

CARR VILLA MEMORIAL PARK
Masterplan

City of LAUNCESTON

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Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal People and recognise them as the custodians of the land which is now called Launceston.

This project hopes to facilitate a strengthened relationship of visitors with Country, its stories, animals, plants and people as well as forward the relationship between the City of Launceston and Tasmanian Aborignal People.

We respectfully acknowledge all Ancestors and Elders, past, present.

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Figure 01. Carr Villa Memorial Park: Chapel (Image provided by CoL)

1.0 Introduction

The Carr Villa Memorial Park Masterplan will establish a framework for Launceston's largest public cemetery providing burial, memoriam and community needs for the next 50 years and beyond.

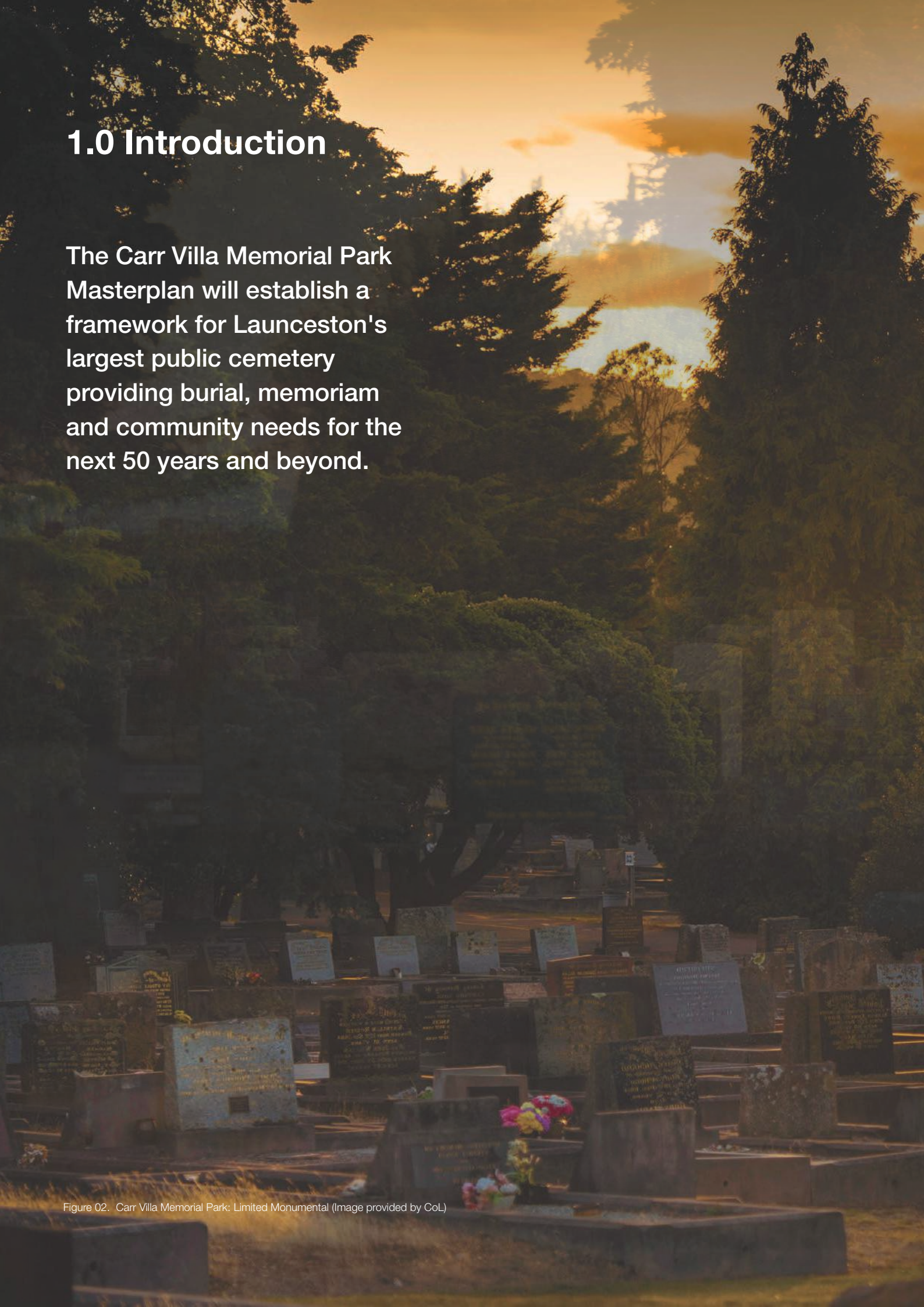


Figure 02. Carr Villa Memorial Park: Limited Monumental (Image provided by CoL)

1.1 Project Brief

Council Provided Brief

The City of Launceston [CoL] via Carr Villa Memorial Park (Carr Villa) has offered cemetery services for over a century. Since 1905, the Memorial park has supported more than 60.000 families from diverse cultures, faiths, and beliefs in honouring their loved ones. Through the provision of these services the Council extends support to individuals from diverse cultures, faiths, and beliefs, aiding them in celebrating and commemorating the lives of their loved ones. By offering these services Council is committed to preserving the picturesque, peaceful, and historical importance of the site, ensuring the long-term sustainability to meet the needs of future generations.

The Park is deeply embedded in the cultural values of the community of Launceston as the one address for interment, memory and grief. This legacy, together with substantial cost and management implication, have informed the decision to look for potential future expansion of interment area within the existing site boundaries of the Carr Villa site, and not to assess potential additional sites.

The City of Launceston Masterplan for Carr Villa Memorial Park will provide a clear strategic direction for the next 50 years of cemetery services, focusing on site capacity/utilization needs, crematorium operations, service offerings, and site maintenance.

Masterplan Scope

The scope of the Carr Villa Masterplan work extends to all physical elements on site, with a focus on:

- Interment types and potential expansion areas in future
- Landscape character and values
- Infrastructure
- Movement and access networks
- Traffic
- Visitor amenity and experience

The Carr Villa Masterplan seeks to advise on strategic partnerships as well as guiding the implementation and staging of works.

A multi-criteria assessment tool rating objectively various criteria of locating possible additional interment area has been applied to identify the most potential direction, weighing environmental impacts, user experiences, and operational and functional values.



Figure 03. Carr Villa Memorial Park- Aerial Image (Nearmap)

1.2 Masterplan Input: Community Engagement and Expert Background

Community engagement has been central to the development of the Carr Villa Masterplan. The plan has been shaped by regular public consultation via the Tomorrow Together platform in 2024 and 2025, as well as through direct engagement with internal and external stakeholders. This included face-to-face meetings, a Councillor workshop, and discussions with representatives from the funeral industry. Engagement with the Friends of the Carr Villa Flora Reserve, comprising members from key environmental groups, also provided valuable insights, ensuring the plan reflects the shared values, expectations, and priorities of a broad cross-section of the community.

Key messages on how the Masterplan development has been informed and addressed is outlined in this section.

An overview of background reports that have been assessed during the development of the Masterplan is also listed below.

Community Engagement 01: Key findings

Initial community engagement was undertaken prior to the inception of the Carr Villa Memorial Park Masterplan project. Key findings includes:

- 53% of respondents would choose cremation while 15% of respondents would choose traditional burial.
- 41% of respondents indicated that they do not have plans in place to be interred in Carr Villa (23% do and 36% unsure) though 30% of those aged 60+ indicated that they would plan to be interred at Carr Villa.
- Of those who planned to be interred in Carr Villa, 61% would choose ash placement.
- 55% of respondents had entered Carr Villa Grounds in the last 12 months.

Community Engagement 02: Intent + Questions

The project undertook a second round of community consultation. Launched on 02.10.2024 through the Tomorrow Together Launceston online interactive platform, the survey aimed to primarily engage on the community sentiment towards the Memorial Park landscape and the facilities which are currently provided and those that could be provided in the future.

Online consultation was supplemented by Site Tours and an Open Day at Carr Villa. Participants were encourages to take the online survey on site. Community engagement key findings included:

- 87% of respondents had visited Carr Villa in the past 12 months.
- Respondents noted that additional bench seating, shelters, public toilets, wayfinding, children's play, and reflection spaces as key assets they would value most within Carr Villa.
- 37% of respondents who visit Carr Villa value the Flora Fauna/Bushlands.
- 86% of respondents have either a positive or neutral view of Carr Villa of activity usage such as dog walking, walking, picnics etc

All community statistics have contributed to creating a picture for the potential use of Carr Villa and how it can best support the deathcare needs of the community.

Community Engagement 03: Review and feedback on Draft Masterplan

During a four week period, the Draft Masterplan was exhibited on the online Tomorrow Together platform for feedback. A total of 56 submissions have been provided during this period, 45 of these directly on the platform, and 7 written submissions were received via email. 4 submissions were left both online and provided as email to Council.

Key topics that the Final Masterplan has addressed with more detail and slight changes to detail of its propositions are:

- Bushland and Natural Values
- Protection of environmental values on site
- Clarification around the nature based children’s play
- Clarification of proposed enhancements to site amenities and general maintenance and operations
- Discussion around alternative siting of additional interment areas
- Grave tenure

It has become clear that the community highly values the present bushland setting and its ecological values supporting threatened ecologies and species in flora and fauna and wants to see those values balanced and protected against the future need of expanding interment area within the boundaries of the site.

Further, whilst the site is already performing as a much loved destination for passive recreation such as walking and engagement with nature, additional community activity within the boundary of the cemetery is proposed to support and enhance the contemplative character of site uses and experiences.

Internal Stakeholder Engagement

Through the first phase of the Masterplan, the project team consulted with City of Launceston (CoL) internal departments:

- Community services
- Parks and Sustainability
- Planning
- Urban Design + Placemaking
- Heritage
- Tourism and Events
- Community Engagement and Communications

Through these discussions we have been able to position Carr Villa in relation to existing and proposed CoL documents and strategies, understanding its contribution to the community offering. We have also identified competing priorities, especially in determining the potential for the bushland area, which are considered as part of this Draft Masterplan process.

CoL staff were forthcoming in providing their personal connections to Carr Villa Memorial park and how it can evolve its contribution in the future to continue to deliver high quality service, but also greater social and cultural outcomes.

City of Launceston Executive Leadership Team Report

A project update was given to the General Manager of Community and Place, as a representative of the Executive Leadership Team (23.09.2024). Within this discussion the project team outlined the potential risk of misalignment of views on the Bushland Area within Carr Villa and the potential for the use of a Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) as a future decision making framework was raised. As a result, a subsequent MCA process was undertaken to select the option best suited for development. The completed MCA Outcome Report was issued on 16.01.2025] and it's key findings captured as part of this Draft Masterplan process.

City of Launceston Councillors

A project update was presented to the City of Launceston Councillors (03.10.2024), this presentation consisted of a description of the works completed to date, the emerging themes, opportunities and any specific items which the Councillors would like to see explored.

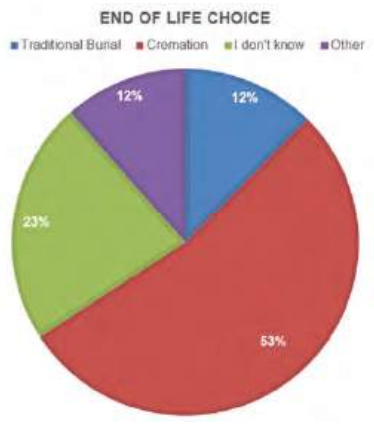


Figure 04. End of Life Choice: Carr Villa Memorial Park Cemetery Management Plan - 2024_2028

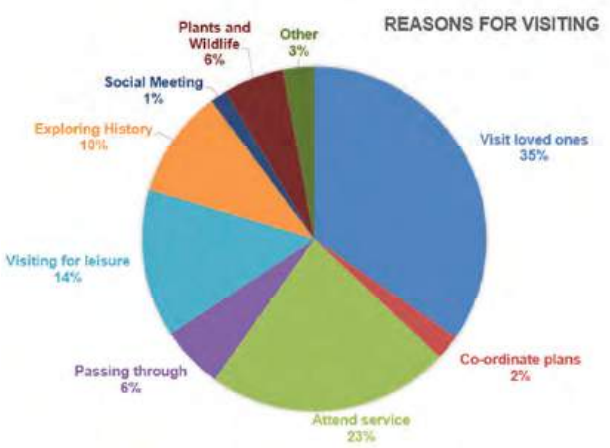


Figure 05. Reasons for Visit: Carr Villa Memorial Park Cemetery Management Plan - 2024_2028

Key comments included:

- General comment regarding Council engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal People.
- Balancing the ecological sensitivities of the site with the ongoing interment and operational needs of the Memorial Park
- A congratulations to the Carr Villa Operations team on how the grounds are kept.
- If the park is subject to vandalism. In which the response from the project team was there was little of significance to mention.

These comments have been considered in the development of the Draft Masterplan.

Additionally on the 22 May 2025, Councillors received an overview of feedback received during the draft masterplan feedback period, including an outline of proposed amendments to the plan as a result of the consultation period.

Key Stakeholders - Funeral Service Industry

In person consultation was conducted with the funeral service industry providers within Northern Tasmania (20.08.2024). Providers who utilise the site were consulted on current trends, site challenges, opportunities and how services could be expanded within the site.

Local Community Groups

Council has received a letter from Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc., Launceston Field Naturalists Club and Launceston Orchid Society. This letter expresses concern in regard to the potential continued expansion of the cemetery interment areas and impacts to the bushland. Additionally, an in-person meeting was held with the group, the project consultant, and Carr Villa Memorial Park Officers, to share their feedback directly.

The groups call for protection of the bushland area and for alternative interment types to be embraced, with the ultimate goal for an alternative site to be considered.

Due to the feedback received, and to guide the design phase, a multi-criteria assessment (Phase 3A: MCA) process was undertaken. This structured considered approach was implemented to balance interment provision with the preservation of natural assets. This was Option 5A: Hybrid Approach.

Tasmanian Aboriginal People

The project team has reached out to representatives of Tasmanian Aboriginal People of the North east Region of Tasmania to gauge interest in engagement on the Carr Villa Masterplan. At the time of preparing this Draft Masterplan, Council had not received confirmation on engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal People.

The project team understands that the process of engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal People is to be Self Determined. The design team believe that the project would benefit greatly from engagement

as we begin to develop a design which is suited to the cultural and social needs of the community.

Embedded within the final Masterplan will be principles of Reciprocity, Reconciliation, Connection to and Caring for Country.

Background Report Summary

The Masterplan has been informed by a number of expert studies and reports, carried out for Council by a number of expert consultant teams over the last years. Various Council policies, listed below, have been assessed in the preparation of the Masterplan for guidance of performance targets and aspirations for public open space.

These include:

- Access Report- Carr Villa Memorial Park, Access for Life, 2024
- Bushland_Management_Plan_ CarrVilla, RMCG, 2024
- Carr Villa Bushland Vegetation Assessment 2019, North Barker Ecosystem Services
- Land Usage and Natural Values Report 2024, Enviro-dynamics
- Aboriginal-Partnership-Plan-V.1.122, City of Launceston
- Carr Villa Memorial Park - City of Launceston - Tree Inspection Report by Urban Forest Training, 2024
- Carr Villa Memorial Park Cemetery Management Plan - 2024_2028
- City-of-Launceston-Public-Art-Strategy-2023-2031
- City-of-Launceston-strategic-plan
- City-of-Launceston-Sustainability-Strategy-2019
- City-of-Launceston-Urban-Greening-Strategy
- Reserve Fire Management Plan - Carr Villa Flora Reserve & Memorial Park

1.3 Achieving a 50+ Year Masterplan

Urban Growth

While Launceston's population growth peaked between 2016 and 2022, it has experienced modest urban growth in recent years, with the current population of the City of Launceston estimated to be around 72,000. Population forecasts suggests it will reach 73,000 by 2027 and 74,000 by mid 2032. Other predictions suggesting that some 3430 new dwellings will be required for Launceston by 2036 to meet demands in housing, infrastructure and community amenity. Like most cities, managing growth will be a challenge, for Launceston, particularly in relation to maintaining environmental sustainability and the preservation of natural assets.

According to 2021 Census Data, Launceston exhibited a higher proportion of older residents compared to the national average with 24.8% of the community aged over 60. Launceston has an average population age of 38 years which is higher than the with approximately 40.9% of the population being between 50 and 85 years of age.

Sustainable Land Use and Economics

Initial estimates indicate that business as usual spatial use of the expansion site will fall within the Masterplan aspirations for a 50+ year timeframe. This estimate is based on current interment consumption rates and a model of interment focused on lawn burial, and it does not include exponential population growth or trends and innovation in the industry.

The graphs on the right show some key population growth estimates for Launceston and the age breakdowns, as published by Tasmanian State Government and City of Launceston

The forecasted population growth and an aging population will increase demand for available land within the cemetery. Embracing innovative and sustainable cemetery practices can help reduce the need for costly land procurement while also establishing ongoing revenue streams beyond the traditional cemetery lifecycle.

To successfully delivery a Masterplan with a 50+ year lifespan, the City of Launceston [CoL] should consider engaging in a departure from a business-as-usual focus on monument and lawn burial and into perpetuity tenure interment typologies.

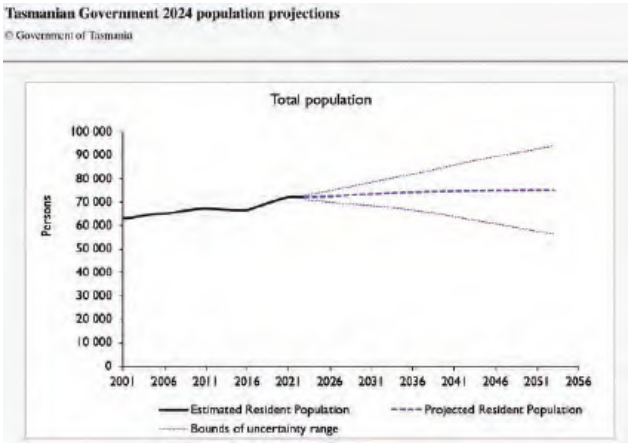


Figure 06. Population Growth Projections: Launceston - 2001-2056

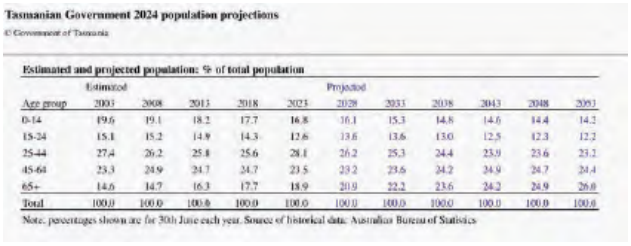


Figure 07. Population Growth Projections: Launceston - 2003-2053

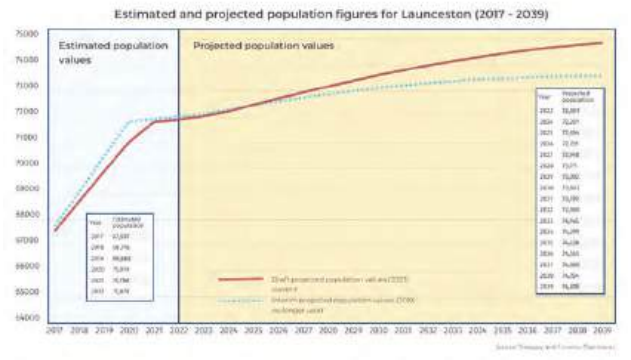


Figure 08. Population Growth Projections: Launceston - 2017-2039

Carr Villa Location	Available Years
Monumental Cemetery	55 years
Limited Monumental Cemetery	15 years
Lawn Plaque - Single Depth	10 years
Lawn Plaque - Double Depth	20 years
Ben Lomond Garden Crypt	0 years
Woodlawn Cemetery	60 years
Orthodox	30 years
Muslim	125 years
Ash Placement Gardens	10 years

Figure 09. City of Launceston Management Plan 2024-2028. Burial Capacity

Establishing a Feedback Loop

Implementing a feedback loop is critical in facilitating change and guiding the Cemetery from a business-as-usual model towards a more sustainable future. The establishment of a direct feedback loop that has been undertaken to date through stakeholder engagement, environmental studies, Carr Villa staff feedback and through the MCA Report process, has facilitated a collective discourse on the future of Carr Villa. The diagram adjacent provides a visual representation of this type of feedback loop.

A feedback loop provides Council's Services and Operations Teams with valuable information on local and current community trends, sentiment, and needs. It also enables Council to consider new sustainable typologies onsite and provide opportunities to educate and advocate to the public and industry alike.

Given the long-term, 50+ year timescale of the Masterplan, the continuous gathering of data and establishment of feedback will provide greater resilience in response to future and unforeseen environmental, cultural, and social challenges facing the cemetery and death care industry more broadly.



1.4 Site Context

Carr Villa Memorial Park, located in Kings Meadows, Launceston, Tasmania, is a significant and expansive site that serves as a tranquil and respectful space for the community. The park is primarily used for cemetery purposes, offering a serene environment for reflection and remembrance. It is also notable for its natural beauty, with vast open green spaces and significant expands of native bushland with high ecological value, comprising of remnant vegetation communities.

Carr Villa Memorial Park caters to both the deathcare and passive recreational needs of the local community.

Within its bounds the memorial park includes a portion of Flora Reserve, which is part of the Cemetery site, but is fenced, not maintained by the Cemetery and not for Cemetery use. This part is not included in the spatial considertaions for potential additional interment area.

The park is an important landmark in Launceston, playing a key role in the local cultural and social fabric. It is integrated within the broader urban landscape while maintaining its peaceful, park-like atmosphere. Future developments will consider the delicate balance of preserving the park's solemnity while providing necessary amenities for visitors.

Carr Villa Memorial Park is easily accessible via major roads and public transport networks in Launceston. The site is located approximately 5 kilometres north of the Launceston city centre, making it convenient for visitors both from the urban area and surrounding regions. Key access points include the main entrance from Nunamina Avenue and secondary access roads leading to different sections of the park, including the Chapel.

For those using public transport, several bus routes connect the park to the wider Launceston area, including Route 140, 145 and 146 with stops within walking distance of the park entrances. The close proximity to the city's central business district ensures that the park remains easily reachable, whether by car, bus, or other means of transport.

Pedestrian access within Carr Villa Memorial Park is well developed, with paved pathways that link key sections of the park to the local residential community, providing a smooth and safe experience for visitors. These walkways encourage leisurely strolls and peaceful exploration of the memorial areas, gardens, bushland and Flora Reserve. A number of informal trails have established over time across the bushland. Plans are to consilidate these trails so that impact on enviornmenbt, and user experience can be improved.

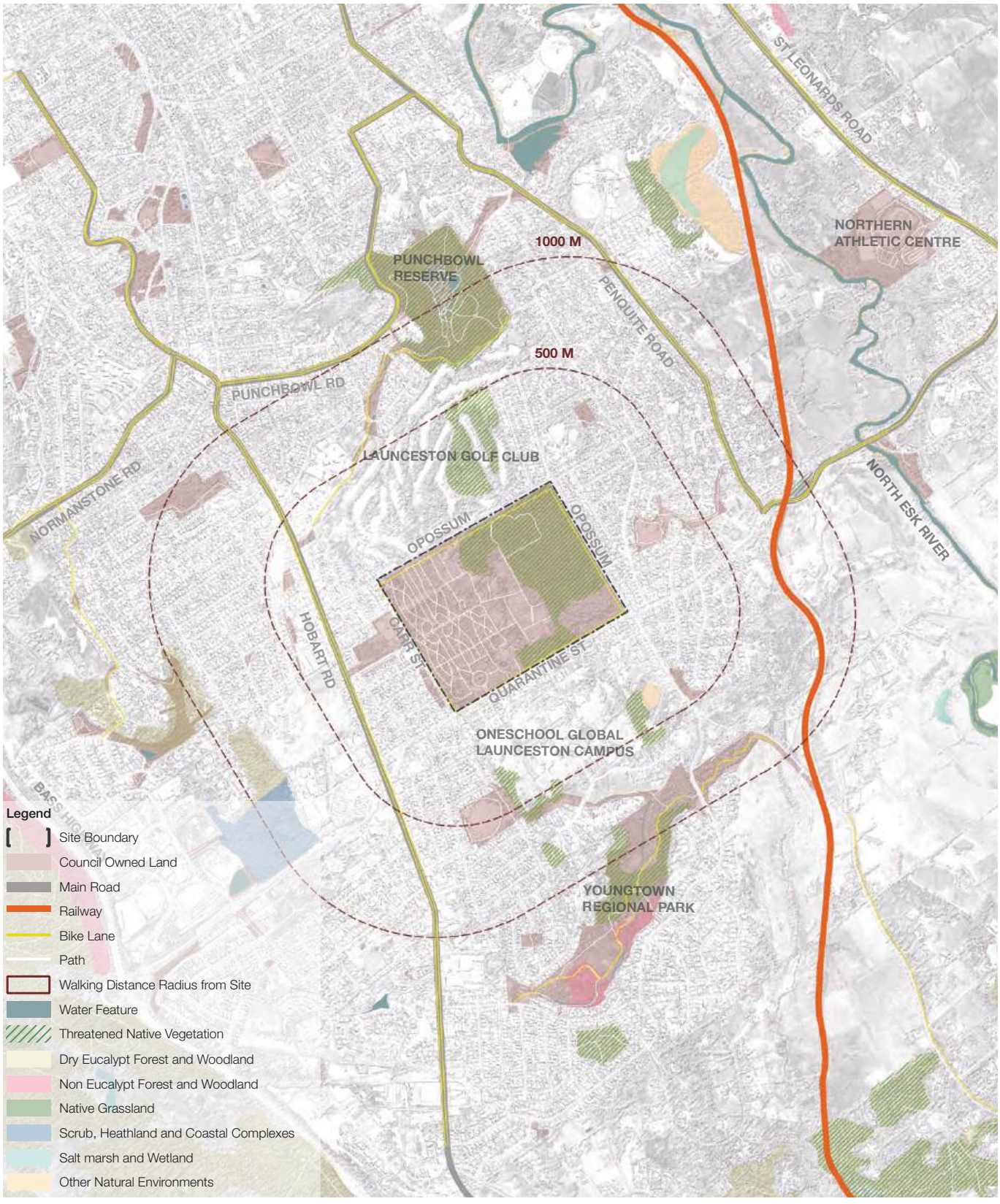
Cyclist access is also available, with cycling routes connecting the park to nearby streets. Launceston's broader cycle network facilitates easy travel to Carr Villa Memorial Park, making it an accessible destination for cyclists.

As noted, Carr Villa Memorial Park is located within a rich ecological context, with a variety of native plant species, trees, and wildlife contributing to its environmental value. The park balances its function as cemetery with the conservation and protection of its biodiversity, with large areas of landscaped gardens and open spaces that provide habitats for native species. Particular care is taken to preserve and enhance the site's natural assets, including the conservation and enhancement of its remnant bushland and the integration of sustainable practices in landscaping and park management.

The Car Villa Flora Reserve within the site boundary protects threatened species and plant ecologies such as the Eucalyptus amygdalina forest. The bushland surrounding the central reserve, whilst more degraded, still shows presence of a number of threatened plant species.

Environmental sustainability is a key focus for future developments in the park. The Masterplan promotes to protect and enhance the remnant bushland within the Flora Reserve. In areas where interment potential is identified, a careful appreciation of existing natural values such as detailed locations of presence of threatened species, paired with potential interment options that reduce environmental impact, will be required to best possible balance those two interests. Plans are in place to enhance the ecological footprint by incorporating native plantings, reducing water consumption through smart irrigation systems, and promoting soil health. Additionally, the park is a haven for local wildlife, including bird species, which contribute to the tranquil atmosphere that defines Carr Villa Memorial Park.

Incorporating these ecological considerations, the park serves as a model of sustainable land use, balancing the needs of the community with the preservation of Launceston’s natural environment.


ST LEONARDS ROAD
NORTHERN ATHLETIC CENTRE
1000 M
PUNCHBOWL RESERVE
PENQUITE ROAD
500 M
PUNCHBOWL RD
LAUNCESTON GOLF CLUB
NORMANSTONE RD
NORTH ESK RIVER
OPOSSUM
OPOSSUM
HOBART RD
CARR ST
QUARANTINE ST
ONESCHOOL GLOBAL LAUNCESTON CAMPUS
YOUNGTOWN REGIONAL PARK
Legend
Site Boundary
Council Owned Land
Main Road
Railway
Bike Lane
Path
Walking Distance Radius from Site
Water Feature
Threatened Native Vegetation
Dry Eucalypt Forest and Woodland
Non Eucalypt Forest and Woodland
Native Grassland
Scrub, Heathland and Coastal Complexes
Salt marsh and Wetland
Other Natural Environments
0 125 250 500m
N

1.5 Site Character



Figure 10. Main Entry Chapel



Figure 11. Depot



Figure 12. Chapel and Crematorium



Figure 13. Barakee Waters



Figure 14. Lawn Plaque Cemetery



Figure 15. Pond



Figure 16. Monumental



Figure 17. Semi Monumental



Figure 18. Garden of Memories



Figure 19. Woodlawn Children's



Figure 20. Bush. MCA 05A Site North



Figure 21. Bush. MCA 05A Site East

1.6 Site Considerations

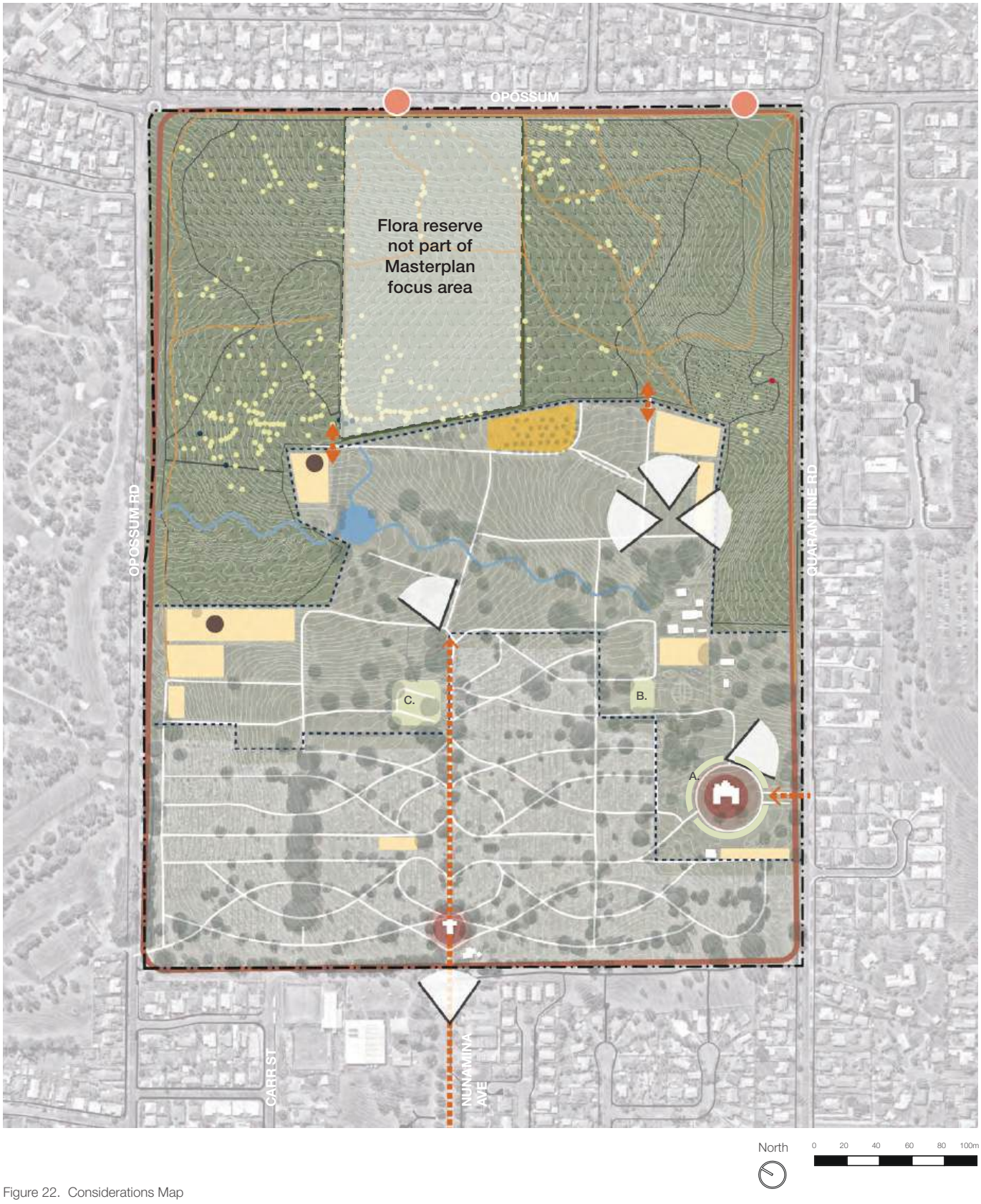


Figure 22. Considerations Map

Legend

Project Boundary

Access / Connectivity

Threshold

Site Feature

Key Entry Point

Buildings

Possible Future Interment Expansion Area

Pedestrian Track (Unsealed)

Vehicular Site Connection

A/B/C Carparks

Bicycle Connection

Public Transport Stop

Views

Environmental

Existing Trees

Significant Flow Paths and Pond

Spoil

Woodlands Cemetery

Native Vegetation Condition

Poor

Fair

Fair / Good

Threatened Flora Records

Brunonia australis

Caesia calliantha

Prosanthera rotundifolia

Key Considerations

In determining opportunities for exploration within the Masterplan phase, analysis of the existing conditions of the Carr Villa Memorial Park site and its features provides us with considerations for its proposed development. The major features include:

Architecture

– Period architecture punctuates the experience of entering the site from the two main vehicular entries. They act as markers in the landscape and signify the ritual of service or memorial.

Flora Reserve and Bushland

– The Flora Reserve and bushland allows for thriving ecology, whilst providing a picturesque backdrop to the current interment areas. Home to significant and threatened flora communities such as the Eucalyptus amygdalina inland forest. The reserve is set aside for ecological conservation and is not part of the study area other than for passive recreational and ecological value considerations. It is a popular local destination for walking.

Thresholds

– The site consists of three primary zones which impact the character of the site, transnational from urban to bush, east to west- Monumental to Limited Monumental and lawn interment, to Bushland and flora reserve. These thresholds play an important role in locating ones self on site and can be further celebrated.

Access

– The road network acts as a shared paths for private vehicles, maintenance vehicles and pedestrians. It has been noted that conflicts between vehicles pedestrians are limited. The road access network to the Monumental area provides some scope for potential infill. The site is well connected to the local community through pedestrian, pubic transport and shared routes.

Water

– At the low point of the site, the pond is a feature that draws the user down, a calm environment that could be further utilised for service, memorial or celebration. These environs could be expanded to daylight and naturalise the creek line.

1.7 Future Cemeteries

The future of contemporary cemeteries

The contemporary cemetery faces environmental, cultural and social challenges, including ever increasing complexities around death care preferences. Additional challenges include falling cemetery visitation, urban land shortages and demand for open space, culminating to provide a catalyst to rethink the traditional cemetery offering.

21st Century cemetery design needs to respond to changing death care ideologies and technological advancement, to provide community amenity that aligns with the evolving needs and generational change in death care.

Australia in general, is facing the challenges of urban population growth and difficulties in securing land, placing pressure on open space assets, cemetery capacity and land tenure.

A changing cemetery typology

Shifting ideologies of death care require a rethink of burial typology with the need to diversify offerings on-site and reconsider grave tenure. Changes in death care typologies will require legislative, cultural, research and technological advancements and innovative partnerships.

Potential cemetery typologies

Five potential cemetery futures were developed and visualised as part of a workshop in 2019 conducted by DeathTech. The list of cemetery typologies are not exhaustive, rather they envision a future cemetery that would address one or more of the challenges facing contemporary cemeteries. The list of typologies include:

- The Nature and Ecological Park Cemetery
- The Socially Activated Cemetery
- The Traditional Cemetery
- The Digital Cemetery
- The Urban High-rise Cemetery

Given the context in which Carr Villa Memorial Park operates, it is likely that the future for the site will take components of all of these typologies, as it develops into the future.

Overview trends and forecasts

The *Future Cemetery Survey 2021* is a recent study of public death care preferences from the DeathTech Research Team and found that death care preferences are rapidly changing, becoming increasingly varied, and are often in opposition to one another. Findings indicated a gentle decline in desire for burial care and shift towards cremation, with a growing demand for natural amenity, including preference for bushland burials and ashes scattering in nature.

Key findings

Upon review of the survey data, in the context of the Cemetery, the following key findings and opportunities were identified:

- A cemetery Masterplan with a 50+ year lifespan requires a flexible approach to interment land-use. Interment land-use to be zoned/noted as non-specific, to remain flexible and adaptable to trends over time.
- A sustainable cemetery is diverse and adaptable to future change. Increase diversity of interment options available on-site to remain flexible and adaptable to trends over time.
- A cemetery landscape provides amenity as both community memorialisation and as a public asset.
- Protect, repair, and enhance the unique and valuable ecological amenity of the site and its surrounds.
- Utilise the cemetery as a vehicle to educate the public on the role of cemeteries in death care. Seek opportunities to showcase the aspects of a 'future cemetery' as a catalyst for positive change.
- Engage with customers to facilitate a feedback loop to understand current and local community specific requirements for death care. Utilise this knowledge to guide the implementation of all future stages of the Masterplan.
- Develop a cemetery that engages in a dialogue with interment tenure. Review current trends to understand policy and operational changes required to implement sustainable tenure interment options and improve economic returns.
- Provide a diversity of cemetery and community facilities to encourage usage and visitation of cemetery.
- Celebrate and embrace non-burial interment options as a forward thinking cemetery.

Grave tenure and flexible Interment

One approach to cemetery management, to reduce the pressure on land tenure, is limited-tenure grave ownership. Death Tech's 2021 survey found that there is strong support for flexibility in grave tenure and choice of grave tenure preferences.

Limited tenure grave ownership is practised in various locations around the world. Interment cycles typically flex between 25-50 years, after this period of time the grave can be reused for another burial.

The DeathTech Research Team

The DeathTech Research Team is a multi-disciplinary group of scholars at the University of Melbourne who research and teach the sociology of technology, cultural and material anthropology, media and communications studies, and information and interactive systems design. Over the past decade, the team has worked across a number of major projects funded by the Australian Research Council Grant Scheme that examine death and technology. Further information can be found at their website, https://deathtech.research.unimelb.edu.au

2.0 Vision



Figure 23. Carr Villa Memorial Park: Bushland (Image by Author)

2.1 Vision

Vision

Carr Villa Memorial Park is a serene and inclusive sanctuary that honours the memory of loved ones while fostering community connections.

Our vision is to create a supportive environment that offers reflection, remembrance, and celebration of life. We aim to enhance the natural and built features, promote biodiversity, and provide accessible spaces for contemplation, education, and social connection.

Through sustainable practices and cultural sensitivity, Carr Villa will balance ecological conservation with cultural needs and thus serve as a vibrant legacy for future generations, inviting all to find peace and solace in its embrace.

The vision is subject to change based on comment from CoL and an understanding of Community Sentiment derived through any further future consultation.

The role of Carr Villa Memorial Park

The cemetery not only cares for the interred but also serves as a cultural institution that embraces diverse communities and fosters discussions on evolving burial practices.

Carr Villa can play a role in advancements in sustainable death care, adapting to generational shifts and technological innovations. Its focus on customer service and regional operations provides a unique opportunity to survey, plan, and drive positive change in the future of death care.

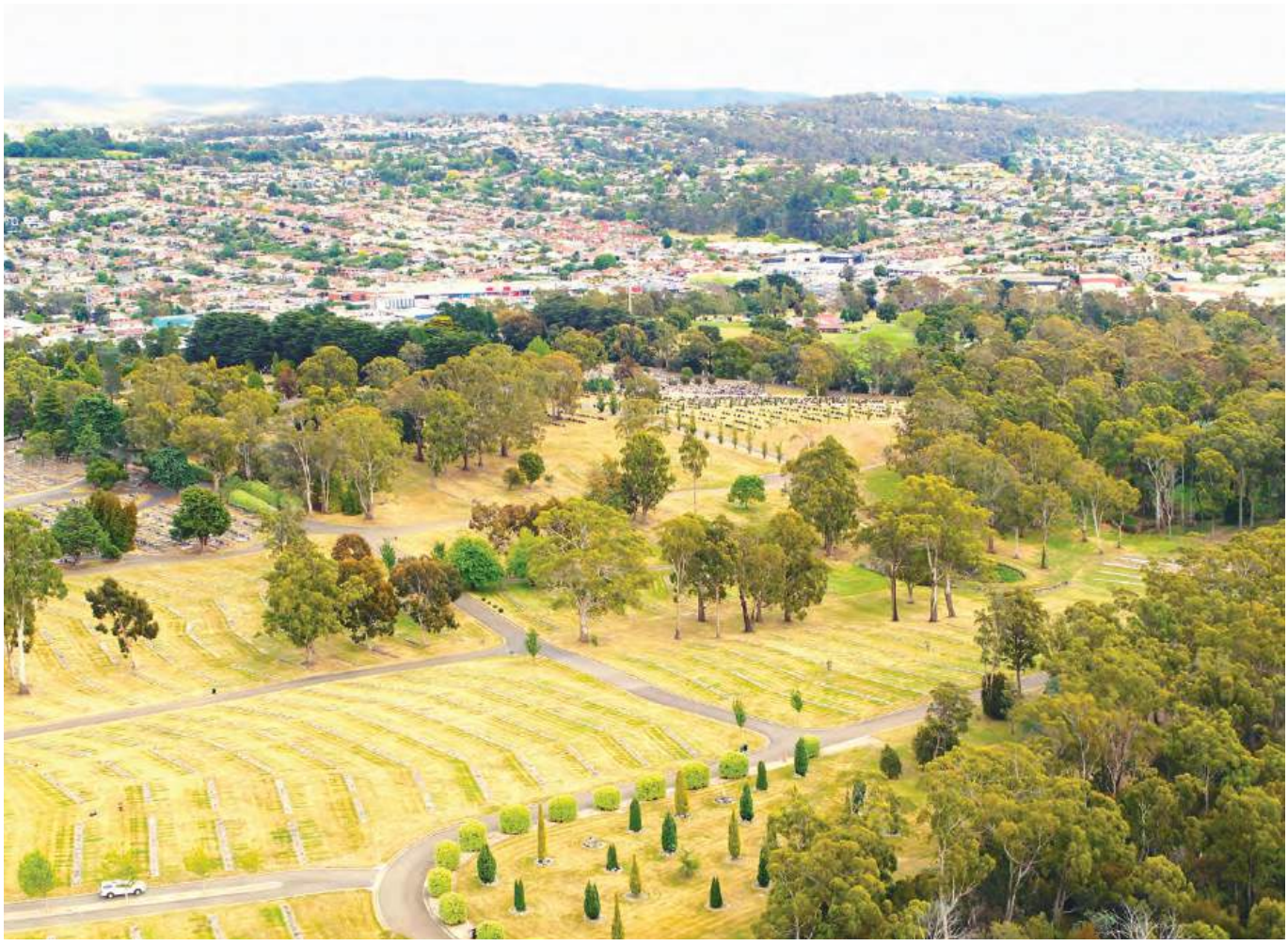


Figure 24. Carr Villa Memorial Park- Aerial Photography (Image provided by CoL)

2.2 Guiding Principles

Principles

Five principles have been established to achieve the vision for Carr Villa Memorial Park. These principles are designed to guide the design, implementation, and operation of the Cemetery.



Celebration of Culture

- Create a culturally inclusive and safe environment that offers authentic connections to place and the history of Launceston.

- Create opportunities to connect with and build relationships with Country, respecting and adapting to ongoing engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal People and honouring the diverse cultural needs of our multicultural communities.



An Innovative Cemetery

- Influence the progression of regional trends towards a more sustainable cemetery future, with flexible interment types, adaptable to future change.



Resilient and Sustainable

- Embrace the existing natural beauty of the surrounding bushland and Nature Reserve drawing in ecological connections for flora and fauna into the cemetery.

- Service and maintenance requirements are integrated into the design to minimise disturbance of public users.



An activated community centre

- Serviced by adjacent amenities, promote public interaction with multi-functional programs and activation, whilst providing quiet, private, and respectful interment for reflection and contemplation.

- Support engagement and partnerships with volunteer groups and ecological organisations.



Connected

- Reinforce a legible movement network with a defined hierarchy.

- Curate and formalise recreational trails, connected outward to the community.

- Connect community to death care options and build awareness of change through amenity, education, and technology.

2.3 Spatial Principles



Interment Expansion

- Through a staged process, provide continued cemetery use through the expansion of current interment ground to cater for the next 50-years. Total area 80,000m², total interment yield 3846.
- Stage 1 Expansion (approx 2040) Site area 25,000m², interment yield 1201 approx.



Highlight Natural Assets

- Draw in green from boundaries of site to embed cemetery into surrounding natural amenity, as well as providing canopy cover to shade pavement.
- Frame interment areas within 'clearings in the forest, increasing planting and reducing lawn area.
- Continue ongoing ecological survey and protection and balance interment extensions with conservation targets.



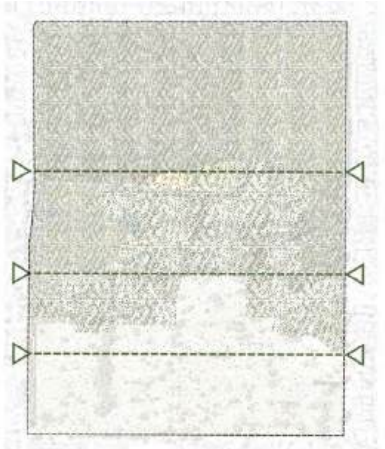
Ensure Operational Efficiency

- Formalise operational service hubs within the site to allow for effective maintenance.
- Allow for heavy/ large service vehicle access into site.
- Define key maintenance routes throughout the site



Activate through Amenity

- Second stage Customer Service Building, Chapel, Cafe, and Future Flexible Building to activate central and southern parts of site for active and passive surveillance.



Embrace Spatial Transition

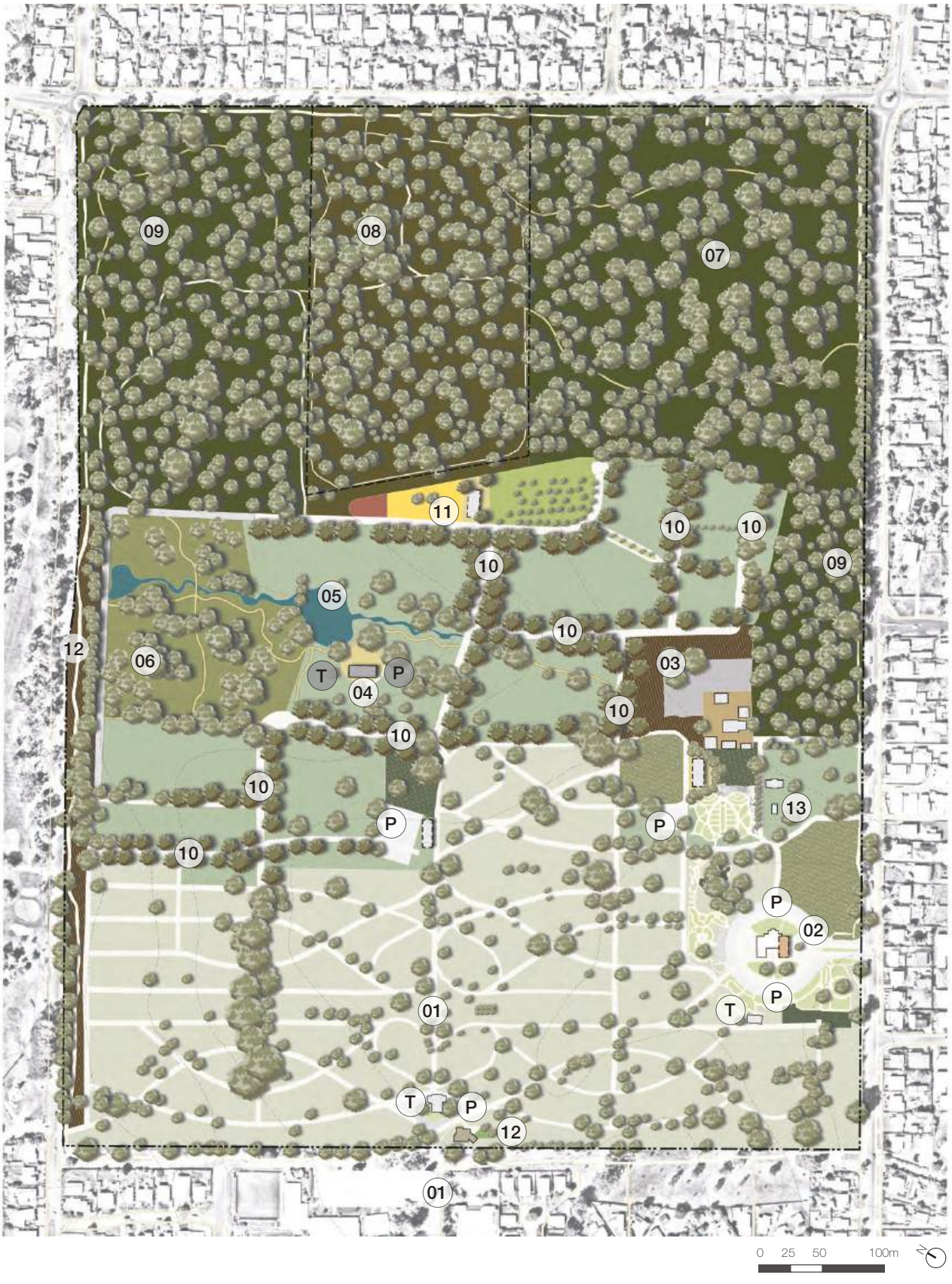
- A gradual spatial and character transition from monumental, semi monumental, lawn burial to bushland character.
- Utilise future interment trends to minimise cological impacts.



Support Legible Pedestrian Movement

- Create a hierarchy of movement paths for pedestrians to follow.
- Strive for equitable access across the site.

2.4 Illustrative Masterplan



Legend

- Site boundary
- Flora and fauna reserve boundary
- Existing chapel and crematorium
- Existing entry administration building
- Existing maintenance building
- Proposed meeting, services, gathering enhance to Chapel
- Proposed courtyard to administration building
- Proposed shelter, seating, gathering and orientation
- Proposed 'water' pavilion, gathering, services, amenity and gathering
- Existing contour
- Existing urban monumental zone
- Existing limited monumental & lawn interment zone
- Flora and fauna reserve
- Bushland recreation zone
- Bushland buffer zone
- Existing 'Woodlawn' children's interment
- Existing ash interment beds
- Existing Orthodox area
- Existing garden bed
- Proposed flexible interment zone
- Proposed ash interment zone
- Pond
- Proposed creek and pond 'daylight' enhance
- Proposed spoil areas and planting
- Existing road
- Proposed road
- Proposed pedestrian path
- Existing car park
- Existing depot
- Proposed depot
- Proposed Playful Reflective Garden
- Existing trees
- Proposed trees
- (P) Existing parking
- (T) Existing toilet
- (P) Proposed parking
- (T) Proposed toilet

- Main vehicle entry enhance
- Proposed service depot entry
- Existing pedestrian entry enhance and wayfinding
- Main viewing nodes & seating amenity

01 Main entry - 'Enhance' entry experience and wayfinding through planting and acknowledgement of country

02 Chapel - 'Enhance' entry experience and wayfinding through planting and Acknowledgement of Country

03 Proposed depot expansion with soil spoil storage and screen planting

04 Proposed 'Water' pavilion, gathering, services and amenity

05 Upgrade and daylight creek line and pond

06 Sustainable, low impact (flexible natural / eco-bush burial / interment options) - Further design development required.

07 Bushland buffer trees and habitat retained

08 Existing flora and fauna reserve to be retained and protected

09 Retained existing bushland. Future enhance to path network

10 Enhanced tree planting to lawn interment access

11 Proposed 'Woodlawn' children's nature play garden and shelter

12 Proposed gathering courtyard to administration building

13 Existing war grave



Figure 25. Carr Villa Memorial Park: Rose Beds Ash Interment (Image by Author)

3.0 Strategic Layers

Achieving the vision

The following section provide a series of strategic layers that guide design and planning of the site to achieve the long-term and overall vision. These include:

- Burial and Memorialisation
- Healing Country
- Customer Experience and Built Form
- Movement and Accessibility
- Ecology, Landscape and Hydrology
- Planting Themes

Burial and Memorialisation

A Flexible Framework

The Masterplan provides flexibility to accommodate changing interment needs as demographics, community expectations, and customer sentiment evolve. Based on current trends, expansion within already allocated interment areas may meet needs for the next 25 years. The plan also allows for the adoption of future technologies and more sustainable land use over the cemetery's lifespan, reflecting the community's changing values and preferences.

A multi-criteria assessment was undertaken to evaluate the potential of different precincts within the site for additional interment. This assessment considered ecological values alongside operational and visitor experience factors. As a result, two preferred areas were identified as potentially suitable for future interment. These areas are referred to as MCA Option 5A and are shown on the adjacent map.

Identifying these areas for potential future interment does not equate to approval for development. Any future use of areas outlined in Option 5A will be subject to further consideration and approval by Council, including environmental assessments and planning approval.

Note: Option 5A Stage 2 of the MCA process outcome, was not endorsed at part of the final Masterplan by the City of Launceston at the Council Meeting on the 17 June 2025.

Interment Distribution

It is envisioned that Carr Villa Memorial Park will transition to more sustainable burial over time. The detailed implementation strategy for interment typology and placement will be integral to supporting the long term goals of the Masterplan and educating the public, through the visual, experiential and environmental communication of burial and memorialisation products.

Location of interment types must carefully consider proximity to adjacent amenity and other elements of the Masterplan. For example, low ecological and visual impact types are encouraged and preferred across the site, and should be assigned to areas adjoining environmental amenity.

Eco burial, natural burial, and low eco-impact rated products are preferred adjacent areas of public amenity, as well as natural amenity such as the Bushland Area.

Sustainable Burial Types

Flexible burial areas are able to accommodate a variety of low impact or eco-internment products, typology opportunities include:

- Grassland clearing burial
- Scatter Garden
- Natural and Eco Burial
- Alternative Cremation Technologies
- Geo-referenced internment will minimise visual impact and provide customer wayfinding and support for sustainable burial.

Digital Memorialisation

Digital memorialisation provides sustainability benefits as physical infrastructure is minimised and digital spaces can stay up to date with technological advances and trends.

There is potential to facilitate the 'digital cemetery' a collection of photographs, recordings and stories, found at specific locations on the site navigable by GPS and/or available on the internet providing a virtual space. There is the opportunity to engage with this when outside the bounds of the cemetery at Carr Villa Memorial Park with an online presence directing you to information on the interred and connections to local history.

In Perpetuity/ Tenure

When an Exclusive Right of Burial is granted it is in perpetuity, and since 1905, the cemetery has taken the same approach to the length of interments on site. This places strain on the ongoing service of Carr Villa as there will always need to be an expansion of grounds to cater for interment.

In future, as cultural trends towards interment evolve, alternative tenure models for future interments may be explored in wider and transparent consultation with the broader community.


C
D
C
MCA Option 5A
B
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A
Legend
Threshold A - Monumental
Maintain and conserve
Threshold B - Limited monumental and lawn interment
Potential for ash and burial ground
Threshold C - Bushland recreation
Maintain/ecological enhancement
Threshold D - Flora Reserve
Ecological protection and enhancement
MCA option 5A - Future expansion option
Sustainable, low impact (flexible natural / eco-bush burial / interment options)
0 25 50 100m

Healing Country

The City of Launceston through the endorsement of the Aboriginal Partnership Plan in 2023, are committed to developing intentional and purposeful relationships with Aboriginal cultural knowledge holders, leadership and community members, with a view to improving Council's decision-making processes.

This self-determined partnership will be based on a reciprocal relationship that takes acknowledgement of Country to heart and prioritises cultural safety.

As these relationships develop, the opportunities raised below are examples of how Carr Villa Memorial Park could potentially partner with Tasmanian Aboriginal People to work with the regeneration of Country.

There is an opportunity to continue developing and strengthening partnerships with Tasmanian Aboriginal People and representative organisations. Bilingual signage and place naming throughout the cemetery can help embed language into the landscape. An Acknowledgment of Country can be incorporated at the site entry and extended throughout.

Flexible ceremonial spaces can accommodate smoking ceremonies, multi-use gatherings, and a yarning circle. Seasonal changes and culturally significant indicator plants can help create a deeper understanding of place. Ecological connectivity can be restored by using endemic species to create habitat and food sources for wildlife, while natural systems such as water cycles can be highlighted through visible rain events and the movement of water across the landscape.

The site can support cultural obligations to land and water through opportunities for cultural burning and other land management practices. Cultural trails with interpretive signage, digital storytelling, and soundscapes can support history and truth-telling. Art can provide a connection to Country, with sculptures acting as visual anchors, landmarks, and wayfinding elements.

Material reuse can be considered through rammed earth, clay bricks, and recycled stone to reduce reliance on virgin resources. Educational opportunities may include cultural tours, practice demonstrations, and language workshops, with interpretive and educational signage integrated into the cemetery grounds.



Figure 29. Cultivated by Fire, International Garden Exhibition, Berlin



Figure 31. Seven seasons calendar Eastern Kulin Nation



Figure 30. Mulanggari yur-wang (alive and strong), NGA Sculpture Garden, Canberra



Figure 27. Acknowledgment of Country Signage / Public Art. Mantirri Design



Figure 32. Yarning Circle, Curtin University, Perth



Figure 28. For Our Country Memorial- Australian War Memorial. Daniel Boyd + Edition Office

Customer Experience and Built Form

The design of Carr Villa Memorial Park provides the opportunity to support the grieving process through carefully crafted environments that consider the functional needs of the customer and offer experiential opportunities. The cemetery will provide touch points for communal and connected experiences, contemplative and experiential moments, and the creation of supportive and intuitive user journeys.

The Carr Villa Memorial Park provides a safe and supportive environment for placing someone to rest. The Memorial Park Masterplan seeks to not only provide a plot for interment, but instead consider the physical and emotional journey and the amenity that is needed to assist in the process of reconciling grief now and into the future.

A supportive and intuitive user journey

The customer journey should be intuitive, accessible and legible. Through clear hierarchy of movement and journey sequence from the first point of arrival within the cemetery, through grounds to facilities and internment spaces. The journey throughout will be welcoming, inclusive, safe and comforting.

A contemplative and experiential journey

Through landscape, architecture, and journey, we contemplate our relationship to the communal and the individual. Carr Villa will offer an enhanced user experience with leveraging from the existing landscape and architecture, by continuing to create beautifully crafted environments, built and natural, abundant in native flora, fauna and water.

The landscape will offer visible changing experiences and cycles, intrinsic to life and death. Temporal seasonality of flora species a reminder of transitions and cycles. Ecological restoration planting will provide an experience of generational change over the site, with new sapling planting maturing over time to old growth trees. Water cycles will be expressed and legible through visible harvest, capture, storage, treatment and re-use.

Feature landscapes at key moments, co-located with amenities offer a crafted and detailed landscape opportunity for contemplation and reflection. Design elements should evoke feelings of warmth, comfort and protection through consideration of form and materiality that is responsive to human scale, climate and comfort factors. Considering a careful balance of human experience, from the personal and intimate to the beyond human and the greater landscape.

A communal and connected experience

Carr Villa Memorial Park plays an important role in the grieving process as a social facilitator, offering space for gathering with family, friends and the greater community.

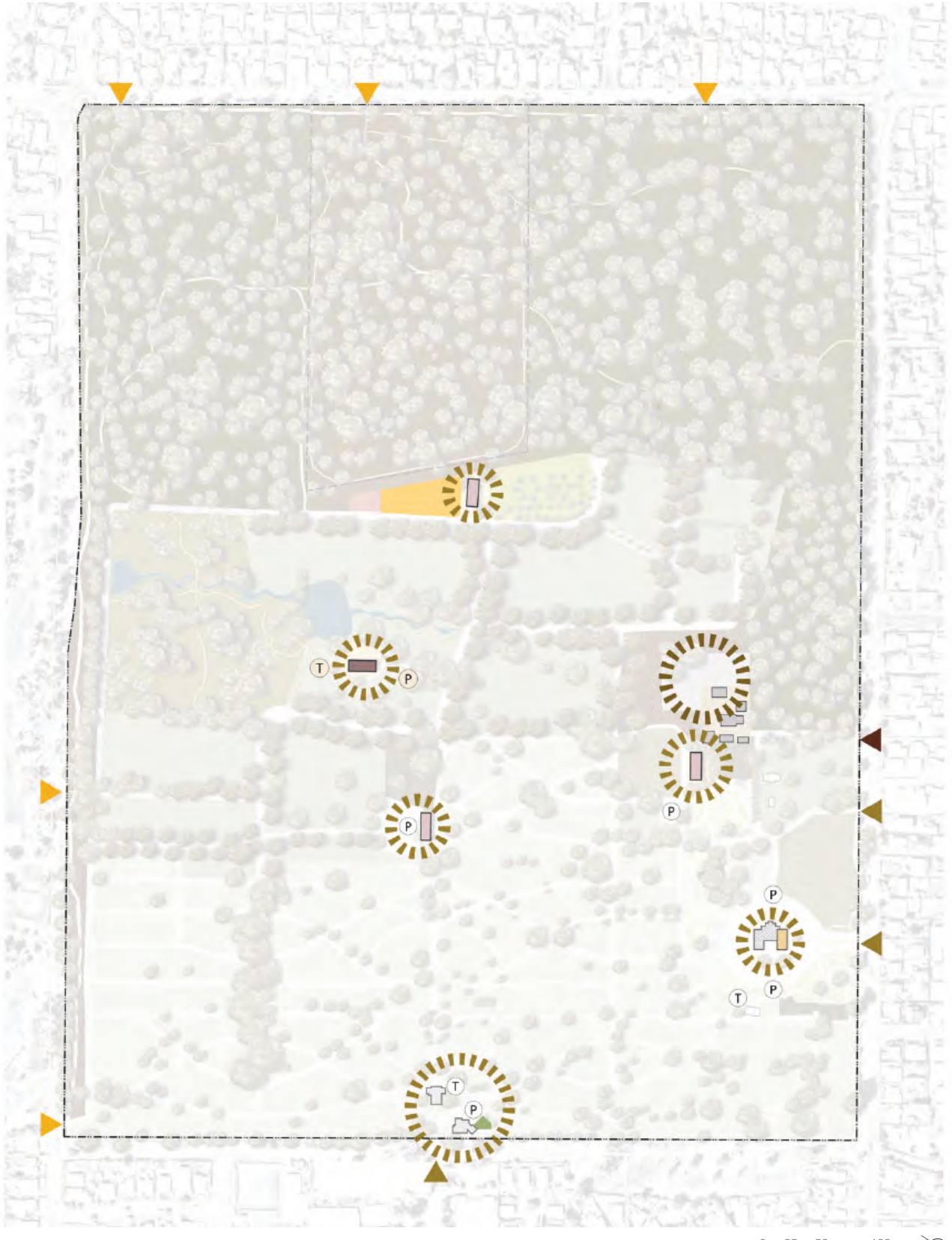
The Masterplan seeks opportunities for the promotion and facilitation of social, cultural and environmental initiatives.

Multifunctional spaces flexibly accommodate the social and the communal, supporting opportunities to collectively celebrate our humanity. Other community enablers include; gardens, temporary cafe or florist, and gathering and resting spots with seating.

Carr Villa Memorial Park plays an important role in the grieving process as a social facilitator, offering space for gathering with family, friends and the greater community.

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Proposed Gathering/Orientation Points
- Proposed Cemetery Depot Expansion
- Main Visitor Entry
- Secondary Visitor Entry
- Main Maintenance / Service Entry
- Proposed Playful Reflective Garden
- Proposed Pavilion
- Proposed Shelter
- Existing Administration Building With Courtyard
- Proposed Meeting, Services, Gathering Enhance To Chapel
- Existing Maintenance Building
- Existing Parking
- Proposed Parking
- Existing Toilet
- Proposed Toilet


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Pavilions and Amenity Blocks

A proposed increase in amenity and choice for service offers an opportunity to develop a suite of architecture for Carr Villa.

Pavilions and shelters are intended to be memorable and empathy led, providing an emotive response to the experience of death, loss, and healing to offer spaces that are inclusive and welcoming.

Amenity buildings provide an essential public function should follow good design principles, including embracing natural light, natural ventilation and shared washing facilities outside of cubicles. Non gendered facilities are preferred and must be in alignment with CoL accessibility requirements.

All structures should accommodate both public and private uses. Providing for cultural inclusion through flexible, adaptive multi denominational spaces.

Architecture must consider:

- Buildings that connect to Country, a place of origin in cultural, spiritual, and literal terms. The architecture must be nature-centred and part of an environmental community, utilising biophilic design to connect people with nature and community.
- Integration of buildings and landscape to set out relationships that contribute to a unique place and in the context of death
- Built form that responds to history, culture, and context.

Furniture and Structures

The material quality must be inviting, allowing either a short rest or a long stay with the same degree of comfort demonstrating key themes of warmth and care to the user.

User centred design research has reinforced how critical amenity is to the journey through the cemetery, sheltered rest and pause points provide a moment to contemplate within a large site, on what may be a difficult journey. These moments will be accessible to all and a range of configurations will be investigated to allow for privacy or encourage interaction.

Reflection Seating

Seating is to be provided at key intervals within new internment areas and within amenity areas to establish restful, reflective stopping points, comfort and flexibility.

Proposed Playful Reflective Garden

Adjacent to the existing Children's Woodlawn Interment, there is an opportunity to enhancing comfort, flexibility and amenity experiences for not just children, but adults alike. A playful natural garden invites to sensory discovery of natural experiences such as flora and fauna, landscape elements and/ or art installations. This can expand opportunity for reflection and providing in particular, but not exclusive, children a space to retreat to. The design development of Reflective Garden should seek input from families of children in the children's cemetery to ensure the space is developed respectfully and located to maintain the dignity and purpose of Carr Villa Memorial Park.

Lighting

Safe and Inviting

- A balance must be struck between creating safe environments and inviting people to enter the cemetery after staffed hours. Lighting to the key movement corridors should be incorporated to a level which is safe for pedestrians and vehicles predominantly in the dawn and dusk hours. All landscape lighting should be solar powered.

Feature Lighting

- Feature lighting to landscape and architecture and memorial can also be considered to amplify an experience and provide greater assistance to wayfinding and orientation.

Darkness for Habitat

- Lighting must consider the fauna of the Bushland and Flora Reserve and ensure limited disturbance.



Figure 34. Communal picnic Shelters. By McGregor Coxall



Figure 35. Flexible Pavilion. By Mcgregor Coxall



Figure 36. Reflection seating



Figure 37. Reflection seating



Figure 38. Playful Reflective Garden/ art installation



Figure 39. Playful Reflective Garden/ contemplative play

Movement and Access

The Masterplan seeks to curate the experience of accessing and moving through the cemetery, considering how to best support the bereaved and in turn balance the needs of a diverse range of visitors. This will consolidate the cemetery as an appreciated, much loved, valued community asset.

There is an opportunity to clarify and enhance the movement and access network legibility and comfort, ensuring it is clear and intuitive, reducing confusion or conflict as well as reinforcing and reflecting the unique surrounding amenity and character.

Future additional roads within expansion areas should be kept to a minimum and laid out to minimise impacts on ecological values.

Moments Of Arrival

The Masterplan reinforces the strength of the experience of arrival into Carr Villa, via the main vehicular access points. Further highlighting site features reinforcing and using non-interment spaces to transition into different areas of the site.

Other site entries at edges, such as the pedestrian trails into the bush land and flora reserve will mark a moment, signifying the transition between land uses and amenity clearly. The blurring of landscape character between the cemetery landscapes is important to reinforce the experience of a cemetery landscape, sensitively and uniquely grounded in the surrounding natural amenity.

Signage and Wayfinding

Integrated Signage

Signage and wayfinding will be integrated into the landscape and architecture, and not considered as an additional element. The location of these should be clearly visible to the intended user, to ensure a controlled experience within the site.

Supporting the Bereaved

It is important to acknowledge that a large proportion of users will only visit the cemetery on one occasion for a funeral or memorial service. It is also important to note the stress and anxiety that can be associated with this, and as such, extra emphasis must be placed on the position and type of wayfinding devices so that clear orientation, familiarity and legibility is provided. Supported by a simple, intelligible path network, users will be able to intuitively navigate their destination in comfort.

Digital

Digital, immersive, and interactive wayfinding devices can be used in combination with more traditional methods of plans and direction. Using GIS and GPS information, more detailed directions can be given to interment, memorial or destinations within the cemetery.

Educational or Interpretive

There is an opportunity to deliver dynamic and engaging education through various formal and informal mediums that enhance face-to-face interactions with the customer service team. These experiences can range from striking physical installations to intimate discoveries. Digital platforms and technologies, like augmented reality, offer evolving, personalized journeys that adapt with new advancements. Ultimately, the goal is to inspire joy, spark curiosity, and foster meaningful conversations.

Human Comfort

At the cemetery, human comfort is paramount in facilitating a positive experience throughout the day and seasons. Comfort includes thermal, wind, and noise together with proximity and spatial relationships to amenities. Projects which develop out of the final Masterplan present opportunities to undertake a detailed assessment of human comfort scenarios is through the delivery stages using GIS and user data to drive design.

Universal Design

Equitable access and universal design will be prioritised in the development of the access and movement strategy for the cemetery expansion. The site is to be an inclusive place welcoming to those of all abilities, a crucial objective in cemetery design given the known demographics of typical users.

Access to the site will primarily be through private vehicle. In the short term appropriate parking, both DDA and standard parking spaces, will be available through the site providing access to interment, built form and landscape. Resting and seating will be provided along main paths at regular intervals

to support all abilities of mobility across the site.

Walking and Cycling Trails

The site is visited by many pedestrians from the local community, taking advantage of the well kept grounds and bushland and flora reserve as a destination. This activation is to be encouraged, further promoting Carr Villa as a community destination.

Informal tracks through the bushland reserve will be enhanced and formalised to bring greater structure to the interaction between visitors and the environment and ensure legibility and clarity. This will encourage greater visitation and aid in passive surveillance for anti social behaviour.

Vehicle Movement

Separation of vehicles from pedestrian movement where possible reduces risk of conflict between users and establishes free flowing movement to a destination. As the experience of visiting a cemetery can be emotionally difficult, it is necessary to remove the risk of compounding these emotions. Intuitive wayfinding through signage, landscape and architectural markers reduces the risk of misdirection or losing one's self in the cemetery. Direct roads and paths support ease of movement and reduce risk of becoming disoriented.

New roads are provided as two way, to maximise circulation and align with the movement strategy established in the existing cemetery. Private vehicles are confined to the spine and loop. The lateral branches and maintenance access routes, identified as shared paths, are controlled, allowing hearse vehicle and maintenance access only, enabling these vehicles to move more freely around the site.

Vehicular Parking

Whilst public car parking is allowed across the site to enable informal use and visitation of the cemetery, a larger focussed carparking is available at the chapel and within designated carpark areas.

It has been observed that these car parks are at times underutilised. There is a potential for the provision that lends itself toward alternate or flexible program and use or through better additional amenity, provide greater shelter, amenity and comfort.

To address the issue of cars mounting kerbs and affecting interment and landscape, parking could be decentralised with additional small amounts of parking employed in other areas, allowing clear access to interment.

Additional activity zones such as a outdoor gathering or service areas will also cater for carparking.

Car parks within the site, could employ environmentally sensitive design, with an aim to reduce urban heat island effect and decentralise water management. Car parks can of permeable surface material, be without kerbs, maximise tree canopy coverage and have Water Sensitive Urban Design treatments.

Provisions within the parking matrix must consider:

- Private vehicle parking
- Decentralised (non-services/events)
- Staff
- Motorbike parking

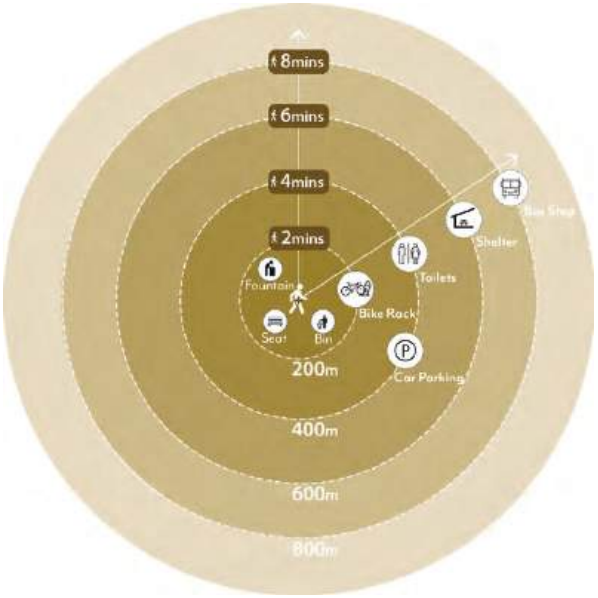


Figure 40. Example Amenity Proximity to Interment Diagram

Active and sustainable transport

For continual improvement of human comfort and environmental outcomes, there is the opportunity to begin planning the long-term ambition for the site to transition away from the use of private vehicles towards use of active and public transport.

Carr Villa already attracts a number of pedestrians and cyclists, and can be accessed via public transport. The Masterplan seeks to retain this both as a method of travel for recreational users, but also for the local community who are visiting the interred.

Cemeteries are visited by all demographics, but the aged are those which need particular care and consideration. The final Masterplan can advocate for the further investigation of transport options, both connecting to the site as well as internal, intra site movements, to greatly increase the accessibility for those who do not or are not able to drive, or have low personal mobility as well as reducing the reliance on private vehicles and parking. In the future a shuttle (e-vehicle or other technology) may stop to pick up and drop off at key locations within and at the entry to the cemetery.



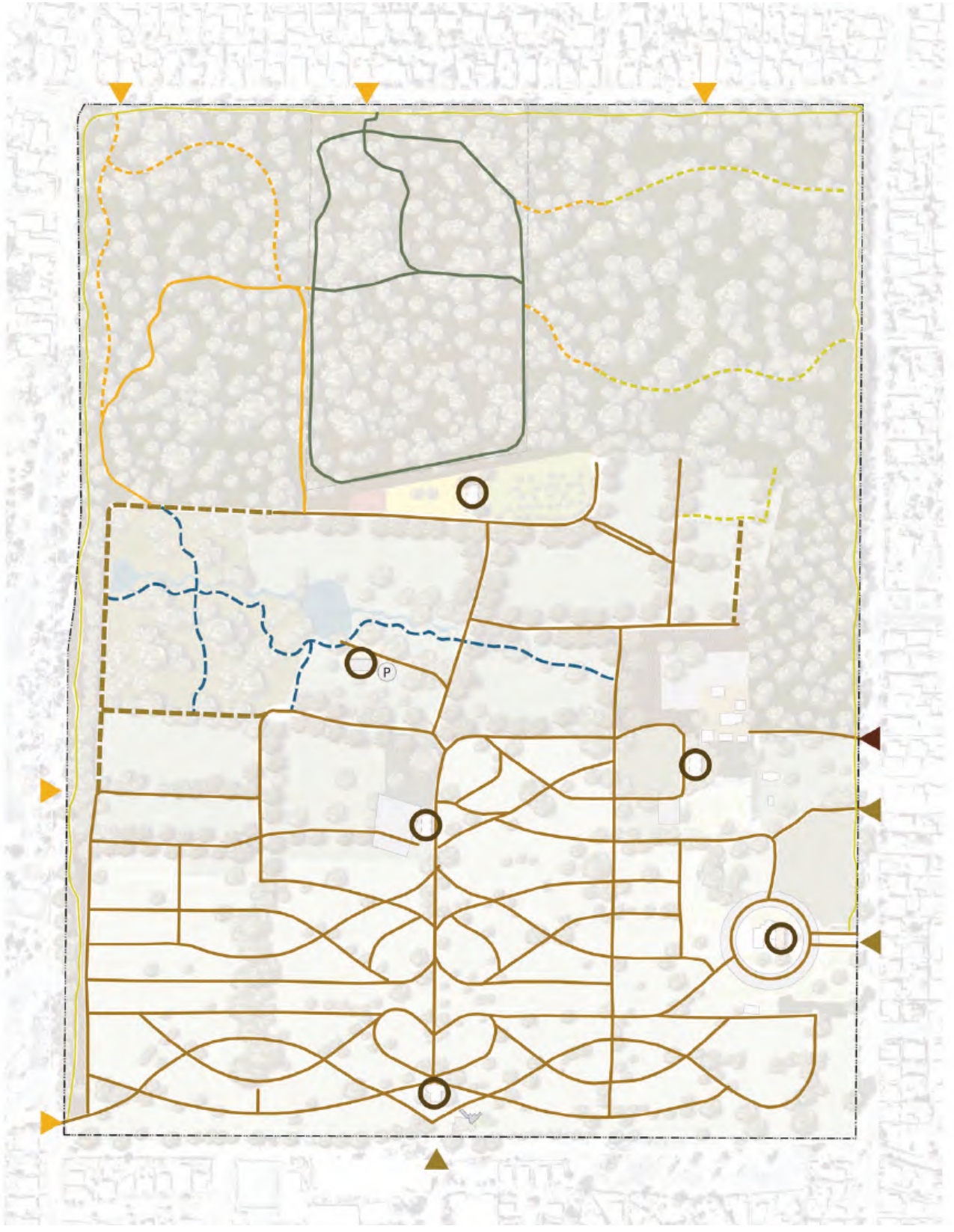
Figure 41. Electric autonomous shuttle bus

Maintenance Routes

Separated or defined maintenance routes should be investigated when designating an access hierarchy for the Masterplan. Though it has been noted that there are limited conflicts between pedestrians, private vehicles and operations, the ability to utilise specific routes with heavy machinery will limit the potential for fill transfer to roadways which may require further clean up.

Legend

- Site boundary
- Main vehicle entry enhance
- Main pedestrian entry enhance
- Main service entry enhance
- Orientation points
- Existing vehicular road
- Existing pedestrian path
- Existing bushland trail
- Existing flora and fauna access path
- Existing parking
- Proposed parking
- Proposed vehicular road
- Proposed pedestrian path
- Proposed creek trail
- Proposed bushland trail


P
0 25 50 100m

Site Operations

Customer Service Buildings

Through key stakeholder engagement the customer service and administration building is currently meeting the needs of the community, however this should be further assessed as the site continues to expand. The addition of an associated courtyard is proposed to further enhance flexibility and the experience of staff and users allowing for greater comfort and familiarity.

Meeting Places

Comfortable and well provisioned gathering and meeting places have been incorporated into the amenity offering of the Masterplan. These areas serve the purpose of holding visitors who are waiting to be escorted through the grounds for a service or part of a procession. This may also extend to an "outdoor waiting room" associated with the office.

Site Security

Though we understand impact of vandalism and anti social behaviour has been limited in Carr Villa in the past, the risk of these events within cemeteries is high. Ability to undertake these actions is often aided by the interfaces which are typical of cemeteries. Facilities turning their back to the community, with poor inward visibility caused by large fences and a lack of activation. Once access is gained there is little passive surveillance.

The cemetery Masterplan presents an opportunity to address the risk of anti-social behaviour both through conventional methods of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and promotion of good planning principles more akin to a public parkland. To complement active surveillance, public vehicle access, the Masterplan can incorporate additional communal activities, facilities, and areas of passive open space. Community activation and events within the cemetery will increase the number of users and build a connection to the site that assists in establishing the cemetery as a centre of civic pride, and less likely to be vandalised. The types and curation of these activation events will need to be carefully considered to ensure these are complementary to the primary function of the cemetery.

Maintenance of Existing Monuments

The ongoing conservation and maintenance of existing monumental interments forms an important part of the overall site experience and the historical legacy of the site. The Masterplan promotes the development of an Action Plan to guide future conservation and maintenance of monuments and their surrounding landscapes.

Interment Spoil

Continual excavation of site material for interment across all sites presents a challenge for storage and use of this spoil. Access to fill is allowed for across the site in strategic locations.

Formalised spoil storage has been indicated in the Masterplan, associated with boundary treatments, potential depot expansion and building structures, utilising planting buffers to screen operational activity and lessen impacts on views and visitation.

Partnerships in Maintenance and Ecological Conservation

Due to the interest of the general community, and groups with specific interests for the Memorial Park, there is a great opportunity to establish structured partnerships between Council and Volunteer Groups, that can enable co-management of specific site features, such as the conservation of environmental values like the bushland, or in maintaining and caring for the historical monuments.



Figure 42. Guided Cemetery Tours



Figure 43. Cemetery Depot

Ecology and Hydrology

Ecology

It is important to acknowledge that Carr Villa Memorial Park, a Conservation Area, managed by the City of Launceston is home to a 26 hectare bushland section of the Park containing significant natural values. Native vegetation on the site is classified as Eucalyptus amygdalina forest on Cainozoic sediments, which is listed as a threatened community.

Creating a thriving and diverse environment at Carr Villa memorial Park and a landscape reflective of its existing character is a foundational part of this Masterplan. The ambition is to protect, enhance and celebrate the ecological values of the site locally and regionally, expanding and stitching together ecologies in an effort to combat the biodiversity crisis. Strategies and considerations for ecological protection and enhancement are outlined below. These summarise the recommendations made by the three guiding ecological assessments that formed part of the background research for this Masterplan. These were the

- Bushland_Management_Plan_ CarrVilla, RMCG, 2024
- Carr Villa Bushland Vegetation Assessment 2019, North Barker Ecosystem Services
- Land Usage and Natural Values Report 2024, Enviro-dynamics

Conserve and Protect Remnant Ecologies

The proposed expansion area will undergo a future design development process to determine the protection of native bushland.

The Masterplan looks to balance the protection and celebration of the remnant vegetation as a feature of the cemetery, whilst balancing the service needs of the Memorial park.

- Use and conservation of the bushland area has been optioned and assessed as a part of the Multi-Criteria Assessment process with Option 05A. Hybrid Approach selected. (See page 30 for additional information on the MCA process)
- Formalise and reduce informal trails through bushland to minimise environmental footprint/ impact.
- Ongoing monitoring and surveying of threatened species to inform bushland management
- Any expansion of interment into the Option 5A, will be subject to further consideration and approval by Council, including environmental assessments and planning approval.
- Promote and prioritise low impact interment options for MCA5A area
- Integrate the recommendations of the Bushland Management Plan in regards to vegetation management (Weeding, Thinning, Protection etc) in overall site maintenance regimes
- Establish strategic partnerships to co-manage bushland health and performance

A day-to-day management of the bushland as outlined in the Management plan requires a higher level of resourcing, such as financial and personal input. Beside the attempt to secure additional funding for the site, the highlighted opportunity for partnerships may be a successful model to both, intensify community connections to the site, as well as sourcing the capacity to undertake the required works.

Ecological Connectivity

The Masterplan looks to connect ecologies and habitat within the site and to the surrounding landscape. The investigating of the endemic flora and fauna and their vulnerability status has been important when considering the development of flora species themes. Targeting species through the provision of suitable ecosystems, habitats and habitat features is a step towards conserving and promoting these species into the future.

The expansion of the 'aquatic habitat' on site through the reestablishment of the 'creekline' creates greater habitat on site, supplementing the existing pond and achieving greeting amenity and access to nature.

Landscape Character

The existing landscape has been embraced as being an key natural and reflective characteristic of the site. It it understood that it must also address various practical considerations, including cemetery functions, maintenance, resilience, and cost-effectiveness. High-amenity zones will feature dense planting, focusing on Indigenous or native species. Seasonal plants that highlight cycles of change and provide sensory experiences, such as the scents of Eucalypts and wildflowers, are embraced and expressed.

The landscape will transition from the formal Monumental zone and Semi Monumental zone to the Bushland and Flora Reserve, marking a shift from traditional cemetery design to a sustainable, integrated landscape. Expanding planting areas will replace extensive lawns, creating interment rooms that enhance feelings of privacy and sanctuary while reducing maintenance needs.

Materiality

The landscape materials will align with sustainability principles while reflect the intended character and emotion of the environment. The palette will consist of simple, natural, and local materials that are robust, sustainable, and capable of withstanding public use over time. Materials will be durable, easily sourced, and repairable, with attention to their lifecycle and potential for contributing to a circular economy. Recycled materials should be considered and prioritised, and on-site materials should be

Planting Themes

It is important to establish and consolidate a legible and identifiable landscape character at Carr Villa memorial Park that reflects and enhances its existing character and local identity. This will be achieved through the development and implementation of strong, robust and well considered planting themes identified for specific applications and locations.

Key Masterplan planting themes are as follows:

- Ecological Bushland Planting Theme
- Native Buffer and Screen Planting Theme
- Feature Accent Planting Theme
- Native WSUD Planting Theme
- Native Woodland Children's Play Planting Theme
- Avenue Tree Planting

Ecological Bushland Planting

This planting has a strong reference to the existing bushland and flora and fauna reserve EVC's, environs and ecology. It is primarily within the MCA 05A zone and builds upon the character and quality of the ecological and recreational assets. Careful placement and enhancement of existing planting provides structured and defined zones within a unique woodland experience. It provides both enclosure and protection, offering shadow and light play.

Native Buffer and Screen Planting

This native planting will embellish and add to existing and proposed buffer, framing and screening zones and will provide consolidated, legible and structured planting within an identifiable, unified, and coherent experience and character. It will be used for boundary planting, adjacent car parking, shelters and pavilion as well as boundaries. It will provide simple, condensed planting pallets offering a playful variation of twisted trunks, shadow and light play.

Feature Accent Planting Theme

This planting, located adjacent building amenity and key nodes, resting points and viewing areas, offers diverse planting and sensory respite, texture, colour and fragrance and moments of delight. It gives visual buffer and outlook through a mix of predominately under storey and mid storey planting with feature canopy.

Water Sensitive Urban design (WSUD) Planting Theme

This native planting is associated with the day lighting or the existing creekline and overland flow path and provides ecological and amenity value and comfort and delight. Water sensitive urban design planting can be integrated into water management bio-filtration swales, and existing and prosed ponds.

Native Woodland Childrens Play Theme

This planting supports the children's nature play zone, exploring seasonality, structure, sensory colour and delight and high experiential quality, character and contrast

Avenue Tree Planting

New avenue tree planting offers maximum shade, consistent form, orientation, way finding existing road systems. To vary in seasonality, structure, and experiential quality to have a distinct impression which visitors can identify with and use for intuitive wayfinding.



Figure 44. Ecological Bush Planting Theme

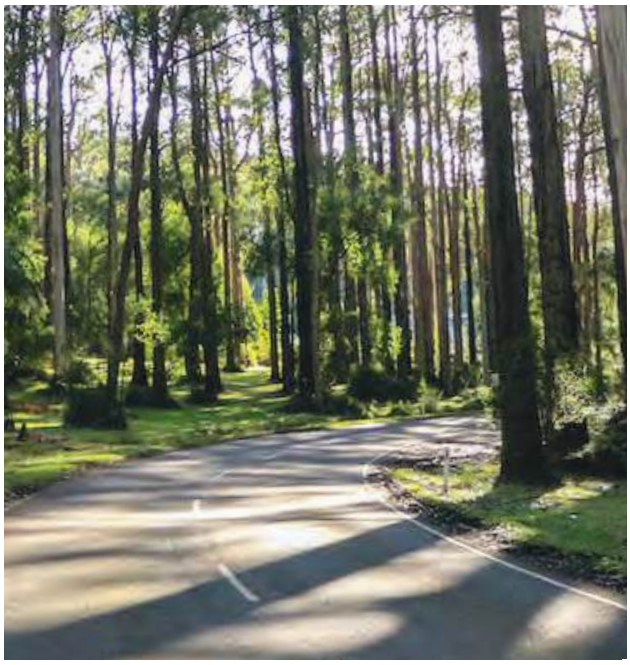


Figure 45. Native Buffer and Screen Planting Theme

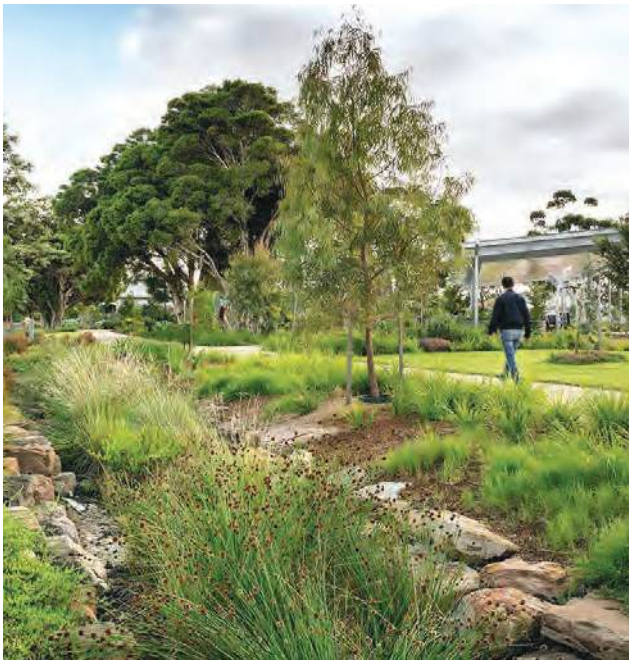


Figure 46. Native WSUD Planting Theme



Figure 47. Feature Accent Planting Theme



Figure 48. Native Woodland Children's Play Planting Theme

Partnerships and Activation

Partnerships create an opportunity to enrich and enliven the site. Providing new employment, mutual benefits and exchange of knowledge, including time and resource investment into the site. Partnerships not only support day-to-day experience, but events and calendar programming can include fantastic visual art, digital experiences, and community ownership.

Partnership opportunities exist for:

Tasmanian Aboriginal People Partnerships

- The cemetery Masterplan represents an opportunity to a reconciled future with Tasmanian Aboriginal People. This may include access to Country to perform Cultural Land Management or education.

Creative + Cultural Partnerships

- Activate the cemetery at with art, music, and cultural events. Celebrate the history and people which make up Carr Villa and reflect wider Launceston.

Community activities

- Reoccurring organised activities such as rotating art installations, planting days or heritage guided walks can establish a day-to-day relationship with the site.

Research and Education partnerships

- Progress data driven design for the development of the cemetery. Engage and utilise conversations with customers and users of the site to drive ongoing development and industry change.

  In addition to engaging with other entities facilitating ongoing research in the death sector, such as the DeathTech Team.

Business Partnership opportunities

- Enable opportunities with local retailers e.g pop up coffee or florists on event days. Enable the use of the Cemetery Grounds for historical or cultural tours.

- Continue to grow the working relationship with local Funeral homes to enable Carr Villa assets to be utilised in ceremony and memorial. e.g the expansion of the chapel.

Ecological Protection and research

- Encourage partnerships with volunteer groups to support engagement with the natural and cultural values of the Memorial Park and bush reserve, and to maximise their protection and enhancement.

Funding and ongoing maintenance

- Assist the provision of resources, grants, and funding of key areas of site that require restoration and land management.



Figure 49. Memorial Park night tours



Figure 50. Temporary retail for event days

4.0 Recommendations



Figure 51. Carr Villa Memorial Park: Garden of Memories (Image by Author)

4.0 Recommendations

This Masterplan makes the following recommendations:

Tasmanian Aboriginal People engagement and Community engagement

As the City of Launceston strengthens its relationship with Tasmanian Aboriginal People through the Aboriginal Partnership Plan, actively engage with these communities to ensure that all design stages are culturally inclusive and culturally safe.

Cemetery Plan

Utilise the final Masterplan to guide the development of Council's Cemetery Plan. Including the development of a customer facing engagement plan to enable the collection of data and sentiment, establishing a direct and local feedback loop between customer and operations, and facilitate a collective discourse on the future amenity and use of a sustainable cemetery.

Business Case And Economic Planning

A business case and economic review of revenue generation and funding opportunities be undertaken to support the implementation of the final Masterplan. Including models for limited tenure interment.

Policy and Change

Further engage with stakeholders and policy makers to implement changes to support limited tenure interment and new interment typologies and technology to enable the implementation of this Masterplan.

Ecological Investigations

Further flora and fauna assessment be undertaken prior to detailed design phase to establish ecological and biodiversity goals and objectives as well as target species and assess the viability of conserving and introducing new ecosystems to the site.

Guiding Sitewide Strategies

The Masterplan has been designed to allow for a staged implementation. Whilst the cemetery will be implemented in stages, it will be critical that the first stages of design include the development of site wide strategies and guidelines to ensure a consistent character and identity.

Adjoining Boundaries

Enhance interface with adjoining sites by protecting and enhancing natural assets, flora and fauna and mature vegetation within the cemetery site.

Human Comfort

At the cemetery, human comfort is paramount in facilitating a positive experience throughout the day and seasons. Comfort includes thermal, wind, and noise together with proximity and spatial relationships to amenities. It is recommended that a detailed assessment of human comfort scenarios is undertaken through the delivery stages of the final Masterplan, using GIS and user data to drive design.