



# Wickham Public Domain Plan

## Community Engagement Report

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## Summary of results

### Overview

The Wickham Public Domain Plan (PDP) provides a framework for the delivery of high-quality streetscapes and public spaces in Wickham. It provides guidance for developers, City of Newcastle (CN), and other bodies carrying out public domain works to deliver on the vision for Wickham as outlined in the 2021 Wickham Masterplan. This includes facilitating greater connectivity, improved public domain amenity, and a built form reflecting the envisaged function and character. The PDP also supports the broader renewal of Newcastle City Centre.

Key features of the PDP include:

- Upgrading Union Street to be an attractive pathway to the heart of the precinct
- Improved footpath conditions
- The creation of new community spaces with active transport links
- New laneways and connecting roads
- New tree plantings and landscaping throughout the precinct.

CN sought community feedback on the draft concepts for the PDP from 22 February to 22 March via an online survey and online feedback form to allow for written submissions. During the consultation period, there were also two drop-in sessions to inform the community about the PDP and encourage feedback via the Have Your Say page.

### What we heard

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 also received on the increase of trees and greenery as well as additional spaces for recreation.

Of the 73 survey respondents, 62% supported the overarching design elements, and 30% supported some but not all elements.

- 58% supported the proposed traffic changes
- 74% supported the proposed pedestrian network improvements and traffic calming devices
- 78% supported the proposed cycleway network
- 80% supported the proposal to include a natural park/wetland space on Railway Street

### Proposed traffic changes

The main themes of feedback in relation to proposed traffic changes were general support/positive comments, the suggestion that no traffic lights are needed at the roundabout, Furlong Lane works well as a two way street and Bishopgate Street should remain as is. A few respondents were concerned about Furlong Lane exiting onto Hannell Street.



## Proposed pedestrian changes

Comments about the proposed pedestrian changes included: general positive comments and support for traffic calming devices or accessibility improvements, the need to incorporate disability standards, and improve footpaths/pedestrian access down Bishopgate Street.

## Proposed cycleway changes

Feedback about the proposed cycleway changes included: general positive comments, the need for a safer connection at Hannell Street to connect to the main cycleway, more consideration for cyclists on smaller roads/connection to cycleways, concerns about the loss of parking and including wide footpaths/shared paths where possible rather than on-road cycle lanes.

## Entry points/welcome nodes

The Newcastle Interchange exit on Charles Street was the most commonly identified entry point or front door to Wickham, followed by the Cowper Street roundabout. Other entry points suggested include: the northern end of Railway Street, Dangar Street, Throsby Street, Bishopgate Street, Albert Street, Grey Street and Union Street.

The most common suggestions for welcoming people into Wickham were: a natural element or art element, a place to sit or a sign. Some other suggestions included: a green space/trees/wall garden, wayfinding, distinctive footpath treatments, lighting or a historical element.

## Urban activation areas

Overall there were similar mentions across all four zones such as: trees/shade/greenery, park/grass area/picnic area, and seating. Community gardens and playspaces were also popular suggestions. Recreational fitness was a top suggestion for the Bullock Island Rail Corridor.

Other mentions included: public toilets, public art, footpaths and wheelchair access, heritage, music stages/entertainment, cafes/bars and specific types of activities or play equipment.

## Stories, landmarks, art and other elements which should be celebrated

The most common suggestions for things that should be celebrated about Wickham were: the history of Wickham, Aboriginal heritage/culture and sites of significance (including the Tree of Knowledge), heritage buildings, local art and the natural landscape.

## Other key themes

- **Parking** - concerns about the loss of parking and the need for better management of parking near commercial/industrial sites.
- **Lighting** - comments that the PDP should include detail about lighting for creating a safe after-dark environment, types of light fixtures and warm lighting that is not too bright.
- **Connectivity** - some commented on better public transport connections such as the Newcastle Interchange requiring more connectivity with bus, train and ferry stops. It was also suggested that Throsby Street is an emerging area with activation potential and should have improved connectivity to other areas.
- **Trees and plantings** - many respondents supported an overall increase in trees, plantings and greenery to provide shade, reduce urban heat islands, increase biodiversity, improve the visual amenity and liveability. More plant verges and street gardens were also supported.
- **Recreation and open spaces** - there was strong support for more shared spaces to gather, socialise, sit and relax as well as improved access to Wickham Park. Suggestions included: trees and gardens in urban activation spaces, picnic facilities, BBQs and playgrounds/play areas, facilities for dog owners, and more/improved facilities at Tree of Knowledge Park and the Bullock Island Rail Corridor.
- **Scope/level of detail** - some respondents wanted to see more detail and defined guidelines for the overall look and feel, and the use of simpler language.
- **Design/aesthetics** - some wanted to see heritage conservation and architectural character included as an overarching design element, and more references to the industrial heritage of Wickham. Other suggestions included more public art and the use of more vibrant colours in new developments.
- **Flooding** - some suggested that there are further opportunities for innovative water management and consideration of stormwater drainage within the PDP.

## 1. Background

City of Newcastle has prepared the Draft Wickham Public Domain Plan (PDP) to provide a framework for the delivery of high-quality streetscapes and public spaces in Wickham. The PDP aims to create a welcoming and positive environment for residents and visitors whilst improving safety, accessibility and amenity. It celebrates the unique character of Wickham and supports the broader renewal of Newcastle City Centre. The PDP provides guidance for developers, CN and other bodies carrying out public domain works in Wickham, delivering on the vision and objectives established in the Wickham Masterplan 2021.

Key features of the PDP include:

- The upgrade of Union Street to be an attractive pathway to the heart of the precinct
- Improved footpath conditions
- Creation of new community spaces including a linear park along the Bullock Island Railway Corridor with active transport links
- New laneways and connecting roads
- New tree plantings and landscaping throughout the precinct.

## 2. Engagement objectives

In order to better understand community views on the streetscapes and public domain in Wickham, CN invited community feedback on the draft concepts for the PDP from 22 February to 22 March 2023.







More specifically, the engagement sought to:

- Seek feedback on the draft concepts for the PDP including the overarching design elements, and proposed changes to vehicle movement as well as pedestrian and cycleway networks
- Seek input from the community on proposed open spaces
- Identify stories, landmarks, art and other elements that should be celebrated.

### 3. Communication and promotion

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

Key communications activities are summarised on the following page, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in Appendix I.

Channel	Description	Reach
 <b>Have Your Say webpage</b>	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. The page provided information and raise awareness about the Wickham PDP, and to encourage people to comment on the draft concepts.	1,153 page visits
 <b>Flyers and onsite signage</b>	<p>Flyers were distributed to local residents and businesses.</p> <p>Onsite signage was also installed at key locations around Wickham.</p>	<p>1,200 flyers</p> <p>6 corflutes</p>
 <b>Social media</b>	The public exhibition was promoted via a post on CN's Facebook page on 23 February 2023. The purpose of the post was to raise awareness about the draft PDP and encourage people to have their say.	<p>7,471 people reached</p> <p>281 engagements</p>
 <b>Newsletters</b>	An e-newsletter was distributed to nearly 2,500 subscribers of the Newcastle Voice community panel.	# distributed to 2,477 people
 <b>Councillor [Memo / Briefing / Workshop]</b>	A briefing was held with Councillors on 21 February 2023, advising of the engagement and providing information on how community members could provide feedback and comment.	n/a
 <b>Media coverage</b>	A media release was issued on 23 February 2023, and was subsequently reported by Newcastle Weekly and 2HD.	n/a



## 4. Engagement activities

The community were invited to provide feedback on the draft PDP concepts from 22 February to 22 March 2023.

The community were able to provide comment on the draft PDP concepts in a number of ways:

### Online survey

An online survey was open via the Have Your Say page from 22 February to 22 March 2023.

The survey asked about:

- Agreement with the overarching design elements
- Support for proposed traffic changes, pedestrian, and cycleway network improvements
- Entry points to Wickham and how people should be welcomed into Wickham
- Types of amenities or usage that people would like to see included in the new urban activation spaces
- Support for a natural park or wetland space on Railway Street
- Stories, landmarks, art, objects or other elements about Wickham that should be celebrated
- General comments or feedback.

In total, 73 people provided feedback via the online feedback form. Findings from the survey are presented in [Section 5. Survey results](#).

### Online feedback form

An online feedback form was also provided on the Have Your Say page from 22 February to 22 March 2023. The form allowed community members to provide written submissions in regard to the draft PDP concepts, with the option to upload files. In total, 12 submissions were received. A summary of key themes is presented in [Section 6. Online feedback form](#).

### Other submissions

Community members were also able to provide feedback on the draft PDP concepts by email. In total, 1 submission was received via email. This submission has been combined with feedback received via the online form in [Section 6](#).

### Drop-in sessions

Two drop-in sessions were held during the engagement period to inform community members about the PDP, provide an opportunity to speak to the project team and encourage feedback via the Have Your Say page. 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

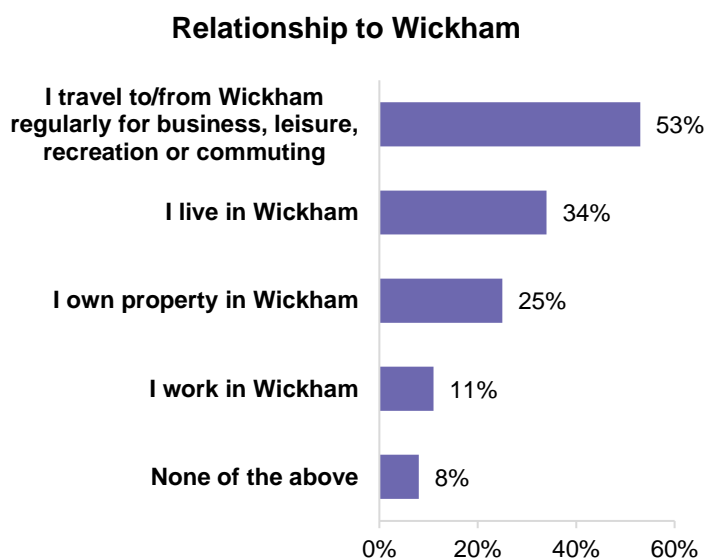
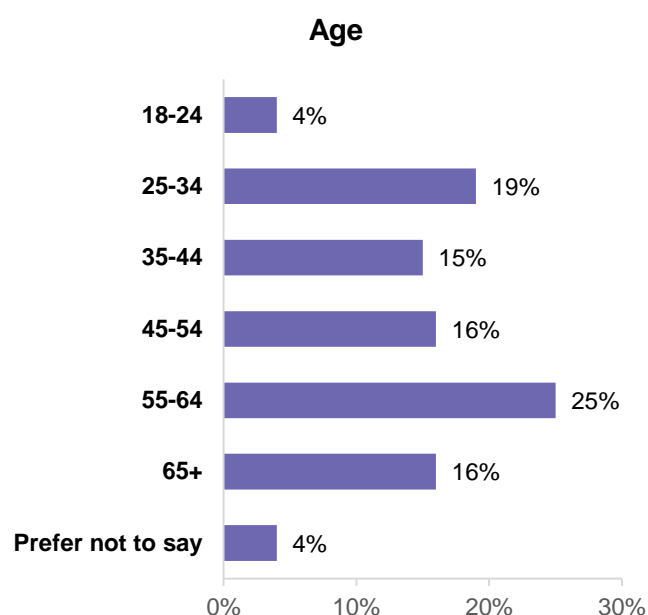
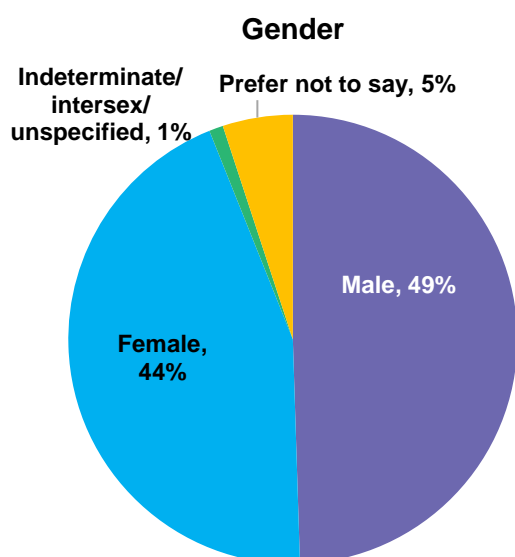
A summary of feedback is included in [Section 7](#).

## 5. Survey findings

### 5.1. Demographics

Overall, 73 survey responses were received. There was a mix of respondents who travel to Wickham for business, leisure, recreation or commuting, as well as people who live, own property or work in Wickham. The majority of respondents live in the Newcastle local government area.

Sample size (N=73)



Respondent location	Percent (N=73)
Wickham	37%
Islington	7%
Newcastle	5%
Mayfield	5%
Maryville	5%
Carrington	5%
Newcastle West	4%
Merewether	4%
Other Newcastle LGA (NET)	18%
Lake Macquarie LGA (NET)	7%
Sydney	1%

## 5.2. Agreement with the overarching design elements of the Public Domain Plan

Respondents were asked whether they agree with the overarching design elements of the PDP. Overall, the design elements received were well received with 62% of respondents saying they agreed with them. A further 30% of respondents said they agreed with at least some, but not all of the design elements. Only 4% said they did not agree with the overarching design elements.

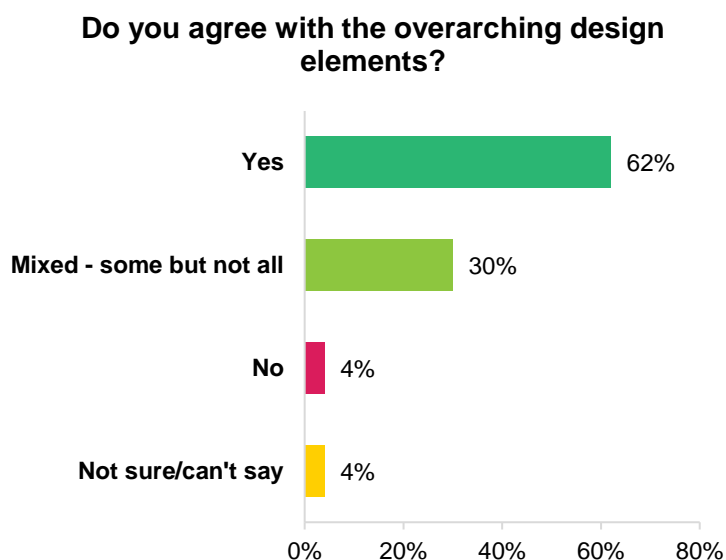


Figure 1. Agreement with overarching design elements (N=73)

## Comments about the overarching design elements

Respondents were also asked to provide reasons to explain their level of support towards the overarching design elements. These were then categorised to identify recurring themes.

The main reasons for **supporting** the design elements were:

- General support/positive comments
- Trees/plantings/greenery
- Pedestrian and cyclist movement
- Revitalisation of the area/growth area
- Design/aesthetics/overall look and feel
- Open spaces.

The main reasons for having **mixed support** were:

- Pedestrian and cyclist movement
- Trees/plantings/greenery
- Traffic movement
- Open spaces
- Concerns about parking/loss of parking.

Reasons for not supporting the design elements included a broad range of concerns such as: trees/plantings/greenery, pedestrian and cyclist movement, design/aesthetics/overall look and feel, lighting, footpath/pedestrian upgrades and accessibility and history/character/architecture.

*Table 1. Reasons for supporting the overarching design elements*

Reasons for supporting the overarching design elements (N=25)	Count
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
Traffic movement	4
Concerns about parking/loss of parking	3
Footpath/pedestrian upgrades and accessibility	3
Maintenance and cleanliness	1
Connectivity	1
Seating/street furniture	1
Other	1

Table 2. Reasons for having mixed support towards the overarching design elements

Reasons among those with mixed support (N=20)	Count
Pedestrian and cyclist movement	8
Trees/plantings/greenery	7
Traffic movement	7
Open spaces	5
Concerns about parking/loss of parking	5
General support/positive comments	4
Design/aesthetics/overall look and feel	4
Connectivity	4
Lighting	3
Revitalisation of the area/growth area	2
Footpath/pedestrian upgrades and accessibility	2
Maintenance and cleanliness	2
Seating/street furniture	2
Plan should be simplified for the community	1
Other	2

Table 3. Reasons for not supporting the overarching design elements

Reasons among those who said no or not sure/can't say (N=5)	Count
Trees/plantings/greenery	2
Pedestrian and cyclist movement	1
General support/positive comments	1
Design/aesthetics/overall look and feel	1
Lighting	1
Footpath/pedestrian upgrades and accessibility	1
History/character/architecture	1



### 5.3. Support towards the 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. Reasons for the level of support are explored below.

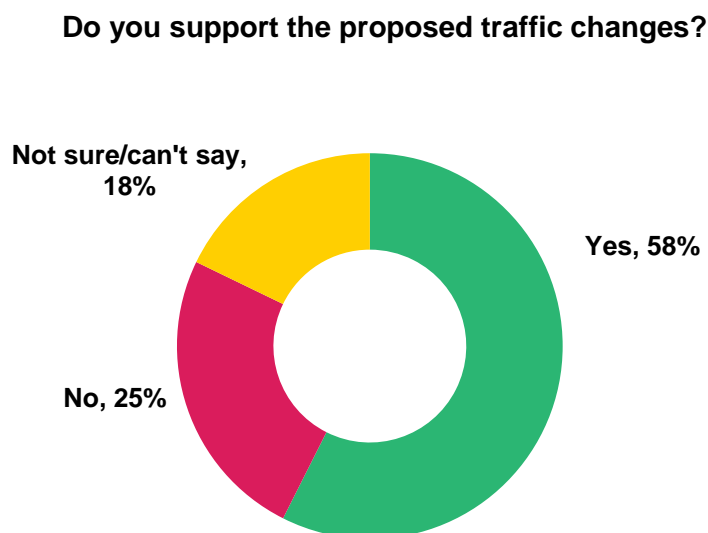


Figure 2. Support towards proposed traffic changes (N=73)

### Comments about the proposed traffic changes

Comments explaining the level of support towards proposed traffic changes were categorised to identify recurring themes.

The main themes identified were:

- General support/positive comments
- No need for traffic lights at roundabout
- Furlong Lane works well as a two-way street
- Prefer to leave Bishopgate Street as is
- Concerns about Furlong Lane exiting onto Hannell Street.

Table 4. Comments about the proposed traffic changes

Comments about the proposed traffic changes (N=36)	Count
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 Bishopgate Street as is	3
Concerns about Furlong Lane exiting onto Hannell Street	2
Parking	1
Support changes to Bishopgate Street	1
Support changes as long as signage is clear	1
Support proposed cycleway around Wickham Park	1
Concerns about link road to direct new traffic via Railway Street	1
One-way streets will be safer for pedestrians	1
Union Street should be for residents only not general traffic	1
Need more cycle infrastructure	1
Pedestrians need better ways to cross Hannell Street	1
Unsure about vehicle access on southern side of Wickham Park	1
Vehicle access to/from station via Hannell Street is unclear	1
Wickham Street should be one-way going north	1
Make Station Street one-way west until Union Street	1
Unsure about one-way road from Maitland Road to Holland Street	1
Don't support changes to Union Street	1
Concerns about access to property on Bishopgate Street from Union Street if one-way implemented	1
Support changes south-east of Throsby and Railway Streets	1
Croft Street and Railway Lane should not be extended	1
Concerns about making Union Street one-way from Furlong Lane to Church Street	1
Concerns about roundabout intersecting Cowper, Branch and Hannell Streets	1
Don't know/can't say	2

#### 5.4. Support towards the proposed pedestrian network improvements and traffic calming devices

Nearly three-quarters (74%) said they support the proposed pedestrian improvements and traffic calming devices. Only 5% did not support these changes.

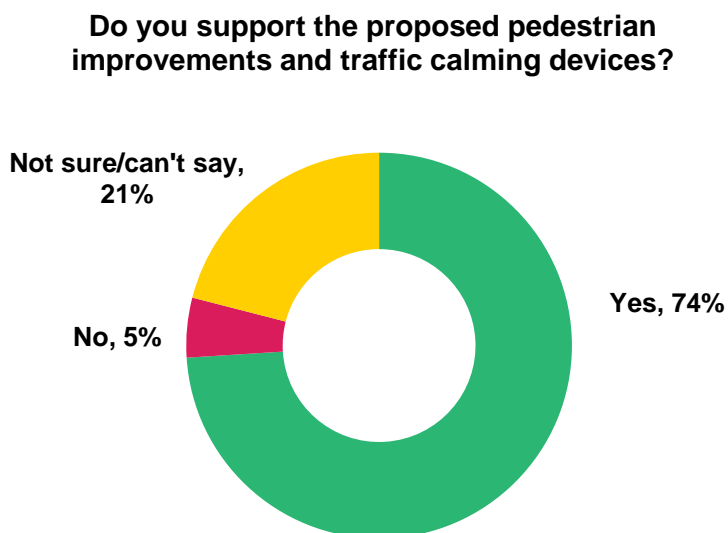


Figure 3. Support towards the proposed pedestrian network improvements and traffic calming devices (N=73)

## Comments about the proposed pedestrian changes

Comments explaining the level of support towards proposed pedestrian changes were categorised to identify recurring themes.

The main themes identified were:

- General support/positive comments
- Support for traffic calming devices
- Support for accessibility improvements
- The need to incorporate disability standards
- Footpaths/pedestrian access down Bishopgate Street needs improving.

Table 5. Comments about the proposed pedestrian changes

Comments about the proposed pedestrian changes (N=31)	Count
General support/positive comments	8
Support traffic calming devices	6
Support accessibility improvements	3
Need to incorporate disability standards	2
Footpaths/pedestrian access down Bishopgate Street needs improving	2
Slope/gradient of footpath setbacks	1
Traffic lights not needed	1
Corner Railway and Greenway Streets needs improving	1
Concerns about crossing Hannell Street	1
Paths need to be wider/less space taken up by verge planting	1
Don't support continuous footpath treatments/raised crossings	1
Suggest including another crossing between top of Wickham and Carrington	1
Wickham Park to Throsby Creek will become an important pedestrian and cycle path	1
Include kerb extensions at corners along Railway Street	1
Other	3

### 5.5. Support towards the proposed cycleway network

78% of respondents supported the proposed cycleway network, with only 7% saying that they don't support the proposed changes.

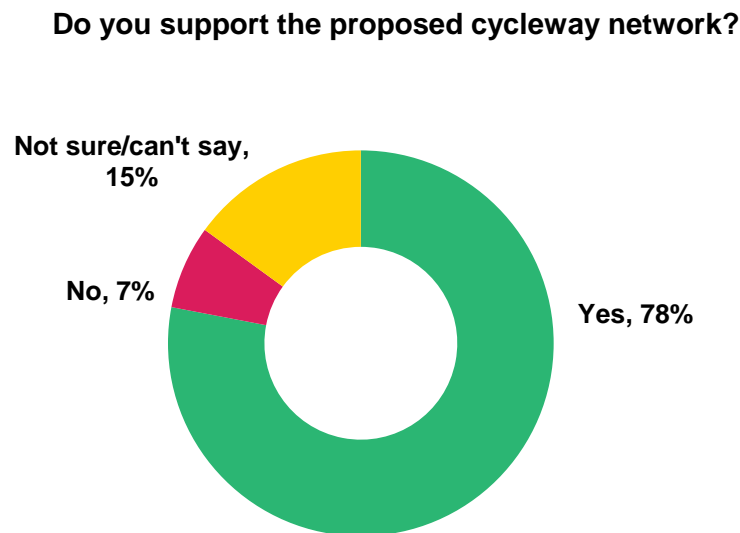


Figure 4. Support towards the proposed cycleway network (N=73)

### Comments about the proposed cycleway network

Comments explaining the level of support towards proposed cycleway network were categorised to identify recurring themes.

The main themes identified were:

- General support/positive comments
- The need for a safer connection at Hannell Street to connect to the main cycleway
- More consideration for cyclists on smaller roads/connection to cycleways
- Concerns about loss of parking
- The inclusion of wide footpaths/shared paths where possible rather than on-road cycle lanes.



Table 6. Comments about the proposed cycleway network

Comments about the proposed cycleway network (N=30)	Count
General support/positive comments	10
Need a safer connection at Hannell Street to connect 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
More detail around contra-flow needed	1
Consider connecting proposed cycleways with existing cycleway at Tree of Knowledge Park	1
Support dedicated cycle lanes	1
Improved cycleways also give wheelchair users better access	1
Safety of crossing at roundabout near Robert Street and Cowper Street	1
Extend cycleways into Maryville	1
Dedicated, more direct cycle lanes will make commutes faster	1
Consider a commuter cycleway between northern and eastern suburbs	1
Concerns about cyclists riding in groups on roads	1
Prioritise Station Street connection	1
Connect shared path along Harbour to Wickham streets	1
Bicycle parking/racks need to be considered	1
Access for cyclists on Union Street	1
Separate cycle paths away from vehicles and pedestrians	1
Include a physically separated cycleway on Railway Street (west side)	1
Consider a connection to Beaumont Street	1
Dangar Street entry to footpath of Stewart Avenue too narrow	1
Railway Street difficult to ride on due to wind	1
Suggest a cycle lane/pathway on Throsby Street to enable access to the waterfront	1
Other	2
Not sure/don't know	1

### 5.6. Entry points/welcome nodes for Wickham

Respondents were also asked to identify where the "front doors" or entry points are to Wickham. The Newcastle Interchange exit on Charles Street was the most commonly selected entry point, by 74% of respondents. This was followed by the Cowper Street roundabout, as selected by 56% of respondents.

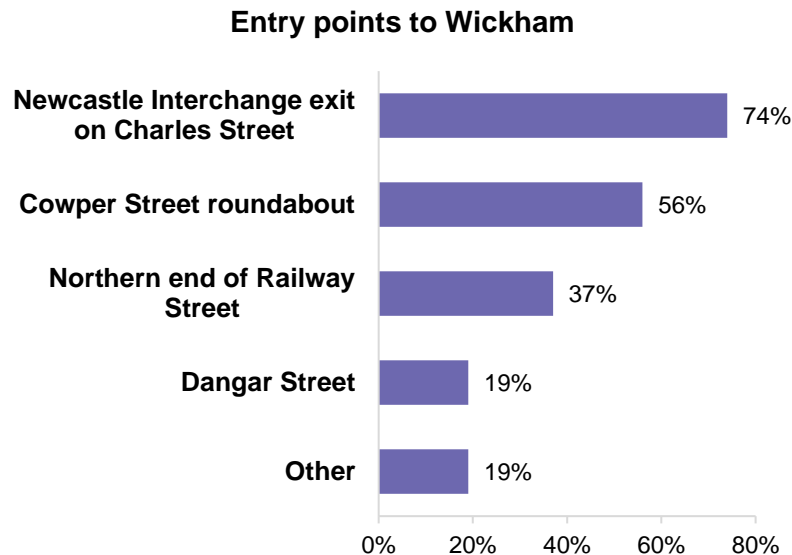


Figure 5. Entry points into Wickham (N=73)

Other mentions are shown in the table below.

Table 7. Other mentions of entry points into Wickham

Other entry points/welcome nodes for Wickham (N=14)	Count
Throsby Street	4
Bishopgate Street	3
Albert Street	3
Grey Street	2
Dangar Street (cycleway only – linking to Honeysuckle)	1
Maitland Road	1
Harbourside	1
Western end of proposed cycleway near Wickham Park	1
Elizabeth Street roundabout (north)	1
Glebe Road lights (south)	1
Union Street off Church Street	1
Station Street	1

Respondents were then asked how people should be welcomed into Wickham and were given a list of prompted suggestions including a natural element, art element, a place to sit or a sign. The most common responses were a natural element or an art element, as mentioned by 62% of respondents.

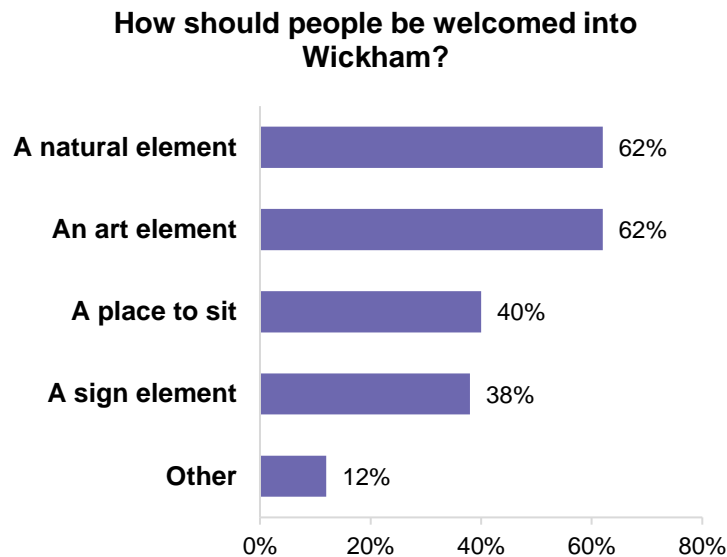


Figure 6. How people should be welcomed into Wickham (N=73)

Other ideas included a green space/wall garden, historical element, regular suburb sign or signs for popular attractions such as Earp Distillery and Foghorn Brewery.

Figure 7. Other mentions of how people should be welcomed into Wickham

Other ideas for welcoming people into Wickham (N=9)	Count
Green space/trees/wall gardens	2
Historical element	1
Welcome to Wickham	1
Vibrant entrance to the city	1
Regular suburb sign	1
Signs for popular attractions e.g. Earp Distilling, Foghorn Brewery	1
All of the above	1
Not sure/don't know	1

### 5.7. Ideas for urban activation areas

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:

- The corner of Throsby Street and Railway Street
- The corner of Lindus Street and Railway Street
- Union Street between Dickson and Throsby Streets
- Bullock Island Rail Corridor.

Open text responses were categorised to identify recurring themes. Overall there were similar mentions across all four zones such as: trees/shade/greenery, park/grass area/picnic area and seating. Community gardens and playspaces were also popular suggestions. Recreational fitness was a top suggestion for the Bullock Island Rail Corridor.

Other mentions included: public toilets, public art, footpaths and wheelchair access, heritage, music stages/entertainment, cafes/bars and specific types of activities or play equipment.

#### Corner of Throsby Street and Railway Street

The top mentioned suggestions for the corner of Throsby Street and Railway Street were:

- Seating
- Park/grass area/picnic area
- Community garden
- Trees/shade/greenery
- Playspace.

Table 8. Ideas for the activation zone at the corner of Throsby and Railway Street



Corner of Throsby Street and Railway Street (N=40)	Count
Seating	14
Park/grass area/picnic area	14
Community garden	10
Trees/shade/greenery	10
Playspace	8
Recreational fitness	5
Public toilets	2
Public art	2
Wheelchair access	1
Indigenous heritage/stories	1
Water play area	1
Cafes/bars	1
Music stages/entertainment	1
Adult swing set	1
Rubbish bins	1
Anything/all of the above	2
Don't know/nothing	2

## Corner of Lindus Street and Railway Street

The top mentioned suggestions for the corner of Lindus Street and Railway Street were:

- Trees/shade/greenery
- Seating
- Park/grass area/picnic area
- Community garden
- Playspace.

Table 9. Ideas for the activation zone at the corner of Lindus Street and Railway Street



Corner of Lindus Street and Railway Street (N=35)	Count
Trees/shade/greenery	12
Seating	11
Park/grass area/picnic area	8
Community garden	7
Playspace	4
Recreational fitness	3
Public art	2
Public toilets	1
Wheelchair access	1
Cafes/bars	1
Music stages/entertainment	1
Adult swing set	1
More footpaths	1
Giant chess board	1
Climbing wall	1
Anything/all of the above	4
Don't know/nothing	2

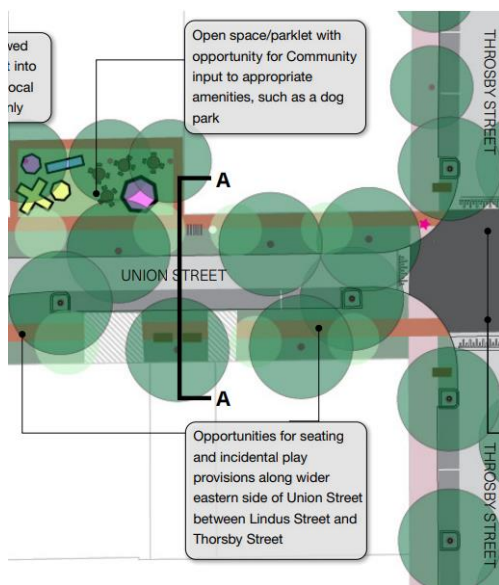


## Union Street between Dickson Street and Throsby Street

The top mentioned suggestions for Union Street between Dickson Street and Throsby Street were:

- Seating
- Trees/shade/greenery
- Park/grass area/picnic area
- Community garden
- Playspace.

Table 10. Ideas for the activation zone at Union Street between Dickson and Throsby Streets



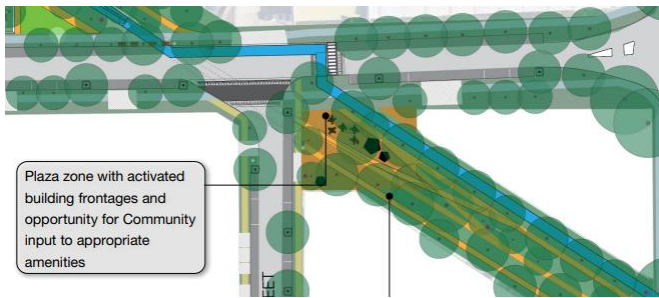
Union Street between Dickson and Throsby Streets (N=36)	Count
Seating	11
Trees/shade/greenery	8
Park/grass area/picnic area	7
Community garden	5
Playspace	5
More footpaths/accessible paths	3
Public toilets	2
Public art	2
Cafes/bars	2
Music stages/entertainment	2
Recreational fitness	1
Wheelchair access	1
Adult swing set	1
More parking	1
Bicycle racks	1
Water fountain	1
Reduced/local traffic	1
Anything/all of the above	4
Don't know/nothing	3

## Bullock Island Rail Corridor

The top mentioned suggestions for the Bullock Island Rail Corridor were:

- Park/grass area/picnic area
- Trees/shade/greenery
- Seating
- Playspace
- Recreational fitness.

Table 11. Ideas for the activation zone within the Bullock Island Rail Corridor



Bullock Island Rail Corridor (N=37)	Count
Park/grass area/picnic area	14
Trees/shade/greenery	14
Seating	10
Playspace	7
Recreational fitness	7
Public art	4
Music stages/entertainment	3
Community garden	2
Wheelchair access	2
Cycleways	2
Public toilets	1
Water play area	1
Cafes/bars	1
Adult swing set	1
More footpaths	1
Wetland	1
Cement wall for ball sports	1
Incorporate rail heritage	1
Extend corners of Wickham Park for greater integration	1
Lighting	1
Anything/all of the above	6
Don't know/nothing	2

### 5.8. Support for a natural parkland or wetland space on Railway Street

Respondents had strong support for the proposal to include a natural park or wetland space on Railway Street, with 80% saying 'yes'. Only 6% of respondents did not support the proposal.

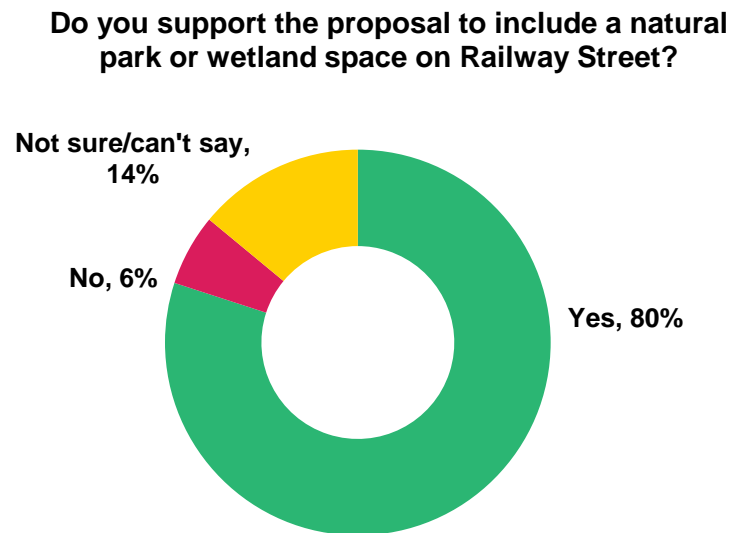


Figure 8. Support for a natural park or wetland space on Railway Street (N=70)

### Comments about the proposed natural park/wetland space on Railway Street

Comments about the proposed natural park/wetland space were categorised to identify recurring themes. The main themes were:

- General positive comments
- The suggestion to include seating/benches
- Trees/plants/greenery
- Would prefer to have an open space that can be entered
- Not needed/could be used for other purposes
- Concerns about mosquitos, cicadas and other pests.

Table 12. Comments about the proposed natural park/wetland space on Railway Street

Comments on the proposal to include a natural park or wetland space (N=28)	Count
General positive comments	6
Suggestion to include seating/benches	3
Trees/plants/greenery	2
Would prefer to have an open space that can be entered	2
Not needed/could be used for other purposes	2
Concerns about mosquitos, cicadas and other pests	2
Incorporate native flora and fauna with community involvement	1
Include signage about flora and fauna	1
More information needed	1
BBQ facilities	1
Important feature of the rail corridor activation	1
Include a playspace	1
Long term maintenance to be considered	1
Indigenous heritage	1
Access to Wickham Park	1
Bicycle accessibility/safety	1
Create water cascade for movement	1
Other	1
Don't know/can't say	1

### 5.9. Stories, landmarks, art and other elements that should 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 frequent mentions were:

- The history of Wickham
- Aboriginal heritage, culture and sites of significance (including specific mentions of the Tree of Knowledge)
- Heritage buildings
- Local art
- Natural landscape.

Other mentions included: the historic brick pavers, community, water features and a comment about focusing on practicality.

Table 13. Suggestions for stories, landmarks, art, objects or other elements that should be celebrated about Wickham

Suggestions for stories, landmarks, art and other elements that should be celebrated (N=35)	Count
History of Wickham	21
Aboriginal heritage, culture, sites of significance	15
Tree of Knowledge	7
Heritage buildings	5
Incorporate local art	5
Natural landscape	3
Historic brick pavers/footpaths	1
Community	1
Water features	1
Should focus on practicality	1
Other	1
Don't know/can't say	1



### 5.10. General comments/feedback

At the end of the survey, respondents were able to provide any other comments or feedback in the form of an open text response. These responses were categorised to identify recurring themes.

The most frequently mentioned themes were:

- Pedestrian safety/accessibility
- General positive comments
- Cyclist safety/accessibility
- Recreation and open spaces
- Trees/plantings/greenery
- Parking
- Cleanliness and beautification.

Other themes with 2 or 3 mentions included:

- Financing/implementation
- Scope/level of detail
- Character/vibe/atmosphere
- History, heritage and culture
- Lighting
- Transport and connectivity
- Flooding/stormwater management
- Public safety/crime.

Table 14. General comments or feedback about the Public Domain Plan

General comments/feedback (N=38)	Count
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
Financing/implementation	3
Scope/level of detail	3
Character/vibe/atmosphere	3
History, heritage and culture	3
Lighting	3
Transport and connectivity	3
Flooding/stormwater management	2
Public safety/crime	2
Need to make sure developers adhere to the PDP	1
Road upgrades are needed	1
Concerns about overdevelopment	1
Zoning e.g. less industrial, more retail and dining	1
More consultation	1
Traffic movement	1
Facilities and amenities	1
Sustainability	1
Nothing/don't know	2

## 6. Other submissions

There were a total of 13 other written submissions made (12 via the online form and 1 via email). Of these, the majority of submissions were from Wickham residents.

*Table 15. Other submissions - respondent location*

Respondent location (N=13)	Count
Wickham	10
Other Newcastle	2
Moving to Wickham next year	1

These submissions were categorised to identify recurring themes among the feedback shared. The most frequently mentioned themes were:

- Pedestrian safety/accessibility
- Vehicle movement
- Trees/plantings
- Lighting
- Parking
- Flooding/stormwater drainage
- Cycleway connectivity
- Recreation spaces/open spaces
- More community consultation e.g. on detailed plans.

Some other comments with 2 mentions included:

- General support/positive comments
- Scope/level of detail
- Design/aesthetics/overall look and feel
- Facilities for dog owners e.g. off-leash dog park
- Maintenance/cleanliness
- Width of paths/road verges
- Mailbox accessibility.

A detailed list of themes is shown in the table below.

Table 16. Other submissions - general comments/feedback

General comments/feedback (N=13)	Count
Pedestrian safety/accessibility	6
Vehicle movement	4
Trees/plantings	4
Lighting	4
Parking	4
Flooding/stormwater drainage	3
Cycleway connectivity e.g. through local streets and neighbouring suburbs	3
Recreation spaces/open spaces	3
More community consultation e.g. on detailed plans	3
General support/positive comments	2
Scope/level of detail	2
Design/aesthetics/overall look and feel	2
Facilities for dog owners e.g. off-leash dog park	2
Maintenance/cleanliness	2
Width of paths/road verges	2
Mailbox accessibility	2
Alignment with Wickham Masterplan 2021	1
Support for designated cycle paths	1
Support changes to Tree of Knowledge Park	1
Incorporate disability standards	1
Signage for road users	1
Concerns about contra-flow cycling	1
History/heritage	1
Connection between Station Street and Union Street	1
Connection to harbour	1
More traffic calming devices	1
Public safety/antisocial behaviour	1
Utilities	1
Loading zone needed for Union Street	1
Do not support continuous footpath treatments/raised crossings	1

## 7. Drop-in sessions

Two drop-in sessions were held during the engagement period to inform community members about the PDP, provide an opportunity to speak to the project team and encourage feedback via the Have Your Say page. 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

### Summary of feedback

- **Scope/key concepts of the PDP** – community members asked general questions about the Public Domain Plan such as key concepts and the area covered by the plan.
- **Pedestrian network and traffic calming devices** – pedestrian and footpath upgrades were well received, with several community members commenting on the need to upgrade the condition and accessibility of footpaths. Some concerns were raised about making footpaths accessible and pedestrian safety at various crossings and roundabouts.
- **Cycleway network** – cycling improvements were also well received. There were some questions about connectivity to local streets within Wickham and surrounding suburbs. Suggestions were made to extend proposed cycleways and consider direct routes for those who commute via bicycle, along with questions being raised about when the cycleways would be implemented.
- **Traffic/vehicle movement** – several community members had questions about changes to traffic movement and some raised concerns about congestion, heavy vehicles, and access for garbage trucks.
- **Parking** – community members raised several concerns about parking such as a lack of parking in Wickham generally, but there were also comments about loss of parking spaces, lack of enforcement of parking restrictions and the impact this was having on residents. The idea of timed parking was supported to limit commuters parking all day.
- **Trees/plantings/greenery** – an increase in tree canopy and shade in Wickham was generally supported throughout the study area. Consideration should be given to the types of trees selected and ensuring they are appropriate for the location.
- **Open spaces/shared spaces** – the creation of new open spaces was supported, including activation of the Bullock Island Rail Corridor, laneways and improved connectivity to Wickham Park.
- **Heritage and character of Wickham** – it was suggested that the heritage and character of Wickham should be celebrated, including heritage buildings and industrial character.
- **Development** – comments were made about the level of development and growth of the area. Some questions were raised regarding zoning and building heights (although it was noted that these were outside the scope of the PDP).
- **Flooding** – some comments were made with regards to the need to plan for flooding events and improve stormwater drainage.
- **Lighting** – it was suggested that lighting should be considered as part of the PDP to improve pedestrian safety and limit anti-social behaviour at night.
- **Maintenance and cleanliness** – some general comments were made about the need to maintain the area and improve the cleanliness of the area.

## 8. Next steps

All feedback received during public exhibition will be reviewed by the project team and used to inform the final PDP. The final PDP will be presented to the Newcastle City Traffic Committee and then to Council for adoption.

# Appendix I – Promotional materials

## Have your say webpage




[Home](#)
[Projects](#)
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### Wickham Public Domain Plan

We've developed a Public Domain Plan for Wickham which guides the delivery of high-quality streetscapes and public spaces. Have your say until 5pm 22 March 2023.



[Home](#) / Wickham Public Domain Plan

#### Wickham Public Domain Plan

The Wickham Public Domain Plan (PDP) provides a framework for the delivery of high-quality streetscapes and public spaces in Wickham. The PDP aims to create a welcoming and positive environment for residents and visitors whilst improving safety, accessibility and amenity. It celebrates the unique character of Wickham and supports the broader renewal of Newcastle City Centre.

Key features of the Public Domain Plan include:

- The upgrade of Union Street to be an attractive pathway to the heart of the precinct
- Improved footpath conditions
- Creation of new community spaces including a linear park along the Bullock Island Railway Corridor with active transport links
- New laneways and connecting roads
- New tree plantings and landscaping throughout the precinct

The PDP provides guidance for developers, CN and other bodies carrying out public domain works in Wickham, delivering on the vision and objectives for Wickham established in the Wickham Masterplan 2021.

View the draft concepts (PDF), draft concepts (accessible version) or frequently asked questions for more information.

#### Document Library

[Draft concepts for feedback](#)  
**Wickham PDP - Draft Concepts**  
 PDF (112 MB)

[Draft Concepts - Accessible format](#)  
 Wickham PDP - Draft Concepts (Accessible webpage)

[Frequently asked questions](#)  
**Wickham PDP - FAQs**  
 PDF (158.51 KB)

#### Timeline

- Preparation of Wickham PDP draft concepts**  
 Late 2022 - February 2023  
 CN consulted with various stakeholders to develop the draft Wickham PDP.
- Community feedback**  
 22 February - 22 March 2023  
 We're seeking your feedback on the Wickham PDP draft concepts.
- Finalise Wickham PDP**  
 Mid 2023  
 The project team will review all feedback received and use this to finalise the Wickham Public Domain Plan.
- Council adoption of the Wickham PDP**  
 Mid - late 2023  
 Once finalised, the Wickham PDP will be presented to Council for adoption.

[See less](#)

#### Related projects

You can also have your say on the Community Infrastructure Incentives as part of the Wickham Planning Proposal until 22 March 2023.

[Click here for more details](#)



#### Wickham Concept Public Domain Plan: Overview & Aspirations

Wickham PDP - 1 page Summary

### Have your say

We want to hear your thoughts and ideas on the draft concepts for the Wickham Public Domain Plan.

There are a range of ways you can have your say:

- by completing the [online survey](#)
- by providing [general feedback](#) / [uploading a submission](#)
- by visiting one of our [community drop-in sessions](#) and talking to the project team at the following locations:
  - Thursday 2 March from 11am to 1pm** - Marketown Shopping Centre (outside Thurst Burst, near Coles)
  - Saturday 18 March from 11am to 1pm** - Tree of Knowledge Park, Wickham

**Feedback closes 5pm Wednesday 22 March 2023.**

[ONLINE SURVEY](#)
[GENERAL FEEDBACK/UPLOAD A SUBMISSION](#)



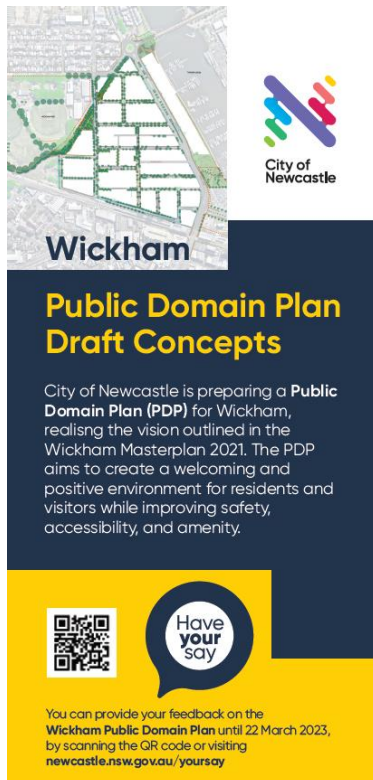
**Share your thoughts and ideas for Wickham**

Complete our survey and tell us which aspects of the concept designs you like, and which aspects could be improved. We want your input on specific features and spaces to make Wickham is a place for everyone to enjoy!

[Click here to take our survey >](#)



## Flyer and onsite signage



**Wickham**

**Public Domain Plan Draft Concepts**

City of Newcastle is preparing a **Public Domain Plan (PDP)** for Wickham, realising the vision outlined in the Wickham Masterplan 2021. The PDP aims to create a welcoming and positive environment for residents and visitors while improving safety, accessibility, and amenity.

**Have your say**

You can provide your feedback on the **Wickham Public Domain Plan** until 22 March 2023, by scanning the QR code or visiting [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay)



**Wickham**

**Public Domain Plan Draft Concepts**

City of Newcastle is preparing a **Public Domain Plan (PDP)** for Wickham, realising the vision outlined in the Wickham Masterplan 2021. The PDP aims to create a welcoming and positive environment for residents and visitors while improving safety, accessibility, and amenity.

**Key features of the Public Domain Plan include:**

- The upgrade of Union Street to be an attractive pathway to the heart of the precinct
- Improved footpath and pedestrian conditions
- Improved cycling infrastructure on Station Street
- Creation of open community spaces, including a linear park along the Bullock Island Railway Corridor with active transport links
- New laneways and connecting roads
- New tree planting and landscaping throughout

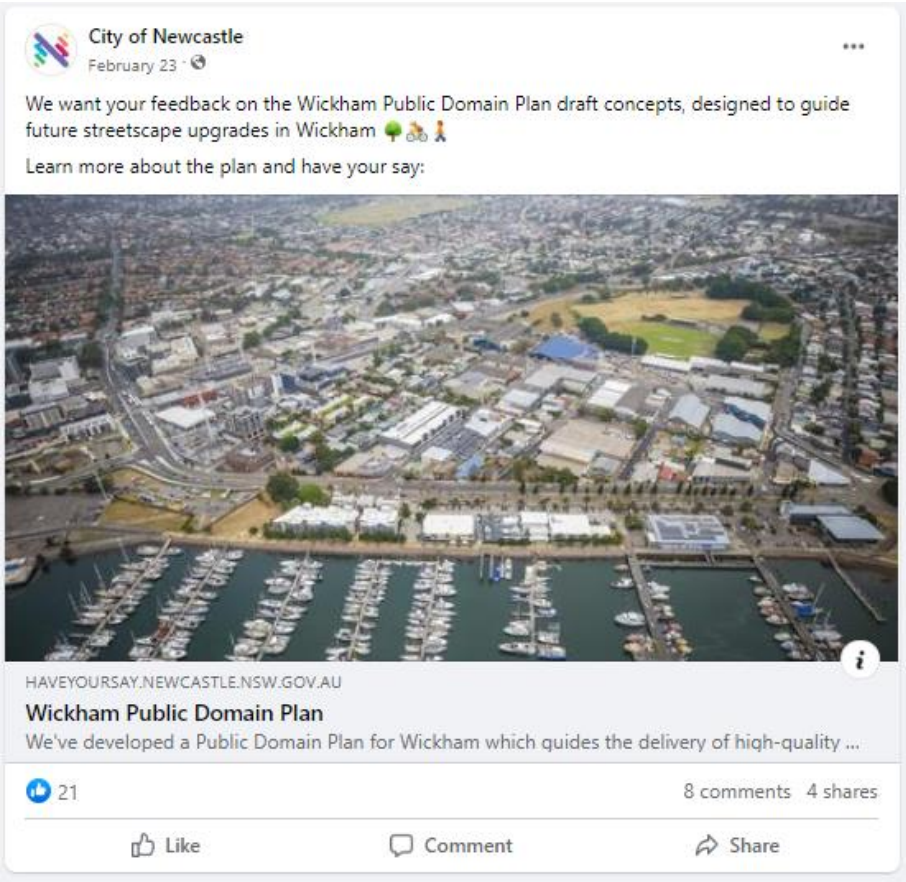
**Have your say**

You can complete the online survey to share your feedback and ideas on the draft concepts for the **Wickham PDP** until 22 March 2023, by visiting [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay)

You can also provide feedback on the **Community Infrastructure Incentives in the Wickham Planning Proposal**, which seeks to deliver identified community infrastructure and facilitate urban renewal in Wickham, until 21 March 2023.



Social media



## Newsletter



Have your say until **5pm Wednesday 22 March 2023**

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

### Have your say on the Wickham Public Domain Plan

The Wickham Public Domain Plan (PDP) provides a framework for the delivery of high-quality streetscapes and public spaces in Wickham, and realises the vision outlined in the Wickham Masterplan 2021. The PDP aims to create a welcoming and positive environment for residents and visitors whilst improving safety, accessibility and amenity.


Have your say online, or attend one of our drop-in sessions where you can chat to the project team and ask questions:

**Thursday 2 March, 11am to 1pm** -  
Marketown Shopping Centre - Outside  
Thurst Burst, near Coles

**Saturday 18 March, 11am to 1pm** - Tree  
of Knowledge Park, Wickham

## Media release

<https://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about-us/news-and-updates/latest-news/have-your-say-on-the-future-of-wickham>


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

Our Responsibilities >

Our Organisation >

Our Commitment to Sustainability >

## Have your say on the future of Wickham

23 Feb 2023

Share

New cycleways and footpaths, tree planting and public art opportunities are being proposed under a concept plan designed to guide future streetscape upgrades in Wickham.

City of Newcastle's draft concepts for Wickham's public spaces, prepared as part of the delivery of a Public Domain Plan, outline key elements to help realise the long-term vision of the Wickham Masterplan 2021 with a focus on connecting green spaces, prioritising pedestrian and cyclist activity, and upgrading Union Street as an attractive pathway to the heart of the precinct.

Creating open community spaces, activating the historic Bullock Island Rail Corridor and improving access and connections to Wickham Park and the harbour's waterfront are also on the agenda, along with future opportunities for public art and interpretation of both Aboriginal and European heritage.

Deputy Lord Mayor Declan Clausen said plans for the area aim to facilitate the long-term expansion of the city centre towards Wickham and increase opportunities for transit-oriented development around the Newcastle Interchange.

"We are starting to see a real change in Wickham, with growing investor and developer interest in recent years transitioning the semi-industrial area into a mixed-use urban neighbourhood, supporting the Newcastle West CBD," Cr Clausen said.

"The Public Domain Plan aims to create a welcoming and positive environment for residents and visitors while improving safety, accessibility, and amenity.

"We have worked closely with a number of stakeholders on these draft concepts including local community group Great Lifestyle of Wickham.

"We're now looking to receive broader feedback from the community to help inform key features of the final plan, which over the long term will deliver greater road and pedestrian links within Wickham and to adjoining areas, improved cycleways and increased investment in community infrastructure to support the growing local population."

The development of a Public Domain Plan will provide a clear, shared vision for the Wickham public domain, enabling future staged implementation, including directly by developers as continued growth occurs in Wickham. The Plan will ensure consistency in outcomes, regardless of whether new infrastructure is delivered by City of Newcastle, or by the private sector as part of their new development.

The draft concept plans for the Wickham Public Domain Plan will remain open for online feedback via [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay](https://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay) until 22 March. Community drop-in sessions will be held at Marketown on Thursday 2 March from 11am to 1pm and at the Tree of Knowledge Park in Wickham on Saturday 18 March from 11am to 1pm.

City of Newcastle is also seeking feedback on the Community Infrastructure Incentives in the Wickham Planning Proposal, which seeks to deliver identified community infrastructure and facilitate urban renewal in Wickham through the provision of development incentives.

The Community Infrastructure Incentives in the Wickham Planning Proposal will remain open for comment via [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay](https://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay) until 22 March.

## Media coverage

### Newcastle Weekly

<https://newcastleweekly.com.au/have-your-say-on-the-future-of-wickham/>

HOME ► COMMUNITY



*Wickham sits 2.5km from Newcastle's city centre. Development means that distance could soon feel even less - so how should the city's planners best cater for this development?*

## Have your say on the future of Wickham

REBECCA RIDDLE  
FEBRUARY 24, 2023

### SHARE



What do you love most about Wickham?

That's what is being asked by City of Newcastle (CN) as its long-term plans for the expansion of the city centre begin to take shape.

With urban development already spilling over into the popular suburb, council has released its draft concepts and is keen to hear what the community thinks.

Among the plans to connect green spaces and pedestrians with the waterfront and city, lies the need for public art honouring both Aboriginal and European heritage.

City of Newcastle's draft concepts for Wickham's public spaces, prepared as part of the delivery of a Public Domain Plan, outline key elements to help realise the long-term vision of the Wickham Masterplan 2021.

Being touted are new cycleways and footpaths, tree planting and public art opportunities.



2HD

<https://www.2hd.com.au/2023/02/25/have-your-say-on-the-wickham-public-domain-plan/>

News

# Have your say on the Wickham Public Domain Plan



newsroom

February 25, 2023 8:09 am

0  
SHARES

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Newcastle Council has released their draft concept plan for the future streetscape of Wickham.

The Wickham Public Domain Plan includes new cycleways and footpaths which will long term deliver greater road and pedestrian links between Wickham and adjoining areas — also in the plan is activating the historic Bullock Island Rail Corridor and improving access to Wickham Park.

Creating open community spaces, more tree planting, public art opportunities and more access to the harbour's waterfront is also in the plan.

## Appendix II – Online Survey

### Wickham PDP Survey

Thanks for having your say and providing feedback on specific aspects of the draft Public Domain Plan for Wickham. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas to help make Wickham a place for everyone to enjoy.

The survey will take about 5-10 minutes to complete.

---

Before we begin, please tell us a little bit about you. The information you provide will be reported in aggregate form only, with no personal information publicly released.

#### What is your age? Must answer

- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

#### What is your gender? Must answer

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Indeterminate/intersex/unspecified
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

#### Which suburb do you live in? Must answer

---

#### Which of the following best describes you? Select all that apply. Must answer

- ☐ I live in Wickham
  - ☐ I work in Wickham
  - ☐ I own property or business in Wickham
  - ☐ I visit Wickham regularly for business, leisure, recreation or commuting
  - ☐ None of the above
-

## Wickham PDP Concept Plans

The following overarching design elements are included in the draft PDP concepts:

- Union Street as the "Village Heart"
- Activation of the Bullock Island Rail Corridor for recreation, amenity and a primary link to Wickham Park
- Additional access points to Wickham Park
- Traffic changes including changes to vehicle movement, traffic calming devices and improved pedestrian facilities
- Dedicated active transport routes (cycleways)
- Additional trees and gardens throughout the precinct to increase canopy cover and cool down the suburb
- Inclusion of new community focused open space areas, transport links and parks, in line with Wickham Masterplan 2021
- Welcome nodes at key entrance points to Wickham

### Do you agree with these overarching design elements? Must answer

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Mixed – some but not all
- ☐ Not sure/can't say

**Why or why not? Please provide as much detail as possible.**

---

### Movement in and around Wickham

To support **safer and more accessible movement through Wickham** a movement framework has been developed as part of the PDP (see page 4 of the concept plans). This framework prioritises pedestrian and cycle movement through improved facilities. Changes to traffic directions will reduce volumes on local roads and promote use of Railway Street and Station Street for commuters. A new one way road would provide access into Wickham from Maitland Road to Holland Street between Wickham Park and the rail corridor with a new footpath and active transport link.

[insert diagram]

### Do you support the proposed traffic changes as shown in the Vehicle Movement map? Must answer

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure/can't say

**Please provide any comments about the proposed traffic changes:**

The PDP includes an **improved pedestrian network and traffic calming devices** to allow for safer interaction between pedestrians, cyclists and cars and make Wickham a more pedestrian friendly suburb. These devices include:

- Continuous footpath treatments (CFTs) at Station Street, Railway Street and Union Street
- Raised crossings at Charles Street/Station Street and Railway Street
- A raised threshold/section of road on Union Street between Bishopgate Street and Grey Street
- A raised intersection at the Union Street/Throsby Street intersection
- Wider footpaths and nature strips
- Various kerb build outs at intersections

[insert diagram]

**Do you support the proposed pedestrian network and traffic calming devices? Must answer**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure/can't say

**Please provide any comments about the proposed pedestrian improvements and traffic calming devices:**

---

The PDP includes **a new and improved cycleway network through Wickham** in accordance with City of Newcastle's [On Our Bikes Cycling Plan 2021-2030](#). Proposed cycleway infrastructure includes:

- A new dedicated bi-directional (two way) cycleway on the north side of Station Street and west side of Charles Street between Dangar Street and Station Street
- A new separated bi-directional cycleway along the activated Bullock Island rail corridor linear park through to Maitland Road
- Potential for a quiet way (quiet street) for Dangar Street for safer interaction of vehicles and cyclists
- Potential for a quiet way or shared path along the upgraded Railway Lane

[insert diagram]

**Do you support the proposed cycleway network? Must answer**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure/can't say

**Please provide any comments about the proposed cycleway network:**

---



## Sense of Place

To enhance the idea of sense of place for Wickham, we are proposing 'welcome nodes' at key points in Wickham.

**In your opinion, where are the "front-doors" or entry points to Wickham? Select all that apply.**

- ☐ Interchange station exit on Charles Street
- ☐ Dangar Street
- ☐ Cowper Street roundabout
- ☐ Northern end of Railway Street
- ☐ Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

## How should people be welcomed into Wickham?

- ☐ A place to sit
- ☐ A natural element
- ☐ An art element
- ☐ A sign
- ☐ Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

---

## Creation of New Open Spaces

As part of the **Wickham Masterplan 2021**, several sites have been identified as new open spaces/pocket parks and have therefore been included within the PDP concept plans.

**What kind of amenities and community uses would you like to see for the new urban activation spaces?**

Examples could include playspaces, seating, picnic areas, community gardens, recreational fitness etc.

### Corner of Throsby Street and Railway Street

---

### Corner of Lindus Street and Railway Street

---

### Union Street between Dickson Street and Throsby Street

---

### The new linear park along the Bullock Island Rail Corridor

---

As part of the Bullock Island Rail Corridor activation, there is an opportunity to create a dedicated natural park or wetland area along Railway Street. This space would improve amenity and connection to nature within the suburb.

[insert image]

**Do you support the proposal to include a natural park or wetland space on Railway Street?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure/can't say

**Do you have any other comments/feedback on the proposal to include a natural park or wetland area on Railway Street?**

---

There is an opportunity to imbed walking routes or trails into the PDP that celebrate the unique history and stories of Wickham. Appropriately located heritage nodes could be included to increase the sense of journey through the precinct.

**What stories, landmarks, art, objects, or elements about Wickham should be celebrated?**

---

**Your final thoughts...**

**Please provide any other general feedback on the concept plans for Wickham PDP:**


---

## Appendix III – Online feedback form

### Have your say on the Wickham PDP concepts

Please provide your feedback on the Wickham PDP concepts: Required

Upload files here (optional):

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