

Newcastle Ocean Baths Revitalisation – Stage Two (Amended DA)

Overview

The Newcastle Ocean Baths are one of Newcastle's most valued heritage, recreation and tourism assets. For more than a decade, community feedback has played an important role in shaping the planning and design of the revitalisation project, helping balance heritage conservation with the needs and expectations of the community.

On 19 August 2026, City of Newcastle submitted an amended Development Application (DA) for Stage Two of the revitalisation project, which includes the pavilion buildings and the surrounding public domain to the pavilions and the canoe pool. The amended DA was subsequently placed on public exhibition, providing the community with an opportunity to review the updated proposal and make a submission.

The amended DA reflects refinements informed by previous community feedback, advice from Heritage NSW, the Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP), independent experts, key stakeholders and Council resolutions. These refinements aim to respect the heritage significance of the Baths while ensuring the facilities continue to meet community needs into the future.

Consistent with City of Newcastle's commitment to transparency and community engagement, a range of proactive communication and engagement activities were undertaken to support awareness and understanding of the proposed amendments. This report outlines the additional engagement activities delivered to complement the statutory public exhibition process.

Online information



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Thanks for coming on the journey to shape the Baths

On site posters



In-person events



Supporting community understanding

Between 27 August and 24 September 2026, the amended Development Application was publicly exhibited via the Application Tracker.

In addition to the public exhibition process, City of Newcastle delivered a range of communication and engagement activities to support informed community participation. These activities focused on making information easy to access, increasing transparency and helping the community better understand the proposed amendments.

The engagement program was designed to:

- Raise awareness of the public exhibition
- Provide clear and accessible information about the amended proposal
- Explain how the design had evolved
- Support community understanding of the proposed changes
- Provide opportunities for people to seek information and clarification.

A dedicated project page on the Have Your Say website provided a central source of information throughout the exhibition period and included:

- Project background and information
- A timeline of key milestones
- Details of the amended DA
- Explanations of the proposed design refinements
- Updated concept renders
- Floor plans
- A project flythrough video
- Links to supporting documentation including the Application Tracker.

Recognising the high level of community interest in the project, community members were also invited to book appointments with the project team. Available both online and in person, these sessions provided an opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification and better understand the amended DA.

By providing a dedicated project webpage, detailed visual materials, supporting documentation and direct access to project representatives, City of Newcastle delivered engagement activities beyond those required as part of the statutory exhibition process. These initiatives were designed to improve access to information, enhance transparency and support community understanding of the amended proposal.

Our reach

During the public exhibition period, a communications and engagement campaign was deployed to complement the statutory planning process and informed the community of the project and promoted the opportunity for people to get informed and provide feedback via the legislated process.

Have Your Say



1,535

webpage visits

Participant Emails



333

previous participants notified

Social Media Engagements



13,002

engagements via CN-owned channels

Video Views



108,224

plays of the flythrough video

Newcastle Connect



3,722

e-Newsletter subscribers notified

Social Media Impressions



403,858

impressions achieved via CN-owned channels

QR Code Poster Scans



69

QR code scans from posters installed across the site

In-person Appointments



24

appointments with project team made available

Media



110

media outlets contacted

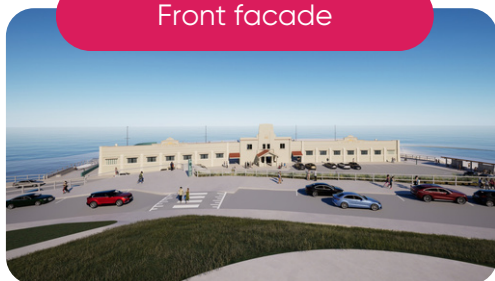
Next steps

Following the conclusion of the exhibition period, the amended DA will continue through the statutory assessment process.

All submissions received during the exhibition period will be considered alongside technical assessments and planning requirements as part of the determination process. The application will then be considered by the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel.

City of Newcastle will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses.

Front facade



Front facade



Front facade



Aerial view of roofline



Southern pavillion



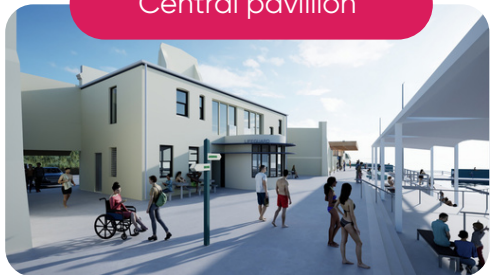
Southern pavillion cafe



Southern pavillion cafe



Central pavillion



Northern pavillion



Female amenities



Male amenities



Canoe Pool

