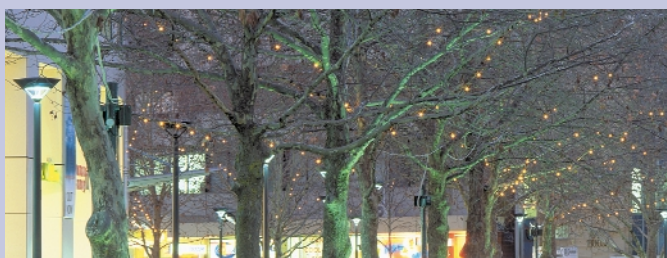


# *building* OUR CITY

A STRATEGY TO IMPROVE  
THE PUBLIC REALM FOR CIVIC ~  
CANBERRA'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT



PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT  
SEPTEMBER 2001

# 1 Introduction

*"A good city should dignify our public and communal lives just as good house dignifies one's private life. Especially in so urbanised a society we should grab every tool to achieve this potential for enhancing human dignity."*

ELIZABETH FARRELLY (Chair, the Jury of the Australia Award in Urban Design)  
Australia Award in Urban Design Jury Report; Commonwealth Department  
of Transport and Regional Development, 1996

This strategy for the improvement of the public realm in Civic is such a tool. The urban spaces of Civic – the streets, plazas, squares and parks – give expression to our city's heritage and culture. Although these public spaces might serve a discrete physical purpose, such as providing access to property, their real value rests in the emotional experiences they support. They are city places that allow for and can encourage social interaction and debate, community understanding and celebration, personal enjoyment and relaxation.

To achieve the richness and the layering of meaning that reflects our community it is necessary to:

- articulate our contemporary and past values;
- recognise the importance of the Walter Burley Griffin Plan; and
- build on the essential qualities of a place.

The essential components of *Building Our City* are the:

- key principles that underpin the urban design and ensure the symbolic and functional importance of Civic is reflected in its development;
- specific objectives that respond to the key issues and which will ensure the principles are translated and realised in the detail design and development of the public spaces;
- key projects and priority actions that will have the most influential impact on the perceived quality of Civic and that will encourage further improvement; and
- the implementation plan that identifies the priorities for the ACT Government Capital and Refurbishment works in Civic.



*Building Our City* builds on the planning and policies contained in:

- *Our City*: a Vital, Accessible and Sustainable Civic, 1998
- *Creating Our City*: an Implementation Strategy, 1999

*Our City* and *Creating Our City* outlined a vision for Civic: **to create a thriving and prosperous commercial, cultural and residential centre for Canberra.**

Currently the public spaces in Civic offer many opportunities to enhance their quality and character. This strategy identifies those opportunities and the possibilities for:

- making Civic accessible for people with differing expectations, interests, mobility requirements and of all ages;
- distinguishing the function and symbolic importance of the various public spaces;
- coordinating both government and private sector initiatives which will add to the vibrancy and significance of Civic as Canberra's pre-eminent urban centre.

The vibrancy of Civic will also require the commitment and confidence of the private sector for its growth and development. By fostering effective partnerships between Government and business it will be possible to achieve a high quality public realm that will provide both financial and cultural benefits.

Supporting this strategy are several technical papers that:

- describe the detailed design requirements for the priority actions for the Civic Quarters; and
- provide detailed design guidelines for the landscape elements in the public realm.

The initiatives in this strategy are the result of rigorous site analysis and the integration of Territory and National Capital Plan policies for Civic. They also reflect the inputs from extensive consultation with Civic stakeholder groups and government agencies, and the work of planning and design consultants.

## *Report Structure*

### PUBLIC SPACE ~ THE KEY PRINCIPLES

This section identifies the symbolic and functional basis of this strategy.

### THE OBJECTIVES

These have been developed in response to a number of key issues. They help ensure that the Key Principles are realised in the design and development of the public spaces.

### THE STRATEGY

This identifies the overall spatial structure, the significant capital works and priority actions that will create a more vibrant city centre.

### IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

The priorities in developing and managing the key elements are identified. These are presented in a framework which will guide the continued development and management of our public places.

### TECHNICAL PAPERS

These support the Public Realm Strategy and specify the design intent for projects and actions, including the street sections, quality of materials and the treatment of building elevations. These papers are intended to guide those organisations and agencies involved in the implementation of the strategy.





## 2 The public realm ~ the key principles

Civic was conceived as the municipal centre of Canberra and as the north-west apex of the National Triangle. *Civic is the one place in the National Capital where the federal, regional and Territory functions of the city coalesce.*

The *Our City* and *Creating Our City* documents seek to re-affirm Civic as the pre-eminent urban centre of Canberra, through:

- creating an economically, culturally and ecologically sustainable centre;
- establishing a focus for city government and commerce promoting the Territory and the region;
- reflecting the cultural life and history of the city;
- improving the accessibility and legibility of the public spaces;
- maintaining a network of public spaces in the city that is recognised and used by the whole community; and
- encouraging excellence and innovation in design of public spaces and individual building so as to establish high quality urban design and achieve a sustainable urban environment.

*The aims of Building Our City are to reinforce these key goals for Civic. It seeks to create streets and public spaces in Australia's Capital that are unique to Canberra: a city in which locals and visitors alike will enjoy and experience being part of a vibrant community.*

To achieve this the public realm in Civic will be planned and managed according to the following key principles:

- The **urban form**, in function, scale and character, will encapsulate the physical and symbolic planning concepts that underpin the layout of the central area of Canberra (ie. commercial building will present a 'fine grain' of development with active frontages to pedestrian streets, and significant administrative and cultural buildings will be located near Civic Square, Knowles Place or Constitution Avenue).
- The **pattern of streets and public spaces** will be intuitively and visually understandable through the clear expression of their function and symbolism. This expression will also directly respond to the various ways in which Civic is utilised by its population.



- The *unique qualities* that distinguish various parts of Civic and which add to its overall richness will be enhanced and form the basis for strengthening areas of distinctive character.
- With the *enjoyment for the pedestrian* being a key focus, all public spaces are to be physically accessible, safe and comfortable.
- The public spaces will *encourage social and cultural interaction* by supporting a range of activities, including festivals, rallies and other community gatherings.
- The *day and night vitality* of Civic and the perception of a 'people filled' heart will continue to be encouraged through mixed use developments.
- The visual, pedestrian and vehicular connections to the adjoining, unique landscape and cultural precincts will be conserved and enhanced.
- The *city is to be made memorable* by incorporating an array of colours, textures, motion and aromas.
- The quality of the design, especially in the architecture, the detailing of materials and street furniture, will reflect the pre-eminence of this urban centre in Canberra.
- The *'city beautiful' and 'garden city' character* of Canberra will be reflected in the geometry and scale of the streets. The streets will also be of sufficient width to establish canopy trees that provides a continuous shelter over the footpath.
- Unique and *valued places will be conserved and interpreted* for the enjoyment of future generations.
- The continued development of Civic will allow future generations to *enrich the public spaces* and create new places that reflect the attitudes and norms of their era.
- The application and demonstration of good *environmental sustainable practice* will be demonstrated in the design, maintenance and management of the public spaces.



## 4 *The strategy*

The principles and objectives outlined in Section 3 will be achieved through various strategic projects and through development within the 'quarters' of Civic.

An organisational framework which provides a spatial context for initiatives and actions has been defined. The framework will help ensure that all development – government or private sector - reinforces the layout, hierarchy, function and symbolism of the public places in Civic.

The key elements encompass the whole of Civic and encapsulate the aspirations set out in the principles and objectives. They are the result of extensive site analysis and contributions from consultation with Civic stakeholder groups. Section 5 of this strategy outlines a program for their implementation.

For each quarter the urban design intent and priority actions have been described. These will ensure that purposeful relationships are created between the streets, the open space and the buildings, and that the unique heritage and culture of the Canberra community is reflected in its urban form.

### 4.1 THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLIC REALM

*"Design counts! Great streets do not just happen. Overwhelmingly, the best streets derive from a conscious act of conception and creation of the street as a whole."*

Allan B. Jacobs Great Streets, MIT Press, 1993

An overall organisational structure for the streets and public spaces of Civic has been identified. The purpose of this structure is to provide a spatial framework that will ensure, as development proceeds, the integrity of the public spaces and urban form of Civic is conserved and enhanced.

The basis of this organisational structure is Griffin's Plan. The democratic values Griffin sought to express are still relevant and the geometry and composition he employed, the axes, the triangle and the avenues, inextricably link the urban structure to its landscape setting.



The following organisational principles seek to reinforce the hierarchy in the symbolic and physical composition of the public realm in Civic:

The National Triangle, and Civic as the north-east apex of the Triangle is to be expressed by:

- ensuring City Hill, a landmark element by which people orientate themselves in Civic, is conserved and enhances as the focal open space; and
- ensuring the avenues, Commonwealth and Constitution Avenues, which connect the points of the National Triangle, have primacy in the street pattern.

The radiating avenues that make Civic the focus to Central Canberra are to be reinforced by:

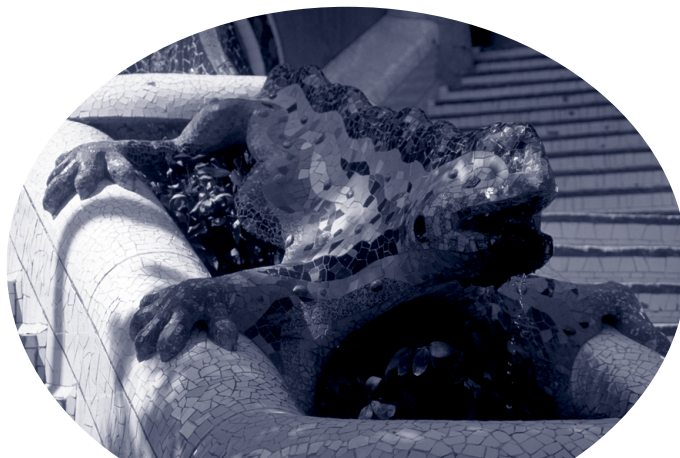
- conserving and enhancing the visual connections established by the radiating avenues between City Hill and its landscape setting; and
- making the radiating avenues the prime pedestrian and vehicular streets connecting Civic to the adjacent precincts.

The importance of Civic Square and Knowles Place as the primary civic and municipal spaces for Civic East and West are to be reinforced by:

- additional pedestrian plazas that are less formal in scale and treatment; and
- siting buildings that have a municipal significance around Civic Square and Knowles Place.

The unique hexagonal geometry of Civic is to be conveyed by:

- developing London Circuit as a generously scaled boulevard with a continuous street character;
- improving the road network with a hierarchy of streets and lanes (nominally 30-20 metre streets and 10 metre lanes) which extend the hexagonal grid; and
- aligning buildings to the streets and using built form to give three-dimensional expression to the corners.





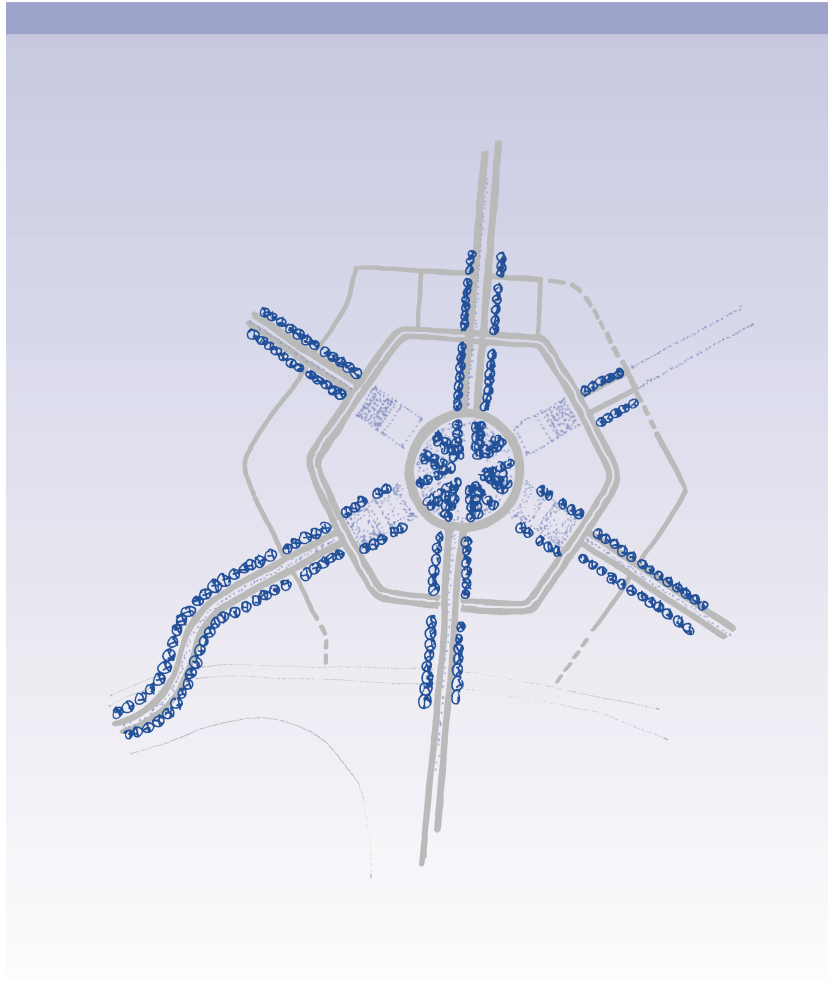
## 4.2 THE KEY ELEMENTS



### 4.2.1 Connecting the Walks

Establish a pedestrian system that links Civic to Commonwealth Park, the lake and other adjacent cultural and historic precincts by:

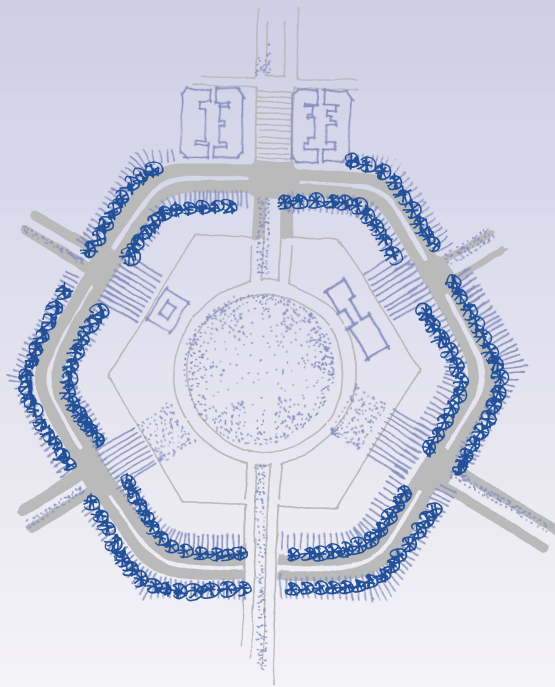
- creating a main city pedestrian circuit along Marcus Clarke, Allara, Alinga Streets and City Walk and clearly identifying this circuit through the cohesive treatment of street furniture, lighting, paving materials and signage;
- providing generous pedestrian and cycle paths that connect the main city pedestrian circuit to Commonwealth Park and West Basin;
- identifying and interpreting the sites and precincts of interest that are within walking distance of Civic;
- developing special walking routes and tours through the use of directional and interpretive signage;
- expanding the cultural signage beacons to direct people to the lake and the key orientation points for the walking routes and tours identified;
- ensuring the walking and cycle routes are accessible;
- producing promotional itineraries for the various walking tours and attractions adjacent to Civic; and
- exploring the opportunity for corporate and community involvement in the development and sponsorship of the various walks and tours.



#### 4.2.2 The Radial Avenues and Acton Way

Conserve and enhance the significance of the radiating avenues by establishing a consistent street treatment and retaining the views to City Hill by creating squares at the London Circuit end of these Avenues. Priority is to be given to establishing Edinburgh Avenue – Acton Way – as a major entry to the city and primary link to the Museum of Australia by:

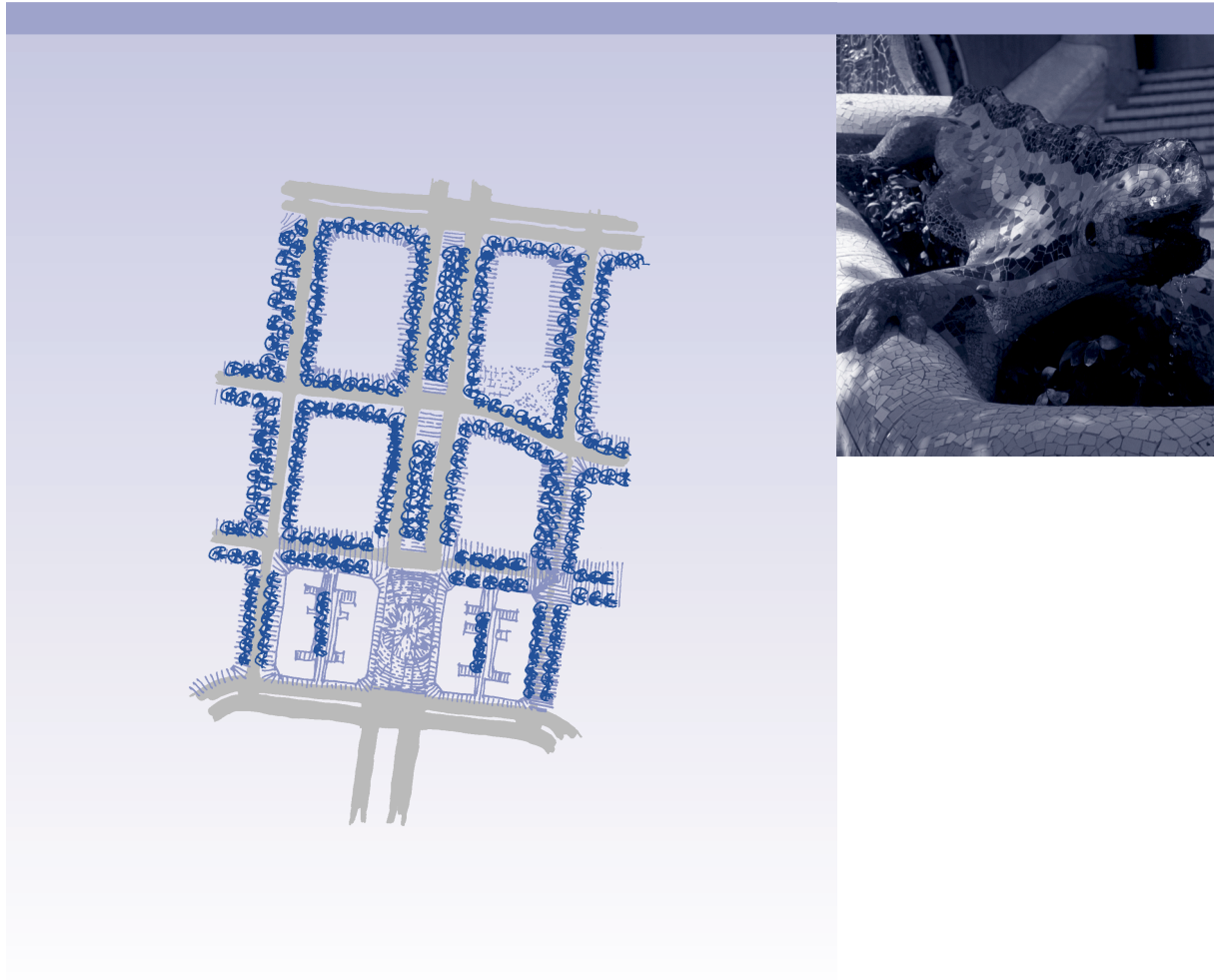
- creating an avenue of distinction, with generous scale and a character dominated by the appropriate street trees;
- ensuring the views to City Hill and Acton Hill are retained;
- investigate how the connections to the lake and the museum can be upgraded across Parkes Way;
- clearly defining and improving the pedestrian and cycleway paths with new paving and lighting; and
- developing information and directional signage.



### 4.2.3 The Grand Boulevard

Establish London Circuit as the 'main street' of the city by:

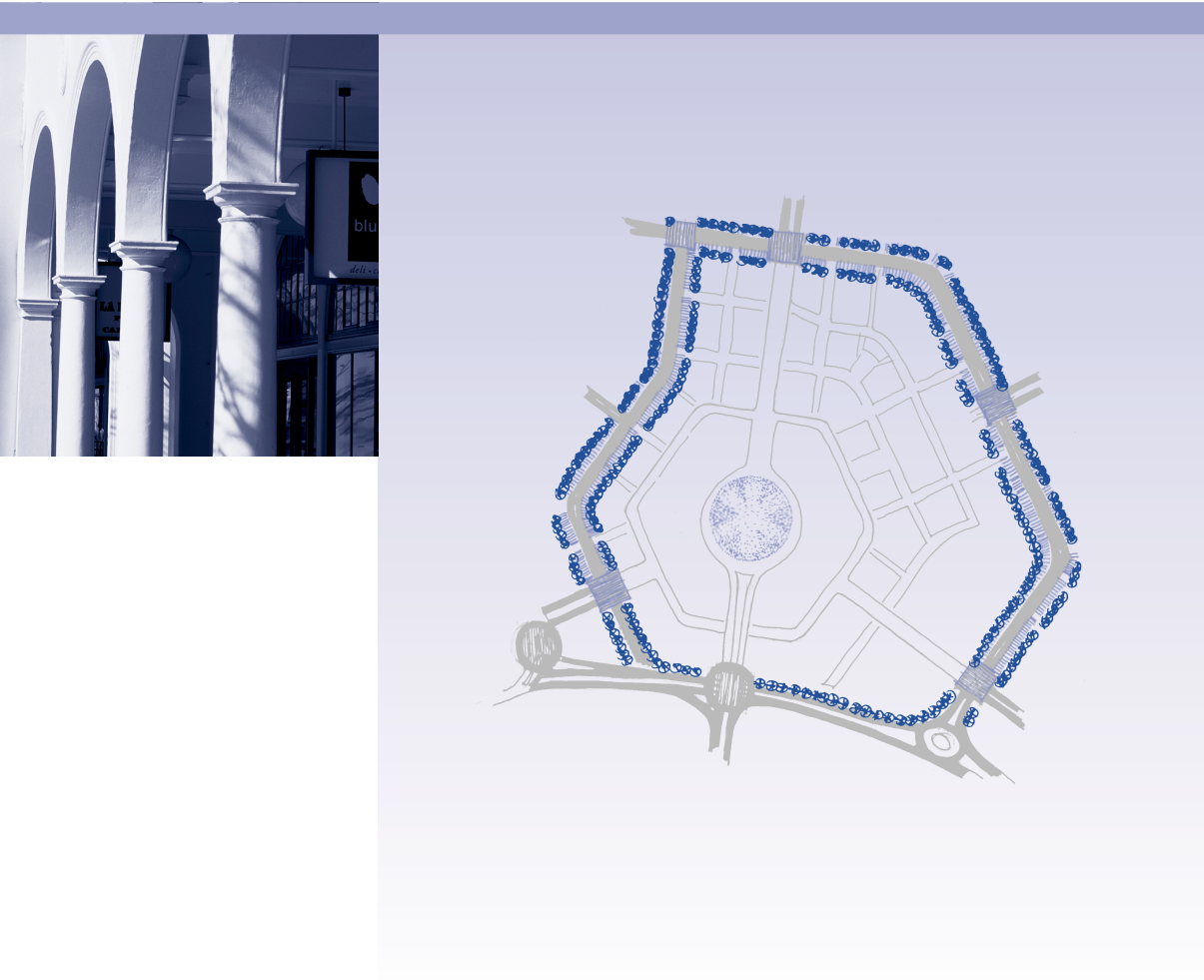
- developing a continuous and distinctive street that is of a generous scale and pleasant tree lined character;
- ensuring that the pedestrian promenade is broad, with the potential for a double row of trees, and that the paving material and street furniture reflect the significance of this street in the hierarchy of urban streets;
- reinforcing the unique hexagonal street geometry in the planting, paving and architecture lining the street;
- boldly marking the intersection of Northbourne and Commonwealth Avenues with portal buildings or features;
- ensuring the views to City Hill from the radiating avenues are across plazas or parks;
- encouraging significant, prestigious developments and commercial activity to take up the numerous sites identified; and
- significantly improving the size and quality of the pedestrian crossing points so that they are more obvious in the street network.



#### 4.2.4 The City Grid

Revitalisation of the city streets will be achieved by:

- developing a consistent street character, that also responds to the values of the various user groups, with improved paving, street furniture, lighting, sculpture, banners and other cultural elements that will bring greater interest to the streets;
- ensuring there is a consistency in the street tree planting and that the planting provides shade and shelter to the streets;
- encouraging street-front activity and variety through the various commercial and retail businesses and by providing for greater short stay on-street parking to support these businesses; and
- improving the pedestrian connections across Northbourne Avenue to better link East and West Civic.

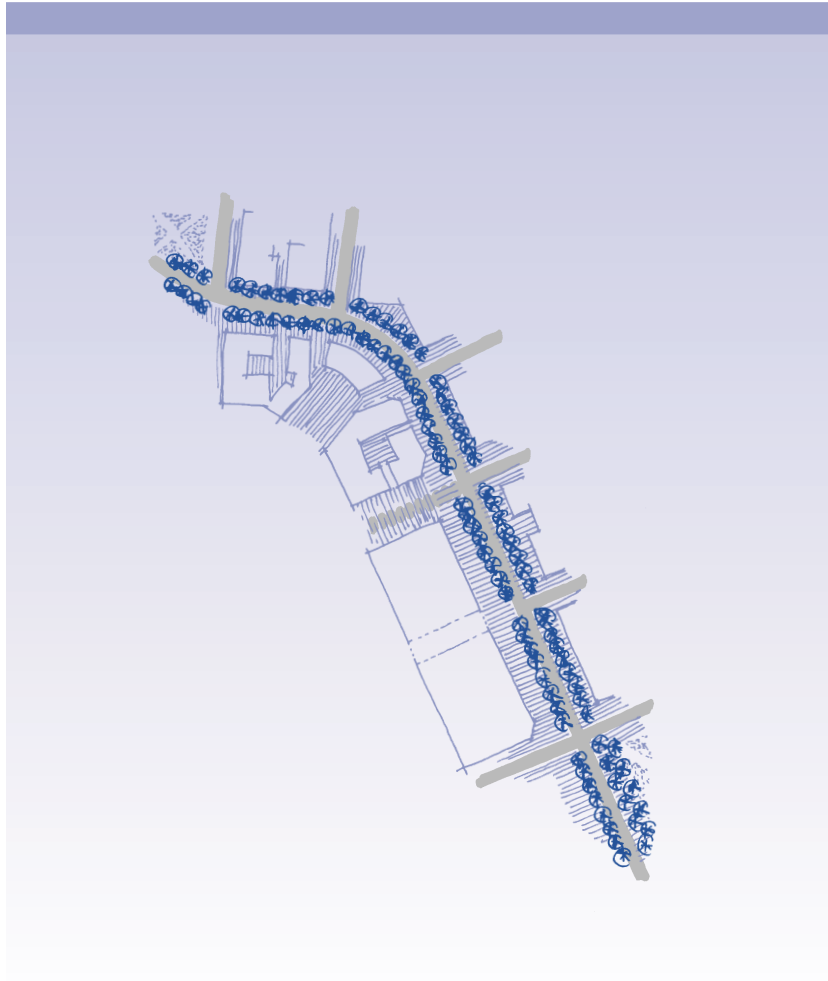


#### 4.2.5 Defining the City

Improve the identification of Civic by enhancing the sense of arrival through:

- establishing a consistent character to the street(s) which border the city;
- developing 'gateway' elements at the major entry points to the Civic; and
- providing better pedestrian connections to link Civic to the surrounding districts.

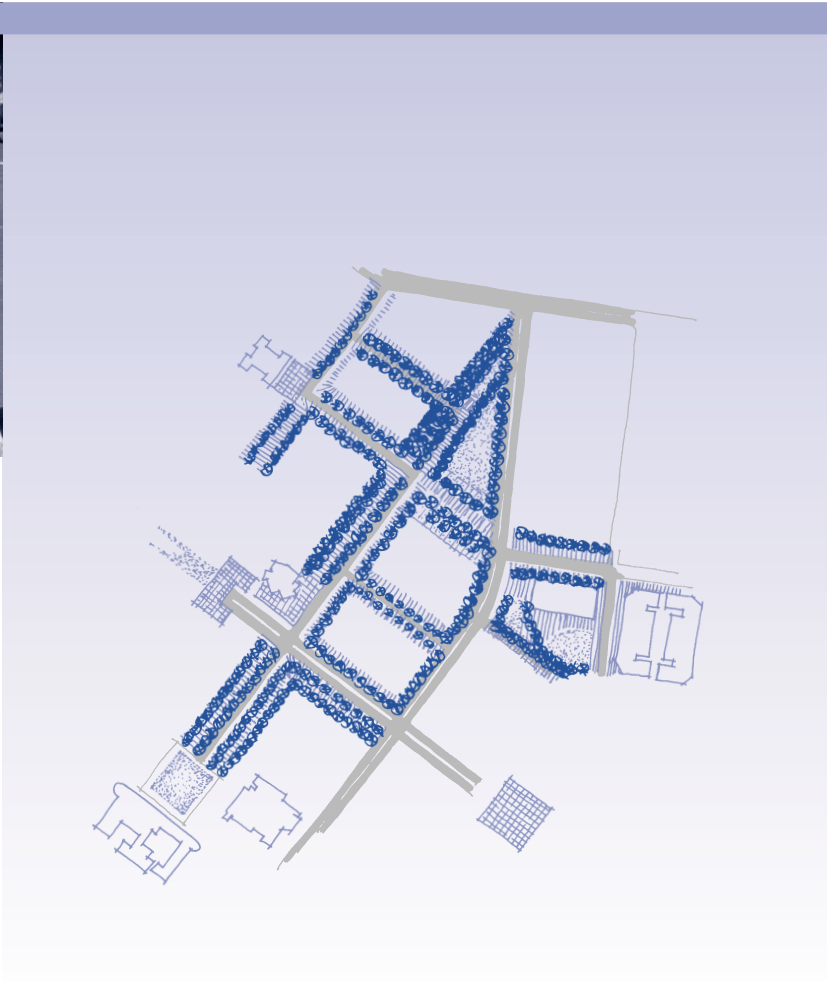




#### 4.2.6 Bunda Strip

Extend and enhance the role of Bunda Street as a vital day and night shopping, entertainment and restaurant street by:

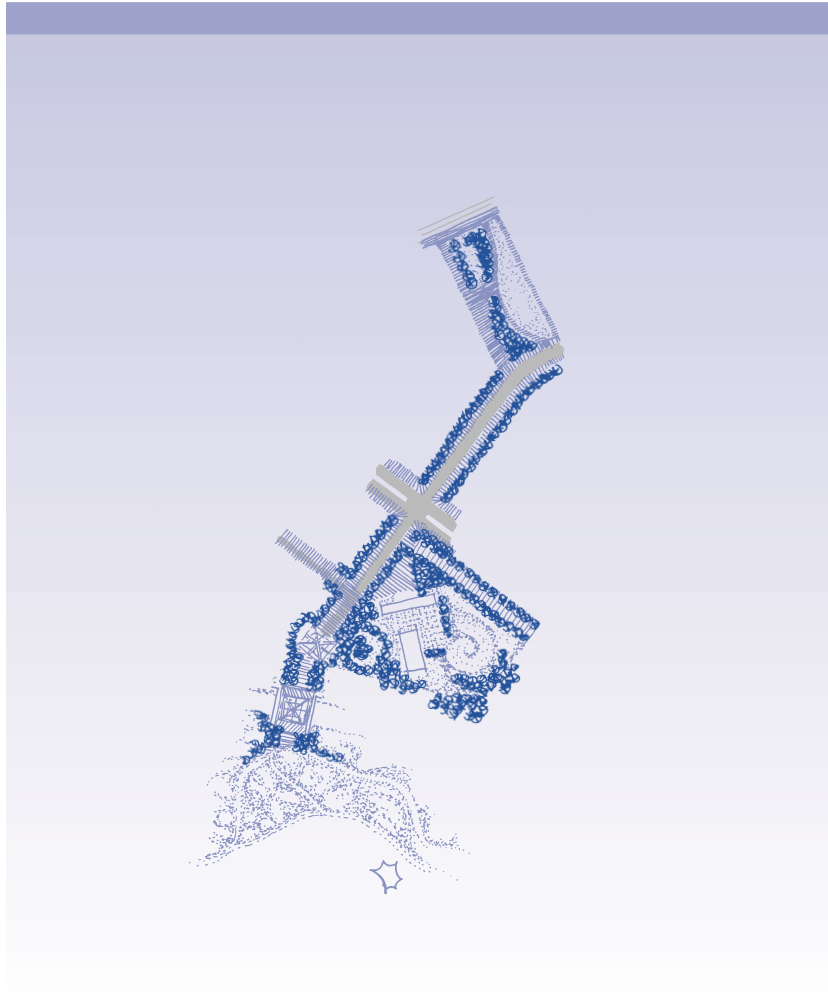
- increasing commercial activity;
- encouraging active street frontages;
- providing on street parking;
- introducing new street furniture and artworks that are reverential to the Civic community; and
- improving street tree planting.



#### 4.2.7 Alinga Place

Create a new urban park at the junction of Alinga Street and Marcus Clarke Street and extend the visual and physical link from City Walk to the Rocks area and the ANU Campus by:

- using the trees as a base to the creation of a new place;
- creating opportunities for enterprises that have an arts or craft base;
- establishing an environment suitable for outdoor cafes;
- ensuring there are pleasant spaces for people to gather or to sit; and
- providing a coherent path and cycle system to link to Childers Street and the Drill Hall Gallery.



#### 4.2.8 Allara Park

Enhance the 'green' space in association with Civic Pool by:

- improving the character and treatment of the street along Allara Street to reflect its role and as the major pedestrian and cycle access to Commonwealth Park and the lake;
- reinforcing the recreational and physical fitness theme of this area;
- exploring opportunities for a better pedestrian bridge over Parkes Way; and
- structuring the park to improve the setting and access to the Civic Pool.

### 4.3 THE QUARTERS

*Consult the Genius of the Place in all,  
That tells the Waters or to rise, or fall.....*

Alexander Pope

Civic has been divided into seven 'quarters' of distinct urban character:

- City Hill and the National Triangle
- Central Quarter
- The Upper Quarter
- Shopping
- Town and Gown
- Acton Hill
- Glebe Park Quarter

While the organisational structure sets out the hierarchy and function of the key elements in the public realm, it is the composition and appearance of those elements (ie the architecture of the buildings and the landscape of the streets) that sets the character of the public spaces and streets. By identifying the inherent qualities of a place, it is possible to prepare architectural and landscape design guidelines that will build on these qualities and strengthen areas of distinct character. This adds to the richness and variety of the public realm.

Following is a brief description, an outline of the urban design intent and a number of key actions for each quarter. (Reference should be made to the Technical Papers for the detailed design guidelines for each quarter).



### 4.3.1 City Hill and the National Triangle



This quarter includes City Hill, Commonwealth and Constitution avenues.

The significance of this quarter is that it is a crucial part of the National Triangle. It is at the geometric core of Civic and it is through this quarter that the municipal and national capital functions of Canberra coalesce.

The character of this quarter is set by the open, park space and by the recreational and convention facilities it contains.

Commonwealth Avenue, which marks the western edge of the triangle and links City Hill to Parliament House, is at this point a 'parkway' road. Several grade separated clover leaf intersections distribute commuter traffic to city east or west.

Constitution Avenue links City Hill to the Russell Precinct. Along this avenue are the city's Convention Centre and Civic Pool. Where the avenue intersects London Circuit, the city's key administrative departments have been located.

Between this quarter, Commonwealth Park and the central basin of the lake, is Parkes Way. This road is the major east-west distributor for Canberra. Its scale and the volume of traffic make it difficult to establish pedestrian connections between the city and the lake.



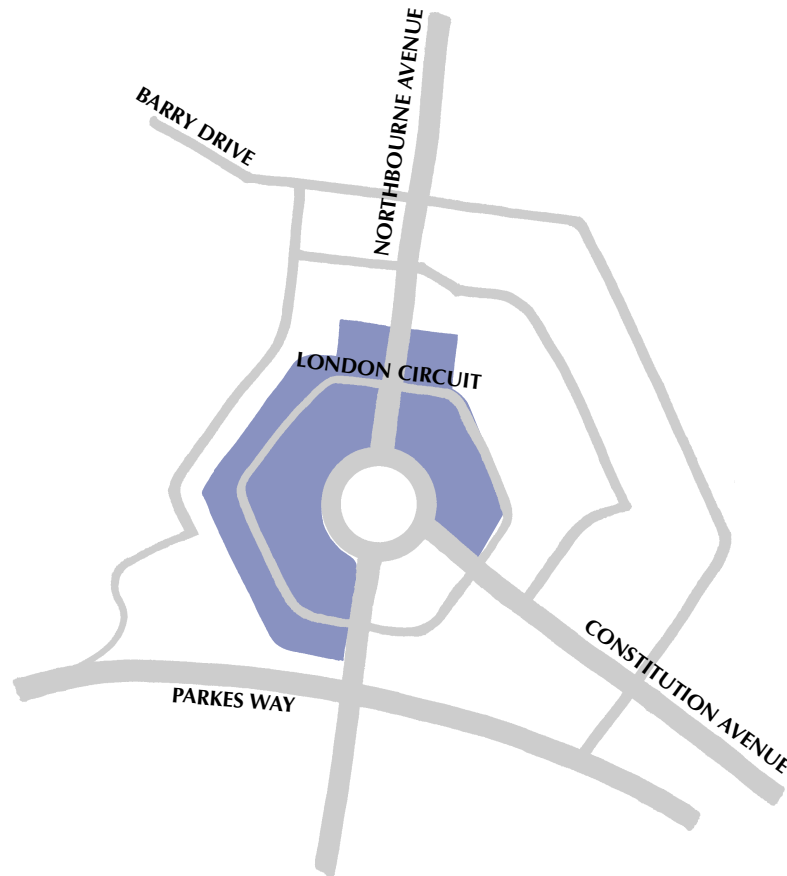
The public realm in this quarter will:

- express the identity of the Canberra community in the context of the national capital functions;
- establish a consistent, continuous and comfortable pedestrian space along Commonwealth and Constitution Avenues;
- create a distinctive entry to the south of the city on Commonwealth Avenue;
- improve the landscape treatment of Constitution Avenue to reflect its significance as one of the avenues forming the national triangle;
- establish a gateway to the City at the junction of Parkes Way and Corronderk Street;
- enhance the physical connections to Commonwealth Park and the lake;
- ensure the views to the national area are retained from Vernon Circle and City Hill;
- establish a pedestrian circuit around Vernon Circle;
- enhance the open space to the east of the Boulevard buildings and around Civic pool to create new parks;
- maintain the clear vistas to City Hill from both Commonwealth and Constitution Avenues; and
- be premiated in the quality of materials and design.

### *Key Actions*

- ★ Establish a Public Square at the end of Constitution Avenue between London and Vernon Circle.
- ★ Improve the street treatment of Constitution Avenue.
- ★ Develop a broad pedestrian path on the 'city' side of Vernon Circle.
- ★ Prepare development conditions for Section 19, Block 11.
- ★ Investigate the implications of removing or minimising the traffic loops between Commonwealth Avenue and Parkes Way in order to establish a southern gateway.

### 4.3.2 The Central Quarter



This quarter surrounds the geometric focus of Civic and includes London Circuit.

The character of this quarter is associated with the Australian Capital Territory Government, administrative, legal, financial and cultural functions. The buildings housing these functions are located around Civic Square and Knowles Place, which are the central, symbolic urban spaces for the East and West precincts respectively.

The hexagonal geometry of the city street pattern is most evident in this quarter. London Circuit bounds the quarter, providing the link between City East and West and also the address to these municipal buildings. The radiating avenues all connect with London Circuit, creating the potential for clear and easy pedestrian and vehicular access between this quarter, the reminder of Civic and the adjacent precincts.

The Sydney and Melbourne buildings are also a part of this precinct. These heritage buildings are significant landmarks and establish a gateway that signifies arrival to the city.

The public realm in this quarter will:

- convey the identity and vibrancy of Canberra;
- establish London Circuit as the prime address street, ie the Grand Boulevard, with a consistent street character and of a scale that affords comfortable pedestrian and vehicular access between City East and West;
- build on the significance of Civic Square and Knowles Place to establish them as the symbolic focal spaces to City East and West;
- reflect and reinforce the city geometry through the extension of existing streets and lanes and ensuring that new buildings mark the corners of the hexagon;
- enhance the city gateway established by the Melbourne and Sydney buildings;
- create opportunities for pedestrians to gain access to City Hill;
- maintain the vistas to City Hill from the radiating avenues;
- ensure that buildings provide a sense of address to Vernon Circle and the pedestrian circuit; and
- be distinctive and consistent in its quality of materials and design.

### *Key Actions*

- ★ Develop a 'plaza' between the Melbourne and Sydney buildings.
- ★ Establish a public open space at the end of Edinburgh Avenue that will provide a link between London Circuit and Vernon Circle.
- ★ Prepare development objectives (that build on the current development conditions) and lease conditions for the areas of surface car parking – Sections 63, blocks 11,12 and 13; Section 19 blocks 4 and 23.

### 4.3.3 The Upper Quarter



This quarter is bisected by Northbourne Avenue and extends from Alinga Street to Barry Drive/Corranderk Street.

The quarter contains the greatest concentration of the working population in Civic. This is reflected in the built form which is generally high rise with a large building footprint. This building type arose in the construction boom of the 1970s and 1980s when there was a need to satisfy the rapid demand for office space by Commonwealth departments. This quarter also includes the city's key public transport nodes - the interstate coach terminal at the Jolimont Centre and the local bus interchange near City Walk.

There are also several unique and valued pedestrian spaces in this quarter: Veterans Park, Pilgrim Place and the wide footpath along Alinga Street adjacent to the Melbourne and Sydney buildings. This footpath (part of which is colonnaded, the other which is sheltered by plane trees) is a major pedestrian route linking the city to the university and is well used for outdoor eating.

This quarter is adjacent to many diverse precincts: the low rise professional suites and IT area of the Turner Gardens; the high rise residential and hotel accommodation on Northbourne Avenue; and the mixed use area of Braddon. The proximity of these diverse activities has begun to alter the public realm in this quarter and the bland, expansive frontages established by the office blocks are beginning to be modulated by the incorporation of cafes, restaurants and bars.

The public realm in this quarter will:

- exhibit the vibrancy of a strong commercial heart;
- provide the environmental quality that will encourage pedestrian activity on the streets;
- reinforce the processional and arrival qualities of Northbourne Avenue as the street by which visitors enter the Capital and Civic;
- link to the city gateway established by the Melbourne and Sydney buildings;
- recognise and enhance the value of Alinga Street as a key pedestrian route and destination;
- improve the significance and quality of Veterans Park and Pilgrim Place;
- establish a network of pedestrian spaces along the streets and lanes;
- provide kerbside, short-stay parking to serve the business requirements; and
- have consistency in its design and the quality of materials used which, more importantly, are to create a rich sensory environment for the pedestrian.

### *Key Actions*

- ★ Create a 'gateway' to Civic on Northbourne Avenue.
- ★ Establish consistent street tree planting and verge treatments along West and East Rows, Moore, Mort, Bunda and Rudd Streets.
- ★ Develop Alinga Street as an extension to City Walk.
- ★ Upgrade Veterans Park and Pilgrim Place.



#### 4.3.4 The Shopping Quarter



This quarter is east of the Central Quarter. It is bounded by Corronderk Street and includes the pedestrian areas of Garema Place and City Walk.

It is the predominant retail and entertainment area of Civic. There are still many small business owners and independent traders here and this gives the quarter a fine grain in its built form. This richness is enhanced by the numerous outdoor cafes and restaurants that spill out onto the pedestrian areas and by the increasing number of bars, nightclubs and cinemas that enliven the place at night.

City Walk is at the centre of this quarter. Sections of this pedestrian mall have been substantially improved and afford pedestrians a high environmental quality with shade trees, robust street furniture, good paving and lighting.

The western side of Bunda Street has also become a vibrant pedestrian space. This side of the street has a wide footpath that accommodates outdoor dining as well as the necessary street utilities, such as signs and parking meters. It has a positive urban quality that comes from its scale, the presence of deep awnings, a sunny orientation, shade from robust Plane trees and the activity of passing traffic.

Ainslie Avenue is significant in this quarter. As one of Griffin's radiating avenues, it provides vistas to City Hill and Mt Ainslie, ensuring that the quarter is visually connected to its setting. The avenue also establishes an important physical connection between this quarter and Civic Square, which is to be enhanced as the symbolic focal place for the eastern side of the city.

This quarter is supported by the uses at its periphery, including the mixed uses in Braddon, the medium density residential in Reid and the commercial office areas of the Central and Upper Districts.

The public realm in this quarter will:

- reflect the vitality and activity of a thriving retail centre;
- have an environmental quality and amenity that will encourage pedestrian activity, community events and rallies;
- reinforce City Walk as the premier pedestrian street;
- provide pedestrian connections to the key attractions and destinations within and at the fringes of Civic;
- ensure Bunda Street continues to cater for and encourage pedestrian activity on the street;
- enhance Ainslie Avenue and make its significance as a radiating avenue more pronounced;
- reinforce the physical and symbolic connection between this quarter and Civic Square;
- improve the accessibility and opportunities for passive surveillance of the pedestrian areas by adding new streets and lanes consistent with geometric pattern of the city;
- provide short-stay parking in proximity to the retail areas; and
- have consistency in its design and the quality of materials used and which create a rich sensory environment for the pedestrian.

### *Key Actions*

- ★ Continue the improvements to City Walk.
- ★ Create a shared use zone for Petrie Plaza.
- ★ Extend Lonsdale Street to join Bunda Street.
- ★ Establish a 'mid-block' street in Section 56 that is parallel to Bunda and Ballumbir Street.
- ★ Improve the Street treatment along Ballumbir Street.
- ★ Create a public space on Bunda Street that reinforces the hexagonal geometry of the city at Section 56.

#### 4.3.5 The Town and Gown Quarter



This quarter is west of the Central Quarter and extends to the Australian National University (ANU).

The distinct character of this area is associated with academia, (the ANU), the fine arts (the Institute of the Arts, the Drill Hall Gallery and Photo Access) and the performing arts (the School of Music and the Street Theatre). This quarter also includes numerous environmental, health and lifestyle community organisations, which are housed in the ROCKS and nearby areas.

The streets are dominated by a double row of trees and more informal paving surfaces, such as bitumen or gravel. The buildings flanking the streets tend to be of a low scale and sited well back from the street.

University Avenue is an important street in this quarter, being the main access road from London Circuit, the formal gateway to the University and, along with Alinga Street, a main pedestrian route from the city to the campus. This is also one of the radiating avenues and affords vistas to City Hill and Black Mountain.

This quarter has the potential of becoming a vibrant place, similar to Carlton in Melbourne or Newtown in Sydney, with business thriving due to the nexus between the city and the university. A number of buildings and sites require redevelopment. This type of redevelopment provides the opportunity to introduce mixed use developments which will consolidate the existing uses and establish a precinct of unique and special character.

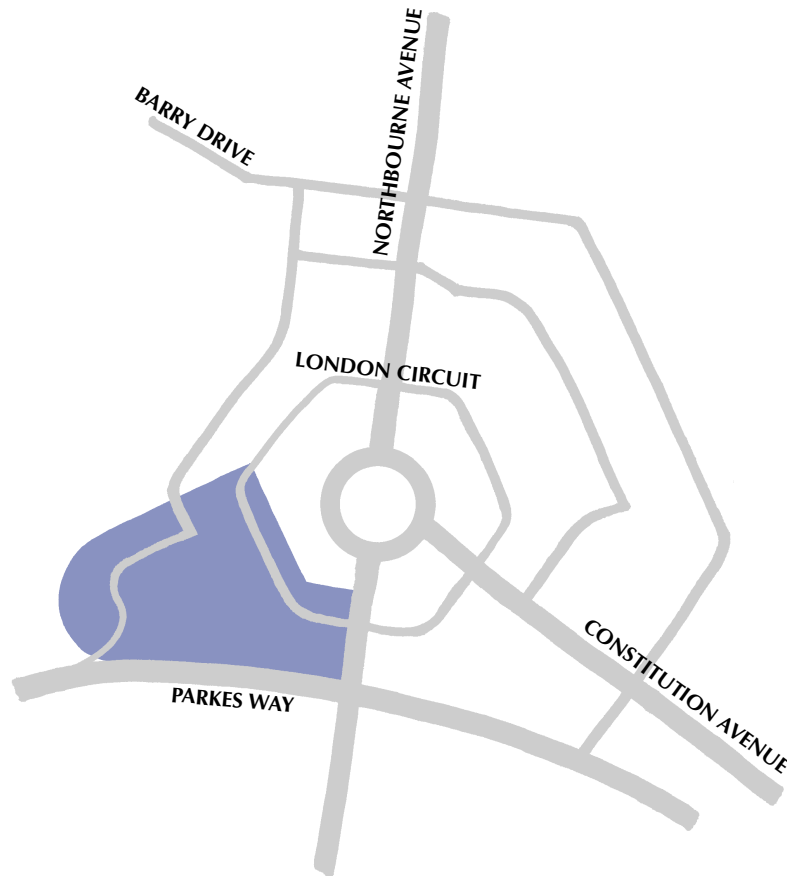
The public realm in this quarter will:

- strengthen the physical and symbolic links between the city and the university;
- establish University Avenue as the threshold between the city and the campus and mark its significance as a radiating avenue more pronounced;
- reinforce the physical and symbolic connection between this quarter and Knowles Place;
- reflect the vitality of university life with mixed use developments that include residential, retail and entertainment uses;
- establish the junction of Barry Drive and Marcus Clarke Street as a prominent entry point to the city for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians;
- reinforce University Avenue and Alinga Street as the pedestrian routes between the city and the campus;
- create a central public park which will protect the vestige of trees and become the focus for activity in the quarter;
- enhance the building settings for the Canberra School of Art and the Drill Hall Gallery, which are landmark buildings in this quarter;
- reinforce and enhance the existing character of the streets by ensuring continuity in the street tree planting, and by incorporating grass and/or gravel in the wider street verges;
- improve safety for pedestrian and cyclists with clearly defined routes, crossing points and ensuring that these are all well lit; and
- have consistency in its design and the quality of materials used, providing opportunities for street art, sculpture and theatre.

### *Key Actions*

- ★ Upgrade University Avenue and establish a gateway between 'town' and 'gown' at the intersection of Marcus Clarke Street.
- ★ Upgrade Farrell and Hobart Places.
- ★ Extend and improve West Row Park.
- ★ Upgrade Darwin Place.
- ★ Improve the street character of Childers, Hutton and Kingsley Streets.
- ★ Create a north-western 'gateway'.

#### 4.3.6 Acton Hill Quarter



This quarter is between the city and Acton Peninsula.

Its character is dominated by the landform and parkland settings to many of the buildings that are within the precinct such as the Academy of Science, ScreenSound Australia and Ian Potter House. These buildings, all of which have special, architectural value are set back from the street, surrounded by lawn and trees, both native and exotic.

The quarter is a significant historical area. It has associations with the Canberra's rural beginnings and the establishment of the first suburb in the Federal Capital. The distinct and attractive landscape character around Liversidge Street and McCoy Circuit is a consequence of this heritage.

The quarter is also adjacent to the East Basin of Lake Burley Griffin. However, it is difficult to establish visual and physical connections to the lake due to the scale and alignment of Parkes Way, which is a major traffic route.

Edinburgh Avenue is the principal access road to the National Museum of Australia on Acton Peninsula. This avenue is also one of Griffin's radiating avenues, important for visually connecting the city to its setting.



The public realm in this quarter will:

- ensure that it complements the distinctive landscape character;
- reinforces the role of Edinburgh Avenue as the principal access road to the National Museum of Australia and make its significance as a radiating avenue more pronounced;
- establish a distinctive street character to Marcus Clarke Street in order to signify the transition between the city and Acton Peninsula;
- create obvious pedestrian and cycle routes between the attractions within and adjacent to the quarter; and
- ensure design and materials complement and reinforce the parkland character of the quarter.

### *Key Actions*

- ★ Improve the verge treatment and establish a pedestrian link to Acton Hill along Gordon Street.
- ★ Establish a distinctive street treatment and gateway along Edinburgh Avenue.

### 4.3.7 Glebe Park Quarter



This quarter is north of Constitution Avenue and extends to Akuna Street.

While its character is dominated by Glebe Park, which has developed the role of a 'municipal park', the quarter also has an 'entertainment' theme with an independent film cinema in the Boulevard building, the casino and the hotel/convention centre with its exhibition halls and the Royal Theatre.

This public realm in this quarter will:

- reflect the themes of entertainment and recreation existing in this quarter;
- enhance Glebe Park as the 'municipal' or civic park by adding to its features and amenities so that it is an appropriate venue for festivals and events;
- protect and enhance the 'green' space adjacent to the Boulevard building;
- improve the pedestrian and cycle connections between the various attractions within and adjacent to the quarter; and
- have consistency in its design and the quality of materials used and will allow for opportunities for street art and sculpture.

#### *Key Actions*

- ★ Establish a continuation of the pedestrian system from City Walk past, Casuarina Place in front of the Boulevard Building.