



Civic Public Domain Plan

Consultation report

September 2025

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Executive summary

City of Newcastle (CN) sought community feedback on the draft Civic Public Domain Plan (PDP) between 16 April and 29 May 2025.

CN developed the Civic Precinct Public Domain Plan (PDP) to guide the revitalisation of one of the city's most significant civic and cultural areas. The precinct is centred around key landmarks such as Civic Park, Wheeler Place, and Newcastle City Hall and is a focal point for public life, governance, arts, and heritage. The purpose of the PDP is to establish a clear, community-informed framework that enhances public spaces, improves access and connectivity, celebrates cultural identity, and supports long-term sustainable growth.

The plan outlines several key objectives. It seeks to reinforce the precinct's status as Newcastle's cultural and civic heart by enabling greater opportunities for public art, performances, and community gatherings. The plan also aims to improve the pedestrian and cycling experience by upgrading existing infrastructure and introducing new dedicated cycleways and shared paths. Enhancements to landscaping and the inclusion of green infrastructure are proposed to create cooler, more welcoming outdoor spaces suitable for both everyday use and public events.

Heritage protection and recognition of Indigenous cultural values are also integral to the plan. It aims to preserve important sightlines, protect historic structures, and embed the precinct's diverse cultural narratives into the design of public spaces.

This consultation report summarises the community engagement activities undertaken during the consultation period and captures the feedback received from residents, stakeholders, and community organisations. The consultation process included online submissions, 'walkshops' through the precinct and pop-up events across the region. Feedback has been critical in shaping the priorities and refining the draft plan to ensure it reflects the needs and aspirations of the broader community.

The Civic Precinct Public Domain Plan represents an important step toward creating a connected, inclusive, and vibrant city centre. Through thoughtful planning and active community input, the City of Newcastle aims to deliver a precinct that honours its heritage, enriches cultural life, and enhances the experience of all who live in, work in, and visit the area.

What we heard

CN received **81** responses via our online feedback form.

Overall, feedback across the consultation activity revealed high levels of support for:

- Updates to the existing parks and open space
- Upgrades to existing plazas
- Inclusion of pedestrian friendly shared zones
- Increase in tree canopy
- Improvements to pedestrian crossings
- Upgrades to cycle routes and cycle ways
- Additional shared pathways
- Inclusion of alfresco dining options

While changes to parking were slightly less supported, traffic changes across King, Auckland, Darby and Laman Streets were largely supported.

Consistent themes across the open-ended responses were:

- **Pedestrian and cyclist safety and prioritisation** with comments generally supporting greater pedestrian priority, expecting it to make the city safer, more attractive, and easier to access on foot or by bike. Many see this as a way to reduce traffic and support local businesses. Some feel that shared paths can create conflicts between fast-moving bikes and pedestrians. Suggestions include clearer rules, speed limits, better separation, and traffic calming to protect walkers.
- **Tree canopy and green space** with comments generally supporting the creation of a greener urban environment.
- **Activation and revitalisation** was another consistent theme across the feedback captured with many respondents talking about the importance of vibrancy, culture, connectivity and events.

While we strive to meet community and stakeholder needs, projects must also balance technical constraints, costs and overall project objectives to ensure a safe, functional and sustainable outcome.

Next steps

City of Newcastle will now review all feedback received during this stage of consultation. We will explore opportunities to refine the draft plan in response to community and stakeholder input, ensuring it reflects local needs and priorities wherever possible.

Once these refinements are considered, the updated draft will be submitted to Council for adoption.

We thank everyone who contributed their time and insights and look forward to continuing this conversation as the project progresses.

1. Background

In 2010, Council endorsed the [Hunter Street Revitalisation Strategic Framework](#) which identified the Civic Public Domain Plan (PDP) as a catalyst project. The Civic Precinct is home to key civic and cultural landmarks such as City Hall, Civic Theatre, Newcastle Museum, and Civic Park, and has undergone significant transformation over the past decade, including the introduction of the Newcastle Light Rail and major University of Newcastle-led developments.

Recognised as the city's cultural heart, the Civic Precinct is central to the [City Centre Revitalisation Plan](#), which aims to create a vibrant, connected, and liveable urban environment. The PDP will provide a coordinated vision for the public domain, supporting better alignment with private development and long-term infrastructure planning.

City of Newcastle has developed a draft PDP that integrates key strategic policies to ensure strong connections with surrounding public spaces are delivered. The PDP aims to enhance the precinct's role as Newcastle's centre for art, culture, and heritage.

The feedback provided by the community and stakeholders during the community consultation for the draft Civic Public Domain Plan is detailed in this report.

2. Engagement objectives

We heard from the community through our engagement activities from 16 April to 29 May 2025.

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- Inform the community about the development of the draft Civic Public Domain Plan.
- Collaborate with key stakeholders to achieve a shared vision for the Civic Precinct.
- Seek input and feedback from the general community and stakeholders on the strategic plans and vision for the Civic Precinct.
- Deliver authentic engagement opportunities for the community to have their say.
- Strengthen relationships and build trust between community members, key stakeholders and City of Newcastle.
- Deliver accessible engagement opportunities for the community to participate in.

3. Communication and promotion



During the engagement period, a communications campaign informed the community of the project and promoted the opportunity for people to provide feedback.

3.1 Summary of promotional activity and reach

Key communications activities are summarised below, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in the **Appendix**.

Channel	Description	Reach
 Have Your Say webpage	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say website. The page provided information about the draft Civic PDP and encouraged participation via the tools available.	2,173 page views
 Flyers and onsite signage	Flyers were distributed at CN's cultural institutions, libraries, customer and customer service centres. Signage was installed throughout the Civic Precinct to promote the campaign and encourage feedback. Additional flyers were distributed at community engagement activities during the campaign.	800 flyers 14 signs

 Social media	An organic and paid social media campaign ran from 16 April to 29 May 2025. The posts provided key project information and encouraged viewers to visit the Have Your Say webpage to find out more, get involved and have their say.	40,872 reached 62,876 impressions 102 reactions, comments, shares and saves 387 link clicks
 e-Newsletters	e-Newsletters were distributed on 17 April, 1 May, 14 May and 28 May 2025 encouraging viewers to find out more, get involved and have their say.	2,747 recipients
 Media release	A media release was issued on 16 April 2025.	116 media contacts notified
 Walkshop	Walkshops throughout the Civic Precinct were delivered on 2 May (from 4.30pm to 6.30pm) and 3 May (from 3pm to 5pm). City of Newcastle subject matter experts were on hand to answer questions and take feedback from participants.	11 participants
 Pop-up stalls	A series of pop-up stalls were hosted across the region throughout the consultation period: - Olive Tree Markets, 3 May 2025 - University of Newcastle (NUspace), 8 May 2025 - Camp Shortland, 9 May 2025 - Wallsend Village, 17 May 2025 - Hunter Disability Expo, 9 May 2025 - Multicultural Expo, 28 May 2025 * A planned Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre Open Day pop-up was cancelled due to weather	6 pop-up stalls 280 individual engagements

4. Engagement activities



The community was invited to provide their feedback on the draft Civic Public Domain Plan from 16 April until 29 May 2025.

The community was able to provide participate in a number of ways:

- **Online feedback form**
An online feedback form was delivered via the Have Your Say website. The form asked participants their level of support for each of the elements identified within the draft PDP. In total, **81** responses were submitted via the online form.
- **Walkshops through the Civic Precinct**
Two walkshops were hosted which included a walk through the Civic Precinct to discuss opportunities, considerations and outcomes sought. These walkshops were timed to provide an afternoon and evening experience of the Precinct. In total, **11** people participated in the events.
- **Speaking to the team**
Six pop-up activations were held during the consultation period. These activations were designed to capture feedback from a diverse range of residents across a variety of locations throughout the region. In total, **280** individual engagements were hosted.
- **Other feedback**
We conducted a meeting with the Anglican Church about the project and notes from the meeting are included in **Appendix II**.

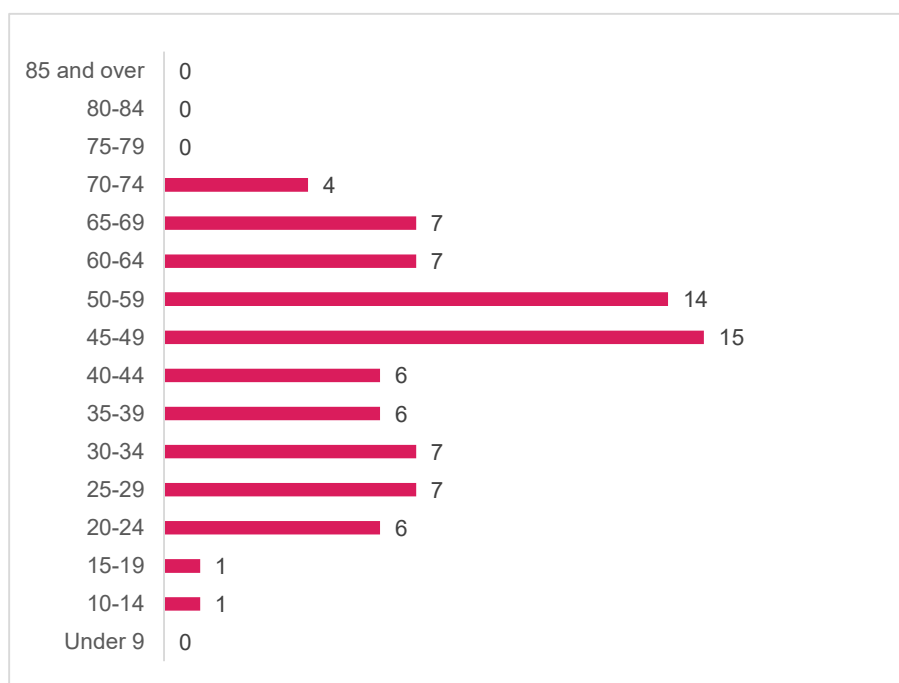
5. Who we heard from

To ensure a comprehensive and inclusive consultation process, we encouraged participation from a diverse range of participants. This section provides an overview of the demographic insights shared by respondents.

What suburb do you live in?

Adamstown Heights	1	Mayfield East	1
Beresfield	1	Merewether	2
Birmingham Gardens	1	New Lambton	3
Broadmeadow	1	Newcastle	6
Carrington	1	Newcastle East	3
Cooks Hill	15	Newcastle West	2
Fletcher	1	North Lambton	1
Georgetown	1	Rankin Park	1
Hamilton	4	The Hill	6
Hamilton East	1	The Junction	1
Hamilton North	1	Wallsend	4
Islington	3	Waratah	2
Maryland	1	Wickham	2
Mayfield	4	Outside LGA	11

What is your age?



Sample size 81

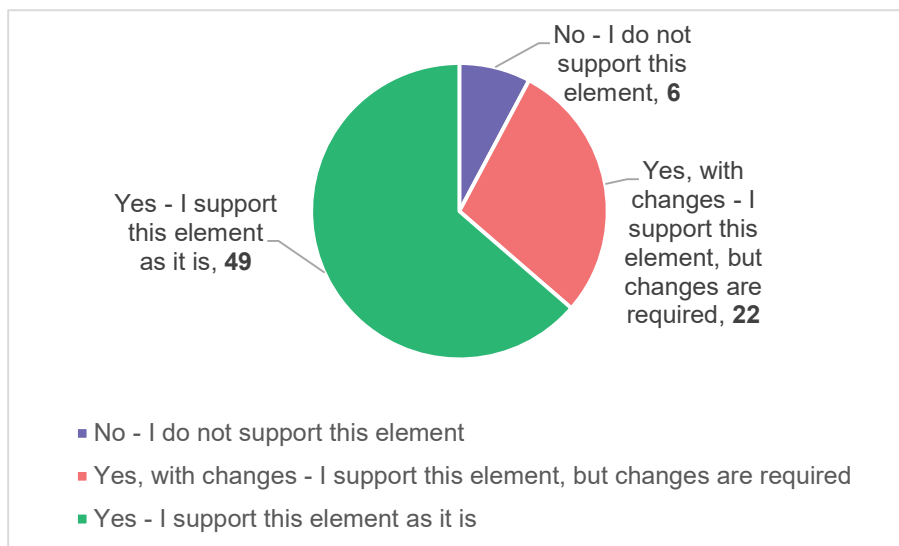
What is your relationship to the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA)?



Multiple responses enabled
81 respondents

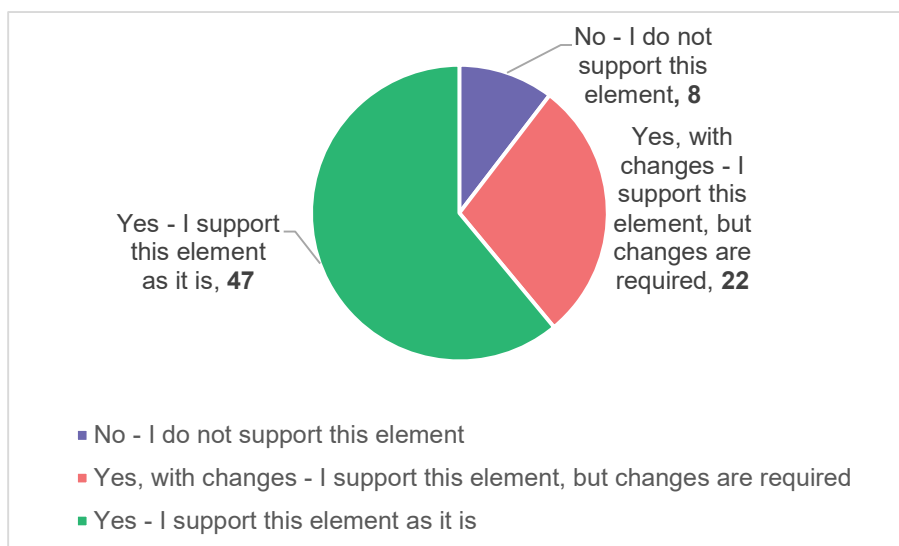
6. What we heard

Level of agreement with the updates to the existing parks and open space:



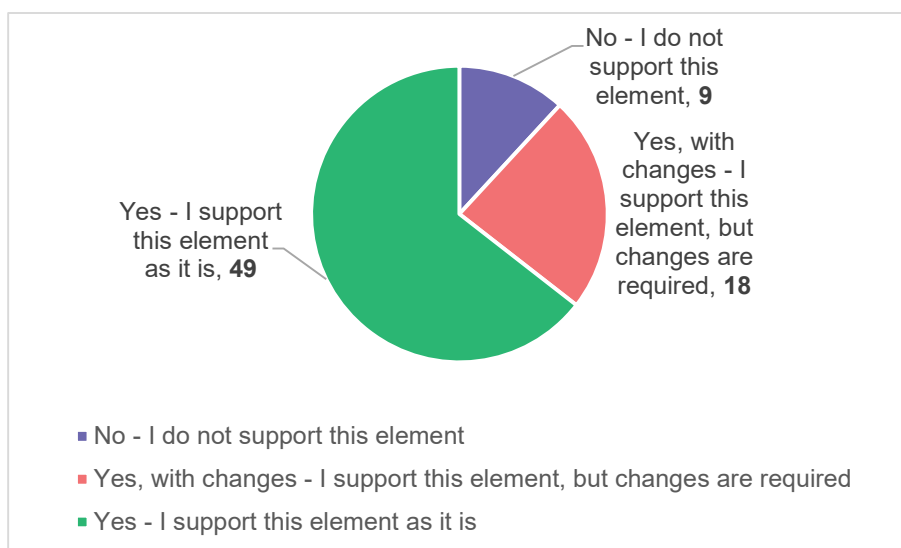
77 respondents

Level of agreement with the upgrades to existing plazas:



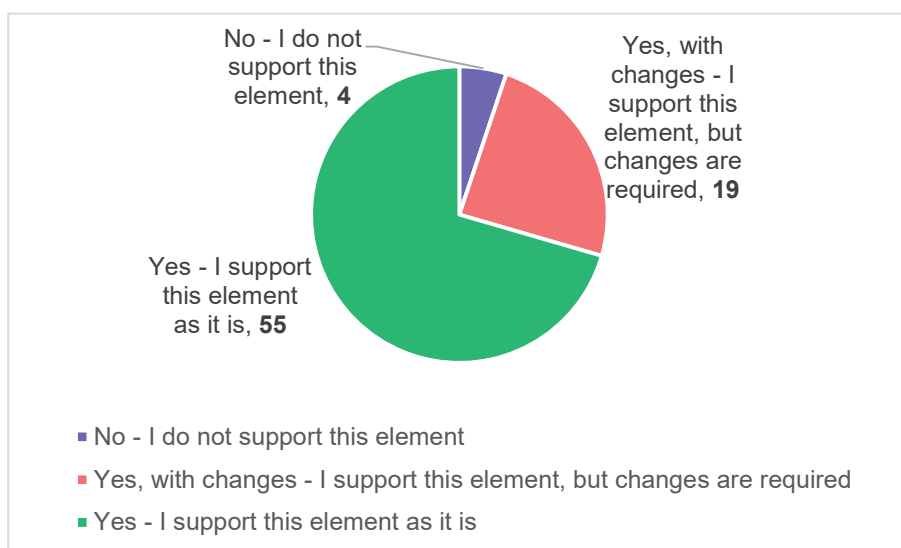
77 respondents

Level of agreement with inclusion of pedestrian friendly shared zones:



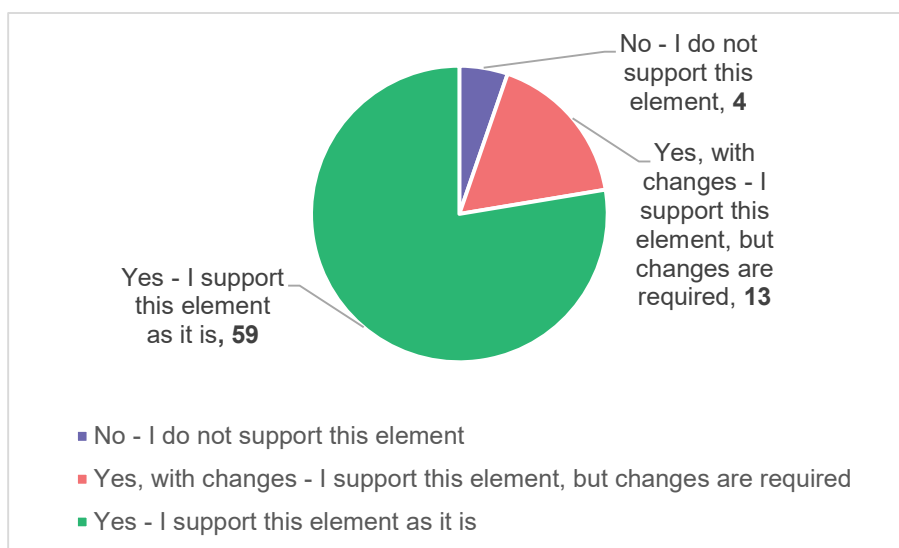
76 respondents

Level of agreement with the increase in tree canopy:



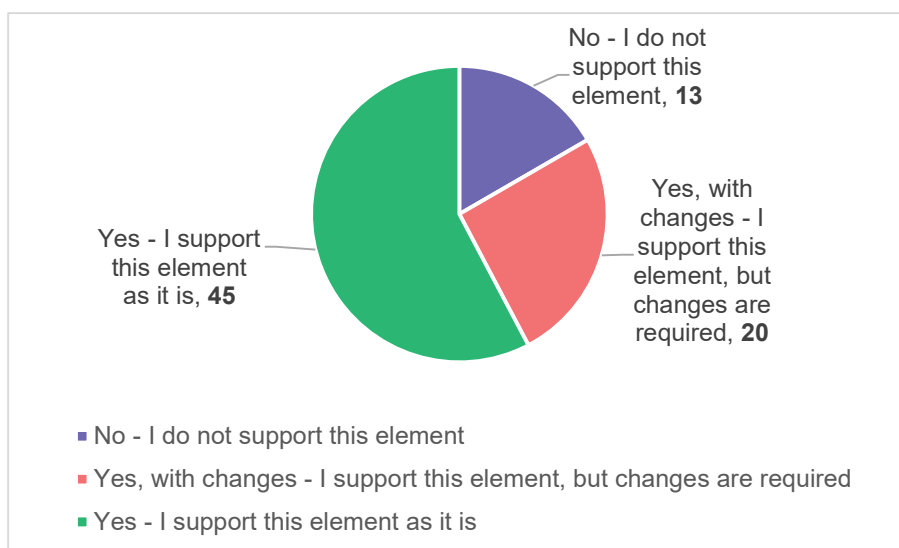
78 respondents

Level of agreement with the improvements to pedestrian crossings:



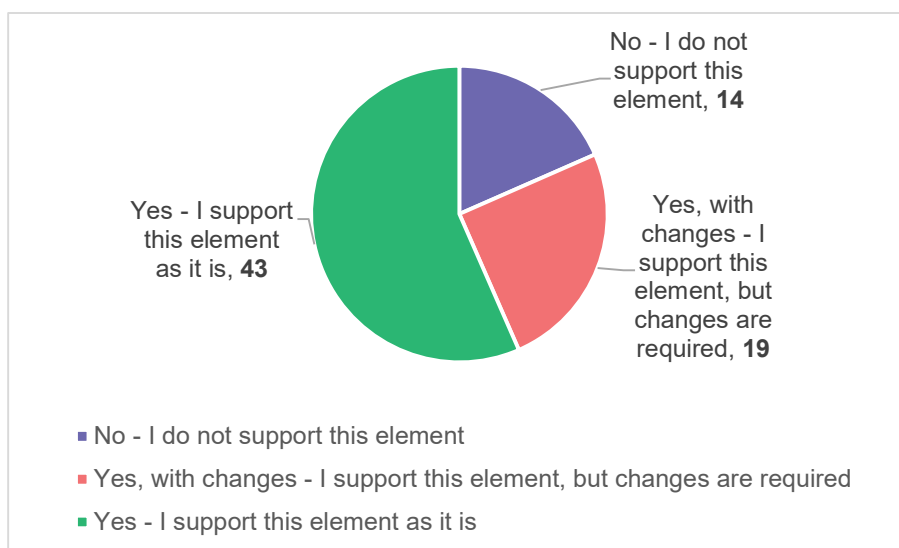
76 respondents

Level of agreement with the upgrades to cycle routes and cycle ways:



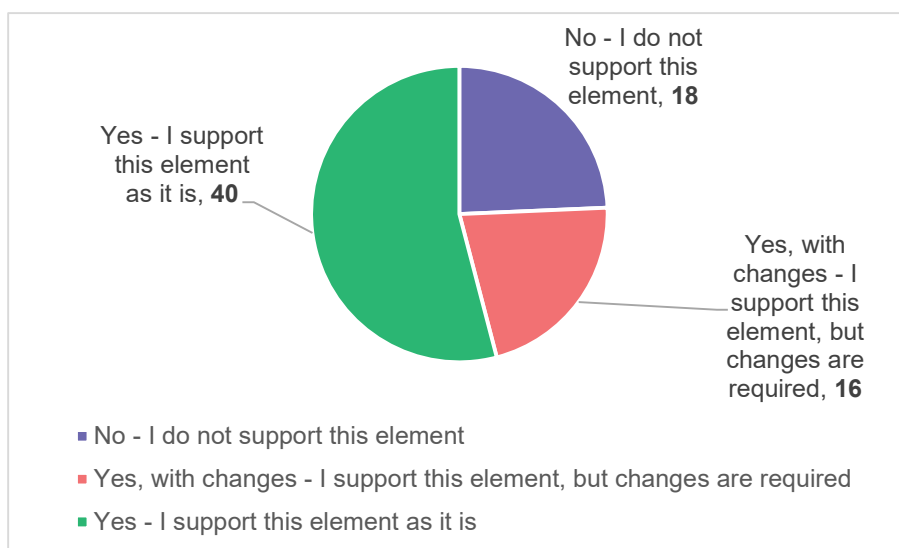
78 respondents

Level of agreement with the additional shared pathways:



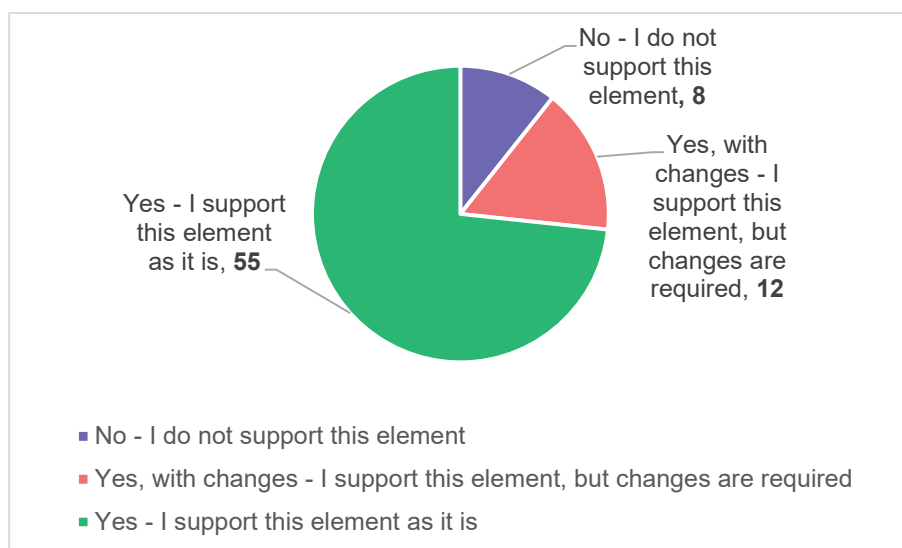
76 respondents

Level of agreement with the changes to parking arrangements:



74 respondents

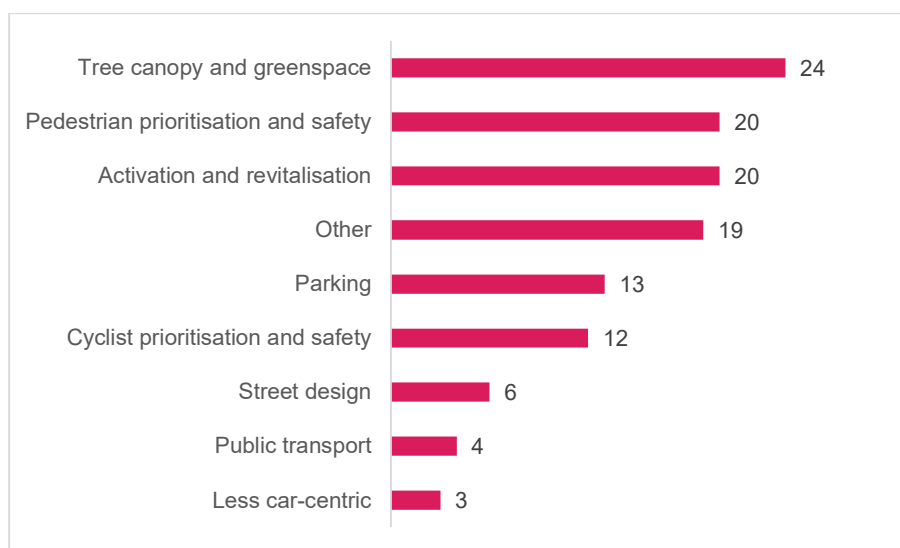
Level of agreement with the inclusion of alfresco dining options:



75 respondents

Please let us know why?

Participants were asked to explain the reasons behind their level of support. Their open-ended responses were analysed and grouped into key themes, which are outlined in the graph below. These themes provide insight into the values, concerns, and considerations that influenced participant sentiment.



61 respondents

Multiple themes applied

liability, having a height difference between the concrete and lawn surfaces makes it extremely difficult to implement large scale outdoor events."

"I strongly support the increase in tree canopy, and walkways. This is an improvement on the existing situation."

"Additions of trees and plants on median strips and next to the road obscures visibility, especially when overgrown. Council already struggles to maintain overgrown trees, bushes and plants that obscure traffic signs and visibility. This will make the situation even worse.

It's already hard to find parking in the city; reduction in parking will make this worse.

Council needs to replace existing trees that are causing safety issues for pedestrians.

Pedestrians are currently having slip and trip incidents and these trees have not been removed and their troublesome roots, leaves, seeds etc causing the hazards are not maintained. Current safety issues should be the priority."

Pedestrian prioritisation and safety

Respondents generally support greater pedestrian priority, expecting it to make the city safer, more attractive, and easier to access on foot or by bike. Many see this as a way to reduce traffic and support local businesses.

Some feel that shared paths can create conflicts between fast-moving bikes and pedestrians. Suggestions include clearer rules, speed limits, better separation, and traffic calming to protect walkers.

"Further pedestrianising the Newcastle CBD will bring people in and make the city accessible, helping small businesses."

"Cycle and shared pathways are problematic with the increase of e-bikes and their speed."

"Will make the area more accessible and pedestrian friendly."

"The pedestrian crossing between Civic Park and the Town Hall needs to be a raised, well sign posted and lit crossing. Every week I cross it at least once a day and every week I almost get run over.

There is no disability access from the park to the library without going to the end of the block. This is a huge inconvenience for everyone with mobility issues and those with prams.

All of the paths in Civic Park need re-laid as they are cracked, uneven and when it rains, swimming pools. The water today for instance (30/04/2025) was ankle deep and a river ON the paths."

Activation and revitalisation

Community feedback supported the revitalisation of Civic Park and Wheeler Place to make them safer, greener and more vibrant spaces that encourage cultural events and community use.

Some respondents raised concerns about the lawn areas in Wheeler Place which could limit its flexibility for major events and pose maintenance and safety challenges.

The feedback revealed a desire to balance green upgrades with practical features like durable surfaces, good lighting, and safe pathways to support diverse activities year-round. Overall, people want these precincts activated in ways that attract visitors and reflect Newcastle's cultural scene, without compromising event capacity, accessibility or parking.

"The precincts proposed for improvement are in major need of revitalising to align with modern development that has been undertaken in the city over the past 10 years"

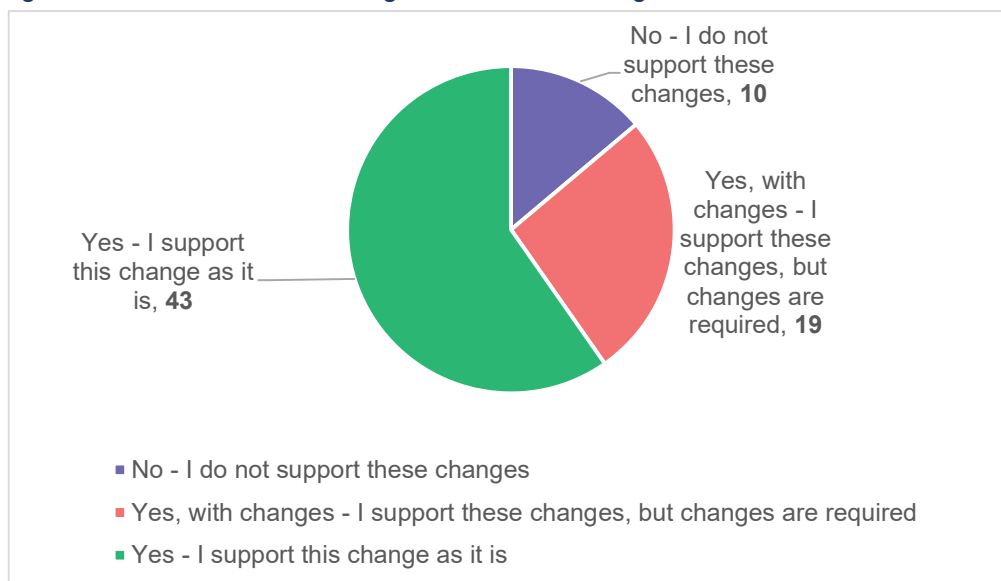
"I am wondering if Civic Park could also have an undercover stage with power for family-friendly community events so rain will not completely wash out performances. This might also allow for more family friendly performances in town."

I believe non-family-friendly performances should not be in public venues."

"Newcastle CBD really needs a big upgrade as the city looks too boring with the existing setup. There are few kids friendly areas, especially at the night. It needs to look and feel modern. Many business shops are closed, there are graffiti's all over the place, at night, the street light is very poor. It looks dull on few streets. I think the city vibe is missing. An upgrade is imminent, as Newcastle deserves better for its local people as well as tourists. We have some of beautiful beaches, but not enough infrastructure to support it, be it parking, walking lanes, bike lanes, kids play area, some kid's play areas."

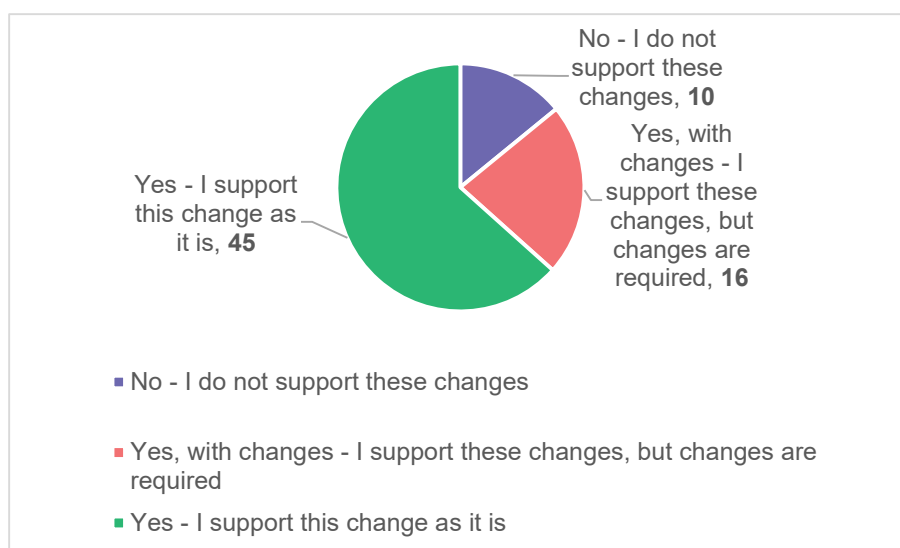
Please upgrade the CBD street and bring a modern vibe to the place for future generations to enjoy."

Level of agreement with the traffic changes identified for King Street:



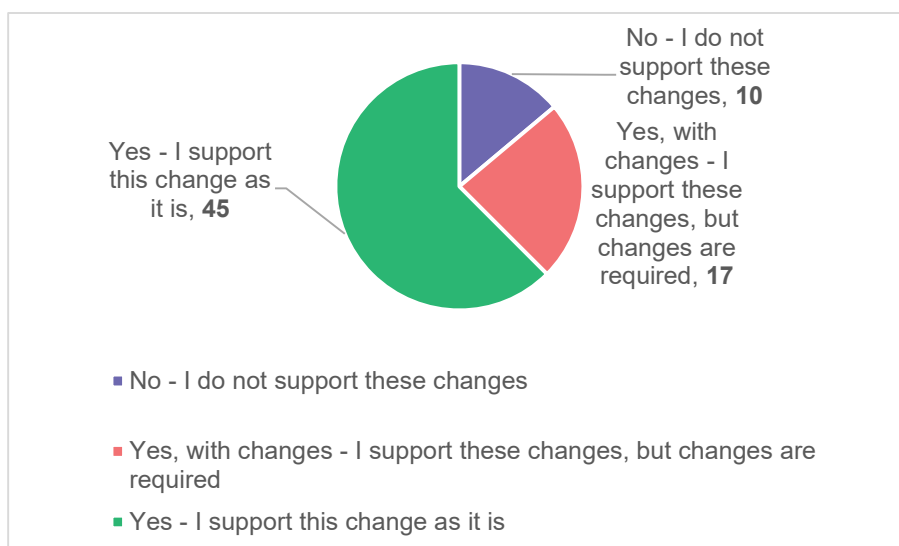
72 respondents

Level of agreement with the traffic changes identified for Auckland Street:



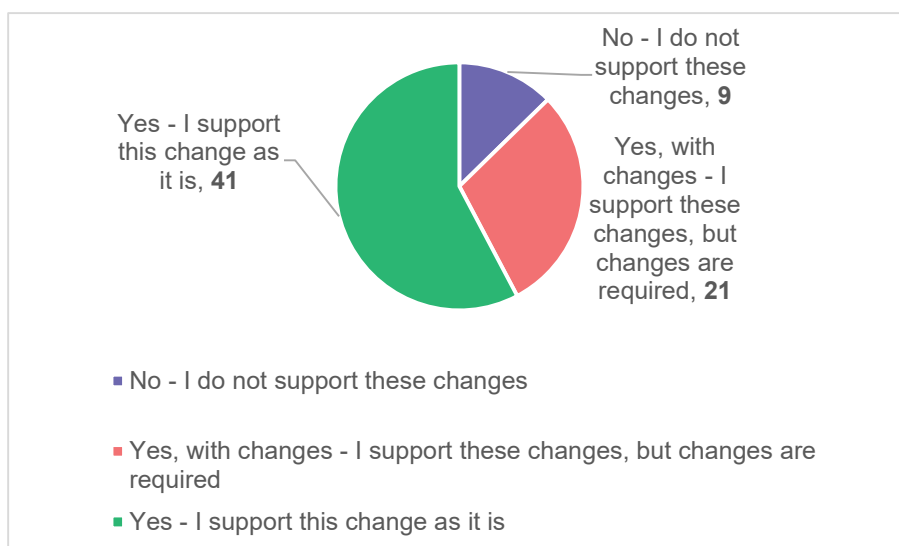
71 respondents

Level of agreement with the traffic changes identified for Darby Street:



72 respondents

Level of agreement with the traffic changes identified for Laman Street:



71 respondents

Feedback across the themes demonstrated support for traffic changes that **prioritise cyclist** and **pedestrian safety**, improve **street design**, enhance **greening**, support **activation** and **revitalisation**, reduce **car dominance**, and better manage **parking**, with some additional suggestions captured under 'other' traffic-related ideas.

Below is a summary of the top three themes identified as well as a sample of the comments provided.

Street design

Feedback identified in the street design theme delivered mixed views. Some respondents support creating more attractive, greener, and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes with improved crossings, lower speed limits, and safer bike infrastructure, but some express concerns about over-planting, narrowed roads, potential congestion, parking loss, and the need for clear traffic flow and well-marked, physically separated bike lanes to ensure safety and ease of use.

"I think it's important to create attractive streetscapes - tree cover and alfresco dining options will contribute - the risk may be creating a sterile or "soulless" gentrified streetscape. Overall the precinct changes look positive in my opinion."

"Whilst I love green streetscapes the draft plans for the streets surrounding the Civic domain appear to have too many large trees and extensive planting sections (particularly planting strips in middle of road) that has the potential to:

- reduce distant vision for drivers in cars and bicycles*
- cause slip hazards for pedestrians (footpaths and pedestrian crossings) and bike riders*
- increase maintenance/labour costs for street-sweeping and clearing leaf/branch litter from footpaths, kerbsides and gutters*
- cause flooding in significant wet periods due to blocked drains*
- increase insurance costs due to potential issues above."*

"If the concern is solely traffic, these look like a strong shift to promote an easier more pleasant journey through the precinct. I would like to understand more if and how different approaches are being taken in different areas."

Activation and revitalisation

Feedback in the activation and revitalisation was similar to the previous questions feedback in this theme in that it emphasised the importance of upgrading and modernising the precinct to create a vibrant, safe, and inviting destination with well-lit, family-friendly spaces, attractive streetscapes, alfresco dining, and heritage elements preserved, while ensuring public areas like Wheeler Place remain flexible and practical for events, and balancing revitalisation with access and parking needs to support both residents and visitors.

"Please try to keep all of the beautiful stone walls throughout the park, and even the public toilet block - character comes from heritage, which only happens when things aren't torn down

prematurely and replaced with modern tacky-tacky. Clean it, restore it, adapt and maintain it. Don't trash it. This city has already lost so much of her history."

"It has been years since the road and park were last upgraded. As the city continues to grow and modernize in the 21st century, these improvements are essential."

"All of the streets mentioned above needs upgrade as the thriving city vibe is missing. Newcastle residents and tourists deserve better. Good street lights, enough play area for kids, is required. Also Safety - I believe near McDonalds in the CBD, it's not safe for families to go in night, lot of junkies and poorly behaved kids, also due to poor lighting, no safety is there for families and elder people."

Pedestrian prioritisation and safety

Feedback in this theme supported improving pedestrian safety and accessibility through better crossings, wider shared paths, and balanced street design, with some respondents highlighting the need to reduce conflict between pedestrians and cyclists, ensure safe and easy street crossings, especially on busy roads like Darby Street. There was also a desire from respondents to enhance pedestrian-friendly infrastructure alongside reliable public transport options.

"Anything to ease traffic congestion and make the area more suitable for pedestrians has my vote!"

"Good to increase access for pedestrian and cyclists. However simply setting existing paths as shared without widening the paths will lead to increased conflict. (Darby St proposal)

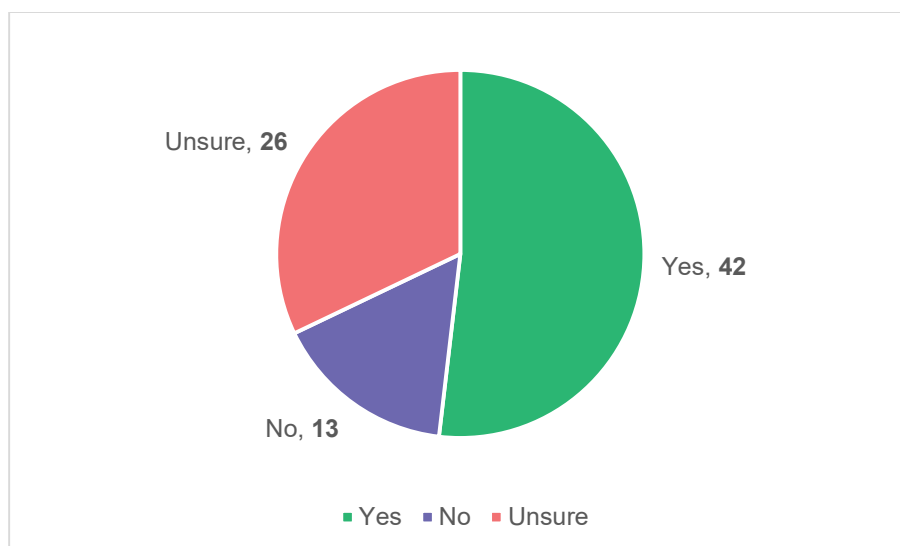
The paths need to be widened (either a reduction of road lane width or within the park) to ensure it is usable to both pedestrians and cyclists."

"In the diagrams I consistently see an upgrade of the pedestrian cyclist infrastructure as well as an increase in street trees. This is positive for the area. Public transport is also key with the reduction in parking. I support the increase of frequency of public transport services and facilities to the area. However I realise this might be outside the control of the project."

Level of agreement with the Civic Public Domain Plan objectives:

The plan aims to ensure that public spaces in the Civic Precinct are safe, accessible, and engaging while preserving the area's unique heritage and supporting Newcastle's broader urban renewal.

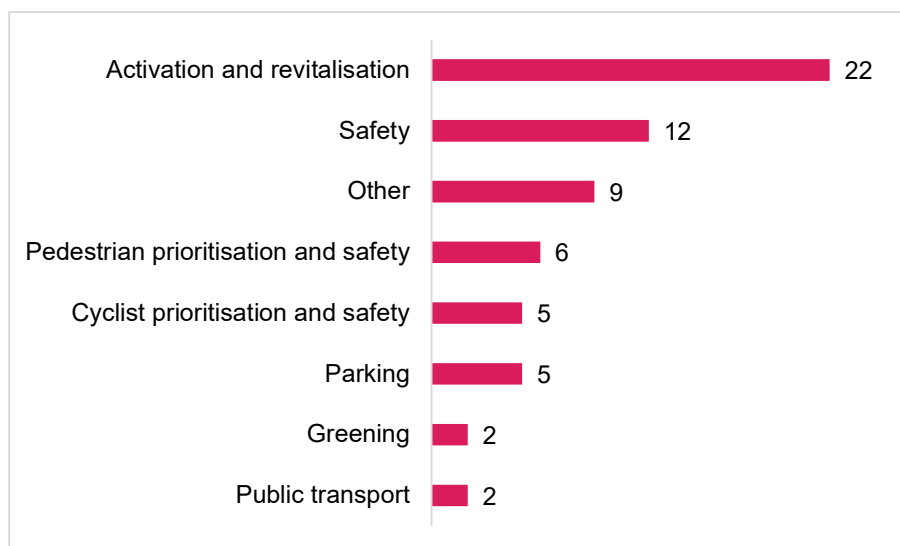
Participants were asked what their level of agreement with these objectives was:



81 respondents

Please let us know why?

Participants were asked to explain the reasons behind their level of support. Their open-ended responses were analysed and grouped into key themes, which are outlined in the graph below. These themes provide insight into the values, concerns, and considerations that influenced participant sentiment.



45 respondents

Multiple themes applied



Community feedback supports revitalising the Civic Precinct to reflect Newcastle's vibrant character, with strong emphasis on **safe pedestrian access**, heritage preservation, improved lighting and **maintenance**, but concerns about shared paths, **parking** loss, and the need for **better transport** and **event flexibility**.

Below is a summary of the top three themes identified as well as a sample of the comments provided.

Activation and revitalisation

The feedback in this theme (as with others across the topic areas) highlights support for revitalising the Civic Precinct into a vibrant, well-maintained cultural hub that celebrates heritage, enables flexible events, adds family-friendly spaces, and balances activation with thoughtful design and noise considerations.

"We need the entire Civic Precinct to reflect the fact that Newcastle is now a vibrant, cultural, mature, cosmopolitan city, both for residents and visitors, and not just a coal port. At the moment, the area is a bit lacklustre and doesn't reflect the way we feel as proud Novocastrians."

"I LOVE the overall planning and concepts for making this a beautiful and vibrant part of Newcastle. Congratulations to those who have worked behind the scenes to develop this proposal. There has been thought put into the aesthetics, as well as the practicalities eg drainage. It will be fabulous to have the additional pedestrian crossings and lights, such as the scramble at King Street, the crossings around Auckland and also in Darby near Finnigans and

the Art Gallery. Hopefully the one way in Auckland will deter traffic that seems to hoon down Laman to avoid Hunter and King street."

"It looks like a positive step for a revitalised Newcastle that will attract tourism and showcase our great city."

Safety

Feedback within this theme is concentrated on pedestrian and cyclist safety due to shared paths, poor lighting, missing footpaths, unsafe crossings, and calls for lower speed limits, better separation of travel modes, and safer cycling markings.

"Continued mixing of cyclists and pedestrians has unacknowledged and unaddressed risks."

"There are issues with lighting... toilet blocks... cycle paths.... lack of parking.... litter and rubbish."

"As stated before there are issues with shared paths. Also the plan kind of fizzles out beyond Lambton. Yes make the inner precinct special but, for instance, you cannot walk safely between Wallsend and the University. A distance of about 2.5 Km. There are no footpaths, unsafe crossings and huge roundabouts with hidden pedestrian access. It's a nightmare. If you really want Newcastle to be pedestrian and bike friendly try extending the plan past Lambton."

Other

Feedback identified within the *other* theme covers a variety of touchpoints such as commentary around the detail on how cultural and Indigenous heritage goals will be achieved, and questions whether the plan's focus and benefits extend broadly enough to serve the whole community and local businesses.

"In the plan, objectives that include "...diverse activities, experiences and journeys.", "creating meaningful spaces integrated in to the cultural fabric of the precinct..." and "Recognise the commemorate the rich Indigenous (sic) within the public domain", but mechanisms or strategies for achieving this are not outlined in detail.

Questions for me arise including:

-What is the definition of 'cultural fabric' in this context?

-How does this plan create more opportunities for diverse activities and experiences - considering it's a focus on built environment, what is strategy for supporting business, producers and providers to create activities and experiences.

-What is the integration with the Cultural Precinct Master Plan - there's very brief mention but not a lot of direct or explicit alignment, and in some cases some conflict.

-How are current tenants and businesses at the west end of the proposed area supported? I would imagine the profile of that part of the precinct is very different to the council owned/run orgs in the central locations, so what different approaches are being taken?

-Where in the plan is there a strategy for recognition of Indigenous Heritage? Beside the retention of public art, how will you achieve this?

"I don't understand how you have a broad urban renewal when there is clearly a narrow focus on a certain area."

"To what end will it serve for only a minority group and not culturally sound for the entire Novocastrians community who have lived here longer?"

and heritage outcomes. Some suggest spreading events across Newcastle, improving safety and traffic details, and ensuring genuine community input rather than change for its own sake.

Below is a summary of the top three themes identified as well as a sample of the comments provided.

Activation and revitalisation

This feedback in this area showed support for revitalisation and improved public spaces but emphasised the need to maintain flexibility for events, provide convenient access and parking, and called for activation to be balanced across the city rather than concentrated in a single precinct.

"I'm worried that the proposed green lawn in Wheeler Place, right outside the Civic Theatre, could limit the flexibility of this vital civic space. One major concern is that it might reduce the available area for events, especially when theatre-goers are arriving or leaving. Wheeler Place has been home to a wide range of events that need a sturdy, flat surface—think large public sports screenings, licensed pop-up experiences like Pixar Putt Putt, ice skating rinks, and skateboarding exhibitions. The central location within the civic precinct makes it ideal for these types of activities, but they all rely on having a level surface. The proposed height difference between the concrete and lawn would not only pose safety risks but also create significant challenges for hosting large-scale outdoor events."

"Civic Park amenities improvements for events operators are good, perhaps there's opportunity for more?"

"Love it, please make changes in full and as soon as we can!"

Parking

Feedback within this theme emphasises that reducing parking and removing on-street spaces will create significant problems for residents and visitors, and calls for more convenient and sufficient parking to support access to local events and amenities.

"No one wants to wait at a bus stop in the dark in Mayfield on a rainy night to catch a bus to see an event. more parking is a must so that its really easy to get to this 'precinct' where every even is all happening at once in the same place."

"Please add more car parking areas and spaces."

"Less parking = big problem"

Other

Feedback identified within the *other* theme covers a variety of touchpoints such as concerns about unnecessary changes, urges genuine community engagement and respect for local heritage, and

calls for practical planning that balances improvements with preserving parking, managing costs, and addressing maintenance issues.

"Don't make change for the sake of change, please do listen to the community as we use the area daily and care very much about what is done here. So often these community consultations feel like a post decision box ticking exercise; which is such a shame."

"As the representative from Rotary Newcastle, I have communicated with many staff members of CN since 2020. I have written so many letters had several meetings with Council Officers. This project was instigated as a 100 year anniversary acknowledgement to commemorate the wonderful work carried out by Rotarians in and around Newcastle and the achievement of being the 4th Rotary Club established in Australia. Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane then Newcastle, making this the first regional club in Australia. It has also been the charter club of all Rotary clubs in the Newcastle area, Lake Macquarie, Hunter Valley and country areas of NSW. A huge tribute to the City of Newcastle."

"Overall, there is some really positive built environment strategy that make this precinct a more enjoyable space to move through and potentially dwell.

I don't think this plan yet meet some of it's objectives around diversity of experiences and activation."

Please note- The sample comments provided are raw data with changes to spelling mistakes where necessary to support readability.

A note about sampling bias: The engagement campaign was 'opt-in', which means participants proactively sought to provide feedback as opposed to a sample or respondents being selected to more accurately reflect and represent the population makeup of the Newcastle community.

7. Next steps

City of Newcastle will now review all feedback received during this stage of consultation. We will explore opportunities to refine the draft plan in response to community and stakeholder input, ensuring it reflects local needs and priorities wherever possible.

Once these refinements are considered, the updated draft will be submitted to Council for adoption.

We thank everyone who contributed their time and insights and look forward to continuing this conversation as the project progresses.

Appendix I – Promotional materials

Have Your Say webpage



City of Newcastle

Home
Our Engagement Commitment
Projects
English
My profile



Civic Public Domain Plan

Have your Say on how we're shaping the future of Newcastle's Civic Precinct before 29 May 2025.

Home / Civic Public Domain Plan

The cultural heart of Newcastle

Our cultural institutions are at the heart of Newcastle's vibrant city. To enhance and celebrate this, we've developed the Civic Public Domain Plan (PDP)—a guiding framework to deliver high-quality public spaces and amenities within the Civic Precinct. This plan strengthens the area's identity as Newcastle's arts and cultural hub while supporting the broader renewal of the city centre.

The PDP will ensure the heritage and character of the precinct are preserved while creating a welcoming and dynamic public space for arts, culture, and innovation to thrive. By promoting safety, accessibility, and enhanced public amenities, the plan will shape a city where people love to live, work, and visit.

What are the key features of the Civic PDP?

How will the Civic PDP guide sustainable urban renewal?

What areas are included in the Civic Precinct?

FAQ

- What is the Civic Public Domain Plan (PDP)?
- Why is the Civic PDP important?
- How will the PDP improve public spaces within the Civic Precinct?

See more

Document Library

- Draft Civic Public Domain Plan (PDF(16.74MB))
- Draft Civic Public Domain Plan - Accessible Version

Contact Us

Have questions or want to learn more about a project, contact us below:

- Name Engagement Team
- Phone 02 4974 2000
- Email engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Timeline

- Community consultation
16 April to 29 May 2025
- Review community feedback
- Refine draft Civic PDP
- Report updated Civic PDP to elected Council

Explore the rendered imagery



Explore the plan

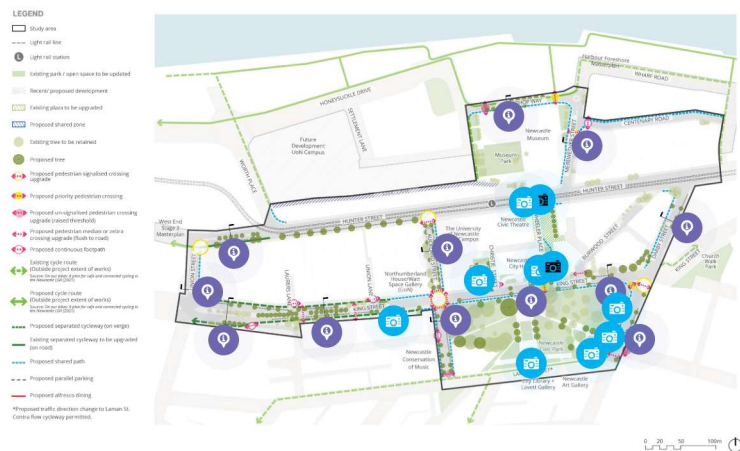
Take a virtual tour of the draft Plan by viewing the overall plan below and clicking on the:

- purple icons to see the existing and proposed street layout
- blue icons to see the concept images for the Civic precinct.

Pro-tip: Click the arrows to view the virtual tour on a full screen.

You can [view the full Plan](#) via the document library on this page.

OVERALL PUBLIC DOMAIN PLAN



Let's reimagine the cultural core of Newcastle – together

Join our workshop events

Be part of the conversation! Join us for our workshop Events, where we'll explore the Civic Precinct and discuss the exciting plans for its future. Registrations are essential - secure your spot today!

Have your say

We value your input! Share your feedback on the draft Civic Public Domain Plan before 29 May 2025 by:

- viewing the information available on this page
- providing your feedback via the form available below.

Collaboration is key to creating a vibrant and inclusive Civic Precinct. By working together, we can shape a public domain that reflects Newcastle's rich heritage, supports its growth, and enhances the quality of life for everyone.

This is your cultural backyard – be part of its future.



Adoption of the Civic PDP

[See less](#)

Pop Up Events



9am - 2pm Saturday 3 May 2025

Olive Tree Markets at The Station, Newcastle



11am - 1.30pm Thursday 8 May 2025

University of Newcastle NUspace



6.30am - 10am Friday 9 May 2025

Camp Shortland



9am - 3pm Friday 9 May 2025

Hunter Disability Expo at Newcastle Entertainment Centre



****POSTPONED DUE TO WET WEATHER****

Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre Open Day



10am - 2pm Wednesday 28 May 2025

Multicultural Expo at Wallsend Diggers RSL Club

Flyer



The cultural heart of Newcastle.

Civic Precinct draft Public Domain Plan

We are preparing a Public Domain Plan (PDP) for the Civic Precinct – home to Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle Museum, Newcastle University City Campus, and Civic Park.

This plan sets a bold vision for a greener, safer and more connected Civic – with vibrant public spaces, better walkability, and more opportunities to gather, reflect, and be inspired.

Walk it. Ride it. Live it. Civic is being designed for movement.



What's being proposed?

Key features of the draft plan include:

- Reinforcing Civic as the city's cultural heart
- Connecting cultural icons with active, walkable streets
- More spaces for public art, events and everyday moments
- Expanding green space and landscaping throughout the precinct.

Shape the future of Newcastle's Civic Precinct!

Share your feedback on the draft Civic Public Domain Plan! Have your say before 20 May 2025 by visiting newcastle.nsw.gov.au/your say

This is your cultural backyard – be part of its future.



Signage



The cultural heart of Newcastle.

Have
your
say

Civic Precinct draft Public Domain Plan

The Civic Public Domain Plan (PDP) is a vision to transform the Civic Precinct into a more connected, vibrant, and inclusive public space that reflects Newcastle's rich heritage and creative future.

Active streets. Inspired spaces. Greener places.

The draft PDP will improve how people move through and experience the precinct – connecting cultural destinations like Newcastle Art Gallery, University of Newcastle's City Campus, and Newcastle Museum with walkable, greener streets and spaces for creativity and reflection.

Key features of the draft PDP include:

- Reinforcing Civic as Newcastle's cultural and civic hub
- Connecting cultural icons with active, walkable streets
- Creating more opportunities for public art, events and activations
- Expanding green space and landscaping throughout the precinct.

Shape the future of Newcastle's Civic Precinct!

Share your feedback on the draft Civic Public Domain Plan! Have your say before 20 May 2025 by visiting newcastle.nsw.gov.au/your say.

This is your cultural backyard – be part of its future.



City of
Newcastle

Social media

City of Newcastle April 30 · 🌐

Walk it. Ride it. Live it. Civic is being designed for movement 🚶🚲

We're re-imagining the Civic Precinct — from green streets to better public spaces — and we want your feedback.

Speak to us at a pop-up event or register for a walkshop to share your ideas.

Help shape a greener, more connected cultural corridor by visiting:



Have your say

Shape the future of Newcastle's Civic Precinct

HAVEYOURSAY.NEWCASTLE.NSW.GOV.AU
Civic Public Domain Plan
 Help us create a vibrant, welcoming space that celebrates our arts, culture, ...

[Learn more](#)

City of Newcastle April 24 · 🌐

Help shape the future of Newcastle's cultural heart.

We've prepared a vision for the Civic Precinct as a more connected, greener, and people-focused place — and we want your input.

The draft Civic Precinct Public Domain Plan is now open for feedback.

🗣️ **Have Your Say!**
 Join us for an interactive walk through the Civic Precinct — registration is required! It's your chance to explore the plan and provide valuable feedback on how we can make this area a thriving hub for all.

📌 **Get Involved**
 Visit your say Newcastle to view the full plan and share your thoughts before 20 May 2025.

Let's reimagine the cultural core of Newcastle — together.

<https://haveyoursay.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/civicpdp>



Have your say

Help shape a greener, more connected cultural corridor

Civic Public Domain Plan
 Consultation report
 September 2025

City of Newcastle, Australia
 25,655 followers
 1mo · 🌐

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Visit your say Newcastle to view the full plan and share your thoughts before 20 May 2025.

Let's reimagine the cultural core of Newcastle — together.

<https://lnkd.in/eJw6Vekm>



Have your say

Help shape a greener, more connected cultural corridor

City of Newcastle, Australia
 25,655 followers
 1mo · 🌐

Walk it. Ride it. Live it. Civic is being designed for movement.

We're reimagining the Civic Precinct — from green streets to better public spaces — and we want your feedback.

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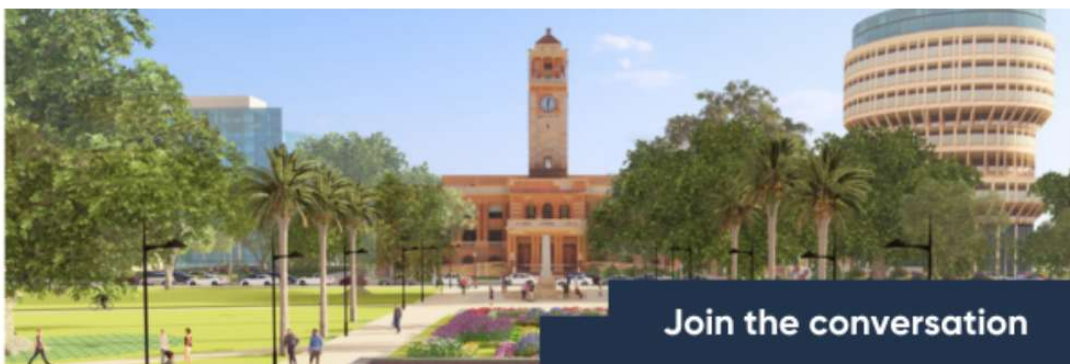
Have your say

Shape the future of Newcastle's Civic Precinct

Newsletters

17 April 2025

No images? [Click here](#)



Latest opportunities to get involved

We want you to be informed, involved and empowered to participate in decisions that affect your daily life. Find out more about what's happening in your local area, and how you can help shape the future of our city.

HAVE YOUR SAY



Help shape the future of Newcastle's Civic Precinct

Our cultural institutions are at the heart of Newcastle's vibrant city. To enhance and celebrate this, we've developed the Civic Public Domain Plan (PDP) - a guiding framework to deliver high-quality public spaces and amenities within the Civic Precinct. This plan strengthens the area's identity as Newcastle's arts and cultural hub while supporting the broader renewal of the city centre.

The PDP will ensure the heritage and character of the precinct is preserved while creating a welcoming and dynamic public space for arts, culture, and innovation to thrive. By promoting safety, accessibility, and enhanced public amenities, the plan will shape a city where people love to live, work, and visit.

The key features of the Civic PDP will be:

- reinforcing the Civic Precinct as Newcastle's arts and cultural hub
- creating more opportunities for public art, events and activations
- improving connectivity and active transport across the precinct
- increasing greenery and landscaping to create inviting, cooler spaces.

Read the draft Civic Public Domain Plan and share your feedback on the before 20 May 2025.

GET INVOLVED





Get involved in shaping a space that will be enjoyed for generations to come

We'd like to hear what elements you've enjoyed and what you'd like to see stay at Camp Shortland!

In 2017, we asked whether you'd prefer the Supercars track be returned to create open greenspace or if we should explore adding temporary elements to activate the space.

Following your support, we created a temporary activation space with elements that could be easily removed for major events. With something for everyone, these elements have become well-loved features of this iconic site, including a half basketball court, outdoor gym equipment, and a children's play area.

With Supercars completed, we are required to create a plan to rectify Camp Shortland. That's why we are reaching out again to ask if there are any elements you'd like to keep.

When rectifying the site, we'll also upgrade the existing infrastructure, including BBQs, shelters, seating and the historical signage. These upgrades will enhance the functionality of the space, so it can be enjoyed for years to come.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Closing the loop





The future of Broadmeadow is taking shape

Thanks for having your say on the future of Broadmeadow! The place strategy was adopted by Council on 25 March 2025.

The 30-year blueprint was developed in partnership with the NSW Government and will guide how the area will change over time.

- ✓ Up to 20,000 new homes
- ✓ Up to 15,000 new jobs
- ✓ For 40,000 people
- ✓ Enhanced public spaces & transport connections
- ✓ Still the region's premier sport and entertainment destination

So, what's next? A Delivery Plan will be developed in collaboration with a range of NSW Government agencies and City of Newcastle to guide the implementation of stage one of the Place Strategy. City of Newcastle is also drafting a Development Contributions Plan to fund local infrastructure like roads, footpaths, cycleways, parks and playgrounds.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Newcastle 2040 starts with us

Newcastle 2040 is more than a plan – it's our shared vision for a liveable, sustainable, inclusive global city.

Thanks to everyone who had their say over the past 12 months to ensure we're heading in the right direction towards a future we can all be proud of.

From greener streets to better public spaces, from thriving businesses to stronger communities – everything we're delivering is shaped by you. We want you to be involved in the projects that help bring this vision to life.

Newcastle 2040. Our future. Our city.

[READ MORE](#)



Strong demand powers Newcastle's first climate champions program

Congratulations, Climate Champions! More than 50 community members graduated last week from Empowering Climate Champions - our first community net zero training program.

Over six weeks, expert facilitators from Australia's leading climate organisations helped participants gain the skills and knowledge they will now use to deliver community-led projects that support the shift to renewable energy, electrification and energy efficiency in Newcastle.

Inspired by Rewiring Australia, Empowering Climate Champions is a United Nations CIFAL Newcastle UNITAR certified program, designed to empower our community to lead the charge to net zero emissions in Newcastle by 2040.

[READ MORE](#)



Grass is greener at Smith Park following major upgrade

The sights and sounds of sport have returned to Smith Park following City of Newcastle's delivery of a multimillion-dollar upgrade of the Hamilton North site.

The playing surface has been significantly improved by the installation of new drainage and irrigation, the realignment of fields used for cricket, football and Oztag, as well as the repositioning of three synthetic cricket wickets.

The upgrade was delivered by City of Newcastle with support from a \$2.56 million grant secured by the Newcastle Junior Cricket Association through the NSW Government's Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Key dates





Come and chat to us

We'll be out and about across Newcastle to catch you where you are! If you see us, make sure you come and speak with our team.

10.30am - 2.30pm, Saturday 26 April 2025 at Nobbys Beach*

9.00am - 2.00pm, Saturday 3 May 2025 at the Olive Tree Markets*

6.30am - 10.00am, Friday 9 May 2025 at Nobbys Beach*

**Weather permitting*

Civic PDP workshops

4.30pm - 6.30pm, Friday 2 May 2025, departing from Civic Park

3.00pm - 5pm, Saturday 3 May 2025, departing from Civic Park

Spaces are limited and registrations are essential.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

What's happening this school holidays?



Make the most of the April school holidays with an exciting lineup of activities and events happening across Newcastle!

Newcastle Museum:

- Eye Eye Science Shows
- LEGO Float and Sink STEM Challenge
- Organ Out Loud

Blackbutt Reserve (Open Daily):

- 10.30am - Wombat feast
- 10.45am - Bird brunch
- 1.30pm - Nocturnal nourish
- 2pm - Koala dining

Newcastle Libraries:

- Switch Gaming Mario Bros
- Book Launch and Storytime - Moxie vs Cat Memes
- Code Kids - Learning Scratch

Civic Theatre Newcastle:

- SIX the Musical
- Dot & the Kangaroo JR. by Hunter Drama

Want to know more or book ahead? Visit each venue's website for full event details

Join our free and friendly sessions for over-50s!



Need help with everyday tech tasks? Whether it's using your phone, tablet, or computer – we're here to help.

Enjoy a cuppa and make new friends while our experienced tutors guide you through:

- Basic Computer Skills
- Email and Social Media
- Online Safety
- Useful Apps and Tools
- Job Hunting and Travel Apps
- Device Help

Mayfield, Stockton & Beresfield Libraries. Range of dates from April - August 2025.

EXPLORE THE FULL DETAILS

Help us shape the future of Newcastle!

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City of Newcastle

12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle, NSW 2300 Australia

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1 May 2025



Help shape the future of our city

We want you to be informed, involved and empowered to participate in decisions that affect your daily life. Find out more about what's happening in your local area, and how you can help shape the future of our city.

HAVE YOUR SAY



Delivering Newcastle 2040

We want you to be involved in how we plan for our future. ***Delivering Newcastle 2040* is how we turn our shared vision for a liveable, sustainable, inclusive global city into action.** We've identified short, medium and long-term strategies to make this a reality.

In 2025-26, we plan to invest more than \$430 million in our city, and spend \$158.9 million on infrastructure to deliver essential projects for our community. We're investing in making Newcastle a thriving place to live, work and play for generations to come.

We'll continue to provide more than 60 services to our community, delivering more than 340 projects and 170 actions to make improvements across the city.

Have your say on how we invest in our city, deliver services and infrastructure and plan for long-term growth. **Feedback closes 5pm 29 May 2025.**

SHAPE OUR ACTION PLAN



Let's reimagine the cultural core of Newcastle - together

The Civic Public Domain Plan (PDP) is a vision to transform the Civic Precinct into a more connected, vibrant, and inclusive public space that reflects Newcastle's rich heritage and creative future.

The draft PDP will improve how people move through and experience the precinct - connecting cultural destinations like Newcastle Art Gallery, University of Newcastle's City Campus, and Newcastle Museum with walkable, greener streets and spaces for creativity and reflection.

Key features of the draft PDP include:

- Reinforcing Civic as Newcastle's cultural and civic hub
- Connecting cultural icons with active, walkable streets
- Creating more opportunities for public art, events and activations
- Expanding green space and landscaping throughout the precinct.

Share your feedback on the draft Civic Public Domain Plan! **Have your say before 20 May 2025.**

GET INVOLVED



Join our Civic PDP walkshop events

Be part of the conversation! Join us for our walkshop events, where we'll explore the Civic Precinct and discuss the exciting plans for its future.

4.30pm - 6.30pm, Friday 2 May 2025,
departing from Civic Park

3pm - 5pm, Saturday 3 May 2025,
departing from Civic Park

Registrations are essential - secure your spot today!

REGISTER HERE



Help shape the next phase of design at Camp Shortland

City of Newcastle is inviting feedback from the community as it finalises plans for Camp Shortland as part of the staged remediation of the former Newcastle 500 track.

In recent years the coastal precinct has become a hub for active recreation with community members utilising temporary fitness, sport and play equipment that was installed on the former racetrack area in between events.

There are a number of temporary elements currently installed at Camp Shortland, these include:

- Half basketball court
- Exercise combination 1 - push-up / sit-up / box jump / bench
- Exercise combination 2 - balance bar / steps
- Exercise combination 3 - pull-up / chin-up / dips / monkey bars
- Kids play climber
- Line marking to create hopscotch, maze & sprint track

Take a few minutes to complete the survey and let us know what you've enjoyed and if you'd like to see them stay at Camp Shortland by **Friday 6 June 2025**.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Closing the loop



Thanks for having your say on the Waratah Park Masterplan

We appreciate your time and input - it helped us better understand what matters to you and others involved.

The Masterplan has been amended in the light of your feedback and was recently presented to the Sports Infrastructure Working Party where the Masterplan was endorsed.

Changes made as a result of community feedback

- ✓ Additional trees for more canopy cover
- ✓ Narrowed footpath to retain existing trees, greenspace and fence along the channel
- ✓ Grandstand extension to include canteen and storage
- ✓ Relocation of City of Newcastle's depot
- ✓ Relocation of cricket nets
- ✓ Additional seating around park
- ✓ Pathways and roads adjusted in the northwest corner to increase greenspace, simplify access and movement, including widening the road near the school for parking and two-way traffic
- ✓ Improved parking along Young Road has been noted for further investigation

We're planning to construct new public toilets and an active court (half basketball/batball court) during the 2025-26 financial year, pending final budget approval.

You can access the summary report of the consultation findings, a list of changes made to the Masterplan and the Final Waratah Park Masterplan below.

[READ MORE](#)

Key dates



Come and chat to us

We'll be out and about across Newcastle to catch you where you are! If you see us, make sure you come and speak with our team.

9am - 2pm, **Saturday 3 May 2025** at the **Olive Tree Markets**, The Station (corner of Scott and Watt Street)

11am - 1.30pm, **Thursday 8 May 2025** at **NUspace**, The University of Newcastle

6.30am - 10am, **Friday 9 May 2025 at Nobbys Beach***

12pm - 3pm, **Friday 9 May 2025 at the Hunter Disability Expo**, Newcastle Entertainment Centre

3pm - 6pm, **Friday 16 May 2025 at the Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre Open Day**, Mordue Parade

10am - 2pm, **Wednesday 28 May 2025 at the Multicultural Services Expo**, Wallsend Diggers

**Weather permitting*



Calling all budding artists who love being active on their way to school

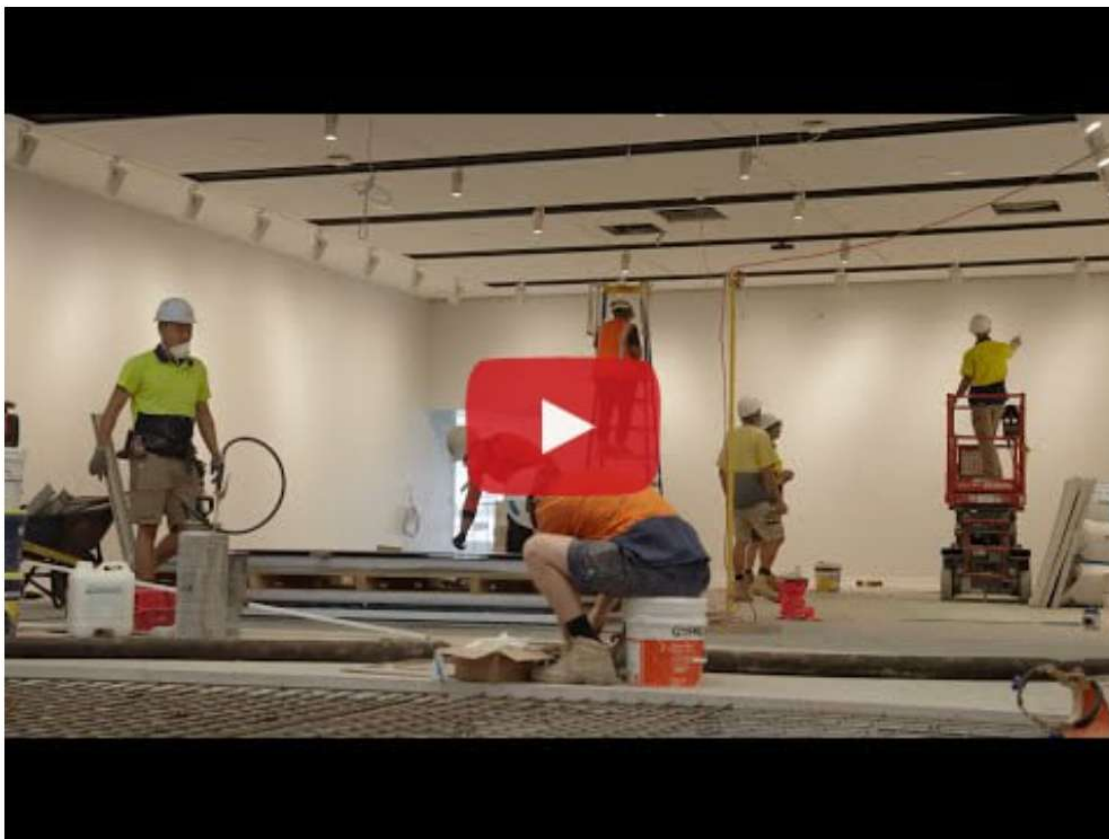
There's still time to enter! We want to see how you are active on the way to school and what makes your trip fun and special. Whether you choose to colour in, draw, paint, photograph or something else, this is your chance to let your creativity run wild.

The competition is open to all school students in the Newcastle Local Government Area. Winning artworks will feature in a calendar celebrating active travel to school in Newcastle.

Submit your artwork before Sunday 4 May for your chance to win!

[LEARN MORE](#)

What's happening



Take a sneak peek behind the scenes of the Newcastle Art Gallery expansion!

If you have been on Darby Street recently, you may have seen the scaffolding starting to come down around our construction site, revealing walls of glass along the ground floor of the expanded Gallery.

Our expansion project will more than double the exhibition space to showcase our city's collection and our artists' most groundbreaking ideas. The team are hard at work getting the spaces ready so we can bring our collection home.

Subscribe to enews at Newcastle Art Gallery to hear the latest news on our reopening.

SUBSCRIBE

Help us shape the future of Newcastle!

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 **Tweet**

 **Share**

 **Forward**

City of Newcastle

12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle, NSW 2300 Australia

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17 May 2025



Help shape the future of our city

We want you to be informed, involved and empowered to participate in decisions that affect your daily life. Find out more about what's happening in your local area, and how you can help shape the future of our city.

HAVE YOUR SAY



Share your thoughts on lower pool fees

Would a \$2 entry fee encourage you to visit our pools more often? We're considering a trial \$2 fee at all City of Newcastle pools for Summer 2025/26 and want your feedback.

Fill out the survey by 29 May 2025 and let us know what you think!

COMPLETE SURVEY



Shape Camp Shortland's future

In 2017, we introduced a temporary activation space featuring a half basketball court, exercise equipment, and kids' play areas.

Now, we want your feedback on what you love and what should stay.

Let us know what you'd like to see made permanent by 6 June 2025

COMPLETE SURVEY



Take a virtual tour of the Civic PDP

We've developed the Civic Public Domain Plan (PDP) to enhance Newcastle's cultural heart with high-quality public spaces.

The plan includes upgrades to Civic Park, Wheeler Place, Christie Park, and more.

Explore the draft plan and share your feedback by 29 May 2025

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

delivering NEWCASTLE 2040

Review City of Newcastle's draft budget

We're planning to invest more than \$430 million in Newcastle for 2025-26, with \$158.9 million for essential infrastructure projects.

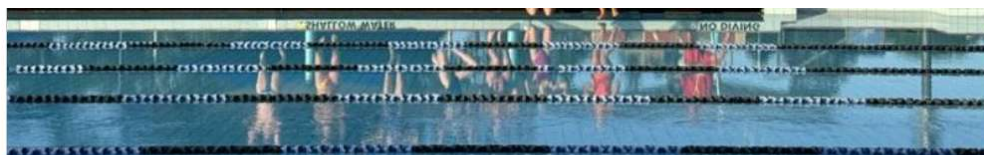
Have your say on our draft budget and key projects to help make Newcastle a liveable, sustainable, and inclusive city.

Read the draft documents (Delivery Program, Operational Plan, Fees and Charges, Long Term Financial Plan) and share your feedback by 29 May 2025

[READ MORE & SUBMIT FEEDBACK](#)

Closing the loop





Community support for indoor pool at Lambton

Thanks for having your say on how we can deliver a year-round swim facility at Lambton Park War Memorial Swimming Centre that we can all be proud of.

From 19 to 20 August 2024, we invited your feedback, and the community responded with valuable insights, ideas and aspirations for this much-loved facility.

Read the Consultation Report to find out what we heard.

[READ REPORT](#)

What's happening



Fernleigh tunnel renewal underway

We're starting essential renewal works on the Fernleigh Tunnel this week to preserve this iconic part of the track. Work includes supporting the brickwork, repairing water damage, removing graffiti, and applying anti-graffiti coating.

The tunnel will remain open, but the path will narrow to one lane (maintenance will take place 6pm - 2am, Monday to Friday).

[READ MORE](#)

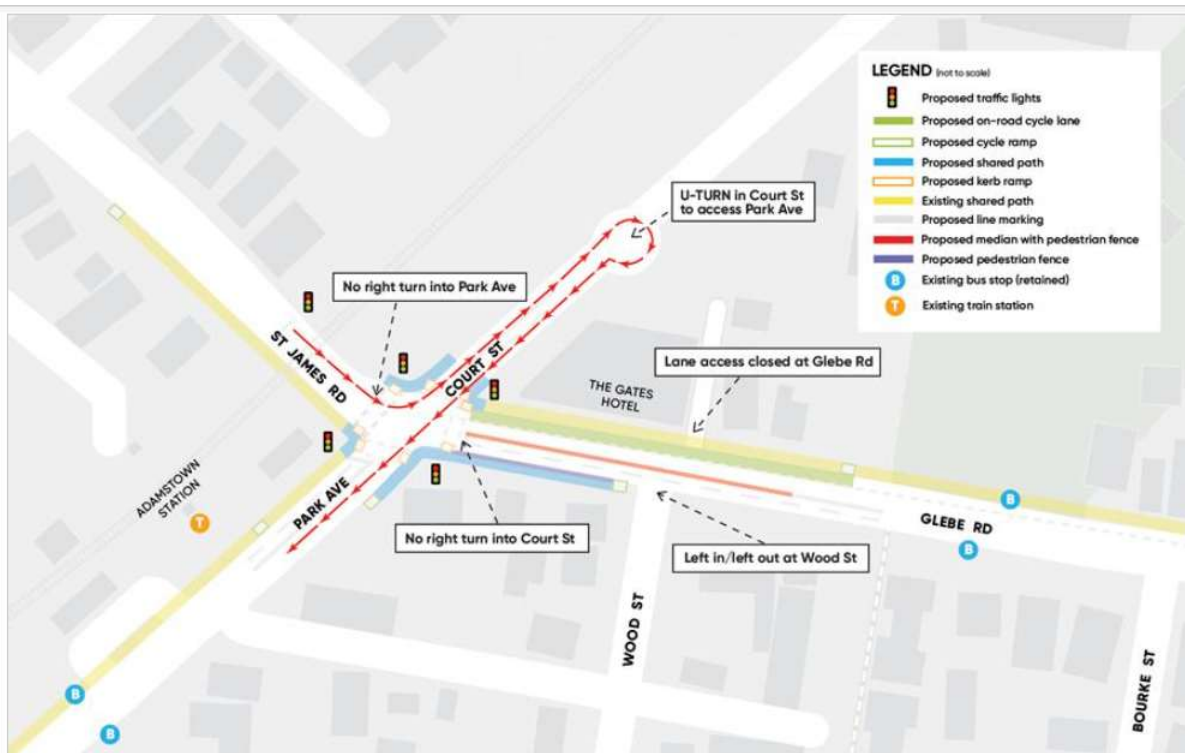
Sea Hares at Merewether Baths

A seasonal sea hare spawning event saw hundreds gather in Merewether Ocean Baths this week.

To protect them, the baths were temporarily closed while our Environment and Sustainability team safely removed the sea hares and their eggs.

Follow us on Facebook for live updates on this and more.

[FOLLOW](#)



Glebe Road safety upgrades on track

Safety upgrades on Glebe Road, Adamstown are progressing well to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists and boost safety near schools, shops, and public transport.

Switching on the new traffic lights will take place during Sydney Trains' rail shutdown from 9pm Friday, 16 May to 10pm Sunday, 18 May. Expect detours and road closures.

[READ MORE](#)

Key dates

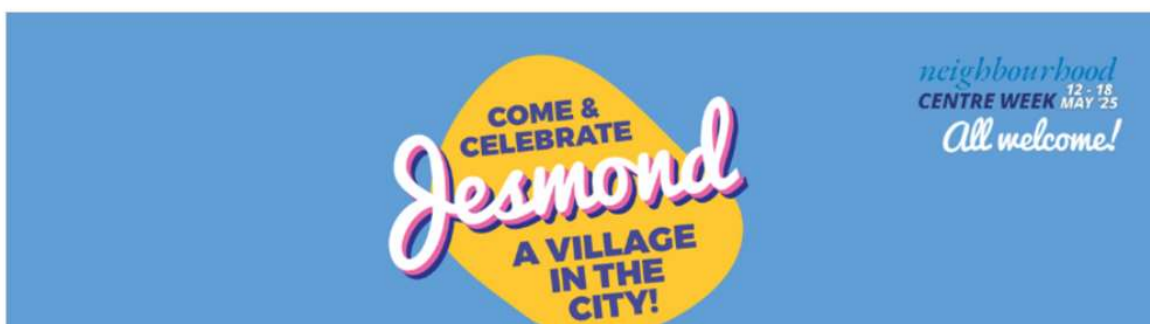


Come & chat to us!

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3pm - 6pm, **Friday 23 May 2025** at the **Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre Open Day**, Mordue Parade

10am - 2pm, **Wednesday 28 May 2025** at the **Multicultural Services Expo**, Wallsend Diggers



FRIDAY 23 MAY 3^{PM} - 6^{PM}
JESMOND NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
 Mordue Parade, Jesmond

Celebrate Neighbourhood Centre Week

We've got a fun-filled afternoon planned with plenty of free, family-friendly activities, including:

- Jumping castle
- Face painting
- Reptile encounter
- Kids workshops and challenges
- Live local music
- Reptile encounter
- Free BBQ

Come and celebrate Neighbourhood Centre Week with us at Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre on Friday 23 May, from 3 - 6pm

FIND OUT MORE

Help us shape the future of Newcastle!

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✉ Forward

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 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle, NSW 2300 Australia

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Media release



16 April 2025

Community input needed to protect and enhance Newcastle's cultural heart

A new lawn area and event screen in Wheeler Place, better pedestrian and cycling connections, and more green spaces are being proposed under a concept plan for Newcastle's historic Civic Precinct.

City of Newcastle is inviting residents to provide feedback on the draft Civic Public Domain Plan, which will shape the future of an area that includes key streets such as King, Darby, Auckland, Merewether and Hunter, along with important spaces such as Civic Park.

The plan aims to preserve the character of the precinct while improving safety, accessibility and amenity, to create an environment where arts, culture, recreation, and events can thrive.

The intent is to ensure consistency in outcomes, regardless of whether new infrastructure is delivered by City of Newcastle, or by the private sector as part of future developments.

City of Newcastle CEO Jeremy Bath said plans for the area will guide future development with a focus on increasing connectivity between important cultural institutions, while supporting the broader renewal of Newcastle's city centre.

"This precinct has been the focus of significant change during the past 10 years, with major developments helping to shape the character of a key destination for residents, students, and visitors," Mr Bath said.

"The Public Domain Plan will solidify the Civic Precinct as our arts and cultural hub, and elevate Newcastle's reputation as a destination for creativity and cultural expression, with increased opportunities for public art, events and activations.

"It's designed to make the area between Civic Park and Honeysuckle more suitable for walking, riding, and using mobility devices, while also adding more green spaces to make the area more enjoyable and keep the city cooler during hot weather.

"Tree planting will also enhance and protect views of valued heritage items, such as the historic relationships between Newcastle City Hall, Civic Park, Wheeler Place and Christie Place.

"We now need community feedback to help inform key features of the final plan, which will ensure a considered and coordinated approach to future works within the city. All of these features will be reviewed and endorsed by key stakeholder groups, the community, and City of Newcastle."

Newcastle RSL Sub-branch President Peter Griffiths said as a stakeholder with a long connection to Civic Park, the RSL is keen to be involved in the process.

"The RSL wants to ensure the precinct continues to honour the men and women who have served in the Australian Defence Forces," Mr Griffiths said.

"It currently features the WW1/WW2 War Memorial, Vietnam and National Service Memorial, the Folded Wings RAAF Memorial and the Memorial Grove, which includes the Legacy tree.

"We're proud to work with City of Newcastle on this Public Domain plan which acknowledges the fact memorials in Civic Park will continue to be armed service related."

The draft Public Domain Plan is designed to create a seamless and engaging experience for visitors moving between the Newcastle Art Gallery and other nearby cultural institutions such as City Hall, Newcastle Library, Newcastle Museum and the Civic Theatre.

It includes proposed designs for new pedestrian crossings, new and upgraded plazas, as well as footpath and cycleway improvements.

Traffic upgrades to Auckland Street and Darby Street intersections are also proposed, as well as improvements to Christie Park, and acknowledgements of First Nations history and early European settlements.

The draft Civic Public Domain Plan is open for feedback via City of Newcastle's website until 20 May 2025.

Community members can also join interactive "walkshop" events through the precinct on 2 and 3 May or visit City of Newcastle staff at the Olive Tree Markets in Civic Park on 3 May.

To find out more visit haveyoursay.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/civicpdp

Appendix II - consultation tools

Online feedback form

Feedback form

Registration form

Open

Feedback form: Civic Public Domain Plan

Welcome to the feedback form for the draft Civic Public Domain Plan.

This feedback form explores your level of support for each of the elements included within the plan as well as the overall vision for our Civic precinct.

The form will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, depending on the level of detail you provide.

Firstly, a little about you!

Name: Required

Email address: Required

Suburb: Required

Age Group: Required

Relationship to Newcastle: Required

Please select all that apply.

☐ I live in the Newcastle LGA
☐ I work in the Newcastle LGA
☐ I study in the Newcastle LGA
☐ I own / operate a business in the Newcastle LGA
☐ I am a visitor
☐ I represent a local community group / agency / sporting organisation

Next up - we're exploring your level of support for each the elements included in the draft Civic PDP!

Please indicate your level of agreement with each element of the plan below:

	Yes - I support this element as it is	Yes, with changes - I support this element, but changes are required	No - I do not support this element
Updates to the existing parks and open space	☐	☐	☐
Upgrades to existing plazas	☐	☐	☐
Inclusion of pedestrian friendly shared zones	☐	☐	☐
Increase in tree canopy	☐	☐	☐
Improvements to pedestrian crossings	☐	☐	☐
Upgrades to cycle routes and cycle ways	☐	☐	☐
Additional shared pathways	☐	☐	☐
Changes to parking arrangements	☐	☐	☐
Inclusion of alfresco dining options	☐	☐	☐

Please let us know why?

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following traffic changes identified in the plan below:

	Yes – I support this change as it is	Yes, with changes – I support these changes, but changes are required	No – I do not support these changes
King Street	☐	☐	☐
Auckland Street	☐	☐	☐
Darby Street	☐	☐	☐
Laman Street	☐	☐	☐

Please let us know why?

Now, how much do you like the objectives of the draft Civic PDP.

The plan aims to ensure that public spaces in the Civic Precinct are safe, accessible, and engaging while preserving the area's unique heritage and supporting Newcastle's broader urban renewal.

Do you believe the draft Civic PDP achieves this?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Please let us know why?

Last thoughts and updates

Do you have any further comments on the draft Civic Public Domain Plan?

Attachments **Choose file...**

Max files: 3 Allowed file types: pdf,doc,docx,txt,xls,xlsx,rtf,png,gif,jpg,jpeg Size limit: 10.00 MB

Would you like to stay updated?

☐ Yes

☐ No

[Previous](#)[Next](#)

Walkshop registration form

Feedback form

Registration form

Open

Registration form: Civic PDP walkshops

Welcome to the registration form for the draft Civic PDP walkshop events.

Spaces are limited and registrations are essential!

Name: Required

Email address Required

Which event would you like to register for: Required

The choices will be removed once the allocation has been exhausted.

- ☐ 2 May 2025, 4.30pm to 6.30pm, departing from Civic Park
- ☐ 3 May 2025, 3pm to 5pm, departing from Civic Park

Do you have any accessibility requirements that we need to consider? Required

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes (please let us know how we can best support you)

Register

Appendix II - Other feedback

Meeting with Anglican Church 17/06/2025

Parking issues

Requested that the Civic Park car park behind the library be 4 hours to service the church better. Provide suitable space to Laman St frontage for weddings and funerals to load/unload people without issue (~3 continuous parks min). Allow 5min parking for pre-school during near car park entry with AM and PM drop off times.

Park & Church interface

would like to remove fence (80's era) and provide paths of travel to the park - possibly near rail cottage or through garden. Possible use of bollards to assist in traffic control. Retain gate and church car park.

Cottage

Discussed leasing the cottage back to Council - possible cafe space or similar - improve connections to park.

Lighting

Discussed improving lighting to church and street - currently dark. would like to see it improved with possible feature lighting to the building. Could tie in with nighttime economy and connection to Cooks Hill.

General discussions about implementation of the PDP

Discussed asset renewal, developer contributions, or Councillor direction being the main drivers behind implementation of the plans. There is up to 17 smaller projects that will be produced from this plan.