

Newcastle Cycling Strategy & Action Plan 2020

Engagement snapshot



City of Newcastle (CN) carried out an online survey to better understand current perceptions of cycling in Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) and to uncover priorities for safety and maintenance improvements.

A total of 2,383 online surveys were completed between 16 April and 14 May 2020. The engagement used online consultation methods to align with COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

For more information, read the full [Newcastle Cycling Strategy and Action Plan Consultation Report](#).



Community feedback

Cycling habits

- Of the frequent cyclists who completed the online survey (those who ride monthly or more often, n= 1,567), 45% indicated they were riding more frequently during COVID-19 restrictions
- More off-road paths and more physically separated on-road lanes were viewed as the most important elements to encourage more cycling.

Perceptions of cycling in Newcastle LGA

Respondents were asked about their perceptions of Newcastle LGA as a cycling city.



% of frequent cyclists who agree/strongly agree that:

47 Cyclists and pedestrians are courteous to each other on shared paths

39 Cycling facilities are well maintained

Infrequent cyclist data aligns to these sentiments, as outlined in the full consultation report.

% of frequent cyclists who disagree/strongly disagree that:

49 There is enough bike parking in the public domain

65 Drivers are courteous towards cyclists

72 Cycle routes are well-connected

32% of frequent cyclists said cycling conditions in Newcastle LGA have improved in the last two years.

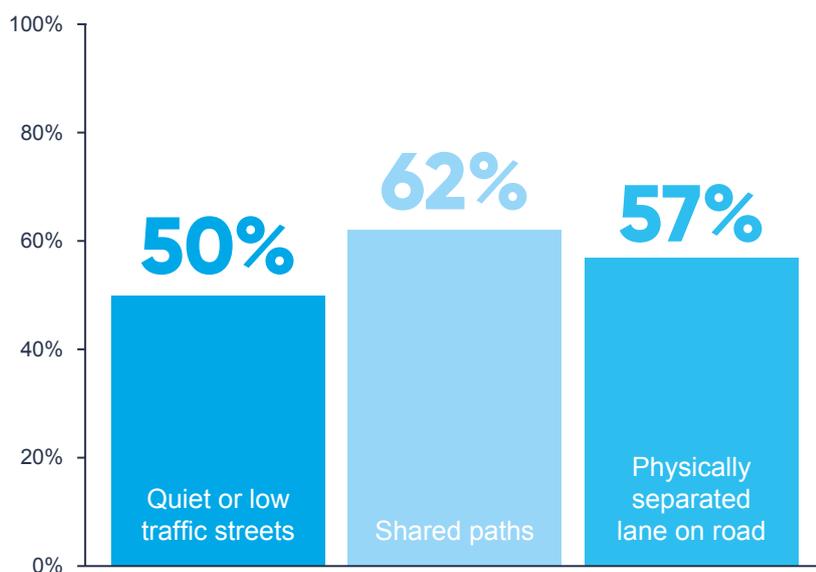


Cycling safety

Riding safety in Newcastle LGA

Respondents were asked about their perceptions of Newcastle LGA as a cycling city.

Respondents feel very safe or extremely safe riding on:



Majority of respondents do not feel safe on:

Busy or main roads with no cycle lanes (76%)

81% of frequent cyclists said they **had not** had a collision in the last two years.

Infrequent cyclist feedback aligns to these sentiments, as outlined in the full [consultation report](#).



You said

“Foreshore/light rail is better than it was to cycle around. Not so much because more bike paths but just because you can cross the old heavy rail track in loads more places...”

What improvements have you noticed in the last two years?

“The main cycle ways are maintained well and have been widened (Honeysuckle). Some ramps from footpaths to roads are being improved (many more to do!)”

Main improvements noted included: Fernleigh track, Honeysuckle, Bathers Way.

“Honeysuckle! This should be the best route in the city, but it is a mess. Queens Wharf just blocks the path without a clear detour solution.”

Is there a specific cycle route you believe needs further maintenance or upgrades?

“Central and eastern Newcastle, beyond the Foreshore, is now even worse for cyclists due to the light rail squeezing us out from the city even more.”

“Yes - along King St, heading east from National Park St to Steel St. Road has been resurfaced, but no designated lane for cyclists and car parking.”

Locations mentioned most frequently were:

- Newcastle Central Business District (including Scott Street, Queens Wharf and surrounding streets with light rail tracks)
- Hunter Street
- Honeysuckle / Honeysuckle Drive
- King Street

“If there was a way to make a dedicated cycle route inside the railway corridor from the University of Newcastle, Callaghan campus all the way to the interchange...”

“New link cycle way from Fernleigh track Adamstown to Newcastle west via Stadium. A separated cycle lane from Newcastle West to East end.”

The top three suggestions were:

- Improved connections between suburbs, Newcastle City and the beaches
- Use of land around rail corridors for cycle paths
- Extension of the Fernleigh Track

Do you have suggestions for improving the connectivity of our cycling routes?

“Link suburbs to the city and beaches.”

“We need to lose the stigma around the ‘hate for cyclists’ or who is more entitled to the footpaths, roads etc. We all can play a bit.”

What action if implemented would have the biggest impact on making riding safer in Newcastle?

The main actions suggested were around safety policy, education and awareness.

“Rider, driver and pedestrian education.”



Next Steps

Community feedback will inform the draft Newcastle Cycling Strategy and Action Plan, which will be placed on public exhibition for feedback in the later part of 2020.