



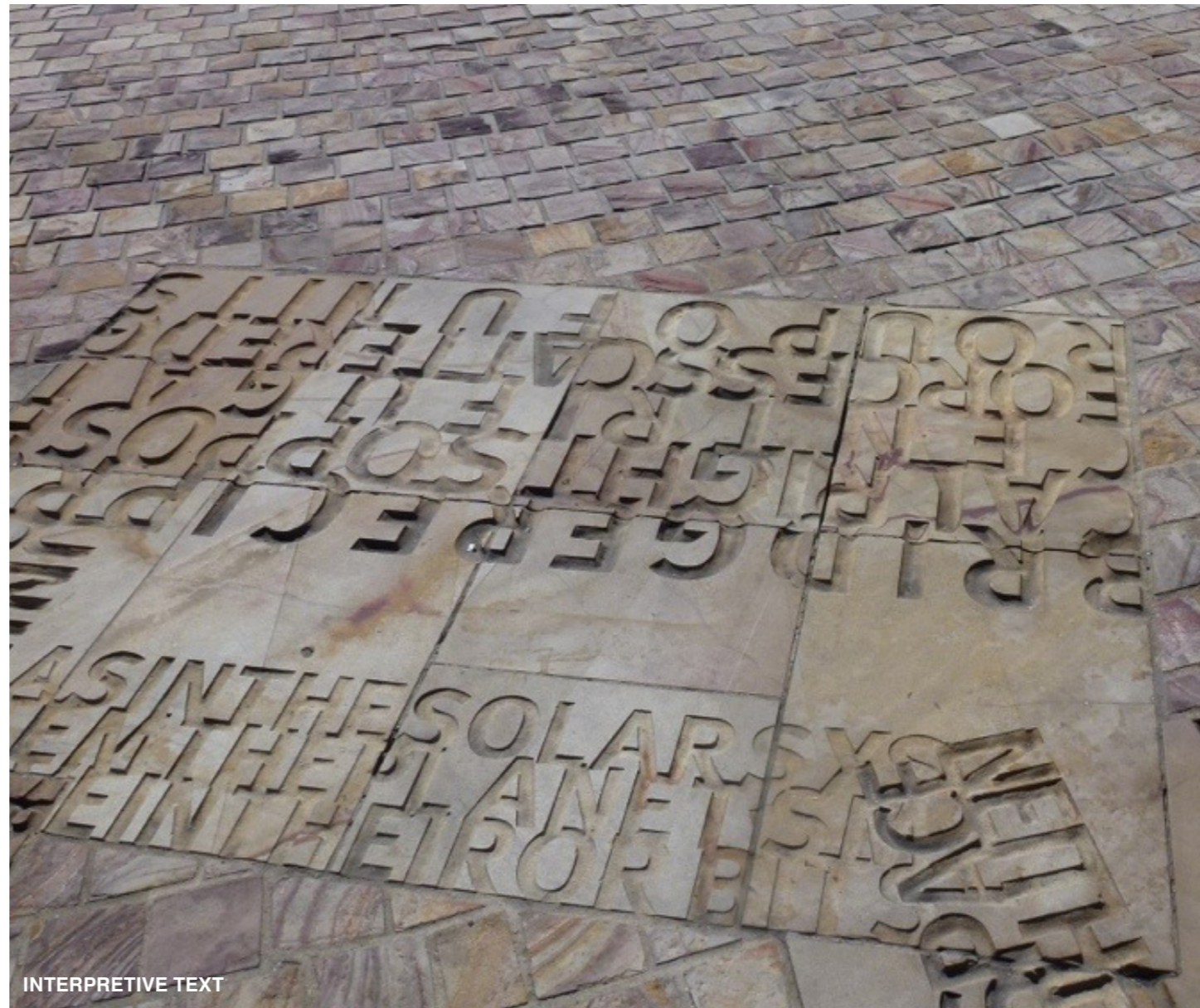
Project Core Federation Square

Concept Planning Report
14 November 2017

OCULUS

Materials Palette

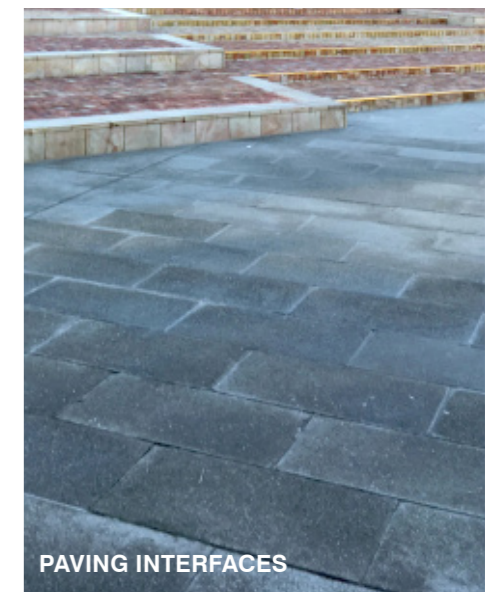
The City of Melbourne has engaged in a series of material choices that privilege standard and repeatable gestures to create coherence and enhance character. This project provides an opportunity to tie into the adjacent context and wider city's standard bluestone paving regime enabling a material integration of the precinct into its context. The second opportunity is to explore locations on the site where the standard materiality can be disrupted to reflect a different kind of occupation or to acknowledge a spatial separation from the city. The approach that has been successfully deployed within Federation Square where St Paul's Forecourt and River Terrace are part of the city (bluestone) and the plaza is its own domain (Kimberly sandstone). It is essential that the materiality ensures consistent, high-quality materials that are civic and public not commercial where appropriate. The bluestone interpretation example below is a part of a larger public artwork by the artist Sally Smart and demonstrates the capacity to use the introduction of sandblasted bluestone for more site specific interpretations and acknowledgments, referencing the interpretive text along the terraced stairs to the northern edge of Federation Square.



INTERPRETIVE TEXT



FACADE FINISHES



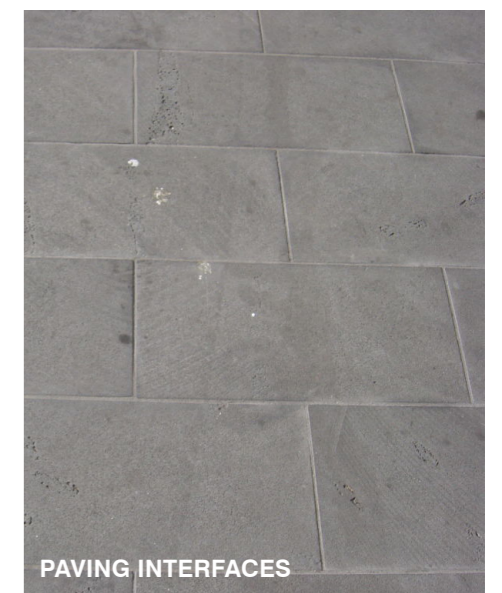
PAVING INTERFACES



KIMBERLEY SANDSTONE

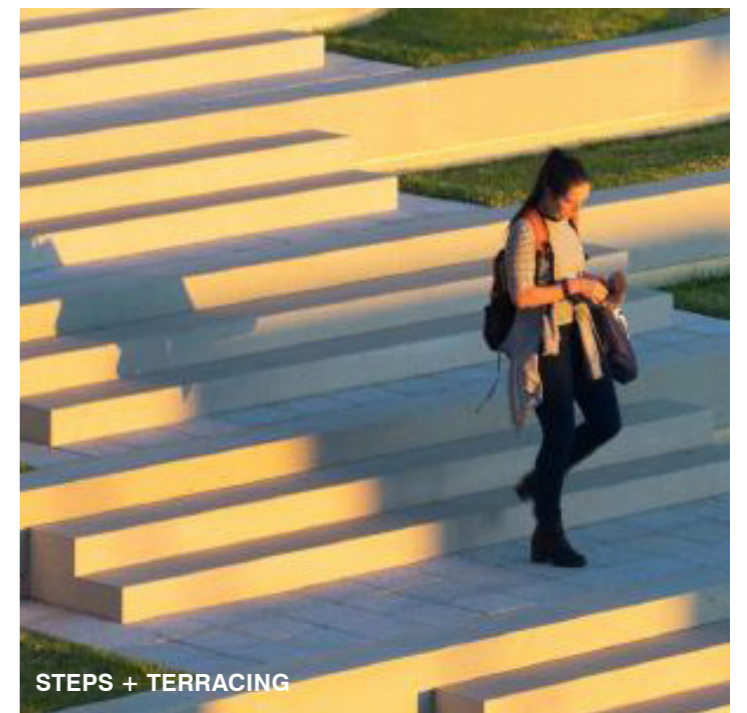
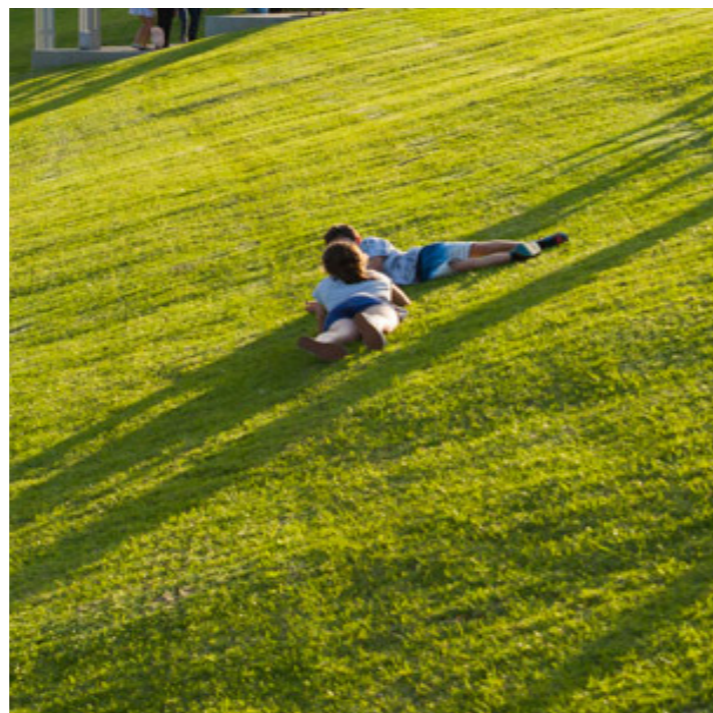
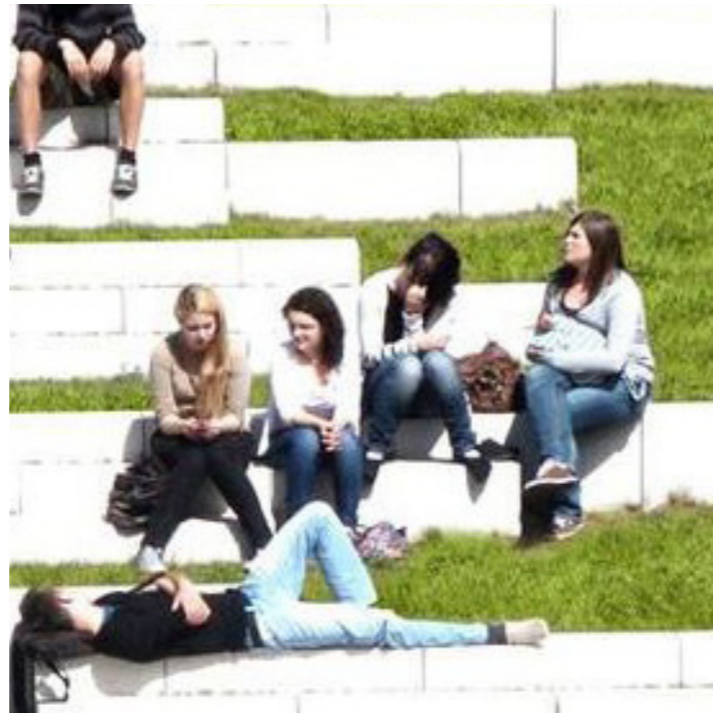


INTERPRETATION



PAVING INTERFACES

Materials Palette



Existing Landscape Character

Northern Edge - Upper River Terrace existing conditions

Planting along the building line varies in character and structure, containing a mix of native and exotic trees with an under-story of largely exotic shrubs and lawn areas.

Overshadowing from the built form during winter months makes this a difficult environment for all but the most shade-tolerant of plants. There is a small garden bed of native shrubs at the base of the main access stair from Federation Square, however the plants have not thrived in this environment and remain small and sparse.

More successful is the large area planted with tree ferns and exotic shade-loving strappy plants including *Aspidistra elatior* and *Liriope muscari*. A row of Plane trees (*Platanus orientalis*) runs along the front edge of the garden bed and a less formal line of *Corymbias* demarcates the inner edge of the pedestrian promenade. Tree heights are approximately 10 - 12 metres in this area.

Lawn areas are fairly lush and well maintained, showing some signs of erosion from foot traffic at path edges and occasional damp spots following heavy rains.

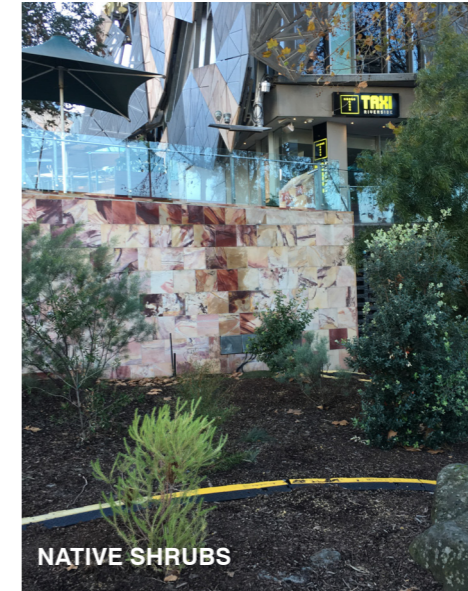
Moving eastward and down the slope from St Kilda Road, the planting along the building interface becomes more formal and structured, to include clipped hedges and densely layered shrubs planted in bands. Particularly successful among species used here are *Mahonia japonica*, *Trachelospermum jasminoides* and *Doryanthes excelsa*.

Landscape Strategy

The landscape strategy seeks to improve connectivity between Federation Square and the Yarra River, and the opportunity for people to linger longer with uninterrupted framed river views which necessitates the introduction of occupiable lawns and tree canopy, with understory planting limited to the upper eastern terrace. The informality of the tilted lawn planes and the trees over encourage occupation, providing both prospect and refuge, maximising solar access for this critical Northbank site. The combination of lawn, trees and under-storey planting will increase the amount of green space within the Federation Square precinct, improve ground permeability and help to reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect.



EXISTING TREES (TEMPORARY ICE RINK OBSCURES PLANTING BEHIND)



NATIVE SHRUBS



UNDERSTORY PLANTING



UNDER-STORY PLANTING



PANORAMIC VIEW OF LAWN AREA IN FRONT OF DEAKIN EDGE



CLIPPED HEDGE



FORMAL STRUCTURE








LAYERED PLANTING

Planting Concept Plan

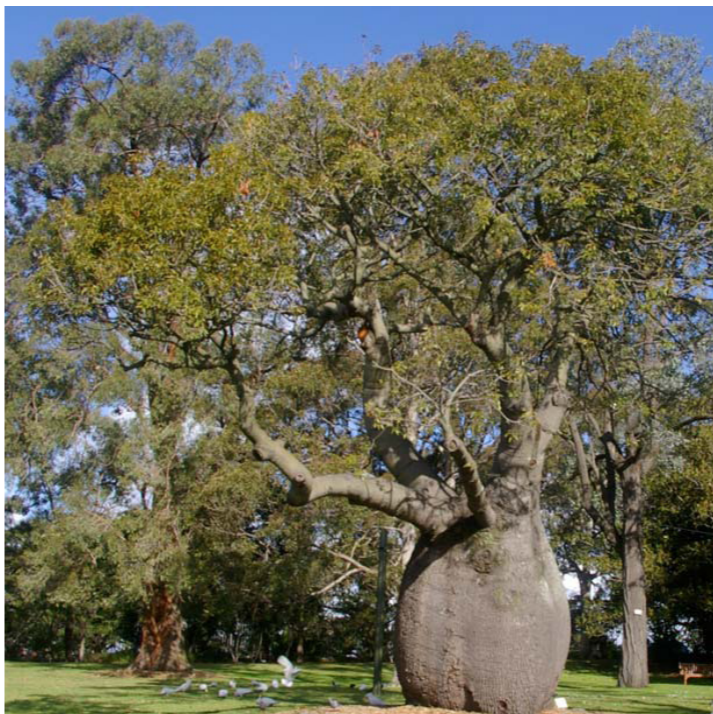
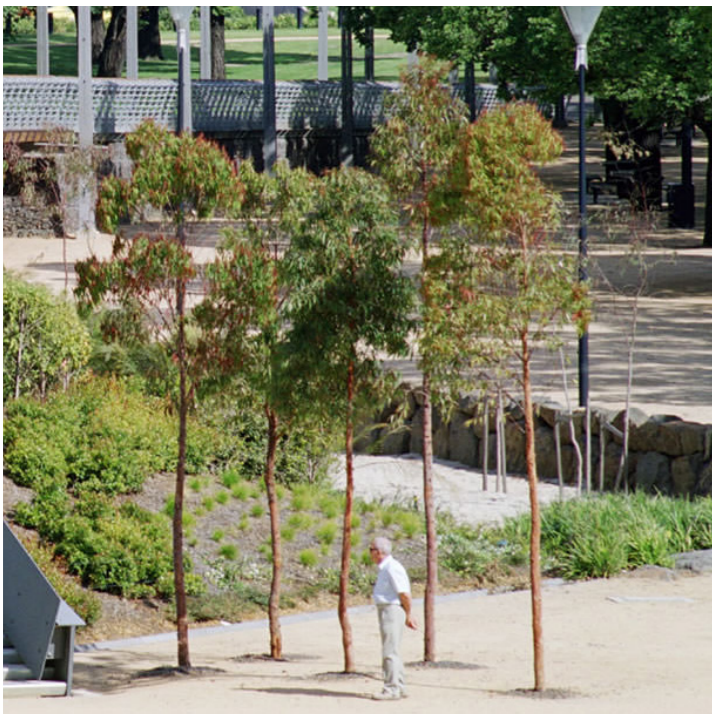
Tree species will be chosen in consultation with the City of Melbourne and in consideration of the City's tree species selection tools: the Urban Forest visualisation and mapping, urban forest precinct plans, Urban Ecology and Biodiversity strategy (draft) and climate change adaptation strategies. All proposed trees will be irrigated for establishment for up to two years. All planting on structure to be irrigated, with lawn areas to be irrigated on an ongoing basis. Soil depths will be critical in particular for planting zones on structure, these depths have been allowed for. Equally soil volumes will be critical in determining trees species selection. River Terrace tree planting will be located in deep root soil zones. Soil volumes (vaults) will be contiguous where possible to enable trees to share and maximise available soil volume. Soil specifications will consider the standards outlined in the reference Soils for Landscape Developments, in particular for soils on structure, active high amenity turf, and for the amelioration of site sourced soils where possible.

Legend

-  Existing Trees to be removed
-  Tall canopy Trees 2000mm depth (use lawn area as A contiguous SOIL volume)
-  Small Mallee Trees 1500mm depth
-  Proposed garden bed 600mm depth (includes native + exotic climbers and low under-story shrubs)
-  Proposed lawn 300mm topsoil minimum depth required



Landscape Character



Tree Character

01
Tall, High Canopy Trees



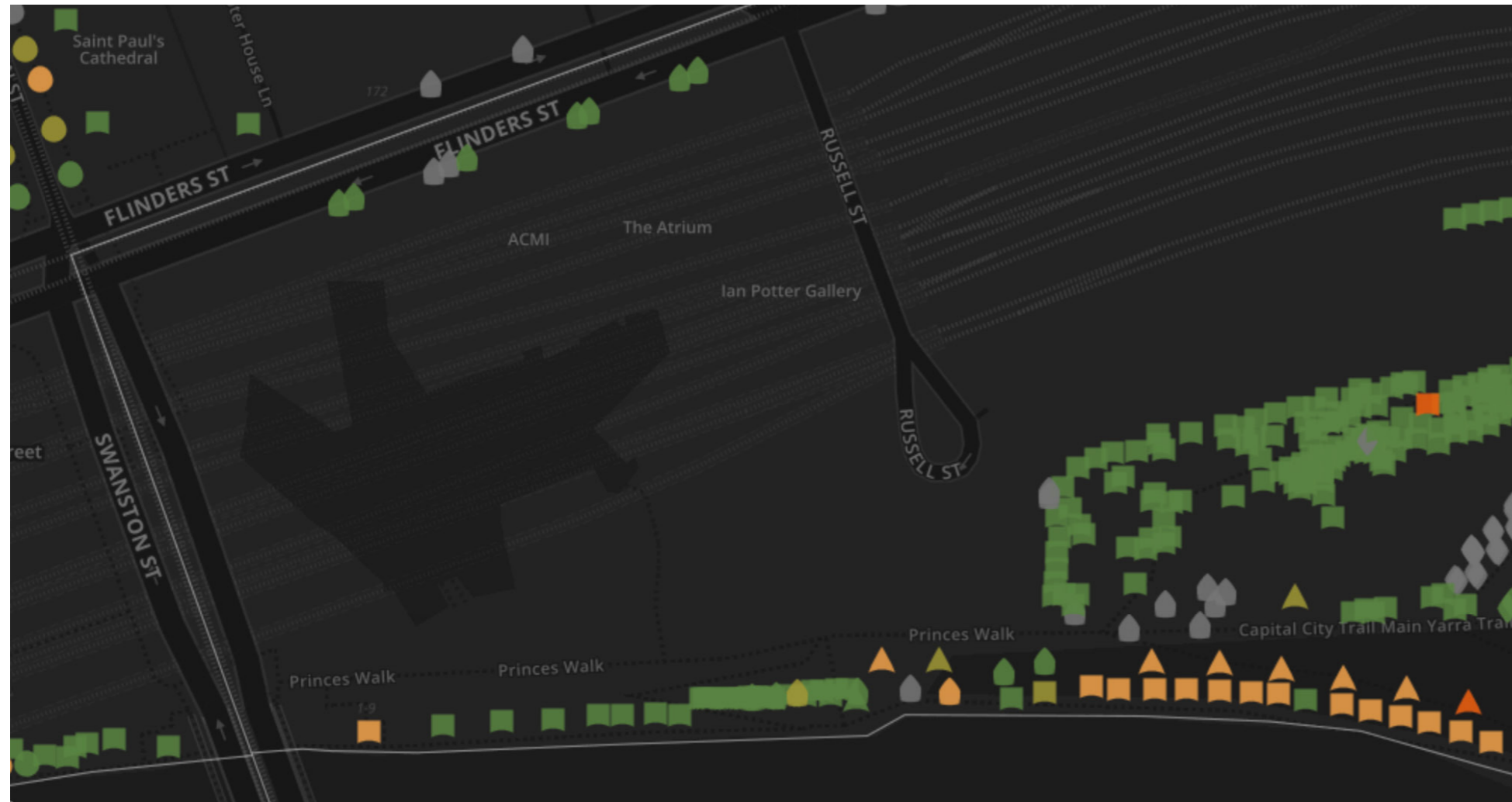
02
Mallee, Small Trees



03
Urban Exotic Trees



City of Melb Useful Life Expectancy of Existing Trees



Colour Useful Life Expectancy (ULE) *

	More than 20 Years	Healthy
	Less than 20 Years	At Risk
	Less than 10 Years	Declining
	Less than 5 Years	Dying
	Unknown	

* ULE is a health indicator, not a schedule for removal.

Indicative Tree Species List

01 Existing Tree Species in Area

Brachychiton rupestris

Eucalyptus grandis

Callistemon viminalis

Casuarina cunninghamiana

Corymbia citriodora

Ficus macrophylla

Acer rubrum

Angophora costata

Eucalyptus melliodora

Eucalyptus sideroxylon

Corymbia maculata

Liquidamber styraciflua

Ulmus glabra

Ulmus procera

02 Proposed Species to convey Native Character

Eucalyptus acceden

Eucalyptus burracoppinensis*

Eucalyptus loxophleba*

03 Proposed New Exotics

Platanus hybrida

Quercus acutissima

Note. Trees in red identify as species vulnerable to future temperatures as identified in CoM's Future Urban Forest Report 2016

* Mallee Trees

Lighting

Lighting is an important aspect of the landscape design and creates a subtle or expressive overlay that provides safety, wayfinding and night activation.

As well as these functional purposes, lighting will be used in a variety of artistic ways including but not limited to;

- + Drawing attention to specific building details from external areas such as the up lighting to existing trees, and entries.
- + Assist in identifying seating nodes, stairwells, pathways and planting.

Lighting in these areas will be located so that it does not cause light spill to any neighbouring properties, A lighting consultant will be engaged to ensure appropriate 'P' ratings and Australian Standards AS 4282:1997 are met for all public areas.

