

Phase 3 – Public Exhibition Summary Report

Newcastle Harbour Foreshore Masterplan

November 2022



City of
Newcastle

What we did

The draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan has been developed over the past two years and is the result of extensive community consultation.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 community engagement activities

Phase 1 community engagement, which took place in mid-2020, invited the community to provide feedback on what they love about the Harbour Foreshore and what they would like to see in the future.

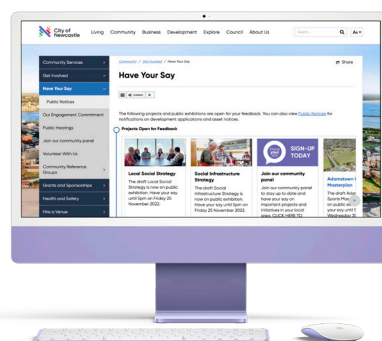
Phase 2 community engagement, which took place between February to March 2021, invited the community to provide feedback on preliminary concepts for Foreshore Park, including the new inclusive play space being developed with our partner – Touched by Olivia, and experiences walking and cycling along the Foreshore.

A Community Reference Group (CRG) was also formed to facilitate community and stakeholder input into the development of the Masterplan. The group consisted of a mix of community representatives and project stakeholders, with members providing valuable input on the current and future needs and expectations of the community. The CRG met three times in August 2020, December 2020 and July 2021.

Phase 3 community engagement activities

Phase 3 community engagement involved placing the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan on public exhibition from 28 September to 26 October 2022 and inviting further community feedback.

During Phase 3, the community were able to provide feedback via an online feedback form on the dedicated *Have Your Say* webpage, by visiting either of the two drop-in information sessions or providing a submission via mail or email.



What we heard

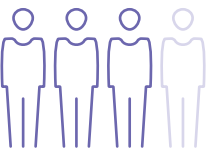
Online feedback form

Overall, the draft Harbour Foreshore Masterplan was well received by the community and had high levels of support from online submissions.

Of the 48 online submissions received, 31 supported the Masterplan overall, 5 were unsure and 12 did not support the Masterplan.



As part of their online submission, respondents were asked whether or not they supported 12 individual aspects of the Masterplan.



3 in 4 respondents supported a majority of the 12 aspects of the Masterplan



Only 2 respondents did not support any of the 12 aspects.

Key themes that emerged from the open feedback about the Masterplan were:

general positive comments e.g.:
"the plan looks great, let's get started"

tree canopy and shade

playspace

too much focus on commercial interests/
development



The nature of feedback was very broad. Other mentions included: the frog pond, event spaces, retaining open space/green space, materials used in construction, design and planning considerations and prioritisation of spending.

Drop-in sessions

During the public exhibition period, two drop-in sessions were held at:

Market Street Lawn (near the Signal Box)
on Saturday 08 October from 10am–1pm

Marketown Shopping Centre (near Coles)
on Thursday 13 October from 11am–2pm

Feedback at the two drop-in sessions was generally positive. Several people made general positive comments about the Masterplan and/or had already viewed the plans online.

Many also commented that proposed changes within the Masterplan were much needed to revitalise the Harbour Foreshore and attract visitors. The playspace received a lot of interest and excitement.

Many of the questions were around potential loss of parking and concerns about parking with the increase in visitors to the Foreshore area. Other questions were about trees and shade canopy, timeframe for implementation, the Frog Pond, pedestrian and cycleway improvements, prioritisation of spending, and questions about Honeysuckle which were explained to be outside the scope of the project.

Submissions

Two other submissions were received from the Newcastle East Residents Group and National Trust, providing detailed feedback on the draft Masterplan. Key themes raised within these submissions are listed below:

Scope of the Masterplan and alignment with the 2015 Harbour Foreshore Plan of Management

Addition of new event spaces within Foreshore Park and suitability of proposed event spaces

Lack of detail about trees and vegetation within the Masterplan

Pedestrian and cyclist safety

Parking/Supercars pit area

Kiosk/amenities building

Negative social impact/anti-social behaviour

Heritage considerations such as incorporating European history and cultural stories about the history of Newcastle

Fencing around Livvi's Playspace

Further community consultation



Next steps

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback throughout all stages of developing the draft Masterplan. The information has been reviewed and considered by the project team in finalising the Masterplan before being adopted by Council.