

Social Strategy

Public Exhibition Summary Engagement Report



"It's what's inside... that's Newcastle"
Artists: Tunz1 and Olas One

In 2021, City of Newcastle (CN) heard from over 2000 people who told us about their ideas and opinions on social justice and inclusion issues such as community participation, satisfaction with wellbeing, access to services, safety and inclusion in the Newcastle area. These ideas and feedback were used to develop the draft Social Strategy (SS).

Newcastle has changed a lot over the years. Today it is more diverse than ever, with people of all ages, background and beliefs.

Engagement activities

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

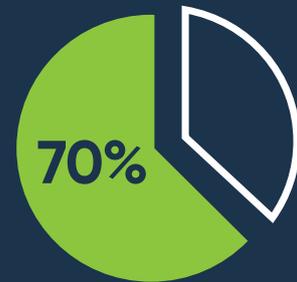


30 submissions in total through the online form and email.

Key findings

The online submissions revealed general support of the Strategy, with **70% of respondents agreeing with the four priorities** and offering suggestions for improvement rather than disagreeing with the strategy overall.

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



Areas that are liked themes/topics included:



Emphasis on strong communities, that are resilient, engaged, inclusive, diverse, and connected.



Inclusion of housing affordability and access.



Priority on health and safety for all communities.

Areas that could be improved themes/topics included:



Community engagement, including early and ongoing consultation to improve community-led decision making.



Mention of traffic and transport – connect ability, accessibility, and parking.



Local government – responsibilities and remit, policies, and implementation.



Other suggestions included community education, inclusive infrastructure/event spaces, housing affordability/development, support for new parents, sustainability and support for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander community members.





300 people attended
15 stakeholder, community events and workshops



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

Collectively, **approximately 300 community members and stakeholders attended these events and stakeholder workshops**. The documented conversations and feedback from these workshops were also analysed and discussed. Across the feedback that emerged from the workshops, five key themes were identified:



Tailored support for specific groups – people of diverse sexualities and genders, new parents, people with disability, older people, Culturally and Linguistical Diverse (CALD) communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and domestic and family violence survivors.

Collaboration and partnership with relevant sector leaders and organisations on a local, state and national level.

Community engagement, including regular and ongoing consultation.

Local government, roles, responsibilities, remit, and advocacy.

Next steps

Following public exhibition some changes have been made to the draft SS reflecting community comment and the final SS will be presented to Council for adoption.

