

200820 Meeting 1: Key Findings Summary

Finding 1: Overall, participants support the preliminary vision and future direction of the Masterplan.

A majority of participants gave praise to the vision and future direction of the Harbour Foreshore Masterplan following presentation of ideas from TCL & Bosque Studio Landscape Architects and Variety the Children's Charity. Participants complimented the initial park analysis and agreed it was an excellent starting point to the design process. The group also resonated with the idea of the foreshore becoming a World Class Promenade and a prominent Regional Park for the Hunter.

Finding 2: Participants support the addition of botanical and ecological overlays.

There was much support from the group for the addition of shade trees, climate resilient plantings and additional 'greenery' that serves an ecological as well as an aesthetic purpose. It was also noted that there is an existing community garden on site.

Finding 3: Participants support an inclusive playspace.

Participants supported an all abilities, all ages, inclusive playspace. The idea of water play, creative play and nature play was well supported. There was also support for the Frog Pond being used as a skate/scooter zone if this was to be re-purposed.

Finding 4: Participants support considered connection to the CBD and the beach.

Participants agree that the design should allow for the development of connections into the Newcastle CBD and the beach for pedestrian traffic flowing in and out of these adjoining areas. There was support for making a clear and disability accessible connection from the nearby tram/light rail stop into the foreshore area. Participants also suggested integrating the provision of cycleways on site with the broader strategy for Newcastle's cycleways.

Finding 5: Participants support the addition of Indigenous and colonial history interpretation.

Participants supported Indigenous site interpretation and art installation using local artists and educators. There is also opportunity to integrate colonial history. Participants suggested developing digital technology around interpretation using QR codes, wayfinding for smart phones and interfacing indoor/outdoor signage.

Finding 6: Participants request further attention needs to be given to parking issues and on-site amenities.

Participants agree that parking is an issue and although they agree with the softening of the landscape around smaller blocks of car parks within the site they see that less car parking is not an option. It was suggested that if 82% of visitors arrive by car and the park becomes a World Class Promenade and a Regional Park for the Hunter, this need will grow.

Participants suggested potential support from State government, securing land in the west end (visitors arrive at foreshore by tram/light rail) or parking could go underground to satisfy current and future needs. Participants also identified the need for additional clean, strategically located amenities that are easy to find.