

Townsville Queens Gardens Cultural Heritage Conservation Management Plan

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for: Townsville City Council

October 2010

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) was commissioned in May 2010 to prepare a Cultural Heritage Conservation Management Plan (CHCMP) for Queens Gardens, Townsville.

The reserve containing Queens Gardens was established by the late 1860s and the gardens began to establish by the late 1870s when the first gardener was appointed. The history and development of the gardens has been influenced by the impact of cyclones but survives today as a vibrant tropical retreat in suburban Townsville.

The importance of Queens Gardens has been recognised through its recent inclusion on the Queensland Heritage Register (QHR). For places entered on the QHR, *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Burra Charter) and associated guidelines provide guidance for their conservation and management. A fundamental heritage management tool derived from the Burra Charter is the CHCMP. A CHCMP presents an understanding of the significance of a place, develops policies for its continuing care, and sets out a management approach according to the policy.

1.2 THIS REPORT

This CHCMP is guided by the requirements of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (QHA), Burra Charter, *The Conservation Plan*, J.S. Kerr, 5th Edition, Sydney, May 2000, and the Department of Environment and Resource Management's (DERM) guideline for preparing a Conservation Management Plan.

1.3 OBJECTIVE

To ensure the future care and management of this important heritage listed site, this CHCMP provides the following:

- presentation of a summary documentary history of the development of the place based on the extensive information contained in the DERM Queensland Heritage Register entry and limited additional research;
- reporting to include photographs and drawings on the physical inspection of the garden's soft and hard landscape and their layout including identification of key design elements and timeline of changes to the extent of the gardens since 1870;

- an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the place which will include comparative significance analysis with similar places in Queensland to determine the degree of rarity and a statement of significance;
- identification of any elements removed from the gardens, assessment of their significance and formulation of policy regarding potential reinstatement;
- preparation of a set of conservation policies for the place which will provide clear direction and guidance on the future care, management and interpretation of the gardens. ERM will also provide guidance on Exemption Certificates for the gardens in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*;

1.4 STUDY LOCATION

Queens Gardens is the surviving 10 acre (4ha) remnant of Townsville's former 100 acre (40.5ha) Botanical Gardens Reserve (Queens Park) proclaimed on 14 June 1870. The reserve is located on the corner of Gregory and Paxton Streets in Townsville's North Ward suburb and is shown in *Figure 1.1*.



Figure 1.1 Study Area

1.5 *HERITAGE STATUS*

Queens Gardens is listed in Schedule 5 of the City Plan 2005, Townsville City Council's planning scheme and Council's Local Heritage Database (Property 21470), the National Trust Register of Queensland, and was also entered on the QHR in 2008, place ID 601765. The QHR is a list of all places of State importance and is maintained by DERM. The Register entry is included at *Annex A*.

1.6 *ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

ERM gratefully acknowledges the assistance and advice provided by the following Townsville City Council staff:

- John Edgar - Project Officer, Special Projects Unit;
- Chris Cole - Manager Arboriculture & Horticulture Parks Services Community and Environmental Services;
- Julie Roach - Curator Townsville Botanic Gardens (including Queens Gardens); and
- Barbara Mathiesen - Librarian.

2 HISTORY

2.1 SUMMARY SITE HISTORY

Queens Gardens, Townsville was proclaimed as a Reserve for Botanical Gardens in June 1870.

Since its inception Queens Gardens, Townsville, has evolved in area, planning and design, as well as through its plant collection and community use. The initial conception of the Townsville Queens Gardens was to establish a reserve to support the role of Botanic Gardens across the country, which focussed on botany as science, economic botany, and public education regarding plants and horticulture and ornamental botany.

2.2 ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION

Pre-European settlement, the site of present Townsville was the home of many Indigenous Groups, including the Wulgurukaba, Bindal, GIRRUGUBBA, Warakamai and Nawagi.

2.3 EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

The site of the future township of Townsville was surveyed by Andrew Ball, Mark Watt Reid and a small party of Indigenous men, dispatched by John Melton Black under the direction of Robert Towns in 1864. They located a site considered 'favourable', and a small settlement was set up, which became known as Townsville, named after Robert Towns, who pledged funds in 1866 to aid in the development of the new settlement. Townsville was declared a municipality in February of 1866, with John Melton Black elected first Mayor. The settlement grew rapidly, with 300 people in 1867 rising to around 13,000 by 1891, likely due to the discovery of gold in the hinterland in 1867 and again at Charters Towers in 1871¹.

After Federation, Townsville was proclaimed a City under the new "Local Authorities Act" of 1902.

2.4 DEVELOPMENT OF BOTANICAL GARDENS

Following the Industrial Revolution in the 19th Century, a widespread interest in the scientific understanding of the natural world developed. Subsequently, European style Botanic Gardens were created throughout the tropics and it

¹ Townsville City Council 2010

was believed that such gardens were important for the development of fledgling colonies². In an address to the Legislative Assembly in 1880, Lewis Bernays, Vice-President of the Acclimatisation Society of Queensland stated that “Botanical Reserves” are important as aids to the development and utilisation of the resources of the soil for purposes of systematic experimentation, and as a means of technical construction, as well as of economic illustration, and that such reserves should play an important part in the progress of a young country³.

By the end of the 19th Century, an international network of regional botanic gardens was established, extending throughout the British Empire with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (London), as the epicentre for botanical information and collections. A key function of the network of botanical gardens was the exchange of plants and information between regions and between nations, with a view to contributing to the economy of the local region and the colony as a whole, and involved acclimatising, cultivating and testing plants of commercial value (Economic Botany), and also to study the more aesthetic qualities of horticulture (Ornamental Botany)⁴.

These botanical gardens were generally gazetted as Botanical Gardens Reserves, and were by and large named “Queens Park”, in honour of Queen Victoria who reigned as Monarch of the British Empire from 1836 to 1901. They were considered the premium park of the town, and attracted strong patronage. The first Queen’s Park in Queensland was located in a section of the Botanical Gardens in Brisbane, and was followed by botanic gardens at Ipswich and Toowoomba. Progressively, botanic gardens were established in most major towns throughout the State.

The essential function of a botanical garden has remained the same since their initial inception. Botanic Gardens Conservation International states:

“Botanic gardens are institutions holding documented collections of living plants for the purposes of scientific research, conservation, display and education.”

2.5

DEVELOPMENT OF QUEENS GARDENS

Soon after the establishment of the early settlement of Townsville in 1864, planning occurred for a Reserve for the purposes of Botanical Gardens. An 1868 plan of the Township of Townsville indicates a 100 acre area of “Land applied for by Municipal Counsel (sic) for Botanical Garden”. Queens Gardens was proclaimed a Botanical Gardens Reserve (Queens Park) on June 14, 1870⁵. The 1870 proclamation states:

² Pawsey and Prowse 1992

³ Ibid

⁴ Landplan Studio Architects 1995

⁵ Ibid

“Reserve for Botanic Gardens, Townsville County of Elphinstone, parish of Coonambelah. 100 acres. Commencing on the south-west side of Warburton Street, at its intersection by the south-east side of Landsborough Street, and bounded thence on the north-east by Warburton Street, bearing east 24 degrees south 46 chains; on the south-east by a line bearing south 40 degrees west 21 chains and 75 links; on the south-west by a line bearing west 24 degrees north 46 chains; and on the north-west by a line bearing north 40 degrees east 21 chains and 75 links to the point of commencement”.

In the Gardens’ formative years, the Townsville Municipal Council received no government funding for the gardens and did little towards getting them established. Funding continued to be a problem even after 1878 when William Anderson was appointed as the first ‘curator and practical gardener’. At this date, the reserve had been reduced to 95 acres (40.5ha). Anderson held this position for 54 years, and resided on site in a cottage constructed for his appointment until he retired. He was succeeded by Pat Andrews (who held the position until 1958), and a new cottage was built and the original cottage used as a nursery. However, the ordering of plants remained the responsibility of the Mayor, and Anderson was given no funds to establish the gardens.

In December of 1878, Messrs P.V. Armati and Burstall were approached to advise on the layout of the gardens⁶, and in 1879 a labourer was hired to support Mr Anderson. After a visit to the northern gardens reserves including Townsville, c1880, Lewis Bernays, Vice-President of the Acclimatisation Society of Queensland, expressed doubt about the prospect of these gardens achieving their aims. He believed that issues of control, soil and funding were hindering their development, noting that little had been accomplished across the board and he held doubts as to the prospect of the reserves “serving any other end than that of the merest places of recreation”⁷.

⁶ Pawsey and Prowse 1992

⁷ Ibid

In 1880, due to the Municipal Council's inaction, the gardens had been removed from its control and trustees appointed by the Queensland government⁸. Among these trustees was Thomas Allen Gulliver Jnr, who had previously collected botanical material in Tasmania and North Queensland for Baron von Mueller, Curator of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens and later Victorian Government Botanist. Gulliver and his brother Benjamin Thomas, had several plants collected from the Gulf of Carpentaria and Arnhem Land named in their honour. Baron von Mueller devoted his life to the study of systematic biology and was considered the finest botanist in the southern hemisphere, describing and naming over 2000 Australian species and distributing Australian plants across the world.

Following the Trustees' appointment there was increased funding for the Gardens. Planting and landscaping gradually proceeded and during the latter part of the 1880s and into the 1890s, a number of activities began happening around the site. In 1887, the Trust was notified that the fence was not on the Gardens' boundary, and advised that the fence would be shifted, and trees replanted. By 1889, the reserve had been substantially fenced, and 70 acres of land cleared. A request for a Kiosk was made by the Trustees to the Department of Public Lands in 1890. Subsequently, 10 pounds was allocated for this purpose in April of that year, and by 1893 a 'handsome kiosk for open air concerts' had been erected⁹. A Bush House was erected in 1886 for a total of 130 Pounds¹⁰, a second Bush House was constructed in 1889 according to a design by W.H Tunbridge, and correspondence of August 1894 indicates that by this time a Green House had been erected onsite. A concrete trough was also approved for construction at this time.

⁸ Queensland Heritage Register 2010

⁹ Queensland Heritage Register 2010; Pawsey and Prowse 1992

¹⁰ Landplan Studio Architects 1995

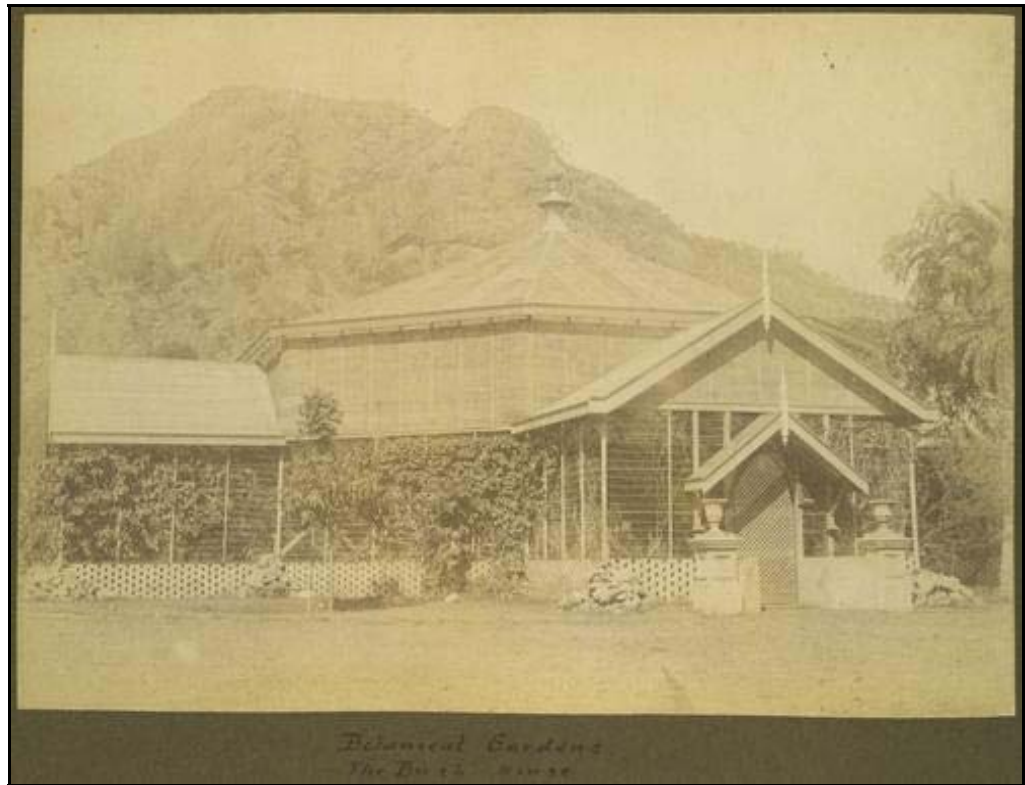


Figure 2.1 *Bush House, c1880¹¹*

In 1899 the Bush House was renovated, and a new gate and posts were erected at Eyre Street. Later development on site included an orchid house, a hipped roof aviary (c1938), ornamental decoration including a moulded terrazzo urn (1957) as the central focus of the formal gardens and a large arched trellis as a feature of the rose garden. The urn originally featured a statue in its centre and four stylised birds surrounding its rim.

¹¹ Picture Australia 2010



Figure 2.2 *Rose Garden and Decorative Urn*¹²

Photographs reveal that the central avenue with line of sight to Castle Hill was a feature by 1890.

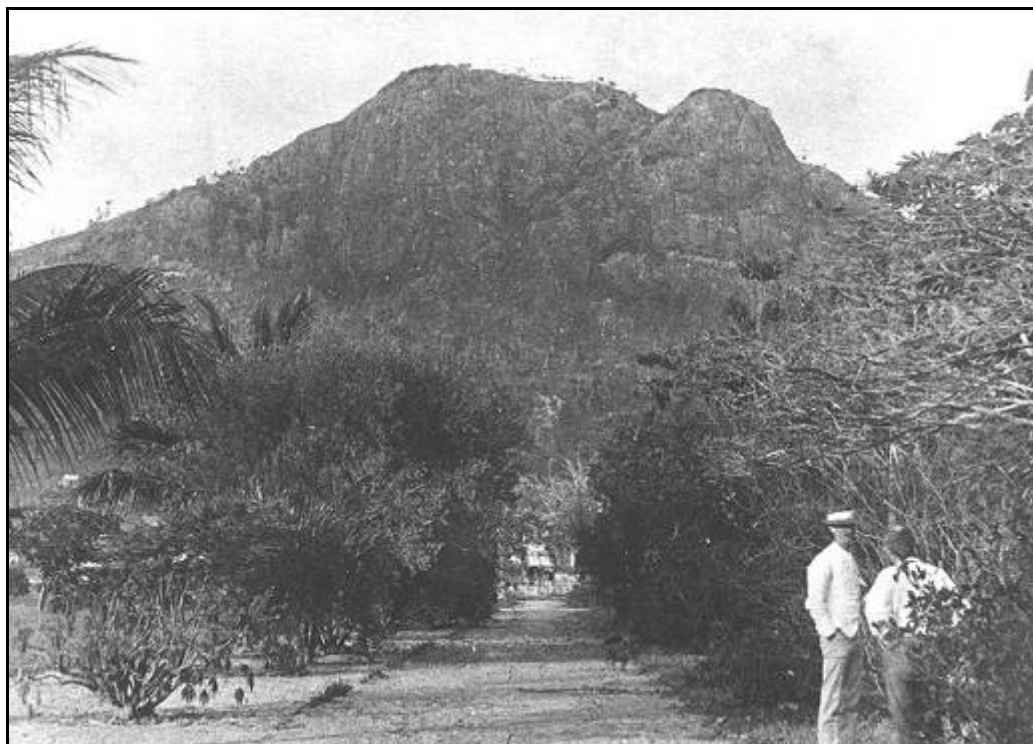


Figure 2.3 *Line of sight to Castle Hill, c1890*¹³

¹² Ibid

¹³ Wikipedia 2010



Figure 2.4 Line of sight to Castle Hill, c1930¹⁴

With his available materials and funding, Anderson managed Queens Gardens within the parameters for which it was established as a trial garden for tropical economic plants. Historic correspondence indicates that during this mid 1880s - early 1890s period a large quantity of seeds and plants were both imported and exported from the Gardens, suggesting the increasing capabilities of the Gardens. Many donations were made to the Gardens, and initial plantings were provided by the Queensland Acclimatisation Society (which was formed in 1862). Anthelme le Thozet supplied trees from his garden of exotic trees and shrubs in Rockhampton. Le Thozet was internationally renowned as a collector of plant specimens, and is most remembered for Muellerville, the experimental garden where he cultivated many trees and plants in order to determine their economic value and suitability for Queensland's tropical climate. Several plantings were sent from Walter Hill, the curator of Brisbane's Botanic Gardens. Walter Hill made a major contribution to the development of commercial crops in Queensland, supported the work of the Queensland Acclimatisation Society and was instrumental in establishing the Queensland network of Botanic Gardens.

Seeds for a variety of plants, grasses and trees were provided to the Townsville gardens, including Marram grass (*Ammophila (Poaceae)*), Coconut Palms (*Cocos nuciferi*), Gooseberry (*Cicca disticha*), varieties of Chinese edible water plants, Mahogany trees, Coffea trees, Australian Red Cedars (*Cedrela toona*), Hoop Pines (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus microphylla*). *The Queenslander* of February 21, 1885 reports that the overseer

¹⁴ Picture Australia 2010

had potted a significant number of plants, including *Ficus elastica*, *Monstera deliciosa* and Jacaranda, had sown seeds of *Grewia asiatica*, *Cassia fistula* and Alligator Pear, as well as planting a crop of Litchi and Mango, however the newspaper reported that neither fruited particularly well and where did, was attacked by grubs, likely “due to the recent very dry weather”.

Some of the earliest recorded exotic fruit plantings included an acre of grape vines, along with cocoa nut trees (1896), coffee (1889), breadfruit (1887), hoop pines and red cedar (1892). The majority of tropical tree species were planted around the perimeter of the gardens and included various figs, rain trees and an avenue of black bean.

Within the first two decades of its inception, Queens Gardens was engaged in collection and propagation of exotic plants both locally and internationally. The aforementioned newspaper article reports that in January of 1885, 709 plants were distributed to either members of society, public institutions, or exchanges, including a large quantity of several varieties of eucalyptus and palm seed sent to various places in India and China. In 1890, a variety of unnamed seeds were received from India, including shrubs, climbers, aquatic and herbaceous plants. A rose garden was planted between 1892 and 1893; under a government subsidy scheme plants were supplied to the Ravenswood Park Committee, state schools at Croydon, Irvinebank and Black Jack and to many groups around Townsville; exchanges were occurring between Townsville and Brisbane, Rockhampton and Port Darwin; and in 1894 a rare unidentified New Guinea orchid flowered at the Gardens. The Gardens also served as a base for experiments in the eradication of weeds and the destructive prickly pear.

In 1893, after some ongoing mismanagement, the Council again took over responsibility for the gardens. Planting and landscaping gradually improved during the garden’s formative years and by 1894 the place was involved in propagation, experimentation and exchange thus contributing to the network of botanical gardens. Initially the gardens focussed on the traditional functions for botanic gardens, however, the late 19th Century saw the introduction of the popular Paradise style, which gave the gardens a pleasure ground image. In 1898, after various conflicts over the management of the Gardens, the Townsville Municipal Council successfully requested the resignation of the trustees.

Funding proved to be an ongoing problem for the Gardens, and to support the ongoing care and maintenance of the Gardens, charges were introduced for their use for public functions, picnics and entertainment. Fees were charged for hiring pot-plants raised at the Gardens, and picnics and/or musical entertainment in the Gardens attracted fees. Despite some criticisms over the botanical excellence of the Gardens throughout its history, it was extremely popular with local residents seeking an outdoor recreational and social experience¹⁵, and numerous functions were held in the Gardens’ grounds such

¹⁵ Landplan Studio Architects 1995

as the Agricultural and Pastoral exhibits of the first Townsville exhibition in August 1880, the Rose Bud Club's Gypsy Tea in 1890, a garden party given by Baron Northcote, Governor General c1905 and a garden party for Governor and Lady Chelmsford in 1907. The proximity to the General Hospital also resulted in heavy visitor use.

Subsequently, likely as a result of the Council's ongoing struggles to meet the costs of maintaining a Botanic Garden, and possibly also as a result of the development of Anderson Park (Townsville's present Arboretum), rather than serving only as a Botanic Garden, Queens Gardens also became utilised as a park.

In addition to the gradual shift in the Garden's community use, owing to the size of the original reserve and its proximity to the city centre, town planning leases and excising of reserve land to accommodate public recreation and institutions saw the decline in the size of the allocated reserve within a few decades, and some redesigning of the space. In 1885 the size of the Gardens' Reserve was reportedly 84 acres¹⁶, following allocation of the balance of the space to serve as a Gaol Reserve and Reserve for a Lunatic Reception House in the south-east corner. Plans indicate that, around this time, proposals were being considered for further divisions of the site for Grammar School purposes, and consideration was being given to the extension of Burke Street through the middle of the site.

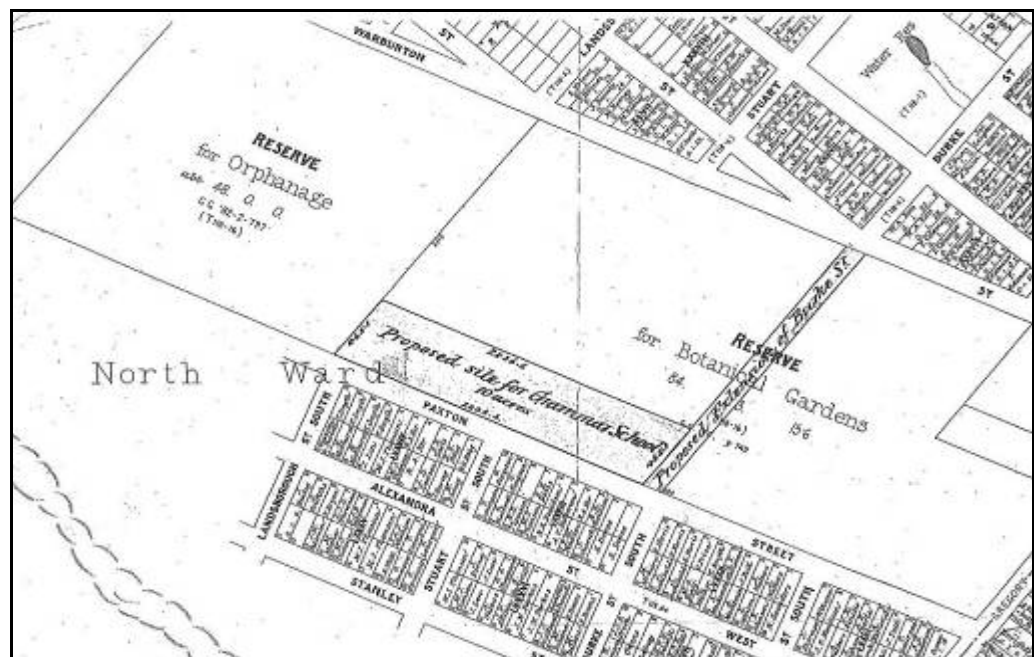


Figure 2.5 Proposed Divisions of Site and Extension of Burke Street, c1885¹⁷

¹⁶ Queensland Heritage Register 2010

¹⁷ Supplied by DERM

In 1886, the division was approved, and the Trustees of the Grammar School were granted 10 acres on Paxton Street. In exchange, the Minister of Lands accepted the 25 acre Norman Reserve, in the name of the Botanical Gardens Trustees (see Figure 2.6). Figure 2.6 also indicates that c1887 approval was granted for the extension of Burke Street to Paxton Street.

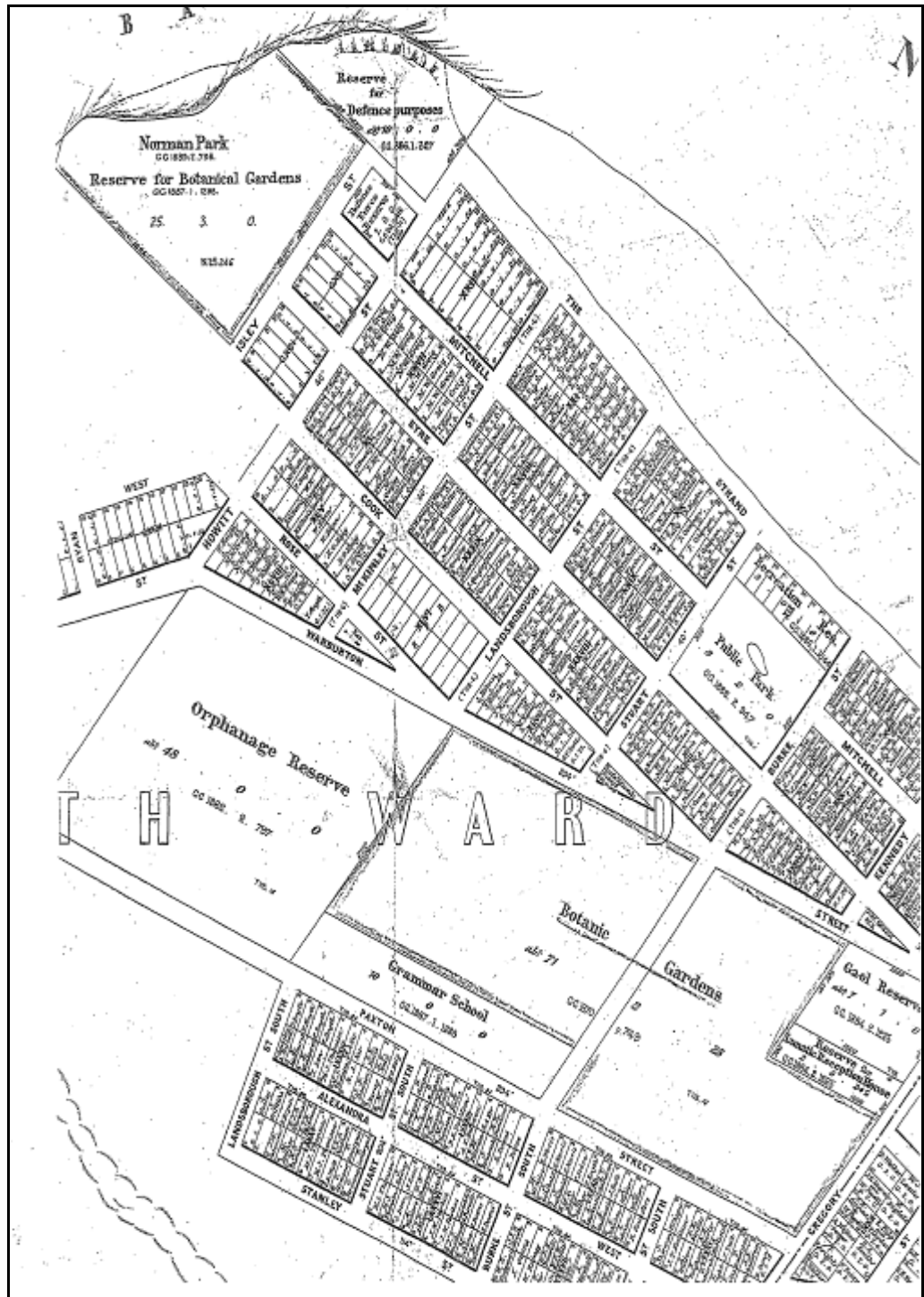


Figure 2.6 Plan Showing Allocation of Norman Park Reserve for Botanic Gardens, c 1887¹⁸

¹⁸ Supplied by DERM

In 1899, 12 acres was allocated for the purposes of sports reserves. By 1915, the area had been reduced to 35 acres. A plan dated to c1915 shows the Gardens reduced to 35 acres, and also demonstrates the ongoing division of the site for a multitude of purposes.

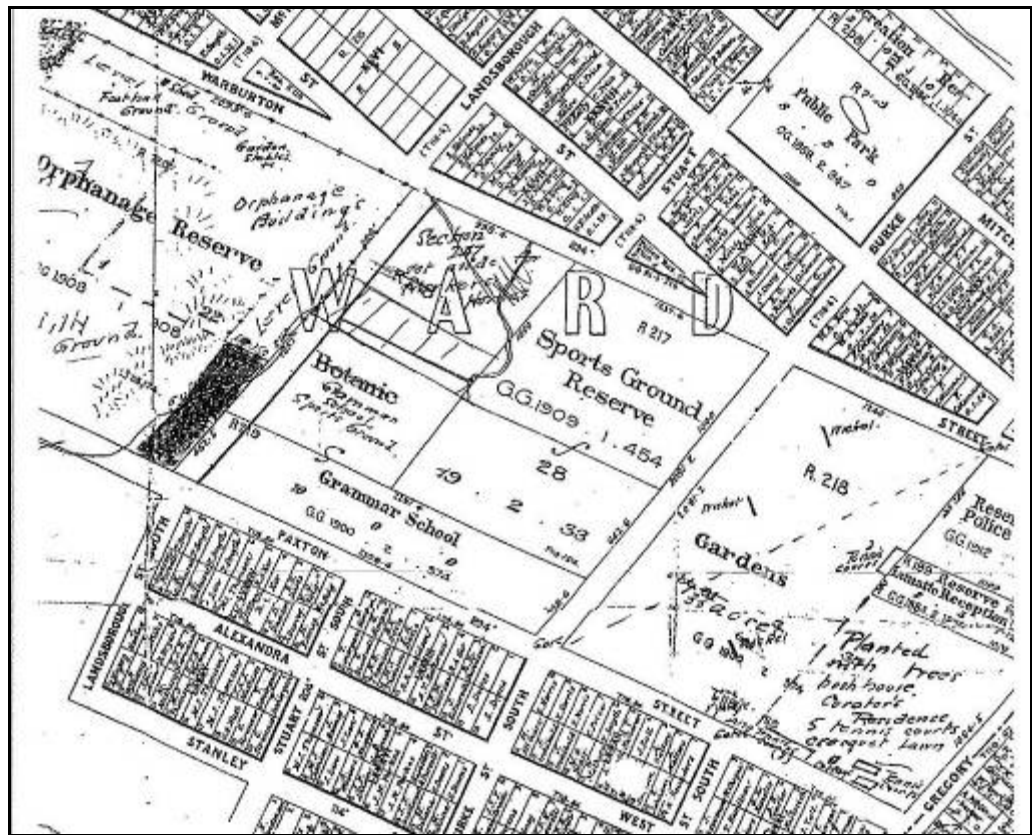


Figure 2.7 Divisions of Botanical Gardens Reserve, c1915¹⁹

This size remained the same for at least a decade, and a report indicates that in 1926, 1/3 of the area comprised trees, the cottage, tennis courts (which were opened in 1897; reportedly the formal rose garden is planted on the site of an old tennis court²⁰), and a croquet lawn, while the other two-thirds of the total area had trees planted on the boundary and the cricket ground occupying the rest of the space. The grounds and structures, including gardens, tennis courts, croquet ground and two cricket pitches, and adjacent development described in that newspaper report is shown in Figure 2.8, dated to 1937.

¹⁹ Supplied by DERM

²⁰ Queensland Heritage Register 2010

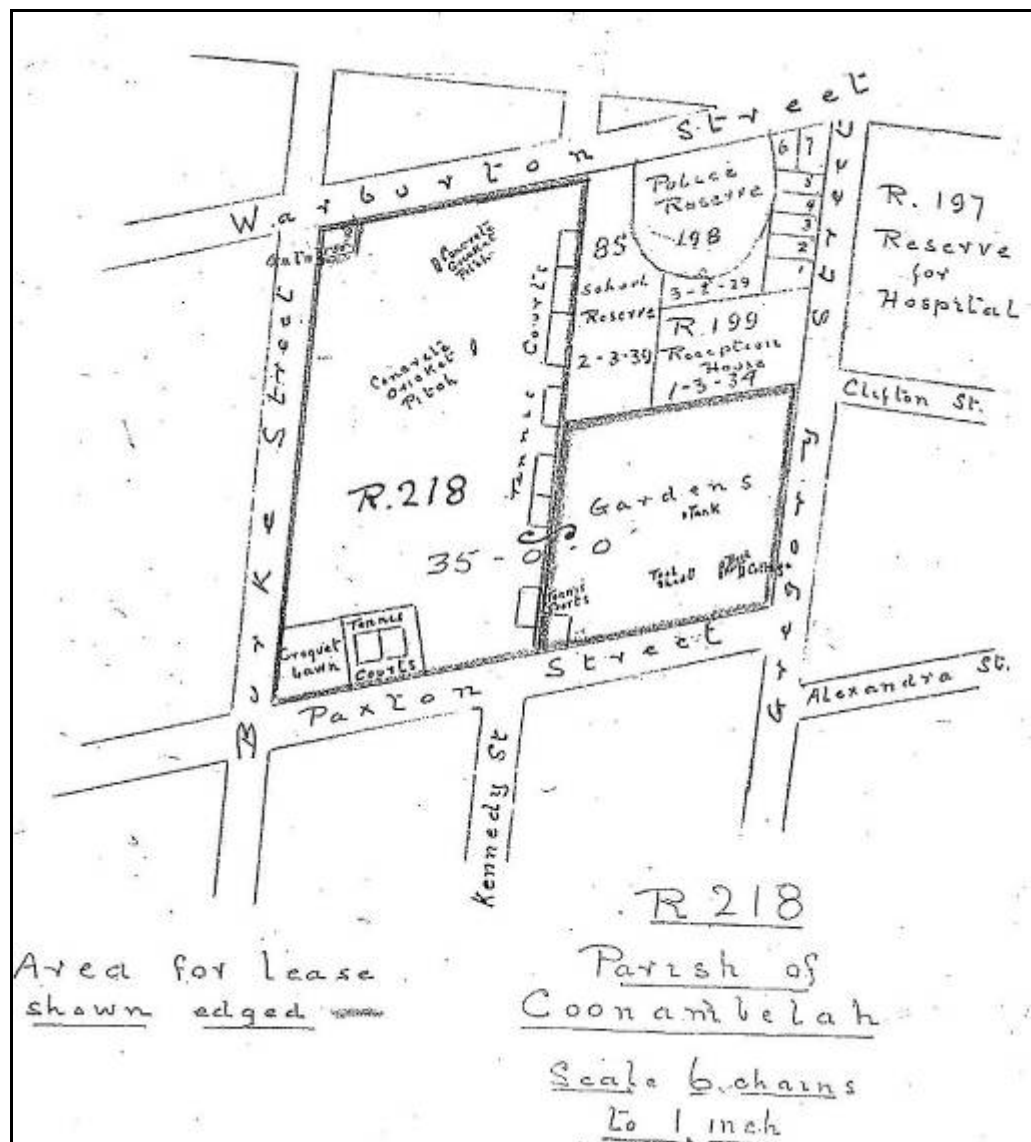


Figure 2.8 1937 Plan of Gardens Reserve²¹

Detail of the Gardens' layout and the surrounding structures and facilities, is shown in the historic aerial at Figure 2.9, dated to 1938.

²¹ Supplied by DERM



Figure 2.9 Aerial imagery showing Queens Gardens, 1938²²

The final division of the Reserve took place in 1948 when part of the reserve was leased to the Townsville Bowling Club and part excised as a recreation reserve. Subsequently, the Reserve was reduced to 10 acres (4ha), its present surveyed size.

²² Photograph supplied by Townsville City Council Special Projects Unit

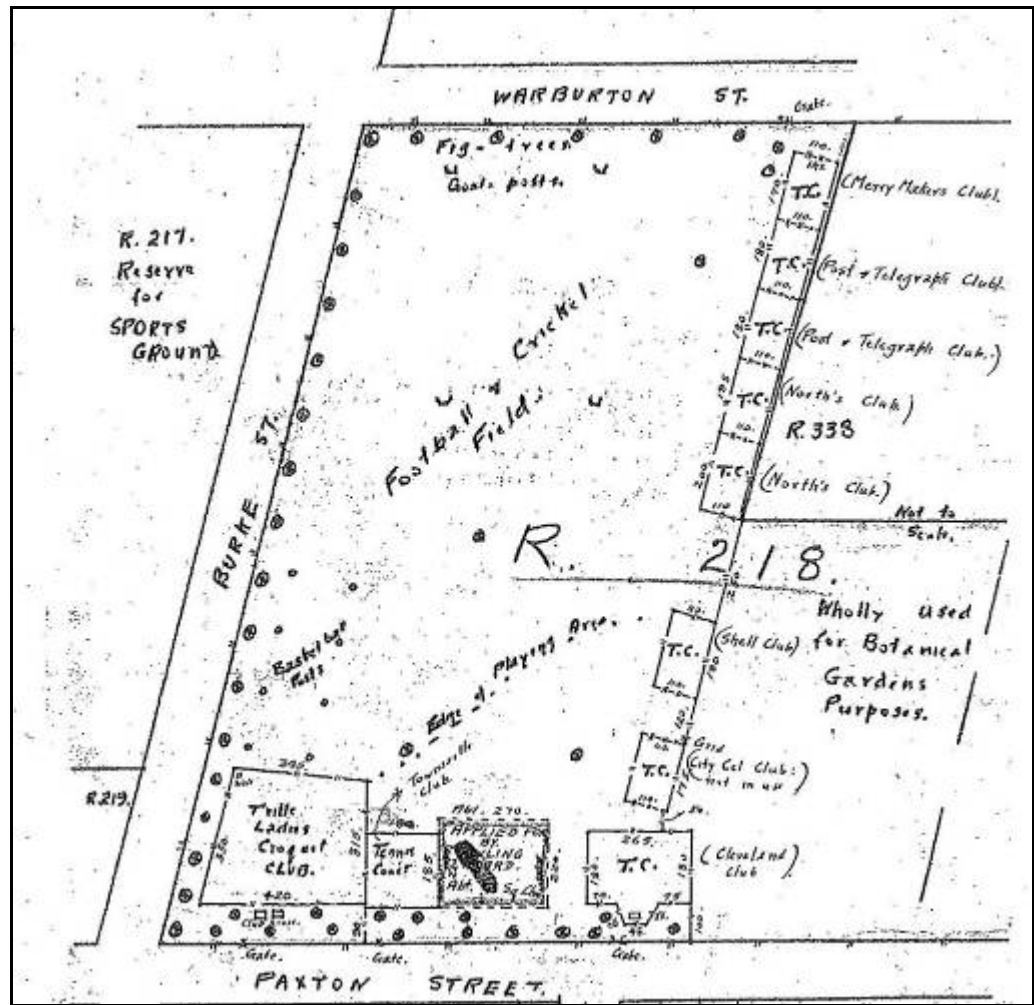


Figure 2.10 Division of Grounds, c 1947²³

During World War II, around 100,000 American and Australian troops were stationed in Townsville. No.6 transportation and movements office, 800 Brigade Military Police Company D and a Stockade were based in Queens Park during 1942-1945. Initially, accommodation was in tents until demountable buildings were constructed, which ultimately resulted in large scale loss of the Gardens' flowers and greenery, with only the large 19th Century trees surviving. Many of the original plantings from le Thozet and Walter Hill have since been lost.

²³ Supplied by DERM



Figure 2.11 Queens Gardens during World War II²⁴

The layout of the Gardens in the late 1940s to 1950s has been described by Mrs Janet Cummings (granddaughter of former Curator Pat Andrews), and her mother, Mrs Pat Andrews. They describe the site as comprising²⁵:

- A Curator's cottage(1), with detached laundry, fowl run, flower and vegetable gardens, a Japanese honeysuckle hedge and a gully behind;
- A Fern and Orchid House (2), which was a structure covered with palm fronds for shade and included an interior gold fishpond, and a pet carpet snake;
- A timber framed Aviary (3), covered with a hipped tile roof (c 1938), and divided into four cages;
- A formal Rose Garden (4), a square form garden, with a trellis archway structure centrally located on each side to define the entry to a cruciform path system which has a larger central arch of the pathway intersection;
- A tall hedge (5) which divided the workshop and nursery from the Gardens;
- A sun dial, which formed the central feature of the formal axial pathway (6);
- Play ground (7);
- Meat and Food Store (8), constructed by the US Army and subsequently converted to a toilet block;

²⁴ www.ozatwar.com : 6 Transportation and Movements Office RAAF

²⁵ Landplan Studio Architects 1995

- A peacock run and cage (9), under the shade of a grove of large trees;
- Maintenance sheds and seeding beds (10); and
- Plant production and potting shed (11).

This arrangement is shown in *Figure 2.12*²⁶.

²⁶ Ibid

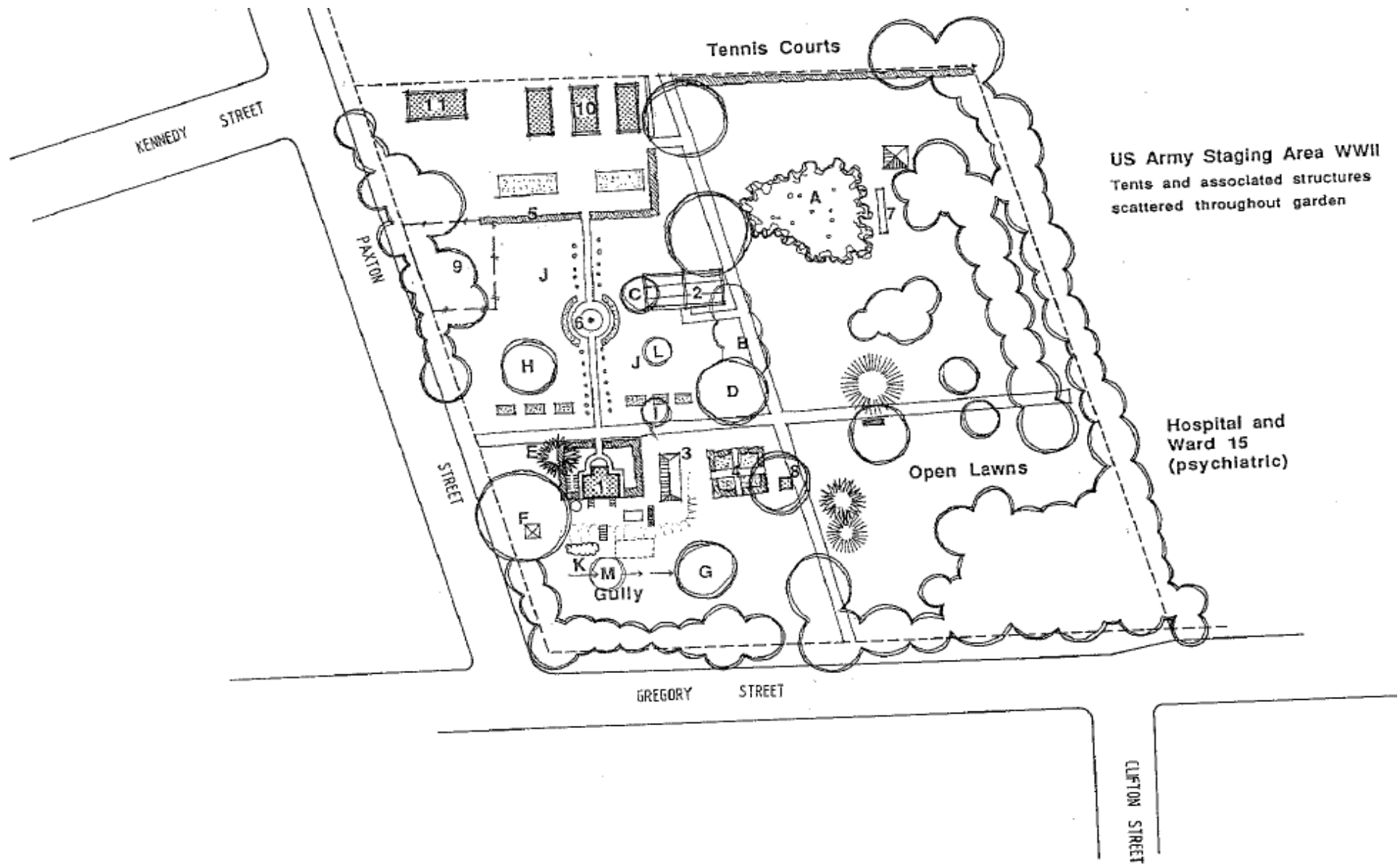


Figure 2.12 Gardens Layout, 1940s to 1950s

In 1959, the Council employed Alan Wilson, former Assistant Landscape Architect with the Brisbane City Parks Department to redesign the Gardens as Superintendent of Parks and Reserves for Townsville. Photographic evidence indicates that Queens Park continued in a limited capacity as experimental botanic gardens until the 1959 redesign. It was renamed Queens Gardens at this time to honour Queen Elizabeth II.



*Figure 2.13 Garden beds, c1960*²⁷

In 1968, Jim Thomas, former superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, who had also trained in the Kew Gardens, was appointed superintendent following the retirement of Wilson. He held this position until 1989. Thomas continued to maintain the Wilson designed Gardens and except for some minor modifications, the 1959 layout of the gardens has been maintained, and this layout is shown in *Figure 2.14*²⁸. It is also notable that during Thomas's curatorship Queens Gardens expanded along the western boundary when the tennis courts were subsumed.

²⁷ Picture Australia 2010

²⁸ Landplan

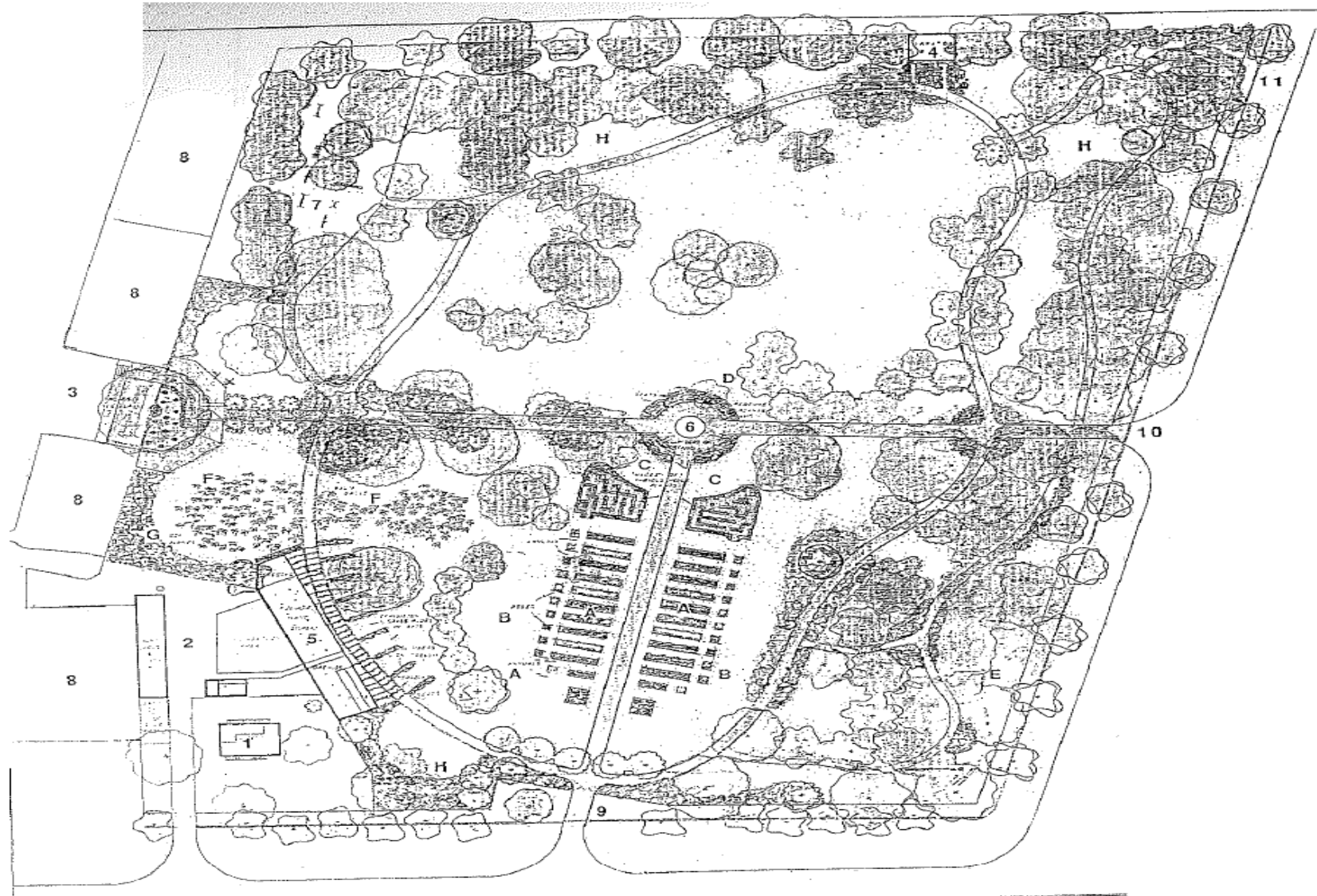


Figure 2.14 Alan Wilson's Redesign, 1959

Jim Thomas was instrumental in saving many of the 19th Century trees after TC Althea severely damaged the gardens in 1971. The Gardens have also suffered damage in the past as a result of two earlier cyclones, Cyclone Sigma in 1896 and Cyclone Leonta 1903. Cyclone Leonta damaged the garden beds and trees, the kiosk and the 1878 Curator's cottage and demolished the Bush House which was constructed in 1889. Cyclone Althea in 1971 wreaked havoc on the grounds, and truckloads of debris were removed from the site. Jim Thomas, was instrumental in saving many of the uprooted trees by engaging in a large scale replanting process. His expertise was invaluable in Darwin, after Cyclone Tracy in 1974.



*Figure 2.15 Storm Damage, Cyclone Althea 1971*²⁹

²⁹ Picture Australia



Figure 2.16 Storm Damage, Cyclone Althea 1971³⁰

In 1992, the present Rose Garden was constructed under the direction of the then Parks Landscape Architect Jillian LePaterial. The Garden is a circular shape, and during the new construction, its original paving was broken up and re-used for edging. Cracker dust paths were installed.

From the latter half of the 20th Century, the gardens gained popularity as a venue for ceremonies such as weddings and major events including VP50 celebrations and the annual Eco Fiesta. Queens Gardens is presently one of Townsville's three Botanic Gardens, however it also serves as a park. It has an aviary and playground equipment. It is regarded as one of Townsville's finest gardens and is a popular location for quiet relaxation.

2.6 THE CURATORS

2.6.1 William Anderson (1878-1934)

William Anderson was initially appointed 'the practical gardener' of the Townsville Botanical Reserve (Queens Gardens) in January 1878, and subsequently became Curator of the Gardens until he retired in 1934 at the age of 88. Although his official appointment was at Queens Gardens, he was also responsible for all gardens and parks in the city.

³⁰ *ibid*

2.6.2 *Pacific "Pat" Andrews (1934-1958)*

Pat Andrews was appointed after the retirement of William Anderson, and tended the Gardens until 1958.

2.6.3 *Alan Wilson (1959-1967)*

Alan Wilson was a Landscape Architect with the Brisbane City Council and became the Superintendent of Parks. He was responsible for a large-scale redesign of the Gardens in 1959, and prepared the associated Master Plan for the site, which is still a working document.

2.6.4 *Jim Thomas (1968-1989)*

Jim Thomas was a trainee for many years at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London. His responsibilities at Queens Gardens included maintaining the redesigned Queens Gardens, and also finishing the gardens at Anderson Park. Thomas built the rosery in Queens Gardens and rehabilitated them after the destruction of Cyclone Althea, and was instrumental in saving many of the old trees which suffered damage as a result of this cyclone.

2.6.5 *1990-2005*

No specific Curator was appointed, as Council Parks were taken over as the key focus of the Parks Departments' Supervisor. Botanic Collection Officers Robert Tucker (1988 - 1992) and John Dowe (1992 - 1994) were appointed to ensure the integrity of the collections was maintained through this period. The Palmetum (Townsville's third Botanic Garden) was developed under bicentennial funding and opened in 1992. During 1994 - 2005, the Botanic Committee of Ron Degenhart and Julie Roach oversaw collections.

2.6.6 *Chris Cole (2005-2010)*

Chris is a graduate of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London. Chris's initial appointment was in the newly-created position of Curator Botanic Gardens. He went on to become Manager Horticulture and Arboriculture before leaving to become Director of Melbourne Botanic Gardens. His legacy includes a revision of the Botanic Gardens Master Plan, the development of branding and contemporary signage for the Gardens, creation of an electronic database and mapping system and the quarterly Livistona newsletter.

Within the Gardens, Chris made significant improvements to the collections and has been responsible for the revitalisation, new direction and raised profile of all three sites. At Queens Gardens the perennial borders, frangipani collection and the introduction of many rare, unusual and exotic species are particularly noteworthy.

2.6.7 *Julie Roach (2010-present)*

Julie, a former trainee then technical officer at Adelaide Botanic Gardens is currently overseeing the introduction of the CHCMP and future development of all three botanic gardens.

2.7 *SUMMARY CHRONOLOGY OF THE SITE*

The following site chronology has been adapted from the preceding information, Landplan Landscape Architect's *Townsville Botanic Gardens Master Plan* (1995).

Table 2.1 *Chronological Summary*

| Date | Event |
|------|---|
| 1870 | Site proclaimed as Botanic Gardens, 100 acres |
| 1878 | Size of Gardens 95 acres Armati and Burstall advise on layout of the Gardens William Anderson appointed Practical Curator |
| 1884 | Trustees recommend disposal of site and acquisition of a more suitable site |
| 1885 | Area reduced to 84 acres |
| 1886 | First Bush House constructed |
| 1887 | Fence relocated and trees replanted |
| 1889 | Second Bush House constructed, to design by Tunbridge and Tunbridge |
| 1893 | Exchange of 10 acres with Grammar School "Handsome" Kiosk constructed |
| 1896 | Cyclone Sigma causes widespread damage to site |
| 1899 | 12 acres allocated for Sports Reserve Bush House renovated |
| 1903 | Cyclone Leonta causes extensive damage, including demolition of the first Bush House |
| 1915 | Area reduced to 35 acres |
| 1934 | Pacific "Pat" Andrews appointed curator after retirement of Anderson |
| 1948 | Area reduced to present size, 10 acres |
| 1959 | Alan Wilson appointed superintendant of parks Alan Wilson redesigns Gardens layout |
| 1968 | Jim Thomas appointed superintendant of parks |
| 1971 | Cyclone Althea causes extensive damage to site |
| 1992 | Gardens Restoration and Visitor Centre plan produced by Pawsey and Prowse Rose Garden redone under direction of the then Parks Landscape Architect Jillian LePateral, and cracker dust paths installed |
| 1995 | Townsville Botanic Gardens Master Plan produced by Lawrie Smith, Landplan Studio Landscape Architects |
| 2000 | Cyclone Tessi causes extensive damage to site "Night of Noah" results in extensive damage to site from erosion and wash outs |
| 2005 | Master Plan 2005 prepared (review of previous master plan) |
| 2006 | Central borders once planted for six months of the year with cool season annuals have been transformed into a stunning year round display of perennials from the tropics |
| 2008 | Frangipani collection installed in the south-eastern corner of the Gardens |
| 2008 | Monsoonal rain causes flooding and tree damage |

The description of Queens Gardens covers its broad environment down to its individual hard and soft landscape features and is set out under three headings, these are:

- Context and Setting;
- The Layout; and
- Buildings and Structures.

3.1

CONTEXT AND SETTING

Queens Gardens is located in the central part of Townsville, approximately equidistant to The Strand and Castle Hill reserve. The main adjoining streets are Paxton Street to the southwest and Gregory Street to the southeast. The most significant element of the landscape setting is the visual axis through the gardens to the granite face of Castle Hill, refer *Figure 3.1*. This visual axis has been a dominant feature of Queens Gardens since the first evidence of its layout appears in historic photographs in the late 19th century. The axis forms the 'back-bone' to the formal garden layout as well as creating the backdrop to the iconic view emblematic of Queens Gardens.



Figure 3.1 *Landscape setting of Queens Gardens showing visual axis to Castle Hill*

Land uses adjoining Queens Gardens include low rise residential on Paxton and Gregory Streets, school grounds to the northeast and recreational facilities to the northwest. All current adjoining land uses are visually non-intrusive when viewed from within the gardens. Street frontage to Paxton and Gregory Streets are wide with 45^o parking along Paxton Street and 90^o parking along

Gregory Street. Kennedy Street to the northwest separates the recreational reserve and gardens and also provide access and parking for visitors from this direction.

3.2

THE LAYOUT

The current layout of the gardens remains largely unchanged from the 1959 Wilson design. The main elements of the garden consist of a formal axial 'T' arrangement focused on the main southeast-northwest axis, and perpendicular northeast-southwest axis, with paths intersecting at the central fountain. A secondary informal path system circumnavigates the gardens connecting the formal axis. The main entrance to the gardens is via the northwest entry gate on Paxton Street, with the second main entrance via the southwest gate on Gregory Street. The main entrance aligns with the southeast - northwest path which is flanked on either side by a symmetrical arrangement of garden beds, palms and mazes.

The perimeter of the gardens is generally heavily planted with mature trees and palms. The eastern boundary is dominated by an avenue of Black Bean (*Castanospernum australe*). Along the southern boundary is the rainforest precinct containing dense plantings of rainforest species, some of botanical, historical and visually significant; including Mahogany (*Swietenia mahogany*), Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*), and Rain Tree (*Albizia saman*).

Open lawn areas with mature canopy trees occur on the north eastern half of the garden and are important in providing a contrast to the formality of the south western section of the gardens, as well as 'openness' in contrast to the heavily planted perimeter.

The majority of built structures are located in the northern quadrant of the site including aviaries, pergola and garden maintenance buildings.

The integrity of the 1959 Wilson Plan is testament to the strength and clarity of the design, its 'fit- for -purpose', as well as the skill of past curators.

The main elements of the layout and features of the garden are indicated in *Figure 3.2* and description further below.

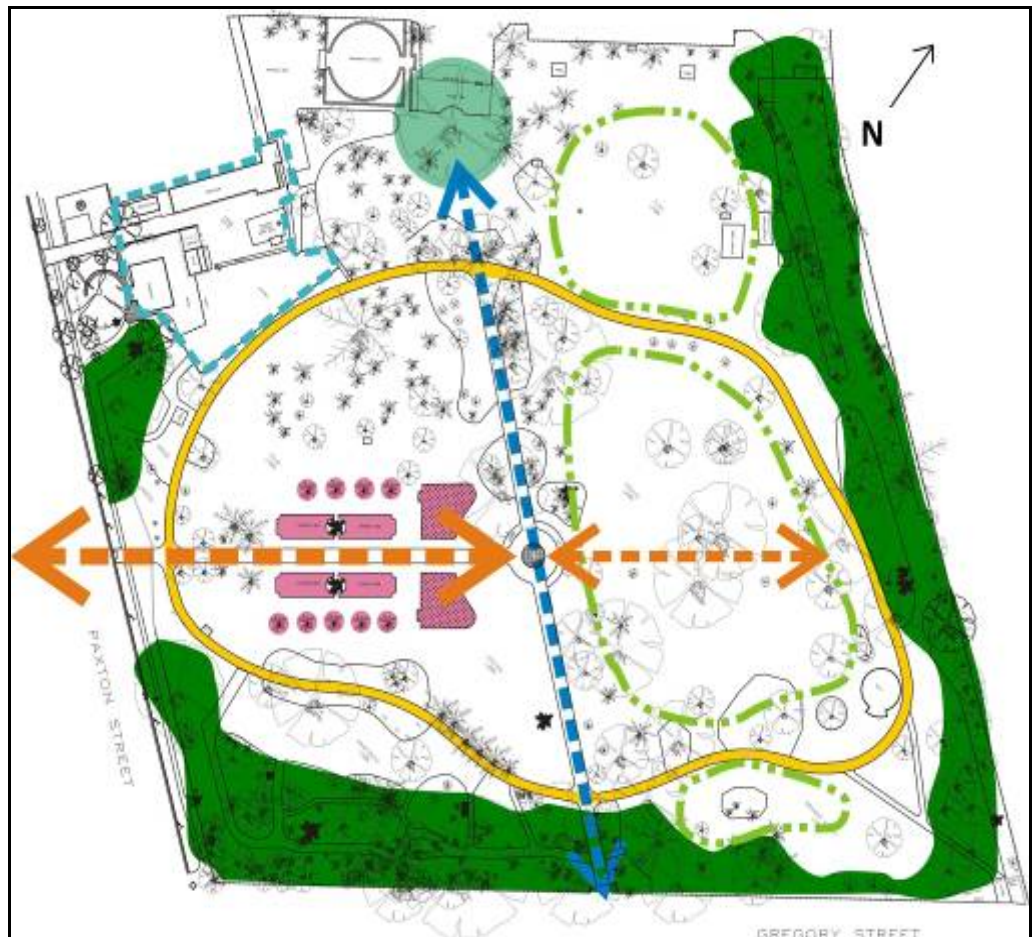


Figure 3.2 *Layout of the main elements of Queens Gardens*

3.2.1 *Formal path layout*

Southeast–Northwest Axis

- The main southeast–northwest axis aligns the central fountain with Paxton Street entrance, and extends a visual axis to Castle Hill forming the backdrop to the gardens.
- This axis is evident in c1890 photograph and is present in the 1938 aerial photograph, indicating this line of sight was an integral part of the garden since its early formation.
- The formal and symmetrical layout of gardens on either side of axis path to the main entrance is consistent with the intent of the 1959 Wilson Plan although the configuration of garden beds is a more recent adaptation.

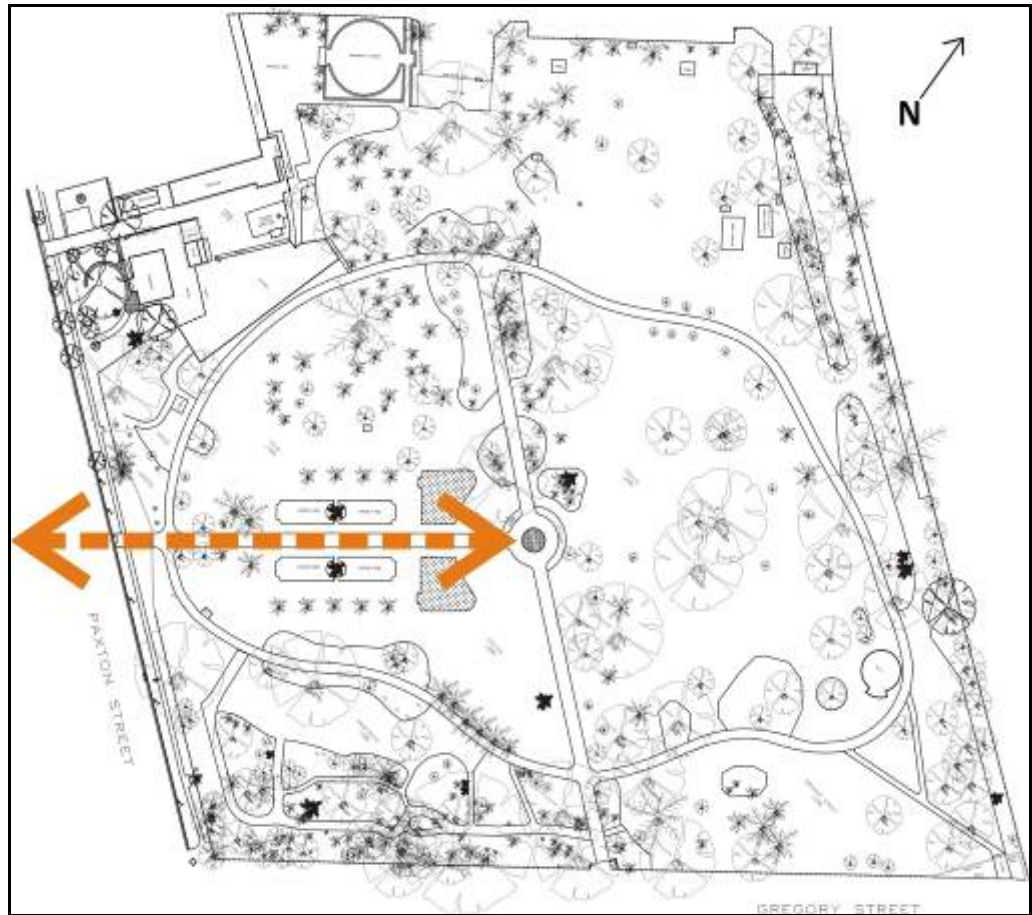


Figure 3.3 Southeast - Northwest Axis



Figure 3.4 Southeast-Northwest axis looking south to Castle Hill (ERM 2010)



Figure 3.5 Southeast–Northwest axis looking north to central fountain (ERM 2010)

Northeast–Southwest Axis

- The northeast–southwest axis aligns the Gregory Street entrance, with a large Raintree on the western boundary of the garden, intersecting the main southeast–northwest axis at the central fountain forming the ‘T’.
- This path divides the gardens into two half, the informal to the northwest and formal gardens in the south east.

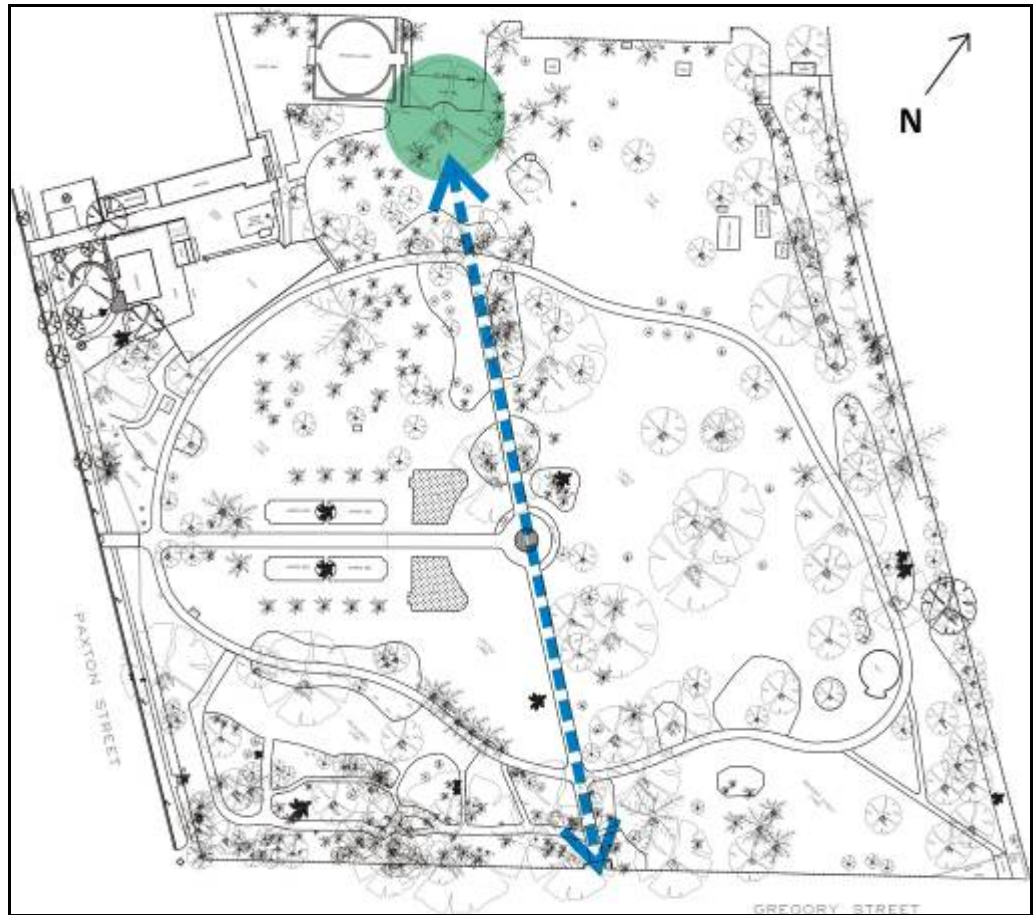


Figure 3.6 Northeast-southwest axis



Figure 3.7 Northeast-southwest axis looking west towards central fountain (ERM 2010)



Figure 3.8 Northeast-southwest axis looking west from central fountain to rain tree (ERM 2010)

3.2.2 Secondary Informal Path Layout

A meandering path circumnavigates the garden, intersecting the formal path system at key locations.

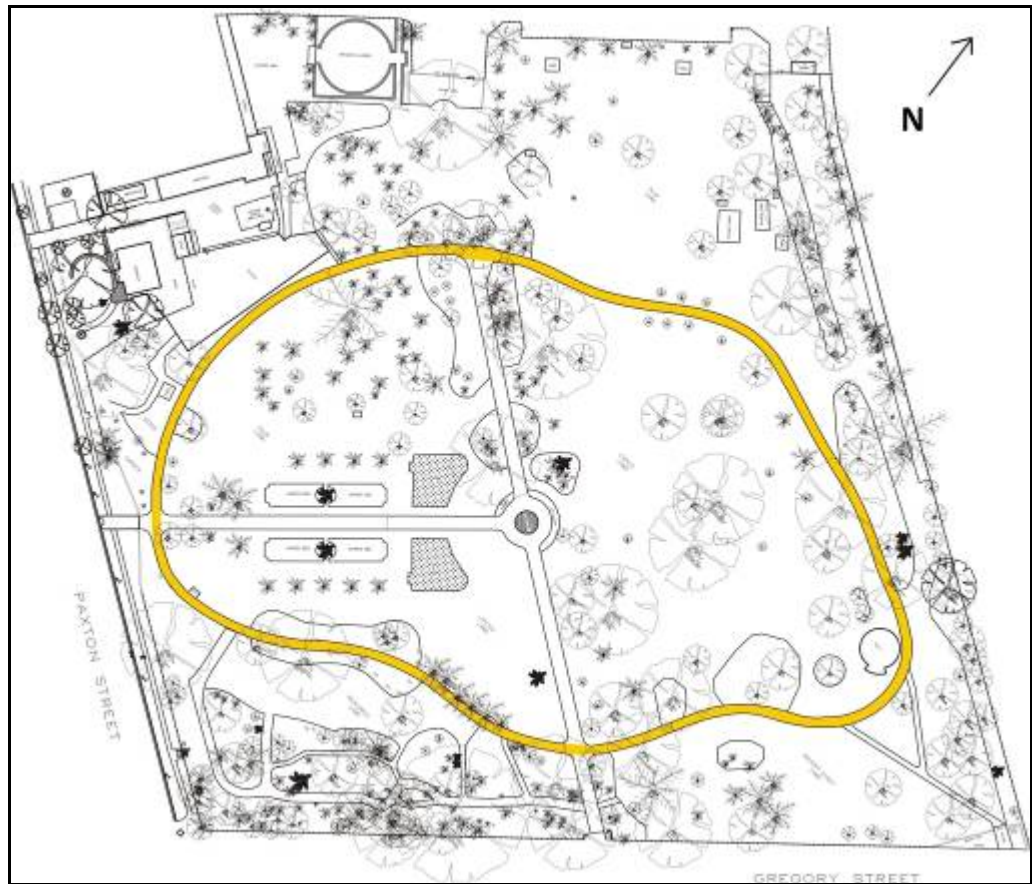


Figure 3.9 Informal Path System



Figure 3.10 Informal secondary path circumnavigates the gardens (ERM 2010)

3.2.3

Perimeter Planting

Dense planting around the perimeter of the gardens encloses the space and creates a 'green oasis' screened from the surrounding urban environment. Planting is generally characterised by large mature trees and palms. Early aerial photography of the gardens (c1938) indicates these dense perimeter plantings were present pre -1959 Wilson Plan. The Black Bean avenue and a number of mature significance trees are likely to pre-date 1959. The Wilson plan maintained dense planting to the perimeter and included the meandering pathway through the rainforest precinct adjoining the eastern boundary.

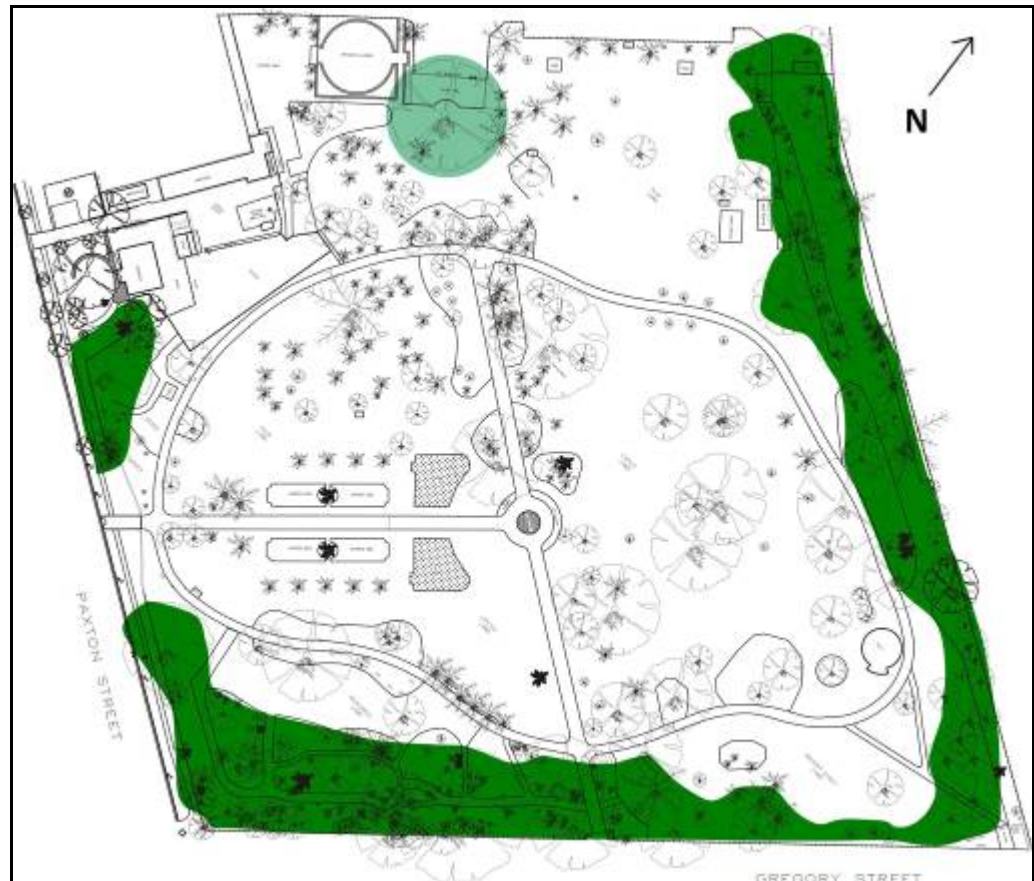


Figure 3.11 Perimeter Planting



Figure 3.12 Perimeter planting of large mature trees and palm species (ERM 2010)

3.2.4 Open Lawn Areas

Open lawn areas in the north western half of the site are evident in the c1938 aerial photograph and are likely to have been present as part of the early phase of the garden when it was predominantly focussed on economic botany. Open lawn areas were retained as a feature of the spatial arrangement in the 1959 Wilson Plan. In their current form, these open grass areas are now framed by the canopy of mature trees and have a more enclosed feeling whilst still open at the ground level. Recent new plantings of trees and bamboo are inconsistent with the character of these open spaces and will potentially erode the open aspect of the gardens spatial arrangement within these areas.

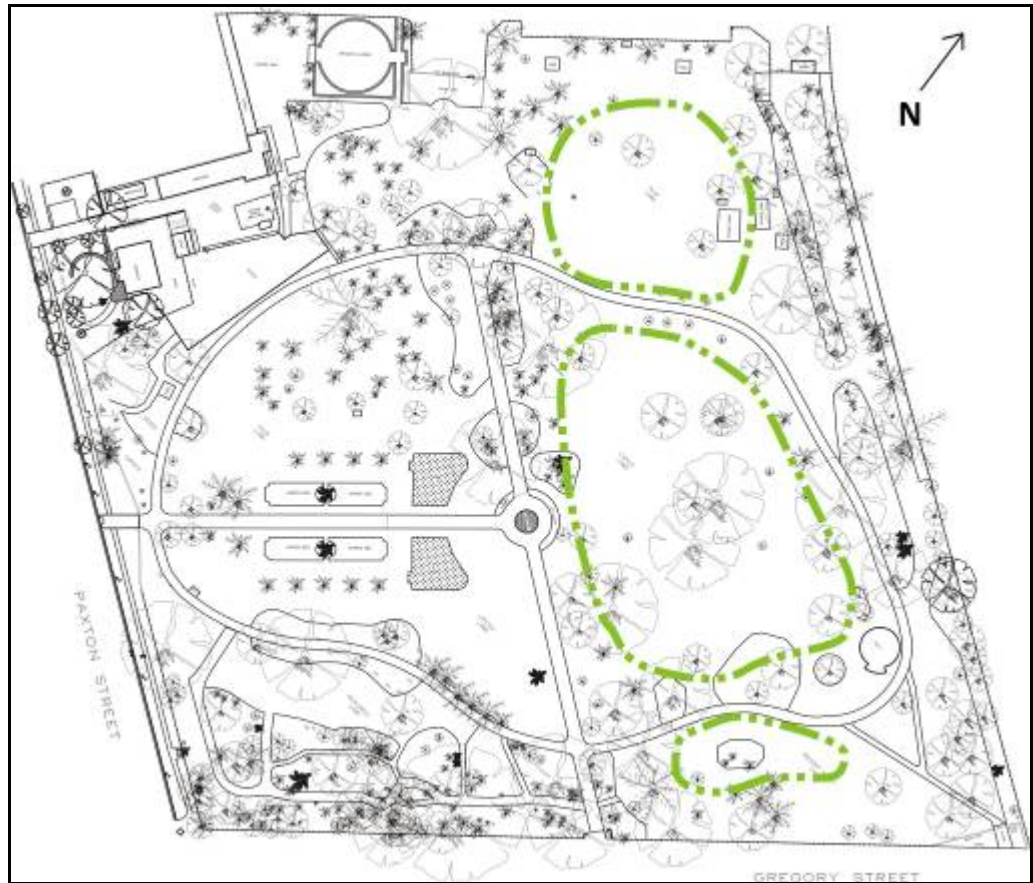


Figure 3.13 Open Lawn Areas



Figure 3.14 Open lawn areas planted with mature trees (ERM 2010)

3.2.5

Formal Gardens

The formalisation of garden elements and spaces in the south eastern half of the gardens was a feature of the Wilson Plan. Pre-1959 this area contained several disparate garden areas and various buildings. The location of the mazes either side of the main axis have been retained from the Wilson Plan whilst garden beds have been rearranged although these retain the symmetry and formality of the Wilson layout.

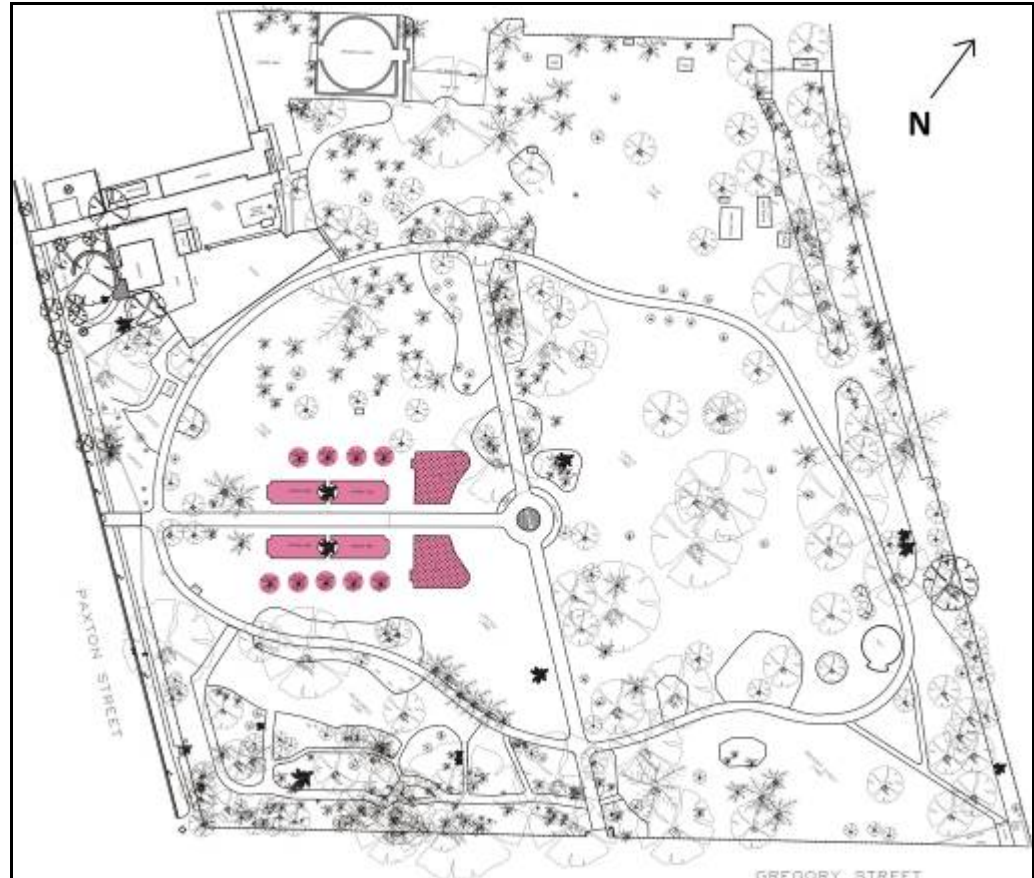


Figure 3.15 Formal Gardens



Figure 3.16 Existing maze originating from 1959 Wilson Plan. The urns are a later addition to the gardens (ERM 2010)



Figure 3.17 The arrangement of formal garden beds post-dates the Wilson Plan, however these are consistent with the theme and intent of the design of the gardens (ERM 2010)

Later additions to Queens Gardens include the Rose Garden on the western boundary, an adaptation of the original design of the previous rose garden. The Rose Garden was rebuilt in this location in 1971. The current layout dates from 1982 and is similar to the layout of the Rose Garden which can be seen on the 1938 aerial plan.



Figure 3.18 Rose Garden on the western boundary (ERM 2010)

3.2.6 Main Entrances

Paxton Street

The main entrance to Queens Garden is on Paxton Street, aligned with the southeast–northwest path. The formality and symmetry of garden elements arranged off this axis also emphasises the importance of this entry and draws the eye into the centre of the garden.



Figure 3.19 Paxton Street entrance looking north into the gardens (ERM 2010)

Gregory Street

The second main entrance is on Gregory Street, aligned with the northeast-southwest path.



Figure 3.20 Gregory Street entrance looking west into the gardens (ERM 2010)

3.3 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

There are a number of buildings and structures located within Queens Gardens. These are described below.

3.3.1 *Aviary*

The current aviary is located in the northern quadrant of the site and is bounded by a primary access pathway to its south. A walkway runs down the centre of the aviary with display cages each side. The aviary is of relatively recent construction and consists of welded metal frames with 'weldmesh' cladding.



Figure 3.21 Aviary looking down central walkway from south (ERM 2010)

3.3.2 *Arbour*

The arbour is located south of the aviary and runs for approximately 25m covering the primary pathway. It is approximately 2.4m high and 2.0m wide and is constructed of galvanised steel tubing with welded joints.



Figure 3.22 Arbour viewed from south (ERM 2010)

3.3.3 Residence

The residence is located facing Paxton Street in the north-west quadrant of the site and was sited here by 1961. The house is a two storeyed timber framed building with timber weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal hipped roof and louvre windows. Its lower level is covered by open concrete block screening found in other parts of Queens Gardens.



Figure 3.23 Residence (ERM 2010)

3.3.4

Workshop

The workshop is located on the north boundary with tennis courts along Paxton Street. It is a single storeyed timber framed building with a rectangular floor plan and chamferboard cladding. It has a hipped corrugated metal roof and was on site before 1941.



Figure 3.24 Workshops viewed from south. (ERM 2010)

3.3.5

Office

The Office is located directly behind and to the north of the residence, facing the workshop compound. It sits under a skillion roofed carport as shown in *Figure 3.25* below.



Figure 3.25 Office (ERM 2010)

3.3.6

Wash Bay

A wash bay is a metal framed structure located in the eastern corner of the Workshop compound and has a high skillion roof supported on RHS columns. (See *Figure 3.26*)



Figure 3.26 Wash Bay (ERM 2010)

3.3.7

Toilet Blocks

There are two toilet blocks on the site. In the north east corner is a small brick toilet block with hipped, metal ribbed roof. The other toilet block, located in the south eastern quadrant on the edge of the circular pathway, has a distinctive circular floor plan. This layout is a standard design adopted by the Townsville City Council in the late 1960s.



Figure 3.27 Toilet Block



Figure 3.28 Toilet Block

3.3.8 *Screen Wall and Pergola*

The screen wall and attached pergola are located on the eastern boundary with the tennis courts along Paxton Street. The screen wall is constructed of 150mm concrete blocks laid on their side providing an open pattern.



Figure 3.29 Screen wall and pergola on eastern boundary (ERM 2010)

3.3.9 *Cast Iron Columns*

There is a row of eight Corinthian cast iron columns located along the eastern boundary of the Rose Garden. These are connected by a draped galvanised chain. These columns were reputed to have come from the old Townsville Town Hall which has been demolished. At the time of writing this CHCMP, ERM has been unable to find any documentary evidence to support this oral evidence. Further research regarding the columns (Townsville City Council Special Projects Unit) was undertaken by John Edgar in August 2010, which also suggests the columns are not from the old Town Hall, but rather are likely to have originated from the demolished Hollis Hopkins Building.



Figure 3.30 *Corinthian columns viewed from the north (ERM 2010)*

3.3.10 *Play Equipment*

A set of swings and a rope pyramid with rubberised matting underneath are located in the northern quadrant. (See *Figure 3.31*)



Figure 3.31 *Play Equipment (ERM 2010)*

3.4 *HARD LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS*

There are a number of hard landscape features located within Queens Gardens. These are described below.

3.4.1 *Gateways*

As previously indicated, the two main entrances to Queens Gardens are located on Paxton Street and Gregory Street. These are identical in design with piers constructed in a red rough faced cement brick in a triangle shape, with 50 mm concrete capping. Each pier supports cast bronze name plates with the names "Queens" and "Gardens". The piers most likely date from the late 1950s.

Piers are flanked with low brick walls supporting steel fences of the same period. These are constructed in close centred vertical flat steel with circular decorative elements towards the top. The metal gates are constructed in square and flat bar powder coated steel with circular elements similarly located.



Figure 3.32 Paxton Street Entrance, featuring double hung powder coated steel gates attached to concrete brick piers (ERM 2010).



Figure 3.33 Detail of plaques mounted either side of Paxton Street Entrance (ERM 2010)



Figure 3.34 Gregory Street Entrance, identical in design to Paxton Street (ERM 2010)



Figure 3.35 Entrance plaques and piers (ERM 2010)

Additional gateways include Kennedy Street and the south east corner of the gardens off Gregory Street. The northern entrance off Kennedy Street is constructed using a system of open concrete blocks and is likely to date from the 1970s. There is also another entrance gate to the Rose Garden off Kennedy Street, it is constructed in wrought iron and has been recently manufactured.



Figure 3.36 *Kennedy Street entrance is constructed with concrete block and is a more indirect 'side entry' gateway. The gates are of similar design to the remainder of the gardens (ERM 2010)*

The entrance gate in the south east corner of the gardens off Gregory Street has low walls forming planter beds and piers supporting entry gates. These are constructed in red brick and metal fencing is fixed to the top of brick walls and is in the same style as the other metal perimeter fencing. The construction of the gates, piers, perimeter wall and fencing likely date from 1976, when Jim Thomas was using similarly styled brickwork elsewhere in the parklands. The outer planter beds and entrance paving were installed in 2009.



Figure 3.37 *New Gregory Street entrance is similar in intent to the original design, although constructed in clay brick (ERM 2010)*

3.4.2

Fences

Fencing along Gregory Street, and part of Paxton and Kennedy Streets is 2m high black powder coated proprietary panelised system with close centred vertical rods between rectangular hollow section double top and bottom rails (see *Figure 3.38*). Circular decorative elements are positioned between the top rails. Panels are fixed between square section posts. This fencing system is clearly modern, and provides the necessary level of perimeter security and is visually unobtrusive. Paxton Street also features another similar style of fence, featuring a different arrangement of the circular decorative elements (see *Figure 3.39*), which appears to be contemporary with the brickwork, c1950s.



Figure 3.38 Fencing on Paxton Street



Figure 3.39 Fencing on Paxton Street (ERM 2010)

A later c1950s chain mesh fence, supported on galvanised pipe, exists along the north and east boundaries.



Figure 3.40 Junction between older chain mesh fence and more recent replacement - tubular steel fence panels (ERM 2010)

3.4.3

Pathways

Primary and secondary pathways are typically paved with asphalt and edged with a low concrete kerb with documentary evidence confirming the use of this detail since the 1950s. Tertiary pathways are paved with red “cracker dust”. These materials are not significant in themselves; however, their use has evolved as they provide practical and visually sympathetic surfaces and edge definition. Concrete paving was installed at the new entrance from the southeast entrance from Gregory Street approximately 15 years ago, and this is considered to be unsympathetic and inconsistent with the other paving solutions on the site.



Figure 3.41 *Pathway: Asphalt with concrete edge*



Figure 3.42 *Pathways: Red “Cracker Dust” (left) and concrete (right)*

3.4.4

Fountains

Two fountains are located in the Gardens, one at the centre of the site at the junction of the north south and east west pathways, and the other in the Rose Garden.

Physical evidence suggests the fountain at the centre of the Gardens is likely a later addition. Typically, intersections in public gardens are highlighted by a focal element, and according to a personal account by Janet Cummings, Pat Andrews' granddaughter, a sundial existed in this location in the 1940s³¹. The notes on the Wilson plan are illegible and it is unclear when this fountain was installed.

Photographic evidence indicates that the terrazzo ornamental fountain in the existing rose garden was previously at the centre of the earlier rose garden when this was located north of the central pathway off Paxton Street. The fountain was donated by Nicholas Hellen, a Greek immigrant originally from Kythera who became a Councillor of the Calliope Shire Council in 1922, serving until 1924 and then again in 1933. Constructed in 1957, the ornamental fountain is described as having three birds perched on its lip which a central statue. Evidence of the fixings of these features is apparent on the lip and within the bowl of the bird bath.



Figure 3.43 1957 Fountain located in Rose Garden (ERM 2010)

Figure 3.44 Birds and lighting features removed (ERM 2010)

³¹ Landplan



Figure 3.45 Central fountain - suggestive of yin-yang design motif, with water spout off-centre to main axis (ERM 2010)

3.4.5 Urns

There are several urns located within the Gardens. Two cast iron urns on pedestals are located each side of the central pathway as short distance from the Paxton Street entrance and reinforce the symmetrical axis of the pathway towards Castle Hill. In addition, two cast iron urns of differing designs are mounted on pedestals, and located in the centre of each maze. These cast iron urns have been acquired in the last three years as aesthetic features to the Gardens.

A single terrazzo urn in matching construction to the ornamental 1957 fountain is currently located adjacent the aviary. The earlier location of this urn is unknown. The urn stands approximately 1.0m high. Further research may reveal the urns provenance and possible connection to the 1957 Hellen ornamental fountain.



Figure 3.46 Cast iron urn, located in Maze (ERM 2010)

Figure 3.47 Cast iron urn base (ERM 2010)



Figure 3.48 Urn located on north-south axis (ERM 2010)

Figure 3.49 Urn located adjacent aviary (ERM 2010)

3.4.6 Well

Documentary evidence indicates a well was sunk in Queens Gardens in 1879 and physical evidence suggested that the current brick lined well in the centre of the gardens is the original well. The well is currently covered with a heavy galvanised steel grate which obscures visibility of the well shaft and its construction. A pump is located adjacent to the well, the pump housing is visually intrusive.



Figure 3.50 Well covered by grate and adjacent pump-housing (ERM 2010)

3.4.7 Seating & furniture

Queens Gardens contains a number of seats of recent origin. The current seats are clearly modern and consistent with public seating used in other park areas around Townsville. However, the seats in Queens Gardens have typically been placed on concrete slabs which are visually obtrusive and incongruous with their surrounds.

Granite benches have been placed in a garden area adjoining bamboo planting. These are specific to this garden space and do not feature in other areas of the garden.



Figure 3.51 Park bench on concrete pad



Figure 3.52 Picnic table and benches on concrete pad



Figure 3.53 Granite seat in bamboo grove

3.5.1

Trees

There are a number of large mature trees within Queens Gardens that pre-date the 1959 Wilson Plan and are likely to originate from the period the gardens focussed on economic botany and plant material was supplied by the Queensland Acclimatisation Society. These trees are not only grand and beautiful specimens; they are also representative examples of a particular period in the development of the botanic gardens, plant collecting and the exchange of plants in Queensland. Key species include Mango trees (*Mangifera indica*), Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), Black Bean (*Castanospermum australe*), Mahogany (*Swietenia mahogoni*), Rain tree (*Albizia saman*), Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*), Native carbeen (*Eucalyptus tessellaris*), Tamarind (*Tamarindus indicus*), and Milky Pine (*Alstonia scholaris*) endemic to the region.

A Wollemi Pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) was introduced into the Gardens soon after the discovery of this rare and ancient “living fossil” in 1994. However, the present specimen is not the original. The Gardens also has a recently developed Frangipani (*Plumeria spp. and cultivars*) collection in the south-western corner, which continues the curatorial nature of the Botanic Garden.



Figure 3.54 *Mango Tree adjoining central fountain - potentially original planting (ERM 2010)* **Figure 3.55** *Mango Tree adjoining northern boundary planting (ERM 2010)*



Figure 3.56 Hoop Pine (ERM 2010)



Figure 3.58 Hoop Pine with 'Althea lean' (ERM 2010)



Figure 3.57 Morton Bay Ash - endemic, and pre-dates development



Figure 3.59 Frangipani



Figure 3.60 Raintree terminating east-west axis

3.5.2 Palms

Palm species were also collected, exchanged and planted in Queens Gardens during its early development. The two main areas of Palm planting are Palm Lawn and the Rainforest Garden. Whilst individual specimens may be significant, these areas also form significant groups of species.



Figure 3.61 Palm Lawn, showing variety of palm species planted in groups (ERM 2010)



Figure 3.62 Individual species are also of interest such as this Panama Hat Palm (ERM 2010)

3.5.3 Garden beds

The layout of garden beds remains in most places consistent with the Wilson Plan. The contrast between flowing garden beds and formal garden beds is well executed by the design and characteristic of the gardens.

Plantings within garden beds are unlikely to be original, being composed of mainly short-lived plant species. The significance of the garden bed is in the selection and placement of plant material which at present remains reminiscent of the 'Paradise Garden' period with abundant colour and variety in composition and texture.

Garden edges are generally cut edge, creating a 'soft-edge' interface with lawn areas



Figure 3.63 Garden beds with plant selection creating a variety of colour and texture



Figure 3.64 Bright coloured plants in mixed beds are characteristic of the gardens

CONDITION

Queens Gardens is managed by the Townsville City Council and cared for by a small team of dedicated Curatorial and gardening staff. An informal regime of regular daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal maintenance results in the place being well cared for with the hard and soft landscape features being in very good condition.

The method of finding out why a place or object is significant is essential in order to determine how the heritage values should be conserved for the community. This section examines and discusses the cultural heritage significance of Queens Gardens, Townsville, and compares it with other botanic gardens entered in the QHR.

5.1**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PRINCIPLES**

An assessment of significance is undertaken to explain why a particular site is important and to enable the appropriate site and building management strategies to be determined and employed. Cultural significance has been defined by the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter* (1999: Article 1.2) as meaning “*aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.*”

Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. The significance of a place is not fixed for all time, and what is of significance to us now may change as similar items are located, more historical research is undertaken and community tastes change.

The Queensland Heritage Council has published guidelines for the assessment of heritage significance – *Using the criteria: a methodology* (2006). These guidelines are based upon the general values defined by the *Burra Charter*.

5.2**QUEENSLAND HERITAGE REGISTER CRITERIA**

Queens Gardens was entered in the QHR in August 2008 in accordance with the provisions and processes of the *Queensland Heritage Act (1992)* (QHA). Entry in the QHR is a rigorous process where places are assessed, using the guidelines, against nine criteria contained in the QHA. These criteria are included in s35 as follows:

1. A place may be entered in the Queensland heritage register as a State heritage place if it satisfies 1 or more of the following criteria –
 - a) the place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland’s history;
 - b) the place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Queensland’s cultural heritage;
 - c) the place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Queensland’s history;

- d) the place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places;
 - e) the place is important because of its aesthetic significance;
 - f) the place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
 - g) the place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
 - h) the place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in Queensland's history.
2. A place is not to be excluded from the Queensland heritage register on the ground that places with similar characteristics have already been entered in the register.

5.3 QUEENS GARDENS HERITAGE VALUES

The Queensland Heritage Council determined that Queens Gardens, Townsville met the threshold for entry in the QHR as follows:

Criterion (a) the place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland's history

Townsville's Queens Gardens demonstrates the development and continued management of a botanic garden in a regional city as a significant theme in the evolution and pattern of Queensland's history. The place has fulfilled the traditional functions of a botanic garden, including increasing horticultural knowledge about local plants with a view to developing their economic potential, sharing of this knowledge and seed stock nationally with like-minded institutions, and providing an attractive and educative venue for public recreation. As a regional botanic garden and part of the Queensland botanic gardens network, Queens Gardens has maintained a position within a national and international network of botanic gardens of which the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London, was the originating hub.

Criterion (d) the place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places

The place is an important example of a Queensland botanic garden and demonstrates the principal characteristics of a substantial tropical public botanic garden that has evolved over time. Founded on consistent ideological principles, Townsville Queens Gardens, as part of the Queensland botanic gardens network, is a clear and identifiable type of place, with congruous hard and soft landscape features being a consistent part of the design.

Criterion (e) the place is important because of its aesthetic Significance

The combination of mature vegetation, open lawns and well-kept gardens provides an oasis close to the city centre. The gardens offer sensory aesthetic experiences engendered by the visual, auditory and olfactory qualities of the place that have been appreciated by the community over a long period of time. The gardens are enhanced by the landmark quality of Castle Hill's [QHR 601218] granite rock face, an important feature of the southeast-northwest vista.

Criterion (g) the place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

The place, established as both a scientific and a pleasure garden, has continued this association and has evolved as a focus for community events. It has social significance as a long-used and popular reserve for public recreation.

5.4 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

This section compares the historic values of Queens Gardens, Townsville with known examples in Queensland which are of similar period and entered in the QHR. A comparative analysis is important in establishing the rarity and representativeness of a place.

5.4.1 Brisbane Botanic Gardens

The area for Brisbane's Botanic Gardens was surveyed in 1828, and the first allocation of several acres of land was declared in 1855. Walter Hill was appointed curator that year, and began an active planting and experimental program. Hill was an avid supporter of the Queensland Acclimatisation Society and Brisbane's Botanic Gardens became important as a propagation and distribution point for the Society's imports. From 1855, the size of the Gardens continued to grow, reaching 27 acres in 1866 and 50 acres (approximately 20 hectares) in 1915 which is the Gardens' present size.

Structures and facilities which have been erected on site include a Superintendent's Cottage in the 1850s, fencing, a drinking fountain, an amphitheatre, a herbarium and botanic library. The Gardens features a border of shady trees and features a lake, formal lawns and gardens and a series of interconnecting paths. Some of the original trees planted in the 1850s and 1860s are extant. With the growth of the Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, the Brisbane Botanic Gardens has become principally a park and recreation venue³².

³² Queensland Heritage Register 2010

5.4.2 *Rockhampton Botanic Gardens*

Rockhampton Botanic Gardens are located on a 33-hectare site and were gazetted as public gardens in 1869 and opened in 1873. The aim of the gardens was to pursue experimental and economic botany and create a collection of exotic plant species. Throughout its history, the Gardens have maintained a position within the national and international network of Botanic Gardens, with Kew as the central hub. The Gardens were one of the first established by the Rockhampton City Council, and the selection of their site is considered to have been partly due to the influence of local botanist and collector Anthelme Thozet. Thozet, along with Baron von Mueller of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, Walter Hill of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, and the Queensland Acclimatisation Society were instrumental in the early propagation of the gardens. A number of structures and facilities have been developed on site through its history, including a kiosk, a zoo, a bandstand, a children's playground and most importantly the Hugo Lassen Fernery, a sophisticated cross-form Bush House constructed in 1938 from funds bequeathed by Mr Lassen.

The Gardens are important as the premier recreation and botanic retreat for the city, and are comprised of a series of gardens including: the lower gardens, the upper gardens, outer gardens, the war memorial gardens and arid gardens³³.

5.4.3 *Discussion*

Rockhampton, Brisbane and Townsville's Botanic Gardens are all representative of Queensland's involvement with an early world-wide connection of Botanical Gardens, and demonstrate the late 19th Century fascination with the botanical world. Each Garden was implemented as a Botanic Garden, but through time has experienced the change to a more recreational park venue, which is reflective of the changing interests and needs of the broader communities who value these spaces.

5.5 *STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE*

Townsville's Queens Gardens are important in demonstrating the development of such Gardens throughout Australia, as part of a world-wide network of Botanical Gardens with Kew (London) as the hub, with the aim of exchanging specimens and ideas and developing knowledge about the Botanic world. The site demonstrates the principal characteristics of a substantial tropical public botanic garden which has evolved over time. Through maintenance of lawns and vegetation, the Gardens have high aesthetic appeal, which is enhanced particularly by the south-east - north-west vista to Castle Hill. The Gardens are also significant for their social value, having been considered an important and attractive venue for relaxation and socialisation since their inception.

³³ Ibid

5.6

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING AND MAPPING

The grade of heritage significance of a place also needs to be considered. Different components of a place may make up different relative contributions to its heritage value. Loss of integrity or poor condition may diminish significance. *Table 5.1* provides the categories of grading and their relative justification.

Table 5.1 *Levels of Significance*

| Grading | Justification | Status |
|-------------|--|--|
| Exceptional | Rare or outstanding item of local or State significance. Has high degree of intactness. Item or place can be interpreted relatively easily. | Fulfil criteria for local or State listing. |
| High | Has high degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the place's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance. | Fulfil criteria for local or State listing. |
| Moderate | High degree of original or early fabric but may have altered or modified elements, or poor condition. May possess elements with little heritage value, but has key importance in contributing to the overall significance of the place. | Fulfil criteria for local or State listing. |
| Low | May suffer loss of integrity and poor condition. Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret. | Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing. |
| Intrusive | Damaging to the place's heritage significance. | Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing. |

These gradings are taken from the NSW Heritage Office Guideline "Assessing Heritage Significance" (2001) which is the NSW guideline used as best practice model for places of State significance.

5.6.1

Levels of Significance of Queens Gardens

The levels of significance of elements of Queens Gardens, Townsville, have been assessed against the aforementioned criteria, and are mapped at *Annex B (Significant Structures and Layout)* and *Annex C (Significant Plantings)*. Mapping of significance has been divided into hard landscaping, buildings and structures and soft landscaping categories for ease of reading and interpretation. The different colours on the plans represent these different levels of significance –elements of high significance are lined in red, moderate significance in blue, low significance in green and intrusive in yellow. ERM has added an additional category of nil significance on the drawings which is uncoloured. The levels of significance have been used in the development of conservation policy for Queens Gardens, described in the following chapters.

6 REGULATORY CONTEXT

This section outlines the regulatory and policy framework associated with Queens Gardens. Constraints relate to the place's heritage value, and are in line with the identified legislation and policies, while there are opportunities to conserve and interpret the overall site.

6.1 REGULATORY CONTEXT

6.1.1 *Land Act 1994*

Queens Park is located on Crown Plan T118159 and is designated Reserve R218 Elphinstone with the Townsville City Council appointed Trustees in accordance with the *Land Act 1994*. As a reserve, the land is to be used in perpetuity for park and recreation purposes.

6.1.2 *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*

The Queens Gardens, Townsville is entered on the Queensland Heritage Register (Place ID #601765). The heritage citation for Queens Gardens can be found at *Annex A*.

The major piece of historical cultural heritage legislation is the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, administered by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM). The QHA underwent a major revision and update in 2003 and again in early 2008. It makes provision for the conservation of Queensland's cultural heritage by protecting all places and areas listed on the Queensland Heritage Register. The Queensland Heritage Register is a list of all places which are important for their rarity or representativeness or for their aesthetic, architectural, archaeological, social and historical contributions to the development of Queensland. Development of Queens Gardens requires referral to DERM in accordance with s68 of the QHA which denotes the DERM chief executive as the assessment manager.

6.1.3 *Local Laws*

Where the trustee of a reserve is the local government, activities on the land are governed by local laws made by that government. Townsville City Council as trustees administer *Local Law No 15 – Parks and Reserves*. The local law covers a wide range of matters such as the management of animals, fencing, human occupation, damage, shooting, opening times, use for fetes, provision of conveniences, gates, erecting tents, improper behavior and playing games. New local laws are expected to be adopted by Council before the end of 2010.

6.1.4 *Townsville City Council Local Heritage Database*

The Townsville City Council Local Heritage Database is captured in Schedule 5 of the City Plan 2005. This heritage list includes places of local and State heritage value. Queens Garden (#21470) is included in the Local Heritage Database and as a Council owned property development approvals are provided through DERM in accordance with the QHA.

6.1.5 *National Trust of Queensland*

Queens Gardens is entered in the National Trust of Queensland Heritage Register.

The National Trust has been gathering information about heritage places in Queensland for more than three decades. This list contains individual buildings, precincts, natural environment places and culturally significant artefacts. These listings do not attract any legal protection for a place, nor do they put the owner of a listed place under any legal obligation. However, the research information held by the National Trust of Queensland on listed places provides a valuable research resource.

6.2 *FUTURE USE AND DEVELOPMENT*

Reserve status and associated By-Laws determine future use of Queens Gardens, Townsville, for park and recreation purposes. More detailed discussion of future uses and development is covered in *Chapter 7*.

This section provides a potential policy framework that could be used to facilitate the future management and conservation of Queens Gardens, Townsville.

7.1

DEFINITIONS

The definitions for conservation terms used in this report are those adopted in The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for places of cultural significance.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses.

Associations mean the special connections that exist between people and a place.

Compatible uses means a use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric which are substantially reversible, or changes which require minimal impact.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may, according to circumstance, include restoration, preservation, reconstruction and adaptation, and will commonly be a combination of more than one of these.

Demolition is confined to actions which reveal structures or relationships of much greater significance than the structure demolished, or that will remove intrusions which reduce the significance of the place. At times demolition may be considered if portions of the site can be opened for new construction that will facilitate the successful adaptation of the more significant components.

Interpretation means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place and may include exhibitions, events, publications, art works and other forms of expressions, and is not confined to the place.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of the place, and is distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction and it should be treated accordingly.

Preservation means returning the fabric to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by re-assembling or refixing components without the introduction of new materials.

Reconstruction means returning the place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state or the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric. It does not necessarily mean going back to the earliest stage of construction or even to one date for the entire place. Reconstruction is associated with recapturing the expression of the place at points in history which are either important or at

which the place demonstrated a greater functional clarity or design expression. This is not to be confused with either re-creation or conjectural reconstruction, which are outside the scope of *The Burra Charter*.

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Setting conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place.

7.2 CHCMP POLICIES

Conservation policies are proposed for Queens Gardens, Townsville under eight main categories shown in *Table 7.1* which are described in further detail below.

Table 7.1 *Summary of Policies*

| Category | Sub Category |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| General | Adoption of Burra Charter |
| | Adoption of Policies |
| | Appropriate Skills |
| | Formalised Agreements |
| | Governance |
| | View Lines |
| Future Use and Development | 2005 Master Plan |
| | Adaptive Reuse |
| | Use |
| | Land Acquisition and Disposal |
| | New Development |
| | Signage |
| Fabric | Buildings and Structures |
| | Hard Landscape Features |
| | Soft Landscape Features |
| Services | Redundant Services |
| | New Services |
| Maintenance | Maintenance Approach |
| Interpretation | Interpretation |
| Compliance | Heritage Approvals |
| | Building Approvals |
| | Documenting Change |
| CHCMP Lodgement and Review | Lodgement of Documents |
| | Review of CHCMP |

7.3 GENERAL CHCMP POLICIES

7.3.1 *Adoption of Burra Charter*

Queens Gardens, Townsville is a recognised place of cultural heritage significance. The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance, 1999, the *Burra Charter*, is widely recognised for its guiding principles on the conservation in Australia in terms of the physical fabric. It contains basic conservation principles in a range of articles, which address cultural significance and how to protect it. This CHCMP advocates an understanding of those principles which include:

- The place itself is important;
- Understand the significance of the place;
- Understand the fabric;
- Significance should guide decisions;
- Do as much as is necessary, as little as possible;
- Keep records; and
- Do everything in a logical order.

Policy 1: The conservation and development of Queens Gardens, Townsville, its significant hard and soft landscape features and uses, shall be carried out in accordance with the principles of The Burra Charter.

7.3.2 *Adoption of Policies*

The policies recommended in this Cultural Heritage Conservation Management Plan shall be endorsed as a primary guide for management as well as future planning and development work.

Policy 2: This CHCMP should be adopted by the Townsville City Council, and Queensland Heritage Council to guide the ongoing care and conservation of Queens Gardens, Townsville.

7.3.3 *Appropriate Skills*

In accordance with Article 27 of the Burra Charter, any landscape and/or building works on the site should be monitored and undertaken by suitably qualified professionals and tradespeople with experience in heritage conservation. Works involving the use of the local community should be supervised by a heritage professional. A log of all new work should also be kept. The management of the arboreal, horticultural and botanical and

collections and associated activities should be the responsibility of a suitably qualified professional with experience in the management of such collections.

Policy 3: *People skilled and experienced in protecting and conserving historic places should be involved in landscape and building work at Queens Gardens, Townsville.*

Policy 4: *People skilled and experienced in the curation and conservation of botanical collections should be involved in the management of any arboreal, horticultural and botanical activities at Queens Gardens.*

7.3.4 **Formalised Agreements**

Part 7 of the QHA provides for the establishment of Heritage Agreements with DERM. In accordance with the QHA Heritage Agreements may contain any provisions to promote the conservation, appropriate management or public appreciation of a place. Heritage Agreements may also restrict use, request specific work, provide for public access, provide for financial, technical or other assistance or specify development that may be carried for which an exemption certificate will be issued.

Policy 5: *The Townsville City Council should consider the establishment of a Heritage Agreement between it and DERM to facilitate the management of Queens Gardens, Townsville.*

7.3.5 **Governance**

The Townsville City Council are appointed trustees of the Queens Gardens, and are responsible for managing the land for park and recreation purposes subject to the provisions of the *Land Act 1994*. The Council, as trustees, is bound to maintain the reserve status of the land in accordance with the Act.

Policy 6: *Reserve status should be retained and the Townsville City Council, as the trustees, should continue to manage Queens Gardens, Townsville, in accordance with its Local Laws and By-Laws.*

The Townsville Council were the first trustees appointed to manage Queens Gardens. By 1880 the Government had wrested control as a result of the Council's inaction and four private individuals were appointed trustees. After recommending that the land set aside for the Botanical Garden was unsuitable in 1884, control of the Botanical Reserve had been restored to Council by 1893 and has remained trustee since.

Policy 7: *Townsville City Council should remain as trustees of Queens Gardens, Townsville.*

7.3.6 *View Lines*

Late 19th century photographs of Queens Gardens show that its central southeast - northwest pathway maintains a strong axial view to Castle Hill. This view along this visual axis is currently uninterrupted above the tree line by building development.

Policy 8: Townsville City Council should consider the protection of views from Queens Gardens towards Castle Hill and establish height limits for future development south west of Queens Gardens.

7.4 *FUTURE USE AND DEVELOPMENT*

7.4.1 *2005 Master Plan*

The 2005 Master Plan by Landplan Landscape Architects provides current strategic management direction for three Townsville parks, including Queens Gardens. ERM has reviewed the Master Plan in the context of the findings and recommendations of this CHCMP and has identified a number of potential areas of difference; in particular the Masterplan proposes alterations to the 1959 Wilson Plan, which this CHCMP considers important to the character of the garden:

Policy 9: The 2005 Master Plan should be reviewed against the findings and recommendations of this CHCMP.

7.4.2 *Adaptive Re-use*

Queens Gardens has been used as a botanical garden since the 1870s. Its status as a Reserve under the *Land Act 1994* and governing Local Laws do not accommodate alternative uses.

Policy 10: Queens Gardens should continue to be used as a botanical garden in accordance with its Reserve status.

7.4.3 *Use*

Queens Gardens has continually been used to host events since its establishment. Documentary evidence shows Queens Gardens being used to host cultural activities such as garden parties for Admiral Shimamura and the staff of the visiting Japanese naval squadron and citizens of Townsville in 1906, the Governor of Queensland, Lord Chelmsford in 1907, and Bi-centenary celebrations in 1988.

Queens Gardens is currently used for a range of activities which include:

- weddings;
- wedding photography;
- festivals;
- plays; and
- birthday parties.

The Curator has advised that the impact on grassed areas needs to be carefully managed by limiting event frequency in each area and post event de-compacting. Some activities, such as use as a venue for physical training, are considered culturally inappropriate.

Policy 11: Current and non invasive cultural events should continue in Queens Gardens and event frequency and physical impacts should be managed.

7.4.4 Land Acquisition and Disposal

The history of the Botanic Gardens in Townsville is one of continued incursion into the original reserve for other uses. By the late 1950s, the northern boundary had contracted to align with the southern side of the tennis courts, however, documentary evidence shows that the tennis courts were resumed in the 1960s. The current Crown Plan allotment reflects the 1950s boundary.

Considering this the further disposal of any part of Queens Gardens should not be contemplated. Today the Botanic Gardens are confined to a 10 acre parcel in the south west corner of the original reserve bounded by Gregory, Paxton and Kennedy Streets. Two tennis courts indent the gardens at their northwest corner interfering with the symmetry of the garden's reserve allotment. The tennis courts are referenced on historic maps dating from 1915, and appear on maps by 1937; therefore they are of some historic significance. However their construction was an intrusion into the Gardens. In line with the resumption of the adjacent courts in the 1970s, the opportunity now exists to acquire additional land for Queens Gardens by resuming the tennis courts.

Policy 12: The current formal boundary of Queens Park along Kennedy Street should be re-surveyed and incorporated into the reserve allotment.

Policy 13: Revised boundary position information should be passed on to DERM for amendment of the QHR entry.

Policy 14: The disposal of any part of the current Queens Gardens land should not be contemplated.

Policy 15: The acquisition of the tennis courts land in the north-west corner of Queens Gardens should be considered.

7.4.5 *New Development*

A number of early structures, including bush house, kiosk and caretakers cottage, were positioned within Queens Gardens but these were destroyed in 1903 by cyclone Leonta. By 1938 structures included an aviary and caretaker's cottage south of the main central pathway. After 1959, and the adoption of Alan Wilson's plan, all buildings and structures were concentrated in the northwest quadrant of the garden. This approach should be continued.

Policy 16: Containment of structures in the northwest quadrant should be continued and no new buildings or structures should be contemplated within the balance of the gardens.

Any proposed new utilities development should be no more than two storeys and should not be easily visible from the Gardens. Public building designs consisting of a series of low scale pavilions in a contemporary idiom presenting architectural expression of the 21st century should be encouraged. The only available evidence of 19th century buildings is a photograph of the kiosk which provides insufficient evidence for any attempt at reconstruction. Designs based on slavish recreation of the 19th century kiosk building should be discouraged.

Policy 17: New public buildings should not detract from the visual qualities of Queens Gardens but be positioned to suit their purpose and should be designed in a 21st century architectural idiom.

Policy 18: Slavish reconstruction of earlier buildings is not recommended due to lack of detailed evidence.

7.4.6 *Signage*

The Townsville City Council has invested in the publication of a *Signage Style Manual* for its three Botanic Gardens. Signage using this manual can be found in Queens Gardens, this approach is considered to be appropriate and there is no current identifiable detrimental impact on the places heritage values.

Policy 19: Continue the installation of signage at Queens Gardens using the Townsville City Council Botanic Gardens Signage Style Manual.

7.5 FABRIC

7.5.1 *Buildings and Structures*

Documentary and physical evidence of the impact of cyclones on buildings and structures at Queens Gardens, Townsville has confirmed that none of the earliest structures remain with the 19th century Caretakers Cottage, Bush House and Kiosk destroyed in 1903. The only building on the site from an earlier period is the workshop which was constructed prior to 1941; however, its significance has been determined as low due to its low integrity. Other buildings and structures include the cottage, office, wash bay and aviary, all located in the western quadrant of the site, are assessed as being of no material significance and can be removed or altered as required.

Policy 20: All existing buildings and structures in the western quadrant of the site are of low or no significance and can be removed or altered.

As noted above the aviary has low significance as a structure, however, documentary evidence demonstrates that aviaries were present on site by the 1930s and have high associational significance with Queens Gardens. ERM noted that there appears to be no current long term strategy for the management of the aviary or the selection of suitable bird species. Typically aviaries within botanic gardens in Australia in the 19th century contained species such as peacocks, cockatoos, parrots, pigeons, sparrows, finches, Chinese pheasants, ducks, quails, English skylarks, blackbirds, thrushes and black macaw.

Policy 21: An aviary should continue to be located on site supported by a management plan and species selection strategy guided by an ornithologist.

Toilet Blocks

There are two toilet blocks located on the site, one located in the northern corner dating from before 1941, and the other in the south eastern quadrant built in the 1960s. Both these buildings are utilitarian and of low significance. The 1960s building has been deemed not to comply with the Queensland Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Guidelines and is proposed to be removed.

Policy 22: Toilet blocks are of low heritage significance and can be either upgraded or removed.

Playground Equipment

The 1995 Landplan Master Plan provides oral evidence of the Queens Gardens layout from the daughter of Pat Andrews (Curator 1934-1958). This evidence

indicates the location of the playground in the northeast quadrant containing “swings’ slides, ‘horse’ log swing and bucket swing”. Wilson’s 1959 master plan drawing shows a fenced playground area, also in the northeast quadrant of the site. The current modern play ground equipment is also in this area.

Policy 23: New playground equipment should continue to be located in the northern quadrant of Queens Gardens.

7.5.2 ***Hard Landscape Features***

Fences

The reserve was fenced by 1876 and Council minutes indicate its type of construction and alignment was topical in the late 19th century. In 1887 Trustees advised Council that they “do not approve of proposed fence as only netting, barbed wire or palings will keep out the goats”. No physical evidence survives of the early fences. A later c1950s chain mesh fence, supported on galvanised pipe, exists along the north and east boundaries. More recent fencing along Paxton, Gregory and part of Kennedy Streets is 2m high black powder coated proprietary panelised system with close centred vertical rods between rectangular hollow section double top and bottom rails. Circular decorative elements are positioned between the top rails. Panels are fixed between square section posts. This fencing system is clearly modern, provides the necessary level of perimeter security and is visually unobtrusive.

Policy 24: The current black powder coated fencing system should be retained and continue to be used for replacement fencing.

Fencing along the western boundary adjacent the tennis courts in the northwest quadrant of the site is formed from open concrete blocks in a decorative pattern. This construction system has also been used on the basement level of the former caretaker’s cottage. These walls are likely to have been installed in the 1960s. The use of concrete blocks in this way is innovative for the period. This fence/wall has been determined as being of moderate significance from a technological perspective.

Policy 25: The open concrete block wall along the western boundary adjacent the tennis courts should be retained.

Gates

There is no documentary or physical evidence of the earliest entrance structures to Queens Gardens. Current gate piers at Paxton and Gregory Street entrances are constructed in a red rough faced cement brick with cast bronze name plates attached. The piers most likely date from the late 1950s. Piers are flanked with low brick walls supporting steel fences of the same period. These are

constructed in close centred vertical flat steel with circular decorative elements towards the top. The metal gates are constructed in square and flat bar powder coated steel with circular elements similarly located. These gates and associated fences are of moderate significance and should be retained.

Policy 26: 1950s entrance gates and associated brick walls and metal fences should be retained and conserved.

The northern entrance off Kennedy Street is constructed using a system of open concrete blocks and is likely to date from the 1970s. These gates have been deemed as being of low significance.

Policy 27: Kennedy Street concrete block entrance gates may be altered or removed.

The entrance gate to the Rose Garden off Kennedy Street is constructed in wrought iron and has been recently manufactured. The gate is deemed to have no significance.

Policy 28: Kennedy Street wrought iron gate to the Rose Garden may be altered if required.

The entrance gate in the south east corner of the gardens off Gregory Street has low walls forming planter beds and piers supporting entry gates. These are constructed in red brick and likely date to c1976. Metal fencing is fixed to the top of brick walls and is in the same style as the other metal perimeter fencing. This entrance is deemed to not be of heritage significance.

Policy 29: The south east entrance gates and associated walls, piers and garden beds can be removed or altered.

Pathways

The earliest documentary evidence of the formal layout of Queens Gardens is provided by a c1924 site plan with notation indicating “Planted with trees, bush house, Curator’s Residence, 5 tennis courts, croquet lawn” and marking the positions of tennis courts and the cottage. It is not until the 1938 aerial photograph and subsequent aerial photographs that pathways and their configuration becomes evident. The only landscape architectural drawing evidence is provided by a plan by Alan Wilson, the Curator appointed in 1959. It is this layout that the Trustees adopted and essentially prevails today. Consequently pathways that follow the Wilson layout are considered to be of high significance. Where later development has removed sections of Wilson’s pathway layout, consideration should be given to their reconstruction when redevelopment allows.

Policy 30: Wilson’s 1959 layout should be retained where it exists and restored where it has been removed.

Primary pathways are typically paved with asphalt and edged with a low concrete kerb with documentary evidence confirming the use of this detail since the 1950s. Secondary pathways are paved with red “cracker dust”. These materials are not significant in themselves; however, their use has evolved as they provide practical and visually sympathetic surfaces and edge definition. Concrete paving has been installed at the new entrance from the southeast entrance from Gregory Street and this is considered to be unsympathetic and inconsistent with the other paving solutions on the site.

Policy 31: Continue the use of asphalt with concrete edges for axial “T” (primary pathway) and the circular ring (secondary pathway). Continue use of red “cracker dust” for tertiary pathways. Concrete pathways should be removed when redevelopment allows.

Fountain

The fountain is located at the centre of the site at the junction of the north south and east west pathways. Early photographs do not appear to show any form of fountain or statuary in this location. Typically intersections in public gardens are highlighted by a focal element. The notes on the Wilson plan are illegible and it is unclear if it was his intention to install a fountain in this location, however, his plan does show a circular form. Physical evidence suggests the fountain is a later addition. The fountain has been assessed as having low heritage significance.

Policy 32: The fountain may be removed and replacement with a contemporary focal element would be acceptable.

Cast Iron Urns

Two cast iron urns on pedestals are located each side of the central pathway as short distance from the Paxton Street entrance and reinforce the symmetrical axis of the pathway towards Castle Hill. These features have been acquired in the last three years as aesthetic features and have been assessed as having no cultural heritage significance.

Policy 33: Cast iron urns can be removed or relocated if required.

In addition, two cast iron urns of differing design mounted on pedestals are located in the centre of each maze. These were installed in the last three years and have been assessed as having no cultural heritage significance. Aesthetically, these urns are incongruous with the nature of the mazes that surround them and seem to have been positioned as a point of reference to locate the maze centres.

Policy 34: Urns located in the mazes should be removed and replaced with a contemporary central reference point if required.

Ornamental Fountain

Photographic evidence indicates that the terrazzo ornamental fountain in the existing rose garden was previously at the centre of the earlier rose garden when this was located north of the central pathway off Paxton Street. The fountain was donated by Nicholas Hellen, a Greek immigrant originally from Kythera who became a Councillor of the Calliope Shire Council in 1922, serving until 1924 and then again in 1933. Constructed in 1957, the ornamental fountain is described as having three birds perched on its lip with a central statue. Evidence of the fixings of these features is apparent on the lip and within the bowl of the bird bath. The fountain is in fair condition and could be restored pending further detailed research and physical examination by a terrazzo specialist.

Policy 35: The terrazzo ornamental fountain should be retained and its repair and restoration should be further investigated.

Hollis Hopkins Building Cast Iron Columns

The existing Rose Garden was formed by 1972 after the resumption of the tennis court in this area. The southern side of the Rose Garden is defined by a row of 19th century cast iron columns which are likely to have originated from the demolished Hollis Hopkins Building. While these elements are not out of place as sculptural features of the Rose Garden, their installation would benefit from some interpretation.

Policy 36: Investigate the provenance of the cast iron columns and install interpretive information to tell their story.

Terrazzo Urn

A single terrazzo urn of material matching the ornamental fountain is currently located adjacent the aviary. The earlier location of this urn is unknown but it could be better presented and interpreted within the main body of the gardens. Further research may reveal the urn's provenance and possible connection to the 1957 Hellen ornamental fountain.

Policy 37: The terrazzo urn should be retained and relocated to a more prominent location in the main body of the gardens with accompanying interpretation.

Seating

The Queens Garden contains a number of seats of recent origin. There no seats remaining from earlier periods nor is there any strong documentary evidence of earlier designs. The current seats are clearly modern and consistent with public seating used in other park areas around Townsville. However, the seats in Queens Gardens have typically been placed on concrete slabs which are visually obtrusive and incongruous with their surrounds.

Policy 38: Standard Townsville City Council contemporary seating designs should be used for replacement or new seats. Concrete slabs surrounding seats should be replaced with visually “softer” material such as red “cracker dust”.

Granite benches have been placed in a garden area adjoining bamboo planting. These are specific to this garden space and do not feature in other areas of the garden.

Policy 39: Granite benches are in character with the bamboo garden and should not be used in other parts of the garden.

Rubbish Bins

A number of rubbish bins are positioned in Queens Gardens. Research has not identified that any historic examples were positioned in the gardens, and the current rubbish bins are relatively modern and painted green to blend into their background.

Policy 40: Any replacement rubbish bins should be of contemporary design and coloured to blend into their background.

Well

Documentary evidence indicates a well was sunk in Queens Gardens in 1879 and physical evidence suggested that the current brick lined well in the centre of the gardens is the original well. The well is currently covered with a heavy galvanised steel grate which obscures visibility of the well shaft and its construction.

Policy 41: The existing grate should be replaced with a round cover that provides improved visibility while retaining the necessary security. The well would also benefit from further research and the installation of interpretation to tell its story.

7.5.3

Soft Landscape Features

Queens Gardens maintains a variety of botanically and culturally significant plantings, dispersed throughout the area. These plantings should be tabulated and mapped to ensure appropriate care and management by the Curator.

Policy 42: The Curator, Queens Gardens, should develop and manage a list and associated map of significant plantings.

Significant Trees

There are a number of large mature trees within Queens Gardens that pre-date the 1959 Wilson Plan and are likely to originate from the period the gardens focussed on economic botany, and plant material was supplied by the Queensland Acclimatisation Society. These trees are representative examples of a particular period in the development of the botanic gardens, plant collecting and the exchange of plants in Queensland.

Policy 43: Retain significant trees. Where trees are declining as a result of age or disease, implement successive planting of the same or similar species representative of the period of economic botany.

Policy 44: Provide interpretation and labelling to communicate the species, age and importance of significant trees.

Palms

Palm species were collected, exchanged and planted in Queens Gardens during its early development. The two main areas of Palm planting are Palm Lawn and the Rainforest Garden. Whilst individual specimens are of significance, groups of various species are also significant.

Policy 45: Retain significant palms. Where palms are declining as a result of age or disease, implement successive planting of the same or a similar species representative of the period of economic botany.

Policy 46: Provide interpretation and labelling to communicate the species, age and importance of significant palms.

Policy 47: Retain groups of palm plantings in Palm Lawn and the Rainforest Garden.

Garden Beds

The layout of garden beds remains in most places consistent with the Wilson Plan. Plantings within garden beds are unlikely to be original being composed of mainly short-lived plant species. The significance of the garden bed is in the selection and placement of plant material which at present remains reminiscent of the 'Paradise Garden' period with abundant colour and variety in composition and texture. Garden edges are generally cut edge, creating a 'soft-edge' interface with lawn areas.

Policy 48: Retain the layout of garden beds that are identified as consistent with the Wilson Plan.

Policy 49: Maintain the character and style of planting in the garden beds, through the selection and composition of plant species.

Policy 50: Retain edges as cut-edges, no visually intrusive form of edging such as concrete, should be used.

Formal Gardens

The formal layout of the garden beds and planting in the south eastern half of the gardens is a feature of the Wilson Plan. The locations of the mazes either side of the main axis have also been retained from the Wilson Plan. Whilst garden beds have been rearranged these retain the symmetry and formality of the Wilson layout.

Policy 51: Retain the symmetry and formality of plantings either side of the main southwest - northeast axis.

Policy 52: Retain the maze plantings in the current location.

Perimeter Planting

Dense planting around the perimeter of the gardens is evident in early aerial photography of the gardens c1938. The Black Bean Avenue and a number of significant mature trees are likely to pre-date 1959. The Wilson Plan maintained dense planting to the perimeter and included the meandering pathway through the rainforest precinct adjoining the eastern boundary.

Policy 53: Retain the dense perimeter planting of large canopy trees and palms, where trees on the perimeter are removed due to disease or damage replace with species which have the same characteristics.

Open Lawn Areas

Open lawn areas in the north western half of the site are evident in the c1938 aerial photograph and are likely to have been present as part of the early phase of the garden when it was predominantly focussed on economic botany. Open lawn areas were retained as a feature of the spatial arrangement in the 1959 Wilson Plan. In their current form these open grass areas are now framed by the canopy of mature trees. Recent new plantings of trees and bamboo are inconsistent with the character of these open spaces and will potentially erode the open aspect of the gardens spatial arrangement within these areas.

Policy 54: Retain the open aspect of the lawn areas; existing mature trees should be retained as clear-trucked in grass or mulch beds, no garden beds should be located in these areas, new plantings of trees and bamboo should be removed or relocated to retain the open grass areas. Succession planting of trees should take into consideration the retention of open lawn areas.

Policy 55: Retain the rainforest garden in the current position and character.

7.6 SERVICES

7.6.1 *Redundant Services*

There are no services that are deemed to be culturally significant within Queens Gardens. However, subterranean services provide evidence of earlier layouts and where these are discovered and removed their nature and location should be recorded.

Policy 56: Record nature and location of redundant services.

7.6.2 *New Services*

Lights

Queens Gardens is closed during night time hours, therefore there is no lighting installed within the main body of the gardens. The lack of lighting elements provides an unadulterated botanic environment. The unlit garden is also a feature within the suburban area. However, lack of lighting can have associated security and safety implications. Street lighting exists on Gregory and Paxton Streets and at the Kennedy Street entrance.

Policy 57: Should lighting be required within Queens Gardens for safety or security purposes, solutions should be sought that are visually unobtrusive.

Power

Queens Gardens is reticulated with power to a number of green heavy plastic junction boxes which provide take off points to support event operations. These boxes are strategically positioned to service events but are to some degree visually intrusive. Alternative junction box designs or less obtrusive locations could be provided.

Policy 58: Investigate alternative junction box design and or location to reduce visual impact.

Water

Queens Gardens has been reticulated with sprinklers since the 1930s. The current watering system is underground with popup plastic sprinkler heads either at low level or raised within either stainless steel tubes or in CCA treated pine posts. These solutions represent approaches of expression and concealment of sprinklers. The approach to the installation of services in Queens Gardens has been to minimise visual impact and it is appropriate that this philosophy is adopted for water services. Concealment of sprinklers in stainless steel tubes appears to be an appropriate solution but these need to be less obtrusive.

Policy 59: Raised sprinklers should be concealed in metal tubing painted in a dark colour

7.7 MAINTENANCE

7.7.1 Maintenance Approach

The Townsville City Council has a dedicated team appointed to manage Queens Gardens. This is headed by the Executive Manager Parks Services, who is located off-site. Onsite operations are managed by the Curator who works with a leading hand, gardener, labourer and trainee. Development strategy is determined by the Townsville Botanic Gardens Master Plan 2005 and maintenance standards are achieved through the direction of the Curator. Gardens staff follow a defined daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal regime of mowing, trimming, cleaning, pruning, mulching and fertilising under the direction of the Curator.

Policy 60: The maintenance of Queens Gardens should be formalised by the preparation of a Maintenance Plan.

7.8

INTERPRETATION

Heritage interpretation is a means of sharing culture and history within the local and wider community. It is also a means of passing on knowledge and appreciation of a place's cultural heritage to future generations so this is not lost. Interpretation should be an integral part of the experience of significant heritage places where site access is feasible within security and safety requirements.

Historical interpretation within Queens Gardens currently consists of information on static directional sign boards at the Paxton and Gregory Street entrances. Botanic interpretation is provided by small inscribed plaques at the base of trees and shrubs and a foldout coloured brochure which is available from kiosks at the garden entrances.

The current standard of interpretation is high but its scope is limited.

The development of an interpretive strategy is beyond the scope of this CHCMP. Further research should be undertaken and professional assistance sought to develop a detailed interpretive strategy which addresses such issues as:

- Target audiences;
- Themes
 - Reserve and its changes;
 - Curators;
 - Cyclones;
 - Acclimatisation;
 - Events;
 - World War II; and
 - Terrazzo Furniture.
- Proposed messages;
- Interpretation techniques (e.g. fixed panels, brochures, multimedia and electronic media);
- Impact of interpretive exhibition on heritage values;

- Available funding and sources; and
- Long term monitoring and management.

Policy 61: Develop an interpretation strategy for Queens Gardens.

7.9 COMPLIANCE

It is necessary to obtain relevant approvals when undertaking any sort of work on Queens Gardens including excavation, construction of buildings and structures or changes to hard and soft landscaping, and to keep a record of changes to a place.

7.9.1 *Heritage Approvals*

General Exemptions

DERM has a list of pre-approved works known as General Exemptions which cover minor repair and maintenance work such as building maintenance; landscape maintenance; painting; and minor repairs. Other General Exemptions would also apply to Queens Gardens for Temporary Structures, Signage, Services and Safety and Security. Most relevant to the management of Queens Gardens is the Landscape Works section of General Exemption G1 which has been extracted and is presented below. Other exemptions are available under G2-G5 for specific applications and should be referred to.

Copies of General Exemption Certificates G1, G2, G3, G4 and G5 can be found at *Annex D*.

General Exemption G1 - Landscape Works

The following landscape maintenance works are permitted under this General Exemption (G1) and are exempt development under s.35 (4) of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.

1. the processes of gardening, namely:- weeding, watering, mowing, topdressing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead trees and plants, replanting the same species or cultivar, disease and pest control and fertilising necessary for the continued health of plants;
2. replanting to conserve the significant landscape character or planting theme;
3. in the event of the loss of any significant planting, replanting with the same species;

4. pruning to control size, improve shape, flowering or fruiting and the removal of diseased, dead or dangerous material, not exceeding 20% of the crown of a tree within a period of 2 years; and
5. maintenance of existing hard landscape elements including roads, driveways, tennis courts, pools, paths, fences, gates, walls, edges, pavilions, arbours and gazebos, bush houses and the like, drains, water reticulation facilities and other utilities.

Policy 62: Ensure the management and operational staff at Queens Gardens has an understanding of available General Exemptions affecting its maintenance and management and when these can be applied.

Exemption Certificates

Exemption Certificates are required for minor development works, for example:

- minor alteration of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; and
- minor alterations to layout, garden walls and edges, surfaces, contours, plant species, or other significant landscape features.

Policy 63: An Exemption Certificate should be obtained from DERM for minor development works considered to have a low impact on the site.

Applications to DERM

For more extensive development which is likely to have an impact on the cultural heritage significance of the place, a development application will need to be lodged. Through this system, applications for development in a registered place are lodged directly by the Townsville City Council with DERM for assessment. In Queens Park, an application would be required for:

- removal, major alteration or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; and
- damage or major alterations to layout, garden walls and edges, surfaces, contours, plant species, or other significant landscape features.

Policy 64: A Development Application should be lodged for major development works which will impact on the heritage values of the place, such as alterations to early and original fabric.

7.9.2 *Building Approvals*

Development works such as the installation of new services should comply with current building regulations and planning controls. Locals Councils are required to obtain building certification through an independent building certifier.

Policy 65: The Townsville City Council should obtain independent certification for any building works in Queens Gardens.

7.9.3 *Documenting Change*

Articles 31 of the Burra Charter recommend documenting changes and keeping records of a heritage place. The level of recording should be appropriate to the level of change. The greater the proposed change the more detailed the recording. The DERM guidelines for archival recording include the preparation of measured drawings of the site which include:

- A location plan;
- A site plan (1:500 or 1:200);
- A floor plan/s (1:100 or 1:50); and
- Any other significant details (1:20 or 1:10).

Photographic recording may also be useful prior to any alterations on site. Photographic recording should include negatives and proof sheets of black and white and colour photographs in 35mm. Specific photographs should include:

- General views to and from the site;
- Relationship of the place to its surroundings;
- Record of individual features including close ups and contextual photographs of the item; and
- Any significant details.

Policy 66: Records of changes to Queens Gardens should be retained by the Townsville City Council, and copies forwarded to the DERM for retention in their files and John Oxley Library for archiving.

7.10 *CHCMP LODGEMENT AND REVIEW*

It is important that the CHCMP be readily available to Queens Gardens' management, contractors and heritage authorities, and for the CHCMP to remain up to date.

7.10.1 *Lodgement of documents*

Article 32 of the Burra Charter recommends records associated with a place should be placed in a permanent archive and be made publically available. Storage in a public library, state archive or government department are options.

Policy 67: This conservation plan along with any additional conservation works documentation should be submitted to DERM, John Oxley Library and Townsville City Council Library as a record of conservation policy.

7.10.2 *Review of CHCMP*

While the current management and operations of Queens Gardens are not anticipated to change in the short term, if in the future change does occur, it is important the CHCMP is updated to reflect this change and help guide future management.

Policy 68: This CHCMP should be revised and updated if the use, ownership or management of Queens Gardens should change, or every ten years.

7.11 *MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE*

7.11.1 *Cyclical Maintenance Schedule*

This section provides a strategy for the Townsville City Council as the trustees of Queens Gardens to ensure its continuing care and conservation of its heritage values. The desirable standard of maintenance depends on the intensity of use and climatic conditions.

Maintenance at Queens Gardens should ideally be tackled by routines of daily operations and monthly, annual and quinquennial (five yearly) inspections, followed by brief reports. Examination of the setting and the extant features of the site should be carried out systematically by the Townsville City Council through the Queens Gardens Curator Townsville Botanic Gardens and Executive Manager Parks Services, Community and Environmental Services. The building maintenance schedule is to be undertaken by Property Services of Townsville City Council.

The following is an indication of what needs to be done at Queens Gardens to ensure issues that may have an impact on heritage values are mitigated.

7.11.2 *Daily and Weekly Routine*

- Rubbish collection;
- Remove debris and clear pathways;
- Rake playground sandpits;
- Watering; and
- Weed and insect spraying.

7.11.3 *Monthly Routine*

Each month, a delegated person should walk around the site and take note of and action the following:

- quality of fountain water;
- unauthorised entry;
- vandalism;
- presence of vermin;
- uncontrolled vegetation;
- wind and water damage; and
- evidence of disease and insect activity.

7.11.4 *Annual Routine*

Once a year, a more thorough walkover of the site should be undertaken, specifically targeting the following:

Gardens

- Condition of paving, paving edges and perimeter fences;
- Condition of all lawn surfaces, trees and shrubs;
- Condition of rubbish receptacles, drinking fountains, seating and playground equipment;

- Condition of directional and information signs;
- Condition of irrigation system; and
- Check and clear stormwater pits and drains.

Buildings

- Inspect buildings (outside and inside), include gutters, rainwater disposal outlets and gulley traps;
- Check all building timber elements for rot, borer or termite infestation. Look in subfloor and roof spaces;
- Check ceiling spaces for dust, dirt, birds nests and vermin activity;
- Arrange the inspection and checking of fire fighting equipment for operation and currency;
- Inspection and checking of all electrical services for operation and currency; and
- All plumbing lines and drainage of all sinks, basins, showers, urinals and toilets.

7.11.5 *Quinquennial (Five Yearly) Routine*

Every five years a landscape architect/heritage practitioner should make a full report on the site. Any structural defects that should be kept under observation should be noted and the cyclical maintenance plan should be updated drawing attention to any defects or where further study might be required. Proposed actions should be prioritised and recorded in a maintenance log book:

1. Small items (basically good house keeping);
2. Repairs to electrical, plumbing and drainage services;
3. A rolling program of long term preventive maintenance carried out year by year; and
4. Major items of renewal within the gardens such as large trees and relaying pathways and on buildings to include roofs, walls, windows and doors.

The scope of a typical quinquennial inspection would be consistent with the list of items set out in the annual inspection.

REFERENCES

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Queensland Heritage Register (2010). Entry 600067 "Brisbane Botanic Gardens"

Townsville City Council Website (2010). www.townsville.qld.gov.au

Annex A

QHR Entry



Queens Gardens

Place Details

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Place ID | 601765 |
| Place Name | Queens Gardens |
| Alternative Name | |
| Place Classification | Built Landscape |
| Place Category | Parks / Gardens / Trees |
| Place Type | Garden - botanic |
| Place Components | Garden - rock / Rockery Garden/Grounds Garden - ornamental/flower Garden - native Garden - bed/s Garden furniture/seating Garden - rainforest Garden - layout |

Location

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Address | Paxton Street |
| Property Name | |
| Town / Suburb | NORTH WARD |
| Post Code | 4810 |
| LGA | TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL |
| Context Study Region | North Region |

Cultural Significance

Principle Period
of Significance

Criterion A

Townsville's Queens Gardens demonstrates the development and continued management of a botanic garden in a regional city as a significant theme in the evolution and pattern of Queensland's history. The place has fulfilled the traditional functions of a botanic garden, including increasing horticultural knowledge about local plants with a view to developing their economic potential, sharing of

- Criterion D this knowledge and seed stock nationally with like-minded institutions, and providing an attractive and educative venue for public recreation. As a regional botanic garden and part of the Queensland botanic gardens network, Queens Gardens has maintained a position within a national and international network of botanic gardens of which the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London, was the originating hub.
- Criterion E The place is an important example of a Queensland botanic garden and demonstrates the principal characteristics of a substantial tropical public botanic garden that has evolved over time. Founded on consistent ideological principles, Townsville Queens Gardens, as part of the Queensland botanic gardens network, is a clear and identifiable type of place, with congruous hard and soft landscape features being a consistent part of the design.
- Criterion G The combination of mature vegetation, open lawns and well-kept gardens provides an oasis close to the city centre. The gardens offer sensory aesthetic experiences engendered by the visual, auditory and olfactory qualities of the place that have been appreciated by the community over a long period of time. The gardens are enhanced by the landmark quality of Castle Hill's [QHR 601218] granite rock face, an important feature of the southeast-northwest vista.
- The place, established as both a scientific and a pleasure garden, has continued this association and has evolved as a focus for community events. It has social significance as a long-used and popular reserve for public recreation.

History

- History Queens Gardens is the surviving 10 acre (4ha) remnant of Townsville's former 100 acre (40.5ha) Botanical Gardens Reserve (Queens Park) proclaimed on 14 June 1870. Nineteenth century gazetted botanic gardens were more commonly known as Queens Parks, named in commemoration of Queen Victoria who reigned as Monarch of the British Empire from 1836 to 1901. These places attracted strong public patronage and each was considered the premium park of a town. The first Queens Park was a section of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens. A subsequent botanic garden at Ipswich was called Queens Park. From its beginning the gardens at Townsville have evolved in area, planning and design, as well as through their plant collection and community use. Initially the reserve was established to serve and support the role specific to Botanic Gardens across the country, which focused on botany as science, economic botany, education of the public about plants and horticulture and ornamental botany. The first of these functions for botanic gardens was a response to increasing nineteenth century interest in a scientific understanding of the natural world, where widespread enthusiasm for plant identification and cultivation had developed after the industrial revolution. Economic botany refers to the cultivation of plants within the botanic garden's exotic environment with a view to contributing to the economy of the local region and the colony as a whole, and involved acclimatising, cultivating and testing plants of commercial value. Ornamental botany recognised that human perspectives on nature were not totally focused on use, but also on the more aesthetic qualities of

horticulture. By the end of the nineteenth century, an international network of regional botanic gardens was established, extending throughout the British Empire, and with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew as the key centre for botanical information and collections. Gardens were established in most major towns in Queensland, with Townsville's Botanic Gardens being included on an 1868 survey plan. However, the size of the original reserve in Townsville and its proximity to the city centre resulted in town planning leases and excising of reserve land to accommodate public recreation and institutions. The first successful incursion into the reserve was made by the Townsville Cricket Club, which applied for space in the northeast corner of the Gardens to build a pitch. A major division of the Garden Reserve took place in 1886 when the Trustees of the Grammar School were granted 10 acres on Paxton Street. In exchange, the Minister of Lands accepted the 25 acre Norman Reserve, a Reserve for Grammar School Purposes, in the name of the Botanical Gardens Trustees. The Norman Reserve, which was located nearby on Kissing Point, was never utilised as a Botanical Reserve and was included in the Reserve for Defence Purposes established on Kissing Point in 1889. In the same year that the Botanic Gardens was gazetted as a park (1887), Burke Street was extended through the Reserve to Paxton Street. Significant incursions into the reserve included a Gaol Reserve and Reserve for a Lunatic Reception House in the southeast corner (1885) and a reserve for sport and recreation (12 acres in 1899). By 1915 the Reserve was reduced to 35 acres, with leases being issued to the Croquet Club (1924). The final carving up of the Botanical Gardens took place in 1948 when part of the reserve was leased to the Townsville Bowling Club and part excised as a recreation reserve. The Botanical Gardens was thus reduced to 10 acres (4ha), its present size. The Townsville Municipal Council initially received no government funding for the gardens and did little towards getting them established. Funding continued to be a problem even after 1878 when William Anderson was appointed as the first 'curator and practical gardener'. Anderson resided on site in a cottage constructed for his appointment until he retired in 1934. At this time, a new cottage was built and the original cottage was reused as a nursery. Anderson was given no power to purchase plants nor was he given funds to establish the gardens. By 1880, because of the Municipal Council's inaction, the gardens had been removed from its control and trustees appointed by the Queensland government. Among these trustees was Thomas Allen Gulliver jnr, who had previously collected botanical material in Tasmania and North Queensland for Baron Von Mueller, Curator of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens and later Victorian Government Botanist. Thomas Gulliver and his brother, Benjamin Thomas Gulliver, had several plants collected from the Gulf of Carpentaria and Arnhem Land named in their honour. Baron von Mueller devoted his life to the study of systematic biology, and was the finest botanist in the southern hemisphere, describing and naming over 2000 Australian species and distributing Australian plants across the world. Improvements in funding for the Townsville Botanic Gardens followed the appointment of trustees and, as planting and landscaping gradually proceeded, the gardens became a popular place for picnics and

concerts. The Queensland Acclimatisation Society, which was formed in 1862, supplied initial plantings. Trees were also supplied from Anthelme le Thozet's garden of exotic trees and shrubs in Rockhampton. le Thozet was internationally renowned as a collector of plant specimens, and is most remembered for Muellerville, the experimental garden where he cultivated many trees and plants in order to determine their economic value and suitability for Queensland's tropical climate. Other trees were sent from Brisbane to Townsville by Walter Hill, the Curator of the Brisbane Botanical Gardens, who had visited Townsville in 1873. Walter Hill made a major contribution to the development of commercial crops in Queensland, supported the work of the Queensland Acclimatisation Society and was instrumental in establishing the Queensland network of botanic gardens. However, funding for the Townsville Botanic Gardens continued to be scarce and the curator was forced to introduce charges for the use of the gardens for public functions, picnics and musical entertainments. Nevertheless, William Anderson was able to supply young trees to various bodies around North Queensland. Under a government subsidy scheme plants were supplied to the Ravenswood Park Committee, state schools at Croydon, Irvinebank and Black Jack and to many groups around Townsville. Plants were also exchanged with Botanical Gardens in Melbourne, Brisbane, Rockhampton and Port Darwin. Anderson managed Queens Gardens within the parameters for which it was established as a trial garden for tropical economic plants. Some of the earliest recorded exotic fruit plantings included an acre of grape vines, along with cocoa nut trees (1896), coffee (1889), breadfruit (1899) and mangoes. Timber species included mahogany (1887), hoop pines and red cedar (1892). The majority of tropical tree species were planted around the perimeter of the gardens and included various figs, rain trees and an avenue of black bean. The Agricultural and Pastoral exhibits of the first Townsville exhibition were held in August 1880 at the Botanical Gardens Reserve. In 1893 the Council again took over responsibility for the gardens. Planting and landscaping gradually improved during the gardens' formative years and by 1894, the place was involved in propagation, experimentation and exchange thus contributing to the network of botanical gardens. Initially the gardens focussed on the traditional functions for botanic gardens, however the late nineteenth century saw the introduction of the popular Paradise style, which gave the gardens a pleasure ground image. In 1898, after various conflicts over the management of the Gardens, the Townsville Municipal Council successfully requested the resignation of the trustees. From that time on the Gardens were maintained as a park, rather than botanical gardens. The gardens became extremely popular with local residents during the 1880s and 1890s. Council records indicate that in 1890 the Rose Bud Club held a Gypsy Tea in Queens Gardens. Further photographic evidence of a garden party given by Baron Northcote, the Governor General circa 1905 and another event circa 1916 support the view that the gardens were utilised early as a place for special events. The proximity to the General Hospital also resulted in heavy visitor use. A Bush-house designed by local architects and civil engineers Tunbridge and Tunbridge was constructed in 1889. This structure and a Kiosk were destroyed by

Cyclone Leonta in March 1903 and the 1878 curator's cottage badly damaged. Photographs reveal that the central avenue with line of sight to Castle Hill was a feature by 1890. Former structures include an orchid house, a hipped roof aviary (c.1938) and the 1878 curator's cottage. Evidence of ornament artefacts includes a moulded terrazzo urn (1957) as the central focus of the formal gardens and a large arched trellis as a feature of the rose garden. The urn originally featured a statue in its centre and four stylised birds surrounding its rim. Queens Park was utilised as a military base for both Australian and American units during World War II. No. 6 Transportation and Movements Office, 800 Brigade Military Police Company D and a Stockade were based in Queens Park during 1942-1945. Initially accommodation was in tents until demountable buildings were constructed. During this period the large trees were preserved. In 1959 the Council employed Alan Wilson, former Assistant Landscape Architect with the Brisbane City Parks Department, to redesign the Gardens as Superintendent of Parks and Reserves for Townsville. Photographic evidence indicates that Queens Park continued in a limited capacity as an experimental botanic garden until the 1959 redesign. It was renamed Queens Gardens at this time to honour Queen Elizabeth II. Jim Thomas, former superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney and trained in the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, succeeded Alan Wilson as Superintendent in 1968. Thomas continued to maintain the Wilson designed Queens Gardens and was instrumental in saving many nineteenth century trees after cyclone Althea severely damaged the gardens in 1971. In the latter half of the twentieth century, the gardens gained further popularity as a venue for ceremonies such as weddings and major events, including VP50 celebrations and the annual Eco Fiesta. Except for a few minor modifications, the 1959 layout of the gardens has been maintained.

Description

Designer Name

Style

Period Convict settlement (1824 - 1841)

Builder Name

Construction Date

Constuction Method

Fabric (Exterior Structure)

Fabric (Roof)

Roof Form

Description

Townsville's Queens Gardens has a formal mid-twentieth century design in which early Victorian elements have been retained. These include open lawns, a small zoological section and formal garden beds. Castle Hill forms a dramatic backdrop to the Gardens, complementing the placement of trees, shrubs, and decorative

bedding plants. The Queens Gardens planting is organised on both an ecological and generic system. On the perimeter are straight avenues of tropical rainforest trees planted in 1887. Dominating the eastern boundary is an avenue of black bean (*Castanospermum australe*), some of which are original plantings. Along the southern boundary in the precinct known as the rainforest walk are a variety of botanical, historical and visually significant trees such as the mahogany tree from the West Indies (*Swietenia mahogoni*), the large banyan (*Ficus retusa*); the rain tree (*Samanea saman*); and the native carbeen (*Eucalyptus tessellaris*). The rainforest walk contains about 166 species of trees, shrubs and groundcovers, representative of the dry rainforest environments of North Queensland. The main entrance to the Gardens is via the north-west entry gate on Paxton Street. The gate and fence consist of red brick gateposts and black-painted metal fence and gates. The second entrance is via the south-west entry gate on Gregory Street. A pedestrian path system comprises two tertiary paths, being the southeast-northwest and northeast-southwest paths in a classic 'T' layout. The secondary path system circumnavigates and connects the 'T' axis. The formal entrance draws pedestrians down the southeast-northwest axis, which is flanked on either side by mirrored golden cane palms, formal annual beds and mazes. The granite rock face of Castle Hill dominates the vista of the southeast-northwest pedestrian path. The southeast-northwest and northeast-southwest paths intersect the central axis fountain, which is enclosed by a vine arbour and seating. Adjacent to the central fountain feature is a significant mango (*Mangifera indica*) and governors plum trees (*Flacourtia jangomas*). The northern quadrant of the site contains a number of significant structures, artefacts and plantings. Aviaries and an adjacent vine arbour are a popular feature of the gardens, housing a variety of native parrots and farm birds. Behind the aviaries is the relocated and altered curators cottage (c.1878 and 1934). North of the aviaries past a herb garden is the secluded rose garden, which is enclosed on one side by columns transferred from the original Townsville Town Hall. This layout is a copy of the early twentieth century formal garden and includes the moulded terrazzo urn (1957) as the central focus. The south-eastern half of the garden comprises open lawns and shady trees. Many of the trees in this area have historic and botanic significance, for example the hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) and tamarind (*Tamarindus indicus*). A small playground with a few simple swings is located in the far northern corner, with easy access via Kennedy Lane. The playground is not considered to be of cultural heritage significance.

Keywords

Keywords

Images



| | |
|--------------|--|
| Description | 2. Main entry looking towards Paxton St and Castle Hil |
| Media Author | |
| Media Date | |
| Copyright | DERM |

Information about places in the Queensland Heritage Register is maintained by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. Information available here is only part of the full Register entry and should not be taken as an official entry. Absence does not mean a particular place is not in the Register.

[Certified copies](#) of the full entries in the Register are available for a fee.

You can also [search the full Register](#) for a fee to find out if a place or parcel of land is listed or otherwise affected by the Act.

Last updated: 04 April 2006

Annex B

Significance Maps - Structure And Layout



- LEGEND**
- High Significance
 - Moderate Significance
 - Low Significance
 - Nil Significance
 - Intrusive

PAXTON STREET

GREGORY STREET

| A | xx.05.2010 | Draft Preliminary |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Issue | Date | Amendment |
| TITLE | | |
| SIGNIFICANCE PLAN - STRUCTURE AND LAYOUT QUEENS GARDEN, TOWNVILLE | | |
| CLIENT Townsville City Council | | |
| DRAWN NH | DATE MAY 2010 | |
| SCALE 1200 @ A1 | ISSUE A | |
| DRAWING NO. 0116465.FIG01 | | |



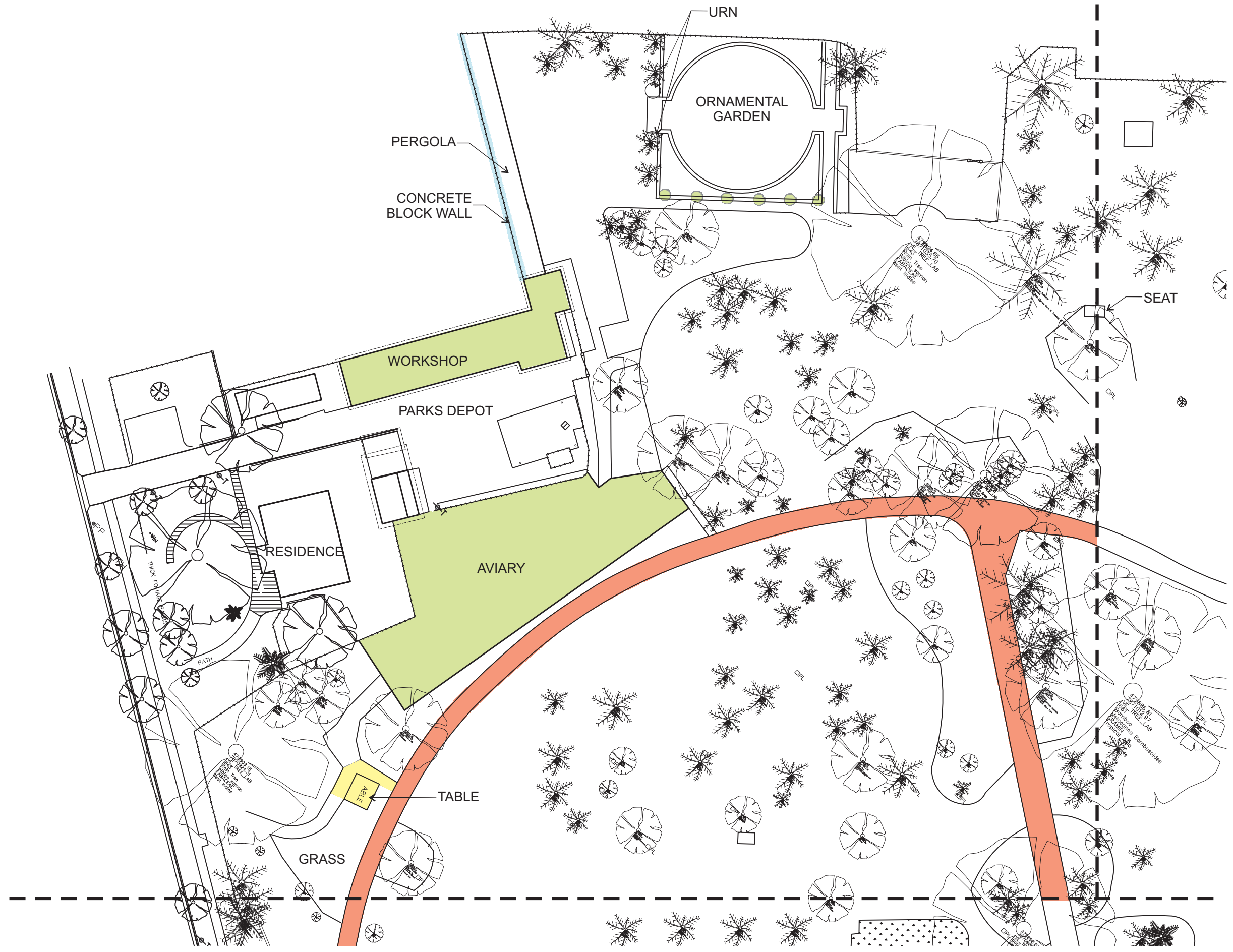
Environmental Resources
Management Australia Pty. Ltd.
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SPRING HILL, QLD
AUSTRALIA 4000
TELEPHONE 61-7 3839 8899
FACSIMILE 61-7 3839 8881



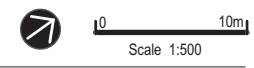
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LEGEND






- High Significance
- Moderate Significance
- Low Significance
- Nil Significance
- Intrusive

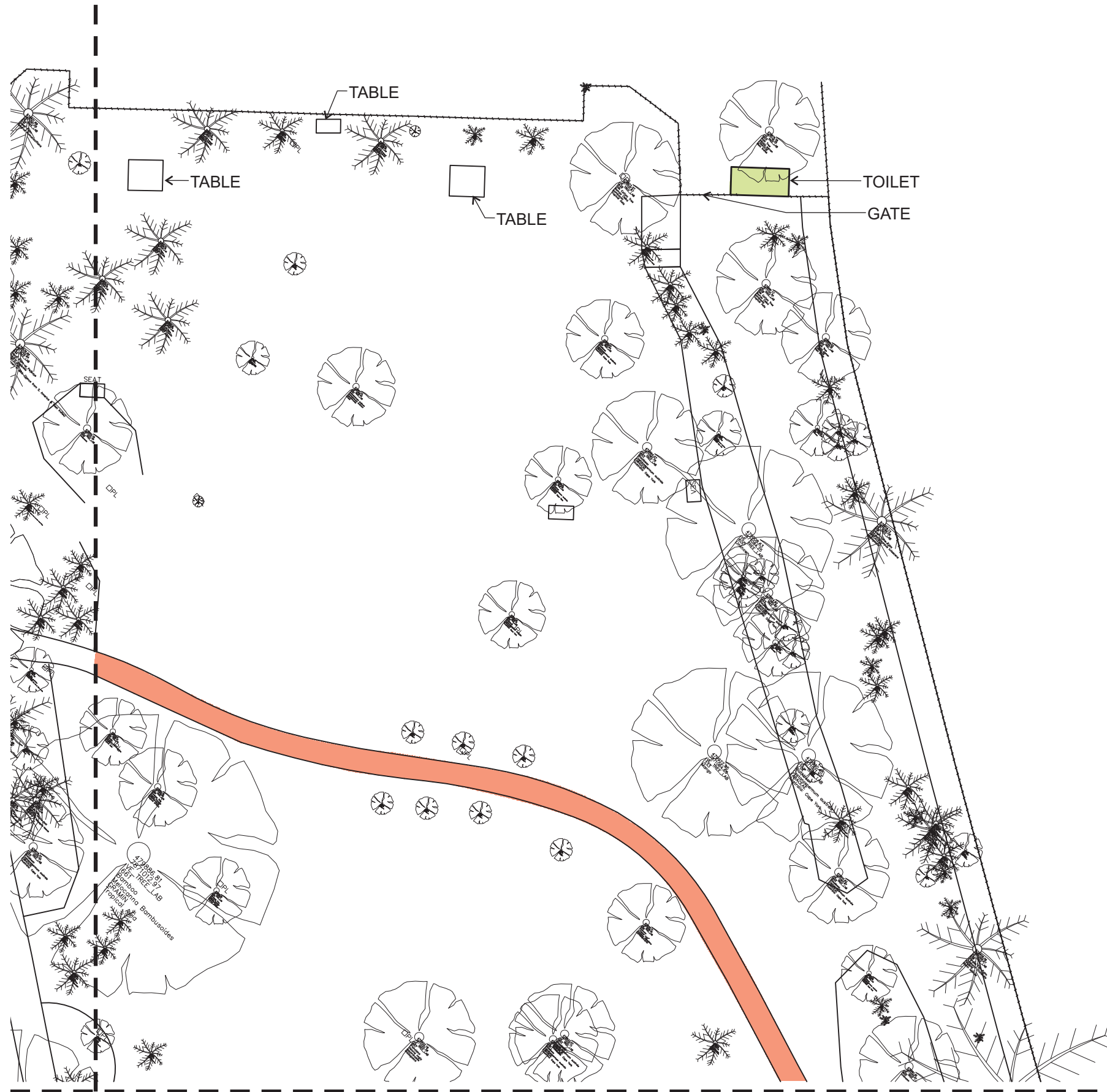


| A | xx.05.2010 | Draft Preliminary |
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| CLIENT Townsville City Council | | |
| DRAWN NH | DATE MAY 2010 | |
| SCALE 1200 @ A1 | ISSUE A | |
| DRAWING NO. 0116465.FIG02 | | |



LEGEND

-  High Significance
-  Moderate Significance
-  Low Significance
-  Nil Significance
-  Intrusive

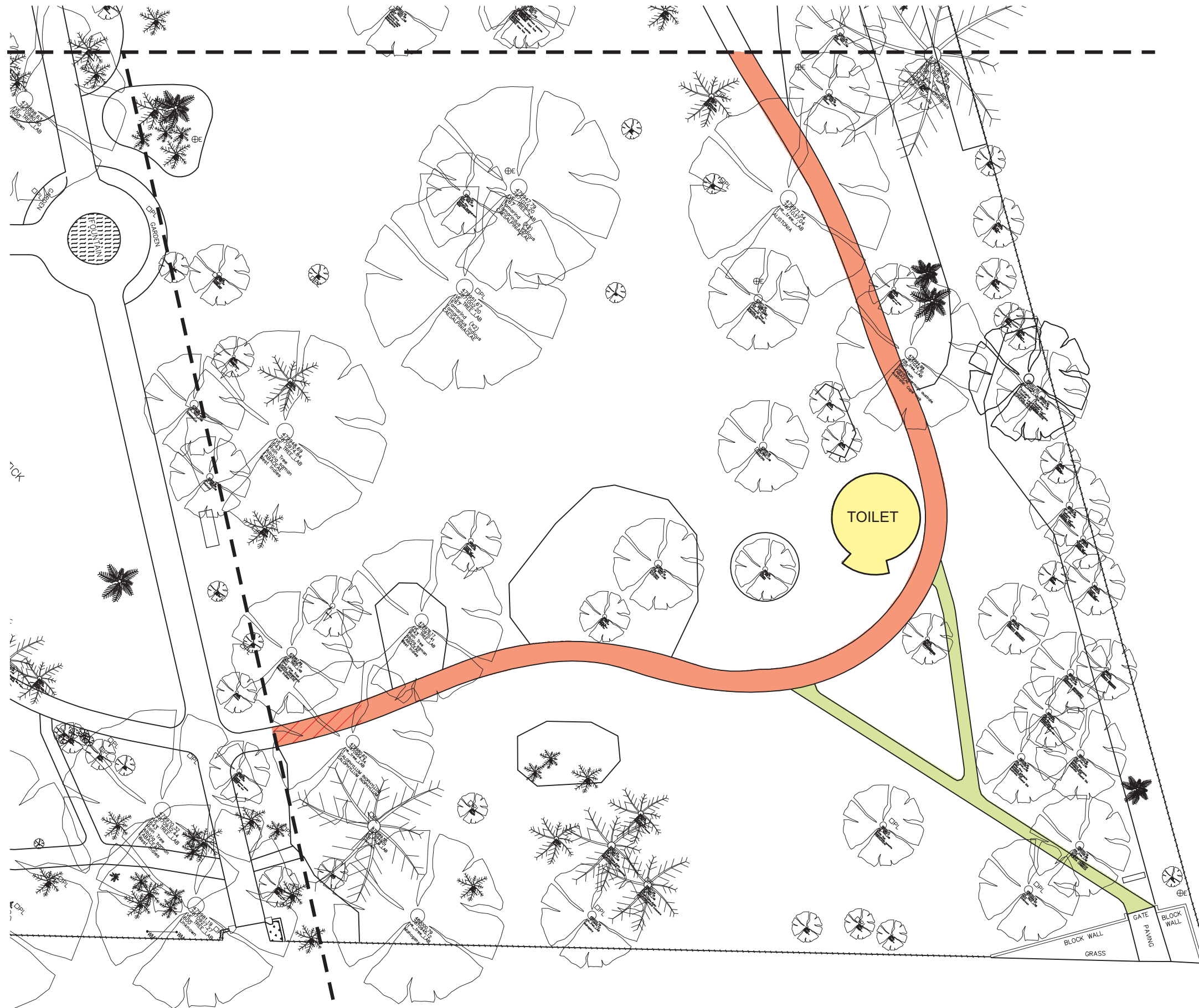


| A | xx.05.2010 | Draft Preliminary |
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| CLIENT Townsville City Council | | |
| DRAWN NH | DATE MAY 2010 | |
| SCALE 1200 @ A1 | ISSUE A | |
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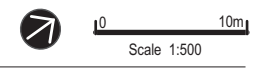


LEGEND

- High Significance
- Moderate Significance
- Low Significance
- Nil Significance
- Intrusive



| A | xx.05.2010 | Draft Preliminary |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
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| CLIENT Townsville City Council | | |
| DRAWN NH | DATE MAY 2010 | |
| SCALE 1200 @ A1 | ISSUE A | |
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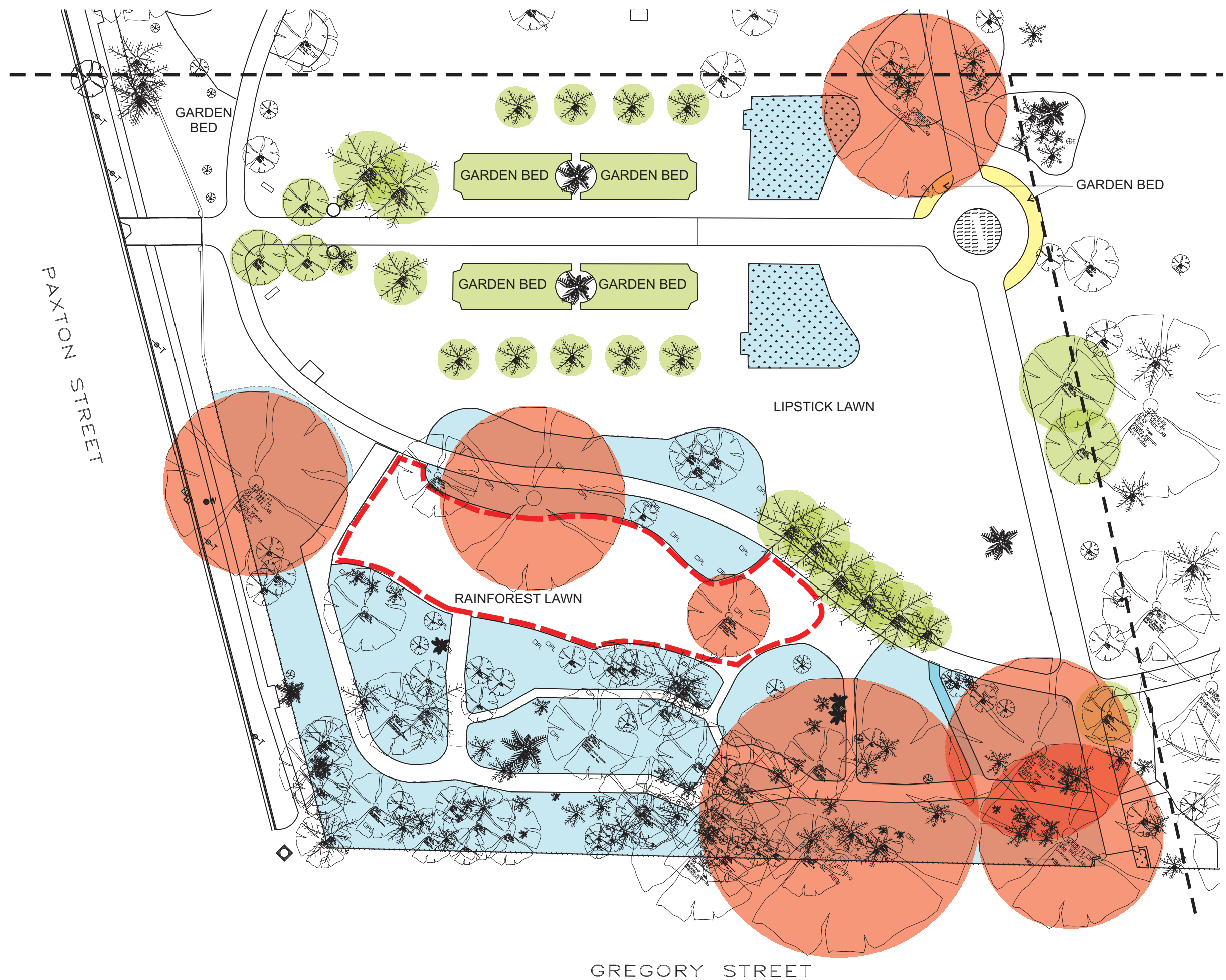
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GREGORY STREET

Annex C

Significance Maps - Plantings



LEGEND

- High Significance - Tree
- High Significance - Grass Area
- Moderate Significance
- Low Significance
- Nil Significance
- Intrusive

| A | xx.05.2010 | Draft Preliminary |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Issue | Date | Amendment |
| TITLE SIGNIFICANCE PLAN - PLANTING QUEENS GARDEN, TOWNVILLE | | |
| CLIENT Townsville City Council | | |
| DRAWN NH | DATE JUNE 2010 | |
| SCALE 1200 @ A3 | ISSUE A | |
| DRAWING NO. 0116465.FIG01 | | |



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GREGORY STREET

PAXTON STREET

GARDEN BED

GARDEN BED

GARDEN BED

GARDEN BED

GARDEN BED

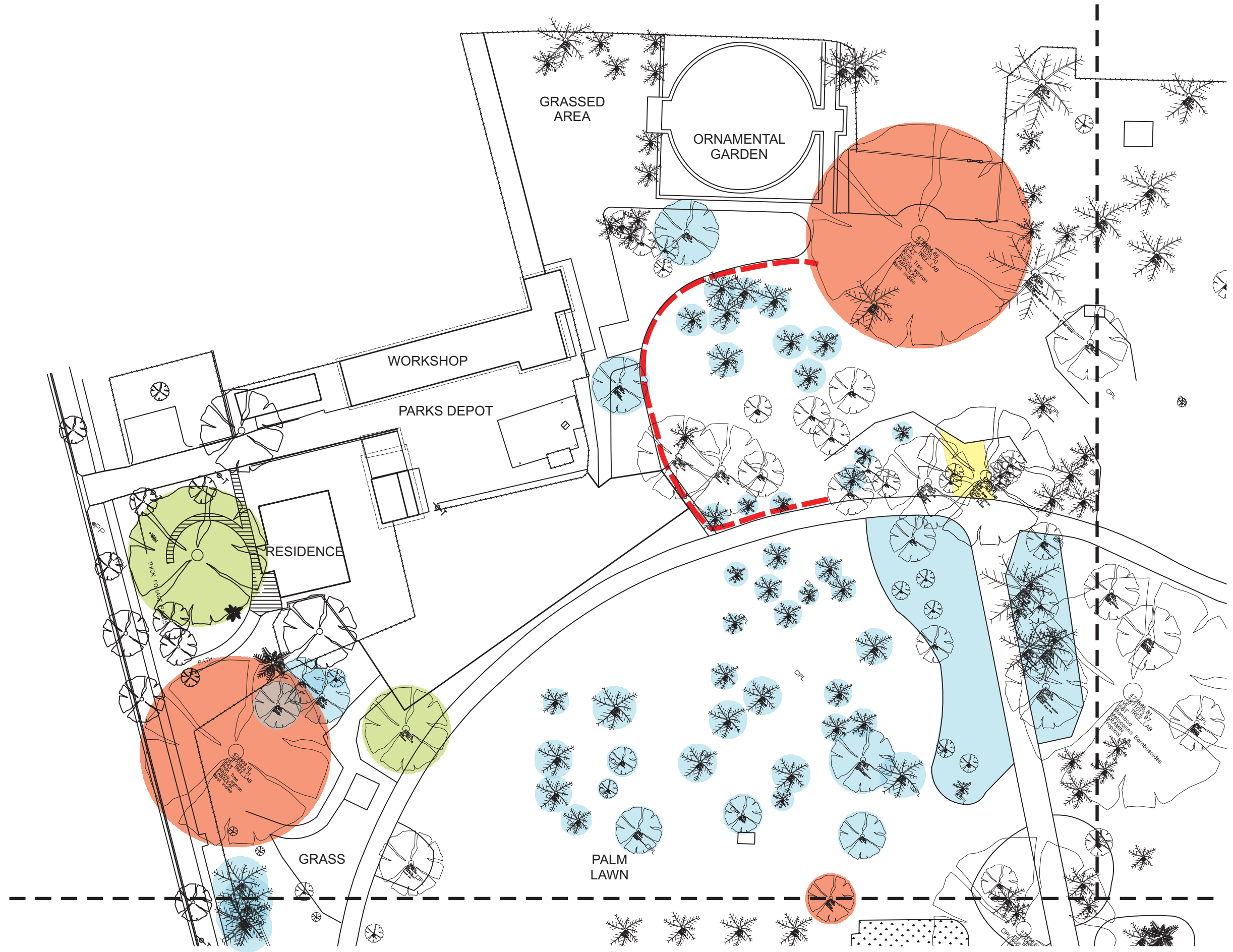
GARDEN BED

LIPSTICK LAWN

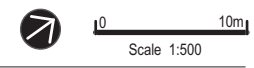
RAINFOREST LAWN

LEGEND

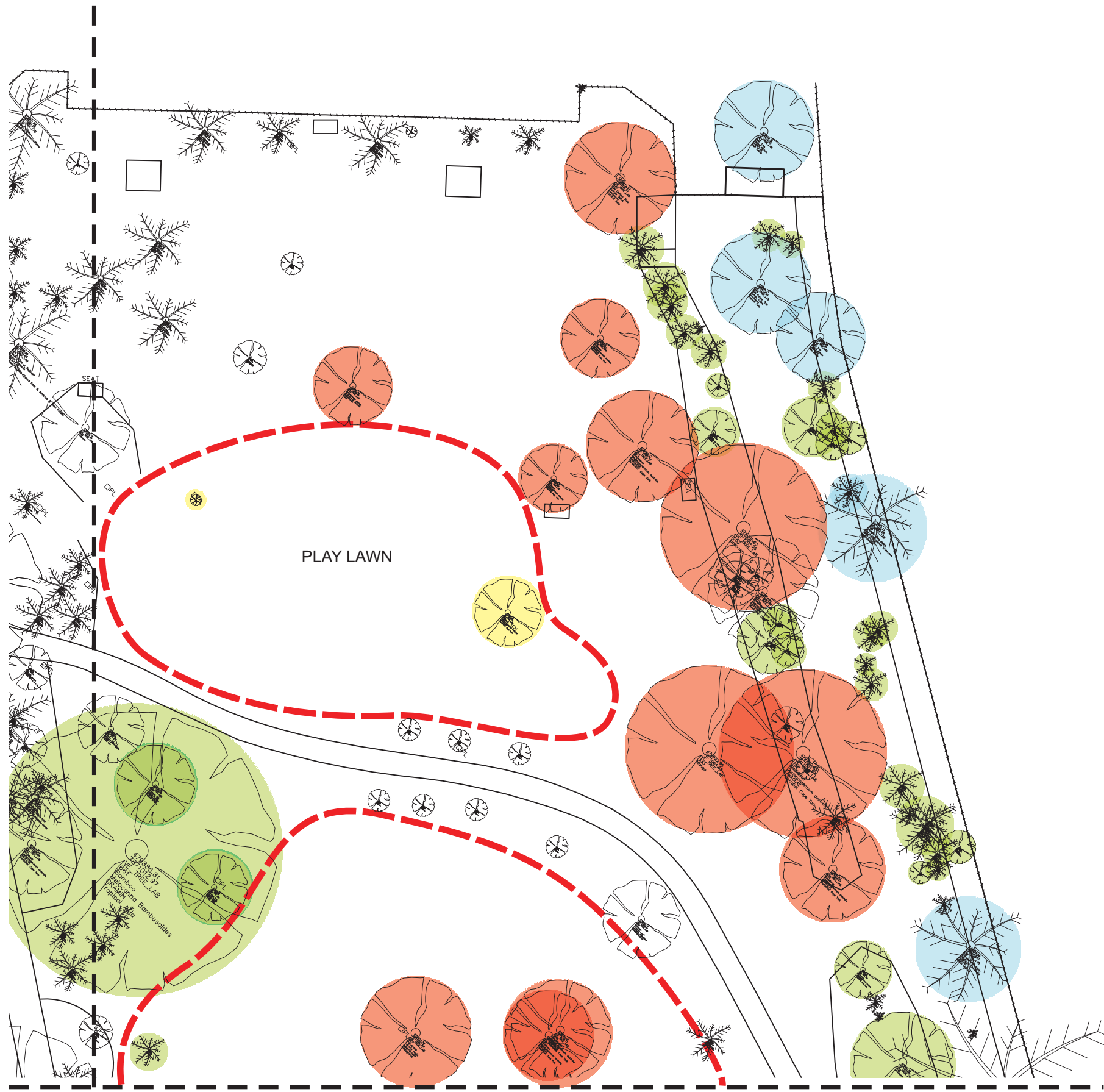
- High Significance - Tree
- High Significance - Grass Area
- Moderate Significance
- Low Significance
- Nil Significance
- Intrusive



| A | xx.05.2010 | Draft Preliminary |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Issue | Date | Amendment |
| TITLE SIGNIFICANCE PLAN - PLANTING QUEENS GARDEN, TOWNSVILLE | | |
| CLIENT Townsville City Council | | |
| DRAWN NH | DATE JUNE 2010 | |
| SCALE 1200 @ A3 | ISSUE A | |
| DRAWING NO. 0116465.FIG02 | | |



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LEGEND

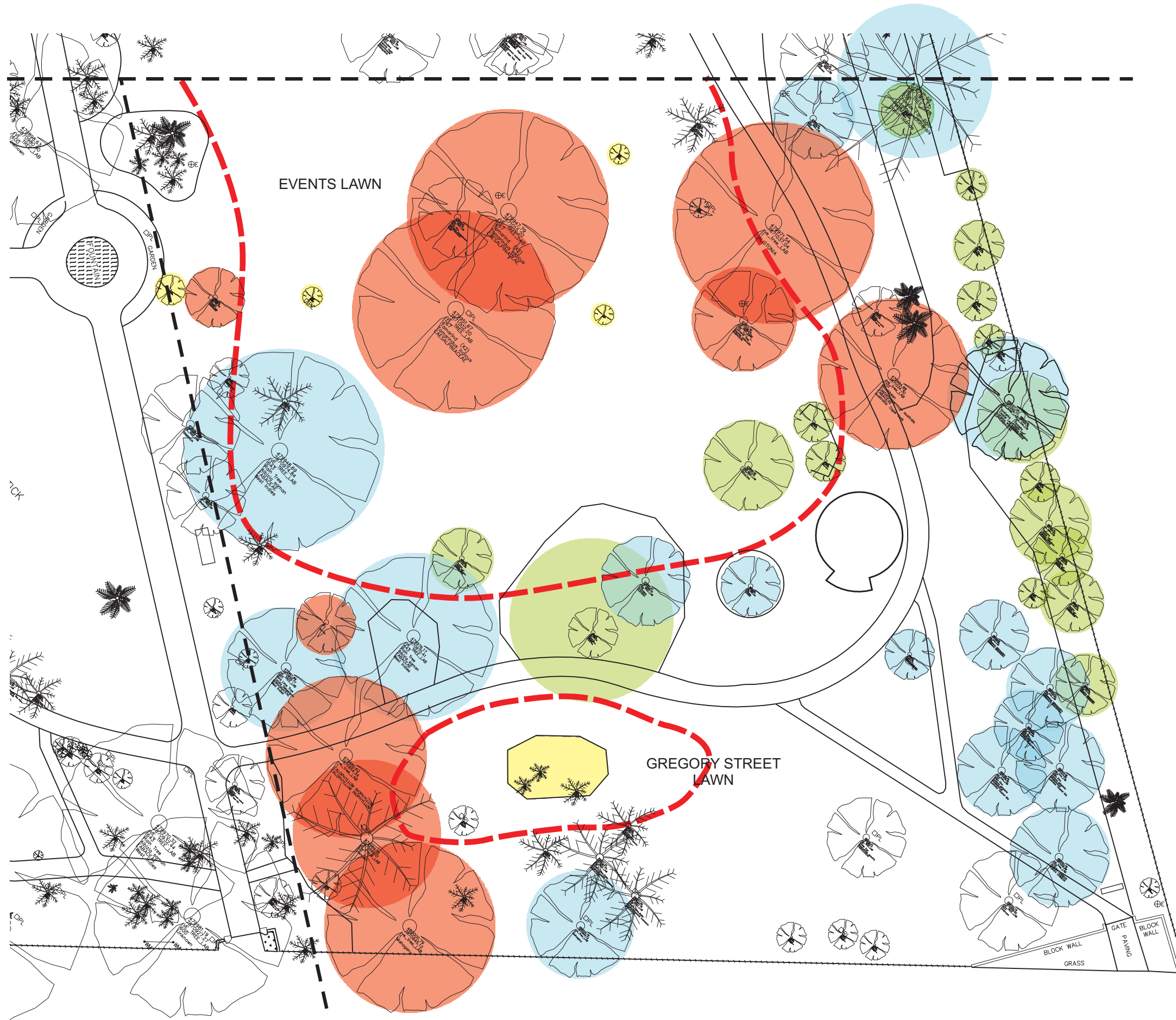
- High Significance - Tree
- High Significance - Grass Area
- Moderate Significance
- Low Significance
- Nil Significance
- Intrusive

| A | xx.05.2010 | Draft Preliminary |
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| DRAWN NH | DATE JUNE 2010 | |
| SCALE 1200 @ A3 | ISSUE A | |
| DRAWING NO. 0116465.FIG03 | | |

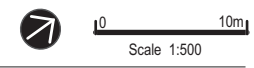


LEGEND

- High Significance - Tree
- High Significance - Grass Area
- Moderate Significance
- Low Significance
- Nil Significance
- Intrusive



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| CLIENT Townsville City Council | | |
| DRAWN NH | DATE JUNE 2010 | |
| SCALE 1200 @ A3 | ISSUE A | |
| DRAWING NO. 0116465.FIG04 | | |



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GREGORY STREET

Annex D

General Exemption Certificates

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION (G1)

This certificate
Exemption Certificate – General Exemption (G1)
is issued by the Queensland Heritage Council
under s.37 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and
applies to all places in the Queensland Heritage Register
except those places expressly excluded by
the Queensland Heritage Council pursuant to a notice of revocation.



John Brannock
Chair, Queensland Heritage Council
Resolution 170.55
3 December 2004

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
GENERAL EXEMPTION (G1)

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| Landscape maintenance exemption | page 5 |
| Painting exemption | page 6 |
| Minor repairs exemption | page 7 |
| Conditions | page 8 |
| List of General Exemption (G1) Guidelines | page 8 |

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION (G1)

PREAMBLE

DEVELOPMENT IN A REGISTERED PLACE

All development in a privately-owned registered place, unless it is emergency work, requires approval by the Queensland Heritage Council under a development permit or an exemption certificate.

All development by the State in a registered place, unless it is emergency work or covered by an exemption certificate, requires a recommendation by the Queensland Heritage Council.

An exemption certificate is issued for development that does not cause detriment to or impact on the cultural heritage significance of a registered place. Development carried out in accordance with an exemption certificate does not require any further approval by the Queensland Heritage Council.

GENERAL EXEMPTION (G1)

This **Exemption Certificate – General Exemption (G1)** applies to all places in the Queensland Heritage Register. The development listed in this Exemption Certificate is approved by the Queensland Heritage Council as exempt development under s.35(4) and s.37 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. It may be undertaken without further approval by the Queensland Heritage Council provided it is carried out in accordance with this Exemption Certificate and corresponding guidelines (as amended from time to time).

The General Exemption (G1) applies only to specified development in the following categories:

- ▶ building maintenance;
- ▶ landscape maintenance;
- ▶ painting; and
- ▶ minor repairs.

The development must be carried out doing as much work as is necessary to repair and secure and to make a place function, but as little as possible, so the history of the place can continue to be recognised in its physical material and not detrimentally impact on the cultural heritage significance of the place.

EFFECTIVE

This **Exemption Certificate – General Exemption (G1)** is effective from 3 December 2004.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
GENERAL EXEMPTION (G1)

Description of exempt development

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

The following building maintenance works are permitted under this General Exemption (G1) and are exempt development under s.35(4) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

1. maintenance of any building, structure or monument where maintenance is the continuous protective care of existing material;
2. maintenance of an item to retain its condition or operation;
3. removal of surface deposits, organic growths or graffiti using low pressure water (less than 100psi at the surface being cleaned) or other non-damaging agent, neutral detergents and mild brushing and scrubbing as appropriate for the surface;
4. clearing of paths and drains; and
5. cleaning undertaken in accordance with the cleaning guideline [General Exemption (G1) guideline G1.1.3].

Building maintenance work does NOT include:

- removal of or damage to existing materials; or
- introduction of new materials.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
GENERAL EXEMPTION (G1)

Description of exempt development

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

The following landscape maintenance works are permitted under this General Exemption (G1) and are exempt development under s.35(4) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

1. the processes of gardening, namely:- weeding, watering, mowing, top-dressing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead trees and plants, replanting the same species or cultivar, disease and pest control and fertilising necessary for the continued health of plants;
2. replanting to conserve the significant landscape character or planting theme;
3. in the event of the loss of any significant planting, replanting with the same species;
4. pruning to control size, improve shape, flowering or fruiting and the removal of diseased, dead or dangerous material, not exceeding 20% of the crown of a tree within a period of 2 years; and
5. maintenance of existing hard landscape elements including roads, driveways, tennis courts, pools, paths, fences, gates, walls, edges, pavilions, arbours and gazebos, bush houses and the like, drains, water reticulation facilities and other utilities.

Landscape maintenance work does NOT include:

- removal, major alteration or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; and
- damage or major alterations to layout, garden walls and edges, surfaces, contours, plant species, or other significant landscape features.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
GENERAL EXEMPTION (G1)

Description of exempt development

PAINTING

The following painting works are permitted under this General Exemption (G1) and are exempt development under s.35(4) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*:

1. painting that uses the existing colour scheme; or
2. painting that uses a documented surface preparation, paint system and colour scheme that has been approved by the Queensland Heritage Council; and
3. painting of an interior area of a building which has been approved by the Queensland Heritage Council as not being of cultural heritage significance.

Painting work in 1. and 2. must also

- use an undercoat over existing paint work as an isolating layer to provide a means of protection for significant earlier layers or to provide a stable basis for repainting; and
- use a paint type or system that is appropriate to the substrate and does not endanger the survival of earlier paint layers; and
- prepare the surface by cleaning, hand scraping and hand sanding only; except that an orbital sander may be used as a smoothing / finishing tool.

Painting work NOT permitted under the General Exemption (G1) includes:

- painting over an original finish; or
- painting over or removing wallpaper that is an original or significant finish; or
- painting over a surface that has never been painted; or
- painting over a varnished surface; or
- removal of all paint to the substrate; or
- disturbance or removal of earlier paint layers other than that which has failed by chalking, flaking, peeling or blistering.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
GENERAL EXEMPTION (G1)

Description of exempt development

MINOR REPAIRS

The following minor repairs are permitted under this General Exemption (G1) and are exempt development under s.35(4) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*:

1. repair or replacement of missing, damaged or deteriorated physical material that is beyond further maintenance and that matches the existing physical material in appearance, material and method of fixing; and
2. replacement of services such as cabling, plumbing, wiring and fire services that use existing service routes, cavities or voids or replace existing surface mounted services.

Repairs MUST

- be based on the principle of doing as little as possible and only as much as is necessary to retain and protect the element;
- maximise protection and retention of physical material and include the conservation of existing detailing; and
- match like with like.

Repairs MUST NOT

- involve a high proportion of the physical material of an element or of the place;
- involve damage to or removal of significant physical material;
- use new materials that exacerbate the decay of existing physical material due to chemical incompatibility;
- obscure existing physical material; or
- limit access to existing physical material for future maintenance.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION (G1)

CONDITIONS

These conditions apply for all exempt development in the categories of building maintenance, landscape maintenance, painting and minor repairs listed in the General Exemption (G1).

1. The only development authorised by this Exemption Certificate is the work listed and described in this certificate issued by the Queensland Heritage Council.
2. The works must only be carried out in accordance with the current approved guidelines.
3. All exempt development is to be planned and carried out in a manner that prevents damage to the physical material of the registered place.
4. If original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place are revealed which relate to its significance, then the exemption covering this development will cease and the Environmental Protection Agency is to be notified as soon as possible.
5. Notwithstanding the granting of this Exemption Certificate the Queensland Heritage Council may revoke the exemption certificate or amend the exemption certificate (including conditions) if the cultural heritage significance of the place is at any time threatened or harmed.
6. This Exemption Certificate is effective from the date of issue until amended or revoked by the Queensland Heritage Council.
7. It is the responsibility of the owner of the registered place to ensure that all development is carried out in accordance with the Exemption Certificate.

NOTE

Nothing in this Exemption Certificate exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning or building approvals from the responsible authorities.

GENERAL EXEMPTION (G1) GUIDELINES

All exempt development must be carried out in accordance with this Exemption Certificate and the corresponding guidelines. These are the General Exemption (G1) guidelines.

| | |
|--|---|
| Exemption certificates: overview | G1.4.1 Minor repairs: approvals – what and why |
| General exemptions: overview | G1.4.2 Minor repairs: metal roofing |
| Lead paint: cautionary note | G1.4.3 Minor repairs: slate and terracotta roof tiles |
| Asbestos: cautionary note | G1.4.4 Minor repairs: timber |
| G1.1.1 Building maintenance: approvals – what and why | G1.4.5 Minor repairs: timber doors and windows |
| G1.1.2 Building maintenance: inspections | G1.4.6 Minor repairs: window and door hardware |
| G1.1.3 Building maintenance: cleaning | G1.4.7 Minor repairs: metal work |
| G1.2.1 Landscape maintenance: approvals – what and why | G1.4.8 Minor repairs: stone / masonry |
| G1.2.2 Landscape maintenance: outline | G1.4.9 Minor repairs: steel framed windows and doors |
| G1.3.1 Painting: approvals – what and why | G1.4.10 Minor repairs: services |
| G1.3.2 Painting: maintenance | |
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EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G2

This certificate
Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G2
is issued by the Queensland Heritage Council
under s.37 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and
applies to all places in the Queensland Heritage Register
except those places expressly excluded by
the Queensland Heritage Council pursuant to a notice of revocation.

David Eades
Chair, Queensland Heritage Council
Resolution 187.27
2 December 2005

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
GENERAL EXEMPTION G2

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EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G2

PREAMBLE

DEVELOPMENT IN A REGISTERED PLACE

All development in a privately-owned registered place, unless it is emergency work, requires approval by the Queensland Heritage Council under a development permit or an exemption certificate.

All development by the State in a registered place, unless it is emergency work or covered by an exemption certificate, requires a recommendation by the Queensland Heritage Council.

An exemption certificate is issued for development that does not cause detriment to or impact on the cultural heritage significance of a registered place. Development carried out in accordance with an exemption certificate does not require any further approval by the Queensland Heritage Council.

GENERAL EXEMPTION G2

This **Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G2** applies to all places in the Queensland Heritage Register. The development listed in this Exemption Certificate is approved by the Queensland Heritage Council as exempt development under s.35(4) and s.37 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. It may be undertaken without further approval by the Queensland Heritage Council provided it is carried out in accordance with this Exemption Certificate and corresponding guidelines (as amended from time to time).

The General Exemption G2 applies only to specified development in the following category:

- ▶ signage

The development must be carried out so as to ensure that existing significant signage and other significant fabric is not damaged or removed and that inappropriate or excessive signage does not detrimentally affect the cultural heritage significance of the place.

EFFECTIVE

This **Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G2** is effective from 2 December 2005.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G2

Description of exempt development

SIGNAGE

Installation of the following signage is permitted under this General Exemption G2 and is exempt development under s.35(4) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

1. temporary signage in a shop window which must
 - be located behind or on the glass surface of a window;
 - not be internally illuminated or flashing;
 - suit the size, scale and design of the place; and
 - not involve fixings which penetrate the significant fabric of the place
2. a real estate sign which is removed within 10 days of the sale or letting of the place;
3. non-illuminated signage to assist in the interpretation of cultural heritage significance of the place; and
4. promotional signage in the form of a flag or banner, a particular flag or banner to be displayed for a maximum period of eight weeks; and
5. additions to existing name-boards such as memorial and honour boards. The additions must match the existing lettering in style, material, size, spacing and colour.

Signage work **MUST**:

- be in accordance with G2 signage guidelines; and
- be able to be removed without causing damage to the significant fabric.*

Signage work **MUST NOT**:

- conceal or remove existing significant signage;
- obstruct significant views to and from the place; or
- be painted directly onto any part of the significant fabric of the place.*

* except for item 5 above

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G2

CONDITIONS

These conditions apply for all exempt development in the category of signage listed in the General Exemption G2.

1. The only development authorised by this Exemption Certificate is the work listed and described in this certificate issued by the Queensland Heritage Council.
2. The works must only be carried out in accordance with the current approved guidelines.
3. All exempt development is to be planned and carried out in a manner that prevents damage to the physical material of the registered place.
4. If original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place are revealed which relate to its significance, then the exemption covering this development will cease and the Environmental Protection Agency is to be notified as soon as possible.
5. Notwithstanding the granting of this Exemption Certificate, the Queensland Heritage Council may revoke the exemption certificate or amend the exemption certificate (including conditions) if the cultural heritage significance of the place is at any time threatened or harmed.
6. This Exemption Certificate is effective from the date of issue until amended or revoked by the Queensland Heritage Council.
7. It is the responsibility of the owner of the registered place to ensure that all development is carried out in accordance with the Exemption Certificate.

NOTE

Nothing in this Exemption Certificate exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning or building approvals from the responsible authorities.

Prior to commencing work, check with your local EPA office or the EPA website www.epa.qld.gov.au for the current version of the exemption certificate and guidelines.

GENERAL EXEMPTION G2 GUIDELINES

All exempt development must be carried out in accordance with this Exemption Certificate and the corresponding guidelines. These are the General Exemption G2 guidelines:

Exemption certificates: overview

General exemptions: overview

G2.1 Signage: approvals – what and why?

G2.2 Signage: G2

GENERAL EXEMPTIONS

ISSUED BY QUEENSLAND HERITAGE COUNCIL

General Exemption G1 (maintenance and repairs): issued 3 December 2004.

General Exemption G2 (signage): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G3 (temporary structures): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G4 (services): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G5 (safety and security): issued 2 December 2005.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G3

This certificate
Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G3
is issued by the Queensland Heritage Council
under s.37 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and
applies to all places in the Queensland Heritage Register
except those places expressly excluded by
the Queensland Heritage Council pursuant to a notice of revocation.

David Eades
Chair, Queensland Heritage Council
Resolution 187.28
2 December 2005

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
GENERAL EXEMPTION G3

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EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G3

PREAMBLE

DEVELOPMENT IN A REGISTERED PLACE

All development in a privately-owned registered place, unless it is emergency work, requires approval by the Queensland Heritage Council under a development permit or an exemption certificate.

All development by the State in a registered place, unless it is emergency work or covered by an exemption certificate, requires a recommendation by the Queensland Heritage Council.

An exemption certificate is issued for development that does not cause detriment to or impact on the cultural heritage significance of a registered place. Development carried out in accordance with an exemption certificate does not require any further approval by the Queensland Heritage Council.

GENERAL EXEMPTION (G3)

This **Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G3** applies to all places in the Queensland Heritage Register. The development listed in this Exemption Certificate is approved by the Queensland Heritage Council as exempt development under s.35(4) and s.37 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. It may be undertaken without further approval by the Queensland Heritage Council provided it is carried out in accordance with this Exemption Certificate and corresponding guidelines (as amended from time to time).

The General Exemption G3 applies only to specified development in the following category:

- ▶ temporary structures

The development must be carried out so as to ensure that significant fabric is not damaged or removed by the installation, use or removal of a temporary structure and that the structure does not detrimentally affect the cultural heritage significance of the place.

EFFECTIVE

This **Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G3** is effective from 2 December 2005.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G3

Description of exempt development

TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

Installation of the following temporary structures is permitted under this General Exemption G3 and is exempt development under s.35(4) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

1. framed structures with or without walls, clad in canvas, plastic or similar lightweight material, supported by poles or similar and fastened to the ground using ropes, pegs or ballast. Examples include tents, market stalls, box framed marquees, umbrellas;
2. furniture and other items for commercial purposes such as tables, chairs, umbrellas, dividers and ramps that are erected and removed each trading day;
3. construction buildings such as site offices, storage containers, gantries and scaffolding; and
4. portable temporary access ramps and platform lifts that facilitate access to the place and that are removed after each use or at the end of the day.

A temporary structure MUST be erected in accordance with the G3 guidelines.

A temporary structure under G3 MUST NOT:

- be larger than 100m²; and
- be located where it could damage or endanger significant fabric including landscape or archaeological features of its curtilage or obstruct significant views of and from the registered place.

A temporary structure under G3 MUST NOT:

- be erected for more than 28 consecutive days;
- be erected for more than 180 days within a twelve month period;

UNLESS

- it can be erected and dismantled on a daily basis; or
- if it is associated with the execution of a building contract, it must be dismantled with 14 days of practical completion.

In addition to the above, for structures associated with the execution of a building contract:

- the building contract must be for approved work to the registered place; and
- the supply of services to such structures must not damage any significant fabric (including the trimming of significant trees or shrubs) or obscure views to and from the place.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G3

CONDITIONS

These conditions apply for all exempt development in the category of temporary structures listed in the General Exemption G3.

1. The only development authorised by this Exemption Certificate is the work listed and described in this certificate issued by the Queensland Heritage Council.
2. The works must only be carried out in accordance with the current approved guidelines.
3. All exempt development is to be planned and carried out in a manner that prevents damage to the physical material of the registered place.
4. If original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place are revealed which relate to its significance, then the exemption covering this development will cease and the Environmental Protection Agency is to be notified as soon as possible.
5. Notwithstanding the granting of this Exemption Certificate, the Queensland Heritage Council may revoke the exemption certificate or amend the exemption certificate (including conditions) if the cultural heritage significance of the place is at any time threatened or harmed.
6. This Exemption Certificate is effective from the date of issue until amended or revoked by the Queensland Heritage Council.
7. It is the responsibility of the owner of the registered place to ensure that all development is carried out in accordance with the Exemption Certificate.

NOTE

Nothing in this Exemption Certificate exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning or building approvals from the responsible authorities.

Prior to commencing work, check with your local EPA office or the EPA website www.epa.qld.gov.au for the current version of the exemption certificate and guidelines.

GENERAL EXEMPTION G3 GUIDELINES

All exempt development must be carried out in accordance with this Exemption Certificate and the corresponding guidelines. These are the General Exemption G3 guidelines:

Exemption certificates: overview

General exemptions: overview

G3.1 Temporary structures: approvals – what and why?

G3.2 Temporary structures: G3

GENERAL EXEMPTIONS

ISSUED BY QUEENSLAND HERITAGE COUNCIL

General Exemption G1 (maintenance and repairs): issued 3 December 2004.

General Exemption G2 (signage): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G3 (temporary structures): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G4 (services): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G5 (safety and security): issued 2 December 2005.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G4

This certificate
Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G4
is issued by the Queensland Heritage Council
under s.37 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and
applies to all places in the Queensland Heritage Register
except those places expressly excluded by
the Queensland Heritage Council pursuant to a notice of revocation.

David Eades
Chair, Queensland Heritage Council
Resolution 187.29
2 December 2005



Queensland Government
Queensland Heritage Council

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
GENERAL EXEMPTION G4

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EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G4

PREAMBLE

DEVELOPMENT IN A REGISTERED PLACE

All development in a privately-owned registered place, unless it is emergency work, requires approval by the Queensland Heritage Council under a development permit or an exemption certificate.

All development by the State in a registered place, unless it is emergency work or covered by an exemption certificate, requires a recommendation by the Queensland Heritage Council.

An exemption certificate is issued for development that does not cause detriment to or impact on the cultural heritage significance of a registered place. Development carried out in accordance with an exemption certificate does not require any further approval by the Queensland Heritage Council.

GENERAL EXEMPTION G4

This **Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G4** applies to all places in the Queensland Heritage Register. The development listed in this Exemption Certificate is approved by the Queensland Heritage Council as exempt development under s.35(4) and s.37 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. It may be undertaken without further approval by the Queensland Heritage Council provided it is carried out in accordance with this Exemption Certificate and corresponding guidelines (as amended from time to time).

The General Exemption G4 applies to specified development in the category of

- ▶ services

The development must be carried out so as to ensure that significant fabric is not damaged or removed by the installation, use or removal of services and that the associated equipment, fixtures, fittings and wiring do not detrimentally affect the cultural heritage significance of the place.

EFFECTIVE

This **Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G4** is effective from 2 December 2005.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G4

Description of exempt development

SERVICES

Installation of the following services is permitted under this General Exemption G4 and is exempt development under s.35(4) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

*There must be no damage to significant fabric when undertaking the work.
If uncertain about the significance of particular fabric or element, clarify its status with the Environmental Protection Agency.*

HEATING AND COOLING

1. new ceiling or wall mounted fans in locations where original fittings no longer survive;
2. new fans in new locations in spaces that are not significant and are fixed to non-significant fabric;
3. roof vents to concealed roofs;
4. insulation in ceiling spaces;
5. vertical runs of ducts, pipes and cables in cupboards, service rooms and wall cavities;
6. new split system air-conditioners (cooling, reverse cycle) where components:
 - are not located on major elevations;
 - do not obscure significant fabric; and
 - do not allow a build-up of moisture that could damage significant fabric;
7. repair and upgrading of existing air conditioning systems including:
 - new ducted air-conditioning components located:
 - i. in non-significant underfloor or ceiling spaces where the system does not have a visual impact on the significant character of the interior;
 - ii. in less visible areas, e.g. basements, secondary areas;
 - iii. on less significant elevations and in carparking areas;
 - iv. connecting to existing vents.
 - new distribution systems for air-conditioning in existing ducts, chases or shafts.

LIGHTING

1. modern light fittings, fixed to existing ceiling or wall mounts where original fittings do not survive;
2. replacement fittings (secondhand equivalent to original), fixed to existing ceiling or wall mounts where documentary evidence of original is available;
3. new lighting in new locations in spaces that are not significant and fixed to non-significant fabric;
4. exterior lighting not fixed to the building;
5. new light switches, including pull switches, wired using existing cavities or conduits; and
6. new light switches, including pull switches, with minimal new wiring where wiring is concealed and cutting/drilling is minimised to 25mm diameter holes.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G4

ELECTRICITY; PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE; GAS; COMMUNICATIONS

1. new power points and switches where wiring is concealed and any original fittings are retained;
2. new plumbing concealed in existing cavities, subfloor and ceiling spaces;
3. telecommunications (telephone, television, computers etc.) where wiring is concealed in existing cavities, subfloor or ceiling spaces and connection points are discreetly located;
4. new fixtures in kitchens/bathrooms/laundries/laboratories etc. and associated plumbing, drainage, gas fitting and wiring where existing fixtures are not original or significant;
5. water filter systems that are not fixed to significant fabric; and
6. sprinkler systems to gardens.

Installation of antennae and satellite dishes is NOT APPROVED under this exemption.

EXTRANEOUS

1. removal of any extraneous, non-significant items including air-conditioners and associated ducting, lighting, pipe work, wiring, antennae, aerials etc.

Services work MUST:

- suit the character and appearance of the place in materials, colours, bulk, form and appearance where components of the system are visible;
- where components of building services are screened, the screens must suit the character and appearance of the place in materials, colours, bulk, form and appearance;
- minimise visual impact;
- use minimal and reversible fixings;
- locate visible components discreetly;
- be distinguishable as new work upon close inspection; and
- when trenching or disturbance of land is necessary, make good to match existing.

Services work MUST NOT:

- damage or remove significant fabric, except for openings of no larger than 25mm diameter that may be cut or drilled into surfaces to facilitate the insertion of wiring and cabling;
- be located on the main elevations or in prominent roof positions;
- involve chasing into plaster or masonry walls in significant spaces (chasing in other walls must be made good using materials to match existing);
- exacerbate decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility;
- obscure existing fabric; or
- limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance through the introduction of new materials or components.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G4

CONDITIONS

These conditions apply for all exempt development in the category of services listed in the General Exemption G4.

1. The only development authorised by this Exemption Certificate is the work listed and described in this certificate issued by the Queensland Heritage Council.
2. The works must only be carried out in accordance with the current approved guidelines.
3. All exempt development is to be planned and carried out in a manner that prevents damage to the physical material of the registered place.
4. If original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place are revealed which relate to its significance, then the exemption covering this development will cease and the Environmental Protection Agency is to be notified as soon as possible.
5. Notwithstanding the granting of this Exemption Certificate, the Queensland Heritage Council may revoke the exemption certificate or amend the exemption certificate (including conditions) if the cultural heritage significance of the place is at any time threatened or harmed.
6. This Exemption Certificate is effective from the date of issue until amended or revoked by the Queensland Heritage Council.
7. It is the responsibility of the owner of the registered place to ensure that all development is carried out in accordance with the Exemption Certificate.

NOTE

Nothing in this Exemption Certificate exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning or building approvals from the responsible authorities.

Prior to commencing work, check with your local EPA office or the EPA website www.epa.qld.gov.au for the current version of the exemption certificate and guidelines.

GENERAL EXEMPTION G4 GUIDELINES

All exempt development must be carried out in accordance with this Exemption Certificate and the corresponding guidelines. These are the General Exemption G4 guidelines:

Exemption certificates: overview

General exemptions: overview

G4.1 Services: approvals – what and why?

G4.2 Services: G4

GENERAL EXEMPTIONS

ISSUED BY QUEENSLAND HERITAGE COUNCIL

General Exemption G1 (maintenance and repairs): issued 3 December 2004.

General Exemption G2 (signage): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G3 (temporary structures): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G4 (services): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G5 (safety and security): issued 2 December 2005.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G5

This certificate
Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G5
is issued by the Queensland Heritage Council
under s.37 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and
applies to all places in the Queensland Heritage Register
except those places expressly excluded by
the Queensland Heritage Council pursuant to a notice of revocation.

David Eades
Chair, Queensland Heritage Council
Resolution 187.30
2 December 2005

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
GENERAL EXEMPTION G5

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EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G5

PREAMBLE

DEVELOPMENT IN A REGISTERED PLACE

All development in a privately-owned registered place, unless it is emergency work, requires approval by the Queensland Heritage Council under a development permit or an exemption certificate.

All development by the State in a registered place, unless it is emergency work or covered by an exemption certificate, requires a recommendation by the Queensland Heritage Council.

An exemption certificate is issued for development that does not cause detriment to or impact on the cultural heritage significance of a registered place. Development carried out in accordance with an exemption certificate does not require any further approval by the Queensland Heritage Council.

GENERAL EXEMPTION G5

This **Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G5** applies to all places in the Queensland Heritage Register. The development listed in this Exemption Certificate is approved by the Queensland Heritage Council as exempt development under s.35(4) and s.37 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. It may be undertaken without further approval by the Queensland Heritage Council provided it is carried out in accordance with this Exemption Certificate and corresponding guidelines (as amended from time to time).

The General Exemption G5 applies to specified development in the category of

- ▶ safety and security.

The development must be carried out so as to ensure that significant fabric is not damaged or removed by the installation, use or removal of structures and devices for providing safety and security and that the associated equipment, fixtures, fittings and wiring do not detrimentally affect the cultural heritage significance of the place.

EFFECTIVE

This **Exemption Certificate – General Exemption G5** is effective from 2 December 2005.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G5

Description of exempt development

SAFETY & SECURITY

Installation of the following safety and security provisions is permitted under this General Exemption G5 and is exempt development under s.35(4) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

*There must be no damage to significant fabric when undertaking the work.
If uncertain about the significance of particular fabric or element, clarify its status with the Environmental Protection Agency.*

Installation of

- temporary fencing, scaffolding or hoardings that
 - do not connect into significant fabric;
 - prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety; and
 - are installed for up to three months;
- removable bollards to restrict entry or secure public safety;
- alarms and detection devices that are not hard-wired or are wired within existing building cavities or conduits;
- security lighting that is not hard-wired or is wired within existing building cavities;
- video surveillance devices that are wired within existing building cavities;
- locks where original hardware remains in situ;
- smoke detectors;
- emergency lighting;
- exit lighting; and
- portable fire extinguishers using minimal fixings.

For the above work,

- where components are visible:
 - choose the smallest of its type to minimise visual impact;
 - materials, colours, bulk, form or appearance of the components must suit the character and appearance of the place;
- where components are screened:
 - screening must be of materials, colours, bulk, form or appearance that suit the character and appearance of the place;
- all fixings should be reversible;
- new components should not be located on the main elevation of the building or in prominent roof positions;
- do not damage or remove significant fabric – openings no larger than 25mm diameter may be made in masonry or timber to facilitate insertion of wiring and cabling;
- do not chase into plaster or masonry walls in significant spaces – chasing in other walls must be made good using materials to match existing;

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
GENERAL EXEMPTION G5

- deteriorated existing components are to be replaced with like;
- introduced new materials and components must not:
 - exacerbate decay of existing significant fabric due to chemical incompatibility;
 - obscure existing significant fabric; or
 - limit access to existing significant fabric for future maintenance;
- make good to match existing when trenching or disturbance of land is necessary for the installation of safety and security provisions;

The installation of interior sprinklers and modifications to doorways and other openings is NOT APPROVED under this certificate.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

GENERAL EXEMPTION G5

CONDITIONS

These conditions apply for all exempt development in the category of safety and security listed in the General Exemption G5.

1. The only development authorised by this Exemption Certificate is the work listed and described in this certificate issued by the Queensland Heritage Council.
2. The works must only be carried out in accordance with the current approved guidelines.
3. All exempt development is to be planned and carried out in a manner that prevents damage to the physical material of the registered place.
4. If original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place are revealed which relate to its significance, then the exemption covering this development will cease and the Environmental Protection Agency is to be notified as soon as possible.
5. Notwithstanding the granting of this Exemption Certificate, the Queensland Heritage Council may revoke the exemption certificate or amend the exemption certificate (including conditions) if the cultural heritage significance of the place is at any time threatened or harmed.
6. This Exemption Certificate is effective from the date of issue until amended or revoked by the Queensland Heritage Council.
7. It is the responsibility of the owner of the registered place to ensure that all development is carried out in accordance with the Exemption Certificate.

NOTE

Nothing in this Exemption Certificate exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning or building approvals from the responsible authorities.

Prior to commencing work, check with your local EPA office or the EPA website www.epa.qld.gov.au for the current version of the exemption certificate and guidelines.

GENERAL EXEMPTION G5 GUIDELINES

All exempt development must be carried out in accordance with this Exemption Certificate and the corresponding guidelines. These are the General Exemption G5 guidelines:

Exemption certificates: overview

General exemptions: overview

G5.1 Safety & security: approvals – what and why?

G5.2 Safety & security: G5

GENERAL EXEMPTIONS

ISSUED BY QUEENSLAND HERITAGE COUNCIL

General Exemption G1 (maintenance and repairs): issued 3 December 2004.

General Exemption G2 (signage): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G3 (temporary structures): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G4 (services): issued 2 December 2005.

General Exemption G5 (safety and security): issued 2 December 2005.