

Newcastle Harbour Foreshore Masterplan

Phase One Community Engagement Snapshot report



City of Newcastle (CN) is preparing a Harbour Foreshore Masterplan and recently engaged the community to better understand community values for the Newcastle Harbour Foreshore. Feedback was also sought about future uses including what should be retained and/or changed in the area.

CN was excited to partner with Variety – the Children’s Charity to deliver the engagement activities.



Community insights were collected from 9 June to 12 July 2020 via:



Online
Survey



Online
mapping tool



School
workshops

This Community Survey Snapshot Report highlights the feedback received from the **964 completed online survey responses** and **225 comments in the online mapping tool mapping tool**.

[View the findings in the full engagement report.](#)

Online survey results

964 surveys were completed



by a mix of people across the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA).

Topics most important to the community:

- Maintaining wide paths
- Harbour views
- Access to nearby restaurants and cafes
- Accessibility.

The community want more:

- Trees and shade
- Accessible toilets
- Picnic areas
- Improved cycle paths
- Pop-up events and activations.

"Want more" sample of comments

"I think a water themed playspace is a fabulous idea for this area. Somewhere over near the carriage sheds seems most appropriate."

"More spaces for social sport such as basketball, racket ball, handball, roller skating."

"Needs better cycling links particularly around the Brewery and back to the city."

"More shade trees to sit under and have a picnic. Could turn the pond into skate park for young kids."

"More gardens and inviting green space - it's like a big oval at the moment, which is boring."

People like playspaces with:

- Areas for different age groups to relax and play in
- Climbing agility and challenging play elements
- Sensory spaces, nature play and quiet spaces are preferred by people with a disability and/or their carers/friends/family.

Playspace sample of comments

"Places that include all. (People with disability, etc.)"

"Themed play areas, obstacles/activities of various difficulties, accessible to all abilities."

"Zones for different ages is really important. You want to attract all families to use the space."

"A bike/scooter track."

"Fixed gym equipment for strengthening exercises."

Frog pond

Community opinion on the future use of the frog pond was mixed, with feedback varied between keeping the frog pond with water or repurposing it for other uses.

Frog Pond sample of comments

"Allow people to sail their model boats there."

"To remain as a water feature ... plant it up so it becomes a habitat."

"Return it to grass parkland."

"I would like it to be a water feature or a play space."

"Add to the frog pond rather than removing or replacing."

"Smooth up cracks and leave it. It is always full of families and kids skating in it."

"It's dead space that nobody uses. If it isn't removed it should definitely be reduced in size as it is a barrier in the middle of the park."

Online mapping tool

| 225

comments were submitted via the online mapping tool.



Some participants submitted 'out of the box' big ideas with inspiration from other well-known parks. Some of these creative ideas included elements like:

- Activation signage
- Artistic outdoor elements
- A bike pump track.

Other items to emerge as big ideas included more shrubs/native grasses, more spaces for play, areas for scootering / skating, and showcasing indigenous heritage and stories.

'Big Idea' sample of comments

"Needs some traffic calming or amber caution light on approaches to the pedestrian crossing."

"Planting of shrubs and native grasses. Could also have plants surrounding a sandstone amphitheatre."

"A bike pump track, area for bikes and scooters etc."

"Would be great to have a wall-ball court in this area, similar to those at Empire Park, Bar Beach."

"I would like to see a mural painted on the wheat silos in Carrington that are highly visible from the Harbour Foreshore..."

"Have a giant NEWCASTLE sign that kids can play on and lights up at night. And somehow ties in the history of the area."

"More interpretation and acknowledgement of the stories and significance of the harbour and surrounding areas to Awabakal people and our indigenous history."

'What should change?' sample of comments

The most frequent comment for 'what should change?' was the planting of more trees.

"This section of the park is perfectly suited for a tree filled, shaded picnic area. A mix of native species would create its own ecosystem..."

"This area needs to be greened with lots of trees. Native varieties endemic to the area would bring birds and native bees. The post Supercars treescape is a monoculture and doesn't reflect the original tree species. Interpretive plaques could explain how Aboriginal people used the flora and fauna of the area."

'What do you love?' sample of comments

The things people love most about the Foreshore is the green space and open spaces.

"The great thing about the amphitheatre is its human-scale size and its natural look. This part of the park shouldn't be changed. It encourages passive recreation."

"Yes, the grassy mounds/knolls while not high, are effective in creating views and a feeling of being tucked away from the busy Promenade. Great spot!"

'Getting around' sample of comments

Of respondents who commented on 'getting around' the Foreshore, most said improving cycling in the area needs attention.

"Cycling around Queens Wharf is difficult, need a better solution here."

"Queens Wharf cuts the pedestrian (and particularly cycling) thoroughfare in half - would be good to have a separated bike lanes either side of wharf road if cycling can't be maintained in an efficient manner on Joy Cummings Promenade."

Next steps

A Community Reference Group (CRG) for the Foreshore has been formed, to assist communication between CN and the Newcastle community as the Masterplan develops.

Further community engagement will take place in the later part of 2020. The community will be invited to provide feedback on draft concept designs for the Foreshore, that have been informed by the findings within this report.

The final Masterplan will be placed on Public Exhibition for comment in 2021.

[View the findings in the full engagement report.](#)

For future project updates, [join our community panel.](#)