

## Driver 1 – enhancing the campus environment > >

### [ objective ]

- 1.4 To develop a landscape design strategy that will allow an appropriate curtilage for the existing and future development to co-exist.

Currently there is not one dominant landscape character within the University, although it could be argued that the campus has a distinctive “European” feel given the predominance of formalised or classic geometric shapes particularly in the design of open spaces and detailed planting areas and in the use of manicured lawns and exotic feature planting. However, such devices are not consistently used and, within the Darlington-side of the campus, there is a noticeable introduction of native species and informality in the design of spaces and detailed planting.

While landscaping offers an opportunity to unify the campus, attempting to impose a dominant theme or architectural style would be just as inappropriate and unsuccessful as the current practice of matching the landscaping around individual buildings on the basis of the architecture period of building. What is needed is a more sophisticated approach to developing the landscape for the campus.

A starting point must be to recognise that the built environment of the campus reflects a record of architectural styles favoured in Australia over the past 150 years and, in this respect, demonstrates that the University was progressive and accepting of contemporary opinions and attitudes. This, however, is not necessarily well expressed or complemented in the architectural styles or design of the landscape.

Adopting an approach to campus landscaping that sets out to articulate this progressive and ever-changing nature of the University is a philosophy that may offer better opportunities to integrate the eclectic mix of architectural styles. Such a philosophy would however need to establish a series of landscape themes based on the past 150 years of landscaping design within Australia and develop ways of allowing these architectural styles to sit comfortably together.

While the architectural style of the landscape may change or reflect the period of development of a particular portion of the campus, care must be taken to give the impression of an integrated or “whole” site. This can be achieved through the repetitive use of materials, colour, species selection or other devices.

### [ planning principles ]

- 1.4.1 Reclaiming a significant amount of open space for both Campuses presently devoted to car parking, developing and consolidating strategically located parking stations, and control vehicle movement within the University. Refer 1.6

The following diagram illustrates the current dominance of motor vehicles within the campus environment and the amount of surface parking that needs to be relocated. The University has a policy of maintaining this current amount of parking on site. Within the nominated catchments, general paid surface parking will be relocated into a multi-level parking station. Essential services (including University vehicle parking), delivery and disabled parking will however be maintained with close proximity to building entrances or loading zones provided.



- 1.4.2 Developing an “open Space Master Plan” for the campus that ensures access to a variety of both active and passive spaces that complements the built environment of the University.
- 1.4.3 Developing a “landscape theme” for the campus that acknowledges the development and expansion of the campus over the past 150 years.
- 1.4.4 Ensuring that the landscape contributes to and demonstrates “excellence” in its design and function to support the activities (teaching and research) undertaken at the University of Sydney.

[ planning principles ]

