

Summary Engagement Report

Newcastle City Centre & Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas Review



City of
Newcastle

Overview

City of Newcastle (CN) is undertaking a staged strategic review of the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East heritage conservation areas (HCAs).

The buildings, streets, and precincts of these two HCAs have experienced significant change brought about by the recent economic revitalisation of Newcastle City Centre.

Purpose of the engagement

We sought feedback from the community about which streets, buildings and places within Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs have heritage significance and/or contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity.

Engagement activities

The community were able to provide feedback via:

- our online submission form
- emailing a written submission
- adding comments to our interactive map
- answering our quick poll

The engagement took place from 17 April to 29 May 2023.



Number of submissions

59 online form submissions

6 email submissions

363 interactive map comments

(from 68 unique participants)

238 quick poll responses



What we heard – key themes



83% expressed support for maintaining or improving heritage conservation in Newcastle

Online form/email submissions

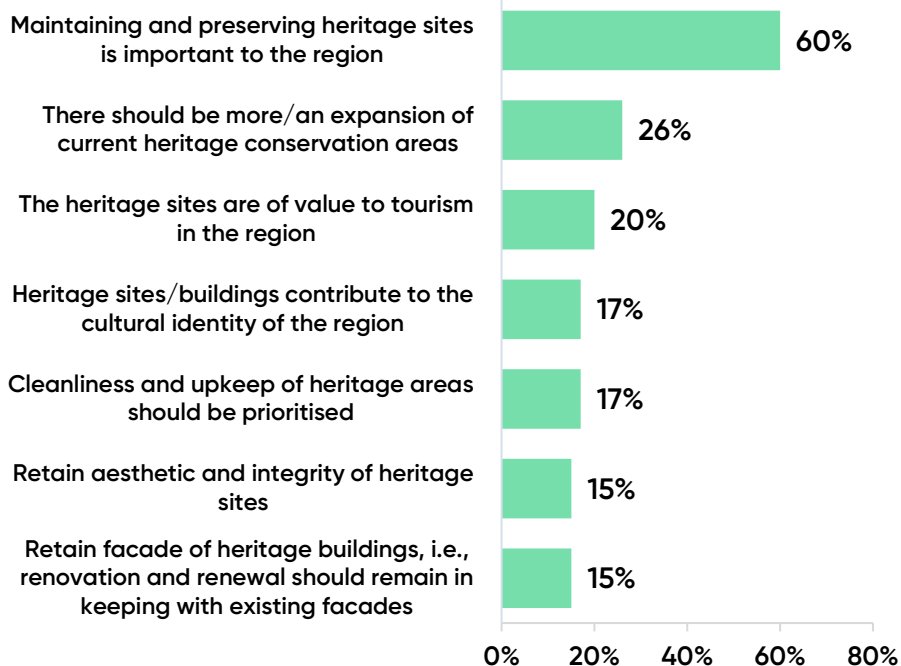
Respondents were generally supportive of the protection of heritage conservation areas, with a net of 83% providing a comment or feedback supportive of improvements to, or maintenance of heritage conservation in Newcastle.

Community members mentioned the significance that heritage sites have to the region, as well as the importance they have to the history and identity of Newcastle and surrounds.

Over a quarter of online form/email submissions commented on the need to expand current heritage protections.

Other submissions referenced the value of heritage sites bringing tourism to the region, cleanliness and upkeep of heritage areas, retaining aesthetic/integrity of heritage sites and retaining facades of heritage buildings.

Key themes identified



Interactive map

Locations/buildings of heritage merit

274 pins

Locations/buildings with shared history and/or built character

35 pins

Locations/buildings of no heritage conservation merit

54 pins



Apart from being able to leave 'pins' or comments on the map, respondents were also able to agree (upvote) or disagree (down vote) with comments left by others. Shown below are pins with the highest number of upvotes by category.

Locations/buildings with heritage merit:

- **Newcastle Post Office** (96 Hunter Street, Newcastle)
- **Victoria Theatre** (8-10 Perkins Street, Newcastle)
- **Customs House** (1 Bond Street, Newcastle)
- **Newcastle Ocean Baths** (30 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East)
- **Newcastle Railway Station** (110 Scott Street, Newcastle)
- **Fort Scratchley** (31 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East)
- **Nobbys Beach Pavilion** (35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East)
- **Pacific Park** (1 Pacific Street, Newcastle)

Shared history and/or built character:

- **Henry Dangar's 1828 Kings Town Plan (Newcastle)**
- **Lee Wharf Buildings** (Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle)
- **Birdwood Park** (502 King Street, Newcastle West)
- **Newcastle West Industrial** (Newcastle West)
- **Civic Park** (King Street, Newcastle)

No heritage conservation merit:

- **33 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East**
- **Queens Wharf** (150 Wharf Road, Newcastle)
- **Noah's on the Beach** (29 Zaara Street, Newcastle East)
- **Ibis Hotel** (700 Hunter Street, Newcastle West)
- **Arvia Building** (67 Watt Street, Newcastle)

What we heard

Quick Poll

Community members were shown 10 images of streetscapes within the study area and prompted to select the locations which have heritage value to them.

The streetscapes with the highest support for having heritage value include Hunter Street (East End and Civic) and Alfred Street, Newcastle East.



Hunter Street, Newcastle (East End) – 97%



Hunter Street, Newcastle (Civic) – 95%



Alfred Street, Newcastle East – 91%



Hunter Street, Newcastle (Worth Place to Union Street) – 67%



Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle – 47%



Wood Street, Newcastle West – 36%



Parry Street, Newcastle West – 25%



Hunter Street, Newcastle West – 21%



Centenary Road, Newcastle – 18%

Next Steps

Your feedback will be used to help investigate how and where land use protections for this area could best be applied so that revitalisation of the Newcastle City Centre continues while ensuring our rich and diverse cultural heritage remains protected and conserved.

Following a review of all feedback from the community, we will prepare a draft report outlining recommendations and proposed changes to HCA boundaries or new heritage items.

There will be further opportunities to have your say. We will keep you updated as the project progresses.



Steel Street, Newcastle West (Marketown) – 10%