

Bathers Way, King Edward Park



Overview



Between 18 June and 5 August 2024, we sought community feedback on the concept plans for the extension of Bathers Way into King Edward Park via a comprehensive community engagement campaign under the We Love Our Coast banner.

Bathers Way is a 4m-6m shared pathway that links Newcastle's beaches from Merewether Ocean Baths to Nobbys Beach. It is 6km long and forms part of the Great North Walk from Queens Wharf by Newcastle Harbour to Circular Quay in Sydney.

What did we ask?

Since 2014, community feedback has played an integral role in shaping the King Edward Park section of the Bathers Way. The concept plan presented for consultation was refined from the previous 2014 plans with modifications to reflect current thought. The plan seeks to incorporate current Heritage, native title, engineering, ecological, and safety requirements.

During this most recent round of community consultation, we presented **8** concept images and a fly through video and then we asked you to tell us your thoughts, ideas and opinions.

Feedback was able to be provided via the online submission form, commenting on the online interactive engagement tool, mail, email or phone.



Our reach



544,735
social media
impressions



2,417
webpage
views



351,423
video views



20,358
partner
campaign
impressions



2,678
e-Newsletter
recipients



1,000 Flyers
14 signs at key
locations



270 people attended across **6** events



What we heard?

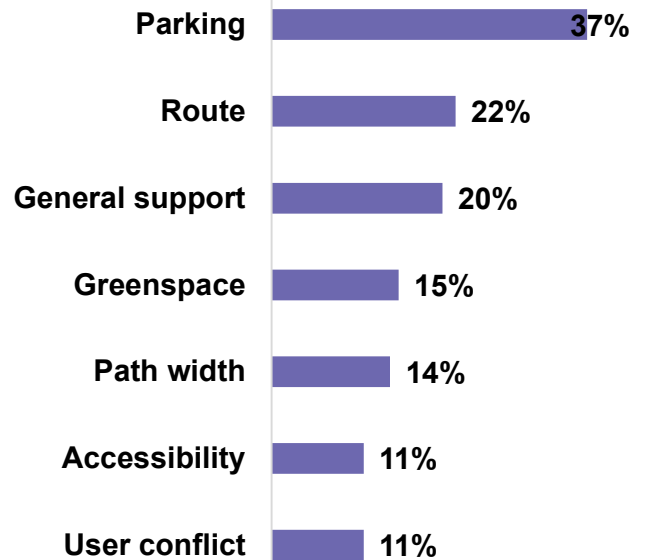
193 pieces of feedback were received during the consultation period.

The key themes identified were:

- Parking
- Route
- General support
- Greenspace
- Path width
- Accessibility
- User conflict.

Additional common themes were heritage, maintenance, playspace, amenities, trees, road/traffic calming, and path colour.

The interactive concept plans received **136** comments and **267** reactions.



Something I like



Comment



Ideas and suggestions

The feedback demonstrated a broad range of views from the community, particularly with respect to parking and the route for the pathway.

The full Consultation Report explores each of these themes in more detail.



Where to next?

We will continue to review the feedback and will use this to inform the detailed design. The detailed design will explore the results of consultation as well as the technical studies to inform how, what, and where refinements and enhancements can be facilitated.

We are already exploring how we can:

- Incorporate Heritage NSW feedback on the design.
- Optimise greenspace where it can be incorporated, particularly in the Rotunda Lawn area.
- Assess current and future park facility demands through relevant studies, ensuring an informed approach as the project moves into detailed design.
- Develop a First Nations landscape interpretation and public artwork(s) project in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and stakeholders to reflect the heritage, historical significance, and unique character of the area with engagement of local artists.

We will continue to keep the community updated as the project progresses.