

Bathers Way, King Edward Park

Consultation Report



City of
Newcastle

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Executive summary

Overview

City of Newcastle (CN) sought community feedback on the concept plans for the Bathers Way extension into King Edward Park between 18 June and 5 August 2024 via a comprehensive community engagement campaign under the *We Love Our Coast* banner.

Bathers Way is a 4-6-metre-wide shared pathway that links Newcastle's beaches from Merewether Ocean Baths to Nobbys Beach.

The extension into King Edward Park is one of the last remaining sections of Bathers Way and will connect the previous upgrade at The Terrace carpark, through King Edward Park, to Shortland Esplanade and through to South Newcastle Beach.

The concept plan presented for consultation was refined from the previous 2014 plans with modifications to reflect current thought. The plan incorporates current heritage, native title, engineering, ecological, and safety requirements.

King Edward Park holds enormous significance to Newcastle with its sweeping ocean views, much-loved gardens, and importance to Newcastle's traditional custodians. Since 2014, community feedback has played an integral role in shaping this section of the project, and along with many technical, financial, social, environmental, and heritage considerations, this feedback was used to refine the concept plans that were developed in 2014.

The community was invited to provide feedback on the current concept plan rendered imagery via an interactive tool, online form, and various in-person events across the extended We Love Our Coast consultation period.

The *We Love Our Coast* campaign provided information on exciting and iconic Coastal projects, including the Bathers Way extension into King Edward Park, that CN wanted to celebrate and discuss with the community. The campaign was extensively advertised across the region with TV news coverage, Newcastle Herald articles, media releases, flyers in CN facilities and at local cafes and businesses throughout the city, signage across the Newcastle coastline, social media and email campaigns, as well as in-person events in each of the wards.

CN also hosted a flagship drop-in information event at the Council's Digital Library at 12 Stewart Avenue on 18 July 2024. Two separate sessions were held to allow the local community and businesses to learn and ask questions about future projects, plans and opportunities for our coastline.

This report documents the methods and approach of the engagement and analyses the community and stakeholder feedback received during the consultation.

What we heard

CN received **136** comments and **267** reactions via our online interactive concept plans; **51** responses via the online form and **6** pieces of feedback via email.

The key themes across all feedback received were:

- Parking
- Route
- General support
- Greenspace
- Path width

- Accessibility
- User conflict.

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

Parking generated a significant amount of feedback from a wide range of perspectives. Some participants supported increasing the priority of pedestrians, describing the areas where parking is proposed to be removed in favour of the path as a progressive step forward. However, others raised concerns about the loss of parking, with the opinion that the existing spaces are often full. The challenge of finding alternative parking, especially during peak summer periods, was a key issue for many.

The proposed pathway **route** through King Edward Park, particularly the switchback path above Garside Gardens, was a significant point of discussion. Concerns included the extended distance for walkers, the level of construction required, the increase in hard pavement, and potential risks to existing trees. Several suggestions were made to address these concerns, including:

- An alternate route using the existing short link from the road near Garside to the Rotunda Lawn, offering better accessibility at a suggested lower cost.
- The roadside should feature a bike-only lane without pedestrians.
- Instead of continuing Bathers Way through the park, it could descend via the stairs from Shepherds Hill Cottage toward the Bogey Hole, and connect back to Bathers Way towards Newcastle Beach and South Newcastle skate park.

While opinions varied, there was strong **general support** for the proposal. Many participants recognised the significant improvements it would bring to pedestrian movement and local amenities. The ongoing enhancement projects in Newcastle, particularly along Bathers Way, were well received, with some considering them a potential highlight for the city.

With feedback reflecting a mix of perspectives, the enthusiasm for improvements was evident, with constructive suggestions provided to address concerns.

Next steps

CN will continue to work within the project's guiding principles to complete the Bathers Way.

The detailed design phase will explore the results of the community consultation and technical studies to inform how, what, and where refinements and enhancements can be facilitated.

CN is already exploring how we can:

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

CN will continue to keep the community updated as planning progresses.

1. Background

The Bathers Way is a continuous 6-kilometre coastal path linking our iconic beaches of Merewether, Dixon Park, Bar Beach, Newcastle, and Nobbys. The Bathers Way is a flagship project of our Coastal Revitalisation Program.

City of Newcastle (CN) has been consulting with the community on delivering the Bathers Way, a 6-kilometre pathway that forms part of the Great North Walk from Queens Wharf by Newcastle Harbour to Circular Quay in Sydney since 2014. Consultation with the community has involved:

- A preliminary concept design was presented to the Coastal Revitalisation Consultative Committee and the Bathers Way Community Reference Group (CRG), followed by a public exhibition in 2014.
- The Bathers Way CRG met several times across 2019 and 2020 to recommence discussions on this project and the neighbouring section of Bathers Way at South Newcastle Beach.
- Broad community consultation will be held during the design stages for the previous sections of Bathers Way.
- A renewed CRG to support the King Edward Park design was established in 2023. The CRG represents a diverse range of community members, user groups and stakeholders. Details and outcomes of the CRG, including the most recent CRG meeting, are available [here](#).

In June 2024, we commenced community consultation on concept-rendered imagery for the King Edward section under the We Love Our Coast banner. The consultation presented eight rendered images of the concept design, each offering different perspectives of the park. We also included a project flythrough.

The feedback received on the rendered concept images during the broader community consultation is detailed in this report.

2. Engagement objectives

We heard from the community through our engagement activities from 18 June to 5 August 2024.

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- Inform the community on projects under the '*We Love Our Coast*' banner.
- Inform, educate, and consult with the community on concept plans for the Bathers Way pathway extension into King Edward Park.
- Deliver authentic engagement opportunities for the community to have their say.
- Deliver open and transparent engagement tools that allow the community to collaborate and discuss thoughts, ideas, and opinions.
- Reach a diverse group of community members and encourage them to participate in the consultation activities.
- Provide an opportunity for the community to directly engage with subject matter experts across CN on the projects that are important to them through the *We Love Our Coast* events.
- Use the information collected to inform detailed designs for the pathway.

The engagement approach was guided by best-practice International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) principles and CN's commitment to engaging the community as outlined in our Community Engagement Strategy.

3. Communication and promotion

During the engagement period, a communications campaign was implemented to inform the community of the *We Love Our Coast* campaign and promote the opportunity for them to provide feedback on projects, including the Bathers Way King Edward Park.

The campaign resulted in 1,437,550 touchpoints, including social media impressions, video views, e-newsletters issued, attendees at events and many more activities.

3.1 Summary of promotional activity and reach

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

The numbers below relate specifically to the 'Bathers Way, King Edward Park' components of the broader *We Love Our Coast* campaign.

Channel	Description	Reach
 Overall project touchpoints	A comprehensive campaign was delivered to support the consultation activity for Bathers Way, King Edward Park. The campaign was delivered via print, digital and in person touchpoints.	923,009 touchpoints delivered throughout the consultation campaign
 Have Your Say webpage	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say website. The page provided information about the broader <i>We Love Our Coast</i> campaign as well as specific information about the Bathers Way, King Edward Park and encouraged participation via the multiple tools available.	2,417 page views from 1,978 users
 Flyers and onsite signage	Flyers were distributed to CN facilities and local business across the city. Signage was also installed at key locations to promote the campaign and encourage feedback. Additional flyers were also provided at community engagement drop-in sessions throughout the duration of the campaign.	1,000 flyers 14 corflute signs
 Social media	An organic and paid social media campaign ran from 18 June - 5 August 2024. The posts provided key project information and encouraged viewers to visit the Have Your Say webpage to find out more and have their say.	544,735 impressions 43,256 post engagements (shares, reactions, saves, comments etc.) 7,388 clicks (all)
 Video flythrough	A video flythrough of the 3D rendered model was produced and shared across all digital channels and on YouTube.	351,423 views

 e-Newsletters	e-Newsletter were distributed on 20 June and 16 July 2024, encouraging viewers to find out more and have their say.	2,678 recipients
 Media release	A media release was issued on 19 June 2024.	114 media contacts notified
 Partner campaign	A feature blog post, email marketing and social advertising collaboration with <i>Newy with Kids</i> was delivered.	20,358 impressions, readers, and views
 Pop-up stalls	Pop-up stalls were held at Wallsend No.1 Oval on the 22 June, Blackbutt Reserve on the 29 June, the Olive Tree Markets on 6 July and the Newcastle Farmers Market on the 7 July 2024.	4 pop-up stalls 220 participants
 Drop-in information sessions	A drop-in information session was held at CN's Digital Library at 12 Stewart Ave on 18 July with a Business Leaders and Operators Forum followed by a general community session. This flagship event presented information about a suite of exciting projects happening or planned along our coastline.	2 drop-in information sessions 50 participants

4. Engagement activities

The community were invited to provide feedback on the Bathers Way, King Edward Park, from 18 June until 5 August 2024.

The community were able to provide feedback in several ways:

- **Interactive concept plan**

An online interactive platform for Bathers Way, King Edward Park, was delivered using the rendered imagery. This tool allowed the community to comment on the elements outlined in the rendered images. It provided transparency for participants, with the feedback being collected and presented live.

In total, **136** comments and **267** reactions were placed on the concept images.

- **Online form**

An online form was also made available for those who did not wish to have their feedback publicly available. In total, **51** people provided feedback via the online form.

- **Other feedback**

The community could also provide feedback by mail, email, or phone. **Six** pieces of feedback were received via email.

Whilst we aimed to hear from as many people as possible during the consultation process, the feedback is not necessarily representative of the views of the broader Newcastle community. Feedback was provided on an opt-in basis, and as such, those who have strong views either for or against the proposal are more likely to share their opinions.

All feedback has been reviewed and considered as part of the consultation process.

5. What we heard

5.1 Key themes

Overall, 193 pieces of feedback were received - 51 online form submissions, 136 comments on the interactive concept plans, and 6 email submissions.

Feedback received via the online form or email was generally detailed and focused on several aspects of the proposal, whereas those who provided feedback on the interactive concept plans were more likely to provide multiple comments, with each limited to certain aspects of the design.

All feedback received was reviewed and categorised to identify recurring themes.

The key themes identified across all comments and feedback were:



Parking



Route

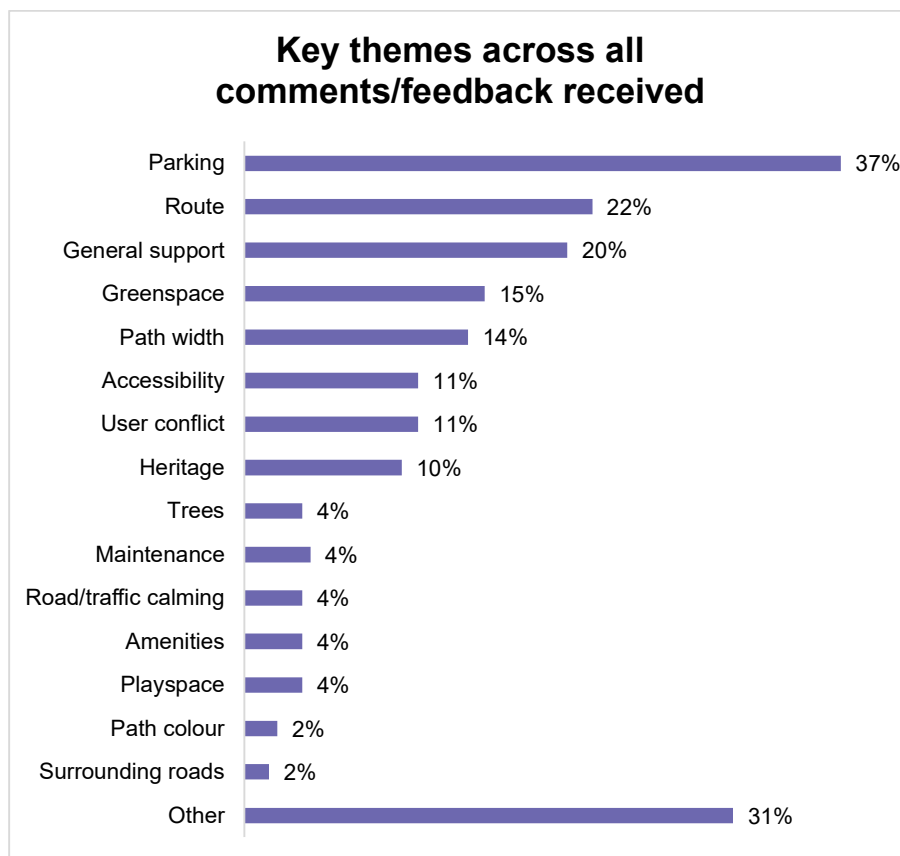


General support



Greenspace

Other common themes included: path width, accessibility, user conflict, heritage, trees, maintenance, road/traffic calming, amenities, playspace, path colour and surrounding roads.



This report explores key themes in more detail, including sample comments. The sample comments provided have only been edited with spelling and/or grammar changes to enhance readability.

5.1.1 Parking

Parking emerged as the most common theme in the feedback received, encompassing a mix of concerns and suggestions:

- **Parking availability concerns:** Many participants found existing parking often full, making it difficult for those travelling from outside walking distance. Concerns were raised about reducing parking, particularly for families visiting the beach and Bogey Hole with children and gear.
- **Support for pedestrian prioritisation:** Some supported limiting vehicle access as a way to enhance recreational space and promote a more community-focused, car-free environment.
- **Accessibility parking concerns:** Participants stressed the need to maintain adequate accessible parking close to key destinations. Concerns included potential space reductions, long distances to facilities, and the need for safe pathways, drop-off zones, and clear signage.
- **Limited public transport options:** Some participants highlighted the lack of reliable public transport as a barrier to reducing parking.

Sample comments on parking 37%

The new plans look great but please don't take away more car parks. There is space for a footpath and to keep the current car parks as well. The spaces that are there are always full, where are all those cars going to park instead? It's already a nightmare to find parking in town and public transport is not good enough in Newcastle to replace cars. It is going to be a nightmare to try to go the beach or bogey hole in summer with kids / bags and no parking.

The apparent removal of parking is ridiculous!!! The amount of people that park to whale watch, have car picnics, just look at the view etc is a key part of this park! While all the other improvements look great please do not reduce the amount of car parking along the roadside!!! Removing car parks makes the park more exclusive for people that live nearby rather than free vantage points for people who do not live right nearby. Please get with the program and retain or increase the existing car park numbers!!!

The lack of parking will significantly deter me from travelling and enjoying this space. There is no adequate or cheap parking available in the city, there is no safe or public transport I can take either. It looks nice but the practicality is missing.

I really dislike the road through the middle of the park. It's really unpleasant to hear and be wary of traffic, for what's otherwise a peaceful part of the city. It's also hard with kids, what should be a place for families is further dominated by cars. The kids should be able to play in the playground and not be 1.5m from traffic. Appreciate from the plans efforts to separate cars from pedestrians but I would suggest more economical and pleasant solution would be to just pedestrianise the whole of King Edward Park and put a bit of parking at either end.

5.1.2 Route

The second most common theme was route. Comments ranged from:

- **Safety & accessibility:** Participants expressed concerns about the steep terrain which could make shared pedestrian-cyclist use risky. Suggestions that separate paths or alternative routes (e.g. York Drive) could improve safety, and the hairpin turn near Garside Gardens should be reconsidered.
- **Heritage & environment:** Participants emphasised the importance of preserving the historic Horseshoe pathway (1820), and earthworks should be minimised to protect the landscape.
- **Bogey Hole connection:** Feedback indicated that visitors already favour existing paths and stairs. A direct upgrade of the current route was suggested as a better alternative.

Sample comments on route 22%

The planned route/design seems mostly a huge improvement for pedestrian movement and amenity in KEP.

The only area of significant concern is the switchback above Garside Gardens that introduces a lengthy route for walkers, a major cut and fill, much more hard pavement, and a threat to existing trees. It is also unlikely to be followed/observed by walkers.

An alternative using the existing short link from the road near Garside up to the Rotunda Lawn could surely be designed/modelled to accommodate all accessibility use, and at much lesser cost.

I'd appreciate feedback on the rationale and willingness to consider an alternative approach.

In the interests of public safety and to protect the integrity of the Newcastle Recreation Reserve more broadly, the Friends of King Edward Park suggests that the Bathers Way should divide at York Drive and direct cyclists around the Park, and permit pedestrians and non-cyclists to traverse the Rotunda Lawn on existing narrower pathways.

In summary, the Friends of King Edward Park would be pleased to support a cycle path around King Edward Park on York Drive, and maintenance of existing narrower pathways through King Edward Park in the delivery of the Bathers Way project.

Where is the connection to the Bogey Hole? Not sure the path through the park should be the only option.

Can the footpath go straight down from the top car park to the current toilets (where the path is already) and retain some of this parking. Is the footpath really needed from the lookout up? Aren't most people going to use the stairs or the path back around near the toilets and if that's too steep maybe something can be looked at.

5.1.3 General support

Another theme identified within the comments was general support for the project. These comments included:

- **Support for upgrades** – Many comments in this theme praised the improvements, highlighting better pedestrian access, enhanced amenities, and the revitalisation of King Edward Park.
- **Excitement for the Bathers Way extension** – Enthusiasm for extending the pathway and improving coastal access.
- **Better public spaces** – Appreciation for new viewing areas, improved amenities, and safer, more accessible pathways.
- **Enhanced safety & accessibility** – Support for well-lit walkways, safer crossings, and inclusive design for all visitors.
- **Commitment to active transport** – Many welcomed improved cycling and walking connections, with suggestions to extend links to broader networks.

- **Support for park aesthetics** – Positive feedback on reducing car dominance, maintaining scenic views, and opportunities for public art and landscaping enhancements.

Sample comments on general support 15%

Absolutely love it. Thanks for doing so much to improve our city- the bathers way should be the jewel in the crown for Newcastle and more needs to be done!

The improved walkways look excellent, but as a frequent user of the park couldn't it be permanently closed to car traffic to allow an inner city sanctuary just as parks in Europe

The overall impression is it looks great but the main concern is PARKING!! There is not enough parking now and from the concept there will be even less. Extra parking is essential for those with disabilities, families with children and the elderly and those who just need to take gear for a picnic etc.

Please, please, please more parking!

Looks amazing.

Can pedestrian access be retained to the bogey hole during construction.

Will there be lighting at night for pedestrian use?

I support improving active transport options along the coastline.

5.1.4 Greenspace

Another key theme identified in the feedback was greenspace, with comments ranging from concerns about its loss to suggestions for enhancing it:

- **Preservation of greenspace & heritage:** Many respondents expressed concerns about concrete replacing grassed areas, with a preference for preserving natural pathways and maintaining existing ones where possible. Some suggested narrowing pathways to better retain the park's natural character. The high demand for the rotunda lawn was also highlighted, with concerns that reducing green space would be counterproductive.
- **Environmental impact:** Feedback emphasised that hard surfaces are not climate-friendly and may disrupt natural drainage. Concerns were also raised about the long-term maintenance challenges posed by retaining walls and concrete barriers.

Sample comments on greenspace 15%

Shared pathway into the Park is intrusive, I prefer the green space as is.

Please try to keep as much of the green feel that KEP currently has. The current plan seems to build huge swathes of concrete. There's places you can almost forget you're in a city and the new plan looks like it will change that. It's also an opportunity to link some of the scruffy less used parts of the park (the part between the roads below dog park).

There is already an excess of concrete and hard-space along the coast & harbour. Its hardly climate change friendly. Use native grasses like themeda and native plants.

A 6m wide BW pathway is excessive. This section contains a series of paths cascading down the slopes - there is more hard surface than grass.

Less massive swathes of concrete (or "built out" spaces eg bitumen) - path and carpark alike. Please prioritise the nature bit.

5.1.5 Path width

An additional theme identified was path width:

- **Width concerns:** The proposed 4-6m wide pathways are seen as too large by comments identified in this theme and are considered disruptive to the park's natural and heritage character. Some participants suggested retaining the existing narrow paths to protect vegetation and open areas, with others suggesting consolidating the pathways.
- **Environmental & heritage impact:** Concerns about tree removal and root disturbance due to path widening. Preference for informal, narrow paths that encourage exploration and preserve the park's original scale.

- **User experience & accessibility:** Support for separating pedestrian and cyclist pathways rather than creating a single wide path.

Sample comments on path width 14%

Preservation of Green Space and Heritage Impact

The proposed widening of the pathways, particularly using light-coloured materials, raises significant concerns about the reduction of green space and the aesthetic impact on the park's natural environment. King Edward Park is valued for its green lawns and heritage features, including the Victorian rotunda and Garside Gardens. The introduction of a wide, light-coloured path detracts from the park's historical character and reduces the available green space for recreational activities.

The concept plan indicates significant earthworks and slope re-profiling required for the 4-6 metre wide shared path, which could disrupt the heritage landscape, particularly around The Horseshoe precinct. This aspect of the proposal conflicts with the guidelines set forth in the Coastal Plan of Management, which emphasises preserving the park's natural and heritage values.

Safety and Accessibility

While improving accessibility is crucial, the necessity of a 4-6 metre wide shared pathway must be critically evaluated. The steep gradients and uneven terrain of King Edward Park present safety concerns, particularly for individuals with disabilities. The potential for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, and users of e-scooters or skateboards on a shared path is high, especially given the park's topography. I strongly recommend separating cyclists from pedestrians where possible to enhance safety and minimise user conflicts.

Pathways through the park are too wide in this proposed design.

The wide pathway on the northern side of the road is a much needed addition to the park as there is currently no safe pedestrian access along here from the fig trees to the cliff edge.

Why do you need a 6m wide footpath, would rather have the existing area with garden edging as it is. Drainage will be an issue opening up such a wide area of impermeable surface.

The widened paths are a much needed improvement!

This area is currently an original, narrow bitumen footpath, maybe 2m wide at best. The outer edge is a steep grassy slope. Mature Norfolk Pines are very close to the western edge of the path. It doesn't seem possible to squeeze a 4-6m wide shared pathway here without lopping trees, disturbing roots or re-profiling the steep grassy bank using more fill.

5.1.6 Accessibility

We also identified accessibility as a theme with comments relating to:

- **Parking and access to scenic areas:** Many comments expressed concerns about the need for sufficient accessible parking, particularly for people with mobility issues, elderly visitors, and families. There were suggestions to retain or increase disability parking, especially in key areas such as near the steps to the Bogey Hole and along the road to improve access to scenic viewpoints.
- **Path width and safety:** While the wider paths were appreciated for safety, concerns were raised that the plans might prioritise wheeled traffic (bikes, scooters etc.) over pedestrians. Specifically, the usability of these wider paths for people with disabilities, especially in areas with steep terrain, was questioned.
- **Inclusive design:** There was a strong call for paths and facilities to be designed with true inclusivity in mind, accommodating people with various mobility needs. Suggestions included adding ramp-style walkways and ensuring key features such as kerb ramps and crossings are accessible. The community emphasised the need for greater involvement of people with disabilities and older individuals in the design process to ensure equitable access for all.

Sample comments on accessibility 11%

Main concern is the lack of parking, looks like they are planning on taking out 75% of the parking. It is impossible to get a park during the week as CBD workers are forced to park in there due to the removal of parking in the CBD and no parking on weekends as it's full of caravans and big 4WDs. It will be impossible if almost all parking taken out and none put back in. Newcastle is already incredibly inaccessible to me and my mother with mobility issues due to the amount of parking that has been reduced. Inclusivity is not the council's strong suit when it comes to mobility restrictions with their emphasis on reducing car parking availability. Not everyone is able to walk a km from the bus stop that is infrequent. I don't like parking in mobility spots either as I'm frequently questions by people 60 and older as I look young.

As a disabled person who loves and uses this area. What's the disability inclusion and access plan for the area? and what consultations have you made with the disability and aged community on equitable access for these areas? What parking and facilities issues will be fixed for these communities? This is an opportune time to fix the segregation of these communities from this area.

I understand accessibility is important too and to make it inclusive to everyone the stairs could be modified to be flatter and to include a ramp style walkway.

Please don't block off the stairs towards the Bathers Way as it is a beautiful path to walk with scenic views of the ocean and prime whale watching spots.

These concept plans are generally a great improvement to the paths and viewing areas. I support them. But there is silence on parking in the park, which is leading to a lot of

questions and negative comments on social media. Adding a question like How is current parking going to be affected might be useful. The parking at the existing parking spot above the steps to the Bogey Hole should be designated disable only, and some parking along the road where parking is currently allowed should be retained for less mobile people and city workers.

Love the plans to make it more accessible and inviting for people to actively use the space.

The Reserve Rd footpath is also old, narrow, and dangerously close to cars, trucks and buses. People need to be protected from traffic accelerating out of the city, travelling up Reserve Rd.

So the wider path and the kerb ramp and crossing shown on the render are very welcome. Please make sure they are built!

5.1.7 User conflict

User conflict was also identified within the themes:

- **Pedestrian vs. cyclist/e-scooter conflict** – Many comments in this theme expressed concerns over shared pathways leading to potential collisions, especially in high-traffic areas with children and families. Fast-moving cyclists, e-scooters, and skateboards on steep sections could pose risks to slower-moving pedestrians.
- **Space allocation and priority** – Debate over whether cyclists should be rerouted around the park to preserve pedestrian safety and green space.
- **Infrastructure design and safety measures** – Suggestions for clear markings, separation of users, speed limits, and signage to reduce conflicts.

Sample comments on user conflict 11%

Walking, running, bikes, e scooters not a safe mix. We have already witnessed the hazards. All vehicles should be left on the road. Who is liable for the collisions that occur on these pathways?

I think the concepts are very good. The only point I would like to make regarding walkways and cycle ways, shared or not, is that they need a centre line to encourage people to stay to the left. I have noticed in areas like Maryville and Islington, where the paths are marked with a centre line that people show a lot more common sense and respect for each other. Perhaps it would also be good to indicate when it is a shared path for bicycles and pedestrians. This may also assist in people being kinder and more considerate. The line has to be obvious (much like the lines on the road), otherwise people will not take notice. I understand that may not be aesthetically pleasing on some of the paths, but in my experience, the marked lines work very well.

Appreciate from the plans efforts to separate cars from pedestrians but I would suggest more economical and pleasant solution would be to just pedestrianise the whole of king Edward park and put a bit of parking at either end.

High potential for descending cyclists, skateboards, e-cyclists and -e-scooters to clash with pedestrians ascending and descending Bathers Way from/to the Rotunda Lawn. This will be a high traffic choke point with lots of kids and dogs.

5.1.8 Heritage

Within the commentary received, we also identified heritage as a theme:

- **Preserving historic character** - Many respondents identified within this theme oppose the widening of pathways and the use of modern materials that may alter the park's heritage aesthetic. Many wanted to protect key heritage elements like the Victorian rotunda, Garside Gardens, and existing pathways.
- **Safeguarding heritage structures** - Some participants with comments in this theme suggested restoring rather than relocating the historic sandstone gate posts from the 1907 Wood Gates and retaining the historic iron traffic devices like the 'silent copper' in Reserve Road. Some suggested scaled-down modern signage to reflect the park's historic character.
- **Balancing accessibility with heritage** - Suggestions to maintain the original pathway widths to preserve historical scale and avoid excessive hard surfaces. There were also some comments about routing cyclists via York Drive to prevent disruption to heritage areas like the Rotunda Lawn and to design pathways to encourage organic movement and exploration rather than rigid, formalised routes.

Sample comments on heritage 10%

Preservation of Green Space and Heritage Impact

The proposed widening of the pathways, particularly using light-coloured materials, raises significant concerns about the reduction of green space and the aesthetic impact on the park's natural environment. King Edward Park is valued for its green lawns and heritage features, including the Victorian rotunda and Garside Gardens. The introduction of a wide, light-coloured path detracts from the park's historical character and reduces the available green space for recreational activities.

Reference is made to the gate posts/columns proposed for installation just west of the intersection of York Drive and Shortland Esplanade, as shown in Concept Plan Render 5. These gate posts/columns were for decades located near the intersection of York Drive and The Terrace. These are the smaller of four large sandstone posts/columns of the Upper Reserve (now King Edward Park) ornamental iron gates donated to the city in 1907 by Mr Joseph Wood, a local brewer and owner of the Church Street mansion Woodlands, to celebrate his 50th year in Newcastle. Mr Wood's brother owned the mansion, featuring a tower, on the corner of Ordnance Street and Barker Street. The gates, situated at the right-angled turn of Watt Street into Reserve Road (adjacent to the former Newcastle Bowling Club site), were officially opened on 21 March 1907, in the presence of thousands of Novocastrians.

The 'King Edward Park' signage seems a little 'monumental' in scale - its hardly subtle. Has CN used signage/placemaking of this size at other parks, etc? Please consider scaling it down to reflect the low key historic park.

Why does every path in the park need to be wide? Surely there is as much need for the original sized paths to co-exist as well. They have a more human sale to them and relate more closely to the original park. It's nice for kids and families to go exploring along informal paths rather than these runway style new additions.

5.1.9 Trees

Trees were identified as another theme within the feedback received:

- **Threat to existing trees:** Concerns about tree removal or damage, particularly near the switchback above Garside Gardens and mature Norfolk Pines along the narrow footpath. Some participants emphasised the importance of commonsense preservation such as root guards and other measures to avoid disturbing tree roots during pathway widening.
- **Revegetation & shade:** Some participants advocated for the replacement trees and mature plantings to be included to soften hard surfaces and provide shade over concrete footpaths.

Sample comments on trees 4%

The planned route/design seems mostly a huge improvement for pedestrian movement and amenity in KEP.

The only area of significant concern is the switchback above Garside Gardens that introduces a lengthy route for walkers, a major cut and fill, much more hard pavement, and a threat to existing trees. It is also unlikely to be followed/observed by walkers.

An alternative using the existing short link from the road near Garside up to the Rotunda Lawn could surely be designed/modelled to accommodate all accessibility use, and at much lesser cost.

Are the fig trees being removed? Hopefully commonsense prevails with new trees/root guards and no unnecessary tree removals.

This area is currently an original, narrow bitumen footpath, maybe 2m wide at best. The outer edge is a steep grassy slope. Mature Norfolk Pines are very close to the western edge of the path. It doesn't seem possible to squeeze a 4-6m wide shared pathway here without lopping trees, disturbing roots or re-profiling the steep grassy bank using more fill.

More trees up along here to replace the ones being cut down. Have some more shade over the concrete footpaths

5.1.10 Maintenance

Community feedback in this theme highlighted concerns about the ongoing upkeep of new infrastructure, the burden of additional maintenance, and potential drainage issues arising from the proposed changes:

- **Past maintenance issues:** Concerns about Council's ability to maintain new infrastructure with increased upkeep with the additional concrete gutters, garden beds, and retaining walls.
- **Maintenance planning:** Suggestions to develop a maintenance plan to ensure the park's long-term upkeep.

Sample comments on maintenance 4%

Drainage will be an issue opening up such a wide area of impermeable surface.

Great, its a well-located and minimalist lookout (#2) with just some concrete seats. Better than the unformed road shoulder and semi-permanent camper vans. Keep cars and vans away from the outer edges overlooking the water. But do we need the concrete gutters and garden bed edges? Where does the extra run-off go? More garden beds = more gardening burden.

Just noticed on the fly-through that this concrete-lined garden bed is used in several places along York Drive, not just the upper hairpin bend at Lookout #2. It introduces more concrete, drainage, and run-off issues, as well as maintenance burden. It appears to serve no purpose. This form of separation barrier is not used along Bathers Way along the Cowrie Hole. Why not just a gutter edge - keep the vehicle speed low including traffic calming humps.

Large retaining walls can be problematic, with seepage from drainage, movement due to soil creep, stains, and moss from seepage, etc.

Maintenance as well as appearance should be considered.

5.1.11 Road/Traffic calming

We also identified road and traffic calming as a theme within the feedback received:

- **Balanced road use:** Suggestion to maintain a one-way road for cars along Shortland Esplanade, with parking retained at key points while still allowing for Bathers Way improvements. Concern that reducing road width could eliminate safe pull-over areas, creating hazards near the cliff edge.
- **Traffic calming measures:** Strong support for speed humps, a 10 km/h limit, and traffic-controlled entrances to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. There were also some calls to have cyclists share York Drive with vehicles to prevent conflicts with pedestrians on steep gradients.

Sample comments on road/traffic calming 4%

Making the road narrow also makes it dangerous as I frequently have to pull over whilst I'm in there and let the hooners go around. If I can't pull over that is dangerous especially so close to the cliff. No speed limits or speed bumps stop those type of people, so I need the option to pull over.

This should be a significant speed hump to ensure cars slow for pedestrians.

Keep the speed limit at 10kph, keep cyclists separate from pedestrians by having them share York Drive with cars. There are some steep grades, so cyclists will need space to negotiate the grade.

5.1.12 Amenities

Feedback received in relation to the amenities explored:

- **Support for new amenities block:** Welcomed for its improved safety, lighting, and visibility, replacing the outdated structure. The lookout on top of the amenities block is seen as a positive addition for safety.
- **Pedestrian access & safety:** Support for wider pathways and the raised pedestrian crossing near the amenities and playground as well as the new small car park near the amenities block.

Sample comments on amenities 4%

Amenities need to be safe, well lit and clean. Road crossing should be safer - maybe a raised crossing. Patrols by Rangers would 'value add' particularly in off peak times.

Great to see a refurbished amenities block in a more open, and slightly more central location, adjacent the proposed Bathers Way route. The previous block - like a concrete bunker - was notoriously unsafe, dark and damp with poor placement of the entrances. The proposed lookout on the roof will assist with passive surveillance. New block works well with the playground.

The playground will remain, adjacent a new amenities block with safe access. A new small car park will be built just past the amenities block, ideal for playground and rotunda lawn users. A new larger carpark of about 10 spaces will be built at the top end - so cars have not been forgotten. It is a park for all, not just a driving circuit.

5.1.13 Playspace

Comments in relation to the playspace included:

- **Playground popularity:** The current playground is a **popular destination for families** and walkers, and its loss would be a major setback for families visiting the park.
- **Safety & access:** Calls for safe access to the playground, including improved road crossings (e.g., raised crossings). The new amenities block is seen as positive, being more central and open, with good passive surveillance from the roof lookout, complementing the playground.

Sample comments on playground 4%

I am glad that the amenity block is being re-built. It would be good to see the play equipment re-built in a nearby area - ideally under some of the existing shade trees.

I love the concept designs, but it's not clear if the kids playground will be retained/removed/moved elsewhere. Will there be play equipment still in King Edward Park? This would be a major loss to families if it were to go.

The playground area is a very popular destination - for walkers and families in cars.

New (amenities) block works well with the playground.

5.1.14 Path colour

We received a few comments in relation to the colour of the pathway:

- **Light-coloured pathway:** The proposed use of light-coloured materials for the pathway raises concerns about the aesthetic impact on the park's natural environment and heritage features, such as the Victorian rotunda and Garside Gardens.

Sample comments on path colour 2%

Minimise the concrete. It is bad for the environment, unsightly, killing the point of the place ie nature. Also please make it not be highly reflective. And when it is so vast it is hard to escape the reflective UV glare from it.

The proposed widening of the pathways, particularly using light-coloured materials, raises significant concerns about the reduction of green space and the aesthetic impact on the park's natural environment. King Edward Park is valued for its green lawns and heritage features, including the Victorian rotunda and Garside Gardens. The introduction of a wide, light-coloured path detracts from the park's historical character and reduces the available green space for recreational activities.

5.1.15 Surrounding roads

Some comments in relation to the surrounding streets were also received:

- **Overflow parking in surrounding streets** - Some participants expressed concerns for the impact to surrounding streets should parking be removed from King Edward Park.

Sample comment on path surrounding roads 2%

Removing all the parking will just shift more city workers onto the surrounding streets that are already congested from all day parking.

5.2 Interactive concept plan

During the consultation period, an online interactive concept plan was launched to understand sentiment and seek feedback on the Bathers Way extension into King Edward Park.

A total of 136 comments were placed on the interactive concept plan during the consultation period, from 28 unique users.



Type of comments			
			
114	7	6	9
Comments	Ideas/suggestions	Something I like	Information marker comments

Overall reactions to comments		
		
208 Likes	59 Dislikes	267 total reactions

6. Next steps

CN will continue to work within the project's guiding principles to complete the Bathers Way design.

The detailed design phase will explore the results of the community consultation and technical studies to inform how, what, and where refinements and enhancements can be facilitated.

CN is already exploring how we can:

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

Further opportunities for community consultation will be made available as the Bathers Way, King Edward Park project progresses. CN will continue to keep the community updated.

Appendix I – Promotional materials

We Love Our Coast webpage

We love our coast

We're coming out to talk to you about a number of other exciting and transformative projects along our coastline! Here's your chance to find out more and have your say!

[Home](#) / We love our coast

We love our coast!

Discussing all things coastal

Just six months after the opening of the Stage One revitalisation of the Newcastle Ocean Baths, we're coming back out to talk to you about a number of other exciting and transformative projects along our coastline.

Over the past decade, City of Newcastle (CN) has had ongoing conversations with you about key projects such as the Newcastle Ocean Baths, Anzac Walk and Bathers Way. Throughout these conversations you have asked us where else? what else? and what's next?

The community has shaped many projects, plans and strategies to benefit and enhance our coastline and we want to know if we have gotten it right. We love our coast provides an opportunity for you to find out more about projects we are developing and have your say on them.

We love our coast drop-in information sessions

We are hosting 'We love our coast' drop-in information sessions on Thursday 18 July at our Digital Library at 12 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West where staff from the team's working on these projects will be on hand to answer questions, provide information and take on board your feedback.

Two separate sessions are being hosted allow the local community and businesses to find out information and have their questions answered about future projects, plans and opportunities for our coastline.

- 'We love our coast' drop-in – business leaders and operators forum, 11am to 1pm
- 'We love our coast' drop-in – community forum, 2pm to 6pm

We have a suite of exciting and truly iconic projects that we want to celebrate and talk about with our community.

We're also hosting project pop-up events throughout the consultation period to support the Stage Two, Newcastle Ocean Baths and Bathers Way, King Edward Park engagement programs, you can visit the events widget on this page to find out more.

Explore projects underway along our coastline



Newcastle Ocean Baths, Stage Two

Over the past decade, community feedback has played an integral role in shaping the revitalisation of the much-loved Newcastle Ocean Baths. We have used the feedback collected over this time to inform the development of the Stage Two concept plans which includes the revitalisation of the pavilion buildings and surrounds.

We're now checking back in with you to ensure that we have heard you correctly!

Feedback closes 5 August 2024.

[Find out more & have your say! >](#)



Bathers Way, King Edward Park

We have prepared a concept design for one of the last remaining sections of the iconic Bathers Way shared path, which makes its way through King Edward Park. This section will extend from the previous works at The Terrace carpark, through King Edward Park, connecting to Shortland Esplanade & through to South Newcastle Beach.

We are excited to show you what we have planned & hear your feedback.

Comments close 5 August 2024.

[Discover more & join the conversation! >](#)

We love our coast events



Thursday 18 July 2024 11:00 am to 01:00 pm

Business leaders and operators forum

Hosted at our Digital Library (12 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West). Come along and speak to our team and network with business peers.



Thursday 18 July 2024 02:00 pm to 06:00 pm

Community forum

Hosted at our Digital Library (12 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West). Come along to find out more and have your say.

FAQs



What's 'We love our coast' all about?



How can the community get involved in the We love our coast campaign?



What if I can't attend the We love our coast drop-in session?



The We love our coast event is being hosted during the school holidays, can I bring my kids?

Important links



[Newcastle Ocean Baths, Stage Two](#)



[Bathers Way, King Edward Park](#)



[Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program](#)



[Bathers Way, South Newcastle Beach](#)



[Bar Beach remediation works](#)

Community Pop-up Events



Saturday 22 June 2024 08:00 am to 11:30 am

Wallsend No.1 Oval

99 Cowper Street, Wallsend



Saturday 29 June 2024 09:00 am to 12:00 pm

Blackbutt Reserve

Cornley Ave entry

Bathers Way, King Edward Park
Consultation report
September 2025





Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program

We are in the process of developing the Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP) which covers the coastline from Nobby's Headland to Glenrock Lagoon.

The CMP is a long-term program of actions which can help us adapt to immediate & future changes on our coast. This CMP will contain a series of actions to help us adapt to both immediate and future changes on our coast.

The Southern Beaches CMP is currently at Stage Two which involves determining risks, vulnerabilities & opportunities.

[Find out more about the program here! >](#)



Saturday 6 July 2024 09:00 am to 02:00 pm

Olive Tree Markets
The Station
Wharf Road, Newcastle



Sunday 7 July 2024 07:00 am to 01:00 pm

Newcastle Farmers Market
Broadmeadow Showground, Broadmeadow (Griffiths Road entry)

Contact Us

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

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



Bathers Way, South Newcastle Beach

Bathers Way, South Newcastle is the stretch of Bathers Way from Shortland Esplanade to King Edward Park.

Our upgrade will cater for a broad range of users by providing a wider accessible shared path, new kiosk and exercise equipment, a skate bowl and terrain park, improved beach access and accessible amenities, as well as places to sit and enjoy the views.

The project is progressing with completion of the project anticipated for mid-2024.

[Find out more about the project here! >](#)



Bar Beach remediation works

We have undertaken emergency repair works to reinstate safe access to Bar Beach following erosion events. Temporary stairs have been installed to allow lifeguards direct access from the viewing tower & promenade, improving access to amenities & upgrades to access for lifesaving vehicles.

CN has invited tenders for the next stage of rehabilitation works which will concentrate on the southern end of the promenade adjoining Cooks Hill SLSC.

[Find out more about this project here! >](#)



Coastal Buildings Revitalisation Plan

We are developing a Coastal Buildings Revitalisation Plan which will provide a well-considered framework for future planning, management & prioritisation of infrastructure, whilst also providing clear criteria and direction for development to ensure there are adequate amenities to accommodate our growing population & annual visitor economy.

We will work with key stakeholders & the broader community to inform the draft Plan & seek input on the key issues users are experiencing.

[Speak to our team to learn more! >](#)

City of Newcastle acknowledges that we operate on the grounds of the traditional country of the Traditional Custodians.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, and that they are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of dispossession.

CN reiterates its commitment to address disadvantages and attain justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this community.



Contact Us

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

Phone: 02 4974 2000
Email: newcastle.nsw.gov.au
Address: 12 Stewart Avenue
PO Box 489
Newcastle NSW 2300



Have your say webpage

Bathers Way, King Edward Park

Let us know your feedback on the Bathers Way extension into King Edward Park. Find out more & have your say before 5 August!



[Home](#) / Bathers Way, King Edward Park

Bathers Way, King Edward Park

We are excited to show you what's planned for this next section of Bathers Way through King Edward Park.

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

We have prepared a concept design for one of the last remaining sections of the iconic Bathers Way shared path through King Edward Park. The King Edward Park section will extend from the previous works at The Terrace carpark, through King Edward Park, connecting to Shortland Esplanade and through to South Newcastle Beach.

It is important to note that the concept plan presented is a refinement of the previous 2014 plans and has only been modified to reflect current thought, as well as incorporating current heritage, native title, engineering, ecological, and safety requirements.

King Edward Park holds enormous significance to Newcastle with its sweeping ocean views, much-loved gardens, and importance to Newcastle's traditional custodians.

Concept plan rendered imagery

Click on the concept images to expand the view.



Render 1: Amenities



Render 2: Bathers Way...



Render 3: Bogey Hole...



Render 4: Bogey Hole...



Render 5: Hairpin Bend



Render 6: Lookout



Render 7: Main Entry



Render 8: Main Lookout

Have your say

We are excited to show you what we have planned for this next section of Bathers Way and we want your feedback. Help shape the Bathers Way extension into King Edward Park by:

- Viewing the concept plan
- Reading the frequently asked questions
- Speaking to the project team at our We love our coast event on Thursday 18 July 2024 at our Digital Library (12 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West):
 - Business leaders and operators forum, 11am to 1pm
 - Community forum, 2pm to 6pm
- Visting our pop-up events throughout the consultation period (see the events widget on this page for details)
- Contributing to and joining the conversation on the interactive concept plans and sharing your ideas, thoughts and opinions
- Providing feedback via the online form.

We are excited to continue this conversation with you and look forward to utilising your feedback to refine the plan as we move into detailed design for the extension of Bathers Way through King Edward Park.

Comments close Monday 5 August 2024.

Flythrough video



FAQs

Explore the comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions that we have prepared to assist in understanding various aspects of the project.

- Has parking been considered as part of the concept design?
- Will the rotunda remain at King Edward Park?
- Will the playground remain at King Edward Park?
- What is the Bathers Way?
- Where is the extension of the Bathers Way into King Edward Park going?

[See more](#)

Document Library



Site plan: Bathers Way, King Edward Park
PDF (1.33 MB)

We love our coast events



Thursday 18 July 2024 11:00 am to 01:00 pm
Business leaders and operators forum
Hosted at our Digital Library (12 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West). Come along and speak to our team and network with business peers.



Thursday 18 July 2024 02:00 pm to 06:00 pm
Community forum
Hosted at our Digital Library (12 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West). Come along to find out more and have your say.

Interactive concept plan
Feedback form

Interested to know what others have said?

Explore what others have said and have your say on the interactive concept designs!

Join the conversation!

Important links

- [We love our coast](#)
- [Newcastle Ocean Baths, Stage Two](#)
- [Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program](#)
- [Bathers Way, South Newcastle Beach](#)
- [Bar Beach remediation works](#)

Community Pop-up Events

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Blackbutt Reserve
Carley Ave entry

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The Station
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 newcastle.nsw.gov.au
 12 Stewart Avenue
 PO Box 489
 Newcastle NSW 2300



Flyer



We love our coast invites our local communities to gain a deeper understanding and provide feedback on the work we are delivering along our coastline now and into the future.

Have your say on projects open for consultation, explore information on others and share your ideas and aspirations for our coastline.

Get involved

In person: We love our coast drop-in information sessions

Thursday 18 July at Newcastle Digital Library, 12 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West.

- 11am–1pm (business and collaborator sessions)
- 2pm–6pm (community sessions)

Online: Learn more and have your say online by 5 August.

haveyoursay.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/coast



Have
your
say

Onsite corflute signage



Have your say on our plans for the next stage of Bathers Way

The 6km long Bathers Way links Newcastle's beaches from Merewether Ocean Baths to Nobbys Beach, and is a drawcard for locals and visitors.

We have prepared a concept design for one of the last remaining sections of the iconic Bathers Way shared path, which makes its way through King Edward Park.

View the concept plans, join the conversation and have your say by 5 August.

Get involved

In person: We love our coast drop-in information sessions, Thursday 18 July Newcastle Digital Library, 12 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West

- 11am-1pm (business and collaborator sessions)
- 2pm-6pm (community sessions)



Online:

Visit haveyoursay.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/KEP to learn more and have your say.

Image: Concept design image



City of
Newcastle



The community has shaped many of the important projects, plans and strategies that benefit and enhance our coastline.

We love our coast invites our local communities to gain a deeper understanding and provide feedback on the work we are delivering along our coastline, both now and into the future.

Have your say on projects open for consultation, explore information on others, and share your ideas and aspirations for our coastline.

Get involved

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Online: Learn more and have your say online by 5 August.



haveyoursay.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/coast



City of
Newcastle

Social media (paid)



City of Newcastle
9 July at 18:06 · 🌐

Love Newcastle's coast? 🌊 Join our drop-in session to learn more about key coastal projects such as the Newcastle Ocean Baths revitalisation and Bathers Way extension.

Have your questions answered, chat to our team and provide your valuable feedback - we'll see you there!



Drop-in Sessions | We Love Our Coast
12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle, NSW, Australia, New South Wales 2302
88 people interested

Interested

City of Newcastle
20 June · 🌐

👋 We're excited to share our plans for the next stage of the Bathers Way extension through King Edward Park.

Join the conversation on our interactive concept plans to let us know your feedback by 5 August 2024.




Bathers Way Extension
Have Your Say

Learn more




View the Concept Plans
Have Your Say

Learn more




King Edward Park
Have Your Say

Learn more

Social media (organic)



City of Newcastle

June 19 · 🌐

❤️ Bathers Way ❤️

We're excited to share our plans for the next stage of this iconic pathway as it extends through King Edward Park.

With the park's sweeping ocean views, much-loved gardens, and importance to Newcastle's traditional custodians, this next section of Bathers Way connects some of the most popular parts of our coastline.

Fly through our magnificent concept plans and then join the conversation on our interactive concept plans to let us know your feedback by 5 August 2024.

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





City of Newcastle

June 21 · 🌐

...

We'll be out and about in the community this weekend. Come and chat to us to find out how you can have your say on a range of exciting projects.

We want to hear your vision for Newcastle over the next 10+ years, your thoughts on the revitalisation of the Newcastle Ocean Baths pavilion buildings, and how you feel about the Bathers Way - King Edward Park extension.

Join the conversation and help shape the future of your city! We want Newcastle to be a great place for everyone to live, work and play.

📍 Saturday 22 June, 8am-11:30am, Wallsend Park, near Wallsend No.1 Oval

📍 Sunday 23 June, 9am-12pm, Blackbutt Reserve, Carnley Ave, New Lambton.

Events are subject to change due to weather. For up to date information please visit 📱

<https://haveyoursay.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/newcastle-2040...>



City of Newcastle created an event.
July 9 · 🌐



City of Newcastle

Thu, Jul 18

Drop-in Sessions | We Love Our Coast

12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle, NSW, Australia, New South Wales 2302

88 people interested

★ Interested ▾



City of Newcastle

July 17 · 🌐

👉 Tomorrow! Join us for [Drop-in Sessions | We Love Our Coast](#) to learn more about important coastal projects such as the Newcastle Ocean Baths revitalisation and King Edward Park extension.

Staff from the teams working on these projects will be on hand to answer questions, provide information and take on board your feedback. Two separate sessions are being hosted:

🕒 Business leaders and operators forum, 11am to 1pm.

🕒 Community forum, 2pm to 6pm.

📍 Thursday 18 July at our Digital Library at 12 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West.





City of Newcastle

July 19 · 🌐

Thanks to all who attended the We Love Our Coast drop-in sessions at our Digital Library yesterday 🌊.

It was fantastic to connect directly with the community to discuss the transformative coastal projects currently underway, such as Stage Two of the Newcastle Ocean Baths revitalisation and the Bathers Way extension through King Edward Park.

Don't forget to have your say on these projects via our website. Good, bad or indifferent, your feedback matters. Have your say by 5 August 🙌

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



Newsletter
20 June 2024



Join the conversation so we can achieve a liveable, sustainable and inclusive Newcastle

The community has played an integral role in shaping many projects, plans and strategies to benefit and enhance our coastline. Over this next month, we will be talking to you about a number of exciting and transformative projects along our coastline.

Keep reading to learn how you can get involved.





We love our coast

Just six months after the opening of the Stage One revitalisation of the Newcastle Ocean Baths, we're coming back out to talk to you about a number of other exciting and transformative projects along our coastline.

Over the past decade, we have asked for your feedback on key projects such as the Newcastle Ocean Baths, Anzac Walk and Bathers Way. Throughout these conversations you have asked us where else? what else? and what's next?

We are hosting **We Love Our Coast drop-in information sessions on Thursday, 18 July** at our Digital Library at 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West where staff from across City of Newcastle will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on:

- Newcastle Ocean Baths, Stage Two
- Bathers Way, King Edward Park
- Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP)
- Bathers Way, South Newcastle Beach
- Bar Beach remediation works
- Coastal Buildings Revitalisation Plan

Two separate sessions are being hosted allow the **local community** and **businesses** to find out information and have their questions answered about future projects, plans and opportunities for our coastline.

- 'We Love Our Coast' drop-in – business leaders and operators forum, 11am to 1pm
- 'We Love Our Coast' drop-in – community forum, 2pm to 6pm

Come along to explore your coastline, find out more and have your say!

GET INVOLVED



Newcastle Ocean Baths, Stage Two

With Stage One of our upgrade to the Newcastle Ocean Baths now complete, we are excited to present what we have planned as part of the Stage Two **revitalisation** of the pavilion buildings and surrounds and hear your feedback.

Over the past decade, your feedback along with the many technical, social, environmental and heritage considerations have played an integral role in shaping the revitalisation of the much-loved Newcastle Ocean Baths. This feedback has informed the development of the **Stage Two concept plan** and we are eager to check back in with you to ensure we have heard you correctly.

Join the conversation on our interactive concept plans and help shape Stage Two of the Newcastle Ocean Baths!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION





Bathers Way, King Edward Park

The Bathers Way [links](#) Newcastle's beaches from Merewether Ocean Baths to Nobbys Beach. It is 6km long and forms part of the Great North Walk from Merewether Ocean Baths to Sydney.

We are excited to hear your feedback on the **concept design** for one of the last remaining sections of the iconic Bathers Way **shared path** through King Edward Park. The King Edward Park section will extend from the previous works at The Terrace carpark, through King Edward Park, connecting to Shortland Esplanade and through to South Newcastle Beach.

[Find out more and have your say on the Bathers Way extension through King Edward Park!](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY



Broadmeadow Place Strategy

We're planning for the future of Broadmeadow over the next 30 years.

City of Newcastle, in partnership with the NSW Government, has developed the draft Broadmeadow Place Strategy, which will guide future development in the area, and provide the opportunity for **additional housing, jobs and population growth, as well as a world-class sports and entertainment precinct.**

Our vision for Broadmeadow is a vibrant destination and loveable place with highly connected

and distinct neighbourhoods that balance the needs of a dynamic and growing community.

The rezoning plan prepared by the NSW Government, is informed by the Broadmeadow Place Strategy and will seek to rezone certain parcels of government-owned land and unlock housing supply within Broadmeadow in the first stage.

We want you to be involved and help to achieve city shaping outcomes that will define Newcastle for years to come.

HAVE YOUR SAY



Newcastle 2040 - it's our future

Newcastle 2040 is City of Newcastle's (CN) **Community Strategic Plan (CSP)**. It is the highest level of strategic planning undertaken by CN and sets out a 10-year roadmap identifying our community's vision and aspirations for Newcastle.

Since developing Newcastle 2040, we've worked with you to make our city more **liveable, sustainable, creative and inclusive**.

Newcastle 2040 is used to guide Council's **strategic and operational decision-making**, which is why we want to hear from as many people as possible to ensure Newcastle 2040 aligns with your evolving aspirations for **Newcastle**.

As we reflect on what we've achieved together, we want to hear how we are tracking towards Newcastle 2040, what can be improved, and your big ideas for the future of our city.

We want you to feel informed, involved and empowered to participate in decisions that shape the future of our city.

SHARE YOUR BIG IDEA



Western Corridor Traffic Changes

We're upgrading the road network within the western corridor to provide greater access for the communities of Wallsend, Minmi, Fletcher and Maryland. These upgrades which aim to ease congestion, improve traffic flow, and support the growth of the western corridor, are being delivered in stages.

Detailed designs are currently being developed for the upgrade and widening of Minmi Road from Maryland Drive to west of the Summerhill Road roundabout, and Longworth Avenue. We plan to commence construction of these upgrades in early 2025.

To help improve traffic flow ahead of and during construction, we're planning additional changes to some intersections in the surrounding areas. These proposed changes aim to ease congestion, reduce bottlenecks, and increase safety for all road users while our works are underway.

Have your say on these additional traffic changes to ease congestion and improve traffic flow within the western corridor.

FIND OUT MORE

Events



This weekend

We'll be out in the community **this weekend!** Come and pop-in to visit us and have your say:

Saturday, 22 June 2024

8am to 11.30am at Wallsend Park

Sunday, 23 June 2024

9am to 12pm at Blackbutt Reserve

[FIND AN EVENT NEAR YOU](#)

Key dates



Monday, 1 July 2024

Western Corridor Traffic Changes open until 1 July.

Friday, 5 July 2024

Newcastle 2040 CSP Review open until 5 July.

Wednesday, 24 July 2024

Broadmeadow Place Strategy open until 24 July.

Monday, 5 August 2024

Newcastle Ocean Baths, Stage Two and Bathers Way, King Edward Park open until 5 August.

Thank you from the Engagement Team

 Share

 Tweet

 Share

 Forward

City of Newcastle

12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle, NSW 2300 Australia

This is a newsletter from City of Newcastle. If you would prefer not to receive emails like this from us in the future, please click below to unsubscribe.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

16 July 2024



Have your Say Newcastle!

We've been out in the community the last few weeks, connecting with thousands of people on a broad range of projects open for participation.

Keep reading to find out how you can get involved.





We love our coast

Just six months after the opening of the Stage One revitalisation of the Newcastle Ocean Baths, we're coming back out to talk to you about a number of other exciting and transformative projects along our coastline.

We are hosting We Love Our Coast drop-in information sessions this **Thursday, 18 July** at our Digital Library at 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West where City of Newcastle staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on:

- Newcastle Ocean Baths, Stage Two
- Bathers Way, King Edward Park
- Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP)
- Bathers Way, South Newcastle Beach
- Bar Beach remediation works
- Coastal Buildings Revitalisation Plan

Two separate sessions are being hosted to allow the **local community** and **businesses** to find out information and have their questions answered about future projects, plans and opportunities for our coastline.

- 'We Love Our Coast' drop-in – business leaders and operators forum, 11am to 1pm
- 'We Love Our Coast' drop-in – community forum, 2pm to 6pm

Come along to explore your coastline, find out more and have your say!

GET INVOLVED





Newcastle Ocean Baths, Stage Two

With Stage One of our upgrade to the Newcastle Ocean Baths now complete, we are excited to present what we have planned as part of the Stage Two revitalisation of the pavilion buildings and surrounds and to hear your feedback.

Your feedback along with the many technical, social, environmental and heritage considerations have played an integral role in shaping the revitalisation of the much-loved Newcastle Ocean Baths. This feedback has informed the development of the **Stage Two concept plan** and we are eager to check back in with you to ensure we have heard you correctly.

Join the conversation on our interactive concept plans and help shape Stage Two of the Newcastle Ocean Baths!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Bathers Way, King Edward Park

The Bathers Way links Newcastle's beaches from Merewether Ocean Baths to Nobbys Beach. It

stretches 6 kilometres and forms part of the Great North Walk from Merewether Ocean Baths to Sydney.

We're eager to hear your feedback on the **concept design** for one of the last remaining sections of the iconic Bathers Way **shared path** through King Edward Park. The King Edward Park section will extend from the previous works at The Terrace carpark, through King Edward Park, connecting to Shortland Esplanade and through to South Newcastle Beach.

[Find out more and have your say on the Bathers Way extension through King Edward Park!](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY



Broadmeadow Place Strategy

We're planning for the future of Broadmeadow over the next 30 years.

City of Newcastle, in partnership with the NSW Government, has developed the draft Broadmeadow Place Strategy, which will guide future development in the area, and provide the opportunity for **additional housing, jobs and population growth, as well as a world-class sports and entertainment precinct.**

Our vision for Broadmeadow is a vibrant destination and loveable place with highly connected and distinct neighbourhoods that balance the needs of a dynamic and growing community.

The rezoning plan prepared by the NSW Government, is informed by the Broadmeadow Place Strategy and will seek to rezone certain parcels of government-owned land and unlock housing supply within Broadmeadow in the first stage.

We want you to be involved and help to achieve city shaping outcomes that will define Newcastle for years to come.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Draft Walking and Mobility Plan

City of Newcastle (CN) has prepared a draft Walking and Mobility Plan which is a **10-year strategy** designed to increase pedestrian activity in Newcastle by building and supporting walkable neighbourhoods.

Community feedback collected during the development of the **Principal Pedestrian Network** has been used to inform the draft Walking and Mobility Plan which is now on public exhibition.

The strategy aims to make walking and active transport the natural choice for short trips for every member of the community, by improving safety for pedestrians in all infrastructure upgrades across the city.

This plan will guide our programs, projects, and priorities for walking for the next 10 years so it's important we hear your feedback to ensure we've gotten it right.

[VIEW THE DRAFT PLAN](#)



Islington Cycleway Improvements

As part of our commitment to improving cycleway connection and safety, we are delivering a new cycleway along **Chinchen and Hubbard Streets, Islington**.

The proposed cycleway is a combination of **on-road separated cycleway and off-road shared pathway**, including landscaped kerb extensions at Linden Street and continuous path treatment at John Hooker Street. These improvements will **connect the existing shared pathway** from Scholey Street Bridge through to Islington Park.

The implementation of this vital infrastructure will allow for continued access along popular cycling routes, **connecting the community** to key destinations across Newcastle.

We want to hear your feedback on the proposed concept plans.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Events



Thursday, 18 July 2024

We Love Our Coast Drop-in sessions - come along and find out more about projects on our coastline!

Digital Library, 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West

- 11am to 1pm: Business leaders and operators forum
- 2pm to 6pm: Community forum

Key dates



Wednesday, 24 July 2024

Broadmeadow Place Strategy open until 24 July.

Thursday, 25 July 2024

Islington Cycleway Improvements open until 25 July.

Monday, 5 August 2024

Newcastle Ocean Baths - Stage Two open until 5 August.

Bathers Way - King Edward Park open until 5 August.

Thursday, 8 August 2024

Draft Walking and Mobility Plan open until 8 August.

Thank you from the Engagement Team

 Share

 Tweet

 Share

 Forward

City of Newcastle

12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle, NSW 2300 Australia

This is a newsletter from City of Newcastle. If you would prefer not to receive emails like this from us in the future, please click below to unsubscribe.

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Media release

[Link to media release available here.](#)

Media release



19 June 2024

Lord Mayor unveils vision for key link in her Bathers Way project

Novocastrians are being given their first look at the concept designs for a key link in the city's iconic coastal walkway.

The vision reveals a hallmark wide shared pathway snaking its way through the heritage-listed King Edward Park, transforming a section of the Bathers Ways between the Terrace car park near Shepherd's Hill Cottage and South Newcastle Beach.

The project will create more accessible connections between King Edward Park's key features and enhance opportunities to appreciate the city's spectacular coastal scenery with more comfortable viewing areas.

Lord Mayor Nuatali Nemes said Bathers Way is a jewel among the city's coastal assets.

"I'm proud to have conceived and initiated the Bathers Way project many years ago as the flagship of our coastal revitalisation program," Cr Nemes said.

"Delivering an upgraded shared pathway that links our city's spectacular beaches with some of Newcastle's most popular coastal destinations has transformed the way we enjoy our iconic coastline."

Deputy Lord Mayor Declan Clausen encouraged the community to have their say on this key project.

"King Edward Park holds enormous significance to Newcastle with its sweeping ocean views, open lawn area, peaceful gardens, and importance to Newcastle's traditional custodians," Cr Clausen said.

"Delivering a continuous, inclusive path that makes use of the amazing views and respects the site's heritage is a priority for City of Newcastle."

"Feedback from the community is an important aspect of this process and I encourage everyone to have their say during the public exhibition period to help inform the detailed design of one of the last remaining sections of Bathers Way."

The project will include renewal of King Edward Park's amenities and will seek to improve the connection between the lawn around the iconic Victorian rotunda, and the popular Garside Gardens, which are known for their colourful flower displays each Spring.

More comfortable viewing areas with shade and seating will enhance the overall visitor experience, with lookout platforms offering sweeping views off the coast, while an upgraded entry will create a more fitting welcome to this significant site.

The Bathers Way is a continuous path that links the city's iconic beaches of Merewether, Dixon Park, Bar Beach, Newcastle and Nobbys and forms part of the larger Great North Walk, which stretches from Queens Wharf by Newcastle Harbour to Circular Quay in Sydney.

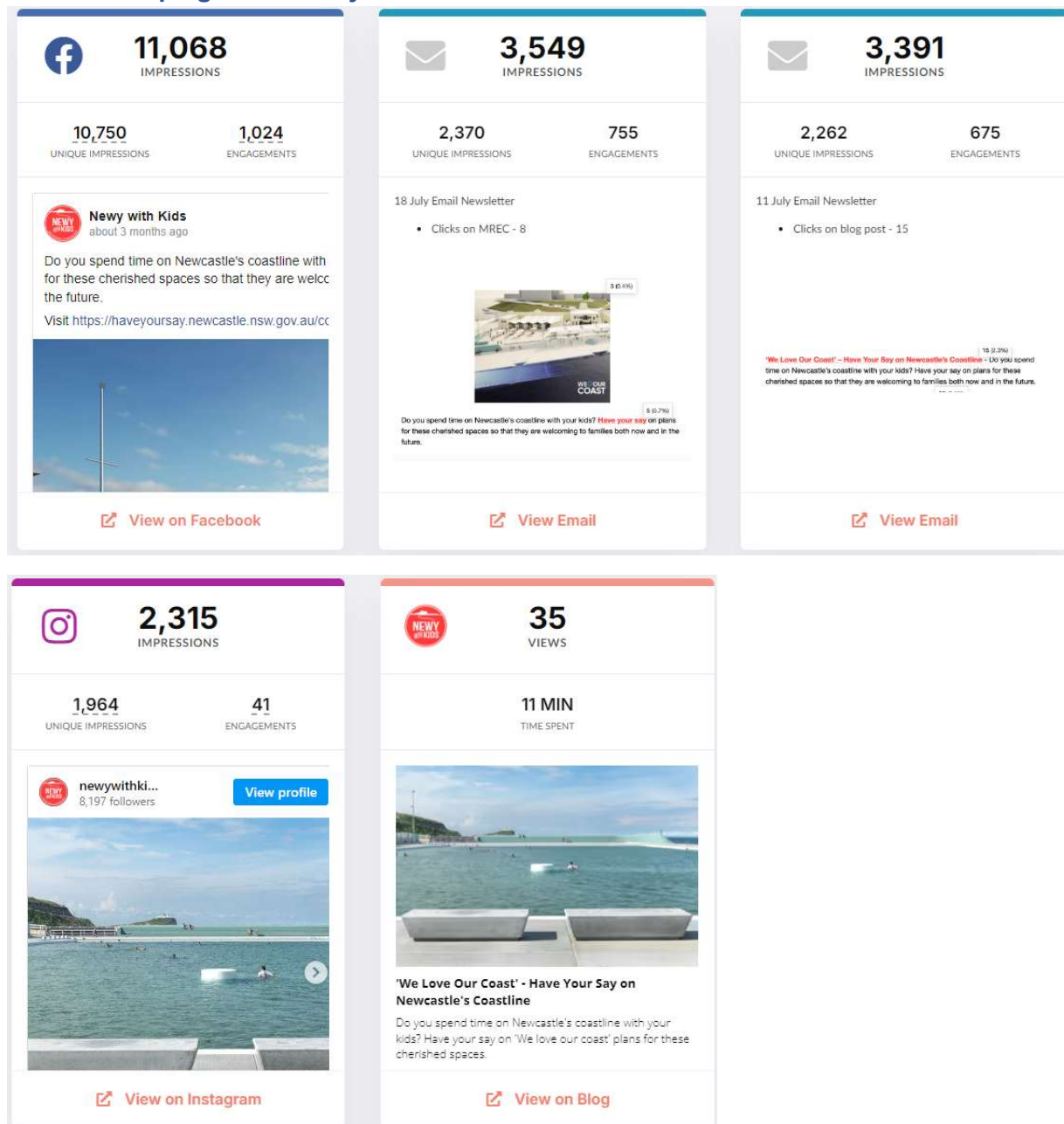
The shared pathway is designed to accommodate all members of the community, with a width of between four and six metres depending on the location and no steps along its 6kilometre-long route.

Community members can learn more about the Bathers Way King Edward Park concept plan and provide feedback online until 5 August 2024.

In-person 'We Love Our Coast' information sessions will also be held throughout the consultation period, which will provide an opportunity for people to learn more about a range of coastal projects being delivered by City of Newcastle including the final stage of the Newcastle Ocean Baths upgrade.

Visit City of Newcastle's [We Love Our Coast Have Your Say](#) page for more details.

Partner campaign with *Newy with Kids*



Links:

- [View on Facebook](#)
- [View email 1](#)
- [View email 2](#)
- [View on Instagram](#)
- [View on Blog](#)

Appendix II – Consultation tools

Online feedback form

Feedback form: Bathers Way, King Edward Park

Welcome to the feedback form for the Bathers Way extension into King Edward Park.

We are seeking your feedback on the draft plans.

First Name Required

Rose

Last Name Required

Brown-Mason

Email address Required

rbrown-mason@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Age Group Required

18-24, 25-34, 35-44

Please let us know your feedback:

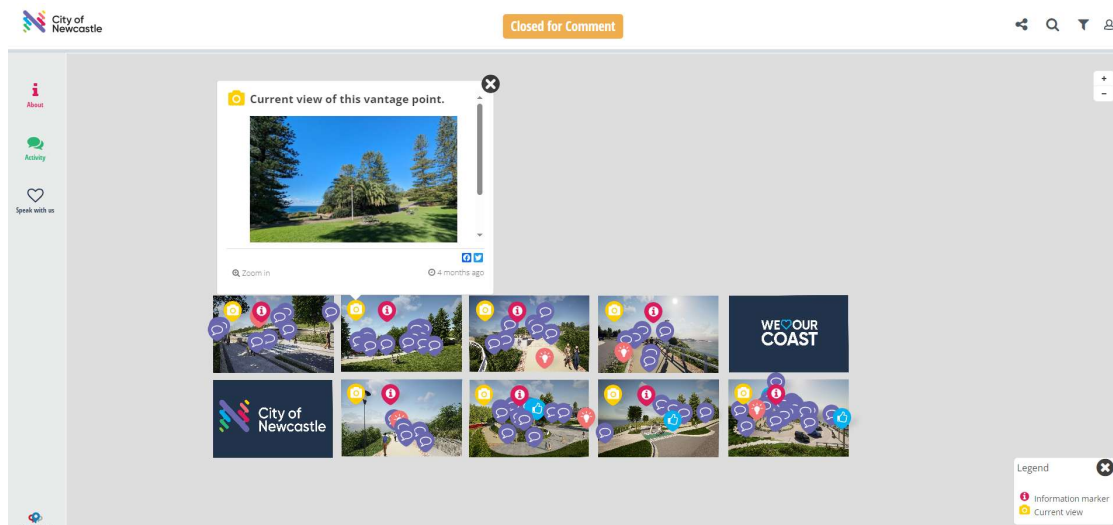
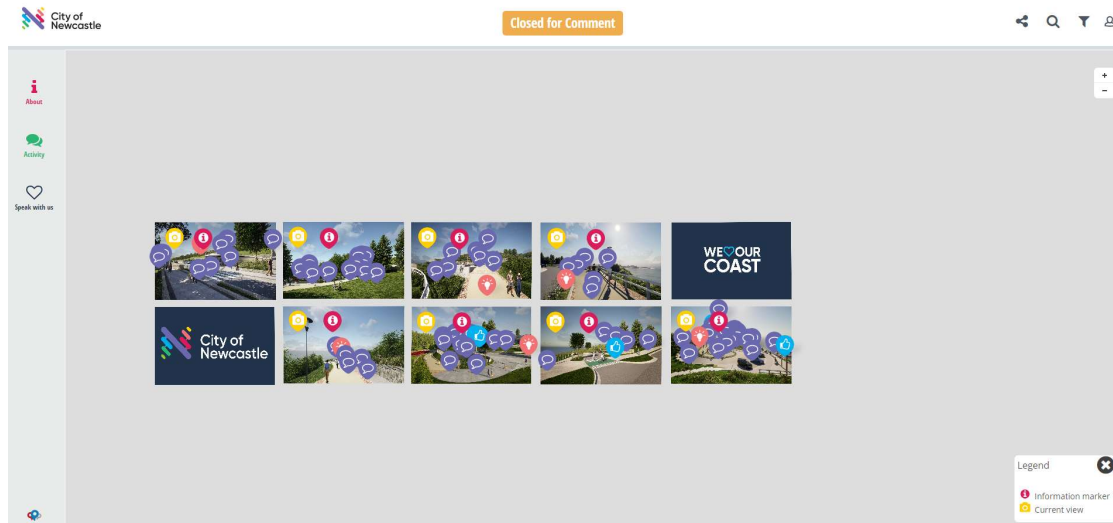
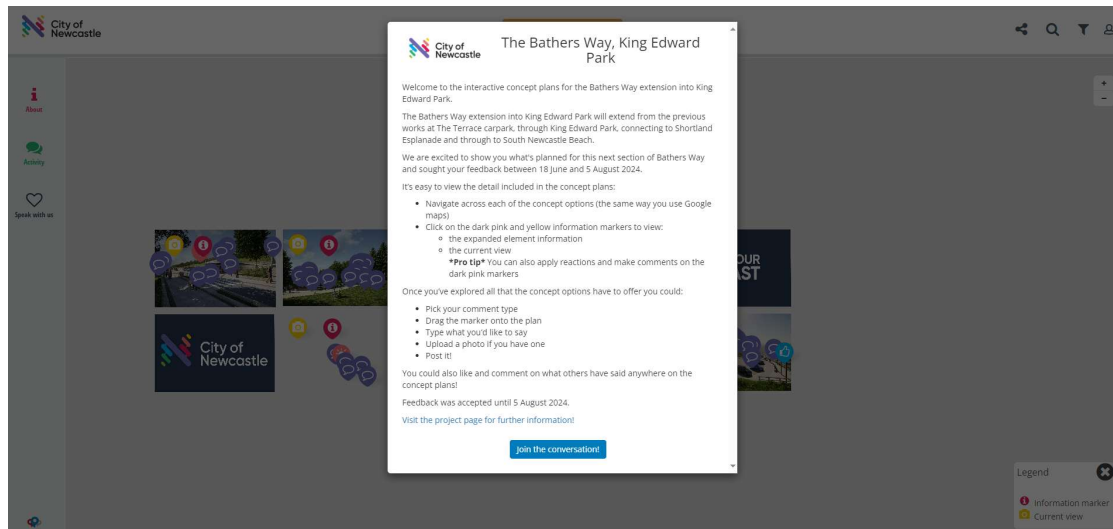
Attachment one:



Choose file...

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

Interactive concept plans



Appendix III – Rendered imagery



Render 1: Amenities



Render 2: Bathers Way Rotunda Lawn



Render 3: Bogey Hole (view 1)



Render 4: Bogey Hole (view 2)



Render 5: Hairpin Bend



Render 6: Lookout



Render 7: Main Entry



Render 8: Main Lookout