

DIRRANBANDI

RAIL & RIVER MASTER PLAN



ZEN LANDSCAPING QUEENSLAND



PORTER DESIGNS



DIRRANBANDI RAIL & RIVER MASTER PLAN

Prepared for

DIRRANBANDI ARTS COUNCIL

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Life is dandy living in Dirranbandi! There are many stories to be discovered in the town of Dirranbandi from local legends, railway history, early settlers, agriculture and more. Dirranbandi is located in the shire of Balonne within South West Queensland and is half way between St George and the New South Wales border. It is an hour's drive from St George and a 6.5 hour drive (565km) to Brisbane. Dirranbandi is a gateway township to Queensland via the Castlereagh Highway, that runs straight through the heart of town and the Rail and River precinct. The town is also on the Narran River, a tributary of the Balonne River that is part of the Murry-Darling Basin system.

Dirranbandi is largely a farming community. Close to the town to the south west lies Cubbie Station, the largest cotton producing property in the southern hemisphere. The local population of Dirranbandi swells with seasonal pickers during harvest at Cubbie and surrounding farms.

In 1913 the railway line to Dirranbandi was opened and soon became the life blood of the community. Dirranbandi was the end of the line as the developers considered there to be too many river crossings to extend the line further. The rail line had the honour of being the destination for the last mail train to operate in Australia. The line was closed in 2010 from Thallon to Dirranbandi, since then the line has been extensively damaged during the 2011 flood.

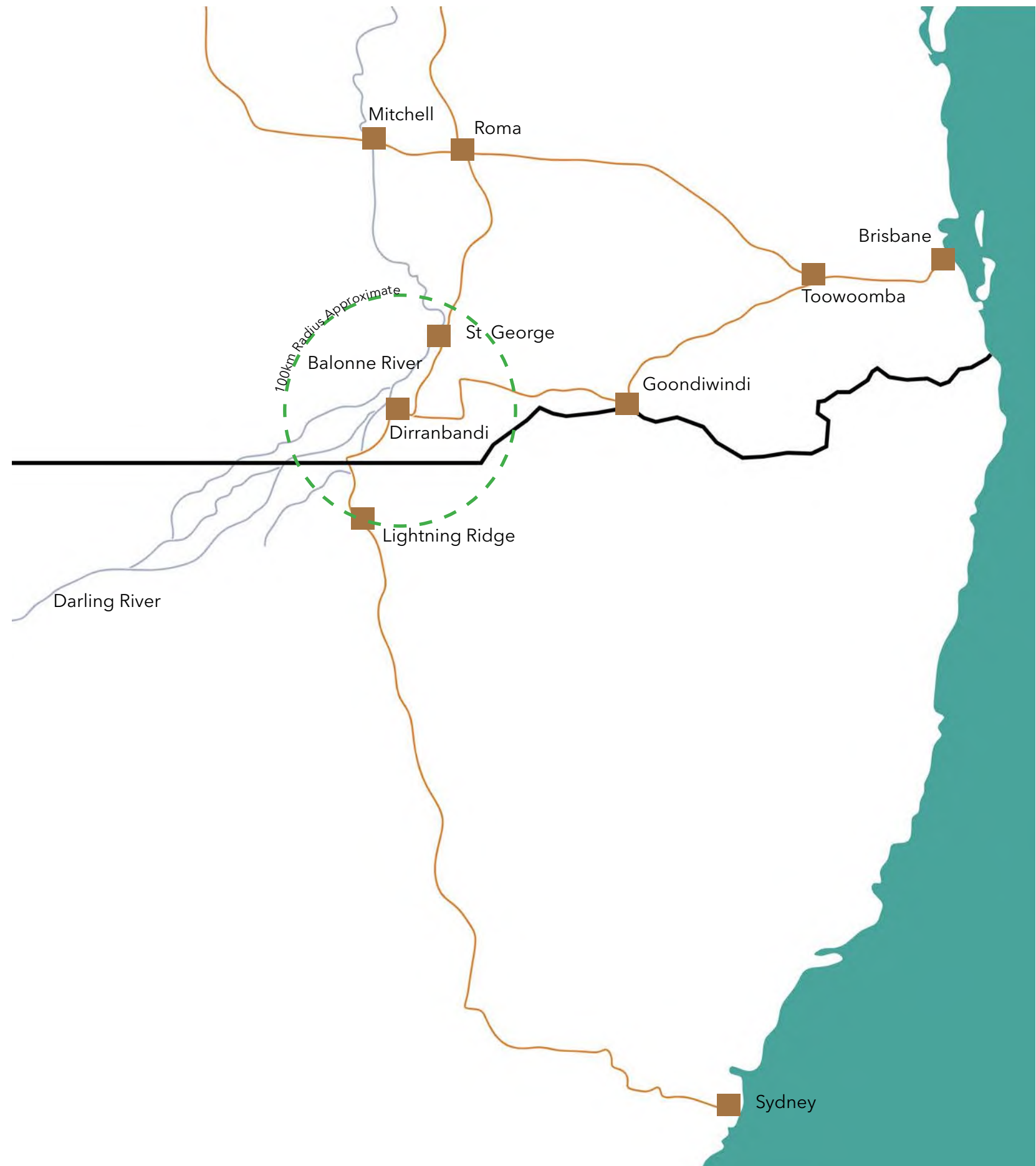
SCOPE & PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide the Dirranbandi Arts Council, the town's community, and the Balonne Shire Council with a master plan concept. A plan that will guide future works to preserve, promote and rejuvenate Dirranbandi's Rail and River precinct. This plan aims to provide an appropriate balance between the recreational, environmental, historical, tourism, economic development and commercial aspirations of the local community and visitors.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective is to provide a variety of 'opportunities' through the development of the Rail and River precinct that will add character and amenity to encourage local engagement and tourism.

Dirranbandi is a gateway township to Queensland via the Castlereagh Highway and with additional features and enhancements has the potential to become a feature 'destination' for the Balonne Shire.



WORKSHOP SUMMERY

Two workshops were held with the Dirranbandi community, both workshops were fun and productive. The first two workshop activities were mapping existing places of interest at a town size scale and a then at a precinct scale. The following activities explored the Rail and River precinct, brainstorming what is missing, community needs, activities locals and tourists would like to do and what stories would like to be shared. An exciting array of ideas were discussed, bellow is a summary of the main ideas.

WHAT IS MISSING

- Connectivity between the precinct and the rest of the town
- Way finding signage for the town - directions to river
- Performance stage
- Shade and seating
- Drinking water
- Lighting
- Indigenous stories and sculptures
- Colour
- Gardens - bird attracting gardens
- Large sculptures and water sculptures
- Art gallery

WHAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDS

- A community hub
- An attraction that will encourage tourists stop for longer
- An attraction that will be a destination for tourism
- Event space
- Performance area - amphitheater
- Playground
- Decent public toilets
- A website to advertise Dirranbandi

ACTIVITIES FOR LOCALS AND TOURISTS

- Bush poetry
- Meeting place
- Have open air events - festivals, music concerts, markets...
- Interactive things to engage kids and adults
- Tell stories of Dirranbandi
- Viewing platform
- Quiet places for reflection
- Workshops including Men's Shed
- Bush walking
- Finding sculptures - exploration

STORIES TO BE SHARED





- Cubbie Station
- Railway
- Early settlers
- Agriculture
- Indigenous
- Seasons of extremes
- Local characters
- War
- Horses
- Machinery

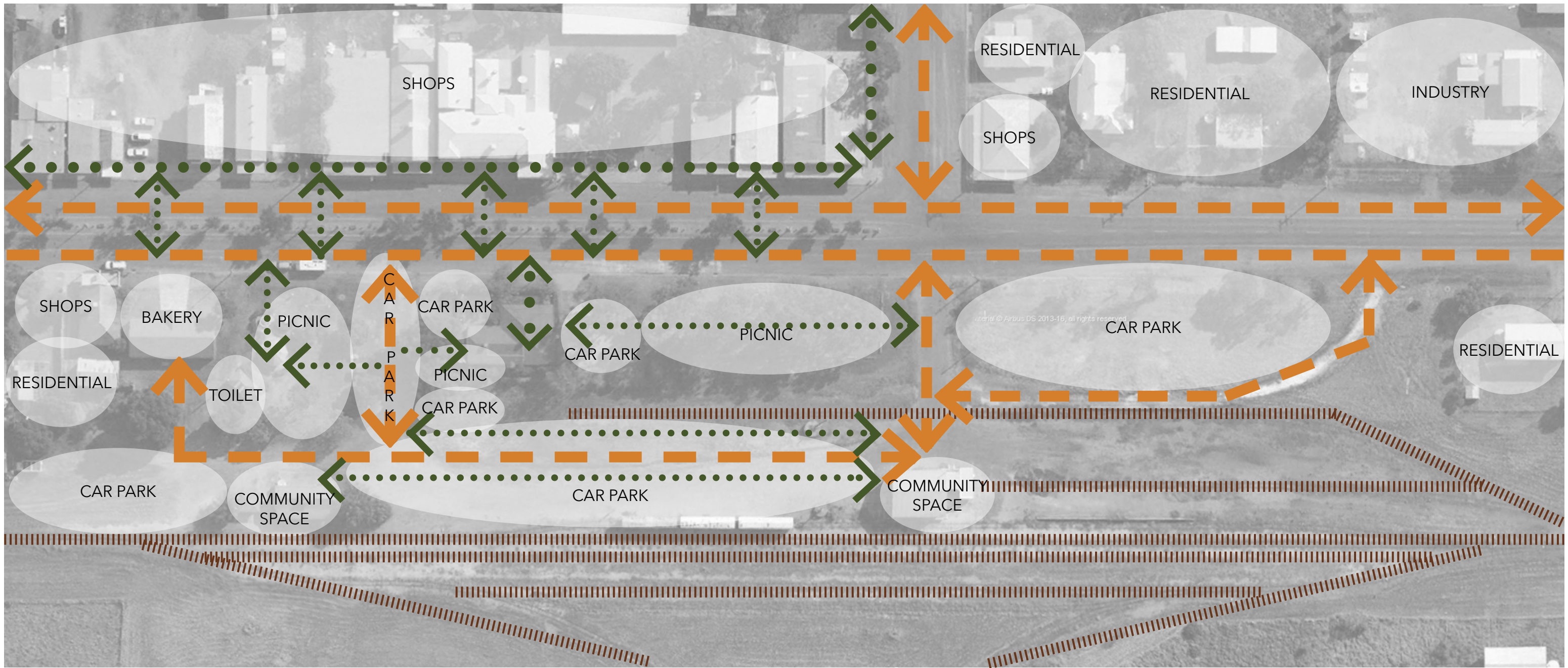


2.0 ANALYSIS

The Rail and River precinct is located within the heart of town, with the main shops and local pub across the road. As the precinct's main use was a railway yard exporting and importing goods, ease of vehicle circulation was maximised. Resulting in the precinct currently being heavily dominated by motor vehicle circulation and car parks. Pedestrian circulation and vehicle movement is not separated throughout the precinct as there was no need when it was a working railway yard. To use the precinct at a pedestrian scale, vehicle movement will need to be changed to make pedestrian movement a priority. Along the main street there is no designated pedestrian crossing over the highway. Picnic areas in the precinct are disconnected and scattered as these were parklands surrounding the railway yard. Now that the precinct is a combined parkland the picnic spots seem even more disconnected. The existing picnic tables within the area could take better advantage of the shady trees. Wayfinding signage for Dirranbandi is not easily found, the largest map in the precinct seems to advertise the surrounding townships more than Dirranbandi itself.

LEGEND

-  Motor vehicle circulation
-  Major pedestrian circulation
-  Minor pedestrian circulation
-  Railway line





Southern entrance to Dirranbandi



Eastern entrance to Dirranbandi



Entrance to precinct from town



Entrance to precinct from main street in town



Streetscape



Wayfinding signage for shire



Community hub - RTC building



Shady trees in park with only one picnic table



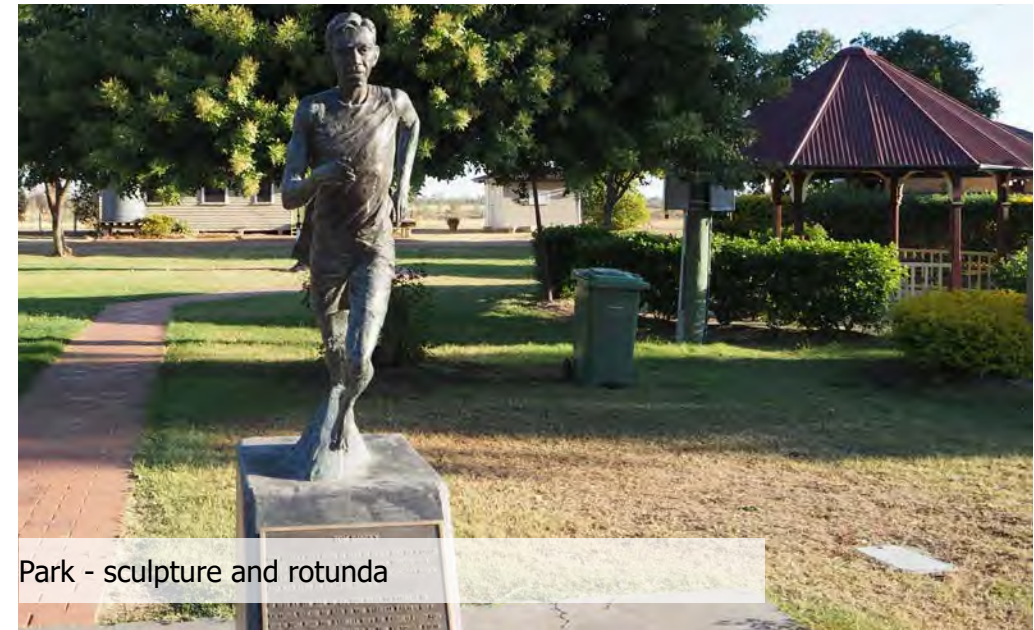
Public toilets



Streetscape



Disused water fountain



Park - sculpture and rotunda



Railway signs



Parcels office



End of the railway line



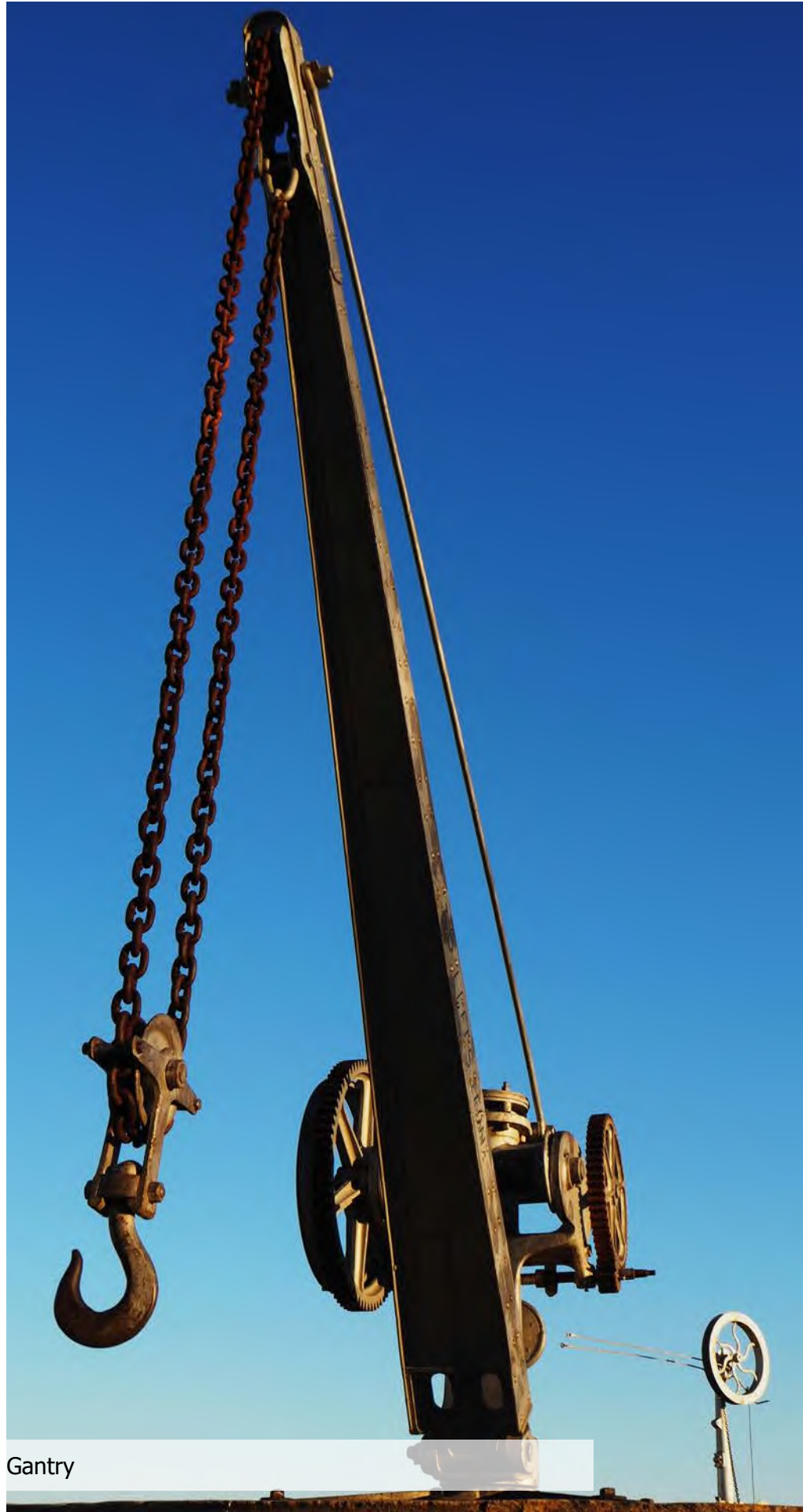
Paver project with names of people who lived in town



Views to outback



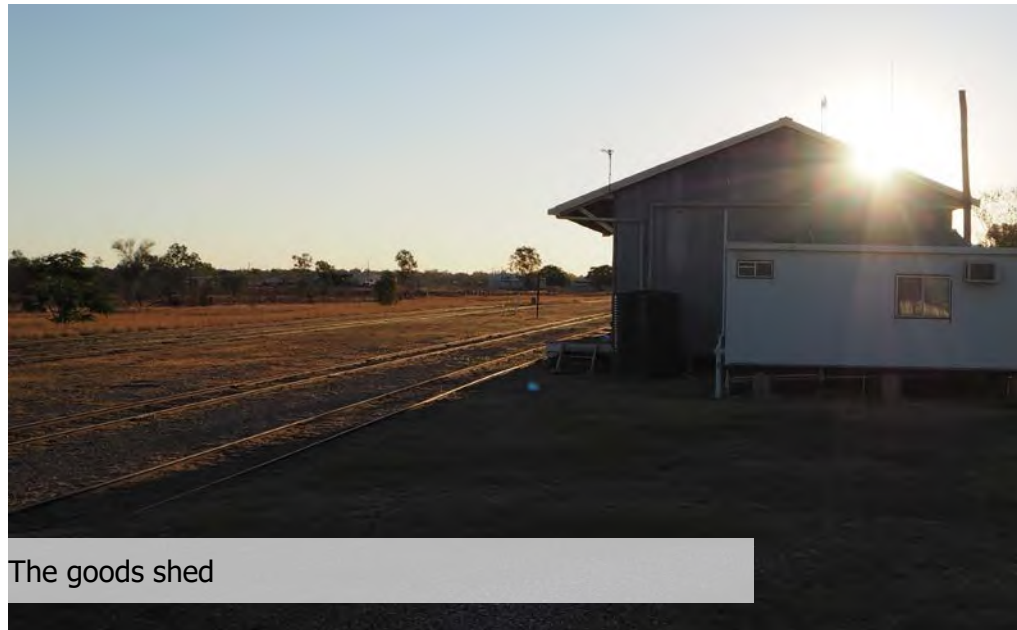
Railway elements



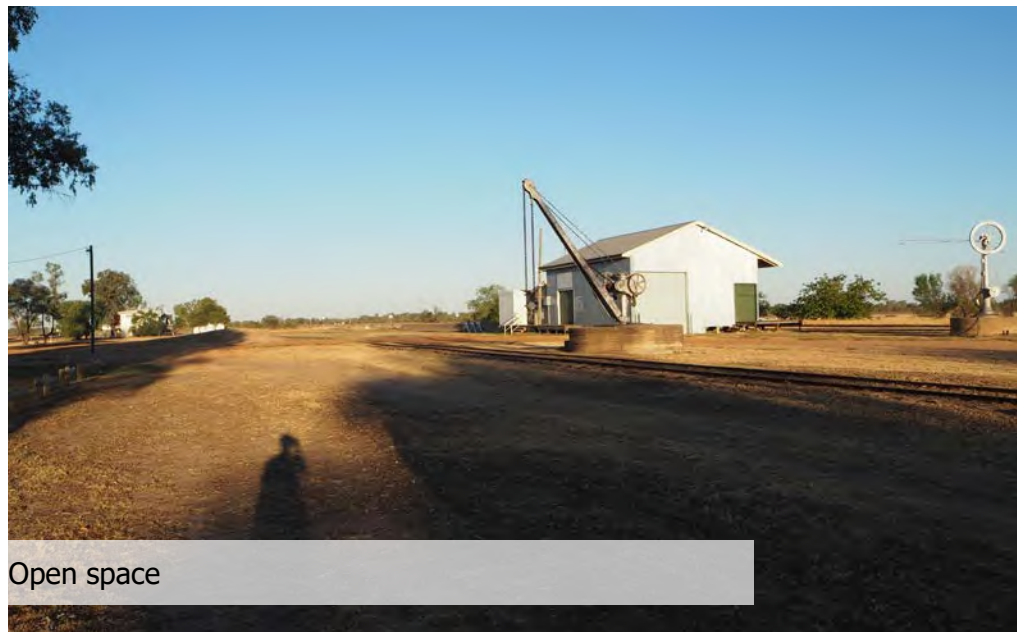
Gantry



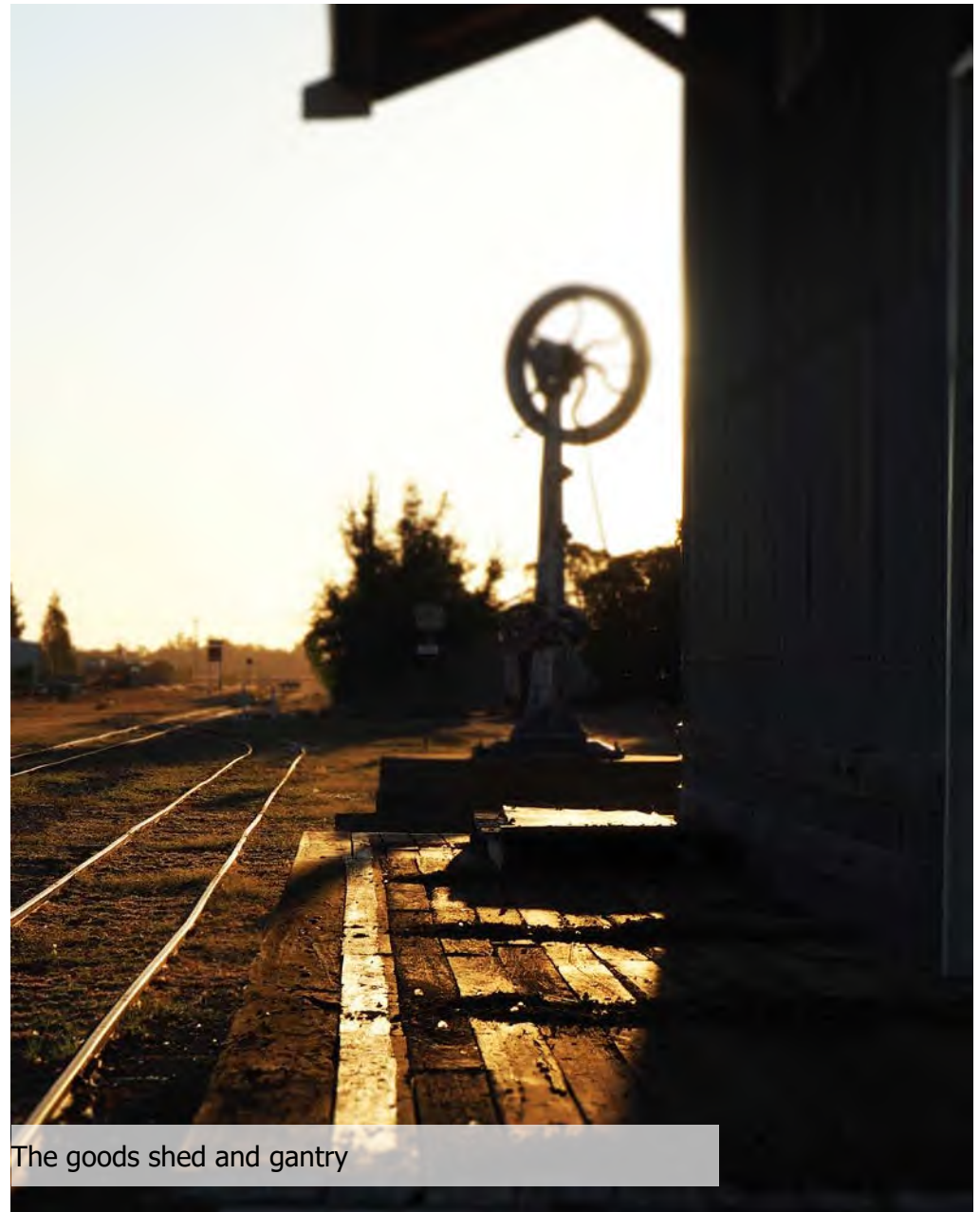
Elevated ground



The goods shed



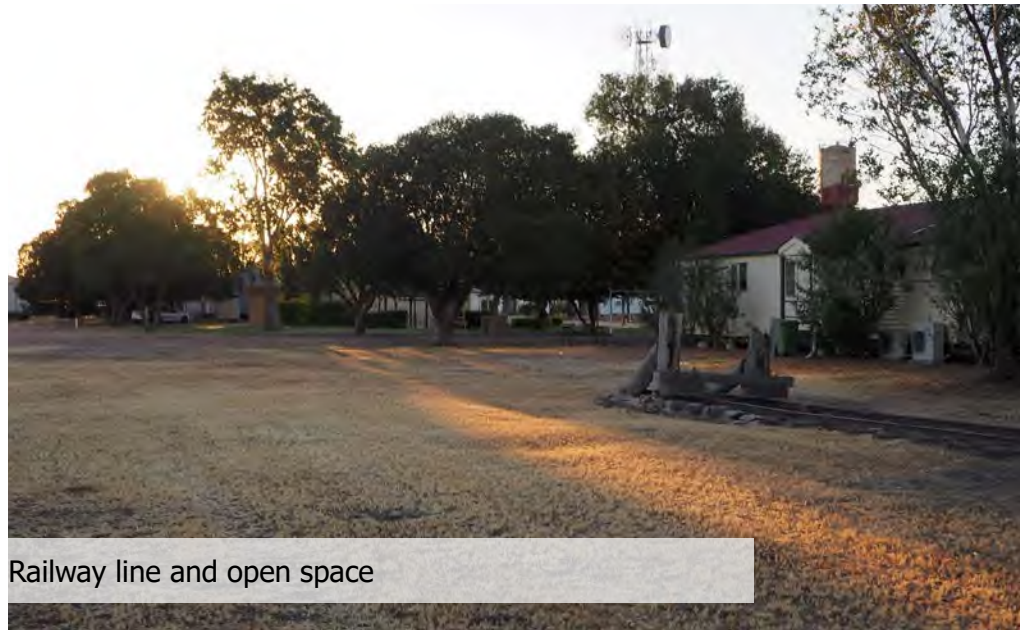
Open space



The goods shed and gantry



Avenue of trees, picnic area and steam engine



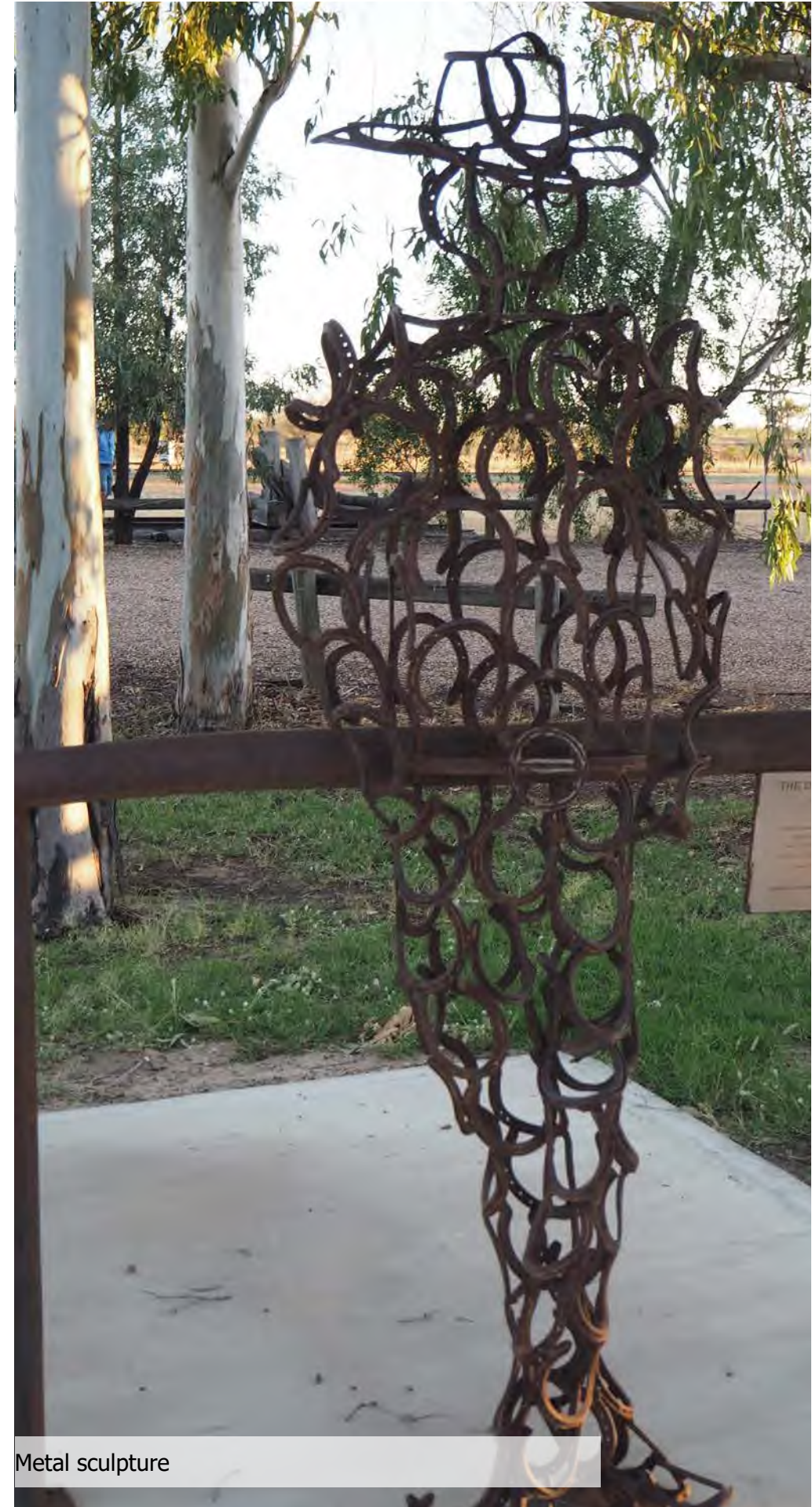
Railway line and open space



Seasonal flooding



Railway textures



Metal sculpture

3.0 OPPORTUNITIES

KEY PLACEMAKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIRRANBANDI

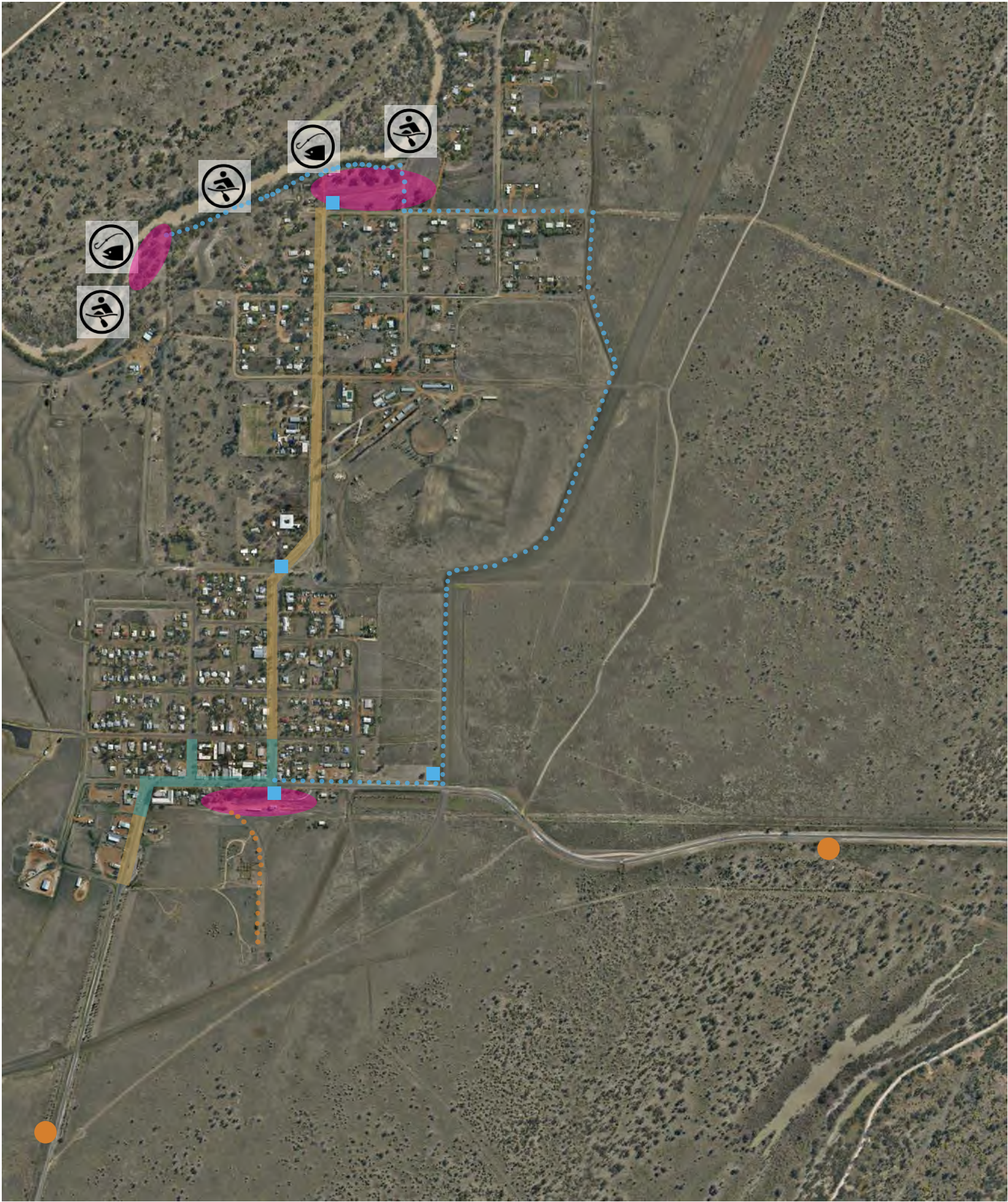
Dirranbandi has an exciting and unique foundation on which to build upon. Enhancing existing places of interest (identified during the community workshops) has the potential to develop a unique destination for the Balonne Shire. Key opportunities include:

- Enhance access to river for recreation fishing and water sports
- Improve existing parklands beside river
- Rejuvenate existing railway yard into an interactive and multipurpose parkland precinct
- Provide a Levee and River walk
- Create a railway walk to the end of the turn around line
- Enhance existing streetscape
- Implement town signage to improve the entrance of Dirranbandi
- Improve wayfinding signage for locals and tourists



LEGEND

	Dirranbandi entrance signage		Levee & River walk
	Wayfinding signage		Railway walk
	Stage 1 main street rejuvenate streetscaping		Fishing
	Stage 2 rejuvenate streetscaping		Water sports - canoe hire
	Parkland		










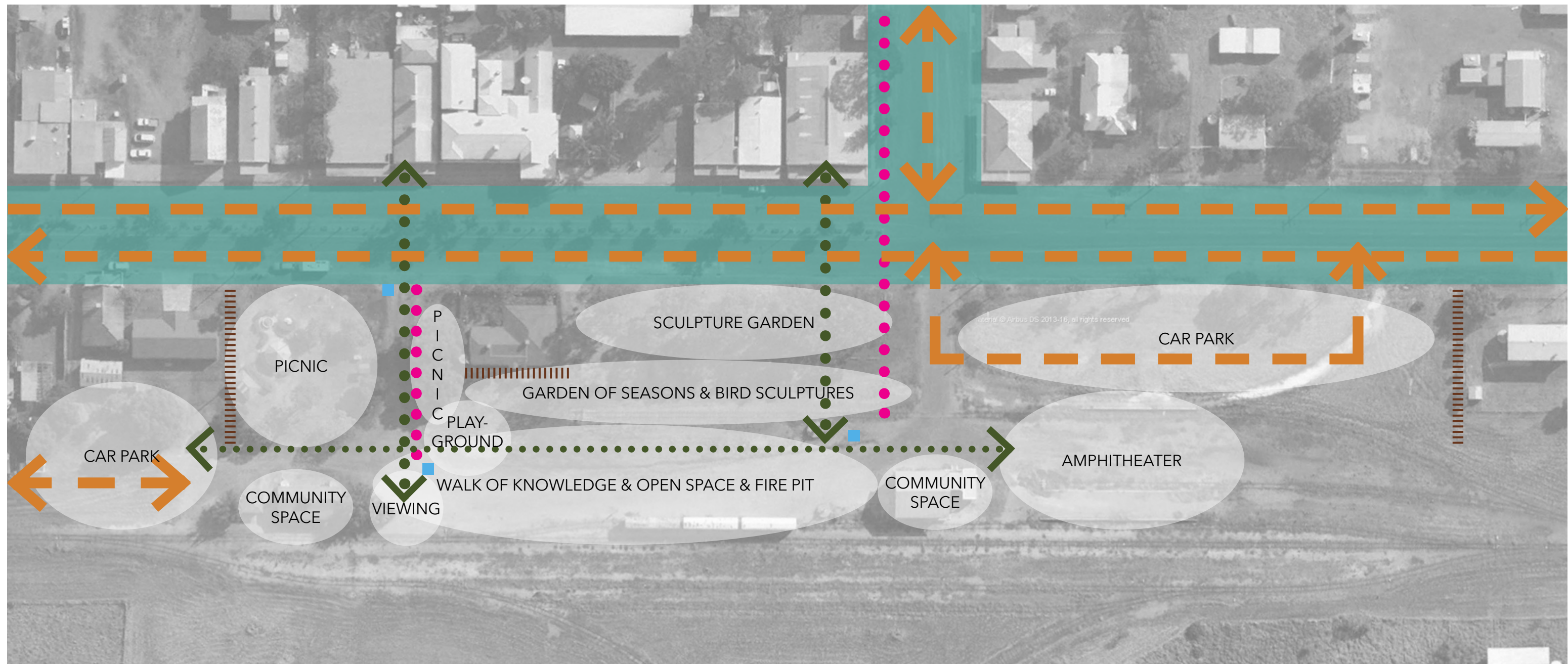
KEY PLACEMAKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRECINCT

The River and Rail precinct has an exciting and unique foundation on which to build upon. Enhancing existing areas and creating new experiences has the potential to develop a unique destination for the Balonne Shire. Key opportunities include:

- Improve pedestrian circulation by redirecting motor vehicle circulation, creating a more pedestrian friendly precinct
- Enhance the landscape amenity and character with additional planting, screening, signage, lighting and furniture
- Provide complimentary activities for all age groups and interests
- Enhance existing buildings/structures to create a more aesthetically pleasing character and identity
- Maintain community spaces to meet, create and connect
- Enhance existing streetscape

LEGEND

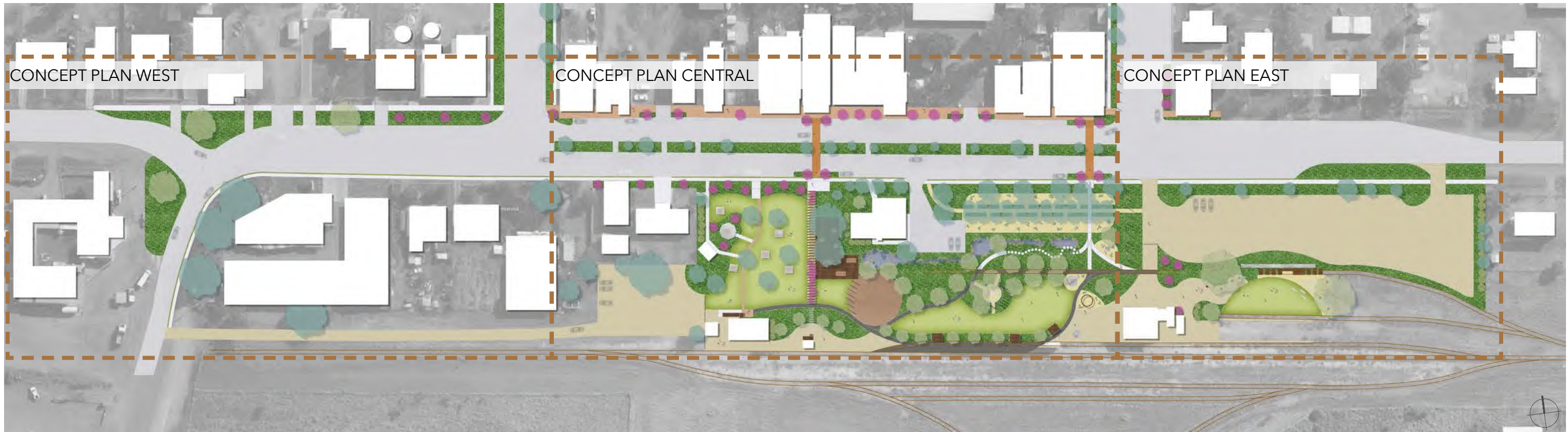
-  Motor vehicle circulation
-  Major pedestrian circulation
-  Minor pedestrian circulation
-  Screening
-  Wayfinding / attraction to encourage people into the site
-  Streetscape rejuvenated
-  Wayfinding signage



4.0 MASTER PLAN

VISION

- Create a unique destination for the Balonne Shire
- Provide a place for the local community to play, relax and connect
- Attract tourists to Dirranbandi and encourage them to stay longer
- Enhance the existing and intertwine new elements to create a dynamic and interactive precinct



NTS

CONCEPT PLAN WEST



- 1** Entrance to locals access only car park
- 2** Pedestrian path
- 3** Garden with feature tree to enhance the entrance to town
- 4** Garden with feature tree to enhance the entrance to town
- 5** Garden with feature trees to enhance the streetscape
- 6** Entrance to locals only car park

CONCEPT PLAN CENTRAL

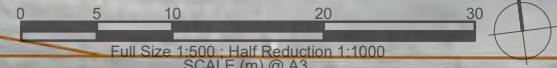


- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 7 Locals car park | 11 Existing sign about the shire of Balonne | 15 Bollards | 19 Picnic tables under shady trees | 23 Deck under existing trees with picnic tables | 27 Wayfinding signage | 31 Stepping stones within garden telling stories of seasons | 35 Existing gantry |
| 8 Garden beds within medium strip | 12 Existing statue | 16 Ramp access to parcels office with landing deck | 20 Picnic tables and shelter | 24 Seasonal billabong with relocated bird sculptures | 28 Walk of knowledge with shelters displaying motion activated information | 32 Opens space for markets, open air events and sports | 36 Wayfinding signage |
| 9 Raised pedestrian crossing | 13 Toilets to be painted to match surrounding buildings | 17 Extend paver path and shift paved area to the side | 21 Arbour with vines growing over it | 25 Access path to back of RTC building | 29 Fire pit with painted poles | 33 Existing gantry | 37 Relocated cubbie station monument |
| 10 Signage with map of Dirranbandi | 14 Relocated entrance to existing rotunda | 18 Building relocated from showgrounds as a viewing room | 22 Painted poles | 26 Playground | 30 Sculpture garden | 34 Sculpture to replicate large water tank | 38 Painted poles |

CONCEPT PLAN EAST



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 39 Painted poles | 43 Community to decide on use maybe men's shed? | 47 Existing concrete wall | 51 Car park |
| 40 Bollards | 44 Additional toilet block | 48 Seating and sun beds | 52 Garden to create street appeal and create an entrance |
| 41 Wayfinding signage | 45 Platform to be used as a stage | 49 Seating | 53 Planting to create screening |
| 42 Signage on building with name 'Dirranbandi Rail and River' | 46 Amphitheater | 50 Seating with tables under trees | |



ACTIVITY MAP



-  Parking
-  Community Space
Art gallery /craft room / men's shed
-  Wayfinding signage / sculpture
-  Playground
-  Walk of Knowledge
Dirranbandi stories over time
-  Sculpture garden
-  Picnic area
-  Viewing platform
-  Open space
Sports / markets
-  Seasons walk
Place for bird sculptures
-  Community fire pit
Bush poetry nights / indigenous community area
-  Amphitheater

NTS

STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION

The suggested stages are in no particular order of implementation. The community and stakeholders are free to choose the order in which to develop the precinct. The stages can also be grouped together and developed together.



NTS

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 Streetscape | 4 Locals car park, RTC precinct, arbour, deck, playground and billabong | 7 Walk of knowledge |
| 2 Rotunda and surrounding picnic area | 5 Garden with feature trees to enhance the streetscape | 8 Amphitheater, additional toilets, goods shed |
| 3 Ramp to parcels office and relocation of lunch room from show ground | 6 Fire pit and open space | 9 Car park |

5.0 PRECEDENT IMAGES



Pedestrian crossing



Seating nodes in streetscape



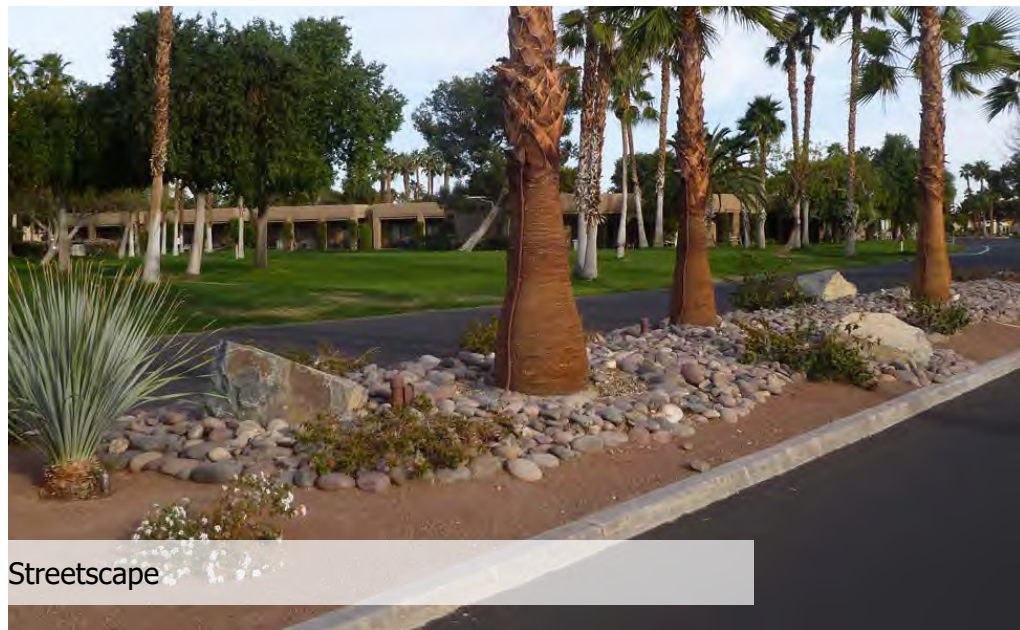
Streetscape



Streetscape plantings



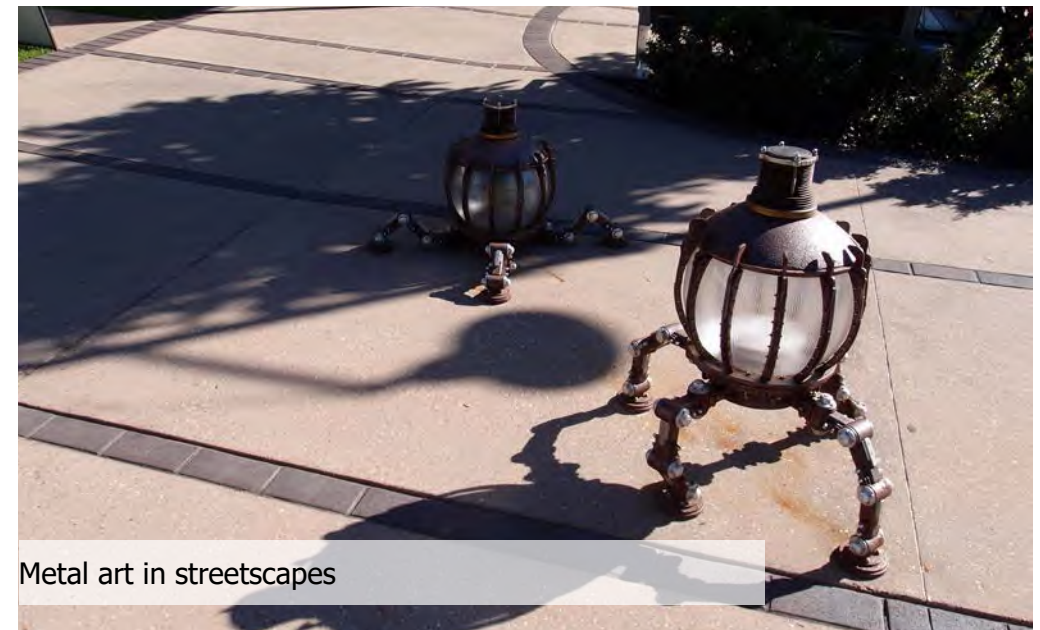
Pavers, metal art and textures



Streetscape



Streetscape vegetation



Metal art in streetscapes



Water tank sculpture



Wayfinding painted poles



Wayfinding - map of town in concrete tiles



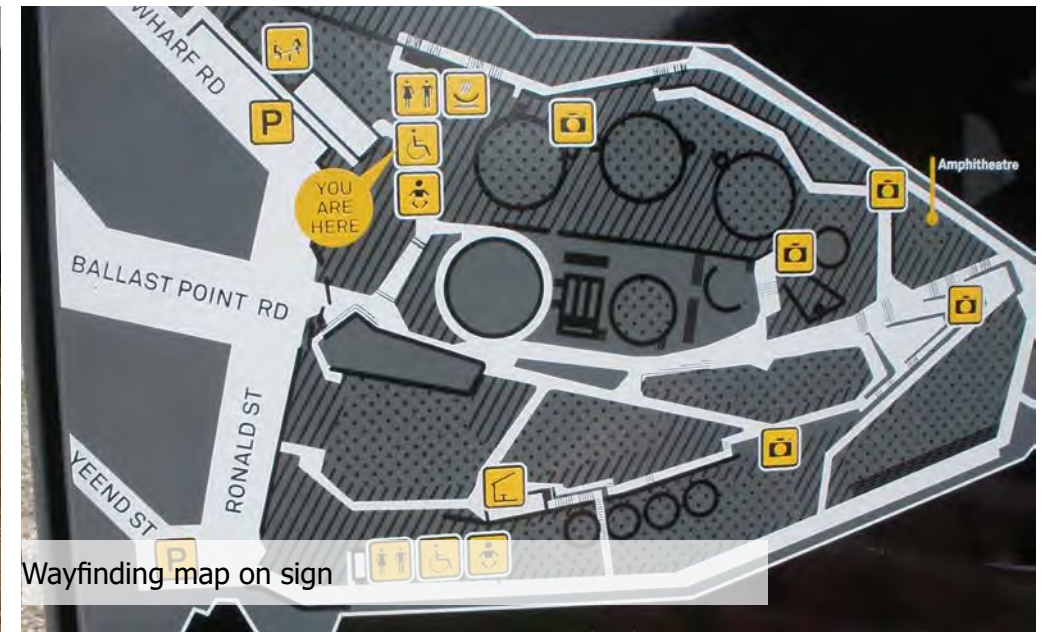
Wayfinding sign



Donation box in legs of water tank sculpture



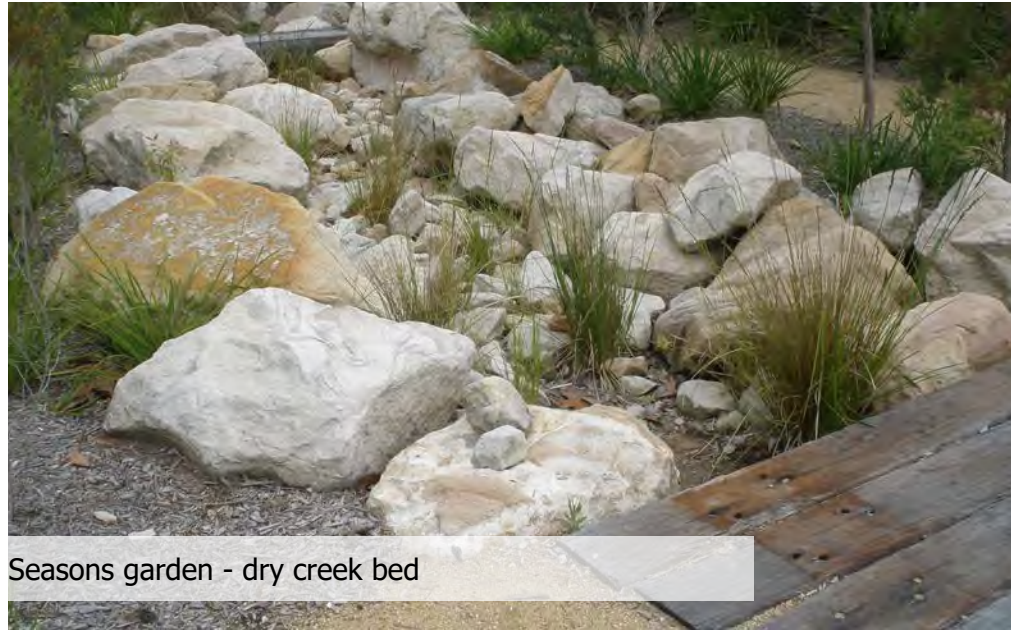
Wayfinding - map of town on steel pressed into concrete



Wayfinding map on sign



Arbour



Seasons garden - dry creek bed



Seating nodes



Stepping stones through seasons garden



Seating poles painted



Bird sculptures in seasons garden



Sculpture garden - deco and planting



Sculpture garden



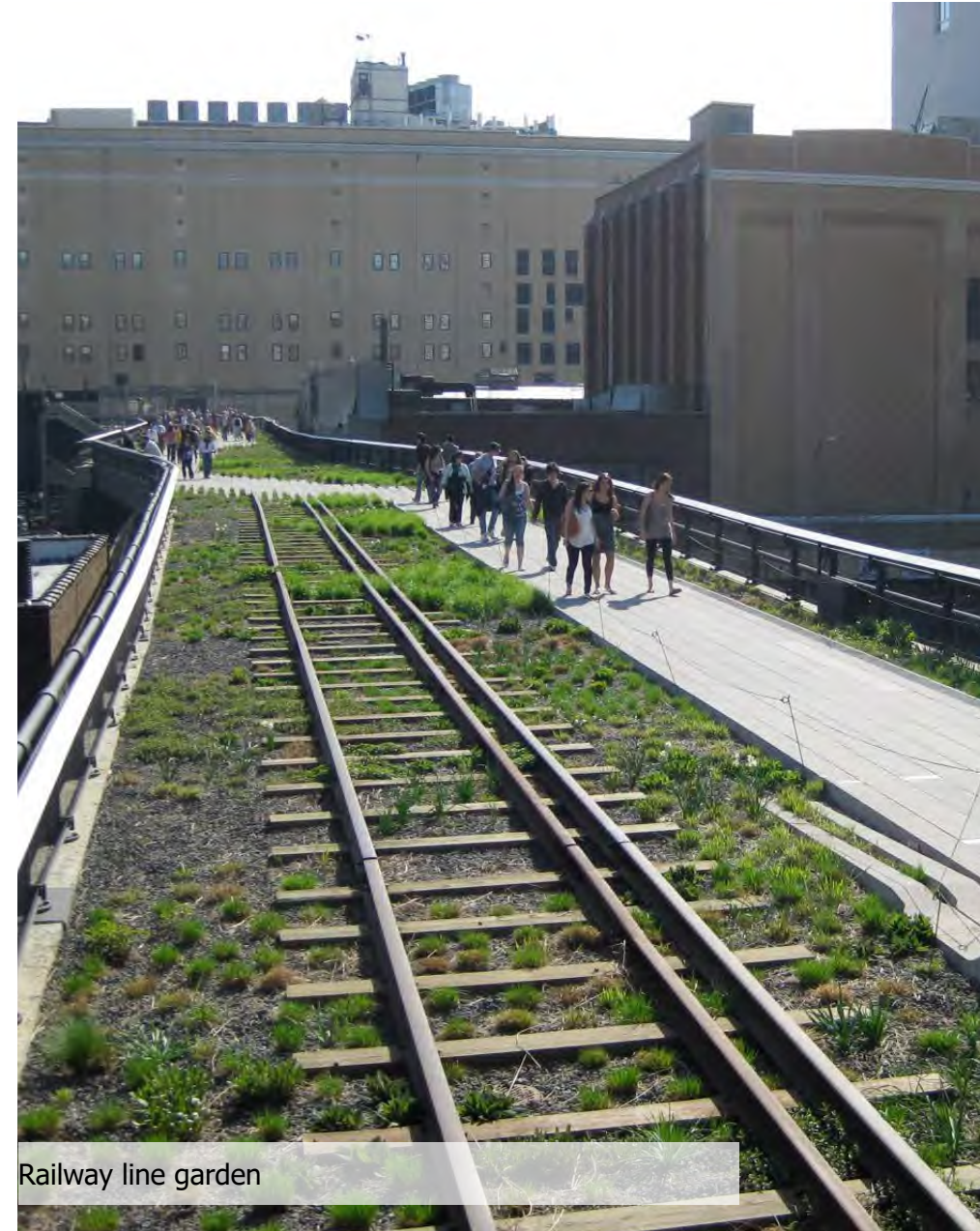
Railway line path



Railway line path



Railway line path



Railway line garden



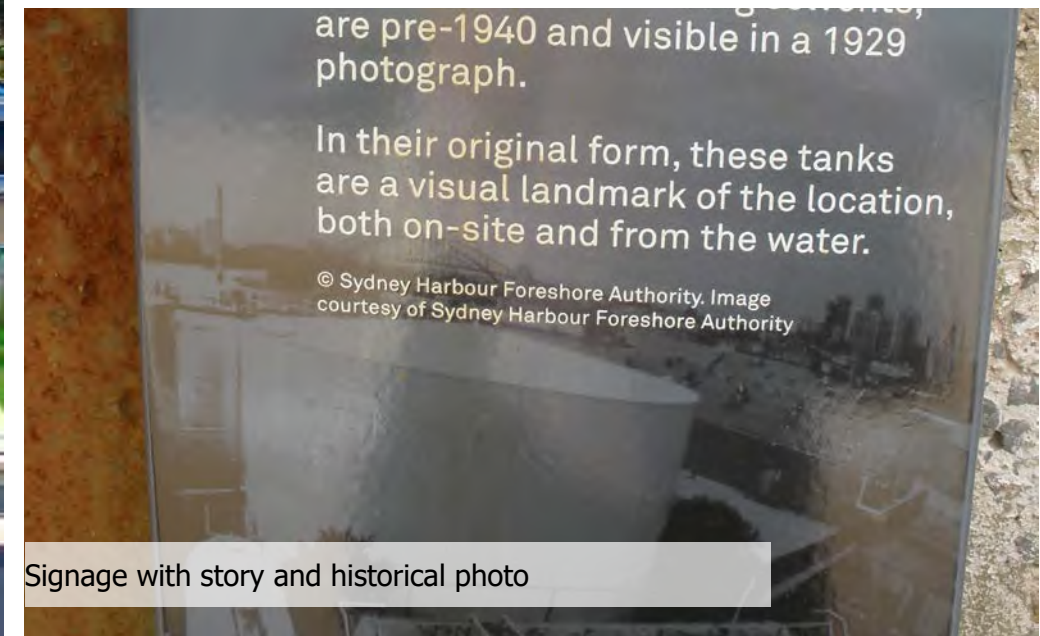
Seating



Shelters - to rest and display stories



Sign with information about the view



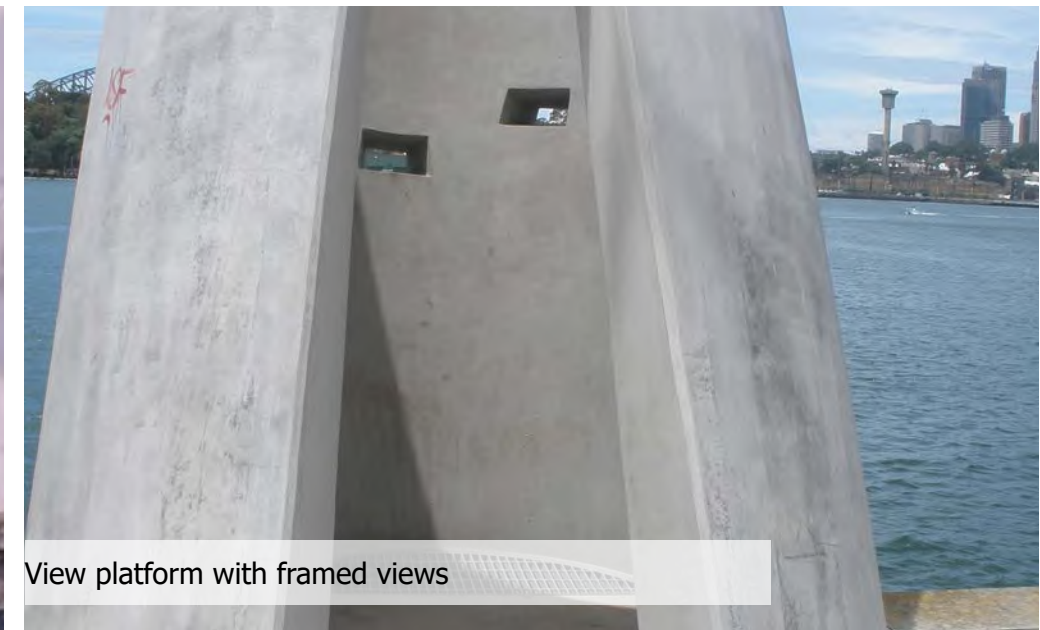
Signage with story and historical photo



signage in shelter



Motion activated information display



View platform with framed views



Community gatherings



Open air cinema



Bush poetry



Community gatherings



Markets



Concerts



Food festivals



Music concerts

6.0 PLANT PALETTE



A



B



C



I



D



E



F



L



G



H



J



K

A *ficus rubiginosa*
Rusty Fig
B *Westringia "Zena"*
Zena Coastal Rosemary
C *Jacaranda mimosifolia*
Jacaranda

D *Brachychiton populneus*
Kurrajong
E *Olea europaea*
Common Olive
F *Lagerstroemia indica* x *L. faurieri* 'Sioux'
Crepe Myrtle

G *Lomandra longifolia* 'Lime Tuff'
Lomandra Lime Tuff
H *Bambino bougainvillea*
Bougainvillea Dwarf
I *Brachychiton rupestris*
Queensland Bottle Tree

J *Pennisetum alopecuroides* nafray
Nafray
K *Grevillea Copper Crest* x *Nectar Delight*
Grevillea Carpet Layer
L *Banksia ericifolia*
Heath-leaved Banksia



M



Q



N



R



O



S



U



W



P



T



V



X

M *Xanthorrhoea australis*
Grass Tree

N *Callistemon viminalis* 'Candy Pink'
Candy Pink Callistemon

O *Pennisetum alopecuroides*
'Purple Lea' Purple Lea

P *Nandina domestica* 'Moon Bay'
Moon Bay Nandina

Q *Lomandra hystrix*
Spiny-head Mat Rush

R *Livistona australis*
Cabbage Tree Palm

S *Westringia fruticosa*
Coastal Rosemary

T *Nerium oleander*
Oleander

U *Rhagodia spinescens* 'Aussie Flat Bush'
Aussie Flat Bush

V *Bougainvillea Red Dragon* 'Red Zed'
Bougainvillea

W *Myoporum parvifolium*
Creeping Boobialla

X *Denhamia oleaster*
Orange Boxwood

7.0 MATERIALS & FURNITURE PALETTE



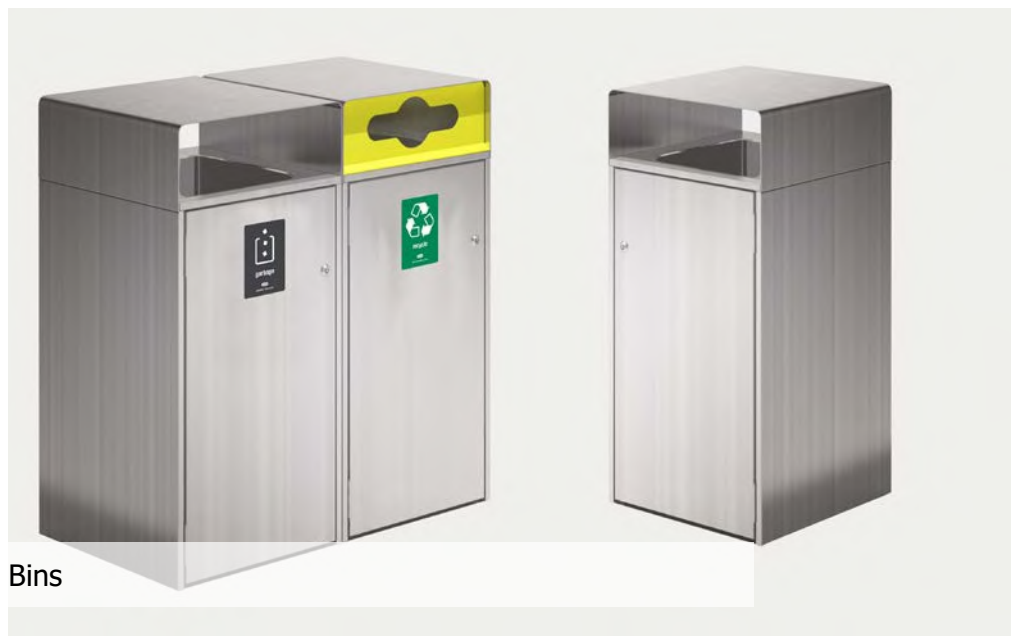
Lighting



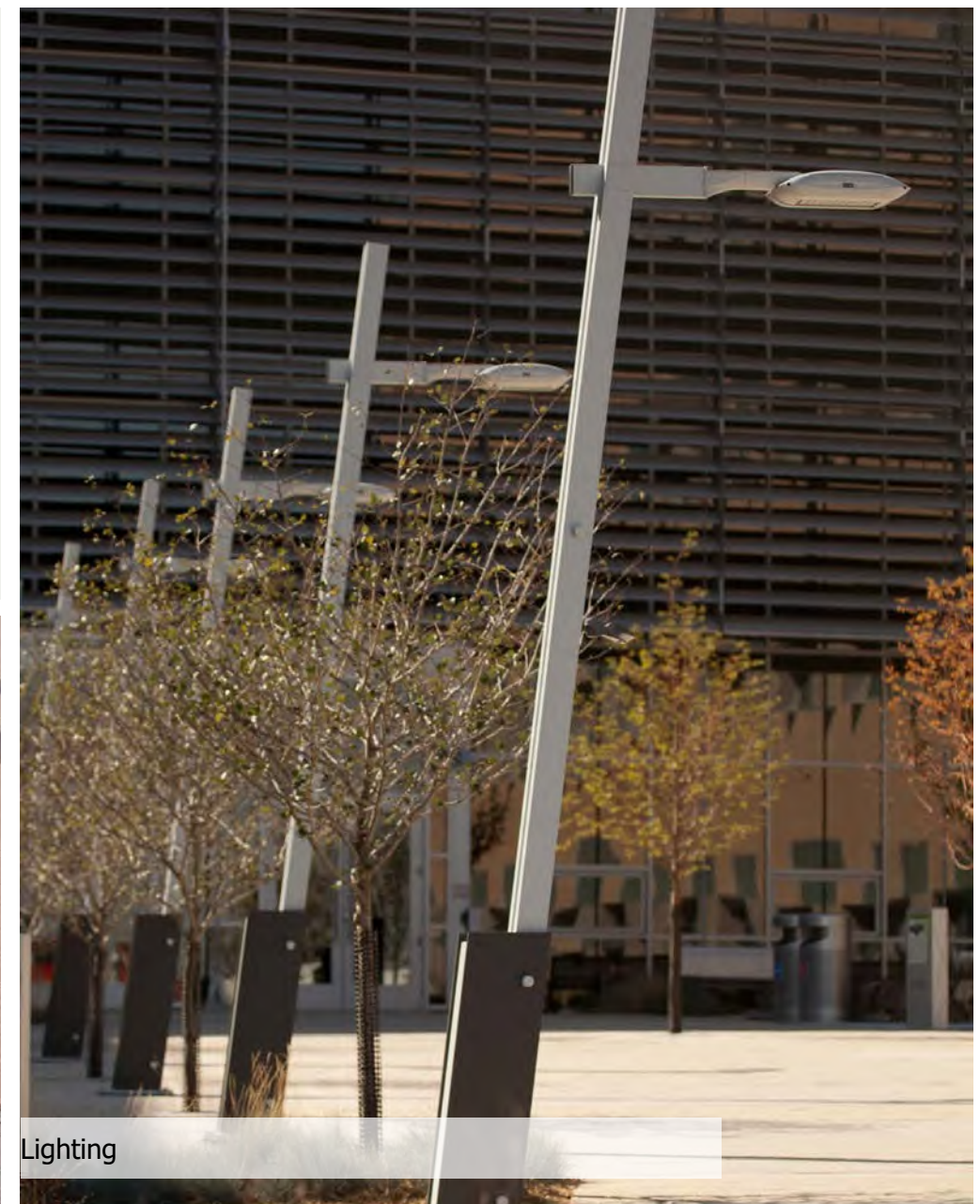
Picnic table



Picnic shelter



Bins



Lighting



Bollards



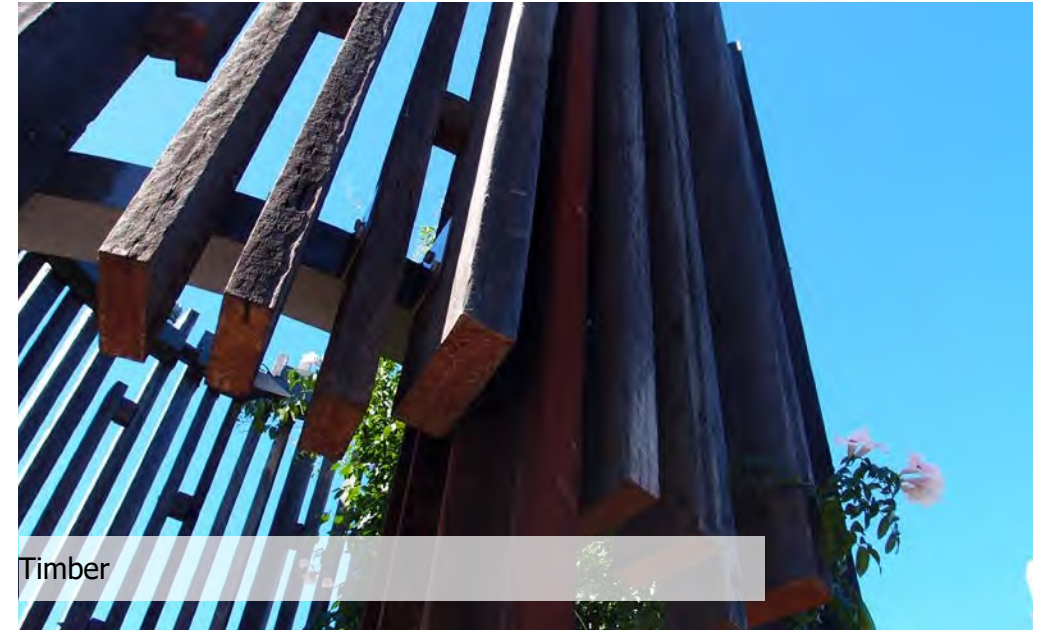
Drinking fountain



Gravel in-between railway line



Decomposed granite (deco)



Timber



Concrete in-between railway line



Pebbles



Corten steel



Rustic railway line and sleepers



Rocks / boulders



Copper

8.0 COST PLAN

THANK-YOU

HOOROO, CATCH YOU LATER!



ZEN LANDSCAPING QUEENSLAND



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