

# Nanutarra Homestead Redevelopment

## Guiding Principles

The Nanutarra Homestead Redevelopment will honour the deep cultural, historical and environmental significance of the place. These guiding principles have been developed to inform the design and delivery of the project, ensuring it supports the aspirations of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura people and respects the values embedded in Country.

This framework recognises that Nanutarra is far more than a collection of buildings – it is a living place, shaped by story, memory and landscape. It must remain connected to its past while offering space for future generations to gather, learn and thrive.

The principles outlined here will guide all decisions across architecture, landscape, infrastructure and interpretation. They are grounded in sustainability, cultural continuity and community benefit. Above all, they are intended to support a process of careful listening, collaborative making and long-term stewardship.



*Aerial View of Nanutarra Station, Constance Barret-Lennard, 1961  
State Library of Western Australia*

## **1. Site Access and Movement**

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- 1.1. Develop hierarchy of public & private spaces to support community activities
- 1.2. Vehicles must be restricted to defined areas. Pedestrian zones should be clearly separated from vehicle access to maintain safety, amenity and landscape.
- 1.3. Walking routes must be prioritised. Paths should be shaded, well-marked, and connected to key points of interest. Opportunities for respite – such as shelters or shaded seating – should be integrated along routes to offer protection from the climate and encourage pause, rest, and connection.

## **2. Views and Orientation**

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- 2.1. Key views to the River must be maintained and enhanced where possible.
- 2.2. Key views to Mt Murray must also be maintained and enhanced where possible.
- 2.3. The layout of buildings and paths must take advantage of natural outlooks.
- 2.4. New buildings will be oriented to optimise thermal comfort and alignment with passive design principles.
- 2.5. Pedestrian access to the river should be provided where appropriate.
- 2.6. Connect with culturally significant places beyond and within the property boundaries.

## **3. Energy, Water, and Environment**

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- 3.1. All development must be designed with a light hand and a long view – minimising disturbance, maximising longevity, and enabling eventual reversibility
- 3.2. The project must meet best practice in resource management including water-sensitive design. This includes collection, treatment, storage, reuse, and visible demonstration of water systems.
- 3.3. Water must be managed in a way that supports the health of the surrounding landscape. The project should slow, filter, and share water through the site, allowing it to re-enter the natural system gradually and beneficially – not simply divert or retain it for its own use.
- 3.4. Native vegetation and fauna (e.g. bilby, kangaroo, night parrot) must be protected and reestablished. Weed species must be removed and replaced with appropriate local species (exception for tamarisks?). The design should align with the goals of the Ranger Program and broader rewilding efforts.
- 3.5. Design for resilience to bushfire, cyclone, flood & drought.
- 3.6. Power generation must be clean, resilient, and self-sufficient. Renewable systems should be prioritised, with storage capacity and minimal reliance on external infrastructure. The system must be maintainable locally to ensure continuity of service and support enterprise autonomy in this remote location.

## **4. Heritage and Built Form**

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- 4.1. Design for staged redevelopment that allows for changes of use.
- 4.2. The existing homestead buildings must be conserved with high authenticity, but with respectful interventions which provide modern comforts to facilitate new uses.
- 4.3. Lost buildings should not be reconstructed. Their history should be acknowledged through interpretive design, using materials and techniques that reference the originals without imitating them.
- 4.4. Materials & services must be durable, repairable, and suited to the local climate. Avoid high-maintenance finishes and services or those prone to rapid degradation. Where possible, design for maintenance & repairs to be undertaken by community enterprises (not requiring highly specialised suppliers or trades)
- 4.5. Recycled and reclaimed materials must be used wherever feasible. Especially where they relate to the site's history.

## **5. Community Benefit and Interpretation**

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- 5.1. The design must support ongoing community use. Facilities should be adaptable and usable by a broad range of people, including for education, gatherings, and cultural activities.
- 5.2. The history and cultural significance of the site (place) must be made visible. Interpretation must be accurate, inclusive, and accessible, with input from knowledge holders.
- 5.3. Celebrate the identity, stories, and leadership of the PKKP people in a way that honours their role in shaping the place, while welcoming connection with the broader Pilbara community.

## **6. Purpose and Application of the Guiding Principles**

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- 6.1. This document is a living resource. Its principles may evolve over time to reflect new learnings, changing needs, and the ongoing dialogue between people and place. Any principle may be added, amended, or removed as required.
- 6.2. This document serves as a benchmark against which design outcomes will be measured. Masterplan and subsequent built forms must demonstrably respond to the aspirations, values, and priorities articulated herein.
- 6.3. This document holds authority beyond the individuals who authored or endorsed it. It is a legacy of community intent, ensuring that the founding aspirations are upheld across future leadership and generations.