

Part C - Precinct Plans

4. Western Commercial

The Western Commercial Precinct is bound by Market Street in the south, Grosvenor Street in the north and Sussex Street in the west. Topographically most of the precinct slopes from the ridge at York Street towards Darling Harbour in the west.

4.1 Precinct objectives

General

- To improve pedestrian links to adjoining precincts by street tree planting.
- To maintain vistas to Darling Harbour.

Special

- To phase out the use of the Fig trees in the Precinct.
- Undertake replacement program for senescent Poplars.
- To develop opportunities for in-road or blister planting.

4.2 Precinct conditions

Existing street trees

The street tree amenity in this area is low as there are many poorly performing specimens and senescent trees which require management. These include the Lombardy Poplar which will be replaced with Simons Poplar, many of which have been planted successfully in Kent Street. The use of the figs will be phased out within the precinct as they are proving an unsuitable urban street tree. Replacement tree planting will provide seasonal interest and improved access to natural light.

Current dominant species

<i>Populus simonii</i>	Simons Poplar
<i>Ficus hillii</i>	Hills Weeping Fig
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Liquidambar

Built form and road widths

This precinct occupies a sandstone ridge and is exposed to westerly winds and harbour breezes. Wynyard Park is the main focal point of this precinct, which provides significant borrowed landscape and forms part of the city's northern entrance. The Western Distributor to the Harbour Bridge is a prominent feature that divides the landscape.

There a large proportion of office and residential towers concentrated in this precinct. Generally the majority of streets have 20 metre wide reserves with standard 3.6 metre wide footpaths.

Microclimate

The area is subject to heavy shade and significant wind tunnelling effects due to the presence of towers.

Geological conditions

The geology of the area is Hawkesbury Sandstone.

Soil conditions

Soils are shallow, sandy, and acidic and in some areas disturbed by construction activity.

4.3 Proposed Primary Tree Species Palette

Common Name	Species
Brush Box	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>
Simon Poplar	<i>Populus simonii</i>
London Plane	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Japanese Zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Green Vase'
Liquidambar	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Crows Ash	<i>Flindersia australis</i>

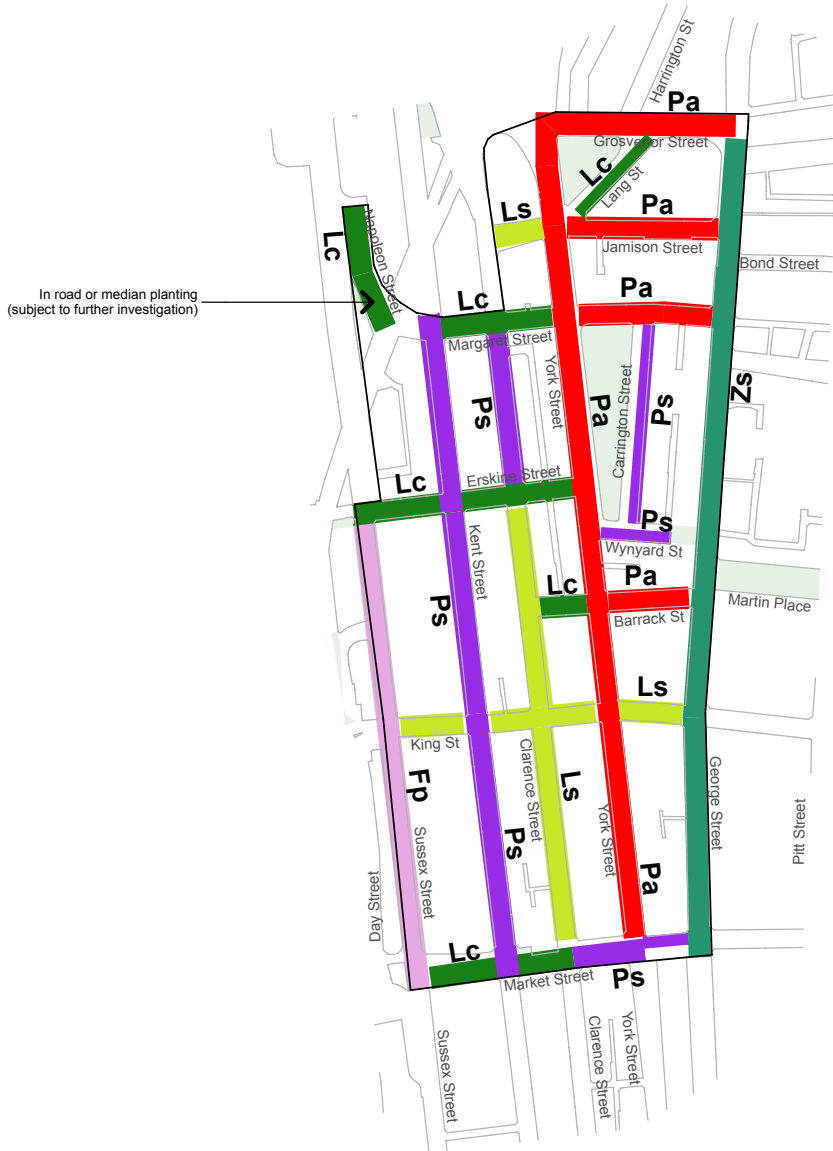


Figure 52- *Ficus hillii* to be phased out throughout the precinct. (Photo Arterra)



Figure 53- Simon Poplar to replace the senescent Lombardy Poplars. (Photo Arterra)

Precinct 4 Western Commercial



SPECIES LEGEND

Evergreen

Lc *Lophostemon confertus*
(Brush Box)

Deciduous

Fp *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
(Green Ash)

Ls *Liquidambar styraciflua*
(Liquidambar)

Pa *Platanus acerifolia*
(London Plane)

Ps *Populus simonii*
(Simons Poplar)

Zs *Zelkova serrata* 'Green Vase'
(Japanese Zelkova)

LEGEND



Public open space

