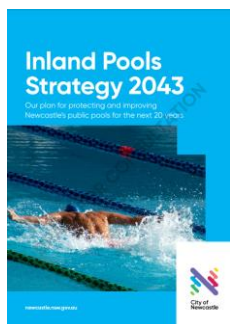


Inland Pools Strategy 2043

Our plan for protecting and improving
Newcastle's public pools for the next 20 years

Overview



City of Newcastle (CN) engaged Otium Planning Group to develop a 20-year strategy for CN to continue operating all five of our public pools into the future. Through the Inland Pools Strategy 2043, we will ensure that our five publicly owned pools are fit for purpose, and where appropriate, upgraded to meet community needs and expectations.

The draft Strategy was publicly exhibited online, and the community were invited to provide feedback via CN's Have Your Say webpage. Feedback was open from 12 April to 12 May 2023.

Engagement activities

The community were able to provide feedback by:

- Completing the online form via the Have Your Say page
- Emailing engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Community members were also able to express their interest in joining the **Inland Pools Community Network (IPCN)** – a group that enables members of our community to play an active role in shaping the way we manage and invest in our inland pools over the next 20 years.

The IPCN consists of one representative for each pool (Beresfield, Lambton, Mayfield, Stockton and Wallsend) as well as a school representative and an accessibility advocate.

The draft Strategy was also discussed with CN's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee on 20 April 2023.



Communication & promotion

The engagement was promoted via the following channels:

Flyers distributed to Newcastle residents (LGA wide)

Social media post

e-Newsletters – Newcastle Voice and BlueFit

Pop-up sessions at each of the five pools

Media release

25.2k

reach on
Facebook

1,309

Have Your
Say page
visits



Inland Pools Strategy 2043

Our plan for protecting and improving Newcastle's public pools for the next 20 years



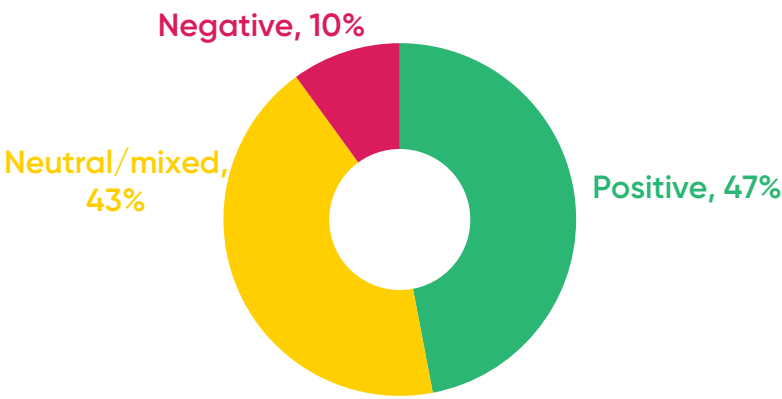
What we heard

124 people provided feedback

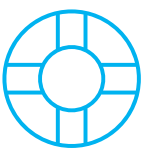
Submissions by catchment area

Facility	N=124
Lambton	46%
Stockton	22%
Wallsend	14%
Mayfield	12%
Beresfield	5%
Unspecified	1%

Sentiment



Sample size (N=124)



Key themes identified

Open text responses were categorised to identify recurring themes. The most frequently mentioned themes are shown below:



Sample size (N=124)

Inland Pools Strategy 2043

Our plan for protecting and improving
Newcastle's public pools for the next 20 years

Key themes by facility mentioned

The top five themes overall were: longer season/year-round facility, heated pool(s), upgrades to facilities/infrastructure, general support/positive comments about the strategy and community health and wellbeing.

Similar key themes were identified across submissions, regardless of facilities mentioned.

Theme	Lambton	Mayfield	Wallsend	Stockton	Beresfield
Longer season/ year-round facility	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heated pool(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Upgrades to facilities/infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
General support/positive comments	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Community health and wellbeing		✓	✓	✓	

Summary

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback. We heard that our public pools are important for supporting the health and wellbeing of our community, and providing sports and recreation opportunities.

There was general support for developing a strategy to protect these important intergenerational assets. However, we heard that there are infrastructure upgrades needed to ensure that our pools remain operational into the future, including heating, sporting and competition facilities, toilets/showers and change facilities and accessibility.

CN will continue to work with the NSW Government on the future of Hunter Park, to ensure that the status and timing of Hunter Park is considered and aligns with the implementation of this Strategy.