



# Civic Public Domain Plan

Workshop Outcomes

May 2017

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# 1 Introduction

The Civic Public Domain Plan provides a detailed outline of the public domain improvements in the Civic Precinct. The plan will include an overview of existing elements, a precinct strategic direction, design direction, place specific improvements and implementation plan for the improvements. The plan incorporates and builds on previous studies and plans for the precinct and importantly consolidates all precinct elements into the one plan. The necessary detail will be included in the plan such that the detailed design process could easily transition from this document.

## 1.1 Objectives

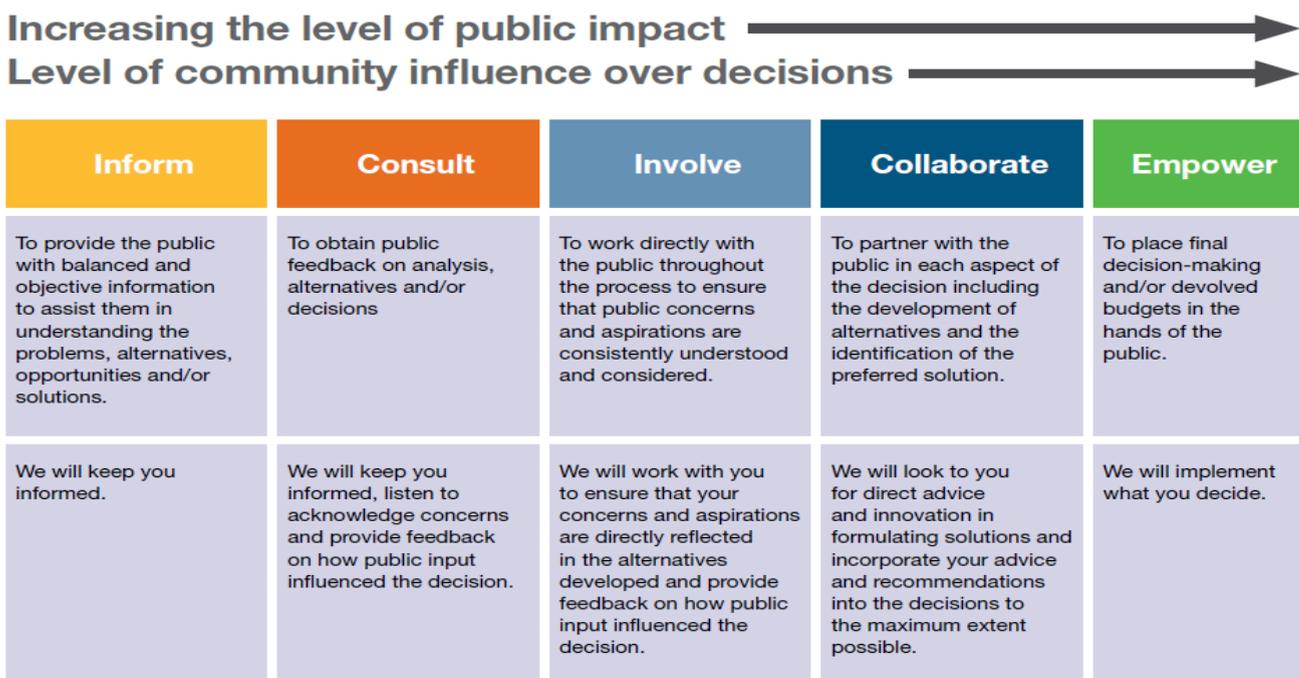
The purpose of engaging with the community around future planning for Civic Park is to capture what information that can be included in the overall site analysis for the Civic precinct.

# 2 Methodology

## 2.1 Research approach

It was determined that a series of workshops would be the best way to capture what aspects of Civic Park the community currently enjoy and would like to see retained; and how they would like to see the Park in the future. These workshops fall under the **consult** category of the IAP2 framework endorsed in Council's [Community Engagement Framework](#).

Figure 1 Public Participation Spectrum, International Association of Public Participation



## 2.2 Workshop activities

There were three distinct activities undertaken in the workshops. These were:

- Civic Park map agreement with proposed ideas
- Northern area of Civic Precinct map activity/prioritisation
- Civic Park area of Civic Precinct map activity/prioritisation
- Key questions

A description of each of these activities is provided in the results section of this report.

## 2.3 Workshop participants

One workshop was held with invited stakeholders as well as community members (n=45) attended the meeting.

## 2.4 Workshop promotion

Stakeholder participants were directly invited to participate. The broader community workshop was promoted via the following channels:

- Signage (coreflutes) in Civic Park
- Email invitations to Newcastle Voice panel members
- Newcastle City Council website
- NCC Facebook page
- My Voice Newsletter
- Enews.

## 2.5 Report presentation

The results in this report are presented by activity. Additional information can be found in the appendices.

## 3 Workshop findings

### 3.1 Map work

#### 3.1.1 Civic Park - agreement with ideas

Large colour maps of Civic Park divided into geographic zones that highlighted suggestions/ideas for inclusion in the PDP were provided. Participants were asked to mark with a 'tick' if they agree with the various suggestions, or a 'cross' if they disagree. Participants were asked to limit their responses to those they strongly agreed or disagreed with.

Figure 2: Civic Park agreement map work



Table 1 highlights suggestions/ideas that received 'ticks' or 'crosses' by geographical location in Civic Park.

**Table 1: Level of support for Civic Park suggestions/ideas**

Idea/suggestion	TOTAL	
	tick	cross
<b>Central Spine</b>		
Retain cenotaph and Captain Cook Fountain	6	0
Enhance the existing north south axis through the park through improving pathway networks and quality of finishes	6	0
Increase seating opportunities through the park	4	1
Retain formal planting beds	3	1
Council to envisage location for signalised pedestrian crossing	3	4
<b>Western Zone</b>	<b>tick</b>	<b>cross</b>
Improve seating opportunities to this section of the park	12	0
Council is committed to installing overland water capture tanks within Civic Park	7	0
Improve pathway network to and through this section of the park	6	0
Creation of a passive quiet zone of the park for contemplation and reflection of memorials	6	1
Improve information about the existing memorials e.g. Smart City	5	0
Activate western edges of Civic Park with Auckland and King Street	5	2
Curation of future war memorials	4	0
The design of memorials to be respectfully designed to complement the existing Vietnam Memorial	3	0
<b>Western Edge</b>	<b>tick</b>	<b>cross</b>
Council to invest in a tree succession plan for the existing figs	4	1
Discuss with St. Andrews Cathedral and Signalman Cottage to open the boundaries between the properties and improve the view lines	3	0
<b>Southern Terraces</b>	<b>tick</b>	<b>cross</b>
Investigate ways to incorporate seating and planting into the terraces to optimise use	7	0
Widen eastern staircase from Laman Street to Civic Park	5	1
<b>Memorial Grove</b>	<b>tick</b>	<b>cross</b>
Council to design a memorial wall that will incorporate fallen soldiers plaques.* <i>The memorial wall design will be developed in conjunction with representative from RSL, Memorial Park and Legacy.</i>	8	0
Enhance the existing setting with formalised pathway, seating, existing understory	6	0

Enhance visual connection to Civic Park while maintaining its peaceful setting	5	2
Celebrate the Lone Pine location and new design to include key memorial pieces	5	0
Council to curate future installation of memorial items into the park	1	0
<b>Eastern Zone</b>	<b>tick</b>	<b>cross</b>
Create a flexible space that can cater for a variety of season uses. e.g. Spiegeltent, markets, outdoor cinema, aboriginal ceremonies	16	1
Activate park edges through tree planting	9	0
Creation of an activation strategy for Civic Park that will curate events, markets etc.	7	0
Cafe/storage and public toilet facilities	5	1
Balance hard stand area for passive and event based activities	4	4
<b>General</b>	<b>tick</b>	<b>cross</b>
Preserve the green heart function of civic park	13	0
Council to complete a tree succession strategy. Trees planted with in Civic Park to be appropriate species to maximise presence, shade and enhance the visual appeal of civic park	11	0
Council is advancing designs for city centre wayfinding which will be incorporated into all future public domain plans	11	0
Design the park for night .e.g. lighting for appropriate activities	11	0
Celebrate the site Aboriginal and European history e.g. smart city app, select location for signage	10	0
Use quality finishes and furniture for Civic park	6	0

The results indicate that:

- For the **Central Spine** area of Civic Park, the two ideas that received the highest level of support (6 ticks) were; *Retain cenotaph and Captain Cook fountain* and *Enhance the existing north south axis through the park through improving pathway networks and quality finishes*. The idea that received the most crosses for this area (4) was *Council to envisage location for signalised pedestrian crossing*. However, this idea also received three ticks.
- For the **Western Zone**, there was participant support for many of the ideas presented. The idea that received the most ticks was *Improve seating opportunities to this section of the park* (12), followed by *Council is committed to installing overland water capture tanks within Civic Park* (7), *Improve pathway network to and through this section of the park* (6), *Creation of a passive quiet zone of the park for contemplation and reflection of memorials* (6). There were very few crosses (3 in total), allocated to ideas in this area of the park.
- The ideas that received support in the **Western Edge** area were; *Council to invest in a tree succession plan for the existing figs* (4) and *Discuss with St Andrews Cathedral and Signalman Cottage to open the boundaries between the properties and improve the view lines* (3 ticks and 1 cross)

- The ideas that received support in the **Southern Terraces** area were *Investigate ways to incorporate seating and planting into the terraces to optimise use* (7) and *Widen eastern staircase from Laman Street to Civic Park* (5 ticks and 1 cross)
- For the **Memorial Grove** area, the ideas that received the largest number of dots were *Council to design a memorial wall that will incorporate fallen soldiers plaques* (8) and *Enhance the existing seating with formalised pathway, seating, existing understory* (6)
- Within the **Eastern Zone** the ideas that received the most support were; *Create a flexible space that can cater for a variety of season uses, e.g. Spiegeltent, markets, outdoor cinema, aboriginal ceremonies* (16 ticks 1 cross), *Activate park edges through tree planting* (9) and *Creation of an activation strategy for Civic Park that will curate events, markets etc.* (7)
- There were five **General** ideas that received at least six ticks and zero crosses. These were:
  - *Preserve the green heart function of Civic Park* (13)
  - *Council to complete a tree succession strategy. Trees planted within Civic Park to be appropriate species to maximise presence, shade and enhance the visual appeal of Civic Park* (11)
  - *Council is advancing designs for city centre wayfinding which will be incorporated into all future public domain plans* (11)
  - *Design the park for night e.g. lighting for appropriate activities* (11)
  - *Celebrate the site Aboriginal and European history e.g. smart city app, select location for signage* (10)

### 3.1.2 Civic Park and Wheeler Place (northern area) map work

Participants were asked to draw/write/highlight suggestions for new infrastructure (natural or built) and/or current aspects of the park they appreciate or would like to see more of. While one large map was provided per workshop table, this was not a group activity as such, i.e. each person at each table did not have to agree as to what was drawn on the map. Further, participants were encouraged to move around to different tables to get different perspectives. Each participant was given three green dots that they could place on the maps to indicate what Council should prioritise if there is a very limited budget. Each participant was also given three yellow dots to indicate what Council should prioritise if there is a very big budget.

Table 2 highlights the ideas and suggestions that received green or yellow dots for Civic Park area.

**Table 2: Civic Park ideas/suggestion - Priority dots**

<b>Western Zone</b>	<b>Dots Green</b>	<b>Dots Yellow</b>	<b>Central Spine</b>	<b>Dots Green</b>	<b>Dots Yellow</b>
Improve pathway network to and though this section of park	2	0	Lighting more lighting and security cameras to make the spaces across civic feel more safe	3	1
History -celebrate/information boards /city smart/story telling	2	0	Preserve sight line along Burwood street to St Andrews church	2	0

Close to uni space for students outdoor information	1	0	Central should be changes -border	1	0
Activate western edge of civic park with Auckland and King Street	1	0	Modernise landscaping	1	2
Amazing sculptures musical fantasy	1	0	Enhance the existing north south axis though the park though improving path ways networks and quality of finishes	1	0
Not enough solar access	1	0	Increase seating opportunities though the park	1	0
Feels unsafe (traffic) no barriers - children safe but retain visibility (Darby st / king st - e.g. environmental park	1	0	Open the space up & consider focusing the formal planting	1	0
Need to connect areas so that people feel happy and safe /playground /seating/places for reflection	1	0	Reinforce spine with formal furniture avenue/a tree planting-not necessarily figs maybe other species	1	0
Kids play ground + play space western zone to capitalise on kids @ St Andrews preschool/the con etc.	1	1	Central spine has roof/architecture, structure	0	1
<b>Western Edge</b>	<b>Dots Green</b>	<b>Dots Yellow</b>	Underground tunnel and pedestrian & cycle access on top	0	1
Performance space for conservatorium students	6	5	Active zone /gym equipment/bike racks	0	1
Performance Space linked to con/uni	3	0	<b>Southern Terrace</b>	<b>Dots Green</b>	<b>Dots Yellow</b>
<b>Eastern Zone</b>	<b>Dots Green</b>	<b>Dots Yellow</b>	Make human scale easier to traverse (not just wider)	2	0
Improve toilet facilities (scary)improve lighting facilities	3	1	Open tunnel Burwood rail line +Planting	1	0
Balance hard stand area for passive and event based activities	2	0	Recommission of old Burwood line & appropriate signage	1	1
Spiegel -tent markets, outdoor cinema, Aboriginal ceremonies	2	0	Less paths more plants	1	0
Create flexible space that can cater for a variety of seasons uses-e.g., Spiegel tent, markets, outdoor cinema, Aboriginal ceremonies	2	0	Use existing slope to create amphitheatre	1	9
Rather than a permanent café use pop up / food trucks mobile outlets to diversify food +beverage offerings	2	1	More toilets under terrace like the fountain pump house	0	5
Raised bank	1	1	Structure planting of more trees (hills figs)	0	3
Playground an fitness area for young, old and in between	1	0	Open up southern edge / interface to library	0	2
Creation of a activation strategy for civic Park that will	1	0	<b>Memorial Grove</b>	<b>Dots Green</b>	<b>Dots Yellow</b>

curate events, markets etc.				
	1	0	This is the oldest formally developed area in the park (1960"s) it must be preserved and any work proposed must be approved by war memorial grove preservation group	4 1
Points of interest - public art				
Café/storage and public toilets facilities	1	0	Smart city information giving	3 0
Pedestrian friendly /letter from lord mayor to stoop the park incursion by RMS	1	0	<b>General</b>	<b>Dots Green Dots yellow</b>
Develop a magical sensor based interactive Environment	0	1	Preserve the green heart function of Civic Park	5 0
What does a digital memorial look and hear like	0	1	Exercise equipment/bike parking/hire	2 2
Multi-function pavilion(including toilets	0	2	Design the park for night .e.g. lighting for appropriate activities	2 1
Soften boundary form V to U footpath area road line	0	3	Maintain shade trees	1 1
	0	1	Celebrate the site aboriginal and European history.eg smart city app, select location for signage	1 0
Best toilet block in the world			Space for food truck on edge small café/food cart spaces	1 0
			Carpark underneath park	0 4
			14 Hills figs in Laman St	0 3
			Whole pedestrian zone/wheeler place	0 2
			Create real entrance	0 2
			Put heavy rail back into the city	0 1

The results indicate that:

- For the **Western Zone**, the items that received the most green dots and yellow dots were:
  - *Improve pathway network to and through this section of park* (2 green dots)
  - *History - celebrate/information boards/city smart/story telling* (2 green dots)
  - *Kids playground and play space western zone to capitalise on kids @ St Andrews, con etc.* (1 yellow dot)
- For the **Western Edge**, the items that received the most green dots and yellow dots were:
  - *Performance space for conservatorium student* (6 green dots and 5 yellow dots)
  - *Performance space linked to con/uni* (3 green dots)
- For the **Eastern Zone**, the item that received the most green dots and yellow dots were:
  - *Improve toilet facilities (scary) improve lighting facilities* (3 green dots and 1 yellow dot)
- For the **Central Spine**, the item that received the most green dots and yellow dots were:
  - *Lighting, more lighting and security cameras to make the spaces across Civic feel more safe* (3 green dots and 1 yellow dot)
- For the **Southern Terrace**, the items that received the most green dots and yellow dots were:
  - *Make human scale easier to traverse (not just wider)* (2 green dots)
  - *Use existing slope to create amphitheatre* (9 yellow dots and 1 green dot)

- *More toilets under terrace like the fountain pump house (5 yellow dots)*
- For **Memorial Grove**, the items that received the most green dots and yellow dots were:
  - *This is the oldest formally developed area in the park (1960's) it must be preserved and any work proposed must be approved by war memorial grove preservation group (4 green dots and 1 yellow dot)*
  - *Smart city information giving (3 green dots)*
- For ideas in **General**, the items that received the most green dots and yellow dots were:
  - *Preserve the green heart function of Civic Park (5 green dots)*
  - *Carpark underneath park (4 yellow dots)*

Table 3 highlights ideas suggestions that received green or yellow dots for Wheeler Place (northern) area.

**Table 3: Ideas/suggestions Wheeler Place - priority dots**

<b><i>Wheeler Place plan</i></b>	<b><i>Green Dot</i></b>	<b><i>Yellow Dot</i></b>
Get rid of those cheap pots and plant a nice row of trees along the eastern side of Wheeler - why has Blue Door taken over Wheeler Place- \$\$'s	4	0
Keep and protect Christie Place	4	0
Raised ped crossing /on grade not bitumen paving	4	1
Could wheeler place be a green space	3	0
Christie park- performance place	3	1
Maintain active transport routes	3	3
Pedestrian/cycle area crossing	3	0
Art precinct - public art /small /large	3	2
Need shade structures/trees in wheeler place	3	1
Secure seating with shade(removable furniture)ensure proposed activated spaces are going to be used (ensure business case is solid)	2	0
More events	2	0
Potential mall (pedestrian friendly)	2	0
Please get us atmosphere like civic park /not like wheeler place	1	3
Demolish 3 office buildings to create a park and cultural precinct to museum visually connect	1	7
Free movable seating and furniture	1	0
More lighting in whole area - specific	1	1
Identify character of spaces & create appropriate connections	1	0
Pedals at park benches for excise	1	0
Soften with green	1	0
Make it romantic	1	0
Underutilised- make more accessible esp, to get to Uni- Christie place	1	1
Wheeler Place more green more shady- water feature, music art spaces	1	1
Generally more connection slowing down traffic	1	3
Day time activities small stage for school children to perform in Wheeler Place on week days / lunch time	0	5

We need a civic eye (like in London) in wheeler place	0	3
Christie Place- more seating with shade-Access from Uni	0	1
Allow food trucks during the week	0	2
Does it need to be landscaped	0	3
Green movable sculpture more seating near theatre	0	1
Connection between park and civic space though connection- change orientation to pedestrian from cars	0	2
Demolish CAC	0	4
Demo of building on Hunter St opp Auckland St -	0	5
Demo of building opp Wheeler Place	0	6

The results indicate that:

- The ideas/suggestions the received the most green dots for the **Wheeler Place** area were:
  - *Get rid of those cheap pots and plant a nice row of trees along eastern side of Wheeler - why has Blue Door taken over Wheeler Place - \$\$\$'s* (4 green dots)
  - *Keep and protect Christie Place* (4 green dots)
  - *Raised ped crossing/on grade not bitumen paving* (4 green dots and 1 yellow dot).
- The ideas/suggestions the received the most yellow dots for the **Wheeler Place** area were:
  - *Demolish 3 office buildings to create a park and cultural precinct to museum visually connect* (7 yellow dots and 1 green dot)
  - *Demo of building opp Wheeler Place* (6 yellow dots)
  - *Day time activities small stage for school children to perform in Wheeler Place on week days/lunch time* (5 yellow dots)
  - *Demo of building on Hunter Street opp Auckland Street* (5 yellow dots)

## 3.2 Key questions

Participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement with four statements relevant to Civic precinct.

The statements were written on A3 sheets, which included scaled response options, and posted around the workshop space. The participants were asked to make their way around the workshop space and provide their ratings for each statement. To ensure each participant could only rate each statement once, they were asked to initial or sign each sheet after they rated them.

Not all participants rated every sheet, which is why there is variation in the 'Total N' columns in the tables below.

Figure 3: Key questions



### 3.2.1 Agreement ratings

Table 4 provides the overall agreement ratings for the statements presented to respondents.

Table 4: Agreement ratings - total

Do you agree...	Strong Agree	Agree	Neutral	Dis-agree	Strong Dis-agree	Total N	Total %
There should be more green space within Wheeler Place and the space between City Hall and Council administration building	45%	24%	10%	7%	14%	42	100%
Wheeler Place should be designed to cater for seasonal activities and events	42%	31%	20%	2%	4%	45	100%
Formal flower beds are the best use of Christie Place	23%	23%	8%	15%	33%	40	100%
There is adequate shade in Wheeler Place and Christie Place	0%	5%	10%	29%	56%	41	100%

The results indicate that:

- Approximately seven in ten participants either strongly agreed or agreed that *There should be more green space within Wheeler Place and the space between City Hall and Council administration building* (69%) and *Wheeler Place should be designed to cater for seasonal activities and events* (73%)
- Participants were polarised in their views regarding the formal flower beds in Christie Place. A similar proportion agreed (46%) as disagreed (48%) that these flower beds are the best use of Christie Place
- The majority of participants (85%) disagreed with the statement that *There is adequate shade in Wheeler Place and Christie Place*.