



The public domain for the Village Centre focuses on four public spaces: Douglas Square, The Village Park and the Heatherbrae gardens, the Civic Plaza at the back of the shops fronting the highway and the Community Gardens at the rear of the Mid Mountains Community Centre.

The four spaces are interconnected in a safe and friendly pedestrian environment through walkways and pathways.

### 3.1 ACCESS

Conceptually, the movement network proposed by the Revised Plan, is based on a series of streets and footpaths, which respond to the site's shape and location, and which create an interconnected network. The network of streets and footpaths include those, which will facilitate movement through the town as well as routes, which will afford access across and within the town. These routes will pass through areas of different uses, with various degrees of intensity, urbanity and open space. These factors informed the character and detailed design of individual streets and footpaths as urban places, in addition to the technical specification of the route and its position within the nominal access and movement 'hierarchy'.

The proposal for traffic and pedestrian movement is designed to provide a quiet village ambience in the Village Park and Civic Plaza and to provide the movement, which is essential to the viability of the shops behind the Great Western Highway. The activity and life of the Village Centre will be reinforced by improved system of footpaths and roads, which will allow easy movement of pedestrian and vehicular traffic between places.

The proposed development allows equitable access to all members of the community, including people with disabilities. All public spaces provide disabled access.

#### 3.1.1 ROAD NETWORK

The entrance to the Village, which becomes a visual invitation, has been addressed by an increase to the width of New Road, reinforcement of views towards Village's focal points and introduction of traffic signals.

Unnamed Street provides direct access to the underground carpark servicing shops located at the back of the Highway as well as forms an extension to Blind Street. The layout of the road network has been designed to reduce the speed of traffic through the Village Centre and to facilitate greater pedestrian safety and movement.

Proposed improvements to street network within the Village Centre:

- A signalised intersection with right-turn for east bound will be provided at New Street and the Great Western Highway.
- New Street will move east to discourage high-speed traffic.
- Right turn slip lane will be provided for the traffic turning into Unnamed Street (East).
- Give way traffic will be provided in a following manner:
  - New Street (South) gives way to Unnamed Street
  - The exit from Mid Mountains Community Centre carpark gives way to New Street
  - The exit from the underground carpark gives way to Unnamed Street
  - The exit from Staples Street (North) gives way to the Great Western Highway
  - The exit from the carpark at the back of the Supermarket gives way to Unnamed Street
  - The exit from Staples Street (South) gives way to Adelaide Street
  - The exit from Waratah Street gives way to Cleveland Street
  - Cleveland Street gives way to Adelaide Street
  - Western end of Benang Street will be closed to discourage high speed traffic and prevent fragmentarisation of the open space.
  - A left turn from the Great Western Highway into Staples Street is not permitted.
  - A right turn from Staples Street to the Great Western Highway is not permitted.

Lawson Traffic Study has been prepared for the greater Lawson area.

The Traffic Study documents and reviews the current proposals including the Lawson Village Centre Revised Concept Plan and makes recommendations on the preferred traffic strategies in and around town centre.

The traffic strategy addresses traffic managements, pedestrian issues, parking, commercial vehicle access, bus and taxi services in the town centre and the proposed vehicle access to and from the Great Western Highway, considering all future changes.

Refer to Figure 22.

#### 3.1.2 PARKING

The Revised Concept Plan successfully recognizes and addresses the critical component of accessible and sustainable Village Centre, the need for parking. Proposed parking facilities will be provided in a form of outdoor and indoor carparks and on-street parking. The first two allow for clustering large number of spaces in one area while the other provides high levels of access to activities and makes a buffer between passing vehicles and pedestrians on the footpath.

Proposed total parking is more than adequate for the commercial and social activity proposed for the Village. It is strategically located to adequately service all areas of the Village Centre. The Revised Concept Plan provision of parking areas is essential to service businesses and community.

#### OBJECTIVES

- To provide sufficient and accessible parking to the public;
- To ensure effective management of parking supply; and
- To locate parking close to destinations and provide safe and direct access for customers.

Proposed improvements to car parking within the Village Centre:

- 1) Parking will be located in three main areas in the Village Centre; the service road, the indoor parking on Unnamed Street and outdoor carpark on New Street South.
- 2) Parallel parking will be provided on Benang Street, Honour Avenue, Blind Street, Unnamed Street and Staples Street.
- 4) A small parking area will be developed at the rear of the Community Centre to provide additional parking for the school, the Community Centre and the community garden.
- 5) 90 degrees parking will be provided on Blind Street and Staples Street.
- 6) A convenient parking area will be provided at the back of the Supermarket.
- 7) New parking spaces will be provided under the retail building South of Unnamed St.

Refer to Figure 23.

## 3.1.3 SERVICING

The Revised Concept Plan allows for sufficient number of servicing areas, which will mainly be located to the rear of the buildings with an exception for shops facing the Highway where the designated loading zone area is located within the Service Road carpark.

Provided areas for site servicing will improve the amenity within developments. Appropriate site servicing facilities for retail, commercial and residential uses have been strategically located to minimise their impact on the amenity of adjoining properties and the streetscape. Proposal makes adequate and appropriate provisions for site facilities and waste.

Site facilities include:

- Garbage storage and collection areas;
- Loading and unloading areas;
- Telecommunication;
- Public services; and
- Fire-fighting equipment.

## OBJECTIVES

- To provide sufficient servicing access to ensure the viability of the Village Centre whilst not detracting from the public domain.

Proposed improvements to servicing areas within the Lawson Village Centre:

- 1) Two loading, garbage storage and collection areas are provided at the back of the Supermarket to service the Blue Mountains Hotel, new retail building and the Supermarket.
- 2) Two loading and unloading areas and mail zone are provided on Service Road to service the retail facing the Great Western Highway.
- 3) One service area, operating within limited hours, is provided on Unnamed Street.
- 4) One loading, garbage storage and collection area is located within the proposed building envelope on Staples Street.

Planned carefully car access, servicing and waste disposal minimises pedestrian conflict, and disruptions to the streetscape.

Refer Figure 23.

## 3.1.4 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport access for the local community and tourists is integrated with the Village Centre to provide linkages to buses, trains and taxis that service the area.

## OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the location of public transport is accessible and integrated with pedestrian linkages in the Village Centre.

Proposed changes and improvements to public transport within the Lawson Village Centre:

- 1) The Bus stop at north side of the highway remains in its present location.
- 2) A bus bay for people accessing the Village Centre and the Mid Mountains Community Centre is provided in a central location at New Street(South).
- 3) A bus parking facilities for tourist coaches is provided at Adelaide Street.
- 4) Tourist coaches will use a bus bay on New Street to only drop off the passengers and then will proceed to Adelaide Street where bus parking is provided.
- 5) Two taxi ranks to be conveniently located in Honour Avenue adjacent to the exit from the railway underpass exit.
- 6) Two additional taxi ranks to be located on Unnamed Street servicing the busy retail area of the Village.

Refer to Figure 22.

## 3.1.5 PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

The vision of the Revised Concept Plan is to promote a high quality, pedestrian friendly environment for all members of the community. In order to achieve this, a comprehensive system of footpaths has been provided which will enhance Lawson's village qualities and accessibility options. A coordinated pedestrian system aims to promote walking for leisure and for community purposes.

## OBJECTIVES

- To achieve a pedestrian friendly Village Centre, including provisions for people with disabilities; and
- To ensure direct and legible pedestrian access and linkages through the Village Square including behind shops fronting the Great Western Highway.

Proposed new footpaths and improvements to pedestrian circulation within the Village:

- 1) Staples Street along the school boundary line 1.8m wide footpath.
- 2) New Street (South) – East of Mid Mountains Community Centre path system connecting Civic Plaza with the school. Provision of disabled access to the CC from both directions. Introduction of a new link between main entry to the CC and Town Hall. Improvement to the pedestrian link between main entry to the CC and existing courtyard. Improvement to the disabled parking arrangement. Introduction of new pedestrian link between New Street and Staples Street.
- 3) New Street (South) – pedestrian crossing will be provided to allow access to all retail, commercial and community uses.
- 4) Blind Street – new pathway both sides of the road.
- 5) Benang Street – new footpath along northern side of the road.
- 6) Bellevue Street – new footpath along western side of the road.
- 7) Honour Avenue – footpath along southern side of the road linking pedestrians with Douglas Square.
- 8) GWH – improved pedestrian link and capacity outside the new retail area with an opportunity for outdoor dining.
- 9) Unnamed Street – pedestrian link from school gate on Staples Street through Civic Plaza, beside Village Park, beside Supermarket to the railway station or bus stop.
- 10) GWH – signalised pedestrian crossing – safe link across the highway and along the southern side of the Highway.
- 11) Disabled access is provided to all retail, commercial and community facilities.
- 12) Public lift will be located within the carpark located in the basement of shops facing the Highway linking the pedestrian between two levels of the development.
- 13) Slopes will have a gradient of not more than 1:14 (7.14%) to allow for disabled access.

Refer to Figure 22.

### 3.2 OPEN SPACE

Four open space areas in the Village Centre have been identified and will be interconnected to promote a safe and pedestrian friendly environment. The four open space areas are:

- Douglas Square;
- Village Park and Heatherbrae gardens;
- Civic Plaza; and
- A community garden at the rear of the Community Centre.

#### OBJECTIVES

- To enhance the character and image of the Lawson Village Centre;
- To create an interpretation of the Town's foundation as a place with a good natural water source;
- To provide a safe and well distributed network of open spaces;
- To provide adequate places and spaces for social interaction;
- To improve the public domain facing the internal area of the Village Centre;
- To create a distinction between the public domain that fronts the Great Western Highway and public spaces that front the internal part of the Village Centre;
- To improve pedestrian amenity and access for people with disabilities;
- To incorporate initiatives to reduce crime risk and increase security, through use of landscape elements, road alignment, building orientation and lighting; and
- To create a vibrant and meaningful place that facilitates a range of activities including retail, outdoor eating, commercial, community and residential uses.

### 3.2.1 PARKS AND SQUARES

The parks and squares in the Lawson Village Centre contribute to the creation of special spaces for the community to use as meeting, recreation and leisure places. The design proposed in the Revised Concept Plan creates a sense of place for the Village Centre and are created by implementing distinctive treatments to each park and square to respond appropriately to the individual character and constraints of the open spaces.

#### 3.2.1.1 Douglas Square

Douglas Square is located in the northern end of the Village Centre and is bounded by the train station to the north, the site of the Grand Hotel and Bellevue Park to the east, the War Memorial to the south and the Supermarket to the west.

#### OBJECTIVES

- To reinstate Douglas Square as the main entrance to the Village Centre;
- To plant street trees along the axis of Honour Avenue to reflect the original street planting landscape dating back to the 1930s; and
- Reconstruct and reinterpret early layout early layout of the Douglas Square.

Proposed improvements to Douglas Square:

- 1) Street trees are to be planted along the Great Western Highway edge to reinforce the presence of the Village along the highway.
- 2) Street trees are to be planted along the axis of Honour Avenue to reflect the original street planting and reinforce existing tree planting.
- 3) Premium paving type is to be used in the Square to maintain its civic character.
- 4) New water feature is to be incorporated into the layout of the Square. Water feature is to complement the existing War Memorial.
- 5) A "LAWSON" sign is to be located in an area highly visible from the highway.

### 3.2.1.2 Village Park and Heatherbrae Gardens

The proposed Village Park and Heatherbrae Gardens are located adjacent to New Street, which is the proposed main street in the Village Centre. The existing building and garden setting at Heatherbrae is to be retained for its heritage value and potential community/commercial uses.

#### OBJECTIVES

- To enhance the existing landscape character of Heatherbrae;
- To improve the landscape design of New Street; and
- To improve the amenity of the Village Centre along New Street and the proposed Village Park.

Improvements proposed to Village Park and Heatherbrae Gardens:

- 1) The Village Park will extend west of the Heatherbrae House.
- 2) The Village Park will provide sufficient space for large gatherings and passive recreation.
- 3) Large area of evenly graded turf will be provided.
- 4) The Village Park enhances the visual impact of the New Street.
- 5) The Village Park together with the Heatherbrae House and Gardens becomes a focal point when entering the Village from the Great Western Highway.
- 6) The Heatherbrae Gardens will provide a setting for more intimate areas and opportunities for outdoor dining.
- 7) Children's playground will be incorporated into the layout of Heatherbrae Gardens.

## 3.2.1.3 Civic Plaza

The Civic Plaza is located behind shops fronting the Highway, in a central location between the Community Centre and the Village Park.

Pedestrian pathways and visual axis through the Village Centre bisect this space. It is envisaged that there will be high pedestrian traffic through the Civic Plaza.

## OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate outdoor dining fronting the Square;
- To ensure legible pedestrian pathways that are integrated with the rest of the Village Centre.
- To facilitate centrally located focal point in a form of a water or art feature.

Improvements proposed for the Civic Plaza in the Lawson Village:

- 1) An information board indicating local bushwalks, the history of the Village Centre and a locality map will be erected in close proximity to the Civic Plaza.
- 2) Pedestrian links are provided to link the Civic Plaza with the Supermarket, Douglas Square, Benang Street, the Great Western Highway, Lawson Public School and the Mid Mountains Community Centre.
- 3) Clear visual link towards the Plaza has been created by widening an arcade formed by two buildings facing the Highway.
- 4) The proposed location of the Civic Plaza takes advantage of the sunny aspect in the Village, therefore offers opportunities for outdoor dining.
- 5) Tree planting proposed around the Plaza will be deciduous to provide shade in summer and to allow the winter sun to penetrate inside the retail spaces.
- 6) Paving for the Plaza is to be of a premium quality and matching the type of paving used in Douglas Square.

## 3.2.1.4 A community garden at the rear of the Community Centre

The Community Garden is located between the Mid Mountains Community Centre, New Street and Lawson Public School. The Community Gardens will become valued extension to the Community Centre with areas allowing large gatherings as well as intimate spaces for reflection and relaxation.

## OBJECTIVES

- To create an area which will reinforce the community character of the space.
- To create a garden which will support community gatherings and act as one of the gateways into the Village Centre.
- To ensure legible pedestrian access in the area.
- To provide additional parking spaces to support the activities in Lawson Public School and Mid Mountains Community Centre.

Proposed improvements for the Community Gardens:

- 1) A convenient system of pathways addressing all links and connections between the Lawson Public School, the Community Centre and Staples Street.
- 2) Additional parking is provided for the convenience of people attending activities in the performing room of the Community Centre and to support parking requirements for the school.
- 3) Removal of some of the existing trees is proposed to allow more sun into the space.
- 4) Hard surface area to support large gatherings is conveniently located near the entry door to the Community Centre.
- 5) Strategically placed street furniture for the convenience of the community.

## 3.2.2 PUBLIC ART AND DESIGN

For public art and design refer to Council's Public Art Policy (June 2001).

## 3.2.3 SAFETY, SECURITY AND COMFORT

A safe and secure environment created in the Concept Plan proposal encourages activity and viability in the Village Centre. It increases casual surveillance of public spaces and reduces the risk of crime and physical threats to safety.

Appropriate design and treatment of urban elements contribute to the perceived safety and security of the public domain. Urban elements used as tools in creating public safety include :


- Planting
- Paving
- Street furniture
- Lighting
- Signage

## OBJECTIVES

- To reduce threats of crime and increase security by incorporating appropriate design and treatments to urban elements; and
- To ensure the built form and the building setbacks allow for sun access during mid winter.



PROPOSED STREET TREES

 *LOPHOSTEMON CONFERTUS* / BRUSH BOX



 *SAPIUM SEBIFERUM* / CHINESE TALLOW TREE



 *TRISTANIOPSIS LAURINA* / WATER GUM




 *FRAXINUS AUGUSTIFOLIA* 'RAYWOOD' / RAYWOOD CLARET ASH



 *BETULA PENDULA* / BIRCH TREE



PROPOSED PARK TREES

 *MAGNOLIA 'LITTLE GEM'* / DWARF MAGNOLIA



 *QUERCUS COCCINEA* / SCARLET OAK



3.2.3.1 Planting

Street tree planting proposed in the Revised Concept Plan will enhance the image and legibility of a place by the use of a particular species, with consideration to its form, height and colour. The selection and pattern of planting is used to define street hierarchy and character as well as define particular spaces, views and create linkages. Existing tree planting in Lawson was an inspiration to selection of the proposed tree species.

OBJECTIVES

- To enhance the landscape character of the Village Centre;
- To ensure appropriate species are planted to represent and define the street hierarchy within the Village Centre.

Improvements and enhancements made to the existing planting scheme in Lawson Village:

- 1) No street trees are to be located in a close proximity to the building awnings.
- 2) New street tree planting will reinforce the visual axis across the village.
- 3) Additional tree planting is proposed to enhance local street network and to enhance special places within the Village.
- 4) Planting at Heatherbrae Gardens will take into consideration existing garden character and provide aesthetic appeal.
- 5) Trees planted in Civic spaces will be deciduous.
- 6) Planting in Community Garden will be sympathetic to the Villages character and will enhance the esthetic character of the space.
- 7) Ground cover planting will be introduced to the majority of median strips to improve the visual impact of the road.

Refer to Figure 26.

Figure 26. Proposed Tree Planting Plan

## 3.2.3.2 Paving

Paving within the Village Centre provides safe and pedestrian friendly pathways. The design and materials used for paving in the Village Centre will contribute to the quality of the streetscape and create visual interest.

## OBJECTIVES

- To delineate pedestrian pathways through the Village Centre with a consistent finish; and
- To ensure hard paved surfaces do not increase runoff and impact on the bushland areas.

For details on paving preferences refer to the Blue Mountains Public Domain Manual.

## 3.2.3.3 Street Furniture

Street furniture is provided to meet the needs of the community and visitors of the Village Centre. Subtle palettes of street furniture and other urban elements will improve the image and character of the Village Centre without dominating the retail environment.

## OBJECTIVES

- To provide street furniture that improves the amenity and streetscape of the Village Centre.

For details on paving preferences refer to the Blue Mountains Public Domain Manual.

## 3.2.3.4 Lighting

Appropriate lighting will improve the quality of the Village Centre and provide a safe and pedestrian friendly environment by enabling surveillance at night. Light offers the opportunity to either draw attention to the street, the buildings and the Village Park or be dimmed to create a more intimate, pedestrian scaled environment.

## OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the character of localities within the Village Centre are maintained and provided with appropriate lighting.

For details on paving preferences refer to the Blue Mountains Public Domain Manual.

## 3.2.3.5 Signs and Advertising

Signs and advertising plays a significant part in indicating retail and commercial uses and in creating a lively retail strip.

In some instances, businesses require or desire too many signs or advertising, which creates visual clutter and detracts from the streetscape quality. Signs and advertising in the Village Centre should be integrated into the design of the new buildings.

## OBJECTIVES

- To ensure signs and advertising complements the built form and character of the Village Centre;
- To protect the visual quality and the amenity of the street scape by ensuring that signs and advertising do not dominate nor detract from the existing architecture; and
- To require signs and advertising to be integrated into the building design.

For details on paving preferences refer to the Blue Mountains Public Domain Manual.