neighbourhood character strategies 3.0

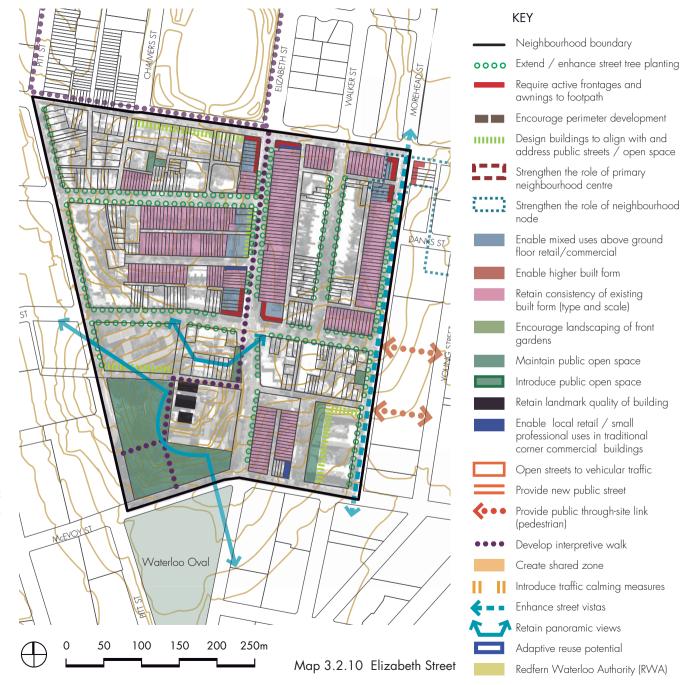
3.2.10 ELIZABETH STREET



Existing character

This neighbourhood is bounded by Phillip Street to the north, Morehead Street to the east, McEvoy Street to the south and Pitt Street to the west.

Elizabeth Street exhibits an Interesting diversity of streetscapes, partly in response to its varying topography. Mount Carmel is the highest part of the study area and offers panoramic views to the south and west, filtered by the magnificent heritage fig trees that crown the hill and help provide a 'marker' for the neighbourhood and beyond. The topography is revealed by the clear open spaces rising to Mt Carmel, level changes for pedestrians, and stepping terraces on sloping streets. This is predominantly a small scale neighbourhood tucked between larger scale neighbourhoods, mostly residential but including commercial, school and church uses. There is a legible and efficient street and block structure, and some consistent rows of 1 and 2 storey terraces, including distinctive and unique split level terraces on Kensington Street. Two strip retail areas on Elizabeth Street are separated by residential uses (including strata buildings) and not currently performing well, with a number of vacancies and run-down appearance. By contrast, a small group of shops at the intersection of Phillip and Morehead Street has the potential to become a neighbourhood node, strengthened by its proximity to the Danks Street neighbourhood centre.



Future character vision

This neighbourhood will contain an enhanced neighbourhood node focussed around the intersection of Philip and Morehead Streets. The existing groups of shops on Elizabeth Street are encouraged to remain, and to introduce a greater intensity and diversity of land uses, including local and specialist retail, small commercial, café and dining uses, community and service uses. Streetscape and public domain improvements will support the development of these activity nodes to increase the vibrancy and vitality of the area. Extension of the existing street tree planting and enhancement of local parks will further contribute to an amenable and attractive pedestrian environment. The visibility and accessibility of pedestrian links to Mount Carmel will be improved with directional and interpretive signage that highlights the history and heritage of the southern part of the study area.

Refer to future character strategies in Map 3.2.10

Future character strategies

Heritage

- Refer Waterloo Conservation Area (CA 51)
- Develop a heritage / interpretive walk to enhance appreciation of the area's heritage, including aboriginal history and the early European settlement of the neighbourhood, particularly Mount Carmel, Redfern Park and Redfern Street

Setting and topography

- Maintain the visual prominence of the tree canopy on Mount Carmel, such that it remains the highest point visible from public streets and open spaces, to ensure that the topography continues to be seen and understood as a major determinant of neighbourhood character (Fig. 1)
- Retain the characteristic filtered distant views to the west and south through the canopy of the heritage fig trees
- Extend and enhance street planting to all public streets, ensuring the continuation of street vistas and consistent rows of trees along north-south streets throughout the study area
- Undertake streetscape improvements to the retail / commercial core on Elizabeth Street
- Develop an interpretive walk that links Redfern Park with Mount Carmel

Built form

- Retain the consistent intact character of terraces between Phillip, Morehead, Wellington and Elizabeth Streets, and on Raglan and Lenton Parade (Fig. 23)
- Design infill development to reflect the built form scale and massing of existing building types, including the fine grain given by the mostly narrow lots, and the predominant roof form
- Ensure that buildings respond to and reveal the topography by stepping with the slope (Fig. 3)
- Provide continuous awnings to retail / commercial buildings fronting Elizabeth Street between Phillip and Waterloo Streets







Land uses

- Maintain the predominantly residential character of the neighbourhood
- Encourage active uses on the ground floor of commercial / retail buildings on Elizabeth Street, including local and specialist retail, community, and café and dining uses (Fig. 4)
- Retain and encourage diverse uses above the ground floor of commercial / retail buildings, including professional suites / small commercial offices, community and residential uses within neighbourhood nodes on Elizabeth and Phillip Streets
- Encourage the provision of community and leisure uses, including child care facilities, in proximity to Elizabeth Street and Redfern Park
- Encourage cafes and restaurants within neighbourhood nodes to offer outdoor dining where footpath width permits, further activating and enlivening the street.

Unique elements and attractors

- Develop a heritage / interpretive walk to enhance appreciation of the area's heritage, including aboriginal history and the early European settlement of the neighbourhood, particularly Mount Carmel, Redfern Park and Redfern Street
- Enhance opportunities to access elevated panoramic views from Mount Carmel over and beyond the study area
- Encourage the development of small scale active ground level uses including local retail and cafes around Phillip and Morehead Streets, and on Elizabeth Street

Neighbourhood centres

- Support the two separate commercial / retail strip areas on Elizabeth Street with streetscape improvements to encourage increased pedestrian activity
- Strengthen the potential neighbourhood node at the intersection of Phillip and Morehead Streets with more café and dining opportunities, and local service / retail that supplements the role of the Danks Street neighbourhood centre (Fig. 5)



