



# OUR RIVER PLAN

2026-46

A 20 year vision for the Nepean River

DRAFT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Darug and Gundungarra people who are the traditional owners in which Penrith Local Government Area is situated. We also pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging, and to the First Nations people living in our community today.





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# A message from our Mayor

The Nepean River is Penrith's greatest natural asset – an integral part of our City's identity that is much loved by residents and visitors. As a proud river city, we celebrate its social, recreational and cultural significance.

This *Draft Our River Plan* has been developed by Penrith City Council to guide actions to unlock further potential in and around the river over the next 20 years. It outlines Council and the community's shared vision and the key role the river plays in the future wellbeing of our people and prosperity of the City.

Running through one of Australia's fastest-growing regions, the Nepean River is a drawcard for Western Sydney. The river improves local amenity and encourages active lifestyles. It offers a beautiful setting where people can gather and relax. It provides opportunities to escape the heat and connect with nature. And it boosts Penrith's recreation and tourism, which supports this City's growing economy.

Rivers are living systems that present challenges, too. Council is committed to working with others in managing this dynamic water system well including risks like flooding.

For the first time, we have developed a plan for the entire length of the Nepean River in the Penrith Local Government Area, with 4 precincts that enrich Penrith's story. This plan responds to community and stakeholder feedback on what is important to them for the future of the Nepean River.

This work builds on the success of Penrith's 2013 *Our River Master Plan*. A decade of progress has seen more than \$459 million of public investment and improvement in Penrith – made possible with support from the Australian and NSW Governments – together with significant private investment, valued at around \$1 billion. Included in this, Council has welcomed an estimated \$50 million of investment in dining options alone, which have enhanced both sides of the river.

Major achievements to date include the multi-million-dollar Regatta Park upgrade, Yandhai Nepean Crossing pedestrian bridge, and the Police Cottage restoration. We have just unveiled a kayak launch deck at Leonay to improve river access.

We also proudly delivered the Nepean Avenue Pedestrian Pathway completing the bridge-to-bridge loop of the Great River Walk and upgraded Tench Reserve – the backdrop for Council's flagship Real Festival that attracts more than 50,000 attendees annually.

Council's commitment to caring for the Nepean River is strengthened through partnerships with First Nations community members and agencies, including the Barduu Ngaadjung First Nations Water Forum. This work extends into broader Water Country initiatives such as on-Country learning, ecological and water monitoring, supporting shared understanding and long-term stewardship of the river.

This plan is a framework to encourage and guide future investment. It is currently unfunded and aspirational. It identifies priority opportunities and calls for collaboration with partners, ensuring our objectives are aligned and purposeful in our ongoing efforts to further enhance the Nepean River. Council will require support from others including further public and private investment for it to be realised.

The *Draft Our River Plan* affirms Council's ongoing commitment to deliver positive outcomes for current and future generations. Penrith is already a world-class City. Through collaboration, we can continue to strengthen connections to the Nepean River, bringing community, nature and culture together.

I look forward to continuing success and what we will achieve through the *Draft Our River Plan*.



**Councillor Todd Carney**  
**Penrith Mayor**



# OVERVIEW

# Purpose of this plan

Our River Plan supports a vision for the entire length of the Nepean River within the Penrith Local Government Area. It builds on and contemporises Council’s Our River Master Plan 2013 and it complements existing strategies that relate to the river and its use.

The vision is supported by objectives, guiding principles and initial projects that could be implemented by Council, Australian and NSW Governments, community organisations or businesses to achieve the outcomes for our community we seek.



## THE PLAN IS:

- ✓ A strategic guide for Council, stakeholders and community to ensure that collective efforts are aligned and purposeful.
- ✓ A long-term high-level framework for planning and decision making that can be applied to design and management actions at precinct and site level over the short and medium term.
- ✓ A prioritised list of potential projects that will guide investment and grants funding as it becomes available.
- ✓ A way of identifying and securing sustainable resourcing to achieve the plan’s vision.
- ✓ A way to foster collaboration opportunities during the plan’s implementation to amplify impact of joint efforts.
- ✓ A way to promote the river as a cultural, recreational, tourism and economic resource to benefit Penrith’s people and economy.

## THE PLAN IS NOT:

- ✗ A statutory plan or set of controls.
- ✗ A detailed design specification or advice for specific sites or projects.
- ✗ A financial commitment to undertake every project or idea.
- ✗ A way to specifically manage flooding, river health, or day to day operational river and river’s edge management, including traffic and parking issues.

*These matters are dealt with through other Council strategies, policies and plans (see pages 16-17) or are identified as part of implementation next steps in progressing the Our River Plan (see page 32).*



# Building on a decade of success

In 2013, Council developed its 'Our River' Master Plan which was the first step in defining a shared vision to celebrate, activate and protect the Nepean River and showcase this beautiful natural asset for the lifestyle that it affords our City. The Master Plan outlined key actions to better connect the river with the Penrith City Centre, enhance the natural environment, support active and healthy lifestyles while celebrating the river's rich history and cultural values.

Council has been able to attract significant investment to realise the vision it had, and at last count the value of government projects delivered and underway is \$459 million.

Collaboration across government has been key to success. Joint government commitments have included a \$34 million investment in Regatta Park, a flagship project, and \$13 million for significant Tench Reserve upgrades (see page 19).

This public investment has given confidence and been a catalyst for major private investment in and around the river corridor in the region of \$1 billion, seen in the new dining, entertainment and accommodation offers now available. The private investment in dining precincts alone is in the order of \$50 million, invested on both sides of the river.

The transformation has been substantial and so have the benefits for community. It has delivered environmental benefits supporting a healthy river. It has changed the way locals interact with the river, delivering quality open spaces and facilities and enabling events and activities in naturally beautiful settings. It has also changed who visits Penrith and how our City is perceived. And it has firmly cemented the river's tourism economy as a key contributor to the local Penrith economy.

This has all been possible because Council had a clear and strategic vision. Council also had an implementation framework to focus actions and worked determinedly to harness the support, collaboration and resources of the many partners needed to realise our aspirations.

Council will build on this successful track record of on-ground delivery, collaboration and partnerships over the last decade as we lead the next chapter for the Nepean River and guide continued investment.

As a result of improvements visitation to the river has increased. The Central Precinct area now attracts an average of **1,615 visits per day**, generating just under **\$180,000 in local visitor spend each day**. The contribution to the gross regional economy from the river is estimated at \$11.8 million annually, making the river a major contributor to Penrith's economy.



The river has new and improved spaces for events and festivals. Council's 2025 REAL Festival at Tench Reserve attracted **50,000 people**, with one in ten residents attending. Additionally, 98% of attendees agreed that the REAL Festival makes them feel proud of their local area.



Walking and cycling infrastructure along the river corridor is highly valued and increasing in use. In the 3 years from 2022 - 2025, there has been a **43% increase** in people using the Yandhai Nepean Crossing and a **53% increase** in the number of people walking or cycling along Nepean Avenue.







# Vision



The Nepean River is our drawcard and a much-loved living system bringing nature, community and culture together. It is the thriving heart of Penrith, vital for our wellbeing and local economy. Strong connections to the river add vibrancy and create opportunities for Penrith and the surrounding region.



# Objectives

## 1. RESPECTED AS A LIVING SYSTEM

### A culturally significant place

Those who care for, plan and use the river corridor acknowledge and appreciate its significance to First Nations people, with ancient and contemporary cultural values and sites that are protected, respected and celebrated.

### A healthy and resilient ecosystem

The river is valued for its cooling properties, waterway health and biodiversity values that continue to be protected, restored and enhanced. Planning and development across the corridor focus on building resilience and adapting to living within a dynamic river system.

### A thoughtfully managed river

A balanced risk based approach to river management is evident to protect safety while maximising opportunities.

## 2. A DEFINING LANDMARK AND GATEWAY

### Our signature

The river is a defining element of our City's identity and shapes the story of Penrith we share with others. It's a focus of life, movement, business and recreation in Penrith. The river corridor welcomes people to our place and guides people through its distinct landscapes and diverse experiences.

### A clear river brand

Places and spaces along the river have a distinct identity that is clearly communicated to residents and visitors and promotes the river and what it offers.

### An economic driver

Riverfront spaces draw people in, with their diversity of recreational, entertainment, cultural and tourism opportunities. Redevelopment of river corridor sites provides new opportunities to engage with the river and ensures that the river and its edges remain central to Penrith's economy.

## 3. ACCESSIBLE AND ENGAGING

### An active river's edge

The river's edge is alive with activity day and night. A full range of civic, recreation and entertainment activities occurs in our public open spaces, urban places and parks, that support a healthy and active community and positions Penrith as a prime tourism destination for visitors.

### A focus for experiences

The river and its edges provide a stage for events and experiences, big and small. They provide an element of surprise and interest for locals and visitors. They encourage people to reconnect with the river and nature, with our First Nations and multicultural river history and heritage, and to each other.

### A recreation playground

The river is active with water based sport and recreational activities that are supported by land based amenities and infrastructure. Residents and tourists alike enjoy the activities and facilities.

### A place for everyone

Public spaces are safe and accessible both day and night for people of all ages and abilities. River frontage in public ownership is thoughtfully planned to maximise opportunities for public access to the river. Everyone is able to enjoy the cooling respite the river provides.

## 4. CONNECTED

### A connected blue green spine

The river and its edges pull together a diverse network of urban centres, rural landscapes and open spaces from one end of the Penrith LGA to the other. People are drawn to the river by the high-quality public space. Travel to and within the river corridor is easy and convenient.

### A linking thread

Through engaging with the River, people are encouraged to explore further, drawn from the corridor outward and to the many other City opportunities and experiences on offer close by.

### Deeper care and stewardship

The river links people, culture, ecology and Country. Through sharing stories of the river - in public art, infrastructure, events and activities - about its meaning through history and across cultures, we all deepen our connection, appreciation and sense of stewardship and care for the river.

# Guiding principles

Our guiding principles ensure decisions over the short, medium and long term are made consistently and thoughtfully, supporting a unified vision where people, nature and place thrive together.

They provide a framework to consider future uses, protect what matters most, and unlock opportunities that are in harmony with the river's enduring history, cultural values and character, and the future we envisage.

While these guiding principles apply to the river corridor as a whole, their relevance will vary between river locations and therefore will be applied in ways that respectfully respond to each location's distinct characteristics and opportunities.

We will support uses and activities that contribute to:



## A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

- Be reflective of First Nations history, heritage and our diverse cultures
- Offer an inclusive and safe environment for all
- Be accessible to people of all ages and abilities
- Embody local identity and pride
- Deepen understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the river



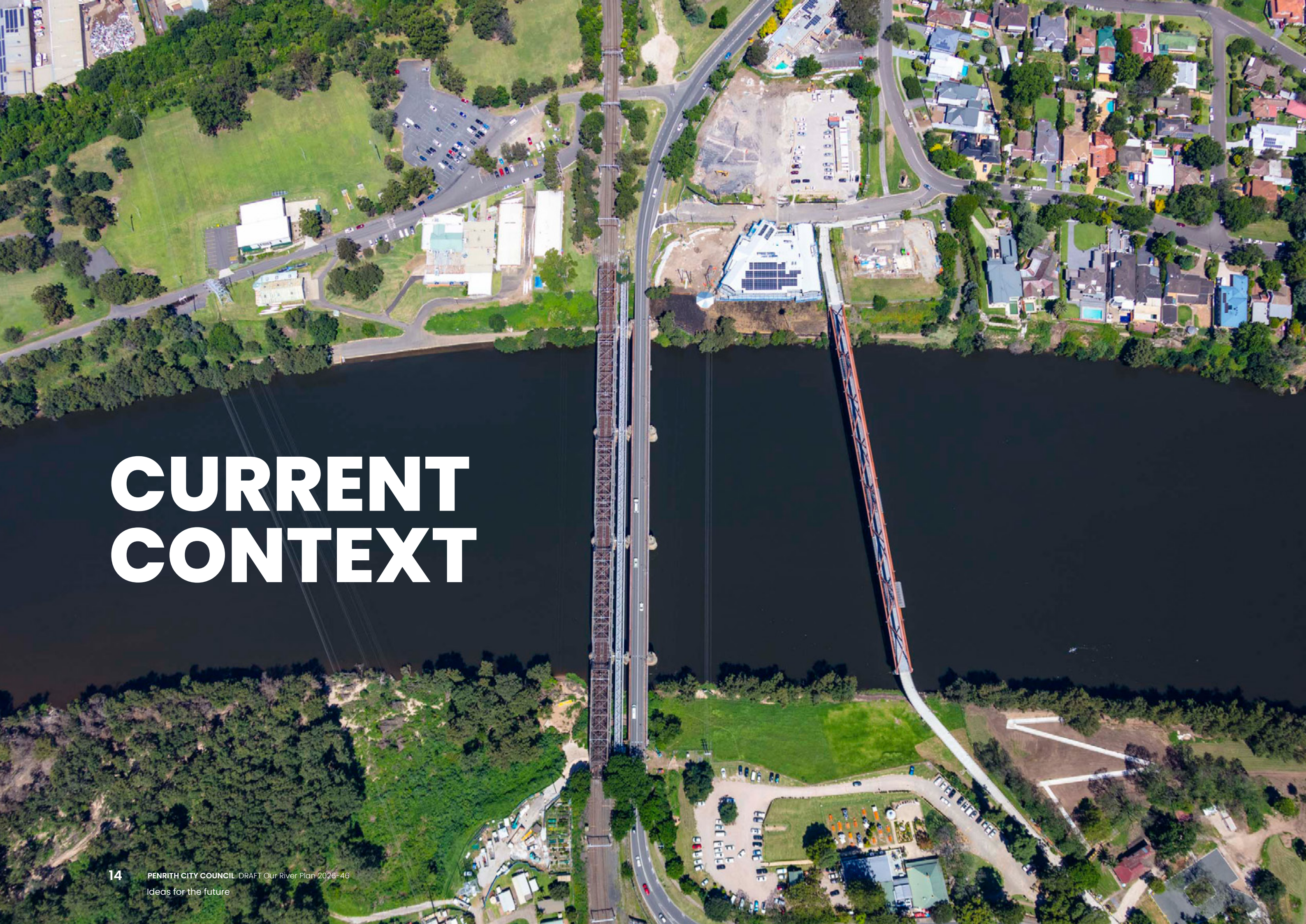
## UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL

- Encourage new community events, activities and programs
- Encourage new economic opportunities and investment
- Support and attract business
- Bring new resources to Penrith through new partnerships and collaborations



## A DIVERSITY OF DESTINATIONS

- Provide connections to nature, scenic views and spaces for quiet reflection
- Expand water play offerings with recreation, adventure and places to cool off
- Create a lively and engaging corridor with things to see and do
- Enable memorable settings for cultural celebrations, festivals and events
- Provide places to relax, play and dine
- Contribute as a regional drawcard to attract entertainment, leisure and tourism



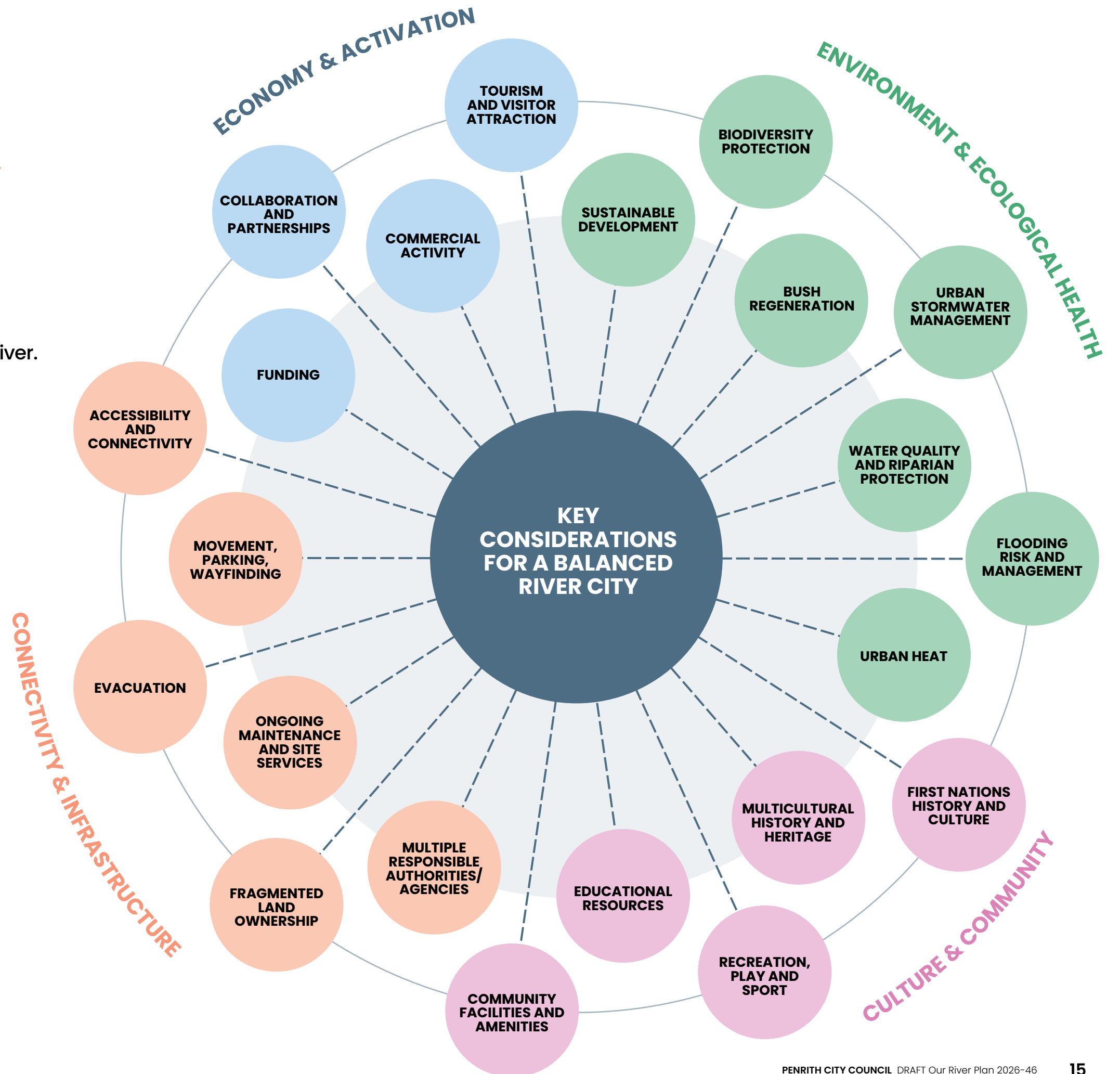
# CURRENT CONTEXT

# Managing a river city

Penrith lies in the Hawkesbury – Nepean Catchment and its landscape is characterised by rivers and creeks, the most significant being the Nepean River.

Our community has told us that the natural environment including our rivers and creeks is one of our biggest strengths, enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. At the same time in recent years our community has been significantly impacted by a number of flood events.

In leading a river city, Council faces the complex challenge of managing the safety and connectivity of residents as a priority, along with good outcomes for our environment and continued economic prosperity. We take this extremely seriously, with a considered risk based approach that seeks to balance all of these matters in a responsible way that protects safety while maximising opportunities



# Building on our existing strategies and plans

**This Our River Plan is a strategic framework providing an overarching and unifying vision to build and capitalise on the Nepean River’s social and economic opportunities. This plan is only one part of Council’s planning for the river corridor.**

The following pages show the breadth and depth of detailed planning and resourcing that Council invests into our Nepean River to bring about good environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes in an integrated and meaningful way.

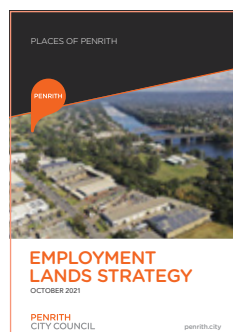
The Our River Plan builds on these foundations to provide an overarching framework that captures and draws together the aspirations for the river for the next 20 years to come.

For further information on these strategies and plans and how they are being implemented please visit Council’s website at [penrith.city](https://penrith.city).



## Penrith Biodiversity Strategy 2026–2036

The Penrith Biodiversity Strategy 2026–2036 recognises the Nepean River corridor as a key ecological and landscape asset, vital for habitat connectivity, biodiversity conservation, and community wellbeing. It prioritises actions to protect and enhance the corridor through riparian restoration, weed and erosion management, and sensitive planning to balance ecological integrity with recreation and development. The strategy emphasises maintaining natural river processes, preserving scenic and cultural values, and fostering community stewardship to ensure the long-term health and resilience of the river environment.



## Employment Lands Strategy

The Employment Lands Strategy (2021) sets out how Council will identify, protect and grow Penrith’s employment lands across industrial precincts, commercial centres and key special-purpose precincts to support local jobs for local people and strengthen Penrith’s economic resilience as the city grows. It aligns with Council’s Local Strategic Planning Statement and the ‘Economic Triangle’ vision, providing clear directions and actions to ensure there is a reliable pipeline of employment land in the right places, improved amenity and connectivity in employment areas, and readiness to leverage major opportunities linked to the Western Sydney Airport and Aerotropolis.



## Flood Management

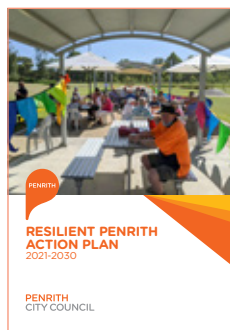
Flood management in Penrith, particularly along the Nepean River corridor is guided by the latest NSW Flood Risk Management Manual (June 2023) and the NSW Flood Prone Land Policy, and is a central focus of the City’s planning and resilience initiatives. The river’s natural floodplain is managed to minimise risk to people, property, and infrastructure while preserving ecological and recreational values. Strategies include mapping flood-prone areas, implementing flood mitigation infrastructure, maintaining and restoring riparian vegetation, and integrating flood risk considerations into land use and development planning. These measures aim to balance safety, environmental protection, and community access, ensuring that the river corridor remains both resilient to flooding and a valued public and ecological asset.



## Economic Development Strategy and Visitor Economy Strategy

Both the Penrith Economic Development Strategy and Visitor Economy Strategy recognise the Nepean River corridor as a catalyst for local prosperity and place identity. The river precincts are positioned as a key focus for economic activation, tourism growth, and lifestyle investment – linking recreation, hospitality, culture, and events to the broader city economy. The strategies emphasise enhancing the riverfront’s amenity and accessibility, supporting river-based enterprises and experiences, and strengthening its role as a premier visitor destination within Western Sydney, by aligning environmental stewardship with economic and tourism outcomes. The river corridor is framed as a defining asset for Penrith’s sustainable growth and city-shaping vision.

## BUILDING ON OUR EXISTING STRATEGIES AND PLANS



### Resilient Penrith Action Plan

The Resilient Penrith Action Plan identifies the Nepean River corridor as a critical area for reducing vulnerability to climate-related shocks and stresses, such as flooding, heat and ecological disruption. It highlights the need for strategies to protect riverbanks, enhance natural buffers, maintain and expand green open space along the river, and integrate river corridor precincts into emergency preparedness and long-term climate adaptation. By strengthening ecosystem health, improving access to cooling landscapes, and embedding resilience thinking into land use and infrastructure decisions, the plan positions the river precinct as a core part of Penrith's capacity to adapt and thrive under environmental change.



### Penrith Accessible Trails Hierarchy Study (PATHS)

The PATHS provides a framework to enhance walkability and connectivity across Penrith, with a strong emphasis on active transport networks along the Nepean River. It identifies priority routes, infrastructure upgrades, and design principles that support recreation, health, and environmental sustainability. By promoting continuous, high-quality trails, PATHS reinforces the river corridor as a key recreational spine, guiding shared path improvements, wayfinding, and access to riverfront destinations while connecting surrounding neighbourhoods and supporting a more connected, inclusive, and liveable city.



### Penrith Sport and Recreation Strategy

The Penrith Sport and Recreation Strategy identifies the Nepean River and its foreshore precincts as key locations for delivering high-quality open space, active recreation, and public amenity. It proposes river-edge facilities and parkland enhancements that both connect the community with the water and deliver health, leisure and tourism benefits. The strategy emphasises integrating passive and active uses along the river, ensuring that infrastructure upgrades, recreation fields, trails, and amenity buildings are designed to respect ecological values, ensure safe access, and enhance the river precincts as focal points for recreation, community gathering, and visitor attraction.



### Rural Lands Strategy

The Penrith Rural Lands Strategy recognises the Nepean River corridor as a defining rural and scenic landscape of regional importance. It identifies protection of the river's adjacent rural flats, especially in the Rural North West precinct, where high-quality agricultural land and scenic vistas along the river are among the highest-priority features. The strategy commits to maintaining the rural-urban edge, safeguarding ecological health, preserving scenic landscapes and views, and ensuring land use planning around the river respects its environmental, visual and cultural values.



### Green Grid Strategy

The Penrith Green Grid Strategy was finalised in 2021 and puts forward a plan to support the creation of cool and green neighbourhoods and active transport by connecting schools, public transport and town centres to green infrastructure such as green spaces, parks, waterways and bushland. The Strategy also identifies and addresses challenges which are unique to Penrith including how to increase tree canopy to reduce heat and retrofit solutions to older suburban areas, as well as those undergoing urban renewal. Funding to develop the Penrith Green Grid Strategy was provided by the NSW Government's Metropolitan Greenspace Program as a way to improve access to open space and increase liveability in Penrith.



### We Create Penrith: Cultural Strategy and Action Plan 2024-28

We Create Penrith is Council's approach to advancing cultural outcomes for people and places in Penrith LGA. It facilitates opportunities for Penrith residents to come together in ways that are creative, respectful and inclusive, giving us the means to express and celebrate our shared culture. We Create Penrith recognises the Nepean River as a cultural asset, with significant cultural and heritage values to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.



# Projects completed or underway

## 1 Tench Reserve

- \$13m joint funded, reopened September 2023.
- Transformed riverside hub – new paths with lighting, boardwalk, parking, seating, picnic areas, public art, inclusive play space.

## 2 Regatta Park

- \$34m joint funded, opened March 2025.
- New facilities – 112m pavilion with water play, public art, amenities and kiosk, cricket oval, new play spaces, river viewing decks, kayak launches, path links and additional parking.

## 3 Yandhai Nepean Crossing

- \$49m NSW Government funded, opened 2018.
- New landmark pedestrian/cycle crossing anchoring the bridge-to-bridge loop.

## 4 Great River Walk – Nepean Avenue link

- \$3.75m joint-funded, completed 2025.
- New shared path with bollards and in-ground lighting completing the 8km bridge-to-bridge loop.

## 5 Great River Walk – Pedestrian Lighting (Jamison Road to Nepean Avenue)

- \$1.0m Australian Government funded, completed 2022.

## 6 Great River Walk – North Reopening

- \$1.1m joint-funded, completed 2026.
- Stabilising riverbank and repairing pathway and boardwalk.

## 7 Penrith City Park

- \$19m joint-funded, completed 2023.
- New green space in the heart of Penrith.

## 8 River Road active transport (to Hunter Fields)

- \$155,000 Council funded for detailed design.
- New shared paths – Hunter Street, Cary Street and Nepean Street.

## 9 Factory Road active transport

- \$5m NSW Government funded.
- New shared-user path, crossings and safety improvements.

## 10 River Precinct interactive amenities map

- Council funded.
- New online resource for community to explore projects and facilities along the Nepean River.

## 11 Penrith Beach

- NSW Government funded, first opened summer 2023.
- 450,000 visitors since opening.

## 12 Kayak Launch Deck – River Road, Leonay

- \$0.5m joint funded.

## 13 Police Cottage restoration

- \$3m joint funded, opened 2023.
- Restoration delivered heritage riverfront café/dining venue.

## 14 Weir Reserve

- Rowing pontoon extension – \$270,000 Australian Government funded, opened 2018.
- Weir Reserve pedestrian bridge and path restoration works – \$0.75m joint funded.

## 15 Peach Tree & Lower Surveyors Creeks – floodplain management

- Council funded, flood study completed 2019.
- Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan adopted June 2025 to guide future works.

## 16 Draft Emu Plains Floodplain Management Study and Plan

- Draft released in 2026 to guide future works.



# Listening and responding to our community

Through Council's engagement with community and stakeholders between 2023 – 2025 about the Our River Master Plan and the Community Strategic Plan 2041, we have heard how valued and important the Nepean River is, and where some of the pressure points are.

## We have heard that:

- **Access and active travel matter.** People want continuous, safe walking and cycling links to and around the river corridor and easier, low-impact ways to get onto the water.
- **Nature is treasured.** Residents speak with pride about the river's vegetation, birdlife and views, and ask for more shade and tree canopy.
- **Everyday amenity counts.** Simple things – picnic tables, toilets, seating – are seen as essential for families and inclusive use of both river banks.
- **Community, culture and custodianship are front-of-mind.** Community members expect First Nations voices to shape decisions and stories told along the Nepean River and want to showcase and embed more art into the landscape. Having more events space and programming that encourages gathering and community activities is valued.
- **Cafes and restaurants are important.**
- **Availability of parking and traffic congestion is an issue.** Issues at peak times limit user experience and impact safety, connectivity and comfortable usage.
- **Pet friendly facilities would add to the experience.**

We have drawn upon over 2,500 points of feedback directly about the river and over 1,600 points of additional feedback about what is important for Penrith's future.

"Big, generous tree cover."

"Community within nature."

"Tables and chairs for picnics and family gatherings... There is little infrastructure on the west side of the river for local residents."

"It would be wonderful for Penrith to build a state-of-the-art recreational cycleway from Weir Reserve heading north along the Great River Walk."

"Love the vegetation along the banks that attracts native birds. It makes this a little bird-watching hot spot."

"Spacious, aesthetically and environmentally beautiful."

"Is the First Nations community involved in decision-making... and are we protecting the history or value it has to the First Nations community?"

"The view from the pedestrian bridge up the river to the mountains beyond is incredible... peaceful and uplifting."

"Easier access for dragon boats and outrigger canoes via a ramp with a more gradual slope for safety."

"We love our river, the mountains on our doorstep, and space to breathe."

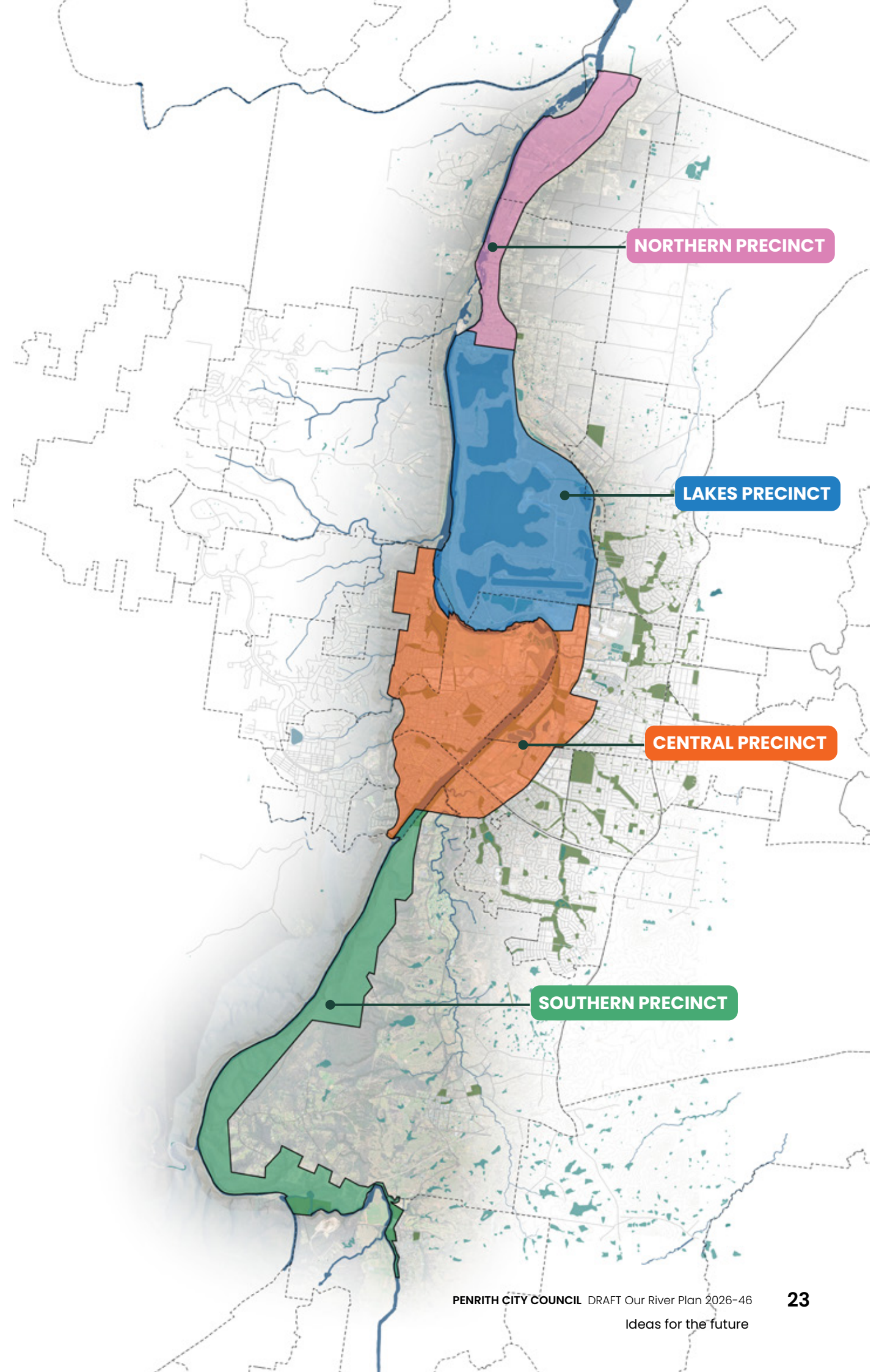
In planning the next 20 years of the Nepean River corridor we are guided by our communities' needs and preferences and what is important to them.



# THE WAY FORWARD

# River precincts

The Our River Plan 2026–46 applies to the Nepean River along its entire length within the Penrith LGA. For planning purposes, the river corridor is divided into 4 precincts. The following pages outline the planning context, character and objectives for each precinct, along with place-specific opportunities to guide future collaborations, partnerships, development and investment.



# Northern Precinct

**“AN ENDURING RURAL LANDSCAPE, RICH IN STORIES”**

Experience enduring rural landscapes and historic stories that shape Penrith’s northern approach, where the Nepean River connects past, place and community.

The Northern Precinct is a predominantly rural landscape marking the northern approach to Penrith City from the Hawkesbury. Characterised by large open paddocks, rural residences, agricultural and equestrian uses, with views to the Blue Mountains, it offers a peaceful setting in contrast to urban areas further south.

The precinct holds deep First Nations cultural and spiritual significance. The precinct is also layered with a rich colonial history, most notably Castlereagh’s foundation in 1810 by Governor Lachlan Macquarie as one of the original 5 Macquarie towns. The historic Castlereagh Hall (and former council chambers) and commemorative obelisk mark this legacy.

A long-standing agricultural presence and surviving heritage assets, such as farmhouses and outbuildings along with surrounding churches and cemeteries, reinforce the area’s identity. Together, these cultural, rural, and historical elements define the precinct’s character and its important role within Penrith’s story and the wider river corridor.



## PLANNING CONTEXT

The Northern Precinct is predominately zoned for primary production, environmental conservation and some public recreation uses to encourage low-impact development that protects the rural and environmental character of the precinct. Land uses that align with rural productivity and tourism, rural lifestyle, and environmental conservation are supported. Permissible uses also enable initiatives like heritage interpretation, walking trails, and community events while maintaining the area’s natural and cultural values. Existing zones and permissible land uses will continue to apply.

Although flood planning and riparian controls impose constraints on development near the river, there are potential opportunities for interpretive signage, flood awareness and education, habitat restoration and low-impact recreational uses.

The environmental conservation zone along most of the riverfront aligns with the Our River Plan’s principles for a well-managed and cared-for river system with opportunities for passive public access that connect people to nature and Country. There is potential to work with landowners on coordinated stewardship and land management initiatives that contribute to the ecological health of the river corridor, noting the fragmented landownership across the precinct.



## CHARACTER STATEMENT

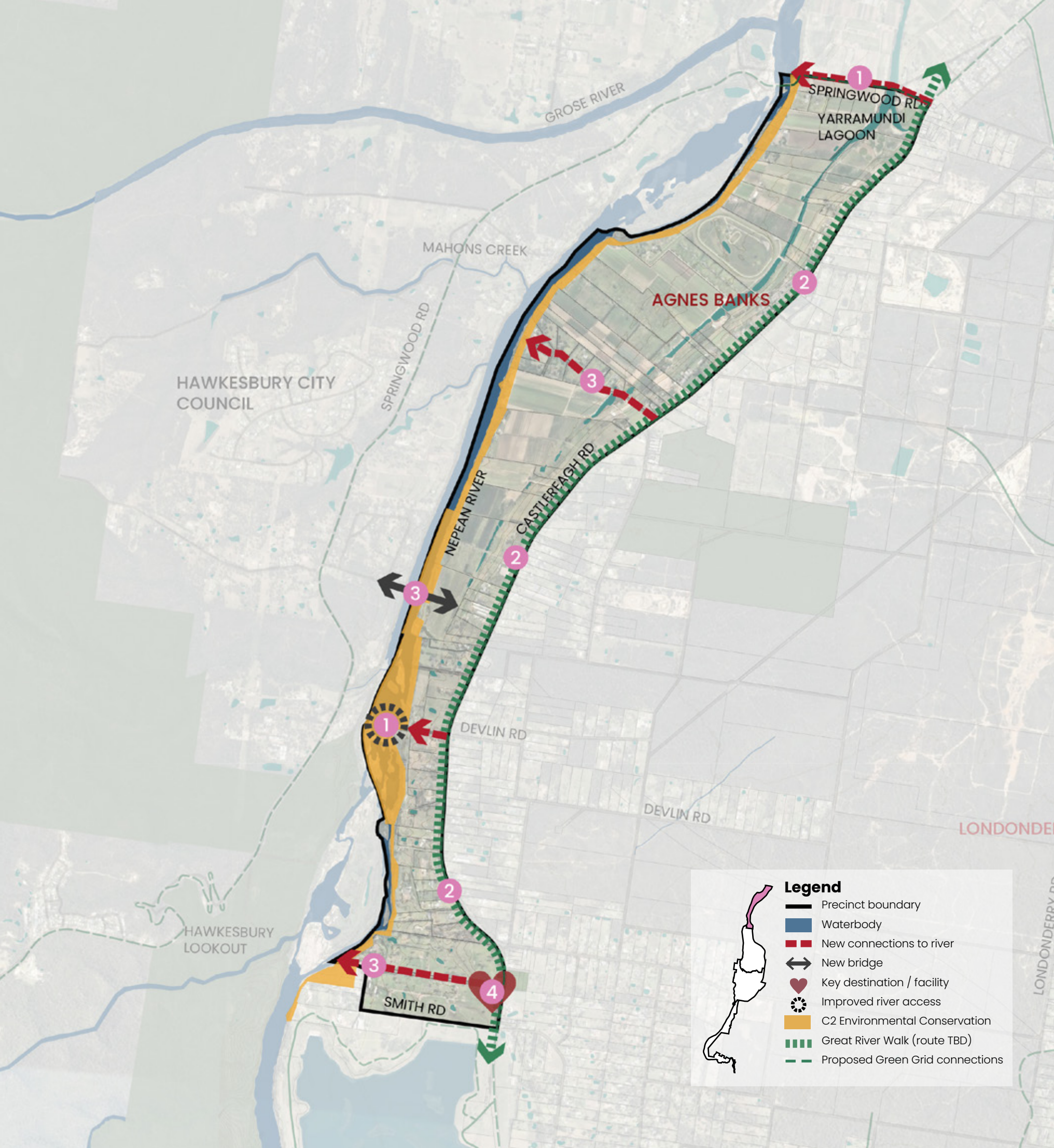
The Northern Precinct will be a distinctive rural gateway to Penrith City, where productive agricultural lands along the Nepean River are protected, Blue Mountains views frame the landscape, and cultural and heritage values are celebrated. The precinct’s identity will be defined by its rural character and the enduring presence of the river, remaining a place of quiet strength where working landscapes, cultural narratives, and natural systems shape the broader LGA.

Alongside the enduring presence of the river, the precinct will connect community, heritage and nature, supporting passive recreation, respectful tourism and stronger connections between people and Country. The river will be a valued public asset, with on-water activities such as boating, kayaking, and fishing encouraged where they support environmental values and reinforce the precinct’s character as a tranquil and culturally significant gateway to the City.



## PRECINCT OBJECTIVES

- Celebrate the river’s cultural legacy by recognising and sharing the precinct’s rich First Nations and European heritage, cultural values and stories.
- Strengthen regional connections by improving public and active travel links between local and regional river experiences and destinations.
- Enhance access and wayfinding to the river through improved visibility, arrival points and leveraging future infrastructure projects to improve connectivity.
- Encourage low-impact use and enjoyment through passive recreation and gentle interaction with the river landscape.
- Protect and restore the river landscape by supporting conservation and restoration initiatives that enhance ecological values.
- Maintain the rural character and identity of the precinct by preserving views and vistas, sustaining productive agricultural and rural uses, and supporting low-impact development that respects the landscape setting.



### NORTHERN PRECINCT FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES (UNFUNDED)

- 1 Explore options and funding opportunities to improve public access points at Devlin Road Reserve and Springwood Road, including wayfinding, signage, and appropriate infrastructure to encourage low-impact exploration and use of the river including water access for non-powered activities.
- 2 Explore options and funding opportunities to extend the Great River Walk through the Northern Precinct, building on the momentum of existing sections in Penrith, Richmond and Windsor, to create a continuous walking and cycling corridor along the Hawkesbury-Nepean River.
- 3 Explore options and funding opportunities for new public access points and connections to the river from Koorringal Drive/Coolamon Road, Castlereagh Hall/Smith Road and as a part of any progress made towards a future Castlereagh Connection.
- 4 Promote Castlereagh Hall as a distinctive venue connected to the river landscape, suitable for low-impact community events and social functions.

### PRECINCT WIDE (UNMAPPED)

- 5 Explore opportunities to promote and encourage small-scale rural and agri-tourism across the precinct that highlights the rural river landscape, offers cultural and historical experiences, and preserves environmental and cultural values.
- 6 Encourage opportunities across the precinct to publicly share the cultural values and stories of the precinct in future projects and through public art.

# Lakes Precinct

“OUR AQUATIC PLAYGROUND”

Transforming the former quarry into diverse parklands with open spaces and waterway facilities for the wellbeing and enjoyment of the people of Western Sydney and visitors alike.

Western Sydney Lakes is a 20km<sup>2</sup> site, presenting an enormous tourism, recreation, economic and social opportunity. The precinct is currently characterised by grassed areas, interspersed by stands of trees and large lakes, against a stunning backdrop of the Blue Mountains. While the lakes are a manmade system of waterways, this precinct is rightly considered by the community as being an important ‘natural asset’ by virtue of the environmental features and biodiversity values it provides.

The Lakes Precinct has been largely locked away from public use and access for decades. Up until 2015, Western Sydney Lakes was a major quarrying site, producing gravel and sand. In the 1980s, the Penrith Lakes Development Corporation (now known as Western Sydney Lakes) partnered with the NSW Government to rehabilitate the quarry into a vast parkland and lake system, termed the Penrith Lakes Scheme. The work included stabilising landforms, removing contaminants, re-establishing natural habitats and designing flood mitigation systems.

The Sydney International Regatta Centre and Penrith Whitewater Stadium were built for the 2000 Olympics, now recognised internationally as a venue for rowing, kayaking, rafting and regattas. Penrith Beach opened to the public for the 2023 summer season and has since attracted around 450,000 visitors. The Nepean Business Park, under construction, is a 47-hectare business park development with a tree-lined central spine and connection to the Great River Walk.

## PLANNING CONTEXT

Western Sydney Lakes is governed by State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Western Parkland City) 2021 (the SEPP) and comes under the planning authority of the NSW Government. In 2023, the SEPP was amended to allow for new uses including a heliport, golf driving range and golf course, water-based recreation, as well as cafés, restaurants and office spaces. The amendment also provides for the protection of key view corridors and stronger flood evacuation provisions.

The Land Zoning Map under the SEPP provides a ‘Parkland’ zone around the immediate area of the Regatta Centre waterway, and 2 smaller ‘Tourism’ zones in the vicinity of these parklands. The Nepean Business Park has an ‘Employment’ zone. An ‘Environment’ zone covers selected areas of the lakes site, but the vast majority of the lakes site is unzoned. Four areas to the east of Castlereagh Road are zoned ‘Residential’, although these are outside the Lakes Precinct boundary adopted in this plan.

The Penrith Lakes Development Control Plan Stage 1 provides the development framework and design guidelines for tourism and employment zoned land. It includes guidance on landscaping, views, traffic movement, stormwater management, water quality, flooding and built form. Council is calling on the NSW Government to undertake a comprehensive vision and master planning process for the lakes site to unlock its economic potential.

## CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Penrith Lakes Precinct will be a vibrant and inclusive regional destination, showcasing the unique natural qualities of the river-lakes system. The lakes will provide a cooling heart for the City and spaces for play, leisure, sport, and connection to nature, where people of all ages can swim, paddle, kayak, sail, and relax in ways that are safe, environmentally responsible and complementary to the landscape. The lakes site will also provide economic opportunities in the form of cafes, restaurants, entertainment and leisure based businesses.

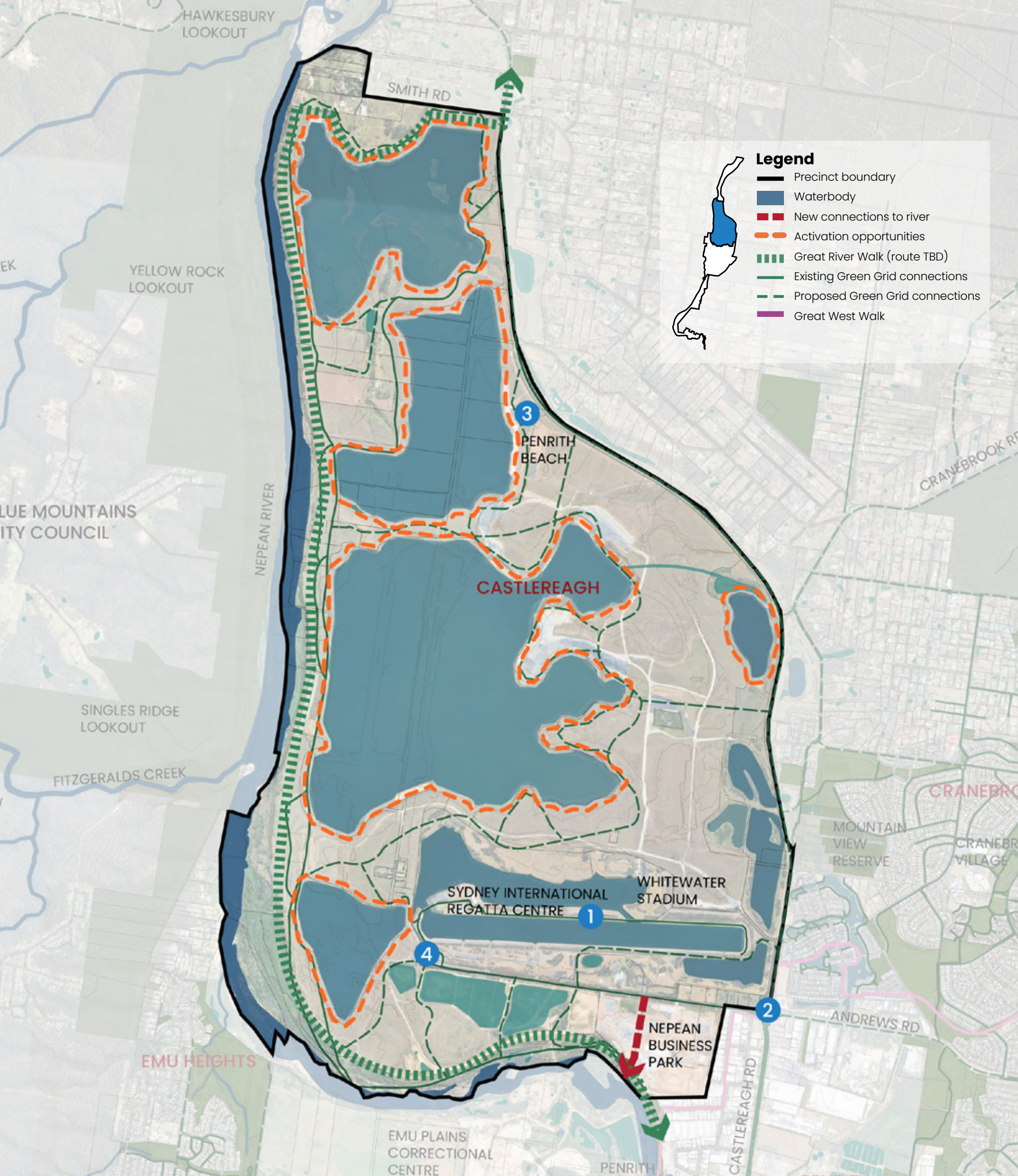
Connected by the Great River Walk and surrounding open spaces, the lakes will offer accessible blue-green experiences that draw residents and visitors into the precinct. With careful stewardship, Penrith Lakes will become a regional icon and lasting legacy, supporting recreation, environmental health, economic opportunities and a strong sense of community identity.



Source: Western Sydney Lakes

## PRECINCT OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen walking and cycling connections between the lakes, river and Penrith City Centre.
- Frame and protect key views across the lakes site, toward the river and mountains.
- Prioritise uses and activities that are accessible to the whole community.
- Ensure commercial uses and activities contribute substantially to local jobs or tourist generation.
- Explore opportunities for year-round events and programming that utilise the River and lakes to support culture discovery and education opportunities.
- Harness the cooling potential of the lakes by increasing tree canopy cover and expanding the range of aquatic activities available.
- Support the permanent summer opening of Penrith Beach.
- Support activation of Penrith Lakes as a premier regional recreation and tourism hub, underpinned by NSW Government funding for a comprehensive master plan to guide development potential.
- Embrace the international significance of the Sydney International Regatta Centre and Penrith Whitewater Stadium as venues for global events and community celebration.



## LAKES PRECINCT FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES (UNFUNDED)

- 1 As opportunities arise, encourage further investment in the existing world-class Olympic facilities and open spaces to capitalise on these venues, attract other recreational users and return facilities back to public use.
- 2 Explore options and funding opportunities to create pedestrian and cycle links from the Penrith City Centre to the lakes, so that people may access the Lakes Precinct without relying heavily on private vehicles.
- 3 Advocate to the NSW Government to extend the use of Penrith Beach, making it a permanent fixture of the Lakes Precinct – allowing the community to benefit from this unique swimming venue, providing a place for exercise and family fun, but particularly, delivering relief on hot days which are becoming more prevalent in Western Sydney.
- 4 As opportunities arise, encourage the NSW Government to continue plans to deliver a permanent home for the Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre which has existed for over 25 years, wherein trained teachers offer excursion programs for visiting school groups, linked to NSW syllabuses.

## PRECINCT WIDE (UNMAPPED)

- 5 Advocate to the NSW Government to undertake a comprehensive vision and master planning process for Western Sydney Lakes to guide future development, and that Penrith City Council have a seat at the table to advocate for greater access for the community.
- 6 As part of the NSW Government's master planning for the entire lakes site, encourage recreational and cultural activities that support the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors, namely by creating diverse open space parklands and waterway facilities around the lakes and along the Nepean River.
- 7 As part of the NSW Government's master planning for the entire lakes site, encourage uses and activities to transform the lakes into a significant regional tourism hub with economic opportunities and a point of difference within Western Sydney.

# Central Precinct

"THE HEART OF OUR RIVER CITY"

A point of interest around every corner, this precinct offers the widest range of opportunities to enjoy dining, entertainment, community events, water-based activities, culture and recreation.

Aside from the river itself, this precinct's landmark feature is the striking Yandhai Nepean Crossing. The bridge and its surrounds offer panoramic vistas of the Nepean River and the Blue Mountains. Popular recreation destinations in this precinct include Regatta Park and Tench Reserve, with recent upgrades including children's play equipment, sporting fields, kayak launches, and lots of places to enjoy sitting, walking or cycling beside the river.

The Central Precinct is the premier destination for dining and entertainment. Popular offerings include Penrith Paceway and Showground, The East Bank, The Log Cabin, The Orchard and O'Donoghue's Pub, to name just a few. The Panthers site with its club premises, stadium, accommodation, and new conference centre, is a major tourism and commercial entertainment draw of the precinct. The Panthers site is establishing itself as a multi-faceted entertainment, living and leisure destination.

The Central Precinct is where entertainment and culture meet. Popular attractions include the Penrith Regional Gallery, Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler and the Arms of Australia Inn Museum – each providing an opportunity to engage with the local stories, culture and history of Penrith. The precinct is also a major destination for adventure sports and family fun – including Cables Wake Park, iFly indoor skydiving and Aqua Golf – with the Winter Sports World slated to add to the already wide offering of the Central Precinct.

## PLANNING CONTEXT

The Central Precinct allows the widest range of land uses of all the river precincts. The precinct includes local centres at Emu Plains and Leonay, residential zones of predominately low and medium density housing, employment 'productivity support' zones like that covering the Penrith Homemaker Centre and industrial areas. But there is also small-lot rural land, areas of recreation and environmental conservation, a 'waterways' zone, and a number of Special Use zones that cover such uses as the Panthers site, East Bank, seniors living establishments, the correctional centre, cemetery and railway line. Flooding is an important consideration for the precinct, requiring a thoughtful balance between vibrant uses and development that attract people, while strengthening the precinct's resilience and responsiveness to flood risks.



## CHARACTER STATEMENT

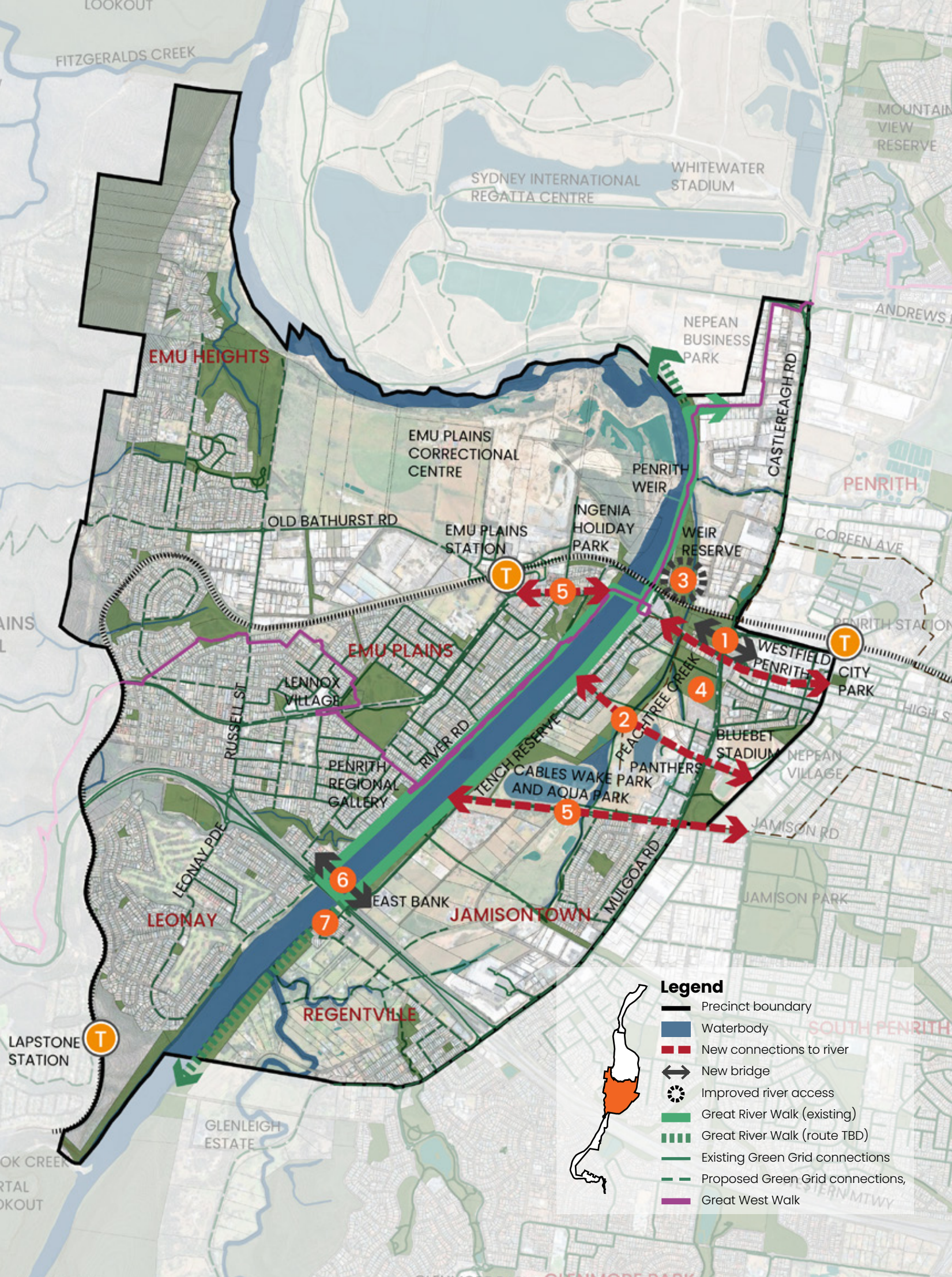
The Central Precinct will be a vibrant place to live, work and visit, anchored by a network of activity nodes that support leisure, tourism and community life. It will share a synergistic relationship with Penrith City Centre, together forming a connected urban environment that is central to Penrith's future liveability and prosperity.

The public domain will be green, open and tree-lined, framing key vistas to the Blue Mountains, Peach Tree Creek and the Nepean River. A connected network of open spaces and waterways will support active and passive recreation, safeguard natural habitats and showcase water-sensitive urban design.

The Weir Reserve Rowing and Paddlesports Precinct is highly regarded for its long, straight stretch of river. Permissible on-water activities, such as boating, kayaking and fishing, will be encouraged where they complement environmental values and enhance the precinct's identity as a distinctive riverside locations that celebrates both its natural and cultural heritage.

## PRECINCT OBJECTIVES

- Create strong synergies with the Penrith City Centre, especially reinforcing pedestrian and cycle connections to the retail and business centre of Penrith, to City Park and links to public transport.
- Create a highly desirable visitor destination by supporting exciting entertainment, leisure and lifestyle offerings.
- Support our local cultural, recreational and tourism industries.
- Leverage the popularity of the Great River Walk which is a major attractor of local, regular and repeat visitors.
- Improve accessibility and connectivity across the precinct, including developing future connections to the Western Sydney Lakes.
- Grow the number of footpaths, activities and 'destinations' on offer within the precinct.
- Improve connections from Emu Plains Station to the Nepean River by enhancing pedestrian and cycling links both northwards and eastwards, strengthening access to key recreation, tourism and community destinations.
- Recognise and enhance the Weir Reserve Rowing and Paddlesports Precinct as a centre of national and international significance, supporting elite, community and school rowing and paddlesports.
- Improve access to the river's edge and Weir Reserve pontoon for all users, ensuring safe, equitable and visible connections between the Paddlesports Precinct, Great River Walk and broader open space network.



## CENTRAL PRECINCT FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES (UNFUNDED)

- 1 Advocate to the NSW Government for the provision of an active transport bridge to enhance pedestrian and cycle connections from the Penrith City Centre across Mulgoa Road and improve access to the Great River Walk and the Yandhai Nepean Crossing.
- 2 Explore options and funding opportunities to create environment-friendly pathways through Peach Tree Creek, creating an open space and hydrological corridor from Great Western Highway to Jamison Road, with east-west links that connect Penrith City Centre to the creek and river, as envisaged in the Green Grid Strategy.
- 3 Explore options and funding opportunities to upgrade Weir Reserve to improve pedestrian, cycling and vehicle access, open space, water sports and recreation facilities, along with river foreshore access.
- 4 Explore options and funding opportunities for future use of the Carpenters Site on Mulgoa Road.
- 5 Explore options and funding opportunities to embellish pedestrian and cycling connections running east-west to the river corridor, including from Emu Plains station and along Jamison Road.
- 6 Advocate to the NSW Government to upgrade pedestrian access ramps to M4 bridge at Emu Plains and to deliver a new pedestrian and cycling footbridge river crossing at the M4.
- 7 Explore options and funding opportunities to upgrade and embellish open space at Factory Road Reserve for greater recreation uses.

## PRECINCT WIDE (UNMAPPED)

- 8 Incorporate opportunities for cooling and respite from the heat into new and upgraded spaces and facilities wherever possible, as the Central Precinct experiences the greatest vulnerability to heat.
- 9 Explore options to collaborate with landowners along the river's edge to activate vacant sites.
- 10 As the gateway to the Blue Mountains, provide opportunities to capture tourists on their way to and from major destinations in the mountains.
- 11 Continue advocating and engaging with NSW Government agencies for ongoing monitoring and management of the waterway, to ensure the balanced and equitable use of powered and non-powered watercraft and public and commercial operations.

# Southern Precinct

**“PLACE TO PAUSE, DISCOVER AND CONNECT”**

Set against the backdrop of the Blue Mountains and shaped by the Nepean River and surrounding wooded hills, the Southern Precinct combines natural assets with valued cultural heritage to create a tranquil setting for residents and visitors.

The precinct transitions from the urban fringe to a largely forested landscape, moving south. The Nepean River defines the western edge, forming a densely vegetated gorge as part of the Blue Mountains National Park. Elevated vantage points, including The Rock Lookout off Fairlight Road, offer spectacular views. With limited formal public access and facilities, this stretch of the river corridor presents as a quiet, secluded environment. Recreational activities include Nepean Belle cruising, boating, kayaking, fishing and bushwalking.

The eastern extent of the precinct is generally defined by ridgelines and dense vegetation on steeper slopes, which form a distinctive visual backdrop within the Mulgoa Valley. Elevated points within the precinct provide views across pastoral landscapes.

Immediately adjoining the precinct boundary, the exceptional historic Fernhill Estate has potential as a major drawcard and community venue with its scenic vistas, native bushland and grand Fernhill House. Owned and managed by the NSW Government, Fernhill has the potential as a multifunctional space that balances conservation with public enjoyment, operating as a complementary destination that strengthens visitation, events, recreation and heritage tourism outcomes

Around Wallacia, the precinct retains a sense of tranquillity and offers a visual connection to the river from Wallacia Bridge and nearby reserves.

## PLANNING CONTEXT

The eastern banks of the Nepean River are zoned for national park to protect the environmental significance of that land and denote its management under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Areas adjacent to the national park, which are generally well-vegetated steep slopes, are zoned for environmental conservation purposes. This zone aims to prevent development from impacting on the environmental values of the national park and river. It allows a very narrow range of uses, such as recreation areas, environmental facilities, and environmental protection or flood mitigation works.

Just beyond the precinct boundary is Fernhill Estate, which is zoned for both environmental conservation and management purposes. The estate is guided by a Foundation Plan of Management, Landscape Master Plan, draft Conservation Management Plan and environmental program to manage and support its transformation into an activated public park and destination.

Two locations at the southern end of the precinct are zoned for public recreation where people can directly access the river – Blaxland Crossing Reserve and Fowler Reserve at Wallacia, which are managed by NSW Crown Lands, and Warragamba Park, Nortons Basin.

## CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Southern Precinct will be recognised as a distinctive landscape of natural and cultural significance, where scenic beauty, heritage and the natural environment are respected and enjoyed together.

Walking trails will link river lookouts, recreation spaces and cultural heritage sites, offering authentic, nature-based experiences.

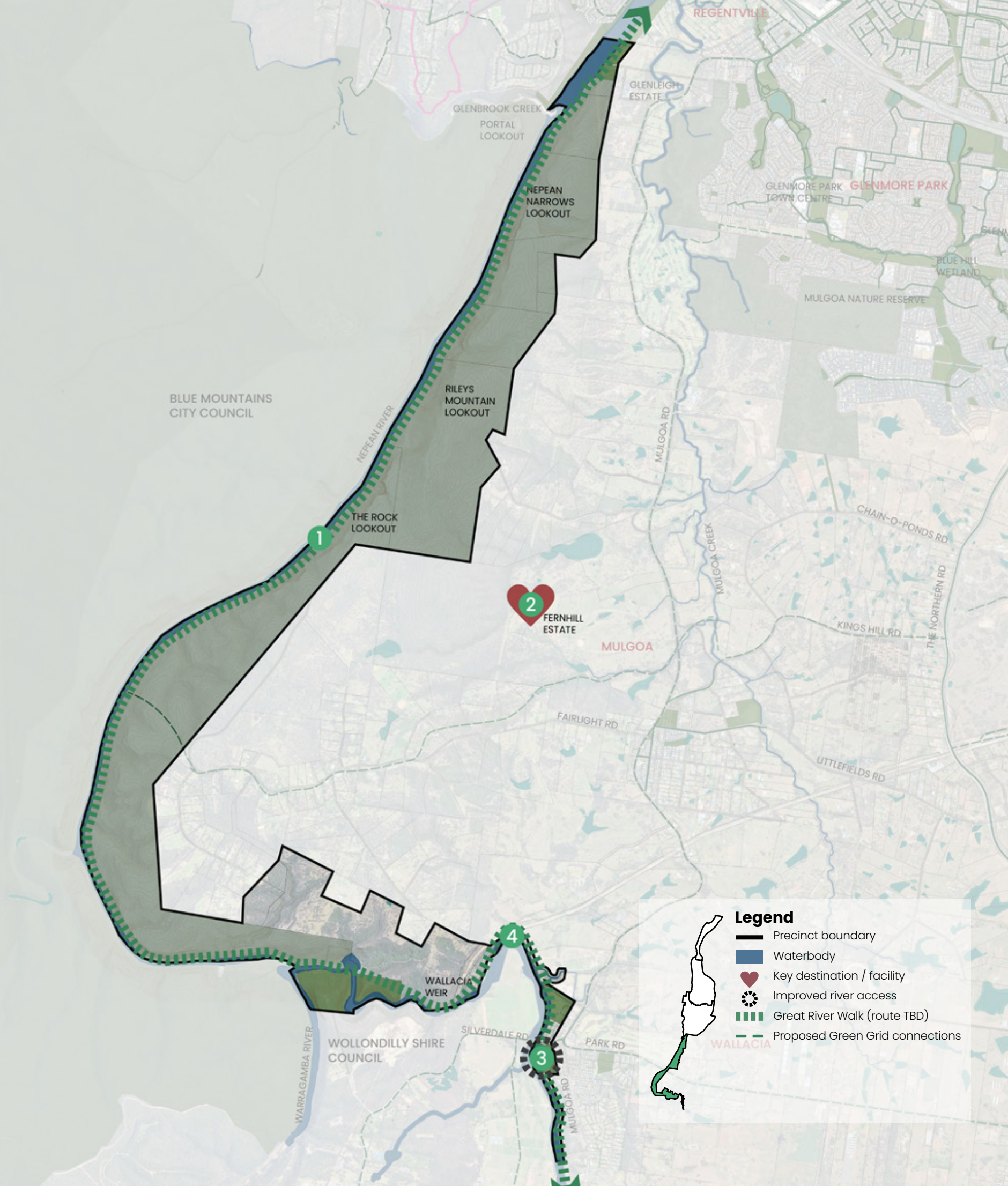
Fernhill Estate will evolve into a vibrant adjoining destination for cultural events, recreation and community gatherings, creating strong synergies with the precinct and providing opportunities for locals and visitors to connect with the precinct’s heritage and natural landscapes.

The river will be recognised as a valued public asset. On-water activities such as boating, kayaking and fishing will be encouraged where they are compatible with environmental values, supporting a peaceful, landscape-rich counterpoint to Penrith’s urban areas and a complementary experience within the broader Nepean River corridor.

## PRECINCT OBJECTIVES

- Celebrate the Nepean River corridor as a defining natural and cultural landscape through expanded access, views and interpretation.
- Strengthen the Southern Precinct as a gateway and distinct regional destination that blends heritage and nature-based tourism, capturing airport stopovers and regional visitors seeking nature immersion close to Sydney.
- Leverage the proximity of Fernhill Estate as a major complementary destination and strengthen physical and visual connectivity between Fernhill Estate, the river and the broader trail network.
- Support low-impact tourism and nature-based experiences that align with the precinct’s landscape values.
- Protect and restore, where necessary, the ecological integrity of the river corridor while enabling passive recreation and discovery.





## SOUTHERN PRECINCT FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES (UNFUNDED)

- 1 Explore options and funding opportunities to extend the Great River Walk southward through the precinct, incorporating new bushwalking trails to high points and lookouts with expansive views of the Nepean River.
- 2 Advocate to the NSW Government to activate Fernhill Estate as a cultural and heritage destination with strong links to the river and event programming that celebrates place and story.
- 3 Explore options and funding opportunities to improve public access and facilities at Wallacia to encourage low-impact recreational use and enjoyment of the river.
- 4 Continue efforts to enhance riparian zones not within the national park with revegetation and interpretation to protect biodiversity and showcase the natural character of the corridor.

## PRECINCT WIDE (UNMAPPED)

- 5 Explore opportunities to promote and encourage curated rural and eco-tourism visitor experiences.

# Implementation approach

Successful implementation of the Our River Plan relies on Council working together with governments, developers, businesses, landowners and the community over the next 20 years. In the immediate future, Council will seize opportunities to implement the plan, remaining open to new ideas from partners, stakeholders and the community that help realise the potential we envisage.

## COUNCIL'S ROLE AND KEY ACTIONS

Council has a central role in planning and driving the long-term vision for the river corridor, coordinating project delivery and advocating for the investment needed to make it happen.

While Council is a key stakeholder, it cannot achieve this vision alone. This plan sets out new, and at this stage unfunded aspirations, that will require additional funding sources.

Council has prepared the Our River Plan as a framework to facilitate progress and encourage investment. Council will focus on building and maintaining strong partnerships and securing sustainable funding to deliver the best environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes along the river corridor.

At the same time, Council will continue to build on existing work and maintain momentum using the existing resources we have available. We are committed to continued success along the river corridor and will prioritise additional actions as more resourcing and opportunities become available, including those outlined further here.

### Fostering strategic partnerships and vision alignment

Council will continue to work closely with key delivery partners to target specific outcomes for each precinct and agree clear pathways for delivery. Many of the critical connections to the Nepean River are influenced by other stakeholders. There are opportunities to build on existing partnerships and form new relationships that support shared planning, coordinated delivery and aligned investment. Council will use the Our River Plan to clearly communicate the vision, encourage collaboration and support joint efforts that realise the full potential of the river corridor.

### Preparing a river marketing plan

Locally, the Nepean River is well known and well loved. A focused river marketing plan will help build broader awareness of this valued natural asset and support visitation. Being 15km from Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport, there is a growing market of new visitors, both national and international, who can be welcomed to experience the river corridor and surrounds. Clear and consistent river communications will help promote the City as a place for culture, recreation, leisure and nature experiences, and contribute to the ongoing economic prosperity of the Penrith community.

### Advocating for support and investment

The combined resources of many partners will be fundamental to delivering the plan. Council will be proactive in advocating to the Australian and NSW Governments and other partners for support and investment in projects that give effect to the Our River Plan and deliver on-the-ground change. Council will also explore the best mix of funding approaches including government programs, partnerships and other investment opportunities to support delivery over time. Given the scale of change and transformation already occurring in Western Sydney, Council will remain open to new and emerging opportunities that align with and help deliver the vision for the river.

### Reviewing and preparing river corridor planning requirements

To support the long term vision for the Nepean River, further place based planning and strategic work will be undertaken over time. The character and objectives for each river precinct outlined in this plan will help inform future planning processes, including place based plans, reviews of Council's strategic planning framework and updates to relevant planning controls where appropriate.

### Preparing a movement and wayfinding plan

We want our community to be able to get to, from and around the river corridor easily and efficiently. We also want visitors to confidently navigate and find their way. Council will prepare a movement and wayfinding plan that supports the easy and efficient movement of people and vehicles in and around the river corridor. Important considerations in this work will be wayfinding, traffic and parking, pedestrian and cycling movements, along with opportunities for improved public transport which will be key to achieving good outcomes for people and place as our community grows and opportunities expand.

### Supporting day-to-day experience and progressing existing strategies and plans

Day-to-day management of the river corridor remains critical to the community's experience. Council will continue our servicing, maintenance and monitoring of the corridor to support safety, ease of use and high-quality spaces and experiences. Council will also continue to implement specific social, cultural, environmental, economic and flood management strategies and plans we have under way that together protect, revitalise, activate and connect people with the river corridor and move us towards the long-term Our River Plan vision.



# Priority projects

There are a number of opportunities that are important for unlocking future connectivity to and around the river and providing more experiences.

The priority projects listed here will require collaboration with landowners and stakeholders and funding sources, including in some instances funding for further project scoping, testing and optioneering, design and concept development. We consider these projects to be of value to our community, aligned to their needs and preferences, and achievable over time with the focused determination of many.

In some instances, the projects are not within the remit of Council to act on and deliver. In these cases we will continue to raise our local communities' needs and preferences through our advocacy efforts and work with and through others to realise the best outcomes for the people of Penrith and the vision we have in the Our River Plan.

| NORTHERN PRECINCT |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| N1                | Enhance river access            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options and funding opportunities to improve public access points and connections to the river at Agnes Banks from Koorringal Drive and Coolamon Road, and at Castlereagh at Smith Road</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| LAKES PRECINCT    |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| L1                | Penrith Lakes                   | Advocate to the NSW Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver a comprehensive vision and master plan for Penrith Lakes</li> <li>Expand public access to Penrith Lakes for nature-based recreation, including nature trail walking and cycling, where the level of infrastructure required to support such activities would be minimal</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                           |
| L2                | Penrith Beach                   | Advocate to the NSW Government for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent opening of Penrith Beach for swimming and recreation, and new infrastructure to improve experience and amenity</li> <li>A shuttle bus service operating Friday to Sunday during December and January connecting Penrith Beach to Penrith City Centre</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| CENTRAL PRECINCT  |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| C1                | Weir Reserve                    | Explore options and funding opportunities to facilitate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade and renew boat shed facilities including storage and amenities</li> <li>Upgrade and embellish open space</li> <li>Improve accessibility to the river's edge for users and watercraft</li> <li>Improve the road network, shared paths and car parking within Weir Reserve</li> <li>Improve the intersection into Weir Reserve at Memorial Avenue / Ladbury Avenue</li> </ul>                              |
| C2                | Jamison Road gateway            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options and funding opportunities to upgrade the Jamison Road corridor as a gateway landmark to the river and to support a more pedestrian friendly experience</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| C3                | Peach Tree Creek connections    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options and funding opportunities to deliver new open space, boardwalk and shared paths along Peach Tree Creek to connect Penrith City Centre to the river</li> <li>Advocate to the NSW Government to deliver a footbridge over Mulgoa Road at the Mulgoa Road / High Street intersection to connect Penrith City Centre to the river</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                |
| C4                | Great River Walk                | Explore options and funding opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend Great River Walk north from Regatta Park to the Weir crossing</li> <li>Extend Great River Walk north from Weir Reserve to the Lakes Precinct with connections to Nepean Business Park</li> <li>Upgrade the Great River Walk south from Tench Reserve to Factory Road Reserve</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            |
| C5                | Pedestrian river crossing at M4 | Advocate to the NSW Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade pedestrian access ramps to M4 bridge at Emu Plains</li> <li>Deliver new pedestrian and cycling footbridge river crossing at the M4</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| C6                | Emu Plains connections          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options and funding opportunities to deliver active transport links to connect Emu Plains station to Regatta Park</li> <li>Explore options and funding opportunities to deliver active transport links from Russell Street east along the river's edge</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| C7                | Factory Road Reserve            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options and funding opportunities to upgrade and embellish open space for greater recreation uses</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| C8                | Additional water play           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options and funding opportunities to provide additional water play and swimming within the Central Precinct</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| C9                | Improve public transport        | Advocate to the NSW Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase service frequency of existing bus routes over weekends and busy periods (like Panther's home games and events) to Tench Reserve, Regatta Park, Panthers Precinct, connecting with Emu Plains and Penrith stations</li> <li>Prioritise bus stop improvements within the river corridor Central Precinct to support ease of use and encourage mode shift to more public transport trips – e.g. bus stop shelters, signage, seating</li> </ul> |
| SOUTHERN PRECINCT |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| S1                | Enhance river access            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options and funding opportunities to improve public access points and connections to the river at Wallacia</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| S2                | Fernhill Estate                 | Advocate to the NSW Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase public access and activations at Fernhill Estate for enjoyment as a cultural heritage and recreation destination</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

# Our River Plan 2026-46: Priority projects map

## CENTRAL PRECINCT

- C1** Weir Reserve
- C2** Jamison Road gateway
- C3** Peach Tree Creek connections
- C4** Great River Walk
- C5** Pedestrian river crossing at M4
- C6** Emu Plains connections
- C7** Factory Road Reserve

## CENTRAL PRECINCT (UNMAPPED)

- C8** Additional water play
- C9** Improve public transport

## NORTHERN PRECINCT

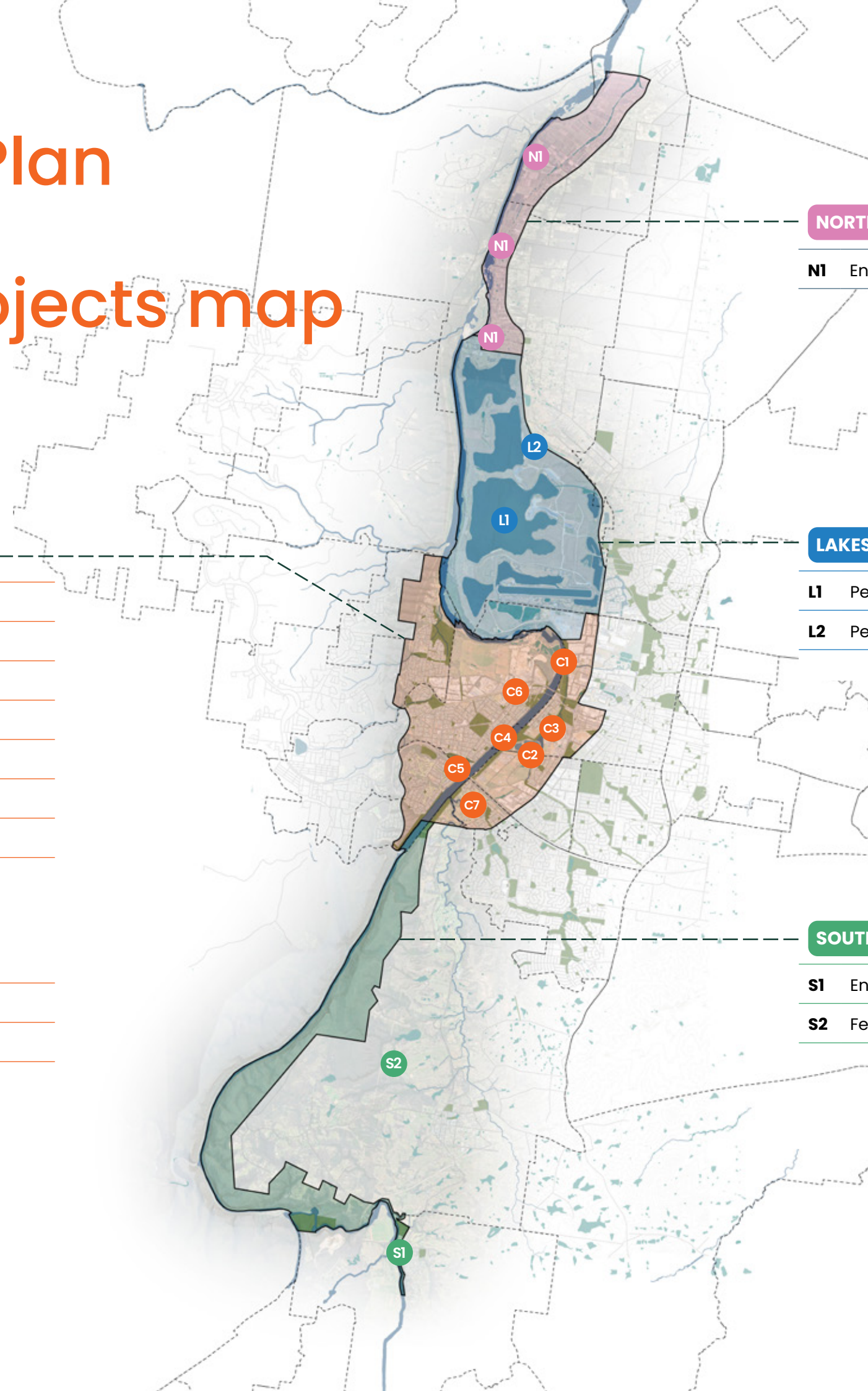
- N1** Enhance river access

## LAKES PRECINCT

- L1** Penrith Lakes
- L2** Penrith Beach

## SOUTHERN PRECINCT

- S1** Enhance river access
- S2** Fernhill Estate





For more information contact  
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