

Wickham Public Domain Plan



City of
Newcastle

In February 2023, City of Newcastle (CN) invited the community to have their say on the Wickham Public Domain Plan which provides a framework for the delivery of high-quality streetscapes and public spaces in Wickham.

Key features of the Plan include:

Upgrading Union Street to be an attractive pathway to the heart of the precinct

Improved footpath conditions

Creation of new community spaces with active transport links

New laneways and connecting roads

New tree plantings and landscaping throughout the precinct



Engagement activities

CN sought feedback on the draft concepts for the Public Domain Plan (PDP) from 22 February to 22 March 2023.

The community were able to provide feedback by:

- completing the online survey
- providing a written submission via the online form
- calling or emailing us
- attending a drop-in session and speaking to us in person.

Communication & promotion



Have Your Say
webpage

1,153 visits



Social media

7,471 people
reached



Flyers and on-
site signage

1,200 flyers and
6 corflutes



e-newsletter

nearly 2,500
reached



Media release



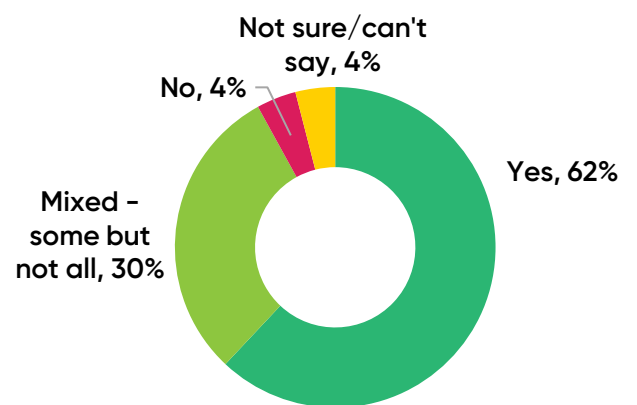
What we heard

73 people responded to the survey.

The overarching design elements of the PDP, and changes to vehicle movement, the pedestrian network and cycleway network were generally well supported.

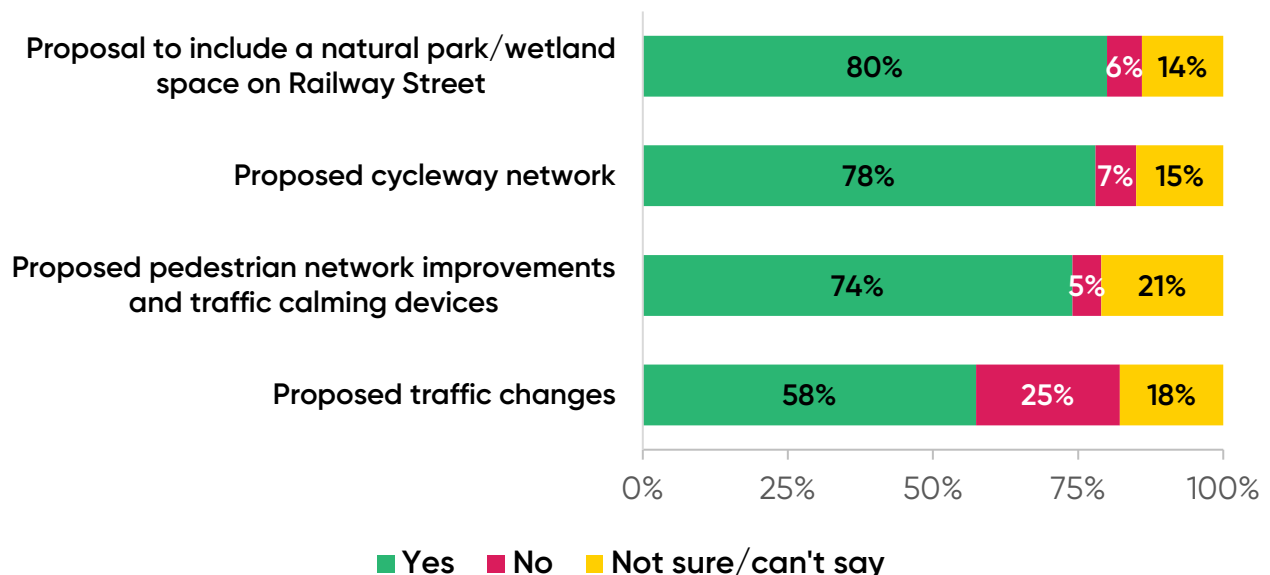
Positive feedback was received on the increase of trees and greenery as well as additional spaces for recreation.

Agreement with the overarching design elements



Sample size: N=73

Support for specific elements



Sample size: N=73

Overarching design elements

Respondents were also asked to provide reasons to explain their level of support towards the overarching design elements. The responses were categorised into recurring themes, with the main themes being shown below.

Main reasons for supporting the overarching design elements (N=25)	Mentions
General support/positive comments	12
Trees/plantings/greenery	10
Pedestrian and cyclist movement	8
Revitalisation of the area/growth area	6
Design/aesthetics/overall look and feel	5
Open spaces	5

Main reasons for having mixed support (N=20)	Mentions
Pedestrian and cyclist movement	12
Trees/plantings/greenery	10
Traffic movement	8
Open spaces	6
Concerns about parking/loss of parking	5
Open spaces	5

Only 5 people did not support the overarching design elements or were unsure, and provided a comment.



Vehicle movement framework

58% of respondents supported the proposed traffic changes or vehicle movement framework, with 25% saying they do not support the proposed changes.



The main themes identified are shown below.

Comments about proposed traffic changes (N=36)	Mentions
General support/positive comments	5
No need for traffic lights at roundabout	5
Furlong Lane works well as a two-way street	4
Prefer to leave Bishopsgate Street as is	3
Concerns about Furlong Lane exiting onto Hannell Street	2

Pedestrian network improvements & traffic calming

74% of respondents supported the proposed pedestrian network improvements and traffic calming devices, with only 5% not supporting the proposed changes.



The main themes identified are shown below.

Comments about proposed pedestrian changes (N=31)	Mentions
General support/positive comments	8
Support traffic calming devices	6
Support accessibility improvements	3
Need to incorporate disability standards	2
Footpaths/pedestrian access down Bishopsgate Street needs improving	2

Proposed cycleway network

78% of respondents supported the proposed cycleway network, with only 7% not supporting the proposed changes.



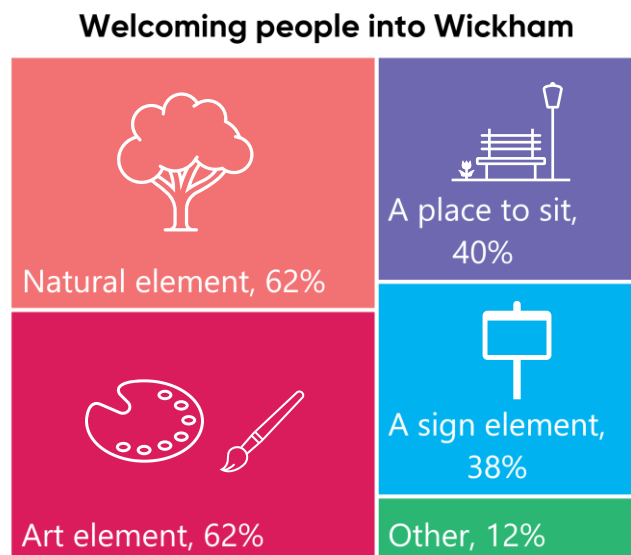
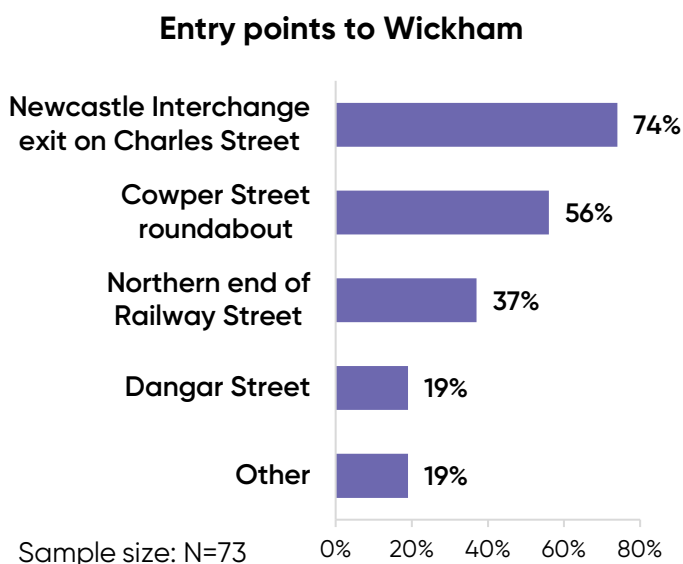
The main themes identified are shown below.

Comments about proposed pedestrian changes (N=30)	Mentions
General support/positive comments	10
Need a safer connection at Hannell Street to connect to main cycleway	3
More consideration for cyclists on smaller roads/connection to cycleways	2
Concerns about loss of parking	2
Include wide footpaths/shared paths where possible rather than on-road	2

Entry points to Wickham

74% of respondents suggested that the Newcastle Interchange exit on Charles Street was a key entry point to Wickham. Other common responses included the Cowper Street roundabout, the northern end of Railway Street and Dangar Street.

The two most popular options for welcoming people into Wickham were a natural element or an art element, followed by a place to sit and a sign.



'Other' suggestions with 2 or more mentions included Throsby Street, Bishopgate Street, Albert Street and Grey Street.

Ideas for urban activation areas

Sample size: N=40

Respondents were asked to provide input into appropriate amenities for each of the new urban activation areas identified in the PDP.

These open spaces/activation zones are:

- Corner of Throsby Street and Railway Street
- Corner of Lindus Street and Railway Street
- Union Street between Dickson and Throsby Streets
- Bullock Island Rail Corridor

Below is a comparison of the top themes across each activation area. For each column, the colours are used to show how each theme ranked within the top 5 categories.

Overall, there were similar mentions across all four zones such as trees/shade/greenery, park/grass area or picnic area and seating.

Suggestions for amenities	Cnr Throsby and Railway	Cnr Lindus and Railway	Union Street	Bullock Island Rail Corridor
Park/grass area/picnic area				
Trees/shade/greenery				
Seating				
Community garden				
Playspace				

Stories, landmarks, art and other elements to be celebrated

Respondents were asked an open-ended question about the stories, landmarks, art, objects or other elements that should be celebrated about Wickham. Responses were categorised to identify recurring themes. The most frequently mentioned themes were:



The history of Wickham



Aboriginal heritage, culture and sites of significance (incl. the Tree of Knowledge)



Heritage buildings



Local art



Natural landscape

Sample size: N=35

General comments/feedback

At the end of the survey, respondents were able to provide open-ended comments allowing them to reflect on what was most important to them. The most common themes are shown below.

General comments/feedback (N=38)	Mentions
Pedestrian safety/accessibility	10
General positive comments	9
Cyclist safety/accessibility	9
Recreation and open spaces	6
Trees/plantings/greenery	5
Parking	5
Cleanliness and beautification	4

Sample size: N=38

Other submissions

There were a total of 13 other written submissions (12 via the online form and 1 via email). The submissions were categorised to identify the most common themes which are shown below.



Pedestrian safety/ accessibility (6)



Vehicle movement (4)



Trees/plantings (4)



Lighting (4)



Parking (4)

*Numbers in brackets represent the number of mentions

Drop-in sessions

Two drop-in sessions were held during the public exhibition to inform community members about the PDP, provide an opportunity to speak to the project team and encourage feedback to be provided via the Have Your Say webpage.

The drop-in sessions were held as follows:

- **Thursday 2 March** from 11am to 1pm – Marketown Shopping Centre, Newcastle West
- **Saturday 18 March** from 11am to 1pm – Tree of Knowledge Park, Wickham



The main questions or feedback that we heard were in relation to:

Scope/key concepts of the PDP

Pedestrian network and traffic calming devices

Cycleway network

Traffic/vehicle movement

Parking

Trees/plantings/greenery

Open spaces/shared spaces

Heritage and character of Wickham

Development

Flooding

Lighting

Maintenance and cleanliness



The feedback that we heard at the drop-in sessions was generally in line with that of the online survey.

Next steps

The project team will review and consider all feedback received during community consultation. Feedback from the community will be used to help inform the final PDP. Once finalised, the PDP will be presented to the Newcastle City Traffic Committee before going back to Council for adoption.



Thanks for having your say!
We'll continue to update the community as the project progresses.

newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay

