

Mapping Challenge - Downtown Armidale

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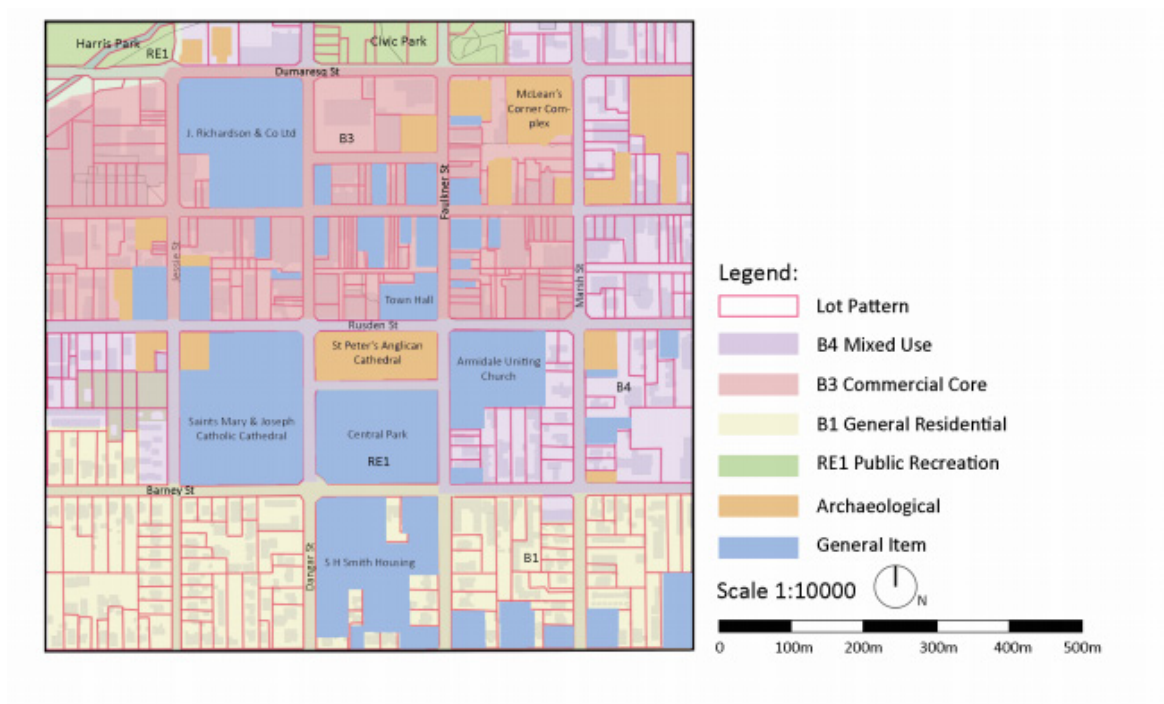
Abstract: Armidale is a regional city in Northeast New South Wales, and also the key hub of the New England High Country (Destination NSW 2022). While the study neighbourhood is a representative component of the downtown, located in the north of downtown in Armidale, which not only contains the urban structure, and diverse land zoning, and also describes the gorgeous history of this city.

Keywords: Heritage Zoning; Landuse; Mapping; Lot Pattern

This combination plan distinctly displays the characteristics of the street layout in Downtown Armidale, with a coverage of grid pattern of streets, and most blocks are divided following the grid subdivision concept. In addition, with the commercial core as the centre of this neighbourhood, multi-function, green space and residential areas are distributed in turn. The study area also contains a lot of heritages that constitute the storytelling feature that can be used to convey the historical background of this city and country. Subdivision of urban land can be continued a/er zoning to form communities and streets, the subdivision of land can affect the development planning of the whole city, which has great environmental, social, and economic significance.

Therefore, the following three maps are selected for an overview: heritage zoning, land zoning, and lot pattern. Through the analysis and research of these three maps, they will combine to form one logical story that has a deeper understanding of the history of Armidale.

The Study Neighbourhood - Combination Plan



Heritage Zoning

The Anaiwan people used to live in the vicinity of Armidale, they hunted and gathered for a living. In 1846, the government officially

approved Armidale as a town, and the completion of the railway, the development of gold, and the discovery of Tin metal brought economic growth to this area (Heritage - Visit Armidale, 2022). Armidale upgraded to a city in 1885 (Armidale: Heritage, Museums and Galleries, 2022), and attracted a large number of settlers to come here (Armidale: Heritage, 2017).

The Central Park on the map was built in 1874, it approved as a park in 1887 and rebuilt in 1922 to commemorate World War I (Central Park - Armidale Regional Council, n.d.), in December 2018, Armidale's Central Park became a NSW National Heritage Park (AR-MIDALE'S CENTRAL PARK AWARDED STATE HERITAGE STATUS | Adam Marshall, 2018). St. Mary and Joseph Catholic Cathedral was the first church in Armidale, and installed as a chapel in 1871 (n.d.). The S H Smith Housing belongs to Armidale Teachers College, in March 1928, the head of the college Smith began his teaching career, this is a starting point in the history of education in New South Wales (Belshaw, 2017). The Town Hall was built in 1882, a theatre which contains more than 200 people (Armidale Town Hall - Armidale Regional Council, n.d.). General heritages has larger proportion than archaeological heritage, these heritage are related to historical churches, and currently remain. The company on the North side of the study neighbourhood is now divided into a mall and some retails, Mclean's Corner has changed from a commune to a large supermarket. Therefore, Armidale's historic heritage reflects the lives and greatness of 19th-century settlers (Armidale: Heritage, Museums and Galleries, 2022).

The Study Neighbourhood - Heritage Zoning



Source: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/spaTalviewer/#/find-a-property/address>

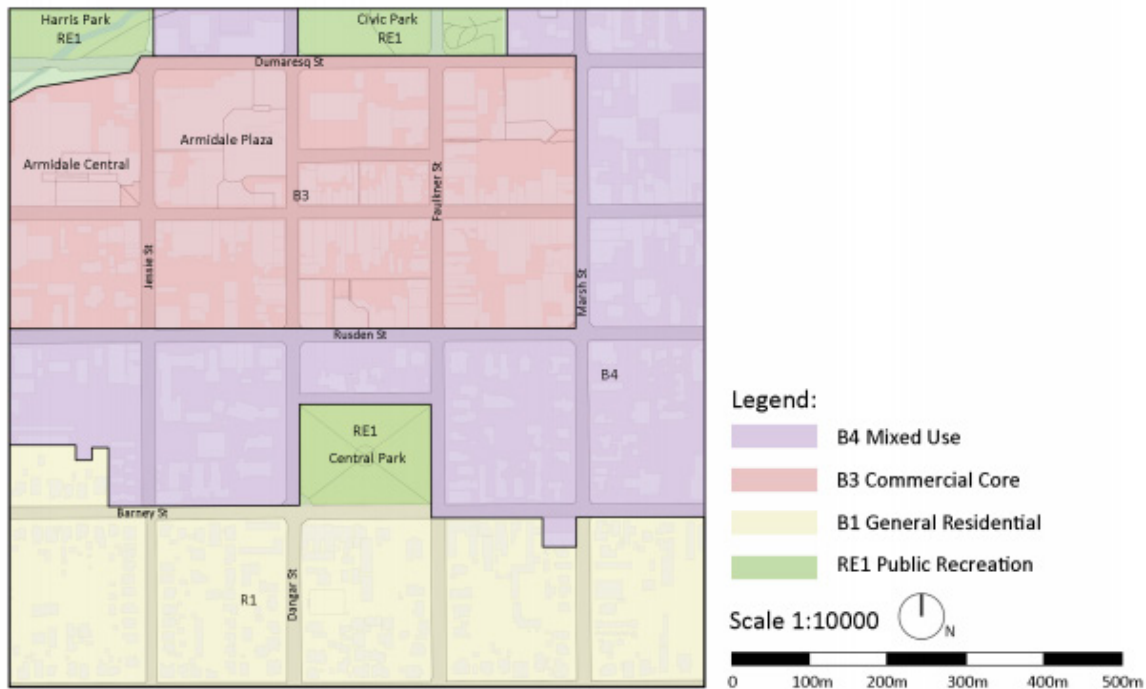
Land Zoning

As the New England Development Strategy 2010 (Worley Parsons, 2010) referred that the city of Armidale is an emerging region required to actively develop the CBD area, and plan enough land commercial activity for the projected population in 2021. Compared with the current land zoning of the study neighbourhood and key recommendations in the 2006 Strategic Analysis for Armidale (Worley Parsons, 2010, P.40), it is undoubtedly that almost achieved the visions. The large-scale commercial premises are restricted to the B3 (Commercial Core) area and replaced by B4 (Mixed Use) with a wider scope, the combined development of retail and housing makes efficient use of the land.

From the map of land zoning, each functional land has sufficient size and shape, while the urban structure composed of reticular streets provides complete street frontage for them, which not only meets the requirements of a series of new businesses but also makes it

more convenient for residents to travel. Moreover, the government did not allow Downtown Armidale to be completely dominated by commerce, they still paid attention to the development of public recreation and cultural history. For example, Central Park is not only RE1 (Public Recreation) but also a valuable heritage that strengthens urban residents' sense of history.

The Study Neighbourhood - Land Zoning



Source: <https://mecone.com.au/mosaic/>

Lot Pattern

The lot pattern map shows the lot subdivision within the chosen area, in which the green spaces is in the form of a large block and do not need to be subdivided, however, other blocks such as the mixed-use and the commercial functional areas have been subdivided. All areas in the study neighbourhood are divided into different lots, and each block is distributed in a certain pattern, which offers convenience for both transport and people. The subdivided lots form is suitable for mixed communities, combining blocks with living, leisure, and entertainment, meeting people's requirements for new residences, and better promoting neighbourhood relations. The blocks within the study neighbourhood are centralised integration of business and living, which makes a major contribution to the local economy.

The study neighbourhood is located in the commercial centre, with a certain flow of pedestrians, so the grid subdivision has the largest proportion in the study neighbourhood due to its pedestrian and traffic-friendly and highly accessible features, and most commercial areas follow the cluster subdivision model to Move closer to the transport network while preserving open space and helping reduce costs for infrastructure and essential services (Pena, 2022). Move closer to the transport network while preserving open space and helping reduce costs for infrastructure and essential services, therefore, lot subdivision provides a more liable living model for people.

The Study Neighbourhood - Lot Pattern



Source: <https://mecone.com.au/mosaic/>

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Jiaxin Yi was born on March 16,1998, lives in Xi'an, female, Han Nationality. Jiaxin graduated from the School of Architecture,Planning and Design of the University of Sydney, majoring in Urban design. Her research direction is urban regeneration and landscape planning.