

Pre-trial summary engagement report

Darby Street

Streets as shared spaces trial

2022



City of
Newcastle



City of Newcastle (CN) is working to improve the activation, outdoor dining experience, safety and accessibility of the popular Darby Street entertainment precinct in Cooks Hill.

The six-month trial starting in September 2022 will see:



A new pedestrian crossing to improve accessibility and safety



Footpath widening to increase space for outdoor dining



A range of traffic calming treatments including speed cushions and kerb extensions

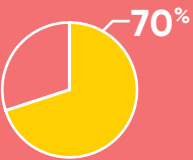


Revitalisation of the Darby Headphones Courtyard with new street furniture, surfacing, lighting and public art to encourage people to visit, stay and connect.

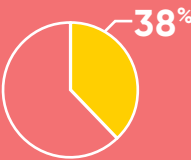
The trial has been made possible with a \$500,000 grant from the NSW State Government through the Streets as Shared Spaces Program (Round 2). This program funds trials that support immediate community needs and test and build the case for more permanent changes that positively impact local economies and community health and wellbeing.

Prior to commencing the trial, CN sought community feedback on the proposed traffic changes, and asked people what they like about the Darby Street area and what they would like to see improved. This feedback will help inform future projects in the area and will be used in assessing the effectiveness of the six-month trial.

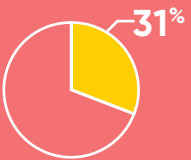
We heard from...



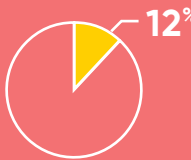
70% of survey respondents live within the Newcastle LGA (273).



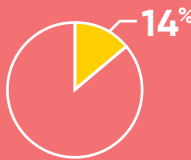
38% of respondents live in the suburb of Cooks Hill



31% live in other suburbs within the Newcastle LGA



12% of respondents stated that they were visitors to Darby Street and live outside the Newcastle LGA

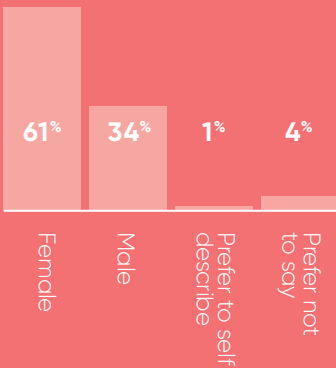


14% of the 273 respondents owned, operated or worked in a business located on Darby Street

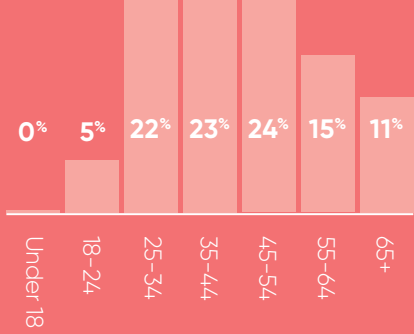
Visitor locations

- Greater Newcastle (Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Port Stephens)
- Sydney
- Central Coast
- Mid North Coast
- Interstate (Victoria)

Gender



Age



You told us...

Darby Street is highly valued for being a dining and shopping precinct with a unique character/atmosphere and friendly/welcoming community.

Suggested improvements to Darby Street

- Pedestrian access/pedestrian safety
- Parking and traffic.
- Better paving/footpaths,
- More parking,
- Traffic safety/calming measures,
- Better traffic flow/management,
- Better cycle access/cycle safety.

Other improvements

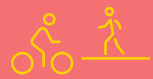
- Trees/plantings and green spaces
- Outdoor dining and seating
- Cleaning and rubbish removal,
- More variety in shops/businesses,
- Pedestrian crossing
- Lighting
- Activations, events and public art.
- Safety was a concern for 1 in 4 visiting Darby Street



The three aspects of the trial with higher agreement were:



providing approx. 16 free 2-hour parking spaces to compensate for the loss of on-street parking spaces
74% agree



improving pedestrian and cyclist safety
67% agree



a wider footpath to create more outdoor dining space between Sanctum and Goldberg's restaurants
65% agree

Aspects of the trial with relatively lower agreement were:



providing a parklet for outdoor trading or seating, which will be moved around during the trial
59% agree

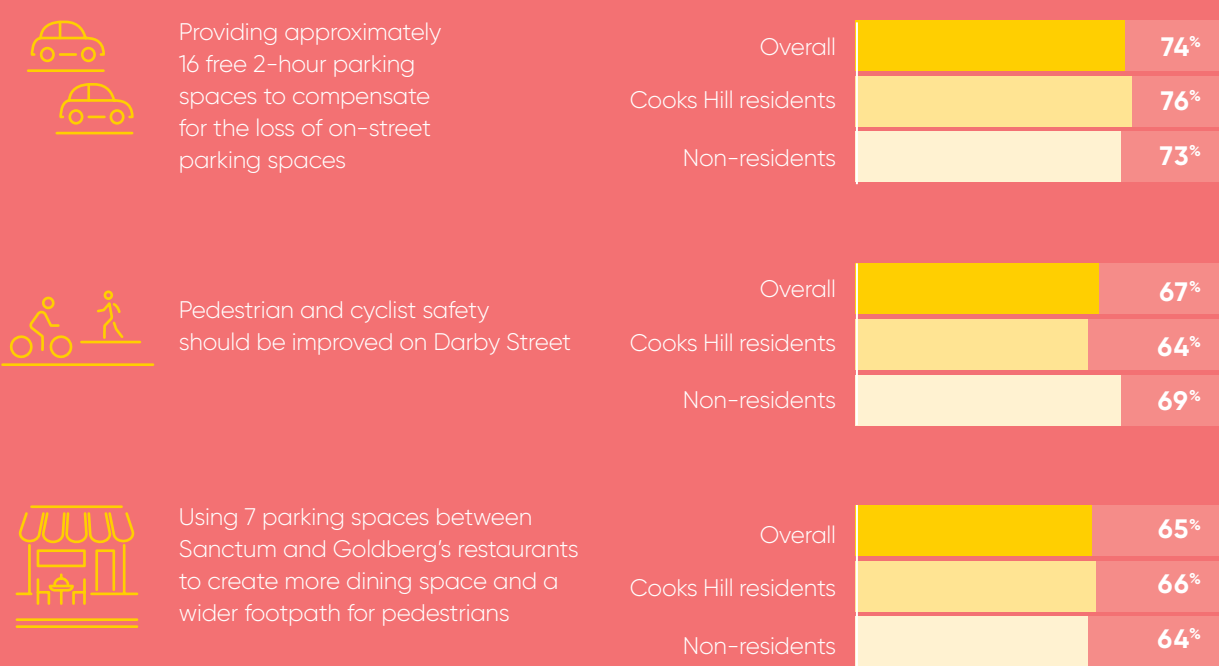


trialling a raised pedestrian crossing adjacent to Darby Street's Headphones Courtyard
53% agree



trialling traffic calming infrastructure to reduce traffic speed
52% agree

Agreement was similar between Cooks Hill residents and non-residents



Traffic



Public art

Themes suggested by survey respondents included:



