

Social Infrastructure Strategy

Summary

2022 - 2026



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City of
Newcastle

Our Strategy

Have you ever kicked a ball in the park, borrowed a book, taken your toddler to playgroup, met up with a community group, or joined a local wellbeing class? Then you have probably used one of Newcastle's great public places and spaces (social infrastructure).

The way we plan, design, manage and activate public places and spaces affects how we connect to it and how we value our experience using it. Recent events (such as the COVID-19 pandemic) have highlighted that are parks and playgrounds, beaches and bushland, community centres and libraries, cultural spaces, etc, are more important than ever for supporting the development of social wellbeing, maintaining community connections, and developing the skills and resilience that thriving communities need. This is especially true for our most vulnerable in our communities.

The Social Infrastructure Strategy and its four-year action plan provides a blueprint for how CN will play its part in responding to public places and spaces opportunities and challenges in our communities.

Vision

An equitably distributed, sustainably managed and inclusive network of public places and spaces, contributing to a liveable, sustainable and inclusive Newcastle.

Purpose

This SIS outlines CNs future priorities for SI. The SIS will:

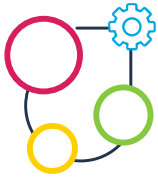
Support an integrated strategic approach to delivering SI, in partnership with neighbouring councils and other levels of government, the local community and other key stakeholders including the private sector

Improve coordination and fairness in decision-making around SI investments, resourcing and equitable delivery

Position us for collaborative funding opportunities and partnerships

Realise the delivery of quality SI across the LGA that will meet the needs of our future population and enable the delivery of community activities, programs, services and events for all.





Priority 1: Equitable distribution for growth and resilience

Plan for and support an equitably distributed network of local, district and LGA-wide social infrastructure hubs, building upon local centres hierarchy

Prioritise social infrastructure investment in areas with current gaps, forecast urban renewal and population growth, and areas of high socio-economic disadvantage

Improve access to and between social infrastructure, through public transport advocacy, blue and green grid and recreational connections



Priority 2: Quality and adaptive places to play and stay

Improve the capacity, flexibility and amenity of our existing public facilities, parks and open spaces

Support public facilities, public parks and open spaces to work harder and adapt to multipurpose and/or co-located places and spaces

Champion and progress innovative projects that realise contemporary social infrastructure design, respond to community need and participation trends and harness the benefits of technology



Priority 3: Community capacity building and inclusion

Ensure equitable and transparent fees alongside sustainable revenue streams

Inclusive and welcoming social infrastructure designed, managed and programmed for all in our diverse community to enjoy

Enhance social connections, community participation and capacity building facilitated through our social infrastructure

Continue to engage with our communities around their social infrastructure needs and inform and involve them in decision making



Priority 4: Governance, partnerships and collaboration

Integrate planning, governance and decision making to better align social infrastructure investment with evidence-based needs and prioritisation and support delivery through diverse and sustainable revenue streams

Improve social infrastructure data capture and technology systems, aimed at increasing user experience, utilisation and organisational insights

Pursue diverse funding and partnerships to share opportunity and support delivery

Champion support for our current and projected social infrastructure needs to positively influence decisions within political, economic, and social spheres