

FRENCHS FOREST BUSHLAND CEMETERY

LANDSCAPE DESIGN STATEMENT

Spackman Mossop Michaels has been engaged by Lighthouse Project Group on behalf of Northern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust to prepare the Landscape Design and brief Landscape Statement for the proposed development of a new Chapel and upgrades to the proposed Function room for the Development Application submission to Northern Beaches Council. The Landscape documentation and this landscape statement should be read in conjunction with the Architectural and other design team drawings and specialist reports submitted with the development application.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located within the Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery in Davidson. The Cemetery is bounded by Hakea Drive to the south west, Ashworth Avenue to the north east, Karbora Avenue to the south west, and the backs of residential properties to the north west along Hydnes Place. Garigal National Park is located within close proximity to the north west.

The natural environment of the cemetery is composed of plant communities occurring in soils derived from hawkesbury sandstone. A number of existing established trees occur within close proximity to the project area and have been identified for retention including T 204 *Angophora costata*, T 207 *Eucalyptus pilularis*, T 281 *Angophora costata* and T 285 *Angophora costata*. Numerous platings of both native and exotic species also occur within the cemetery.

The proposed chapel and Function room are located close to the entry of the Cemetery off Hakea Drive. The project site generally slopes gently to the north-west, a small creek flows in the same direction and extends along the eastern side of the entry drive.

LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL

The key design objectives and principals for the landscape proposal for the site aims to:

Respect the natural bush setting and character of this established Cemetery and provide suitable amenity for a range of proposed uses.

THE CHAPEL

The landscape proposal seeks to establish a suitable setting and pedestrian connections to the Chapel, be responsive to the revegetation of the riparian zone associated with the existing creek and provide a natural and contemplative space associated with the Ashes Garden.

PROPOSED FUNCTION ROOM

The landscape proposal seeks to establish an improved setting for the Function room and provide a suitable space for outdoor gatherings and events. .

THE CHAPEL

A new chapel is proposed east of the entry drive as you enter the Cemetery off Hakea Drive.

An existing creek line identified as 'Waterways and Riparian Land' in the Warringah DCP 2011 extends along the length of the eastern side of the entry drive .

A shared pedestrian and vehicle environment is proposed to extend along Darwinia Drive, and also towards the new Chapel. An upgraded pedestrian path will connect the proposed Function room to the Darwinia Drive and onto the shared environment leading to the Chapel. These new and upgraded paved areas are proposed to have asphalt finish. Leading from Darwinia place to the Chapel, a pedestrian access is proposed along the northern side of the shared environment. Granite pavement edging is proposed around the centre of the vehicle turning circle, north west of the Chapel.

To the north of the Chapel. The landscape will establish the setting for the approach and departure to the Chapel for both the hearse and pedestrians. The proposed plants are to be native species and support the overall character of the cemetery. Species selection will provide year round colour and seasonal change.

A medium sized ornamental tree is proposed to be positioned with the roundabout, The *Calodendron capense* - Cape Chestnut- is an attractive medium sized tree with a broad canopy and a seasonal colour display in Spring and summer.

A rendered blockwork wall (matching the finish of the Chapel) to the north of the shared environment leading to the chapel will provide suitable massing to this entry drive and significant presence at the threshold to the Chapel entry. The block wall will provide immediate screening to the maintenance sheds located to the north and also offer a level of noise mitigation to this services area. In time proposed native plants will provide significant screening to the wall.

To the south of the Chapel, the new ashes garden will be characterised by native plantings, granite pavement and low profile plinths for memorial plaques. A simple loop configuration of the footpath will provide an accessible and easy circulation through the garden. Plant selection will provide year round colour and offer seasonal change. Pathways within the tree protection zone of Tree T207 *Eucalyptus pilularis* are proposed to be constructed as an elevated deck.

The existing creek line is proposed to be cleared of weeds and revegetated with suitable locally occurring species from the following two plant communities; Coastal sandstone heath - Mallee (S_HL08) and PCT 1824 and Sydney north exposed sandstone woodland (S_DSf11) and PCT 1783. Species selected will display year round colour and support the bushland setting of the cemetery. The existing *Cyathea cooperi* - Scaly Tree ferns located along the banks of the creeks provide great amenity and shade to the creek edge and are proposed to be retained.

A new pedestrian bridge will provide connection from the entry drive over the creek and towards the proposed Ashes Garden. The Bridge will have a 1.8m wide and meet DDA requirements.

PROPOSED FUNCTION ROOM

The upgrades to the Function room includes upgrades to the landscape along the north, western and the south western sides of the building.

To the north west of the Function room, a new water feature will provide a focal point within this space. The proposed water feature will be a shallow pond (under 300mm) with small water jet / fountain to provide surface movement. The water feature will be clad in sandstone.

Native screen planting is proposed behind the Anzac Memorial to help screen views to the vaults in the east from the Function room and the eastern colonnade. Screening species include *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (Blueberry Ash), *Elaeocarpus eumundi* (Quandong) and *Waterhousia floribunda* (weeping Lillypilly)

Additional screen planting of native species is also provided to the south west of the proposed Function room to help to mitigate views towards the existing carpark.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

It is intended that the cemetery would be managed/maintained by Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery (Northern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust).