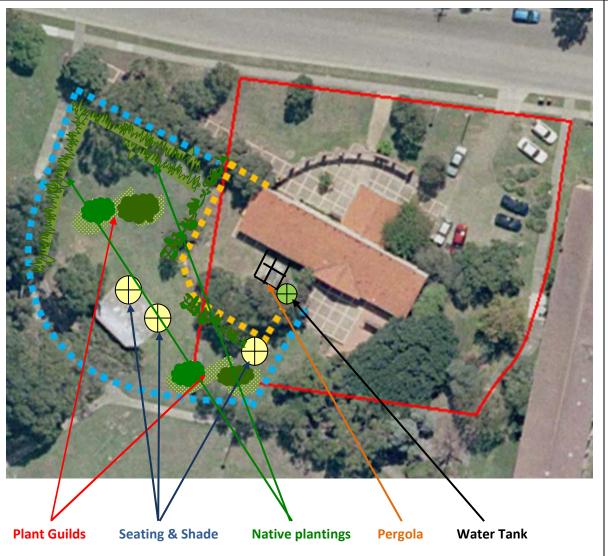
## **KOOLOORA COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Current Fence: - Suggested extended area for gardens:-

## Site Analysis

- The current fenced area is used by the preschool twice a week and is suitable for continued planting of vegetables and herbs
- There is some healthy salad green and herb planting in parts inside the fencing. This area has possibly been soil-improved
- The ground level to the west of the fenced area is approx 12" lower then inside. The sandy soil is boggy and disturbed by tyre tracks from residents, visitors and workers driving on to the grassed areas
- The existing trees provide shade which will be beneficial in summer, less in northshaded areas in winter
- The bogginess of the soil suggests possible sandstone substrata and the need for some land forming and native planting for improved drainage
- Residents and community centre staff have successfully managed a previous garden inside this fenced area and are committed to the ongoing management of any new garden implementation
- Additional fencing may only be needed along the roadside border of the expanded area to maintain easy access for people (not cars). Selective tree/shrub planting would be suitable for other borders
- The area is exposed mainly to SE and NW winds both and windbreak plantings would be desirable
- The concrete slab and rendered brick wall is used by local graffiti artists and has possible additional uses – it is desired to retain it and ensure continued access to it

## **Permaculture Design Concept for Community Centre and Estate**



Examples of some preliminary design ideas (not all elements or decided locations)

## **Design Ideas and Wishes**

- Use of Permaculture design principles for maximum sustainability/resilience and minimal external energy inputs
- Incorporate indigenous plant species for bush foods, soil protection and habitat
- Provide habitat and facilities for beneficial indigenous fauna including rock-sections, bird –bath, child-proof pond, and protective bushes
- Use natural fertility and pest-control strategies including chickens to maximise productivity and reduce manual labour
- Provide safe opportunities for children to interact, enjoy and learn
- Encourage creative use of the spaces for all including artistic installations
- Provide shaded and sunny sitting places for year-round enjoyment by residents and visitors
- Use plant guilds to achieve greatest diversity, productivity and resilience of plantings (understory plantings with layered shrubs, trees)
- Use zone/sector design in placement of plantings to minimise energy use
- Provide additional rainwater tank(s), a garden shed and compost bins
- Provide higher-raised garden beds for elderly gardeners to reduce bending
- Provide summer shade for children's area using pergola with grape vines
- Maintain access for people while protecting against damage from dogs, cats and such-like
- Ensure ongoing involvement of volunteers, and proper governance via the centre's Management Committee by careful consultation, engagement and follow up
- Provide a social and spirit-lifting place for residents of all housing estates in the area