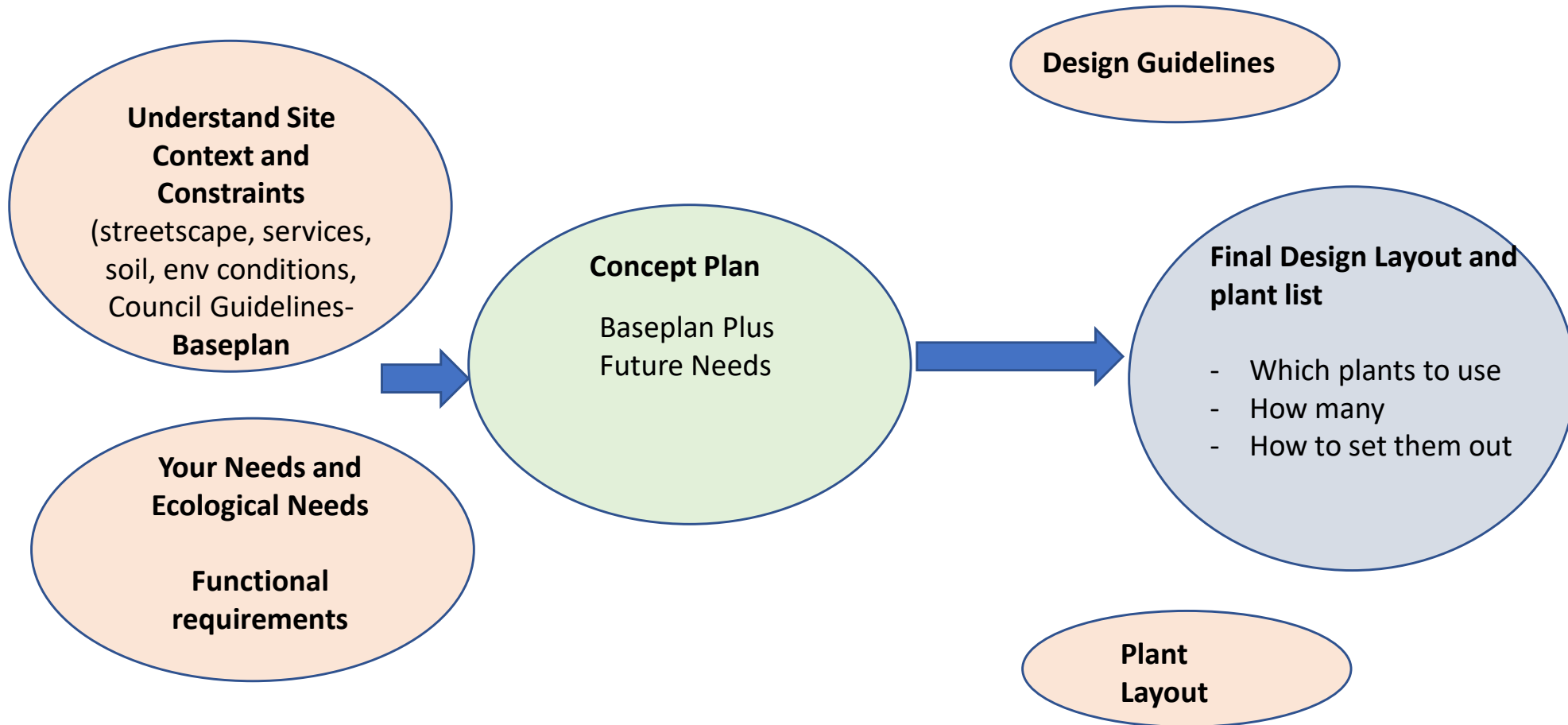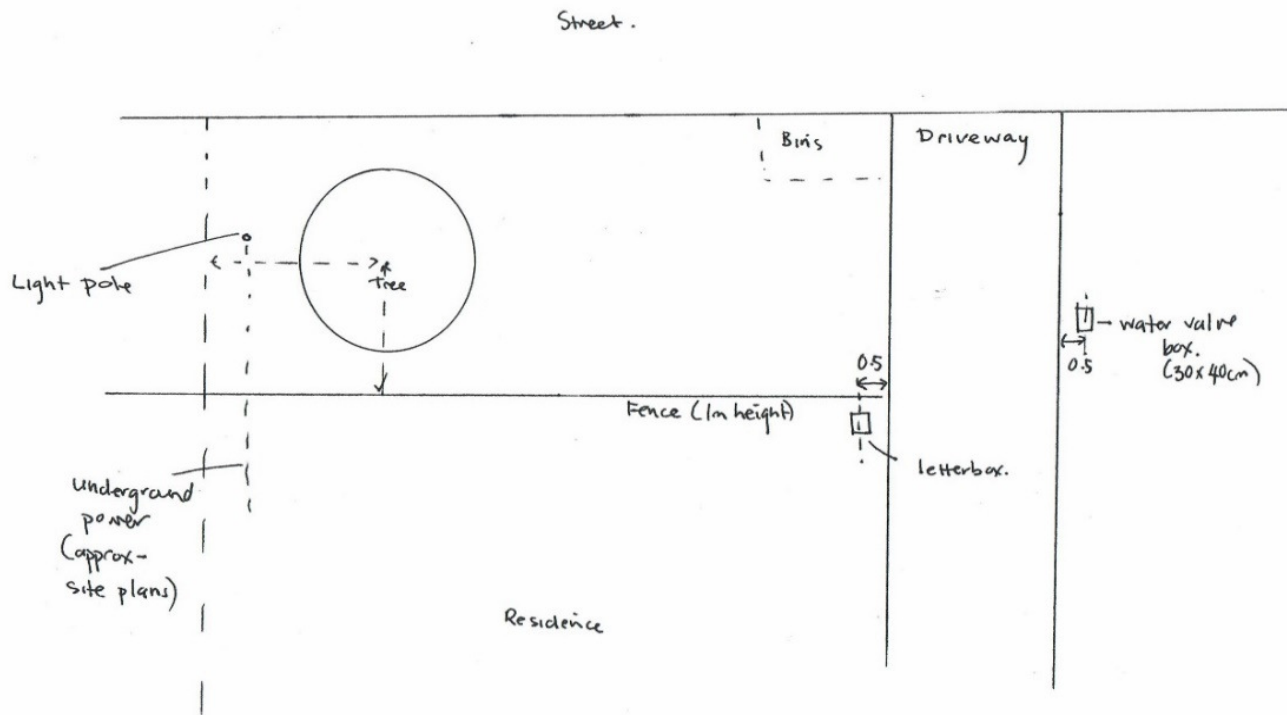# Designing your verge – process

These notes are to help you think about your verge design, however you may need to get the help of a qualified designer in some situations – and Local Council may require a plan by a landscape designer for approval (but they are provided for useful background).

Design Guidelines

Understand Site Context and Constraints
(streetscape, services, soil, env conditions, Council Guidelines- **Baseplan**

Concept Plan

Baseplan Plus
Future Needs

Final Design Layout and plant list

- Which plants to use
- How many
- How to set them out

Your Needs and Ecological Needs

Functional requirements

Plant Layout

First step – create a baseplan

Example - Baseplan

Street.

Bins
Driveway

Light pole

Tree

water valve
box.
(30 x 40cm)

0.5

0.5

Fence (1m height)

Underground
power
(approx.
site plans)

letterbox.

Residence

Using your verge plan, check you have shown
1) functional requirements – pathway location, bin location

2) any constraints caused by services, views, environmental factors (e.g wind/soil/rocks, slopes etc) – Dial Before you Dig

DIAL BEFORE
YOU DIG
www.1100.com.au

s/fences
future
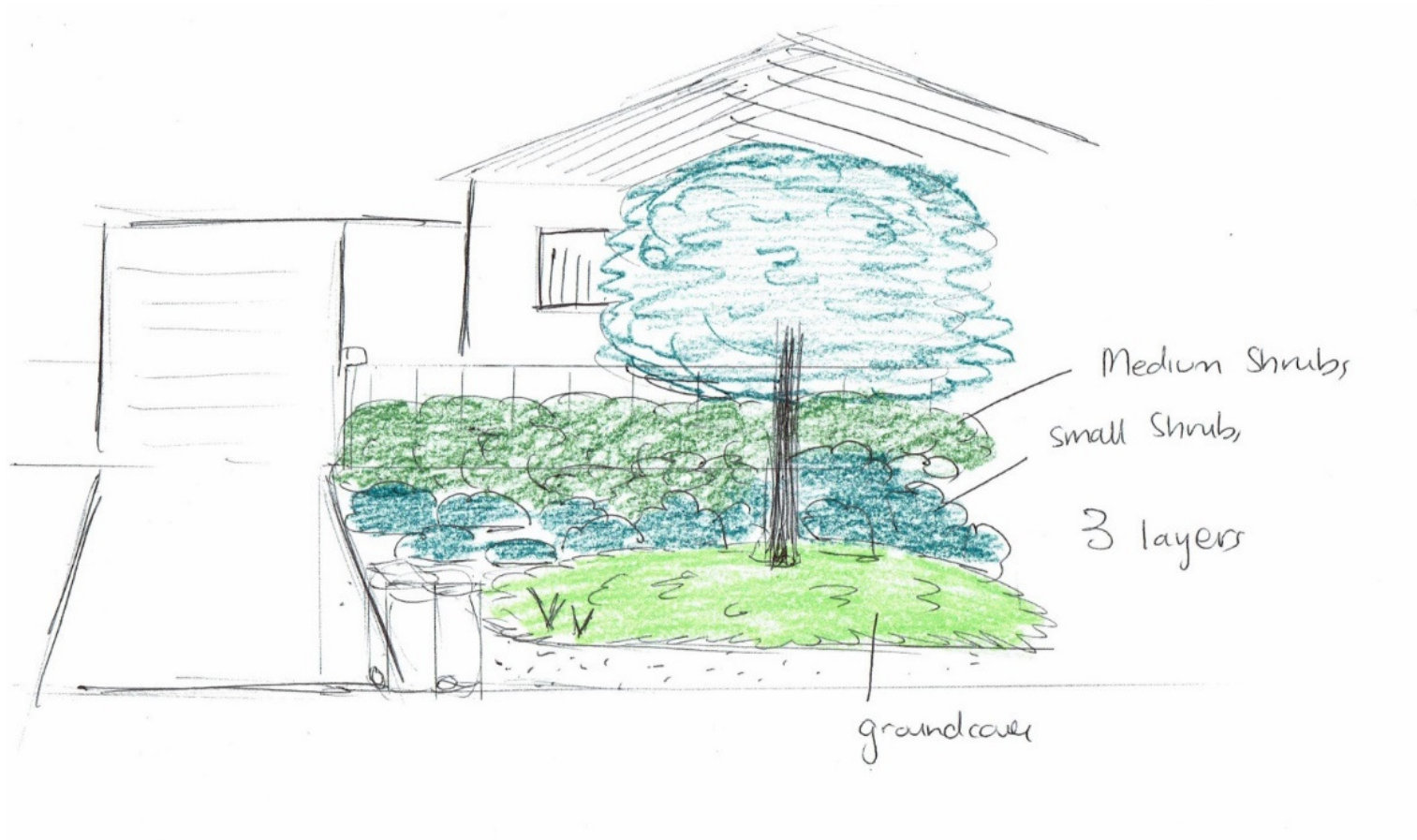
4) Check Local Council Requirements on website

Developing a Concept Plan

Think about your future verge and out of the following list, list the 3 most important things to you about your future garden:
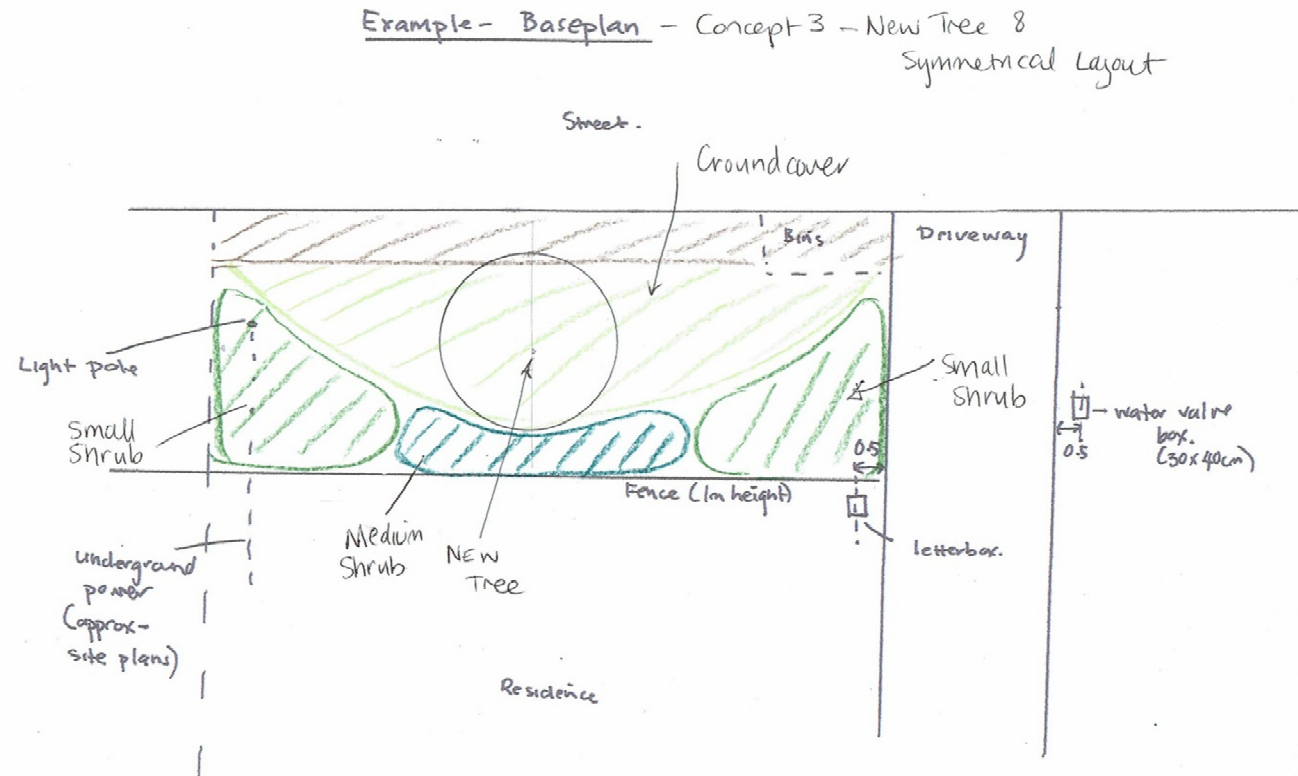
- Maintenance (low or like to garden 1/wk)?
- Aesthetics - look of the garden (organised, natural, variety vs same plants)?
- Match in with the existing streetscape?
- How much like to increase biodiversity/habitat potential
- Need for an additional or new street tree?

3 Layers

Verge design – there are 3 main layers to consider– groundcover, small shrubs and medium shrubs (with without a tree)

Medium Shrubs

small Shrub,

3 layers

groundcover

On a piece of tracing paper placed over baseplan - sketch some ideas of where you might put groundcovers, shrubs and trees.

Example - Baseplan - Concept 3 - New Tree 8
Symmetrical Layout

Street.

Groundcover

Bins Driveway

Light pole

Small Shrub

Small Shrub

water valve box. (30 x 40cm)

Fence (1m height)

letterbox.

Medium Shrub NEW Tree
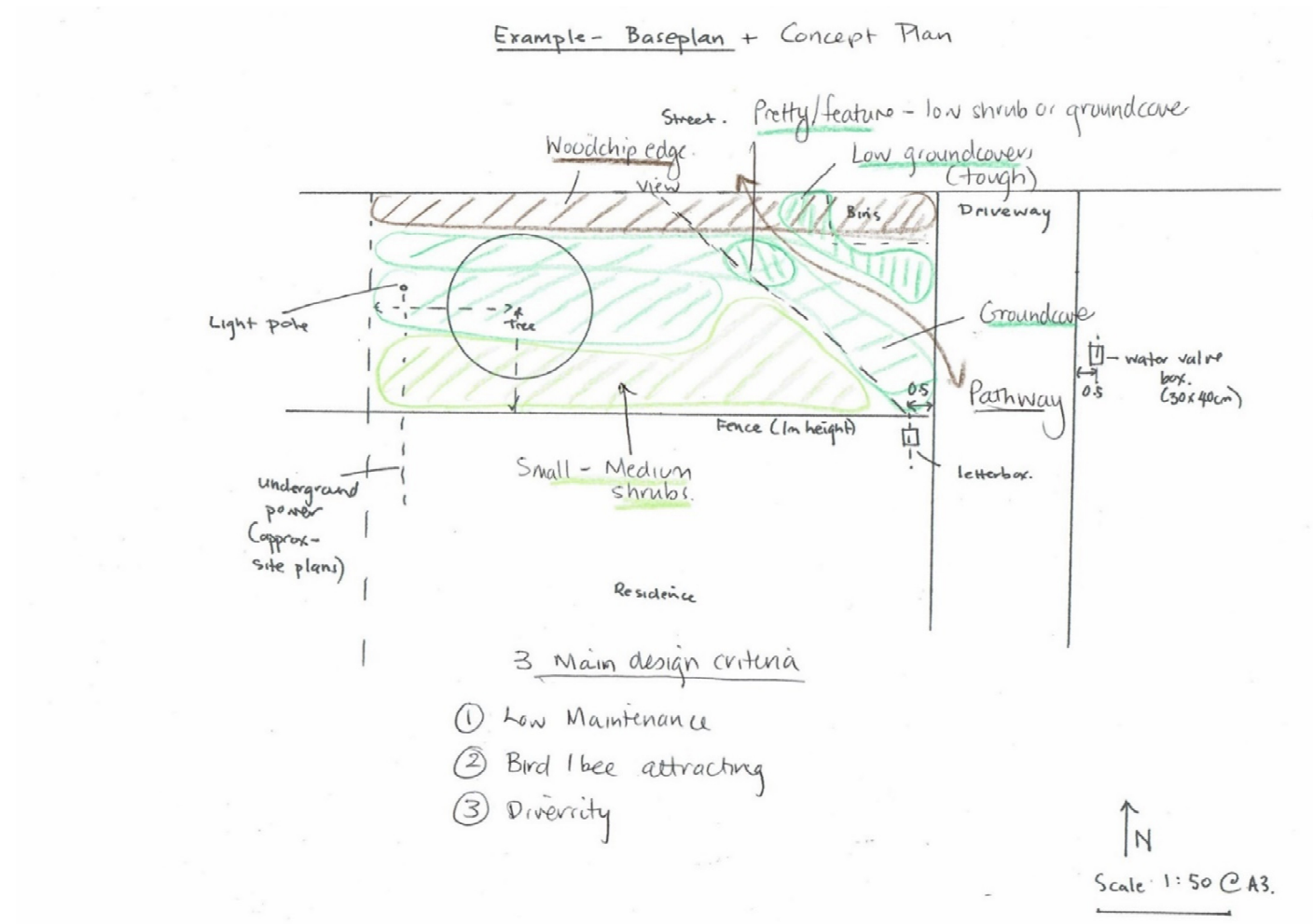
underground power (approx - site plans)

Residence

3 Main design criteria
① Symmetrical layout
② Diversity / ecology.
③ Pretty / flower colour / foliage colour.

↑N

Scale 1:50 @ A3.

Consider constraints, does it alter your plan in any way? E.g Access for the postie?

Example - Baseplan + Concept Plan

Street. Pretty/feature - low shrub or groundcove
Woodchip edge.
View
Low groundcovers (tough)
Bins
Driveway
Groundcove
Light pole
Tree
water valve box. (30x40cm)
05   Pathway 05
Fence (1m height)
letterbox.
Small - Medium shrubs.
Underground power (approx- Site plans)
Residence

3 Main design criteria
① Low Maintenance
② Bird / bee attracting
③ Diversity

↑N

Scale 1:50 @ A3.

Design Elements and Principles

Design Principles are used to assist in creating an aesthetically pleasing design. These are:

proportion/scale, balance, repetition and unity

Design Elements:
Line – paths/building shapes/kerb
Colour – usually foliage in WA local plants
Form- overall shape of the planting
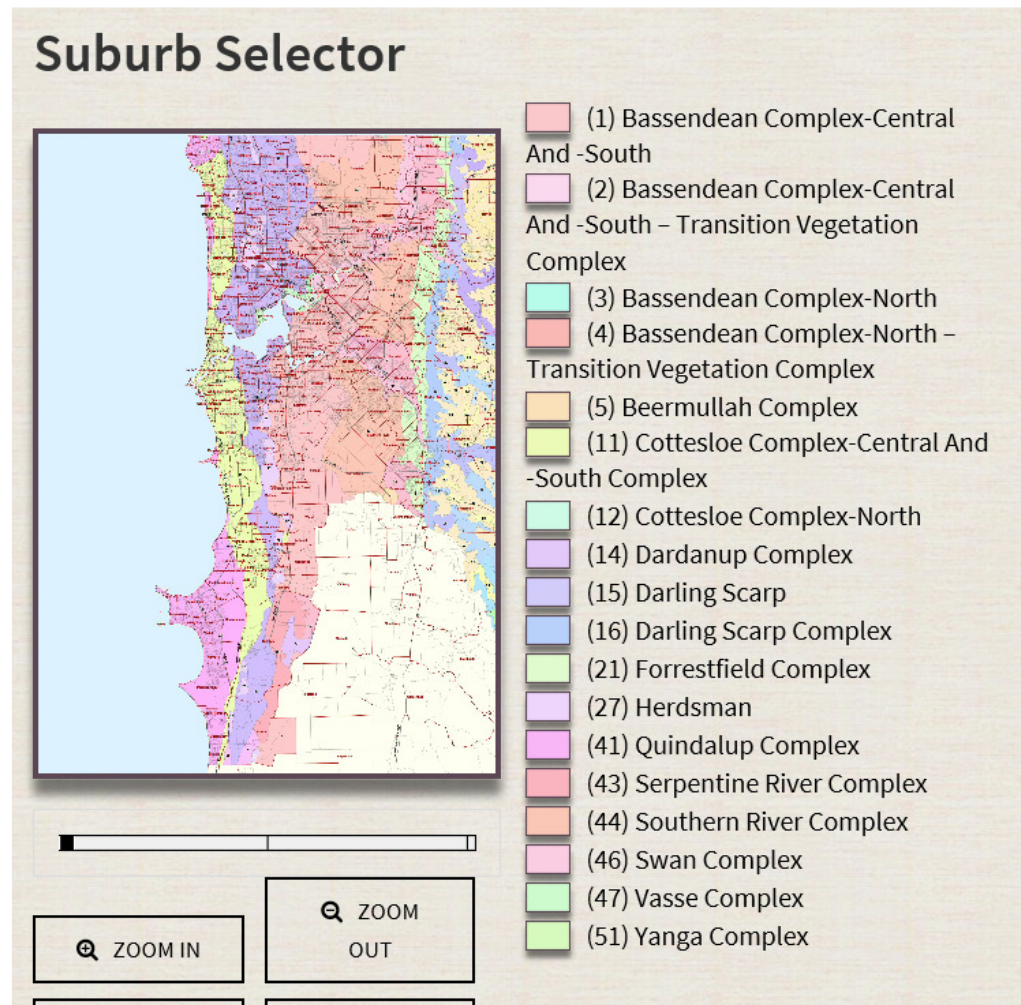**Texture** – big vs small leaf plants
Focal Point e.g feature plant

Plant Selection

- Decide on feature or dominant plants first,
- then plants for sun/shade,
- edge plants (annual vs thick edge)
- and finally fillers/groundcovers

Soil Type impacts plant selection

Suburb Selector

- (1) Bassendean Complex-Central And -South
- (2) Bassendean Complex-Central And -South – Transition Vegetation Complex
- (3) Bassendean Complex-North
- (4) Bassendean Complex-North – Transition Vegetation Complex
- (5) Beermullah Complex
- (11) Cottesloe Complex-Central And -South Complex
- (12) Cottesloe Complex-North
- (14) Dardanup Complex
- (15) Darling Scarp
- (16) Darling Scarp Complex
- (21) Forrestfield Complex
- (27) Herdsman
- (41) Quindalup Complex
- (43) Serpentine River Complex
- (44) Southern River Complex
- (46) Swan Complex
- (47) Vasse Complex
- (51) Yanga Complex

ZOOM IN   ZOOM OUT

APACE plant selection starts with identifying soil type.

Plants do best in native soil type.

See APACE Suburb Selector on website

Using Plants in Design:
1) Mass planting for border effect

http://www.lullfitz.com.au/olearia-ax

Grevillea preisii 'gilt dragon'

2) Colour – both Foliage and Flower

Silver foliage, cushion shape

Silver leaved, pretty flowers

3) Mass planting vs Natural/Biodiverse Plant Mix

4) Groundcovers

Impressive features – can be a 'floor' or a feature

Carpet Like – 'floor'

5) Shrubs with reliable form

Pimelea ferruginea

Westringia dampieri

6) Features and Fillers – feature plant becomes the focal point, filler as a backdrop
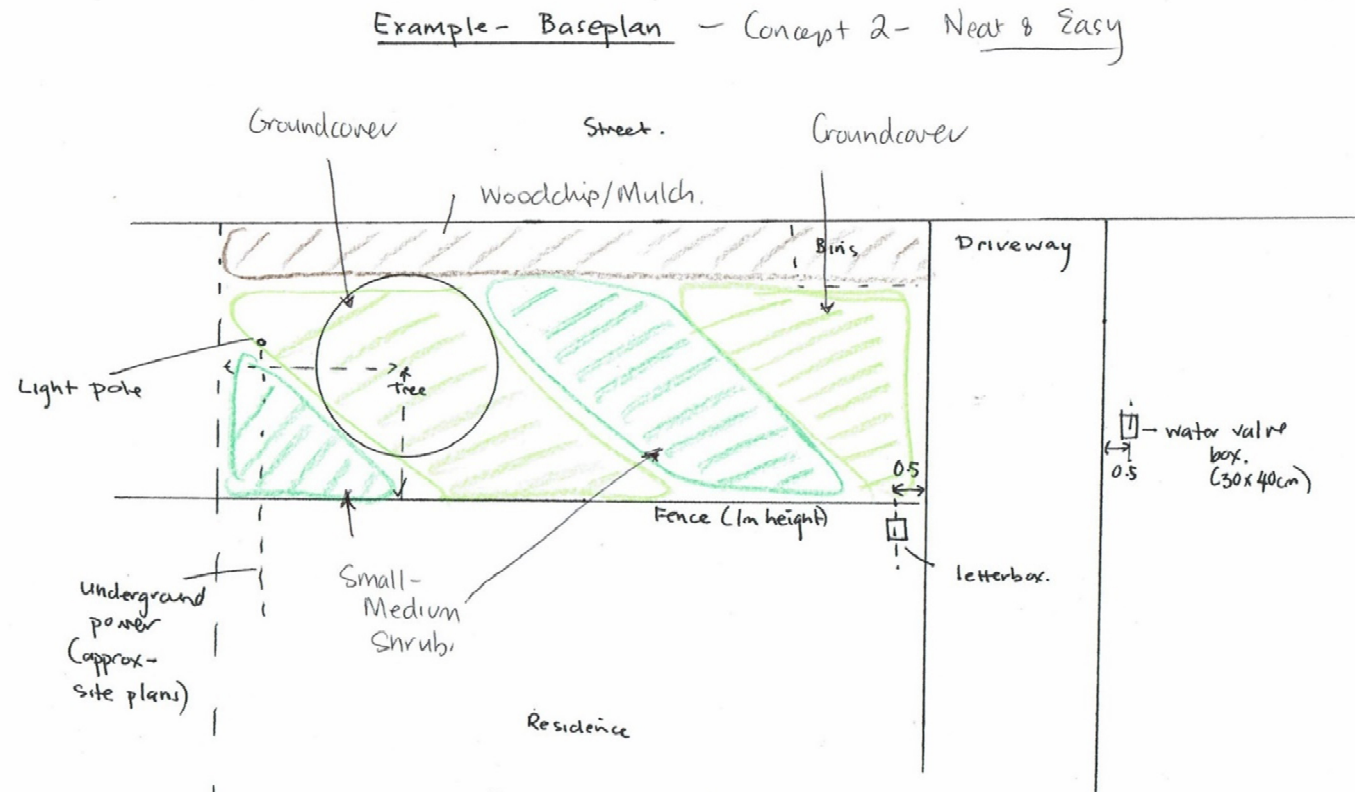

http://www.gardeningwith
angus.com.au

http://anpsa.org.au/a-hum.html

http://www.lullfitz.com.au/grevillea-crithmifolia-prostrate/

Plant Spacing

- If you want to be able to see the whole plant once it has reached full size,
  - the plant spacing = plant width
- For a dense border or coverage, suggest planting at 50-75% of the plant spacing.
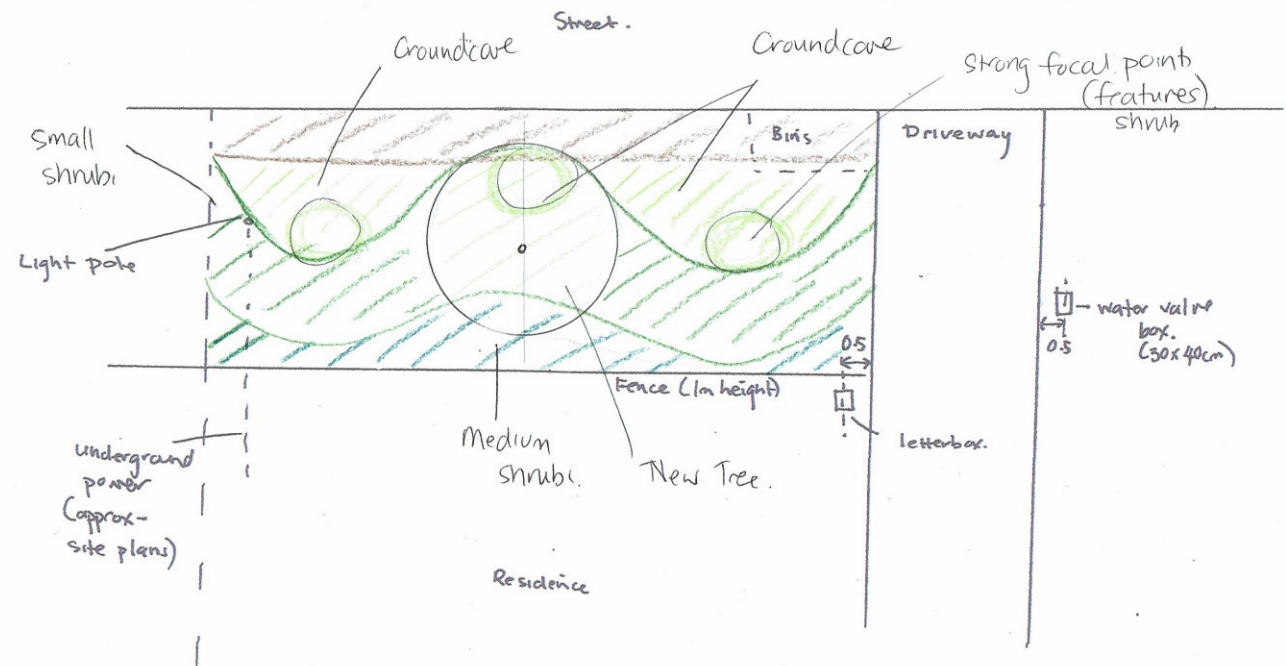
Example verge designs

Example- Baseplan — Concept 2- Neat & Easy

Groundcover   Street.   Groundcover

Woodchip/Mulch.

Bins   Driveway

Light pole

Tree

— water valve
box.
(30 x 40cm)

0.5

0.5

Fence (1m height)

letterbox.

Underground
power
(approx-
site plans)

Small-
Medium
Shrubs

Residence

3 top design criteria
① Neat & Tidy - edges
② Low Maintenance
③ Few plants / uniformity

Example- Baseplan - Concept 4

Street.

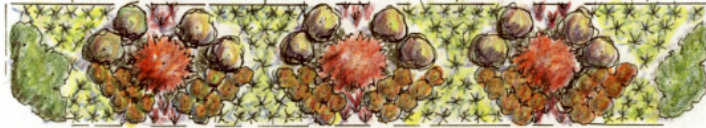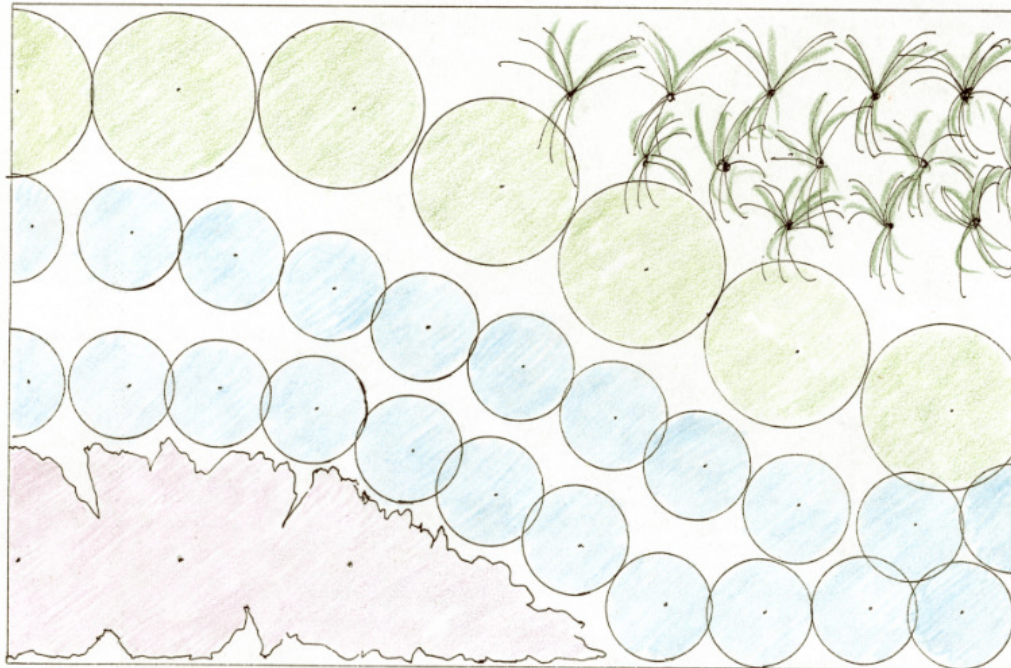Groundcove   Groundcove   Strong focal point
                                                          (features).
                                    Bins   Driveway   shrub
Small
shrub.

Light pole

underground
power
(approx-
site plans)

Medium   New Tree.
shrub.

Fence (1m height)

0.5   water valve
                       box.
0.5   (30x40cm)

letterbox.

Residence

3 Main design criteria

① Unity and regularity of species- a pattern

② Neat 8 tidy

③ Pretty feature plants/ colour contrast.

↑N

Scale· 1:50 @ A3.

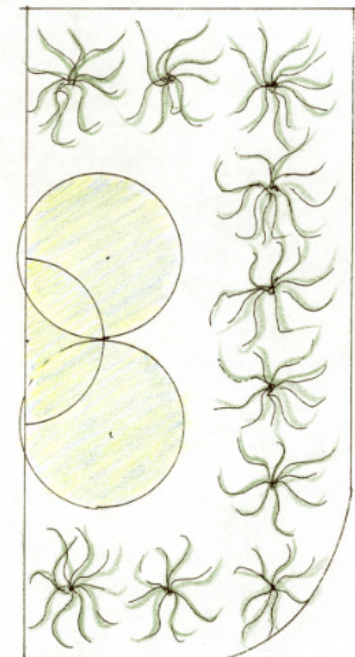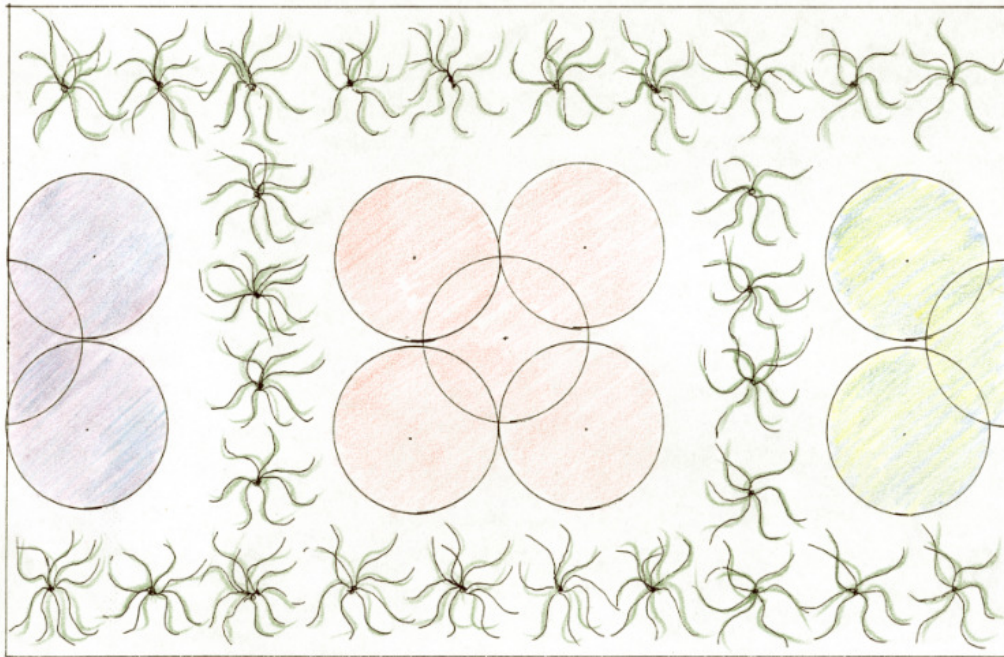# Butterflies

Coastal curve

Foothills frame

Darling scarp