

Draft Social Infrastructure Strategy

Public Exhibition Summary Engagement Report



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newcastle.nsw.gov.au

**The following report was prepared
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Social Infrastructure Strategy

Public Exhibition Summary Engagement Report



Newcastle is experiencing significant growth in our population, economy and liveability. The draft Social Infrastructure (SI) Strategy is a ten-year visioning document which will play a critical role in guiding the city's public community spaces, places and facilities (social infrastructure) network now and into the future. They are our parks and bushland reserves, beaches and swimming centres, museum and gallery, and libraries and community centres. The city's public places and spaces that form the heart of our communities are at the centre of the new Social Infrastructure Strategy.

In 2020 and 2021, City of Newcastle (CN) undertook extensive **community and stakeholder engagement**, along with grounding research and needs assessments to develop the strategy.

Engagement activities

To help finalise the draft Strategy, CN sought feedback from the community and stakeholders via public exhibition of the draft SIS from **28 September to 25 November 2022**. The community were invited to provide feedback on the draft SIS through the online open feedback form, or alternatively by mail, email or phone.

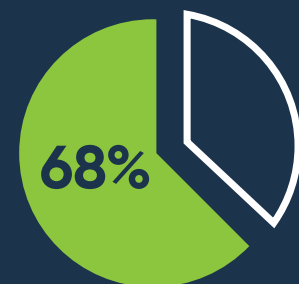


submissions through the online form and email

Key findings

The online submissions revealed general support of the Strategy, with **68% of respondents agreeing with the four priorities** and offering suggestions for improvement rather than disagreeing with the strategy overall.

The feedback for areas that were liked and areas that could be improved to the draft strategy and implementation, were broken into key themes/topics.

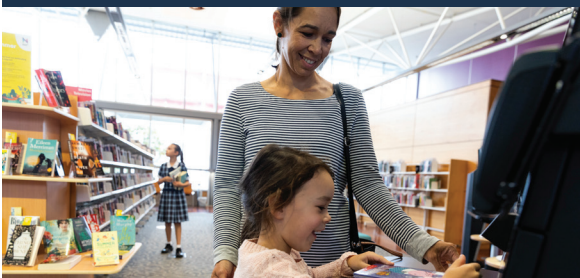


Items supported in the draft SIS included:

-  The priorities, drivers of change and action plan
-  Social infrastructure to support families, children and young people
-  Health and wellbeing

Items suggested for refinement in the draft SIS included:

-  Greater utilisation, upgrade and management of existing places and spaces
-  Partnership and funding
-  More connectivity and transport pursued between/to social infrastructure, improved connectivity and public/active transport
-  Other suggestions included accessibility and (un) affordability of CN social infrastructure, equitable distribution of SI across whole of city, CN community engagement and supporting communications, and climate adaptation/sustainability





300 people attended
15 stakeholder, community events and workshops

The key themes identified included:

Spaces and places – multi use, utilisation and intergenerational

Spaces and places – inclusive, accessible and affordable

Local government roles, responsibilities, remit and advocacy

Community and stakeholder engagement and collaboration

Public Exhibition

Community members and key stakeholder were also able to provide feedback through one of the **15 stakeholder and community events and workshops** that ran over the public exhibition period by the CN Community Planning and Development Team.

Collectively, **approximately 300 community members and stakeholders attended these events and stakeholder workshops**. The documented conversations and feedback from these workshops were also analysed and discussed. From the feedback captured at these sessions, five key themes were identified, including suggestions on how to improve public places and spaces more broadly and how CN could facilitate this within the Strategy's scope.



Next steps

As a result of public exhibition some changes have been made to the draft SIS reflecting community comment and the amended draft SIS will be presented to the Council for consideration of adoption. A summary of changes can be viewed in the full engagement report.

