

Sawyer Park City Oval Concept Plan

Stage 2 of the Horsham City to River Masterplan

Introduction

The City Oval has been part of Horsham sporting and community life since the beginning of the 20th Century, with the existing timber framed grandstand built in 1924. The various buildings and facilities have been developed over the intervening years and cater for a range of activities including band practice, children's playground and picnic area, netball, cricket and football, as well as community activities, the Men's Shed and until recently, the Griampians Visitors Information Centre.

This project is the second stage of the City to River Masterplan (adopted by Council in 2019), a long-term plan which aims to enhance and revitalise the Wimmera Riverfront, Showgrounds Precinct and Central Activity District of Horsham over the next 20 years, making Horsham a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.

Tract Consultants, working in collaboration with Horsham Rural City Council Project Manager, the project Community Reference Group, and Tonkin Engineers (Traffic and Road Safety), have developed an agreed Concept Plan for the City Oval and Sawyer Park, to create an integrated network of public recreational facilities and open spaces linking to the Wimmera Riverfront. The exhibition of this Concept Plan reflects the Council's commitment to working with the community to gain widespread support and agreement from representatives of all the key stakeholders in the precinct. Having gained endorsement from the Community Reference Group, HRCC is now requesting public feedback on the proposed Concept Plan.

Upgrades to sporting and other facilities

Throughout the City Oval precinct multiple measures are proposed to make the precinct more accessible and to facilitate increased participation in sports across a range of codes. Facilities including; Change rooms and toilets, community meeting and gathering facilities, social spaces, kitchen / canteen, storage and plant rooms, umpires rooms and First Aid will be accommodated in accordance with Sporting Association Facility Standards and guidelines for local and regional sporting events.

[AFL / Netball Association Guidelines and Accessibility Standards]

City Oval

The playing surface will be widened on the short (north and south) axis to enlarge the playing area for both cricket and AFL matches. A new drain and perimeter fences (to oval and site) are proposed to replace existing drainage together with a new broadcast and timekeepers boxes, integrated into the new buildings.

Fencing to the perimeter of the City Oval will be maintained and upgraded to secure the site for licensed events and match days. Entrances into the site will be reconfigured to provide generous openings at all other times to welcome public access through the precinct. A system of retractable gates will enable easy closure of these entrances for ticketed events.

Additional covered viewing areas are proposed, including a new grandstand with ramped access and roofed area.

Grandstand

Following assessment of its heritage value and limiting accessibility constraints, the Grandstand will be replaced and HRCC will investigate interpretive measures to ensure the historical and social aspects of the grandstand valued by the community are recognised. Research and oral history from stories and memories associated with the building, together with physical elements from the structure will be meaningfully and respectfully interpreted and integrated into the redevelopment.

Maintenance area and storage

Parks and Gardens maintenance storage, Grounds Keeper Store and access around the site is provided in a new Maintenance area under the new Grandstand located on Baker Street. Various upgrades to the oval surrounds including; fencing, drainage and access to the playing field - are also proposed.

Community Facility

Replacing the existing Football Club building, the Community Facility will support a wide range of gatherings. The facility will have the potential to cater for a wide variety of groups and will provide greater access to the precinct for members of the community.

Several community groups are currently located on the site and have been contacted to consider appropriate relocation to alternate and workable sites.

Horsham Football and Netball Club - to stay in the precinct

Cricket Vic - to stay in the precinct

Men's Shed - working with them to secure a new location

Horsham Pipe band - looking to find a more suitable location

Horsham Brass band - looking to find a more suitable location

AFL Wimmera - looking to keep in the precinct

Wimmera Live Steam and Model - remain in current location.

St Johns - they looking for alternate locations

Objectives

• Maintain the current sporting role of the precinct and upgrade City Oval as a premier sporting venue

• Enhance public amenity and access with improvements to the public realm thereby encouraging passive recreation and an increased diversity of users

• Develop safer pedestrian connections throughout the whole precinct including Sawyer Park, Horsham Botanical Gardens and the Riverfront

• Provide safe and generous pedestrian and cycle routes between the Central Activity District and Sawyer Park City Oval

• Improve the capacity of Sawyer Park as an events space and supplement this with additional events infrastructure at City Oval

• Recognise significance of the Cenotaph and RSL Memorial Drive and improve access and facilities

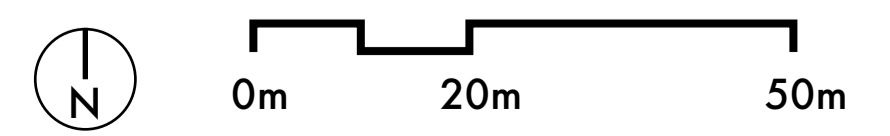
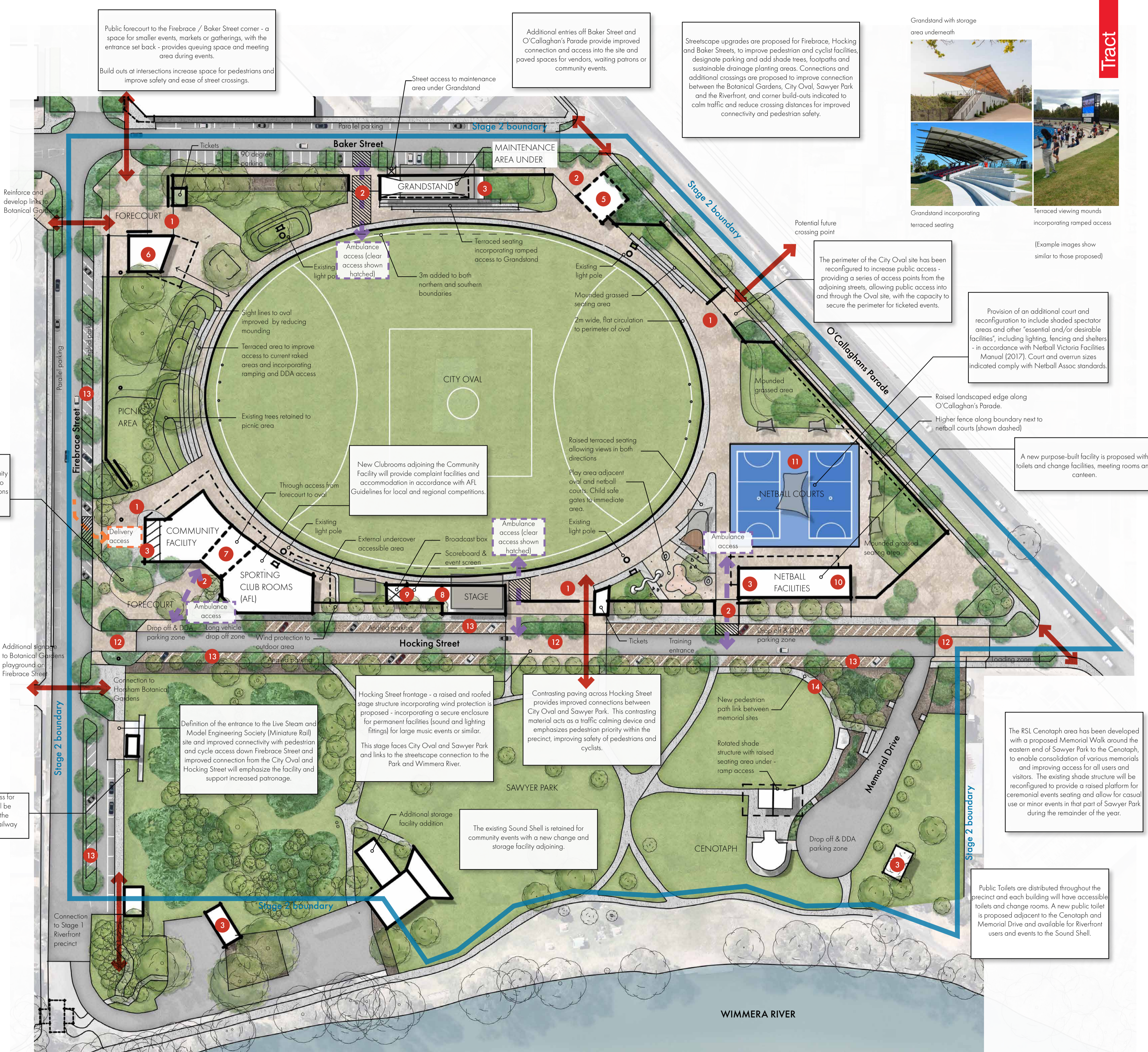
• Acknowledge the role of the Wimmera Live Steam and Model Engineering Society and improve access and integration into the precinct

Legend

- 1 Primary entry into City Oval precinct
- 2 Secondary entry into City Oval precinct
- 3 Public toilet - access varies by location
- 4 New Grandstand with maintenance area under
- 5 Existing building refurbished with new use
- 6 Food & beverage area - undercover
- 7 Community facility & sporting clubrooms
- 8 Stage with shelter over & associated event storage
- 9 Broadcast box
- 10 Netball clubrooms
- 11 Netball courts
- 12 Contrasting pavement & crossing point
- 13 45 degree angled parking
- 14 Memorial walk path link

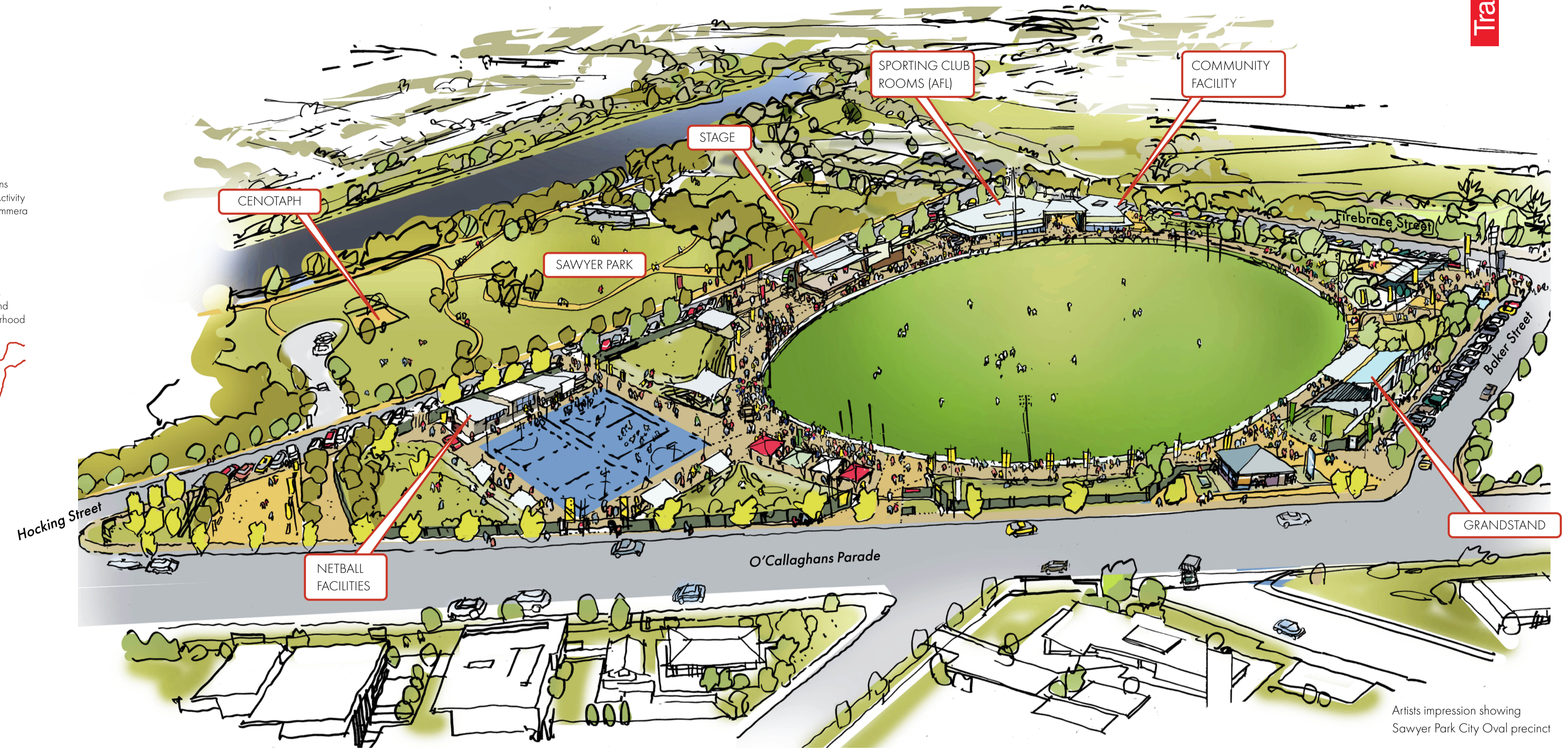
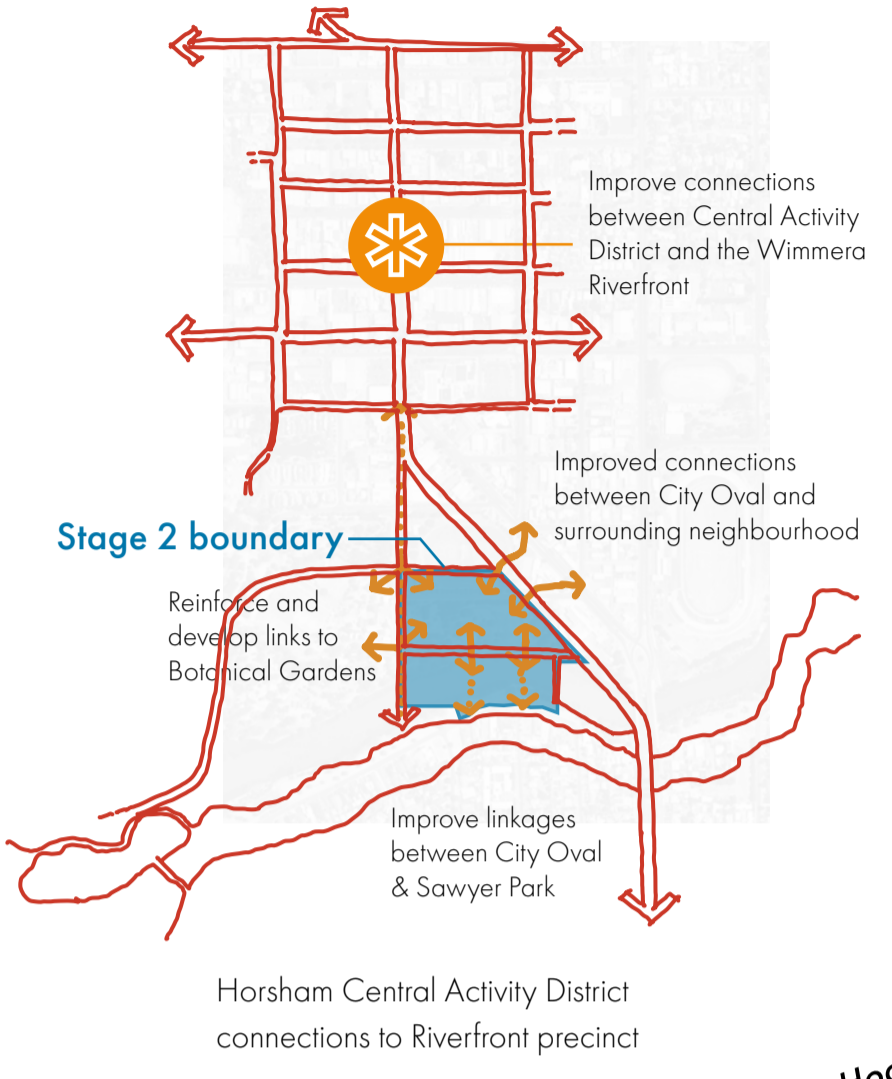
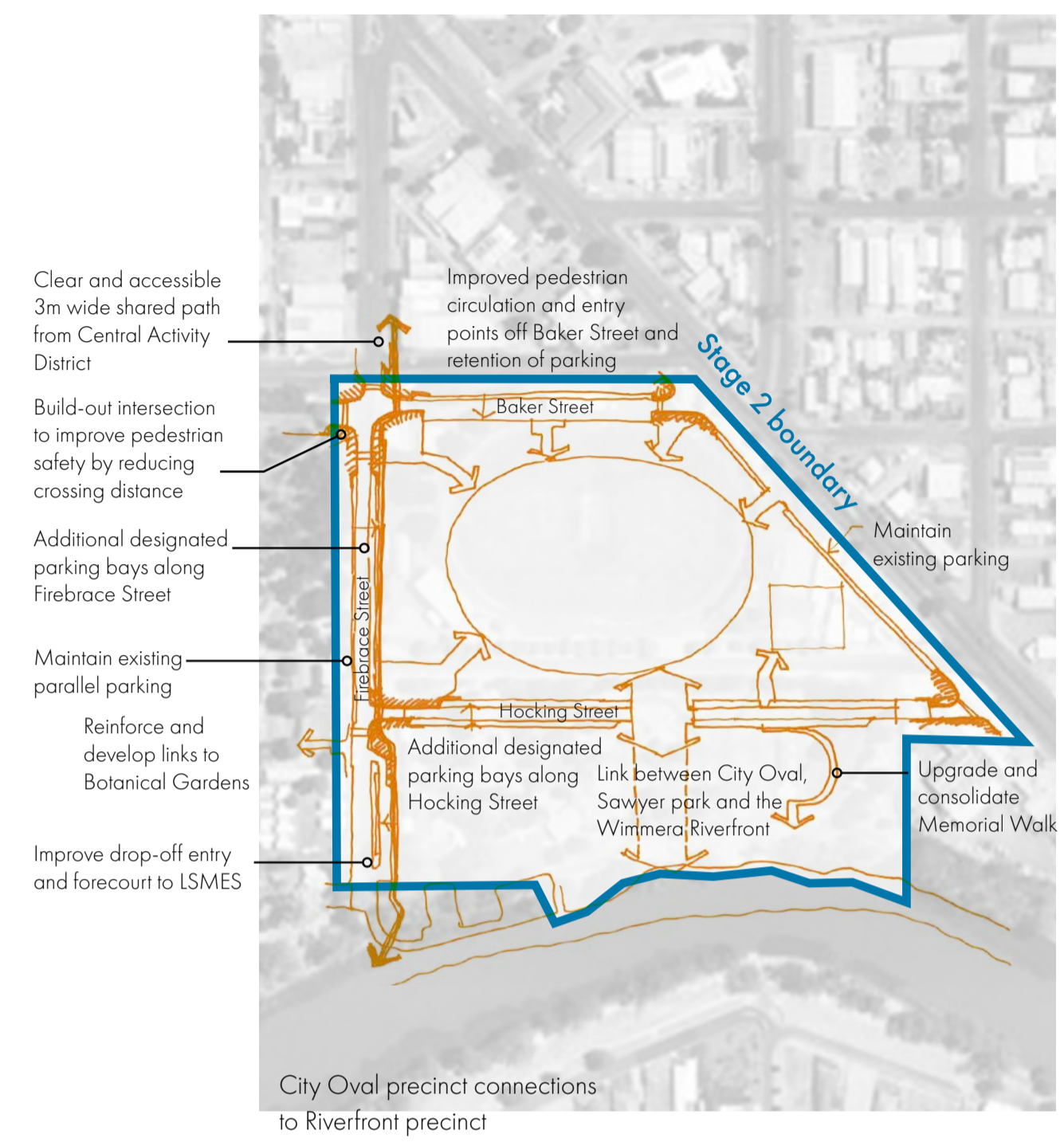
This Concept Plan is exhibited for Public Consultation and feedback from the community. This presentation illustrates the preferred and agreed Concept Plan for the redevelopment of Sawyer Park and City Oval, capturing the intent and objectives expressed by various parties through this process.

Rev C - September 30, 2021.



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Engagement with Community and stakeholders

Council established a Community Reference Group (CRG) in November 2020, with representatives from key stakeholders to guide and steer the development of the Concept Plan for Sawyer Park City Oval. Council representatives met with each of the CRG stakeholder groups and individual representatives to discuss needs and desires for the development, identify issues and problems and to collate preferences. The CRG has worked with Council and the consultant team (Tract/Tonkin) to develop this Concept plan which is now presented for public comment. Community Reference Group members include representatives from the following stakeholders and community groups:

- Regional Ratepayers
- Returned Services League
- Horsham Rural City Band
- Horsham Pipe Band
- Community members (2 No.)
- Horsham District Football and Netball association (2 No.)
- Horsham Cricket Association
- Horsham City Council Parks and Gardens
- Events Users group
- Wimmera Live Steam and Model Engineering Society

Reference Group aims

- Transform and revitalise the area through improvements that support liveability, active use and economic resilience
 - Promote the attractions of the precinct as a destination for the community and visitors – riverfront, gardens, open space, recreational and community facilities
 - Increase sustainability and attractiveness through improved water conservation, additional shade, improved accessibility and upgraded facilities
- HRCC have also undertaken a review of Sporting Facilities Demand across the City and region, and are working towards development of existing facilities to cater for ongoing needs and projected sports, recreation and active lifestyle requirements into the future. This study identified the City Oval as the 'jewel in the crown' for Horsham and recommendations made to address issues and upgrade facilities, including:
- Improved public access to the City Oval throughout the year
 - Upgrade of all facilities to current standards and to address needs of all User Groups
 - Addressing Grandstand issues – access, orientation to weather, materials
 - Events attraction and management
 - Universal Access for all users to toilets, clubrooms and other facilities
 - Oval configuration and size to suit regional level sports events
 - Shaded spectator areas

Streetscape works

Each of the adjoining streets has been adjusted to better define pedestrian and vehicular areas and to provide improved facilities for pedestrian and cycle circulation around and through the precinct.

Intersection crossings have typically been narrowed with build-outs to improve safety and ease of pedestrian movement, as well as reducing the visual impact of wide pavement areas.

Two-way traffic is maintained to all adjacent streets and on-street parking designated to maximise capacity for on-street parking, especially during larger events at City Oval, Sawyer Park, the Botanical Gardens or the Wimmera Riverfront. As a key location with proximity to all areas of the precinct, the Hocking Street layout has been adjusted to maintain minimal width pavement for two way traffic and allow for parking on both sides during larger events. Parking verges are proposed as spray-seal to reduce the visual impact of sealed pavement and to allow for additional street tree planting for shade, amenity and natural cooling of the street.

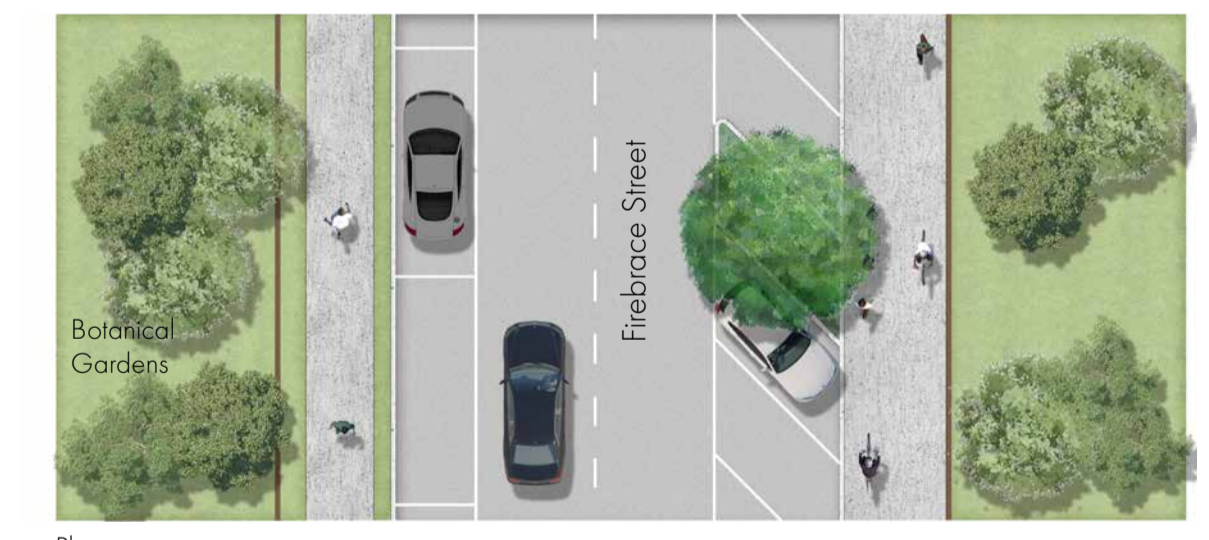
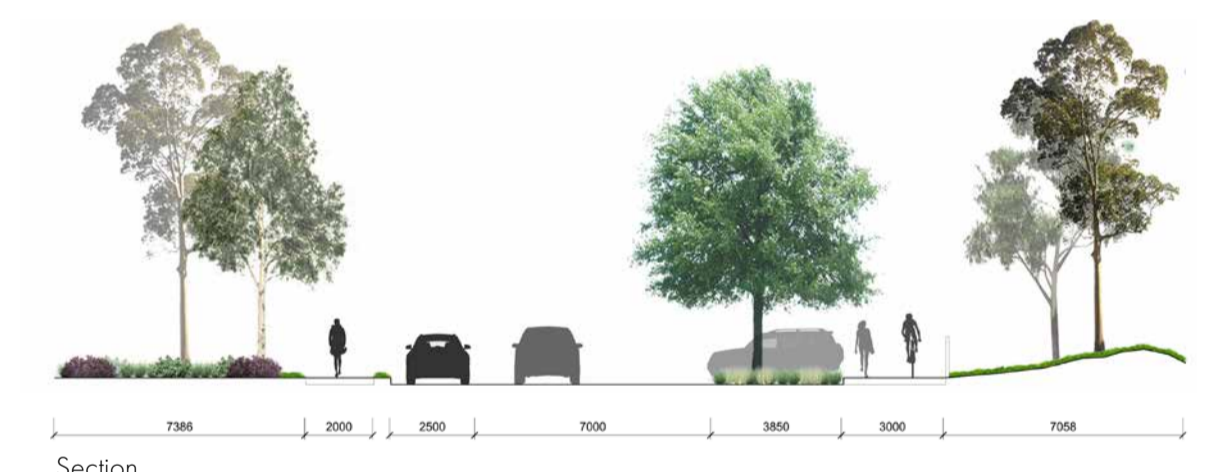
Car parking will be clearly defined on each street to maximise the effective use of road reserve space while reducing road pavement. Intermittently spaced sustainable drainage planting areas and street tree planting between sections of parking bays is also proposed. This street layout will maximise the provision of car parking to cater for larger events, while providing greenery and efficient stormwater drainage, shade trees and improved pedestrian and cyclist corridors.

A shared, 3m wide path for pedestrians and cyclists is proposed along Firebrace Street to the Riverfront, facilitating improved connection between the Central Activities District and the River – a key requirement under the agreed City to River Masterplan. This route is reinforced with shade tree planting that extends beyond the frontage of the Live Steam and Model Engineering Society (LSMES) entrance and parking area and connects with existing vegetation corridors along the Wimmera Riverfront.

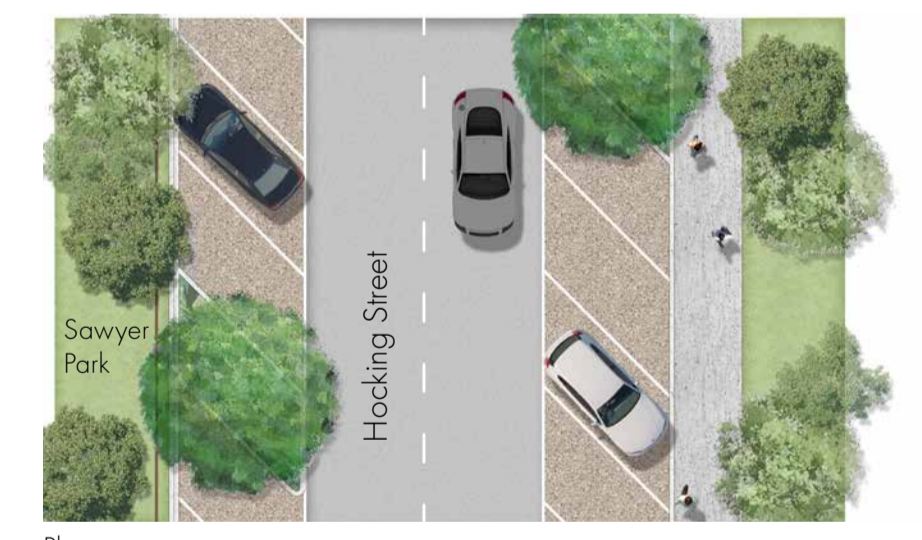
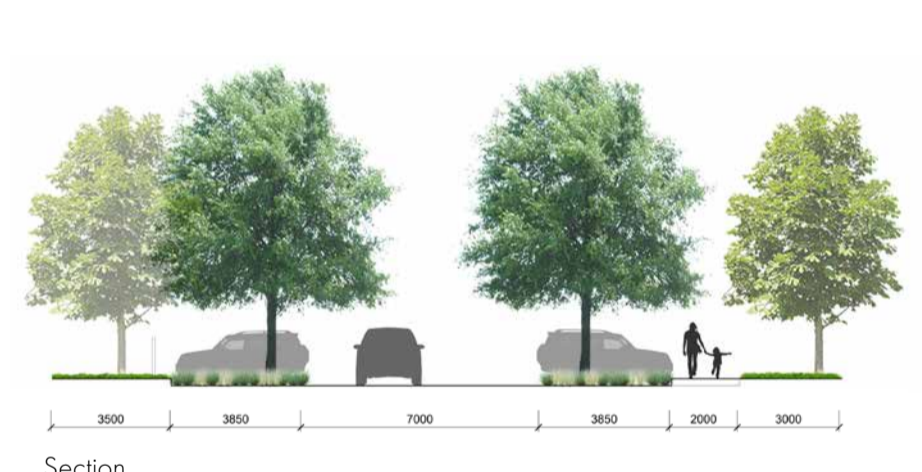
Parking and entry to the LSMES facility has been reconfigured to provide a generous pedestrian drop off area and entrance to the site, with a planting buffer and street trees separating this parking from Firebrace Street and allowing a turn around area.

Street Cross-sections

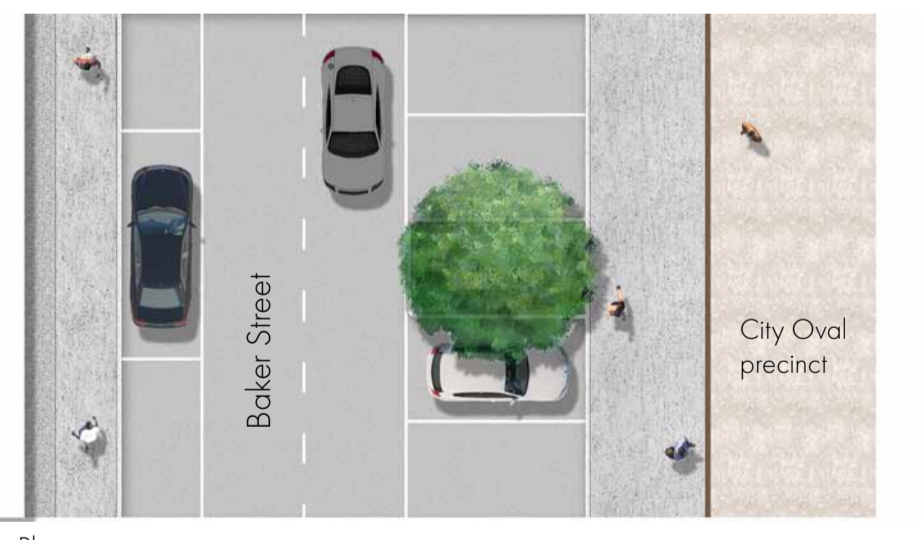
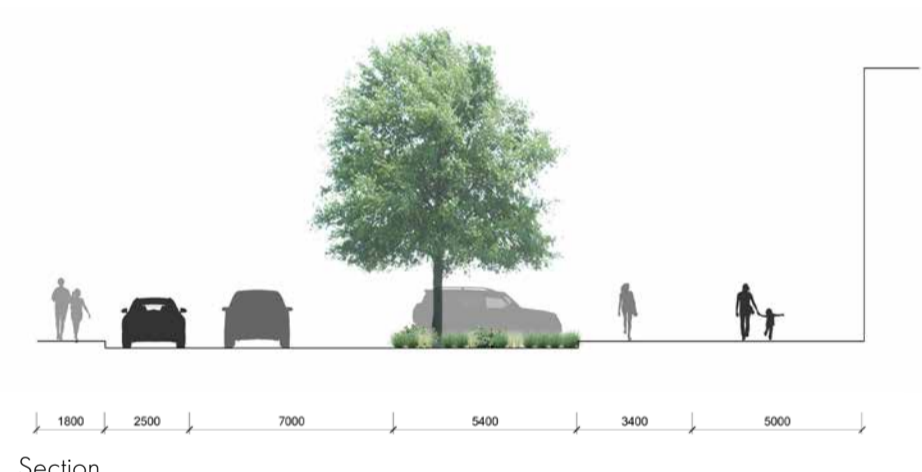
Firebrace Street



Hocking Street



Baker Street



Project Timeline

2018-2019
City to River Masterplan developed by HRCC, Urban Enterprise and Tract
Public Comment sought and received on Masterplan

February-March 2021
Community Reference Group (CRG) for Stage 2 convened
Development of initial concept plans

April-May 2021
Stage 2 - Draft Concept Plans are progressed considering Community feedback from Masterplan and input from the CRG

June-July 2021
Stage 2 - Draft Concept Plans completed and displayed for Community feedback in June
Feedback incorporated into final designs

