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ABN 84 873 116 132

February 15, 2019

**ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**TO BE HELD**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA NO. 1**



**JAMES RONCON**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

## **FURTHER BUSINESS**

1. BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 22/19 - DATED FEBRUARY 07, 2019 - BROKEN HILL LIBRARY, COMMUNITY HUB AND CULTURAL PRECINCT - DRAFT CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION (16/89)..... 3

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

February 7, 2019

**ITEM 1**

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 22/19

SUBJECT: BROKEN HILL LIBRARY, COMMUNITY HUB AND CULTURAL PRECINCT - DRAFT CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION 16/89

PREVIOUS ITEMS: BHCC1/19 - BROKEN HILL LIBRARY, COMMUNITY HUB AND CULTURAL PRECINCT - DRAFT CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - Extraordinary Council - 24 Jan 2019 6:00pm (Special)

**Recommendation**

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 22/19 dated February 7, 2019, be received.
2. That Council endorse the Draft Cultural Framework and Synopsis Report (attached) for a 28-day public exhibition period.

**Executive Summary:**

At the February 2018 Ordinary Meeting of Council, Broken Hill City Council committed to the reinvigoration of Argent Street as the city's premier urban precinct through the development of a cultural hub that creates an improved customer experience for residents and tourists.

The precinct will link the unique cultural and heritage aspects of Broken Hill, and be underpinned by the construction of a new library and community hub at the rear of the town hall façade.

Council has since engaged Neeson Murcutt Architects (NMA), a leading innovative architectural firm within Australia to develop a Cultural Plan Framework (stage one) and construction ready drawings for the development of the Cultural Precinct. (stage two)

On January 24, 2019 Council resolved to go out for community engagement for stage one of the Draft Cultural Framework in line with the associated Community Engagement Plan.

During the engagement process Council sought to ascertain which Council and community services the public would like to see located in and around the new library.

There was considerable support for the overall development of a cultural precinct and co-location of the library and archives, however unfortunately focus seemed to centre on the proposed site swap and its impact on the coffee shop within the VIC, rather than the broader benefits of the project and its potential to reinvigorate Argent Street.

This report considers the results of that engagement for Council consideration and seeks endorsement to place the Cultural Framework and Synopsis report on Public Exhibition for 28 days.

**Report:**

At the February 2018 Ordinary Meeting of Council, Broken Hill City Council committed to the reinvigoration of Argent Street as the city's premier urban precinct through the development of a cultural hub that creates an improved customer experience for residents and tourists. The precinct will link the unique cultural and heritage aspects of Broken Hill, and be underpinned by the construction of a new library and community hub at the rear of the town hall façade.

Council has since engaged Neeson Murcutt Architects (NMA), a leading innovative architectural firm within Australia to develop a Cultural Framework (stage one) and construction ready drawings for the development of the Cultural Precinct. (stage two)

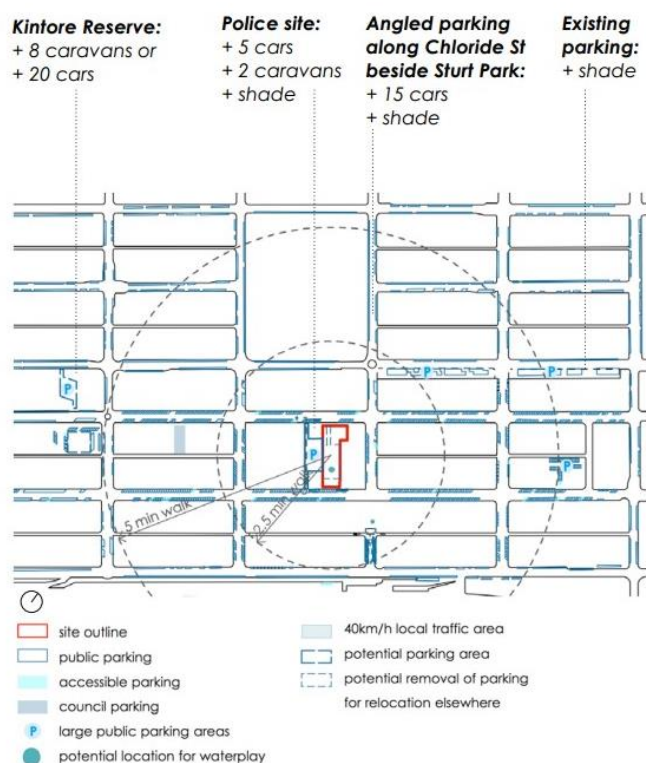
After consultation between NMA and the police, the plan included the prospect of a 'site swap' of the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) for the Police Station. Under this proposal the Police would gain the VIC site to build their new station, and Council would receive the current Police site. This aim was to retain the police presence in the CBD as well the economic benefits associated with foot traffic generated by the service's users and employees.

Under the proposed framework, council would retain the heritage buildings on the Police site, clear the remaining structures to provide parking, and provide visitor information services from the planned new cultural precinct.

Unfortunately recent focus has centred on the proposed site swap and its impact on the coffee shop within the VIC, rather than the broader benefits of the project and its potential to reinvigorate Argent Street.

Another common concern was parking in the CBD and its ability to handle motorhomes and caravans. It should be noted that the Framework currently caters for two large vehicles in the cultural precinct, along with seven more large vehicle parks that are currently being developed at Kintore Reserve. The reserve is approximately a five-minute walk from the proposed precinct, and the Framework provides for an overall net increase in parking within a five-minute walking radius of the proposed new library, as shown below:





### Community Engagement Overview

During the engagement period 274 surveys were completed and a Community Open Day and BBQ was held at the Civic Centre with approximately 100 people attending.

Results of this engagement period should also be considered with previous engagement activities including those undertaken by Neeson Murcutt Architects to develop the draft framework (listed in Appendix C), community feedback gathered as part of the Living Museum and Perfect Light suite of projects, and also the feedback received during Council's three-month engagement around the Library in late 2017.

What	Activity	Outcome
Draft Cultural Framework made available online and in hard copy available at Council Administration Building and Library	3 x Media Release 25/01/2019 30/01/2019 06/01/2019 6 x Social Media Posts	Number of times online content has been seen 33,778 (Does not include surveys)
Survey made available 25/01 – 13/02/2019 online and in hard copy promoted through media releases and social media.	25/01/2019 30/01/2019 5/02/2019 6/02/2019 9/02/2019 11/02/2019	Surveys completed: Paper - 103 Electronic - 171  Total Surveys 274
Hold community Open Day and BBQ	Community Open Day and BBQ held 11/02/2019 from 5pm – 7pm Opportunity provided to view draft framework and speak to architects	Approximately 100 people participated

Hold meeting for external stakeholders	Deferred - to be undertaken during formal 28-day exhibition period	
Inform Libraries NSW of Draft Framework and seek feedback	Neeson Murcutt Architects met with Cameron Morley from State Library 30/01/2019	Positive meeting held with Libraries NSW and they will participate further during concept and design stages

### Survey Results

- 65% of respondents were library members
- 88% of respondents believe the reinvigoration of Argent Street is important for Broken Hill.
- 68% of respondents believe it is important or very important for Council to try and keep community services such as the Police in the CBD. 24% believe it is unimportant or very unimportant, while 8% were indifferent.
- 33% of respondents would support Council offering the current VIC site to the Police if visitor information services were offered at the new library.
- 32% of respondents would like to see the Visitor Information Centre co-located with the new library
- 42% of respondents would like to see Customer Service co-located with the new library
- 23% of respondents would like to see the GeoCentre co-located with the new library
- 70% of respondents would like to see the Archives co-located with the new library

Throughout the engagement and survey process, there was strong support for the co-location of the library and archives as well as the creation of a cultural precinct on the current library police site. Other services suggested for colocation included a coffee shop, radio station, an indigenous cultural centre, and more.

However the survey results present a quandary when it comes to the issue of the proposed site swap. Although only 33% of survey respondents support the site swap, 88% believe the reinvigoration of Argent Street important, and 68% of respondents believe it is important or very important for Council to try and keep community services such as the Police in the CBD.

Although it will be impossible for Council to arrive at a decision that satisfies all public demands outlined in the survey results, it appears that the loss of the Police from the CBD is likely, and it may be beneficial for Council to proceed on the basis of Cultural Mix 1B within the Cultural Framework that sees the Police moving out of the CBD, and the visitors information service remaining at the current site.

Council should continue the community engagement process to which it originally committed, however it would be prudent to allow the project architects to proceed to a concept design phase based around Cultural Mix 1B during the engagement and public display periods.

The next logical step for Council would be to investigate an alternative method of procuring the current Police site. The site can be cleared to accommodate parking as outlined in the draft Cultural Framework, while the site's heritage buildings that must be retained could be utilised as commercial spaces.

### Funding Considerations

Any application to State or Federal Government for grants require alignment with their strategic plans. The NSW Government's recently released Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025 identifies the priority areas for investment across the State, and prioritises the development of co-located cultural precincts rather than standalone service developments.

This plan can be found at:

([https://create.nsw.gov.au/wpcontent/uploads/2019/02/20190206\\_CIP2025.pdf](https://create.nsw.gov.au/wpcontent/uploads/2019/02/20190206_CIP2025.pdf))

The Broken Hill Library, Community Hub and Cultural Precinct project aligns with the NSW Government's strategic priorities which are:

1. Cultural Infrastructure supports strong communities and economies in NSW
2. Access to space for community participation in culture
3. Cultural Infrastructure for collaboration and thriving cultural sector
4. Creating Impact through partnerships and capacity building

It is likely that Council's chances of securing Government funding for this project will be significantly enhanced if it delivers a cultural precinct with maximum concentration of services. This would create a 'critical mass' within the precinct to create a sense of vibrancy, reinvigorate the city's traditional heart in Argent Street, and assist in the long-term creation of a day/night economy. All of these factors have been central to the development of the Cultural Framework.

### **Strategic Direction:**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Key Direction: | 1.3 Our history, culture and diversity is celebrated<br>2.1 Our economy is strong and diversified and attracts people to live, work and invest  |
| Objective:     | 1.3.4 Provide cultural services and facilities that celebrate our rich history.<br>1.3.5 Sustain and grow arts and culture and preserve the importance of our social capital, built heritage and history.   |
| DP Action:     | 1.3.1.07 Provide a library service for the City and surrounding area<br>1.3.1.08 Develop a Library Services Strategic Plan<br>1.3.1.09 Initiatives from the Library Services Strategic Plan are implemented<br>1.3.1.06 Preserve historic records held within Council custodianship<br>2.1.4 Increase economic opportunities by activating public spaces. |

### **Financial Implications:**

Included in the successful tender (T18/4) for this project was for community consultation to be held by NMA, which includes the community open day scheduled for February 11.

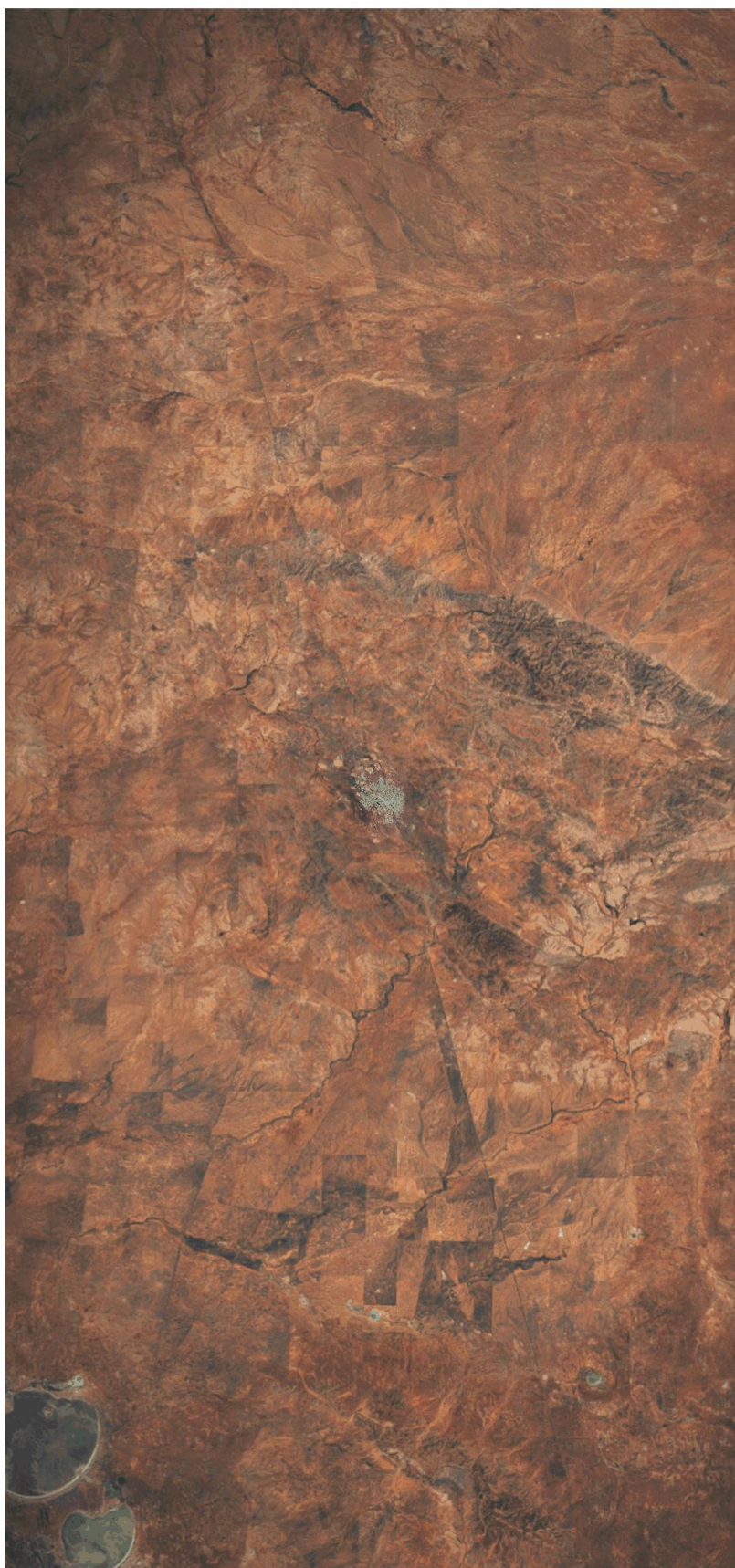
There will be no direct impact to Council's operational budget.

### **Attachments**

1. [↓](#) Draft Cultural Framework and Synopsis Report

JAY NANKIVELL  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

JAMES RONCON  
GENERAL MANAGER



## BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT

NEESON MURCUTT ARCHITECTS PTY LTD  
ISSUE: 22/01/2019

NEESON MURCUTT ARCHITECTS

sue barnsley design

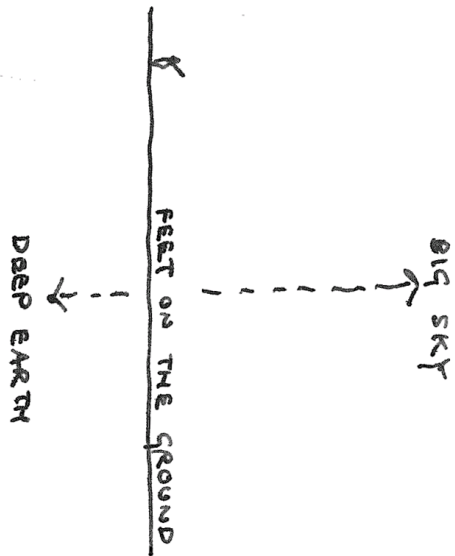


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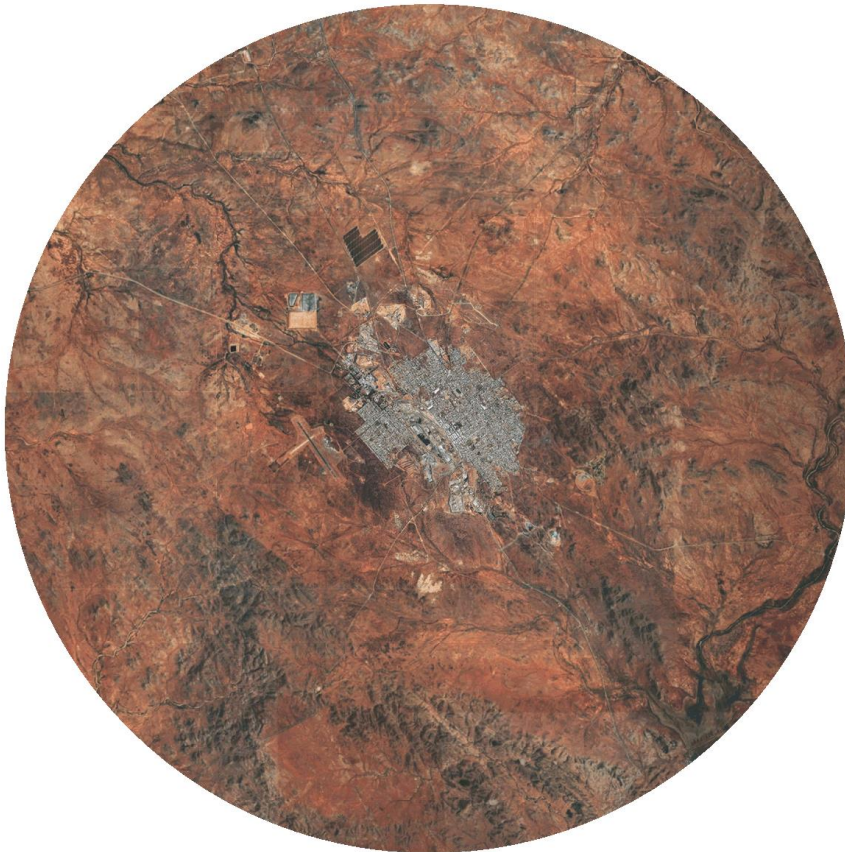


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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains the findings from our team's extensive investigations and consultation to inform the Broken Hill Community Hub/Library Project.

Firstly, the report establishes the insights from the stakeholder engagement focusing on three key areas:

1. What is culture in Broken Hill?
2. What is the future of Argent Street and the Cultural Precinct?
3. What is your vision for the Community Hub/Library?

From the consultation, a number of insights and findings were established. These set up the parameters for how the design team understands the cultural landscape within which this project will insert itself as well as how this project will impact the Cultural Precinct and bolster the heritage character of the city. Finally, these insights shed light on the operational and programming imperatives for the Community Hub/Library, all of which are foundational to our approach to this project.

The insights can be summarised as:

- There is no one definition of culture in Broken Hill, different audience have different expectations;
- While culture is hard to define, cultural assets including the city's heritage assets protected by its national Heritage Listing, are visible and recognised;
- There is a sense of a Cultural and Civic Precinct on Argent Street but there is not a critical mass of activity there to establish it as the true town centre;
- The new library belongs behind the Town Hall facade, many layers of consultation have confirmed this;
- This must be a library model from Broken Hill, not from away;
- The library and the archive must be part of the same operation, they are two sides of one coin;
- We want to be ambitious but also realistic, this project is about being resourceful to achieve a great outcome;
- Co-location of services must not come at the expense of accessibility and quality of experience of the library and archive;
- The label 'library' may not fit the bill...
- There is a strong argument to target youth through the programming and design of the new library spaces.

Our site investigations have helped understand the spatial and operational parameters of the site and make urban-scale suggestions for how to best concentrate destinational uses in the town centre.

The team has also identified a number of spin off strategies for Council to consider that would continue to bolster the Cultural Precinct.

**A Community Hub and Cultural Plan/Framework informing the future development of the City with the Library and Community Hub as part of a Cultural Precinct, is the number one priority project. This body of research will inform spatial decision-making around a co-located, integrated approach to multi-service delivery inclusive of parking, walking, cycling and public transport. It will include recommendations and actions to realise cultural priorities, Council-managed co-located spaces, and methods/ modeling of real transport options to better meet resident demand and preferences.**

- Broken Hill Council, Request for Tender, Broken Hill Library, Community Hub and Cultural Project, May 2018.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report has been developed as part of the Broken Hill Library, Community Hub and Cultural Project commissioned by Broken Hill City Council. Neeson Murcutt Architects (NMA) are leading a team of consultants who have been reviewing a variety of inputs including site conditions, past reports and feasibility, stakeholder engagement to inform this report and to inform the Concept Design phase of this project. This synopsis report summarises and presents the key findings of the team's activities to date.

The consortium led by NMA includes: Arup (ESD and traffic) Barbara Flynn (art advisor), Left Bank Co. (stakeholder engagement and cultural planning), Sue Barnsley Design (landscape architecture), MAAI (signage), and Funktion (accessibility).

As a starting point, it is important to revisit the brief for the project and ensure that we're aligned with the original ambition for the project. The brief issued by Council in May 2018 describes the purpose as two-fold. Firstly, it is about setting out the Cultural Priorities for Broken Hill and secondly, ensuring that any proposed changes to the Library and the Cultural Precinct on Agent Street are responding to a clear and well articulated framework.

Inherent in the brief is the ambition to use the Cultural Framework as the basis to justify and substantiate spatial and operational moves for the Library itself as well as for the Cultural Precinct located in Agent Street. It is therefore important that this report and its contents is endorsed by the Project Team and Council, as it will form the foundation to many design moves and suggestions from this point onwards in the project.

The team have adopted an evidence-based approach for all recommendations on this project, using either benchmarks, evidence from the consultation and site visits to underpin key decisions. This report includes the evidence we believe is required to progress this project on solid ground.

Culture can be defined as ideas, customs, and social behavior of a particular people, place or society. Therefore the culture of Broken Hill is a collection of ideas that guide and nurture this unique community.





## 2.0 SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

## 2.1 SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT APPROACH	CULTURAL PRIORITIES AND ARTISTIC DIRECTION	KEY INSIGHTS
<p>Our approach to engagement for this project has been to recognise the variety of previous engagement processes that had taken place and to ensure that we're building on these past efforts rather than duplicating them. It is important to note that Community Engagement was excluded from our scope as such engagement for the library has already been undertaken by Council in recent months. This Cultural Framework and Synopsis Report will be on exhibition for the public to comment on.</p> <p>Based on the data stored by Council, we are aware of a few previous engagement efforts which we have reviewed and incorporated into our thinking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Cultural Infrastructure Program Management Office (CIPO) Cultural Infrastructure Plan sector and community engagement (late 2017);</li><li>2. Library community workshops conducted by Council throughout November 2017.</li><li>3. The engagement undertaken to prepare the Community Strategic Plan 2033 which was released in 2017.</li></ol> <p>The stakeholder engagement related to this project has involved a number of community, business and cultural leaders. The interviews took place during the team's visit to Broken Hill November 5-7, 2018. A full list of people interviewed is available in Appendix E and the discussion guide used to frame the discussion is in Appendix F of this report.</p>	<p>Two engagement streams were established: one to ascertain the cultural priorities of Broken Hill, the other to discuss the role art can play in Broken Hill and various approaches to incorporating art into this project and the city more broadly. Whilst the two streams are inter-related, one is focused on the big picture and on building on existing cultural pillars of Broken Hill, the other on understanding the visual arts landscape and possible partnerships and relationships to bolster that.</p> <p>This report includes the findings from both streams to ensure that the thinking is integrated and complementary.</p>	<p>As a result of the stakeholder engagement undertaken in Broken Hill and through a handful of follow-up calls, we have been able to identify areas where there is general agreement amongst those interviews or what conclusion we can draw from the range of responses we have gathered.</p> <p>Establishing these insights allows us to build the cultural, spatial and operational hypothesis for the project that are explored in further detail in the later sections of this report.</p> <p>Broadly speaking, the interviews focused on 3 main lines of enquiry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What does culture mean for Broken Hill?</li><li>2. What is the future of Argent Street and the Cultural Precinct?</li><li>3. What is your vision for the Community Hub and library?</li></ol> <p>We know we haven't had time to speak to everyone and will continue to engage with people as they are available throughout the project.</p>

## 2.2 KEY INSIGHTS

### INSIGHT 01

*There is a diverse understanding of culture in Broken Hill.*

Culture in Broken Hill means different things depending on whom you ask. Through our consultation, we have identified four distinct audience groups for culture in Broken Hill:

- the Broken Hill born and bred;
- the 'long-term residents' - people who weren't born in Broken Hill but have been there for a long time;
- the people from away (people who live here but only for a short while and then leave again);
- Tourists (people who never had the intention of staying, just here for the experience).

Each of these groups' understanding of culture and its value to the life of Broken Hill is quite distinct. For the people from Broken Hill and 'long timers', it's about community and inclusivity, places to be and connect with others, and can include a wide range of venues, some of which would not be considered cultural venues per se (Demo Club, RSL, various hotels, public spaces, etc.). There is also a recognition of the landscape, the earth and the sky as part of the place's culture.

But people from away have imported other ideas about culture and have created an audience and a market for what we more traditionally accept as cultural activities such as gallery openings, performances, music gigs, etc.

There is a sense that culture is being eroded over time and by the educational focus on certain pathways in vocational education and that it will not be passed on to future generations.

Tourists are intrigued and attracted to the distinctiveness of cultural products coming out of Broken Hill such as paintings depicting the vastness of the landscape and other desert and outback themes as well Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, screen culture, mining history and mineralogical collections.

### INSIGHT 02

*While 'culture' is hard to define, cultural assets including the city's built heritage assets protected by its national heritage listing, are visible and recognised.*

Broken Hill is a proud community with many unique cultural assets appreciated by locals and visitors. In our consultation, a few of these assets were mentioned over and over. Whilst this list is not exhaustive, it helps us build a picture of the cultural distinctiveness of this place and how a cultural framework might reflect this distinctiveness.

Existing cultural assets of Broken Hill include:

- Community of artists (as opposed to artistic community) with a focus on visual arts
- Pride in history and origins (geological history, heritage status of the town, history of the mine, urban layout, architecture)
- Unique heritage status of covering the whole of Broken Hill
- Resilient and strong people (history of labour movement, strong women, trade unions, early multicultural community, etc.)
- The landscape and the desert (big sky, deep earth and feel on the ground)
- Film and screen culture (including the celebration of well-recognised characters and sub cultures that have emerged from film over time, locations, spin off festivals, etc.)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through the arts (as exemplified through the work of Aboriginal elder Badger Bates and other local artists, exhibited at West Darling Arts and Broken Hill Art Gallery).

What these insights tell us in terms of defining culture is that we're not going to be successful by trying to define a single cultural narrative for Broken Hill. The diversity of the population and the culture that influences all these diverse parts means that access and participation are key ingredients necessary to continue to reveal this culture and engage the community in cultural practice.

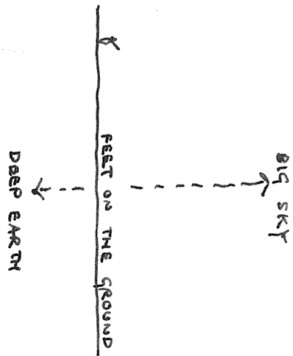
### INSIGHT 03

*There is a sense of a Cultural and Civic Precinct on Argent Street but currently there is not a critical mass of activity there to establish it as the true town centre.*

There is appetite for the clustering of cultural activities in Cultural and Civic Precinct (surrounding our site) on Argent Street but there are three main concerns with this:

- The perception of increased traffic congestion and an associated reduction in accessibility to the precinct as a result of this;
- The belief that co-location is a good idea operationally but that Argent Street would suffer from having too much in one spot rather than creating destination points all along the street; and
- Should concentrating cultural uses in this part of city result in putting multiple uses (ie more than the library and the archive) under one roof, what impact will this have on vacancies (which are already high) along Argent Street.

Generally people are supportive of the idea, especially of co-locating library and archive but have concerns over whether Broken Hill is a big enough city to take a concentrated town centre approach. Moving forward, the team will consider the cultural mixes through two lenses - what is best for the Community Hub / Library and what is best for the town centre. The successful option will balance benefits of these two scales.



## 2.2 KEY INSIGHTS

# WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF ARGENT STREET AND THE CULTURAL PRECINCT?

### INSIGHT 04

*The new library belongs behind the Town Hall facade.*

There is a huge amount of support for placing the heart of this cultural precinct behind the Town Hall facade for a variety of reasons including the celebration of heritage and the re-establishment of the civic character of this part of Argent Street. This was suggested during our consultation and was already established through the library community engagement that the Council ran.

Anecdotal reports suggest that there is a fair amount of interest in the architecture and idiosyncratic features of the Town Hall facade (i.e. the gargoyles) but that few understand its past or current use as a one-room-deep building.

Our engagement therefore confirms that there is support for using this project as an opportunity to strengthen the cultural and civic heart in this location, leveraging the architectural significance of the Town Hall facade.

### INSIGHT 05

*The library and the archive must be part of the same operation. They are two sides of one coin.*

There is strong support and evidence to justify colocating the archive and the library from an operational and staffing perspective. Despite previous explorations of various sites for the archive to be moved into a purpose-built facility, there is a strong operational and staffing argument for keeping the library and the archive co-located:

- archivists and librarians have a similar skill set;
- being in the same building (or complex) gives additional flexibility in terms of the use of that staff across a number of operations; and
- the archive needs to have a public face to in order include it.

### INSIGHT 06

*This must be a library model from here, not from away.*

We need to create a library that reflects Broken Hill, its culture but also the diverse needs of its population and design a unique model around those requirements rather than importing a model from elsewhere. The desire to create something from Broken Hill is driven by:

- Using this opportunity to create a cultural asset that is culturally appropriate and reflects the uniqueness of this place;
- Using the evolution of what libraries are in the digital age to develop a set of spaces and programs that suit our needs and fit within our unique constraints;
- The requirement to reflect landscape, remoteness, history, heritage and other contextual cues through the architecture and approach to the planning of the building.

### INSIGHT 07

*We want to be ambitious but also realistic. This project is about being resourceful to achieve a great outcome.*

Whilst the ambition for this new/revived facility is great and appropriate according to stakeholders and the community, the vision must be tempered by a deep understanding of Council's operational and budget constraints. In a community with such a small number of ratepayers, there is no scope to increase the operational impact of this critical cultural and community facility:

- The new library must be able to manage with the same staff ratios as the current library despite a possibly larger footprint and the introduction of new services; and
- The operational model must not come to overly rely on a willing cohort of volunteers who give their own time to make this facility a success.

# WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THE COMMUNITY HUB AND LIBRARY?

## 2.2 KEY INSIGHTS

### INSIGHT 08

*Co-location of services must not come at the expense of accessibility and quality of experience of the library and archive.*

Co-locating services in the same building above and beyond the library and the archive can and should be explored (including Council services, Service NSW, Visitor Centre, business hub, community meeting rooms) but the spatial and operational dimensions of this must be fully understood and documented before it is committed to (including parking but also legibility of space, staff knowledge, hours of operation, after hours access, etc.)

The priority must be on the library experience and its interface with the archive, not on additional services that could cloud the purpose of the building and confuse the public.

### INSIGHT 10

*Does the label 'library' fit the bill?*

Because the type of Community Hub and Library we're going to be designing and building will be as unique as Broken Hill and reflect this unique identity through a constellation of uses, services, neighbours, the suggestion has been made to think about an alternative name that expands on what the library does well but also describes well what this facility will do above and beyond what the current facility offers.

In conclusion, the vision for the Community Hub and Library is emerging into a culturally responsive yet socially strengthening asset to the community. It will need to focus on youth.

### INSIGHT 09

*There is a strong argument to target youth through the programming and design of the new library spaces.*

Whilst the library in its current form has its loyal and avid users, youth was mentioned many times in our consultation as a vulnerable population who stand to benefit tremendously from this type of facility including the recreational and educational outcomes they could get from it. A successful youth-oriented library would have to address:

- The common perception that the library is a place to study, not a place to have fun;
- The role libraries can play in content creation, engagement with other communities of interest online and developing digital skills at an early age;
- The use of library spaces to explore creativity and its social, cultural and educational benefits, especially for this cohort;
- Ticking off a variety of educational outcomes (literacy, numeracy, storytelling, etc.)



## 3.0 SUMMARY OF SITE INVESTIGATIONS



### 3.1 URBAN OBSERVATIONS

#### HERITAGE CITY

Broken Hill's unique status on the National Heritage List as the first heritage listed city is a reflection of its deep natural and cultural values. Cradled within the Barrier Ranges one ties to fathom 60,000 plus years of Wiradjili in this place. Australia's 'mineral renaissance', Broken Hill is a true phenomenon. Its place in our national evolution, both economically and socially, is unique. It is both the city's 60 year mining boom, and its 60 year slowdown that has helped attain its heritage status. So much of the city's built fabric is remnant and intact, as a by-product of a depopulating city, from gracious civic buildings to the multitude of 'timbers'.

The National Heritage Listing of Broken Hill will protect for the future. It is good for community spirit, good for place- image, good for tourism, and potentially be good for local investment and funding. The Broken Hill Cultural Precinct can tap this potential to help make the city a more lively place for residents and visitors, and sustain it as an important regional service centre.



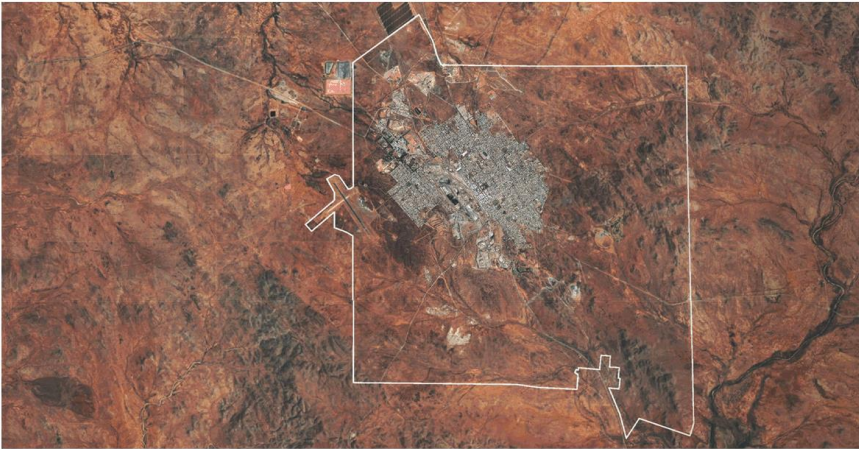
Image: Courtesy Mining and Minerals Museum Broken Hill

#### CLIMATE

Broken Hill lies within the NSW arid zone with a hot desert climate. It has a large diurnal temperature range with extremes of heat and cold, high impact rain events, and evaporation that generally outstrips precipitation. Added to this are frequent strong winds, dust storms and high lead levels, creating a need to filter and shelter the weather conditions.

Broken Hill has evolved over time to adapt to and mediate this climate, with built shadow spaces created by wide street verandahs, high kerbs to ensure dry footpaths in flash floods, and the impressive establishment of the regeneration area in the 1930s as a means of reducing the impact of dust storms at a whole-of-the city scale. Capitalising on the vast sun and wind supply, the city has more recently embraced renewable energy, no doubt the path of the future.

Harnessing this renewable energy, the challenge to the new Cultural Precinct is in combining climate intelligent planning and envelope design, passive and efficient active control systems, and the question of how to make useful comfortable outdoor spaces.



Outline denotes National Heritage Listing for Broken Hill

#### BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT



## 3.2 URBAN OBSERVATIONS

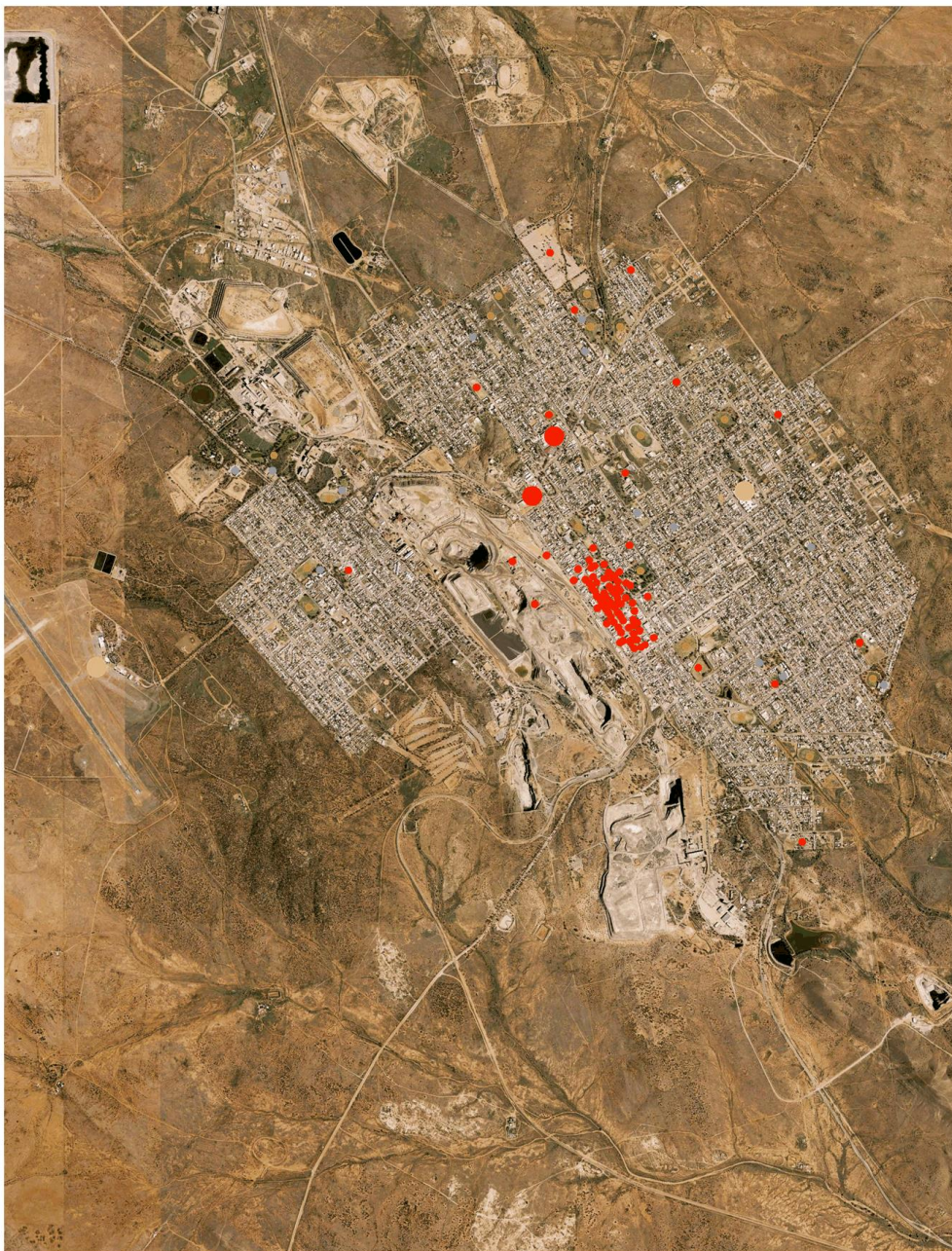
### DESTINATIONS

Broken Hill has a population of 17,814 (2016 census). Broken Hill has a predominantly ageing population for which a compact city with a close concentration of accessible facilities and services is well suited. The 2016 census showed that the population of 17,814 was down 4.2% from 2011, with a significant out-migration of youth (ages 12-18 and 18-24). This supports the consultation feedback that there is a need in the Cultural Precinct to focus on youth.

The urban footprint of Broken Hill is clearly visible within the desert landscape. Looking within this footprint we see that most of the activity is located north-west of the Line of Lode.

#### Key observations:

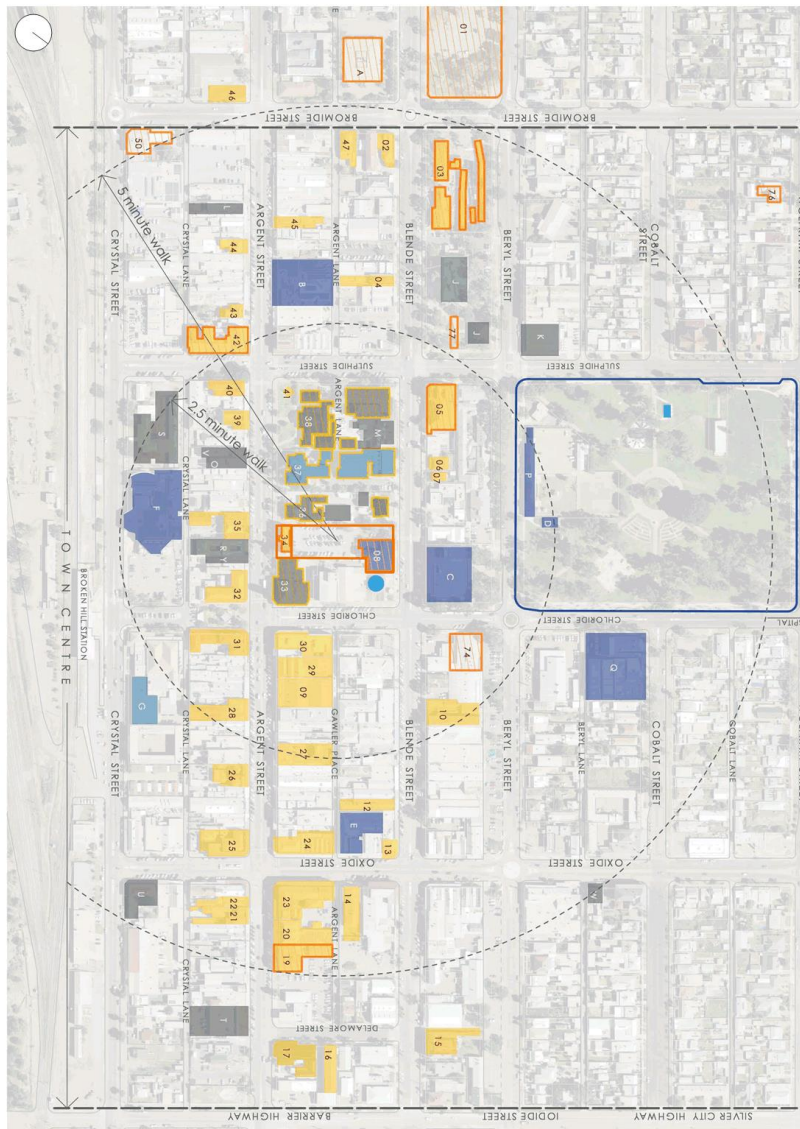
- The Argent Street precinct hosts a large number of the city's community and tourist destinations. It remains the heart of Broken Hill despite the significant draw of the newer supermarkets at Westside Plaza and Broken Hill Village Shopping Centre, that are supported by large shodded car parks.
- Airports are gateways, particularly for remote centres like Broken Hill.
- Broken Hill Hospital is a medium-sized regional and teaching hospital, located on axis with Sturt Park. It is a significant city facility.
- Schools continue to be important community destinations, and are supported by local bus and cycle routes.
- Porton Village in South Broken Hill is a tiny commercial centre with few daily support services.
- South Broken Hill is challenged by its position south of the Line of Lode.



Aerial Source: Near Maps

- DESTINATIONS
- GREEN SPACE
- SCHOOL
- HOSPITAL + AIRPORT
- SHOPPING CENTRE





BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT

3.3 URBAN OBSERVATIONS

TOWN CENTRE DESTINATIONS

- Legend:**
- Visitor attractions**
  - Local attractions**
  - Educational facilities**
  - Public amenities**
  - Services**
- Site list:**
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3.3 URBAN OBSERVATIONS

TOWN CENTRE DESTINATIONS

The area defined as the town centre extends between Bromide Street, Liddle Street, Beryl Street and the railway, with Argent Street its main artery. There is an impressive density of facilities and services here, with a majority located within a 2.5 and 5 minute walking distance of the library site, its geographic centre. This is particularly important in the context of local climate which is often not conducive to walking, and the significant portion of elderly population.

Key observations:

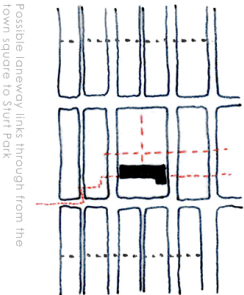
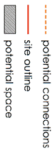
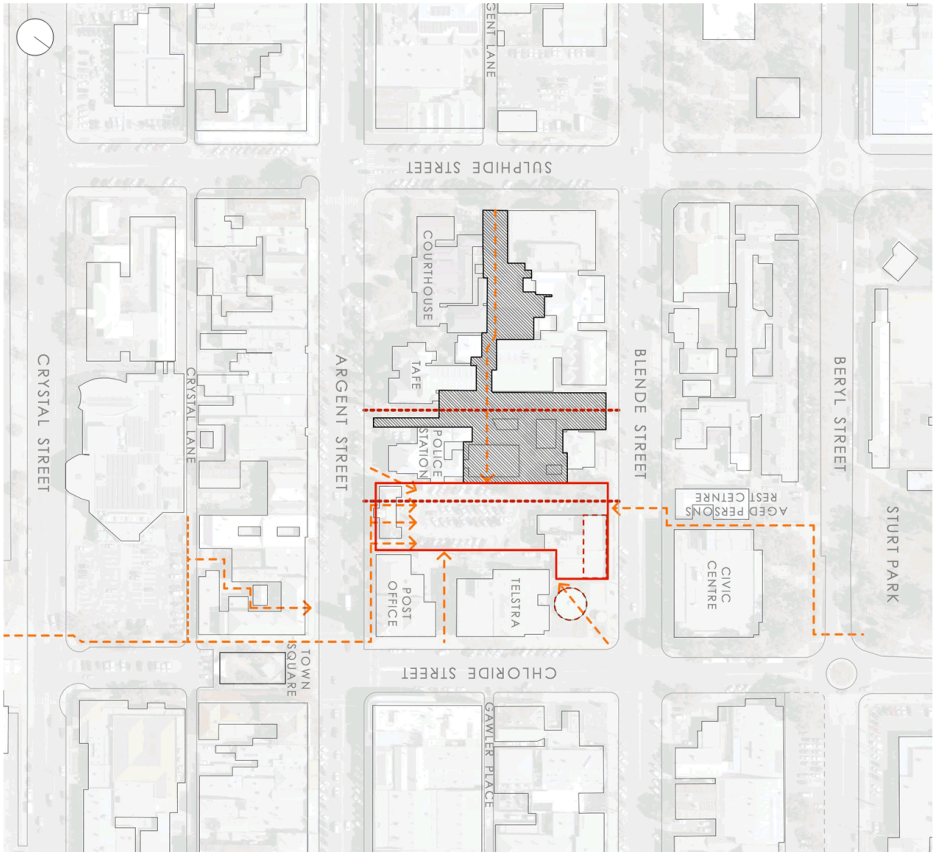
- Broken Hill's town centre is rich in built heritage. It is 'everywhere' with much of it visible such as the art gallery in the old Bully's Emporium.
- It is a civic place with many public institutions, a major park and town square.
- It is a social centre with several cafes and clubs, including the YMCA, The Barrier Social Democratic Club (The Demo Club) and Musicians Club.
- It is a visitor place with numerous visitor attractions and hotels. Interestingly the Visitor Information Centre lies just outside the 5 minute walking distance of the community hub and library site. It could have more impact on the town centre broadly if located closer to its geographic centre.
- Hill City Council (80 people between the main Council, library, archives, art gallery, geological museum, and civic centre), NSW State Government Offices (50 people) and Courthouse/Public Trustee (10 people).
- The establishment of two competing retail centres at Westside Plaza and Broken Hill Village Shopping Centre with their big supermarkets and large shodded carports, continues to have a significant impact on retail activity in the town centre.
- The cultural framework needs to build on the density of services and attractions already in the town centre. Concentrating activity on the community hub and library site, and making it easy to get to, gives the best chance for future vibrancy and support to local businesses. It is important that the town centre continue to attract government agencies as on-site employers. This includes Broken Hill Police, looking to move into a new facility elsewhere in Broken Hill in the near future.



Urban form

The 'pattern' of buildings in a place is called its urban form. The urban form of Broken Hill's town centre is distinct to its residential areas, with buildings built along or close to street edges, and a large number of impressive corner buildings. This is one of the town's strengths – part of its spatial quality, its heritage quality, its physical identity – and needs to be protected.

- There is a tertiary education presence through TAFE on Argent Street.
- It is an important employment centre, underpinned by key government agencies. Amongst the biggest employers are Broken Hill Police (roughly 65-100 people in the Argent Street station), Broken Hill Community Health Centre (roughly 200 people), Moori Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation (roughly 50 people), TAFE (20 people), Broken



Possible laneway links through from the town square to Sturt Park

POTENTIAL CONNECTIONS

Broken Hill has a distinctive street grid and lane structure, with street names that signify the omnipresence of mining. If we look more closely we can see the patterns of Broken Hill as an evolving place in time. Argent Street is the centre of the 1890s grandeur – a market street with shopfronts and awnings supported by services lanes, and a distinctive civic block (without a laneway) in the same grid alignment as Sturt Park. Characterised by civic decorum, the Town Hall, Courthouse, Police Station and TAFE, are all stately free-standing buildings with garden setbacks, and decorative facades and porches.

It is important to consider the library site in the context of this civic block to understand potential relationships and linkages, particularly those that are easily achievable. This is key to issues of accessibility and the perception of potential congestion.

3.4 URBAN OBSERVATIONS

Key observations:

**achievable**  
Connection through the site between Argent and Blende Streets is critical to maintain. The rectangular grid of Broken Hill produces long and short blocks. The ability to filter from Argent Street through the long blocks to services, and parking along Crystal, Blende and Beryl Streets, helps the continuing functioning of the town centre as a community and economic whole.

**achievable**  
The Police have outgrown their historic premises and have received state government funding to establish a new facility elsewhere. This opens the possibility for Council to acquire use of the site. Whilst the heritage items – the old Police Station, and house on Blende Street – need to be retained, there is potential to clear the centre of the site for use as carparking for the community hub and library, with a shareway directly linking Argent and Blende Streets.

**achievable**  
There is potential to open up the existing space behind the Courthouse and TAFE through the Police site to community hub and library, as mid-block pedestrian link to Sulphide Street.

**more difficult to achieve**  
Mid-block connection to Chloride Street is made difficult by the insular nature of the telecommunications site and the busy functioning operation of the Post Office. The most obvious potential connection – the driveway between these sites – is used intensively for deliveries. Connection through to the corner to Blende Street would only be possible through demolition of the existing library.



## 3.5 URBAN OBSERVATIONS

### AXIS, PUBLIC ROOMS + SPACES

Argent Street, the historic main street, remains the primary artery of the Broken Hill town centre. Whilst the civic block is central within the town centre, a strong synergy has developed around the Regional Art Gallery (in Sully's Emporium) at the north-eastern end of Argent within the town centre, with the Sully Goat café opposite, adjacent shops, and anticipated completion of West Darling Hotel restoration.

Chloride Street creates an important cross axis to Argent Street, connecting Broken Hill Station and Sturt Park via the Town Square, Post Office and Civic Centre, all within a 5 minute walk. It also provides address to the new YMCA facility opposite the park.

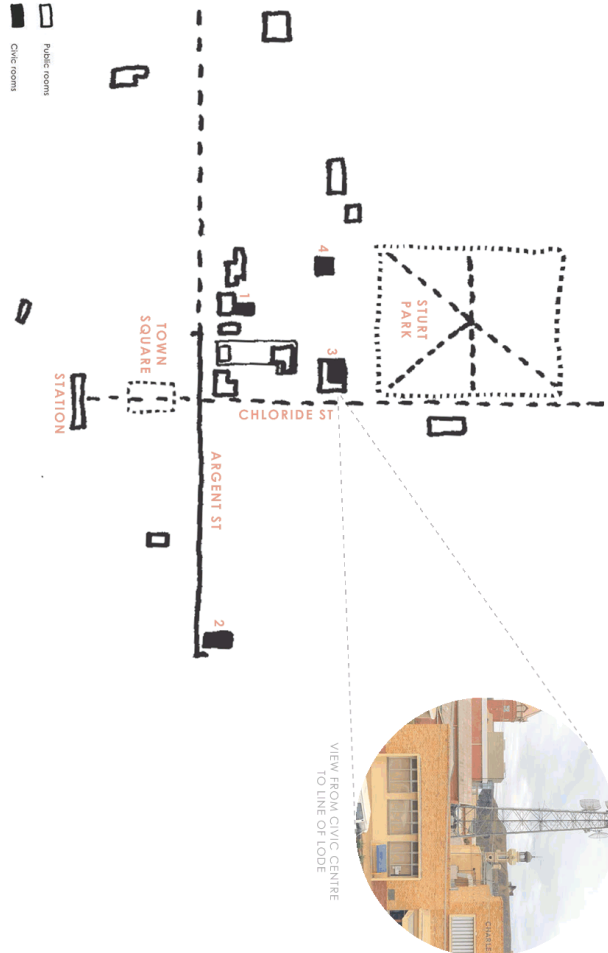
The intersection of Argent and Chloride Streets is a place of resonance and cultural attraction in the fabric of the city, where landscape views north to Sturt Park counterpoint views south to the Line of the Lode - the city's compass - both sides of Broken Hill's landscape identity.

There is an extraordinary collection of grand public rooms in the Broken Hill town centre - from the remarkable Trades Hall, the freshly restored Civic Centre, Sully's Emporium (art gallery), and the old TAFE library. These rooms are significant and memorable indoor gathering places, and all of them, except Sully's Emporium, are located within a 2.5 minute walk of the library site.

The new library can add to this inventory of memorable public gathering places as a new community living room, potentially connected to a climate appropriate outdoor gathering place. A reoccurring comment from meetings with the Broken Hill Regional Library, The West Darling Arts Group and the City Library was a need for spill out space to hold events, openings and talks, especially at night - to make a meeting place for visiting shows, artists in residence, visitors and locals.

The cultural framework will foreground the revitalisation of the city's key existing public spaces:

- Town Square which is tiled, under-utilised and unwelcoming
- Argent Street which needs invigoration as a shaded street at the geographic and cultural heart of this Heritage City
- Sturt Park which awaits removal of unwanted built elements and landscape renewal with new facilities and programmed events



VIEW FROM CIVIC CENTRE  
TO LINE OF LODE



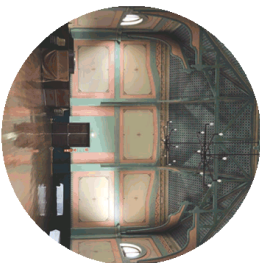
1. TAFE WESTERN LIBRARY



2. BROKEN HILL REGIONAL  
ART GALLERY



3. BROKEN HILL CIVIC CENTRE



4. TRADES HALL

Images: Neeson Murchill Architects and Broken Hill City Council

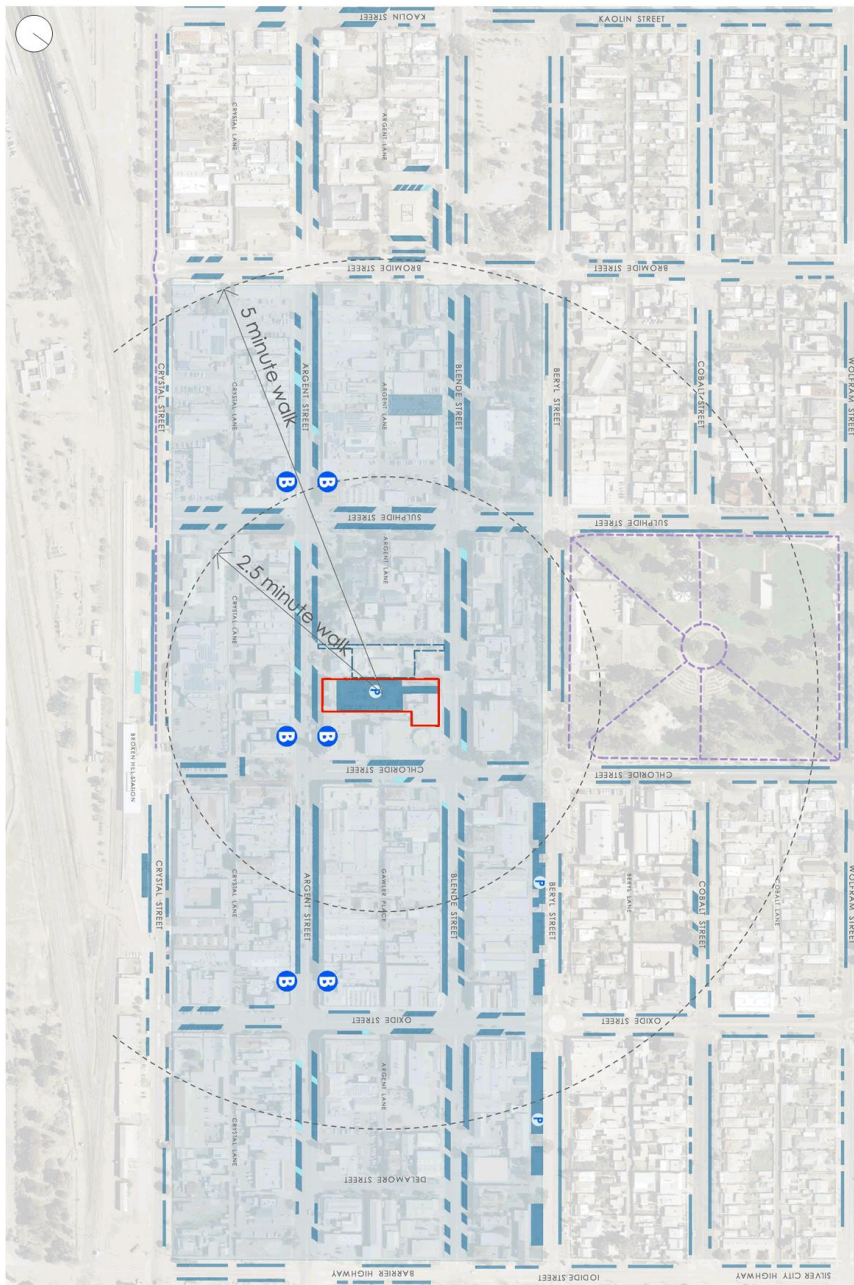
## BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT

### 3.6 URBAN OBSERVATIONS

#### MOVEMENT

##### PARKING + WALKING + CYCLING + PUBLIC TRANSPORT

A 40km/ hour local traffic area has been designated within the 12 city blocks bounded by Crystal, Iodide, Beryl and Biomide Streets, with Argent the main east-west street. The grid pattern layout of streets provides good flexibility of route choice by drivers and allows interventions to redirect traffic away from streets where other functions should take priority. Large vehicles for example, are routed to the Silver City Highway - Crystal Street - along the edge of the line of the Lode. Generally traffic lanes and verges are wide allowing for interventions to achieve traffic calming and to assist with urban design outcomes.





### 3.6 URBAN OBSERVATIONS MOVEMENT



**PARKING**  
The Broken Hill community places a high importance on the ability to park in close proximity to their destination. This applies to visitors to retail and businesses as well as employees in the town centre. With private car mode providing for the majority of journeys, people visiting numerous destinations tend to move the car between car parking locations. This occurs due to the high temperatures and the perceived distance between destinations.

On weekends and on weekdays, site observations indicated that car parking both on-street and in off-street locations was busy but not fully utilised. This is confirmed by the parking strategy which has identified the ability to adjust timed parking limits to provide the best parking availability for the various user groups (short term shoppers/visitors versus all day employee parking). It was observed that the Town Hall facade car park was not fully utilized.

**WALKING**  
The Broken Hill town centre is very walkable due to the flat topography and grid pattern of streets generally with wide footpaths. There are a number of hazards for pedestrians, however, including the wide street crossings, poor conditions at priority intersections and a range of large vehicle types on key routes. A Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) was prepared by Accessible Public Domain consultants in 2013 with the aim to deliver safe, equitable and dignified paths of travel for pedestrians of all ages and abilities. The Access Audit Report that was prepared identifies existing pedestrian facilities and their compliance or non-compliance with Australian Standards, and recommends repairs, amendments or reconstruction.

**CYCLING**  
The bike plan was prepared by Accessible Public Domain consultants in 2013 with the aim of assisting Council in developing strategies to improve access to the City's many facilities and areas of historical, cultural and ecological significance, and to assist in developing partnerships with the NSW State Government, developers, local businesses, community groups and other stakeholders.

A number of existing cycle ways were identified within the city centre, but they are generally unconnected and do not have sufficient pavement markings or signage. An audit of existing and potential routes was undertaken however the recommended actions to deliver improved cycling facilities are not well defined.

There are good opportunities to build a clear network for access to the town centre, within the main town centre blocks it is more difficult to define routes, however the 40km/h Local Traffic Area assists with creating a safer cycling environment and urban design improvements need to be designed to recognize cyclists use.

**BUSES**  
The bus system in Broken Hill is used almost exclusively by concession card holders and students with very few adult tickets sold. The bus routes run on a number of loops covering north and south precincts however frequency of service is low.

The Broken Hill Bus Terminus is located on Argenti Street- near Chloride- and is the key city bus route.

**COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**  
For West Home and Community Care Services Inc provides a community transport service focused on assisting eligible clients to have continued independence and confidence by transporting them to medical appointments, social and community activities and shopping centres. Buses operate weekdays, Monday to Thursday, 9am to 3pm and Friday 9am to 1pm. Alternative arrangements can be made for clients outside these times. This service operates on a non-profit contribution from all passengers per trip to ensure the sustainability of this service to continue.



Top: Existing parking behind the Town Hall facade; Middle: Crossing at Argenti St; Bottom: Typical bollard for high kerb at traffic crossings within the town centre images: Neeson Murcutt Architects



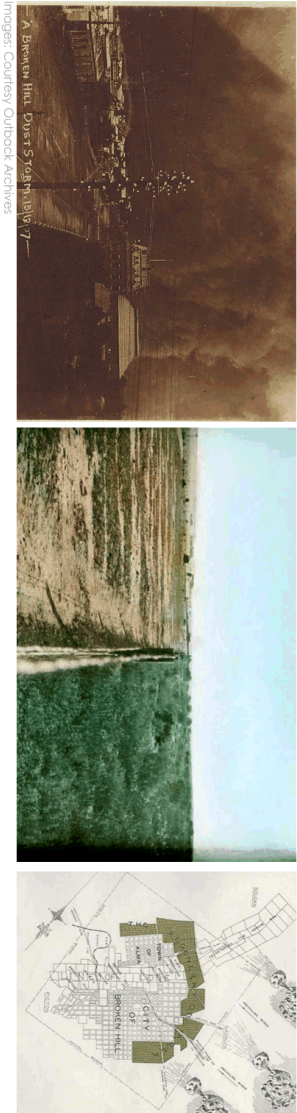
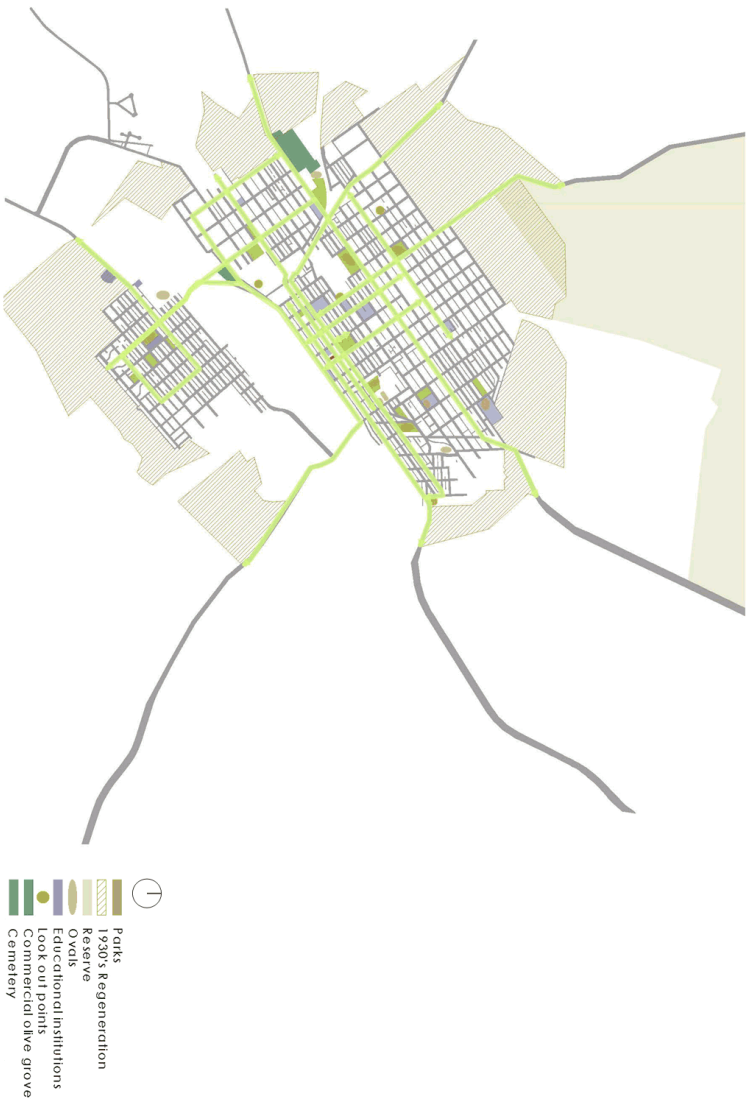
3.7 URBAN OBSERVATIONS

LANDSCAPE

Broken Hill has been shaped by processes of extraction and regeneration. As the Silver City transitions to a post mining economy it is time to reimagine the renewal of the city's landscape as a key part of this new future. To build on the legacy of Albert Morris and the Barrier Field Naturalist Club, who established regeneration reserves around the city in the late 1930's to safe guard Broken Hill from moving sands and toxic dust storms, knowing that today these reserves are now National Trust Listed for their significance.

This new phase of regeneration will focus on the city itself. Looking to cool the city's streets and encourage movement along shaded footpaths, cycleways, bus routes and on street car parks. Linking homes to local destinations, schools and aged care residences to neighbourhood parks. Ensuring recreational opportunities for all- from sports, cycling, walking, play spaces, outdoor fitness facilities, markets, picnic grounds and dog off leash parks.

Supporting wellness by mediating the temperature of streets and parklands to encourage walking, cycling, outdoor recreation and activity: across the seasons and across the day- from early morning into the night. The provision of trees and landscaped open space encouraging physical activity, moderating temperature, as well as mitigating urban dust and lead levels.



3.7 URBAN OBSERVATIONS

LANDSCAPE

The urban form and architecture of Argent Street reflects its civic importance and commercial role as the main street of Broken Hill. Framed by grand buildings, Argent Street is wide and scooped to the long bullock droys which once serviced this street. The general absence of street trees possibly the consequence of the wide verandahs which colonnade much of the street and the from line that operated in Argent Street from 1888-1926. The wide streets now enabling investment in a bold programme of street tree planting to transform Argent Street for future generations. Cooling pavements and roadways, filtering the air and beautifying this main city street.

Historic photographs of Mildura and Grafton depict tree lined main streets of regional NSW, with plantings of Canary Island Date Palms, Figs and Gum Trees. All trees which could be considered in Broken Hill.



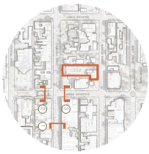
Images: Argent St Broken Hill,  
Courtesy Trove N.L.A.



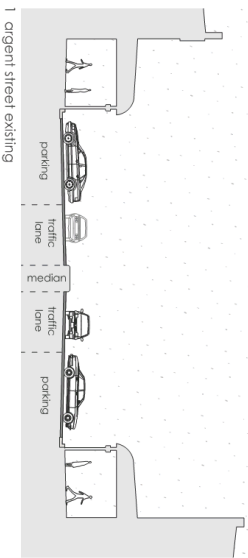
Grafton 1930's  
Images: Courtesy Trove N.L.A.



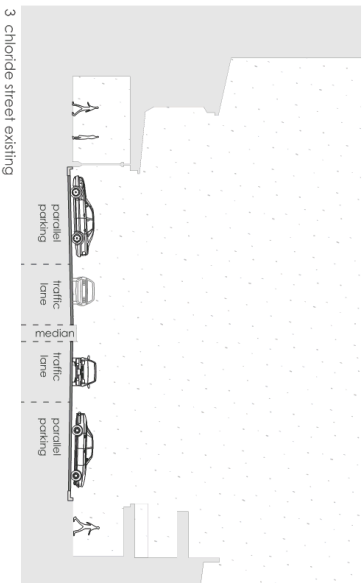
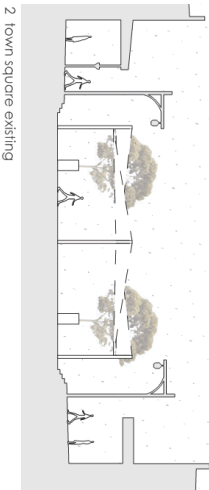
Deakon Avenue, Mildura  
Images: Courtesy Trove N.L.A.



key plan



Source : sbd



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BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT



### 3.8 URBAN OBSERVATIONS PUBLIC ART

Art can bring Broken Hill's fascinating history to life while also making the city socially viable and connected in the present day. An important part of this will be reconnecting the mining city with its first inhabitants, the Wiradjuri People of the Berridjil Nation. Working as a non-Aboriginal curator in Australia Barbara Flynn understands the importance of bringing all the people of a place together. It is the best starting point for an art project if it is to succeed.

The other main takeaway from visiting Broken Hill is the urgency of attracting young people to venture into town and into the landscape, and away from their home computers and devices. An art initiative could achieve this by commissioning art that speaks to youth in a digital language they understand and bringing artists to the city who have achieved things in their lives and know how to talk with young people.

Also striking is the love for the city expressed by everyone we met over the age of 30. It is exciting to think how artists can articulate what it is that attracted these generations to Broken Hill and that keeps them here. There is so much about the archive and library that already works beautifully, and so many exciting design innovations Neeson Murcutt can introduce to make the complex even better, such as natural light, large windows and indoor-outdoor spaces.



Mike Hawson, *Illawarra Placed Landscape*, 2018, quarried sandstone, structural steel, and cobble tree points. Permanent installation, Wollongong, NSW. Photo: Mark Pokorny

### BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT

### 3.9 SITE SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS

THIS SITE HAS HOUSED A LIBRARY FOR WELL OVER 125 YEARS.

**Town Hall facade**

The Town Hall was opened in 1891 and contained the Free Public Library within it; in 1973 it was proposed to completely demolish the Town Hall to make way for a modern council facility. The community successfully argued to save and restore the front 10m depth of the building, protecting the historical streetscape of Argent Street. What remains now is a well-preserved, ornate 'thick' facade – an historically important and architecturally delightful remnant.

The Town Hall facade is a natural attractor, drawing people curious to see what might be within and behind it. As it currently stands it feels almost like a gatehouse to the park; there is potential for it to become a front door to the library, or a threshold to a library forecourt.

**Charles Rasp Memorial Library**

The purpose-built Charles Rasp Memorial Library, which opened in 1964, incorporates parts of the old city fire station – the split of resourcefulness has run deep in Broken Hill throughout its history. It is one of the many intact buildings in Broken Hill and characteristically mid-twentieth century in its style. Keeping in mind that it is the quantity of intact buildings that partly underpins the inaugural whole-of-city Heritage Listing, it is worth exploring whether there is value in retaining and repurposing the existing building rather than demolishing it.

Whilst considerably undersized and poorly configured as a contemporary library, large parts of the existing building are fundamentally well suited as an archive, if upgraded and integrated as a part of the new library.

**Police Station**

It is important to consider the community hub / library site in the context of its immediate neighbours, particularly the Police Station given its imminent vacancy. The Police Station was built in 1886 and predates the Town Hall. In finding new life for this important heritage building, we need to consider uses that:

- build synergy with the community hub and library
- help activate Argent Street
- are a good fit with the existing building spatially, minimising disturbance to existing fabric
- are ideally public in nature, building on the historically civic nature of the place

The future removal of fences between the police and community hub and library sites will give the sense of an open public place and allow new uses in the heritage buildings to contribute to the precinct.

**Roundhouse Toilets**

The public toilets at the corner of Blende and Chloride Streets were built in 1974. Quirky in character, they are locally known as the roundhouse toilets and are the only public amenities within the town centre. The corner location gives the toilets good visibility and they can easily be upgraded for equal access.

**Views**

We note that views across the site to the line of Lode from the function spaces at the upper level of the renovated Civic Centre are important to maintain.



Top - Town Hall Facade  
Bottom - Rear of Town Hall Facade  
Images: Neeson Murchill Architects

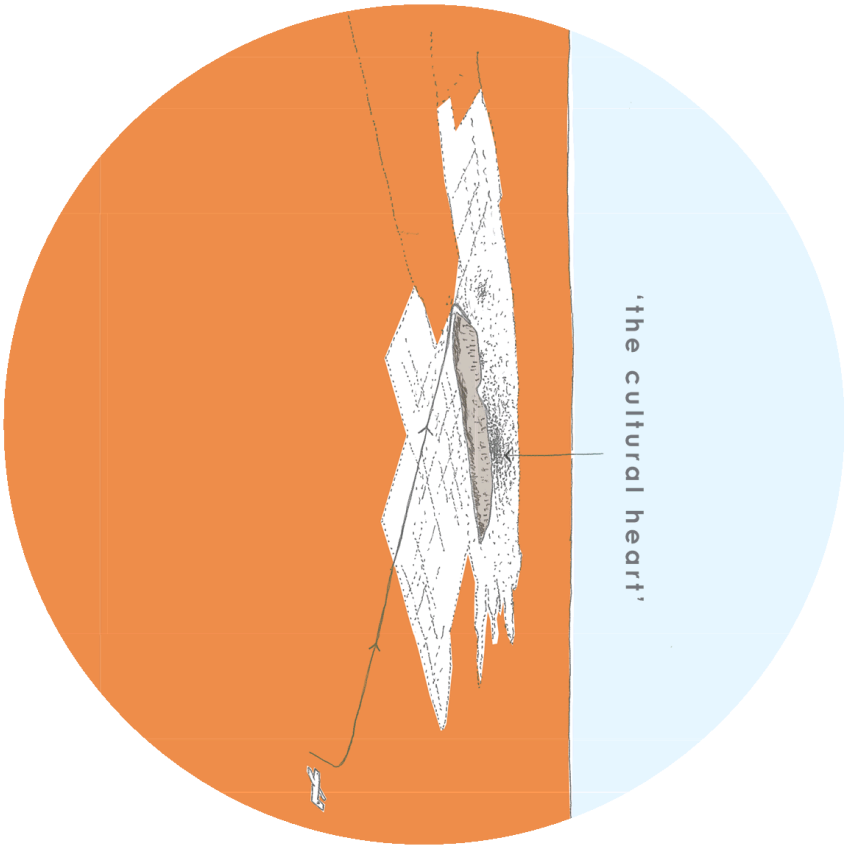


Top - Charles Rasp Memorial Library  
Middle - Rear of Charles Rasp Memorial Library  
Bottom - Roundhouse Toilets  
Images: Neeson Murchill Architects



## 4.0 THE VISION - THE BIG PICTURE





#### 4.1 THE VISION - THE BIG PICTURE

The Broken Hill community hub and library will be a place that celebrates and reflects the unique culture of this important and significant city for Australia.

It will continue to provide the safety and familiarity it does to its existing users by continuing to provide the essential services and spaces it does today but also expand this remit to become an engine room for cultural and social engagement through storytelling, content creation, and the export of Broken Hill's own brand of creativity.

The community hub and library will also re-energise Argent street by becoming the point where several paths intersect to create a centre of gravity for the town centre for all audiences: the locals and the tourists. This will be achieved through the careful and respectful co-location of complementary offers and the provision of high quality public space for all to enjoy.



## 5.0 BROKEN HILL'S CULTURAL FRAMEWORK: IDENTIFYING CULTURAL PRIORITIES



## 5.1 BROKEN HILL'S CULTURAL FRAMEWORK: IDENTIFYING CULTURAL PRIORITIES

### TOWARDS A CULTURAL PLAN

The Cultural Framework has been included as part of the brief for the Community Hub and Library to ensure alignment between Broken Hill's cultural priorities and the direction and focus of this important piece of cultural infrastructure.

It is important to note that this is not a cultural plan and this framework is informed by the consultation we were able to perform as part of this project and reviewing the outcomes of previous cultural projects such as the community consultation run by the Council for the library (Appendix G), the engagement performed as part of the Perfect Light project and a review of the priorities identified in the Community Strategic Plan 2033.

While this framework represents an informed point of view, we recommend that a cultural plan be developed at a later stage and include more in-depth consultation to test these priorities as well as define actions and cultural investments that will help Broken Hill continue to develop momentum as a cultural centre for the Far West region.

### THE RATIONALE FOR CULTURAL INVESTMENT

In exploring Broken Hill and trying to define its cultural priorities, it's important to understand what the purpose of this new facility would be. A library, of course but are we trying to meet social, educational, cultural or economic objectives?

Through our discussions with stakeholders, review of previous consultation and site investigations, it's become clear that the main purpose of the library and the investment into it is to create a social asset. This means that our approach to planning the spaces, programming and other aspects of its operations must be looked at through the lens of creating social value through:

- Increased participation;
- Increased socialisation of previously isolated groups;
- Increased engagement with knowledge and creativity with a view to opening horizons and developing curiosity;
- Social cohesion; and
- Revitalisation of a town centre location (more eyes on the street, foot traffic, serendipitous encounters, etc).

To be clear, an alternative narrative could have been that the main purpose of the library is to create a centre of excellence for archival research, or act as a hub for industry attraction, or create a centre of creative activity to export to the rest of the State or country.

By setting the purpose to one of social participation and community well-being, we're making a whole raft of decisions about things that won't be priorities for the library, that we shouldn't consider.

As part of this analysis of the data we collected and reviewed, we considered the potential to extend this purpose into creating a facility with industry appeal in order to attract industry (mostly mining, film and space) to Broken Hill. But a library alone cannot achieve this stretch target. Industry attraction would require a number of additional infrastructure, ancillary programmes and additional funding. Even the best library can't create an economic transformation on its own.



Pilbara Arts Centre, Officer Woods Architects.  
Image: Robert Firth

### BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT

## 5.2 CULTURAL PRIORITIES

**ACCESSIBLE** – easy to get to, integrated into people's lives, plugged into the urban fabric of Broken Hill, the Community Hub and Library is practical, accessible for all abilities and all modes of transport.

**EXPOSURE** – A window into Broken Hill and window to the world. The library is about connecting Broken Hill to the world through a good quality digital connection, social events that bring people together and a curatorial approach that prioritises discovery.

**WELCOME** – a culturally safe place, non-threatening, inclusive and open for the great range of cultures and peoples who will use it. This is a cultural home for all.

**NEXT GENERATION** – The Community Hub and Library must be about sustaining the next generation, looking at what's ahead rather than what's behind, engaging youth.

**CELEBRATION** – a celebration of Broken Hill's identity by the people of Broken Hill, not a place populated with ideas from away. It represents and interprets the features of this place (deep earth, desert, heritage, arts, stories and the big sky).

**FEET ON THE GROUND** – The Community Hub is about being ambitious but responsible and resourceful in this cultural investment. It reflects clever ways to achieve bang for buck, respond to needs, and create something that is authentic.

**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER** – Ensuring job opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are included in the near and long term future plan of the cultural hub. Establishing appropriate protocols regarding culturally sensitive Wiliyakali material in the archive.

5.3 CULTURAL PRECINCT MIX

POLICE IN - 1A:  
MAXIMUM CONCENTRATION OF ACTIVITY

The cultural framework proposes a critical mass of activity needed to strengthen the Argent Street precinct as the heart of Broken Hill. The proposed cultural mix co-locates a number of Council services in order to cement and stimulate the town centre as a vibrant destination for locals and visitors alike.














The library site is considered together with the adjacent police site in anticipation of their imminent relocation.

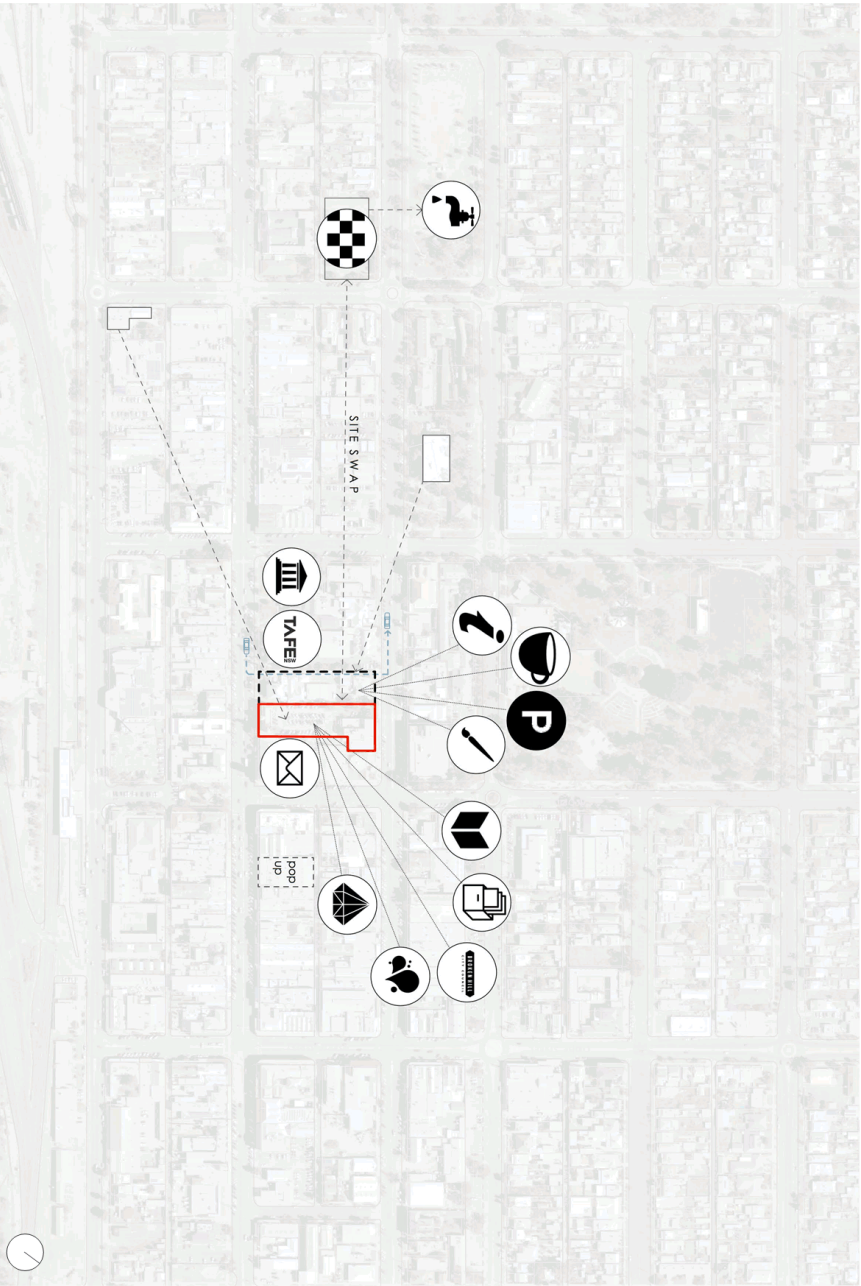
Each mix achieves the following:

- library and archive together
- council service desk
- visitor information centre and associated café together
- mining and minerals museum
- parking on the police site
- potential for retention of west drafting arts

The relocation of the police to the Visitor Information Centre site allows them to develop a contemporary facility whilst maintain their presence in the town centre with the positive messaging that this brings – scale city – and the 65-100 workers that help support the local precinct economy.

Important also are the proposed replacement uses to vacated sites. The minerals museum could become artist workshops or a co-working space, whilst the council service desk could be maintained as a reception desk for the Council building.

- |   |                     |   |                        |
|---|---------------------|---|------------------------|
|  | outback archives    |  | council service desk   |
|  | library             |  | west drafting arts     |
|  | police station      |  | visitors wash and dump |
|  | visitor information |  | court house            |
|  | café                |  | toile                  |
|  | parking             |  | post office            |
|  | minerals museum     |  | water play             |



CULTURAL MESSAGING:

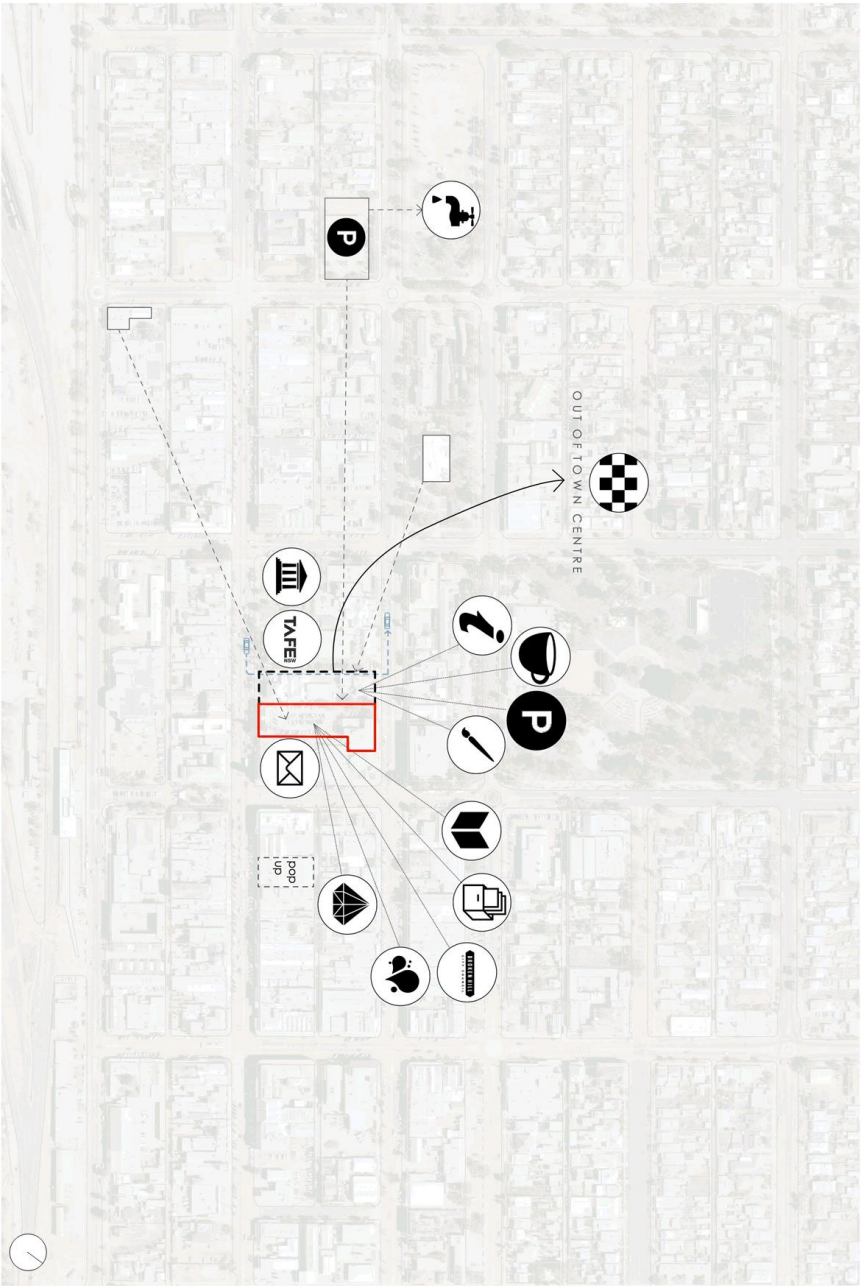
- library - community living room
- archive - a mine for stories
- visitor centre - front door to broken hill
- geocentre - mineralogical rainforest
- police station - scale city



5.3 CULTURAL PRECINCT MIX

POLICE OUT - 1B:  
MAXIMUM CONCENTRATION OF ACTIVITY

The loss of the police from the town centre will noticeably impact the local precinct economy, and possibly the sense of safety in the town centre. It is none-the-less worthwhile relocating the Visitor Information Centre to the library or police site to bring visitors through a heritage front door. The Visitor Information Centre could become a Council facility available for commercial lease, possibly in combination with Council staff or public parking.



CULTURAL MESSAGING:

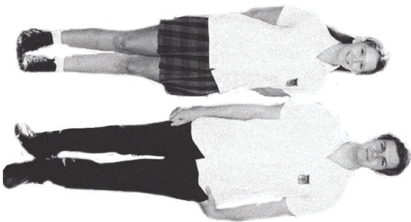
library - community living room  
archive - a mine for stories  
visitor centre - front door to broken hill  
geocentre - mineralogical rainforest

- |  |                     |  |                        |
|--|---------------------|--|------------------------|
|  | outback archives    |  | council service desk   |
|  | library             |  | well drilling site     |
|  | police station      |  | visitors wash and dump |
|  | visitor information |  | court house            |
|  | cafe                |  | tafe                   |
|  | parking             |  | post office            |
|  | minerals museum     |  | water play             |

## 5.4 PERSONAS

### SCHOOL STUDENTS

There's good options for studying - either I can just put in my headphones and work at one of the desks in the main space or sometimes there's a group of us working on a project so we just book in a meeting room online, it's really easy - I've even taught some of the oldies how to do it!



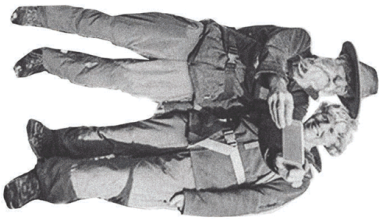
### MINER

I've been doing fly in fly out for a couple of years now and there's a lot more happening in town with the new library. My weekends here are pretty filled when my kids come to visit. I often take them to the library and they go crazy over the toys there.



### ADVENTURE TOURIST

I love coming out here to experience desert landscapes, film in the perfect light of Broken Hill with a backdrop of intact heritage and the line of lode beyond, there's nothing quite like it - there's opportunities to collaborate with locals and edit our go-pro footage on the fly at the library recording studio.



### GREY NOMAD

We wandered in here when we first arrived in Broken Hill, not only did we get maps and general tourist info, the locals hanging out in the community courtyard gave us some tips on where to eat and what to see. The digital collection from the Geocentre is eye opening, I never knew there were so many different mine roads and crystals.



### MOTHERS GROUP

I look forward to meeting the other mothers here each week, it's always full of different activities and often some of us will stay longer to catch up and see the latest archive exhibition, there's always something interesting to see.

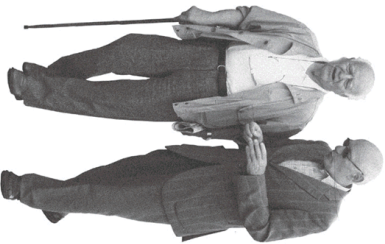


## BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT

## 5.4 PERSONAS

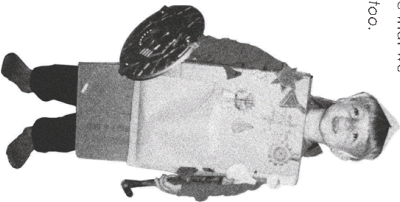
### ELDERLY

Having the council desk in the same precinct as the library allows me to park, pay my rates, send some emails to my grandkids and meet a friend for coffee all in the one visit.



### TODDLER

My favourite bit is the water splash, cos it's fun and I can cool down when I get too hot, my nanny takes me and sometimes before that we go inside to read a story too.



### ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY

The keeping place is important to the community and we like that this place feels welcoming and connected to landscape.



### COUNCIL WORKER

We are always booking the meeting rooms when we need to catch up with businesses in town, it's so convenient to do online and it's easy to get to. I also go to a book club at the library once a week of an evening and it's such a great space to be in.

### YOUTH

Finally somewhere I can hang with my friends that's a different experience to the shops or the park. Now that Broken Hill feels connected to the world I can think about my future here. I'm working on some ideas for a start up in the incubator and one of my mates is recording his first album in the next room!



### CULTURAL TOURIST

I've come for the weekend to see the exhibition space that had a write up in the paper last month for things to see in regional towns. What a vibrant place, might need to extend my stay as I've heard there's a deckchair cinema open tomorrow night in the Town Hall courtyard!





5.5 BENCHMARKING

BENCHMARKING SUMMARY

Whilst the way we bring all the elements of the program together, integrate heritage and new, repurpose existing spaces, interpret the culture of Broken Hill will be unique to this project, there are some lessons we can learn from other projects that have tried to address similar issues.

There is no one example that exactly replicates the emerging brief for the Community Hub and Library but a number of facilities do parts of this well and are worth looking at and considering.

- Of importance to us are:
- The mission of the institution;
  - The programmatic approach;
  - The spatial approach; and
  - Lessons learnt.

NINGALOOC CENTRE:

All under one roof

Location: Exmouth, WA (1000 km north of Perth)  
Population: 2,500  
Architects: SITE Architecture  
Year completed: 2017  
Budget: \$AUD 34 million

*"We set out to create a centre that brings community and visitors together under the one roof. We consciously designed the Ningaloo Centre to support tourism while meeting the needs of local residents."*

- Paul Edwards, Director of SITE Architecture

The \$34 million centre is a 5,062sqm, multi-purpose building comprising a visitors' centre, café and gallery space, museum and exhibition areas, a library, and a function centre and play areas designed as independent and connected user pods. A fully equipped wet and dry laboratory, preparation area and aquaculture workshop provide the University of Western Australia and TAFE with a much-needed base for Ningaloo Reef research and training.

This facility gives us an example of small community deciding to invest in a cultural asset that had relevance for themselves and tourists to the area. The co-location of all these uses makes it the must-see destination when in Exmouth, a community of only 2,500. Some of the lessons learnt include the fact that the plans included an ill-fated aquarium, the operation of which was above the means of what Council could afford and therefore was never completed.

FRANK BARTLETT LIBRARY AND MOE SERVICE CENTRE:

Library and Community together

Location: Moe, Victoria  
Population: 16,734  
Architects: FJMT Architects  
Year completed: 2016  
Budget: approximately \$AUD 15 million

*"It is truly a place for everyone to feel welcome and included, a place that brings the community together and that marks the shared aspirations of the town. Moe has a new sense of place and a new way to appreciate its natural beauty."*

-FJMT Architects

A new civic centre for the town of Moe that houses a number of community services including library, café, community health rooms, meeting rooms, community kitchen and council service desk. This one stop shop community building is part of a greater urban transformation of the site into a central gathering place for the community.

Community involvement throughout the design process and during construction has resulted in the locals embracing the building as a reflection of their sense of identity and pride in the town.

GEEELONG LIBRARY:

Library and archive together

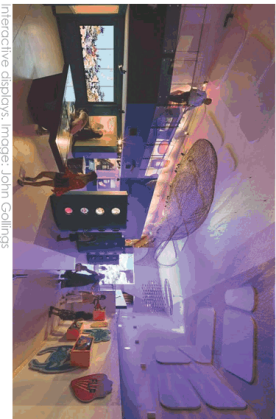
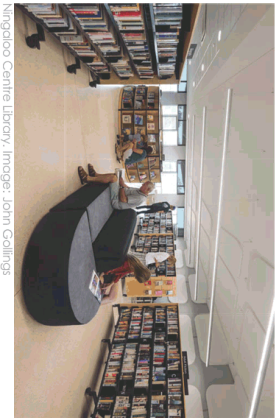
Location: Geelong, VIC (75k west of Melbourne)  
Population: 184,000  
Architects: ARM Architecture  
Year completed: 2015  
Budget: \$AUD 45 million

*"It is creating a vibrant hub in the centre of Geelong, further enlivening the cultural precinct, acting as a significant tourist destination, and providing world-class library and heritage services to all visitors."*

-Patti Manolis, CEO, Geelong Regional Library Corporation

This is a busy community gathering place for residents of one of Australia's fastest growing regional cities. Where traditionally libraries banned eating and taking, GLHC has elements of the community cyber café. The ground floor has an 80-seat café, a community gathering space and popular books and magazines.

Libraries are increasingly seen as a third place, they now invite people to meet, talk, play music, drink coffee, and use multi-media. There is a new exhibition space shared with the adjacent Geelong Art Gallery. The first floor is for children and young people and has a landscaped balcony at freeloop level. Floor two is for adult collections, magazines, journals and e-resources and includes a reading lounge and study rooms. The third floor is the archive which lives in a vast compactus and the entire floor is compliant with the State Archives Place of Deposit storage specifications. Its supervised reading room has smart tables and digital microfilm readers.



BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT

5.5 BENCHMARKING

THE EDGE AT THE STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND:

A centre for digital culture

Location: Brisbane, QLD  
Population: 2.2 million  
Architect: m3 Architecture with Deidre Richards Architects  
Year completed: 2010  
Budget: \$AUD 7.9 million

*"I've always been fascinated by the concept of libraries acting as living laboratories: spaces where communities can learn by doing."*

-Lea Giles-Peter, former Queensland State Librarian who oversaw the development of the project

The Edge is a library, community makerspace and resource hub for all things: youth, art, science, technology and enterprise. Imagined as a model for the library of the future, The Edge is a visionary space for creatives and innovators, providing the resources and platform to explore creativity.

Whilst The Edge definitely marks the transition to a new kind of library, a successful library that place digital culture at its core must engage with the finer details of delivering that experience including software licensing, IT support, maintenance and replacement of hardware.

PILBARA ARTS CENTRE:

A welcoming climate response and sole space

Location: Newman, WA  
Population: 5,000 with 4,000 FIFO  
Architect: Office Woods Architects  
Year completed: 2015  
Budget: \$AUD 9.3 million

*"More and more young people were coming to the centre and getting involved, sitting with elders as they paint, singing songs and just engaging with the space. And that was really the prime driver, the impetus, for the whole project."*

-Jennie Officer, Office Woods Architects

The East Pilbara Arts Centre, which houses the Mortumili Gallery was funded by BHP, the Pilbara Development Commission through Royalties for Regions, Lotterywest and the Shire of East Pilbara. The design features a large span steel frame shed which works outside the commonly held notion that a building must be finished and not change. Like a tent, it covers, secures and shades a large area that can be contained, covered or completely open. It has fostered a deeper understanding and mutual respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-indigenous communities and has also been a catalyst for growth for Mortumili Artists, with 51 new artists recruited in just 12 months, and more than 1,180 artworks produced in that time.

What we can learn from this is that modesty of materials and consideration for how people can feel welcome, occupy space on their terms is a really important success factor for creating a culturally safe space.

GREEN SQUARE LIBRARY:

A true community hub

Location: Green Square, Sydney, NSW  
Population: 41,000  
Architect: Stewart Hollenstein in partnership with Stewart Architecture  
Year completed: 2018  
Budget: \$AUD 58.2 million

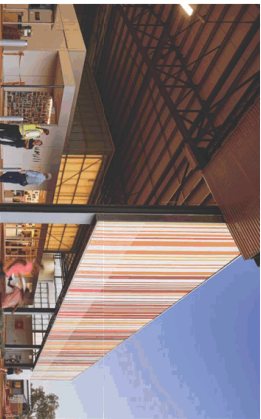
*"There are few places as democratic as libraries. They provide places to sit in a beautiful setting, and that's so precious in the community. We feel like libraries are places where you can make noise and gather."*

-Felicity Stewart, Stewart Hollenstein Architects

Sydney's newest library is barely a building at all, it is a series of underground and overground connected spaces that create a plaza and accommodates a contemporary array of library spaces. Alongside what one would expect to find in a contemporary library, Green Square Library also includes a service desk for the City of Sydney, meaning that library visitors can pay their rates or parking fines while at the library. The service desk is integrated into the space, sitting alongside the library's counterless service station. Different staff man both of these service points but the integration is seamless from a visitor's perspective.



Collaborative window boxes. Images: Jon Links



View from entry towards conditioned gallery and staff space. Images: Robert Fifth



Staff info kiosk. Images: Neeson Marcutt Architects



Children's area. Images: City of Sydney

BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT



## 6.0 ROLE OF THE LIBRARY

## 6.1 THE ROLE OF THE LIBRARY IN CREATING A CULTURAL MIX FOR BROKEN HILL

Building on the Cultural Priorities, we have proposed the cultural framework as action planning tool that helps us align cultural priorities with access strategies, spatial strategies and operational strategies. By linking these, we can ensure that the emerging brief for the library is directly responding to what Broken Hill says it needs and wants.

cultural priority	movement strategies	spatial strategies	operational strategies
ACCESSIBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong working foot extends to other parts of the Cultural Precinct and Town Centre</li> <li>Multimodal transport access</li> <li>Accessible car parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide easy access to parking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimal reliance on lifts through planning, eg spaces that the elderly would use would be mostly downstairs.</li> </ul>
EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making what's inside visible or perceptible from the outside</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret materials and content, colours and landscape through architecture and landscaping</li> <li>Gallery space to show works of cultural, social and natural significance (paintings, rocks, etc.) from the Outback Archives collections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tangible and visible interpretation of the archives in the space.</li> <li>Good quality and reliable internal connection via WHH with a reach beyond the footprint of the building, on even when the library is closed</li> <li>Integrates Visitor Centre</li> </ul>
WELCOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of formal hierarchy of spaces, provide a range of spaces that can be occupied on the occupier's terms</li> <li>Microclimate to make all spaces welcoming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No front counter</li> <li>Intuitive movement through the building</li> <li>Place for meeting</li> <li>Define a single public entry point.</li> <li>Manage views</li> <li>Meaningful signs of indigenous culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider opening hours, all or part of the site, what's visible and/or what can be experienced when not open</li> </ul>
NEXT GENERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access by means other than car (eg public transport, bike)</li> <li>Opening hours that are suitable for school children and youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made youth focused spaces the core of the experience, place them in important spaces</li> <li>Use of colour, fun furniture, ease of moving things around without breaking it, different configurations over time</li> <li>Place to be messy, experiment, give it a go</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the software and management implications of running a variety of digitally-based programs to ensure long term viability and relevance</li> </ul>
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build upon reputation as Australia's first heritage listed town</li> <li>Embrace the town hall facade.</li> <li>Locate library and archive together.</li> <li>Manage views</li> <li>Be resourceful: Reuse of existing fabric (current library, laneways that already exist)</li> <li>Create useful public space</li> <li>Reinforce activity on Argent St</li> <li>Give address to Blende St</li> <li>Maintain existing urban edges</li> <li>Economy of means, responsible choice of materials and construction method</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring job opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the near and long term future of the cultural hub.</li> <li>Establishing appropriate protocols regarding culturally sensitive Wyakad material in the archive.</li> </ul>
CELEBRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlock the potential and capacity of the Argent Street as the centre of gravity of town</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colocate the visitor's centre and the library to encourage opportunities for events with locals and tourists.</li> <li>Include public art by local artists</li> </ul>
FEET ON THE GROUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the assets we have and the strengths of the connections to the site through the existing network of streets and laneways</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff neutral</li> <li>Creation of meeting spaces that could work on an unarmoured basis and create a modest revenue stream through business hire</li> </ul>



## 7.0 KEY MOVES

## 7.1 EARLY DIRECTIONS FOR THE LIBRARY

The new Library and Community Hub will occupy the carpark site between the Old Town Hall Building on Argent Street and the City Library on Blende Street. A new entry on Argent Street through the historic Town Hall Building, either directly into the library or via a public space, will give greater energy, presence and connectivity to the civic precinct, which houses the Broken Hill Courts, the Western Region TAFE College, Broken Hill Police Station, the Old Town Hall and the Post Office. Early directions for the new library are underpinned by 5 strategies:

### 1. movement + transport

The movement and transport strategies recognize:

- parking**
  - that the new library displaces existing parking which needs to be considered in the context of the block and beyond
  - that should the visitor information centre co-locate then some camper van / caravan parking also needs to be found

#### public transport

- that many library patrons will travel by bus
- that should the visitor information centre co-locate then a coach stop also needs to be close by

#### cycling / scootering

- Council's Bike Plan, the potential of electric bicycles, and the healthy living option of sole cycling

#### walking + shade

- that shaded pathways (under overhangs or trees) are needed to encourage walking
- a 200m or 2.5 minute walking distance from the new library to parking, to public transport, and to other places within the town centre, is a realistic expectation

### 2. spatial / mooring

The spatial strategies are blocking and stacking exercises, whilst they do not represent building options per se, they do imply potential site relationships and spatial organizations.

### 3. landscape

The landscape strategy focuses on the experience of public space in Broken Hill - shade, gathering, recreation and the potential of plants and water to moderate climate.

### 4. climate + sustainability

The approach is to identify strategic local solutions to the long-term sustainability of the library in Broken Hill.

### 5. public art

Here are outlined ten possible approaches to public art in the library and cultural precinct more broadly, it is anticipated that each would be targeted specifically to Broken Hill.



Image: Neeson Murchill Architects



Broken Hill Art Gallery  
Image: Troveth.com.au



Broken Hill Solar Plant  
Image: AGL



The Police Hotel  
Image: Dossier 48



Image: Still from The Adventures of  
Priscilla Queen of the Desert (1994)

## BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT



7.2 MOVEMENT + TRANSPORT STRATEGY

CAR PARKING

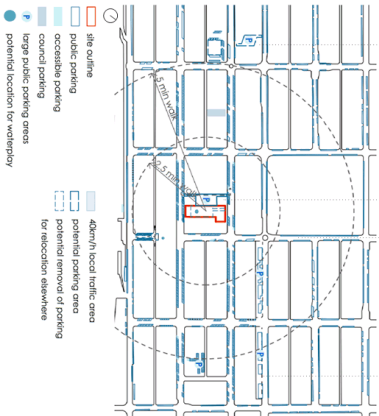
Increased public parking within a 2.5 minute and 5 minute walk of the community hub/library site.

The majority of car parking occurs on-street in Broken Hill and changes to time restrictions introduced as part of the car parking strategy aim to encourage turnover of car parking spaces adjacent to businesses and facilities. Off-street car parking provided should be prioritised for high turnover users, accessible parking needs and dedicated facility vehicles. The aim of town centre improvements which impact on car parking should be to maintain a parking neutral outcome, with public parking increased at the community hub.

For the new car park to be located on the Police site, we recommend that around 35 spaces be provided for short term public use which is +5 on the existing number of public parking spaces. This should be a mix of 5 x 15min and 25 x 2hr. 10-20 dedicated Council staff spaces could be provided off site. This then maintains functional car parking within the block for the new library development with adjacent on-street car parking available for all day car parking.

Additional public parking:

- Kinross Reserve:** + 8 cars OR + 20 cars
- Police site:** + 3 cars + 2 caravans + 15 cars + 10 cars
- Angled parking along Christie St beside Stuart Park:** + 15 cars
- Existing parking:** + 10 cars



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Lenghen Argent St bus stop at Post Office to include coaches.

Existing public bus services provide a good level of access to the site, all bus routes interchanging adjacent to the site on Argent Street. Increased bus frequencies and a rationalised route structure would assist with attracting higher utilisation but with low levels of revenue it is hard to justify significant improvements. Many library patrons will travel by bus.

Should the visitor information centre co-locate with the library then the coach stop servicing regional coaches should be relocated to be nearby.



SHADE

Provide shaded footpaths within a 2.5 and 5 minute walk of the cultural hub/ library site.

In the desert shade enables outdoor life. Walking, waiting at a bus stop, cycling, on street parking- all forms of movement are possible if temperatures are moderated.

Historic verandahs distinguish the city of Broken Hill, are a direct response to heat and the need for immediate shade. Drop down canvas blinds increase the thermal performance of buildings and footpaths.

Street trees have the added benefits of making legible the street hierarchy, open space and movement corridors. Linking tree planting to water management and recycling systems. Providing living shade that locally cools streets and filters air, while contributing to the identity of Broken Hill as a liveable regional city- a historic city with a forward-thinking community.

- A street planting programme will:
- moderate the desert climate and the heat island effect of urbanization
- identify city entries, bus routes, bicycle paths, town centre parking bays
- link key open space connections between parks, drainage lines and flood prone land
- support health initiatives associated with obesity, isolation, lead abatement



WALKING/CYCLING/SCOOTING

Improve pedestrian pathways and the cycle network to meet the appetite for healthy movement.

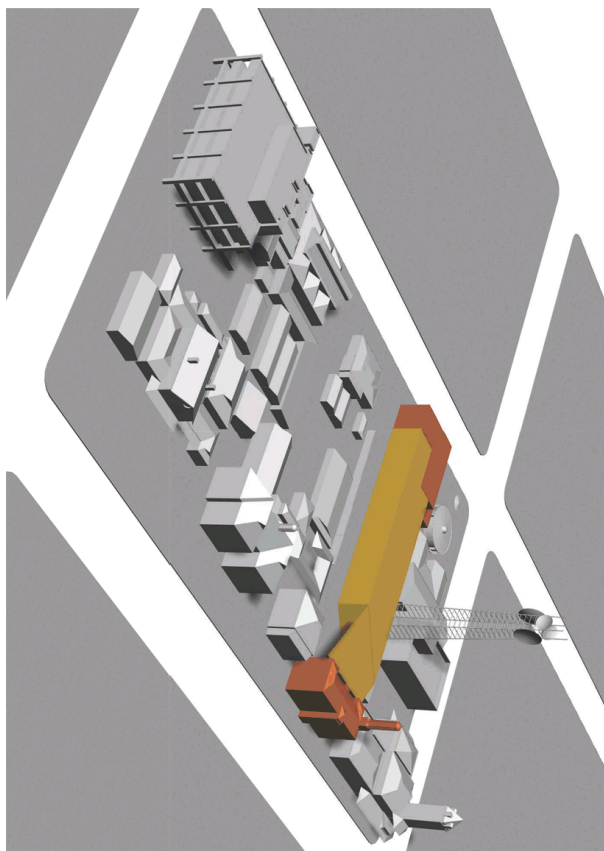
There are footpaths on all streets in the city centre. A key area for improvement is at street and intersection crossing points. Due to the wide streets, kerb ramps of intersections and mid-block crossing points assist with reducing the crossing distance and allowing the introduction of formal pedestrian crossing markings where they meet the Roads and Maritime Services warrant.

Key pedestrian routes utilising existing footpaths and laneways should be identified to enable focused upgrades including:

- Pavement treatment including flush crossing
- Lighting
- Directional wayfinding signage
- Shade
- Crossing provisions at streets

A cycle network should be identified for the town centre to provide definition for cyclists in the form of on-street markings and signage. Ideally segregated two-way cycleways should be considered on a spine network to facilitate both bicycle and scooter use. Shared E-bikes and E-scooters are driving in city centres and these would be suitable for moving around in hot weather conditions. Improving the cycling network and providing for a range of private shared bike use encourages a healthy living option of safe cycling.

The Bike Plan 2013 identified Beryl Street as an east west route along the northern border of the city centre 40km/h local traffic area. This should form a spine route which allows cyclists to filter into the town centre. The current cycleway serving Broken Hill is located on Crystal Street and is configured as permanent bicycle lanes shared with the car parking area. Given that this route is designated as the Silver City Highway serving as a bypass to the city centre for heavy vehicle movements, this route requires upgrading if it is to be retained.



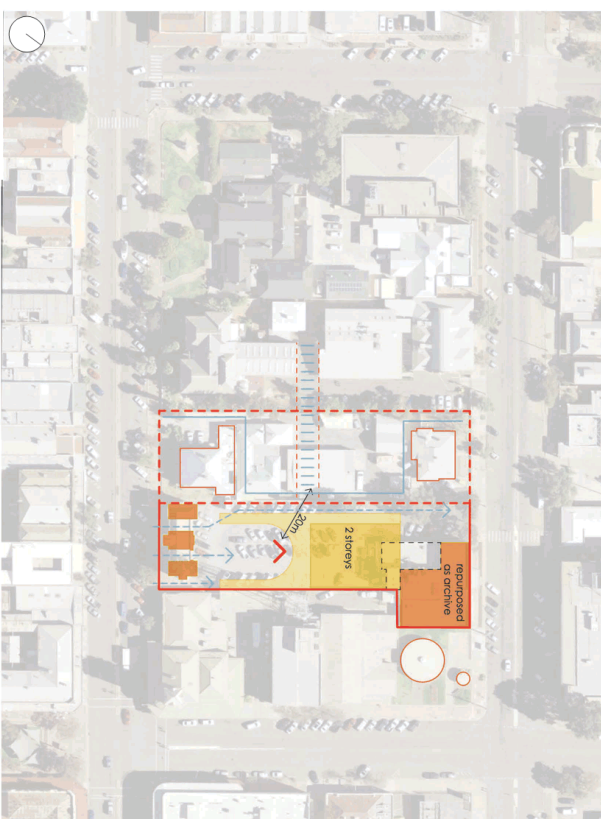
Come through the Town Hall facade to a covered forecourt – a new meeting place for locals and tourists, young and old. The new library / community hub sits directly ahead, turning its back to the telecommunications site and instead looking out along a shady public walkway through to Blende Street. Parking is located directly adjacent on the old police site. The new facility connects into the old library that has been partly demolished. The retained portion is repurposed as an archive, with a great compactus store on the ground floor, the old fire station as the public archive space, and workspaces upstairs. The Blende Street facade is both restored and adopted, as entry to the archive is now via the new library. The roundhouse amenities are upgraded, complementing new public toilets within the library.

## BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT

### 7.3 SPATIAL STRATEGIES

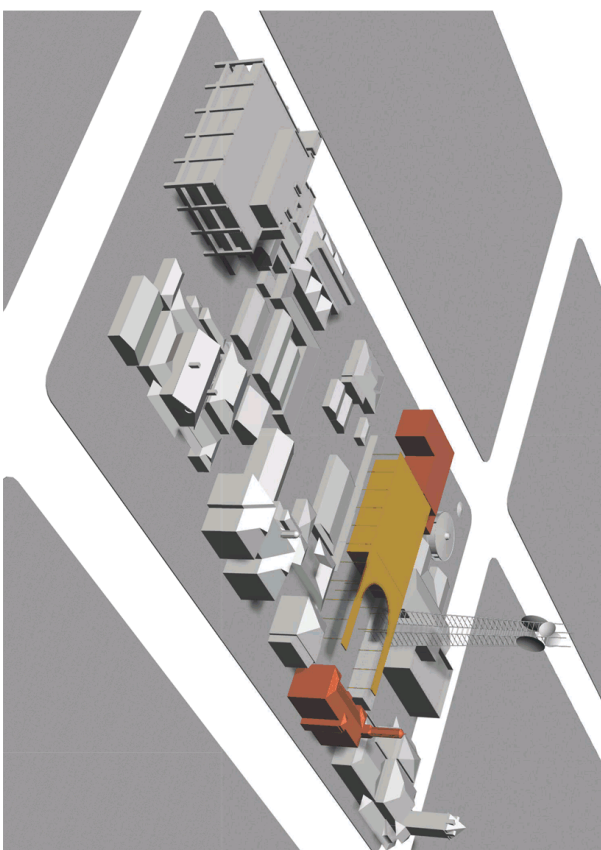
There are several approaches to massing on the site. Each option allows a library of 1500m<sup>2</sup> as recommended by the State Library NSW brief, and assumes an archive of roughly 500m<sup>2</sup>.

## 7.3 SPATIAL STRATEGIES



### Principles:

- ✓ - locate library and archive together
- ✓ - build upon reputation as Australia's first heritage listed city
- ✓ - be resourceful by reusing parts of the existing library building
- ✓ - provide easy access to parking
- ✓ - reinforce activity on Argent Street
- ✓ - strengthen address to Blende Street
- ✓ - define single public entry point
- ✓ - embrace and activate the Town Hall facade
- ✓ - create useful public space
- ✓ - retain strong urban edges
- ✓ - manage views
- ✓ - activate new public outdoor space with library entry

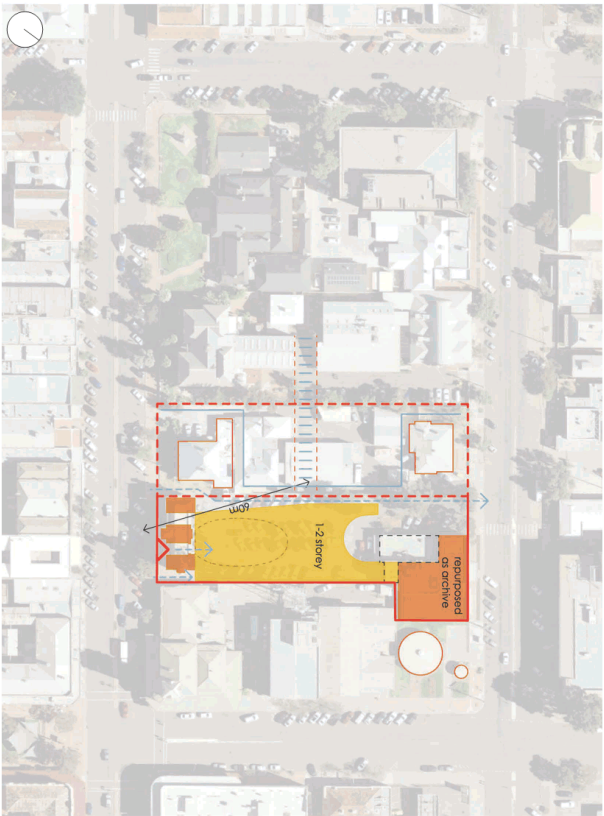


### SPATIAL STRATEGY #2

#### Potential

Come through the Town Hall facade to a great outdoor room – a climate appropriate outdoor gathering space for all ages – able to host events, film nights, openings, talks, as well as informal use. Built up against the telecommunications site, the new library / community hub faces into the outdoor room towards the rear of the Town Hall facade. It has shaded walkway edges that edit unwanted views and give covered access through to Blende Street and to adjacent parking directly on the old police site. The new facility connects into the old library that has been partly demolished making way for a lush public garden. The retained portion is repurposed as an archive, with a great compactus store on the ground floor, the old fire station as the public archive space, and workshops upstairs. The Blende Street facade is both restored and adapted, as entry to the archive is now via the new library. The roundhouse orientates are upgraded, complementing new public toilets within the library.

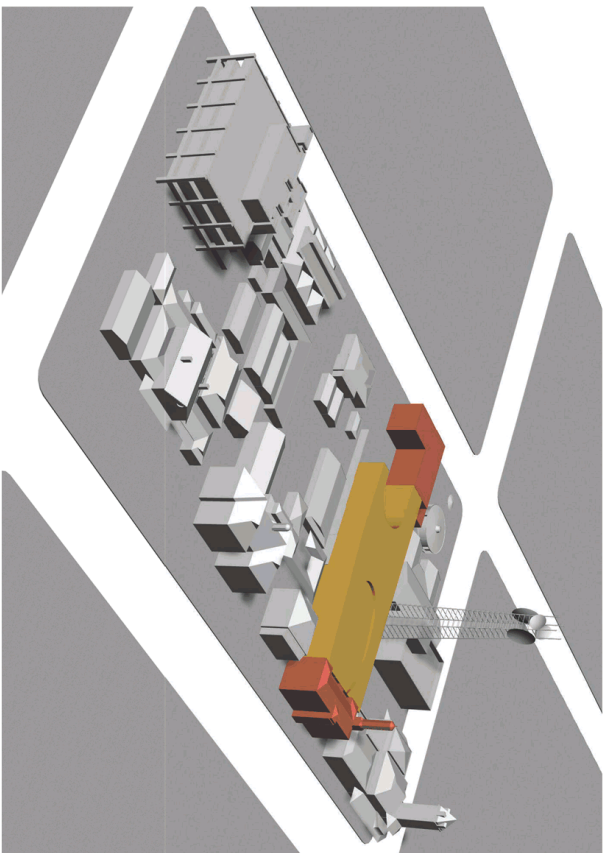




- existing buildings
- library
- covered outdoor
- through site link
- future through site link
- parking
- library entry

**Principles:**

- ✓ - locate library and archive together
- ✓ - build upon reputation as Australia's first heritage listed city
- ✓ - be resourceful by reusing parts of the existing library building
- ✓ - provide easy access to parking
- ✓ - reinforce activity on Argent Street
- ✓ - strengthen address to Blende Street
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- ✓ - create useful public space
- ✓ - retain strong urban edges
- ✓ - manage views
- ✗ - activate new public outdoor space with library entry



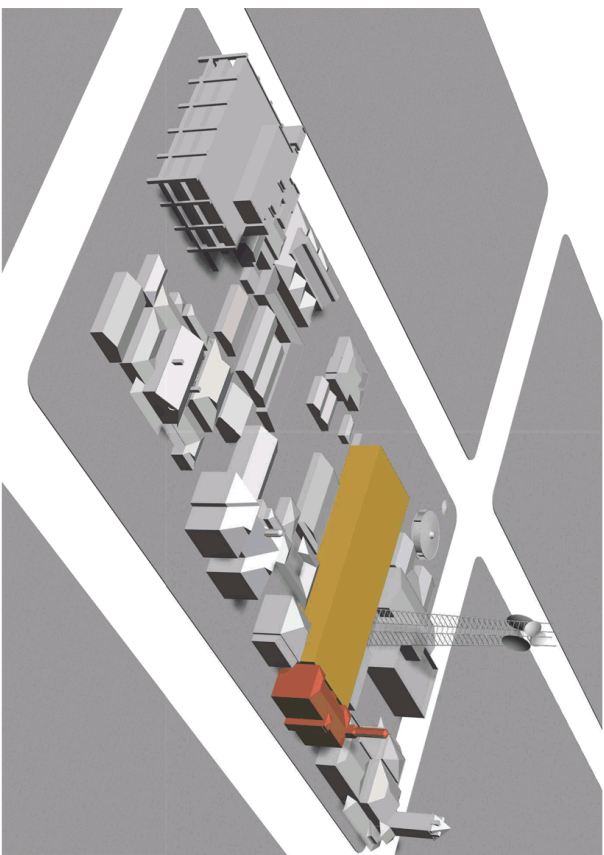
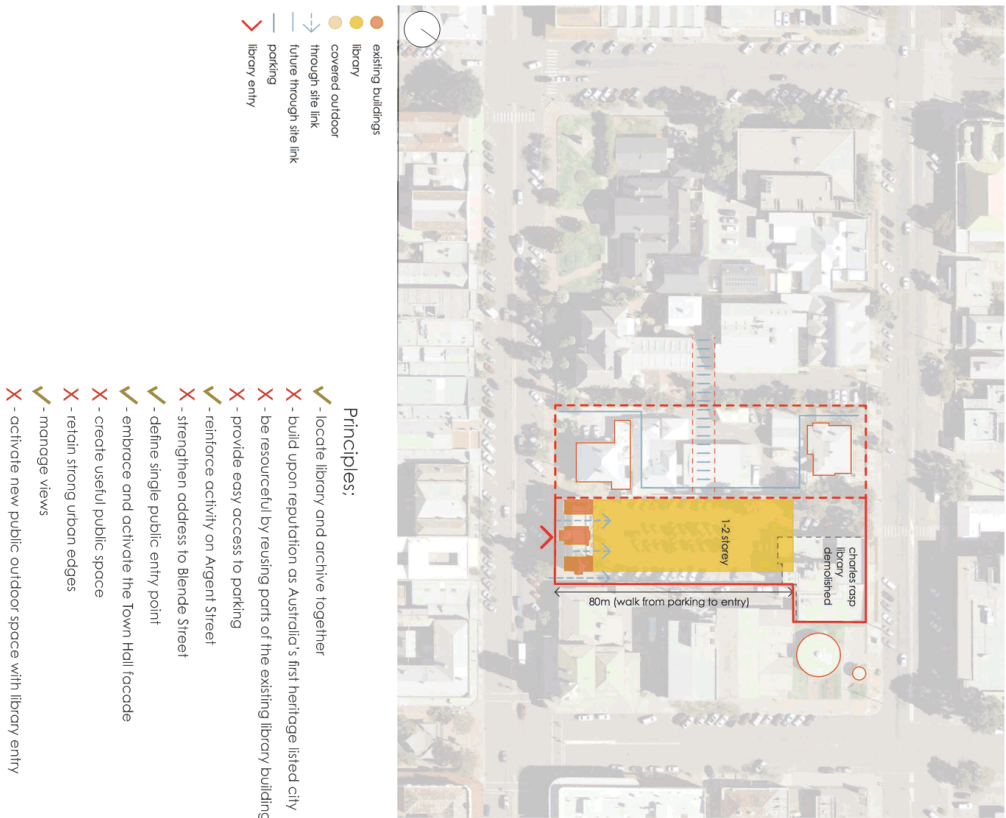
**SPATIAL STRATEGY #3**

**Potential**

Come through the Town Hall facade directly into the new double height library / community hub living room. The new facility is built up to north-east boundary, allowing a through-site link to Blende Street along the south-west, with access to parking on the old police site. The rear of the library looks into a shaded public garden, capitalising on existing mature trees already in this part of the site. The new facility connects into the old library that has been partly demolished to create the public garden. The retained portion is repurposed as an archive, with a great compactus store on the ground floor, the old fire station as the public archive space, and workspaces upstairs. The Blende Street facade is both restored and adapted, as entry to the archive is now via the new library. The roundhouse amenities are upgraded, complementing new public toilets within the library.

**7.3 SPATIAL STRATEGIES**

**BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT**

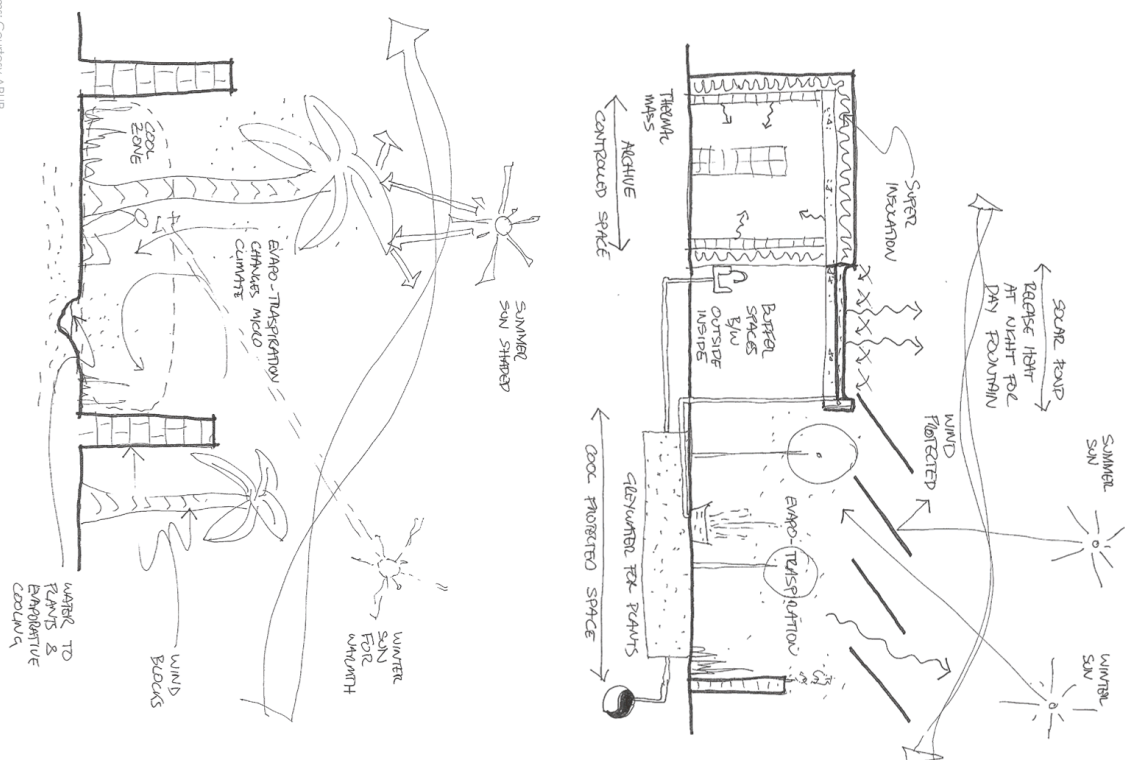


**SPATIAL STRATEGY #4**  
Potential

Come through the Town Hall facade on Argent Street directly into the new facility – library, community hub and archive. The rear of the new facility looks across a landscaped parking edge where the old library building once stood, to the Civic Centre. The removal of the old library building erodes the urban edge to Blende Street and places the parking at some distance to the new front door on Argent.

**7.3 SPATIAL STRATEGIES**

Diagrams: Courtesy ARUP



Microclimates within the facility are provided to match the function of each space. Providing controlled space where required, and more relaxed conditions where acceptable. Activities will have higher control with super efficient systems and insulation. Buffer spaces provide a transition space for patrons to the adjacent outdoor space.

Passive design of outdoor spaces provide comfort for patrons without the use of energy intensive air conditioning systems. Provision of shading during warmer times water features will create an oasis like environment in the city landscape, and be an attractor for locals and tourists alike.

## 7.4 CLIMATE + SUSTAINABILITY

Through innovation and collaborative design, we deliver strategic local solutions that create memorable and lasting places grounded in principles of flexibility and long-term sustainability, generating value for future generations.

We will use the UN Sustainable Development Goals to guide the design. Overall the development will seek to educate and enable local community to interact with sustainable strategies include:

**Zero Energy strategies** that address smart energy distribution, production and renewable technology in building systems that enable the education in sustainable and secure energy futures.

**Regenerative water strategies**, including impacts of site landscaping, space availability, collection, reduction, reuse and treatment.

**Circular Economy** - site wide waste and reuse strategies including impacts of space allocation, storage, sorting and treatment. Considered approach to using only locally sourced and reused materials from inactive sites along with cradle to cradle material selection.

**Healthy Environment** - design of building elements, external microclimates and passive design solutions. Provide analysis and innovative design based on wind, sun, comfort, vegetation, water, humidity, noise, pollution, and lead remediation.

**Better Landscapes** - strategies that address community use and integration, providing real technical benefits in water treatment and improved microclimates.

**Resilient Design** - assessment of materials, products and structures for potential impacts across their life span. Resilience and reuse from construction to redevelopment and strategies for masterplanning under future climate scenarios.

**Local Economy** - Develop library program and tools to enable community access to knowledge and training for new skills development. May include fast internet access, flexible spaces for market space use, digital access and touch down. The building procurement will seek to provide a skills training opportunity for youth and local community.



## 7.5 LANDSCAPE

A community gathering space, the Library will complement the nearby Town Square, becoming a key part of a civic spine that extends along Chloride Street connecting the Railway Station, Welcome Walk, The Town Square, Old Town Hall, the new Library, Civic Centre, Sturt Park and at a city-scale north to Broken Hill Hospital.

Small scale initiatives increasing site permeability and open space connections include the extension of pedestrian links along Agent Lane into the proposed Library copark on the Police Station site and a possible through site link giving a more direct passage to Sturt Park from Blende Street and the Library.

New laneways, courtyards and roof top terraces can transform the experience of the library. Part circulation, part viewing gardens, part break out spaces, these varying landscapes mark the transition between inside and out. Trees, arbors, ponds and water features temper the air and draw coolness into threshold spaces:

- Making places for lingering and meeting others.
- Places where eyes can relax from reading and take a long view.
- Places for stepping outside for conversation and refreshment.
- Places for talks and evening events.
- Places that can increase focus and support creativity and learning.

Like the wells and waterholes that sustained the Wjalkool in these desert lands for millennia, the library and community hub will be the new urban spring and meeting place in Broken Hill- for locals and visitors.

### Initiatives - Agent Street Library:

- retain existing trees and integrate with new building where possible
- new garden courtyards and seating offer connection to nature and the outdoors even in summer
- a waterbody enables evaporative cooling of the building and internal courtyards
- roof terraces for use on winter days and summer evenings
- shaded coparks and garden laneways through the adjoining buildings to Suphite Street
- bike parking



grapevines & jasmine hanging screens, streets of old damascus, source: fotomohb.com



voulbulis visitor centre, meknes morocco, klio architects source: sbd



orangehill resort, utah usa, rick joy, mawon al-soyad, & wendell burnette source: nic lehoux photographer



## 7.6 PUBLIC ART STRATEGIES

10 different possible approaches to public art in the cultural precinct.

ART WORKING HAND-IN-HAND WITH HERITAGE TO TELL LOCAL STORIES	PLACING ART UP HIGH	ART BILLBOARD	PROJECTIONS IN THE COOL OF THE EVENING	NEW FORMS OF FIGURATION BY ARTISTS WORKING NOW
 <p>Janel Cardiff and George Bures Miller The City of Forking Paths, 2014 Video/audio work 66 mins Commissioned by the 19th Biennale of Sydney as a City of Sydney legacy artwork as part of the City Art Collection Image: City of Sydney</p>	 <p>Mike Hewson Landscape, 2018 Public art sculpture [open tree view] Sandstone, palm trees, (living) systems, structural steel, irrigation systems, truck straps, swing, soft fall 230m (length of mall) Permanent site-specific installation, Crown Street Mall, Wollongong</p>	 <p>David Singler Feeling? 2012 High Line Art billboard commission, New York, 5 April – 7 May 2012 Image: Blake Gopnik</p>	 <p>Nicole Foreshew In darkness before dawn, 2013 [bill] Pig projection transparency Approx. 13 mins Projection on the facade of the Australian Museum, Sydney, 20 November 2013 – 20 February 2014 Image: All Media</p>	 <p>Francis Uprichard Wynnewood, 2018 (installation view) The Crown, Broken Hill, Australia 27 September 2018 – 6 January 2019 Image: Angui Mill</p>

Artworks like *The City of Forking Paths*, a commission of City of Sydney and Biennale of Sydney, by Janel Cardiff (born 1955, Brussels, Canada, lives and works in Berlin, Germany, and Gindrod, Canada) and George Bures Miller (born 1960, Vegreville, Canada, lives and works in Berlin and Gindrod) are works that artists use to bring heritage to life. *Forking* plays out in The Rocks, Doves Point and Millers Point neighbourhoods of Sydney. People take the work with the aid of their devices; artist Janel Cardiff directs the work in the soundtrack. The scene in real time ahead of participants as they walk is the same scene they see on their devices, with one difference: neighbourhood 'hobbies' from a range of historical eras, who seem very real, come in and out of the screen to speak.

Art placed up high is inspiring. It encourages people to look up; in looking up, their mood is elevated. Art up high is visible and can act as a beacon to attract people. A crab tree pole in Wollongong's Crown Street Mall as part of a work by Mike Hewson (born 1976 Dunedin, New Zealand, lives and works in Melbourne), Locals now use the pole as an orientation marker and meeting place. Art like this is a new kind of flag that is proud, celebratory and of symbolic value.

A billboard in a fixed location will become known as a surface on which cool things happen; word spreads, and people start to follow it, watching with great interest for the next iteration. Billboard projects have their own recent art history, with projects undertaken by the City of Sydney, and by High Line Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

Commissions for a billboard can be awarded on a rotating basis to share the opportunity with a number of artists. It is a wonderful format, especially for younger artists who can experiment with new ideas and imagery without the pressure of making art that has to last and be visible for all time.

Nicole Foreshew (Widjiluri, born 1982 Sydney, lives and works in regional New South Wales) makes film works that tell the stories of her country through the perspective of the women in her family. She was the first artist to be commissioned by curator Heiti Perkins for *Fora Journey*, the City of Sydney's important initiative to commission permanent works by Aboriginal artists for the Sydney public domain. For born in darkness before dawn (2013) Foreshew took images of the women she is close to and projected them onto the facade of the Australian Museum; the women were dressed in clocks she had sewn together from plant materials she had gathered. In the work *Garrywarrig* (2017) for Winescreen at Wynyard Station, Sydney, she examined the relationship between women and cultural objects – such as string, shell and bone – from major museum collections, dating from pre-European contact to today. Foreshew's knowledge of minerals, developed through a 2014 NSW Aboriginal Arts Fellowship that paired her with scientists at the Australian Museum, could be drawn on to create an artwork for Broken Hill.

Figuration is an ancient art form being revised by artists working today. In the hands of female artists like Francis Uprichard (born 1976 New Plymouth, New Zealand, lives and works in London), figurative art is bold and colourful, surprising and irreverent. Irreverence quickly becomes constructively disruptive if one imagines figures by Uprichard interspersed amidst the bronze busts, oil mole, lining the walkway leading into the Broken Hill City Council chambers.

## 7.6 PUBLIC ART STRATEGIES

### SMALL, PERSONALISED INTERVENTIONS - MAKER SPACES



Tracey Emin's *Tracey Emin's 'Your Heart' 2018* is a 68 hand-modeled bronze birds placed on tocoques, in doorways, on railings and under park benches in Bridge and Grosvenor Streets and Macquarie Place park, Sydney. A commission for the Sydney City Centre Commissioner, City of Sydney. Project curator: Barbara Flynn, Curatorial Advisor to the City of Sydney for the City Centre Photo: Katherine Griffiths

### MAKING THE CASE FOR A FOCUS ON ABORIGINAL ART AND CULTURE



Jordanian Jones delivering a lunchtime lecture as part of the *Aboriginal Art Project*, 2016, 32nd Koori Public Art Project, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, 17 September – 3 October 2016. Photo: Peter Grieg

### ARTISTS WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES



Theaster Gates with colleagues of the *Chicago Project*, Chicago, c. 2013. Photo: W Magazine

### ARTISTS WORKING WITH LIBRARIES, TEXT AND BOOKS



Shirley Gill's *Peas* series, from the series *Peas*, 1999. Gill, thread, peas of the book *A Suitable Boy* by Vikram Seth. Photo: Elia Gordon

### LAND ART: MEANINGFUL WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS LANDSCAPE AND CITY



Michael Heizer's *Double Negative*, 1972, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles. Image: Tom Vintez

Tracey Emin's (born 1963 Croydon, United Kingdom, lives and works in London) artwork *The Distance of Your Heart for Sydney* (2018), comprised of 68 handmode bronze birds placed around Bridge and Grosvenor Streets in the northern part of the city, introduced the possibility of working in an anti-monumental way when making sculpture for a city. As Emin put it, 'Public sculpture can be about something really intimate and special. [Australia] is big but the birds if have model are tiny, delicate, fragile – just like we are as human beings.' The trace of an artist's hand in art leads to the realisation that someone made it and can add significantly to our experience of a work.

Maker spaces are popping up worldwide as part of a surge in interest in locally made objects and in making things by hand. One sees a lot of evidence of this in the current Asia Pacific Triennial in Brisbane (through 28 April 2019), and in other exhibitions and art world contexts. One can imagine populating Broken Hill's empty commercial building stock by offering residences to makers whose art practices, like Emin's, on an intimate and personal scale.

Australia's Aboriginal people are uniquely placed to instruct us on the values of appreciating art form. Theaster Gates (born 1973 Chicago, lives and works in Chicago) is one such individual whose iconoclastic and effective, grass-roots efforts to salvage the south side of Chicago have been recognised by the city's mayor, the University of Chicago and beyond. In 2006 Gates founded Dorchester Projects, which now comprises three vibrant locations – Active House, Listening House and Black Cinema House. These once-abandoned buildings, located in a crime-ridden neighbourhood, were renovated by the artist using repurposed materials. The vision was to make the buildings viable again by giving them a purpose, and they now house collectors

of a place for gathering and sharing, just as he did in the context of his seminal project *barranga* (2014) (skin and bones) of 2014, part of the Koori Public Art Projects series. For the duration of the project, daily talks at noon, held under a 200-year-old fig tree, connected a highly interested public with Aboriginal elders and other experts of both

Aboriginal and European descent. The tree itself served as a metaphor for age and constancy, the trails of elders that one respects so greatly.

Some artists today work with communities as an art form. Theaster Gates (born 1973 Chicago, lives and works in Chicago) is one such individual whose iconoclastic and effective, grass-roots efforts to salvage the south side of Chicago have been recognised by the city's mayor, the University of Chicago and beyond. In 2006 Gates founded Dorchester Projects, which now comprises three vibrant locations – Active House, Listening House and Black Cinema House. These once-abandoned buildings, located in a crime-ridden neighbourhood, were renovated by the artist using repurposed materials. The vision was to make the buildings viable again by giving them a purpose, and they now house collectors

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Aboriginal and European descent. The tree itself served as a metaphor for age and constancy, the trails of elders that one respects so greatly.

Shirley Gill (born 1959 Singapore, lives and works in Sydney and Port Dickson, Malaysia), through her *Peas* series, has made works for specific individuals as an ongoing project throughout the years she has been practising as an artist. Gill will invite someone she likes or is interested in to nominate their favourite book, then she will 'contribute' it, cutting lines with a razor blade, kneading them with glue and threading them together into beads or peas. The works were never marketed, only ever gifted and worn. The necklaces shown was made in 1999 from the book *A Suitable Boy* written by Vikram Seth. A display by Gill in the new library would be an exciting initiative to help inaugurate the new facility.

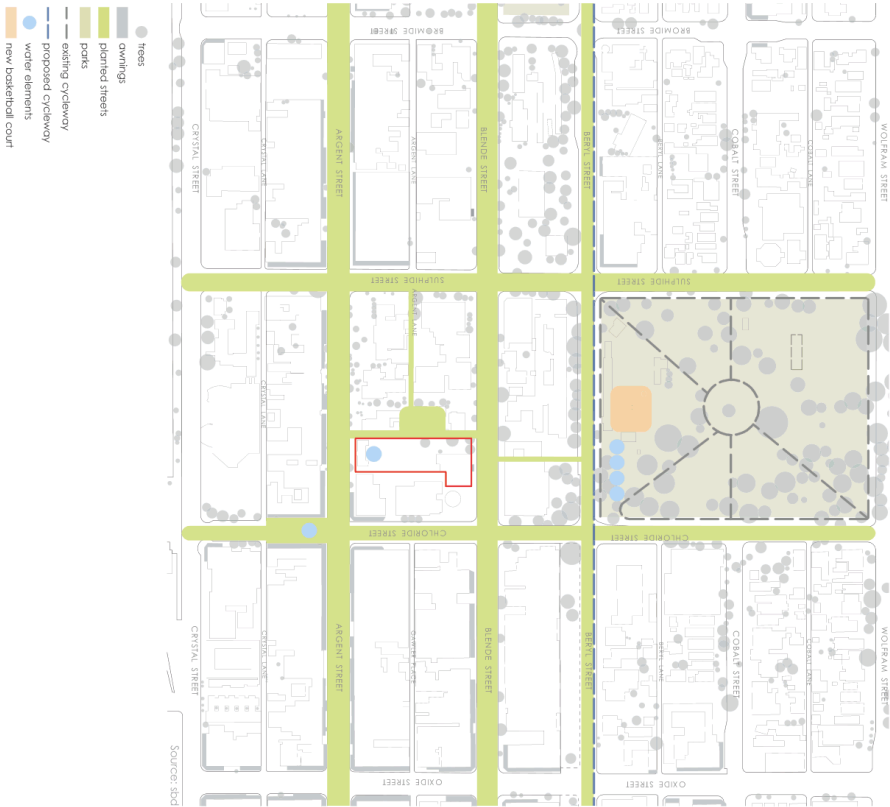
Land art was a form of art developed from the 1960s onwards in the United Kingdom and the western United States that saw artists like Michael Heizer (born 1944 California, United States, lives and works in Nevada) working with industrial earthmoving equipment to move earth and place rock to make large-scale interventions in the landscape. It is an art form that would be a natural choice for Broken Hill, both in its landscape and its context as a former mining city. In 1977 Richard Long (born 1945 Bristol, United Kingdom, lives and works in Bristol and London) visited Australia at the invitation of John Kildor and set out from Sydney for Perth by train. The artist's main project of the time was making 100-mile walks alone that he would document in photography. The story goes that he had no particular stopping point in mind but simply got out when he saw a landscape that seemed suitable. That landscape was outside of Broken Hill. Long created the work *A Line in Australia* comprised of red stones set out in an unspecified location outside of the city and recorded as a colour photograph. There he took a succession of daily walks that added up to 100 miles.

## BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT



## 8.0 SPINOFF STRATEGIES





## 8.1 SPINOFF STRATEGIES OVERVIEW

### OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

- Regeneration of vacant land within the city:**
  - Improving green space networks and natural systems in a shrinking city
  - Using local vegetation for ecological resilience, dust suppression, climate mitigation
  - Adopting research projects to test soil remediation through street tree planting and urban agriculture programmes
- Open space management:**
  - Landscape is dependent on water recycling and reuse including black water reuse
  - Collocation of park facilities is required to focus resources across fewer but better maintained parklands with complementary programmes that enable day and night park usage
  - An aging population will increase the demand for passive open space and informal recreation
  - Volunteer organisation are increasingly less able to contribute to park management.

### BEST FIT WITH EXISTING FABRIC

Looking at program options that best fit existing buildings to allow resourceful adaptive reuse and retention of building fabric throughout the town centre – the Old Bond Store (currently minerals museum) could easily suit artist workshops or a co-working space.

### LOCAL WATER RECYCLING

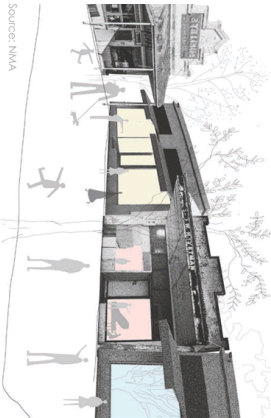
Encouraging people recycle water on site – greywater collection for toilet flushing and gardens, co-locating Council nursery with the Weiland, collecting rainwater albeit infrequent, for gardens.

### PUBLIC SPACES FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

Revitalising existing public spaces to make them open and accessible to everyone – Town Square, Sturt Park, etc.

### OPEN SHOPFRONTS

Activating streets in the town centre by enlivening shopfronts – shading to north-west facades via drop down blinds at the edge of street overhangs and landscaping, would enable tinted glass to be clear double glazed, and infilled shopfronts to be opened.



8.2 SPINOFF STRATEGIES  
LANDSCAPE

PUBLIC DOMAIN REVITALISATION

The new Library and Community Hub will occupy the carpark site between the Old Town Hall Building on Argent Street and the City Library on Blende Street. A new entry on Argent Street through the historic Town Hall Building giving greater energy, presence and connectivity to the civic precinct. Sparking connections across the city grid to the Town Square and to Sturt Park. The two key public spaces on the civic axis of Broken Hill.

Both spaces will in time be renewed and reinvigorated, making complementary public open spaces for community gathering and recreation. Key initiatives for these spaces could be:

- Town Square + Welcome Walk:**
- new verandah to the Hotel
  - new perimeter shade trees and raingardens
  - a central shade structure for immediate cover
  - a continuous ground plane
  - an ephemeral water feature for children's play
  - new seating, bike parking, and lighting
  - a snowway and angle parking along Chloride Street south of Crystal Lane

- Sturt Park:**
- removal of unwanted buildings and fences
  - review of the Community Hall facilities and markets
  - new community facilities in line with a recreational needs study, play spaces, fitness equipment, possible basketball courts, outdoor performance space
  - new seating
  - more shade trees
  - a series of ephemeral pools and rain gardens that capture and treat stormwater runoff on Beryl Street within the park

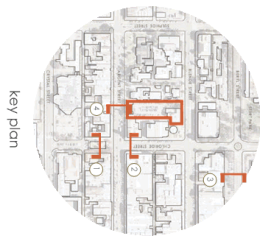
A programme of street tree planting as part of these public domain renewals would strengthen the connections between public spaces and establish a network of cool streets on active transport routes across Broken Hill.

**South-North Streets:**

- Chloride Street
  - from the Railway Station on Crystal St to Cummins St
- Bromide Street
  - from the Albert Kersten Mining and Minerals Museum on Crystal St to Cummins St

**West-East Streets:**

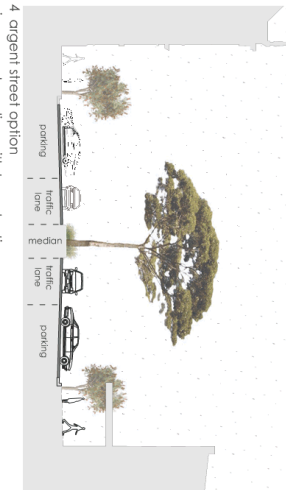
- Argent Street
  - along the main street from Gossan St to Iodide St
- Blende Street
  - from Golema St or Koolin St to Iodide St to signify the original Railway Line to Adelaide
- now decommissioned
  - Beryl Street
    - along the cycleway from Golema St to Iodide St while also structuring and shading carparking



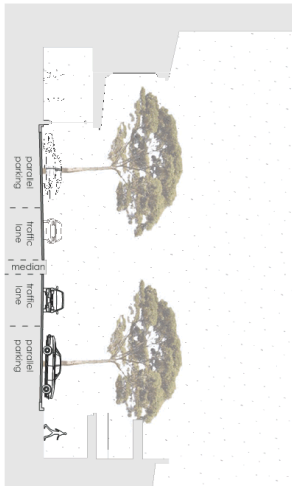
key plan



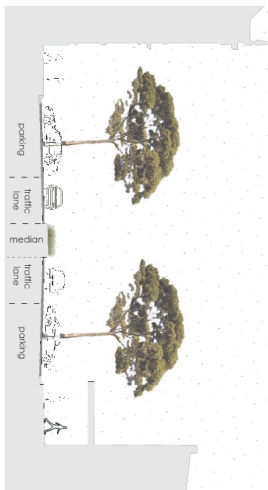
1 town square proposed



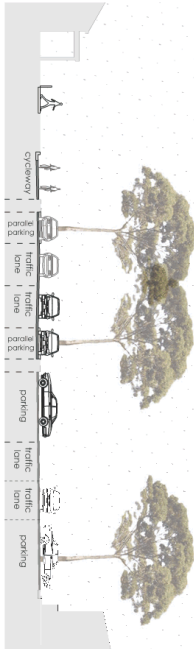
4 argent street option  
- increased median with tree planting



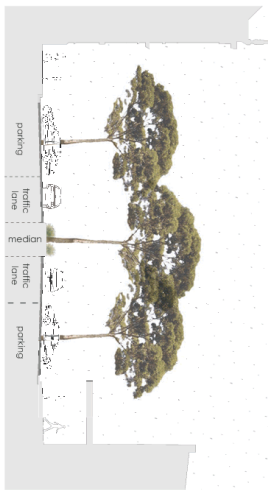
2 chloride street proposed  
- tree planting in parking bays



4 argent street option  
- tree planting in parking bays



3 beryl street proposed  
- parking & separated cycleway



4 argent street option  
- tree planting in increased median & parking bays

These sections explore the impact of street tree plantings on shade provision along key streets, and depict indicative conditions rather than specific species.

BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK AND SYNOPSIS REPORT



These trees reflect the preferred species list for planting on private land as outlined in the Broken Hill Development Control Plan [2016].

These selected trees and further species suitable for street tree planting should be explored, focusing on species suitable for an arid climate which provide a distinctive character to proposed street tree plantings.

## 8.2 SPINOFF STRATEGIES

### STREET TREES





## 8.2 SPINOFF STRATEGIES

### STREET TREES



## 9.0 NEXT STEPS

### WHERE TO FROM HERE?

This report synthesises all findings and early directions for the design of the Community Hub/Library. It is important that Council review and comment on this draft as this information and analysis will form the basis of future design work as it develops and is shared in the Concept Design phase of the project. It is worth noting that this Cultural Framework and Synopsis report will be shared with the community and discussed during the community day slated to take place on Feb 11, 2019. We anticipate a variety of views to come forward through this formal engagement with the community but we are confident that our approach to the design is based on strong insights from consultation and on our professional experience as a multi-disciplinary team. We can make adjustments where necessary then but this report is the foundation for the direction we embark on as part of the Concept Design.

Source: Neomaps



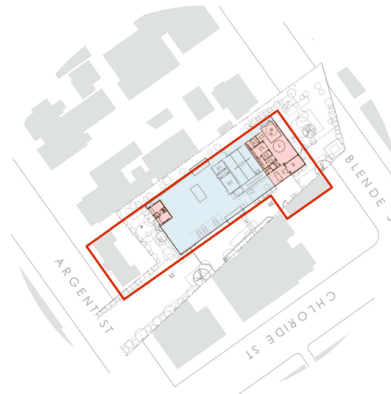
## **BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDICES**

NEESON MURCUTT ARCHITECTS PTY LTD  
ISSUE: 22/01/2019

**PRECEDENT**  
EAST PILBARA ARTS CENTRE



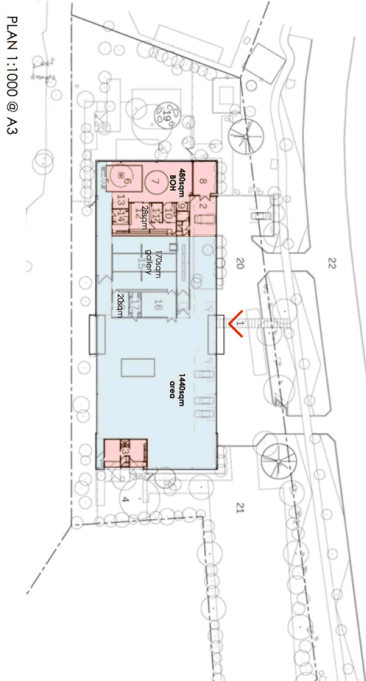
BUILDING SHOWN IN RED ON AERIAL MAP 1:10 000 @ A3  
source: ssk maps



COMPARISON OF PRECEDENT TO SITE AREA 1:2000 @ A3

EAST PILBARA ARTS CENTRE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
ARCHITECTS: OFFICER WOODS ARCHITECTS  
Program: gallery, workshop, multi purpose space  
area: 1440sqm Internal, 480sqm BOH  
budget: \$9.3m

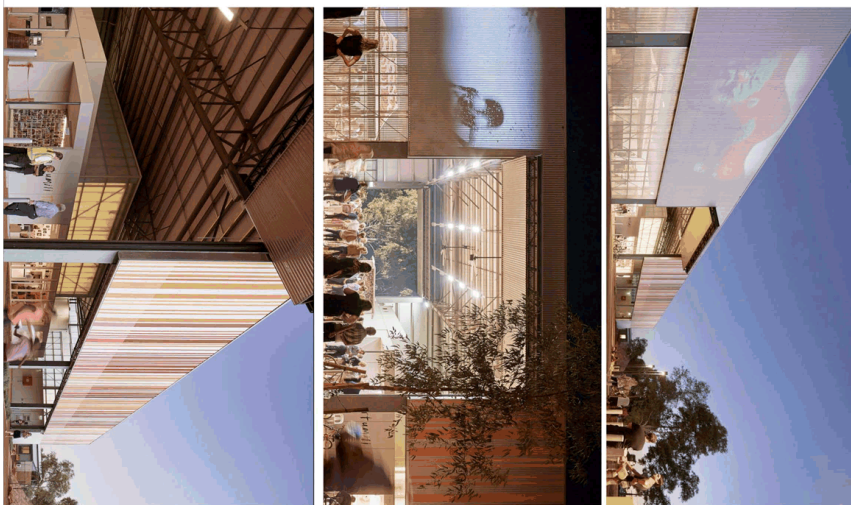
- flexible plan allowing for events, exhibitions and casual meeting places
- response to climate with a smaller conditioned building sitting under a large open shed, operable doors, landscape enters the building
- civic presence in the town
- invites positive interaction between the indigenous and non-indigenous community



PLAN 1:1000 @ A3

- KEY**
- 1 Entry
  - 2 Staff parking
  - 3 Residence
  - 4 Garden
  - 5 Kitchen
  - 6 Bathroom
  - 7 Water tank
  - 8 Paint store
  - 9 Manager's office
  - 10 Storage room
  - 11 Shower room
  - 12 Laundry
  - 13 Pump room
  - 14 Gallery
  - 15 Photographic studio
  - 16 Art store
  - 17 Workshop
  - 18 Meeting room
  - 19 Fire pit
  - 20 Parking
  - 21 Overflow parking
  - 22 Neeramin Drive

photo source: <https://architectureau.com/articles/east-pilbara-arts-centre/#img=1>



**BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX A - PRECEDENTS**



**PRECEDENT**  
THE EDGE



BUILDING SHOWN IN RED ON AERIAL MAP 1:10 000 @ A3  
source: sk maps



COMPARISON OF PRECEDENT TO SITE AREA 1:2000 @ A3

THE EDGE, STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND  
M3 ARCHITECTURE + DECKE RICHARDS ARCHITECTS

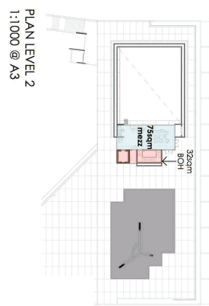
area:

180sqm lobs, 310sqm auditorium, 315sqm breakout space + 200sqm  
BOH = 790sqm

program:

L0: fabrication lab, staff, deliveries, bike parking, amenities  
L1: auditorium, window boys, digital media lab, innovation lab,  
recording studio, coffee cart  
L2: mezzanine

- providing the community with access to digital labs and free internet
- creative labs for visitors to hire for recording and research
- breakout seating areas with natural light
- the building sits within a greater learning precinct



PLAN LEVEL 2  
1:1000 @ A3



PLAN LEVEL 0

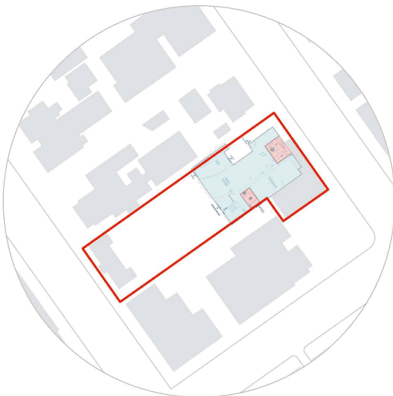


photo source: <https://www.artshub.com.au/member-profiles/industry/queensland/museums-and-libraries/the-edge-state-library-of-queensland-136053>





BUILDING SHOWN IN RED ON AERIAL MAP 1:10 000 @ A3  
source: ssk maps



COMPARISON OF PRECEDENT TO SITE AREA 1:2000 @ A3



## PRECEDENT GEELONG LIBRARY + HERITAGE CENTRE



photo source: <https://architectvision.com/articles/arms-geelong-library-and-heritage-centre-open/>

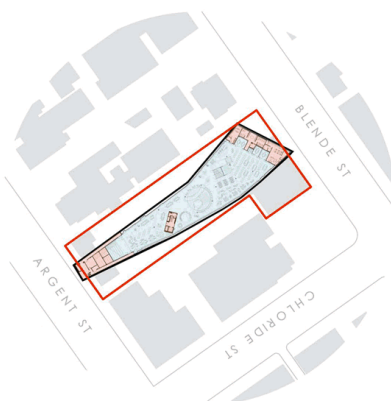
### GEELONG LIBRARY + HERITAGE CENTRE - ARM Architecture

- program:
- GF + mezzanine - gathering place, entry, news lounge, technology, exhibitions, café
  - L1 - reading nest, learning space, youth space, children's cave
  - L2 - inspiration space, large print + audiobooks, magazines, multimedia, books, meeting rooms
  - L3 - heritage reading room, regional archives, local and family history, history reference collection
  - L4 - staff admin
  - L5 - events space and balcony
- area: 3163sqm library + 600sqm event + 1430sqm BOH  
budget: \$4.5m
- reading and research room for community to access archives
  - incorporating a café and gallery space to enliven the entry foyer
  - youth and children level
  - function room for events

## BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX A - PRECEDENTS



BUILDING SHOWN IN RED ON AERIAL MAP 1:10 000 @ A3  
source: ssk maps



COMPARISON OF PRECEDENT TO SITE AREA 1:2000 @ A3

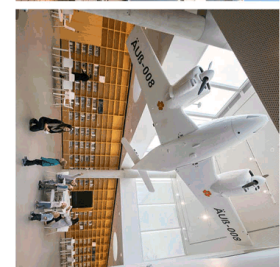
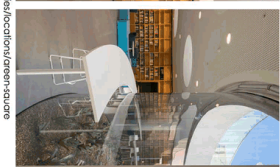
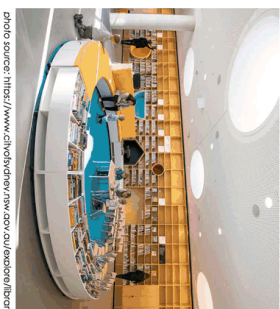
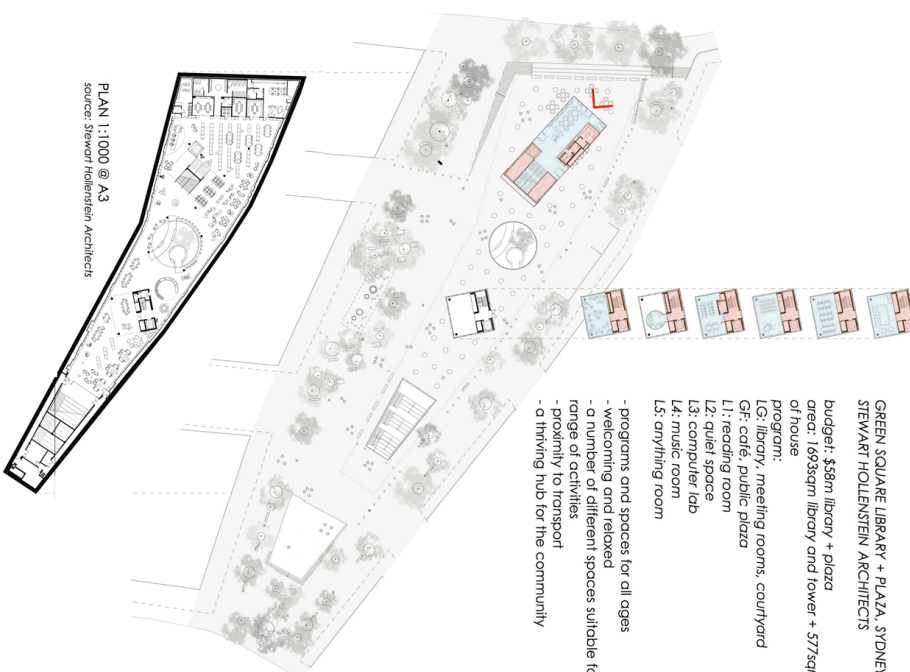


photo source: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/images/libraries/location/green-square>



PLAN 1:1000 @ A3  
source: Stewart Hollenstein Architects

## PRECEDENT GREEN SQUARE LIBRARY + PLAZA

GREEN SQUARE LIBRARY + PLAZA, SYDNEY  
STEWART HOLLENSTEIN ARCHITECTS

budget: \$58m library + plaza  
area: 1693sqm library and tower + 577sqm back  
of house

program:

LG: library, meeting rooms, courtyard

GF: café, public plaza

L1: reading room

L2: quiet space

L3: computer lab

L4: music room

L5: anything room

- programs and spaces for all ages
- welcoming and relaxed
- a number of different spaces suitable for a range of activities
- proximity to transport
- a thriving hub for the community

## PRECEDENT NINGALOO CENTRE

NINGALOO CENTRE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
SITE ARCHITECTURE

Program:

GF: library, gallery, marine display, aquaculture workshop, research labs, art rooms, community centre, indoor play areas

L1: function room

area: 2370sqm internal + 2330sqm dock of house = total 5100sqm  
budget: \$34m

- collect visitors and community under one roof
- located on the main road between the town and the ocean
- a learning hub with opportunities for research and collaboration



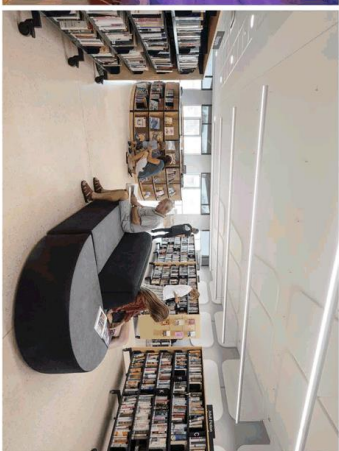
BUILDING SHOWN IN RED ON AERIAL MAP 1:10 000 @ A3  
source: sk maps



COMPARISON OF PRECEDENT TO SITE AREA 1:2000 @ A3



Photo source: <https://www.skarchitecture.com.au/project/ningaloo-centre>



NINGALOO CENTRE - WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
PLAN 1:1000 @ A3

## BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX A - PRECEDENTS





BUILDING SHOWN IN RED ON AERIAL MAP 1:10 000 @ A3  
source: sk maps

**FRANK BARTLETT LIBRARY + MOE SERVICE CENTRE,  
VICTORIA**  
FJMT ARCHITECTS

**Program**

L1: library + community rooms

L2: reading rooms

area breakdown: 63sqm entry, 785sqm library, 180sqm

library BOH, 250sqm community, 210sqm community

BOH, 90sqm cafe

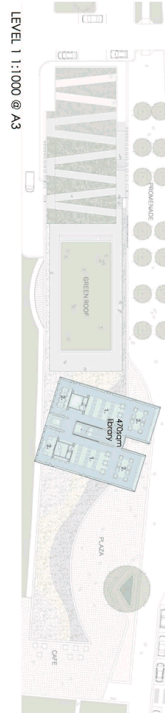
total area: 1515sqm

budget: approx \$15m

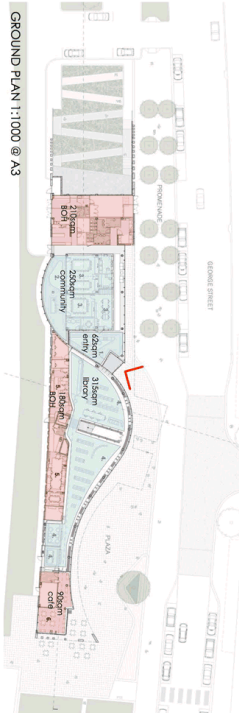
- proximity to public transport
- a new public plaza forming a focal point at the end of the main street
- community centre + library for all ages
- locally sourced materials + trades
- easily accessible by the community



COMPARISON OF PRECEDENT TO SITE AREA 1:2000 @ A3



LEVEL 1 1:1000 @ A3



GROUND PLAN 1:1000 @ A3

**PRECEDENT**  
FRANK BARTLETT LIBRARY + MOE SERVICE CENTRE

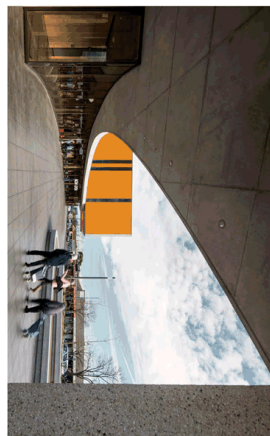


photo source: <https://architectureau.com/articles/2017-national-architecture-awards-walter-burley-griffin-award-for-urban-design/>

**BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX A - PRECEDENTS**





## STUDY DIAGRAMS

### TRANSPORT



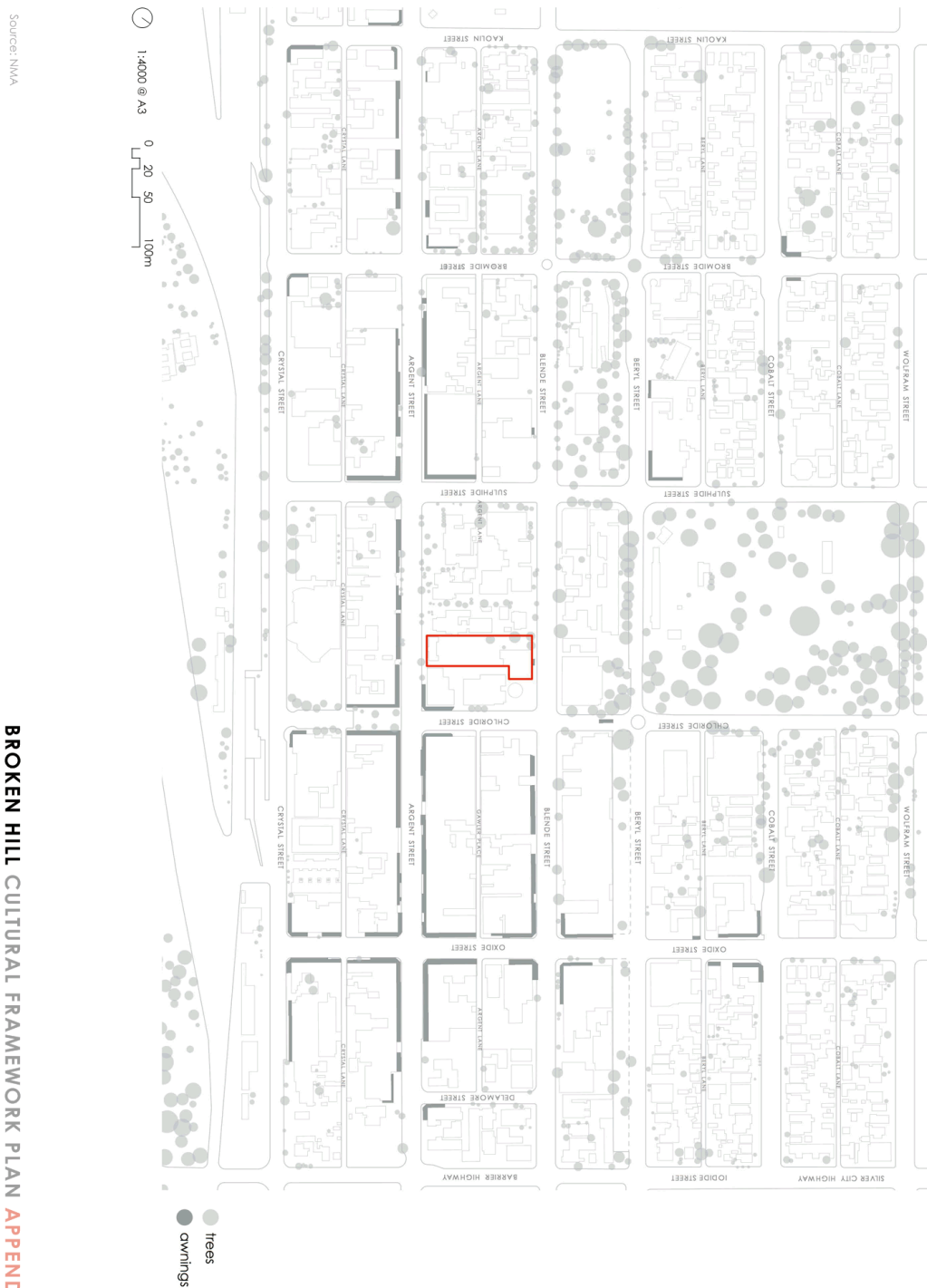
### PARKS + REGENERATION



Source: Nesson Murgitt Architects (NMA)

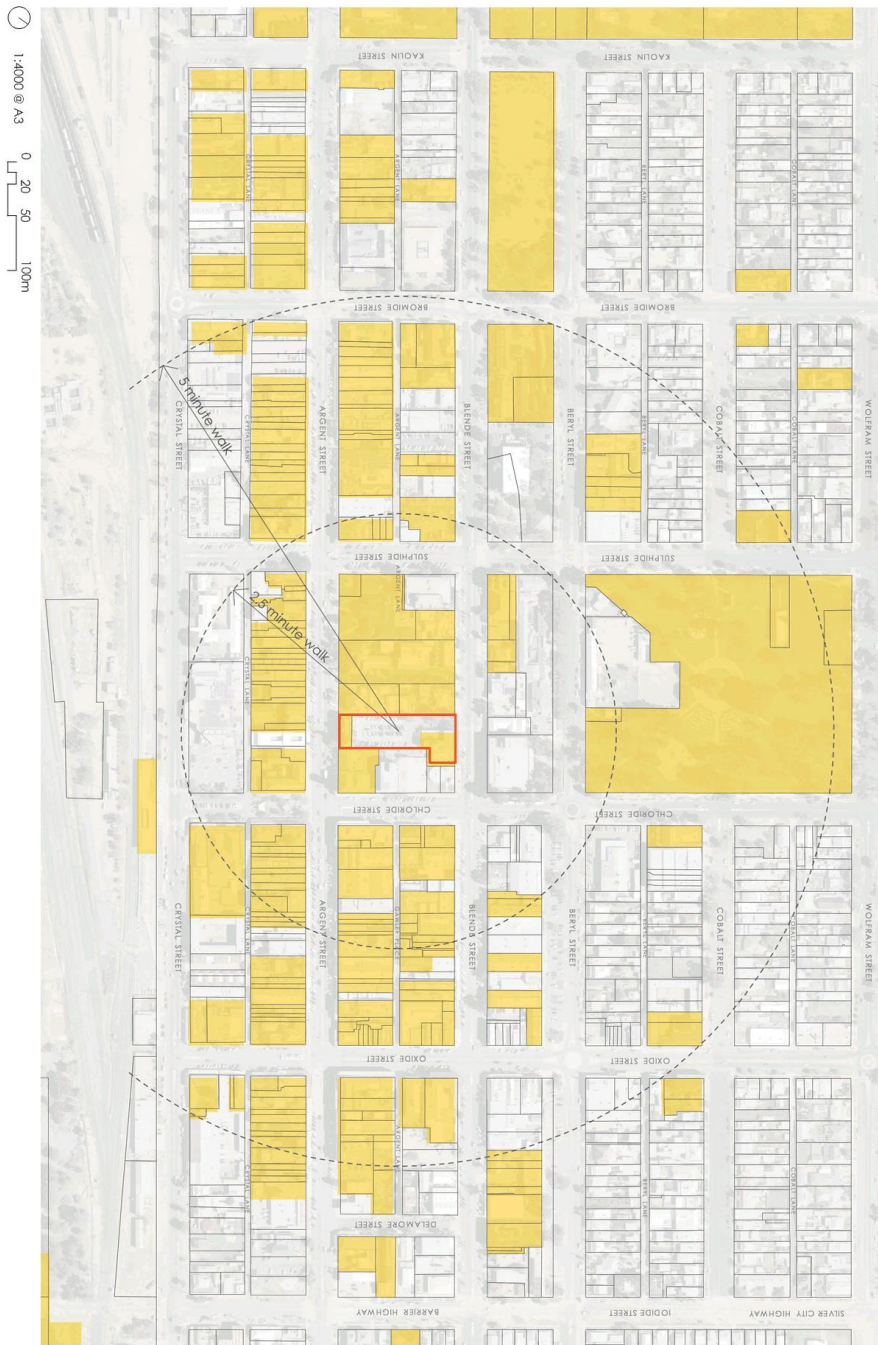
## BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX B - STUDY DIAGRAMS

STUDY DIAGRAMS  
CANOPY + SHADE



BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX B - STUDY DIAGRAMS

Source: NMA

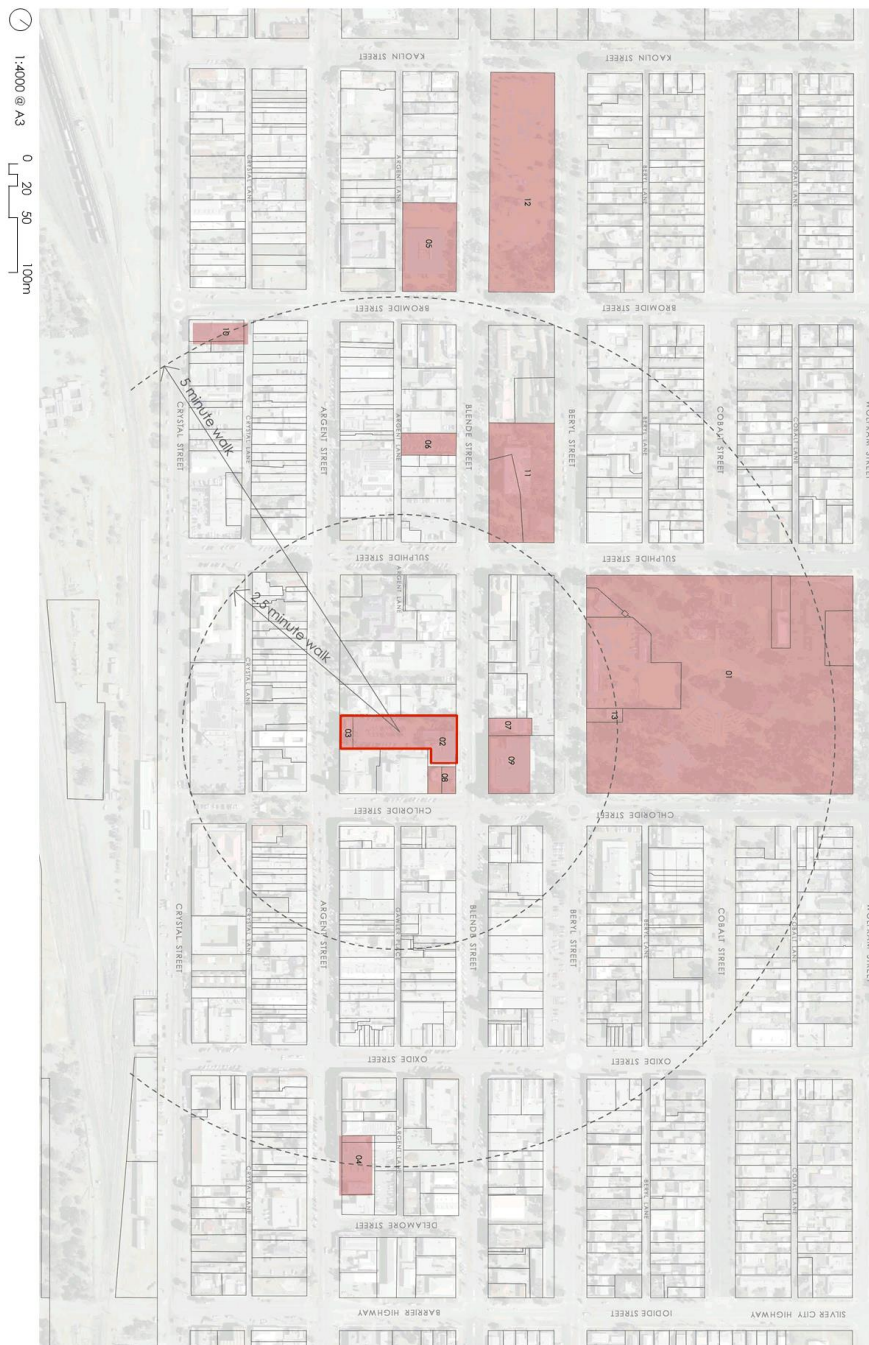


**STUDY DIAGRAMS**  
HERITAGE ITEMS

BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX B - STUDY DIAGRAMS



**STUDY DIAGRAMS**  
COUNCIL OWNED LAND



- 01 STURT PARK
- 02 CHARLES RASP MEMORIAL LIBRARY
- 03 TOWN HALL FACADE
- 04 BROKEN HILL REGIONAL ART GALLERY
- 05 TOWN HALL REGIONAL CINEMA
- 06 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION CENTRE CARPARK
- 07 AGED PERSON REST CENTRE
- 08 ROUNDHOUSE PUBLIC TOILETS
- 09 AGED PERSON REST CENTRE
- 10 ALBERT TERSTEN MINING AND MINERALS MUSEUM (GEOCENTRE)
- 11 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION CENTRE
- 12 KINTORE RESERVE
- 13 BRIDGE CLUB

Source: NMA

**BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX B - STUDY DIAGRAMS**

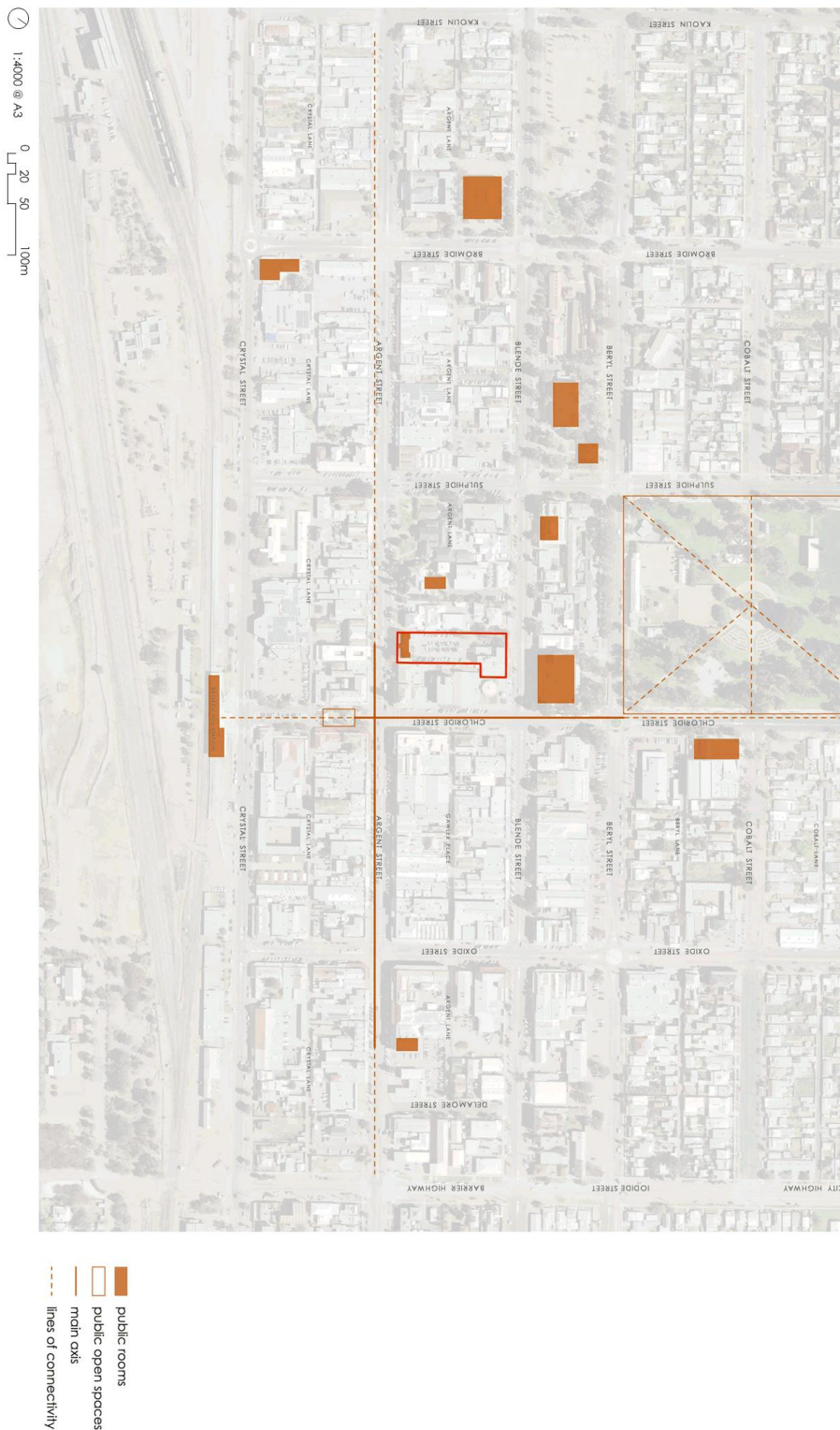
STUDY DIAGRAMS  
PARKING



BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX B - STUDY DIAGRAMS



**STUDY DIAGRAMS**  
**PUBLIC ROOMS OF BROKEN HILL**



Source: NMA

**BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN** **APPENDIX B - STUDY DIAGRAMS**

STUDY DIAGRAMS  
MOVEMENT

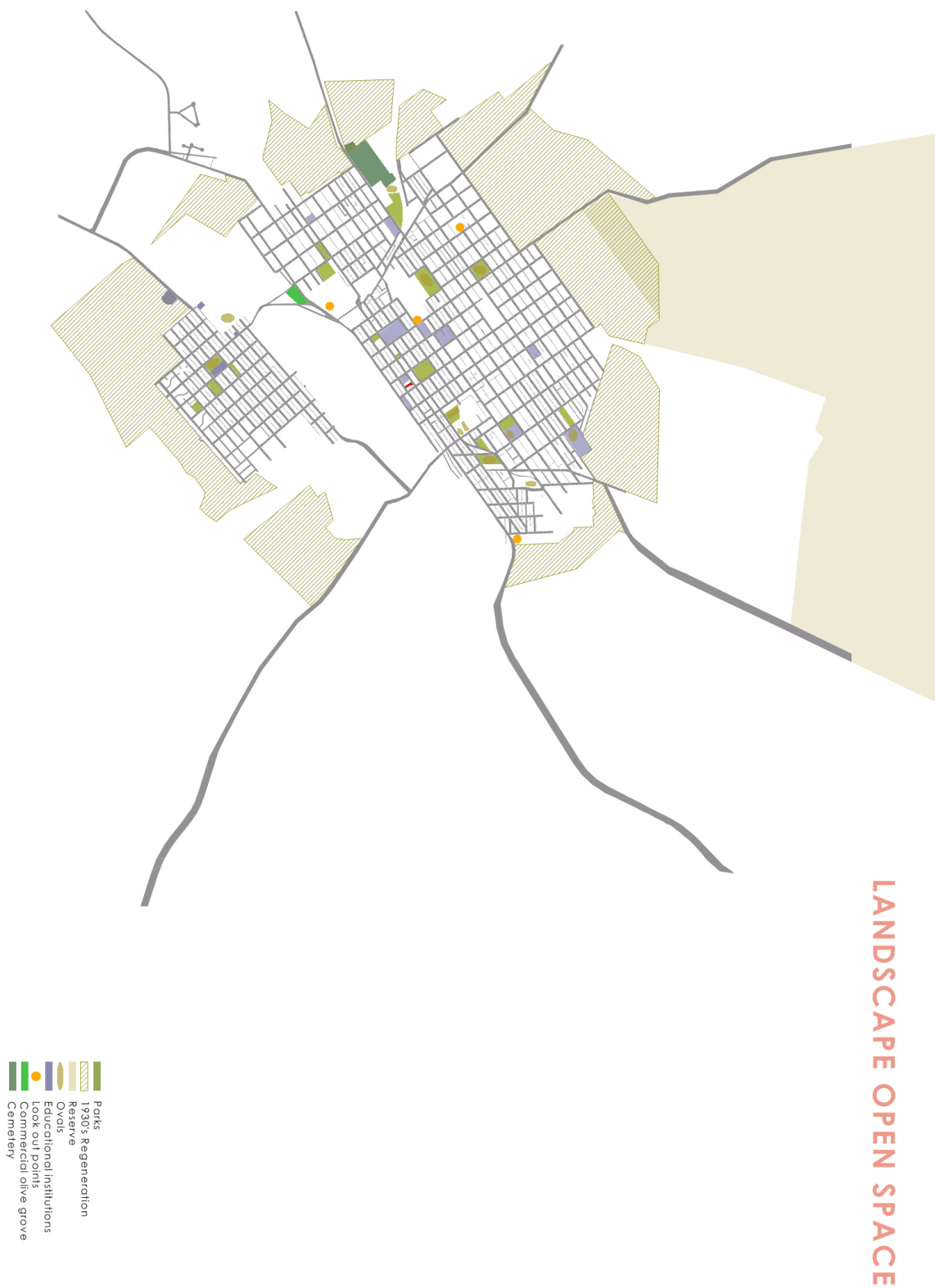






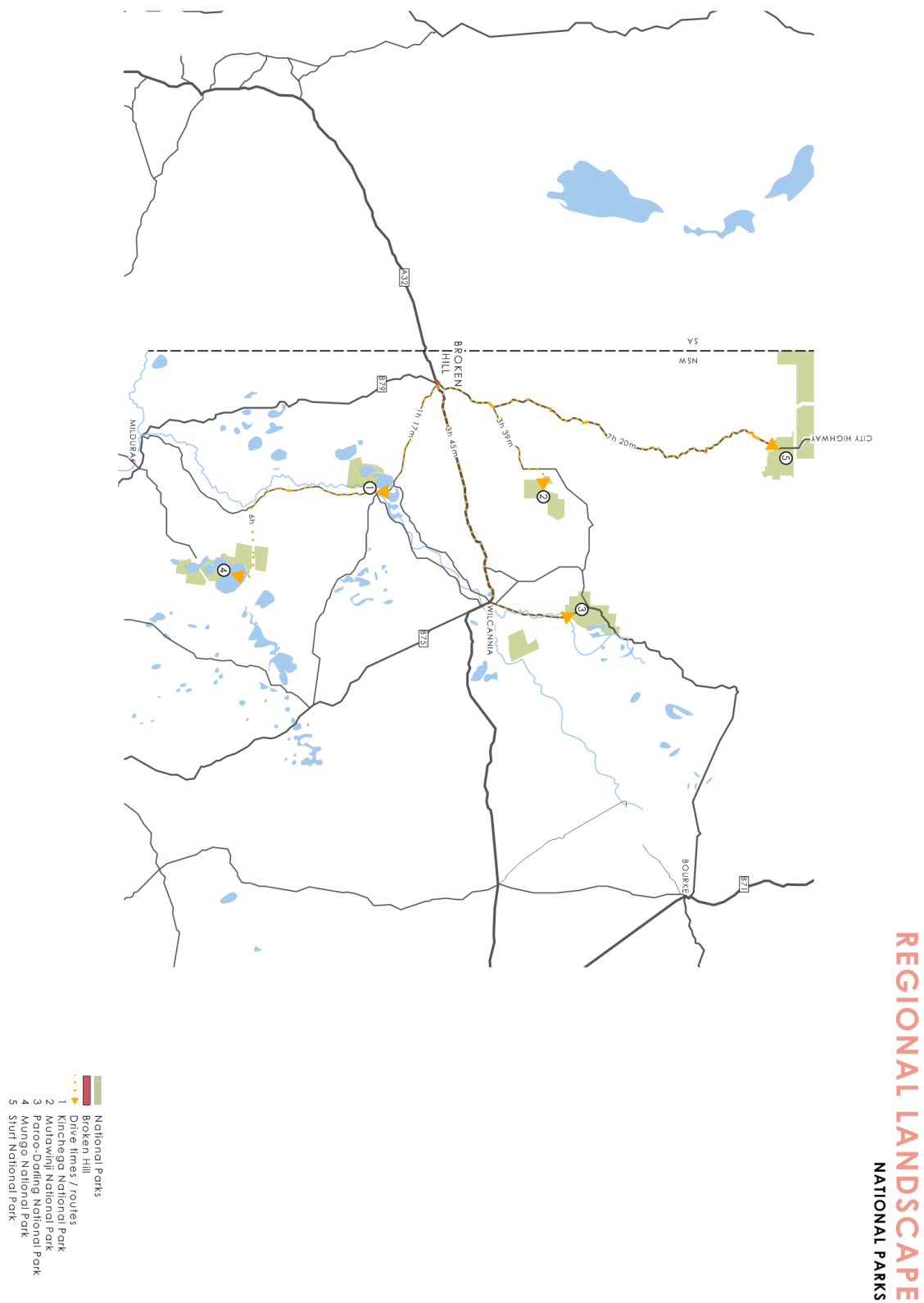
Source: 3dd

**BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX C - sue barnsley design report**



Source: SBD

BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX C - sue barnsley design report







[illegible]

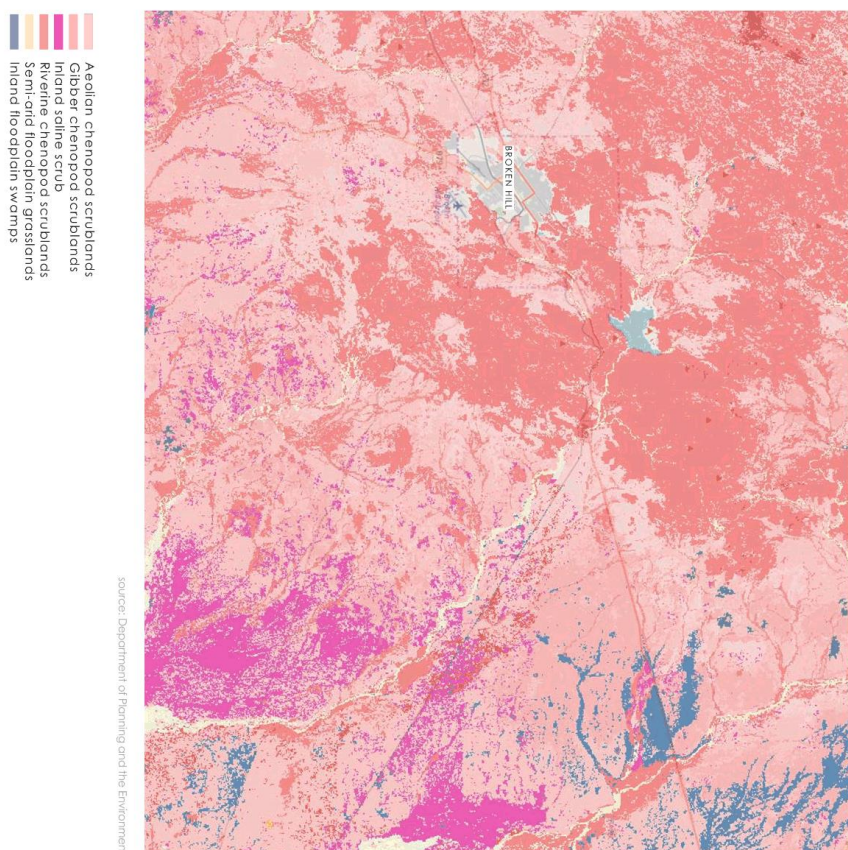
Hydroline  
Water bodies  
Water Storage  
Wetland  
Overland Flow Path  
Catchment Boundary

## HYDROLOGY

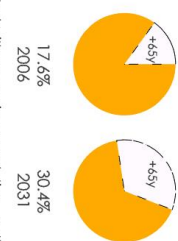
### OVERLAND FLOW PATHS

## UNDERSTANDING PLACE

### VEGETATION COMMUNITIES



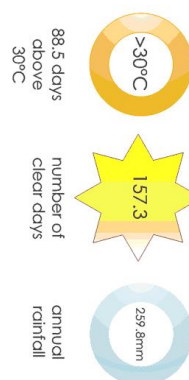
### SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS



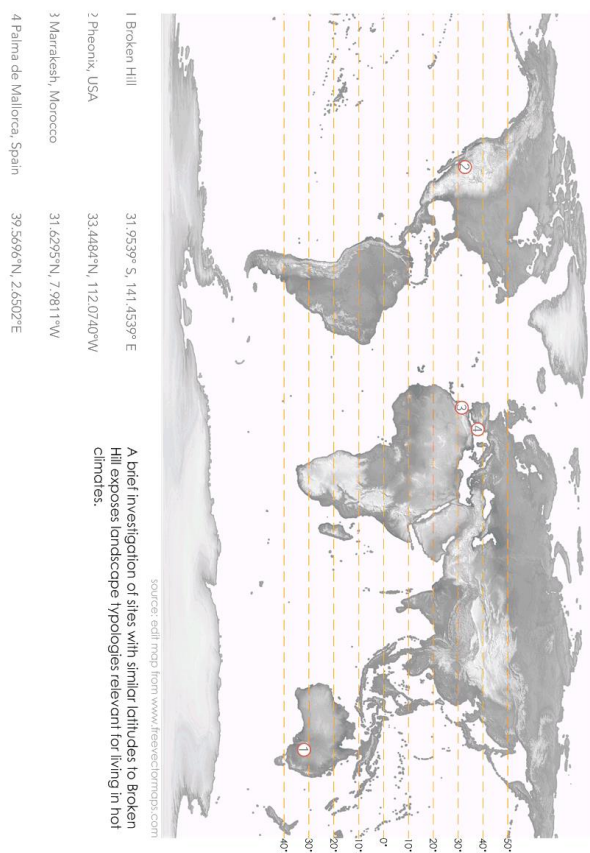
Broken Hill is confronted with an ageing population - as the proportion of people aged 65 and over is projected to reach a third of the population by 2031. In the same time period the number of young people is expected to halve.

source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Bureau of Statistics

### EXTREMES IN CLIMATE



### ARID CLIMATE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES



A brief investigation of sites with similar latitudes to Broken Hill exposes landscape typologies relevant for living in hot climates.

### BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX C - sue barnsley design report



ARID CLIMATE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

ROOFTOPS

Broken Hill's famous clear skies and cool nights make rooftops and roof gardens a promising and under explored typology for the city - a space to view the surrounding landscape and unique urban forms of Broken Hill.



TOP: rooftops, morrakash source: sbd  
BOTTOM: sa fiera park, palma de mallorca, ravelitat fibcs source: landezine.com



TOP: rooftops, morrakash source: sbd  
BOTTOM: ethnobotanic garden, oaxaca, source: gardenesign.com



TOP: rick joy studio, tuscon arizona, source: studiointjoy.com  
BOTTOM: dar al-hossoun gardens, farouddint, morocco, source: alhosoun.com

COURTYARDS AND SQUARES

Shade and thermal mass become key issues in mitigating extremes in climates in arid regions. shade provision and materiality are areas ripe for exploration in a city such as Broken Hill with history so intertwined with geology.



ARID GARDENS

Water elements to help increase evaporative cooling opportunities and the use of stone to highlight the unique geology of Broken Hill and help mitigate heat contamination could be key strategies for outdoor spaces.

plaza near palma cathedral, mallorca source: sbd



source: google images

BROKEN HILL CULTURAL FRAMEWORK PLAN APPENDIX C - street trees design report



STREET TREE SPECIES



PRECEDENTS



An exhibition garden showcasing indigenous landscape management practices, foregrounding a cultural relationship to landscape.



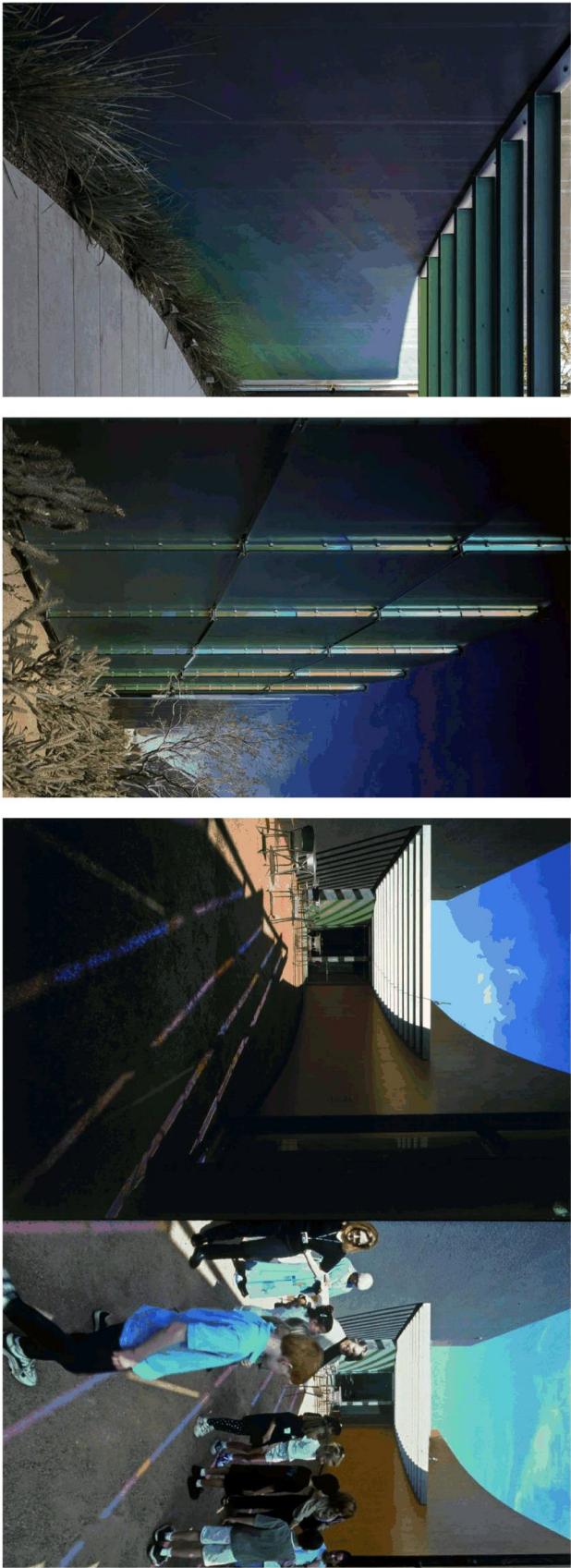
cultivated by fire, Taylor Cully Isthmian, Berlin 2017, source: telnet.au



the bathrooms, Cuatro Cuatros, Baja California, Toller Architects, source: archdaily.com

Consideration of materials in a location such as Broken Hill create opportunities to reference both the heritage of the city, seen in the rough hewn stone walls on buildings such as the regional gallery, as well as the unique geology underpinning the city's development.

PRECEDENTS



scotsdale museum of contemporary art, arizona, will bruder, source: willbruderarchitects.com





## Page 92





**Appendix C**  
Full list of stakeholders engaged to date

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Jason	King	Screen Broken Hill
Rachael	Harvey	Department of Education
Tracy	Fraser	Broken Hill Council (Librarian)
Alison	Wayman	Broken Hill Council (Outback Archives staff)
Maureen	Clerke	Councillor
Jim	Nolan	Councillor
Darrin	Turley	Mayor
Marion	Browne	Councillor
Christine	Adams	Councillor
Maureen	O'Donnell	Aboriginal elder
Bodger	Bates	Aboriginal elder
Steve	Morfin	Broken Hill Chamber of Commerce
Tara	Callaghan	Broken Hill Council (director of Art Gallery and Minerals Museum)
Linda	Nedger	Outback Astronomy
Susan	Thomas	Broken Hill Arts Exchange
Cathy	Graham	West Darling Arts
Cathy	Farry	West Darling Arts
James	Roncon	General Manager
Trevor	Culjor	Buslink Broken Hill Pty Ltd
Jared	Paul	Parks and open spaces asset planner
Anthony	Misagh	Chief Operations Officer
Ngotho	Beaman	Ability Link - Live Better Community Services
Rozia	Nu'man	Corporate Responsibility Officer

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED BY BARBARA FLYNN

Artists:

Badger Bates  
Kenzee Patterson  
James Tylor

Museums, curators, art advisors and arts organisations:

Tara Callaghan, Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery  
Blake Griffiths, artist, workshop supervisor and curatorial assistant to Callaghan, Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery  
Susan Thomas, Broken Hill Arts Exchange  
Cathy Farry and Cathy Graham, West Darling Arts  
Emily McDaniel, independent curator, Sydney

Councillors:

Maureen Clark

Policy:

Andrew Overton, Overton Creative  
Andrea Roberts, former Executive Manager of Strategic City Development in Broken Hill, currently creative strategist Adelaide

GAPS

We know we haven't had time to speak to everyone and will continue to engage with people as they are available throughout the project.

- Scott Smith from Ti'Stole Solaris
- Larry Angell of the Patton Village Association
- Ross Mackay, Principal of Broken Hill High
- Engage Year 5/6 students in imagining the library of the future Youth Representative
- We have met briefly and spoken with Aboriginal elders Maureen O'Donnell and Bodger Bates, and will continue these important conversations.

Another gap is the potential to engage industry (film on space specifically) in understanding how this type of facility could impact on the viability and suitability of Broken Hill as an emerging industry hub. We'd need to understand what services they expect on the ground, what equipment they'd use, security requirements, etc.



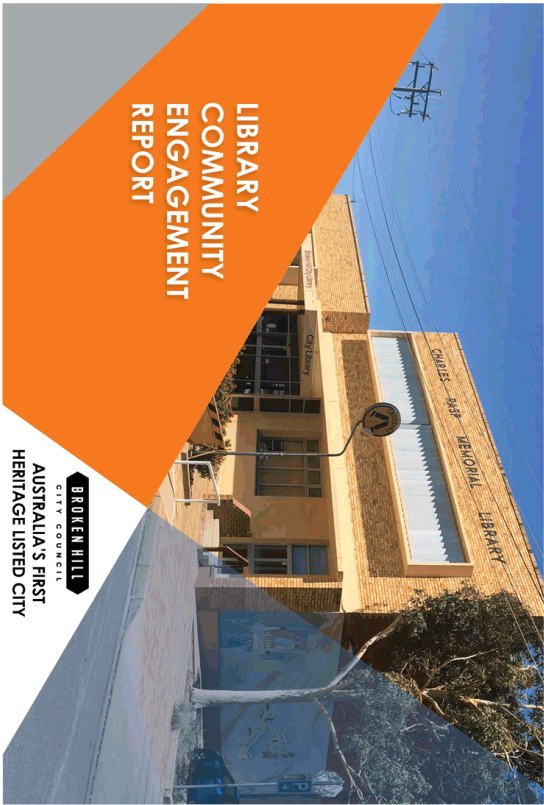
**Broken Hill Cultural Framework and Community Hub  
Stakeholder Engagement Discussion Guides - DRAFT**  
October 2018

*thank the stakeholder for  
their time*

<b>Introduction to the interview</b> (5 mins)  <i>To get to know the stakeholder and their involvement in the project</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and thank you for your time</li> <li>What is your role within your organisation?</li> <li>What do you enjoy about it?</li> <li>What is your interest in the Cultural framework and Community Hub?</li> </ul>
<b>Understanding Broken Hill's cultural life</b> (10 mins)  <i>To understand where culture fits in Broken Hill's priorities and why it is important</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why is culture important to Broken Hill?</li> <li>How do residents engage with culture?</li> <li>How do visitors engage with culture? (Is there a difference? Why?)</li> <li>What words would you use to define your local culture?</li> <li>What makes it unique?</li> <li>What could your local culture be? What is the potential?</li> <li>What are currently the most valuable cultural assets in town?</li> </ul>
<b>Vision for the future of Broken Hill Town Centre</b> (15 mins)  <i>To understand the stakeholders' feelings about the Town Centre and its function in the city</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When and why do people go to the Town Centre?</li> <li>What kind of experience do people get there?</li> <li>How do people get around? Why?</li> <li>What is working well?</li> <li>What is missing?</li> <li>How do people use the Town Centre in the winter compared to the summer?</li> <li>How do you cope with microclimate?</li> <li>How would you like to see the Town Centre change?</li> <li>What is important to retain and keep?</li> <li>Why is it important that it does change/stay the same? What is at stake?</li> <li>How would you define the character of Argent Street?</li> <li>What key functions do you think this Hub should have?</li> <li>Do these all need to be co-located in one place? Why?</li> <li>What belongs together?</li> <li>Who are its users in your view?</li> <li>What potential could a facility like this unlock?</li> <li>What benefits could it give the community? Visitors? Industry?</li> <li>Have you seen somewhere/something that you think is a good inspiration for what we need to achieve?</li> </ul>
<b>Vision for the Community Hub</b> (15 mins)  <i>To understand how the stakeholders view the Community Hub in the context of the Town Centre revitalisation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What would success look like for this project?</li> <li>How will we know we've been successful?</li> <li>Summarise key points and ask if they'd like to add anything</li> <li>Thank you</li> </ul>
<b>Recap and close</b> (5 mins)  <i>To summarise key points for the discussion and</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What would success look like for this project?</li> <li>How will we know we've been successful?</li> <li>Summarise key points and ask if they'd like to add anything</li> <li>Thank you</li> </ul>



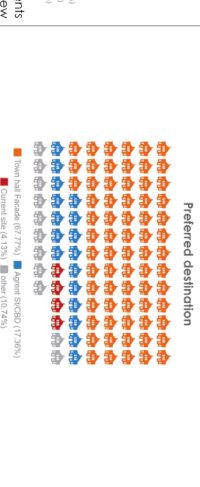
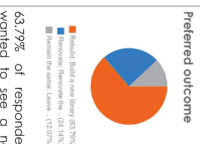
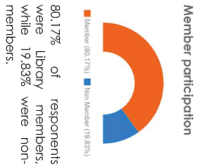
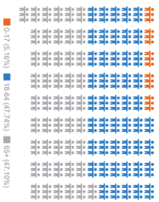




Background

Council received a total of 232 replies to its three-month engagement programme which included the community workshops, and a survey conducted throughout November 2017. The survey was available on Council's website, and hard copies were also available from the Charles Ross Memorial Library and Council's Administrative Centre. Small amounts of feedback were also collected via Facebook, e-mail, and one ordinary monthly meeting of Council. A breakdown of the age of participants can be seen in the table on the right.

Results



Of the respondents who specified where they would like to see the a new library built, 67.73% preferred the site behind the town hall foccade, 17.36% preferred a site in the general CBD, 4.13% preferred rebuilding over the existing site, and 10.74% preferred 'other' sites (ie old iceworks, Sturt Park, shopping centre district, former Essential Energy Building, and Silverton).

Library Community Engagement Report

Results (cont)

Members vs non-members



Support for a new facility is strong in both members and non-members, although significantly more non-members are happy to see the library remain as is. The site behind the Town Hall Foccade is strongly preferred by members (72%), The Town Hall Foccade site is also supported by non-members (45%), however a new facility anywhere in the CBD (40%) is also well supported.

Conclusion

Respondents have clearly expressed a desire for change at the library, with only 12% of respondents happy to see the library remain in its current state.

The most preferred option for change is the construction of a new library (64%), with the most popular prospective site being behind the Town Hall foccade (68%). Construction behind the Town Hall Foccade would also satisfy respondents who requested that a new library be built anywhere in the general CBD area (17%).

Library Community Engagement Report