete the Hoop Pine theme. This will be covered by the Duck Pond redesign process.

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**Avenue two:** the central diagonal pathway, linking the Cenotaph to the eastern Boundary is not formally defined but a mix of shade trees are located in random groups along the route – *Ulmus parvifolia*, *Platanus x hybrida*, *Cinnamomum camphora*, *Melia azedarach*

*Design Theme:*

This avenue should establish a strong linear element that compliments but does not overpower the tall erect specimens of the principal avenues one and three adjacent. The species should be deciduous to provide seasonal foliage colour; lower growing, rounded with a spreading form to arch over the pathway.

*Species recommendation:*

***Quercus coccinea* - Scarlet Oak**

12m x 8m; juvenile form pyramidal ageing to open & broadly rounded form; moderate to fast growth; adaptable; brilliant scarlet autumn foliage; can be difficult to transplant; very hardy once established;

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**Principal Avenue three:** the North / South Avenue (Cenotaph toward swimming pool and Talbragar Street) is currently planted with Jacaranda *Jacaranda mimosaeifolia*; these specimens may not continue to develop to optimum aesthetic quality as they are not specifically suited to the local climate – ultimate replacement is desirable once they have reached over maturity.

*Design Theme:*

This avenue visually compliments the East West Avenue (1) - Hoop Pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* and the selected species should be similarly tall specimens with formal character but not necessarily evergreen.

*Species recommendation:*

***Tilia cordata* - Linden Tree or Basswood**



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10m x 8m; columnar to rounded form; forms good uniform avenue; fast growing; perfumed flowers; yellow autumn leaves; slow recovery from transplant;

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**Avenue four:** the Darling Street boundary is defined by a mature avenue of *Phoenix canariensis* however several specimens are missing;

*Species Recommendation:* transplant matching specimens from Avenue 6 to complete the avenue.

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Avenue to remain as *Grevillea robusta* following public exhibition of the VPRMP. WSC13/64

**Principal Avenue five:** the central diagonal avenue, linking the Darling & Talbragar street intersection to the sports fields and Western Plains Cultural centre (WPCC), is currently defined by a double avenue of Silky Oak *Grevillea robusta*; at the sports field end the Silky Oak are replaced by two *Ginkgo biloba* and a close line of six *Pistachia chinensis*;

The *Grevillea robusta* specimens are reaching maturity and not continuing to develop well or uniformly - replacement with a more suitable species is desirable. Replacement of these species has already commenced with Chinese Elm *Celtis parvifolia*, however it is suggested that this species does not meet the design criteria for this Park and an alternative species is to be considered.

### *Design Theme:*

This avenue dissects and links the North South Avenue (3), North East Diagonal Avenue (2) & East West Avenue (1). The walkway, the widest in the park, generates from the street corner intersection leading visitors diagonally through Victoria Park to the sports fields on the south. The selected avenue species should reflect and compliment the form and colour of the tall erect specimens along the other principal avenues (1 & 3). Desirably the species should, provide seasonal flower and foliage colour, with the canopy extending over the walkway to provide a distinctive arbour character.

### *Species recommendation:*

#### ***Liriodendron tulipifera* – Tulip Tree**

13m x 8m; tall columnar form; moderately fast grower; fragrant spring flowers; rich golden autumn foliage; prefers deep well drained soils; has an extensive root system; requires irrigation in dry periods; in moist humid climates mildew and insects can disfigure foliage but given the drier climate of Dubbo it is unlikely that this will be a problem.

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**Avenue six:** the Talbragar Street boundary is defined by an avenue of semi-mature *Livistona australis* up to the DALC carpark, then it becomes fragmented with other species. *Lagerstroemia indica* and *Tristaniopsis laurina* have been planted on the northern side, chosen due to the large number of overhead and underground services that restrict height and growth.

*Species Recommendation:* wherever possible continue the avenue planting of ***Livistona australis*** possibly sourced from the Rotary Pond islands



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**Avenue seven:** a meandering pathway, linking the Darling & Talbragar street intersection to the DALC swimming pool complex and beyond to the Playground; currently passes through a random mix of species unrelated to the pathway – *Brachychiton bidwillii*, *Ligustrum vulgare* (weed species to be removed); *Gigera salicifolia*; *Eucalyptus microcorys* *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*;

*Design Theme:*

This pathway not to be defined by a formal avenue, but rather irregularly shaded by the existing mixed tree specimens and a new species along the route. The selected species to integrate with adjacent retained species; to be evergreen / semi deciduous, with seasonal flowering; naturally rounded canopy that compliments the adjacent taller principal avenues three and five.

*Species recommendation:*

***Brachychiton acerifolius* - Flame Tree**

### 3.4. General Trees Rehabilitation

There are numerous species of specimen trees used in the areas between the avenues which reflect the Victorian concept of '*using a menagerie of plants from around the world; plantings rich in texture and colour; planted for showiness and uniqueness of individual plants*'.

Detail assessment of the species mix of the general trees indicates that there are some anomalies that should desirably be modified to enhance the character of the immediate area and the park generally.

In several areas, recent plantings have introduced trees that on maturity will produce overcrowded conditions with extensive canopy cover that will reduce the exposure to sun with consequent problems for effective lawn cover. It is recommended that these specimens be removed as soon as practicable.

*The General Shade Trees Rationalisation - drawing 4 - illustrates the recommended rationalisation of the specimen trees in the general park areas.*

For ease of reference and character relevance the rationalisation of the existing shade trees is considered precinct by precinct. Specific recommendations for each precinct are as follows:

#### **Cenotaph Precinct (A)**

- Transplant one *Phoenix canariensis* from Avenue 6 to continue the avenue to the south side of the entry pavement and define the 'gateway'
- Long term replacement of the existing avenue (3) of *Jacaranda mimosifolia* with *Tilia cordata*
- Remove the over mature *Populus deltoides*
- Lift the canopy of the grove of three *Fraxinus raywoodii* to open up the view from the paved area and highlight the three recently planted *Magnolia grandiflora*
- Construct a matching diagonal path to the south side of the *Taxodium distichum* to function as the triangular commencement of the North East Diagonal Avenue (2)
- Manage the juvenile avenue of *Araucaria cunninghamii* along Avenue (1) to promote optimum uniform growth;
- Commence planting the avenue of *Quercus coccinea* along Avenue (2);
- Simplify the shrub gardens and related small trees located centrally and along the south side boundary to formalise the beds to compliment and accentuate the avenues (1 & 3)

#### **North West Corner Precinct (B)**

- Transplant two *Phoenix canariensis* to continue avenue (4) along Darling Street from Avenue 6
- Transplant two *Phoenix canariensis* from Talbragar Street avenue (6) and replace with *Livistona australis* transplanted from pond islands
- Replace the existing avenue (5) of *Grevillea robusta* with *Liriodendron tulipifera*

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- Interplant *Brachychiton acerifolius* along avenue (7) between the preserved existing shade trees to create an informal avenue.
- Assess the large specimen *Grevillea robusta* to see if tree surgery will rehabilitate, otherwise remove.
- Remove the two *Ligustrum vulgare* weed tree species.



### Rotary Pond Precinct (C)

Refer to the section 5 & detail planning drawings

- Manage the juvenile avenue of *Araucaria cunninghamii* along Avenue (1) to promote optimum uniform growth;
- Remove the large *Eucalyptus torelliana* at the southern end of avenue (1) and replace with *Araucaria cunninghamii* to define the avenue
- Extend the existing avenue of *Hymenosporum flavum* in the Playground along the eastern boundary to form avenue (8); replace the specimens of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* and other species
- Continue planting of *Liriodendron tulipifera* along avenue (5); retain the two *Ginkgo biloba* and the line of *Pistacia chinensis* at the southern end of avenue (5)
- Remove the existing Privet *Ligustrum* & conifer hedges *Chamaecyparis sp* & *Thuja orientalis* screening the Orchid Houses and replace with pergola structure – refer to detail plan
- Transplant the existing palms from the islands to various locations on site
- Assess the *Ceratonia siliqua* beside the pond for health, prune carefully to enhance its unique form as a main focus of the precinct
- Assess the *Araucaria bidwillii* beside the pond for health, prune carefully to enhance its unique form as a main focus of the precinct
- Remove the two small shade trees on the north side of avenue (1) to the west of the Orchid House to allow development of a display garden
- Remove the *Pinus sp* in the centre of the *Jacaranda* grove on the north of the precinct
- Rationalise the shrub gardens adjacent the Cottage to enhance and integrate with the precinct redevelopment and as a visual definition
- Replace the existing hedges containing the precinct to the west and south - currently Privet *Ligustrum sp* & African Olive *Olea europaea ssp cuspidata* (both weed species) with *Photinia robusta*; extend the hedge informally along the southern and eastern boundary to visually define the precinct but allow access to the adjacent roads and parking
- Maintain the existing specimen shade trees, mature and juvenile, to provide shade to the open lawns and furniture; the proposed reconstruction provides for a pond side shelter to function as a stage for cultural activities.
- On completion of the rejuvenation, consider renaming the Rotary Pond as Queens Lake to reflect its original design philosophy and significance in Victoria Park.

### Cottage Precinct (D)

- Commence planting the avenue of *Quercus coccinea* along Avenue (2) to the site boundary between the retained specimens of *Platanus x hybrid*
- Retain all other trees and integrate within the proposed Federation character heritage gardens surrounding the potential future restaurant and café
- Maintain a basically open sunny area and ensure that views to the cottage from all surrounding pathways are maintained and enhanced
- Rehabilitate the circular garden bed for annual display surrounding the intersection of avenues (1 & 5)

### Rose Garden (E)

- Retain the open sunny character of the surrounds
- Maintain the open view from the Recreation Court and avenue (7)
- Maintain the view between the trees and under the canopy from avenue (5)
- Develop the Rose Gardens with parterre character
- Remove a grove of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* to the north side adjacent to Avenue (3)

### Annual and Perennial Gardens (F)

- Retain two *Livistona australis* to define the 'gateway' to the precinct
- Transplant two *Phoenix canariensis* to continue avenue (4) along Darling Street
- Remove the over mature *Populus deltoides*
- Retain the open sunny character of the precinct to assist optimum development of the proposed annual and perennial beds

### Talbragar Forecourt (G)

- Ultimately replacement of the existing avenue (3) of *Jacaranda mimosifolia* with *Tilia cordata* once over mature
- Interplant *Brachychiton acerifolius* along avenue (7) between the preserved existing shade trees to create an informal avenue
- Ensure carpark shade tree planting continues the precinct theme along Talbragar Street
- Assess the large specimen *Eucalyptus microcorys* to see if tree surgery will rehabilitate, otherwise remove
- Assess the large specimen *Populus sp* to see if tree surgery will rehabilitate, otherwise remove
- Retain the *Eucalyptus microcorys* & *E. species* in the pool forecourt to establish a native character for shrubs to be introduced in association with the paths and building

### Recreation Court (H)

- Plant four *Brachychiton acerifolius* along the southern side of avenue (7) to continue the informal avenue
- Assess the *Crataegus laevigata* for health, prune carefully to enhance its unique form as a main focus of the precinct

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- Assess the two small specimen *Araucaria heterophylla* adjacent to see if tree surgery will rehabilitate, otherwise remove
- Ensure other tree specimens do not interfere with the shade sail structures

### Playground Precinct (I)

- Commence planting the avenue of *Quercus coccinea* along Avenue (2) from the intersection with avenue (7) to the eastern boundary
- Plant *Brachychiton acerifolius* along avenue (7) between the preserved existing shade trees to create an informal avenue
- Assess the mature specimen *Melia azedarach* on avenue (7) to see if tree surgery will rehabilitate, otherwise remove and replace with *Quercus coccinea*
- Extend the existing avenue of *Hymenosporum flavum* along the eastern boundary to form avenue (8); remove the two *Koelreuteria paniculata* at the southern end
- Assess the four specimens of *Eucalyptus scoparia* along the playground boundary and adjacent the toilet building to see if tree surgery will rehabilitate, otherwise remove and replace with a suitable native evergreen species
- Maintain the lawns of the precinct as open sunny spaces with well-located shade trees and furniture to function for play and group activities

### 3.5. Garden Areas

There are numerous species of feature plants, shrubs, covers, annuals and perennials used throughout Victoria Park which reflect the Victorian concept of '*using a menagerie of plants from around the world; forms and varieties with unusual texture or colour; shrubs not planted for the overall aesthetics of a grouping but for the showiness and uniqueness of individual plants*'.

Generally the mix of established shrubs and covers conforms to this philosophy. It is important that the future management of the Park continues to provide the diversity that currently exists where the selection of species is generally related to the differing characters and microclimates of the various precincts.

The General Shade Trees Rationalisation - drawing 4 - illustrates the recommended rationalisation of the gardens and shrubs in the general park areas. For ease of reference and character relevance the rationalisation is considered precinct by precinct in the following text.

The principal precincts identified should ideally display a specific theme or character for the shrub layer that compliments the tree layer as well as the built structures so to provide a series of individually differing environments to maintain interest and diversity as the Park is traversed.

Specific recommendations are as follows:

#### A. Cenotaph Precinct (A)

A visually important area with the formal use of shrubs, covers and bedding plants to accentuate the significance of the memorial and the ceremonies that are staged. The buffer screen and shrub planting extending along the southern boundary to the South Side Entry (h) is an integral element of this precinct. Maintain a relatively muted mix of colours that are suitably symbolic. Maintain the visual dominance of the three avenues that commence in the precinct.



#### B. North West Corner Precinct (B)

Establish a eye catching display of shrubs and cover plants to define the entry and establish the road frontage as a focal point to attract visitors. Maintain the visual dominance of the avenues that commence in the precinct.

#### C. Rotary Pond Precinct (C)

*Refer to section 5 & detail planning drawings.*

The character of this precinct is largely defined by the enlarged water body and the related wetland and marginal species to be established around the perimeter. The existing *Araucaria cunninghamii* Hoop Pine Avenue and the adjacent tree canopy provide definition and shade to the central and northern area of the precinct. Two unique mature specimens a gnarled *Ceratonia siliqua* Carob Tree & a bold *Araucaria bidwillii* Bunya Pine are major focal elements of the Precinct.



*Ceratonia siliqua* - Carob



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*Araucaria bidwillii* – Bunya Pine

The open lawn area bounding the southern side of the pond, defined by the perimeter hedge (*replace with Robinia robusta*), provides for picnic & cultural event activities; compliment the random specimen shade trees by establishing a simple shrub layer with minimal bedding plant use.



Typical wetland edge



### D. Cottage Precinct (D)

The suggestion to establish a restaurant and kiosk in the Colleen Montgomery Cottage provides the opportunity to develop the surrounding courtyards and gardens as a Federation style garden. This would be created by a dynamic range of plant material that characterises the strong heritage qualities of the early twentieth century gardens. There are a few well located specimen trees in the precinct which could be appropriately augmented as part of the detail design.



Butchart Gardens - Canada

### E. Rose Garden (E)

Restore the Rose Garden within the open sunny space overlooked from the Recreation Shade Court and viewed from the South East Diagonal Avenue and the Pool & Playground Meander. The intent is to create a formal renaissance style parterre garden with pruned box hedges and a range of appropriate annuals and perennials to compliment the rose collection and provide year round visual impact. An adjacent *Ginkgo biloba* is an important tree to incorporate into the precinct.





### F. Annual and Perennial Gardens (F)

The area is currently open lawns bounded to the east by the North South Avenue (3) and the south by the South East Diagonal Avenue which provide a suitable setting for the display. This precinct to be developed with a series of geometrically arranged garden beds for seasonal bedding display, extending into the Park from the street boundary and planned to focus attention in the views from Darling Street.



### Existing Circular Bedding Display Garden

The intersection of the East West Avenue (1) and the South East Diagonal Avenue (5) is defined by a large circular garden bed. This important focal point functions as a visual introduction to the Cottage Precinct and a threshold to the Rotary Pond Precinct. It is important that the planting design for this area reflects and compliments the beds for the proposed the Annual & Perennial Gardens Precinct.



Spectacle Garden - Roma Street Parkland - Brisbane

### G. Talbragar Forecourt (G)

This large multipurpose precinct is effectively the focus of the northern end to the North South Avenue (3) as well as the forecourt to the DALC swimming pool. The precinct is visually dominated by the avenue trees along the North South Avenue (3) and the adjacent specimen shade trees. Establish colourful shrub gardens associated with the entry gates and fences and a shrub layer along the frontage of the pool buildings. These shrub layers to be simple but bold to accentuate these two important entries with species selected to take advantage of the northern sun exposure.



*Crataegus laevigata* - Hawthorn

### H. Recreation Shade Court (H)

This is a specialised activity area for recreation and passive relaxation under a series of shade sails and vine covered pergolas. A gnarled mature specimen tree *Crataegus laevigata* Hawthorn is an important element of the courtyard. This specimen should be used to inspire species selection for appropriate species of the associated bedding displays in the shaded conditions between the various pathways and terrace areas.

### I. Playground Precinct (I)

This area is a well-used section of the Park with children using the equipment within the enclosed playground and parents supervising from the perimeter lawns on the western side. Some 'hands on' children's gardens could be incorporated into the area. The buffer screen and shrub planting extending along the northern boundary adjacent to the DALC swimming pool is an integral element of this precinct. There are several large trees which require detail inspection by an arborist. The open lawn areas to be maintained but embellished by appropriately located gardens for shrubs and bedding plant display which preserve the views across the precinct for security reasons.

## 4. Existing Built Structures Assessment

Victoria Park has developed over the years with a range of structures and furniture that does not always relate to the traditional Victorian character of the original layout and design. It is important that each of these elements be appropriately upgraded to accentuate the importance of Victoria Park and to assist specific functional issues and encourage increased use of the Park. The principal structures are described as follows:

*The number references in brackets in the following text relate to those shown on the Principal Structures Assessment - drawing 5*

### 4.1. Cenotaph & Memorials (A)

The major memorials are all comparable and built of stone in the traditional manner. These appropriately compliment the overall character of Victoria Park. It is important that their relevance is preserved and any new memorials continue the theme already established.



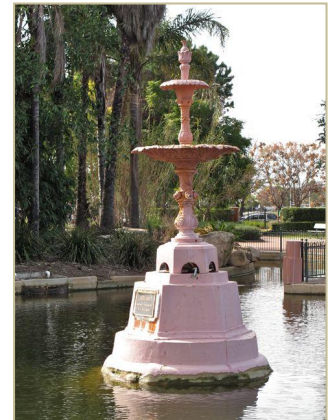
1914 – 1918 Memorial



Vietnam Memorial



Queen Elizabeth II 1954



Duck Pond Fountain

### 4.2. Colleen Montgomery Cottage (Child Care Centre) (B)

The Federation style cottage commemorates Colleen Montgomery – a unique lady, the mother of community services in the city of Dubbo. She gave her life to the community for the betterment of the people of Dubbo. Dubbo is a richer and better place to live in because of Colleen's involvement.



While the child-care use of the cottage is an important social facility it is suggested that consideration be given to conversion to a restaurant and kiosk. This use would enhance the architectural and heritage value of the structure and create an important social and cultural facility for the community. It would be important to restore the Federation architectural qualities of the building by removing the inappropriate extensions and restoring the cottage to its original design intent.

## Victoria Park, Dubbo – Rehabilitation Plan



### 4.3. Orchid House (C)

The entrance to Victoria Park through the East Central Gate (f) highlights the northern elevation and entry door to the Orchid House (built 1954 -1959); however the associated hedges physically divorce the building from the Pond Precinct. It is recommended that the hedges be partially reconfigured to open up the west side elevation to the adjacent lawns of the Pond precinct.



It appears that the glass windows have been obscured to moderate the interior microclimate. To provide optimum conditions for the orchid collection, it may be desirable to protect the glass walls from the afternoon sun and a pergola for vines (deciduous?) along the length of the structure will provide this protection as well as inviting viewing from outside and providing a shaded area to sit.



### 4.4. Meeting Room, Store & Toilets (D)

This structure (built 1964) reflects the adjacent Orchid House and is used as an Orchid Society Meeting Room and storage area as well as toilets and change rooms for the nearby sporting fields. The East West Avenue (1) separates the two buildings and forms the Pond Gate (g). This building is located closer to the axis and is screened from it by informal conifer hedges. A secure storage area extends along the western side of the building and access to the adjacent roadway is from the southern end.



It is recommended that the conifer hedges be removed and the building be reconfigured by demolishing the northern section to open up and enlarge the space associated with the Pond Gate (g) to enhance this important entrance to Victoria Park and the Pond Precinct.

### 4.5. Cacti & Succulent House (E)

This structure is of traditional glasshouse style and is appropriate for housing the cacti and succulent collection. It is important to ensure that the pathway network provides access to allow viewing through the glass walls.



Unfortunately a shelter area has been constructed at the western end of the building. While this is an important element for the park it is recommended that the extension be reconfigured to integrate with the architectural theme of the glasshouse.



## Victoria Park, Dubbo – Rehabilitation Plan

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### 4.6. Public Toilet (F)

The toilet (built 1929) is a traditional, acceptable and unassuming structure that is suitable for the Park. Today many such toilet structures, particularly those in parks close to playground areas, are reconfigured to open them up to ensure optimum safety from antisocial activities.



### 4.7. Band Rotunda (G)

This structure (built 1938) is a traditional Federation design that compliments the Park and is one of the more important structures. It is important to ensure that trees and shrubs do not crowd or obscure this important visual and functional element.



### 4.8. Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre (DALC) (H)

This structure (built 1935) is a major visual element in the north east corner of the Park, but particularly in the Talbragar Forecourt. It is important to ensure that applied colours and textures used on the building compliment the Federation character of the Park.



The carpark along Talbragar Street is a major visual element in the forecourt to this side of the Park. It is important that the shade trees within the carpark are located suitably not only to protect the parked cars but with species chosen to compliment this precinct of Victoria Park. It is recommended that the *Livistona australis* palms continue the avenue along the site boundary.



### 4.9. Recreation Shade Area (I)

This area exhibits a contemporary design which provides shade and shelter over the exercise / play equipment, the pathways and seating areas using tension membranes supported by a steel pergola structure. The area is closely associated with the adjacent Rose Garden.



The southern side of the pool enclosure is screened by the Recreation Shade Court and an informal hedge and shrubbery continues to the eastern boundary.

## Victoria Park, Dubbo – Rehabilitation Plan

### 4.10. Livvi's Place - Playground (J)

The Playground (built 2008) is physically and visually isolated from the adjacent Park areas by fencing and screen planting. It does not intrude into the major areas of the park and relates well to the adjacent open lawn areas which provide opportunities for area play activities.



### 4.11. Small Shelters (K)

There are several small shade structures (built 2008) in various locations around the Park to encourage relaxation and picnic activities. Although contemporary, these elements generally continue the Victorian theme of some of the older structures. To enhance the Victorian character of Victoria Park, it is recommended that any further similar structures utilize a similar design unless other more appropriate structures are planned as the rehabilitation process continues.



### 4.12. Park Furniture (L)

There is a range of furniture – gates & bollards, tables, benches, drinking fountains, etc used throughout the Park. These elements do not all continue the Victorian theme. To enhance the Victorian character of the Park, it is recommended that these structures be progressively replaced by more appropriate elements as the rehabilitation process continues.



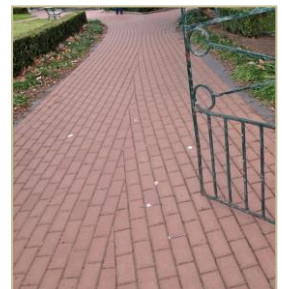
### 4.13. Landscape Elements

The pathways and gardens throughout the Park have used a range of materials and techniques to fulfil their functional requirements. Most of these are contemporary and do not ideally suit the related Victorian parkland aesthetic values. It is recommended that planning and design for the rehabilitation process emphasises and enhances the Victorian character of the Park through using materials such as cobbles, stone flags or sandstone. It is desirable to limit the use of materials to an appropriate minimum palette to ensure optimum aesthetic character.



### RECOMMENDATION

*It is recommended that a standard manual of landscape components, paving, park furniture, signage, lighting and associated elements be established to guide the continuing and future development of Victoria Park to ensure the original design philosophy is observed.*



### 5. Rotary Pond Water Precinct



#### 5.1. The Original Brief

The brief required the development of a planning strategy to progressively rehabilitate the Rotary Ponds Precinct of Victoria Park taking into consideration the initially intended design character of traditional Victorian era parkland.

Several early photographs of the precinct reveal that the ponds initially presented a 'naturalistic' character with visually 'soft' edges enhanced by surrounding tree, shrub and cover vegetation. The central fountain was the principal focal element and was viewed from around the pond perimeter.

#### 5.2. Current Physical and Visual Attributes

The Rotary Ponds Precinct is located in the southeast corner of Victoria Park and is one of the major nodes of the Park, spanning across the principal East West Avenue (1) planted with Hoop Pines *Araucaria cunninghamii* generating from the Cenotaph Precinct. There are three interconnected ponds spanning across the avenue which have become less visually significant, since their initial establishment, due to the development of 'islands' in the north and south ponds.

The fountain located on the centre line of the East West Avenue (1) axis is the focus of the central pond. However the aesthetic quality of the fountain has been severely compromised by time. Similarly vegetation has developed substantially and has been inappropriately augmented resulting in further reduction in the aesthetic values of the precinct and the once visual dominance of the water.

#### 5.3. Proposed Design Concept

The principal design issues for the rehabilitation are as follows:

- The avenue trees along the east west avenue, *Araucaria cunninghamii* Hoop Pine, to be extended beyond the Ponds to the east.
- Retain the basic form of the ponds but geometrically rationalise the shape so as to increase the visual qualities of the water body in close views as the surrounding area is traversed.
- Remove the 'islands' to open up the visual expanse of water.
- Transplant existing palms to complete the avenue along Talbragar Street boundary.
- The islands were basically intended to function as wildlife refuges and habitat but this is not functioning well and is visually negative.
- Relocate the wildlife habitat to the edges of the north and south ponds and enclose it by fences.
- Rationalise and integrate the grass mounds on the immediate east side of the Ponds to form the proposed



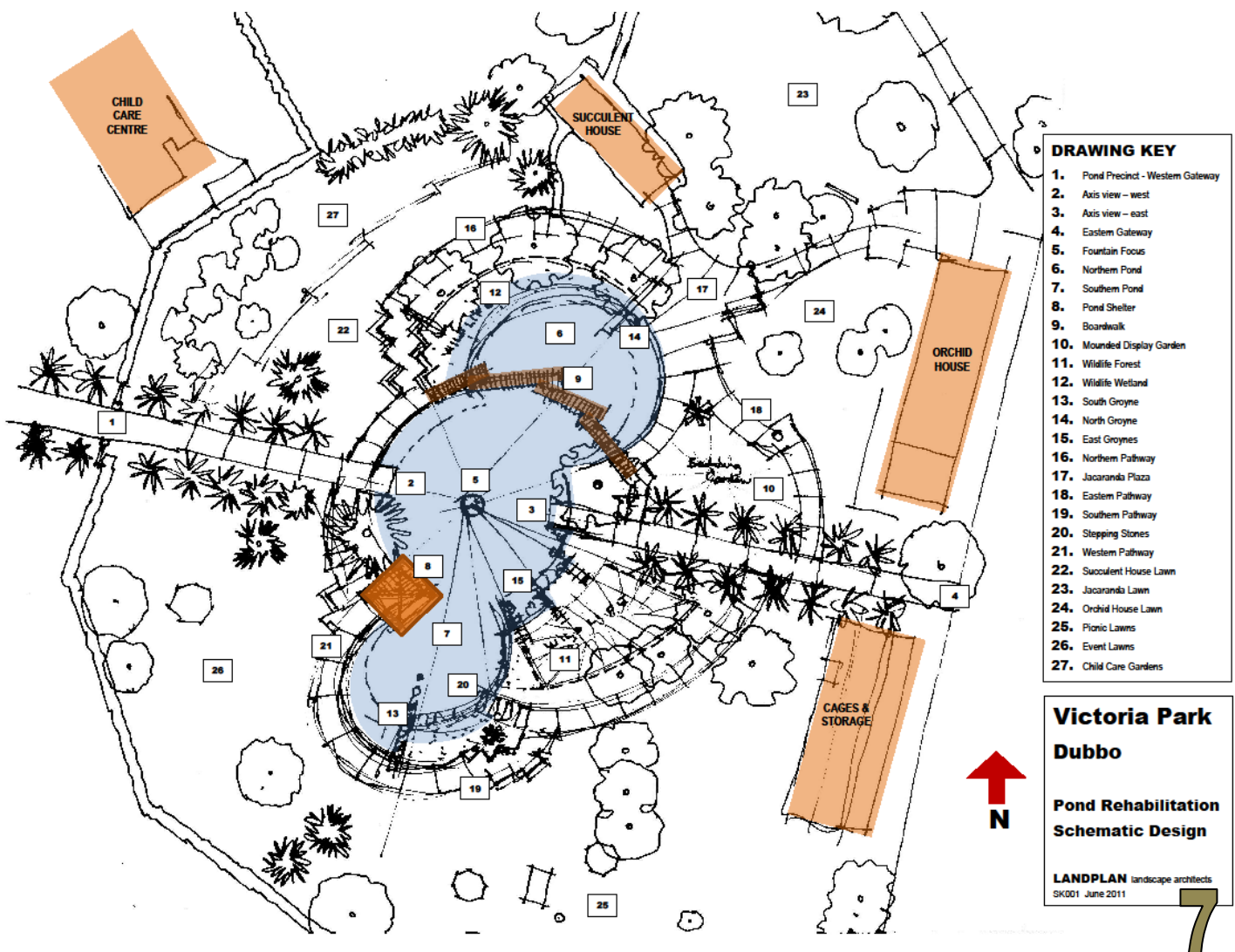
## Victoria Park, Dubbo – Rehabilitation Plan

wildlife forest along the pond edge south of the east west avenue.

- Rationalise the existing pathway system to suit desire lines as the Park is traversed.
- Establish a boardwalk to cross the pond defining and separating the northern and central sections. This will provide a more direct access route east – west and importantly allow ease of viewing of the aquatic and wetland margin plants.
- Locate a shelter on the south pond to function as an interpretive centre, for relaxation and observation and also as a stage for performance related to the adjacent western lawns.

### 5.4. Schematic Design Layout

The schematic design layout (drawing 7) illustrates the principal components of the precinct and each is referred to by number on this drawing with a short description of the design components in the following text under the same reference.



## EXISTING STRUCTURES

- Cottage - Child Care Centre
- Orchid House
- Meeting Rooms, Storage and Toilet Facility – the potential exists to develop this to become a positive botanic element of the precinct.
- Cacti & Succulent House

## DESIGN COMPONENTS



### 1. Pond Precinct - Western Gateway

The existing brick pillars and gates located between the hedges to be rehabilitated with suitable signage to define the entry to this precinct and interpret its heritage significance. The gates span across Avenue One, one of the three principal avenues of Victoria Park, linking the Cenotaph Precinct to the eastern road access of Victoria Lane. The existing warm brown paver walkway to be maintained as existing to define its primary status.

### 2. Axis view – west

The Avenue One pathway terminates in a short extension just beyond the pond edge as a suitably defined lookout deck planned to enhance the proximity to and focus on the central fountain.

### 3. Axis view – east

The Avenue One pathway recommences in a short extension just beyond the pond edge as a suitably defined lookout deck planned to enhance the proximity to and focus on the central fountain. The pathway continues to the Pond Gate (g).



### 4. Eastern Gateway (g)

The Avenue One pathway continues on from the Pond edge to terminate at the Victoria Lane road alignment with the immediate area upgraded to suitably define this gateway entry to Victoria Park. The potential exists to relocate the change rooms / toilets section from the building containing the Orchid Meeting Rooms to a new adjacent sports clubhouse. Reducing the length of the building, together with the removal of the adjacent hedges will allow the creation of a more expansive and visually inviting entrance gateway.

### 5. Fountain Focus

The fountain, centrally located in the pond system, to be restored to its original heritage quality and prominence. It should be repositioned directly on the centreline of the axis - currently it is just off centre.



### 6. Northern Pond

The central island in the Northern Pond to be removed and a new wildlife / wetland established on the north west side of the pond. The pond will require complete reconstruction in

concrete; ensure that the underwater depth profile along edges meets safety standards. The eastern edge has a paved walkway edge with a shallow water terrace sloping to deeper water centrally. The western edge is a shallow wetland formed in a clay lined underwater 'garden bed'; the wetland extends up to integrate with the existing garden bed and three existing trees.



### 7. Southern Pond

The central island in the Southern Pond to be removed and a new wildlife / wetland established on the south west side of the pond. The pond will require complete reconstruction in concrete; ensure that the underwater depth profile along edges meets safety standards. The western edge has a paved walkway edge with a shallow water terrace sloping to deeper water centrally. The eastern edge is a shallow wetland formed in a clay lined underwater 'garden bed'; the wetland extends up to integrate with the reformed earth mounding to create a wildlife forest. Several rock 'groynes' extend out radially into the pond to focus on the central fountain

### 8. Pond Shelter

The Shelter is located at the edge of the pond to provide good visual relationships with the central fountain and also to provide views north and south along the ponds. The shelter is to function as an interpretive centre with signage and seats for relaxation; the shelter to also be used as a stage for periodic events such as orchestral concerts and theatre with audience using the expansive lawns to the west.

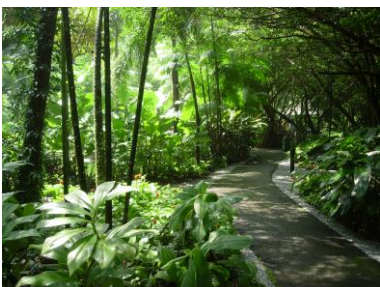


### 9. Boardwalk

It is desirable for visitors using Avenue One to continue their route along the axis in a more direct manner than the existing perimeter pathway; the boardwalk provides an attractive shorter diversion across the ponds allowing close inspection of the wetlands and aquatic planting to be established in the north pond.

### 10. Mounded Display Garden

The basically triangular space enclosed by Avenue One and the paths to the north to be profiled to create a low sloping pyramidal landform to maximise the display of annuals and bedding plants. This area receives good northern sun and can become an important visual and horticultural element of Victoria Park changing with the seasons.



### 11. Wildlife Forest

The second mound to be reconstructed and expanded to form a small pyramidal 'hill' sloping down to the pond edge and developed as a wildlife forest and habitat. Several rock 'groynes' extend radially from the forest through the clay lined wetland section into the pond to enhance the visual prominence of the central fountain. To protect and encourage wildlife the habitat is fenced extending from the pond edge around the south eastern perimeter path.

### 12. Wildlife Wetland

The shallow wetland along the western edge of the pond north from the boardwalk is formed by a clay lined underwater 'garden bed'; the wetland extends along the edge of the pond and up the slope to integrate with the existing garden bed and three trees. To protect and encourage wildlife the habitat is fenced extending from the pond edge around the north western perimeter path.

### 13. South Groyne

The Wildlife Forest wetland terminates in a larger radial rock 'groyne' basically running north / south to subtly focus attention on the central fountain. Beyond the groyne the shallow water terrace extends along the western pathway.

### 14. North Groyne

The Wildlife Wetland terminates in a larger radial rock 'groyne' basically running northeast / southwest to focus on the central fountain. Beyond the groyne the shallow water terrace extends along the Jacaranda Court.

### 15. East Groynes

Several rock 'groynes' extend radially from the Wildlife Forest through the clay lined wetland section into the pond to enhance the visual prominence of the central fountain.

### 16. Northern Pathway

The pathway linking Avenue One to the Cacti & Succulent House and to north and east follows along the pond edge to the Wetland then diverges from the pond around the existing garden bed and three major trees to link with the Jacaranda Court. Seats are provided at several locations but principally along the zigzag section.



### 17. Jacaranda Court

Several pathways meet at this location shaded by five large Jacaranda trees. The area is to function as a meeting place complete with perimeter seats and potentially defined by a mosaic floor or other sculptural elements. A vine arbour could extend along the pathway to the east and the Orchid House.

### 18. Eastern Pathway

The Eastern Pathway links the Jacaranda Court to the extension of Avenue One and defines the Mounded Display Garden. A sculptural element and seating to be incorporated into the wider path at the change of direction.

### 19. Southern Pathway

The Southern Pathway extends in a semicircle from Avenue One to contain the Wildlife Forest. It is shaded by the existing trees and garden bed; it provides direct access to the Picnic Lawns from Victoria Lane and the parking areas.



### 20. **Stepping Stones**

The Eastern Pathway terminates in a series of large stepping stones leading down to the pond edge through the wetlands; from these views north along the ponds are available.

### 21. **Western Pathway**

The Western Pathway is another semicircular pathway defining the south pond and providing access to the Picnic Lawns defined by the surrounding hedges.

### 22. **Cacti & Succulent House Lawn**

The lawn extending north from Avenue One toward the Cacti & Succulent House is closely related to the Cottage (Child Care) Gardens where specialised displays of shrubs and annuals are located.

### 23. **Jacaranda Lawn**

This large open lawn is to the north of the Cacti & Succulent House and the grove of Jacaranda trees. It is closely related to the playground and an existing shelter. It is an ideal area for larger informal gatherings



### 24. **Orchid House Lawn**

Maintain the open lawns in front of the Orchid House to preserve and enhance the visual relationships with the pond area. Consider western sun exposure in relation to the glasshouse environment for the orchid collection. A pergola along the western elevation of the Orchid House will allow optimum sun control while also providing shaded seating areas.

### 25. **Picnic Lawns**

These lawns currently have shelters, seats, tables etc and apart from necessary rehabilitation should remain largely as is. They are well located for access from parking areas.

### 26. **Event Lawns**

These lawns are ideally located relative to the proposed Shelter and should be maintained as relatively open to ensure optimum viewing conditions to the stage. The existing Privet & African Olive hedges (weed species) define the space well but should be replaced by *Photinia robusta*. It would also be possible to temporarily fence the space off if an event was to be pay for entry.

### 27. **Cottage (Child Care) Gardens**

This extensive garden extends northeast from Avenue One past the Cottage to the Orchid House. A seemingly random mix of trees, shrubs and covers exist but need rationalisation to enhance the aesthetic qualities. The gardens are separated from the Child Care Centre by the existing hedges.

### 5.5. Design Development Phase

The Design Development documents (drawing 8, 9 & 10 attached) have refined and rationalised the principal components of the design to illustrate the final character of the Duck Pond water precinct. These drawings and the following particulars of work together describe the requirements to be followed by the detail design and construction phase and are recommended to be used as part of the brief to direct the next phase of the planning and design process.

The documents for the Duck Pond water precinct comprise:

- Drawing #8 (DD01) - Design Development Plan: outlining the major physical elements – existing trees, structures, features, pathways, gardens, furniture, etc.
- Drawing #9 (DD02) - Cross Sections: to indicate the basic design concept, profiles, depths, edge treatments etc
- Drawing #10a -10e (DD03) - Perspective Views: sketch illustrations of the Duck Pond from selected viewpoints to give an indication of 'before & after' related to recent site photographs.
- Descriptive brief for ongoing detail planning and design.

### 5.6. Detail Planning and Design Process

The following tasks form the basis of the brief for the documentation and development of the redevelopment of the Duck Pond precinct. A multidisciplinary design team will be needed to ensure optimum results.

#### *Heritage issues*

- Investigate all available heritage documents to ascertain sufficient background information to ensure appropriate heritage value of the rehabilitation;
- Restore the central fountain sculpture to optimum working condition;
- Investigate appropriate sculptural elements to complement and enhance the heritage value of the park and pond; a statue of Queen Victoria is proposed; a sculpture in the southern wetland is proposed;

#### *Pond design & infrastructure*

- Investigate the structural adequacy of the existing pond structure; it is expected that complete reconstruction will be necessary;
- Plan and design a new pond shell to comply with safety standards; note sections of the pond are enclosed by fencing; where unfenced pathways about the waterline shallow safety compliant edge detail standard to be used;
- Investigate the existing services infrastructure to determine the suitability and availability of stormwater drainage, town water, electricity, lighting, etc;

- Determine a strategy for the provision of new and or upgraded services to ensure optimum function of the rehabilitation;
- Investigate the geotechnical capacity of the surrounding soils and subsoils for proposed functions;
- Plan and develop a water recirculation system that provides appropriate water quality wherever possible utilizing a biological wetland filtration system; it is not considered necessary that water quality will need to be of potable quality;

### *Wildlife & environment*

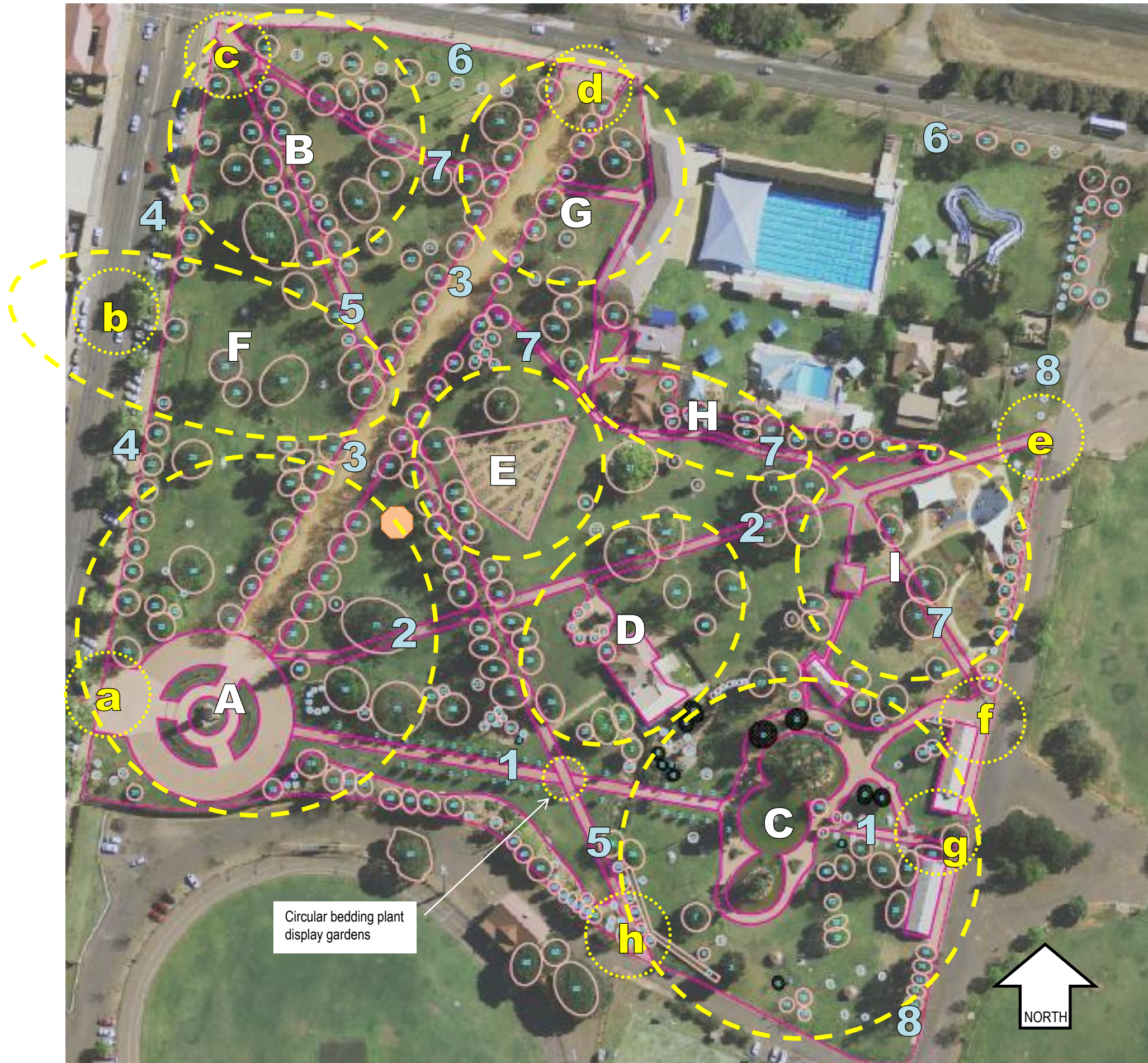
- Remove the existing pond islands and wherever possible recycle the existing palms to appropriate locations elsewhere;
- Wetland areas to be established on clay lined sub-base separate to the concrete lined pond elsewhere;
- Ensure that replacement wetland and marginal wildlife habit is designed to optimum conditions to attract fish, animal and birdlife; the wetlands also function as part of the water quality circulation system;

### *Landscape elements*

- Plan and design a circulation system that provides interesting access around the precinct and integrates with the principal existing and proposed park circulation network;
- Plan and design a boardwalk to provide access across the pond integrated with interpretive signage for wildlife and park heritage;
- Plan and design appropriate landform as defined to variously enhance and enclose sections of the precinct;
- Upgrade and enhance the existing and new garden areas to compliment the character of the Duck Pond and Victoria Park;

### *Structures*

- Upgrade the aesthetic and functional elements of the Orchid House, Meeting Room, Amenities and Nursery to integrate with the Pond Precinct;
- Plan a new eastern entry precinct by removing the toilet/change room section of the existing building;
- Upgrade the aesthetic and functional elements of the Cacti & Succulent house to integrate with the Pond Precinct;
- Plan and design a water edge shelter that compliments the other heritage shelter elsewhere in the park; the shelter to provide for interpretation signage, seating, and multiple use as a performance stage from time to time;
- Plan and design appropriate furniture to attract park users to stay and enjoy the surrounds;
- Enhance and upgrade the existing gates and entrance ways;



**MAJOR PRECINCTS**

- A. Cenotaph Precinct
- B. North West Corner
- C. Rotary Pond Precinct
- D. Cottage Precinct
- E. Rose Garden
- F. Annual and Perennial Gardens
- G. Talbragar Forecourt
- H. Recreation Shade Court
- I. Playground Precinct

**PARK ENTRY NODES**

- a. Cenotaph Gate
- b. Darling Street DRTCC Crossover
- c. North West Corner
- d. Talbragar Gate
- e. North East Gate
- f. East Central Gate
- g. Pond Gate
- h. South Side Gate

**PRINCIPAL AVENUES**

- 1. East West Avenue
- 2. North East Diagonal Avenue
- 3. North South Avenue
- 4. Darling Street Boundary
- 5. South East Diagonal Avenue
- 6. Talbragar Street Boundary
- 7. Pool & Playground Meander
- 8. Eastern Boundary

Circular bedding plant display gardens



**Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation Study**

**PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS ASSESSMENT**

**1**

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**PRINCIPAL AVENUES**

- Avenue 1** East West Avenue  
Hoop Pine *Araucaria cunninghamii*
- Avenue 2** North East Diagonal  
Scarlet Oak *Quercus coccinea*
- Avenue 3** North South Avenue  
Linden Tree *Tilia cordata*
- Avenue 4** Darling Street Boundary  
Canary Island Palm *Phoenix canariensis*
- Avenue 5** South East Diagonal  
Tulip Tree *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- Avenue 6** Talbragar Street Boundary  
Cabbage Tree Palm *Livistona australis*
- Avenue 7** Pool & Playground Meander  
Magnolia Tree *Magnolia grandiflora*
- Avenue 8** Eastern Boundary  
Native Frangipani *Hymenosporum flavum*

**TREE STATUS**

- Mature specimen - healthy
- Mature specimen – aged & or unhealthy
- Juvenile specimen - healthy
- Juvenile specimen - misshapen
- Unique / heritage specimen
- Requires arborist / tree surgery
- X Remove & / or replace specimen

**Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation Study**

**EXISTING VEGETATION  
QUALITY ASSESSMENT**

**2**

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### PRINCIPAL AVENUES

- Avenue 1** East West Avenue  
Hoop Pine *Araucaria cunninghamii*
- Avenue 2** North East Diagonal Avenue  
Scarlet Oak *Quercus coccinea*
- Avenue 3** North South Avenue  
Linden Tree *Tilia cordata*
- Avenue 4** Darling Street Boundary  
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- Avenue 6** Talbragar Street Boundary  
Cabbage Tree Palm *Livistona australis*
- Avenue 7** Pool & Playground Meander  
Magnolia Tree *Magnolia grandiflora*
- Avenue 8** Eastern Boundary  
Native Frangipani *Hymenosporum flavum*

### TREE CLASSIFICATION

- Evergreen - native
- Evergreen - exotic
- Deciduous - native
- Deciduous - exotic
- Conifer - native
- Conifer - exotic
- ✱ Palms & palm like
- ✕ Check, replace & / or remove specimen

### Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation Study

### EXISTING VEGETATION SPECIES ASSESSMENT

# 3

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**MAJOR PRECINCTS**

- A East West Avenue
- B North West precinct
- C Rotary Pond Precinct
- D Cottage Precinct
- E Rose Garden
- F Annual & Perennial Gardens
- G Talbragar Forecourt
- H Recreation Shade Court
- I Playground Precinct

**PRINCIPAL AVENUES**

- Avenue 1 East West Avenue
- Avenue 2 North East Diagonal
- Avenue 3 North South Avenue
- Avenue 4 Darling Street Boundary
- Avenue 5 South East Diagonal
- Avenue 6 Talbragar Street Boundary
- Avenue 7 Pool & Playground Meander
- Avenue 8 Eastern Boundary

**TREE CLASSIFICATION**

- Evergreen - native
- Evergreen - exotic
- Deciduous - native
- Deciduous - exotic
- Conifer - native
- Conifer - exotic
- ✱ Palm
- ✕ Check, replace & / or remove specimen
- Requires formative tree surgery

**Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation Study**

**GENERAL SHADE TREES RATIONALISATION**

**4**

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### PRINCIPAL STRUCTURES

- A. Cenotaph
- A1 1914 – 1918 Memorial
- A2 Vietnam Memorial
- A3 Queen Elizabeth II
- A4 Heritage Well
  
- B. Colleen Montgomery Cottage
- C. Orchid House
- D. Orchid Meeting Room & Toilets
- E. Cacti & Succulent House
- F. Public Toilet
- G. Band Rotunda
- H. Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre
- I. Recreation Shade Area
- J. Livvi's Place Playground
- K. Small Shelters
- L. Gates & Bollards
  
- M. Rose Garden
- N. Circular Gardens

ITEMS NOT SHOWN

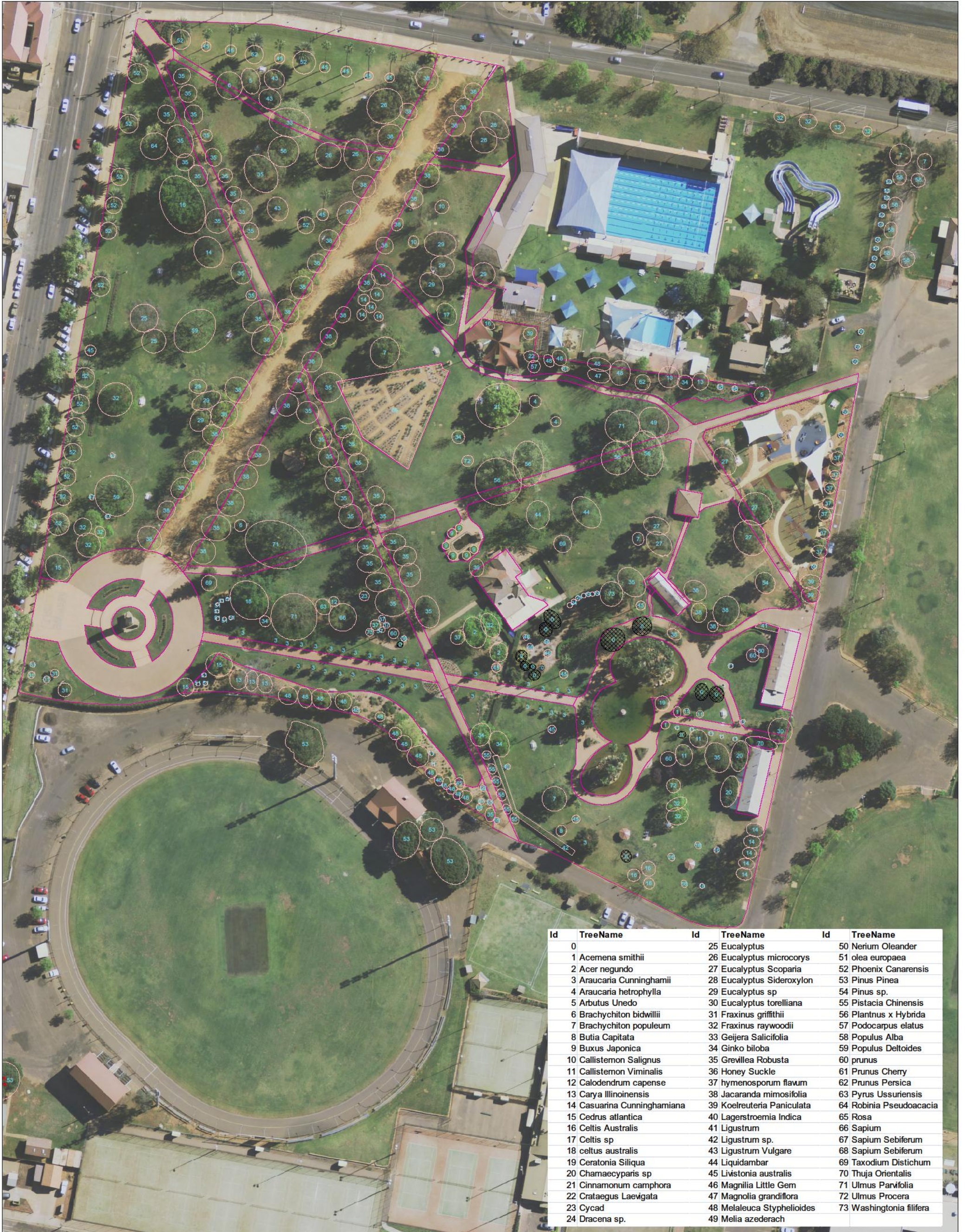
- O. Park Furniture
- P. Landscape Elements

Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation Study

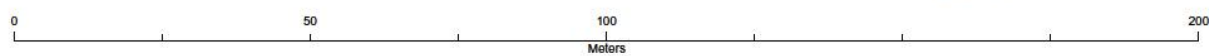
### PRINCIPAL STRUCTURES ASSESSMENT

# 5

August 2011 2101101  
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[lawries@landplanstudio.com.au](mailto:lawries@landplanstudio.com.au) 0411228900 (07) 3285 5799

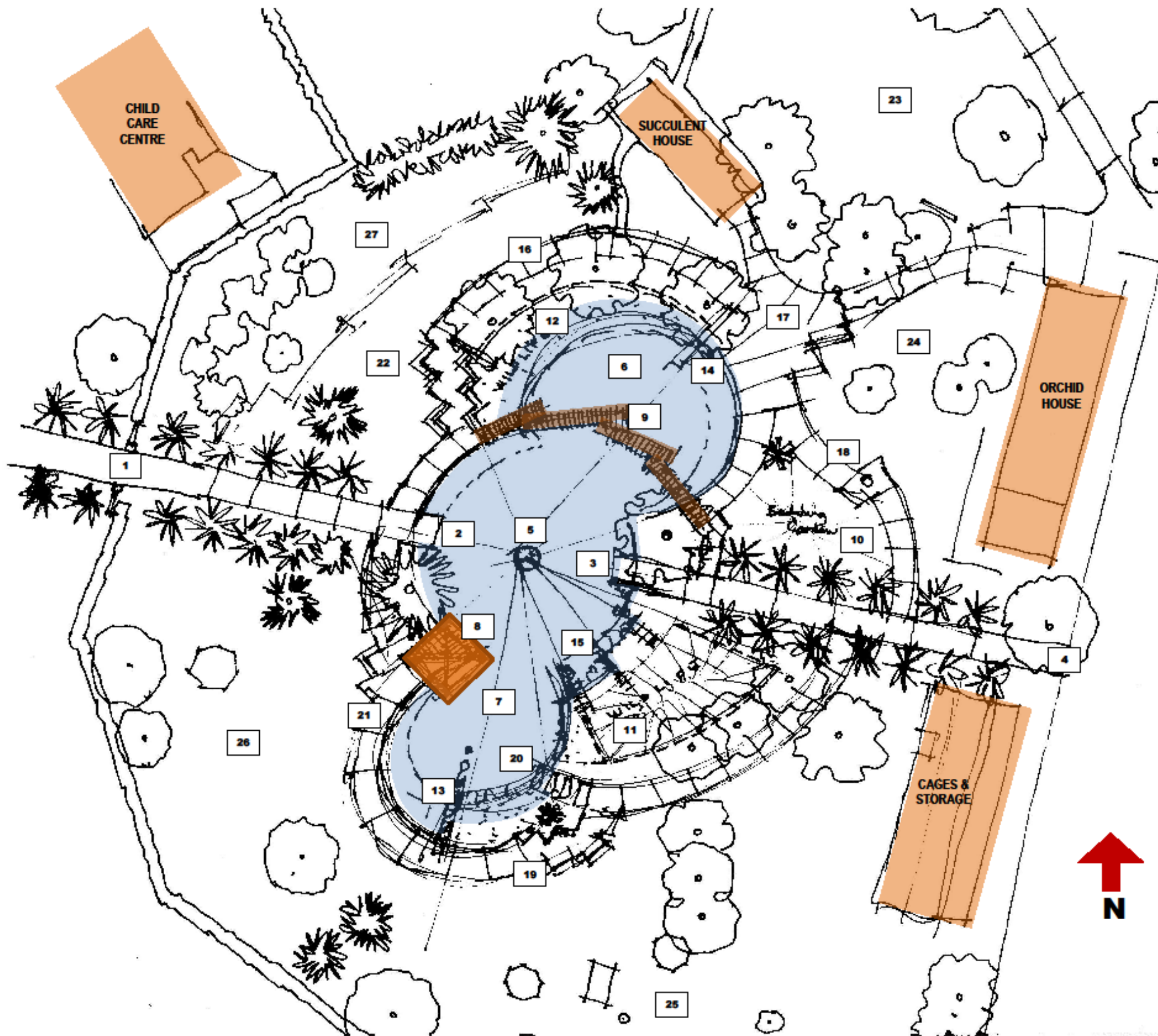


GDA MGA 55



# Victoria Park Tree Canopy

6



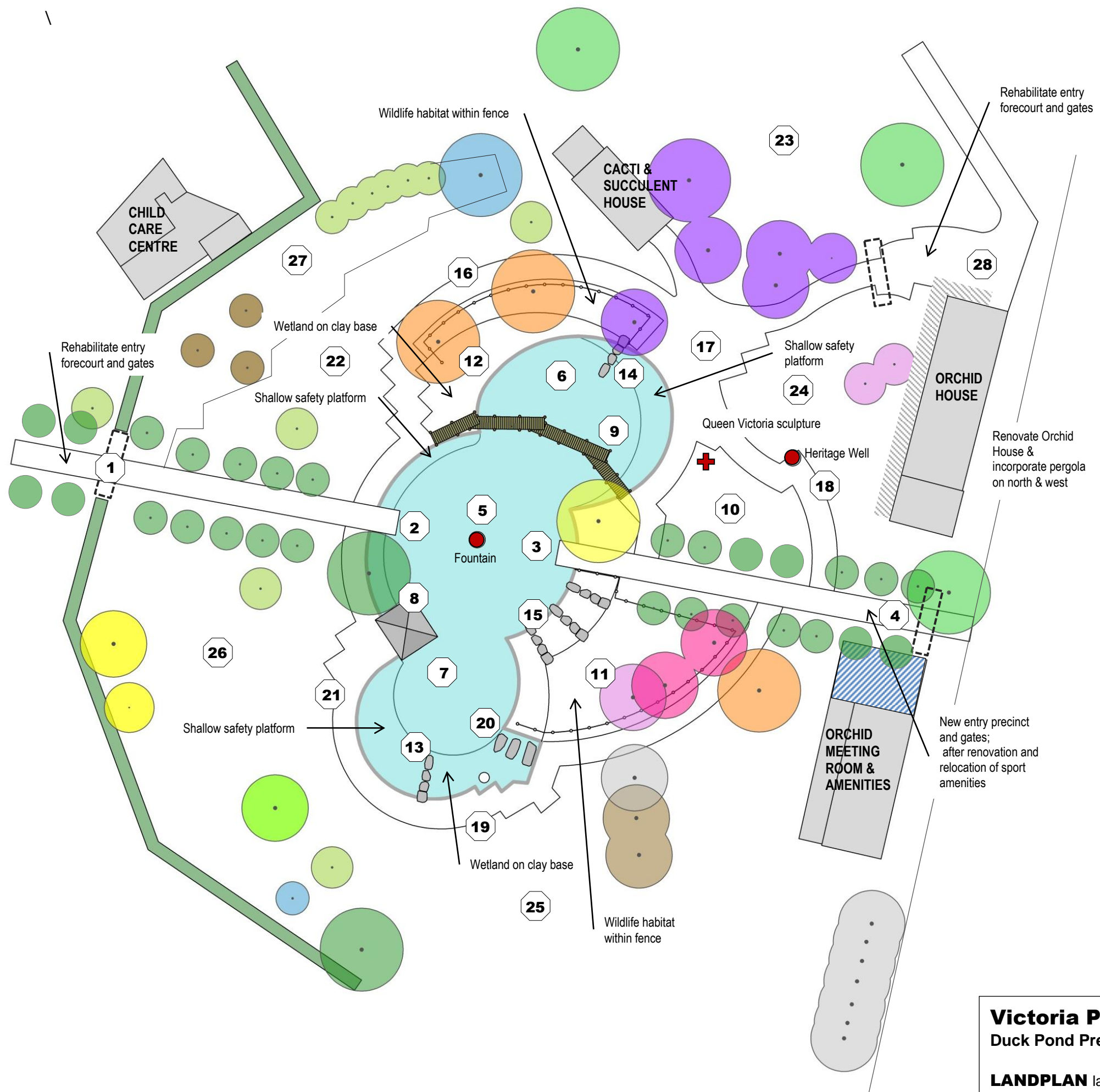
- DRAWING KEY**
1. Pond Precinct - Western Gateway
  2. Axis view – west
  3. Axis view – east
  4. Eastern Gateway
  5. Fountain Focus
  6. Northern Pond
  7. Southern Pond
  8. Pond Shelter
  9. Boardwalk
  10. Mounded Display Garden
  11. Wildlife Forest
  12. Wildlife Wetland
  13. South Groyne
  14. North Groyne
  15. East Groynes
  16. Northern Pathway
  17. Jacaranda Plaza
  18. Eastern Pathway
  19. Southern Pathway
  20. Stepping Stones
  21. Western Pathway
  22. Succulent House Lawn
  23. Jacaranda Lawn
  24. Orchid House Lawn
  25. Picnic Lawns
  26. Event Lawns
  27. Child Care Gardens

**Victoria Park  
Dubbo**

**Pond Rehabilitation  
Schematic Design**

**LANDPLAN** landscape archite  
SK001 June 2011



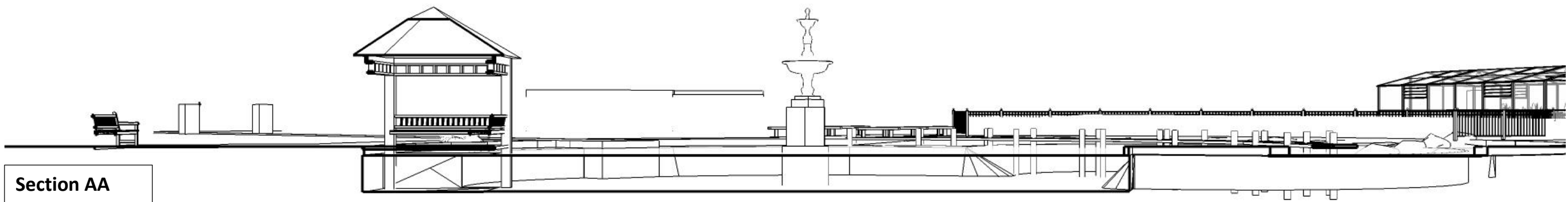


### DRAWING KEY

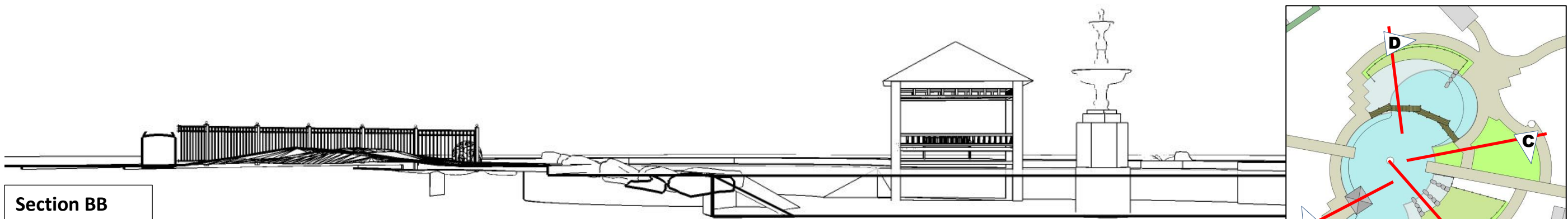
1. Pond Precinct – Western Gateway
2. Pond Viewpoint – west
3. Pond Viewpoint – east
4. Eastern Gateway
5. Fountain Focus
6. Northern Pond
7. Southern Pond
8. Pond Shelter
9. Boardwalk
10. Mounded Display Garden
11. Wildlife Forest
12. Wildlife Wetland
13. South Groyne
14. North groyne
15. East groyne
16. Northern Pathway
17. Jacaranda Place
18. Eastern Pathway
19. Southern Pathway
20. Stepping Stones
21. Western Pathway
22. Cacti & Succulent House Lawn
23. Jacaranda Lawn
24. Orchid House Lawn
25. Picnic Lawns
26. Event Lawns
27. Child Care Gardens
28. Orchid House Forecourt



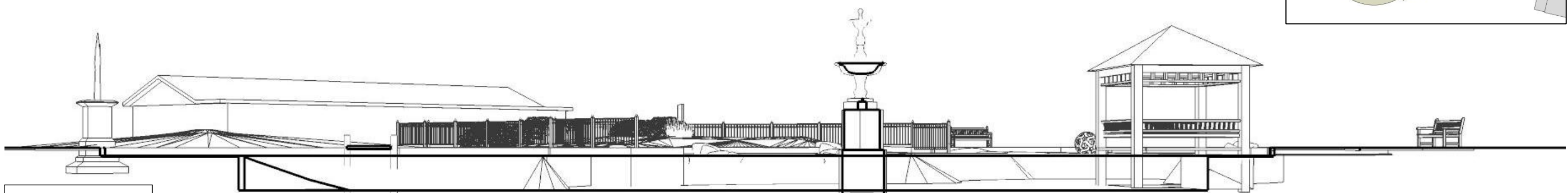
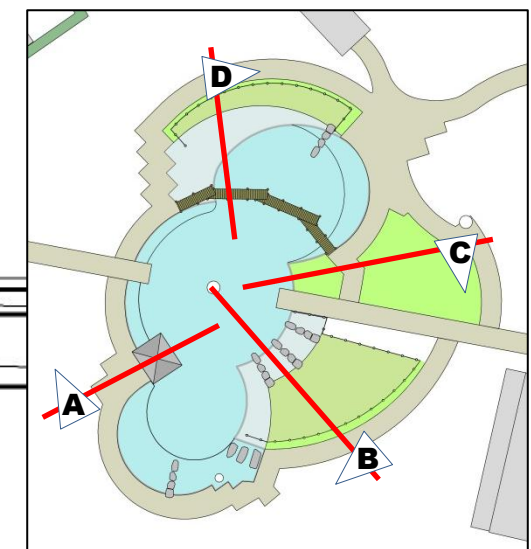
### Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation Duck Pond Precinct - Design Development Plan



Section AA



Section BB



Section CC



Section DD





**View north along the ponds**  
 Removal of the islands and palms maximise the visual impact of the water; the high level view illustrates the strong visual relationships between the diverse surrounding vegetation; the low level view from adult viewpoint illustrates the various points of visual interest which will attract observers to circulate around the pond

**Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation**  
 Duck Pond Precinct - Design Development Perspective Views

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**10a**



**Principal axial east-west view**  
 Significant axial view across the pond, past the heritage fountain to the Cenotaph framed by the Hoop Pine Avenue; the bedding plant display provides seasonal colour on the north side; the wildlife wetland provides contrasting interest along the south side; the grotesque Carob Tree and tall Bunya Pine provide visual interest each side of pond;

**Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation**  
 Duck Pond Precinct - Design Development Perspective Views

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**10b**



**View north from picnic lawns**

Removal of the islands and palms maximise the visual impact of the water; wetland sculpture, shelter and heritage fountain create points of interest to compliment the water elements; The shelter provides close visual relationship to the ponds and central fountain; the shelter also serves as a stage for the event lawn adjacent

**Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation**  
**Duck Pond Precinct - Design Development Perspective Views**

**10c**

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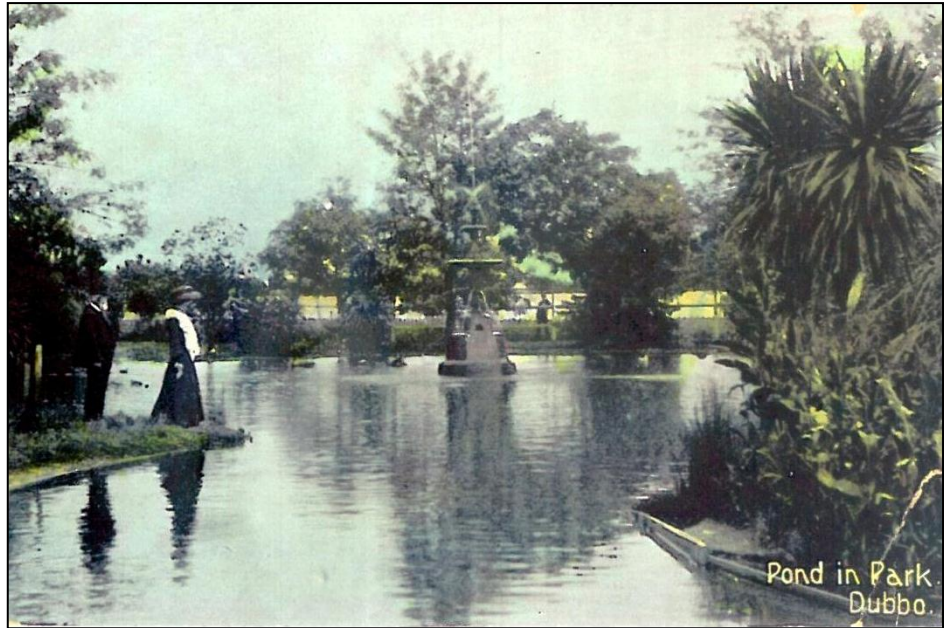
**View south near Cacti & Succulent House; and Orchid House**

Removal of the islands and palms maximise the visual impact of the water; the boardwalk provides direct access across the ponds and close visual appreciation of water & wetlands; the bedding plant display provides seasonal colour to compliment adjacent water elements; statue of Queen Victoria enhances the heritage value of Victoria Park

**Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation**  
 Duck Pond Precinct - Design Development Perspective Views

**10d**

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### Early photos of the Duck Ponds

Originally, the ponds were visually unencumbered by the islands and associated planting; these elements have substantially reduced the apparent extent of water in views from all directions

## Victoria Park, Dubbo - Rehabilitation

### Duck Pond Precinct - Design Development Perspective Views

10e

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