

Civic Public Domain Plan



The cultural heart of Newcastle

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

The PDP provides a community-informed framework to revitalise one of Newcastle's most important civic and cultural areas, centred around Civic Park, Wheeler Place and City Hall. It aims to enhance public spaces, improve access and connectivity, celebrate cultural identity, and support sustainable growth.

Key objectives include reinforcing the precinct's role as Newcastle's cultural and civic heart through more opportunities for public art, performances, and community events, upgrading pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and creating cooler, greener outdoor spaces. Heritage protection and recognition of Indigenous cultural values are also core priorities, ensuring historic structures, sightlines and cultural narratives are respected and reflected in future design.

The Civic Precinct Public Domain Plan is a key step towards a connected, inclusive and vibrant city centre that celebrates heritage, enriches cultural life and improves the experience for everyone who lives, works or plays in the precinct.

Our reach



62,876
social media
impressions



2,747
e-Newsletter
recipients



2,173
webpage
views



800 flyers
14 signs at
key locations



280
people attended
across **6** pop-up
events



11 people
participated across
2 'walkshop' events

What we heard?

We received **81** responses via the online feedback form. Overall, there was strong support for:

- park and open space upgrades
- improved plazas
- pedestrian-friendly shared zones
- increased tree canopy
- better pedestrian crossings
- upgraded cycle routes and shared pathways
- more alfresco dining options.

While changes to parking were less supported, traffic changes along King, Auckland, Darby and Laman Streets received broad support.

Key themes identified included:

- **Pedestrian and cyclist priority:** support for greater pedestrian access and safety, seeing it as a way to reduce traffic, boost local business, and improve accessibility. Some concerns were raised about shared path conflicts with suggestions for clearer rules, speed limits, and better separation.
- **Greening the city:** support for more tree canopy and green space to create a cooler, more appealing environment.
- **Activation and revitalisation:** comments highlighted the importance of vibrancy, cultural activity, events, and improved public spaces to strengthen the city's identity and connectivity.



Where to next?

We are reviewing all of the feedback received and are exploring opportunities to refine the draft plan in response to your comments.

Once these refinements are considered, we will submit the draft plan to Council for adoption.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and insights and we look forward to continuing the conversation as the project progresses.