

Bathers Way – King Edward Park Community Reference Group

1. Introduction

Bathers Way is a continuous path linking our iconic beaches of Merewether, Dixon Park, Bar Beach, Newcastle and Nobbys, and is a flagship project of our Coastal Revitalisation program. Bathers Way is being delivered in stages, in line with the [Bathers Way Public Domain Plan \(2012\)](#).

CRG members will have the opportunity to help shape renewed concept designs for the King Edward Park section of Bathers Way, which is one of the final sections to be upgraded. This section will extend from previous works at The Terrace carpark, through King Edward Park, connecting to Shortland Esplanade and the path which continues onto South Newcastle Beach.

The CRG will act as a consultative body, providing feedback to the project team as concept designs are developed. The CRG is one element of our community engagement program and will be complemented by other engagement activities with the broader community.

2. Purpose and Objectives

Purpose

This document outlines the objectives and structure of the Bathers Way – King Edward Park Community Reference Group (Bathers Way - KEP CRG, or the CRG).

The purpose of the CRG is to enable two-way communication and engagement between City of Newcastle (CN) and community representatives as CN develops concept plans for the Bathers Way – King Edward Park upgrade.

Objectives

- Contribute to the planning of facilities that balance the needs of current and future Bathers Way users.
- Facilitate the sharing of information between the project team and broader community. This includes sharing information about project objectives, status and outcomes with the community and informing the project team of any feedback that community members share.

CRG dissolution

The CRG will be maintained throughout development of the concept plan(s) for Bathers Way – King Edward Park and dissolved at the point of public exhibition. Following public exhibition, the design will be finalised and endorsed by the elected Council before proceeding into detailed design.

3. Membership

Overview

CRG membership is designed to represent a wide range of users, interest areas, genders, ages and abilities from across the Newcastle local government area. Membership is voluntary. The CRG is comprised of a mix of interested stakeholder or community groups (directly invited) and individual community members (selected via an expression of interest process).

Members of stakeholder or community groups may nominate an alternate delegate, if the principal member is unavailable or unable to continue participation in the CRG. The stakeholder or community group must advise CN of any changes to a nominated representative in writing to bathersway@ncc.nsw.gov.au.

CN may appoint additional members, being individuals via expression of interest, or stakeholder group representatives, to the CRG to help ensure a diverse membership base. CRG members will be notified, with reasonable notice, if CN anticipates the need to appoint an additional member, including reasons for the appointment and an overview of the selection process.

The overall number of members will be limited to an amount that ensures the CRG remains workable and effective. Members are appointed for the duration of the CRG.

As well as nominated CRG members, meetings will also be attended by CN representatives and appointed specialists and contractors. This may include CN officers from Planning, Transport & Regulation, Community & Recreation, and Media & Stakeholder Relations. The Lord Mayor or a representative from the Lord Mayor's office will be invited to attend these meetings.

4. CRG Member Responsibilities

Responsibilities of CRG members are as follows:

- Provide information on current usage and areas for improvement of Bathers Way infrastructure within King Edward Park
- Provide feedback to CN on proposed concept designs
- Represent your user group and provide feedback to and from formal or informal networks
- Refrain from speaking on behalf of the CRG.

5. Community Reference Group Meetings

Meetings will be scheduled in response to the project's needs in delivering considered outcomes. CN anticipates there may be approximately 2-4 in the delivery of the project's concept plans.

Meetings will be held in-person. Meetings will be held at a centrally located venue that is accessible by public transport. In the event that meetings are unable to take place in person, members may be required to attend online meetings. Meeting length will be a maximum of 2 hours.

Please note meetings will not be open to observers.

6. Minutes

A summary of key issues discussed at each meeting will be provided to the CRG and published on CN's website. Items raised in each meeting will be assessed by the project team and inform the development of the concept plan(s).

The CRG will be kept informed of how feedback has been incorporated into the project.

7. Community Reference Group Correspondence

All correspondence from CRG members associated with the function or business of the CRG should be directed to bathersway@ncc.nsw.gov.au. If the correspondence includes questions regarding the project requiring an official response then please direct your enquiry to the [online form](#) on CN's website.

8. Conduct of Meetings and Confidentiality

CRG members must comply with CN's [Code of Conduct for Council Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisors](#). See additional information on CN's [Code of Conduct webpage](#).

CRG members must sign a Community and Stakeholder Representative Authority form provided by CN.

9. CRG Reporting Structure

The CRG is part of CN's review process and is not a decision-making body. Outcomes of CRG meetings will be reported to the Coastal Revitalisation Program Project Control Group.