



# **Harbour Foreshore Masterplan**

## **Phase 3 - Public Exhibition Report**

**November 2022**

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## Executive summary

### Overview

The Masterplan is an important document that guides the management and future development of the Newcastle Harbour Foreshore – a plan to revitalise the area and turn the Harbour Foreshore into a world-class harbourside esplanade. The Harbour Foreshore will become Newcastle's premier event space, as well as a significant cultural and recreational space for the city. The Harbour Foreshore Masterplan complements the City's ongoing revitalisation and is intended to meet the growing needs of the community.

The Masterplan celebrates historical and cultural influences along the foreshore with a Cultural Heritage Walk, features an inclusive playspace for all abilities, as well as an improved layout and integration of event spaces, improved cycleway and pedestrian amenity and linkages, additional tree canopy and conservation of significant trees.

### Prior engagement

The draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan has been developed over the past 2 years and is the result of extensive community consultation. Phase one community engagement, which took place in mid 2020, invited the community to provide feedback on what they love about the Harbour Foreshore and what they would like to see in the future. Phase two engagement, which took place between February to March 2021, invited the community to provide feedback on preliminary concepts for Foreshore Park, including the new inclusive play space being developed with our partner Touched by Olivia, and experiences walking and cycling along the Foreshore.

Key changes that informed the development of the Masterplan based on community feedback from Phase 2 engagement include:

- Retaining the location of the existing Sandhills Community Garden
- Revised location of Livvi's playspace to provide an existing connection to harbour and proximity to parking, an important factor for those with limited mobility. The new location is also further from nearby residences than what was previously proposed, takes advantage of existing topography and established trees, and enables separation from the Cultural Heritage Walk.
- Reduction and naturalisation of the Frog Pond enabling an accurate representation of the freshwater source within the park, increasing connectivity throughout the park, increasing tree canopy and providing a flexible shaded open lawn adjacent to the Rail Shed.
- Accommodating the needs of the roller skating community by providing a hardstand space at the base of Shortland Lawn amphitheatre
- Positioning the kiosk adjacent to the Rail Shed and playspace to service many different sections of the park

**This report focuses on Phase three community engagement activities during public exhibition of the Masterplan from 28 September to 26 October 2022.**

## Summary

### Online feedback form

Overall, the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan was well received by the community and had high levels of support from online submissions. Both the volume of feedback and length of submissions received during Phase 3 public exhibition engagement was significantly less than what was received during the previous round of engagement, despite promotion via similar channels. This suggests that the community were generally supportive of the draft Masterplan, which was developed based on feedback provided during Phase 2 engagement (preliminary concepts).

Of the 48 online submissions received, 31 supported the Masterplan overall, 5 were unsure and 12 did not support the Masterplan. As part of their online submission, respondents were asked whether or not they supported 12 individual aspects of the Masterplan. 3 in 4 respondents supported a majority of the 12 aspects of the Masterplan, and only 2 respondents did not support any of the 12 aspects.

Key themes that emerged from the open feedback about the Masterplan were:

- general positive comments
- tree canopy and shade
- playspace
- too much focus on commercial interests/development

The nature of feedback provided, however, was very broad. Other themes that received 3-4 mentions include: the Frog Pond, The Commons/event spaces, retaining open space/green space, materials used in construction, design and planning considerations and prioritisation of spending.

Themes that received 1-2 mentions include: parking, public toilets, the amphitheatre, Cultural walkway, light rail extension, cycling path access and safety, Customs House Plaza, pedestrian footpaths, mobility/wheelchair accessibility, noise concerns, the Railway/carriage shed, extension of Lynches Hub, space inaccessible during the Supercars event, kiosk, Indigenous heritage, construction, water safety measures, additional seating, cleanliness/beautification, and connectivity to beaches and other parts of the city.

### Drop-in sessions

Feedback at the two drop-in sessions was generally positive. Several people made general positive comments about the Masterplan and/or had already viewed the plans online. Many also commented that proposed changes within the Masterplan were much needed to revitalise the Harbour Foreshore and attract visitors. The playspace received a lot of interest and excitement. Many of the questions were around potential loss of parking and concerns about parking with the increase in visitors to the Foreshore area. Other questions were about trees and shade canopy, timeframe for implementation, the Frog Pond, pedestrian and cycleway improvements, prioritisation of spending and questions about Honeysuckle which were explained to be outside the scope of the project.

## Submissions

The two submissions received from the Newcastle East Residents Group and National Trust expressed some positive sentiments about the Masterplan such as retaining the location of the Sandhills Community Garden in its existing location, relocating the playspace, acknowledging the heritage value of the frog pond and naturalising part of the pond, as well as various improvements for pedestrians and cyclists.

However, there were also several concerns raised. Key themes within the submissions are shown below:

- Scope of the Masterplan and alignment with the 2015 Harbour Foreshore Plan of Management (PoM)
- The addition of new event spaces within Foreshore Park
- Suitability of events spaces
- Lack of detail within the Masterplan about trees and vegetation
- Pedestrian and cycleway improvements
- Parking/Supercars pit area
- Kiosk/amenities building location and detailed design
- Negative social impact/anti-social behaviour
- Heritage considerations such as incorporating European History and the history of Newcastle
- Fencing around Livvi's Playspace
- Further community consultation

See **Submissions** within **Section 4. Key findings** for more detail.



## Recommendations

### Trees and shade

- Provide more detail within the Masterplan about which trees will be lost and what will be done to compensate for any losses.
- Provide more detail about CN's commitment to increase the tree canopy, overall greening and alignment with the NUFPP.
- Consider the inclusion of a tree/vegetation plan and planting programme timeframe.
- Continue to investigate the potential to incorporate species of trees that maximise shade.
- Consider location of trees to ensure that there are adequate trees within the park (not just on the perimeter) that provide shade for recreational users.
- Where possible, include native species of trees that provide a natural habitat for wildlife – birds, bees, butterflies etc.

### Playspace

- Ensure suitable materials are used in construction e.g. heat resistant materials, adequate provision of shade.
- Investigate potential opportunities for unstructured play and play for all ages.
- Investigate other possible alternatives to fully enclosed fencing.

### Open space/green space

- Ensure that open space/green space is retained and is available for a wide range of uses.
- Maintain the Foreshore precinct as an inner city green space for those living in and visiting the city. It is considered an important recreational space for the city.

### Events

- Identify ways to minimise the impact of large-scale events on local residents and park users, including the potential for portions of the park to become alienated, traffic congestion, noise, damage to parkland, litter and waste generation etc.
- Ensure that there are opportunities for a wide range of low to medium impact community events which are inclusive for all members of the community.

### Kiosk/amenities

Consider the potential impact that the location of the kiosk/amenities building may have on sightline and pedestrian/cyclist orientation.

## **Transport, parking and accessibility**

- Monitor and review ongoing parking utilisation within the area to investigate potential parking availability issues, particularly once the playspace is completed and visitation to the area increases.
- Identify ways to optimise current supply of parking in the area e.g. review time restrictions.
- Promote using alternative modes of transport to travel to the Harbour Foreshore e.g. public transport and active transport.
- Investigate the potential for alternative transport within the foreshore precinct e.g. extending the light rail to Nobby's Beach.

## **Pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure**

- Consider the possibility of increasing the width of footpaths and consistency in width between sections of pathways. If it is necessary to change the width of pathways in certain sections, provide reasons for this within the Masterplan.
- Consider measures to improve pedestrian safety at pedestrian crossings (e.g. Customs House Plaza, Horseshoe Beach/Pasha Way) and further minimisation of conflict between pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and other users. There were concerns about speeds of cyclists, skaters and scooter users along Joy Cummings Promenade.
- Consider ways to encourage cyclists to use shared pathways rather than footpaths and the promenade. This may include signs, markings and pavement treatments.
- Consider wayfinding aids to improve underutilised pedestrian links from Merewether Wharf promenade through to Hunter and Darby Streets.
- Investigate further opportunities to improve cycling connectivity e.g. improved connection with Bathers Way, linking with the Fernleigh Track.

## **Heritage**

- Consider the potential to further incorporate elements of European history as well as Aboriginal interpretation.
- Include more detail about the incorporation of cultural stories at Customs House Plaza and the possibility for incorporating cultural stories along Railway Walk.

## **Community consultation**

- Continue to consult with the community and stakeholders throughout the delivery of the project e.g. continue to engage with the Newcastle East Residents Group, Community Reference Group and other relevant stakeholders.

## **Other**

- Investigate vehicle access to residential buildings via the park (e.g. The Cohen Bond Building near the Cultural Walk). Concerns relate to access for emergency vehicles, mobility/disability access, cleaning and maintenance vehicles and communicate plans to nearby residents.
- Consider the location of some trees and proximity of the Cultural Walk to nearby residences.



# 1. Background

CN has worked with the community for the past 2 years to develop a draft Masterplan to guide the future of the Newcastle Harbour Foreshore. The Masterplan will shape the look and feel of Wharf Road, Foreshore Reserve and Foreshore Park, so we can create a space for everyone to enjoy. The Masterplan features plans to turn the Wharf Road Precinct and Foreshore Park into a world class harbourside esplanade and inclusive playspace developed with our partner Touched by Olivia.

Other features include an integrated waterplay area, picnic and BBQ lawn areas, landscaping, trees and shade, a number of event spaces and a cultural walk to Foreshore Park. The space will be for all Newcastle residents, workers and visitors to enjoy.

## Previous engagement activities

Community engagement has been an important part of developing the draft Masterplan.

Phase 1 engagement activities took place from June – July 2020 and involved a community survey, social pinpoint mapping exercise and school workshops. The objective of Phase 1 engagement was to understand what the community love about the Harbour Foreshore and what they wanted to see included in the future.

The summary Phase 1 engagement report can be found [here](#).

Phase 2 engagement activities took place from Feb – March 2021 and involved a social pinpoint mapping exercise of the Harbour Foreshore with an in-depth view of the playspace, drop-in sessions and a survey about walking and cycling along the foreshore.

The summary Phase 2 engagement report can be found [here](#).







A Community Reference Group (CRG) was also formed to facilitate community and stakeholder input into the development of the Masterplan. It consisted of a mix of community members and stakeholders. The purpose of the CRG was to enable two-way communication and engagement between City of Newcastle and representatives of the Newcastle community as the masterplan was developed. Members provided valuable input on the current and future needs and expectations of the community. The CRG met three times in Aug 2020, Dec 2020 and July 2021.

More information about the CRG can be found [here](#).

## 2. Communication and promotion

During the public exhibition period, a communications campaign was implemented to raise awareness of the draft Masterplan and promote the opportunity for community members to provide feedback.

Key communications activities are summarised on the following page, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in Appendix 1.

Channel	Description	Reach
 <b>Have Your Say webpage</b>	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. The page aimed to provide information and raise awareness about the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan, and to encourage people to comment on future vision of the area.	3,265 visits
 <b>Flyers, postcards and onsite signage</b>	<p>Flyers were distributed to 400 properties in Newcastle East on 8 October 2022.</p> <p>400 postcards were distributed at drop-in information sessions, CN's Customer Service Centre, Wallsend Library and a community workshop held at Wallsend Library on 15 Oct.</p> <p>Onsite signage was also installed at key locations around the Newcastle Harbour Foreshore, along Wharf Road and within Foreshore Park.</p>	<p>400 flyers</p> <p>400 postcards</p> <p>6 corflutes</p>
 <b>Social media</b>	<p>The public exhibition was promoted via an unpaid post of CN's Facebook page on 6 October 2022. The post intended to raise awareness and encourage people to have their say.</p> <p>Paid social posts also took place on Facebook targeting residents across the whole Newcastle local government area.</p>	<p><b>Unpaid</b> 6,215 reach</p> <p><b>Paid</b> 21,535 reach</p>
 <b>Newsletters</b>	An e-newsletter was distributed to CN's community panel on 30 September 2022.	Distributed to 2,431 people
 <b>Councillor Workshop and Memo</b>	A Councillor Workshop was held with CN Councillors on 13 September 2022. A memo was also distributed to CN Councillors on 5 October 2022, advising of the engagement and providing information on how constituents can provide feedback and comment.	n/a
 <b>Media coverage</b>	A media release was issued on 14 September 2022 and was subsequently reported by Newcastle Live and Newcastle Weekly.	n/a

### 3. Phase 3 Engagement activities

The community were invited to provide feedback on the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan from 28 September 2022 – 26 October 2022.

The community were able to provide comment on the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan in a number of ways:

#### Online feedback form

An online feedback form was added to the Have Your Say page to help guide feedback provided on the draft Masterplan.

The online feedback form asked respondents:

- **whether or not they support the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan overall**
- **whether or not they support 12 specific elements of the Masterplan** e.g. changes to Wharf Road, Foreshore Park, Joy Cummings Promenade, Customs House Plaza, Argyle Street, Lynches Hub and Scratchleys, Tug Berth Lane, Customs House Plaza, the Playspace, naturalisation and reduction of the Frog Pond, the groves and tree lined community lawn, the amphitheatre and the proposed Cultural Walk
- **for open feedback or comments about the Masterplan**
- **for general information about travelling to and visiting the Foreshore precinct** e.g. how they travel to the Harbour Foreshore Precinct, which areas they have visited (or plan to visit in the future), and how long they would plan to spend in the area on a typical visit.

In total, 48 people provided feedback via the online feedback form. Findings from the online form are presented in section **4. Key findings**

#### Other submissions

Community members were also able to provide feedback on the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan by mail or email. Two submissions were received via email.

#### Drop-in sessions

CN hosted two drop-in information sessions during the engagement period:

- Saturday 8 October at Market Street Lawn (near the Signal Box), Newcastle
- Thursday 13 October at Marketown Shopping Centre, Newcastle West

These sessions provided an opportunity for local residents and other interested community members to learn more about the project and speak to the project team.

## 4. Key findings

### Overall support

31 of the 48 respondents (65%) said that they support the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan overall. 5 were unsure and 12 said they did not support the Masterplan overall.

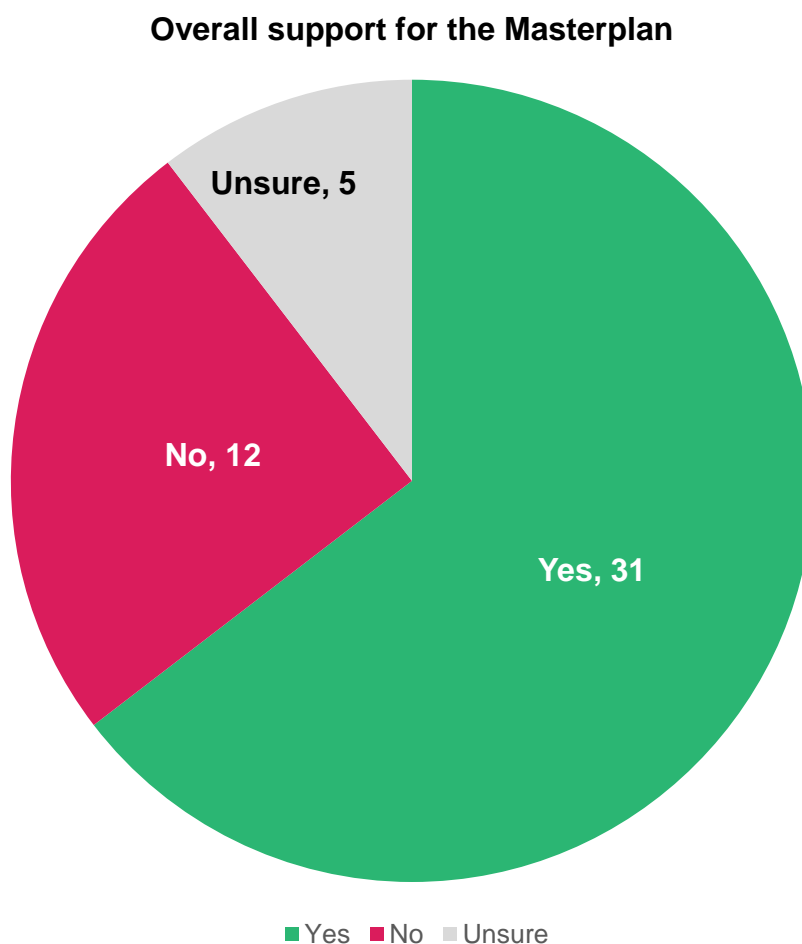


Figure 1. Overall support for the Harbour Foreshore Masterplan (N=48)

Respondents were also asked whether or not they supported 12 individual aspects of the Masterplan. The level of support for each aspect is shown in *Figure 3*.

## Level of support for individual aspects of the Masterplan

Below is a summary of the number of aspects that each respondent supported. Overall, only 2 respondents did not support any aspect of the Masterplan. Roughly 3 in 4 respondents (32 out of 48) supported a majority of the overall Masterplan (9 or more of the 12 aspects).

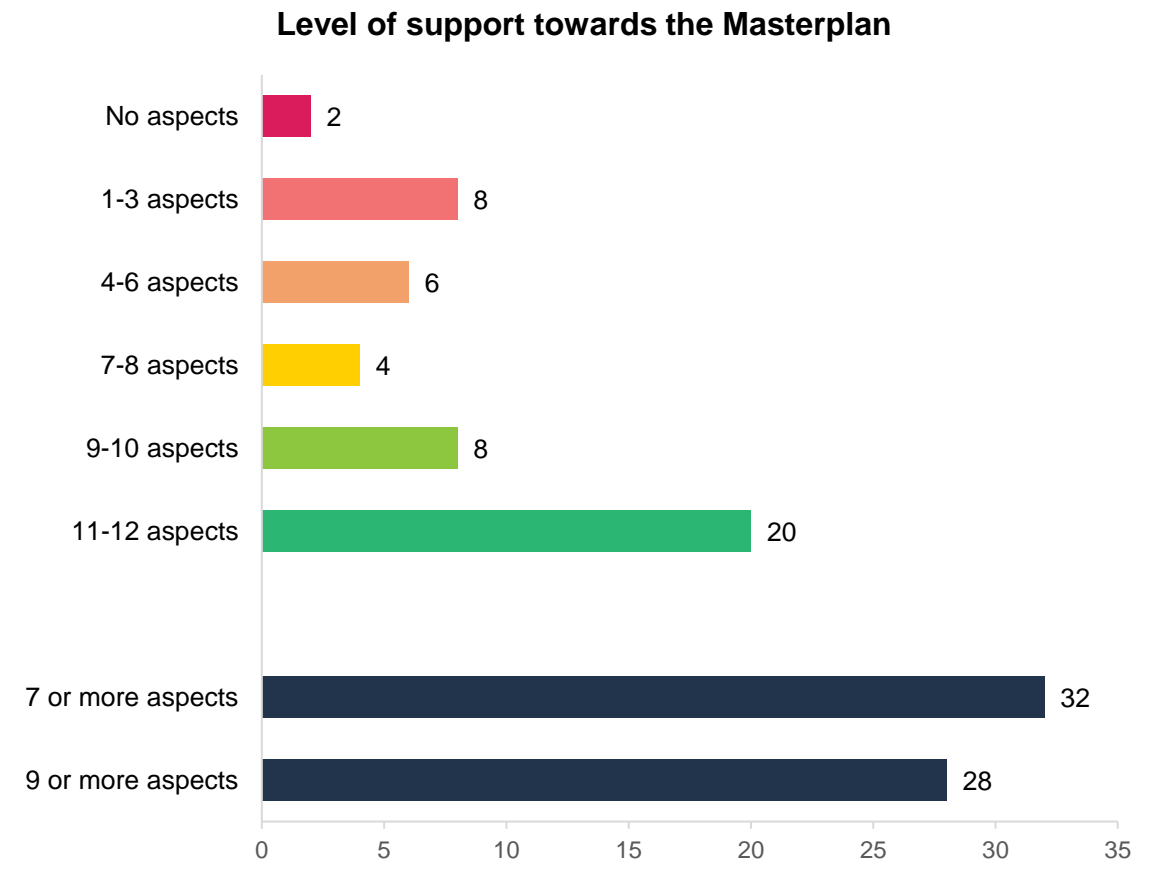


Figure 2. Level of support towards the Masterplan (N=48)

Level of support for each of the 12 aspects is shown in Figure 3.

## Support for specific aspects of the Masterplan

Respondents were asked whether or not they supported 12 individual aspects of the Masterplan, including proposed changes to Foreshore Reserve, Wharf Road, Lynches Hub/Scratchleys, Tug Berth Lane, Joy Cummings Promenade etc.

Aspects of the Masterplan with **relatively higher** levels of support were:

- New groves and tree lined community lawn
- Proposed changes to Wharf Road

Aspects of the Masterplan with **relatively lower** levels of support were:

- Proposed changes to the playspace
- Proposed changes to the amphitheatre
- Proposed Cultural Walk

### Support for specific aspects of the Masterplan

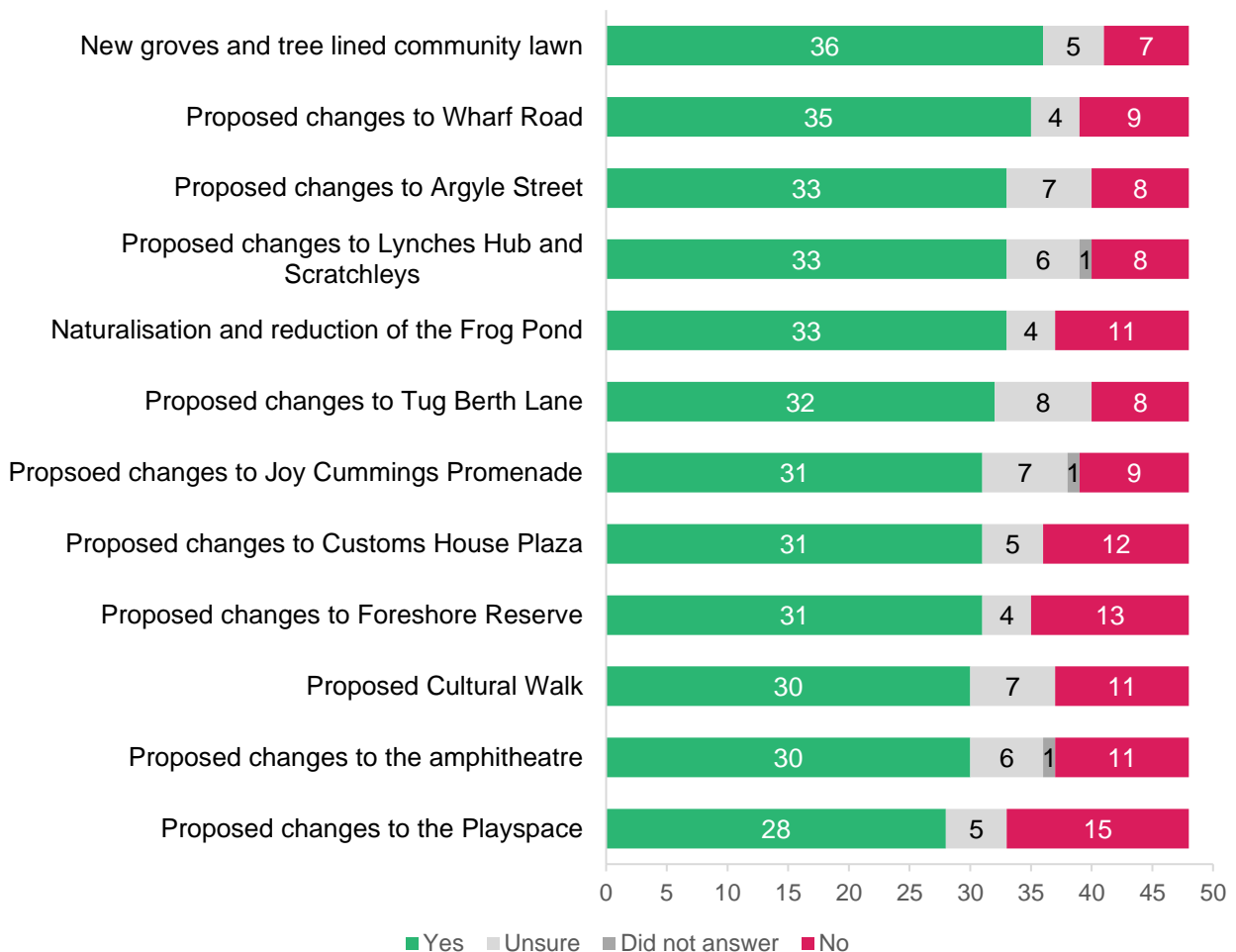


Figure 3. Level of support for 12 aspects of the Masterplan (N=48)



## Open comments and feedback

Below is a word cloud showing individual words that were frequently mentioned in open comments about the Masterplan. The larger the words appear, the more frequently the words were mentioned.

Common words include: foreshore, park, Newcastle, plan, space, play, events, Council, people, great, shade, parking, public.

Responses were categorised to identify common themes. These themes are shown in *Common themes* regarding feedback about the Masterplan

As noted above, the open feedback provided about the Masterplan was categorised into common themes. The majority of the responses commented on several aspects of the Masterplan, and thus in many cases, each response was categorised under multiple themes.

Of the 48 responses received, 18 responses made **general positive comments** about the Masterplan – demonstrating strong support for the plan and excitement about seeing the plan implemented. Examples of comments within this theme are shown in *Table 2*.

Comments relating to the **play space** was another common theme – most were in support of the play spaces, and the work that has gone into developing this aspect of the Masterplan. However, some respondents questioned whether there was too much space allocated to structured play, or whether the park would be better suited in another location that was more accessible for families. Examples of the comments within this theme are shown in *Table 4*. Examples of playspace comments (N=11).

One of other most common themes was regarding **tree canopy and shade**, such as the positioning of trees, the types of trees being planted or comments about the need for shade. Examples of the comments within this theme are shown in *Table 3*. Examples of tree canopy and shade comments (N=11).

Other themes that received a handful of mentions included:

- too much focus on commercial interests and development
- materials used in construction
- the frog pond
- The Commons/event space
- design and planning considerations
- retaining open space/green space

Examples of comments within these themes are shown on the following pages.

The nature of feedback provided across all submissions was very broad. Other themes that received 1-2 mentions include: parking, public toilets, the amphitheatre, Cultural walkway, light rail extension, cycling path access and safety, Customs House Plaza, pedestrian footpaths, mobility/wheelchair accessibility, noise concerns, the Railway/carriage shed, extension of Lynches Hub, space inaccessible during the Supercars event, kiosk, Indigenous heritage, construction, water safety measures, additional seating, cleanliness/beautification, and connectivity to beaches and other parts of the city.



## Common themes regarding feedback about the Masterplan

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Table 1. Common themes regarding open feedback about the Masterplan (N=48)

Theme	Number of mentions
General positive comments	18
Tree canopy and shade	11
Playspace	11
Too much focus on commercial interests/development	5
Materials used in construction	4
Frog Pond	4
The Commons/event space	4
Not needed/funds should be spent on other projects	4
Design and planning considerations	4
Retain open space/green space	4
Parking	3
Public toilets	3
Amphitheatre	3
Cultural Walkway	2
Public transport e.g. extend light rail to Nobbys	2
Cycling path access and safety	2
Customs House Plaza	2
Pedestrian footpaths/shared path access	2
Mobility/wheelchair accessibility and disabled parking	2
Noise concerns	1
Railway/carriage shed	1
Extension of Lynches Hub/more venues added	1
Space inaccessible during Supercars event	1
Kiosk e.g. location, size	1
Indigenous heritage	1
Construction	1
Water safety measures	1
Additional seating	1
Cleanliness/beautification	1
Connectivity to harbour, Newcastle Beach, Nobbys, city	1
Other (outside scope of the project)	7
Not sure/don't know	1

## General positive comments

Table 2. Examples of general positive comments (N=18)

Examples of general positive comments
<i>This all looks fabulous – looking forward to it being implemented</i>
<i>Love it</i>
<i>Looks amazing, great work!</i>
<i>Fully support proposed plan</i>
<i>Let's get started</i>
<i>Great plan</i>
<i>I think the suggested plan is great.</i>
<i>Love it, let's get on &amp; do it, it's long overdue.</i>
<i>I believe this will be amazing if it is completed in a timely efficient way.</i>
<i>It would be nice to see those changes as well as Darby Street</i>
<i>Absolutely brilliant, the kids play spaces are amazing. This is so needed to improve a unique location.</i>
<i>Well done to all</i>

## Tree canopy and shade

Table 3. Examples of tree canopy and shade comments (N=11)

Examples of tree canopy and shade comments
<i>I think the prioritisation of biodiversity and planting is vital, particularly with pollinators and native animals in mind.</i>
<i>I agree with the idea of greening the park but feel it is a shame that most of the new trees will be on the perimeter of the park, providing little shade, or shade areas unpleasant to use due to proximity to roads...</i>
<i>...Please ensure the trees actually provide great spaces for shade and use. There is no doubt little likelihood of exotic trees but choose natives wisely with good spreading canopies and shade but enough light too ensure grass can grow up to the trunk and people can actually sit under them. Norfolk pines are striking and beautiful but useless for shade, casuarinas are beautiful in their natural environment but completely useless for shade, picnicking or recreation in a park. Ficus's dense canopy and shallow roots tend to stop lawn growing beneath so people don't want to sit under them...</i>
<i>High level looking good, the detail is where this will count. There seems to be a large number of additional Norfolk island pines (yuck!) – please swap out with other Australian natives, gums etc...</i>
<i>Noting that the intention is for more events to be run on the Foreshore and therefore in the carriage sheds, we would request suitable trees be planted long the southern side of the carriage sheds that assist in reducing the noise in nearby residences...</i>
<i>...More shade will be a positive.</i>

*The trees immediately north of 26 Stevenson Place are not acceptable. They are far too close to the building being a few metres from balconies and bedrooms. They will block light, particularly winter sun...*

*You should put in lots of plants that will specifically encourage butterflies to breed and live in the area. That'd be awesome.*

## Playspace

Table 4. Examples of playspace comments (N=11)

Examples of playspace comments
<i>Absolutely brilliant, the kids play spaces are amazing. This is so needed to improve a unique location. Well done to all.</i>
<i>Finally some decent play areas for kids. What you have now on the foreshore is a disgrace for such a great town</i>
<i>Overall I support the plan however there is too much space allocated for Events and too much of the park is allocated to structured play...</i>
<i>Upgrade the kids play area add in some more shade/trees and seating and save our tax dollars fixing what actually needs fixing like our roads.</i>
<i>...While the play space looks great for children I wonder if it would not be better placed in a suburb on the edge of the city. These suburbs are crying out for facilities for their families, families who struggle to travel to the city given our poor public transport options and limited parking...</i>
<i>...The ridiculous playground won't be used because there isn't enough parking. NCC already made a massive playground just behind Nobbys – we don't need another one...</i>

## Too much focus on commercial interests/development

Table 5. Examples of commercial interest/development comments (N=5)

Examples of commercial interest/development comments
<i>The original purpose of the Foreshore space maybe hidden away in a maze of over development and make it so modern that the natural harmony is just not there.</i>
<i>I do not want to see the commercialisation of Foreshore Park as our Mayor and Council seem to want to.</i>
<i>It is parkland for the people of newcastle NOT to be pimped out to private corporations for private profit at public cost. CoN should do its job for the electors NOT for the events promoters and neoliberal</i>



## Materials used in construction

Table 6. Examples of materials used in construction comments (N=4)

Examples of materials used in construction comments
<i>Thanks for the work done to date. The playground tower structures appear to be metal which gets very hot ( old slippery dips and steamroller) please include shading / heat resistant material/ wider roof eaves. Wider roof eaves could allow for better play on rainy days also...</i>
<i>...Reflective materials should be used to reduce urban heat island effects.</i>
<i>Addition of the concrete amphitheatre is a mistake, we don't need further heat, and I can count the number of times its been used in the last 20 years on my hands, upgrade the one in pacific park if anything...</i>

## Frog Pond

Table 7. Example of frog pond comments (N=4)

Examples of frog pond comments
<i>The 'frog pond' has been an icon part of the foreshore – and no reason is provided for its removal...</i>
<i>Please leave the Hill along where you wish to put the new amphitheatre, can the amphitheatre not go behind the current pond in front of the oval, also the current pond is perfect for skaters &amp; Rollerblades why would you remove it and section out these areas...</i>
<i>...How is the frog pond protected from possible drownings? Thanks</i>

## The Commons/event spaces

Table 8. Examples of The Commons/event spaces comments (N=4)

Examples of The Commons/event spaces comments
<i>...Additional playground space and shaded groves are great – but the commons are now used only occasionally for events, and maybe that will not change...</i>
<i>Overall I support the plan however there is too much space allocated for Events...</i>
<i>Foreshore Park should remain a place for low key community events, leaving Camp Shortland for larger, commercial events...</i>
<i>...I don't agree event operators should be provided for above those living in and visiting the city...</i>

## Not needed/funds should be spent on other projects

Table 9. Examples of not needed/funds should be spent on other projects comments (N=4)

Examples of not needed/funds should be spent on other projects comments
<i>More Waste of rate payers money Lower our rates instead which are one of the highest in the whole of NSW</i>
<i>Not required</i>
<i>Leave everything as it is and the money saved by doing this hand the saving onto the rate payers</i>

## Design and planning considerations

Table 10. Examples of design and planning considerations comments (N=4)

22Examples of design and planning considerations comments
<i>Overall an improvement but the scope: 1. called for too many different features for directed as opposed to free use of the space... 2. The foreshore park was considered in isolation from the rest of the city...</i>
<i>Overall a good result but a scope that demanded the inclusion of too many things and did not look broadly enough at the parks position within and connections with the rest of the city.</i>
<i>...The park is possibly over-designed &amp; cluttered, trying to please to all.</i>
<i>Everything is just squashed to the back of the park...</i>

## Retain open space/green space

Table 11. Examples of retain open space/green space comments (N=4)

Examples of retain open space/green space comments
<i>Overall an improvement but the scope: 1. called for too many different features for directed as opposed to free use of the space... 2. The foreshore park was considered in isolation from the rest of the city...</i>
<i>Overall a good result but a scope that demanded the inclusion of too many things and did not look broadly enough at the parks position within and connections with the rest of the city.</i>
<i>...The park is possibly over-designed &amp; cluttered, trying to please to all.</i>
<i>Everything is just squashed to the back of the park...</i>

## Other comments

Examples of other comments outside the scope of this project are shown below. These were primarily in relation to Newcastle Beach and Baths upgrades and Council finishing other works before undergoing works under the Masterplan.

Table 12. Examples of other comments outside of the project scope (N=7)

Examples of other comments outside of the project scope
<i>...also keep the newcastle baths FREE AND always accessible to able and disabled people.</i>
<i>...Please stol the high tide residential &amp; clean up Hunter Street Nall. It's disgusting!!! I understand there are lots of empty shop fronts, but they should be kept clean &amp; tidy by the landlord &amp; the council keep the footpaths clean &amp; not a health hazard (pigeon droppings) &amp; dangerous uneven paths.</i>
<i>...Newcastle Beach and baths can't be used. No change areas at nobbys beach. Just stop doing half a job and not finishing a thing. Newcastle east is a disgusting construction zone thanks to this council with the half job they do on everything.</i>

## Travelling to the Harbour Foreshore precinct

Of the 48 respondents, walking and private vehicle were the two most commonly used modes of transport. Given the high reliance on travel by private vehicle, it is perhaps not surprising that parking was a commonly asked question about the Masterplan.

Roughly 1 in 3 travelled to the harbour foreshore precinct via cycling or public transport.

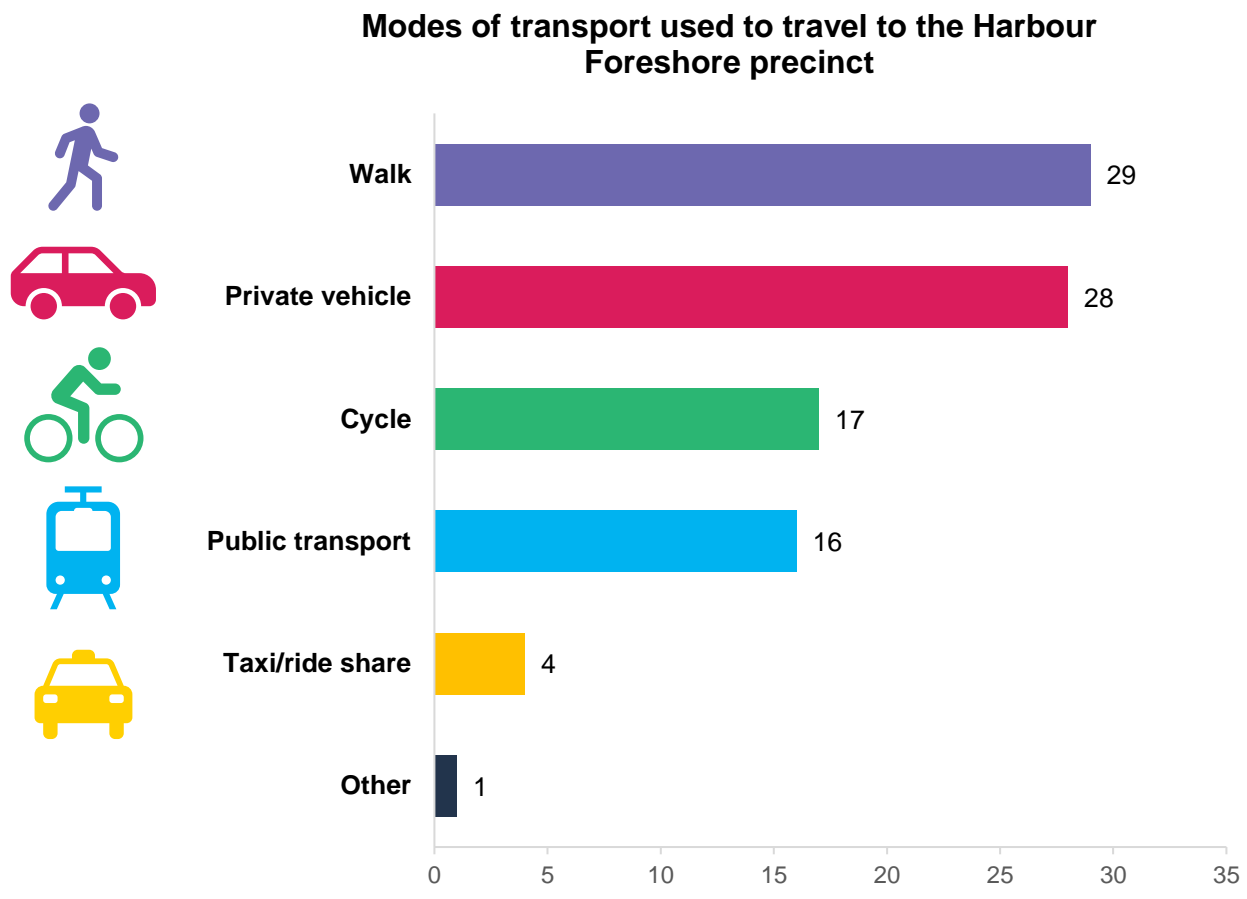


Figure 5. Modes of transport used to travel to the Harbour Foreshore precinct (N=48)

### Areas most frequently visited

The majority of the 48 respondents (more than 80%) have visited or plan to visit Foreshore Reserve/Market Street Lawn, Foreshore Park – Shortland Lawn and Foreshore Park – Rail Shed in the future. Roughly 3 in 5 respondents have visited or plan to visit the Foreshore Park Play space in the future.

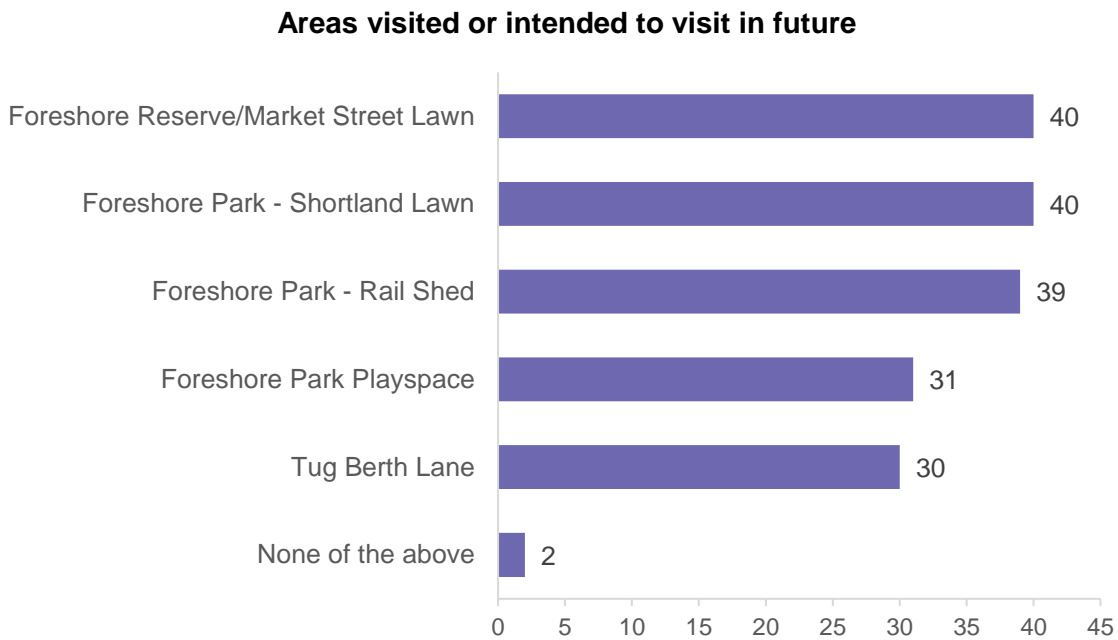


Figure 6. Areas most frequently visited (N=48)

### Length of a typical visit to the area

34 out of 48 respondents (more than 70%) said they spend 2 hours or less at the Harbour Foreshore on a typical visit. Ten said they spend between 2-4 hours at the precinct on a typical visit, and 4 didn't know.

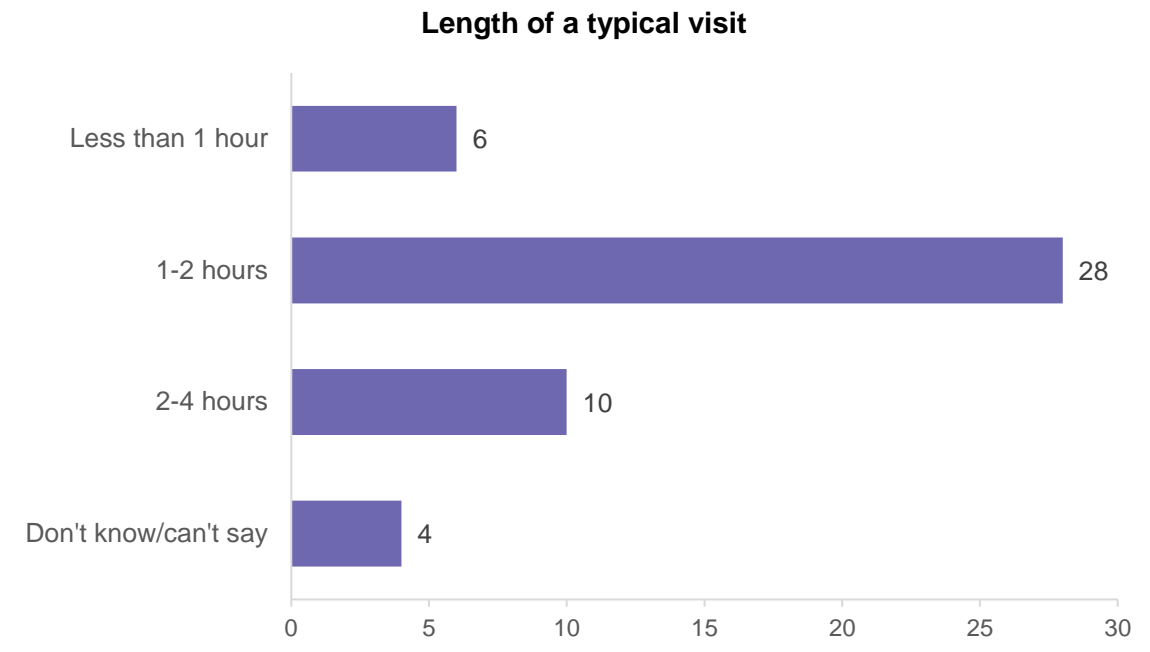


Figure 7. Length of a typical visit (N=48)

### Additional feedback via attachments

One attachment highlighted the location of trees that were deemed not suitable (immediately north of 26 Stevenson Place). Reasons for this were that they were too close to nearby residences blocking light and winter sun from bedrooms and balconies. The attachment also highlighted the location of the Cultural walkway which was also said to be too close to residences, suggesting that it should be moved closer to the train shed.

The other attachment highlighted concerns about overdevelopment, challenges in meeting the needs and expectations of all user groups, increased crowds, concerns about movement between spaces, safety hazards due to bikes and scooters as well as seating and shade near the amphitheatre. It also contained feedback about Fort Scratchleys and not making any changes to the back road leading to Fort Scratchley to preserve the history of the area, and suggested that there should be a restaurant at Fort Scratchley.



## Submissions

Two submissions were received via email – one from the Newcastle East Residents group and one from National Trust. Each submission has been analysed separately to identify key themes.

### Submission from Newcastle East Residents Group (NERG)

- **Positive comments about the Masterplan** such as the retention of the Sandhills Community Garden in its existing location, landscaping/grass along the harbour, separation of pedestrian and cycleway paths along Tug Berth Lane and the retention and naturalisation of part of the Frog Pond.
- **Lack of alignment with the 2015 Harbour Foreshore Plan of Management (PoM)** noting particular concerns about the impact of events and detailing CN's commitment to achieving the Newcastle Urban Forest Policy.
- **Suitable events and locations for events within the Foreshore precinct** – concerns about high impact events taking place within Foreshore Park which is seen as an important space for passive recreation. Camp Shortland should continue to be the designated premier event space.
- **Usage of the amphitheatre** – concerns about usage of the amphitheatre as an event space because of its proximity to residences. Removal of the grassy hill and base in favour of hard surfaces was also said to diminish the current spontaneous recreational usage by families.
- **Frog Pond** – comment that the reinterpretation of the Frog Pond may not be appreciated by all, and that the cultural walk could have been better linked with the Frog Pond using endemic grasses and shrubs.
- **Management of large events** – further consideration is required as to how CN will manage the potential impacts of large-scale events such as noise, traffic congestion, litter and waste generation, alienation of local communities and venue damage.
- **Trees, planting and shade** – more details is required about which trees will be removed, what will be replanted and how the increase in tree canopy will be achieved. Further greening is needed to achieve the vision of the Masterplan and improve the appeal of the picnic lawn.
- **Parking** – the large carpark and Supercars pit area (post-Supercars usage) could be softened with additional trees and plantings.
- **Pedestrian walkways/safety** – concerns regarding the connection from the park to Bathers Way, safety at pedestrian crossings and width of the path along Tug Berth Lane.
- **Requirement for additional community consultation** – the group requested additional consultation to take place on-site within the park.
- **Inclusion of features/level of harmony** – it was said that there was too much increase in hardstand and paths, formalising areas of the park for specific and prescribed usage rather than allowing for spontaneous usage.
- **Kiosk/amenities building** – the location is said to have an impact on sight lines across the park. Further design detail is required to include storage and after-hours provisions.
- **Inclusion of European history** – further incorporation of heritage aspects such as the Zaara Street Power Station, railway heritage and Central Railway walk, John Shortland camp site and the Depression camp using interpretive panels. Potential for stronger reference to the original harbour shoreline through low planting, paint, low sandstone seating or other materials.

- **Social impact/antisocial behaviour** – consider a strategy for mitigating anti-social behaviour and minimising public nuisance.

### Submission from National Trust

- **Positive comments about the Masterplan** – generally supportive of the design principles and 'key moves', relocation of the playspace and reinterpretation of the Frog Pond, vision for the playspace and incorporating the needs of various stakeholders. Also supportive of pedestrian and cycleway improvements, trees and landscaping.
- **Opportunities for consultation** – valued the opportunity to participate in the Community Reference Group and would like for stakeholders to continue to be engaged throughout staged delivery of the project. Recommendation for further consultation with regards to new nodes proposed at the Merchant Mariners Memorial and Tug Berth Lane.
- **Events/event spaces** – comments regarding the suitability of events within Foreshore Park and potential impact on park users and residents. Camp Shortland should be used for high impact events. Consider annual commemorations that take place at the various memorials near the Merchant Mariners Memorial and flag station. Concerns regarding the hardening of open grassy slopes and tiered sandstone seating which limits the flexible use of this area. Event infrastructure within the Coal River Precinct needs to respect the heritage of the area and be advised by Heritage NSW.
- **Trees and shade** – insufficient trees to provide adequate shade and realise the vision of Wharf Road as a 'memorable great esplanade'. Consideration should also be given to species of trees that provide shade and limit any impact on views/sightlines. Existing shaded grassy mounds are valued by the community.
- **Customs House** – not enough detail about incorporating stories that have driven the formation of the City of Newcastle.
- **Railway Walk** – opportunity to incorporate public art and cultural stories that have driven the formation of Newcastle.
- **Shared pathways/cycleways** – comments about encouraging cyclists to use the shared cycleway instead of the promenade and including signage, markings or pavement treatment to direct appropriate behaviours, entry points, feeder routes and widening of pathways. Joy Cummings Promenade should be maintained for low-speed transit only with places to sit and rest.
- **Parking** – comment about lack of car spaces along the norther side of Wharf Road east of Watt Street indicated in images.
- **Cultural Walkway** – potential to reduce the scale of the entrance and retain grassed mounds to be used for passive recreation.
- **Kiosk** – concerns about the proposed location of the kiosk blocking sightlines which aid pedestrian/cyclist orientation and thoroughfare legibility.
- **Railway shed** – only minimal upgrades to lighting and furniture are required. The servicing pit provides evidence of past use and should be retained.
- **Livvi's Playspace** – proposed whether paths, seating walls, hedges and shrubs could be used instead of fencing to create soft natural boundaries of the playspace. The informal picnic area is said to lack shade and be too close to the carpark.

- **Project scope** – comments regarding the redevelopment of Queens Wharf and future usage/design of Camp Shortland.
- **Inclusion of features** – potentially overdesigned attempting to meet expectations of all user groups and assigning specific uses for each space. The western threshold in particular now appears very busy.
- **Project delivery** - Livvi's Playspace, Joy Cummings Promenade and Tug Berth Lane upgrades will yield the greatest community benefit and should be prioritised for delivery.
- **Other considerations** - Concerns about proposed infrastructure works within the Coal River Precinct (SHR) involving earthworks and recontouring. Impact of the 'stairway to heaven' concept on access, alignment and view corridors.

## Drop-in sessions

Two drop-in sessions were held during the engagement period to provide an opportunity for local residents, visitors and other interested community members to learn more about the Masterplan and speak to members of the project team, including representatives from CN, Touched By Olivia and TCL (Bosque Studios).

The sessions were held on:

- Saturday 8 October at Market Street Lawn, Newcastle (near the Signal Box)
- Thursday 13 October at Marketown Shopping Centre, Newcastle West

Both sessions were promoted on social media and the Have Your Say webpage. A summary of each session is provided below.

### Session 1: Saturday 8 October – Market Street Lawn

The date of this drop-in session was planned to coincide with Homegrown Markets at The Station, Newcastle. It was intended to reach local residents, visitors to the Harbour Foreshore and Homegrown Markets as well as those utilising the light rail and Queen Street Wharf.

Approximately 50-60 people attended this session.

Feedback was predominately positive. Key topics discussed on the day were:

- **General positive comments** – several people made general positive comments about the Masterplan and/or had already viewed the plans online. Many also commented that proposed changes within the Masterplan were much needed to revitalise the harbour foreshore and attract visitors.
- **Parking** – the main questions were about loss of parking spaces due to proposed changes and there were comments about lack of parking spaces in general. There were also some comments about accessible parking spaces and availability of electric vehicle charging stations.
- **Play space** – the inclusive play space and waterplay area generated a lot of excitement, particularly among kids and families.
- **Tree canopy and shade** – there were some questions about trees and what was planned to increase the tree canopy/shade within the park.
- **Area covered under the Masterplan** – many people were surprised about the large area that is covered by the Masterplan, not just Foreshore Park. There were also some questions about development at Honeysuckle which, as explained to those who enquired, is outside the scope of this project (managed by Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC)).
- **Time frame for implementation** – several people had questions about when the changes would be implemented, noting the need to revitalise the foreshore.
- **Frog Pond** – several people were curious about what was happening to the frog pond and if it was being retained.
- **Pedestrian and cycleway access** – some community members had general questions/comments about cycleway improvements, conflicts with pedestrians etc.
- **Cleanliness & beautification** – there were some comments about cleanliness of the area and responding to illegal waste e.g. dumping of cars in the nearby area.



- **Supercars** – there were some comments that the Masterplan was designed around Supercars.

#### Photos from Drop-in session 1 – Market Street Lawn



## Session 2: Thursday 13 October – Marketown Shopping Centre

This drop-in session was held within Marketown Shopping Centre in Newcastle West, near Coles. The session was intended to reach those who live or work nearby, and people who may not otherwise attend a drop-in session, i.e. people who were already visiting the shops and stopped to chat with the team after seeing the stand and signage.

The team spoke with approximately 80-90 people.

Feedback was again, positive overall. Similar topics were discussed, with key topics being:

- **General positive comments** – many people made general positive comments about the Masterplan.
- **Parking** – parking was again one of the main questions, with concerns about loss of parking spaces and the lack of parking available.
- **Time frame for implementation** – many people wanted to know how long the works would take to be completed.
- **Play space** – there were fewer comments about the play space, although this was likely a reflection of the demographic who visited e.g. working professionals, elderly people etc. One person questioned the need for the play space, given the proximity of other playgrounds.
- **Frog Pond** – there was one comment about the level of consultation that had taken place with the skating community.
- **Public toilets/amenities** – a few community members had questions about open hours of the public toilets, the need for adequate lighting and commented on potential anti-social behaviour.
- **Prioritisation of spending** – a couple of people commented on the need for Council to prioritise works at other locations e.g. Newcastle Ocean Baths, Birdwood Park, etc.
- **Honeysuckle development** – there were again some questions about development at Honeysuckle which, although this was explained to be outside the scope of this project (managed by Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC)).
- **Council agenda** – a small minority commented on Council and there being too much emphasis on development and commercialisation.




## Photos from Drop-in session 2 – Markettown Shopping Centre



## Appendix 1 – Promotional materials


### Have your say webpage


Select Language

THANKS FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

## Newcastle Harbour Foreshore Masterplan

Thanks for having your say on the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan. We're currently reviewing your feedback and will report back soon.



### Newcastle Harbour Foreshore Masterplan

We've been working with the community since 2020 to develop a masterplan to guide the future of Newcastle Harbour Foreshore. The masterplan will help shape the 'look and feel' of Wharf Road, Foreshore Reserve and Foreshore Park, and will feature an exciting new inclusive playspace - Variety Livv's Place, that will be developed with our partners, Touched By Olivia.

The masterplan also features an integrated waterplay area, picnic and BBQ lawn areas, landscaping, trees and shade, a number of event spaces and a cultural walk to Foreshore Park. The space will be for all Newcastle residents, workers and visitors to enjoy.


During the development of the masterplan, we asked the community what they love about the Harbour Foreshore and what they'd like to see included in the future. We heard that you wanted to see more trees and shade, accessible toilets, picnic areas, improved cycle paths, and more pop-up event and activations. We also heard that maintaining wide paths, harbour views, access to nearby restaurants/cafes, and accessibility were important. For the playspace, we heard that inclusion was a must so that people of all abilities and all ages can enjoy the space. These themes were important considerations in the development of the masterplan.

In February 2021, we released a preliminary concept for Foreshore Park. In response to your feedback, we've made a number of changes including moving the playspace to the north-west corner of the park (adjacent to the parking area and close to accessible parking spaces), providing a multi-purpose skating, scootering and performing arts area at the base of the Shortland Lawn amphitheatre, and retaining the Sandhills Community Garden in its existing location.

The draft Masterplan has now been developed and is being placed on public exhibition. The masterplan has been developed with input from the general community, a Community Reference Group (consisting of community members and interested stakeholders), an inclusive playspace Design Reference Group and Newcastle's Guraki Committee.

The creation of the masterplan is the first phase in the planning process for the Harbour Foreshore. The project team will continue to update the community as the project progresses.

**Thanks for having your say!**



#### Draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan - for feedback

[Draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan \(PDF\)](#)

#### Supporting documents

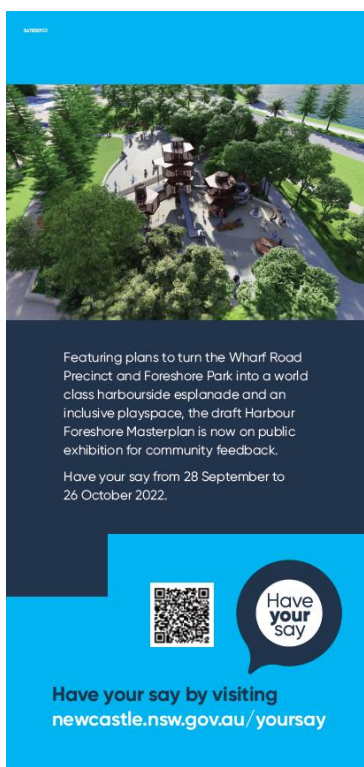
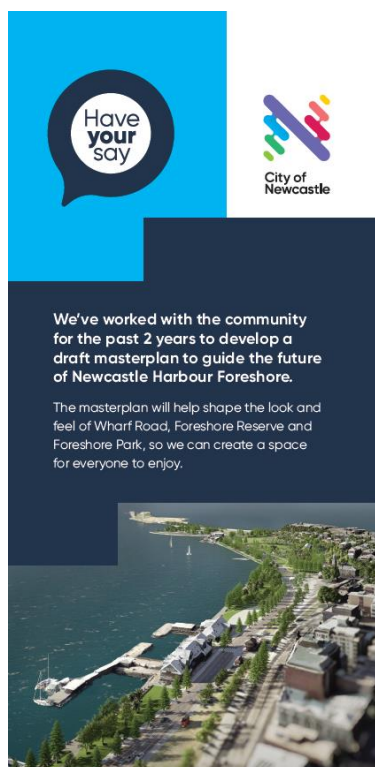
[Harbour Foreshore Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

[Harbour Foreshore Preliminary Concept Package - February 2021 \(PDF\)](#)


[Harbour Foreshore Plan of Management \(PDF\)](#)



## Flyer, postcard and onsite signage



## Social media

 **City of Newcastle**  
October 6 at 5:00 PM · 🌐

The draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan is now on public exhibition for community feedback until 26 October 2022.


The shared vision will help to realise the full potential of one of Newcastle's most significant open areas and premier event spaces and we invite you to have your say on the future of the Harbour Foreshore Precinct.

If you have a question, an opinion or are just curious about the masterplan, then please come along to one of two pop up sessions below to have your say:


Session 1: Market Street Lawn / 150 Scott Street, near Signal box  
Saturday 8 Oct 10am-1pm (Weather Permitted)

Session 2: Markettown Shopping Centre (outside Thurst Burst, near Coles)  
Thursday 13 Oct 11am-2pm

Find out more: <https://fal.cn/3suJv>



**The future of the  
Harbour Foreshore Precinct**

 35

9 Comments 1 Share

## Have Your Say Newsletter

### Harbour Foreshore Masterplan

We've worked with the community for the past two years to develop a draft masterplan to guide the future of Newcastle Harbour Foreshore.

The masterplan will help shape the look and feel of Wharf Road, Foreshore Reserve and Foreshore Park, so we can create a space for everyone to enjoy.

Included in the plan is an exciting new inclusive playspace, integrated waterplay area, picnic and BBQ lawn areas, landscaping, trees and shade, a number of event spaces and a cultural walk to Foreshore Park.



### The future of the Harbour Foreshore Precinct

The draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan is now on public exhibition. Have your say until 5pm **Wednesday 26 October 2022**.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**



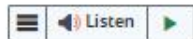
## Media release

<https://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about-us/news-and-updates/latest-news/newcastle-s-largest-playground-at-heart-of-harbour#>

[About Us](#) / [News and Updates](#) / [Latest News](#) / [Newcastle's largest playground at heart of Harbour Foreshore Masterplan](#)

# Newcastle's largest playground at heart of Harbour Foreshore Masterplan

14 Sep 2022



Share

Foreshore Park will become home to the city's largest playground under a draft masterplan for Newcastle's iconic harbourside precinct, which will be considered by Councillors later this month.

The flagship Livvi's Place inclusive regional playground and waterplay area form the centrepiece of City of Newcastle's Harbour Foreshore Masterplan, which is designed to create new connections between the city and the harbour's edge around Foreshore Park and along the Joy Cummings Promenade.



The Masterplan also includes increasing the amount of shaded canopy within Foreshore Park by 250% from 2,800 sqm to 9,800 sqm.

Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said the draft masterplan will help realise the full potential of one of Newcastle's most significant open areas and premier event spaces.

"City of Newcastle has worked closely with community representatives on this shared vision for the iconic Harbour Foreshore precinct, which will become a drawcard destination for locals and visitors from across the region," Cr Nelmes said.

"We have listened to the views of our community and incorporated feedback into the detail of this draft masterplan, including moving the playground to the north-west corner of the park adjacent to the parking area and close to accessible parking spaces, as well as provision for a multi-purpose skating, scootering and performing arts area at the base of the Shortland Lawn amphitheatre. The existing Sandhills Community Garden will also remain in their current location."

## Media coverage

<https://newcastlelive.com.au/foreshore-park-playground-newcastle/>



Playground concept design

LIFESTYLE LIVE JUNIOR

## Newcastle's largest playground is coming to Foreshore Park

by **NEWCASTLE LIVE**  
2 months ago



A draft masterplan for Foreshore Park reveals that the iconic harbourside precinct will soon become home to the city's largest playground.

The playground, and water play area, are the centrepiece of City of Newcastle's plan for the area which they say is designed to create new connections between the city and the harbour's edge around Foreshore Park and along the Joy Cummings Promenade.

Other features include upgraded amenities and improvements along Wharf Road and Tug Berth Lane, including an iconic destination sign and grassed areas where people can enjoy the spectacle of a working harbour.

<https://newcastleweekly.com.au/large-playground-at-heart-of-harbour-foreshore-masterplan/>

HOME ► NEWS



## Large playground at heart of Harbour Foreshore Masterplan

NEWCASTLE WEEKLY  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Foreshore Park will become home to the city's largest playground under a draft masterplan for Newcastle's iconic harbourside precinct.

City of Newcastle (CN) councillors are expected to consider the proposal later this month.

SHARE



The flagship Livvi's Place inclusive regional playground and waterplay area form the centrepiece of CN's Harbour Foreshore Masterplan, which is designed to create new connections between the city and the harbour's edge around Foreshore Park and along the Joy Cummings Promenade.

It also includes increasing the amount of shaded canopy within Foreshore Park by 250% from 2,800 square metres to 9,800 square metres.



## Appendix 2 – Online feedback form

### Your Say

How do you travel to the Harbour Foreshore precinct? Select all that apply.:

- ☐ Walk  
☐ Cycle  
☐ Public transport  
☐ Taxi/ride share  
☐ Private vehicle  
☐ Other

Which areas have you visited, or do you plan to visit in future?:

- ☐ Foreshore Reserve/Market Street Lawn  
☐ Tug Berth Lane  
☐ Foreshore Park - Shortland Lawn  
☐ Foreshore Park - Rail Shed  
☐ Foreshore Park Playspace  
☐ None of the above

On a typical visit, how long would you plan to spend in the area?:

- ☐ Less than 1 hour  
☐ 1-2 hours  
☐ 2-4 hours  
☐ 4 or more hours  
☐ Don't know/can't say

Do you support the proposed changes to Wharf Road?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 51-56 of the Draft Masterplan

Do you support the proposed changes to Foreshore Reserve?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 51-52 and 55-56 of the Draft Masterplan

Do you support the proposed changes to Joy Cummings Promenade?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 55-56 of the Draft Masterplan

Do you support the proposed changes to Argyle Street?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See page 58 of the Draft Masterplan

Do you support the proposed changes to Lynches Hub and Scratchleys?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 57 and 59-61

Do you support the changes to Tug Berth Lane:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 62 to 65 of the Draft Masterplan

Do you support the proposed changes to Customs House Plaza?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 67-78 of the Draft Masterplan

Do you support the proposed Cultural Walk?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 69-74 of the Draft Masterplan

Do you support the proposed changes to the Playspace?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 75-84 of the Draft Masterplan

Do you support the naturalisation and reduction of the Frog Pond?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 73-74 of the Draft Masterplan

Do you support the new groves and tree lined community lawn?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 86-88 of the Draft Masterplan

Do you support the proposed changes to the amphitheatre?:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

See pages 89-94 of the Draft Masterplan

Overall, do you support the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan?:\*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

Please add any comments or feedback on the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan:\*

If you would like to provide more detailed feedback, upload a Word or PDF document here (Optional):

No file chosen

## Appendix 3 – Open feedback/comments

Please add any comments or feedback on the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan
The trees immediately north of 26 Stevenson Place are not acceptable. They are far too close to the building being a few metres from balconies and bedrooms. They will block light, particularly winter sun. The walkway needs to be moved further away from the building and closer to the train shed.
The 'frog pond' has been an icon part of the foreshore - and no reason is provided for its removal. Additional playground space and shaded groves are great - but the commons are now used only occasionally for events, and maybe that will not change. A light rail extension to Nobbys would alleviate pressure on parking at the beach, the baths - and along the foreshore.
Noting that the intention is for more events to be run on the Foreshore and therefore in the carriage sheds, we would request suitable trees be planted along the southern side of the carriage sheds that assist in reducing the noise in nearby residences. The configuration of the sheds currently have the unintended effect of amplifying the noise levels at surrounding houses. This has a significant negative effect on us including inability to sleep or open the doors in summer.
It would be nice to see those changes as well as Darby Street
The original purpose of the Foreshore space maybe hidden away in a maze of over development and make it so modern that the natural harmony is just not there.
I would love to see a Cycle path that links with the Fernleigh Track, at the moment getting from the foreshore to the track by bike is still dangerous.
I think there should an expansion of lynchies hub with more venues added in that area. I would like to see more done with the Customs House Plaza maybe an area for pop up activities or some more activities in that area. It currently is a bit bare and unused and I think it could be better utilised in the masterplan. I agree with the cultural walk, however think the shed is going to make the area behind be disconnected. Saying all the above I would still be happy with it being implemented as is.
Looks amazing, great work!
The pedestrian footpath zone of the shared paths should be on the harbour side of the path, not the road side.
This will allow groups of people to walk on the grass and the footpath if they need to - and reduce the likelihood of blocking the bike lane portion of the path.
You should put in lots of plants that will specifically encourage butterflies to breed and live in the area. That'd be awesome.
All these changes seem very nice, except for nearly 3 months of the year a lot of it, along with the surrounding areas will be inaccessible or not very enjoyable to the public if the council gives the go ahead for loud, polluting Supercars into the future.
I think prioritisation of the biodiversity and planting is vital, particularly with pollinators and native animals in mind.
More Waste of rate payers money Lower our rates instead which are one of the highest in the whole of NSW
😊
This all looks fabulous - looking forward to it being implemented
Please leave the Hill along where you wish to put the new amphitheatre, can the amphitheatre not go behind the current pond in front of the oval, also the current pond is perfect for skaters & Rollerblades why would you remove it and section out these areas there is nothing wrong with the current foreshore upgrade the kids play area add in some more shade/trees and seating and save our tax dollars fixing what actually needs fixing like our roads.
i support the indigenous additions but don't totally eradicate the early settlement history as it is also a huge part of newcastle not an embarrassing part. also keep the newcastle baths FREE AND always accessible to able and disabled people.
We are aging & fortunately atm. We are mobile. However it concerns me, how we will use the foreshore with limited mobility in future years. Please stop the high tide residential & clean up Hunter

Street Nall. It's disgusting!!!! I understand there are lots of empty shop fronts, but they should be kept clean & tidy by the landlord & the council keep the footpaths clean & not a health hazard (pigeon droppings) & dangerous uneven paths.
Not required
Love it
Everything is just squashed to the back of the park. The east end has been in a state of construction since super cars. There is no permanent road furniture in the area. Newcastle Beach and baths can't be used. No change areas at nobbys beach. Just stop doing half a job and not finishing a thing. Newcastle east is a disgusting construction zone thanks to this council with the half job they do on everything.
I think the suggested plan is great.
Thanks for the work done to date. The playground tower structures appear to be metal which gets very hot ( old slippery dips and steamroller) please include shading / heat resistant material/ wider roof eaves. Wider roof eaves could allow for better play on rainy days also. How is the frog pond protected from possible drownings?
Thanks
Foreshore Park should remain a place for low key community events, leaving Camp Shortland for larger, commercial events. The ampitheatre should be kept an informal grassed space, perhaps with a small scootering hardstand. The park is possibly over-designed & cluttered, trying to please to all.
I believe this will be amazing if it is completed in a timely efficient way.
Absolutely brilliant, the kids play spaces are amazing. This is so needed to improve a unique location. Well done to all.
Desperate need for loads more car Parking. Same need for public toilets. Magpie swooping injuries will greatly increase. More shade will be a positive.
Fully support proposed plan
Leave everything as it is and the money saved by doing this hand the saving onto rate payers
Love it, let's get on & do it, it's long overdue.
It is parkland for the people of newcastle NOT to be pimped out to private corporations for private profit at public cost. CoN should do its job for the electors NOT for the events promoters and neoliberal
N/A
Does the plan address the continued assaults on the beautiful public amenity purportrated by Newcastle City Council in conjunction with big business (like V8 Supercars) which are entirely at odds with what the public space should be used for and are only a way for the Council to involve itself in self congratulatory PR and for multinational companies to take huge profits straight out of the city.
Overall an improvement but the scope: 1. called for too many different features for directed as opposed to free use of the space. The playground does not need to be on the foreshore - it would be a destination in itself elsewhere. If the whole area eas given over to free, undirected recreation- more like Sydney's Domain - it would be much better than the 'bitsy' outcome dictated by forcing the inclusion of the playground and skate park. I am definitely for the continued high use of the foreshore by children, but it would be better to be more great open spaces than directed play. 2. The foreshore park was considered in isolation from the rest of the city. The redesigned connection to the harbour is excellent but the plan makes no attempt to improve connections and sight lines with Newcastle Beach, Nobbys Beach or the city.
Please ensure the trees actually provide great spaces for shade and use. There is no doubt little likelihood of exotic trees but choose natives wisely with good spreading canopies and shade but enough light too ensure grass can grow up to the trunk and people can actually sit under them. Norfolk pines are striking and beautiful but useless for shade, casuarinas are beautiful in their natural environment but completely useless for shade, picnicking or recreation in a park. Ficus's dense canopy and shallow roots tend to stop lawn growing beneath so people don't want to sit under them. Overall a good result but a scope that demanded the inclusion of too many things and did not look broadly enough at the parks position within and connections with the rest of the city.

We own a luxury short term rental apartment on park level in the Cohen Bond Building. ( this has council approval for short term holiday renting) I have concerns about the lack of vehicle access via the park to the front of this building. The master plan for the cultural walk does not show if there is any access to the 2 apartments. My concerns are: 1) No access for emergency vehicles in case of medical or fire events. 2) no access for guests who may have disabilities or mobility concerns. 3) cleaning and maintenance vehicles need access to maintain high 5 star standard. 4) The Cohen Bond building is a heritage listed building which requires regular painting, scaffolding covers the entire the building with the base set up at park level, this of course needs vehicle access. While guests usually access the apartment by foot and no cars are left parked on the grass it is essential that there is a safe pathway for vehicle access if required.

A note on the play space plans, I believe that this space should be left a green space. The Foreshore, park and beaches are wonderful destinations and should be the prime focus, its essential we keep as much green space without structures intruding this valuable land, the Honey Suckle precinct is a prime example of green space on water front gobbled up by man made structures that only benefits a few. Once the space has been claimed we will never get it back, please don't let that happen, there are so may outer suburbs that would welcome a play ground

Let's get started!

Some nice seating scattered around would be a bonus and functional play equipment for such a large open space. Empire park and Dixon park are laughable playgrounds given the size and space of the area. So many towns doing amazing parks and play spaces and Newcastle cannot get it right.

Received this for comment Sunday 23/10/22

Great plan

I agree with the idea of greening the park but feel its a shame that most of the new trees will be on the perimeter of the park, proving little shade, or shade areas unpleasant to utilise due to proximity to roads. The reason for this is to keep open space for events. I don't agree event operators should be provided for above those living in and visiting the city. While the play space looks great for children I wonder if it would not be better placed in a suburb on the edge of the city. These suburbs are crying out for facilities for their families, families who struggle to travel to the city given our poor public transport options and limited parking. I am not convinced that every part of the city needs to be "activated". With more and more people moving to the city will the city regret the loss of quiet open spaces (successful big cities have, hold on to and cherish these). We have the opportunity to create a beautiful inner city green space, something the city is currently lacking. There is also the opportunity to build a fantastic play space in an area that young families want. It would be great to see CoN consider these opportunities rather than plan around event operators.

Finally some decent play areas for kids. What you have now on the foreshore is a disgrace for such a great town

As a resident in Newcastle East, I would like to see the current major works (skate park on Newcastle Beach & Baths upgrade) to be completed successfully before any further major works are progressed. This will provide time for the residents, community and council to see how these facilities are utilised in the area.

The new amenities suggested will require cleaning and security measures in place to ensure that they are maintained at a level that promotes use by visitors and local users. Currently, the Newcastle East area is severely lacking cleaning of streets and parks by council, sufficient bins (including the self compacting bins installed by Lake Macquarie council) and security to manage and discourage the vandalism and graffiti.

I would like to see the baths and skate park completed and the above measures implemented to a satisfactory level.

Addition of the concrete amphitheater is a mistake, we don't need further heat, and I can count the number of times its been used in the last 20 years on my hands, upgrade the one in pacific park if anything. The ridiculous playground wont be used because there isn't enough parking. NCC already made a massive playground just behind Nobbys - we don't need another one. Also why remove the existing (empty) pond; the skaters around Newcastle loved that; stop associating skate boarding with delinquency; it is not the 1950s.

Furthermore; and this is my biggest complaint - DO NOT REMOVE THE COURTYARD INFRONT OF CUSTOMS HOUSE PLAZA!! Every school in Newcastle uses that for formal photos every year; why the hell would you make it smaller! The entire area is needed!

Aside from those things, I support the widening and path upgrades along the water front and the removal of the old road.

Eastbound, the cycleway starts at Argyle St, with entrance ramp for on road riders. Most East bound cycle traffic will be coming along the promenade, so the cycleway should have another entrance to direct these riders off the promenade onto the cycleway. It may just be a visual guide set into the pavers. The key attribute of a good cycleway is connectivity.

General: the increased shade is important to protect people during heatwaves. Reflective materials should be used to reduce urban heat island effects.

I do not want to see the commercialisation of the Foreshore Park as our Mayor and Council seem to want to.

High level looking good, the detail is where this will count. There seems to be a large number of additional norfolk island pines (yuck!) - please swap out with other Australian natives, gums etc. I'd love to see detailed plans of the water park, brief snaps seems like there is some opportunity for improvement to increase usability from a range of ages. There are some excellent components/features in Mildura which is a very attraction popular with all ages (0 to 100!). Tree canopy/shade is important in this proximity for both children and parents/adults. I'd love to be an active community participant in this master plan - you can reach me anytime, I'll also try and get in touch.  
Cheers

Overall I support the plan however there is too much space allocated for Events and too much of the park is allocated to structured play.

The existing toilet block North of the Carriage Shed should be retained and upgraded as it is convenient and highly utilised by people in the carriage shed, particularly special needs and disabled persons.

The proposed Kiosk should be moved either further East or West to maintain the view corridor from Newcastle Beach ,Telford St to the harbour.

The proposed kiosk would appear to be far too small for viable retail operation including allowance for numerous toilets.

I'm in a wheelchair and can only access Newcastle foreshore via my car. I enjoy eating dinner some nights sitting in my car looking at harbour. My issue is an already lack of car parking and now you plan to close off more car parks near Queens wharf and permanently closing where car parks were on the Tug berth lane. Not a wheelchair access friendly plan at all due to lack of scattered parking let alone any parking unless you can push many kilometers to car, not fun at best of times but downright cruel on hot/cold/wet or windy days. Not everyone can use the trams... Still can't understand why the railway was ever shut, I used it for many years but trams are just too much hassle, not to mention the joke of getting wheels caught in tracks.