

Light Rail Stage 2A City to Commonwealth Park

Landscaping and Urban Design Fact Sheet

Stage 2 light rail to Woden is being constructed in two stages for a faster project delivery. The first stage (2A) will extend the line from the City to Commonwealth Park, while the second stage (2B) will take light rail all the way to Woden.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for Stage 2A as part of the project's planning and works approval process. This fact sheet outlines the key points you need to know about landscaping and urban design.

Enhancing the quality of vibrant city spaces

Light Rail Stage 2A will be built within three city precincts, each with its own unique character and design. A landscape strategy and an urban design vision were developed as part of the Environmental Assessment to ensure Stage 2A respects the urban design vision of these precincts, enhancing the area where possible.

Key precinct or place	Landscape strategy	Urban design vision
1 Northbourne Avenue	Between the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings, the existing median will be redeveloped to include green tracks flanked by landscaped areas, maintaining the existing pedestrian crossings and providing additional crossings from the median to the Alinga Street stop.	The heritage setting between the Melbourne and Sydney Buildings will be enhanced. A new Northbourne Place between London Circuit and Alinga Street will provide a sustainable landscape design.
2 London Circuit	The landscape strategy for London Circuit is to have rows of deciduous street trees, providing shade in summer and allowing sun access in winter. Trees will be retained where possible and new trees planted at regular intervals to provide a continuous tree canopy. Garden beds will be planted along verges to enhance the amenity of the street.	London Circuit will be a mixed-use, tree-lined high street, with plenty of space for pedestrians and cyclists. The addition of trees will improve shade in the area and contribute to reducing the urban heat island effect
3 Commonwealth Avenue	Grass track will be delivered along the Commonwealth Avenue median to retain the existing character. A single row of deciduous trees will be planted between the tracks and rows of evergreens along the verges.	The Commonwealth Avenue vista will be maintained by planting mature trees and using green track. Commonwealth Avenue becomes a "place for people" serviced by light rail.

Artist impression of the new Commonwealth Park light rail stop.



What is green track?



Green tracks are areas where the metal rail tracks sit on a bed of specially selected grass or plants instead of bitumen or concrete. This track design helps reduce glare and the urban heat island effect. The grass bed helps the track blend into the surrounding environment as well as reduce noise, absorbs rainwater, and reduces dust accumulation.

Green track allows water to be drained into the soil which aligns with the ACT Government's commitment to achieve 30 per cent permeable surfaces by 2045.



Gender sensitive urban design

Safety and inclusivity are priorities for Light Rail Stage 2A. Gender sensitive urban design (GSUD) investigates how public spaces can be designed to address the level of comfort and possible risks experienced by women, girls and gender diverse people in urban environments. Key design elements were reviewed, considered and further incorporated into the design. These included features such as quality wayfinding, pedestrian movements and sight-lines, as well as night-time lighting at light rail stops and within the public realm. Light rail stops will have CCTV and Emergency Help Points which are monitored 24/7.

With high quality public spaces around the stops, and a plan for how future design development can deliver even further improvements, a GSUD review of Stage 2A indicated that it will perform well as a gender sensitive urban area.



Landscaping and urban design

The EA landscape strategy for Light Rail Stage 2A provides details of the landscaping elements. Key objectives of the strategy include:



Increasing the tree canopy coverage, targeting 30% within the project area.

Planting will be tailored to suit local soil-types, microclimate, and the developed environment as appropriate



Creating an attractive and durable landscape to enhance the existing rich diversity of the natural ACT environment



A simple and consistent palette of materials and street furniture including paving, seating and lighting. Minimising clutter by co-locating signage, lighting and aligning street furniture



Artist impression of the new City South stop and Commonwealth Avenue/ London Circuit intersection

Urban Vision Map

NORTHBOURNE PLACE

- A pedestrian focused intersection at Alinga Street, Northbourne Avenue and at London Circuit
- Formal deciduous tree planting in the median, that is complementary of the Sydney and Melbourne Building facades
- A green track in the median.

LONDON CIRCUIT

- A centre running track configuration and side platform stop at Edinburgh Avenue
- A consistent and uncluttered ground plane
- A continuous tree canopy within the verges that integrates existing trees and new tree plantings and street lighting
- An integrated cycle network that enables safe and intuitive connection into the broader network.

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

- A median running alignment with wide track configuration and island platform stops at City South and Commonwealth Park
- A grass track with avenue tree plantings within the centre of the median
- A new integrated light rail bridge over Parkes Way
- New street lighting and avenue tree planting within the verges between Parkes Way and Albert Street.



0 50 100m

Tree species

The tree species selected for Light Rail Stage 2A were chosen to be consistent with trees already used (planes on London Circuit, cedars, oaks and elms on Commonwealth Avenue). Species near Northbourne Avenue were chosen to have a positive visual impact on the area while not interfering with light rail vehicles.

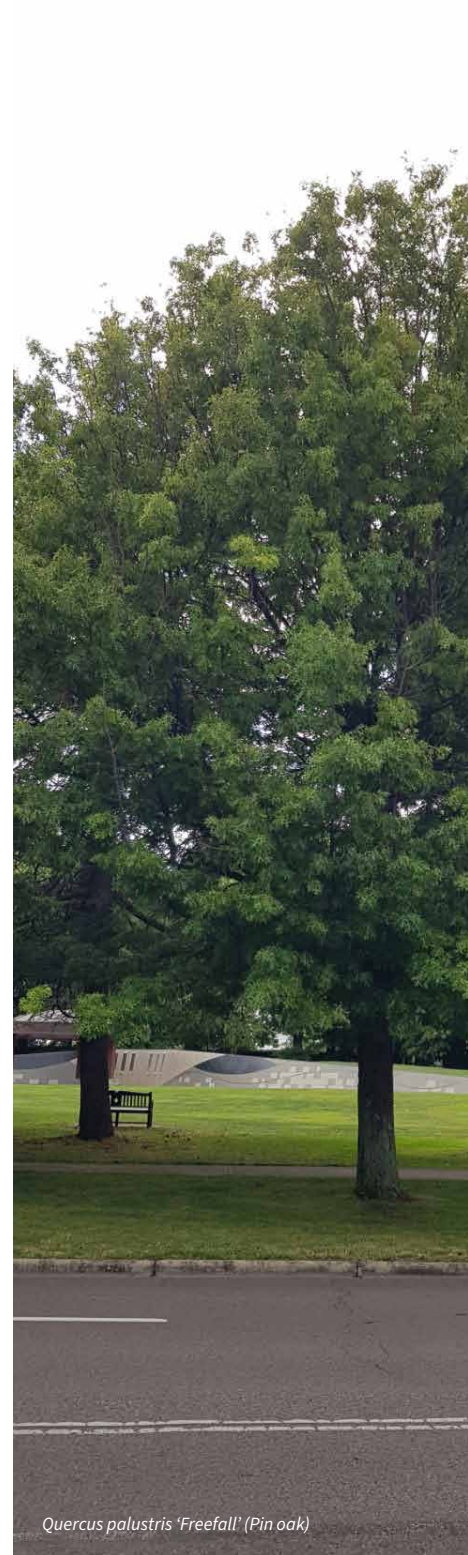
Species found or proposed to be planted near the light rail between the City and Commonwealth Park are:

- *Cedrus deodara* (Himalayan cedar)
- *Liriodendron tulipifera* (Tulip tree)
- *Platanus acerifolia* (London plane)
- *Quercus palustris* 'Freefall' (Pin oak)
- *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Yarralumla' (Yarralumla Chinese elm)
- *Zelkov serrata* 'Green Vase' (Green Vase Japanese elm)

These trees and plantings will increase the local tree canopy and help strengthen the historic and scenic character of Commonwealth Avenue as a wide tree-lined boulevard.



Cedrus deodara (Himalayan cedar)



Quercus palustris 'Freefall' (Pin oak)

Have your say

As part of the planning approval process for the Light Rail Stage 2A project, a Works Approval has been submitted to the National Capital Authority (NCA) and a Development Application has been submitted to the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA).

To have your say on the project, you can make a submission to the NCA or ACTPLA.

Visit act.gov.au/lightrailtowoden to learn more about the project and how to have your say.

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