

## **8.5. East Crescent Street McMahons Point - Streets as Shared Spaces**

**AUTHOR:** Matthew Noonan, Engineering Project Manager

**ENDORSED BY:** Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. East Crescent Street McMahons Point - Revised Plans Option 2a [8.5.1 - 7 pages]

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the design changes that have been made to the East Crescent Street “Shared Space”, McMahons Point, for which Council has received funding under Round 2 – “Streets as Shared Spaces” Program.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On 25 July 2022 Council resolved that the design for the East Crescent Street “Shared Space” as reported to Council on 27 June 2022 be redesigned based on the feedback received from residents who attended a site meeting on Saturday 23 July 2022. Council also resolved at the July Council meeting that the changes to the design be reported back to Council as soon as practicable and that the changes to the design be communicated to all residents/submitters, signatories to the petitions received by Council and relevant precinct committees.

On 2 May 2022, the Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport announced that North Sydney Council was successful with its funding application for Round 2 of the “Street as Shared Spaces” Program. Council had applied for funding for the creation of a small “Shared Space” at the intersection of East Crescent Street and Blues Point Road McMahons Point. The creation of new Public Open Space in this location was identified as one of the priority projects in the McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Master Plan, which was adopted by Council in April 2021.

The funding that Council has received is for a “Trial Shared Space” in this location, with the view to making it a permanent pocket park if the community supports the trial.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

As previously reported to Council, Council was successful with its Grant Funding Application through the NSW State Governments “Streets as Shared Spaces” Program” – Round 2. A condition of the grant that Council has accepted is that Council must contribute \$250,000 towards the creation of the “Shared Space” which will be matched dollar for dollar by the “Streets and Shared Spaces” – Round 2 program.

\$250,000 is available in the current capital works budget for 2022-23 for the implementation of the McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Master Plan.

The Grant Funding that Council has accepted through the *“Streets and Shared Spaces”* Program does have strict timeframe obligations-as detailed within the program section of this report.

If the project is delayed further, Council runs the risk that the funding will be withdrawn by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) who administer the *“Streets and Shared Spaces”* Program.

Public Domain upgrades to McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre was identified as one of the SRV funded projects approved by IPart and adopted by Council in its 2019-20 Delivery Program. Due to budget constraints the Master Plan is being progressively implemented as funding becomes available.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**1.THAT** Council proceeds with Option 2a to Request for Quotation and construction as soon as possible to meet the *“Streets and Shared Spaces”* grant program funding requirements for a *“Trial Shared Space”* in East Crescent Street, McMahons Point. The trial period that forms part of Councils funding Agreement is December 2022 to March 2023.

**2.THAT** feedback be sought during the trial period from December 2022 to March 2023.

**3.THAT** a post-trial report be prepared for Council at the end of the trial period inclusive of all the collated feedback as well as a Traffic Study and Human Movement Study which will also be conducted during the trial.

## LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

1. Our Living Environment
  - 1.3 Quality urban greenspaces
  - 1.4 Public open space and recreation facilities and services meet community needs
2. Our Built Infrastructure
  - 2.1 Infrastructure and assets meet community needs
  - 2.2 Vibrant centres, public domain, villages and streetscapes
  - 2.4 Improved traffic and parking management
3. Our Future Planning
  - 3.1 Prosperous and vibrant economy
  - 3.4 North Sydney is distinctive with a sense of place and quality design
4. Our Social Vitality
  - 4.1 North Sydney is connected, inclusive, healthy and safe

## BACKGROUND

A report was brought to Council at the meeting held on Monday 27 June 2022, in relation to the grant funding Council had received through the “Streets as Shared Spaces” program – Round 2, for the creation of a trial pocket park in East Crescent Street – McMahons Point.

The report recommended the following:

1. *THAT Council notes this report on the Round 2 “Street as Shared Spaces” Program funding that has been received by Council for the creation of a “Trial Pocket Park” in East Crescent Street – McMahons Point.*
2. *THAT Council notes that Community Consultation, a Traffic Study and Human Movement (Human Analytics Study) will be undertaken as part of the trial pocket park and reported back to Council in 9 months’ time.*

Council at that meeting resolved:

1. *THAT this matter be deferred to allow the conduct of a site visit and further report be provided to Council*

In accordance with the resolution of the 27 June Council Meeting, a site meeting was conducted on Saturday 23 July.

**Note:** On Friday 22 July Council received a petition with 160 signatures from local residents, business owners and visitors to Blues Point Road, expressing support for the project and requesting that the project proceeds on a trial basis before making it a permanent public open space. The petition was emailed to all Councillors.

On 25 July 2022, Council considered the deferred report from 27 June 2022. A number of speakers attended the meeting to communicate both their support and objections for the project.

Council at the 25 July 2022 meeting resolved the following:

1. **THAT** Council notes this report on the Round 2 “Street as Shared Spaces” Program funding that has been received by Council for the creation of a “Trial Pocket Park” in East Crescent Street – McMahons Point.
2. **THAT** Council thanks the residents and members of the community who attended the Councillor Site Inspection at midday on Saturday 23 July 2022 and notes the feedback provided at the inspection.
3. **THAT** a refined design for East Crescent Street project be prepared.
4. **THAT** the refined design to include detailed landscape plans showing plantings by species and location, levels, footpath treatments etc
5. **THAT** the refined design allows for:
  - One-way access sufficient to accommodate the traffic which currently accesses East Crescent Street at Blues Point Road,
  - No net loss of parking and considers the impact of angled parking on East Crescent Street,
  - Improved pedestrian access, safety and amenity of the area including continuous footpath treatment across East Crescent Street,
  - No reduction in the size of the space.
6. **THAT** the refined design, including the detailed landscape plans, be reported back to Council as soon as practicable and this be clearly communicated to residents/submitters, signatories to the petitions via email, relevant precincts and a letterbox drop in the near vicinity so that the community and other interested parties can provide feedback to Council.

The landscape and urban design consultants that Council has engaged for the design of the “Shared Space” have now prepared the refined design drawings (Option 2a) which addresses the above resolution of Council and is further explained in table 1, outlined in the ‘Detail’ section of this report.

## **GRANT FUNDING BACKGROUND**

North Sydney Council applied for and received grant funding through Round 2 of the NSW Government “Streets as Shared Spaces” Program after it had successfully been through an Expression of Interest Process (EOI) in December 2021. The EOI that Councils Engineering and Property Services Department prepared was reviewed and shortlisted by an independent assessment panel of NSW Government representatives from the department, Transport for NSW and the Office of Local Government.

Council's EOI application was assessed against the following key criteria set out by the "*Streets and Shared Spaces*" Program.

- How will the project improve walkable access and connection for people in the high street and surrounding area?
- How will the project improve people's ability to play and participate?
- How will the project improve people's ability to stay comfortably?
- How will the project improve how people connect with each other?
- What is the significance of the location to the community

After the successful assessment of the EOI, Council was requested to submit a formal grant application on 11 February 2022. The application was reviewed by the same panel against the Assessment Criteria outlined previously.

Council in its original EOI and subsequent application requested funding for a second project, "King George Street Entry (civil works, planting)" which was also identified as a priority project in the McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Master Plan. \$250,000 was requested for this project.

The "King George Street Entry (civil works, planting)" project was not funded by the Streets and Shared Spaces Program – Round 2.

Council identified in its funding application that the construction of a trial "Pocket Park" at the intersection of East Crescent Street and Blues Point Road as part of the McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Master Plan would achieve the following key Public Domain objectives:

- A more vibrant streetscape,
- More opportunities for outdoor seating and dining.
- Improved pedestrian connectivity.
- More passive public Open Space in the densely built-up village of McMahons Point.

On 2 May 2022, the Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport announced that North Sydney Council had been successful with its funding application for Round 2 of the "*Street as Shared Spaces*" Program. Council had applied for funding for the creation of a small "Shared Space" at the intersection of East Crescent Street and Blues Point Road McMahons Point. The creation of Public Open Space in this location had been identified as one of the priority projects in the McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Master Plan, which was adopted by Council in April 2021.

The Funding that Council has received is for a "*Trial Shared Space*" in this location, with the view to making it a permanent pocket park if the trial receives majority community support.

It should be noted that Council has been previously successful with its Round 1 "*Streets as Shared Spaces*" program funding application – receiving over \$1million in funding from that program for the following projects

- The “trial closure” of Burton Street, Kirribilli as a public plaza,
- The Miller Street “Pop up Shared Space” located opposite the Victoria Station Metro site on Miller Street and
- A “Street Play” Pilot Program which encompassed the temporary closure of streets to vehicles to allow ‘opening to people’ to use the road space as open/community space. Council ran that program from October – December 2020, which involved the temporary closure of seven (7) streets across the LGA for “Street Play” activities.

All projects funded under Round 1 of the “Streets as Shared Spaces” program have been implemented.

## **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Community consultation on the creation of a pocket park in this location was undertaken as part of the McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Master Plan consultation from 1 September to 1 November 2020. Refer to the “detail” section of this report.

Following the resolution of Council at its 27 June 2022 meeting a site visit was conducted on Saturday 23 July 2022 to receive and address both the support and objections that members of the community had expressed on the “Trial Shared Space”.

Council also received on the night before the site visit (Friday 22 July) a petition with 160 signatures from residents, business owners and visitors to Blues Point Road, expressing support for the project and requesting that the project proceeds on a trial basis before making it permanent.

### **Consultation during the “Trial Period”**

It is proposed that Council seek feedback from the community during the trial period from December 2022 to March 2023 and that a post-trial report be prepared for Council at the end of the trial period inclusive of all the feedback Council has received. The report will be accompanied by a Traffic Study and Human Movement Study which will also be conducted during the trial.

## **DETAIL**

Council, at its meeting on 23 July 2020, endorsed the public exhibition of the Draft Masterplan for McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Public Domain Upgrade for 60 days. Community consultation was undertaken between 1 September and 1 November 2020 in line with the Community Engagement Strategy developed for this project.

Council received a total of 115 submissions, comprising 35 written submissions and 80 online submissions. The majority (58%) of submissions received by Council supported the proposal as exhibited.

The outcome of the community consultation process and all feedback that Council had received was reported up to Council at its meeting on 26 April 2021. The weblinks to those reports are below.

[https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council\\_Meetings/Meetings/Council\\_Meetings/Council\\_Reports\\_26\\_Apr\\_2021](https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Meetings/Council_Meetings/Council_Reports_26_Apr_2021)

[Council 3743 26 April 2021 -](#)

[10.5. Masterplan for the Public Domain upgrade of McMahons Point Blues Point Road Village Centre Post Community Consultation%20\(2\).pdf](#)

On 26 April 2021, Council adopted the Post Exhibition Report and final McMahons Point – Blues Point Road Village Centre – Public Domain Master Plan following the 60-day community consultation process.

Council at the 26 April Meeting resolved:

1. *THAT Council note the submissions received.*
2. *THAT the final McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Public Domain Upgrade Masterplan, including the amendments made as a result of the feedback received during the community consultation period, be adopted.*

**Note:** The final Master Plan that Council resolved on at the 26 April, 2021 meeting was different from the initial Master Plan exhibited in September to November 2020. Changes were made to the Master Plan to reduce impacts on parking as a result of the feedback received from the community.

One of the key projects in the adopted Master Plan for the *McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre* is the creation of a small “Pocket Park” at the intersection of East Crescent Street and Blues Point Road. The consultants who prepared the Master Plan on behalf of Council (TRACT) suggested that a small pocket park in this location would bring benefit to the community through introducing some key pedestrian and traffic calming initiatives. These included the following:

- continuous footpath treatment across East Crescent Street at Blues Point Road.
- retaining the one-way ingress into East Crescent Street.
- Construction of new permanent and temporary soft landscaping elements, including trees, shrubs, ground covers and turf.
- new lighting, paving and streetscape furniture elements
- improved crossing point from Blues Point Hotel
- potential “Public Art” sculpture to be determined in conjunction with the community.
- overhead wires and cable relocated underground – subject to funding.

**Note:** In the original Master Plan adopted by Council its was proposed that the creation of the East Crescent Street Pocket Park will remove only two parallel parking spaces from each side of the street. These spaces are proposed to be relocated to the western side of Blues Point Road between Mil Mil Street and Princes Street. Refer to the Traffic and Parking Plan attached to this report for Option 2a (222-0050-00-L-SK04 TRAFFIC SIGNAGE AND PARKING SPACE PLAN), which clearly shows where the parking spaces are tom be relocated to.

As part of the community consultation that Council undertook – it specifically asked a question about whether the Community wanted a pocket park in this location. See extract below from the April 2021 Council report. The pocket Park received strong support from the Community (66.7%). The project also ranked highly in the prioritisation of projects from the Master Plan that the community wanted implemented – the project ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> – see extract below.

**Question 4 - (OPTIONAL) Do you support the proposed upgrade works at Zone 3 - East Crescent Street Pocket Park?**

The following graph shows the level of support for the proposed works in Zone 3 - East Crescent Street Pocket Park. The majority of respondents support the upgrade of Zone 3 – East Crescent Street – Pocket Park.

1. Yes - 66.7% (54 responses)
2. Neither support nor oppose - 11.1% (9 responses)
3. Oppose - 21% (17 responses)
4. Don't know - 1.2% (1 response)

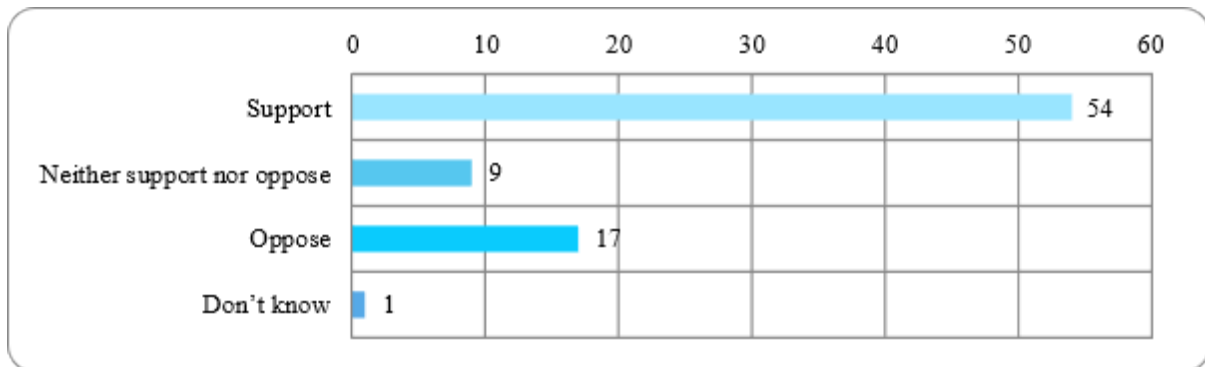


Figure 4 – Question 4 Survey Responses Graph

**Question 5 - (OPTIONAL) To assist project prioritisation, please rank the following projects in order of preference where 1 is your favourite and 6 is your least favourite.**

The following graph shows the prioritisation preference results, with Zone 2 - Blues Point Road Village ranking 1<sup>st</sup> with a score of 1.69, followed by Zone 3 - East Crescent Street Pocket Park, – ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with a score of 2.01 and finally Zone 1 - Blue Street Gateway ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> with a score of 2.28.



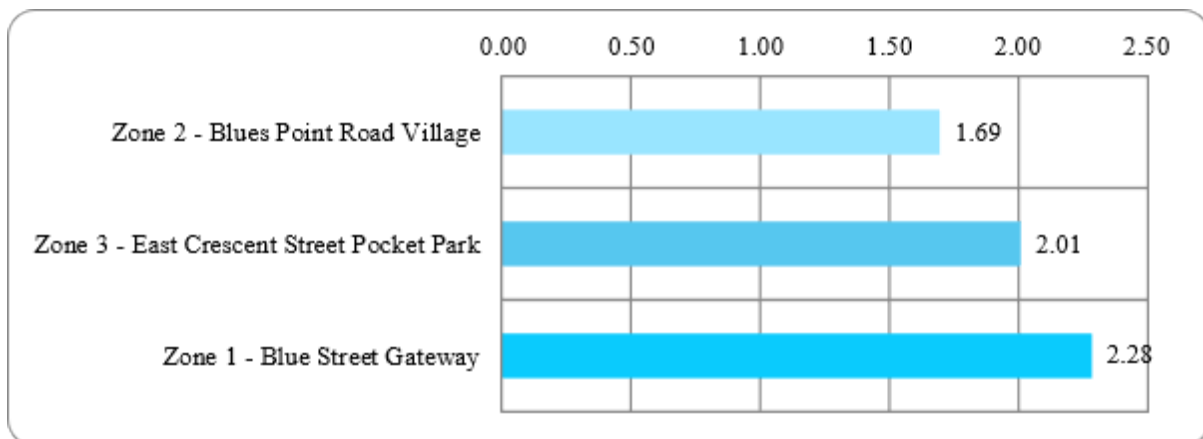


Figure 5 - Question 5 Survey Responses Graph

### **“Shared Space” (Option 2a) Temporary to Permanent Design Elements**

The temporary “*Shared Space*” Design (Option 2a) that is now before Council will incorporate features that can be easily turned into permanent features if the community supports the project and Council resolves to make the “*Shared Space*” a permanent pocket park.

For example, a number of the large planter pots from the Young Street Trial Plaza in Neutral Bay will be used in this “*Trial Shared Space*”. The mature plants (trees and shrubs) from these pots can be planted in the park if it’s to become a permanent public space in the future. The lighting and streetscape furniture elements can also be incorporated into the permanent design as can the proposed paving materials.

The construction of the continuous footpath treatment across the intersection of East Crescent Street and Blues Point Road along with the associated landscaping and drainage works would also be retained if the “*Trial Shared Space*” were to become a permanent installation.

### **Streets Alive Program**

During the detailed documentation phase, the specialist Landscape and Urban Design consultants that Council has engaged for the project (Tract Consultants) were approached by residents expressing their interest to be part of a “*Streets Alive*” group to maintain the “*Shared Space*” and potential future pocket park when completed.

Council’s “*Streets Alive*” Coordinator has agreed to establish a program for the ‘*Shared Space*’ as it will further promote community interaction with the park providing community-based gardening opportunities for those members of the community who don’t have a garden of their own. It is anticipated that this level of local “*grassroots*” community involvement will encourage participation in gardening as a recreational activity and create a sense of local ownership of the ‘*Shared Space*’ once completed. Tract Consultants have also undertaken consultation with the interested “*Streets Alive*” members for the selection of shrub and tree species which will be incorporated into the final design- Option 2a. Refer to the detail landscape plans attached to this report.



*Photo 1. The existing site – 21/06/22*



*Photo 2. The existing site – 21/06/22*



*Photo 3. The existing site – 21/06/22*



*Photo 4. The existing site – 21/06/22*



Photo 5. The existing site – 21/06/22

To meet the requirements of the resolution of Council from the July 25 meeting, Table 1 below outlines the design amendments that have been made from the original design which now constitute Option 2a.

**Table 1. – Design Changes from original design to Option 2a**

Council Resolution Reference	Option 2a - Design Amendments Resolution Reference
<p><i>4.THAT the refined design to include detailed landscape plans showing plantings by species and location, levels, footpath treatments etc</i></p>	<p>Detailed Landscape Plans have been prepared for Option 2a which identify proposed plant material by species and their location (Planting Plan). In addition, the plans attached to this report provide a general arrangement plan that shows street furniture locations (Seating, lighting, and services), materials and finishes palette, details on indicative levels and the location of paving and footpath treatments.</p> <p>Refer to plans attached – prepared by Tract Consultants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 222-0050-00-L-SK01 GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN</li> <li>• 222-0050-00-L-SK03 SETOUT PLAN</li> <li>• 222-0050-00-L-SK05 PLANTING PLAN</li> <li>• 222-0050-00-L-SK06 PLANTING AND STREET FURNITURE PALETTE REFERENCE IMAGES</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 222-0050-00-L-SK07 CONCEPT PLAN AMENDMENTS MADE.</li> </ul>
<p><i>5. THAT the refined design allows for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>One-way access sufficient to accommodate the traffic which currently accesses East Crescent Street at Blues Point Road,</i></li> <li>• <i>No net loss of parking and considers the impact of angled parking on East Crescent Street,</i></li> <li>• <i>Improved pedestrian access, safety and amenity of the area including continuous footpath treatment across East Crescent Street,</i></li> <li>• <i>No reduction in the size of the space.</i></li> </ul>	<p>A detailed plan has been prepared for Option 2a which outlines the location and finishes for a raised continuous footpath treatment across the intersection of East Crescent Street and Blues Point Road while improving the safety of the existing one-way access into the street.</p> <p>The Traffic Signage and Parking Space Plan that has been prepared confirms that there is no – net loss of parking in the immediate area as a result of implementing the “Shared Space” Project.</p> <p>The refined design for Option 2a does not result in any reduction in size of the turfed “Shared Space” area shown in the original design.</p> <p>Some changes to the surrounding soft landscape areas have been required to accommodate parking and improve sightlines to the raised – continuous footpath treatment at the intersection of East Crescent Street and Blues Point Road.</p> <p>Refer to plans attached – prepared by Tract Consultants.  222-0050-00-L-SK01 GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN  222-0050-00-L-SK02 SWEPT PATH ANALYSIS  222-0050-00-L-SK04 TRAFFIC SIGNAGE AND PARKING SPACE PLAN  222-0050-00-L-SK07 CONCEPT PLAN AMENDMENTS MADE.</p>



*Revised Artists Impression of the No 1 "East Crescent Street Shared Space" – prepared for Option 2a*



*Revised Artists Impression No 2 of the "East Crescent Street Shared Space" – prepared for Option 2a*



EXISTING LANDSCAPE



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION 02 EAST CRESCENT STREET FROM BLUES POINT ROAD - OPTION 2A  
EAST CRESCENT STREET SHARED SPACE



Before and After - Artists Impression No 2 of the "East Crescent Street Shared Space" – prepared for Option 2a



EXISTING LANDSCAPE



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION 01 EAST CRESCENT STREET LOOKING TOWARDS BLUES POINT ROAD - OPTION 2A  
EAST CRESCENT STREET SHARED SPACE



Before and After - Artists Impression No 2 of the "East Crescent Street Shared Space" – prepared for Option 2a

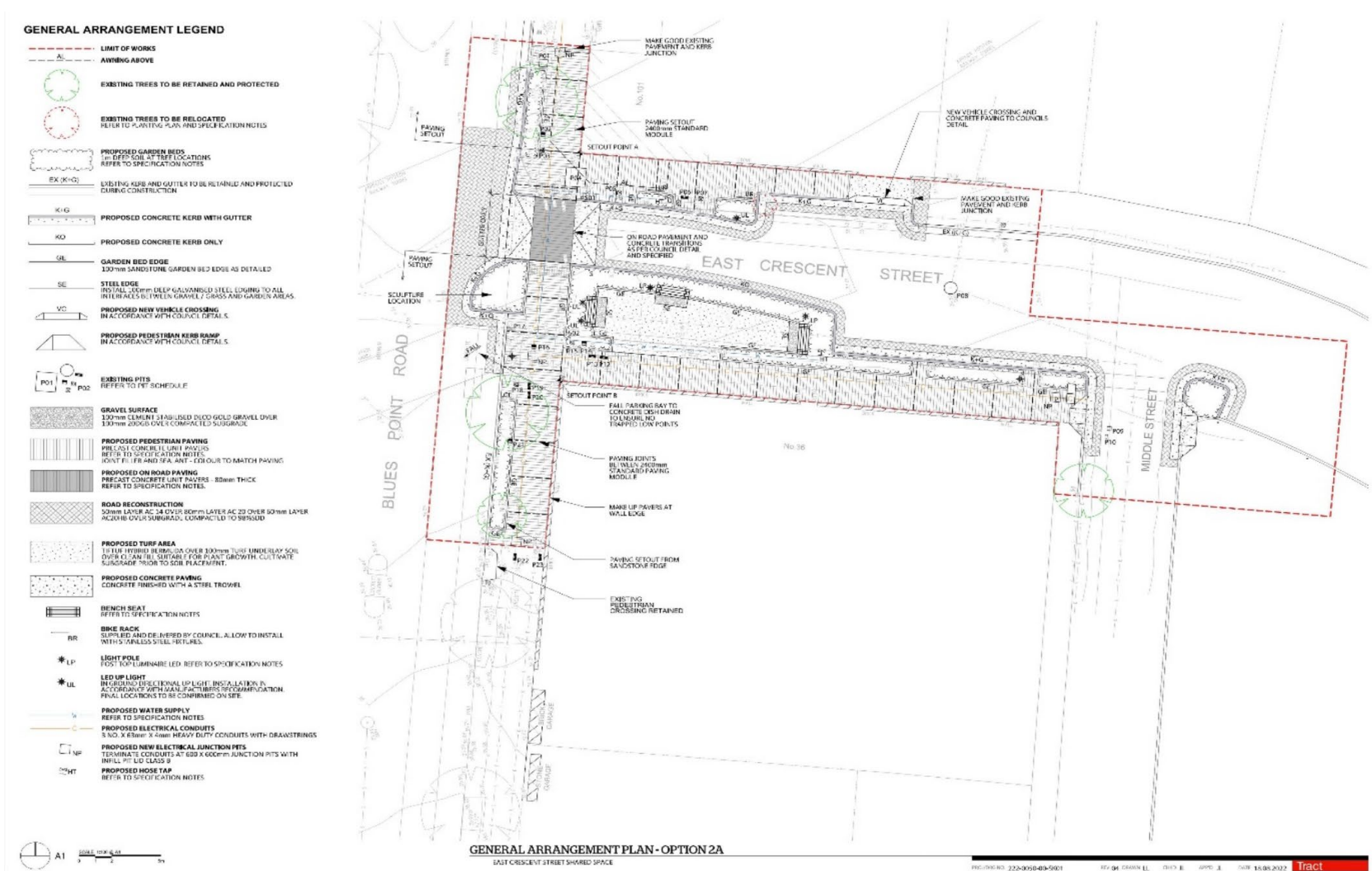
## Project Program

<b>DPIE Funding Agreement – Milestone Dates</b>		
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Approved Date</b>	<b>Variation Date</b>
Milestone 1 – Project Commencement	13/05/2022	13/05/2022
Milestone 2 – Project Concept and Approvals	01/08/2022	12/09/2022
Milestone 3 – Trial Commencement	07/11/2022	23/12/2022
Milestone 4 – Trial Completion	28/02/2023	24/03/2023
<b>East Crescent Street Shared Space – Project Variation Dates</b>		
<b>Task Description</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Detailed documentation for tender/construction purposes	13/09/2022	23/09/2022
RFQ Process	26/09/2022	28/10/2022
RFQ Award	28/10/2022	28/10/2022
Construction Commences	14/11/2022	22/12/2022
Temporary ‘Shared Space’ Trial Period Commencement	23/12/2022	24/03/2023

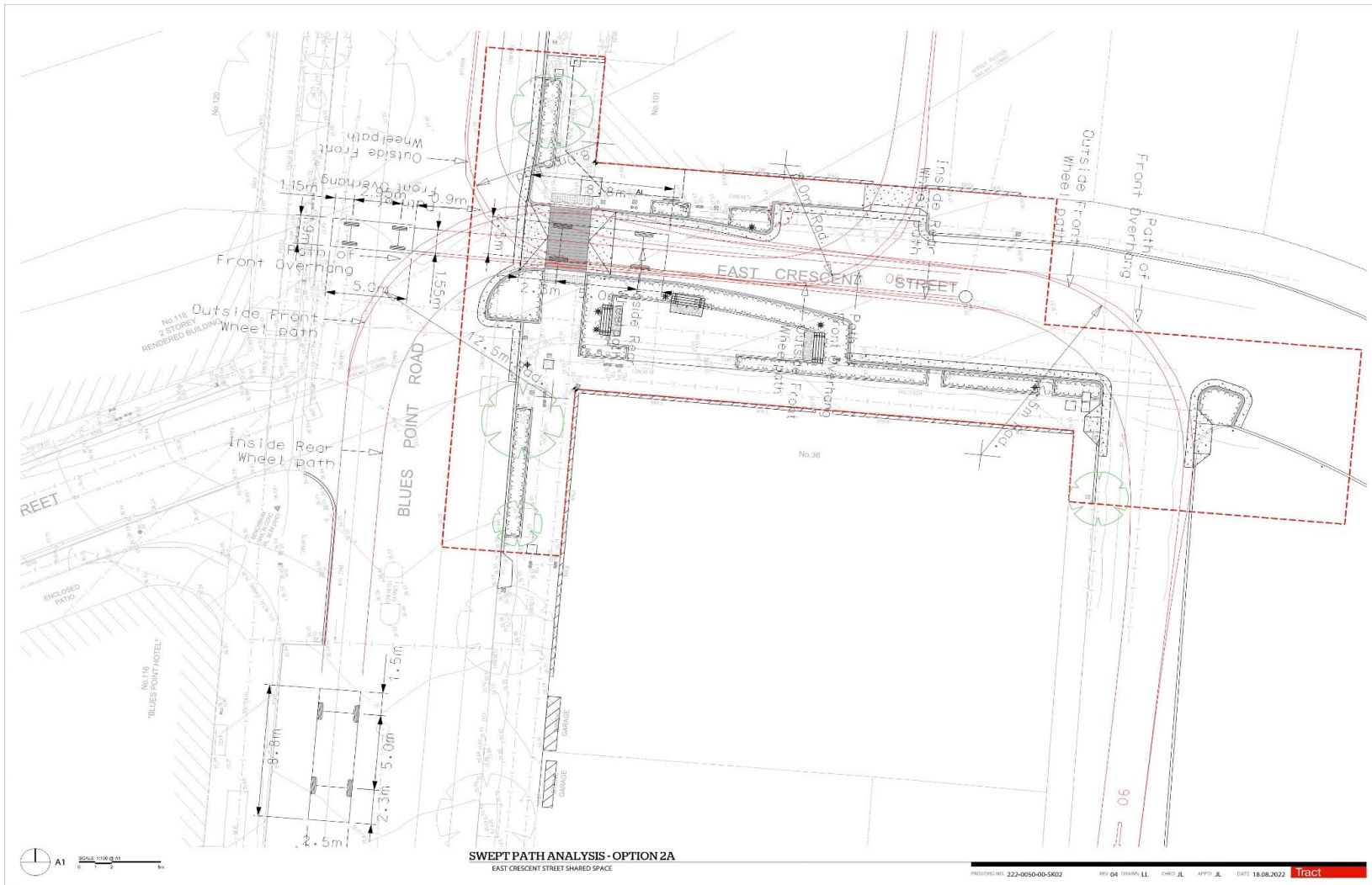
**Note:** the above variation dates for the DPIE Milestone noted in the above table is subject on approval of the milestone variation claim submitted DPIE due to delay in receiving approval for the project to proceed.

**Note:** DPIE have discussed with Council that any further delays to the project program may result in funding being withdrawn for the project.

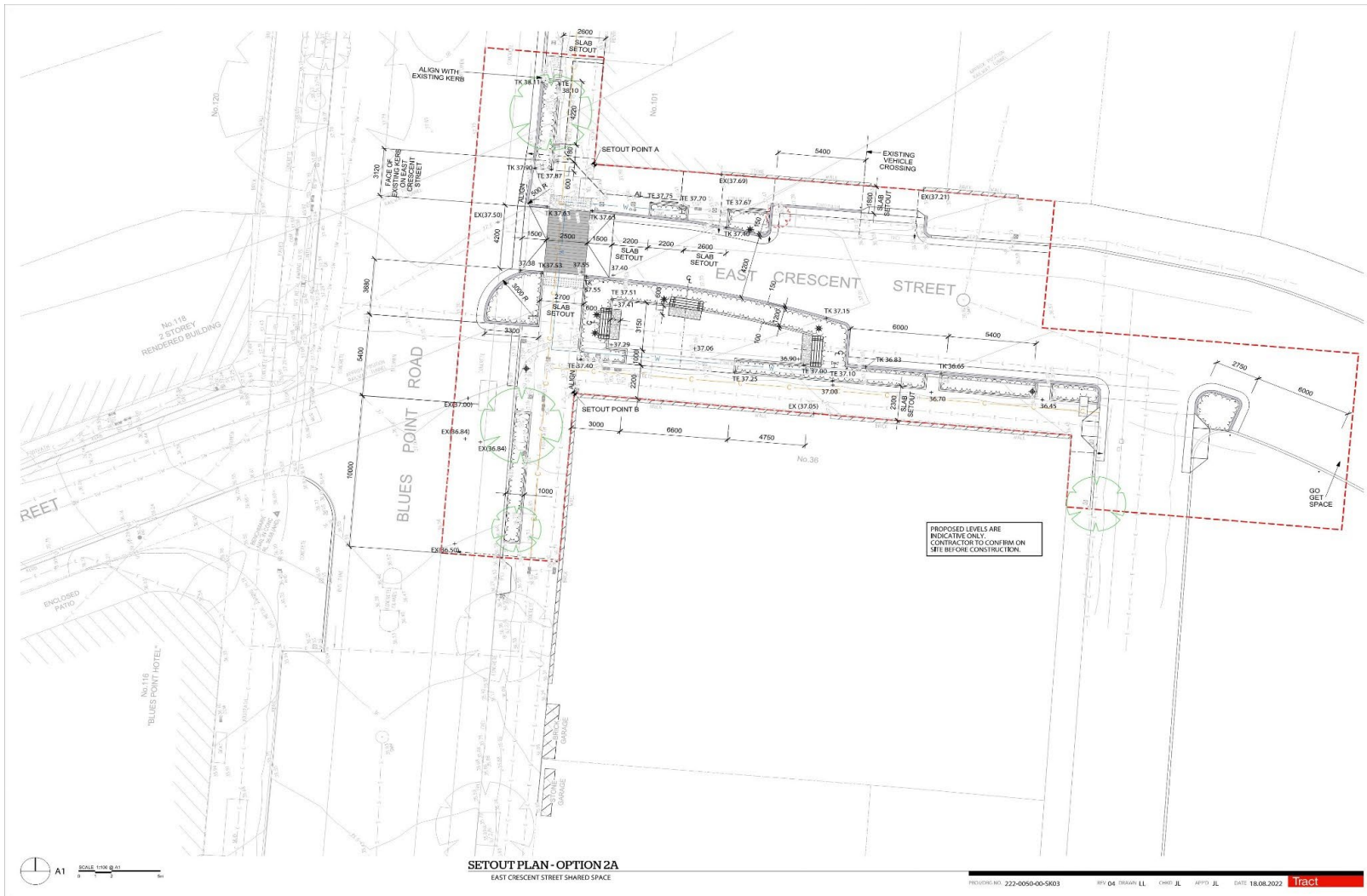




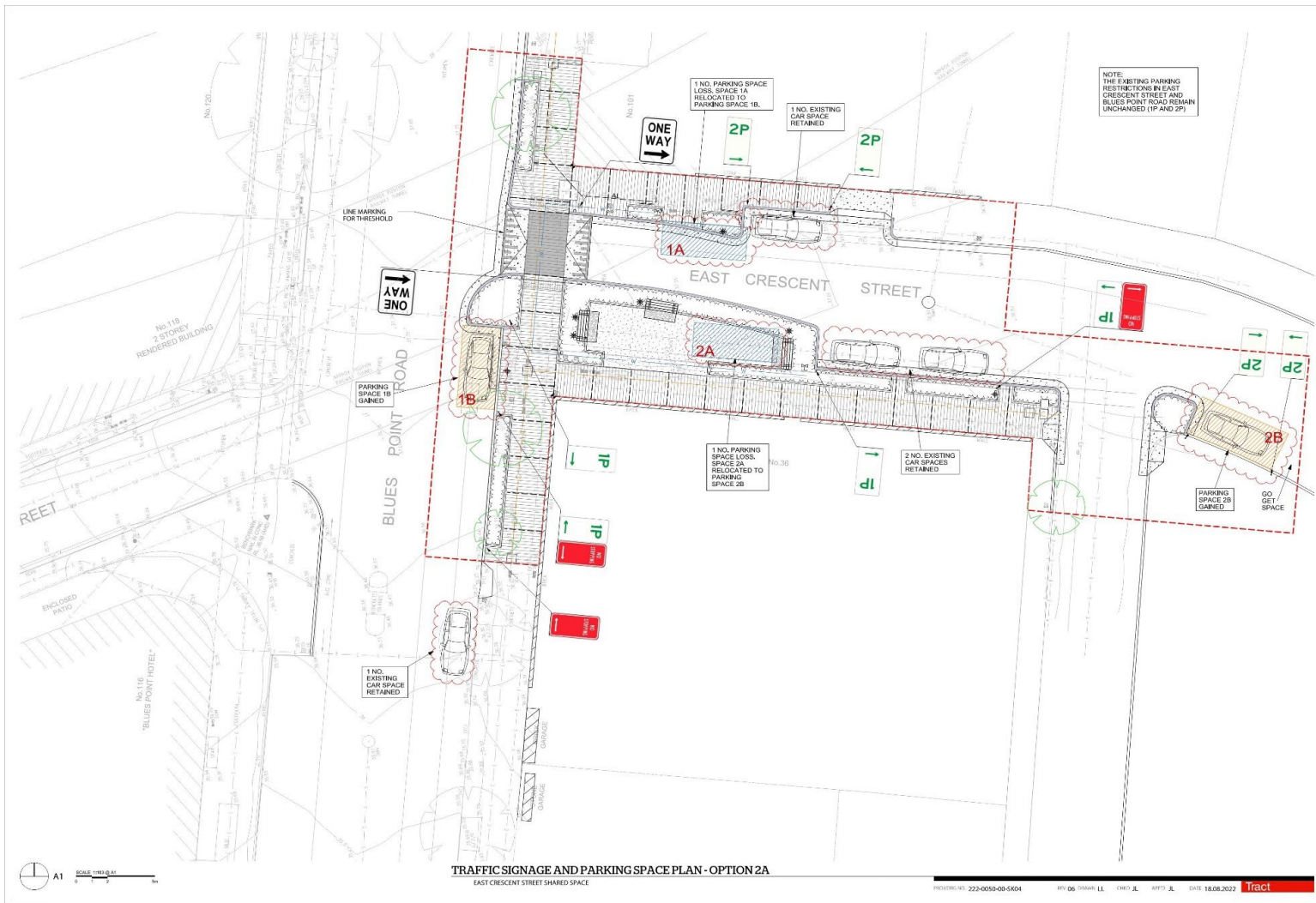
Plan No: 222-0050-00-L-SK01 GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN



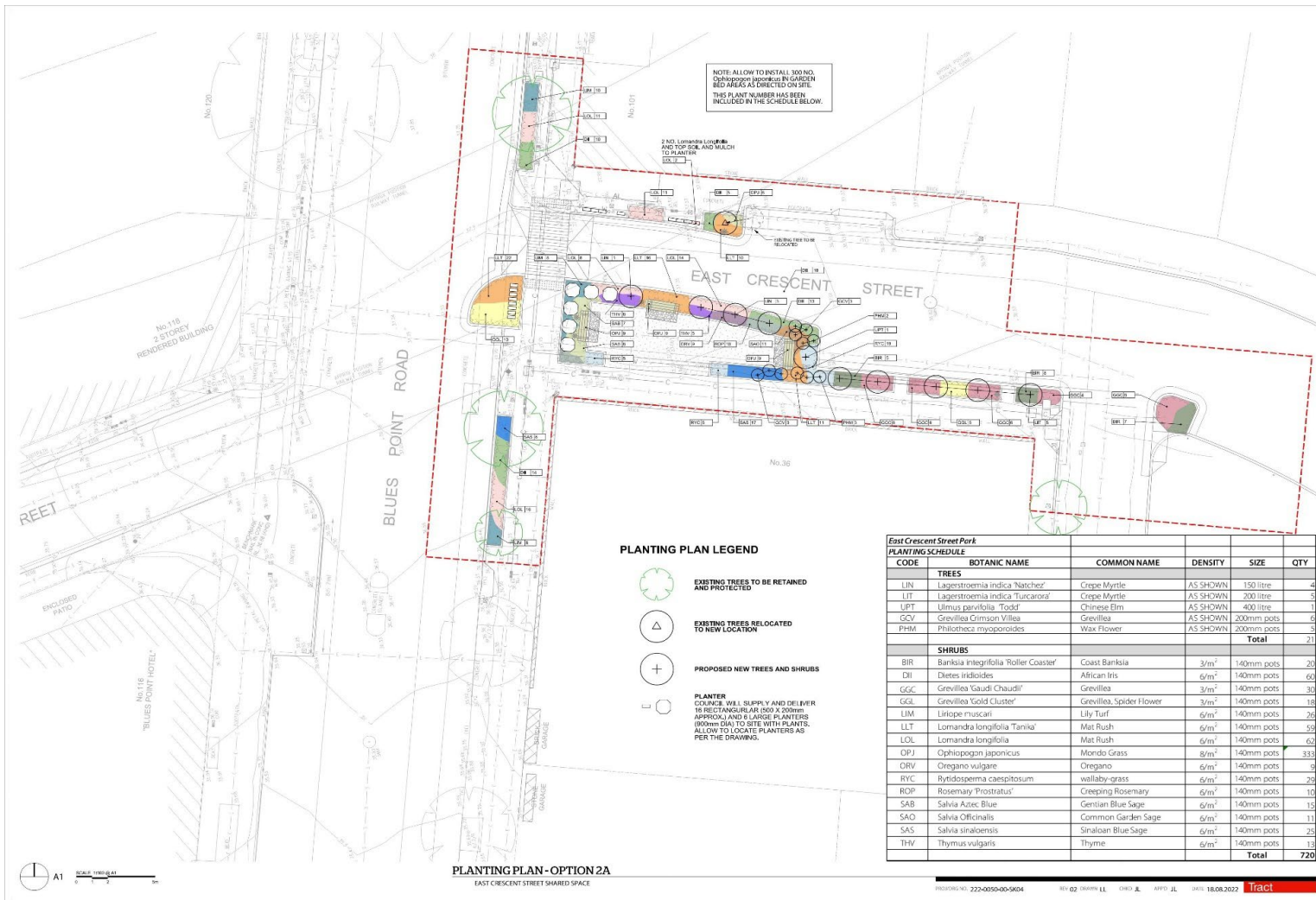
Plan No: 222-0050-00-L-SK02 SWEPT PATH ANALYSIS



Plan No: 22-0050-00-L-SK03 SETOUT PLAN



Plan No: 222-0050-00-L-SK04 TRAFFIC SIGNAGE AND PARKING SPACE PLAN

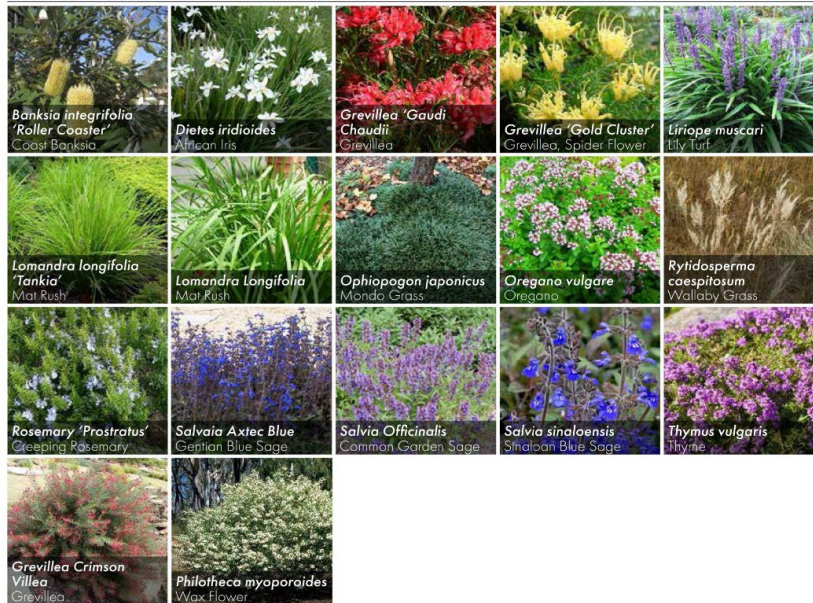


Plan No: 222-0050-00-L-SK05 PLANTING PLAN

Trees



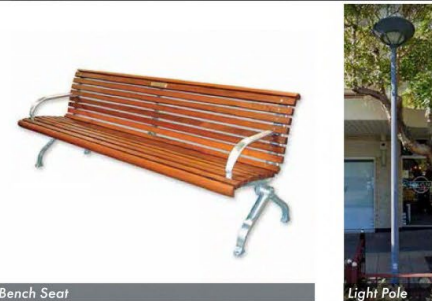
Shrubs and groundcovers



Notes

- Trees are deciduous to allow for summer shade and winter sun. The proposed species of Lagerstroemia indica (Crepe Myrtle) are along East Crescent Street as a street tree.
- New trees will not impact on solar access to the adjoining dwellings.
- The design promotes a naturalistic layering of plants that will benefit the soil system and ongoing establishment of the planted beds.
- Shrubs are low growing and have been placed so they do not block the visibility of vehicles for pedestrians. They have been used to separate the East Crescent Street road pavement from the shared space seating area.
- Species are robust and complementary with seasonal interest.
- Plants are predominately native and flowering to assist in building the biodiversity attributes of the neighbourhood in attracting micro fauna and birds.
- Edible herbs have been included within the beds.

Furniture



Bench Seat

Light Pole



Pots from Young St, Neutral Bay

Bike Rack

PLANTING AND STREET FURNITURE PALETTE REFERENCE IMAGES - OPTION 2A

EAST CRESCENT STREET SHARED SPACE

PROJECT NO: 222-0050-00-SK06

REV 02 DRAWN LL

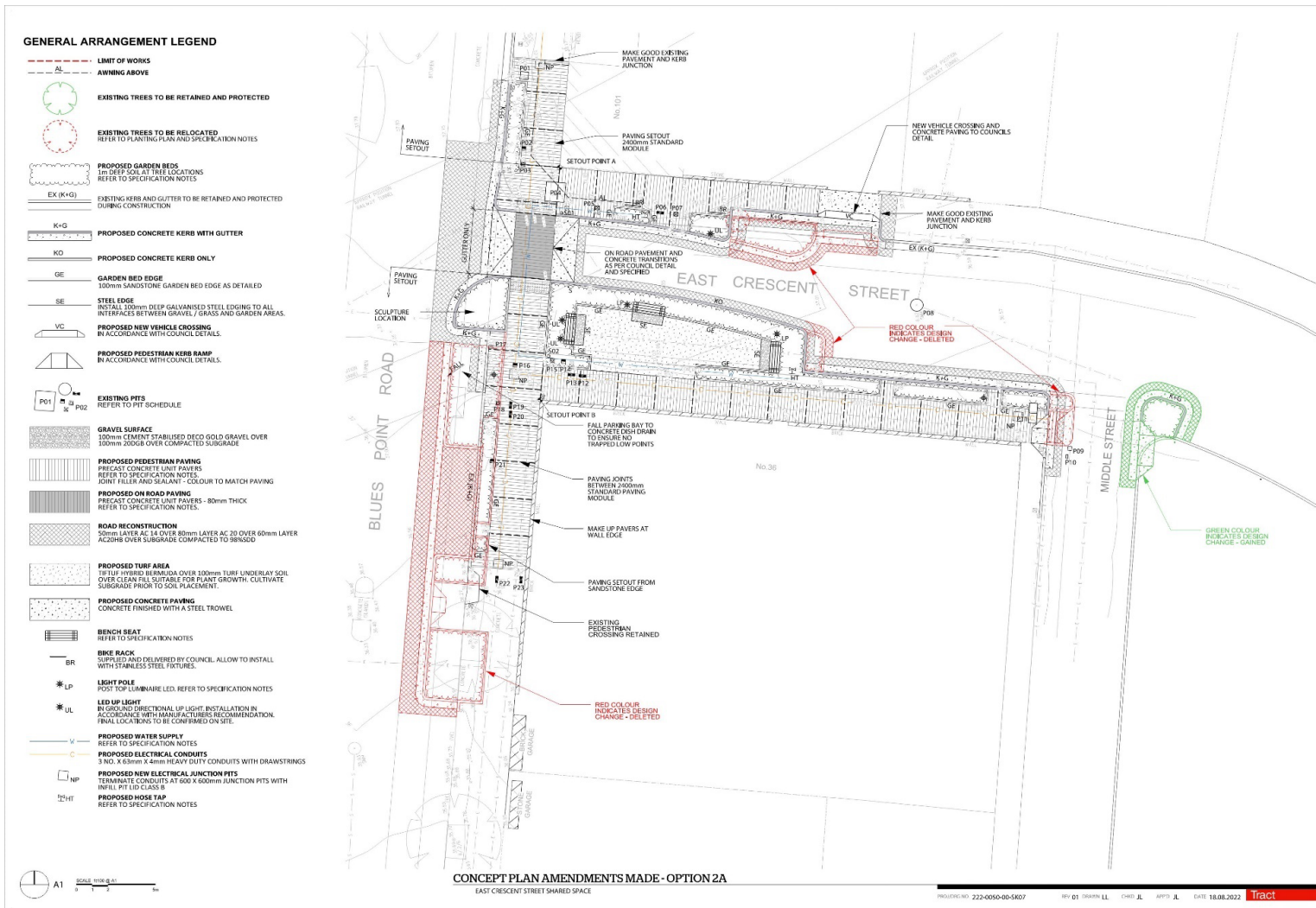
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DATE 18.08.2022

Tract

Plan No: 222-0050-00-L-SK06 PLANTING AND STREET FURNITURE PALETTE REFERENCE IMAGES



Plan No: 222-0050-00-L-SK07 CONCEPT PLAN AMENDMENTS MADE