

WAHANGA TUARUA / PART B:

IHIRANGI
CONTEXT

FRAMEWORK AREA

The Aotea Quarter lies in a natural basin at the top of the Queen Street valley, and centres on Aotea Square and the cluster of arts, cultural, entertainment and civic facilities that surround the city's key public space. Beyond Aotea Square, the land quickly climbs up towards the quarter's eastern, southern and western edges, now home to a burgeoning residential community, further education institutions and pockets of mixed-use activity.

Once an important natural resource for local Māori as the source (Te Puna) of Te Waihorotiu (the Horotiu stream), which flowed from wetlands on what is now Myers Park down the Queen Street valley, the quarter now exhibits development from many eras of Auckland's growth. Alongside buildings from the 19th century, recognised for their historic value, sit modernist towers built as part of the civic masterplan of the 1950s-1970s. These have been joined by glass-clad office buildings of the 1980s, blocks of high-rise inner-city apartments at its fringes built in the 1990s, and the more recent infill and office reuse developments.

The quarter benefits from two generous public spaces – Aotea Square and Myers Park – offering a variety of recreational opportunities. Aotea Square, from which the quarter takes its name, is the largest formal public space in the city centre and is used for a range of activities including festivals, graduation parades, political rallies, cultural shows and community events. In contrast, neighbouring Myers Park, running from Mayoral Drive up to Karangahape Road, is often described as a green, inner-city oasis. It is home to a kindergarten, a well-loved children's playground and a rich collection of flora and sculpture.

Uniquely, the Aotea Quarter, being at the heart of the city centre, has a direct physical relationship with four adjacent quarters (as defined in the CCMP 2012). This is seen in the land uses and character of the quarter beyond the core, with sub-areas representing the interface with the adjoining quarters.

PLACE FEATURES AND SHAPERS

Seven place features and shapers, detailed in the following pages, define the Aotea Quarter and underpin the future strategy for physical projects.



ALBERT
PARK

WELLESLEY STREET

MAYORAL DRIVE

AOTEA
SQUARE

QUEEN STREET

MAYORAL DRIVE

HOBSON STREET

MYERS
PARK

KERANGA PERAD

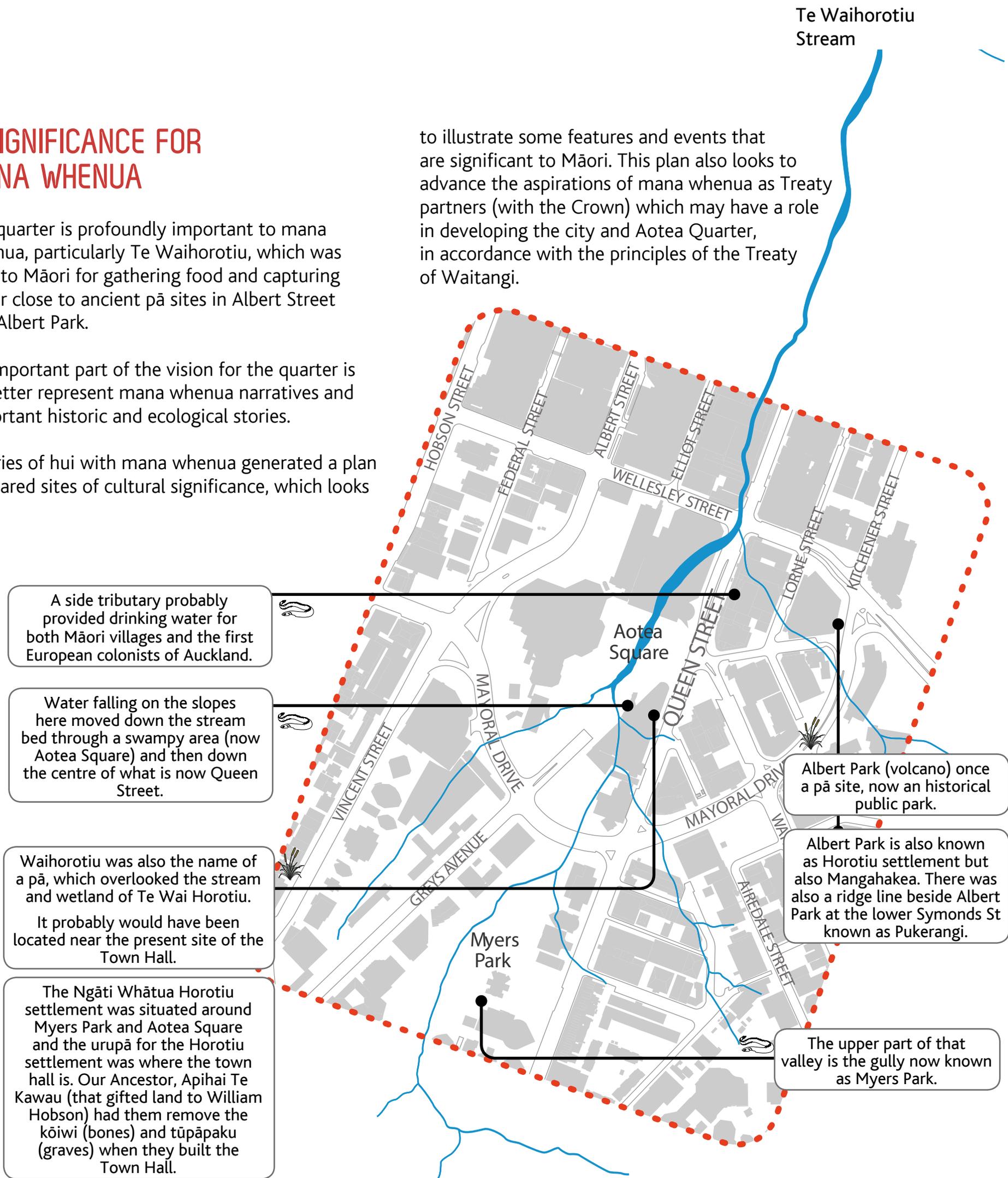
1. SIGNIFICANCE FOR MANA WHENUA

The quarter is profoundly important to mana whenua, particularly Te Waihorotiu, which was vital to Māori for gathering food and capturing water close to ancient pā sites in Albert Street and Albert Park.

An important part of the vision for the quarter is to better represent mana whenua narratives and important historic and ecological stories.

A series of hui with mana whenua generated a plan of shared sites of cultural significance, which looks

to illustrate some features and events that are significant to Māori. This plan also looks to advance the aspirations of mana whenua as Treaty partners (with the Crown) which may have a role in developing the city and Aotea Quarter, in accordance with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.



A side tributary probably provided drinking water for both Māori villages and the first European colonists of Auckland.

Water falling on the slopes here moved down the stream bed through a swampy area (now Aotea Square) and then down the centre of what is now Queen Street.

Waihorotiu was also the name of a pā, which overlooked the stream and wetland of Te Wai Horotiu. It probably would have been located near the present site of the Town Hall.

The Ngāti Whātua Horotiu settlement was situated around Myers Park and Aotea Square and the urupā for the Horotiu settlement was where the town hall is. Our Ancestor, Apihai Te Kawau (that gifted land to William Hobson) had them remove the kōiwi (bones) and tūpāpaku (graves) when they built the Town Hall.

Albert Park (volcano) once a pā site, now an historical public park.

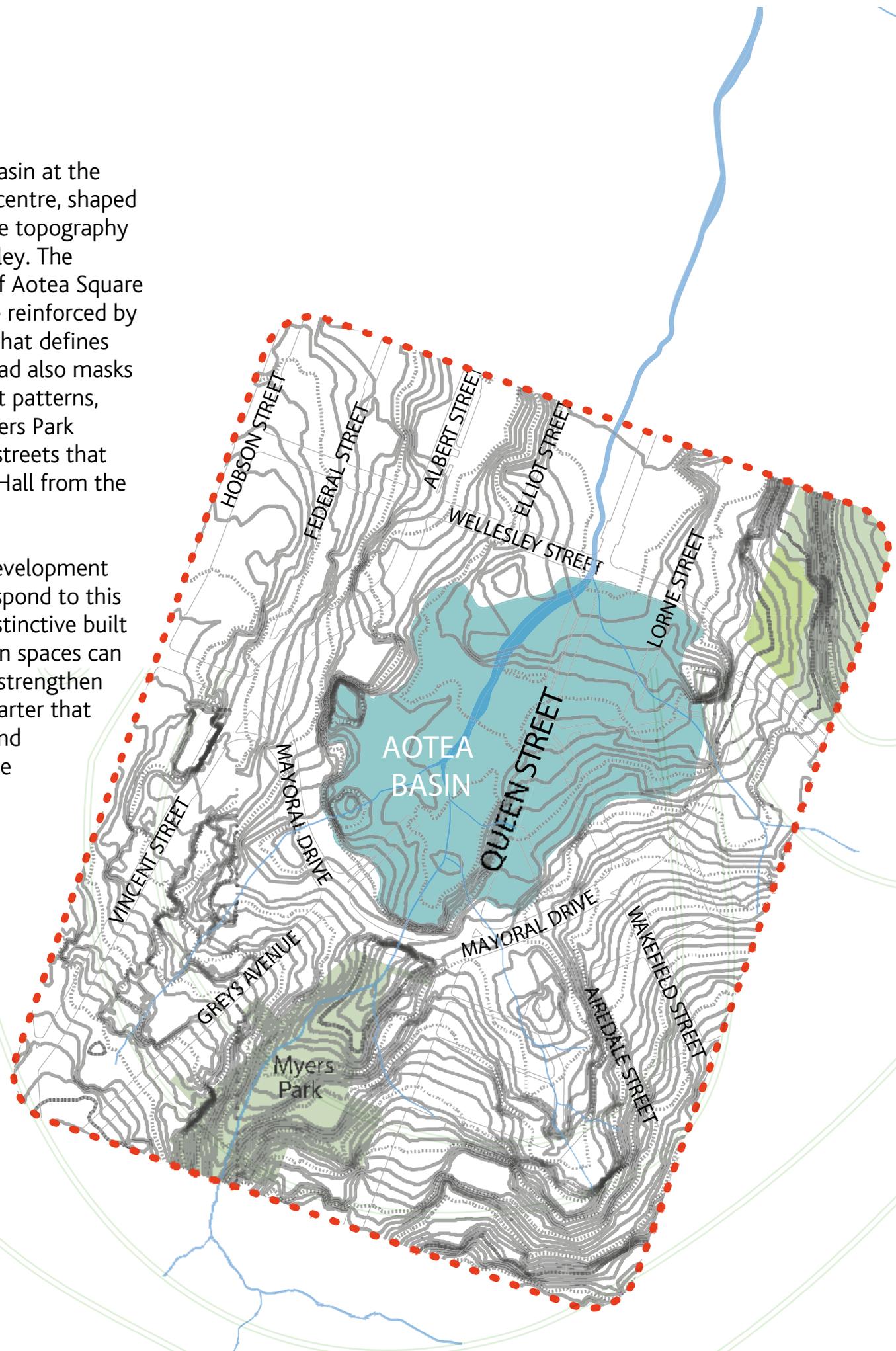
Albert Park is also known as Horotiu settlement but also Mangahakea. There was also a ridge line beside Albert Park at the lower Symonds St known as Pukerangi.

The upper part of that valley is the gully now known as Myers Park.

2. LANDFORM

The Aotea Quarter is centred on a basin at the geographic heart of Auckland's city centre, shaped by the distinctive valley and ridgeline topography at the head of the Queen Street Valley. The naturally open and low-lying bowl of Aotea Square and surrounding sites is in one sense reinforced by the crescent-shaped Mayoral Drive that defines the heart of the quarter. This ring road also masks the original landform and settlement patterns, bridging across the gully-shaped Myers Park and disrupting the radial pattern of streets that historically converged on the Town Hall from the surrounding hill slopes.

There are opportunities for future development and public space development to respond to this bowl or dish-shaped topography. Distinctive built form and landscape linkages between spaces can reference the original landform and strengthen a sequence of connections in the quarter that reveal the hidden layers of natural and cultural history largely invisible in the present-day landscape.



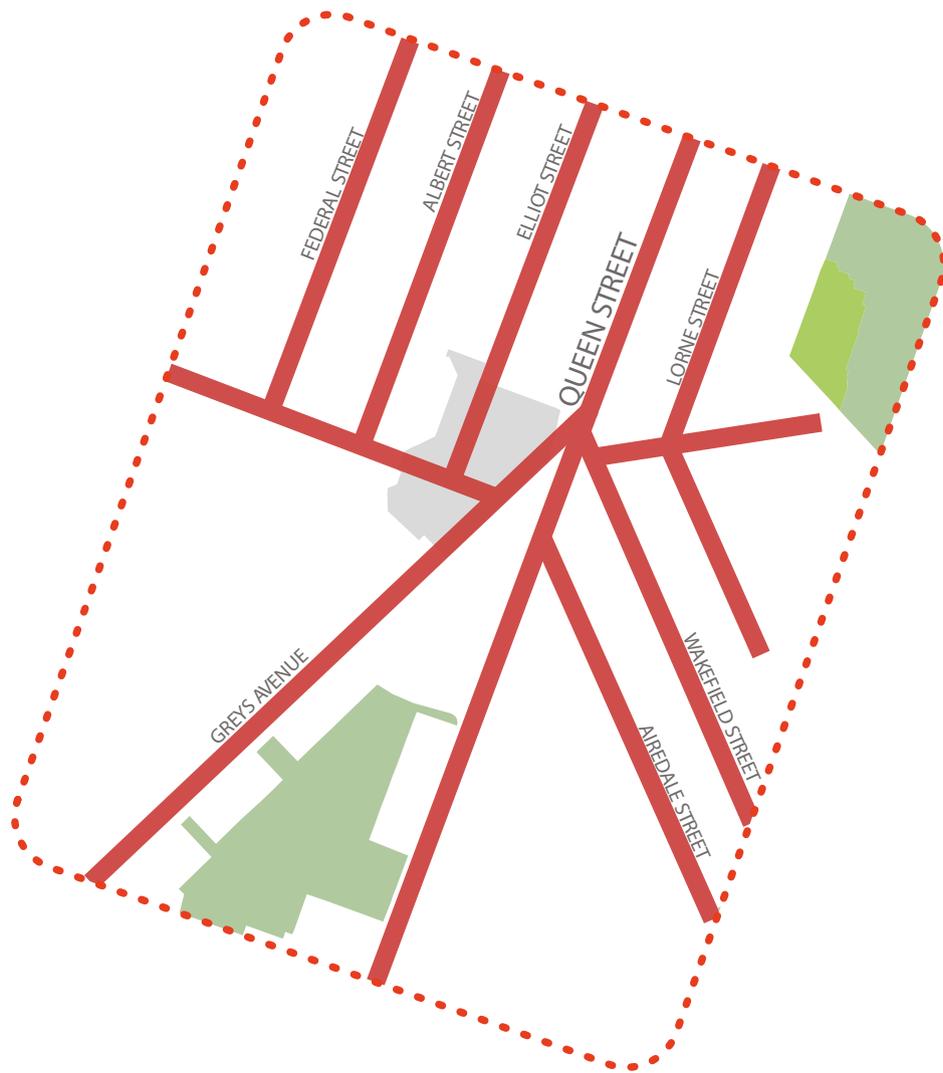
3. STREET PATTERN AND NETWORK

Queen Street is the quarter's spine and primary street. Following the valley floor, it slopes quite steeply down from Karangahape Road, tapers off at Mayoral Drive and progresses relatively gently downtown towards the waterfront. Greys Avenue and White Street (between Queen and Airedale streets) were aligned to the former stream tributaries that reached a confluence at the northern end of the Town Hall. Before Mayoral Drive was built, both Greys Avenue and Cook Street ran all the way to the apex of the Town Hall, reinforcing the civic importance of this landmark building. These streets, along with Wakefield, Airedale and Rutland streets, form an interesting radial pattern in the southern half of the quarter, not found anywhere else in the city centre.

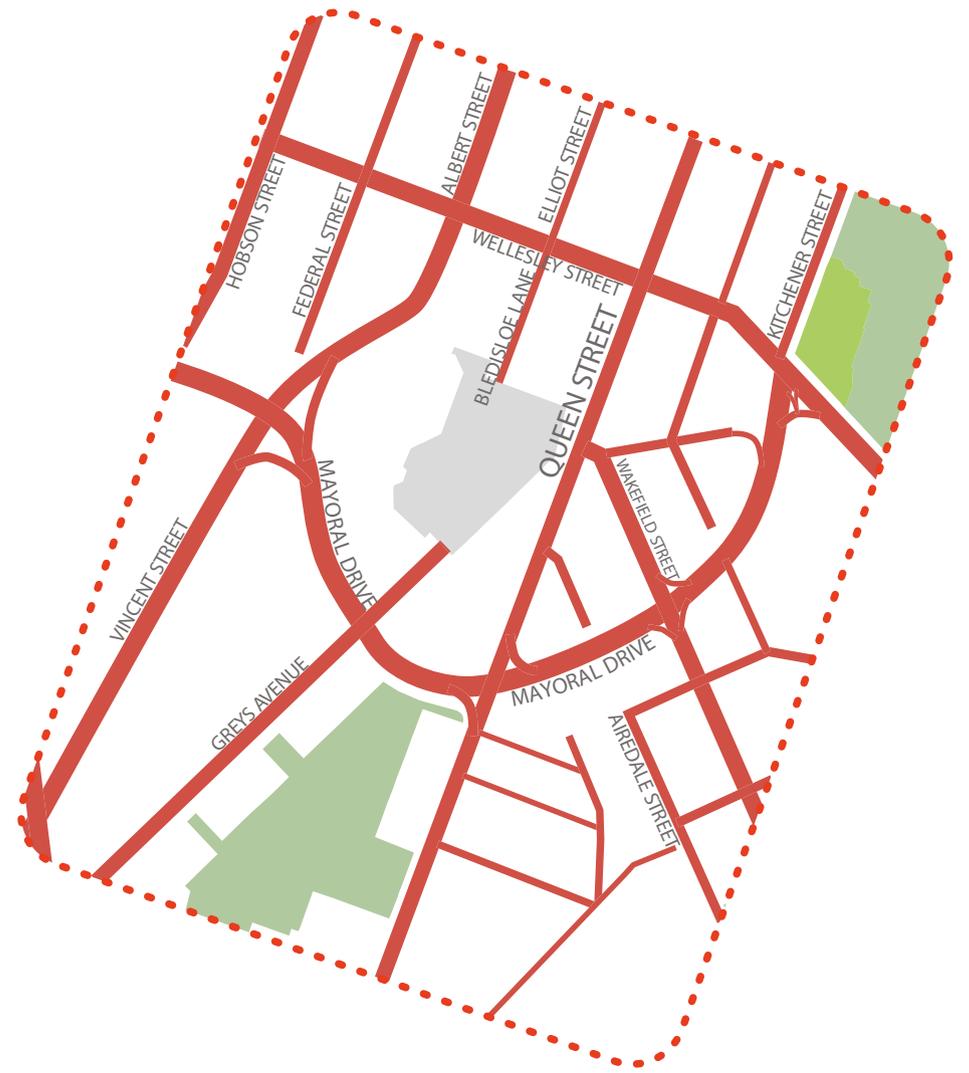
In the 1970s and 1980s Mayoral Drive was built to relieve the pressure of east-west movements across the city centre, running across the radial pattern. As a new insertion into the historic fabric of the quarter, it has limited active building frontages and is not particularly welcoming as a pedestrian route. The northern part of the quarter beyond Wellesley Street has the more characteristic latticed city-

centre grid pattern, with the primary north-south streets of Albert, Queen and Hobson running parallel to the secondary routes of Federal, Elliot and Lorne/High streets. These secondary streets form part of the CCMP 2012 laneway circuit, and many are already upgraded as part of the shared space programme which prioritises pedestrians over cars.

HISTORIC STREET PATTERN AND NETWORK



TODAY'S STREET PATTERN AND NETWORK



Street pattern and network