



**VANG VIENG TOWN & ENVIRONS
TOURISM MASTER PLAN
(2023-2033) IMPLEMENTATION**

**Lao PDR - Second Greater Mekong Subregion:
Tourism Masterplanning Support**

ADB Grant No. 0599-LAO

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for **Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism of Laos**

June 2023

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including Operational Guidelines
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ACTION PLAN
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Town Character

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
TC1 - Implement a 'green shared streets' approach to parts of the urban core.					
2024 – 2033 (Delivery Staged)	MPWT MICT UDAA	MICT via ADB and/or Other Donors	HIGH	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm Streetscape design and cost evaluation. 2. Design coordination between the drainage and road infrastructure (DAO). 3. DED and Tender process. 4. Appoint Contractor and enter into staged construction agreement. 5. Delivery and contract administration.
TC2 – Improve accessibility across the Nam Song River, with a public walkway/path on the western side of the river, and a new bridge to the north near Saysong Island, to complete the 'Nam Song Loop'.					
2024-2028 (Delivery Staged)	MPWT MONRE UDAA	Public Sector Private Sector Donors	HIGH	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Site Planning and hydrological investigations. 2. Potential land acquisition to facilitate connections. 3. DED and Tender process. 4. Appoint Contractor and enter into staged construction agreement. 5. Delivery and contract administration.
TC3 - Improve directional and tourist signage based on a town logo and colour scheme that is consistently applied across all aspects of town identification and marketing. Ensure the signage supports wayfinding.					
2025 - 2026	MICT MPWT	Public Sector Private Sector Donors	LOW	C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage branding/identity consultant to devised logos. 2. Identify location of wayfinding signage. 3. Engage Signage Company to deliver signage.
TC4 - Undertake drainage improvements within established areas and ensure the installation of adequate drainage systems in growth areas and tourism nodes.					
2024-ongoing (Delivery Staged)	UDAA MPWT MICT	MPWT via ADB and/or Other Donors and Private Sector	HIGH	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In established areas, engage drainage/engineering consultants to review the type of drainage improvements that could be viable to implement. 2. Select a preferred option/options and move through phases of assess potential impacts/consultation/approval/delivery. 3. In growth areas and tourism nodes, publish guidelines and toolkits/standards for investors to deliver infrastructure. 4. Monitor and ensure maintenance of drainage regime.

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
TC5 – Improve access from major points of entry to the town (such as the Train Station) to the town core and key destinations. Implement a transport hub at the town core (Airstrip location).					
2025-2030	UDAA MPWT	As above.	MEDIUM	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negotiate with public and private transport providers and Airstrip concession holder. 2. Designate public transport routes within and across Vang Vieng. 3. Establish basic infrastructure (shelters, information, hardstand, terminal, and amenities).
TC6 - Implement updated design and development guidelines for the core township and growth areas, addressing building heights, river setbacks, and landscape impact considerations.					
2024	UDAA MPWT DAO	Public Sector	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorporate the published design guidelines of the masterplan into the Lao regulations.
TC7 - Amend the current construction regulations to ensure incorporation of sustainability (solar panels, water tanks, household and business recycling programs).					
2024	UDAA MPWT DAO	Public Sector	LOW	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation with relevant stakeholders 2. Introduce guidelines into the relevant legislation/ regulatory plans 3. Ensure assessing authorities enforce measures when assessing new development.
TC8 - Improve existing halls, temples and places that promote traditions and culture, and require protection of traditions and culture in new development proposals.					
2023-Ongoing	MICT Village Heads UDAA DAO	Public Sector Donor Agency	MEDIUM to HIGH	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and identify potential assets and identify priorities. 2. Incorporate the registration of venues, and a requirement to assess impacts on traditions and culture, into the Lao regulations that new development must adhere to. 3. Allocate funding and resources to progressive improvement or maintenance of facilities.
TC9 - Establish a yearly calendar of festivals and celebrations of traditional Lao culture. Update annually and promote these activities to the wider community and tourists planning to visit Vang Vieng Town.					
2024-ongoing	MICT UDAA Village Heads DAO	Public Sector Private Sector	LOW	C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a calendar of festivals/events. 2. Appoint a Place and Events Manager within the UDAA to be the organiser of festivals and events. 3. Secure funding to support these events/celebrations. 4. Deliver events and festivals slowly (e.g. maximum 2 festivals in the first year).

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
TC10 - Convert part of the former airstrip within the township to a public park (or parks), with viewing platform, public amenities and spaces for recreation, ceremonies, festivals and other important gatherings.					
2024-2028	UDAA MPWT DAO	Private Sector (development contribution)	HIGH	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negotiate with land concession holder on available land for public use. 2. Require transfer of designated land to public use – Design, document and deliver accordingly.
TC11 - Require new development in growth areas to contribute a percentage of the site to public open space, where applicable.					
2024-ongoing	UDAA MPWT DAO	Public Sector Private Sector	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree with Central Government on the percentage of open space to be mandated as a development contribution. 2. Implement new regulations for growth areas that enable open space contribution or cash contribution. 3. Establish a protocol or toolkit for identifying the attributes of open space to be contributed, e.g; useable and accessible.
TC12 - Establish a public recreation and leisure park to the east of Nam Song River and north of Saysong Island as identified in the Town and Environs and Urban Core plans of the Master Plan.					
2025-ongoing	UDAA MPWT DAO Village Head MONRE	Public Sector Private Sector	MEDIUM	C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigation into land ownership and acquisition, as required. 2. Necessary site surveying, geotechnical and hydrological investigations. 3. Prepare a Masterplan for recreation services and facilities (both passive and active). 4. Seek funding for implementation.

ACTION PLAN

Urban Growth

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
UG1 - Implement a clear urban growth boundary (Ultimate Development Boundary) to prevent sprawl/expansion.					
2023- 2024	UDAA DAO	Public Sector	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorporate the urban growth boundary (ultimate development boundary) as identified in the masterplan, into the Lao regulations. 2. Ensure the boundary is enforced.
UG2 - Direct development to the urban core (existing urban zoned area) and new urban growth cells (designated as SGA1, SGA2, NGA1, NGA2, and TOD).					
2023/2024	UDAA DAO MPWT	Public Sector	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the zoning plans in the Lao regulations to reflect the designation of growth areas in the masterplan. 2. Ensure revised zoning plans are adhered to.
UG3 - Develop part of the old airstrip land as a Mixed-Use precinct.					
Commenced - ongoing	UDAA DAO MPWT	Public Sector Private Sector	HIGH	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concession holder about to commence project construction (May 2023).
UG4 – Enable limited new ‘outlying’ tourism development subject to strict controls and evaluation criteria.					
2023- ongoing	UDAA DAO MPWT	Public Sector	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorporate the directions from this masterplan on the location of ‘possible outlying tourism nodes’ into the relevant Lao regulations. 2. Incorporate the published development guidelines for areas outside the urban growth boundary into the relevant Lao regulations. 3. Ensure outlying tourism development is only allowed within the ‘possible outlying tourism nodes’. 4. Assess development in these outlying nodes against the development guidelines.

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
UG5 – Apply a ‘growth area neighbourhood development model’ for newly developing cells, which includes new community infrastructure (such as new schools, medical centres and other community-based facilities).					
2024- ongoing	UDAA DAO MPWT Village Heads	Public Sector	LOW-MEDIUM	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint an expert to design a “Growth Area Neighbourhood Development Model” for newly developing growth areas. 2. Introduce the “Growth Area Neighbourhood Development Model” into relevant Lao regulations. 3. Ensure Government enforces the neighbourhood development model (including requirements for the provision of new community infrastructure by Developers) when assessing development proposals.
UG6 – Undertake the following infrastructure improvements:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade the existing solid waste landfill facility and implement holistic solid waste management. • Improve the capacity of the existing water supply to meet current and future needs. • Commence planning for the installation of a reticulated wastewater treatment plant. 					
UG6A - Solid waste landfill facility and holistic solid waste management					
Commenced-2026	MICT DAO MONRE MPWT	Donors	HIGH	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project Delivery underway.
UG6B – Capacity of the existing water supply					
2026- 2033	MONRE MPWT	Public Sector Donors	HIGH	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm funding for the proposed new water treatment plant. 2. Proceed through phases of design, assess potential impacts, consult/review, approval, and delivery.
UG6C - Reticulated wastewater treatment plant/ planning and construction					
2026- 2030	UDAA MONRE MPWT Public Health Office	Public Sector Donors	HIGH	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure funding to prepare a study on the feasibility of the treatment plant. 2. Subject to viability and securing funding, proceed through phases of design, assess potential impacts, consult/ review, approval, and delivery.

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
UG7 - Provide sustainable transport infrastructure and services in locations designated to accommodate future growth, such as cycling paths and local bus services.					
2023- ongoing	UDAA MPWT	Public Sector Private Sector Donors	HIGH	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint a sustainable transport expert to determine the appropriate types of sustainable transport infrastructure and services suitable for the different growth areas under this Master Plan. 2. Negotiate with Developers to ensure new growth areas are developed with the appropriate infrastructure, and connections to existing infrastructure. 3. Undertake a tender to provide new local bus services in growth areas (if identified as being of benefit).
UG8 - Facilitate development of an employment, logistics and tourism precinct near Vang Vieng train station.					
2023 - onwards	UDAA DAO MPWT	Public Sector Private Sector	LOW	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convert the plans of this master plan, which designate a precinct for employment, logistics and tourism uses, into Lao regulations/regulatory plans. 2. Develop guidelines for the types of development designated in this precinct, and ensure the guidelines direct that a sufficient separation distance is provided from uses with adverse amenity potential to sensitive uses (residential, schools, etc).

Environment

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
E1 - Establish clear boundaries for where development can be located, to protect the natural setting of the town (including the karst mountains, forest areas, agricultural land, and sandstone ridges).					
2023- 2024	UDAA MPWT DAO MONRE MAF MICT Village Head	Public Sector	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the Master Plan, which identifies clear areas for future development/growth and protected areas, into the relevant Lao regulations.
E2 - Ensure any tourism activities in the town's natural surrounds do not negatively impact upon those areas.					
2023- 2024	MICT MONRE MAF Tourist Police Office DAO	Public Sector	MEDIUM	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake a review into how existing tourism activities are carried out in the town's natural surrounds. Potentially appoint an expert/consultant to complete this review. 2. Where activities are found to be having a negative impact, work with tourism operators to modify or refine activities to limit impacts.
E3 - Undertake the necessary technical investigations into the natural and scenic values of the limestone karst mountains and the Nam Song River to support appropriate conservation and protection under relevant Lao PDR Law (where not already legally protected).					
2024-2025	MONRE MAF DAO MICT	Donors	LOW-MEDIUM	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint an expert/consultant to undertake necessary technical investigations into the natural and scenic values. 2. Review the extent of existing legal protection of natural and scenic values and assess implications of nominations. 3. Consultation with relevant stakeholders 4. Nominate unprotected features and areas for protection under relevant Lao PDR law.

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
E4 - Protect and improve the health of Nam Song River and other tributaries within the master plan area.					
2023 – ongoing	UDAA MPWT DAO MONRE MAF	Public Sector Donors	MEDIUM	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure funding and appoint an expert/consultant to undertake a study of the health of the Nam Song River and tributaries and identify interventions to better protect the river and improve its health. 2. Review the findings of the study and implement the recommendations/actions (via separate projects)
E5 - Implement design and development guidelines that control building height and form of new development, and which specify appropriate development typologies for different locations.					
2023-2024	UDAA MPWT DAO	Public Sector	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorporate the design and development guidelines prepared by the project team into the Lao Regulations. 2. Ensure Government Staff are provided with sufficient training in using the guidelines as part of development assessment.
E6 – Implement design and development guidelines that protect views of the landscape features of the western valley and northern corridor.					
2023/ 2024	UDAA DAO	Public Sector	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake detailed scenic landscape studies and view analysis to fully understand scenic sensitivities and necessary protections. 2. Incorporate the private development guidelines for the area outside the UGB prepared by the project team into the Lao Regulations. 3. Ensure Government Staff are provided with sufficient training in using the guidelines as part of development assessment.

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
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E7 - Regulate entertainment and tourism activities creating air, water, noise pollution and other amenity problems.

2023 - ongoing	MICT UDAA MPWT MONRE	Public Sector Donors	LOW-MEDIUM	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review whether existing regulations are suitable to regulate water pollution problems, across Vang Vieng towns and environs. 2. If suitable, direct further resources and/or seek further resources for improving enforcement of water regulations. 3. If the regulations are not suitable, amend existing Lao regulations after consultation with relevant stakeholders. 4. Incorporate the Operational guidelines prepared by the project team (which address noise, air and light pollution and vehicle/vessel speed) into the Lao regulations, after consultation with relevant stakeholders. 5. Ensure authorities enforce all air, water, noise pollution and other amenity-related regulations. 6. Work with operators and owners of long tail boats to convert boat motors to electric motors. <p><i>Refer to the Operational Guidelines at Page 20.</i></p>
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E8 - Conduct regular monitoring of air quality, noise pollution, and water quality.

2023 - ongoing	MONRE DAO	Public Sector Donors	MEDIUM	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek funding or utilise existing resources to expand monitoring activities to also include air quality and noise pollution, in addition to water quality. 2. Design the monitoring programme to ensure it can be maintained. 3. Utilise the findings to inform potential interventions. <p><i>Refer to the Operational Guidelines at Page 20.</i></p>
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ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
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E9 - Undertake investigations to identify sites of natural and cultural heritage across the town and environs that are not already protected. Proceed to protect these sites under the relevant legislation.

2024/2025	MONRE UDAA MICT MPWT DAO Village Heads	Public Sector Donors	LOW	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Either appoint an expert/consultant or use existing Government staff to review sites of natural and cultural heritage and their level of legal protection. 2. Identify where additional protections are suitable. 3. Undertake Stakeholder Consultation 4. Implement proposed protections under the relevant legislation.
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E10 - Ensure sensitive design around cave environs in terms of signage and other structures.

2023-ongoing	MICT DAO MPWT MONRE Village Heads	Public Sector Donors	LOW-MEDIUM	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake a review of all signage and structures in cave environs areas across areas in and around Vang Vieng. 2. Where existing signage and structures are not sensitive/ appropriately responsive to the cave sites and environs, work with local operators to make modifications. 3. Seek donor support to fund more significant changes.
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Tourism Development

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
TD1 - Reactivate the Vang Vieng Destination Management Network (DMN) so that it provides leadership and direction for future growth and development.					
2024	UDAA and DICT with MICT and private sector members	ADB TIIGP2 until December 2025	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the DMN membership and function. 2. Provide a clear set of projects for the DMN to be working on related to the implementation of this Master Plan. 3. Provide technical support to the DMN to support its leadership role.
TD2 – Use the ASEAN clean Tourist City Standard to guide upgrades to town facilities and services for visitors and apply for the ASEAN Clean Tourist City award by 2025.					
2023-2025	UDAA/ DICT with MICT	ADB TIIGP2 until December 2025	MEDIUM - HIGH	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete assessment of infrastructure and service requirements to meet ASEAN Clean Tourist City Standard. 2. Complete Action/ Procurement Plan to meet requirements. 3. Fund improvements under the ADB TIIGP2 Project. 4. Apply for ASEAN Clean Tourist City Standard.
TD3 – Attract quality tourism investments to Vang Vieng by having clear criteria for assessing potential development proposals.					
2023-2032	UDAA/ DICT with Vang Vieng DMN and DPI/ MPI	Multi-agency approach Donor role to provide technical assistance with development and application of criteria	LOW - MEDIUM	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and prioritise investment needs for tourism development by location (For example: North for agricultural based investment, South and East for entertainment and culture, West for nature and adventure activities). 2. Consultation with community on potential investment and their involvement. 3. Identify potential land for investment. 4. Develop investment assessment criteria that is specific to the location/zone. 5. Raise awareness about the criteria with communities and local authorities.

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
TD4 – Improve day use attractions and services, especially public spaces.					
2024-2032	MICT UDAA MPWT DAO	ADB and other donors with private sector	MEDIUM to HIGH	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the top day use attractions, activities and facilities to be improved and upgraded to enhance visitors experience with added security. 2. Consider mountain viewpoints, boat/kayak trips on the Nam Song, mountain biking trails, cave trips, zip lines, rock climbing, hot air ballooning, trekking to waterfalls as first-order priorities. 3. Dedicate government land for public spaces (e.g. Riverside walkway, free public parks). 4. Convert noisy long tail boats to electric motors for trips on the Nam Song.
TD5 – Implement ASEAN Tourism Standards to improve service quality across accommodation, restaurant, spa and MICE venues.					
2023-2032	Led by the Vang Vieng DMN in cooperation with DICT and MICT ASEAN Standards secretariat support. An ASEAN Standards Certification Committee is already established for Vang Vieng, but should come under the direction of the Vang Vieng DMN	ADB TIIGP2 under December 2025 Other donors after December 2025	LOW to MEDIUM	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the best examples of accommodation, restaurant, spa and MICE venues for improvements. 2. Assist these businesses to apply for and meet ASEAN Tourism Standards. 3. Explore options for SME support in order to upgrade facilities and service standards in order to meet ASEAN standards.

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
TD6 - Continue investing in tourism workforce training to meet changes in market demand and growth in the sector (new accommodation, activities, and attractions).					
2023 - 2032	Coordinated through the Vang Vieng DMN with technical/ organisational support from DICT/ MICT	Multi-agency Private Sector Donors (Lux Dev, ADB, Others)	MEDIUM	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the Academy, Vang Vieng and the MICT to identify numbers of jobs and skills needed for the tourism industry in Vang Vieng in the short and medium terms. 2. Identify and prioritise training needs. 3. Continue with existing and establish new training courses at the Academy to allow continuation of training and skills improvement for the short to medium term. 4. Communicate and promote the needs for ongoing staff training among operators. 5. Support small and emerging establishments with in-house training.
TD7 – Strengthen the community tourism supply chain by linking the existing community experiences such as rice farming, fruit plantations and other traditional land uses.					
2024- 2030	Coordinated through the Vang Vieng DMN with technical/ organisational support from DICT/ MICT	Multi-agency Private Sector Donors	LOW - MEDIUM	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and select top 3-5 existing community initiatives by location such as durian and orange plantations, rice plantations, farms, handicraft producers. 2. Work with private sector (accommodation providers and tour companies) and local authorities (village) to improve service quality of tourism suppliers and expand activities to create unique experiences. 3. Provide workshops to raise awareness on tourist needs, while protecting cultural and environmental heritage.

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
TD8 – Develop walking/hiking trails around the Western loop.					
2026-2030	Coordinated through the Vang Vieng DMN with technical / organisational support from DICT/ MICT	Multi-agency Communities Private Sector Donors	LOW - MEDIUM	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Together with tour operators and local authorities, survey and select high potential trails for one-day and multi-day walks. 2. Identify management mechanism for the trails to avoid monopoly and conflicts of interest. 3. Secure funding or form partnership with private sector to develop trails to ensure safety of users.
TD9 - Upgrade the quality and resiliency of walking tracks to Vang Veing viewpoints (recognised as best in Laos).					
2024-2028	Coordinated through the Vang Vieng DMN with technical/ organisational support from DICT / MCT	Multi-agency Communities Private sector Donors	MEDIUM	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select top 3 viewpoints for upgrades. 2. Work with industry professionals to carry out track surveys to identify and mark locations for improvement and upgrade. 3. Secure funding or form partnership with private sector and/or donors for improvement works. 4. Ensure improvement fits international safety standards and materials used are sustainable and durable. 5. Provide checklist management for periodical maintenance and upkeep.
TD10 – Market the Vang Vieng X-Trail challenge to International Visitors.					
2024-2026	Private sector led in cooperation with the Vang Vieng DMN (government and private sector members)	Private sector	LOW	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formally establish/register the Vang Vieng X-Trail as an international competition. 2. Set up organising committee to handle events, communication, sponsorship, etc. 3. Secure funding for events and marketing purposes. 4. Survey trails (with private sector and event professionals).

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
TD11 - Improve and expand cycling routes so that Vang Vieng becomes known as having the best off-road mountain bike trails in Laos.					
2025-2032	Coordinated through the Vang Vieng DMN with technical / organisational support from DICT / MICT	Multi-agency Communities Private sector Donors	MEDIUM - HIGH	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey existing routes 2. Survey potential extension routes to the west and east. 3. Establish public/private sector partnership to raise funds for improvement and development. 4. Test routes to ensure safety and security and that it will be marketable, and trail improvements based on test routes. 5. Market trails.
TD12 - Establish camping grounds to accommodate camping enthusiasts and the emerging caravan market (a potential local private investment opportunity).					
2024-2027	DICT/ UDAA in collaboration with the Vang Vieng DMN	Private Sector	MEDIUM - HIGH	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold workshop or community meeting with interested local businesses/ investors about camping/caravan ground trends and business opportunities. 2. Draft regulatory framework to manage camping and caravan sites. 3. Develop checklist to assess sites suitable for such operation. 4. Grant permits for camping/caravan site operation.
TD13 - Encourage low impact (both visual and environmental) accommodation development around the Western Loop.					
2024-2032	DICT/ UDAA and DPI/MPI in collaboration with the Vang Vieng DMN private sector members	Private Sector	MEDIUM - HIGH	C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess interest from potential investors and communities in establishing quality, boutique accommodation. 2. Work with investors to guide accommodation proposal to ensure they are sensitive developments. 3. Assist developers to meet ASEAN or relevant standards for sustainable accommodation.

Urban Resilience

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
UR1 – Restrict urban growth within 25 metres of the waterway edge.					
2023 - onwards	UDAA MPWT MONRE DAO	Public Sector	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the relevant regulations and regulatory plans for Vang Vieng and surrounds, to restrict urban growth within 25 metres of the edge of waterways.
UR2 - Monitor the change in forecasted vulnerability of the flood plain to inundation risks.					
2023-ongoing	MONRE UDAA MPWT DAO	Public Sector Donor Agency	MEDIUM	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a working group to monitor the inundation risks. 2. Changes in vulnerability should inform future decisions about future land use and development.
UR3 - Raise public awareness about the increasing inundation risks across the Nam Song flood plain. Implement an early warning system that can inform visitors and residents of imminent high-risk inundation events.					
2023-ongoing	DAO MONRE MPWT	Public Sector Donor Agency	LOW-MEDIUM	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint a communications specialist to devise a public awareness campaign on increasing inundation risks 2. Ensure campaign considers utilising existing community networks and associations, considers commonly used technology to raise awareness. 3. Undertake campaign and review impact on awareness levels of community. 4. Appoint an expert to advise on an early warning system appropriate to the context of Vang Vieng and environs. 5. Seek funding for delivery of early warning system.
UR4 – Apply water sensitive urban design (WSUD) in the streets of Vang Vieng.					
2024 – 2033 (Delivery Staged)	MPWT MICT DAO	Public Sector Donors	HIGH	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage drainage/engineering consultants to review the type of WSUD improvement across the streets of Vang Vieng that could be viable to implement. 2. Select preferred options and move through phases of assess potential impacts/consultation/approval/delivery.

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
UR5 – Ensure all new developments include on-site drainage and detention.					
2024 – ongoing	MPWT UDAA DAO MONRE	Public Sector Private Sector	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorporate a requirement for all new developments to include on-site and detention within the relevant Lao regulations. 2. Provide guidelines and toolkits/standards for investors and developers on how to deliver on-site drainage and detention systems.
UR6 - Implement a disaster and risk mitigation regulatory plan (and/or standards) which must be used in the assessment of all new projects (both private and public).					
2024-2025	UDAA MONRE MPWT DAO	Public Sector Donors	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review status of any existing disaster and risk mitigation regulatory plans. 2. Appoint an expert to prepare a disaster and risk mitigation plan (and/or standards) 3. Implement the plan (and or standards) into the relevant Lao regulations, requiring all new projects to be assessed against the plan (and/or standards).
UR7 – Support local community and visitor safety, by:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an official destination app for Vang Vieng that provides information on attractions, services and safety. • Legally require all adventure tourism operators to have safety plans and systems that meet national or international codes/ industry standards. • Provide training and certification processes to lift the operating safety standards of adventure tourism businesses and their staff. 					
UR7A - Official Destination App					
2025-2027	District and Provincial DICT in collaboration with the Vang Vieng DMN	Government with possible support from Donors	LOW	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review performance features of similar 'apps' (Luang Prabang). 2. Prepare operational specifications for the App and budget. 3. Seek budget support if needed. 4. Tender for supplier. 5. Deliver output in close cooperation with industry and Vang Vieng DMN.

ACTION PLAN

Timing	Responsible Agency(ies)	Who pays?	Cost (H/M/L)	Priority (A/B/C)	Potential Steps
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UR7B - Safety plans and safety systems

2024-2026	District and Provincial DICT in collaboration with the Vang Vieng DMN and technical support from MICT	Government with some possible support from ADB TIIGP2 prior to December 2024	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review current industry/ activity safety regulations and laws. 2. Draft new laws and safety regulations that would apply. 3. Engage specialist technical assistance from industry experts (e.g. for ziplines, rock climbing, hot air ballooning, etc) 4. Use existing, internationally recognised safety standards from elsewhere (New Zealand, Thailand, Australia, Canada or US) as benchmark. 5. Undertake transfer of skills/ capacity building for Lao Operators and those who will audit safety and enforce regulations in Government or industry associations. 6. Audit Independently every 2 years.
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UR7C - Training and Certification Processes

2025-2028	District and Provincial DICT and Vang Vieng DMN	Donor support required possibly under ADB TIIGP2 Other potential donors include NZ Aid Program, Australia's DFAT, French Embassy and Canadian Embassy	LOW	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Once new safety regulations and laws have been drafted, undertake annual safety training for adventure tourism operators. 2. Seek donor support for training exchange programs from experts in globally recognised adventure destinations such as Queenstown (New Zealand), British Columbia (Canada), Australia or France. 3. Use these 'centres of excellence' in adventure tourism to start a long-term relationship of support with Vang Vieng.
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ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY 'A' ACTIONS – The highest priority actions in the plan are the following:

TC2	Improve accessibility across the Nam Song River, with a public walkway/path on the western side of the river, and a new bridge to the north near Saysong Island, to complete the 'Nam Song Loop'.	TD1	Reactivate the Vang Vieng Destination Management Network (DMN) so that it provides leadership and direction for future growth and development.
TC5	Improve access from major points of entry to the town (such as the Train Station) to the town core and key destinations. Implement a transport hub at the town core (Airstrip location).	TD2	Use the ASEAN clean Tourist City Standard to guide upgrades to town facilities and services for visitors and apply for the ASEAN Clean Tourist City award by 2025.
TC6	Implement updated design and development guidelines for the core township and growth areas, addressing building heights, river setbacks, and landscape impact considerations.	TD4	Improve day use attractions and services, especially public spaces.
TC11	Require new development in growth areas to contribute a percentage of the site to public open space, where applicable.	TD6	Continue investing in tourism workforce training to meet changes in market demand and growth in the sector (new accommodation, activities, and attractions).
UG1	Implement a clear urban growth boundary (Ultimate Development Boundary) to prevent sprawl/ expansion.	TD9	Upgrade the quality and resiliency of walking tracks to Vang Veing viewpoints (recognised as best in Laos).
UG2	Direct development to the urban core (existing urban zoned area), and new urban growth cells (designated as SGA1, SGA2, NGA1, NGA2, and TOD).	TD12	Establish camping grounds to accommodate camping enthusiasts and the emerging caravan market (a potential local private investment opportunity).
UG4	Enable limited new 'outlying' tourism developments subject to strict controls and evaluation criteria.	UR1	Restrict urban growth within 25 metres of the waterway edge.
UG5	Apply a 'growth area neighbourhood development model' for newly developing cells, which includes new community infrastructure (such as new schools, medical centres and other community-based facilities).	UR2	Monitor the changed in forecasted vulnerability of the flood plain to inundation risks.
UG6A	Upgrade the existing solid waste landfill facility and implement holistic solid waste management.	UR3	Raise public awareness about the increasing inundation risks across the Nam Song floodplain. Implement an early warning system that can inform visitors and residents of imminent high risk inundation events.
E1	Establish clear boundaries for where development can be located, to protect the natural setting of the town (including the karst mountains, forest areas, agricultural land, and sandstone ridges).	UR5	Ensure all new developments include on-site drainage and detention.
E2	Ensure any tourism activities in the town's natural surrounds do not negatively impact upon those areas.	UR6	Implement a disaster and risk mitigation regulatory plan (and/or standards) which must be used in the assessment of all new projects (both private and public).
E5	Implement design and development guidelines that control building height and form of new development, and which specify appropriate development typologies for different locations.	UR7B	Legally require all adventure tourism operators to have safety plans and systems that meet national or international codes/industry standards.
E6	Implement design and development guidelines that protect views of the landscape features of the western valley and northern corridor.	UR7C	Provide training and certification processes to lift the operating safety standards of adventure tourism businesses and their staff.
E7	Regulate entertainment and tourism activities creating air, water, noise pollution and other amenity problems.		

Introduction to managing noise from entertainment and tourism activities

Guidelines have been prepared (on the following page) for managing noise from entertainment, adventure vehicles and boats on the Nam Song. The aim of the guidelines is to minimise disturbance from noise on residents and visitors. Currently, anecdotal evidence suggests that noise disturbance is a very real issue for visitors and residents alike. Particular sources of annoyance stem from long tail boats on the Nam Song and loud music playing along the riverbank, especially those venues on the true right bank, opposite and slightly to the north of the town centre where most hotels are located. The level of noise from these two sources goes against the market position and special characteristics of Vang Vieng as a destination.

There is an opportunity for the long tail boats to convert to electric motors, now that these are available in Laos and operating on the Mekong already. That would remove a big component of current noise disturbance and be in-keeping with Vang Vieng as a sustainable destination. That leaves the enforcement of music as the main source of disturbance.

The guidelines provided here are based on the regulations from other tourist towns that have entertainment precincts. The noise limits suggested are generally considered a reasonable compromise between entertainment venues and the expectations of residents and visitors.



OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND TOURISM ACTIVITIES

How to use these guidelines

Entertainment and Tourism activities in Vang Vieng and environs must achieve the **objective** below.

Entertainment and Tourism activities in Vang Vieng and environs should meet the **standards** below.

The standards contains the requirements to meet the objective. A standard should normally be met. The standards can be used to help resolve disputes or review complaints about the operation of particular entertainment activities and tourism activities.

Objective - Noise

To ensure that noise generated from the operation of entertainment and tourism activities does not create an unacceptable level of disturbance.

Standards – Noise

	Activity or Sound Source	Assessment Location	Time	Noise Limits
N1	Motorised boats on the Nam Song River, and motorised buggies or other vehicle (except motorbikes) anywhere in town	20 metres from motorised boats 5 metres from motorised buggies and other vehicles (except motorbikes)	8am to 8pm	70 dB max
			8pm to 8am	50 dB max
N2	Music / entertainment within Vang Vieng town	Any residential area within Vang Vieng town	8am to Midnight	65 dB max
			Midnight to 8am	50 dB max
N3	Music/ entertainment directly beside Nam Song (either river bank)	50 metres from source of music	8am to 11pm	65 dB max
			11pm to 8am	40 dB max
N4	A permit (approval) from the relevant Government authority should be obtained to operate motorised boats on the Nam Song and motorised buggies.			
N5	For music and entertainment within Vang Vieng Town, a permit (approval) from the relevant Government authority should be obtained for special events.			
N6	For music and entertainment directly beside Nam Song (either river bank), a permit (approval) from the relevant Government authority should be obtained for special events.			

Note: To understand the relative impact or disturbance from different noise levels (in dB), the following scale can be used as a general guide:

0 - 30dB = 'Very Quiet', 31- 60dB = 'Quiet', 61 – 80 dB = 'Annoying', and 81dB+ = 'Potentially Damaging'.

ACTION PLAN

Objective - Light

To ensure that all lighting associated with entertainment and tourism activities and businesses does not produce an unacceptable level of disturbance and impact.

Standards – Light

L1	All lighting associated with entertainment and tourism activities and businesses should be designed to limit light spill into surrounding areas, with shielding and baffling applied to the lighting as appropriate.
L2	All lighting should be designed to minimise the creation of glare.
L3	Flashing lights should be avoided.
L4	The use of floodlights above first floor level should be minimised.
L5	Avoid floodlights directed onto signage.

Objective – Air Emissions

To ensure that the impacts on human health from air emissions associated with the operation of entertainment and tourism activities are minimised.

Standards – Air Emissions

A1	Passenger Vehicles and light commercial vehicles (both petrol and diesel), and trucks and buses (heavy-duty diesel engines) used for Tourism purposes should meet the 'Euro 5' emission standards.
A2	Motorcycles used for Tourism purposes should meet the 'Euro 4' emission standards.
A3	Operators and Staff of entertainment and tourism activities should not undertake any burning of rubbish containing plastic.

Note: The emission standards referred to above are summarized at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_emission_standards Where there is a Euro 5a and Euro 5b standard, the Euro 5b standard should prevail.

Objective – Speed

To ensure that vehicles, motorised vessels and personal watercraft are operated at a speed that does not create an unacceptable risk to human safety.

Standards – Speed

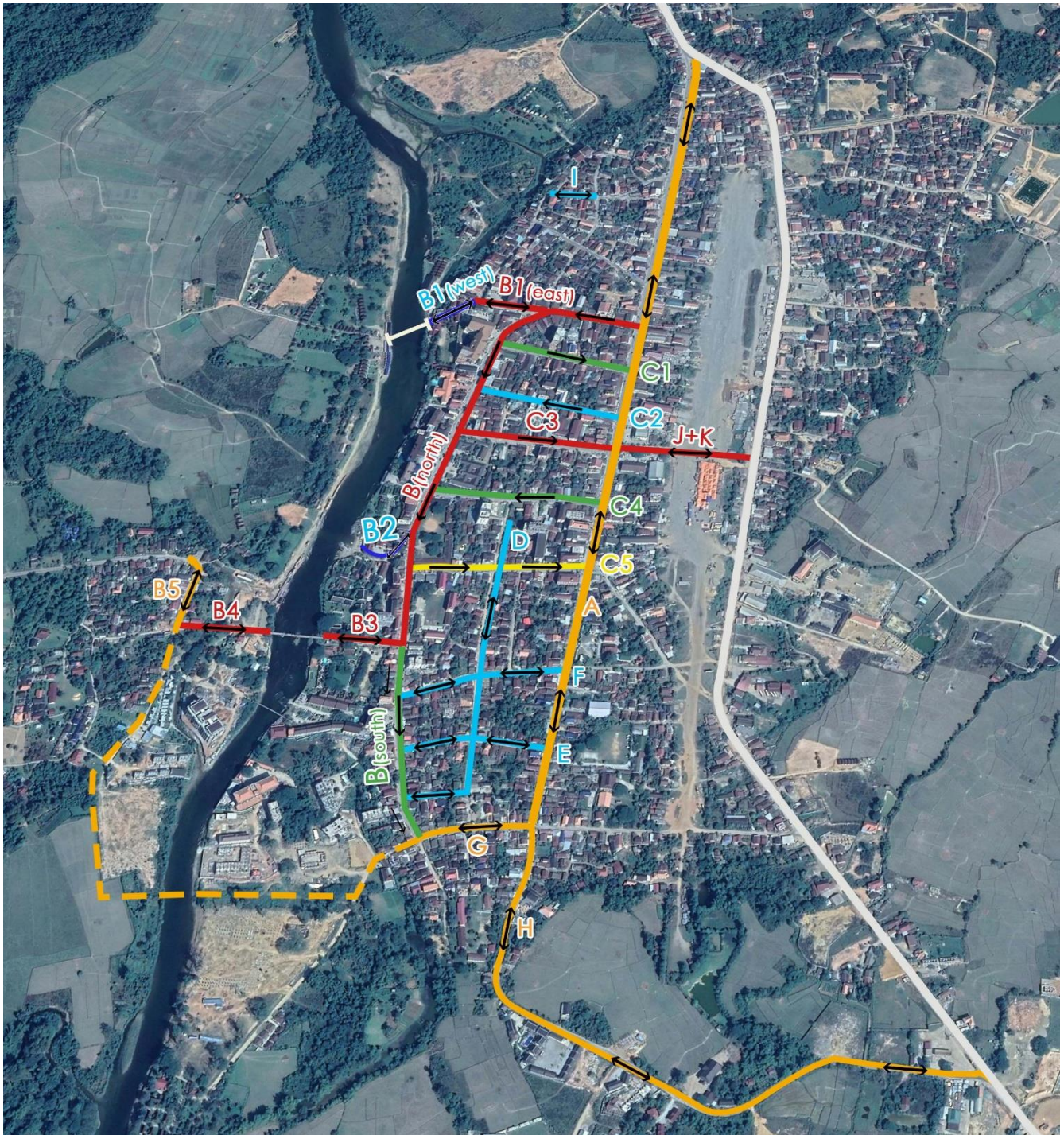
S1	Motorised vessels and other motorised personal watercraft (including jet skis and similar) must not travel above 5 knots when within 50 metres of a person, vessel, fixed or floating structure and the river bank of the Nam Song.
S2	Cars, motorcycles and buggys should not exceed 20km/h on shared vehicle-pedestrian streets within the urban core of Vang Vieng.
S3	Cars, motorcycles and buggys should not exceed 30km/h on the north-south road on the western edge of the Nam Song.
S4	Cars, motorcycles and buggys should not exceed 40km/h on roads in Vang Vieng and surrounds (except for highways and expressways).

PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

2

PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

VANG VIENG URBAN RENEWAL STREET TYPES



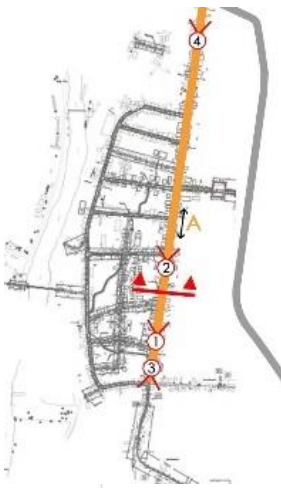
TYPE 1	2- way road-Footpath - no car parking
TYPE 2	1- way road-Footpath - with car parking
TYPE 3	Shared street
TYPE 4	1 or 2- way road - no Footpath - no car parking
TYPE 5A	Laneway with landscape swale
TYPE 5B	Laneway with concrete kerb

	Road 13 North
	New bridge road
	Future bridge
	Two way
	One way

PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

STREET TYPE 1
 2-way road with footpath and alternate car parking in some locations
 Roads included: A, B5, G, H
 Characteristics:

- Two way Road
- Footpath Rehabilitation
- New Street Lighting
- Drainage at road level



Street View1



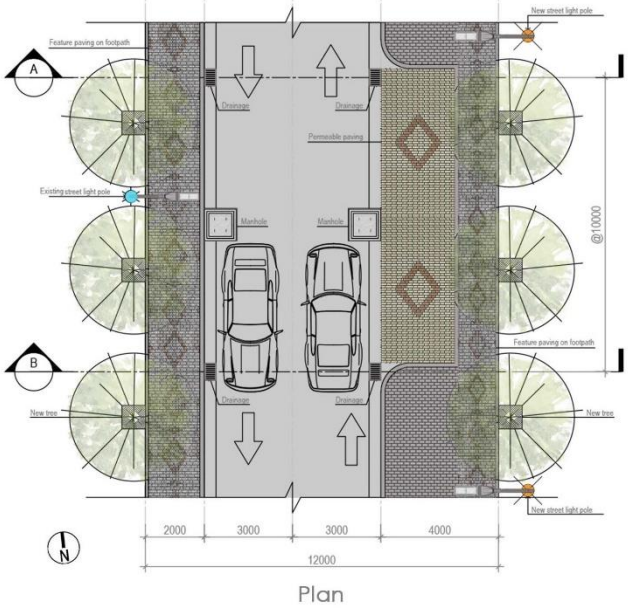
Street View2



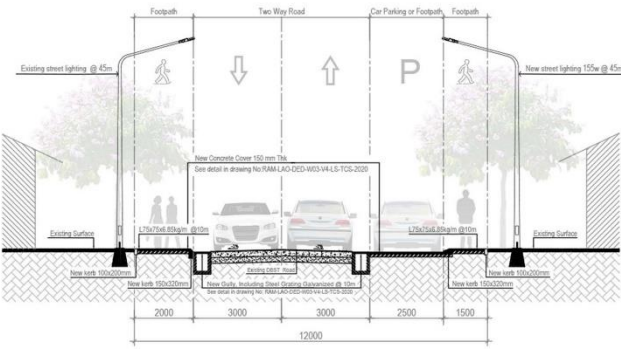
Street View3



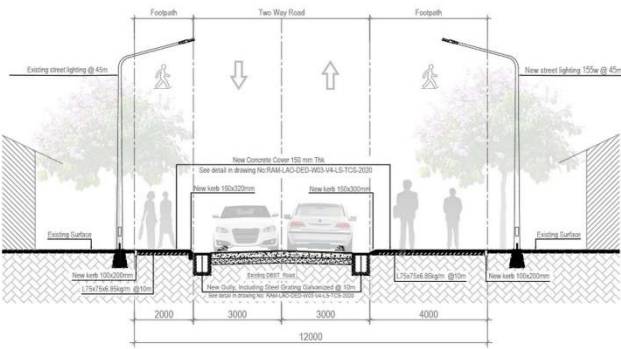
Street View4



Plan



Section A



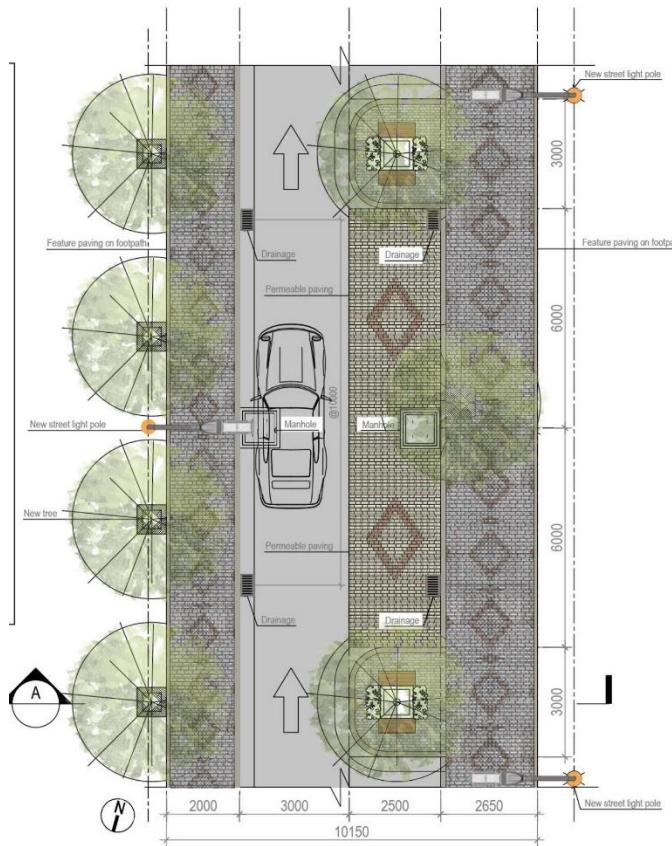
Section B

PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

STREET TYPE 2
 1-way road with footpath, trees and parking bays

Roads included: B, C1, C4
 Characteristics:

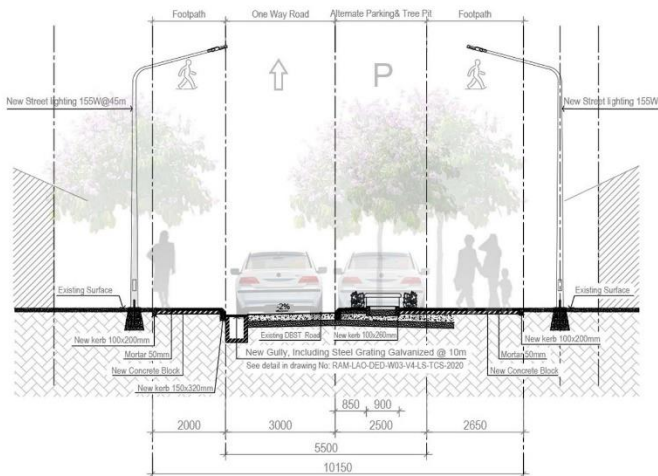
- One way road
- Alternate tree & Parking Bay
- Footpath rehabilitation
- Street Lighting
- Garbage bins
- Drainage at road level



Plan



Street View1

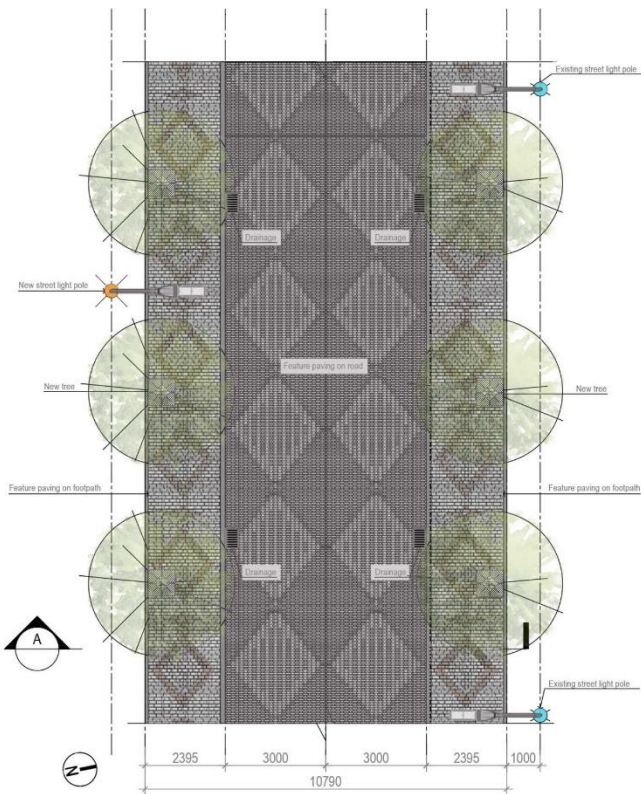
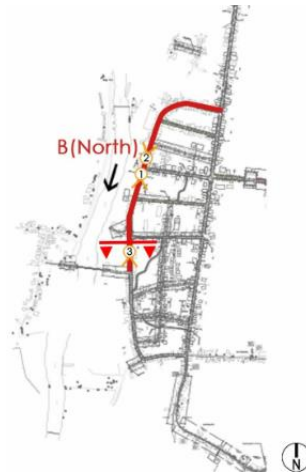


Section A

PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

STREET TYPE 3
 Shared street with 1 and 2 way roads, bicycle access, and footpaths
 Roads included: B, B1, B4, C3, J, K
 Characteristics:

- Shared Zone
- 1 & 2 way roads
- New tree planting
- Footpath Rehabilitation
- New Street Lighting
- Drainage at road level



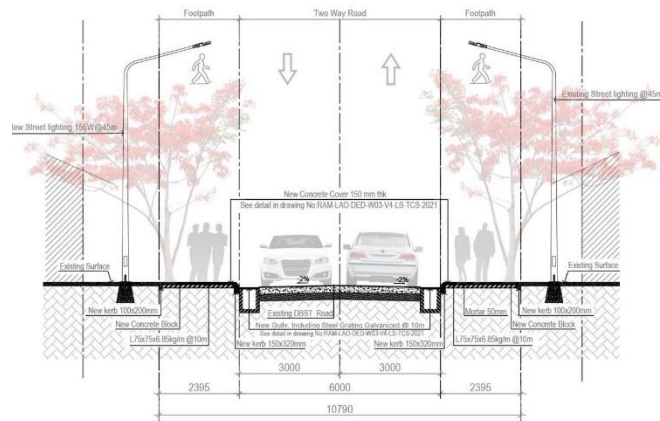
Plan



Street View1



Street View2



Section A

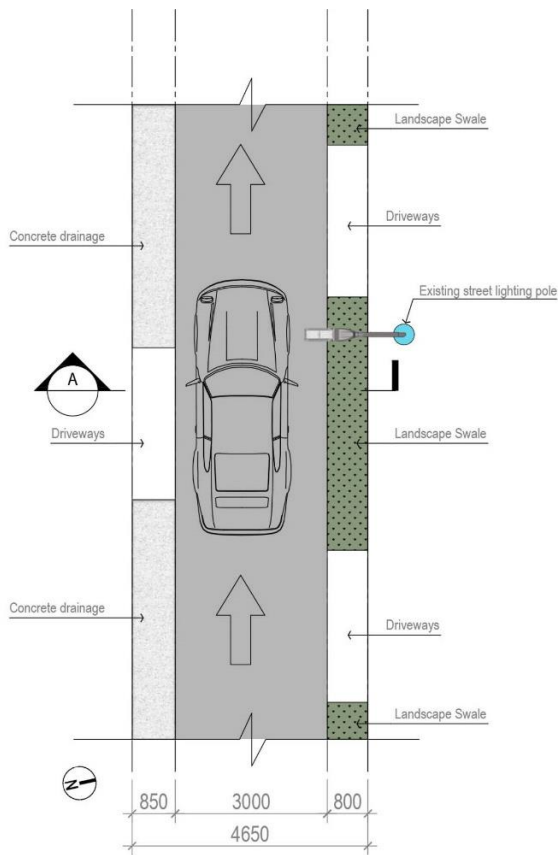


Street View3

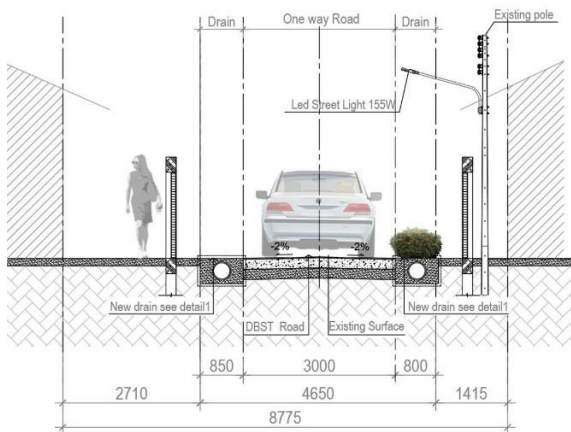
PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

STREET TYPE 4
 1 and 2 way roads with no footpath and no car parking
 Roads included: C2, D, E, F, I
 Characteristics:

- 1 & 2 way roads
- Footpath Rehabilitation
- New Street Lighting
- Drainage at road level



Plan



Section A

PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

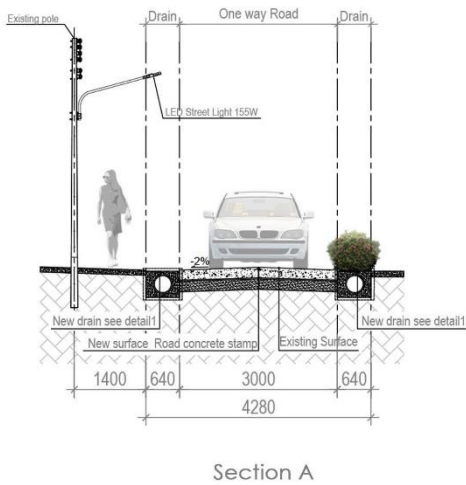
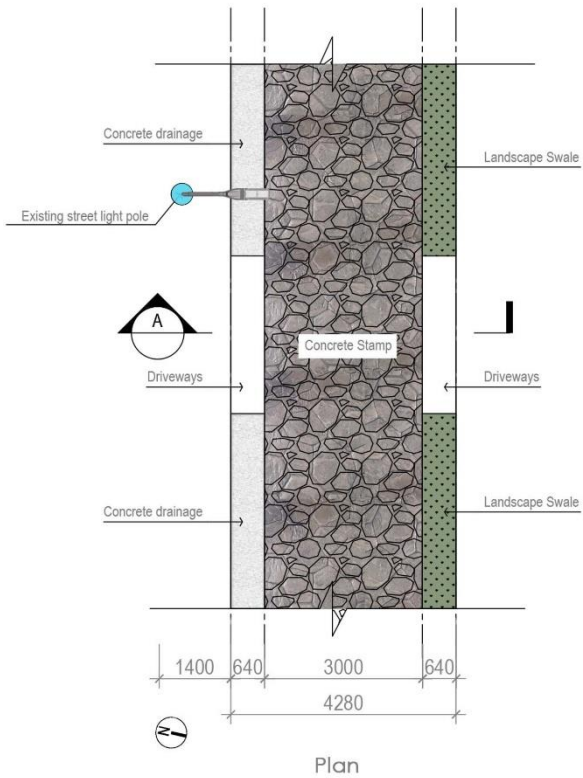
STREET TYPE 5A

One way lane with landscape swale

Roads included: B1

Characteristics:

- Two way road
- Footpath rehabilitation
- Street lighting (where possible)
- Drainage at road level



Street View1



Street View2

PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

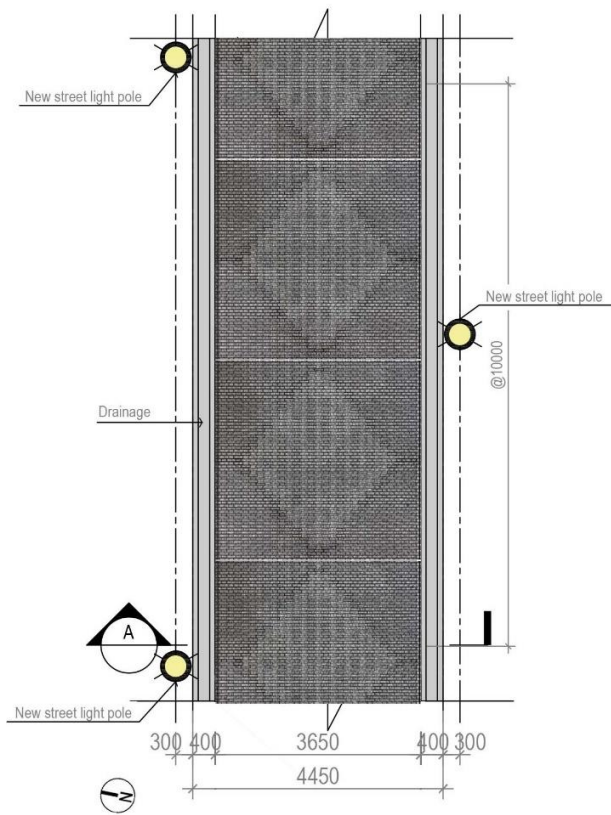
STREET TYPE 5B

Two way laneway with concrete kerb

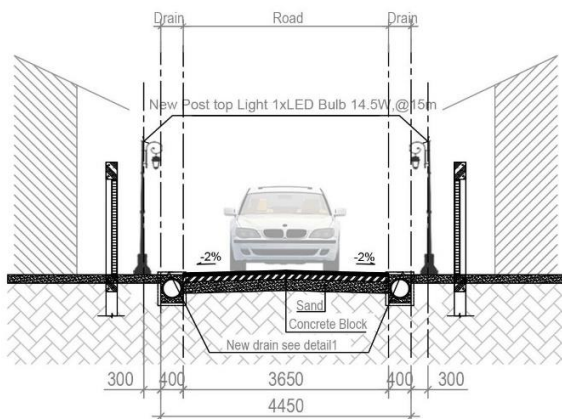
Roads included: C5

Characteristics:

- Two way road
- Footpath rehabilitation
- Street lighting (where possible)
- Drainage at road level




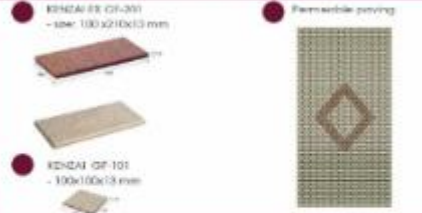

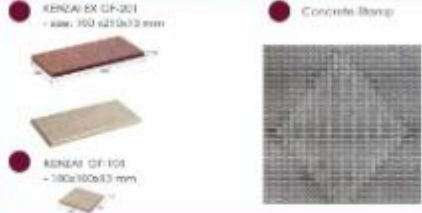








Street View1


















PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

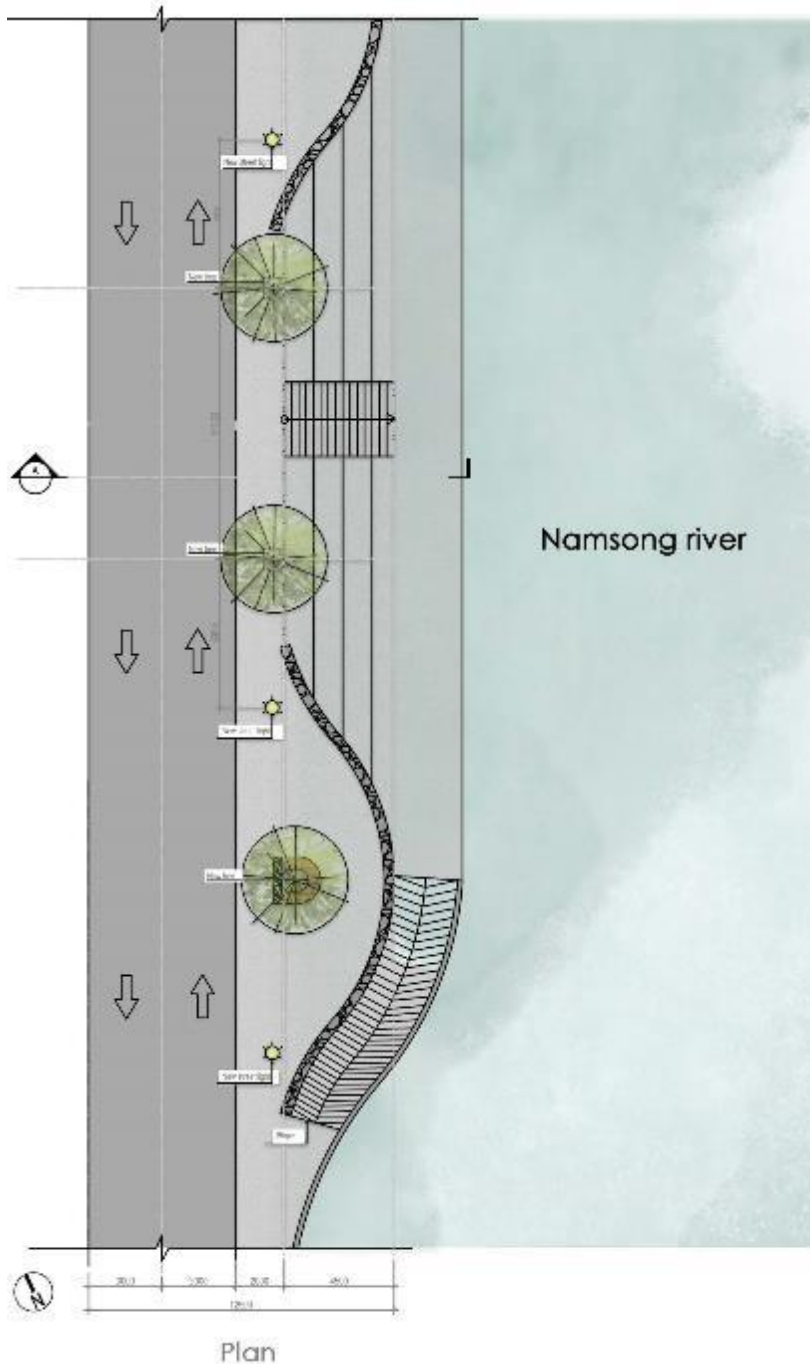
Fixtures and Material Palette

STREET TYPE 1	STREET TYPE 2	STREET TYPE 3
<p>Garbage bin</p> <p>Garbage bin 120 L @ 50 m</p> 	<p>Garbage bin</p> <p>Garbage bin 120 L @ 50 m</p> 	<p>Garbage bin</p> <p>Garbage bin 120 L @ 50 m</p> 
<p>Feature Footpath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KENZI EK GF-201 - size: 100x210x13 mm Permeable paving KENZI GF-101 - 100x100x13 mm 	<p>Feature Footpath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KENZI EK GF-201 - size: 100x210x13 mm Permeable paving KENZI GF-101 - 100x100x13 mm 	<p>Feature Footpath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KENZI EK GF-201 - size: 100x210x13 mm Concrete Slab KENZI GF-101 - 100x100x13 mm 
<p>Feature Tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lagerstroemia floribunda Tree pit 	<p>Feature Tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lagerstroemia floribunda Tree pit 	<p>Feature Tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delonix regia Tree pit 
<p>Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pole Lighting Street Lighting  <p>- LED street light 150W, 1570m, 4000k - H: 8m</p> <p>- LED bulb 14.5W, 1800m, 4000k - Size: L230xW230xH231.5mm</p>	<p>Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pole Lighting Street Lighting  <p>- LED street light 150W, 1570m, 4000k - H: 8m</p> <p>- LED bulb 14.5W, 1800m, 4000k - Size: L230xW230xH231.5mm</p>	<p>Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pole Lighting Street Lighting  <p>- LED street light 150W, 1570m, 4000k - H: 8m</p> <p>- LED bulb 14.5W, 1800m, 4000k - Size: L230xW230xH231.5mm</p>

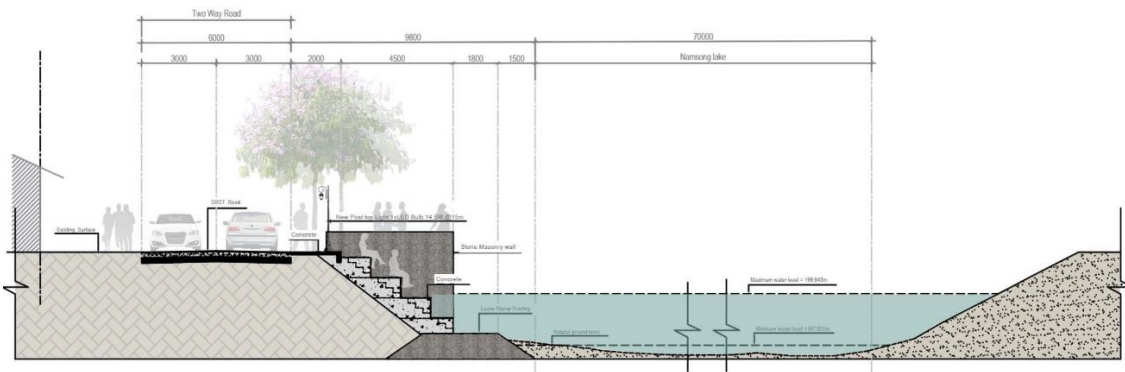
PUBLIC REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

STREET TYPE 4	STREET TYPE 5A	STREET TYPE 5B
<p>Garbage bin</p> <p>Garbage bin 120 L x 50 m</p> 	<p>Garbage bin</p> <p>Garbage bin 120 L x 50 m</p> 	<p>Garbage bin</p> <p>Garbage bin 120 L x 50 m</p> 
<p>Feature Road Finishing</p> <p>DBST Road</p> 	<p>Feature Road Finishing</p> <p>Concrete Stamp</p> 	<p>Feature Road Finishing</p> <p>Concrete Stamp</p> 
<p>Feature Tree</p> <p>Duranta gold Isara</p> 	<p>Feature Tree</p> <p>Duranta gold Isara</p> 	<p>Feature Tree</p> <p>Duranta gold Isara</p> 
<p>Lighting</p> <p>Pole Lighting Street Lighting</p>  <p>- LED street light: 150W, 1570mm, 4000k - H: 5m</p> <p>- LED bulb: 14.5W, 1800mm, 4000k - Size: L230xW230xH231.5mm</p>	<p>Lighting</p> <p>Pole Lighting Street Lighting</p>  <p>- LED street light: 150W, 1570mm, 4000k - H: 5m</p> <p>- LED bulb: 14.5W, 1800mm, 4000k - Size: L230xW230xH231.5mm</p>	<p>Lighting</p> <p>Pole Lighting Street Lighting</p>  <p>- LED street light: 150W, 1570mm, 4000k - H: 5m</p> <p>- LED bulb: 14.5W, 1800mm, 4000k - Size: L230xW230xH231.5mm</p>
<p>WSUD</p> 	<p>WSUD</p> 	<p>WSUD</p> 

Nam Song Waterfront & Banks



Key Plan



PRIVATE REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

3

PRIVATE REALM DESIGN GUIDELINES

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES TABLE

No.	Parameter	1. Within UGB	2. Outside UGB
1	Building Height	No higher than 5 storeys or 18m	No higher than 3 storeys or 10m
2	Building siting and address	Building must address to street front with zero setback at ground level	Building must address to street front with at least 10m setback at ground level
3	Site Coverage / Building Footprint	Building footprint no greater than 70% of total site area	Building footprint no greater than 35% of total site area. To be applied to sites greater than 500m ²
4	Side boundary setbacks	Built form should have a 2.5m side setback to both sides. To be applied to sites with frontages greater than 10m wide. <i>*Side setback is not necessary when there is an existing adjoining building built to boundary.</i>	Built form should have a 10m side setback to both sides
5	Utilities, services, and car parking	Locate utilities, services and car parking areas to the side or rear of property	Locate utilities, services and car parking areas to the rear of property
6	Ground level presentation	Encourage active frontages with retail and shop fronts	Encourage active frontages with shop fronts and communal uses
7	Building articulation	Building treatment at upper levels should have balconies or glazing facing the street	Building treatment at upper levels should have balconies or glazing facing the street
8	Roof form	Encourage diverse roof forms, roof tops, and concealed services (i.e., telecommunication and air conditioner infrastructure)	Encourage diverse roof forms and concealed services (i.e., telecommunications and air conditioner infrastructure)
9	Materials	Buildings should use materials that are sympathetic with its context and preferably locally sources.	
10	River interface	Buildings should have a setback of at least 8m to the river edge, ensuring outdoor spaces to the river	Buildings should have a setback of at least 25m to the river edge, ensuring outdoor spaces to the river
11	River Surface	Temporary Structures such as Decks and Shelters should not extend into the River Corridor	
12	Mountain interface	Development (of buildings) should be setback 200m from the base of any mountain or declared forested area	

Refer to Section 4 of this document for samples/design references that are compatible with the above parameters.



DESIGN REFERENCES & INFLUENCES

4

4.1 Urban Hotels



4.2 Urban villas – Resorts



4.3 Urban Guest House



4.4 Peri Urban Resort



4.5 Peri-Urban Bungalow



4.6 Outlying Resorts



4.7 Village Homestay



4.8 Nature Based Activities



4.9 Natural Building Materials



4.10 Landscape Elements



4.11 Water Elements

