

Part C - Precinct Plans

3. Northern Financial & Alfred St

The northern financial area is bound by the city's harbour gateway at Alfred Street in the north, George Street in the west, the northern edge of Martin Place and Macquarie Street. Topographically the area is located in the valley between the city ridges at York Street and Macquarie Street.

3.1 Precinct objectives

General

- Ensure that important vistas to the harbour, historic buildings and squares are protected.
- Strengthen pedestrian links to city squares such as Chifley Square, Macquarie Place, Farrer Place and Alfred Place
- Use palm tree planting to highlight key nodes or view axes.

Special

- To maintain and reinforce the existing character of existing well established trees plantings.
- To develop opportunities for in-road or blister planting.

3.2 Precinct conditions

Existing street trees

In general the area has a large population of mature and established trees which provide a good level of environmental amenity and tree canopy cover. The plantings of mature native Cabbage Tree Palms (*Livistona australis*) within the precinct have been successful due to their architectural form, compact root system and shade tolerance.

Celtis australis has been planted within Customs House Square and they are performing well in this location. The London Plane Trees and Hills Weeping Figs on Alfred Street provide great amenity to the area.

Current dominant species

<i>Livistona australis</i>	Cabbage Tree Palm
<i>Populus simonii</i>	Simons Poplar
<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	London Plane Tree
<i>Celtis australis</i>	Southern Hackberry

Built form and road widths

The Northern Commercial Precinct functions as the city's prime trade area. The Northern Commercial Precinct contains the city's highest concentration of high-rise office towers as well as a number of Victorian public buildings such as the Lands and Education Department and the Chief Secretary Building, all located on Bridge Street.

The precinct adjoins Circular Quay and the north south streets have harbour vistas. Some of the principal north south streets carry large volumes of traffic and are major bus routes.

Microclimate

The area is subject to salt exposure, heavy shade, experiences wind tunnelling and down-drafts from office towers and building podiums. These combined conditions result in a significant constraint on tree planting. Generally, the conditions in this precinct are harsh and tree establishment requires careful management.

Geological conditions

The area is predominantly Hawkesbury Sandstone and fill reclaimed areas.

Soil conditions

The area has disturbed soil and impeded drainage. In some foreshore areas the soil is fill placed on alluvial areas and in swamps.

3.3 Proposed Primary Tree Species Palette

Common Name	Species
Brush Box	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>
Southern Hackberry	<i>Celtis australis</i>
Hills Weeping Fig	<i>Ficus microcarpa var hillii</i>
Cabbage Tree Palm	<i>Livistona australis</i>
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>

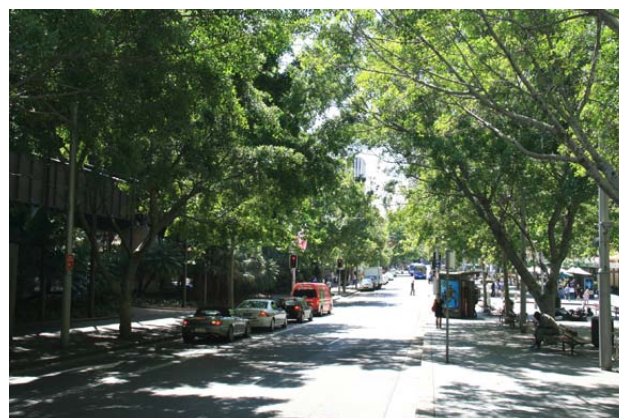
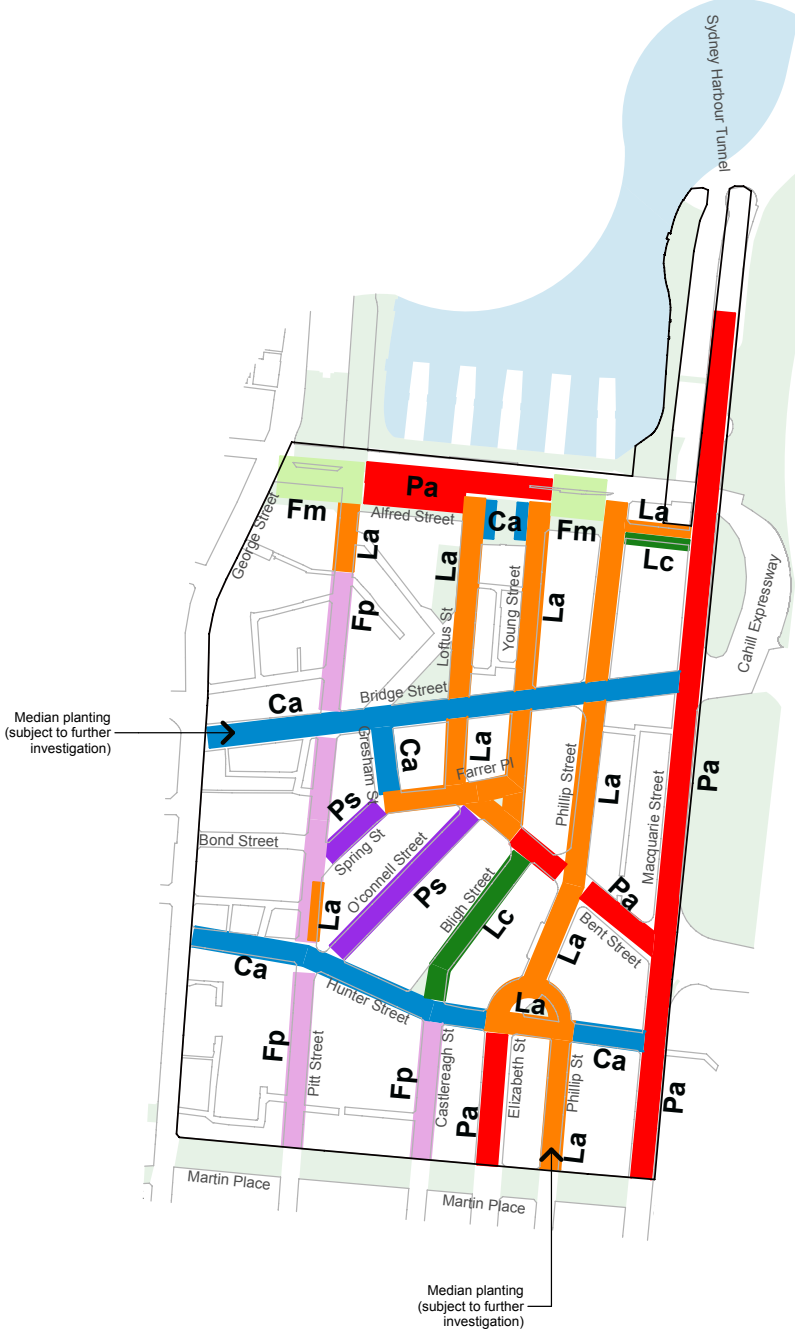


Figure 51- *Ficus hillii* on Alfred street provide great amenity. (Photo Arterra)

Precinct 3 Northern Financial & Alfred St



SPECIES LEGEND

- Evergreen**
- Fm *Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii* (Hill's Weeping Fig)
 - Lc *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box)
- Deciduous**
- Ca *Celtis australis* (Southern Hackberry)
 - Fp *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (Green Ash)
 - Pa *Platanus acerifolia* (London Plane)
 - Ps *Populus simonii* (Simons Poplar)
- Palms**
- La *Livistona australis* / *Washingtonia robusta* (Cabbage Tree Palm/ Mexican Fan Palm)

LEGEND

Public open space

