## Contents

The Site Master Plan for Mount Annan Botanic Garden is issued in three volumes. This volume, Volume Two, contains the Site Development Plan, Volume One contains the Site Management Plan and Volume Three contains the Appendices to the Site Master Plan.

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### Volume III  Supporting Studies

- Community Research Findings Report prepared by Environmetrics
- Heritage Report prepared by Architectural History Services
- Natural Systems Management Report prepared by Ian Perkins Consultancy Services
- The Australian Botanic Gardens network
An introduction to the Site Development Plan

The Site Development Plan forms Volume II of the Mount Annan Botanic Garden Site Master Plan.

The Site Development Plan provides an illustrative image of the recommendations prepared for the Garden based on the values and issues assessments. The Site Development Plan will provide a basis for implementing the Site Management Plan by defining the areas and/or elements of the Garden to be protected and enhanced, proposed land uses and activities and associated facilities.

A series of site planning principles are firstly explored, which guide the development of the Site Development Plan structure from a broad regional perspective.

A number of masterplanning concepts are then presented, focusing on design philosophies at the site scale.

The Site Development Plan is then presented with a series of supporting graphics, giving a general indication of the physical structure of the site.
Site planning principles

There are four basic site planning principles that guide the development of the Site Development Plan structure. These principles address the site planning, design and development of the Garden as a result of the findings of the Site Management Plan.

These site planning principles are illustrated and briefly described on the following pages.

- Establishing a cultural precinct
- Site response - landscape units
- Botanic Garden vs. botanic parkland
- Sustainable land management
• Identify Mount Annan Botanic Garden as a focus within a larger cultural precinct in south-western Sydney, which collectively provides opportunities for education, recreation, conservation, research and development

• Establish the concept of ‘Yandel’ora’ - a peaceful gathering place for learning about the environment and social interaction

• Establish strong pedestrian and cycle connections across the Macarthur region and into local systems, utilising the Sydney Water Supply Canal and proposed local networks

• Develop the area’s identity to provide a landmark along the highway and railway
Site response - landscape units

- Utilise the site’s natural features such as topography, vegetation, soil types, aspect and drainage to provide the basis for defining landscape units, to direct the site’s development and management actions.

- Identify variations in topography across the site, the integrity of the hills, the open nature of the central valley, conservation areas and the site’s relationships with former pastoral landuses.

- Preserve and enhance the site’s inherent landscape character as a remnant of the traditional regional landscape type.

- Identify land capability and areas most suitable for visitor activities.
• Divide the site according to activity types and intensity of use
• Focus Botanic Garden activities in the southern half of the site
• Focus botanic parkland activities in the northern half of the site
  • Utilise the Sydney Water Canal as the line of demarcation

Botanic Garden vs. botanic parkland
• Promote holistic land management through broad landscape management practices

• Masterplanning approach embodies an environmental and land stewardship ethic, by implementing principles of keyline irrigation, re-establishing natural drainage lines and wetland systems and encouraging the collection, treatment and reuse of all rainwater on-site

• Develop the site within the parameters of water availability, and promote water conservation

• Encourage the development of alternative power sources such as solar and wind generation

• Utilise recycled material from neighbouring sites such as green waste and treated effluent
Masterplanning concepts

A number of masterplanning concepts have been developed, which inform the interpretation of the Site Development Plan.

These concepts are described on the following page.
Designing to engage the visitor through botanic experience and landscape impact

Shifting paradigms for Botanic Gardens:
Changing the ways in which people experience these places, understand their relevance and interpret their messages.

Designing to be responsive to the site

Making the Garden expressive and responsive to the place - genius loci:
Open valleys, varying topography, former Aboriginal and European site uses, land capability, response to land management techniques and the requirements of Australian ecosystems

Designing within the artificial environment

Botanic Gardens and the notion of artificiality:
Recognise the levels of control, structure and degrees of ornamental, and how these can be interpreted across the site

Designing for the different experiences of driver and pedestrian / cycle

Driver experience vs. pedestrian experience:
Recognise the dominance of car movements through the Garden
Understand the importance of experiencing a variety of rooms across the site: enclosure and exposure, defining views.

Designing for excellence and longevity within the Garden from the macro to the micro scale

Recognising Mount Annan Botanic Garden as a centre for excellence in its design, maintenance and functionality:
urban landscape elements and materials selection that are unique, and international design competitions that add to the profile and standards of the Garden
Site Development Plan

The Site Development Plan follows, and together with supporting graphics, gives a general indication of the physical structure of the site.