



# Newcastle VOICE

## Beach / Baths patron survey results

May 2014

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## Executive Summary

The Beach/ Baths Patron survey was issued in response to a Council resolution of 24 September 2013 to ensure that the three all year round services that are currently provided are at the most popular swimming beaches. The resolution asked if the current winter patrols occurred in the preferred locations. The survey was conducted in April and May 2014 and was completed by 754 members of the community.

### Key findings:

- The majority of respondents were residents of Newcastle (95.75%).
- Ocean Baths: Newcastle Ocean Baths were the preferred option for winter patrols (65%). This location is currently patrolled.
- Suburban Precinct: Bar Beach was the preferred option for winter patrols (60%). This location is currently patrolled.
- City Precinct: Newcastle Beach was the preferred option for winter patrols (55%). Currently, Nobbys Beach is patrolled.

### Top three additional comments:

Respondents to the survey were able to provide additional comments regarding the beach and bath patrols in an open ended question. The top three comments were:

- Survey limits community comment (24%)
- Patrol all beaches/ baths (20%)
- Patrol all beaches (11%)

### Recommendations:

The survey results suggest the following locations should be patrolled during winter:

- Newcastle Beach (changed from Nobbys Beach)
- Bar Beach
- Newcastle Ocean Baths

This survey should be revisited after the completion of the Merewether Baths upgrade in order to discover whether they Newcastle Ocean Baths would still be the preferred option.

## Introduction

The Beach/ Baths Patron survey was issued in response to a council resolution of 24 September 2013. The resolution asked if the current winter patrols occurred in the right locations – it did not ask for changes to the current service levels, ie increasing/decreasing patrols. The survey results will inform Council on community opinion and will assist in planning for the winter season.

Currently Council patrols two beaches all year round and one ocean baths. These are Nobbys Beach, Bar Beach and Newcastle Ocean Baths. There is a patrolled beach in the city precinct and another in the suburban precinct.

## Report purpose

The consultation sought to:

- determine if Council is currently patrolling the right locations during the winter.
- gain an understanding of community opinion for which beach/ baths facilities should be patrolled during the winter season.

This report will assist Council staff in future planning for patrols during the winter season.

## Where to from here?

The results will be reported to Council for consideration and will assist Council staff in future planning for patrols during the winter season. Once the resolution has been made an update will be included the My Voice Newsletter

## Methodology

### Questionnaire design

A structured questionnaire with a total of five questions included four single choice and one open ended to record additional comments. A copy of the survey provided in Appendix I.

### Survey area and sampling

All active online Newcastle Voice members (n= 2090) were invited to take part in the Beach/ Baths Patron Survey.

The broader community were also invited to able to participate. Links to the online survey were available on the Councils current consultations page and on the Newcastle Voice Facebook page.

### Data collection

The online survey was open from 8 April – 18 May 2014. An invitation to complete the survey was emailed to 2090 online Newcastle Voice members on 8 April 2014 and a survey reminder was emailed on 14 May 2014. There were no hard copies sent to offline members.

### Response rate

In total, 754 responses to the survey were received. The majority of responses were from Newcastle Voice members (n= 735, representing a response rate of 35.17%), with 19 responses received from the broader community.

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## Respondent profile

The majority of respondents were residents of the Newcastle local government area (LGA) (95.75%). Within the Newcastle LGA, most respondents were from Ward 1 (39%) and Ward 2 (29%).

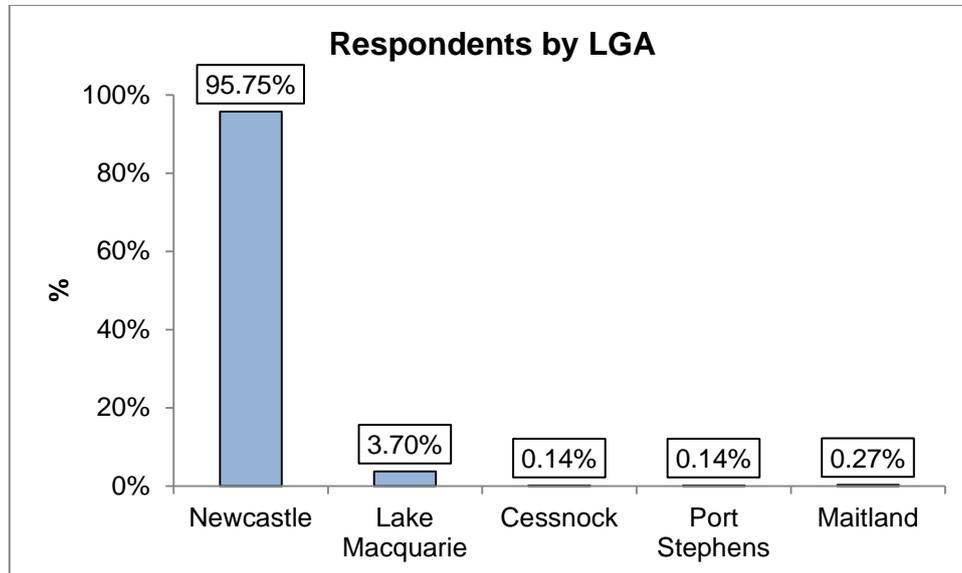


Figure 1: Participants by LGA

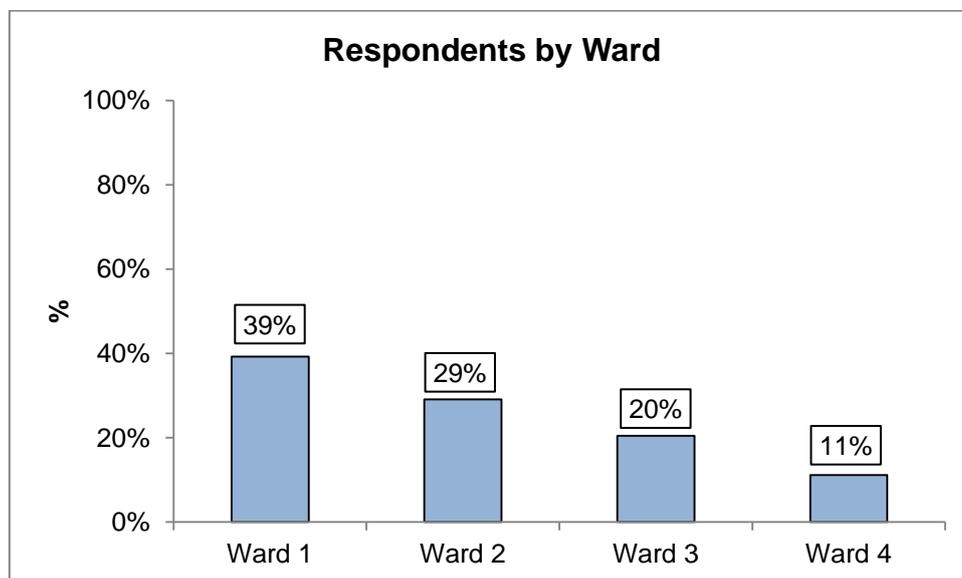


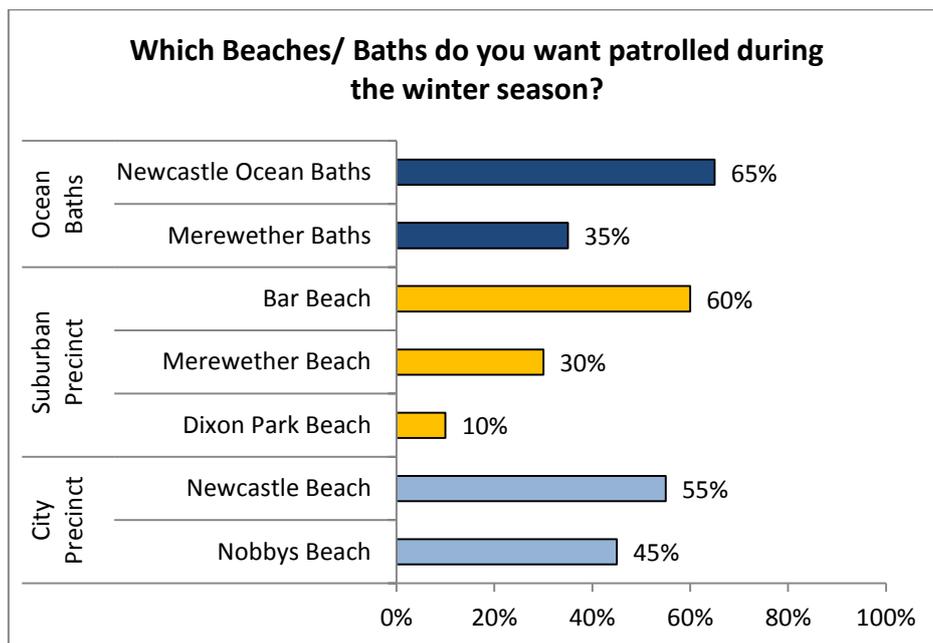
Figure 2: Participation by Ward (only available for Newcastle Voice Members)

*Note: Only available for Newcastle Voice Members*

## Survey findings:

Respondents were asked which beaches/ baths they would like patrolled during the winter season.

- Newcastle Ocean Baths were preferred (65%) over Merewether Baths (35%). This result however could be impacted by the current closure of Merewether Baths.
- For the suburban precinct Bar Beach, was the most popular choice (61%), followed by Merewether Beach (30%) and Dixon Park Beach (10%). Bar Beach is currently patrolled in this precinct.
- For the city precinct, Newcastle Beach was identified as the preferred option (55%) with Nobbys Beach being slightly less preferred (45%).



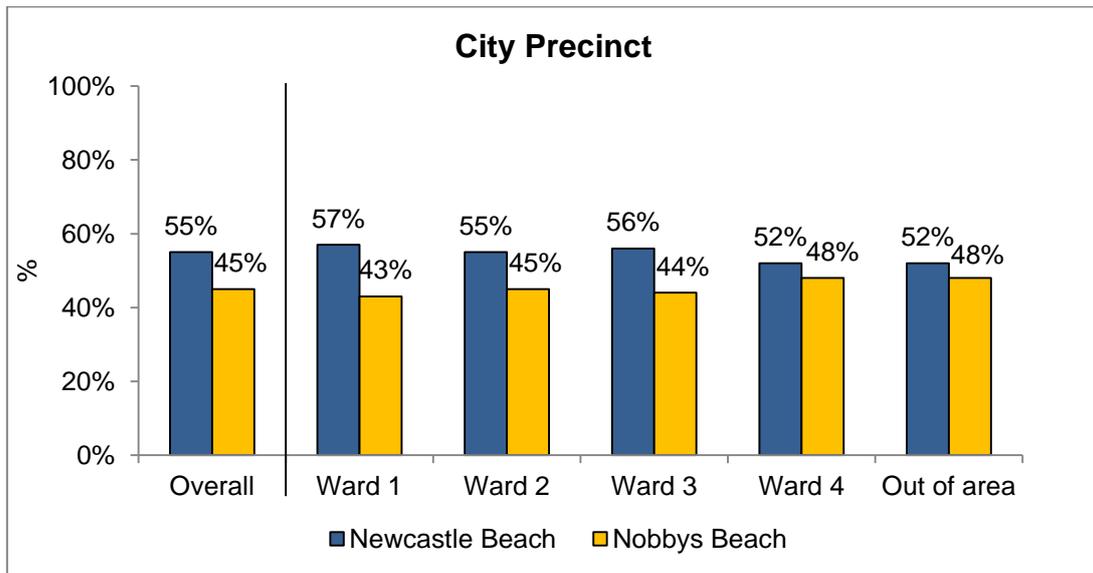
**Figure 1: Which beaches/ baths do you want patrolled during the winter season?**

*Note: Results overall*

## Ward results

Figure 2 depicts the results by ward for the preferred beach in the city precinct.

- The ward results are consistent with the overall results.
- Newcastle Beach is the preferred option by all wards and out of area respondents, with Ward 1 being slightly higher than any other area.
- The results for Nobbys Beach are slightly higher for the Ward 4 and out of area respondents.
- Nobbys Beach is currently patrolled during winter months.

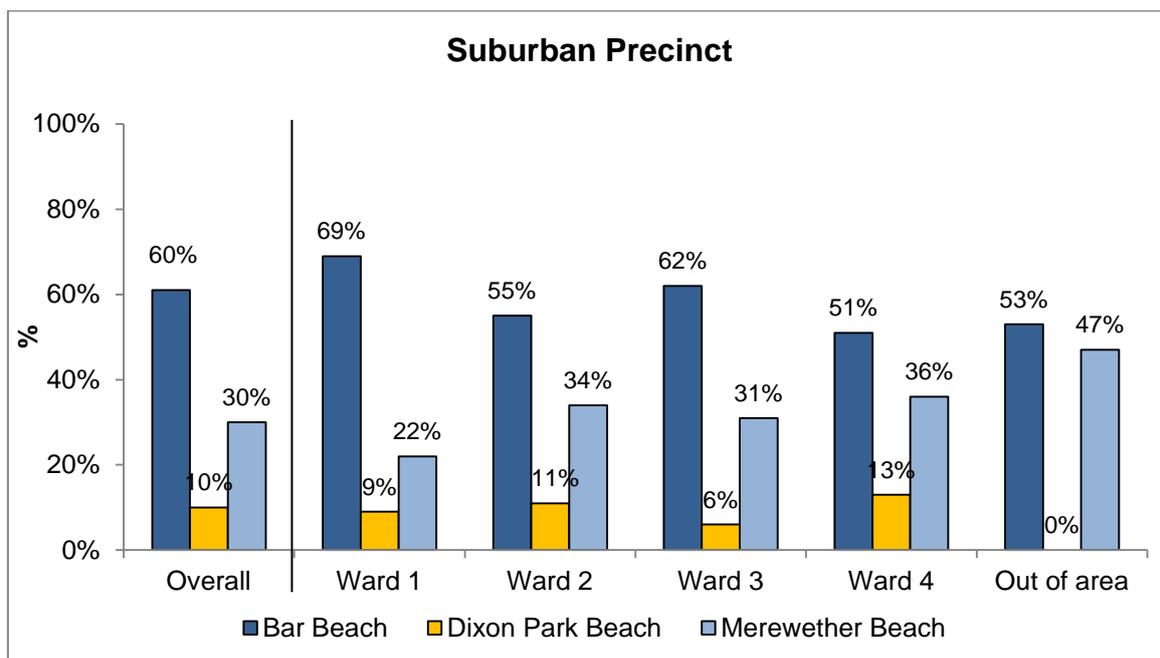


**Figure 2: City Precinct: Results by Ward**

*Note: Only available for Newcastle Voice Members*

Figure 3 depicts the results by ward for the preferred beach in the suburban precinct.

- The ward results are consistent with the overall results.
- Bar Beach is the preferred option by all wards and out of area respondents, with Ward 1 being slightly higher than any other area.
- Merewether Beach is rated highest among out of area respondents (47%), however Bar Beach is still the preferred option.
- Bar Beach is the current beach patrolled during winter months.

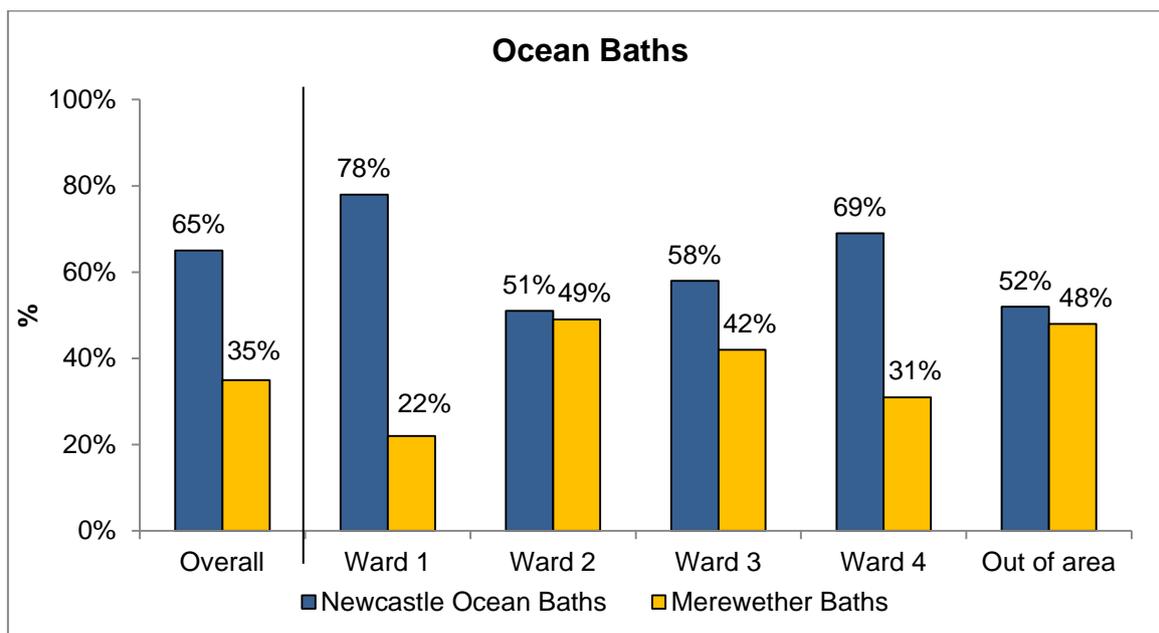


**Figure 3: Suburban Precinct: Results by Ward**

*Note: Only available for Newcastle Voice Members*

Figure 3 depicts the results by ward for the preferred Ocean Bath.

- The ward results are consistent with the overall results.
- Newcastle Ocean Baths is the preferred option by all wards and out of area respondents, with Ward 1 being slightly higher than any other area.
- Merewether Baths is rated higher in Ward 2 (49%) and out of area (48%), however Newcastle Ocean Baths are still the preferred option.
- Newcastle Ocean Baths are currently patrolled during winter months.



**Figure 4: Ocean Baths: Results by Ward**

*Note: Only available for Newcastle Voice Members*

## Additional comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments for Council regarding beach/bath patrols in an open ended question. In total, 16.3% (n= 123) provided a comment. Please refer to Appendix 2 for the full list of verbatim responses. The key themes noted by respondents are summarized in Table 1 below.

| Rank | Top 10 - Additional Comments   | %   |
|------|--|-----|
| 1    | Survey limits community comment  | 24% |
| 2    | Patrol all beaches/ baths  | 20% |
| 3    | Patrol all beaches   | 11% |
| 4    | Patrol both Nobbys and Newcastle Beach                                 | 9%  |
| 5    | Patrols in place all year  | 9%  |
| 6    | Tourism issues eg. dangerous and need to encourage tourism.            | 9%  |
| 7    | Patrol Newcastle Ocean Baths due to re-development of Merewether Baths | 6%  |
| 8    | No need to patrol any beaches/ baths in winter                         | 6%  |
| 9    | Safety concerns about lack of patrolling                               | 6%  |
| 10   | Patrol Merewether when redeveloped                                     | 4%  |
|      | Patrol both baths  | 4%  |

**Table 1: Key themes in respondent additional comments ‘**

*Note: Multiple comments permitted.*

## Recommendations

The survey results suggest the following locations should be patrolled during winter:

- Newcastle Beach (changed from Nobbys Beach)
- Bar Beach
- Newcastle Ocean Baths

This survey should be revisited after the completion of the Merewether Baths upgrade in order to discover whether they Newcastle Ocean Baths would still be the preferred option.

## Appendix – 1

Preview of: [Beach\\_patron\\_short\\_survey \(en-CA\)](#)

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Intro         | <h3>Beach/ Baths Patron Super Short Survey</h3> <p>Currently Council patrols two beaches and one bath during winter seasons. In the past these beaches/ baths have been Nobbys Beach (City Precinct), Bar Beach (Suburban Precinct) and Newcastle Ocean Baths.</p> <p>This survey aims to determine if the current winter patrols are occurring in the right locations. Council is not changing the current service levels; we are not increasing nor decreasing the lifeguard service.</p> <p>The survey results will inform Council on community opinion and will assist in planning for the upcoming winter season.</p> <p>Please note: There is an option for additional comments at the end of the survey and please select <b><u>only</u></b> one response for each precinct.</p> <p><a href="#"><b><u>Not a Newcastle Voice Member? JOIN HERE</u></b></a></p> |
| City_precinct | <h3>Which beach do you want Council to patrol during the winter season in the City precinct?</h3> <p>Please select one response only.</p> <p>(<br/>)</p>  <p>Nobbys Beach</p>  |

(  
)



Newcastle Beach

Suburban\_precinct

**Which beach do you want Council to patrol during the winter season in the Suburban precinct?**

Please select one response only.

(  
)



Bar Beach

(  
)



Dixon Park Beach

(  
)



Merewether Beach

Ocean\_Baths

**Last question...**

**Which Ocean Bath do you want Council to patrol during the winter season?**

Please select one response only.

(  
)



Newcastle Ocean Baths

(  
)



Merewether Baths

Additional\_comments

**Do you have any additional comments?**

Please select one response only.

Yes

No

CS\_Additional\_comments

**Include:  
Additional\_comments IS  
Yes**

OE\_Additional\_comments

**Please use the space provided to leave  
any additional comments.**

Please be as specific as possible.

End

TERMINATE:

Thank you for completing this survey.

If you have any further questions please email:  
[support@mynewcastlevoice.com](mailto:support@mynewcastlevoice.com)

**[Not a Newcastle Voice member? JOIN HERE](#)**

END INTERVIEW with status : Completed

## Appendix – 2 Additional comments results

| Additional Comments  | %   |
|--|-----|
| Survey limits community comment  | 24% |
| Patrol all beaches/ baths  | 20% |
| Patrol all beaches   | 11% |
| Patrol both Nobbys and Newcastle Beach                                 | 9%  |
| Patrol's in place all year   | 9%  |
| Tourism issues eg. dangerous and need to encourage tourism.            | 9%  |
| Patrol Newcastle Ocean Baths due to re-development of Merewether Baths | 6%  |
| No need to patrol any beaches/ baths in winter                         | 6%  |
| Safety concerns about lack of patrolling                               | 6%  |
| Patrol Merewether when redeveloped                                     | 4%  |
| Patrol both baths  | 4%  |
| Local pools requesting open longer and further funding                 | 3%  |
| Prioritise funds to patrol beaches                                     | 2%  |
| Provide better communication surrounding which beaches are open eg.    | 2%  |
| Further consultation- ask winter users                                 | 2%  |
| Positive: Good on Council. Glad council patrols                        | 2%  |
| Patrol both Bar beach and Merewether Beach                             | 2%  |
| Undergo a risk assessment to determine most dangerous beaches          | 2%  |
| Respondent does not utilise the venues in winter                       | 2%  |
| Love the photos utilised in the survey                                 | 2%  |
| Patrol Flexibility eg. Where to patrol led dependent on conditions     | 2%  |
| Update & maintenance needed at Newcastle baths                         | 2%  |
| More patrol's during school holidays (particularly September)          | 2%  |
| Stockton Beach concerns  | 2%  |
| Newcastle beach and Newcastle ocean baths                              | 1%  |
| Patrol all suburban beaches  | 1%  |
| Assess most popular in winter  | 1%  |
| Return to last year's patrol season                                    | 1%  |
| Monitor the behaviour of surf life saver volunteers                    | 1%  |
| Increase patrol hours  | 1%  |
| Council should make the decision                                       | 1%  |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Extend the patrol season                               | 1% |
| Patrol the beaches that are closer to public transport | 1% |
| Look into computer monitoring of the beaches/ baths    | 1% |
| Implement donation boxes at beaches                    | 1% |
| Consider parking facilities in decision                | 1% |

*Note: Multiple comments permitted.*

## Appendix 3 - Verbatims

| <b>Verbatim Responses</b>  |
|--|
| <p>- First, the Newcastle Baths should be patrolled all year round as they will be the only Baths open for the next 2yrs as Merewether undergoes re-development.</p> <p>- Second, there is worth in patrolling both Nobbys and Newcastle beaches in Winter for different purposes. Nobbys is generally a tourist and family beach with young people having surf lessons, however, it is a much safer beach than Newcastle. In saying that if you were to only choose one beach it should be Newcastle as it attracts many tourists and young people from the Maitland area as it is situated at the end of the train line. The beach has ever changing surf conditions and is also a much more popular surf beach which can result in issues between surfers and swimmers if not patrolled as the main break often cuts through the safest swimming zone.</p> <p>- Third, for the suburban beaches Merewether and Dixon are generally more prone to surfers than swimmers as they do become rough whereas like Nobbys Bar Beach is a safer option for swimmers and generally more popular. In contrast, Newcastle attracts both.</p> |
| <p>A great example of push polling. No opportunity given to indicate which BEACHES rather than which beach.<br/>If Council have resolved to patrol only one beach and ocean pool then there should have been a question that allow community members to express dissatisfaction (or satisfaction) with that.</p>   |
| <p>A major consideration is adequate, convenient, free car parking. So Nobbys over Newcastle, where parking is usually non-existent and then costly and inconvenient. Also Nobbys is an excellent location for the combined swim and walk, much favoured by Oldies minding Grandkids.<br/>Same comments for Merewether Baths over Newcastle Baths.<br/>A much closer decision, but similar comments for Bar Beach. Dixon Park a very close second but well ahead of Merewether.</p>  |
| <p>All beaches and pools should be supervised during all seasons...</p>  |
| <p>All beaches should be patrolled not just a couple.<br/>Question about baths is silly as Merewether is closed for repairs but on completion, should be patrolled as it is very popular.</p>  |
| <p><b>ALL NEWCASTLE BEACHES SHOULD BE PATROLLED FOR A MUCH LONGER PERIOD.</b></p>  |
| <p>All of the areas mentioned beaches and baths should be patroled at all times</p>  |

Although I respect what our Country went through for our Country over World War 1 & 2 & other Wars in the past I cannot see why we need to foot the Bill for the monuments commemorating their sacrifice where the money that is spent on these structures would be better spent on saving Australians on Beach patrol of all our beaches or better spent on Newcastle itself I'm positive if it was put to these diggers they would prefer the money been spent on saving more Australians by patrolling our beaches.

Also Newcastle does not need money wasted on a light rail system we have a system in place we keep hearing the council telling us it wants to revive Newcastle yet it constantly does the opposite we have paid meter parking that everyone hates & goes elsewhere to avoid the light rail system will have further devastation upon the business centre for a light rail system to be established the foundation ground will have to be reinforced this impacts on underground power water drainage communication not to mention business who will suffer financially rate payers business owners & anyone wanting to go into Newcastle. Who will profit council members & developers our current Mayor McCloy has a conflict as he is also a developer what he puts in place today may not benefit today but long term his decisions will profit his business in the future eg high rise building development & also who signs the cheques for works issued from council to his development business I wonder who ???

As for safety for visitors who don't know the beaches, tides, sandbanks, blowholes on different tides it can be a dangerous place with long distance between lifesavers and also having more people on the new paths and the beach exercising

As we rely on tourism so much, all of those beaches and baths should be patrolled all year.

Available parking and available close in coffee should be available

Beaches need not be patrolled in winter.

Both Newcastle & Nobby's should be patrolled - mainly because tourists probably visit these city beaches in equal numbers.

Can you patrol Newcastle Baths this winter as Merewether is closed :)

Come On we have a beautiful Coast Line and Beautiful Beaches,,,Why should we choose one from the other and aren't the Merewether Baths under Reno? I feel you shouldn't choose

Could we have a voluntary payment box for both Newcastle and Merewether Baths all year, with a suggested gold coin for adults and silver coin for children. All proceeds should go to supporting longer opening hours at suburban pools.

**COUNCIL OUGHT TO BE SERVICING ALL BEACHES AND ALL BATHS.  
IT IS DISGRACEFUL TO ABANDON INLAND CITIZENS WHILST FAVOURING WEALTHY FAMILIES SUCH AS MY OWN.  
SHAME,COUNCIL,SHAME!!!**

Council should be patrolling all of the city and suburban beaches and ocean baths as this is what our rates are supposed to be paying for as a result of increasing rates - not cutting services. Thank you.

Don't raise the building height in the city

Due to the number of tourists attending both Newcastle beach and ocean baths as well Nobby's beach and Merewether ocean baths, I believe these beaches and ocean baths should be patrolled all year round.

For coming winter I have selected Newcastle Baths as Merewether is not in use. For future winters,

preference is for Merewether.

Fully qualified council lifeguards should be patrolling both newcastle & nobbys beaches for as long as possible in the winter months as well as bar beach , dixon park & merewether.

A diverse range of people are using these beaches all year round & many visitors to the city are not aware of the dangers of some of the local beaches.

The volunteer lifeguards do a wonderful job as well but for safety reasons & duty of care to the public I think its really important to have qualified council lifeguards as the main beach supervisors wherever possible.

Hopefully this survey is intended to be used in conduction with a proper risk assessment to determine which beaches/baths most need to be patrolled in order to achieve the objectives of beach safety/fewer drownings.

How about a choice in relation to overall allocation, especially relative to any mayoral expenses.

I believe all beaches and baths should be patrolled all year round. Perhaps not as long in winter days. People swim and surf in winter. There should be a patrolled type of system along the best coastal stretch of beaches in australia. Bar beach, Dixon and merewether could be incorporated as one in winter and perhaps Newcastle and Nobbies. I don't have the answers but I am sure council does have the figures. No cost for a life.

I chose Newcastle Baths as Merewether is undergoing a refurbishment, otherwise I would have chosen Merewether

I do not agree with the way this survey is being done as i believe Newcastle Beach as well as Nobbys should be covered as well as Merewether Beach and Bar beach the same.

I do not want these choices to give the council ammunition to say that people don't want patrols at the beaches you cannot choose.

i don't believe they need to be patrolled all year round. Waste of money. Those swimming/surfing in winter generally can look after themselves.

I don't see why any beach is patrolled during the winter season

I don't swim at any of these venues during the winter, so opinions are based only on knowledge of general usage numbers and relative safety of the options. Not at all sure what this survey will tell you!!

I don't think the baths should be patrolled at all through winter, this survey makes me choose one. I believe we shouldn't able to choose all of the options, some of the options or none of the options on each page or the survey results will be flawed.

I don't use any of the beaches or baths so you can ignore this response.

I dont want the council to patrol any of these in the winter.  
If they are going to patrol one, then Newcastle seems the obvious option because it is more dangerous. Nobbys is more benign.

I feel all 3 beaches should be patrolled

I feel both Baths should be patrolled as people continue to swim at both Baths during winter. Patrols are also there for general safety of patrons (IE harassment and vandalism) as well as water safety.

I feel both Bar Beach and Merewether Beach should be patrolled as these are both popular during all seasons.

I feel the professional lifeguard season should be returned to last years times. To take 6 weeks off the season is dangerous and may result in a drowning. Thank you.

I love the photos.

I prefer professional Council lifeguards to the volunteer lifeguards who chew up diesel in the water in dinghies acting like boys with toys and rules.  
I think minimal patrols, especially in winter. It's often foreigners who drown so pictorial signage is a must.  
And maybe the nippers could kick off earlier so city beaches are available to the public on Sundays before lunch.

I surf right through the winter months and don't really think it necessary to have any of the beaches patrolled through winter., there's just not enough beach users down there, just the few regulars.  
People should just use common sense.  
The money would be better spent on safer cycling infrastructure  
There would be more cycle users in winter than beach goers.

I think a preferred option would be to have all beaches that are deemed busy & utilised over winter to be patrolled not just one or two..

I think all beaches should be patrolled during the surfing season and those most attractive to tourists/locals in the off season, which quite possibly amounts to the same thing.

I think both Ocean Baths should be patrolled AND Newcastle and Nobby's Beach ...  
IF NONE OF THE ABOVE:  
\*Baths MUST be patrolled by qualified life savers at all times  
\*and beaches weekdays AND weekends: the removal of life guards from Newcastle beach weekends is a disaster waiting to happen;  
\* during the WINTER months if Nobby's retains life guards ... suggest WEEKENDS only for Newcastle (as this is when most people swim)

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\* during the WINTER months if Nobby's retains life guards ... suggest WEEKENDS only for Newcastle (as this is when most people swim)

I think qu3 is flawed since most respondents would know Merewether Baths are closed for the duration of this survey. Both Baths should be patrolled.

I think they should all be patrolled year round

I think with the amount of international tourists Newcastle has, it's important to patrol one beach all year around.

I thought the use of the pictures was a good idea !!!!

I would like both Nobbys and Newcastle beaches patrolled because I often choose the beach according to the prevailing conditions.Usually one beach is better for swimming then the other.

I would like more choices. Newcastle AND Nobbys. Bar Beach AND Merewether.

Beaches are a tourist attraction for Newcastle and indirectly bring income into the city. Do not devalue this great service for these wonderful assets.

I would like to have been able to choose each and every one of the beaches/ocean baths, so, as usual I find these "surveys" flawed

I would like to see more beaches patrolled.  
We are a coastal city with residents who are beach goers, and as many beaches and pools should be patrolled all year round.  
Council's cost cutting, thanks to the GM and LM, is disgusting. If we can afford to pay for the GM's accommodation and airfares to his "hometown" every few weeks, we can afford to pay for lifeguards.

I would ordinarily select merewether ocean baths as a preference, but there's little point this season while it is closed for repairs.

I'd like to see patrols operating beyond 5:00 pm, perhaps 6:00 pm or even 7:00 pm - as appropriate to the weather and patronage of the beach/pool.

Ideally all suburban beaches mentioned should be patrolled during winter.

If council cannot afford to patrol two beaches then Merewether is the best developed

If the Council is only patrolling 3 bathing areas, it should be very well advertised for tourists (and rate payers) that these areas are patrolled, so that swimmers can make an informed choice about where they swim. If they know that 3 areas are patrolled, and which 3 locations are patrolled (and how to find those locations), then they may choose to swim in these areas, rather than assuming that all bathing areas are unpatrolled during Winter.

If you want to attract tourists to Newcastle all year round, then there needs to be lifesavers keeping an eye on what's going on at ALL the beaches.

I'm not sure that this is a valuable survey. Opinions will be expressed based on where people live etc. Council should just make a decision!

It is very unclear how these answers may be used - therefore I have had a certain reluctance in giving them.

By mandating that the respondent must make a choice of which beaches/baths are to be patrolled - when really we'd prefer that all were patrolled - then the data obtained from this survey is really giving a skewed result.

The survey itself is flawed - and it would seem intended to lock respondents in to something of a 'stab in the dark' about which areas might benefit from winter patrols.

it may pay to ask local swimmers which is a bit hard with Merewether Baths being closed for repairs but you will find a lot of people do use them during colder months

It would obviously be preferable if all the beaches and baths listed were patrolled all year round. Not much of an indicative survey when the answers are limited to suit the Council's desired response.

Its a shame it has to be choices. Both Newcastle Beach and Nobbys are popular all year round with locals and tourists and ideally both should be patrolled.

Let NCC patrol all the beaches as they are all important

Limiting choice for one of 2 or 3 beach options means that may not adequately reflect people's views. Some people may want all facilities / beaches patrolled year round.

many people doing this survey have nothing to do with water during Winter. The people that use the beaches should be surveyed, not via the Voice

Mereweather baths should be patrolled as well

More beaches need year round patrols then I was permitted to select as Newcastle attracts many tourists who have no idea what they are doing in the surf.

Newcastle Beach should be included.  
This will provide full safety coverage of Newcastle's Coast. From Hunter River to Burwood Beach & Stockton.

Newcastle beaches are used frequently by residents and visitors.  
It should be a council priority to fund beach patrol on as many beaches as possible .

Newcastle has spectacular beaches.  
Tourists and locals alike are drawn to these.

As a University city, student from all around the world study/live here.

ALL Beaches and pools should be patrolled and additional education programs for non swimmers and those unfamiliar with surf a must.

There is an economic opportunity here. Short sighted approach currently adopted is not helpful.  
The reality is we live on a continent surrounded by water ... safety is an issue.

Newcastle has the best beaches and baths and I am glad they are patrolled by council. Thank you

Newcastle Ocean Baths needs more work on the dressing rooms. The present facility is not up to the standard of the old change and shower rooms

Newcastle Ocean Baths should be cleaned more often throughout the year. Since the closure of Merewether baths Newcastle has ben cleaned twice per week with a very noticeable improvement in the water clarity and the reduction in scum on the sides of the pool.

Newcastle,Nobbys,Bar Beach Dixon Park,Merewether should be patrolled 6 days a week all year by council life guards and supported by surf clubs on Sundays.Newcastle baths should be patrolled 7days a week all year by council Life guards.

No comment

no one will be swimming in Merewether baths this winter. why would you ask that 3rd question?

No patrols needed in winter

Patrol additional beaches during school Holidays - particularly Sept.

No need to have double up on Saturdays with volunteer patrols.

Patrol all the beaches and baths in the Newcastle Council area, they should also be patrolled for a longer period than they are now  
This a core element of what a local council should do

This survey is annoying what is the point of asking the question and only being asked to pick on beach  
what the hell are you up to?

patrol them all

Patrolling during Winter not a good idea..... Try extending the season either end of summer. I would be a lot happier as I take the grandchildren to the beach as much as possible... Also with weather warming extended summer season makes more sense than partrolling during winter weather when the beach would be more often closed due to bad weather. D

People who use cars have choices to go where it is or isn't patrolled but those using public transport are more restricted, including tourists and those from out of town. So beaches and baths closest to public transport should have a higher priority. This would mean the N'cle Baths and N'cle Beach area would have better coverage. This also means resources are consolidated in a smaller area if there is an emergency.  
Bar Beach is the other one for patrolling in my mind as it has the largest car park allowing for more people who might have used the other patrolled beached can all fit more readily there.

Perhaps it would be useful to erect notices at unpatrolled beaches & baths to indicate:  
-that beach/baths does not have a safety patrol  
-the places and times that ARE patrolled  
-include a explanantory map for visitors  
-consider multi-lingual/pictograph notices.

Period of beach and ocean baths patrols should coincide with school holidays

please keep Wallsend pool open through winter

Professional lifeguards should be reinstated to beaches on weekends and public holidays through the summer. Volunteer lifeguards don't have the skills, fitness and experience of professional lifeguards. I write this as a volunteer lifeguard myself. It would be a shame to have a coronial inquest following a death at a city beach to confirm this.

Residents/ people that use these places should be protected AT ALL TIMES

Return patrols to commence in line with school holidays or day light saving

Sillt third question when Merewether Ocean Baths is going to be closed this winter.

Thank you for doing these surveys - I do hope our views are valued and considered by the relevant decision makers.

Have a nice day.

The beaches patrolled should depend on the number of people using the facilities. If there is data from last winter of which space was the most popular, then patrol that.

With the Merewether baths closed for renovations, the Newcastle baths are the only ones that can be patrolled.

The council should patrol ALL beaches ALL the time. I believe it is not as important to do the bathes.

The level of professional lifeguard service is way below what a city the size of Newcastle with a strong surfing and swimming fraternity is entitled to. If anything there should be more pools and beaches patrolled all year round.

The question about the baths is dumb! Merewether won't be open!  
You should know which beaches are most used during winter.  
In any case you probably know which beaches you'll be patrolling if any.  
Pasty PR.

The selection on this survey was insufficient and unjust.  
All should be patrolled, not one or the other.  
Pending the minority on who is on this data bank can influence the overall majorities decision.  
I also believe the Merewether Baths Construction Crew of MICHILIS are doing a fantastic job.  
Even though they have been getting smashed during the huge swells I have witnessed them consistently and methodically cleaning all the adjoining beaches.  
Maybe Newcastle Baths could do with some construction also.  
Lets continue cleaning up this town by bringing the people in via great pedestrian footpaths and renovated Baths.  
Great job so far COUNCIL.

The survey doesn't account the high esteem of our coastal amenity . Liveable cities activate it's population ,council must facilitate this by maintaining a safe amenity.Newcastle has a climate that allows year round coastal activity,maintaining this well used and iconic amenity should be regarded as a privilege.Newcastle should never be a place where safety is compromised by lack of supervision.Water safety is a coastal Towns obligation and top priority of a civil society

The survey is poorly worded. It tends to polarize the answers.  
Suggest a new survey.

There are many backpackers at Newcastle Beach during winter.

There is no explanations as to why one has to choose between options. All breaches should be patrolled for part of the day all year round.

There should always be a professional lifeguard on our beaches and baths all year including the weekends.

This is quite a ridiculous survey. Firstly I think that all of the choices should be patrolled in winter and because of that I did not always select a beach or baths. Secondly I am most disappointed that the focus seems to be on taking away services, eg length of time the Lifeguards patrol the other beaches each season, rather than giving something to the community.  
If the council didn't put \$1.5 million into a pathway at Bar Beach then the patrols could be provided on all the listed beaches all year. I think council should be relooking at its priorities.

This survey is loaded. How can you get a true response that reflects peoples views when you steer the survey to get your own answers.

This survey seems to be organised by the council, why only one answer per question.All the beaches should be patrolled. What cost does council put on a life.

'Tis a pity that one has to choose as all have merits.

Very difficult survey. All of the beaches and baths should be patrolled during summer months

We need to reinstate the patrol by QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS - not volunteer lifesavers. Giving us a choice of one beach or ocean baths is not sufficient. This penny-pinching is putting lives at risk.

Newcastle is famous for its beaches - not for its business strip. Put the money back into tourism, not businesses.

We should have option of don't care or non-applicable as we don't use the beaches enough to give a considered opinion.

What a disgusting survey, you should be ashamed of the choices of only ONE of options.

The survey has been deliberately designed for an outcome of shutting beaches and baths that are currently manned by council lifeguards.

Although i have seen surveys in the past designed to produce particular outcomes, i would think that should such surveys be offered in the future on this site that it is not worth providing any further feedback to the council via this method, and that more direct action in addressing issues would be advantageous.

What a stupid survey! This is not giving people a voice it is forcing them to agree to decisions that already seem to have been made.

What about other solutions - computer monitored pools/beaches to support fewer staff (enabling more/all sites to be open). Intelligent monitoring is making the impossible possible now (CCTV identification, tracking & monitoring, police number plate scanners, speed vans). Could be worth an investigation? Ultimately in a large city the vast majority of services should be open at all times. Unmonitored services should have large permanent indicators of this - not just the absence of flags.

What about Stockton Beach !! It has the Caravan/Tourist Park and there are always tourists that decide to just go for a swim !

What about the baths and beach at Stockton?  
We pay our rates as well!!

What is this survey being used for? If council is just going to use the results of a Newcastle Voice survey to make decisions about beach patrols then they are not getting a true representation of what Newcastle wants (Newcastle Voice surveys only a small percentage of residents). Maybe council could survey the surf life saving clubs, students and other users of the beaches.

When are you going to spend soe money on the lambton pool diving boards?

When the work on Merewether Baths has been completed it may then be wise to provide a lifeguard at those baths rather than Newcastle.

While I support council's need to contain spending and thoughtfully and wisely use ratepayers' money, since council owns and maintains both ocean baths, I think it is fraught for the council to patrol only one pool.

Why are the choices limited in this survey. How will the information be used. These super short surveys are not very useful. All the money being spent at Merewether is great and the Council is to be commended. I hope the same can be done at Newcastle but be managed far better than the restoration of the Newcastle Ocean Baths facade was.

Why can't there be some FLEXIBILITY in cases when:

\*the weather is unusually warm, roster additional patrols:

- for limited hrs on all beaches
- particularly at beaches that have picnic areas like Dixon Park (picnic, play and swim)
- baths in suburban areas where we can picnic and swim on warm autumn and spring days.

\*a roaring southerly is blowing and the beach is closed, move that officer to another more protected beach OR baths???

THEN ASK RADIO STATIONS TO PROVIDE GRATIS COMMUNITY SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS SAYING THEY WILL BE PATROLLED TOMORROW OR TODAY.

Come on NCC let's get our heads out of the Public Service mentality and be flexible. We're happy to pay for service ..... you start meeting us in the middle.

Thank you for the survey.

Why is it only one or the other? I think Newcastle and Nobby's beaches are equally important to patrol all year round. And Bar beach and Merewether are also equally important. Where there is a risk to public safety there should be someone on patrol, Obviously there is limited funding for this and demand is much less in winter, but there should be some back up that is able to respond quickly to an emergency. You don't have a pool fence for part of the year.

Why not patrol Nobby's as well as Newcastle beach?

You are a pack of bastards. This is an awful survey. All these beaches and pools need to be patrolled. Don't prepare a survey like this again.

you could put extra staff at Newcastle beach and cover the baths at the same time, that way you have both our ocean baths operating all year round safely.  
Cheers