

Wickham Public Domain Plan (PDP)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Wickham Public Domain Plan (PDP)?

The Wickham PDP provides a vision and framework for the delivery of high-quality streetscapes and public spaces in Wickham as set out in the [2021 Wickham Masterplan](#). It also supports the broader renewal of Newcastle City Centre.

The key outcomes for the community include:

- improved accessibility and connectivity within Wickham, and to adjoining areas
- safe, attractive, and inclusive public places
- a built environment that is functional, responsive, and resilient

CN has developed concept plans that provide a foundation for the final PDP document and are seeking community feedback on the design ideas and themes.

What is the purpose of the Wickham PDP?

The PDP sets guidance for developers, CN and other bodies carrying out public domain works in Wickham.

What are the objectives of the Wickham PDP?

- providing a range of public spaces and improved streets to support a diverse range of uses for the needs of current and future populations
- creating vibrant and active streets, open spaces and community facilities
- building upon a sense of place in Wickham through unique design features and connection to place
- recognising and celebrating the valued heritage and character of Wickham
- ensuring a high standard of amenity, and providing community facilities to activate public spaces
- improved greening, biodiversity and increased urban forest
- high quality roads, footpaths and stormwater infrastructure
- provision of safe, convenient and linked movement around Wickham and surrounding areas with an emphasis on multi-modal transport and prioritisation of pedestrians
- supporting economic growth in the area

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What area does the Wickham Public Domain Plan apply to?

The PDP is bounded by Throsby Creek to the east, Cowper and Albert Street to the north, Wickham Park to the west, and the rail corridor to the south. The project location is shown in the figure below.



Why is the Wickham PDP needed?

Recent changes to State and local planning legislation have led to a significant uptake in development in Wickham, and more broadly across the Newcastle City Centre. This, along with the recently improved Newcastle Interchange and transport network, has resulted in an increase of people visiting or living in Wickham and using the public domain. The PDP accommodates this increased usage of public domain by providing a consolidated set of plans that bring together the key features of Wickham and prioritises pedestrian movement and active transport.

What are the key elements of the PDP?

The key elements or 'nodes' of the PDP are the waterfront on Throsby Creek, the interface to Newcastle Interchange, the interface to Wickham Park through active transport links via Station Street and Railway Street, and Union Street as the 'village spine'.

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How are pedestrians prioritised throughout the precinct for safer movement and mobility?

One of the key principles of the PDP is to implement people-focused movement solutions that prioritise pedestrians and cyclists. Therefore a 'movement and place' framework has been developed as part of the PDP. Continuous footpath treatments (CFTs) or 'level crossings' have been placed throughout the precinct, particularly in the east west direction. These act as a traffic calming measure and ensure pedestrians have uninterrupted priority when crossing from one side of the street to the other. The CFTs alongside footpath widening and strategic traffic changes act to promote the vehicular use of Station Street and Railway Street, reducing traffic on other local roads. The net result is safer, more inclusive pedestrian movement throughout the precinct. Please view the PDP concept plans for proposed traffic and pedestrian infrastructure.

What traffic changes are proposed through the PDP and how will they affect traffic movement through the city?

Traffic changes are proposed throughout the Wickham PDP precinct predominately in the southern section near the rail line. The focus is to promote the use of Railway Street and Station Street for commuters and visitors to the area and minimise the use of local roads outside of resident use. The proposed changes will also help to promote Union Street into the village spine, prioritising pedestrians along the road through the construction of a raised threshold (or similar) between Grey Street and Bishopgate Street. The raised threshold along with the strategic direction changes near Station Street will prompt motorists to seek out Railway Street and prevent Union Street from becoming overly congested. Please view the PDP concept plans for the traffic changes around Wickham.

Why has Wickham Park been excluded from the PDP?

The PDP covers streetscapes and public domain which is largely driven by development and governed by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). CN's management of community land reserved for public purposes such as parks and reserves are governed separately. A site specific masterplan will be prepared for Wickham Park in accordance with the 2021 Wickham Masterplan and CN's [Strategic Sports Plan](#).

Who has been involved in the development of the Wickham PDP?

Extensive community engagement occurred throughout the development of the Wickham Masterplan and Wickham Local Area Traffic Management Plan (2017 and 2021). This feedback has been used to inform the development of the draft concepts for the Wickham PDP.

CN has also consulted with various stakeholders during the development of the draft Wickham PDP concepts including the community group GLOW (Greater Lifestyles of Wickham) and Transport for NSW. CN will continue to consult with these groups as well as engage with stakeholders such as Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC), Keolis Downer, NSW Police, the Urban Design Review Panel and internal CN stakeholders as the PDP is updated and finalised.

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When will the PDP be implemented?

The PDP will be implemented periodically as the distinct places of Wickham begin to emerge and enhance as redevelopment occurs. Developers will be required to implement the PDP through frontage work in proximity to their property, commensurate with the scale of the development. CN will implement aspects of the PDP which are not expected to be undertaken by developers and are deemed as a priority. Upon completion of the PDP, CN will work with internal asset stakeholders and other service providers to plan for these works. Any proposed works are subject to constraints to be addressed through detailed design and funding within CN's future capital works programs.

What are the next steps?

Following community consultation, the project team will review all feedback received and use this to refine the Wickham PDP. Once finalised, the PDP will be presented to the CN Traffic Committee and then to the elected Council for adoption.