



# Newcastle VOICE

Merewether Baths Precinct Survey Results

February 2014



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## ***What's the need for this survey?***

Merewether Baths are a unique part of Newcastle's coastline. Council is working to protect the long term future of the Baths, to ensure it remains an active public recreational and social place for future generations. In planning for the future it is imperative that Council addresses the community wants and needs for this area.

## ***Aim of survey:***

The survey aimed to provide Council with community opinion surrounding future planning for the baths. Intercept surveys were undertaken in the week prior to the closure of the facility. Intercept surveys commenced 18 February and ended 22 February 2014. Wider community members as well as Newcastle Voice members were also able to take part in this survey. These online surveys commenced 5 March and ended 19 March 2014. Due to short time frames and costs hardcopy members were not invited to take part in this survey.

## ***Survey information:***

- Participation:
  - Wider community- advertised on The City of Newcastle website and Newcastle Voice Facebook Page.
  - Intercept survey: anyone who volunteered to be involved.
  - Newcastle Voice online members

The following information is based on the online survey data; it excludes intercept survey fieldwork results.

- Invited: 2132
- Started: 662 - participation rate: 31%
- Complete: 610 - completion rate: 29%

## ***Overview of Survey results:***

- Demographic details of the participants are as follows:
  - 20% of participants live in Merewether, Merewether Heights, The Junction
  - 52% of participants were female
  - 35% of participants were aged 40-54 years old
- 31% of Baths user visits are dependent on the season. This means that some do not swim during winter/ cooler months. The next most common form of visitation is weekly (23%).
- This survey was open to users and non- users of the Baths in order to determine the reasons why some do not utilise the facilities. Out of the survey respondents 8% had never visited the Baths. The most common reason given for never accessing the Baths were; participants have closer facilities (35%), do not swim (21%) and parking (10%).
- The top three uses of the Baths are swimming (85%), walking (45%) and relaxation (41%).
- Participants were asked about the opportunities for commercial operations, 68% answered café. 34% would prefer to retain the precinct as a community space only. The 'other' ideas option was selected by 9% of participants, they identified the following; nothing/NA (15%), small café/ coffee cart (11%), retain for public use (11%).
- In order to gauge community need and support for a community space to be developed in the Baths Precinct survey participants were asked if they would hire a room if Baths had a community space available for functions/ events etc. The results show that there are mixed feelings surrounding a hireable community space, with 34%

stating they were not sure if they would use the facility, 32% answered no and 30% answered yes.

- Participants were asked to recommend improvements for the Baths Precinct. The most commented on areas for improvements were regarding bathroom facilities. The top three recommended improvements were more shade/ shelter (75%), toilets (70%) and improved parking facilities (63%). For further information see Figure 7. The 'other' option was selected by 10% of participants, they identified the following; storage/ lockers/ hangers for gear (13%), the baths are fine as they are (11%), bike facilities including lock up and paths (9%).
- Participants were asked 'What would you like to see in the community space?' The following themes were identified public space (54%), more facilities (21%), commercial development (13%) and function space (12%).

## ***Recommendations***

### **Public space and facilities**

- Investigate the potential for more family friendly areas by providing plenty of seating areas and some with tables and shade for picnics.
- Consider the establishment of a new clock. Larger with seconds hand for swimmers to time their laps.
- Look at providing marked lanes. For swimmer safety and for inexperienced swimmers.
- Endeavour to maintain the look of the current facilities and control over development of the coast.

### **Commercial development**

- Consider a café serving affordable light meals and coffee. (68% of respondents selected a café as a potential commercial operation for the precinct).

### **General facilities**

- Improve amenities (showers and bathrooms).
- Look at providing more outdoor showers.
- Investigate options to improve parking.
- Review access to the precinct in terms of accessing the baths precinct, disabled access and access to Burwood Beach.
- Consider providing lockers, bike racks and public barbeques for precinct users.

### **Function space**

- Consider providing a function space for events hire including birthdays, weddings and for community groups with self- catering options.
- Develop a design that would take full advantage of the views, breeze and lighting with an outdoor area.

### **Community Engagement**

- Continue to consult and engage with the community as the project progresses.

## Demographics

Table 1: Participants place of residence

Suburb of participants	%
Merewether, Merewether Heights, The Junction	20%
Bar Beach, Cooks Hill, Newcastle, Newcastle East, The Hill	14%
Adamstown, Adamstown Heights	9%
Birmingham Gardens	9%
Kotara East, New Lambton, New Lambton Heights	7%
Hamilton, Hamilton East	7%
Kooragang, Mayfield, Mayfield East, Mayfield North, Mayfield West, Sandgate, Warabrook	6%
Maryville , Wickham	5%
Lake Macquarie	4%
Fern Bay, Stockton	4%
Islington	3%
Carrington	3%
Georgetown, Waratah, Waratah West	3%
Outside Newcastle	2%
Tighes Hill	1%
Beresfield, Black Hill, Hexham, Lenaghan, Stockrington, Tarro, Thornton, Tomago, Woodberry	1%
Hamilton North, Broadmeadow	1%
Newcastle General	1%
Newcastle West	1%
Shortland	1%

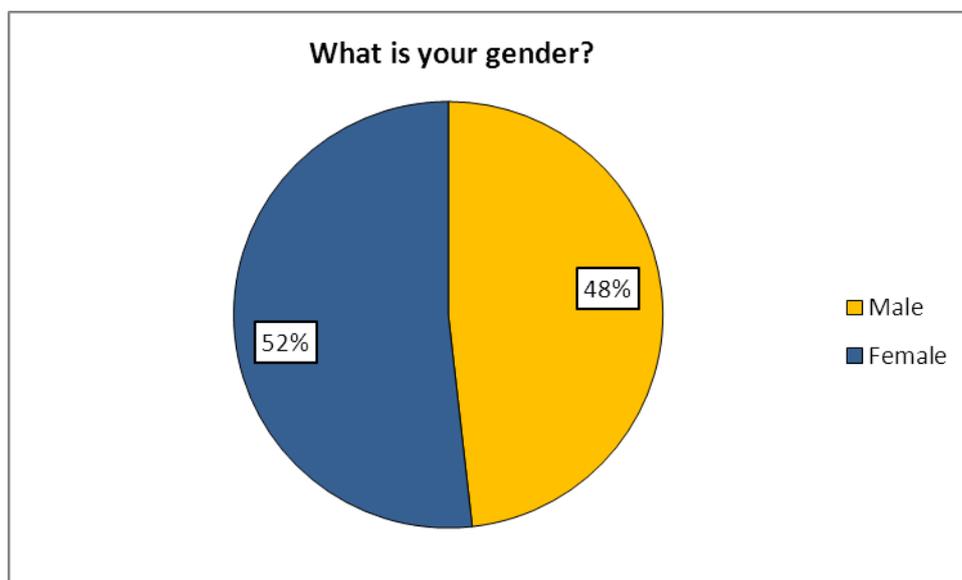


Figure 1: What is your gender?

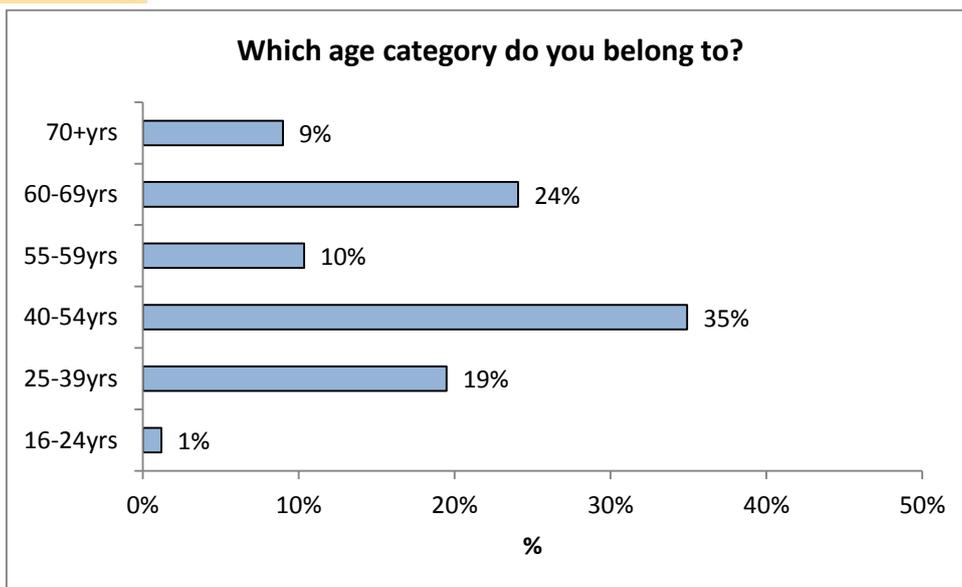


Figure 2: Which age category do you belong to?

## Visitation and Utilisation

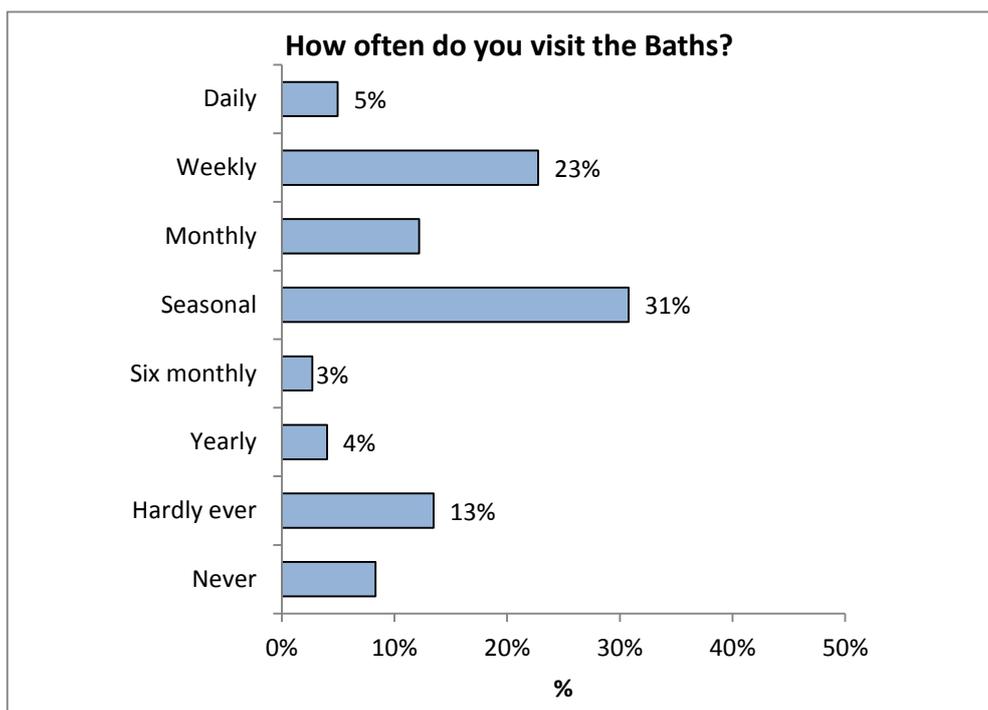
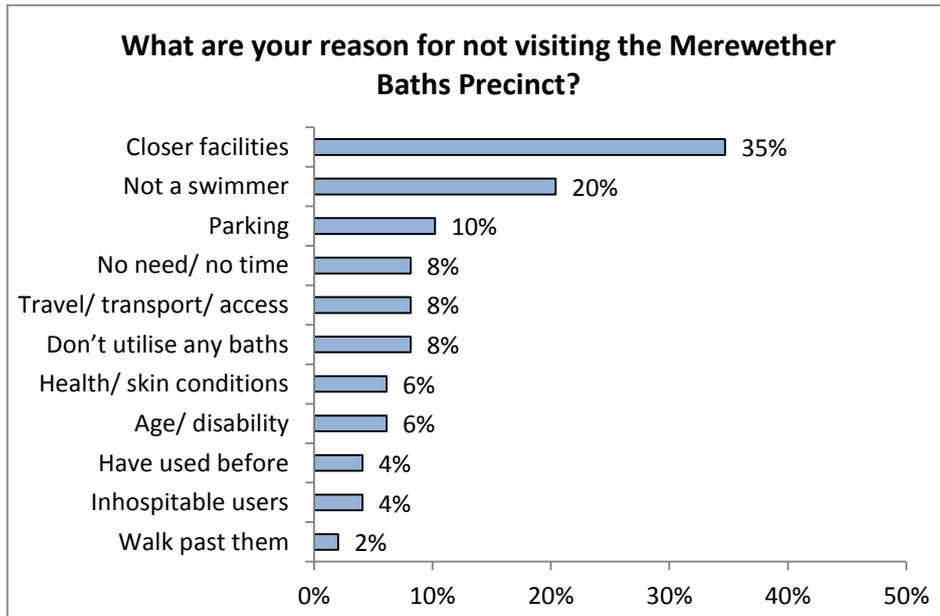


Figure 3: How often do you visit the Baths?



**Figure 4: What are your reasons for not visiting the Baths Precinct?**

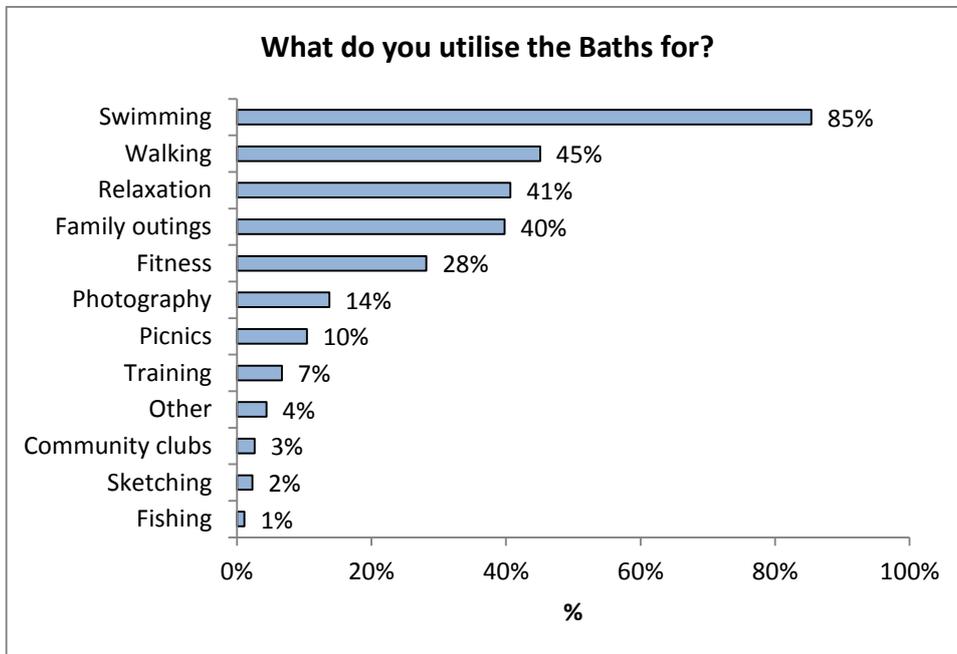
Note: Open ended response. Multiple responses were permitted.

Comments:

*“I live within walking distance of Newcastle Ocean Baths”*

*“Too difficult to get to and park”*

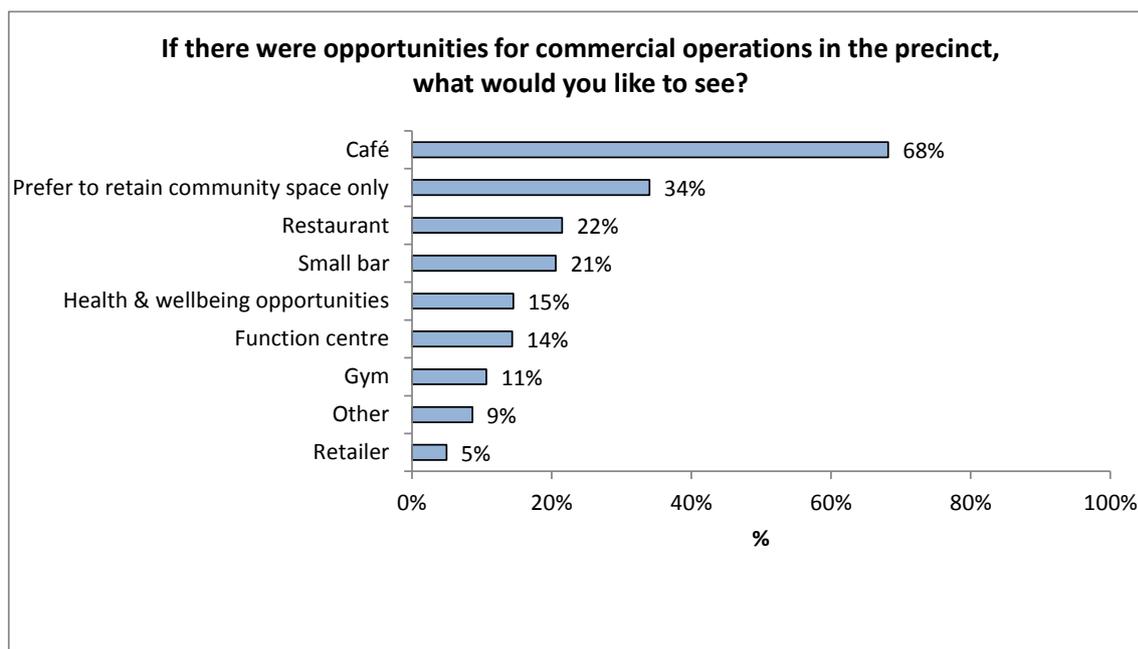
*“I don't like swimming”*



**Figure 5: What do you utilise the Baths facility for?**

Note: Multiple responses were permitted.

## Opportunities



**Figure 6: If there were opportunities for commercial operations in the precinct, what would you like to see?**

*Note: Multiple responses were permitted.*

### Other opportunities recommended

**Table 2: Other: If there were opportunities for commercial operations in the precinct, what would you like to see?**

Other: Recommended opportunities	%
Nothing/ NA	15%
Small café/ coffee cart	11%
Public use	11%
No café	9%
Kiosk- healthy	9%
No overdevelopment	9%
Aboriginal culture centre	2%
Fitness	2%
Must address community need	2%
Art- Gallery	2%
Attractive pavilion for weddings	2%
Family and community functions space free to use	2%
Dog friendly venue	2%
Pushbike library	2%
Heated indoor pool	2%
Hire equipment	2%
Leave as is	2%
Lifeguard facility upgrade	2%
24 hour security	2%
Tourist accommodation	2%
McDonalds	2%
No hotels/ bars	2%
Improve parking	2%

*Note: Open ended response. Multiple responses were permitted.*

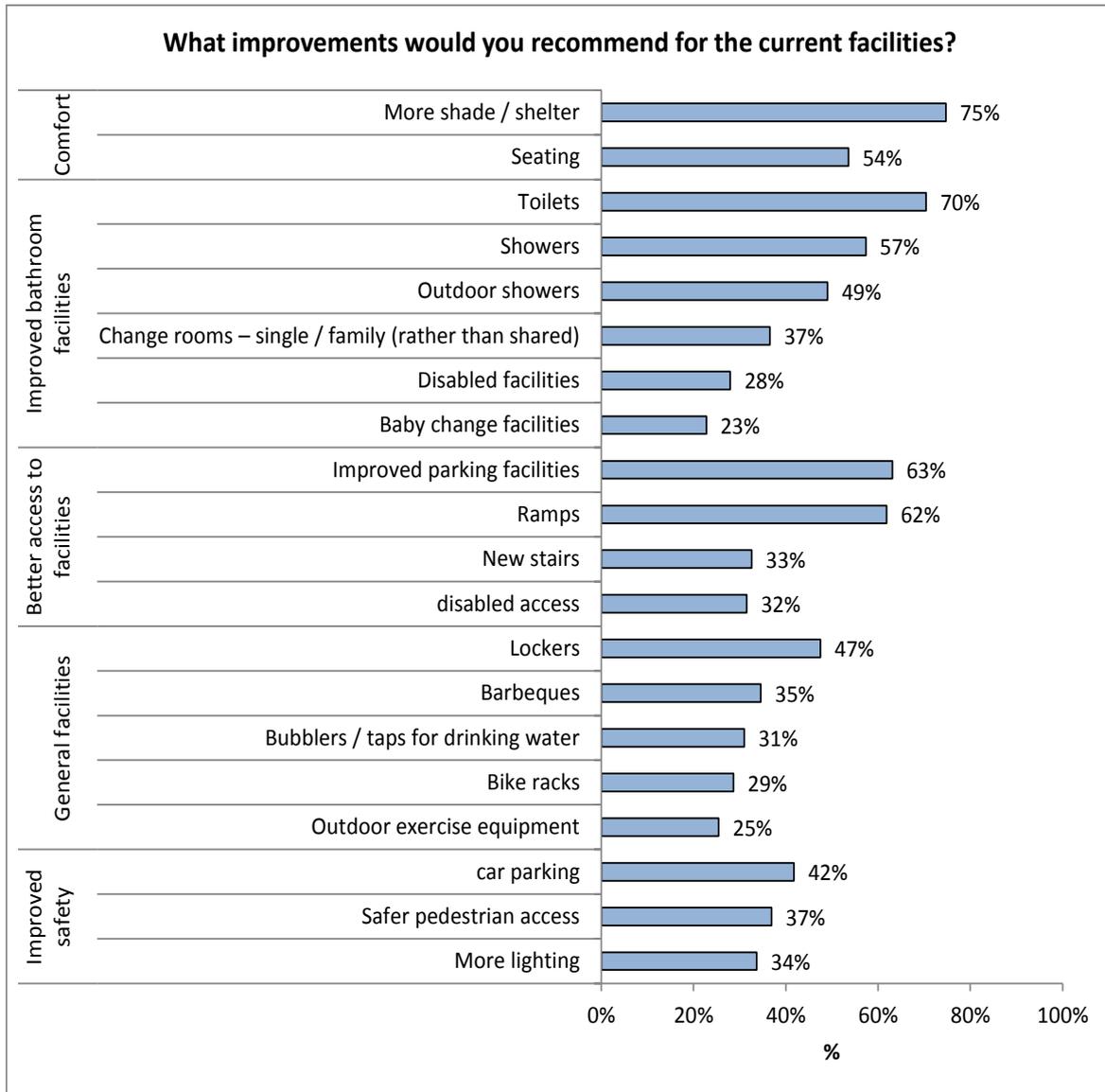
Comments:

*“Nothing....less than 100 metres away, all of these opportunities already exist.”*

*“A small cafe only, community space as is, is best”*

*“NO Commercial opp's! Keep it all public”*

## Improvements



**Figure 7: Recommended improvements**

Note: 558 respondents. Multiple responses were permitted.

## Other: improvements recommended

Table 3: Other: What improvements would you recommend for the current facilities?

Other: recommended improvements	%
Storage/ lockers/ hangers	13%
Don't change	11%
Bike lock up and paths	9%
Kiosk/ café	9%
Parking	7%
More shade	7%
Improve pool (general maintenance, nonslip)	5%
Change rooms (hot showers)	5%
More outdoor showers	4%
Lane markers	4%
Water slide	4%
Renew to look like the original Baths	4%
Revamp	2%
Pump	2%
Improve landscape	2%
Improve clock	2%
Gym	2%
Restaurant	2%
First aid rooms	2%
Kids water playground	2%
Diving board	2%
Night time activities	2%
Pram bays	2%
Beresfield pool	2%
Equipment hire	2%
Solar lighting	2%
Vantage points and telescopes	2%
Voluntary entry payment	2%

Note: Open ended response. Multiple responses were permitted.

Comments:

*“Need lockers as my gear has been stolen twice”*

*“Mostly I like it as it is: simple, unpretentious.”*

*“Connections to bike path.”*

## Community space

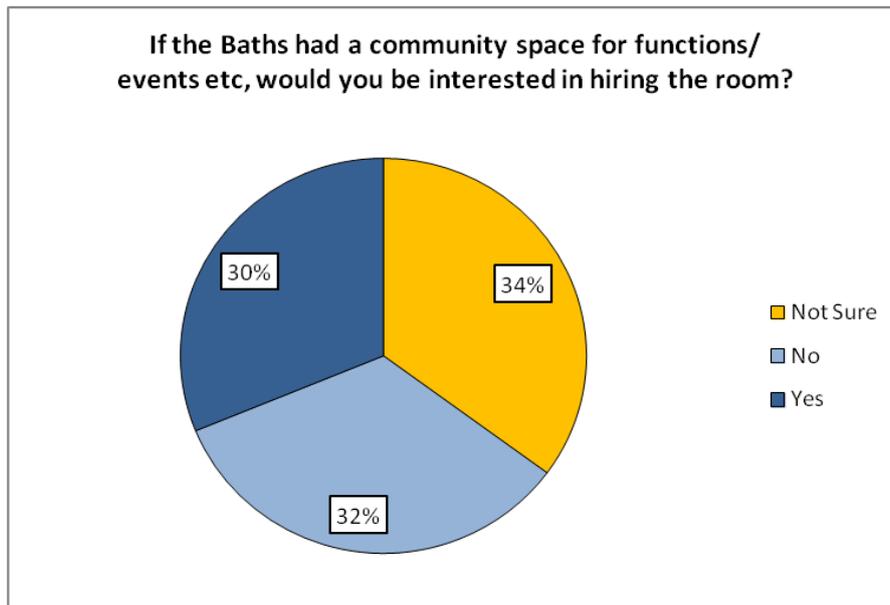


Figure 8: Community space hire

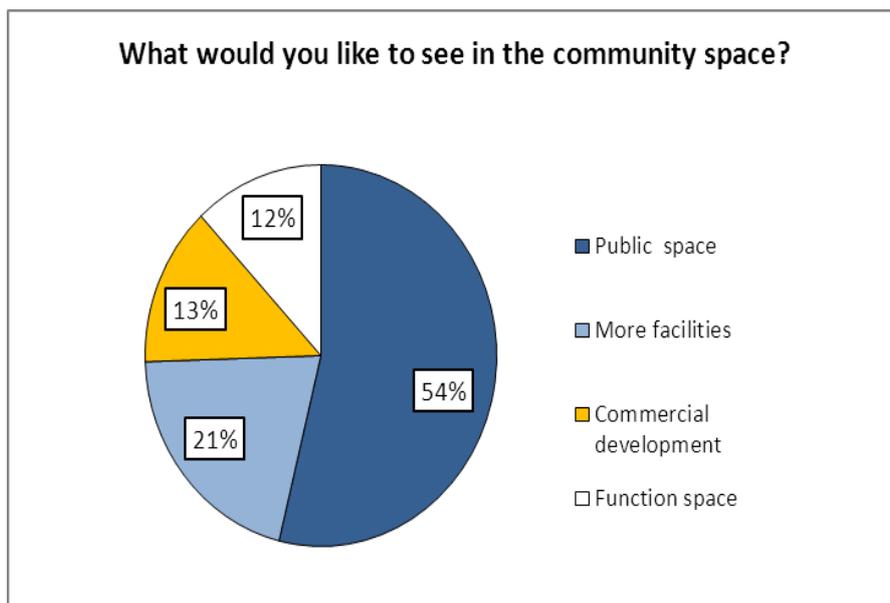


Figure 9: Community space

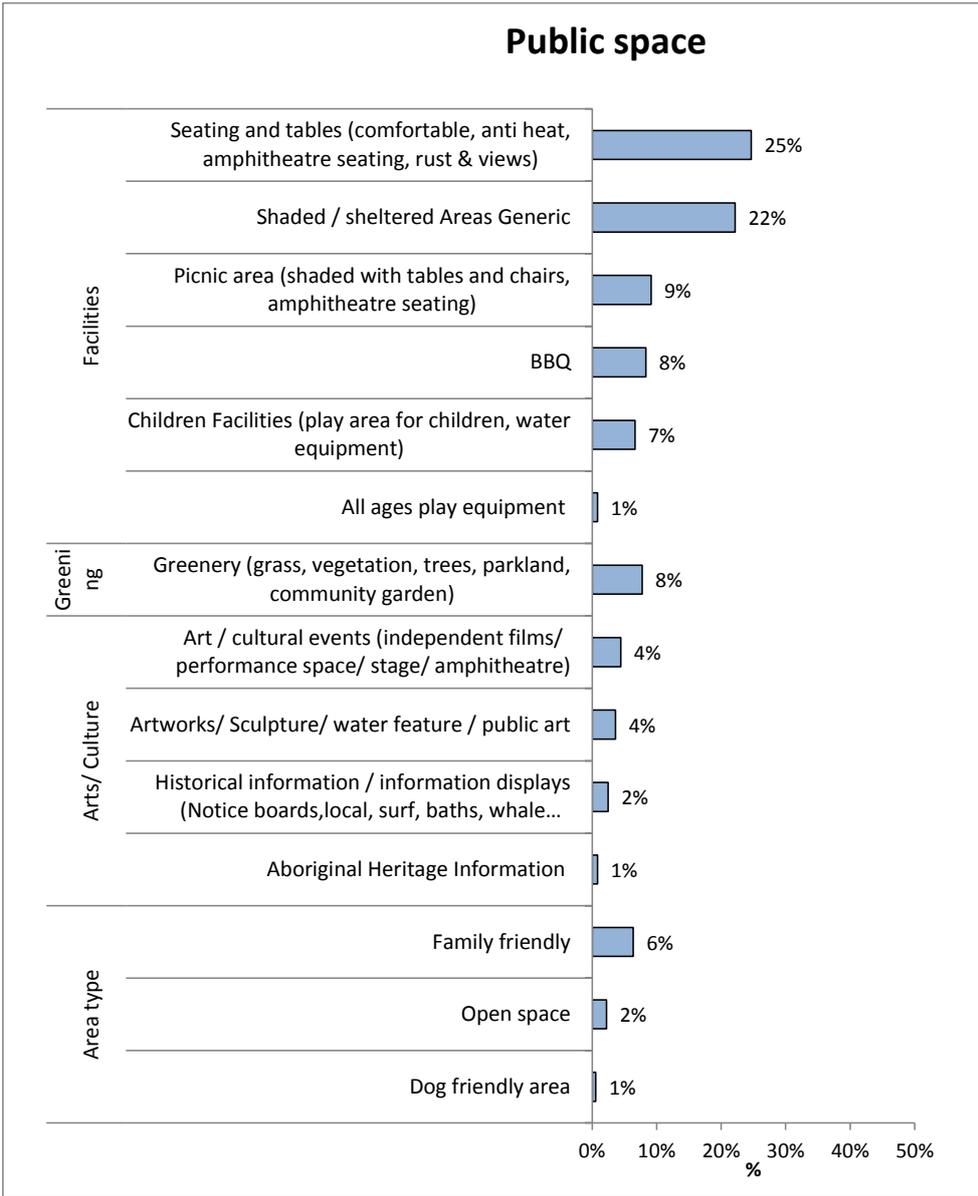
Note: Open ended response. Multiple responses were permitted.

## Community space recommendations

Table 4: What would you like to see in the community space- Top Three

Theme	Subtheme	Rank	Description	%
Public space	Facilities	1	Seating and tables (comfortable, heat resistant, amphitheatre seating, rust free & take advantage of views)	25%
		2	Shaded / sheltered areas generic	22%
		3	Picnic area (shaded with tables and chairs, amphitheatre seating)	9%
More facilities	General Facilities	1	Amenities (bathroom, change rooms, outdoor showers)	23%
	Transport facilities	2	Good parking facilities	15%
	Accessibility	3	Accessibility (to Baths, Burwood Beach access/ transport)	12%
Commercial development		1	Café (light meals & reasonably priced)	30%
		2	No commercial development (don't want a Bondi)	24%
		3	No change/ retained/ maintenance	13%
Function space		1	Venue/ Function space for events e.g. birthday, wedding, community group/ events hire	31%
		2	Catering area/ self-catering	17%
		3	Well-designed space that takes advantage of views, breeze and lighting and outdoor area	14%

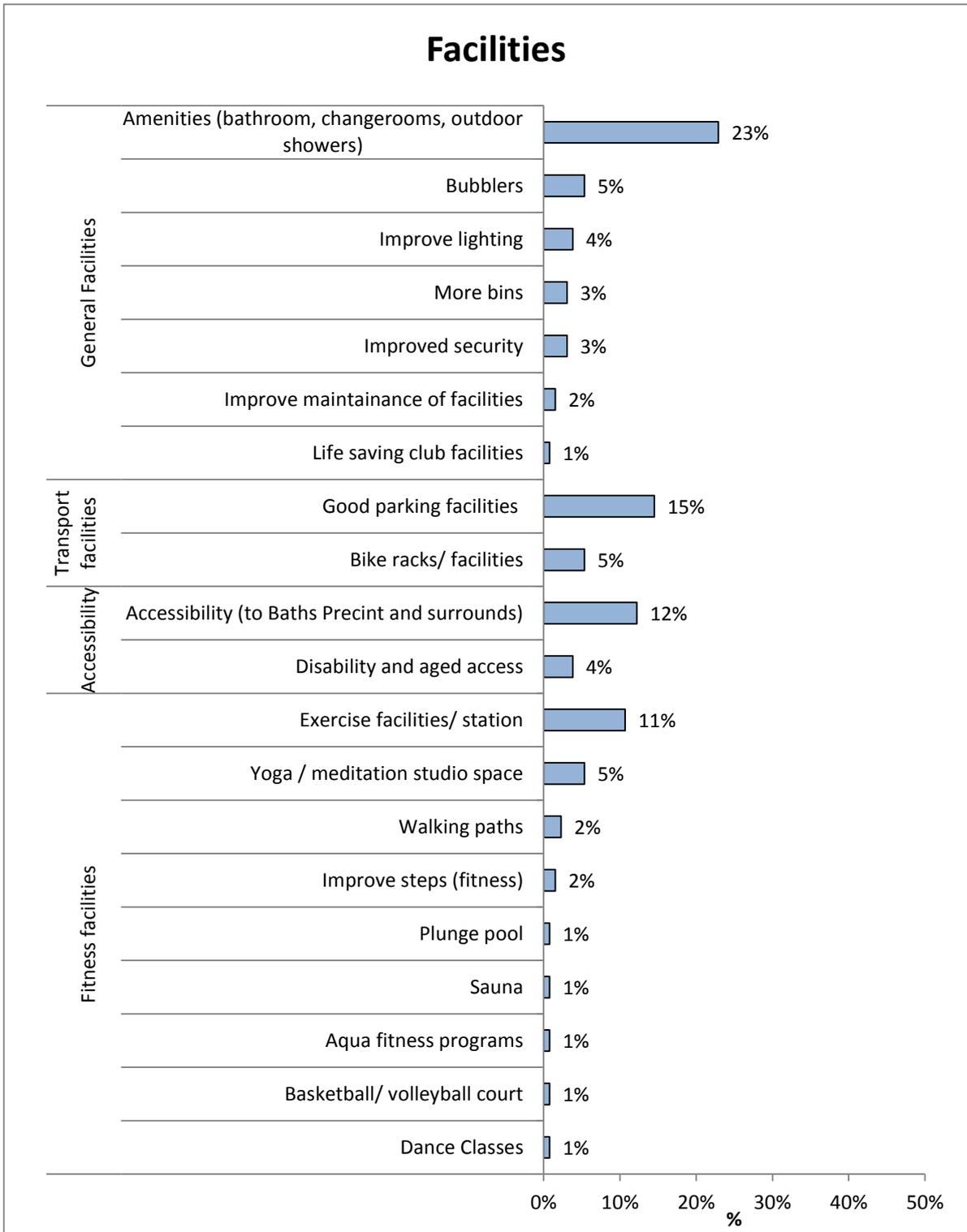
Note: Open ended response. Multiple responses were permitted.



**Figure 10: Community space ideas- community space aspects**  
*Note: Open ended response. Multiple responses were permitted.*

Public space comments:

*“More shaded areas. More public seating with shade.”*  
*“Shaded areas for picnics, low tables/benches for seating.”*  
*“Shaded picnic areas with BBQ’s n bubblers”*



**Figure 11: Community space ideas- facilities**

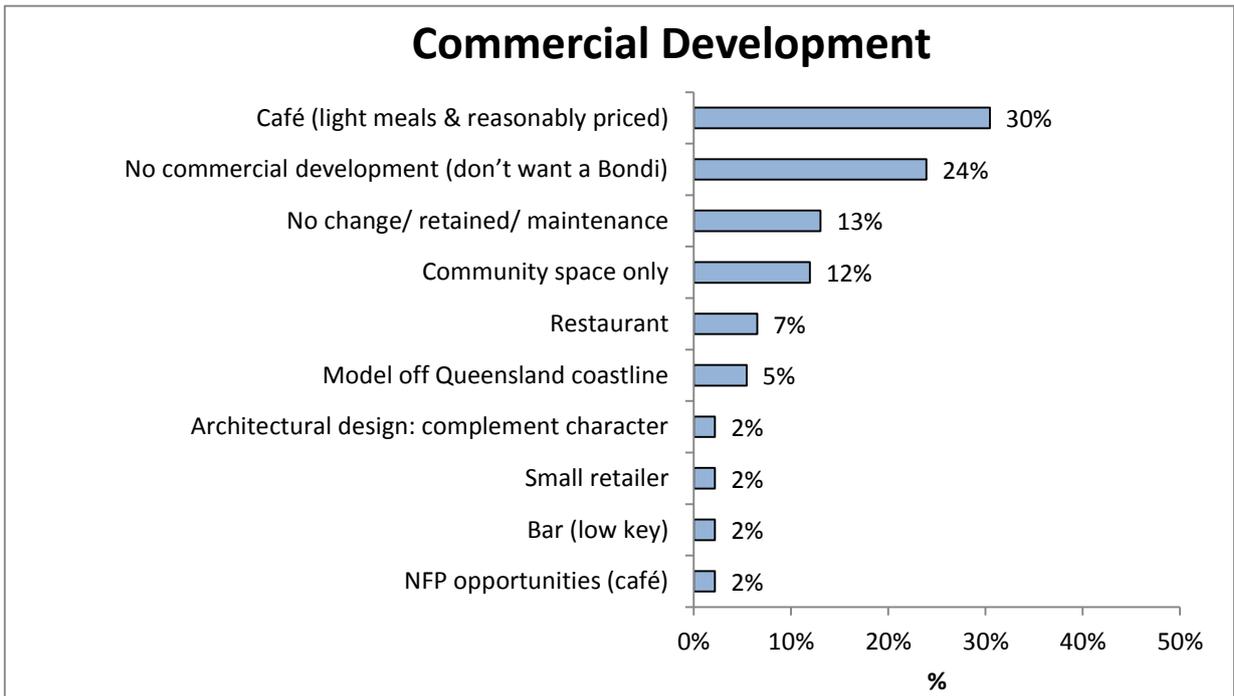
*Note: Open ended response. Multiple responses were permitted.*

Facilities comments:

*“Decent toilets and showers with family change facilities are a must for this location.”*

*“Car parking is the most important issue in this space.”*

*“(Provide) a connection to Burwood Beach.”*



**Figure 12: Community space ideas- commercial development**

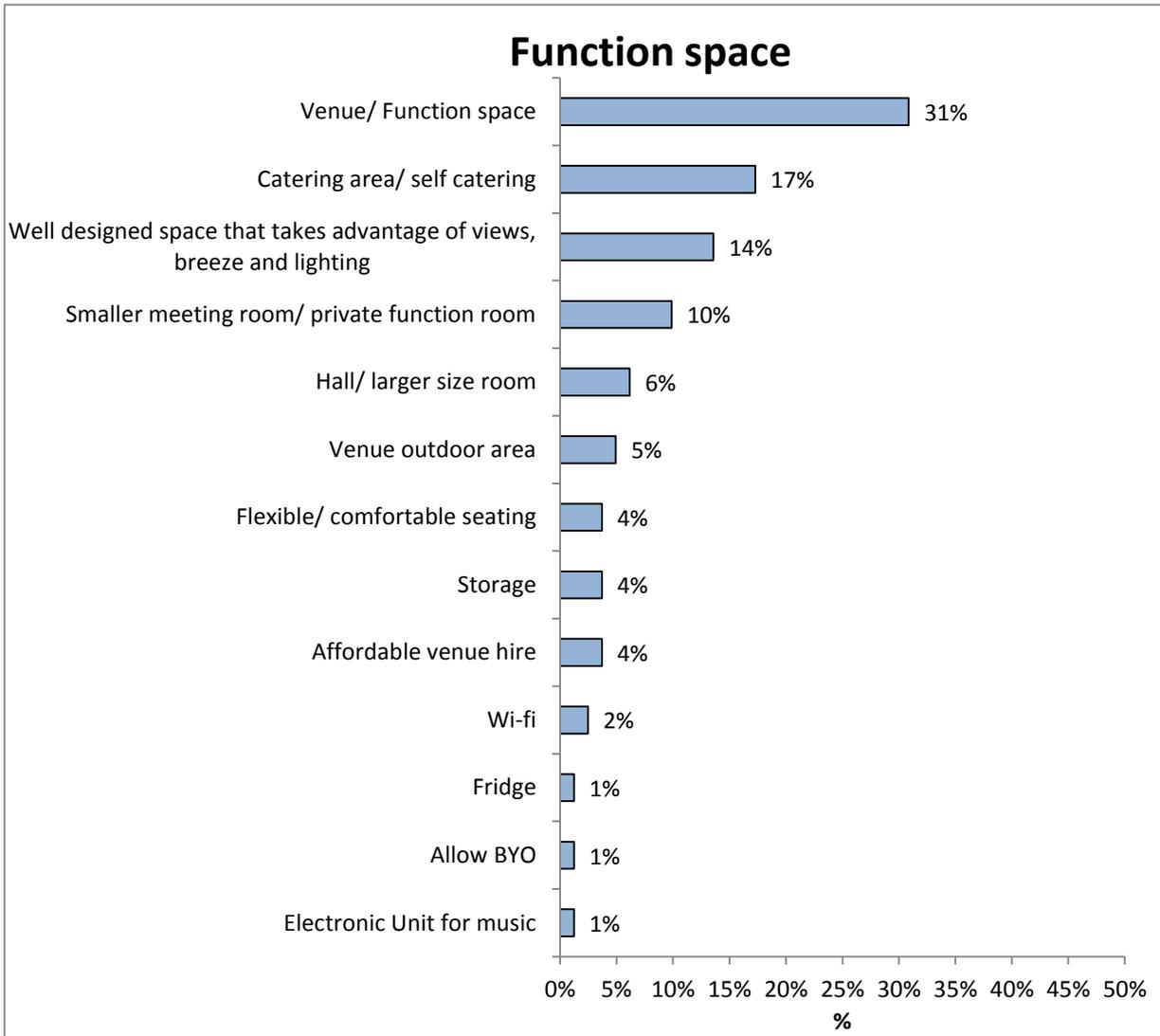
Note: Open ended response. Multiple responses were permitted.

Commercial development comments:

*“A cafe (even if only open seasonally) with ice creams and healthy snacks and drinks will surely be profitable with the number of people using those facilities during the summer months.”*

*“Since so many other beachside venues have commercial enterprises already (restaurants/cafes e.g. the nearby Surf House) I would prefer for the baths to NOT have any businesses on the premises.”*

*“Leave it as an 'open' community space.....that is, come and enjoy what it is in the open. Swim, meet family, play.....this is a valuable space in itself...it doesn't need changing!”*



**Figure 13: Community space ideas- function space**  
 Note: Open ended response. Multiple responses were permitted.

Function space comments:

*“Facilities to have functions (birthdays, weddings, community functions, Surfest promotional events etc.)”*

*“Needs a kitchen area for self-catering.”*

*“A facility that maximises views to the baths and ocean/doors that open up completely to capture breezes”*

**Table 5: Additional comments**

Theme	Subtheme	%
Space utilisation	Community space only (close proximity to other commercial spaces)	14%
	Limited commercial	4%
	Supportive of commercial	3%
	No more coffee shops	1%
	No alcohol venues	1%
Support	Happy to see updates	13%
	Not supportive of update	1%
Access and transport	Parking	10%
	Better access/ transport/ traffic/ cars and bikes facilities	6%
	Improve wheelchair and pram access	4%
	Disabled access/ parking/ footpaths	2%
Originality	Don't change character (relaxed facility, unpretentious)	9%
	Don't want it to change/ keep as original as possible	8%
	Just maintain/ refurbishment/ retain precinct	6%
Improvements	Wash house upgrades (Hot showers, family facility, more female toilets, hairdryers, cleaner, no-touch toilets)	9%
	More Shade (tree and shelters and between pools)	3%
	Safety (general and pedestrian access, crime, vandalism)	3%
	Better filtration (Sea Lice, cleaning)	2%
	Improve bathroom facilities	2%
	Outside shower (detachable hose for easier cleaning)	1%
General	Baths appreciation	7%
	Knock down building and rebuild	1%
Project	Keep to schedule	6%
	keep cost down/ keep on budget (utilise lasting materials)	5%
	Seek further community feedback	1%
Children's facilities	Children's activities/ child friendly	3%
	Implement children's toilets	1%
Council	Other priorities for Council to focus on (swimming pools)	3%
	Less focus on City centre projects	2%
	Upgrade Newcastle Baths	2%

*Note: Open ended response. Multiple responses were permitted.*

# Survey

Preview of: **Merewether Baths Precinct Survey (en-CA)**

Current Date: 04/11/2014 10:34:58

Intro	<p><a href="#">Merewether Baths Precinct Survey</a></p> <p>Merewether Baths are a unique part of Newcastle's coastline. Council is working to protect the long term future of the Baths, to ensure it remains an active public recreational and social place for future generations. Works to Stage 1 commenced in February 2014.</p> <p>Council will upgrade the Ocean Baths area, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving the overall appearance, while maintaining the unique character of the area</li><li>• Improving access to the facilities for all users</li><li>• Addressing safety and maintenance issues</li></ul> <p><u>What is proposed?</u></p> <p><b>Stage one:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rehabilitation of the main pool, children's pool and promenade;</li><li>• Upgrades to storm water and sewer systems;</li><li>• Improvements to water quality.</li></ul> <p><b>Stage two (concept only):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New stairs, ramps, shade, shelter and seating;</li><li>• Connecting the Bathers Way and the Baths</li><li>• Safer pedestrian access and car parking;</li><li>• Removal of existing Baths Pavilion and construction of new Baths Pavilion.</li></ul> <p>Information collected from this survey will be used in the development of the concepts for stage two.</p> <p>Your participation will assist Council in designing a space that addresses community wants and needs. Your answers are strictly confidential. This survey will take you approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.</p>
Postcode	What is your postcode?  [   ]
Gender	What is your gender?  Please select one response only.  ( ) Male

	<input type="checkbox"/> Female				
Age	<p>Which age category do you belong to?</p> <p>Please select one response only.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> 16-24yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 25-39yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 40-54yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 55-59yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 60-69yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 70+yrs <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to disclose				
utilisation	<p>How often do you visit the baths?</p> <p>Please select one response only.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Hardly ever <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input type="checkbox"/> 6 monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Daily				
Never utilise <b>Include: utilisation IS Never</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Never_utilise_why</td> <td> <p>What is your reason for not visiting the Merewether Baths Precinct?</p> <p>Please be as specific as possible. Question completion not required.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never utilised</td> <td> <p><b>TERMINATE:</b> Thank you for your feedback, this will assist with stage two of the Merewether Baths</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Never_utilise_why	<p>What is your reason for not visiting the Merewether Baths Precinct?</p> <p>Please be as specific as possible. Question completion not required.</p>	Never utilised	<p><b>TERMINATE:</b> Thank you for your feedback, this will assist with stage two of the Merewether Baths</p>
Never_utilise_why	<p>What is your reason for not visiting the Merewether Baths Precinct?</p> <p>Please be as specific as possible. Question completion not required.</p>				
Never utilised	<p><b>TERMINATE:</b> Thank you for your feedback, this will assist with stage two of the Merewether Baths</p>				

Precinct project.

You will receive an overview of the results and an update in the My Voice Newsletter, as well as updates on the project as it progresses.

**END INTERVIEW with status : Disqualified**

activities

What do you utilise the baths for?

Please select all that apply.

**Recreation:**

- swimming
- walking
- fitness
- fishing
- training

**Leisure:**

- picnics
- family outings
- community clubs
- relaxation

**Arts:**

- sketching
- photography

**Other:**

- Please specify:

Improvements

What improvements would you recommend for the current facilities?

Please select all that apply.

**Better access to facilities:**

improved parking facilities

new stairs

ramps

disabled access

**Comfort:**

more shade / shelter

seating

**Improved bathroom facilities:**

toilets

showers

outdoor showers

change rooms " single / family (rather than shared)

baby change facilities

disabled facilities

**Improved safety:**

more lighting

safer pedestrian access

car parking

**General Facilities:**

bike racks

outdoor exercise equipment

bubblers / taps for drinking water

barbeques

lockers

	<p><b>Other:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> please specify:</p>
Future_use	<p>If there were opportunities for commercial operations in the precinct, what would you like to see?</p> <p>Please select all that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> restaurant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> small bar</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> cafes☺</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> gym</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> function centre</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> retailer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> health &amp; wellbeing opportunities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> prefer to retain community space only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other:</p>
Function_hire	<p>If the Baths Pavilion had a community space for functions/ events etc, would you be interested in hiring the room?</p> <p>Please select one response only.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p>
OE_Community_space	<p>What would you like to see in the community space?</p> <p>Please be as specific as possible.</p>
Additional_comments	<p>Do you have any additional comments?</p> <p>Please be as specific as possible.</p>
End	<p><b>TERMINATE: Thank you for your feedback, this will assist with stage two of the Merewether Baths Precinct project.</b></p>

**You will receive an overview of the results and an update in the My Voice Newsletter, as well as updates on the project as it progresses.**

**Redirect to :** <http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/>

**END INTERVIEW with status : Completed**

## Verbatims

Response	No.	Response	No.	Response	No.	Response	No.	Response	No.	Response	No.
2291	113	2293	26	2297	8	2307	4	2153	1	2600	1
2300	82	2299	24	2322	8	2280	3	2203	1	4000	1
2289	54	2295	21	2290	7	2320	3	2264	1	4814	1
2287	52	2296	18	2292	7	Newcastle	3	2281	1	Adamstown	1
2305	43	2294	16	Merewether	7	locals	2	2282	1	Blue Mountains	1
2303	38	2298	15	2283	5	0.2303	1	2288	1	Hamilton North	1
2304	33	The Junction	1	Seaham	1	2293	1	2295	1	2302	4
2285	8										

Never\_utilise\_why. What is your reason for not visiting the Merewether Baths Precinct?

Verbatim Responses	Total
do not swim	2
access hard, parking etc, not enclined	1
Age + Travel	1
Because I live on Stockton & therefore have a beach, Swimming pool and Newcastle Ocean Baths if needed.	1
because of my age and my disability	1
Closer amenities to home	1
closer to Newcastle baths	1
Don't have personal transport such as car so easier to catch bus direct from Hamilton to Ocean Baths in Newcastle.	1
Dont need to travel to Merewether to swim	1
i am not a stillwater type person i pferer the surf plus parking is nearly non existent now with surf house up and running.	1
I am on my third Melanoma	1

I can not swim and i hate sand	1
i do not swim	1
I do not swim in public pools - I swim in the ocean only.	1
I do not swim often and when I do I use Newcastle baths, which are close to where I live.	1
I don't like swimming	1
I don't like the water. I have plenty of other activities to keep me fit.	1
I don't swim.	1
I live in Stockton and we have a lovely Swimming Centre here	1
I live within walking distance of Newcastle Ocean Baths and prefer its sandy bottom	1
I live within walking distance to Newcastle Baths	1
I prefer the Newcastle Ocean Baths. The people at NOB are generally friendlier and more courteous. I make this statement after observing the behaviour of the Merewether swimmers who use the Ocean Baths when their pool is being cleaned. Very little respect and a great sense of entitlement. I hope it doesn't lead to blows before the Merewether pool is completed.	1
I prefer to swim at Newcastle Beach. Merewether people are toffs.	1
I prefer to walk. I may not visit the Baths but I walk past them.	1
I used to many years ago, but have other interests now, as well as access to a private pool, if I want to swim.	1
I would rather swim in the beach.	1
I'm not keen on swimming.	1
my health, but I have fond memories of this wonderful asset in newcastle	1
No free parking	1
No Parking - no cafe/restaurant	1
no time	1
not convenient compared to Newcastle baths	1
Not in my locale, Newcastle baths are closer	1
Poor swimmer, distance from home.	1
Prefer Newcastle baths	1
Prefer the surf	1
Swim at Newcastle baths.	1
Swim at Stockton close to home	1
Swimming is not a preferred activity	1
Take care of my husband with cancer	1
The people from Merewether	1
To old	1
Too far away and I have my own pool	1
Too far to drive. I have a pool	1

too far. bad public transport connection	1
Use newcastle baths as they are closer	1
used to every weekend in summer when I was young too difficult to get to and park	1
Why would I?	1

activities_Please specify:. What do you utilise the baths for?	
Verbatim Responses	Total
Nippers	5
Aboriginal Culture	1
appreciation of nature and the architecture	1
Being happy	1
bike ride past	1
Birthday parties	1
bring visitors	1
bush regen in area around baths	1
Critical Mass bike rides	1
DOG WALKING	1
I haven't been there in over 40 years. It was for family outings	1
I haven't used the baths for any reason in the last five years	1
just to have fun	1
looking	1
Meet friends	1
meeting place	1
mum uses it when she is visiting from interstate	1
none it is a long way from Stockton and parking is not that good	1
Relax with a coffee	1
too frail to visit	1
Walking grandchildren- take them swimming	1

Improvements_please specify:. What improvements would you recommend for the current facilities?	
Verbatim Responses	Total
More outdoor shower	2
seats around pool to have storage, bike lock up areas	2
A freshen up	1
a pump that can pump on the low tide	1
an absence of fee parking	1

Better but not reduced parking as due to Surfhouse parking is already ver limited.	1
better soft and hard landscaping	1
bigger clock facing the baths	1
Bike paths	1
Cafe/kiosk	1
Connections to bike path	1
considering the age,these facilities are all OK	1
Don't visit enough to comment on preferred improvements	1
Duress alarm on the central promenade - for water safety purposes	1
fix the bathers pool	1
get financial backers from the public sector to help finance a building lbigger than surf house,cut back into the hill as high as the top of the stairs and incorporate gym,change rooms,swim clubs, restaurants, kiosks,storage, cleaners and first aid rooms, even a 50m indoor heated pool etc.	1
good cafe	1
hot showers	1
I believe shared shower/change rooms are quite acceptable - you only need somewhere to washj the salt off, dry yourself down and put on some dry clothes. After all it is not a motel room you need. your body	1
I quite like it as it is	1
If a redevelopment is proposed, a canteen or cafe would work well	1
keep my local pool open and improve it	1
kids water playground	1
Kiosk	1
Lane markers on the pool floor between the blocks at southern end of main pool	1
lane markings on pool floor; diving board or slide	1
large covered area for group acactivities or gathsrings::	1
LESS car parking	1
less car parks, secure pushbike lockers	1
More places around baths to put bags and towels so that they don't get wet	1
More poles with hooks to hang bags, towels. NO BBQs. New bathing shed with the look of the present one NOT modern facade but with natural light & facilities incl single sex areas as well as above	1
more than one hot shower which are reliable and very hot	1
Mostly I like it as it is: simple, unpretentious.	1
need lockers as my gear has been stolen twice	1
night time activities	1
non slip pool surfaces [under water]	1

none of this. too much clutter	1
None!	1
not sure	1
Poles to hang gear on near main pool	1
pram bays would be great!	1
RENEW EXACTLY HOW IT IS	1
shade	1
shade trees	1
slippery slide for kids	1
smooth pool ped. margins	1
some trees for aesthetic reasons as well as shade	1
Spend the money on Beresfield pool	1
Style of existing facilities is good, needs upgrade with more shade & seating my priority	1
swimming equipment hire	1
they are fine the way they were!	1
use of solar for lighting & any other possibilities	1
vantage points and telescopes	1
voluntary payment facility	1

Future_use_other.: If there were opportunities for commercial operations in the precinct, what would you like to see?	
Verbatim Responses	Total
Kiosk	7
none	2
A small cafe only, community space as is is best	1
Aboriginal Cultural Centre for all Australians	1
Absolutley no commercial operations are necessary or warranted. The commercialisation of our coastal strip must end. Surf House is a stone's throw away from the baths. Merewether Baths must not be turned into another Bondi Icebergs for the 'haves'. Leave the space in peace!	1
Affordable areas for yoga/pilates classes which were lost from surf club when they decided to chase the corporate dollar and want only few day hire of facilities	1
anything that assists Council and the Community maintain the site but taking into consideration the needs of the Community first	1
art space, gallery would be great.	1
attractive pavillion for weddings or family and community functions free to us	1
cafe where people could take their dogs to cafe	1

Coffee cart	1
Comminuty Pushbike library/fix	1
does not need another cafe, maybe food of somekind- cheap, promote tourism	1
Don't care	1
dont really need more cafes	1
healthy kiosk	1
heated 50m indoor pool and swim clubs	1
hiring of basic water sports equipment	1
I want the area to be retained for public use	1
leave it sa it is as theres enough cafe's restaurnts there at the moment	1
lifeguard facility upgrade	1
Maybe some tourist accomodation. It would be unique and provide 24 hr security.	1
mcdonalds	1
no commercial operations is an attration of these baths	1
NO Commercial opp's! keep it all public	1
no more hotels/bars	1
non commercial it needs to stay natural	1
None- cafe exists	1
none of the above	1
nothing	1
nothing of the sort.	1
nothing too overbearing, it would be a shame if it became a retail area.	1
Nothing, it's a swimming baths	1
nothing....less than 100 metres away, all of these opportunities already exist.	1
only if parking is improved/increased	1
share with community space	1
small cafe only..non intrusive	1
Small function area /cafe area No overdevelopment	1
The new Surf house offers those opportunities	1
with perhaps a small kiosk	1

OE_Community_space. What would you like to see in the community space?	
Verbatim Responses	Total
BBQ	5
not sure	3

People	2
space	2
*shaded play area for toddlers & small children *shaded picnic areas with bbq's n bubblers *seating appropriate for disabled & older folk *simple exercise stations with simple, legible instructions on how to use that station (as in Centennial Park, Perth)	1
2 rooms plus a catering area - one room 'hall' size maybe up to 100 people, one room smaller for meetings or private functions maybe up to 20 people. Self-catering facilities (kitchenette/preparation area). Storage for tables and chairs.	1
a balance of funding that allows all inland pools to stay open and have good facilities without overspending on the ocean pools	1
A cafe for drinks and lunch options	1
A community space much like a community hall (like surf clubs use to be) available for small operators to run health and fitness classes and other organisations to meet and hold events - nothing fancy just practical	1
A facility that maximises views to the baths and ocean/doors that open up completely to capture breezes	1
a general outdoor area that focuses on the pools and seating/shade	1
A grassed area with small trees. Shelter. Bubblers. Shower and toilets facilities.	1
A kitchen area for self catering- as well as outdoor viewing area.	1
A maintenance of the atmosphere where people feel welcome and comfortable and relaxed.	1
A meeting space, perhaps large enough to be hired for functions, exercise groups etc. Kitchen facilities for use by users	1
A nice cafe/restuarant so that it is a nice place to meet and hang out. At the moment you just swim and then leave. Or walk through it on a walk.	1
A place where people to hold children's parties or samll community events.	1
A shaded area with seating and no occlusion to the view of the water.	1
A small cafe would be nice, although it really is not that far to walk to the Surfhouse...	1
a space that was well designed to take advantage of views and natal light.	1
A venue available for hire.	1
A very well designed and landscaped area with plenty of seating, tables, soft landscapes, shade and areas to kick back with the family or romantic partner. I good casual bar is would be a great addition to our beach culture similar to the surf club bars that extend up and down the gold coast beaches.	1

Access for free activities such as swimming, exercise equipment, playground facilities and community NFP run cafe. Other commercial activities will undermine the community access in an already over commercialised area. Supporting NFP organisations in training e.g disabled persons would add to the community advantage and well being.	1
Adequate seating, tables under cover, water activity area for children, water slide, BBQ's, Murals, mosaics art installations.	1
Aesthetic landscaping appropriate to the coastal environment.	1
Alcohol-free activities. Family - oriented activities. Play groups. Choir rehearsals. Dance classes.	1
although its unlikely I'd hire it, if there is to be such a facility it would need to have adequate catering and toilet facilities along with access which is suitable for the elderly and the disabled. its clear floor space area/size wouldn't seem to be much use if it was much under 100m2.	1
amenities facilities (showers, toilets, tables and chairs, bbqs, taps bubblers also in a heritage appropriate style a cafe would be nice (not hot chips and coke)	1
Anything that utilize the space to enhance the effect.	1
Appropriate access for all our Community and affordable social venues not run by Surf Clubs	1
Area for bbq's/picnics (for families etc) but also a small cafe that serves delicious coffee and small meals for those of us that want to enjoy the space but not provide our own food. If I had to choose between a café or a bbq/picnic area, then I would have to say bbq/picnic area as the bathes are a beautiful space that should be enjoyed by all that want to, not only those that have the \$\$\$\$. If people want to eat a fancy meal or drink at a bar, then they only have to go up the road to surf house. An affordable function room would also be beneficial ... but again, it needs to be accessible for many & not the few.	1
Area for kids to play in (playground).	1
areas for dogs and their owners. I know that dogs are not allowed in the baths, but lots and lots of people walk their dogs along that area and they need facilities for dogs like drinking bowls, grassed areas they can sit down on, cafes they can sit with their dogs etc. Newcastle council are such dog haters however, they are actually not meeting the needs of their community that want more dog friendly spaces and areas they can be with their companions	1
Areas for family BBQ's and functions. I'd also like to see the pools integrated with outdoor equipment (heave beams, sit up points etc) for use of the pedestrian paths, pools and equipment for general fitness. Please ensure that all BBQ's are isolated from seating areas / shaded areas. This increases the sharing of the BBQ facilities. I have seen the contrast between Sydney where they are often sited together and 'owned' by a group for the day vs Townsville (The Strand) where they are separated and the BBQ's are used and each	1

family / group then moves onto their seating area.	
areas for family picnics and get togethers. A cafe kiosk but no function centre. Life saving club facilities for the life saves.	1
Areas for familys and friends to sit in the shade.	1
Art exhibitions , yoga classes , play groups , live music , independent films	1
Art exhibitions Community displays	1
art, shelter, seating	1
Arts	1
Artwork please, possibly a sculpture	1
As much open space as possible with minimal view disruption.	1
barbecues picnic tables	1
barbeques, shade, seating, sculpture	1
Baths precinct is for families and those wishing to relax or exercise. A function centre would not fit with that, as users of the baths would feel on display to those looking out from the function centre. Repair Merewether SLSC for that purpose instead. Baths precinct really needs more shade and seating. Improve safety for pedestrians amongst the car parking. A small kiosk or cafe could work as nearby surfhouse and juicy beans have ample demand on a weekend. That would be it for commercial enterprise, the space should be kept for community- the number of visitors already, without any businesses, demonstrates this.	1
BBQ and shelters with seating and tables	1
BBQ area for birthday celebrations	1
bbq area formfamilies and small groups	1
BBQS PICNIC TABLES SHADE AREAS CHILDREN PLAY AREAS	1
Bbq's Play equipment Seating Shade	1
better access to burwood beach,	1
Better parking	1
Better parking, better change toilet and shower facilities	1
Bike racks, playground, gym equipment, more bubblers, disabled access to toilets, better parking.	1
Bit of historical displays, stories, etc.	1
Cafe and seating where you can obtain light meals and drinks although i understand that you need something to help with costs.	1
Cafe, Bar, restaurant	1
Cafe, shade areas, seating	1

Cafe/bar/kids play area	1
Can I start with what I don't want to see: another 'function centre' or drinking hole for souped up males and females. The entire area of the baths through to Dixon Park needs some trees. We have the most fabulous beaches and the worst esplanades on the east coast of Australia - unrelieved concrete and bitumen for the plebs, hardly a tree or green space in sight (Xc. Dixon Park - where there are hardly any trees). Community space should contain more grass and trees where families can sit.	1
Car parking is the most important issue in this space	1
Casual facilities to sit around in. Also a café for light refreshments. All kept to a minimum to retain the natural atmosphere	1
Changing art space ,large relief ground map with aborigine history and fossil midden. Keep generic signage down ,to enhance amenity.Please have primary colour avoid the beige or sand washed look..Have as much vegetation as possible and discreet bins. Seats tables and barbeque with a nautical favors .shade please	1
Child safe play area or a water play area in the children's pool same as the one at Lambton baths. Its the best interactive area I have seen an both children and adults make the most of the water fountain and the play area.	1
Children's play area. Wi-Fi.	1
childrens play equipment	1
clean tables and seats for picnics	1
Clean toilets & showers. Well lit & ramps rather than steps. Open facade to the water views, better public picnic tables with shade and plantings, a space for public art and a small performance space for ACOUSTIC performacnes only (i.e., not electric guitars!). Peaceful... yoga & mediation area?	1
Clean, safe, accessible facilities with adequate shade and seating.	1
Comfortable seating and family picnic facilities - tables, benches etc.	1
comfortable seating kiosk or cafe -reasonably priced	1
comfortable seating, some under cover. More parking, outdooe showers.	1
Comfortable, relaxed seating area and bar - a low key comfortable but high quality space for smaller functions that complements rather than duplicates the nearby surf house facilities.	1
Community fruit and vegetable garden	1
Community space should be kept as simple as possible, providing access and shade. We do not need another commercial premise on our waterfront. The natural attributes are enough to be enjoyed. Renovating amenities and improved water quality are necessary. KEEP IT SIMPLE	1
Covered area to eat , tables & chairs , good lighting	1

Covered area with seating and bbqs. Somewhere to have inexpensive family gatherings.	1
Covered Picnic tables	1
Display of local general and bathing/surfing history. Noticeboard or similar for local events and sympathetic business/sporting groups. Covered space for wedding ceremonies and photo shoots.	1
Display of original facilities, their history	1
Dog friendly area south of Merewether baths. Upgrade to existing "ladies pool" facilities.	1
dont know	1
Don't Know as money could be better spent elsewhere What happened to the Place Making	1
durable artwork.eg. stone scuptures.	1
EASY ACCESS SEATING HANDRAILS	1
Easy access to baths Toilets. Kitchenette. Unobstructed views.	1
Exercise / fitness activities	1
exercise equipment	1
Facilities available for Community groups / Business to use and/or hire.	1
Facilities to enable families and the public to use the baths, without having to compete for parking or space with retailers or restaurants. Surf House has ruined the baths for my family. We would go weekly, and now we never go. There is no parking as Surf house patrons take up all the spots at peak times. Any further commercial development will make the entire area unusable.	1
Facilities to have functions ( birthdays, weddings, community functions, surfest promotional events etc) a bar similar to the Iceburgs in Bondi,also a coffee shop, which council could charge a percentage of the takings for maintenance and running costs of the baths. I see the Surfhouse as a missed opportunity, which could have been built in place of the change pavilion with a 3 or 4 storey car park built at the rear of the building across to the cliff utilising the top car park as the entry and exit points for the new facility. Then we wouldn't be experiencing the parking issues we now have. I truly believe my idea is a good solution for this area.	1
Facilities which are WELL MAINTAINED and IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.	1
Facility for functions - kitchen and possibly catering. And a great outdoor verandah.	1
Family friendly - cost free options we already have cafes, surf club and hotel really close leave for families	1
Family friendly and disability accessible seating and picnic areas, good walking paths and a good cafe	1
Family friendly options	1

Family friendly shaded areas, play space for children	1
Flexible comfortable seating arrangements i.e. for groups, couples. Bar facilities.....neat dress code Good amenities, kitchen storage. toilet facilities. Good light through large view friendly windows. Electronic unit for live and recorded music.	1
foldable deck chairs for use by public,	1
for previous question. Seating, shade, outdoor shower etc	1
For this money to be spent at inland swimming venues like Beresfield and Wallsend. Where there are no free swimming facilities or beaches next door.	1
Function room for meetings, recreational groups and social functions of all types.	1
function room	1
General shaded tables & seating. Swimming lanes in the pool.	1
Generally more shade along our coastline	1
good access and good facilities	1
Good access, Seating, shade, bbq facilities and some outdoor exercise equipment	1
Good architectural design	1
Good change facilities. Area to sit out of elements where can eat own food etc. many of buildings on water are occupied commercially or by life saving (both of which are legitimate uses). However would be good to balance out with more community accessible areas that don't necessarily need to be member of club, hire a space or need to buy food/beverage. Community space could might accommodate area for yoga/ massage etc.	1
good lighting of a night	1
Good seating, shade, bubblers, open flat area, maybe a stage.	1
Grass.	1
Green space with shelter	1
greenery	1
I like how it is now.	1
I like the Baths as they are. I like the beach I do not see the need to build more structures at that section of the beach as Surf House is already there and I like the simple beach scape not denigrated by a lot of commercialisation and commerce.	1

<p>I love that the new Surfhouse provides three levels of commercial space - with high end and low end food options. This, combined with the cafe at the surfclub, provide ample retail options at Merewether beach. I do not support additional retail or commercial activity as I think it would start to take away from the relaxed and casual atmosphere. We don't want a Bondi at Merewether.</p> <p>Instead, I would support facilities similar to that at Blackbutt - bbqs, shade structures and picnic tables, with the addition of clean toilets and (hot water) showers.</p>	1
<p>I think a cafe by day and restaurant in the evening that could be hired for events such as weddings, parties, corporate events.</p> <p>If the space was cleverly designed it would make the area more adaptable for different functions and would be appealing due to the opportunity to take in the views of the baths and surrounds.</p>	1
<p>I think the baths should be retained as a family friendly space for swimming picnics and general leisure, not a commercial facility</p>	1
<p>I think the commercial development at surf house is enough for the area, however I understand if the surf club needs a commercial arm, like a function centre or cafe, to be sustainable. The baths should therefore remain community space to the extent possible, with features supporting a healthy outdoor lifestyle</p>	1
<p>I would like a place where I could sit and buy coffee/food mainly around this area.</p>	1
<p>I would like to see more facilities for parents with children, such as hand held showers for washing children, in an area designed for this obviously near the main shower area. I would think the hand held showers could be placed there each morning and taken each afternoon by pool staff, and this should also apply to all the surf club areas along the bathersway,</p>	1
<p>i would prefer 100% of any money be spent on the pool area only to bring it up to standard---the pool is for swimming and relaxation</p>	1
<p>ice cream shop, shops</p>	1
<p>if anything only a cafe</p>	1
<p>If it's internal space then make that available for community groups &amp; occasional hire.</p>	1

<p>Improved and added parking for beach goers. Just fix the Merewether Baths as fast as possible to get it open to those of us who want to go to the beach for the beach.</p> <p>Why that monstrosity called The Surf House was ever build almost on the beach at Merewether amazes me. It is so totally intrusive and in your face.</p> <p>The people who frequent that place take up parking spaces that should ONLY be made available to beach goers.</p> <p>Delivery tucks going there block traffic and hold people up parking in the middle of the road. It should never have been built there.</p> <p>At 66 years of age those steep stairs way up on the streets overlooking the baths terrify me getting up and down them. You are putting the elderly, most of all, at risk by not providing enough beach and "safe" parking for them. Not to mention people with a couple of small children trying to get them up and down the steep flights of stairs. Not everyone over 55 has a disabled parking sticker.</p> <p>NO I do not want more restaurants, cafes, kiosks or Non beach amenities built on our beaches. We don't need or want them. We want community Space. Leave the beaches free for everyone to use as a Beach.</p>	1
improved facilities which are already existing. Nothing extra PLEASE	1
indoor and outdoor, view of the ocean, conference facilities, access to food/alcohol, smaller (breakout) and larger spaces	1
Informal areas where groups & families can enjoy a safe, comfortable, shaded with good lighting for day, or night activities	1
It is a community space already...it doesn't need to be 'used' for anything else. We already have Cafes, bars, surf club facilities with meeting rooms. Leave it as an 'open' community space....that is, come and enjoy what it is in the open. Swim, meet family, play.....this is a valuable space in itself...it doesn't need changing!	1
It would depend on its use and if there was to be a charge...There are currently no free spaces for community groups to hire.	1
Its a baths - keep it simple.	1
It's awesome the way it is, as a space for families to swim, walk, relax and enjoy the amazing beaches and beauty of Merewether.	1
Just the space. No need to duplicate commercial enterprise.	1
A community space might be used for art presentations or acoustic music events.	
Keep as open area with grassed sections	1
keep it as it is. the egalitarian current design works well. I would hate groups to divide it up.	1

keep it simple - seating, bbq's, historical information displayed on boarding	1
Kids and youth outdoor furniture: Climbing apparatus, skate/scooter facilities. Artworks (sculpture / mosaic) anything that stimulates the mind and creates an uplifting environment.	1
Kitchen, bathroom, seating, covered balcony	1
Kitchenette, access to tables and chairs,	1
Large room for hire	1
Large, open covered area. Suitable for 200 patrons, choice of self cater or catered, ability to supply own drinks or purchase from venue.	1
Leisure and exercise facilities (eg, indoor/outdoor training, yoga studio space). Pictorial and text history of baths and local environs. Community exhibition space.	1
Look to the past, see how many refined and well dressed Novocastrians frequented the beaches over 100 year ago, recapture those sociable and glamorous times, make the beaches sophisticated once again. Research the old photographs of this area. Show the history of the area and allow spaces for some new sculptures as well. It's time to put an end to the industrial past of Newcastle, truly we have some much more to offer here. Make our city beautiful once again!	1
Mainly the things listed in the earlier page. Maybe a small amphitheater?	1
maintain and improve steps for people who run the steps current bike racks are unusable	1
Maybe a games room for kids to hang out	1
Maybe a room that can be booked at a reasonable price for children's birthday parties. Maybe the council can look at employing someone to run parties (water activities) during the summer season.	1
Meeting room with kitchenette and lavatories for local groups eg volunteers/community groups NOT commercial activities which are over accommodated for at the nearby new building.	1
Meeting room, comfortable seating, children play area, exhibition space	1
Meeting space Café/restaurant/bar Function area Historical photos	1
Meeting spaces (eg for play groups, disability groups etc as well as for hire for workshops/ sports groups, surf education etc). shade and shelter area that connects to the beautiful landscaping work, perhaps interpretive signage with history info, whale watching info etc....	1

Merewether Baths is a family space. It is lovely to see so many young families enjoying the facility (as well as us oldies). Therefore, I would like to see ease of access for everyone, more shade/seating areas and ideally a user friendly changing place. Most families seem to bring their own food and drink so it can be an inexpensive day out. There are café/eating facilities within easy walk if people are so inclined. If a café was built near the baths then children would put pressure on their family to purchase refreshments. I originally come from Bondi, my father and his brother were original icebergs. I certainly DO NOT want Merewether Baths to turn into another Bondi.	1
Modern useful space for all	1
more accessible car parking spaces. Bbq and picnic tables better change rooms. NO CHARGE	1
More family friendly picnic areas & cafe/eatery facilities similar to bar beach only on a larger more modern scale.	1
More greening of the area. Currently there is a lot of cement. I would like to see more 'green' space for sitting, more trees/shrubs and a lot less cement.	1
More options for school and community groups to enjoy the space free from commercial activities and enterprises. Open space to encourage people to enjoy picnics and time together that does not involve artificially contrived situations that seem to be the hallmark of modern living. Experiences do not need to be contrived and created - simply 'being' somewhere is enough.	1
more parking	1
More parking & more shelter	1
more parking for swimmers as the restaurant customers take up most of the parking at the baths	1
More parking.	1
More parking. Stop gold plating every project. Have a maintenance program with a specialized frequency. Provide regular maintenance from Bar Beach to Mery. A walk through with open eyes would help a lot.	1
More passive recreation & fitness activity space & less car parking. The multi-levelled site is very difficult to provide all of the existing & proposed events facilities without compromising one or all of these facilities. Thus, the focus should be on improving passive & recreation facilities that are safer & attractive to individuals & families. Car access & parking are detrimental to people focused spaces & should be precluded or reduced from the Baths area eg similar to local indoor & outdoor shopping malls where car parking is located close to but on the perimeter of safe & comfortable pedestrian exclusive areas.	1

More picnic tables and bubblers. A small amount of shade. We do fitness training on the stairs, so maybe some consistent sized and safer stairs would be better. Static fitness equipment would be good like along the Burleigh stretch on the Gold Coast, but there are enough things to do without them. BBQ's would be great. Change rooms and showers essential, the current set out I think is fine. More toilets to. Easier access for disabled and elderly would be fantastic. Its hard getting the invalided grandparents down to the area. A venue in the pavillion for hire would be perfect and I think would get good use from community groups.	1
More seating and barbeques would be good.	1
More shade and perhaps a sculpture.	1
More shade provided, more security, especially at night. More frequent emptying of rubbish bins. More bins.	1
More shaded areas. More public seating with shade.	1
More shaded seating/picnic tables. Why must there be a commercial enterprise imposed at EVERY community recreational space. The proximity of the existing café and the Surfhouse are SURELY enough for the vicinity. Commercial enterprises at the baths site could compete with the space used by community members seeking recreation and relaxation only. Currently, it is only a short walk to excellent coffees and food served by the existing proprietors.	1
more shelter and family friendly facilities	1
more tables & benches for family outings. a small cafe or shop with REALISTIC prices perhaps run by a charity with profits going to the needy rather than the council but paying a nominal fee to the council for the rights, would be appropriate.	1
more tables and chairs	1
more trees, shrubs, greenery	1
N/a	1
natural unspoiled undeveloped space for biodiversity.	1
need good general access for people & better parking or public transport	1
Newcastle coast does not have any Aboriginal Cultural awareness centre up and running. I think this would be the perfect spot to bring awareness not only to the local residents but also to the vistors, of the First Australians! I would love to talk more of this if this idea is relevant to you.	1
Non commercial operations but will require significantly more parking as not enough as things currently are.	1
not applicable	1
Not sure at this stage.	1
nothing	1

Nothing - The ratepayers can't afford it at this time, especially when Newcastle baths is so close - and all others baths have entrance fees. It's time the bureaucrats and councillors started to see themselves as true servants of the ratepayers as a whole - rather than as masters.	1
Nothing too high end as the competition in this market is quite tough with surf house etc very close by. Perhaps a modestly fitted out multipurpose room that could accomodate up to 50 people etc for training and conferences...	1
one part with lanes which could be limited to two swimmers each. slow and fast sections.	1
open free space	1
open plan with plenty of glass to allow views.easy access for all community	1
Open space that can be used by all and not let out to private operators, with the exception of a small coffee/food outlet(similar to the ones at Bar Beach and Merewether Beach. This open space could have tables, BBQ's and even some grassed areas.	1
opportunity for space for yoga classes, meditation	1
Outdoor gym and fitness equipment	1
Outdoor gym equipment	1
Outdoor gym, seating areas	1
Outdoor seating. Trees	1
Outdoor shower, bubblers, bike racks, shelters	1
Outdoor theatre, music, perhaps low cost yoga/fitness classes, training in different skills, book clubs, writing bees, and outddor childrens activities.	1
Outdoors: places to lie about, amphitheatre style tiered seating/lying areas. Sauna and plunge pool. Some all-ages play equipment. A connection to burwood beach. Less space dedicated for car parking, more for gathering. Grasses areas.	1
Parking is already a problem so increasing use will increase parking issues. I can't understand why they didn't make the centre of Watkins street parking spaces with trees instead of silly gardens	1
parkland and lots of trees and shade	1
parklands if space is available	1
Parks, outdoor exercise equipment would be great and even aqaufitness classes.	1
pen space catering for the climate	1
People friendly environment: well lit and secure, with seating and perhaps sand puts for xhildren.	1
Performances and art exhibits like sculpture by the sea.	1
Perhaps a function venue or exhibition space. Any additional uses beyond recreational bathing would definitely need more car parking spaces somewhere.	1

<p>Perhaps inlaid chess tables/draughts with fixed seating.</p> <p>Wooden tables and benches. Stainless steel looks nice but rusts and heats up in summer.</p> <p>The steel rails get slippery when suntan oil gets on them and they can burn your hands.</p> <p>The existing sheds are good(not enough though at present) and people picnic at them but when the Southerly blows there is no real shelter. Not sure what can be done about this though? Maybe one corner partially covered to knee height?</p> <p>Older people, eg grandparents with grandchildren should be able to access seating for them and the kids close to the access roads, not miles away.</p> <p>It may be a good idea for people going to the beach to be able to get a locker where they can put the family gear while they walk and the kids play and then they can get their sandwiches/water/togs etc later?</p> <p>Toilets up lots of steps are useless when you have to go urgently.</p>	1
Picnic and shade facilities for families, particularly for little children.	1
<p>Picnic BBQ facilities</p> <p>Seating and shade</p> <p>Wireless</p>	1
picnic benches and shade, bbqs, children's play area, trees	1
Picnic Facilities	1
Picnic facility, seating,	1
Play equipment for children	1
Play equipment for children and adults. Remember the wonderful advert for McDonalds with giant swing slides etc for adults - how popular would that be!!!	1
play equipment for children. Shade covers. A bandstand for performances.	1
Plenty of shade seating tables maybe a childrens play area. Good security.	1
Plenty of shaded seating with tables, amenities and lighting.	1
possibly shaded by some trees	1
pretty much the same as it is now just tidier and newer.....	1
<p>Really keep it pretty well as at present</p> <p>no real need to jazz it up!</p> <p>obviously maintenance is required etc</p> <p>one thing - consider the orientation of picnic tables - make them perpendicular to sea as current - you changed the ones under the merewether beach shelter below the surf house facility to inferior tables that are parallel to the sea - and so half cannot look out to sea!</p> <p>people really just enjoy being there and having a place to sit or relax etc. Cafes etc attract too many people, noise and too many cars. Already parking is now</p>	1

stretched ++ by the new facility	
Retailer of sunscreen, insect repellent, sting alleviates & other beach/swimming requisites. Cafe for light refreshments ( no glass) as well as function/restaurant. Suitable refund charge on containers would be great if State-wide.	1
Rooms for community groups such as mothers groups to come and meet weekly. Room would have basic kitchen facilities.	1
Safe play area for children would be number 1 priority. Area for relaxing out of the sun Suitable seating for people to relax and look out at the water etc	1
Safe space for youth, space for small performances or recreational classes.	1
Seating	1
Seating & shade plants	1
Seating and shade	1
seating and shaded areas	1
Seating and shading, change rooms, toilets	1
Seating cover for rain perions and shade	1
Seating including shaded areas and picnic/ barbecue facilities	1
seating picnic tables	1
Seating, covered picnic facilities - tables and benches. sufficient garbage bins, grassed areas.	1
Seating, picnic tables and shade. Wihs list would include a bit of greening, mosaic tubs with appropriate salt tolerant shrubs or flowers and sculpture.	1
seating, shade, access to cafe. artworks, music	1
seating, shade, public art, information/noticeboard	1
Seating, shading, kids play area, over 60's fitness, men's shed	1
Seating,shade,bubblers,	1
seating. shade. some trees	1
Seats shade umbrellas tables	1
secure Pushbike lockers	1
Seriously why is council asking this question now after the work has started ?	1
Shade and seating	1
Shade areas	1
Shade shelters. More outdoor showers. Beach area for small children	1
Shade structures for family gatherings, kids parties, etc.	1
Shade structures, seating, children's play equipment, bicycle racks	1
Shade, comfortable seating	1

Shade, grass or other softer surfaces. Any opportunities for vegetation to soften the large open expanse of concrete. Heritage interpretation of the coal trains and mine sites that were present on and around the site. 'You are here' signage, with the map showing the extent of the Bathers Way from Merewether to Nobby's	1
shade, outdoor showers, public toilets, one cafe	1
shade, picnic seating, bbq's, play areas, bubblers	1
Shade, seating, BBQ facilities.	1
Shade, seating, somewhere to chain bikes, lockers	1
Shade, seating, volleyball and/or basketball courts, play equipment	1
Shade, tables open space	1
Shaded areas eg trees, picnic tables etc	1
Shaded areas for picnics, low tables/benches for seating. Plenty of bins and recycling systems.  The Cairns Esplanade is a great example of a community space on the water.  <a href="http://media.lonelyplanet.com/lpi/23688/23688-22/681x454.jpg">http://media.lonelyplanet.com/lpi/23688/23688-22/681x454.jpg</a>	1
Shaded picnic tables and seats. Public bar.b.ques	1
Shaded seating / tables & Bar-B-Ques	1
Shaded seating areas. Better toilets, showers and change rooms. More outdoor showers.	1
Shaded seating, coffee cart, no more commercial extravaganza's! Surf house has made parking at the Baths impossible because they didn't have to provide parking! That is enough commercial activity! A small coffee cart would be adequate.	1
Shaded seating, water fountain. The bush areas maintained by Merewether Landcare.	1
shades seating, tables for picnics, children;s apparatus eg slippery dip into the water. etc	1
Shelter, seating, waste bins.	1
Sheltered tables, bbqs and play equipment like a water park	1
Simple but a lot of nature available. Seating for picnics maybe. Not over done.	1
Sink, power, fridge, tables & chairs	1
Small cafe style facility to service seating areas and a mix of sheltered picnic & BBQ areas. NO large Scale Function Centre or Restaurants that increase parking demands, or exclude families from enjoying the facilities.  These High End Commercial activities are already well catered for at Surf House.	1
Some grassy areas and seating.	1

Something similar to Surfhouse but on a smaller scale would be nice or even just a pavilion with opportunity to have caterers provide finger food/drinks etc.	1
Space available at reasonable rate for non profits to hire. indoor play gear for rainy days for use by supervised children	1
Space. Information about community groups. Library.	1
stuff	1
sun shelter, picnic tables, seating, trees, maybe children's playground	1
Sun shelters	1
Table and chairs with shade	1
tables & seating.	1
Tables / chairs / kitchen equipment	1
tables and chairs	1
Tables and chairs with sun shelters	1
Tables and seating under cover	1
Tables and seating with shade BBQ,s	1
Tables and seats Meeting space Barbecues Artworks Changing, toilet and shower facilities	1
tables and shelter of sufficient size so could be used for a b'day party or function. A simple cafe with quality coffee would be great too. I don't want another function centre/restaurant here as there is not enough parking to support it and surf house is such a great location already (and it is often quite on a fri/sat night - so I don't think another venue here is sustainable).	1
tables for picnics	1
Tables/ chairs	1
tables/chairs under shade where parents can comfortably supervise children when swimming	1
The aforeslected improvements.  Since so many other beachside venues have commercial enterprises already (restaurants/cafes e.g. the nearby SurfHouse) I would prefer for the baths to NOT have any businesses on the premises.  In other words, I would like the entire baths area to remain as community space like it is now.  People need a place to bring children without the kids being tempted to ask for sweets, in this age of increasing body mass index, smaller yards etc.	1

<p>The bath are a beautiful setting so I would like to see this utilised with view points and seating arranged to take in natural beauty.</p> <p>I would like to see the communal changing facilities improved. It shocks me that as one of newcastle's primary attractions the toilet doors don't lock, are filthy and run down. What must visitors think when they see the state of these facilities? Decent toilets and showers with family change facilities are a must for this location.</p> <p>Easier pram access, disable access and storage for bikes will allow better access for all.</p> <p>A cafe (even if only open seasonally) with ice creams and healthy snacks and drinks will surely be profitable with the number of people using those facilities during the summer months. It would add to the experience of going to the baths.</p>	1
<p>The Baths area is a community space for public recreation and all facilities should be focused on serving that public recreation community space. Any other use is totally inappropriate and against the public interest.</p> <p>Persons attending the Surf House redevelopment should not be allowed to alienate any existing car parking space in the Public Reserve. These spaces must be reserved for the public using the baths and the Public Reserve for recreation. The heritage of the Dr Mitchell's Burwood Railway, Coke Ovens and Tunnel to Burwood Beach and the Glenrock Conservation Area should be marked in a simple dignified way.</p>	1
<p>The baths is the most beautiful place in Newcastle, it is our place to relax.</p> <p>I don't want to see it full of retailers watching people bathe... a small cafe would be fine.</p> <p>The showers mostly could do with an upgrade, concrete around the baths could be fixed and the bathers pool is falling apart.</p> <p>What we need to do is to make this novocastrians personal relaxing space, build a deck area with deck chairs so people can take in the view.</p> <p>Make it a better area to unwind in..simple.</p>	1
<p>The Baths retained</p> <p>Refreshed Toilets, showers &amp; Change rooms</p> <p>Picnic areas, shade areas, seating</p> <p>motorbike parking</p> <p>bicycle racks</p>	1
<p>The things mentioned above, particularly an outdoor gym.</p>	1
<p>There are a few function spaces and cafes already close by, so keeping the area as a community space is preferable.</p>	1

<p>There is enough cafes at the surf club next door! The area is too crowded with cars due to poor planning when the surf club was put in.</p> <p>If you do the new change rooms dont cheat and put toilets in the change space. Erk!</p>	1
<p>To remain commercial-free. To be developed primarily for the swimmers and people who actually want to use the pool. To improve the lap-swimming area of the baths.</p>	1
<p>Toilets, showers change facilities in built structure only.</p> <p>Picnic, shade structures &amp; seating</p>	1
<p>trees and native plants seating</p>	1
<p>Trees For Shade. Plants Instead Of Concrete. Natives To Attract Native Birds.</p>	1
<p>Unsure</p>	1
<p>Unsure at this point</p>	1
<p>Used by local clubs</p>	1
<p>Walkway around to Burwood Beach</p>	1
<p>Walkways, seats, tables.</p>	1
<p>We have the Surf Clubs who I am sure would love to share their facilities with others. With the information before me I believe all avenues should be investigated to make full use of the Surf Club specs before the cash strapped Council embarks on more community space.</p> <p>I believe there must be space for visitors and caravans to visit, not stay over night. It is almost impossible to park a caravan in the Newcastle or Merewether bathes area.</p>	1
<p>what is there to be restored and maintained</p>	1
<p>Why are you asking this when drawings, documentation have been completed and works have commenced.</p> <p>To be honest it is a waste of public money.</p> <p>Some minor works could have been undertaken. not this over expenditure of so called limited funding that has been trotted out to Newcastle residents.</p> <p>There are certainly other areas in the local government area that should have funding assured.</p> <p>The coast does not need any further development.</p>	1
<p>wi-fi</p>	1
<p>Would just like to see more seating and shelter, with fresh water bubblers and clean, maintained toilets and bathrooms.</p> <p>Toilets and facilities need to be regularly maintained, more so in summer.</p> <p>A bigger range of cafe/kiosk/refreshment facilities would be fantastic!</p>	1
<p>Would like to see the area utilised like in Queensland. They see their beaches as assets and hence invest restaurants/cafés ect. The toilets at the baths are revolting and old. Why would anyone want to use then. The toilets at</p>	1

Merewether surf club are dark and unsafe.	
Yoga classes	1

Additional_comments. Do you have any additional comments?	
Verbatim Responses	Total
no	28
Base on QLD coastline- its impressive were dissappointed when we first found out the pools were closing Less time closed as possible Trees for shading Surface around pools gets slippery	2
kids area is awesome dont use the building	2
wheelchair and pram access is difficult More outdoor showers maintenance and upkeep of building is required No where to leave pram	2
-	1
Actually don't want to expand it all that much. Love it as in on that front. REALLY looking forward to pool upgrade - will be making more use of it for sure.	1
Additional parking areas, such as in the grassed area opposite the new Surf House.	1
After the merewether upgrade, please turn attention to newcastle baths and bring facilities up to par with merewether - the baths themselves feel like a 'country cousin'. current design is poor use of the space available. keep the historic facade but build up and use the space for multiple purposes eg, restaurant/gym, yoga space/community hire space ?/ shower facilities.	1
any improvments at moderate cost, keep the place nice, not run down, so we are not embarrest when we get visitors, from other towns or countries	1
Any chance of improing filtration system to reduce sea lice?	1
Area should b easily accessible and free to use better transport would help	1
As I can walk to Merewether Baths, I would like to use it for swimming but have always been bitten by sea lice. I don't have this problem at Newcastle Baths.	1
At the moment seating along large pool is taken up with swimmers belongings (so items don't get wet) therefore nowhere for people to sit - some type of open storage cubes people could put towels, sunglasses etc while swimming.	1
Bathroom facilities are grotty	1
BBQ area is a good idea, but parking is limited in the area now, so not sure if that will impact of people wanting to swim.	1

BBQ area	1
More room for fitness lines in the pool more shelter lockers Use the pool all through winter have done so for 20 years	
BBQ areas and shade from trees would be ideal. At present there is only the bbqs at Dixon Park to gather at for birthdays etc.	1
Be very careful not to extinguish the unique character of this public facility. There is no need to make upmarket or create retail opportunities here.	1
Better filtration/pumping to keep the water cleaner for longer	1
Car parking and easy public transport from an interchange in the city is critical.	1
Car parking and traffic congestion are the main reason I rarely visit.	1
Commercial developments in the bathes area has made it an unpleasant place to go. We used to go weekly and now go rarely due to difficulties with parking and traffic. We now use LMCC public spaces and beaches due to the congestion in Merewether. The parking is absolutely atrocious.	1
Community space should not promote specific ownership but be a openly inviting space that is free and easy to maintain.	1
Considering the age of the baths,just maintain it - no need for expensive renovations.	1
Contact us again with a list of what can be afforded in phase 2, and let US select what gets done first. The community should be setting the list in order of priority.	1
Continuous-flow refreshment of seawater is essential for community health. A substantial barrier fence to seaward South and East.	1
Council needs to be more aware of discrimination when it comes to footpaths/carparking for the disabled community.	1
Council should also complete the upgrade of newcastle baths as a priority & allocate additional resources to maintenance of suburban local pools & reduce pool entry fees at suburban pools. While the heritage & maintenance of the ocean pools is important to the city as a whole, the majority of the lga population is located west of broad meadow & distribution of ncc resources should be less city centric.	1
Covered picnic areas on the grass areas, not all families can afford cafe's or restaurants.	1
do not charge money for this keep it free	1

<p>Do you have a monitoring system for clarity of water?</p> <p>Could you do a quarter or half clean?</p> <p>I bring grandchildren to rockpools</p> <p>keep it as original as possible</p> <p>lines on bottom of pool</p> <p>landcare is great!</p> <p>Update facilities could be updated slightly - want to keep facade</p> <p>more parking</p> <p>no more coffee shops</p> <p>use for walking- walk for bar beach down</p> <p>grew up here</p> <p>hot showers</p>	1
Don't bring in commercial enterprise	1
Dont change look just refurb and make improvements	1
<p>Dont knock building down</p> <p>keep existing building</p> <p>more maintenance</p> <p>refurbishment</p> <p>not half finsished project</p> <p>improve existing</p>	1
Don't let this project run over time. We want to use the bath again ASAP!	1
don't take too long to upgrade the baths	1
Don't try to be too commercial , leave it in character	1
<p>Don't waste unnecessary money with pointless renovation etc</p> <p>most users are v happy with the status quo</p>	1
<p>Easy access for cyclists. Bicycle air hose for 24 hr use. Covered bicycle locking areas. Lanes to these sites.</p>	1
<p>Everybody loves the Baths because they are simple and unpretentious. Let's preserve that. If you want commercialism, Surf House is 50m away.</p>	1
<p>excavate right back to senic drive and the southern side of the top southern carpark and build a wonderful building with all the amenities including swim clubs, lifeguard room, cleaners room, toilets/showers/change rooms,gym, resturants, kiosk,undercover eating areas, venus to rent out,heated indoor 50m pool, bar,parking, etc then put the carpark,lookout and access road back on top of the the building.</p> <p>it would be 100 times better than the Bondi iceburgs in sydney.</p>	1
Good luck! Making change in Newcastle is always hard...	1
Good luck. Hopefully the budget doesn't blow out like Newcastle baths.	1
<p>good to see council rebuilding the pools. they were a great feature but certainly an old design and run down through erosion over the years.</p>	1
have some children sized toilets	1
<p>Historic original aspects of area need to be retained. To maintain the area as a free community space accessible for all</p>	1

Hopefully the program can be undertaken within the indicated time and NOT exceed the allocated budget.	1
hurry up and finish :)	1
I am an architect (a bloody good one) and would love the opportunity to get involved instead of engaging the same old stale and boring services of the likes of Suters Architects. (Look me up, Rhombus Design)	1
I am deeply concerned about the proposed changes to the pavillion, change sheds and public space. I totally reject the idea of commercial space in the form of yet another cafe and/or function centre and/or restaurant in the precinct. There is simply no need for any further commercial development in the precinct. The area should be left as it is - an example of public works built at the height of the depression. A space built at a time when there was a shared sense of public good and the council actually cared for the citizenry and their lives instead of the crass commercialisation of public assets that is the hallmark of Newcastle council today.	1
I am opposed to commercial activity (cafe gym etc ) on the site	1
I am very happy that this is taking place	1
I appreciate the recent upgrading to the Juicy Beans area - wonderful job. I enjoyed spending several hours watching the surfest this year We badly need more shade trees along Johns Road Keep up the good work	1
I believe shared shower/change rooms would be quite sufficient - particularly for the males and children. Maybe females might need something a little more for there modesty - say some type of shower curtain. You only need somewhere to rinse the salty water from your body, dry down and put on some dry clothing. MOTEL type shower accomodation is over the top and certainly not required for this type activity.	1
I believe that this area should be or remain an alcohol free area. There are enough places to drink on the headland as it is.  I would not like to see this a place for alcohol consumption or licensed area. An area that is free from alcohol gives a safe, enjoyable space to bring children, family and friends.	1
I believe the MICHILIS company are doing an excellent job along the Bathers Way. I would like to see them do more work. I would also think that all companies should meet the MICHILIS standard.	1

<p>I do not drive walks or runs</p> <p>Disabled access</p> <p>changerooms with family facility</p> <p>hot showers</p> <p>kiosk - health food, good coffee, european design</p> <p>Massage</p> <p>outdoor exercise equipment</p> <p>lines on bottom of the pool</p> <p>shelter and facilities for lifeguard</p> <p>no phone reception</p>	1
<p>I do not swim in winter</p> <p>sand is a great idea for the kids pool</p> <p>More womens toilets</p> <p>Bathrooms are not goo for kids</p> <p>Not good for wheel chair access</p> <p>The facilities are no good and very basic</p> <p>use outdoor shower</p> <p>need warm showers</p>	1
<p>I don't believe any area of the Merewether Baths should be utilised for yet another café, kiosk, restaurant or bar as there is already enough choice in the area.</p> <p>It should be developed as a pristine swimming, recreational, exercising, leisure facility with beautiful spaces for functions of varying requirements</p> <p>Thank you</p>	1
<p>I don't want to see restaurants, &amp; shops, surely we have enough of those.</p> <p>There is the facility at the Surfhouse closeby.</p>	1
<p>I have always loved the fact that we can go there without obligation to go to shops/cafes and just enjoy being there without putting an added expense on families for entertainment - if we want other options, they are really close.</p>	1
<p>I just shake my head - unsure as to why there is community consultation when council does what it wants. Staff come Sydney and try to change the unique character of Newcastle. I just pay my rates knowing that council will do whatever they like with the money</p>	1
<p>I know there is so much needing fixing in the Newcastle area but swimming sites are so important. I don't want the budget for this though to be at the expense of other much needed recreational facilities like Mayfield Swimming centre- where people don't have easy access to the beach alongside.</p>	1

<p>I learnt to swim at Merewether baths nearly 40 years ago and still use the facilities. I believe a proper upgrade of the site while maintaining the existing assets is important. Car parking has always been a problem and the geography of the site represents a challenge in this regard, however unless the car parking situation is improved and more spaces somehow made available, I cannot see how any additional commercial or community facilities can be incorporated into the site beyond its current recreational facilities.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I like the baths as they are . A bit daggy and family friendly. Newcastle Baths could have a function Centre attached as it already had the buildings encircling them. Please don't mess with Merewether.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I like the existing pavilion etc but can see the need for disabled access.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I like the idea of the renovations but concerned that it will be taking so long to complete (I understand it will be 12 months ?).</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I look forward to seeing these beautiful baths brought up to date.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I love newcastle</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I love the baths, they are iconic, though the toilets are embarrassing. It could be a wonderful tourist destination as well as a play for locals if the facilities were improved. Keep hot showers!</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I love the Merewether baths! Glad to see Council investing in this great facility. Keep up the good work!</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I realise that things cannot stay the same but I fail to see that more than a general repair and upgrade is necessary. Getting the yuppies in and getting money out of the site is not my idea of improvement ! I have used the baths in past times and have been happy with them.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I think it is great that the baths are being improved. However it seems under the current council that capital expenditure is being focussed on the city/inner suburbs in favour of other suburbs, and on capital works in favour of services such as lifeguards etc. The reduction in the pool operating hours for Stockton pool and the absence of life guards at Stockton beach on the weekends has had a noticeable negative impact on my families ability to safely enjoy recreational activities close to home. Normally council decisions don't make a huge difference to my day to day activities but under the current council I have definitely noticed the reduction of services. Please consider reinstating these services and funding capital projects outside of the city circle.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I think it's great that the baths are getting some attention but it would be a shame if the rustic charm was lost. The beauty of the baths is that they are not perfect and shiny, but a space that blends in with the natural surroundings without intruding. It is truly one of my favourite places in Newcastle.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I think stage 2 should progress as soon as possible to tie into the benefits of stage 1.</p>	<p>1</p>

<p>I think that it is very important to up-grade the baths and changing areas, but to ensure that the baths remain a welcoming family space free from commercialism.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I use the beach more regularly than the baths Outdoor exercise park</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I will be extremely disappointed if Stockton baths are closed and a free facility the other end of the LGA gets all the bells and whistles and free entry to boot. Some expenditure may be justified for tourism reasons but so too is Stockton pool with its role of serving the caravan park.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I would also like to see a large clock at this facilities. displaying cleaning times, water temperature , life guard times.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I would be really upset if I started to see restaurants in this space.</p> <p>This is a bathing place, people are already paranoid about their bodies without having tons of people eating prawns watching them go for a swim.</p> <p>The baths too is where people maybe not so slim go for a bathe..so to put a restaurant there..is a really bad idea.</p> <p>So I would urge Newcastle council to be weary about making this a retail space.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I would like to see a mix of the older architecture of the baths combined with modern facilities to attract locals and tourists.</p> <p>There is too much 1960's architecture in Newcastle East (new unit developments are pretty boring really) - the local architects should look at how things are done in places like Singapore where the architecture is far more interesting.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>I would like to see in the shower areas, particularly outside is detachable hoses for use by people with babies, for washing the child etc, for the elderly and people who only want to wash the sand off their feet,</p> <p>I swim at bar beach, this type of equipment should be availabe their as the number of infants etc who swim in that rock pool area. It would be easy for these people to use, and I an sure cut down the amoutn of water used in these areas.</p> <p>The poor parents have to wrestle with the child to get them clean, it would be easier with a detachable shower hose, with a security device. Fixed and removed by pool personnel on a daily basis.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>If done properly i.e in keeping with Surfhouse it would be a great asset to the city.</p>	<p>1</p>

<p>If the baths and surrounding areas are improved, the capacity will need to be increased because they are already very popular in peak times. Suggest more swimming lanes marked and more places to hang towels while swimming. Much of the stainless steel fittings along bathers way and fencing is starting to corrode so extra care must be taken to select the best quality 316 grade stainless steel for around the baths, otherwise it will rapidly deteriorate.</p>	1
<p>Improve the changing facilities. They need to be updated to include private rooms for changing with areas to lock up personal belongings such as phones, jewellery, wallets....</p>	1
<p>Improved Change rooms should be high priority. More hot showers &amp; regular cleaning!</p>	1
<p>Indigenous representation</p>	1
<p>Invest in your best assets. Merewether Beach looks fantastic with the new surf house and the area around the surf club. Do up the whole area not just the baths.</p>	1
<p>Isn't it a bit late to be surveying us now. It's already started.</p>	1
<p>It is a fabulous asset provided by our forefathers to the city - let's upgrade and improve!</p> <p>The area beyond the baths to the headland - natural roughly formed path would be good.</p>	1
<p>It is a great free community facility the work done so far on surf house and the bather ways is great (as long as a council continues to water the grass next to the surf club before it dies). It really shows what our expertise rates are going towards.</p>	1
<p>It is great that this project is being delivered. Improvements to a fantastic community asset.</p>	1
<p>It is great to see the work being done. This is a practical thing, that will upgrade a fantastic ocean baths. It is about the baths. There is no need for barbecues, function centres, retail outlets.</p>	1

<p>It is not generally known by the Newcastle community that The previous Newcastle Council dishonoured the gift of the Merewether Family gift of the northern section of the the Merewether ocean front land.</p> <p>The old Surf House itself was a public Beach Pavilion and officially recognised Heritage Item located on beachfront land that had been transferred to the former Municipal Council by the Merewether family. This was by Deed of Conveyance dated 28th of November 1930 for the sum of One pound (\$2.00). The Registered Deed No 944 Book 1617 includes the covenant that the Council will be at all times maintain the land as Public Parkland and no other purpose whatsoever.</p> <p>The existing baths change rooms were badly damaged when the whole roof of the building was ripped off during the recent Pasha Bulker storm.</p>	1
<p>It was a shame that Surf House was developed instead of the existing Surf Club and Pavilion - especially acknowledging the fact NO additional car parking was factored into the development. Our coastal baths are such an asset for the Community and Visitors to our region, and please expedite initiatives at Merewether and Newcastle. Also, access should remain free of charge, and instead rate increases to help cover infrastructure maintenance should be implemented - and our Councillors should be better educated as the benefits of community infrastructure.</p>	1
<p>It was pretty good. Don't stuff it up.</p>	1
<p>It would be great if they painted the baths to make it look like a pool - eg Wollongong baths looks much more inviting than Newcastle/Merewether for this reason.</p> <p>The general community facilities should definitely be combined with commercial enterprises that align with the community space - eg cafe/restaurant, functions, and relevant health and well-being facilities such as a gym, yoga/pilates studio, or similar.</p>	1
<p>Just love the baths for swimming</p>	1
<p>Just modernise without a massive production and cost</p>	1
<p>Just upgrade I dont use the facilities</p>	1
<p>Just work smarter by contractors or Council workers. How about a little competition for the work to see who is employed.</p>	1
<p>Keep any new facilities low scale and of a relaxed style to fit nicely with the Pool Activities.</p>	1

<p>keep improving disabled, push bikes and motor bike facilities although they already exist..... Showers in ladies are disgraceful.. need more than one hot shower as the ladies have to queue and wait for the hot shower.... A regular question when we meet if it is cold .... "Does the hot shower work and how hot is it?"</p> <p>But don't make it swish, keep it simple and in character as its history dictates.</p>	1
<p>KEEP IT SIMPLE</p> <p>We do not need an elaborate facility to attract tourist.</p> <p>We are local people who would like to be able to use the facility daily and be able to park.</p> <p>Locals are the frequent uses of this facility, not tourists.</p> <p>Some kind of lane identification for lappers might be helpful</p>	1
<p>Keep it simple, make it safer.</p>	1
<p>Kids beach is great</p> <p>lanes in pool</p> <p>rebuild like newcastle</p> <p>hairdryers in changerooms</p>	1
<p>Lane ropes for 50 metre swims</p>	1
<p>Limit Buildings In Favour Of A More Natural Environment</p>	1
<p>Lines in pool</p>	1
<p>Lines or markers on the bottom of the pool would be a great practical assistance to those wishing to swim across or along the pool without wandering in different directions.</p>	1
<p>Love the bathes and am very happy that my housing rates are going to a worthwhile project! If my money is being spent on these sorts of improvements (ie, Merewether revitalisation project - including the work that has been done recently along the beach), then I am very happy to be paying the \$1800 rates I do each year. Thank you for making the area so much more special than it is already. Well done!</p>	1
<p>Love the improvements to date in the Merewether area. Look forward to the next stage.</p>	1
<p>Merewether baths are wonderful - don't need more infrastructure just good maintenance of the facilities as they are.</p>	1
<p>Money spent on income earning projects should return money to recoup costs. Modern facilities will only encourage usage. Currently the baths whilst having historical value looks old and decrepit. Turn it and Newcastle baths into a modern venue like Bondi Icebergs club and it will return income like Merewether Surf Club is.</p>	1

<p>More parking is required, and should have been created before the new Surf House was developed. The loss of spaces at the renovated Merewether SLSC car park in conjunction with the lack of DA requirement for new spaces with the new Surf House is a wonder. I like the new Merewether SLSC car park (plants, etc), but more spaces are needed overall for this end of Merewether/Dixon/Bar beaches.</p> <p>Safer pedestrian access to the baths from the renovated Bather's Way would be good.</p> <p>As stated previously, I'm opposed to any more commercial development at Merewether beach. There is enough on the whole of Merewether/Dixon/Bar Beaches already.</p>	1
<p>My comment is not pertinent. I tend not to use Merewether as the bottom is concrete. I prefer the feel of the sand bottom at Newcastle Baths but I do realise this is strictly a personal choice. Merewether Baths are recognised far and wide as a great facility and the recent work that has been carried out in the surrounding area is a credit to the council.</p>	1
na	1
<p>ncc should remember that they should not be thinking they need to provide fun &amp; entertainment for the entire community - this pristine position provides this already - people need to just simply enjoy the beach and that ncc does not need to add restaurants, skate parks etc at every corner</p>	1
<p>New clock Keep building just refurbish Interested in contribution committee keep clubroom its an institution</p>	1
nil.	1
<p>No arts etc use of this area. Plenty of other area used around city already. The baths are for swimming. A restaurant/ café will impinge on the parking and use of pool for people like me who are not officially disabled but cannot walk too far. We have enough low standard eateries near the water already charging too much for their non-service and average food.</p>	1
<p>no grand architectural modern monstrosities , just an elegant space for all to use and look at and enjoy.</p>	1
<p>No need to add anything. Upkeep is understandable, and necessary, shade over the kids pool would be ideal, but not necessary if costly.</p> <p>The number of people who use and enjoy the place already is testament to how great it already is.</p> <p>There's already restaurants and bars/ cafés very close. I don't see what could be sold there. It's already an amazing facility to work out in - the pool, stairs, beach are enough. If private enterprise wants to invest to build a gym and that doesn't limit access to the rest of us, no worries. But I wouldn't use it, as unique workout opportunities are already there.</p>	1
No.	1

None	1
Not happy with the squandering of public money on these types of grandiose ideas.	1
Parking for disabled & parents with prams closest to the baths. Additional parking with safe access.	1
parking is the thing that stops me using the baths more often. I love the baths themselves but hate the going round & round trying to find a park & them having to walk a mile back to the car.	1
Please can we have some lines on the bottom of the pool in the lap swimming area and/or lane ropes to make it easier to swim straight. Large clock with sweep second hand to time laps.	1
Please do not change the character of this great facility, it would be nice if exististing toilets/showers would be renovated. I would not like to see a big pavillion replace the existing building.	1
Please don't commercialise one of our last open, community spaces on the water. Let it remain as swimming baths and continue to provide a unique social, community, health, and historic space in Newcastle.	1
Please don't cripple hang gliding in Newcastle by changing Dixon Park and putting a path in front of the memorial park at Strezleki.	1
Please don't drag this out. A good project is a quick project.	1
Please don't duplicate the overdevelopment of the nearby Surfhouse. A try community facility for bathers and associated users of the pool is all that is really required.	1
Please don't put a fee on going to what is a wonderful community facility. our friends the world over are very jealous of such a special and recreational location	1
Please ensure the design is completed quickly to enable the baths to reopen ASAP. Ideally before summer.	1
Please keep it all as simple as possible and in keeping with the character of the existing area. This does not have to be a fancy area. There was a whole extra floor at new "surf house" for fancy "do's".	1
Please make sure we get to use the baths for summer. The work is welcome but a tight rein needs to be kept on the scope of woks and schedule, even if it means doing the work in stages ( and preferably in the winter).	1
Please retain the numbered blocks and the pumphouse	1
Please select good quality architects and interior designers who think not only in the 21 century, but with vision for the future.	1
Please stop trying to put function centres everywhere.	1
please supply more parking	1
please try to renew what is there at the moment. don't invite commercial interests or specific group spaces. it works now. Don't bugger it up.	1

<p>pools are important for people to connect in their communities - invest in local pools and you invest in community and can break down social isolation and limit anti social behaviour</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Post the concept plans and budget here on the Voice for review and comments from the community.</p> <p>Consider retaining the existing pavillion structure and refurbishing in order to reduce overall costs. Add separate toilets for parents with young children. Leave the main stairs from top carpark (Watkins St).</p> <p>Refurbish and re-surface the areas around the baths instead of replacing. Add more covered seating/tables, landscaping, another outdoor shower area and rubbish bins.</p> <p>Create a vehicle turning area at the bottom of Henderson Pde (if possible). All car parking areas are OK and at capacity without major cost to redesign layouts.</p> <p>Consider future maintenance in all aspects of the design in this highly corrosive environment. All elements must be low maintenance. Do not use timber in any elements (eg; seats). Consider recycled plastic and off-form or precast concrete for elements such as seating.</p> <p>Transfer savings from the above to refurbish very poor surfaces around the Bar Beach Surf club. Be mindful of the large amount of money already spent at Merewether Beach and relate that to other suburb funding and swim centres lacking attention.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Refer my last comment - then read it again (to councillors and the bureaucrats)</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Refurb- dont knock down keep clean good showers- hot lines at bottom of pool shade in between pools</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Refurbishment of building access to the site disabled facilities parking pram promenade upgrade paying for entry to baths paying for hire of shade BBQ facilities Bathers way continue it through king edward park How often does the pool need to be cleaned? can it be done quicker</p>	<p>1</p>

<p>Repair the broken walls on the original little baths at 'ladies' beach - just north of Merewether Baths. These baths are family friendly for young toddlers.</p> <p>The ladies baths do not need cleaning maintenance or sand removal due to the fact that it should be labelled as a 'natural tidal' pool. Occasionally beach seaweed may need to be removed when they do the beach/sand clean-ups.</p>	1
See previous	1
Should be on the coastal light rail route.	1
Start the work ASAP and finish as quickly as possible!	1
<p>Stop going with car culture.</p> <p>For too long the approach to Sustainable Lifestyle by gov's has failed. Our community deserves a Healthy Sustainable Lifestyle and we will except nothing less. Healthy sustainable cities by promoting safe active transport culture (combine walk, cycling, bus, train with appropriate higher density infilling of cities to stop urban sprawl and car addiction). Cities focused on people, not on cars spewing out toxic exhaust emissions (asthma and cancer causing), creating danger, obesity (sedentary travel) and climate change. Safe, efficient, equitable, ethical, socially just transport for all (pedestrians, children, disabled, blind, wheelchaired, cyclists, motorists, etc.), not discriminatory. Since the 90's car culture has stopped generations of kids that have lost their mobility of walking/cycling places. Curtin uni has done a study that show the infrastructure costs for a new suburb are \$684,000 per dwelling (Curtin_Sustainability_Paper_0209). Putting this money to infilling the city, will also make Newcastle a safe cycling tourist attraction, which will bring many visitors and to town.</p> <p>The entire approach to road safety must be turned aroud to a strategy of Road Danger Reduction.</p> <p>The current small changes proposed will see our Community get more obese. The Gov's have an obligation to create a safe city for people not cars. We must plan for a "Safe Active Travel 30 for 30" concept. Safe Active Travel 30 for 30 means by 2030 we should have 30km/hr local speed limits and trips : 30% public transport, 30% active transport (walk, cycle) and 40% the rest. We must aim for high targets and for the long term because we have lost so much ground in the last few decades of urban sprawling car culture. So the local speed limit needs to be 40km/hr across the whole NCC area NOW! Then lobby RTA for 30km/hr for world's best safe practice in Europe. At the moment 40 and 50 zones and school zones are quite confusing so to make it simpler and safer, a 40 limit is much better. We must match funding for the targets so 30% public transport, 30% active transport (walk, cycle) and 40% the rest means the money is split this way. Even though NCC has little say in state public transport, they need to fund active transport modes of combining walk/cycle with public transport. Otherwise spending money on the way travel share is, means more roads and more cars. Need heaps more pedestrian crossings</p>	1

<p>across all main roads so even cyclists can walk their bike across a road, also gives peds/cyclists priority. Block off more local roads to make cycling more convenient. Block off Hunter St to cars, let them go down King St. Every bike/pedestrian route must feel safe for 90% of 10 year olds to travel by themselves. Safe routes to schools must be a priority to get kids healthy and stop them costing our country \$billions of health costs later.</p> <p>Need to stop driving most kids to school. Need to stop the car culture of mothers accidentally killing their own toddlers (like on 27th Sept 2011 in Australia) while backing their car out of their driveway. Whilever Governments and authorities continue to bow to the car lobby and let car culture thrive, more road death will occur when they could help Newcastle to be the safest, nicest, friendliest (no road rage, etc) city in Australia.</p> <p>Remove all pictures of bikes causing road rage, crashes confusion on the roads NOW! Stop the wasteful money on narrow bike lanes (These rely on cars being parked touching t</p>	
Stop spending so much money on the rich suburbs.	1
Streetscape and approaches too dominated by cars and car parking. Lessen car spaces and improve pedestrian and cycle movement networks.	1
Surf House offers retail, cafe, function etc. We don't need more. Minimise built structures to toilet/showers & change facilities only.	1
Thank you for fixing up the baths. I can't wait to see the results and go there every day again.	1
<p>The "look" of the Baths needs to be maintained so NO modern buildings and not overdeveloped.</p> <p>Keep BBQs away form the area due to the unavoidable results of such a facility ie overflowing rubbish bins ( as often seen at Dixon Park) also the smell of BBQing will contaminate the sea smells associated with the ocean and rock platforms, also increase in seagull and vermin activity.</p> <p>Improving facilities and modernising without losing the " flavour" of the Merewether Baths is crucial and will require a delicate and inspired plan.</p>	1
The baths are a great asset to Newcastle. I use them at least once a week during summer.	1

<p>The baths are an excellent part of the oceanfront. The use of the paths from the CBD / Newcastle beach across to Bar and then Merewether Beaches make excellent fitness spaces. With pools and fitness equipment integrated it is a reason I have invested in and annually visit Newcastle. Improvement in FREE family BBQ / recreation spaces with parking will be another excellent improvement. Crime / vandalism is an issue. I wouldn't want to see major commercialisation of the areas but some commercial space open extended hours will help reduce crime. The areas also need routine cleaning i.e. every morning on weekends and school holidays and weekends and mid week perhaps outside of school holidays.</p>	1
<p>The council works in John St and Merewether beach area are fantastic and encourage more active use of the area. Money spent on the baths and pavilion area would be a continuation of this great work and represent great value to the Newcastle community</p>	1
<p>The lighting chosen for the baths will be important, not only for safety and functionality but also for making the area a desirable destination outsider of summer time.</p>	1
<p>The maintenance schedule on the showers/loos/change rooms, paving around the picnic shelters has been woeful: do you have to let things deteriorate so far and then knock them down and rebuild, as it appears is the plan for the change rooms building?</p>	1
<p>The Merewether baths precinct is a loved institution, and at its essence is one of the largest ocean baths available to the public. It is important to retain this as the core of the precinct.</p>	1
<p>The more parking, the better. There isn't enough parking already, so it wouldn't be practical to add anymore commercial activities.</p>	1
<p>The pavilion needs to be demolished and rebuilt</p>	1
<p>the pool should be open to the public on a no fee basis in perpetuity</p>	1
<p>There are other area that need attention before work on the baths obviously done for those affluent people in Mereweather Area just forget the other ratepayers</p>	1
<p>There are plenty of places in Newcastle already for people to relax/have coffee etc. The Baths are a unique place where people of all demographics can use a well maintained pool at no cost. I think it is really important to keep this in mind during the renovations, and to ensure the space and parking remains free for the community.</p>	1
<p>There is a great opportunity for a cafe or restaurant in the pavilion similar to many in Sydney. It is a world class spot and this would not only generate income for the council but also make the pool area much nicer to visit.</p>	1

There is not much point in adding too much in the way of commercial facilities as the landscape does not allow for enough parking space to cater for the increased number of patrons. The vacant parkland (Robinson Reserve) should be partially transformed into parking space as this park is under utilised. The park could still have plenty of green open space suitable for the amount of use it receives.	1
there is nothing wrong with the baths as they are....apart from some updating and renewal work.....i would not be changing too much something that is not broken.....no way would i be happy if merewether baths was renovated to include shops and some of the other things mentioned here.....just keep it as it is and make the necessary repairs and maintenance improvements and dont do any other changes.....spend the money elsewhere on things that are broken and need fixing... also not happy with how long the baths are being closed for.... also no need to put extra parking in....people should walk or ride their bike or park in the parking off merewether beach.	1
There needs to be a better turnaround bay at the bottom of the car park. This point is dangerous and is a point where cars and pedestrians all use. There appears to be room for a multi-level car park built into the embankment. Paint lines on the bottom of the pool.	1
There needs to be a point of difference to offering at mere wether surf club/ juicy beans. It is the end destination for many walking/ cycling bathers way so maybe bike racks and lockers so people can finish with a swim.	1
There should be an entry charge in line with other council pools. People are paying for reduced access to some council pools while significant funds are committed to Merewether	1
There's already cafe, bar rooms, and restaurant 100m away in Surfhouse.	1
Think Culturally!!! for everyone!!!	1
This constricted area and approaches should be "pedestrianised" with facility for unloading kids, prams, old people etc.But not long term -even half an hour- for cars. The road all the way should have no parking, just short term drop off and disabled.	1
Toilets should be the no touch technique for entry & exit same with taps etc	1
Too much is being spent on the pool to the detriment of the rest of the city - particularly if, as the Lord Mayor claims, the Council has financial problems.	1
Try and get baths open by Dec 2014!	1
Try and keep it as natural as possible. Definitely need to improve the change facilities	1
Upgrade the existing buildings ie the pavilion as money comes available and then start on Newcastle baths.	1
usually swim at newcastle baths	1
Was wondering why Newcastle Baths is not getting this money spent on it as	1

well....	
We could make a voluntary payment (coin in a box) for the use. Same could apply at Newcastle Ocean baths	1
<p>We have something in our Ocean Baths that is truly unique in Australia and therefore a real asset which we should not scrimp or be tightfisted with funds when we are deciding its future.</p> <p>I have many overseas visitors that come to Newcastle and are blown away by the beauty of our coastline and our wonderful ocean baths,let's give them the upgrade they deserve, and with my suggestions will generate enough income to maintain them for future generations to enjoy.</p>	1
<p>We love the baths area as it is, so any improvement is a bonus. Our family really enjoys the freedom of the area, we have small children who love the space to run around and explore everything.</p> <p>I think there are enough cafe's and restaurants along the bathers way now that it would be nice to leave some open space for pure leisure.</p> <p>Parking is always an issue and another reason in my opinion there shouldn't be any more cafe's. Its hard to park, carry all the beach gear, and enjoy the surf and baths when all the parking is taken up by cafe/restaurant/venue patrons.</p> <p>We would potentially hire a venue in the pavillion if it was affordable for mothers groups, parties and fitness in the winter. We already use and meet in the area all year round, so having that additional aspect to enjoy the winter months would be fantastic. Looking forward to the upgraded baths!! Very exciting time for our beach community.</p>	1
<p>We swim every day all year round at the Baths. I do so because my activities are limited by a bad back, and swimming is the best activity for me. There are many elderly people who go every day for similar reasons. Upgraded change rooms would be marvellous, but no more commercial activity could be tolerated in that area, since Surf House. As it is parking is very difficult now. And encouraging "boot camps" and sports teams makes it quite tricky at times, as they jump in after running around and are all very sweaty and are unaware of where they are and the people swimming and mill around making it very hard to keep swimming!</p> <p>Maybe Lambton could be kept open all year while the baths are closed and maybe sports teams and such activities could be encouraged to use these pools as they are under-utilised .</p>	1
Whatever the final proposal is it is imperative that the baths remain free and parking in the area remains free. Council shouldn't use this as another opportunity to prop up their finances.	1
when money is short spend every cent on the pool upgrade so it will last another 50 years in service	1

<p>When swimming in the baths, looking back up to the existing pavillion with its large "merewether baths" lettering is part of the historic feel and aesthetic of the baths. It is a nice part of the experience in the water. But I understand the pavillion itself is not functional at all, as no one uses the shelter as it is dingy and has stairs so you cant get a pram or bike in there easily, and the toilets/changerooms are revolting. But is there a way to keep the aesthetic of the lettering and baths era when replacing the structure?</p>	1
<p>While we all understand that the Council has finite funds, the increasing focus by council on commercial activities at council owned/community owned areas, is of concern. In the Australian context,the beaches/foreshores, above any area other areas, are for the use and access of all. While kiosks have had a significant historic presence in these areas, the growing focus on restaurants/entertainment pavilions etc take precious land/parking spaces away from the community for private commercial gain. finally, I would think that we have enough commercial activity along Honeysuckle and other entertainment precincts in Newcastle (Darby St, Beaumont St, etc) as well as near Newcastle Beach, and the new Surf House at Merewether Beach, without further development especially on/adjacent to the beaches.</p>	1
<p>Whilst I have been modest about expanding commercial facilities, the opportunity to have the private sector participate and pay for improvements and facilities, similar to Surf House, should not be ignored.</p> <p>Also, if Council take on the responsibility and expand uses and facilities, they should consider how non rate paying communities contribute particularly given the prospect of improvements broadening the appeal and the areas from where people will travel to use the facilities. this is being demonstrated in the improvements to the promenade where once car parks sat empty are now full at 6 am as people travel to the coast to take advantage of the facilities.</p>	1
<p>Why not have a charge to go towards costs of maintenance as for no ocean pools to make if fair for all in the community</p>	1
<p>Would not like to see too much commercial development near the baths area. The nearby surf house centre is enough.</p>	1
<p>Would prefer facilities like cafe/Take away/ restaurants rather than bars near the water - as alcohol and water not a good safety combination.</p> <p>Encouragement for family visits and activities is why seating, shade and easy access to pool and facilities useful for families with aged and young children.</p> <p>Community consultation should have occurred prior to planning and the shutdown!!</p>	1
<p>Yes. How about spending money at other beaches for a change!</p>	1