

## Summary Engagement Report

# Georgetown Public Domain Plan



In late 2021, City of Newcastle (CN) asked the community what was most important about Georgetown Local Centre and what could be improved.

We heard that the main priorities were to improve the look and feel of the area, pedestrian safety, access and connectivity, more street trees, street furniture and comfort. With this input, we developed a draft Public Domain Plan (PDP) to guide upgrades to the Georgetown Local Centre and asked the community to have their say.

### The proposed upgrades aim to:

Improve accessibility, safety, convenience for pedestrians and cyclists.

Improve driver visibility and safety.

Make improvements to infrastructure including drainage.

Create more space for people by building wider footpaths and a new plaza creating an attractive destination to support the shopping precinct.

Improve the natural environment by providing more trees and landscaping.



### Engagement activities

CN sought feedback on the draft Public Domain Plan (PDP) from 10 November to 8 December 2023.

The community were able to provide feedback by:

- Completing the online survey
- Mail, email or phone
- Attending the community drop-in session and speaking to us in person.

### Communication & promotion



Have Your Say  
webpage

1,846 visits



Social media

More than  
27,000 total  
reach



Flyers and on-  
site signage

1,000 flyers and  
4 corflutes



e-newsletter

2,608  
subscribers



Media release

## What we heard



173

Survey  
responses



17

Submissions  
via email or  
phone



1

Resident  
petition about  
changes to  
Turner Street



75%

Of survey respondents  
were supportive or very  
supportive of the PDP.

Sample size: N=173 survey respondents

For detailed results and responses to concerns raised,  
please refer to the full Public Exhibition Report.



## Key themes

Across all engagement activities, the main themes of feedback were:

### General support/positive comments towards the PDP

- Community members agreed that the PDP would improve the quality and safety of the precinct, and make it a more attractive place to visit, encouraging people to support local businesses. Pedestrian and cyclist safety and access improvements were well supported, along with an increase in trees and greenery throughout the area.

### Traffic management/safety and road access

- There were mixed views about making Turner Street and Asher Street one-way southbound only for vehicles. Some residents supported making Turner Street one-way to reduce through traffic, while some wanted to see all streets remain two-way for vehicles.
- Concerns were raised about the flow of traffic along Georgetown Road, Christo Road and neighbouring residential streets due to restricting movement on Moate Street and making Turner Street and Asher Street one-way southbound for vehicles.
- It was also commented that the proposed traffic changes would also put additional pressure on busy intersections such as the intersection of Georgetown Road with Moate Street (east), Turton Road and Christo Road.



# Key themes (continued)

Across all engagement activities, the main themes of feedback were:



## Pedestrian and cyclist access and safety

- Improvements to pedestrian access and safety were well received by the community for enhancing liveability and creating a more walkable neighbourhood. Upgrades to footpaths are much needed, particularly to meet the accessibility needs of the community.
- Accessibility is an important consideration for people with vision impairments, elderly, children, and other mobility or access requirements.
- Improvements to cycling routes and connections were well supported, with several respondents requesting for more bike paths/lanes (separated or off-road) to be incorporated.
- There were some concerns about cyclists travelling in both directions along Asher Street.



## Parking

- Several residents expressed concerns over the loss of parking, and the flow on effect for residents with people looking for parking on nearby streets. It was suggested that this would only worsen as new developments in the area are completed.
- Parking and rear access for businesses was also a concern, with restricted access via Moate Street.



## Plaza space

- Sentiment towards the plaza space was generally positive with the opportunity to provide more trees/greenery, shade and seating. It also provides opportunities for social gatherings or meetings and a place for pedestrians and cyclists to stop as they travel through the area.
- Some had concerns about the size of the plaza, public safety and antisocial behaviour.



## Trees/landscaping

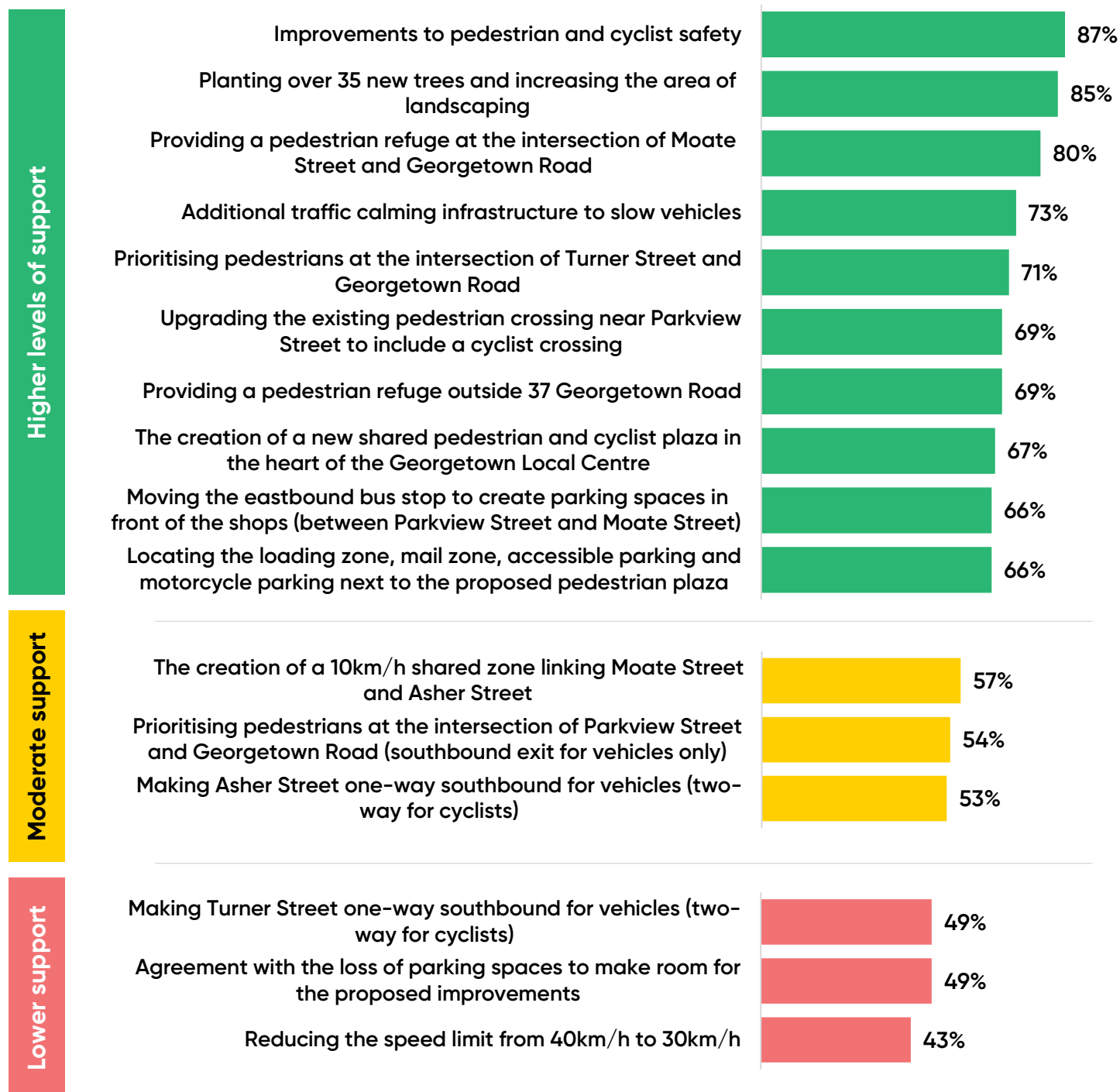
- An increase in trees and landscaping was well supported to improve the look and feel of the area, as well as providing shade. Native trees were most preferred, as well as trees that fit in with the character of the surrounding area. Generally, trees that are low maintenance, water sensitive and do not impact visibility were considered ideal.
- Several people would like to see a community garden be established in the plaza space.



## Impact of new developments

- There were concerns about the increase in vehicle movements and parking required as a result of the new developments which include apartments, commercial shops and potential seniors housing.

# Support for different aspects of the PDP



## Next steps

Thank you to everyone who had their say on the draft PDP. All feedback received during public exhibition has been reviewed and considered by the Project team. 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.

We'll continue to update the community as the project progresses.