

Newcastle Voice Social Planning



April 2011

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Executive Summary

Members of the Newcastle Voice community reference panel were invited to contribute to the development of The City of Newcastle's *Social Plan (2011-2016)* via a survey in March 2011.

The consultation was conducted on behalf of Strategic Planning Services to obtain an understanding of community perceptions in a number of social dimensions: households, community activity, community perceptions and community safety.

A survey was sent to all active Newcastle Voice members within the Newcastle LGA and gained 693 responses. Over 1500 responses to open-ended questions reveal the diversity of opinion about the current social climate of the city and immediate priorities for the future. On balance, respondents are content with their local communities and would like to see a focus on city-wide redevelopment to enhance the already strong social connections and supports experienced at neighbourhood level.

Respondents were asked about their housing needs in the next five years. Over 65% of respondents expect their housing needs to remain the same. Of the remainder who do expect a change, the majority expect to stay within the Newcastle local government area (77%).

Respondents were also asked about their attendance at cultural activities and the sorts of creative or cultural activities they participate in actively. The table reveals the top three activities from all respondents:

Audience Member	Active Participant
1. Movies (77.92%)	1. Library use/reading (61.90%)
2. Live performances (72.15%)	2. Online social activity (50.79%)
3. Cultural events (67.82%)	3. Visual arts (25.83%)

Respondents were asked to identify their top three challenges to participating more in community life:

1. Work or other commitments/lack of time' (71.14%)
2. Lack of information of available services/activities in my local community (25.54%)
3. Cost (19.77%)

When asked why they chose to live in their suburb, 78% of respondents said it was because of the 'convenient location', 56% said it was because of the 'lifestyle' and 45% said it was because of the 'natural environment (eg. beaches, harbour/foreshore). Over 79% of respondents said they feel somewhat or strongly welcomed and connected in their local community.

Respondents were asked how safe they feel in their community. People reported feeling 'most safe' during the day and 'least safe' at night.

Introduction

The City of Newcastle develops community and social planning policies and guidelines, as required by the *Local Government Act (1993)*. Council is committed to developing the capacity of individuals, local groups and organisations to participate in planning, decision making and community action.

As part of the development of the next *Social Plan (2011-2016)*, discussion papers will be developed to describe community issues on a range of subjects. The papers will be based on demographic analysis, Newcastle Voice survey outcomes, literature reviews and interviews with Council staff, service providers and community representatives. Discussion papers will focus on target groups, planning districts and issues.

Report Purpose

This community consultation will help Council gather a broad base of information to guide the preparation of the document by:

- Finding out what is important to the community
- Finding out the key issues facing the community
- Gathering information describing the local community in Newcastle

The revised *Social Plan (2011-2016)* will outline strategies and actions to be implemented by Council and identify focus areas for other community and government organisations. It will also support goals and strategies outlined the *Newcastle 2030* document (Community Strategic Plan); Council's four-year Delivery Program and one-year Operational Plan.

Methodology

Data Collection

A survey using a structured questionnaire with a total of 18 questions was sent to all active Newcastle Voice members. Where appropriate, questions were built with the options 'other, please specify,' 'unsure' or 'don't know.' There were four open-ended questions to record additional comments. To control order bias, the system automatically rotates the presentation of items within certain questions on a random basis. A copy of the survey is provided in Appendix I.

A survey invitation and link to the on-line survey was sent on 14 March 2011. Electronic reminders to those online members who had not yet completed the survey were sent on 18 March 2011 and 23 March 2011.

The survey was duplicated, printed and distributed in hard copy to Newcastle Voice print members. The survey was mailed out on 14 March 2011, with a pre-paid envelope to encourage their return.

The survey closed at midnight on 25 March 2011.

Survey Area

Residents and ratepayers from the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) were consulted, through the Newcastle Voice community reference panel. The breakdown of the demographics by suburb and planning district is provided in Appendix II, which includes data for the sample group and the respondents group.

Sample Selection

A total of 1956 Newcastle Voice members were surveyed. The number represents all active panel members who have previously completed the Profile Study.

Representation

Although sampling 1956 panel members represents over 1.3% of the Newcastle LGA population, the sampling frame for this survey was not statistically representative of the population.

This is due to the fact that all active Newcastle Voice members, on-line and off-line were surveyed. With the exception of Inner City South, and Inner City North, the other planning districts are under-represented. The table below reveals the number of respondents by planning district. The results are not representative of the population geographically (based on most recent Census data). For this reason, the results in this report will not be compared at the planning district level.

Table 1: Number of respondents by Planning District

Planning District	Number of respondents
Inner City South	216
Inner City North	84
Hamilton	120
Mayfield	54
Lambton	102
Jesmond	25
Wallsend	55
Blue Gum Hills	23
North West	13
I live outside the Newcastle LGA, but own property in Newcastle	1
TOTAL	693

Responses are over-represented from Ward 1 and 2, while they are under-represented in Wards 3 and 4. Furthermore, panel members in the 16-24 and 70+ age brackets are also under-represented.

Participants

The breakdown of the demographics by gender, age and employment status is provided for the sample as well as for the survey respondents in Appendix II. In brief, results show that:

- 10.98% of respondents live in Merewether, 5.92% in Mayfield, 5.92% in Newcastle city centre, and 5.78% in New Lambton
- A relatively even proportion of respondents were 25-39 years old, 40-54 years old or 55-69 years old (21.10%, 30.06%, 36.56% respectively)
- 43.45% of respondents live in the Inner City South and North planning districts
- 65.10% of respondents are employed full or part-time; a higher response from these groups than in past surveys
- 67.44% of respondents have lived in the Newcastle LGA for more than 10 years
- The gender split was 48.27% male and 51.73% female.

Data Handling and Analysis

The data handling and analysis was carried out by staff in the Customer Service, Communication and Consultation service unit. The approach used during the consultation is designed to increase inclusiveness and generate data for analysis into themes.

All raw data is included as Appendix III.

Trend analysis was conducted from the open-ended question responses. All responses are treated in confidence to ensure the anonymity of respondents, and edited only for grammar and spelling if inserted as comments into the body of the report. The complete record of all comments received is included as Appendix IV.

Response Rate

The survey had a 35% completion rate (693 out of 1956) and a 37% participation rate (724 out of 1958). That means that 37% of respondents started the survey, but 2% did not complete it (31 out of 1958). Of those who chose not to complete the survey (2%), 42% dropped out before reaching the second question.

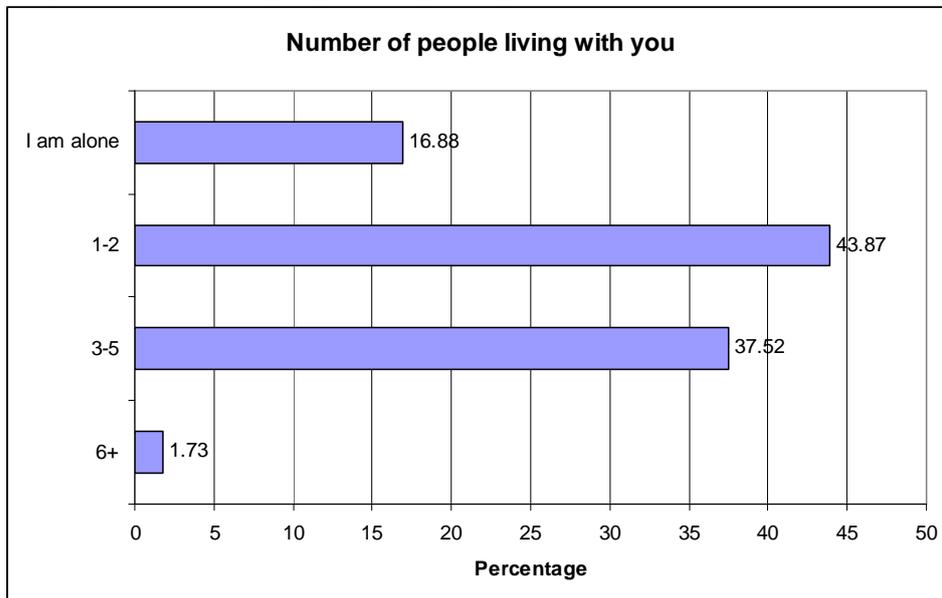
Findings

About You and Your Family

When asked how many people live in their home including themselves, 43.87% indicated that one to two people live in the home, followed by 37.52% who indicated that between three and five people live in the home. Over 16% of respondents indicated living alone.

Of the respondents aged 55-69 years old, 58.10% indicated living with one to two people. Similarly, of those respondents aged 70+ (65.71%), indicated living with one to two people. Over 61% of respondents in the 40-54 age bracket indicated living with three to five people.

Graph 1: Number of people living with you

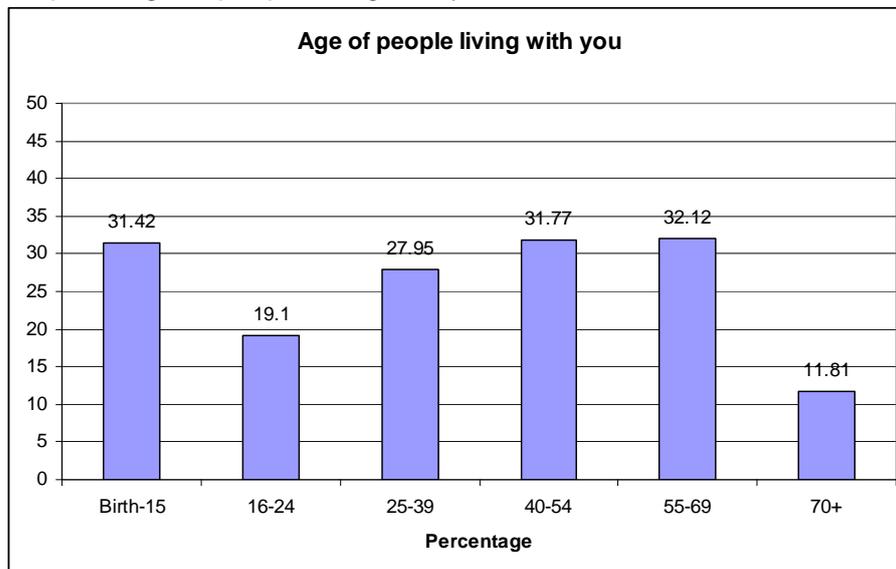


Ages in a Household

The age group of those living with respondents is widespread, with no age bracket falling into a majority. Over 61% of respondents in the 25-39 age bracket indicated living with children under fifteen years old, followed by 47.64% of 40-54 year olds.

Of note: 17.28% of 55-69 year olds live with 16-24 year olds, and similarly 12.04% of 55-69 year olds live with 25-39 year olds.

Graph 2: Age of people living with you

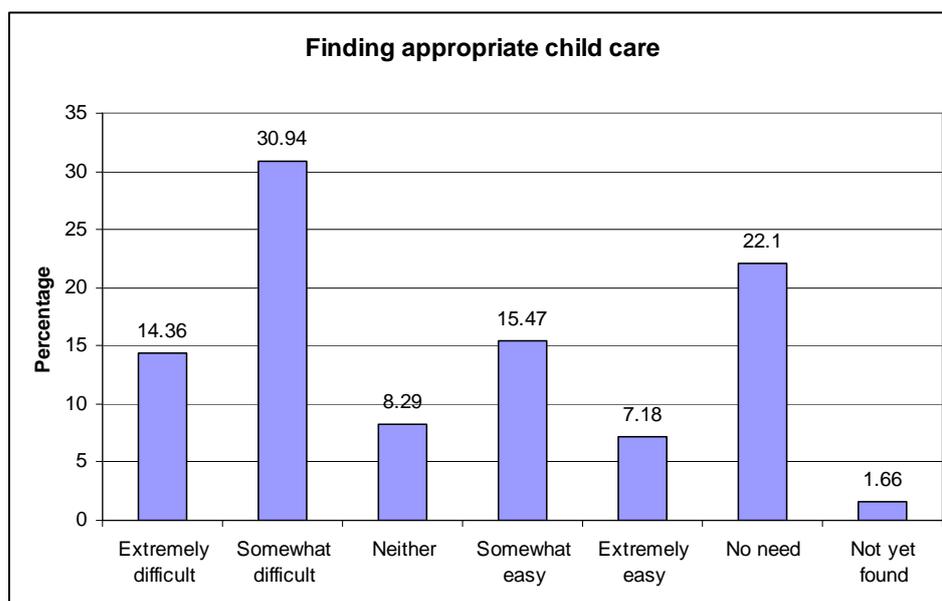


Child Care

Those respondents who indicated that they have children under 15 years of age, (31.42%) were asked how difficult it was to find appropriate child care or before/after school care for their child. Over 45% of those respondents said that it was somewhat or extremely difficult to find appropriate care, with another 2% having not yet found appropriate care. There are no marked differences between gender and age.

Respondents in Ward 4 differed in their response compared with respondents living in the other three wards. A greater number (40%) said that they had 'no need for child care services' and of those that did require child care, only 27.27% stated that they had a somewhat or extremely difficult' time finding appropriate care for their child.

Graph 3: Finding appropriate child care



Respondents were asked what they would like to see happen to improve the access to appropriate child care or before/after school care. The responsibility to address the demand for childcare services is shared by several organisations, with a mixture of Council and private organisations providing care for young children, and the NSW Department of Education responsible for OOSH care at local public schools. The responses will therefore also be the domain of many organisations.

Of the 81 suggestions received, 44 address the need for increased capacity in both childcare centres and Out Of School Hours (OOSH) care for school age children. A further 14 comment that the costs need to be reduced to improve access to childcare, ten seek better information about which centres are available, and four seek a more diverse range of childcare options. The following verbatims illustrate current community expectation, as stated by respondents:

- “Government funding for all public government schools to have OOSH/After School Care rather than just some.”
- “Either more centres or increase the capacity at the existing centres. In particular places for children 0-2years old it is difficult to find a quality centre.”
- “Care close to home is always the best option. Family Day Care allows little mini childcare centres to be spread not only across the LGA but across a suburb. Council should look at a ways to attract more carers eg extensive marketing campaigns, low interest or no interest start-up loan.”
- “I am a Carrington local, and I failed to get my son into a day-care/pre school until he was 3 years old. Now that he is in pre-school, my partner has to do split-shifts in order to pick him up and drop him off. Public transport around Carrington isn't so bad, but it would take me at least a couple of hours to pick my son up and come home if I were to use the bus. I am a full time uni student.”
- “After school and holiday care availability is poor in the 2287 area (Maryland, Fletcher, Minmi & Wallsend)... more options for programs for older children as well (10-15) who don't want to spend their day doing craft and playing dress ups!”

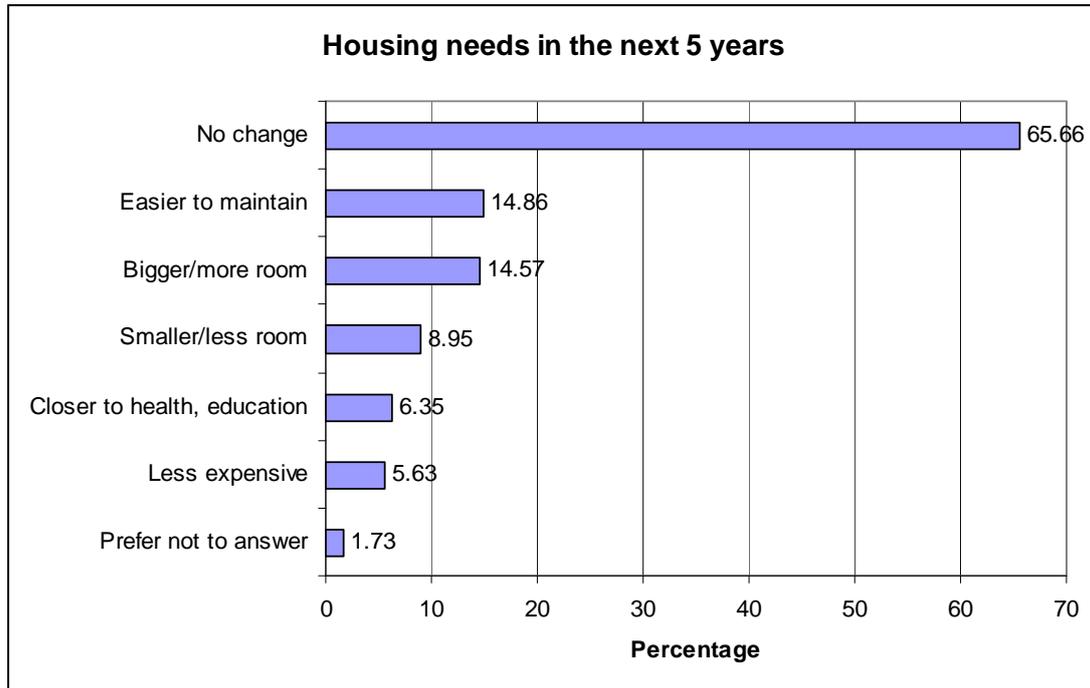
Future Housing Needs

Respondents were asked about their housing needs in the next five years. Over 65% of respondents don't expect to change their housing needs in the next five years. Of those who did indicate that their housing needs would change (32.62%), 14.86% said that they 'would need something easier to maintain' and 14.57% said that they 'would need something bigger/more room.'

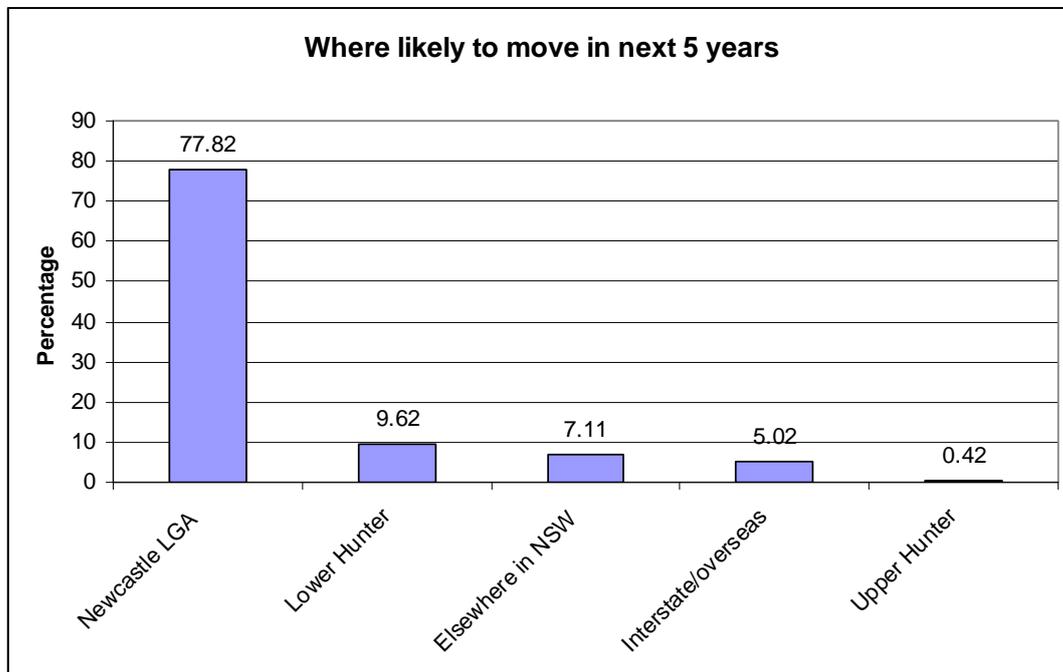
Looking at the different age brackets, the majority of respondents in all brackets indicated that they 'don't expect to change housing needs in the next 5 years', however, 41.10% of respondents aged between 25-39 revealed that they 'will need something bigger/more room' within the next five years and 18.57% of 70+ year old respondents said that they 'will need something easier to maintain.'

Of those who did indicate that their housing needs would change (32.62%), 77.82% said that they think they are most likely to stay in the Newcastle local government area.

Graph 4: Housing needs in the next 5 years



Graph 5: Where likely to move in next 5 years



Community Participation

Cultural Activities – as audience and as participant

Respondents were asked which cultural activity or entertainment they attend as an audience member, out of a possible seven options:

- Art Exhibitions
- Cultural events (eg. Livesites, festivals, community events)
- Library exhibitions or programs
- Live performances (eg. music, concert/gig, circus, dance)
- Movies
- Museum exhibitions
- Theatre

Respondents were also asked what creative or cultural activity they actively participate in, from a list of ten options:

- Craft (eg. metalworking, quilting, knitting, scrapbooking, woodworking)
- Cultural events (eg. organiser, service provider, supporter)
- Collecting (eg. fine arts, antiques, collectibles)
- Library use/reading
- Live performances or gigs (eg. music, concert/gig, circus, dance)
- Online (eg. Facebook, social blogs, myspace, online games, Skype, YouTube)
- Performing arts/theatre (eg. actor, director, stage hand)
- Visual arts/photography/videography
- Writer
- Other

The table below reveals the responses in ranked order. The overall responses add up to more than 100% as respondents were able to select more than one option for each question. Over 8% of respondents indicated that they participate in other activities, which include a large range of hobbies, sporting and social activities – church, playing music, history research, art gallery guiding, kayaking and so on. It demonstrates that community understanding of what constitutes cultural activity has broadened.

A small proportion of respondents, 4.18%, said that they did not attend cultural events; and 8.51% of respondents did not actively participate in a cultural activity.

Table 2: Cultural interest & activity

Audience Member	Active Participant
1. Movies (77.92%)	1. Library use/reading (61.90%)
2. Live performances (eg. music, concert/gig, circus, dance) (72.15%)	2. Online (eg. facebook, social blogs, myspace, online games, Skype, YouTube) (50.79%)
3. Cultural events (eg. Livesites, festivals, community events) (67.82%)	3. Visual arts, photography, videography (25.83%)
4. Art exhibition (59.74%)	4. Cultural events (eg. organiser, service provider, supporter) (24.10%)
5. Theatre (59.02%)	5. Collecting (eg. fine arts, antiques, collectibles) (22.22%)
6. Library exhibitions or programs (50.07%)	6. Craftwork (eg. metalworking, quilting, knitting, scrapbooking, woodworking) (22.08%)
7. Museum exhibitions (48.34%)	7. Live performances or gigs (eg. music, concert/gig, circus, dance) (21.65%)
	8. Writer (10.53%)
	9. Performing arts/theatre (eg. actor, director, stage hand) (6.64%)

There are no marked differences between wards and gender when asked about the cultural interests or entertainment they attend.

There are some interesting differences by age bracket, with 55-69 and 70+ year olds differing in their top three cultural interests attended. Respondents aged 55-69 years old revealed that they attend the following top three cultural interests:

1. Movies (79.05%)
2. Live Performance (64.43%)
3. Theatre (62.06%)

Respondents aged 70+ years old revealed that they attend the following top three cultural interests:

1. Art Exhibition (64.29%)
2. Live performance (61.43%)
3. Movies (58.57%)

There are no marked differences between wards when people were asked about the cultural activity they *actively* participate in, however there are some interesting differences by age and gender. The top three cultural activities which women actively participate in are as follows:

1. Library use/reading (69.83%)
2. Online (55.87%)
3. Craft (28.77%)

The top three cultural activities for 16-24 year olds are as follows:

1. Online social activities (100%)
2. Library use/reading (80%)
3. Cultural events (46.67%)

The top three creative or cultural activities which 70+ year olds actively participate in are as follows:

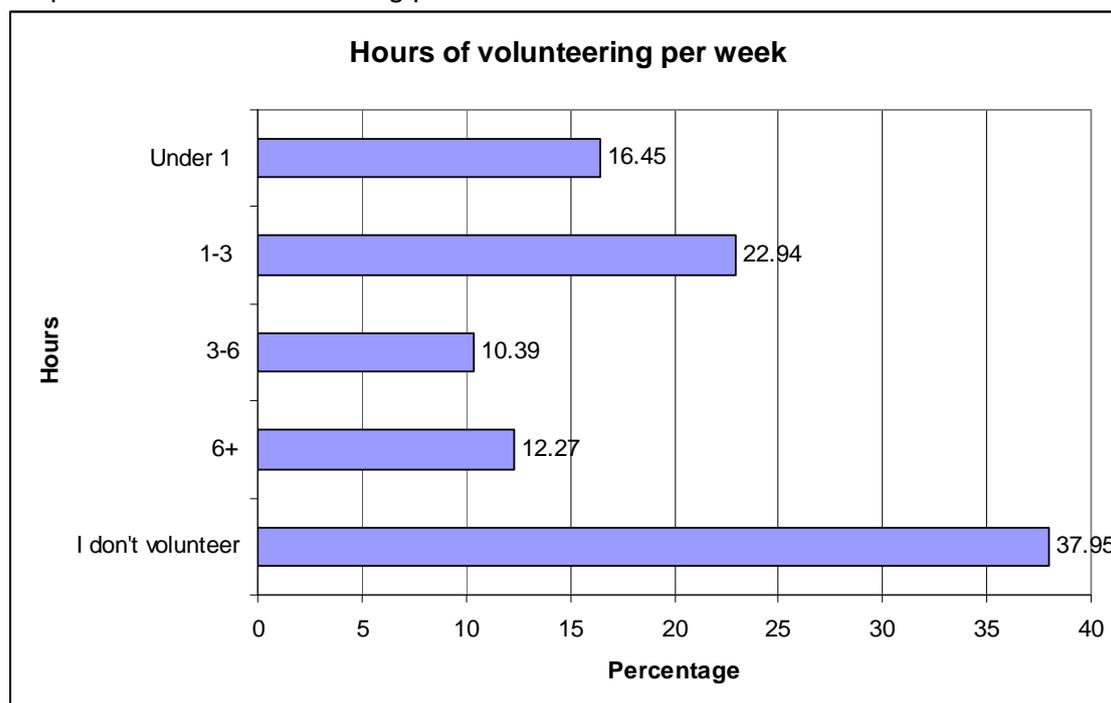
1. Library use/reading (64.29%)
2. Crafting (35.71%)
3. Cultural events (32.86%)

Volunteering

Respondents were asked if they volunteered and how many hours were spent on volunteering each week, with a majority responding that they do volunteer their time (62.05%). Of those who volunteer, 39.39% volunteer up to three hours each week, with a further 22.66% volunteering between three and 6+ hours weekly.

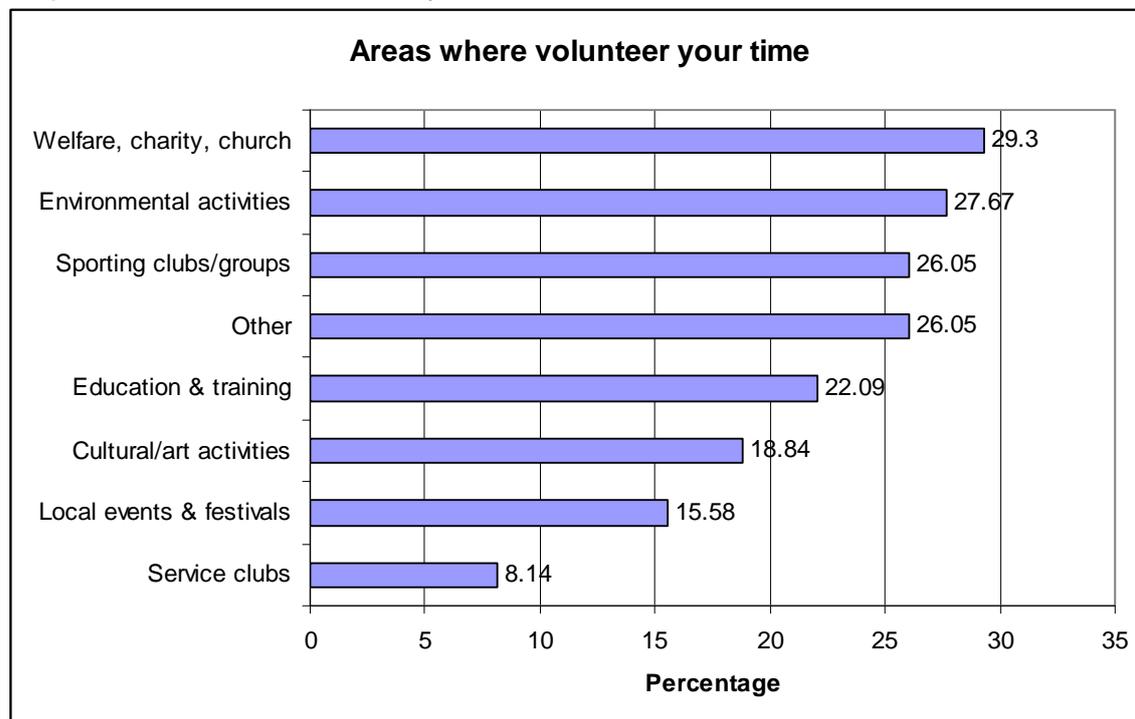
Looking at the different age brackets, there are some marked differences in the amount of time spent volunteering. More respondents aged 16-24 years old (26.67%) volunteer 1 to 3 hours per week, with a bigger portion not volunteering at all (46.67%). More respondents aged 25-39 years old volunteer for a shorter period of time: under one hour to three hours, 48.63%. Respondents who are 70+ did volunteer more of their time, with 27.14% saying they spent over six hours per week volunteering. There are no marked differences between wards and gender.

Graph 6: Hours of volunteering per week



Those who mentioned volunteering their time (62.05%) were asked to identify the areas where they volunteer. Welfare, fundraising and church gained the most responses, followed by environmental activities (eg. Clean Up Australia Day, tree planting, community gardens) and sporting clubs/groups – 29.30%, 27.67% and 26.05% respectively.

Graph 7: Areas where volunteer your time



There is a marked difference between wards, age brackets and gender when asked to identify the areas where they volunteer. The table below demonstrates the similarities and differences. The overall responses add up to more than 100% as respondents were able to select more than one option for each question.

Table 3: Top area volunteer time by key demographics

Demographics	Top Area Volunteer Time
Female	Welfare, charity, church (31.36%)
Male	Sporting clubs/groups (33.81%)
Ward 1	Environmental activities (38.56%)
Ward 2	Sporting clubs/groups (36.88%)
Ward 3	Welfare, charity, church (34.67%)
Ward 4	Welfare, charity, church (36.07%)
Age bracket: 16-24	Environmental activities (62.50%)
Age bracket: 25-39	Other (32.53%)
Age bracket: 40-54	Sporting clubs/groups (32.58%)
Age bracket: 55-69	Welfare, charity, church (34.81%)
Age bracket: 70+	Welfare, charity, church (48.98%)

The list of response options was not exhaustive and 26.05% of survey respondents selected other, describing their volunteering support of young or aged family members, volunteering their professional skills out of work hours, supporting sporting organisations, political advocacy to promote cycling, animal rescue and sustainable living (among others), historical research, and supporting a range of community organisations.

Challenges to Increased Community Participation

Respondents were asked to identify their top three challenges which affect their ability to participate more in community life from a list of eleven options:

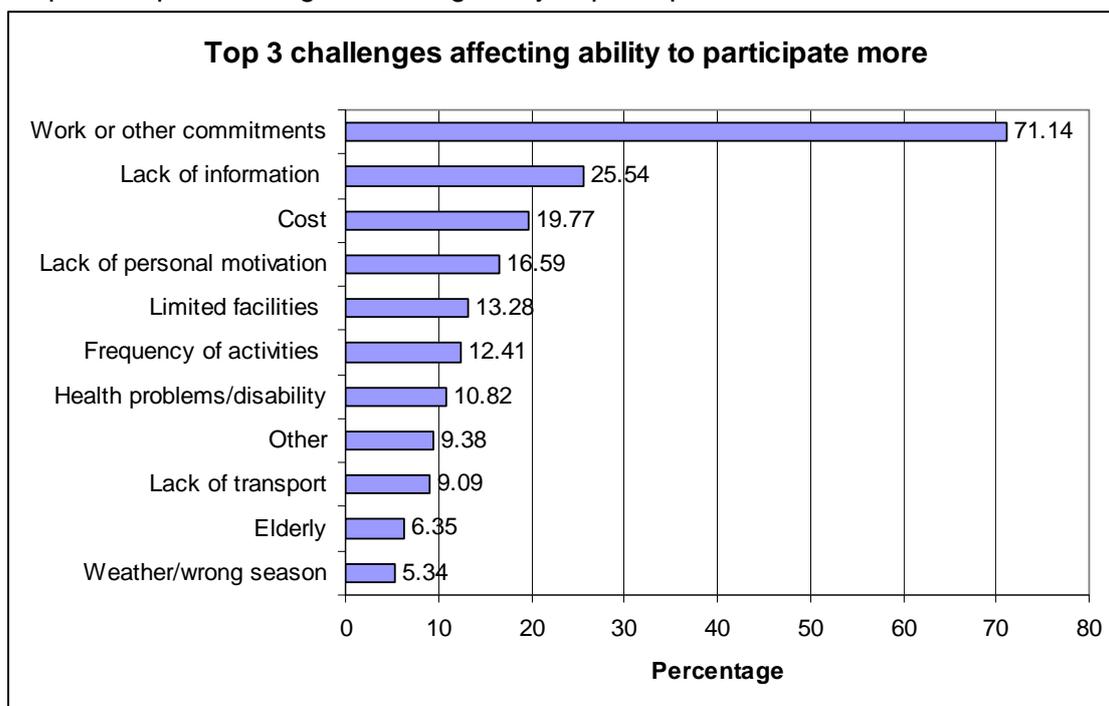
- Cost
- Elderly
- Frequency of activities (not frequent enough or too frequent)
- Health problems/disability
- Lack of information of available services/activities in my local community
- Lack of personal motivation
- Lack of transport
- Limited facilities in Newcastle
- Weather/wrong season
- Work or other commitments/lack of time
- Other

The top three challenges which affect respondents' ability to participate more in community life are as follows:

1. Work or other commitments/lack of time' (71.14%)
2. Lack of information of available services/activities in my local community (25.54%)
3. Cost (19.77%)

The overall responses add up to more than 100% as respondents were able to select more than one option for each question.

Graph 8: Top 3 challenges affecting ability to participate more



Responses from males differed from the overall responses, with 70.96% stating ‘work or other commitments’, 25.15% stating ‘lack of information of available services/activities in my local community’, and 19.76% stating ‘lack of personal motivation.’

The top three challenges by age bracket are as follows in the table below:

Table 4: Top 3 challenges affecting participation, by age

Age Bracket	Top 3 challenges
16-24	Work or other commitments/lack of time (80%)
	Limited facilities in Newcastle (40%)
	Lack of information of available services/activities (40%)
25-39	Work or other commitments/lack of time (84.90%)
	Lack of information of available services/activities (29.45%)
	Lack of personal motivation (21.23%)
40-54	Work or other commitments/lack of time (81.25%)
	Lack of information of available services/activities (25.96%)
	Cost (16.83%)
55-69	Work or other commitments/lack of time (62.85%)
	Lack of information of available services/activities (24.90%)
	Cost (21.74%)
70+	Work or other commitments/lack of time (41.43%)
	Elderly (38.57%)
	Cost (24.29%)

There are no marked differences by ward.

For the 9.38% of respondents who describe other challenges limited their increased participation, the responses fall into the categories identified above: time constraints due to work and family commitments, a lack of information about what’s needed and difficulties accessing volunteering activities.

Your Local Community

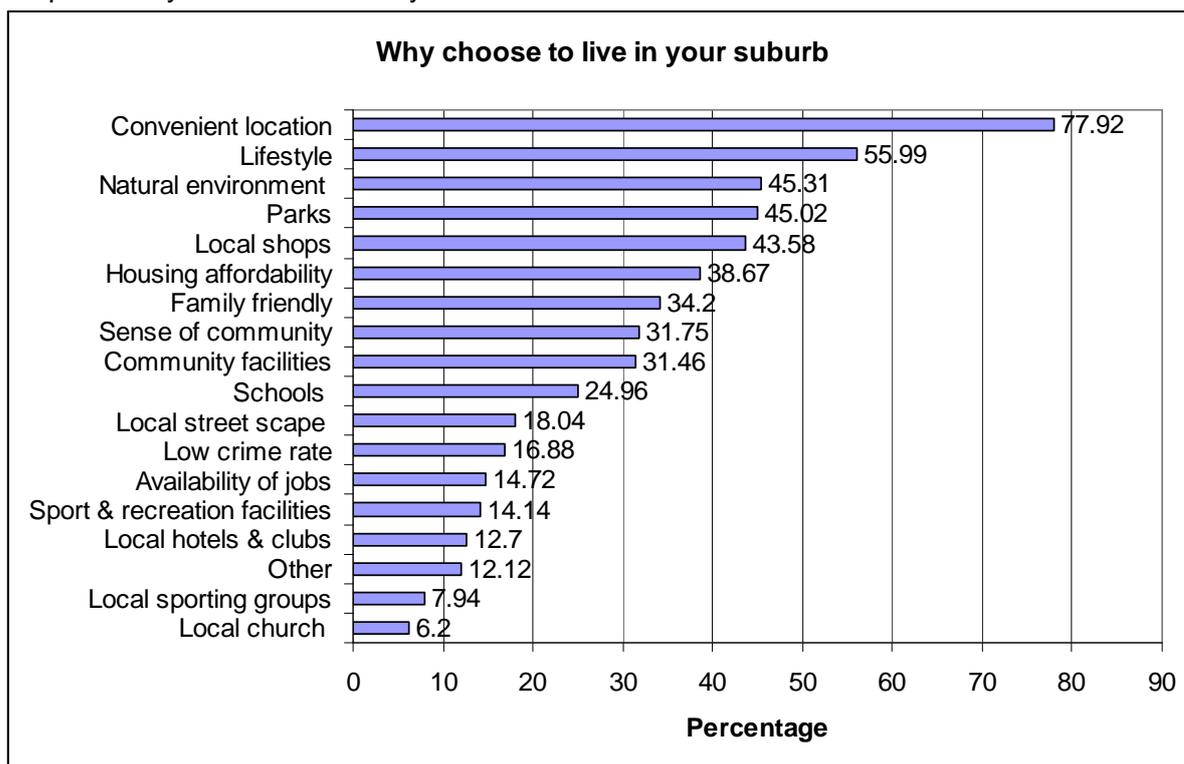
When asked why they chose to live in their suburb, 77.92% of respondents said it was because of the 'convenient location', 55.99% said it was because of the 'lifestyle' and 45.31% said it was because of the 'natural environment (eg. beaches, harbour/foreshore).

Of the people who respond 'other' the majority describe that they have always lived in the suburb or that their home is close to other family, transport connections or work. There are no marked differences by gender.

Over 49% of respondents in Ward 3 stated that they chose to live in their suburb because the area is 'family friendly'. Respondents in Ward 4, and those aged between 16 -24 and 25-39 stated that 'housing affordability' were important to them when choosing an appropriate suburb to live in (62.04%, 60.00%, 49.32% respectively).

The overall responses add up to more than 100% as respondents were able to select more than one option for each question.

Graph 9: Why choose to live in your suburb



Positive Aspects of Local Community

Respondents were asked about the most positive aspect of their community and the open-ended question generated 695 comments. The following themes emerged:

1. Social connection	38.18%
2. Close to businesses and services	19.60%
3. Natural and built environment	10.23%
4. Close to transport	10.09%
5. Safety	8.93%
6. Close to facilities and recreation	7.78%
7. Social isolation	1.87%
8. Don't know	1.59%
9. Affordability	1.01%
10. Own home's characteristics	0.72%

The social connection people feel with their local community (38.18% of comments) is described in the form of friendly, respectful neighbourly relations, like-minded people nearby and feelings of friendly support – and are made from many suburbs across the city. The following comments illustrate:

- “I have a sense of security in the neighbourhood and belonging - have lived here most of my life.”
- “Gosh, I love where I live in Mayfield. We've got a little community garden at the end of the street and about 1/2 my neighbours are involved, and we have a great time working in the garden together and organising social events around the garden. And then the other half the people in the street I've gotten to know anyway, and we are always stopping to chit chat in the street and over the fence.”
- “Blackbutt Reserve is just across the road and we have trees surrounding our property. We are in town, but the area is quiet. We have great, quiet neighbours, the houses are close together but we don't live in each others pockets. We all look out for each other.”
- “Stockton's landscape, large open parks for the public to enjoy, safe beach, great walkway around the foreshore and the friendliness of community is of very high standard. You can be on a morning walk and every person that you pass will bid you good morning.”
- “High area of Mayfield North where community is watchful without being nose.”
- “Throsby is the best. What else can you say.”
- “I enjoy being part of Adamstown Uniting Church. I organise fundraising concerts there for Lifeline and am part of other activities that bring people together to enjoy each other's company.”
- “Islington has improved exponentially in the last three years. Many like minded people - many "Inner West Sydney refugees" moved here as it's very much like Newtown, Marrickville, Erskineville, but much better priced.”
- Lambton has a village atmosphere that we appreciate. It is quiet, not over developed, unassuming. People are friendly and it is within a short distance of work, restaurants, freeway, lake and ocean. The parks and capacity to walk around suburb undisturbed is most appealing.”

Being close to a variety of services, cultural activities and businesses is the next important positive aspect (19.6% of responses):

- “As a Darby Street resident and store manager I take a pride in the development of the area and the community that frequent it.”
- “Close access to eateries, beach, harbor, theatre, health services.”
- “One of the most positive aspects of our community is the friendliness, with 3 children we make many friends through school, sports and socialising. The next would be ease of access to facilities such as restaurants, shops, library, pool etc.”
- “Close to everything - 5 min walk to schools and workplace; 5 min drive to shops, social activities, sporting areas, beaches and large shopping centres; good close transport network and infrastructure.”
- “Has library facilities at Wallsend, New Lambton & Lambton -- all near.”
- “As a retired senior citizen, living by myself, positive aspects are close access to cultural activities...exercise from walking and swimming...revealing areas of historical Newcastle to family and friends when they visit...close access to medical and dental practices.”
- “Central location (Inner West); close to kids cultural activities (not too much driving)”.
- “Newcastle is a city with all the amenities yet small enough to allow one to become part of the community.”
- “We lived in a very remote, small community, population 4000, for 35 years. It was difficult to decide where to live when we decided to leave, having originally come from Europe. On our way to the Sunshine Coast, we decided to stop in Newcastle for 5 weeks, our daughter lives here, we stayed for 2.5 years. Lived at Toronto, and Warners Bay, but enjoyed the city/ people in Newcastle. After 2.5 years we travelled, but Newcastle was never far from our minds. We returned Aug 09. Love the beach, lake, city/ history/ architecture, working harbour, regular events music/ theatre, Renew Newcastle, people.”
- “Convenient to 5 supermarkets - Coles Waratah, Woolies Mayfield, Franklins Mayfield, ALDI Hamilton, Woolies Jesmond.”

Being near attractive natural and built environments was stated by 10.23% of responses, illustrated as follows:

- “The environment, beach, harbour, parks. Living here allows use of public transport (which of course, could always be better). Beaches and baths are wonderful and very friendly neighbours and my apartment is pet friendly, which to me is important.”
- “Not too built up, still have some trees around the area. Easy access to F3.”
- “Great location, natural environment (Throsby Creek & harbour), friendly community.”
- “Merewether is a great place to live.”
- “We enjoy visiting the beach and bushland areas like Dudley and Blackbutt. Sadly there's not too much bushland in or around Newcastle, not compared to Sydney with so many national parks.”
- “High density housing means great community sense, beaches, parklands and heritage buildings.”

Transport connections, in the form of major roads, public transport, parking and active transport (pedestrian and cycling) are stated in 10.0% of responses:

- “Close to shops and transport for a teenager; beautiful tree lined street with lots of birds in the morning; great neighbours; 5 min drive to the beach; the Loft for young people to learn and grow when music is their thing.”
- “Wide open spaces, lots of trees, my neighbours have mostly built their homes in the estate and I know a few of them, lots of families with dogs, close to the F3, little crime.”
- “Convenient location; and the pleasure of living in a Wool Warehouse conversion. The warehouse has a specific character, and is also a heritage building. It is so very different to the modern unit buildings. I love it. Always pleased to open my door when I return from my regular trips to Sydney. I also have an easy walk to the train station.”
- “Walking and bicycle friendly. Dog friendly. Affordable housing. Close to city, beach, train station and cafe strips - Darby St and Beaumont St.”
- “Quiet/ relaxed (Maryland), also there are a few cycleways for leisurely cycling, but not enough connections to other cycleways outside Maryland.”
- “I have lived in New Lambton for most of my adult life, my children were educated here and they all live in the suburb too. The shops are conveniently located and we love living near Blackbutt Reserve. The suburb is also convenient to all the big shopping centres and only a short drive into the city and foreshore. There is negligible crime rate so we feel relatively safe.”

Community safety is described as a positive aspect by 8.93% of respondent comments, with an emphasis on a quiet community, an appreciation of tidy street appearances without public disturbance, as well as the more common concerns about anti-social behaviours. The following comments illustrate:

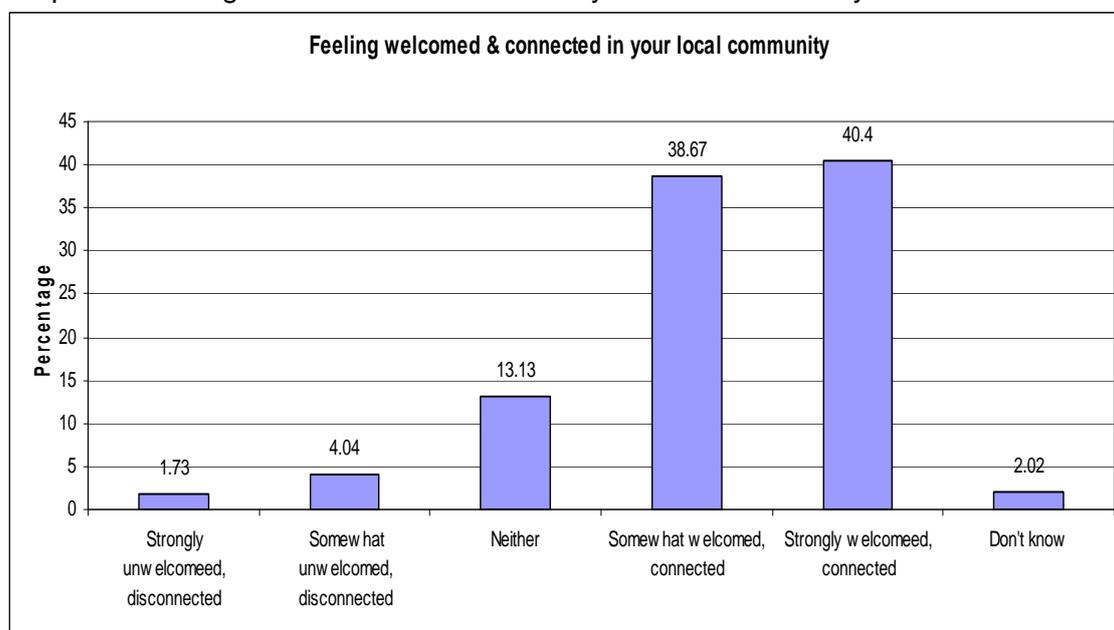
- “Elderly neighbours who do not keep domestic pets or make unnecessary noise.”
- “Decent young families and older neighbours offering a sense of community and street safety. Proud home owners who make the effort to look after the upkeep of their homes and landscapes or gardens. Appropriate street tree planting.”
- “Quiet, reasonably sophisticated area which is convenient to facilities and services that we desire.”
- “Security, non-threatening, neighbours.”
- “Newcastle is by far the best place to live, as I have travelled around the world, seen the poverty & pollution of other countries.”
- “I love most things about living in Hamilton. The only thing I don’t like is there is a lot of Rental Properties and there used to be a lot of vandalism but this has improved since the lock out of pubs after a certain time.”
- “Lack of crime and antisocial behaviour, due largely to a dearth of public housing, high rental prices and no crime-attracting infrastructure (eg: methodone clinic, high density housing, Centrelink Office, etc). No - I'm not joking.”

The proximity to recreational facilities or natural environments is appreciated by many respondents, with the following comments illustrating:

- “There seems to be a high level of community pride - the parks are always very well maintained, graffiti is dealt with quite quickly and the residents tend to ensure their own home presentation is at a high level. The amount of green space was a very big consideration - looking at trees instead of neighbours houses is much nicer! Convenience to major roadways to the Newcastle CBD and to the freeway to Sydney was also high on the attractions of this suburb to my family's needs.”
- “Convenient to beaches, foreshore, bushland, dog parks and friendly people.”
- “Leisure opportunities at a low cost.”
- “Wide quiet streets - potential for beautiful streets - need more trees planted on northern side of each parallel street in Maryville - family friendly - bike path.”
- “Near the beach, library and art gallery. Close to work, so shorter commute. Free inner city bus means we hardly ever have to drive (once a week to the grocery store).”
- “The open spaces and dedicated walkways and cycle paths in the parklands around New Lambton... so important in a city.”

Respondents were asked if in general they feel welcome and connected in their local community. Over 79% of respondents said they feel somewhat or strongly welcomed, connected in their local community. There are no marked differences between age and gender.

Graph 10: Feeling welcomed & connected in your local community



Respondents living in Ward 4 differed somewhat from the overall responses. Over 7% of respondents from Ward 4 stated feeling ‘somewhat or strongly unwelcomed, disconnected’, 69.44% feel ‘somewhat or strongly welcomed, connected’ and 22.39% stated ‘neither’ or ‘don’t know.’

Challenging Aspects of Local Community

When asked why people do not feel connected or welcome in their community, the relationships between neighbours feature highly, as did the lack of public infrastructure and transport, and the changing social attitudes as a city becomes more diverse. The following comments illustrate the span of 33 comments received at this question:

- “From our experience over the last 20 years there is very little neighbourly contact. People are unwilling to say hello.”
- “Not many older residents left. Too many houses let out to students who drive radically and too fast.”
- “Low density housing, heavy traffic and high car use. Lack of community village feel as can be found in inner suburbs - very typically suburban. Huge amounts of social isolation through lack of connectivity and heavy reliance on private transport. Buses run 6am-5pm only, once per hr, trains and train stations are dangerous and even less frequent - once every 2 hrs or less on weekends.”
- “Uncontrolled alcohol fuelled violence and anti social behaviour that is condoned by our political leaders and officials who continue to put pub profits ahead of public safety. They waste our taxes and rates on measures that have no independently proven success.”
- “I have joined 3 separate organisations - and although I have served on committees - there is a definite clique mentality where you are tolerated but not included. Luckily I have other friends. This is a common thread.”

When asked what the three main challenges are in the community for them and their families, 31.60% of respondents said ‘community safety/security’, 28.14% said ‘access to public transport’ and 22.37% said ‘access to GP/doctor’. The list below depicts the challenges faced by respondents and their families in their community – in ranked order.

1. **Community safety/security (31.6%)**
2. **Access to public transport (28.14%)**
3. **Access to a GP/doctor (22.37%)**
4. Other (21.79%)
5. Affordable housing (18.61%)
6. Opportunities to be involved (12.84%)
7. Access to health services (11.4%)
8. Employment/job security (11.11%)
9. Don't know (10.82%)
10. Access to recreation facilities and open spaces (eg. parks) (10.53%)
11. Access to community facilities/services (9.81%)
12. Mobility/overall accessibility (6.2%)
13. Access to childcare services (5.48%)
14. Access to respite care/aged care (5.19%)
15. Access to training and education facilities (4.33%)
16. Access to youth services (3.17%)

There is a difference between wards, and age brackets when asked about their three main challenges in their community. There are no marked differences by gender. Respondents in Ward 2 revealed that their top three main challenges were:

1. Community safety/security (32%)
2. Access to public transport (26%)
3. Affordable housing (23%)

Similarly respondents aged 16-24 and 25-39 also cited the same top three main challenges, as per the table below:

Table 5: Top three challenges by age

Age	Top 3 main challenges
Age bracket: 16-24	Access to public transport (53.33%)
	Affordable housing (46.67%)
	Community Safety/security tied with Access to a GP/doctor (27.67%, respectively)
Age bracket: 25-39	Affordable housing (32.19%)
	Access to public transport (26.71%)
	Community Safety/security (26.03%)

The 'other' category listed fourth in the list above, breaks down into the other subjects offered – as well as a mounting concern about appropriate development as a city changes. A number of shortages were identified: limited businesses and services, limited public parks and facilities and a greater diversity in all activities. Some of the comments of 125 received, to illustrate:

- "Improvement and repair of local services and infrastructures."
- "Cultural night-life of Newcastle has flat-lined."
- "Newcastle is a fabulous place, however the cultural night-life has really been sucked right out of it! Whilst I value the positive outcomes of the liquor accord, are we going overboard? Likewise, I know it's been canvassed many times, but something has got to be done about the city centre."
- "Local employment for adult children."
- "Reduction of community amenity by pub goers pouring into our city at weekends and being noisy violent etc."
- "The attack on pub/clubs by anti noise and anti alcohol campaigners."
- "Islington Park hasn't been given enough gardeners to maintain it. We like to use the park but often have to walk through knee high grass which is infested with mozzies; the stench of Throsby Creek at low tide can be overwhelming."
- "We would like to drive less and take the more busses or cycle. But the busses are awful, they don't run on time and badly connected and cycling is too dangerous."
- "Lack of environmental initiatives."
- "We have good access to all of the above except off-leash dog parks."
- "None of these concerns, get in bloody touch NCC!"

Community Safety

Respondents were asked how safe they feel in each of the following locations. The table below lists the fifteen elements:

Table 6: Community safety

Aspect number	Aspect
Aspect 1	In your own home
Aspect 2	In your local street during the day
Aspect 3	In your local street in the evening
Aspect 4	In your neighbourhood during the day
Aspect 5	In your neighbourhood in the evening
Aspect 6	In your neighbourhood parks during the day
Aspect 7	In your neighbourhood parks in the evening
Aspect 8	In the city centre during the day
Aspect 9	In the city centre in the evening
Aspect 10	On public transport during the day
Aspect 11	On public transport in the evening
Aspect 12	At public events during the day
Aspect 13	At public events in the evening
Aspect 14	At beach during the day
Aspect 15	At beaches in the evening

In order, the top three aspects where respondents felt 'totally or very safe' were as follows:

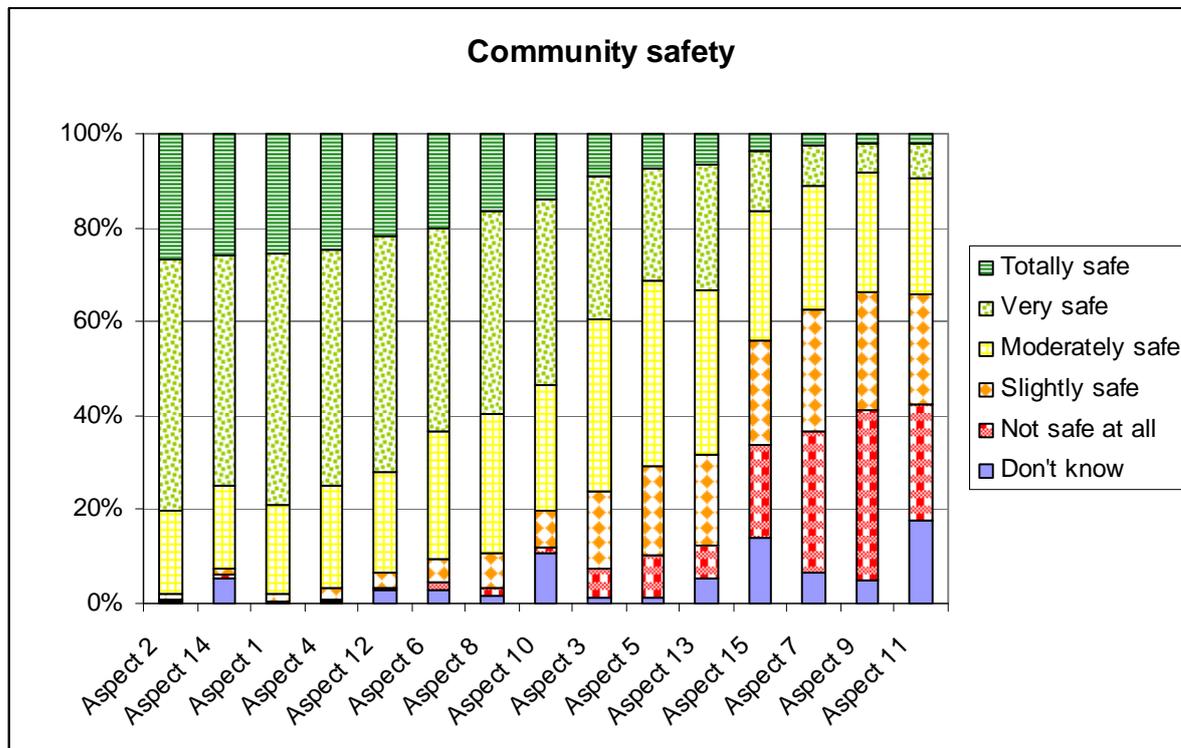
1. Aspect 2: In your local street during the day (80.37%)
2. Aspect 1: In your own home (79.08%)
3. Aspect 14: At the beach during the day (75.04%)

The aspects where respondents felt 'slightly or not at all safe' were as follows:

1. Aspect 9: In the city centre in the evening (61.33%)
2. Aspect 7: In your neighbourhood parks in the evening (55.84%)
3. Aspect 11: On public transport in the evening (48.35%)

Note that the graph is sorted by 'totally safe' followed by 'very safe'.

Graph 11: Community safety



Some comments received at open-ended questions about community safety (31 comments) and the desire for increased enforcement of existing laws and regulations (45 comments) illustrate the chart above. In particular, there are concerns about safety after dark:

- "I would like to feel safe wherever I am in Newcastle."
- "Safety is the biggest issue. There is a noticeable downward spiral. We have several times had drunk teenagers or young 20s down our street at night in the 1st year or two, nearly always with damage - twice letterbox ripped out and twice car damaged. And this is generally a good street. We need a vastly better police presence at night. Forget booking people for travelling 2 km over the speed limit during the day. We need police presence after dark."
- "Having lights on the cycle path would be an improvement. I like to walk from Maryville around to the marina - but in the early morning or evening, it feels unsafe to walk along the path."
- "Zero tolerance to welfare cheats and people who abuse public housing and the environment - damage to parks and gardens, litter on streets. More control over unscrupulous private landlords renting noncompliant multi occupancy dilapidated houses."
- "Take the crack heads out of Beaumont St."
- "It's ridiculous the lack of police in the Newcastle area....any wonder they are all on stress leave? In general sadly, there is this thug element in Newcastle...it starts with the adults and extends down to their offspring."
- "Massive drug problems with the youth in Wallsend, very sad."
- "More police walking the beat, take away drunks in paddy wagons, CCTV along Hunter Street, security at Civic station at night."
- "When it comes to community safety, law and order, the laws are already in place we just need to enforce them properly."

Final Comments: other subjects raised

Many of the final 429 comments received cover subjects previously covered in this report – community safety and enforcement of existing laws and regulations. Several others emerge here as people have the opportunity to make open-ended comment about any aspect of social planning for the city.

From these comments, the requirement for over-arching city infrastructure remains uppermost. Some are council responsibility while others will be state government or private organisations' responsibility.

Council activities may cover the following: physical places for social interaction such as playgrounds and community facilities; street and parks maintenance to increase community safety; planning and development guidelines to assist the city's appropriate growth; and the promotion of local events to extend the opportunities for social inclusion for all residents.

Private enterprise, state government and non-government organisations' activities may cover the following: increased diversity of childcare, entertainment, accommodation and retail possibilities; roads and public transport developments; and increased enforcement of existing regulations.

Council Responsibility

Almost a quarter of all responses received at this question (100 of 429) address issues which are Council responsibility in some way – maintenance of city infrastructure and parks, responsible planning guidelines, increased communication with community members and completion of some long-term projects. The following comments sample those received:

- “Considering how badly NCC performs basic council services it will be better to avoid community development. The way NCC wastes ratepayers money is scandalous.”
- “I would like better access to our local member. I don't even know who it is. Information about each communities local members and what they can do for us should be more readily available.”
- “What seems pretty lacking though is public infrastructure. The walkway at the Cowrie Hole to Nobby's is far too narrow and the pedestrians have been sacrificed to roads. The Farmers Markets are great and very well attended. But the farmers seem subject to the whim of events at the Showgrounds. I find it hard to believe that we have only one venue that is suitable. Could they be moved to Newcastle Mall on the odd occasion?”
- “Better fund developments to the art gallery.”
- “It would be nice if council gave some thought to community facilities within public parks and recreation areas. This may help to activate those areas at night when I think people feel the least safe in our community.”
- “As the streets around Hamilton are extremely busy... the vegetation on the footpaths in some streets is often fairly thick. I believe people are unclear as to who maintains these. Often the job to trim these is too daunting and costly - especially when people are renting.”

- “Cleanliness is job one. When an area is cleaned, people seem to take ownership and look after it. Stick with the basics, sweep the streets, wash the footpaths, force building owners to clean and paint their buildings (or the council will do it, and charge them). Great work with some of the extra cleaning happening at the foreshore, and with fast action on Graffiti removal.”
- “Council needs to concentrate on providing quality service to the community in terms of services and facilities and stop wasting time and money on 'engagement' and 'connecting' within the community.”

Transport Infrastructure

The shortcomings of the transport infrastructure in the Lower Hunter is a long-recognised issue. Respondents make 92 comments addressing the complete range of transport issues: roads, parking, public transport, and active transport (pedestrian footpaths and cycleways). The following comments illustrate:

- “All economic activity depends on the community being mobile to access things. We ought to be employing greater foresight.”
- “Better public transport. More facilities for young adults, teens. More open parks that are not solely devoted to football. Safer bike lanes, scramble crossings that are more pedestrian safe.”
- “A bus shelter at the bus stop on the corner of Hill and Dent Streets in Lambton and a sealed footpath from the corner to the shed.”
- “Access to the city is important. The road on the island should be made 2 lanes each way. Tourle Street bridge should have been built with 4 lanes even if two were mothballed until the road was widened.”
- “1. Support for maintaining heavy rail to Newcastle: no need for elderly or handicapped to change trains/buses; encourages youth to be active - boards etc to Newcastle Beach; cutting rail only potentially benefits east from Perkins; cost of removal is wasteful in terms of world trends TOWARDS improved public transport;
2. Continued improvement and inter-linking of cycle/walking facilities: safer crossing of major roads through use of pedestrian + cycle lights like those on Northcott Drive, Kotara.”
- “We are in the middle of a once-in-a-century mining boom - but where is the evidence of that in this city? Where is the corporate contribution? At a time when there is a national health crisis related to obesity, the town council contrives to grant a permit to KFC to build the largest outlet in Australia...Get rid of the rail. Create genuinely integrated bike paths, walkways, and parks (instead of the narrow walkways of the foreshore). Bring the university faculties into the heart of the city.”
- “A proper walking/bike path along Minmi Road from Wallsend Hospital to the Minmi lights and a few more designated pedestrian crossings would improve safety for all, especially school-aged children.”

Urban Development

Some of the comments at this stage recognise the need for appropriate urban development planning controls to manage growth, to ensure sustainable development and to encourage the types of facilities needed as the city's profile changes. The following comments illustrate the 37 received:

- “Enforce much tighter planning controls to stop over-development, replacement of legacy housing with medium/ high density modern McMansion rubbish.”
- “We need to stop destroying the remaining pockets of native habitat in Newcastle, making way for huge medium density suburbs! We have to have smaller suburbs with higher density housing and leave the bush alone!!!”
- “We need a neighbourhood general store and we don't have any space for community events and this would improve life here (Merewether Heights).”
- “Be nice to get another selective high school built in the local area. There is little in options and Merewether High School is far away. Perhaps one could be built - or at least a senior school to begin with adjoining the TAFE here in Tighes Hill?”
- “Given the demographic make-up of Mayfield, there are clearly some significant challenges for all who live, work and play here. For civic planners, the challenges are of equal measure. Issues of coal dust and noise figure in the lives of those who live in Newcastle's inner-western suburb.”
- “In my community of Elermore Vale, an ugly racist element has become apparent as result of a local development proposal. Our letter box was filled with blatantly racist propaganda. Eventually, they sweetened up the language.”
- “The removal of graffiti, streets could be kept cleaner. Owners made to maintain dilapidated buildings. eg old fruit shop cnr Glebe Road and Bryant Street Adamstown.”
- “Short term- change planning laws to encourage denser population hubs. Small villages rather than huge indoor private centres (Westfield). Medium term: build better cycle facilities and reduce speed to 50kph on Park Avenue, Kotara - there have been 4 crashes over the weekend near our house.”
- “Public housing needs a re-think. The current ghetto-style housing on Parkway Ave doesn't help anyone.”
- “My elderly mum occupies a three bedroom home. She could be living in my backyard and renting her home out to students. However, the negative view on granny flats makes this unaffordable for me to pursue.”

Social Attitudes

A city undergoing demographic change is experiencing some challenging attitudes (35 comments), with the potential for community education and events to address these in useful ways. The following comments illustrate:

- “All residents, citizens, not just of my community but across the whole country need to be reminded about personal responsibility - for their actions whether that is excessive alcohol consumption and the negative behaviours that can often flow from that, and vandalism and even littering.”

- “Even though we have an outwardly friendly neighbourhood, Mayfield is a very diverse collection of people, many of which like ourselves who are new (< 10 years) to the community. This creates a great disconnect. Hopefully, a sense of community will develop over time.”
- I would like to see a greater focus on community resilience in terms of being able to respond to climate change and peak oil. We are thinking about building connections with people in our street and see if we can share our experience and resources to reduce our energy use. I would love to see Council taking more of a leadership role in this area.”
- “People having respect for others and keeping their children in check. After a full-time working week when we get home we want to relax and enjoy our house and garden in peace and quiet. We are regularly house bound with all doors and windows shut due to extreme noise of ferrets.”
- “People who feel connected to their communities are more likely to be positive in their interactions...rather than negative.. Our litigious society needs changes to legislation around the concept that "accidents do happen" and people who need to be cared for are, without the threat of huge compensation payments. I think fear of litigation is a major stumbling block for increasing community events/participation at a reasonable cost.”

Local Events

The role of local neighbourhood activities to increase social inclusion and share information is stated in 22 comments. Some of the suggestions made are already undertaken by council, such as a central events calendar with simple online publishing for any event organiser. The following comments illustrate:

- “More funding and support for grassroots community groups that enhance the social and cultural fabric of our community.”
- “More events ‘out west’: one monthly market and an annual fair is not much at all.”
- More support for local initiatives such as residents groups and community gardens. Greater and easier access to council information for such groups. More funding for local initiatives.”
- “More support for the cultural industries within the city not just the concept of a cultural precinct. It should be an all of city approach.”

City Revitalisation

City revitalisation remains an item of concern with 16 specific comments. To illustrate this continuing concern:

- “I live near the city centre - which is an absolute disgrace. Now with DJs closing PLEASE PLEASE just decide on a plan and put it into action. - Maybe the University - boutique shops/restaurants. We need a critical mass of people for development.”
- “Don't build more high rises just clean up the existing buildings and streets.”
- “Higher density sustainable living in the 'CBD' I would like to see the existing infrastructure developed and used...If there are more people around, I often feel more safe...More bike lanes to make it easier to get around. Smaller bar licences so that there isn't the culture of the institutionalised drinking.”
- “The Mall is a disgrace: it's beyond belief that there is a lack of will to improve it.”



Appendix I – Questionnaire

Social Planning

Social Planning involves planning for the needs and aspirations of the people who live or work in a community. Council is hoping to obtain an understanding of perceptions of the local community, to better meet community and social needs.

A revised Social Plan (2011-2016) will outline strategies and actions to be implemented by Council or other community and Government organisations. This survey, in conjunction with research from other sources, will provide Council with valuable information to help the planning process.

We look forward to receiving your completed survey.



About you and your family

Q1. How many people live in your home, including yourself? **Please select one response only.**

- I am alone** go to Q5
- 1-2**
- 3-5**
- 6+**

Q2. What is the age group of those living with you, excluding you? **Please select all that apply.**

- Birth-15** (go to Q3)
- 16-24** (go to Q5)
- 25-39** (go to Q5)
- 40-54** (go to Q5)
- 55-69** (go to Q5)
- 70+** (go to Q5)

Q3. How difficult was it to find appropriate child care or before/after school care for your child?

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-
Extremely
difficult
(go to Q4) | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-
Somewhat
difficult
(go to Q4) | <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Neither
(go to Q4) | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-
Somewhat
easy
(go to Q5) | <input type="checkbox"/> 5-
Extremely
easy
(go to Q5) | <input type="checkbox"/> 6-
No need for
child care
services
(go to Q5) | <input type="checkbox"/> 7-
Have not yet
found
appropriate
care
(go to Q5) |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|

Q4. What would you like to see happen to improve the access to appropriate child care or before/after school care? **Please be as specific as possible.**

Q5. In which way will your housing needs change in the next 5 years? **Please select all that apply.**

- Will need something bigger/more room
- Will need something smaller/less room
- Will need something easier to maintain
- Will need to be closer to health, education or other facilities
- Will need something less expensive (lower rent or mortgage)
- Don't expect to change my housing needs in the next 5 years (go to Q7)
- Would prefer not to answer (go to Q7)

Q6. Where do you think you are most likely to move? **Please select one response only.**

- In the Newcastle local government area
- In the Lower Hunter area (Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Cessnock, Maitland)
- In the Upper Hunter area (Aberdeen, Merriwa, Murrurundi, Scone, Upper Hunter Shire)
- Elsewhere in NSW
- Interstate or overseas

Participation

Q7. What **cultural** interest or entertainment do you attend as an audience member? **Please select all that apply.**

- Art Exhibitions
- Cultural events (eg. Livesites, festivals, community events)
- Library exhibitions or programs
- Live performances (eg. music, concert/gig, circus, dance)
- Movies
- Museum exhibitions
- Theatre
- None

Q8. What **creative or cultural** activity do you actively participate in? **Please select all that apply.**

- Craftwork (eg. metalworking, quilting, knitting, scrapbooking, woodworking)**
- Cultural events (eg. organiser, service provider, supporter)**
- Collecting (eg. fine arts, antiques, collectibles)**
- Library use/reading**
- Live performances or gigs (eg. music, concert/gig, circus, dance)**
- Online (eg. Facebook, social blogs, myspace, online games, Skype, YouTube)**
- Performing arts/theatre (eg. actor, director, stage hand)**
- Visual arts/photography/videography**
- Writer**
- Other, please specify _____**
- None**

Q9. How many hours of volunteering to you currently do each week? **Please select one response only.**

- Under 1 hour (go to Q10)**
- 1-3 hours (go to Q10)**
- 3-6 hours (go to Q10)**
- 6+ hours (go to Q10)**
- I don't volunteer (go to Q11)**

Q10. What are the areas where you volunteer your time? (We realise this list is not exhaustive! – please feel free to use the 'other' box to fill us in on areas not mentioned) **Please select all that apply.**

- Local events and festivals**
- Cultural/art activities**
- Education and training (eg. reading to students, canteen)**
- Environmental activities (eg. Clean Up Australia Day, tree planting, community garden)**
- Sporting clubs/groups**
- Welfare, charity, church**
- Service clubs (eg. Lions Club, Rotary Club)**
- Other, please specify _____**

Q11. What top 3 challenges affect your ability to participate more in community life? **Please select up to 3 responses.**

- Cost
- Elderly
- Frequency of activities (not frequent enough or too frequent)
- Health problems/disability
- Lack of information of available services/activities in my local community
- Lack of personal motivation
- Lack of transport
- Limited facilities in Newcastle
- Weather/wrong season
- Work or other commitments/lack of time
- Other

Your community

Q12. Why did you choose to live in your suburb? **Please select all that apply.**

- Community facilities (eg. libraries, pools, community halls)
- Convenient location
- Family friendly
- Housing affordability
- Lifestyle
- Local church and church groups
- Local hotels and clubs
- Local places of employment and industries/availability of jobs
- Local shops and markets
- Local sporting groups
- Local street scape and street events/fairs
- Low crime rate
- Natural environment (eg. beaches, harbour/foreshore)
- Parks and other open spaces
- Sense of community
- Sport & recreation facilities & infrastructure
- Schools or other educational facilities
- Other, please specify _____

Q13. What is the most positive aspect of your community? This could be a place, person or general feeling or character. **Please be as specific as possible.**

Q14. In general, do you feel welcomed and connected with your local community?
Please select one response only.

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-
Strongly
unwelcomed,
disconnected
(go to Q 15) | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-
Somewhat
unwelcomed,
disconnected
(go to Q 15) | <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Neither
(go to Q 16) | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-
Somewhat
welcomed,
connected
(go to Q 16) | <input type="checkbox"/> 5-
Strongly
welcomed,
connected
(go to Q 16) | <input type="checkbox"/> 6-
Don't know
(go to Q 16) |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|

Q15. Please explain why you do not feel welcomed or connected with your local community? **Please be as specific as possible.**

Q16. What are the 3 main challenges for you and your family in your community?
Please select up to 3 responses

- Access to training and education facilities
- Access to a GP/doctor
- Access to childcare services
- Access to community facilities/services
- Access to health services
- Access to public transport
- Access to recreation facilities and open spaces (eg. parks)
- Access to respite care/aged care
- Access to youth services
- Affordable housing
- Community safety/security
- Employment/job security
- Mobility/overall accessibility
- Opportunities to be involved
- Other, please specify _____
- Don't know

Community Safety

Q17. How safe do you feel in each of the following locations?

Aspects	Not safe at all	Slightly safe	Moderately safe	Very safe	Totally safe	Don't know
In your own home	<input type="checkbox"/>					
In your local street during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>					
In your local street in the evening	<input type="checkbox"/>					
In your neighbourhood during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>					
In your neighbourhood in the evening	<input type="checkbox"/>					
In your neighbourhood parks during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>					
In your neighbourhood parks in the evening	<input type="checkbox"/>					
In the city centre during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>					
In the city centre in the evening	<input type="checkbox"/>					
On public transport during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>					
On public transport in the evening	<input type="checkbox"/>					
At public events during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>					
At public events in the evening	<input type="checkbox"/>					
At beach during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>					
At beaches in the evening	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Q18. Are there any additional comments you would like to provide about your community and how it can be improved? **Please be as specific as possible.**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Appendix II – Demographics

General Characteristics of Sample

Length of Time Lived in Newcastle, LGA

QUESTION TOTAL: 1941

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Less than a year	68	3.50 %
O2	1 - 3 years	187	9.63 %
O3	4 - 10 years	417	21.48 %
O4	11 - 25 years	470	24.21 %
O5	More than 25 years	799	41.16 %

Gender

QUESTION TOTAL: 1956

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Male	955	48.82 %
O2	Female	1001	51.18 %

Age

QUESTION TOTAL: 1956

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	16-24	77	3.94 %
O2	25-39	527	26.94 %
O3	40-54	640	32.72 %
O4	55-69	551	28.17 %
O5	70+	161	8.23 %

Employment Status

QUESTION TOTAL: 1819

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Employed full time	961	52.83 %
O2	Employed part time	359	19.74 %
O3	Looking for work	53	2.91 %
O4	Studying	162	8.91 %
O5	Domestic activities/caring	123	6.76 %
O6	Retired	362	19.90 %
O7	Other [specify]	126	6.93 %
O8	Prefer not to answer	23	1.26 %

Suburb of Residence

QUESTION TOTAL: 1956

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Adamstown	56	2.86 %
O2	Adamstown Heights	41	2.10 %
O3	Bar Beach	35	1.79 %
O4	Beresfield	18	0.92 %
O5	Birmingham Gardens	21	1.07 %
O6	Blackhill/ Lenaghan	0	0.00 %
O7	Broadmeadow	28	1.43 %
O8	Callaghan	4	0.20 %
O9	Carrington	28	1.43 %
O10	Cooks Hill	83	4.24 %
O11	Elermore Vale	34	1.74 %
O12	Fletcher	31	1.58 %
O13	Georgetown	25	1.28 %
O14	Hamilton	68	3.48 %
O15	Hamilton East	14	0.72 %
O16	Hamilton North	9	0.46 %
O17	Hamilton South	49	2.51 %
O18	Hexham	0	0.00 %
O19	Islington	55	2.81 %
O20	Jesmond	21	1.07 %
O21	Kooragang	0	0.00 %
O22	Kotara	58	2.97 %
O23	Lambton	73	3.73 %
O24	Maryland	53	2.71 %
O25	Maryville	51	2.61 %
O26	Mayfield	111	5.67 %
O27	Mayfield East	21	1.07 %
O28	Mayfield West	17	0.87 %
O29	Merewether	205	10.48 %
O30	Merewether Heights	23	1.18 %
O31	Minmi	9	0.46 %

O32	New Lambton	94	4.81 %
O33	New Lambton Heights	21	1.07 %
O34	Newcastle (CBD)	99	5.06 %
O35	Newcastle East	38	1.94 %
O36	Newcastle West	12	0.61 %
O37	North Lambton	27	1.38 %
O38	Rankin Park	11	0.56 %
O39	Sandgate	0	0.00 %
O40	Shortland	33	1.69 %
O41	Stockton	51	2.61 %
O42	Tarro	16	0.82 %
O43	The Hill	47	2.40 %
O44	The Junction	36	1.84 %
O45	Tighes Hill	41	2.10 %
O46	Wallsend	111	5.67 %
O47	Warabrook	7	0.36 %
O48	Waratah	42	2.15 %
O49	Waratah West	12	0.61 %
O50	Wickham	17	0.87 %
O51	I don't live in the Newcastle area.	0	0.00 %

Ward

	PD as % LGA	Survey sample %
Ward 1 (Carrington, Cooks Hill, Islington, Kooragang, Maryville, Mayfield, Mayfield East, Mayfield West, Newcastle (CBD), Newcastle East, Newcastle West, Stockton, The Hill, Tighes Hill, Warabrook, Wickham)	25	34.65
Ward 2 (Adamstown, Adamstown Heights, Bar Beach, Broadmeadow, Hamilton, Hamilton East, Hamilton North, Hamilton South, Merewether, Merewether Heights, The Junction)	25	28.85
Ward 3 (Georgetown, Jesmond, Kotara, Lambton, New Lambton, New Lambton Heights, North Lambton, Waratah, Waratah West)	25	19.07
Ward 4 (Beresfield, Birmingham Gardens, Blackhill / Lenaghan, Callaghan, Elernmore Vale, Fletcher, Hexham, Maryland, Minmi, Rankin Park, Sandgate, Shortland, Tarro, Wallsend)	25	17.42

Planning District

	PD as % LGA	Survey sample %
Inner City South	15.8	29.54
Inner City North	8	12.43
Hamilton	18	16.53
Mayfield	10.1	7.97
Lambton	19.5	15.03
Jesmond	6.2	4.03
Wallsend	13.5	7.97
Blue Gum Hills	7.2	4.75
North West	3.4	1.74

General Characteristics of Respondents

Length of Time Lived in Newcastle, LGA

QUESTION TOTAL: 688
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Less than a year	23	3.34 %
O2	1 - 3 years	48	6.98 %
O3	4 - 10 years	153	22.24 %
O4	11 - 25 years	152	22.09 %
O5	More than 25 years	312	45.35 %

Gender

QUESTION TOTAL: 692
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Male	334	48.27 %
O2	Female	358	51.73 %

Age

QUESTION TOTAL: 692
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	16-24	15	2.17 %
O2	25-39	146	21.10 %
O3	40-54	208	30.06 %
O4	55-69	253	36.56 %
O5	70+	70	10.12 %

Employment Status

QUESTION TOTAL: 656

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Employed full time	310	47.26 %
O2	Employed part time	117	17.84 %
O3	Looking for work	14	2.13 %
O4	Studying	43	6.55 %
O5	Domestic activities/caring	38	5.79 %
O6	Retired	179	27.29 %
O7	Other [specify]	49	7.47 %
O8	Prefer not to answer	8	1.22 %

Suburb of Residence

QUESTION TOTAL: 692

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Adamstown	20	2.89 %
O2	Adamstown Heights	9	1.30 %
O3	Bar Beach	12	1.73 %
O4	Beresfield	8	1.16 %
O5	Birmingham Gardens	8	1.16 %
O6	Blackhill/ Lenaghan	1	0.14 %
O7	Broadmeadow	11	1.59 %
O8	Callaghan	2	0.29 %
O9	Carrington	10	1.45 %
O10	Cooks Hill	25	3.61 %
O11	Elernmore Vale	8	1.16 %
O12	Fletcher	9	1.30 %
O13	Georgetown	7	1.01 %
O14	Hamilton	27	3.90 %
O15	Hamilton East	4	0.58 %
O16	Hamilton North	2	0.29 %
O17	Hamilton South	19	2.75 %
O18	Hexham	0	0.00 %
O19	Islington	27	3.90 %
O20	Jesmond	8	1.16 %
O21	Kooragang	0	0.00 %
O22	Kotara	28	4.05 %
O23	Lambton	23	3.32 %
O24	Maryland	13	1.88 %
O25	Maryville	14	2.02 %
O26	Mayfield	41	5.92 %
O27	Mayfield East	6	0.87 %
O28	Mayfield West	4	0.58 %
O29	Merewether	76	10.98 %
O30	Merewether Heights	13	1.88 %
O31	Minmi	1	0.14 %

O32	New Lambton	40	5.78 %
O33	New Lambton Heights	8	1.16 %
O34	Newcastle (CBD)	41	5.92 %
O35	Newcastle East	19	2.75 %
O36	Newcastle West	2	0.29 %
O37	North Lambton	7	1.01 %
O38	Rankin Park	7	1.01 %
O39	Sandgate	0	0.00 %
O40	Shortland	7	1.01 %
O41	Stockton	18	2.60 %
O42	Tarro	4	0.58 %
O43	The Hill	13	1.88 %
O44	The Junction	15	2.17 %
O45	Tighes Hill	11	1.59 %
O46	Wallsend	40	5.78 %
O47	Warabrook	3	0.43 %
O48	Waratah	13	1.88 %
O49	Waratah West	4	0.58 %
O50	Wickham	4	0.58 %
O51	I don't live in the Newcastle area.	0	0.00 %

Ward

	PD as % LGA	Survey sample %
Ward 1 (Carrington, Cooks Hill, Islington, Kooragang, Maryville, Mayfield, Mayfield East, Mayfield West, Newcastle (CBD), Newcastle East, Newcastle West, Stockton, The Hill, Tighes Hill, Warabrook, Wickham)	25	34.39
Ward 2 (Adamstown, Adamstown Heights, Bar Beach, Broadmeadow, Hamilton, Hamilton East, Hamilton North, Hamilton South, Merewether, Merewether Heights, The Junction)	25	30.06
Ward 3 (Georgetown, Jesmond, Kotara, Lambton, New Lambton, New Lambton Heights, North Lambton, Waratah, Waratah West)	25	19.95
Ward 4 (Beresfield, Birmingham Gardens, Blackhill / Lenaghan, Callaghan, Elermore Vale, Fletcher, Hexham, Maryland, Minmi, Rankin Park, Sandgate, Shortland, Tarro, Wallsend)	25	15.61

Planning District

	PD as % LGA	Survey sample %
Inner City South	15.8	31.31
Inner City North	8	12.14
Hamilton	18	17.35
Mayfield	10.1	7.80
Lambton	19.5	14.44
Jesmond	6.2	3.62
Wallsend	13.5	7.95
Blue Gum Hills	7.2	3.32
North West	3.4	1.88



Appendix III – Quantitative Results: topline report

About you and your family

Q1. How many people live in your home, including yourself? **Please select one response only.**

QUESTION TOTAL: 693
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	I am alone	117	16.88 %
O2	1-2	304	43.87 %
O3	3-5	260	37.52 %
O4	6+	12	1.73 %

Q2. What is the age group of those living with you, excluding you? **Please select all that apply.**

QUESTION TOTAL: 576
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Birth-15	181	31.42 %
O2	16-24	110	19.10 %
O3	25-39	161	27.95 %
O4	40-54	183	31.77 %
O5	55-69	185	32.12 %
O6	70+	68	11.81 %

Q3. How difficult was it to find appropriate child care or before/after school care for your child?

QUESTION TOTAL: 181
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Extremely difficult	26	14.36 %
O2	Somewhat difficult	56	30.94 %
O3	Neither	15	8.29 %
O4	Somewhat easy	28	15.47 %
O5	Extremely easy	13	7.18 %
O6	No need for child care services	40	22.10 %
O7	Have not yet found appropriate care	3	1.66 %

Q5. In which way will your housing needs change in the next 5 years? **Please select all that apply.**

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Will need something bigger/more room	101	14.57 %
O2	Will need something smaller/less room	62	8.95 %
O3	Will need something easier to maintain	103	14.86 %
O4	Will need to be closer to health, education or other facilities	44	6.35 %
O5	Will need something less expensive (lower rent or mortgage)	39	5.63 %
O6	Don't expect to change my housing needs in the next 5 years	455	65.66 %
O7	Would prefer not to answer	12	1.73 %

Q6. Where do you think you are most likely to move? **Please select one response only.**

QUESTION TOTAL: 239

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	In the Newcastle local government area	186	77.82 %
O2	In the Lower Hunter area (Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Cessnock, Maitland)	23	9.62 %
O3	In the Upper Hunter area (Aberdeen, Merriwa, Murrurundi, Scone, Upper Hunter Shire)	1	0.42 %
O4	Elsewhere in NSW	17	7.11 %
O5	Interstate or overseas	12	5.02 %

Participation

Q7. What **cultural** interest or entertainment do you attend as an audience member?
Please select all that apply.

QUESTION TOTAL: 693
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Art Exhibition	414	59.74 %
O2	Cultural events (eg. Livesites, festivals, community events)	470	67.82 %
O3	Library exhibitions or programs	347	50.07 %
O4	Live performances (eg. music, concert/gig, circus, dance)	500	72.15 %
O5	Movies	540	77.92 %
O6	Museum exhibitions	335	48.34 %
O7	Theatre	409	59.02 %
O9	None	29	4.18 %

Q8. What **creative or cultural** activity do you actively participate in? **Please select all that apply.**

QUESTION TOTAL: 693
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Craftwork (eg. metalworking, quilting, knitting, scapbooking, woodworking)	153	22.08 %
O2	Cultural events (eg. organiser, service provider, supporter)	167	24.10 %
O3	Collecting (eg. fine arts, antiques, collectibles)	154	22.22 %
O4	Library use/reading	429	61.90 %
O5	Live performances or gigs (eg. music, concert/gig, circus, dance)	150	21.65 %
O6	Online (eg. facebook, social blogs, myspace, online games, Skype, YouTube)	352	50.79 %
O7	Performing arts/theatre (eg. actor, director, stage hand)	46	6.64 %
O8	Visual arts/photography/videography	179	25.83 %
O9	Writer	73	10.53 %
O10	Other	57	8.23 %
O11	None	59	8.51 %

Q9. How many hours of volunteering to you currently do each week? **Please select one response only.**

QUESTION TOTAL: 693
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Under 1 hour	114	16.45 %
O2	1-3 hours	159	22.94 %
O3	3-6 hours	72	10.39 %
O4	6+ hours	85	12.27 %
O5	I don't volunteer	263	37.95 %

Q10. What are the areas where you volunteer your time? (We realise this list is not exhaustive! – please feel free to use the 'other' box to fill us in on areas not mentioned) **Please select all that apply.**

QUESTION TOTAL: 430
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Local events and festivals	67	15.58 %
O2	Cultural/art activities	81	18.84 %
O3	Education and training (eg. reading to students, canteen)	95	22.09 %
O4	Environmental activities (eg. Clean Up Australia Day, tree planting, community garden)	119	27.67 %
O5	Sporting clubs/groups	112	26.05 %
O6	Welfare, charity, church	126	29.30 %
O7	Service clubs (eg. Lions Club, Rotary Club)	35	8.14 %
O8	Other	112	26.05 %

Q11. What top 3 challenges affect your ability to participate more in community life?
Please select up to 3 responses.

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Cost	137	19.77 %
O2	Elderly	44	6.35 %
O3	Frequency of activities (not frequent enough or too frequent)	86	12.41 %
O4	Health problems/disability	75	10.82 %
O5	Lack of information of available services/activities in my local community	177	25.54 %
O6	Lack of personal motivation	115	16.59 %
O7	Lack of transport	63	9.09 %
O8	Limited facilities in Newcastle	92	13.28 %
O9	Weather/wrong season	37	5.34 %
O10	Work or other commitments/lack of time	493	71.14 %
O11	Other	65	9.38 %

Your community

Q12. Why did you choose to live in your suburb? **Please select all that apply.**

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Community facilities (eg. libraries, pools, community halls)	218	31.46 %
O2	Convenient location	540	77.92 %
O3	Family friendly	237	34.20 %
O4	Housing affordability	268	38.67 %
O5	Lifestyle	388	55.99 %
O6	Local church and church groups	43	6.20 %
O7	Local hotels and clubs	88	12.70 %
O8	Local places of employment and Industries/availability of jobs	102	14.72 %
O9	Local shops and markets	302	43.58 %
O10	Local sporting groups	55	7.94 %
O11	Local street scape and street events/fairs	125	18.04 %
O12	Low crime rate	117	16.88 %
O13	Natural environment (eg. beaches, harbour/foreshore)	314	45.31 %
O14	Parks and other open spaces	312	45.02 %
O15	Sense of community	220	31.75 %
O16	Sport & recreation facilities & infrastructure	98	14.14 %
O17	Schools or other educational facilities	173	24.96 %
O18	Other	84	12.12 %

Q14. In general, do you feel welcomed and connected with your local community?

Please select one response only.

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Strongly unwelcomed, disconnected	12	1.73 %
O2	Somewhat unwelcomed, disconnected	28	4.04 %
O3	Neither	91	13.13 %
O4	Somewhat welcomed, connected	268	38.67 %
O5	Strongly welcomed, connected	280	40.40 %
O6	Don't know	14	2.02 %

Q16. What are the 3 main challenges for you and your family in your community?
Please select up to 3 responses

QUESTION TOTAL: 693
NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Access to training and education facilities	30	4.33 %
O2	Access to a GP/doctor	155	22.37 %
O3	Access to community facilities/services	68	9.81 %
O4	Access to health services	79	11.40 %
O5	Access to childcare services	38	5.48 %
O6	Access to youth services	22	3.17 %
O7	Access to respite care/aged care	36	5.19 %
O8	Access to public transport	195	28.14 %
O9	Access to recreation facilities and open spaces (eg. parks)	73	10.53 %
O10	Affordable housing	129	18.61 %
O11	Community safety/security	219	31.60 %
O12	Employment/job security	77	11.11 %
O13	Mobility/overall accessibility	43	6.20 %
O14	Opportunities to be involved	89	12.84 %
O15	Other	151	21.79 %
O16	Don't know	75	10.82 %

Community Safety

Q17. How safe do you feel in each of the following locations?

Q21_0: In your own home

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	1	0.14 %
O2	Slightly safe	11	1.59 %
O3	Moderately safe	131	18.90 %
O4	Very safe	372	53.68 %
O5	Totally safe	176	25.40 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	2	0.29 %

Q21_1: In your local street during the day

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	2	0.29 %
O2	Slightly safe	10	1.44 %
O3	Moderately safe	121	17.46 %
O4	Very safe	373	53.82 %
O5	Totally safe	184	26.55 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	3	0.43 %

Q21_2: In your local street in the evening

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	44	6.35 %
O2	Slightly safe	113	16.31 %
O3	Moderately safe	254	36.65 %
O4	Very safe	211	30.45 %
O5	Totally safe	63	9.09 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	8	1.15 %

Q21_3: In your neighbourhood during the day

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	2	0.29 %
O2	Slightly safe	17	2.45 %
O3	Moderately safe	151	21.79 %
O4	Very safe	347	50.07 %
O5	Totally safe	172	24.82 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	4	0.58 %

Q21_4: In your neighbourhood in the evening

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	63	9.09 %
O2	Slightly safe	131	18.90 %
O3	Moderately safe	274	39.54 %
O4	Very safe	166	23.95 %
O5	Totally safe	51	7.36 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	8	1.15 %

Q21_5: In your neighbourhood parks during the day

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	12	1.73 %
O2	Slightly safe	33	4.76 %
O3	Moderately safe	188	27.13 %
O4	Very safe	301	43.43 %
O5	Totally safe	139	20.06 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	20	2.89 %

Q21_6: In your neighbourhood parks in the evening

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	208	30.01 %
O2	Slightly safe	179	25.83 %
O3	Moderately safe	181	26.12 %
O4	Very safe	60	8.66 %
O5	Totally safe	18	2.60 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	47	6.78 %

Q21_7: In the city centre during the day

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	12	1.73 %
O2	Slightly safe	49	7.07 %
O3	Moderately safe	206	29.73 %
O4	Very safe	300	43.29 %
O5	Totally safe	114	16.45 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	12	1.73 %

Q21_8: In the city centre in the evening

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	251	36.22 %
O2	Slightly safe	174	25.11 %
O3	Moderately safe	178	25.69 %
O4	Very safe	42	6.06 %
O5	Totally safe	15	2.16 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	33	4.76 %

Q21_9: On public transport during the day

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	7	1.01 %
O2	Slightly safe	54	7.79 %
O3	Moderately safe	186	26.84 %
O4	Very safe	274	39.54 %
O5	Totally safe	97	14.00 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	75	10.82 %

Q21_10: On public transport in the evening

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	171	24.68 %
O2	Slightly safe	164	23.67 %
O3	Moderately safe	169	24.39 %
O4	Very safe	52	7.50 %
O5	Totally safe	15	2.16 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	122	17.60 %

Q21_11: At public events during the day

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	4	0.58 %
O2	Slightly safe	22	3.17 %
O3	Moderately safe	147	21.21 %
O4	Very safe	350	50.51 %
O5	Totally safe	150	21.65 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	20	2.89 %

Q21_12: At public events in the evening

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	51	7.36 %
O2	Slightly safe	133	19.19 %
O3	Moderately safe	242	34.92 %
O4	Very safe	184	26.55 %
O5	Totally safe	47	6.78 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	36	5.19 %

Q21_13: At beach during the day

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	5	0.72 %
O2	Slightly safe	8	1.15 %
O3	Moderately safe	123	17.75 %
O4	Very safe	339	48.92 %
O5	Totally safe	181	26.12 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	37	5.34 %

Q21_14: At beach in the evening

QUESTION TOTAL: 693

NO RESPONSE: 0

	OPTIONS	TOTAL	PERCENT
O1	Not safe at all	137	19.77 %
O2	Slightly safe	155	22.37 %
O3	Moderately safe	191	27.56 %
O4	Very safe	87	12.55 %
O5	Totally safe	26	3.75 %
O6	Don't know/Not Applicable	97	14.00 %

Appendix IV – Quantitative Results: open-ended questions

Q4. Childcare Access Improvements

improvements

Q4 - how to improve child care/oosh

	<p>* More places available, particularly in the 0 to 2 yrs age category for daycare.</p> <p>* Better resources for before/after school care (80+ children in one facility is too many and can be over-crowded in wet weather when indoor options are limited) An oosh service at Carrington or Tighes Hill PS.</p>
capacity	
capacity	<p>Further a daycare centre in Carrington. Care close to home is always the best option. Family Day Care allows little mini childcare centres to be spread not only across the LGA but across a suburb. Council should look at a ways to attract more Carers eg extensive marketing campaigns, low interest or no interest start up loan.</p>
capacity	<p>Desperately need transport from school to the after school care/before school care.</p>
capacity	<p>Either more centres or increase the capacity at the existing centres. In particular places for children 0-2years old it is difficult to find a quality centre.</p>
capacity	<p>Expansion of in home childcare services</p>
capacity	<p>Government funding for all public government schools have OSSH/After School Care rather than just some</p>
capacity	<p>Greater availability and locality distribution</p>
capacity	<p>Greater general worktime flexibility.</p>
capacity	<p>Have more places available in each centre with the appropriate funding. Having children with Autism Spectrum Disorder makes it difficult, distressing and expensive.</p>
capacity	<p>I am a Carrington local, and I failed to get my son into a day-care/pre school until he was 3 years old. Now that he is in pre-school, my partner has to do split-shifts in order to pick him up and drop him off as we only have the one car. Public transport around Carrington isn't so bad, but it would take me at least a couple of hours to pick my son up and come home if I were to use the bus. I am a full time uni student, so from lunchtime on I am tending to my studies. It would be a dream for Carrington to have an appropriate and approved day care that the locals can easily access. Additionally, I am in my final year of study and I am a little stressed as to who, or how, I am going to get appropriate before/after school care for him once I (hopefully) gain employment. My partner is a chef, so naturally he is out of the question in regards to available time to look after him.</p>
capacity	
capacity	<p>I think after school care and vacation school should be available at all schools. Would also be good to have some after school supervised activities for kids aged 12-16 as they can be very vulnerable and easily mislead at this age and many parents are working until 5 or 6 at night with no supervision at home. Whether these a run through the highschool or through community organisations but I believe it would cut down on a lot of anti social behaviour and also on petty crime.</p>
capacity	

	I think every school should have before and after school care, there should be specific areas set up just for that, and the kids could do sporting activities, have computers and 30 minutes of homework supervision. My daughter attended Mayfield West ASC and it was great, the staff made it very home like, but she has to be transported to and from school.
capacity	
	I think the problem lies in the fact that there are just not enough places for childcare for the demand.
capacity	
	I think there should be government supported preschool places associated with all primary schools.
capacity	
capacity	Improve quality & number of after school care places
	Its no secret that childcare centres are difficult to get into - but this usually only applies to child care for very young kids. Its very difficult to get a 12-24month old into a place but once they turn 3 and the ratios of staff to children change, then it becomes a lot easier. Thus funding needs to be targeted to increasing places for the younger children.
capacity	
	larger centres with more staff in the younger ages where the staff child ratio is higher
capacity	
capacity	more affordable places - quality is excellent - quantity is the issue
capacity	More after school care at schools rather than consolidated and bused
	More approved child care available in newcastle.
	After school care - would make it easier if OOSH was offered at in each schools grounds.
capacity	
capacity	More availability
capacity	more Child care at tighes hill school
capacity	More child care centres
	More child care centres need to be established. Most families have 2 working parents and the demand for child care is always high. I would like to see a system that subsidises child care costs more fairly. For middle income earners the cost of care eats up a huge portion of the family's budget and they have added pressure of mortgages to pay and high cost of general living. Low income earners and people on govt benefits get far too much subsidy and preference.
capacity	
	More child care needed, especially in the inner city. Interestingly, the only inner city community child care (long day care) is impossible to get into unless you work for Council.
	A fantastic situation for Council employees (great to see NCC supporting women and parents in the workplace), but not a good outcome for Newcastle ratepayers. It is seriously over a two year wait to get your baby in.
	In our situation, I want straight from the Doctors surgery to the Samaritans on Darby Street after finding out I was pregnant (at five weeks) and put our name down. Our baby turns one next month, and we are no where near getting a place. The person at the top of the waiting list apparently applied in 2008. Consequently, we have to drive from Cooks Hill to Mayfield each morning to get to day care, before driving home and walking to work three blocks away. I can only imagine how we are contributing unnecessarily to the inner city morning grid lock.
capacity	
capacity	More childcare centres.
capacity	more childcare places for under 5 years old
	More community based childcare and more childcare based near the CBD so it is easy for working parents.
capacity	
capacity	More competition

capacity	More council funded child care centres - found them better than private ones. The school runs a good before and after school program.
capacity	More council operated child care centres. More childcare centres in general.
capacity	More daycare centres available.
capacity	more educational preschools available with long day care included. is necessary for me to have my children at one day care centre even though they are at different stages.
capacity	More family day care as well as small centres near public schools. have these centres only take clients from the school area as a priority then people from other areas to enable all to have fair access.
capacity	More schools need to have before/after school care. Preschool is extremely expensive for us because we have twins. It costs \$460 a fortnight and the boys only go two days a week.
capacity	More spaces and not so expensive
capacity	More spaces available for children of working/studying parents
capacity	Needs to be more high quality care available. Needs to be more funded places.
capacity	There are a few oosh's available that cater for primary school kids, however we have only found one in the whole of the newcastle region that will take high school kids. This needs to be reviewed.
capacity	There needs to be more schools cater for before and after school care. The demand simply outweighs the places. This also applies for preschools, there needs to be more preschools established
capacity	There should be more child care places.
capacity	It is very unaffordable and more cost effective for the average family to have one parent stay at home.
capacity	Too difficult a question to answer in this survey. Pay staff more money so that more people want to get into the profession. or give them tax breaks. prioritise planning approvals for childcare centres.
costs and funding	Affordable fees
costs and funding	After school and holiday care availability is poor in the 2287 area (Maryland, Fletcher, Minmi & Wallsend).
costs and funding	There needs to be more options for programs for older children as well (10-15) who don't want to spend their day doing craft and playing dress ups!
costs and funding	Cost of holiday care is also an issue, especially for families with multiple children.
costs and funding	Become cheaper
costs and funding	More affordability.
costs and funding	More service providers.
costs and funding	More financial assistance for non-profit/ community based care. I was not looking for child care but more a pre school based system (which I found thank goodness). I do not need the extended hours and am happy to have school holidays with the children at home. This type of care is hard to find and not all families require extended hours or like their children to be placed in centres with such a large age difference between kids.
costs and funding	More government funding.
costs and funding	More options at reasonable cost
costs and funding	More places, reasonable costs.
costs and funding	More spaces and not so expensive

costs and funding	Obviously be less expensive. That the locally run OOSH be somehow subsidised by some level of government as they are the safest option as kids can go directly from their school in the school grounds.
costs and funding	OOSH in more schools. As it happens, our school, Hamilton South Public School has OOSH which is very convenient.
costs and funding	Perhaps giving preference to people in the local area, similar to school zones.
costs and funding	More government supported not-for-profit centres
costs and funding	The cost needs to be brought down.
costs and funding	the need is huge and its also quite expensive, I have a large family and over half my weekly wage just goes on childcare. There are also very long waiting lists, and you may find childcare but its accross the other side of the city, this makes more travelling for the family and an earlier start, which is hard on all family members.
costs and funding information	a one stop shop would be great, with true to life testimonials
costs and funding information	All childcare centre have waiting lists and I know I had my name down on at least 4-5 centres hoping to get a place by the time I returned to work. Just think - all mothers have probably got their names down at multiple centres which just creates false waiting lists and waiting times. There must be a better way. I'm not sure if a centralised waiting list is the answer and I recognise this would be difficult for the combination of community and private centres????
information	Better information on child care services currently available with info on the ages taken, how to apply, WHEN to apply (many people leave this quite late) etc
information	Tighter education and ongoing support for home care for children to ensure appropriate people undertake the role Increased facilities available - Council approval process speed up when an area identified as requiring facilities has an application, not reducing the standards to permit this to go through
information	Fairness in the way waiting lists are managed - it seems it's more about who you know and being in the right place at the right time than about how long you've been on a waiting list. And they never ring you, you have to keep ringing them.
information	Having said that, I've had good experience with Newcastle family day care and we ended up getting a placement through them.
information	for the population and including governments to acknowledge, appreciate and assist those parents who are willing to make short term sacrifices so as to provide their own care to their children in the family home
information	Locally maintained register of available positions. More locally funded (ie council) occasional care
information	More information on care options. Federal government information is very confusing and not at all helpful. Council information is invisible.
information	my child is still under 1 but I feel enormous pressure to put her name down on multiple waiting lists as everyone keeps telling me how hard it is to find a place and even harder on the days that you actually want
information information	Some form of central data bank

	<p>There is no centralised place to go about information on childcare. We gathered information by visiting individual centres and putting our names on waiting lists. It is also difficult to find any comparative information on centres, so basically relied on word of mouth.</p> <p>Centres (we were looking at pre-schools) usually complete their enrolments around September each year, so you don't know until fairly late whether you have a place or not.</p> <p>Having a centralised source of information would be highly beneficial, as well as perhaps an online source of comments / experiences from parents.</p>
information	<p>mothers stay at home and look after their children.</p> <p>My children are all teenagers now but i utilized Family daycare, local pre schools and also a unistudent in my home for the mornings....</p> <p>I found provided I had good forward planning it wasnt an issue...</p> <p>Most difficult thing was if they were unwell I had no family to leave thgem with and couldnt leave them at preschool etc and infect other children so i had to take leave....</p>
none	My boss didnt like it
none	NA
none	No comment.
none	No ideas I'm afraid
none	not sure
none	Not sure.
none	nothing
none	<p>Your last question was rather loaded. I am a professional woman who chose to look after my children myself rather than use child care. After school and holiday care availability is poor in the 2287 area (Maryland, Fletcher, Minmi & Wallsend).</p> <p>There needs to be more options for programs for older children as well (10-15) who don't want to spend their day doing craft and playing dress ups! Cost of holiday care is also an issue, especially for families with multiple children.</p>
options	broader variety
options	<p>More options for family day care. More support for small home stay type care, as well as more of the larger better equipped centres, to give both higher quality and lower cost options.</p> <p>more quality childcare places available.</p>
options	
options	

Q8. Creative or Cultural Activities – active participation – other

activity	Q8_10_other creative cultural activity
art	Painting
art	Painting & Print making
art	Sculpture/Painting/Writing
church	Church
church	church /religious
church	church events
church	Sunday church program
gardening	Braye Park Care Group
gardening	community garden
gardening	community gardener
gardening	community gardening
gardening	Community Greening/Place Making
gardening	Food growing
gardening	GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES WORKSHOPS
gardening	gardening topics
gardening	Landcare
history	Genealogy
history	History research
history	local history
history	Local History
music	amateur music
music	choir
music	piano but not live gig
music	play music privately
music	playing music
music	Singing
other	Roleplaying Games
other	Architecture
other	Computer programming
other	creative employment
other	fundraiser
other	hobby animal keeping
other	markets
other	Olive Tree / Red Lantern Markets
other	political discussion and debate
other	University Study (PhD)
other	Wine and Food festivals
other	Hunter Writer Centre
social services	Art Gallery guide and Art Gallery Society member
social services	Business Improvement Group
social services	Community work on Boardsm Management Committees etc
	Community working bees part time committiee social and enviroment issues
social services	Languages
social services	My Neighbourhood
social services	support newcastles gay culture, support youth culture and activities, support legal street arts
social services	Technical - j p federation - raaf association
social services	Volunteer work and home improvement

sport and fitness activities	Dance classes, swimming at ocean baths, walking and cycling
sport and fitness activities	kayaking
sport and fitness activities	maufield local swimming pool key part of our cultural activity
	Promote Push-bikes as fun, healthy, and safe sustainable transport
sport and fitness activities	sport
sport and fitness activities	Sport Organiser
sport and fitness activities	Sporting club
sport and fitness activities	Sporting/exercising
sport and fitness activities	Sports organiser
sport and fitness activities	surfing

Q10. Volunteer Activities – other

activity	Q9_8_volunteer-activity
animal welfare	animal rescue Animal Rescues and Home visiting program - families with children under 5 yrs.
animal welfare	Animal welfare
animal welfare	Animal welfare
community	Community consultation
community	community / business
community	Community group
community	community group
community	community organisations
community	community safety
community	Fort Scratchley, National Servicemens Assoc, Scouts
community	Local community
community	bush regeneration
community	Church related activities
fundraising	Fund raising events
fundraising	Red cross telecross service
fundraising	Ronald Macdonald House
health	assist disabled family member
health	Cancer Council
health	carer
health	Carer- Dementia sufferer
health	Dry-goods co-ordinator for an organic food co-op
health	Emergency Services.
health	GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES WORKSHOPS
health	health
health	health
health	hearing loss tutor
health	Hospital
health	Hunter women's centre
health	Mental health
health	organic food co-op
health	blood donation
health	blood donation (fortnightly)
history	Fort Scratchley Woodwork / Carpentry
history	heritage organisation
history	Historic Society
history	History society
history	local and family history

history	Maritime centre
history	Museum volunteer
human services	Redcross, heritage, older people phone call or home visit
human services	aged care
human services	aged care
human services	Aged Care Hostel
human services	Helping old people
human services	I look after my aging parents
human services	Lambton meals on wheels
human services	Meals on Wheels
human services	Medical volunteer driver, shopper
human services	Neighbour Hood Watch
human services	neighbourhood centre
human services	Probus
human services	Probus, Interest club
human services	RSL Sub Branch St Vincent de Paul Rsl Day Club
human services	veteran community
human services	visiting elderly
human services	Child care
human services	Childcare for children
human services	Disadvantaged and Homeless Youth
human services	Local playgroup
human services	playgroup
human services	playgroup
human services	playgroup
human services	pre-school
human services	school
human services	School P&C related fundraising events; professional association
human services	Scouts
human services	craft club
human services	Teach English as a second language to migrants
human services	Work related training of students
politics	2 * Committees
politics	355 committee
politics	am an active member of save mayfield swimming pool campaign
politics	Climate Action Newcastle - advocacy
politics	Council working party
politics	Newcastle Greens
politics	Newcastle Voice
politics	political
politics	political
politics	Political campaigns
professional skills	Board positions
professional skills	business group
professional skills	Business Groups
professional skills	Business Improvement Group
professional skills	city centre committee
professional skills	Community rep on NCC C'tee
professional skills	Council s.355 committee and working parties
professional skills	digital culture and business community networks
professional skills	disability advocacy
professional skills	management
professional skills	peer counselling
professional skills	Planning Institute committee

professional skills	Prawners club committee
professional skills	President of two organisations
professional skills	Primary Ethics, Australian Breastfeeding Association
professional skills	professional body
professional skills	progress association, sports council
professional skills	Public Speaking
professional skills	Volunteer in policing
professional skills	Wetlands(office work)
professional skills	Army Reserve
professional skills	State Emergency Service
sporting bodies	PCYC
	Promoting Push-bikes as fun, healthy, and safe sustainable transport
sporting bodies	
sporting bodies	surf club
sporting bodies	Surf Life Saving
sporting bodies	Surf Life Saving Club

Q11. Challenges to increased community participation – other

reason	Q11_11_challenge_community life
access	Lack of Shed for Scouts
access	not enough parking
	im my experience NCC not great planners or advertise opportunities or facilities well to the community.
access	Poor organisation of community vollunteers
access	cost of someone to look after my children
costs	I am a stay at home mum to a two year old so can't do anything without paying for childcare.
costs	IACK OF A SPONSER TO COVER MY COSTS
costs	lack of babysitting
little interest	crowds and idiots
	lack of variety that interest me eg Civic Theatre program very dull this year
little interest	LACK of interesting activities
little interest	Militant organisers!
	not much locally- i'm at maryland and the only local stuff is sport related-
	not many markets/no live sites sort of stuff etc.
little interest	none, my participation is extensive
none	There is no challeng that can not be over come
none	This question is not relevant to me
	Consumer culture making people waste time working to buy useless things
principle	I would like to particpate in clean up days.I wont volunteer while people can litter without being prosecuted
principle	lack of control of environment
principle	Inconvenience
time constraints	3 children under 4 years
time constraints	3 young children!
time constraints	assist in family - minding grandkids
time constraints	Carer of 2 people
time constraints	caring for young children

time constraints	Caring responsibilities
time constraints	child care daytime workshops
time constraints	Children's additional needs
time constraints	ELDERLY PARENT
time constraints	family
time constraints	family activities
time constraints	Family commitments
time constraints	Family life
time constraints	Have contributed/participated much in the past but now have 3 kids, work full time and studying.
time constraints	Lack of time between running my own business, my husbands business and family commitments I don't havetime
time constraints	need to be child friendly
time constraints	small children
time constraints	small children
time constraints	Young Child
time constraints	animal shows
time constraints	away
time constraints	Not enough hours in the day
time constraints	i already max out participation
time constraints	not enough time
time constraints	private vintage car displays for charities or groups for fund raising
time constraints	time
time constraints	time constraints
time constraints	To be effective it is essential that activities be limited. My expertise is in meeting organisation and performance. To be effective it is necessary to concentrate on existing activities.
time constraints	Too many competing interests
time constraints	travel regularly
time constraints	Travelling while still fit

Q12. Why chose your suburb – other

reason	Q13_18_why_choose_suburb
affordability	A good buy at the time
affordability	Affordable when purchased house over 30 years ago
affordability	appropriate and affordable house
affordability	Brought house from friend Cheap
affordability	Capital appreciation
affordability	first home and was all i could afford at the time
affordability	High Capital Gain on Investment
affordability	Housing Commision choice
affordability	it was a new house in an area we could afford
affordability	Only one i could afford
affordability	Limited choice
attractiveness	as a renter with a pet, we had to take what we could find, there wasn't really any choice (we were lucky even to get this)
attractiveness	Beautiful house!
attractiveness	Because I have owned in the inner city always
attractiveness	diverse community
attractiveness	don't use pub but good neighbours

attractiveness	Found suitable house
attractiveness	friends (eco-village) project
attractiveness	house there suited us
attractiveness	Local Cafes and Restaurants
attractiveness	New estate when we moved in
attractiveness	Semi quiet, mostly non industrial
attractiveness	Size of house (5 bedroom)
attractiveness	Strong heritage amenity
attractiveness	The size of the house
	the university bringing 100's of students into our small suburb changed it from a family friendly community where you knew everybody
attractiveness	
attractiveness	village life style
environment	Beach
environment	Close to bushland
environment	Close to Glenrock SCA
environment	Close to harbour and beach for fishing
environment	close to Lake Macquarie
environment	height above sea level
environment	Lots of trees
environment	natural environment - bush and trees
environment	No flooding
environment	Potential for beautiful street - need more trees!
environment	quiet street
environment	The trees in Cooks Hill
family	Selective Schooling for eligible children
family	Born here
family	Born here
family	Born in Newcastle. Didn't choose.
family	Born into the house I currently reside in
family	close to family
family	close to family
family	Closer to family
family	Extended family nearby.
family	family close by
family	Family have lived here for over 100 years
family	Family live here
family	husband chose area
	I was born in Merewether & will die in Merewether (I did not choose)
family	
family	Moved in with daughter
family	Near family
family	Other family present
family	parents chose
family	Some family in suburb
family	have lived here all my life
transport	Access to public transport
transport	access to public transport
transport	close to public transport
transport	good public transport, lots of local cafes
transport	good transport
	most important thing for me is public transport accessibility for the future when perhaps I won't be able to drive
transport	

transport	near train station, post office etc
transport	On 100 bus route to Uni
	Promoting Push-bikes as fun, healthy, and safe sustainable transport
transport	
transport	Proximity to transport
transport	Public transport
transport	public transport
transport	Public Transport
transport	public transport
transport	public transport
transport	Public transport available
transport	public transport available
transport	Public transport good
transport	Transport availability
transport	Transport links
work	Close to work
work	I work where i live
work	My accommodation is provided by my employer
work	proximity to work
work	Proximity to work

Q13. Positive Aspects of Community

aspect	Q14 - positive aspects community
affordability	affordability for families
affordability	Airy, elevated, good outlook, quality homes but it was not too expensive when we moved. Over time it has become good neighbours of suitable ages.
affordability	Relatively cheap, and close to everything (eg Hunter Valley, Sydney). I will not be drastically affected if my place of work changes within the Newcastle area.
affordability	I live in Maryville and I love it. My neighbours are friendly, it's quite close to town and work and it's affordable.
affordability	mayfield pool
affordability	affordable
affordability	Nice, friendly neighbors, non-pretentious, affordable the location given the affordability
affordability	
	1. It is a safe, friendly place.
	2. Good local shops, chemist, motel within walking distance.
close to businesses and services	3. Public transport at my door, quick bus access to John Hunter Hospital.
	a tight knit, supportive, friendly, happy community where neighbours know each other, talk and interact with each other.
close to businesses and services	The character of the place is relaxed, but with a sence of excitement, being in the city with activities and events on our doorsteps.
close to businesses and services	Access to everyday needs
close to businesses and services	Accessibility to services. Good feeling of the place. I do not want to live anywhere else

close to businesses and services

Arts scene

close to businesses and services

as a darby street resident and store manager i take a pride in the development of the area and the community that frequent it
As a retired senior citizen, living by myself. positive aspects are

close to businesses and services

.Community friendliness in our Apartment building
.Close access to cultural activities
.Proximity to beaches, parks,
.Enjoyment of heritage and historic areas
.A place where I can have healthy fun with family and friends
.Exercise from walking and swimming
.Revealing areas of historical Newcastle to family and friends when they visit

close to businesses and services

Close access to medical and dental practices
Availability of services

close to businesses and services

beach and coffee shops

close to businesses and services

Beaches and restaurants, happening places like darby and beaumont st.

close to businesses and services

beautiful central location close to beaches, shops etc.

close to businesses and services

Being close to the City and all the city offers, entertainment, employment, shopping, activities

close to businesses and services

Central Location

close to businesses and services

Central location (Inner West)

close to businesses and services

Close to kids cultural activities (not too much driving)
close access to eateries, beach, harbor, theatre, health services

close to businesses and services

Close proximity to Darby Street, art gallery, library, restaurants, small bars and beaches. Lots of creative people living in the area.
Community gardens fostering a much improved sense of community in the inner city too

close to businesses and services

close to beaches my work and most facilities

close to businesses and services

Close to cafes in Beaumont Street Hamilton and convenient location in general.

close to businesses and services

close to cbd but is like a seaside village

close to businesses and services

friendly & many of my friends live here

close to businesses and services

Close to city and Darby st and beach

close to businesses and services

close to every thing

close to businesses and services

Close to everything - 5 min walk to schools and workplace; 5 min drive to shops, social activities, sporting areas, beaches and large shopping centres; good close transport network and infrastructure.

close to businesses and services

Close to everything

close to businesses and services

Great neighbours
Close to good public school and shops

Close to kids school and fairly good sense of community through school contacts

Close to major shopping centres (Westfield Kotara and Charlestown Mall)

In recent years, with failing health, the proximity to Pathology, X-ray, and similar services is appreciated.

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

Ease of access to Bar and Dixon Park Beaches with the convenient parking
Close to most shops and public transport.

close to shops and transport for a teenager

beautiful tree lined street with lots of birds in the morning

great neighbours

5 min drive to the beach

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

the Loft for young people to learn and grow when music is their thing not sport.
close to shops and work

close to the beach and shopping district

close to the CBD and central to Newcastle

Close to the city and plenty of buses.

Closeness to a wide range of community activities; physical attractiveness and general quietness of locale.

Closeness to everything

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

Comfortable size, reasonable accessibility with good range of activities, friendly neighbourhood with good cross section of socio-economic types.
Convenience

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

convenience of services and facilities, as well as being generally safe and good amenity.
Convenience of shops, parks, beaches etc all within easy walking distance.

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

Convenience to everything I need. 10/15 minutes away from anything I wish to do in Newcastle.

convenience to government facilities, eg. library and transport, and shops
convenient

close to businesses and services

Convenient location - Mayfield is close to beaches, main highways, large shopping centres, etc.

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

convenient location .close to railway.easy access to f3 expressway.reasonable medical facilities. close to both maitland and newcastle.feel comfortable in community.

Convenient location for city, cultural events, university and easy to get out of town

Convenient to 5 supermarkets - Coles waratah, woolies Mayfield , Franklins Mayfield, ALDI Hamilton, Woolies Jesmond

close to businesses and services

Cultural and social diversity. Love the "village-like" atmosphere of Beaumont Street with independent shops, cafes and deli rather than chain brands (that are now creeping in).

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

Darby Street shops, streets, people, work and live in my street

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

ease of access to schools, shops, beach without needing to use the car
ease of lifestyle close access to cafes, food, entertainment walking, beautiful outlook
Easy acces to library,theaters, transport and beaches. Walking to shopping centres, post office, chemist as well as walking for pleasure in pleasent neighbourhood.
easy access to a whole range of activities and services.

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

Easy access to many facilities eg. baths, beach, shopping. Nice people, neighbourhood.
Easy walking/cycling access to shops, public transport, doctors, schools, coffee, beaches, libraries, hotels, clubs, parks, harbourside, cycling tracks.
Elermorevale shopping centre and sporting fields

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

Friendly, relaxed, reasonably quiet and close to everything, including shops, beaches, sporting facilities, movies and schools
General amenity, convenient to public transport, many trees, village atmosphere, library, art gallery, conservatorium, city hall convenient.
Good support network.

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

Convenient location
It has a friendly, supportive, village feel with all conveniences close by and not in a shopping centre.
It is a very good neighborhood, friendly people, great location to schools, park and shops.

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

The university is close, so this makes the area very multi-cultural, a great atmosphere of youth.
It is central and when I can no longer drive I can walk or catch a bus.
Close to beaches and shops. We have some nice neighbours.
It is located close to everything I need

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

It is very central.
its (Newcastle) a good size, its a city not country town but not too large (like Sydney)
Its central close to transport beach foreshaw
It's clean, quiet and close to the city and I have great neighbours.
We have a reasonable shopping centre and good public transport apart from the weekends
It's close to every thing and the community is good.
Its convenience. From here we an walk to almost anything we wish to do (library, beach, foreshore,art gallery, movies, shopping)and mostly on flattish ground.
It's distinctly central and suburban feel despite being literally only five minutes from the CBD and Hamilton.
It's locality, a place I always wanted to reside. Plenty of shops, parklands, schools, entertainment and services.
Local shops - transport - park - cycleways
Older style houses. Friendly people, great location not far to anything

close to businesses and services

Older well established housing. Close to Blackbutt so still has a lot of large trees around the area. Close to a local very well patronised shopping strip with ample free parking. People are all friendly around the area.

close to businesses and services

One of the most positive aspects of our community is the friendliness, with 3 Children we make many friends through School, Sports and Socialising. The next would be ease of access to facilities such as resturants, shops, library, pool etc.

close to businesses and services

Open space and accessible, good quality cultural and recreational facilities. Beaches, parks, Art Gallery, libraries for example.

close to businesses and services

People & events at our Bowling Club where I volunteer on committee & play bowls. Neighbours & friends in our neighbourhood.

close to businesses and services

regularity of events

close to businesses and services

Relaxed beachside lifestyle within easy reach of CBD, Honeysuckle and restaurants, theatre and other cultural activities.

close to businesses and services

The beautiful Beaches, Fernleigh Trail, Blackbutte Conservation Park, Sprockets coffee, Snows(everything!), and the climate.

close to businesses and services

The centrality to urban hubs such as Darby St and Beaumont St and Civic Precinct as well as the beaches and parks and state reserves was a big reason to move into this community. There is also good educational and cultural facilities which are very important to my family.

We lived in a very small community (Nhulunbuy, NT pop 4000) for 35 years. It was difficult to decide where to live when we decided to leave, having originally come from Europe. On our way to the Sunshine Coast, we decided to stop in Newcastle for 5 weeks, our daughter lives here, we stayed for 2.5 years. Lived at Toronto, and Warners Bay, but enjoyed the city/ people in Newcastle. After 2.5 years we travelled through Europe for 6 months, stayed at the Sunshine Coast for the next 11 months, but Newcastle was never far from our minds. We returned Aug 09. Love the beach, lake, city/ history/ architecture, working harbour, regular events music/ theatre, Renew Newcastle, people.

close to businesses and services

My Newcastle pet hate... is having to pay for the first 2 hours of parking in the city! The reason that I cycle into town when the car is not required.

Well established suburb, stable residencies.

School, church, community hall at end of road.

close to businesses and services

Generally quiet, no nuisance neighbours.

close to businesses and services

Feels safe.

Good infrastructure & facilities, hospitals, police, doctors.

close to businesses and services

Good library (New Lambton) shopping choice, transport, entertainment, close to Newcastle & its facilities.

close to businesses and services

Good neighbours, convenient shops convenient location

close to businesses and services

Handy to services, restaurants, inner city and workplace. Neighbours are friendly and supportive, yet not intrusive.

close to businesses and services

has library facilities at Wallsend, New Lambton & Lambton -- all near

close to businesses and services

Has most facilities, transport, swimming pool, shopping centres, medical, bowling club , chruches

close to businesses and services

I am within walking distance of the shopping centre. There are 3 parks within walking distance. A private bus stop is round the corner. The community has potential.

close to businesses and services

I can live entirely within my suburb, and walk to all things I need if my circumstances change and I no longer have a car. i.e. I can walk to schools, university, shops, train & bus, department grocery store, park, medical services.

close to businesses and services

I feel comfy with the "mall", shops restaurants, cafes, post office in the CBD and my bank

close to businesses and services

I have lived in New Lambton for most of my adult life, my children were educated here and they all live in the suburb too. The shops are conveniently located and we love living near Blackbutt Reserve. The suburb is also convenient to all the big shopping centres and only a short drive into the city and foreshore. The is negligible crime rate so we feel relatively safe in our home.

I like the ease of getting around although the increase in traffic over the last five years is very noticeable.

I love:

the local beaches

harbour and beach drives

ease of getting to and parking at the movies

restaurants/cafes (more variety & better quality of food in recent times)

sporting facilities

medical facilities and specialist doctors

proximity to Sydney

close to businesses and services

The neighbours in my street are excellent and very caring.

close to businesses and services

I live in an older, established area which is near to major shopping, transport and my work. I can walk to many venues from my home, including parks, sporting fields, shopping centre and hotel. It is an out-of-the-way area often overlooked and that's what I like. There is a sense of community in this area, due in part to many older, long term residents who live here.

I live in Lambton.

Lambton Village is walking distance and has a nice friendly village character. It also has a lot of convenient places to shop and we try to maximise how much shopping we do in Lambton.

We also like the proximity to the park, pool and library. It's also good being close to bike tracks both into town and to Jesmond Park.

Our street (Chilcott St) has great character with the Melaleucas lining both sides of the street. There are also quite a lot of trees around, with local wildlife experiences (eg rainbow lorikeets, bats flying over, occasional possums and tawny frogmouths).

Proximity to public transport (bus route) is also good.

close to businesses and services

Our street and Turner Street has a good sense of community with friendly neighbours and people, a stable population.

close to businesses and services

I love the Newcastle Library, the trees on that street and the park, the cafes nearby and the route of my travel is a pleasure to get there

close to businesses and services

It's relatively quiet and close to hospitals, schools, cinema, University and shops. I also chose this place because it provided a large backyard to grow my own food in, which is going to become

increasingly important for all people to do.

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

Lambton is a mid-range suburb. It's not low-socio economic, nor is it the high end of the market. So it's filled with middle income families and couples who work, take pride in their homes/gardens and enjoy our beautiful parks and open spaces. We have peace and quiet, whilst enjoying the close proximity of shops, facilities, restaurants, live shows, library, sporting fields, etc.
location of parks shops, pub, clubs, hospital, ease of access to lake town
Location to town, hospital, parks and affordability.

close to businesses and services

Location/distance to everything- westfield, town, Foreshore, Harbour, trains, Woolsworth
Sense of Community
Local Pool

close to businesses and services
close to businesses and services

Maryland is a place where it has a country feel and is clean and family friendly and has a community sense. It is very close to Wallsend which has many services such as Centrelink, RTA, banks, Medicare, Wallsend Plaza and Nelson Street is thriving. Wallsend also has a strong community feel that extends to Maryland. This is evident of the floods where the community was able to rebuild Nelson Street and not rely on Council alone.
most services available locally

close to businesses and services

Most things are close to our home eg relations, work, shops, familiarity , 55 years in same suburb with other friends and relatives neighbours friendly & very helpfull 17 houses in street with a total of 22 children who all play together. close enough to shops & hospital.

close to businesses and services

New Lambton shopping village is close by and offers a relaxed and friendly environment with community feel. Even though I live within walking distance of Westfield I choose not to shop there.

close to businesses and services

Newcastle CBD living means being close to a wide range of facilities which are walkable or can be serviced by public transport.

close to businesses and services

Newcastle is a city with all the amenities yet small enough to allow one to become part of the community

close to businesses and services

Newcastle is really starting to develop a funky inner city style with Cafe's and restraunts at the end of hunter street & newcastle beach really a case in point. This is combined with teh renew newcastle efforts which I think are fantastic.

What seems pretty lacking though is public infrastructure. The walkway at the cowrie hole to Nobby's is far too narrow and the opedestrians have been sacrified to roads.

The farmers markets are great and very well attended. But the farmers seem subject to the whim of events that are irregularly held at teh show grounds. I find it hard to believe that we have only one venue that is suitable. Could they be moved to Newcastle Mall on the odd occasion?

close to businesses and services

I also see no outcome from the parking levy at the markets.

nice area, both young and old families, shopping facilities, school community centers, sports facilities,

close to businesses and services

nice to see more elderly as in aged home, community gardens maybe a mens shed, for sole parents, more community avents held in marylands lovely parks, market stalls for xmas, ect,.. fun days

close to businesses and services

during school holidays,
nice area, good shops, close to f3

close to businesses and services

Nice to be in. Feels safe to walk in the evening in the street.
Close to shops, public transport, pool & library.

close to businesses and services

One of the most positive aspects of our community is the friendliness, with 3 Children we make many friends through School, Sports and Socialising. The next would be ease of access to facilities such as resturants, shops, library, pool etc.

close to businesses and services

Perfect combination of affordability vs access to shops, schools, transport and medical with easy access to beaches and family friendly environment

close to businesses and services

Plenty of cafes, close to shops

close to businesses and services

proximity and ease of access to things important to me including harbour/beach, library, transport, galleries and trendy shopping.

close to businesses and services

proximity to beach parks library rstaurants cafes theatres

close to businesses and services

proximity to beach parks library rstaurants cafes theatres

close to businesses and services

proximity to most desirable activities.

close to businesses and services

proximity to Newcastle rail stations and continous rail service to sydney, proximity to beaches, library, ocean baths

close to businesses and services

quiet friendly neighbourhood close to most activities

close to businesses and services

Quiet, reasonably sophisticated area which is convenient to facilities and services that we desire.

close to businesses and services

Small scale. ease of getting about, close proximity to many activities and events, clean environment,

close to businesses and services

Texture, scale and inner city vibrancy and amenity. It has a great combination of long time residents and new people including African migrants. Even some business in the mix to give texture and activity. There is always a different little cottage or house to notice when you go down another street, it is closely settled with a great sense of heritage from the houses. Walking distance from great coffee and restaurants, slow walk to town along the water edge through parks, past art and biodiverse areas.

The ability to make friends and meet new people with ease.

The opportunity to be involved in voluntary charitable work.

Church parishes provide easy access to involment in extra church activities.

Excellent Library, good inexpensive sporting facilities, tap dance classes, good dining out venues, grocery shopping, free bus in designated area of CBD, good intelligent choice of movies, the list goes on.

The opportunity to have whales swimming past as well as frequent visits form dolphins as well as the seals at the end of the southern breakwall.

close to businesses and services

Excellent cycling paths.

close to businesses and services

The convenience of location to services; the friendliness of the neighbours.

	<p>The excellent coffee and slightly bohemian feel of the Islington end of Beaumont Street. The bicycle paths and expansive parks of Islington and Wickham.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>The regular high quality live music at the Lass O'Gowrie and Wickham Park Hotels.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>The facilities we can use - library, art gallery, the Con, Civic theatre, restaurants etc - are conveniently placed. We live in Darby St and deeply regret the disappearance of David Jones</p> <p>The inner city suburbs have a great character, a mix of old proud homes and buildings, mixed with new and exciting buildings. I love living near the beach, the relaxed feel, and the vibrance of the hubs... the nightlife with music and dining experiences. I also enjoy the fact that I can walk to my favourite pub, walk to get a coffee on Darby Street, walk to the beach, etc.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>The Lambton and New Lambton shopping streets and libraries - I live about half way in between them and I love the sense of community there. I also love and frequently use Lambton Park and the Lambton Swimming Pool.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>The view of the harbour, convenient access to shopping, local cafes, fresh sea air.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>There is always so much to do in the community (events, activities, markets, theatre, Livesites, beaches, blackbutt etc) that it is not hard to find something, but harder to find the time!</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>Plus living in Newcastle is just so easy compared to our previous life in Sydney that the whole vibe is positive cos we don't have that traffic/commuter/population stress.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>True Village feel with local shops and businesses and great historic street scape full of character.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>Vibrant cafe culture, close to beaches and parks, library, etc.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>Walking distance to shops, chemists, doctors etc.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>Wallsend has a stable population and some attractive streets ie. Nelson Street and once a year the Wallsend Winter Fair brings the surrounding population together.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>we are in the geographic centre of everything we enjoy.</p>
close to businesses and services	<p>federation homes, shops, 4 km to beach</p>
close to facilities and recreation	<p>Bush area close to Blackbutt reserve.</p>
close to facilities and recreation	<p>The beautiful Beaches, Fernleigh Trail, Blackbutte Conservation Park, Sprockets coffee, Snows(everything!), and the climate.</p>
close to facilities and recreation	<p>blackbutt reserve being nearby</p>
close to facilities and recreation	<p>lots of birds, possums, reptiles and other assorted wildlife</p> <p>Blackbutt reserve is just across the road and we have trees surrounding our property. We are in town, but the area is quiet. We have great, quiet neighbours, the houses are close together but we don't live in each others pockets. We all look out for each other.</p>
close to facilities and recreation	<p>Blackbutt Reserve</p>
close to facilities and recreation	<p>and the animals, ponds and birdspark land and picnic areas</p>
close to facilities and recreation	<p>Blackbutt Reserve.</p>
close to facilities and recreation	<p>Blackbutt Reserve. I find this a relaxing place to wind down at times during the week.</p>
close to facilities and recreation	<p>close to facilities</p>

recreation	Close to Harbour and beaches
close to facilities and recreation	convenience to facilities
close to facilities and recreation	Convenient to beaches, forshore, bushland, dog parks and friendly people.
close to facilities and recreation	It has easy access to all facilities, it is close to everything we need
close to facilities and recreation	It's just a beautiful town - looking better with new street trees!
close to facilities and recreation	Lambton Park and elder st
close to facilities and recreation	Lambton Park and Lambton Neighbourhood Centre
close to facilities and recreation	Leafy and tree-filled streets, close to shops and restaurants.
close to facilities and recreation	Leisure opportunities at a low cost
close to facilities and recreation	Lifestyle and access to beaches and parks
close to facilities and recreation	Lifestyle, proximity to good restaurants and entertainment - Beaumont Street. There seems to be a high level of community pride - the parks are always very well maintained, graffiti is dealt with quite quickly and the residents tend to ensure their own home presentation is at a high level. The amount of green space was a very big consideration - looking at trees instead of neighbours houses is much nicer! Convenience to major roadways to the Newcastle CBD and to the freeway to Sydney was also high on the attractions of this suburb to my family's needs. The character of the area since moving to the area, has become even stronger consideration to me. Many people I speak to who have moved out of the area, tell me they regret moving away! Oh well...
close to facilities and recreation	We live in an apartment that adjoins a dog park. For us, the availability of a dog park is very important (for us and our puppy). There is a good group of people and dogs that frequent the park and it has its own sense of community.
close to facilities and recreation	Wide quiet streets - potential for beautiful streets - need more trees planted on northern side of each parallel street in Maryville - family friendly - bike path
close to facilities and recreation	Community life style minded city. Wonderful parks and beaches with a variety of work available enhanced by a working port and location to the Hunter Valley and Sydney.
close to facilities and recreation	Easy access to many facilities eg. baths, beach, shopping. Nice people, neighbourhood.

Gosh, I love where I live in Mayfield.

We've got a little community garden at the end of the street and about 1/2 my neighbours are involved, and we have a great time working in the garden together and organising social events around the garden (whether just having drinks after the working bee or going out together).

And then the other half the people in the street I've gotten to know anyway, and we are always stopping to chit chat in the street and over the fence.

Being involved in the community garden means that I've met lots of people in Mayfield, including people from the other small community gardens. So when I'm in Woolies in Mayfield I'm always running into people from the different community gardens.

The other great thing in Mayfield is Barrio 2304 being open as a Tapas Bar on Friday night. I love how it operates as a local "community" restaurant/cafe.

Historical buildings and areas

I enjoy the diversity of my suburb. I like that there is a mix of class, ethnicity and tastes expressed in the homes and gardens and community life of the area. I like the community gardens, walking tracks and the fact that many families live there. I hope that the Islington/Maryville/Tighes Hill area is never gentrified to the extent that I can no longer afford to live there.

I like the city type facilities provided in Newcastle with the country town pace.

living close by the harbour, honeysuckle precinct, beaches & foreshore and all that those sites have to offer

Living close to the beach and the Beach culture that comes with this. A relaxed way of life away from work.

Location - close to shops, transport, beaches health facilities

location

diversity of residents

Location and close to the ocean.

mayfield pool

affordable

Mayfield pool

the stigma, living in Mayfield comes with no pretention.

mayfield seems to be changing, cafe's are setting up shop and mayfield is close to hamilton and town

Mix of young and old, rich and poor. Nearness to beautiful beaches and the CBD

Most people are involved in community activities also easy access to outdoors lifestyle, beach and bushland.

My suburb is well situated with parks and Blackbut reserve. Council look after this facility well and it is a wonderful place to visit and picnic and to enjoy with family.

Near the beach, library and art gallery. Close to work, so shorter commute. Free inner city bus means we hardly ever have to drive (once a week to the grocery store).

Not much traffic, quiet near all facilities. Perfect

close to facilities and recreation
close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation
close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

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close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

close to facilities and recreation

recreation	Other volunteers that give their time, with me, to provide Scouts with great experiences and activities.
close to facilities and recreation	Our local community are families in a similar age bracket, with children of similar ages to mine. Very friendly. Cul-de-sac means children can play safely.
close to facilities and recreation	Also we overlook Fernleigh Track and love using the track and going to Glenrock
close to facilities and recreation	Our street although adjacent to very busy thoroughfares is quiet, tree lined with friendly people. It is an easy walk to shops, train station and bus stops.
close to facilities and recreation	Outdoor parkland with kids playground, free bbq's, shelter, and dog friendly beach.
close to facilities and recreation	overlooking harbour and beaches, daily walks into king edward park and foreshore/esplanade,dining options within walking distance,milder weather living right on coast
close to facilities and recreation	proximity and ease of access to things important to me including harbour/beach, library, transport, galleries and trendy shopping.
close to facilities and recreation	Proximity to beaches/harbour, cafe/coffeeshops, shopping, able to walk to most things.
close to facilities and recreation	Proximity to the Beach and the city. Relaxed lifestyle
close to facilities and recreation	The beach lifestyle
close to facilities and recreation	Stockton's landscape, large open parks for the public to enjoy, safe beach, great walkway around the forshore and the friendliness of comunity is of very high standard. You can be on a morning walk and every person that you pass will bid you good morning.
close to facilities and recreation	the neighbours. we are near blackbutt reserve and visit there very often with 2 children. we need a park on the other side of carnley ave from blackbutt though as any child wanting to go to a park has to cross a main road. This is a very dangerous situation in a pocket of new lambton that has well over 100 children.
close to facilities and recreation	The open spaces and dedicated walkways and cycle paths in the parklands around New Lambton. This sense of space and greenness is so important in a city.
close to facilities and recreation	the quietness of the area we live in, and the closeness to the beaches and the ability to walk easily to many facilities
close to transport	1. It is a safe, friendly place. 2. Good local shops, chemist, motel within walking distance. 3. Public transport at my door, quick bus access to John Hunter Hospital.
close to transport	A wonderful tolerant community plus location near beaches and shops and trains so less need for a car.
close to transport	Ability to walk to most of activities I am interested in, therefore convenience.
close to transport	All the neighbours get on with each other and always look out for each other. I like the bicycle path that runs along Throsby creek all the way to beach - it means people can be more active.
close to transport	Avaibility of transport, access to shops, good neighbours,close access to bowling club.
close to transport	Close general good feeling about future of the area if we get light rail and open up the foreshore.
close to transport	Close to most shops and public transport.

	close to shops and transport for a teenager beautiful tree lined street with lots of birds in the mornin great neighbours 5 min drive to the beach the Loft for young people to learn and grow when music is their thing not sport.
close to transport	Close to the city and plenty of buses.
close to transport	Convenient location - Mayfield is close to beaches, main highways, large shopping centres, etc.
close to transport	convenient location .close to railway.easy access to f3 expressway.reasonable medical facilities. close to both maitland and newcastle.feel comfortable in community.
close to transport	Convenient location for city, cultural events, university and easy to get out of town
	Convenient location; and the pleasure of living in a Wool Warehouse conversion. The warehouse has a specific character, and is also a heritage building.
close to transport	It is so very different to the modern unit buildings. I love it. Always pleased to open my door when I return from my regular trips to Sydney. I also have an easy walk to the train station.
close to transport	ease of access to schools, shops, beach without needing to use the car
	Easy walking/cycling access to shops, public transport, doctors, schools, coffee, beaches, libraries, hotels, clubs, parks, harbourside, cycling tracks.
close to transport	Friendly lifestyle. Available open space and continuous sporting activities.
close to transport	Location, situated in close proximaty to South, North and North West highways.
close to transport	friendly, local community. Trains to Newcastle & Maitland
	Friends and friendly residence in and surrounding the suburb. Coveniently located to public transport routes, Islington/Wickham Parks, foreshore walking track and Beaumont Street, close proximity to Newcastle City and beaches. Matching demographic age
close to transport	group/interests and motivations.
close to transport	good public transport, handy to Beaumont street shopping and dinning precinct. Culturally and socially diverse neighborhood.
close to transport	Its close to shops & public transport
close to transport	Live in Hamilton because so central to everything, such as bus/train transport, shopping centre, close to CBD and Civic precinct.
close to transport	Not too built up, still have some trees around the area. Easy access to F3.
close to transport	peaceful and friendly - good public transport (1/hr)
	Sense of community within the neighbourhood.
	Safe area
close to transport	close to transport
	We lived in a very small community (Nhulunbuy, NT pop 4000) for 35 years. It was difficult to decide where to live when we decided to leave, having originally come from Europe. On our way to the Sunshine Coast, we decided to stop in Newcastle for 5 weeks, our daughter lives here, we stayed for 2.5 years. Lived at Toronto, and Warners Bay, but enjoyed the city/ people in Newcastle. After 2.5 years we travelled through Europe for 6 months, stayed at the Sunshine Coast for the next 11 months, but Newcastle was never far from our minds. We returned Aug 09. Love the beach, lake, city/ history/ architecture, working harbour, regular events music/ theatre, Renew Newcastle, people.
close to transport	

	<p>My Newcastle pet hate... is having to pay for the first 2 hours of parking in the city! The reason that I cycle into town when the car is not required.</p>
close to transport	<p>Wide open spaces, lots of trees, my neighbours have mostly built their homes in the estate and I know a few of them, lots of families with dogs, close to the F3, little crime. Good transport. Good road network. (Hamilton is very well served - maybe one of the few suburbs...) Free community cultural events. Beaches. Surf life saving club.</p>
close to transport	
close to transport	<p>Great beaches, relatively safe environment and reasonably easy to get around. Hamilton has some issues and they are Parking.....Alcohol.....AntiSocial behaviour. This wasnt like this when I brought my home in 1985. The FREE TRANSPORT AREA to Newcastle.</p>
close to transport	<p>Hamilton is a cosmopolitan community in close proximity to shops, restaurants and cafes, with access to public transport. It is also flat, therefore walking is possible for older people. With the harbour foreshore and beaches close by, and a number of major shopping centres within a 10 minute drive, its central location is a drawback too.</p>
close to transport	<p>I am within walking distance of the shopping centre. There are 3 parks within walking distance. A private bus stop is round the corner. The community has potential.</p>
close to transport	<p>I have friendly neighbours, I can walk to shops and I enjoy swimming particularly at Newcastle or Merewether Baths, it would be good if the green bus went all the way to Newcastle Baths because parking is very difficult to get there! I like to walk to Gregson Park and I also enjoy going to the various markets - Farmers Market, the Wickham Park market and the Hamilton Street market is getting bigger, would be good to see some better quality stalls.</p>
close to transport	<p>I have lived in New Lambton for most of my adult life, my children were educated here and they all live in the suburb too. The shops are conveniently located and we love living near Blackbutt Reserve. The suburb is also convenient to all the big shopping centres and only a short drive into the city and foreshore. The is negligible crime rate so we feel relatively safe in our home. I like the ease of getting around although the increase in traffic over the last five years is very noticeable. I love: the local beaches harbour and beach drives ease of getting to and parking at the movies restaurants/cafes (more variety & better quality of food in recent times) sporting facilities medical facilities and specialist doctors proximity to Sydney The neighbours in my street are excellent and very caring.</p>
close to transport	
close to transport	

close to transport	<p>I love how proud people are to say they live in Newcastle, it's something that really brings people together. I also love that the council has a forum like this to really engage with the community and know our opinions. Having grown up in Sydney I find Newcastle very easy to get around (although public transport is pretty dismal), parking is relatively easy (apart from around the council/CBD during business hours), there are always lots of things happening/functions to attend/ etc</p> <p>Lambton has a village atmosphere that we appreciate. It is quiet , not over developed, unassuming. people are friendly and it is within a short distance of work, restaurants, freeway,lake and ocean.</p> <p>The parks and capacity to walk around suburb undisturbed is most appealing.</p>
close to transport close to transport close to transport	<p>I am concerned at a small tendency to allow modern building of houses that are more appropriate for a beachside suburb or a mcdonalds housing estate. It would be detrimental to allow high rise or multiple storey residential development. Equally there needs to be more flexibility in car parking options for garaging in the suburb.</p> <p>Location - close to shops, transport, beaches health facilities</p> <p>Location to activities, eg Beach, Railway,Harbour.</p> <p>Location/distance to everything- westfield, town, Foreshore, Harbour, trains, Woolsworth</p>
close to transport close to transport	<p>Sense of Community</p> <p>Local Pool</p> <p>Mainly safe feeling and close to public transport</p> <p>Most neighbours are friendly and approachable. While everyone minds there own business in a crisis we all look out for each other. I love that we have public transport on our doorstep and shops and parks are close by. There are always people out and about in our street which gives you a sense of security - crime rate is very low.</p>
close to transport	<p>Near the beach, library and art gallery. Close to work, so shorter commute. Free inner city bus means we hardly ever have to drive (once a week to the grocery store).</p>
close to transport	<p>Newcastle CBD living means being close to a wide range of facilities which are walkable or can be serviced by public transport.</p>
close to transport	<p>Newcastle is really starting to develop a funky inner city style with Cafe's and restraunts at the end of hunter street & newcastle beach really a case in point. This is combined with teh renew newcastle efforts which I think are fantastic.</p>
	<p>What seems pretty lacking though is public infrastructure. The walkway at the cowrie hole to Nobby's is far too narrow and the opedestrians have been sacrificied to roads.</p>
	<p>The farmers markets are great and very well attended. But the farmers seem subject to the whim of events that are irregularly held at teh show grounds. I find it hard to believe that we have only one venue that is suitable. Could they be moved to Newcastle Mall on the odd occasion?</p>
close to transport close to transport close to transport close to transport	<p>I also see no outcome from the parking levy at the markets.</p> <p>nice and quiet easy walking distance to shops and good bus service.</p> <p>nice area, good shops, close to f3</p> <p>No through traffic, Cars belong to your neighbours (generally)</p> <p>Our street although adjacent to very busy thoroughfares is quiet, tree lined with friendly people. It is an easy walk to shops, train station and bus stops.</p>
close to transport	

close to transport	<p>Perfect combination of affordability vs access to shops, schools, transport and medical with easy access to beaches and family friendly environment Promoting Push-bikes as fun, healthy, and safe sustainable transport Transition from a deadly car cultured Newcastle to a safe pedestrian dominated region. An appropriate transition is by Pushbike culture : Safer, faster, friendly (environmentally and less road rage stress and deaths), healthy mind (fight depression), more equitable (kids, elderly, disabled, globally), less wars for oil, and active (healthy body) lifestyle, Newcastle Bike Ecology Centre (Community volunteer bike help concept) FREE : - Help fix/check your own bike OR choose one to help fix & keep - Bike fixing & traffic skills workshops (stop cars annoying you) - Donate bikes/parts or get parts. Buy or borrow : 2nd hand or library bikes. Fri & Sat 9-5 (& some other afternoons too) 106 Robert St, Islington, 49616582.</p>
close to transport	<p>newcastlebikeecologycentre.blogspot.com</p>
close to transport	<p>proximity to Newcastle rail stations and continous rail service to sydney, proximity to beaches, library, ocean baths</p>
close to transport	<p>Quiet location with easy access to any location in Newcastle.</p>
close to transport	<p>Quiet</p>
close to transport	<p>On bus route</p>
	<p>Sense of community, strong sense of place, lots of character, old buildings, wide streets pinapple palms, ships etc.</p>
	<p>Very friendly community with stong family history in area.</p>
	<p>Walking and bicycle friendly.</p>
	<p>Dog freindly</p>
	<p>Affordable housing.</p>
close to transport	<p>Close to city, beach, train station and cafe strips (Darby st and Beaumont st)</p>
	<p>Sense of openness and space with a casual atmosphere yet most things which you need within easy access. Also, as I'm a cyclist I like to be able to cycle to most places that are within easy reach without feeling hemmed in by traffic. I like the village atmosphere of the Mall which is relaxed and friendly. I love the sense of wellbeing when you walk outside the door and are confronted with the sea breeze. I also like the easy access of the foreshore and the ever changing scenery with the maritime traffic. With the bus at my doorstep and Newcastle train station within 3 blocks I have a sense of everything being at my fingertips and within an easy walk.</p>
close to transport	<p>Small scale. ease of getting about, close proximity to many activities and events, clean environment,</p>
close to transport	<p>Texture, scale and inner city vibrancy and amenity. It has a great combination of long time residents and new people including African migrants. Even some business in the mix to give texture and activity. There is always a different little cottage or house to notice when you go down another street, it is closely settled with a great sense of heritage from the houses. Walking distance from great coffee and restaurants, slow walk to town along the water edge through parks,</p>
	<p>past art and biodiverse areas.</p>
close to transport	

close to transport
close to transport

close to transport
close to transport

close to transport

close to transport

close to transport

close to transport

close to transport

close to transport
close to transport

The ability to make friends and meet new people with ease.
The opportunity to be involved in voluntary charitable work.
Church parishes provide easy access to involvement in extra church activities.

Excellent Library, good inexpensive sporting facilities, tap dance classes, good dining out venues, grocery shopping, free bus in designated area of CBD, good intelligent choice of movies, the list goes on.

The opportunity to have whales swimming past as well as frequent visits from dolphins as well as the seals at the end of the southern breakwall.

Excellent cycling paths.

The ability to travel to a local destination by car in a reasonable time.

The ability to walk to most places I need or want to go to (apart from work)

the area is flat Close to all transport rail \$bus Street light

The environment, beach, harbour, parks.

City living allows use of public transport (which of course, could always be better).

Beaches and baths are wonderful and very friendly neighbours and my apartment is pet friendly, which to me is important.

The Hill is an attractive suburb. Its proximity to beaches, King Edward Park, tennis courts, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Library and city are all close which makes it appealing.

It is a quiet suburb - not a lot of traffic only when events are held in King Edward Park, which is not a problem.

Parking is becoming more difficult to find even with a resident parking ticket. If the old City Bowling Club site is to be redeveloped as a function centre for 500 capacity, parking will be at a premium in the narrow streets.

As part of the Bathers' Way it is a pity that the site can't be left as parkland with a viewing platform for coastline views similar to the other one to the south near the Bogey Hole.

The most positive aspect of my community is the availability of public transport, the local shopping centre and my local church is nearby. The neighbourhood also has a wonderful feeling about it, people are friendly and care for each other.

The most positive is the proximity to family and friends as well as a great view over the city. Transport at door. Close to all health facilities.

The proximity to the CBD is a very positive aspect, this also means close access to both trains and buses, essential for someone reliant on public transport.

The good servicing of my community by public transport is also a huge positive.

Importantly, my suburb has a bakery, a fruit shop, a newsagency, mini-supermarket hairdresser, cafes etc. which means one need not go elsewhere to get the essentials or go out for lunch.

There is always so much to do in the community (events, activities, markets, theatre, Live sites, beaches, blackbutt etc) that it is not hard to find something, but harder to find the time!

Plus living in Newcastle is just so easy compared to our previous life in Sydney that the whole vibe is positive cos we don't have that traffic/commuter/population stress.

Transport facilities including rail line.

	Variety. I like that it has a complete range of ages, nationalities, abilities and socio economic groups. It has a broad spectrum of people and this makes for a very interesting, often gritty community but I like that about it. It has a pretty even balance of affluence and poverty a real slice of life. Physically it is close to the city, has reasonable facilities and transport.
close to transport	Virtually at the most 10 minutes by car to most places I wish to go to or visit. Cannot calculate how long it would take by public transport.
close to transport	Cannot think of a response
dk	Cannot think of anything
dk	Cannot think of many positives at the moment.
	Just finished removing the graffiti on the front of the house thanks to the motorbike circus event and didn't get the usual open green feel of the street as there is now a substation being built.
dk	Nothing
dk	I don't know.
dk	I enjoy it here
dk	It's future
	Its hard to say,I live in Newcastle suburb but am in port Stephens state electorate and there seems to be conflict of interest.
dk	Not Interested
dk	Potential to expand further.
dk	Unable to assess - it certainly isn't the public transport, as all routes are too circulatory.
natural and built environment	A leafy suburb close to shopping & other facilities my family use
natural and built environment	beach
natural and built environment	Beach
natural and built environment	Beach and baths.
natural and built environment	beach and coffee shops
natural and built environment	beaches
	Beaches and restaurants, happening places like darby and beaumont st.
natural and built environment	beautiful central location close to beaches, shops etc.
natural and built environment	Beautiful local environment (harbour foreshore, beaches, parks)
natural and built environment	Being near the beach and friends
natural and built environment	bushland
	Bushland setting adjoining Fernleigh track close to Garden City , the beaches etc
natural and built environment	Character plus environment
natural and built environment	Close proximity to beach and city
	Not too built up, still have some trees around the area. Easy access to F3.
natural and built environment	Parks, trees
	Relaxed beachside lifestyle within easy reach of CBD, Honeysuckle and restaurants, theatre and other cultural activities.
natural and built environment	sense of community support locally in the neighbourhood.the beaches and public spaces around the beaches. the natural beauty of the Newcsatle coastline.
natural and built environment	THE BEACH RIVER AND HARBOUR
natural and built environment	The Beach!
natural and built environment	The beaches and harbour
natural and built environment	The beauty of Bar Beach and the lifestyle it afford us as a family.
natural and built environment	The beauty of the coastline
natural and built environment	Can walk many places -shops/schools/sport do not have to use car

natural and built environment	The community is friendly and we have had no problems with crime. When living closer to town and the Hamilton area we had a lot of problems with druggies and an unfriendly neighbourhood. We live close to Blackbutt Reserve and the quietness of the area and being able to listen to the birds chirping and the wind blowing through the trees is very relaxing.
natural and built environment	Wide open spaces, lots of trees, my neighbours have mostly built their homes in the estate and I know a few of them, lots of families with dogs, close to the F3, little crime.
natural and built environment	Great location, natural environment (Throsby Creek & harbour), friendly community
natural and built environment	High level of physical, social and natural amenity
	I like the ease of getting around although the increase in traffic over the last five years is very noticeable.
	I love: the local beaches harbour and beach drives ease of getting to and parking at the movies restaurants/cafes (more variety & better quality of food in recent times) sporting facilities medical facilities and specialist doctors proximity to Sydney The neighbours in my street are excellent and very caring.
natural and built environment	
natural and built environment	I like the trees and greenery in our street
	I like we have so many trees in our street and that the neighbours make an effort to get to know each other.
natural and built environment	I love the ocean
natural and built environment	Inner city ambience and charecter
natural and built environment	locality
natural and built environment	Location
natural and built environment	Lots of trees.
natural and built environment	Lovely, open feel to the area. Close to shops and cultural events
natural and built environment	Merewether is a great place to live.
natural and built environment	Modern suburb
	Natural environment is important to me....a life by the sea and a relaxed atmosphere and community.
natural and built environment	Near the beach.
	Newcastle Beaches especially those with a more natural setting e.g. northern nobbys good vs Newcastle Beach bad, not just bad but an embarrasment and an eyesore.
natural and built environment	nice and quiet
natural and built environment	Nice place to live
natural and built environment	physical attributes, proximity to amenities
	proximity to beach
natural and built environment	good neighbor
natural and built environment	proximity to the beach
natural and built environment	Proximity to the ocean
natural and built environment	Sense of space, close to Braye Park, good neighbors

natural and built environment

Texture, scale and inner city vibrancy and amenity. It has a great combination of long time residents and new people including African migrants. Even some business in the mix to give texture and activity. There is always a different little cottage or house to notice when you go down another street, it is closely settled with a great sense of heritage from the houses. Walking distance from great coffee and restaurants, slow walk to town along the water edge through parks, past art and biodiverse areas.

natural and built environment
natural and built environment

The area is treelined and people obviously care about their plants and gardens, making the streets green, cool and pleasant to be in. the beach

natural and built environment

The beach and coast in general is an amazing place that promotes an active healthy lifestyle away from all the other pressures modern day society puts on families. Newcastle's coast line needs to be worked on promoted and well maintained as it is one of the best in the world.

natural and built environment

The environment, beach, harbour, parks.
City living allows use of public transport (which of course, could always be better).
Beaches and baths are wonderful and very friendly neighbours and my apartment is pet friendly, which to me is important.

natural and built environment
natural and built environment
natural and built environment

The feeling of connectedness (in Newcastle there is always only one degree of separation between strangers, in my experience) and the glorious environment.
the foreshore and beaches
The friendly people. The Hills Figs in Cooks Hill.
The greenery (open spaces, bush areas, trees and gardens).

natural and built environment
natural and built environment
natural and built environment

The family atmosphere, living on a quiet street, knowing neighbours.
The large pockets of bushland within Newcastle.
The local natural environment and beaches
The nearness to us of the beach.

natural and built environment
natural and built environment

The general area around us is friendly and quiet.
The Ocean

natural and built environment
natural and built environment

The old historic buildings of the inner city and the access to beautiful beaches
The out look from my house across hexham wetlands

natural and built environment
natural and built environment
natural and built environment
natural and built environment

The view of the harbour, convenient access to shopping, local cafes, fresh sea air.
Trees
Trees and open space
trees in our area (new lambton hts)

natural and built environment

We are near the ocean. Most people seem to be happy to be outdoors. Good coffee.

natural and built environment

We are surrounded by trees and a small reserve and some lovely birds

natural and built environment

We enjoy visiting the beach and bushland areas like Duddley and Blackbutt. Sadly there's not too much bushland accessible in or around Newcastle, not compared to Sydney with so many national parks.

natural and built environment

I would enjoy live theatre but there are scant dramatic resources. I'm not speaking about big productions and shows like the Civic. What about grassroots theatre and local theatre companies?
High density housing means great community sense, beaches, parklands and heritage buildings

own home's characteristics	Close to town yet large gardens Convenient location; and the pleasure of living in a Wool Warehouse conversion. The warehouse has a specific character, and is also a heritage building. It is so very different to the modern unit buildings. I love it. Always pleased to open my door when I return from my regular trips to Sydney. I also have an easy walk to the train station.
own home's characteristics	federation homes, shops, 4 km to beach
own home's characteristics	Gentrifying area
own home's characteristics	solid home, character, history, childhood environment, know area, remained much the same.
own home's characteristics	the house commands a lovely view consequently it gives us a pleasant life style and very little need for cooling in the summer
own home's characteristics	1. It is a safe, friendly place. 2. Good local shops, chemist, motel within walking distance. 3. Public transport at my door, quick bus access to John Hunter Hospital.
safety	After 4 years of uncontrolled alcohol fuelled deliberate destruction of NCC ratepayers assets, the so called liquor accord funding was stopped, and police controlled closing hours. The result is that NCC clean up crews were not required, street sweepers were not required as often, Police activities could focus on other crime, and assets such as shopfronts, planter boxes and beautification projects were not disturbed, vandalised etc.
safety	Being able to live in a safe and friendly place, good neighbours, good security.
safety	Clean and openness, no problems within the area.
safety	Convenient - peaceful
safety	Decent young families and older neighbours offering a sense of community and street safety. Proud home owners who make the effort to look after the upkeep of their homes and landscapes or gardens. Appropriate street tree planting.
safety	Dedication and commitment by our local community in trying to engage NCC and Local, State Governments to improve the safety and environment of this family orientated suburb. A special thank you should go to the IAG, it was their efforts alone who paved the way for improving this suburb for the families who live here.
safety	definitely not the drugs addicts you wander around the streets near my home
safety	Difficult to know what definition of community we are working with here...
safety	Feels safe....when this is the case almost all else is possible.
safety	elderly neighbours who do not keep domestic pets or make unnecessary noise.
safety	Feel safe
safety	Feeling comfortable in public space and not feeling like I need to spend money to do that. Having public facilities to support that.
safety	Feeling safe and convenient location
safety	feels safe and its quiet compared to the CBD
safety	Friendly neighbours, low crime, easy access to all shopping and business centres and also to bush and ocean
safety	Good neighbours and sense of safety
safety	peace and quiet
safety	Peacefull - Safe & secure
safety	Relatively safe

safety	Safe
safety	Safe place to live
safety	Safe, friendly neighbourhood. People talk to each other.
safety	Safety, low crime rate
safety	security, non-threatening, neighbours
	Sense of community within the neighbourhood.
	Safe area
safety	close to transport
	The community is friendly and we have had no problems with crime. When living closer to town and the Hamilton area we had a lot of problems with druggies and an unfriendly neighbourhood. We live close to Blackbutt Reserve and the quietness of the area and being able to listen to the birds chirping and the wind blowing through the trees is very relaxing.
safety	Well established suburb, stable residencies.
	School, church, community hall at end of road.
	Generally quiet, no nuisance neighbours.
safety	Feels safe.
	Wide open spaces, lots of trees, my neighbours have mostly built their homes in the estate and I know a few of them, lots of families with dogs, close to the F3, little crime.
safety	Generally a very peaceful place. The streets are flat which is good for older people to walk about. It is a safe suburb, mostly.
safety	Great beaches, relatively safe environment and reasonably easy to get around.
safety	Great community feel. Great lifestyle. Relatively safe and relaxed.
safety	Plenty to do.
safety	I feel safe in the area. Proximity to beach, shopping and food.
	I love most things about living in Hamilton. The only thing I don't like is there is a lot of Rental Properties and there used to be a lot of vandalism but this has improved since the lock out of pubs after a certain time.
safety	in general friendly, mostly elderly neighbours who lived in the suburb for a long time, there is a sense of safety in this suburb
safety	Islington has improved exponentially in the last three years - less prostitutes, the park no longer has needles by the childrens play ground, the installation of lights at the park and the real sense of community. Many like minded people - many "inner west sydney refugees" moved here as its is very much like newtown, marrickville/ erskineville, but much better priced. Close to beaumont street and some of the best coffee, plus we are in the Tighes Hill Primary school zone - a centre of excellence means we don't need to "junctionise" (i.e. send our kids to the Junction" which still many parents tend to do.
safety	It's peaceful
safety	Lack of crime and antisocial behaviour due largely to a dearth of public housing, high rental prices and no crime-attracting infrastructure (eg: methadone clinic, high density housing, Centrelink Office, etc).
safety	No - I'm not joking.
safety	Mainly safe feeling and close to public transport

Mixed age groups within the environment giving a sense of 'real' life experiences, teaching children about all ages making up our society and all ages being important from the young to the older person

Neighbourly and friendly community

Shops close by that are friendly except one person but he is an exception

Walks

Animal friendly

Trees and natural environment

safety

Safety

Most neighbours are friendly and approachable. While everyone minds their own business in a crisis we all look out for each other. I love that we have public transport on our doorstep and shops and parks are close by. There are always people out and about in our street which gives you a sense of security - crime rate is very low.

safety

My neighbourhood is fantastic. We live in a row of houses with very like minded people with young children like us. We live near a park that is fantastically utilised and we love going there both alone and with other members of the community. It is close for us to walk to our local shopping strip and it feels safe to be here most of the time. Newcastle is by far the best place to live, as I have traveled around the world, seen the poverty & pollution of other countries, it's true we have the best, let's build on that and make Newcastle the port of call.

safety

safety

Nice to be in. Feels safe to walk in the evening in the street. Close to shops, public transport, pool & library.

safety

Originally very friendly safe and healthy life style close to most facilities. But as with most inner city suburbs with continual 'progress' there are so many more people living on smaller land areas where previously one family now multiple units etc. Much faster turnover in people building for profit then moving on. You don't seem to get to know locals as much as before.

safety

safety

safety

Quiet location with easy access to any location in Newcastle.

Quiet neighborhood with natural beauty

Quiet

safety

On bus route

Quiet, reasonably sophisticated area which is convenient to facilities and services that we desire.

safety

safety

Quiet.

quiet/ relaxed (Maryland), also there are a few cycleways for leisurely cycling (but not enough connections to other cycleways outside Maryland)

safety

strong sense of community

this leads to a sense of safety

I like the housing stock but am concerned about the McMansions springing up near small Federation cottages - ruins streetscape as well as ambience and sense of community

variety of shops and services in Beaumont Street

safety

Beaumont st has a strong village atmosphere and people stop and talk

safety

The area is quite established, people look after their homes and the street. Most people are helpful to each other and there is a general feeling of community.

safety	<p>The general feeling within the community. The suburb that I live in has a good feel and I have never experienced any issues with crime etc even though there are several pubs & clubs in the area.</p> <p>The Hill is an attractive suburb. Its proximity to beaches, King Edward Park, tennis courts, Ncle Region Art Gallery, Library and city are all close which makes it appealing.</p> <p>It is a quiet suburb - not a lot of traffic only when events are held in King Edward Park, which is not a problem.</p> <p>Parking is becoming more difficult to find even with a resident parking ticket. If the old City Bowling Club site is to be redeveloped as a function centre for 500 capacity, parking will be at a premium in the narrow streets.</p>
safety	<p>As part of the Bathers' Way it is a pity that the site can't be left as parkland with a viewing platform for coastline views similar to the other one to the south near the Bogey Hole.</p> <p>The nearness to us of the beach.</p>
safety safety safety	<p>The general area around us is friendly and quiet.</p> <p>The relaxed lifestyle.</p> <p>The village feel of Cooks hill</p> <p>This information relates to Stockton</p> <p>Sense of belonging.</p> <p>Relatively safe enviroment.(excluding drug addicts)</p> <p>Friendly community generally.</p> <p>Proximity to Newcastle CBD Commercial and to a lesser extent shopping.</p> <p>Reliable and efficient ferry service.</p>
safety safety safety safety	<p>uncrowded and peaceful open spaces</p> <p>very quite peasful place to live</p> <p>Very quiet</p>
social connection	<p>a central area to facilities, family friendly , a sense of belonging in the area</p> <p>A City of Newcastle place making project within my neighbourhood has been a highly effective mechanism for building relationships amongst its participants. There is, in my experience, a much stronger sense of community as a result of this project. The ongoing nature of the project I believe has the potential to enhance the sense of community and belonging already established.</p>
social connection	<p>A dynamic, integrated and progressive community. Colourful and tolerant of others.</p>
social connection	<p>A general feeling of belonging to a group of people who are mostly friendly and easy going</p>
social connection	<p>A lot of community minded people live in my suburb, including some of my close friends, and also it is close to throsby creek and islington park</p>
social connection	<p>A sense of belonging. Friendliness.</p>
social connection	<p>A sense of community - many young families with kids of similar ages - like minded neighbours & people in the neighbourhood</p>
social connection	<p>a tight knit, supportive, friendly, happy community where neighbours know each other, talk and interact with each other.</p>
social connection	<p>The character of the place is relaxed, but with a sence of excitement, being in the city with activities and events on our doorsteps.</p>

social connection	A wonderful tolerant community plus location near beaches and shops and trains so less need for a car.
social connection	All the neighbours get on with each other and always look out for each other. I like the bicycle path that runs along Throsby creek all the way to beach - it means people can be more active.
social connection	As a retired senior citizen, living by myself. positive aspects are .Community friendliness in our Apartment building .Close access to cultural activities .Proximity to beaches, parks, .Enjoyment of heritage and historic areas .A place where I can have healthy fun with family and friends .Exercise from walking and swimming .Revealing areas of historical Newcastle to family and friends when they visit
social connection	Close access to medical and dental practices
social connection	As it is in a way isolated everyone nearly knows each other and it has a strong community backing
social connection	Being Known & recognised
social connection	Being near the beach and friends
social connection	Being surrounded by like-minded & friendly people.
social connection	Blackbutt reserve is just across the road and we have trees surrounding our property. We are in town, but the area is quiet. We have great, quiet neighbours, the houses are close together but we don't live in each others pockets. We all look out for each other.
social connection	Book Club
social connection	Caring neighbours
social connection	Carrington is a quite socio-economically diverse community, however if any local wants to participate in community events, they are welcome with open arms (I discovered this when I moved here...even just going down to the local pub, the locals are very accommodating). There is a great sense of pride in Carrington, and we have seen this with the 'back to Carro' days at the bowling club, and the determination of community members in keeping their bowling club open has been amazing. I think many people discount Carrington as a fantastic place to live. The people are amazing and the community has, and will continue to join together in times of need. I have lived here for 7 happy years, and hope many more are to come.
social connection	Comfortable size, reasonable accessibility with good range of activities, friendly neighbourhood with good cross section of socio-economic types.
social connection	community
social connection	Community centred around the beach and sporting clubs.
social connection	Community feel. Neighbour happy to say hello and get involved in community activities.
social connection	Community garden, great neighbors
social connection	Community spirit
social connection	Community spirit and friendliness.
social connection	community spirit. People from all different backgrounds both cultural and socio economic.
social connection	Community works well together and with council especially in example of mayfield pool
social connection	Convenient location, friendly neighbours, pleasant out-look
social connection	Convenient to beaches, forshore, bushland, dog parks and friendly people.
social connection	Despite its reputation, Mayfield is a very friendly suburb. We live in a great street with lots of other families we know and have all facilities within an easy walk.

social connection	diversity
social connection	Everyone knowing each other, but not living in each others pockets
social connection	Everyone seem to get along and help each other if needed
social connection	Excellent Neighbours
social connection	familiar neighbours
social connection	Familiar setting
social connection	Family Friendly
	Family friendly area, lots of kids around. Many familiar and friendly faces. Everyone saying hello when walking down the street. Makes us happy.
social connection	Family orientation, bushland landscape
social connection	Feeling of community and assistance of and to others - feeling of belonging.
social connection	Feeling of community and mutual support.
	Fletcher has a lot of young families so its a great place to bring up younger children. I love our school communities (Maryland and Glendore) sporting clubs (Wallsend Athletics/ Shuffle and Slide, Plattsburg Maryland Football) and our church (Globe Newcastle).
social connection	for me, there is not a better suburb that I would like to move to
social connection	For myself - I enjoy the friendly and helpful group of people who use the local Stockton pool in the mornings between 7am to 9am and have provided me and others, with contacts to local organisations and are always helpful with information for new people entering Stockton. This has included a writer's group, musical and theatre group and other forums.
	It's a pity it's not usable in the winter.
social connection	friendliness
social connection	Friendliness
social connection	Friendliness and openness of newcastle people
social connection	Friendliness of the neighbours
social connection	Friendly
social connection	friendly
social connection	Friendly
social connection	friendly and convenient
social connection	Friendly and helpful neighbours
social connection	Friendly and quiet neighbourhood
social connection	Friendly area
social connection	Friendly atmosphere, community spirit, great neighbours.
social connection	friendly community feeling
social connection	Friendly helpful neighbours. Easy access to facilities
social connection	Friendly lifestyle. Available open space and continuous sporting activities.
	Location, situated in close proximaty to South, North and North West highways.
social connection	Friendly neighbourhood. Nearby shops.
social connection	Friendly neighbours
social connection	friendly neighbours
	friendly neighbours both in immediate street block and in local shop around the corner
social connection	friendly neighbours keep an eye on our house and show concern for each other
social connection	Friendly neighbours, low crime, easy access to all shopping and business centres and also to bush and ocean
social connection	Friendly neiighbours

social connection	Friendly People
social connection	Friendly people, people know each other
social connection	friendly place.
social connection	friendly, local community. Trains to Newcastle & Maitland
	Friendly, sense of community, access to local school, close to public transport + able to walk to shops and park
social connection	Friendly.
social connection	Friends and friendly residence in and surrounding the suburb.
	Coveniently located to public transport routes, Islington/Wickham Parks, foreshore walking track and Beaumont Street, close proximity to Newcastle City and beaches. Matching demographic age group/interests and motivations.
social connection	Friendship
social connection	General feeling of belonging
social connection	General feeling of friendliness
	General friendliness, meeting folks of similar interests. Many creative and artistic people in my suburb and close suburbs
social connection	good neighbour
social connection	Good neighbours (some of whom I already knew), convenient and generally quiet.
social connection	Good neighbours, happy , friendly, a good mix of age groups
social connection	good nieghbours,not many young children,no louts
social connection	Good place to live
	Islington is a small suburb and could develop a much more intimate 'village' feel - I think the potential of the suburb is currently its most positive aspect.
social connection	Islington is close enough to the CBD without being too busy. Beaumont Street, Carrington, Honeysuckle, the Marina, the beaches are all in walking and cycling distance and I've done my best to "ditch the car and ride" lately. I feel much more "connected" to the community when I make eye contact with others and have started to get to know people in my area.
	The Islington Action Group have become a vocal part of the community and have rallied to bring change. They've had a very positive impact on the community.
social connection	It has a friendly, supportive, village feel with all conveniences close by and not in a shopping centre.
social connection	It is a small area of streets where we have met like minded people who enjoy exercise and the beach.
social connection	It is fairly inclusive and tolerant with a high level of cultural diversity.
social connection	It is not intrusive, however there when needed.
	It is quiet and the neighbours are all friendly without being a burden, They are helpfull when it is needed and all willing to help one another.
social connection	It is quiet, most neighbours friendly, bushlands.
social connection	It is the general feel and friendliness of the suburb as well as proximity to services/assets
social connection	It is the general feeling of friendliness and leisure lifestyle with convenient location
	It is very social with plenty of people out working in their yards, walking etc and generally talking to each other.
social connection	It's Village atmosphere.
social connection	Live my whole life here so it's the predictability and familiarity

social connection

One of the most positive aspects of our community is the friendliness, with 3 Children we make many friends through School, Sports and Socialising. The next would be ease of access to facilities such as resturants, shops, library, pool etc.

social connection

One of the most positive aspects of our community is the friendliness, with 3 Children we make many friends through School, Sports and Socialising. The next would be ease of access to facilities such as resturants, shops, library, pool etc.

social connection

People are always willing to assist others in times of need.

social connection

people are friendly and approachable

social connection

People are friendly, faces are familiar, tree-lined streets, vibrant, young, lively, embraces culture and the arts

social connection

Reasonable strong sense of community among the residents in our section of the street.

Most services are within walking distance.

Reasonable good access to public transport.

Proximity to work and educational facilities relaxed, beach culture

East end - great part of town.

Good character.

Know a lot of familiar faces.

social connection

Close to beach, cafes and great live music

social connection

Respect and awareness of each other - living in Newcastle East is a very open life, we live on our streets

social connection

Sense of community

social connection

sense of community

social connection

Sense of community - wherever you go you always bump into people you know.

social connection

sense of community support locally in the neighbourhood.the

social connection

beaches and public spaces around the beaches. the natural beauty of the Newcsatle coastline.

sense of community trying to make it even better

Sense of community within the neighbourhood.

Safe area

social connection

close to transport

social connection

Sense of community, attractive streetscape, presence of trees and parks, close to beach, cafes, restaurants.

social connection

The blend of cultures and harmony and quiet and safe.

social connection

the character of the cooks hill village atmosphere and the attitudes of the majority of people living there

social connection

The community nature in our block of units (help take out other peoples bins, take in washing when raining, mowing shared lawns etc.)

social connection

The community of Islington is very social and community minded and the people are very nice

social connection

The sense of belonging to a supportive productive group.

social connection

the variety of people - but this could be expanded

social connection

They all get together and help

We know and interact with a lot of people in our local area which leads to a positive feeling about our community.

social connection

A lot of this interaction relates to activities of our children and our place within the local public school community.

social connection

We live in a culdesac with great neighbours in the street.

social connection	We live in a dead end street with neighbours who are families and all very friendly towards each other. There is no crime and as we live on top of a hill with all services a short drive it is a fantastic place to live
social connection	we live in a very stable street with very little turnover of residence so we know most of the people by sight if not to talk to
social connection	we live in a wonderful street, company, location We lived in a very small community (Nhulunbuy, NT pop 4000) for 35 years. It was difficult to decide where to live when we decided to leave, having originally come from Europe. On our way to the Sunshine Coast, we decided to stop in Newcastle for 5 weeks, our daughter lives here, we stayed for 2.5 years. Lived at Toronto, and Warners Bay, but enjoyed the city/ people in Newcastle. After 2.5 years we travelled through Europe for 6 months, stayed at the Sunshine Coast for the next 11 months, but Newcastle was never far from our minds. We returned Aug 09. Love the beach, lake, city/ history/ architecture, working harbour, regular events music/ theatre, Renew Newcastle, people.
social connection	My Newcastle pet hate... is having to pay for the first 2 hours of parking in the city! The reason that I cycle into town when the car is not required. Well established suburb, stable residencies. School, church, community hall at end of road. Generally quiet, no nuisance neighbours. Feels safe.
social connection	When an event is on most people are willing to help
social connection	When you walk down the street or out in the garden whoever you pass will say hi or acknowledge you, it's a very friendly area which puts us at ease.
social connection	While there are certainly some bad eggs living in my street, the neighbours are mostly fantastic friendly people.
social connection	Wide open spaces, lots of trees, my neighbours have mostly built their homes in the estate and I know a few of them, lots of families with dogs, close to the F3, little crime.
social connection	Community life style minded city. Wonderful parks and beaches with a variety of work available enhanced by a working port and location to the Hunter Valley and Sydney.
social connection	Feeling like we have the best of everything in Newcastle. The beaches, the parks, busy but not too busy, the people have a good community spirit compared to other places I have lived (Sydney and Canberra).
social connection	Generally friendly, but also a diverse range of people
social connection	Good community feel, excellent 50 m outdoor pool, beach, strong environmental group, bike track, good walking close to beach and harbour
social connection	Good community feeling with good infrastructure support

Gosh, I love where I live in Mayfield.
 We've got a little community garden at the end of the street and about 1/2 my neighbours are involved, and we have a great time working in the garden together and organising social events around the garden (whether just having drinks after the working bee or going out together).

And then the other half the people in the street I've gotten to know anyway, and we are always stopping to chit chat in the street and over the fence.

Being involved in the community garden means that I've met lots of people in Mayfield, including people from the other small community gardens. So when I'm in Woolies in Mayfield I'm always running into people from the different community gardens.

social connection

The other great thing in Mayfield is Barrio 2304 being open as a Tapas Bar on Friday night. I love how it operates as a local "community" restaurant/cafe.

social connection

Great community feel. Great lifestyle. Relatively safe and relaxed. Plenty to do.

social connection

Great community spirit and vibrancy that is created by many late night trading hotels and restaurant/cafe precinct.

social connection

Great location, natural environment (Throsby Creek & harbour), friendly community

social connection

Great neighbours, fantastic environment.

social connection

Great neighbours, with families of similar age.

social connection

Great neighbours.

social connection

Handy location to family and friends

social connection

High area of Mayfield North where community is watchful without being noseey.

social connection

High density housing means great community sense, beaches, parklands and heritage buildings

social connection

I appreciate that it has a very mixed demographic. We live in a high density area, with lots of public housing and high rise dwellings, so there are challenges, but this keeps us on our toes community-wise. It keeps us tolerant and open-hearted. We are not shielded from those with needs, and I think this is healthy.

I enjoy being part of Adamstown Uniting Church. I organise fundraising concerts there for Lifeline and am part of other activities that bring people together to enjoy each other's company plus music or discussion.

social connection

I like seeing activities for fitness in elderly people, a meeting place for young mums and their children as well as participating in worship.

social connection

I enjoy the diversity of my suburb. I like that there is a mix of class, ethnicity and tastes expressed in the homes and gardens and community life of the area. I like the community gardens, walking tracks and the fact that many families live there. I hope that the Islington/Maryville/Tighes Hill area is never gentrified to the extent that I can no longer afford to live there.

social connection

I have a sense of security in the neighbourhood and belonging - have lived here most of my life.

social connection
social connection

I have friendly neighbours, I can walk to shops and I enjoy swimming particularly at Newcastle or Merewether Baths, it would be good if the green bus went all the way to Newcastle Baths because parking is very difficult to get there! I like to walk to Gregson Park and I also enjoy going to the various markets - Farmers Market, the Wickham Park market and the Hamilton Street market is getting bigger, would be good to see some better quality stalls.

social connection

I have my friends here and neighbours are good
I like being part of a community of great people (including artists and activists) who care about having a healthy environment, stable climate and happy society; and who are prepared to get together to organise events, protests, cultural events for the good of everyone not just themselves.

I like the ease of getting around although the increase in traffic over the last five years is very noticeable.

I love:

the local beaches

harbour and beach drives

ease of getting to and parking at the movies

restaurants/cafes (more variety & better quality of food in recent times)

sporting facilities

medical facilities and specialist doctors

proximity to Sydney

The neighbours in my street are excellent and very caring.

social connection
social connection

I live in a small suburb where we look out for each other

I live in Islington. I love that it is a colourful and dynamic community with people from all walks of life. My street is quiet, with some beautiful little old houses. The park is wonderful - definitely one of Newcastle's best, although underrated and burdened by some incorrect negative impressions.

social connection

Islington is so close to Beaumont Street and public transport - it's fabulous!

social connection

I live in Maryville and I love it. My neighbours are friendly, it's quite close to town and work and it's affordable.

I live in Phoebe St, Islington. The street (at the park end) has a fantastic community feel. I first bought in this area because it was affordable, but I am now glad to live in this area because of increasing community cohesion and connection. I was pleased to note the addition of a free bus service down Beaumont St. The cafe's on Beaumont Street are attractive and there's an increasing interest in the Secondhand shops along Maitland Road. How about some RENEW NEWCASTLE in this area?

There is a great deal of work happening around Islington Park.

There is potential for this area to become a hub of social and community activity. I'd like to congratulate the council on supporting the community gardens, and recommend continued support / expansion of this project. I would like to lend my support to the soup kitchen that operates in the park - i believe this is a great community service and I'm proud that it continues in my area.

social connection

I'd like to add my support to the redevelopment of the playground and other environmental improvements to the park. I'm concerned about the carpark proposed for the end of Power / Phoebe St - partially due to the width of these streets. I would suggest that

parking would be better situated at the end of Morgan St or through the Maryville side.

While I understand that this is not directly relevant to the development of the social plan, I'd like to add that there needs to be additional maintenance in Phoebe and Power St. In particular, the street trees (Celtis Australis) is commonly considered a weed, is causing damage to the footpath and is also spreading its roots under my house. It is fast growing and often interferes with the powerlines. I'd like to know more about how I can request to have this tree removed from my street.

social connection

I live in Stockton opposite the Beach, there is a great community spirit amongst many people in Stockton. I have moved to Stockton from Newcastle CBD in the past 3 years. As the suburb grows, particularly as more newcomers move into Stockton the better the social economic mix in Stockton will be.

I love how proud people are to say they live in Newcastle, it's something that really brings people together. I also love that the council has a forum like this to really engage with the community and know our opinions. Having grown up in Sydney I find Newcastle very easy to get around (although public transport is pretty dismal), parking is relatively easy (apart from around the council/CBD during business hours), there are always lots of things happening/functions to attend/ etc

social connection

I really like the friendly neighbours. We are in a lovely area of Mayfield where most neighbours know each other by sight and often by name. I love the diversity of Mayfield - you get a very mixed crowd, which sometimes makes me laugh!

social connection

There is nothing snobby or pretentious about where we are - it is very down to earth.

I WAS BORN IN MY HOME AND OUR FAMILY IS GENERATIONAL IN THE SUBURB. I HAVE WONDERFUL NEIGHBOURS, SOME OF THOSE ARE ELDERLY, WHICH I AM ABLE TO HELP!! YOUNGER FAMILIES HAVE MOVED INTO THE AREA AND I ENJOY MIXING WITH THOSE YOUNGER FAMILIES AS WELL !!

social connection

I work and live on campus at the University of Newcastle. Being surrounded by incredible, enthusiastic young people on a daily basis. Also the bush land setting of the Uni is pretty fantastic.

social connection

I would say that in fact I am a part of a few different community's as well as the broader Newcastle community. My most obvious community is the street I live on and the people that make up my street who are all friendly and we are all known to each other on a first name basis and have a street christmas party every year. This then creates a positive sense of wellbeing and safety for the whole street I believe.

social connection

Secondly, mine and my husband's friends constitutes another aspect of my community. Obviously as they are friends this creates a positive relationship and feeling of optimism in this community. Identifiable, cohesive and convenient

social connection

In Hamilton it is a real community, especially around Buchanan street. We support each other a lot. Who needs a big house, when we have fabulous friends around us and our beautiful park. Wherever you walk you run into people to talk too, which is so important when you are at home with small children.

social connection

social connection

Intentional community to be at residence(eco-village) under

	<p>development</p> <p>Islington has improved exponentially in the last three years - less prostitutes, the park no longer has needles by the childrens play ground, the installation of lights at the park and the real sense of community. Many like minded people - many "inner west sydney refugees" moved here as its is very much like newtown, marrickville/ erskineville, but much better priced. Close to beaumont street and some of the best coffee, plus we are in the Tighes Hill Primary school zone - a centre of excellence means we dont need to "junctionise" (i.e. send our kids to the Junction" which still many parents tend to do.</p>
social connection	<p>it is where i was born and grew up and then had my family here, i have friends and relatives who still live here, i like the beach lifestyle.</p>
social connection	<p>Its quiet and the neighbours are friendly and we all seem to have similar goals for the benefit of our community.</p>
social connection	<p>Just the friendly people in shops and else where. Just a nice place to live</p> <p>Lambton has a village atmosphere that we appreciate.</p>
	<p>It is quiet , not over developed, unassuming. people are friendly and it is within a short distance of work, restaurants, freeway,lake and ocean.</p>
	<p>The parks and capacity to walk around suburb undisturbed is most appealing.</p>
social connection	<p>I am concerned at a small tendency to allow modern building of houses that are more appropriate for a beachside suburb or a mcdonalds housing estate. It would be detrimental to allow high rise or multiple storey residential development. Equally there needs to be more flexiblity in car parking options for garaging in the suburb.</p> <p>Lambton is a mid-range suburb. It's not low-socio economic, nor is it the high end of the market. So it's filled with middle income families and couples who work, take pride in their homes/gardens and enjoy our beautiful parks and open spaces. We have peace and quiet, whilst enjoying the close proximity of shops, facilities, restaurants, live shows, library, sporting fields, etc.</p>
social connection	<p>Living close to relatives</p>
social connection	<p>Living in my current location has a good sense of community. I know my neighbours and feel part of the neighbourhood.</p>
social connection	<p>location and the people living in it</p>
social connection	<p>Location, demographic</p>
social connection	<p>long term friendly neighbours, that look out for each other</p>
social connection	<p>Long time resident/neighbours - so comfortable.</p>
social connection	<p>Lots of space, friendly relaxed people and way of life.</p> <p>many amenities close by. quiet at present---I fear noise level is increasing due to coal loaders and tall buildings and other venues being built on the areas near King Edward park-----</p>
social connection	<p>friends nearby</p>
	<p>Maryland is a place where it has a country feel and is clean and family friendly and has a community sense. It is very close to Wallsend which has many services such as Centrelink, RTA, banks, Medicare, Wallsend Plaza and Nelson Street is thriving. Wallsend also has a strong community feel that extends to Maryland. This is evident of the floods where the community was able to rebuild Nelson Street and not rely on Council alone.</p>
social connection	

Mayfield has a diverse population with a large proportion of people of working class sensibility. It also has disadvantaged people living in boarding houses and Housing NSW accommodation. This gritty mix invites a grounded approach to life and generates reflection on who we are as people. It encourages us to reflect on the need to avoid hasty judgements about others.

social connection	<p>In Mayfield too there is a range of housing styles that reflect the suburb's population diversity. This architectural diversity makes parts of Mayfield visually interesting and it reflects a strong heritage. Mayfield has a strong sense of community. We love the diversity of the community. I work in a community garden that has made my local community a big part of my life. I have met so many people and feel very much a part of our neighbourhood.</p>
social connection	<p>Mayfield is a vibrant community where I meet like minded people all the time. It feel like it is an accepting place and one that is changing.</p>
social connection	<p>Mix of young and old, rich and poor. Nearness to beautiful beaches and the CBD</p>
social connection	<p>Mixed age groups within the environment giving a sense of 'real' life experiences, teaching children about all ages making up our society and all ages being important from the young to the older person Neighbourly and friendly community Shops close by that are friendly except one person but he is an exception</p>
social connection	<p>Walks Animal friendly Trees and natural environment Safety</p>
social connection	<p>Most neighbours are friendly and approachable. While everyone minds there own business in a crisis we all look out for each other. I love that we have public transport on our doorstep and shops and parks are close by. There are always people out and about in our street which gives you a sense of security - crime rate is very low. Most people are involved in community activities also easy access to outdoors lifestyle, beach and bushland.</p>
social connection	<p>Most people keep their homes neat & tidy & are sociable.</p>
social connection	<p>Multi cultural & representative of all social levels of society</p>
social connection	<p>multicultural diversity.</p>
social connection	<p>Multiculturalism</p>
social connection	<p>My community is Newcastle which is the biggest country town in Australia</p>
social connection	<p>My community is partly my geographic neighbourhood but it extends to other neighbourhoods within Newcastle. The characteristics of my community are: people are involved in social change and cultral manufacture eg community gardens, creating local and alternative economies, environmental advocacy, live performance, transition towns initiatives, promotion of permaculture, etc</p>
social connection	<p>My neighbourhood is fantastic. We live in a row of houses with very like minded people with young children like us. We live near a park that is fantastically utilised and we love going there both alone and with other members of the community. It is close for us to walk to our local shopping strip and it feels safe to be here most of the time.</p>
social connection	<p>Neighbourhood has a good feel to it.</p>
social connection	<p>Neighbourliness.</p>
social connection	<p>Diversity.</p>
social connection	<p>Neighbours</p>

social connection	Neighbours are friendly without being intrusive.
social connection	neighbours friendly & very helpfull 17 houses in street with a total of 22 children who all play together. close enough to shops & hospital.
social connection	Neighbours friendly and helpful without being intrusive; shared values, e.g., about protecting the environment and local area. Pleasant physical environment (old part of town) close to beach, park, shops; quiet, especially at weekends.
social connection	Newcastle is really starting to develop a funky inner city style with Cafe's and restraunts at the end of hunter street & newcastle beach really a case in point. This is combined with teh renew newcastle efforts which I think are fantastic. What seems pretty lacking though is public infrastructure. The walkway at the cowrie hole to Nobby's is far too narrow and the opedestrians have been sacrificied to roads. The farmers markets are great and very well attended. But the farmers seem subject to the whim of events that are irregularly held at teh show grounds. I find it hard to believe that we have only one venue that is suitable. Could they be moved to Newcastle Mall on the odd occasion? I also see no outcome from the parking levy at the markets.
social connection	Nice commmunity, with good services, good access. Reasonabe variety of shops and goods available. Great walks within close proximity. I particularly like the sense of community that takes personal responsibility for our health and wellness as experineced in the morning walks along the beaches and harbour foreshore.
social connection	Nice neighbours
social connection	Nice, friendly neighbors, non-pretentious, affordable nicest suburb in newcastle. more of a local village than boring outer suburb full of boring people.
social connection	Not over run with ethnics yet but getting that way.
social connection	One of the most positive aspects of our community is the friendliness, with 3 Children we make many friends through School, Sports and Socialising. The next would be ease of access to facilities such as resturants, shops, libary, pool etc.
social connection	people are interested in the city centre, thats where I live.
social connection	people friendly working together
social connection	People know one another. It creates a sense of belonging and safety People who live in our building Proximity to beaches Newcastle art scene
social connection	Pleasant friendly, suppoertive community.
social connection	pride

	<p>Promoting Push-bikes as fun, healthy, and safe sustainable transport</p> <p>Transition from a deadly car cultured Newcastle to a safe pedestrian dominated region. An appropriate transition is by Pushbike culture : Safer, faster, friendly (environmentally and less road rage stress and deaths), healthy mind (fight depression), more equitable (kids, elderly, disabled, globally), less wars for oil, and active (healthy body) lifestyle,</p> <p>Newcastle Bike Ecology Centre (Community volunteer bike help concept)</p> <p>FREE :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help fix/check your own bike OR choose one to help fix & keep - Bike fixing & traffic skills workshops (stop cars annoying you) - Donate bikes/parts or get parts. <p>Buy or borrow : 2nd hand or library bikes. Fri & Sat 9-5 (& some other afternoons too) 106 Robert St, Islington, 49616582. newcastlebikeecologycentre.blogspot.com</p>
social connection	quiet friendly neighbourhood close to most activities
social connection	Quiet neighbourhood but with a sense of 'looking after one's neighbours'.
	Sense of community, strong sense of place, lots of character, old buildings, wide streets pineapple palms, ships etc. Very friendly community with strong family history in area. Walking and bicycle friendly. Dog friendly Affordable housing.
social connection	Close to city, beach, train station and cafe strips (Darby st and Beaumont st)
social connection	Sense of community.
social connection	Sense of community. Access to sporting and cultural facilities.
social connection	sense of neighbourhood,
social connection	Sense of space, close to Braye Park, good neighbors
social connection	Since we came here we have delighted in the sense of community in our neighbourhood.
social connection	Stockton allows for a real sense of community and is close to the city (via the ferry)so access to things/events there is easy.
social connection	Stockton's landscape, large open parks for the public to enjoy, safe beach, great walkway around the forshore and the friendliness of comunity is of very high standard. You can be on a morning walk and every person that you pass will bid you good morning. strong sense of community this leads to a sense of safety
	I like the housing stock but am concerned about the McMansions springing up near small Federation cottages - ruins streetscape as well as ambience and sense of community variety of shops and services in Beaumont Street Beaumont st has a strong village atmosphere and people stop and talk
social connection	
	Strong sense of community, community garden, coffee shop each Sunday in Dave's garage, community choir, Throsby Creek down the road-with the bike track into Newcastle handy. Little traffic noise, fairly central part of Newcastle with access to bus transport and very enthusiastic and friendly people.
social connection	Supportive, friendly neighbours not overly intrusive.
social connection	Surrounded by other families

	<p>The ability to make friends and meet new people with ease. The opportunity to be involved in voluntary charitable work. Church parishes provide easy access to involvement in extra church activities. Excellent Library, good inexpensive sporting facilities, tap dance classes, good dining out venues, grocery shopping, free bus in designated area of CBD, good intelligent choice of movies, the list goes on. The opportunity to have whales swimming past as well as frequent visits from dolphins as well as the seals at the end of the southern breakwall.</p>
social connection	<p>Excellent cycling paths.</p>
social connection	<p>The aspect of our community is that it is very friendly and makes people welcomed The excellent coffee and slightly bohemian feel of the Islington end of Beaumont street. The bicycle paths and expansive parks of Islington and Wickham. The regular high quality live music at the Las O'Gowrie and Wickham Park Hotels.</p>
social connection	<p>The feeling of connectedness (in Newcastle there is always only one degree of separation between strangers, in my experience) and the glorious environment.</p>
social connection	<p>the feeling on my street is friendly with people looking out for each other</p>
social connection	<p>The fore shore in newcastle and all the community events held there.</p>
social connection	<p>The friendly people. The Hills Figs in Cooks Hill. The general character of the neighbourhood, is family oriented, there is a selection of schools, plenty of families with young children, the area has a 'village' feel. I am close to extended family and I just love the feel and character of the area.</p>
social connection	<p>The general feeling within the community. The suburb that I live in has a good feel and I have never experienced any issues with crime etc even though there are several pubs & clubs in the area.</p>
social connection	<p>The greenery (open spaces, bush areas, trees and gardens).</p>
social connection	<p>The family atmosphere, living on a quiet street, knowing neighbours. The inner city suburbs have a great character, a mix of old proud homes and buildings, mixed with new and exciting buildings. I love living near the beach, the relaxed feel, and the vibrance of the hubs... the nightlife with music and dining experiences. I also enjoy the fact that I can walk to my favourite pub, walk to get a coffee on Darby Street, walk to the beach, etc.</p>
social connection	<p>The main aspect is my knowledge of my volunteer work and its acceptance by the people of what I have to say.</p>
social connection	<p>The majority of people in the community have a positive and friendly attitude</p>
social connection	<p>The mix of rich and poor, housing, commercial and industrial. There is real life, not just housing. I go to the Lass once a year but love the staff and clients in front of my home.</p>
social connection	<p>The most positive is the proximity to family and friends as well as a great view over the city. Transport at door. Close to all health facilities.</p>
social connection	<p>The neighbourhood is a real community. Everyone looking out for each other. Ready to share and help each other out whenever necessary.</p>

social connection
social connection

The old fashion street, where neighbours care, lovely wide streets, tree lined for walking and flat living.

The people

The sense of community in Islington is outstanding. I feel quite connected to other members of this suburb and surrounding suburbs due to the parks, community gardens and local preschool. There is also a friendly local community group and local cafes where people gather.

social connection

The sense of community in Mayfield - its diversity and the communities active participation to make it inclusive and responsive to the needs of the community.

social connection

Being part of Save Mayfield Swimming Pool Campaign is an inspiring experience.

This information relates to Stockton

Sense of belonging.

Relatively safe environment.(excluding drug addicts)

Friendly community generally.

Proximity to Newcastle CBD Commercial and to a lesser extent shopping.

Reliable and efficient ferry service.

social connection

This small neighbourhood has young families, families with teenagers and senior citizens who look after each other particularly in times of need whether it be sickness, helping with transport or looking after properties if a family is away for a period of time.

Awareness of each others daily routine allows us to feel safe and secure. Getting together twice a year as a neighbourhood enables us to meet newcomers in the street

social connection

social connection

Throsby is the best. What else can you say

Tighes Hill is a great community. I've lived here for almost 28 years and over that time the suburb has changed substantially but there is still a real sense of community about it. The local parks and facilities are part of that sense of community, but so is the general pride in suburb, and collaborative approach to issues that affect the suburb. true community spirit.

social connection

social connection

Two years ago I started a community garden in Tighes Hill. The motivation was to transform an ugly industrial site to something useful and a place for community to gather which in turn would decrease the vandalism going on in that site. This single initiative has created a sense of community with a lot of people and has expanded by joining with other small groups of residents doing their own initiatives - choir and coffee club. We have started a bookclub and other small interest offshoots are happening. We now have people wanting to increase the big brunch initiatives and other community events are planned. Tighes Hill community is a very vital area with interested people especially the young families who want to get back the sense of community and generate activity within the Tighes Hill borders

social connection

Variety. I like that it has a complete range of ages, nationalities, abilities and socio economic groups. It has a broad spectrum of people and this makes for a very interesting, often gritty community but I like that about it. It has a pretty even balance of affluence and poverty a real slice of life. Physically it is close to the city, has reasonable facilities and transport.

social connection

social connection

Very friendly neighbourhood.

social connection

Village atmosphere :)

social connection

Village atmosphere in my street & shopping centre

social connection	<p>Village atmosphere on the main street. For example, the butcher knows my childrens names and the lady at the hot bread shop throws in an extra roll. I thing that as the area is conducive to walking, this helps people get out and interact. this spreads to informal community interaction like street parties at christmas and offers to collect the mail if you are away.</p>
social connection	<p>Wallsend has a stable population and some attractive streets ie. Nelson Street and once a year the Wallsend Winter Fair brings the surrounding population together.</p>
social connection	<p>Wallsend has it's own character, it feels like it's own village.</p>
social connection	<p>Wallsend is a community with a wide variety of people who are mostly very friendly. It's easy to travel from Wallsend to anywhere in Newcastle by road and public transport. The road system makes it easy to travel to anywhere in NSW and further. There is access to basic facilities such as, Doctors, Dentist, Motor registry, tradespeople, Library and shops (for basic needs).</p>
social connection	<p>Wallsend is close to shops (Glendale, Elernmore vale and Wallsend CBD). It is also only 15 minutes to Lake macquarie foreshore and/or Newcastle cbd and beaches.</p>
social connection	<p>We are actively involved in the Lambton Public School community. Through the school we are helping to establish a school garden, there are community events and we are making friends. Our daughters are happy there and have good friends. The availability of a good school (within walking distance) was important in our decision to move.</p>
social connection	<p>We believe we live in an attractive area of Newcastle (Hamilton South).As our children grew up we were surrounded by other young families which created a great sense of community and belonging. many of our neighbours still live here and have become lifelong friends. The area is well sevediced by schools.</p>
social connection	<p>We have a very strong Church community in my area but also people here go out of their way to speak to each other. Neighbours look out for each other.</p>
social isolation	<p>only been here 10 months, so cant really comment</p>
social isolation	<p>The community I live in has no positive aspects that appeal to me. I live in Maryland which is in the middle of no where, has next to no 3G coverage leaving communications at a poor standard and no one seems to want to know each other. There aren't any community events (that I'm aware of) and I only moved out here from the inner city (where I loved) due to cost.</p>
social isolation	<p>There is no sense of community where I live, its quite an isolating experience</p>
social isolation	<p>I like how quite it is . However this is changing due to the rise in medium density housing as too many people are crowded together on too small blocks of ground. Poepple can hear each otherfrom unit to unit. More strict sound insulation rules must apply to these developments to stop neighborhood rage.</p>
social isolation	<p>It used to be a good place, in the last 10 years things and the place have changed.</p>
social isolation	<p>It's deteriorating.....</p>
social isolation	<p>missing in action. most people keep to themselves</p>
social isolation	<p>N/A Realy couldn't give you a nice report that would be polite</p>
social isolation	<p>Newcastle is very introspective for a new resident - this is more noticeable in the work environment as well as the community in general.</p>
social isolation	<p>Not sure whether "community" in the question refers to the place where I live, or the people I associate with. If the former, then there</p>

social isolation is no (or very little) community.
People here are so stuck up, they mind their own business.

social isolation People say in 9 or 10 years Mayfield will be a much nicer place. (But then people said that 10 years ago!)

social isolation The mainstreet committee really does try to make things better for Mayfield but it is hard to overcome all of the obstacles

Q15. Why not welcomed or connected to community

reason	Q16 - why unconnected
	As someone who has moved to Newcastle I do not find local people inclusive or welcoming.
	I find other people who have moved to Newcastle more open to forming friendships & extending invitations.
attitudes	Livesites has been one of the best ways we have felt connected to the community Because we have the bogans from hell next door with 5-10 people regularly living there and making loud noise 16 hrs a day. Used to be a great street with everyone respecting each other but has deteriorated once most neighbours left. Was a lovely tree-y street but idiots have moved in and chopped them all down- why buy the house in the first place?
	Skateboard racket and use of streets as skate parks also rude and dangerous.
attitudes	has been some vandalism in neighbourhood, though not our st, over last 1-2 years also so it is deteriorating.
attitudes	Due to mental health issues
attitudes	From our experience over the last 20 years there is very little neighbourly contact. People are unwilling to say hello
	I have joined 3 separate organisations - and although I have served on committees - there is a definite clique mentality where you are tolerated but not included. Luckily I have other friends and do not need acceptance.
attitudes	This is a common thread some members have commented on.
	I live alone, and most people my age have families with kids that play sport or are involved in school activities. I don't have kids and find it difficult to meet people with the same interests as me.
attitudes	I think it's pretty obvious that when you're out the front yard doing your garden and your own neighbours wont acknowledge you.
	I'm involved with parts of the community but feel a large portion are not involved and I think there is an aspect of Newcastle / Australian culture that separates many nuclear family from the larger community. For some reason there are family units that are not comfortable/attracted to attending community events.
attitudes	most people keep to themselves
attitudes	neighbours are not sociable
	Neighbours don't communicate and don't care about the tidiness of the place in general. There is not many people in my age group and its too noisy with lots of antisocial attitudes.
attitudes	Never get time to socialise with neighbour - when we do they are rude.
attitudes	No one speaks to one another, no one is friendly
attitudes	Not many older residents left. too many houses let out to students who drive radically and too fast
	Other people have generally grown up in this community and have developed close ties. As newly arrived and full-time working people, we have little time or opportunity for engagement with others. People are generally friendly but reserved

and do not go past the initial greetings.

attitudes	People don't say hello - in fact they turn away
attitudes	People keep to themselves
attitudes	The long term residents insist suburb taken over by foreign uni students, 'P' plate drivers speeding and doing burnouts, cars going to uni every morning divert up our street speeding in a 50 zone to get around traffic build up on Wilkinson Ave
attitudes	Too many cliches in New Lambton. When I don't fit into stereotype I feel disconnected.
attitudes	Unfriendly, inconsiderate neighbours
	when we moved in - no one came to say hello.
	don't really know neighbours.
	dont have a way of meeting people in neighbourhood.
attitudes	can't walk along footpaths because there are very few...
	it's hard to explain; i don't actively engagwe with neighbours or get to know them.
	There is no community event which would facilitate this in my estate. I'm friendly & will say hello but that's the extent of the connectivity.
busy	Could be to do with business lifestyles & insufficient time to 'get to know' them.
busy	It's just a place to live. I don't wish to live in my neighbour's pocket.
busy	My wife and I lead busy lives and don't get many opportunities to interact with our local community
	My apartment building is physically disconnected from an easy, accessible space. Built to look outwards, it has no communal space. Nor is there neighbourhood space - no park in which my children can easily play, and not even an easy way for them to ride bikes or scooters without crossing a railway line and a main road.
	Even then, it is only to the harbour foreshore which is essentially a narrow pathway. WE NEED PLAY AND PARK AREAS if this town is to become welcoming to more than just druggies and alcoholics. So naturally, with no easy place to meet and SEE PEOPLE, we are largely confined to our apartment, albeit with a beautiful view.
development	Until recently this was a quiet location close to bush and parks and within reasonable proximity to shops etc. Development in a nearby park that excluded the views of residents has compromised the serenity of my neighbourhood and alienated me from the park. I now find it painful to walk across the park.
development	I am extremely worried about where the development will lead. The park now looks like a dedicated soccer stadium. I am concerned that the area will become unliveable. The noise at the weekends during soccer season is already intolerable. We tend to have friends in other suburbs, and Mayfield main street is unattractive, does not have the quality of resturants, pubs tend to set poor examples for young kids in the area (though the Stag is much better now that it used to be). Therefore, we dont do much in the Mayfield area as we travel to other area's. Parks in Mayfield are unkempt and have limited equipment compared with other parks and we will travel to the nicer area's. Mayfield residents can be a colourful (and noisy) lot at times, but are generally welcoming however I picked this option for the disconnected word. We are certainly disconnected from the Mayfield community.
development	everyone in street gets along with each other and all help each other
none	My area (broadmeadow) seems to have a drug problem. I have found syringes in my front yard on more than one occasion, and the weekend is not complete without someone smashing a bottle outside my home
safety	uncontrolled alcohol fuelled violence and anti social behaviour that is condoned by our political leaders and officials who continue to put pub profits ahead of public safety. They waste our taxes and rates on measures that have no independently proven success. Public sapce is being flogged off the private developers at an unprecedented rate all under the guise of "progress". Insufficient return to the city of revenue from vast coal exports. Totally inadequate response to dangerous air pollution from very fine coal dust particles
safety	

transport

Low density housing, heavy traffic and high car use. Lack of community village feel as can be found in inner suburbs- very typically suburban. Huge amounts of social isolation through lack of connectivity and heavy reliance on private transport. Buses run 6am-5pm only, once per hr, trains and train stations are dangerous and even less frequent - once every 2 hrs or less on weekends.

In 2009 we moved to Newcastle and I began the paperwork for my teaching certification. I taught for 10 yrs. in America before moving to Adelaide in 2007. South Australia TRB granted me certification to teach after reviewing all of my teaching credentials and I consistently worked as a relief teacher for 2 years.

After nine months of paperwork, the NSW TRB granted "pre-approval" but then I had to move on to the second tier for final accreditation by the "NSW Institute of Teachers". This information was NEVER presented to me when I began the process nor once I found this out could I get anyone to explain why I was put into this category. Needless to say, it was very, very frustrating. The lack of assistance from the teaching certification office in Newcastle & Sydney was shocking.

Everyone contradicted one another. The last time I spoke to a representative from the "Institute of Teachers" I asked who the members were, how the board was selected, were they former educators, teachers, or principals? What assessment criterion was used to evaluate teachers?

I was told "that information is not important for you to know". It was after this conversation; I threw in the towel and walked away.

My only conclusion is I guess NSW has no need for an experienced, committed, special education/general education teacher with a master degree.

I attached the message I received from

"NSW Institute of Teachers":

Teachers who are first employed during or after term four 2004, or who are returning to teaching during or after term four 2004 after a break of five years or more, will be considered new scheme teachers under the Institute of Teachers Act 2004. From 1 January 2005, in order to be employed as a teacher in NSW, new scheme teachers will need to meet NSW Institute of Teachers accreditation requirements, including payment of an annual fee.

Information on the NSW Institute of Teachers is available at www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au

Should you wish to make enquiries concerning your application for employment as a teacher, please contact

a customer service officer by telephone on 1300 300 498. Please quote your reference no (PT/723766) when

making enquiries or forwarding correspondence to the Department.

For information about the requirements for teaching with the Department, go to www.det.nsw.edu.au/employment/teachnsw/teacherqual.htm

work

Q16. Challenges faced in the community

subject

community safety
community safety
community safety
community safety
community safety
community safety

community safety
community safety

Q16_15_main_challenges

1 obnoxious neighbour
alcohol fuelled antisocial behaviour
alcohol related disturbances
Anti social behaviour
Coal dust in air
Crime
graffiti, alcoholism, drugsabuse improving but still needs more help
Graffiti, more police on streets walking or cycling between 1am -

	3.30am
community safety	noise and coal dust
community safety	Reduction of community amenity by pub goers pouring into our city at weekends and being noisy violent etc
community safety	sleep disturbances from late night drinkers in nearby parks
community safety	Threat of repeat flood
costs	cost of accomodation/ie rates
costs	council rates
limited business and services	childcare access
limited business and services	Access to decent shopping
limited business and services	Access to reliable internet
limited business and services	Access to schools that perform well
limited business and services	access to shops
	Cost of some activities - eg the food festival last weekend in Lambton Park was \$30 and Lizottes - a great music facility is very expensive.
limited business and services	cost of some services
limited business and services	Cost, awareness of events and time
limited business and services	Cultural night-life of Newcastle has flat-lined.
limited business and services	Education choices
limited business and services	Improvement and repair of local services and infrastructures
limited business and services	Lack of choice of retirement villages if and when required
limited business and services	Lack of retail in Inner city
limited business and services	Local employment for adult children
limited business and services	Location of public housing
limited business and services	More cafes or restuarants at night would be great
limited business and services	no local banking
limited business and services	quality shops/cafes/restaurants
limited business and services	The attack on pub/clubs by anti noise and anti alcohol campaigners.
limited business and services	would be nice to be closer to some shops
limited facilities and maintenance	Council not protecting the Hills Tree Figs
limited facilities and maintenance	inner-city grassed running area 5km
	Islington Park hasn't been given enough gardeners to maintain it. We like to use the park but often have to walk through knee high grass which is infested with mozzies. And the stench of Throsby creek at low tide can be overwhelming.
limited facilities and maintenance	it is ugly and looks unloved
limited facilities and maintenance	Need to extend opening hours of community facilities
limited facilities and maintenance	no community events, i.e. we are not hamilton or merewether, so do not get events held in our parks
limited facilities and maintenance	Off leash areas for my dog
	play equipment for children on the southern end of orchardtown rd, past carnley ave. the only play equipment available is accross the very busy Carnley Ave, new lambton
limited facilities and maintenance	space for comunnity gardens
limited facilities and maintenance	Special Needs Kids activities
limited facilities and maintenance	Streets littered with rubbish
	We have good access to all of the above except off-leash dog parks.
limited facilities and maintenance	wheelchair access eg. cinema on King St
limited facilities and maintenance	don't feel challenged
none	don't have any
none	Have access to all services
none	Have no challenges
none	I dont have any challenges at this time

none	I have no challenges
none	it's pretty good
none	Mayfield has it all
none	No challenges at this stage
none	no challenges other than having enough free time to participate
none	no challenges.
none	No great challenges.
none	no problems at all in our suburb
none	no real challenges so far
none	None
none	none at all
none	none of the above
none	None of these
none	None of these concerns, get in bloody touch NCC!
none	none really
none	None really
none	none!
none	None, really
none	there are no challenges
none	There are no challenges.
none	there are none
none	There are none
none	There are none. It is a great community.
none	There are no challenges in the community
none	very little challenges
none	we don't really have a problem
none	We have no challenges except what is normal as you grow older
opportunity	forming friendships
opportunity	Having the courage to face the community
opportunity	lack of time
opportunity	Lack of understanding toward ASD behaviours.
opportunity	Living along & looking after house,garden etc.
opportunity	Living sustainably, retro fitting existing housing & facilities..knowledge & \$\$ for this
opportunity	Maintenance, sustainability of 80yo home
opportunity	managing time
opportunity	missing a sense of community
opportunity	Peoples Attitudes
opportunity	Remembering every bodies names

opportunity	Surviving from starving.
opportunity	There isn't much help for low income earning single people
overdevelopment	bad Planning and opportunistic low quality development
overdevelopment	Building a more active and connected local community
	Building a strong sense of connection with our neighbours (not next door but in the close vicinity) and Lack of environmental initiatives
overdevelopment	destruction of native animal habitat for new housing suburbs in Newcastle, rather than high density options
overdevelopment	developers and the arrogance of the council
overdevelopment	encroach of industry and coal loading. trucks for freight movement
overdevelopment	fighting to maintain zoning structures to preserve residential areas
overdevelopment	inadequate age pension, dangerous street parking issues.
overdevelopment	inappropriate development next to my home. Council approved a house that is totally not in keeping with streetscape etc
overdevelopment	increasing Graffiti and speeding cars in streets of Newcastle.
	no real challenges other than threat of overdevelopment and taking away of railway line & parking & threats to safety at night due to a large number of pubs
overdevelopment	Over development
overdevelopment	parking & overdevelopment
overdevelopment	Threats to open space and parkland by council and organised sporting groups e.g.tarring park areas for netball and constructing building in No. 2 Sportsground for car parking).
overdevelopment	traffic and noise from neighbouring sporting events
overdevelopment	Understanding of RESIDENTS needs from Higher bodies
overdevelopment	Unwanted Development of Elermore Vale Mosque
transport	access to railway needs to remain
transport	Bike paths are limited
transport	cycleways
	disconnected from adjacent suburbs- neds better public transport and cycleway links.
transport	lack of safe bicycle paths
transport	lighting on cycle path
transport	no bike tracks
transport	no footpaths or footpaths blocked with cars or foliage
transport	no safe pedestrian or cycling access
transport	Not all streets have footpaths
	Poor road and other infrastructure maintenance, poor planning decisions by council that encourage overdevelopment and ugly modern housing.
transport	Promoting Push-bikes as fun, healthy, and safe sustainable transport
	road congestion due to university traffic and students parking their cars on the streets
transport	Road safety
transport	safer pedestrian facilities
transport	Some walking paths are dangerous ie to Tighes Hill etc.
transport	There is virtually no public transport to my workplace
	TRAFFIC CONTROL TOO MANY SPEEDING VEHICLES IN STREETS
transport	Traffic density developing along Lookout Road
transport	Traffic on Newcastle Rd
transport	Traffic problems

transport

We would like to drive less and take the more busses or cycle.
But the busses are awful, they don't run on time and badly
connected and cycling is too dangerous

Q18. Final comments

subject

Q20 - additional comments

city revitalisation

a greater focus on building a culture in the central cbd and to avoid
creating satellittes like Kotara & Charlestown which have lost that
sense of community through extensive and impersonal shopping
complexes
CBD needs major improvement. A new concept and vision is needed.

The closing of the large retail store David Jones has left a gap in retail
opportunities in the city. Westfield Kotara is not my preferred option
for shopping. Warehouse fashion outlets are cheap and cater more for
young people and lower socio economic demographic.

A large supermarket in the CBD would service the new residential
blocks in the city and discourage use of cars to The Junction,
Marketown shopping centres and Wesfield Kotara.

Really can't see the appeal for visitors e.g. cruise ship passengers to
come into the CBD. CBD looks shabby and as if the city is struggling.

city revitalisation

Malls have not worked in some international cities as passing traffic is
needed to keep businesses 'alive' and for safety reasons.

city revitalisation

Clean up the city

city revitalisation

Don't build more high risers just clean up the existing buildings and
streets

Graffiti generally detracts from community wellbeing.

Our 3 year old goes to preschool at Wickham, and the Director has
found syringes nearby the playground.

The number of vacant shop fronts in Hunter St continues to be a
problem.

Lambton - ensure that trees in the park are retained. consider
implementing the masterplan prepared for Lambton Park and Ker-rai
creek.

- ensure Lambton library stays open.

city revitalisation

- implement proposed masterplan for Blackbutt Reserve.

For council - be visible. eg Livesites is a great initiative and really gets people out and about and enjoying public open space.

Higher density sustainable living in the 'CBD' I would like to see the existing infrastructure developed and utilised.

If there are more people around, I often feel more safe...to an extent.

More bike lanes to make it easier to get around.

Smaller bar licences so that there isn't the culture of the institutionalised drinking.

city revitalisation

Encouragement of local music, which I think is fairly well facilitated but could be supported by smaller venues.

I cannot emphasize enough how Newcastle is losing a once-in-a-century opportunity to become an integrated community. This town has everything it takes to be a great 21st century metropolis, the envy of other cities in Australia. We are in the middle of a once-in-a-century mining boom - but where is the evidence of that in this city? Where is the corporate contribution? At a time when there is a national health crisis related to obesity, the town council contrives to grant a permit to KFC to build the largest outlet in Australia, polluting our streets, our children, and adding yet another ugly corporate blight to the city's main street.

Get rid of the rail

Create genuinely integrated bike paths, walkways, and parks (instead of the narrow walkways of the foreshore).

Bring the university faculties into the heart of the city.

Enforce apartment developments that include integrated spaces in which families can live, play, and commune.

city revitalisation

Ban beer bottles inside city limits (I've never seen a city in the world, apart from Port-au-Prince, with as many casually smashed bottles on footpaths).

city revitalisation

I live near the city centre - which is an absolute disgrace. Now with DJs closing PLEASE PLEASE just decide on a plan and put it into action. - Maybe the University - boutique shops/restaurants. We need a critical mass of people for development. I don't personally want the rail-line - but we need to develop the city centre anyway

I love Newcastle and I love Mayfield with all it's cultural, social and economic diversities. We could do with being a marginal seat so the Council is actually accountable to the electorate.

I just wish someone could find an answer for the east City, Hunter Mall etc. It's quite depressing.

city revitalisation

And apparently, if one is in the mall after 4pm, one isn't supposed to need a bathroom. They were all locked. Cannot tell you how much that annoyed me.

city revitalisation

I think the city centre Newcastle from the west end to the beach needs more work to make it a cosmopolitan area, Newcastle has so much going for it but the council doesn't have a vision, it has taken 20 years to get over the earthquake that is just crazy, there are still buildings that are unsafe and ugly in the main street what sort of message does that send

city revitalisation

I'm aware through my adult children that the inner city is not very safe at night. Anything that can be done to revitalise Hunter Street and integrate the whole inner city area will be a highly desirable improvement.

Islington:

I have seen a very positive movement in Islington over the past 18 months with the arrival of a niche vintage/antique store vibe. This is very positive and, if encouraged, could lead to a shopping 'hub' of this nature. Some more cafes along the Hamilton end of Maitland Road would really bring the neighbourhood to life!

However, it is important to note that whilst there has been 'success' over the past 18+ months with the reduction of street sex work in the area, not all residents view this as a purely good thing. I really enjoyed that aspect of our community. It was definitely much safer to walk home at night when the girls, who were lovely, were present.

Hamilton:

Once known for its good eating, Beaumont Street is plummeting fast. It has certainly not kept pace with the competition of Darby Street. I'm interested in knowing if there is a Chamber of Commerce, or equivalent, for the area because they are not being particularly strategic. Beaumont Street now has 5 chemists, 4 Thai restaurants, 2 Indian restaurants and a number of sub-par pastas places, cafes and takeaways. It is lagging behind Darby Street in diversity and creativity and I would love to see it pick up and once again rival Darby for the best place to eat!

Newcastle:

Newcastle is a fabulous place, however the cultural night-life has really been sucked right out of it! Whilst I value the positive outcomes of the liquor accord, are we going overboard?

city revitalisation

Likewise, I know it's been canvassed many times, but something has got to be done about the city centre. It is such a beautiful place but it's slowly fading into nothing - make it a cafe strip or something.

More public education regarding awareness of cyclists sharing the roadways with the addition of signs warning drivers of cyclists.

CTV in the Mall would heighten a sense of safety particularly in the evenings.

city revitalisation

Further encouragement of "grass roots" industry in the mall to occupy vacant premises. Could be extended further along Hunter St. Continuation and extension of sidewalk cafes and open air activities in Mall and Hunter St.

city revitalisation

Occupiers/owners of shops must be accountable for cleaning up and maintain their premisses in a orderly fassion. The filthy footpath and shopfronts I encounter around inner Newcastle, Newcastle West, Cooks Hill is a disgrace.

city revitalisation

The Mall is a disgrace it's beyond belisf that there is a lack of will to improve it

city revitalisation

Tidy the city up like Grattiti old disused and abandoned buildings. *safety and security are a big issues.

*I have lived all over the world however here in Newcastle I often feel unsafe. This has not happened to me in other cities.

* More surveillence active and passive is required particularly at night time. 'normal' people need to reclaim the city again at night time.

community safety

*I have been living in Newcastle for only three years and have known of more violent attacks on people and property here than in the 50 years of my live in other cities in Australia and the world.

1. We seldom travel to Newcastle East for shopping.

2. We regularly shop at the West End complex, we regard Newcastle East as unsafe at night.

community safety

3. We are very concerned by the activities of graffitti artists in our park, the regularly deface new facilities in Novocastrian Park. Adequate street lighting..dark spots occur.

community safety

Lighting in parks should be improved.

Better lighting in the evenings

community safety
community safety

on the streets and in parks
By retaining the 'family safe aspect of the community
Do not feel as safe when out or walking alone as when I have company, maybe more group events in community and better street lighting.

community safety

Greater Police presence in Broadmeadow near train station
(entertainment centre side of broadmeadow)

community safety

Having lights on the cycle path would be an improvement. I like to walk from Maryville around to the marina - but in the early morning or evening, it feels unsafe to walk along the path. This is a real pity as it's a great walk.

community safety
community safety

There's graffiti everywhere. I'm not sure if anything can be done about it but if there is anything it would be appreciated.

community safety

higher police presents in adamstown

I felt extremely safe everywhere around Hamilton during the day until I heard the news last night that a woman was abducted in Lindsay St - this runs off my street (Gordon Ave) and I walk down this street daily.

community safety

I would like to feel safe wherever I am in Newcastle. I don't know what can be done its just not safe at nigh anymore, its an enormous task.

I would not walk in Newcastle city during the evening - except in the company of groups returning to vehicles after a show.

community safety

The city area is more threatening than George Street Sydney, Parramatta or even Auburn.

community safety

If people were allowed to park in railway lane all the time we would feel much safer. With no parking and therefore no activity it is a haven for sociopaths, graffitist and drug dealers.

If the city is fixed up and made look like someone cares about it then it will be safe.

I would like my daughter 15 to be able to contiuie to go to the Loft with out being concerned that is going to close.

community safety

I think it was a great idea to open the mall to traffice seems much safer
Improved street lighting levels would help with a greater sense of safety at night.

community safety

Islington:

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community safety

LIFEGARDS SHOULD BE EMPLOYED ON ALL OUR CITY BEACHES ALL YEAR ROUND TO KEEP BACKPACKERS AND THE PUBLIC SAFE AND AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF THE SURF. THIS CITY AND ITS BEACHES DRAWS MANY OVERSEAS VISITORS IN ALL SEASONS

community safety

Massive drug problems with the youth in Wallsend, very sad. More public education regarding awareness of cyclists sharing the roadways with the addition of signs warning drivers of cyclists.

CTV in the Mall would heighten a sense of safety particularly in the evenings.

community safety

Further encouragement of "grass roots" industry in the mall to occupy vacant premises. Could be extended further along Hunter St. Continuation and extension of sidewalk cafes and open air activities in Mall and Hunter St.

community safety	More security on the streets, public areas after dark. Improve street lighting along Union St between Parkway Ave and Glebe Road. (Area very dark, trees don't help)
community safety	More street lighting at night. Greater removal of graffiti and preventative measures. Safer public parks and grounds
community safety	Rarely go out after dawn Recently there have been sexual assaults in the foreshore park.
community safety	Maybe security could be better in parks at night.
community safety	Reduce noise and improve safety are the main issues in the CBD.
community safety	Safety in the park at night, more Lighting needed in Wallsend Park
community safety	Safety of King Street area and CBD for elderly esp.
community safety	safety should be improved
community safety	Street lighting in many areas has its effectiveness reduced by overgrown trees and shrubs on footpaths
community safety	Suspected drug dealers a few doors up make for a great community.
community safety	Take the crack heads out of Beaumont St.
community safety	We need parks and recreational activities for young people in Blue Gum Hills otherwise our crime rate will escalate over the school holidays when young people become bored.
council responsibility	thank you for the libraries and art gallery. please keep supporting and developing them. the permanent collection at the gallery is so good that it could be developed into a significant tourist destination as well as community facility 1 More parking.
council responsibility	2 Extra police later in the night. 3 In the summer months, evening picnic in Gregson Park, toilets locked at 6pm, children and adults having to go to toilet in public.
council responsibility	4 No off leash area for dogs. 1. Enforce much tighter planning controls to stop over-development, replacement of legacy housing with medium/ high density modern McMansion rubbish.
council responsibility	2. Improve Council Maintenance work - particularly on roads (eg: Regent St outside the Duke of Wellington, the road surface quality is an utter disgrace).
council responsibility	3. Improve traffic flow along bridges road to keep traffic off residential streets.
council responsibility	4. Decrease speed limit in minor residential areas (eg: St James Rd West of Regent St) to 40km/h.
council responsibility	5. Increase speed limit on arterials (Bridges Rd, etc) to 70km/h.

council responsibility

A but more maintenance and upgrades of parks. Phone numbers to call if you witness vandalism. More street drinking bubblers near the shops like Brunner Road. Better signage for the library in Adamstown. Help with organising a community fair for Adamstown.

council responsibility

A lack of cultural and general facilities in Western Newcastle compared to the City. Most of the the growth is in the West and the new estates attracting younger families are in the West. I submit that more attention be paid to Western Newcastle and the residents of the newer suburbs than is currently the case. There is a strong perception that Council place too much emphasis on the City and inner suburbs. Aged water/sewerage infrastructure requires upgrading

council responsibility

Design of many new or upgraded homes is reducing street oversight and community connections, placing garages and high fencing to the street.

As beachside residents in a low-lying suburb (Stockton), we need the security of a reliable emergency system to provide warnings of tsunamis.

council responsibility

We need to be properly consulted regarding any further development of caravan parks on the headland at Stockton overlooking the river, as this land is public land and part of the current attraction of the locality. As the streets around Hamilton are extremely busy and parking is sometimes impossible there are always people around. The vegetation on the footpaths in some streets is often fairly thick and in some cases forces you to walk out on the road.

I believe people are unclear as to who maintains these - them or council. Often the job to trim these is too daunting and costly - especially when people are renting the premises.

council responsibility

Home owners tend to grow plants on the footpath and then neglect to trim them sufficiently to allow people to walk on the footpath. - e.g. Cnr. Cleary St and Kent St. Hamilton.

council responsibility

Better fund developments to the art gallery.

council responsibility

better service from parks and gardens staff

council responsibility

Bring Live Sites events out to the suburbs

council responsibility

Clean the gutters

Cleanliness is job one. When an area is cleaned, people seem to take ownership and look after it. Stick with the basics, sweep the streets, wash the footpaths, force building owners to clean and paint their buildings (or the council will do it, and charge them).

council responsibility

Great work with some of the extra cleaning happening at the foreshore, and with the fast action on Graffiti removal.

council responsibility

Community cultural and artistic expression is a right not a privilege - user pays and other regressive financial models would do nothing for community cohesion and development. Those of us who can afford a rich cultural life would be OK, but broad community involvement is what keeps the arts and a broad cultural life alive.

council responsibility

considering how badly NCC perform basic council services it will be better to avoid community development. the way NCC waste ratepayers money is scandalous.

council responsibility

Consultation when the environment is to be changed such as the destruction of trees that acted as a 'wall' to block certain sites. Removal of something like this causes the whole environment to change
Consultation, consultation, consultation.

While the process of consultation may seem 'slow', local government is the place where we are most able to have our say and influence our local community for ALL not just some. Consultation gives everyone the opportunity to have input.

I am deeply saddened and disappointed that the current council appear to be behaving as if our democracy functions better without the people. I am amazed how quickly people seem to forget that we all belong to the human race and are all vulnerable to being hurt by uninformed decisions. Decisions that are justified by the need for 'progress' and 'getting the job done'.

council responsibility

My view is that if you don't want to work with the community then don't work for local government. Get a job in the private sector.
Could improve if I introduced myself to neighbours.

council responsibility

Suggest: competition (to win a street party) - most consecutive list of neighbours?
Council needs to bring the street sweeper up the streets more often, George st gets alot of litter blown into it from Maitland Rd and the weeds in the gutters grow and look unsightly. It is rarely cleaned by council.

The weeds on thr rail bridge near Albert St and Wickham Park are left too long between weeding, this makes the area look rough and run down, which it is not.

Throsby creek gets alot of rubbish - some very large- washed into it during heavy rain, Throsby Creek needs more frequent attention.

A no stopping sign at the bottom of Power Street where all residences turn around would be helpful. People parks there occasionally when using the park and we have to reverse up the street.

council responsibility

Visitors from other suburbs who use Islington Park for cricket/soccer need to be told to take their rubbish with them, or to use the bins provided. Most weekends see the sport shed and immediate surrounding park littered with bottles and food rubbish. this is directly linked to the sporting clubs using the facilities/

council responsibility

Council needs to concentrate on providing quality service to the community in terms of services and facilities and stop wasting time and money on 'engagement' and 'connecting' within the community.

Council supports the Bike Ecology Centre on Robert Street, Islington, which is listed on Council's Website as a recycling facility (in residential area). This facility has grown to a commercial business with up to 100 people visiting the facility each week and about 95% arriving in large vehicles to transport the bikes. This is placing strain on street parking, increasing noise and affecting the neighbours privacy. One of the participants had in the past become violent and caused damaged to surrounding properties.

This facility is now a commercial business, with the bikes no longer available free to the community but selling for up to \$300 each. There are over 500 bikes stored on site in the yards, under the house and inside the house. The facility is harbouring vermins and other pests.

council responsibility

While the business encourages a form of recycling and promote cycling as an alternative form of transport, Council, in support of the facility, should provide free or subsidised suitable facility nearby for the business to relocate to as it continual growth will further impact on the amenities of the suburb and the community.

council responsibility

Council's plans to "improve" Laman St & Civic Precinct I see as quite destructive. The widening of Laman St would only cause the removal and destruction of the Hills Tree Figs.... Our city's greatest natural asset! Improve by nurturing what we already have in place.

council responsibility

cut back tree branches that obscure lighting. initiate a cash back can and bottle deposit, so i do not have to clean up following the friday and saturday revelers. can we discourage graffiti before vice clean up after? hands off the fig trees on laman street! Ask Cooks Hill residents, if they want an under pass below Laman street to civic park. Ask Cooks Hill residents if the want the train line to stop at wickham or civic or newcastle.

council responsibility

Elder Street Lambton Neighbourhood Centre could do with improvement on an accessibility level and on a general streetscape urban design level. Additionally, from a bicycle, pram and elderly perspective, Lambton is very patchy in its accessibility. There are some areas which accommodate all three aspects well, and there alot of areas that do not accommodate all of them. Lambton is a relatively flat suburb that lends itslef to a very accessible suburb of Newcastle. It is of a fairly old and family orientated demographic and would benefit greatly from more accessible infrastructure for kids to ride their bike to school and elderly to walk to the local community infrastructure. Email communcattion should be individually answered within 2 business days, not the weeks, or not at all, as is now. Other public institution's (eg Hunter Water, Fair Trading) have good answering times.

council responsibility

Council support for a bus service on loop from Waratah station, Mater hospital, JH hospital, Broadmeadow station, energy Aus stadium return. Instead of two free buses to Hamilton.

council responsibility	<p>For Awabakal Medical Centre in Samdon St to take more pride in surrounds. (eg Clean street gutters of leaves from their trees)</p>
council responsibility	<p>The Bed & Breakfast opposite often impacts on the amenity of the area, due to street parking of customers and also noise from dogs as it is a dog friendly establishment. General services maintenance and cleaning streets and footpaths and road ways Graffiti - an on-going problem, but must be addressed. Community signs/areas defaced with scribbles look terrible and contribute to a general "run down", neglected look.</p>
	<p>Public, business and private areas where grass/weeds are overgrown and messy. Again, this neglect contributes to a "run down" look of a community/suburb. Perhaps businesses could be fined/encouraged to keep their premises looking neat and tidy?</p>
council responsibility	<p>Littering - rubbish strewn across streets and gutters. More signs needed, perhaps a "clean up" campaign (especially in schools). Garbage collection could take more care too - sometimes bins aren't emptied properly and rubbish is spilled. Graffiti generally detracts from community wellbeing.</p>
	<p>Our 3 year old goes to preschool at Wickham, and the Director has found syringes nearby the playground.</p>
	<p>The number of vacant shop fronts in Hunter St continues to be a problem.</p>
	<p>Lambton - ensure that trees in the park are retained. consider implementing the masterplan prepared for Lambton Park and Ker-rai creek.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure Lambton library stays open. - implement proposed masterplan for Blackbutt Reserve.
council responsibility	<p>For council - be visible. eg Livesites is a great initiative and really gets people out and about and enjoying public open space.</p>
council responsibility	<p>have council complete works that should have been done previously. Condition of area is due to locals NOT council activities. Poor example set by council workers &/or contractors whenever they do any activity, maybe due to poor or nil supervision.</p>
council responsibility	<p>I am involved with a volunteer group on one side of Newcastle Council, on the other side there are problems between the two groups.</p>

council responsibility
 I am more and more concerned about Empire Park. It has been developed and is not bursting with people all the time - fantastic to see such a beautiful open space so well used. The skaters have not brought problems to the park to this date, which is great. The oval is used by many many sporting groups and the swing park is very busy during daylight hours. I am terrified, however by the number of cars and trucks that park up on the grass between the oval, near the cricket pavilion and the swing park illegally. It happens during EVERY Saturday cricket match, and often during evening training (which is still in daylight hours at this time of year and therefore still in children's park activity time.) There will be a tragic accident if this is not stopped, I ring the council after hours every time I see this, but the cars are not moved. it is an accident waiting to happen. this is possibly not the type of response you are asking for in this survey, but needs to be passed on to someone who will do something

council responsibility
 I believe Islington should be viewed as a project that needs positive enhancement - from simple things like street furniture and lighting to small projects like the style that has been applied to Hamilton (eg if a street is blocked off, make it a garden bed, mosaic tiles in the footpath, beautification of busstops, plant street trees on more than the main street)

council responsibility
 I believe our community participate and communicate well to local authorities. Our community could be improved by local authorities listening to the communities voices and actioning their suggestions, improvements and safety recommendations quicker.

I constantly hear about local events in the news bulletin THE NIGHT AFTER IT HAPPENED.

council responsibility
 Please find a way to tell us of events before they happen. I read the local paper and I still miss things.

council responsibility
 I have previously stated that we need a pedestrian crossing across Portland Place (near the Duke Hotel) New Lambton but Newcastle Council have advised that they don't think that a pedestrian crossing is required. There are many elderly residents using that side of the road to cross and school hours it is very dangerous.

council responsibility
 I have 2 major dislikes about traffic in the new lambton area--1 is the 4way stop signs in evescourt road which causes too much confusion-- a recent nrma report stated that a 4 way stop intersection is illegal. My other concern is the intersection of portland place and regent street. there is only one pedestrian crossing on the western side of this crossing whereas the higher proportion of people try to cross portland place on the east corner and there are no pedestrian crossings at all going in a east/west direction

I like sport, but feel that sport is used as a substitute for other more community orientated/non-compedative activities and events.

council responsibility
 I believe that fun runs/fun walks and multi-sports (eg triathalon, biathalon) would add to the Newcastle identity and be positive for the community. Planning for where they could be held safely and easily (eg easy of road closures for events) within Newcastles attractive beach/city area, may draw more people to such community events. Similar to the provisions of the Fernleigh Track and the Warners Bay cycleway.

council responsibility

I think the only thing that is worth mentioning is the gradual reduction of local Council services over the last 20 years or so. I realise it is due to costs but Council should keep an eye on this and find ways to avoid a deterioration to the point that residents feel really unhappy, even if it means spending more and charging more on the rates.

council responsibility

I would like better access to our local member. I don't even know who it is. Information about each communities local members and what they can do for us should be more readily available. For instance my street very busy with a foot path only on half of one side of the street. In the past I had called the council to see what we can do about having the whole street pathed. Whilst I understand this job is "on the list" of works to be done - it's not a priority. Then was advised to go out get a petition from the neighbours to elevate it to a priority!!! What!! who has time for all that and why can't our member fight out cause???

council responsibility

But again i ask, who is our local member???

I would like to be able to easily access information on community groups such as volunteering, community gardens, walking, cycling or exercise groups
I would like to see community initiatives such as community gardens and sporting groups to receive continued support from City of Newcastle Council. L!vesites, Renew Newcastle initiatives, open-air craft markets (not the crap Mall ones, Im talking Hamilton or Olive-Tree), Tantrum Theatre and The Loft are also vital to improving a sense of connectedness and proving that Newcastle is on par with Sydeny regarding arts and culture.

council responsibility

I would like to see groups such as Islington Action Group and Save Empire Park who pretend to be about community values but are really about greed and fear to be discouraged.

council responsibility

I would like to see improved public amenities and activities for young people in our suburb of Mayfield particularly - we do have some trouble with young kids 12 + and their behaviour which I think is more to do with boredom and lack of supervision. Once again some kind of community based supervised activities during the hours between school and 6pm would do wonders. When I was in the USA as a teenager a lot of the suburbs outside of the city had Park Programs where they employed college students (studying teaching etc) to work part time with the young people in organised activities. It seemed to be very popular and helped make a cohesive community and develop community pride from a young age. I know that council has programs throughout the holidays but they can sometimes be hard to get into and they are usually all based in the actual city not out in the suburbs.
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPROVEMENTS IN REPAIRS TO LOCAL FOOTPATHS SOME ARE QUITE DANGEROUS ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT.

council responsibility

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE TRAFFIC CONTROLS IN LOCAL STREETS TO SLOW THE TRAFFIC DOWN !!!

council responsibility

I would like to see more focus on community things (shade shelters at beach, public access to nobby's lighthouse) and less focus on privatisation (eg surf house, coastal land sell off).

I would like to see some cleaning up done in the community as well as the city.

council responsibility

My street is in need of some attention, as staff from the hospital park

in the street during the day in very unsafe fashion.

The enges of the street are breaking away.

Nothing has been done in the street for the last 45 years we have live in it.

I would like to see the parks with more landscaping to beautify them.

council responsibility

Round a bouts and traffic islands are in need of beautification with plants.

I would like to seen a greater focus on community resilience in terms of being able to respond to climate change and peak oil. We are thinking about building connections with people in our street and see if we can share our experience and resources to reduce our energy use. There is an interesting example of this happening in Freemantle (Discussed in the the Alternative Technology Association magazine Renew Issue 114, January-March 2011.)

council responsibility

I would love to see Council taking more of a leadership role in this area.

I'd like to see better playground facilities in Mayfield. As the largest, most populated suburb, we have very poor facilities, whereas suburbs like Lambton or Bar Beach have received/are receiving upgrades to already existing well-maintained facilities. This is blatantly unfair and I believe a direct discrimination of Mayfield residents, who tend to be poorer and receive less facilities than other areas.

council responsibility

Improve contact between groups and societies (suggest a directory with groups & clubs)

council responsibility

Improve cycle-ways around Newcastle.

Widen path where possible. People in Newcastle love walking/ cycling, there never seems to be enough room for both.

Newcastle foreshore: Ensure that the beaches remain as they are.

I have lived at the Sunshine Coast, experienced the other commercial coastline.

Newcastle beaches are special, because of the lack of retail.

council responsibility

Foreshore improvements: Cleanliness of Amenities. These are well below standard, if you want to attract tourists, Australian/ European, which = income across all levels, standards need to be raised!

council responsibility

Improve footpaths and gutter ramps. eg. Darby St and Queen St!!!

Improve Mayfield swimming pool complex including the Park area and use it as a hub for community participation.

Don't close down all the local facilities eg the pool and the library these are part of what help keep the community connected vibrant healthy and safe.

council responsibility
council responsibility

For the council to actively support local initiatives especially in areas that need that support regarding cohesion.

Improve the beach front facilities, surf club and public amenities improved lighting; security presence especially at night; I have written to council about installing footpaths and guttering along Alacia ave, especially between allowah st and alwick st (western side). It is council's responsibility to ensure safety to its residents

council responsibility

Installation of community garden/s in each suburb, with allocating lots for members to attend to.

Continue installation of street trees. (suitable species)

council responsibility

Improved main street facilities structually and visual. ie Road pavement, footpath(Especially Nelson St, Wallsend)
Installation of community garden/s in each suburb, with allocating lots for members to attend to.

Continue installation of street trees. (suitable species)

council responsibility

Improved main street facilities structually and visual. ie Road pavement, footpath(Especially Nelson St, Wallsend)
It would be good to have at least one basic shopping facility in the suburb. There are some old shops which are all boarded up and not now used.

More trees on the streets where possible.

Throsby Creek could be cleaner.

council responsibility

More swings etc in Islington park.

council responsibility

It would be nice if council gave some thought to community facilities within public parks and recreation areas, this may help to activate those areas at night when I think people feel the least safe in our community.
its all well and good to think about strategies to improve social problems and encourage sense of community but i think real employment opportunities across all sectors is a must and more GP's.

Also, the city is hardly a place to be proud of, run down fronts give way to ugly hemoginised over development, being exposed to visual eye-sores must have an impact, whether people are aware of it or not.

also the way our assests are maintained reflects on the city, a half hearted approach. the rat problem at the civic, the art gallery's desperate need for refurbishment, the way heritage buildings are allowed to disintegrate eg the post office, the vicotria theatre etc.

council responsibility

cities like sydney, melbourne and brisbane have areas that locals love, assests that they are passionate about - reasons to feel proud of where they live.
I've been expecting a street tree for 7 years. Still despite a council email saying I would have one, I dont have one.

council responsibility

Get rid of the barricades around the Laman Street trees.
Remove paid parking in surrounding streets on a SUNDAY.
Keep the sidewalks free of pot holes, and some of the verges cut and cleared of rubbish. In my area is No. 2

council responsibility

The footpaths are not reliable, one part may be easy walking, then suddenly one is walking on uneven paths.

The semi-industrial areas like Wickham/Islington/Maryville roads and path ways need upgrading.
Live sites events and school holiday events are well publicised, but very little information about events at Nobbies/library/art gallery/Town Hall are circulated (with enough notice - ie. more than 24 hours).
Emailed newsletter of public events would be helpful. The public library website could also be improved, esp upcoming events and story time schedules online.

Better childcare availability.

council responsibility

Better nighttime safety around bus stops, train stations and local pubs/clubs.

Locations and activities like the Museum, Library and Art Gallery all should be self funding.

There are probably more of these activities in Australia that are self funded than there are paid for by the Councils.

Open space like parks need to be open space and not filled with structures, organised activity and events.

The foreshore is grossly overdone with events and activities to the point that it looks very worn out and is not available to ordinary people much of the time (especially weekends).

council responsibility
Camp Shortland needs to be kept solely for open space, relaxation, and free use. There should be no organised events or commercial activities in the area.
Maintain the parks and gardens.

Develop Lambton pool.

More information as to local facilities and events.

Encourage streetscape development of business areas to enhance community.

council responsibility
consider traffic problems that are developing on Croudace road , Russell Road and Griffith Road . These are starting to impact Lambton residential areas by frustrated drivers using side streets to avoid traffic delays. I live in Turner St. and cars are using it as a through way driving too fast and starting to heighten exit risk when leaving home. This drive through should be discouraged.
More access to recycling - the council needs to maintain green waste pickups even after bins come in and provide areas for cardboard recycling.

council responsibility
Road surfaces need attention.
More attention to cleaning the streets and maintaining the drains. This is a very low lying flood prone suburb and the drains are often choked with leaves and the street gutters blocked with weeds and debris.

council responsibility
More community art works through the area

better footpaths and road surfaces

council responsibility
better security in parks in the early evening
more playgrounds for kids with shade!

footpaths

adamstown st fair?

some cafes/good restaurants - take away on bruncker road

council responsibility
more trees

improving adamstown station so it doesnt look derelict

council responsibility

More structured youth activities

council responsibility

More trees in the streetscape as they provide an aesthetic quality and they significantly cool the area surrounding them. More pedestrian friendly in urban streets to make waking safer particularly for children.

council responsibility

More youth facilities and things for young be to be involved in e.g. volunteer opportunities, youth groups, police citizens clubs etc so that they have alternatives to drinking and other undesirable pastimes.

My community is Tighes Hill.

To improve it needs

a) less fumes from large diesel trucks on industrial drive and less coal dust. My face faces north and the front gets black dust on all the time. I have to use a nasal ventilator once a day to stop hayfever whcih i never got when I lived in Darwin.

b) more trees to beautify the suburb and help to keep the air clean.

council responsibility

c) lights along the stretch of throsby creek path between lewis street and hannell street - same as the lights on the rest of the path.

My needs are specific to having a family pet. We choose some activities to involve our dog and we find that opportunities to socialise and exercise our dog are limited in Newcastle compared to other regions that we have visited recently. The councils on the south coast of NSW have many beaches where dog off leash areas are shared with public use, for example, between 1 December and 30 April dogs can be exercise off leash before 8am and after 6pm and for the remaining months of the year dogs can be exercised off leash at all times. We also holiday on the north coast of NSW and find access to beaches with our dog available. The dog must be under control and all faeces cleaned up as per usual expectations. Our dog is a small dog weighing 5kg and we find that taking her to Horseshoe beach is quite a challenge because of the numbers of large dogs. Whilst there are other off leash areas provided the same issue can arise with large dogs and small dogs in confined areas. Having a dog and being able to interact with beaches, in particular, is important to my family and perhaps some innovate trials could allow more access to beaches for this group of rate payers without disadvantaging other public use.

council responsibility

We feel more welcome with our dog in other council areas of NSW than in Newcastle, the place we call home!!!!

council responsibility

NCC is spending money improving parks and the beachfront, which is a welcome initiative. The only issue is the maintenance on every level. Firstly it seems the new facilities are quickly ignored in respect to cleaning, graffiti and locals need to step in to pick up after all the new people that are attracted to our open spaces. Secondly there seems to be little thought put to the after dark attractions these places become for under-age drinkers and troublemakers. New park shelters and nice parks make excellent places to gather at night as well, but there seems to be no extra engagement with council security or police to manage these social problems, and sure enough the sparkling new equipment is vandalized faster than it should be, with mums and dads turning up to the park in the morning to be faced with drug paraphernalia and empty booze bottles that are often smashed. More thought needs to go into initial design and keeping undesirables away at night using lighting, locks, gates and patrols. Need more secure children's playgrounds like they have in northern suburbs Sydney.

Better cyclepaths linking suburbs so cycling outings with children can be done safely.

School bus services for our children. At the moment two of the three cannot take the bus to school because times are not good. They also have to leave school ten minutes early each day to take bus home or wait for 50 minutes.

Empty shops and buildings are an eyesore. Walking in their proximity (Hunter st west), you don't feel safe.

Upgrade of facilities at Stevenson Park - shade, seating, playgrounds

council responsibility

Footpaths for Mayfield West in area bounded by Stevenson Park, Industrial Drive, Maitland Rd, Werribi St
Open the art gallery and libraries of an evening but they need to have coffee, cafe food, informal reading/viewing areas etc to make this work. Continue to encourage community gardens, community involvement in street tree planting and place making projects/events. More creative industry use of the CBD. Nurture the resurgence of arts on Newcastle as an integral part of the renewal journey.

council responsibility

Please retain all the parks and reserves in the suburb, ideal for children to play, more regular bus services are needed

council responsibility

Pontoon at the end of Estelle or Northumberland street. Banning motorised bicycles on cycleways - they move too fast and will hurt someone badly! Trams through hamiton and maryville/ islington would be nice. Tree planting on western side of the street in maryville to beautify the neighbourhood and lower ground water. Dredging throsby creek. Tree planting on northern bank of throsby creek. Boardwalks under the Lewis Street bridge so as to reduce near misses of cyclists pedestrians etc. Put powerlines underground.

council responsibility

Provide services and facilities that benefit the whole of the community instead of to the vocal minority.

council responsibility

Put the needs of the actual ratepayer and resident above those of adjoining local government areas who seem to voice their opinion and consider their demands essential - even though they do not contribute financially to them.

council responsibility

restrictions on all day parking. Council not allowing or approving inappropriate high density developments in the area.

council responsibility

Return the Community Forum

Samdon Street is extremely dangerous. Someone will be badly injured. I've had to try and stop traffic many times to get children and the elderly across the road and into Gregson Park. The cars fly down the street and visibility is poor.

council responsibility

Also there are no wheelchair/pram ramps on the corner of many streets including the corner of Buchanan and Samdon; making crossing even more difficult. I see many elderly people in electric wheelchairs on the road because they can't get up and down the paths.



council responsibility

Social planning must understand what we need and not just what we want
The council spends too much time talking and planning, but very little changes.

council responsibility

With regard to garbage services, more time needs to be spent on training garbage truck operators how to empty the bins and leaving them standing upright. In my area the success rate is about 50%. the excellent street tree planting should be extended and the drain which runs down Jenner Parade should be replanted with large trees rather than the mismatched shrubs which have been planted by residents.

council responsibility

The library is a great place and has a good collection. It would make a huge difference if reserving books was free.

This would enable the libraries within the Shire to connect and share their collections. It would also encourage higher library usage rates and better community literacy levels.

I don't reserve books due to the cost, which means the library and its collection is not used to its full potential as i know many others feel the same.

council responsibility

Many other Shires don't charge to reserve books and their library usage rates are much higher (See WA & Tas)
The real danger with council acting on these surveys is they need to be supported by independent research. The danger is that council decision making can be based on very biased surveys that skew answers in a particular direction by the nature of the questions asked or sometimes more importantly, not asked. It can't be allowed to become a simple popularity contest.

council responsibility

The street trees are a great start - the more attractive the neighbourhood the more likely people will respect it.

council responsibility

<p>council responsibility council responsibility</p>	<p>The streetscape in Wallsend needs serious attention and could be greatly improved with tree plantings. A local newsletter detailing what is happening in the area could be another initiative listing library and cultural events etc. Efficient public transport with light rail linking Wallsend to other areas and a more direct route to the city would be a bonus for young people travelling there for work or recreation. There should also be a tourist bureau on Newcastle Road as it is an entry point for travellers.</p>
<p>council responsibility</p>	<p>the visual impact of the community should be updated and maintained There are some very large street trees in Lambton and many are not appropriate for such use. We have large tree roots where we would rather have grass, and consequently we can't mow our verge - having to whipper snip instead. Heavy rains then wash away the topsoil because it's not covered with grass. The tree roots make it very unsafe when we or visitors alight from cars (as we don't have driveways in our block). These large trees are wonderful for shade but they've caused all the footpaths to be lifted and uneven - which is very unsafe in a street with very little lighting. The branches are rubbing power lines and they cause damage to vehicles when they fall in high winds. There is an error in the previous table which it would not let me fix. In neighbourhood parks during the day i feel very safe not moderately safe as is 'dotted'.</p>
<p>council responsibility</p>	<p>Street trees always improve a community: by looking good, by providing shade, by giving areas a focus, by external 'linking'.</p>
<p>council responsibility</p>	<p>To improve open space between Turnbull St & Glebe Rd - its disgusting.</p>
<p>council responsibility</p>	<p>we NEED a map of streets at entrance to Maryland, to show folks where streets are!!! and much improved brick wall, something like other estates, with big letters depicting MARYLAND, and few nice trees behind it.... come on smart on up our Entrance</p>
<p>council responsibility</p>	<p>We need to get a bigger share of coal revenues and state revenues so that this can be invested in local infrastructure.</p>
<p>council responsibility</p>	<p>Continuing to improve mayfield pool as a key community asset and council actively engaging with the pool community and being open to ideas. we really have to get some public infrastrctre and art along nobby's to newcastle it looks bad.</p>
<p>council responsibility</p>	<p>we want to draw attention to the lack of play equipment in our specific area but don't know how to do it. we have been told we are on a 6-7 year waiting list... we don't know how to improve this despite the fact that over 100 children have not got reasonable to a park in this area due to the dangers of a main road.</p>
<p>council responsibility</p>	<p>When a neighbour poisons your 100 year old gum tree, the council could at least test it for poison and aply the council laws.</p>
<p>council responsibility</p>	

Would appreciate NCC cleaning up around Merewether beach and baths area. i.e. removing fast food packaging and drink bottles and cans ON A REGULAR BASIS.

council responsibility

Also would appreciate NCC removing weeds from pathways around the beach and baths area ON A REGULAR BASIS.

*Increased open space and recreation areas (eg appreciate the new bike path wallsend to glendale - sense of community with others using the path)

*Small corner shops and main streets rather than big supercentre / shopping centres.

*Affordable child care

development and planning

*Youth activities, so that young people feel connected and value / respect their local community

1)The Newcastle Region Art Gallery requires immediate support for its Redevelopment to provide a wonderful cultural/ tourism destination that is self sustaining and one of the main parts of the redevelopment of the CBD.

2)Encouraging students into town will make it a safer place to live - people (as long as they are not drunk) out and about on the streets make the locations safer.

3)Discourage the licencing of more pubs, especially if they do not provide good entertainment and good food.

development and planning

4) Encourage the very viable music scene

1. Enforce much tighter planning controls to stop over-development, replacement of legacy housing with medium/ high density modern McMansion rubbish.

2. Improve Council Maintenance work - particularly on roads (eg: Regent St outside the Duke of Wellington, the road surface quality is an utter disgrace).

3. Improve traffic flow along bridges road to keep traffic off residential streets.

4. Decrease speed limit in minor residential areas (eg: St James Rd West of Regent St) to 40km/h.

development and planning

5. Increase speed limit on arterials (Bridges Rd, etc) to 70km/h.

Be nice to get another selective high school built in the local area. There is little in options and Merewether high school is far away. Perhaps one could be built - or at least a senior school to begin with adjoining the TAFE here in Tighes Hill???

development and planning

With the increasing population, and more recent baby bonus kids boom, already thh primary school intake for 2011/2012 is largers than expected . This means in 7 years there will be a large demand for high school placements. Need to plan now!!
coal dust from the loaders is very much increased in the short 2 yrs i have lived here. The noise from them is sometimes quite loud especially at night as well.

More loaders would add to dust and noise which is not healthy.

Density of housing on these hilly areas also makes noise of mowers, whipper snippers, garbage collection, parties etc a problem.I think we will soon need residents parking permits for our street.

development and planning

Noise is my greatest worry because we hear it from the Foreshore, Civic Park, King edward park and we hear building on the cliffs around King Edward park very clearly and the proposed venue on the bowling club land will be very noisy with large air-condtng towers and too many people parking and making noise if allowed to do so outside the venue. We already get a lot of dust ad dirt in our homes from building projects and the coal loaders.

development and planning

Get rid of all the industry, Why is it all sited in one area? Spread it around

Given the demographic make-up of Mayfield, there are clearly some significant challengers for all who live, work and play here.

For civic planners, the challenges are of equal measure.

Issues of dust and noise figure in the lives of those who live in Newcastle's inner-western suburb.

I was particularly intrigued to hear efforts to set up a forum where locals had aired their views about future develop in this suburb; intrigued because it was not until I heard a news report on ABC local recently that I was aware of such a forum.

While it is not humanly possible to be across all moves towards such an end, it would have been good to have know of any gatherings or meetings where locals were able to contribute.

Whether it was part of an state election-driven initiative instigated by interested parties, and possibly supported by local industries keen to head-off any adverse or unwanted public scrutiny of their activities and plans for expansion, I'm not sure.

Nevertheless, noise, dust, traffic load and movements, particularly truck and other heavy vehicle, plus questions marks over the plans for a coal loader at the former BHP-site, are BBQ talk points around where I live.

development and planning

All the best with the survey

development and planning
development and planning

I believe there is a serious lack of retirement villages, if and when I decide to move into one of these facilities there is little choice, I believe Council should actively promote developers to build such facilities by offering incentives to them. I also believe that it is a grave mistake to close smaller Police Stations in favour of Super Stations such as Waratah, it leaves suburbs such as Fletcher and Minmi distanced from Police assistance.

I would like overdevelopment in the community addressed

I would like to see Beaumont Street retain its culturally diverse character rather than becoming populated with Chain Stores that mean it will lose its diverse and multicultural character. Funky cafes like Rolador are an asset; PriceLine is not ...

development and planning

It would be great to see an independent cinema or similar. Also, a community garden project in Gregson Park would be great.

I would like to see Mayfield become a more vibrant area. Being so close to the City with major City roads through the middle and to the North has benefits and downfalls, but a lack of available customers shouldn't be one of the downfalls, and therefore should allow greater investment. Better parks and more family friendly environment could see the demographic change and get more people out and about in the area. Many small parks has resulted in less use by kids and more graffiti and vandalism by youth.

development and planning

Improve cycle-ways around Newcastle.

Widen path where possible. People in Newcastle love walking/ cycling, there never seems to be enough room for both.

Newcastle foreshore: Ensure that the beaches remain as they are.

I have lived at the Sunshine Coast, experienced the other commercial coastline.

Newcastle beaches are special, because of the lack of retail.

development and planning

Foreshore improvements: Cleanliness of Amenities. These are well below standard, if you want to attract tourists, Australian/ European, which = income across all levels, standards need to be raised! In my community of Elmore Vale, an ugly racist element has become apparent as result of a local development proposal. Our letter box was filled with blatantly racist propaganda. Eventually, they sweetened up the language and started making the objections about traffic and environmental concerns but I believe the basis of the objection is racially motivated and borne out of ignorance.

development and planning

That same ignorance governs the way strangers react to the behaviour of a child with Autism and Sensory Processing Disorder. This has led my wife and I to wonder if we should be dressing our kids in shirts that say, "I have Autism...What's your problem, Stupid?" everytime we go to the local shopping centre.

Islington:

I have seen a very positive movement in Islington over the past 18mths with the arrival of a niche vintage/antique store vibe. This is very positive and, if encouraged, could lead to a shopping 'hub' of this nature. Some more cafes along the Hamilton end of Maitland Road would really bring the neighbourhood to life!

However, it is important to note that whilst there has been 'success' over the past 18+ months with the reduction of street sex work in the area, not all residents view this as a purely good thing. I really enjoyed that aspect of our community. It was definitely much safer to walk home at night when the girls, who were lovely, were present.

Hamilton:

Once known for its good eating, Beaumont Street is plummeting fast. It has certainly not kept pace with the competition of Darby Street. I'm interested in knowing if there is a Chamber of Commerce, or equivalent, for the area because they are not being particularly strategic. Beaumont Street now has 5 chemists, 4 Thai restaurants, 2 Indian restaurants and a number of sub-par pastas places, cafes and takeaways. It is lagging behind Darby Street in diversity and creativity and I would love to see it pick up and once again rival Darby for the best place to eat!

Newcastle:

Newcastle is a fabulous place, however the cultural night-life has really been sucked right out of it! Whilst I value the positive outcomes of the liquor accord, are we going overboard?

development and planning

Likewise, I know it's been canvassed many times, but something has got to be done about the city centre. It is such a beautiful place but it's slowly fading into nothing - make it a cafe strip or something. It would be good to have at least one basic shopping facility in the suburb. There are some old shops which are all boarded up and not now used.

More trees on the streets where possible.

Throsby Creek could be cleaner.

development and planning

More swings etc in Islington park.

It would be good to have at least one basic shopping facility in the suburb. There are some old shops which are all boarded up and not now used.

More trees on the streets where possible.

Throsby Creek could be cleaner.

development and planning

More swings etc in Islington park.

development and planning

Live in 'no mans land', need community centre for wider community, developers should provide such.

Maintenance of open space.

development and planning

Relocation of some community housing projects.

development and planning

More open and accessible spaces, greater range of night life, more retail spaces - less empty spaces.

development and planning

My community is a very old suburb. its main street was damaged during the floods and has not fully recovered. I would like to see it turned into a centre similar to Morpeth to bring a more cohesive feel to the main street and to encourage people to visit.

Newcastle should be encouraging more affordable housing and very much supporting people who want to set up granny flats/student accommodation in their backyards. My elderly Mum occupies a three bedroom home. She could be living in my backyard and renting her home out to students. However, the negative view on granny flats makes this unaffordable for me to pursue.

development and planning

The inner city should be an entertainment district at night. So many young people grow up or attend uni here, but leave as soon as possible as there is virtually no exciting night life or cosmopolitan feel. When the Uni district in town is built, venues, cafes, nightclubs, wine bars should all be encouraged to amplify the sense of urban energy and excitement in town. Hoping someone will build a Mall seems to be councils only priority other than forcing people into their homes at night.

development and planning

No mosque in Elernmore Vale as the transport issues it will create will destroy the community
pave darby street

have darby street cafes adhere to the outdoor dining areas that are marked

light rail, change to wickham as the hub

stronger drinking in public area fines

development and planning

remove club curfew

allow for newcastle cbd to develop, gpo, david jones

- development and planning Public housing needs a re-think. The current ghetto style housing on parkway ave doesn't help anyone and unfortunately is well known as a source of a lot of neighbourhood crime.
- development and planning Rezone residential areas in Maryville as residential rather than light industrial. Limit commercial and industrial development in Maryville. Short term- change planning laws to encourage denser population hubs. Small villages rather than huge indoor private centres (Westfield) Medium term- build better cycle facilities and reduce speed to 50kph on Park Avenue, Kotara. (there have been 4 crashes over the weekend near our house- bus stops, brick walls, telegraph poles have been damaged) Increase all-stops train services 3-fold (weekdays) 6-fold (w/e) to 3 trains per hour. Long term- build a train station near Kotara shopping precinct, construct a cycleway along state/council land along the railway line from Kotara-Broadmeadow-Newcastle.
- development and planning Significant concern about pollution from the coal loaders (coal dust), Orica, and odours from Cargill and major concern about a future gas plant next to the Orica plant which produces explosives products. Pollution is one of the biggest concerns at Stockton.
- development and planning As well erosion of the beach and effects of climate change on the suburb a real concern. The amount of housing commission homes have also created some social problems in Stockton. The range and standard of shops and shopping centre also requires improvements and most of our shopping is carried out at the Junction for normal household shopping. Stop the pulling down of perfectly good structures where people live and work and replacing them with second grade high to medium density habitations which are high power consuming and creating congestion.
- development and planning Do more to protect Newcastle's historic buildings from unscrupulous opportunist developers.
- development and planning the commercial centre of beresfield is almost dead. at last count there were something like sixteen to eighteen shops closed or demolished. it says something when the biggest commercial venture in town is the st vincent de pauls op shop.
- development and planning The Community of Wallsend could be improved by having more information available about the various activities that are based in the area. There is a FREE paper called "The Leader" which is NOT delivered to our house. (It tends to be delivered with the trash mail which we do not want).
- development and planning A wider variety of shops. We tend to go to Jesmond or Kotara to shop

as there isn't the variety in Wallsend. We find that Aldi and Coles have restricted brands and variety in their stores. Often items are not on shelves

the environment in my community is under threat by the industries on kooragang is and by development on the old BHP site that may now or in the future, pollute my community.

development and planning it can be improved or halted if no further development (that would cause pollution) was allowed on kooragang or the old BHP site
 The removal of graffiti, streets could be kept cleaner. Owners made to maintain delapidated building. eg old fruit shop cnr Glebe road and Bryant Steet Adamstown. Occasionly cleaning of blocked drains and weed control.

development and planning There is very limited open space and recreation facilities in Elernore Vale. Council concentrates all of its time and energy on the inner suburbs and little, if any, recreation and open space splanning and embellishment is undertaken in the western suburbs. Councils strategic, landscape and recreation sections need to integrate their activities in order to fully assess and apportion open space funding to address identified gaps in service delivery. This process will reveal the deficiencies in the quantum and expenditure on open space in the western suburbs. In addition, open space maintenance levels are currently poor and the only public expenditure in the area goes towards road and grass maintenance.

development and planning To help the development of the city, there is a need for pressure and business groups to be more open to scrutiny from the community. Who are their main stakeholders and finacial supporters and if there are any conflict of interests.

development and planning We need a neighbourhood general store and we don't have any community space for shared community events and this would improve community life here (Merewether Heights)

development and planning We need to stop destroying the remaining pockets of native habitat in Newcastle, making way for huge medium density suburbs! We have to have smaller suburbs with higher density housing and leave the bush alone!!!

development and planning With the continuing increase in the inner city population public open space and parkland is going to be used by many more residents for passive recreation and other activities. The council does not acquire additional land for parkland as the inner city population increases. The council should recognise this. It should not permit the alienation of further open space or parkland for uses by particlular groups where the uses exclude other recreational uses by the rest of the public. If a parking facility is needed for organised sport, then land should be acquired for that purpose; not filched from public parkland.

dk Post office box needs to be provided

A greater Police presence would be good, this should be seen as a deterrent only, but regular patrols and actual interation from the Police in the community would go along way.

enforcement I encourage all of my children to interact with all police when they see them so they dont think that you only see Police when bad things happen.

enforcement

I feel that there should be a police presence once more... in fact there should be a police station in every town like it was in the early days... just like a priest is always present at the church there should be a police station re opened and manned... people need to have that.

Its ridiculous the lack of police in the Newcastle area....Any wonder they are all on stress leave...

enforcement

In general sadly there is this thug element in Newcastle...It starts with the adults and extends down to their offspring

enforcement

law enforcement esp at weekends 2200hr to 0300hr in beachfront car parks

Limit Alcohol consumption in streets and public places.

The life guards try to enforce Alcohol free areas on the beach but they have no authority.

Compliance Rangers should be targetting Drinking in public ,the dogs which are targeted but do not cause as much trouble and vandalism as the drinkers.

Limit traffic and associated vehicle noise in Newcastle East.

Clean streets as a lot rubbish is left in streets by the large number of visitors in the area.The parks are cleaned but the surrounding streets are left with rubbish.

The bins in the foreshore are overflowing

because there is not enough bins provided, leading to the rubbish being thrown on the parks and streets.

Waste Bin collection-the empty bins are left on the roadway disrupting traffic and parking.

enforcement

Lack of push bike parking areas where bikes can be locked to bike racks.

enforcement

more police on the beat eg cars.bikes and footpatrols more care taken by the council to clean up the streets

More police patrolling the streets during the evenings and weekends, especially on Friday and Saturday nights. I'm so tired of hearing P-Platers screeching around the nearby roads after dust and early morning, driving at dangerously high speeds through 40-60 km/hr speed limits zones. The increasing graffiti around Newcastle, along the train lines, on buildings and on people fences is extremely upsetting so much so that I would consider moving my family to escape seeing this on a daily basis - it really drags the city and its smaller communities down. Lastly all the old run down buildings in town, usually rented properties that have had no upkeep are a shame. Safety in Hamilton, the Junction and Merewether is a real problem with crimes increasing.

enforcement

More police patrols

enforcement

More police patrols

enforcement

More police patrols - have suffered graffiti damage to property and also had items stolen and vehicle damage.

enforcement

More police patrols and the reintroduction of the neighbourhood watch program would improve the general safety.

The NCC officers need to patrol and enforce the bulk waste program, (ie ensure the waste isn't deposited outside the designated times

Graffiti and tagging removal needs to be carried out and the perpetrators prosecuted and given substantial community service orders.

The removal of shopping trolleys from supermarkets need to be enforced and NCC should impound and fine the supermarkets to ensure they carry out their own anti removal program (read here: I am sick of trolleys abandoned in the area)

enforcement
enforcement

NCC officers need to enforce the littering laws, including fining smokers that throw their butts.
more police presence

More Police presence in the evenings to ensure all residents feel safer and therefore able to enjoy our wonderful City.

More Police on the beat during the day and night to ward off and control inappropriate and destructive behaviour.

Council Rangers to enforce littering and all other types of vandalism. The amount of litter which then becomes shattered glass containers on footpaths and cycleways does not present our City as a desirable place to live or visit. Also, let us not forget the dog owners how do not pick up after their animals have defaecated on foot and cycle paths. Can we have biodegradable plastic bag dispensers and then bins designated for the disposal of the animal waste. Another job for a Council Ranger.

enforcement
 enforcement
 enforcement

Where have School Inspectors gone?? It is so obvious that many children are not attending school. Yes, Parents are told but if truancy continues, the child is suspended!! This just compounds the problem. More police presence, particularly where young people hang out. More police walking the beat
 more police walking the beat, take away drunks in paddy wagons, cctv along hunter street, security at civic station at night.
 More Police

enforcement

More patrols of parks by Rangers council employees
 More policing, (this is not a council issue but a state issue) better lighting in CBD better regular safe transport, eg TRAMS on a dedecated system.

enforcement
 enforcement
 enforcement

More security cameras. Marked safe areas with police call box. needs more police around pubs
 Obviously a police presence as it takes about 30 minutes at least to get help no matter what the circumstances.

enforcement
 enforcement
 enforcement

Open our police station
 open the police station 24 hours 7 days
 Places such as Darby street neet to be partolled more regiourosly so that people feel safe in that area between hours of 10.00 and 12.00 at night

enforcement

Police & council patrols - graffitti removal - increase use of facilites by the public to discourage hoodlum access. Policing of street youth facilities including their behaviour late at night around Wolfe Street. Regretfully, I have observed Police taking a softy-softly aproach to offensive and drunken behaviour committed by young persons in their presence.

enforcement

Police don't care about community safety. I once rang Waratah Police about kids throughing rocks at my 87 year old father and the officer I spoke to was uncaring and abusive. Recently there was a violent fight in front of my fathers house I rang triple 0 as I thought some onr was going to be killed and it took 1 and a half hours for a police reponse.

enforcement
 enforcement

possibly more support for the police force

enforcement
 enforcement

Public transport in Newcastle is appalling. Too little infrastructure and services. No connection between different types of public transport. Major population areas not serviced at all really, such as Fletcher (a couple of buses a day does not constitute service). Public transport is not safe at night. Public drunkenness and street violence / abuse / threatening behaviour must be policed more actively. There are in sufficient police - their response time is far too long (if at all). Youth with too much time and too little to do, acting in a threatening, abusive and rude manner are probably the major sources of concern in the general community (aside from the CBD). They believe they are untouchable, everyone else believes the law sees it that way as well and therefore effectively they are.

return of staff to our local police station

enforcement

Safety is the biggest issue. There is a noticeable downward spiral. We have several times had drunk teenagers or young 20s down our street at night in the 1st year or two, nearly always with damage - twice letterbox ripped out and twice car damaged. It simply isn't safe to confront them without a weapon, which I don't have and it would be illegal anyway. But it's not right that we have to let them have their way, to destroy as they see fit. And this is generally a good street. We need a vastly better police presence at night. Forget booking people for travelling 2 km over the speed limit during the day. We need police presence after dark. If not that, then perhaps some security patrols would help.

enforcement

Safety is the biggest issue. There is a noticeable downward spiral. We have several times had drunk teenagers or young 20s down our street at night in the 1st year or two, nearly always with damage - twice letterbox ripped out and twice car damaged. It simply isn't safe to confront them without a weapon, which I don't have and it would be illegal anyway. But it's not right that we have to let them have their way, to destroy as they see fit. And this is generally a good street. We need a vastly better police presence at night. Forget booking people for travelling 2 km over the speed limit during the day. We need police presence after dark. If not that, then perhaps some security patrols would help.

enforcement

Since Mayfield Police Station closed I almost never see a Policeman in the area except driving through.

Stronger police presence with zero tolerance to anti-social behaviour

earlier closing of licenced premises

enforcement

Improved access to health facilities
 To give police total authority to clean up

enforcement

the streets of Newcastle
 very difficult to have police in all areas, but a quick response time would help

enforcement

Very noisy with drunken behaviour on weekend nights and have never seen a police patrol in our area even though it is designated an alcohol free zone.

enforcement

Car vandalism and graffiti are regular occurrences.

Wallsend Brickworks Park will need more seating and some Lighting around the BBQ area.

enforcement
enforcement

The parking is being used by locals instead of visitors, so a sign needs to be erected saying FOR USE BY PARK VISITORS ONLY
Wallsend need a Police Station

enforcement

We favour tougher punishment for crime than what we have at the moment and more protection for the victims of crime. Government housing estates are notorious for that, and that's the reason we would never buy near one. No price is too high to pay for the safety of one's family. We would vote for a government or council any day that follow this belief.

enforcement

we need our local police station at Bearsfield to be reopened and manned 24 hours a day to reduce the crime rate in what was wonce a quite peasfull suburb.

enforcement

When it comes to community safety, law and order, the laws are already in place we just need to enforce them properly.

While many local residents who opposed the Bar Beach skate park have been villified by the NCC and skating groups, the reality is that the new skate facility has brought some unwelcome anti social behaviour to the area. My neighbour has photos of a group of skaters urinating in her yard and the graffiti has increased. While it is great to see so many young people using the facility during the day, it is a shame that it is having negative impacts mainly at night and the NCC doesn't care.

enforcement

Please enforce the night-time curfew and also get a truant officer to ask why so many school aged boys are there on weekends in school hours.

enforcement

would like to see firm control on the loutish, drunken behaviour around honeysuckle and harbourside areas, especially after dark

Yes, thank you for asking. I have a few ideas:

1. Police patrols are pretty are a bit too scarce at night along the beaches and park areas. Not only by car, but some areas would may be less of a problem if more bicycle, horse, moterbike patrols were out.

2. Where does all this broken glass come from??? Newcastle could be the first to stop selling alcohol in glass. It can be done and it could help.

3. Also, our community really needs more rubbish bins. You can walk for blocks and never see one. (Not that this is a good reason to drop your trash) but more bins might just = less road rubbish.

enforcement

4. Is the partially demolished bowls at the top of Ordnance St ever going to be completely removed? I have lived here for 2+ years, and it is exactly the same. It really looks bad and it could be a beautiful additional park space.

Zero tollerance to welfare cheats and people who abuse public housing and the enviroment. (damage to parks and gardens, liter on streets).

enforcement

More control over unscrupulous private landlords renting noncompliant multi occupancy delapidated houses.

Increase car parking facilities at ferry wharf, local Stockton shopping area and sporting ovals.

local events
 local events

A but more maintenace and upgrades of parks. Phone numbers to call if you witness vandilism. More street drinking bubblers near the shops like Bruncker Road. Better signage for the library in Adamstown. Help with organising a community fair for Adamstown.

local events

getting more people out of home into community activities
 I don't think we engage enough with our neighbours, because we arrive and leave our houses by car so often. Maybe we need events of a community nature to encourage street gatherings in our local streets - like a street party.

local events

I have noticed a generally willingness for people to want to connect with others, however, this usually only comes out after an event such as black out, servere storm, attempted robbery. We need more high amenity places for people to congregate and interact informally such as spaces within town centres, perhaps with occasional events or public art. Also need to promote connections between youth and older members of the community to break negative assumptions and fears. It would be beneficial if there were more cultural community events/festivals based on national and international cultures, such as a community Octoberfest, or Bastlle Day, or Australian history, or Aboriginal culture, for example. These could include foods, art, crafts, music etc from the "subject" nation, sourced from private vendors and the community or from Council if required.

local events

It would be beneficial to have a "come and try" day for children to try sports and for parents to get the information. At the start of the sports seasons (say twice/year), clubs from each sport would be represented so parents and children could see what sports are on offer for the coming season, get informtion and actually try the sport to a limited extent on the day. Currently, it is difficult to find out the contact details for children's sports. You either have to know someone who is already in it, or scan every newspaper if the club elects to advertise at the start of the season. Sydney has very successful "come and try" days.

local events

Maintain reasonable costs or free access to libraries, pools, galleries.
 Encourage local gatherings like festivals and fairs.
 Maintain the parks and gardens.

Develop Lambton pool.

More information as to local facilities and events.

Encourage streetscape development of business areas to enhance community.

local events
 local events

consider traffic problems that are developing on Croudace road , Russell Road and Griffith Road . These are starting to impact Lambton residential areas by frustrated drivers using side streets to avoid traffic delays. I live in Turner St. and cars are using it as a through way driving too fast and starting to heighten exit risk when leaving home. This drive through should be discouraged.
 More active promotion of community events, street parties/markets

More can be done in the future strategic direction of the City to ensure we become a sustainable community.

local events
 More support for the cultural industries within the City not just the concept of a cultural precinct. It should be an all of city approach. More community street events that encourage people out of their homes.

Make it easier for little independent shop owners/corner shops etc to have outdoor seating so people can stay and talk to friends and neighbours and thus develop a greater sense of community.

local events
 Encourage the re-establishing of community groups like neighbourhood watch but with a broader focus on community activities rather than a narrow focus on crime prevention.

local events
 more events "out west". one monthly market and an annual fair is not much at all.

local events
 More funding and support for grassroots community groups that enhance the social and cultural fabric of our community.

local events
 More information readily available about how to become involved with community programs and volunteering.

more local fairs and events in local as well as city wide areas.

local events
 encourage shorter fences around properties so that neighbours can see each other and talk.

local events
 more social community contribution in helping others who are disadvantaged & more community events.

local events
 local events
 More support for local initiatives such as residents groups and community gardens. Greater and easier access to council information for such groups. More funding for local initiatives. Council incentives for people to become involved in their local area. Promotion on opportunities for people (work) in their local area. Better public transport around the city.

local events
 More vegies on verges

local events
 My husband and I are part of the community garden group that meet at Silsoe St every month and we find that a great way of getting to know people in an informal way.

Newcastle council must realise that the NCC LGA extends past Beaumont st Hamilton. That the services and opportunities given must be equal to all areas. Beresfield, Minmi, Wallsend, Kotara, etc.

There is large variance in what is supplied to the suburbs as compared to City Centre.

This is not surprising as most NCC managers need a map or equivalent to find the periferal of NCC LGA.

The community CAN be improved with community input, but once the input is given an action plan must be drawn up and followed.

Plans that have already been put in place need to be followed through with support from all departments of the NCC and the negativity and procrastination shown presently, must be addressed and managed proactively. See Wallsends plan for the Rotunda. Wallsend and Mayfeild pot program, etc ,etc. How far out have we seen live sites performances? Graffiti removal only for City Centric buildings as an urgency and the suburbs have to wait.

local events

perhaps more community events for each suburb and a central point of access to that information.

local events

Provide courses in community development and education - lots of education

local events

local events

Street or local events to get people out and meet the neighbours

1 More parking.

2 Extra police later in the night.

3 In the summer months, evening picnic in Gregson Park,toilets locked at 6pm, children and adults having to go to toilet in public.

night time economy

4 No off leash area for dogs.

1.noise after 11pm from drinking in parks and drinkers leaving hotels could be overcome with police patrols and closure of licenced premises.these measures would also reduce other antisocial behaviour such as graffiti and damage to property.

night time economy

2.street access has become more convoluted with one-way streets, pacifier treatments and congested rail crossings, which when combined with partial road closures for months for construction, cable laying and demolition, all make access to home and business difficult. Addressing the problems of very noisy and drunk people walking by very late at night.

night time economy

Anti-social behavior needs to be addressed at locations in the City (Railway Station etc). There are too many pubs/clubs in town, and not enough family oriented activities. The Foreshore and Honeysuckle areas, as well as Civic Park and King Edward Park are ideal areas for family based activities, and should be promoted as such, with easy transport, free parking (in the evening's or when activities are on) and accessibility. I feel this would promote people to come into the area, and support cafe's etc, make the town safer and more friendly. Better policing.

night time economy

night time economy

Shorter licensing hours.

night time economy

Better security in a city centre after dark
break the chain of generational crime by having police in numbers who can enforce the law and being supported by a court system which seeks to reform law breakers not throw them behind bars.

The organisers of crime need to be removed from society and all their assets ceased to support rehab of the minor law breakers.

night time economy
night time economy
night time economy

Close public bars by 12 midnight and bulk liquer outlets by 10pm.
Bring back the local police stations and beat police
By the reopening of the Local Police Station
CCTV from the Bank corner to Nobbys beach covering beaumont and darby st. Connection could be made to Strata Accomodation and businesses with CCTV installed.

night time economy

Close pubs earlier and enforce alcohol free zones and service of alcohol regulations to minimize anti-social behaviour by intoxicated persons

night time economy

Closing pubs a bit earlier has helped extremely and forced pubs to offer other alternatives which is good.

Anti social behaviour is still a little of concern mainly with the younger generation.

night time economy
night time economy

More of the live sites sort of activity would be good. novocastrians get behind this kind of thing so long as it is WELL ORGANISED which IS A MUST.

night time economy

Continue the removing of graffiti
continue to enforce restricted alcohol trading hours in Newcastle and Hamilton

night time economy

Continuing improvement to youth behaviour at night. There hs been a significant improvement in the 11 years I've lived in my unit.

night time economy

Controls on public drunkenness. I think there needs to be some kind of public education about considerateness as this does not seem to be taught in the home any more. Instead of everyone for themselves can people begin to think about the impact their behaviour and lifestyle has on others especially in relation to noise - noisy music and parties, swimming pool pumps and air conditioners, barking dogs, revved up cars and motorcycles etc.

night time economy

Crime and lack of respect by the youth is meaning litter and graffiti is becoming the norm. There needs to be tougher penalties and better police response times.

night time economy

Encourage street dining. And lift the penalties for drinking al fresco while dining

night time economy

Extending the early closing of pubs and clubs would assist with safety for the community as well as the patrons of these establishments. Additional police and safer public transport, particularly with regard to station staff would also assist those who need to travel on the railways. Extending the use of empty shops in the CBD to craft and community groups would enhance the feel of the city and create movement and colour in the area. The return of cars to the mall has been a vast improvement. Extending anti graffiti programs and reducing areas where skate boarders can damage public furniture and/or pathways, including stairs, would also assist in improving the 'look' of the city. Additional street lighting and perhaps, cameras to identify loutish behaviour may assist in some areas, although the thought of big brother does not give me joy. Extra police?

night time economy

Feel that hotels and licensed clubs in Hamilton should close earlier, preferably at 11pm and certainly no later than midnight. Believe this the main cause of antisocial behaviour which makes going out at night too risky, especially for elderly people.

night time economy

Get hotels to clean up the mess that people leave in the street - half full bottles, smashed bottles etc. Better policing of illicit drug distribution. Better policing of speed limits and illegal parking. Council to stop approving building in the area without requiring more parking (the street is slowly becoming a parking area for shopkeepers and people in new flats with no adjacent parking).

Have an earlier closing time for licensed premises. Reduce alcohol content of products. Re-introduce the Summary Offences Act that was removed by the Wran government so that the police can carry out their duties in a more efficient way to protect people in danger and get wrongdoers off the streets for their benefit as well as the general public.

Have a more visible police presence particularly at night.

Penalise licensed premises that encourage (eg. happy hour etc.) and allow excessive consumption of alcohol on their premises then eject them onto the streets.

night time economy

Agitate for the banning of the high energy drinks that are now on the market (eg'V')as they are a threat to health.

Have witnessed some disturbing incidences and verbal abuse at the city ferry wharf from possibly drug effected people.

Have had groups of young men who have bottles in the hands obviously drunk being obnoxious to passing couples and women at night along Hunter St.

Visible Police presence would help - perhaps a police booth near the Civic theatre or Station would be useful.

Additional suggestion or comment:

Courts need to support police who arrest people for public misbehavior. Promising a distant response to bad behaviour after many court appearances is not going to achieve any results. It should be rapid and responsive to the behaviour to effect change and respect for the law. Also it should be targeting early intervention.

night time economy

Many of the community that I deal with consider the Court process that should support Police to be totally ineffective.

I am not suggesting long sentencing - but something of the order of a weekend to 2 weeks internment for a first offence with hard work has a better effect than 5 -10 appearances - and lectures - with a severe sentence at the close of everyone's patience.

night time economy	<p>Hotel clubs not observing responsible service of alcohol, needs to be police between 12-4am patrolling the inner city, cooks hill, hamilton so they can be seen.</p> <p>Hunter Street of a night avoid the area totally during night hours and warn anybody of the same there is no law enforcement of a night in any suburb in the Hunter area after dark, And warn anyone the same.</p> <p>Police have been given NO POWER to properly to do their job effectively because of the lack of support from the justice system Australia wide and state and federal Governments are only interested in revenue raising now because of this the police are nothing more than a token force look good but have no power in simple words protect one self by any means possible stay out of Newcastle after dark is one way.</p>
night time economy	<p>I am concerned about the noise of early am drinkers returning home talking loudly, committing acts of vandalism and waking me up. I do not want to see any more alcohol outlets and would like closing times further restricted.</p>
night time economy	<p>I cannot understand the negativity shown towards closed circuit television as a method to curb anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Those against them argue that if the cameras can't prevent something in the first place they are useless.</p> <p>I strongly disagree.</p>
night time economy	<p>The cameras will help law enforcers identify and prosecute the culprits, thereby eventually curbing and possibly stopping repeat offences.</p>

I have lived in the inner city of Newcastle for many years and am always surprised to hear people's perceptions of the city. From my long-running involvement in the inner city, I would suggest a number of key improvements to better support and build community:

1. increased police presence and patrols of the inner city to reduce the impact of young people and teenagers on the safety of the community. The city is not overrun with drunken people from the pubs/nightclubs of Newcastle. The majority of problems caused in the inner city are from young adults and teenagers, often driving around in cars, who are not frequenting the local entertainment venues. This issue cannot be addressed through CCTV (there is much existing research on the ineffectiveness of this method) or the hired security of private venues (they are not trained nor hired to ensure community safety on a broad-scale).

2. more attention to the night-time economy to improve the image of the city: increase the number and type of venues (e.g. more entertainment events, wine bars) to provide more healthy social interactions for diverse groups, increase the availability of transport and particularly taxis (this is a serious issue often confronted by myself and others that I have witnessed on regular occasions cause fights, increase risk of attack and decrease general community safety)

3.
increase support for quality urban design and heritage management - stop the "build it as you go" and "build it and they will come" mentality. Quality urban design is not about just building as you go, nor expecting that a building alone will have an impact on the community. Recent developments, such as the one across from Marketown are examples of appalling and dangerous urban planning and building design that should NOT be replicated. Council needs to be strong on this issue and ensure that the guidelines developed by trained urban planning professionals are adhered to, instead of manipulated and watered down.

4. initiatives that build community togetherness and health need to be better supported. The local farmers market at the showgrounds needs to be given priority as the sole market in the area that provides local produce to the community (i.e. no more double-up of different markets, or craft markets!). However, these markets continue to take second place to the Show Committee's events and whims. This event should be held EVERY weekend without fail in a new facility in the city - one that provides parking and access but in a pleasant location that people may want to stay and gather in. Sporting events also need to be supported and provided with dedicated facilities that promote pride in the sport and the town (e.g. after watching the recent LA Galaxy football match, we were horrified to see the state of the ground after a succession of league matches and other events that this world-class event was supposed to follow)

5.
attention to the coastline needs to continue. Recent developments in line with the coastal revitalisation plan are great and need to be continued to ensure that we capitalise on this beautiful stretch of coast in an environmentally and socially aware manner. Further cafes, sporting facilities, walking/bike paths are needed to draw people back to Newcastle and ensure its current tourist status is maintained and developed further.

night time economy

night time economy

I truly wish Newcastle will wake up from being a nanny-state run by the loud minority. As a 29 year old professional who lives in town, I feel a lot less safe in the city with all the licencing restrictions. Foot traffic and security created by bars, pubs, wine bars and restuarants makes the streets safe. Having them all close at midnight or 3am means everyone is out on the street athe same time, being aggravated waiting for insufficient cabs. I have witnessed trouble and violence on the streets a few times, not in pubs or bars, and not by patrons, but in dark long stretches by juvenile delinquents who catch the train in for a night of mayhem and "fun", which involves strealing your phone after a king-hit. Wake up!

I would like better policing at night

in the city, on the beaches and transport

liquor sales ending at 12.00 midnight

night time economy

or at 1.00 am

I would like Darby St and surrounding public spaces to become more family friendly and for the night time culture of pub /drinking to be toned down.

night time economy

I would like to see more lighting, and police patrols on foot and every now and then,their presence makes everyone feel a little safer.

night time economy

I would love there to be more family friendly weekend activities and I think there needs to be more done to stop excessive drinking by groups at these events. I don't think they should be acohol free but when someone becomes too intoxicated something should be done.

night time economy

I'd like to see more police presence with regular patrols of Beaumont Street and surrounds, particularly at night. Earlier closing of hotels and the enforcement of a curfew is essential. Many of the footpaths need renewing as they are broken and uneven.

night time economy

If there was some other activities for youth apart from clubs and hotels we probably wouldn't have the number of young people just walking the streets at night looking for something to do.

night time economy

I'm aware through my adult children that the inner city is not very safe at night. Anything that can be done to revitalise Hunter Street and integrate the whole inner city area will be a highly desirable improvement.

night time economy

night time economy

More focus on personal responsibility for intoxication andn violence Newcastle should be encouraging more affordable housing and very much supporting people who want to set up granny flats/student accommodation in their backyards. My elderly Mum occupies a three bedroom home. She could be living in my backyard and renting her home out to students. However, the negative view on granny flats makes this unaffordable for me to pursue.

night time economy

The inner city should be an entertainment district at night. So many young people grow up or attend uni here, but leave as soon as possible as there is virtually no exciting night life or cosmopolitan feel. When the Uni district in town is built, venues, cafes, nightclubs, wine bars should all be encouraged to amplify the sense of urban energy and excitement in town. Hoping someone will build a Mall seems to be councils only priority other than forcing people into their homes at night.

Noise restrictions on The Brewery. Quieter night-time environment. Better policing of the streets at night. Removal of Newcastle Train Station which just brings a lot of trouble to the city centre and encourages loitering around the area at night.

night time economy

Bus shelters with shade along Hunter St.

night time economy

Please consider all - not just the winging baby boomers wanting to turn the innercity into a retirement village. Please continue great things like Livesites and the Skate Park.

Pubs and clubs that are large and predominantly cater for the wednesday/friday/saturday night visitors do not create a community. They destroy our community by 1) taking the place of 'local' pubs/cafes, 2) introducing large numbers of often quite drunk and regularly antisocial/violent people in close proximity to people trying to live their lives. An early example of poor urban planning was the Dockyard "boutique wine bar" and now recently the Honeysuckle Hotel. Last wednesday a man was semi-conscious on the pavement outside our apartment. He had been drinking at the "honey" and was so drunk he could not stand, let alone tell his wife where he was. She was driving around in the car looking for him. Last night (saturday 12th) a group of 10 were having shots on the promenade outside our apartment and throwing the shotglasses into the harbour. They threatened to beat up the fishermen using plenty of F and C words. They kicked over the neighbour's rubbish bins onto wharf rd, before moving onto Honeysuckle. Sunday a week ago the bass music from the Brewery pulsed through the apt until 10pm even with the doors closed.

Does council want people to live in the City?

night time economy

We don't want a quiet retirement village. But this is a failure of urban planning in trying to create a city community. The city community agenda has been hijacked by a handful of liquor merchants with a loose rein.

night time economy

Reduce alcohol fuelled antisocial behaviour, loud/argumentative drunks roaming residential streets very late at night (mainly Fri/Sat), vandalism and broken bottles.

night time economy

Shorter pub hours, keep the railway to avoid more cars and parking problems

Sort out the Anti Social Behaviour..

night time economy

Thieving.....Alcohol....Drugs

night time economy

Stop people drinking in parks etc

Stop selling liquor in glass bottles - broken glass everywhere. Cover large walls with chicken wire and develop hanging gardens to prevent ugly graffiti.

night time economy

The community is concerned about the increase of crime during the evening hours. The majority of offenders it seems are not always local residents.

night time economy

The vibrancy of the community and opportunity for tourism can be improved by removing lockouts that operate at Hotels on Friday and Saturday nights, so that people can access toilets and are not left stranded on the streets. This would improve the community a lot.

night time economy

There are trouble spots - usually connected with alcohol consumption - around Newcastle where one can feel quite unsafe at night, to the point where one would avoid these places after midnight

There is very little night-life in the city centre apart from a few clubs, and it feels very unsafe walking or catching public transport at night - particularly when services are so few and far between.

night time economy
I think this would take a serious and sustained effort to change, but would involve encouraging more diverse developments along Hunter Street/in the city, but also and perhaps first off making major efforts to make night-time public transport much more frequent and safe. A facelift of the suburb could bring a sense of pride. Perhaps when NCC plants the new trees a Tidy Up Mayfield campaign could be launched with residents encouraged to do their lawns/gardens or if they are owners - to paint their fence, fix broken awnings/verandahs etc

social attitudes
All residents, citizens , not just of my community but across the whole country need to be reminded about personal responsibility. That they are responsible for their actions whether that is excessive alcohol consumption (and the negative behaviours that can often flow from that - violence etc) and vandalism and even littering.

social attitudes
Also, my community receives many visitors using the various entertainment facilities - restaurants, cafes, pubs - these people need to understand they are visiting another residential community and have respect for the locals as they arrive and leave. People make a lot of excited noise especially after a night out as they return to their cars As stated, the taking over of properties for rental to students previously owned by families of elderly person we now only have a few neighbours left. The driving and speeding by 'P' platers my fence and garage has been damaged twice and my neighbour on the other corner had his fence and house damaged by a chinese students who did a runner after the accident however I had recorded his number plate

social attitudes
Awareness for people to consider other people. Lots of pollution/rubbish left in the area, people walk the streets with large dogs not on leads etc.. things like this that indicate that people only care about themselves.

social attitudes
Educate skateboarders to walk on footpaths and Not ride 3 abreast on roads and swear at car drivers who have no option but to drive legally on the road.

social attitudes
Even though we have an outwardly friendly neighbourhood, Mayfield is a very diverse collection of people, many of which like ourselves who are new (< 10 years)to the community. This creates a great disconnect & consequently I would not describe nor do I feel a great sense of community within our neighbourhood. Hopefully, a sense of community will develop over time.

Find a way to get the kids to keep their skate park facilities clean.

Give them the opportunity to do it but if not randomly close for cleaning during high usage periods.

social attitudes
then offer them the opportunity to take responsibility for keeping it clean.

social attitudes
Focus on juvenile crime. Name & shame offenders. More discipline is required. Return respect to police, teachers, the elderly and woman in general.However that sort of action would only upset civil liberty and minority groups.To many do gooders with to much to say.

	get rid of politics in local government....
social attitudes	stop cutting down trees...
social attitudes	Get rid of the dead shits in housing commision! Getting better connected to each other. Learning the stories of all the age groups and cultural backgrounds and sharing them with other people. Acknowledging and Sharing each others skills and Talents. Helping local people in need in the little things and the big issues.
social attitudes	Improving the environmental impact and supporting the bio diversity - plants and animals around us, binding us together as a community with the rest of the natural world around us. i feel very lucky to live in the area of newcastle that i do as i have no real problem with any aspects of my life here
social attitudes	I feel very privileged to be able to afford to live so close to the city, facilities and beach. Would hate to see the price of life near the city escalate or become unsafe.
social attitudes	I remember coming to Newcastle when I was a kid loved the place friendly easy going
	Newcastle now with Tate at the helm is killing newcastle DJ's left Angus Robertson Left to visit Newcastle if not by public transport costs an arm & a leg for parking but for what the only thing thats left in Newcastle to see is the beach.
social attitudes	Lets try going back to the past when Newcastle city was a place to be seen & enjoyed but also didn't cost much to go to since the earth quake I have notice the attitude change from that friendly country town to a place where nobody trusts anyone !!
social attitudes	I suppose it would be pleasing to you if people were more willing to voice their opinions of their city. I would like to see more focus on homeless youth. There are many disadvantaged youth in many cases through no fault of their own.
	We need to think more brioadly on how we can assist disadvantaged young people to become responsible community members. Please visit www.Foyer.org
social attitudes	www.foyer.net.au I would like to see more oppotunities for the broader community to interact with specific subsets of the community (eg the african community) and to enjoy some of the specific aspects of their culture.
social attitudes	

I would like to see a greater focus on community resilience in terms of being able to respond to climate change and peak oil. We are thinking about building connections with people in our street and see if we can share our experience and resources to reduce our energy use. There is an interesting example of this happening in Freemantle (Discussed in the the Alternative Technology Association magazine Renew Issue 114, January-March 2011.)

social attitudes
 social attitudes
 social attitudes

I would love to see Council taking more of a leadership role in this area.
 Local schools are worse than hopeless
 Mayfield is a totally underrated place.
 Mayfield's disadvantaged people - immigrants, frail elderly, disabled, substance abusers, socially rejected, homeless, poor and needy, post incarcerates - deserve acceptance, and assistance. Although more money could help, social acceptance and integration is very important. Organisations like MayCare do a good job here, but government and local agencies should be able to address some of this disadvantage. No improvements required. We are safe, have great neighbours and all services a short drive.

social attitudes

social attitudes

Need to get change of government as Newcastle is treated as poor third cousin by Sydney who drain all of the money from the state coffers for their purposes.
 No. 1 Political Landscape

Our local community and the Newcastle community at large seems to continue to thrive despite the area's political landscape.

I only hope that the indecisiveness shown on issues such as rail lines is a reflection of how busy our representatives are working on other important issues.

No. 2 Sporting Grounds

I'd like to see more openness (or perhaps just more information) on how council owned sporting grounds are managed. Some local sporting groups seem to be a law unto themselves regarding their facilities and I'm not sure if this is council sanctioned or not.

No. 3 Council Pickups

social attitudes
 social attitudes

I'd like to see an extra annual council pick up (for general items) in our street.
 On the right track.

One member of the Newcastle Voice need to be careful when in the community making statements in public about Mainstreet Programs and how they are not of benefit.

This happened at the University Open Day and my partner was there - who just happens to be starting Uni full time and who over the years has been a volunteer with mainstreets in several areas in newcastle and conveyed this discussion to me. It is extremely disappointing.. if that person was at a pub and it was a personal opinion far enough, but as they where representing NCC and making statements in the negative about NCC committees and programs and as this is a " social survey" - mainstreets (suburban) have added significantly to the social benefit their suburbs without any or limited assist from NCC...

social attitudes
social attitudes
social attitudes

it is bad enough that mainstreets have been subjected to 4 years of reveiw (dating back to 2008) and the impetus for success swallowed up in paperwork and internal process....

Only problem - occasional bad driver usually P Plater

Only the Department of Housing could do that

Our social problems stem from young people who live in a shared house and are unsupervised. Their aggressive voices and wild behaviour means that they come across as unpredictable. We also have some problems on Friday nights, Saturday nights and race days with inebriated pedestrians walking home and shouting agressively.

social attitudes
social attitudes

P_ress reports make for anxiety

People having respect for others and keeping their children in check. After a full-time working week when we get home we want to relax and enjoy our house and garden in peace and quiet. We are regularly house bound with all doors and windows shut due to extreme noise of ferals. (like I am right now due to screaming) This isn't the only neighbourhood we have found this so not much point moving as you can't guarantee the next place will be any better.

social attitudes

Events should include some child free outdoor events where you can sit in comfort and eat and drink (incl alcohol) while listening to some classy music or a play or something.

The people who cause problems are a minority who are not held accountable for their actions.

social attitudes

If they are unable to live in society and follow mores then there should be deterrents.

the three Rs

Relationships, Relationships, Relationships are very important, humans are for the most part social beings.

It is important to increase the opportunities for social interaction with real life relevance eg community gardens where all ages, races etc can participate, mens sheds or the like.

People who feel connected to their communities are more likely to be positive in their interactions (involved, caring, supportive of others) rather than negative...vandalism, antisocial behaviour.

Our litigious society needs changes to legislation around the concept that "accidents do happen" & people who need to be cared for are, without the threat of huge compensation payments. I think fear of litigation is a major stumbling block for increasing community events/participation at a reasonable cost.

social attitudes	<p>Public transport (free) and readily accessible is a must. Smaller buses? on local routes, linking with existing services? aiding all in community to participate more fully.</p> <p>The Tighes hill community events run well because we understand that people can be very shy. A number of people known to be involved in regular events like coffee club, book club or the garden activity will actually arrange to visit people in their homes to talk about what is happening and also pick people up for events to introduce them to others. By actually taking people to events and introducing them to their neighbours breaks down the barriers to involve people that may be disenfranchised or marginalised. Harnessing these people to engage others for larger events may assist.</p>
social attitudes	<p>Very happy at this stage with council.</p>
social attitudes social attitudes	<p>It's very important to keep sport in our community affordable. Sport is the most important thing for young people</p> <p>We do not go out much at night</p> <p>*Increased open space and recreation areas (eg appreciate the new bike path wallsend to glendale - sense of community with others using the path)</p>
transport	<p>*Small corner shops and main streets rather than big supercentre / shopping centres.</p> <p>*Affordable child care</p> <p>*Youth activities, so that young people feel connected and value / respect their local community</p> <p>*More frequent transport at night.</p> <p>*Something for teenagers to do at weekends.</p> <p>*More doctors who bulk bill.</p>
transport	<p>*Less Housing Commission near me.</p>

*A good clean up of the area, there is always litter on the footpath and vacant lots.

1. Support for maintaining heavy rail to Newcastle;

* no need for elderly or handicapped to change trains/buses

* encourages youth to be active - boards etc to Newcastle Beach

* cutting rail only potentially positively impacts east from Perkins St

* cost of removal is wastful in terms of world trends TOWARDS improved public transport

2. Continued improvement and inter-linking of cycle/walking facilities

transport

* safer crossing of major roads through use of pedestrian + cycle lights like those on Northcott Drive Kotara

transport

A bus shelter at the bus stop on the corner of Hill and Dent Streets in Lambton and a sealed footpath from the corner to the shed.

transport

a few speed humps to stop excessive speeding of motorbikes and less so cars

transport

a more direct bus service to town & westfield

A pedestrian crossing (or 2) on Beaumont Street somewhere between Maitland Road and Donald Street. This is a long way without crossing points and a very dangerous stretch of traffic.

transport

More shade trees in the streets to ride and walk sun-safe and be more beautiful

transport

A safe foot path to walk on as we do not have one on either side of the road so we cannot walk to the public transport

Access to the city is important. The road on the island should be made 2lanes each way. The Tourle Street bridge should have been built with 4 lanes even if two were mothballed until the road was widened. The traffic congestion in the mornings and afternoons is disgraceful and will only get worse. Who is the brain that allows the traffic to be halted over this road to allow trains to move products to koppers during peak traffic times during the mornings. Even though the delay is only minutes the traffic piles up and the ensuing delays are bad. Surely these trains could cross the road at night

transport

Better bicycle access and safety

transport

Better foot paths and lighting

Better parking facilities are necessary in a street which has a line of units along one side and here parking is a real problem with cars parked on the footpath and on the road, the overflow are parked in front of homes which limits visitors who usually have to park long distances away, this creates difficulties for elderly visitors who prefer not to visit.

transport	I consider that the footpaths could be narrowed and resident permits issued for parking in parking created. This would ensure that a large number of residents with 2 garages used for storage would use the garages for parking and the street for visitors assisting with the parking problem after 5pm each day and all day Saturday and Sunday.
transport	Better public transport system, with reliable service, convenient times, direct routes.
transport	Better public transport to charlestown Square University and Kotara Better public transport
transport	Less graffiti
transport	Greater sense of security/safety in the evenings Better public transport. Keep the train line open, extend it to other suburbs.
transport	More bicycle lanes Better public transport. More facilities for young adults, teens. More open parks that are not solely devoted to football. Safer bike lanes, Scramble crossings that are more pedestrian safe.
transport	Better roads and footpaths no lighting
transport	better transport, especially on the weekend at night time. Hunter St improvements. Bike lanes improve safety, create opportunities to leave the car at home and make the city a better place to live. The community needs more safe, separate bike lanes.
transport	Council needs to look at roads, parking and signage and stop signs as recommended by the NRMA in my area.
transport	Cycleways, cycleways, proper cycleways ... and not just those green strips that disappear just where you need them most!
transport	I'd like to see Laman street blocked off in front of the gallery and library. It could be a beautiful shady area with a raised platform to allow the tree roots to breathe and not get battered and could incorporate a cafe inside/outside the art gallery.
transport	Free bus service between the Junction and Newcastle would be good. Free Public Transport would go a long way in trouble free travel. No ticket collectors / inspectors could save a dollar or too. put people back on the buses. Bus Drivers to change their attitude to driving
transport	back to the depot for a meal brake, cost is to much, free bus they can take people any time. No, NOT IN Service bus wasting dollars in fuel and wear and tear.
transport	Get more cycleways so people can connect in a positive and social way.
transport	Get rid of rail line and THAN improve Hunter Street. Only then will you see great improvements in our community.

get rid of the planet polluting cars

make the city/suburbs people friendly

transport

plant more trees
I cannot emphasize enough how Newcastle is losing a once-in-a-century opportunity to become an integrated community. This town has everything it takes to be a great 21st century metropolis, the envy of other cities in Australia. We are in the middle of a once-in-a-century mining boom - but where is the evidence of that in this city? Where is the corporate contribution? At a time when there is a national health crisis related to obesity, the town council contrives to grant a permit to KFC to build the largest outlet in Australia, polluting our streets, our children, and adding yet another ugly corporate blight to the city's main street.

Get rid of the rail

Create genuinely integrated bike paths, walkways, and parks (instead of the narrow walkways of the foreshore).

Bring the university faculties into the heart of the city.

Enforce apartment developments that include integrated spaces in which families can live, play, and commune.

transport

Ban beer bottles inside city limits (I've never seen a city in the world, apart from Port-au-Prince, with as many casually smashed bottles on footpaths).
I would love to catch the train to town for all of my meetings but they don't operate frequently enough. Last time I met in Scott St, I worked out that I would have to spend an extra two hours on that meeting just for travel / waiting in order to attend the meeting. If we had kept the tram network and grown it, people would not be so dependent on cars and rising oil prices now. Given that we didn't, it's time right now to start re-investing in a thorough rail network throughout Newcastle so that things won't fall in an utter heap when we can no longer afford to run our cars. All economic activity depends on the community being mobile to access things. We ought to be employing greater foresight.

transport

Improve cycle-ways around Newcastle.

Widen path where possible. People in Newcastle love walking/ cycling, there never seems to be enough room for both.

Newcastle foreshore: Ensure that the beaches remain as they are.

I have lived at the Sunshine Coast, experienced the other commercial coastline.

transport Newcastle beaches are special, because of the lack of retail.

Foreshore improvements: Cleanliness of Amenities. These are well below standard, if you want to attract tourists, Australian/ European, which = income across all levels, standards need to be raised!

transport Improved public transport system, particularly buses in the evening.
 Improved public transport

Public toilets.A better standard of street and footpath maintenance.

transport More trees in streets.
 Improved public transport

Public toilets.A better standard of street and footpath maintenance.

transport More trees in streets.
 Improved public transport. Bus services have been drastically reduced since we first moved here

transport Improvements to public transport.

transport Increase the parking space for workers at their place of employment.

All the buildings in the Newcastle area do not have adequate parking for the residents and workers.

The green free bus should be used for the workers to park at a large free parking locations and catch the free bus.

From 6.00am to 7.00pm monday to friday.

From having no vehicles parked all day in my area 6 years ago to now having cars parked all day and nowhere near me for my visitors to park. Is because of bad infrocement by councils to force adequate parking spaces in all developments in the area.

Newcastle West is heading the same way and when the new shopping centre is finished, all the streets for 3klms or more will be filled by all day parkers.

transport

MAKE USE OF THE GREEN FREE BUS and start it at 6.00 am etc

transport	<p>It would be great if there were better bike paths, preferably off road, to allow easier transport around the city.</p>
transport	<p>Keep the rail line and built over it so as to connect the two sides. Do not remove it.</p>
transport	<p>Less development, more public transport, public festivals in outer areas of newcastle. Love Newcastle. A very community minded place. Would like to see better access between Mayfield and neighboring suburbs for bike and walking especially for children.</p>
transport	<p>Keep encouraging community gardens. They are great community builders.</p>
transport	<p>Livesites provides some great events that we enjoy as a family.</p>
transport	<p>Lower traffic speed in narrow streets to 30kmh Maintain the parks and gardens.</p>
transport	<p>Develop Lambton pool.</p>
transport	<p>More information as to local facilities and events.</p>
transport	<p>Encourage streetscape development of business areas to enhance community.</p>
transport	<p>consider traffic problems that are developing on Croudace road , Russell Road and Griffith Road . These are starting to impact Lambton residential areas by frustrated drivers using side streets to avoid traffic delays. I live in Turner St. and cars are using it as a through way driving too fast and starting to heighten exit risk when leaving home. This drive through should be discouraged.</p>
transport	<p>more bike ways.</p>
transport	<p>More designated bike paths, not jointly shared on road with cars</p>
transport	<p>More emphasis on road safety in suburban streets, more police patrols. More family freindly space in Mayfeild, better park and outdoor activities.</p>
transport	<p>bike paths</p>
transport	<p>keep old atmosphere by not allowing big new ugly houses in old streets More frequent bus service</p>
transport	<p>Fewer heavy trucks on the road.</p>
transport	<p>More frequent public transport as it is what my wife and I have to rely on in Merewether Heights (and we are not the only ones). More low cost transport options should be provided eg minibusses that connect frequently. More should be done for working people after all we are the ones that pay rates. You cannot rely on public transport for work because it is too unreliable and takes too long to get anywhere. the use of the carpark and transport to John Hunter hospital is fantastic and more of this should be done with other council grounds. The use of throsby creek is great and more should be done with local outrigging clubs to provide storage facilities for craft to encourage use.</p>
transport	<p></p>

more playgrounds for kids with shade!

footpaths

adamstown st fair?

some cafes/good restaurants - take away on bruncker road

more trees

transport improving adamstown station so it doesnt look derelict
 more regular public transport for aged/disabled. It is nearly impossible for me to walk up Gamack/Tourle streets due to disability. No public transport here on public holidays/Sundays, we need to walk down to Maitland Road. I don't have money for taxis

transport More safe road crossings on Albert Street and Maitland Rd. Footpath redevelopment so that it is smooth and easier and safer to walk on.

More lighting in and around the parks.

transport Earlier closure of some of the larger pubs to prevent bottle smashing/vomiting and fighting on our streets.

transport More thought into traffic management in local streets, and improved / safer access from local streets to main roads.

Much better public transport to the public hospitals

transport or much better parking facillitis at the hospitals,especially to allow a driver to assist the admission of a patient without the fear of being illegally parked. That is to say hospitals need a handy half hour drop off zone or valet parking facilities.At present we would call an ambulance just to avoid the hassels.
 My suburb has a large number of residents on aged and disability pensions reliant on public transport.

transport Improved amenity for these residents is required in terms of seats at more bus stops and repairing/replacing existing bus shelters that provide no shelter at all due to chronic disrepair.
 need better transport near where I live, have train but no conneting buses and the bus i have to walk to 1/2 k away from train is not frequent enough.

Sandgate station - shortland area

transport The bus only is limted in direction for conneting busses to other places similar to train direction.

transport Newcastle desperately needs better public transport - currently the services are dismal and as a result I think only those that really have to use them do. THat in turn unfortunately makes public transport the domain of the anti-social, especially after dark

No. 1 Political Landscape

Our local community and the Newcastle community at large seems to continue to thrive despite the area's political landscape.

I only hope that the indecisiveness shown on issues such as rail lines is a reflection of how busy our representatives are working on other important issues.

No. 2 Sporting Grounds

I'd like to see more openness (or perhaps just more information) on how council owned sporting grounds are managed. Some local sporting groups seem to be a law unto themselves regarding their facilities and I'm not sure if this is council sanctioned or not.

No. 3 Council Pickups

transport

I'd like to see an extra annual council pick up (for general items) in our street.

Noise restrictions on The Brewery. Quieter night-time environment. Better policing of the streets at night. Removal of Newcastle Train Station which just brings a lot of trouble to the city centre and encourages loitering around the area at night.

transport

Bus shelters with shade along Hunter St.
 Our main road has become a major thoroughfare.

transport

Access onto it from all side roads and the shopping centre can be extremely difficult and dangerous. Equally, cyclists are very vulnerable and not well catered for.

Our residential street (Carolyn) is used by noisy delivery trucks to Westfield as early as 6.30 am. All-day (or illegal) parking and 2-way traffic, plus speeding past Belair school & cutting the curve at no.s 15-17 makes leaving or entering driveways dangerous due to obscured vision. This could be easily fixed by :-

a) "one-way", with adjustment of the "no-parking" zone between Cynthia & Muriel Streets.

b) speed humps at the west side of the 15-17 curve and near the school.

transport

c) "5-min Drop-off & Pickup Only" near the school in zone times.

transport	Pedestrian and Cycle connectivity through Wickham to Hamilton and to Wickham Park. Wickham Park is very unaccessable and uninviting as a local recreational space.
transport	Please keep the Newcastle Rail Service for the future of our country area. Look to our future.
transport	Public Transport leaves a lot to be desired. As we get older we would be happy to leave the car at home, but this is not often possible eg the train line. It is too far to walk to our closest stations (Hamilton and Broadmeadow).I am amazed that there is no public transport connection at Broadmeadow Station. The closest bus stop is quite a distance which neccessitates our being collected by car(not always possible) or driving our car to, and leaving it at the station. Shopping centres are not accessable except by car.
transport transport	Pontoon at the end of estelle or Northumberland street. Banning motorised bicycles on cycleways - they move too fast and will hurt someone badly! Trams through hamiton and maryville/ islington would be nice. Tree planting on western side of the street in maryville to beautify the neighbourhood and lower ground water. Dredging throsby creek. Tree planting on northern bank of throsby creek. Boardwalks under the lewis street bridge so as to reduce near misses of cyclists pedestrians etc. Put powerlines underground.
transport	Provide more regular and direct public transport to key locations. Public transport in Newcastle is appalling. Too little infrastructure and services. No connection between different types of public transport. Major population areas not serviced at all really, such as Fletcher (a couple of buses a day does not constitute service). Public transport is not safe at night. Public drunkenness and street violence / abuse / threatening behaviour must be policed more actively. There are in sufficient police - their response time is far too long (if at all). Youth with too much time and too little to do, acting in a threatening, abusive and rude manner are probably the major sources of concern in the general community (aside from the CBD). They believe they are untouchable, everyone else believes the law sees it that way as well and therefore effectively they are. public transport is currently EXTREMELY inadequate, it shouldn't take 2 hours to travel from Fletcher to charlestown (via 3 buses), it shouldn't take 1 1/2 to travel from merewether to the Mater Hospital via 2 buses, I shouldn't have to catch 2 buses to travel from New Lambton to Mater, I shouldn't have to wait 1 hour between buses between new lambton and John hunter.\.
transport	All streets should have kerbing, guttering and footpaths (on both sides of the road)
transport	Public transport is very poor. Smaller buses coming more often would work better. Improved maintenance of fantastic local facilities eg. baths. Better services, eg. one tiny coffee shop along the whole beach front! Coffee cart allowed at baths!!
transport	public transport which maches up with other forms of public transport
transport	recognition that we are part of Newcastle

PUBLIC TRANSPORT! I use public transport regularly and it's not good enough. Every time there is a review of the transport needs in this city, the routes get longer and less convenient. We need to have more bus routes and buses that run more frequently. It's really annoying that some bus routes finish at 6:00 pm, just when you want to get somewhere and then you need to catch two buses instead.

I would like to see a better integration of cultural spaces and activities into the city itself. I would also like the aesthetic qualities of the redevelopment of Newcastle considered. The current redevelopment is creating lots of concrete and glass boxes and no amount of 'interesting detail' stuck on them can disguise that this is what they are. This is cheap architecture marketed as the save all for the city. There is no reason why Newcastle should have bad commercial architecture in the CBD. But it does. Why has the same developer (Keith Stronach) been given the contract to build essentially the same building at two of the most impressive sites currently available to build in the Southern Hemisphere (Surf House and Newcastle Bowling Club/King Edwards Park)? Why wasn't there an architectural competition for these sites? It's this sort of decision making that worries me the most.

transport I think the redevelopment of Newcastle could be improved if the long term benefits to the community are being thought of rather than the short term need to build something. I think if a holistic approach (the planning seems piecemeal) was taken and the aesthetics of the city taken into account we would end up with a more liveable built environment.

transport Roads & footpaths need to be improved. It is quite easy to get around, however - footpaths are getting old or in some cases non existant, and the roads are a patchwork of quick fixes. Considering the suburb that I live in pays some of the highest rates in the Newcastle council area, you would think that this would not be the case.

transport Roads around Koorangang must be improved / upgraded, more lines need to go in to cope with the traffic buildup to Kooragang Island workplce, Newcastle Airport and toward nelson Bay. As the infrastruture on the Island has grown enormously over the past 2 years. Roads, & lighting on the roads must also be upgraded. The speed limits are unsafe, speed limits need to be reduced.

transport Safer and more cycleways would be an advantage. Separation of road and cycleway would make me feel safer whilst cycling.

transport Safety crossing the roads and circulating. Vehicles travel at very high speed and do not take into account other vehicles respecting the traffic regulations or pedestrians

transport Slow the traffic to 50 km/hr in all Newcastle Suburban Roads, crossing roads such as Steward Ave, Gordon Ave, Tuton Rd, on foot of bicycle is fraught with danger,

some kind of shuttle service from the Beaches Hotel/Souths Leagues Club to Darby Street/Hunter Street.

Traffic moderators at the intersection of Barr and Mitchell Streets.

Signage at the intersection of Frederick and Barr Streets directing to Darby/Hunter Streets and Glebe Road.

Walking Drunks from the Beaches Hotel turn into Barr Street from Frederick on seeing bright street lights.

They think they have arrived somewhere when in fact they are still adrift in suburbia and quite a walk from anywhere.

No buses, no taxis - nothing. They become aggressive, angry and destructive.

At the northern end of Frederick Street, just another few hundred metres, is Glebe Road, cafes, the occasional bus and taxi ranks.

transport

Stop the focus on consumeristic hollywood culture. Remove dangerous cars from local street by putting in 30km/hr speed limits on all local roads - makes it safer to walk and cycle

transport

The biggest problem with our area is lack of street lighting which makes walking around at night on your own unsafe.

The other main area of concern is the speed limit through the shopping strip at Bruncker Rd.Adamstown.

transport

I was under the impression that Council was going to make it a 40 speed limit through the shopping centre and also put speed humps in to make it safer. So far this has failed to happen

transport

The biggest single problem is not having a safe bicycle path into the city and Newcastle East

transport

The bypass to the western side of the John Hunter Hospital from lookout Road to the Jesmond roundabout would greatly improve the amenity of residents of the area.

The main arterial road of Lambton Rd/Howe Street in New Lambton/Lambton, needs to have speed bumps or a lowered speed limit as it runs alongside Lambton Park. With many children and families spending their weekends in the park playing soccer/cricket/using the pool etc, there have been many examples of cars driving way too fast.

The speed limit should be brought down to at least 40 when sporting events are in progress, and 50 at all other times.

I've been personally involved with cars not stopping when I was half way across the pedestrian crossing at the Howe St/Moorehead St intersection as the cars were travelling way to fast to even bother slowing down in time.

transport

Combined with the many accidents at that intersection, there needs to be some serious changes to the traffic situation there.

There needs to be better public transport to The Hill - BUSES

At the moment there is the 201 bus which is VERY INFREQUENT. You never know if you have missed it so don't like to wait.

More bus routes to eg Merewether could be directed over The Hill.

transport

I use the train frequently from Newcastle Station and connecting buses would make it easier to get to and from Newcastle Station.

There needs to be more parks and playgrounds as part of all existing and new developments at Fletcher.

Public transport to this region is abysmal.

A proper walking/bike path along Minmi Road from Wallsend Hospital to the Minmi lights and a few more designated pedestrian crossings would improve safety for all especially school-aged children.

transport

traffic calming, we live in a 40 klm zone but people travel at 70 klm per hour.

transport

Traffic on McCaffery Rd now fairly heavy, cars turning right from Garsdale present blockage to the majority turning left, and this will be worse when the mosque opens up on McCaffery

transport

Transport to the University is good. Transport to John Hunter Hospital is okay but could be better on weekends which is when working people have the opportunity to go there to visit patients. Likewise to the shopping centres at Charlestown and Kotara, more weekend transport is needed. The morning buses into town when you are trying to get to work are inadequate, they either go all around the world through other suburbs and and back streets which means you have to get up at the crack of dawn to get to work at half past eight or they are so held up in traffic they run late. For example, two days of the week I work at Adamstown. This is a two bus journey. The first bus I catch with the most direct route starts at Jesmond and should pick me up at Mayfield at 8.45 to meet my connecting bus at Adamstown at 8.15, getting me to work at 8.30 am. The other day it arrived late, at 8.03 due to traffic conditions which meant I missid my connection bus and I got to work 20mins late. We need a couple of buses running directly to town which begin their journey in Mayfield West. I cycle a lot to work, I also work at Hamilton, because of the bus situation and really wish the cycleways were better from Mayfield.

transport

we could find a way for the mostly transient student population to connect to the permanent population.

Because streets are overrun with parked cars, have no paved footpaths and are poorly lit so many people feel unsafe at night, can't have Street parties, and people use cars for safety, rather than walking, which disconnects us more.

Paved footpaths in the area would be expensive because of levelling problems, so street lighting IS URGENT, and car parking issues need to be addressed onsite for student accommodation

transport

We moved to Newcastle East because of public transport. If the train line was removed it would be very difficult for us.

We are pleased with the restrictions on hotel hours. Late evenings are much quieter. We do expect some noise, but after 11pm this is very annoying

transport

We need public transport. Our available services are token at best and inadequate.!

transport

Wheelchair and or pram access over Kotara Railway Station.

transport

More pram and bike accessible buses.

transport

Would like better public transport.