

Coastal Buildings Revitalisation Plan



City of
Newcastle

Overview

Between 9 December 2024 and 29 March 2025, City of Newcastle (CN) conducted community consultation to help plan for, deliver and manage coastal buildings in the short, medium and long term. The Coastal Buildings Revitalisation Plan (CBRP), which forms part of the *We Love Our Coast* program, will include Surf Life Saving Clubs, lifeguard towers, beach kiosks, ocean bath pavilions, and amenities pavilions stretching from Stockton to Merewether.

Prior to community consultation, CN hosted a series of focus groups with key stakeholders such as Surf Life Saving Clubs, Ambulance NSW, community groups and kiosk operators. These sessions helped detail the scope of the Plan and gather input on considerations for revitalising coastal buildings.



What did we ask

A key objective of the Plan is to review the existing coastal buildings and determine what upgrades need to take place to improve the facilities for both locals and visitors, and that's where we needed your help. We asked you about how you use our coastal buildings, and what you value about them.

The community was invited to provide feedback through an online survey and at various in-person events across the Newcastle LGA throughout the consultation period.

Next steps

We will continue to review the results of community consultation and incorporate feedback into the User Needs Analysis, which forms Stage 1 of the project. Stage 2 of the project will build on this by using the Users Needs Analysis to inform the development of the CBRP.

The CBRP will assess the coastal buildings and consider the maintenance, upgrade and renewal activities required at each location. It will also consider the financial cost of the proposed works, prioritisation of actions and relevant management actions from both the Southern Beaches Coastal Management Plan (CMP) and the Extended Stockton CMP. This approach aims to ensure the long-term sustainability of coastal infrastructure, aligning with broader coastal management objectives.

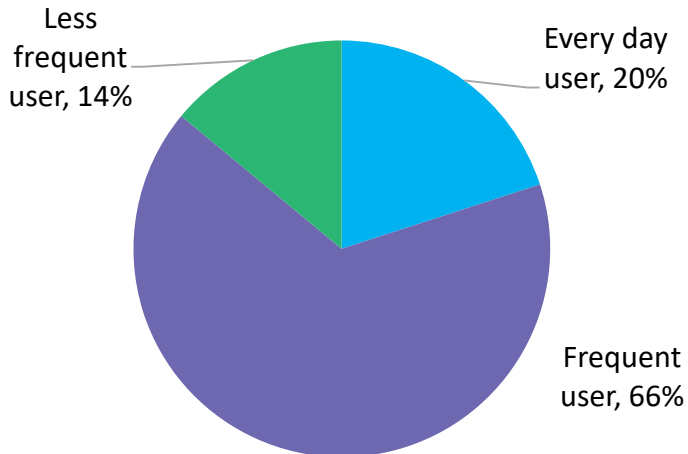
We will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses and provide

CN received **716** survey responses via the online survey.

High level results of the quantitative data analysis revealed:

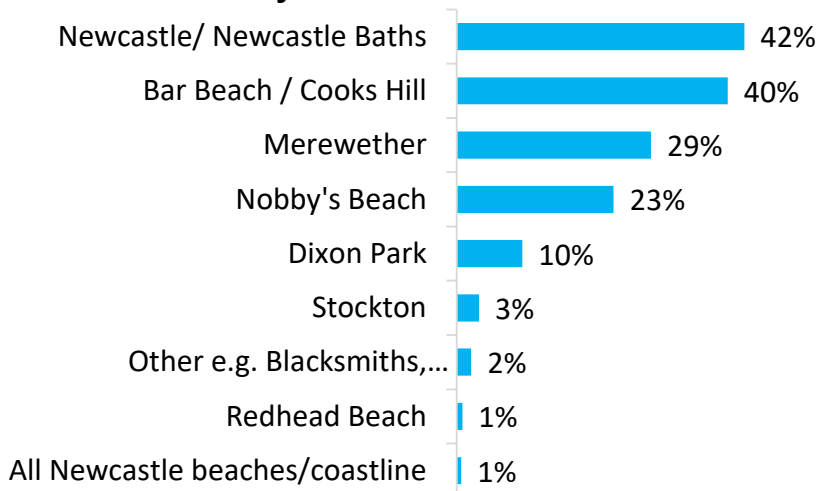
- The most frequently visited coastal locations include Newcastle Ocean Baths, Bar Beach/Cooks Hill, and Merewether, with participants most commonly visiting to swim and exercise.

Usage frequency:



- When evaluating the importance of infrastructure and amenities, participants placed the highest importance on toilets (including accessible options), with over 84% rating them as very or fairly important.
- Pathways, shelter/shade, and parking also received higher importance ratings, highlighting that functional, inclusive, and comfortable facilities are critical for enhancing user experiences.

Areas most likely visited:



- Younger people and those with disability both prioritise inclusive, comfortable, and well-connected infrastructure, but those with disability show a more consistent pattern of rating practical amenities higher, especially those that support accessibility.

These findings suggest that improvements should focus on ensuring essential amenities are consistently available and meet the needs of diverse visitor groups, including those requiring accessible infrastructure

Our reach



372,186

Social media impressions achieved, **316** post engagements and **2,110** clicks generated

500 Flyers and **10** signs were distributed across the city



4,438

Have Your Say website visits

34,440

impressions achieved through a partner campaign



2,703

e-Newsletter recipients

270 people attended pop up stalls across the region



716 people provided feedback via the online survey