

"..... as fuel prices continue to increase with the passing of 'peak oil,' foods which are transported further will become increasingly expensive, while locally produced foods will become the more affordable option."

<http://www.ecoaction.com.au/>

UNLANDSCAPED 2010

## Pialligo Character



Pialligo has the highest concentration of retail nurseries in Australia



Canberra's only commercial orchards



A commercial winery adds to Pialligo's character

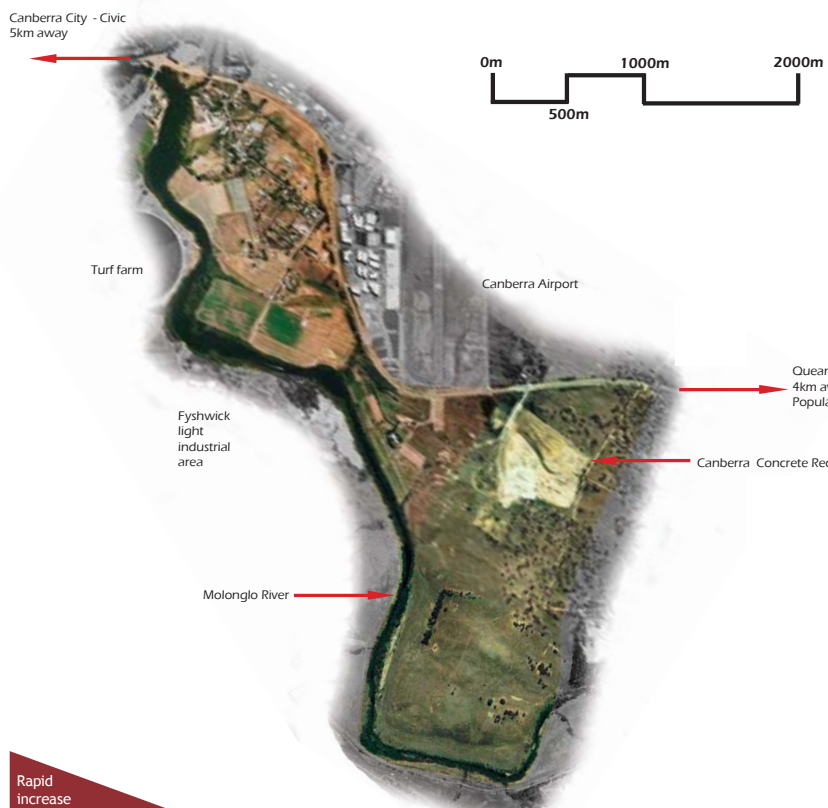


Approximately 38 residences house Pialligo's population



Canberra's largest lucerne farm is located in Pialligo

## Design Challenges



## Pialligo - Proposed Site

Rapid increase in population along with the growing urbanisation of the world's cities has that meant that food security is now a dominant world issue. Fuel prices, forecast to reach as much \$8.00 per litre in Australia by 2018 (CSIRO Future Fuels Forum 2008) will greatly impact on transportation and fertiliser costs and with it the price of food. This means the challenge for designers is to think past the short term and work towards a sustainable long term future that is equitable to all sections of society.

Canberra is rapidly becoming the most expensive city in Australia in which to live and with it comes an increase in the number of the financially disadvantaged. Pialligo has in the past fulfilled the role of Canberra's food basket providing much of the city's fresh vegetables and fruit during World War 2 with the excess being exported interstate. As the city has expanded, Pialligo's rural character has waned and it is now becoming a boutique residential zone. In addition to its agricultural role, Pialligo contributes greatly to Canberra's recreational pursuits containing Australia's largest concentration of retail garden centres which are centrally located to the majority of the population and is adjacent to the city airport.

In planning for the future the potential exists to revive Pialligo's agricultural character enabling it to contribute to the city's current master plan which sees this area as part of a future employment corridor. A by product of this revitalisation process is the further enhancement of the recreational role that contributes to the social and recreational fabric of the suburb.



The newly constructed main road provides little sense of what Pialligo has to offer.



Traffic crossing lanes is a major issue on Pialligo's two blind corners.



Traffic congestion often sees illegal parking practices and forces pedestrians onto the road.



Large trucks and narrow roads often force smaller vehicles onto congested verges.



Lack of maintenance means pedestrian paths are unusable.



Dense weed growth on the banks of the Molonglo River limits access to the water, inhibits movement, and degrades river health.

# Pialligo

## Town & Kitchen

Inspiration from the past for a sustainable future



Pialligo is currently home to the city's concrete recycling facility and has space to expand into other materials such as pallets and green waste.



A waste recycling centre will compliment stage 4 and recycle green waste back into the new farm area. In addition a pallet recycling facility will make use of products that are currently underutilised.

### stage 1

The ACT government has a long term goal to expand its recycling facilities and reduce waste. This centrally located area has the ability to compliment the major waste depot at Mugga Lane and absorb much of the waste once stage 4 is active.



Converting Beltana road to single lane will allow for a dedicated pedestrian lane and provide adequate space for all users including the frequent large trucks that supply the retail nurseries.



Install LED street lights with movement sensors to minimise power usage and light pollution.

### stage 2

Beltana road renovation

- Convert Beltana Road to one way
- Create a feature to highlight Pialligo entrance
- Connect Kalaroo Road to roundabout on Pialligo avenue at Brindibella park
- Kalaroo Road to remain two way past exit point
- Install chicanes as a traffic calming method
- Formalise off road parking
- Create a shared bike and pedestrian lane
- Install seating along Beltana Road
- Replace street lights with LED sensor lighting (Smart lights)
- Upgrade bus system with a route that includes stops in Pialligo on the way to the airport
- Recycled products used where possible



Lack of maintenance over the past four years has degraded the riparian zone and blocked all foot traffic. Removal of weeds, planting with endemic species, and providing a shared pedestrian / bike path will rejuvenate this area and improve the recreational amenities.



Existing cycle path adjacent to Pialligo. The introduction of pathways throughout Pialligo will extend the network and remove cyclists off a busy section of roadway.

### stage 3

Rejuvenate the riparian zone to allow access to the Molonglo river for pedestrians and water users in addition to improving the rivers health.



Community gardens / allotments allow for food production particularly for apartment dwellers in addition to providing social interaction.



Food production in the home has become a lost art. By providing education and a place to grow vegetables transportation costs can be offset.



Water filtration and recycling customised to remove any chemical impurities from contaminating the adjacent river system and minimise water use.

Image from [www.clearmake.com.au](http://www.clearmake.com.au)

### stage 4

- Community gardens
- Commercial vegetable gardens run on organic principles
- Farm markets for selling excess produce
- Water recycling plant to minimise water use and reduce fertiliser flow into the river
- Sustainable gardening education centre to encourage home vegetable production



## Design Solutions

# Pialligo - Town & Kitchen

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