

OUR FUTURE CITIES

**INTERDISCIPLINARY  
DESIGN SPRINT**

2024

**DESIGN BRIEF**



## 01. OUR MISSION

Our Future Cities is a safe space to broaden the dialogue, ask questions, challenge convention and to wonder what a brighter urban future could be.

Our goal is to expand the sources of new and innovative ideas. We aim to provide a diverse array of voices with the opportunity to contribute and impact the decisions that define our urban landscapes.

Our vision is to accelerate the transition to a sustainable future by creating deep and diverse connections with people and places.

Our mission is to build capacity through collaboration and innovation, and act as a catalyst for sustainable urban practices.



## 02. COMPETITION

It's Here! The long awaited OFC 2024 Interdisciplinary Design Competition: Ballarat North PSP. Ready to join in on the fun in exploring what a vibrant future could look like? Great! read on for all the information you need to know.

First up, the important basics: To be eligible to compete, teams must meet the following criteria:

Team members: Minimum of 3-5 individuals in a team

Team disciplines: Minimum of 3 different disciplinary backgrounds represented in each team (i.e. different fields of study).

Experience levels: The competition is open to students from all levels of university (including Masters) and recent graduates (up to one year post graduation). Phd and HDR Candidates are advised to reach out to us via email.

Don't have a team? Fear not!

Our team will do our best to match you up with a group! Please contact us at **[our.future.cities.au@gmail.com](mailto:our.future.cities.au@gmail.com)**

Don't meet the criteria? Don't worry - If you do not meet the criteria listed above or have any questions regarding your team please do not hesitate to contact us at:

**[our.future.cities.au@gmail.com](mailto:our.future.cities.au@gmail.com)**

We are keen to have as many people involved as possible so we will find a way to include you in the competition.

Entry fee? There will be no entry fee or other charges for entering the competition. It is completely free of charge!

Limitation on entries: Individuals can only contribute to one team in the competition. Each team is permitted to enter only one submission.

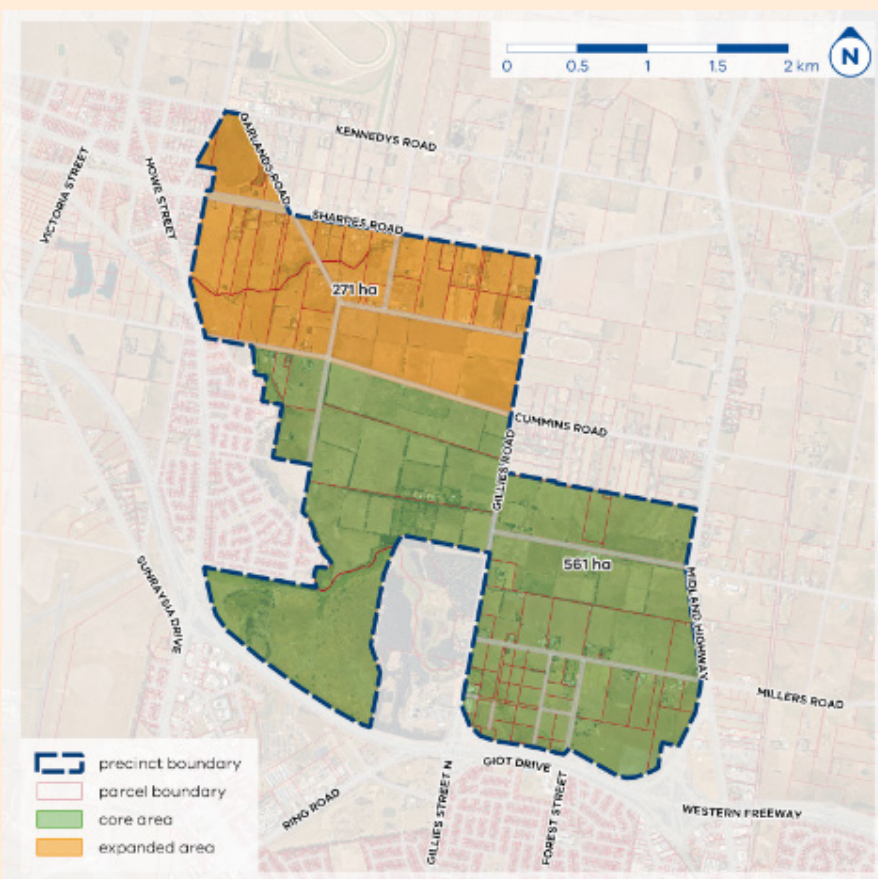


### 03. THE SITE

Ballarat is situated about 105 kilometres northwest of Melbourne, is Victoria's third-largest city and a principal urban centre in the Central Highlands of Australia. This city is home to approximately 110,000 residents and features a diverse demographic profile that includes families, older adults, young professionals, and students. The Ballarat North Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) is an integral part of this regional hub, located approximately eight kilometres from Ballarat's Central Business District. Encompassing about 832 hectares, the PSP is divided into a core area and an expanded area.

The land under the Ballarat North PSP is traditionally owned by the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People.

Ballarat faces several challenges typical of regional cities, such as the need for economic diversification and sustainable development. Housing affordability and access to advanced healthcare facilities also pose significant challenges. These issues are vital to the planning and development strategies in place, aimed at enhancing the quality of life for its residents and making the city a more attractive place for residents and businesses.





## Key Notes

- 1.** Interdisciplinary teams can decide the scale of the challenges they address in their submissions
- 2.** Submissions may focus on a single site or the entire precinct. Your team's choice should be based on the interests and skills of each individual team.
- 3.** Regardless of the scale of the challenges your team tackles, you must address the evaluation criteria (see details below).
- 4.** The Competition Organisers and your industry mentors will be able to support you in making this decision.



## 04. COMPETITION OVERVIEW

### Information Evening (Online meeting in the week leading up, date TBD)

TIME	TASK	WHAT TO ACHIEVE
<b>6pm</b>	- Ballarat Nth PSP introduction - Introduction to the design sprint challenge & marking/prize info	OFC will provide an overview of Ballarat North PSP and an introduction to the design sprint as well as information on criteria of project and prize money
<b>7pm</b>	Q&A	Participants can pose questions to the OFC team

### DAY 1- Thursday (0 Week Semester proposed period: 12- 18th July 2024)

TIME	TASK	WHAT TO ACHIEVE
<b>9am</b>	Welcome and acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Custodians	
<b>9:15am</b>	Warm up and Team building exercise	Team building exercise featuring rapid-fire questions, where participants form a circle take turns rapidly responding to a question asked by the person before them. This exercise breaks the ice, enhances quick thinking and facilitates connections.
<b>10am</b>	Theme 1 Design workshop	Interdisciplinary teams will work alongside leading knowledge experts and practitioners to explore a future cities topic (eg. net zero precincts, indigenous knowledge, Water sustainability, transport) and consider the challenges and opportunities for application in the BNP.
<b>12pm</b>	Networking Lunch	Conversation starters and networking prompts can be provided for each table
<b>1pm</b>	Theme 2 Design workshop	Interdisciplinary teams will work alongside leading knowledge experts and practitioners to explore a future cities topic (eg. net zero precincts, indigenous knowledge, Water sustainability, transport) and consider the challenges and opportunities for application in the BNP.

TIME	TASK	WHAT TO ACHIEVE
<b>3pm</b>	Experts Fair Brainstorming session	Teams will have the opportunity to explore different stalls at the fair that will be hosted by different s/holders (eg. LGA, VPA, Community groups, Indigenous corp, water utility). Teams can approach stall holders to discuss ideas and seek input and feedback.
<b>4pm</b>	Wrap up and networking afternoon tea (refreshments and snacks)	

## DAY 2- Friday (0 week Semester 2- 19th July 2024)

TIME	TASK	WHAT TO ACHIEVE
<b>9am</b>	Site visit	Participants and stakeholders are invited for an organised tour of the Ballarat North PSP. The site visit allows participants to gain a firsthand understanding of the physical, social and cultural context of the precinct. Participants can engage with stakeholders for feedback and insights of the site.
<b>11am</b>	Recap of Day 1 (Trivia session)	A trivia session will be hosted that revisits topics covered, information on the site, and learnings from the workshop. Participants will collaborate in teams for the trivia. Prizes will be given for winning teams.
<b>12pm</b>	Networking Lunch	
<b>1pm</b>	Theme 3 Design workshop	Interdisciplinary teams will work alongside leading knowledge experts and practitioners to explore a future cities topic (eg. Net zero precincts, Indigenous knowledge, Water sustainability, Transport) and consider the challenges and opportunities for application in the BNP.
<b>2pm</b>	Group discussion with assistance from mentors	Teams will engage in a brainstorming session to generate and exchange ideas. Mentors will offer advice and feedback throughout this process.
<b>3pm</b>	Theme 4 Design workshop	Interdisciplinary teams will work alongside leading knowledge experts and practitioners to explore a future cities topic (eg. Net zero precincts, Indigenous knowledge, Water sustainability, Transport) and consider the challenges and opportunities for application in the BNP.

TIME	TASK	WHAT TO ACHIEVE
4pm	Roadmapping session	Teams will start to work on developing an actionable roadmap to create concepts that align with the criteria of the competition and Ballarat North PSP's goals.
5pm	Wrap up	Teams will be reminded to submit their proposals by the due date and convene for a presentation/pitch night.

## 05. WORKSHOP SERIES

OFC has brought together a series of thinkers, doers, experts and practitioners leading the way in shaping sustainable, liveable, socially just and resilient future cities. A four-part workshop series has been designed to connect you and your peers with them to inspire action.

Along the way you will hear of new insights, tools and perspectives on a range of urban sustainability challenges and opportunities currently facing the places we live and love. BUT! don't expect another lecture. We aim to empower you with cutting edge tools and approaches for addressing these challenges and harnessing opportunity, both for the competition and into the future.

It is highly recommended that all team members attend all workshops. These will provide you with the tools for success, both for developing your design and working together effectively.

Topics to be featured in the workshops are yet to be finalised however the workshops will feature details on:





## 05.1 Water security

Integrated water management in a growing city where there is a rural and urban interface

This workshop will equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of Integrated Water Management (IWM) principles within the context of growing cities that includes both urban and rural elements. The workshop will help students understand and tackle the complexities of water use, management, and sustainability where urban development and rural needs intersect.

## 05.2 Net Zero Precincts

Cities with net zero energy aim to be more resilient to climate change, and support diverse communities.

As part of the broader vision for the Ballarat North Precinct Structure Plan (PSP), a key initiative is the development of a Net Zero Precinct. In this workshop, participants will explore the concept of net zero energy, its implementation in urban planning, and how these precincts can enhance climate resilience and support diverse communities.

## 05.3 Sustainable transport

Innovate, collaborate and decarbonise the future of our transport for more vibrant liveable and connected cities.

As cities grow and develop, the need for sustainable transportation becomes increasingly critical to creating a more liveable and connected urban environment.

This session will encourage participants to rethink traditional transport systems and work together to come up with ideas on different transport systems that focus on sustainability and improving community connections.



## 05.2 Indigenous expertise

Interdisciplinary teams will work alongside leading knowledge experts and practitioners to explore Indigenous knowledge and consider the challenges and opportunities for application in the BNP.

Traditional Owners have sustainably cared for Country, Culture and People for tens of thousands of years, employing deep local knowledge, culture, traditional practices, science and engineering. The area so-called the North Ballarat precinct sits on the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung peoples. In this workshop we explore how Traditional Owner culture and knowledge can aid in building sustainable, equitable and liveable places? Learn how to be an ally to build support for First Nations peoples.

### **In this workshop you will explore:**

How and why we must harness diversity through enabling connections and fostering inclusion. The path to reconciliation and what it means for you and your future cities Insights, tools and methods to engage meaningfully and embed diverse perspectives, including Traditional Owner objectives, into city shaping, design and planning processes.

### **Location of workshops: In Person**



## 06. PARTICIPATION

**It is highly recommended that all team members attend all workshops and site visits.**

This is crucial as:

- Workshops will introduce new concepts that can be applied to the competition brief.
- Workshops will facilitate collaboration by providing a common understanding of the opportunities and challenges
- Workshop presenters will provide an overview of how they would address the competition brief

## 07. MENTORING

Lost? Confused? Experiencing roadblocks or simply need a refreshing perspective?

Yep! That's pretty normal when it comes to interdisciplinary design challenges. But fear not!

Our OFC industry mentors are here to help.

Mentors will help you work through your design problems, share industry insights and offer support throughout the duration of the competition and particularly throughout the duration of the expert market fair where mentors will host stalls representing their organisation and expertise.

Past competitors and mentors have gone on to form long lasting and strong relationships after the competition and have even led to career opportunities. Stay tuned for more information.



## 08. SITE VISITS

### Site Tour

Great cities and urban spaces are those that are sensitive to the environmental, cultural and social context and histories.

When it comes to designing future cities, getting out into place is crucial.

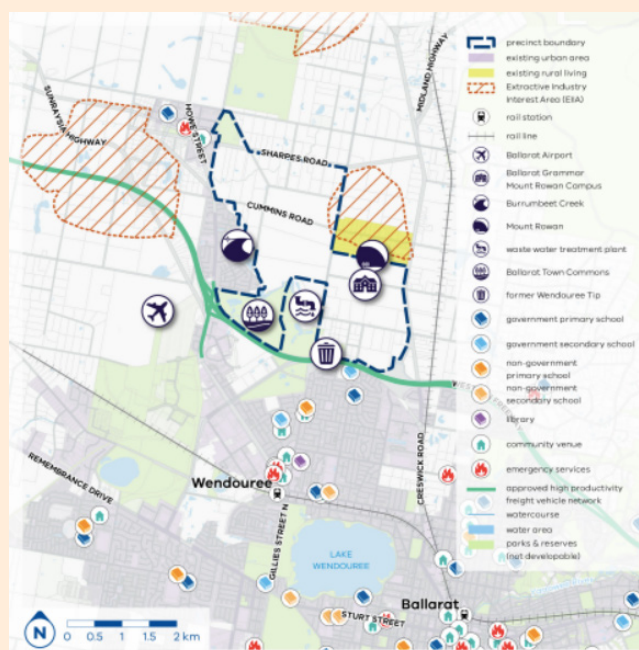
Competition participants and the public are invited to come together for an organised tour of the Northern Ballarat Precinct.

The site tour is the perfect opportunity to explore the current character and environment of the precinct, get a feel for local cultures and perspectives and have informal discussions with your fellow OFC 2024 friends, and representatives from the public sector, private practice and community groups.

### 05.2 Indigenous expertise

The site is multifaceted with many impacting factors such as:

- Aboriginal Heritage
- Environmental significance
- Water treatment plant
- Ongoing development
- Social and cultural elements



## 09. EVALUATION

The content presented in the program workshops is designed to support your team to think both creatively and innovatively about how you can develop outcomes to influence your design. These however are not the only way of meeting these objectives. You are both welcome and encouraged to bring your own unique skill-sets, knowledge and expertise to your final submission.

Your submission can be in any format you would like: Some suggested formats are: poster, sculpture, performance, story, AI panel, AI generated material, a song, podcast or anything else that suits your style!

We are encouraging you to submit something that draws on your skill sets to fit into the criteria.

The evaluation criteria will cover four key themes: Planet, People, Prosperity and Purpose and will draw upon elements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

More details on the evaluation criteria will be provided at a later date.

The objectives are sufficiently broad and flexible to allow many skills to be applied to help solve the design challenge at the North Ballarat Precinct.



## 10. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND THEME REQUIREMENTS

The Submission will be due one week after the design sprint weekend

The final submission can be submitted in any format that suits your strengths, interests and passions.

Example of submission style. Note the submission does not have to be in one of the following styles however.

- An AI panel: illustrating the design solution you have developed.
- A short video that describes how your submission addresses the evaluation criteria
- All teams are encouraged to explore new mediums and approaches to their ideas. We want you to have the flexibility to think big and think differently. This is your opportunity to submit anything you like: a flyer, a sculpture, a virtual reality experience, drone flyovers, art installation, a diorama – anything!

Teams are encouraged to think creatively and use visuals and other techniques to convey information and capture their audience. Themes that are covered in workshops will provide meaningful insights and tools to assist participants to meet the competition criteria. Participants are also welcome to draw on their own experiences and expertise to achieve this. Teams can pick from a variety of locations throughout the North Ballarat Precinct precinct.

Submissions will be evaluated taking into account the team's overall vision, collaboration and program participation.



# 10.1 SUBMISSION PAST EXAMPLES

## Werribee Food Walk

*Greener. Happier. Stronger. Together!*

**VISION**  
An iconic, healthy, connected and thriving community in the East Werribee Precinct.

**MISSION**  
Our mission is to improve biodiversity, connect communities and increase access to fresh food and open green spaces by creating a culturally diverse food walk with a range of food trees and other edible plants.

**CONCEPTUAL MASTERPLAN**

**OBJECTIVES**

**Place:**  
1.1 Create a network of green spaces, including outdoor spaces for public open space, biodiversity enhancement, agriculture and climate adaptation through use of deep and green infrastructure.  
1.2 Ecological Enhancement: Encourage native plant species and biodiversity. Promote quality habitats for the protection and health of ecological indicators of species at risk to restore.

**People:**  
2.1 Health & Safety: all key services can be accessed.  
2.2 Community & Safety: maintain and improve public facilities such as playgrounds, sports, green space and walkways, recreation, training and social clubbing services affordable and not beyond the reach of most people.  
2.3 Culture & Identity: maintain and improve both contemporary and indigenous community culture, heritage and identity values.  
2.4 Community Investment & Local Jobs Creation: Encourage private, not-for-profit, social and enterprise, community, training and social clubbing services affordable and not beyond the reach of most people.  
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**Property:**  
3.1 Sustainability: Sustainability: Key public facilities such as playgrounds, sports, green space and walkways, recreation, training and social clubbing services affordable and not beyond the reach of most people.  
3.2 Community Investment & Local Jobs Creation: Encourage private, not-for-profit, social and enterprise, community, training and social clubbing services affordable and not beyond the reach of most people.  
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**Project:**  
4.1 Community Investment and Capacity: promote an integrated approach to planning and design that includes integrated water management principles such as water sensitive urban design, separate collection, distributed water management and rainwater harvesting.

**Notes:** 10 Green Trees, Five Eucalypts and High Biodiversity

## CONNECTIVITY

### Wildlife Corridor

Wildlife corridors in the EWEP will be designed so that there is always a quiet corridor linking bushland habitat (fig.1)

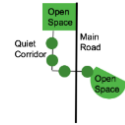
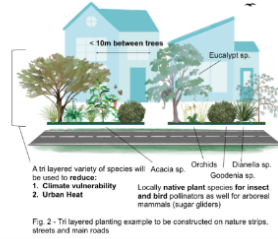
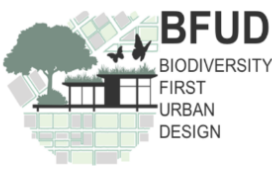


Fig.1 Example corridor network

Quiet corridors are laneways just for animals or streets with:

1. Low traffic flow
2. Wildlife sensitive lighting
3. Native tri layered vegetation for structural diversity (as evident in fig.2)



The East Werribee Employment Precinct (EWEP) will be transformed into a vibrant city that sets a leading example in urban development through the use of the Biodiversity First Urban Design (BFUD) framework.

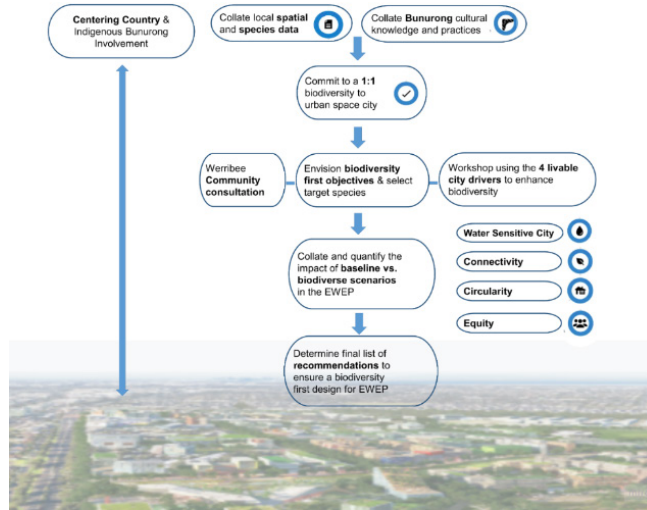
The BFUD framework is designed to put biodiversity at the forefront by proposing a 50/50 ratio between deep soil space and built form space. The EWEP will interweave deep soil space into the built form to create a connected and diverse city. BFUD builds on existing frameworks and is inspired by indigenous peoples centering of country.

### Key steps to successful BFUD design at the EWEP

### RED GUM COMMUNITY CENTRE

**NEVER RED GUM TREE**

**HERITAGE**



## **11. PRIZE MONEY**

By competing your team will be in the running for \$5,000 in prize money!

This will be split between the three teams with the highest scores awarded by the judging panel

**First Prize \$3000**

**Second Prize \$1500**

**Third Prize \$500**

Key notes

Only one payment will be made to each winning team. It is the responsibility of the team to nominate which team member will receive the funds and to manage the sharing of those funds across all team mates.





## 12. FINAL SUBMISSIONS AND SUPPORT

Entrants own the rights to the work they submit for the competition.

Entrants agree that the Competition Organisers are granted the non-exclusive reproduction rights to all entries for the Competition Organisers' advertising, promotion, exhibition, print and digital publication. The Competition Organisers shall have no responsibility for any unauthorised use of the entrant's works by any third party, including but not limited to the Organisers.

### Contact Details

Before you contact the Competition Organisers, please familiarise yourself with all information in this document and on the Our Future Cities website.

The OFC Committee was established to get creative in designing the Our Future Cities program for 2024. With members from many disciplines and lots of passion, the program is in excellent hands.

Please reach out to us at [our.future.cities.au@gmail.com](mailto:our.future.cities.au@gmail.com) if you need support during the competition.



