

5.0 Broke / Fordwich



Yellow Rock (Lizard Rock)

5.1. European Heritage

European explorers first reached the Broke area in 1818 and land grants followed in 1824. John Blaxland received a grant because he had found a route to the Hunter Valley.

The village was given its name by Major Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor General, who used the name of his English friend Sir Charles Broke-Vere.

John Blaxland had built a mill at the nearby Fordwich by 1860. Six years later, Broke had an Anglican church, a farm implements workshop and a school.

The Great North Road was completed and became the main stock route to Sydney. Since it passed through Broke, it contributed to further growth of the village, with something like a thousand head of cattle using the route each week. This amount of activity meant that by the late 1800s Broke had several hotels, a post office, a school, a mill, two churches, a hall, a brick kiln, a butchery, bakery and blacksmith. The 1887 Plan of the village of Broke (Figure 22) identified the areas reserved for the different land uses.

The first church service in the Broke area was held in the woolshed at Fordwich. There are records that in 1831 services were held regularly at this centre. In 1861 a contract was let for the erection of a building to serve as both a school and church and Mr A Blaxland gave 2 acres of land as a burial ground. The building was replaced by the existing stone church in the 1880s. This church has been associated with much of the history of Broke since this time. Architecturally it is a well built, excellently preserved stone building.

In 1865, A Church of England denominational school was established in Broke. In 1867, the Land's Department granted the Council of Education a 2 acre site to be utilised for the school. The Church of England denominational School received State certificate in 1867. This entitled the school the provision of school supplies and payment of teachers salaries. There were 35 students enrolled at that time.

In 1871, school aid was granted for the establishment of a provisional school however because of the existence of the Church of England denominational School, the provisional school could not maintain enrolment numbers and it folded in 1873.

By 1875, there was some disaffection with the Church of England School and an application for the establishment of a public school was made in that year. In 1877, a 2 acre site at the corner of Cochrane and Adair Street was selected for the public school. Plans depicted a brick building with a concrete foundation. This included a schoolroom to accommodate 66 students, a classroom for 15 students and a masters residence consisting of 3 rooms and a kitchen. The buildings were completed in 1878 and 36 children were enrolled for that school year. In 1897, an evening school was established in Broke however due to lack of enrolments the school only lasted 6 months.

Provisional Schools could be established in areas where at least 15 students (but fewer than the 25 required for a public school) could be expected to attend.

However, it was not to last. The railways eventually replaced the Great North Road as the main route between Sydney and the Hunter, which meant a drastic drop in traffic through Broke. A railway service between Wollombi and Singleton was proposed but never constructed. Broke reverted to being the quiet village it had originally been.

Blaxland House - A large portion of Fordwich was acquired by the Commonwealth Government following World War 1 as farming allotments for returned soldiers. The homestead was later acquired by the Tulloch winemaking family. By the mid 1930s the homestead was still standing but in a state of disrepair. The house and its outbuildings were demolished in 1939 with material from the site removed to be used as building material elsewhere in the area. In 1974, the Blaxland Bar Restaurant was built utilising bricks and stone from the site. A line of pepper trees are all the visible remains on the site today.

Figure 22 – 1887 The Village of Broke
Source: Land and Property Information 2015

- 1 Land reserved as a site for the Police Station and Court House
- 2 Land reserved for public buildings
- 3 Roman Catholic Church
- 4 Church of England
- 5 Public School
- 6 Land reserved for public recreation
- 7 Reserved for water supply and public recreation. Council appointed as the Trustee.
- 8 Reserved for public recreation
- 9 Identified as a lagoon in private ownership
- 10 Street grid pattern

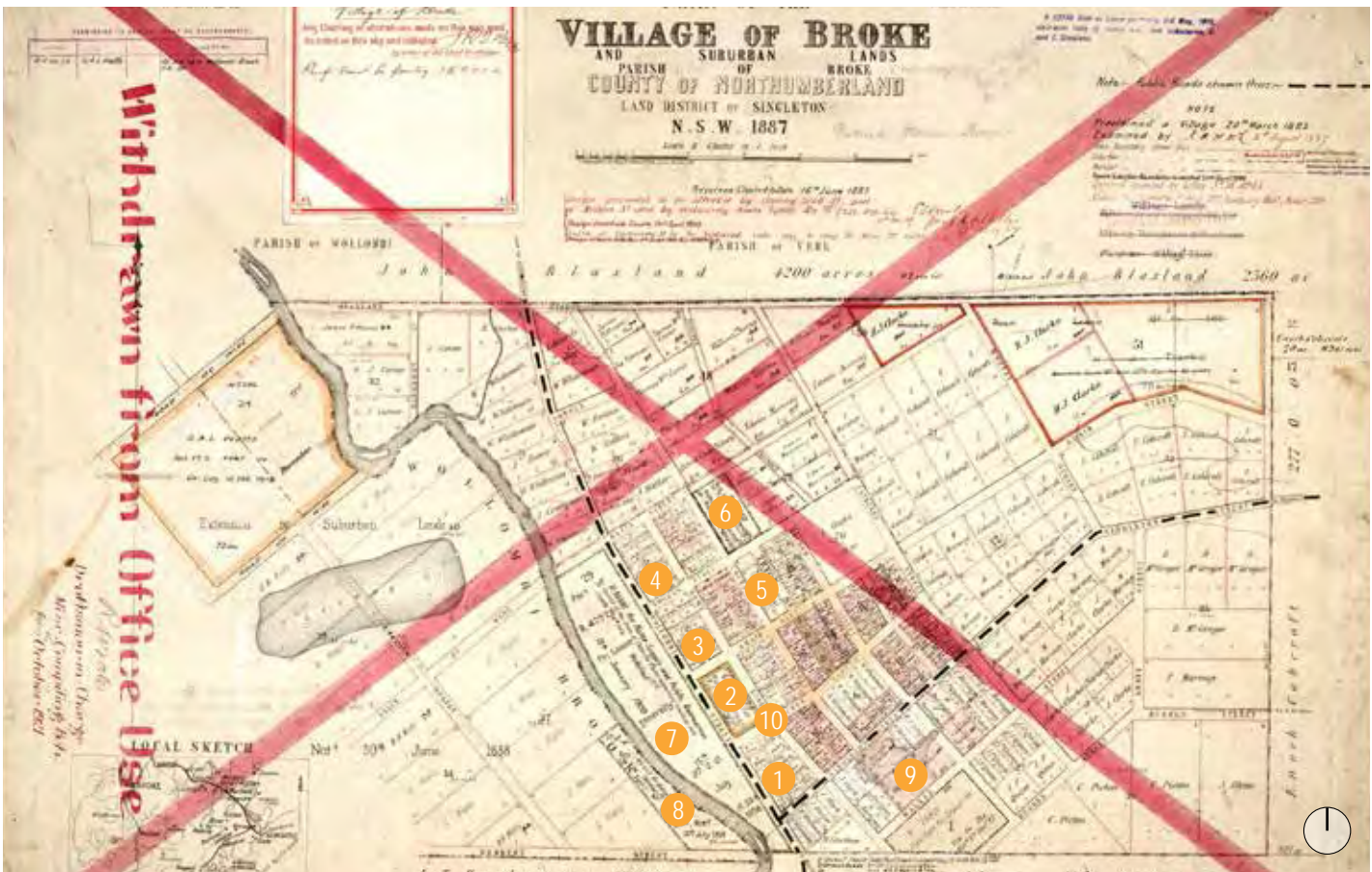


Figure 23 – 1891 Parish of Wollombi
Source: Land and Property Information 2015

- 1 Great North Road (now known as Charlton Road)
- 2 John Blaxland's landholding Fordwich



European Heritage cont.

The Singleton Local Environmental Plan 2013 identifies the following items of local heritage significance in Broke and Fordwich (refer Figure 24).

- Albert Hall, 1260 Broke Road, Lot 1, DP 1146108.
- General cemetery, 1260 Charlton Road (corner Butlers Road), Part Lot 59, DP 755270.
- War memorial, 19 Wollombi Street (Stewart McTaggart Park), Part Lot 7001, DP 93462. Stewart McTaggart Reserve has a Roll of Honour for the lives lost at various wars.
- Maria Immaculate Roman Catholic Church, 26-28 Wollombi Street, Lots 1 and 2, Section 17, DP 758164.
- St Andrew's Anglican Church, 36 Wollombi Street, Lot 1, Section 25, DP 758164.
- "Charlton", 154 Cobcroft Road, Lot 18, DP 10022.
- Archaeological site - Blaxland's House, 4 Fordwich Road, Lot 4, DP 615819.

A number of other significant buildings have also survived from the early days. They include the original post office (1882), the village hall (1898), public school (1876) and the old police station. (www.wikipeadia.org.au) (Figure 25).

Figure 24 – Singleton LEP Local heritage items
Source: Base - Singleton Council LEP 2013

- ① Broke Cemetery
- ② Albert Hall
- ③ St Andrew's Anglican Church
- ④ Maria Immaculate Roman Catholic Church
- ⑤ War Memorial
- ⑥ "Charlton"
- ⑦ Blaxland House

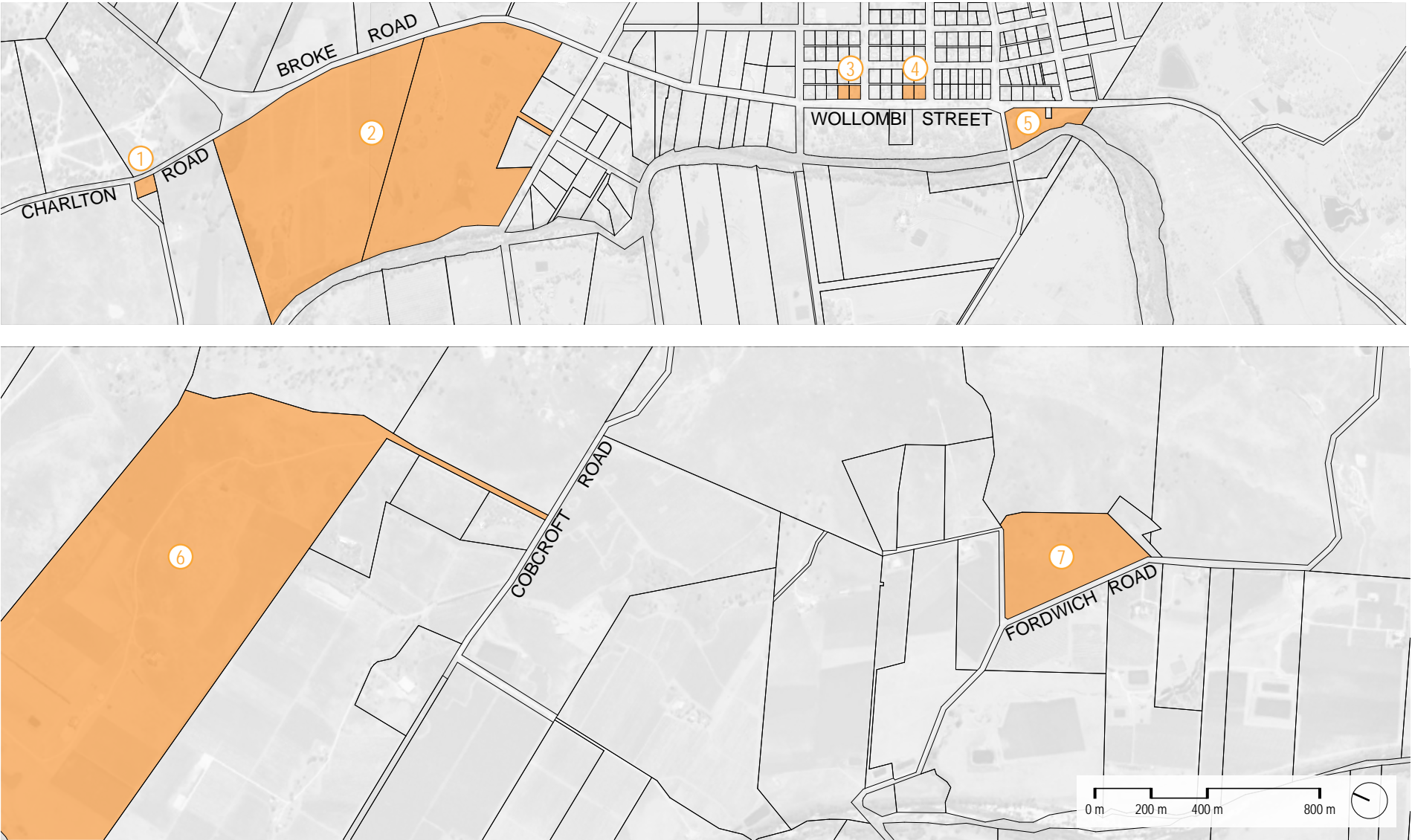


Figure 25 – Other Historical buildings

- ① Broke Hall
- ② Former Broke Police Station
- ③ Broke Public School



5.2. Planning regime

Broke / Fordwich is zoned under the Singleton LEP 2013 as follows and as shown on Figure 26.

- RU1 Primary Production
- RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
- R5 Large Lot Residential
- RE1 Public Recreation

The minimum lot size for the zones under the Singleton LEP 2013 are:

- RU1 40 ha
- RU4 40 ha
- R5 8000 m²

The area zoned R5 Large Lot Residential is also impacted by the Flood Planning Level under the Singleton LEP. The minimum floor height restriction for this area has been determined as 78.1 m AHD. This requires that development consent must not be granted to development on land unless the consent authority is satisfied that the development:

- (a) is compatible with the flood hazard of the land, and
- (b) will not significantly adversely affect flood behaviour resulting in detrimental increases in the potential flood affectation of other development or properties, and
- (c) incorporates appropriate measures to manage risk to life from flood, and
- (d) will not significantly adversely affect the environment or cause avoidable erosion, siltation, destruction of riparian vegetation or a reduction in the stability of river banks or watercourses, and
- (e) is not likely to result in unsustainable social and economic costs to the community as a consequence of flooding.

A desktop analysis shows that the land would not be able to be further subdivided for residential development based on the minimum lot size outlined in the Singleton LEP. The only additional development would be whether a vacant site has a dwelling entitlement or the possibility of development of a secondary dwelling subject to Council approval.

The buffer area for the Singleton Military Area encroaches on part of Broke as shown on Figure 26. The Singleton LEP states that development consent must not be granted to development on land subject to the buffer area unless the consent authority has considered the following matters:

- (a) the impact that any noise and other emissions associated with existing land uses may have on the proposed development,
- (b) any proposed measures incorporated into the development that limit the impact of such noise and other emissions associated with the existing land use,
- (c) any opportunities to relocate the proposed development outside the land to which this clause applies,
- (d) whether the proposed development is likely to adversely affect the operational environment of any existing development on the land to which this clause applies.

Further residential development of Broke / Fordwich is limited due to:

- the flood planning level and flood liable land,
- the Singleton Military buffer area,
- land identified as a strategic and critical industry cluster, ie. for viticulture,
- the expansion of the Bulga Mine.

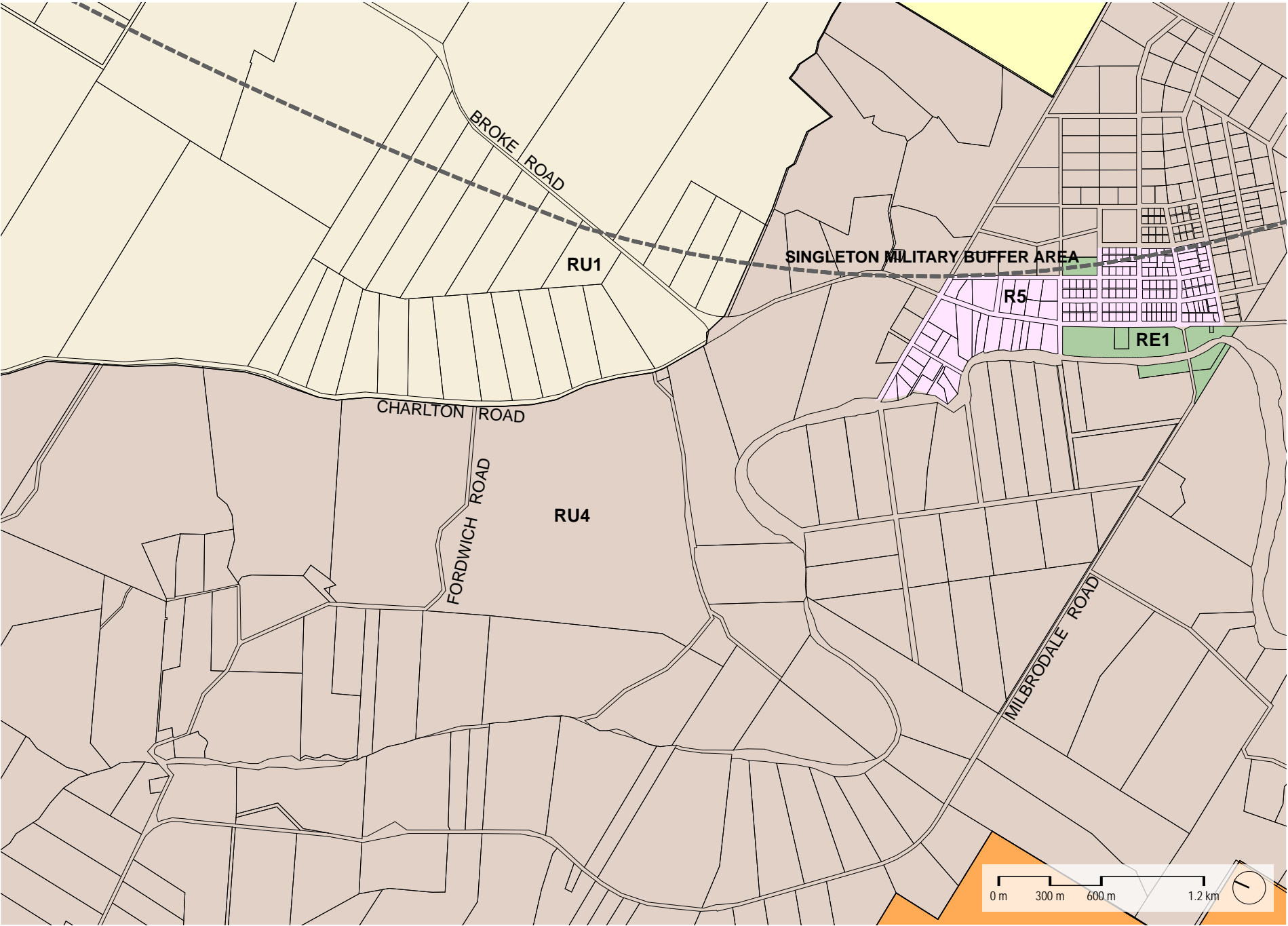


Figure 26 – Zone Plan
Source: Base - Singleton Council LEP 2013

5.3. Land use

The subdivision pattern of Broke is similar to the layout of the 1800s with the streets and laneways generally on a regular street grid pattern and the smaller lots located close to the community and retail facilities and recreational areas. The rear lanes do not appear to be used for access to the majority of properties.

The built form within the village of Broke is generally single storey with various outbuildings. Fences are generally rural post or wire fences or no fences along the front boundary and taller colorbond or timber paling fences along the side and rear boundaries or no fences.

The areas immediately surrounding the area to the north and west have been subdivided into smaller rural lots. The smaller lots increase in size from rural hobby farms, vineyards to grazing lands. Some of these holdings include larger rural dwellings, outbuildings and tourist accommodation.

Fordwich originally a land grant to John Blaxland as shown on the 1891 plan, has also overtime been subdivided into smaller rural lots.

Permissible uses for Broke / Fordwich include:

- R5 Large Lot Residential.

Permitted without development consent: Home occupations.

Permitted with development consent: Bed and breakfast accommodation, building identification signs, business identification signs, dual occupancies, dwelling houses, food and drink premises, group homes, home industries, neighbourhood shops, roads.

- RU4 Primary Production Small Lots.

Permitted without development consent: Extensive agriculture, home occupations, intensive plant agriculture.

Permitted with development consent: airstrips, animal boarding or training establishments, aquaculture, building identification signs, business identification signs, cellar door premises, community facilities, dual occupancies, dwelling houses, environmental facilities, environmental protection works, farm buildings, flood mitigation works, forestry, function centres, helipads, home-based child care, home businesses, home industries, information and education facilities, plant nurseries, recreation areas, recreation facilities (outdoor), restaurants or cafes, roads, roadside stalls, rural industries, sewerage systems, tourist and visitor accommodation, turf farming, viticulture, water supply systems.

Key statistics for Broke / Fordwich are as follows and shown on Figure 28.

- 203.5 km²
- 637 people in the district (2011 Census)
- 28% are under 20
- 12% are over 64
- Median age is 38
- Average household size is 2.8
- Median weekly household income of \$1,537
- 22% of the population aged over 15 volunteer.

The 2011 Census data shows that the area has a higher percentage of youth (0-15) than NSW and a lower percentage of seniors (65+) than NSW. The 50-59 year age group is the largest group with 15.86% followed closely by the 60-69 age group and the 30-39 age group. Refer Figure 28.



Figure 27 – The built form

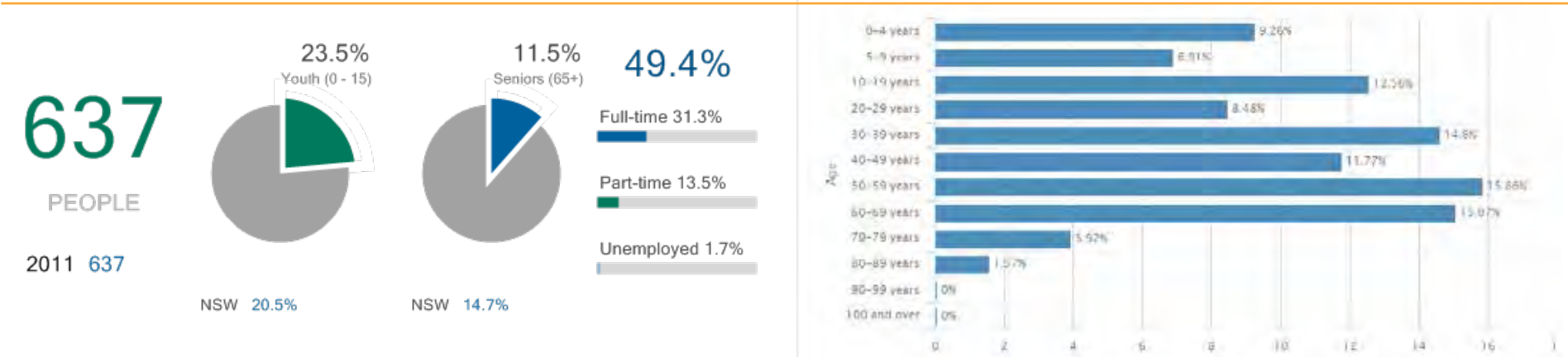


Figure 28 – 2011 Community Profile
Source: Remplan 2014

5.4. Physical setting

The village and rural lands of Broke / Fordwich are generally flat along the banks of the Wollombi Brook. Yengo National Park and Pokolbin State Forest provide a scenic backdrop to Broke / Fordwich and in particular Yellow Rock and Sentry Rock.

The building pattern shows a lower density with the density reducing to the western edge of the village.

Mature trees are located throughout the streets and on the lots within the village. The larger surrounding allotments include vineyards, orchards and grazing lands and are more open. Extensive riparian vegetation is located along the Wollombi Brook.

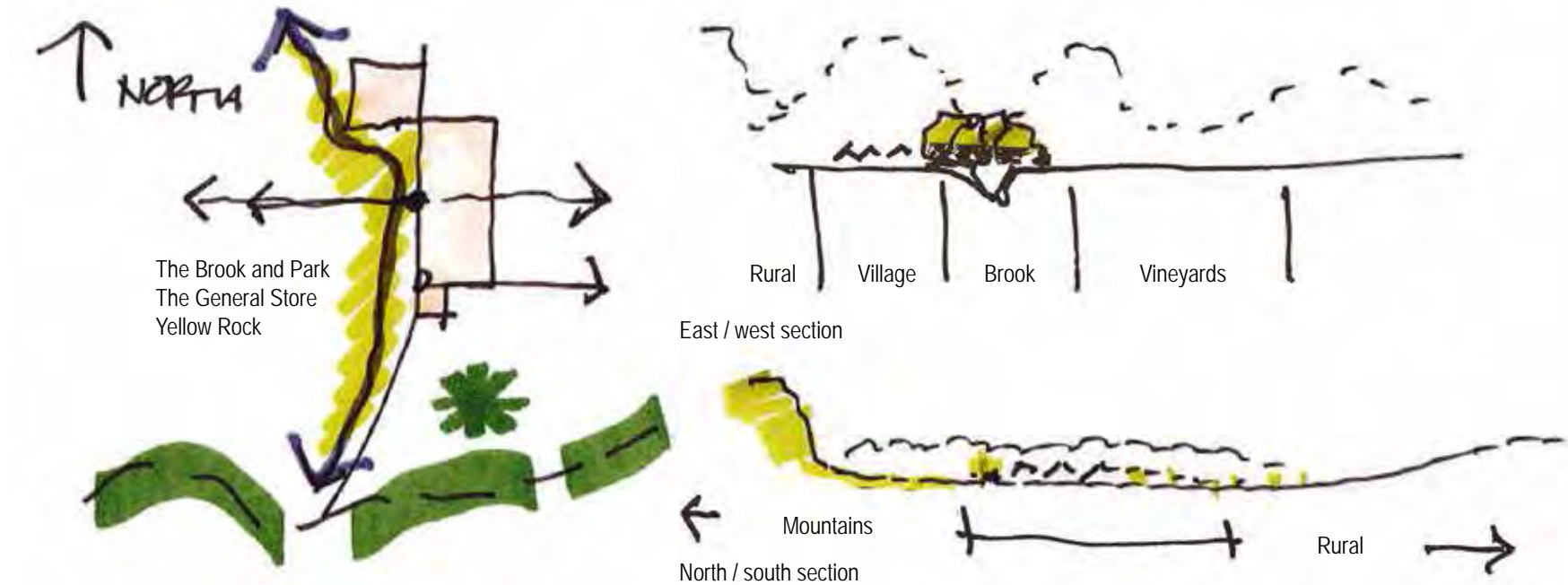


Figure 29 – Physical setting



Figure 30 – Land and built form

5.0 Broke / Fordwich

contextual analysis

5.5. Open space and community facilities

The Open Space and Recreation Needs Study states that Broke village has an oversupply of open space, although mostly undeveloped. It states that the facilities include:

- Broke Recreation Grounds is identified as the hub of sport and recreation within the village. The facility is ideally situated close to the school and provides tennis courts, cricket oval, club house and amenities. The site is in need of an upgrade due to ageing facilities, with the upgrade to focus on reinstating one tennis court as a multi-purpose court. The facility requires some improvements to amenity and seating. Installation of goal posts could improve both formal and informal use of the oval.

- McNamara Park is a key park on the tourist route within the Hunter Valley wine region. It is relatively undeveloped and requires better maintenance of amenities as a tourist stop. A plaque at McNamara Park tells the story of how Broke was discovered.

- Stewart McTaggart Park is a nice road-side local park with natural shade and junior playground. The playground requires a small barrier to prevent children running onto the road. A plaque commemorates the original flying fox crossing over the brook.

- Broke Reserve and Herbert Park adjoin the Wollombi Brook to the west. Herbert Park incorporates picnic benches.

- Wollombi Rest Park is an undeveloped road side rest area approximately 10 km outside of Broke - disposal of this park should be investigated.

Green spaces are generally focussed along the Wollombi Creek corridor.

Various festivals and community markets are held throughout the year in Broke. These festivals are currently held on private vineyards such as the Jazz at Catherine Vale and 'A little bit of Italy in Broke' and on the public recreation reserves such as the Broke Village Fair held at McNamara Park.



Figure 31 – Location of open space

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Figure 32 – Open space facilities



Figure 33 – Local festivals

5.0 Broke / Fordwich

contextual analysis

Open space and community facilities cont.

A number of community facilities are located within the village of Broke. Some of these facilities are managed by Singleton Council and other facilities are under the control of the State Government (Figures 34 and 35). The community facilities in the village include:

- Broke Public School was established in 1871 and caters from kindergarten to Year 6 meeting the needs of the village and surrounding rural areas.
- Broke Community Hall providing an area for its residents. It also is the venue for the Singleton Mobile Preschool twice a week, which provides education and care for children aged three to five years.
- St Andrew's Anglican Church.
- Maria Immaculate Roman Catholic Church.
- The Broke Camp Site, which is managed by Singleton Council. Camping is free and has a three day camping limit. Toilets and garbage bins are the only infrastructure available within the camp site. It is noted that camping occurs throughout McNamara Park and not just in the area nominated as a caravan park as shown on Figure 36.
- The Rural Fire Service Brigade, which also provides public toilet facilities.



Figure 36 – Location of community facilities

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Figure 34 – Council managed facilities



Figure 35 – State managed infrastructure



Figure 37 – Community facilities

5.6. Public infrastructure

Broke / Fordwich is accessible by road from the south along Wollombi Road and Paynes Crossing Road from Wollombi, from Pokolbin to the east along Cessnock Road and Singleton Street and the north along either Charlton Road and Putty Road or Broke Road via the Golden Highway. Broke Road has been realigned due to the Bulga Optimisation project.

The road infrastructure is generally rural in nature and does not incorporate kerb and guttering. Verges are quite wide. Refer Figure 38.

Electrical poles and wires are located along the road edge on some of the streets.

Various signage including permanent information and location signs as well as sandwich board signs of varying sizes and outlining different information are located throughout the village along road sides and at main intersections (Figure 39).



Figure 38 – Road network



Figure 39 – Existing signage

5.0 Broke / Fordwich

contextual analysis

5.7. Landscape character and views

The landscape of the village of Broke is generally enclosed due to the road side vegetation. However, the landscape opens up along the rural edge of the village due to the larger allotments with less vegetation and agricultural land uses.

There are several key views within the village generally due to the street grid pattern. This include views of Yellow Rock and the Pokolbin State Forest to the south generally along the north south roads including Wollombi Street, Howe Street, Cochrane Street and Nelson Street. Views of McNamara Park are generally from the east west street and from properties fronting onto Wollombi Street. Refer Figure 40.

The Broken Back Range, Yellow Rock and the vineyards are also significant views from the surrounding road network including Singleton Street and Milbrodale Road.

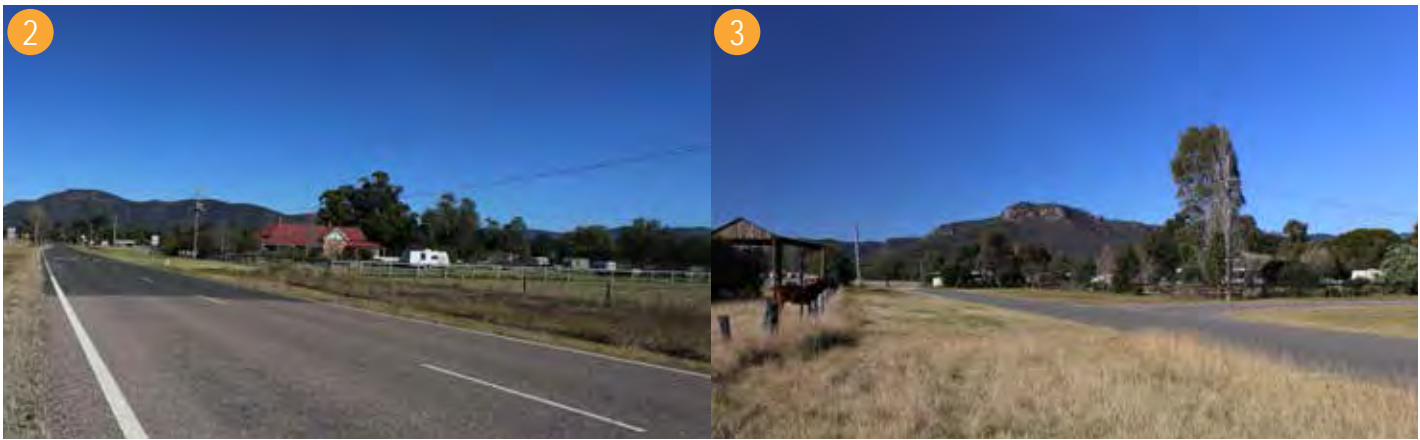


Figure 40 – Key Views

Landscape character and views cont.

The landscape and view corridors within Fordwich are quite open due to the agricultural nature of the land uses. Views are scenic as there is the contrast between the openness of the rural lands against Yengo National Park.

Sentry Rock is also a prominent landmark indicating the boundary between Fordwich and Milbrodale. Sentry Rock is a key view from Milbrodale Road.



Figure 41 – Key Views



5.8. The Vision

Broke / Fordwich will have a secure future, founded upon the pride, enthusiasm and enterprise of its community.

The Village will have a greatly diversified economy, with new activities in tourism, innovative agriculture and value-adding to primary products, with an expanded, sustainable wine-making sector, all harmoniously balanced with the resources and energy sector.

There will be new opportunities for social and cultural interaction between the residents, workers and visitors, as the community takes the lead. People will gather at the Village Green located at the southern end of Broke where the facilities on both sides of Wollombi Street will complement each other and add to the visitor experience. Visitors will want to stop at the Village Green due to its beauty and the facilities. There will be adults sipping lattes and children drinking milkshakes at the cafe or visiting the galleries or finding out information on what there is to do in the area, whilst others will be enjoying the facilities in Stewart McTaggart Park. Toddlers and babies running around the playground, whilst teenagers will be enjoying the flying fox or chatting with their friends at the beach. Adults will be gathering, relaxing, enjoying the sunshine, and will have a barbeque and still able to keep an eye on the children. Others will be commencing the tourist trail and stopping at the Village Green to obtain tourist information via the free wifi, hiring a bicycle, and maybe doing a few bench presses in the exercise park.

As the visitors, residents and workers move through the Village, they will want to stop and enjoy the natural beauty and heritage that contributes to its sense of place. Walkers, cyclists and horse riders will travel along the informal pathways through McNamara Park to enjoy the Wollombi Brook, be wowed by and have a seat at the Longest Picnic Table, say hi to the many caravan dwellers or use the exercise trail. They will also travel along the streets of the village to visit the many heritage buildings and sites to gather an understanding of Broke / Fordwich. They may then continue on the Yellow Rock Trail and see many of the unique natural and cultural wonders within the area like the World Heritage Parks, the Great North Road, Yellow Rock, Sentry Rock, the Baiame Cave, the rich tapestry of the built heritage and the rural landscapes that all link the villages of Broke / Fordwich, Milbrodale, Bulga and Jerrys Plains.

There will be many festivals, get togethers and parties. Brides and grooms will arrive in vintage cars or horse and cart to the picturesque churches to be married, have photographs alongside the Brook and then celebrate at the Longest Picnic Table or at one of the vineyards. Streets will be closed for larger festivals linking the facilities within the Village. It will be difficult to book the Broke Community Hall due to its popularity. The locals have come to watch the Broke / Fordwich cricket team win its first cricket match at the Recreation Grounds. Whilst the adults are cheering on the team from the grandstand, others are using the other amenities including the skateboard park or the tennis courts.

Improved access to social and community services, enabled by improved communications with Council and Council being a champion for and a conduit between the community and other organisations.

People will know of Broke / Fordwich due to its reinforced identity and character, making it a highly sought after destination.

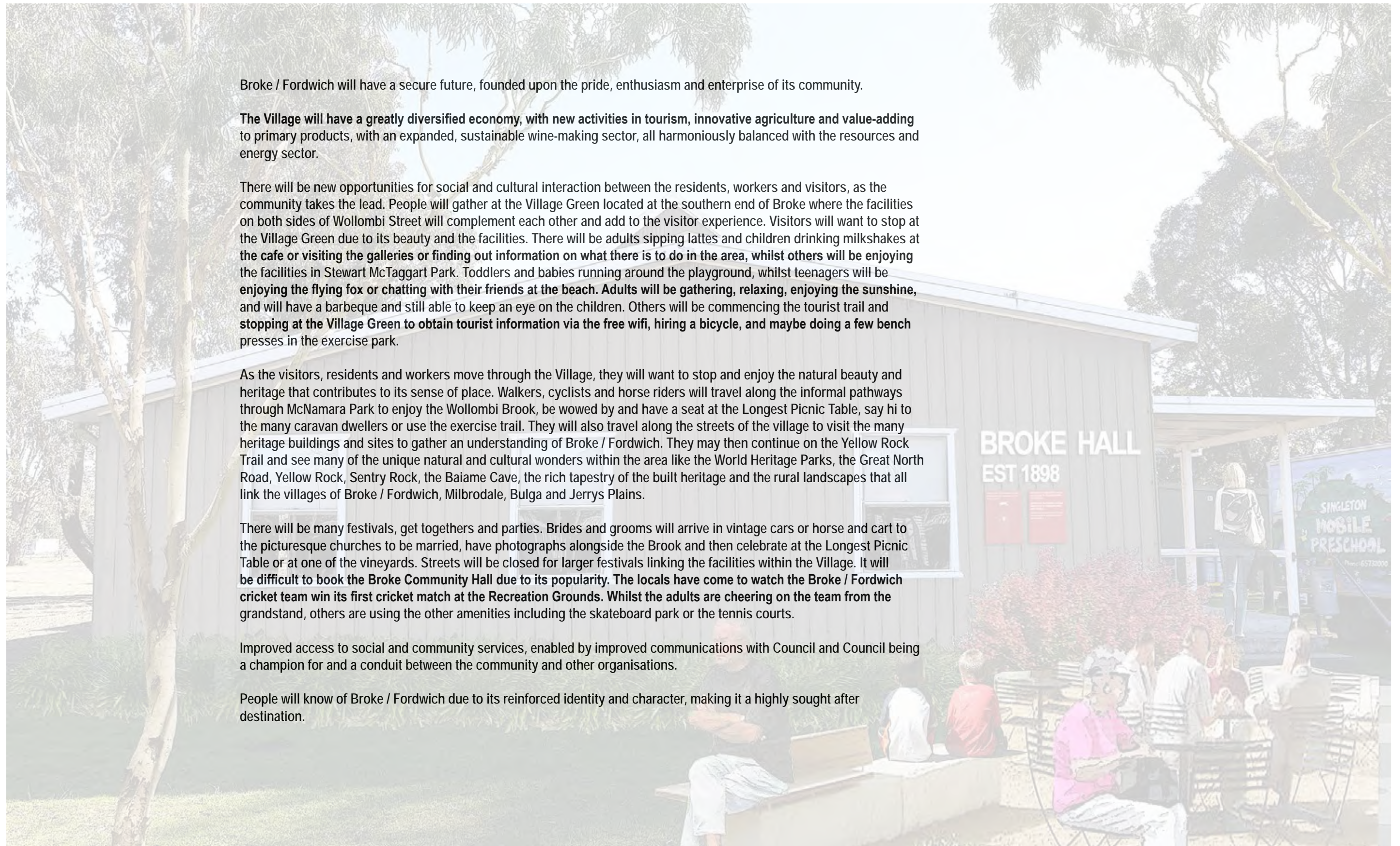




Figure 42 – Broke / Fordwich Village Master Plan - Overall plan

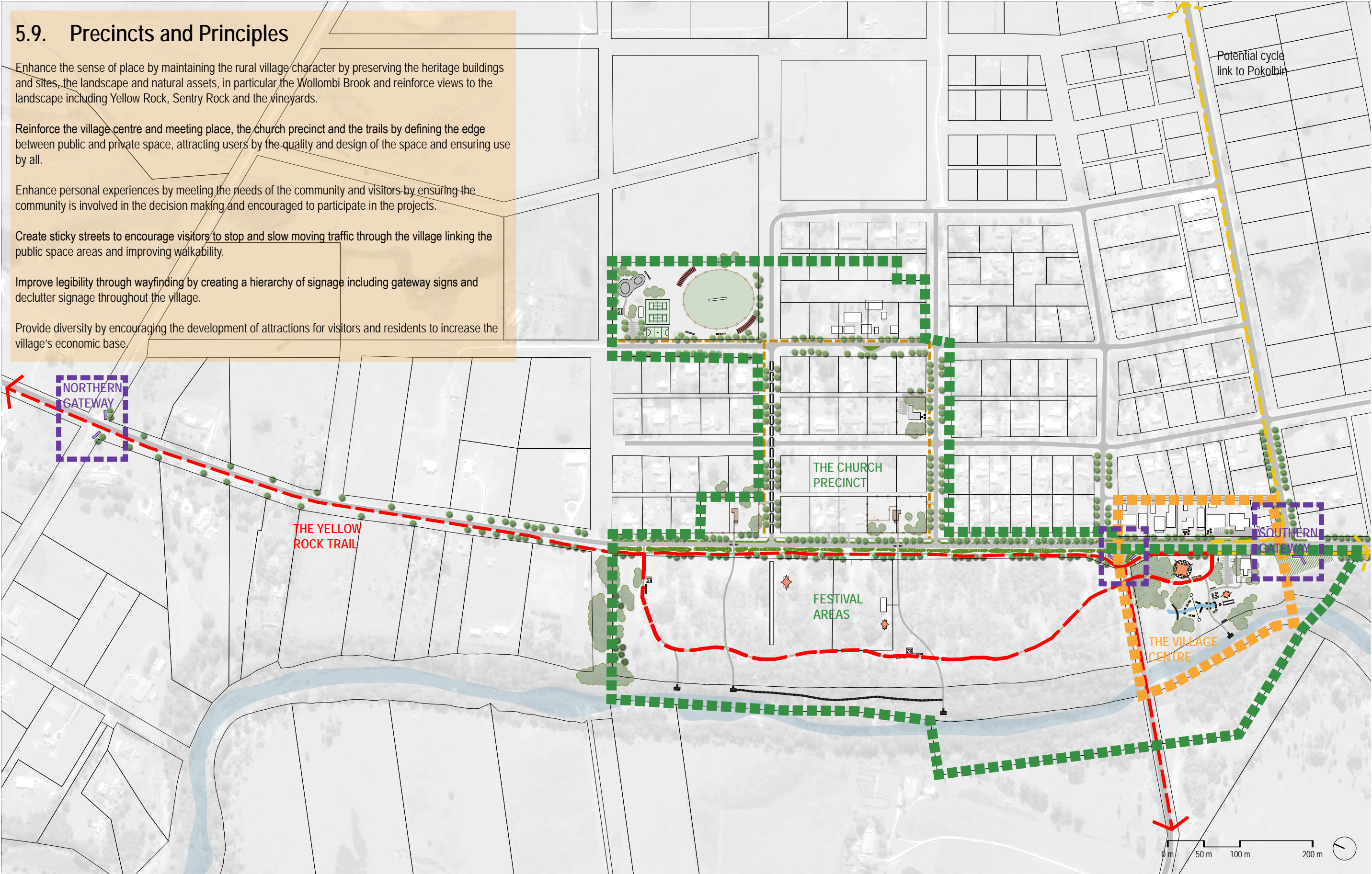


Figure 43 – Broke / Fordwich Precincts and Design Principles

5.10. The Village Centre

The Village Centre will provide new opportunities for social and cultural interaction between the residents, workers and visitors. The centre is appropriately located at the main approach from Pokolbin and Wollombi and assists in creating a gateway to Broke / Fordwich and the other villages. It includes the buildings on the northern side of Wollombi Street and Stewart McTaggart Park to the south. This provides an opportunity for complementary services and with the provision of various facilities will entice people to stop and explore the area. The key principles for the Village Centre are:

Wayfinding - Improving legibility

- 1 Gateway sign for Broke / Fordwich set in a landscaped theme associated with the area, ie. vines and the nominated street trees to provide a familiarity with the area and sense of arrival.
- 2 Avenue street tree planting to assist in defining the entries to the village and define the routes to the various facilities and to maintain views.
- 3 Information board located within the park adjacent to the carpark to entice people to stop and spend time in the village.
- 4 Simple signage at key locations with adaptability for future uses/changes with ornamental vines.
- 5 Informal pathways leading to the various destinations. Pathways to use appropriate materials suitable to the rural village but ensuring safety and accessibility.

Reinforcing the Village Centre

- 6 Intensify development to provide a mix of complementary services eg galleries, food and wine, tourist information centre fronting onto Wollombi Street and use of the rear laneway for servicing.
- 7 Inclusion of the park as part of the village centre and meeting place by providing appropriate facilities for all age groups.
- 8 The Children's Room - Upgrade children's play equipment to meet the needs of children <6 years. Provide shade over play equipment. Provide seating in close proximity. Use rural fencing along the edge to separate from the road and offroad cycleway/footpath. This fence could partly enclose the space improving safety for its users.



Figure 44 – Broke / Fordwich Village Centre Master Plan

- 9 The Teenagers' Room - Create a separate space with more sophisticated equipment where teenagers will want to gather. A Flying Fox over water with a beach and deck chairs. The Flying Fox is also representative of the area as stated in the park as one of early ways to cross the Brook.
- 10 The Adults' Room - a separate space for the adults where supervision of the other spaces is possible. This could include barbeque areas, the fire pit, picnic shelters, exercise equipment, access to the Wollombi Brook and a range of seating to entice the user to stay longer. Incorporate additional infrastructure to assist in gathering and attract tourists such as:
 - 11 • Hire bicycles or recycled bicycles by the community
 - Wifi station
 - Water station
- 12 • Reconfiguration of the carpark and provide parking for larger vehicles, e.g. RVs and parking for motorcycles.
- 13 • Maintain access and prominence of the War Memorial.
- 14 • Provide direct and clear access from the park to the amenities at the RFS building.

Creating sticky streets

Sticky streets assists in slowing traffic, creating a pedestrian friendly environment and enticing visitors to stop longer. Clear definition of the road edge and the land uses incorporating the rural characteristics through:

- 15 • Rain water gardens along the verge to define the edge with the open space.
- 16 • Street tree planting to complement existing trees and retain rural characteristics. Street trees should be native to the area and located to maintain views. Appropriate species to be selected if located near or under power lines.
- 17 • Rural fence along part of the open space to define paths and accessways and also increases safety for the children's playground.
- 18 • Pedestrian refuge to provide a connection between the uses in the meeting place.

The Village Centre



Figure 45 – Broke / Fordwich Village Centre Indicative Section



Figure 46 – Broke / Fordwich Village Centre - Examples of improvements

The Village Centre



Before



Figure 47 – Visualisation of The Gateway to Broke / Fordwich

5.11. The Church Precinct

The Church Precinct will contribute to the overall sense of place by enhancing and complementing the locally distinctive natural features, buildings and open space. The key principles for the Church Precinct are:

Improve connectivity and permeability

- 1 Ensure the village is well connected to the meeting place, items of significance and open space areas.
- 2 Pathways to lead visitors and residents to items of interest, e.g. Wollombi Brook, heritage buildings.
- 3 Promote the Yellow Rock Trail including mapping, signage, identifying key landmarks and destinations.
- 4 Avenue tree planting to assist in identifying paths to items of interest within the street network.
- 5 Informal pathways to be used throughout the open space areas.
- 6 Activate the rear lanes.
- 7 Provide pedestrian refuges at appropriate places.
- 8 Define the edge of the road and separate the pathways with rainwater gardens and trees.

Improve the sense of wellbeing and amenity

- Broke Recreational grounds**
- 9 Maintain the rural views to the surrounding mountains. Provide new and upgrade facilities:
 - 10 • Fitness equipment.
 - 11 • Tennis courts, amenities and parking facilities.
 - 12 • Provide a multipurpose court.
 - 13 • Improve the cricket oval with turf and a white picket fence.
 - 14 • Provide seating around the cricket oval as well as raised stadium seating.
 - 15 • Provide a skate board park.
- Broke Community Hall**
- 15 Update and improve with a new colour scheme, front entry, fence and landscape. Provide shade for the preschool. Upgrade parking off the rear lane. Provide outdoor seating. Refer to visualisation.

- 16 The Churches**
- 16 Improve the amenity and definition by providing a complementary heritage rural fence around the church grounds. Creation of pathways to the front entries from Wollombi Street and connections to McNamara Park. Identification and upgrade of grave stones.

- McNamara Park**
- 17 Provide various informal access paths to and from and within the Park. Combine pedestrian / cycle / horse path along the edge of the Wollombi Brook.
 - 18 Possible location for the longest picnic table. To be incorporated with seating and barbeque facilities to ensure greater use of the table.
 - 19 Fitness equipment located along the pathways creating an exercise route.
 - 20 Improve facilities - amenities block, toilets, showers to provide facilities for day trippers, campers and for the festivals. Include appropriate signage for camping.
 - 21 Rural fences to define access areas and camping areas in the park.

- Wollombi Brook**
- 22 Improve the amenity and usability of Wollombi Creek by clearing debris and rubbish.
 - 23 Provide access to Wollombi Creek for recreational use e.g. kayaking, fishing.
 - 24 Provide a boardwalk along part of the Brook and viewing platforms.

- Improving the adaptability and being flexible**
- Festivals**
- 25 Various festivals are held throughout Broke / Fordwich in various areas including the vineyards and McNamara Park.
 - 25 Other opportunities are available for festivals to add and maintain interest including the street network up to and including the Recreation Ground. The Longest Dinner could be held by adding temporary tables along Rogers Street to link with the longest picnic table located in McNamara Park.



Figure 48 – The Church Precinct Master Plan

The Church Precinct

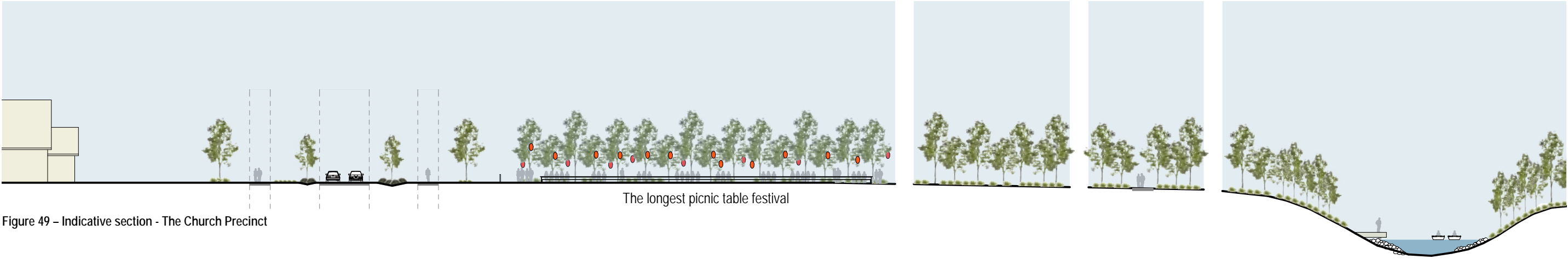


Figure 49 – Indicative section - The Church Precinct



Figure 50 – Broke / Fordwich Church Precinct - Examples of improvements

The Church Precinct



Before



Figure 51 – Possible streetscape McNamara Park / Wollombi Street

The Church Precinct



Before



Figure 52 – Possible streetscape Wollombi Street

The Church Precinct



Before



Figure 53 – Broke Community Hall Potential Upgrade

5.12. Village Connections

Pedestrian/cycle/horse connections are proposed to connect the various destinations from The Village Centre to the Church Precinct, as shown on Figure 54. The pathways would be of an appropriate material to maintain the rural theme but also ensure safety and accessibility. These paths would also form part of The Yellow Rock Trail. Further pathway connections can be made to the School and recreation grounds if required.



Figure 54 – Broke Village Pedestrian and Cycle Connections

5.13. The Broke / Fordwich Loop Trail

There is an opportunity to create a return loop trail of Broke / Fordwich by providing a separate connection along Fordwich Road linking the Yellow Rock Trail from Charlton Road to Milbrodale Road. This would be a shorter route for visitors / residents who were short on time. The route could be an interesting trail and would incorporate:

- 1 Appropriate signage and maps to assist in wayfinding to Fordwich, the vineyards as well as the Yellow Rock Trail.
- 2 The Yellow Rock Trail along Charlton Road and Milbrodale Road.
- 3 Identification of heritage sites including Blaxland Homestead, the Broke Cemetery including Blaxland's grave and the area subject to the soldiers settlement, which could be identified by a plan on a marker.
- 4 Improve access to and across Wollombi Brook. Access may only be for crossing when water is low in the immediate future. Work has previously been undertaken to remove rubbish. Opportunity to provide a low key crossing (excluding vehicles), e.g. suspension bridge.
- 5 Visiting the vineyards and orchards along the way.
- 6 Mapping key landmarks such as Sentry Rock to act as location / orientation markers.

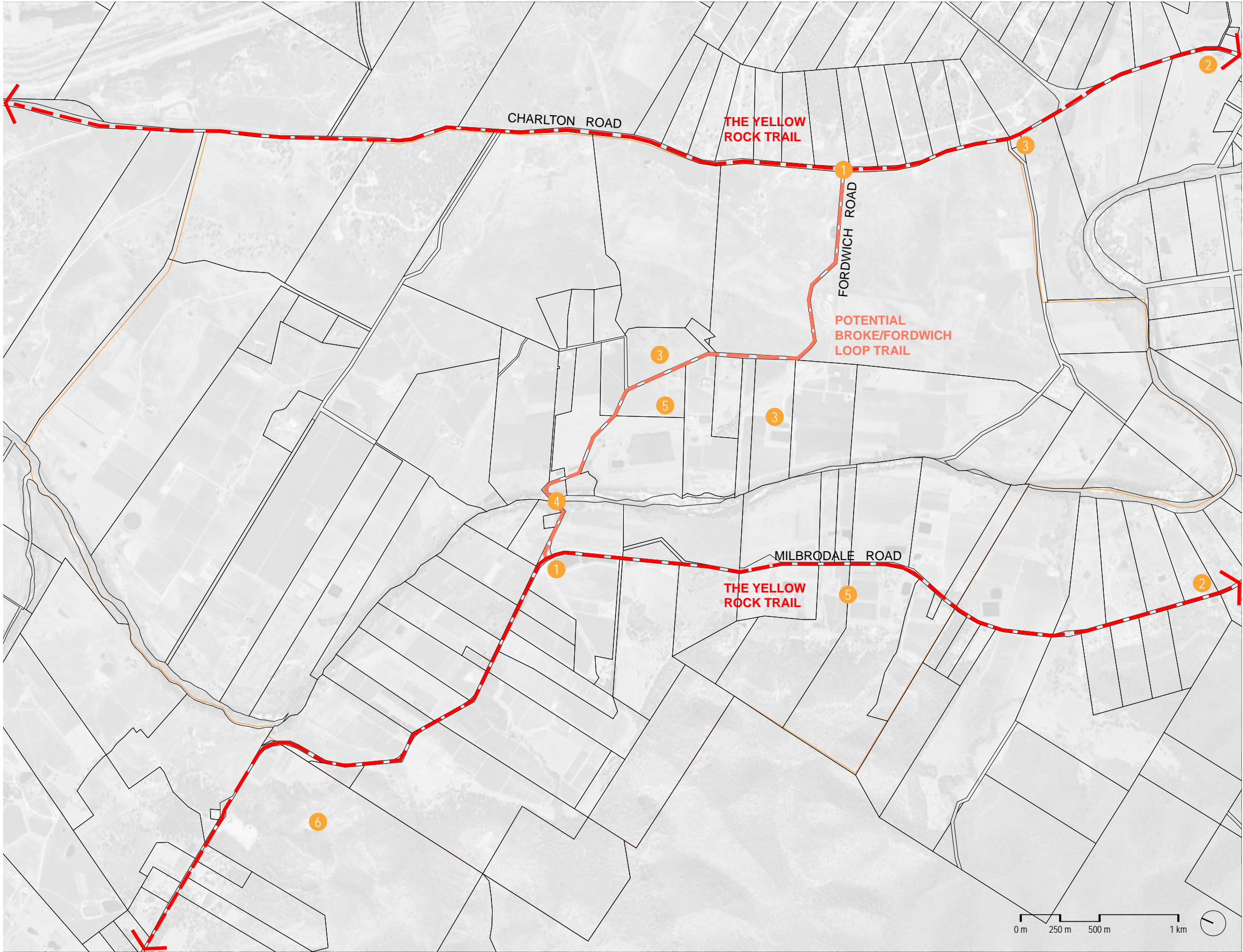


Figure 55 – Broke / Fordwich Loop Trail