



Image: Joshua Pathon

# Light Square / Wauwi Draft Master Plan



CITY OF  
ADELAIDE

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## Kurna Acknowledgement

City of Adelaide tampendi, ngadlu Kurna yertangga banbabanbalyarnendi (inbarendi). Kurna meyunna yaitya mattanya Womma Tarndanyako. Parnako yailtya, parnuko tappa purruna, parnuko yerta ngadlu tampendi. Yellaka Kurna meyunna itto yailtya, tappa purruna, yerta kuma burro martendi, burro warriappendi, burro tangka martulyaiendi. Kumarta yaitya miyurna iyangka yalaka ngadlu tampinhi.

City of Adelaide acknowledges the traditional Country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today.

And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations.



Part one

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# Introduction

Image: Joshua Pathon

# About the Light Square/Wauwi Master Plan

Light Square/Wauwi is one of the six City Squares of the Adelaide Park Lands. The Square was named after Colonel William Light who was the first Surveyor-General of Adelaide responsible for its planning and layout. Its Kurna name is in honour of Wauwi, who was the wife of Kurna Elder, Kadlitpina. Kadlitpina was one of three key Kurna Elders who provided language and cultural information to first colonists. Wauwi means female kangaroo.

The Light Square/Wauwi Master Plan (the Master Plan) outlines a bold transformation for one of the city's key urban spaces. The Master Plan aims to transform the Square through a holistic approach to create a distinct character as a greener, safer and inclusive urban area.

The Master Plan aims to acknowledge the colonial history of Light Square/Wauwi in the context of reconciliation. This means acknowledging Kurna in the design and landscape of the Square and embedding Kurna history and current living culture.

The Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout are Australian National Heritage Listed. Light Square/Wauwi contributes to National Heritage Values as the burial site of Colonel Light and reflects Light's concept of the Square and through landscape design.

The Master Plan responds to the three goals of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy - Towards 2036 (draft) to provide a range of experiences, landscapes and attractive places

that enhance health and wellbeing, that are connected and safe to move around, address climate change and celebrate Adelaide's unique natural and cultural heritage.

The City Squares are a highly valued element of the city's fabric and to optimise their value to the South Australian and local resident community the Master Plan aims to enhance Light Square/Wauwi in ways that better serve a growing and increasingly diverse city community.



# The Case for Change

*Light Square/Wauwi is an increasingly important green space in the north-west of the city as population and density increase.*

The City of Adelaide aims to double the resident population to 50,000 by 2036. Light Square/Wauwi will support a growing population in the city's north-west, which could house 8% of the city's residents by 2036. The area will transform through more residential development and increased university, health and medical uses. The student population in the north-west of the city is already significant with the highest concentration of student accommodation in the City of Adelaide.

The Master Plan supports growth and builds on the area's reputation for art, culture and night time economy.

Encouraging active transport through a north south green pedestrian spine and east west connection to the Adelaide Park Lands will encourage vibrant business activities and have health and cooling benefits, particularly as temperatures increase.

The Master Plan sets a vision for Light Square/Wauwi as:  
*A green oasis that celebrates diverse cultures, creative expression and supports community wellbeing. Community open space that is **greener, safer and inclusive** as a front yard, third space, event, fitness and recreation space and destination. A gateway to the business, arts, entertainment and education precincts of the north-west of the city.*  
 The Master Plan aims to address:

- Kaurna history and culture alongside colonial history
- Car dominance that makes the Square difficult to access, creates disconnection and makes it feel uninviting
- Safety and movement for people walking, wheeling and cycling
- Inclusiveness, edge activation and connection with surrounding uses
- Transformation of the area, future community, recreation, cultural and event needs and an increase in demand for green space that contributes to wellbeing
- National Heritage Values of the Square including its rectangular form
- Event infrastructure and expanded opportunities for small and medium events in the Square.

The Master Plan establishes principles for change and sets out strategies to deliver on three themes:

1. Greener
2. Safer
3. Inclusive

The Master Plan's proposes two options for the purposes of consultation.

Option 1 will reduce road pavement by 22% and increase usable space in the Square by 9% by transforming movement in and around the Square. It will connect people with surrounding uses and activities with north south through traffic relocated to the eastern side of the Square.

This will activate and return the western edge of the Square to Park Lands Purposes, increase safety, space for trees and cooling and open up more green space to enhance safety, wellbeing and activation.

Option 2 will reduce road pavement by 15% and increase usable green space in the Square by 4%

by reducing the number of traffic lanes on the south-east and south-west of the Square.

This will open up more space for trees and cooling, reduce the impact of traffic and improve access to the Square.

The Master Plan has been informed by the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan and City Plan (draft). The Master Plan is the result of comprehensive engagement with Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC), stakeholders, businesses, government and non-government organisations in the area, and the community. It includes advice from the Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority, and the City of Adelaide's Reconciliation Committee and Access and Inclusion Panel.

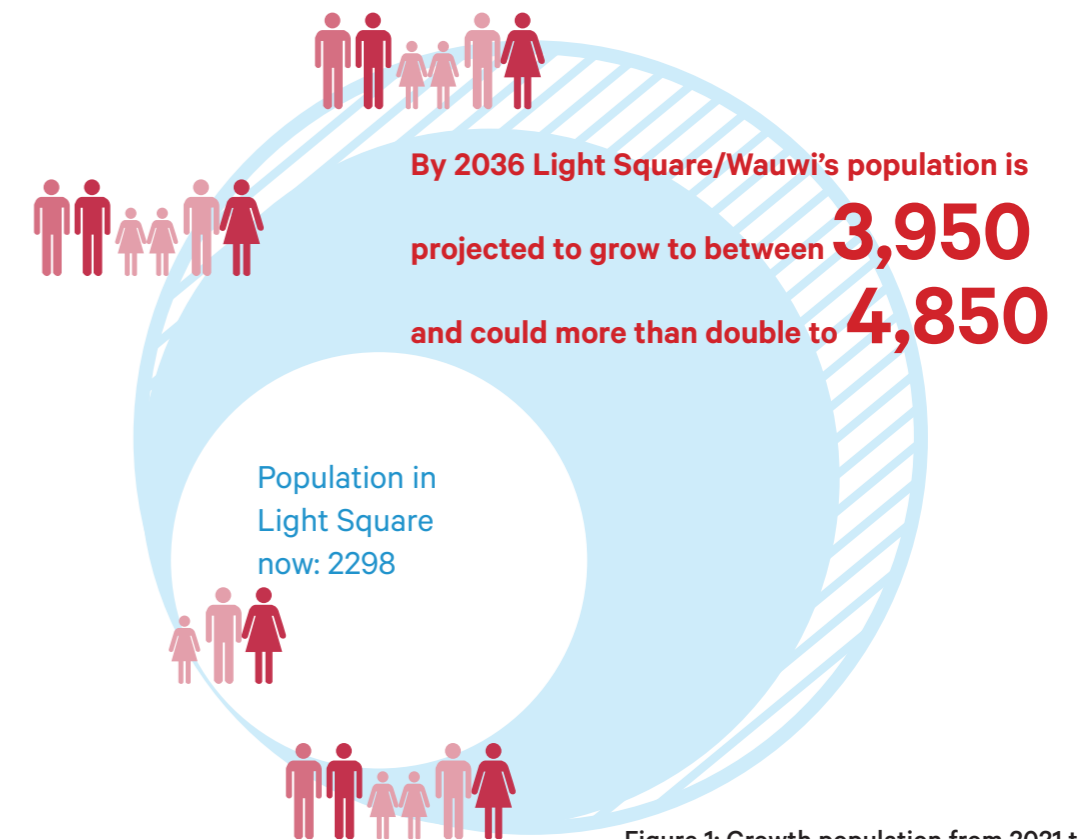


Figure 1: Growth population from 2021 to 2036

# Strategic Context

Development of the Master Plan has been informed by State and local government strategies and priorities.

## State Government

### The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP) (under development)

GARP will identify land and the infrastructure needs of the Greater Adelaide region to support sustainable growth over 15-30 years. It sets out a concept for Living Locally with open space and services near where people live. The GARP will build on the Metropolitan Open Space System.

### Draft Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide

The Strategy aims to bring together a range of stakeholders, including local government to create a greener, more liveable city. Priority areas include government leading by example, building nature back in; and future proofing our urban forest.

## Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority

### Draft Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036

The Strategy sets the strategies, projects and planning considerations guiding decisions for the Adelaide Park Lands. It provides a bold vision towards 2036 for the overall enhancement and protection of the Adelaide Park Lands. The Strategy includes the Light Square/Wauwi Master Plan as a strategic priority.

## City of Adelaide

### Strategic Plan 2024-2028

The Strategic Plan describes the future vision for the City of Adelaide: Our Adelaide. Bold. Aspirational. Innovative. The Master Plan contributes to aspirations for:

- Our Community: Create fun, lively and interesting experiences; Celebrate and honour community and cultures.
- Our Environment: Protect, enhance and activate our Park Lands and open space; Be climate conscious and resilient; Prioritise sustainability in our decisions for the future.
- Our Economy: Continue to grow our economy in alignment with the community
- Our Places: Encourage bold, interesting and purposeful development; Facilitate and activate our places in a safe and accessible way for our community.

### Draft City Plan – Adelaide 2036

The City Plan is an urban design framework to guide planning for growth in the City of Adelaide to achieve a target population of 50,000 residents by 2036. Principles to achieve this target seek to respect the past, build resilience for future growth, and create a city that welcomes all people. The four priorities for sustainable growth in the city are:

1. A Greener and Cooler City
2. Transit Diversity
3. A City of Neighbourhoods

## 4. Housing Diversity for a Growing Population

The Plan provides place principles that support the priorities of 13 neighbourhoods across the city. Light Square/Wauwi is part of the Light Square neighbourhood.

### Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout Draft National Heritage Management Plan

The Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout are National Heritage Listed. The Management Plan helps with understanding the National Heritage Values and provides a tool to manage change, inform future development, decision making and management strategies. The Master Plan responds to the objectives relevant to Light Square/Wauwi.

### Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028

The Plan is a roadmap for how the City of Adelaide promotes inclusion in the community and how people with a disability can access the city's mainstream supports and services. It includes five goals, including goals focused on enabling people to move around and navigate the city and spaces that allow everyone to participate. The Master Plan responds to opportunities to ensure that universal design principles are incorporated in public space and streetscape upgrades, and that access to the Adelaide Park Lands is improved.



### Draft Economic Development Strategy

The Strategy sets out how the City of Adelaide will achieve its vision of a thriving economy for all. It is guided by the long-term aspirations established in the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan. The Adelaide Park Lands are a key component of the Strategy as a place to visit with diverse landscapes and their ability to host a variety of economic activity including internationally renown events and festivals.

### Draft Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027

The Action Plan's vision for reconciliation is for the City of Adelaide to deepen ties with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, prioritising reconciliation through innovation, collaboration and visibility. It honours Kaurna people as the Traditional Custodians, embeds reconciliation into the City of Adelaide's work and empowers cultural protocols. The Master Plan responds to the Respect theme to increase Kaurna visibility.

### Homelessness Strategy – Everyone's Business

The Strategy outlines the City of Adelaide's commitment to a housing first approach for people experiencing homelessness. It highlights the role of public spaces in meeting the needs of people without a home and includes the principle to design the public realm to create cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### Housing Strategy – Investing in our Housing Future

The Strategy responds to provision of long term housing by setting goals and targets for the city to become a place where people are not burdened by housing costs and have a choice in the type of housing they live in. The Adelaide Park Lands and Squares provide vital open space for city residents including people living in higher density apartments.

### Integrated Climate Strategy 2030

The Strategy aims to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2035. It includes goals to create a climate resilient city where nature thrives and where the economy transitions to become low carbon and circular. The Master Plan responds to these goals.

### Wellbeing Plan 2020-2025

The Plan highlights the interrelated social, economic, cultural and environmental components of wellbeing. The Master Plan responds to the action for the Adelaide Park Lands to be diverse spaces with enhanced biodiversity that provide opportunities for connection to nature and to promote health and wellbeing.

### Adelaide Design Manual

The Manual provides design guidance across the city including the Adelaide Park Lands and City Squares. The Master Plan considers the general guidance provided for City Squares.





# Economic Value Creation

The Master Plan transforms Light Square/Wauwi by changing the balance of roadway to open space. It increases capacity for holding events and exhibitions, attracting more people to spend longer in the area. The Master Plan provides areas for small to medium events and festivals, and as an attractive green and open space for people to enjoy.

The Master Plan is anticipated to have a number of benefits including to:

- Design open space and other amenities to support residential growth
- Increase activation on the western edge of the Square by returning road to open space
- Expand existing infrastructure to cater for small and medium events
- Attract local residents and workers as well as visitors
- Establish a functioning and appealing tourist destination within the Adelaide CBD
- Support the establishment of new businesses and uplift of businesses adjacent the Square
- Increase local employment opportunities and active involvement by individuals and businesses in the activities and events occurring in the Square.





Part two

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# Master Plan Principles and Options

Image: Joshua Pathon

# Vision

A green oasis that celebrates diverse cultures, creative expression and supports community wellbeing. Community open space that is greener, safer and inclusive as a front yard, third space, event, fitness and recreation space and destination. A gateway to the business, arts, entertainment and education precincts of the north-west of the city.

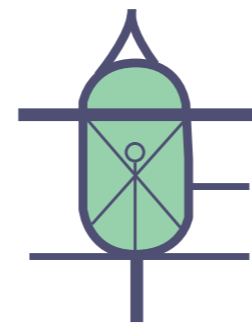
# Themes and Principles

The Master Plan establishes three themes including the following principles to guide decisions about investment and implementation.



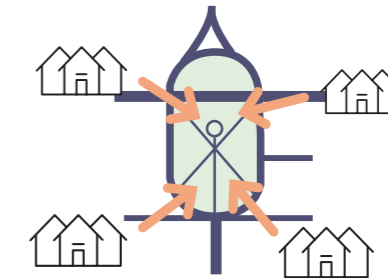
## Greener

- The Square is re-imagined as a green oasis within the city that contributes to health and wellbeing.
- Greening, including an increase in tree canopy, provides shade, cooling and planting diversity, including seasonal colour and celebration of Australia's native flora.
- The landscape character of the Square permeates into the surrounding streets and lanes further connecting to the North Terrace Cultural Boulevard and the River Torrens/Karrawirra Pari.



## Inclusive

- The Square's bold transformation reflects inclusiveness and a diversity of cultures including interpretation and story-telling
- The Square integrates the cultural aims of Kurna people and other non-Kurna people.
- The Square has a unique character informed by its location at the centre of an art, innovation, medical and educational precinct set to grow.
- Activity, event and exhibition spaces are built into the design, working with adjacent creative and arts industries to brand the area as a place of creativity and innovation.
- Universal design principles are incorporated with smart technologies to improve people's experiences.



## Safer

- The usable area of the Square is expanded with reconfigured road geometry to prioritise pedestrian access to the lawns, pathways and facilities, whilst reducing traffic speeds and enhancing safety.
- Boundary interfaces are managed to increase safety and define access, including clearly legible and accessible crossings, entry points and paths.
- The Square is designed to promote safety at all times of the day and night, including lighting design that enhances safety, wayfinding and the sense of place.
- The impact of traffic noise and speed is reduced in favour of enhancing wellbeing and improving active transport amenity and safety.

# Greener

Light Square/Wauwi plays an increasingly important open space role as the city's residential population and density increases. To address diversity, the Master Plan incorporates a hierarchy of spaces and opportunities.

Increasing open space by reclaiming road pavement for greening reduces the impact of traffic and contributes towards the character and attractiveness of the Square.

Light Square/Wauwi is envisioned as a vibrant green oasis in the city's north-west.

The Master Plan strengthens green connections within the north-west of the city, extending to Light Square/Wauwi and the Adelaide Park Lands. Gardens, shade trees, windbreaks, native gardens, and tree avenues within Light Square/Wauwi will enhance cooling and create biodiversity links to the River Torrens/Karrawirra Pari, Hindmarsh Square/Mukata, and West Terrace.

Advanced planting strategies and ecological enhancements will boost biodiversity, while integrated water-sensitive urban design solutions and resilience measures will assist climate adaptation.

Light Square/Wauwi will act as a main artery for linking biodiversity across the city, serving as a noise and visual buffer, whilst addressing broader ambitions for greening. This approach ensures Light Square/Wauwi is a functional, attractive and sustainable urban space.

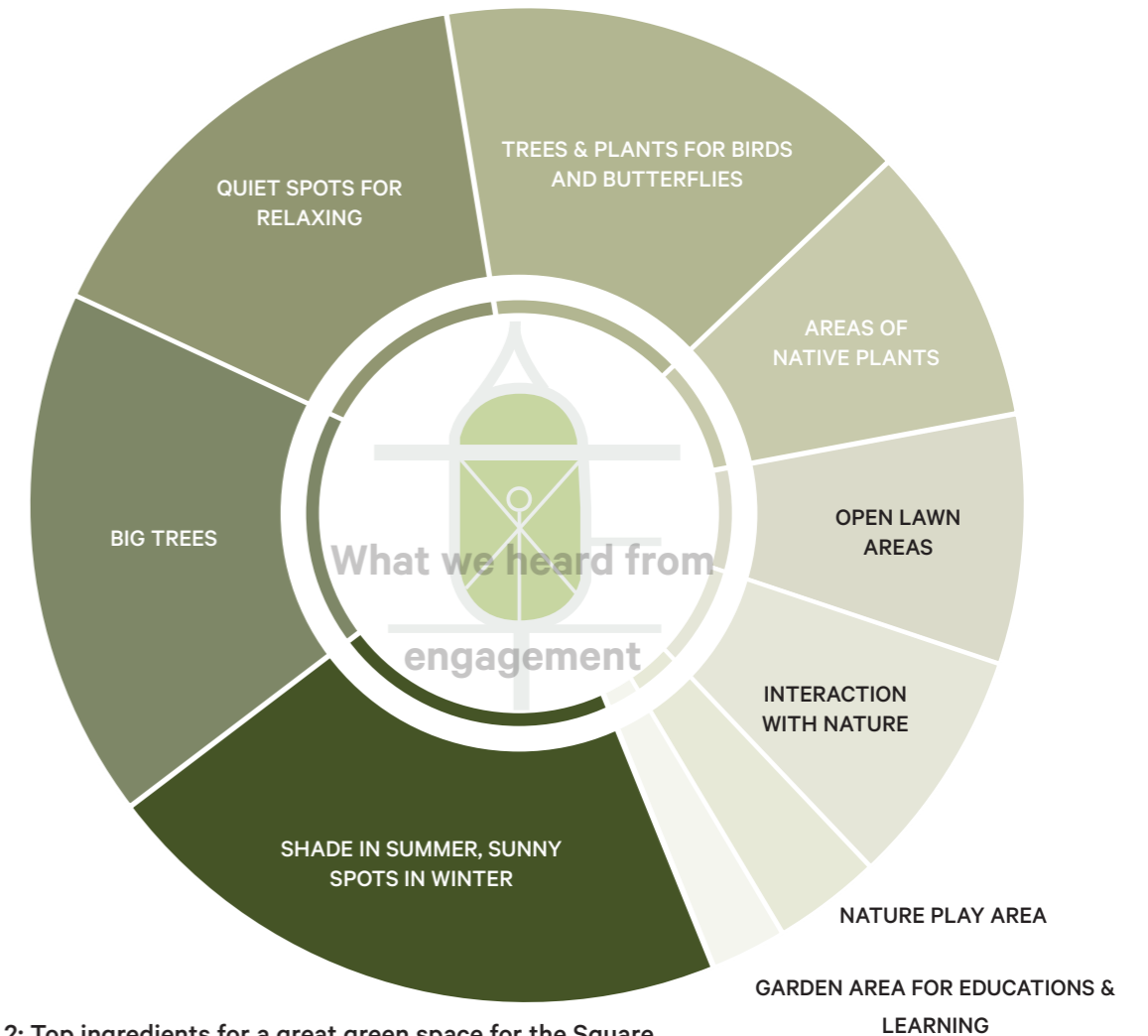
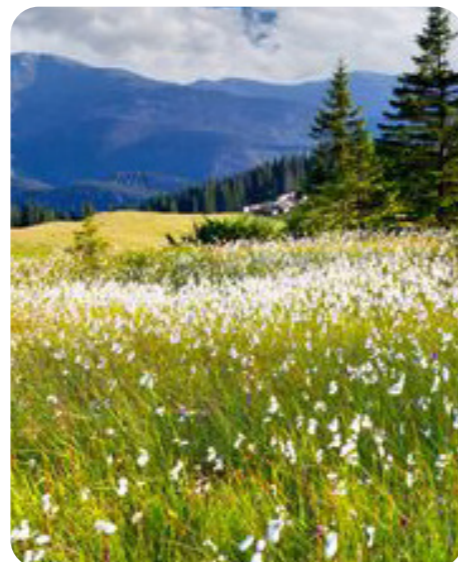


Figure 2: Top ingredients for a great green space for the Square

## Greening



## Resilience and climate change



Strategic links to	
ADELAIDE PARK LANDS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Systems, Cultural Landscapes and Climate Resilience</li> <li>Place and Spaces</li> </ul>
STRATEGIC PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Environment: Resilient, protected and sustainable</li> </ul>
DRAFT CITY PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Greener and Cooler City</li> </ul>
INTEGRATED CLIMATE STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A climate resilient city</li> <li>A net zero ready city</li> <li>A city where nature thrives</li> <li>Transition to a decarbonised city</li> <li>A climate leading capital city</li> </ul>
WELLBEING PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Leadership</li> </ul>

# Safer

To enhance safety and wellbeing and reduce traffic impacts, the Master Plan rebalances public space for greening, creating a safer and welcoming environment for people to meet, stay, walk, wheel and cycle.

By prioritising traffic calming measures and enhancing sightlines, the Master Plan ensures that Light Square/Wauwi becomes an accessible, safe and vibrant urban space.

The Master Plan connects people with and is sensitive to surrounding uses and is an attractive place to use both day and night. This connection along with increasing the capacity to hold events

and exhibitions will encourage more people to spend longer in the area and has the potential to drive the economy and build upon the area's night-life and art and cultural offerings.

The Master Plan prioritises safe entry points and pathways, facilitating vehicle movement around the Square whilst enhancing safety with improved intersections, crossings and reduced speed limit.

Traffic calming measures, similar to those in Grote/Wakefield Streets at Tarntanyangga/Victoria Square, along with a reduced speed limit and auditory treatments enhance safety and comfort.

Light Square/Wauwi will become a key connector within the city, engaging with creative industries, knowledge sectors, and the cultural vibrancy of the Adelaide Central Market and West End precincts. Revitalising Hindley Street and improving connections to the River Torrens/Karrawirra Pari will reinforce the Square's attraction for events and visitation.

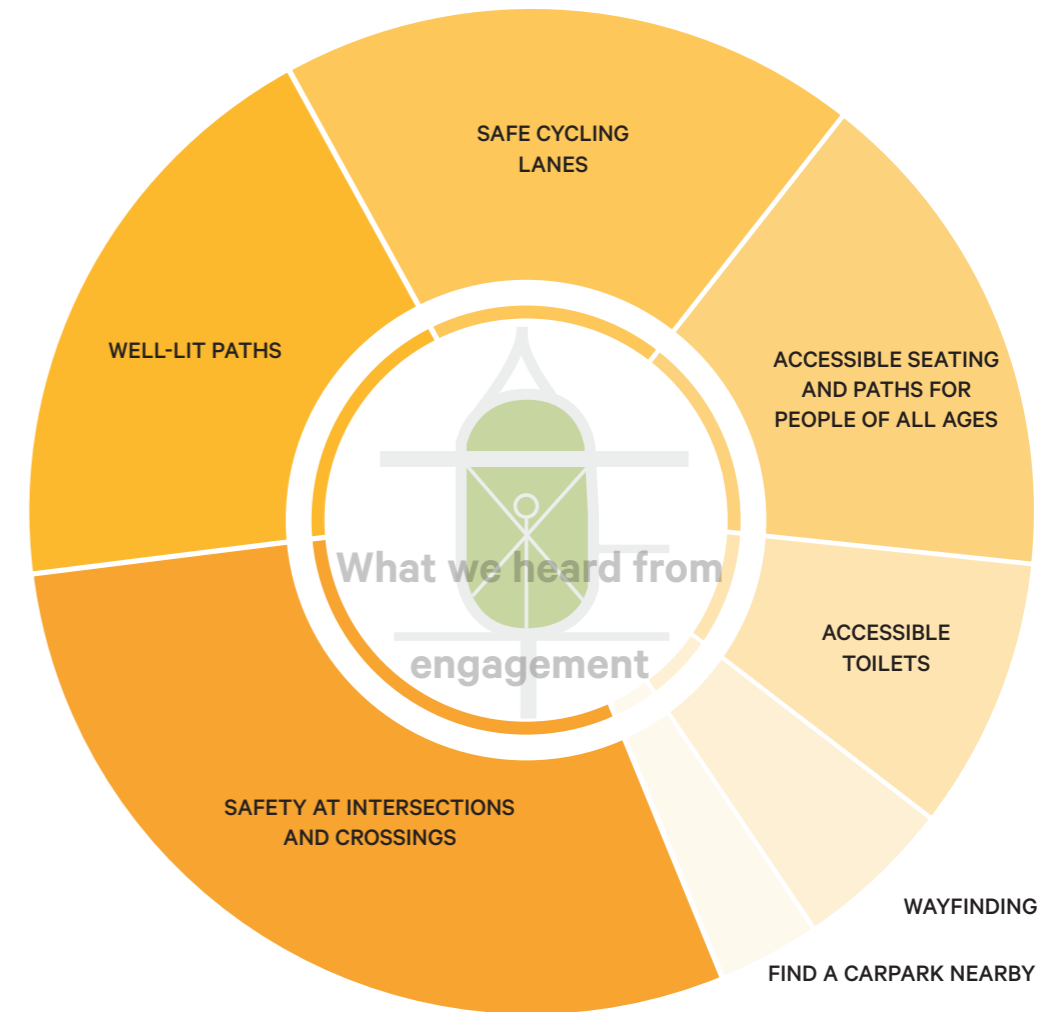
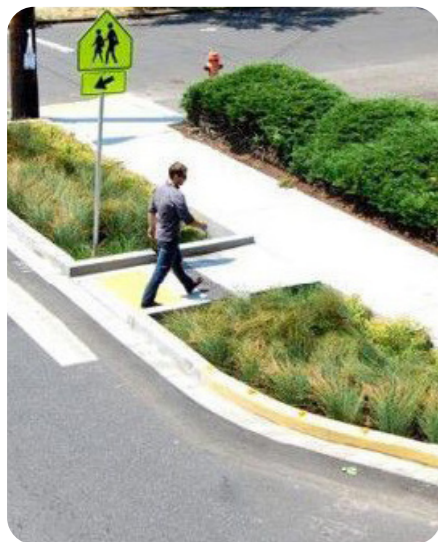


Figure 3: Top ingredients for great experiences in and moving around the Square

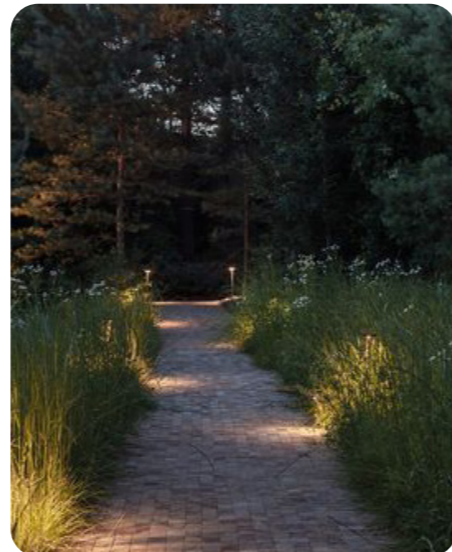
## Pedestrian movement



## Vehicle movement



## Lighting



## Strategic links to

ADELAIDE PARK LANDS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connections and Networks</li> </ul>
STRATEGIC PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Community: Resilient, protected and sustainable</li> <li>• Our Places: Interesting, purposeful and safe</li> </ul>
DRAFT CITY PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit Diversity</li> <li>• A City of Neighbourhoods</li> </ul>
ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure that helps people to move around and navigate the city</li> <li>• Liveable neighbourhoods and communities that enable everyone to participate</li> </ul>
HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing the Gap - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equitable outcomes</li> </ul>
WELLBEING PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thriving Communities</li> </ul>

# Inclusive

Respecting our past is central to the City of Adelaide’s vision for Light Square/Wauwi, recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, the city’s rich history, cultural heritage and the diverse contributions of its communities, including culturally and linguistically diverse populations.

The Master Plan is strategically crafted to emphasise the preservation and celebration of Adelaide’s unique identity, fostering inclusivity, understanding and appreciation across various cultures, traditions and perspectives. The Master Plan aims to integrate historical roots with modern needs, enhancing pride and belonging among residents.

Light Square/Wauwi is set to become a hub for interpretative and educational opportunities, showcasing the area’s

cultural and heritage values. The Master Plan fosters a welcoming environment that highlights strong, visible cultural elements, ensuring the design evolves in harmony with both historical significance and contemporary cultural dynamics. In particular, the design celebrates Kaurna inclusion and acknowledgement.

The Master Plan establishes a welcoming, expansive area that enhances neighbourhood engagement and accommodates various uses, ensuring flexibility for different user groups.

A revitalised Light Square/Wauwi will serve as a communal ‘front yard’, meeting the needs of a growing population and enhancing local connections.

This includes designated areas for events and cultural activities, positioning the

Square as a vibrant hub for community interaction. Light Square/Wauwi becomes a ‘third place’, a social environment distinct from home and work where people can gather, relax and connect.

The Master Plan strategically incorporates transition spaces at the interface with the adjacent streets and built form. Noise mitigation and sensory respite are key priorities for access and inclusion.

Smaller, intimate areas within the Square are enriched with cultural and green elements, fostering a sense of belonging and creating an inviting green oasis. This integrated approach ensures that Light Square/Wauwi serves as a functional and attractive space at the heart of the community.

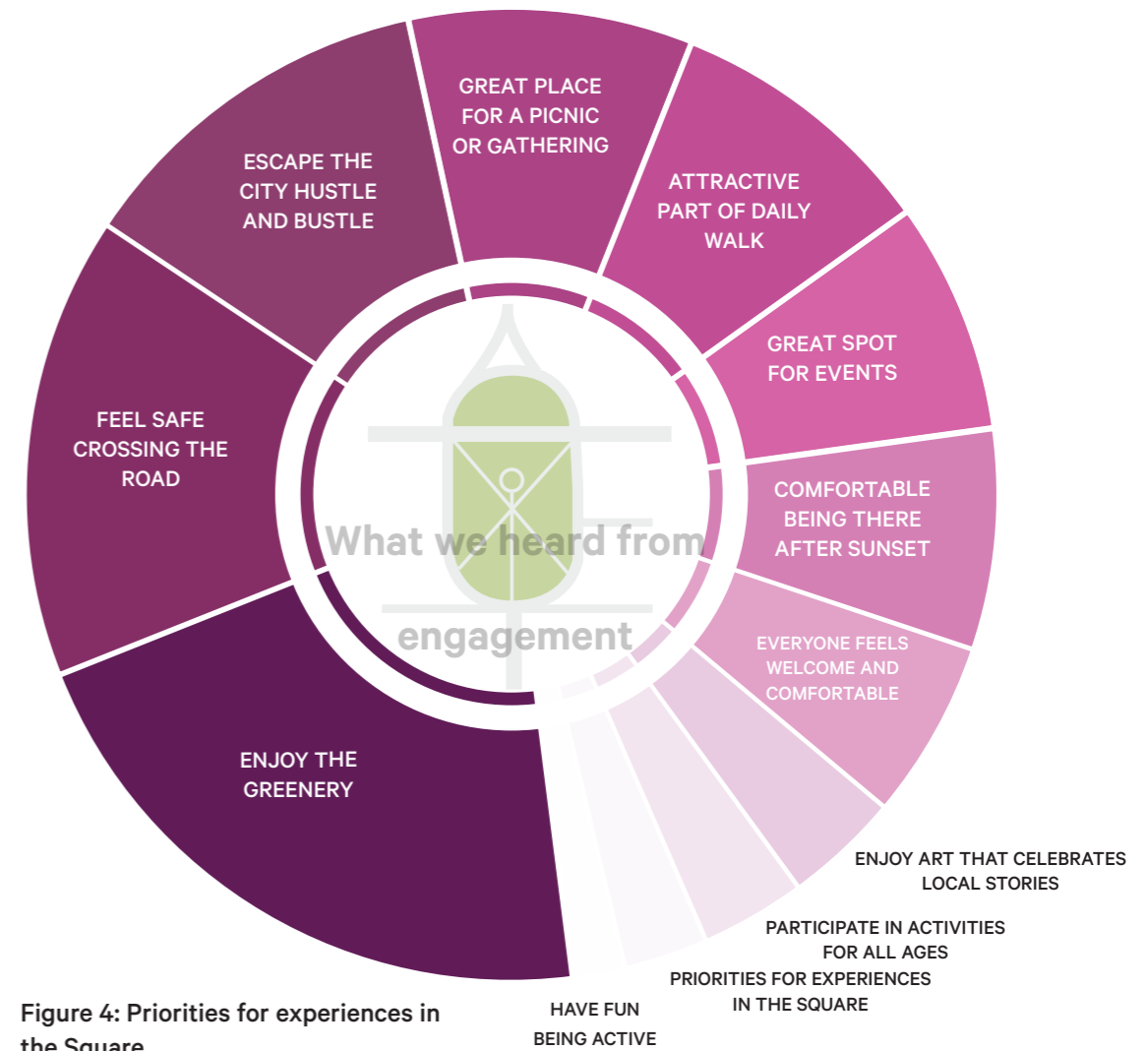


Figure 4: Priorities for experiences in the Square

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and identity



## National Heritage Values



## Access and Inclusion



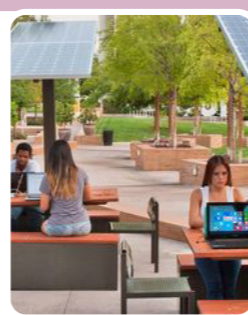
## Events & Programming



## Public Art



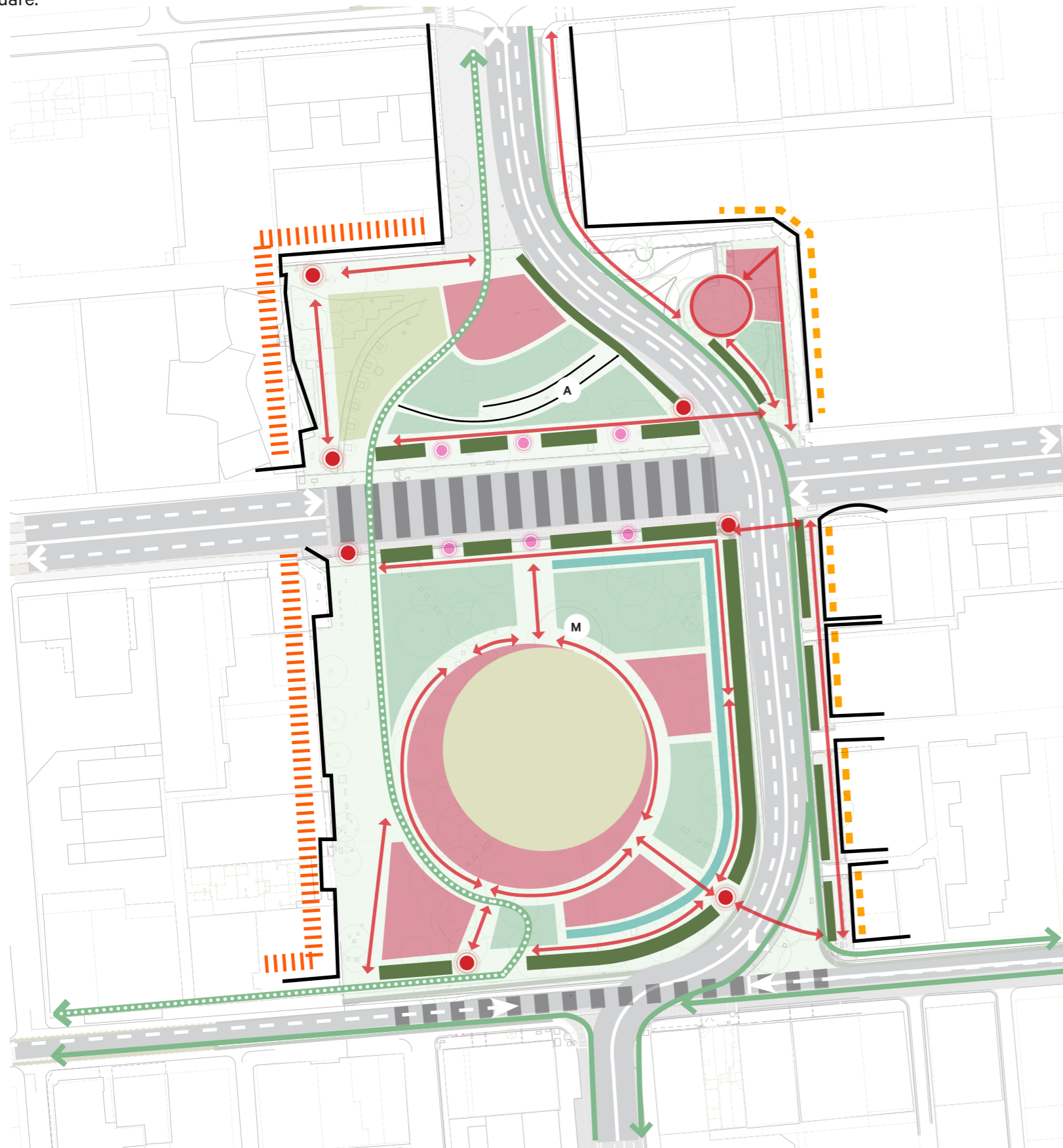
## Technology & Innovation



Strategic links to	
ADELAIDE PARK LANDS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Systems, Cultural Landscapes and Climate Resilience</li> </ul>
STRATEGIC PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Community: Vibrant, connected and inclusive</li> </ul>
DRAFT CITY PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing diversity for a growing population</li> </ul>
DRAFT STRETCH RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationships: Building meaningful relationships supports the Council meet the aspirations of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities</li> <li>Respect: Respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities creates healthy relationships, embraces diversity and promotes harmony</li> </ul>
DRAFT HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the heritage values are appropriately cared for</li> </ul>
WELLBEING PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dynamic City Culture</li> </ul>

# Master Plan: Option 1

Option 1 will reduce road pavement by 22% and increase usable space in the Square by 9%, by transforming movement in and around the Square. It will connect people with surrounding uses and activities with north south through traffic relocated to the eastern side of the Square. This will activate and return the western edge of the Square to Park Lands Purposes, increase safety, space for trees and cooling and open up more green space to enhance safety, wellbeing and activation. This map shows the potential for small and medium activity spaces, an enhanced northern section and western frontages with direct access to the Square.



## ENVIRONMENT

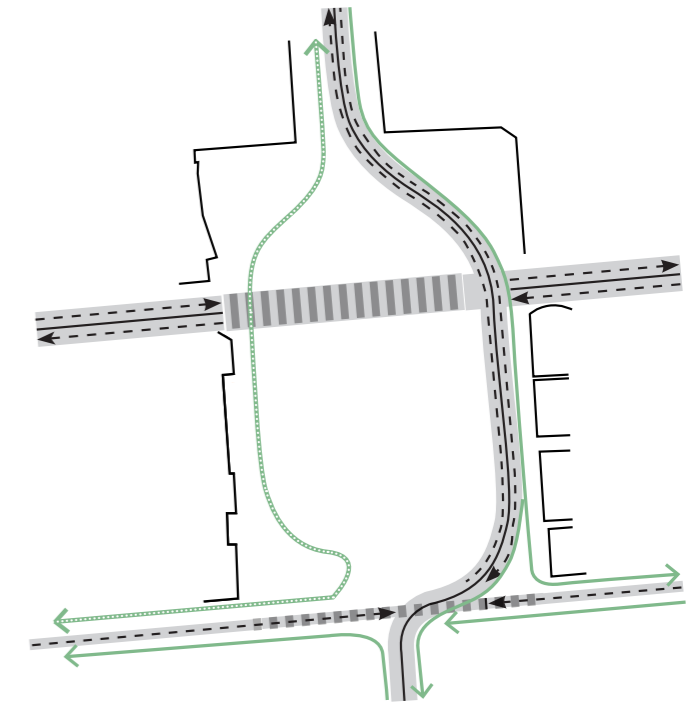
- Green edge
- Feature gardens
- Open lawns
- WSUD
- Events/flexible space\*
- Direct Square active building frontage
- Building frontage

## CONNECTION

- Primary access point
- Access point
- Primary pedestrian path
- Shared use zone
- Cycle lane\*\*
- Vehicle lane
- Paved roadway

## Key Points

- A Level Change - Potential amphitheatre
- M Monument



Traffic surrounding the Square (vehicle lanes and cyclist paths)

## OPTION 1 ACHIEVES:

<b>Active Edge</b>	Creation of 270m of direct Square active building frontage.
<b>Safety</b>	Replacement of road crossings with direct access to open space.
<b>Greening</b>	Replacement of 4,096m <sup>2</sup> (22%) of road pavement with green space. An increase in green space of 9% and an increase in space for biodiversity of 14%.
<b>Tree Canopy</b>	An increase in tree canopy of 30%.
<b>Open Activity Spaces</b>	An increase in open lawns for open activity spaces of 35%.

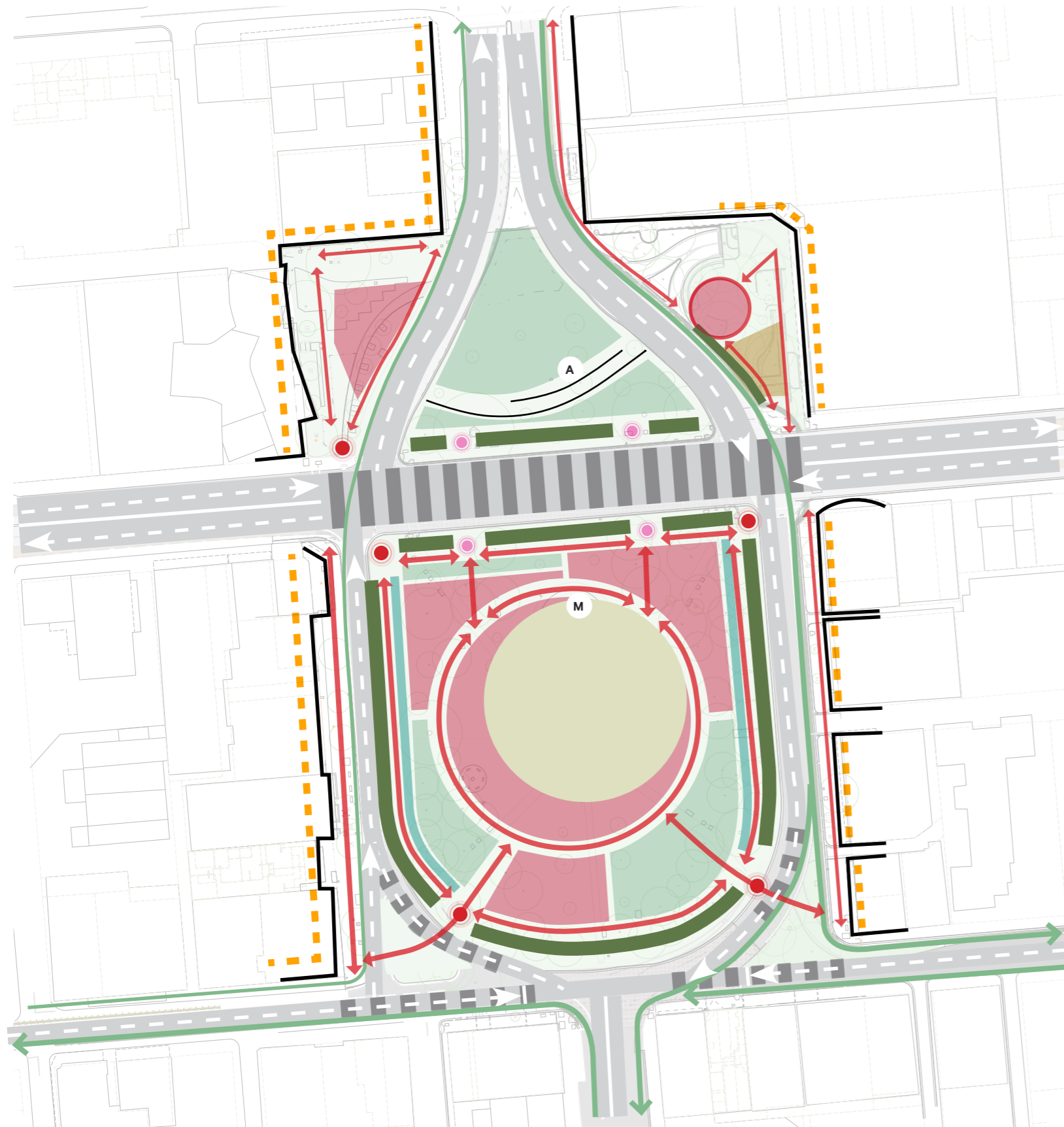
\* Detailed design to define open spaces that will allow for a range of activities at various scales

\*\*Detailed design to define at grade/separated



# Master Plan: Option 2

Option 2 will reduce road pavement by 15% and increase usable green space in the Square by 4% by reducing the number of traffic lanes on the south-east and south-west of the Square. This will open up more space for trees and cooling, reduce the impact of traffic and improve access to the Square. This map shows potential for an enhanced northern section, access points into the Square and small to medium activity spaces.



## ENVIRONMENT

- Green edge
- Feature gardens
- Open lawns
- WSUD
- Events/flexible space
- Building frontage

## CONNECTION

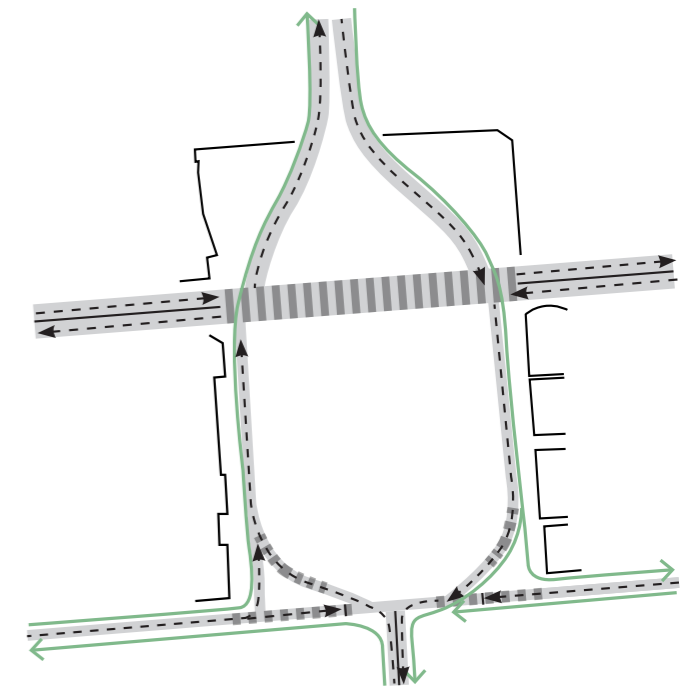
- Primary access point
- Access point
- Primary pedestrian path
- Cycle lane\*
- Vehicle lane
- Paved roadway

## Key Points

- A Level Change - Potential amphitheatre
- M Monument

## OPTION 2 ACHIEVES:

<b>Safety</b>	Removal of 2 vehicle slip lanes.
<b>Greening</b>	Replacement of 2,895m <sup>2</sup> (15%) of road pavement with green space. An increase in green space of 4% and an increase in space for biodiversity of 13%.
<b>Tree Canopy</b>	An increase in tree canopy of 25%.
<b>Open Activity Spaces</b>	An increase in open lawns for open activity spaces of 20%.



Traffic surrounding the Square (vehicle lanes and cyclist paths)

\* Detailed design to define open spaces that will allow for a range of activities at various scales  
\*\*Detailed design to define at grade/separated

# Options Comparison

This section provides a comparison of hard stand (road surfaces) and greening for Light Square/Wauwi and the changes associated with Option 1 and Option 2 of the Master Plan.



Existing Light Square/Wauwi

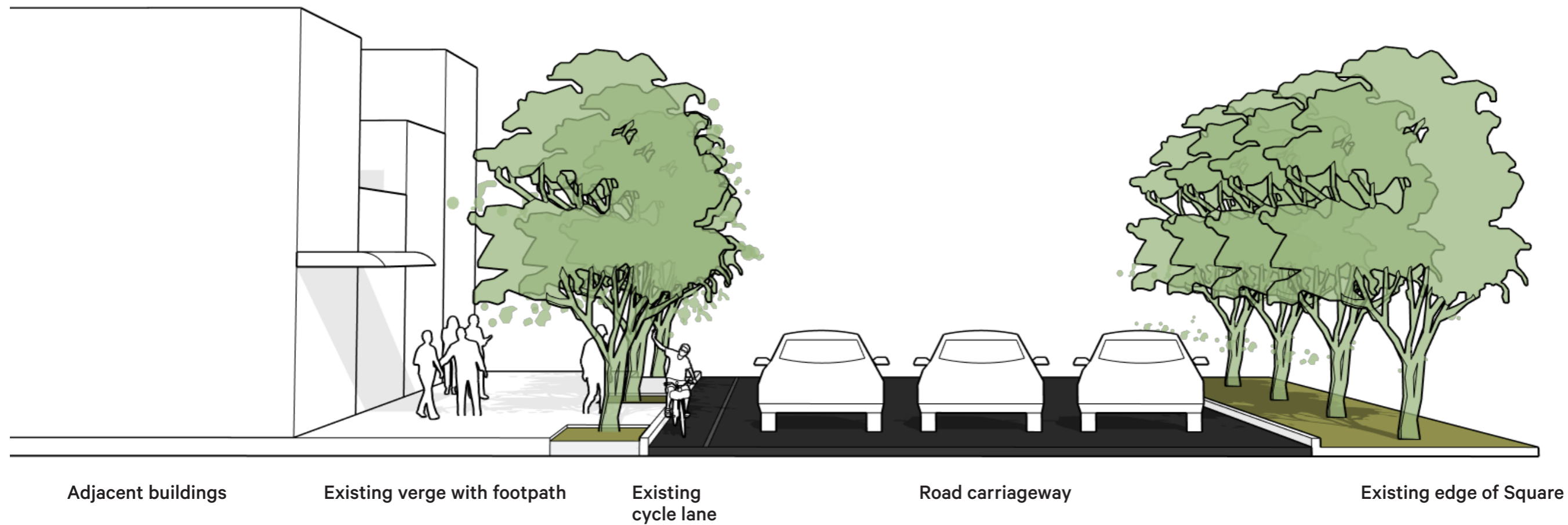
Option 1

Option 2

Legend	Existing Light Square/Wauwi	Option 1	Option 2
Total area within scope of Master Plan	39,108m <sup>2</sup>	39,108m <sup>2</sup>	39,108m <sup>2</sup>
Area of road surface	18,740m <sup>2</sup>	15,260m <sup>2</sup>	16,916m <sup>2</sup>
Area of road surface removed	N/A	4,096m <sup>2</sup>	2,895m <sup>2</sup>
Footpaths, lawns and gardens (green space)	20,368m <sup>2</sup>	19,752m <sup>2</sup>	19,297m <sup>2</sup>
Total area of green space	20,368m <sup>2</sup>	23,848m <sup>2</sup>	22,192m <sup>2</sup>
Percentage of green space	52%	61%	56%

# Western side of Square Existing

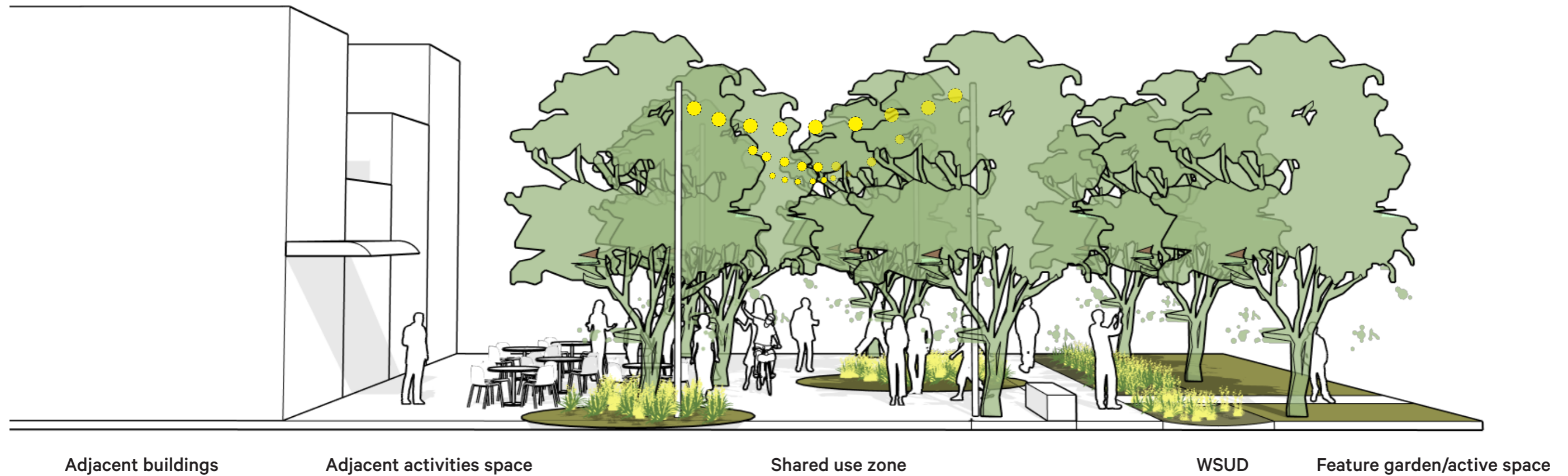
Existing western side of Morphett Street with three traffic lanes and at grade cycle lane.



# Western side of Square

## Option 1

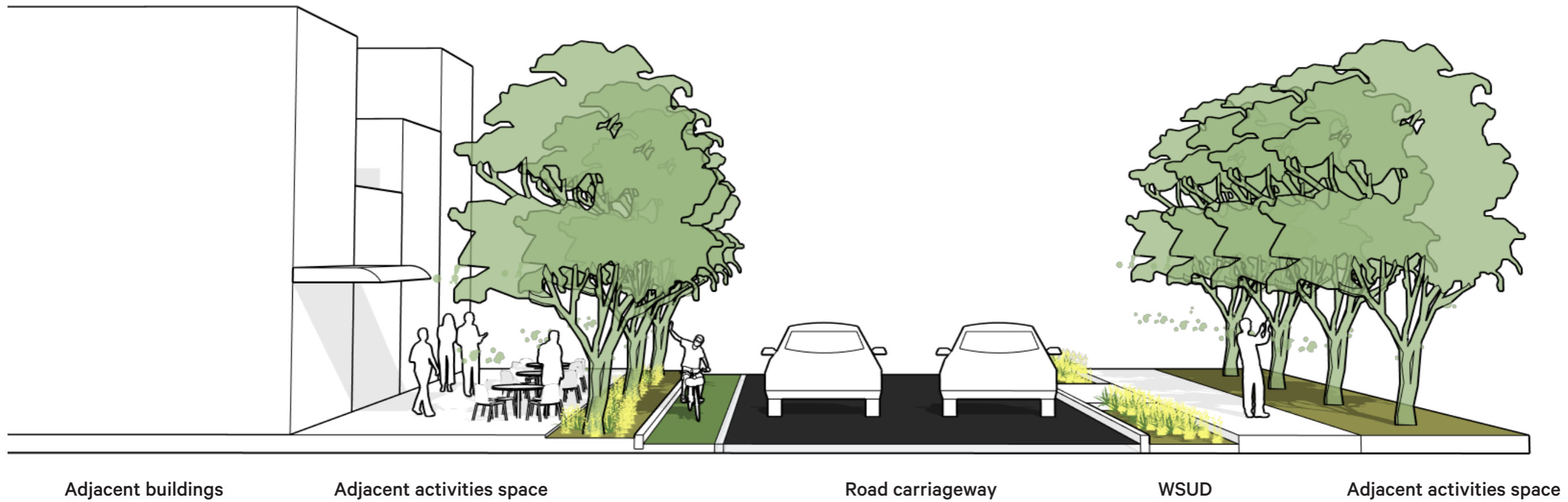
Option 1 will relocate north south through traffic to the eastern side of the Square and allow for a shared use path and direct access to the Square for the western edge without crossing the road.



# Western side of Square

## Option 2

Option 2 will remove two vehicle slip lanes along Morphett Street and increase the central green area of the Square, reduce traffic impact and open up more space for activities.



An aerial night photograph of a city. In the center is a large, well-lit park with many trees and a winding path. Surrounding the park are various buildings, some with glowing windows and others with blue or white architectural lighting. In the background, a dense cityscape is visible against a dark sky, with a prominent tower emitting a red laser beam. Light trails from cars on a road in the foreground create streaks of red and white. The overall scene is a vibrant urban landscape at night.

Part three

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# Master Plan Strategies

Image: Joshua Pathon

# Master Plan Strategies

The Light Square/Wauwi Master Plan outlines a bold transformation for one of the city's key urban spaces. The Master Plan aims to transform the Square through a holistic approach to create a distinct character as a greener, safer and inclusive urban area. The key strategies focus on:


- Enhancing planting and ecology to create a green oasis
- Increasing resilience to climate change
- Honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and Adelaide's rich history
- Improving accessibility and inclusion.

The Master Plan emphasises health and wellbeing needs of the diverse residents and users of the Square with events and programming to enliven the Square year-round, supported by strategic lighting to enhance safety and aesthetics.

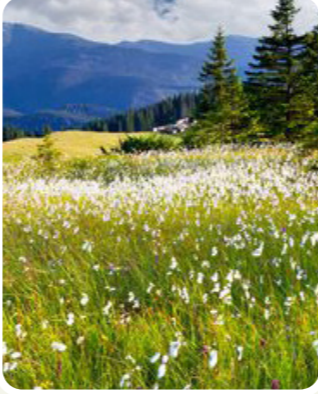
The Master Plan also responds to the Square's place and aims to connect the edges with surrounding uses, open up more space for people and as an inspiration for further activation and engagement with surrounding arts and cultural opportunities. Together, these strategies will transform Light Square/Wauwi into a vibrant, inclusive and green oasis in the Adelaide CBD.

**GREENER**

**GREENING**



**RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE**



**SAFER**

**PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT**



**VEHICLE MOVEMENT**




**LIGHTING**




**INCLUSIVE**


**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURE**




**NATIONAL HERITAGE VALUES**




**ACCESS AND INCLUSION**




**EVENTS + PROGRAMMING**



**PUBLIC ART**



**TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**



# Master Plan Strategies

## Greening

Trees contribute to the character and functionality of the Square, frame spaces, provide the overarching umbrella and create cool refuges. The existing tree canopy is actively managed to remove moribund or unsuitable trees, allowing the spatial structure of the Square to be redefined as open lawns and gardens. The Master Plan will deliver new garden beds to enhance the green character of the Square.

The Master Plan outlines a high level of amenity. Places that are well maintained and provide for a wide range of activities and uses are welcoming and accessible to many people.

### 1 Trees

- New trees are planted in the Square. These include avenue trees, legacy trees and framing trees. Emphasis is given to planting large, long lived trees resilient to a changing climate. Large trees are placed to organise existing and new space for active and passive uses within the Square.
- Lighting clearance and underground services are also considered for tree placement.
- Active management of existing tree assets ensures retention and longevity of the existing tree assets, including Morton Bay Fig Tree. Improved growing conditions assist improved health whilst edging and seating provide the

opportunity for greater use

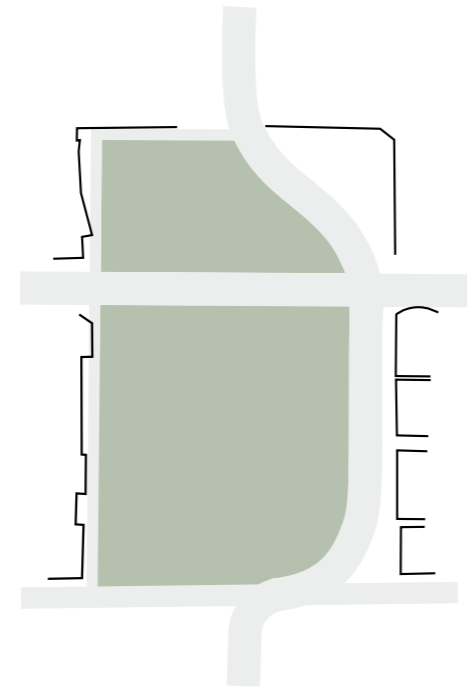
- Shady tree avenues and garden beds right around the outside footpath and the inner edge of the Square extend the green park feel. Trees either side maximise shade and visually narrow the roadway encouraging drivers to travel slower and making pedestrians more comfortable.
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles are achieved through clear sightlines, well lit open spaces and landscape design.

are strengthened to enhance sustainability and functionality.

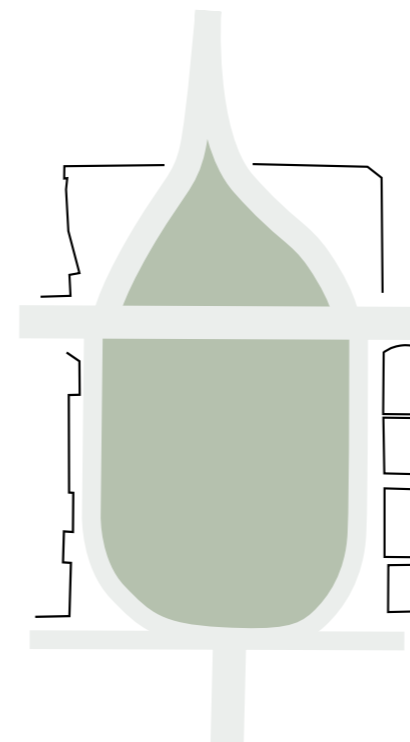
- Systems collect runoff from adjacent surfaces for use in irrigating green spaces, reducing potable water use and flood risks.
- Rain gardens are established around the Square to manage stormwater by filtering runoff, removing pollutants, and supporting native plants suited to local conditions.
- Implement permeable paving in suitable areas to allow water infiltration, replenishing groundwater and minimising runoff.

### 2 Water sensitive urban design

- Links with existing water management systems



Proposed option 1  
Light Square usable area: **23,848m<sup>2</sup>**  
Additional **3,480m<sup>2</sup>**



Proposed option 2  
Light Square usable area: **22,192m<sup>2</sup>**  
Additional **1,824m<sup>2</sup>**



Maintain and manage existing legacy trees. Additional fig trees planted as part of new succession plan.



Remove trees not suited to the Square or beyond their expected useful lifespan.



Transplant smaller short lived trees or trees not in ideal location for new spatial organisation.



Plant large long lived shade trees for the future. Extend the 'Green' Square to the adjacent building frontages.



A long term vision for the Square is to increase tree numbers and canopy cover.



# Master Plan Strategies

## Greening cont.

### 3 Native gardens

- Gardens use native species that are resilient to a changing climate enhancing resilience and supporting biodiversity.
- Informative signage and interactive elements educate visitors about the traditional uses and ecological roles of each plant, highlighting their significance in local Aboriginal culture.
- Garden layouts mimic natural ecosystems for sustainability, grouping similar species and using natural land contours for efficient water management.
- Gardens provide opportunities for connection with nature and nature play.
- Different sized lawns complement gardens to

provide structure and a high level of amenity to the Square. The planting scheme is based on a core selection of low shrubs and ground covers that are selected with regard to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, to increase biodiversity, and that thrive in the urban environment.

- Vergé planting in selected locations extends greening of the Square and helps extend a buffer to create a green oasis.

### 4 Seasonal gardens

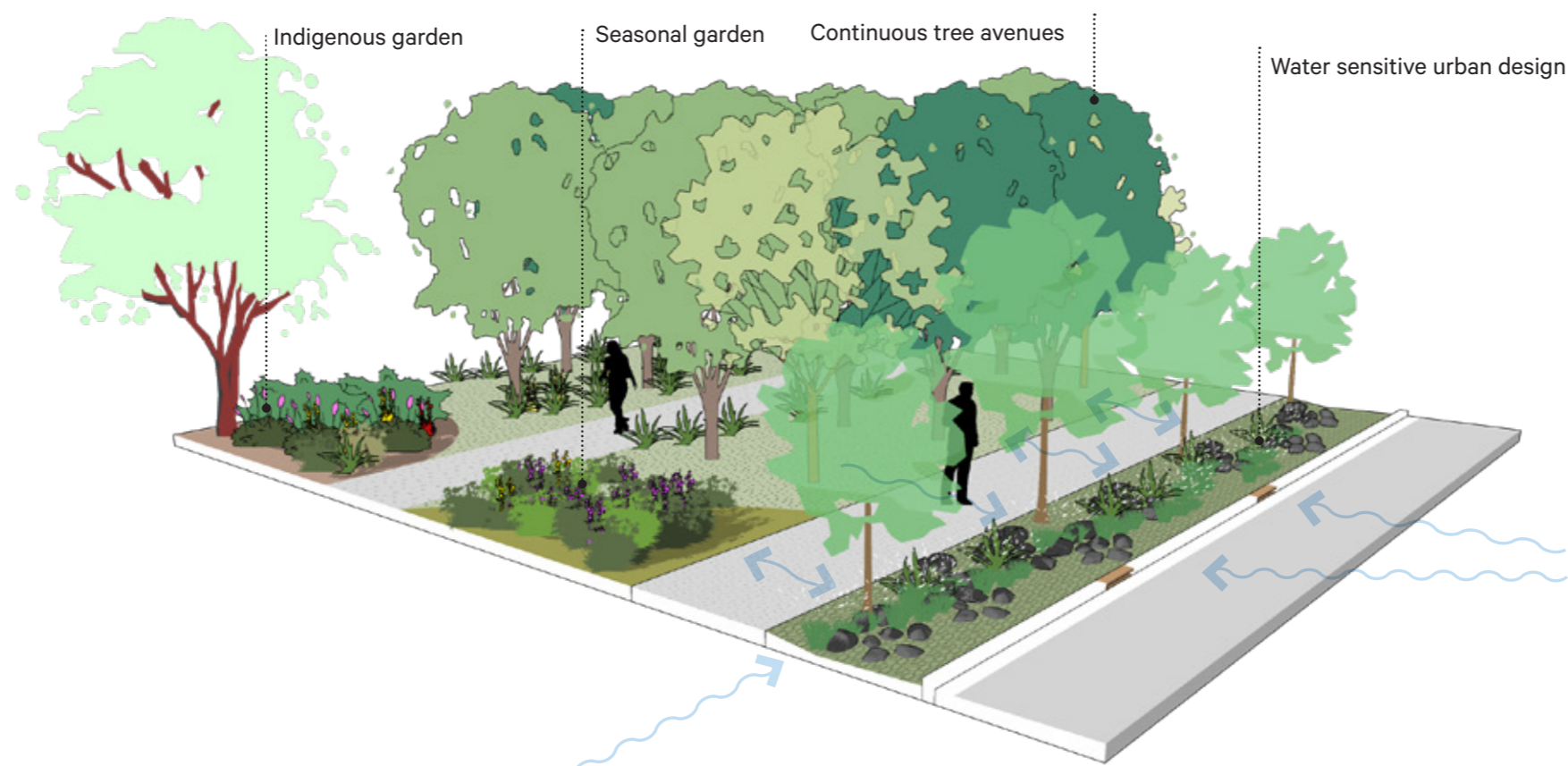
- Plants bloom in different seasons, ensuring year-round visual interest and habitat support.
- Gardens showcase a succession of colours

and textures that change with the seasons as an ever-evolving backdrop that enhances the urban landscape and provides food and habitat.

- Sustainable gardening practices such as mulching, composting and the use of native plants are used to reduce water use and maintenance.
- Gardens are used as an educational tool to engage the community and with signage explaining the ecological roles of the plants and their adaptive strategies.
- Gardens are designed with accessible paths and seating areas that invite visitors to engage with the space differently as it changes throughout the year.

### 5 Maintenance

- As a Square with high amenity, trees and gardens will require appropriate care during establishment and maintenance to retain their standard.



# Master Plan Strategies

## Resilience and Climate Change

The Light Square/Wauwi Master Plan includes strategies for addressing climate change through design and implementation. These strategies aim to reduce temperatures with an increased tree canopy resulting in shaded areas that provide refuge from summer heat. Passive design principles are adopted to create a space that is comfortable to use throughout the seasons. Material is chosen that reduces embodied carbon and supports a circular economy.

The Master Plan:

### 1 Responds to a changing climate

- Increases tree canopy to create a cool refuge for hot days.
- Integrates passive design principles to maximise shade in summer and warmth in winter and for placement of event and activity spaces.
- Assesses the design for low carbon and climate resilience.

### 2 Minimises hardscape and structures

- Aims for 70% planting and 30% paving.
- Minimises thicknesses of paving and base courses
- Reduces concrete, steel and aluminium and replaces it with more sustainable and/or recycled materials.
- Maximises use and reuse of materials already present in the Square.

### 3 Utilises sustainable and low carbon materials

#### • Wood and wood products

Considers recycled timber and requires timber stamped by a third-party sustainable forestry organisation, with a documented Chain-of-Custody (CoC) and sourced from a certified managed forest or stand. Timber components are designed for longevity, durability and reuse and for efficiency, using the right wood for the right application.

#### • Reduces embodied carbon

Wherever possible, materials are used that are hard wearing and demonstrate a lower carbon impact, such as recycled concrete and low carbon cement.

#### • Supports a circular economy

Materials and products that can be reused and recycled and that support a circular economy are selected. This includes recycled steel or steel produced with electric arc furnaces (EAFs). Use and reuse of materials already present in the Square are maximised.



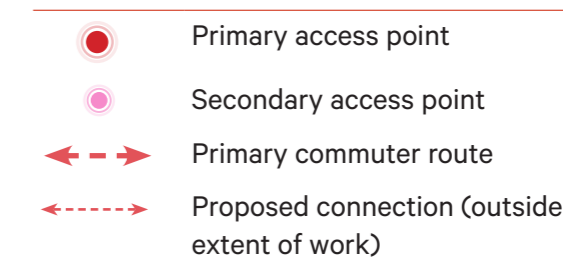
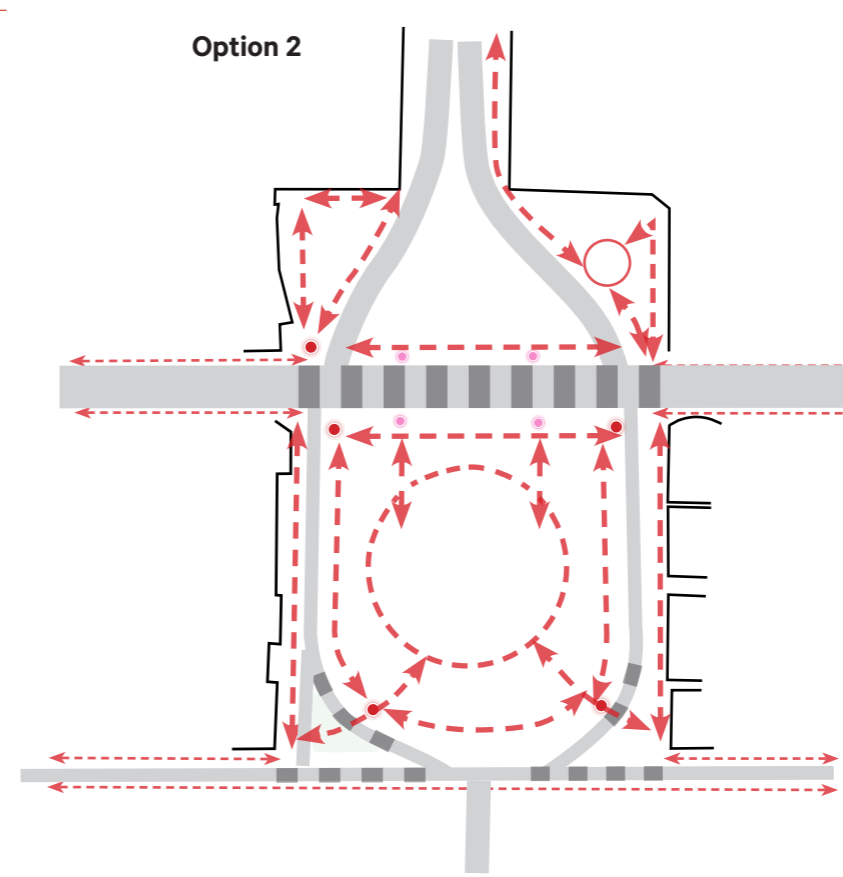
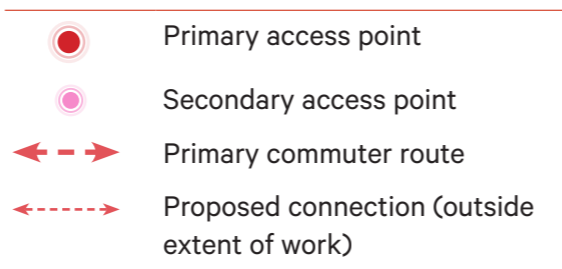
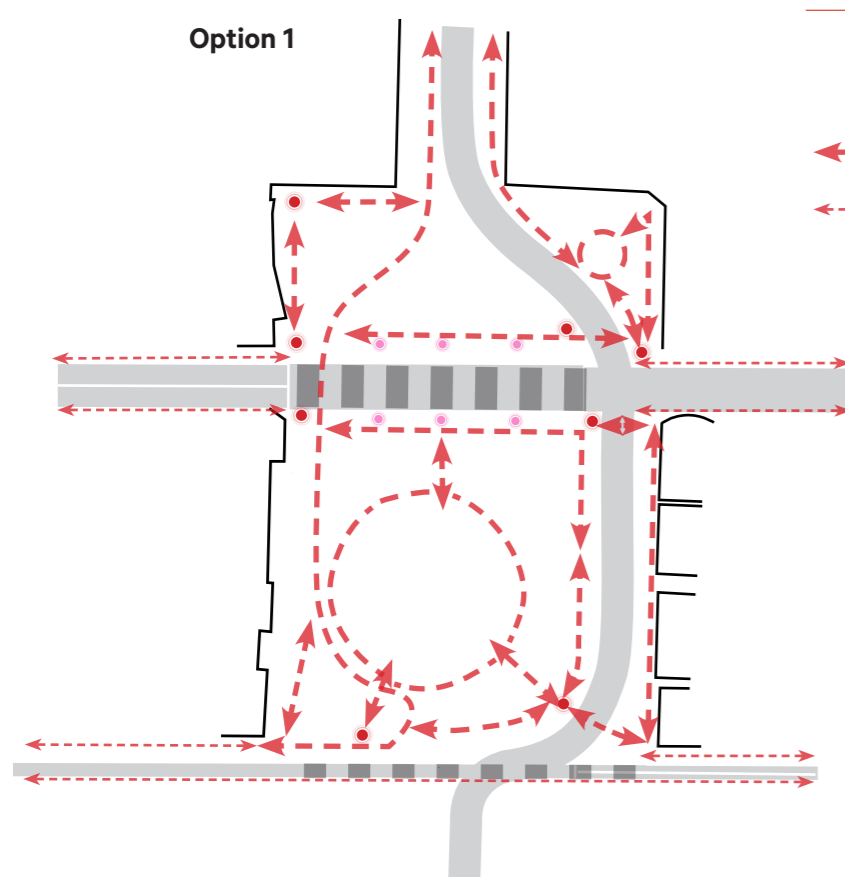
# Master Plan Strategies

## Pedestrian Movement

Pedestrian movement and safe and convenient access to open space takes precedence over vehicle movement in the reinvigoration of Light Square/Wauwi, whilst noting that north-south vehicle movement along Morphett Street and east west vehicle movement along Currie Street is to remain.

### The Master Plan:

- Provides safe and comfortable pedestrian access to Light Square/Wauwi and throughout the adjacent neighbourhood.
- Enables pedestrian movement to assist in place-making, site identity and wayfinding.
- Integrates pedestrian movement into routes designated in the City Plan which includes pedestrian links to Hindley Street and the city's West End.
- Develops a hierarchy of surfaces and elements that are incorporated dependent on intensity of use and requirements for occasional vehicle passage.
- Achieves Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles through clear sightlines, well lit open spaces and possible CCTV.
- Supports safe pedestrian access around and into the Square through design and placement of furniture and elements.



# Master Plan Strategies

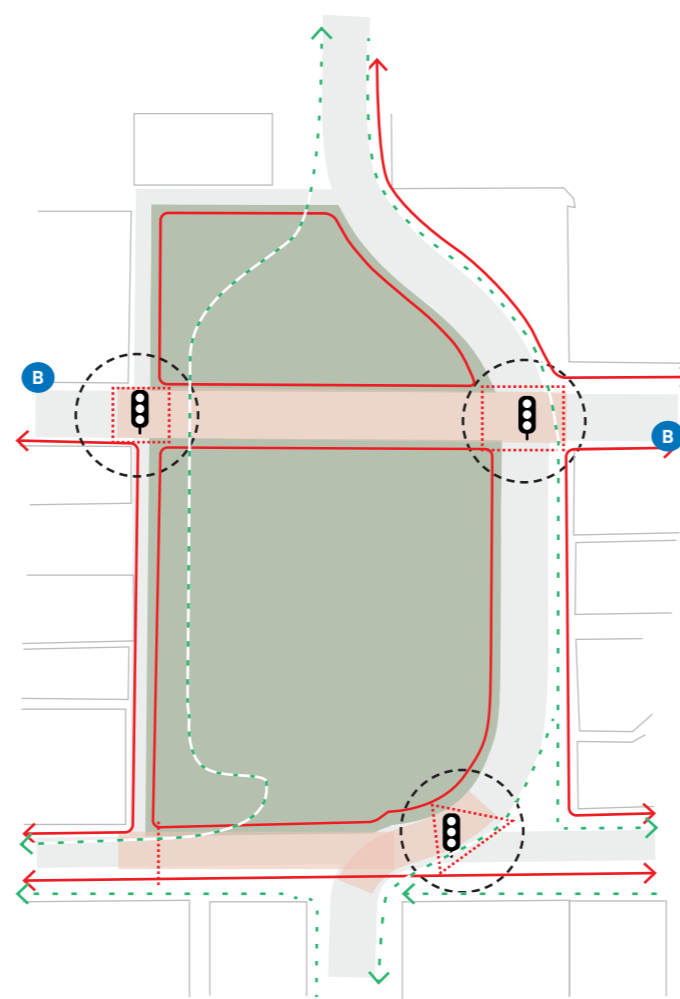
## Vehicle Movement

Two options have been considered when developing the draft Master Plan for Light Square/Wauwi:

1. OPTION 1 is to relocate vehicle movement along Morphett Street to the eastern side of the Square only.
2. OPTION 2 is to retain vehicle movement along Morphett Street either side of the Square and increase the central green area of the Square by removing slip lanes, pushing the traffic lanes outwards and reducing the width of the current parking and pedestrian verges.

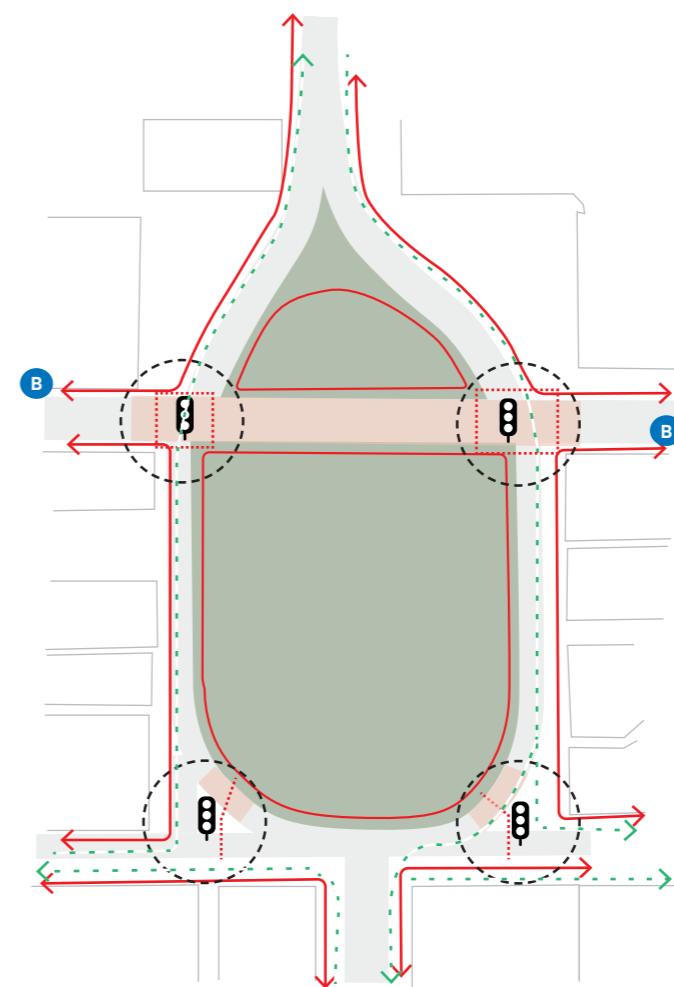
For both options:

- The left hand turn from Morphett Street into Waymouth Street is removed.
- The slip lane from Morphett Street heading north and into the TAFE carpark is removed
- The exit from Philip Street to Morphett Street is removed.
- A changed road surface material in Currie Street is proposed.
- The existing bus stop on the northern side of Currie Street is relocated outside of the Square.
- Vehicle speeds are reduced and zebra crossings installed.
- The dominance of the road is reduced by providing paved on-street parking areas with roll-over kerbs, while maintaining two existing lanes of traffic and bus stops.



**Option 1**

- 1 Relocates traffic movement to the eastern side of the Square.
- 2 Pushes the road carriageways to the east within the existing carparking and pedestrian footpath zones.
- 3 Achieves vehicle access to properties on the western side of the Square from existing laneways running off Currie and Waymouth Streets.



**Option 2**

- 1 Retains the existing north south traffic movement along Morphett Street but relocates the road carriageways outwards.
- 2 Includes limited loading and access carparks on the eastern side.

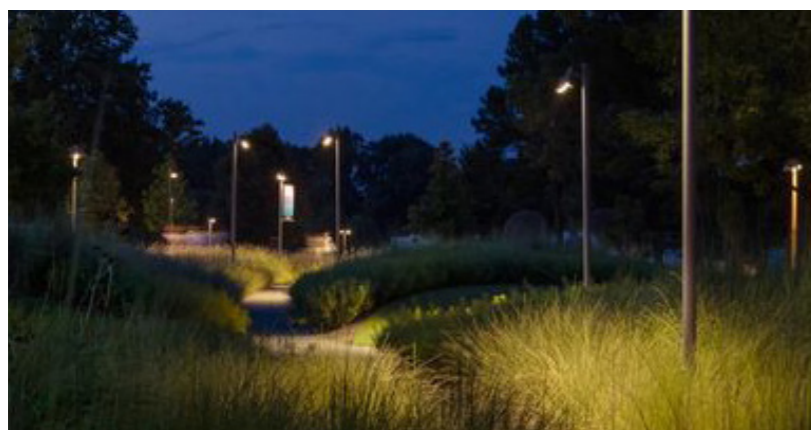
	Pathway
	Crossing
	Signalised intersection
	Paved intersection
	Bus Stop
	Designated bike movement

# Master Plan Strategies

## Lighting

The public realm operates over a 24 hour cycle. Lighting contributes towards public safety and security, as well as site character.

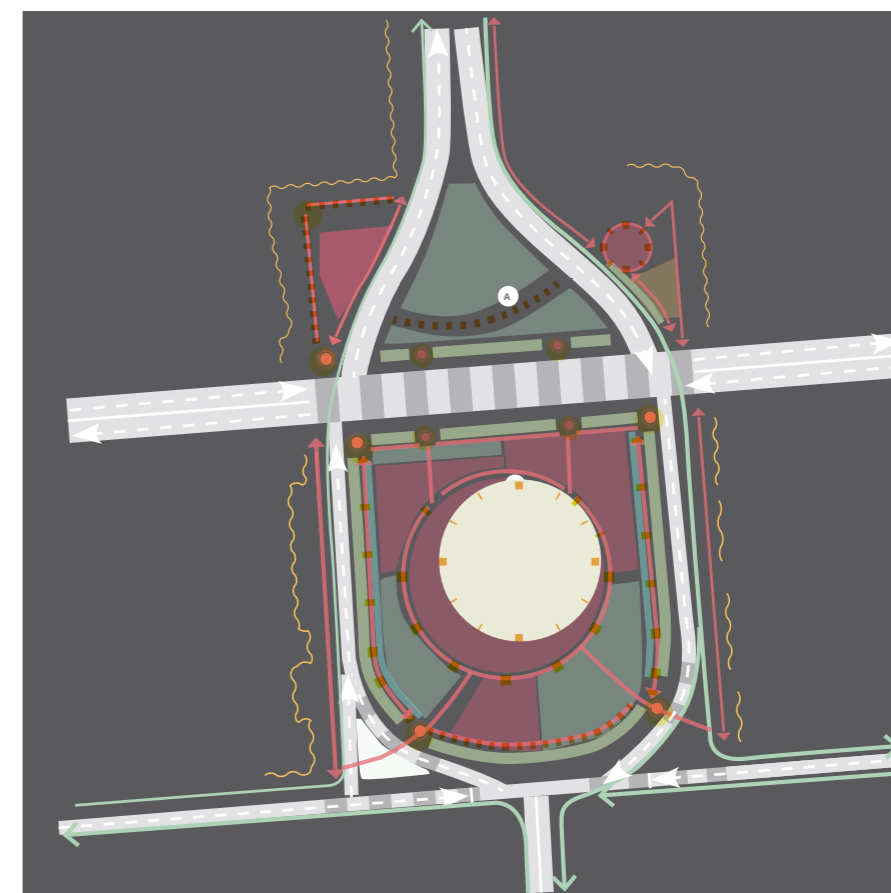
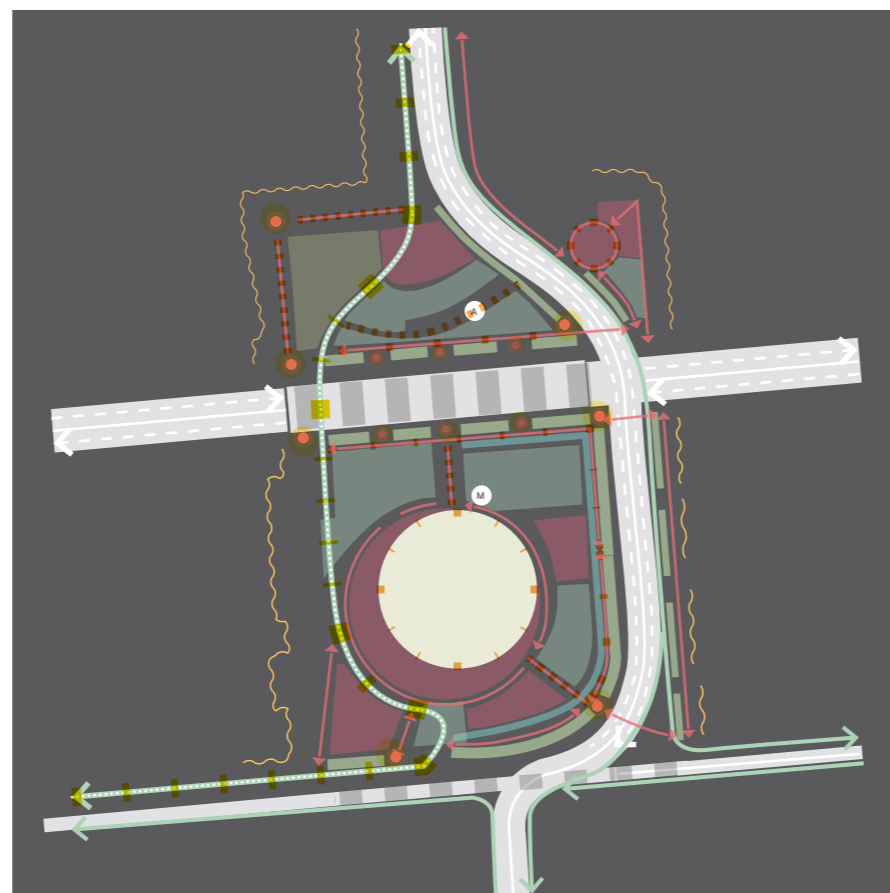
A mix of functional pole top lighting combined with feature and amenity lighting provides a safe and attractive public realm.



The Master Plan:

- 1 Increases safety and wayfinding through lighting design**  
Key spaces and all pedestrian paths are well lit.  
Consideration is given to the hours of use and when lighting should be turned off, if at all.
- 2 Uses energy efficient lighting**  
Lamps utilise LED technology. The colour temperature of lamps is in the range of 3,200 – 4,000 Kelvin.

- 3 Creates a sense of place**  
Feature lighting and lighting design are used to create a sense of place. Design and placement considers any overlap with event space and any height clearances.
- 4 Supports event and seasonal lighting**  
Temporary lighting installations contribute towards activation and events.



# Master Plan Strategies

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture

It is not only the loss of the Kurna Meyunna people from the Adelaide Plains that is to be recognised but also the loss of the ecological systems that were integral to the cultural practices and beliefs of the culture. In the same manner that cultural memory is being utilised to rebuild and adapt Kurna Meyunna culture for contemporary urban living, so too landscape memory is integral to that process.

### Cultural aims and outcomes:

- Enhance the richness of the cultural narrative-Kurna Meyunna and other non-Kurna people.
- Contextualise human occupation of the Adelaide region as a cultural continuum.
- Manage and locate sites of significance, before and post colonisation.
- Recognise Kurna Meyunna dispossession and dislocation.
- Tell personal stories from colonisation onwards.
- Reveal the complexity and relevance of Kurna Meyunna culture to the present day.

- Provide cultural narratives to young people to assist them carry it forward.
- Explore inter-cultural synthesis and inter-cultural contributions.
- Construct the cultural narrative in a positive as well as honest manner.
- Explore the common ground and speculate on a common, or bi-cultural, future.

Karl Winder Telfer and Gavin Malone



# Master Plan Strategies

## National Heritage Values

The National Heritage listed Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout represents a diverse and complex cultural landscape with a range of values related to its historical association with the colonisation of Australia, Colonel William Light’s unique city plan and creative achievement, and its social value to South Australians who see it as fundamental to the character and ambience of the city.

The Master Plan has had regard to the objectives of the draft National Heritage Management Plan which includes to:

- Keep the Square as green public open space with a village green form
- Interpret the changes over time of the City Gardeners’ landscape design
- Keep significant remnant early plantings, including the Moreton Bay Fig Tree
- Reduce the focus on car traffic and support public and social uses
- Partner with the Kurna community to appropriately record, respect and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage
- Incorporate the monument and burial site of Colonel Light in the design.



Figure 5: National Heritage Listed Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout with Park numbers and City Squares

# Master Plan Strategies

## Access and Inclusion

The Master Plan aims to improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists to achieve safe, universally accessible and equitable open space. It also aims to provide spaces that reflect diverse cultures, expression and participation.

### The Master Plan:

Incorporates principles for equitable access and inclusivity, including cultural inclusion.

- Responds to pedestrian desire lines and cycle connectivity.
- Utilises signage, planting and minor landscape elements to channel and direct movement.
- Considers movement and access requirements by large gatherings whilst events are occurring in the Square.
- Considers diverse experiences of age, culture, gender and disability.
- Increases safety and the perception of safety through lower vehicle speeds, passive surveillance and lighting.
- Incorporates innovative methods that supports activity, movement, and socialising promoting health and wellbeing.





# Master Plan Strategies

## Events and Programming

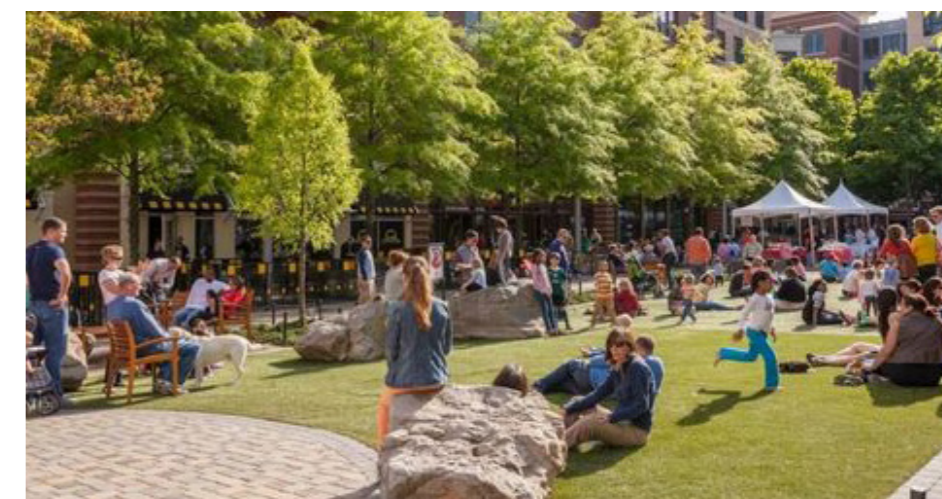
The Master Plan aims to create a welcoming environment and attractive destination for events and cultural programs.

### The Master Plan:

Provides opportunities for activation promoting community participation and inclusion.

- Promotes a diversity of cultural events, exhibitions and display, including an emphasis on recognition of culture and knowledge and participation by culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- Includes a variety of grassed and paved open spaces with supporting service infrastructure. The Master Plan considers lighting and opportunities for events to extend after dark.
- Invites participation by adjacent building users and institutional programs, including existing programs at TAFE, the University of South Australia and the Adelaide College of the Arts.

- Through a central hub provides event infrastructure for 'plug + play' activities.
- Supports occasional large community events, such as Illuminate Adelaide and Tasting Australia.
- Includes large open lawn suitable for a range of small and medium events.
- Includes smaller spaces for small scale events to be held.
- Provides improved safety and lighting for events year round.
- Provides spaces that will encourage live music to support Adelaide designated a UNESCO City of Music.



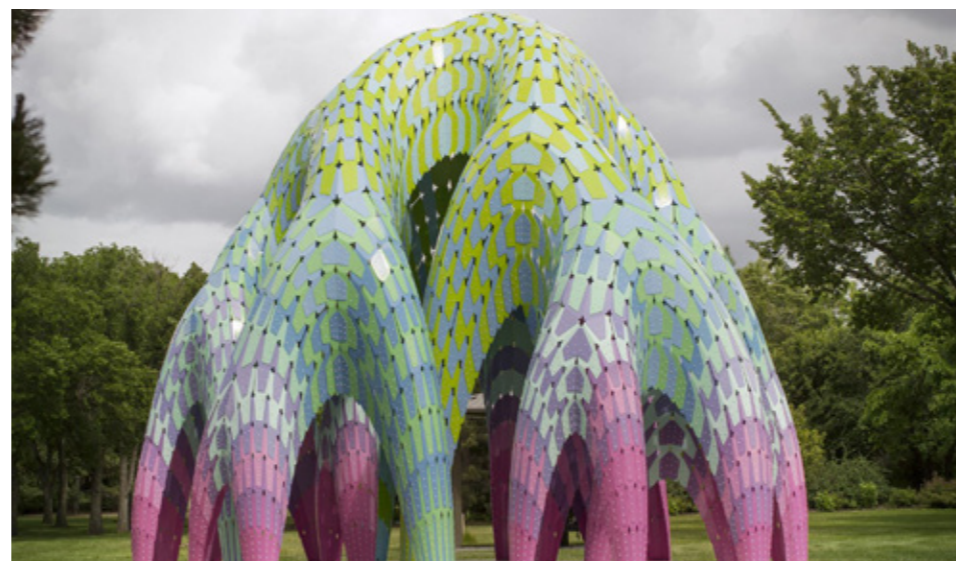
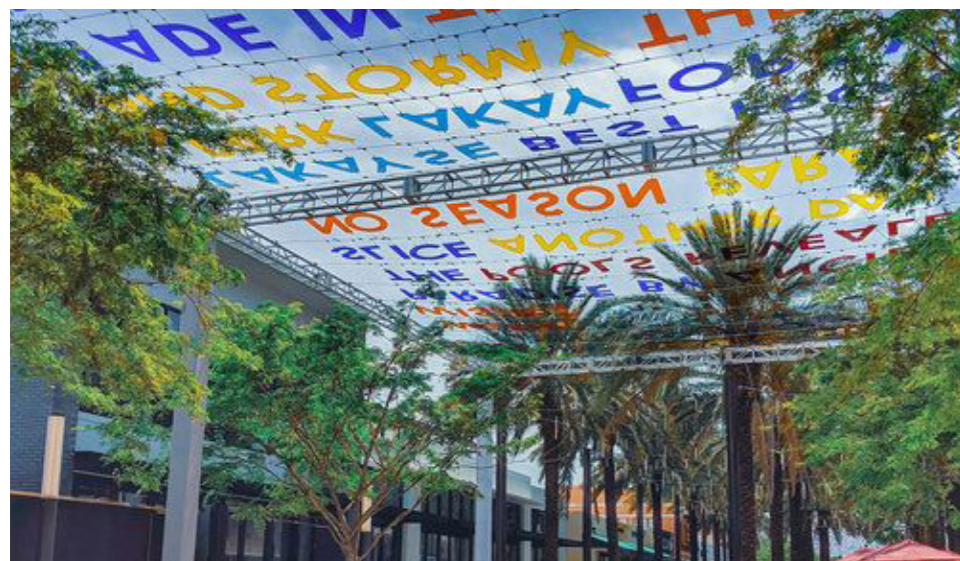
# Master Plan Strategies

## Public Art

Light Square/Wauwi is currently home to a number of significant artworks including Pride Walk, the Eternal Question, by Richard Tipping and The Knot, a commissioned work of art by Bert Flugelman originally located at the Art Gallery of South Australia. Other objects and markers are located in the Square.

### The Master Plan:

- Proposes a coordinated approach to public art and objects consistent with an integrated approach to spatial organisation, events and placemaking.
- Introduces opportunities for new artworks and creative expression in the form of performance art and temporary installations.
- Involves both the community and local businesses and institutions in the commissioning process.
- Supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public art through cultural layering within the landscape design, including spatial design, furniture and subject design, planting, stories and cultural memory, and performance.
- Develops a rolling program of temporary artworks and performance that support the Master Plan objectives for community participation.



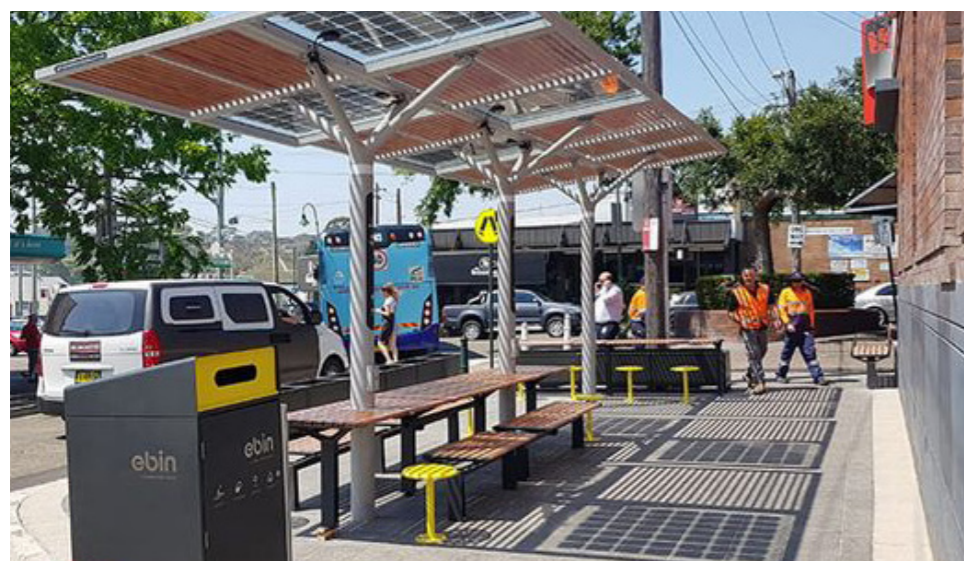
# Master Plan Strategies

## Technology and Innovation

A key measure of success in regenerating Light Square/Wauwi is the incorporation of technologies to enhance visitor experience and increase safety and maintenance.

### The Master Plan:

- Incorporates data collection, storage and reuse for asset management and design.
- Adopts a common approach to technology consistent with other technologies and innovations being used by the City of Adelaide.
- Encourages collaboration and knowledge sharing with the surrounding knowledge sector and other businesses and institutions developing creative programs and practices.
- Utilises techniques like onsite sensors to collect real-time data that monitors environmental conditions, use of the Square and operational performance.
- Provides for data and service infrastructure to be incorporated into the design to support event operations and day-to-day maintenance requirements such as bin collection.
- Utilises technology and digital tools to engage the community, fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment through their feedback.
- Utilises technology to assist with wayfinding.
- Showcases innovative waste technology for efficient waste management.
- Explores the potential to generate onsite solar energy to use for onsite 'plug + play' and for export
- Showcases a circular economy in action by using products and materials from recycled content.





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# Appendices

Image: Joshua Pathon

# Site Description and Project Extent



Light Square/Wauwi is located in the north-west quadrant of the City of Adelaide and is one of the six Squares in the Adelaide Park Lands.

The Master Plan study area includes the main body of the Square and the separated northern section that is again divided by a slip lane providing access to the TAFE carpark. The study area includes paved verges on the outside edges, smaller triangles of turf and trees separated by slip lanes, and wide verges adjacent to the Adelaide College of the Arts and TAFE.

- ..... Master Plan precinct boundary
- Extent of Works of Light Square/Wauwi
- Areas outside of the project boundary

# Existing Site Conditions

## Elements



Furniture



Furniture



Public toilet



Turf



Paving



On-street carparking with wide verges



Rose garden



Internal footpaths



Pedestrian crossing



Cityscape



Pedestrian crossing



Lighting



# Existing Site Conditions

## Elements



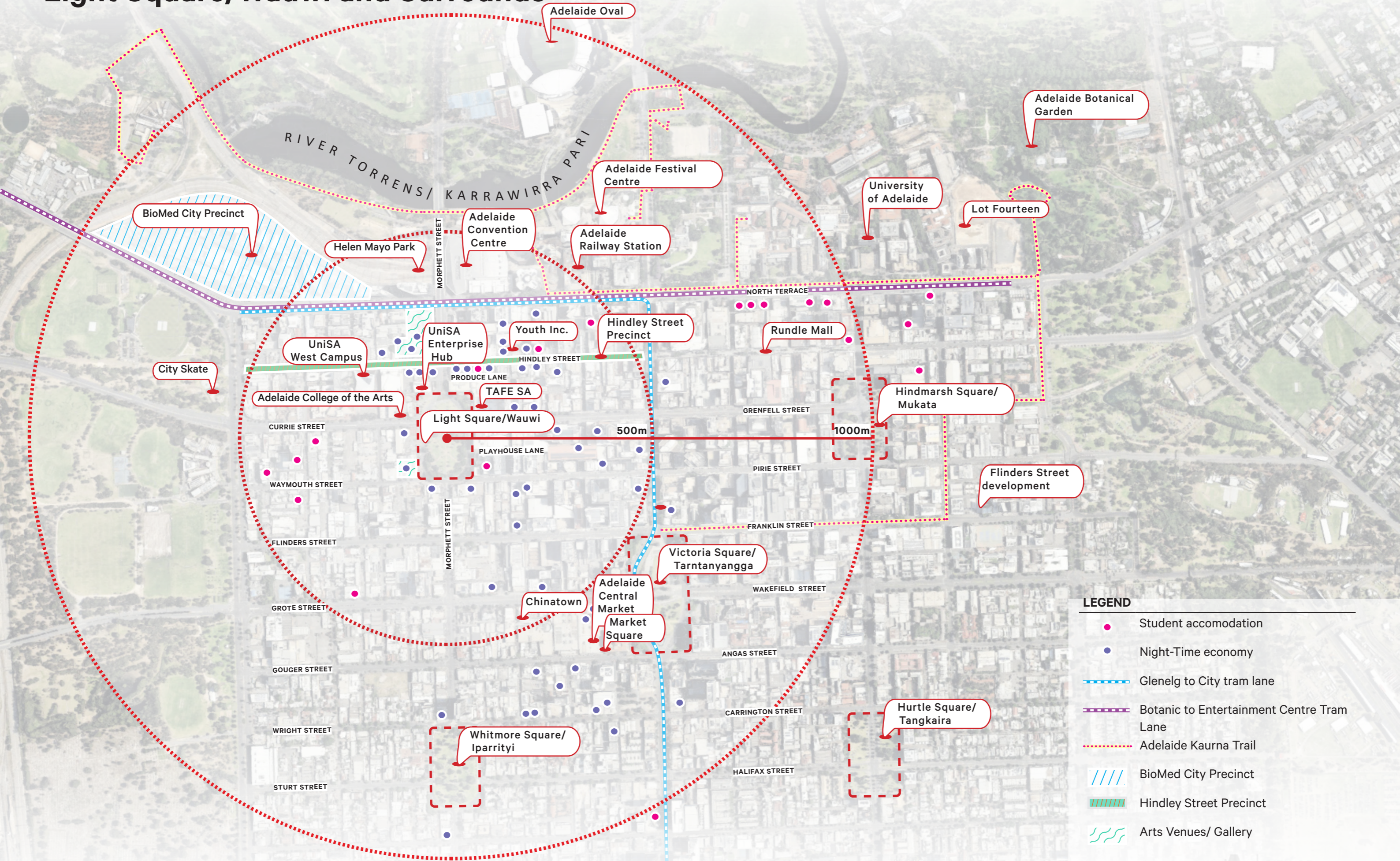
# Existing Site Conditions

## Activities





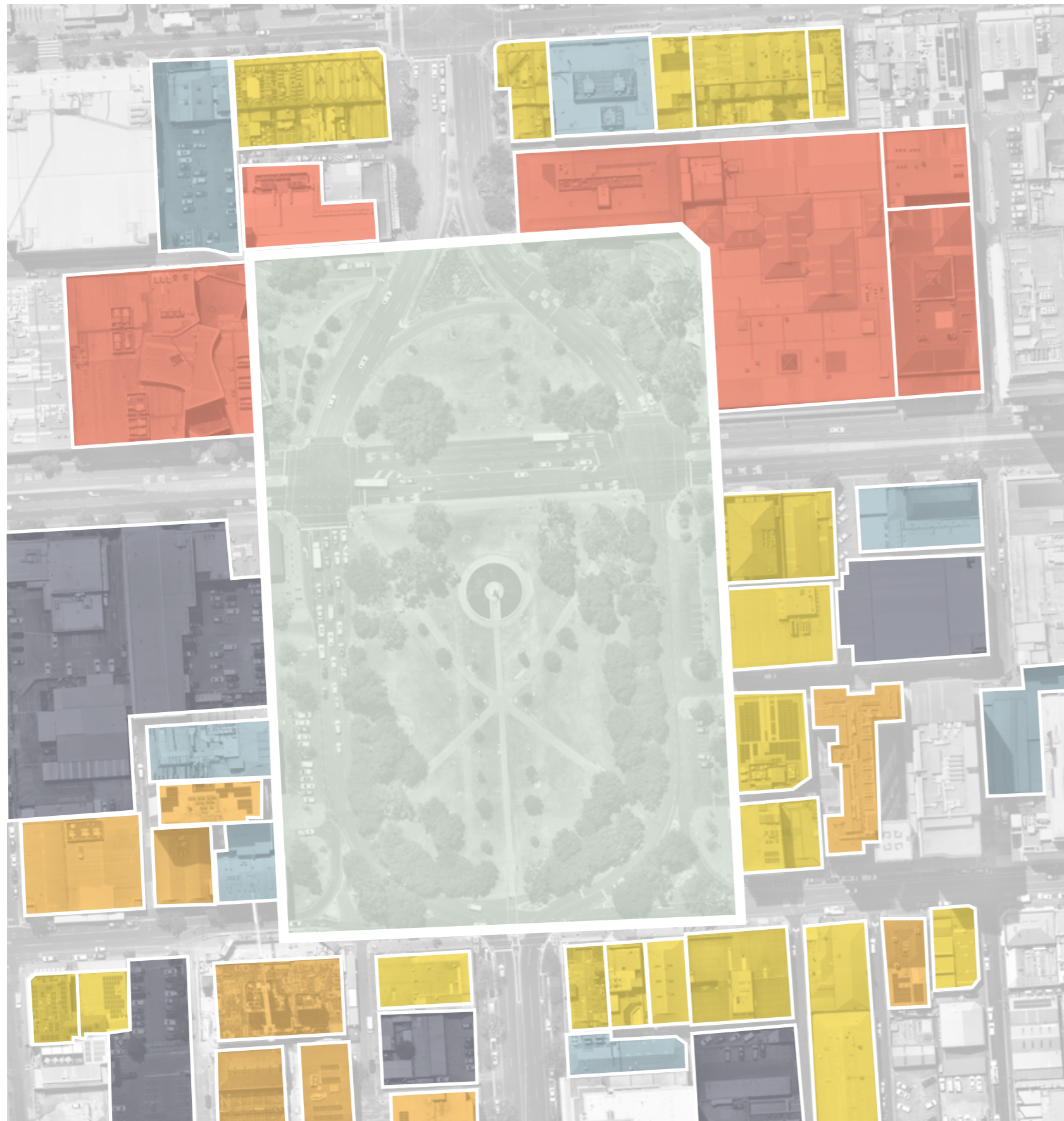
# Light Square/Wauwi and Surrounds



**LEGEND**

- Student accomodation
- Night-Time economy
- Glenelg to City tram lane
- Botanic to Entertainment Centre Tram Lane
- Adelaide Kurna Trail
- //// BioMed City Precinct
- //// Hindley Street Precinct
- ~ Arts Venues/ Gallery

# Adjacent Land Uses

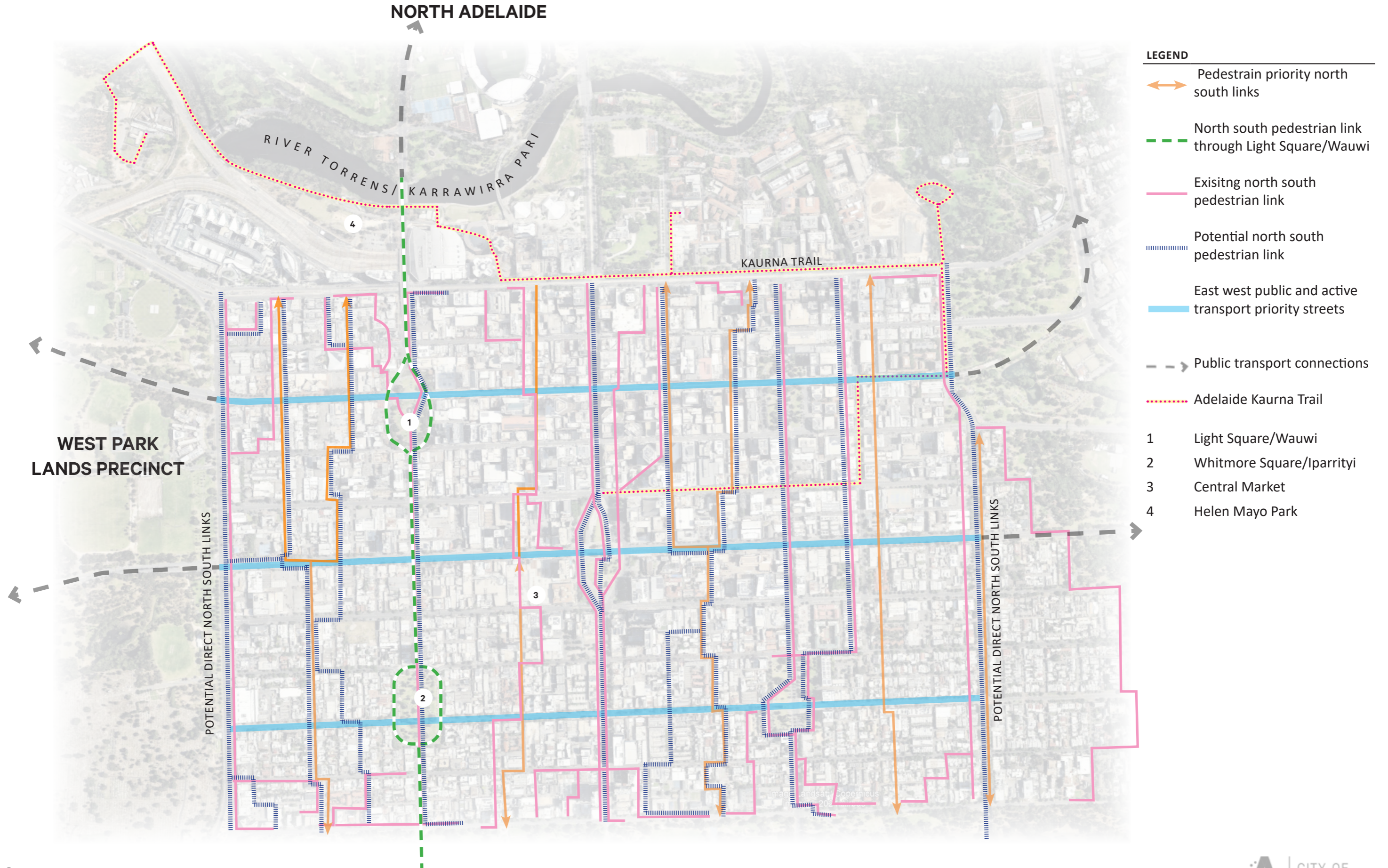


## LAND USE

- Commercial use
- Educational use
- Accommodation use
- Utilities / Industry
- Study area
- Public institution

# Public and Active Transport Links

The Master Plan options respond to improving links to public and active transport networks and to the Squares and Adelaide Park Lands.



# Community and Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Community engagement for this project is being undertaken in two phases:

Phase 1 was undertaken in May 2024

Phase 2 is intended to be carried out in July 2024

Feedback collected from Phase 1 has guided the development of the current draft Master Plan for the Square.

## PHASE 1



### Exploring & Visioning & Engaging with Communities

Phase 1 encompassed information gathering to understand the Square. We listened to the insights of a wide range of local stakeholders and asked questions to better understand the issues.

We asked the community to tell us about their relationship with the Square now and what types of experiences they would like the Square to provide into the future.

#### Key Themes + Values

A series of themes and core values emerged from Phase 1 including:

##### — Kaurna Culture

- Support for a strong and visible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence holistically integrated in the design and creation of a culturally sensitive place.

##### — Wellbeing, Safety & Inclusion

- Elements that increase perceptions of safety such as improving lighting, improving road crossings and reducing the noise and physical impact of traffic.
- Support for the creation of a welcoming space that engenders community ownership and use by students, local residents and businesses and visitors.

##### — Movement

- Traffic identified as a detractor from using and staying in the Square, including safety concerns.
- Suggestions for reducing traffic impact

and transforming the area to a pedestrian centred, well connected space with potential to reclaim some of the road surface for Park Land Purposes.

##### — Character & Activation

- The Square would benefit from the creation of a strong identity and purpose, which is currently perceived to be lacking, linked to its context within the West End.
- Opportunity to create a flexible space that maximises and encourages multi-purpose elements and diversity of users, including responding to surrounding residents and students, creative industries and as an event space.

##### — Greening & Climate Change Resilience

- Support to retain and increase greening for multiple purposes including linking with Kaurna culture, as a visual barrier and identity marker, increasing biodiversity and to create a green oasis that contributes to cooling and wellbeing.

##### — Interpretation of Cultural Features

- Opportunities to better inform users about the existing cultural features, including artworks and their contemporary value and purpose.

##### — Infrastructure

- A range of suggested additional features to attract users and improve amenity and inclusion, including consideration of a kiosk and public toilet.

##### — Sustainability

- Potential to explore onsite solar generation and include circular economy materials and products.

## PHASE 2



### Draft Master Plan

Phase 2 will test the draft Master Plan to understand the level of support for the proposed options, principles and strategies. This will help inform the approach to the detailed design phase to follow.

#### Further considerations

- **Cyclists** - Further resolution on how cyclists can move through and around the Square - in particular the northern section from Currie Street across the Square.
- **Big + Small Spaces** - The scale of big spaces and how much shade is provided. More detail on small 'pocket spaces'.
- **Central Hub** - Some mixed views on the central location of the toilet in respect to safety and sightlines. Revised design to consider the overall composition of the Central Hub and its functionality.
- **Signalised Intersections** - Some community concern over the number of signalised intersections proposed. Proposed intersections to be modelled as part of detailed design to ensure impacts are considered.
- **Fencing Edges** - Some mixed opinions on fencing and edges to the Square, in particular the location and type. Ranging from complete heritage fence surrounds to low hedging and mounds.



people, nature and space.