

## Proposed ancillary works at Narrabeen North Public School within a coastal wetlands area

### Landscape Design Statement – NNPS Designated Development

Company	DesignInc
Project Name	Narrabeen Education Precinct
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**The primary landscape design strategy within the coastal wetland area is to tread lightly within the existing vegetated area and ensure is an emphasis on the end user function with a strong focus on connection and circulation whilst.**

The main pedestrian entry for the site is through the environmentally sensitive Coastal Wetland Zone adjacent Namona St. The proposed design for the school entry provides a greater sense of arrival which significantly assists with wayfinding and contributes to the overall sense of place. The design proposes a generous entry threshold combined with a widened entry path to provide unencumbered access to the school with views directed towards the heart of the school and the heritage bini-domes. Every effort has been made to provide a design which is both as environmentally sensitive as possible, whilst still providing the necessary upgrade to circulation for the school campus.

#### Site Levels

The existing site grades in the designated development area rise abruptly from the southern and western boundaries before flattening off and gradually rising towards the existing school buildings. The existing topography has been largely left as is with the exception of the new main entry walkway which requires cutting to achieve compliant accessible ramps. The secondary boardwalk entry to the west has been designed to sit lightly in the landscape and mostly sits above existing topography. The proposed substation located along the boundary requires a small area of excavation and retaining walls.

Changes in level have been dealt with sensitively through the landscape around existing site features. The use of tactile indicators and handrails, which would fragment landscape spaces and cause potential hazards, has been kept to a minimum by ensuring path grades are as gentle as possible.

#### Tree and Vegetation Management

The designated development area has been identified as containing important and sensitive vegetation classified as Swamp Oak Tall Forest and zoned Coastal Wetland. The intent is to tread lightly through this sensitive area and to maintain all vegetation that is not directly impacted by the proposed works. A detailed vegetation retention strategy is provided in conjunction with the project arborist and ecologist, the intent of which has been followed within the landscape design.

The proposed works will require the removal of 8 existing trees and various understory planting. The final alignment of the proposed works including the entry path and walls have gone through multiple feasibility investigations to provide the best outcome for the school. The final arrangement considered circulation, security and the location of existing trees and vegetation. The design team in conjunction with the project arborist and ecologist decided upon the proposed option as having the balance for the considered factors.

Tree and vegetation losses as a result of the proposed works will be offset as part of the proposed revegetation strategy for the site, which will, over time, mitigate the negative impacts and restore an ecological balance.

## Outdoor learning zones

The creation of multifunctional spaces within the school, maximising usage within a footprint constrained by existing trees and sensitive site features. Outdoor passive learning spaces are proposed within the natural environment which will allow students to utilise the front setback of the school.

## Planting Palette

The proposed planting palette will reference and supplement the existing vegetation character of the school and the surrounding Narrabeen coastal wetland area. The resulting outcome will be largely native species which are already well established within the area and suitable to the local ecological conditions.

The proposed plant species has been carefully selected to meet relevant standards and guidelines including the elimination of spikes and the specification of a plant palette that is non-toxic and safe for children, while minimizing the need for maintenance.

## Boundary Treatment

The design proposal retains the existing landscape character to the project boundaries. The native wetland vegetation character along the boundaries is a mixture of tall trees, sparse understorey shrubs and dense groundcovers and grasses which provides softening and screening of the proposed and existing school buildings. The proposal retains and enhances this vegetated boundary treatment by removing weeds and revegetating with native understorey plant types.

Signed



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For DesignInc Sydney Pty Ltd