



# LA TROBE NANGAK TAMBOREE VISION



La Trobe University proudly acknowledges the Wurundjeri, the traditional custodians of the land upon which the Melbourne campus is located.

We recognise that Indigenous Australians have an ongoing connection to the land and its waterways and will respect this in the development of Nangak Tamboree.

**Nangak Tamboree (nan-nyack tam-bor-ee)** means respecting, sharing and looking after the waterway in Woiwurrung language of the Wurundjeri people.

# Introduction

Nangak Tamboree is a bio-diverse waterway which links La Trobe University to the wider community and environment. Connecting with Darebin Creek in the south, it runs through the Bundoora campus to the Wildlife Sanctuary, the agricultural reserve and beyond to the north.

As part of the University's Master Plan to transform the campus into a University City of the Future, a long-term project will see Nangak Tamboree enhanced and protected over the coming years for the benefit of the University and its neighbours.



# Vision Statement

Nangak Tamboree will create an inviting, open and culturally aware space that protects our biodiversity and connects our communities. It will maximise the benefits to the University and its neighbours by:

1

**Building partnerships**

Creating a shared stewardship of this valuable regional asset

2

**Increasing sustainability and biodiversity**

Setting new standards to protect and enhance the natural environment

3

**Blurring boundaries**

Creating new pathways to travel through and new spaces for everyone to meet, live, study, work and play in

4

**Improving resilience to severe weather events**

Remodelling the lakes and moat systems to protect our region from the extremes of flooding and drought

5

**Educating the community**

Supporting the delivery of tertiary teaching and research while forging new links with local schools

6

**Respecting cultural heritage**

Taking a lead from the Aboriginal custodians of the land and sharing an understanding of the value of our waterways

# Development of a Vision

La Trobe University’s Nangak Tamboree on the Melbourne campus is one of seven neighbourhoods identified for renewal in the **2014 Master Plan**, which will see the transformation of the campus into a University City of the Future. This development represents a fantastic opportunity to make more of this hidden but valuable asset, for the benefit of students, staff and the local community. Nangak Tamboree can be a draw for nature-lovers, for walkers and runners, for cyclists, for commuters, for families, for young and old. Its potential to support learning and research on campus is enormous. Perhaps most importantly, its development can support Melbourne’s North, improving resilience to severe weather, creating new jobs and bringing visitors to the area.

“The central moat and open space network is a highly-valued biodiversity, water and recreation resource for both the University and the region. Campus development will respect and enhance this significant asset.”

La Trobe University Melbourne Campus  
Master Plan 2014

# Working together towards a shared Vision

Recognising that this is a shared asset, the University set out in 2017 to speak to internal and external stakeholders to co-create a Vision for the neighbourhood. The Vision was shared, tested and agreed during interviews and a workshop with a number of key University staff and external partners including State Government, local councils, water companies, the Wurundjeri People and Darebin Creek Management Committee.

**Six themes** emerged which describe the spirit, value and purpose of Nangak Tamboree.





THEME 1 /

# Building **partnerships**

Creating a shared stewardship  
of this valuable regional asset

The success of the Nangak Tamboree project across all its themes will rely on firm foundations, strong partnerships built with a range of stakeholders both within the university and beyond. This biodiverse waterway is just one part of a wider network of green and blue spaces in the Northern region of Melbourne. By working together to protect, maintain and enhance this natural asset, so much more can be gained, not just to support recreation and prevent flooding, but also in terms of opportunities for work and learning.





THEME 2 /

# Increasing sustainability and biodiversity

## Setting new standards to protect and enhance the natural environment

Nangak Tamboree presents an opportunity to enhance the conservation values of the campus and further develop resources such as the Wildlife Sanctuary while improving connections with local blue and green spaces such as Darebin Creek, Gresswell Habitat Link and Gresswell Forest.

We will set standards for ecological restoration and sustainability, taking the lead and setting an example for others to follow. There is scope for partnership opportunities with organisations such as Greening Australia and Birdlife Australia, and to take steps to share this natural asset with the local community.

**Project examples**

The native grasslands south of the Sports Lake are already used by biology lecturers at the University to support learning for Schools of Life Sciences students. Much more can be done to restore and revegetate this space and protect it by removing invasive weeds.

Further revegetation using indigenous plants grown at the Wildlife Sanctuary will take place throughout the biodiverse waterway, improving the natural habitat and water quality.



Image 2 (bottom):  
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Creative Commons licence:  
[Greg Shine/Bureau of  
Land Management,  
Washington and Oregon](#)





THEME 3 /

# Blurring boundaries

Creating new pathways to travel through and new spaces for everyone to meet, live, study, work and play in

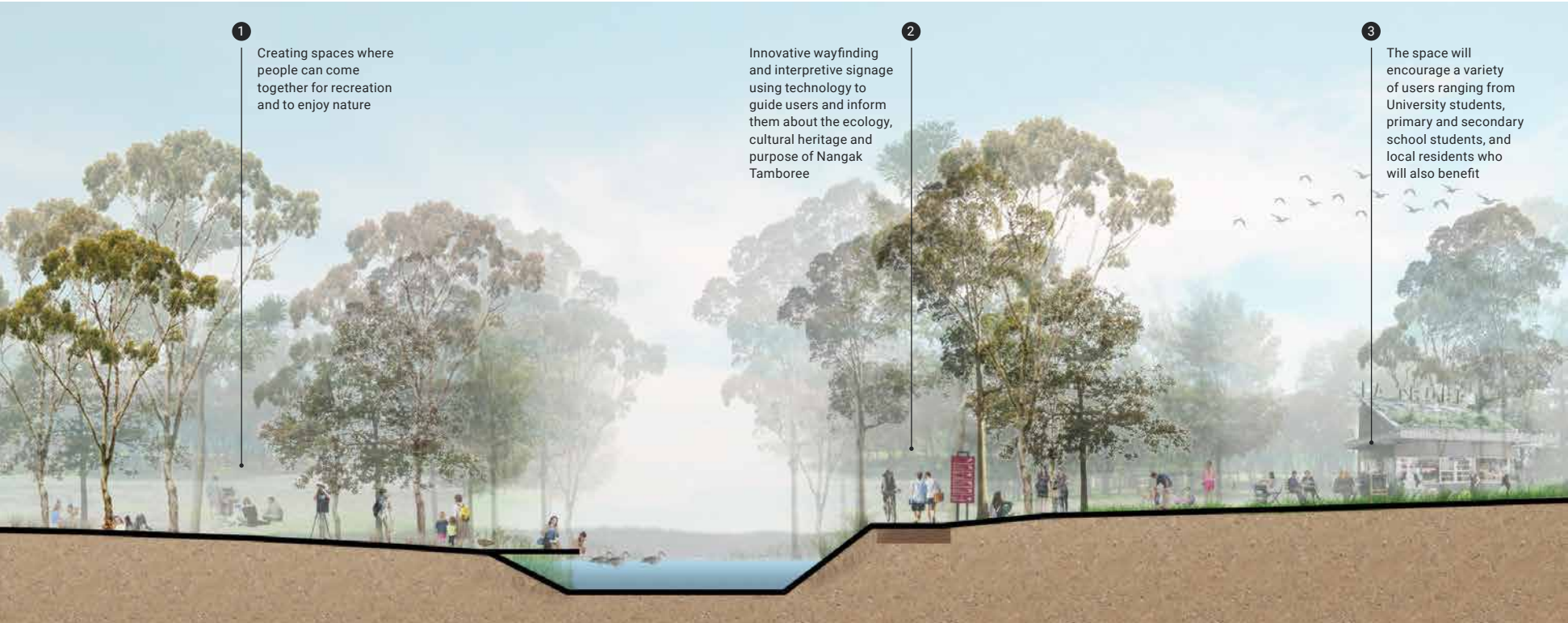
The biodiverse waterway will be designed to support the local ecology and provide amenities for people to live, work, study and play – welcoming in the wider community and enabling them to enjoy their journey through, learning at the same time about the environment. We will design new public facilities to engage the wider community, whether local school students, families visiting at the weekend, runners, cyclists or commuters. This new outward-looking approach will generate work and volunteer opportunities, as well as revenue which can further support the development of Nangak Tamboree as a space which belongs to and adds value to the region.

**Project examples**

An ‘Eco-Trail’ will be created to connect different zones of the waterway and link with pathways outside the campus, encouraging exploration of the site and safe and enjoyable passage through the university campus.

Cool spaces will encourage people to meet, study, play and work in a natural setting.

New signage, interpreted displays and use of the latest interactive technology will enhance these pathways, enabling members of the University and wider community to learn about the ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and purpose of the waterway.



1



2



3



THEME 4 /

# Improving resilience to severe weather events

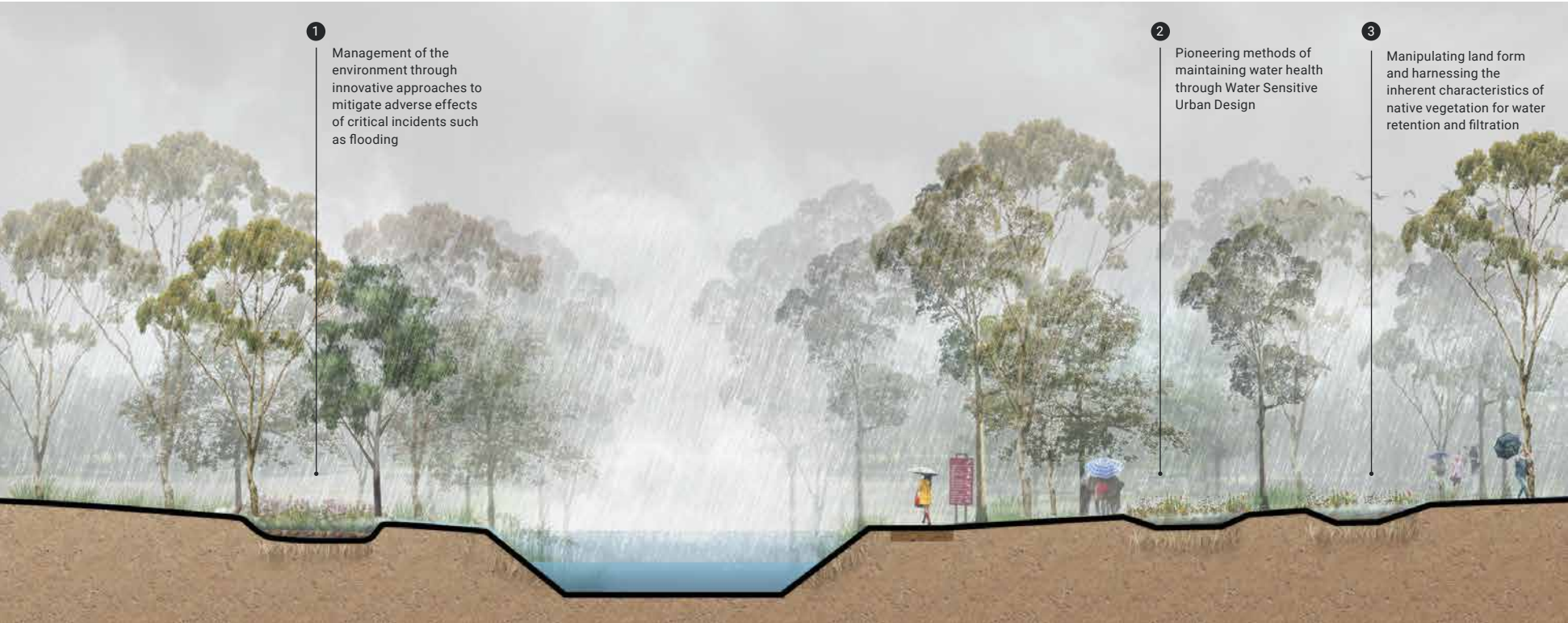
## Remodelling the lakes and moat systems to protect our region from the extremes of flooding and drought

Response to critical incidents like flooding or drought is important not only for the University but for the wider community. We will work collaboratively with stakeholders such as Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water and local councils, to manage this shared environmental responsibility and ensure resilience to future severe weather events. We can at the same time improve water quality and set new standards for maintenance and protection of the waterways, taking an integrated approach to water management and incorporating the principles of Water-Sensitive Urban Design.

### Project examples

New lakes in the Wildlife Sanctuary and north of the campus will increase capacity in the event of flooding. An intelligent and environmentally sensitive approach to the management of water – for example natural filtration through wetlands and remodelling of moat banks – can simultaneously improve the aesthetic appeal and function of the site.

Image 2 (bottom):  
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[Roger Soh](#)



1



2



3



THEME 5 /

# Educating the **community**

Supporting the delivery of tertiary teaching and research while forging new links with local schools

La Trobe University has a proud reputation for putting ecology into practice. Through the development of the biodiverse waterway, we will create work and volunteer opportunities on campus, linking with the Career Ready programme and themes such as sustainability. A relatively untapped resource, Nangak Tamboree will also support teaching and research, whether for the benefit of students at the University or those from local primary and secondary schools.

**Project examples**

New purpose-built spaces will encourage outdoor learning for students of any subject. Facilities will be created alongside waterways and green spaces to support specialised study and research, such as monitoring of water or endangered species.

We will identify the many links with education, maximising the use of this amazing natural resource in learning for the whole community. Foundations for ecological success are already in-house with freshwater, grasslands and biodiversity specialists on hand to take forward plans for Nangak Tamboree.



Image 1 (bottom):  
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[Marathon](#), Crane Park,  
Twickenham, England





# Respecting **cultural heritage**

Taking a lead from the Aboriginal custodians of the land and sharing an understanding of the value of our waterways

La Trobe has a history of respectful relationships with the Aboriginal custodians of the land and the biodiverse waterway represents a new chapter. We will seek the advice of the Wurundjeri people in planning the development of the biodiverse waterway, with special consideration given to the cultural and historic value of the area, especially in terms of waterways.

Indigenous languages are rich with references to water and meeting places. Aboriginal involvement in naming the waterway's zones and pathways presents a perfect opportunity to pay homage and create a platform to share an understanding of the land's cultural heritage.

**Project examples**

The Aboriginal heritage of the biodiverse waterway will be shared through storytelling, art works and plantings – creating a learning journey through the waterway, bringing visitors closer to the land's origins. Indigenous students will be involved every step of the way, making links where possible with courses available at the University and in the local area.

► The cultural heritage story can be told through the flora and fauna of the biodiverse waterway, such as the scarred tree in the Wildlife Sanctuary and the wedge-tailed eagle.





# The **journey** from here ...

This Vision is intended to capture the spirit, value and purpose of Nangak Tamboree – not only as a project, but as a natural asset which will blossom and grow for many, many years to come.

As the neighbourhood evolves, and new plans emerge, it should be used as a touchpoint to assess their relevance. And to ensure that existing plans still respect the original Vision.

The Vision will support the development of new materials and resources which communicate Nangak Tamboree to a wider audience.

It is a shared Vision which belongs not just to the University but to the wider community that has helped to shape it.

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## Contact

If you would like to know more about Nangak Tamboree or are interested in talking to us about how you can become involved, please reach out to us.

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