BLACKWATER URBAN DEVELOPMENT AREA

OPEN SPACE AND TOWNSCAPE STRATEGY REPORT

Prepared for Urban Land Development Authority
November 2010

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**Section 1.0 Introduction**

**Section 1.1 Objectives of this report**

**Section 2.0 Vision**

**Section 3.0 Open Space**

**Section 3.1 Criteria for proposed open space**

**Section 3.1.1 Quantity**

**Section 3.1.2 Distribution and connectivity**

**Section 3.1.3 Quality and amenity**

**Section 3.1.4 Sustainability**

**Section 3.2 Issues and opportunities**

**Section 3.2.1 Quantity**

**Section 3.2.2 Distribution and connectivity**

**Section 3.2.3 Quality and amenity**

**Section 3.2.4 Sustainability**

**Section 3.3 Existing situation**

**Section 3.4 Open space classification**

**Section 3.5 Proposed open space structure**

**Section 3.6 Open space proposed facilities**

**Section 3.7 Local parks**

**Section 3.8 Bushland drainage corridor**

**Section 3.9 Wildlife corridor**

**Section 3.10 Open Space Townscape Improvement Strategy**

**Section 4.0 Townscape Enhancements**

**Section 4.1 Criteria**

**Section 4.1.1 Identity and focal points**

**Section 4.1.2 Sustainability and climate response**

**Section 4.1.3 Connectivity and wayfinding**

**Section 4.1.4 Functionality and attractiveness**

**Section 4.1.5 Culture and history**

**Section 4.2 Issues and opportunities**

**Section 4.2.1 Identity and focal points**

**Section 4.2.2 Sustainability and climate change**

**Section 4.2.3 Connectivity and wayfinding**

**Section 4.2.4 Functionality and attractiveness**

**Section 4.2.5 Culture and history**

**Section 4.3 Existing situation**

**Section 4.4 Proposed townscape enhancements structure**

**Section 4.5 Strategies**

**Section 4.5.1 Nodes**

**Section 4.6 Strategies**

**Section 4.6.1 Streetscapes**

**Section 4.6.2 Gateway statement**

**Section 4.6.3 Capricorn Highway**

**Section 4.6.4 Travellers overnight rest area**

**Section 4.6.5 Blackwater North State School parking**

**Section 5.0 Planting for Blackwater**

**Section 5.1 Planting themes**

**Section 6.0 Furniture and Materials**

**Section 7.0 Priority Areas**

**Section 7.1 Town centre**

**Section 7.2 Lions park and township entry node**

**Section 7.3 Township cenotaph**

**Section 8.0 Implementation and Staging**
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Objectives of this report

This Open Space and Townscape Strategy has been prepared for the town of Blackwater located within the local government area of Central Highlands Regional Council, Queensland. The strategy supports the work by the Urban Land Development Authority (ULDA) in its preparation of a development scheme for the Blackwater Urban Development Area (UDA). The ULDA is responsible for the planning and development assessment for the Blackwater UDA which was declared on 30 July 2010.

The brief for the Open Space and Townscape Strategy as prescribed by the ULDA is:

1. Open space network strategy:

Respond to the current and future demands of the Blackwater community. Aspects to be considered in the preparation of the open space strategy are:

- Functionality and useability of a network of open spaces, e.g. being well connected, fit for purpose, accessible to community needs, CPTED, sensitive to future maintenance obligations
- Opportunities for rationalising existing open space areas for residential purposes
- Opportunities for rationalising parts of existing road reserves for other purposes such as parks, open space, car parking, additional footpaths, bikeway or possibly residential uses.

2. Townscape enhancement strategy

Provide for enhancement of the visual identity of the town and establish a design theme which can be introduced through a staged townscape implementation strategy.

The townscape enhancement strategy should draw on the particular features of Blackwater to develop a design theme relevant to the community, local industry, the natural setting and history of the town.

The strategy is to highlight key connections throughout the town and emphasise significant entry points and activity centres. Possible sites for civic enhancements are to be identified as well as pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks, including possible themes for street furniture and civic features.

The process that has been employed to develop the Open Space and Townscape Strategy is illustrated in Figure 1. The design team initially attended a start-up meeting from which they received briefing documents/ background information from the ULDA. A review of this background information and supplementary research material was undertaken prior to a visit to Blackwater. This introductory visit provided the opportunity for further briefing by the ULDA and the CHRC, and a chance for the design team to analyse the open space and townscape in terms of its issues and strategic opportunities. These issues and corresponding strategies were then reviewed and developed further, and provided the foundations for the design of various townscape precincts. These included the town centre, Lions Park and MacKenzie Street township entry; typical local parks; the bushland drainage corridor; the wildlife corridor; streetscapes; and gateway statements.

The precinct designs were presented to a mixed group of individuals including the ULDA, CHRC representatives (including the Deputy Mayor, Strategic Planning Manager and maintenance crew), and Blackwater citizens. The response from this presentation was generally favourable. Based on the comments that emerged from the consultation, the design team further refined the precinct designs, two of which were identified as priority areas whereby detail designs were undertaken.

In preparation of this strategy report, documents that have been referred to or otherwise utilised include:

- ULDA Blackwater Community Engagement Report 24-26 August 2010, prepared by Glenn Boyd, Principal Engagement Officer, ULDA
- Community Plan 2010-2013: Valuing People Partnerships and Place, incorporating Councils Corporate Plan 2009-2013, Central Highlands Regional Council
- The Urban Land Development Authority, Sustainability Policy, Version 1.0, prepared by the ULDA
- Blackwater Parkland, General Meeting minutes, 8 September 2008
- The Urban Land Development Authority, Residential 30, ULDA guideline no. 01, March 2010
- Preliminary Planning Document - Research and Analysis, Playspace Design and Landscape Architecture for an All Abilities Playground at Blain Street, Blackwater, Prepared by: Urban Play in conjunction with InSite EMLA
- ULDA Blackwater Community Engagement Report 24-26 August 2010, prepared by Glenn Boyd, Principal Engagement Officer, ULDA
- Community Plan 2010-2013: Valuing People Partnerships and Place, incorporating Councils Corporate Plan 2009-2013, Central Highlands Regional Council
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- Preliminary Planning Document - Research and Analysis, Playspace Design and Landscape Architecture for an All Abilities Playground at Blain Street, Blackwater, Prepared by: Urban Play in conjunction with InSite EMLA
- Central Highlands Regional Council and QLD Government Disabilities Queensland
- Public Art Plan for All Abilities Playspace, August 2009, Central Highlands Regional Council in conjunction with Creating Links
- Audit of issues related to commercial and industrial activity in the area of the Central Highlands Regional Council, Stage 1, Prepared by Foresight Partners Pty Ltd, July 2010 10016 Rev 0
2.0 Vision

As this strategy forms part of the overall development scheme work being undertaken by the ULDA for the Blackwater UDA, this report will acknowledge the vision prepared by the ULDA. The components of this vision in relation to open space and townscape enhancements are:

Reinforce the Blackwater Town Centre as the heart of retail and civic activity:
- enhance the Blackwater townscape and areas of open space, that builds on the town’s physical setting, historical links and indigenous heritage, creating a strong identity and making the town more attractive to all members of the community, as well as investors and visitors.

Be a connected place by:
- reinforcing the role of the Blackwater Town Centre as a retail and community focus
- using street treatments to reinforce a clear road hierarchy that connects the town entrances at the Capricorn Highway to the Blackwater Town Centre, and also the residential areas to the town centre
- using street treatments to reinforce clear routes for pedestrians and cyclists
- facilitating a street pattern and pathways that link parks to residential areas, and support local trips to nearby shops, schools and other community facilities

Manage environmental values by:
- promoting the use of shade trees in public areas and retaining trees that are significant
- applying best practice water sensitive urban design as appropriate for local conditions, including in association with the stormwater drainage works north-east of the town centre
- striking a balance between natural and built elements considering land form, climate and ecology to maximise environmental conservation, amenity and contribute to the desired landscape character

Be a thriving community by:
- revitalising the Blackwater Town Centre at Blain Street to improve its attractiveness for business investment;
- making the town more attractive to residents and visitors through a comprehensive townscape enhancement strategy, that includes the streetscape, open spaces and town entries

Be a liveable community by:
- establishing a strong identity for Blackwater that draws on elements of the town’s physical setting, indigenous heritage and historical links, including for example, its relationship with the railway and mining industry, returned service personnel, and the town’s Japanese sister city Fujisawa
- establishing a civic park as part of the Blackwater Town Centre to provide a central place for the community to gather, relax and play, and also participate in significant outdoor community events
- creating smaller, better functioning parks that meet the needs of local residents, have better facilities and are less costly to maintain
- ensuring street patterns, the location of open spaces and planting, and the orientation and design of buildings and openings, capture and channel cooling breezes, particularly from the south-east
- drawing on natural landforms and local vegetation to create distinctive neighbourhoods which enhance local amenity
- exploring new forms of hot arid architecture appropriate for the Blackwater context
- promoting community health and wellbeing through neighbourhood design that supports a healthy and active lifestyle
- ensuring development is sensitive to the environment by using, where possible, efficient sources of energy and waste disposal
- providing necessary community, social and cultural infrastructure

Be a safe place to live by:
- designing open space, and placing housing and other occupied buildings to overlook open space and paths, to promote surveillance and personal safety
- locating and designing car parks to have regard to the safety of pedestrians, especially children
3.0 Vision
3.0 Open Space

3.1 Criteria for proposed open space

Given the current under utilisation of open space in Blackwater, it is important to deliver appropriate responses to the community. Therefore the quantity, distribution and connectivity, quality and amenity, and sustainability of the public open spaces have been devised as part of the rationale to inform the wider site based criteria.

3.1.1 Quantity

Spatially, it is important to provide adequate quantity of open space to fulfil community requirements and relate to the existing assets.

Appropriate scale of open space pockets is crucial for the success of a space. The area allocated for open space should relate to its use, amenity, and the population it caters for. Additionally, the maintenance programme associated with an open space needs to be considered when determining an appropriate size.

As outlined in the 1998 Emerald Open Space and Recreation Plan, the preferred size of 0.4-0.5 hectares is considered to allow for a diverse range of recreational opportunities. The majority of Blackwater’s open space that is proposed for retention accommodates this benchmark.

3.1.2 Distribution and connectivity

The distribution of an open space is important to ensure that all users have the ability to access the town open space assets, and the value apportioned to them is distributed equitably throughout the community. The following rationale has been adopted for the distribution and connectivity of open space across Blackwater:

- provide a variety of well connected open spaces within walking distance of all residents - open spaces have been sited to accommodate a maximum walkability catchment of 400m;
- open spaces located to maximise visibility, profile, and contribution to amenity of the Blackwater neighbourhoods;
- provide an interconnected fitness trail;
- provide connections through a linked open space and street network, and accessible via safe and comfortable pedestrian and cycle networks.

3.1.3 Quality and amenity

The quality of the open spaces provided is imperative as it determines how the space will be utilised by the community.

The open space across the Blackwater UDA area has been broken down into ‘types’; that is, a hierarchy of spaces that facilitate varying uses/amenity. This hierarchy classification system has been guided by the Emerald Open Space and Recreation Plan 2007-2017, which identified a benchmark for types of open space recommended for Emerald that could be applied to the Blackwater UDA. A review of the existing open space classification, and discussions with CHRC representatives and citizens of Blackwater identified the types of open space that were desired.

The quality and amenity provision of open space has been based on the following principles:

- designed to promote a clear definition between public and semi-public/private spaces, and will have a clearly delineated intended function to encourage appropriate use;
- intended to facilitate flexible use of open space to support a wide range of activities/uses including social activities, recreational activities, reflective activity, connection with nature, educational processes and learning spaces, and provision of functional access needs;
- promotes sociability through designing for the diverse needs of the community, and by catering for the specific needs of children, teenagers, families, people with special needs, older people and pets;
- offers relevance and meaning to the community through embracing opportunities to preserve and interpret Blackwater’s culture, and Indigenous and European heritage;
- provides Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles;
- complies with the guidelines set out in the Disability Discrimination Act through provision of equitable access for all.

3.1.4 Sustainability

Due to its geography, Blackwater can experience extreme climatic conditions, including harsh sun and heat, high winds and heavy rainfall. These environmental conditions have affected (and even prevented) the community from utilising its open spaces. It is therefore crucial that Blackwater’s open spaces provide a refuge for users through provision of large canopy trees and structures.

Open spaces will embrace best practices of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) where feasible, which will include the collection, retention and harvesting of stormwater for irrigation use.

As a way of encouraging wildlife corridors and promote contact with nature, Blackwater’s open spaces will retain and enhance existing significant native and endemic plant communities.

As a result of discussions with the CHRC maintenance crew for Blackwater’s open spaces, it has been identified that the current level of maintenance associated with open space is high and costly. Through careful planning and design, maintenance requirements will be reduced. This will be achieved through decreasing the area of turf/graded spaces which currently require constant mowing, integration of hardy plant species that require minimal maintenance, and incorporation of robust hard landscape elements and furniture.
3.0 Open Space

3.2 Issues and opportunities

3.2.1 Quantity
Currently there is an oversupply of open space within the town. Consultation with the ULDA both Council and the community to date has shown that there is strong support to reduce the amount of open space that currently exists.

Based on the 1998 Emerald open space and recreation plan, existing open space within Blackwater exceeds the nominated area of 0.4-0.5 ha per park.

Due to the area of existing open space/parkland that exists, capital funds and associated works have not been available to adequately maintain these areas. As a result, the majority of open space is devoid of facilities or other improvements and requires a high level of maintenance.

There is a significant amount of open space within the town that is redundant. The excess parkland provides the opportunity for appropriate parcels of open space to be reallocated for residential or other urban uses.

Although large in area, the majority of open space has little environmental value as they are predominately grassed, and are generally difficult to maintain in terms of human resource to area ratio.

3.2.2 Distribution and connectivity
Based on a 400 m walk ability and catchment, the majority of residential areas within the town can be connected to open space. Isolated pockets exist to the south of the town which are not currently serviced by existing open space.

Although potentially well connected, the existing open space does not in the main serve the purpose of being parkland with associated amenity.

Connectivity between and within existing parks is poor. Existing on-road pedestrian and cycle links can be enhanced for better connectivity within the town. There is also the potential for pathways within existing parks to connect land uses and other open space.

3.2.3 Quality and amenity
Existing open space within the town has few facilities or other improvements.

Well used and successful parks include Lions and Rotary Parks. Here, amenity such as shaded seating and play equipment is provided.

The majority of existing parks lack shaded play equipment and seating, picnic/barbeque facility, pathways, “kickabout” and water bubblers.

There is a scarcity of vegetation and in particular shade/canopy trees to all areas.

Existing parks do not cater for a variety of uses inclusive of all passive and active recreational opportunities.

Apart from Lions and Rotary Parks, there are few opportunities for social gathering due to minimal shade and facilities.

There are further opportunities to celebrate Blackwater’s Aboriginal and European cultural heritage.

Accessibility to existing parks is not equitable in all instances. Incorporation of pathways and associated amenity will result in open spaces that can be accessed by all.

3.2.4 Sustainability
Existing parkland/open space would be more sustainable if the following provisions were implemented:

- Planting of endemic vegetation (in particular tree cover to the majority of parks);
- Reduction of grass cover, which requires both watering and mowing;
- Planting of low maintenance and drought resistant shrubs and groundcovers;
- Integration of natural floral communities to support faunal habitat;
- Integration of vegetated channels, swales and basins, as opposed to conventional piped stormwater drainage systems;
- Incorporation of shade trees to reduce heat loading to the local environment, and
- Integration of a variety of facilities, and increased amenity to encourage community use.
3.0 Open Space

3.3 Existing situation

To determine appropriate landscape treatments for key open space areas, a visual analysis of the existing situation has been prepared. The following images and corresponding descriptions indicate the important views and view sheds associated with existing open space in Blackwater. The open spaces depicted in the images have been selected based on the following criteria:

- Prominence of location
- Provision of existing amenity
- Relevance to community

The analysis of these open space areas has contributed to the classification of open space, as described in Section 4.1.3 of this report.

View 1
Acacia Street Park characterises existing local park provision within the town. Typically there is an abundance of open space associated with each park which is generally under utilised. This unused land is typified by a lack of tree cover or other shade treatment, and a consistent grass surface which results in a lack of shade and a high maintenance regime for Council. Play equipment has been provided to this park and is centrally located. General amenities in the park and play area are in need of improvement including provision of seating and water bubblers.

View 2
Blain Street Park has been designated as the site for the proposed All Abilities Park. This park is to be located to the western end of this open space area. The land is situated adjacent to the existing town centre and residential land and is characterised by a general lack of amenity, including shade (vegetation) and facilities. As with the other parks within the town, there is a dominance of grass cover which requires high levels of maintenance, including mowing and watering. There is also evidence of pedestrian traffic traversing the open space between the residences and the shopping precinct. This use results in a decay of the grass cover and erosion of the undercover soil layer.

View 3
Lions Park is a key park in Blackwater, situated at the corner of Mackenzie Street and the Capricorn Highway. The park is significant as it is located at one of the primary entries to Blackwater, thus denoting it as the township entry statement. The park is utilised by the Blackwater Community for children’s play, picnics and organised events. The Lions Club is a key community organisation and facilitates an array of events in the park. A collection of international flags line the Capricorn Highway and Mackenzie Street perimeter edges of the park. Mature canopy trees exist within the park mainly to the northern and western ends. Other significant elements found within Lions Park include the water tower and the original, heritage Blackwater Railway Station building. The station building and associated locomotive are to be relocated to the Blackwater International Coal Centre by Council.

Observations of this park include a lack of shade, particularly to the southern section of the park; a lack of a proper entry to the park; a need for circulation/wayfinding infrastructure and a lack of spatial organisation of existing facilities.
3.0 Open Space

View 4
An existing drainage corridor exists to the north-east of the town centre. This corridor takes stormwater from the centre of the town through existing open space, and out to the north-eastern edge. This stormwater is generally piped, with inspection openings located at regular intervals. Trees such as mature melaleuca species are present in this open space. The area is dominated with piping and an open stormwater channel. Grass groundcover impacts the amount of maintenance required and associated costs. Provision of shade trees is limited throughout the open space, and there are no open space facilities such as furniture, shelters and play equipment provided within this area.

View 5
A linear series of parks exist between Blain Street and Chatswood Crescent in the central eastern area of the town. It includes a children’s playground and stands of mature trees. The parks are situated within an existing residential community and there is evidence of informal pathways through the grass. There is also a lack of open space facilities (seats, shelters, bubblers and additional provision for play) within these parks.

View 6
A cenotaph exists adjacent to the Blackwater and District Workers Club on Arthur Street. The cenotaph forms part of a discrete cultural precinct that is well utilised by the local community for memorial events such as Anzac Day. Although well planted, there is a lack of a formal gathering area between the street and the cenotaph, and limited shade and seating.

Figure 2_Open Space - Existing Site Photos Key Plan
3.0 Open Space

3.4 Open space classification

In order to provide the Blackwater community with a variety of open space types that facilitate different uses, a review and analysis of the existing open space was undertaken. This review involved attributing all existing open spaces to a classification system that highlighted the types of open spaces currently existing in Blackwater, and the distribution and quantity of these types of open spaces.

The knowledge gained from this analysis, together with the defined open space criteria, advice from the ULDA, and recommendations outlined in the 1998 Emerald Open Space and Recreation Plan helped the design team to ascertain the provision of existing open space to be enhanced with landscape, the types of open space Blackwater required in addition to the townships existing open space assets, and the appropriate siting of proposed open space.

As a result, the existing and proposed open space will contribute to a holistic open space strategy for Blackwater, through provision of an array of open space types that will facilitate varying uses whilst being accessible to the whole community. These open space types include:

- Town centre park
- Sports facility
- Local parks
- Wildlife corridor
- Special purpose park (Robyn Messer Memorial Park)
- Bushland drainage corridor
- Link/connectivity corridors

3.5 Proposed open space structure

The proposed open space structure is to respond directly to the criteria and also aligns with the structure plan for the Blackwater UDA.

Based on the agreement to rationalise existing open space within the town, the following typologies have been identified:

- Existing open space for development (refer to separate ULDA report)
- Existing open space to be retained mainly occurring to the west and north this includes open space to be retained intact
- These are upgraded local parks with enhanced facility and amenity
- Proposed neighbourhood park based on distribution analysis, these parks are proposed open space, currently located within a different land use/owner
- Proposed town centre park located adjacent to Blain Street, this accommodates a mix of recreational uses
- Proposed bushland drainage corridor to the north east of the town, new environmentally based recreation facility is proposed associated with existing stormwater corridor.

[Diagram: Figure 4a_Existing Open Space Classification
Figure 4b_Proposed Open Space Classification]
### 3.0 Open Space

### 3.6 Open space proposed facilities

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<td>TOWN CENTRE PARK</td>
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<td>Play equipment, Toilets, Shed, Rotunda, Picnic Shelter</td>
<td>Pedestrian/vehicle shareway, Play equipment including rubber soft fall, Amphitheatre, Stage, Water feature and water play, Gateway trees and signage, Cafe, Toilets, Water play crevice, Central promenade, Half court basketball facility, Amenity lighting, Feature lighting</td>
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<td>Play equipment including rubber soft fall, Toilets (retained), Shed (retained), Fitness station, Information centre, Shelters x 3, incorporating tables, barbecue facilities, Pedestrian/cycleways, Entry gazebo, Sculptured coal features, Seating, Bubbler, Amenity lighting, Feature lighting</td>
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<td>Play equipment, Shelter, Table</td>
<td>Fitness trail equipment, Shelter/table, Barbeque facility, Pedestrian pathway, Bubbler, Seating, Amenity lighting</td>
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<td>Play equipment, Shelter, Table, Seat</td>
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<td>Play equipment, Shelter</td>
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<td>18A</td>
<td>WILDLIFE CORRIDOR</td>
<td>0.847</td>
<td>Play equipment</td>
<td>Pedestrian and bicycle pathway, Shelter x 2 inclusive of Table and barbecue facility, Entry structure, Play equipment including rubber soft fall, Seating, Bubbler, Amenity lighting</td>
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<td>18D</td>
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<td>19A</td>
<td>BUSHLAND DRAINAGE CORRIDOR</td>
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<td>Fitness trail equipment, Feature ways to channel, Shelter, Seating, Pedestrian and bicycle pathway, Amenity lighting</td>
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## 3.0 Open Space

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref No</th>
<th>Park Classification</th>
<th>Proposed Area (Ha)</th>
<th>Existing Facilities</th>
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<td></td>
<td>CORRIDOR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CORRIDOR</td>
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<td>LINK CORRIDOR</td>
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<td>Pedestrian pathway</td>
<td>Pedestrian pathway, Seating, Amenity lighting</td>
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</table>

**Figure 5, Open Space Amenity**
3.0 Open Space

3.7 Local parks

The strategy is to achieve a series of local parks for the town. Generally these parks will result from reducing the quantity and area of existing open space.

Whilst smaller in size, it is proposed that amenity will be significantly increased via connectivity, facilities and provision of both shade and shelter. The strategy is for local parks to have a common design and offer a central open space and kick-about area, one or more types of facilities in corner activity areas, with bespoke furniture and unified landscape treatments.

Activity Areas

Four types of activity areas are proposed:

- **Type A** - meeting and gathering space including amenity/facilities such as bench seating, interpretive signage and/or art, feature paving and shade trees.
- **Type B** - children's play areas including weatherproof shelter, barbeque(s), communal bench seating and tables, tap/water bubbler, rubbish bins and shade trees.
- **Type C** - picnic shelter and BBQ space including structural weatherproof shelter, barbeque(s), communal bench seating and tables, tap/water bubbler, rubbish bins, and shade trees.
- **Type D** - open space/dog off leash area including either:
  - half court basketball,
  - fitness trail equipment, or
  - dog off leash area (with fencing, dog park furniture - bag dispenser & tap/bowl)

All options for Type D to incorporate bench seating, bench seating with table, rubbish bins, water bubbler and shade trees.

1. Open space and kick-about area
2. Activity area
3. Feature trees around open space for shade provision and to assist with wayfinding
4. Trees with understorey to delineate activity areas, provide shade and screening
5. Path connection to adjoining streetscape and external path network
6. Circulation Path provides internal circulation and connection to activity areas

Note:
Local parks will provide all or some of the Activity Areas (and associated amenity/facilities). Refer to Section 4.6 Proposed Open Space Facilities
3.0 Open Space

3.8 Bushland drainage corridor

The bushland drainage corridor is proposed within the area of open space to the north east of the town centre. The corridor runs in a north east direction and its main function is that of a stormwater easement. A significant proportion of the town’s stormwater is currently piped through this corridor. Opportunity therefore exists to provide a more sustainable environmentally based outcome that integrates stormwater in the landscape as a visual amenity, and subsequently provides an open space recreational facility.

Figure 7_Bushland Drainage Corridor Context Plan

1. Barbecue shelter provides shaded picnic facilities adjacent to open recreation area
2. Shelter provides shaded seating adjacent to open recreation area
3. Drainage channel flows into existing channel and river tributary
4. Sedimentation pond collects sediment from drainage channel for improved water quality
5. Feature weirs to control water flows through drainage channel
6. Path connection to surrounding residential areas
7. Open grassy dog off-leash area provides informal fenced recreation area with adjacent shelter
8. Bridge connection provides access across drainage channel
9. Skate park provides additional active recreation
10. Fitness station to form part of the town fitness route
11. Existing play equipment to be upgraded

Figure 8_Bushland Drainage Corridor
3.0 Open Space

3.9 Wildlife corridor

Existing open space exists to the north-east of the town, running in an east-west direction. This open space is proposed to be retained as part of the wider open space network strategy.

The existing open space is characterised by the provision of local play facilities and existing mature trees.

This linear park offers the opportunity to provide additional amenity associated with recreational activities, including picnic/barbeque, shelters, pathways and fitness/play equipment. Importantly, the existing natural trees provide an opportunity via reinforcement planting to reinforce its intended function as a linear wildlife/fauna corridor.

1. Shelter provides shaded seating adjacent to open recreation area
2. Playground with play equipment, soft fall and shade trees
3. Fitness equipment with soft fall incorporated into playground
4. Entry structure to mark the park’s entry point
5. Open grassy oval provides kick-about and informal recreation areas
6. Open grassy dog off-lead area provides informal fenced recreation area with adjacent shelter
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

4.1 Criteria

4.1.1 Identity and focal points
It is important to provide both identity and focal points, both for the local community and the visitor.

Focal points can be markers placed at entries to the town or within the townscape to identify important places, streets, open space or views. These markers could be based on the local culture associated with the community.

The town identity is to be highlighted and celebrated where possible. This identity can be drawn from the history of the place; major events that have taken place over time; the local industries/population and the natural environment.

4.1.2 Sustainability and climate response
For a place to be successful it must be both sustainable and responsive to its local climate. With the public realm it will be important in the first instance to properly understand the local climate and design the urban landscape as a suitable response. To be physically sustainable, the natural environment is to be understood, respected and reinforced.

This would include:
- Provision of local/endemic vegetation where possible
- Creating fauna corridor and habitat
- Undertaking water sensitive urban design
- Provision of shade and shelter for the community
- Understand local materials and utilise these in the landscape where possible

4.1.3 Connectivity and wayfiding
The success of a place is also associated with its legibility. This legibility is important not only for the resident but the visitor legibility can be provided via connectivity and wayfinding; inclusive of:
- Markers at gateways/entry points
- Street trees used to identify different avenues or precincts
- Signage that responds to the place’s culture
  - A suite or palette of materials or furniture that is bespoke and unique to a place and its associated environment, history or culture
  - Open space/parkland that is interconnected and used to identify different precincts
  - Pathways/green corridors that are easily understood as connectors within a place

4.1.4 Functionality and attractiveness
It is important for the town to be both functional and attractive to both the local community and visitors.

Additionally, it is highly important that the town provides appealing opportunities for potential investors.

Functionality within the public realm can be described as the provision of suitable amenity to both the parks and street. This would include:
- Shade and shelter via trees and architectural devices
- Pathways that are accessible to all
- Signage/wayfinding devices
- Seating/ resting areas at key locations
- Provision for passive and active play and recreation, within open space to be retained
- Suitable use of water, for irrigation or drinking
- Sustainable drainage (ie landscape, rather than pipe)
- Maintenance reduction where possible, such as utilizing evidence vegetation and reducing grass cover

Attractiveness would result in bespoke design associated with the public realm furniture and landscape. This design would respond to the unique culture and heritage of a place. The landscape and furniture would be a consistent theme and also assist in legibility.

4.1.5 Culture and history
The culture and history of a place is also important to understand and recognise. The history can be associated with significant people or events and can be illustrated within the public realm via art or signage.

Culture can be based on whether the social or economic environs can be highlighted within the streets or parks via art, signage or either hard or soft landscape treatments.

Themes will be integrated into the Blackwater townscape to contribute in providing a sense of identity and place. The themes that will be explored include:
- The local mining industry, including coal and machinery (steel)
- The local agricultural industry
- Petrifed wood and fossilisation
- Local geology (sandstone and coal)
- Vegetation that is native/ endemic to the region including iconic bottle trees, and edible bush plant species and other species used by indigenous peoples
- Aboriginal heritage
- Japanese affiliation

These themes will be subtly evident through landscape structures, furniture, signage, feature walls, plant selection and hard landscape materials incorporated within open spaces and townscape.

Additionally, interpretive art elements and signage that are reflective of the indigenous and European history and culture will be located at prominent locations including (but not limited to) the town centre and streetscape nodes, to add elements of interest and provide an interpretive trail through the town centre with intertwined themes. A cultural feature located in the town centre that is a memorable icon of the history of the town will also be explored.

In terms of hardscape materials integrated throughout the parks and open space, it is preferred for materials to be sourced locally, and where relevant be reflective of local economic drivers. For example; the use of steel to reflect ‘industry’.

These themes will be subtly evident through landscape structures, furniture, signage, feature walls, plant selection and hard landscape materials incorporated within open spaces and townscape.

Additionally, interpretive art elements and signage that are reflective of the indigenous and European history and culture will be located at prominent locations including (but not limited to) the town centre and streetscape nodes, to add elements of interest and provide an interpretive trail through the town centre with intertwined themes. A cultural feature located in the town centre that is a memorable icon of the history of the town will also be explored.

In terms of hardscape materials integrated throughout the parks and open space, it is preferred for materials to be sourced locally, and where relevant be reflective of local economic drivers. For example; the use of steel to reflect ‘industry’.
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

4.2 Issues and opportunities

4.2.1 Identity and focal points

- Formal gateway entry to township could be expressed prominently:
  - Entry points at Mackenzie and Arthur Streets could be more distinguishable
  - Eastern arrival currently has no focal point until arriving at the International Coal Centre/ Lions Park, missing the opportunity to capture visitors passing through town
- Western arrival sequence includes Blackwater International Coal Centre and Lions Park at Mackenzie Street. Lions Park is a gateway opportunity from the western approach
- Highways could act more as a ‘main street’ through
  - Revitalised building frontages to low-set built form
  - Widen footpaths
  - Increase street trees
- Undergrounding of currently overhead cables
- Existing water tower acts as a focal point from a distance, presenting an opportunity to strengthen its presence on the horizon through:
  - Lighting
  - Colour
  - Formal treatment to base at Lions Park
- Existing town centre presents pedestrian activity constraints due to:
  - The set back from Blain Street
  - Use of plain concrete
  - Perimeter carparking
  - Minimal activation to street front
- Town has a number of large yet underutilised open space opportunities
- Township would benefit greatly from a traditional Main Street through the town
- Streetscape revitalisation and opened vistas would greatly improve the visual amenity and sense of place of the town

4.2.2 Sustainability and climate change

- Provision of increased shade within streetscapes/public realm through:
  - Frequent spaced shady street trees
  - Parks with shade structures and large canopy trees
- Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) initiatives to sustainably manage stormwater, such as:
  - Converting the drainage pipes at the town centre into an alternative, ‘green’ method
  - Kerb breaks or flush kerbs feeding runoff into tree pits within public realm (streets/open space)
- Supporting local craftsmanship and materials by using local/endemic or recycled hardscape materials and softscape plantings
- Improving wind breaks to reduce the negative impacts of environmental conditions, such as high winds, on landscape elements and softscape areas

4.2.3 Connectivity and wayfinding

- Improved wayfinding/legibility throughout the town by providing:
  - Visual cues
  - Character precincts
  - Signage
- Cars are the primary mode of travel yet ‘green’ connectivity (i.e. pedestrians & cyclist movements) can be encouraged by providing:
  - Segregated cycle facilities off-roads wherever possible
  - Consistency of tracks when passing through natural areas
- To provide the town with a unique identity by providing a comprehensive, bespoke signage system that assists with placemaking and wayfinding

4.2.4 Functionality and Attractiveness

- Improvements to the functionality and amenity streetscapes, parks and public spaces will reinvigorate the township
- Provide green links that are shaded to encourage active streets
- A palette or suite of streetscape furniture will create a consistent look and character for the town
- Natural ‘meeting places’ typically at street corners, shops, key activity generators can be formalised through the introduction of shade structures and higher level hardscape treatments/ plantings
- View corridors down key streets (Mackenzie & Arthur) can be improved by undergrounding currently overhead cabling
- A suite of materials applied to public paths can assist with visually dividing public paths from private property

4.2.5 Culture and history

- Visual connections and educational tributes to the townships’ culture and history can be provided, expressing:
  - The current culture and boom in mining
  - The introduction of shade structures and higher level hardscape treatments/plantings
  - Blackwater’s strong cultural association with its Japanese sister city, Fujisawa, that could stretch beyond the perimeter of the Japanese Gardens

Integrative pedestrian networks to public open space will improve connectivity and movement through the town
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

4.3 Existing situation

To determine appropriate landscape treatments for townscape enhancements, a visual analysis of existing situations has been prepared. The following images and corresponding descriptions indicate the existing situation, views and view sheds associated with the streetscapes/public realm in Blackwater. The streetscapes depicted in the images have been selected based on the following criteria:

- Prominence of location
- Level of use by community and/or visitors to Blackwater
- Level of existing amenity

View 1
The southern boundary of the town is formed by the Capricorn Highway and railway corridor. The quality of the public realm is basic and void of shade and pedestrian activity, with a disconnected edge between the built form and street. Street furniture (shelter, seats, pedestrian lighting) are minimal and there is little to no soft landscape planting areas or trees. The aerial cabling constrains the use of large canopy street trees on the footpath.

View 2
Mackenzie Street is a primary road within Blackwater running in a north-south direction. The street is characterised by four carriageways (two north/two south), a median and cycle lanes on both sides on the southern section. Rear-in angle parking is provided to the kerb on both sides. Aerial cabling runs the length of the street, within the median. There are no shade trees to Mackenzie Street to soften the extensive view of the road surface or provide shade to the existing pedestrian and cycle paths.

View 3
Blain Street is a primary road located adjacent to the town centre and the future All Abilities Park. It also acts as a connector between Mackenzie and Arthur Streets.

Unlike Mackenzie Street, Blain Street is not constrained by aerial cabling, physically or visually. There is still, however a lack of street trees to provide both definition and shade.

The street abuts retail, residential, civic and recreational uses and based on this there is a lack of pedestrian scale amenity such as shelter and furniture. In addition, the width and scale of the street is not conducive to general pedestrian amenity.
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

View 4
Arthur Street is a primary road running in a north-south direction, on the eastern side of the town. It is similar to Mackenzie Street and consists of four lanes, a median and pedestrian and cycle lanes to the sides. Aerial cabling is located in the footpath zone providing opportunity for street trees to be planted in the median.

There are no shade trees in the streets footpath zone or in the vicinity of the bicycle lanes.

View 5
Talbot Street is located in the south-western section of the town and provides an excellent example of a local street providing both visual definition and shade.

View 6
With its wide streets, Blackwater has the opportunity to provide on-street pedestrian and cycle paths. These paths occur on all primary and secondary roads and act as an excellent connecting device for communities and open space. They also provide a very good means of "green transport" for the town. These pathways do not however have appropriate shade and shelter via street/canopy trees.
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

4.4 Proposed townscape enhancements structure

The proposed townscape enhancements structure directly responds to the criteria developed and concurs with the structure plan for the Blackwater UDA. Key elements associated with the townscape enhancements include:

- Primary Road with enhanced landscape.
- Provision of large canopy shade trees within median and on-street cycle/footpath, signage/banners adjacent to Highway to signify entry.
- Secondary Road with enhanced landscape, provision of large canopy shade trees within street edges or footpath. Reinforced pedestrian and cycle links.
- Major town entry node, gateway treatments inclusive of gabion structures, median signage/barriers and adjacent open space upgrade.
- Minor town entry node signifying secondary entries to town, inclusive of signage and greater scale/use of gabion structures and bottle trees.
- Internal nodes at key street intersections, inclusive of shade/canopy structures, mature tree planting, seating, high quality paving and connectivity to pedestrian and cycle links.
- Arrival gateway treatment, linear progression of artistically designed gabions with clusters of bottle trees to each gabion grouping and associated mounding.
- CHRC Township signage incorporated at eastern and western entries.

- Blackwater town centre revitalisation
- Town centre open space/recreation areas with variety of users integrated with All Abilities Park and connected to upgraded shopping precinct via Blain Street.
- Proposed travellers overnight rest area route and parking. New parking for overnight stay with associated landscape and pedestrian amenity parking for 12 vehicles provided.
- Proposed school parking relocated new parking facility adjacent Blackwater North State School.
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

1. Pedestrian and cycle access
2. Pedestrian/off-cycle crossing Point
3. Meeting place/node with feature pavement
4. Shelter with seating
5. Seating/signage under trees
6. Signature Bottle Trees to nodes
7. Central canopy trees
8. WSUD swale planting
9. Signature planting - Illawarra Flame Tree

Figure 13_Typical Internal Node

4.5 Strategies

4.5.1 Nodes
Nodes are located at key locations at intersections of major streets within the town. Nodes serve a number of purposes:
A marker signifying a key location or change in direction
A meeting or gathering place
A place to seek shelter or refuge
A confluence of green transport modes (pedestrian/cycle)

There are three types of nodes, including:
Major Town Entry Node,
Minor Town Entry Node, and
Internal Nodes.

The major town entry nodes are located along the Capricorn Highway at MacKenzie and Arthur Street intersections, and provide a point of interest that defines the intersection as the major turning point and access route to the town centre. At MacKenzie Street this will be achieved through the existing iconic flag display, as well as signature trees, i.e. bottle trees and signage and sculptural gabions. Arthur Street will be reinforced through incorporation of signature trees and interpretive signage.

The minor town entry nodes are also located along the Capricorn Highway at Littlefield Street intersection to the west, and the junction of a proposed road located to the east. These nodes will provide a landscape treatment to these secondary entries, which will be delineated through the use of signature planting; i.e. Brachychiton acerifolius.

The internal nodes are situated at key locations relevant to wayfinding throughout the town. Typical treatments for an internal node would include high quality paving, seating and water bubbler. Mature/exground trees would also help reinforce the importance of each node.

Significantly, each node would also comprise a bespoke shade structure that would be common to the Blackwater public realm furniture.
4.6 Strategies

4.6.1 Streetscapes

The town’s streets generally run in an east-west direction. The primary streets (Mackenzie and Arthur streets) are aligned in a north-south direction and comprise the main connectors into and out of the town centre.

The streets are characterised by generous carriageway widths. Streets such as Mackenzie are constrained by the location of aerial cabling in the median. The integration of additional street trees will contribute to a perceived reduced width of hard paved surface, and provide legibility, definition, and shade amenity for pedestrians and cyclists.

The streetscape design employed by the strategy is to provide endemic canopy street trees to streets classified as primary and secondary. Large, ex-ground trees such as Figs are proposed for the median. This requires undergrounding of existing aerial cabling at key locations. The proposed strategy options are to provide avenue trees either:

1. within the streets and adjacent to pedestrian and cycle ways where aerial cabling exists along footpaths, or
2. within the footpath zone where cabling has been undergrounded.

A tree of advanced feature fig trees (*Ficus microcarpa var. hillii*) planted within the existing median to delineate the ‘main street’, provide shade and a sense of cooling, and break down the scale of the road. Existing Cassia trees within the Arthur Street median retained and additional advanced specimens incorporated to extend the avenue of Cassia trees to Blain Street intersection.

Vegetative buffer that breaks down the scale of the existing wide road, whilst providing shade cover to the pedestrian and cycle strips. Street tree species may include *Melaleuca linariifolia* (Snow-in-Summer) or *Melaleuca leucadendra* (Broad-leaved paperbark).

Pedestrian and cycle routes integrated with existing road surface

Native street tree plantings providing shade, such as *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* (Grey Box) or *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box)

Existing kerb alignment retained

Figure 15_Existing Primary Cross Section

Figure 14_Steetscape Context Plan

Figure 16_Proposed Primary Road Cross
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

Figure 17: Existing Secondary Road Cross Section

- Extent and locations of pedestrian footpaths vary between streets
- Landscaping within road verge is irregular and minimal
- Shoulders of road is commonly used by pedestrians
- Extent of on-street cycle lanes varies
- Locations of powerlines vary between streets: above / underground, one side / both sides

Figure 18: Proposed Secondary Road Cross Section with Existing Underground Caballing

- Vegetative buffer with large trees to help break down the scale of the existing wide road, whilst providing shade to the pedestrian and cycle paths
- Pedestrian and cycle routes integrated with existing road surface
- Segmented concrete edge barrier to allow stormwater runoff to permeate
- Existing kerb alignment retained

Figure 19: Proposed Secondary Road Cross Section with Existing Overhead Caballing

- Vegetative buffer that breaks down the scale of the existing wide road and provides shade to the pedestrian and cycle paths
- Car parking interdispersed at designated sections along the vegetative buffer
- Pedestrian and cycle routes integrated with the existing road surface
- Existing above-ground powerlines retained
- Existing kerb alignment retained

Figure 19: Proposed Secondary Road Cross Section with Existing Overhead Caballing
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

4.6.2 Gateway statement

It has been identified that a gateway statement (or statements) is required for the town, set alongside the Capricorn Highway and set to the west of Mackenzie Street and east of Arthur Street. These gateways are important to provide visual cues for both the western and eastern approach. The cues are important to highlight the entries via Mackenzie and Arthur Streets and also to highlight environmental and cultural references.

The resultant design proposal is for a series of artistically designed gabions to be strategically located along the verge of the highway. These gabions are proposed to be filled with local rock and designed to avoid impeding with sightlines. Endemic Bottle trees are also proposed to be planted in clusters associated with each gabion precinct, for environmental context and visual accent. Mounded groundcover planting is also proposed to integrate with the gabions and Bottle trees.
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

Figure 22a_Artist’s Perspective of Sculptural Gabions

Figure 22b_Eastern Gateway Statement Detail Plan

Bottle trees and signage
Proposed vegetated buffer treatment to future non-resident workers accommodation
Proposed vegetated buffer treatment to future non-resident workers accommodation
Curved gabions with earth mounding and Bottle Trees

Scale 1:500 (A3)

Figure 22_Eastern Gateway Statement Longitudinal Plan

Figure 22b_Eastern Gateway Statement Detail Plan
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

4.6.3 Capricorn Highway

The Capricorn Highway forms the southern edge of the town. The highway is under the direct control of the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR). It is understood that DTMR are currently undertaking a planning and design assessment of the highway. The results of this work will not be available in the short term and on this basis only minor landscape improvements are proposed until the future reconfiguration of the roadway is determined.

The design approach has two parts:
(i) Where existing buildings abut the property line
   _Street trees are proposed to existing paving in tree pits/grates set in a regular pattern that avoids existing power poles; seating is proposed adjacent to each tree
(ii) Where existing buildings are set back from the property line or where there is no building
   _Street trees and associated groundcover are proposed adjacent to the property boundary to create a continuous, linear, soft landscape treatment. CPTED principles are to be adhered to.

1. Feature highway streetscape pavement to be consistent from Mackenzie Street to Arthur Street
2. Small ornamental shade trees in tree pits positioned between electrical poles
3. Low seat walls
4. Tactile ground surface indicators to delineate driveway edge
5. Opportunity to extend understorey planting beyond boundary line to increase visual aesthetic
6. Small trees with low understorey planting for softening
7. Where space allows, retain existing turf strip adjacent to kerb
8. Promotional/festival flags

![Figure 23_Capricorn Highway Mackenzie to Arthur Street](image1)

![Figure 24_Capricorn Highway Mackenzie to Arthur Street Context Plan](image2)
4.0 Townscape Enhancements
4.0. Travellers overnight rest area

Campervan tourists utilise the Capricorn Highway for travel through Queensland and Australia. There are typically high volumes of usage associated with the travellers, who provide economic return to host places. Currently there is no provision for casual overnight campervan parking within Blackwater, and opportunity exists to provide this between the Blackwater International Coal Centre and Lions Park, and sited between the Capricorn Highway and Blackwater Primary School.

Key elements/facilities of the proposed Overnight Travellers Rest Area include:

- 45 degrees angled drive-through parking for ease of access;
- Provision for 12 vehicles to park;
- Large parking bays to accommodate spill-out (14m x 5m);
- One-way in/one way out;
- Entry via Wey Street and exit via the service vehicle access at the Blackwater International Coal Centre;
- Swales for surface stormwater runoff;
- Large canopy trees for provision of shade and to reduce scale of hard paved surface and associated heat load;
- Sculptural mounding and dense planting adjacent to the highway to mitigate visual impact;
- Provision of mounding and dense planting to school boundary, and
- Access for all and CPTED compliant pedestrian paving and circulation.

Figure 25_Travellers Overnight Rest Area Context Plan

Figure 26_Travellers Overnight Rest Area

1. Pedestrian connections to Blackwater International Coal Centre
2. Vehicular exit to the BICC service vehicle access point associated with BCC
3. Large gathering space with BBQ facilities, sink and seating
4. Dense planting and earth sculpting along highway to provide visual and noise buffer
5. Low maintenance native grasses
6. WSUD swale to collect surface runoff from paved areas
7. Pedestrian/vehicular shared zone - separated from parking by v-channel
8. Informal seating under trees
9. Small gathering space with terrace, shelter and seating
10. Angled parking
11. One-way in / one-way out to minimise congestion
12. Connection to Lions Park
4.0 Townscape Enhancements

4.6.5 Blackwater North State School parking

The existing car park associated with Blackwater North State School is at capacity and constrained by a single entry in a congested section of Park Street during peak pick-up and drop-off times.

It is suggested that to alleviate these constraints, a new carpark is proposed immediately adjacent to the school and set within existing open space at the intersection of Park and Hunter streets. Key features of the proposed carpark include:

- One way in/one way out circulation;
- Water sensitive design, inclusive of swale of the carpark and receive surface runoff;
- Provision of large canopy trees for shade and shelter;
- Pedestrian circulation that is accessible to all and CPTED compliant, and
- Provision of canopied meeting node, adjacent to proposed pedestrian crossing.

1. Entry via Park Street
2. Stormwater pit to connect to streetscape drainage system
3. Vegetated swales to capture and treat stormwater runoff from car park
4. Large shade trees throughout car park
5. Disabled parking (x4)
6. Exit via Hunter Street
7. Meeting node shelter with seating/paved area
8. Pedestrian crossing

Figure 28_Blackwater North State School

Figure 27_Blackwater North State School Context Plan
5.0 Planting for Blackwater

5.1 Planting themes

The successful planting strategy for the Blackwater UDA will be crucial to achieving the vision and proposed planning structures of the town. Endemic canopy trees will provide shade and shelter for the community. They will also assist with legibility/wayfinding and reduce heat load. The trees will reduce erosion and also provide faunal habitat.

Tree species have been sourced from Council preferred lists. As based on criteria such availability, maintenance, form and colour, trees will also be chosen based on CPTED compliance (ie height of canopy to allow visibility), shrubs and groundcovers are also proposed to be endemic and are to be chosen based on colour, texture, height (maximum 1 metre) and availability. As with the tree species, these are to be local/endemic. The shrubs and groundcovers are generally to be utilised within open space/parkland and planted on grade or in association with mounding of species. Densities are to be considered based on maintenance minimisation requirements. Species with minimal water requirement would also be favoured.

**NOTE:** ideally, a complete plant list will be a selection of local endemic species such as Blackdown wattles, callistemons and eucalypts, however, will be dependent on nursery stock sourcing and availability.

### Common Name

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Trees</strong></th>
<th><strong>Botanical Name</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hoop pine</td>
<td>Araucaria cunninghamii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illawarra Flame Tree</td>
<td>Brachychiton acerifolius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurrajong</td>
<td>Brachychiton populneus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeping fig</td>
<td>Ficus microcarpa var. hillii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow poinciana</td>
<td>Peltophyllum pterocarpum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Brush Box</td>
<td>Lophostemon confertus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Red Gum</td>
<td>Eucalyptus moluccana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Box</td>
<td>Eucalyptus tereticornis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad-leaved paperbark</td>
<td>Melaleuca leucadendra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow-in-Summer</td>
<td>Melaleuca linariifolia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grasses**

- Dietes
- Spreading flax lily
- Kangaroo grass
- No mow grass

**Groundcovers/Accent Plants**

- Agave
- Kangaroo paw
- Aussie Boomer Lilly Pilly
- Beds next fern
- Midglenberry
- Paper daisy
- Native daisy
- Emu bush
- Little buttons
- Fine leaf cordyline
- Jelle plant
- Bank’s grevillea
- Bronze rambler
- Rainbow Falls callistemon
- Gazania
- Hibbertia
- Byfield spider flower
- Rocky rambler
- Spreading flax lily
- Leucospermum
- Slender rice flower
- Coastal rosemary
- Dwarf floss tops
- Kangaroo grass
- Soft tipped yucca
- Cardboard palm
- Agave attenuata
- Anigozanthos ‘Bush Ranger’
- Syzygium australis ‘Boomer’
- Asplenium nidus
- Austromyrtus dulcis
- Brachycome iberidifolia ‘Dragon Hill Monarch’
- Brachyscome multiformis
- Eremophila maritima
- Chrysanthemum 'Appolonia'
- Cordyline ‘Tango’
- Crassula ovata
- Grevillea banksii ‘Bronze Rambler’
- Grevillea ‘Bronze Rambler’
- Callistemon pearsonii ‘Rainbow Falls’
- Gezania rigens
- Hibbertia vestita
- Grevillea venusta
- Callistemon pearsonii
- Dianella revoluta
- Viburnum tinus
- Pimelea linifolia
- Westringia fruticosa
- Melaleuca linariifolia (dwarf)
- Thymus triandrus
- Yucca elephantipes
- Zamia furfuracea

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5.0 Planting for Blackwater
6.0 Furniture and Materials

6.1 Materials and furniture palette

There is an opportunity to provide bespoke furniture for the Blackwater UDA. The furniture and materials must be able to fully respond to the local environment and be robust and low maintenance. Materials such as corten and galvanised steel, and timber composite are encouraged.

Furniture will include canopy structures, seating, tables, bins and water bubblers. It is intended that the canopy structures are architecturally designed and refer to the Japanese sister city of Blackwater. Further themes to be incorporated within furniture as described in Section 4.1.5 of this report include:

- The local mining industry, including coal and machinery (steel);
- The local agricultural industry;
- Petrified wood and fossilisation;
- Local geology (sandstone and coal), and Indigenous heritage.

These themes will be evident through seating/benches, rubbish bins, interpretive signage, and feature walls located within Blackwater town centre, parks and open spaces, township entry nodes, and internal streetscape nodes.

Local artists would also be encouraged to be a part of initial workshops associated with the design of these pieces. This could assist in illustrating the history and culture of Blackwater.

Materials generally are intended to be sustainable, which could include locally sourced rock for paving and sculptural gabions. Additionally, material selection would need to be based on the level of maintenance associated with the material, robustness, glare factor, colour and texture.

Lighting and signage will also be required. This will also be custom design and also reflect the history and culture of Blackwater.
6.0 Furniture and Materials

RUBBISH BINS

BOLLARDS

FLAG POLES

PAVEMENTS

SIGNATURE MATERIALS
7.0 Priority Areas

7.1 Town centre

Revitalisation of the Blackwater town centre is an important component of the vision for the Blackwater UDA. The town centre is proposed to be the heart of the town, where cultural and recreational activities are centred and where major events are held.

The Strategy reinforces the Blackwater town centre and promotes the creation of a 'main street' adjacent to the existing centre on Blain Street.

Features of the revitalised town centre include:
- new centre and footpath planting to provide shade and improve amenity;
- a new plaza entrance and retail development on northern Blain Street frontage;
- a small linking plaza and other business or community uses on the southern side of the street, as well as park and recreational uses including the proposed All Abilities Park, and street parking on both sides providing direct access to all street side uses.

Indicative plant list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trees</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hoop pine</em></td>
<td>Araucaria cunninghamii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Illawarra Flame Tree</em></td>
<td>Brachychiton acerifolius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Weeping fig</em></td>
<td>Ficus microcarpa var. Himalayan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Yellow poinciana</em></td>
<td>Peltophorum pterocarpum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Grey Box</em></td>
<td>Lophostemon confertus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Broad-leaved paperbark</em></td>
<td>Melaleuca leucadendra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Snow-in-Summer</em></td>
<td>Melaleuca linifolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grasses</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Dietes</em></td>
<td>Dietes bicolor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Spreading flax lily</em></td>
<td>Dianella revoluta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>No mow grass</em></td>
<td>Zoysia tenuifolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Groundcovers/Accent Plants</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Agave</em></td>
<td>Agave attenuata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aussie Boomie Lilly Pilly</em></td>
<td>Syzygium australis 'Boomie'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Native daisy</em></td>
<td>Brachycome multifida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Little buttons</em></td>
<td>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fine leaf cordyline</em></td>
<td>Cordyline stricta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bank's grevillea</em></td>
<td>Grevillea banksii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bronze rambler</em></td>
<td>Grevillea 'Bronze Rambler'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rainbow falls callistemon</em></td>
<td>Callistemon parviflorus 'Rainbow Falls'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Gazania</em></td>
<td>Gazania rigens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Spreading flax lily</em></td>
<td>Dianella revoluta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Soft-tipped yucca</em></td>
<td>Yucca elephantipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cardboard palm</em></td>
<td>Zamia furfuracea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Commercial tenancies - including shops, cafes and community uses. Staged development permits future expansion
2. Building awning - provides shaded walkway, step down to pedestrian scale from multi-storey building and reinforces shared zone edge
3. All Abilities Play - in accordance with Council’s proposal
4. General play - provides additional play facilities such as climbing nets and half courts
5. Park stream - flows from the water play through to the all abilities and general play areas providing a unifying feature
6. Park promenade - provides main connection through park to plaza and to all park facilities
7. Amphitheatre and stage - with grassed seating terraces
8. Laneway access - to adjoining uses for shared pedestrian/vehicular movement and visitor parking
9. Business and community use overlooking park and fronting Blain Street
10. Open grassy area - provides views over and soft edge to water play
11. Water play - area with water based play activities
12. Stepped terrace - provides viewing and access to water play
13. Cafe and toilets - centrally located to serve both park and plaza
14. Entry gateway - signalled by change in tree type and signage
15. Shared zone - with narrowed road, pavement treatment and large figs to prioritise pedestrian movement and slows vehicular traffic
16. Water feature - to plaza cools air and provides visual connection to water play area in park
17. Plaza - with shade structure provides opportunity for outdoor dining, entertainment and meeting
18. Car park - to rear of buildings for visual amenity
19. Street parking
7.0 Priority Areas
7.0 Priority Areas

7.2 Lions park and township entry node

Lions Park is a key open space facility for Blackwater with existing amenity and facilities including picnic and barbecue shelters, town water tower, Lions Club shed, heritage railway building and associated locomotive (to be relocated), children’s play and public ablutions. International flags also circumnavigate the park, with associated historical and cultural significance.

Adjacent to Lions Park lies Mackenzie Street, which has been identified as a gateway, primary street for Blackwater. It has been agreed to upgrade both Lions Park and Mackenzie Street due to their significance to the town and proximity to the Highway.

Lions Park’s key facilities are to remain intact, inclusive of the water tower children’s play, shed and ablutions. Overlaid to this is the proposal for:
- Pedestrian circulation/paving
- Gateway features adjacent Highway
- For relocated and upgraded picnic/barbecue facilities
- Fitness trail facilities
- Enhanced open space

Mackenzie Street is proposed to be upgraded to allow for:
- Undergrounding of aerial cabling
- Canopy trees and/or relocated flag poles to median
- Canopy trees to footpath/verge and carparking bays
- Signage banners

Indicative plant list

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Illawarra Flame Tree</td>
<td>Brachychiton acerifolius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeping fig</td>
<td>Ficus microcarpa var. hillii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow poinciana</td>
<td>Peltophorum pterocarpum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grasses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries</td>
<td>Dictis bicolor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreading flax lily</td>
<td>Dianella revoluta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No mow grass</td>
<td>Zypreia terifolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundcovers/Accent Plants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agave</td>
<td>Agave attenuata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aussie Boomer Lilly/Pilly</td>
<td>Syzygium australe 'Boomer'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little buttoness</td>
<td>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine leaf cordyline</td>
<td>Cordylina octa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank's grevillea</td>
<td>Grevillea banksii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze sambler</td>
<td>Grevillea 'Bronze Rambler'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazania</td>
<td>Gazania rigens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreading flax lily</td>
<td>Dianella revoluta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard palm</td>
<td>Zamia furfuracea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 31_Lions Park & Township Entry Node Context Plan

Figure 32_Lions Park and Township Entry Node 1:1000 @ A3

1. Existing swimming pool
2. Existing Lions Park flagpoles to be retained
3. Pedestrian node with shade structure
4. Fitness circuit facilities
5. Existing playground to be refurbished
6. Existing toilet block to be refurbished including new canopy structure
7. Existing Lions Club facility to be retained
8. Existing water tower to be painted and up-lit
9. Entry Forecourt
10. Picnic and barbecue facilities with shade structures throughout park
11. Sculptural gable walls with understory planting
12. Proposed streetscape treatment to include flagpoles along median
7.0 Priority Areas
7.3 Township cenotaph

The existing cenotaph is adjacent to the Blackwater and District Workers Club on Arthur Street. It is mainly utilised for public memorials such as Anzac Day. Although well-planted, the cenotaph landscape has the potential to improve, and in particular provide additional landscaped areas for gathering.

It is proposed that the following occur:
- Redevelopment of paving and reconstruction of existing steps; create a proper “frame” for the cenotaph
- Provision of new canopy shade trees adjacent to the new paving
- Installation of bespoke seating adjacent to the paved area
- Continuation of the new paving into a section of the road reserve to provide additional gathering space
- Provision of suitable bespoke pedestrian scale lighting

Indicative plant list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive tree</td>
<td><em>Olea europaea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeping fig</td>
<td><em>Ficus microcarpa var. nili</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grasses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietes</td>
<td><em>Dietes bicolor</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreading flax lily</td>
<td><em>Dianella revoluta</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No mow grass</td>
<td><em>Zoysia tenuifolia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundcovers/Accent Plants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agave</td>
<td><em>Agave attenuata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aussie Boomers Lilly Pilly</td>
<td><em>Syzygium australe ‘Boomer’</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronz rambler</td>
<td><em>Grevillea ‘Bronze Rambler’</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazania</td>
<td><em>Dianella revoluta</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreading flax lily</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Formal paved ‘square’ gathering space with adjacent seating
2. Existing heritage pine trees to be retained
3. Formal steps up to memorial at existing levels
4. Existing olive trees to be retained to back-drop of memorial - additional olive tree to be planted to screen colourbond fence behind
5. Proposed understorey to back-drop
6. Two proposed mature Fig trees in turf to provide shade
7. Forecourt to extend into road to provide additional gathering space
7.0 Priority Areas
8.0 Implementation and Staging

The strategy will be implemented over time by the Central Highlands Regional Council, drawing on normal budget allocations as well as potential funding from State or Federal grants, incentive programs and third party contributions. The services of local community groups may also play an important role in bringing the strategy to life.

The townscape enhancement strategy could be broken down into inter-related elements/areas that would comprise a single ‘phase of work’. These phases (in no hierarchy of staging) include:

Phase 1.
- Lions Park (streetscape interface) entry node
- Mackenzie Street to Acacia Street streetscape

Phase 2.
- Blackwater town centre
- Blain Street streetscape
- 2x internal nodes at Blain Street and Acacia Street intersection, and Blain Street and Arthur Street intersection

Phase 3.
- Township cenotaph
- Arthur Street streetscape
- Entry node at Arthur Street and Capricorn Highway intersection

Phase 4.
- Acacia Street streetscape

Phase 5.
- Capricorn Highway frontages (Mackenzie Street to Arthur Street)
- Gateway statements

Phase 6.
- Secondary Roads

Figure 35_Townscape Enhancement Phasing