BUSINESS AS *Unusual*

student ideas competition

imagining a future Australian city

Tell us about your future city.

1. What is the name of your city?

Port Nexus (model for city creation; adaptable to different slopes)

2. Where is your city located?

Between Woodside, and Woodside Beach: approximately -38.54278, 146.9449; adaptable to other regions.

3. What is the ideal population of your city?

65000

4. What is the impetus behind your city?

The year is 2100, and Gippsland continues growing as a megaregion endowed with natural resources attracting residents and workers alike. The government has implemented Fast Rail infrastructure between Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney on the coastal side of the Great Dividing Range. This mega-region - with its main cities and satellite cities - have populations ranging from 50,000 to 1 million.

It is 2100, and Neural Interface infrastructure connects 97 percent of the population to the Global Digital Database (GDD). Thought, sense and emotion are effortlessly encoded and decoded into the digital realm allowing instant communication, stimulation and contribution.

Most people are connected intimately to their host which has decreased the need for long distance movement. People stay closer to where they dwell; their lives completely integrated into the network for the sake of convenience, interest, need and efficiency.

Workplaces have largely been overtaken by automation and robotics which reduce error and increase efficiency. Due to this, much of the labour required has been allocated for overseeing operations, implementation and monitoring of automation maintenance.

There has been an increased focus on holistic health, nutrition, empathy, spirituality, and care for non-human species. This has resulted in a shift away from both high impact agriculture such as Dairy and Beef, and intensive forestry practices. Alongside this, colonial cultures of private land ownership have been largely dissolved with thought and industry asking how can the land do more while growing more resilient?

To achieve this decolonising impetus, pastoral land has been gradually given back both to Indigenous custodians and science ecology. This land – within the cool contexts of southern Gippsland – is starting to encode complexity by way of both Indigenous and Western land management practices. Indigenous kinship with Country is established alongside networks of Westernised research.

5. Describe the design of the city.

P1. If we break down the existing layers as the inputs, we can process these layers individually to output the elements which are recombined into the prototype model.

New mobility ‘interjections’ are made along existing rural mobility links and run parallel to watershed or along existing water-lines. Slower intra-city routes link city clusters allowing a slower perception of nature. The hierarchy of these mobility routes determines velocity, density, and capacity and is aided by FareShare™ interchanges.

Existing use and lack of biodiversity is questioned, divided and complexified through patchwork ecology.
Water is aided by technological intervention to enrich, distribute, mineralise and soak the depleted soils and systems currently on site. This is aided by linking into sub-surface geological enrichments.

Industry shifts towards sustainable, nuanced and long-term practices revolving around forestry, engineered timber and vertical farming. Similarly, New technologies for supporting infrastructures make use of existing and future resources relating to the regional contexts.

When zooming inwardly, small to medium cluster cities emerge as urban centres bound by parallel dwelling islands. These cluster cities have limited height and density; a move away from larger morphologies; taking advantage of the sky in to favour all species.

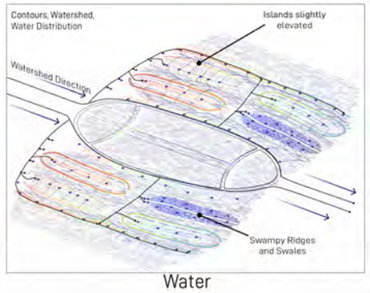
Sparsity is not as it seems however, due to the proximity of nearby cluster cities, working industry, and inter-species kinship.

6. How does your city embody an alternative Australian dream?

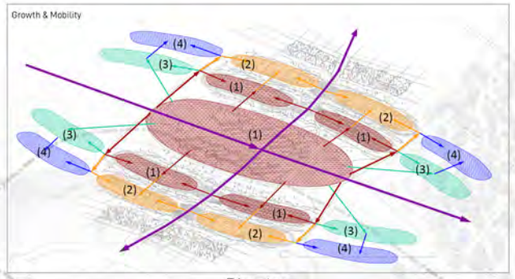
Port Nexus’ provides an alternative Australian Dream that emerges and shifts away from the Australian Dream grown within Australian towns and cities. Historic towns have often emerged along main mobility routes with the ‘strip and grid’ layout; an ideal infrastructural layout to support processes of periphery resource extraction, land title, and centralism.
As centralised urban centres develop concentration and density, interstitial mobility links are formed allowing further categorisation of land use and zoning requirements. The grid spreads, intensifies and embeds over time; with increased densities affecting amenity and liveability. This is a shift towards undoing complexity of the land. Port Nexus (P2) reverses this simplification and categorisation through water infrastructures, growth and mobility phasing, programming, modes of dwelling, specific dimensioning, and the deployment of local EVCs. These aspects curate the balance between intimacy and prospect while contributing towards a unique spatial identity; the experience of a new Australian Horizon.
P3. This new Australian horizon of intimacy and prospect can further privilege non-human species by questioning what it means to live above the earth with minimal footprint. Port nexus supports this exploration into new modes of dwelling.
Systems of the 2100 context help define and enable such explorations
P4. Such connection with kinship and the other has assisted the de-centralising of self, whilst illuminating impermanency and detachment. This Introspection questions patterns of habit and ownership; and instead promotes bodily protection through impermanent or nomadic dwelling.
To promote the land to do more, Port Nexus is a field of growth; using ‘cyborg-water’, research and land management to modulate humanity and non-humanity while enabling multi-species mobility and kinship.

Nomadism 2.0

People have started to question permanence in line with Buddhist ideals of impermanence. The body is the home, and the skin is protection. Outdoors is the trend for health and decolonising of the mind. Being amongst ecological complexity enhances Neural Interface trips, and is the new drug. Community buildings - constructed with local engineered timber - house rehabilitation and empathy services, while communal gardening serves to connect people in the physical world. The bonfire is a place of gathering, warmth and collective vulnerability.

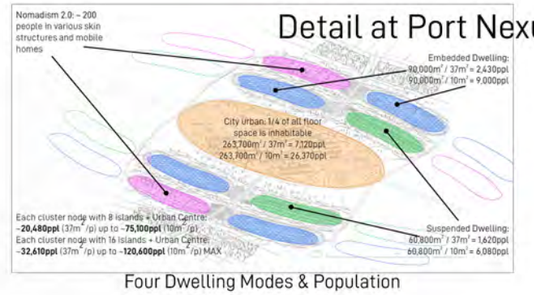


Water



Phasing

Programming



Four Dwelling Modes & Population

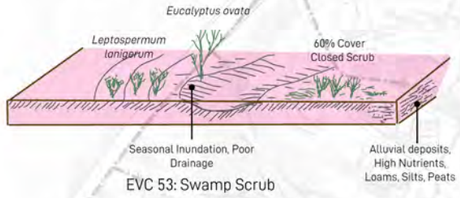
Legend - Colour Coded EVCs

T - Tree
S - Shrub (Sm, Med)
H - Herb

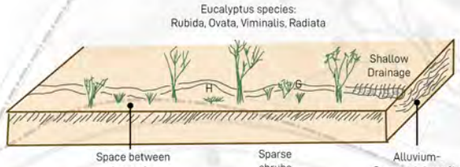
G - Graminoid
GF - Ground Fern
R - Rush

Sc - Scrambler
Se - Sedge
Su - Succulent

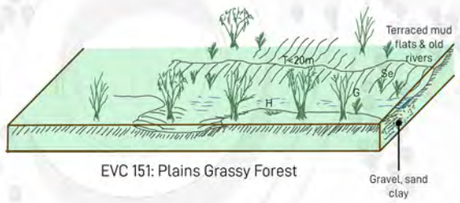
100x100m estimate density - per hectare



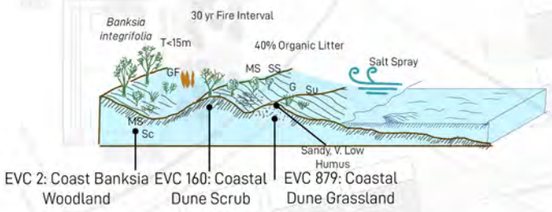
EVC 53: Swamp Scrub



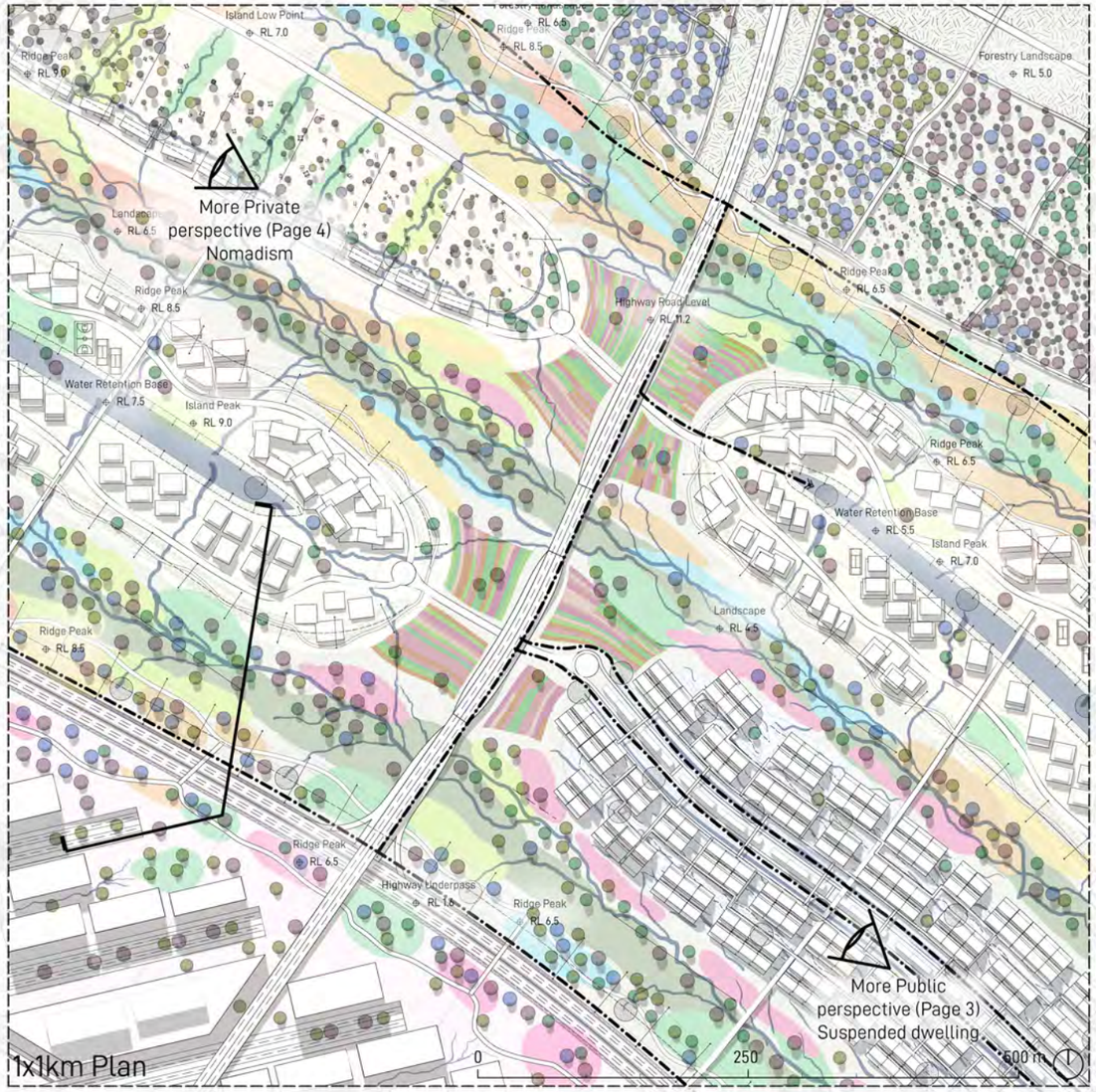
EVC 68: Creekline Grassy Woodland

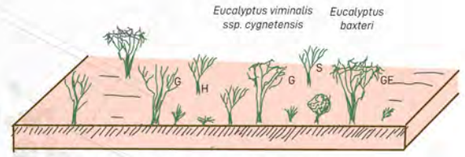


EVC 151: Plains Grassy Forest

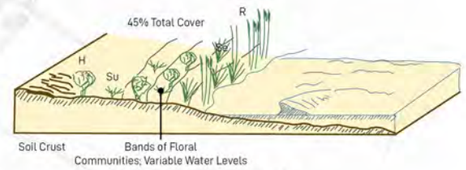


EVC 2: Coast Banksia Woodland | EVC 160: Coastal Dune Scrub | EVC 879: Coastal Dune Grassland

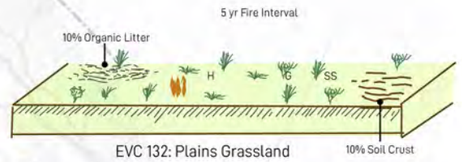




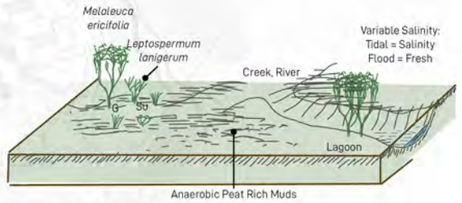
EVC 3: Damp Sands Herb-Rich Woodland



EVC 9: Coastal Saltmarsh

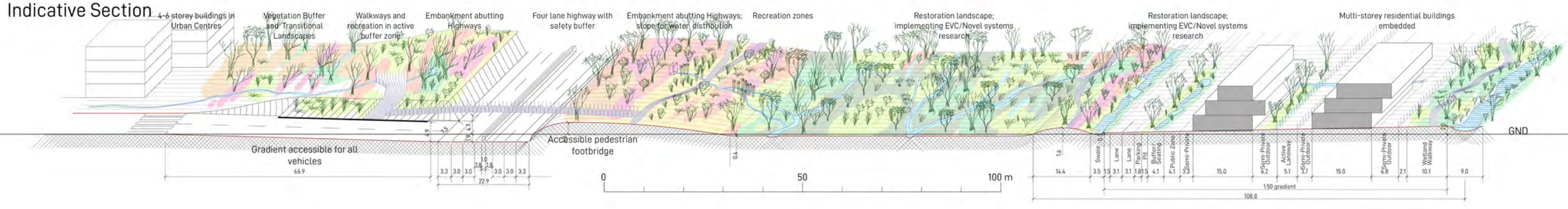


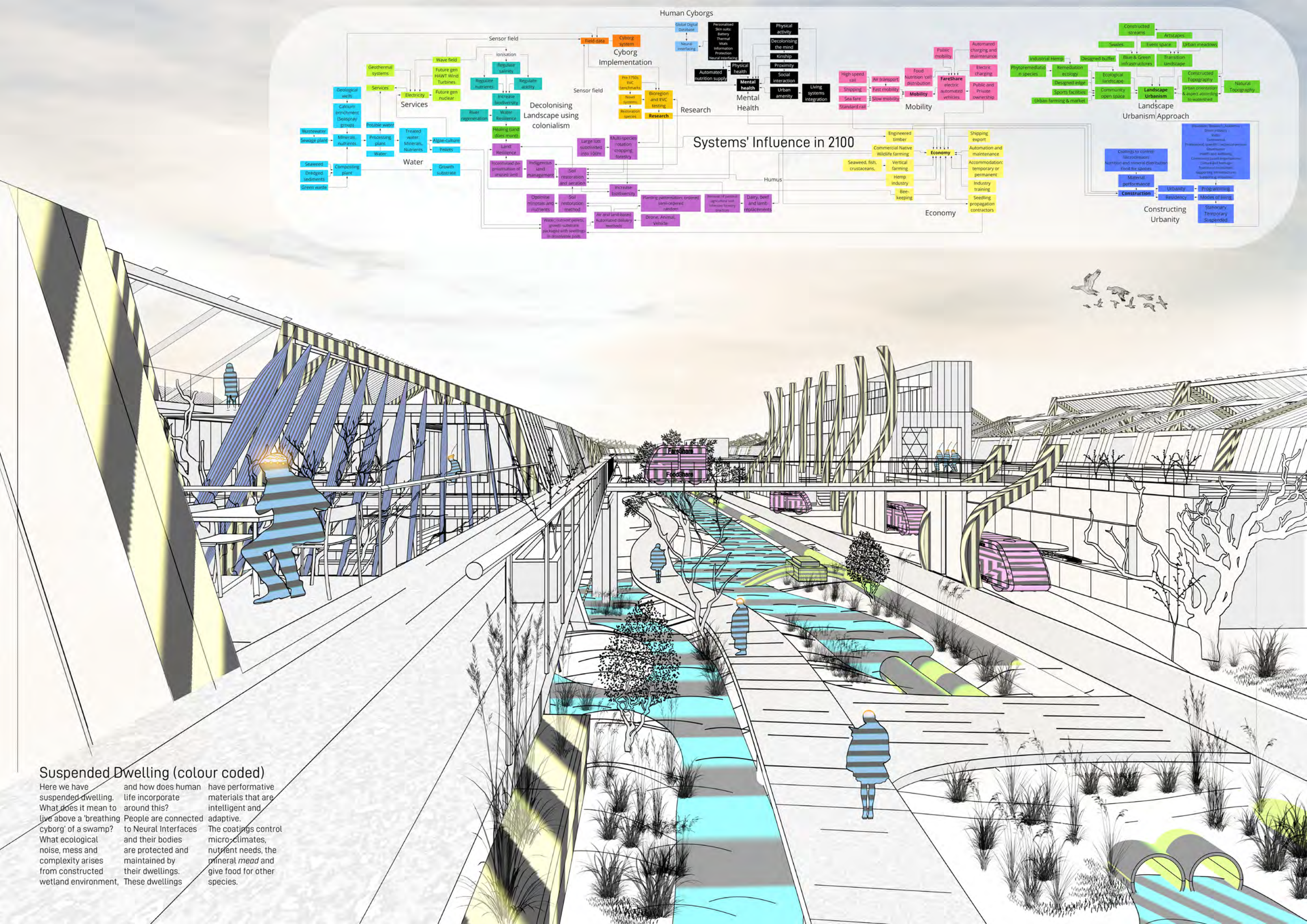
EVC 132: Plains Grassland



EVC 10: Estuarine Wetland

Indicative Section



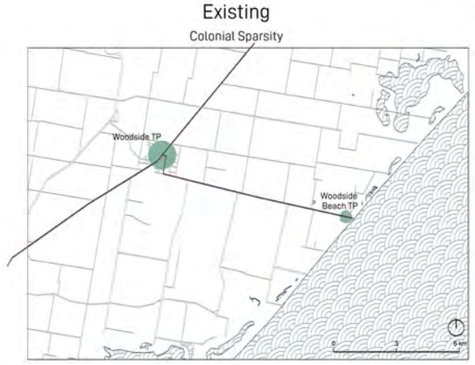


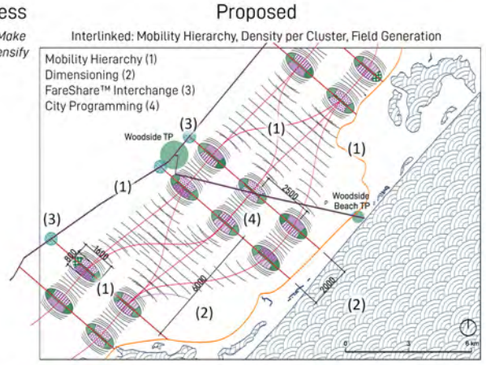
Suspended Dwelling (colour coded)

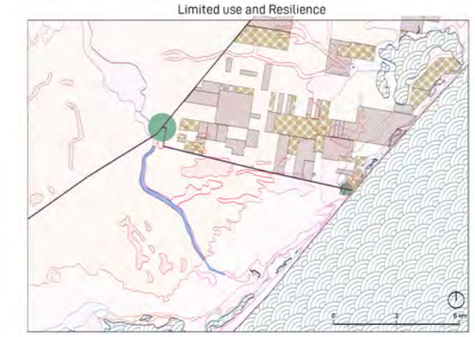
Here we have suspended dwelling. What does it mean to live above a 'breathing cyborg' of a swamp? What ecological noise, mess and complexity arises from constructed wetland environment, and how does human life incorporate around this? People are connected to Neural Interfaces and their bodies are protected and maintained by their dwellings. These dwellings have performative materials that are intelligent and adaptive. The coatings control micro-climates, nutrient needs, the mineral *mead* and give food for other species.

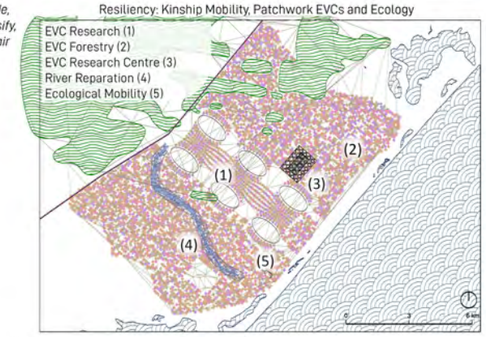
Vision at *Port Nexus*

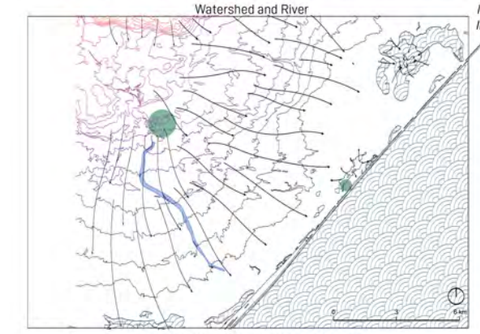
Existing	Process	Proposed
Colonial Sparsity	*Probe, Make Field, Densify*	Interlinked: Mobility Hierarchy, Density per Cluster, Field Generation
Limited use and Resilience	*Divide, Diversify, Repair*	Resiliency: Kinship Mobility, Patchwork EVCs and Ecology
Watershed and River	*Intervene and Infrastructure Link*	Water Cyborg: Harvest, Distribute, Mineralise, Soak
Economy: Pastoral and Intensive Forestry	*Shift*	Multi-Species Sustainable Forestry, Engineered Timber, Vertical Farming
Servicing Infrastructures	*Sustainable Creation*	Implementation and Infrastructural Link

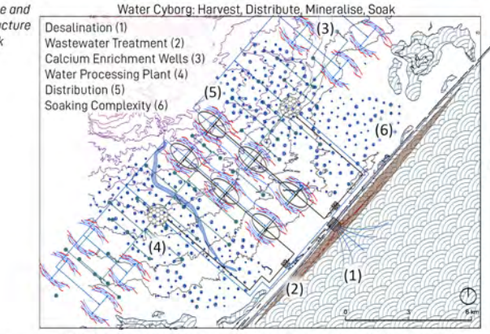


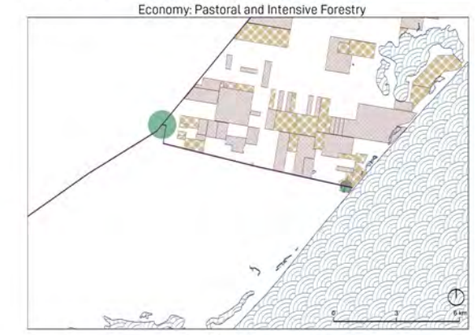


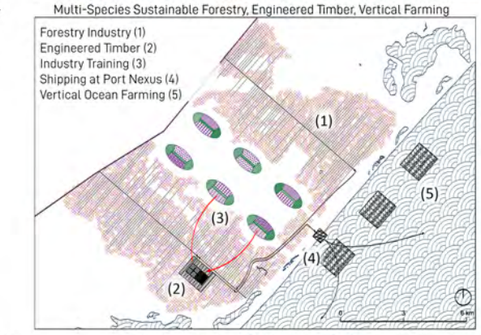


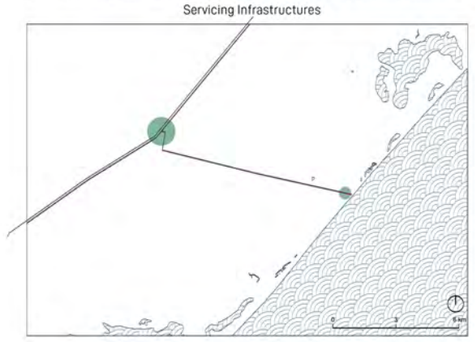


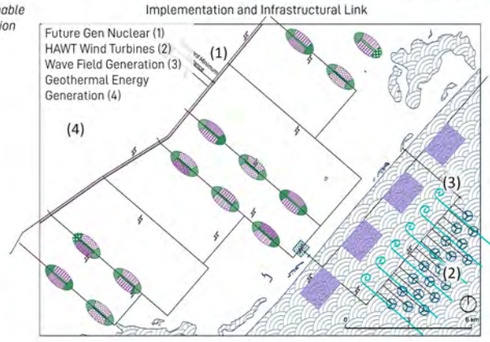




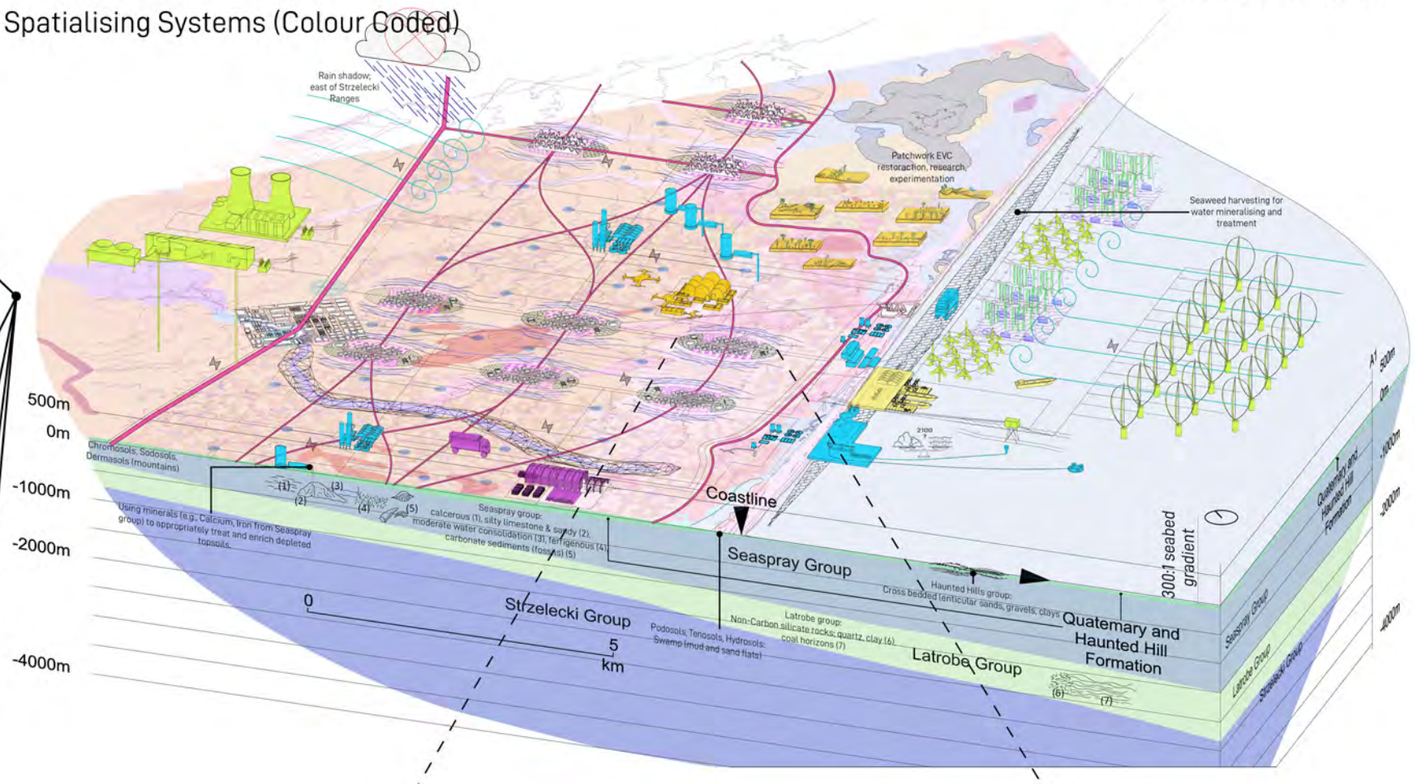
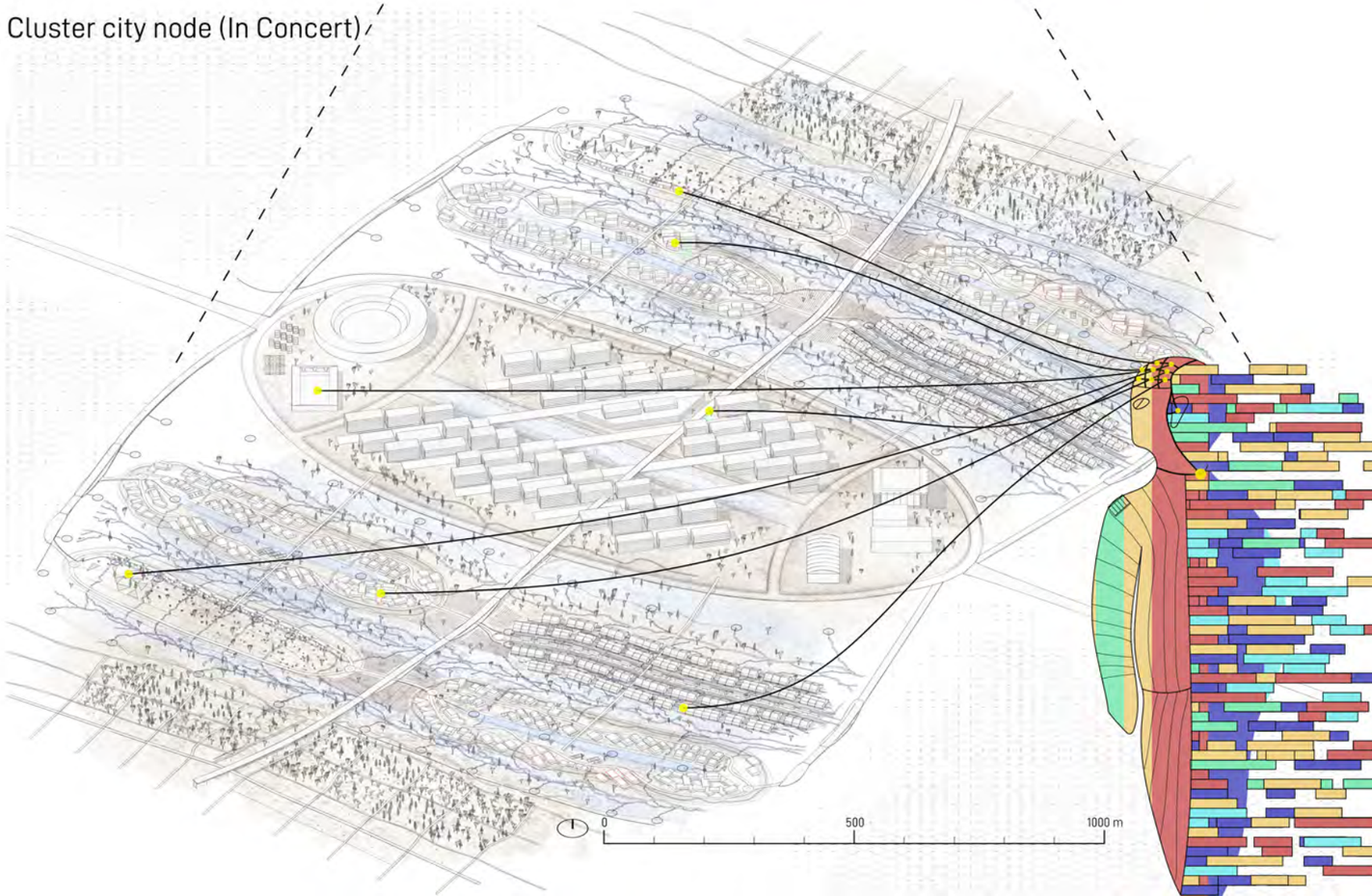








Spatialising Systems (Colour Coded)



Cluster city node (In Concert)