

**WE  OUR
COAST**

Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program

Bar Beach to Merewether management options

Consultation Report

April 2026



**City of
Newcastle**



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Executive summary

City of Newcastle is preparing the Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) to establish a long-term, strategic and coordinated approach to managing coastal hazards while protecting the environmental, social and cultural values of Newcastle's coastline. The CMP applies the NSW Government's risk-based Coastal Management Framework and will replace Part B of the existing Newcastle Coastal Zone Management Plan 2018.

The Southern Beaches CMP covers the coastline from Nobbys Headland to Glenrock Lagoon and is one of several CMPs being progressed or implemented by City of Newcastle under the *Coastal Management Act 2016*. The program is currently in *Stage 3 – Identify and Evaluate Options*, building on earlier technical investigations into coastal processes and hazards.

Technical studies undertaken during Stage 2 identified that unprotected sections of the southern beaches, particularly between Bar Beach and Dixon Park are at risk from coastal erosion sooner than previously understood. This stretch of coastline is constrained by limited bedrock and a lack of natural or engineered protection, reducing its capacity to naturally respond to sea level rise and increasing erosion pressure while maintaining the assets and functions we are accustomed to. The Stage 2 findings informed the development of a shortlist of potential management options for the Bar Beach and Merewether Beach embayment for further assessment in Stage 3. This shortlist formed the basis of the community engagement outlined in this report.

Management options

An overview of the impacts of the shortlisted management options, including a comparative summary of their respective positive and negative impacts, was provided to participants to inform and guide their participation. This information highlighted that each option presents distinct advantages and disadvantages, and that selecting any option involves inherent trade-offs.

| Type of management | Indicative capital cost | Indicative operational cost | Sandy beach | Impact to surf quality ^{^^} | Protection of existing assets [^] | Impact to environment | Resilience to climate change | Impact to existing roads |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Merewether and Dixon Park option 1 Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment | \$26m | \$1m [†] | | | | | | |
| Merewether and Dixon Park option 2 Maintain seawall + managed partial retreat | \$10m | \$0.3m | | | | | | |
| Merewether and Dixon Park option 3 + Bar Beach option 1 Mass sand nourishment | \$45m | \$0.7m | | | * | | | |
| Bar Beach option 2 Seawall + amenity sand nourishment | \$29m | \$0.6m [†] | | | * | | | |
| Bar Beach option 3 Seawall setback 12m + amenity sand nourishment | \$33m | \$0.7m [†] | | | | | | |
| Bar Beach option 4 Managed retreat | \$6m | \$0.3m | | | | | | |

Very good Good Average Poor Very poor

[^] Protection of existing assets at current location, such as buildings, active pathways, recreational areas.

* Option to relocate or retain Cooks Hill SLSC building.

[†] Indicative operational costs will depend on sand source for top ups.

^{^^} Ratings informed by the Surf Amenity Impact Assessment Report.

Community engagement

Community engagement was undertaken between August and November 2025 to inform and educate the community about coastal change, communicate technical findings, and seek feedback on the shortlisted management options for the Bar Beach to Merewether section of Newcastle's coastline. Engagement was delivered in two phases:

- **Phase 1 (August to September 2025):** Education and awareness, focused on improving understanding of coastal processes, risks and management approaches.
- **Phase 2 (28 September to 24 November 2025):** Consultation, which sought feedback on the acceptability of the shortlisted management options.

Engagement activities included a dedicated Have Your Say webpage, widespread promotion through flyers, signage, social media, newsletters, media and partner campaigns, and nine pop-up stalls across the city. In total:

- The project webpage received **8,291** visits
- More than **580,000** social media impressions were recorded
- **820** in-person engagements occurred at pop-up events
- **975** people completed the online survey
- **429** people participated in a quick poll

While the survey was opt-in and not statistically representative of the broader population, it provided a substantial and diverse body of qualitative and quantitative feedback that will inform the Stage 3 acceptability assessment.

What we heard

Across all engagement channels, beach nourishment was the least favoured management approach overall, with common concerns raised about cost, effectiveness, environmental impacts, longevity and ongoing maintenance requirements. In contrast, protection and managed retreat options attracted stronger support, although for different and sometimes competing reasons. Protection was often preferred for its perceived ability to retain existing assets, access and amenity, while managed retreat was supported as a more sustainable, adaptive and environmentally responsible long-term response to coastal hazards and climate change.

Feedback demonstrated a high level of consistency across age groups, wards and most user groups, indicating that views on coastal management for this section of coastline are broadly shared across the community. However, some differences emerged between specific coastal user groups. In particular, the surfing and board riding community expressed an overall preference for managed retreat, reflecting their emphasis on preserving the surf quality, preserving the natural coastal processes and intergenerational equity. In contrast, the surf life saving community indicated a stronger preference for protection measures, aligning with their focus on safeguarding surf club infrastructure and operational needs. Despite these differences, the broader patterns of support and concern remained similar across the wider community.

The results clearly show that there is no single management option that will satisfy all community members. While preference rankings provide an important indication of community views, viewing the options that scored the highest alone do not take into consideration the user groups, values and drivers for the selection. For Merewether and Dixon Park Beach, the most preferred option was Option 2 - Maintain the seawall with managed partial retreat (46%), while for Bar Beach the

preferred option was Option 2 - Seawall combined with amenity sand nourishment (39%). However, this report demonstrates that the decision is not as simple as selecting the highest-scoring option. Each location requires consideration of nuance, site-specific detail and broader contextual factors that influence the drivers for the management options preferred by the community. The following sections outline this nuance, detail and context to support a deeper understanding of why each option was selected and the acceptability of the trade-offs involved.

Each option involved trade-offs between environmental outcomes, surf quality, public access, infrastructure protection, cost, traffic impacts and long-term resilience. Many participants acknowledged the complexity of the decision and recognised that some level of compromise is unavoidable.

Open-text feedback reinforced the importance of protecting Newcastle's coastal identity, surf culture and natural environment, while also highlighting strong and sometimes conflicting views about infrastructure retention, traffic impacts, governance, cost, and the role of expert advice versus community input.

Next steps

City of Newcastle will continue to review and analyse the outcomes of community consultation and incorporate feedback as part of the acceptability review, a key component of Stage 3 under the NSW Coastal Management Framework. The acceptability of options, and the drivers behind community preferences, will be considered alongside technical, environmental and economic evaluations to inform decision-making on preferred long-term management actions. City of Newcastle may seek additional community input on a long-term solution as we progress through Stage 3 to further test acceptability.

The proposed management approach for Newcastle's Southern Beaches will be documented in the draft Coastal Management Program, which will be placed on public exhibition in Stage 4. This will provide a further opportunity for the community to review the proposed approach and provide feedback before the CMP is finalised.

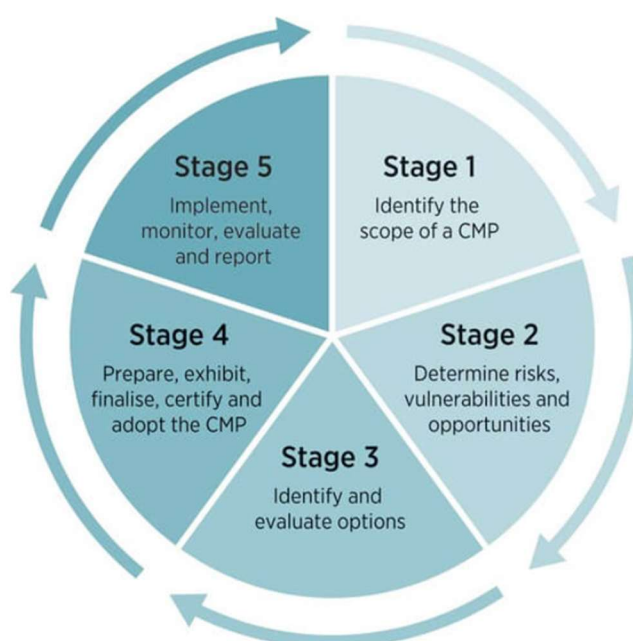
City of Newcastle will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses and provide opportunities for the community to have their say at key stages of the CMP development process.

1. Background

Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) are intended to establish a long-term, strategic and coordinated approach to managing coastal areas in accordance with the objectives of the *Coastal Management Act 2016* and the NSW Government's Coastal Management Framework. CMPs apply a risk-based approach to managing coastal hazards while protecting environmental values and supporting the social and cultural significance of the coast.

The Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) covers the coastline from Nobbys Headland to Glenrock Lagoon and will replace Part B of the existing Newcastle Coastal Zone Management Plan 2018. The CMP will present a long-term strategy for the adaptive, integrated and coordinated management of the coastline, with a focus on responding to coastal hazards while preserving the environmental, social and cultural values that underpin Newcastle's coastal identity.

City of Newcastle (CN) is currently developing, implementing, or contributing to multiple CMPs under the NSW Coastal Management Framework, including the recently completed Extended Stockton CMP, the Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP, and the Hunter Estuary CMP. Each program is progressing through the prescribed five-stage CMP development process outlined in the NSW Coastal Management Manual, and shown below:



The Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP is now in Stage 3 - Identify and evaluate options, with a (recently updated) coastal processes review (Haskoning 2025b) and feasibility assessment (Haskoning 2025a) completed by Haskoning during Stage 2.

The coastal processes review identified that unprotected areas of the southern beaches are at risk from coastal erosion sooner than previously understood, particularly the section of coastline between the Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club at Bar Beach and the Dixon Park cliffline. This stretch of coast is constrained by limited bedrock and the absence of natural or engineered protections,

restricting its ability to respond naturally to sea level rise and increasing erosion pressure and the risks to the assets and functions we are accustomed to.

As outlined in the Newcastle Coastal Zone Hazard Study (2014) and updated coastal processes review (Haskoning 2025b), rising sea levels are expected to push beaches and dunes landward. However, where natural retreat is constrained, sand reserves are likely to be eroded, reducing sandy shore width, exposing underlying bedrock or built assets, and reducing beach amenity, a key component of Newcastle's cultural identity. Merewether and Dixon Park beaches are most at risk of this sort of shoreline recession and sandy beach loss in the near future due to the revetment protection structures that run along John Parade and in front of the Dixon Park car park.

The feasibility assessment utilising a multi-criteria analysis, identified a short list of potential management options for the Merewether to Bar Beach embayment. These options are undergoing a further viability assessment, including a detailed cost-benefit analysis, to support decision-making on appropriate long-term management responses.

An overview of the impacts associated with the shortlisted management options listed below, including a comparative summary of their respective positive and negative impacts, was provided to participants to inform and guide their participation. This information emphasised that each option involves different advantages, disadvantages and trade-offs, which are central to considering appropriate long-term management responses.

| Type of management | Indicative capital cost | Indicative operational cost | Sandy beach | Impact to surf quality ^{^^} | Protection of existing assets [^] | Impact to environment | Resilience to climate change | Impact to existing roads |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
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Very good Good Average Poor Very poor

[^] Protection of existing assets at current location, such as buildings, active pathways, recreational areas.

* Option to relocate or retain Cooks Hill SLSC building.

[†] Indicative operational costs will depend on sand source for top ups.

^{^^} Ratings informed by the Surf Amenity Impact Assessment Report.

The engagement undertaken from August to November 2025 on these shortlisted management options was delivered in two phases:

- Phase 1 community education and awareness: which focused on sharing technical information and building understanding of coastal change, risks and management options.

- Phase 2 community consultation: which presented the shortlisted management options and sought community and stakeholder feedback on their acceptability. This feedback will be used to inform the community acceptability review, also required under Stage 3.

Details of the consultation approach, engagement activities and key themes arising from these activities are detailed within this report and form an important part of the ongoing refinement of coastal management options.

The final management actions proposed within the draft Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP, will be presented for public exhibition in Stage 4.

2. Engagement objectives

Community engagement was undertaken between August and November 2025 to educate the community, gather insights and seek feedback on a short list of potential management options for the Merewether to Bar Beach embayment.

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- Inform and educate
 - Inform the community, key stakeholders and user groups about the project and its objectives.
 - Improve understanding of CMPs, their role under the *Coastal Management Act 2016* and how they guide long term coastal management.
 - Communicate the findings of technical studies, including scenarios for sea level rise, coastal hazards and impacts, as well as the assumptions and limitations of this work.
 - Provide clear information on the management options under consideration, including key risks, costs, benefits and trade-offs, to enable informed feedback.
- Engage early to enable meaningful influence
 - Engage the community, key stakeholders and user groups early in the process so they have a genuine opportunity to shape the development, assessment and refinement of coastal management options.
 - Acknowledge that early engagement may occur before all technical details, modelling outputs or design information are available, and clearly communicate knowns, unknowns and areas still under assessment.
 - Demonstrate how early input will be used to guide the next stages of technical work, option refinement and evaluation, reinforcing that engagement is iterative and influence is greatest at the beginning of the process.
- Support informed input and decision making
 - Empower the community and stakeholders with the knowledge required to contribute meaningfully to decision-making.
 - Share the decision-making dilemma and explain the process used to evaluate and select management options, including how community preferences and criteria are considered.
 - Ensure the community understands that feedback is one of several inputs used to inform the final management options that will be presented in the draft CMP.
- Understand community values and preferences
 - Gather feedback from diverse coastal user groups to inform the options evaluation and community acceptability analysis.
 - Develop an understanding of community values, coastal uses and the acceptability of management options.
 - Understand community and stakeholder attitudes to risk and trade-offs.
- Build relationships and trust
 - Strengthen relationships and build trust with community members, key stakeholders, interest groups and public authorities.
 - Continue to develop strong working partnerships with community and stakeholders.
 - Build community confidence in the technical information through transparent communication

- Inform internal decision making
 - Support City of Newcastle management and Councillors to understand community and stakeholder perspectives.

The engagement approach was guided by best practice Engagement Institute (formerly IAP2) principles and City of Newcastle's commitment to meaningful community participation, as outlined in the [Community Engagement Strategy](#).



3. Communication and promotion







During the engagement period a communications campaign was implemented to raise awareness of the Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP and promote the opportunity for community members and stakeholders to provide feedback on the options being considered for the Bar Beach to Merewether stretch of coastline.

Key communications activities are summarised on the following page, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in Appendix I.

Summary of promotional activity and reach

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

| Channel | Description | Reach |
|---|---|--|
|  Have Your Say webpage | <p>A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. The page provided information about the Southern Beaches CMP and encouraged participation in the online survey.</p> | <p>8,291 visits</p> |
|  Flyers and signage | <p>Flyers and digital signage were on display at CN libraries and other facilities and were distributed to local businesses across the city. Flyers were also delivered to homes around Merewether, Dixon Park and Bar Beach.</p> <p>Additional flyers were also distributed at community engagement drop-in held sessions during the campaign.</p> <p>Signage was also installed at key locations along the coastline to promote the campaign and encourage feedback.</p> <p>Footpath decals were also installed along Bathers Way to promote the campaign and encourage feedback.</p> | <p>1,000 flyers at CN facilities, local businesses and at pop-up events</p> <p>1,000 flyers delivered to homes</p> <p>16 corflutes</p> <p>50 footpath decals</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
|  <p>Organic social media</p> | <p>An organic and paid social media campaign ran from 4 September to 23 November 2025.</p> <p>The posts provided key project information and encouraged viewers to visit the Have Your Say webpage to find out more and have their say.</p> | <p>202,789 Views</p> <p>114,885 Social media users reached</p> <p>774 Post engagements (shares, reactions, saves, comments etc.)</p> |
|  <p>Paid social media</p> | <p>A paid social media campaign ran from 4 September to 23 November 2025.</p> <p>The posts provided key project information and encouraged viewers to visit the Have Your Say webpage to find out more and have their say.</p> | <p>230,196 Impressions</p> <p>350,402 Social media users reached</p> <p>3,838 Link clicks</p> |
|  <p>Newsletters</p> | <p>Articles on the Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program were included in the Newcastle Connect e-Newsletters in the lead up to (education phase) and throughout the consultation period.</p> | <p>3,587 recipients</p> <p>16,895 opens</p> |
|  <p>Media coverage</p> | <p>A media release issued on 28 September generated substantial coverage across multiple outlets, including television news, front-page coverage in the Saturday newspaper, and significant radio exposure.</p> | <p>120 media contacts notified</p> <p>99,000 touchpoints across multiple channels (TV, Newspaper and Radio)</p> |
|  <p>Partner campaign</p> | <p>Feature blog posts, email marketing and social advertising collaborations with Newy with Kids and Hunter Hunter were delivered.</p> | <p>76,638 impressions, readers and views</p> |
|  <p>Pop up stalls</p> | <p>Pop-up stalls were held at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Festival, Hunter Wetlands Centre Sunday 28 September 2025 • Bar Beach on Thursday 2 October 2025 • Blackbutt Reserve on Saturday 11 October 2025 | <p>9 pop up stalls</p> <p>820 individual engagements</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayfield Day, Dangar Park on Saturday 18 October 2025 • Merewether Beach on Wednesday 22 October 2025 • Nobbys Beach on Wednesday 5 November 2025 • Bar Beach on Sunday 9 November 2025 • Dixon Park Beach on Sunday 16 November 2025 • Down the Park (youth event) on Thursday 20 November 2025 | |
|--|---|--|

4. Engagement activities

The community was invited to provide feedback on the management options being considered for the Bar Beach to Merewether section of coastline via an online survey between 28 September and 24 November 2025.

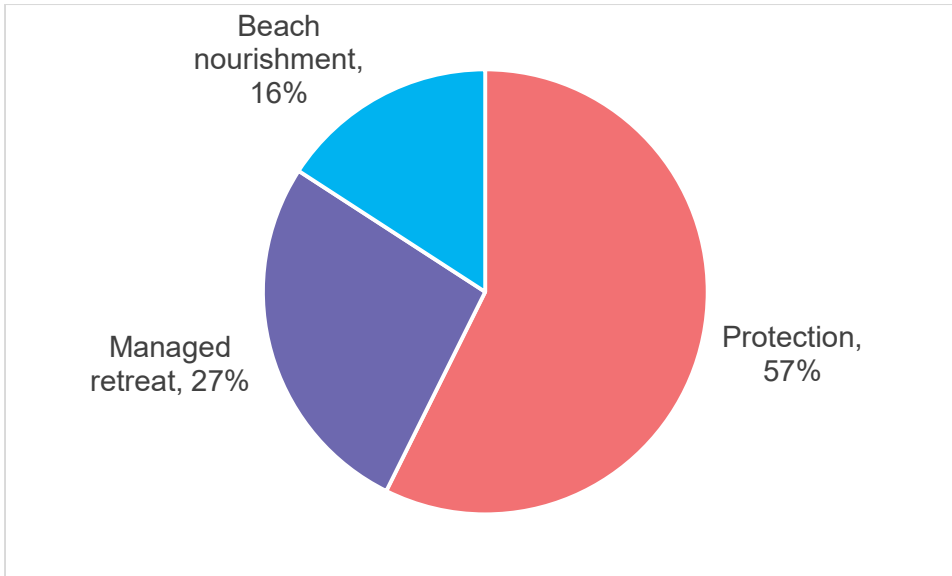
In total, **975** people provided feedback via the online survey and **429** people participated in the quick poll. CN also received **seven** detailed submissions from key stakeholders and interested community members.

Whilst we aimed to hear from as many people as possible during the consultation process, the online survey was 'opt-in', which means participants proactively sought to complete the survey as opposed to a sample of respondents being selected to more accurately reflect and represent the population makeup of the Newcastle community.

All feedback has been reviewed and will be considered as part of ongoing development of the Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP.

5. Quick poll

A brief community poll was conducted as a low-barrier entry point to participation in the consultation process (see Appendix II). The poll was designed to provide the community with a concise and accessible way to indicate preferences among the high-level management options currently being explored by CN. Results of the quick poll, in response to the question: *'based on what you know now, which of the following management strategies do you feel is the most appropriate overall?'* are presented below:



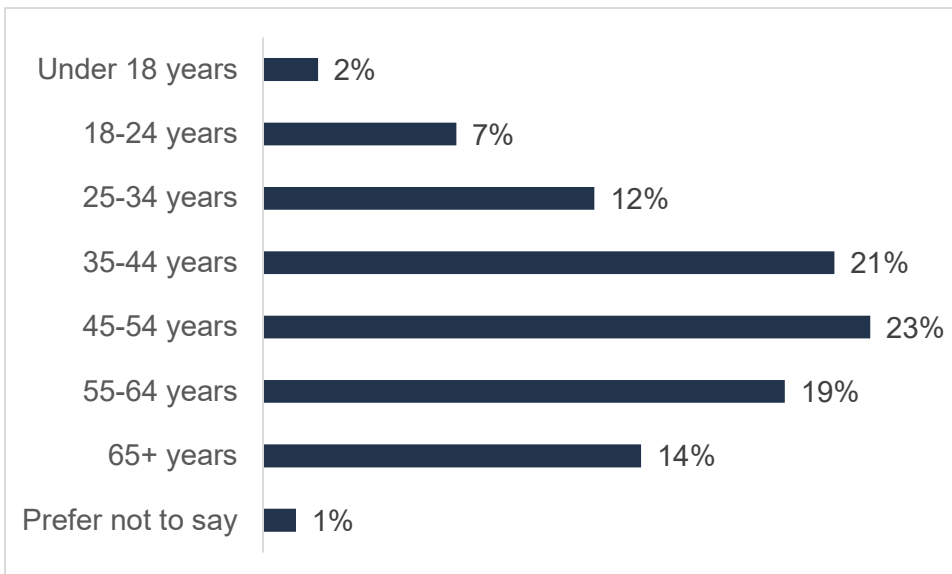
Total respondents: 429

6. Survey

Who we heard from

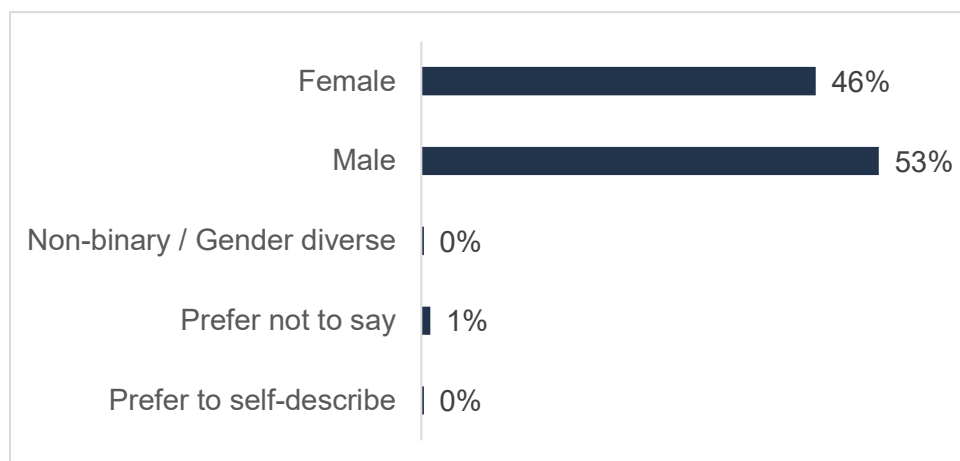
This section provides an overview of the demographic insights shared by respondents to the online survey (see Appendix III). By understanding who participated, we can assess the reach of our engagement efforts and identify any gaps in representation. The following data highlights the different demographics and user groups of people who contributed to the consultation.

What is your age?



Total respondents: 975

What is your gender?



Total respondents: 975

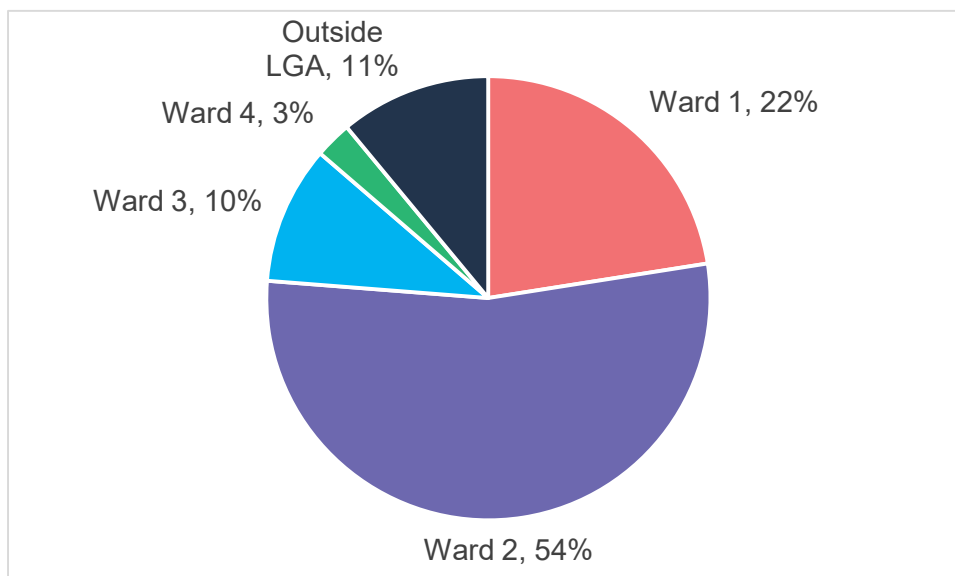
What suburb do you live in?

| Suburb | Total | Suburb | Total |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Carrington | 6 | Merewether Heights | 19 |
| Cooks Hill | 76 | The Junction | 27 |
| Islington | 12 | Birmingham Gardens | 1 |
| Maryville | 3 | Georgetown | 4 |
| Mayfield | 16 | Hamilton North | 5 |
| Mayfield East | 5 | Jesmond | 3 |
| Mayfield West | 4 | Lambton | 15 |
| Newcastle | 30 | New Lambton | 30 |
| Stockton | 4 | New Lambton Heights | 6 |
| The Hill | 29 | North Lambton | 6 |
| Tighes Hill | 12 | Rankin Park | 8 |
| Warabrook | 5 | Waratah | 17 |
| Wickham | 4 | Waratah West | 3 |
| Adamstown | 51 | Chisholm | 1 |
| Adamstown Heights | 29 | Fletcher | 3 |
| Bar Beach | 90 | Maryland | 2 |
| Broadmeadow | 9 | Metford | 1 |
| Hamilton | 19 | Minmi | 1 |
| Hamilton East | 10 | Shortland | 2 |
| Hamilton South | 39 | Wallsend | 16 |
| Kotara | 16 | Outside LGA | 109 |
| Merewether | 214 | | |

Total respondents: 975

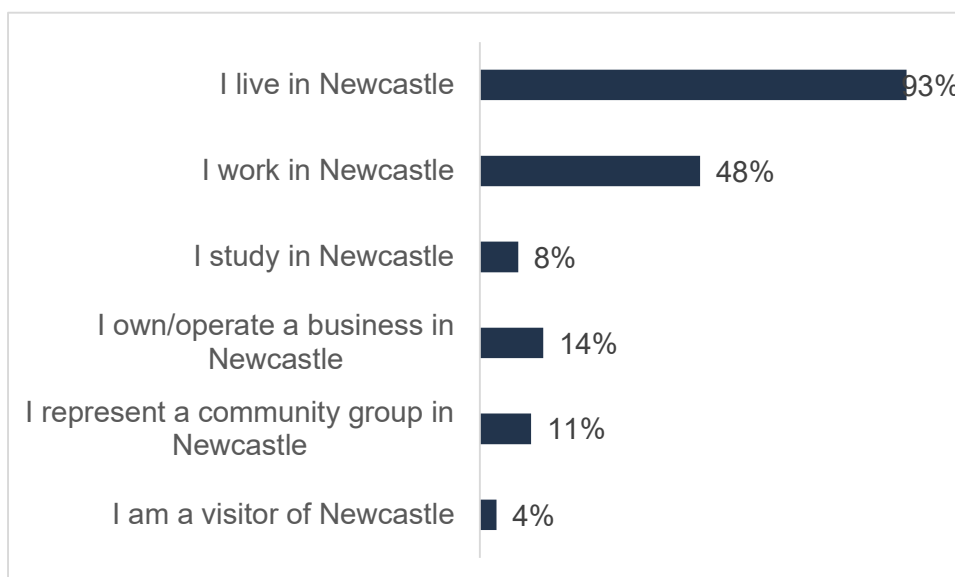
Ward breakdown:

Information in this table was derived from coded information.



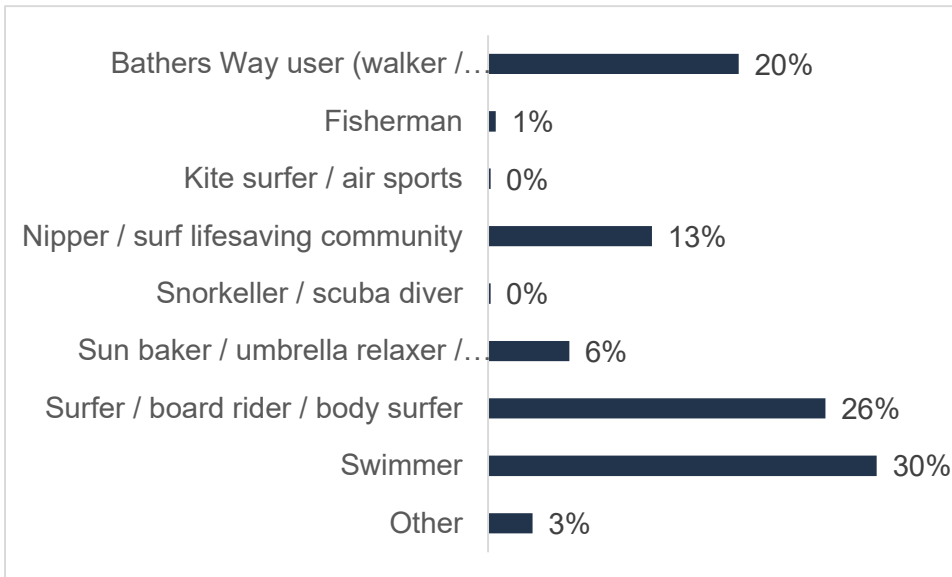
Total respondents: 975

What is your relationship with Newcastle?



Total respondents: 975

Which option best describes your usage of our coastline?



Total respondents: 975

The “other” responses reflected a broad and diverse range of ways people engage with the coastline, extending well beyond the predefined categories in the survey. Respondents identified as swimmers, surfers, cyclists, walkers, photographers, residents, surf life saving members (past and present), fisheries and aquatic services professionals, cultural practitioners, Landcare volunteers, café visitors, dog walkers, meditators and competitive beach users.

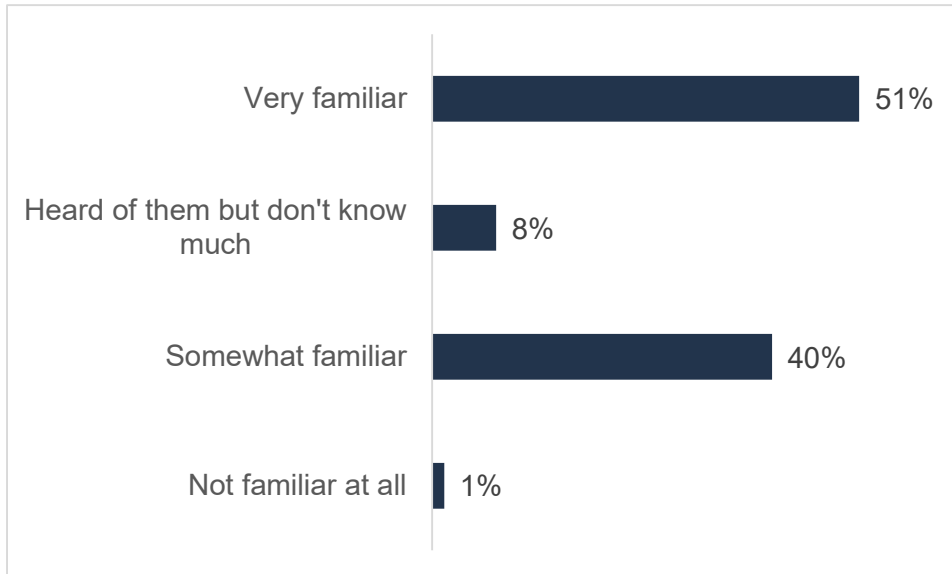
Many respondents emphasised that they use the area in multiple, overlapping ways, noting that limiting the question to a single choice was restrictive and did not reflect the full extent of their daily and seasonal activities. Several respondents also highlighted long-term personal connections to the coastline and expressed that their engagement spans recreation, culture, community involvement, and professional responsibilities.

What we heard

The following section outlines the results of the survey questions included in the *Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program – Bar Beach to Merewether Options Survey*. The survey was developed to better understand how the community uses the Bar Beach to Merewether stretch, the key issues of concern, and community preferences for the management options presented.

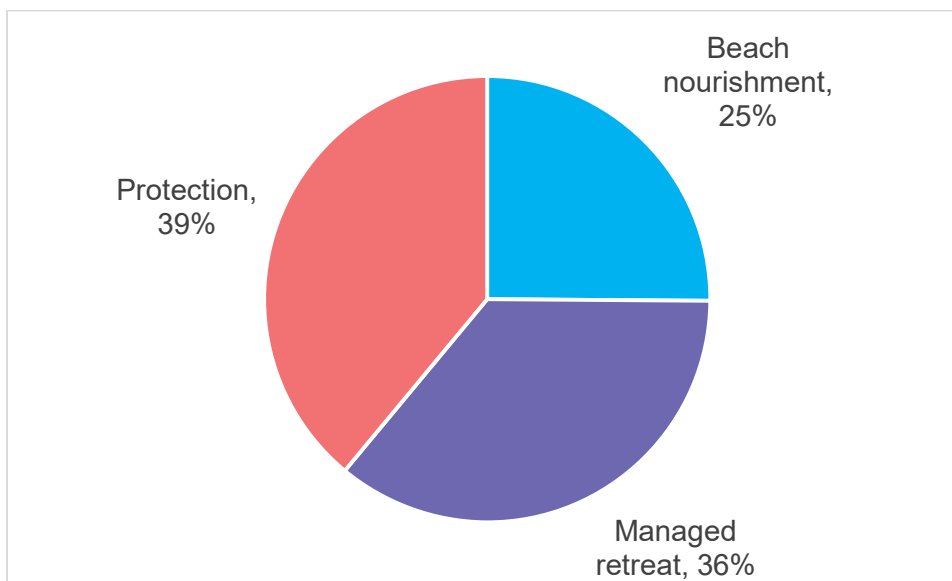
Participants were invited to share their connection to the coastline, how they use the area, and their views on the proposed management approaches. Analysing these responses supports a clearer understanding of community values, needs, and priorities that drove community preferences, and helps ensure that future coastal management and planning reflect community expectations and supports the long-term planning for the coastline.

Overall, how familiar are you with the issues facing our southern beaches?



Total respondents: 975

Based on what you know now, which of the following management strategies do you feel is the most appropriate overall?



Total respondents: 975

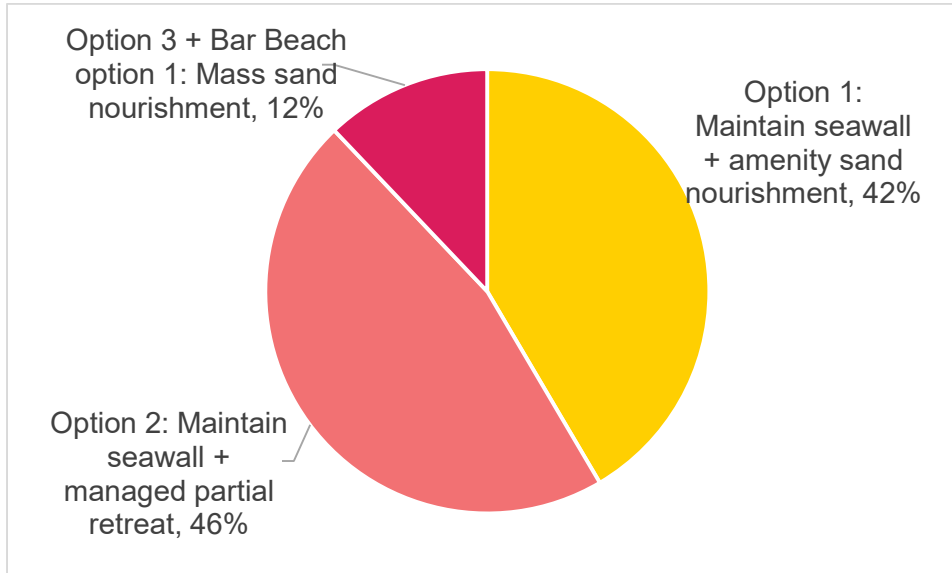
The following table provides a detailed overview of the demographic profile of respondents to the question: *based on what you know now, which of the following management strategies do you feel is the most appropriate overall?* It summarises responses by age, gender and key coastal user groups to illustrate the breadth and diversity of community opinion. This breakdown helps to contextualise the results by showing how each segment of the community feel about the options and ensures that the interpretation of findings reflects the perspectives of a wide cross-section of users who interact with this stretch of coastline.

Table 1: Results by demographic and user group for the overall management strategies

| | Total respondents | Beach nourishment | Protection | Managed retreat |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| <35 years | <i>N=210</i> | 25% | 36% | 39% |
| Male | <i>N=515</i> | 25% | 42% | 33% |
| Female | <i>N=444</i> | 25% | 36% | 39% |
| Ward 1 | <i>N=219</i> | 23% | 32% | 44% |
| Ward 2 | <i>N=523</i> | 25% | 41% | 34% |
| Ward 3 | <i>N=98</i> | 31% | 36% | 34% |
| Ward 4 | <i>N=26</i> | 19% | 54% | 27% |
| Bathers Way user (walker / runner / dog walker) | <i>N=91</i> | 28% | 39% | 33% |
| Fisherman | <i>N=6</i> | 33% | 33% | 33% |
| Kite surfer / air sports | <i>N=2</i> | 50% | 50% | 0% |
| Nipper / surf lifesaving community | <i>N=125</i> | 23% | 69% | 8% |
| Snorkeller / scuba diver | <i>N=2</i> | 0% | 50% | 50% |
| Sun baker / umbrella relaxer / sandcastle builder / picnicker / meditator | <i>N=62</i> | 23% | 37% | 40% |
| Surfer / board rider / body surfer | <i>N=257</i> | 21% | 26% | 54% |
| Swimmer | <i>N=296</i> | 27% | 39% | 34% |

Merewether Beach and Dixon Park management options

Of the options available for Merewether Beach and Dixon Park Beach, which is your most preferred?



Total respondents: 975

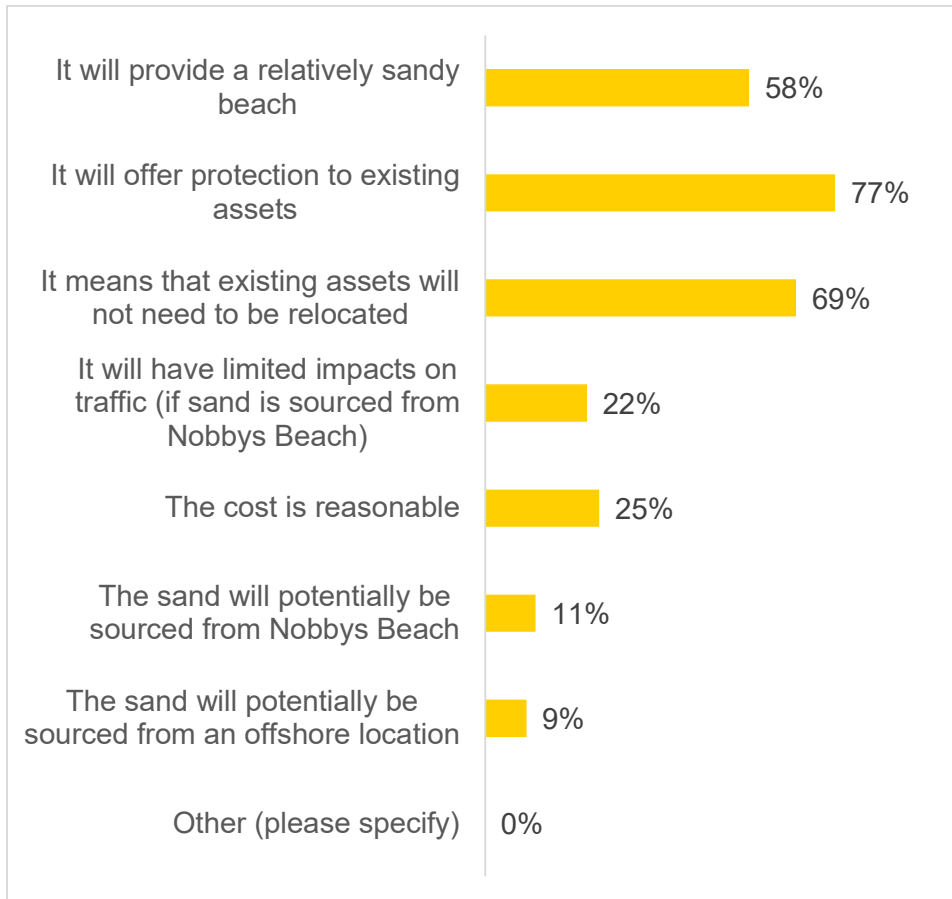
The following table provides a detailed overview of the demographic profile of respondents to the question: *of the options available for Merewether Beach and Dixon Park Beach, which is your most preferred?* It summarises responses by age, gender and key coastal user groups to illustrate the breadth and diversity of community opinion. This breakdown helps to contextualise the results by showing how each segment of the community feel about the options, and ensures that the interpretation of findings reflects the perspectives of a wide cross-section of users who interact with this stretch of coastline:

Table 2: Results by demographic and user group for the Merewether Beach and Dixon Park Beach options

| | Total respondents | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
|--|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| <35 years | N=210 | 38% | 53% | 9% |
| Male | N=515 | 42% | 45% | 13% |
| Female | N=444 | 41% | 48% | 11% |
| Ward 1 | N=219 | 36% | 55% | 9% |
| Ward 2 | N=523 | 43% | 44% | 13% |
| Ward 3 | N=98 | 46% | 46% | 8% |
| Ward 4 | N=26 | 42% | 35% | 23% |
| Bathers Way user (walker / runner / dog walker) | N=191 | 44% | 43% | 13% |
| Fisherman | N=6 | 33% | 50% | 17% |
| Kite surfer / air sports | N=2 | 100% | - | - |
| Nipper / surf lifesaving community | N=125 | 70% | 16% | 14% |
| Snorkeller / scuba diver | N=2 | 50% | 50% | - |
| Sun baker / umbrella relaxer / sandcastle builder / picnicker / meditator | N=62 | 40% | 53% | 6% |
| Surfer / board rider / body surfer | N=257 | 26% | 67% | 7% |
| Swimmer | N=296 | 43% | 42% | 15% |

Across most demographic breakdowns, including age, ward and most user groups the preferred options were consistent with the overall results (where there was a significant number of respondents). However, the surf life saving and the surfing and board riding user groups disproportionately favoured option 1 and option 2, respectively.

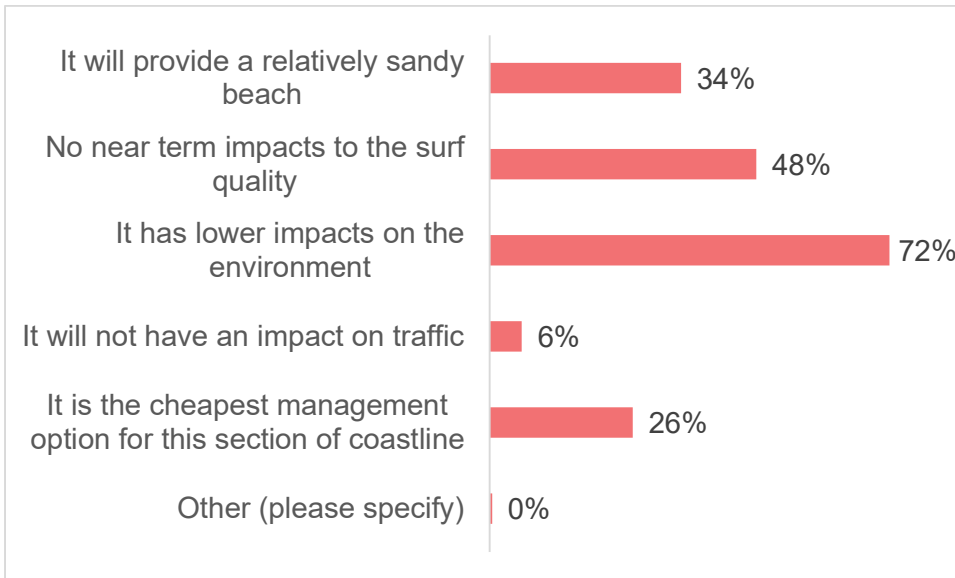
Can you let us know why this is your preferred option? [If “Option 1: Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment” was selected]:



Total respondents: 405

Across all demographic breakdowns, including age, ward and user group, the reasons for selecting *Option 1: Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment* are consistent with the overall results shown above.

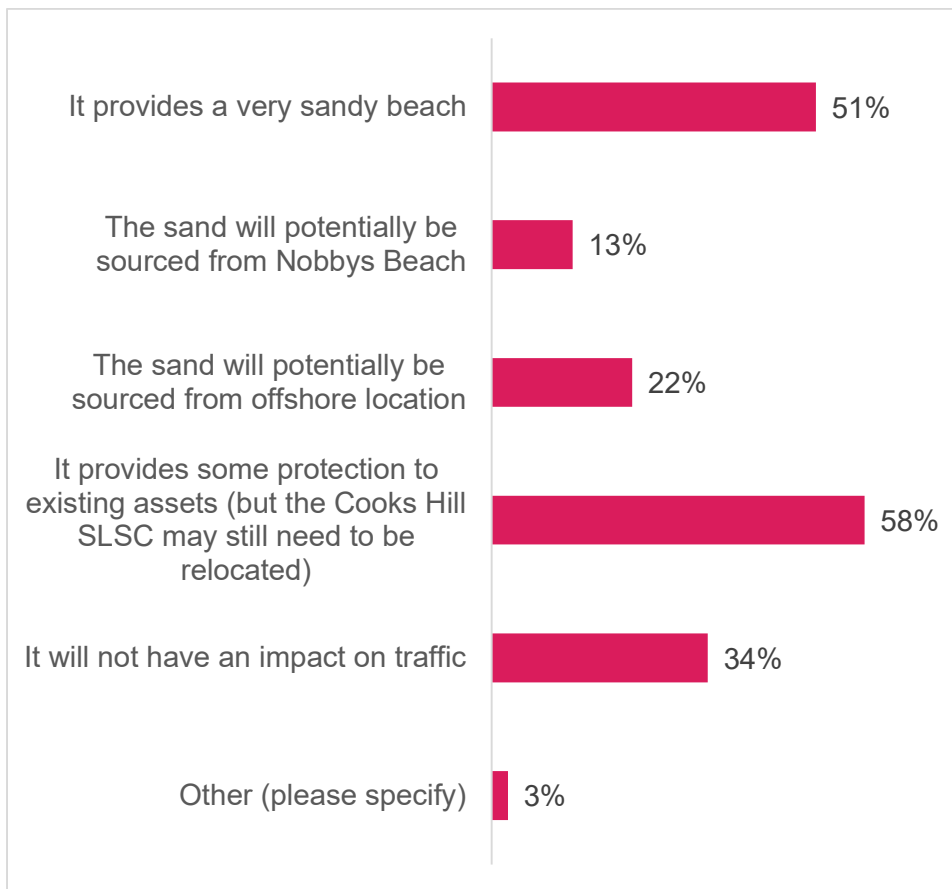
Can you let us know why this is your preferred option? [If “Option 2: Maintain seawall + managed partial retreat”] was selected:



Total respondents: 452

Across all demographic breakdowns, including age, ward and user group, the reasons for selecting *Option 2: Maintain seawall + managed partial retreat* are consistent with the overall results shown above.

Can you let us know why this is your preferred option? [If “Option 3 + Bar Beach option 1: Mass sand nourishment”] was selected:



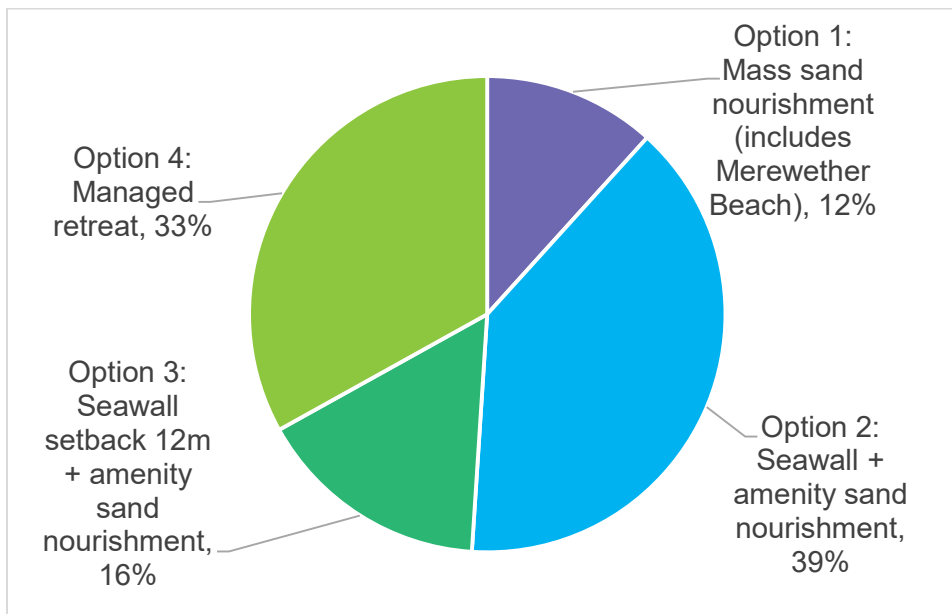
Total respondents: 118

Across most demographic breakdowns, including age, ward and user group, the reasons for selecting *Option 3 + Bar Beach option 1: Mass sand nourishment* are consistent with the overall results shown above. The exceptions to this are Wards 1 and 2 and the surfer / board rider / body surfer user group where the top reason is *'it provides a very sandy beach'*.

The feedback for the Merewether and Dixon Park coastline shows that large-scale sand nourishment is generally not supported by the community. People connected with surf lifesaving clubs strongly favoured the structural protection option (Option 1), while members of the surfing community showed strong support for the partial managed retreat option (Option 2). Among other groups with higher numbers of respondents, there was a slight preference for Option 2, particularly among younger people, Ward 1 residents and sandy beach users. Preferences between Options 1 and 2 were relatively even among Bathers Way users, swimmers, and respondents from Wards 2 and 3. Those preferring structural protection were motivated by wanting to keep existing buildings, pathways, and roads in their current locations while maintaining a sandy beach, while those favouring managed retreat were guided by a desire to minimise environmental impacts and maintain good surf quality.

Bar Beach management options

Of the options available for Bar Beach, which is your most preferred?



Total respondents: 974

The following table provides a detailed overview of the demographic profile of respondents to the question: *of the options available for Bar Beach, which is your most preferred?* It summarises responses by age, gender and key coastal user groups to illustrate the breadth and diversity of community opinion. This breakdown helps to contextualise the results by showing how each segment of the community feel about the options, and ensures that the interpretation of findings reflects the perspectives of a wide cross-section of users who interact with this stretch of coastline:

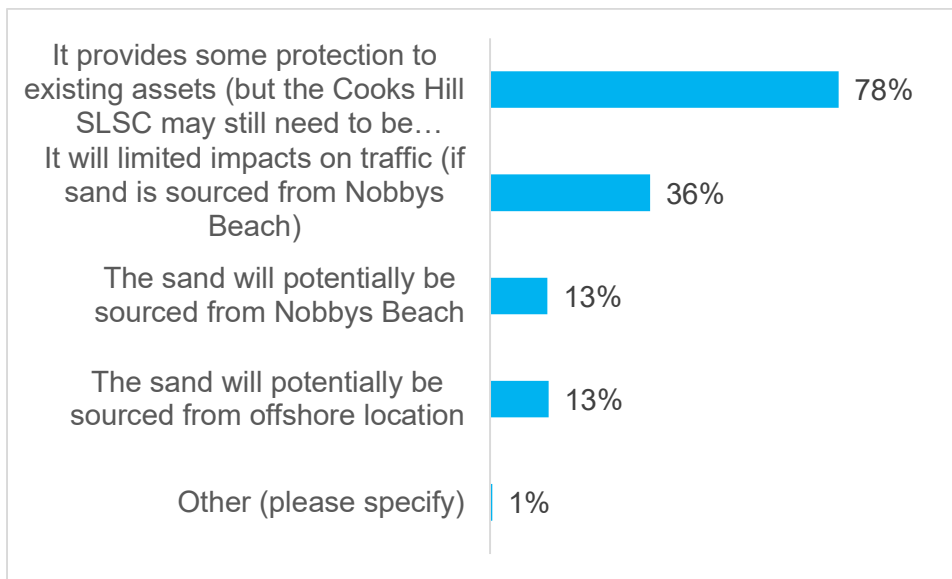
Table 3: Results by demographic and user group for the Bar Beach options

| | Total respondents | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <35 years | N=209 | 9% | 35% | 22% | 34% |
| Male | N=515 | 13% | 42% | 16% | 29% |
| Female | N=443 | 9% | 36% | 17% | 37% |
| Ward 1 | N=218 | 13% | 30% | 15% | 42% |
| Ward 2 | N=523 | 10% | 45% | 16% | 30% |
| Ward 3 | N=98 | 14% | 36% | 20% | 30% |

| | Total respondents | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|--|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Ward 4 | <i>N=26</i> | 15% | 38% | 15% | 31% |
| Bathers Way user (walker / runner / dog walker) | <i>N=190</i> | 13% | 39% | 17% | 30% |
| Fisherman | <i>N=6</i> | 17% | 17% | 17% | 50% |
| Kite surfer / air sports | <i>N=2</i> | 50% | 50% | - | - |
| Nipper / surf lifesaving community | <i>N=125</i> | 13% | 69% | 10% | 9% |
| Snorkeller / scuba diver | <i>N=2</i> | 50% | - | - | 50% |
| Sun baker / umbrella relaxer / sandcastle builder / picnicker / meditator | <i>N=62</i> | 11% | 29% | 26% | 34% |
| Surfer / board rider / body surfer | <i>N=257</i> | 10% | 27% | 13% | 50% |
| Swimmer | <i>N=296</i> | 10% | 42% | 18% | 30% |

Across most demographic breakdowns, including age, ward and most user groups the preferred options were consistent with the overall results (where there was a significant number of respondents). However, the surfing and board riding and surf life saving user groups disproportionately favoured option 4 and option 2, respectively.

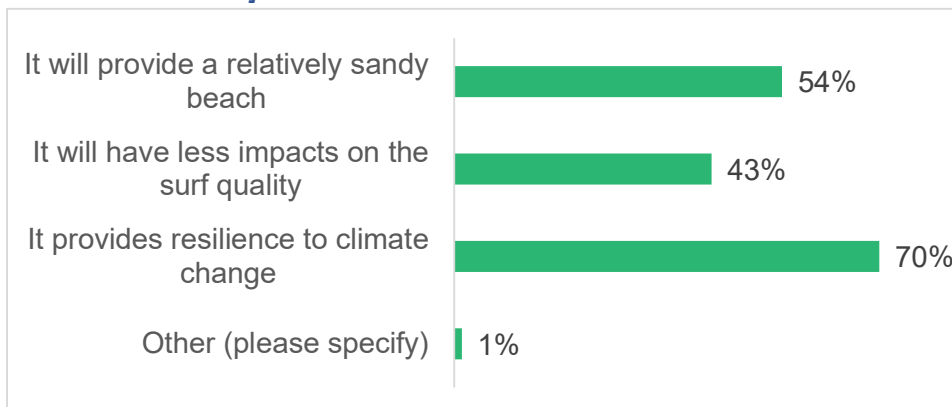
Can you let us know why this is your preferred option? [If “Option 2: Seawall + amenity sand nourishment”] was selected:



Total respondents: 383

Across all demographic breakdowns, including age, ward and user group, the reasons for selecting *Option 2: Seawall + amenity sand nourishment* are consistent with the overall results.

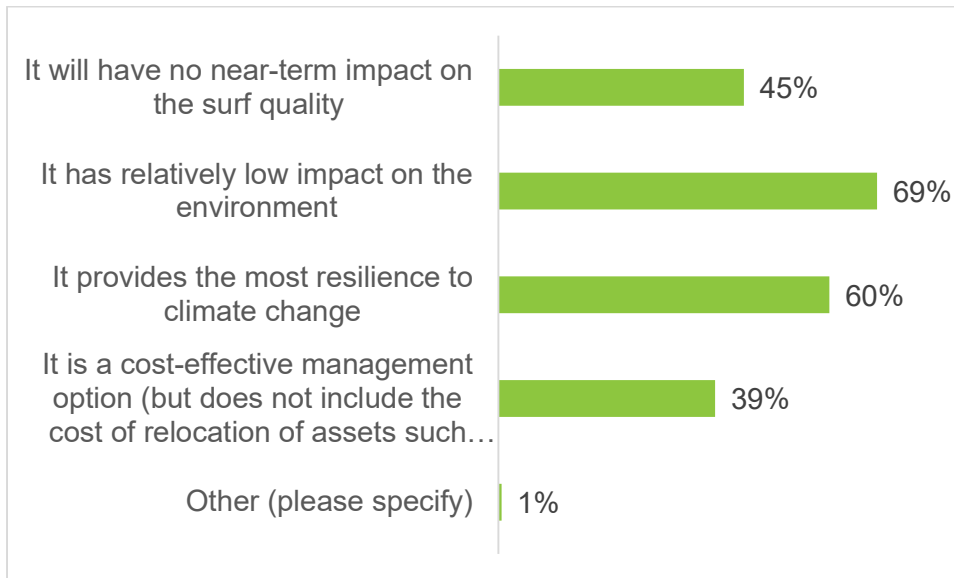
Can you let us know why this is your preferred option? [If “Option 3: Seawall setback 12m + amenity sand nourishment”] was selected:



Total respondents: 155

Across most demographic breakdowns, including age, ward and user group, the reasons for selecting *Option 3: Seawall setback 12m + amenity sand nourishment* were consistent with the overall results. However, Ward 3 participants differed slightly, with “it will provide a relatively sandy beach” being the top reason selected. For participants under 35 years, those in Ward 1, and the surfer/board rider/body surfer user group, “it will provide a relatively sandy beach” was less important than in the overall results.

Can you let us know why this is your preferred option? [If “Option 4: Managed retreat”] was selected:



Total respondents: 322

Across all demographic breakdowns, including age, ward and user group, the reasons for selecting *Option 4: Managed retreat* are consistent with the overall results.

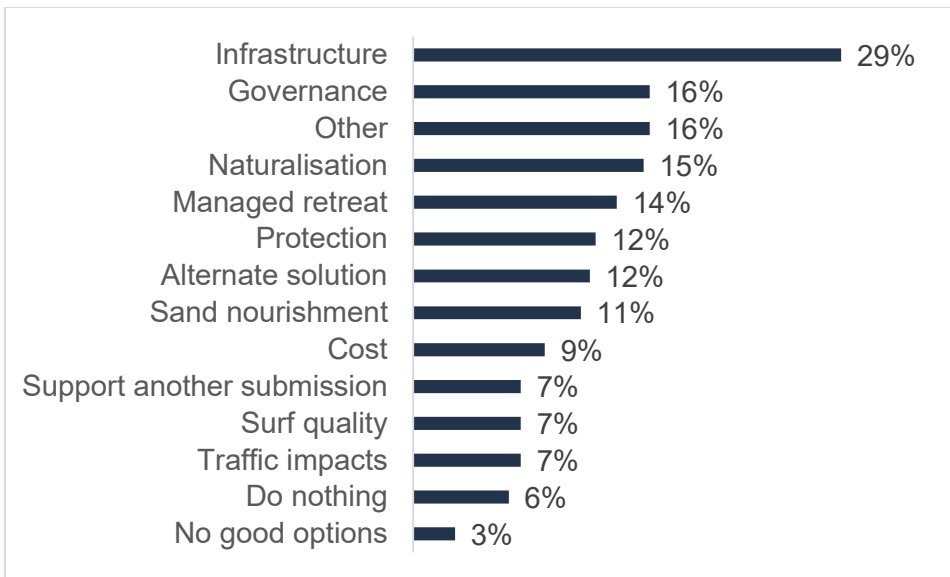
The feedback for the Bar Beach management options shows that mass sand nourishment was generally not supported by the community. Preference for a coastal management option here was generally split between a structural protection option along the existing alignment (Option 2), and a full managed retreat option (Option 4). People involved in the surf lifesaving community showed a very strong preference for Option 2, with steady support also coming from Ward 2 and 3 respondents, swimmers, and many people who frequently use the Bathers Way. Support for Option 4 was strongest among the surfing community, and this preference was echoed, though less strongly, by sandy beach users and people living in Ward 1. Younger respondents were relatively evenly split in their preference between Option 2 and Option 4. Those who favoured protection options were motivated by wanting to keep existing buildings, pathways and roads in their current locations. Those who preferred retreat options were more focused on reducing environmental impacts, improving climate resilience, and maintaining good surf quality.

Open text responses

The final section of the Have Your Say survey was an open text box allowing submitters to qualify their responses with any additional thoughts, comments or suggestions they might have. Comments grouped by themes of and representative examples of the comments received are shown below.

Do you have any other comments about how this section of coastline should be managed?

Information in this table was derived from coded information.



Total respondents: 476

Table 4: Sample comments by theme from the open-text feedback

Infrastructure

Comments within this theme referenced key coastal assets such as Bathers Way, the skatepark and the surf life saving club, expressing a wide range of views about their importance and whether they should be protected, adapted, relocated or allowed to change over time.

We have invested a lot in bathers way and the surf club is an important asset. Keep them where they are and protect this infrastructure rather than demolish and move them.

Key considerations are environmental concerns and tourist / resident enjoyment. Degrade the surf and you degrade the community. People will find new places to walk if bathers way is impacted. They always have.

Your comments about CHSLSC are too vague to assess what you really have in mind. This is creating anxiety, noting that this is the most popular club for nippers and many in the community. The club has a long history that should be maintained. Moving the club buildings somewhat inland is a sensible option but it cannot be left to the club to finance such a move given moving it will save moneys compared with other options. Sand replacement is not going to work long-term and is expensive, while seawalls have limited lives. Any coastal engineer will know that one has to accept the gradual movement of the coastline, and that trying to stop it is ultimately doomed to fail. It seems to me that you need to carry out some education about coastal processes and what is actually possible before you ask these option questions.

Newcastle has a surfing culture and many events, including international, have been won because of this. This is a natural progression of the environment. We are the invaders and we need to make changes to fit in with the environment not the other way. Haven't these lessons been learnt from history?! These natural changes should have been considered when the

infrastructure such as roads and skate parks were built. Do not sacrifice our way of life because of poor planning.

We live near the beach due to the surf and thriving natural environment. If you destroy the waves or hinder the environment the coastline loses its magic and why it is popular with community. Carparks and surf clubs can be rebuilt but once you have trashed the environment, it's gone forever.

Adaptation to the changing climate and putting the environment first is a pathway that needs more attention than the loss of infrastructure. The latter can be rebuilt / relocated. This is the only earth we have.

Under any option we must protect our iconic Bathers Way! It can't be reduced in width or diverted away from the coast. Maintain a 4-6m wide Bathers Way, parallel to the beach.

It would be ridiculous to allow the beach to take over memorial drive along that stretch. Driving along the beach is a part of what makes Newcastle so special. People who have paid high rates for their whole lives in Bar Beach Avenue and Parkway would have their property values decimated by choosing that strategy.

Although it is a shame that over the years there has been development in inappropriate locations across our coast, and some assets will need to be relocated, allowing the natural processes take place has to be the best option.

Nothing should be done, leave it as it is. Don't mess with nature. The Cooks Hill surf club was originally built in the wrong place and should be moved.

It would be great to keep the existing amenities, such as the walking path, road, slsc, and cafes. It's such a beauty drive/ walk through the area.

Is it possible to consider a man-made reef (as used in other cases of sea erosion) to help offset any future potential erosion?

Don't move cooks hill surf club

Governance

Comments within this theme ranged from strong support to criticism of the consultation process and included views that expert judgement should guide decision. Concerns were raised about political influence and perceived pre-determined outcomes, and appreciation was expressed for the depth of work and research undertaken.

Thanks for providing the opportunity to comment. I realise most people don't have time /capacity to understand the different issues but it would have been useful to also share case studies/examples of what has happened in other area when different approaches are taken. I

think sharing pictures, providing real world examples would help give the community better understanding of realistic outcomes for the different options

The information proved needs to much clearer than a bunch of smiley or non smiling faces. The options you provide are not clear as you state for one option discussed that something else might happen as well. The statements you offer for selection must be clear eg when discussing Merewether-Dixon Park, a reference is made to Bar Beach and then Bar Beach also has its own section. No scientific research has been provided in this exercise just a bunch of unclear options.

Yes. On many fronts. How has an area, so important to the community of Newcastle not been properly communicated or consulted.

Invite the community in for discussion.

Option 3 [managed retreat] is disruptive long term to the whole community.

This has been rushed, and it appears at the agenda of a (temporary) person(s) in power, who were not voted in and therefore representative of the community.

Just let the experts who are coastal engineers determine the best way forward. They are the experts in their field. Great to have a balance with community voice but it should determine the outcome. Let the coastal engineers determine the outcome.

I love these beaches but feel we have to be realistic about the impacts of climate change and how we can coexist with nature. I trust council and experts to make a responsible decision that will be mindful of future generations.

Stop trying to scam the general public to get approval for your vision

Stop the hand wringing & politics that go with it. Stop the static desk top planning & autoCAD lead scenarios that assume engineering can fix this. There's nothing to fix other than preventing any further consultants & engineers covering their warranty by leading management decisions unsafely & without adequate balance. This is not Stockton Beach. Over-reach & over-reaction is leading options to be manifestly ill-conceived. The vision of Bathers Way in this section was ill-conceived. This represents a continuation of the inherent failures in design & construction. Your preference for seawalls & sand pumping is ludicrous, as us the suggestion the stretch of beach could end up resembling the Harbour foreshore. You need to understand the geo history of the past 200 years & the way a natural system handled a moving seashore, particularly with Dixon Park inundation & retention. It is a dynamic system the sees amenities change such as roads, paths & parks. It ain't Sydney Harbour. Cast you consultants' net far wider & seek a broader spectrum of professional geo viewpoints. You're being sold a pup.

Thank you for the work being put into considering this.

This has been the most poorly run community consultation that I have EVER seen. You are talking about fundamentally changing access to the beach. How long have you been sitting on

this information - is this why you've resisted any development at Bar Beach, or are you still greedy for revenue from the Surf Club if you ever bothered to upgrade it.

Council staff have approached this project with a predetermined outcome in mind. The booths are staffed with a push polling approach and the survey options are limited in that they do not include a "leave as is" or "other option. The "engineers report" which Council purports to rely on is based on flawed assumptions. Council has created a campaign based on an unproven threat and are scaring the community into an expensive and ill-considered plan.

I understand barristers have been briefed to injunct Council if they push forward with the more radical aspects of this plan and I intend to make a significant contribution to the legal costs.

Not my area of expertise however it is clear a lot of thought and research has gone into the planning of options. It does appear there is no win-win option, and an aspect of the community will be left disappointed regardless of the result which is no easy feat.

A bullet needs biting, but I don't if any political party has the courage to even suggest the necessary solutions.

Other

Comments that did not align with any of the identified themes were categorised as 'other'.

Minimal maintenance work has been done at Bar Beach over the decades to safeguard the foundations of the beachside assets.

This also should not be funded by the tax and rate payer. This issue is due to the extended breakwater that benefits the coal mines and exporters, and additional levies for the use of the harbour should be implemented.

This should be a high priority as Bar Beach is used by young families and the elderly and access is very difficult at present to get down to the sand area to enjoy a swim, surf and children to play and build sand castles.

Yes I feel extremely strongly that there should be acknowledgement of Indigenous peoples all along bathers way in the form of signage walking tours online and art works as there is nothing currently while there humorous tributes to coal surfing and bathing.

It is also the busiest training ground for new surf lifesavers in the country, something that ALL of the community included visitors and new migrants benefit from.

Please preserve free parking. It is a wonderful asset.

Sand movement is normal and will come back in due course, stop try to trying to change nature. Please remove temporary fencing let us enjoy our coast line.

NCC should step up to their job and protect tax payers rights

From my 63 years of living within 300m of Bar Beach, it appears that historical events have been forgotten or ignored.

Naturalisation

Comments within this theme emphasised the need for more natural, sustainable and environmentally friendly approaches that minimise ecological impacts, with many suggesting that management should work with natural processes rather than against them. The importance of protecting people's ability to enjoy and use the beach was highlighted.

The surf, beach & dune systems work together. There are no dune systems in a lot of our local beaches, hence the mass erosion. The more we can return these areas to a functioning natural ecosystem, the better our beautiful coastline will be. Roads and concrete paths severely impact the movement of sand and the natural environmental cycles & cues of this ecosystem.

More built structures will have other impacts moving forward. The less human involvement the better.

I think the environmental impact is very important in managing the changing coastline.

As a regular beach goer at Bar Beach and Bathers Way user, I will be saddened by the loss of the outdoor walking space. However, protecting the use of the beach, maintaining surf conditions and minimising the impact on the environment is more important. On balance, managed retreat appears to be the least worst option.

Protecting the natural environment and going with it, instead of against it, seems like the most logical, sustainable and cost effective option across the board.

The revegetation and rehabilitation of the riparian areas surround the beach should be implemented further, increase in local ecology will have greater impacts in the long term to the stabilisation of the coastline with improved erosion resistance. It will also give the community opportunity to participate in the care and protection of their local areas.

While sand nourishment may sound like the best solution, the impact to important reef habitat should be considered. Sand movement is unpredictable offshore and has potential to cover existing rocky reef which is key fish habitat and supports important communities of marine species.

A range of options in combination that considers all environmental and social factors would be appropriate.

We can't beat mother nature and need to accept that the coastline and beaches are not static places.

If there is a greater role that coastal vegetation can play in stabilising dunes, I'm very supportive of that.

Resilience to climate change, minimising environmental impact and preserving the top quality surf that attract tourists, bring community together, continue to promote young people to move to newy (community growth), and provide healthy outdoor life style are the top priorities for me.

Our coastline is forever changing which is what makes it so beautiful. Moving and relocating sand may not necessarily mean it stays where it's placed only potentially creating future problems. As for memorial drive, almost every other beachfront residential road in Newcastle is one way, limiting traffic, speeding and improving safety for young families, cyclists and pedestrians alike.

Managed retreat

Comments within this theme addressed managed retreat, with some strongly supporting it and others firmly opposing it, noting trade-offs such as traffic and access. Several remarked that trying to retain assets at the expense of a natural beach is unsustainable given climate change and that retreat may ultimately be unavoidable.

Protecting the natural environment and going with it, instead of against it, seems like the most logical, sustainable and cost effective option across the board.

I do not like the option of relocating the Seawall back 12 meters and one lane traffic along memorial drive. I also do not like the option of a full managed retreat and losing infrastructure.

There is no point hardening coastline too much as it just shifts erosion elsewhere and is largely ineffective against the effects of the increasing storms and sea levels. Managed retreat is the only long term feasible option.

I live on Parkway Ave and so I imagine I will be heavily impacted by the increase in traffic this option will create. This to me is a fair trade off for living in a part of the city shared with so many who don't have the same privilege. The environment and a long term sustainable plan should have a greater weight than the protection of 'assets'. This is short term thinking and not thinking of future generations.

We can't fight climate change, a loss of assets is inevitable, but a managed retreat can ensure we are flexible and adapt to the increase in erosion of our beaches as it happens, and we can make the most of our beaches in terms of surf quality and have less environmental impact, which

less we forget is how we got to this place in the first place environmental degradation by pumping Co2 into our atmosphere and ignoring signs of a warming planet.

Managed retreat is the safest long term option that doesn't feel like a band aid solution. I think it's also the most reasonable way to adjust to the increasing rate of climate change. As an archaeologist working in Aboriginal cultural heritage management, I don't see how we can safely source large amounts of sand in Australia without impacting potential Aboriginal ancestral burial sites, and middens/artefact sites etc depending where the sand is sourced. It is also a band aid solution. Seawalls have demonstrated further erosion around the end points as you mentioned, plus it won't stop sand eroding/moving down the coastline. This also impacts the surf. As a runner and walker who also uses the footpath (and the reason I love Newcastle so much) is because it runs along the ocean. This can also be adjusted and managed with the managed retreat of assets.

DO NOT DO RETREAT !

I think it should be left alone for nature to take its course unless there is a threat to sea life or human life. Small measures as required are better than major changes as no one can predict the future. Removal of human structures near the beach seems the most logical to me. Leave nature alone as much as possible.

The coastline is Newcastle's most precious asset. As such, we need to ensure it is available for future generations, regardless of the impact of loss of roads, infrastructure or conveniences.

I have been an active user of Bar Beach since 1956 and I have seen many sand erosion and replenishment cycles since then. The worst erosion being the Sygna storm in 1974 and again the sand replenished naturally. Historical photos show that Bar Beach has not changed in hundreds of years so retreating the coastline is a major overreaction. If anything a seawall could be insurance for any future concerns.

Protection

Comments within this theme presented a range of views on protection measures, with some strongly opposing seawalls and others seeing them as the only viable option. Several respondents noted that protection does not have to involve large concrete structures, referencing places like Memorial Drive, and the desire to maintain existing assets for as long as possible, contrasted by those who argued that protecting infrastructure should not come at the cost of losing a functional, natural beach.

Sea walls are brutal, expensive, and effectively destroy the very things that we all love about this most unique and special piece of this precious coastline.

There is no point hardening coastline too much as it just shifts erosion elsewhere and is largely ineffective against the effects of the increasing storms and sea levels.

Sea wall first. Sand has been removed and replaced on this beach for as long as I can remember. Look how much sand is there now!

Beach nourishment and foreshore armouring have been demonstrated repeatedly to be short term, very expensive options (they shift the impacts elsewhere, require continual investment and ultimately do not protect the foreshore from severe events).

The protection of buildings and council assets are the priority. This doesn't mean massive concrete walls.

New seawalls should be avoided unless set back.

Our beaches need to be protected but taking into account that sand comes and goes and beaches do get replenished naturally. We want to keep our assets as they are, protect the houses and land around them. Do not divert traffic and ruin the local environment. Don't make hasty decisions, we need to think through our future and not change our environment drastically. Protect, protect, protect.

A managed retreat would be the worst option by far. If Memorial Drive was sacrificed, Empire Park (which is lower lying) would follow soon after. Memorial Drive, Empire Park, Dixon Park, and John Parade are all iconic features of Newcastle should be preserved at all costs. A combination of beach nourishment and sea wall(s) would probably be the best option. Would it be possible to source sand from the Stockton Beach sand dunes?

Memorial drive is the one of the main roads into Newcastle CBD and must be kept. Bar beach and Dixon Park are the premier beaches in Newcastle with huge usage and must be protected. There are numerous houses in the immediate vicinity that must be protected. This uncertainty is hurting Newcastle' growth.

I think we should try to maintain what we have for as long as we can. The vibe of the beach and the waves and the walking along the water is crucial. Retreating seems like giving up, then when does it end? We should try to keep our beautiful swimming beaches for as long as we can.

Protection is the correct action.

Alternate solution

Comments within this theme explored alternative solutions to traditional protection measures, including suggestions for surf reefs, references to natural rocky outcrops that already provide some protection for infrastructure like surf clubs, and other ideas proposing that different options could offer far better outcomes than those currently under consideration.

Build a surf reef, why isn't this even listed! it's never going to keep some surfers happy, isn't it the only option.

From the Dixon Park surf club to Cooks Hill surf club I noted the presence of insitu rock outcrops in some cases just slightly covered by dunes, this was visible from the cliff to cooks hill surf club in early 2025.

Construction of stairs (to access the beach) along bar beach have taken advantage of the insitu rock formation to seat the foundations of the stairs.

I believe there is an opportunity to use the rock outcrops just behind the current dune location as a foundation for protection works especially adjacent to the area closed off by fencing near Cooks Hill club. In that area I've noted rock outcrop - insitu just behind the current dune.

Protection works incorporating the rock outcrop would likely assist in preventing further retreat of the dune during storms in that area.

Is there a way to combine some proposed changes. Why is option 1 (bar beach) even an option...could've thought of something way better.

Sand nourishment

Some viewed sand nourishment as a strong option while others argued it is ineffective, costly and quickly washes away. Additional suggestions, ranged from adopting sand-pumping or barge systems, like those on the Gold Coast, or partnering with neighbouring councils. There were concerns that the environmental impacts of sand nourishment could be too damaging.

We see huge volumes of sand removed overnight when big seas and large tides unite - adding sand is a very expensive and short term prospect with no end point.

A balanced approach to maintain the current coastline should be the approach. A Seawall and sand nourishment to maintain the current beach landscape. Is purchasing a dredge an option as a long term cost saving option and to potentially lease to other areas requiring sand nourishment.

Why are you taking sand from Nobbys and will it be off shore?

While sand nourishment may sound like the best solution, the impact to important reef habitat should be considered. Sand movement is unpredictable offshore and has potential to cover existing rocky reef which is key fish habitat and supports important communities of marine species.

I have lived by the sea my entire life, the sand comes and goes, massive storm lose the beach, 3 months later the beach is back, it's a cycle, putting sand back on a beach is a total waste of time.

The elevation change between the street and bar beach is the difference between it and Mereweather-Dixon.

Pumping sand from Nobbys will just make Nobbys worse. I feel pumping sand is a band aid on the problem and something like a sea wall is a management strategy.

Keep the surf as natural as possible. It would be terrible to end up with a massive sea wall and no beach or be paying for constant sand replacement.

Solid rock bass underneath just needs sand nourishment.

Cost

Comments within this theme focused on the cost of management options, with some arguing that any investment would be a waste, and others insisting the coastline should be managed regardless of cost. Additional concerns were raised about long-term and ongoing expenses, with several respondents noting that they felt the full financial implications had not been clearly provided.

With the least amount of funds wasted and keep what is existing. Sand comes and goes with large storms.

Keep the surf as natural as possible. It would be terrible to end up with a massive sea wall and no beach or be paying for constant sand replacement.

All I can do is reiterate my previous comment. Nourishment of any kind goes against the principles of both economic and ecological resilience and sustainability. Environments are changing and we owe it to future generations to set in place sustainable practices. I am under no illusions what a difficult challenge this is politically, particularly considering the disproportionate wealth and influence the closer to the coastline one gets. But allowing nature to 'recalibrate' the coastline on its own is the only way. Nourishment is fighting nature, and no one wins a fight with nature in the long term.

No, spend the money and stop trying to cut costs.

Our community assets should be protected, the artificial sourcing of sand is a prohibitive ongoing cost.

I've preferred managed retreat options since I think the other options are expensive interim measures that will culminate in managed retreat. I am also concerned that assumptions in the other options are high risk, particularly assuming availability of suitable sand for 'nourishment'.

I have records 1942 to 2025 of when this damage has occurred. Debunks climate change.. take into account Bench Life and Preventative Maintenance. Also investment over cost.

I am very concerned about costs.

Protection of existing community assets is essential in my view. There seems, albeit at an early stage, that the cost of looks as if no costs to community of asset loss or replacement costs are included which may be considerable.

The cost and uncertainty of a managed retreat does not seem in any way to be a viable option, and it is outrageous that surrendering assets and roads without attempting protection is considered a viable alternate to a protection strategy.

Given how we have let climate change run away there will be so many ways we have to adapt so being realistic and cost effective is important.

The council should invest in our most valuable and popular beach assets. This is the reason we live here and why this area is becoming increasingly popular. There has been a historic investment in this facility and the council should commit to its ongoing maintenance and protection.

Support another submission

Comments within this theme included references to, and expressions of support for, submissions made by various clubs and committees.

I support the submission to the CMP by the Merewether Surfboard Club, the bar reef board riders and the Merewether national surfing reserve committee (33 of 36 responses received stating they support another submission).

I support the Bar Beach board riders submission (3 of 36 responses received stating they support another submission)

Surf quality

Comments within this theme highlighted differing views on surf quality, with some emphasising that it is central to Newcastle's identity, and others arguing that decisions should not prioritise a relatively small user group of surfers. Several respondents noted that major events such as Surfest depend on maintaining high-quality surf conditions.

Protect the surf it is Newcastle's most valuable asset.

Don't do anything that makes the surf worse.

What will happen to our surf culture if there is no surf? This is the heart of Newcastle!

Should be best managed for surf quality and beach quality.

Keep the surf as natural as possible. It would be terrible to end up with a massive sea wall and no beach or be paying for constant sand replacement.

Newcastle's greatest asset is that it has a beautiful coastline with amazing surf beaches. Whilst I mostly swim, I enjoy the surf. A form of management which eliminates or reduces that amenity would be a disaster.

Primary concern that whatever option is adopted full consideration be giving to impact on surf amenity for future generations.

Detrimental impacts on surf quality will not be palatable. I think relocation of surf clubs and parts of roads will be more palatable than surf quality impacts. Surf here is an important economic, recreational and cultural driver that needs to be maintained.

Managed Retreat is the only sustainable strategy that accounts for climate change, rising sea levels, increased storm activity and the natural changes along a coastline. It also happens to be the cheapest option. Countless studies from multiple countries around the world, including Australia, demonstrate that hard engineered structures along a dynamic coastline don't work and only shift the problem further along the coast. Newcastle is a globally renowned surf town with an incomparable connection to the sea. Any coastal management plan that alters the movement of sand or changes the natural behaviour of the coastline should be rejected. Preservation of the natural environment and the surf quality should always come before the protection of buildings and other manmade structures.

Manage it however is needed to protect the short and long term surf quality, don't let Newcastle lose sight of its surfing heritage.

Acknowledging that I am not a surfer, I see the 'bayification' of this stretch as a benefit rather than a negative impact.

Traffic impacts

Comments within this theme addressed traffic impacts, with some suggesting the road layout should change and not prioritise cars, and others arguing that increased congestion and loss of parking would be unacceptable. Some respondents were concerned about spill-over impacts on surrounding streets, with others indicating that these impacts may be an acceptable trade-off for coastal protection or adaptation.

For some time I have felt that Memorial Drive should be one way only; as has been achieved from Nobbys heading south.

This would allow for a wider walking path and designated cycle path.

This could coincide with the council's plans to manage the coastline in a better and safer way for all users.

Concerned for traffic changes.

Where the council has spent lots of money already as in the case of the Merewether to Dixon Park and the cliff I believe seawalls should be maintained. For the area of the coast from the cliff to Bar beach seawalls should be setback. Memorial Drive should be made into a one way all the way to Strezlecki lookout. A roundabout or similar could be constructed at Parkway Avenue allowing access to the Bar Beach Car Park and Memorial Drive. A similar situation of a car park entrance at Bar Beach Avenue with more parking available at Empire Park. The skatepark and the bathers way walk should be retained and moved in need. After an initial dump of sand I believe we should let the sand come and go naturally and only top up if we have excess sand at Nobbys.

Prioritise protection of surf clubs and maintain two way traffic on memorial drive.

The removal of memorial drive until a retreat strategy would make traffic and parking problems worse for the local community and visitors, as well as the loss of community assets, such as the skate park, empire park and the bowling club.

Seawall from Cooks Hill surf club to the cliff protect memorial drive.

The roads are used as "hot rod roads" for dickheads on performance motorbikes, super cars etc. local traffic is fine with one way traffic. People can walk 100m from a carpark to the beach just like anywhere else in NSW. Eg redhead. The road next to Merewether and bar beach should be green space / parklands / staged retreat not a main thoroughfare road.

More green spaces, trees, playgrounds. encourage natural vegetation on dunes to support their structure. Provide footpaths, amenities like cafes, cycle paths, restaurants etc. get rid of the road and parking lots. Put a tram through Darby Street so everyone can access it.

Reduce the amount of human traffic overall including vehicles and pedestrians to maintain effective vegetation protection and cover.

Options to move back 12m and make memorial dr one way, with large car park on memorial drive, are truly horrible solutions. Totally disruptive and unworkable

Do nothing

Comments within this theme called for a "do nothing" approach, with some claiming the issue is exaggerated by Council, and others asserting that climate change is not real or relevant to this coastline. Several respondents argued that natural sand movement means no intervention is needed and a non-action option should be included.

The plan is a complete over reaction. How much did the report cost ratepayers. The recommendations leading to the development of management options appear to be a complete panic attack.

Yes, why is there not a Do Nothing option with ongoing monitoring, what is the urgency that an interventionist option has to be set in place now?

Leave it. Sand comes and goes. Ridiculous option to move the road etc. The people who pushed the agenda that the oceans are rising look pretty silly.

No good options

Comments within this theme acknowledged that there are no perfect solutions for managing the coastline and that trade-offs are inevitable, reflecting an understanding that any option will involve compromises.

None of these options are perfect but I believe the priorities should be to maintain existing assets, protect the beach & the surf break.

As a regular beach goer at Bar Beach and Bathurst Way user, I will be saddened by the loss of the outdoor walking space. However, protecting the use of the beach, maintaining surf conditions and minimising the impact on the environment is more important. On balance, managed retreat appears to be the least worst option.

Regardless of efforts. It seems this is the only long term viable solution.

Not my area of expertise however it is clear a lot of thought and research has gone into the planning of options. It does appear there is no win-win option and an aspect of the community will be left disappointed regardless of the result which is no easy feat.

No. There is no way you will stop the erosion at bar beach over the next few decades.

I feel there is no absolute perfect solution. We are experience environmental impacts that cannot be ignored and there is no solution that will suit all. I think a balanced approach needs to be taken - consideration of cost to tax payers and other stakeholders as well as not completely destroying a part of the coast that is so integral to Newcastle's way of life. Good that we are doing something proactive about it now, rather than being completely reactive when we have less options (when erosion and environmental impact get worse than they already are).

In summary, the Have Your Say survey responses highlighted beach nourishment as the least favoured management approach overall, with common concerns raised about cost, effectiveness, environmental impacts, longevity and ongoing maintenance requirements. In contrast, protection and managed retreat options attracted stronger support, although for different and sometimes competing reasons. Protection was often preferred for its perceived ability to retain existing assets,

access and amenity, while managed retreat was supported as a more sustainable, adaptive and environmentally responsible long-term response to coastal hazards and climate change.

Feedback demonstrated a high level of consistency across age groups, wards and most user groups, indicating that views on coastal management for this section of coastline are broadly shared across the community. However, some differences emerged between specific coastal user groups. In particular, the surfing and board riding community expressed an overall preference for managed retreat, reflecting their emphasis on preserving the surf quality, preserving the natural coastal processes and intergenerational equity. In contrast, the surf life saving community indicated a stronger preference for protection measures, aligning with their focus on safeguarding surf club infrastructure and operational needs. Despite these differences, the broader patterns of support and concern remained similar across the wider community.

7. Written feedback

CN received **seven** pieces of detailed, written feedback from key stakeholders, agencies and community members. Feedback was provided by the Southern Beaches Boardriders Club, Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Transport for NSW, Merewether District Cricket Club, and one individual community member. These detailed pieces of feedback offered valuable insights, technical perspectives and community-based viewpoints on the coastal management options under consideration.

A summary of the feedback received is presented below:

Southern Beaches Boardriders Clubs:

- A strong preference for retreat-based options using evidence-based triggers. They emphatically reject mass sand nourishment and most hard-engineering options.
- Cautioned we must account for intergenerational equity, climate science, and maintaining natural coastal processes.

Cooks Hills Surf Life Saving Club:

- A staged adaptation pathway emphasising flexibility, reversibility and evidence-based triggers for escalation.
- Highlighted the need for the club building to stay *in situ* to deliver lifesaving patrols, emergency response, and community programs.

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development:

- Emphasis on ecological sustainability and compliance with fisheries legislation.
- Strong emphasis on habitat protection and environmentally sensitive engineering and support for options that avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts on key fish habitat.
- If sand nourishment (amenity or mass) is part of a solution, then assessments of marine life impacts needed.

NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure:

- Need for strategic, evidence-based adaptation planning with statutory clarity (CVA mapping, LEP/DCP control updates), and clear rationale for asset relocation/protection.
- Explicitly classify works as Coastal Protection Works or Environmental Protection Works for streamlined approvals

Transport for NSW (Maritime):

- No objection or preference to any proposed options due to lack of impact on navigation or vessel safety.
- Requested ongoing engagement, especially if navigation implications arise.

Merewether District Cricket Club:

- Objection to full retreat at Bar Beach and cautious support for ‘seawall set back of 12m’ (Bar Beach) and ‘seawall and partial managed retreat’ (Dixon Park) due to balance of asset protection and environmental stewardship.

Individual community member

- Use of vertical concrete stormwater pipes as artificial blowholes to dissipate storm-wave energy before it reaches erodible shorelines, acting as a low-cost “wave shock absorber” system.

8. Next steps

Community feedback on the management options presented for the Bar Beach to Merewether section of coastline showed a high level of consistency across age groups, wards and user groups. While individuals often expressed different priorities and values, the overall patterns of support and concern did not vary significantly between demographic or stakeholder cohorts. This suggests that perspectives on coastal management for this stretch of coastline are broadly shared across the community, rather than being driven by specific user groups or locations.

The feedback clearly demonstrates that there is no single management option that will meet the expectations of all community members. Each option presented was supported and opposed for different reasons, reflecting the complex balance between environmental protection, public access, amenity, heritage, cost, and long-term resilience. These differing preferences highlight the trade-offs inherent in coastal management decision-making and reinforce the need for a balanced, evidence-based approach as the Southern Beaches CMP is developed. As a result, it is recognised that CN will need to draw on best practice coastal management principles, technical and scientific expertise, and community values to determine the most appropriate path forward. It is also acknowledged that, regardless of the approach taken, not everyone will be satisfied with the final outcome.

CN will continue to review the results of community consultation and incorporate feedback into the acceptability assessment, which forms a key component of *Stage 3 – Identify and Evaluate Options* under the NSW Government’s Coastal Management Framework, including refining and defining management options to ensure they reflect the community’s uses, values and aspirations for our coastline. This may include additional community and stakeholder engagement to further test the acceptability of management options before stage 3 is finalised. As part of Stage 4, the preferred management approach for Newcastle’s southern beaches will be documented in the CMP, which will be placed on public exhibition. The public exhibition period will provide another opportunity for the community to review the proposed management options and share feedback for consideration prior to the final adoption of the CMP.

We will continue to keep the community informed as the development of the Southern Beaches CMP progresses.

9. Further reading

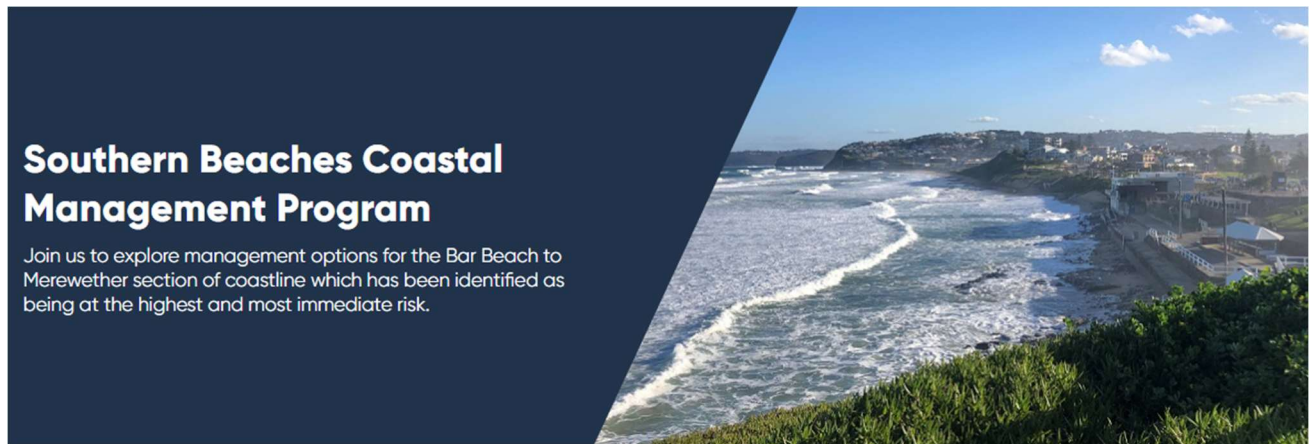
For those seeking further detail, the technical reports that informed the material presented during community consultation are available for additional reading.

- [City of Newcastle \(2025\) Coastal Management Options Summary](#)
- Haskoning (2025b) Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program: Coastal Process Review Report (Revised from 2022). Report prepared for City of Newcastle:
 - [Section 1](#)
 - [Section 2](#)
 - [Section 3](#)
- [Haskoning \(2025a\) Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program: Feasibility Assessment. Report prepared for City of Newcastle](#)
- [Haskoning \(2025\) Surf Amenity Impact Assessment: Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP](#)
- [BMT WBM \(2014\) Newcastle Coastal Zone Hazard Study. Report prepared for City of Newcastle](#)

Appendix

Appendix I – Promotional materials

Have your say webpage



Our coastline is changing. We need to act now to protect what we love so we can enjoy it in the future.

We have been working on a long-term plan to manage our coastline between Nobbys Headland and Glenrock Lagoon collectively known as our Southern Beaches. This Coastal Management Program will contain a series of actions to help us adapt and respond to both immediate and future changes on our coast.

Although we're planning for all of our Southern Beaches, this phase of consultation focuses on capturing your feedback on potential management options for our coastline from Bar Beach to Merewether.

We're focused on this particular section of our coastline because our investigations have identified that this section coastline is at the highest and most immediate risk, which is why the proposed management options focus on this area. Due to the changing nature of our coastline, including the impacts of climate change, the status quo cannot remain. We need to act to ensure our community and visitors can continue to enjoy the coastline now and into the future.

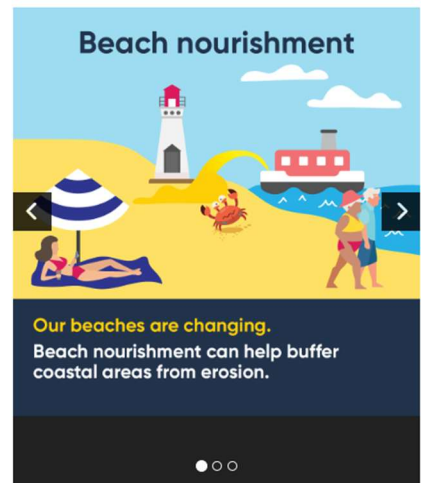
Your input will help us understand community views on the proposed management options for this high risk area.

What management strategies are we considering?



We're considering a range of management strategies for Bar Beach to Merewether, such as:

- Beach nourishment
- Protection structures
- Managed retreat

Generally, the strategies above are not considered in isolation. Often a combination is required with protection, nourishment and retreat elements.



Document Library

-  **Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP: Coastal Management Options Summary**
PDF (8.59 MB)
-  **RCA Australia - Final Geotechnical Report**
PDF (11.42 MB)

What combination of strategies are realistic?

A summary of the positive and negative impacts of each short-listed management options is provided below.

Each of these options has different pros and cons, and all of them require trade-offs. The management options will be supported by activities like ongoing dune rehabilitation and cliff stabilisation works.

Impact Overview of Management Options

A summary of the positive and negative impacts relative to each other of each short-listed management option is provided below.

- Each of these options has different pros and cons, and all of them require trade-offs.
- The management options will be supported by activities like ongoing dune rehabilitation and cliff stabilisation works.

| Type of management | Indicative capital cost | Indicative operational cost | Sandy beach | Impact to surf quality ^{^^} | Protection of existing assets [^] | Impact to environment | Resilience to climate change | Impact to existing roads |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Merewether and Dixon Park option 1 Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment | \$26m | \$1m [†] | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😞 | 😊 |
| Merewether and Dixon Park option 2 Maintain seawall + managed partial retreat | \$10m | \$0.3m | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 |
| Merewether and Dixon Park option 3 + Bar Beach option 1 Mass sand nourishment | \$45m | \$0.7m | 😊 | 😞 | 😊* | 😞 | 😊 | 😊 |
| Bar Beach option 2 Seawall + amenity sand nourishment | \$29m | \$0.6m [†] | 😊 | 😞 | 😊* | 😞 | 😞 | 😊 |
| Bar Beach option 3 Seawall setback 12m + amenity sand nourishment | \$33m | \$0.7m [†] | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😞 |
| Bar Beach option 4 Managed retreat | \$6m | \$0.3m | 😊 | 😊 | 😞 | 😊 | 😊 | 😞 |

Very good 😊 Good 😊 Average 😊 Poor 😞 Very poor 😞

[^] Protection of existing assets at current location, such as buildings, active pathways, recreational areas.
^{*} Option to relocate or retain Cooks Hill SLSC building.
[†] Indicative operational costs will depend on sand source for top ups.
^{^^} Ratings informed by the Surf Amenity Impact Assessment Report.



Inter Coastal – Surf Amenity Impact Assessment
 PDF (7.61 MB)

[See more](#)

Pop-up events



Sunday 28 September 2025 10:00 am to 02:00 pm
 Spring Festival, Hunter Wetland Centre



Thursday 2 October 2025 08:30 am to 11:30 am
 Bar Beach



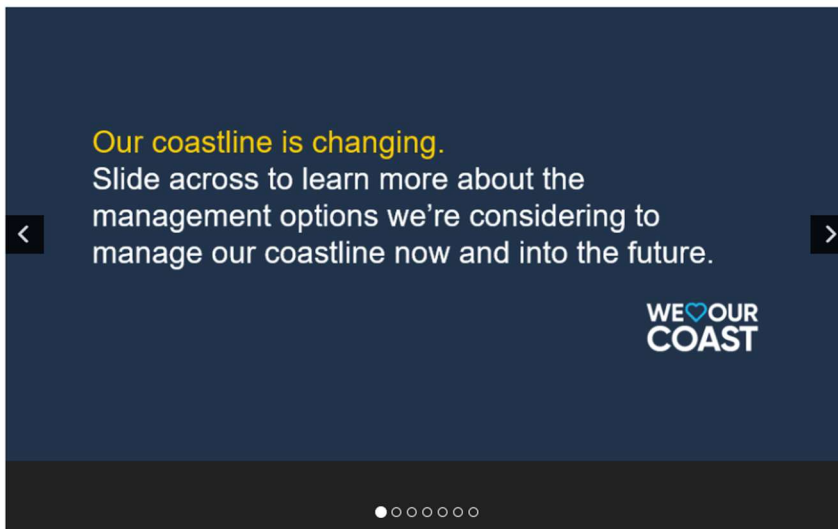
Saturday 11 October 2025 10:00 am to 02:00 pm
 Blackbutt Reserve



Saturday 18 October 2025 10:00 am to 03:00 pm
 Mayfield Day, Dangar Park

[See more](#)

This is just a high-level overview, but we want you to feel fully informed. That's why we've created the information tiles below, where you can dive deeper into the options being considered.



We want to know whether you support any of the proposed management options moving ahead, because doing nothing is no longer viable.

Why is it important that you have your say?

Newcastle's identity is closely tied to its coastline and beaches. With increasing pressures such as climate change and growing visitor numbers, protecting this identity while balancing community enjoyment and environmental care is more important than ever.

Over the past month, we've shared information about coastal management strategies to give you the knowledge you need to provide informed feedback. Now, we want to hear your views on the options being considered for the Bar Beach to Merewether stretch, so we can shape the future of our coastline together.

Your feedback will be one of several tools used to help determine which management options are included in the draft Coastal Management Program (CMP), which is currently being developed.

Have your say!

Now it's over to you to let us know which of the management strategies you prefer for the Bar Beach to Merewether stretch, you can do this by:

- 🗳️ **Completing the survey** to share your feedback on which options you prefer and why.
- 🗳️ **Voting in our quick poll** and letting us know what your preferred management option for the Bar Beach to Merewether stretch is.
- 🗣️ **Talking to the team** in person at one of our pop-up events.

Consultation **closes Monday 24 November 2025**.

We love our coast, that's why we need to work together. Our CMP is being developed with your input to reflect shared values, ensure alignment with other initiatives, and foster collective action.

FAQs

- ? Why do we need a Coastal Management Program for our beaches? What problems is it trying to solve?
- ? What specific areas are covered by the Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP?
- ? What kinds of solutions or management options are being considered to manage our coast?

[See more](#)

Timeline

- ★ **Community consultation**
We're now seeking your feedback on the management options for Merewether to Bar Beach - your input will help guide future decisions for Newcastle's Southern Beaches.

[See more](#)

Do you need help accessing or reading this page?

For a free interpreter:

Call us via the [Translating and Interpreting Service](#) (TIS National):

Phone: 131 450

If you have a hearing or speech impairment:

Please contact the [National Relay Service](#):

Phone: 1300 555 727

Contact Us

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

- 👤 Name Engagement Team
- 📞 Phone 0249742000
- ✉️ Email engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au

[Survey](#) [Quick Poll](#)

Help shape the future of our coastline

Share your feedback on the management options being considered for the Merewether Beach to Bar Beach stretch of coastline.

[Complete the survey](#)

[Survey](#) [Quick Poll](#)

Let us know what you think!

Based on what you know now, which of the following management strategies do you feel is the most appropriate overall?








Beach nourishment

Protection

Managed retreat

[Submit](#)

Document Library ×

-  **Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP: Coastal Management Options Summary**
PDF (8.59 MB)
-  **RCA Australia - Final Geotechnical Report**
PDF (11.42 MB)
-  **Inter Coastal - Surf Amenity Impact Assessment**
PDF (7.61 MB)
-  **Haskoning Australia - Feasibility Assessment**
PDF (18.35 MB)
-  **Haskoning Australia - Coastal Processes Review Report (section 1)**
PDF (5.05 MB)
-  **Haskoning Australia - Coastal Processes Review Report (section 2)**
PDF (16.07 MB)
-  **Haskoning Australia - Coastal Processes Review Report (section 3)**
PDF (19.24 MB)

Close

Pop-up events



Sunday 28 September 2025 10:00 am to 02:00 pm

Spring Festival, Hunter Wetland Centre



Thursday 2 October 2025 08:30 am to 11:30 am

Bar Beach



Saturday 11 October 2025 10:00 am to 02:00 pm

Blackbutt Reserve



Saturday 18 October 2025 10:00 am to 03:00 pm

Mayfield Day, Dangar Park



Wednesday 22 October 2025 06:30 am to 10:30 am

Merewether Beach



Wednesday 5 November 2025 10:00 am to 02:00 pm

Nobbys Beach



Sunday 9 November 2025 09:00 am to 01:00 pm

Bar Beach



Sunday 16 November 2025 09:00 am to 01:00 pm

Dixon Park Beach



Thursday 20 November 2025 04:00 pm to 07:00 pm

Down the Park - Youth Event

FAQs



? Why do we need a Coastal Management Program for our beaches?
What problems is it trying to solve?

? What specific areas are covered by the Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP?

? What kinds of solutions or management options are being considered to manage our coast?

? Will these solutions impact the surf quality, beach access, or environment?

? What are the potential costs involved, and who is paying for this?

? What stage is the Coastal Management Program at, and how can the community get involved?

? What happens if we don't do anything to manage our coastline?

? Why were artificial reefs not considered a suitable option?

? What exactly does protection structures mean? Are we just building seawalls everywhere?

? What does managed retreat actually involve? Will we lose our favourite places?

? How long will it take to implement these plans?

? How does this program fit into the wider environmental roadmap for Newcastle?

? Why is there fencing up along Bathers Way at Bar Beach?

Close

Postcard



NEWCASTLE
SOUTHERN BEACHES

WE ♥ OUR COAST

We're developing a Coastal Management Program for Newcastle's Southern Beaches



City of Newcastle

Our beaches and coastal areas are part of our Novocastrian lifestyle, and it's vital we plan for their future.

Due to the changing nature of our coastline, including the impacts of climate change, we need to take action to manage it.

So that you can continue enjoying the beaches you know and love, the way that you want to, now and into the future, we've been assessing options to manage this section of coastline.



Scan the QR code to find out more about the management options and Newcastle's Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP), or visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/southernbeaches

Onsite signage



City of Newcastle

NEWCASTLE

SOUTHERN BEACHES

WE ♥ OUR COAST

Our beaches and coastal areas are part of our Novocastrian lifestyle, and it's vital we plan for their future.

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Beach nourishment



Protection



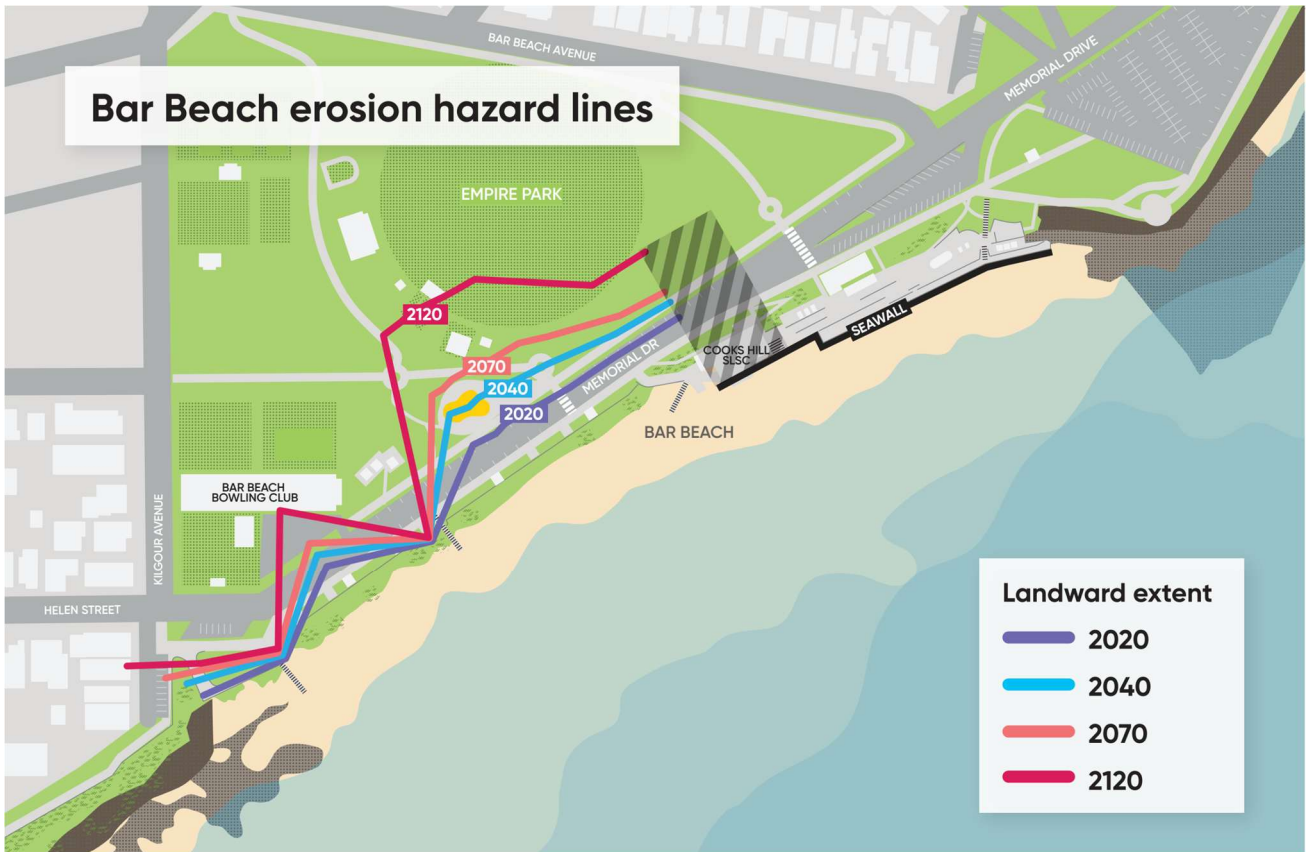
Managed retreat



Scan the QR code to find out more about the management options and Newcastle's Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP), or visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/southernbeaches



Supporting graphics



Impact overview of management options

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Very good Good Average Poor Very poor

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^{*} Option to relocate or retain Cooks Hill SLSC building.

[†] Indicative operational costs will depend on sand source for top ups.

^{^^} Ratings informed by the Surf Amenity Impact Assessment Report.



Footpath decals



Seawalls can be used to protect our coastline



WE  OUR
COAST



City of
Newcastle

Managed retreat and relocation of assets can be used to manage our coastal areas



WE  OUR
COAST



City of
Newcastle



Learn about how we're planning for our coastline.

WE ♥ OUR COAST



City of Newcastle

Poster signage (bins, digital screens and on-site signage)



City of Newcastle

NEWCASTLE
SOUTHERN BEACHES

WE ♥ OUR COAST

We're planning for our coast's future.

So that we can continue enjoying our beaches now and into the future, we've been assessing options to manage this much loved section of coastline in response to sea level rise and climate change.



Beach nourishment

Protection

Managed retreat

Scan the QR code to find out more about the management options and Newcastle's Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP), or visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/southernbeaches



Social media

Community education and awareness phase:

12 August 2025

Facebook

City of Newcastle ✓

August 12, 2025 🌐

...

🌐 How do we protect our coastline for the future? 🌐

City of Newcastle has been working on a long-term plan to manage our coastline between Nobbys Headland and Glenrock Lagoon, collectively known as our Southern Beaches – and we’re now sharing the shortlisted strategies being considered to help protect places like Merewether, Dixon Park and Bai Beach.

These include:

- 📄 Beach Nourishment – adding sand to keep our beaches sandy and create a buffer from erosion
- 📄 Protection Structures – like seawalls and revetments to protect paths, roads and public spaces
- 📄 Managed Retreat – relocating infrastructure to allow the shoreline to naturally shift over time

Each strategy has pros and cons, and often a mix of approaches will be needed to get the balance right.

We’re not asking for feedback just yet – right now it’s all about helping you understand the choices, so you can have your say when the time comes. Stay tuned as we break down what each strategy means and how it could impact the way you enjoy our coast.

🔗 Links in comments

#WeLoveOurCoast #CoastalManagement #NewcastleBeaches #CityOfNewcastle

We’re planning for a more resilient coastline along Newcastle’s Southern Beaches

📣 Boost this post to get more reach for City of Newcastle.

Boost post

👤 Mitch Hughes, Candice Gleeson and 30 others

👍 Like

💬 Comment

🔗 Share

Most relevant ▾

City of Newcastle ✓

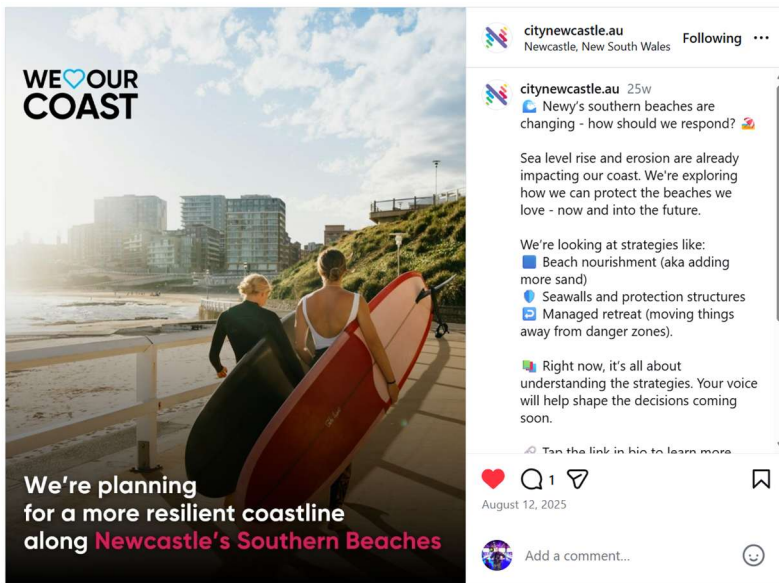
📄 Subscribe to Newcastle Connect to stay in the loop:
<https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/subscribe>

🌐 Learn more:
<https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/.../southern-beaches-coastal...>

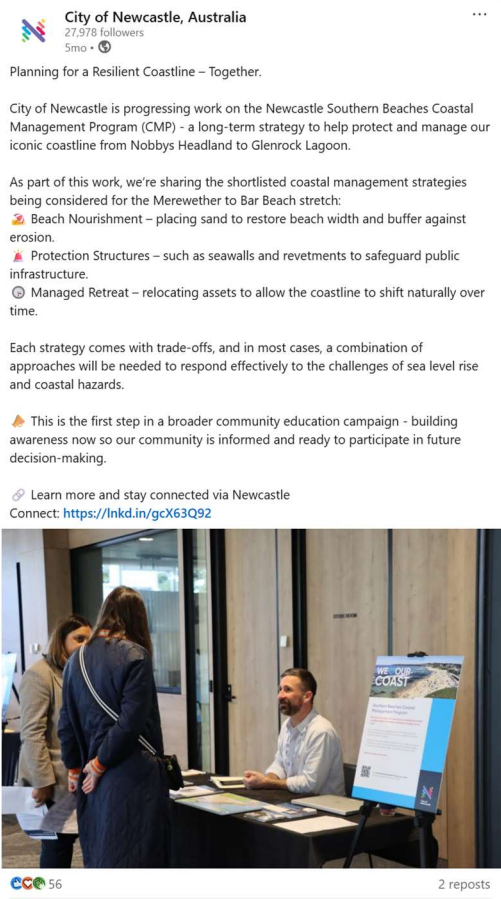
...

25w
Like
Reply

Instagram



LinkedIn



21 August 2025

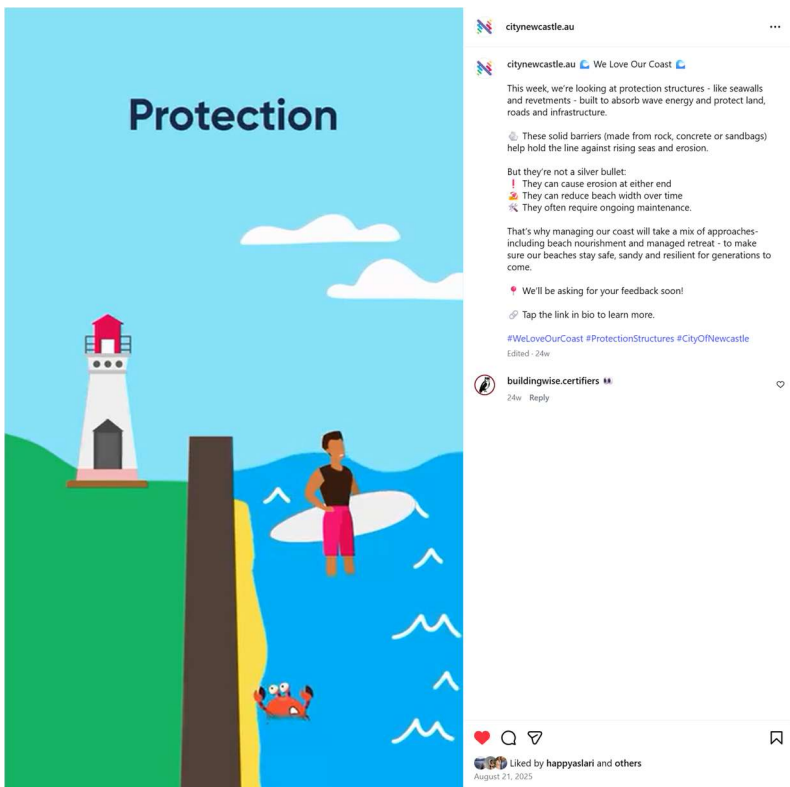
Facebook

Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program – Bar Beach to Merewether
Consultation report
April 2026





Instagram



LinkedIn

City of Newcastle, Australia
27,979 followers
5mo · 🌐

[We Love Our Coast | Protection Structures](#)

This week, we're spotlighting protection structures – such as seawalls and revetments and their role in managing the impacts of coastal erosion and sea level rise along Newcastle's southern beaches.

These engineered solutions are designed to absorb the energy of waves and safeguard nearby infrastructure like roads, pathways and public spaces. They can be constructed from materials such as rock, concrete and sandbags, and are placed parallel to the coastline.

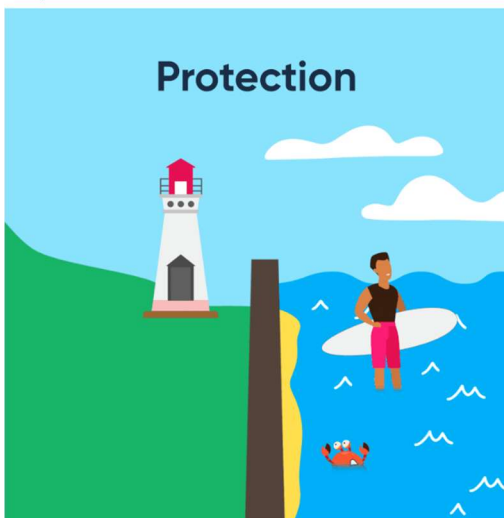
However, while effective in protecting what's behind them, these structures also come with trade-offs:

- 📍 They can contribute to increased erosion at the edges ("end effects")
- 📍 They may lead to reduced beach width over time
- 📍 They require ongoing maintenance or new construction.

Because of these challenges, protection structures are rarely used in isolation. Our approach will likely involve a combination of management options, including beach nourishment and managed retreat, to deliver long-term coastal resilience.

📍 We'll be sharing more about these options and seeking community input soon. Stay connected via Newcastle Connect and help shape the future of our coastline: <https://lnkd.in/g/qcqeT3w>

#WeLoveOurCoast #CoastalManagement #CommunityEngagement
#CityOfNewcastle



👁️ 19

28 August 2025

Facebook

City of Newcastle August 28, 2025

We Love Our Coast

How do we protect the future of Newcastle's beaches? 🌊 One option is beach nourishment - placing large volumes of sand along the coast to replace what's been lost over time.

This helps:

- ✓ Keep beaches sandy and usable
- ✓ Provide a buffer against erosion
- ✓ Protect nearby infrastructure during storms

There are two main types:

1. Mass nourishment – a one-time large sand placement
2. Top-ups – smaller, regular placements to maintain beach volume

Sand could come from offshore, or local areas where it naturally collects, like Nobbys Beach, for top ups. But sourcing the right

[See less](#)

Most relevant

Author
City of Newcastle
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We Love Our Coast How do we protect the future of Newcastle's beaches? 🌊 One option is beach nourishment - placing large volumes of sand along the coast t...

Like Comment Share You, Larissa Ballantyne, Michelle Meehan and 12 others · 6 comments · 2.9K views

Instagram

citynewcastle.au

citynewcastle.au We Love Our Coast

How do we protect our coastline from erosion and rising seas?

One tool is beach nourishment - adding sand back to beaches to keep them sandy and create a natural buffer 🌊

It can help:

- ✓ Protect homes + infrastructure
- ✓ Keep beaches usable
- ✓ Strengthen coastal resilience

There are different ways to do it - from big one-time sand placements to smaller regular top-ups. But it's not a silver bullet. Sourcing the right sand can be tricky, and there may be impacts on surf breaks and critters 🐚 🐌

That's why beach nourishment is just one part of the solution. Protecting our coast for the future will likely mean using a mix of approaches, depending on the location and risks.

Follow along as we highlight some options to help manage our coastline 🌊

#WeLoveOurCoast #BeachNourishment #CityOfNewcastle

23w

Liked by candice.atlantis and others August 28, 2025

LinkedIn



City of Newcastle, Australia
27,978 followers
5mo • 🌐

We Love Our Coast | Beach nourishment 🌊

As part of the Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program, we're exploring long-term strategies to help protect our coastline from climate change impacts like coastal erosion and sea level rise.

One of the key management options being considered is beach nourishment – the process of adding sand to beaches to replace what's naturally lost over time. This helps:

- ✔ Strengthen coastal resilience
- ✔ Protect public infrastructure
- ✔ Maintain sandy beaches for recreation

Sand could come from offshore, or local areas where it naturally collects, like Nobbys Beach, for top ups. However, sourcing sufficient volumes can be challenging and may affect surf conditions and beach critters - which is why careful assessment is required.

📌 Importantly, no single solution will be enough on its own. Beach nourishment is just one option among several, including protection structures and managed retreat. These options are typically used in combination to effectively manage the evolving coastline.

👉 Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing more about each option and inviting community feedback to help inform the final strategy.

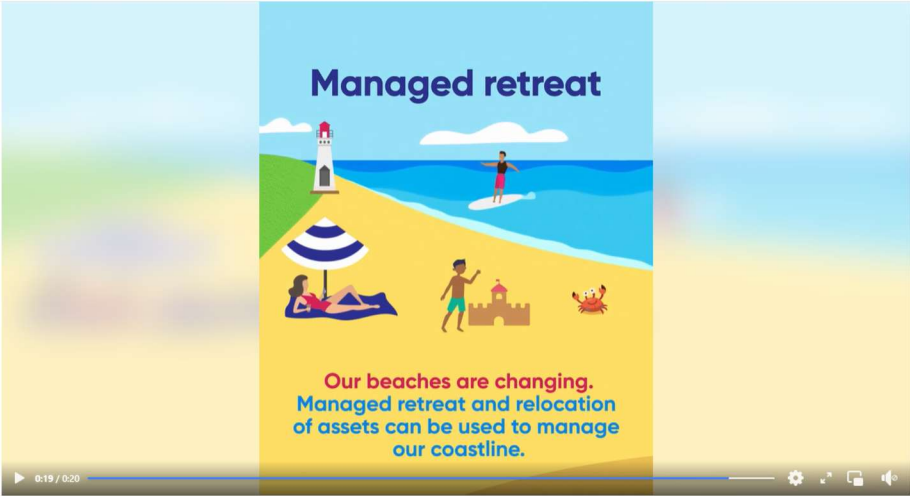
👉 Want to stay informed? Visit 📄 <https://lnkd.in/gcX63Q92>



🌐 26

4 September 2025

Facebook



Managed retreat

Our beaches are changing. Managed retreat and relocation of assets can be used to manage our coastline.

City of Newcastle · September 4, 2025 · **Following**

We Love Our Coast

This week, we're talking about managed retreat – a coastal management option that involves strategically relocating infrastructure like buildings, roads and pathways to allow the shoreline and beach to naturally recede over time...

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City of Newcastle
Subscribe to Newcastle Connect to stay in the loop: <https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/subscribe>... See more

22w · Like · Reply

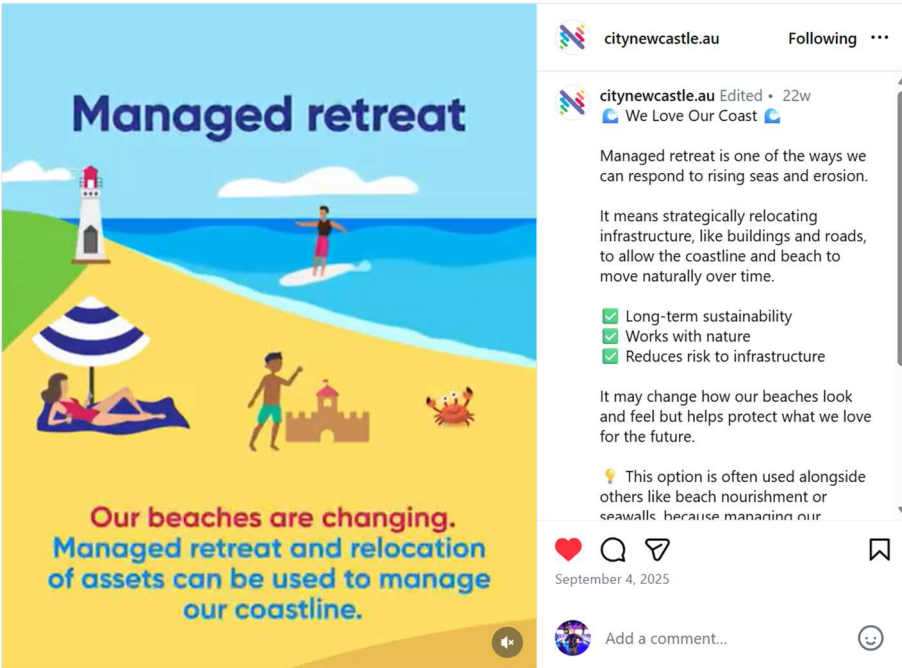
Grant Ruthven
Managed retreat aka manage people off the land

13w · Like · Reply

We Love Our Coast This week, we're talking about managed retreat – a coastal management option that involves strategically relocating infrastructure like...

Like Comment Share You, Larissa Ballantyne, Michelle Meehan and 17 others · 2 comments · 3.5K views

Instagram



Managed retreat

Our beaches are changing. Managed retreat and relocation of assets can be used to manage our coastline.

citynewcastle.au · Following

citynewcastle.au Edited · 22w

We Love Our Coast

Managed retreat is one of the ways we can respond to rising seas and erosion.

It means strategically relocating infrastructure, like buildings and roads, to allow the coastline and beach to move naturally over time.

- ✓ Long-term sustainability
- ✓ Works with nature
- ✓ Reduces risk to infrastructure

It may change how our beaches look and feel but helps protect what we love for the future.

💡 This option is often used alongside others like beach nourishment or seawalls because managing our

September 4, 2025

Add a comment...

LinkedIn



City of Newcastle, Australia

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...

[🌊 We Love Our Coast | Managed retreat 🌊](#)

As part of the Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP), we're assessing a range of options to manage increasing coastal hazards like erosion and sea level rise.

This week, we're highlighting managed retreat - a long-term, sustainable approach that allows the coastline and beach to naturally recede by relocating key assets, such as buildings and roads, away from vulnerable areas.

- ✅ Environmentally friendly
- ✅ Reduces long-term risk
- ✅ Works with natural coastal processes.

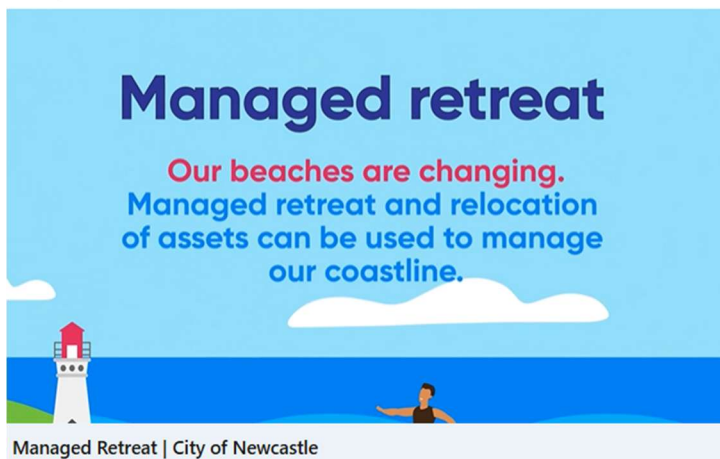
While it may alter the appearance of our coastline, managed retreat helps protect what matters most – public safety, infrastructure, and natural assets.

★ It's important to note that this approach is rarely used in isolation. A successful CMP will likely require a combination of strategies, including protection structures and beach nourishment, to manage our coast effectively.

We're committed to involving the community in shaping this important work. Stay tuned for opportunities to have your say.

<https://lnkd.in/gcX63Q92>

#WeLoveOurCoast #CoastalManagement #CommunityEngagement
#CityOfNewcastle



Community engagement phase:

Facebook:



City of Newcastle
September 29, 2025

It's time to have your say on the future of our beaches 🌊

We love our coast, but our beloved coastline is facing significant change! The Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) is moving ahead with critical planning, and we need your input on the long-term actions required to manage our beaches.

Evidence shows that the coastline section from Bar Beach to Merewether Beach is at the highest and most immediate risk from coastal erosion and storm damage driven by climate change and rising sea levels. The status quo can no longer be maintained.

We have developed a shortlist of management options, informed by geotechnical investigations and rigorous assessments, to address these risks. These options include strategic combinations of:

- 🏖️ Beach nourishment: Adding sand to widen the beach, providing a buffer and maintaining recreational amenity.
- 🛡️ Protection structures: Strengthening or building barriers like seawalls and revetments to protect infrastructure.
- 🏡 Managed retreat: Strategically relocating assets like roads and buildings to allow the beach to naturally migrate landwards and become more resilient.

Each option involves trade-offs (such as cost, impact on surf quality, and protection levels) and there's no easy fix.

We invite you to review the options and tell us what you think. Your feedback will help us determine the most suitable options for inclusion in the draft CMP!

Review the options and complete the short survey 🙌

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



You, Larissa Ballantyne, Michelle Meehan and 78 others

27 comments 28 shares



City of Newcastle is in Bar Beach.

October 9, 2025 · 🌐



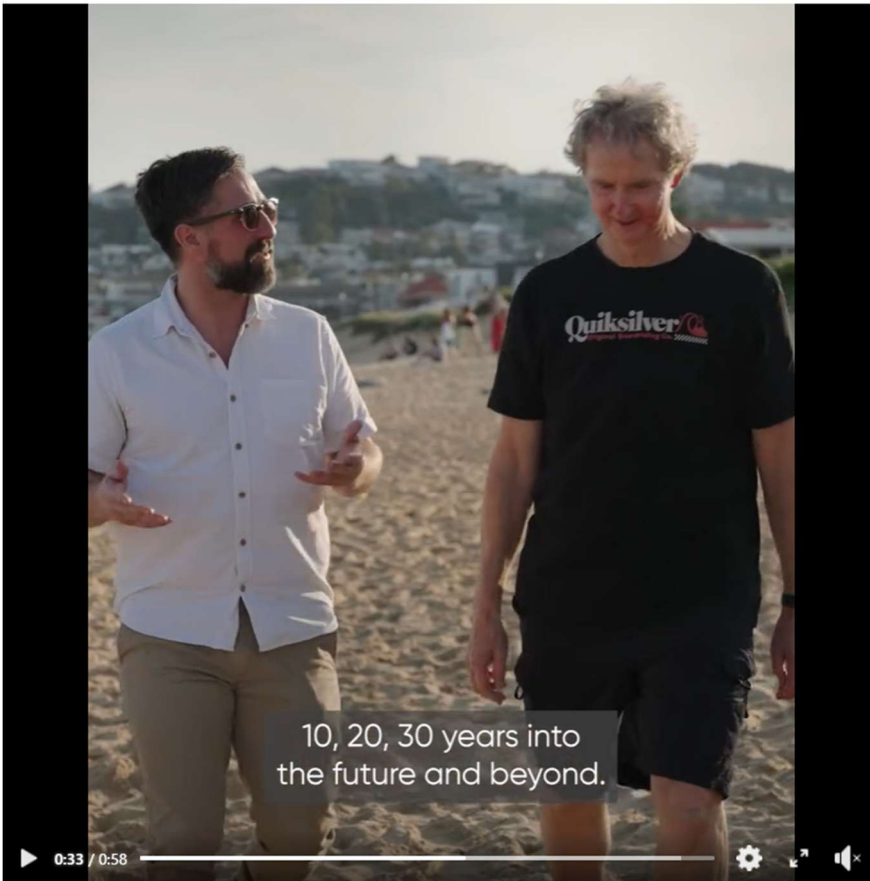
Newcastle's Southern Beaches CMP is open for feedback 🌐

We invite you to provide feedback on a shortlist of management options that were developed for Bar Beach to Merewether Beach. These options represent different ways we can manage our coastline, and we want to know if the community supports them moving ahead.

Your feedback will be used, along with technical assessments, to determine the final management options included in the draft CMP. The draft CMP is planned for public exhibition in 2026, where the community will have another opportunity to provide formal feedback before the plan is finalised and submitted for NSW Government certification.

We love our coast so jump online and have your say before 24 November 2025 📄

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



👍❤️ 27

3 comments 6 shares

City of Newcastle is at Merewether Beach.

October 23, 2025 · Newcastle · 🌐

We love our coast and it's time to have your say on the Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) options 🌊

Your feedback will be used, along with technical assessments, to determine the final management options included in the draft CMP. The draft CMP is planned to go on public exhibition in 2026. This will give the community another opportunity to provide formal feedback before the plan is finalised and submitted for NSW Government certification.

Each week we'll share an overview of one of the shortlisted management options we're developing for Bar Beach to Merewether Beach. All the options we have shortlisted have pros and cons and all require trade-offs.

This week we are highlighting the Merewether to Dixon Park option 1: Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment 🏖️

This option follows a multi-stage approach, with initial action focusing on maintenance, followed by amenity nourishment:

Year 1 📅

Upgrade existing seawall from John Parade to Dixon Park Beach.

Year 2 📅

Initial sand nourishment of 165,000m³ from offshore sources for a target average beach width of 10m, with regular top-ups from offshore sources (sub-option a) or Nobbys (sub-option b).

Benefits:

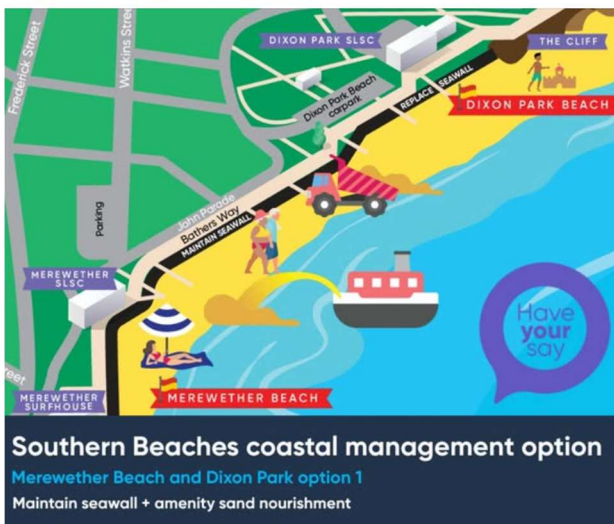
- ✅ Protection of existing infrastructure, including buildings, pathways and roads.
- ✅ A sandy beach into the future.

Risks:

- ⚠️ Impact to surf quality once sand nourishment commences.
- ⚠️ Challenges sourcing sand from offshore.
- ⚠️ Loss of effectiveness of sand nourishment after repeated severe, storm / erosion events, may lead to limited beach resilience in the long-term.
- ⚠️ Traffic impacts and temporary closure to parts of Dixon Park and Nobbys Beaches if sand top-ups come from there.

We're encouraging everyone to jump online, not just to learn more about the options, but to make sure your feedback is officially captured 🗣️

Visit 📍 newcastle.nsw.gov.au/SouthernBeaches



👍 22

1 comment 4 shares

City of Newcastle is at **Merewether Beach**.
 October 30, 2025 · Newcastle · 🌐

We love our coast and it's time to have your say on the Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) options 🌊

This week we are highlighting the Merewether to Dixon Park option 2: Maintain seawall + managed partial retreat 📍

Year 1
 Upgrade existing seawall along John Parade.

Year 2-10
 Remove seawall in front of Dixon Park carpark to allow natural erosion to occur.

- Benefits:**
- ✅ Allows some natural beach migration and a more resilient sandy beach at Dixon Park into the future.
 - ✅ No near-term impact on surf quality.

- Risks:**
- ⚠️ Eventual loss or relocation of parklands and/or carparks.
 - ⚠️ Eventual loss of sandy beach in front of maintained seawall owing to sea level rise.

To find out more jump online, not just to learn more about the options, but to make sure your feedback is officially captured before Monday, 24 November 📅

Your feedback will be used, along with technical assessments, to determine the final management options included in the draft CMP. The draft CMP is planned to go on public exhibition in 2026. This will give the community another opportunity to provide formal feedback before the plan is finalised and submitted for NSW Government certification.

Visit 📍 newcastle.nsw.gov.au/southernbeaches



👍 You, Meredith Banks and 4 others 2 shares
 👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share



Southern Beaches CMP spotlight on mass sand nourishment option

We are still assessing options to protect our coastline from Bar Beach to Merewether, an area identified as being at the highest and most immediate risk due to climate change.

The mass sand nourishment option is one major strategy on the table, offering a large-scale, long-term solution.

What you need to know

This is a whole-of-embayment option, covering Bar Beach to Merewether Beach.

- Year 1: Temporary rockbag structures are placed at Bar Beach until mass nourishment begins. Investigations into offshore sand sources commence.

- Year 3-5: We deliver 1.3 million m³ of sand from offshore sources, aiming for an average beach width of 40 meters. Temporary rockbag structures are removed once this is complete.

- Year 10 (and beyond): Decadal sand top-ups from offshore sources will maintain the beach

This flexible management option promises a sandy beach now and into the future while providing protection of existing infrastructure like buildings, pathways, and roads.

However, this option also carries some risks you need to know about

- Impact on surf quality: The large increase of sand in the local environment could severely impact surf breaks.

- Challenges: Sourcing 1.3 million m³ of sand from offshore will be challenging.

- Long-term resilience: After repeated severe storms, the effectiveness of the nourishment may be lost, leading to diminished levels of asset protection until lost sand is topped up.

- Have your say: Our team will be at Dixon Park this Sunday, 16 November from 9am to 1pm. Come and say hi and help shape the future of our coastline.

Community consultation closes Monday, 24 November 2025.

Southern Beaches Coastal Management Options
Merewether and Dixon Park option 3 + Bar Beach option 1
 Mass sand nourishment

"WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS OPTION FOR MEREWETHER, DIXON PARK AND BAR BEACH?"

- Year 1: Temporary rockbag structure placement at Bar Beach until initial mass nourishment. Investigations into offshore sand sources commence.
- Year 3-5: Delivery of 1.3 million m³ of sand for mass sand nourishment from offshore sources, for a target average beach width of 40m. Temporary rockbag structures removed once nourishment completed.
- Year 10: Decadal sand top ups from offshore sources.

"WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED?"

Benefits

- A sandy beach now and into the future.
- Flexible management option with potential to change in future if desired.
- Protection of existing infrastructure, including buildings, pathways and roads.

Risks

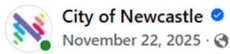
- Severe impact on surf quality due to large increases of sand in the local environment.
- Challenges sourcing sand from offshore.
- Loss of effectiveness of sand nourishment after repeated severe storm / erosion events may lead to limited beach resilience and protection of assets in the long-term.
- Ecological impacts from excess sand on site affects on plants and animals that live in the sand and in the ocean.

Have your say

Have your say before 5pm
 Monday, 24 November 2025

27

11 comments 12 shares



What's next for Bar Beach?

We're exploring several options to protect and adapt our coastline, including:

- Mass sand nourishment
- Protection + amenity sand nourishment
- Protection set back 12m + amenity sand nourishment
- Managed retreat

Our coast is precious, and we need to act now to safeguard it for the future. Each option comes with short-term, medium-term, and ongoing considerations and there are trade-offs. Some involve hard infrastructure, others allow the coastline to move naturally.

What matters most to you? Your choice will depend on what you value about our magical coastline, because there's so much to love.

Take a closer look at the options and share your thoughts today.

The survey closes Monday!



You, Larissa Ballantyne, Meredith Banks and 103 others

116 comments 25 shares

City of Newcastle November 15, 2025

Southern Beaches CMP spotlight on mass sand nourishment option

We are still assessing options to protect our coastline from Bar Beach to Merewether, an area identified as being at the highest and most immediate risk due to climate change.

The mass sand nourishment option is one major strategy on the table, offering a large-scale, long-term solution.

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However, this option also carries some risks you need to know about

- Impact on surf quality: The large increase of sand in the local environment could severely impact surf breaks.
- Challenges: Sourcing 1.3 million m³ of sand from offshore will be challenging.
- Long-term resilience: After repeated severe storms, the effectiveness of the nourishment may be lost, leading to diminished levels of asset protection until lost sand is topped up.
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Southern Beaches Coastal Management Options
Merewether and Dixon Park option 3 + Bar Beach option 1
 Mass sand nourishment

"WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS OPTION FOR MEREWETHER, DIXON PARK AND BAR BEACH?"

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- Year 3-5:** Delivery of 1.3 million m³ of sand for mass sand nourishment from offshore sources, for a target average beach width of 40m. Temporary rockbag structures removed once nourishment completed.
- Year 10:** Decadal sand top ups from offshore sources.

"WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED?"

Benefits

- A sandy beach now and into the future.
- Flexible management option with potential to change in future if desired.
- Protection of existing infrastructure, including buildings, pathways and roads.

Risks

- Severe impact on surf quality due to large increase of sand in the local environment.
- Challenges sourcing sand from offshore.
- Loss of effectiveness of sand nourishment after repeated severe storm / erosion events may lead to limited beach resilience and protection of assets in the long-term.
- Ecological impacts from excess sand on site affects on plants and animals that live in the sand and in the ocean.

Have your say

Have your say before 5pm
 Monday, 24 November 2025

27 11 comments 12 shares

Instagram



WE ♥ OUR COAST

Have your say

**Seawalls, sand and surf.
Weigh in on the future of our
Southern Beaches.**

citynewcastle.au

citynewcastle.au We love our coast

Newcastle's identity is strongly linked to our coastal environment, but the coast between Bar Beach and Merewether Beach is at immediate risk from rising sea levels and more intense storms.

We've assessed management options to keep this coastline section safe and accessible. Over the past few weeks, we've highlighted the high-level options that included strategic approaches like beach nourishment, protection structures, and managed retreat.

We're now wanting to hear from you about the proposed management strategies for this stretch of coastline.

Your input is vital for the future of our beaches and helps inform the Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP).

Tap the link in bio to explore the options and have your say!

#cityofnewcastle #weloveourcoast #newcastlebeach #newcastlebeachesnsw #haveyoursay #community

19w

c.smirh Stockton Beach should be fixed up and they should be building a artificial reef and my be another brackwall on stockton beach to stop the sand from escaping from stockton Beach

19w 1 like Reply

Liked by happyaslari and others
September 29, 2025

Add a comment... Post



citynewcastle.au
Original audio

citynewcastle.au Newcastle's Southern Beaches CMP is open for feedback

We invite you to provide feedback on a shortlist of management options that were developed for Bar Beach to Merewether Beach. These options represent different ways we can manage our coastline, and we want to know if the community supports them moving ahead.

Your feedback will be used, along with technical assessments, to determine the final management options included in the draft CMP. The draft CMP is planned for public exhibition in 2026, where the community will have another opportunity to provide formal feedback before the plan is finalised and submitted for NSW Government certification.

We love our coast so jump online and have your say before 24 November 2025. Link in bio

#weloveourcoast #newcastlebeach #merewetherbeach #barbeach #newcastlesw #beach #ocean #southernbeaches #coastalmanagement

17w

Liked by candice.atlantis and others
October 9, 2025

Add a comment... Post



citynewcastle.au
Merewether Beach

citynewcastle.au Our coastline is changing. We love our coast so we need to act now to protect what we love so we can enjoy it in the future

We are developing the Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) with your input to reflect shared values, ensure alignment with other initiatives, and foster collective action for our coastline

Swipe to find out more about one of the proposed coastal management options from the Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP).

To learn more and have your say visit the link in our bio

15w

Liked by happyaslari and others
October 23, 2025

Add a comment... Post



citynewcastle.au Merewether Beach

citynewcastle.au Merewether to Dixon Park option 2: Should we choose to maintain seawall + managed partial retreat?

Our beaches are part of the Novocastrian lifestyle, and we must plan for their future due to erosion and climate change risks.

- Protection: Year 1 we'll upgrade the seawall along John Parade.
- Managed retreat: Remove the seawall at Dixon Park carpark (Year 20) to let the beach migrate naturally.
- Benefit: A more resilient sandy beach at Dixon Park! Bonus: No near-term impact on surf quality
- Risk: Over time, we face the eventual loss or relocation of nearby parklands and carparks

Weigh these trade-offs and tell us what you think

Tap the link in our bio to complete the survey! Or visit: newcastle.nsw.gov.au/southernbeaches

November 1, 2025

Add a comment... Post



citynewcastle.au

citynewcastle.au We love our coast and are diving deep into the options for protecting our Bar Beach to Merewether coastline

This option, mass sand nourishment is a long-term plan that secure our coastal assets.

Scroll through to see what's this option includes

There are quite a few challenges to consider with this option like:

- Sourcing large volumes of sand from offshore is challenging.
- Risk that repeated severe storms could limit the long-term effectiveness of the nourishment, reducing asset protection over time.

This is a whole-of-embayment option, covering Bar Beach to Merewether Beach.

We want your informed feedback on whether the benefits of mass sand nourishment outweigh the known risks.

Have your say! Consultation closes Monday, 24 November 2025.

November 15, 2025

Liked by candice.atlantis and others

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City of Newcastle, Australia
27,967 followers
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Seeking feedback on Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) options 📄

We are progressing the Newcastle Southern Beaches CMP, a critical long-term, evidence-based strategy for coordinated management of the coastline.

We love our coast, and our investigations show the coastline section from Bar Beach to Merewether Beach is currently identified as being at the highest and most immediate risk due to pressures like rising sea levels and intense storms. Due to the changing nature of our coastline, the status quo cannot remain, necessitating immediate action.

Feedback will be used, alongside technical assessments, to determine the final management options included in the draft CMP, which is planned for public exhibition in 2026. This is when the community will have another opportunity to provide formal feedback.

It's important to highlight that all shortlisted options involve different management strategies (protection structures, nourishment, managed retreat) and require trade-offs.

This week, we highlight Merewether to Dixon Park option 1: Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment.

This option follows a multi-stage approach, with initial action focusing on maintenance, followed by nourishment:

Year 1: Upgrade the existing seawall structure from John Parade to Dixon Park Beach.

Year 20: Initial sand nourishment of 165,000m³ from offshore sources, aiming for a 10m average beach width.

Maintenance: Regular top-ups would occur, potentially sourced from offshore or through trucking from Nobbys Beach.

Benefits:

- 🟢 Protection of existing infrastructure, including buildings, pathways, and roads.
- 🟢 Maintenance of a sandy beach amenity into the future.

Risks:

- 🟡 Potential impact to surf quality once sand nourishment begins.
- 🟡 Challenges associated with sourcing sand from offshore.
- 🟡 Limited beach resilience in the long-term due to potential loss of effectiveness after repeated severe storm/erosion events.
- 🟡 Traffic impacts and temporary closure to parts of Dixon Park and Nobbys Beaches if sand top-ups come from there.

We are encouraging the community to review the shortlisted options and ensure your feedback is officially captured. By helping you understand the available choices, we can work together to make the best decisions for the future of our coastline.

Visit the project page to learn more and provide formal feedback
📄 https://lnkd.in/g_zYb2Tr beaches



Southern Beaches coastal management option
Merewether Beach and Dixon Park option 1
Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment

3 reposts

City of Newcastle, Australia
27,967 followers
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Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) options 📄

This week's spotlight is Merewether and Dixon Park option 2 – Maintain seawall + managed partial retreat.

This strategic hybrid option combines immediate protection with future adaptation.


Year 1: The existing seawall along John Parade will be upgraded.

Year 20: The option includes the removal of the seawall in front of the Dixon Park carpark, enabling natural erosion and landward beach migration.

This option offers the benefit of allowing for a more resilient sandy beach at Dixon Park in the long term, coupled with no near-term impact on surf quality 🟢 However, this future resilience necessitates the eventual loss or relocation of parklands and/or carparks 🟡

Your perspective on the acceptability of this trade-off is crucial to inform the final CMP.

Visit the project page to learn more and provide formal feedback
📄 <https://lnkd.in/gHMTqMIW>



Southern Beaches coastal management option
Merewether Beach and Dixon Park option 2
Maintain seawall + partial managed retreat

13

Media reporting

The City of Newcastle is developing a long-term coastal management plan to address severe erosion risks along its Southern Beaches...

 ABC Newcastle • Jenny Marchant • AM Radio • 13 Aug 2025, 3:06 pm

Interview ... coastal infrastructure that we have, the access stairs, park benches, this kind of thing? That's correct. So as you can appreciate from Barbic, Shimmeriweather, we have the surf lifesaving clubs there, we have access ways, we have bathers way, we have car parks, and we have those recreational shelters that everyone enjoys in terms of, you know, like you said, the beach is an overcast way of life. ...

[Stream](#)



ABC Upper Hunter

Duration 8 mins 3 secs • Interviewees N/A • Audience N/A •

The City of Newcastle is considering a 'managed retreat' strategy as part of its Southern Beaches Coastal Management Programme to ...

 ABC Newcastle • Paul Culliver • AM Radio • 10 Sep 2025, 8:55 am

Interview changed. This is 1233 ABC Newcastle. I'm guessing if you can remember what the coastline looked like in the Hunter 10 guessing if you can remember what the coastline looked like in the Hunter 10 years ago, 20 30 you know it's changed. It keeps changing. Do we have to accept that? Of course, erosion along some of our major of our major beaches, pretty sad to see. But what does a managed retreat look like? Is it something we should be thinking about? ...

[Stream](#)

Duration 4 mins 59 secs • Interviewees N/A • Audience 4,000 •

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STEPPING INTO A FAIRYTALE

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FOUNDATION UNDER MEMORIAL DRIVE 'AT RISK' AS COUNCIL TRIES TO COMBAT EROSION

PROPPING UP BAR



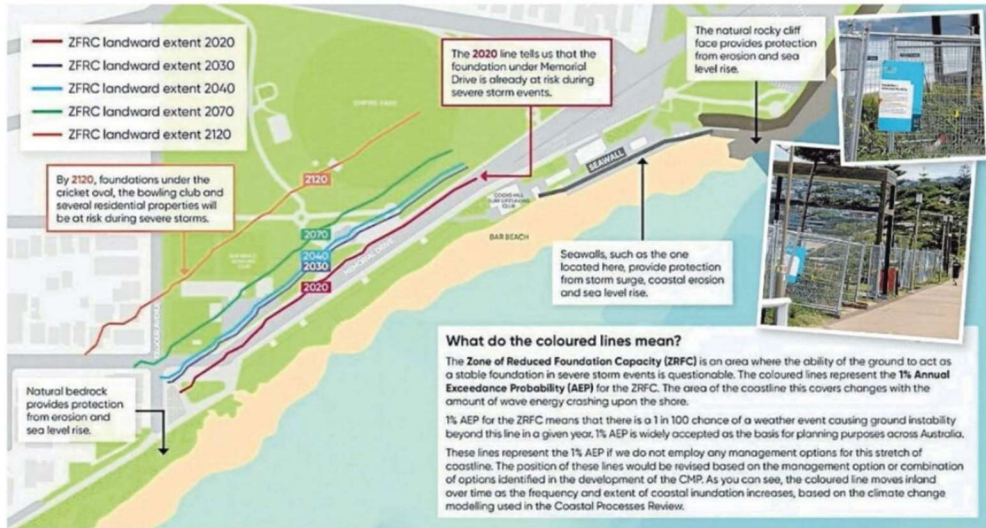
THE foundation under Memorial Drive is at risk of a one in 100 chance of becoming unstable in severe weather in any given year.

City of Newcastle engaged coastal specialists Haskoning to undertake a coastal processes review of its southern beaches as it looks for ways to combat erosion.

The review found the foundations under the cricket oval, the bowling club and several homes near Bar Beach will be at risk during severe storms by 2120 if no action is taken.

† Madeline Link report continues Page 6

NEWS



The area most at risk is the unprotected section of coastline from the Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club at Bar Beach, south to the cliffline at Dixon Park. Picture City of Newcastle

City weighing up erosion options

From Page 1
 City of Newcastle is working on a long-term plan to manage the coastline between Nobbys Headland and Glenrock Lagoon. A Newcastle council spokesman said its investigations had identified that the coastline from Bar Beach to Merewether beach was at the "highest and most immediate risk", which is why proposed management options were focused on the area. "Evidence shows our coastline is vulnerable to climate change impacts such as coastal erosion and inundation, sea level rise, and more frequent and severe storm events," the spokesman said. "City of Newcastle has identified and assessed a

proposed shortlist of coastal management options, which include beach nourishment, protection structures and managed retreat. These options have been developed with rigorous geotechnical and feasibility assessments and are not being considered in isolation, as the best outcome is likely to require a combination of approaches." A 'Zone of Reduced Foundation Capacity' line in an image on City of Newcastle's website shows the foundation under Memorial Drive is "already at risk" and has been since 2020. The Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program will include a series of actions to help adapt to immediate and

City of Newcastle has identified and assessed a proposed shortlist of coastal management options

City of Newcastle spokesman

future changes on the coast. Newcastle's southern coastline is at risk from coastal erosion, coastal inundation and sea level rise, which can affect the safety of nearby infrastructure like pathways, carparks and surf clubs. The council has undertaken geotechnical investigations, risk assessments and feasibility studies to evaluate what it can realistically deliver. Protection structures are one option on the table,

which can include seawalls and revetments built to absorb energy from swells and protect the land and infrastructure behind them. The council is also considering beach nourishment, which would see a large amount of sand dumped on the beach with smaller amounts placed at regular intervals. The sand could be sourced offshore, or smaller amounts from Nobbys beach, where sand accu-

mulates and is unable to move further north due to the headland and Newcastle Harbour breakwaters. The aim of beach nourishment is to provide a buffer between the shoreline and nearby infrastructure. The third option is managed retreat, which would see the council move assets like buildings and roads to allow the shoreline to recede. The council arrived at the three options after considering a 'long list' of coastal management possibilities. Each idea was tested against criteria for legality, environmental and social consequence, cost and whether it would actually fix the problem. Those that did not pass all of the criteria were cast

aside, leaving the council with beach nourishment, protection structures and managed retreat on the table. The council spokesman said its focus was on protecting coastal environments while supporting Newcastle's social and cultural values. "City of Newcastle is currently assisting the community to understand the broader management strategies before calling for feedback later this year, where the community will have the opportunity to review every management option for the Bar Beach to Merewether embayment," he said. The proposed strategies are not 'standalone fixes' and will likely require a combination to mitigate the problem.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Erosion lessons learned, not repeated

NEWCASTLE'S coastline is our city's front porch - the place we gather, play, exercise, surf, and show off to visitors. It is also, as the City of Newcastle's latest review reminds us, one of our greatest vulnerabilities.

That is why the council deserves genuine credit for not waiting until the waves are lapping at the road before acting. By commissioning coastal specialists to map risks and assess strategies now, Newcastle is doing something that has been missing in other communities until it was far too late: thinking ahead.

The review's findings are sobering. The foundations under Memorial Drive, along with Bar Beach and Merewether assets such as the cricket oval and bowling club, already sit in what experts call a "Zone of Reduced Foundation Capacity". Put more plainly, the ground beneath these landmarks could be destabilised by severe weather. The one-in-100 chance of that happening in any

given year is not a risk that can be wished away. Left unmanaged, the dangers will only escalate by the end of this century.

This is not a theoretical exercise. Stockton residents know too well what happens when nature's force meets years of delay. Homes teetering on the edge, seawalls cobbled together under emergency orders, and a community left traumatised by uncertainty - these have been the consequences of waiting until crisis struck elsewhere. Jimmy's Beach and Wamberal have their own cautionary tales. In all cases, the absence of forward planning led to stop-gap measures, protracted fights over seawalls, and bitter disputes about who should pay. Newcastle is right to want to avoid repeating those mistakes. A proactive plan is not a luxury; it is a necessity.

The council's shortlist of options - beach nourishment, protection structures, and managed retreat - reflects global best

practice. None is perfect on its own. Seawalls can protect infrastructure but alter sand movement. Nourishment creates a buffer but requires ongoing investment. Retreat is politically fraught, but sometimes the only safe and sustainable choice.

What is equally important is a commitment to transparency and community involvement. The decisions ahead are not just technical. They go to the heart of Newcastle's identity - how we value our beaches, how we weigh cost against culture, and how much responsibility we are prepared to take for those who come after us. The council's promise of detailed consultation later this year is welcome and necessary.

Critics will inevitably point to cost. True, coastal management does not come cheap. But the alternative is far more expensive. Rebuilding roads, surf clubs, and private homes after they collapse into the sea is not a plan; it is a recipe for repeated disaster.

Investing now is the more responsible path.

It is also worth acknowledging these challenges are not Newcastle's alone. Climate change, sea level rise, and more intense storm events are a shared reality up and down the coast. By starting early, Newcastle has an opportunity to set the standard and show a city can adapt without losing the very qualities that make its coastline precious.

There will be difficult conversations to come. No one wants to hear that beloved landmarks may need to shift, or that rates may rise to fund truckloads of sand. Yet the harder conversation would be the one held too late, when there are no options left but retreat in chaos.

For now, the council deserves praise for choosing foresight over denial. Stockton, Jimmy's beach and Wamberal stand as reminders of what happens when communities are caught unprepared.

ISSUE: 40,612

Newcastle Council is urging residents to participate in consultations on the Southern Beaches Coastal Management Programme to addr...

NBN NBN Central Coast • Lauren Kempe • TV • 28 Sep 2025, 6:05 pm

News NBN News. Locals are being encouraged to have their say on how to best protect Newcastle's beloved coastline. Under threat from erosion and rising seas, Council says it wants to take a proactive approach before it's too late. Giving way to a surging ocean, Newcastle. Newcastle Council says the worst is yet to come for some of the city's most loved beaches. Sea levels are rising, we're seeing more frequent and severe storm events and that's ...

Stream

Duration 39 secs • Interviewees N/A • Audience N/A •



Newcastle Council seeks public input on three coastal management solutions—sand nourishment, seawalls, or managed retreat—for erod...

NBN NBN Central Coast • Lauren Kempe • TV • 28 Sep 2025, 6:06 pm

... northerly swells the sand is sort of replenished. Council will host a series of pop-up events across Newcastle over the next eight weeks, including one here at Barbeet on Thursday, where this stretch of sand remains a concern. Anyone who's been down there lately will have seen the coastal shelters blocked off by a chain link fence. And it's basically Memorial Drive, current risk. Cooks Hill Surf Lifesaving Club, current risk. Bathers Way, current risk.

Stream

Duration 1 mins 12 secs • Interviewees N/A • Audience N/A •



Colombian President Gustavo Petro's diplomatic visa was revoked by the U.S. State Department after he urged U.S. soldiers to disob...

NBN NBN Newcastle Hunter • Lauren Kempe • TV • 28 Sep 2025, 6:05 pm

... crowd. The State Department revoking his diplomatic visa, branding his actions reckless and incendiary, as polls indicate Donald Trump's approval rating is falling. In the United States, Jonathan Kersley, NBN News. Locals are being encouraged to **have their say on how best to protect Newcastle's beloved coastline**. Under threat from erosion and rising seas, Council says it wants to take a proactive ...

Stream

Duration 2 mins 37 secs • Interviewees N/A • Audience 31,000 •



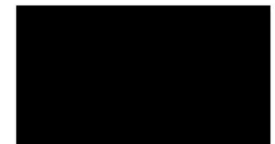
Newcastle City Council is engaging the community in an eight-week 'Have Your Say' program to address coastal erosion risks at Bar ...

ABC Newcastle • Paul Culliver • AM Radio • 29 Sep 2025, 7:14 am

Interview Otherwise, a lot of coastal erosion, coastal management, coastal hazards, all those things constantly circling about. Okay. So what is the current job ahead of you when it comes to the Newcastle coastline? At the moment, we're just trying to get information out to the community about the eight-week Have Your Say programme we've got going on to discuss the three different management strategies and the management options that fall out of those for ...

Stream

Duration 6 mins 53 secs • Interviewees N/A • Audience 3,000 •



Newcastle Council is soliciting public feedback on a coastal management program addressing severe erosion risks between Barbeach a...

 **ABC Newcastle** • Paul Culliver • AM Radio • 07 Oct 2025, 8:33 am

News The relocation of Cooks Hill Surf Lifesaving Club, the loss of Bathers Way and the partial closure of Memorial Drive are options being considered as part of a coastal management programme Newcastle Council is currently seeking community feedback on a range of potential management options for the section between Barbeach and Merriweather, with that section deemed at the highest and most immediate risk of severe erosion. Residents are invited ...

Stream

 ABC Upper Hunter

Duration 31 secs • Interviewees N/A • Audience 4,000 •



So that you can continue enjoying the beaches you know and the way that you want to, now and into the future, we've been assessing options to manage this section of coastline.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Beach nourishment | Protection | Managed retreat |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|

Scan the QR code to find out more about the management options and Newcastle's Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP), or visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/southernbeaches





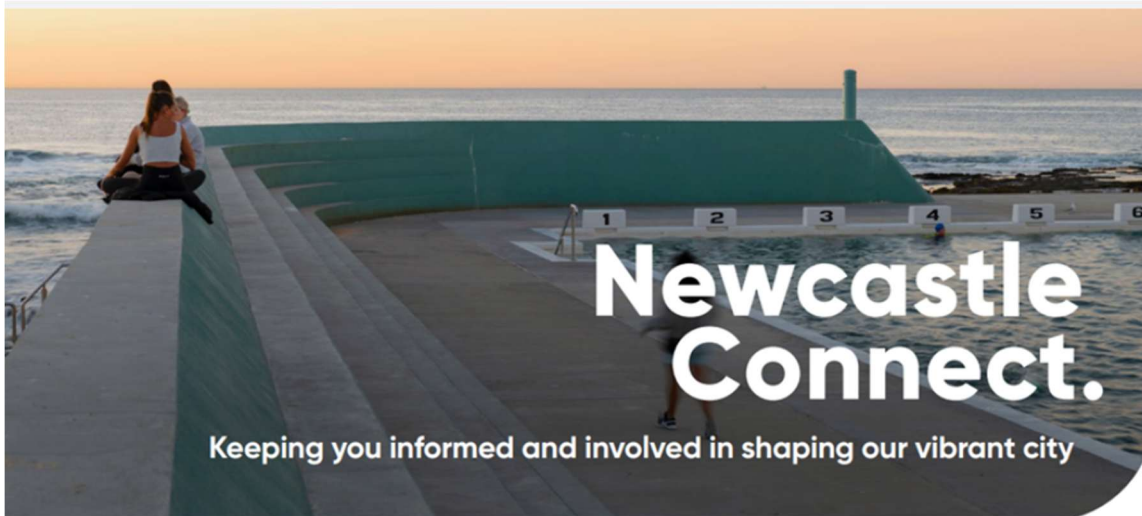
NBN NEWS



MARK RICHARDS

NBN NEWS | RETIRED SURFER

Newcastle Connect articles



13 August 2025

Protecting the future of our coast

City of Newcastle is developing the Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) – a long-term strategy to manage our coastline from Nobbys Headland to Glenrock Lagoon.

To help manage this area under increasing coastal erosion and sea level rise, we've identified a shortlist of management strategies for the Merewether to Bar Beach stretch:

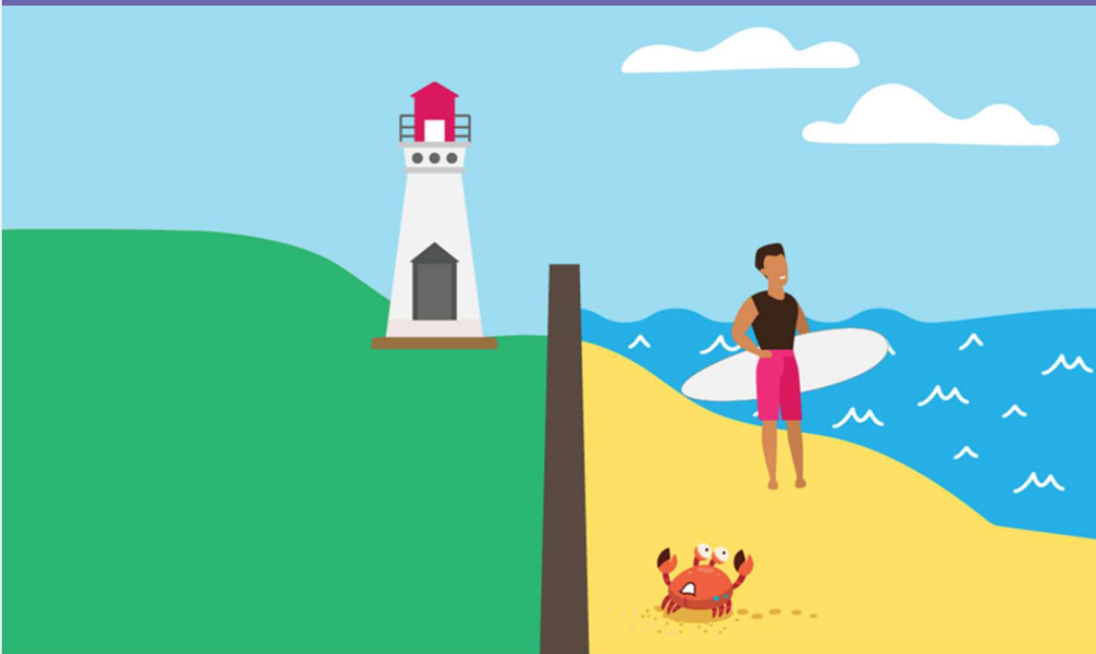
- **Beach Nourishment:** Adding sand to build resilience and keep beaches sandy and usable.
- **Protection Structures:** Seawalls or revetments to protect infrastructure, with some impact on beach shape and width.
- **Managed Retreat:** Relocating infrastructure to allow the shoreline to naturally recede.

These strategies are being refined and are generally not considered in isolation - a combination of approaches will likely be required to manage our changing coastline effectively.

Over the next few editions of Newcastle Connect, we'll be exploring each of these strategies in more detail to help you better understand the choices ahead. We'll also be inviting your feedback soon to help shape the final CMP.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Protecting the future of our coast



What are protection structures and when are they used?

Protection structures, such as seawalls and revetments, are engineered barriers designed to protect land, infrastructure and assets from coastal erosion and storm damage.

Built parallel to the coast using materials like rock, concrete or rock bags, these structures absorb wave energy and help reduce erosion in the areas they protect.

However, they can change natural coastal processes, sometimes causing erosion in nearby unprotected areas, and can reduce beach width over time. They also 'fix' the shoreline in place, which may not suit all beach environments, especially as sea levels rise.

These structures are often used in combination with strategies like beach nourishment or asset relocation to provide more balanced and effective outcomes.

We're sharing this information so when the time comes, you can help shape the future of our coast.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Protecting the future of our coast



What is managed retreat and when is it used?

Managed retreat is a long-term, sustainable coastal management approach that allows the coastline to naturally recede by relocating key assets, such as buildings and roads, away from vulnerable areas.

Managed retreat is environmentally friendly, reduces long-term risk and supports natural coastal processes

While it may alter the appearance of our coastline, managed retreat helps protect what matters most – public safety, infrastructure, and natural assets.

It's important to note that this approach is rarely used in isolation. A successful Coastal Management Program will likely require a combination of strategies, including protection structures and beach nourishment, to manage our coast effectively.

We're committed to involving the community in shaping this important work. Stay tuned for opportunities to have your say.

[LEARN MORE](#)

What's happening on our coastline?



Have you spotted our updates on the long-term plan to manage our coastline between Nobbys Headland and Glenrock Lagoon?

Over the past few newsletters, we've shared the shortlisted options that are being considered to help protect places like Merewether Beach, Dixon Park Beach, and Bar Beach.

Here's a quick recap of what's being considered :

- **Beach nourishment** - adding sand to keep our beaches sandy and create a buffer from erosion
- **Protection structures** - like seawalls and revetments to protect paths, roads and public spaces
- **Managed retreat** - relocating infrastructure to allow the shoreline to naturally shift overtime.

Each option has its pros and cons, and often a mix of approaches will be needed to get the balance right.

We'll be asking for feedback soon, so we want to make sure you feel confident about the choices ahead when it's time to have your say.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Let's shape the future of our coastline together

We've developed a shortlist of management options to protect the Bar Beach to Merewether section of our coastline.

The options include beach nourishment, protection structures and managed retreat, or a combination of these elements.

We're not making any decisions yet. Let us know which of the management options you prefer, so we can shape the future of our coastline together.

Visit us at a pop-up or have your say online, before Monday 24 November 2025.

[HAVE YOUR SAY](#)



Come and chat to us!

We're hitting the streets to talk about projects open for feedback and we'd love to see you there!

- **Newcastle Pride Fair Day - Saturday 25 October from 11am to 4pm**
- **Nobbys Beach (with Northern Zone SES) - Wednesday 5 November from 10am to 2pm**
- **DOWN THE PARK at The Tram Sheds, Foreshore Park- Thursday 20 November from 4pm to 7pm**

Can't make it? Share your feedback online.

[HAVE YOUR SAY](#)

We want to hear from you!

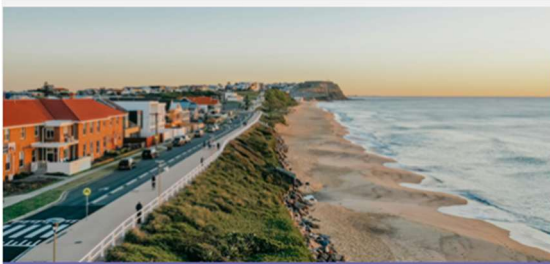
We'll continue to be out and about these next few weeks. You can find us at:

- **Bar Beach** on Saturday 9 November from 9am - 1pm.
- **Dixon Park Beach** on Saturday 16 November from 9am - 1pm.
- **DOWN THE PARK** at the Tram Sheds in Foreshore Park on Thursday 20 November from 4pm - 7pm.

Can't make it? Share your feedback online.

[HAVE YOUR SAY](#)





Have your say on the Southern Beaches CMP

Time is running out to have your say on the Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program.

Share which protection strategies you support through our survey, quick poll, or at one of our pop-up events before **Monday, November 24, 2025.**

Don't miss this deadline.

[HAVE YOUR SAY](#)

Media release



Community input required to shore up beloved coastline

City of Newcastle is calling on the community to help shape the future of the coastline between Bar Beach and Merewether by providing feedback on potential management strategies.

Investigations show this area is at the most immediate risk from climate change-driven threats such as erosion and sea level rise.

Over time this will lead to narrowed sandy beaches and a loss of space for people to enjoy, as well as impacting events such as surf carnivals and Surfest, while also putting nearby surf clubs, walkways and roads at risk.

Program Lead for Coast and Estuary, Dr Josh van Lier, said City of Newcastle was developing a long-term Coastal Management Program (CMP) for the area between Nobbys Headland and Glenrock Lagoon, collectively known as the Southern Beaches.

“We need effective, practical and long-term strategies to keep this coastline section safe, accessible, and fit for future use” Dr van Lier said.

“This phase of consultation for the Southern Beaches CMP focuses on the Bar Beach to Merewether stretch as it is at the highest and most immediate risk.

“With increasing pressures such as climate change and growing visitor numbers, managing our coastline while balancing community enjoyment and environmental care is more important than ever.”

CMPs identify coastal management issues and the actions required to address them. This includes how and when actions are to be implemented, their costs and proposed funding mechanisms and cost-sharing arrangements.

Coastal hazard modelling was used to understand natural processes such as wave action and sand movement to estimate how inundation and erosion may change the coastal environment in the future under different sea-level rise scenarios and storm events.

A range of options have since been developed to respond to current and future coastal risks between Bar Beach and Merewether utilising a range of resources such as historic coastal erosion data and geotechnical investigations.

Each management option also considers the potential impacts on the quality of surf breaks along the Bar Beach to Merewether stretch based on the findings of a surf amenity impact assessment.

The community is being asked to provide their feedback on strategies such as beach nourishment, protection structures and a managed retreat, or a combination of these elements, which all come with different benefits and risks.

“We’ve considered whether the options are practical, cost-effective and environmentally responsible, but most importantly, will they effectively address the risks we’ve identified,” Dr van Lier said.

“To emphasise the importance of this program we’ve estimated the ongoing cost of each option, which all run into the millions of dollars.

“People can make their voices heard by spending less than 10 minutes to complete the survey online or by voting in the quick poll, as well as attending one of several planned pop-up events to speak to a City of Newcastle representative.

“The community’s feedback will be used alongside feasibility and viability studies to determine the preferred management options that are included in the draft Southern Beaches CMP.”

Chairman Tim Ryan said the Merewether National Surfing Reserve Committee is happy to be a contributor to City of Newcastle’s Southern Beaches CMP.

“We applaud City of Newcastle’s process of consultation for the CMP,” Mr Ryan said.

“The climate change impacts on our beaches require significant planning and investment from a Local, State and Federal Government level to maintain a level of public amenity and maintain the wave quality and beach amenity along our coastline.

“We are looking forward to an outcome that fairly balances all the interests of the beach community and maintains the quality of the waves on the Merewether to Bar Beach stretch.”

To take part in community consultation head to [City of Newcastle’s Have Your Say page](#).

Consultation closes on Monday 24 November 2025.

Partner campaign

Hunterhunter statistics:

Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program - Campaign Report

| EDITORIAL CAMPAIGN SUMMARY | | | | |
|---|------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Campaign Title | Date | Total Article Pageviews | Total Views | Total Reach |
| Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program | 10/11/2025 | 460 | 57,612 | 16,723 |

| EDITORIAL SUMMARY | | | |
|---|------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Title | Date | Total Pageviews | Avg. eng. time / active user |
| Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program | 10/11/2025 | 460 | 0m 31s |

| E-NEWSLETTER | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|---------------|-----|------|-----|------|
| Title | Date | Total Opens | Total Clicks | Open Rate | Click Rate | Total Clicks | Unique Clicks | | | | |
| Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program | 12/11/2025 | 20,118 | 11,971 | 13,389 | 45.6% | 2,952 | 10.1% | 138 | 1.2% | 106 | 1.1% |

| SOCIAL MEDIA | | | | | |
|---|------------|-------|---------|--------------|-------------|
| Facebook | Date | Views | Viewers | Interactions | Link Clicks |
| Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program | 10/11/2025 | 3,289 | 2,314 | 9 | 23 |

| Instagram | Date | Views | Accounts Reached | Interactions | Shares | Reposts | Saves |
|---|------------|--------|------------------|--------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program | 10/11/2025 | 30,306 | 10,986 | 204 | 18 | 4.0% | 6 |

| Instastories | Date | Views | Accounts Reached | Interactions | Link Clicks |
|---|------------|-------|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program | 10/11/2025 | 3,899 | 3,317 | 12 | 92 |

Data correct as of:
Sunday, February 8, 2026

Newy with kids partner campaign:



City of Newcastle

**SCAVENGER HUNT
NEWCASTLE
SOUTHERN BEACHES**

Explore the area marked on the map to find the answer to each question. Then use those answers to solve the mystery phrase.

HAVE FUN!



CoastSnap beach monitoring
Become a citizen scientist and help track how our coastline is changing.



- 1 Merewether Ocean Baths
- 2 Interpretive sign
- 3 Concrete etching
- 4 MNSR plinth
- 5 Dixon Park playground
- 6 Mural
- 7 Headland 'The Cliff'
- 8 Skate Park
- 9 Bar Beach
- 10 Bar Beach lookout

SCAVENGER HUNT While you're searching keep your eyes open! How many items can you find?

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seagull | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog | <input type="checkbox"/> Mural | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree | <input type="checkbox"/> Skate Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin | <input type="checkbox"/> Surfer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Coal ship | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike | <input type="checkbox"/> Bench |

GOOD LUCK!

CAN YOU SOLVE THE MYSTERY PHRASE?

What is the name of the coastal walk stretching 6km from Merewether Baths in the south to Nobbys Beach in the north?

9 4 1 3 8 6 5

 7 4 2

NEED A HINT OR WANT TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS? VISIT NEWYWITHKIDS.COM.AU/HINTS

The City of Newcastle acknowledges its Local Government Area (LGA) sits within the Country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge that Country for Aboriginal peoples is an interconnected set of ancient relationships. The City of Newcastle acknowledges the custodianship of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples and the care and stewardship they have performed in this place since time immemorial.

OUR COASTLINE IS CHANGING

We're developing a Coastal Management Program for Newcastle's Southern Beaches. To find out more about the management options and Newcastle's Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) scan the QR code, or visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/southernbeaches

EXPLORE THE AREA MARKED ON THE MAP TO FIND THE ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION. THEN USE THOSE ANSWERS TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY PHRASE.

- 1

Start the scavenger hunt at *Merewether Ocean Baths*. Opened in 1935, Merewether Baths are the largest ocean baths complex in the Southern Hemisphere. Look for the white numbered swimming blocks. How many are there?

[1] _____
- 2

As you walk up the path from *Merewether Ocean Baths*, look for a *blue interpretative sign* located to your right. This sign describes some of the bird species that you might see along your walk. What is the title of this interpretative sign?

[2] _____

[3] _____
- 3

As you approach *Merewether Surfhouse*, you'll notice a seating area on the left. Can you see the drawing and words etched in the concrete? This was the site of Merewether Beach's first ocean pool reserved just for female swimmers. What is the name of the pool and date etched in concrete?

[4] _____
- 4

Walk past *Merewether Beach SLSC* and look for a rock plinth with the letters *MNSR* prominently displayed. Merewether is an iconic surfing beach and in March 2009, it was named a...

[5] _____

[6] _____
- 5

Feel like a playground stop? Head to *Dixon Park Playground*. This fenced playground features a swing set, climbing structure and ocean views. Did you go down the slide?

YES
 NO
- 6

Walk up to the mural on the southern side of the kiosk at *Dixon Park Beach*. This artwork features local surfer *Mark Richards*, a four-time world surfing champion on his board surfing a...

[7] _____
- 7

It's a bit of a hike up the hill from Dixon Park Beach to the headland but at the top, you'll be rewarded with views over Bar Beach. How many surfers can you spot in the water?

[] _____
- 8

Did you notice the skate park at *Bar Beach*? It features a skate bowl varying in depth from 7-11ft and a plaza-style street section, making it one of the best skate facilities in the country. What is the name of this skate park?

[8] _____
- 9

For over 100 years, this local lifesaving and surf club has patrolled Bar Beach. Founded in 1911, what is the name of the surf club?

Hint: It's listed on the side of the building.

[9] _____
- 10

Walk up to the *Bar Beach lookout* and take a photo at the *Bar Beach CoastSnap* spot. While you're here, see if you can spot the seawall at Bar Beach. Seawalls can be made from concrete, large rocks or rock bags, and are built to protect land and infrastructure from coastal erosion. Did you spot the seawall?

YES
 NO

Newy with kids partner campaign statistics:



Southern Beaches CMP

Updated 02/09/2026 12:15

Thank you for partnering with Newy with Kids to promote Southern Beaches CMP. This report outlines the reach and engagement the campaign received across our channels.



Facebook Instagram Mailchimp
Articles



Facebook Instagram Mailchimp
Articles



Facebook Instagram Mailchimp
Articles



[View on Facebook](#)



[View Email](#)



[View on Blog](#)



The image shows a screenshot of an Instagram post. At the top, the Instagram logo is followed by the number '3,837' and the word 'IMPRESSIONS'. Below this, three statistics are listed: '1,438 UNIQUE IMPRESSIONS', '3,837 VIEWS', and '21 ENGAGEMENTS'. The post is from the account 'newywithki...' which has '10.4K followers' and a 'View profile' button. The main content is a promotional poster for a 'SCAVENGER HUNT NEWCASTLE SOUTHERN BEACHES'. The poster features a map of the coastline from Bar Beach to Merewether, with various points of interest marked. Text on the poster includes 'Join us for a seaside scavenger hunt!', 'Thursday 2 October', '8.30-11.30am', and 'Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club'. A 'View on Instagram' link is visible at the bottom of the post.

Appendix II – Quick poll

🔥 Survey
🔥 Quick Poll

Let us know what you think!

Based on what you know now, which of the following management strategies do you feel is the most appropriate overall?

Beach nourishment

Protection

Managed retreat

Submit

Appendix III – Survey

Open

Exploring Acceptability of Management Options

We're developing a long-term Coastal Management Program for our Southern Beaches, from Nobbys Headland to Glenrock Lagoon. Right now, we're seeking your feedback on proposed management options for the Bar Beach to Merewether stretch - identified as the area most at immediate risk.

Your input will help shape priorities and guide future decisions for our coastline.

This survey will take approximately **8 minutes** to complete.

Start

We'd like to get to know you a little better

Understanding who you are and which communities you identify with helps us ensure we're hearing from a broad and diverse cross-section of our community, not just the voices we hear from most often.

By capturing a wide range of perspectives, we can make more informed decisions that truly reflect the makeup and needs of our whole community.

Next

What is your name? Required

Type your answer here...

What is your email address? Required

Type your answer here...

What is your age? Required

- Under 18 years
- 18-24 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55-64 years
- 65+ years
- Prefer not to say

What is your gender? Required

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary / Gender diverse
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

What suburb do you live in? Required

Type your answer here...

What is your relationship with Newcastle? Required

Tick all that apply.

- I live in Newcastle
- I work in Newcastle
- I study in Newcastle
- I own/operate a business in Newcastle
- I represent a community group in Newcastle
- I am a visitor of Newcastle

Which option best describes your usage of our coastline? Required

We know that there will likely be many, but we've limited this to one option as we'd like to know your most valued component of using the coast.

- Surfer / board rider / body surfer
- Swimmer
- Snorkeller / scuba diver
- Fisherman
- Nipper / surf lifesaving community
- Sun baker / umbrella relaxer / sandcastle builder / picnicker / meditator
- Kite surfer / air sports
- Bathers Way user (walker / runner / dog walker)
- Other (please specify)

What you know and what you think

Each of the management strategies and combination of options being considered have different pros and cons and all of them require trade-offs.

Next

Overall, how familiar are you with the issues facing our Southern Beaches? Required

- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Heard of them but don't know much
- Not familiar at all

Based on what you know now, which of the following management strategies do you feel is the most appropriate overall? Required

Generally, these options are not considered in isolation, and often a combination will be required to manage the coastline effectively.

- Beach nourishment
- Protection
- Managed retreat

About the management options

The proposed options are based on a detailed Feasibility Assessment Report. This report draws on historic data, recent investigations, hazard modelling, surf amenity assessments, and climate science to identify practical, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible ways to manage coastal erosion risks - now and into the future.

There are pros and cons to consider with all of the management options available for the Merewether Beach and Dixon Park Beach section of coastline.

Next

Management options for Merewether Beach and Dixon Park Beach

Management options for Merewether Beach and Dixon Park Beach

| Type of management | Indicative capital cost | Indicative operational cost | Sandy beach | Impact to surf quality ^{^^} | Protection of existing assets [^] | Impact to environment | Resilience to climate change | Impact to existing roads |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Merewether and Dixon Park option 1 Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment | \$26m | \$1m [†] | | | | | | |
| Merewether and Dixon Park option 2 Maintain seawall + managed partial retreat | \$10m | \$0.3m | | | | | | |
| Merewether and Dixon Park option 3 + Bar Beach option 1 Mass sand nourishment | \$45m | \$0.7m | | | | | | |

Very good Good Average Poor Very poor

[^] Protection of existing assets at current location, such as buildings, active pathways, recreational areas.
^{*} Option to relocate or retain Cooks Hill SLSC building.

[†] Indicative operational costs will depend on sand source for top ups.
^{^^} Ratings informed by the Surf Amenity Impact Assessment Report.

Of the options available for Merewether Beach and Dixon Park Beach, which is your most preferred? Required

- Option 1: Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment
- Option 2: Maintain seawall + managed partial retreat
- Option 3 + Bar Beach option 1: Mass sand nourishment

[if **Option 1: Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment** is selected]

Option 1: Maintain seawall + amenity sand nourishment

Please note: Like all proposed options, this one comes with some risks, including:

- Minor impacts to the surf break once sand nourishment begins.
- Challenges sourcing sand from offshore.
- Loss of effectiveness of sand nourishment after repeated severe storm/erosion events, may lead to limited beach resilience in the long term.
- Traffic impacts and temporary closure of parts of Nobbys Beach if sand top ups come from there.

This option has an indicative cost of \$26 million in capital costs plus \$1m per year depending on sand source for top ups.

These considerations are important when thinking about why this option may or may not be your preferred choice.

Can you let us know why this is your preferred option?

Required

- It will provide a relatively sandy beach
- It will offer protection to existing assets
- It means that existing assets will not need to be relocated
- It will have limited impacts on traffic (if sand is sourced from Nobbys Beach)
- The cost is reasonable
- The sand will potentially be sourced from Nobbys Beach
- The sand will potentially be sourced from an offshore location
- Other (please specify)

[if **Option 2: Maintain seawall + managed partial retreat** is selected]

Option 2: Maintain seawall + managed partial retreat

Please note: Like all proposed options, this one comes with some risks, including:

- Eventual loss or relocation of parklands and/or carparks
- Eventual loss of sandy beach in front of maintained seawall owing to sea level rise

This option has an indicative cost of \$10 million in capital costs plus \$0.3m per year. This does not include the costs associated with the relocation of assets.

These considerations are important when thinking about why this option may or may not be your preferred choice.

Can you let us know why this is your preferred option?

Required

- It will provide a relatively sandy beach
- No near term impacts to the surf quality
- It has lower impacts on the environment
- It will not have an impact on traffic
- It is the cheapest management option for this section of coastline
- Other (please specify)

[If Option 3 + Bar Beach option 1: Mass sand nourishment is selected]

Option 3 + Bar Beach option 1: Mass sand nourishment

Please note: Like all proposed options, this one comes with some risks, including:

- Severe impact on surf quality due to large increase of sand in the local environment.
- Challenges sourcing sand from offshore.
- Loss of effectiveness of sand nourishment after repeated severe storm/erosion events may lead to limited beach resilience and protection of assets in the long term.
- Ecological impacts from excess sand on site (effects on plants and animals that live in the sand and in the ocean).

Some of the other considerations for this option include:

- This option is a whole-of-embayment option (from Bar Beach to Merewether Beach).
- Cooks Hill SLSC could be retained or relocated under this option. Its present location leaves it at risk if repeated erosion events reduce the protection benefits from mass sand nourishment.
- The maintenance of existing seawalls is not included in cost estimates.

This option has an indicative cost of \$45 million in capital costs and does not include the costs associated with the relocation of Cooks Hills SLSC plus \$0.7m per year. This does not include the costs associated with the relocation of Cooks Hills SLSC.

These considerations are important when thinking about why this option may or may not be your preferred choice.

Can you let us know why this is your preferred option?

Required

- It provides a very sandy beach
- The sand will potentially be sourced from Nobbys Beach
- The sand will potentially be sourced from offshore location
- It provides some protection to existing assets (but the Cooks Hill SLSC may still need to be relocated)
- It will not have an impact on traffic
- Other (please specify)

Management options for Bar Beach

Next

Management options for Bar Beach

| Type of management | Indicative capital cost | Indicative operational cost | Sandy beach | Impact to surf quality [^] | Protection of existing assets [^] | Impact to environment | Resilience to climate change | Impact to existing roads |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bar Beach option 2 Seawall + amenity sand nourishment | \$29m | \$0.6m [†] | ☹️ | ☹️ | 😊* | ☹️ | ☹️ | 😊 |
| Bar Beach option 3 Seawall setback 12m + amenity sand nourishment | \$33m | \$0.7m [†] | 😊 | 😊 | ☹️ | ☹️ | 😊 | ☹️ |
| Bar Beach option 4 Managed retreat | \$6m | \$0.3m | ☹️ | 😊 | ☹️ | 😊 | 😊 | ☹️ |

Very good 😊 Good 😊 Average 😊 Poor ☹️ Very poor ☹️

[^] Protection of existing assets at current location, such as buildings, active pathways, recreational areas.
^{*} Option to relocate or retain Cooks Hill SASC building.

[†] Indicative operational costs will depend on sand source for top ups.
^{**} Ratings informed by the Surf Amenity Impact Assessment Report.

Of the options available for Bar Beach, which is your most preferred? Required

Please note Option 1 which involves mass sand nourishment was included in the management options in the previous section (management option 3 plus option 1) as this cannot be delivered to only one section of this stretch of coastline.

- Option 1: Mass sand nourishment (includes Merewether Beach)
- Option 2: Seawall + amenity sand nourishment
- Option 3: Seawall setback 12m + amenity sand nourishment
- Option 4: Managed retreat

[If Option 2: Seawall + amenity sand nourishment is selected]

Option 2: Seawall + amenity sand nourishment

Please note: Like all proposed options, this one comes with some risks, including:

- Moderate impact to surf quality through wave interaction with the new seawall and the introduction of more sand into the local environment.
- Short-term environmental impacts to the sand dune during seawall construction, with dune rehabilitation required.
- Loss of effectiveness of sand nourishment after repeated severe storm / erosion events, may lead to limited beach resilience in the long-term.
- Challenges sourcing sand from offshore.
- Traffic impacts and temporary closure to parts of Nobbys Beach if sand top ups come from there.

Some of the other considerations for this option include:

- The Cooks Hill SLSC building could be retained or relocated under this option. Its present location provides engineering challenges in constructing a seawall due to necessary beach access, seawall shape and alignment, and end effects potentially exacerbating erosion issues.

This option has an indicative cost of \$29 million and does not include the costs associated with the relocation of Cooks Hills SLSC plus up to \$0.6 million per year depending on sand source for top ups. This does not include the costs associated with the relocation of Cooks Hills SLSC and other relevant assets.

These considerations are important when thinking about why this option may or may not be your preferred choice.

Can you let us know why this is your preferred option?

Required

- It provides some protection to existing assets (but the Cooks Hill SLSC may still need to be relocated)
- It will limited impacts on traffic (if sand is sourced from Nobbys Beach)
- The sand will potentially be sourced from Nobbys Beach
- The sand will potentially be sourced from offshore location
- Other (please specify)

[If Option 3: Seawall setback 12m + amenity sand nourishment is selected]

Option 3: Seawall setback 12m + amenity sand nourishment

Please note: Like all proposed options, this one comes with some risks, including:

- Short-term environmental impacts to the sand dune during seawall construction, with dune rehabilitation required.
- Traffic changes when Memorial Drive is limited to one lane.
- Impact to surf quality in the long term from sand nourishment and changed coastline shape interacting with sea level rise.
- Change to existing Bathers Way.
- Challenges sourcing sand from offshore.
- Traffic impacts and temporary closure to parts of Nobbys Beach if sand top ups come from there.

This option has an indicative cost of \$33 million plus up to \$0.7 million per year depending on sand source for top ups. This does not include the costs associated with the relocation of Cooks Hills SLSC or other relevant assets. These factors are important to consider when sharing why this option may or may not be your preferred choice.

Can you let us know why this is your preferred option?

Required

- It will provide a relatively sandy beach
- It will have less impacts on the surf quality
- It provides resilience to climate change
- Other (please specify)

[If **Option 4: Managed retreat** is selected]

Option 4: Managed retreat

Please note: Like all proposed options, this one comes with some risks, including:

- Loss of Bathers Way, Memorial Drive, the skate park and parts of Empire Park.
- Traffic changes due to part closure of Memorial Drive.
- Potential impacts to surf quality in future decades from changed coastline shape interacting with sea level rise.

This option has an indicative cost of \$6 million plus \$0.03 million per year. This does not include the costs associated with the relocation of Cooks Hills SLSC or other relevant assets.

These factors are important to consider when sharing why this option may or may not be your preferred choice.

Can you let us know why this is your preferred option?

Required

- It will have no near-term impact on the surf quality
- It has relatively low impact on the environment
- It provides the most resilience to climate change
- It is a cost-effective management option (but does not include the cost of relocation of assets such as roads, pathways and buildings)
- Other (please specify)

Do you have any other comments about how this section of coastline should be managed?

Type your answer here...

Thanks for sharing your thoughts.

As you've seen, there's a lot to consider and no single perfect solution. Your feedback, alongside technical, environmental, social, and financial factors, will help shape the options included in the Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program.

Once the draft program is ready, we'll be seeking your input again.

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