

Newcastle Ocean Baths Upgrade, Stage Two

Community engagement summary

Stage Two of the Newcastle Ocean Baths Upgrade focuses on the pavilion buildings and surrounding public domain.

A User Needs Analysis was developed in early 2023 based on an understanding of community needs, current and future demand, and considerations for safety, public health and accessibility. This is in addition to previous community consultation in 2020, and feedback from our Community Reference Group across 2020 – 2021.

The User Needs Analysis highlighted that there is a lack of flexible community space in Newcastle East, and presented a series of floorplan options which expand on the informal community space that existed at the site previously (e.g., storage for swimming clubs) to offer a more formalised and fit for purpose space for the community.

These floorplan options were the subject of the community engagement undertaken in May and June 2023.

How did we seek feedback?

The Community Reference Group (CRG) met on **25 May** for a workshop on a series of different preliminary floorplan options.



Preliminary Ground Floor Layout - Option A received generally positive support from the CRG. This helped to simplify the approach to broader community consultation – presenting one ground floor option, along with an option to provide additional community space by adding a First Floor.



The community were invited to provide feedback between **30 May and 12 June** via an online survey, face to face engagement activities, and written submissions.



447

surveys completed



4

written submissions received



3

face to face engagement activities



City of Newcastle

Newcastle Ocean Baths Upgrade, Stage Two

What did you tell us?

Feedback from the survey was mixed, with 45% liking the plans and slightly less (38%) not liking the plans. Support for the community space on the building’s first floor that had provisions for maintaining the heritage façade saw 49% not wanting the additional space, and 38% saying 'yes' or 'yes, with changes'.

Feedback about not liking the plan and the inclusion of the additional community space focused on an expected increase in parking requirements related to use of the community space. There were also concerns about privacy, and potential uses of the community space.

45% of respondents liked the preliminary ground floor plans
(38% did not like the plans)

38% of respondents supported the potential provision of community space through addition of a first floor
(13% were unsure and wanted more information, and 49% objected)

The User Needs Analysis includes the outcomes of a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) investigation into the suitability of retaining the open-air change rooms. It was determined that there is a higher crime risk with open air facilities due to the ability to access the area undetected after hours. Additionally, open-air facilities have no means of controlling, detecting or inhibiting the use of drones, meaning patrons (including children) within the change rooms are at risk of being targeted by unauthorised surveillance. The User Needs Analysis recommends that these spaces should be enclosed with sky lighting over in accordance with the recommendations of the CPTED statement.

CN will explore options for skylights and ventilation to provide open air amenity during Concept & Detailed Design, while still meeting the recommendations of the CPTED statement.

What happens next?

We aim to appoint a principal design consultant to deliver concept and detailed design services in late 2023. The community feedback received will be considered as design options progress, alongside information from technical studies.

For the latest information on the project visit
newcastle.nsw.gov.au/works

