



Harbour to Cathedral Corridor

Community engagement activity report

June 2021

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Executive summary

City of Newcastle (CN) is looking to create a landmark destination for Newcastle that will protect and enhance views from the Harbour through to Christ Church Cathedral. The concept seeks to open-up connections and view lines from the Harbour foreshore and Hunter Street Mall to Christ Church Cathedral via a grand staircase.

To better understand community opinion on the Harbour to Cathedral concept, CN invited community feedback on the concept from Tuesday 13 May to Friday 11 June 2021, via an online form on CN's Have Your Say webpage.

The engagement was broadly communicated via social and traditional media, onsite signage and flyer distribution to nearby residents and businesses. In total, 271 responses were received to the online form. Two written submissions were also received by email during the engagement period.

Qualitative analysis of responses revealed that most people who completed the online form (75%) were supportive of the Harbour to Cathedral concept. About one-in-ten (11%) were not supportive of the vision, and sentiment was not clear in 14% of responses.

The main things people liked about the concept were that it would be a unique attraction for our city, and would improve connectivity between the harbour, city and cathedral. The key issues people would like to see addressed in the concept are ensuring it is accessible for people of all abilities and ensuring there is adequate parking.

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback. We will keep you up to date as the project progresses.

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1. Background

City of Newcastle (CN) is looking to create a landmark destination for Newcastle that will protect and enhance views from the Harbour through to Christ Church Cathedral. The Harbour to Cathedral concept (originally known as Stairway to Heaven), first developed fifteen years ago by a group of Novocastrian architects, proposes to link Christ Church Cathedral to the Harbour via a grand staircase.

The concept seeks to open-up connections and view lines from the Harbour foreshore and Hunter Street Mall to Christ Church Cathedral, aligning with long held strategic objectives of City of Newcastle (CN) and the NSW Government to connect the city to the harbour.

The Harbour to Cathedral vision is to:

- Create a landmark destination for the community and visitors to Newcastle
- Protect and enhance view corridors from the Harbour to Christ Church Cathedral
- Provide an accessible route from the waterfront to the Cathedral
- Retain 380 public car parking spaces in a centralised and convenient location
- Deliver new community facilities

A feasibility assessment found that an integrated approach involving CN and Iris Capital owned land would provide the best outcome for our city. The proposed precinct for this integrated option, comprising 11,645m² including the former CN Mall Car Park that will soon be demolished due to its poor structural condition, will allow a landmark new public space to be created to enhance the visual and physical connections to the Cathedral, and provides for 380 public car parking spaces and community facilities along with development of the site for residential, retail and commercial purposes.

CN is working with Iris Capital on an in-principle agreement on the terms and conditions about how we might progress the concept.

2. Engagement objectives

To better understand community opinion about the Harbour to Cathedral concept, CN invited the community to learn more about the vision and have their say on the concept from Tuesday 13 May to Friday 11 June 2021.

More specifically, the engagement sought to:






- inform the local community of the vision for the Harbour to Cathedral corridor
- gauge community support for the vision / concept
- identify community and stakeholder concerns about the concept

3. Communication and promotion

During the engagement period, a communications campaign was implemented to raise awareness of the Harbour to Cathedral vision and promote the opportunity for community members to provide feedback.

Key communications activities are summarised below in table 1. A selection of promotional collateral is presented in [Appendix I](#).

Table 1: Communication and promotion

Channel	Description
 Have Your Say webpage	<p>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 vision for the Harbour to Cathedral, and to encourage people to comment on the proposed changes. A tile was also featured on the CN homepage.</p> <p>The page included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online feedback form • Video explaining the concept • Vision pack (background information) • FAQs • Information on project stages
 Flyers and onsite signage	<p>1,000 flyers (postcards) were distributed to nearby residents and business.</p> <p>Onsite signage was also installed at key locations on Hunter and Market streets, near the Harbour to Cathedral corridor.</p>
 Social media	<p>The engagement was promoted via an unpaid post of CN's Facebook and LinkedIn page. The post intended to raise awareness and encourage people to have their say.</p> <p>Across the two platforms: Reach= 11,109, Video views = 2,558</p>
 Newsletters	<p>An e-newsletter was distributed to CN's community panel and to City e-news subscribers.</p> <p>Approximate distribution = 4,600</p>
 Media coverage	<p>A media release was issued on 18 May 2021, to raise awareness that CN was inviting community feedback on the Harbour to Cathedral concept.</p> <p>The story was subsequently picked up by several local media outlets including the Newcastle Herald and InTouch Magazine.</p>

4. Engagement activities

The community were invited to provide feedback on the Harbour to Cathedral concept from Tuesday 13 May to Friday 11 June 2021, via an online form on the dedicated Have Your Say webpage.

The online form asked two open-ended questions and basic contact information:

What do you like most about the Harbour to Cathedral concept?:	<input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>
What issues, if any, would you like to see addressed in the Harbour to Cathedral concept?:	<input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>
First name:	<input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
Last name:	<input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
Email:	<input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
Suburb:	<input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
	<input style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px 15px; border: none;" type="submit" value="Submit"/>

In total, 271 people provided feedback via the online form. Qualitative analysis of the open-ended responses left by the 271 respondents was carried out to:

- categorise each as being supportive of the concept, or not. Responses where sentiment was not evident were categorised as 'unclear'
- identify key themes in likes and issues to address

Findings from the online form are presented in section **5. Key findings**

Other submissions

Two written submissions were received during the engagement period by email. De-identified copies of submissions received are included in [Appendix II](#).

5. Key findings

Respondent location

Most of the 271 people who provided feedback via the online form were from Ward 1 within the CN local government area (LGA) (59%). A further 34% of those who left feedback were from other parts of the CN LGA, 6% were from other suburbs within the Hunter region and 1% were from outside of the Hunter.

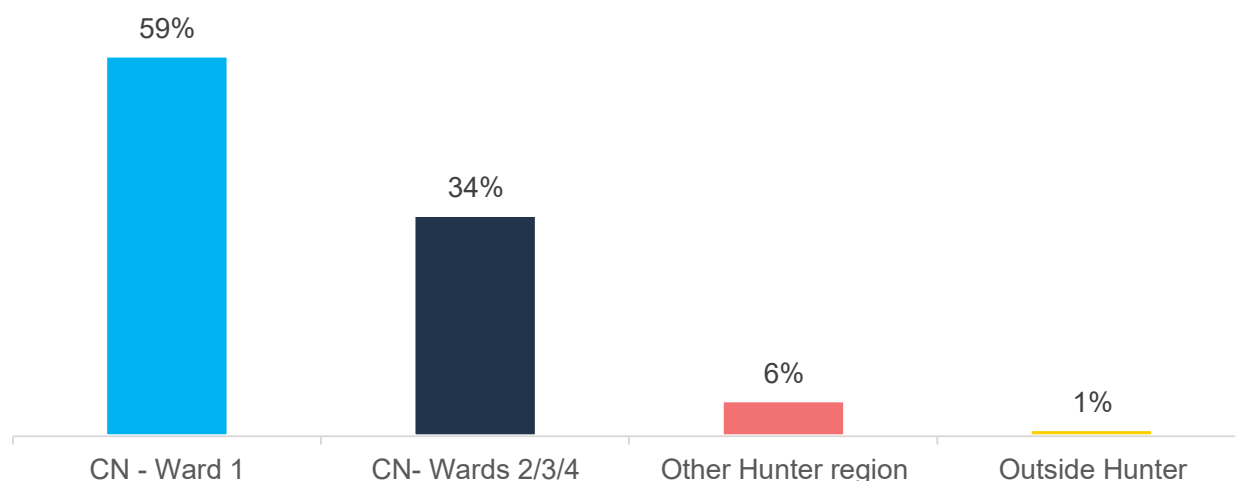


Figure 1: Respondent location

Sentiment

Sentiment analysis revealed most people who completed the online form (75%) were supportive of the vision for the Harbour to Cathedral corridor. About one-in-ten (11%) were not supportive of the vision, and sentiment was not clear in 14% of responses. Please see [Appendix III](#) for full verbatim responses.

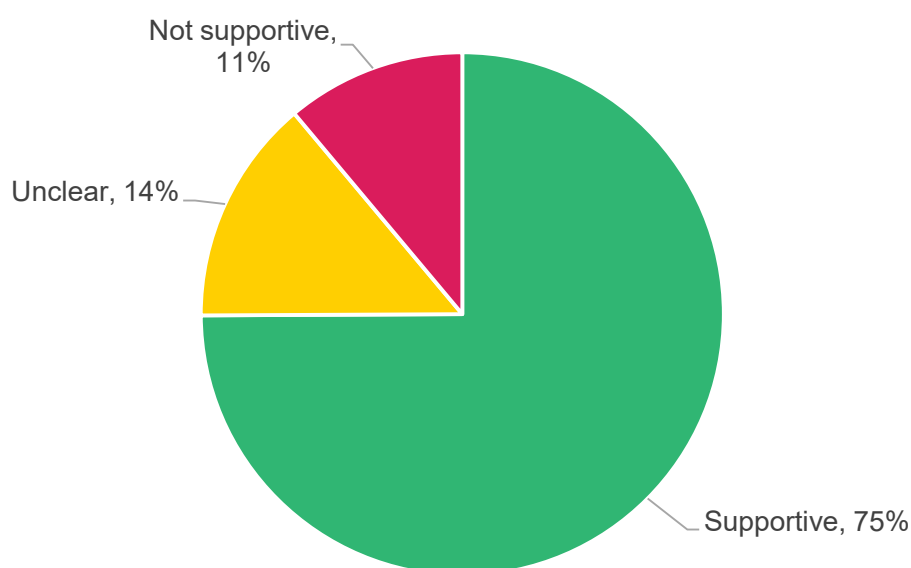


Figure 2: Sentiment in responses

Aspects liked about the Harbour to Cathedral concept

Thematic analysis of responses was carried out to identify key themes in elements liked about the concept. The themes to emerge in responses are summarised in figure 3.

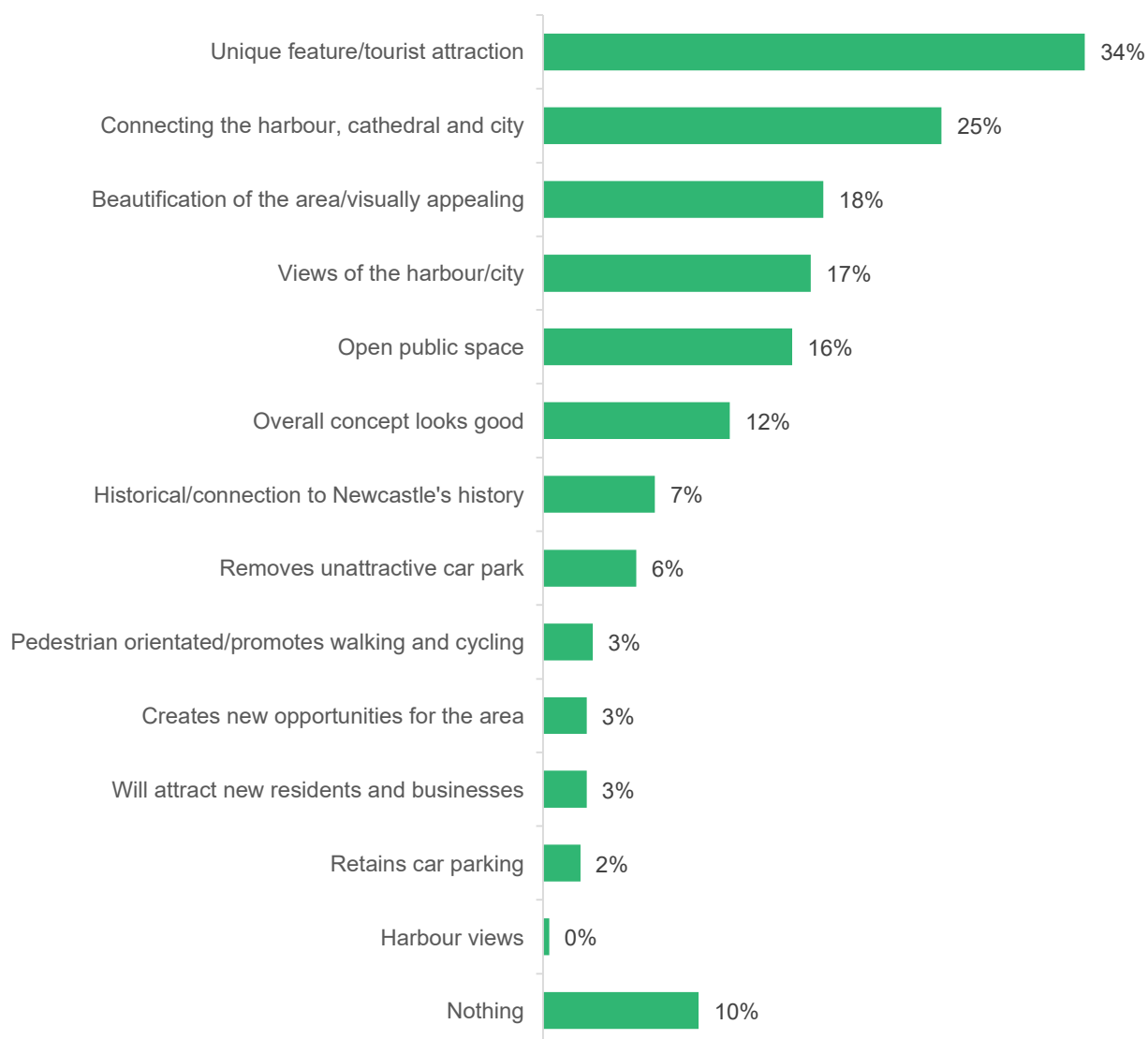


Figure 3: Key themes in aspects liked about the concept

The most common theme in things liked about the concept, evident in 34% of responses, related to the vision being a **unique attraction for our city**, as demonstrated in the following verbatim respondent comments:

"Fabulous idea, reminiscent of Rome's Spanish Steps or Lombard St, San Francisco"

"Creating a unique space and iconic attraction for Novocastrians to be proud of."

"That it truly connects harbour to city and would become another avenue to attract tourists and foot traffic for local businesses."

"This is a wonderful concept to enhance our international, national and local tourism opportunities"

The next most common them in likes, evident in 25% of responses, related to **connectivity**:

“Creating a strong link from our highest point to the waterfront.”

“That it opens up Cathedral - City - Waterfront. Most of all, that it retains the magnificent view of the Cathedral which is beginning to look as though it could be crowded out. Love the idea.”

“How much it opens up the area especially through to the new station area.”

“Connection between the CBD and the Cathedral opening up the view.”

The next most liked themes related to the visual appeal of the concept (18%), the views between the harbour and city (17%), and the open public space (16%). One-in-ten people (10%) said there was nothing they liked about the Harbour to Cathedral vision.

Please see [Appendix III](#) for full verbatim responses.

Issues to address in the Harbour to Cathedral concept

Thematic analysis of responses was carried out to identify key themes issues people would like to see addressed in the concept. The themes to emerge in responses are summarised in figure 4.

The main theme to emerge in issues related to **accessibility**, evident in 23% of responses:

“Be sure it is accessible for people with disabilities. Please consult people with disabilities before beginning.”

“The provision of suitable steps and handrails that will facilitate the climb to the Cathedral for all including the older generation.”

“My concern is disabled access and access for those with mobility issues.”

“Will it have disability access?”

The was closely followed by comments about ensuring there is **adequate parking** (21%):

“Parking in the CBD is shocking. The more car parks that you can work in the better.”

“Replacement of the car parking provisions that will be lost with the demolition of the current car park.”

“All current parking spaces must be maintained.”

“Replace the car parks as planned.”

An array of other themes emerged, as summarised in figure 4. Please refer to [Appendix IV](#) for full verbatim responses.

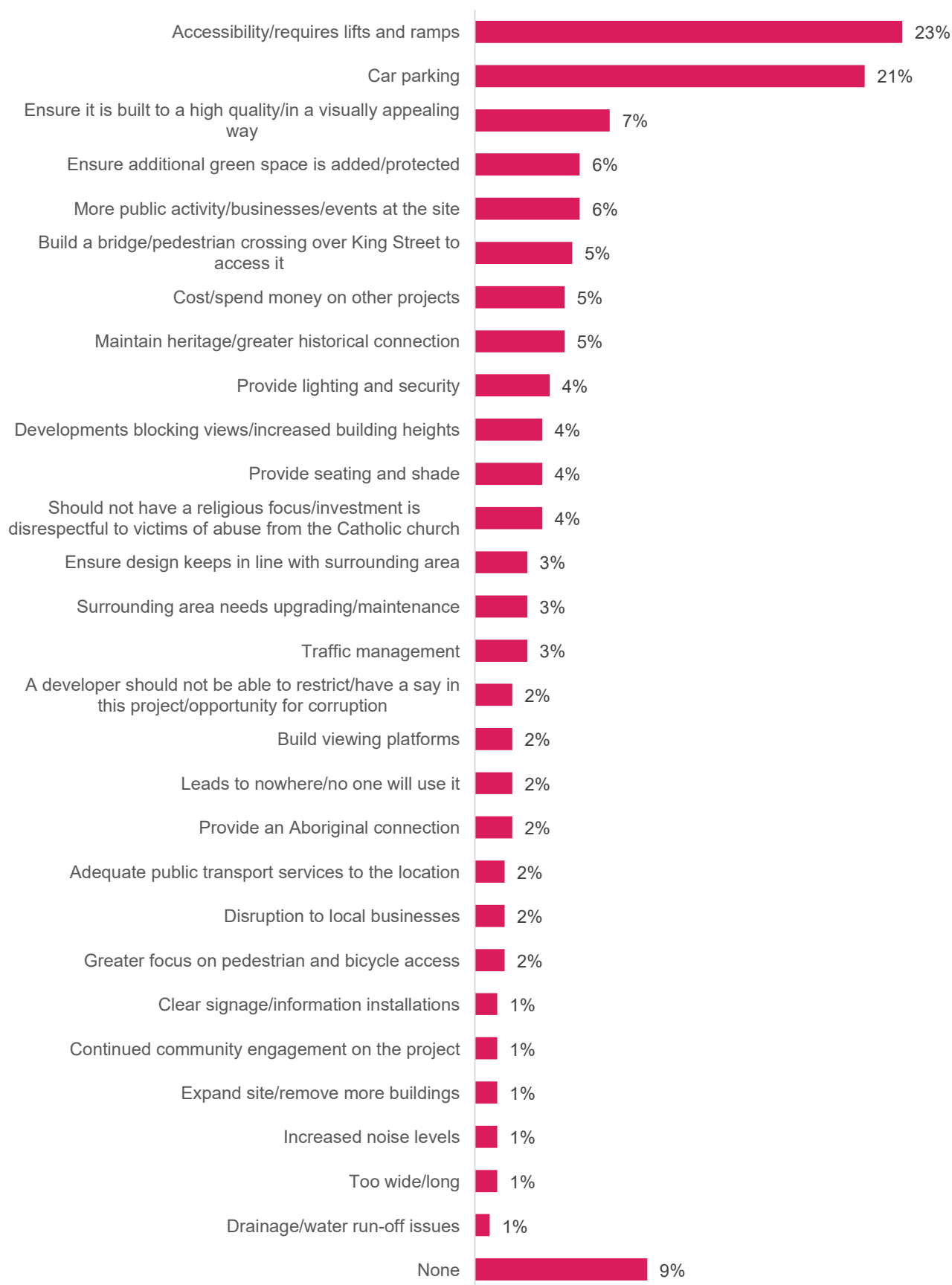


Figure 4: Key themes in issues to address with the concept

Appendix I – Promotional materials

Onsite signage and postcard/flyer



Social media



Media release

Media release



18 May 2021

City of Newcastle seeks community feedback on Harbour to Cathedral Corridor

City of Newcastle is inviting feedback from the community on the Harbour to Cathedral Corridor (Stairway to Heaven) concept, which proposes to link Christ Church Cathedral to the Harbour via a grand staircase.

The concept seeks to open-up connections and view lines from the Harbour foreshore and Hunter Street Mall to Christ Church Cathedral, aligning with long held strategic objectives of City of Newcastle and the NSW Government to connect the city to the harbour.

City of Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said the concept is a once-in-a lifetime opportunity to create a landmark public space for the city.

"City of Newcastle will soon demolish the 59-year old Mall Car Park due to its poor structural condition which brings about the chance to open the vista to the harbour and protect iconic views of the Cathedral for future generations," the Lord Mayor said.

"With recent developments in Hunter Street Mall, we now have a unique opportunity to provide residents and visitors to Newcastle with a world-class public space to enjoy.

"While we are in the early stages of assessing the viability of the concept, we want to determine the community's support for this new public space which would feature a 93 metre long and 20 metre public space and stairway extending from Hunter Street to King Street, enabling pedestrian access, active shop fronts, landings and courtyards along the proposed staircase to gather and meet."

City of Newcastle Director Governance David Clarke said a feasibility assessment found that an integrated approach to delivering the concept which involves City of Newcastle and Iris Capital owned land would provide the best outcome for the city.

"This concept aims to provide a beautiful public asset for our community whilst retaining 380 public car parking spaces in a central location of our revitalised city," Mr Clarke said.

"Importantly, this concept provides the only opportunity to preserve the view corridor to the Cathedral due to Iris Capital's East End Stage 3 development, which in its current form, would obscure the line of sight from the Harbour to the Cathedral.

"City of Newcastle is working with Iris Capital on an in-principle agreement on the terms and conditions about how we might progress on the concept."

Glen Spicer, Director EJE Architects said key property and development organisations in Newcastle including The Property Council and the Urban Design Review Panel (URDP) support the concept.

"Barney Collins of EJE Architects envisioned this concept more than 15 years ago. Now with recent opportunities presenting themselves, it provides the perfect chance to maintain the heritage of the area while enhancing public and visual amenity of the space in a sustainable way," Mr Spicer said.

"The Property Council and URDP both fully support the City of Newcastle in this exciting endeavour."

The community is encouraged to provide feedback on the concept via the [Have Your Say](#) page on City of Newcastle's website by Friday 4 June.

Appendix II – Other submissions

Submission 1

-----Original Message-----

From: WITHHELD

Sent: Sunday, 23 May 2021 4:47 PM

To: Official Mail <officialmail@ncc.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Stairway to heaven

Hi Nuatali,an idea for you.

The famous steps in Rio de Janeiro,Brazil.Magnificent!

Another idea is to have “hole in the wall “ eating places along each side on the way up.

Thank you. WITHHELD.

Sent from my iPad

Submission 2

Proposal Harbour to the Cathedral Proposal

At last view corridors are to be protected. It's a shame these haven't been protected, it would appear, since the arrival of the HDC. The previous DCP 30 did give protection to view corridors.

Included in the development should be plaques on all of the Heritage buildings and a short description of their history.

Two storeys should be removed off the new buildings on either side of the stairs as it looks as though there will only be the tower of the cathedral retained, Planners should look at DCP 30 for height guidance.

This area is right in the middle of “Newcastle Old Town” which is from King Edward Park to the Harbour and Newcastle Baths to Brown Street.

There must be a huge focus on the surrounding heritage which has not happened in the past, too much facadism in recent time.

As I suffer with a disability, I would like to know where the consolidated future car parking facility will be? I am tired of City of Newcastle Council listening to the Bike Rider organisations and not to those of us who suffer with a disability and need to use our cars.

If we get this development right Newcastle can become a heritage destination, similar to Fremantle, that people will want to visit, it's our last chance.

I tried twice to do this submission on your Community Engagement web page but both times I was unsuccessful. I believe it was totally unacceptable to only have two questions

to answer and I know many people in the community are keeping a close eye on this development which must have total transparency.

The staff member I contacted in the Community Engagement Section was very helpful.

NAME WITHHELD

Newcastle East

Appendix III – Verbatim responses - Likes

What do you like most about the Harbour to Cathedral concept?
- allow easy access to/from Cathedral - provide opportunity for community engagement at Cathedral (concerts, exhibitions, lectures, etc) - significant, positive impact on tourism with cruise ships post-Covid - overall more meaningful interaction between Cathedral and city's residents, visitors and workers - will be unique in Australia!
A beautiful concept that will become an iconic landmark in Newcastle like Nobby's, the Foreshore and the Obelisk.
A landmark feature with purpose
A new landmark and place to walk around in the city with friends and family.
Accessibility and tourism , increases safety and encourages fitness, it will hopefully liven up the Hunter street Mall which is so quiet and empty
Adds to a well designed city
All of it looks great, but I do like the use of Sandstone & the greenery.
All of it.
All of it. Great idea
Allocation of parking spaces and tourist destination
Amazing! The partnership with Iris Capital is sure to draw criticism but it's clearly worth it. A once in a lifetime opportunity for sure.
Amazing.... parades, step stalls, flowers in buckets, seating, water bubblers, a fountain....take a look at the spanish steps which go up to a church and a square..
another icon apart from Nobbys, Fort and Cathedral that set them all....
Anything to make the downtown more appealing to draw people and businesses
As a destination and the protection of the visual appeal and corridor
At this stage CoN are unable or unwilling to maintain the upkeep of Newcastle in general. My opinion is that this will only serve to take away from an already neglected city and simply be another folly.
Cleaning up an ugly scar on city that has been suggested many times in many forms
Conceptually it is a remarkable opportunity to make the most of what exists of lasting value i.e. the Cathedral. But the Cathedral needs community support to remain the fine building we love.If we are going to do this can we also ensure that the corridor arrives to a well kept and supported Cathedral.
Conceptually very good. Looking forward to the development.
Connecting the harbour and the top of King St.
Connection between the CBD and the Cathedral opening up the view.
Connectivity, view corridor, adds to city look and feel by providing a unique public space that complements the landscape and surrounds
Creating a landmark for Newcastle, increasing public space and creating an attraction to bring visitors to the region
Creating a strong link from our highest point to the waterfront
Creating a unique space and iconic attraction for Novocastrian to be proud of.
Creating accessible paths
Creating connectivity and place making.
Everything it's perfect. Massive draw for Newcastle
Fabulous idea, reminiscent of Rome's Spanish Steps or Lombard St, San Francisco
Fantastic idea! The increased connection to an underutilised park of the city is the best bit.
Fantastic sightline from the harbour to the Hill and a real opening up of the peninsula. A splash of light and greenery amidst the buildings.

Fantastic to open the space for people (not cars); could be an icon as in European cities. Gives coherence to the City.
Fix the ugly eye sore of a mall first
Formal linkages between the operational, tourism & leisure and spiritual quarters of our city will contribute significantly to the positioning of the city as a inspired, respectful and aspirational place to enjoy our lives. If a city is at its best when the physical assets are fully engaged with both our past and future, then this proposal is a step in the best direction for all of us.
From an aesthetic and architectural perspective, it is very pleasing. I believe the infrastructure and improvement to the 'destination Newcastle' cause, is critical to our progress as a city.
Generous spacing between building envelopes and provides a genuine visual connection between the cathedral and harbour. This vision will provide a significant link between the CBD and the water which is an opportunity that will not be repeated again in this location. It's great to see Council working with a developer to make this vision into a reality.
Getting rid of the car park and creating a tourist attraction
Grand architecture, when done well, enhances and creates a legacy for any city.
Great and it designed by a great local organisation
Great attraction for locals and visitors
Great idea
Have previously responded indicating my support for project but see comment below.
Honouring the significance of both the working harbour and the presence of the church to the heritage and present wellbeing of the community. I think it not only links the Cathedral and the harbour, but the waterfront with the historic centre of Newcastle more generally. It provides an aesthetic connection, visual access, physical steps, and an opportunity for photo ops, community gathering, and hopefully some retail. It is reminiscent of some European hilltop stairways.
Hopefully an easier access to Cathedral as well as providing a wonderful viewing platform.
How much it opens up the area especially through to the new station area
I am one if the congregation at the Cathedral have been for 60 years very rarely go around the back. Who is going to use it? Convince me .
I believe it is a great idea!
I believe it will be a statement piece for Newcastle - Love that it incorporates the mall and the view from the harbour promenade will create interest and encourage people into this part of the city.
I do not like it
I don't like anything about it. It is a concept that has first and foremost IRIS CAPITAL at its heart. They get what they want if they provide a sweetener. It is a bribe really. Talking about shops and galleries etc is a ploy to get the public in. And over 300 public car spaces? I doubt it. It's all about money, money, money and greed, greed, greed.
I don't like any of the concept
I don't like anything about the proposal. I believe it is totally misguided and unnecessary. I live nearby and have not seen many, if any, people walking around the cathedral or wanting to access it from Hunter Street. There are many more projects and maintenance issues that are more important in this city.
I don't like the concept. It brings an undue focus on a cathedral for a religion which represents less than 15% of Australians.
I don't like this concept at all. There are other ways I am sure that are more inclusive to connect people. The city is not the only part of Newcastle that can be promoted. It is becoming congested and locals are not travelling into the city. The parking is difficult and if one is travelling by train, there is still the light rail stop/transfer.
I don't understand why pedestrians need stairway access directly to the cathedral. Will this improve walkability of the city? will it connect other areas or streets? how useful is a public space that is made up of a stairway? what else could it be used for? Is the cathedral really what we want our city to draw focal attention to? I like the idea of increasing public space- but otherwise I don't understand the benefits of this project.
I just love it!!! I thing Paris have the Eiffel tower Sydney harbour have the harbour bridge and Newcastle will have the stairway to the cathedral good on you it's fantastic

I like all aspects of the overall plan and think it is a step forward in the future of Newcastle
I like all the ideas and concepts shown.
I like everything about the project. It will give Newcastle an iconic centrepiece that will become the heart of the East End and elevate a nice mall to an outstanding community and tourist asset
I like that plans are being made to honour Newcastle's uniqueness, not changing it into a high rise city.
I like the large trees in Market St between Scott St & Hunter at that are shown in the concept picture. These should be a definite feature of any design.
I like the overall concept from an Architectural and Aesthetic point of view.
I like the whole concept of the view from the Harbour to the Cathedral, and also the look from the Cathedral downwards
I love it! Community space; aesthetic merit; honouring and linking historical sites.
I love it! it's another place that we can walk up and down and enjoy the view of our beautiful city
I love it! Please just do it! It would be like the "Spanish Steps" in Rome. I can see so much beauty in this design. I would be proud to bring my visitors into the city instead of being embarrassed. Imagine the view from the Stockton Ferry coming across the river.
I love that it draws the eyes up and is a centre of focus.
I love the idea of a central tourist destination in our city. I remember traveling to the Spanish steps in Rome (Google it) which was a destination in itself, but the businesses and culture in the area were all thriving as a result. Something similar would be awesome!
I love the idea of being able to access all the way from the harbour up to the Cathedral. What a great tourist attraction - to walk up the hill to this amazing views of our city! Great idea.
I love the idea of opening up the city. Now that the railway line has been removed, there is a wonderful opportunity to flow right from the cathedral to the harbour.
I love the whole idea: a concept unique to Newcastle, creating a stunning vista from the harbour and connected neighbourhood hubs along the way!
I really like the concept of 'Stairway to Heaven' its a beautiful church with much history. The concept will encourage 'tourism'. providing it has a 'clear view' and an un-obstructed view of the Harbour with a (look out, seating near the top) the view is not being compromised. Of cause. small little 'cafes' along the way
I really like the idea of a view corridor from the harbour up to the cathedral. It will be a real asset for the city.
I really like the idea of having the Cathedral visible from Hunter St and a direct walkway. I am a member of the Cathedral community and we are very happy to be the focus of visitor attention in this way.
I see this concept as an exciting way of showcasing the Newcastle East Heritage precinct as long as it has appropriate low impact solutions to any new development
I think it is a positive plan for Newcastle's evolution however, I have a question that this plan does not provide answers too. What is the future plan for the 2 x existing Queens Wharf buildings?
I think it will block even more views. I live in the Segenhoe on Wolfe street, right near the Cathedral. It is already a pain trying to get around. The new east end buildings already completely ruined the view we once had, which, may I had, we were told by council that there were no more tall buildings to be built in front of Segenhoe. All you care about is your own personal gain and don't think about the historic aspects of Newcastle.
I think it will look good like the Spanish Steps in Rome however why would you walk up there more than once. There is nothing up there. I cycle Church and Tyrell Streets daily and it is just residential, but nice and hilly for exercise. So visitors will walk it once.
I think it would be amazing!!!
I think it's a great idea and should definitely go ahead.
I think it's a wonderful idea. Something that will make Newcastle complete with rest of the world. Love love the idea. Our kids went to NGS
I think it's fantastic. I like the way it links the harbour, the slope of the hill and crowned by the cathedral at the top. I think it will become a major attraction for locals and visitors.
I would first like to see a photograph of the proposed steps before I actually reply
I'm hugely in support of this proposal - in particular it's homage to the original city grid plan. It would be lovely to see such a pedestrian-oriented and open public space.

Improved view and better link to cathedral. I never go up to cathedral as it is out of the way but think it is an amazing building. Also stairs may Attract tourists - good for economy.
Improved views and accessibility. Overall it looks like a lovely idea.
Improving connectivity and appearance of the Newcastle city centre while keeping heritage buildings and features.
Indigenous and colonial heritage elements should be enhanced & reflected in the design to ensure aesthetic longevity and to complement the cathedral & surrounds. Newer trends & buildings date very quickly. I hope the council has a vision of its own that isn't influenced by developer donations/connections & will ensure that whatever is constructed will be an asset to the site in every way. It would be a shame for this to end up as another concrete canyon/wind tunnel like Honeysuckle.
Iris Capital's willingness to create amazing lifestyle spaces complimented by quality architecture and building design should be celebrated. Let's be bold and create a market place that becomes a destination in itself, something along the lines of the Grounds of Alexandria would bring people, fun, laughter and life back to the city, resurrecting the original old city marketplace entry and façade into the development will connect the old, the new & the view.
It an important city project that needs to be grasped so that Newcastle can make this an iconic tourist (and local) destination. It will link an important landmark with a much more access able pathway
It gives Newcastle an unique attraction and makes use of the Mall which, currently, is quite awful and sometimes scary. The cathedral is a beautiful building and having a staircase that highlights it is a wonderful idea
It helps to protect a heritage icon of the City by maintaining its visibility from the foreshore and harbour and integrates it with the development taking place on the harbour - it helps to make this end of the city more attractive and interesting
It looks well and very expensive - and it removes the currently unused car park on King Street. Visually a very good idea, but of course it is only visual infrastructure. With the reduction in religious observance in communities, the cathedral is not a central purpose of the CBD,. However it is a notable building, worth being protected from encroachment. In essence: not much choice.
It might look aesthetically pleasing
It projects a visual connection to the Historic Cathedral for residents and to visitors to our city, a good finished ideal planning expectation in many overseas cities, a good feel we got it.
It removes that disgusting car park. In addition, it creates an opportunity for a much more aesthetic landscape from the harbour to the cathedral and connects these two areas.
It replaces the ugly heaviness of the car park with a light and uplifting axis through our revitalised city centre. It unites the harbour with the cathedral for the first time - showcasing some of the best attractions and views that Newcastle has to offer.
It replicates Dangar's intention in his 1823 town design. The concept is a breath of fresh air in that a change is being made for public/aesthetic appreciation rather than solely to make more money. It will be a major improvement of the townscape.
It unites the harbour to the mall and King St. It is a sensational idea. Please do it.
It will be a showpiece for the inner City.
It will break up the canyons of high rise and be a great go to experience fortourists, locals and residents alike!
It will create a much better view of both the harbour and cathedral and also make sure the area isn't built out. It also gets rid of the ugly car park and would be a great place for events.
It will create an iconic place in the heart of the city that opens up the area and provides a meeting place for workers, tourists and locals to meet. The benefits of photos will encourage further tourism to our city by highlighting the cathedral.
It will give the inner city an extra dimension - one that invites people to explore the concepts of faith and hope, and the use of symbols to express spiritual truths.
It will help rejuvenate the mall. The city needs more pedestrian friendly spaces.
It will not only create a destination but protect the heritage of the area and may even lead to a greater appreciation of the area, if done correctly this will be a fantastic opportunity for Newcastle and the chance should be taken as there may not be another opportunity for a project like this if not done now

It will open access from the Harbour to King St and beyond. The views will be extremely photographic.
It will open up the view from the harbour to the cathedral
It will preserve the fantastic aspect we have of the Cathedral from the Harbour, and provide a great corridor for people to visit and walk around the city
It will provide a new centre for the city.
It will provide the city with another dimension in public space and access. It will become a major drawcard for visitors and retailers. It is very exciting. It will be an icon.
It will serve as a destination for tourists and locals and will highlight Newcastle's greatest asset — the coastline and working harbour.
It would add local and tourist appeal to the city. Great idea to beautify the inner city.
It would be amazing, like Newcastle's version of the Spanish Steps. It also creates a beautiful connection between the harbour and hilltop / cathedral.
It would give Newcastle a new tourist attraction
It would look amazing ,and would be a fantastic asset to our Beautiful City. Imagine Cruise ships (eventually) docking and taking visitors into the Mall and being able to climb the steps, and see the harbour from there.
It would not only be visually spectacular but would bring people to the city and add even more good vibes.
It would remove the old carpark, and create an amazing center piece for the city. Worthy of an international design competition-- Huge publicity for Newcastle
It's a lovely opportunity to showcase our beautiful Newcastle. Fantastic family outing.
It's a slap in the face for victims of rape by the Catholic Church specifically this Cathedral - Newcastle Council needs to show reconciliation pathways to First Nations. There are a number of murals in Newcastle that are of Aboriginal people they are stunning- please clean the thrown eggs and milk off the mural on Beresford Lane and Stewart Lane.
It's connectivity between the spaces and ability to encapsulate some amazing vistas.
It's a grand idea and could look quite spectacular from the harbour. Is the plan for a 'spectacular look' from the water? Why is it thought people would want to visit the cathedral as a destination?
Its brilliant
It's innovative and visually attractive but why does it have to come with a high cost of access and parking. The later are the responsibilities of Council not developers who are allowed to amend arrangement at will.
It's just a great idea and will be a landmark for our city.
It's unique I guess
It's unique/ different, and will add some more visual appeal
Just love the idea of enhanced view of the waterfront from the top, which sure will attract people and tourist..
keeping obstruction of view to and from historical cathedral site open and visible
Keeping open space in Newcastle- not over crowding with multi storey buildings. Vista matters, heritage matters and this one is very important PLACE. The cathedral park with names of early colonials buried in the cemetery should be incorporated and aboriginal heritage. Nothing token. Great idea if done right, quality, art, design.
Like the concept & that the view can be maintained to the harbour.
Looks like a great asset got the city
Love it, great concept.
Love the idea of opening up such an underutilised asset of Newcastle to more visitors and locals alike.
Love the idea! A sunrise breakfast on one of the intermediate plazas with amazing views and without car noise and fumes, then a stroll down to the harbour.
Love the opening up feel of the city
Loved the idea of 'STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN'.
Makes the cathedral a more central part of Newcastle and gets rid of the ugly car park building
Making it an attractive usable space.
More public space. Opening up north south axis. Creating a unique world city

New space for the public
Newcastle is Beautiful from a heightened perspective. To marry that with Stockton would be an asset to the city. I believe the reserve near the ferry wharf at Stockton would grow revenue tremendously with a state of the art enclosed Ferris Wheel . A major international icon.. given the airport is moving in that direction. An introduction and topic for visitors and locals.
Nice idea
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing - it doesn't create any option for parking. The public transport in Newcastle is not adequate for us to be able to be a pedestrian city. This would only be a good option if public transport options significantly improve. 380 spaces is not sufficient and I can't imagine they will charge a reasonable price either.
Nothing - it is horrible
Nothing waste of money
Nothing, it is a huge waste of rate payers money. The vision of connecting the city to the Harbour foreshore was the removal of the rail line. This is likely the real reason King St carpark is closed. Iris Capital will be the only beneficiary of this idea, how many more floors will be on their developments as a "trade off" for their assistance with this project and how much money will they make out of it?
Nothing. This is a stupid idea and will be a bigger white elephant than the queens wharf tower.
Nothings. It's disruptive the city centre
okay if it does not impact movement or traffic flow.
One of the best ideas I have heard. Historically it will recognise the original concept design for Newcastle since its first settlement.
One off opportunity to open up a pathway from the harbour to the cathedral
Open plaza to the cathedral excellent idea. Needs exceptional design not to become a white elephant of steep staircase which no one uses . That hill really is a killer to walk up
Open public space and connections for walking
Open Space
Open space - visually and environmentally.
Open space in the city
Open vista with views ! I love the idea of opening it up
Opening spaces ... not enough within all the recent developments in the CBD.
Opening up a North South flow across the mall. View corridor too to the cathedral and access too the cathedrals potential panoramas.
Opening up the area between the cathedral and the harbour.
Opening up the axis from the cathedral to the harbour and the provision of public domain along the spine as opposed to private development
Opening up the city from the cathedral to the harbour is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity , Which will giving the area a real European feel.
Opening up vital space through the city centre and connecting the harbour to the hill.
Opens up access and will be a great attraction for visitors to the city, with similarities to Trafalgar Square.
opens up the space for the public
Opens view lines to the cathedral as well as providing the city with a feature unique in Australia

Opportunity to create a significant urban design landmark, showcasing the incredible landscape of our city and connecting the harbour to the cathedral. We appreciate consideration being given to the protection and enhancement of view corridors while celebrating heritage and providing public spaces. We are looking forward to seeing more detail as planning progresses and are excited for the possibilities.
Perfect. As a previous resident of Newcastle and an occasional attendee at the cathedral, I think it a great idea. Great for tourism. Makes the prominent landmark accessible
Physical and sight access
Protection of key view corridors highlighting the heritage and unique architecture of the East End. Inviting public spaces providing a destination for locals and tourists and invite people to rest and explore surrounding shopping and entertainment areas.
Public space, revitalisation, carparks retained, tourist drawcard, an opportunity for a place for public gatherings/performances in what would potentially be an open-air 'amphitheatre'.
Public spaces Improve the image of Newcastle Create a tourist destination
Putting the focus on the brilliant harbour and the cathedral, two striking aspects and icons of the city of Newcastle.
Reinstating and reinforcing views & physical links from the harbour through Market Square to the Cathedral, enabled through the vision of Henry Dangar's 1823 urban planning axis.
removal of car parking infrastructure in the city is a great idea to encourage active transport, such as cycling
Removal of old mall building and 'beautifying' of the city
removing the carpark, creating an open thoroughfare in a north-south direction (everything is so east-west focused) that also allows for public spaces and some retail (especially artisanal) to bring more people (and business and activity in general) back into the east end.
Removing the eyesore car park blocking the view from the cathedral and making use of the grand king st entrance to Cathedral Park
Retention of public car spaces.
Retention of public car spaces.
Something aesthetic and enhancing for Newcastle. Opens up the area which is becoming more and more dominated by ugly glass towers. great concept. Let it happen asap.
Space to view the water
Stairway to Heaven
Stupid
Such a great concept and opportunity. Will be a very positive focal point for the city and offer opportunities for views and pedestrian access in both directions. Would be a great tourist feature and focal point to attract people to the East End.
That a piece of our beautiful city is actually trying to be preserved for a change. A staircase seems overwhelmingly restricted unless it's accomplished by planting greenery and trees which is now very absent from our landmarks and city. More cement....,increased ugliness.
That is it just a concept at this stage. I would not like to see money spent on this.
That it already exists
That it creates a landmark for Newcastle - like the Spanish steps. Although the Cathedral isn't really a destination, it would look awesome getting a clear view to there up from the harbour
That it opens up Cathedral - City - Waterfront. Most of all, that it retains the magnificent view of the Cathedral which is beginning to look as though it could be crowded out. Love the idea
That it truly connects harbour to city and would become another avenue to attract tourists and foot traffic for local businesses. Another great walk like the Anzac walk would be wonderful
The 380 car parking spaces to be reinstated.
The aesthetic that it will bring to the city
The cathedral - our most iconic building, and the foreshore park - our best asset, linked visually and spatially. This is our once in a century chance to redefine our city.
The Cathedral was originally built and should always remain the highest point of the city landscape, and should never be built out

The chance for Integrated development of this project with the construction of Iris Capitals East End development. Once in a lifetime opportunity
The City and Cathedral came into being together, June 1847. Christ Church Cathedral is also an official War Memorial with the 'Warrior Chapel' (1924) and its WWI treasures, all donated from the community. This proposal shows the unique relationship and expresses that active connection between spirit and community.
The concept is a great one and one of which would be a huge drawcard and at the same time a resource of great pride in the city.
The concept of opening up the vista of the Cathedral from the foreshore - indeed from anywhere- is obviously a good one
The concept sounds good to me, but what's wrong with the name "stairway to Heaven"?
The concept sounds interesting and would be potentially be iconic for Newcastle if appropriately developed.
The connection opening up the city, and the sweeping views, the possibility of public space.
The connections created for cyclists and pedestrians... this could possibly be a future light rail development opportunity too!?
The creation of a corridor which links the harbour with the inner city.
The dramatic scale and the opportunity to create a new landmark in Newcastle that is a contrast to the cathedral. It should contrast dramatically at night like the red steps in Times Square NYC rather than trying to emulate something too similar to the cathedral ala the spanish steps or steps to Sacre Couer. It should be completely modern in its design and colour/s (light up stairs please) and unashamedly forward looking.
The enhanced visual impact of the new concept is a fantastic opportunity to create something great for Newcastle and do away with an eyesore that should never have been built.
The feeling it would create in Newcastle... The fact that there will be a corridor and not all apartments. The view will open this user if the city and provide a genuine attraction
The further development of the inner city will bring in more residents.
The grand aesthetics and touristic development.
The idea of the view along that strip. It is a beautiful part of the city. Great work!
The improvement it will make to the architectural aesthetic of Newcastle. The mall Car park is an eyesore
The modernisation of the city and creating a tourist attraction to the city front
The open space and an uninterrupted view from the harbour to the cathedral
The open view from street level up to the Cathedral reminds me somewhat of similar locations found in many European cities and elsewhere. To-date the efforts to preserve the view of the Cathedral only really help when viewed from Stockton. The proposed direct access up the hill from the City to the Cathedral is a great addition that will ultimately be another attraction to add to the tourist brochure, similar to the now proudly accepted cliff-top walkway from The Hill down to Bar Beach.
The opening of the view line between the Cathedral and the harbour.
The opening of the vision corridor is a positive improvement, the stairs need to have large viewing areas staged on the way up the 40m climb.
The openness it will provide, rather than buildings. The opportunity for a floral or green corridor.
The opportunity to create something lasting and iconic in the city, analogous to St Pauls Cathedral sight lines in London. Can't be supportive enough.
The opportunity to make an iconic public space through connecting the harbour to the Cathedral. The view corridors from both ends will be spectacular.
The overall vision is a once in a lifetime chance to provide a cohesive reworking of an area that holds many dilapidated passageways and structures of the past evolution of the inner city. Much of the target area is tired or downright ugly.
The potential for a grand vista in the city centre which will open up access to hidden gems like Cathedral Park
The provision of a beautiful view both up to the cathedral with its associated green park area in the lower part as well as the view down to the harbour in the opposite direction.
The public aspect - w/ so many apartments going up in the area (which is good to see too!) I fear the iconic view of Christ Church Cathedral from the foreshore will be hindered. I think having areas of the city as open, publicly accessible & usable spaces is so important for the city's ongoing revitalisation.

The removal of the carpark is a great idea. Far too many cars in Newcastle.
The stairs - iconic attraction to add to the revitalized centre.
The stunning visual corridor that the stairs would provide. It is a well thought out concept which will beautify Newcastle and create a very iconic and community friendly setting. I'm very excited by this.
The truly unique opportunity to create an unparalleled landmark City feature that everyone can experience & enjoy, & provide a new & alternative 'Uluru'-like climbing experience to unify the Old & the New. It will unlock the entire East End, thereby providing unprecedented value for all the City assets, whether private, commercial or Government. Most of all, it will provide lasting memories & talking points for locals & City guests far & wide for eons to come.
The view corridor and the sense of grandeur it will give to our city. A great social hub.
The views it will open up. Great for tourism and great community space.
The visual beauty of the concept and the access it offers between the landmark cathedral and the harbour. It would make the Spanish Steps look ordinary.
The visual impact this concept will bring to the city
The whole concept looks great. Please proceed.
There is some extra(I think) car parking.
There is very little to like about the concept
This concept features an iconic landmark by creating clear lines of vision between foreshore and cathedral.
This is a forward thinking concept that will showcase another beautiful view in Newcastle.
This is a wonderful concept to enhance our international, national and local tourism opportunities, eg. (walking tours) and for the citizens of Newcastle. It will ease journey time to and from some schools eg (Newcastle Grammar) the harbor and bus and train terminals.
This is an absolutely fantastic idea! I love the idea that people can use the stairs to exercise with a view.
This is very exciting! I can Envision something similar to the Spanish steps in Rome!
Uninterrupted staircase from foreshore to the top. Build it so you can have concerts using stairs as seating. Ensure those on the stairs have priority vs those driving.
Unique opportunity. Could be our own "Spanish Steps" moment if it is build correctly with the appropriate materials. Allows for greater access to the cathedral.
Unique, iconic tourism drawcard, put Newcastle on the map
Very much in favour of this visionary project
View corridor to cathedral.
View from the harbour.
Views and gathering place on stairs. Access to cathedral and water.
views and vistas to the harbour and beyond. Businesses will want to be near this iconic facility. It will open the door to other possibilities and opportunities
Visitors and locals will flock to see this. A fantastic spot to enjoy the view of the harbour and the beautiful cathedral
What a fantastic opportunity for Newcastle This could rival the Sydney opera house This has the potential to be a world class tourist attraction The ability to walk from the foreshore up to the cathedral would be magnificent It could match the Spanish steps in Rome It certainly would be far more impressive than the very popular Anzac Walkway
What a pity you didn't consider all of this BEFORE you approved the three monstrosities that IRIS destroyed the skyline with already!! Why is it ok to increase the height for new buildings with a handful of rich people gaining the beautiful views that hundreds of houses on the hill have now lost!! Very selfish and elitist as USUAL for this pathetic council!! I can't wait for the next election as can thousands of others!!
What an "objective" question, lol. Nothing. This is a stupid idea. Give us more parking. And the link to the vision pack doesn't work. Make it easier for people to park and they will use the shops again.
What I like most is the combination of making a space that's visually stunning with providing access around the City. I think this plan will draw tourists and likewise benefit locals.
Will be a great drawcard to the city and I like the idea of connecting the harbour to the city

Will open the city
With this once in a century opportunity presenting itself to Newcastle City Council to build a world class view corridor with almost nothing that isn't going to be demolished stopping this project — I really like in the vision pack the drawbridge over King Street
World stage landmark on our back door step. Opens up the city and beautifully displays cathedral
Would be a great landmark and a focal point for people to meet. It would really open up the views to the cathedral and improve the connectivity through the city
YES, YES, YES IT WILL BE A STUNNING ADDITION TO THE CITY CENTRE

Appendix IV – Verbatim responses - Issues

What issues, if any, would you like to see addressed in the Harbour to Cathedral concept?
1 More underground parking for the entire length of the corridor. 2 Intergration of the Queens and Ferry Wharf precinct-- the front door of Newcastle.
1. The conservation and enhancement of listed heritage sites. 2. Apart from the magnificent scale of the project, I would like to see the introduction of more intimate community sites as the concept unfolds ie. as the project proceeds up the hill.
A large and wide stairway is obviously overkill and not good urban planning. Sensible residential and commercial development would obviate this.
absolutely must be small graded walking so everyone can access it, as older now I need slight incline or reduced steps only or cannot do it.
Access for all users will have to be addressed, as this will difficult to achieve planning is crucial
Access for mobility impaired people please. Toilets Seating
Access for the disabled and elderly via elevator or something of sorts
Accessibility. Also to make sure it doesn't become all concrete and no greenery. And that it gets done in a timely fashion!
Accessibility - mobility (staircase?), inclusivity. Protect free use of common spaces. Not glorifying one dimension of religious heritage. Ensure investment of public funds results in broad scale public value - benefits not captured by private interests. A proper and publicly available analysis of what else the public funds could be spent on, identifying comparison points for assessing public value return of different scenarios.
Accessibility - would be good if it had a glass lift or something so people of all mobilities could enjoy
Accessibility for people with limited mobility. Ability for the space to be used for events as well as informal public use.
Accessibility issues with stairs? Ensure we retain the original heritage/period features of the mall.
Accessibility needs to be at the forefront of this project, if delivered successfully, it will be an amazing addition and will solidify Newcastle's footprint as a world class city.
Accessible parking must improve as part of process. Must be a way of returning easily to starting point, top or bottom, if one wishes to access and walk up or down Hopefully this will not be seen as another money making exercise. Wouldn't it be good if there was a free hop on hop off bus to bring one to either top or bottom from parking areas /train stations
Acknowledging Awabakal people and land. Connecting history of harbor and Cathedral community.
Adequate planning to ensure that the traffic flow, safety, and sightlines are preserved or enhanced.
Adequate rest areas and seating be provided at different staging points along the route.
All current parking spaces must be maintained. The Cathedral Park Master Plan (CMP) of 2012, due to be completed 2017, was never finished - sections still ugly, unfinished and dangerous. New concepts for the stairway should include completion of the unfinished sections of CMP. I hope we don't get a half-finished stairway too. The name for the stairway should be unique and secular. Perhaps invite community suggestions for name. Disabled access vital.
Allow disabled access and access for the elderly. Have viewing platforms prominently positioned at different levels up the staircase.
Any changes to the NLEP building heights need to maintain the current 24 m limit on the sections of the carpark site not included in the 'stairs' corridor. The current council carpark has 478 car spaces. Any plan needs to maintain this amenity, not a reduced 380.
Apparently a number of people don't like use of name "Stairway to Heaven" for whatever reason . Why not start referring to project as "Newcastle Steps" and in order to build a positive attitude make people aware of other city stairways such as Spanish Steps in Rome, Potemkin Steps in Odessa, Rue Foyatier in Paris, Sanssouci in Potsdam etc, etc
As there now appear to be many 'baby boomers' living in the city, I would hope access would be appropriate for an aging population. Access should also be suitable for parents with young children (prams, strollers etc) as well as handicapped. Please do not clutter area with cheap market stalls.
Be sure it is accessible for people with disabilities. Please consult people with disabilities before beginning.

Beautification of the surrounding areas to match the newly constructed corridor
Build it sooner rather later
Building a car park so oriole can get into town
Car parking must be retained and provision made for mobility challenged residents or visitors. Make a covered moving walk way or escalator could be built At the very least an elevator [lift] should be included.
Car parking to compete with the major shopping centres is necessary. Use tech to allow 2 free hours parking validated in store at retailers to thank shoppers & to encourage shopping local. Lock in a 45 min lapse between free parking to force car spot turnover. Install security cameras & lighting to ensure the space is elevated to be a safe destination much unlike the mall we know today. Bring it on NC & Iris, the residents of Newcastle will be forever thankful for your vision and leadership.
Car parking, safety , seating to rest
Cathedral park is poorly maintained and not inviting. It would be better to even bring back some of the headstones to celebrate its heritage as the Newcastle Cathedral Cemetery.
Caution regarding advocacy of private development at the expense of intergenerational public space. Consultation with stakeholders including the Newcastle Club regarding development of airspace above the existing disused car park.
CLEAR VISUAL ACCESS FROM HARBOUR TO THE GRAND HISTORICAL CATHEDRAL IS VITAL
Combining the steps and the ramp and path through the Cathedral Park from King Street. The steps with the names carved on them are already wonderful. Make the climb from the Harbour accessible for all kinds of fitness with plenty of seats. Incorporate the plans for the mass grave from the ship sinking which is already planned for Cathedral Park. Incorporate all the points in blue on the right. Plenty of trees, preferably those that don't shed leaves.
Complete waste of money and we need car parking in the city
Connect, using contemporary and accessible ideas eg a stairway lit with colours of the liturgical seasons; red, blue, green, purple etc. Use tourist wifi to notify Cathedral events, music performances, tours. Show Cathedral is a War Memorial eg sound sculpture of Birdwood giving back the flag to Dora Sparke and Newcastle Crowds, 1920. Install 'Welcome to Country' art work and a 'Walking the Labyrinth' ground sculpture near beginning or end of the 'stairway'.
Consider the views BOTH WAYS!! I was over in Stockton recently and all you can see is that bloody ugly monstrosity glowing white! How in earth was that even considered to be adding value to an already dead and overrun with homeless people and vacant shops area of such a beautiful city?? Yeah why not add four new "high-end" shop spaces to match all the other derelict vacant shops in the mall?? Brilliant urban planning from a useless council!
Consideration needs to be given to how pedestrians will cross King Street safely, will it be a tunnel or overhead bridge as I would perceive that a crossing would not be a safe option.
Consideration should be given to providing usable space for tourists and locals other than simply a staircase. For example what will people do once at the top, eg should smart binoculars be installed at a lookout and perhaps some consideration to how colour can be included so it's visually interesting
Considering the Diocese of Newcastle's role in child sexual abuse, highlighted within the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, this investment is disrespectful to survivors of child sexual abuse and a waste of money for people who do not support religious institutions. I would rather see these funds invested in additional protected cycleways and expansion of recreational facilities for children and families living in the area.
Costs...it should be paid for by the church..
Could it have pushbike access and maybe electric scooters to hire like in Canberra?
Crossing king St and access to cathedral park
Crossing of King Street.. Please s great walkway over the street . Ensure it is wide enough to give a feeling of space
decidious trees & quality plants & landscaping.
Definitely build a bridge over King Street to ensure access between the proposed stairway and Cathedral Park. Do it once, do it right.
Disability access is the obvious issue. Different accessible paths linking to platforms would assist. Hopefully traffic won't be anywhere near the pedestrian zones.
Disabled & pram access to be addressed Plenty of cafes and places to sit, with shade and trees

Disabled access, replacement of parking spaces
Disrupted access during a potentially long construction phase. This could impact the little shops and cafes in the mall, which have already suffered in the last years.
Do not prioritise parking but instead enhance walking and bicycles
Don't cave into the car lobby. This is a never to be repeated opportunity. What's a few car spaces in comparison
Don't be mediocre as it is a once in a generation opportunity.
Don't build structures that hinder the view. Lots of vegetation on either side
Don't proceed with it. Allocate the money to a better place-making idea.
Engagement with Awabakal and Worimi peoples for their input
Ensure and encourage a lifestyle that supports the financial support needed to enhance further ongoing improved conditions. Also the layover/bridge be a significant design (with night time lights) statement over KING St to blend with easy access to Cathedral park grounds. In addition there must be some Car Parking provided-hidden out of sight.
Ensure continuity with existing heritage buildings
Ensure disabled access, restoration of city parking options, Disruption to the few remaining businesses trying to survive in Hunter St/ Malln area
ensure gardens seating and water is part of the plan include stage 4 to stepped concept low raise
ensure that parking not lost
Ensure that there is adequate and accessible public space, including green space.
Ensure the steps are wide and easy to climb with of course wheelchair access.
ensuring hard surf Cessnas ensuring hard surfaces are minimised and plants/gardens are maximised
Ensuring heritage aspects are protected and making sure that the developer does provide a minimum 380 carparks
Escalators as no one will want to walk up that many stairs.
First Nations connections not to Catholic religion
Focus on a quality outcome throughout, design and execution. Including fixing the harbour frontage through replacing the Queens Wharf buildings which are dated and suboptimal.
Forget the Cathedral spend money on improving and expanding the white elephant inner city rail.
Further pedestrianisation of the cbd. Never mind the parking spaces, get more people there on foot and on bicycle.
Get rid of that ugly car park!!
Good signposting. Consider ways to make the path accessible to as many people as possible. Consider people with mobility issues.
Have connecting ramps as the steps to allow for disabled access, like Lombard St, San Francisco
Have really decent comfortable steps, handrail and landscaping
Historical concept essential. Use heritage buildings and building materials to maintain this. Concerned the long staircase may in fact detract from the cathedral which is quite squat as the taller steeple on the original design never eventuated. The cathedral grounds will need to be fully upgraded to make it something worth walking/ looking up to. The old heritage walls and gates need to be fully restored. Whole plaza area must be well lit no dark areas putting people off after dark.
How many more businesses are Labor, the Liberals and faux independents prepared to drive out of the CBD?
How much of a financial windfall is being given to Iris Capital by this idea. Seems ripe for corruption. What anti-corruption oversight/auditing will take place to ensure that the city is not giving more to Iris Capital than it gains in this. Oversight would need to be independent of the local council.
How to increase activity in Hunter St Mall as part of this concept
How will the pedestrians access the cathedral from King Street, which is becoming a busy street. Otherwise no real major concerns.
I accept there's a lot of people 'whinging' about the car park, but in all honesty, how much do people use it? I do agree there isn't much parking however it can be moved not far, providing the view isn't compromised. some just don't like change or progress. This is my adoptive city, had I been here back in the 80s, no thanks, but now I love the 'new vibe'

I am a bit concerned about the height of the planned development but it would be better than the existing concept plan.
I am a resident and it seems residents are not directly engaged in such matters. Stumbling across news stories or websites should not be how residents are engaged. Noise and managing this noise is my first concern, rubbish and its removal is the second concern. The fact that business owners and property developers are engaged though the local are conveniently not included.
I am not sure what provision is being made for people who re unable to climb stairs. Darwin has an excellent scheme for moving disabled from waterfront to Government House that could possibly work well in Newcastle
I do not understand where this 20m wide staircase could possibly go. Will it also have ramps to accompany our friends in wheel chairs? And at what angle. Why pour even more concrete onto this beautiful green area?
I don't see why anyone would climb the Newcastle proposed steps - what is up there. I currently cycle this area - Church and Tyrell Streets each morning and there is nothing for people to want to walk up there. It could be a good view. Maybe visitors once. Having said that there needs to be a continual activity to attract people to walk them - coffee shop with a view, parkland with a view with a coffee caravan. Historical item. etc
I don't think it's a good option for our city. I would much rather see work go into further revitalisation and further developments to smart and effective public transport systems.
I don't think The Stairway to Heaven name will be universally popular.
I don't want Iris Capital to be given the greenlight to build large towers surrounding it. Can't council fund this without doing deals with developers? I'm happy to have a rate increase to fund this.
I don't want to see any heritage like buildings destroyed or updated. If anything, if we could bring in some historical like vectors and design, that would be good
I have concerns about NCC selling land without a competitive tender. Strict compliance with ICAC guidelines on Direct Negotiations Managing Risk should be followed.
I have concerns about the accessibility for those with a pram or in a wheelchair or otherwise physically impaired.
I hope EE Stages 3 & 4 won't stick out like a sore thumb amongst all the heritage buildings and the architecture of the Cathedral. If they were to look anything like the EJE sketch it would be like installing cheap IKEA shelving in the Shakespeare room at the state library. Newcastle has too many ugly, boxy high rises & apartments going up. Developers should be required to reflect the heritage of the area in, not simply construct whatever is the most profitable, convenient trend of the hour.
I like the stairway a lot and can't wait to walk up it. But I do hope that Council and Iris can make the final concept accessible and equally enjoyable for less mobile people. This is part of the success of the ANZAC Walk.
I live in the Menkens Apartment Block at 161 Scott Street Newcastle and I am in favour of the idea to connect the Cathedral to the waterfront. The Menkens Apartment block has a significant footprint in Market Street and Keightly Street and hence residents are particularly affected by the Cathedral concept. I reach out to Newcastle Council to involve Menken residents in the planning process. thanks
I predict people will be upset about a loss of parking spaces but it is the only way forward. We have the light rail now, so just provide parking near the interchange.
I think it will be really awesome!
I would like an escalator from the top to the bottom and vice versa, as there are many old people who would be unable to climb all the stairs. I suggest a \$2 cost either way which could be coin operated or on the Opal cards.
I would like Newcastle City Council + Iris + Cathedral to sit down and nut this out to make it happen — if a land swap with Iris is required as compensation so be it but make this long term vision happen — there is no second chance once something is built on this land .
I would like to see a fountain, similar to Spanish stairs in Italy. Parking would be vital so we can actually view it.
I would like to see an artist's impression drawing of how the staircase would sit in the present environment. Where would the 380 car spaces be located and how would the building fit into the landscape?
I would like to see it come to fruition.
I would like to see the design to be unique to Newcastle and not a copy of other landmarks around the world. I would hate for it to be just concrete or paved steps.

I would like to see the steps through Cathedral park completed beyond the Hannell Memorial. I believe there is somewhat of a stalemate between NCC and the Cathedral around land ownership/swaps. If this could be resolved, the access through Cathedral park would be easier and safer for everyone, and it would open up opportunities for the Cathedral to better utilise land currently unoccupied owing to restrictions of access.
I would not like to see too high developments on either side of the proposed stairway to the cathedral and also more greening space
I would prefer to see the Newcastle Mall turned into an inspiring, easy to access family friendly entertainment, shopping and eating precinct.
I would prefer to see concept like Harbour to places I regularly go. For instance the Harbour to Darby St, the Harbour to Art Gallery, Currently there is many fences as barrier to directly walk from Harbour to Darby St.
I'd encourage great lighting.
I'm concerned that for Newcastle Council to keep 380 car parks and Iris Capital to keep the number of units it would like, that the development will exceed the approved maximum building heights
I'd just want to make sure that the project truly is of high, world-class quality rather than something that's attempted on the cheap (which would cause it to be an embarrassment to the City).
If anything we should be seeking to increase parking. I don't shop at businesses in the city because parking is too limited and expensive.
If done right it can be a space for locals and tourist to gather, perhaps a special glass viewing elevator for those who are not able to climb stairs
I'm sure there are many but all can be solved or mitigated and the overall benefits of this would greatly outweigh any difficulties.
Impact on surrounding residences with too many tourists on their doorstep. Not capitalizing on an opportunity to incorporate a cable car system that I think would really put Newcastle on the world stage (could even go further up to the Obelisk)
improved connectivity for pedestrians - being able to walk from the harbour up to the cathedral and take in the views would be great
In leading to the cathedral it looks as though the city revolves around religion. The city should be inclusive of all people, all religions- this design suggests the opposite
Incorporating the existing car spaces into the new proposal is a great idea but the project must be fast tracked otherwise the unused existing car park and unused blocks fronting Hunter street will be left floundering, stalling the entire revitalized city Centre project. Increased commercial activation is needed in the project
Increase public activity day and night restaurants, cinema, etc...
Increased number of cafes and restaurants to improve the community aspect of the space
It can't come soon enough
It is of vital importance that no heritage buildings are impacted by the proposal. The design of stairs , bridge , gardens and square should be timeless/traditional and not a design that will quickly go out of fashion or is so novel/quirky that it requires intensive ongoing maintenance (which if it doesn't receive, will look neglected/tatty).
It is vital that the corridor does not narrow the roads adjacent to the project - there is already great shortage of street parking. All ability access is also mandatory to provide and this may impose costs on the project better addressed now rather than further down the line.
It looks like the King Street carpark will need to be demolished to make way for this and parking has already been significantly reduced
It seems to me that if the project proceeds we should think about having some other attraction at the top, as well as just the Cathedral
It would be great to include wayfaring signage as part of the design as well as some heritage interpretation
It would be great to keep the design of the staircase in line with its surrounds
It would be nice to see a homage to the significant previous historical buildings that existed where the entrance to market square is now - the Strand theatre building and the Borough markets building that stood in that location were beautiful and it would be great to see a partial replica or reinterpretation built (as in the original stairway to heaven concept plan).

Jill McGrath Arnaout building the Stairway to Heaven in Newcastle. How about including a funicular to one side of the stairs to enable all abilities? And City of Newcastle Council how about replacing the empty Queens Wharf building with a stunning Maritime Museum for our 7000 plus maritime artifacts? What a view from Cathedral to Maritime Museum at wharf terminal and vice versa. Newcastle
Just make sure the design is beautiful, modern and elegant.
Keep religion out of Newcastle council business. Yes, it's a landmark, but we shouldn't be wasting resources for religious purposes
Keep the candlenut trees (species of local significance) planted in the pocket park that we created as a Council Placemaking strategy on this site in 2016
Keeping the space public land, not selling any of it off to investors.
Knocking down all the other buildings
Lack of car spaces in the city. Free parking for shoppers at retail stores in the city to encourage the retail industry in the city and make it comparable to Westfield's Kotara and Charlestown square.
Lack of car spaces in the city. Free parking for shoppers at retail stores in the city to encourage the retail industry in the city and make it comparable to Westfield's Kotara and Charlestown square.
Lack of free car parking is a huge problem, as can be seen by the total lack of people in the shopping and wharf precincts. It's simply not practical to consolidate the parking in one area, think about families and elderly people. The city is dead.
Landscape design for the view corridor should envisage the existing Market Place and the ground level of new stairway forecourt as a single space, incl the Hunter St roadway
Landscaping of the surrounds to enhance the visual effects. Provision of disabled access.
Leave it on the backburner
Let's ensure it is a beautiful solution, not just an improvement in practicalities. Elegance and beauty has all too often been foregone in Newcastle for minimalist outcomes because they were easier. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue the work done around Honeysuckle and the Foreshore, and truly deliver on what is an inspired concept.
Let's get it done
Love it all.
Maintain heritage as much as possible (e.g. facades)
Maintaining current northern views of the harbour for existing residents along Scott Street.
Make sure the steps are accessible for disabled people. Also incorporate viewing platforms and music stages / art spaces and cafe / restaurant spaces. Incorporate Aboriginal themes (maybe a big rainbow serpent going up the stairs) and native plant / habitat landscaping.
Make the "stairway to heaven" pedestrian friendly.
Make the pathway generous and accessible. It should be grand!
Making it cheap and nasty
Making sure that retention of all parking provided by the old council car park in some form in the area. The concept won't be able to be properly enjoyed without ample parking.
Maybe a lift included
More cement with the promise of a few shops and calling it the catchy STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN is a disgrace. The public will be lucky to get any car parking spaces at all. I would like the car park demolished and a park with trees on the spot. This would provide fresh clean air to an already over-developed city.
more parking for cars. If it is built, it is MAINTAINED.
More trees planted or garden beds along the street (like Lombard St in San Francisco, USA)
My concern is disabled access and access for those with mobility issues. Parking is also an issue that needs to be addressed as 380 car spaces is not enough to encourage people into the city
N/A - think it's a cool idea; hope it's funky.
NA
na

Newcastle's redevelopment deserves a beautiful and distinctive built environment. Carefully planned apartment buildings, a streetscape sympathetic to our art deco heritage, and an emphasis on attractive sight lines - Nobbys, Hunter St, and the cathedral. We must avoid building that leave a 'cookie cutter' impression, stairs that appear too narrow, towers that are out of perspective, and gardens / trees that don't complement the location.
Night time/ after sunset- safe usage and effective- economical solar light displays that are monitored and patrolled and beautiful.
Nighttime security, lighting, CCTV. Perhaps include some informative history installations. Also have good drainage
Nil
nix
No issues
No issues. Just don't tell Tim Crakanthorp because he will find some reason to oppose it.
No issues. Just make sure it comes to fruition.
nobody wants to walk to the church. the church isn't a destination
None
None
None
None
None at this stage
None that I can think of right now
None.
Nothing that stands out- just making sure there is adequate parking for people who are visiting. And enough retail to make it a destination (and retail that is open past 2pm on a weekend)
Older people will not be able to walk the stairs . It will be too steep. Where will the car spaces be you are going to pull the car park down What will you do with the graves in the back of the cathedral.
One can only see positives in this proposal, making our beautiful city even better!
One of the great problems older people find is walking up to the cathedral from the foreshore. It is a difficult climb and maybe some type of inclinorator should be considered. There is no way elderly people can walk up there easily
Parking and access for business that is not at the will of developers
Parking and accessibility
Parking in the CBD is shocking. The more car parks that you can work in the better.
Parking in the city- could be minimised with public transport options.
Parking is a big one for our city there needs to be plans for new car parks
Parking is the biggest issue why I don't come into the city (I stay in my lovely Lake Macquarie). But this project would make it worth it. I think there is a car park at the interchange where I could park and take the light rail (but I'm not sure if this is true).
Parking, parking, parking. At this point in time I hardly go into the city because there are no parking or reasonable public transport options for me
Parking, pedestrian, noise, greenery
Parking. Unfortunately this is a major issue in the city. How people are able to get to this corridor remain a problem. There is no light rail to the cathedral, nor much parking when you get there.
People not cars
Physical narrative/educational journey from walking experience established & grand vista finale. more than just stairs. technology to connect sight lines to other landmarks. Plenty of seating all the way & top. Night lights & projections extraordinary, immersive & changing. Consider view locations looking back from far away, & looking out. Harbour, Nobby's, Fort Scratchley & 'Beacons of our Shared Future'. Native flora endemic & sympathetic, unintrusive & belonging.
Plant more trees in cbd.
Preferably an over pass over King st and putting the new car park out of sight
Probably, when construction (project) commence, will be the traffic, and lots of detours!

Promotion of open green space in the corridor. Consideration of any night time security concerns for public safety.
Providing a special destination that draws people into the area is absolute key. Providing access is the next important piece, people can use the car parks but more importantly should come to this place via a safe and expanded network of active transport routes, expanded rail network and services, expanded ferry services. All of those will end up at the bottom of Market St/QWF. The views must be inviting from this point to attract people to stay and explore.
Quality construction, thoughtful spaces surrounding it that can be activated by community.
Re beautify our city rather than just adding concrete designs that hold no real beauty. Bring trees back to our city
Reassurance that the parking spaces lost from the old car-park will be replaced or increased in number somewhere in the accepted plan.
Reconstruct the towers as the access to the stairs
Red Tape, the squeaky wheel gets the oil, the town needs something like this would be an awesome project that our industry would get on board.
Religious organisations getting the best real estate whilst not paying taxes.
Remove the faux heritage 'Strand Market' towers. Activate the square at ground level with cafes, a memorable meeting place. The Hunter St roadway makes a mockery of the idea to link the harbour to Hill. Return to a Mall, or enforce 10km speed limit, introduce pedestrian crossing. Spanish steps are 125 in number, and not steep. Unless the steps lead across to Cathedral Park or southside of King St, they are 'stairs to now where'. How inclusive are they? "
Replace both building on the harbourfront or maybe just knock them down there ugly and old fashion for this beautiful city
Replace the car parks as planned Don't put too much activation on the stairway - leave it for connectivity, for lingering and contemplation and as a space for meeting people. Activate piazzas at the ends of the staircase.
Replacement of the car parking provisions that will be lost with the demolition of the current car park. Consolidated car parking does not clearly mean replacement of lost parking capacity.
Reposition the car park - but make it 24/7
Re-surface the mall.
Retain & Celebrate our history.
Shadowing for the buildings
Shutting light from the areas underneath, closing up the area where the walk starts. The lack of use of the walkway. Graffiti and damage to the walk at night.
Sooner the better
Spaces to have a picnic, store bikes and meet people
Stairs continue directly to park, over the road; or include a pedestrian crossing on King St
Stairway to heaven and ramp to hell probably needs ambulance stations along the way. Ideally a cable car system could convey true believers and skateboarders up and down the hill.
That it is NOT promoted with as a place for 'more coffee shops' and more 'markets'. That has been done to death. If markets do seem the best way to go then they need to be closed down elsewhere. For example, the 'unsuccessful' market scene at the old railway station. How about building a magnificent play park at the old railway station for YOUNG children (not just a few swings and slide) that would be attractive to families.
That part of it would be on land owned by another party could be problematic. I would like to see as well it accessible to people with a disability or prams if possible It would be great if along the walk it told a story of newcastle - in the steps or on rails /information boards. It would be great if inbuilt digital security could be part of the walk to increase safety or other "smart" options like wifi to listen to a newcastle podcast
The backside (facing the cathedral) of the Hotel on the waterfront needs a lot of work. You would look down the stairs onto what looks like an industrial block.
The biggest problem our city has at the moment is - a lack of access. This was supposed to solved by increased public transport. This hasn't happened. This project requires the removal of a vital car park. Blind Freddy can see that at present, the city needs more parking. . Poor old Hunter Street is looking very third world at the moment because of the lack of parking. Increase parking or improve public transport before you plan any more fancy developments

The concept doesn't address the proposed upgrades to cathedral park, including the burial memorial proposed for the recess in the Stone Wall on King Street which would have significant bearing on the user experience. One would need to consider the easiest way to cross king street once you got to the top of the stairs.
The concept seems good so far
The concept will leave out anyone with mobility challenges - people with disabilities, elderly, people with prams. Why not use the land for an indigenous purpose instead of building inaccessible stairs to an institution which has caused so much pain to so many
The cost for council ratepayers. Will it conform to current standards for accessibility for old and disable people Will there be explanatory signage and if so will it make mention of the first nation people who first settled here tens of thousands of years ago.
The crossing over king street would be on the lower lip of the crest, so traffic management will need to be implemented. Furthermore the stone work on the King Street retaining wall is unique and any materials used should complement this and the surrounding heritage buildings (ie not concrete)
The height increases on iris developments will block views by others, how will they be compensated? Who will manage (and retain the profits) from the proposed parking arrangement? What political (or financial) gain do Councillor's get out of the deal? When is the overinvestment in Ward 1 going to be matched in other Wards? Why can't the community have a vote on idiotic ideas like this one before Council is allowed to waste our rate money?
The height of the proposed apartments. Height SHOULD NOT exceed the existing car park height.
The lost of parking through the demolition of the car park is a positive outcome as it will encourage use of public transport and active modes of transport for visitors, workers and residents in the Newcastle CBD. However there will be significant opposition from segments of the community seeking the car parking to be provided elsewhere in the CBD. Council needs to broadcast a clear message that public car parking will not be replaced.
The mall
The market street access off Hunter street is the only vehicle pull off and short term parking along Scott Street for 5 blocks. Visitors to the Post Office and the Menken's apartments require adequate space to park and load and unload, practical access to cars to pick up and drop off people. The Market street pull off is the only safe refugee for lots of deliveries, ambulance and fire trucks, this needs further consideration and alternative plans
The Menkens Apartments at 161 Scott Street which is situated on the corner of Scott and Keightley Streets. Keightley Street is currently used for motor cycles and some garbage. There are also cars parked. The Menkens Apartments does not have a loading zone where removalists and tradespeople can park. The back wall of the Menkens Apartments should be designated a 'loading zone' for removalists and tradespeople.
The minimal parking that is currently in Market st is vital. The post office and local cafes need this close parking. We live in the Menkens Apartments and this parking area is our only access for deliveries, workman and other services as all street front parking was removed with the light rail.
The name stairway to heaven seems a little over the top. I would prefer a more contemporary name that takes out religion as an issue of conflict.
The old car park needs changing to reduce its visual impact and physical barrier. However the lift in the carpark helps to reduce the elevation impact between Hunter St and King St. The elevation between the Cathedral and waterfront is and issue and some means of making it easier for pedestrians would be desirable
The only issue is the stairs needs to be wide enough so it makes a statement, if they are too narrow it will loose it's impact.
The proposed plan only reinstates 380 of the original 489 spaces which were provided by the Mall Car Park. This is a further reduction of car spaces in the East End. It is also not stated that the 380 car parks will be in addition to the car parks required for the new residents incorporated in the plan. Also, there is no mention of accessibility for the elderly or disabled. A Funicular railway or equivalent should be included to improve accessibility and provide an additional tourist drawcard.
The proposed staircase would need to have both appropriately and strategically placed rest 'places' e.g. seating as well as possibly a zig zag pathway for those walkers not wanting to use stairs.

The provision of convenient parking should not be overlooked. While this project is aimed at attracting the community to the area, inner city residents need to be able to move around the area on a daily basis (mail, newspapers, banking, coffee etc.). The steepness of the site needs to be carefully managed for elderly residents as well as visitors.
The provision of suitable steps and handrails that will facilitate the climb to the Cathedral for all including the older generation.
The quality must be exceptional. Referencing Newcastle heritage and hope for the future. Contemporary high rise is built for a 30-40 year life cycle.. this needs to be a piece of art that will be treasured for centuries plus rectification of damage done to cathedral park and surrounding area by unsympathetic development.
The removal of the carpark, and opening of that amazing vista. What lines the sides of this walkway, ie restaurants or shops will be key to drawing people to walk up it as going to church won't be enough
The two building next to the harbour used to be 6° and brewery taking down there not contributing to the area at all
The vision pack is short on details regarding how many parking spaces were lost with the closure of the parking station versus how many would be created in the new proposal.
There must be a public elevator from mall level to a high point on king st to enable access. As used in many cities such as Barangaroo headland park in sydney, next to the Princess Bridge in Melbourne (near federation square giving access to river from street) and also the lift at end of king st in newcastle giving access between st and beach.
This is a monumental waste of money and the project should not commence. If anything, a replacement car park to make up for the spaces lost should be the first priority
This needs to be stopped as it is a waster of money. According to statistics, there are less people in Australia interested and connected by religion. This money should be spent on fixing the road system.
To ensure convenient accessibility for parents with prams, for people with a Disability, aged people and any person with limited mobility to thoroughly enjoy this wonderful opportunity to view the beautiful Newcastle City and surrounds. Is there a proposal considering a lift, cable car or funicular? To meet the Participation and Inclusion sec, access to premises standards under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
To have the Cathedral finally completed, build the spire as originally designed. Make her a true monument to be seen from afar as she deserves please.
Traveling into the east end by car is already crap. As a city we'd need to think about traffic flow along King St or if not King St where else we could divert the traffic.
Urban heat island effect and water run-off (incorporate porous paving?)
Vision and aesthetics. There are similar steps in places like Rio do Janeiro (Escadaria Selaron) and Rome (Spanish Steps), which could be used for inspiration to make a great attraction
We live in town so don't have to worry about parking but our friends who don't always complain about lack of parking so it's probably important to make sure parking is available.
What the concept appears not address is disability access. Aged people and people with a disability could climb (or probably descend) the stairs). Lift or escalator? I was a member of CON's disability access committee. Will I receive a response to my concerns?
Wheelchair, walker frame, pushchair access. Lighting and pause places (to rest). Greening.
Who besides the council and the church actually wants this? 15 years old idea and not acted on, why? Cause it's lame. What view can we see from the platform anyway, better views already exist.
Why are we make a church at the centre of our city when over 70% of Australians are non religious? Because Council always panders to minorities
Why is once again a developer and car spaces holding back Newcastle Stand up to the developer and recognise the city is more than just a car park Make the stairs as wide and pleasant as possible
Widen gun-barrel corridor as it rises -include landscaped landings/pocket parks - like Candlenut Park. Stairs are too long, direct and steep. Angled deviations to landings are needed (see stairs off Morgan St).
Will a person still have to cross King Street to get access to the Cathedral? Or will you build a bridge of stairs across the road? Please retain Candlenut corner
Will it have disability access?
Would like to see consideration given to provision of reasonable parking and transport access to the site as well as consideration being given to how the landmark can be made accessible to all to enjoy.

Would need a footbridge over King Street to the park. I'd prefer to keep parking spaces to a minimum and encourage people to use PT, especially light rail. I'd also like to see the cars out of the Mall area; it's ugly and cluttered — anything but light and airy. It all needs to be opened up, decluttered and kept simple. Less is more. The Stairway helps do that.