



KURNELL PLANNING PROPOSAL

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

FRAMEWORK REPORT | NOVEMBER 2023

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

Elements and Outcomes

“Country as made up of a series of interconnected elements that come together to form the environmental, cultural and social system of a place. To design with Country is to design with the elements of Country.”

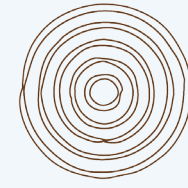
- Yerrabingin

A way to think and learn about Country is to consider Country as made up of a series of interconnected elements: Move with Country, Water Country, Sky Country, Non-Human Kin Country, Deep Country and Wind Country. This allows us to look at different parts of Country and the role they play in an overall system.

Caring for Country is acknowledging these elements, their place on Country and the processes they are involved in. We inhabit and are inhabited by Country. The Kurnell Master Plan offers an opportunity to celebrate the all-encompassing nature of Country, it's infinite reach into and across the earth and the sky.

This section explores how the Kurnell Planning Proposal can embed the community driven principles (regeneration, resilience, reignition) and GANSW's Outcomes for Country through the implementation of the Elements of Country.

Elements of Country:



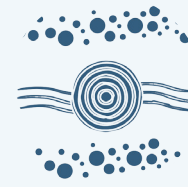
Move with Country

Enduring custodianship of Country through knowledge sharing and record keeping through story, song, dance and art.



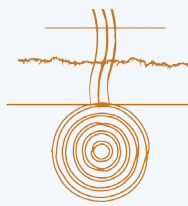
Non-Human Kin Country

Country is comprised of our kin: the animals and plants. We celebrate the connection of all living things and the intricate responsibilities within this web of connections.



Water Country

Water is the connective tissue, the circulatory system, the confluences and paths within and between Country. The meeting of salt and fresh water.



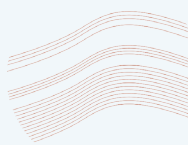
Deep Country

The most Ancient of connections and one that we honour for the many gifts it shares, the tools we create and the ochers we use to paint.



Sky Country

This is place of spirits and the ancestors. It holds knowledge of navigation, the seasons, time and Songlines. It allows engagement with our ancestors and spiritual beings.



Wind Country

Wind carries the messages of the seasons, the songs and words of our ancestors across Country. The landscape and light vibrates to a rhythm; the trees, the grass, and the clouds racing across the sky.

Outcomes for Country:



Healthy Country



Healthy Community



Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage



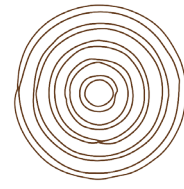
Cultural Competency



Better Places

DESIGNING WITH ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY

Move with Country



At the heart of Country is people and community. To move with Country is to be a custodian of Country; we inhabit and are inhabited by Country and must care for her.

Focusing on people allows for the development of a community that is respectful, in tune with Country and spiritually well. People are what create atmospheres and encounters that are genuine.

The development can contribute to this through spaces for education, Aboriginal / cultural enterprise development, ongoing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people and autonomous decision making mechanisms.



Planting workshops with community to establish a connection with the site



Dharawal education and language opportunities



Bush tucker and medicinal species. We care for Country and she will care for us.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN PRINCIPLES

Regeneration



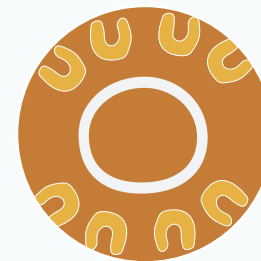
- Foster and develop appropriate governance models with First Nations stakeholders.
- Through ecological regeneration of the landscape, create opportunities for locals and visitors to experience and enjoy the unique environment of Kurnell.
- Establish a green bridge to seamlessly connect ecologies, human, and non-human kin from the north to the south of site.

Resilience



- Create a resilient environment through appropriate endemic planting schedules in order to ensure cultural enterprise opportunities for First Nations businesses.
- Ongoing education opportunities connecting to the landscape (bush food foraging, seasonal tourism sensory encounters etc).

Reignition



- Ensure ample opportunities for First Nations stakeholders to guide the development of social enterprise strategies within the site.
- Partner with relevant local First Nations organisations (land council, rangers etc) to establish long term and sustainable business opportunities for First Nations groups (e.g. kayaking, camping, cultural trail, bush food tours etc).

OUTCOMES FOR COUNTRY

Healthy Country



Healthy Community



Better Places



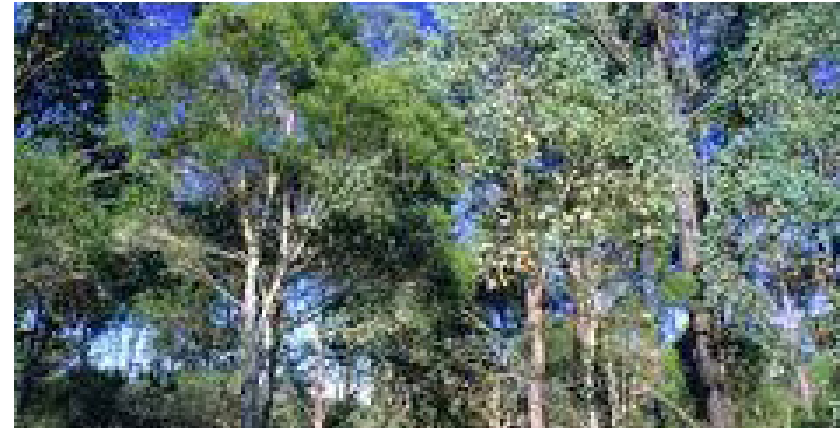
DESIGNING WITH ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY

Non-human kin Country

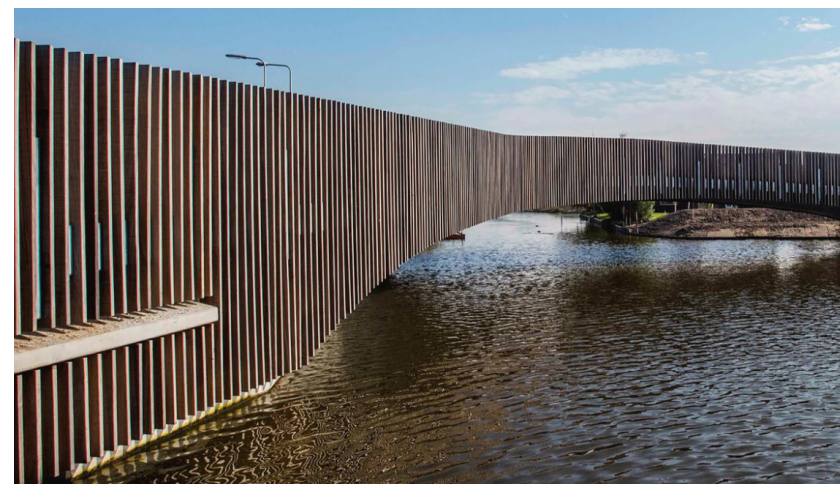


We are surrounded by our kin, the animals and plants on Country. It is our responsibility to care and nurture our kin to ensure their viability, ecological systems and connections are continued. We must learn and appreciate the connection of all living things and the roles they have within Country.

Non-human kin fills the senses with colour, smell, sounds and intuition. As people we are drawn to these elements within an environment, it fills our experience with life outside of our own.



Endemic and native planting schemes across site



Incorporating habitat in design and function of buildings - Batbridge for example



Planting to attract small birds only

COMMUNITY DRIVEN PRINCIPLES

Regeneration



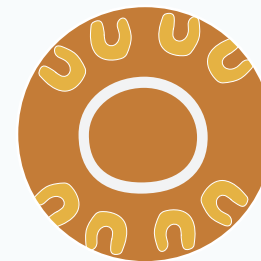
- Regenerate and strengthen wetland systems in the northern regions of the site to support non-human kin.
- Protect saltwater / freshwater ecological systems on site.
- Restoration of habitat.
- Inclusion of endemic species that are both cultural resources and habitat, honouring kinship connections.

Resilience



- Endemic planting to protect, support, and strengthen flora and fauna across all precincts.
- Create resilient ecological systems, increasing habitat for non-human kin (e.g. pollinators, bird species etc).
- Holistic design approach to shift from sustainable to resilient and regenerative.

Reignition



- Shared governance strategies and partnerships with First Nations organisations to protect non-human kin through appropriate land care practices and management (gardening, burning etc).
- Consider culturally responsive design opportunities to educate locals and visitors on site (e.g. place naming, wayfinding, signage of significant stone species and stories).

OUTCOMES FOR COUNTRY

Healthy Country



Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

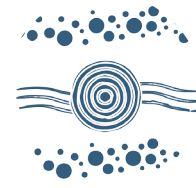


Better Places



DESIGNING WITH ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY

Water Country



Water gives us life, it sustains and nourishes us. Water is guided in and out of spaces by topography and what is placed in water travels with water. We need to care for and protect our waterways and dams because they are sustaining the land and non-human kin living there.

The on-site water storage system needs to be thoughtfully designed. Rainwater from roofs can be stored for drinking, land management and storm water coming off streets can be treated and re-used also before entering the creek system. Misting on hot summers days along streets and in nodes can create enjoyable micro climates for people using the space and use the recycled water on site.



Raingardens along streets to clean water before entering the creek system



Permeable surfaces for absorption of water



Protect existing water bodies on site and ensure buffer planting for habitat

COMMUNITY DRIVEN PRINCIPLES

Regeneration



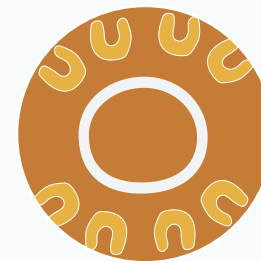
- Establish biofiltration systems to support wetlands.
- Restore access points to freshwater and saltwater bodies on the north side of the site.
- Regeneration of riparian landscape to restore the path of water to Country.

Resilience



- Consider opportunities for bodies of freshwater within eco village precincts.
- Explore water sensitive urban design opportunities with the approach to built forms across the site.
- Investigate permeable design opportunities to encourage and restore natural catchment connections.

Reignition



- First Nations knowledge holders and organisations to provide guidance on the protection of waterways and ongoing care.
- Ensure access for First Nations peoples to undertake traditional water practices (e.g. mullet haul).
- Opportunities for significant water stories to be shared during First Nations led cultural tours.

OUTCOMES FOR COUNTRY

Healthy Country



Cultural Competency



Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

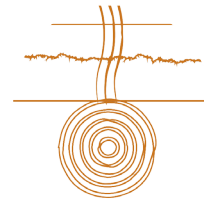


Better Places



DESIGNING WITH ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY

Deep Country

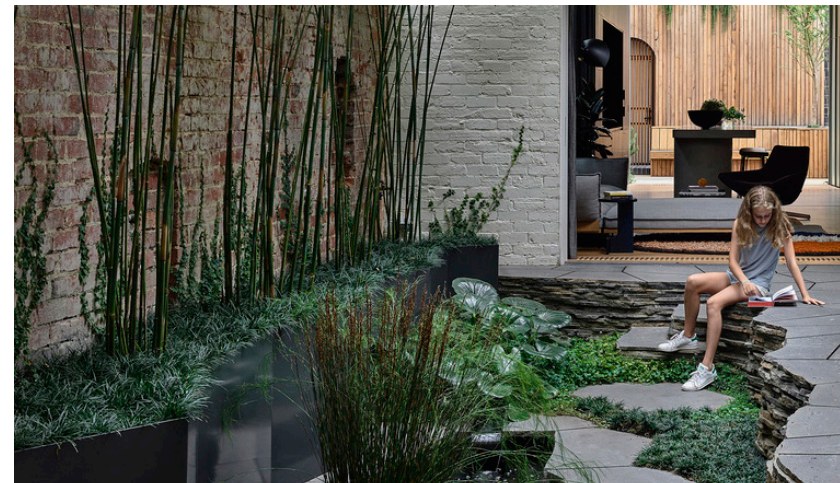


Deep Country goes beyond the surface of the ground; it's layers upon layers of spiritual and geological history. When we dance we are celebrating and honouring the spiritual beings below our feet and the many gifts it shares, such as the greenstone axe and the ochres that we paint with.

Country's connection goes from deep into the ground to high above the clouds, it's a system which works together so seamlessly. Rain comes down from the sky and is absorbed by the ground which is then used by trees and plants for nutrients before evaporating back into the sky to continue its cycle. We need to care and nurture the ground we build on to ensure these processes still occur successfully across the site.



Rammed earth to showcase the geology and colours of local Country



Nodes to have elements of exploring the physical layers of the earth



Using cultural context in architectural design. Middens to educate people on the resources used in the area.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN PRINCIPLES

Regeneration



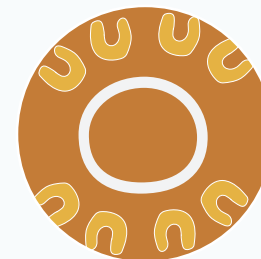
- Consider the history of sand displacement within the development of the site and opportunities to recycle soil for rammed earth.

Resilience



- Maximise opportunities to reintroduce endemic flora across the site.
- Protect and draw design inspiration from artefacts either found within the site or locally (e.g. Gweagal spears, middens).
- Explore appropriate strategies with First Nations stakeholders to protect middens on site.

Reignition



- Create strong ties between the community and cultural sites through educational opportunities (e.g. wayfinding, signage, tours etc).
- Consider culturally responsive and resilient design options, including: eco tones and patterns inspired by Deep Country.
- Partner with First Nations organisations to both protect and share stories of culturally significant elements on site.
- Explore local textures and materiality inspired by the site during design development.
- Consider the turning of the soil ceremony, ensuring appropriate consultation has taken place with First Nations stakeholders to create a culturally inclusive ceremony for all to enjoy.

OUTCOMES FOR COUNTRY

Healthy Country



Cultural Competency



Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



Healthy Community



Better Places



DESIGNING WITH ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY

Sky Country



Sky is a place of spirits, ancestors and knowledge. It tells us about navigation, the seasons, weather, time and Songlines. The sky is a spiritual and ecological clock guiding the other elements through their processes and functions.

Sky creates ephemeral shadows and patterns as they dance along the ground during the day, it enhances sensory experiences and creates enjoyable environments. The night sky tells stories, helps navigate us around Country and is a place for our ancestors. To be able to experience both day and night sky is important!



Open pockets to connect to sky



Shadow play and shelter



Ceremonial space

COMMUNITY DRIVEN PRINCIPLES

Regeneration



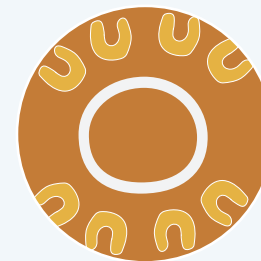
- Explore how planting schedules can work to emphasise connections to sky (e.g. placement of larger trees versus shrubs).
- Regeneration of landscape to investigate areas for ceremony to occur.
- Consider how parks, shade structures and open spaces could function to map Sky Country and represent stories within this design.

Resilience



- Employ a holistic approach to design development, striking a balance between landscape and built form to increase and encourage interactions with sky.
- Celebrate sky through visual design and art within the landscape and built form (e.g. signage as seasonal indicators, navigating Country through shadow play, communicate story within architectural design choices etc).

Reignition



- Explore how First Nations stories may guide built form elements and facilitate connections to sky (e.g. viewing platforms, signage opportunities).
- Through meaningful engagement with First Nations stakeholders, create spaces connected to Sky Country whereby locals and visitors can easily view the sky and stars.
- Explore culturally responsive design opportunities (e.g. aspects to significant land forms to be highlighted where possible).

OUTCOMES FOR COUNTRY

Healthy Country



Healthy Community

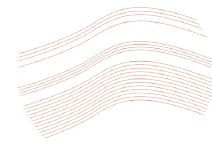


Better Places



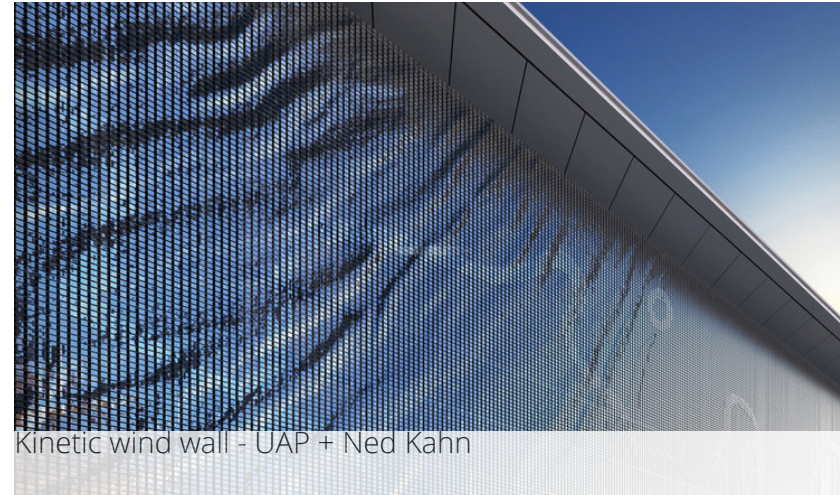
DESIGNING WITH ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY

Wind Country



Wind creates natural, environmental and spiritual movement. It carries messages of seasonal change, the songs and words of our ancestors across Country. The rhythm that sweeps through creates a sensory experience which in turn enhances the overall experience of a space. The smells of flora are carried through, along with the cool air directing you around the space. Wind is also a form of pollination, dispersing seeds across the land to encourage birth and growth.

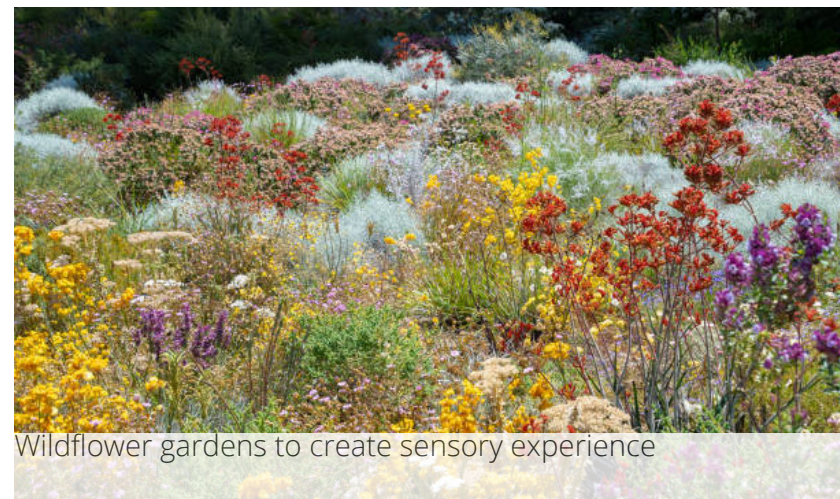
Wind is something we can feel but cannot see. It's rhythm varies and to be able to see its patterns would enhance the overall experience. It's an element of wayfinding and creates a sensory experience, guiding people with it's sounds.



Kinetic wind wall - UAP + Ned Kahn



Seasonality of planting across site



Wildflower gardens to create sensory experience

COMMUNITY DRIVEN PRINCIPLES

Regeneration



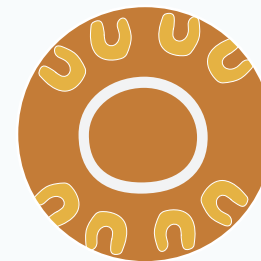
- Maximise sensory experiences through planting schedules (e.g. include endemic seasonal species that flower at different times throughout the year).
- Landscape framed by design principles to respond to the importance of wind as an element of Country.

Resilience



- Open spaces to consider function of wind in their development.
- Ensure built form and landscape design considers potential impact of Wind Country.
- Explore scalable renewable energy production to create a resilient and eco positive development.
- Investigate further opportunities to harness Wind Country in sustainable design outcomes.

Reignition



- Consider how the built form can draw from Wind Country to incorporate movement within the design (e.g. shade structures, architectural exteriors, patternations etc).

OUTCOMES FOR COUNTRY

Healthy Country



Better Places

