5.3 Lewisham & Petersham North

History and Context

This precinct is largely a residential area bounded by Parramatta Road in the north, Crystal Street in the east, the railway line, New Canterbury Road, and Eltham Street in the south, the Hawthorne Canal and the Ashfield Council area in the west.

Lewisham is named after an early property in the area, which was named after a borough in London. Settlement of the area dates from the 1790s when the first land grant was made, where the land was used mainly for agriculture and timber-

getting. Population growth took place during the late 1800s and early 1900s, with the new railway station completed in 1885. Petersham Park was created in 1887 with many of the original trees planted still standing today. Much of the precinct is zoned as a heritage conservation area, with a large number of original terraces, villas and apartments preserved.

Physical Influences

At 100.8ha (6.3% of total area) this precinct is an average sized precinct and graced with around 1500 trees. Generally streets are a relatively standard width for Marrickville, with around 60% of the verges 1.8 - 3.5m wide. Setbacks of buildings to the street boundary do vary but are generally close to the street.







Public open space

Biodiversity Priority

Planting Area



A large number of streets in the area are orientated towards East-West, resulting in a north and south side of the street. Any future planting to the south side needs to consider either a small or deciduous tree to limit excessive overshadowing of the dwellings.

The railway line runs through the precinct in an East-West direction, providing a physical boundary between residential areas, with West Street and New Canterbury Road being the main road corridor that travel through the precinct. Petersham Park provides a large recreation area located centrally to the north of the precinct.

The area is relatively flat or gently sloping, with mainly shale derived clay soils. The conditions for tree planting are favourable in this area, with soils typically having a high nutrient and water holding capacity.

Existing Streetscape Character

Lewisham & Petersham North is an attractive and well treed precinct, characterised by a high number of terrace houses and villas originally built in the first half of the 20th century. Road reserve and verge widths vary however generally are not overly generous, with a mix of fully paved verges and a combination of narrow grass strips and footpath pavement. The selection of tree species is often limited due to the tight spaces and building setbacks.

Several streets have been identified for in-road planting including Thomas Street, Jubilee Street, Henry Street, Searl Street, and Carrington Street.

Lewisham & Petersham North is defined by:

- Streets containing a mix of tree species, but with a heavy reliance on *Callistemon viminalis* (Bottlebrush) (15.69%).
- A variety of residential typology including terraces, villas and apartments, with a range of setback distances from dwellings to the front verge.
- A combination of verge widths with many less than 1.8m wide and the majority between 1.8 and 3.5m wide.
- An identified biodiversity priority planting area to the western side of the precinct.

Current Dominant Species

| Botanical Name | No. of trees | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Callistemon viminalis | 239 | 15.69% |
| Melaleuca bracteata | 102 | 6.70% |
| Pyrus calleryana | 98 | 6.43% |
| Lophostemon confertus | 88 | 5.78% |
| Tristaniopsis laurina | 80 | 5.25% |
| Proportion of total species mix | 607 | 39.86% |
| Total number of trees | 1523 | 100.00% |

Precinct Objectives

- To enhance the streetscape with street trees of appropriate scale and form.
- To respect the established and desirable street tree characters.
- To reinforce the residential character through a mix of deciduous and evergreen tree planting that respond to the street typology.
- To reduce the heavy reliance on *Callistemon viminalis* (Bottlebrush) by introducing other suitable tree species.
- Maintain and provide plantings that contribute to the continuation and expansion of identified biodiversity areas.



Figure 5.5 - Celtis australis (Southern Hackberry) planting in Searl Street, Petersham (Photo Arterra)



Figure 5.6 - The Boulevarde, Lewisham (Photo Arterra)

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|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|---|--|
| Street Name | Power Lines | Verge Type | Existing Dominant | Proposed Species | Key Observations |
| Andreas Street | ABC | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Callistemon viminalis cv. Callistemon salignus cv. | Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase' Callistemon salignus | Heritage Conservation area. Existing ABC on odd side. Trees from school grounds contribute to street character. Suggest deciduous tree. |
| Barker Street | Overhead (Even) | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | - | Narrow street and verge less than 1.5m. Suggest no tree planting |
| Brighton Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Pyrus ussuriensis Corymbia citriodora | Pyrus ussuriensis (opposite wires) Photinia x fraseri 'Robusta' (under wires) | Pyrus give lovely autumn colour, mature Lemon Scented Gums. Reserve on this street. |
| Brown Street- south | Overhead (East) | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | - | Verge is less than 1.5m. This street is too narrow for trees. |
| Brown Street - north | Overhead (West) | Varies | Ficus microcarpa var. hillii Casuarina glauca | Syzygium paniculatum (in grass verge) | Street is located in a biodiversity priority planting area. Opportunity for larger canopy tree in broader reserve area. |
| Burns Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Callistemon viminalis cv. Lagerstroemia indica | Lagerstroemia indica, Backhousia citriodora (both sides) | Heritage Conservation area. |
| Carrington Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | <i>Waterhousea floribunda 'Green Avenue' (in road blisters) Tristaniopsis laurina (in verge)</i> | Street located in biodiversity priority planting area. Road currently breaking up. Possible opportunity to redesign street. Potential to plant in road blisters which will assist in calming down traffic. Recommend ABC. |
| Cook Street | Overhead (Even) | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | - | No existing trees. Busy one-way street. Verge is less than 1.5m, suggest no street trees. |
| Croydon Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Pyrus ussuriensis (opposite wires) Photinia x fraseri 'Robusta' (under wires) | |
| Denison Road | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Harpullia pendula (feature tree in commercial precinct) Pistacia chinensis (opposite wires) Tristaniopsis laurina (under wires) | One side of the street is fully paved (beneath the powerlines).The overhead wires swap east of Toothill Street. There is a small commercial precinct to the far northern block, with possible room for a feature tree. |
| Elswick Street | Overhead (Even) | Narrow (<1.8m) | Callistemon viminalis cv. | <i>Caesalpinia ferrea (in road blister planting - between Petersham Street and Crystal Street)</i> | Heritage Conservation area. Verge width 1.6m. Trees overhanging from park adjacent contribute to street character. |
| Eltham Street | ABC | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | <i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides Callistemon viminalis cv.</i> | Ulmus parvifolia "Todd" (in road blisters) Pistacia chinensis (opposite wires) Buckinghamia celsissima (under wires) | There are some in road planting opportunities in this street. |
| Fishers Reserve | Overhead (Odd) | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | - | No existing trees, verge less than 1.2. Recommend no planting. |
| Fort Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Pyrus ussuriensis (opposite wires) Photinia x fraseri 'Robusta' (under wires) | Heritage Conservation Area. Continue with Photinia beneath power lines. |
| Fred Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Callistemon viminalis cv. | Syncarpia glomulifera (opposite wires - section of street adjacent to railway) Elaeocarpus reticulatus (opposite wires) Banksia integrifolia, Angophora hispida (under wires) | Street is located in a biodiversity priority planting area. |
| Henry Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Callistemon viminalis cv. Melaleuca bracteata | Eucalyptus paniculata (in road) Synoum glandulosum, Acmena smithii var. minor (in verge) | Short street. Opportunities for future perpendicular parking and some in road planting. Street is located in a biodiversity priority planting area. |

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|---|--------------------|----------------------|--|---|--|
| Street Name | Power Lines | Verge Type | Existing Dominant | Proposed Species | Key Observations |
| Hobbs Street | Overhead (Odd) | Narrow (<1.8m) | Mixed | Elaeocarpus eumundi (opposite wires) Backhousia citriodora (under wires) | Narrow verge. |
| Hordern Avenue | ABC | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | - | Verge less than 1.3m. No existing trees. Recommend no tree planting. |
| Hudson Street | Overhead (Odd) | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | - | Verge is less than 1.5m. This street is too narrow for planting. |
| Hunter Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Pistacia chinensis (opposite wires) Buckinghamia celsissima (under wires) | The street contains a mixture of native species |
| Jubilee Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Eucalyptus paniculata (in road) Synoum glandulosum, Acmena smithii var. minor (in verge) | Short street. Street is located in a biodiversity priority planting area. This street has in road planting opportunities. |
| Longport Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Eucalyptus paniculata (opposite wires) Tristaniopsis laurina (under wires) | Street is located in biodiversity priority planting area. Recently planted row of Manchurian Pears. |
| McGill Street | Overhead (Odd) | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | - | Verge is less than 1.5m. This street is too narrow for planting. |
| Old Canterbury Road between Railway Terrace and Summer Hill Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Ficus microcarpa var hillii (island planting) Lophostemon confertus (opposite wires) Tristaniopsis laurina (under wires) | Street is located in biodiversity priority planting area. There is room for two more Hills Figs in the island split near western end. |
| Old Canterbury Road between Parramatta Road and Railway Terrace | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Corymbia maculata | Corymbia maculata (opposite wires) Tristaniopsis laurina (under wires) | Street located in biodiversity priority planting area. Existing verge gardens. Continue with Spotted Gums. ABC a priority. |
| Palace Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase' (opposite wires) Buckinghamia celsissima (under wires) | Some sections of verge are grass and pavement. Opportunity for verge gardens. Lovely neighbourhood street with cafes. |
| Park Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Callistemon viminalis cv. Tristaniopsis laurina | Corymbia maculata (opposite wires) Tristaniopsis laurina (under wires) | Heritage Conservation Area. Continue with Water Gums. |
| Parramatta Road | Overhead (Odd) | Medium (3.5-5m) | - | - | 3.5m verge, no trees |
| Petersham Street | Overhead (Even) | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | - | No existing street trees. Verge less than 1.5m. Recommend no street tree planting. |
| Queen Street | Overhead (Even) | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | <i>Caesalpinia ferrea (in road blister planting where possible)</i> | Heritage Conservation Area. No existing trees. Trees from school playground and private homes contribute to street character. Verge width 1.5 metres. |
| Railway Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase' (opposite wires) Buckinghamia celsissima (under wires) | New Corymbia maculata and Angophora floribunda plantings. School at Paramatta end |
| Railway Terrace between West Street and Old Canterbury Road | Overhead (Odd) | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | - | This road is a major thoroughfare, there are no existing trees. The verge width is variable down to 1.5m wide. |
| Searl Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Celtis australis (in road and verge - both sides between The Avenue and end of street) Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase' (in verge - opposite wires) Magnolia grandiflora 'Exmouth' (in verge - under wires) | No through road. ABC a priority, opportunity to plant in-road second part of street and continue Celtis. Verge width narrows down to 700mm at end of street. |

| 03 LEWISHAM & PETERSHAM NORTH (cont.) | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|
| Street Name | Power Lines | Verge Type | Existing Dominant | Proposed Species | Key Observations |
| St John Street | Overhead (Odd) | Narrow (<1.8m) | Callistemon viminalis cv. | - | No trees between Old Canterbury Road and Brown Street. Verge is less than 1.5metres. Trees in open space area contribute to streetscape. |
| Station Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Corymbia maculata (opposite wires) Backhousia citriodora (under wires) | Brush Box in the park contribute to the street character. No planting where adjacent to park. |
| Summerhill Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Callistemon viminalis cv. | Eucalyptus haemastoma (opposite wires) Synoum glandulosum, Acmena smithii var. minor (under wires) | Short street, no through road. Street is located in a native planting corridor. |
| Terminus Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Lophostemon confertus (opposite wires) Lagerstroemia indica (under wires and opposite wires where the verge is too narrow for Lophostemon confertus) | Railway on one side. Petersham station on this street. |
| The Avenue | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Lagunaria patersonia | Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase' (in road blisters or opposite wires) Murraya paniculata (under wires) | Short street, bowling club on street. Mostly lagunaria opposite side to wires. Possibly 3 x blisters. |
| The Boulevarde | Overhead (Odd) | Large (>5m) | Lophostemon confertus Koelreuteria bipinnata | Koelreutaria bipinnata, Lophostemon confertus (both sides) | Many Koelreutaria bipinnata planted along street already. Powerlines swap to even side east of Toothill. East of Hunter St the verge narrows down to 2.5m wide, with mainly Koelreutaria bipinnata planted. Street partially ABC. |
| Thomas Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Melaleuca bracteata | Jacaranda mimosifolia, Ulmus parvifolia 'Todd' (in road - between Carrington Street and railway station) Corymbia maculata (opposite wires) Photinia x fraseri 'Robusta' (under wires) | 3.2 metre verge. Opportunity for in-road planting, WSUD and 45 degree parking. Heritage items including Trinity College, St Thomas Becket's Church on street, with railway station at end of street. |
| Toothill Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Pistacia chinensis (opposite wires) Buckinghamia celsissima (under wires) | This street is a critical cross street between Old Canterbury Road and New Canterbury Road |
| Victoria Street | Overhead (Odd) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Mixed | Koelreuteria bipinnata (opposite wires) Tristaniopsis laurina (under wires) | Existing Native Frangipani is not doing well. There is a grass verge north of Toothill Street. |
| Wentworth Street | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | - | Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase' (opposite wires) | No through road. Park trees contribute to street character. Camphor Laurels and wires on park side. No planting to tree side. |
| West Street between Railway Line and New Canterbury Road | Overhead (Even) | Small (<1.8-3.5m) | Pistacia chinensis Tristaniopsis Iaurina | Pistacia chinensis (opposite wires) Buckinghamia celsissima (under wires) | Overhead power lines swapped to south of The Boulevard |
| West Street between Parramatta Road and Railway Terrace | Overhead (Odd) | Medium (3.5-5m) | - | Lophostemon confertus (both sides) | Heritage Conservation area. Camphor Laurel and Brush Box alternate planting in Petersham Park contribute to street character. No future tree planting where adjacent to park. ABC a priority. |
| William Street | Overhead (Odd) | Narrow (<1.8m) | - | - | Verge is less than 1.5m, too narrow for street tree planting. |