

Civic Improvement Plan



Revitalising

Parramatta

CITY CENTRE PLAN



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

This document was prepared by the Regional Cities Taskforce, a group that included planners and urban designers from the Department of Planning and the local council for each of the six regional cities.

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Civic Improvement Plan
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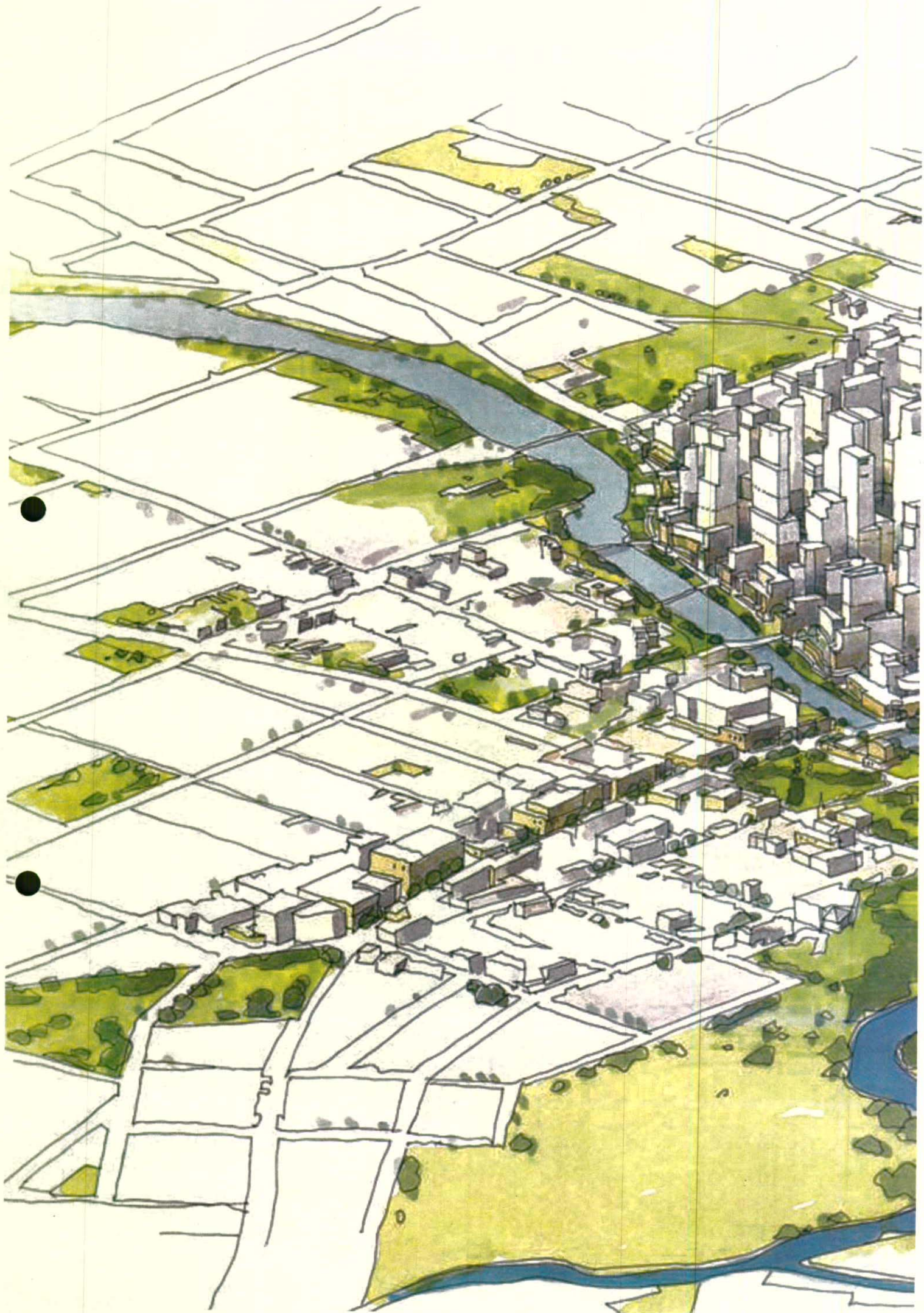
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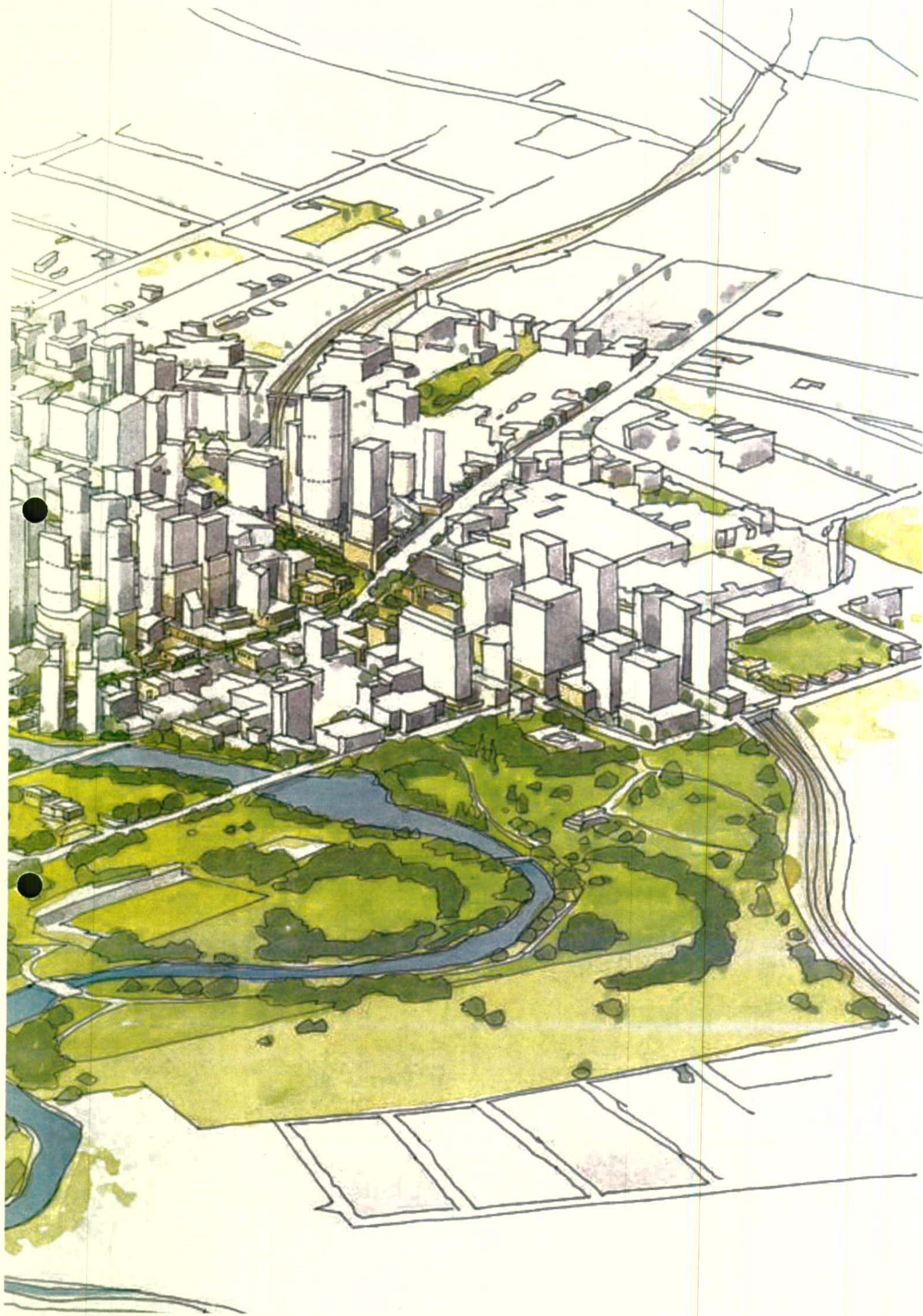
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1. Introduction

This Civic Improvement Plan for the Parramatta city centre provides a description of the civic infrastructure needed to support the growth and development of the city centre, and outlines the framework for contributions to be made towards the funding and provision of the infrastructure in association with future development in the city centre.

This plan is one of four documents prepared jointly by the Department of Planning and Parramatta City Council for the Parramatta city centre as part of the Cities Taskforce established by the Minister for Planning. The four planning documents comprise a Vision Statement, Local Environmental Plan (LEP), Development Control Plan (DCP) and Civic Improvement Plan (CIP).

This Civic Improvement Plan is a critical component to achieve the city vision, high quality urban design and public domain character for the Parramatta city centre as described in the accompanying Vision document. The Vision establishes the nexus between growth, development and the need for public domain projects and special

city centre projects identified in this Civic Improvement Plan. This plan sets design principles and incorporates design strategies for the public domain and special projects needed to support growth and development in the city centre permitted under the accompanying LEP and DCP. It guides the funding and provision of this civic infrastructure. The development of these special projects is integral to the successful revitalisation and growth of the city centre. The Civic Improvement Plan includes public domain projects for paving, street trees and urban furniture which are important components of the character of the city centre.

The public domain projects and special projects for the city centre are to be funded in part by monetary contributions levied from new development in the city centre under Section 94A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) and by other sources of funds sought by Council.

2. Public domain projects

2.0 PUBLIC DOMAIN PROJECTS

The Civic Improvement Plan identifies strategies for enriching and expanding the public domain and design parameters for streets and key public spaces. The design strategies for the public domain are for street and park improvements, creating new public squares and public promenades. The public domain design objectives and strategies are set for the provision of new paving, tree planting, lighting, urban furniture, signage and city ecology.

These public domain enhancement projects are estimated to cost \$39 million.

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The design strategies for the public domain are intended to:

- Provide a framework to guide the development of the public domain in Parramatta city centre;
- Ensure that the public and private domains are seamlessly integrated;
- Deliver an environment that is safe and free of overcrowding, nuisance and pollution;
- Ensure that improvements are sustainable both in terms of energy consumption and economic, social and cultural vitality;
- Encourage and value expressions of local identity;
- Embrace difference and diversity, and develop places that encourage participation and provide for a range of shared social, cultural and recreational activities;
- Enhance pedestrian networks and ensure equitable access in and around Parramatta city centre;
- Accommodate change and provide spaces that are flexible and robust;
- Ensure public places are of the highest design quality and provide a range of sensory experiences; and
- Provide a balance between pedestrian and vehicular occupation of the city.

2.2 PUBLIC DOMAIN FRAMEWORK

The framework for the public domain involves strategies for:

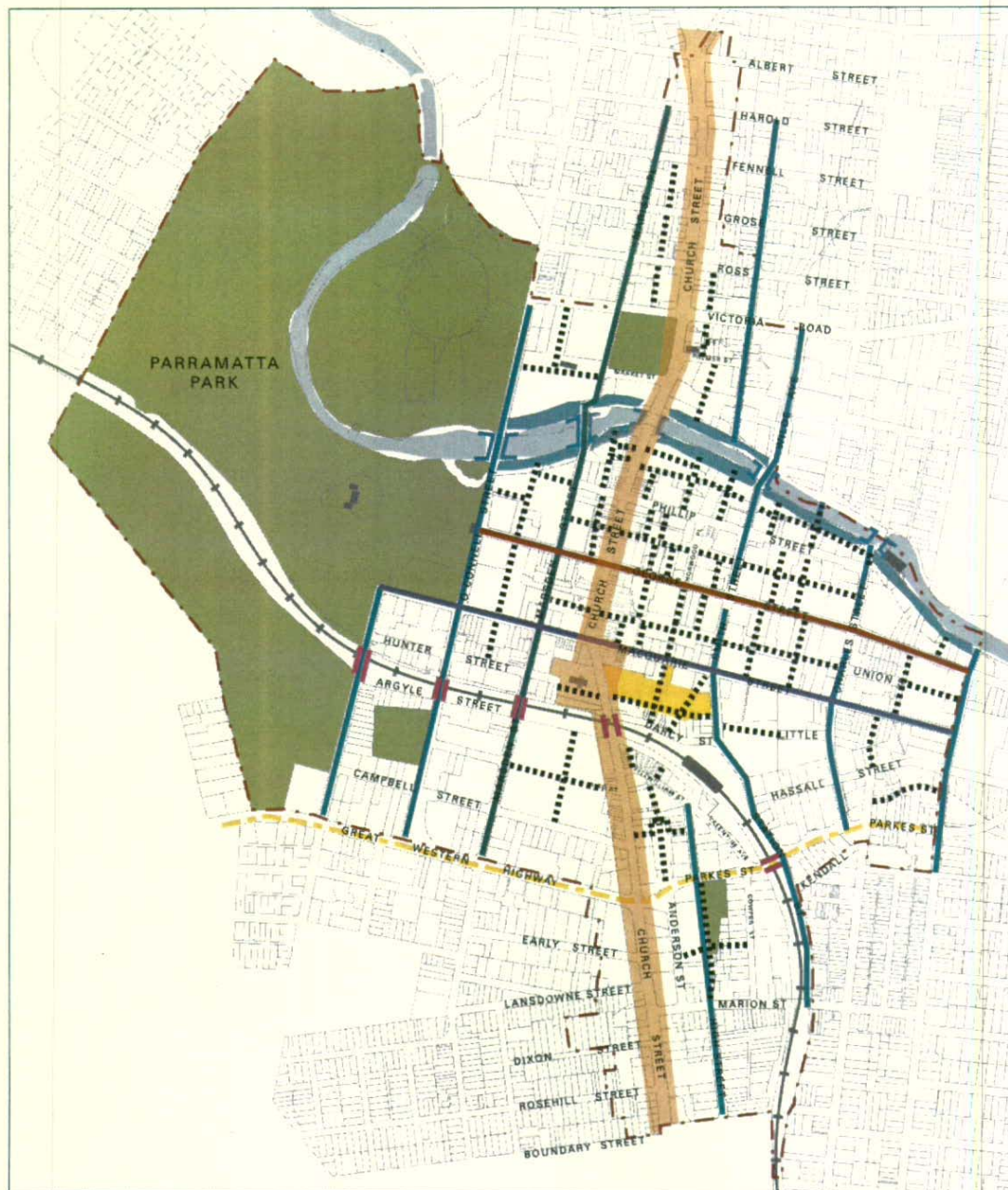
- City Spaces and Streets
- City Culture, Entertainment and Recreation;
- City Events and Street Life;
- City Art, Identity and the Outdoor Museum;
- City Ecology;
- City Access; and
- Public Domain Works – street tree planting, paving, lighting and signage.









2.3 CITY SPACES AND STREETS

The urban design strategies for the city centre promote integrated and sustainable city spaces and streetscape design programs. Figure 1 illustrates these while the strategies below encourage design excellence for both public infrastructure programs and private development. City space strategies are:

- Reconnect the city to the river by enhancing views, pedestrian linkages and animating the riverfront;
- Enhance and where necessary reinstate connections between north and south Parramatta across the river to the city centre;
- Encourage the highest quality urban design and promote a seamless interface between the public and private domains;
- Create a network of linked parks and public spaces that unify the city and enhance pedestrian and recreational experiences. Use urban elements such as furniture, signage, lighting and paving to unify the city centre public domain;
- Extend and enhance the public domain through partnerships with corporate organisations and government agencies;
- Use street trees and planting programs to generate visual interest in public spaces and to improve amenity by modifying the microclimate and providing summer shade;

FIGURE 1: CITY SPACES AND STREETS – URBAN DESIGN STRATEGIES



- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| — acknowledge George Street's role as a major linkage running east west and the first planned street in Australia |  retain and enhance river crossings |  realise the river's potential as a cultural place capable of interpreting indigenous, natural and cultural heritage |  reinforce Great Western Highway as a major gateway to the city |
| — acknowledge Macquarie Street's role as a major linkage running east west |  preserve and interpret historic significance of parks and cultural spaces |  enhance and reinforce Church Street's role as Parramatta's main street, outdoor eating area, retail spine and major north south connection for vehicles, pedestrians and views |  railway underpasses can be enhanced through artwork to create attractive thresholds to the city centre |
| — emphasise and enhance potential for connecting the city centre using street trees, lighting and paving |  desired future pedestrian connections |  Civic Place | |

2. Public domain projects

- Conserve, enhance and interpret street pattern, monuments, heritage buildings, cultural and natural landscape features and historic views within, to and from the city centre;
- Improve community safety (both real and perceptions) within the city centre;
- Implement a holistic approach to maintenance practices in shared spaces and in areas adjoining the public domain; and
- Design the public domain as not to exclude homeless people and proactively address conflicts by providing appropriate facilities for resting, storage and grooming.

2.4 CITY CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION

The city's creative vision is to build its identity, cultural infrastructure and creative industries to attract, retain, validate and acknowledge the role of artists in our community, as well as to generate new wealth and prosperity for Parramatta. This section presents strategies for encouraging the development of cultural, entertainment and recreational precincts within the city centre. Figure 2 shows the existing and newly identified areas of Parramatta's Social and Cultural Precincts and briefly outlines the significant venues and places that "anchor" each precinct. City cultural, social and recreational strategies aim to recognise and further support the development of distinct cultural areas in the city centre for the production, presentation and consumption of the arts and culture by:

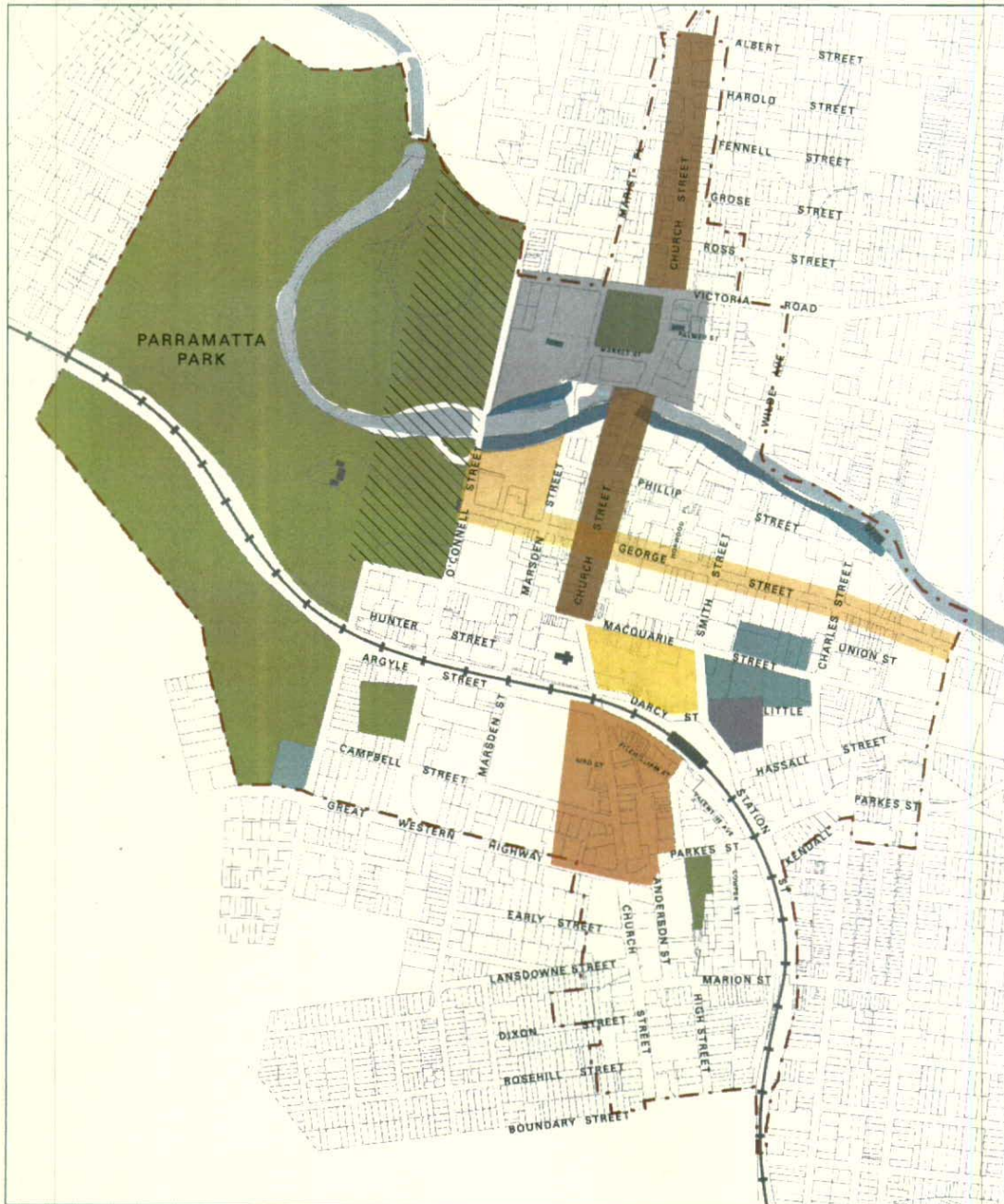
- Fulfilling the city's regional responsibilities by providing high level arts and cultural facilities to Western Sydney and Sydney;
- Building on and extending existing and identified social/cultural/recreational cluster areas including opportunities in the development of Civic Place;
- Continuing to support and encourage the development of café culture and dining precincts including and along Parramatta River's foreshore;
- Continuing to support the growth of creative industries within the city centre;

- Conserving and enhancing heritage assets and significant sites to strengthen cultural tourism including the use of government surplus assets; and
- Reconnecting the city's physical and cultural relationships to the river to assist in communicating indigenous perspectives, stories and histories and illustrating the ongoing dialogue about European settlement in Parramatta and Australia.

Acknowledge the need for a range of public places with scales ranging from the civic, to the intimate, that provide the cultural and recreational focus for the city by:

- actively encouraging the development of additional sporting, entertainment and cultural venues to provide for greater diversity of local activity;
- building capacity for arts, culture and recreation through the creation of flexible, affordable and accessible multipurpose spaces;
- fulfilling the recreation and cultural potential of Parramatta's open spaces, parks and public squares, by improving access, presentation and facilities both for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike;
- protecting, enhancing and expanding existing reserves, parks, public squares and open spaces in the city centre particularly in relation to the development of Civic Place; and
- acknowledge and value significant open spaces such as Parramatta River, Parramatta Park, Robyn Thomas Reserve and Prince Alfred Park, Centenary Square and Church Street Mall.

FIGURE 2: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PRECINCTS



- Prince Alfred Park Cultural Precinct
 - Heritage and visitors centre
 - Riverside Theatre
 - NSW Heritage Office
 - Prince Alfred Park
 - War Memorial
 - St Patrick's Cathedral

- Church Street Entertainment Precinct:
 - Outdoor dining
 - Lifestyle retail

- Parramatta River recreation, markets, outdoor dining

- Parramatta Park Edge Entertainment/Recreation Precinct
 - stadium
 - swimming pool/leisure centre
 - RSL and Bowling Clubs
 - Leagues Club

- George Street Cultural Precinct
 - historic buildings
 - Roxy Cinema
 - Old Government House
 - Justice precinct

- Church Street South Entertainment Precinct
 - Asian shopping/dining
 - cinemas
 - Westfield Shopping town

- Civic and Cultural Precinct
 - Town Hall
 - Parramatta City Council Chambers and Offices
 - St John's Cathedral
 - Library
 - Artist studios

- Schools
- Lancer Barracks

2. Public domain projects

2.5 CITY EVENTS AND STREET LIFE

Parramatta is dedicated to creating an environment in which arts and cultural activity can prosper, and interact with all aspects of city life. Participating in and accessing the arts is fundamental to the city's broader vision and wellbeing. It will give the city the opportunity to celebrate and discover creativity, value diverse perspectives and enhance our physical environment and the way the communities connect to it.

The city's public places – venues, streets, laneways, buildings and parks provide and activate public domain where art and cultural activity can happen and where people can participate and be engaged.

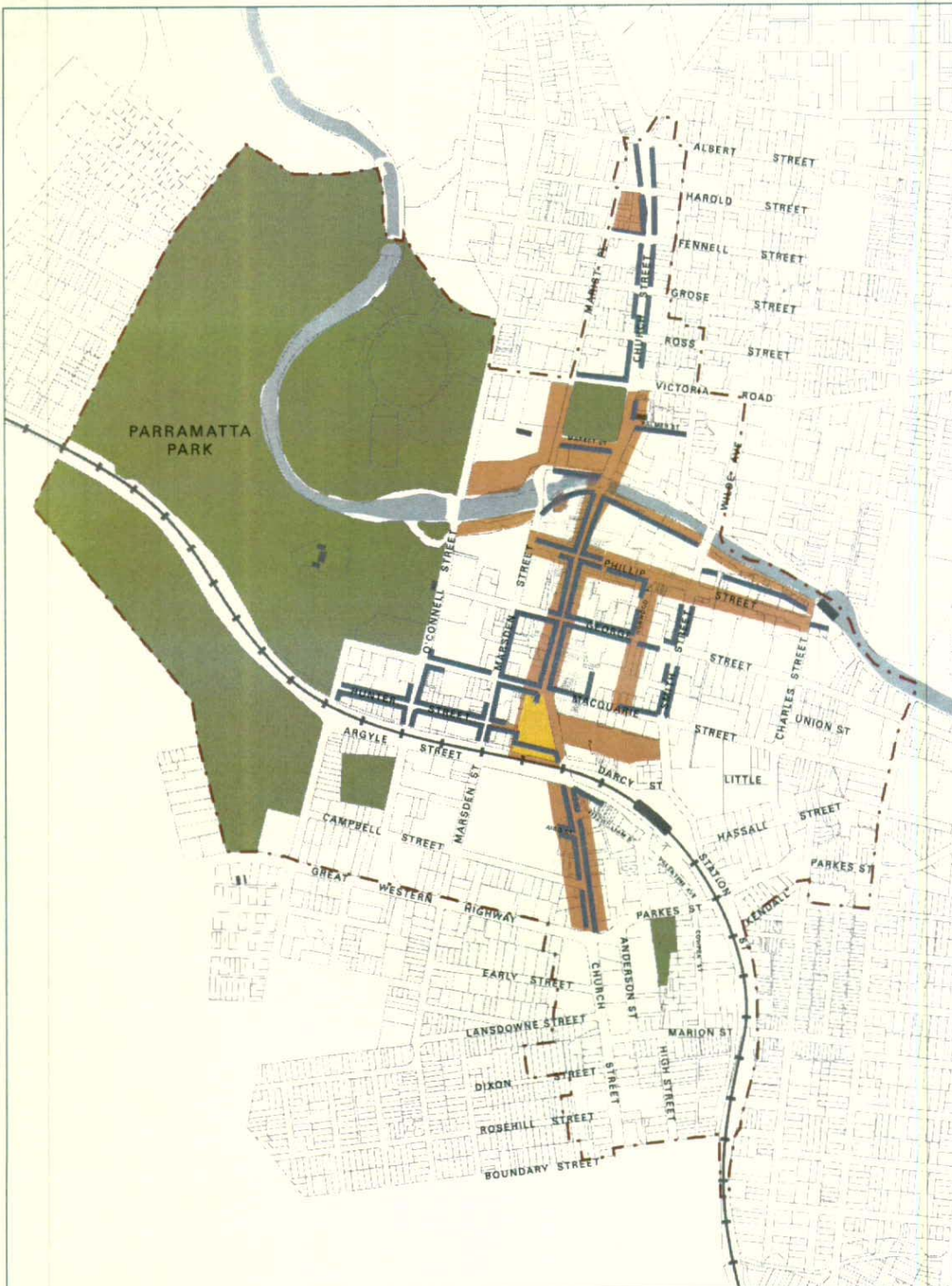
The place-making strategies will promote lively and spirited streets and places, able to attract and sustain diverse recreational, cultural and community activities and events. Figure 3 illustrates some broader opportunities where arts and cultural activity could be developed and promoted through the provision of public and private infrastructure improvements and the implementation of a broader city activation program. City life and activation strategies aim to facilitate a broad range of the presentation of arts and cultural activity by:

- Encouraging the development of flexible spaces and places to easily cater for a range of arts and cultural activity including events, festivals, markets, outdoor dining by implementing infrastructure improvements such as widened footpaths, provision of power and water, design of flexible and robust public spaces;
- Supporting the establishment of arts and cultural spaces in public and commercial developments;
- Developing and celebrating the city's small spaces including laneways through creative and adaptive makeovers; and
- Ensuring that the city centre is well managed – i.e. clean, green, easily accessible and operating well.

Developing an active events and temporal public art program for the city that would:

- Engage people in the life of the city;
- Demonstrate and deliver a diversity of life understandings and perspectives;
- Celebrate and promote urban form and the natural environment through the innovative use of place and space;
- Encourage local creative enterprise; and
- Boosts the local economy – day and night.

FIGURE 3: CITY EVENTS AND STREET LIFE



- markets
- outdoor dining encouraged
- events / festivals / outdoor dining

2. Public domain projects

2.6 CITY ART, IDENTITY AND THE OUTDOOR MUSEUM

Parramatta is committed to strengthening the city centre as an urban place by reinvigorating its identity through mechanisms that encourage reinterpretation of history.

Parramatta's heritage assets and public art have a visible presence in the city centre. The city has built heritage of national importance as well as indigenous social heritage of significance. Additionally there is also much evidence of the history and growth of Parramatta at a broader level, including an extensive collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century houses, early shops, factories, public institutions, bridges and other structures, as well as historical cemeteries, monuments, landscapes and parks.

The development of contemporary public art has created a distinctive urban environment that signifies and articulates the history of the area while reflecting the culture of the contemporary community.

Related council policy and programs also present strategies that will contribute to the poetic, playful and adventurous dimensions of the city centre. Figure 4 outlines some broader opportunities for public art and the interpretation of cultural heritage in the city centre while the strategies below aim to promote Parramatta as an open air museum and foster an awareness of the city's histories and contemporary cultures by:

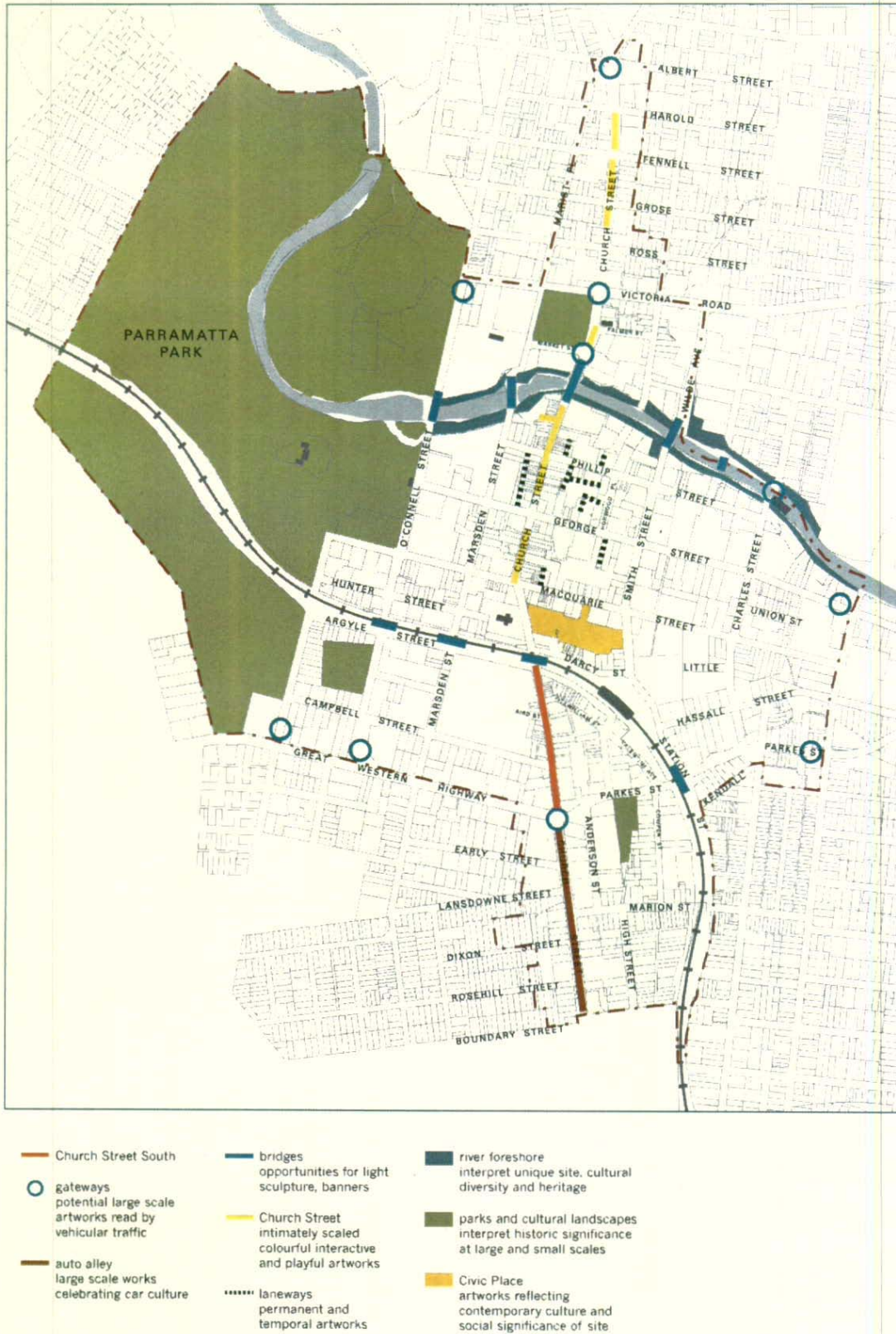
- Recognising Parramatta's existing collection of public art, monuments, significant sites and icons as valuable cultural heritage;
- Facilitating the interpretation, conservation and articulation of the heritage of Parramatta through the telling of legible historical and contemporary stories;
- Creating 'places' through the integration of art and interpretive material into the fabric of the city centre in ways to reflect, respond and give meaning to the city's unique environment, history and culturally diverse society;

- Enabling public art to reflect and engage with community aspirations, create discussion, interest and awareness, and foster relationships between people and place; and
- Identifying sites for public artworks that are both city scaled and pedestrian scaled.

Promote and provide a wide range of opportunities for artists by:

- Developing the city as a creative environment where artists have the ability to live, develop and present their work in the city centre;
- Enabling the inclusion and integration of contemporary site specific artworks in public and private developments across the city centre;
- Facilitating and encouraging artists to work in multidisciplinary teams in the development of projects that shape and redesign the city's public domain; and
- Provision of an artists studio.
- Facilitate the link to Parramatta Park and the enhancement of the Park as a key asset for the city.

FIGURE 4: CITY ART AND OUTDOOR MUSEUM



2. Public domain projects

2.7 CITY ECOLOGY

The city ecology strategies will enhance the natural ecosystem both within the city centre and beyond, craft a distinctive visual character for the city based on unique resources such as the river, and nourish and sustain the community's need for breathing space, cultural places and recreation.

The strategies for city centre ecology are to:

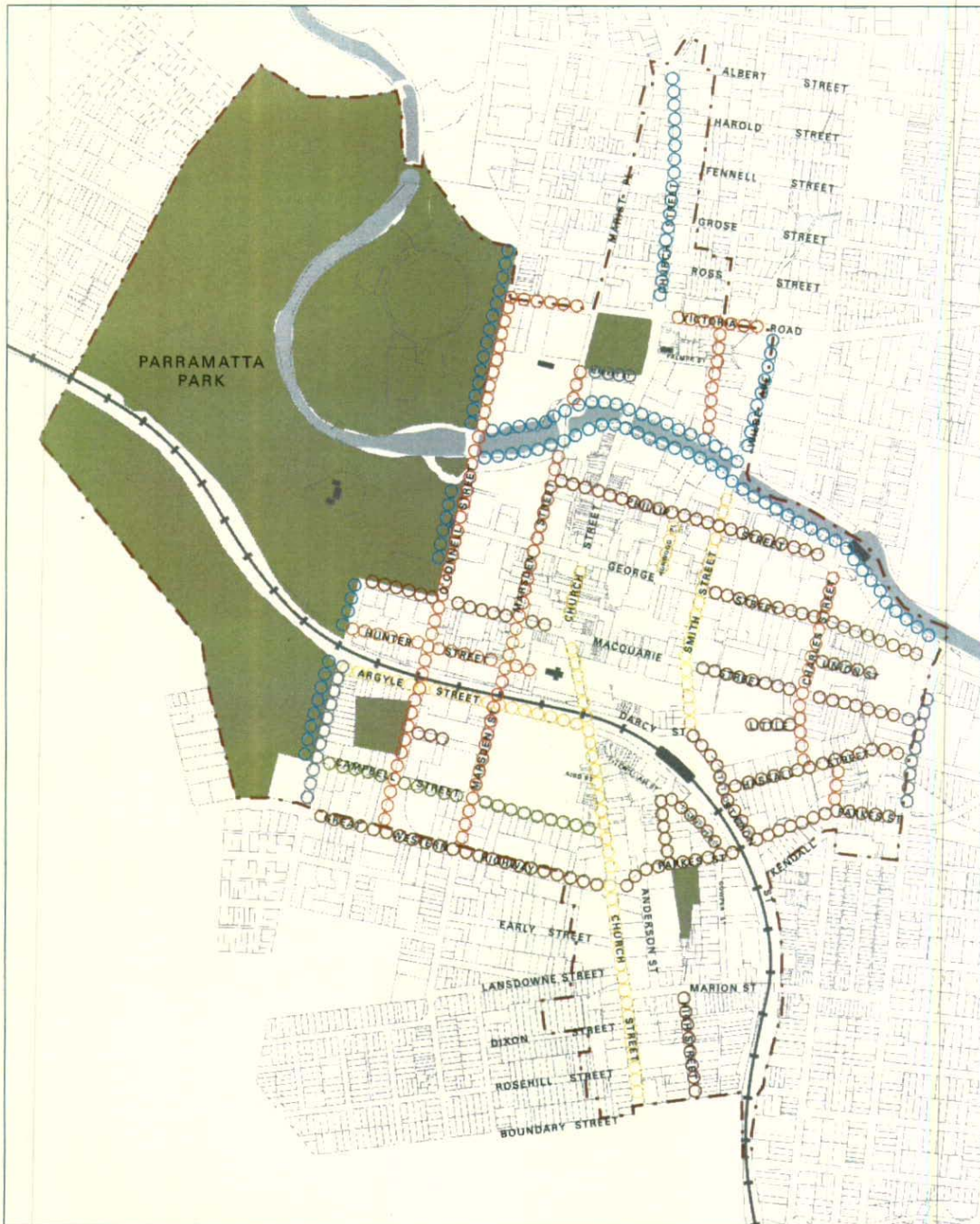
- Fulfil the recreation and cultural potential of Parramatta's open spaces, parks and public squares, by improving access, presentation and facilities both for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike;
- Protect, enhance and expand existing reserves, parks, public squares and open space in the city centre. Acknowledge and value significant open spaces such as Parramatta River, Parramatta Park, Robyn Thomas Reserve and Prince Alfred Park Centenary Square and Church Street Mall;
- Promote positive relationships between natural systems and the city centre public domain;
- Foster an awareness of natural systems, in particular the Parramatta River, its catchment and water quality, through interpretation and education programs;
- Promote energy efficient practices and initiatives in the development, management and functioning of the city centre, leading to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and improvement of local air quality;
- Develop wildlife and green corridors, visually and physically linking habitats and open space;
- Develop best practice water cycle management strategies, including water conservation and re-use, water quality enhancement, protection and restoration of natural drainage systems and innovative approaches to flood management;
- Maintain and enhance ecological processes and systems. Ensure, for example, that projects do not negatively impact on species diversity and/or flora and fauna life cycles; and
- Promote sustainable practices utilising for example renewable resources and durable materials with low embodied energy.

2.8 STREET TREE AND PLANTING CONCEPT PLAN

The street tree and planting concepts shown in Figure 5, builds on the strategies outlined in the city ecology and city spaces and streets. The city centre street tree and planting concept plan aims to:

- Enhance the city centre microclimate by using planting to improve physical comfort through manipulation of temperature (e.g. sunlight and shade), softening of wind movement and control of reflected light;
- Enhance the biological diversity of plant, bird, fauna and marine communities within the city centre;
- Select and locate plants to enhance and create visual connections along streetscapes and to link the parks, reserves and civic spaces both within and adjacent to the city centre;
- Select and locate plant species to reinforce the various visual character areas of the city centre; and
- Acknowledge and reinforce the significance of historic and indigenous land management practices and plantings. Examples include Caley's Botanic Gardens laid out north of the river (on the Marsden Rehabilitation site).

FIGURE 5: STREET TREE PLANTING



- Blueberry Ash
- Brush Box
- Crab Apple
- Eucalyptus
- Pyrus 'Chanticleer'
- Flindersia

2. Public domain projects

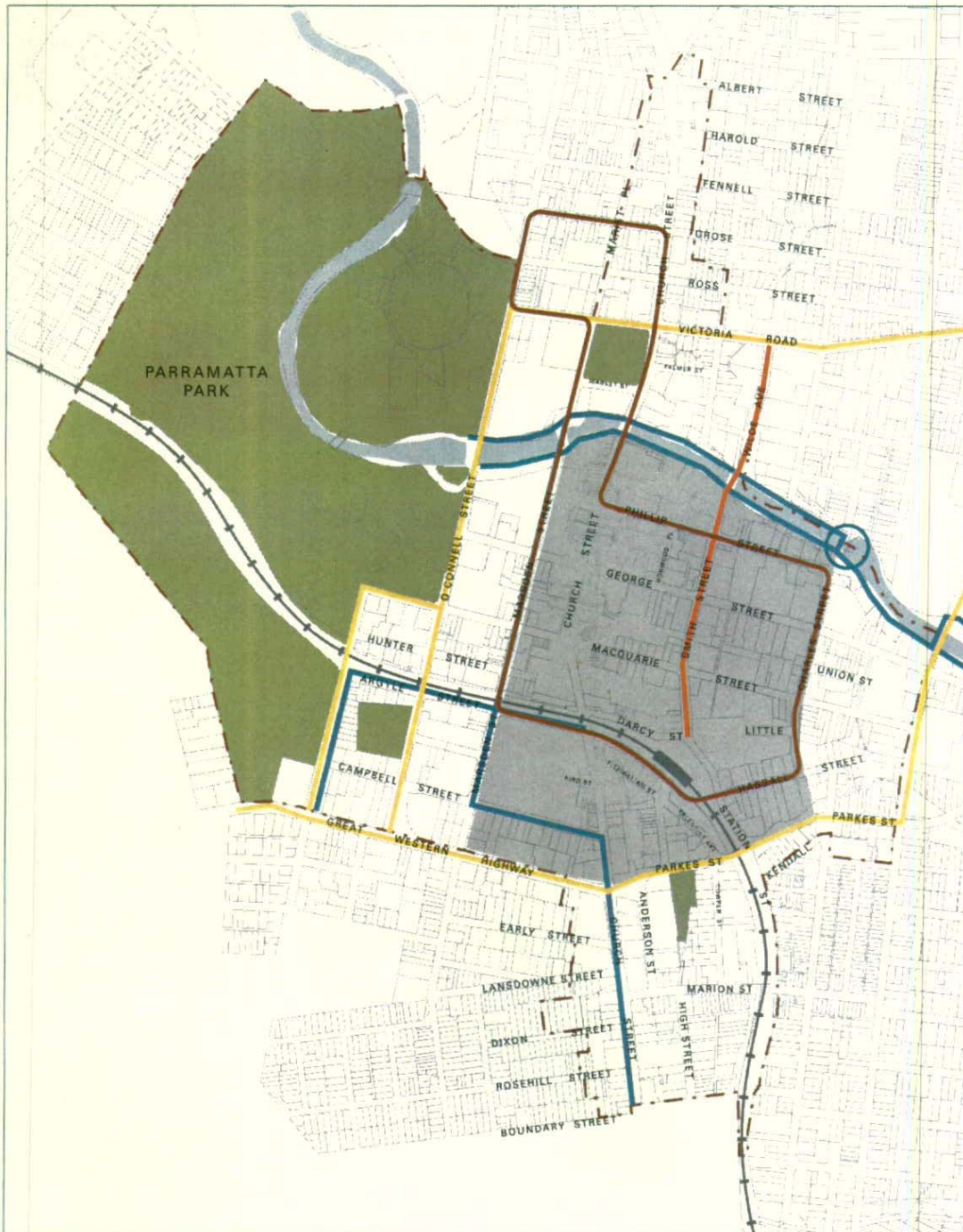
2.9 CITY ACCESS: PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK

The city and access strategies for the city centre shown in Figure 6 propose public transport routes based on the growth areas within the city centre and respond to the emerging needs, such as the conflict between outdoor dining and buses in Church Street. Any decisions on transport network and access issues will take into account the views of all stakeholders.

The city access and public transport strategies are to:

- Effectively integrate the various public transport networks in Parramatta and increase the level of service, for example integrated ticketing and pricing;
- Increase public transport use and decrease reliance on private vehicular transport;
- Improve amenity for public transport users for example increase provision of shelters, seats, bus stop identification, timetable and route information (included on Council's web page). Note street furniture associated with public transport can impart a distinctive image – "branding Parramatta";
- Improve the profile and awareness of public transport availability; and
- Introduce, as a priority, accessible public transport services for people with disabilities and mobility impairment.
- Introduce a free shuttle bus service to enhance access around the city centre.

FIGURE 6: CITY ACCESS: PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK



- ring road
- major off road
- main commuter bus
- shuttle bus route
- pedestrian and cycle amenity zone
- ferry
- +— train

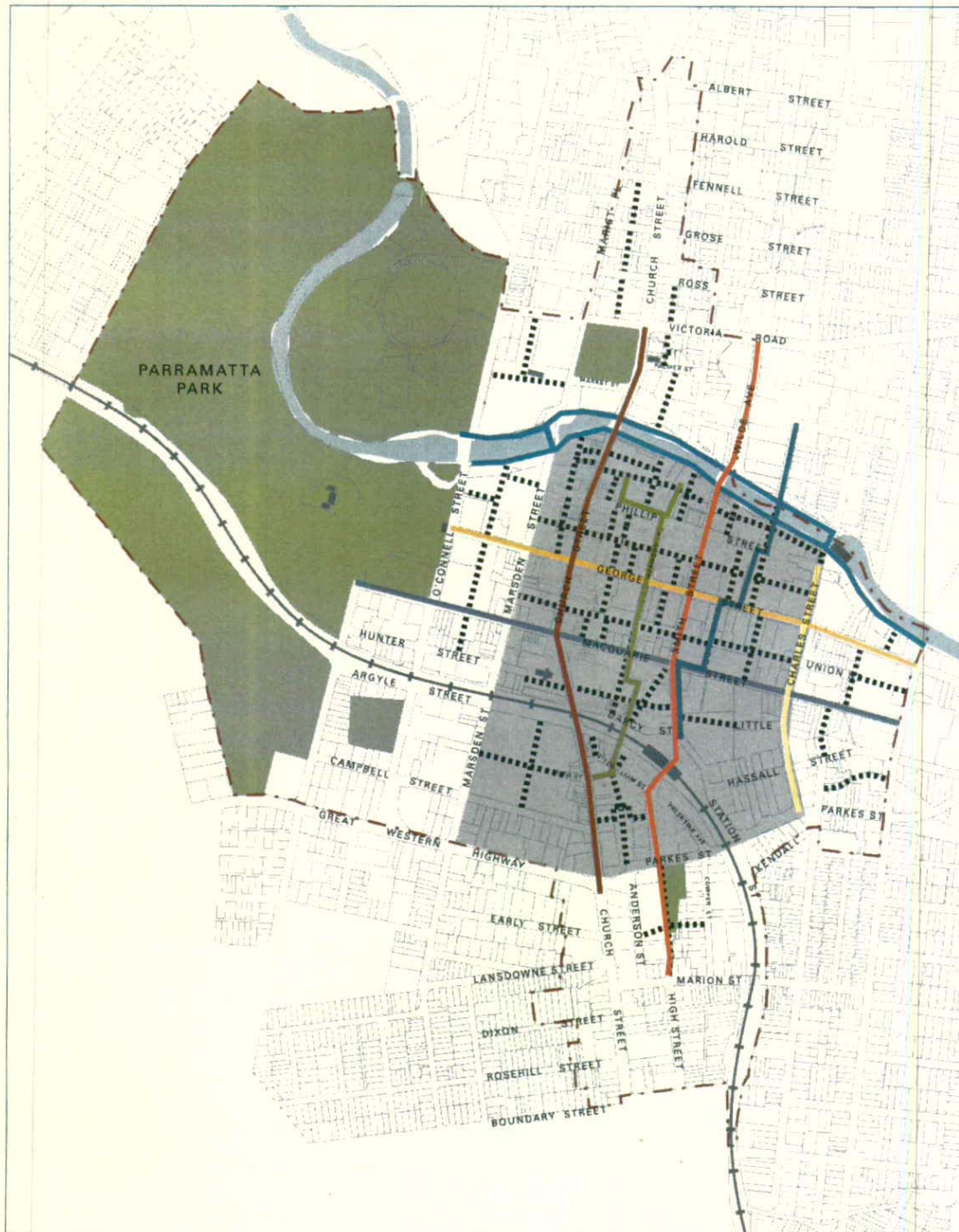
2. Public domain projects

2.10 CITY ACCESS: PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

The strategies below will encourage pedestrian activity and assist in developing priorities for public infrastructure programs. Figure 7 identifies a pedestrian network that encompasses future commuter, recreation and tourism needs, connecting the northern and southern parts of the city to the central core. City access strategies aim to:

- Prioritise pedestrians and enhance and expand existing pedestrian networks linking major recreation, cultural and commuter nodes;
- Protect and enhance existing laneways and informal pedestrian networks;
- Promote high levels of connectivity within the city centre and between the centre and the nearby residential areas of Harris Park, South and North Parramatta and Westmead;
- Promote changes in people's travel behaviour and raise the profile of walking. Develop, for example, walking trails to promote Parramatta's rich heritage, cultural artefacts, restaurants, sporting and entertainment venues located within walking distance of the city centre;
- Develop brochures and improve signage to guide walking tours of Parramatta city centre; and
- Establish a data collection program for specific pedestrian routes. This would enable progress reports against targets (e.g. accident criteria, increases in trips, number of complaints) and the acknowledgment of successes.

FIGURE 7: CITY ACCESS: PEDESTRIAN NETWORK STRATEGY



- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Church Street | River foreshore | Pedestrian and cycle amenity zone |
| Barracks Lane | George Street | Mid-block pedestrian connections |
| Smith Street | Charles Street | |
| Macquarie Street | Horwood Place | |

2. Public domain projects

2.11 PAVING PLAN

The design strategy for paving in the city centre as shown in Figure 8 is to:

- Unify the city through the use of consistent paving types and installation. Permeable pavers and rainwater gardens should be used on all public areas as they are specifically designed to remove stormwater pollutants and reduce the runoff volumes.
- Improve presentation of the city and promote a cosmopolitan image;
- Improve accessibility for all;
- Improve council's risk management through the development of an effective maintenance process and scheduled reactive auditing;
- Enhance the pedestrian connections between the east-west aligned river and railway line in the Parramatta city centre using the network of untapped north-south laneways and small spaces within the city's grid which are emerging as alternative pedestrian connections in the city's evolving urban form;
- Strengthen the layer of ad-hoc laneways and internal arcades as an important component of the city's permeability and improve people movement through the configuration and functional qualities of the small spaces and laneways; and
- Improve the pedestrian connections between the river and the railway line, including changes to the physical form of these spaces.

2.12 LIGHTING

The design strategy for lighting in the city centre is to:

- Provide a selected slimline lightweight tapered light pole to create a consistent visual language throughout the city centre streetscape;
- Enhance community safety by providing lighting that considers the dual purpose of illuminating streets and pedestrian footpaths;
- Provide levels of lighting to meet the current relevant Australian Standards; and
- Encourage special forms of lighting and lighting displays to significant sites and places within the city centre.

2.13 SIGNAGE

The design strategy for signage in the city centre is to reduce the amount of signage and to:

- Use high quality signage consistent with Council's Signage Policy to improve accessibility throughout the city centre;
- Use signage that is part of a consistently themed range to unify the city centre and promote Parramatta's image;
- Signage should be used to contribute to the safety of the Parramatta city centre (coordinate with community safety programs); and
- Use signage to create interest and awareness of Parramatta's natural, cultural and indigenous heritage.

2.14 SPECIFIC PUBLIC DOMAIN PROJECTS

Parramatta City Council has identified the following projects for public domain improvements in specific areas of the Parramatta city centre:

Church Street North

Church Street north and side streets

- Create infrastructure to support outdoor dining and enhance pedestrian safety.
- Provide gateway treatment to the city centre.

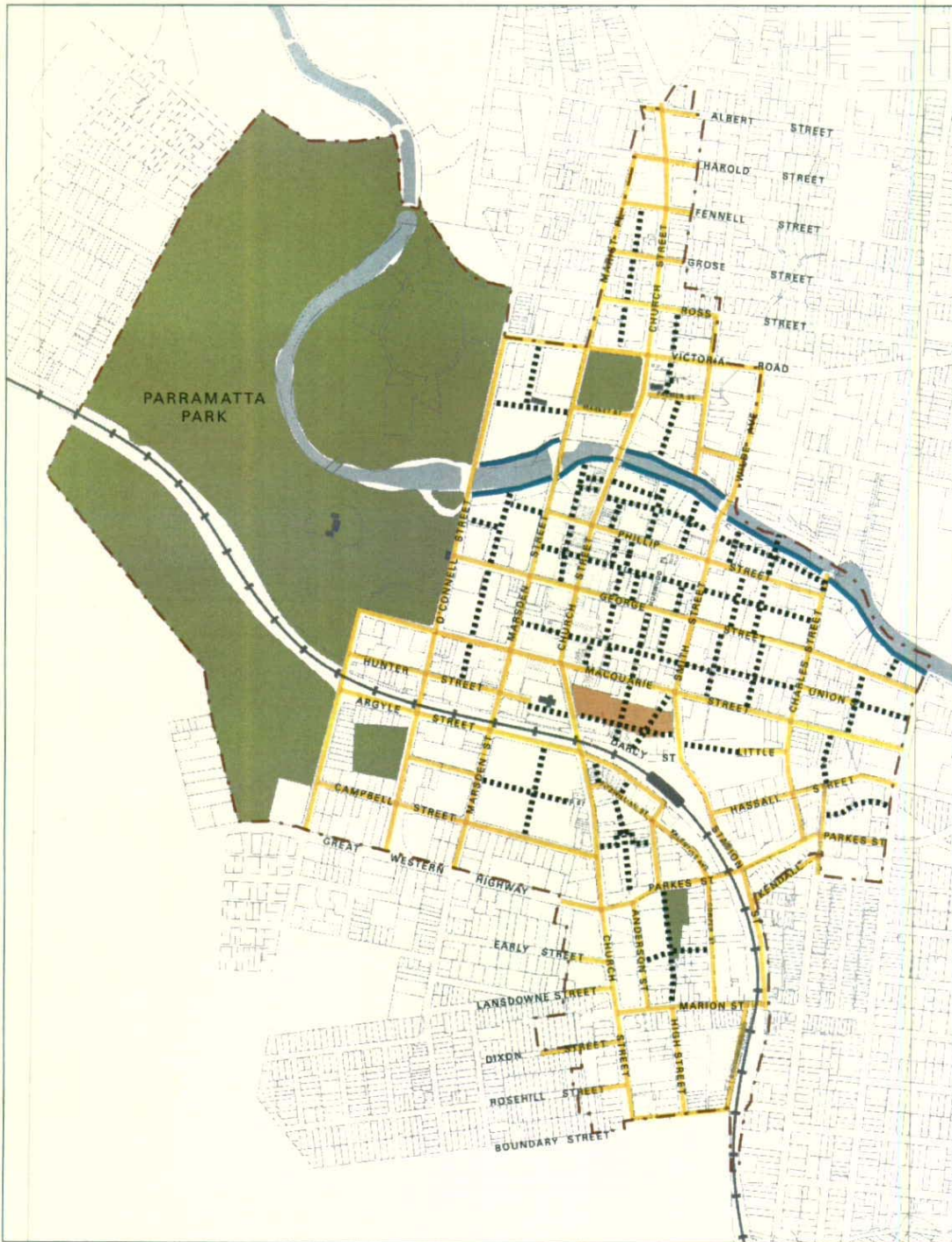
Prince Alfred Park

- Investigate the opportunities to increase the use of Prince Alfred Park.

Market Street / Riverside Theatre

- Link the theatre to the Prince Alfred Park and encourage outdoor activity in Market Street such as dining, performance art and theatre.
- Activate Market Street, Church Street and river edges of the theatre.

FIGURE 8: PAVING STRATEGY



- primary treatment
- laneways
- Civic Place
- river foreshore

2. Public domain projects

Church Street

- Discourage through traffic and encourage slow local traffic flow.
- Continue programs of temporal and intimately scaled artworks.

Lennox Bridge

- Provide disabled access from Church Street to the river's foreshore and pedestrian and cycle access under the bridge along the foreshore in a way that is consistent with the heritage significance and iconic status of the bridge.
- Consider removing car parking from Lennox Bridge car park (to facilitate views up and down river and promote the bridge as a pedestrian / people place).
- Use the bridge as a venue or viewing place for temporal artworks (e.g. light sculpture and performance art).

Car parks

- Improve and enhance pedestrian connections to car park structures. (e.g. new directional signs, better lighting to enhance safety).
- Retain pedestrian connections if car park sites are developed.

Church Street Mall and Centenary Square

Centenary Square

- Move the amphitheatre from the pedestrian circulation desire line to another location.
- Widen the pedestrian pinch point to the original Church Street width, indicated by the Church gates.
- Activate and open up the area under the railway overbridge e.g. opportunities for artwork on the soffit and/or uplighting.
- Investigate changes to the mall to complement the proposed Civic Place development.

Horwood Place

Develop a detailed concept plan addressing the riverfront, views to the river and pedestrian connections.

St George Terraces

Encourage development at the rear of the terraces that respects the scale of the heritage buildings, better defines Smith Street, includes public access to the foreshore and screens the carpark from view.

Erby Place Carpark

- Create shared pedestrian/vehicle zones at the rear of the Church Street shops.
- Consider the development / structural change to enhance the public space and carpark.

Wilde Street

- Upgrade paving.
- Acknowledge Brickfield Creek with signage etc.

Macquarie Street

- Upgrade paving.
- Investigate the potential to reinstate two way traffic so the vista to Old Government House is restored.

George Street

- Provide interpretive and directional signage to improve linkages between Harris Park and Old Government House.
- Investigate the potential to reinstate two way traffic so the vista to Old Government House is restored.

Civic Place – Commercial and Cultural Precinct

The Civic Place development on the northern side of the Parramatta railway station will offer the following public spaces:

- **Civic Square** – the centrepiece of the open space, the cultural heart of Parramatta, the seat of government and a demonstration of environmental values.

A place to hold celebrations, street theatre and twilight cinema.

- **Meeting Place** – wide terraces uniting the upper and lower plazas, providing easy level transition and visual continuity. A community gathering point facilitating a range of activities from speeches, fashion parades to live bands.
- **Market Plaza** – Threshold of the retail heart of Civic Place, interpreting the early market area. A space busy with vendors and shoppers both day and night and designed to operate as an outdoor market.
- **Station Square** – a place of address and civic presence for Parramatta station and the Atria commercial tower. Offer direct connection to the retail concourses and train station. Interpret the history of Parramatta station and rail travel to Parramatta.
- **Church Street** – interpret the elements of heritage, social and cultural significance including the Town Hall, St John's Cathedral, gas light poles and the acts of reconciliation that took place.

City South

Church Street South

- Implement the Arts and Cultural plan developed for Church Street South to introduce new public art that enhances the character of the precinct and responds to community aesthetics.

Aird Street

- Link Church Street to city west by reinstating pedestrian access along the Aird Street alignment through Westfield to the cemetery, school, etc.

Auto Alley

- Implement streetscape improvements as part of an overall public domain/urban design plan.

Jubilee Park

- Improve pedestrian connections to the city centre.
- Demolish existing buildings in the park and replace with new community facilities.

3. Special city centre projects

3.0 SPECIAL CITY CENTRE PROJECTS

The special city centre projects are essential public infrastructure to support future growth, development and the character of the Parramatta city centre. The objectives of the special city centre projects are to:






- Create a pedestrian friendly city centre;
- Develop a creative city centre;
- Enhance the liveability of the city centre; and
- Ensure a supportive and diverse city centre.

The special projects for Parramatta city centre are shown in Figure 9 and include:

- River foreshore park;
- Arts and cultural facility;
- Community facilities;
- Aquatic leisure centre upgrade;
- Historic buildings and places conservation;
- Car park enhancements;
- Access and transport;
- Civic Place.

FIGURE 9: SPECIAL CITY CENTRE PROJECTS



- | | |
|---|---|
|  Parramatta River
Foreshore Park improvements |  Car parks enhancement |
|  Aquatic Leisure
Centre upgrade | a. Horwood Place car park |
|  Historic buildings and
places conservation | b. Erby Place car park |
| 1. Parramatta Town Hall | c. Wentworth Street car park |
| 2. Lennox Bridge | d. Hunter Street car park |
| 3. Prince Alfred Park | |
| 4. Lancer Barracks | |
|  Civic Place | |

City ring road

3. Special city centre projects

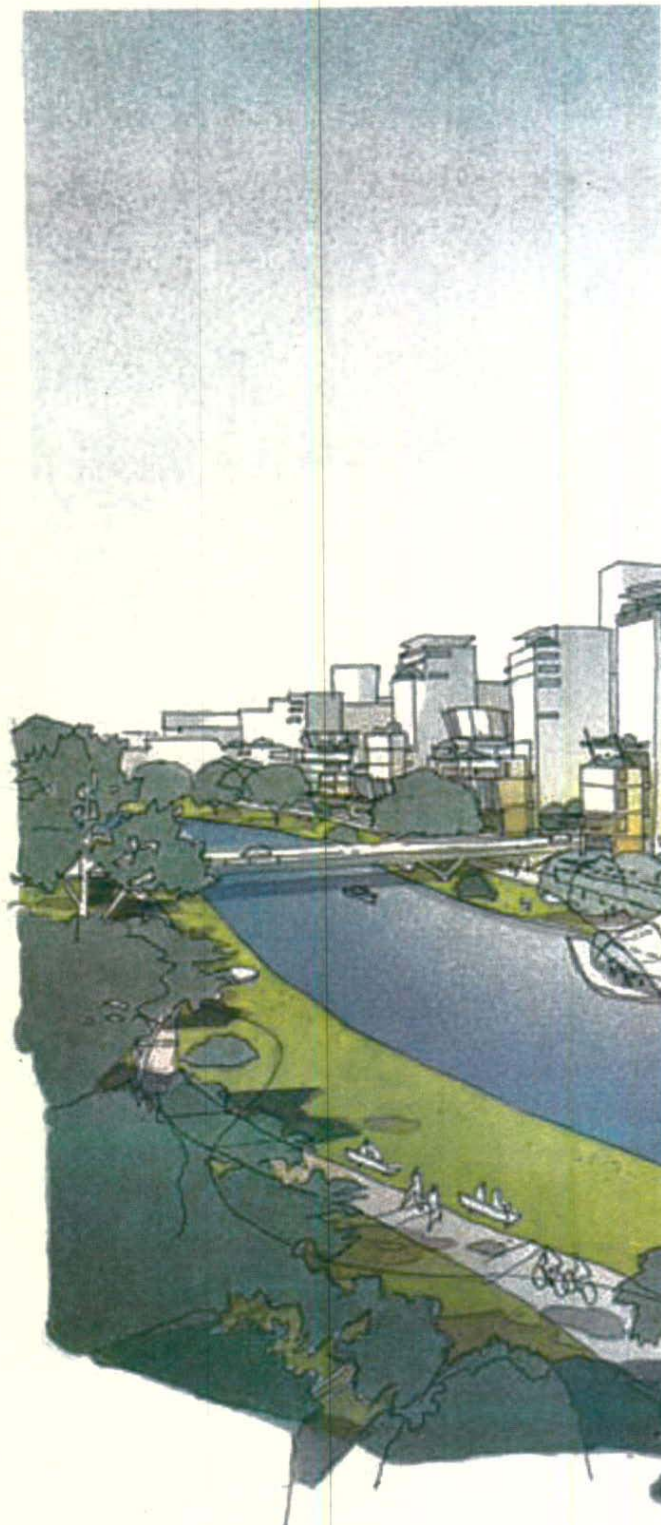
3.1 PARRAMATTA RIVER FORESHORE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Parramatta River is the main topographical feature of the city centre that helps define the character of the city centre and provides opportunities for recreation and landscape amenity. The River also provides a significant constraint to mobility and access between either side of the river.

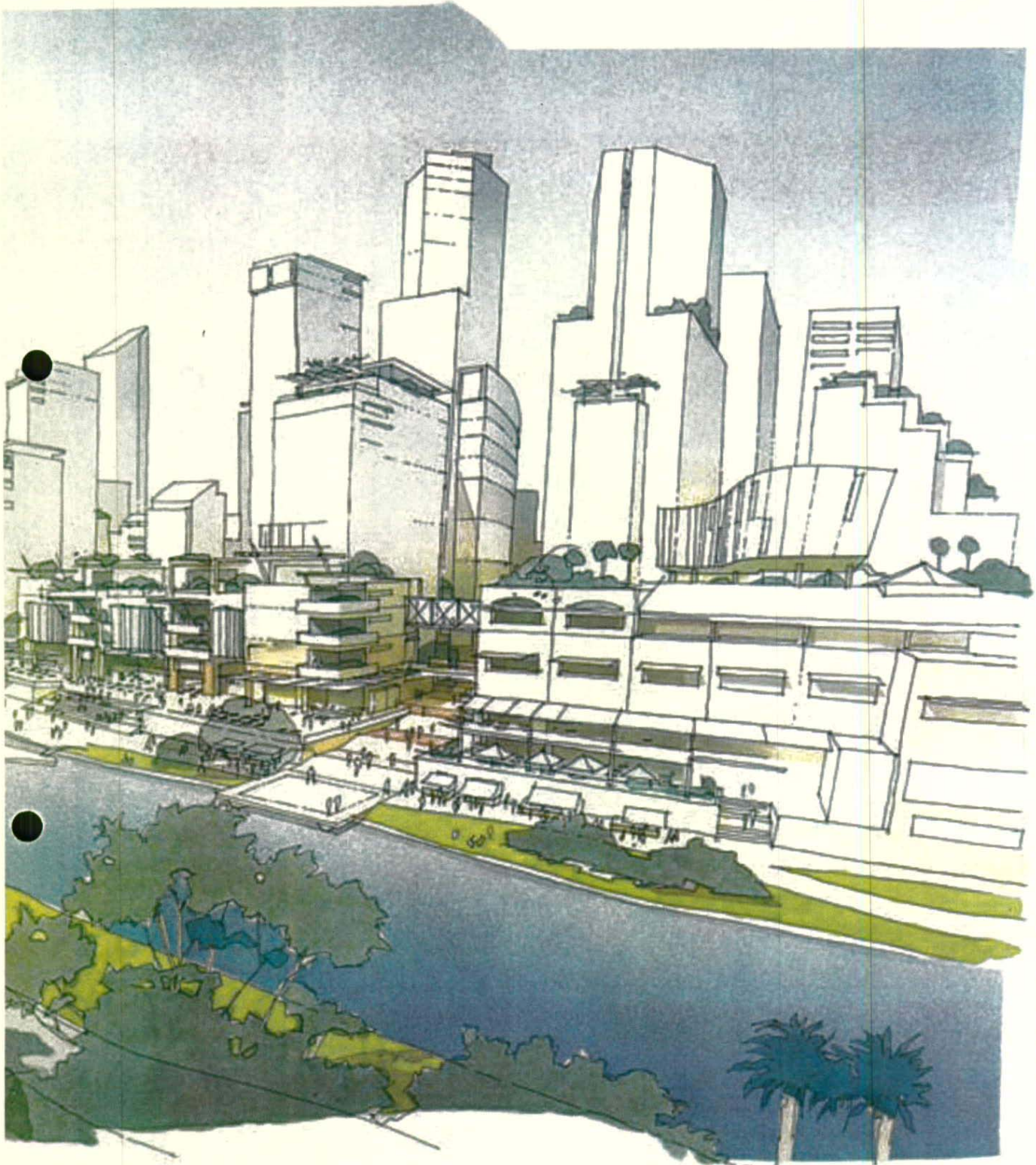
The purpose of this project is to showcase the river as the key public recreational space for the city centre, and to enhance the aesthetic quality and amenity of the river landscape as well as increase the recreational opportunities and access links along the river corridor. The planning and design principles for improvements to the Parramatta River Foreshore Park are:

- Increase and enhance physical and visual connections between the river and the city;
- Provision of pedestrian and bicycle paths and extension of the foreshore walk to the east and to the west into Parramatta Park;
- New pedestrian/cycle bridge link across the river;
- A sequence of foreshore parkland spaces of different size, shape and character to contribute to a rich and interesting promenade experience including structured area for active recreation;
- Facilities for water related activities at specific accessible locations;
- Tree planting of native species to emphasise view corridors, provide shade, soften the built form and link open spaces;
- Integrated suite of urban elements including lighting, seating, signage and planting;
- Incorporation of heritage interpretation facilities;
- Design for a sense of safety and security; and
- Management of flood events.

The improvement to the Parramatta River Foreshore Park is estimated to cost \$15 million.



An artist's impression of Parramatta River foreshore park improvements



3. Special city centre projects

3.2 ARTS AND CULTURAL FACILITY

A multi-purpose arts and cultural facility is to be developed in the Parramatta city centre to increase the profile and significance of the arts, add to the identity, character and culture of the city, contribute to the vitality and maturity of the city centre, and assist in the development of the creative and cultural industries. The multi-purpose arts and cultural facility will seek to satisfy the goals, objectives and strategies of Council's Arts Facilities & Cultural Places Framework (2005).

The multi-purpose arts and cultural facility is a flexible space providing for a range of artistic pursuits with capacity to respond to changing community needs. It will provide for the following:

- Theatre and dance studio;
- Outdoor performance space;
- Writing studio;
- Media centre;
- Visual arts studios; and
- Music rooms.

The arts and cultural facilities are estimated to cost \$30 million.

3.3 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The development of Parramatta city centre for commercial and residential uses will need to be supported by new community facilities to contribute to a socially sustainable future. Council has identified a need for the following community facilities to meet the demands of growth in the city centre:

- Community centre and meeting spaces;
- Library and information centre upgrades;
- Multi-purpose community facility.

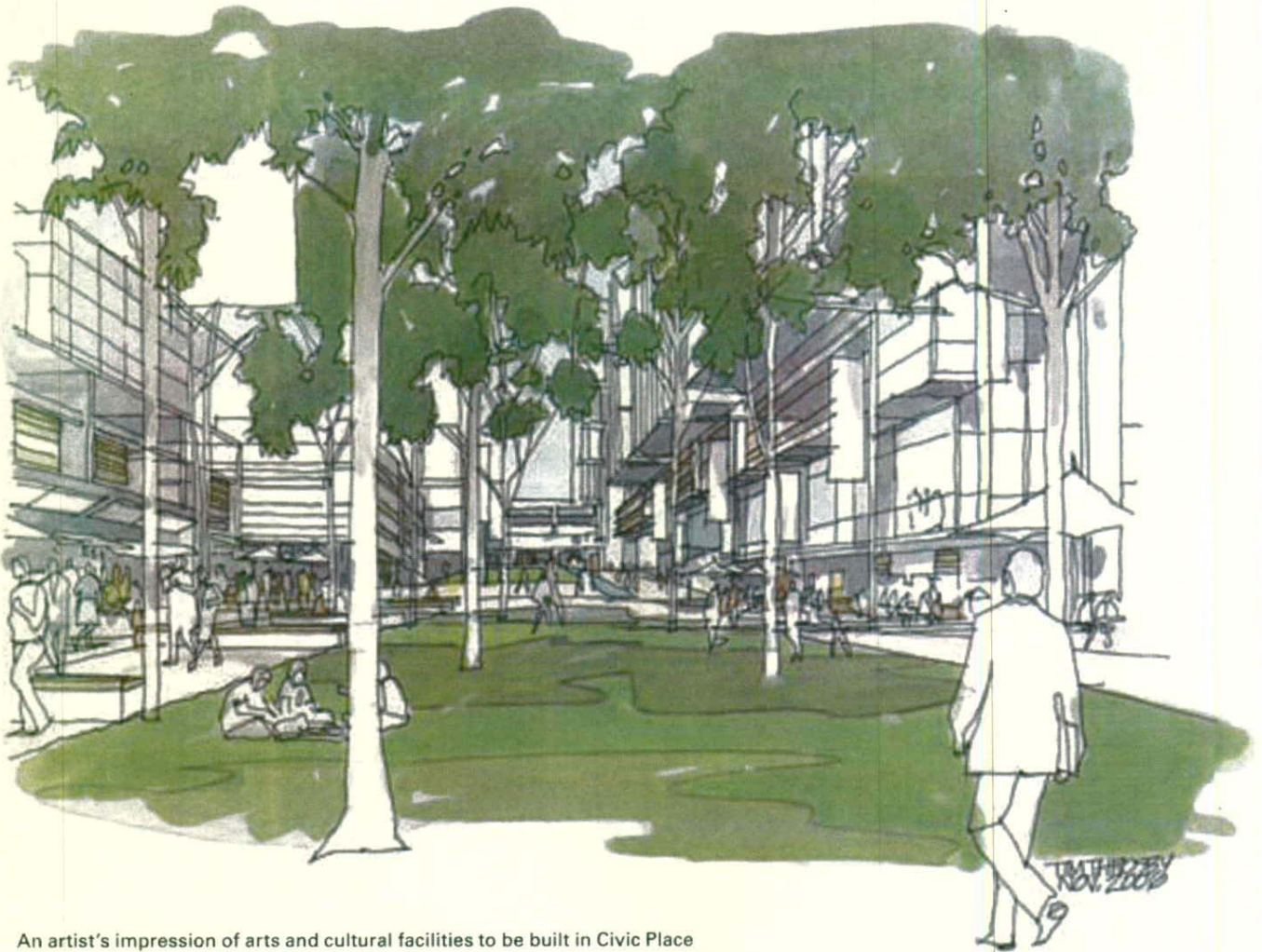
The community centre and meeting space is a flexible multi-use facility for a range of community activities such as community meetings and workshops.

The library and information centre will be upgraded to increase capacity and accommodate growth and development in the resident population and workforce in the city centre.

The multi-purpose community facility will be a flexible space providing for a number of functions with capacity to easily respond to changing community needs thus ensuring ongoing viability and utilisation. The multi-purpose community facility will perform a number of functions including provisions for:

- A youth facility that provides space and social/ recreational opportunities for youth in the city centre;
- A family centre facility for a diverse population that is flexible and provides for a range of services including access to child care/out of school hour care, play groups, support services, counselling, family support groups, and early intervention services; and
- Homeless facilities including shower, toilet and storage facilities in the city centre.

The development of the community facilities is estimated to cost \$20 million.



An artist's impression of arts and cultural facilities to be built in Civic Place

3. Special city centre projects

3.4 AQUATIC LEISURE CENTRE UPGRADE

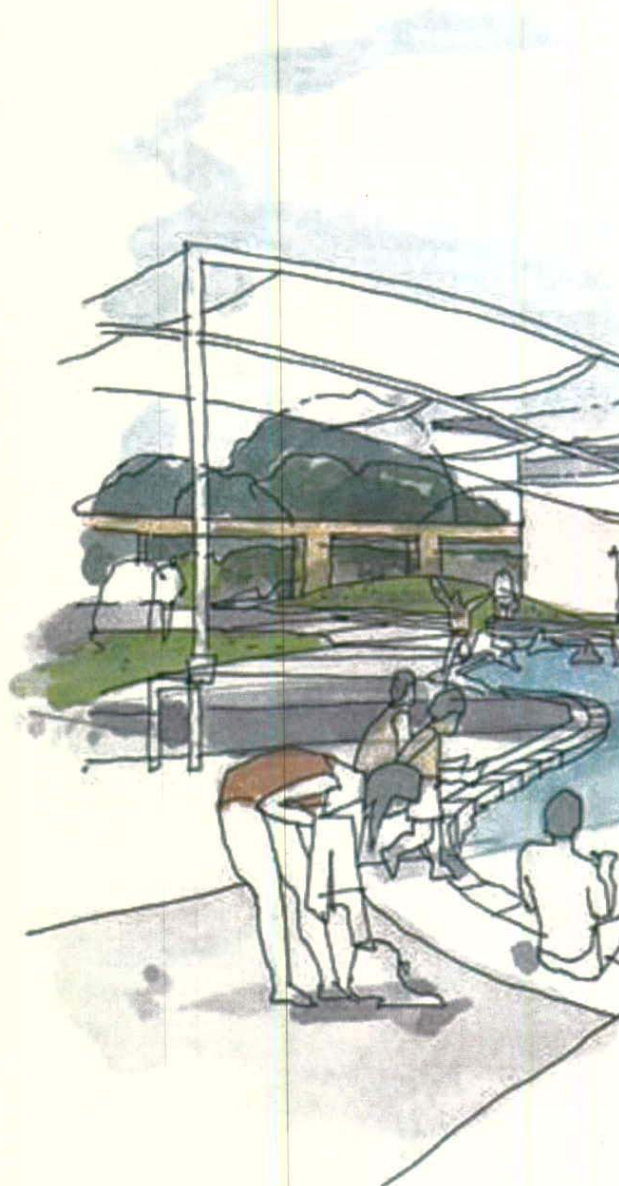
The purpose of upgrading the aquatic leisure centre is to provide for the recreational needs of the growing number of residents and workforce of Parramatta city centre. It is located within Parramatta Park on the eastern boundary. The upgrade will include the following:

- Construction of a new indoor leisure centre with 25m swimming pool;
- Olympic swimming pool facelift;
- Diving pool refurbishment;
- Childrens' and babies' swimming pool upgrade;
- Redevelopment of change rooms, showers and toilets; and
- Landscaping improvements.

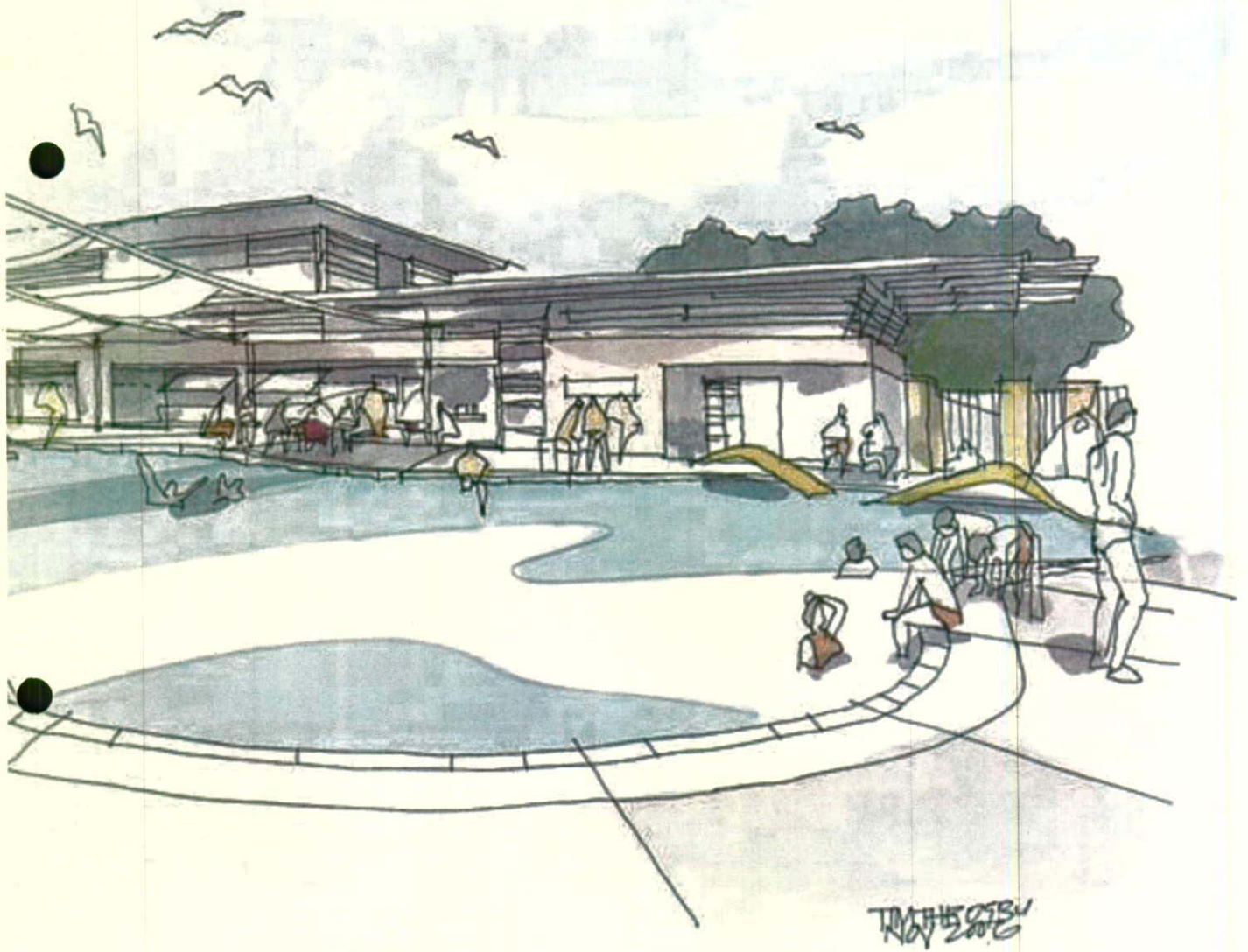
The planning and design principles for the aquatic centre are:

- A range of aquatic recreational opportunities accessible to the public;
- Contemporary building design that provides outdoor space and facilities with built elements that provide weather protection from sun, wind and rain;
- Landscaping that fits in with the regional park context;
- Design that provides a sense of safety and security for users of the facilities; and
- Incorporation of ESD measures particularly for energy efficiency, water conservation and waste management.

The aquatic leisure centre upgrade is estimated to cost \$25 million.



An artist's impression of aquatic leisure centre upgrade



3. Special city centre projects

3.5 HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND PLACES CONSERVATION

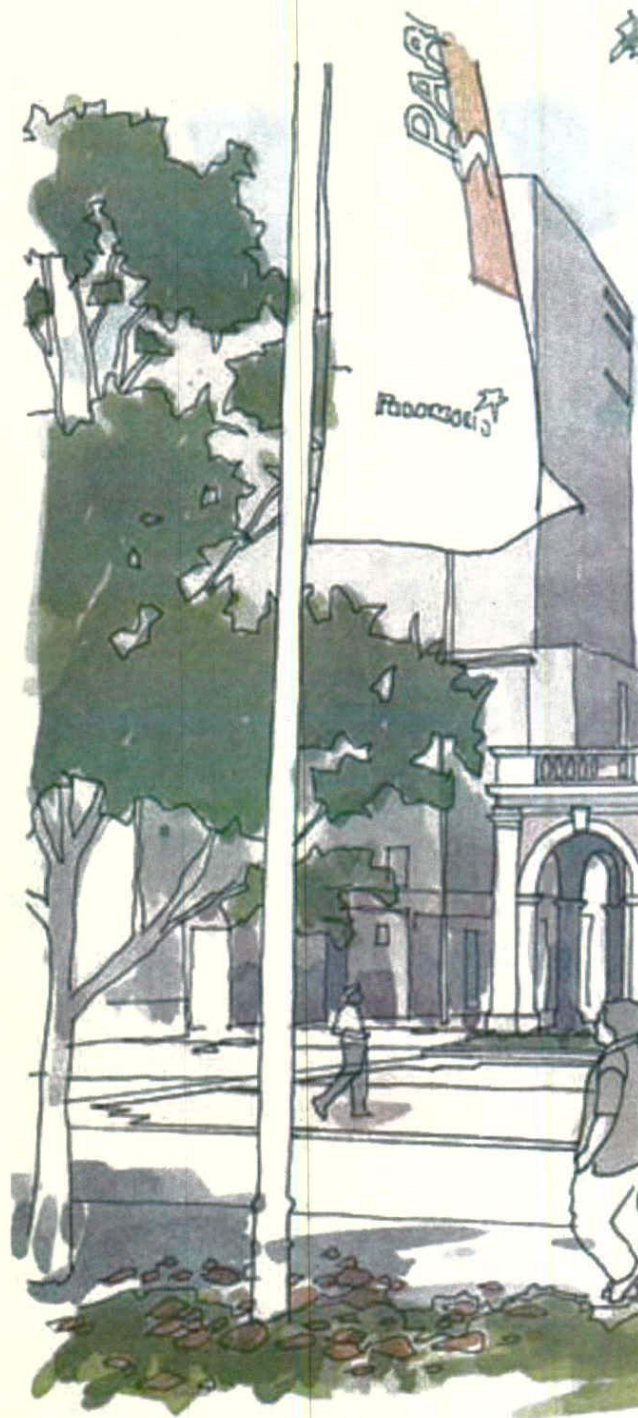
The historic buildings in Parramatta city centre represent physical evidence of the European heritage and the story of the European settlement and development of Parramatta. The historic buildings, many of them public buildings, also have a major influence on defining the character and amenity of the Parramatta city centre. The preservation of these historic buildings is important in conserving the heritage and defining character of the Parramatta city centre.

The purpose of this project is to carry out conservation measures for the historic public buildings in Parramatta city centre including the following buildings:

- Parramatta Town Hall;
- Heritage walk;
- Lennox Bridge;
- Prince Alfred Park; and
- Lancer Barracks.

The conservation measures will involve general maintenance work, restoration work, and provision of interpretive facilities.

The cost of conservation works for the historic public buildings is \$5 million.



View of Parramatta Town Hall



3. Special city centre projects

3.6 CAR PARK PLANNING AND RE-DEVELOPMENT

Council currently owns a number of ageing car parks in the Parramatta city centre that are built to streets and laneways and have a significant impact on the streetscape. These include:

- Horwood Place car park;
- Erby Place car park;
- Fitzwilliam Street car park;
- Hunter Street car park; and
- David Frater car park

The following projects will be undertaken:

- Enhance the car park structures with facelifts to the external walls including painting and rendering, lighting, signage and city centre maps, and pedestrian safety and amenity prioritisation and opportunities to retro fit rainwater storage tanks and associated roof water collection systems. The upgrade will also involve refining the internal design/layout of the car park to meet relevant standards;
- Investigate the potential to set up a park and ride facility;
- Investigate the potential redevelopment options for key car parking structures.

The car park enhancements are estimated to cost \$5 million.



An artist's impression of car park enhancements ensuring attractive public laneways

3. Special city centre projects

3.7 ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

The purpose of the access and transport projects is to ensure the road and pedestrian network and transport facilities can accommodate vehicle and pedestrian traffic and mobility needs in the Parramatta city centre.

The projects to improve access and transport in the city centre are:

- City ring road and intersection improvements; and
- Park and ride facilities on the edge of the city centre.
- Investigate the potential of converting George and Macquarie Streets to two way traffic.
- Investigate the potential of providing a free city centre shuttle bus.

The access and transport projects are estimated to cost \$30 million.

